



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales

Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings

Dydd Mercher, 19 Ionawr 2011
Wednesday, 19 January 2011

Cynnwys
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Yn y golofn chwith, cofnodwyd y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi yn y Siambr.
Yn y golofn dde, cynhwyswyd cyfieithiad.

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 has been included.

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 1.30 p.m. gyda'r Dirprwy Lywydd (Rosemary Butler) yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 1.30 p.m. with the Deputy Presiding Officer (Rosemary Butler) in the Chair.*

Ethol Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro Election of Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer

The Deputy Presiding Officer: In the absence of the Presiding Officer, I ask the Assembly to elect a temporary Deputy Presiding Officer for the duration of today's Plenary meeting. I therefore invite nominations.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yn absenoldeb y Llywydd, gofynnaf i'r Cynulliad ethol Dirprwy Lywydd dros dro tra pery'r Cyfarfod Llawn y prynhawn yma. Gofynnaf felly am enwebiadau.

William Graham: I nominate Peter Black.

William Graham: Enwebaf Peter Black.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Thank you. I therefore declare that Peter Black is elected as temporary Deputy Presiding Officer for the duration of today's Plenary meeting.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Diolch. Rwyf yn datgan felly fod Peter Black wedi ei ethol yn Ddirprwy Lywydd dros dro tra pery'r Cyfarfod Llawn y prynhawn yma.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The first item on today's agenda is questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services. I call on the Deputy Minister for Social Services, Gwenda Thomas, to answer questions on behalf of the Minister for Health and Social Services.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr eitem gyntaf ar yr agenda heddiw yw cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Galwaf ar y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol, Gwenda Thomas, i ateb cwestiynau ar ran y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol.

Blaenoriaethau

Priorities

I. Lynne Neagle: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei blaenoriaethau ar gyfer gweddill tymor hwn y Cynulliad. OAQ(3)1816(HSS)*

I. Lynne Neagle: *Will the Minister outline her priorities for the remainder of this Assembly term. OAQ(3)1816(HSS)*

The Deputy Minister for Social Services (Gwenda Thomas): The Minister for Health and Social Services's priorities for the remainder of this Assembly term are laid out in the five-year service, work and financial strategic framework. The framework will help and support the NHS to deliver its reform agenda and realise the savings that it is required to make over the next few years.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Gwenda Thomas): Nodir blaenoriaethau'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ar gyfer gweddill tymor y Cynulliad hwn yn y fframwaith strategol gwasanaeth, gwaith ac ariannol pum mlynedd. Bydd y fframwaith yn helpu ac yn cefnogi'r GIG i gyflawni ei agenda ddiwygio a chreu'r arbedion y mae gofyn iddo ei wneud dros y blynyddoedd nesaf.

Lynne Neagle: By bringing together the health board, local authorities and the

Lynne Neagle: Drwy ddwyn ynghyd y bwrdd iechyd, awdurdodau lleol a'r sector

voluntary sector to offer an integrated model of care, the Gwent Frailty Programme has had huge success in keeping patients out of hospital, allowing hundreds more people to be treated in their own homes in the last few years alone. Do you agree that such programmes allow the NHS to do more with less, and that, given the financial pressures facing the health service as a result of the shoddy deal that has been handed down to us from Westminster, we should look at this programme and see what else we can do to build on its success, so that it can be used as a model elsewhere in Wales?

Gwenda Thomas: I am familiar with the Gwent Frailty Programme. It is one of the best examples that I have seen of partnership working and everyone coming together, not only in one area, but pan-Gwent. I believe that this programme will show how we can do more for less, and, more importantly, will show that we can do more for people in their own communities. I was delighted to visit the project a few years ago, and I know that we will have a lot to learn from it.

Nick Ramsay: I agree that the Assembly Government needs to do more for less at this time. It is sad that, due to the financial settlement that the Assembly Government is planning to give to the NHS in Wales over the next three years, our doctors and nurses will have to do more for less too, as a result of your decisions. At present, 300,000 people in Wales are waiting for NHS treatment—that is 11 per cent of the Welsh population. This situation is deteriorating quickly. What does your Government intend to do to try to deal with this problem of increasing waiting lists, which is afflicting hospitals and is affecting patients across Wales?

Gwenda Thomas: The Minister is dealing with waiting lists. We have seen substantial improvements over the last few years. The figures that the Minister can produce for us are encouraging. I wonder whether we will see the same degree of improvement in England, when your proposals are enacted.

Nick Ramsay: I correct the Minister; they are not my proposals, because I am a

gwirfoddol i gynnig model integredig o ofal, mae Rhaglen Eiddilwch Gwent wedi llwyddo'n ysgubol i gadw cleifion allan o'r ysbyty, a chaniatáu i gannoedd yn fwy gael eu trin yn eu cartrefi dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf yn unig. A ydych yn cytuno bod rhaglenni o'r fath yn caniatáu i'r GIG wneud mwy â llai, ac, o ystyried y pwysau ariannol sy'n wynebu'r gwasanaeth iechyd yn sgîl y fargen wael a gawsom gan San Steffan, y dylem edrych ar y rhaglen hon i weld beth arall y gallwn ei wneud i adeiladu ar ei llwyddiant, fel y gellir ei defnyddio'n esiampl mewn mannau eraill yng Nghymru?

Gwenda Thomas: Rwyf yn gyfarwydd â Rhaglen Eiddilwch Gwent. Dyma un o'r enghreifftiau gorau a welais erioed o weithio mewn partneriaeth a phawb yn dod ynghyd, nid yn unig mewn un ardal, ond ledled Gwent. Credaf y bydd y rhaglen hon yn dangos sut y gallwn wneud mwy â llai, ac, yn bwysicach na hynny, y bydd yn dangos y gallwn wneud mwy i bobl yn eu cymunedau eu hunain. Roedd yn bleser gennyf ymweld â'r prosiect rai blynyddoedd yn ôl, a gwn y bydd llawer y gallwn ei ddysgu ganddo.

Nick Ramsay: Cytunaf fod angen i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad wneud mwy â llai ar hyn o bryd. Mae'n drist, oherwydd y setliad ariannol y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn bwriadu ei roi i'r GIG yng Nghymru dros y tair blynedd nesaf, y bydd yn rhaid i'n meddygon a'n nyrsys hefyd wneud mwy â llai, yn sgîl eich penderfyniadau chi. Ar hyn o bryd, mae 300,000 o bobl yng Nghymru'n aros am driniaeth GIG—mae hynny'n 11 y cant o boblogaeth Cymru. Mae'r sefyllfa honno'n dirywio'n gyflym. Beth mae eich Llywodraeth yn bwriadu ei wneud i geisio mynd i'r afael â phroblem rhestrau aros sy'n cynyddu, sy'n fwrn ar ysbytai ac yn effeithio ar gleifion ym mhob cwr o Gymru?

Gwenda Thomas: Mae'r Gweinidog yn ymdrin â'r rhestrau aros. Gwelsom gryn welliannau dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae'r ffigurau y gall y Gweinidog eu cynhyrchu inni'n galonogol. Tybed a welwn welliannau i'r un graddau yn Lloegr, lle rhoddir eich cynigion chi ar waith?

Nick Ramsay: Cywiraf y Gweinidog; nid fy nghynigion i mohonynt, gan mai Aelod o

Member of the National Assembly for Wales, and you are a Welsh Minister. The Assembly Government should look closely at what it is doing with the health service in Wales, because that is what concerns us here. On specific waiting lists, in my area, the Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board has a problem with waiting lists. There has been a particular problem with orthopaedic surgery, but it has come to my attention that there are also problems with increasing waiting lists for cardiology services, as well as for neurosurgery. This issue is getting worse across the board. I therefore ask you again: what proposals is your Government putting in place to help LHBs deal with the situation with which they are faced, specifically your Government's removal of £1 billion in real terms over the next three years from the NHS in Wales?

Gwenda Thomas: The vast majority of patients are seen and treated within our waiting times targets. Most of the patients who are waiting over our target times are in the Cardiff and Vale University Local Health Board and Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board areas, where there has been a significant increase in demand for orthopaedic treatment. Work is under way in these areas to improve performance. It is wrong to suggest that the health budget is being cut. Efficiency savings are not synonymous with cuts. *[Interruption.]*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. When a Member asks a question, it would be nice to hear it. Please be a little quieter.

Val Lloyd: Under the 'One Wales' agreement, the Welsh Assembly Government made a guarantee that all NHS services in Wales would remain under public ownership and public control, and that any call to privatise NHS services will be firmly rejected by the Welsh Assembly Government. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about NHS services across the border and the coalition Government's plan to radically reform the NHS by abolishing primary care trusts and allowing GPs to take over the budgetary control of services, which will effectively privatise the NHS by creating

Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru ydwyf, a Gweinidog Cymreig ydych chithau. Dylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad edrych yn ofalus ar yr hyn y mae'n ei wneud â'r gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru, oherwydd dyna sydd dan sylw yma. Ynglŷn â rhestrau aros penodol, yn fy ardal i, mae gan Fwrdd Iechyd Lleol Aneurin Bevan broblem â rhestrau aros. Bu problem yn benodol â llawdriniaethau orthopedig, ond rwyf ar ddeall fod problemau hefyd â rhestrau aros cynyddol am wasanaethau cardioleg, ac ar gyfer niwrolawdriniaeth. Mae'r mater hwn yn gwaethygu drwyddi draw. Gofynnaf i chi eto felly: pa gynigion y mae eich Llywodraeth yn eu rhoi ar waith i helpu byrddau iechyd lleol i fynd i'r afael â'r sefyllfa sy'n eu hwynebu, ac yn arbennig felly'r ffaith y bydd eich Llywodraeth yn tynnu £1 biliwn mewn termau real oddi wrth y GIG yng Nghymru dros y tair blynedd nesaf?

Gwenda Thomas: Mae mwyafrif helaeth y cleifion yn cael eu gweld a'u trin o fewn ein targedau amseroedd aros. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r cleifion sy'n aros yn hwy na'r amseroedd targed yn ardaloedd Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro a Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Aneurin Bevan, lle bu cynnydd sylweddol yn y galw am driniaeth orthopedig. Mae gwaith ar y gweill yn yr ardaloedd hynny i wella perfformiad. Mae'n anghywir awgrymu bod y gyllideb iechyd yn cael ei thorri. Nid yw arbedion effeithlonrwydd yn gyfystyr â thoriadau. *[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Pan fydd Aelod yn gofyn cwestiwn, byddai'n braf cael ei glywed. A wnewch chi fod ychydig yn dawelach?

Val Lloyd: O dan gytundeb 'Cymru'n Un', addawodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru y byddai holl wasanaethau'r GIG yng Nghymru'n aros mewn dwylo cyhoeddus ac o dan reolaeth gyhoeddus, ac y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n gwrthod yn llwyr unrhyw alwadau i breifateiddio gwasanaethau'r GIG. Yn anffodus, ni ellir dweud yr un peth am wasanaethau'r GIG dros y ffin a chynllun y Llywodraeth glymblaid i ddiwygio'r GIG yn llwyr drwy gael gwared ar ymddiriedolaethau iechyd sylfaenol a chaniatáu i feddygon teulu gymryd rheolaeth gyllidebol dros

commercial competitiveness between private companies, which will then bid for services. Six health unions, including the British Medical Association and the Royal College of General Practitioners, have already stated that they are extremely concerned by these drastic proposals. We have seen this market-driven dogma from the Tories too many times before. It has failed in the past and it will fail again. Deputy Minister, will you confirm that it is still a priority for the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that the NHS in Wales remains under public ownership and public control?

Gwenda Thomas: It would be inappropriate for me to comment in detail on the Westminster Government's proposals for England. I can, however, comment on the position in Wales. It is nearly 18 months since we completed our reform of the NHS, following very substantial support for the proposals from all quarters. 'One Wales' committed the Welsh Assembly Government to move purposefully to end the internal market in order to improve services for patients. We have put in place integrated local health boards, designed to make co-operation rather than competition the bedrock of public service delivery in Wales.

Veronica German: Yesterday in the Chamber, I raised the issue of lost ambulance hours with the First Minister. With 80,000 hours lost between January 2009 to October 2010, I wanted to know—and I will keep my question simple today so that you know there is one—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Thank you; that would be helpful.

Veronica German: Well, it was there yesterday as well. Will the Deputy Minister make a commitment to publish the figures of lost ambulance hours on a monthly basis?

Gwenda Thomas: The delays in ambulance crews' handover of patients in parts of Wales are unacceptable. This is not only a waste of resources, but it is potentially hazardous in

wasanaethau, a fydd i bob pwrpas yn preifateiddio'r GIG drwy greu cystadleugarwch masnachol rhwng cwmnïau preifat, a fydd wedyn yn gwneud cais am wasanaethau. Mae chwe undeb iechyd, gan gynnwys Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain a Choleg Brenhinol yr Ymarferwyr Cyffredinol, eisoes wedi datgan eu bod yn bryderus iawn am y cynigion drastig hyn. Gwelsom yr athrawiaeth hon a arweinir gan y farchnad yn rhy aml o'r blaen gan y Torïaid. Bu'n fethiant yn y gorffennol a bydd yn methu eto. Ddirprwy Weinidog, a wnewch chi gadarnhau ei bod yn dal yn flaenoriaeth gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sicrhau bod y GIG yng Nghymru'n aros mewn dwylo cyhoeddus a dan reolaeth gyhoeddus?

Gwenda Thomas: Byddai'n amhriodol imi sôn yn fanwl am gynigion Llywodraeth San Steffan ar gyfer Lloegr. Er hynny, gallaf sôn am y sefyllfa yng Nghymru. Mae bron i 18 mis wedi mynd heibio ers inni gwblhau ein diwygiadau i'r GIG, yn dilyn cefnogaeth sylweddol iawn i'r cynigion o bob tu. Ymrwymodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru drwy 'Cymru'n Un' i symud yn bwrpasol i roi terfyn ar y farchnad fewnol er mwyn gwella gwasanaethau i gleifion. Rydym wedi rhoi ar waith fyrdau iechyd lleol integredig, y bwriedir iddynt sicrhau mai cydweithredu yn hytrach na chystadlu sydd wrth wraidd darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru.

Veronica German: Ddoe yn y Siambr, holais y Prif Weinidog am oriau ambiwlans a gollwyd. Collwyd 80,000 o oriau rhwng mis Ionawr 2009 a mis Hydref 2010, ac felly roeddwn am wybod—ac fe gadwaf fy nghwestiwn yn syml heddiw er mwyn ichi wybod bod yna gwestiwn—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Diolch; byddai hynny'n fuddiol.

Veronica German: Wel, roedd yno ddoe hefyd. A wnaiff y Dirprwy Weinidog ymrwymo i gyhoeddi ffigurau'r oriau ambiwlans coll yn fisol?

Gwenda Thomas: Mae'r oedi o ran trosglwyddo cleifion gan griwiau ambiwlans mewn rhannau o Gymru'n annerbyniol. Mae hyn nid yn unig yn wastraff ar adnoddau, ond

not releasing ambulance crews soon enough to deal with the next call. The Minister met chairs of health boards last week to stress that the current situation is unacceptable and she expects each health board to resolve matters as quickly as possible. This will require adaptation works to the front of accident and emergency departments at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff and Morriston Hospital in Swansea, which will take some time. Work is currently in hand in Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr. However, all health boards will be expected to ensure that their staff rotas match peak demand times so that patients can be quickly assessed and treated. In the meantime, the Minister has made an additional £2 million available to the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust to compensate for the resources tied up in handover to hospitals.

Veronica German: Thank you for that, Deputy Minister, but we still do not know whether you will publish the figures on a monthly basis, so that we can see whether the steps that the Minister has taken are taking effect. It would be very useful if everyone could see that these lost ambulance hours were reducing. It would be useful if you could ask the Minister on her return whether this is something that she will do. Meanwhile, you are well aware that a number of the problems are not just at the front door of hospitals, but at the back door as well, with regard to delayed transfers of care. I know that there has been a slight improvement in those figures this month, but what are you going to do to improve the situation, to improve the flow through the hospitals by discharging patients in a more timely fashion in order to take the pressure of the accident and emergency departments?

1.40 p.m.

Gwenda Thomas: I will take the first part of that supplementary question back to the Minister. With regard to delayed transfers of care, we have again seen massive improvements in recent years, since action was taken to ensure that local health boards and social services departments work better

fe allai fod yn beryglus oni fydd modd rhyddhau criwiau ambiwlans yn ddigon buan i ymdrin â'r alwad nesaf. Cyfarfu'r Gweinidog â chadeiryddion byrddau iechyd yr wythnos diwethaf i bwysleisio bod y sefyllfa sydd ohoni'n annerbyniol a'i bod yn disgwyl i bob bwrdd iechyd ddatrys y mater cyn gynted ag y bo modd. Bydd hynny'n golygu gwneud gwaith addasu i du blaen adrannau damweiniau ac argyfwng yn Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru yng Nghaerdydd ac Ysbyty Treforys yn Abertawe, a bydd hynny'n cymryd amser. Mae gwaith ar y gweill yn Ysbyty'r Tywysog Siarl, Merthyr. Serch hynny, bydd disgwyl i bob un o'r byrddau iechyd sicrhau bod eu rota staffio'n cyd-fynd â'r adegau prysuraf o ran galw er mwyn gallu asesu a thrin cleifion yn gyflym. Yn y cyfamser, mae'r Gweinidog wedi darparu £2 filiwn yn ychwanegol i Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gwasanaethau Ambiwllans Cymru i wneud iawn am yr adnoddau sydd wedi'u neilltuo i drosglwyddo i ysbytai.

Veronica German: Diolch i chi am hynny, Ddirprwy Weinidog, ond nid ydym eto'n gwybod a fyddwch yn cyhoeddi'r ffigurau'n fisol, er mwyn inni gael gweld a yw'r camau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd yn cael unrhyw effaith. Byddai'n ddefnyddiol iawn pe gallai pawb weld bod yr oriau ambiwlans coll hyn yn gostwng. Byddai'n ddefnyddiol pe baech yn gofyn i'r Gweinidog pan ddaw yn ôl a yw hyn yn rhywbeth y bydd yn ei wneud. Yn y cyfamser, fe wyddoch nad yw nifer o'r problemau wrth ddrws ffrynt yr ysbytai'n unig, ond wrth y drws cefn hefyd, o ran oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal. Gwn y bu gwelliant bach yn y ffigurau hyn y mis hwn, ond beth ydych chi'n mynd i'w wneud i wella'r sefyllfa, i wella'r llif drwy ysbytai drwy ryddhau cleifion mewn modd mwy amserol er mwyn lliniaru'r pwysau ar adrannau damweiniau ac argyfwng?

Gwenda Thomas: Af â rhan gyntaf y cwestiwn atodol hwnnw yn ôl at y Gweinidog. O ran oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal, unwaith eto gwelsom welliannau aruthrol mewn blynyddoedd diweddar, ers cymryd camau i sicrhau bod byrddau iechyd lleol ac adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol

together. There are now some excellent examples of them coming together to facilitate the discharge of patients. We are seeing the development of interim measures to help people out of hospital and back into communities, and to avoid re-admittance to hospital. So, excellent progress is being made, although I accept that there is sometimes a blip. Nevertheless, we are seeing a commitment to joint working and planning increasingly between LHBs and local authorities' social services departments.

Chris Franks: What representations have you received regarding maternity and neonatal services in South Wales Central? There are concerns about the availability of high dependency services. Will you make a statement about your priorities for maternity services in the Vale of Glamorgan and across South Wales Central? You will be aware of cases at the end of last year, Deputy Minister, of mothers being sent to hospitals some distance away from the Cardiff region. Are you grateful that the Welsh Government is not putting the NHS in Wales at risk, unlike the situation in England? You are aware that the UK Government is proposing £20 billion-worth of cuts to the health service in England.

Gwenda Thomas: Thank you for that, Chris. I will stick to the matters that involve the Welsh Assembly Government by saying that the Minister receives representations from a variety of sources on key health services, such as maternity services and neonatal care. She issued a written Cabinet statement to all Members on progress in neonatal care before Christmas. The Welsh Assembly Government is shortly to issue a draft strategy for maternity services for consultation. This strategy will set out our vision for these key services, and underpin and inform service planning and delivery by local health boards.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I do not wish to curb anybody's grand eloquent speaking style, but this is question time, so I ask Members please to keep their questions as concise as possible.

yn cydweithio'n well. Bellach mae enghreifftiau gwych o ddod at ei gilydd i hwyluso rhyddhau cleifion. Rydym yn gweld mesurau dros dro'n datblygu i helpu pobl i adael yr ysbyty a mynd yn ôl i'w cymunedau. ac i osgoi gorfod derbyn pobl yn ôl i'r ysbyty. Felly, mae cynnydd rhagorol yn digwydd, er fy mod yn derbyn nad yw pethau bob amser yn esmwyth. Serch hynny, gwelwn ymrwymiad i gydweithio a chydgyllunio fwyfwy rhwng y byrddau iechyd lleol ac adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol awdurdodau lleol.

Chris Franks: Pa sylwadau a gyflwynwyd ichi ynghylch gwasanaethau mamolaeth a newyddenedigol yng Nghanol De Cymru? Mae pryderon ynglŷn â faint o wasanaethau dibyniaeth uchel sydd ar gael. A wnewch chi ddatganiad ynghylch eich blaenoriaethau ar gyfer gwasanaethau mamolaeth ym Mro Morgannwg a ledled Canol De Cymru? Fel y gwyddoch, Ddirprwy Weinidog, bu achosion ddiwedd y llynedd pan anfonwyd mamau i ysbytai beth ffordd o ardal Caerdydd. A ydych yn ddiolchgar nad yw Llywodraeth Cymru'n rhoi'r GIG yng Nghymru mewn perygl, yn wahanol i'r sefyllfa yn Lloegr? Fel y gwyddoch, mae Llywodraeth y DU yn bwriadu gwneud toriadau gwerth £20 biliwn i'r gwasanaeth iechyd yn Lloegr.

Gwenda Thomas: Diolch i chi, Chris. Cadwaf at y materion sy'n ymwneud â Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru drwy ddweud bod y Gweinidog yn derbyn sylwadau o amryw o ffynonellau ar wasanaethau iechyd allweddol, megis gwasanaethau mamolaeth a gofal newyddenedigol. Cyhoeddodd ddatganiad Cabinet ysgrifenedig i bob Aelod ar gynnydd mewn gofal newyddenedigol cyn y Nadolig. Cyn hir bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n cyhoeddi strategaeth ddrafft ymgynghorol ar wasanaethau mamolaeth. Bydd y strategaeth hon yn nodi ein gweledigaeth ar gyfer y gwasanaethau allweddol hyn, bydd yn sail i gynllunio a chyflenwi gwasanaethau gan fyrddau iechyd lleol, ac yn cynorthwyo'r gwaith hwnnw.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid wyf am amharu ar arddull siarad huawdl unrhyw un, ond cyfle i ofyn cwestiynau yw hwn, felly gofynnaf i Aelodau gadw eu cwestiynau mor gryno â phosibl.

Lefelau Staffio yn y GIG

2. Eleanor Burnham: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am lefelau staffio yn y GIG. OAQ(3)1843(HSS)*

Gwenda Thomas: The Minister has established a workforce modernisation programme board to ensure that NHS workforce plans reflect the future needs of the service.

Eleanor Burnham: My concern is that, as of 6 January 2011, according to the Members' research service, nine people employed by the Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board—I am afraid that I cannot shorten the name, Deputy Presiding Officer—are currently in receipt of a protected salary as a result of the NHS reorganisation undertaken in October 2009. Will either you or the Minister for health please explain how this situation has come about, how long we can expect it to go on, and why this money, which I presume to be a large sum, is not being spent more effectively in the NHS on such things as sorting out the ambulance chaos, front-line services affected by border contracts, or any of the other front-lines in the NHS in Wales?

Gwenda Thomas: I will refer that to the Minister, because there were a few aspects on which you want a detailed response. I will ensure that the Minister knows about that request, and I am sure that she will respond to you as soon as possible.

David Lloyd: Ensuring enough front-line NHS staff to treat patients applies to my GP colleagues, too. Happily, we will not have GP commissioning here in Wales. However, does the Deputy Minister agree that Westminster proposals to introduce GP commissioning in England will be a complete disaster? After all, GPs are doctors, not managers, and it is difficult enough to get to see a doctor at the moment.

Gwenda Thomas: I would agree that the NHS is continually working to become more

Staffing Levels in the NHS

2. Eleanor Burnham: *Will the Minister make a statement on staffing levels in the NHS. OAQ(3)1843(HSS)*

Gwenda Thomas: Mae'r Gweinidog wedi sefydlu bwrdd rhaglen moderneiddio'r gweithlu i sicrhau bod cynlluniau gweithlu'r GIG yn adlewyrchu anghenion y gwasanaeth yn y dyfodol.

Eleanor Burnham: Fy mhryder i yw, yn ôl gwasanaeth ymchwil yr Aelodau, fod naw o bobl a gyflogir gan Fwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr—mae arnaf ofn na allaf fyrhau'r enw, Ddirprwy Lywydd—ers 6 Ionawr 2011 ar hyn o bryd yn derbyn cyflog gwarchoddedig yn sgîl yr ad-drefnu a fu ar y GIG ym mis Hydref 2009. Os gwelwch yn dda a wnewch chi neu'r Gweinidog dros iechyd egluro sut y bu i hyn ddigwydd, am ba hyd y gallwn ddisgwyl iddo bara, a pham nad yw'r arian hwn, sydd mae'n debyg yn swm mawr, yn cael ei wario'n fwy effeithiol yn y GIG ar bethau megis datrys anhrefn yr ambiwlansys, gwasanaethau rheng flaen y mae contractau'r gororau'n effeithio arnynt, neu unrhyw un o rengoedd blaen eraill y GIG yng Nghymru?

Gwenda Thomas: Cyfeiriaf hynny at y Gweinidog, oherwydd mae rhai agweddau y gofynnwch am ateb manwl yn eu cylch. Byddaf yn sicrhau bod y Gweinidog yn gwybod am y cais hwnnw, ac rwyf yn sicr y bydd yn rhoi ateb ichi cyn gynted ag y bo modd.

David Lloyd: Mae sicrhau bod digon o staff rheng flaen y GIG i drin cleifion yn berthnasol hefyd i'm cydweithwyr sy'n feddygon teulu. Yn ffodus, ni fydd comisiynu gan feddygon teulu'n digwydd yma yng Nghymru. Er hynny, a yw'r Dirprwy Weinidog yn cytuno y bydd cynigion San Steffan i gyflwyno comisiynu gan feddygon teulu yn Lloegr yn drychineb lwyr? Wedi'r cwbl, meddygon yw meddygon teulu, nid rheolwyr, ac mae'n ddigon anodd gweld meddyg ar hyn o bryd.

Gwenda Thomas: Rwyf yn cytuno bod y GIG yn gweithio'n barhaus i fod yn fwy

efficient in order to protect front-line services. The number of administrative and clerical staff has been reduced across NHS Wales by 353 in the 12 months up to November 2010, and health boards and trusts have been set a target to reduce their management costs by 20 per cent by the end of 2014. The NHS reform programme reduced the number of organisations from 32 to 10. Prior to the reform programme in 2008, there were about 180 board-level posts; the new organisational arrangements have reduced the number of board-level posts to around 78—an overall reduction of about 102 posts.

The Leader of the Opposition (Nick Bourne): Good afternoon, Deputy Minister, and I hope that you will pass on to the Minister our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

I am sure that you are aware of the Royal College of Nursing's Frontline First campaign. It has been researching the 2010-11 NHS Wales annual operating framework, which it says commits NHS Wales to a 3 per cent cut in staff at 'Agenda for Change' band 5 and above by 2013. Deputy Minister, you spoke about efficiency savings, but what that will mean is a loss of 739 registered nurses a year or 2,247 nurses by 2013. That is not an efficiency cut; it is a cut in registered nurses. Does that concern you and, if so, what are you doing about it?

Gwenda Thomas: I take your point about what the Royal College of Nursing says. We await the final budget, of course, to know what the actual position will be in terms of the health budget. We know that the Minister, the First Minister and the Minister for Business and Budget have made a commitment to health in Wales. I will have to get a response to you, Nick, on the detailed figures to which you have referred.

Brian Gibbons: Deputy Minister, you will be aware that the purpose of medical training is to meet the needs of the health service in Wales. However, in some instances, it seems

effeithlon er mwyn diogelu gwasanaethau rheng flaen. Gwelwyd nifer y staff gweinyddol a chlerigol yn gostwng 353 ar draws y GIG yn y 12 mis hyd at fis Tachwedd 2010, a gosodwyd targed i'r byrddau a'r ymddiriedolaethau iechyd leihau eu costau rheoli 20 y cant erbyn diwedd 2014. Yn sgîl rhaglen ddiwygio'r GIG mae nifer y sefydliadau wedi gostwng o 32 i 10. Cyn y rhaglen ddiwygio yn 2008, roedd oddeutu 180 o swyddi ar lefel bwrdd; mae'r trefniadau cyfundrefnol newydd wedi lleihau nifer y swyddi ar lefel bwrdd i oddeutu 78—gostyngiad cyffredinol o tua 102 o swyddi.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Nick Bourne): Prynawn da, Ddirprwy Weinidog, ac rwyf yn gobeithio y byddwch yn anfon ein dymuniadau gorau i'r Gweinidog am wellhad buan.

Fe wyddoch, rwyf yn sicr, am ymgyrch Frontline First Coleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys. Bu'n ymchwilio i fframwaith weithredu flynyddol y GIG yng Nghymru ar gyfer 2010-11, ac mae'n dweud y bydd yn rhwymo'r GIG yng Nghymru i dorri 3 y cant o staff 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid' ar fand 5 ac uwch erbyn 2013. Ddirprwy Weinidog, soniasoch am arbedion effeithlonrwydd, ond yr hyn y bydd hynny'n ei olygu fydd colli 739 o nyrsys cofrestredig bob blwyddyn neu 2,247 o nyrsys erbyn 2013. Nid toriad effeithlonrwydd mohono; toriad yw hwn yn nifer y nyrsys cofrestredig. A yw hynny'n destun pryder ichi, ac os ydyw, beth ydych chi'n mynd i'w wneud yn ei gylch?

Gwenda Thomas: Rwy'n deall eich pwynt ynghylch yr hyn y mae Coleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys yn ei ddweud. Rhaid inni aros am y gyllideb derfynol, wrth reswm, cyn cael gwybod beth fydd y sefyllfa'n union o ran y gyllideb iechyd. Gwyddom fod y Gweinidog, y Prif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Fusnes a'r Gyllideb wedi gwneud ymrwymiad i iechyd yng Nghymru. Bydd yn rhaid imi anfon ateb atoch, Nick, ar y ffigurau manwl yr ydych wedi cyfeirio atynt.

Brian Gibbons: Ddirprwy Weinidog, fel y gwyddoch, diben hyfforddiant meddygol yw ateb anghenion y gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru. Er hynny, ar adegau, ymddengys

that the health service is being reconfigured to meet the needs of educational establishments, which seems to me to be putting the cart before the horse. A way of addressing that would be to provide more training for non-specialist doctors in the health service who are not in training posts. Indeed, that point was made by Professor Derek Gallen yesterday at a meeting in the Assembly. Is this an approach that the Assembly Government would support?

Gwenda Thomas: I cannot speak for the Minister for health on that. However, I can certainly say that there is a commitment to training and the development of GPs and trainee doctors. The Minister's commitment on this is well-documented, Brian. I am sure that she will want to catch up with what was said at that meeting yesterday and respond accordingly.

Cynllun Iechyd Gwledig

3. Alun Davies: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y Cynllun Iechyd Gwledig. OAQ(3)1801(HSS)*

Gwenda Thomas: The rural health plan was launched in December 2009, backed by the £1 million rural health innovation fund to stimulate and support its delivery. Fifteen local projects and two development sites have been supported by the fund to date.

Alun Davies: Thank you for that response, Deputy Minister. I am sure that you are aware that, in the year since its publication, a number of people in different parts of rural Wales have been looking to that plan to develop the healthcare that is available to us in rural Wales. In order to strengthen health provision, the rural health plan cited pharmacies as potential key providers of healthcare in various communities, and charged the health boards in rural Wales with developing a network of pharmacies to serve the population. Deputy Minister, would it be possible to look to develop the role of pharmacies? We know that pharmacies in Scotland, for example, provide a national ailments service. Those sorts of initiatives might be useful in serving rural parts of

fod y gwasanaeth iechyd yn cael ei ad-drefnu i ateb anghenion sefydliadau addysgol, sydd, fe ymddengys i mi, yn rhoi'r cert o flaen y ceffyl. Un ffordd o fynd i'r afael â hynny fyddai darparu mwy o hyfforddiant i feddygon anarbenigol yn y gwasanaeth iechyd nad ydynt mewn swyddi hyfforddi. Yn wir, gwnaethpwyd y pwynt hwnnw gan yr Athro Derek Gallen ddoe mewn cyfarfod yn y Cynulliad. A yw hwn yn ddull y byddai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei gefnogi?

Gwenda Thomas: Ni allaf siarad dros y Gweinidog dros iechyd yn hyn o beth. Er hynny, gallaf yn sicr ddweud bod ymrwymiad i hyfforddiant a datblygu meddygon teulu a meddygon dan hyfforddiant. Mae cryn dystiolaeth i ddangos ymrwymiad y Gweinidog i hyn, Brian. Rwyf yn sicr y bydd am gael gwybod beth a ddywedwyd yn y cyfarfod ddoe ac y bydd yn ymateb yn briodol.

Rural Health Plan

3. Alun Davies: *Will the Minister make a statement on the Rural Health Plan. OAQ(3)1801(HSS)*

Gwenda Thomas: Lanswyd y cynllun iechyd gwledig ym mis Rhagfyr 2009, gyda chefnogaeth y gronfa arloesi iechyd gwledig sy'n werth £1 miliwn i ysgogi a chefnogi cyflwyno'r cynllun. Mae pymtheg o brosiectau lleol a dau safle datblygu wedi cael cefnogaeth gan y gronfa hyd yma.

Alun Davies: Diolch am eich ateb, Ddirprwy Weinidog. Fel y gwyddoch, mae'n siŵr gennyf, yn y flwyddyn ers ei gyhoeddi mae pobl mewn gwahanol rannau o gefn gwlad Cymru wedi bod yn edrych at y cynllun hwnnw i ddatblygu'r gofal iechyd sydd ar gael inni yng nghefn gwlad Cymru. Er mwyn cryfhau'r ddarpariaeth iechyd, dywed y cynllun iechyd gwledig fod fferyllfeydd yn ddarparwyr gofal iechyd allweddol mewn amryw o gymunedau, ac mae'n galw ar y byrddau iechyd yng nghefn gwlad Cymru i ddatblygu rhwydwaith o fferyllfeydd i wasanaethu'r boblogaeth. Ddirprwy Weinidog, a fyddai'n bosibl ceisio datblygu rôl y fferyllfeydd? Gwyddom fod fferyllfeydd yn yr Alban, er enghraifft, yn darparu gwasanaeth anhwylderau cenedlaethol.

Wales in particular.

Efallai y byddai mentrau o'r fath yn fuddiol o ran gwasanaethu ardaloedd gwledig yng Nghymru'n arbennig.

1.50 p.m.

Gwenda Thomas: I know from my attendance at the ministerial advisory board that there has been an in-depth look at the role of pharmacies in Wales. There has been a review and work is ongoing. I am sure that the Minister will not mind me saying that the support for pharmacies by the Assembly Government shows a commitment to the important role that pharmacies have to play in enabling people to access services, sometimes without the need to see a GP or to go to the local surgery. I know from my own experience, for example, that a lot of people use the pharmacy in Gwauncaegurwen for various things. I agree that pharmacies must be embedded into the future of our community care services, and we know about the work that has been done in developing good primary and community care services.

Angela Burns: Deputy Minister, what discussions have been ongoing between the Minister for health and the Minister for transport in relation to the difficulty of transporting patients to hospitals that are located far away from their homes? As you know, just 50 per cent of people live within 10 minutes' walk of an hourly bus service. Many of those who need to access our health services are elderly, or are taking children to hospital, or do not have a car. What will be included in the rural health plan to ensure that transport dovetails neatly with the health services that you are proposing to offer?

Gwenda Thomas: I am not aware of what has been going on between the Minister for health and the Minister for transport. [*Laughter.*]

Yr wyf yn siŵr ei fod wedi bod yn barchus iawn, Ieuan.

I have some notes on the rural health plan, and transport very much features in that plan, Angela. I know that the Minister is keen to look at and develop alternative means of transporting patients, and I agree that that is

Gwenda Thomas: Gwn o fynychu'r bwrdd cynghori gweinidogol yr edrychwyd yn fanwl iawn ar rôl fferyllfeydd yng Nghymru. Cynhaliwyd adolygiad ac mae gwaith ar y gweill. Rwyf yn siŵr na fydd ots gan y Gweinidog os dywedaf fod cefnogaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i fferyllfeydd yn dangos ymrwymiad i'r rôl bwysig sydd gan fferyllfeydd o ran galluogi pobl i gael gafael ar wasanaethau, weithiau heb fod angen gweld meddyg teulu na mynd i'r feddygfa leol. Gwn o'm profiad fy hun, er enghraifft, fod llawer o bobl yn defnyddio'r fferyllfa yng Ngwauncaegurwen at wahanol ddibenion. Cytunaf y dylai fferyllfeydd fod wedi'u gwreiddio yn nyfodol ein gwasanaethau gofal cymunedol, a gwyddom am y gwaith sydd wedi'i wneud i ddatblygu gwasanaethau da ym maes gofal sylfaenol a chymunedol.

Angela Burns: Ddirprwy Weinidog, pa drafodaethau sydd wedi bod yn mynd rhagddynt rhwng y Gweinidog dros iechyd a'r Gweinidog dros drafnidiaeth o ran anhawster cludo cleifion i ysbytai sy'n bell o'u cartrefi? Fel y gwyddoch, dim ond 50 y cant o bobl sy'n byw o fewn pellter cerdded 10 munud i wasanaeth bws bob awr. Mae llawer o'r rhai y mae angen iddynt ddefnyddio ein gwasanaethau iechyd yn oedrannus, neu'n mynd â phlant i'r ysbyty, neu heb gar. Beth fydd yn cael ei gynnwys yn y cynllun iechyd gwledig i sicrhau bod cludiant yn plethu'n daclus â'r gwasanaethau iechyd yr ydych yn bwriadu eu cynnig?

Gwenda Thomas: Ni wn beth sydd wedi bod yn digwydd rhwng y Gweinidog dros iechyd a'r Gweinidog dros drafnidiaeth. [*Chwerthin.*]

I am sure that it has been totally honourable, Ieuan.

Mae gennyf rai nodiadau ar y cynllun iechyd gwledig, ac mae trafnidiaeth yn rhan bwysig o'r cynllun hwnnw, Angela. Gwn fod y Gweinidog yn awyddus i ystyried a datblygu dull arall o gludo cleifion, a chytunaf fod hyn

very important to a rural health plan.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Ddirprwy Weinidog, mae datblygu cynllun iechyd ar gyfer ardaloedd gwledig yn ymwneud â llawer mwy na'r gwasanaethau sydd ar gael mewn ysbytai cyffredinol. Mae'n ymwneud â'r math o wasanaethau y soniodd Alun Davies amdanynt, a allai gael eu darparu mewn fferyllfeydd neu gan feddygon teulu. A ydych yn cytuno bod yn rhaid i'r cynllun trafndiaeth fod yn un cynhwysfawr a sicrhau bod pobl mewn ardaloedd gwledig—lle nad oes trafndiaeth gyhoeddus yn aml iawn—yn gallu cyrraedd y manau hyn, a bod yn rhaid sicrhau eu bod yn cael gwasanaeth cyflawn yn yr amrywiol leoedd hyn lle y gellir darparu gwasanaeth iechyd ar eu cyfer?

Gwenda Thomas: Mae'r cynllun yn cydnabod ei bod yn bwysig iawn bod trafndiaeth ar gael ar gyfer y claf, fel yr ydych wedi dweud.

The rural health development site establishment in Hywel Dda Local Health Board is developing a model of rural health service delivery, with community transport as a core component. It is engaging with local people, the Community Transport Association and local transport providers about service needs. The rural health implementation group has established a task and finish group to identify opportunities to reduce or avoid the need to travel where possible, through the use of ICT such as telehealth and telemedicine. In addition, the non-emergency patient transport review will be looking at pilot models to test methods of service delivery, including rural service delivery. This work will also be used to inform future service planning in rural areas.

Os nad yw hynny'n gyflawn, yr wyf yn siŵr y gallwn ymhelaethu ar yr ateb hwnnw.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats (Kirsty Williams): Deputy Minister, at the end part of last year, my constituents in mid Wales were promised the development of a kidney dialysis unit at

yn bwysig iawn mewn cynllun iechyd gwledig.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Deputy Minister, developing a rural health plan involves much more than the services available at general hospitals. It involves the kinds of services that Alun Davies mentioned, which could be provided in pharmacies or by general practitioners. Do you agree that the transport plan must be comprehensive and ensure that people in rural areas—where, often, there is no public transport—can access these places, and that it must be ensured that they can have a full service in these various locations where health services can be provided for them?

Gwenda Thomas: The scheme recognises that it is very important that transport is available for patients, as you have said.

Mae'r safle datblygu iechyd gwledig ym Mwrdd Iechyd Lleol Hywel Dda yn datblygu model o gyflwyno gwasanaethau iechyd gwledig, ac mae cludiant cymunedol yn rhan hanfodol o hynny. Mae'n ymgysylltu â phobl leol, y Gymdeithas Cludiant Cymunedol a darparwyr trafndiaeth gyhoeddus o ran y gwasanaethau sydd eu hangen. Mae'r grŵp gweithredu iechyd gwledig wedi sefydlu grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen i nodi cyfleoedd i leihau neu osgoi'r angen i deithio lle bo modd, drwy ddefnyddio TGCh megis teleiechyd a thelefeddygaeth. Yn ogystal, bydd yr adolygiad o wasanaethau cludiant i gleifion nad ydynt yn gleifion brys yn edrych ar fodelau peilot i brofi dulliau o ddarparu gwasanaethau, gan gynnwys darparu gwasanaethau gwledig. Bydd y gwaith hwn hefyd o gymorth wrth gynllunio gwasanaethau yn y dyfodol mewn ardaloedd gwledig.

If that is not comprehensive, I am sure that that answer can be expanded upon.

Arweinydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Kirsty Williams): Ddirprwy Weinidog, ddiwedd y llynedd, addawyd i'm hetholwyr yng nghanolbarth Cymru y byddai uned dialysis arenol yn cael ei datblygu yn

Llandrindod Wells Hospital. It was promised that it would be open by the end of summer 2010, thus ending the scandal of mid-Wales patients having to travel many miles to obtain vital life-saving dialysis treatment. The latest hitch in the plans revolves around infection control. The project workers are currently awaiting a visit to the site from infection control advisers to the Welsh Assembly Government. Until the visit goes ahead and the report is written, we are no further forward in establishing a dialysis unit at Llandrindod Wells. Can you please ensure that those officials visit the hospital as soon as possible? Do you have any idea when my constituents will at last be able to access a kidney dialysis unit at Llandrindod Wells, something that they have been promised by the Labour-Plaid Government for a considerable time?

Gwenda Thomas: I know that you have constantly raised this question. I am not aware when the team intends to visit, but I will ensure that you get an answer on that.

Clefyd Parkinson

4. Christine Chapman: *Beth mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i wella gwasanaethau ar gyfer cleifion sydd â chlefyd Parkinson yng Nghymru. OAQ(3)1829(HSS)*

Gwenda Thomas: The Minister has emphasised to local health boards that services for long-term and chronic conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, must be a high priority, to ensure that people receive prompt diagnosis and appropriate treatment, care and support. The Minister wrote to all Members last week to update them on steps to improve neurosciences.

Christine Chapman: That is very welcome news. You will know that, following years of campaigning for a specialist Parkinson's nurse for Rhondda Cynon Taf, Parkinson's patients in my area are now benefiting from access to such a nurse, which is invaluable to them. However, we know that many people

Ysbyty Llandrindod. Addawyd y byddai'n agor erbyn diwedd yr haf 2010, a byddai hynny wedi rhoi terfyn ar y sgandal sy'n golygu bod yn rhaid i gleifion y canolbarth deithio milltiroedd lawer i gael triniaeth dialysis hanfodol sy'n achub bywydau. Mae'r rhwystr diweddaraf yn ymwneud â rheoli heintiau. Ar hyn o bryd mae gweithwyr y prosiect yn aros i gynghorwyr rheoli heintiau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ymweld â'r safle. Hyd nes y bydd yr ymweliad hwnnw wedi digwydd a'r adroddiad wedi'i ysgrifennu, ni fyddwn fymryn yn agosach at sefydlu uned ddialysis yn Llandrindod. A wnewch chi sicrhau os gwelwch yn dda fod y swyddogion hynny'n ymweld â'r ysbyty cyn gynted ag y bo modd? A oes gennych amcan pryd y bydd fy etholwyr o'r diwedd yn gallu defnyddio uned dialysis arenol yn Llandrindod, rhywbeth y mae'r Llywodraeth Lafur-Plaid yn ei addo iddynt ers cryn dipyn o amser?

Gwenda Thomas: Gwn eich bod wedi codi'r cwestiwn hwn yn gyson. Ni wn pryd y mae'r tîm yn bwriadu ymweld, ond gwnaaf yn siŵr y cewch ateb ynghylch hynny.

Parkinson's Disease

4. Christine Chapman: *What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to improve services for Parkinson's patients in Wales. OAQ(3)1829(HSS)*

Gwenda Thomas: Mae'r Gweinidog wedi pwysleisio wrth fyrddau iechyd lleol fod yn rhaid i wasanaethau ar gyfer cyflyrau hirdymor a chronig, megis clefyd Parkinson, fod yn flaenoriaeth uchel, er mwyn sicrhau bod pobl yn cael diagnosis cyflym a thriniaeth, gofal a chefnogaeth briodol. Ysgrifennodd y Gweinidog at bob Aelod yr wythnos diwethaf i roi'r newyddion diweddaraf iddynt am gamau i wella niwrowyddorau.

Christine Chapman: Mae hynny'n newyddion da. Fel y gwyddoch, ar ôl blynyddoedd o ymgyrchu am nyrs Parkinson arbenigol yn Rhondda Cynon Taf, mae cleifion Parkinson yn fy ardal bellach yn elwa ar wasanaeth nyrs o'r fath, sy'n amhrisiadwy iddynt. Er hynny, gwyddom fod llawer o bobl

across Wales unfortunately still do not have access to the right level of care and support. You may know that, recently, the Parkinson's UK 2011 manifesto for the Assembly was launched. I was pleased to sponsor that. The manifesto highlights three main pledges based on the needs of people with Parkinson's in Wales. Do you agree that those living with Parkinson's should be treated fairly and have access to the treatment and support that they need?

Gwenda Thomas: I am aware of the manifesto and have, of course, read it. Within Wales, through the implementation of the adult neurosciences review and the recently launched map of medicine care pathway for Parkinson's disease, local health boards are working hard to ensure that patients have access to appropriate high-quality services as close to home as possible. That should address the issue outlined in the Parkinson's UK manifesto.

William Graham: Noting your previous answers, Deputy Minister, you will be aware that the focus on caring for people with chronic health and social care problems, such as Parkinson's disease, makes the shift towards greater community-based care even more important. There remain some concerns about the levels and reliability of home support, particularly where it seems to be an alternative to admissions. How is the Assembly Government working with patients' groups to assuage such fears and ensure that care in the community is delivered quickly and effectively?

Gwenda Thomas: I agree that it is important to be able to provide information on what is available. Information needs to be available for patients and their carers on what they can expect to be available to them if they want to live at home and are able to do so. I do not have the detailed answer you want off the top of my head, but I will ensure that you get that. The interaction between health and social care, particularly at the community level, is extremely important. There are policies being developed, and there are projects that are running now that make that possible. I am committed in my portfolio of

ledled Cymru'n anffodus yn dal heb allu cael y lefel iawn o ofal a chefnogaeth. Efallai y gwyddoch fod maniffesto Parkinson's UK 2011 ar gyfer y Cynulliad wedi'i lansio'n ddiweddar. Roedd yn bleser gennyf ei noddi. Mae'r maniffesto'n tynnu sylw at dri phrif addewid yn seiliedig ar anghenion pobl sydd â chlefyd Parkinson yng Nghymru. A ydych yn cytuno y dylai'r rhai sy'n byw â chlefyd Parkinson gael eu trin yn deg ac y dylent fod yn gallu cael y driniaeth a'r gefnogaeth sydd eu hangen arnynt?

Gwenda Thomas: Gwn am y maniffesto ac rwyf, wrth gwrs, wedi ei ddarllen. Yng Nghymru, drwy weithredu'r adolygiad o niwrowyddorau oedolion a'r map a lansiwyd yn ddiweddar o lwybr gofal meddygol ar gyfer clefyd Parkinson, mae byrddau iechyd lleol yn gweithio'n galed i sicrhau y gall cleifion gael gafael ar wasanaethau priodol o safon uchel mor agos i'w cartrefi â phosibl. Dylai hynny ymdrin â'r mater a amlinellir ym maniffesto Parkinson's UK.

William Graham: Nodaf eich atebion blaenorol, Ddirprwy Weinidog, a gwyddoch felly fod canolbwyntio ar ofalu am bobl â phroblemau iechyd cronig a phroblemau gofal cymdeithasol, megis clefyd Parkinson, yn ei gwneud yn bwysicach fyth symud tuag at ofalu yn y gymuned. Mae pryderon o hyd ynghylch lefelau a dibynadwyedd cymorth yn y cartref, yn arbennig lle'r ymddengys ei fod yn cael ei ddefnyddio yn lle derbyn pobl i ysbytai. Sut mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gweithio gyda grwpiau cleifion i leddfu'r pryderon hyn a sicrhau bod gofal yn y gymuned yn cael ei ddarparu'n gyflym ac yn effeithiol?

Gwenda Thomas: Cytunaf ei bod yn bwysig gallu darparu gwybodaeth am yr hyn sydd ar gael. Mae'n rhaid i wybodaeth fod ar gael i gleifion a'r rhai sy'n gofalu amdanynt am yr hyn y gallant ddisgwyl fydd ar gael os ydynt am fyw gartref a'u bod yn gallu gwneud hynny. Ni allaf roi'r ateb manwl a geisiwch yn y fan a'r lle, ond fe sicrhaf eich bod yn cael yr ateb hwnnw. Mae'r rhyngweithio rhwng iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol, yn arbennig ar lefel y gymuned, yn hynod bwysig. Mae polisiâu'n cael eu datblygu, ac mae prosiectau ar waith nawr sy'n gwneud hynny'n bosibl. Rwyf wedi ymrwymo yn fy

social services, as I know that the Minister for Health and Social Services is, to ensuring better interaction between the two services.

mhorthffolio gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, fel y gwn y mae'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol hefyd wedi ymrwymo, i sicrhau gwell rhyngweithio rhwng y ddau wasanaeth.

2.00 p.m.

Gareth Jones: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Christine am gyflwyno cwestiwn ar y pwnc pwysig hwn. Yr wyf finnau hefyd yn edmygu'r gwaith a wnaed gan gymdeithas Parkinson i helpu gwella ansawdd bywyd cleifion sydd yn cael eu gwanychu a'u llesgáu gan yr afiechyd dinistriol hwn. Er nad wyf yn ymgeisydd, yr wyf finnau'n llwyr gefnogi'r tri addewid y mae'r gymdeithas yn eu ceisio yn ei manifesto ar gyfer etholiad y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, i ba raddau yr ydych yn rhag-weld y byddai buddsoddiad newydd mewn gwasanaethau niwrowyddonol yn y gogledd o fudd i bobl sydd yn dioddef clefyd Parkinson?

Gareth Jones: I am grateful to Christine for tabling a question on this important subject. I am also impressed by the work that is done by Parkinson's UK to help to improve the quality of life for patients who are weakened and debilitated by this devastating disease. Although I am not a candidate, I, too, fully support the three promises that society is seeking in its manifesto for the Assembly election. However, to what extent do you anticipate that any new investment in neuroscience services in north Wales would benefit people who suffer from Parkinson's disease?

Gwenda Thomas: Mae buddsoddiad bob amser yn dderbyniol, ond yr wyf yn derbyn eich neges. Gwn fod gwaith da iawn yn digwydd yn y gogledd o ran cydweithio a chyd-gynllunio i sicrhau bod yr adnoddau gennym. Gwyddom eu bod yn lleihau ar hyn o bryd, ond credaf fod modd gweithio mewn gwahanol ffyrdd, a gwneud mwy gyda llai, sydd yn bwysig o safbwynt clefyd megis clefyd Parkinson. Mae'n rhaid inni weithio ac integreiddio yn fwy er mwyn gallu cynnig gwasanaeth. Os nad yw hynny'n ateb digon cyflawn i chi, fe rown ateb dilynol i chi.

Gwenda Thomas: Investment is always acceptable, but I take your point. I know that very good work is happening in north Wales with regard to collaboration and joint planning to ensure that we have the resources. We know that they are being reduced at the moment, but I think that we can work in different ways, and do more with less, which is important in terms of a disease such as Parkinson's. We must work and integrate more in order to offer services. If that is not a complete enough answer for you, we shall provide you with a follow-up answer.

Gwasanaethau Iechyd Meddwl

Mental Health Services

5. David Melding: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y mesurau sydd ar waith i wella gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl yng Nghymru. OAQ(3)1831(HSS)*

5. David Melding: *Will the Minister make a statement on measures in place to improve mental health services in Wales. OAQ(3)1831(HSS)*

Gwenda Thomas: Improving mental health services in Wales remains a key priority. In the last year, the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 was passed, the mental health programme board was established to provide direction and leadership to drive forward improvements to adult services, and a national action plan to improve children's mental health services was launched.

Gwenda Thomas: Mae gwella gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl yng Nghymru'n dal i fod yn flaenoriaeth allweddol. Yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, cymeradwywyd Mesur Iechyd Meddwl (Cymru) 2010, sefydlwyd y bwrdd rhaglen iechyd meddwl i roi cyfeiriad ac arweiniad i fwrw ymlaen â'r gwelliannau i wasanaethau i oedolion, a lansiwyd cynllun gweithredu cenedlaethol i wella

gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl i blant.

David Melding: As services improve, it is very important that patients access those services as soon as possible before conditions can deteriorate. To do so, we may need a national campaign to raise awareness of mental health issues. Wales is currently the only country in the UK that does not have such an awareness-raising campaign. Such campaigns are being run in England and Scotland. Given that 25 per cent of people do not currently think that people with mental health conditions should have the same right to a job, 37 per cent of people say that they would be unhappy if one of their close relatives married someone with a mental health condition, and 66 per cent of people say that they would not rent a room to someone with a mental health condition, it is little wonder that many people are very reluctant to come forward to seek treatment.

Gwenda Thomas: I agree with you, David, about the stigma that is still attached to mental health issues. We had a figure of one in 10 people, and when we looked around this Chamber, we accepted that they are us and we are them. The issue of raising awareness with regard to mental health is extremely important. I will take your point back, David.

I know that you are also committed to child mental health from your chairing of the all-party group, where the issue has come up in terms of CAMHS. Things can start pretty early in life and affect people for the whole of their lives. I agree that an awareness-raising campaign is important, and I will take it back.

Bethan Jenkins: Has the Minister considered implementing the reward and recognition guidance provided by the Department of Health some years ago, particularly with regard to the eating disorders framework? The payment of carers and those using services are a challenge, particularly when we want to encourage them to take part in framing documents for the future. This guidance would enable respectful and appropriate payment for service users in this regard. Has the Minister for health

David Melding: Wrth i wasanaethau wella, mae'n bwysig iawn fod cleifion yn gallu defnyddio'r gwasanaethau hynny cyn gynted ag y bo modd cyn i gyflyrau waethygu. I wneud hynny, efallai y bydd angen ymgyrch genedlaethol arnom i godi ymwybyddiaeth o faterion iechyd meddwl. Ar hyn o bryd, Cymru yw'r unig wlad yn y DU nad oes ganddi ymgyrch codi ymwybyddiaeth o'r fath. Mae ymgyrchoedd o'r fath ar waith yn Lloegr ac yn yr Alban. O ystyried nad yw 25 y cant o bobl yn credu ar hyn o bryd y dylai fod gan bobl â chyflwr iechyd meddwl yr un hawl i gael swyddi, bod 37 y cant o bobl yn dweud y byddent yn anhapus petai un o'u perthnasau agos yn priodi rhywun â chyflwr iechyd meddwl, a 66 y cant o bobl yn dweud na fyddent yn gosod ystafell ar rent i rywun â chyflwr iechyd meddwl, does ryfedd bod llawer o bobl yn gyndyn iawn o ofyn am driniaeth.

Gwenda Thomas: Cytunaf, David, ynghylch y stigma sydd ynghlwm o hyd â materion iechyd meddwl. Roedd gennym ffigur o un o bob 10 o bobl, a phan edrychasom o amgylch y Siambr hon, derbyniasom mai nhw yw ni, a ni yw nhw. Mae codi ymwybyddiaeth ynghylch iechyd meddwl yn bwnc hynod bwysig. Cymeraf eich pwynt yn ôl David.

Gwn eich bod hefyd wedi ymrwymo i iechyd meddwl plant yn sgîl y ffaith eich bod yn gadeirydd y grŵp trawsbleidiol, lle cododd y mater o safbwynt CAMHS. Gall pethau ddechrau'n go gynnar mewn bywyd ac effeithio ar bobl gydol eu bywydau. Cytunaf fod ymgyrch codi ymwybyddiaeth yn bwysig, a chymeraf hynny yn ôl.

Bethan Jenkins: A yw'r Gweinidog wedi ystyried rhoi ar waith y cyfarwyddyd cydnabod a gwobrwyo a ddarparwyd gan yr Adran Iechyd rai blynyddoedd yn ôl, yn arbennig o safbwynt y fframwaith anhwylderau bwyta? Mae talu gofalwyr a'r rhai sy'n defnyddio gwasanaethau yn her, yn arbennig a ninnau am eu hannog i fod yn rhan o waith llunio dogfennau at y dyfodol. Byddai'r cyfarwyddyd hwn yn galluogi defnyddwyr gwasanaethau i dderbyn tâl parchus a phriodol yn hyn o beth. A yw'r

considered this?

Gwenda Thomas: Mae gan Gymru ddogfen o'r fath.

The document is specifically in respect of mental health services and entitled, 'Stronger in Partnership 2'. It involves service users and carers in the design, planning, delivery and evaluation of mental health services in Wales. It was issued in October 2008. It is for local health boards to provide services, including eating disorder services, in line with that guidance.

Jenny Randerson: Many of my constituents who use the services are very concerned about the style of the consultation on the Whitchurch Hospital site and the potential move of those services to the Llandough Hospital site. They are particularly concerned that the consultation has not included any costings for the alternative options, which has been a feature of previous consultations. Are you and the Minister satisfied that the consultation is being undertaken according to guidelines? When will we be given alternative costings for the various options? Will it not be until after a choice has been made about those options? I am sure that you understand that the costs of the various options are a key issue for local people.

Gwenda Thomas: I am not going to pretend that I am on top of that issue, but I have read about the issues affecting Whitchurch Hospital. I understand that the consultation is proceeding and that the Minister is awaiting its results. If that is incorrect, officials will correct it. The Minister is very much considering the issue regarding Whitchurch Hospital, and I will come back to you with a detailed response to that.

Camddefnyddio Sylweddau

6. Leanne Wood: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ymdrechion i fynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio sylweddau yng Nghymru. OAQ(3)1851(HSS)*

Gwenda Thomas: Our approach to tackling

Gweinidog dros iechyd wedi ystyried hyn?

Gwenda Thomas: Wales has such a document.

Mae'r ddogfen yn ymwneud yn benodol â gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl, dan y teitl 'Nerth mewn Partneriaeth 2'. Mae'n cynnwys defnyddwyr gwasanaethau a gofawyr wrth ddylunio, cynllunio, cyflenwi a gwerthuso gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl yng Nghymru. Fe'i cyhoeddwyd ym mis Hydref 2008. Mater i fyrddau iechyd lleol yw darparu gwasanaethau, gan gynnwys gwasanaethau anhwylderau bwyta, yn unol â'r cyfarwyddyd hwnnw.

Jenny Randerson: Mae llawer o'm hetholwyr sy'n defnyddio'r gwasanaethau'n bryderus iawn am y dull ymgynghori ar safle Ysbyty'r Eglwys Newydd a'r posibilid y gallai'r gwasanaethau hynny symud i safle Ysbyty Llandochau. Maent yn pryderu'n benodol nad yw'r ymgynghoriad wedi cynnwys unrhyw gostau ar gyfer yr opsiynau eraill, a fu'n rhan o ymgynghoriadau blaenorol. A ydych chi a'r Gweinidog yn fodlon fod yr ymgynghoriad yn cael ei gynnal yn unol â'r canllawiau? Pryd gawn ni gostau amgen ar gyfer y gwahanol opsiynau? Oni fydd hynny ar ôl i ddewis gael ei wneud am yr opsiynau hynny? Rwyf yn siŵr eich bod yn deall bod cost y gwahanol opsiynau'n fater allweddol i bobl leol.

Gwenda Thomas: Nid wyf am esgus fy mod yn hyddysg yn hyn o beth, ond rwyf wedi darllen am y materion sy'n effeithio ar Ysbyty'r Eglwys Newydd. Rwyf ar ddeall fod yr ymgynghoriad yn mynd rhagddo a bod y Gweinidog yn aros am y canlyniadau. Os nad yw hynny'n gywir, bydd swyddogion yn cywiro hynny. Mae'r Gweinidog yn sicr yn ystyried y sefyllfa ynghylch Ysbyty'r Eglwys Newydd, ac fe gysylltaf â chi ag ateb manwl yn hyn o beth.

Substance Abuse

6. Leanne Wood: *Will the Minister make a statement on efforts to tackle substance abuse in Wales. OAQ(3)1851(HSS)*

Gwenda Thomas: Mae ein dull o fynd i'r

substance misuse in Wales is clearly set out in our 10-year strategy, 'Working Together to Reduce Harm'. Delivery of the strategy is supported by £52.6 million, and a full report on progress against the strategy was published in the Minister's annual report on 18 November 2010.

Leanne Wood: Substance misuse is an increasing problem in Wales, as borne out by evidence from the charity, Kaleidoscope, which shows a sharp rise in the numbers of problematic drug users over the last 25 years. We have also seen recent shocking fatality statistics. Recent pilots in England involving supervised injectable diamorphine trials have led to significantly lower use of street heroin among chronic users for whom treatment programmes have failed when compared with traditional methadone-based treatment. I know that the Minister has accepted advice to reject a similar model being adopted in Wales on the grounds that it would be difficult to roll out in rural areas, that there are problems with the supply of pharmaceutical diamorphine and because of the high cost of establishing specialist clinics. However, I am of the view that these concerns are surmountable and should be overcome. Will you agree to ask the Minister for health to reconsider her position, as set out in her letter to me dated 3 November? Will you also ask her to ask her advisory group to look again at how this model can be adopted in Wales, particularly in the former coalfield areas where it has been shown that there are many more problematic substance misusers per head of the population, as compared to other areas in Wales?

Gwenda Thomas: I will take that question back to be considered in its entirety, but we are supporting a range of initiatives to reduce these unfortunate deaths. In brief, these initiatives include a national review process into drug-related deaths in which four regional panels of experts identify key and recurring themes and learn lessons from such tragic events. This is supported by a national monitoring group on drug-related deaths. A national take-home naloxone rescue scheme,

afael â chamddefnyddio sylweddau yng Nghymru wedi'i nodi'n glir yn ein strategaeth 10 mlynedd, 'Gweithio Gyda'n Gilydd i Leihau Niwed'. Darparwyd £52.6 miliwn i gefnogi'r strategaeth, a chyhoeddwyd adroddiad llawn ar gynnydd yn erbyn y strategaeth yn adroddiad blynyddol y Gweinidog ar 18 Tachwedd 2010.

Leanne Wood: Mae problem camddefnyddio sylweddau ar gynnydd yng Nghymru, fel y dengys tystiolaeth yr elusen, Kaleidoscope, sy'n dangos cynnydd mawr yn nifer y defnyddwyr cyffuriau problematig dros y 25 mlynedd diwethaf. Gwelsom hefyd yn ddiweddar ystadegau brawychus ynghylch marwolaethau. Mae cynlluniau peilot diweddar yn Lloegr yn ymwneud â threialon diamorffin chwistrelladwy dan oruchwyliaeth wedi arwain at gryn dipyn yn llai o ddefnydd o heroin stryd ymhlith defnyddwyr cronig y mae rhaglenni trin wedi methu â'u helpu o gymharu â thriniaeth draddodiadol â methadon. Gwn fod y Gweinidog wedi derbyn cyngor i wrthod mabwysiadu model tebyg yng Nghymru ar y sail y byddai'n anodd cyflwyno hynny mewn ardaloedd gwledig, am fod problemau ynglŷn â chyflenwadau diamorffin fferyllol ac oherwydd cost uchel sefydlu clinigau arbenigol. Er hynny, rwyf o'r farn y gellid datrys y pryderon hyn ac y dylid eu goresgyn. A wnewch chi gytuno i ofyn i'r Gweinidog dros iechyd ailystyried ei safbwynt, fel y'i nodir yn ei llythyr ataf dyddiedig 3 Tachwedd? A wnewch chi ofyn iddi hefyd ofyn i'w grŵp cynghori edrych eto ar sut y gellid mabwysiadu'r model hwn yng Nghymru, yn arbennig yn ardaloedd yr hen feysydd glo lle dangoswyd bod mwy o lawer o gamddefnyddwyr sylweddau problematig fesul pen o'r boblogaeth, o gymharu ag ardaloedd eraill yng Nghymru?

Gwenda Thomas: Af â'r cwestiwn hwnnw yn ôl i'w ystyried yn ei gyfanrwydd, ond rydym yn cefnogi amryw o fentrau i leihau nifer y marwolaethau anffodus hyn. Yn fyr, ymhlith y mentrau hyn mae proses adolygu genedlaethol i farwolaethau'n ymwneud â chyffuriau lle mae pedwar panel rhanbarthol o arbenigwyr yn nodi themâu allweddol sy'n codi dro ar ôl tro ac yn dysgu gwersi yn sgîl digwyddiadau trasig fel hyn. Cefnogir hyn gan grŵp monitro cenedlaethol ar

together with first aid training, is included in what we cover. There is also the publication of the 'Learning The Lessons' themed bulletins aimed at key staff such as GPs, and so on. However, I will look at the other issues that you raised.

Darren Millar: Deputy Minister, you will know that substance misuse has a higher prevalence among ex-servicemen and women, and that this is often linked to post-traumatic stress disorder. The National Assembly's Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee's inquiry into PTSD found that some therapies provided by groups such as Talking2Minds—a leading charity in the effective therapeutic treatment of PTSD—have been extremely successful. Will you consider implementing a model of care that includes the opportunity for that sort of treatment programme to be used by the Welsh NHS?

Gwenda Thomas: I know that the Minister is committed to improving the lot of our veterans. I cannot give you the commitment that you seek this afternoon, but I will ensure that the Minister is told about your question and that you get a response.

2.10 p.m.

Gwasanaethau Iechyd Trawsffiniol

7. Mark Isherwood: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am wasanaethau iechyd trawsffiniol yng Ngogledd Cymru. OAQ(3)1799(HSS)*

Gwenda Thomas: Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board is responsible for ensuring the provision of safe, integrated and sustainable health services to the north Wales population. Sometimes, this will mean services being provided on a cross-border basis.

Mark Isherwood: You will be aware that there was reporting for a little while last month that Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital was to stop treating north Wales

farwolaethau'n ymwneud â chyffuriau. Mae cynllun achub cenedlaethol naloxone yn y cartref ynghyd â hyfforddiant cymorth cyntaf yn rhan o'r hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud. Cyhoeddir hefyd fwletinau ar thema 'Dysgu'r Gwersi' ar gyfer staff allweddol megis meddygon teulu, ac yn y blaen. Serch hynny, edrychaf ar y materion eraill a godwyd gennych.

Darren Miller: Ddirprwy Weinidog, fel y gwyddoch, mae mwy o gamddefnyddio sylweddau ymhlith cyn-filwyr, yn ddynion a menywod, ac mae hynny'n aml yn gysylltiedig ag anhwylder straen wedi trawma. Canfu ymchwiliad Pwyllgor Iechyd, Lles a Llywodraeth Leol y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i PTSD fod rhai therapïau a ddarperir gan grwpiau megis Talking2Minds—elusen flaenllaw ym maes triniaethau therapiwtig effeithiol ar gyfer PTSD—wedi bod yn hynod lwyddiannus. A wnewch chi ystyried rhoi ar waith fodel gofalu sy'n cynnwys cyfle i ddefnyddio'r math hwnnw o raglen driniaeth yn y GIG yng Nghymru?

Gwenda Thomas: Gwn fod y Gweinidog wedi ymrwmo i wella bywydau cyn-filwyr. Ni allaf roi i chi'r ymrwymiad y gofynnwch amdano y prynhawn yma, ond fe sicrhaf y caiff y Gweinidog wybod am eich cwestiwn ac y cewch ateb.

Cross-border Health Services

7. Mark Isherwood: *Will the Minister make a statement on cross border health services in North Wales. OAQ(3)1799(HSS)*

Gwenda Thomas: Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr sy'n gyfrifol am sicrhau y darperir gwasanaethau iechyd diogel, integredig a chynaliadwy i boblogaeth gogledd Cymru. Weithiau, bydd hynny'n golygu darparu gwasanaethau ar sail drawsffiniol.

Mark Isherwood: Fel y gwyddoch, bu sôn am ychydig y mis diwethaf y byddai Ysbyty'r Galon a'r Frest yn Lerpwl yn rhoi'r gorau i drin cleifion o ogledd Cymru. Diolch

patients. Thankfully, we heard from the health board the following week that that matter had been resolved, but that was the latest manifestation of a long-standing problem. Three years ago, the Welsh Affairs Committee reported tensions over the different way that healthcare was funded on either side of the border and called for fair and equal treatment for patients on either side of the English and Welsh border. What actions, therefore, is the Welsh Government taking to ensure through cross-border collaboration and planning in advance that the likelihood of these sorts of incidents arising in the future is minimised? I am aware not only of concerns involving that institution, but of periodic concerns involving Gobowen, the Countess of Chester, Liverpool Walton and others. This is a big issue that potentially affects a large number of people in north Wales.

Gwenda Thomas: As the nature of the policies of the London Government on the NHS become clearer, we will need to ensure that patients living on the England-Wales border are protected and that any adverse impact on them is minimised. The Minister has had discussions with Andrew Lansley on this matter and secured appropriate safeguards in the NHS Bill. She wrote to all AMs on 8 June last year, clarifying her expectations and policies in this matter. There has been recent press coverage, as you said, about Merseyside hospitals not treating north Wales patients for non-emergency heart and chest problems. Negotiations have concluded, as you know, between Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital and Betsi Cadwaladr University LHB, and services to patients will continue as previously provided. The Minister wishes to minimise the friction caused by differing cross-border policies, which may interfere with patient care.

Janet Ryder: A number of the villages and towns along that border have surgeries that have patients from either side of it. One of those surgeries, in Chirk, is situated within very old premises. It has made an application and it has been granted support from the Assembly Government to redevelop, but, as

byth, clywsom gan y bwrdd iechyd yr wythnos ganlynol fod y mater wedi'i ddatrys, ond dyma'r arwydd diweddaraf o broblem a fu gennym ers tro byd. Dair blynedd yn ôl, adroddodd y Pwyllgor Materion Cymreig fod tensiynau ynghylch y ffyrdd gwahanol o ariannu gofal iechyd y naill ochr a'r llall i'r ffin a galwodd am drin cleifion yn deg ac yn gyfartal ar y naill ochr a'r llall i'r ffin rhwng Cymru a Lloegr. Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n eu cymryd, felly, i sicrhau drwy gydweithredu a chynllunio trawsffiniol ymlaen llaw y bydd cyn lleied â phosibl o ddigwyddiadau o'r fath yn codi yn y dyfodol? Gwn nid yn unig am bryderon yn ymwneud â'r sefydliad hwnnw, ond am bryderon achlysurol am Gobowen, Duges Caer, Lerpwl Walton ac eraill. Mae hwn yn fater pwysig sy'n effeithio ar nifer fawr o bobl yng ngogledd Cymru.

Gwenda Thomas: Wrth i natur polisiau Llywodraeth Llundain ar y GIG ddod yn fwy clir, bydd angen inni sicrhau bod cleifion sy'n byw ar y ffin rhwng Cymru a Lloegr yn cael eu hamddiffyn a bod cyn lleied â phosibl o effaith andwyol arnynt. Mae'r Gweinidog wedi cynnal trafodaethau ag Andrew Lansley ar y mater hwn ac wedi sicrhau trefniadau diogelu priodol ym Mesur y GIG. Ysgrifennodd at bob AC ar 8 Mehefin y llynedd, yn egluro ei disgwyliadau a'i pholisiau yn hyn o beth. Rhoddwyd sylw yn y wasg yn ddiweddar, fel y dywedasoch, i beidio â thrin cleifion o ogledd Cymru a chanddynt broblemau'r galon a'r frest nad ydynt yn rhai brys yn ysbytai Glannau Mersi. Bellach daeth y trafodaethau i ben, fel y gwyddoch, rhwng Ysbyty'r Galon a'r Frest yn Lerpwl a Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr, a bydd y gwasanaethau i gleifion yn parhau i gael eu darparu fel o'r blaen. Mae'r Gweinidog yn awyddus i sicrhau bod cyn lleied â phosibl o wrthdaro yn sgîl polisiau gwahanol ar y naill ochr a'r llall i'r ffin, a allai amharu ar ofal i gleifion.

Janet Ryder: Yn nifer o'r pentrefi a'r trefi ar hyd y ffin honno mae meddygfeydd yn gwasanaethu cleifion o'r naill ochr a'r llall iddi. Mae un o'r meddygfeydd hynny, yn y Waun, mewn adeiladau hen iawn. Mae wedi gwneud cais llwyddiannus am gymorth gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i ailddatblygu, ond,

has happened with a couple of other doctors' practices, the design stage is a sticking point. That is causing considerable problems. Can the Deputy Minister do anything to help Chirk Surgery to alleviate this problem so that it can get the new surgery that is needed in Chirk for the benefit of patients?

Gwenda Thomas: Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board needs to submit a bid to the Assembly Government for funding the new primary care centre in Chirk. I can confirm that no funding has been set aside. The Assembly Government is committed to improving the quality of primary care facilities throughout Wales. It is important to ensure that each scheme provides the best value for money for the NHS, particularly in the current financial climate. The Minister fully understands the concerns that are being raised with her about the delays in this scheme, but it is necessary to ensure that any new primary care centre is designed and has the capacity to provide general medical services to the local population for the next 20 years. The practice has a branch surgery located just across the English border at St Martin's in Shropshire, occupying a modernised Victorian school building. The surgery is completely viable and has its own dispensary. Patients can choose whether to attend Chirk or St Martins surgeries and it is understood that the intention is to retain the branch surgery in St Martins should the new centre be approved.

fel gydag un neu ddwy o feddygfeydd eraill, mae'r cam dylunio'n faen tramgwydd. Mae hyn yn achosi cryn dipyn o broblemau. A all y Dirprwy Weinidog wneud rhywbeth i helpu Meddygfa'r Waun i liniaru'r broblem hon fel y gall fwrw ati i gael y feddygfa newydd sydd ei hangen yn y Waun er budd y cleifion?

Gwenda Thomas: Mae angen i Fwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr gyflwyno cais i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad am arian ar gyfer y ganolfan gofal sylfaenol newydd yn y Waun. Gallaf gadarnhau nad oes arian wedi'i neilltuo. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ymrwymo i wella ansawdd cyfleusterau gofal sylfaenol ledled Cymru. Mae'n bwysig sicrhau bod pob cynllun yn cynnig y gwerth gorau am arian i'r GIG, yn enwedig yn yr hinsawdd ariannol sydd ohoni. Mae'r Gweinidog yn deall yn iawn y pryderon sy'n cael eu codi â hi ynghylch yr oedi yn y cynllun hwn, ond mae'n rhaid sicrhau bod pob canolfan gofal sylfaenol yn cael ei dylunio, ac yn gallu ymdopi â darparu gwasanaethau meddygol cyffredinol i'r boblogaeth leol am yr 20 mlynedd nesaf. Mae gan y practis gangen yn union dros y ffin â Lloegr yn St Martin's yn swydd Amwythig, mewn hen ysgol Fictoriaidd wedi'i moderneiddio. Mae'r feddygfa'n gwbl hyfyw ac mae ganddi ei fferyllfa ei hun. Gall cleifion ddewis p'un a ydynt am fynychu meddygfa'r Waun neu feddygfa St Martin's a deallir mai'r bwriad yw cadw'r gangen yn St Martin's os caiff y ganolfan newydd ei chymeradwyo.

Cwestiynau i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth

Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport

Cost Tocynnau Trên

I. Rhodri Glyn Thomas: *A wnaiiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y cynnydd ym mhrisiau tocynnau trên yng Nghymru. OAQ(3)1762(ECT)*

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Mae cytundebau masnachfrait gyda chwmnïau gweithredu trenau yn ei

Train Fares

I. Rhodri Glyn Thomas: *Will the Minister make a statement on the increase in train fares in Wales. OAQ(3)1762(ECT)*

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Franchise agreements with train operating companies require them to contain

gwneud yn ofynnol iddynt gadw unrhyw gynnydd mewn costau sydd wedi'u rheoleiddio o fewn lefel a bennir gan y Llywodraeth. Y mynegai prisiau manwerthu yw hyn ar hyn o bryd, gydag ychwanegiad o 1 y cant ar gyfer Cymru, Lloegr a'r Alban. Mae costau Trenau Arriva Cymru nad ydynt wedi eu rheoleiddio wedi cynyddu 6.25 y cant ar gyfartaledd, ac nid oes gan y Llywodraeth reolaeth dros hynny.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolch am yr esboniad hwnnw o'r broses. Fodd bynnag, y realiti yw bod rhai teithwyr yng Nghymru'n wynebu cynnydd o ryw 10 y cant ym mhrisiau tocynnau trên. A yw hyn yn cryfhau'r ddadl dros yr awgrym a wnaethpwyd gennych y dylid ystyried cael cwmni nad yw'n cael ei yrru gan elw i reoli rheilffyrdd Cymru, cwmni a fyddai'n cryfhau'r rhwydwaith yn hytrach na cheisio cynyddu gwerth ei gyfranddaliadau?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mater i'r Llywodraeth nesaf fydd gwneud penderfyniadau am y dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, ar adeg pan fo ein cyllidebau'n crebachu yn sgîl toriadau'r Llywodraeth yn Llundain, mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn canolbwyntio ar gael y gwerth gorau posibl am arian o gyllid cyhoeddus. Yr ydym yn awyddus i sicrhau buddsoddiad er mwyn gwireddu'n gweledigaeth o gael system drafndiaeth Gymreig fodern ac effeithiol.

Darren Millar: Deputy First Minister, thank you for your answer to Rhodri Glyn. I notice that you indicated that you have no control over the fares that are being set by Arriva Trains Wales, but I encourage you to hold talks with the company about the increases that it recently applied to its fares. My own ticket from north to south Wales—I usually get a Freedom of Wales pass—went up by 17 per cent in January. Increases like that are obviously going to deter people from using public transport. Given the sustainability agenda that your Government seems intent on pursuing, which has cross-party support, I would have thought that some discussions between you and Arriva Trains Wales should take place.

The Deputy First Minister: I am sure that

increases in regulated fares within a level determined by Government. This is currently the retail price index plus 1 per cent for England, Wales and Scotland. Arriva Trains Wales's unregulated fares have increased by an average of 6.25 per cent, over which the Government has no control.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Thank you for that explanation of the process. However, the reality is that some travellers in Wales face an increase of around 10 per cent in train fares. Does this strengthen the argument in favour of your suggestion that we should be looking at having a not-for-profit company to manage railways in Wales, a company that would strengthen the network rather than trying to increase the value of its shares?

The Deputy First Minister: It will be for the next Government to make decisions about the future. However, at a time when our budgets are contracting following the cuts made by the Government in London, it is crucial that we concentrate on getting the best value possible for money from public funds. We are keen to ensure investment in order to realise our vision of having a modern and effective Welsh transport system.

Darren Millar: Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, diolch am eich ateb i Rhodri Glyn. Sylwaf ichi nodi nad oes gennych reolaeth dros brisiau tocynnau sy'n cael eu gosod gan Drenau Arriva Cymru, ond fe'ch anogaf i gynnal trafodaethau â'r cwmni ynghylch y cynnydd a fu yn ddiweddar ym mhrisiau ei docynnau. Cododd pris fy nhocyn innau o ogledd i dde Cymru—prynaf docyn Crwydro Cymru fel arfer—17 y cant ym mis Ionawr. Mae codiadau o'r fath, wrth reswm, yn mynd i atal pobl rhag defnyddio trafndiaeth gyhoeddus. O ystyried yr agenda gynaliadwyedd y mae eich Llywodraeth fel petai'n benderfynol o'i dilyn, ac y mae cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol iddi, oni ddylid cynnal trafodaethau rhyngoch chi a Threnau Arriva Cymru?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Rwyf yn sicr

you listened to my answer very carefully, and I said that I do have control over regulated fares. I have exercised that control, and those fares are at exactly the same level as in the rest of the UK. Philip Hammond, who is a Conservative UK Minister, has carried out a similar exercise in England. If I have statutory control over regulated fares, it means that I have no control over unregulated fares; the latter are, therefore, a matter for the train operating companies. One thing that I can say is that the increase in passengers on train services in Wales is very substantial. In recent years, we have seen this Government investing in the railway service; however, under your plans, that service would be in jeopardy.

Cwmnïau Cydweithredol

2. Leanne Wood: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyfraniad cwmnïau cydweithredol Cymru i'r economi. OAQ(3)1748(ECT)*

The Deputy First Minister: Co-operatives, alongside other forms of social enterprise, are now becoming more relevant in the modern economy. The social enterprise action plan sets out our vision of dynamic and sustainable social enterprises strengthening an inclusive and growing economy. This commitment is supported by the economic renewal plan.

Leanne Wood: As you know, work is already being undertaken to help and encourage the growth of co-operatives in Wales, thanks to the Co-operative Enterprise Hub, which provides a multimillion-pound package of advice, training and finance to help communities grow their own enterprises.

2.20 p.m.

While this assistance from the Welsh Government is welcome, there is potential for this provision to be expanded, particularly in relation to our capacity to produce renewable energy and food. Many of our viable factories have been lost to the recession

ichi wrando'n astud ar fy ateb, a dywedais fod gennyf reolaeth dros brisiau sydd wedi'u rheoleiddio. Rwyf wedi arfer y rheolaeth honno, ac mae'r prisiau hynny ar union yr un lefel â gweddill y DU. Mae Philip Hammond, Gweinidog Ceidwadol yn y DU, wedi arfer rheolaeth debyg yn Lloegr. Os oes gennyf reolaeth statudol dros brisiau sydd wedi'u rheoleiddio, golyga hynny nad oes gennyf reolaeth dros brisiau heb eu rheoleiddio; mater i'r cwmnïau trenau, felly, yw hynny. Un peth y gallaf ei ddweud yw fod cynnydd sylweddol iawn wedi bod yn nifer y bobl sy'n defnyddio gwasanaethau trenau yng Nghymru. Mewn blynyddoedd diweddar, gwelsom y Llywodraeth hon yn buddsoddi yn y gwasanaeth rheilffyrdd; fodd bynnag, o dan eich cynlluniau chi, byddai'r gwasanaeth hwnnw dan fygythiad.

Co-operatives

2. Leanne Wood: *Will the Minister make a statement on the contribution of Welsh co-operatives to the economy. OAQ(3)1748(ECT)*

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae cwmnïau cydweithredol, ynghyd â mathau eraill o fentrau cymdeithasol, yn dod yn fwyfwy perthnasol yn yr economi fodern. Mae'r cynllun gweithredu mentrau cymdeithasol yn nodi ein gweledigaeth ar gyfer mentrau cymdeithasol deinamig a chynaliadwy a fydd yn cryfhau economi gynhwysol sy'n tyfu. Cefnogir yr ymrwymiad hwn gan gynllun adnewyddu'r economi.

Leanne Wood: Fel y gwyddoch, mae gwaith eisoes ar y gweill i helpu ac annog twf cwmnïau cydweithredol yng Nghymru, diolch i'r Ganolfan Mentrau Cydweithredol, sy'n darparu pecyn gwerth miliynau o bunnau o gyngor, hyfforddiant a chyllid i helpu cymunedau i dyfu eu mentrau eu hunain.

Er ei bod yn dda o beth fod Llywodraeth Cymru'n rhoi'r cymorth hwn, gellid ehangu'r ddarpariaeth hon, yn arbennig o ran ein gallu i gynhyrchu ynni adnewyddadwy a bwyd. Collwyd llawer o'n ffatrioedd hyfyw i'r dirwasgiad oherwydd penderfyniadau a

because of decisions that have been made a long distance away from Wales. If provision for establishing more co-operatives is strengthened, local communities can be empowered to take control of their own destiny and build up resistance and resilience to these external factors. Given that Robert Owen, who was known as the grandfather of co-operatives, was from Wales, and given our fantastic natural resources, do you agree that the potential for a green co-operative revolution here is great? If so, what detailed work can be done by the Welsh Assembly Government to facilitate such a revolution?

The Deputy First Minister: There are two aspects to the question: the first relates to support for co-operatives and the second to support for green energy, as it were. In addition to the hub that you mentioned, we are providing match funding for the £8.2 million social enterprise support project, which is led by the Wales Co-operative Centre. That project will support the development of social enterprise across both convergence and competitiveness areas. It is right to say that there is a resurgent interest in co-ops and the mutual model, and we can have great traction in the sector. Now that we have a more sector-driven approach in Wales to economic renewal, building support for co-operatives could be part of that work.

Mark Isherwood: You will be aware of UK Government proposals to introduce a co-operative model to the post office, giving a greater say to customers, employees, and communities. What action have you taken to engage with the mutuals information service, which was launched by the UK Government in partnership with local government, the Employee Ownership Association and Co-operatives UK to provide a signposting service for staff in the public sector interested in setting up staff-owned co-operatives that go further by engaging service users and employees as well?

The Deputy First Minister: Frankly, I do not want to see, and this Government does

wnaed ymhell o Gymru. Pe gellid cryfhau'r ddarpariaeth i sefydlu rhagor o gwmnïau cydweithredol, gellid rhoi grym i gymunedau lleol reoli eu ffawd eu hunain a dysgu gwrthsefyll y ffactorau allanol hyn. O ystyried mai Cymro oedd Robert Owen, a adwaenid fel tad-cu'r cwmnïau cydweithredol, ac o ystyried ein hadnoddau naturiol gwych, a ydych yn cytuno bod y posibilïadau o ran chwyldro cydweithredol gwyrdd yma yn enfawr? Os felly, pa waith manwl all Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ei wneud i hwyluso chwyldro o'r fath?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae dwy elfen i'r cwestiwn: mae'r gyntaf yn ymwneud â chefnogaeth i gwmnïau cydweithredol a'r ail yn ymwneud â chefnogaeth i ynni gwyrdd, fel petai. Yn ogystal â'r ganolfan y soniasoch amdani, rydym yn darparu cyllid cyfatebol i'r prosiect cefnogi mentrau cymdeithasol sy'n werth £8.2 miliwn, ac sy'n cael ei arwain gan Ganolfan Gydweithredol Cymru. Bydd y prosiect yn cefnogi datblygu mentrau cymdeithasol ar draws ardaloedd cydgyfeirio a chystadleurwydd fel ei gilydd. Mae'n wir dweud bod diddordeb o'r newydd mewn cwmnïau cydweithredol a'r model cydfuddiannol, a gallwn fod â dylanwad mawr yn y sector. Nawr fod gennym ymagwedd sy'n fwy seiliedig ar sectorau o ran mynd ati i adnewyddu'r economi yng Nghymru, gallai ennyn chefnogaeth i gwmnïau cydweithredol fod yn rhan o'r gwaith hwnnw.

Mark Isherwood: Fel y gwyddoch, mae Llywodraeth y DU yn bwriadu cyflwyno model cydweithredol ar gyfer swyddfa'r post, gan roi mwy o lais i gwsmeriaid, gweithwyr a chymunedau. Pa gamau ydych chi wedi'u cymryd i ymgysylltu â'r gwasanaeth gwybodaeth cwmnïau cydfuddiannol, a lansiwyd gan Lywodraeth y DU mewn partneriaeth â Llywodraeth leol, yr Employee Ownership Association a Co-operatives UK i ddarparu gwasanaeth cyfeirio i staff yn y sector cyhoeddus a chanddynt ddiddordeb mewn sefydlu cwmnïau cydweithredol ym mherchnogaeth staff sy'n mynd ymhellach drwy gynnwys defnyddwyr gwasanaethau a gweithwyr yn ogystal?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: A dweud y gwir, nid wyf fi am weld, ac nid yw'r Llywodraeth

not want to see, co-operatives set up as a smokescreen for privatisation. That is something that we are not interested in. However, there is merit in officials from the Welsh Assembly Government talking to the UK Government about the financing of co-operatives and mutuals, and I know that contact between officials is already taking place. We will watch that with interest. I reiterate the point that I made to Leanne: there is a resurgent interest in co-operatives and the mutual model in Wales, and that is something that we want to encourage.

Teithiau Hedfan o Ynys Môn i Gaerdydd

3. Jenny Randerson: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am pam mae angen cymhorthdal er mwyn cefnogi teithiau hedfan o Ynys Môn i Gaerdydd. OAQ(3)1779(ECT)*

The Deputy First Minister: Public service obligations operate where there is a social advantage in transport being available but the route is not financially viable. The north-south air service supports economic, social and political cohesion in Wales.

Jenny Randerson: Thank you for that answer, Deputy First Minister. You have subsidised not just the north-south air service, but also services on trains from north to south Wales, and a new, faster service has been announced this week. Although I take issue with you on the size of the subsidy per passenger for the air service, the subsidy is much less for the rail service. However, on the rail service, I take issue with the fact that there are no plans for it to stop anywhere after Llandudno in north Wales. Was agreement reached with Arriva on a route that excludes Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham in terms of stops? If so, when was that agreement reached?

The Deputy First Minister: No agreement has yet been reached on that service, and an announcement will be made at the right time. I have to say, however, that it makes absolutely no sense for leaders of councils in

hon am weld, sefydlu cwmnïau cydweithredol yn llen i guddio preifateiddio. Nid oes gennym ddiddordeb yn hynny. Er hynny, byddai'n dda o beth i swyddogion Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru siarad â Llywodraeth y DU am ariannu cwmnïau cydweithredol a chydfuddiannol, a gwn fod cyswllt eisoes wedi bod rhwng swyddogion. Bydd yn ddiddorol cadw llygad ar hynny. Atefai y pwynt a wneuthum wrth ateb Leanne; mae diddordeb o'r newydd mewn cwmnïau cydweithredol a'r model cydfuddiannol yng Nghymru, ac mae hynny'n rhywbeth yr ydym am ei annog.

Flights from Anglesey to Cardiff

3. Jenny Randerson: *Will the Minister make a statement on why subsidies are necessary to support flights from Anglesey to Cardiff. OAQ(3)1779(ECT)*

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae rhwymedigaethau gwasanaeth cyhoeddus yn gymwys lle bo mantais gymdeithasol i gynnig trafndiaeth ond lle na bo'r llwybr teithio'n hyfyw yn ariannol. Mae'r gwasanaeth awyr rhwng y gogledd a'r de'n cynorthwyo cydlyniad economaidd, cymdeithasol a gwleidyddol yng Nghymru.

Jenny Randerson: Diolch am eich ateb, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog. Rydych wedi rhoi cymhorthdal nid yn unig i'r gwasanaeth awyr rhwng y gogledd a'r de, ond hefyd i wasanaethau ar drenau o ogledd i Dde Cymru, a chyhoeddwyd gwasanaeth newydd, cyflymach yr wythnos hon. Er nad wyf yn cytuno â chi ar faint y cymhorthdal fesul teithiwr ar gyfer y gwasanaeth awyr, mae'r cymhorthdal yn llai o lawer i'r gwasanaeth trenau. Er hynny, ar y gwasanaeth trenau, rwyf yn anfodlon â'r ffaith nad oes cynlluniau iddo stopio yn unman ar ôl Llandudno yng ngogledd Cymru. A gytunwyd ag Arriva ar daith nad yw'n cynnwys stopio yn sir Ddinbych, sir y Fflint na Wrecsam? Os felly, pryd y cytunwyd hynny?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Ni chytunwyd eto ar y gwasanaeth hwnnw, a gwneir cyhoeddiad ar yr adeg briodol. Mae'n rhaid imi ddweud, er hynny, nad yw'n gwneud dim synnwyr o gwbl i arweinwyr cynghorau yng

north Wales to call for the scrapping of a second north-south rail service. They should choose their words carefully, and await a formal announcement.

Jenny Randerson: I am not the leader of a council in north Wales, and I am certainly not calling for the service to be scrapped; I just want it to call at Wrexham or at least somewhere in north Wales after Llandudno. Deputy First Minister, when was the application submitted to the Office of Rail Regulation without any stops in north Wales after Llandudno, although I note that it stops at Chester, Crewe, Shrewsbury and Hereford—subsidised indirectly, of course, by the Welsh taxpayer—which are all in England?

The Deputy First Minister: I will make it clear again: no final decision has been made about the service, its introduction or where it is going to stop. You should therefore wait until a formal announcement is made. I would also advise all local authority leaders in Wales to await that announcement, rather than make rash statements in the newspapers.

Gareth Jones: Yn wahanol i'r Aelod dros Ganol Caerdydd, yr wyf fi, a rhai o'i chyd-Aelodau o'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn y gogledd, yn llwyr gymeradwyo buddsoddi y tu allan i Caerdydd. Dylwn ddweud hefyd nad yw'r trê'n hwn yn stopio yn Llandudno, ond yng Nghyffordd Llandudno—mae gwahaniaeth o ryw ddwy neu dair milltir rhwng y ddau.

A gytunwch â mi, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, y dylai pob gwlad, yn y byd datblygedig o leiaf, anelu at gael system drafnidiaeth integredig a modern sy'n gwasanaethu pawb o'i phobl y gorau y gall, lle bynnag maent yn byw yn y wlad honno, a hynny drwy amrywiaeth o ddulliau teithio, boed hynny'n awyrennau, trenau, ceir neu feiciau? I'r perwyl hwnnw, a gytunwch nad yw'n anarferol sybsideiddio rhan o'r system honno, yn enwedig lle mae'r farchnad wedi methu? A gytunwch hefyd bod dadl gref dros fuddsoddi'r arian hwnnw, yn enwedig os yw'r rhanbarth o dan sylw, megis Ynys Môn,

ngogledd Cymru alw am gael gwared ar ail wasanaeth trenau o'r gogledd i'r de. Dylent ddewis eu geiriau'n ofalus, ac aros am gyhoeddiad ffurfiol.

Jenny Randerson: Nid arweinydd cyngor yng ngogledd Cymru mohonof, ac yn sicr nid wyf yn galw am gael gwared ar y gwasanaeth; y cwbl y mae arnaf ei eisiau yw i'r trê'n alw yn Wrecsam neu o leiaf yn rhywle yng ngogledd Cymru ar ôl Llandudno. Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, pryd y cyflwynwyd cais i Swyddfa Rheoleiddio'r Rheilffyrdd sy'n golygu nad yw'r trê'n yn stopio yn unman yng ngogledd Cymru ar ôl Llandudno, er imi sylwi ei fod yn stopio yng Nghaer, Crewe, Amwythig a Henffordd—wedi'i sybsideiddio'n anuniongyrchol, wrth gwrs, gan drethdalwyr Cymru—sydd i gyd yn Lloegr?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Egluraf unwaith eto: nid oes penderfyniad terfynol wedi'i wneud am y gwasanaeth, ei gyflwyno nac ymhle y bydd yn stopio. Dylech aros felly hyd nes y ceir cyhoeddiad ffurfiol. Cyngoraf pob arweinydd awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru hefyd i aros am y cyhoeddiad hwnnw, yn hytrach na gwneud datganiadau byrbwyll i'r papurau newydd.

Gareth Jones: Unlike the Member for Cardiff Central, I, and some of her fellow Liberal Democrat Members in north Wales, wholeheartedly approve of investment outside of Cardiff. I should also say that this train does not stop in Llandudno, but in Llandudno Junction—there is a difference of about two or three miles between them.

Would you agree, Deputy First Minister, that every country, in the developed world at least, should aspire to a modern, integrated transport system that serves all of its people as best it can, wherever they live in that country, and that by means of a variety of transport methods, whether planes, trains, cars or bikes? To that end, would you agree that it is not unusual to subsidise part of that system, especially where the market has failed? Do you also agree that there is a strong argument for investing that money, especially when the region concerned, such as Anglesey, suffers not only in geographical

yn dioddef, nid yn unig o safbwynt daearyddol, drwy fod y lle pellaf o ganolfannau menter, ond hefyd drwy fod ymysg y rhanbarthau mwyaf difreintiedig yn economaidd?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr ydych wedi gwneud y pwynt, Gareth, fod angen i Lywodraeth unrhyw wlad sydd eisiau datblygu system trafndiaeth gyhoeddus gynaliadwy roi cefnogaeth o'r fath o bryd i'w gilydd, yn enwedig mewn gwlad sydd â chymaint o'i thirwedd yn wledig ac anghysbell. Mae hynny'n wir nid yn unig yng Nghymru ond hefyd yn yr Alban a'r Iwerddon. Mae gan bobl Cymru yr hawl i'r un math o wasanaethau â phobl mewn gwledydd datblygedig eraill.

Nick Bourne: It is important to all of us, certainly to my party, that we maintain good north-south links, as well as good links with mid Wales. I accept what you say about the air service to Ynys Môn. There was a blip last year, in March, when it closed for a while. Are you able to tell us that the service is now secure? I appreciate what you say about subsidies, but is the position on subsidy reviewed occasionally to ensure that the subsidy is at the appropriate level? Do you ultimately hope that, as things improve on Ynys Môn, the subsidy may disappear altogether?

The Deputy First Minister: What happened last year was that the original operator that was awarded the contract went into administration, and therefore there had to be a temporary contract until the end of last year. We have now been able to secure a four-year contract with another operator, and the expectation is that that will now run for that four years. It will be for a new Government to consider what happens at the end of that period.

Rhaglen Adnewyddu'r Economi

4. David Melding: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am weithredu Rhaglen Adnewyddu'r Economi. OAQ(3)1789(ECT)*

terms, by being furthest from enterprise centres, but also by being among the most economically deprived regions?

The Deputy First Minister: You have made the point, Gareth, that the Government of any nation that wishes to develop a sustainable public transport system needs to provide such support from time to time, particularly in a country where so much of our landscape is rural and remote. That is true not only in Wales but in Scotland and Ireland. The people of Wales have the right to the same kind of services as people in other developed nations.

Nick Bourne: Mae'n bwysig i bob un ohonom, ac yn bendant i'm plaid i, ein bod yn cynnal cysylltiadau da rhwng y de a'r gogledd, yn ogystal â chysylltiadau â chanolbarth Cymru. Derbyniaf yr hyn a ddywedwch am y gwasanaeth awyr i Ynys Môn. Bu problem fach y llynedd, ym mis Mawrth, pan gaewyd y gwasanaeth am ychydig. A allwch ddweud wrthym bellach fod y gwasanaeth yn ddiogel? Deallaf yr hyn a ddywedwch am gymorthdaliadau, ond a adolygir sefyllfa'r cymhorthdal o dro i dro er mwyn sicrhau bod y cymhorthdal ar lefel briodol? A ydych yn gobeithio yn y pen draw, wrth i bethau wella yn Ynys Môn, y bydd y cymhorthdal yn diflannu'n gyfan gwbl?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr hyn a ddigwyddodd y llynedd oedd fod y cwmni gwreiddiol a gafodd y contract wedi mynd i ddwylo'r gweinyddwyr, ac felly roedd yn rhaid wrth gontract dros dro tan ddiwedd y llynedd. Rydym bellach wedi sicrhau contract pedair blynedd â chwmni arall, a'r disgwyl yw y bydd yn para am bedair blynedd. Y Llywodraeth newydd fydd yn penderfynu beth fydd yn digwydd ar ddiwedd y cyfnod hwnnw.

Economic Renewal Programme

4. David Melding: *Will the Minister make a statement on the implementation of the Economic Renewal Programme. OAQ(3)1789(ECT)*

The Deputy First Minister: We have made significant progress on the implementation of 'Economic Renewal: a new direction' since its publication in July. I will shortly be making an announcement on membership of the sector panels and publishing a narrative setting out in detail what we have achieved in the past six months.

David Melding: One of the major initiatives in this programme is to move away from a grant-giving culture to a loan-giving culture. What progress has been made in examining this concept and how industry and commerce are reacting to it?

The Deputy First Minister: Industry and commerce are reacting to it very well. I have held a number of meetings with companies that are interested in securing investment, although it is now repayable. They are telling us that they are pleased that we are giving them not only repayable grants, but much wider support ensuring that they have the proper infrastructure. There is also our investment in broadband, and they believe that our investment in skills is key to their development as companies.

2.30 p.m.

Alun Davies: One initiative that you have been promoting within the structures of the economic renewal programme is investment in infrastructure; I am thinking in particular of broadband infrastructure. I believe that you have established targets for 2016-20 in terms of rolling out a network of super-fast broadband. Could you examine the possibility of ensuring that the tenders for this process are let during 2011, that progress is made to ensure that we meet these targets, and that, wherever possible, we deliver the service well before we arrive at these dates? One thing that will be essential for us to renew our economy is connectivity, and broadband connectivity will be key to many businesses over the next decade.

The Deputy First Minister: I fully understand the urgency here, because we

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Rydym wedi cymryd camau breision o ran gweithredu 'Rhaglen Adnewyddu'r Economi: cyfeiriad newydd' ers ei chyhoeddi ym mis Gorffennaf. Byddaf yn gwneud cyhoeddiad cyn hir ar aelodaeth y paneli sector ac yn cyhoeddi adroddiad yn nodi'n fanwl yr hyn yr ydym wedi'i gyflawni yn y chwe mis diwethaf.

David Melding: Un o brif fentrau'r rhaglen hon yw symud oddi wrth ddiwylliant o roi grantiau tuag at ddiwylliant o roi benthyciadau. Pa gynnydd a wnaed o ran edrych ar y cysyniad hwn a sut y mae byd diwydiant a masnach yn ymateb iddo?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae byd diwydiant a masnach yn ymateb yn dda iawn iddo. Rwyf wedi cynnal sawl cyfarfod â chwmnïau sydd â diddordeb mewn sicrhau buddsoddiad, er ei fod bellach yn addaladwy. Dywedant wrthym eu bod yn falch ein bod yn rhoi nid yn unig grantiau addaladwy iddynt, ond cymorth ehangach o lawer a fydd yn sicrhau bod yr isadeiledd cywir ganddynt. Rydym hefyd yn buddsoddi mewn band eang a chredant fod ein buddsoddiad mewn sgiliau'n allweddol i'w datblygiad hwythau fel cwmnïau.

Alun Davies: Un fenter yr ydych wedi bod yn ei hyrwyddo o fewn strwythurau rhaglen adnewyddu'r economi yw buddsoddi mewn isadeiledd; rwyf yn meddwl yn benodol am isadeiledd band eang. Credaf eich bod wedi pennu targedau ar gyfer 2016-20 o safbwynt cyflwyno rhwydwaith band eang cyflym iawn. A wnewch chi edrych ar bosibiliad sicrhau bod tendrau'r broses hon yn cael eu gosod yn ystod 2011, bod cynnydd yn cael ei wneud i sicrhau ein bod yn cyrraedd y targedau hyn, a'n bod, lle bo modd, yn darparu'r gwasanaeth ymhell cyn y dyddiadau hynny? Un peth a fydd yn allweddol er mwyn i ni adnewyddu'n heconomi yw cysylltedd, a bydd cysylltedd band eang yn allweddol i lawer o fusnesau dros y degawd nesaf.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Rwyf yn deall yn iawn y brys yn hyn o beth, oherwydd ein

want to deliver this as quickly as possible. We are already delivering it before the European Union target date. That date is to have these next-generation broadband speeds by 2020; by doing it by 2016, we are bringing that date forward. We will do everything that we possibly can to ensure that the contract is let expeditiously. Our current view is that that contract can be awarded by the spring of 2012. That is because we need to issue prior information notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, and we must ensure that all the state aid implications are properly dealt with. We will do everything that we can to expedite it, because, like you, I believe that this is an important investment by the Welsh Assembly Government, which will be of enormous benefit to Welsh businesses.

Darren Millar: Will you comment on criticism from the Federation of Small Businesses, and other business leaders, that the Welsh Assembly Government's economic policy in terms of the economic renewal programme lacks essential detail? According to the FSB, many small businesses are still scratching their heads trying to work out exactly what the detail in the document is, and what it will mean for their businesses. Do you accept that, after 12 years of Labour, and now Labour and Plaid Cymru, Assembly Governments in Wales, it is appalling that prosperity levels are still languishing at the bottom of the UK average—Wales's levels are 63 per cent of the UK average—and that we need to make significant progress quickly with this renewal programme if we are ever going to see that change?

The Deputy First Minister: I am surprised that you did not mention the unemployment figures that were released today, and the reduction in the claimant count. I thought that you would like to welcome that. We must remember that the economic renewal programme is based on financial investment. Just before the Christmas recess, the Tories announced their spending plans. Those plans would mean that £118 million more would be cut from my economic renewal programme. Explain to the people of Wales how that will help economic renewal.

bod am gyflawni hyn cyn gynted ag y bo modd. Rydym eisoes yn ei gyflawni cyn dyddiad targed yr Undeb Ewropeaidd, sef sicrhau bod cyflymderau band eang yn genhedlaeth nesaf ar waith erbyn 2020; drwy wneud hynny erbyn 2016, rydym yn dod â'r dyddiad ymlaen. Gwnawn ein gorau glas i sicrhau y gosodir y contract yn fuan. Rydym o'r farn ar hyn o bryd y bydd modd dyfarnu'r contract hwnnw erbyn y gwanwyn 2012, a hynny am fod yn rhaid inni gyhoeddi hysbysiad gwybodaeth ymlaen llaw yng nghyfnodolyn swyddogol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd, a rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn ymdrin yn briodol â'r holl oblygiadau o ran cymorth gwladwriaethol. Gwnawn ein gorau glas i gyflymu hyn, oherwydd rwyf fi, fel chithau, o'r farn fod hwn yn fuddsoddiad pwysig gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, a fydd o fudd aruthrol i fusnesau Cymru.

Darren Millar: A wnewch chi sylw am feirniadaeth Ffederasiwn y Busnesau Bach, ac arweinwyr busnes eraill, fod diffyg manylion hanfodol ym mholisi economaidd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru o safbwynt rhaglen adnewyddu'r economi? Yn ôl Ffederasiwn y Busnesau Bach, mae llawer o fusnesau bach yn dal i grafu eu pennau'n ceisio gweithio allan beth yn union yw manylion y ddogfen, a beth y bydd hynny'n ei olygu i'w busnesau. A ydych yn derbyn, ar ôl 12 mlynedd o Lywodraethau Cynulliad Llafur, a nawr Llafur a Phlaid Cymru, ei bod yn warth bod lefelau ffyniant yn dal i nychu ar waelod cyfartaledd y DU—mae lefelau Cymru'n 63 y cant o gyfartaledd y DU—a bod angen inni wneud cryn dipyn o gynnydd yn gyflym â rhaglen adnewyddu'r economi os ydym am weld hynny'n newid?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Rwyf yn synnu na soniasoch am y ffigurau diweithdra a gyhoeddwyd heddiw, a'r gostyngiad yn nifer y bobl sy'n hawlio budd-daliadau. Roeddwn yn meddwl y byddech am groesawu hynny. Rhaid cofio bod rhaglen adnewyddu'r economi'n seiliedig ar fuddsoddi ariannol. Ychydig cyn toriad y Nadolig, cyhoeddodd y Torïaid eu cynlluniau gwario. Byddai'r cynlluniau hynny'n golygu y byddai £118 miliwn yn rhagor yn cael ei dorri o'm rhaglen i i adnewyddu'r economi. Eglurwch wrth bobl Cymru sut y bydd hynny'n helpu i adnewyddu'r economi.

Darren Millar: You have not answered my question. However, I will respond to that point. Our programme is clear. We have said that we will work closely with financial institutions, namely the private sector, to ensure that there is even more cash available than the sums that you put forward in your proposals. If we can turn this around so that you are answering the questions, and not me—as is supposed to be the case during ministerial questions—I will return to the economic renewal programme and the FSB's comments.

You claim that there has been extensive consultation with businesses, unions and academics. I would have hoped that, after such extensive consultation—I believe that this was the most extensive and expensive consultation ever undertaken by the Assembly Government—it might be reasonable to expect that this had widespread support. The relationship with the FSB has been damaged, because its members felt that engagement during meetings with businesses during the ERP consultation period was not genuine. They also felt that uncomfortable leading questions were being pitched at them, regarding choosing between whether they prefer investment in infrastructure or direct business support. Do you not think that you need to do a darn good job of ensuring that you repair the damage that has been done to the relationship with small businesses in this country? Do you also agree that the most immediate thing that would support small businesses across Wales would be an immediate reduction in business rates to abolish them for every small business with a rateable value of under £12,000?

The Deputy First Minister: We have examined your proposal to cut business rates and it would cost £47 million. You are not going to get away with this; you are digging a hole and I am sure that you are going to fall into it. You announced on 9 December that my budget would be cut by an additional £118 million. You have said that you want to spend an additional £47 million on business rates. Square that circle; where is the money coming from?

Darren Millar: We have made it absolutely

Darren Millar: Nid ydych wedi ateb fy nghwestiwn. Serch hynny, atebaf y pwynt hwnnw. Mae ein rhaglen yn glir. Rydym wedi dweud y byddwn yn cydweithio'n agos â sefydliadau ariannol, sef y sector preifat, i sicrhau bod hyd yn oed mwy o arian ar gael na'r symiau y sonnir amdanynt yn eich cynigion. Os gallwn droi hyn ar ei ben, fel mai chi sy'n ateb y cwestiynau ac nid fi—fel sydd i fod i ddigwydd yn ystod sesiynau holi gweinidogion—dychwelaf at raglen adnewyddu'r economi a sylwadau Ffederasiwn y Busnesau Bach.

Honnwch y bu ymgynghori eang â busnesau, undebau ac academyddion. Byddwn yn gobeithio, ar ôl ymgynghori mor eang—credaf mai dyma'r ymgynghoriad ehangaf a'r drytaf a gynhaliwyd erioed gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad—y byddai'n rhesymol disgwyl gweld cefnogaeth eang i hyn. Mae'r berthynas â Ffederasiwn y Busnesau Bach wedi'i niweidio, oherwydd bod ei aelodau'n teimlo nad oedd ymgysylltu gwirioneddol yn ystod cyfarfodydd â busnesau yn ystod cyfnod ymgynghori rhaglen adnewyddu'r economi. Roeddent hefyd o'r farn fod cwestiynau arweiniol anghyfforddus yn cael eu taflu atynt, o safbwynt dewis a fyddai'n well ganddynt weld buddsoddi mewn isadeiledd neu gymorth uniongyrchol i fusnesau. Onid ydych yn meddwl bod angen ichi wneud gwaith da iawn o adfer y niwed a wnaed i'r berthynas â busnesau bach yn y wlad hon? A ydych yn cytuno hefyd mai'r hyn a fyddai'n cefnogi busnesau bach ledled Cymru gyflymaf fyddai gostwng ardrethi busnes ar unwaith a chael gwared arnynt i bob busnes bach â gwerth ardrethol o dan £12,000?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Rydym wedi edrych ar eich cynigion i dorri ardrethi busnes a byddai'n costio £47 miliwn. Nid ydych am gael taflu llwch i'n llygaid; rydych yn palu twll ac rwyf yn sicr y byddwch yn cwmpo i mewn iddo. Cyhoeddasoed ar 9 Rhagfyr y byddai £118 miliwn yn ychwanegol yn cael ei dorri o'm cyllideb. Rydych wedi dweud eich bod am wario £47 miliwn yn ychwanegol ar ardrethi busnes. Sgwariwch y cylch; o ble y daw'r arian?

Darren Millar: Rydym wedi dweud yn gwbl

clear that we would work with financial institutions to ensure that there is much more money available in terms of business support here in Wales. You seem to have a Jekyll and Hyde approach to business, Minister. We are the party of small business and of big business here in Wales and we have made it quite clear that an additional—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You have already asked two questions.

Darren Millar: I was responding to a point.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I have not asked you to respond to a point. You have had your two questions, thank you. If you want to respond, you can respond outside the Chamber.

David Lloyd: Weinidog, a gytunwch fod trydaneiddio'r rheilffordd o Lundain i Abertawe yn hanfodol i hybu economi de Cymru?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Ydyw, mae'n gyfan gwbl hanfodol. Yr ydym yn dal i ddisgwyl cyhoeddiad gan y Gweinidog Trafnidiaeth yn Llundain, a gobeithiwn, wrth gwrs, y bydd hwnnw'n gyhoeddiad positif. Os yw Llywodraeth Llundain yn penderfynu trydaneiddio'r rheilffordd i Fryste ac nid i Abertawe, bydd hynny'n newyddion drwg iawn i Gymru.

'Cymru'n Un'

5. Andrew R.T. Davies: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu pa ymrwymadau yn y cytundeb 'Cymru'n Un' y mae'n disgwyl na fyddant wedi'u cyflawni yng nghyswllt ei bortffolio pan ddaw'r Trydydd Cynulliad i ben. OAQ(3)1746(ECT)*

The Deputy First Minister: We continue to make good progress towards meeting our 'One Wales' commitments and have already delivered on many of them. Progress against individual commitments is reported quarterly in the 'One Wales Delivery Plan' update that is published on the Welsh Assembly Government's website.

glir y byddem yn cydweithio â sefydliadau ariannol i sicrhau bod mwy o lawer o arian ar gael i gynorthwyo busnesau yma yng Nghymru. Ymddengys fod gennych ddull Jekyll a Hyde o ymdrin â busnes, Weinidog. Ni yw plaid y busnesau bach a'r busnesau mawr yng Nghymru ac rydym wedi dweud yn gwbl glir y bydd—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Rydych eisoes wedi gofyn dau gwestiwn.

Darren Millar: Roeddwn yn ymateb i bwynt.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid wyf wedi gofyn ichi ymateb i bwynt. Rydych wedi gofyn eich dau gwestiwn, diolch i chi. Os ydych am ymateb, cewch ymateb y tu allan i'r Siambr.

David Lloyd: Minister, do you agree that the electrification of the railway from London to Swansea is crucial to the promotion of the south Wales economy?

The Deputy First Minister: Yes, it is absolutely crucial. We still await the Transport Minister's announcement in London, and we hope, of course, that it will be a positive announcement. If the London Government decides to electrify the railway as far as Bristol, and not to Swansea, that will be very bad news for Wales.

'One Wales'

5. Andrew R.T. Davies: *Will the Minister outline which commitments from the 'One Wales' agreement he envisages remaining outstanding in relation to his portfolio upon dissolution of the Third Assembly. OAQ(3)1746(ECT)*

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Rydym yn dal i wneud cynnydd da tuag at gyflawni ein hymrwymadau yn 'Cymru'n Un' ac rydym eisoes wedi cyflawni llawer ohonynt. Caiff adroddiad chwarterol am gynnydd yn erbyn ymrwymadau unigol ei gyhoeddi yn newyddion 'Cynllun Cyflawni Cymru'n Un' a gyhoeddir ar wefan Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

Andrew R.T Davies: Thank you for that answer, Minister. In the ‘One Wales’ agreement, there is a commitment under your heading to develop an international profile for Wales—for Welsh businesses and Welsh communities. In the South Wales Central region, we host one of the key assets for creating a gateway to Wales, namely Cardiff Airport. You will be aware of last week’s announcement that, sadly, the figures for passenger usage of Cardiff Airport fell by some 180,000 during the last year. Are you confident that your department has worked proactively with Cardiff Airport to try to deliver sustained growth in passenger numbers so that this asset can be managed to the benefit of businesses in Wales, or do you think that your department has not engaged as proactively as it might have wished to and that there is much work still to be done?

The Deputy First Minister: Clearly, it is a challenging environment for Cardiff Airport, and you quite rightly pointed out some of those challenges in the reduction in passenger numbers. However, there are regular meetings between my officials and the management of Cardiff Airport, and I have also met with the management on a number of occasions. We are working extremely hard with Cardiff to enable it to develop services. You will be aware that there are a number of challenges in terms of the Government giving direct support to new services, but where we can assist the airport, particularly in terms of promotion, marketing and so on, we will continue to do so.

Rhodri Morgan: Does the Deputy First Minister agree that the successful implementation of ‘One Wales’ requires a buoyancy in the labour market? Will he also share with me in strongly welcoming the latest figures that emerged this morning that show that there are 1,332,000 jobs in Wales? That is an increase of 10,000 or more on the latest month. There are well over 100,000 more jobs in Wales, therefore, than when the Conservatives were last in power.

2.40 p.m.

Does he also agree that the Conservative central Government in Westminster seems

Andrew R.T. Davies: Diolch i chi am eich ateb, Weinidog. Yng nghytundeb ‘Cymru’n Un’, rhoddir ymrwymiad o dan eich pennawd i ddatblygu proffil rhyngwladol i Gymru—i fusnesau Cymru ac i gymunedau Cymru. Yn rhanbarth Canol De Cymru, mae un o’r asedau allweddol o ran creu porth i Gymru, sef Maes Awyr Caerdydd. Fel y gwyddoch, cyhoeddwyd yr wythnos diwethaf fod ffigurau teithwyr Maes Awyr Caerdydd, yn anffodus, wedi gostwng tua 180,000 yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. A ydych yn ffyddiog fod eich adran wedi gweithio’n rhagweithiol â Maes Awyr Caerdydd i geisio cyflawni twf parhaol yn nifer y teithwyr er mwyn gallu rheoli’r ased hon er budd busnesau yng Nghymru, neu a ydych o’r farn nad yw eich adran wedi ymgysylltu mor rhagweithiol ag y gallai fod wedi dymuno’i wneud ac a oes llawer o waith i’w wneud o hyd?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Wrth reswm, mae’n amgylchedd heriol i Faes Awyr Caerdydd, a soniasoch am rai o’r heriau hynny wrth gyfeirio at y gostyngiad yn nifer y teithwyr. Er hynny, cynhelir cyfarfodydd rheolaidd rhwng fy swyddogion a rheolwyr Maes Awyr Caerdydd, ac rwyf finnau hefyd wedi cwrdd â’r rheolwyr ar sawl achlysur. Rydym yn gweithio’n galed dros ben â Chaerdydd i’w galluogi i ddatblygu gwasanaethau. Fel y gwyddoch, mae sawl her o safbwynt rhoi cymorth uniongyrchol gan y Llywodraeth i wasanaethau newydd, ond lle gallwn gynorthwyo’r maes awyr, yn arbennig o ran hyrwyddo, marchnata ac yn y blaen, byddwn yn parhau i wneud hynny.

Rhodri Morgan: A yw’r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn cytuno bod angen hydwythedd yn y farchnad lafur er mwyn gallu gweithredu ‘Cymru’n Un’ yn llwyddiannus? A wnaiff ymuno â mi hefyd i groesawu’n wresog y ffigurau diweddaraf a ddaeth i law y bore yma sy’n dangos bod 1,332,000 o swyddi yng Nghymru? Mae hynny 10,000 neu ragor yn fwy na’r mis diwethaf. Mae dros 100,000 yn fwy o swyddi yng Nghymru, felly, na pan oedd y Ceidwadwyr mewn grym ddiwethaf.

A yw’n cytuno hefyd fod y Llywodraeth ganolog Geidwadol yn San Steffan fel petai’n

intent on destruction-testing the Welsh economy by removing public sector jobs? This includes today's announcement of the closure of the Driving Standards Agency's office in Caradog House, which is in Jenny Randerson's constituency but which employs many of my constituents. Has he received any information from central Government in Westminster as to how many more of these office closures in the public sector it has in mind, especially in relation to the two versions of the reasons for the closure that have emerged this morning, and which have been heavily criticised by the civil service trade union that will be most affected?

The Deputy First Minister: You are absolutely right on the first point. It is a tremendous record to have created all those jobs in Wales, particularly in the period that you have mentioned and particularly now with very high employment levels. The most accurate predictor of what is happening in the economy is the claimant count, and we have seen a substantial drop in the claimant count over the last 12 months or so. You are also right about the impact of job losses in the public sector. Major job losses have been announced by the UK Government. We do not know where a number of those jobs will be coming from in the future. We have made representations about the future of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in Swansea; that is another major employer and there are concerns about those jobs. I know that the First Minister has written to a number of UK Government Ministers, pointing out the importance of public sector jobs in Wales, particularly those run by UK departments.

Parc Aerofod

6. Andrew R.T. Davies: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddatblygu'r Parc Aerofod yn Sain Tathan. OAQ(3)1745(ECT)*

The Deputy First Minister: We remain committed to these plans, which have the potential to create 2,000 quality jobs over a 20-year period. While the aerospace park and

benderfynol o roi prawf drwy ddinistr ar economi Cymru drwy gael gwared ar swyddi yn y sector cyhoeddus? Mae hynny'n cynnwys y cyhoeddiad heddiw ynghylch cau swyddfa'r Asiantaeth Safonau Gyrru yn Nhŷ Caradog, sydd yn etholaeth Jenny Randerson ond sy'n cyflogi llawer o'm hetholwyr innau. A yw wedi derbyn unrhyw wybodaeth gan y Llywodraeth ganolog yn San Steffan ynghylch faint yn fwy o swyddfeydd o'r fath yn y sector cyhoeddus y mae'n ystyried eu cau, yn arbennig o safbwynt y ddau fersiwn o'r rhesymau dros gau'r swyddfa a ddaeth i'r amlwg y bore yma, ac sydd wedi'u beirniadu'n hallt gan yr undeb llafur i weithwyr y gwasanaeth sifil y bydd hyn yn effeithio fwyaf arno?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Rydych yn llygad eich lle ar y pwynt cyntaf. Mae creu'r holl swyddi hynny yng Nghymru'n record aruthrol, yn enwedig yn y cyfnod y soniasoch amdano ac yn enwedig nawr pan fo lefelau diweithdra'n uchel iawn. Y dangosydd mwyaf manwl gywir ar gyfer yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn yr economi yw nifer y bobl sy'n hawlio budd-daliadau, a gwelsom ostyngiad arwyddocaol yn nifer y bobl hynny dros y 12 mis diwethaf, fwy neu lai. Rydych hefyd yn iawn ynghylch effaith colli swyddi yn y sector cyhoeddus. Mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi cyhoeddi y bydd nifer fawr o bobl yn colli'u swyddi. Ni wyddom o ble y daw nifer o'r swyddi hynny yn y dyfodol. Rydym wedi cyflwyno sylwadau am ddyfodol yr Asiantaeth Trwyddedu Gyrwyr a Cherbydau yn Abertawe; dyna i chi gyflogwr mawr arall ac mae pryder am y swyddi hynny. Gwn fod y Prif Weinidog wedi ysgrifennu at nifer o Weinidogion Llywodraeth y DU, yn sôn am bwysigrwydd swyddi yn y sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru, yn arbennig y rheiny sy'n cael eu rhedeg gan adrannau'r DU.

Aerospace Park

6. Andrew R.T. Davies: *Will the Minister make a statement on the development of the Aerospace Park at St Athan. OAQ(3)1745(ECT)*

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Rydym yn dal i fod yn ymrwymedig i'r cynlluniau hynny, a allai o bosibl greu 2,000 o swyddi o ansawdd da dros 20 mlynedd. Er mai prosiectau ar

defence training are separate projects, uncertainty concerning the Ministry of Defence's intentions is hindering efforts to attract new clients to the site.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Thank you for that answer, and in particular for referring to how the two projects are separate. You will be aware that you have provided me with a written answer indicating that the Welsh Assembly Government to date has spent some £44 million on the aerospace park development at St Athan. As far as I am aware, not one job has been created. Do you accept that there is genuine local concern about the lack of progress on this important development, considering that it was announced as compensation for the Defence Aviation Repair Agency job losses and to preserve the expertise of the DARA mechanics and engineers? Now that the redundancy notices have been served, there is real danger that that talent pool will disappear from the area altogether.

The Deputy First Minister: In fairness, Andrew, we need to make it clear that the money that has been spent has not simply been in relation to the aerospace business park, but the whole of the projects that have been undertaken on the St Athan site. Some of that work was in preparation for the Metrix development, which was withdrawn by the current Government at Westminster. I think that we can all agree that to have clarity on the intentions for the defence training academy in March would be very helpful. You are quite right that they are different projects, but they are complementary. In order to ensure that we have the right shape and size for the aerospace business park, it is vital that the decision in March clarifies the situation one way or the other.

Chris Franks: It is disappointing that we do not already have a clear answer from the UK Government. This is causing a great deal of unhappiness locally. As you know from our meetings about St Athan, many residents are desperate to know what the future holds for the site. Is there still a possibility of large-scale housing developments? You may recall that Llanmaes Community Council suggested that consideration should be given to

wahân yw'r parc aerofod a hyfforddiant amddiffyn, mae ansicrwydd ynghylch bwriadau'r Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn yn llesteirio ymdrechion i ddenu cleientiaid newydd i'r safle.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Diolch am eich ateb, ac yn arbennig am gyfeirio at y ffaith fod yma ddau brosiect gwahanol. Fel y gwyddoch, rydych wedi rhoi ateb ysgrifenedig imi'n nodi bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru hyd yma wedi gwario £44 miliwn ar ddatblygu'r parc aerofod yn Sain Tathan. Hyd y gwn, nid oes yr un swydd wedi'i chreu. A ydych yn derbyn bod pryder gwirioneddol yn lleol ynghylch y diffyg cynnydd ar y datblygiad pwysig hwn, o ystyried ei fod wedi ei gyhoeddi i wneud iawn am golli swyddi'r Asiantaeth Atgyweirio Awyrennau ac i gadw arbenigedd mecanyddion a pheirianwyr DARA? A'r hysbysiadu diswyddo bellach wedi'u cyflwyno, mae perygl gwirioneddol y bydd y pwll hwn o ddoniau'n diflannu'n llwyr o'r ardal.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: A bod yn deg, Andrew, mae'n rhaid inni egluro nad yw'r arian sydd wedi'i wario'n ymwneud yn unig â'r parc busnes aerofod, ond â phob un o'r prosiectau yr ymgwymerwyd â hwy ar safle Sain Tathan. Roedd rhywfaint o'r gwaith hwnnw'n waith paratoi at ddatblygiad Metrix, a ddiddymwyd gan y Llywodraeth bresennol yn San Steffan. Credaf y gallwn oll gytuno y byddai'n dda o beth cael eglurhad am y bwriadau ar gyfer yr academi hyfforddiant amddiffyn ym mis Mawrth. Fel y dywedasoch, maent yn ddau wahanol brosiect, ond maent yn mynd law yn llaw. Er mwyn sicrhau bod ffurf a maint y parc busnes aerofod yn iawn, mae'n hollbwysig fod y penderfyniad ym mis Mawrth yn egluro'r sefyllfa'r naill ffordd neu'r llall.

Chris Franks: Mae'n siomedig na chawsom eto ateb clir gan Lywodraeth y DU. Mae hyn yn peri cryn dipyn o anhapusrwydd yn lleol. Fel y gwyddoch o'n cyfarfodydd am Sain Tathan, mae llawer o drigolion yn awyddus iawn i gael gwybod beth fydd dyfodol y safle. A yw'n bosibl o hyd y bydd datblygiadau tai ar raddfa fawr yn cael eu codi? Efallai y cofiwch i Gyngor Cymuned Llanmaes awgrymu y dylid ystyried adeiladu

constructing all works ‘within the wire’—as the term has it—thereby alleviating the need for acquisition of additional land around the site.

The Deputy First Minister: I will deal with the two separate parts of the question. In relation to housing, the site is subject to the current planning permissions. They are specific and do not allow large-scale housing other than the plans that were originally in the Metrix proposals for service families’ accommodation. The second point is that it is a little too early to anticipate the shape and size of any new project. Until we are clearer about the intentions, it is a little difficult to be specific about the sorts of proposals that are inside and outside the wire.

Cysylltiadau Trafnidiaeth

7. Peter Black: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gysylltiadau trafndiaeth yn Ne Cymru. OAQ(3)1770(ECT)*

The Deputy First Minister: Plans for improving transport links in south Wales are set out in the national transport plan. They include improving the reliability, quality and safety of our transport infrastructure, as well as making enhancements to public transport and walking and cycling facilities.

Peter Black: Thank you for that answer, Deputy First Minister. I know that you are keen to enable the use of new technology in relation to transport, and particularly in relation to access to transport. A constituent has approached me about a particular problem with booking tickets for the Greyhound coach online. Bus passes cannot be used when booking online—a facility that is available when booking with Arriva Trains Wales. Could you make representations to Greyhound coaches so that those who have bus passes can purchase their tickets in advance using the internet, rather than having to turn up and take their chances in getting on the bus?

The Deputy First Minister: You will appreciate that I have no direct control over

unrhyw waith ‘o fewn y wifren’, fel petai, a lliniaru’r angen felly i gaffael tir ychwanegol o amgylch y safle.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Atebaf ddwy elfen wahanol y cwestiwn. O ran tai, mae’r safle’n ddarostyngedig i’r rheolau caniatâd cynllunio cyfredol. Maent yn benodol ac nid ydynt yn caniatáu tai ar raddfa fawr ac eithrio’r cynlluniau a oedd yn rhan o gynigion gwreiddiol Metrix ar gyfer llety i deuluoedd gwasanaeth. Yr ail bwynt yw ei bod braidd yn rhy gynnar i ddarogan beth fydd hyd a lled unrhyw brosiect newydd. Hyd nes y bydd y bwriadau’n gliriach, mae braidd yn anodd dweud yn benodol pa fath o gynigion fydd y tu mewn i’r wifren a’r tu allan iddi.

Transport Links

7. Peter Black: *Will the Minister make a statement on transport links in South Wales. OAQ(3)1770(ECT)*

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Nodir y cynlluniau ar gyfer gwella cysylltiadau trafndiaeth yn ne Cymru yn y cynllun trafndiaeth cenedlaethol. Yn eu plith mae gwella dibynadwyedd, ansawdd a diogelwch ein hisadeiledd trafndiaeth, yn ogystal â gwneud gwelliannau i drafndiaeth gyhoeddus a chyfleusterau cerdded a beicio.

Peter Black: Diolch am eich ateb, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog. Gwn eich bod yn awyddus i alluogi defnyddio technoleg newydd o safbwynt trafndiaeth, ac yn arbennig felly o safbwynt mynediad at drafndiaeth. Daeth etholwr ataf i drafod problem benodol ynghylch archebu tocynnau’r bws Greyhound ar-lein. Ni ellir defnyddio cerdyn bws wrth archebu ar-lein—cyfleuster sydd ar gael wrth archebu â Threnau Arriva Cymru. A wnewch chi gyflwyno sylwadau i gwmni bysiau Greyhound er mwyn i’r rhai hynny a chanddynt gardiau bws allu prynu eu tocynnau ymlaen llaw ar y rhyngwrdd, yn hytrach na gorfod cyrraedd ar y diwrnod a gobeithio’r gorau y bydd modd iddynt fynd ar y bws?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Fel y gwyddoch, nid oes gennyf reolaeth uniongyrchol dros

the company's booking arrangements, but I would like to draw your comments to its attention so that we can, hopefully, get some progress on the matter.

Alun Davies: Deputy First Minister, probably the most significant single transport link investment in south Wales would be the electrification of the main railway line through to Swansea. I am sure that you share in my disappointment that the current Secretary of State for Wales seems to be more concerned about her constituents avoiding a high-speed link than ensuring that Wales gets investment in a high-speed electrified railway in south Wales, which would assist our economic growth. The First Minister said yesterday that the Welsh Assembly Government would continue to press for electrification. Deputy First Minister, will you give us an assurance this afternoon that the Welsh Assembly Government sees this as an absolutely essential part of our infrastructure in Wales, and that the Welsh Assembly Government will continue to campaign for electrification? I am sure that you share in my disappointment that the parties opposite seem to be spending so much time dragging their feet on these matters.

The Deputy First Minister: It is an important issue for us. It is highly significant that the UK Government has made a number of announcements about the electrification of other routes but has postponed the decision on electrification into Wales, which is very important for us, both for economic and environmental reasons. I have spoken to the Secretary of State and the Minister of State with responsibility for railways about the issue. I have also written a number of letters, and have had telephone conversations with Ministers and others. I can assure you that the Government will do everything that we possibly can to get a good result for Wales on electrification.

Mohammad Asghar: Deputy First Minister, you have said that no further action will be taken on the long-awaited rail link between Newport and Ebbw Vale until the publication of Network Rail's feasibility study, which is

drefniadau archebu'r cwmni, ond carwn dynnu sylw'r cwmni at eich sylwadau fel y gallwn, rwyf yn mawr obeithio, symud ymlaen ar y mater hwn.

Alun Davies: Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, mae'n debyg mai'r buddsoddiad unigol mwyaf arwyddocaol mewn cysylltiadau trafniadaeth yn ne Cymru fyddai trydaneiddio'r brif linell reilffordd hyd at Abertawe. Rwyf yn sicr eich bod chi, fel finnau, yn siomedig fod Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ar hyn o bryd fel petai'n poeni mwy am sicrhau bod ei hetholwyr yn osgoi cysylltiad cyflym iawn na sicrhau bod Cymru'n sicrhau buddsoddiad mewn rheilffordd gyflym iawn wedi'i thrydaneiddio yn ne Cymru, a fyddai'n hwb i'n twf economaidd. Dywedodd y Prif Weinidog ddoe y byddai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n parhau i bwysu am drydaneiddio. Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, a wnewch chi roi sicrwydd inni y prynhawn yma fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n ystyried bod hyn yn rhan gwbl hanfodol o'n hisadeiledd yng Nghymru, ac y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n parhau i ymgyrchu dros drydaneiddio? Rwyf yn sicr eich bod, fel finnau, yn siomedig fod y pleidiau gyferbyn fel petaent yn treulio cymaint o amser yn llusgo'u traed ar y materion hyn.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae'n fater pwysig i ni. Mae'n arwyddocaol iawn fod Llywodraeth y DU wedi gwneud nifer o gyhoeddiadau am drydaneiddio llinellau eraill ond wedi gohirio'r penderfyniad ar drydaneiddio i mewn i Gymru, sy'n bwysig iawn i ni, am resymau economaidd ac amgylcheddol. Rwyf wedi siarad â'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol a'r Gweinidog Gwladol â chyfrifoldeb am y rheilffyrdd ynghylch y mater hwn. Rwyf hefyd wedi ysgrifennu nifer o lythyrau, ac wedi cael sgysiau ffôn â Gweinidogion ac eraill. Gallaf eich sicrhau y bydd y Llywodraeth yn gwneud ei gorau glas i gael canlyniad da i Gymru ar drydaneiddio.

Mohammad Asghar: Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, rydych wedi dweud na weithredir ymhellach ar y cyswllt rheilffordd hirddisgwyliedig rhwng Casnewydd a Glyn Ebwy hyd nes y cyhoeddir astudiaeth

expected in March and which will assess the cost of the work required. Do you appreciate the disappointment of people across South Wales East given the delays in implementing this important rail link, and given that, in autumn 2008, the Assembly Government said that the service would be fully operational in time for the 2010 Eisteddfod in Ebbw Vale and the Ryder Cup in Newport? Could you tell us, Deputy First Minister, when there will be a resolution to this broken promise?

The Deputy First Minister: I have made it clear on several occasions that we need the infrastructure improvements to be in place. Improvements to Gaer junction will allow us to run services into Newport. However, they will allow us to do that only if we reduce services to Cardiff, and nobody wants to do that. Therefore, we want the passing loops to be put in place to enable us to have services into Cardiff and Newport. I am afraid, Oscar, that you will have to explain to the people of Wales where you would find the money to run the service—[*Interruption.*] Let me answer the question. You have asked for revenue costs to deliver the service. Darren Millar is your spokesperson on these matters, and he would commit a Conservative Government to cutting revenue by £83 million a year by 2013-14. How could you deliver that project under those plans?

2.50 p.m.

Bethan Jenkins: Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, yr wyf yn sicr, ar ôl i mi gael cyfarfod gyda First Cymru yn ddiweddar ynglŷn â gwasanaethau bws yng nghymoedd Abertawe a Chastell Nedd, na fydd yn ail-ddechrau gwasanaethau yn yr ardaloedd hynny, er bod pobl leol yn cwyno o hyd nad oes digon o wasanaethau. Y rheswm a roddwyd i mi gan First Cymru oedd nad yw'n derbyn unrhyw gymorthdaliadau ar gyfer yr ardaloedd mwy gwledig gyda phoblogaeth lai yng nghymoedd Abertawe. A yw'n bosibl newid strategaeth y Llywodraeth er mwyn annog cwmnïau mawr i gynnal gwasanaethau yn yr ardaloedd hyn? Mae llawer o bobl yn dioddef

ddichonoldeb Network Rail, a ddisgwylir ym mis Mawrth ac a fydd yn asesu cost y gwaith sydd ei angen. A ydych yn deall siom pobl ledled De Ddwyrain Cymru o ystyried yr oedi o ran gweithredu'r cyswllt rheilffordd pwysig hwn, ac o ystyried bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi dweud, yn yr hydref 2008, y byddai'r gwasanaeth yn gweithredu'n llawn erbyn Eisteddfod 2010 yng Nglyn Ebwy a Chwpan Ryder yng Nghasnewydd? A wnewch chi ddweud wrthym, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, pryd y gwireddir yr addewid hwn a dorwyd?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Rwyf wedi dweud yn glir ar sawl achlysur fod yn rhaid i'r gwelliannau o ran isadeiledd fod yn eu lle. Bydd gwelliannau yng nghyffordd Gaer yn caniatáu inni redeg gwasanaethau i mewn i Gasnewydd. Er hynny, dim ond os byddwn yn rhedeg llai o wasanaethau i Gaerdydd y byddant yn caniatáu inni wneud hynny, a does neb am wneud hynny. Felly, rydym am i'r dolenni pasio gael eu gosod i'n galluogi i gael gwasanaethau i Gaerdydd a Chasnewydd. Mae arnaf ofn, Oscar, y bydd yn rhaid ichi egluro i bobl Cymru ble y byddech yn dod o hyd i'r arian i redeg y gwasanaeth—[*Torri ar draws.*] Gadewch imi ateb y cwestiwn. Gofynasoch am gostau refeniw i ddarparu'r gwasanaeth. Darren Millar yw eich llefarydd ar y materion hyn, a byddai ef yn rhwymo Llywodraeth Geidwadol i dorri refeniw £83 miliwn y flwyddyn erbyn 2013-14. Sut y gallech chi gyflawni'r prosiect o dan y cynlluniau hynny?

Bethan Jenkins: Deputy First Minister, I am sure, following a meeting with First Cymru recently about bus services in the Swansea and Neath valleys, that it will not resume services in those areas, despite the fact that local people have complained time and again that there are too few services. The reason that was given to me by First Cymru was that it does not receive any subsidies for the more rural areas with smaller populations in the Swansea valleys. Is it possible to change the Government's strategy to encourage large companies to maintain services in these areas? Many people are currently suffering as they are unable to reach Swansea and Neath

ar hyn o bryd gan nad ydynt yn medru cyrraedd Abertawe a Chastell Nedd oherwydd y diffyg trafndiaeth gyhoeddus.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Diolch yn fawr iawn am y cwestiwn. Mae dyfodol gwasanaethau bysiau i ardaloedd gwledig yn fater o bwys i ni. Ar hyn o bryd, nid oes gennyf unrhyw reolaeth dros y gwasanaethau sy'n cael eu gweithredu yn lleol. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn awgrymu bod awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru yn edrych ar y pwerau newydd ganddynt i sicrhau cytundebau ansawdd a phartneriaethau ansawdd er mwyn iddynt gytuno â chwmnïau bysiau yr union ffordd y darperir gwasanaethau yn eu hardaloedd. Mae enghreiffitiau da mewn rhai ardaloedd yng Nghymru lle mae hynny wedi digwydd yn barod. Awgrymaf fod Abertawe yn edrych ar y cynllun hwnnw.

Trydaneiddio'r Rheilffordd rhwng Llundain ac Abertawe

8. Nerys Evans: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ynghylch pwysigrwydd trydaneiddio'r rheilffordd rhwng Llundain ac Abertawe i economi Cymru. OAQ(3)1796(ECT)*

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae trydaneiddio prif reilffordd Great Western i Abertawe yn hanfodol bwysig i economi Cymru ac er mwyn iddi fod mewn sefyllfa dda i gystadlu â gweddill y DU. Yr wyf wedi pwysleisio hyn unwaith eto yn fy llythyr dyddiedig 13 Ionawr at yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Drafndiaeth, Philip Hammond.

Nerys Evans: Mae hwn yn fater sydd wedi codi gwprwl o weithiau'r prynhawn yma gan ei fod yn fater mor bwysig, nid dim ond i dde Cymru, ond hefyd i economi gorllewin Cymru. Yr ydych wedi amlinellu yn glir eich cysylltiadau gydag adran y Llywodraeth yn Llundain, ond a oes diweddariad o ran pryd y gallwn ddisgwyl cyhoeddiad ynglŷn â'r posibilrwydd o drydaneiddio'r rheilffordd? Mae hi'n warthus ac yn sarhad i bobl Cymru ein bod yn dal i aros i glywed beth yw cynlluniau Llywodraeth Llundain ynglŷn â'r llinell hon tra bod cynlluniau ar gyfer Lloegr ar waith yn barod.

because of the lack of public transport.

The Deputy First Minister: Thank you very much for the question. The future of bus services to rural areas is a major issue for us. Currently, I have no control over the services that are operated locally. However, I would suggest that local authorities in Wales look at their new powers to ensure quality contracts and quality partnerships in order for them to agree with the bus companies exactly how services are provided in their areas. There are good examples in some areas of Wales where this has already happened. I suggest that Swansea looks at that plan.

Eletrification of the Railway between London and Swansea

8 Nerys Evans: *Will the Minister make a statement regarding the importance of electrification of the railway between London and Swansea to the Welsh economy. OAQ(3)1796(ECT)*

The Deputy First Minister: Electrification of the Great Western main line to Swansea is vital to the Welsh economy and to its competitiveness with the rest of the UK. I have re-emphasised this in my letter of 13 January to the Secretary of State for Transport, Philip Hammond.

Nerys Evans: This is an issue that has arisen a few times this afternoon because it is such an important issue, not only for south Wales, but for the economy of west Wales. You have outlined clearly your contacts with the Government department in London, but is there an update on when we can expect an announcement regarding the possibility of electrifying the railway? It is a disgrace and an insult to the people of Wales that we are still waiting to hear the plans of the Government in London with regard to this line when plans for England are already up and running.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Efallai ei fod o werth i mi egluro pa gyhoeddiadau sydd wedi cael eu gwneud yn Lloegr. Ym mis Tachwedd y llynedd, cyhoeddwyd y byddai arian ar gael i drydaneiddio'r llinell i Didcot, Rhydychen a Newbury dros y chwe blynedd nesaf, yn ogystal â llinellau rhwng Lerpwl, Manceinion, Preston a Blackpool. Felly, mae arian ar gael ar gyfer cynlluniau trydaneiddio yn Lloegr. Yr ydym angen yr un math o ymrwymiad gan y Llywodraeth ar gyfer Cymru. Yr wyf yn siŵr nad yw hwn yn fater sy'n rhannu'r pleidiau yn y Cynulliad, ond yr wyf yn gobeithio y bydd pob plaid wrthi fel lladd nadroedd yn perswadio'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol yn yr Adran dros Drafndiaeth i wneud y penderfyniad cywir i Gymru.

Nick Ramsay: I used to call the party opposite 'the separatists', but it now seems that it is repeatedly—even within one Plenary meeting—calling for even stronger links with England and with London, and I welcome that conversion.

Deputy First Minister, in your response to Nerys Evans, you spoke about the economic benefits of the electrification of the Great Western main line. In terms of compiling a business case and making your arguments to the Government in Westminster about the need for electrification, what work has the Assembly Government done to determine the exact economic benefits for Wales of electrification and, in the first year following the electrification of the Great Western line, how much additional money do you believe will be generated for the Welsh economy?

The Deputy First Minister: I would like to make it clear that when the decision was originally made to electrify the railway line by the then Secretary of State, Andrew Adonis, there was an agreement that officials from the Department for Transport and my department should work together to work up the business case. It was a positive business case based on the announcement that he made that there would be electrification of the line to Swansea. The new Secretary of State has decided to have another look at the business case, and he has invited my officials to discuss that proposal with him. So, my officials are fully engaged with the Department for Transport in persuading it

The Deputy First Minister: It might be worth explaining what announcements have been made in England. Last November, it was announced that funding would be available to electrify the line to Didcot, Oxford and Newbury over the next six years, as well as lines between Liverpool, Manchester, Preston and Blackpool. Therefore, there is money available for electrification schemes in England. We need the same kind of commitment from the Government for Wales. I am sure that this issue does not divide the parties in the Assembly, but I hope that all parties will make great efforts to persuade the Secretary of State in the Department for Transport to make the right decision for Wales.

Nick Ramsay: Arferwn alw'r blaidd gyferbyn yn 'ymwahanwyr', ond ymddengys ei bod bellach—hyd yn oed mewn un Cyfarfod Llawn—yn galw dro ar ôl tro am gysylltiadau cryfach eto â Lloegr a Llundain, a chroesawaf y dröedigaeth honno.

Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, yn eich ateb i Nerys Evans, soniasoch am fudd economaidd trydaneiddio prif linell Great Western. O ran llunio achos busnes a chyflwyno'ch dadleuon i'r Llywodraeth yn San Steffan am yr angen i drydaneiddio, pa waith mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi'i wneud i bennu beth yn union fydd budd economaidd trydaneiddio i Gymru ac, yn y flwyddyn gyntaf ar ôl trydaneiddio llinell Great Western, faint o arian ychwanegol ydych chi'n credu fydd yn cael ei greu i economi Cymru?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Hoffwn ddweud yn gwbl glir, pan wnaed y penderfyniad gwreiddiol i drydaneiddio'r llinell reilffordd gan yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol ar y pryd, Andrew Adonis, fod cytundeb y byddai swyddogion yr Adran Drafndiaeth a'm hadran innau'n cydweithio i lunio achos busnes. Roedd hwn yn achos busnes cadarnhaol yn seiliedig ar ei gyhoeddiad y byddai'r llinell i Abertawe'n cael ei thrydaneiddio. Mae'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol newydd wedi penderfynu edrych eto ar yr achos busnes, ac wedi gwahodd fy swyddogion i drafod y cynnig hwnnw ag ef. Felly, mae fy swyddogion yn ymgysylltu'n llawn â'r Adran Drafndiaeth er mwyn dwyn

that the original business case, which the then Minister agreed was a good business case for Wales, should now be confirmed. All I am asking—I am hoping that it will be the case—is that all parties in the Assembly will now put all possible pressure on the Secretary of State to come up with a positive result for Wales.

perswâd arni y dylai'r achos busnes gwreiddiol, y cytunodd y Gweinidog ar y pryd ei fod yn achos busnes da i Gymru, bellach gael ei gadarnhau. Y cwbl rwyf yn ei ofyn—rwyf yn mawr obeithio mai dyna fydd yn digwydd—yw i bob plaid yn y Cynulliad fynd ati i roi cymaint o bwysau â phosibl ar yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol i sicrhau canlyniad cadarnhaol i Gymru.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro (Peter Black) i'r Gadair am 2.56 p.m.
The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer (Peter Black) took the Chair at 2.56 p.m.*

**Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant ar Gynhwysiant Ariannol ac
Effaith Addysg Ariannol
The Communities and Culture Committee's Report 'Financial Inclusion and the
Impact of Financial Education'**

Cynnig NDM4631 Sandy Mewies

Motion NDM4631 Sandy Mewies

Mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn:

The National Assembly for Wales:

Nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant: Cynhwysiant Ariannol ac Effaith Addysg Ariannol, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 3 Tachwedd 2010.

Notes the Report of the Communities and Culture Committee: Financial Inclusion and the Impact of Financial Education which was laid in the Table Office on 3 November 2010.

Sandy Mewies: I move the motion.

Sandy Mewies: Cynigiau y cynnig.

I am very pleased to be able to move this motion and open this debate today on the Communities and Culture Committee's report on financial inclusion and the impact of financial education. In the current economic climate, I am sure that we are all aware of the devastating impact that money worries can have on people's lives. In the course of this inquiry we were repeatedly reminded of the human costs associated with financial hardship of families being torn apart by the constant pressure of worrying whether there is enough money to get through the month or week. We heard how guilt and stress associated with dealing with debts make a fertile breeding ground for depression, stress and mental ill health. We saw how such problems were not reserved to an isolated few, but were affecting a huge swathe of Wales's population. More broadly, the evidence that we witnessed demonstrated that businesses will suffer if their employees are more occupied with their personal financial fears than with thinking about how they can perform more effectively in their job.

Mae'n bleser gennyf gyflwyno'r cynnig hwn ac agor y ddadl hon heddiw ar adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant ar gynhwysiant ariannol ac effaith addysg ariannol. Yn yr hinsawdd economaidd sydd ohoni, rwyf yn siŵr ein bod i gyd yn ymwybodol o'r effaith andwyol y gall pryderon ariannol ei chael ar fywydau pobl. Yn ystod yr ymchwiliad hwn cawsom ein hatgoffa dro ar ôl tro am y costau dynol sydd ynghlwm wrth galedi ariannol teuluoedd sy'n cael eu rhwygo gan bwysau parhaus poeni a oes digon o arian i bara tan ddiwedd y mis neu'r wythnos. Clywsom sut y gall euogrwydd a straen esgor ar iselder, straen ac afiechyd meddwl. Gwelsom nad yw'r problemau hynny wedi'u cyfyngu i ychydig o unigolion, ond eu bod yn effeithio ar ystod mawr iawn o boblogaeth Cymru. Yn ehangach na hynny, roedd y dystiolaeth a ddaeth ger ein bron yn dangos y bydd busnesau'n dioddef os bydd eu gweithwyr yn poeni mwy am eu hofnau ariannol nag am feddwl am sut y gallant wneud eu gwaith yn fwy effeithiol.

We were therefore pleased that, in the course of this inquiry, we heard many positive examples of financial education being provided in schools, in workplaces and in community settings. Indeed, we had the opportunity to visit credit unions based in schools, and I am sure that Eleanor Burnham, who came along with me, will say what a delightful experience it was to visit Ysgol Bryn Gwalia in my own constituency, where children as young as five were able to explain how good savings were for them, what they were saving for, and what a credit union was. It really was a delight to hear them. I think that I have said before that I will never forget hearing a young man tell me that he was saving for a holiday to Hawaii—he was actually a long way down the road to getting there. Other Members visited workplace-based financial education seminars, schools that are helping students to study towards financial qualifications, and financial advice agencies.

However, we also saw that, throughout Wales, the provision of financial education was inconsistent. Many people do not take it up because they fear that they will be stigmatised for admitting that they cannot manage their money better. More than 50 members of the general public completed our anonymous financial education questionnaires, with over 50 per cent stating that they had personally experienced financial difficulties. However, only 32 per cent stated that they had ever asked for help with managing their money.

I am pleased, therefore, that the Welsh Government has accepted in full or in principle the majority of our 13 recommendations, with the third recommendation under consideration. In particular, I am pleased that the Welsh Government has accepted in full our first recommendation, which urged it to engage in dialogue with the UK Government to emphasise that, in the current financial climate, the provision of financial education has even greater importance and that existing investment in providing it needs to be maintained. After hearing the debates yesterday and today, it is clear that it will become even more important in the future. In

Roeddem yn falch, felly, inni glywed yn ystod yr ymchwiliad hwn, sawl enghraifft gadarnhaol o ddarparu addysg ariannol mewn ysgolion, yn y gweithle ac mewn sefyllfaoedd cymunedol. Yn wir, cawsom gyfle i ymweld ag undebau credyd mewn ysgolion, ac rwyf yn sicr y bydd Eleanor Burnham, a ddaeth gyda mi, yn dweud cymaint o bleser oedd ymweld ag Ysgol Bryn Gwalia yn fy etholaeth i, lle gallai plant mor ifanc â phum mlwydd oed egluro pa mor dda oedd cynilion iddynt hwy, ar gyfer beth roeddent yn cynilo, a beth yw undeb credyd. Pleser o'r mwyaf oedd gwranddo arnynt. Credaf imi ddweud o'r blaen nad anghofiaf fyth glywed gŵr ifanc yn dweud wrthyf ei fod yn cynilo i fynd ar wyliau i Hawaii—roedd, mewn gwirionedd, wedi mynd cryn ffordd tuag at hynny. Bu Aelodau eraill yn ymweld â seminarau addysg ariannol yn seiliedig yn y gweithle, ysgolion sy'n helpu myfyrwyr i astudio at gymwysterau ariannol, ac asiantaethau cynghori ariannol.

Ond gwelsom hefyd, ledled Cymru, fod darpariaeth addysg ariannol yn anghyson iawn. Mae llawer o bobl nad ydynt yn manteisio ar y cyfle am eu bod yn ofni y cânt eu stigmatiddio am gyfaddef na allant reoli eu harian yn well. Llanwodd dros 50 o aelodau'r cyhoedd ein holiaduron addysg ariannol dienw, a dywedodd dros 50 y cant eu bod hwy eu hunain wedi cael anawsterau ariannol. Er hynny, dim ond 32 y cant ddywedodd eu bod wedi gofyn am help i reoli eu harian.

Mae'n dda gennyf, felly, fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi derbyn yn llawn neu mewn egwyddor y rhan fwyaf o'n 13 o argymhellion, ac mae'r trydydd argymhelliad dan ystyriaeth. Rwyf yn arbennig o falch fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi derbyn yn llawn ein hargymhelliad cyntaf, sy'n galw arni i gynnal trafodaethau â Llywodraeth y DU er mwyn pwysleisio, yn yr hinsawdd economaidd sydd ohoni, fod darparu addysg ariannol yn bwysicach nag erioed a bod angen dal ati â'r buddsoddi sy'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd yn y ddarpariaeth. Wedi clywed y dadleuon ddoe a heddiw, mae'n amlwg y daw hyn yn bwysicach eto yn y dyfodol. Argymhellwn yn arbennig y dylid defnyddio

particular, we recommended that finance should be used to enable the roll-out of the Consumer Financial Education Body's Money Made Clear service throughout Wales. We believe that that will provide a level of consistency, which is badly needed, in the provision of financial education in all geographic areas. I understand that this roll-out will now be partly financed by a levy on financial institutions, and I am pleased that the Welsh Government has committed itself to seeking assurances from the UK Government that this is a viable proposition.

3.00 p.m.

I also welcome the Welsh Government's recognition of the need for a co-ordinated approach to financial capability and to sharing good practice. We did hear many examples of good practice. In our fourth recommendation, we urge the Welsh Government to provide a central hub of information about financial capability projects. The committee felt that this was needed to gather together so much information about so many good projects that are going on now. I recognise the Government's concerns about the financial costs to the public purse of this recommendation and consider there to be considerable merit in its commitment to discuss the potential for this work with key stakeholder partners. I believe that joint working and imaginative ideas can contribute to achieving more with less, as public finances face growing pressure. I would be grateful if the Minister could outline the particular partners he has in mind and any estimated timescales for such discussions taking place.

I consider that such partnership approaches can enable creative solutions, particularly in the current economic climate. On this theme, I am pleased that the Welsh Government has committed, in response to our fifth recommendation, to persuade financial organisations of their duty to ensure that their customers are fully aware of the obligations they take on. This is only right and proper given the profits that some of them make. In addition, I welcome the Welsh Government's commitment, in response to our eleventh recommendation, to continue to engage with

cyllid i'n galluogi i gyflwyno gwasanaeth y Corff Addysg Ariannol Defnyddwyr, Money Made Clear, ledled Cymru. Credwn y bydd hynny'n rhoi lefel o gysondeb, y mae ei angen yn ddirfawr, o ran darparu addysg ariannol ym mhob ardal ddaearyddol. Rwyf ar ddeall y bydd y gwaith o gyflwyno hyn bellach yn cael ei ariannu'n rhannol drwy ardoll ar sefydliadau ariannol, ac rwyf yn falch fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymrwmo i geisio sicrwydd gan Lywodraeth y DU fod hwn yn gynnig hyfyw.

Croesawaf hefyd gydnabyddiaeth Llywodraeth Cymru fod angen ymagwedd gydlynol tuag at allu ariannol a rhannu arferion da. Clywsom yn wir am lawer o enghreifftiau o arfer da. Yn ein pedwerydd argymhelliad, galwn ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ddarparu canolbwynt gwybodaeth am brosiectau gallu ariannol. Roedd y pwyllgor o'r farn fod angen hynny er mwyn casglu cymaint o wybodaeth am gynifer o brosiectau da sydd ar waith ar hyn o bryd. Rwyf yn cydnabod pryderon y Llywodraeth am gostau ariannol yr argymhelliad hwn i'r pwrs cyhoeddus a chredaf fod cryn werth i'w hymrwymiad i drafod potensial y gwaith hwn â phartneriaid allweddol sy'n rhanddeiliaid. Credaf y gall cydweithio a syniadau creadigol gyfrannu at gyflawni mwy â llai, wrth i arian cyhoeddus wynebu pwysau cynyddol. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe bai'r Gweinidog yn amlinellu pa bartneriaid penodol sydd ganddo mewn golwg ac unrhyw amcangyfrif o'r amserlenni ar gyfer cynnal y trafodaethau hynny.

Credaf y gall gweithio mewn partneriaethau o'r fath esgor ar atebion creadigol, yn arbennig yn yr hinsawdd economaidd sydd ohoni. Ar y thema hon, rwyf yn falch fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymrwmo, yn sgîl ein pumed argymhelliad, i ddwyn perswâd ar sefydliadau ariannol ei bod yn ddyletswydd arnynt i sicrhau bod eu cwsmeriaid yn llwyr ymwybodol o'r rhwymedigaethau y maent yn eu hysgwyddo. Mae hynny'n gwbl briodol o ystyried yr elw y mae rhai ohonynt yn ei wneud. Croesawaf hefyd ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru, yn sgîl ein hunfed

these same organisations and the UK Government, to encourage the opening and regular use of basic bank accounts, which are badly needed by many people who do not get the advice they need on how to open them.

The Welsh Government has also fully accepted our sixth recommendation that it engage with public and private sector employers to encourage them to facilitate the participation of their employees in workplace-based financial education seminars. Several committee members had the opportunity to attend such seminars and noted the impact they had on attendees. I therefore welcome the Minister's commitment to work with the Consumer Financial Education Body to redouble the Welsh Government's efforts in this area.

It is admirable that the Welsh Government has accepted our seventh recommendation and will be working with the financial inclusion champions team to enable a greater strategic commitment from local authorities in co-ordinating work around financial education. I would be grateful if the Minister could clarify that, as part of this work, the Welsh Government will encourage individual local authorities and housing associations to identify senior individuals—and it is important that they are working at a certain level—to have an overarching responsibility for financial inclusion and financial education work, across the authority or the housing association.

I understand why the Welsh Government has misgivings about our tenth recommendation, which called for it to consider undertaking a sustained media campaign to help people to understand the benefits of financial inclusion and education. I can understand its concerns about investing significant amounts of public money in any form of media campaign in the current climate. However, although our original recommendation called for a financial investment from the Welsh Assembly Government to sustain such a campaign, I am now aware that the two financial capability fora in Wales—one that covers the six counties in the north and is led by the Wales and West Housing Association

argymhelliad ar ddeg, i barhau i ymgysylltu â'r sefydliadau hynny ac â Llywodraeth y DU, i annog pobl i agor a defnyddio'n rheolaidd gyfrifon banc sylfaenol, sydd eu hangen yn ddirfawr ar lawer o bobl nad ydynt yn cael y cyngor sydd ei angen arnynt ynghylch sut i'w hagor.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd wedi derbyn yn llawn ein chweched argymhelliad, sef y dylai ymgysylltu â chyflogwyr y sectorau cyhoeddus a phreifat i'w hannog i hwyluso cyfranogiad eu gweithwyr mewn seminarau addysg ariannol yn y gweithle. Cafodd sawl un o aelodau'r pwyllgor gyfle i fynychu seminarau o'r fath a nodi'r effaith ar y rhai a oedd yn bresennol. Croesawaf felly ymrwymiad y Gweinidog i gydweithio â'r Corff Addysg Ariannol Defnyddwyr i hybu ymdrechion Llywodraeth Cymru yn y maes hwn.

Mae'n glodwiw fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi derbyn ein seithfed argymhelliad ac y bydd yn gweithio â thîm yr hyrwyddwyr cynhwysiant ariannol i alluogi mwy o ymrwymiad strategol gan awdurdodau lleol er mwyn cydlynu gwaith yn ymwneud ag addysg ariannol. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe bai'r Gweinidog yn egluro y bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, yn rhan o'r gwaith hwn, yn annog awdurdodau lleol unigol a chymdeithasau tai i nodi unigolion mewn swyddi uwch—ac mae'n bwysig eu bod yn gweithio ar lefel benodol—i ysgwyddo cyfrifoldeb cyffredinol dros gynhwysiant ariannol a gwaith addysg ariannol, ar draws yr awdurdod neu'r gymdeithas dai.

Rwyf yn deall pam mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n betrus ynglŷn â'n degfed argymhelliad, sy'n galw arni i gynnal ymgyrch barhaus yn y cyfryngau i helpu pobl i ddeall manteision cynhwysiant ariannol ac addysg ariannol. Gallaf ddeall ei phryderon ynghylch buddsoddi cryn dipyn o arian cyhoeddus yn unrhyw fath o ymgyrch yn y cyfryngau yn yr hinsawdd sydd ohoni. Serch hynny, er bod ein hargymhelliad gwreiddiol yn galw am fuddsoddiad ariannol gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gynnal ymgyrch o'r fath, gwn fod y ddau fforwm gallu ariannol yng Nghymru—un yn cwmpasu'r chwe sir yn y gogledd dan arweiniad Cymdeithas Dai Wales and West

and the other that covers mid, south and west Wales and is led by Powys Citizens Advice bureau—have got together and now feel that this is no longer feasible. They have sought support for a campaign that would be supported by other appropriate external funding sources. So, I hope that the Government will be able to explore and endorse this initiative, which will greatly take forward the debate we are having on financial inclusion and education.

I am pleased that the Welsh Government has accepted our twelfth recommendation, that it continues to engage with local authorities and third sector advice services to ensure a proactive approach to enabling benefit take-up. In particular, I am proud that the Welsh Government has proactively provided funding for a number of initiatives that will help support and streamline the delivery of services in Wales.

Finally, I understand that the Welsh Government's written response to our report states that our third recommendation is under consideration. In this recommendation, we urge the Welsh Government to make a public commitment that it will seek to ensure that the strategic role of the Welsh financial education unit is sustained and developed to help improve the provision of financial education, both in schools and within the wider community. I consider there to be merit in the Welsh Government taking into account an evaluation of the unit's work when making a decision on the funding of the unit from 2011 onwards. However, I urge the Welsh Government, in taking this decision, not to solely consider the existing performance of the unit, but also its continuing, and developing role in co-ordinating financial education, not only in schools but also in the wider community.

In conclusion, I thank all members of the Communities and Culture Committee for their commitment to this inquiry. Many of them went out to meet people and discuss what was happening, and returned with excellent reports on what they had found. I also thank those Members who acted as substitutes on the committee during this

a'r llall yn cwmpasu canolbarth, de a gorllewin Cymru dan arweiniad Cyngor ar Bopeth Powys—wedi dod ynghyd a'u bod bellach o'r farn nad yw hynny'n ddichonadwy. Maent wedi ceisio cefnogaeth i ymgyrch a fyddai'n cael cefnogaeth ffynonellau ariannu allanol eraill priodol. Felly, gobeithiaf y bydd y Llywodraeth yn gallu ystyried a chymeradwyo'r fenter hon, a fydd yn gyrru ymlaen yn sylweddol y drafodaeth yr ydym yn ei chael am gynhwysiant ariannol ac addysg ariannol.

Rwyf yn falch fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi derbyn ein deuddegfed argymhelliad, sef y dylai barhau i ymgysylltu ag awdurdodau lleol a gwasanaethau cynghori'r trydydd sector i sicrhau dull rhagweithiol o alluogi pobl i fanteisio ar fudd-daliadau. Rwyf yn arbennig o falch fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi mynd ati'n rhagweithiol i ddarparu cyllid i nifer o fentrau a fydd yn helpu i gefnogi a hwyluso darpariaeth gwasanaethau yng Nghymru.

Yn olaf, rwyf ar ddeall fod ymateb ysgrifenedig Llywodraeth Cymru i'n hadroddiad yn nodi bod ein trydydd argymhelliad dan ystyriaeth. Yn yr argymhelliad hwn, galwn ar Lywodraeth Cymru i wneud ymrwymiad cyhoeddus y bydd yn ceisio sicrhau bod rôl strategol uned addysg ariannol Cymru'n cael ei chynnal a'i datblygu i helpu i wella darpariaeth addysg ariannol, mewn ysgolion ac yn y gymuned ehangach. Credaf y byddai'n fuddiol i Lywodraeth Cymru ystyried gwerthusiad o waith yr uned wrth wneud penderfyniad ar ariannu'r uned o 2011 ymlaen. Serch hynny, galwaf ar Lywodraeth Cymru, wrth wneud y penderfyniad hwn, nid yn unig i ystyried perfformiad yr uned ar hyn o bryd, ond hefyd ei rôl sy'n parhau ac yn datblygu o ran cydlynu addysg ariannol, nid yn unig mewn ysgolion ond hefyd yn y gymuned ehangach.

I gloi, carwn ddiolch i holl aelodau'r Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant am eu hymrwymiad i'r ymchwiliad hwn. Aeth llawer ohonynt allan i gwrdd â phobl a thrafod beth oedd yn digwydd, a daethant yn ôl ag adroddiadau rhagorol ar yr hyn a ganfuwyd. Diolch hefyd i'r Aelodau hynny a fu'n ddirprwyon ar y pwyllgor hwn yn ystod

important investigation. On behalf of the committee, I offer my thanks to the staff who supported us during the inquiry, and to all those individuals and organisations who gave us the benefit of their experience and advice through formal committee and written evidence, and whose expertise greatly helped us in our deliberations. I also thank the Minister for his response to our report. I welcome that response and I look forward to hearing his response to the wider debate.

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Carl Sargeant): I am grateful to the Communities and Culture Committee for carrying out this important review. I place on the record my thanks to the Chair for her personal commitment to the work that she has done in terms of financial inclusion and financial literacy, not only in Flintshire but across north Wales and the broader Welsh society that we live in.

The need for significant improvements in financial capability is now framed within the context of the financial downturn, which is characterised by high levels of personal debt, encouraged by far too many as a means for financial providers to provide simple but expensive ways of gaining finance. Ideally, we should all learn our financial capabilities at home. Many of us have parents or grandparents who are proud of their motto: save before you buy. However, recklessly, the credit culture has now created a new generation, whose motto is: buy now, pay later. Sadly, we have seen the results of this over many years. Therefore, the committee's work is extremely timely and helpful to the Welsh Assembly Government in efforts to combat financial exclusion.

We support the majority of the committee's recommendations, and our formal response has been agreed with the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning. In response to recommendation 1, we will continue to discuss the importance of financial education and capability with the UK Government and the Consumer Financial Education Body. We are aware of the UK Government's current proposal to roll out

yr ymchwiliad pwysig hwn. Ar ran y pwyllgor, carwn ddiolch i'r staff a'n cynorthwyodd yn ystod yr ymchwiliad, ac i'r holl unigolion a sefydliadau a gyfrannodd eu profiad a'u cyngor dryw'r pwyllgorau ffurfiol a'r dystiolaeth ysgrifenedig, ac y bu eu harbenigedd o fudd mawr i ni yn ein hystyriaethau. Diolch hefyd i'r Gweinidog am ei ymateb i'n hadroddiad. Croesawaf yr ymateb hwnnw ac edrychaf ymlaen at glywed ei ymateb i'r ddadl ehangach.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol (Carl Sargeant): Rwyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant am gynnal yr adolygiad pwysig hwn. Carwn gofnodi fy niolch i'r Cadeirydd am ei hymrwymiad personol i'r gwaith a wnaeth o ran cynhwysiant ariannol a llythrennedd ariannol, nid yn unig yn sir y Fflint ond ledled gogledd Cymru a'r gymdeithas Gymreig ehangach yr ydym yn byw ynddi.

Bellach, mae'n rhaid ystyried yr angen i wneud gwelliannau sylweddol o ran gallu ariannol yng nghyd-destun y dirywiad ariannol, a nodweddir gan lefelau uchel o ddyledion personol, ac anogir hynny gan ormod o lawer o bobl fel ffordd i ddarparwyr ariannol gynnig ffyrdd syml ond drud o gael arian. Yn ddelfrydol, dylem i gyd ddsygu beth yw ein gallu ariannol gartref. Mae gan lawer ohonom rieni neu deidiau a neiniau sy'n falch o'u harwyddair: cynilwch cyn prynu. Serch hynny, mae'r diwylliant credyd bellach, yn ddifeddwl, wedi creu cenhedlaeth newydd, a'i harwyddair hithau yw: prynwch nawr, talwch wedyn. Yn anffodus, gwelsom ganlyniadau hyn dros flynyddoedd lawer. Felly, mae gwaith y pwyllgor yn amserol iawn ac o gymorth mawr i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei hymdrechion i frwydro yn erbyn allgáu cymdeithasol.

Cefnogwn y rhan fwyaf o argymhellion y pwyllgor a chytunwyd ar ein hymateb ffurfiol â'r Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes. O ran argymhelliad 1, byddwn yn parhau i drafod pwysigrwydd addysg a gallu ariannol â Llywodraeth y DU a'r Corff Addysg Ariannol Defnyddwyr. Gwyddom am gynnig cyfredol Llywodraeth y DU i gyflwyno Money Made Clear drwy'r ardoll ar sefydliadau ariannol, a byddwn yn gofyn

Money Made Clear via the levy on financial institutions, and we will seek assurances from them to see whether this is viable across the Welsh Government.

We agree with recommendation 2, that the proposed Welsh language commissioner will have an important role in engaging with financial education providers to ensure that money advice is available in the medium of Welsh. It will be a matter for the commissioner to determine his or her own activities, timetables and priorities, but I would certainly encourage this.

The Welsh financial education unit works with partners in the financial sector across Wales. It provides advice on the development of materials so that they are consistent with the Welsh curriculum, and it also ensures that the partners are aware of the needs of schools and work primarily through the medium of Welsh.

As the Chair of the committee mentioned, and as highlighted in recommendation 3, the future of the Welsh financial education unit is currently under review. The unit, which was initially established for two years, has made excellent progress. The decision on the further funding of support will be considered and made at the end of the two years, in April. In the light of that decision we will make an announcement shortly afterwards.

We accept, in principle, recommendation 4 on the provision of a central hub of information about financial capability projects, as well as the guidance for new projects and services, and the sharing of good practice. However, we need to be mindful of the cost of such initiatives, particularly given current budgetary pressures, but we will discuss the potential for this work with key partners across Wales. We have already agreed with the National Grid for Learning Cymru that it will host an internet site for the provision of financial education in schools, including teaching materials, classroom resources and examples of good practice. We are also providing schools with guidance on the delivery of financial education.

3.10 p.m.

iddynt am sicrwydd ynghylch a yw hyn yn hyfyw ar draws Llywodraeth Cymru.

Cytunwn ag argymhelliad 2, y bydd gan gomisiynydd arfaethedig y Gymraeg rôl bwysig o ran ymgysylltu â darparwyr addysg ariannol er mwyn sicrhau bod cyngor ariannol ar gael drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mater i'r comisiynydd fydd pennu ei weithgareddau neu ei gweithgareddau ef neu hi, ynghyd â'r amserlen a'r blaenoriaethau, ond byddwn yn sicr yn annog hynny.

Mae uned addysg ariannol Cymru'n cydweithio â phartneriaid yn y sector ariannol ledled Cymru. Mae'n rhoi cyngor ar ddatblygu deunyddiau a fydd yn gyson â'r cwricwlwm Cymreig ac mae hefyd yn sicrhau bod partneriaid yn ymwybodol o anghenion ysgolion ac yn gweithio'n bennaf drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Fel y dywedodd Cadeirydd y pwyllgor, ac fel y pwysleisir yn argymhelliad 3, mae dyfodol uned addysg ariannol Cymru'n destun adolygiad ar hyn o bryd. Mae'r uned, a sefydlwyd am ddwy flynedd yn y lle cyntaf, wedi gwneud cynnydd rhagorol. Caiff penderfyniad ar ariannu'r gefnogaeth ymhellach ei ystyried a'i wneud ar ddiwedd y ddwy flynedd, ym mis Ebrill. Yn sgîl y penderfyniad hwnnw, byddwn yn gwneud cyhoeddiad yn fuan wedyn.

Derbyniwn, mewn egwyddor, argymhelliad 4 ar ddarparu canolbwynt gwybodaeth am brosiectau gallu ariannol, yn ogystal â'r cyfarwyddyd i brosiectau a gwasanaethau newydd, a rhannu arfer da. Er hynny, rhaid inni ystyried costau mentrau o'r fath, yn enwedig o ystyried y pwysau cyllidebol ar hyn o bryd, ond fe drafodwn botensial y gwaith hwn â phartneriaid allweddol ledled Cymru. Rydym eisoes wedi cytuno â Grid Cenedlaethol ar gyfer Dysgu Cymru y bydd yn cynnal gwefan i ddarparu addysg ariannol mewn ysgolion, gan gynnwys deunyddiau dysgu, adnoddau dosbarth ac enghreifftiau o arfer da. Rydym hefyd yn rhoi cyfarwyddyd i ysgolion ar ddarparu addysg ariannol.

As the Member will be aware, we agree with the rationale for recommendation 5. Financial organisations have a responsibility to ensure that customers understand their liabilities and financial issues more generally. Many financial institutions address this commitment through their levy to the Financial Standards Authority, which supports the work of the Consumer Financial Education Body, and through their corporate social responsibility programmes. However, there may be scope for aligning that work, and we will review that through the financial inclusion steering group.

We have worked with CFEB and, previously, the FSA for over three years to promote workplace seminars, and that has been a positive experience. CFEB has been extremely successful in reaching over 100,000 people in Wales by distributing the 'Making the most of your money' booklet through more than 100 employers, with over 4,700 attendees at presentations. I have asked my officials to review with CFEB how we can help to further develop that aspect in future.

We agree with recommendation 7, which highlights engagement with local authorities and housing associations. We would like to see a greater strategic commitment to financial inclusion from these bodies, and we will work with the Welsh financial inclusion champions team to pursue this. I am delighted to inform the National Assembly that I have agreed to provide ongoing funding to the Welsh champions team so that it can continue the excellent work that it has begun in supporting key stakeholders such as local authorities—as you mentioned earlier—and housing associations across Wales to address issues of financial inclusion. The Welsh financial education unit is also supporting financial education in schools, and by March 2011, it will have delivered around 24 training sessions in partnership with local authorities. I was delighted recently to visit with Ann Jones a school that was awarded the status of credit union champion. It was a pleasure to be there with the local Member.

Fel y gŵyr yr Aelod, cytunwn â rhesymeg argymhelliad 5. Mae cyfrifoldeb ar sefydliadau ariannol i sicrhau bod cwsmeriaid yn deall eu rhwymedigaethau a materion ariannol yn fwy cyffredinol. Mae llawer o sefydliadau ariannol yn cyflawni'r ymrwymiad hwn drwy eu hardoll i'r Awdurdod Safonau Ariannol, sy'n cefnogi gwaith y Corff Addysg Ariannol Defnyddwyr, a thrwy eu rhaglenni cyfrifoldebau cymdeithasol corfforaethol. Serch hynny, efallai y bydd lle i alinio'r gwaith hwnnw, ac fe adolygwn hynny drwy'r grŵp llywio cynhwysiant ariannol.

Rydym yn cydweithio â'r Corff Addysg Ariannol Defnyddwyr, a chyn hynny'r Awdurdod Safonau Ariannol, ers dros dair blynedd i hyrwyddo seminarau yn y gweithle, a bu hynny'n brofiad cadarnhaol. Mae'r Corff Addysg Ariannol Defnyddwyr wedi llwyddo'n aruthrol i gyrraedd dros 100,000 o bobl yng Nghymru drwy ddsbarthu'r llyfryn 'Gwneud y Gorau o'ch Arian' drwy dros 100 o gyflogwyr, ac mae dros 4,700 o bobl wedi mynychu cyflwyniadau. Rwyf wedi gofyn i'm swyddogion gydweithio â'r Corff Addysg Ariannol Defnyddwyr i weld sut y gallwn ddatblygu'r agwedd honno ymhellach yn y dyfodol.

Cytunwn ag argymhelliad 7, sy'n pwysleisio y dylid ymgysylltu ag awdurdodau lleol a chymdeithasau tai. Hoffem weld mwy o ymrwymiad strategol i gynhwysiant ariannol gan y cyrff hyn, ac fe gydweithiwn â thîm hyrwyddwyr cynhwysiant ariannol Cymru i'r perwyl hwnnw. Mae'n bleser gennyf roi gwybod i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol fy mod wedi cytuno i ddarparu cyllid parhaus i dîm hyrwyddwyr Cymru er mwyn iddo barhau â'r gwaith ardderchog y mae wedi'i ddechrau o ran cefnogi rhanddeiliaid allweddol megis awdurdodau lleol—fel y soniasoch yn gynharach—a chymdeithasau tai ledled Cymru i fynd i'r afael â materion cynhwysiant ariannol. Mae uned addysg ariannol Cymru hefyd yn cefnogi addysg ariannol mewn ysgolion, ac erbyn mis Mawrth 2011, bydd wedi cyflwyno oddeutu 24 o sesiynau hyfforddi mewn partneriaeth ag awdurdodau lleol. Roedd yn bleser gennyf yn ddiweddar ymweld gydag Ann Jones ag ysgol y dyfarnwyd iddi statws hyrwyddwr

undebau credyd. Roedd yn bleser cael bod yno gyda'r Aelod lleol.

In response to recommendation 8, all maintained schools in Wales already have a statutory responsibility to provide broad, balanced personal and social education for all pupils of compulsory school age. Personal and social education, as with all aspects of the school curriculum, is subject to regular review, and I have discussions with the Minister for education on that.

We accept recommendation 9 in principle. Financial education is built into the provision of mathematics and PSE in the school curriculum. In line with the requirements of the common inspection framework, Estyn inspections assess the provision made by schools. Welsh Ministers have also commissioned Estyn to undertake a number of cross-cutting themes and studies, including the provision of a report by May 2011 on good practice in the provision of financial education in primary and secondary schools.

In the light of current budgetary constraints, you will understand that we cannot accept recommendation 10, which you alluded to earlier. Investing significant amounts of public money in media campaigns in the current climate must be considered carefully. However, I endorse the need for raising awareness and understanding of financial issues. I therefore agree that the Assembly Government should be involved in discussions with key stakeholders, such as the north and south Wales financial capability fora, CFEB, the financial inclusion champions and the Welsh financial education unit on how those facilities can be better used to increase financial education across the whole of Wales.

We agree with recommendation 11 about the need for high street banks to work proactively in operating basic bank accounts. As suggested in recommendation 12, we will continue to fund a range of benefit take-up initiatives, working in partnership with local authorities.

O ran argymhelliad 8, mae cyfrifoldeb statudol eisoes ar bob ysgol a gynhelir yng Nghymru i ddarparu addysg bersonol a chymdeithasol eang a chytbwys i bob disgybl oed ysgol gorfodol. Mae addysg bersonol a chymdeithasol, fel pob agwedd ar gwricwlwm yr ysgol, yn cael ei hadolygu'n rheolaidd, a thrafodaf hynny â'r Gweinidog dros addysg.

Derbyniwn argymhelliad 9 mewn egwyddor. Mae addysg ariannol yn rhan o'r ddarpariaeth fathemateg ac ABCh yng nghwricwlwm yr ysgol. Yn unol â gofynion y fframwaith arolygu cyffredin, mae arolygiadau Estyn yn asesu'r ddarpariaeth mewn ysgolion. Mae Gweinidogion Cymru hefyd wedi comisiynu Estyn i gynnal nifer o themâu ac astudiaethau trawsbynciol, gan gynnwys darparu adroddiad erbyn mis Mai 2011 ar arfer da wrth ddarparu addysg ariannol mewn ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd.

O ystyried y cyfyngiadau cyllidebol ar hyn o bryd, fe ddeallwch na allwn dderbyn argymhelliad 10, y soniasoch amdano'n gynharach. Rhaid ystyried yn ofalus cyn buddsoddi symiau sylweddol o arian cyhoeddus mewn ymgyrchoedd yn y cyfryngau yn yr hinsawdd sydd ohoni. Er hynny, cymeradwyaf yr angen i godi ymwybyddiaeth a dealltwriaeth o faterion ariannol. Cytunaf felly y dylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad fod yn rhan o drafodaethau â rhanddeiliaid allweddol, megis fforymau gallu ariannol gogledd a de Cymru, y Corff Addysg Ariannol Defnyddwyr, hyrwyddwyr cynhwysiant ariannol ac uned addysg ariannol Cymru ynghylch sut y gellir defnyddio'r cyfleusterau hyn yn well i gynyddu addysg ariannol ledled Cymru gyfan.

Cytunwn ag argymhelliad 11 ynghylch yr angen i fanciau'r stryd fawr weithio'n rhagweithiol wrth weithredu cyfrifon banc sylfaenol. Fel yr awgrymir yn argymhelliad 12, byddwn yn parhau i ariannu amryw o fentrau i annog pobl i fanteisio ar fudd-daliadau, gan weithio mewn partneriaeth ag awdurdodau lleol.

On recommendation 13, I am pleased that the UK Government will continue to support the Welsh illegal money lending unit, which I have visited—the lengths that loan sharks will go to attack vulnerable people in the way that they borrow money is breathtaking. It is an important area of work that we will continue to support. We pledge our ongoing support to the unit and to continue to work with it on its function, as well as supporting the excellent work of our credit unions across Wales in promoting affordable credit as an alternative to loan sharks.

Mark Isherwood: I was pleased to take part in this timely inquiry and I welcome the fact that the Welsh Government has only rejected outright one of the 13 recommendations. As the Minister has stated, careful consideration must be given to investing public money in a media campaign in the current financial climate. That is financial literacy in action. I note that the Welsh Government will continue to work with the Consumer Financial Education Body and the Welsh financial education unit to improve understanding of financial issues by target groups, including employees, students and expectant parents. I also urge the Welsh Government to engage with the media and encourage it to help people to understand and access financial education, support and services. It is important that words become action. For example, one of the financial capability fora's evidence to the committee agreed with the themes of the Welsh Government's financial inclusion strategy, but a representative added orally that it did not know what had happened in consequence.

In accepting recommendation 12, the Minister refers to Welsh Government funding for Citizens Advice Cymru's Adviceline Cymru in response to increased demand for advice services. At November's Citizens Advice Cymru conference, we heard that the price of its success was that more people were trying to contact Adviceline Cymru and that, by September, it had already received over 63,000 calls. Citizens Advice Cymru is also a member of the Wales fuel poverty coalition. At last September's National

Ynglŷn ag argymhelliad 13, rwyf yn falch y bydd Llywodraeth y DU yn parhau i gefnogi uned benthycwyr arian yn anghyfreithlon Cymru, yr wyf wedi ymweld â hi—mae'n anhygoel pa mor bell yr aiff benthycwyr didrwydded i ymosod ar bobl fregus yn y ffordd y maent yn cael benthycwyr arian. Mae hwn yn waith pwysig a byddwn yn parhau i'w gefnogi. Rhoddwn ein cefnogaeth barhaus i'r uned ac i barhau i gydweithio â hi yn ei swyddogaeth, yn ogystal â chefnogi gwaith rhagorol ein hundebau credyd ledled Cymru o ran hyrwyddo credyd fforddiadwy fel dewis arall yn hytrach na benthycwyr didrwydded.

Mark Isherwood: Roeddwn yn falch iawn o gymryd rhan yn yr ymchwiliad amserol hwn a chroesawaf y ffaith nad yw Llywodraeth Cymru ond wedi gwrthod yn llwyr un o'r 13 o argymhellion. Fel y dywedodd y Gweinidog, rhaid ystyried yn ofalus cyn buddsoddi mewn ymgyrch yn y cyfryngau yn yr hinsawdd ariannol sydd ohoni. Dyna i chi lythrenedd ariannol ar waith. Nodaf y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru'n parhau i gydweithio â'r Corff Addysg Ariannol Defnyddwyr ac uned addysg ariannol Cymru i wella dealltwriaeth o faterion ariannol yn ôl grwpiau targed, gan gynnwys, gweithwyr, myfyrwyr a darpar rieni. Galwaf ar Lywodraeth Cymru hefyd i ymgysylltu â'r cyfryngau a'u hannog i helpu pobl i ddeall a defnyddio addysg, cefnogaeth a gwasanaethau ariannol. Mae'n bwysig gwneud yn ogystal â dweud. Er enghraifft, roedd un o'r fforymau gallu ariannol yn ei dystiolaeth i'r pwyllgor yn cytuno â themâu strategaeth cynhwysiant ariannol Llywodraeth Cymru, ond ychwanegodd cynrychiolydd ar lafar nad oedd yn gwybod beth a ddigwyddodd yn sgîl hynny.

Wrth dderbyn argymhelliad 12, cyfeiria'r Gweinidog at gyllid Llywodraeth Cymru i Linell Gyngor Cymru Cyngor ar Bopeth Cymru yn sgîl galw cynyddol am wasanaethau cynghori. Yng nghynhadledd Cyngor ar Bopeth Cymru ym mis Tachwedd, clywsom mai'r hyn oedd yn peri balchder ynglŷn â llwyddiant y gwasanaeth oedd fod mwy o bobl yn ceisio cysylltu â Llinell Gyngor Cymru a'i bod, erbyn mis Medi, eisoes wedi derbyn dros 63,000 o alwadau. Mae Cyngor ar Bopeth Cymru hefyd yn

Energy Action conference, 'Fuel Poverty: The Bigger Picture', I chaired a session on financial inclusion that recognised that many fuel poor households also experienced wider financial exclusion. We heard that financial inclusion comprises good financial decision making, which is the demand side, and access to suitable products and services, which is the supply side.

In that context, I welcome the free Money Guidance Cymru service that will be launched in April by Citizens Advice Cymru, for people who are vulnerable to poor financial decision making. This is not debt or benefits advice, and neither is it product specific, and therefore it complements its Adviceline. I congratulate Citizens Advice on having won its UK bids to deliver the service in Wales and Scotland.

The Minister accepts recommendation 5, to encourage financial organisations to fund independent organisations that provide financial education programmes. As he says, many financial institutions already address this commitment. Evidence to the committee inquiry noted, for example, that Marks and Spencer Money and the Bank of America deliver financial literacy lessons in schools, and that some banks and building societies provide resources to support that agenda, for example, Nationwide's education resource and Barclays money skills, help disadvantaged and hard-to-reach people to make independent and informed financial decisions about budgeting, spending, saving, investing and using credit responsibly.

The Minister accepts, in principle, recommendations 8 and 9, regarding the delivery of financial education in schools. I welcome the current work by Estyn on the provision of a report by May 2011 on good practice in the provision of financial education in schools. The Minister also states that pupils 'should' rather than 'must'

'be given opportunities to understand the

aelod o gynghrair tlodi tanwydd Cymru. Yng nghynhadledd National Energy Action fis Medi diwethaf, 'Fuel Poverty: The Bigger Picture', cadeiriais sesiwn ar gynhwysiant ariannol a oedd yn cydnabod bod llawer o gartrefi sy'n dioddef tlodi tanwydd hefyd yn teimlo'u bod wedi'u hallgáu'n ariannol yn ehangach. Clywsom fod cynhwysiant ariannol yn cynnwys gwneud penderfyniadau ariannol da, sef yr elfen alw, a mynediad at gynhyrchion a gwasanaethau addas, sef yr ochr gyflenwi.

Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, croesawaf y gwasanaeth rhad ac am ddim, Canllaw ar Arian Cymru, a gaiff ei lansio ym mis Ebrill gan Gyngor ar Bopeth Cymru, i bobl sy'n agored i benderfyniadau ariannol gwael. Nid cyngor ar ddyledion na budd-daliadau mo hwn, ac nid yw chwaith yn ymwneud â chynhyrchion penodol, ac mae felly'n mynd law yn llaw â'r Llinell Gyngor. Llongyfarchaf Gyngor ar Bopeth ar ennill ei geisiadau yn y DU i ddarparu'r gwasanaeth yng Nghymru ac yn yr Alban.

Derbynia'r Gweinidog argymhelliad 5, i annog sefydliadau ariannol i ariannu sefydliadau annibynnol sy'n darparu rhaglenni addysg ariannol. Fel y dywed, mae llawer o sefydliadau ariannol eisoes yn cyflawni'r ymrwymiad hwn. Nodwyd yn y dystiolaeth i ymchwiliad y pwyllgor, er enghraifft, fod Marks and Spencer Money a Banc America yn darparu gwersi llythrennedd ariannol mewn ysgolion, a bod rhai banciau a chymdeithasau adeiladu'n darparu adnoddau i gefnogi'r agenda honno, er enghraifft, mae adnodd addysg Nationwide a sgiliau arian Barclays yn helpu pobl ddifreintiedig a rhai anodd eu cyrraedd i wneud penderfyniadau ariannol annibynnol a deallus ynghylch cyllidebu, gwario, cynilo, buddsoddi a defnyddio credyd yn gyfrifol.

Derbynia'r Gweinidog, mewn egwyddor, argymhellion 8 a 9, ynghylch darparu addysg ariannol mewn ysgolion. Croesawaf waith Estyn ar hyn o bryd ar ddarparu adroddiad erbyn mis Mai 2011 ar arfer da wrth ddarparu addysg ariannol mewn ysgolion. Dywed y Gweinidog hefyd y 'dylai' disgyblion yn hytrach na bod yn 'rhaid iddynt':

'gael cyfleoedd i ddeall pwysigrwydd

importance of planning for their financial futures’.

Evidence to the committee confirmed that current good practice should be shared more widely. Like some other Members, I visited Ysgol Bryn Gwalia in Mold and discussed the school’s junior credit union with the headteacher, All Flintshire Credit Union Ltd and pupils. It was great to hear about the school’s entrepreneur week, commercial sponsorship for the little piggy banks that were given to pupils, pupils saying that they will not borrow from loan sharks, and that the junior credit union is planning to move up to Mold’s Alun School so that pupils could continue what they started in primary school. I also visited Ysgol y Berwyn in Bala to discuss the school’s provision of the Institute of Financial Services’ School of Finance qualifications. The headteacher, business studies teacher and sixth-form pupils told me of the benefits that this had provided pupils of all abilities and that this was money well spent as it provided financial skills that would be needed later in life. The pupils told me that everyone should have the opportunity to take up such a course.

I am pleased that, in accepting recommendation 11, the Minister acknowledges that access to mainstream financial services remains one of the major challenges to tackling financial exclusion, and that this view has been supported by the UK coalition Government’s commitment to improve access to banking. After all, financial inclusion will only be achieved by governments and the independent, voluntary, mutual and private sectors working together.

3.20 p.m.

Eleanor Burnham: I thank everyone who has been involved in this inquiry, and I thank the Chair for kindly mentioning me in despatches. Being part of this inquiry was an uplifting experience. We are living in difficult times and financial mystique abounds; even the supposedly intelligent people here sometimes find it difficult to understand finance. Some people do not have basic numeracy and financial literacy skills,

cynllunio at eu dyfodol ariannol.’

Roedd y dystiolaeth i’r pwyllgor yn cadarnhau y dylid rhannu arfer da cyfredol yn fwy eang. Fel rhai Aelodau eraill, bûm innau’n ymweld ag Ysgol Bryn Gwalia yn yr Wyddgrug ac yn trafod undeb credyd iau’r ysgol â’r pennaeth, Undeb Credyd Sir y Fflint Gyfan Cyf a disgyblion. Braf oedd clywed am wythnos fentergarwch yr ysgol, nawdd masnachol i’r blychau cynilo bychain a roddwyd i’r disgyblion, disgyblion yn dweud na fyddant yn cael benthyg arian oddi wrth fenthycwyr didrwydded, a bod yr undeb credyd iau’n bwriadu symud i fyny i Ysgol Alun yn yr Wyddgrug er mwyn i’r disgyblion gael parhau â’r hyn a ddechreuwyd yn yr ysgol gynradd. Bûm yn ymweld hefyd ag Ysgol y Berwyn, y Bala, i drafod darpariaeth cymwysterau Ysgol Gyllid y Sefydliad Gwasanaethau Ariannol yn yr ysgol. Dywedodd y pennaeth, yr athro astudiaethau busnes a disgyblion y chweched dosbarth wrthyf am fanteision hynny i ddisgyblion o bob gallu a’i bod wedi bod yn werth gwario’r arian gan fod y disgyblion yn dysgu sgiliau ariannol y byddai eu hangen arnynt yn y dyfodol. Dywedodd y disgyblion wrthyf y dylai pawb gael cyfle i ddilyn cwrs o’r fath.

Rwyf yn falch fod y Gweinidog, drwy dderbyn argymhellid 11, yn cydnabod mai mynediad at wasanaethau ariannol prif ffrwd yw un o’r heriau mwyaf o hyd i fynd i’r afael ag allgáu ariannol, a bod y farn honno wedi’i chefnogi drwy ymrwymiad Llywodraeth glymblaid y DU i wella mynediad i fancio. Wedi’r cwbl, ni cheir cynhwysiant ariannol oni fydd llywodraethau a’r sectorau annibynnol, gwirfoddol, cydfuddiannol a phreifat yn cydweithio.

Eleanor Burnham: Diolchaf i bawb a fu’n rhan o’r ymchwiliad hwn, a diolchaf i’r Cadeirydd am fod mor garedig â’m crybwyll yn ei haraith. Roedd cael bod yn rhan o’r ymchwiliad hwn yn brofiad calonogol iawn. Rydym yn byw mewn cyfnod anodd ac mae dirgelwch ynghylch arian ymhobman; mae hyd yn oed y bobl honedig ddeallus yn y lle hwn yn ei chael yn anodd weithiau deall cyllid. Nid oes gan rai pobl sgiliau rhifedd a

which does not help them to differentiate between 0 per cent and 2,000 per cent annual percentage rates. I understand that some loan sharks are able to charge the latter figure, which is scandalous. It was also a useful and uplifting experience because it allowed us to meet youngsters, some of whom know a bit more than us about certain matters.

I hope that some of the inconsistencies that exist can be ironed out. I am pleased that the Government is going to accept most of the recommendations, but I wonder whether it is enough to say that a framework exists; are we monitoring the framework enough? Minister, I know that you said that Estyn is going to be looking into some of these things over the next couple of months. However, in response to your refusal to accept recommendation 10, I suggest what I believe is a way around the need for an expensive mass-media campaign, namely the use of social networking, which seems to be all the rage these days. I am sure that youngsters would be very receptive to the use of social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, although I do not know whether I am allowed to name them as examples. Even my dentist now sends me a text message when I have an appointment, but perhaps we could not do something like that in this context. However, social networking could, surely, offer a way of overcoming the costs of a media campaign, so that we can get the message out without spending money that I understand that you do not have to spend.

In this economic climate, it is a timely report. Apart from thanking the Chair, the staff and so on for helping us, we also have to commend the fantastic work that is being done in schools, especially because the workers that we saw were volunteers. The credit unions, as previously mentioned, are fantastic because—let us be frank—there is huge peer pressure on families to spend money. We know that there is a lot of bullying if youngsters do not have the right this or that, and they are also subjected to global advertising pressure. You only have to look at the advertisements of a company like McDonald's, if I may name it as an example, and see how successful it is in getting its

llythrennedd ariannol sylfaenol, ac nid yw hynny'n help i wahaniaethu rhwng cyfraddau canrannol blynyddol 0 y cant a 2,000 y cant. Rwyf ar ddeall fod rhai benthycwyr didrwydded yn gallu codi'r gyfradd olaf hon, sy'n warth. Roedd hefyd yn brofiad buddiol a chalonogol am ei fod wedi rhoi cyfle i ni gwrrd â phobl ifanc, rhai ohonynt yn gwybod tipyn yn fwy na ni am rai materion.

Rwyf yn gobeithio y bydd modd cael gwared ar rai o'r anghysonderau sy'n bodoli. Rwyf yn falch y bydd y Llywodraeth yn derbyn y rhan fwyaf o'r argymhellion, ond tybed a yw'n ddigon dweud bod fframwaith yn bodoli; a ydym yn monitro digon ar y fframwaith? Weinidog, gwn ichi ddweud y bydd Estyn yn edrych ar rai o'r pethau hyn dros y misoedd nesaf. Er hynny, yn sgîl y ffaith ichi wrthod derbyn argymhelliad 10, awgrymaf rywbeth a fydd, yn fy marn i, yn osgoi'r angen am ymgyrch yn y cyfryngau torfol, sef defnyddio rhwydweithiau cymdeithasol, sydd, mae'n debyg, yn boblogaidd iawn y dyddiau hyn. Rwyf yn sicr y byddai defnyddio rhwydweithiau cymdeithasol megis Facebook a Twitter yn dderbyniol iawn i bobl ifanc, er na wn a wyf yn cael eu henwi'n enghreifftiau. Mae hyd yn oed fy neintydd bellach yn anfon neges destun ataf pan fydd gennyf apwyntiad, ond efallai na allem wneud rhywbeth felly yn y cyd-destun hwn. Er hynny, oni fyddai rhwydweithio cymdeithasol yn ffordd o osgoi costau ymgyrch yn y cyfryngau, er mwyn inni gael lledaenu'r neges heb wario arian nad oes gennych i'w wario, ac rwyf yn deall hynny.

Yn yr hinsawdd economaidd sydd ohoni, mae hwn yn adroddiad amserol. Yn ogystal â diolch i'r Cadeirydd, y staff ac yn y blaen am roi cymorth inni, rhaid inni hefyd ganmol y gwaith aruthrol sy'n digwydd mewn ysgolion, ac yn arbennig felly am fod y gweithwyr a welsom yn wirfoddolwyr. Mae'r undebau credyd, fel y soniwyd eisoes, yn wych oherwydd—a dweud y gwir—mae pwysau enfawr gan gyfoedion ar deuluoedd i wario arian. Gwyddom fod llawer o bobl ifanc yn cael eu bwlio os nad oes ganddynt y peth hwn a'r llall, ac mae pwysau hysbysebu byd-eang hefyd arnynt. Cymerwn hysbysebion cwmni megis McDonald's, os caf ei enwi'n enghraifft, ac ystyriwn i ba

psychological message across to appreciate that—if only politicians could be as successful, but that is for discussion another time. We have a lot to do, so I commend this report to the Assembly and wish the Government all the best; I hope that we have taken this issue on board as seriously as possible.

Joyce Watson: I welcome the opportunity to speak in this debate and to comment on the committee's report. I am a member of that committee. The Assembly Government has made a strong start on this agenda already with its financial inclusion strategy 2009, which it updated last year. In accepting almost all of the committee's recommendations, the Government has underlined that commitment. Access to personal credit is important for economic recovery, and we have to be careful not to create a system that expands the gap between those who can and cannot access legitimate sources of credit. However, lending has to be responsible, and, of course, borrowing must be responsible and informed. In the past, credit card companies operated a business model that, frankly, made profits on the back of failing customers. That was financially and morally wrong, and Governments must block any attempt by lenders to return to those sorts of practices. Even since the credit crunch, there have been lots of examples of bad lending practices. Last autumn, the Office of Fair Trading uncovered more than 100 debt companies that were providing customers with poor or misleading advice. We have to stamp that out.

On the demand for financial inclusion and education, the figures speak for themselves. Every year in the UK, 100,000 people are made insolvent, 500,000 people consult debt management services, and another 500,000 deal informally with creditors. With the Tory-led Government's ideologically driven and unprecedented programme of cuts, the need for credit counselling services is likely to increase, especially if interest rates and unemployment rise in the near future. In this context, the committee's recommendation that the Welsh Government engage with the UK Government to roll out the Money Made

raddau y mae'n llwyddo i gyfleu ei neges seicolegol—o na fyddai gwleidyddion yr un mor llwyddiannus, ond trafodaeth arall yw honno. Mae llawer i'w wneud, felly cymeradwyaf yr adroddiad hwn i'r Cynulliad, a dymuno'r gorau i'r Llywodraeth; rwyf yn mawr obeithio ein bod wedi ystyried y mater hwn mor ddifrifol â phosibl.

Joyce Watson: Croesawaf y cyfle hwn i siarad yn y ddatl hon a rhoi sylwadau ar adroddiad y pwyllgor. Rwyf yn aelod o'r pwyllgor. Gwnaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ddechrau da ar yr agenda hon eisoes gyda strategaeth cynhwysiant ariannol 2009, a ddiweddarwyd y llynedd. Drwy dderbyn bron pob un o argymhellion y pwyllgor, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi tanlinellu'r ymrwymiad hwn. Mae mynediad at gredyd personol yn pwysig ar gyfer adferiad economaidd, a rhaid inni ochel rhag creu system sy'n lledu'r bwlch rhwng y rhai a all gael gafael ar ffynonellau credyd dilys a'r rhai na allant. Er hynny, rhaid rhoi benthyg arian yn gyfrifol, ac, wrth gwrs, rhaid cael benthyg hefyd yn gyfrifol ac yn ddeallus. Yn y gorffennol, byddai cwmnïau cardiau credyd yn gweithredu model busnes a oedd, a dweud y gwir, yn gwneud elw ar draul cwsmeriaid na allent dalu. Roedd hynny'n anghywir o safbwynt ariannol a moesol, a rhaid i Lywodraethau rwystro unrhyw ymdrech gan fenthycwyr i ddychwelyd at y mathau hyn o arferion. Hyd yn oed ers dechrau'r wasgfa gredyd, gwelwyd llawer o enghreifftiau o arferion benthyca gwael. Yr hydref diwethaf, daeth y Swyddfa Masnachu Teg o hyd i fwy na 100 o gwmnïau dyledion a oedd yn rhoi cyngor gwael a charmarweiniol i gwsmeriaid. Rhaid i ni gael gwared ar hynny.

Ynglŷn â'r galw am gynhwysiant ac addysg ariannol, mae'r ffigurau'n siarad drostynt eu hunain. Bob blwyddyn yn y DU, mae 100,000 o bobl yn mynd yn fethdalwyr, 500,000 o bobl yn cysylltu â gwasanaethau rheoli dyledion, a 500,000 arall yn delio'n anffurfiol â chredydwyr. Gyda rhaglen doriadau'r Llywodraeth dan arweiniad y Toriaid, sydd wedi'i gyrru gan ideoleg ac sydd heb yr un gynsail, mae'n debyg y bydd yr angen am wasanaethau cynghori ar gredyd yn cynyddu, ac yn arbennig felly os bydd cyfraddau llog a diweithdra'n codi yn y dyfodol agos. Yn y cyd-destun hwn, mae

Clear service is vital.

In response to today's debate, I ask the Minister to clarify the Government's position with regard to recommendation 7 in the report. In his written response, the Minister says that funding for the Welsh financial inclusion team comes to an end in March, and he will make a decision on whether to continue funding on a needs basis. Has the decision been made yet? I think that the Minister alluded to it in his opening statement. Has he looked at encouraging financial organisations to provide funds for that education as well?

I thank the Minister for his very positive response. Like others, I went out and met people who were working on this agenda, funded by us. Credit unions play a significant part in delivering this agenda, and I would like to thank Haven Credit Union Ltd and Save Easy Llanelli Credit Union Ltd, which I visited, for their time and expertise in advising me.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I welcome the opportunity to contribute to this debate. I am not a member of the committee, but when I saw this on the agenda and realised that the report had been published, I cast my mind back to one of the first visits that I made after becoming an Assembly Member, to St Cyres School, where I looked at the financial education programme being offered in conjunction with NatWest. I remember the enthusiasm of the year 7 pupils who had taken on board the messages that were being given to them. Looking at the key themes in the opening part of the report, I would like to highlight the paragraph about the terrible consequences of mismanaging money. It can cause family breakdown and there is a strong link between debt and mental health problems. That is what can happen when people do not understand the value of money, or how to handle it. It is surely incumbent upon us as an institution to work with partners to try to facilitate that education as early an age as possible, so that people can have a clear understanding of their

argymhelliad y pwyllgor y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru ymgysylltu â Llywodraeth y DU i gyflwyno Money Made Clear yn hollbwysig.

Yn sgîl y ddadl heddiw, gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog egluro beth yw safbwynt y Llywodraeth o ran argymhelliad 7 yn yr adroddiad. Yn ei ymateb ysgrifenedig, dywed y Gweinidog y bydd yr arian ar gyfer tîm cynhwysiant ariannol Cymru'n dod i ben ym mis Mawrth, ac y bydd yn gwneud penderfyniad ynghylch a ddylid parhau i'w ariannu ar sail angen. A yw'r penderfyniad hwnnw wedi'i wneud eto? Credaf i'r Gweinidog gyfeirio ato yn ei ddatganiad agoriadol. A yw wedi edrych ar annog sefydliadau ariannol i ddarparu arian ar gyfer yr addysg honno hefyd?

Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am ei ymateb cadarnhaol iawn. Bûm innau, fel eraill, allan yn cwrdd â phobl oedd yn gweithio ar yr agenda hon, wedi'u hariannu gennym ni. Mae undebau credyd yn rhan allweddol o gyflawni'r agenda hon, a charwn ddiolch i Undeb Credyd Haven Cyf ac Undeb Credyd Save Easy Llanelli Cyf, y bûm yn ymweld â hwy, am eu hamser a'u harbenigedd wrth roi cyngor imi.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Croesawaf y cyfle i gyfrannu i'r ddadl hon. Nid wyf yn aelod o'r pwyllgor, ond pan welais hyn ar yr agenda a sylweddoli bod yr adroddiad wedi'i gyhoeddi, meddyliais am un o'm hymweliadau cyntaf ar ôl imi ddod yn Aelod Cynulliad, ag Ysgol St Cyres, lle bûm yn edrych ar raglen addysg ariannol a oedd yn cael ei chynnig ar y cyd â NatWest. Cofiaf frwdfrydedd y disgyblion ym mlwyddyn 7 a oedd wedi derbyn y negeseuon a oedd yn cael eu rhoi iddynt. O edrych ar y themâu allweddol yn rhan agoriadol yr adroddiad, hoffwn dynnu sylw at y paragraff ynglŷn â chanlyniadau brawychus camreoli arian. Gall beri i deuluoedd chwalu ac mae cysylltiad cryf rhwng dyled a phroblemau iechyd meddwl. Dyna a all ddigwydd pan nad yw pobl yn deall gwerth arian, na sut i'w drin. Onid yw'n ddyletswydd arnom ni fel sefydliad i gydweithio â phartneriaid i geisio hwyluso'r addysg honno mor gynnar â phosibl, er mwyn i bobl ddeall yn iawn beth yw eu cyfrifoldebau? Un o brif elfennau'r wers y bûm yn arsylwi arni yn St Cyres oedd

obligations. One of the main features of the lesson that I observed at St Cyres was about writing a cheque. We have now heard that banks will be doing away with cheques in the next decade, and so our education message needs to change on that basis as well. It shows how quickly the financial situation alters.

I will touch on a few of the recommendations. Recommendation 2 deals with the Welsh language and the ability to access information in that language. As an Assembly Member for the South Wales Central region, I would like to know whether any consideration was given to the languages of ethnic minorities. Many people come in to the South Wales Central area and the region is probably host to the largest number of ethnic minorities in Wales, so perhaps the Chair could address that in responding. Having access to such information in their language of choice would be the first step on the road to empowerment for many people, helping them to handle their finances and create independence. That is a vital tool to have available, although I appreciate that ethnic minorities make up a small part of the wider community.

3.30 p.m.

Recommendation 4 touched on the internet and the operation of new technologies. It is one thing to teach basic finance, and the understanding of basic money management, but, as we are all aware as we go about our everyday lives, the purchasing power of the internet is growing more and more. People's use of the internet, and the security that is needed when they give over their details, can lead to massive issues. I do not want to use the word 'naivety', but it may be the correct word, in that people impart all their information in good faith to rogue sites. That opens up a massive problem when it comes to credit problems, and people accessing and draining other people's accounts, and blighting their lives. That is an important part of the education that we need to install in young people. The internet is a wonderful tool, but, as with all things, we need to be aware of the pitfalls that come with it.

sut i ysgrifennu siec. Clywsom bellach y bydd banciau'n cael gwared ar sieciau yn y degawd nesaf, ac felly mae'n rhaid i'n neges addysgol newid yn unol â hynny hefyd. Mae'n dangos pa mor gyflym y mae'r sefyllfa ariannol yn newid.

Soniaf am rai o'r argymhellion. Mae argymhelliad 2 yn ymwneud â'r Gymraeg a'r gallu i gael gafael ar wybodaeth yn yr iaith honno. A minnau'n Aelod Cynulliad dros ranbarth Canol De Cymru, carwn wybod a roddwyd ystyriaeth i ieithoedd lleiafrifoedd ethnig. Mae llawer o bobl yn symud i mewn i ardal Canol De Cymru ac mae'n debyg mai yn y rhanbarth hwn y mae'r nifer fwyaf o leiafrifoedd ethnig yng Nghymru, felly efallai y gallai'r Cadeirydd ymdrin â hynny wrth ymateb. Byddai gallu cael gafael ar yr wybodaeth honno yn eu dewis iaith yn gam cyntaf tuag at rymuso llawer o bobl, a byddai o gymorth iddynt ymdrin â'u harian a dod yn annibynnol. Dyma arf hollbwysig, er fy mod yn cydnabod mai rhan fach yw lleiafrifoedd ethnig o'r gymuned ehangach.

Mae argymhelliad 4 yn crybwyll y rhyngwrwyd a gweithredu technolegau newydd. Un peth yw dysgu pobl am gyllid sylfaenol, a deall hanfodion rheoli arian, ond, fel y gwyddom oll wrth fyw o ddydd i ddydd, mae grym prynu'r rhyngwrwyd yn tyfu o hyd. Gall defnyddio'r rhyngwrwyd, a'r mesurau diogelwch sydd eu hangen wrth i bobl roi eu manylion, arwain at broblemau mawr iawn. Nid wyf am ddefnyddio'r gair 'naifrwydd', ond efallai mai dyna'r gair cywir, gan fod pobl yn rhoi eu gwybodaeth yn ddidwyll i safleoedd diegwyddor. Mae hynny'n peri problem enfawr o ran problemau credyd, a phobl yn mynd i mewn i gyfrifon pobl eraill ac yn eu gwagio, ac yn difetha'u bywydau. Mae hynny'n rhan bwysig o'r addysg y mae angen inni ei rhoi i bobl ifanc. Mae'r rhyngwrwyd yn arf bendigedig, ond, fel gyda phopeth arall, mae angen inni fod yn ymwybodol o'r peryglon a ddaw law yn llaw ag ef.

I agree entirely with recommendation 5, which mentions social responsibility. That is vital when people are dealing with large, or even small, sums of money, and making that available to communities, whether they be community projects or individuals. There is a social responsibility issue, ensuring that we are not leading people down the path of some of the chronic issues that we as Assembly Members deal with of debt crises, cycles and spirals.

I agree with the Minister in his rejection of recommendation 10 on the media campaign. It is a pertinent point to consider Government money in this tight climate. However, I would like the Minister to consider what strategic role the Government might be able to play in co-ordinating a campaign, or a series of campaigns, from financial institutions, whether they are in the private or the voluntary sectors, or even the Government-funded sector. I appreciate the point about direct Government money, but there may well be a strategic role for Government to play in Wales in directing such campaigns, ensuring that they have a footprint across Wales.

On that basis, I commend the committee on its work. I seriously hope that the Government will take forward its sentiment on many of the recommendations that it has accepted. If this report sits on the shelf, the people of Wales will have been failed; its recommendations must be implemented. I wish you well in implementing those recommendations, Minister, and I hope that we can, in another two to three years' time, say that this was a starting point in tackling debt in Wales.

David Lloyd: Mae'n bleser cael cyfrannu at y ddadl hon. Fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant, hoffwn ddiolch i'r Cadeirydd am ein llywio drwy fisoedd o gymryd tystiolaeth, ar lafar ac yn ysgrifenedig. Diolchaf hefyd i'r holl dystion a ddaeth gerbron y pwyllgor. Yr oedd cryn undod o ran yr hyn yr ydym yn ei argymhell yn yr adroddiad, felly ni fwriadaf ailadrodd yr hyn a ddywedwyd eisoes gan gyfeillion, dim ond nodi rhai pwyntiau.

Mae hwn yn bwnc allweddol. Fel y

Cytunaf yn llwyr ag argymhelliad 5, sy'n sôn am gyfrifoldeb cymdeithasol. Mae hynny'n hollbwysig pan fydd pobl yn ymdrin â symiau mawr, a bach, o arian, ac yn sicrhau eu bod ar gael i gymunedau, boed y rheiny'n brosiectau cymunedol neu'n unigolion. Mae hyn yn ymwneud â chyfrifoldeb cymdeithasol, a sicrhau nad ydym yn arwain pobl tuag at rai o'r problemau enbyd yr ydym ni, Aelodau'r Cynulliad, yn ymdrin â hwy, megis argyfyngau dyled a chylchoedd dyled.

Cytunaf â'r Gweinidog o ran gwrthod argymhelliad 10 a'r ymgyrch yn y cyfryngau. Mae'n berthnasol iawn ystyried arian y Llywodraeth yn yr hinsawdd anodd hon. Er hynny, hoffwn i'r Gweinidog ystyried pa rôl strategol y gallai'r Llywodraeth ei chwarae o ran cydlynu ymgyrch neu gyfres o ymgyrchoedd, gan sefydliadau ariannol, boed y rheiny yn y sectorau preifat neu wirfoddol, neu hyd yn oed y sector a ariennir gan y Llywodraeth. Rwyf yn deall y pwynt am arian uniongyrchol gan y Llywodraeth, ond efallai'n wir y bydd rôl strategol i'r Llywodraeth yng Nghymru o ran cyfarwyddo ymgyrchoedd o'r fath, a sicrhau eu bod yn gadael eu hôl ledled Cymru.

Ar sail hynny, carwn ganmol y pwyllgor am ei waith. Rwyf yn mawr obeithio y bydd y Llywodraeth yn bwrw ymlaen â'i safbwyntiau ar lawer o'r argymhellion y mae wedi eu derbyn. Os bydd yr adroddiad hwn yn aros ar y sillff, byddwn wedi siomi pobl Cymru; rhaid rhoi ei argymhellion ar waith. Dymunaf bob hwyl i chi wrth roi'r argymhellion hyn ar waith, Weinidog, a gobeithiaf y gallwn, ymhen dwy neu dair blynedd, ddweud mai dyma fan cychwyn mynd i'r afael â dyled yng Nghymru.

David Lloyd: It is a pleasure to contribute to this debate. As a member of the Communities and Culture Committee, I would like to thank the Chair for guiding us through the months of taking both oral and written evidence. I also thank all the witnesses who appeared before us. There was considerable unanimity on the report's recommendations, so I do not intend to reiterate what has already been said by colleagues, but I would like to note a few points.

This is a crucial issue. As Andrew R.T.

dywedodd Andrew R.T. Davies, gan fod pawb yn cytuno bod hwn yn bwnc pwysig, mae perygl i'r adroddiad gael ei gladdu yn rhywle yn casglu llwch. Nid ydym eisiau i hynny ddigwydd. Fel y noda'r Cadeirydd yn ei rhagair i'r adroddiad, gan ddyfynnu rhywun enwog:

'If you think education is expensive, try ignorance'.

Mae addysg yn hanfodol o ran materion ariannol, ac mae'r cyfan yn dechrau yn ein hysgolion. Fel yr ydym wedi clywed eisoes, mae nifer o brosiectau bendigedig yn ein hysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd sy'n mynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn a phwysigrwydd cynilo. Fel y clywsom yn ystod yr holl dystiolaeth i'r pwyllgor, gall problemau ariannol gael effaith andwyol ar fywydau pobl. Gall yr euogrwydd a'r straen sy'n gysylltiedig â gorfod ymdopi â dyledion arwain at iselder, straen a salwch meddwl. O gofio'r hinsawdd economaidd sydd ohoni, mae lefelau cynyddol o ddyled bersonol yn echrydus o uchel.

Crybwyllaf rai o argymhellion yr adroddiad yn unig. Yr wyf yn falch bod y Gweinidog wedi ymateb yn gadarnhaol iawn i'r rhan fwyaf o'r argymhellion, a deallwn y rheswm pam y mae wedi gwrthod yr un argymhelliad hefyd. Fodd bynnag, mae'r argymhelliad cyntaf yn bwysig iawn, ac yr wyf yn falch bod y Gweinidog yn cytuno bod darpariaeth addysg ariannol yn bwysicach nag erioed o'r blaen, ac y dylid defnyddio cyllid i gyflwyno'r gwasanaeth Money Made Clear—y corff addysg ariannol fesul cam i ddefnyddwyr. Mae hynny'n bwynt pwysig a derbyniasom dystiolaeth gref ar y pwynt hwnnw.

Yn ogystal, mae argymhelliad 3 yn awgrymu bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn ceisio sicrhau bod swyddogaeth strategol uned addysg ariannol Cymru yn cael ei chynnal a'i datblygu i helpu i wella'r ddarpariaeth addysg ariannol mewn ysgolion ac yn y gymuned ehangach. Clywaf beth mae'r Gweinidog yn ei ddweud, ond dyna oedd y dystiolaeth a glywsom, ac yr wyf yn falch o weld bod yr adroddiad yn adlewyrchu hynny. Mae argymhelliad 4 yn argymhell bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn sefydlu canolfan

Davies said, we all say that this is important but there is a danger that the report will be buried or allowed to gather dust on a shelf. We do not want that to happen. As the Chair noted in her foreword, quoting a famous speaker:

Education is crucial in financial issues, and it all begins in our schools. As we have already heard, there are very many excellent projects in our primary and secondary schools that deal with this issue and with the importance of saving. As we heard in taking evidence, financial problems can have a detrimental effect on people's lives. The guilt and strain associated with having to cope with debt can lead to depression, stress and mental illness. Given the current economic climate, increasing levels of personal debt are at an appallingly high level.

I will mention some of the report's recommendations. I am pleased that the Minister has responded positively to the majority of the recommendations, and we understand why he has rejected one recommendation. However, the first recommendation is very important, and I am pleased that the Minister agrees that the provision of financial education is more important than ever before, and that finance should be used to enable the Money Made Clear service to be introduced. That is an important step, on which we received some strong evidence.

In addition, recommendation 3 suggests that the Welsh Government should seek to ensure that the strategic role of the Welsh financial education unit is sustained and developed to help improve the provision of financial education in schools and in the wider community. I hear what the Minister has said, but that was the evidence that we heard, and I am pleased that the report reflects that. Recommendation 4 recommends that the Welsh Government provides a central hub of information about financial capability

ganolog o wybodaeth am brosiectau gallu ariannol. Eto, mae hyn yn hanfodol bwysig, a daeth y dystiolaeth honno o sawl ffynhonnell. Ar ddiwedd y dydd, rhaid i ni i gyd, nid dim ond ein plant a phobl ifanc, gdnabod gwir werth arian a phwysigrwydd cynilo, fel y dywedodd y Gweinidog ar y dechrau; efallai ein bod wedi newid ein hagwedd tuag at gynilo fel cymdeithas. Mae pobl wedi bod yn llawer rhy barod i dderbyn dyled ac i anghofio gwir faich dyled. Mae'n bwysig ailadrodd pwysigrwydd cynilo a phwysigrwydd gwybod sut i ddefnyddio gwasanaethau ariannol, fel y crybwyllodd y Cadeirydd ar y dechrau.

Mae angen codi ymwybyddiaeth o undebau credyd, a chodi hyder pobl i'w defnyddio'n fwy cyson nag y maent ar hyn o bryd, er mwyn iddynt allu osgoi benthyca anghyfreithlon a pheryglus dros ben. I gloi, diolchaf i'r Cadeirydd am ei harweiniad ac i bawb am eu gwaith.

Mohammad Asghar: I would like to start by thanking all Members for their involvement and also by paying tribute to the committee staff for making the publication of this vital report possible. Sadly, many people in Wales lack key money management skills. This can threaten their emotional wellbeing, their health and obviously the situation of those close to them, such as family members. Today, I want to focus on issues linked to promotion, awareness-raising and ensuring that necessary information is accessible and readily available. The Minister has rejected outright one of the committee's recommendations, and I wanted to touch on that— recommendation 10. The committee has suggested that the Welsh Government consider a media campaign to help people understand the benefits of financial inclusion and education, and how they can access support and financial services. We have seen this recommendation rejected due to concerns about pumping public money into such a campaign. I am concerned that such reasoning is short-sighted. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the benefits associated with financial inclusion and education. A media campaign would make information accessible and place it into the mainstream. It would provide unique opportunities to embed this issue's immense

projects. Again, this is crucial, and we heard that evidence from a number of different sources. At the end of the day, we must all, not just children and young people, recognise the true value of money and the importance of saving, as the Minister said at the outset; as a society, we have perhaps changed our attitude to the importance of saving. People have been far too willing to go into debt and to forget the real burden of debt. It is important that we reiterate the importance of saving and knowing how to use financial services, as the Chair mentioned at the outset.

We must also raise awareness of credit unions, and increase people's confidence in using them more regularly than at present, so that they can avoid illegal lending, which can be extremely dangerous. In conclusion, I thank the Chair for her leadership and thank everyone for their work.

Mohammad Asghar: Hoffwn ddechrau drwy ddiolch i'r holl Aelodau am eu rhan yn yr ymchwiliad a hefyd drwy dalu teyrnged i staff y pwyllgor oherwydd hebddynt hwy ni fyddai wedi bod yn bosibl cyhoeddi'r adroddiad allweddol hwn. Yn anffodus, mae llawer o bobl yng Nghymru nad oes ganddynt sgiliau rheoli arian allweddol. Gall hyn beryglu eu lles emosiynol, eu hiechyd ac wrth gwrs sefyllfa'r rhai sy'n agos atynt, megis aelodau'r teulu. Heddiw, rwyf am ganolbwyntio ar faterion yn ymwneud â hyrwyddo a chodi ymwybyddiaeth a sicrhau bod yr wybodaeth angenrheidiol ar gael yn rhwydd. Mae'r Gweinidog wedi gwrthod yn llwyr un o argymhellion y pwyllgor, sef argymhelliad 10, ac rwyf am sôn am hynny. Awgrymodd y pwyllgor y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru ystyried ymgyrch yn y cyfryngau i helpu pobl i ddeall manteision cynhwysiant ac addysg ariannol, a sut y gallant gael gafael ar gymorth a gwasanaethau ariannol. Gwrthodwyd yr argymhelliad hwn oherwydd pryderon am roi arian cyhoeddus i ymgyrch o'r fath. Rwyf yn pryderu bod y rhesymeg hon yn annoeth. Yn anffodus, mae llawer o bobl nad ydynt yn ymwybodol o fanteision cynhwysiant ac addysg ariannol. Byddai ymgyrch yn y cyfryngau'n sicrhau bod gwybodaeth ar gael ac yn ei gosod yn y prif ffrwd. Byddai hefyd yn cynnig cyfleoedd

importance in people's consciousness.

While recommendation 10 is the only one that has been rejected, a number have been accepted in principle only, so I hope that the Minister will be able to clarify a few points. For example, recommendation 8 calls for the provision of financial education as a compulsory element of a school's personal and social education framework. The Minister notes that financial education is presently a key component of the non-statutory PSE framework. To avoid inequitable provision in schools across Wales, I hope that the Minister can outline exactly how he intends to push this forward to encourage more schools to embrace financial education as part of their chosen PSE framework.

3.40 p.m.

Our second recommendation highlights the importance of ensuring that advice services are available in Welsh; that is important. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published work emphasising the financial exclusion experienced by Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities, while the Child Poverty Action Group has highlighted language barriers as a key factor behind financial exclusion, which my colleague Andrew R.T. Davies has just mentioned.

I want to highlight the importance of a central hub of information, as detailed in the committee's fourth recommendation. The committee heard how there is presently no central base for the sharing of good practice. Schools, for example, could utilise this in the delivery of financial education and in partnership building. The Minister has committed himself to discussing the potential of this recommendation with key stakeholders. Given the potential of such a central hub, I hope that he can provide Members with a time frame on discussions.

While fostering understanding and promoting good practice is essential, the accessibility of relevant services and products is also hugely important. I welcome the Minister's

unigryw i serio pwysigrwydd aruthrol hyn oll ym meddyliau pobl.

Er mai dim ond argymhelliad 10 sydd wedi'i wrthod, mae sawl un wedi'i dderbyn mewn egwyddor yn unig, felly rwyf yn gobeithio y bydd modd i'r Gweinidog egluro rhai pwyntiau. Er enghraifft, mae argymhelliad 8 yn galw am ddarparu addysg ariannol yn elfen orfodol o fframwaith addysg bersonol a chymdeithasol ysgolion. Noda'r Gweinidog fod addysg ariannol ar hyn o bryd yn rhan allweddol o'r fframwaith ABCh anstatudol. Er mwyn osgoi darpariaeth anghyfartal mewn ysgolion ledled Cymru, rwyf yn gobeithio y gall y Gweinidog amlinellu'n union sut y bwriada fwrw ymlaen â hyn i annog rhagor o ysgolion i gynnwys addysg ariannol yn rhan o'r fframwaith ABCh a ddewisir ganddynt.

Mae ein hail argymhelliad yn tynnu sylw at bwysigrwydd sicrhau bod gwasanaethau cynghori ar gael yn Gymraeg; mae hynny'n bwysig. Cyhoeddodd Sefydliad Joseph Rowntree waith yn tynnu sylw at yr ymdeimlad o allgáu ariannol ymhlith cymunedau Pacistanaidd a Bangladeshaidd, ac mae'r Grŵp Gweithredu ar Dlodi Plant wedi tynnu sylw at rwystrau ieithyddol fel ffactor allweddol o allgáu ariannol, a soniodd fy nghyd-Aelod, Andrew R.T. Davies, am hynny rai munudau yn ôl.

Hoffwn bwysleisio pwysigrwydd cael canolbwynt gwybodaeth, a grybwyllir ym mhedwerydd argymhelliad y pwyllgor. Clywodd y pwyllgor nad oes ar hyn o bryd un man canolog ar gyfer rhannu arfer da. Gallai ysgolion, er enghraifft, ddefnyddio canolbwynt o'r fath wrth ddarparu addysg ariannol ac i greu partneriaethau. Mae'r Gweinidog wedi ymrwmo i drafod potensial yr argymhelliad hwn â rhanddeiliaid allweddol. O ystyried potensial canolbwynt o'r fath, rwyf yn mawr obeithio y gall roi i Aelodau amserlen ar gyfer y trafodaethau hyn.

Mae meithrin dealltwriaeth a hybu arfer da yn hollbwysig, ac felly hefyd hygyrchedd gwasanaethau a chynhyrchion perthnasol. Mae'n dda gennyf fod y Gweinidog wedi

acceptance of recommendation 11, which calls on the Welsh Government to urge high street banks to be more positive towards the opening of basic bank accounts by the general public. I hope that the Minister and his officials will be proactive on that, and on other issues, such as highlighting to local authorities the potentially significant, cross-cutting value of addressing financial inclusion in meeting their existing statutory responsibilities. Financial inclusion and education is a must for all—not just for the poor, but also for the rich. Indeed, if the highly educated bankers who put this country in such a state had received financial education, things might have been different.

Sandy Mewies: I will not be able to address all of the points raised in the time available, but I will do my best to cover as many as possible.

I was pleased by the Minister's positive response to the report. I was particularly pleased to hear that the funding for the financial inclusion champions team for Wales is to continue, and to hear that there will be a decision shortly on the Welsh financial education unit. I am delighted to hear that the Minister endorses the suggestion in recommendation 10 of the need to raise awareness and understanding of financial issues, and that he agrees that the Government should be involved in discussions with key stakeholders, such as the north and south Wales financial capability fora. I can assure you that I have here a list of many other stakeholders who are prepared to give their time and energy for the sort of national campaign that we envisage. Therefore, thank you for that endorsement, Minister.

I endorse Mark's congratulations for the work of Citizens Advice, particularly its DebtLine. You raised the fact that the use of that line is constantly increasing, and I am afraid that it will be increasing even more in future. Eleanor was absolutely right; the visit to the school was very uplifting, as were all our other visits. What was nice about that visit was that all sorts of partners were present, and that moneysupermarket.com in

derbyn argymhelliad 11, sy'n galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i bwysu ar fanciau'r stryd fawr i fod ag agwedd fwy cadarnhaol at agor cyfrifon banc sylfaenol gan y cyhoedd. Rwyf yn gobeithio y bydd y Gweinidog a'i swyddogion yn rhagweithiol yn hynny o beth, ac ar faterion eraill, megis pwysleisio wrth awdurdodau lleol werth trawsbynciol, ac arwyddocaol o bosibl, mynd i'r afael â chynhwysiant ariannol wrth gyflawni eu cyfrifoldebau statudol cyfredol. Mae cynhwysiant ac addysg ariannol yn angenrheidiol i bawb—nid yn unig i'r tlawd, ond hefyd i'r cyfoethog. Yn wir, pe bai'r bancwyr addysgedig a roddodd y wlad hon mewn cymaint o gawl wedi cael addysg ariannol, efallai y byddai pethau'n wahanol iawn.

Sandy Mewies: Ni fydd modd imi ymdrin â phob un o'r pwyntiau a godwyd yn yr amser sydd ar gael, ond gwnaf fy ngorau glas i ymdrin â chynifer â phosibl.

Roeddwn yn falch o glywed ymateb cadarnhaol y Gweinidog i'r adroddiad. Roeddwn yn arbennig o falch o glywed y bydd tîm hyrwyddwyr cynhwysiant ariannol Cymru'n parhau i gael ei ariannu, ac y daw penderfyniad cyn hir ar uned addysg ariannol Cymru. Mae'n dda iawn gennyf glywed bod y Gweinidog yn cymeradwyo'r awgrym yn argymhelliad 10 fod angen codi ymwybyddiaeth a dealltwriaeth o faterion ariannol, a'i fod yn cytuno y dylai'r Llywodraeth fod yn rhan o drafodaethau â rhanddeiliaid allweddol, megis fforymau gallu ariannol gogledd a de Cymru. Gallaf eich sicrhau bod gennyf yma restr o lawer o randdeiliaid eraill sy'n barod i roi eu hamser a'u hegni i'r math o ymgyrch genedlaethol sydd gennym mewn golwg. Diolch ichi felly, Weinidog, am y gymeradwyaeth honno.

Ategef longyfarchiadau Mark i waith Cyngor ar Bopeth, ac yn arbennig ei Linell Ddyled. Soniasoch fod y llinell yn cael ei defnyddio fwyfwy o hyd, ac mae arnaf ofn y bydd mwy o ddefnydd eto arni yn y dyfodol. Roedd Eleanor yn llygad ei lle; roedd ymweld â'r ysgol yn galonogol iawn, ac felly hefyd bob un o'n hymweliadau. Yr hyn a oedd yn braf am yr ymweliad hwnnw oedd fod pob math o bartneriaid yn bresennol, a bod

particular had provided the little pink plastic pigs, which some of us have yet to declare. I went home with one piggy bank to help me improve my own financial literacy. [Laughter.]

Joyce Watson made the point that the Welsh Government has made a strong start and that the recommendations that it is accepting will take this agenda forward in the future. However, she is right to warn people about the dangers of lenders that do not behave in the way that they should or that do not give proper advice to borrowers. I echo her praise for the work of the credit unions throughout Wales.

I thank Andrew R.T. Davies for his words. You are absolutely right when you talk about the devastation that being in debt can cause to individuals and families and to stress, as you saw in relation to year 7 children getting information from Barclays Bank, that we should try to teach children very early on what financial education is all about. You made a point about the Welsh language. Several of our witnesses talked about other languages, including the End Child Poverty Network. Bethan Jenkins referred to other groups. She was concerned about the lack of financial education for women street workers. All sorts of groups were covered—not as comprehensively as we would have liked perhaps, but they were covered. I thank Dai Lloyd for his consistent support and pragmatic approach to committee work. He is very supportive indeed. He raised the issue of the debilitating effect that debt can have on both physical and mental health. We should not forget that, and I endorse his comments about the importance of the Welsh financial education unit and its future.

Oscar, I think that you will be very pleased to have heard what the Minister has said about what he will do in looking at recommendation 10.

In conclusion, we are grateful to the Welsh Government for its positive response to our report. I thank everyone who has taken part in today's debate and thank you for the opportunity to present such an important report to the Assembly this afternoon.

moneysupermarket.com yn arbennig wedi darparu'r blychau cynilo bach pinc, nad yw rhai ohonom wedi'u datgan eto. Euthum ag un blwch cynilo adref i'm helpu i wella fy llythrennedd ariannol fy hun. [Chwerthin.]

Soniodd Joyce Watson fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi dechrau'n dda ac y bydd yr argymhellion y mae'n eu derbyn yn gyrru'r agenda hon ymlaen yn y dyfodol. Serch hynny, mae'n iawn iddi rybuddio pobl am beryglon benthycwyr nad ydynt yn ymddwyn fel y dylent neu nad ydynt yn rhoi cyngor priodol i fenthycwyr. Ategef ei chlod i waith yr undebau credyd ledled Cymru.

Diolch i Andrew R.T. Davies am ei eiriau. Rydych yn llygad eich lle wrth sôn am y dinistr y gall bod mewn dyled ei achosi i unigolion a theuluoedd ac wrth bwysleisio, fel y gwelsoch o ran rhoi gwybodaeth gan Fanc Barclays i blant blwyddyn 7, y dylem geisio dysgu plant yn gynnar iawn beth yw addysg ariannol. Soniasoch am y Gymraeg. Siaradodd sawl un o'n tystion am ieithoedd eraill, gan gynnwys y Rhwydwaith Dileu Tlodi Plant. Cyfeiriodd Bethan Jenkins at grwpiau eraill. Roedd yn pryderu am ddiffyg addysg ariannol i fenywod sy'n gweithio ar y stryd. Trafodwyd pob math o grwpiau—nid mewn ffordd mor gynhwysfawr efallai ag y byddem wedi'i hoffi, ond fe'u trafodwyd. Diolchaf i Dai Lloyd am ei gefnogaeth gyson a'i agwedd bragmataidd at waith pwyllgora. Mae'n hynod gefnogol. Soniodd am yr effaith wanychol y gall dyled ei chael ar iechyd corfforol a meddyliol. Ni ddylem anghofio hynny, a chymeradwyaf ei sylwadau am bwysigrwydd uned addysg ariannol Cymru a'i dyfodol.

Oscar, credaf y byddwch yn falch iawn o glywed yr hyn a ddywedodd y Gweinidog am yr hyn y bydd yn ei wneud o ran edrych ar argymhelliad 10.

I gloi, rydym yn ddiolchgar i Lywodraeth Cymru am ei hymateb cadarnhaol i'n hadroddiad. Diolch i bawb a gymerodd ran yn y ddadl heddiw a diolch am y cyfle i gyflwyno adroddiad mor bwysig i'r Cynulliad y prynhawn yma.

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:
The proposal is to note the Communities and Culture Committee's report. Does any Member object? I see that no-one objects. Therefore, in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35, the motion is agreed.

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Y cynnig yw y dylid nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant. A oes unrhyw un yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf nad oes gwrthwynebiad. Felly, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 7.35, derbynnir y cynnig.

Motion agreed.

Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives Debate

Parciau Cenedlaethol National Parks

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:
The Deputy Presiding Officer has selected amendment 1 in the name of Jane Hutt.
Cynnig NDM4632 Nick Ramsay

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. Yn croesawu cyfraniad Parciau Cenedlaethol Cymru at fywyd Cymru.

2. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gyflwyno cyfran o aelodau a etholir yn uniongyrchol i Awdurdodau Parciau Cenedlaethol.

3. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i adolygu cyfrifoldebau Awdurdodau Parciau Cenedlaethol gyda golwg ar gynnwys datblygu economaidd a chymdeithasol.

Angela Burns: I move the motion.

It gives me great pleasure to move the motion today, and I will ask Members to agree to the three elements of the motion. I intend to speak to each of the elements that we have detailed and to deal with the Government's blanket amendment.

First, we ask that the National Assembly welcomes the contribution to Welsh life of Wales's national parks. We have three amazing and extremely different national parks. Consider the majesty of Snowdonia, the place of the eagles with its towering peaks, deep valleys and miles of sandy coastline, marshes and estuaries, or the Brecon Beacons, the epitome of upland living by man, beast and nature, with a landscape

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Dewisodd y Dirprwy Lywydd welliant 1 yn enw Jane Hutt.

Motion NDM4632 Nick Ramsay

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. Welcomes the contribution to Welsh life of Wales' National Parks.

2. Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to introduce a proportion of direct election of members to National Park Authorities.

3. Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to review the responsibilities of National Park Authorities with a view to including social and economic development.

Angela Burns: Cynigiau y cynnig.

Mae'n bleser mawr gennyf gynnig y cynnig hwn heddiw, a gofynnaf i Aelodau gytuno â thair elfen y cynnig. Bwriadaf siarad am bob un o'r tair elfen yr ydym yn cyfeirio atynt ac ymdrin â gwelliant cyffredinol y Llywodraeth.

Yn gyntaf, gofynnwn i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol groesawu cyfraniad parciau cenedlaethol Cymru i fywyd Cymru. Mae gennym dri pharc cenedlaethol anhygoel a gwahanol iawn. Cymerwch urddas Eryri, lle'r eryrod â'i chopau goruchel, ei dyffrynnoedd dwfn a'i milltiroedd o arfordir tywodlyd, corysdd ac aberoedd, neu Fannau Brycheiniog, ymgorfforiad o fyw yn yr ucheldir gan ddyn, anifail a byd natur, a'r

forged by hard graft and determination, or the sheer loveliness of the Pembrokeshire coast national park, an area that I have been privileged to call my home for many years. From the Preseli hills to the sweep of Freshwater West, from the puffins of Skomer to the lilies of Bosherton, in rain or shine, whether it is the mist on the hills, the crash of waves at Newgale, the views that stretch to Lundy and south-west England, the bustle of Tenby with its iconic seafront or the serenity of St Davids, Pembrokeshire coast national park is dramatic, alluring and unpredictable. Along with the Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia, it is home to us, the people of Wales. We carry these parks in trust for the generations to come and, over the 50-plus years that these parks have been established, I do not think that anyone could argue about the importance of the contribution that they have made to Welsh life.

During the past 50 years, the national parks have developed from adjuncts of county councils, via national park committees, into the strong authorities that we see today. Those authorities are charged with maintaining and delivering the core purposes of the parks. The purposes are, first, to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the national parks, and, secondly, to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the parks by the public. Between them, the parks cover 20 per cent of the country. They are home to almost 100,000 people and attract in excess of 22 million visitors per year. However, that is but a small part of the contribution that the national parks make to Welsh life. They are cultural beacons, awash with history and diversity, with many important buildings, from restored castles to preserved medieval ruins, archaeological sites and monuments, as well as the hamlets, towns and cities that breathe life. They tell us stories of the way we were, they chart our journey to where we are now, and they hold the promise of our future. The parks are designated category 5 protected areas by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the world conservation union, because they are deemed to be cultural landscapes that have been moulded over time by human activity. They are not wilderness

tirlun wedi'i hogi o waith caled a phenderfyniad, neu hyfrydwch pur parc cenedlaethol arfordir Penfro, ardal y cefais y fraint o'i galw'n gartref imi ers blynyddoedd lawer. O fryniau Preseli i ehangder Freshwater West, o balod Sgomer i flodau'r lili yn Bosherton, boed hindda neu ddrycin, boed yn niwl dros y bryniau, twrw'r tonnau yn Niwglwl, y golygfeydd sy'n ymestyn o'r Ynys Wair i dde orllewin Lloegr, bwrlwm Dinbych-y-pysgod a'i lan môr eiconaid neu dawelwch Tyddewi, mae parc cenedlaethol arfordir Penfro yn ddramatig, yn hudolus ac yn annisgwyl. Ynghyd â Bannau Brycheiniog ac Eryri, dyma ein cartref, bobl Cymru. Gofalwn am y parciau hyn er mwyn y cenedlaethau a ddaw, a thros yr hanner can mlynedd a mwy ers sefydlu'r parciau hyn, ni chredaf fod unrhyw amheuaeth am bwysigrwydd eu cyfraniad i fywyd Cymru.

Dros yr hanner can mlynedd diwethaf, datblygodd y parciau o fod yn atodiadau i gynghorau sir, drwy bwyllgorau parciau cenedlaethol, i fod yr awdurdodau cryfion a welwn heddiw. Mae'n gyfrifoldeb ar yr awdurdodau hyn i gynnal a chyflawni dibenion craidd y parciau. Y dibenion hynny yw, yn gyntaf, gwarchod a gwella harddwch naturiol, bywyd gwyllt a thretadaeth ddiwylliannol y parciau cenedlaethol, ac, yn ail, hybu cyfleoedd i'r cyhoedd ddeall a mwynhau nodweddion arbennig y parciau. Rhyngddynt, mae'r parciau'n cwmpasu 20 y cant o'r wlad. Maent yn gartref i bron i 100,000 o bobl ac yn denu dros 22 miliwn o ymwelwyr bob blwyddyn. Er hynny, rhan fach yn unig yw hynny o gyfraniad y parciau cenedlaethol i fywyd Cymru. Dyma begynau diwylliannol, yn gyforiog o hanes ac amrywiaeth. Mae yno lawer o adeiladau pwysig, o gestyll wedi'u hadfer i adfeilion canoloesol a gadwyd, safleoedd archeolegol a henebion, yn ogystal â'r pentrefi bychain, y trefi a'r dinasoedd sy'n anadlu bywyd. Maent yn adrodd hanesion wrthym am y ffordd yr arferem fod, ac yn dangos ein siwrnai i ble rydym ni nawr, ac ynddynt mae addewid ein dyfodol. Dynodwyd y parciau'n ardaloedd gwarchodedig categori 5 gan yr Undeb Rhyngwladol er Cadwraeth Natur, undeb cadwraeth y byd, oherwydd ystyrir eu bod yn dirluniau diwylliannol a luniwyd dros amser gan weithgarwch dynol. Nid gwylltiroedd

areas. That is a distinction that I will draw now before I deal with the third element of our motion.

3.50 p.m.

The parks also play a critical role in protecting and developing the natural beauty found in Wales. 'Natural beauty' is defined in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 as including flora, fauna, and geological and physiographical features. Environmental conservation is a vital role of the parks. The staff of the national parks excel in delivering a diversity of conservation and development projects in tandem with landowners and local communities. There is no doubt that they are the linchpin of the protected landscapes of Wales, with collaborative links to the five areas of outstanding natural beauty. The importance and scope of their work in this regard has increased with the passing of the Natural Environment and Communities Act 2006, which places public bodies, including the national park authorities, under a duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. Given the Government's failure to meet biodiversity targets, and given the concerns that have been raised by many about our ability to achieve them in the future, the parks can offer a route forward.

I must also touch on the important role that the parks play in protecting and conserving our marine habitat. Snowdonia, and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park in particular, are key to implementing the management of the seas around the UK, and we can seek to build expertise and methodology in this area. My colleagues and I have the greatest respect for the national parks. We salute the rangers and wardens, the officers and members, and thank them for the vital contribution that they make to Welsh life. However, there is always room for development. As times move on, so must we.

That brings me to the second element of our motion, which calls on the Welsh Assembly Government

'to introduce a proportion of direct election

mohonynt. Dyna wahaniaeth y tynnaf sylw ato nawr cyn symud ymlaen at drydedd elfen ein cynnig.

Mae'r parciau hefyd yn chwarae rhan allweddol o ran gwarchod a datblygu'r harddwch naturiol sydd yng Nghymru. Mae diffiniad 'harddwch naturiol' yn Neddf Parciau Cenedlaethol a Mynediad i Gefn Gwlad 1949 yn cynnwys planhigion ac anifeiliaid, a nodweddion daearegol a ffisiograffegol. Mae cadwraeth amgylcheddol yn un o swyddogaethau allweddol y parciau. Mae staff y parciau cenedlaethol yn rhagori o ran cyflwyno amryw o wahanol brosiectau cadwraeth a datblygu law yn llaw â thirfeddianwyr a chymunedau lleol. Maent yn gwbl allweddol o ran tirluniau gwarchoddedig Cymru, a chanddynt gysylltiadau â'r pum ardal o harddwch naturiol eithriadol. Mae pwysigrwydd a hyd a lled eu gwaith yn hynny o beth wedi cynyddu yn sgîl cymeradwyo Deddf yr Amgylchedd Naturiol a Chymunedau 2006, sy'n rhoi dyletswydd ar gyrrff cyhoeddus, gan gynnwys awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol, i roi sylw i gadw bioamrywiaeth wrth gyflawni eu swyddogaethau. O ystyried methiant y Llywodraeth i gyrraedd y targedau bioamrywiaeth, a'r pryderon a godwyd gan lawer ynghylch ein gallu i'w cyrraedd yn y dyfodol, gall y parciau gynnig ffordd ymlaen.

Rhaid imi hefyd grybwyll y rhan bwysig y mae ein parciau'n ei chwarae wrth ddiogelu a gwarchod ein cynefin morol. Mae Eryri, a Pharc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro yn benodol, yn allweddol o ran rheoli'r moroedd o gwmpas y DU, a gallwn geisio meithrin arbenigedd a methodoleg yn y maes hwn. Mae gennyf i a'm cyd-Aelodau y parch mwyaf tuag at y parciau cenedlaethol. Talwn deyrnged i geidwaid y parciau a'r wardeniaid, y swyddogion a'r aelodau, a diolchwn iddynt am y cyfraniad hollbwysig a wnânt i fywyd Cymru. Serch hynny, nid da lle gellir gwel. Rhaid inni symud gyda'r oes.

Mae hynny'n dod â mi at ail elfen ein cynnig, sy'n galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru

'i gyflwyno cyfran o aelodau a etholir yn

of members to National Park Authorities.'

uniongyrchol i Awdurdodau Parciau Cenedlaethol.'

I truly do not understand the Government's reasoning in seeking to delete that element of our motion. I would draw the Government's attention to a number of reasons as to why direct elections to the national parks are a sound idea, and I would seek to persuade it of the illogicality of its stance. 'Illogicality?' you ask. Well, yes. After all, this is a Government that keeps going on about localism, that consults on pretty much everything, and that says that it is for people power. I understand the difference between saying and doing. The Welsh Conservatives believe in localism and in people power, and we want to ensure that the voices of those who live in the parks are heard. This is nothing new. In 2004, when Carwyn Jones was the Minister for all things environmental, agricultural and generally green, the review of national park authorities in Wales posited that proposal. The naysayers thought that it was too complicated and that it might dilute the influence of central and local government. I say that that is absolutely right; we should dilute it a little, and enable those who live in the parks to be able to have a direct say in the running of the area in which they live. I said earlier that we must move with the times, and times have changed. People expect openness, transparency and involvement, and do not wish to be shut out.

Rwyf yn methu'n lân â deall rhesymeg y Llywodraeth wrth geisio dileu'r elfen honno o'n cynnig. Tynnaf sylw'r Llywodraeth at nifer o resymau pam y mae etholiadau uniongyrchol i'r parciau cenedlaethol yn syniad da, a byddwn yn ceisio ei darbwylllo bod ei safbwynt yn afresymegol. 'Afresymegol?' gofynnwch. Wel, ie. Wedi'r cwbl, dyma Lywodraeth sy'n rhygnu ymlaen am leoliaeth, sy'n ymgynghori ar bopeth bron, ac sy'n dweud ei bod o blaid grym i'r bobl. Deallaf i'r gwahaniaeth rhwng dweud a gwneud. Mae'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn credu mewn lleoliaeth ac yng ngrym y bobl, ac rydym am sicrhau y clywir lleisiau'r sawl sy'n byw yn y parciau. Nid yw'n beth newydd. Yn 2004, pan oedd Carwyn Jones yn Weinidog dros bob dim amgylcheddol, amaethyddol a gwyrdd yn gyffredinol, dyna'r cynnig a wnaed gan yr adolygiad ar awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol yng Nghymru. Credai'r gwrthodwyr ei fod yn rhy gymhleth ac y gallai lastwreiddio dylanwad llywodraeth ganolog a lleol. Dywedaf i fod hynny'n hollol iawn; dylem ei lastwreiddio dipyn, a rhoi modd i'r rhai sy'n byw yn y parciau gael dweud eu dweud yn uniongyrchol am sut y mae eu bro yn cael ei rhedeg. Dywedais gynt fod rhaid inni symud gyda'r oes, ac mae'r oes wedi newid. Mae pobl yn disgwyl ymagwedd agored a thryloyw, cyfle i gyfrannu, ac nid ydynt am gael eu cau allan.

However, we do recognise the strategic national importance of the parks. We therefore propose that elections should be held at the same time as local authority elections to return 60 per cent of the members on behalf of the people living in the parks, with the balance to be made up from national and local government. The reasoning behind that is that local government can represent those living adjacent to the parks and influence local strategic decisions, and national Government can do the same from a Wales-wide point of view.

Serch hynny, cydnabyddwn bwysigrwydd cenedlaethol strategol y parciau. Cynigiwn felly y dylid cynnal etholiadau ar yr un pryd ag etholiadau'r awdurdodau lleol, i ethol 60 y cant o'r aelodau ar ran y bobl sy'n byw yn y parciau, gyda gweddill yr aelodau o lywodraeth ganolog a lleol. Y rhesymeg am hyn yw bod llywodraeth leol yn gallu cynrychioli'r rhai sy'n byw o gwmpas y parciau a dylanwadu ar benderfyniadau strategol lleol, a gall y Llywodraeth genedlaethol wneud yr un peth o safbwynt Cymru gyfan.

Another concern was that direct elections would either politicise the process or enable vested interests to take over. However, most processes are politicised already, and the

Pryder arall oedd y byddai etholiadau uniongyrchol naill ai'n gwleidyddio'r broses neu'n rhoi cyfle i rai â buddiannau penodol i gymryd drosodd. Serch hynny, mae'r rhan

local authority representatives usually belong to one political group or another. The Welsh Assembly Government's appointees are often of a similar political persuasion, and yet we trust and expect all of them to act in the best interests of the park. Therefore, why should we not empower and trust the voters? I believe that they will want the best for the area in which they live, and will support those who might serve it well, either because they have local issues at heart or because they have an area of expertise that would benefit the park. This would not be a costly measure, as is borne out by the findings of the 2004 review. We believe that it cleaves to fundamental democratic rights, increases accountability, fulfils the aim of increasing local representation and social inclusion, and we can see that it works successfully in many other areas.

In Scotland, 20 per cent of members are directly elected to its two national parks, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs national park and the Cairngorms. The first election to the national parks in Scotland produced the highest turnout ever in any national or local government election. People do have an abiding love for, and interest in, their park. In France, there are nine national parks, covering 8 per cent of French territory, having boards that, admittedly, are complex. However, they all have elements of direct representation, and France's national parks are a great testament to the successful integration of national, regional and local aspirations.

Direct elections were part of the 2007 Welsh Conservative manifesto. They will also be part of the 2011 manifesto, because we believe that they are vital to supporting the national parks and their future. We believe that we need to make good on the rhetoric to the public about localism, engagement, empowerment and community building, those often-used terms. We would ask the Electoral Commission to come up with the mechanics for giving a vote to every resident of a national park, and we are perturbed that, after any number of recommendations in

fwyaf o'r prosesau wedi'u gwleidyddio eisoes, ac mae cynrychiolwyr yr awdurdodau lleol fel rheol yn berthyn i un grŵp gwleidyddol neu'i gilydd. Mae gan y rhai a benodwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn aml safbwynt gwleidyddol tebyg, ac eto rydym yn ymddiried ynddynt ac yn disgwyl iddynt weithredu er budd y parc. Felly pam na ddylem rymuso'r pleidleiswyr ac ymddiried ynddynt? Credaf y byddant am gael y gorau i'w bro, ac y byddant yn cefnogi'r rhai a allai ei gwasanaethu'n dda, naill ai am fod materion lleol yn bwysig iddynt neu fod ganddynt arbenigedd a fyddai er budd i'r parc. Ni fyddai'n gam costus, fel y dengys canlyniadau adolygiad 2004. Credwn ei fod yn cyd-fynd â hawliau democrataidd sylfaenol, yn rhoi mwy o atebolrwydd, yn bodloni'r nod o gynyddu cynrychiolaeth leol a chynhwysiant cymdeithasol, a gallwn weld ei fod yn gweithio'n llwyddiannus mewn llawer maes arall.

Yn yr Alban etholir 20 y cant o'r aelodau yn uniongyrchol i'w dau barc cenedlaethol, sef parc cenedlaethol Llyn Llumonwy a'r Trossachs a pharc y Cairngorms. Yn yr etholiad cyntaf i'r parciau cenedlaethol yn yr Alban, cafwyd y ganran uchaf erioed o bobl yn pleidleisio mewn unrhyw etholiad cenedlaethol neu lywodraeth leol. Mae gan bobl gariad diysgog tuag at eu parc, a diddordeb ynddo. Yn Ffrainc, naw parc cenedlaethol sydd, yn cwmpasu 8 y cant o diriogaeth Ffrainc, ac mae eu byrddau, rhaid cyfaddef, yn gymhleth. Er hynny, mae elfen o gynrychiolaeth uniongyrchol ar bob un, ac mae parciau cenedlaethol Ffrainc yn tystio i'r ffordd y mae dyheadau cenedlaethol, rhanbarthol a lleol yn cael eu hintegreiddio'n llwyddiannus.

Roedd etholiadau uniongyrchol yn rhan o fanifesto'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn 2007. Byddant yn rhan o fanifesto 2011 hefyd, gan ein bod yn credu eu bod yn hanfodol i gefnogi'r parciau cenedlaethol a'u dyfodol. Credwn fod angen inni wireddu'r rhethreg i'r cyhoedd am leoliaeth, ymgysylltu, grymuso a meithrin cymunedau; yr ymadroddion hynny a ddefnyddir mor aml. Byddem yn gofyn i'r Comisiwn Etholiadol lunio trefniadau ar gyfer rhoi pleidlais i bob un sy'n byw mewn parc cenedlaethol, ac mae'n peri anesmwythyd inni, ar ôl sawl argymhelliad

different reviews, including one that was commissioned by Carwyn Jones, as the then Minister for the environment, the Government should choose not to support this element of our motion. I will be interested to hear on what grounds the Minister thinks that it is fair to continue with such a democratic deficit.

The final element of our motion calls upon the Welsh Assembly Government to review the responsibility of national park authorities with a view to including social and economic development. The Government seeks to also strike this element from our motion. It could be that the Government does not feel that it can commence a review given the approaching dissolution of the Assembly, or it could be that the Minister believes that national parks already undertake this function. I would be interested to understand the Government's reasoning. However, the Welsh Conservatives believe that, for too long, there has been a fragmented approach to the social and economic life of our national parks. This concern has been highlighted time and again in many different areas and from many different sources.

First, I draw the Minister's attention to the 2004 review of the national parks, which called for a third purpose to be added to the existing two. I have met a number of individuals and organisations who also believe that a third purpose is key to the long-term sustainable development of the national parks. I have met many people who have expressed concern that the parks do not represent a social and cultural mix, that they do not reflect the need for people to be able to live and work successfully in the parks, and that too many people are being driven out by the high cost of housing and the lack of affordable housing, which I know is a subject that troubles the Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration. We need to see environmental, economic and community development as activities that have to be brought together to enhance and promote the special qualities of the national parks, yet the review of national parks said that it is equally clear that, for the people of the parks, economic and community development is not being pursued effectively. From what I have read and seen, what was true in 2004 remains

mewn gwahanol adolygiadau, gan gynnwys un a gomisiynwyd gan Carwyn Jones pan oedd yn Weinidog dros yr amgylchedd, fod y Llywodraeth yn dewis peidio â chefnogi'r rhan hon o'n cynnig. Bydd gennyf ddiddordeb clywed ar ba sail y mae'r Gweinidog yn credu ei bod yn deg parhau â'r fath ddiffyg democrataidd.

Mae rhan olaf ein cynnig yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i adolygu cyfrifoldeb awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol er mwyn cynnwys datblygu cymdeithasol ac economaidd. Ceisia'r Llywodraeth ddileu'r elfen hon o'n cynnig hefyd. Efallai na theimla'r Llywodraeth ei bod yn gallu cychwyn ar adolygiad o gofio bod y Cynulliad ar fin dod i ben, neu efallai fod y Gweinidog yn credu bod y parciau cenedlaethol yn ymgymryd â'r swyddogaeth hon eisoes. Byddai'n ddiddorol cael deall rhesymeg y Llywodraeth, ond mae'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn credu y bu dull tameidiog o ymdrin â bywyd cymdeithasol ac economaidd ein parciau cenedlaethol ers yn rhy hir. Amlygwyd y pryder hwn droeon mewn llawer o wahanol feysydd ac o lawer o wahanol ffynonellau.

Yn gyntaf, tynnaf sylw'r Gweinidog at yr adolygiad ar y parciau cenedlaethol yn 2004 a alwodd am ychwanegu trydydd diben i'r ddau bresennol. Cyfarfûm â sawl unigolyn a sawl corff sydd hefyd yn credu bod trydydd amcan yn allweddol i ddatblygiad cynaliadwy hirdymor y parciau cenedlaethol. Cyfarfûm â llawer o bobl a fynegodd bryder nad yw'r parciau yn cynrychioli cymysgedd cymdeithasol a diwylliannol, nad ydynt yn adlewyrchu'r angen i bobl allu byw a gweithio yn llwyddiannus yn y parciau, a bod llawer gormod o bobl yn cael eu gyrru allan gan gost uchel y tai a'r diffyg tai fforddiadwy, rhywbeth y gwn sy'n destun pryder i'r Dirprwy Weinidog dros Dai ac Adfywio. Mae angen inni weld datblygu amgylcheddol, economaidd a chymunedol fel gweithgareddau y mae angen eu tynnu ynghyd er mwyn gwella a hyrwyddo nodweddion arbennig y parciau cenedlaethol, ac eto dywedodd yr adolygiad ar y parciau cenedlaethol ei bod hi'r un mor amlwg, i bobl y parciau, nad yw datblygu economaidd a chymunedol yn cael ei roi ar waith yn effeithiol. O'r hyn a ddarllenais ac a welais,

true today.

The Welsh Assembly Government's March 2007 policy statement for the national parks is of the view that national park authorities are not lead economic development or community development agencies and that these matters are the responsibility of other key partners. How can that be? If the park authorities can subsume all in pursuit of their primary purpose, then how can other partners successfully try to bring sustainable economic development proposals to the table? I come back to the issue of the lack of affordable housing as an example. As for economic development, I accept that the national parks are supposed to play their part in the area groups looking at the implementation of the Wales spatial plan. However, how can that be expected to move forward when there is no mandatory onus on the national parks to consider the social and economic wellbeing of the area and the people whom they cover?

With regard to planning, there is huge frustration that even the simplest of applications takes too long. The Government has stated that it is aware that public perceptions of the way that the park authorities use their planning and development control functions are not always positive. I would say that that is a fair understatement. The GVA Grimley report commented on this, and evidence to the Sustainability Committee during our recent planning inquiry makes the point very clearly that there is a dislocation in true sustainable development and that environmental, social and economic needs should be seen holistically.

I draw the Minister's attention once again to Scotland and its view of the role of national parks in contributing to the wider public policy agenda, and to France, with its concept of the centre of the park and the areas of adhesion and priorities contained within. Both countries are looking to take a holistic view and I would have thought that a review, which is what we are asking for, would be able to seek out best practice to ensure sustainable futures for the people of the parks as well as the flora, fauna and the landscape.

mae'r hyn oedd yn wir yn 2004 yn dal yn wir heddiw.

Yn ôl datganiad polisi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar y parciau cenedlaethol ym mis Mawrth 2007, nid awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol yw'r prif asiantaethau datblygu economaidd neu ddatblygu cymunedol, a chyfrifoldeb partneriaid allweddol eraill yw'r materion hyn. Sut hynny? Os gall awdurdodau'r parciau gynnwys popeth arall wrth anelu at eu prif amcan, sut y gall partneriaid eraill lwyddo i ddod â chynigion am ddatblygu economaidd cynaliadwy at y bwrdd? Dychwelaf at fater y diffyg tai fforddiadwy fel enghraifft. O ran datblygu economaidd, derbynaf fod y parciau cenedlaethol i fod i chwarae eu rhan yng ngrwpiau'r ardaloedd sy'n ystyried y ffordd y gweithredir cynllun gofodol Cymru. Er hynny, sut y gellir disgwyl symud ymlaen â hynny pan nad oes dyletswydd gofodol ar y parciau cenedlaethol i ystyried lles cymdeithasol ac economaidd yr ardal a'r bobl y maent yn eu cwmpasu?

O ran cynllunio, mae rhwystredigaeth enfawr bod y ceisiadau symlaf hyn yn oed yn cymryd yn rhy hir. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi datgan ei bod yn ymwybodol nad yw'r cyhoedd bob amser o'r farn bod y ffordd y mae awdurdodau'r parciau yn defnyddio eu swyddogaethau rheoli cynllunio a datblygu yn gadarnhaol. Dywedwn innau mai dweud go gynnil yw hynny. Sylwodd adroddiad GVA Grimley ar hynny, a gwnaeth y dystiolaeth i'r Pwyllgor Cynaliadwyedd yn ystod ein hymchwiliad cynllunio diweddar y pwynt yn glir iawn bod diffyg o ran datblygu cynaliadwy gwirioneddol ac y dylid ystyried anghenion amgylcheddol, cymdeithasol ac economaidd yn gyfannol.

Tynnaf sylw'r Gweinidog unwaith eto at yr Alban a'i barn hi ar rôl y parciau cenedlaethol wrth gyfrannu at yr agenda polisi cyhoeddus ehangach, ac at Ffrainc a'i syniad hithau o ganolbwynt y parc a'r meysydd ymlynu a'r blaenoriaethau o'u mewn. Mae'r ddwy wlad yn ceisio cymryd golwg cyfannol ac rwy'n credu y byddai adolygiad, sef yr hyn y gofynnwn amdano, yn gallu chwilio am yr arferion gorau i sicrhau dyfodol cynaliadwy i bobl y parciau yn ogystal â'r planhigion, yr anifeiliaid a'r

tirlun.

Finally, with regard to this third element of our motion, I remind the Government that the national parks are category 5 protected areas. They are not wilderness areas, but living landscapes full of people and their many activities as well as the grandeur of the landscape and the diversity of animal and plant life. As to the Government amendment, it is lazy. I do not think that any thought has been given to the separate elements of our motion. It is so much easier for it just to say that it is an opposition debate and just to oppose the motion, but I think that the amendment does a real disservice to the national parks and gives no room for us to be able to build upon the successes of the parks. It gives us no room to be able to seek to enshrine real democracy in the parks and does not give us the opportunity to plan a sustainable social and economic future for the parks. I ask Members to reject it and to vote for the motion as it stands.

Gwelliant 1 Jane Hutt

Dileu'r cyfan ac yn ei le rhoi:

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

Yn croesawu cyfraniad Parciau Cenedlaethol Cymru at fywyd Cymru ac yn nodi'r gwaith da sy'n cael ei wneud yn unol â Datganiad Polisi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer y Parciau Cenedlaethol ac Awdurdodau Parciau Cenedlaethol yng Nghymru.

The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing (Jane Davidson): I move amendment 1.

4.00 p.m.

Joyce Watson: I am very privileged to live in Pembrokeshire, which is mostly surrounded by the national park, and to represent Mid and West Wales, an area that contains all three national parks. Therefore, I am well placed to take part in today's debate. I think that we need to remind ourselves—before I reply to some of the comments that have been made—that national parks were created to benefit the nation as a whole, the people who enjoy them and those people who

Yn olaf, o safbwynt trydedd elfen ein cynnig, atgoffaf y Llywodraeth fod y parciau cenedlaethol yn ardaloedd gwarchoddedig categori 5. Nid gwylltiroedd mohonynt, ond tirweddau byw llawn o bobl a'u gweithgareddau lu yn ogystal ag ysblander y tirlun ac amrywiaeth bywyd yr anifeiliaid a'r planhigion. Ac mae gwelliant y Llywodraeth yn ddiog. Ni chredaf fod nemor ddim gwaith meddwl wedi'i roi i wahanol elfennau ein cynnig. Mae'n gymaint haws iddi wneud dim ond dweud mai dadl yr wrthblaid yw hi a gwrthwynebu'r cynnig, ond credaf fod y gwelliant yn gwneud cam gwirioneddol â'r parciau cenedlaethol ac nad yw'n rhoi dim lle inni allu adeiladu ar lwyddiant y parciau. Nid yw'n rhoi lle inni geisio ymgorffori democratiaeth go iawn yn y parciau ac nid yw'n rhoi cyfle inni gynllunio dyfodol cymdeithasol ac economaidd cynaliadwy i'r parciau. Gofynnaf i'r Aelodau ei wrthod ac i bleidleisio dros y cynnig fel ag y mae.

Amendment 1 Jane Hutt

Delete all and replace with:

The National Assembly for Wales:

Welcomes the contribution to Welsh life of Wales' National Parks and notes the good work carried out in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's Policy Statement for the National Parks and National Park Authorities in Wales.

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai (Jane Hutt): Cynigiaf welliant 1.

Joyce Watson: Mae'n ffrainc i mi gael byw yn sir Benfro, lle mae'r parc cenedlaethol o'n cwmpas ymhobman bron, ac i gynrychioli Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru, ardal sy'n cynnwys pob un o'r tri pharc cenedlaethol. Felly, rwyf mewn sefyllfa ddelfrydol i gymryd rhan yn y ddadl heddiw. Credaf fod angen i ni'n hatgoffa ein hunain—cyn imi ymateb i rai o'r sylwadau a wnaed—y crëwyd y parciau cenedlaethol er budd y genedl gyfan, y bobl sy'n eu mwynhau a'r

live within them. There is no doubt that they do; we have already heard that they enrich the lives of the people of Wales and its visitors. They also perform a crucial economic function within Wales, because there is no question that they draw masses of visitors and create significant jobs in the tourism industry as a consequence. I do not think that that can be understated.

I take issue with the call for an element of elected membership, and with the Scottish example that is so often used to support the argument for direct elections. With that particular model, the turnout declined over time, and the number of those standing for election reduced by as much as 60 per cent after the first cycle. Therefore, just because you have put people up for election, it will not necessarily empower voters; that in itself does not necessarily follow. Local government does not always empower the voters, even though the representatives have been voted in. There is nothing to say that, if you create a vacancy for a place locally, it will be contested. You need to think those things through. We see all too often in local government elections that some seats do not have anyone standing for them.

Nick Ramsay: Thank you for giving way, Joyce. Are you saying that local government is not democratic and is not an appropriate way to deliver local services?

Joyce Watson: No. I am saying that you cannot say in every single case—and this is what you are basing your argument on—that if you elect people, they will automatically follow through the wishes of the people who have elected them there. That is what you seem to be saying to me. Sometimes, they have to think about other issues, and they clearly do.

I also take issue with the planning elements that have been highlighted. You are right to point to the mistakes that have been made in some national parks. Those mistakes have been made and are well documented. However, it is not only the planning decisions within national parks that deserve attention, and I cannot see that either pointing to those issues that have gone drastically wrong or

bobl sy'n byw ynddynt. Maent yn sicr yn gwneud hynny; clywsom eisoes eu bod yn cyfoethogi bywydau pobl Cymru ac ymwelwyr â hi. Mae iddynt hefyd swyddogaeth economaidd hollbwysig yng Nghymru, oherwydd maent yn ddi-os yn denu llawer iawn o ymwelwyr ac yn creu swyddi arwyddocaol yn y diwydiant twristiaeth yn sgîl hynny. Ni ellir rhoi gormod o bwys ar hynny.

Rwyf yn anghytuno â'r alwad am elfen o aelodaeth etholedig, ac â model yr Alban a ddefnyddir mor aml i gefnogi'r ddadl dros etholiadau uniongyrchol. Gyda'r model penodol hwnnw, cwmpodd nifer y bobl a oedd yn pleidleisio dros amser, a gwelwyd cymaint â 60 y cant o ostyngiad yn nifer y rhai a oedd yn sefyll mewn etholiadau ar ôl y cylch cyntaf. Felly, nid yw'r ffaith ichi gynnig pobl i'w hethol o anghenraid yn grymuso pleidleiswyr; nid yw hynny'n dilyn. Nid yw llywodraeth leol bob amser yn grymuso pleidleiswyr, er bod y cynrychiolwyr wedi eu hethol. Nid oes sicrwydd, os daw sedd wag yn lleol, y bydd rhywun yn sefyll. Mae angen rhoi ystyriaeth fanwl i hynny. Gwelwn yn rhy aml o lawer mewn etholiadau llywodraeth leol nad oes neb yn sefyll mewn rhai seddau.

Nick Ramsay: Diolch ichi am ildio, Joyce. A ydych yn dweud nad yw llywodraeth leol yn ddemocrataidd ac nad yw'n ffordd briodol o ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus?

Joyce Watson: Nac ydw. Yr hwn yr wyf yn ei ddweud yw na allwch ddweud ym mhob un achos—a dyna sail eich dadl chi—os byddwch yn ethol pobl, y byddant o reidrwydd yn cyflawni dymuniadau'r rhai a'u hetholodd. Ymddengys mai dyna yr ydych yn ceisio'i ddweud wrthyf. Weithiau, mae'n rhaid iddynt feddwl am faterion eraill, ac maent yn gwneud hynny, wrth reswm.

Anghytunaf hefyd â'r elfennau cynllunio y soniwyd amdanynt. Mae'n briodol ichi dynnu sylw at y camgymeriadau a wnaed mewn rhai parciau cenedlaethol. Gwnaethpwyd y camgymeriadau hynny ac mae hynny wedi'i gofnodi. Er hynny, nid penderfyniadau cynllunio yn unig yn y parciau cenedlaethol sy'n haeddu sylw, ac ni allaf weld y bydd tynnu sylw at y materion hynny a aeth o le'n

your desire to have a percentage of people stand for election to those parks will make that system any better. I am sure that there are people here who can point to wholly-elected local government bodies that have made erroneous decisions, resulting in the courts having to take over.

Nick Bourne: I am grateful to Joyce for giving way. I am not quite sure where you are taking this argument, because it seems to me that you can say this of any layer of government. Based on what you are saying, we could do away with MPs and Assembly Members. What is absolutely unanswerable, I would have thought, is that if you have elected representatives, they are accountable to the electorate, which is the point that we are making. You will get good and bad ones, but they are all accountable to the electorate.

Joyce Watson: Okay. I do not know how you think it will change the daily function of the parks. You have elected representatives on the parks now; they are made up from the local elected unitary authorities or county councils as a percentage—they make nominations. The other issue that I would be concerned about with elections in a given area is that—and you argue this from the other side—at the moment, you could end up with a political party running the show. I would argue that you are more likely to have that if you go for elected representation on those councils—

Peter Black: Order. Can you wind up please, Joyce?

Joyce Watson: I will wind up. I do not think that you have thought through your motion very well today. I do not think that you have thought through the final resolution of what you are proposing, and I do not think that, at a time when money is tight, to add another election is necessarily a good thing when you, as a party, are proposing cuts all over the place, and particularly in the public sector.

Darren Millar: I welcome the opportunity to speak in this afternoon's debate. It is disappointing that Joyce does not see the value of democracy in helping to improve national parks and the way that they are governed. We have some beautiful national

ddifrifol na'ch awydd i weld canran o bobl yn sefyll mewn etholiadau i'r parciau hynny'n gwella'r system honno. Rwyf yn siŵr fod pobl yma a all nodi cyrff llywodraeth leol cyfan gwbl etholedig a wnaeth benderfyniadau cyfeiliornus, lle bu'n rhaid i'r llysoedd gymryd drosodd.

Nick Bourne: Rwyf yn ddiolchgar i Joyce am ildio. Nid wyf yn siŵr i ble yr ydych yn mynd â'r ddadl hon, oherwydd ymddengys i mi y gallech ddweud hynny am unrhyw haen o lywodraeth. Ar sail yr hyn a ddywedwch, gallem gael gwared ar ASau ac Aelodau Cynulliad. Yr hyn sy'n ddiymwad, yn fy marn i, yw, os oes gennych gynrychiolwyr etholedig, eu bod yn atebol i'r etholwyr, a dyna'r pwynt yr ydym yn ei wneud. Bydd rhai da a rhai gwael, ond byddant yn atebol i'r etholwyr.

Joyce Watson: Iawn. Wn i ddim sut y credwch y bydd yn newid swyddogaeth y parciau o ddydd i ddydd. Mae cynrychiolwyr etholedig ar awdurdodau'r parciau nawr; mae canran ohonynt yn dod o awdurdodau unedol etholedig lleol neu gynghorau sir—maent yn gwneud enwebiadau. Un peth arall a fyddai'n peri gofid imi ynghylch etholiadau mewn ardal benodol—ac rydych yn dadlau hyn o'r ochr arall—yw, ar hyn o bryd, y gallai plaid wleidyddol fod wrth y llyw yn y pen draw. Fy nadl i yw fod hynny'n fwy tebygol o ddigwydd os bydd cynrychiolaeth etholedig ar y cynghorau hyn—

Peter Black: Trefn. A wnewch chi ddirwyn i ben, os gwelwch yn dda, Joyce?

Joyce Watson: Gwnaf. Ni chredaf eich bod wedi rhoi ystyriaeth fanwl iawn i'ch cynnig heddiw. Ni chredaf eich bod wedi rhoi ystyriaeth fanwl i ben draw'r hyn yr ydych yn ei gynnig, ac ni chredaf, ar adeg pan fo arian yn dynn, y byddai ychwanegu etholiad arall o anghenraid yn dda o beth a chithau, fel plaid, yn bwriadu gwneud toriadau ym mhobman, ac yn arbennig felly yn y sector cyhoeddus.

Darren Millar: Croesawaf y cyfle i siarad yn y ddadl y prynhawn yma. Mae'n destun siom nad yw Joyce yn gweld gwerth democratiaeth o ran helpu i wella parciau cenedlaethol a'r ffordd y cânt eu llywodraethu. Mae gennym barciau cenedlaethol hardd iawn yng

parks in Wales; they are wonderful places that we can all enjoy; and they attract many visitors—22 million in the past year—which is why I support the motion. Direct elections would be a first step to improving the accountability of national parks, because there is a democratic deficit. One of the biggest complaints about national parks that Assembly Members receive is with respect to the planning process. Appointed people do not make decisions in a way that is directly accountable to the local electorate in the same way that councillors or people who are directly elected do. It is a disappointment, frankly, Joyce, that you do not see the merit of that as someone who has been elected to this place.

A minimum of 20 per cent of national park authority members are already directly elected in Scotland. Improving the number beyond that to 60 per cent, which is our proposal, would be very welcome indeed. It would ensure that decisions made in respect of the park were brought closer to the wishes and needs of those who live within the park boundaries. I do not want to talk at length about our arguments for this, because Angela Burns has already done so. However, I want to take the opportunity to talk for a little while about the Clwydian range area of outstanding natural beauty, if I may. I note the Minister's smile; she was probably expecting this.

The Clwydian range has been an AONB for 25 years now, and there is currently a consultation taking place on the proposed extension of the AONB, something that I fully support. It has wonderful heather hills, Iron Age stone forts, wonderful limestone cliffs, and it is a magnificent gateway to north-east Wales. It is managed very well as an AONB by Denbighshire and Flintshire local authorities. The range is 35 km north to south, with some of the most stunning countryside and landscapes you could ever wish to set your eyes upon. I happen to think that it ought to be a national park. I do not think that its designation suits its beauty and its special and unique qualities. I really hope that, at some point in future, once the extension to the AONB issue has been settled, whichever way it is settled, there will

Nghymru; maent yn llefydd bendigedig y gallwn oll eu mwynhau; ac yn denu llawer o ymwelwyr—22 miliwn yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf—a dyna pam yr wyf yn cefnogi'r cynnig. Byddai etholiadau uniongyrchol yn gam cyntaf tuag at wella atebolrwydd parciau cenedlaethol, oherwydd mae yna ddiffyg democrataidd. Ymhlith rhai o'r cwynion mwyaf y mae Aelodau Cynulliad yn eu derbyn am barciau cenedlaethol mae cwynion am y broses gynllunio. Nid yw pobl a benodir yn gwenud penderfyniadau mewn ffordd sy'n uniongyrchol atebol i'r etholwyr lleol yn yr un ffordd â chynghorwyr neu bobl a etholir yn uniongyrchol. Mae'n destun siom, a dweud y gwir, Joyce, nad ydych yn gweld gwerth hynny a chithau wedi'ch ethol i'r lle hwn.

Mae o leiaf 20 y cant o aelodau awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol eisoes yn cael eu hethol yn uniongyrchol yn yr Alban. Byddai codi'r nifer y tu hwnt i hynny i 60 y cant, a dyna'n cynnig, yn dda o beth yn wir. Byddai'n sicrhau bod penderfyniadau a wneir o safbwynt y parc yn dod yn agosach at ddymuniadau ac anghenion y rhai sy'n byw o fewn ffiniau'r parc. Nid wyf am siarad yn hirfaith am ein dadleuon o blaid hyn, gan fod Angela Burns eisoes wedi gwneud hynny. Er hynny, carwn fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn i sôn ychydig am ardal o harddwch naturiol eithriadol bryniau Clwyd, os caf i. Sylwaf ar wên y Gweinidog; mae'n siŵr gennyf ei bod yn disgwyl hyn.

Mae bryniau Clwyd yn ardal AHNE ers 25 mlynedd bellach, ac mae ymgynghori'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd ar gynnig i estyn yr AHNE, rhywbeth yr wyf yn ei lwyr gefnogi. Mae yno fryniau grug bendigedig, caerau cerrig o Oes yr Haearn, clogwyni calchfaen gwych, ac mae'n borth ysblennydd i ogledd-ddwyrain Cymru. Caiff ei reoli'n dda iawn fel AHNE gan awdurdodau lleol sir Ddinbych a sir y Fflint. Mae'r bryniau'n estyn am 35 km o'r gogledd i'r de, ac mae yno gefn gwlad a thirluniau gyda'r mwyaf trawiadol y gallech eu gweld yn unman. Rwyf yn digwydd bod o'r farn y dylai fod yn barc cenedlaethol. Ni chredaf fod y dynodiad yn gweddu i'w harddwch a'i nodwedion arbennig ac unigryw. Rwyf yn mawr obeithio, rywbryd yn y dyfodol, unwaith y bydd yr estyniad i'r AHNE wedi'i setlo, sut

be an opportunity to consider the designation issue of the Clwydian range. National park status would not only give the Clwydian range the recognition I believe it deserves; the prestige associated with the designation as a national park would be massively beneficial to the north-east Wales economy, which has been hit very hard, just like other parts of Wales, by the economic downturn.

Designation as a national park would also give a much needed boost to tourism in that particular corner of Wales, which even the Minister for Heritage has acknowledged has perhaps been overlooked too often in the past by Ministers in this place. Of course, although the primary purpose of AONB and national park designations is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of an area, national park status involves some further requirements on the authority looking after the area. It requires the promotion of opportunities, of the understanding of the special qualities of the area by the public and of the enjoyment of those.

4.10 p.m.

That is why I think it is so important that the Clwydian range becomes a national park, rather than just an AONB, because it really would benefit from the additional promotion. I recognise that there are concerns, particularly among landowners, about extensions to AONBs and national park designation, as if it would suddenly become extremely difficult for people to get planning permission in those areas. There would be no difference in terms of the requirements to safeguard the landscape and natural features of that place, including the wildlife; therefore, I do not accept some of the challenges to designating the Clwydian range as a national park that have been relayed to me as an Assembly Member by landowners in the area. I hope that you will be able to refer to the Clwydian range in your response this afternoon, Minister. I fully support and endorse the motion tabled by my colleague, Angela Burns.

Kirsty Williams: For the record, I state that I am a resident of the Brecon Beacons National Park. The Snowdonia, Pembrokeshire and

bynnag y caiff ei setlo, y bydd cyfle i ystyried dynodiad bryniau Clwyd. Byddai statws parc cenedlaethol nid yn unig yn rhoi i fryniau Clwyd y gydnabyddiaeth y credaf sy'n haeddiannol; byddai'r bri a ddeuai yn sgîl ei ddynodi'n barc cenedlaethol o fudd aruthrol i economi gogledd-ddwyrain Cymru, sydd wedi dioddef yn enbyd, fel y mae rhannau eraill o Gymru, oherwydd y dirywiad economaidd.

Byddai dynodi'r ardal yn barc cenedlaethol hefyd yn rhoi hwb sydd ei angen yn ddirfawr i dwristiaeth yn y rhan neilltuol honno o Gymru, y mae hyd yn oed y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth wedi cydnabod ei bod efallai wedi'i diystyru'n rhy aml yn y gorffennol gan Weinidogion yn y lle hwn. Wrth gwrs, er mai prif ddiben dynodiadau AHNE a pharc cenedlaethol yw gwarchod a gwella harddwch naturiol ardal, mae statws parc cenedlaethol yn rhoi rhagor o ddyletswyddau ar yr awdurdod sy'n gofalu am yr ardal. Mae'n rhaid hyrwyddo cyfleoedd a dealltwriaeth y cyhoedd o nodweddion arbennig yr ardal a mwynhad ohonynt.

Dyna pam yr wyf o'r farn ei bod mor bwysig fod bryniau Clwyd yn dod yn barc cenedlaethol, yn hytrach na dim ond yn AHNE, oherwydd byddai'n wirioneddol yn elwa ar yr hyrwyddo ychwanegol. Gwn fod pryderon, yn enwedig ymhlith tîrfeddianwyr, am estyn dynodiadau AHNE a pharc cenedlaethol, gan y byddai'n sydyn yn anodd iawn i bobl gael caniatâd cynllunio yn yr ardaloedd hynny. Ni fyddai gwahaniaeth o ran y gofynion i ddiogelu tirlun a nodweddion naturiol y lle hwnnw, gan gynnwys bywyd gwylt; felly, nid wyf yn derbyn rhai o'r heriau i ddynodi bryniau Clwyd yn barc cenedlaethol a gyflëwyd i mi fel Aelod Cynulliad gan dirfeddianwyr yn yr ardal. Gobeithiaf y bydd modd ichi gyfeirio at fryniau Clwyd yn eich ymateb y prynhawn yma, Weinidog. Cefnogaf a chymeradwyaf yn llwyr y cynnig a gyflwynwyd gan fy nghyd-Aelod, Angela Burns.

Kirsty Williams: Hoffwn gofnodi fy mod yn byw ym Mharc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog. Mae parciau cenedlaethol Eryri,

Brecon Beacons national parks cover over 20 per cent of the land mass of Wales, which is one fifth of our entire country. In England and Scotland, the national parks only comprise some 7 per cent of the land area. The national parks are a big deal for us in Wales and they need to be looked at, from time to time, with regards to the suitability of their functions and how they are constituted.

For those of us who do live in a national park, they are areas of outstanding beauty, fantastic open spaces to explore and to relax in, and a wonderful marketing tool in terms of attracting visitors to the area. However, as noted by Angela Burns, unlike their international cousins, they are not wildernesses. What marks our national parks out as different from international comparators is that they are real, living and breathing communities with all of the needs that those communities have. A park's ability to influence those needs are considerable, from where your local school or hospital can be built to the small minutiae of whether, in Brecon, you are allowed to have a satellite dish on the front of your house. From big decisions to small decisions, the national parks are absolutely crucial. At times, the Brecon Beacons National Park can employ up to 180 people. The national parks are significant bodies in their own right in terms of local employment and job opportunities. They are significant organisations.

Joyce began her contribution by saying that she felt well-qualified to talk about national parks, but I was surprised that she failed to acknowledge what I have found in all the national parks that I have visited—as well as the one that I live in—namely that there is often widespread local concern about the accountability of those particular institutions and how they function. As we all know, the park authorities are currently made up of a combination of appointees by the Minister and by representations of the local authorities that form part of the national park. That is appropriate. Given that 75 per cent of the money that comes for running the park comes from the Minister, and given that it is a national treasure that we have preserved for the nation, it is only right that we have people

Penfro a Bannau Brycheiniog yn cwmpasu dros 20 y cant o dir Cymru, sef un rhan o bump o'r wlad gyfan. Yn Lloegr a'r Alban, dim ond oddeutu 7 y cant o'r tir y mae'r parciau cenedlaethol yn ei gwmpasu. Mae'r parciau cenedlaethol yn bwysig iawn i ni yng Nghymru a rhaid edrych arnynt, o dro i dro, o ran addasrwydd eu swyddogaethau a beth yw eu cyfansoddiad.

I'r rhai ohonom sydd yn byw mewn parc cenedlaethol, maent yn ardaloedd o harddwch eithriadol, manau agored bendigedig i'w harchwilio ac i ymlacio ynddynt, ac arf marchnata gwych o ran denu ymwelwyr i'r ardal. Er hynny, fel y dywedodd Angela Burns, yn wahanol i'w cefndryd rhyngwladol, nid gwylltiroedd mohonynt. Yr hyn sy'n gwneud ein parciau cenedlaethol ni'n wahanol i'w cymheiriaid rhyngwladol yw eu bod yn gymunedau go iawn, sy'n byw ac yn anadlu, a chanddynt yr holl anghenion sydd gan y cymunedau hynny. Mae cryn allu gan barc i ddylanwadu ar yr anghenion hynny, yn amrywio o ble y gellir adeiladu eich ysgol neu'ch ysbyty lleol i fanion megis a roddir caniatâd ichi, yn Aberhonddu, osod dysgl loeren ar flaen eich tŷ. O benderfyniadau mawr i rai bach, mae'r parciau cenedlaethol yn gwbl allweddol. Ar adegau, gall Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog gyflogi hyd at 180 o bobl. Mae'r parciau cenedlaethol yn gyrff arwyddocaol yn eu rhinwedd eu hunain o ran cyflogaeth leol a chyfleoedd gwaith. Maent yn sefydliadau arwyddocaol.

Dechreuodd Joyce ei chyfraniad drwy ddweud ei bod yn gymwys i siarad am barciau cenedlaethol, ond fe'm synnwyd na chydabu rywbeth yr wyf fi wedi sylwi arno ym mhob un o'r parciau cenedlaethol y bwm yn ymweld â hwy—gan gynnwys y parc yr wyf yn byw ynddo—sef fod yna'n aml bryder eang yn lleol am atebolrwydd y sefydliadau hynny a'r ffordd y maent yn gweithio. Fel y gwyddom oll, mae awdurdodau'r parciau ar hyn o bryd yn cynnwys cyfuniad o bobl a benodir gan y Gweinidog a chynrychiolwyr yr awdurdodau lleol sy'n rhan o'r parc cenedlaethol. O ystyried bod 75 y cant o'r arian ar gyfer rhedeg y parc y dod oddi wrth y Gweinidog, ac o ystyried ei fod yn drysor cenedlaethol yr ydym wedi'i gadw i'r genedl, mae'n gwbl

there to look after the national functions of a particular organisation. It is also right that local authorities should also have a part to play. As I have mentioned in short debates over the years, and in previous debates on the national parks, I believe most strongly that there should be an element of direct elections to those park authorities to improve democracy and accountability.

In the park in which I live, it is impossible to explain to local residents who are having their lives determined by this body that a county councillor from Montgomeryshire can come to that national park and make a decision about whether they can have their extension or not and then drive back to Montgomeryshire with no fear about whether he has done the right thing or whether he will face the electoral consequences for his decision making. It can often lead to significant townships within the national park area, such as Crickhowell, having no representation on the park authority. Big decisions about that community are being taken by the national park, but there is no-one on that authority to voice the concerns of local people.

As we have seen, Scotland has had an element of direct elections and the world has not come to an end. Joyce's arguments are somewhat surreal this afternoon: we cannot have direct elections because they are expensive. Democracy does cost, but if that is your argument, Joyce, why are we having National Assembly elections? Can we afford those? Her other argument was that we should not have direct elections because there is a falling electorate in Scotland. The last time that I looked, fewer people vote in National Assembly elections than vote in elections to Westminster. Is the Member advocating that we should also get rid of those bodies because fewer people are engaged in their elections?

Joyce Watson: I have listened to your speech so far with interest. You have said that people's real concerns are not being conveyed by the representatives of their communities within the national parks. How many extra members do you propose to cover every little town and village within the

briodol fod gennym bobl yno i ofalu am swyddogaethau cenedlaethol sefydliad penodol. Mae'n briodol hefyd fod gan awdurdodau lleol ran i'w chwarae. Fel yr wyf wedi'i ddweud mewn dadleuon byr dros y blynyddoedd, ac mewn dadleuon blaenorol am y parciau cenedlaethol, credaf yn gryf iawn y dylai fod elfen o etholiadau uniongyrchol i awdurdodau'r parciau hynny i wella democratiaeth ac atebolrwydd.

Yn y parc lle rwyf fi'n byw, mae'n amhosibl egluro wrth y trigolion lleol, y mae'r corff hwn yn penderfynu ar eu bywydau, y gall cynghorydd sir o sir Drefaldwyn ddod i'r parc cenedlaethol hwnnw a phenderfynu a roddir caniatâd iddynt gael estyniad ai peidio ac yna yrru yn ôl i sir Drefaldwyn gan ofni dim a yw wedi gwneud y peth iawn neu a fydd yn wynebu canlyniadau etholiadol y penderfyniad hwnnw. Gall olygu'n aml nad oes gan dreffannau arwyddocaol o fewn ardal y parc cenedlaethol, megis Crughywel, gynrychiolaeth ar awdurdod y parc. Mae'r parc cenedlaethol yn gwneud penderfyniadau mawr am y gymuned honno, ond does neb ar yr awdurdod hwnnw i leisio pryderon pobl leol.

Fel y gwelsom, mae elfen o etholiadau uniongyrchol wedi bod yn yr Alban, ac nid yw'r byd wedi dod i ben. Mae dadleuon Joyce braidd yn swrreal y prynhawn yma: ni allwn gael etholiadau uniongyrchol am eu bod yn ddrud. Mae cost i ddemocratiaeth, ond os dyna'ch dadl Joyce, pam cynnal etholiadau i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol? A allwn eu fforddio? Ei dadl arall yw na ddylem gael etholiadau uniongyrchol am fod nifer yr etholwyr yn cwmpo yn yr Alban. Y tro diwethaf imi edrych, roedd llai o bobl yn pleidleisio yn etholiadau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol nag yn etholiadau San Steffan. A yw'r Aelod yn awgrymu y dylid cael gwared ar y cyrff hynny hefyd am fod llai o bobl yn cymryd rhan yn yr etholiadau?

Joyce Watson: Bûm yn gwranddo ar eich araith hyd yma â diddordeb. Dywedasoeh nad yw pryderon go iawn pobl yn cael eu cyfleu gan gynrychiolwyr eu cymunedau o fewn y parciau cenedlaethol. Sawl aelod ychwanegol ydych chi'n cynnig y dylid eu cael ar gyfer pob tref fach a phentref yn y parciau

national park so that they are equally represented, whether those towns are Brecon, Llandrindod Wells, Crickhowell or somewhere else? I know that they are not within the national park, but they would all be equally affected by its decisions. How many representatives are you calling for? Are you calling for every single town and village to be represented equally on that board?

Kirsty Williams: I am glad that you corrected yourself, because the good people of Llandrindod Wells do not care about the national park because they are not in it. I do not think that it is unreasonable for those townships to expect some direct representation on a particular body, because there are no rules at present to compel the local authority to send councillors whose wards are wholly or largely made up of an area in the national park to the meetings of that particular authority. Therefore, an obscene situation arises where people who are not responsible for that community can make life-changing decisions about it and return to their own community without a possibility of their being turfed out at the next set of elections. Joyce says that we cannot have elections because people do not vote and that the candidates may not be very good. However, we have people who are good and not very good in other institutions, but at least the people can decide whether they want to keep them there or not. Joyce says that people might not stand. However, how many wards across local government in Wales have unelected councillors?

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Will you wind up, Kirsty?

Kirsty Williams: It is not a reason to get rid of those particular local authorities if people choose not to stand—at least people have the choice and the opportunity to do so. It is obscene that the Labour Government has not acted on the recommendations of the previous report to at least consult people about whether they want this. I believe that people would bite your hand off in the national parks to have direct influence over the decisions that are taken that affect their lives. Shame on you for not giving them the opportunity to at least have their say.

cededlaethol er mwyn sicrhau cynrychiolaeth gyfartal, boed hynny yn Aberhonddu, Llandrindod, Crughywel neu rywle arall? Gwn nad ydynt o fewn y parc cenedlaethol, ond byddai ei benderfyniadau yn effeithio arnynt i gyd yn yr un modd. Sawl cynrychiolydd ydych chi'n galw amdanynt? A ydych yn galw am gynrychiolaeth gyfartal i bob tref a phentref ar y bwrdd hwnnw?

Kirsty Williams: Rwyf yn falch i chi'ch cywiro eich hun, oherwydd nid yw pobl dda Llandrindod yn malio am y parc cenedlaethol am nad ydynt yn ddo. Ni chredaf ei bod yn afresymol i'r treflannau hynny ddisgwyl rhyw fath o gynrychiolaeth uniongyrchol ar gorff penodol, gan nad oes rheolau ar hyn o bryd i orfodi'r awdurdod lleol i anfon cynghorwyr y mae eu wardiau'n gyfan gwbl neu'n rhannol yn ardal y parc cenedlaethol i gyfarfodydd yr awdurdod hwnnw. Felly, cyfyd sefyllfa warthus lle gall pobl nad ydynt yn gyfrifol am y gymuned honno wneud penderfyniadau a all newid bywydau yn y gymuned a dychwelyd i'w cymuned eu hunain heb ofni y cânt eu disodli yn yr etholiadau nesaf. Dywed Joyce na allwn gael etholiadau am nad yw pobl yn pleidleisio ac am na fydd yr ymgeiswyr, o bosibl, yn dda iawn. Serch hynny, mae gennym bobl dda a phobl nad ydynt yn dda iawn mewn sefydliadau eraill, ond o leiaf gall pobl benderfynu a ydynt am eu cadw yno ai peidio. Dywed Joyce efallai na fyddai pobl yn sefyll. Ond sawl ward sydd ar draws llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru lle mae cynghorwyr anetholedig?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Trefn. A wnewch chi ddirwyn i ben, Kirsty?

Kirsty Williams: Nid yw'r ffaith fod pobl yn dewis peidio â sefyll yn rheswm i gael gwared ar yr awdurdodau lleol hynny—o leiaf mae gan bobl ddewis a chyfle i wneud hynny. Mae'n warth nad yw'r Llywodraeth Lafur wedi gweithredu ar argymhellion yr adroddiad blaenorol ac o leiaf ymgynghori â phobl ynghylch a oes eisiau hyn arnynt. Credaf y byddai pobl yn torri eu boliau yn y parciau cenedlaethol i gael dylanwad uniongyrchol dros benderfyniadau sy'n effeithio ar eu bywydau. Cywilydd arnoch am beidio â rhoi cyfle iddynt o leiaf ddweud eu dweud.

Mohammad Asghar: The national parks are hugely important to Welsh life. Combined, they attract more than 22 million people each year—seven times more than the Welsh population—and the parks cover a fifth of the area of Wales. Our national parks are tremendous national assets. Enjoyment of these beautiful areas can bring numerous benefits for the population. Socially and economically, people can attain an increased regard for the importance of the environment through their enjoyment of our national parks, while outdoor recreation can significantly improve an individual's health and wellbeing. They provide unique opportunities for people to connect with their national heritage. It is important that we always welcome and appreciate the vast contribution that national parks make to Welsh life. Given this significant contribution, the introduction of a proportion of directly and democratically elected members to national park authorities has significant advantages.

The election of a proportion of members to national park authorities would remove the democratic deficit of appointed representatives that presently exists, whereby two thirds of members are appointed by the local authority and the other third by the Assembly Government. Our proposals call for 60 per cent of the members of a park's authority to be directly elected. Direct elections would ensure that the decisions made by members would be more closely linked to the wishes of those living within a park area. Consequently, this would bring a real sense of democracy and community involvement into these areas of natural beauty, and increase the accountability of the decisions made.

4.20 p.m.

These elections could take place at the same time as local council elections and, given the importance that so many people attach to our national parks, they could help to stimulate additional interest in turning out to vote at election time. Examples in Scotland demonstrate the potential for high turnout, with 60 per cent of the electorate voting in the first elections for the Cairngorms

Mohammad Asghar: Mae'r parciau cenedlaethol yn hynod bwysig i fywyd Cymru. Gyda'i gilydd, maent yn denu dros 22 miliwn o bobl bob blwyddyn—saith gwaith yn fwy na phoblogaeth Cymru—ac mae'r parciau'n cwmpasu un rhan o bump o arwynebedd Cymru. Mae ein parciau cenedlaethol yn asedau cenedlaethol aruthrol. Gall mwynhau'r ardaloedd hardd hyn ddod ag amryw o fanteision i'r boblogaeth. Yn gymdeithasol ac yn economaidd, gall pobl ddod i barchu pwysigrwydd yr amgylchedd fwyfwy drwy fwynhau ein parciau cenedlaethol, a gall gweithgareddau hamdden yn yr awyr agored wella iechyd a lles pobl. Maent yn cynnig cyfleoedd unigryw i bobl ymgysylltu â'u treftadaeth naturiol. Mae'n bwysig ein bod bob amser yn croesawu ac yn gwerthfawrogi cyfraniad enfawr y parciau cenedlaethol i fywyd Cymru. O ystyried y cyfraniad arwyddocaol hwn, mae manteision arwyddocaol i gyflwyno cyfran o aelodau a etholir yn uniongyrchol ac yn ddemocrataidd i awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol.

Byddai ethol cyfran o aelodau i awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol yn dileu'r diffyg democrataidd o ran cynrychiolwyr a benodir sy'n bodoli ar hyn o bryd, lle penodir dwy ran o dair o'r aelodau gan yr awdurdod lleol a'r traean sy'n weddill gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Mae ein cynigion yn galw am ethol 60 y cant o aelodau awdurdodau'r parciau'n uniongyrchol. Byddai etholiadau uniongyrchol yn sicrhau bod cysylltiad agosach rhwng penderfyniadau'r aelodau a dymuniadau'r rhai sy'n byw o fewn ardal y parc. O ganlyniad, byddai ymdeimlad gwirioneddol o ddemocratiaeth ac ymgysylltiad cymunedol yn yr ardaloedd hyn o harddwch naturiol, a byddai mwy o atebolrwydd o ran y penderfyniadau a wneir.

Gellid cynnal yr etholiadau hyn ar yr un pryd ag etholiadau'r cynghorau lleol ac, o ystyried pwysigrwydd y parciau cenedlaethol i gymaint o bobl, gallent helpu i ennyn mwy o ddiddordeb mewn bwrw pleidlais adeg yr etholiadau. Mae enghreifftiau yn yr Alban yn dangos y gellir cael niferoedd uchel yn pleidleisio; pleidleisiodd 60 y cant o'r etholwyr yn etholiadau cyntaf Awdurdod

National Park Authority. Combining the vote with local council elections would also help to reduce costs.

Elected members of a park authority would, of course, be accountable to the electorate. Democratic accountability leads to pressure and expectations regarding performance, suggesting that an authority's performance could be enhanced. Electing 60 per cent of members would result in an increased visibility of the authority's activities and, crucially, would increase local engagement, interest and awareness of the work that is being carried out.

As our motion suggests, there is also scope for the Assembly Government to review the responsibilities held by the national park authorities, notably on the social and economic development of their areas. Concerns have been raised, for example, in the 2004 review of the national park authorities in Wales, that economic development is not being effectively pursued for the people of the parks. The review found that the present multi-agency delivery of economic and community development was fragmented. I understand that Scottish national parks aim to promote the sustainable economic and social development of their areas' communities. Welsh national park authorities would be ideally placed to pursue such aims.

To conclude my remarks, I wish to re-emphasise the importance of our national parks. In conserving natural beauty and promoting cultural heritage, they make an invaluable contribution to Welsh life and the economy. The responsibility for improving and advancing our national parks should lie, in a significant proportion, with individuals selected and trusted by those who live within the park area. Sadly, the Assembly Government persists with an undemocratic and unrepresentative system, rather than choosing to empower the people who live within national park authority areas to ensure that their voices are properly heard and recognised.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yn gyntaf, yr wyf yn

Parc Cenedlaethol y Cairngorms. Byddai cyfuno'r bleidlais ag etholiadau cynghorau lleol hefyd yn lleihau'r costau.

Byddai aelodau etholedig awdurdodau'r parciau, wrth gwrs, yn atebol i'r etholwyr. Mae atebolrwydd democrataidd yn esgor ar bwysau a disgwyliadau o ran perfformiad, sy'n awgrymu y gellid gwella perfformiad awdurdod. Drwy ethol 60 y cant o'r aelodau byddai gweithgareddau'r awdurdod yn fwy gweladwy ac, yn allweddol, yn ennyn mwy o ymgysylltu, diddordeb ac ymwybyddiaeth yn lleol o'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud.

Fel yr awgryma ein cynnig, mae lle hefyd i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad adolygu cyfrifoldebau awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol, ac yn arbennig o ran datblygu cymdeithasol ac economaidd yn eu hardaloedd. Lleisiwyd pryderon, er enghraifft, yn yr adolygiad yn 2004 o awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol yng Nghymru, nad yw datblygu economaidd yn cael ei roi ar waith yn effeithiol dros bobl y parciau. Canfu'r adolygiad mai tameidiog oedd y ddarpariaeth amlasiantaeth gyfredol o ran datblygu economaidd a chymunedol. Rwyf ar ddeall mai un o amcanion parciau cenedlaethol yr Alban yw hyrwyddo datblygu economaidd a chymdeithasol cynaliadwy yng nghymunedau eu hardaloedd. Byddai awdurdodau parciau cenedlaethol Cymru mewn sefyllfa ddelfrydol i gyflawni amcanion o'r fath.

I gloi, carwn bwysleisio eto bwysigrwydd ein parciau cenedlaethol. Drwy warchod harddwch naturiol a hyrwyddo treftadaeth ddiwylliannol, maent yn gwneud cyfraniad amhrisiadwy i fywyd Cymru ac i'r economi. Unigolion a ddewisir ac yr ymddiriedir ynddynt gan y rhai sy'n byw yn ardal y parc ddylai fod yn gyfrifol, i raddau arwyddocaol, am wella a datblygu ein parciau cenedlaethol. Yn anffodus, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn mynnu glynu at system annemocrataidd ac anghynrychioliadol, yn hytrach na dewis grymuso'r bobl sy'n byw yn ardaloedd awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol er mwyn sicrhau bod eu lleisiau'n cael eu clywed a'u cydnabod yn iawn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: First, I thank the

diolch i'r Blaid Geidwadol am godi'r mater pwysig hwn. Mae'n fater sydd o ddiddordeb i nifer helaeth o bobl. Yr ydym wedi cyfeirio yn y ddatl hon at y tirlun, y ffaith bod y parciau cenedlaethol yn ymestyn dros ran helaeth o dirlun Cymru a bod canran sylweddol o'r boblogaeth yn byw o'u mewn. Mae'r parciau wedi cyflawni cryn dipyn yn ystod eu hanes ac maent wedi cyflawni'r pwrpas statudol a osodwyd arnynt, sef cyfrifoldeb o ran cadwraeth o'u mewn a chyfrifoldeb dros hyrwyddo'r parciau ac arbenigedd yn yr amgylchedd a'r tirlun.

Fodd bynnag, pan oeddwn yn gwrandao ar Angela Burns yn agor y drafodaeth hon, yr oeddwn yn meddwl ei bod yn disgrifio rhyw wlad baradwysaidd a oedd yn bodoli yn rhywle. Nid wyf yn ymwybodol o'r baradwys honno. Er cymaint fy edmygedd o'r hyn y mae'r parciau wedi ei gyflawni a'r hyn a gynrychiolant, nid wyf yn credu ei fod yn cyfateb â'r darlun paradwysaidd hwnnw. Y realiti yw bywydau'r bobl sydd yn byw o fewn y parciau. Mae'n rhaid i ni sicrhau bod y parciau yn caniatáu i'r bobl hynny fyw eu bywydau'n llawn. Mae'n rhaid i ni dderbyn bod rhwystrau ymarferol ar hyn o bryd yn wynebu'r bobl sy'n byw o fewn y parciau. A bod yn deg ag Angela, cyfeiriodd at rwystrau o ran cynllunio ar ddiwedd ei chyfraniad. Mae rhwystrau hefyd o ran datblygu swyddi o fewn y parciau. Felly, rywsut, mae'n rhaid i ni geisio sicrhau bod cydbwysedd gyda'r pwyslais statudol sydd wedi bod ar y parciau o'r cychwyn, i sicrhau ein bod yn creu cymunedau cynaliadwy lle mae modd i bobl fyw'n gynaliadwy. Y broblem fwyaf sydd gennyf gyda'r cynnig fel y mae wedi ei eirio gan y Blaid Geidwadol yw ei fod yn awgrymu bod ateb syml iawn i sefyllfa'r parciau cenedlaethol yng Nghymru. Mae'n awgrymu mai'r cyfan sydd angen inni ei wneud yw sicrhau bod pobl yn cael eu hethol yn uniongyrchol ac yn ddemocrataidd i fyrddau'r parciau cenedlaethol ac yn sydyn bydd yr holl broblemau sy'n bodoli yn diflannu dros nos.

Angela Burns: Thank you for taking an intervention. Our motion is clear; we congratulate the parks on what they do now and we have said that we believe in direct

Conservative Party for raising this important matter. It is a matter that is of interest to a substantial number of people. We have referred in this debate to the landscape, the fact that the national parks extend over a large proportion of the Welsh landscape and that a substantial percentage of the population lives within them. The parks have accomplished a great deal in their time and they have fulfilled the statutory duty that was imposed upon them, which was responsibility for conservation within the parks and for the promotion of the parks and expertise regarding the environment and the landscapes.

However, when I was listening to Angela Burns opening this discussion, I thought that she was describing some paradise that existed somewhere. I am not aware of that paradise. Despite my admiration of what the parks have achieved and what they represent, I do not believe that it matches the Elysian image that was conjured. The reality is the life led by the people who live within the parks. We have to ensure that the parks allow those people to live their lives to the full. We have to accept that there are practical obstacles at present facing the people who reside within the parks. To be fair to Angela, she referred to planning obstacles towards the end of her contribution. There are also obstacles in terms of job development within the parks. Therefore, we must somehow try to ensure that there is a balance with the statutory emphasis that has been on the parks from the very beginning, to ensure that we create sustainable communities where it is possible for people to live in a sustainable manner. The greatest problem that I have with the motion as worded by the Conservative Party is that it suggests that there is a very simple solution to the situation of the national parks in Wales. It suggests that all that we need to do is ensure that people are elected directly and democratically to the boards of the national parks and then, all of a sudden, all the problems will disappear overnight.

Angela Burns: Diolch ichi am ganiatáu imi ymyrryd. Mae ein cynnig yn glir iawn; llongyfarchwn y parciau ar yr hyn y maent yn ei wneud nawr ac rydym wedi dweud ein bod

elections. The third point, which is key, is about having a review of national parks to consider a third purpose to do exactly what you want, which is to build on the social and economic wellbeing of the parks. You are right: the Elysian element that you have talked about was there in my description of the beauty of the parks; however, living in the parks is damn tough, there is no doubt about it, and, having lived in a park for so many years, I can confirm that. That is why we need a review and that is all that we are asking for. Given what you have said, I fail to see why you would not want to support that aim.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Gadewch inni droi at y sefyllfa gynllunio. Mae pobl yn y parc yn canfod eu hunain yn gorfod ymateb i awdurdodau cynllunio ar dair lefel: mae gan y parc ei hun gyfrifoldebau o ran cynllunio, mae gan y llywodraeth leol gyfrifoldebau, ac mae gan Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru gyfrifoldeb am gynllunio. Yr hyn sydd angen inni ei wneud yw edrych ar y sefyllfa'n gynhwysfawr, a dyna sydd ar goll o gynnig y Ceidwadwyr.

Gadewch inni edrych ar rai o'r heriau sy'n mynd i wynebu'r parciau cenedlaethol yn y dyfodol agos. Mae her amlwg yn wynebu'r parciau cenedlaethol o ran newid yn yr hinsawdd, a bydd angen i'r parciau allu ymateb i'r newid hwnnw. Byddwn yn dadlau mai'r ffordd orau o ymateb fyddai sicrhau bod y parciau mewn cysylltiad uniongyrchol â'r hyn sy'n digwydd ar lefel genedlaethol o ran polisi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Rhaid inni ddatblygu'r cysylltiad hwnnw i fod lawer yn agosach, oherwydd y mae cyfleodd mawr o ran ynni adnewyddadwy yn y parciau cenedlaethol. Yn ddiweddar, yr oeddwn ym Mharc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog. Mae cynlluniau ynni hydro diddorol iawn yno o ran datblygu ynni adnewyddadwy ar lefel leol iawn, ac mae'r cynlluniau hynny'n cynnig ffordd ymlaen mewn ardaloedd gwledig fel y rhai sydd yn y parc.

Angela Burns *rose*—

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: I am afraid that there is no time to intervene

yn credu mewn etholiadau uniongyrchol. Mae'r trydydd pwynt, sy'n allweddol, yn ymwneud â chynnal adolygiad o'r parciau cenedlaethol er mwyn ystyried trydydd diben a fydd yn gwneud yn union yr hyn yr ydych am ei weld, sef adeiladu ar les cymdeithasol ac economaidd y parciau. Rydych yn llygad eich lle: roedd yr elfen baradwysaidd yn rhan o'm disgrifiad o harddwch y parciau; er hynny, mae'n anodd iawn byw yn y parciau, does dim dwywaith am hynny, ac wedi byw mewn parc ers cyhyd, gallaf gadarnhau hynny. Dyna pam y mae angen adolygiad a dyna'r cwbl y gofynnwn amdano. O wrando ar yr hyn a ddywedaso, ni allaf ddeall pam na fydddech am gefnogi'r nod hwnnw.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Let us turn to the planning situation. People in the park find themselves at present having to respond to planning authorities on three levels: the park itself has responsibilities in relation to planning, local government has certain responsibilities, as does the National Assembly for Wales. What we need to do is look at the situation holistically, and that is what is missing from the Conservatives' motion.

Let us consider some of the challenges that the national parks will face in the near future. Climate change is an obvious challenge that is facing the national parks, and the parks will need to be able to respond to that change. I would argue that the best way to respond would be to ensure that the parks are in direct contact with what is happening on a national level as regards Welsh Assembly Government policy. We have to develop much closer links because there are huge opportunities in the national parks as regards renewable energy. Recently, I visited the Brecon Beacons National Park. There are extremely interesting hydro energy schemes in that area for the development of renewable energy on a very local level, and those schemes offer a way forward for rural areas like those found in the parks.

Angela Burns *yn codi*—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Mae arnaf ofn nad oes amser i ymyrryd eto, Angela, gan

again, Angela, as Rhodri Glyn has run out of time.

Nick Ramsay: As my colleague Angela Burns pointed out in her opening remarks, our national parks are beacons of natural beauty and conservation. They host millions of visitors and offer an almost unlimited range of outdoor activities. Earlier, my colleague, Darren Millar, could not help but speak of his affection for the Clwydian range, and it is hoped that, one day, it will be established as a national park. I was reminded of William Wordsworth's description of the lake district in 1810, long before the national parks were designated. I did look for a Harold Macmillan quote for Rhodri Morgan, but William Wordsworth was the best that I could do on parks. [*Laughter.*] William Wordsworth described the lake district as the,

'sort of national property in which every man has a right and interest who has an eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy'.

That might have been said 200 years ago, but it is equally relevant today to the way in which all of us feel about the environment and the importance of the national parks in Wales.

On the issue of the governance of national park authorities, we believe that there is scope to improve the way that national parks are led. That is my party's belief, but from what I have heard today, Members of Plaid Cymru and Labour do not share the view that democracy is always good. We believe that the only way to reform large organisations like national park authorities is from the bottom up—the failure of static land-management schemes in Europe, Latin America and other countries proves this. However, despite repeated calls from my party, the Welsh Conservatives—and from the Labour Party, as was said earlier, given Carwyn Jones's former guise as the Minister responsible for environment and planning—it seems that these calls are not being taken on board, and the democratic element that could be present in national park authorities is simply not there.

fod amser Rhodri Glyn wedi dod i ben.

Nick Ramsay: Fel y dywedodd fy nghyd-Aelod Angela Burns yn ei sylwadau agoriadol, mae ein parciau cenedlaethol yn begynau o harddwch naturiol a chadwraeth. Mae miliynau o ymwelwyr yn heidio yno ac maent yn cynnig hynny a fynnwch bron o weithgareddau awyr agored. Yn gynharach, ni allai fy nghyd-Aelod, Darren Millar, ymatal rhag sôn am ei hoffter o fryniau Clwyd, a'r gobaith yw y bydd yr ardal honno, rhyw ddydd, yn barc cenedlaethol. Fe'm hatgoffwyd o ddisgrifiad William Wordsworth o ardal y llynnoedd yn 1810, ymhell cyn dynodi'r parciau cenedlaethol. Chwiliais am ddyfyniad gan Harold Macmillan i Rhodri Morgan, ond William Wordsworth oedd y gorau y gallwn ddod o hyd iddo ar barciau. [*Chwerthin.*] Disgrifiodd William Wordsworth ardal y llynnoedd fel

'math o eiddo cenedlaethol y mae gan bob dyn a chanddo lygad i weld a chalon i fwynhau hawl a diddordeb ynddo'.

Efallai iddo ddweud hynny 200 mlynedd yn ôl, ond mae'r un mor berthnasol heddiw i'r ffordd y mae pob un ohonom yn teimlo am yr amgylchedd a phwysigrwydd y parciau cenedlaethol yng Nghymru.

O ran llywodraethu awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol, credwn fod lle i wella'r ffordd yr arweinir y parciau cenedlaethol. Dyna farn fy mhlaid i, ond yr hyn yr wyf wedi'i glywed heddiw, nid yw Aelodau Plaid Cymru a Llafur yn rhannu'r farn fod democratiaeth bob amser yn dda. Credwn mai o'r gwaelod i fyny yn unig y gellir diwygio sefydliadau mawr fel awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol—mae methiant cynlluniau rheoli tir statig yn Ewrop, America Ladin a gwledydd eraill yn profi hynny. Er hynny, er gwaethaf galwadau cyson gan fy mhlaid i, y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig—a gan y Blaid Lafur, fel y dywedwyd yn gynharach, o gofio swydd flaenorol Carwyn Jones ac yntau'n Weinidog â chyfrifoldeb am yr amgylchedd a chynllunio—ymddengys nad yw'r galwadau hyn yn cael eu derbyn, ac nid yw'r elfen ddemocrataidd a allai fod yn bresennol yn awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol yno.

4.30 p.m.

As others have pointed out, two thirds of national park membership is nominated by the local authority, and one third is appointed by the Assembly Government. *[Interruption.]* I will come back to you in a moment, Alun.

However, as Kirsty Williams said, there is no compulsion in Wales to ensure that local authorities appoint members whose wards are within the national park, which has led to real concern over whether the people who live in the park are being truly represented.

I will give way to Alun Davies.

Alun Davies: I agree with large chunks of what you have been saying. Certainly, I agree that there needs to be a review of the responsibilities of national parks. Would you agree that we need to go a bit further than simply looking at their responsibilities, and look at the existing structures? They were created in a postwar environment, and when we look at streamlining our planning structure, the role of national parks may well be different in future.

Nick Ramsay: I am clearly spending too much time with the 'yes' campaigners, because I agree with what you have just said, Alun. In fact, given what Rhodri Glyn Thomas said earlier, we are not arguing that simply having representatives elected to national parks is the answer. Yes, Alun, streamlining national parks and looking at their structure is something that needs to be done. As you say, they were set up in the postwar years, and I think that it was the Peak district that was the first area of the UK to be designated a national park, back in the early 1950s. I am getting closer to Harold Macmillan, but I am not there yet. However, that system, which is now over 50 years old, needs to be looked at again.

We do not think that it is necessarily for Government here to take a top-down, prescriptive approach. What better way to democratise than to elect representatives to a

Fel y dywedodd eraill, mae dwy ran o dair o aelodau'r parciau cenedlaethol yn cael eu henwebu gan awdurdod lleol, a thraean yn cael eu penodi gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. *[Torri ar draws.]* Dof yn ôl atoch mewn munud, Alun.

Ond fel y dywedodd Kirsty Williams, nid oes rheidrwydd yng Nghymru i sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn penodi aelodau y mae eu wardiau o fewn y parc cenedlaethol, ac mae hynny wedi peri gofid gwirioneddol ynghylch a yw'r bobl sy'n byw yn y parc yn cael eu cynrychioli mewn gwirionedd.

Ildiaf i Alun Davies.

Alun Davies: Cytunaf â rhannau helaeth o'r hyn a ddywedasoch. Yn sicr, cytunaf fod angen cynnal adolygiad o gyfrifoldebau'r parciau cenedlaethol. A gytunwch fod angen inni fynd fymryn ymhellach na dim ond edrych ar eu cyfrifoldebau, ac edrych ar y strwythurau presennol? Fe'u crëwyd yn y cyfnod ar ôl y rhyfel, ac wrth inni ystyried symleiddio ein strwythur cynllunio, efallai'n wir y bydd rôl y parciau cenedlaethol yn wahanol yn y dyfodol.

Nick Ramsay: Rwyf yn amlwg yn treulio gormod o amser â'r ymgyrchwyr 'ie', oherwydd cytunaf â'r hyn yr ydych newydd ei ddweud, Alun. Yn wir, o gofio'r hyn a ddywedodd Rhodri Glyn Thomas yn gynharach, nid ydym yn dadlau y byddai ethol cynrychiolwyr i'r parciau cenedlaethol ar ei ben ei hun yn ateb. Oes, Alun, mae angen symleiddio'r parciau cenedlaethol ac edrych ar eu strwythur. Fel y dywedwch, fe'u crëwyd yn y blynyddoedd wedi'r rhyfel, a chredaf mai'r Peak District oedd yr ardal gyntaf yn y DU i'w dynodi'n barc cenedlaethol, yn ôl yn nechrau'r 1950au. Rwyf yn dod yn agosach at Harold Macmillan, ond nid wyf wedi cyrraedd yno eto. Serch hynny, mae angen edrych eto ar y system honno, sydd bellach dros 50 mlwydd oed.

Nid ydym o'r farn mai lle'r Llywodraeth yma o reidrwydd yw mynd ati o'r brig i lawr mewn ffordd haearnidd. Pa ffordd well o ddemocrateiddio nag ethol cynrychiolwyr i

body like a park? We were talking earlier about the role of the National Assembly, and we are involved in the 'yes' campaign in the upcoming referendum. No-one here argues that elected representatives are a bad thing. How can it be that democratising an organisation like a park should make people so afraid? We are not even talking about a fully elected institution; we are talking about the importance of having a proportion of the membership elected.

I know that time is short, Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer, so I will wind up. It has been argued that no-one will want to stand for election to these authorities. They will not be proper local authorities, and they will not have a wide remit, so why would people stand? That argument has been made but, by and large, if people are interested in something like a national park, nature conservation, or their local environment, then they will stand. We are making the point that they are the best people to be the guiding force in reforming national parks, and to represent the wishes of local people in debates, and when planning decisions are being taken.

The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing (Jane Davidson): There is certainly a consensus on one thing in the Chamber: the importance of these spectacular landscapes to the wider wellbeing of Wales. We are privileged in Wales to have three varied national parks, and as a number of Members have pointed out, some 20 per cent of our land area is made up of them. If you add the areas of outstanding natural beauty, it amounts to nearly 25 per cent of our land.

This Government has a strong record in supporting the national parks. We put some £177 million into their functions, and we have fought to save them from the cuts that we have been forced to make. We are cutting by some 2.7 per cent over the next three years, whereas your colleagues in England are cutting national parks by 21.5 per cent over the next four years. We therefore have a strong record in supporting the national parks in Wales.

gorff fel parc? Buom yn siarad yn gynharach am rôl y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, ac rydym yn rhan o'r ymgyrch 'ie' yn y refferendwm a gynhelir cyn hir. Does neb yma'n dadlau bod cynrychiolwyr etholedig yn ddrwg o beth. Pam mae democrateiddio sefydliad fel parc yn codi ofn ar bobl? Nid ydym hyd yn oed yn sôn am sefydliad cyfan gwbl etholedig; rydym yn sôn am bwysigrwydd sicrhau bod cyfran o'r aelodaeth yn etholedig.

Gwn fod amser yn brin, Ddirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro, felly dyma ddirwyn i ben. Dadleuwyd na fydd neb am sefyll i'w ethol i'r awdurdodau hyn. Ni fyddant yn awdurdodau lleol go iawn, ac ni fydd eu cylch gorchwyl yn eang, felly pam y byddai pobl yn sefyll? Cyflwynwyd y ddadl honno ond, ar y cyfan, os oes gan bobl ddiddordeb mewn rhywbeth fel parc cenedlaethol, cadwraeth natur, neu'r amgylchedd lleol, byddant yn sefyll. Ein dadl ni yw mai dyma'r bobl orau i lywio'r gwaith o ddiwygio'r parciau cenedlaethol, a chynrychioli dymuniadau pobl leol mewn dadleuon, a phan wneir penderfyniadau cynllunio.

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai (Jane Davidson): Yn sicr mae consensws ynglŷn ag un peth yn y Siambr: pwysigrwydd y tirluniau ysblennydd hyn i les ehangach Cymru. Rydym yn freintiedig yng Nghymru fod gennym dri pharc amrywiol, ac fel y dywedodd sawl Aelod, maent yn cwmpasu oddeutu 20 y cant o arwynebedd y tir. Os ychwanegwch yr ardaloedd o harddwch naturiol eithriadol, mae hynny bron yn 25 y cant o'n tir.

Mae gan y Llywodraeth hon record gref o gefnogi'r parciau cenedlaethol. Rhoddasom oddeutu £177 miliwn i mewn i'w swyddogaethau, ac rydym wedi ymladd i'w harbed rhag y toriadau y'n gorfodwyd i'w gwneud. Byddwn yn torri tua 2.7 y cant dros y tair blynedd nesaf, ond bydd eich cydweithwyr yn Lloegr yn gwneud toriadau o 21.5 y cant i'r parciau cenedlaethol dros y pedair blynedd nesaf. Mae gennym felly record gref o gefnogi'r parciau cenedlaethol yng Nghymru.

Rhodri Morgan: As the Minister responsible for recycling as well as national parks, perhaps you will consider whether the real implication behind the Conservative motion is that there will be lots of spare MPs if there is a cut back from 40 to 30 in Wales, so we could recycle them and put them on the boards of national parks. [*Laughter.*]

Jane Davidson: I was initially surprised at the timing of this debate, but I am now absolutely clear and delighted with Angela's honesty that it was just a clear manifesto bid from the Conservatives. We strongly believe in national parks as living, breathing communities, and I have not received any representation on the issue of direct elections since April 2008, when we last had a debate on the national parks. That was from my colleague Kirsty Williams, who, to be fair, ever since I have been Minister, has been making these specific arguments. However, we have not had the same appetite from the communities in the parks.

Many people have mentioned that the Assembly Government carried out a consultation in 2006. The majority of respondents who commented on the proposal of direct election were opposed to it, for a number of reasons, and it was therefore rejected at that time. You suggested, Angela—and I am sure that you would not have wanted to make this suggestion—that Welsh Assembly Government appointments to the parks are political, which is absolutely not the case. No political persuasion issues are considered in the context of places on park boards. [*Interruption.*] If you look again at your notes, Angela, you will see that you specifically suggested the appointment to park boards of people of a similar political party as Government. That is not the case; members are appointed for their skills.

Nick Bourne: Absolutely, and if you look at the Record, you will see that that was not said. It was said that people of political beliefs were appointed, which is certainly the case. I accept what the Minister is saying about it being across the board, but if you look at the Record—and I was listening

Rhodri Morgan: A chithau'n Weinidog â chyfrifoldeb dros ailgylchu yn ogystal â pharciau cenedlaethol, efallai y gallech ystyried ai goblygiad gwirioneddol cynnig y Ceidwadwyr yw y bydd llawer o ASau dros ben os gostyngir y nifer o 40 i 30 yng Nghymru, ac y gallem eu hailgylchu a'u rhoi ar fyrddau'r parciau cenedlaethol. [*Chwerthin.*]

Jane Davidson: Fe'm synnwyd ar y cychwyn gan amseriad y ddadl hon, ond rwyf bellach yn deall yn iawn ac wrth fy modd â gonestrwydd Angela mai ymwneud yn amlwg â maniffesto'r Ceidwadwyr y mae hyn. Credwn yn gryf yn y parciau cenedlaethol fel cymunedau byw, ac ni chyflwynwyd sylwadau imi ar etholiadau uniongyrchol ers mis Ebrill 2008, pan gawsom ddadl am y parciau cenedlaethol ddiwethaf. Fy nhyd-Aelod, Kirsty Williams, gyflwynodd y sylwadau hynny, ac mae hi, a bod yn deg, yn cyflwyno'r dadleuon penodol hyn ers imi fod yn Weinidog. Er hynny, ni ddangosodd cymunedau'r parciau'r un awch.

Mae llawer o bobl wedi sôn bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi cynnal ymgynghoriad yn 2006. Roedd y rhan fwyaf o'r trigolion a wnaeth sylwadau am y cynnig i gynnal etholiadau uniongyrchol yn gwrthwynebu hynny, am sawl rheswm, ac felly fe'i gwrthodwyd bryd hynny. Eich awgrym, Angela—ac rwyf yn sicr na fydddech wedi dymuno awgrymu hynny—oedd fod penodiadau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i'r parciau'n rhai gwleidyddol, ac nid yw hynny'n wir ar unrhyw gyfrif. Nid ystyrir materion yn ymwneud â thueddiadau gwleidyddol yng nghyd-destun lleoedd ar fyrddau'r parciau. [*Torri ar draws.*] Os edrychwch eto ar eich nodiadau, Angela, fe welwch ichi awgrymu'n benodol y penodir pobl o blaid wleidyddol debyg i'r Llywodraeth i fyrddau'r parciau. Nid yw hynny'n digwydd; penodir aelodau oherwydd eu sgiliau.

Nick Bourne: Wrth gwrs, ac os edrychwch ar y Cofnod, fe welwch na ddywedwyd hynny. Dywedwyd y penodir pobl a chanddynt ddaliadau gwleidyddol, ac mae hynny'n sicr yn wir. Derbyniaf yr hyn y mae'r Gweinidog yn ei ddweud ynghylch y ffaith fod hyn yn digwydd drwyddi draw, ond

carefully to Angela's contribution—you will see that that was the point being made.

Jane Davidson: I am grateful for that contribution, but we will need to look carefully at the Record, because if there is any notion from the Presiding Office of an allegation that the Assembly Government appoints according to political persuasion, I have to nail it now. I am sure that you understand that I must do that. The Minister is only involved in agreeing the recommendations from a panel on appointments and is not involved in any way in determining those who go up for appointment.

It is also important to say, in the context of national park elections in Scotland—and we operate strongly on an evidence base as to whether we should make major changes in the system—that there has been a reduction in interest with regard to the elections that Joyce outlined. If any party wants to propose that, you would need to justify the additional cost and also be looking at the evidence base across the United Kingdom as to whether or not this is an appropriate move.

Kirsty Williams: You made reference to the previous report, which you said demonstrated no desire for direct elections. That report recommended—and I have it in front of me—that the Welsh Assembly Government should at least consult on the proposals for direct elections. However, you have decided that you do not want to do it. Why would you deny the opportunity to consult properly on those proposals, as was recommended by the report that you commissioned?

Jane Davidson: The idea was rejected in 2008 because there was insufficient interest from the people who lived in national parks and the majority of respondents were opposed, for a number of reasons, such as cost, increased bureaucracy, the potentially detrimental effect of a third category of member, and the fact that two-thirds of members were already elected county councillors. It is worth pointing out that the National Environment and Rural

os edrychwch ar y Cofnod—ac roeddwn yn gwrando'n astud ar gyfraniad Angela—fe welwch mai dyna'r pwynt a wnaed.

Jane Davidson: Diolch ichi am y cyfraniad hwnnw, ond bydd yn rhaid inni edrych yn ofalus ar y Cofnod, oherwydd os bydd unrhyw awgrym gan Swyddfa'r Llywydd o honiad bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn penodi yn ôl tuedd wleidyddol, rhaid imi ymdrin â hynny nawr. Rwyf yn siŵr eich bod yn deall bod yn rhaid imi wneud hynny. Y cwbl y mae'r Gweinidog yn ei wneud yw cytuno ag argymhellion panel ar benodiadau ac nid yw'n cymryd rhan o gwbl o safbwynt pennu pwy y dylid ei gynnig i'w benodi.

Mae'n bwysig dweud hefyd, o ran etholiadau'r parciau cenedlaethol yn yr Alban—ac rydym yn gweithredu'n gryf ar sail tystiolaeth wrth benderfynu a ddylid gwneud newidiadau mawr i'r system—y bu llai o ddiddordeb yn yr etholiadau y soniodd Joyce amdanynt. Os bydd unrhyw blaid am gynnig hynny, byddai angen cyfiawnhau'r costau ychwanegol ac edrych hefyd ar y dystiolaeth ledled y Deyrnas Unedig i weld a yw hwn yn gam priodol ai peidio.

Kirsty Williams: Cyfeiriasoch at yr adroddiad blaenorol, a dweud nad oedd yn dangos unrhyw awydd i gael etholiadau uniongyrchol. Argymhellodd yr adroddiad hwnnw—ac mae'r adroddiad gennyf o'm blaen—y dylai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru o leiaf ymgynghori ar y cynigion i gynnal etholiadau uniongyrchol. Ond rydych wedi penderfynu nad ydych am wneud hynny. Pam y byddech yn gwrthod y cyfle i ymgynghori'n iawn ar y cynigion hynny, fel yr argymhellwyd yn yr adroddiad a gomisiynwyd gennych?

Jane Davidson: Gwrthodwyd y syniad yn 2008 am nad oedd digon o ddiddordeb gan y bobl a oedd yn byw yn y parciau cenedlaethol ac roedd y rhan fwyaf o'r ymatebwyr yn gwrthwynebu, am sawl rheswm, megis y gost, mwy o fiwrocratiaeth, effaith andwyol bosibl cael trydydd categori o aelodau, a'r ffaith fod dwy ran o dair o aelodau eisoes yn gynghorwyr sir etholedig. Mae'n werth nodi bod Deddf Amgylchedd Naturiol a Chymunedau Gwledig 2006 yn cryfhau

Communities Act 2006 strengthened the parks' duty to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities, and took away the funding constraints placed on park authorities in carrying out that duty.

We strongly rely on the parks with regard to our sustainable development agenda, which is economic, social and environmental. National park authorities were among the first to sign up to the sustainable development charter and are also key to the promotion and dissemination of good practice at community level, under the sustainable development fund, which I have managed to maintain despite the cuts. We have seen some extraordinary performances in climate change terms. Snowdonia National Park Authority has reduced its emissions by 23 per cent, from a 2005-06 baseline.

4.40 p.m.

As Rhodri Glyn Thomas said, national parks are also taking important steps to encourage and develop renewable energy projects. The involvement of the Brecon Beacons National Park in the Green Valleys initiative is a great illustration of this, and I hope that all Members would support the notion that the Energy Bill, which is being considered by Parliament, could provide the opportunity to explicitly allow national parks to sell renewable energy in the same way as local authorities are now allowed to do so, rather than leaving national parks in the difficult position in which they now are, where they can do it, but they do not have explicit permission. Legislation is silent on that issue.

We know that national park authorities continue to make improvements to their planning services. They have all made good progress on their local development plans. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority was the first planning authority in Wales to adopt its local development plan, and they are well advanced in Snowdonia and Brecon Beacons. We are not talking about three tiers of planning. The national park authority is the planning authority for the area that is covered by the national parks.

dyletswydd y parc i feithrin lles economaidd a chymdeithasol cymunedau lleol, ac yn cael gwared ar y cyfyngiadau ariannu sydd ar awdurdodau'r parciau o ran cyflawni'r ddyletswydd honno.

Dibynnwn yn fawr ar y parciau o ran ein hagenda datblygu cynaliadwy, sy'n economaidd, yn gymdeithasol ac yn amgylcheddol. Roedd awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol ymhlith y rhai cyntaf i gytuno â'n siarter datblygu cynaliadwy ac maent hefyd yn allweddol o ran hyrwyddo a lledaenu arfer da ar lefel gymunedol, o dan y gronfa datblygu cynaliadwy ac rwyf wedi llwyddo i gynnal hynny er gwaetha'r toriadau. Gwelsom rai perfformiadau eithriadol o ran newid yn yr hinsawdd. Mae Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri wedi lleihau allyriadau 23 y cant, o waelodlin 2005-06.

Fel y dywedodd Rhodri Glyn Thomas, mae'r parciau cenedlaethol hefyd yn cymryd camau pwysig i annog a datblygu prosiectau ynni adnewyddadwy. Mae rhan Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog ym menter y Cymoedd Gwyrdd yn tystio i hynny, ac rwyf yn mawr obeithio y byddai pob Aelod yn cefnogi'r syniad y gallai'r Mesur Ynni, sy'n cael ei ystyried gan y Senedd yn San Steffan, gynnig cyfle i'r parciau cenedlaethol yn benodol werthu ynni adnewyddadwy yn yr un modd ag y caniateir i awdurdodau lleol bellach ei wneud, yn hytrach na gadael y parciau cenedlaethol yn y sefyllfa anodd y maent ynddi nawr, lle gallant wneud hyn, ond nad oes ganddynt ganiatâd penodol. Mae'r ddeddfwriaeth yn dawel iawn yn hynny o beth.

Gwyddom fod awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol yn parhau i wneud gwelliannau i'w gwasanaethau cynllunio. Maent oll wedi gwneud cynnydd da o ran eu cynlluniau datblygu lleol. Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro oedd yr awdurdod cynllunio cyntaf yng Nghymru i fabwysiadu ei gynllun datblygu lleol, ac mae'r gwaith yn mynd rhagddo'n dda yn Eryri a Bannau Brycheiniog. Nid ydym yn sôn am dair haen gynllunio. Awdurdod y parc cenedlaethol yw'r awdurdod cynllunio ar gyfer yr ardal y

They act like any other planning authority in terms of that terrestrial approach. In the context of biodiversity, we have been working closely with the park authorities in developing the natural environment framework. That puts a more cohesive focus on sustainable land and marine management in Wales. I know that Members support that agenda. The consultation paper on 'A Living Wales' includes proposals to update the regulatory and management arrangements to deliver the new approach. There will be implications for the national parks and the park authorities, but the extent of these changes will be determined by the next Assembly Government.

It is important to continuously review the priorities and effectiveness of the park authorities. That is why I meet so regularly with them. I do not think that it is appropriate at this stage of the administration to be discussing fundamental changes that would require amendments to primary legislation and the consent of the Secretary of State, but I understand why you would want to do it in manifesto terms. The Campaign for National Parks, which is entirely independent, has not supported either of these propositions. What parties should be considering at the Assembly elections is not in its manifesto at all.

William Graham: This afternoon's debate has been largely consensual, with some curious idiosyncrasies; the denial of democracy, perhaps, being the most evident of those. In being consensual, we all agree that the national parks are real gems. However, we are calling for a review of their responsibilities in that they must remain living entities. They cannot just be a museum of the countryside. That is part of our plea for democracy; a denial of those democratic principles is unusual. After all, it is worthwhile, and this Assembly has shown the way in many ways in showing accountability and openness. That surely should be given to all those who live in the national parks.

The Minister gave some very good explanations of her present policy. Again, it

mae'r parc cenedlaethol yn ei chwmpasu. Maent yn gweithredu yn union yr un modd ag unrhyw awdurdod cynllunio arall o ran yr ymagwedd diriogaethol honno. Yng nghydestun bioamrywiaeth, buom yn cydweithio'n agos ag awdurdodau'r parciau i ddatblygu fframwaith yr amgylchedd naturiol. Mae hynny'n rhoi sylw mwy cydlynol i reoli'r tir a'r môr yn fwy cynaliadwy yng Nghymru. Gwn fod Aelodau'n cefnogi'r agenda honno. Mae'r papur ymgynghori ar 'Cymru Fyw' yn cynnwys cynigion i ddiweddarau'r trefniadau rheoleiddio a rheoli er mwyn darparu'r ymagwedd newydd. Bydd goblygiadau i'r parciau cenedlaethol ac i awdurdodau'r parciau, ond Llywodraeth nesaf y Cynulliad fydd yn pennu graddfa'r newidiadau hynny.

Mae'n bwysig adolygu blaenoriaethau ac effeithiolrwydd awdurdodau'r parciau yn barhaus. Dyna pam yr wyf yn cwrdd â hwy mor rheolaidd. Ni chredaf ei bod yn briodol ar yr adeg hon yn y weinyddiaeth inni drafod newidiadau sylfaenol a fyddai'n golygu diwygio deddfwriaeth sylfaenol a chael caniatâd yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, ond rwyf yn deall pam eich bod am wneud hynny o ran y maniffesto. Nid yw Ymgyrch y Parciau Cenedlaethol, sy'n gwbl annibynnol, wedi cefnogi'r un o'r cynigion hyn. Nid yw'r hyn y dylai'r pleidiau fod yn ei ystyried yn etholiadau'r Cynulliad yn eu maniffesto o gwbl.

William Graham: Bu'r ddadl y prynhawn yma'n weddol gytûn, gyda rhai eithriadau rhyfedd; efallai mai gwadu democratiaeth yw'r mwyaf amlwg o'r rhain. Yn yr ysbryd hwnnw, rydym oll yn gytûn fod y parciau cenedlaethol yn drysorau gwirioneddol. Er hynny, galwn am adolygiad o'u cyfrifoldebau oherwydd rhaid iddynt barhau i fod yn endidau byw. Ni allant fod yn amgueddfeydd cefn gwlad. Dyna ran o'n hapêl am ddemocratiaeth; mae'n anarferol gwadu'r egwyddorion democrataidd hynny. Wedi'r cwbl, mae'n werth chweil, ac mae'r Cynulliad hwn wedi dangos y ffordd ar sawl ystyr wrth ddangos atebolrwydd a bod yn agored. Oni ddylid rhoi hynny hefyd i bawb sy'n byw yn y parciau cenedlaethol.

Rhoddodd y Gweinidog sawl esboniad da iawn o'i pholisi presennol. Unwaith eto,

was broadly consensual. The good news on renewable energy surely must be a matter of particular interest to us all and something to pursue in the future. However, a previous review in February 2004 said clearly that, for the people of the parks, economic and community development is not being effectively pursued. Here we are, seven years later, and the same criticism is being made. The fragmented delivery of economic and community development between the various agencies operating across the parks could be better prepared. The Welsh Assembly Government itself remarked that the public perceptions of the way that park authorities utilise their planning and development control functions is not always positive.

The national parks occupy some 20 per cent of the land area of Wales but only 3 per cent of the population. However, they contribute an enormous amount to tourism, and to economic activity in Wales. We are asking for a review to ensure that the national parks remain what they set out to be. On an historical note, we ought to recall that Atlee established Snowdonia National Park in 1951, Churchill established Pembrokeshire Coast National Park in 1952 and Macmillan established Brecon Beacons National Park in 1957. Therefore, we have an interesting analogy in the way in which national parks were brought about. They have contributed a great deal and everyone is agreed that they have a great future. However, that future can only be constrained by a lack of representative democracy. The planning issue is an issue that is raised with Members such as me in a regional capacity. We must ensure that these wonderful gems of Welsh culture, which the parks have now become, are consistent and reliable sources of economic development in the future.

The Temporary Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree the motion without amendment. Does any Member object? I see that there are objections. Therefore, I will defer all voting on this item until voting time.

roedd yn weddol gytûn. Rwyf yn sicr y bydd y newyddion da am ynni adnewyddadwy o ddiddordeb i bob un ohonom a bydd yn rhywbeth i'w ystyried yn y dyfodol. Er hynny, dywedodd adolygiad blaenorol ym mis Chwefror 2004 yn glir nad yw datblygu economaidd a chymunedol yn digwydd yn effeithiol i bobl y parciau. A dyma ni, saith mlynedd yn ddiweddarach, a'r un feirniadaeth yn cael ei lleisio. Gellid paratoi'n well y ddarpariaeth dameidiog o ran datblygu economaidd a chymunedol rhwng y gwahanol asiantaethau sy'n gweithredu ar draws y parciau. Dywedodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ei hun nad yw canfyddiadau'r cyhoedd am y ffordd y mae awdurdodau'r parciau'n defnyddio eu swyddogaethau rheoli datblygu a chynllunio bob amser yn gadarnhaol.

Mae'r parciau cenedlaethol yn cwmpasu oddeutu 20 y cant o arwynebedd tir Cymru ond dim ond 3 y cant o'r boblogaeth. Serch hynny, maent yn cyfrannu'n aruthrol at dwristiaeth, ac at weithgarwch economaidd yng Nghymru. Gofynnwn am adolygiad i sicrhau bod y parciau cenedlaethol yn parhau i fod yr hyn y bwriadwyd iddynt fod ar y cychwyn. Ar nodyn hanesyddol, dylem gofio mai Atlee a sefydlodd Barc Cenedlaethol Eryri yn 1951, Churchill sefydlodd Barc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro yn 1952 a Macmillan sefydlodd Barc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog yn 1957. Felly, mae gennym gyfatebiaeth ddiddorol yn y ffordd y daeth y parciau cenedlaethol i fodolaeth. Maent wedi cyfrannu cryn dipyn ac mae pawb yn gytûn fod iddynt ddyfodol da iawn. Er hynny, ni fydd diffyg cynrychiolaeth ddemocrataidd ond yn cyfyngu ar y dyfodol hwnnw. Mae cynllunio'n rhywbeth a godir ag Aelodau fel finnau yn rhinwedd ein swyddogaeth ranbarthol. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod y trysorau gwych hyn yn niwylliant Cymru, a dyna yw'r parciau bellach, yn ffynonellau datblygu economaidd cyson a dibynadwy yn y dyfodol.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Y cynnig yw y dylid cytuno ar y cynnig heb y gwelliant. A oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad? Gwelaf fod rhai'n gwrthwynebu. Felly, gohiriaf y bleidlais ar yr eitem hon hyd nes y daw'r cyfnod pleidleisio.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisiau tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.
Votes deferred until voting time.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 4.45 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 4.45 p.m.*

Dadl Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate

Gwasanaethau'r Stryd Fawr a Chanol Trefi High Street and Town Centre Services

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Jane Hutt and amendment 2 in the name of Nick Ramsay. If amendment 1 is agreed, amendment 2 will be deselected.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Rwyf wedi dewis gwelliant 1 yn enw Jane Hutt a gwelliant 2 yn enw Nick Ramsay. Os cytunir ar welliant 1, bydd gwelliant 2 yn cael ei ddad-ddethol.

Cynnig NDM4633 Peter Black

Motion NDM4633 Peter Black

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. Yn credu ei bod yn hanfodol bod gwasanaethau'r Stryd Fawr a chanol trefi yn cael eu cefnogi gan eu bod yn darparu gwasanaethau i nifer o bobl ledled Cymru gan gynnwys gweithgareddau adloniant, hamdden a chymdeithasol a gwasanaethau adwerthu, ac yn benodol maent yn darparu gwasanaethau lleol i'r rheini na allant gael gafael ar wasanaethau ar-lein.

1. Believes that it is vital that High Street and town centre services are supported as they provide services for many people across Wales including recreation, leisure, social activities and retail services, and in particular provide local services for those who cannot access services online.

2. Yn credu bod Swyddfeydd Post yn chwarae rhan hanfodol o ran darparu gwasanaethau cymunedol a'u bod yn rhan allweddol o Stryd Fawr ffyniannus ac yn cefnogi penderfyniad Llywodraeth y DU i beidio â chau unrhyw Swyddfeydd Post ychwanegol.

2. Believes that Post Offices play a crucial role in providing community based services and are a key part of a thriving High Street and supports the decision of the UK Government not to close any additional Post Offices.

3. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i:

3. Calls for the Welsh Assembly Government to:

a) Gwella'r amodau ar gyfer busnesau mewn canol trefi drwy ganiatáu i awdurdodau lleol adfywio ardaloedd drwy Gyllid Codi Trethi a mynnu asesiad o'r effaith ar gyfer datblygiadau ar gyrion trefi;

a) Improve conditions for businesses in town centres by allowing local authorities to regenerate areas through Tax Increment Financing and requiring an impact assessment for out-of-town developments;

b) Cefnogi busnesau bach, sydd yn aml yng nghanol trefi, drwy ysgafnhau'r baich rheoleiddio sydd arnynt a chynnal adolygiad o'r bôn i'r brig o effaith ardrethi busnes ar fusnesau bach;

b) Support small businesses, that are often based in town centres, by reducing the regulatory burden and undertaking a root-and-branch review of the impact of business rates on small businesses;

c) Gwella mynediad trafnidiaeth i ganol trefi a sicrhau bod gwybodaeth am y gymuned leol ar gael mewn gorsafoedd trenau a bysiau; a

d) Gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau bod safleoedd bws wedi'u lleoli'n hwylus a bod modd i bawb eu defnyddio.

Jenny Randerson: I move the motion.

Our high streets and town centres are part of the lifeblood of our communities in all parts of Wales, whether rural or urban. They are beneficial in a number of ways, partly because local businesses are often more likely to be socially or environmentally minded, and their profits stay in the local economy, providing a better basis for local growth. I believe that there are two problems facing our town centres and high streets: the declining use of town centres, and the development of what I call 'clone high streets'. We are proposing changes today to help town centres and high streets across Wales to survive, and I will talk briefly about the problems that I believe they face.

Too many of our town centres have become either ghost towns or clone towns, either empty towns or identical towns. We have to look at why that is happening. I will deal first with the declining use of our town centres, for which there are two basic causes. The first is the growth of out-of-town developments, which draw trade away, and which are often unaffordable for small businesses, even if suitable. That means that district centres and high streets are under threat, both in cities and in market towns. The problem of declining footfall means that the individual businesses move out or disappear altogether, and that undermines the sales and business of those surrounding that area. For example, if the post office closes, the shops nearby inevitably suffer.

The second cause for the declining use of town centres is the fact that, in far too many areas, the facilities are run down and are simply less comfortable to spend time in compared with a shiny new out-of-town centre. We need to find a way of dealing with

c) Improve transport access to town centres and ensure train and bus stations contain information on the local community; and

d) Work with local authorities to ensure bus-stops are conveniently located and accessible to all.

Jenny Randerson: Cynigiau y cynnig.

Mae ein strydoedd mawr a chanol ein trefi'n rhan o galon ein cymunedau ym mhob rhan o Gymru, boed yn wledig neu'n drefol. Maent yn fuddiol mewn sawl ffordd, yn rhannol oherwydd bod busnesau lleol yn aml yn fwy tebygol o fod yn gymdeithasol neu'n amgylcheddol gyfrifol, ac mae eu helw yn aros yn yr economi leol, ac yn darparu sylfaen well ar gyfer twf lleol. Credaf fod dwy broblem yn wynebu canol ein trefi a'n strydoedd mawr: llai o ddefnydd ar ganol y trefi, a datblygiad yr hyn a alwaf yn 'strydoedd mawr clôn'. Cynigiwn newidiadau heddiw i helpu canol trefi a strydoedd mawr ledled Cymru i oroesi, ac fe siaradaf yn fyr am y problemau y maent, yn fy marn i, yn eu hwynebu.

Mae gormod o ganol trefi wedi troi'n drefi anghyfannedd neu'n drefi clôn, naill ai'n drefi gwag neu'n drefi unfath. Rhaid inni edrych ar pam y mae hynny'n digwydd. Ymdriniaf yn gyntaf â'r gostyngiad yn y defnydd a wneir o ganol trefi, y mae dau brif reswm drosto. Y cyntaf yw twf datblygiadau ar gyrion trefi, sy'n denu masnach i ffwrdd, ac sy'n aml yn anfforddiadwy i fusnesau bach, hyd yn oed pe byddent yn addas. Golyga hynny fod canolfannau rhanbarthol a strydoedd mawr dan fygythiad, yn y dinasoedd ac mewn trefi marchnad. Golyga'r gostyngiad yn nifer yr ymwelwyr fod yn rhaid i fusnesau unigol symud allan neu ddiflannu'n gyfan gwbl, ac mae hynny'n tanseilio gwerthiant a busnes y rhai sydd o'u cwmpas. Er enghraifft, os bydd swyddfa'r post yn cau, mae'n anochel y bydd siopau cyfagos yn dioddef.

Yr ail reswm dros ddefnyddio llai ar ganol ein trefi yw'r ffaith fod y cyfleusterau, mewn gormod o ardaloedd o lawer, wedi dirywio a'i bod yn llai cyfforddus treulio amser ynddynt o'u cymharu â chanolfan newydd sgleiniog ar gyrion y dref. Rhaid i ni ddod o hyd i ffordd

that. I fear that we have come to accept the idea of clone towns and to expect that every high street will look similar. However, that does not necessarily have to be the case. If you go abroad to countries such as France, small local businesses are still thriving, even though there are also chain stores that we would recognise. That is the case even in Britain: I would draw your attention to what I would call the phenomenon of the London suburbs, where there is still extremely vigorous retailing by small and very distinctive businesses. They have greengrocers in vast numbers there—it has often seemed to me that the people of London must eat phenomenal amounts of vegetables, because they have so many greengrocers compared with us. They have ethnic shopping, craft shops and so on. You might wonder why that is. I believe that that is for no other reason than the fact that, in London, a much higher percentage of people rely entirely on public transport, and therefore find it difficult and a lot less convenient to get to out-of-town shopping centres.

4.50 p.m.

There is also, of course, the simple, practical reason that you cannot do your weekly shop in one day because you cannot carry it. That old-fashioned style of shopping has continued to exist in London, the capital city of Britain, but not in the rest of Britain, because we rely much less on public transport. Therefore, whether we are looking at Bangor, Barry, or Broad Haven, the fear that I have is that they are all beginning to look the same. Before it is too late, we need to support local businesses by ensuring that independent stores are given a level playing field.

The Welsh Liberal Democrats are proposing a broad and radical range of measures. I need to mention here that we will not be supporting the Government's amendment, because it seeks to water down our proposals and now is not the time to water down proposals. Now is the time to be bold and to be radical if we are to save our district centres and high streets.

I have spoken previously in the Chamber about the value of tax increment financing in

o fynd i'r afael â hynny. Mae arnaf ofn ein bod wedi dod i dderbyn syniad y trefi clôn ac i ddisgwyl y bydd pob stryd fawr yn edrych yn debyg. Serch hynny, gallai pethau fod yn wahanol. Os ewch chi dramor i wledydd megis Ffrainc, mae busnesau bach lleol yn ffynnu o hyd, er bod yno hefyd siopau cadwyn y byddem yn eu hadnabod. Mae hynny'n wir hyd yn oed ym Mhrydain: tynnaf eich sylw at yr hyn a alwaf yn ffenomen maestrefi Llundain, lle mae adwerthu bywiog o hyd yn digwydd gan fusnesau bach, unigryw. Mae yno niferoedd mawr o werthwyr llysiau—rwyf yn aml wedi meddwl mae'n rhaid bod pobl Llundain yn bwyta llawer iawn o lysiau, oherwydd fod yno gynifer o werthwyr llysiau o gymharu â ni. Mae yno siopau ethnig, crefftau ac yn y blaen. Efallai y byddwch yn meddwl tybed pam mae hi felly. Credaf mai'r rheswm yn syml yw fod canran uwch o lawer o bobl Llundain yn dibynnu'n llwyr ar drafndiaeth gyhoeddus, a'u bod felly'n ei chael yn anodd ac yn llai cyfleus o lawer mynd i ganolfannau siopa ar gyrion y dref.

Rheswm syml ac ymarferol arall, wrth gwrs, yw na allwch wneud eich siopa wythnosol mewn un diwrnod gan na allwch ei gario. Mae'r ffordd hen ffasiwn honno o siopa wedi parhau yn Llundain, prifddinas Prydain, ond nid yng ngweddill Prydain, gan ein bod yn dibynnu llai o lawer ar drafndiaeth gyhoeddus. Felly, boed ym Mangor, y Barri neu Aberllydan, mae arnaf ofn eu bod i gyd yn dechrau edrych yr un fath. Cyn iddi fynd yn rhy hwyr, rhaid inni gefnogi busnesau lleol drwy sicrhau bod siopau annibynnol yn cael eu trin yn yr un modd â phawb arall.

Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru'n cynnig ystod eang a radical o fesurau. Mae angen imi nodi yma na fyddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant y Llywodraeth, gan ei fod yn ceisio glastwreiddio ein cynigion ac nid dyma'r amser i lastwreiddio cynigion. Dyma'r amser i fod yn ddewr ac yn radical os ydym am achub ein canolfannau rhanbarthol a'n strydoedd mawr.

Siaradais o'r blaen yn y Siambr am werth cyllid codi trethi neu TIF wrth adfywio trefi.

urban regeneration. TIF allows local authorities to borrow money for large-scale redevelopments against the future income from those developments. The obvious advantage is that, without these developments, there would be no additional income from the developments concerned. In an era of reduced capital budgets and decreased income from capital receipts for local authorities, TIF can help with developing urban regeneration and boosting construction, retail and business opportunities in our cities and towns.

I know that some large developments in Cardiff, for example, would have benefited from such investment. In Cardiff bay, TIF would have been a very good vehicle to use in order to create such investment had we faced the same situation 20 years ago that we face now. In Westminster, the Government is pushing ahead with tax increment financing for England. Scotland is forging ahead with this in Edinburgh. I urge the Government to ensure that Welsh cities are not left behind again. Several months ago, the Minister told me that he was looking at this, which I took to be as positive as you could possibly get from this Assembly Government. However, that was several months ago. I ask the Government to provide an update on this. It is important that the decision to support this and to press ahead with it is taken now and not in three months' or six months' time when the rest of the UK will be ahead of us, and when the rest of the UK will have attracted the sort of investment that we need to attract in Wales, and which we need to attract now.

I am very proud of the city centre in Cardiff, which I largely represent. I am very proud indeed of the development and the progress that has been made. However, my constituency includes a range of other retail centres that are very much smaller. Every other Assembly Member will be familiar with the small local shopping centre. In my constituency, for example, we have Wellfield Road, Albany Road, City Road—do not be afraid, I will not go through them all—but it goes down to very small groups of shops, such as Rhydypennau crossroads in Cyncoed. Everyone will be familiar with the problems that they face. In the City Road area—I have

Mae TIF yn caniatáu i awdurdodau lleol fenthyca arian ar gyfer ailddatblygiadau ar raddfa fawr yn erbyn incwm y datblygiadau hynny yn y dyfodol. Mantais amlwg hynny yw na fyddai incwm ychwanegol yn deillio o'r datblygiadau dan sylw heb y datblygiadau hyn. Mewn cyfnod lle gwelwn gyllidebau cyfalaf yn lleihau a llai o incwm o dderbyniadau cyfalaf i awdurdodau lleol, gall TIF helpu i ddatblygu adfywio trefol a hybu cyfleoedd adeiladu, adwerthu a busnes yn ein dinasoedd a'n trefi.

Gwn y byddai rhai datblygiadau mawrion yng Nghaerdydd, er enghraifft, wedi elwa ar fuddsoddi o'r fath. Ym mae Caerdydd, byddai TIF wedi bod yn arf da iawn i'w ddefnyddio i greu buddsoddi o'r fath pe baem wedi wynebu'r un sefyllfa 20 mlynedd yn ôl ag a wynebwn nawr. Yn San Steffan, mae'r Llywodraeth yn bwrw ymlaen â chyllid codi trethi ar gyfer Lloegr. Mae'r Alban yn gyrru hyn ymlaen yng Nghaeredin. Galwaf ar y Llywodraeth i sicrhau na chaiff dinasoedd Cymru eu gadael ar ôl eto. Rai misoedd yn ôl, dywedodd y Gweinidog wrthyf ei fod yn edrych ar hyn, a chymerais hynny yn yr ysbryd mwyaf cadarnhaol posibl gyda'r Llywodraeth hon. Ond digwyddodd hyn rai misoedd yn ôl. Gofynnaf i'r Llywodraeth roi'r newyddion diweddaraf inni am hyn. Mae'n bwysig gwneud penderfyniad i gefnogi hyn a bwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith nawr ac nid ymhen tri neu chwe mis pan fydd gweddill y DU ar y blaen inni, a phan fydd gweddill y DU wedi denu'r math o fuddsoddi y mae angen inni ei ddenu yng Nghymru, ac y mae angen inni ei ddenu nawr.

Rwyf yn falch iawn o ganol dinas Caerdydd, yr wyf yn cynrychioli rhan helaeth ohono. Rwyf yn hynod falch o'r datblygiadau a'r cynnydd a wnaed. Er hynny, mae fy etholaeth yn cynnwys amryw o ganolfannau adwerthu eraill sy'n llai o lawer. Bydd pob Aelod Cynulliad arall yn gyfarwydd â'r ganolfan siopa fach leol. Yn fy etholaeth i, er enghraifft, mae Wellfield Road, Albany Road, City Road—peidiwch â phoeni, nid wyf am enwi pob un ohonynt—ond mae'n mynd yr holl ffordd i lawr at grwpiau bach iawn o siopau, megis croesfan Rhydypennau yng Nghyncoed. Bydd pawb yn gyfarwydd â'r problemau sy'n eu hwynebu. Yn ardal

my constituency office in Woodville Road, which is near City Road—a couple of major businesses closed. Within six months, that led to the closure of a dozen other businesses. The area seems to be turning the corner now, but it became very desolate very quickly, and there was a knock-on effect from one area to another. I want to see areas such as this protected for the future, so that towns have vibrant high streets that boost local economies and that serve every type of person in every type of situation. I want to emphasise how important these local shopping centres are, particularly for those who do not have access to a car, and, by definition, those are the poorer sections of society and the elderly. It is really important that we ensure that we are protecting our society as well as our economy.

I want to see compulsory out-of-town impact assessments as planning applications are accepted from large supermarkets, because they obviously have a distorting effect on the local economy. The current planning procedures are not rigorous enough to deal with that distortion. The planning process is quasi-judicial, and it needs to be based on evidence; councillors cannot turn down damaging out-of-town developments without strong evidence of their impact. That is so important. Councillors have their hands tied at the moment, and the big developers and big supermarkets have all the cards stacked in their favour. I urge Members to support this motion.

Gwelliant 1 Jane Hutt

Dileu popeth ar ôl pwynt 1 a rhoi yn ei le:

2. Yn credu bod Swyddfeydd Post yn chwarae rhan hanfodol o ran darparu gwasanaethau cymunedol ac yn cefnogi Cronfa Arallgyfeirio Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer Swyddfeydd Post sydd wedi cefnogi 229 o swyddfeydd post ers Ebrill 2009.

3. Yn croesawu gwaith Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i:

a) Gwella'r amodau ar gyfer busnesau yng nghanol trefi gan gynnwys edrych ar botensial cyflwyno Cyllid Codi Trethi i awdurdodau lleol a chadw at bolisi sy'n ystyried canol trefi'n gyntaf ar gyfer

City Road—mae fy swyddfa etholaeth yn Woodville Road, sydd ger City Road—bu'n rhaid i rai busnesau mawr gau. Ymhen chwe mis, roedd dwsin o fusnesau eraill wedi cau. Ymddengys bellach fod yr ardal yn troi'r gornel, ond aeth a'i ben iddo'n gyflym iawn, a theimlid yr effaith o un ardal i'r llall. Rwyf am weld ardaloedd fel hyn yn cael eu gwarchod at y dyfodol, fel bod y stryd fawr yn ein trefi'n llawn bywyd, yn hybu'r economi leol ac yn gwasanaethu pob math o bobl ym mhob math o sefyllfa. Hoffwn bwysleisio pwysigrwydd y canolfannau siopa lleol hyn, yn arbennig i'r rhai hynny nad oes ganddynt gar, sef, wrth reswm, rhannau tlotaf ein cymdeithas a'r henoed. Mae'n hynod bwysig gwarchod ein cymdeithas yn ogystal â'n heconomi.

Rwyf am weld asesiadau effaith gorfodol wrth dderbyn ceisiadau cynllunio gan archfarchnadoedd mawr, gan eu bod yn amlwg yn ystumio'r economi leol. Nid yw'r gweithdrefnau cynllunio presennol yn ddigon llym i ymdrin â'r ystumio hwnnw. Mae'r broses gynllunio'n lled-farnwrol, ac mae angen iddi fod yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth; ni all cynghorwyr wrthod datblygiadau niweidiol ar gyrion y dref heb dystiolaeth gref am eu heffaith. Mae hynny mor bwysig. Mae dwylo'r cynghorwyr wedi'u clymu ar hyn o bryd ac mae'r cardiau i gyd o blaid y datblygwyr mawr a'r archfarchnadoedd. Galwaf ar Aelodau i gefnogi'r cynnig.

Amendment 1 Jane Hutt

Delete all after point 1 and replace with:

2. Believes that Post Offices play a crucial role in providing community based services and supports the Welsh Assembly Government's Post Office Diversification Fund which has supported 229 post offices since April 2009;

3. Welcomes the Welsh Assembly Government's work to:

a) Improve conditions for businesses in town centres including by exploring the potential to introduce Tax Increment Financing for local authorities and retaining the town centre first policy for new retail

datblygiadau manwerthu newydd;

b) Cefnogi busnesau bach, sydd yn aml yng nghanol trefi, drwy'r Cynllun Rhyddhad Ardrethi i Fusnesau Bach sydd wedi arwain at dros hanner y busnesau bach yng Nghymru'n talu dim ardrethi, a thrwy greu amgylchedd busnes positif ledled Cymru drwy Raglen Adnewyddu'r Economi;

c) Hwyluso'r teithio i brif drefi ac aneddiadau, a rhyngddynt, a darparu atebion cynaliadwy ar gyfer trafndiaeth drwy'r Cynlluniau Trafndiaeth Cenedlaethol a Rhanbarthol.

The Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration (Jocelyn Davies): I move amendment 1.

Gwelliant 2 Nick Ramsay

Ychwanegu is-bwyntiau newydd ar ddiwedd pwynt 3:

Rhoi rhyddhad ardrethi llawn i'r busnesau lleiaf hyd at werth ardrethol o £12,000.

Gwella mynediad teithwyr anabl a'r bobl hynny a chanddynt broblemau symud i orsafoedd trenau a bysiau.

Gwella arwyddion o gefnffyrdd i ganol trefi.

Jonathan Morgan: I move amendment 2.

I thank the Welsh Liberal Democrats for tabling the motion. It is a hugely important subject, and I am delighted to contribute to the debate and to move the amendment in the name of Nick Ramsay.

Whatever terms you want to use to describe our high streets, towns and villages—whether you want to call them the lifeblood of the community, the backbone or the focal point—they all sum up the importance with which people regard our high streets and villages. Often, when we think about supporting our towns and villages, we talk about them in the context of the challenges

developments;

b) Support small businesses, that are often based in town centres, through the Small Business Rates Relief Scheme which has resulted in over half of small businesses in Wales paying no rates and by creating a positive business environment across Wales through the Economic Renewal Programme; and

c) improve access to and between key towns and settlements and provide sustainable transport solutions through the National and Regional Transport Plans.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Dai ac Adfywio (Jocelyn Davies): Cynigiau welliant 1.

Amendment 2 Nick Ramsay

Add as new sub-points at end of point 3:

Provide full rate relief to the smallest businesses up to a rateable value of £12,000.

Improve access to train and bus stations for disabled passengers and those people with mobility problems.

Improve signage from trunk roads into town centres.

Jonathan Morgan: Cynigiau welliant 2.

Diolchaf i Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru am gyflwyno'r cynnig hwn. Mae'n bwnc hynod bwysig, ac mae'n dda iawn gennyf gael cyfle i gynnig y gwelliant yn enw Nick Ramsay.

Sut bynnag y disgrifiwch y stryd fawr, ein trefi a'n pentrefi—boed yn galon y gymuned, yn asgwrn cefn neu'n ganolbwynt—maent oll yn cyfleu pa mor bwysig yw'r stryd fawr a phentrefi i bobl. Yn aml, wrth feddwl am gefnogi ein trefi a'n pentrefi, soniwn amdanynt yng nghyd-destun yr heriau a wynebir gan gefn gwlad Cymru. Wrth gwrs, mae hynny'n gwbl iawn, ond, o dro i dro,

faced by rural Wales. Of course, that is absolutely right, but, from time to time, I think that we also overlook the fact that many of these areas that have faced particular challenges and that—certainly in my constituency—have done better in recent years at becoming more of a focal point are in city areas and suburban areas. Jenny has already mentioned areas in her constituency where there have been particular challenges and where people like to enjoy their services and purchase their goods more locally.

We have to look at our towns and villages. We are a small nation made up of very small communities, and it is right that we focus on a debate that looks at the support that can be provided and what the Welsh Assembly Government can do, working with local authorities and the UK Government, to improve the infrastructure of those towns and villages. Our amendment focuses on three points, the first of which is our belief that we should be extending full business rate relief to businesses with a rateable value of up to £12,000. We believe that very strongly, because we think that the Assembly Government could be more ambitious in supporting small businesses and, by the very nature of backing our high streets, villages and towns, it will in turn be supported by a range of small businesses. If we do not support those in a very practical way with a level of investment, they are going to struggle to survive.

We also believe that we ought to be doing more to make those areas more accessible by improving access to railway stations. In many parts of Wales, we can point to very successful high streets, towns and villages, but many of them have very bad public transport links. Some have very good bus links but very poor train links. Take as an example the village of Llandaff in the Cardiff West constituency, represented by Rhodri. Llandaff is an extremely popular and well-liked village. It is supported not just by the people who live in the area; it is supported by many people from elsewhere in Cardiff and those who live further afield because they are attracted to visiting these sorts of villages and towns.

credaf ein bod hefyd yn anghofio'r ffaith fod llawer o'r ardaloedd hyn sydd wedi wynebu heriau penodol, ac sydd—yn sicr yn fy etholaeth i—wedi gwneud yn well yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf o ran dod yn fwy o ganolbwynt, mewn ardaloedd dinesig ac yn y maestrefi. Mae Jenny eisoes wedi crybwyll ardaloedd yn ei hetholaeth hi lle bu heriau penodol a ble mae pobl yn hoff o fwynhau eu gwasanaethau a phrynu eu nwyddau'n fwy lleol.

Rhaid inni edrych ar ein trefi a'n pentrefi. Cenedl fechan ydym ni, yn glytwaith o gymunedau bach iawn, ac mae'n briodol ein bod yn canolbwyntio ar ddadl sy'n ystyried y gefnogaeth y gellir ei chynnig a'r hyn y gall Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ei wneud, ar y cyd ag awdurdodau lleol a Llywodraeth y DU, i wella isadeiledd y trefi a'r pentrefi hynny. Canolbwyntia ein gwelliant ar dri phwynt, a'r cyntaf o'r rheiny yw y credwn y dylem estyn rhyddhad ardrethi busnes llawn i fusnesau â gwerth ardrethol o hyd at £12,000. Credwn hynny'n gryf iawn oherwydd credwn y gallai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad fod yn fwy uchelgeisiol wrth gefnogi busnesau bach, a thrwy gefnogi ein strydoedd mawr, ein pentrefi a'n trefi, bydd hynny yn ei dro'n ennyn cefnogaeth amryw o fusnesau bach. Oni chefnogwn y rhieny mewn ffordd ymarferol iawn â lefel o fuddsoddi, byddant yn ei chael yn anodd goroesi.

Credwn hefyd y dylem fod yn gwneud mwy i wneud yr ardaloedd hynny'n fwy hygyrch drwy wella mynediad i orsafoedd rheilffordd. Mewn sawl rhan o Gymru, gwelwn strydoedd mawr, trefi a phentrefi llwyddiannus iawn, ond mae gan lawer ohonynt gysylltiadau trafniadaeth gyhoeddus gwael iawn. Mae gan rai gysylltiadau bws da iawn ond cysylltiadau trên gwael iawn. Cymerwn, er enghraifft, bentref Llandaf yn etholaeth Gorllewin Caerdydd, y mae Rhodri'n ei chynrychioli. Mae Llandaf yn bentref poblogaidd iawn. Fe'i cefnogir nid yn unig gan y bobl sy'n byw yn yr ardal; fe'i cefnogir gan lawer o bobl o rannau eraill o Gaerdydd a phobl sy'n byw ymellach i ffwrdd eu bod yn cael eu denu i ymweld â'r mathau hynny o bentrefi a threfi.

5.00 p.m.

We should be looking at our public transport system. I know that the Committee on Equality of Opportunity has done a lot of work in looking at the accessibility of our railway stations. If we are going to do more to support those people who have mobility problems, and those older people in particular who may want to enjoy those towns and villages more locally, it is about getting the level of investment right and looking at what we can do to support that development over the next five or 10 years.

It is also about making sure that the road network is appropriate. There are people who rely on their cars. Jenny Randerson was right to say that, for many people, the car is not an option, while for others, public transport may not be an option and the car is obviously still a very important part of our daily lives. Making sure that we can navigate around Wales is important, as is making sure that people know how to get to these various towns and villages, and what those towns and villages have to offer. There are great opportunities for us, as an Assembly, to improve the potential success of those towns, villages and high streets, and there is also the potential for us to improve the way in which people see their own communities and the way in which they are able to support their own areas. Whether it is a matter of purchasing goods and services, going out for a drink and a bite to eat, I think that people want to be more local now than ever before, and it is important for the Assembly to find a number of ways in which it can act to support them. Ultimately, if we do not get that level of business support right, and if we do not find a way of providing further business rate relief support to those local communities, many local businesses will struggle with the financial burdens that they face. We should be more ambitious about achieving that, because if we do not, many of those villages and towns will struggle to survive.

Veronica German: As we have already heard, many people, particularly the elderly and the more vulnerable, are really dependent on their local high streets for shops and

Dylem fod yn edrych ar ein system drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus. Gwn fod y Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal wedi gwneud llawer o waith o ran edrych ar hygyrchedd ein gorsafoedd rheilffordd. Os ydym am wneud mwy i gefnogi pobl a chanddynt broblemau symudedd, ac yn arbennig y bobl hŷn a fydd efallai am fwynhau'r trefi a'r pentrefi'n fwy lleol, mae'n rhaid sicrhau bod lefel y buddsoddi'n iawn ac edrych ar yr hyn y gallwn ei wneud i gefnogi'r datblygiad hwnnw dros y pum neu ddeng mlynedd nesaf.

Rhaid sicrhau hefyd fod rhwydwaith y ffyrdd yn briodol. Mae rhai pobl yn dibynnu ar eu ceir. Roedd Jenny Randerson yn iawn pan ddywedodd nad yw'r car yn opsiwn i lawer o bobl, ac i eraill, efallai nad yw trafndiaeth gyhoeddus yn opsiwn a'r car yn amlwg yn dal i fod yn rhan bwysig o'n bywydau bob dydd. Mae'n bwysig sicrhau y gallwn symud o amgylch Cymru, ac mae'n bwysig hefyd sicrhau bod pobl yn gwybod sut i gyrraedd y trefi a'r pentrefi hyn, a beth sydd gan y trefi a'r pentrefi i'w gynnig. Mae cyfleoedd gwych i ni, fel Cynulliad, wella llwyddiant posibl y trefi, y pentrefi a'r strydoedd mawr hynny, ac mae cyfle hefyd inni wella'r ffordd y mae pobl yn gweld eu cymunedau eu hunain a'r ffordd y gallant gefnogi eu hardaloedd eu hunain. Boed yn fater o brynu nwyddau a gwasanaethau, mynd allan am ddiod a thamaid i'w fwyta, credaf fod pobl yn awyddus i fod yn fwy lleol nawr nag erioed o'r blaen, ac mae'n bwysig i'r Cynulliad ddod o hyd i nifer o ffyrdd y gall fynd ati i'w cefnogi. Yn y pen draw, oni fydd y lefel honno o gymorth busnes yn iawn, ac oni ddeuwn o hyd i ffordd o roi cymorth i'r cymunedau lleol hynny drwy ragor o ryddhad ar ardrethi busnes, bydd llawer o fusnesau lleol yn ei chael yn anodd ymdopi â'r pwysau ariannol sydd arnynt. Dylem fod yn fwy uchelgeisiol ynghylch cyflawni hynny, oherwydd os na wnawn hynny, bydd llawer o'r pentrefi a'r trefi hynny'n ei chael yn anodd goroesi.

Veronica German: Fel y clywsom eisoes, mae llawer o bobl, yn enwedig yr henoed a'r rhai mwyaf agored i niwed, yn ddibynnol iawn ar y stryd fawr leol am siopau a

services. It can range from visiting a one-stop shop for the council, perhaps, or the local post office, as well as the usual range of shops and local businesses that might be located there. We want to strengthen the role of those local businesses and post offices, and ensure that they are able to survive and prosper.

As we have already said, we believe that it is absolutely vital that those towns do not just disappear or become samey. There is nothing more boring than going somewhere and thinking, 'Where am I? I might as well have stayed at home'.

I wish to address the role of the local post office. Along with many of my colleagues, and many Members from other parties—even though it might at times have been their own party that was closing them in the first place—I have spent years fighting to keep post offices open, and we have had some successes recently. However, as Jenny pointed out, if a post office closes, it is often just a precursor for many other closures in the local area. I was therefore particularly pleased to learn that the UK Government has stated most clearly that it will not be closing any more post offices and that, in fact, it has plans to make it easier to open new post office facilities. I am sure that everyone will welcome that. We all know that sub-postmasters are very hard-working and are often very good entrepreneurs who run a diverse business along with the—

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Thank you for taking an intervention. You referred to the fact that the coalition Government at Westminster has stated that there will be no further closing of post offices. We all welcome that, but it also has a plan to privatise post offices. Do you not believe that that endangers the future of post offices? Also, can you explain to us why, when there was an attempt to extend the inter-service agreement from five years to 10 years, only two Liberal Democrats—neither of them from Wales—voted in favour, even though it would obviously help post offices?

Veronica German: To be clear that when you talk about privatisation, I think that you

gwasanaethau. Gall hynny amrywio o fynd i siop-un-stop y cyngor, efallai, neu i'r swyddfa bost leol, yn ogystal â'r ystod arferol o siopau a busnesau lleol sydd yno. Rydym am gryfhau rôl y busnesau lleol a'r swyddfeydd post hynny, a sicrhau y gallant oroesi a ffynnu.

Fel y dywedasom eisoes, credwn ei bod yn hollbwysig nad yw'r trefi hynny'n diflannu neu'n mynd yn rhy debyg i'w gilydd. Does dim yn fwy diflas na mynd i rywle a meddwl, 'Ble ydw i? Gallwn fod wedi aros gartref.'

Hoffwn sôn am rôl y swyddfa bost leol. Rwyf fi, ynghyd â llawer o'm cydweithwyr, a sawl Aelod o'r pleidiau eraill—er efallai mai eu pleidiau hwy eu hunain oedd yn eu cau yn y lle cyntaf—wedi treulio blynyddoedd yn brwydro i gadw swyddfeydd post ar agor, a chawsom rai llwyddiannau'n ddiweddar. Er hynny, fel y dywedodd Jenny, os bydd swyddfa'r post yn cau, mae'n aml yn arwain at gau busnesau eraill yn yr ardal leol. Roeddwn yn falch iawn felly o glywed bod Llywodraeth y DU wedi datgan yn glir iawn na fydd yn cau rhagor o swyddfeydd post a'i bod, yn wir, yn bwriadu ei gwneud yn haws agor cyfleusterau swyddfa post newydd. Mae'n siŵr gennyf y bydd pawb yn croesawu hynny. Gwyddom oll fod is-bostfeistri'n gweithio'n galed iawn a'u bod yn aml yn entrepreneuriaid da iawn sy'n rhedeg busnes amrywiol ynghyd â—

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolch am ganiatáu imi ymyrryd. Cyfeiriasoch at y ffaith fod y Llywodraeth glymblaid yn San Steffan wedi datgan na fydd rhagor o swyddfeydd post yn cau. Rydym i gyd yn croesawu hynny, ond mae ganddi gynllun hefyd i breifateiddio swyddfeydd post. Onid ydych o'r farn fod hynny'n peryglu dyfodol swyddfeydd post? Hefyd, a allwch esbonio wrthym pam, pan fu ymdrech i estyn y cytundeb rhwng gwasanaethau o bum i 10 mlynedd, mai dim ond dau Ddemocrat Rhyddfrydol—dim un ohonynt o Gymru—a bleidleisiodd o blaid, er y byddai hynny'n amlwg o gymorth i swyddfeydd post?

Veronica German: A bod yn glir, pan soniasoch am breifateiddio, credaf eich bod

are referring to the Royal Mail, which is not actually a privatisation. It is a partnership that is being considered. Let us be clear: we are talking about local post offices, for which there are no plans to privatise.

Going back to the work that they do, the post office is often the real hub for other local shops. We want to make it easier for post offices to get more business. One of the things that they do successfully is to document-check for the Government. There is a role here that the Assembly Government could look at to see if there are other document-checking or processing services that post offices could do on behalf of the Government and local government to increase their income. I am sure that many of us have gone along with our passport forms to have them checked before we send them off, and it is that type of business that we wish to see expanded. A summit of sub-postmasters, Government and local government should be held to explore such possibilities for expanding their business.

However, the problems of many high streets are directly linked to the decline of small businesses. As has been pointed out, business rates are often a problem for those small businesses. We should not just look at relief rate in a simple way, however; we want to see a root and branch review of business rates, and not just how much they are. We want to discuss such things as an increase in rates when businesses improve their premises. When someone starts a business, they do some work on their premises to make their business more viable and they immediately get a hike in their business rate. We also want to look at the role of local authorities in collecting and retaining the rates. Another thing that can sometimes happen, as happened to bed and breakfasts, is that a change made in the business rate can lead to a sudden hike. We also want to explore which local facilities, such as post offices, pubs and independent retailers, could benefit from relief. So, it is a whole package that does not simply act at a level, but the whole thing.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Can you wind up please?

yn cyfeirio at y Post Brenhinol, nad yw'n breifateiddio mewn gwirionedd. Partneriaeth sy'n cael ei hystyried. Gadewch inni fod yn glir: sôn am swyddfeydd post lleol yr ydym, ac nid oes cynlluniau i'w preifateiddio.

A mynd yn ôl at y gwaith a wnânt, yn aml y swyddfa bost yw'r canolbwynt gwirioneddol i siopau lleol eraill. Hoffem ei gwneud yn haws i swyddfeydd post gael mwy o fusnes. Un peth a wnânt yn llwyddiannus yw gwirio dogfennau i'r Llywodraeth. Dyma rôl y gallai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad edrych arni i weld a oes gwasanaethau gwirio neu brosesu dogfennau eraill y gallai'r swyddfeydd post eu gwneud ar ran y Llywodraeth a llywodraeth leol i gynyddu eu hincwm. Rwyf yn siŵr fod llawer ohonom wedi mynd â'n ffurflenni pasbort i gael eu gwirio cyn inni eu hanfon, a dyna'r math o fusnes rydym am ei weld yn cael ei ehangu. Dylid cynnal uwch-gynhadledd o is-bostfeistri, y Llywodraeth a llywodraeth leol i ystyried posibilïadau o'r fath ar gyfer ehangu eu busnes.

Fodd bynnag, mae problemau llawer o strydoedd mawr yn gysylltiedig yn uniongyrchol â dirywiad busnesau bach. Fel y dywedwyd eisoes, mae ardrethi busnes yn aml yn broblem i'r busnesau bychain hynny. Ond ni ddylem edrych ar ryddhad ardrethu mewn modd syml yn unig; hoffem weld adolygiad o'r bôn i'r brig ar ardrethi busnes, ac nid dim ond faint ydynt. Hoffem drafod pethau megis y cynnydd mewn ardrethi pan fo busnesau yn gwella eu safleoedd a'u hadeiladau. Pan fydd rhywun yn cychwyn busnes, bydd yn gwneud peth gwaith ar ei safle i wneud ei fusnes yn fwy hyfyw ac yn syth mae ei ardreth fusnes yn cynyddu. Hoffem hefyd ystyried rôl awdurdodau lleol o ran casglu a chadw'r ardrethi. Peth arall sy'n digwydd weithiau, fel y digwyddodd i dai gwely a brechwast, yw bod newid yn yr ardreth fusnes yn gallu arwain at gynnydd mawr sydyn. Hoffem hefyd ystyried ba adnoddau lleol, megis swyddfeydd post, tafarndai ac adwerthwyr annibynnol, a allai elwa o gael rhyddhad ardrethi. Felly pecyn cyfan yw hwn, nad yw ond yn gweithio ar un lefel, ond i'r holl beth.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. A wnewch chi ddirwyn i ben os gwelwch yn dda?

Veronica German: We will support the Conservatives' amendment on that, although we are unsure as to how they would pay for it. The core of our argument is a belief that it is far too difficult for small businesses to make a success in local high streets, and far too easy for larger companies to set up a store that would distort the local economy and destroy local businesses.

Alun Davies: I also thank the Welsh Liberal Democrats for tabling this debate. The place of town centres is important in every community. We talk about the tremendous range and variety, as Jonathan and Jenny pointed out, of towns and suburbs that we have in Wales, each of which reflects the history of its own community. In the United States, they are currently recreating town centres with an entirely fake history, which is ironic, but it demonstrates that people want this focal point even in new communities, and that they want somewhere where they can shop and socialise. Town centres in Wales tell the story of the community, whether that community is built on iron, steel, coal, agriculture or, in the case of some like Pembroke Dock, its military history. It is dictated by the generations that built it.

All of us in our everyday lives have seen how change has had an impact on different communities. As a boy growing up in Tredegar, the town centre supplied all our needs, from the weekly shop, to school uniforms, to Christmas presents. We bought everything we needed in Tredegar town. However, that was before the Cyfarthfa retail park was built in Merthyr, before Cwmbran expanded, before the A470 was dualled down to Cardiff, and before the train line from Ebbw Vale to Cardiff was re-opened. We have seen infrastructure changes and changes to the economic life of different communities in Wales which have dictated changes to the role of town centres. However, in changing the role of a town centre, what they have not done is to change the place of a town centre. Whenever we talk about different communities, wherever they may be, we tend to describe the town centre—we think of all of our communities in terms of their centre, their focal point. We have seen these changes

Veronica German: Byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant y Ceidwadwyr ar hynny, er nad ydym yn sicr sut y byddent yn talu amdano. Craidd ein dadl ni yw'r gred ei bod yn rhy anodd o lawer i fusnesau bach lwyddo mewn strydoedd mawr lleol ac yn rhy hawdd o lawer i gwmnïau mwy sefydlu siop a fyddai'n ystumio'r economi leol a dinistrio busnesau lleol.

Alun Davies: Diolchaf innau hefyd i Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru am gyflwyno'r ddadl hon. Mae gan ganol trefi le pwysig ym mhob cymuned. Rydym yn sôn am yr ystod a'r amrywiaeth aruthrol, fel y dywedodd Jonathan a Jenny, yn y trefi a'r maestrefi sydd gennym yng Gymru, pob un yn adlewyrchu hanes ei chymuned ei hun. Yn yr Unol Daleithiau maent wrthi'n ail-greua canol trefi a rhoi iddynt hanes hollol ffug, sydd yn eironig, ond mae'n dangos bod pobl am gael y canolbwynt hwn hyd yn oed mewn cymunedau newydd, a'u bod am gael rhywle lle y gallent siopa a chymdeithasu. Mae canol trefi yng Nghymru yn adrodd stori'r gymuned, boed i'r gymuned honno gael ei hadeiladu ar haearn, dur, glo, amaethyddiaeth neu, yn achos rhai fel Doc Penfro, ei hanes milwrol. Mae wedi'i lunio gan y cenedlaethau a'i hadeiladodd.

Yn ein bywydau bob dydd gwelsom ni oll sut mae newid wedi effeithio ar gymunedau gwahanol. Pan oeddwn i'n fachgen yn tyfu yn Nhredeggar, bodlonai canol y dref bob un o'n hanghenion, o'r neges wythnosol, i wisg ysgol, i anrhegion Nadolig. Prynem bopeth roedd ei angen arnom yn nhref Tredegar. Ond roedd hynny cyn i barc adwerthu Cyfarthfa gael ei adeiladu ym Merthyr, cyn i Gwibrân ehangu, cyn i'r A470 gael ei thro'i'n ffordd ddeuol i Gaerdydd, a chyn i'r rheilffordd o Lynebwy i Gaerdydd ailagor. Gwelsom newidiadau i'r isadeiledd ac i fywyd economaidd gwahanol gymunedau yng Nghymru sydd wedi peri newidiadau i rôl canol trefi. Serch hynny, wrth newid rôl canol tref, nid ydynt wedi newid y lle sydd gan ganol y dref. Pan siaradwn am wahanol gymunedau, ble bynnag y bônt, tueddwn i ddisgrifio canol y dref—meddyliwn am ein cymunedau i gyd yn nhermau eu canol, eu canolbwynt. Gwelsom y newidiadau hyn yn digwydd.

take place.

5.10 p.m.

I see the future of town centres in more than economic terms. Although I very much accept the points that have just been made by Veronica, the importance of the town centre is also social. It has to be a communal point, because it is where people meet each other. In responding to today's debate, I hope that the Deputy Minister will address more than the issue of economic viability—we will disagree across the Chamber this afternoon, I am sure. Jonathan spoke about the business rates issue, but I think that the Government is doing very well on that. We have already exercised our disagreement on post offices, but there is agreement across the whole Chamber about the importance of having these outlets in town centres. I hope that the Deputy Minister will also address how the Welsh Assembly Government is supporting retail outlets and other businesses in town centres.

While transport links can impact negatively on the future of town centres, they are also critical in enabling people to reach and visit them and also the regeneration projects that seek to restore the fabric of town centres. All too often, when I walk through town centres in all the different parts of Wales, I see the deteriorating fabric of a community. That has occurred for all sorts of different reasons, whether it is neglect, industrial decline or economic difficulties. We can all rehearse those arguments, but we must accept that local government has a role in determining the future of the fabric of those communities. That means restoring the built environment, making people proud of where they live and improving people's experience and everyday quality of life. We need to do all those sorts of things.

We need to establish a clear strategic plan and vision for how we see our town centres in the future that will determine planning policy and also community regeneration and economic policy. Without prosperity, a town centre will not prosper. If people do not feel comfortable in their town centre, they will not visit it. We all know of the various issues,

Gwelaf ddyfodol canol trefi mewn mwy na thermau economaidd yn unig. Er y derbynïaf yn llwyr y pwyntiau y mae Veronica newydd eu gwneud, mae pwysigrwydd canol y dref yn gymdeithasol hefyd. Rhaid iddo fod yn fan cymunedol, oherwydd dyna lle y mae pobl yn cwrdd â'i gilydd. Wrth ymateb i'r ddadl heddiw, gobeithiaf y bydd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn ymdrin â mwy na mater hyfywedd economaidd yn unig—anghytunwn ar draws y Siambr y prynhawn yma, rwy'n siŵr. Siaradodd Jonathan am fater yr ardrethi busnes, ond credaf fod y Llywodraeth yn gwneud yn dda iawn ar hynny. Rydym eisoes wedi anghytuno ar swyddfeydd post, ond ceir cytundeb ar draws y Siambr gyfan am bwysigrwydd y siopau hyn yng nghanol y dref. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Dirprwy Weinidog hefyd yn sôn am sut y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cefnogi siopau adwerthu a busnesau eraill yng nghanol ein trefi.

Er y gall cysylltiadau trafniadaeth effeithio'n negyddol ar ddyfodol canol y dref, maent hefyd yn hanfodol wrth roi modd i bobl gyrraedd ac ymweld â chanol y dref a hefyd yn hanfodol i'r prosiectau adfywio sy'n ceisio adfer gwedd canol trefi. Yn rhy aml o lawer pan gerddaf drwy ganol trefi ym mhob gwahanol ran o Gymru, gwelaf wead cymuned yn ymddatod. Digwyddodd hynny am bob math o wahanol resymau, boed yn esgeuluso, dirywiad diwydiannol neu anawsterau economaidd. Gallwn ni oll ailadrodd y dadleuon hynny, ond rhaid inni dderbyn bod gan lywodraeth leol ran wrth bennu dyfodol gwedd y cymunedau hynny. Mae hynny'n golygu adfer yr amgylchedd adeiledig, gwneud pobl yn falch o ble maent yn byw a gwella profiadau ac ansawdd bywyd bob dydd pobl. Mae angen inni wneud y pethau hyn i gyd.

Mae angen inni bennu gweledigaeth a chynllun strategol clir o ran y ffordd y gwelwn ganol ein trefi yn y dyfodol, a fydd yn pennu'r polisi cynllunio a hefyd y polisiau economaidd ac adfywio cymunedol. Heb ffyniant, ni all canol tref ffynnu. Oni fydd pobl yn teimlo'n gyfforddus yng nghanol eu tref, ni fyddant yn mynd yno. Gwyddom oll

particularly at night, that drive people away from town centres.

I thank the Welsh Liberal Democrats for bringing forward this debate. I hope that it generates more light than heat and that the Deputy Minister, in responding to the contributions, will be able to take these issues forward and come back to the Assembly with significant plans for the future.

Kirsty Williams: We live in ever and fast-changing circumstances that pose particular challenges for how we choose to live our lives and the ways that our town centres change. Alun talked about being able to get everything in Tredegar. When I was growing up in Llanelli, a trip to Cardiff to do some shopping was seen as exceptional. You would come to Cardiff to get something really special. It is extraordinary that, not even in the space of a generation, my children think nothing of getting in a car to travel to Cardiff to do a relatively ordinary shop. We cannot be immune to those changes in society and we cannot be so unrealistic as to think that we will roll back the clock so that, suddenly, everyone will amend the way they live. Therefore, we must come up with innovative, new policies that respond to those changes in society and ensure that there are vibrant communities across urban and rural Wales.

I am disappointed to see in the Government's amendment that it is still considering the issue of tax increment financing. That issue was discussed in the Chamber a number of months ago. The Government gave a commitment that it was actively looking at the potential for tax increment financing. Given the state of the country's finances, we must find new and innovative methods of levering in investment and allowing local authorities to participate in the growth dividends that arise from that infrastructure investment. My question to the Deputy Minister is: how long is it going to take her to consider the potential of tax increment financing, because other parts of the country are already moving on with this agenda? The Westminster Government has made clear its

am y gwahanol broblemau, yn arbennig gyda'r nos, sy'n gyrru pobl i ffwrdd o ganol y trefi.

Diolchaf i Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru am gyflwyno'r ddadl hon. Rwyf yn gobeithio y bydd yn creu mwy o sylwedd nag o sŵn, ac y bydd y Dirprwy Weinidog, wrth ymateb i'r cyfraniadau, yn gallu bwrw ymlaen â'r materion hyn a dod yn ôl at y Cynulliad â chynlluniau arwyddocaol at y dyfodol.

Kirsty Williams: Rydym yn byw mewn amgylchiadau sy'n newid o hyd ac yn gyflym, ac mae hynny'n cynnig heriau penodol o ran y ffordd y dewiswn fyw ein bywydau a'r ffyrdd y mae canol ein trefi'n newid. Soniodd Alun am allu cael popeth yn Nhredegar. Pan oeddwn innau'n tyfu i fyny yn Llanelli, roedd teithio i Gaerdydd i siopa'n rhywbeth eithriadol. Byddech yn dod i Gaerdydd i gael rhywbeth gwirioneddol arbennig. Mae'n hynod, mewn llai na cenhedlaeth, nad yw fy mhlant i'n meddwl ddwywaith am fynd yn y car i Gaerdydd i wneud siopa cymharol gyffredin. Ni allwn anwybyddu'r newidiadau hynny yn ein cymdeithas ac ni allwn fod mor afrealistig â meddwl y gallwn droi'r cloc yn ôl fel bod pawb, yn sydyn, yn newid eu ffordd o fyw. Felly, rhaid inni ddyfeisio polisiau newydd, blaengar sy'n ymateb i'r newidiadau hynny yn ein cymdeithas a sicrhau bod cymunedau llawn bywyd i'w gweld ledled Cymru wledig a threfol.

Rwyf yn siomedig, o edrych ar welliant y Llywodraeth, ei bod yn dal i ystyried mater cyllid codi trethi. Trafodwyd hynny yn y Siambr rai misoedd yn ôl. Rhoddodd y Llywodraeth ymrwymiad ei bod wrthi'n edrych ar bosibiliadau cyllid codi trethi. O ystyried cyflwr ariannol y wlad, rhaid inni ddod o hyd i ffyrdd newydd a blaengar o drosoli buddsoddiadau a chaniatáu i awdurdodau lleol fod yn rhan o'r difidendau twf sy'n deillio o'r buddsoddi hwnnw mewn isadeiledd. Dyma fy nghwestiwn i'r Dirprwy Weinidog: am ba hyd y bydd yn ystyried cyllid codi trethi, oherwydd mae rhannau eraill o'r wlad yn bwrw ymlaen â'r agenda hon? Mae'r Llywodraeth yn San Steffan wedi dweud yn glir beth yw ei bwriad ar gyfer Lloegr, a rhoddwyd caniatâd eisoes yn yr

intentions for England, and permission has already been granted in Scotland for a pilot scheme that will allow up to six local authorities to participate in TIF. There are currently four live schemes that look to regenerate the Edinburgh waterfront, Glasgow's Buchanan quarter, the Aberdeen Union Terrace gardens and Dundee's waterfront. Those cities are competitors to the Welsh economy and they are already going out to grab hold of this investment opportunity to regenerate the areas that I mentioned. Once again, we are in danger of being left behind and of not taking up those opportunities. I hope that the Deputy Minister will be able to give a deadline by which she will have finished considering this matter and decided whether it is a route that she is going to follow. TIF is suitable for only a handful of locations in Wales, such as Cardiff, Newport, Swansea and Wrexham. I suspect that many of our other towns are simply too small to benefit from the potential of TIF.

We need to look at a different approach to regeneration for the small market towns in my constituency. In those areas, we have an opportunity to retain their sense of place before it is too late to do so, as they are high streets that currently look different. For many of those small independent retailers on those market-town high streets, business rates are crucial; they are a significant proportion of their overheads, and unlike chain stores, they do not have the ability to cross-subsidise their presence on a particular high street with income from bigger stores with greater footfall in larger towns and cities. It is the footfall in that particular town alone that is the difference between survival and failure. We need to have a root-and-branch look at how the current business rate system is working. I acknowledge that the Government has gone some way towards supporting small businesses via the small business rate regime, but is that the optimum amount of support that we can give? Is support being offered in the right way? Are we sure that that investment is having the best possible effect for small businesses? That is why we have called for a review.

Gareth Jones: You mentioned that you want to give small businesses every support, but what about increasing VAT? What impact

Alban ar gyfer cynllun peilot a fydd yn caniatáu i hyd at chwe awdurdod lleol gymryd rhan mewn TIF. Ar hyn o bryd, mae pedwar cynllun ar waith i adfywio glannau Caeredin, ardal Buchanan yn Glasgow, gerddi Union Terrace yn Aberdeen a glannau Dundee. Mae'r dinasoedd hynny'n gystadleuwyr i economi Cymru ac maent eisoes yn bachu ar y cyfle buddsoddi hwn i adfywio'r ardaloedd y soniais amdanynt. Unwaith eto, mae perygl y cawn ein gadael ar ôl ac na fyddwn yn manteisio ar y cyfleoedd hyn. Rwyf yn mawr obeithio y bydd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn gallu dweud wrthym pryd yn union y bydd wedi gorffen ystyried y mater hwn a phenderfynu a yw am ddilyn y trywydd hwn. Ar gyfer llond llaw yn unig o lefydd yng Nghymru, megis Caerdydd, Casnewydd, Abertawe a Wrecsam, y mae TIF yn addas. Mae arnaf ofn fod llawer o'n trefi eraill yn rhy fach i elwa ar bosibiliadau TIF.

Mae angen inni edrych yn wahanol ar adfywio'r trefi marchnad bach yn fy etholaeth i. Yn yr ardaloedd hynny, mae cyfle inni gadw eu hymdeimlad o le cyn iddi fynd yn rhy hwyr, gan fod y strydoedd mawr yno yn edrych yn wahanol iawn ar hyn o bryd. I lawer o'r adwerthwyr bach annibynnol ar stryd fawr y dref farchnad mae ardrethi busnes yn allweddol; maent yn rhan sylweddol o'u gorbenion, ac yn wahanol i siopau cadwyn, ni allant draws-sybsideiddio eu presenoldeb ar stryd fawr benodol ag incwm o siopau mwy lle mae nifer fwy o ymwelwyr mewn trefi a dinasoedd mwy. Nifer yr ymwelwyr yn y dref benodol honno'n unig sy'n gwneud y gwahaniaeth rhwng goroesi neu fethu. Mae angen edrych o'r bôn i'r brig ar y ffordd y mae'r system ardrethi busnes yn gweithio ar hyn o bryd. Cydnabyddaf fod y Llywodraeth wedi mynd gryn ffordd tuag at gefnogi busnesau bach drwy'r drefn ardrethi busnesau bach, ond ai dyna'r unig gymorth y gallwn ei roi? A yw'r gefnogaeth yn cael ei rhoi yn y ffordd iawn? A ydym yn sicr bod y buddsoddiad hwnnw'n cael yr effaith orau i fusnesau bach? Dyna pam yr ydym wedi galw am adolygiad.

Gareth Jones: Dywedwch eich bod am roi pob cefnogaeth i fusnesau bach, ond beth am gynyddu TAW? Pa effaith y mae hynny

has that had on small businesses?

Kirsty Williams: I suspect that it has had less of an impact than the increases in national insurance that were being talked about by other parties in the elections would have had. Unless you want to be a deficit denier, Gareth, there is no easy way for these issues to be addressed.

Moving on to the issue of supermarkets, Brecon and Radnor got its first branch of Tesco last year. I am not naïve enough to think that supermarkets are all bad, but when a supermarket is proposed in any community, there are strong feelings on either side, especially when the retail offer in a particular place is not great. However, we have to have a robust mechanism in place that gives local communities confidence that, whatever their feelings about a supermarket, there is a robust independent way of looking at the impact of such out-of-town developments on their particular town. At the moment, there is a feeling that that robust set of challenges and tests is not there, and I urge the Government to look again at what it can do to ensure that when we look at out-of-town developments, the impact on the existing high street is properly analysed.

Mark Isherwood: Over the last decade, too many services have been withdrawn from our communities and too many high-street units left struggling or vacant. The Welsh Government must engage with and listen to small and medium-sized businesses if it is to remedy the damage caused. We must, therefore, view with alarm the statement by the Federation of Small Businesses that the consultation process on the economic renewal programme has hardly been the model of engagement espoused by the Welsh Government. There is, of course, good practice out there. I praise the town centre assessment of Holywell in Flintshire, which is seeking to arrest decline and reposition the town for the future. The town centre master plan to revive the fortunes of Buckley in Flintshire, the proposals by the Rhyl business group for a town centre manager to improve the vitality and viability of the town centre and Rhuthun's market town of the future initiative are good only because each one is a

wedi'i chael ar fusnesau bach?

Kirsty Williams: Credaf ei fod wedi cael llai o effaith nag y byddai'r cynnydd mewn yswiriant gwladol y bu pleidiau eraill yn sôn amdano yn yr etholiadau wedi'i chael. Heblaw eich bod am wadu'r diffyg, Gareth, nid oes ffordd hawdd o fynd i'r afael â'r materion hyn.

A symud ymlaen at yr archfarchnadoedd, daeth cangen Tesco i Frycheiniog a Maesyfed am y tro cyntaf y llynedd. Nid wyf mor ddiniwed â meddwl bod archfarchnadoedd yn ddrwg i gyd, ond pan fydd cynnig i godi archfarchnad yn unrhyw gymuned, mae teimladau cryfion ar y naill ochr a'r llall, yn enwedig pan nad oes llawer o ddewis o ran siopau mewn man penodol. Er hynny, rhaid inni sicrhau bod trefniadau cadarn ar waith sy'n rhoi i gymunedau lleol hyder, beth bynnag fo'u teimladau am yr archfarchnad, fod ffordd gadarn ac annibynnol o edrych ar effaith datblygiadau o'r fath ar gyrion y dref ar eu tref hwy. Ar hyn o bryd, y teimlad yw nad yw'r profion a'r heriau cadarn hyn yn eu lle, a galwaf ar y Llywodraeth i edrych eto ar yr hyn y gall ei wneud i sicrhau, pan edrychwn ar ddatblygiadau ar gyrion trefi, y dadansoddir yr effaith ar y stryd fawr bresennol yn iawn.

Mark Isherwood: Dros y degawd diwethaf, mae gormod o wasanaethau wedi'u tynnu o'n cymunedau ac mae gormod o unedau'r stryd fawr mewn trafferthion neu'n wag. Mae'n rhaid i Lywodraeth Cymru ymgysylltu â busnesau bach a chanolig a gwrando arnynt os yw am adfer y difrod a wnaed. Rhaid inni, felly, ystyried â dychryn ddatganiad Ffederasiwn y Busnesau Bach nad oedd y broses ymgynghori ar raglen adfywio'r economi'n esiampl dda o'r ymgysylltu y mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n ei arddel. Mae yna arfer da, wrth reswm. Canmolaf yr asesiad o ganol tref Treffynnon yn sir y Fflint, sy'n ceisio atal y dirywiad ac ail-leoli'r dref at y dyfodol. Mae'r uwchgynllun i adfywio canol tref Bwcle yn sir y Fflint, y cynigion gan grŵp busnes y Rhyl i gael rheolwr canol y dref a menter tref farchnad y dyfodol Rhuthun yn dda am fod pob un yn bartneriaeth weithio wirioneddol rhwng masnachwyr lleol a busnesau, trigolion, cynghorwyr tref a sir, a

real working partnership between local traders and businesses, residents, town and county councillors, and council officers.

5.20 p.m.

As this motion states, post offices play a crucial role in providing community-based services, and are a key part of a thriving high street. We therefore welcome the decision of the UK coalition Government not to close any additional post offices. It remains shameful that Labour and Plaid Cymru voted down our 2008 motion calling for the National Assembly to agree that the UK Government should halt its post office closure programme in Wales. As Elfyn Llwyd, Plaid Cymru's leader in the House of Commons, has said, the Labour UK Government began closing the post offices without adequately exploring how Post Offices could expand their services. He said that the closure programme should be stopped, and time given to explore how they should develop so that they can remain part of our communities. Labour in London, and Labour and Plaid Cymru in Wales, said that they wanted to keep viable post offices open, but denied post offices the chance to restore the viability destroyed by UK Government policy after 1997. They failed to support the councils in Monmouthshire, Wrexham, Denbighshire and elsewhere that worked to keep post offices open.

Postcomm's annual report revealed that the number of post offices decreased from 17,845 in 2000-01 to 11,905 in 2009-10. Over the last 10 years, there has been a decline in revenue from Government services, especially the benefits agency. Wales retains the highest proportion of rural post offices compared to urban, as just over 71 per cent of post offices in Wales are in rural areas. It is therefore great news that the UK postal—

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: May I comment on the point that you just made on the number of post office closures? You gave the figures for the UK. The figure for Wales was 436 closures during that period. I agree with you,

swyddogion y cyngor.

Fel y dywed y cynnig hwn, mae'r swyddfeydd post yn chwarae rhan allweddol o safbwynt darparu gwasanaethau wedi'u seilio yn y gymuned, ac maent yn rhan allweddol o stryd fawr ffyniannus. Croesawn felly benderfyniad Llywodraeth glymblaid y DU i beidio â chau mwy o swyddfeydd post. Mae'n warth fod Llafur a Phlaid Cymru wedi pleidleisio yn erbyn ein cynnig yn 2008 yn galw ar y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i gytuno y dylai Llywodraeth y DU roi terfyn ar ei rhaglen i gau swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru. Fel y dywedodd Elfyn Llwyd, arweinydd Plaid Cymru yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin, aeth Llywodraeth Lafur y DU ati i gau swyddfeydd post heb edrych yn iawn ar sut y gallai Swyddfeydd Post ehangu eu gwasanaethau. Dywedodd y dylid rhoi terfyn ar y rhaglen gau, a chymryd amser i edrych i weld sut y dylent ddatblygu er mwyn dal i fod yn rhan o'n cymunedau. Dywedodd Llafur yn Llundain, a Llafur a Phlaid Cymru yng Nghymru, eu bod am gadw swyddfeydd post hyfyw ar agor, ond fe wrthodasant roi cyfle i swyddfeydd post adfer yr hyfywedd a ddinistriwyd gan bolisi Llywodraeth y DU ar ôl 1997. Ni chefnogasant y cynghorau yn sir Fynwy, Wrecsam, sir Ddinbych ac mewn mannau eraill a weithiodd i gadw swyddfeydd post ar agor.

Datgelodd adroddiad blynyddol Postcomm y cwmpodd nifer y swyddfeydd post o 17,845 yn 2000-01 i 11,905 yn 2009-10. Dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, gwelwyd gostyngiad yn y refeniw o wasanaethau'r Llywodraeth, ac yn arbennig felly'r asiantaeth budd-daliadau. Yng Nghymru y mae'r gyfran uchaf o swyddfeydd post gwledig o'u cymharu â rhai trefol o hyd; mae ychydig dros 71 y cant o swyddfeydd post Cymru mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Mae'n newyddion da iawn, felly, fod—

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A gaf i wneud sylw am yr hyn a ddywedasoch am nifer y swyddfeydd post sydd wedi cau? Rhoddasoch ffigurau'r DU. Y ffigur yng Nghymru oedd 436 yn ystod y cyfnod

and condemn the Labour Government for the policies that led to those closures. However, how do you respond to the statement by Consumer Focus that the privatisation agenda of the present coalition Government at Westminster will mean that another 350 post offices will close in Wales because of lack of business? That is because of the way that the Royal Mail will be privatised by the coalition Government that you support.

Mark Isherwood: You cannot have it both ways. Members on your benches cannot constantly be telling us that you support co-operatives, mutuals and social enterprises, and then describe them as privatisation. It is great news that the Postal Services Bill strengthens the one-price-goes-everywhere universal service. The priority of the UK Government is to secure that universal service and the post office network. It has pledged that there will be no closure programme, and has announced a £1.34 billion funding package to finance investment in the network. A key part of that package is that Post Office Ltd maintains its network of around 11,500 branches, and that it may also be mutualised in due course, running as a co-operative like John Lewis, giving sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses, communities, customers and employers, a far greater say. Some recent newspaper reports have claimed that 1,000 post office branches face an uncertain future. Actually, Royal Mail has confirmed that the vast majority of these are simply moving from one owner to another, and this represents the usual, healthy level of annual turnover.

The motion also rightly calls for small business support. We must reduce the regulatory burden, and we must slash business rates for the majority of small businesses in Wales, helping them to create jobs and boost prosperity. Recent official figures reveal that, for the twelfth consecutive year of socialist Government, Wales has the lowest level of wealth creation among the 12 UK nations and regions. We must open the Welsh Government's silo and

hwnnw. Cytunaf â chi, a chondemnio'r Llywodraeth Lafur am y polisiau a arweiniodd at gau'r rheiny. Serch hynny, sut ydych chi'n ymateb i ddatganiad Llais Defnyddwyr y bydd agenda breifateiddio'r Llywodraeth glymblaid bresennol yn San Steffan yn golygu y bydd 350 yn rhagor o swyddfeydd post yn cau yng Nghymru oherwydd prinder busnes? Mae hynny oherwydd y ffordd y caiff y Post Brenhinol ei breifateiddio gan y Llywodraeth glymblaid yr ydych chi'n ei chefnogi.

Mark Isherwood: Allwch chi ddim ei chael hi bob ffordd. Ni all Aelodau ar eich meinciau chi ddweud wrthym o hyd eich bod yn cefnogi cwmnïau cydweithredol, cwmnïau cydfuddiannol a mentrau cymdeithasol, ac yna'u disgrifio fel preifateiddio. Mae'n newyddion da iawn fod y Mesur Gwasanaethau Post yn cryfhau'r gwasanaeth cyffredinol 'un pris i bobman'. Blaenoriaeth Llywodraeth y DU yw diogelu'r gwasanaeth cyffredinol hwnnw a rhwydwaith y swyddfeydd post. Mae wedi addo na fydd rhaglen gau, ac wedi cyhoeddi pecyn ariannu gwerth £1.34 biliwn i ariannu buddsoddi yn y rhwydwaith. Rhan allweddol o'r pecyn hwnnw yw fod Swyddfa'r Post Cyf yn cadw'i rhwydwaith o oddeutu 11,500 o ganghennau, ac y bydd efallai'n dod yn gwmni cydfuddiannol ymhen amser, gan redeg fel cwmni cydweithredol fel John Lewis, gan roi mwy o lais o lawer i is-bostfeistri ac is-bostfeistresau, cwsmeriaid a chyflogwyr. Mae rhai adroddiadau yn y papurau newydd yn ddiweddar wedi honni bod 1,000 o ganghennau swyddfa'r post yn wynebu dyfodol ansicr. Mewn gwirionedd, mae'r Post Brenhinol wedi cadarnhau mai symud o un perchennog i'r llall y mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r rhain, ac mae hynny'n drosiant blynyddol arferol ac iach.

Mae'r cynnig hefyd yn briodol iawn yn galw am gymorth i fusnesau bach. Rhaid inni leihau'r baich rheoleiddio, a rhaid inni dorri ardrethi busnes i'r rhan fwyaf o fusnesau bach yng Nghymru, a'u helpu i greu swyddi a hybu ffyniant. Dengys ffigurau swyddogol diweddar mai yng Nghymru, am y ddeuddegfed flwyddyn o Lywodraeth sosialaidd yn olynol, y mae'r lefel isaf o ran creu cyfoeth o blith 12 cenedl a rhanbarth y DU. Mae'n rhaid inni agor seilo Llywodraeth

open Wales for business at last, unleashing the economic and social enterprise, aspiration and entrepreneurial spirit that is ready, willing and able to drive change in our communities and on our high streets.

Eleanor Burnham: Our motion also raises the issue of access by public transport to town centres. In fact, we address two specific issues on train and bus services. It is obvious to everyone that if we want to deliver sustainable town centres, or high streets, then good public transport links—including intermodal links—have to be available. Many towns across north Wales are frequented by people travelling by train and bus, and I am sure that we all agree that more people could use trains for shopping if there were better connections.

In May last year, I submitted a private Member's legislative competence Order to ask for powers to improve the maintenance of railway stations, for various reasons, including security, access for disabled people, and the use of railway stations as a community hub to promote local communities. Unfortunately, I was not successful. The people arriving by trains to towns, large and small, should have easy access to information about the local community; the station should be a gateway. I agree with Mark when he mentioned various towns across Wales where there are prime examples of positive partnerships reviving town centres, which can be gateways because they are also on the railway—Colwyn Bay, Rhyl and others come to mind.

Chirk is a prime example of a very vibrant town, with a very strong community partnership, that has adopted the station as an attractive gateway to the town; it is a beacon of good practice. On my way home from here to north Wales, my train stops at Cwmbran station, which has a sign on its platform stating 'alight here for Cwmbran shopping'. It is a tiny, inexpensive and simple sign that has informed many people of the existence of a shopping centre in Cwmbran. As I sit on the train, I listen to people's conversations and many people have mentioned that they did not know that Cwmbran had a shopping

Cymru ac agor drysau busnes Cymru unwaith eto, a rhyddhau'r ysbryd economaidd a mentrau cymdeithasol, uchelgais a mentergarwch sy'n barod, yn awyddus ac yn abl i yrru newid yn ein cymunedau ac ar y stryd fawr.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae ein cynnig hefyd yn codi mater trafndiaeth gyhoeddus i ganol trefi. Yn wir, trafodwn ddau fater penodol ynglŷn â gwasanaethau trenau a bysiau. Mae'n amlwg i bawb, os ydym am ddarparu canol trefi neu strydoedd mawr cynaliadwy, fod yn rhaid i gysylltiadau trafndiaeth gyhoeddus da—gan gynnwys cysylltiadau rhyngfoddol—fod ar gael. Mae pobl yn teithio i lawer o drefi ledled gogledd Cymru ar y trê'n a'r bws, ac mae'n siŵr gennyf ein bod oll yn gytŷn y gallai mwy o bobl ddefnyddio trenau i siopa petai gennym gysylltiadau gwell.

Ym mis Mai y llynedd, cyflwynais Orchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol Aelod preifat i ofyn am bwerau i wella gwaith cynnal a chadw gorsafoedd rheilffordd, am sawl rheswm, gan gynnwys diogelwch, mynediad i bobl anabl, a defnyddio'r gorsafoedd yn ganolbwynt i'r gymuned i hybu cymunedau lleol. Yn anffodus, ni fŷm yn llwyddiannus. Dylai gwybodaeth am y gymuned leol fod ar gael yn rhwydd i bobl sy'n cyrraedd trefi bach a mawr ar y trê'n; dylai'r orsaf fod yn borth. Cytunaf â Mark, a soniodd am wahanol drefi ledled Cymru lle mae enghreifftiau gwych o bartneriaethau cadarnhaol yn adfywio canol trefi, a all fod yn byrth gan eu bod hefyd ar y rheilffordd—Bae Colwyn, y Rhyl ac eraill, er enghraifft.

Mae'r Waun yn enghraifft wych o dref sy'n llawn bywyd, lle mae partneriaeth gymunedol gref iawn, sydd wedi mabwysiadu'r orsaf yn borth deniadol i'r dref; mae'n esiampl o arfer da. Ar fy ffordd adref oddi yma i ogledd Cymru, mae fy nhrê'n yn stopio yng ngorsaf Cwmbrân, ac mae yno arwydd ar y plattform yn dweud 'disgynnwch yma i siopa yng Nghwmbrân'. Mae'r arwydd yn fach ac yn syml ac nid yw wedi costio llawer, ond mae wedi rhoi gwybod i lawer o bobl fod canolfan siopa yng Nghwmbrân. Wrth imi eistedd ar y trê'n, byddaf yn gwranddo ar sgysiau pobl ac mae llawer o bobl yn sôn nad oeddent yn

centre. A sign is therefore an important but inexpensive bit of public information, and I am glad that everyone agrees with me. In Church Stretton, which I think that I have mentioned before, there is also a little sign on the platform about what you can do there.

We need to maximise easier access to towns by rail and bus through regular and efficient interlinking services. The Government recently announced the additional service from Holyhead to Cardiff each day. I have already rehearsed the issue that it does not stop at Wrexham, which is of great regret, because Wrexham is a thriving town that has a very good intermodal bus service from the bus station into the town, which is a little bit of a distance to walk if you have packages or shopping. I suggest that the Welsh Assembly Government should take the lead with local authorities in looking at the most appropriate positions of simple, additional improvements, such as bus stops to be conveniently located and accessible to all, as well as improved connections with trains. I believe that planning guidance would be the most appropriate way of achieving that, but I am sure that the Minister will enlighten me if that would not be the best way of doing it. The research of city planners should be disseminated among local authorities to ensure the best locations for bus stops. Elderly people, as we know, are often reluctant to walk to the stops if they are inadequate or too far away, or if the weather is bad.

The Conservative amendment suggests the improvement of signage to town centres. I agree with that, but our priority should be to sign from public transport stations and stops, which, in my opinion, would be more sustainable. They are small, but effective and inexpensive improvements that could make a huge difference to give people the power to visit town centres. I live on the train line—*[Laughter.]*

I actually live in Chirk. One of the reasons why I moved there was because I have only a 10-minute walk to the station, which is brilliant. I went to Manchester a couple of weeks ago, I go to Chester, and I find

gwybod bod canolfan siopa yng Nghwmbrân. Mae arwydd felly'n fodd pwysig ond heb fod yn gostus o roi gwybodaeth i'r cyhoedd, ac rwyf yn falch fod pawb yn cytuno â mi. Yn Church Stretton, y credaf imi ei grybwyll o'r blaen, mae hefyd arwydd bach ar y plattform am yr hyn y gallwch ei wneud yno.

Mae angen inni ei gwneud yn haws o lawer i bobl gyrraedd ein trefi ar y trên neu'r bws drwy wasanaethau rhyng-gysylltiol rheolaidd ac effeithlon. Cyhoeddodd y Llywodraeth yn ddiweddar wasanaeth ychwanegol o Gaergybi i Gaerdydd bob dydd. Rwyf eisoes wedi sôn nad yw'n stopio yn Wrecsam, sy'n resyn imi, gan fod Wrecsam yn dref ffyniannus a chanddi wasanaeth bysiau rhyngfoddol da iawn o'r orsaf fysiau i'r dref, sy'n dipyn o ffordd i gerdded os oes gennych becynnau neu siopa. Awgrymaf y dylai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gymryd yr awenau gydag awdurdodau lleol wrth edrych ar y manau mwyaf priodol i osod gwelliannau syml, ychwanegol, megis arosfannau bysiau mewn manau cyfleus sy'n hygyrch i bawb, yn ogystal â chysylltiadau gwell â threnau. Credaf mai cyfarwyddyd cynllunio fyddai'r ffordd fwyaf priodol o gyflawni hynny, ond rwyf yn siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn fy rhoi ar ben y ffordd os nad dyna'r ffordd orau o wneud hyn. Dylid lledaenu gwaith ymchwil cynllunwyr dinesig ymhlith awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau y lleolir arosfannau bysiau yn y manau gorau. Mae pobl oedrannus, fel y gwyddom, yn aml yn gyndyn o gerdded i'r arosfannau os ydynt yn annigonol neu'n rhy bell i ffordd, neu os yw'r tywydd yn wael.

Mae gwelliant y Ceidwadwyr yn awgrymu y dylid gwella arwyddion i ganol trefi. Cytunaf â hynny, ond dylem roi blaenoriaeth i arwyddion o orsafoedd ac arosfannau trafniadaeth gyhoeddus, a fyddai, yn fy marn i, yn fwy cynaliadwy. Dyma welliannau bach ond effeithiol, nad ydynt yn gostus, a allai wneud gwahaniaeth enfawr i alluogi pobl i ymweld â chanol trefi. Rwyf fi'n byw ar y rheilffordd—*[Chwerthin.]*

A dweud y gwir, rwyf yn byw yn y Waun. Un o'r rhesymau pam y symudais yno oedd mai dim ond 10 munud y mae'n ei gymryd imi gerdded i'r orsaf, sy'n wych. Euthum i Fanceinion ychydig wythnosau yn ôl, byddaf

people's conversations very interesting. These issues that I mentioned, which you find so hilarious—and I am absolutely delighted about that—are small, but important issues to improve public transport use and make it as sustainable as possible.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Mae'n amhosibl dilyn cyfraniad Eleanor. Bydd y darlun o Eleanor Burnham yn byw ar reilffordd yn ein meddyliau i gyd am gyfnod maith.

Diolchaf i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am godi'r pwnc eithriadol o bwysig hwn. Mae consensws ynghylch pwysigrwydd strydoedd mawr mewn trefi. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o hynny yn fy etholaeth fy hun, mewn trefi fel Rhydaman, ond, fel y dywedodd Kirsty Williams, yr wyf hefyd yn ymwybodol o bwysigrwydd y stryd fawr mewn trefi marchnad yn ardaloedd gwledig fy etholaeth. Yn yr ardaloedd hynny, nid yn unig y maent yn hwb i economi'r dref, ond maent hefyd yn hwb i economi'r gymuned wledig sy'n bodoli y tu hwnt i'r dref honno, ac maent yn rhoi cyfle i'r economi honno ddatblygu ar gefn yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn y stryd fawr yn y trefi marchnad arbennig o bwysig hynny.

5.30 p.m.

Mae consensws hefyd ynghylch pwysigrwydd swyddfeydd post. Yr ydym i gyd yn cefnogi swyddfeydd post. Mae pob plaid yn barod iawn i ddatgan hynny bob amser, ond mae'n rhaid cyfeirio at realiti'r hyn sydd wedi digwydd ers 2001. Cyfeiriodd Mark Isherwood at hyn, sef bod ffigurau'r cyfnod rhwng 2001 a 2010 yn dangos bod 436 o swyddfeydd post wedi cau yng Nghymru, a hynny oherwydd polisiau'r Llywodraeth Lafur ar y pryd. Wrth gwrs, yr oedd Aelodau Seneddol Llafur yn parhau i ddweud eu bod yn cefnogi swyddfeydd post er eu bod yn pleidleisio dros yr union ddeddfwriaeth a oedd yn arwain at gau'r swyddfeydd post hynny.

I must return to the point that I raised with Veronica German, which she neatly sidestepped, namely that the privatisation agenda that is being pushed forward by her

yn mynd i Gaer, ac mae sgysiau pobl yn ddi-ddorol iawn. Mae'r materion hyn yr wyf wedi eu crybwyll, sy'n destun cymaint o ddoniolwch ichi—ac rwyf wrth fy modd â hynny—yn faterion bach, ond pwysig, i wella'r defnydd a wneir o drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus a'i gwneud mor gynaliadwy â phosibl.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: It is impossible to follow Eleanor's contribution. The picture of Eleanor Burnham living on the railway line is one that will be in all our minds for quite some time.

I thank the Liberal Democrats for raising this exceptionally important subject. There is consensus on the importance of high streets in towns. I am aware of that in my constituency, in towns such as Ammanford, but, as Kirsty Williams said, I am also aware of the importance of the high street in market towns in the rural areas of my constituency. In those areas, they not only offer a boost to the town's economy, but they offer a boost to the economy of the rural community that exists around that town, and they offer opportunities for that economy to develop as a result of what is happening on the high street in those exceptionally important market towns.

There is also consensus regarding the importance of post offices. All of us here support post offices. Every party is always ready to say that, but I must refer to the reality of what has happened since 2001. Mark Isherwood referred to the figures that show that, between 2001 and 2010, 436 post offices were closed in Wales. That was as a result of the policies of the then Labour Government. Of course, Labour MPs continued to say that they supported post offices even while voting for the very legislation that was leading to the closure of those post offices.

Mae'n rhaid imi ddychwelyd at y pwynt a godais â Veronica German, y bu iddi ei ochrgamu'n ddestlus, sef y bydd yr agenda breifateiddio sy'n cael ei gyrru ymlaen gan ei

coalition Government, which she supports, will lead to a situation where post offices will have fewer opportunities, and will be able to offer fewer services— [Interruption.] Let me make the point, Jenny, and I will allow you an intervention. It is not me, but Consumer Focus, who is saying that 350 post offices will close as a result of this, because of the declining amount of services that they are able to offer. That will lead to them not being viable as businesses.

Jenny Randerson: You clearly have not looked in detail at the proposals, because there are assurances and guarantees within them that there will be a wider range of services, and that the universal service obligation will remain and, indeed, be enhanced. The fundamental point is that the proposals to sell off and to privatise, as you call it—although we would argue with that—part of the Royal Mail, does not deal with the Post Office. That is separate and different.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: The point that I was making, if you had listened, was that that will lead to a situation where post offices will have fewer opportunities and will be able to offer fewer services. I have looked at the details, and there is an important element there that refers to the inter-service agreements. There is a discussion going on in relation to legislation in Westminster on this, to extend it from 5 to 10 years. Only two Liberal Democrat MPs supported that. The other 39, including two from Wales—to be fair to Mark Williams, he was not there—voted against it. Those are the kinds of safeguards that you say are important to post offices, yet your own MPs vote against them. It is easy enough for us all to say that we support post offices; the important thing is that we support legislation that offers post offices an opportunity to flourish in the future.

What we have here is consensus. At the start, Jenny said that the Government amendments aim to water down the motion itself, but what the Government amendments do is highlight what it is doing to support town centres and post offices. There is a happy medium here, which, unfortunately, we have not reached.

Llywodraeth glymblaid hi, y mae hi'n ei chefnogi, yn arwain at sefyllfa lle bydd llai o gyfleoedd i swyddfeydd post, a lle byddant yn gallu cynnig llai o wasanaethau— [Torri ar draws.] Gadewch imi wneud y pwynt, Jenny, ac yna fe ganiatâf ichi ymyrryd. Nid fi, ond Llais Defnyddwyr, sy'n dweud y bydd 350 o swyddfeydd post yn cau o ganlyniad i hyn, oherwydd eu bod yn gallu cynnig llai a llai o wasanaethau. Bydd hynny'n peri sefyllfa lle na fyddant yn fusnesau hyfyw.

Jenny Randerson: Mae'n amlwg nad ydych wedi edrych yn fanwl ar y cynigion, oherwydd mae sicrwydd a gwarantau ynddynt y bydd amrywiaeth ehangach o wasanaethau, ac y bydd y ddyletswydd gwasanaeth cyffredinol yn parhau, ac, yn wir, yn gwella. Y pwynt sylfaenol yw nad yw'r cynigion i werthu a phreifateiddio, fel y galwch chi ef—a byddem yn dadlau â hynny—ran o'r Post Brenhinol yn ymwneud â Swyddfa'r Post. Mae hynny'n fater ar wahân a gwahanol.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Y pwynt yr oeddwn yn ei wneud, pe baech wedi gwranddo, oedd y bydd hyn yn arwain at sefyllfa lle bydd llai o gyfleoedd i swyddfeydd post a lle byddant yn gallu cynnig llai o wasanaethau. Rwyf wedi edrych ar manylion, ac mae yna elfen bwysig sy'n cyfeirio at y cytundebau rhyngwasanaeth. Mae trafodaeth ar y gweill ynglŷn â deddfwriaeth yn San Steffan ar hyn, i'w hestyn o 5 i 10 mlynedd. Dau AS Democratiaidd Rhyddfrydol yn unig a'i cefnogodd. Pleidleisiodd y 39 arall, gan gynnwys dau o Gymru—a bod yn deg â Mark Williams, nid oedd yno—yn ei erbyn. Dyna'r mathau o fesurau diogelu y dywedwch sy'n bwysig i swyddfeydd post, ac eto mae eich ASau chi eich hun yn pleidleisio yn eu herbyn. Mae'n ddigon hawdd inni i gyd ddweud ein bod yn chefnogi swyddfeydd post; yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw ein bod yn chefnogi deddfwriaeth sy'n rhoi cyfle i swyddfeydd post ffynnu yn y dyfodol.

Yr hyn sydd gennym yma yw consensws. Ar y dechrau, dywedodd Jenny fod gwelliannau'r Llywodraeth yn ceisio glastwreiddio'r cynnig ei hun, ond yr hyn y mae gwelliannau'r Llywodraeth yn ei wneud yw tynnu sylw at yr hyn y mae'n ei wneud i gefnogi canol trefi a swyddfeydd post. Mae

That happy medium would be to acknowledge what the Government is doing at the moment and also to highlight our aspirations for more to be done. Hopefully, more will be done, both by the Welsh Government and the coalition Government in Westminster, to safeguard town centres and to offer opportunities to post offices in Wales.

Jeff Cuthbert: I will be supporting the Labour-led Welsh Government's amendments to the motion, as I believe that, while we recognise that town centres across Wales face difficult economic times, we are doing all that we can to ensure that they pull through, and that they emerge in a stronger position at the heart of our communities and local economies. To this end, we are, as has been announced, reducing business rate relief, so that around half of Welsh businesses will not have to pay business rates this year, while our post office diversification fund has helped many post offices throughout Wales to expand their services. As ever, our use of European structural funds will help us along the way, as money drawn down from both the European regional development fund and the European social fund will help us to improve infrastructure and get people back into work.

I will concentrate on how all of this affects the more disadvantaged areas in my constituency. The Labour-led Welsh Government has shown the way by taking action on business rates with a credible and affordable plan. Much of that is thanks to the hard work of Labour's Carl Sargeant, which means that businesses in towns such as Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach and Bargoed—to add to the list of 'B's that Jenny Randerson mentioned at the beginning, of Bangor, Barry and Broadhaven—can benefit from reduced rates bills at the time when they need it most, having been hit by a devastating rise in VAT.

Turning to the matter of post offices, we all acknowledge that they are often at the heart of our communities and provide vital services, particularly for the elderly and disadvantaged. The post office diversification fund has benefited several premises in my

yma fan canol nad ydym, yn anffodus, wedi ei gyrraedd. Y man canol hwnnw fyddai cydnabod yr hyn y mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei wneud ar hyn o bryd a thynnu sylw hefyd at ein dyheadau i weld mwy'n cael ei wneud. Ein gobaith yw y bydd mwy yn cael ei wneud, gan Lywodraeth Cymru a'r Llywodraeth glymblaid yn San Steffan fel ei gilydd, i ddiogelu canol trefi ac i gynnig cyfleoedd i swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru.

Jeff Cuthbert: Cefnogaf y gwelliannau gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad a arweinir gan Lafur i'r cynnig, gan fy mod yn credu, er ein bod yn cydnabod bod canol trefi ledled Cymru yn wynebu cyfnod economaidd anodd, ein bod yn gwneud popeth a allwn i sicrhau eu bod yn goroesi a'u bod yn dod drwyddi mewn sefyllfa gryfach wrth galon ein cymunedau a'n heconomïau lleol. I'r perwyl hwnnw, rydym ni, fel y cyhoeddwyd, yn lleihau rhyddhad ardrethi busnesau, fel na fydd rhaid i ryw hanner o fusnesau Cymru dalu ardrethi busnes eleni, ac mae ein cronfa arallgyfeirio swyddfeydd post wedi helpu llawer o swyddfeydd post ledled Cymru i ehangu eu gwasanaethau. Fel bob amser, defnyddiwn gronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd i'n helpu ar hyd y ffordd, gan y bydd arian a ddaw o gronfa datblygu rhanbarthol Ewrop a chronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop yn ein helpu i wella'r isadeiledd a chael pobl yn ôl i waith.

Canolbwyntiaf yn awr ar sut mae hyn oll yn effeithio ar yr ardaloedd mwy difreintiedig yn fy etholaeth. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru a arweinir gan Lafur wedi dangos y ffordd drwy gymryd camau ar ardrethi busnes gyda chynllun credadwy a fforddiadwy. Mae llawer o hynny'n ddyledus i waith caled yr aelod Llafur Carl Sargeant, sy'n golygu bod busnesau mewn trefi megis Caerffili, Ystrad Mynach a Bargoed—ac ychwanegu at y rhestr a roddwyd gan Jenny Randerson ar y dechrau, sef Bangor, y Barri ac Aberllydan—yn gallu elwa o filiau ardrethi llai ar adeg pan fo angen hynny fwyaf, a hwythau wedi cael eu taro gan gynnydd deifiol mewn TAW.

A throi at fater y swyddfeydd post, rydym oll yn cydnabod eu bod yn aml wrth galon ein cymunedau ac yn darparu gwasanaethau hanfodol, yn enwedig i'r henoed a'r rhai dan anfantais. Mae sawl safle yn fy etholaeth wedi elwa o'r gronfa arallgyfeirio

constituency, including in Bargoed, where the local post office received a boost to continue to provide very important services for the mid-Rhymney valley. Meanwhile, the Liberal Democrats in the UK Government are pursuing the complete and full privatisation of the Royal Mail, which is a policy that is likely, as has been outlined, to have disastrous consequences for post offices across Wales. Thank goodness that Labour stands up for Wales.

On the issue of European structural funds, we have already made innovative use of money that has been drawn down from ERDF and ESF to regenerate town centres by improving transport infrastructure and helping to bring people back into employment. European funding has gone into the the Caerphilly strategic regeneration project, which complements recent Welsh-Government-funded transport improvements in and around Bargoed, and which is badly needed after the Plaid-controlled county borough council unfortunately failed to secure any funding from the strategic capital investment fund for Bargoed and Caerphilly town.

People in the mid-Rhymney valley also await with impatience the announcement of further developments regarding the new retail park in Bargoed, which would bring many badly needed jobs to the town. We do not want a repeat of what happened two years ago when the same council gave assurances to local people that a major national supermarket had been secured for the site, only for it to fall through. I am pleased to say that it has just been announced by the chamber of trade in Bargoed that The Original Factory Shop will relocate to the empty Woolworths site in Bargoed. That is good news for traders and shoppers in Bargoed today.

We have mentioned the issue of supermarkets. About 10 years ago, Tesco came to Ystrad Mynach and, undoubtedly, the commercial centre of the village has suffered, with many businesses going out of business. Those that survived managed to do so by the skin of their teeth and, unfortunately—I say that cautiously—Tesco has been given permission to expand, which means that traders and residents are now very

swyddfeydd post, gan gynnwys Bargoed, lle cafodd y swyddfa bost leol hwb er mwyn dal ati i ddarparu gwasanaethau pwysig iawn i ganol cwm Rhymni. Yn y cyfamser, mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn Llywodraeth y DU wrthi'n ceisio preifateiddio'r Post Brenhinol yn llwyr. Mae canlyniadau'r polisi hwnnw yn debygol, fel yr amlinellwyd, o fod yn drychinebus i swyddfeydd post ledled Cymru. Diolch byth bod Llafur yn sefyll dros Gymru.

Ar fater cronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop, defnyddiasom arian a ddaeth o'r gronfa datblygu rhanbarthol a'r gronfa strwythurol yn arloesol eisoes i adfywio canol trefi drwy wella'r isadeiledd trafndiaeth a helpu i ddod â phobl yn ôl i gyflogaeth. Aeth cyllid Ewropeaidd i brosiect adfywio strategol Caerffili, sy'n cyd-fynd â gwelliannau i drafndiaeth a ariannwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn ddiweddar ym Margoed a'r cylch, rhywbeth sydd ei angen yn ddirfawr ar ôl i'r cyngor bwrdeistrefol sirol dan reolaeth Plaid Cymru fethu â chael cyllid o'r gronfa buddsoddi cyfalaf strategol i Fargoed na thref Caerffili.

Mae pobl canol cwm Rhymni hefyd yn aros yn ddiamynedd i glywed am ddatblygiadau pellach ynghylch y parc adwerthu newydd ym Margoed, a fyddai'n dod â swyddi y mae eu mawr angen i'r dref. Nid ydym am weld yr hyn a ddigwyddodd ddwy flynedd yn ôl yn digwydd eto, pan roddodd yr un cyngor hwnnw eu gair i bobl leol fod un o'r archfarchnadoedd cenedlaethol mawr wedi'i sicrhau i'r safle, dim ond i bethau fynd i'r gwellt wedyn. Mae'n dda gennyf ddweud bod y siambr fasnach ym Margoed newydd gyhoeddi y bydd The Original Factory Shop yn adleoli i safle gwag Woolworth ym Margoed. Dyna newyddion da i fasnachwyr a siopwyr ym Margoed heddiw.

Soniasom am fater yr archfarchnadoedd. Tua 10 mlynedd yn ôl, daeth Tesco i Ystrad Mynach a, heb os, mae canolfan fasnachol y pentref wedi dioddef, a llawer o fusnesau wedi mynd i'r wal. Mae'r rhai a oroesodd wedi gwneud hynny o drwch blewyn ac, yn anffodus—dywedaf hynny'n ofalus—cafodd Tesco ganiatâd i ehangu, sy'n golygu bod masnachwyr a thrigolion yn awr yn bryderus iawn ynghylch dyfodol canol tref Ystrad

concerned indeed about the future of Ystrad Mynach town centre, and I share their concerns.

In conclusion, I reiterate that, while we acknowledge and sympathise with the difficulties faced by town centres and high-street retailers, the Labour-led Welsh Government is doing what it can to ensure their viability during the austere financial climate that has been imposed upon us by the UK Government. That is why we have worked out realistic and affordable plans to reduce business rate contributions for many traders as well as providing funds for the maintenance of institutions such as the Post Office, so that they remain core service providers in our communities. That is in contrast to the Conservatives, who are promising to raise the threshold for business rates with one hand, while raising VAT with the other—robbing Peter to pay Paul. As I have mentioned, the Lib Dems are just as complicit in this, because of their role in the VAT rise and their plans to wholly privatise Royal Mail, which Labour never considered.

The Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration (Jocelyn Davies): Thank you, Jenny, for tabling this wide-ranging debate, and I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Government. The Government fully recognises the importance of town centres and high streets across Wales. Town centres are vital in providing a range of services and acting as an economic hub. They are also places where people come together and gain a sense of community. I do not think that I can disagree with Jenny's assessment of the factors that cause decline, and I would agree that closures do appear to be contagious. Kirsty is right that we cannot roll back the clock. It is not an easy time for town centres and high streets, given the very difficult economic climate, and we have responded by investing in town centres and high streets. Overall, a total project investment of some £405 million has been committed to help to drive forward the regeneration of our communities. There are many strands to this investment, such as town centre regeneration projects, which we have heard about this afternoon, which greatly benefit communities through renewed pride, improved facilities

Mynach, a rhannaf finnau eu pryder.

I gloi, er ein bod yn cydnabod a chydymdeimlo â'r anawsterau y mae canol trefi ac adwerthwyr y stryd fawr yn eu hwynebu, dywedaf eto fod Llywodraeth Cymru a arweinir gan Lafur yn gwneud ei gorau glas i sicrhau eu hyfywedd yn ystod yr hinsawdd ariannol lem a osodwyd arnom gan Lywodraeth y DU. Dyna pam y lluniasom gynlluniau realistig a fforddiadwy i leihau cyfraniadau ardrethi busnes i lawer o fasnachwyr yn ogystal â darparu cyllid i gynnal sefydliadau megis y Swyddfa Bost, fel y byddant yn aros yn ddarparwyr gwasanaethau craidd yn ein cymunedau. Mae hynny'n gwrthgyferbynnu â'r Ceidwadwyr, sy'n addo codi trothwy i ardrethi busnes â'r naill law, gan godi TAW â'r llall—dwyn o'r naill law i dalu'r llall. Fel y dywedais, mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yr un mor euog o hyn oherwydd eu rhan hwy o safbwynt cynyddu TAW a'u cynlluniau i lwyr breifateiddio'r Post Brenhinol, nas ystyriwyd gan Lafur erioed.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Dai ac Adfywio (Jocelyn Davies): Diolch, Jenny, am gyflwyno'r ddadl eang hon, ac mae'n dda gennyf ymateb ar ran y Llywodraeth. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn cydnabod yn llawn bwysigrwydd canol y dref a'r stryd fawr ledled Cymru. Mae canol y dref yn hanfodol o ran darparu ystod o wasanaethau a bod yn ganolbwynt economaidd. Maent hefyd yn lleoedd lle y mae pobl yn dod ynghyd ac yn meithrin ymdeimlad o gymuned. Ni chredaf y gallaf anghytuno ag asesiad Jenny o'r ffactorau sy'n achosi dirywiad, a chytunaf fod cau busnesau fel petai'n heintus. Mae Kirsty yn iawn na allwn droi'r cloc yn ôl. Nid yw'n amser hawdd i ganol trefi a strydoedd mawr, o gofio'r hinsawdd economaidd anodd iawn, ac rydym wedi ymateb drwy fuddsoddi yng nghanol trefi a strydoedd mawr. At ei gilydd ymrwymwyd cyfanswm o £405 miliwn er mwyn buddsoddi mewn prosiectau i helpu i yrru adfywiad ein cymunedau yn ei flaen. Mae llawer ffrwd i'r buddsoddiad hwnnw, megis y prosiectau adfywio canol trefi, y clywsom amdanynt y prynhawn yma, sydd o fudd mawr i gymunedau drwy adfer balchder, gwella adnoddau a chyfleoedd am

and employment opportunities. They will boost economic prosperity across a region. Alun is quite right to say that we need to make our towns places that people want to visit.

5.40 p.m.

European structural funds are enhancing the overall appearance of towns to provide an environment that supports residents, businesses, visitors and, of course, potential investors. Activity in Môn a Menai towns, through the physical regeneration convergence project, has provided a £38 million package, of which £8.5 million is directed towards Anglesey and £7.8 million to Gwynedd. In Swansea, an investment of £38.5 million has been approved in partnership with the council for the strategic waterfront convergence programme to address its decline as a retail location.

Alun, on promoting Wales's identity, Cadw's programme of urban characterisation is also ensuring that local distinctiveness and historic character are sustained in planning and regeneration. The Arts Council of Wales funds galleries and theatres, enhancing our town centres and high streets. In Bangor, for example, a replacement for Theatr Gwynedd is being supported. Town centre public libraries, which have been mentioned by a few Members, provide valuable free access to a wide range of resources and services and promote literacy, wellbeing and digital inclusion for those who cannot access online services elsewhere. We have invested in modernising 67 public libraries in recent years as part of the community learning libraries grant programme. This investment is important in its contribution towards the regeneration of many of our high streets and town centres.

Through our digital inclusion framework and the latest digital inclusion initiative, Communities 2.0, we are committed to helping people to engage with new technology. We are pleased to work with organisations such as the Post Office to achieve this. This brings us to the second

gyflogaeth. Byddant yn rhoi hwb i ffyniant economaidd ar draws rhanbarth. Mae Alun yn iawn pan ddywed fod angen inni wneud ein trefi'n lleoedd y mae pobl am ymweld â hwy.

Mae cronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop yn gwella ymddangosiad cyffredinol trefi i ddarparu amgylchedd sy'n cynnal trigolion, busnesau, ymwelwyr ac, wrth gwrs, ddarpar fuddsoddwyr. Mae'r gweithgarwch yn nhrefi Môn a Menai, drwy'r prosiect cydgyfeirio adfywio ffisegol, wedi darparu pecyn gwerth £38 miliwn, y mae £8.5 miliwn ohono wedi'i anelu at Fôn a £7.8 miliwn at Wynedd. Yn Abertawe, cymeradwywyd buddsoddiad gwerth £38.5 miliwn mewn partneriaeth â'r cyngor i raglen gydgyfeirio strategol y glannau i fynd i'r afael â'i ddirywiad fel lleoliad adwerthu.

Alun, o ran hybu hunaniaeth Cymru, mae rhaglen nodweddion ardaloedd trefol Cadw hefyd yn sicrhau bod nodweddion lleol unigryw a chymeriad hanesyddol yn cael eu cadw wrth gynllunio ac adfywio. Mae Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru yn ariannu orielau a theatrau, yn gwella canol ein trefi a'n strydoedd mawr. Er enghraifft, ym Mangor mae cefnogaeth yn cael ei rhoi i theatr newydd yn lle Theatr Gwynedd. Mae llyfrgelloedd cyhoeddus yng nghanol trefi, a grybwyllwyd gan sawl Aelod, yn rhoi cyfleoedd i gael defnyddio ystod eang o adnoddau a gwasanaethau am ddim, ac yn hybu llythrennedd, lles personol, a chynhwysiant digidol i'r rhai na allant ddefnyddio gwasanaethau ar-lein yn unman arall. Rydym wedi buddsoddi mewn gwaith moderneiddio 67 llyfrgell gyhoeddus yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf fel rhan o'r rhaglen grantiau llyfrgelloedd dysgu cymunedol. Mae'r buddsoddiad hwnnw yn bwysig am ei fod yn cyfrannu at adfywio llawer o'n strydoedd mawr a chanol ein trefi.

Drwy ein fframwaith cynhwysiant digidol a'r fenter cynhwysiant digidol ddiweddaraf, Cymunedau 2.0, rydym wedi ymrwymo i helpu pobl i ymgysylltu â'r dechnoleg newydd. Rydym yn falch o gael gweithio â chyrrff megis y Swyddfa Bost i wireddu hyn. Daw hyn â ni at ail bwynt y cynnig. Rydym

point of the motion. We have long recognised the social importance of local post offices in Wales. They provide access to many vital services, such as free access to cash, access to bank accounts, access to convenience products and an opportunity for social interaction for the elderly. We all know that post offices are not a devolved matter, but I know that Veronica will be pleased to hear that it has been our policy to make the network sustainable in Wales. In 2009-10, over 800 local post offices benefited through our rate relief scheme. In January 2009, we fulfilled the 'One Wales' commitment to launch the post office diversification fund, which provides capital grants of up to £20,000 for post offices seeking to improve the retail side of their businesses. I know that Jeff outlined some of the details of that. So far, that fund has provided over £4 million in grants to 229 post offices throughout Wales, creating jobs in communities where prospects are poor. The fund has allowed post offices to offer broadband access to a number of communities.

I will now address the third point of the motion. This Government has previously said that it will explore the potential to introduce the tax increment financing for local authorities, which would allow councils to fund projects by borrowing against future increases in business rates. In doing so, I assure you that we will draw on the outcome of the local government resource review that is being undertaken in England and we will work closely with Welsh local authorities on that. Any potential increase in local government's capacity for prudential long-term capital investment is to be welcomed. Kirsty, we certainly do not dismiss the potential of TIF, and I am told that we are working to a similar timetable as the UK. However, I also accept—and you made this point—that the places where it probably works best are the places that probably need it least. I am sure that the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing heard your call for retail impact assessments in relation to supermarkets. I believe that Jeff made that point as well.

wedi hen gydnabod pwysigrwydd cymdeithasol swyddfeydd post lleol yng Nghymru. Maent yn ffordd o gael gafael ar lawer o wasanaethau allweddol, megis cael arian parod am ddim, mynediad i gyfrifon banc, cael cynnyrch cyfleus, a chyfle i hen bobl gael rhyngweithio'n cymdeithasol. Gwyddom oll nad yw swyddfeydd post yn fater datganoledig ond gwn y bydd Veronica yn falch o glywed ei bod hi'n bolisi gennym wneud y rhwydwaith yn gynaliadwy yng Nghymru. Yn 2009–10, elwodd dros 800 o swyddfeydd post lleol o'n cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi. Ym mis Ionawr 2009, llwyddasom i wireddu'r ymroddiad yn 'Cymru'n Un' i lansio'r gronfa arallgyfeirio swyddfeydd post sy'n darparu grantiau cyfalaf hyd at £20,000 i swyddfeydd post sy'n ceisio gwella elfen adwerthu eu busnesau. Gwn fod Jeff wedi amlinellu rhai o fanylion hynny. Hyd yn hyn, darparodd y gronfa honno dros £4 miliwn mewn grantiau i 229 swyddfa bost ledled Cymru, gan greu swyddi mewn cymunedau lle mae'r rhagolygon yn wael. Mae'r gronfa wedi rhoi modd i swyddfeydd post gynnig band eang i sawl cymuned.

Trafodaf yn awr drydydd pwynt y cynnig. Dywedodd y Llywodraeth hon o'r blaen y bydd yn archwilio posibiliadau cyflwyno cyllid codi trethi i awdurdodau lleol, a fyddai'n rhoi modd i gynghorau i ariannu prosiectau drwy fenthg yn erbyn cynnydd mewn ardrethi busnes yn y dyfodol. Drwy wneud hynny, fe'ch sicrhaf y byddwn yn edrych ar ganlyniad yr adolygiad ar adnoddau llywodraeth leol sy'n cael ei gynnal yn Lloegr ac y byddwn yn cydweithio'n agos ag awdurdodau lleol Cymru ar hynny. Mae unrhyw beth a allai gynyddu gallu llywodraeth leol i wneud buddsoddiadau cyfalaf hirdymor doeth yn rhywbeth i'w goesawu. Kirsty, yn sicr nid ydym yn diystyru posibiliadau TIF, a chlywaf ein bod yn gweithio yn unol ag amserlen sy'n debyg i un y DU. Serch hynny, derbyniaf—a gwnaethoch chi'r pwynt hwn—ei bod yn debyg mai'r lleoedd sydd ei angen leiaf yw'r lleoedd lle y mae'n gweithio orau. Hyderaf fod y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai wedi clywed eich galwad am asesiadau o effaith adwerthol o ran archfarchnadoedd. Credaf i Jeff wneud y pwynt hwnnw hefyd.

I think that we have consistently demonstrated our commitment to helping small businesses by funding a generous level of rate relief. In 2008, we raised the threshold for rate relief and provided additional targeted relief for post offices, small retailers, registered child carers, pubs and petrol stations. I will mention to Carl your praise for him, Jeff, and I am sure that he will be disappointed not to have been here to hear that for himself. Over half of all business premises in Wales—over 50,000—fall within the relief thresholds, and that entitles them to a 50 or 25 per cent reduction in rates. Veronica, you will be delighted to hear that most post offices in Wales have paid no rates at all since 2007. From 1 October last year, for 12 months, rate relief for small businesses has been further enhanced so that around half the businesses in Wales pay no rates, and a further 20 per cent will have their rate bills reduced. A few Members made a point about the Tory amendment; I do not think that you will be too surprised when I say that the Government will not be supporting your amendment on full rate relief for the smallest businesses up to a rateable value of £12,000. The estimated total cost of exempting businesses under your scheme would be in excess of £80 million per year, and would increase year on year with the retail prices index increases to business rates. That would have to be funded by the Welsh Government, and you will not be too surprised when I ask where you would find the money, especially at a time when we are facing cuts imposed on us by your UK Government. I know that you might say that you would sell some former Welsh Development Agency land. I do not think that I need to point out to a Tory that you can only sell land once, but you will need to raise that £80 million every year in order to pursue—

David Melding *rose*—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The Minister is already out of time. Please make it quick, because we are way over time.

David Melding: It is a pity that the Deputy Minister was not in the Chamber when the Deputy First Minister attacked us earlier this

Credaf inni ddangos yn gyson ein hymrwymiad i helpu busnesau bach drwy ariannu lefel hael o ryddhad ardrethi. Yn 2008, codasom y trothwy rhyddhad ardrethi a rhoi rhyddhad ychwanegol wedi'i dargedu at swyddfeydd post, adwerthwyr bach, gofaldwyr plant cofrestredig, tafarndai a gorsafoedd petrol. Soniaf wrth Carl am eich canmoliaeth iddo ef, Jeff, ac rwyf yn sicr y bydd yn siomedig am nad oedd yma i glywed hynny drosto'i hun. Mae mwy na hanner holl safleoedd busnes Cymru—mwy na 50,000—yn dod o dan y trothwyon rhyddhad, ac mae hynny'n rhoi hawl iddynt gael talu 50 neu 25 y cant yn llai o ardrethi. Veronica fe fyddwch wrth eich bodd o glywed nad yw'r rhan fwyaf o swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru wedi talu ardrethi o gwbl ers 2007. O 1 Hydref y llynedd, am 12 mis, mae rhyddhad ardrethi wedi'i ehangu fel nad yw tua hanner busnesau Cymru yn talu ardrethi, a bydd 20 y cant arall yn cael biliau ardrethi llai. Gwnaeth sawl Aelod bwynt am welliant y Toriaid; ni chredaf y byddwch yn synnu rhy lawer pan ddywedaf na fydd y Llywodraeth yn cefnogi'ch gwelliant ar ryddhad ardrethi llawn i'r busnesau lleiaf hyd at werth ardrethu £12,000. Amcangyfrifir mai dros £80 miliwn y flwyddyn fyddai cyfanswm cost eithrio busnesau o dan eich cynllun chi, a byddai'n cynyddu flwyddyn ar ôl ei gilydd gyda chynnydd mynegai prisiau adwerthu i ardrethi busnes. Llywodraeth Cymru fyddai'n gorfod ariannu hynny, ac ni fyddwch yn synnu rhyw lawer pan ofynnaf ichi o ble y caech yr arian, yn enwedig ar adeg pan wynebwn doriadau y mae'ch Llywodraeth chi yn San Steffan yn eu gorfodi arnom. Gwn y gallech ddweud efallai y byddech yn gwerthu peth o dir Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru gynt. Ni chredaf fod rhaid imi esbonio i Dori mai unwaith yn unig y cewch werthu tir, ond bydd angen codi'r £80 miliwn hwnnw bob blwyddyn er mwyn cyflawni—

David Melding *yn codi*—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae amser y Gweinidog eisoes wedi dod i ben. Byddwch yn gyflym, oherwydd inni fynd ymhell dros amser.

David Melding: Mae'n drueni nad oedd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn y Siambr pan ymosododd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog arnom

afternoon for a policy that cost about £47 million to £48 million. I think that you need to be consistent. Business rate relief is currently given, and the net figure is a lot less than £80 million. I think that you need to be a bit more candid than you have been this afternoon.

Jocelyn Davies: I am not sure how the Deputy First Minister calculated that £47 million. I have checked this. I did hear it, David. However, you can still only sell land once, and you will still have to find that money every year. Both £47 million and £87 million are a lot of money, and you will not be able to fund that whichever figure is right.

I am short of time, or I would have liked to have said something about transport to town centres. We thought Eleanor's contribution was brilliant. She made it in her unique way, and perhaps it does not need a response. To conclude, I do not think that it will come as any surprise—although there has been a great deal of consensus on the content of the debate—when I say that we will not support the motion as it stands. We will, obviously, support the Government amendment and we will reject the Tory amendment.

Peter Black: I thank everyone who has taken part in this debate. For the most part, it has been a constructive and useful debate and one that I think has thrown more light than heat on the subject, as Alun Davies said that he wished it would in his speech. I do not want to make this just about post offices, because it is not just about that, but about the whole issue of town centres. However, I feel that I have to respond to some of what has been said, particularly by Jeff Cuthbert, who seems to specialise these days in reinventing history. He even claims that the coalition Government was responsible for the austere economic climate, which is a change from his usual claim that it is down to a worldwide recession. That can be dismissed straight away.

5.50 p.m.

However, it is certainly true that Labour considered privatising the Royal Mail,

yn gynharach y prynhawn yma am bolisi sy'n costio oddeutu £47 miliwn i £48 miliwn. Credaf fod angen ichi fod yn gyson. Mae rhyddhad ardrethi busnes yn cael ei roi ar hyn o bryd, ac mae'r ffigur net yn llawer llai na £80 miliwn. Credaf fod angen ichi fod ychydig yn fwy diffuant nag y buoch y prynhawn yma.

Jocelyn Davies: Nid wyf yn sicr sut y cyfrifodd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog y £47 miliwn hwnnw. Rwyf wedi gwirio hyn. Fe'i clywais, David. Er hynny, dim ond unwaith y gallwch werthu tir, a bydd angen ichi ddod o hyd i'r arian hwnnw bob blwyddyn. Mae £47 miliwn ac £87 miliwn fel ei gilydd yn llawer o arian, ac ni allwch ariannu hynny pa ffigur bynnag sy'n gywir.

Mae amser yn brin, fel arall byddwn yn sôn am drafnidiaeth i ganol trefi. Credwn fod cyfraniad Eleanor yn wych. Fe'i gwnaeth yn ei ffordd unigryw ei hun, ac efallai nad oes angen ymateb iddo. I gloi, ni chredaf y bydd yn syndod ichi—er y cafwyd llawer o gonsensws ar gynnwys y ddadl—pan ddywedaf na fyddwn yn cefnogi'r cynnig fel ag y mae. Byddwn, yn amlwg, yn cefnogi gwelliant y Llywodraeth a gwrthodwn welliant y Torïaid.

Peter Black: Diolchaf i bawb a gymerodd ran yn y dadl. At ei gilydd, roedd hi'n ddadl adeiladol a defnyddiol ac yn un, fe gredaf, sydd wedi creu mwy o sylwedd nag o sŵn ar y pwnc, fel y dywedodd Alun Davies ei fod yn awyddus i'w weld yn ei araith ef. Nid wyf am sôn am swyddfeydd post yn unig, oherwydd nad yw'n ymwneud â hynny yn unig, ond â mater canol trefi yn ei gyfanrwydd. Er hynny, teimlaf fod rhaid imi ymateb i rywfaint o'r hyn a ddywedwyd, yn enwedig gan Jeff Cuthbert, sydd i'w weld yn arbenigo y dyddiau hyn ar aildddyfeisio hanes. Mae hyd yn oed yn honni mai'r Llywodraeth glymblaid fu'n gyfrifol am yr hinsawdd economaidd lem, sy'n newid o'i honiad arferol mai dirwasgiad byd-eang sydd ar fai. Gellir diystyru hyn yn syth.

Fodd bynnag, mae'n sicr yn wir bod Llafur wedi ystyried preifateiddio'r Post Brenhinol,

because it was the only solution to the problems it faces, particularly with the pension fund. With regard to the coalition Government's position on post offices, we have given a pledge that there will be no programme of closures under this Government. Under Labour, more than 4,000 post office branches were closed. Under the previous Conservative Government, 3,500 post offices were closed. We are determined not to see that happen again. Part of that programme means that there will be £134 billion invested in the post office network to modernise it. Post offices will become a genuine front office for Government, which will generate new business for post offices to make them more sustainable. Of course, we are also going to support the expansion of accessible and affordable personal financial services through the Post Office. So, the claim that the privatisation of the Royal Mail is going to lead to the loss of post offices is wrong, given the extra business that we will be bringing to those branches as part of our plans.

The motion moved by Jenny Randerson set out the two main problems being faced by town centres and high streets today, namely that they are being hurt by the development of badly placed out-of-town retail developments and by the development of clone towns. In this motion, we have put forward some solutions, which I do not need to go through again. Clearly, not all of them are suitable for every town or high street, but what is important is that we have a proper programme to help those town centres and to develop them. I hope that the Government can consider some of the proposals we put forward as part of that.

We would like to support the Conservative amendment, because it covers disability issues that we would not like to vote against and because we agree in principle with greater business rate relief. However, the Deputy Minister raised the very important issue of how that would be financed. Clearly, the Conservatives have already said that they are going to be slashing virtually every budget that the Government is in charge of apart from the health budget. So, they are going to have to say where they are going to

gan mai dyna oedd yr unig ateb i'r problemau y mae'n eu hwynebu, yn enwedig o ran y gronfa bensiynau. O ran safbwynt y Llywodraeth glymblaid ar swyddfeydd post, rhoddasom addewid na fydd rhaglen o gau swyddfeydd o dan y Llywodraeth hon. O dan Lafur, caewyd dros 4,000 o ganghennau swyddfa'r post. O dan y Llywodraeth Geidwadol flaenorol, caewyd 3,500 o swyddfeydd post. Rydym yn benderfynol o beidio â gweld hynny'n digwydd eto. Mae rhan o'r rhaglen honno yn golygu y bydd £134 biliwn yn cael ei fuddsoddi yn rhwydwaith y swyddfeydd post i'w foderneiddio. Bydd swyddfeydd post yn dod yn swyddfa flaen wirioneddol i Lywodraeth, a fydd yn creu busnes newydd i swyddfeydd post i'w gwneud yn fwy cynaliadwy. Wrth gwrs, byddwn hefyd yn cefnogi ehangu gwasanaethau ariannol personol hygyrch a fforddiadwy drwy Swyddfa'r Post. Felly, nid yw'n gywir honni y bydd preifateiddio'r Post Brenhinol yn arwain at golli swyddfeydd post, o ystyried y busnes ychwanegol a fydd yn dod i'r canghennau hynny yn rhan o'n cynlluniau.

Roedd y cynnig a gyflwynwyd gan Jenny Randerson yn nodi dwy brif broblem a wynebwr gan ganol trefi a strydoedd mawr heddiw, sef eu bod yn cael eu niweidio gan ddatblygiadau adwerthu wedi'u lleoli'n wael ar gyrion trefi a chan ddatblygiad trefi clôn. Yn y cynnig hwn, rydym wedi cynnig rhai atebion, ac nid oes angen imi fynd drwyddynt eto. Yn amlwg, nid yw pob un yn addas i bob tref neu stryd fawr, ond yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw fod gennym raglen briodol i helpu canol y trefi hynny ac i'w datblygu. Gobeithiaf y gall y Llywodraeth ystyried rhai o'r cynigion a gyflwynwyd gennym yn rhan o hynny.

Hoffem gefnogi gwelliant y Ceidwadwyr, gan ei fod yn trafod materion yn ymwneud ag anabledd na fyddem yn pleidleisio yn eu herbyn ac am ein bod yn cytuno mewn egwyddor â chynyddu rhyddhad ardrethi busnes. Serch hynny, cododd y Dirprwy Weinidog fater pwysig iawn, sef sut y byddai hynny'n cael ei ariannu. Yn amlwg, mae'r Ceidwadwyr eisoes wedi dweud y byddant yn torri bron pob cyllideb y mae'r Llywodraeth yn gyfrifol amdani heblaw'r gyllideb iechyd. Felly, bydd yn rhaid iddynt ddweud o ble y

find the money from to deliver on that. We are not going to support the Government amendment, because we believe that it is simply a dilution of what we are proposing. On every point, it agrees with us in principle but suggests that what it is already doing is enough. The decline in high streets and town centres would suggest that that is not the case and that what it is doing is not enough. Therefore, I urge the Government to withdraw its congratulatory amendment and to endorse our plans to deliver real change for high streets and town centres.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree the motion without amendment. Are there any objections? I see that there are, and I therefore defer all voting on this item until voting time. I propose to move straight to voting time. Are there any objections? I see that there are none. Is there a request to ring the bell? I see that there is not.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisiau tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.
Votes deferred until voting time.*

Cyfnod Pleidleisio Voting Time

*Cynnig NDM4632: O blaid 16, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 33.
Motion NDM4632: For 16, Abstain 0, Against 33.*

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Burns, Angela
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Paul
German, Veronica
Graham, William
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
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, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn

Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
 Motion not agreed.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM4632: O blaid 33, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 16.
 Amendment 1 to NDM4632: For 33, Abstain 0, Against 16.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce

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

Asghar, Mohammad
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Burns, Angela
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Paul
 German, Veronica
 Graham, William
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment agreed.*

Cynnig NDM4632 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

Motion NDM4632 as amended:

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

The National Assembly for Wales:

Yn croesawu cyfraniad Parciau Cenedlaethol

Welcomes the contribution to Welsh life of

Cymru at fywyd Cymru ac yn nodi'r gwaith da sy'n cael ei wneud yn unol â Datganiad Polisi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer y Parciau Cenedlaethol ac Awdurdodau Parciau Cenedlaethol yng Nghymru.

Wales' National Parks and notes the good work carried out in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's Policy Statement for the National Parks and National Park Authorities in Wales.

*Cynnig NDM4632 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 33, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 16.
Motion NDM4632 as amended: For 33, Abstain 0, Against 16.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Burns, Angela
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Paul
German, Veronica
Graham, William
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM4632 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
Motion NDM4632 as amended agreed.*

*Cynnig NDM4633: O blaid 16, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 33.
Motion NDM4633: For 16, Abstain 0, Against 33.*

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Burns, Angela
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Paul

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys

German, Veronica
 Graham, William
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Kirsty

Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
 Motion not agreed.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM4633: O blaid 33, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 16.
 Amendment 1 to NDM4633: For 33, Abstain 0, Against 16.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda

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

Asghar, Mohammad
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Burns, Angela
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Paul
 German, Veronica
 Graham, William
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Kirsty

Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment agreed.*

*Cafodd gwelliant 2 ei ddad-dethol.
Amendment 2 deselected.*

Cynnig NDM4633 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

Motion NDM4633 as amended:

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. Yn credu ei bod yn hanfodol bod gwasanaethau'r Stryd Fawr a chanol trefi yn cael eu cefnogi gan eu bod yn darparu gwasanaethau i nifer o bobl ledled Cymru gan gynnwys gweithgareddau adloniant, hamdden a chymdeithasol a gwasanaethau adwerthu, ac yn benodol maent yn darparu gwasanaethau lleol i'r rheini na allant gael gafael ar wasanaethau ar-lein.

1. Believes that it is vital that High Street and town centre services are supported as they provide services for many people across Wales including recreation, leisure, social activities and retail services, and in particular provide local services for those who cannot access services online.

2. Yn credu bod Swyddfeydd Post yn chwarae rhan hanfodol o ran darparu gwasanaethau cymunedol ac yn cefnogi Cronfa Arallgyfeirio Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer Swyddfeydd Post sydd wedi cefnogi 229 o swyddfeydd post ers Ebrill 2009.

2. Believes that Post Offices play a crucial role in providing community based services and supports the Welsh Assembly Government's Post Office Diversification Fund which has supported 229 post offices since April 2009;

3. Yn croesawu gwaith Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i:

3. Welcomes the Welsh Assembly Government's work to:

a) Gwella'r amodau ar gyfer busnesau yng nghanol trefi gan gynnwys edrych ar botensial cyflwyno Cyllid Codi Trethi i awdurdodau lleol a chadw at bolisi sy'n ystyried canol trefi'n gyntaf ar gyfer datblygiadau manwerthu newydd;

a) Improve conditions for businesses in town centres including by exploring the potential to introduce Tax Increment Financing for local authorities and retaining the town centre first policy for new retail developments;

b) Cefnogi busnesau bach, sydd yn aml yng nghanol trefi, drwy'r Cynllun Rhyddhad Ardrethi i Fusnesau Bach sydd wedi arwain at dros hanner y busnesau bach yng Nghymru'n talu dim ardrethi, a thrwy greu amgylchedd busnes positif ledled Cymru drwy Raglen Adnewyddu'r Economi;

b) Support small businesses, that are often based in town centres, through the Small Business Rates Relief Scheme which has resulted in over half of small businesses in Wales paying no rates and by creating a positive business environment across Wales through the Economic Renewal Programme; and

c) Hwyluso'r teithio i brif drefi ac aneddiadau, a rhyngddynt, a darparu atebion cynaliadwy ar gyfer trafndiaeth drwy'r Cynlluniau Trafnidiaeth Cenedlaethol a Rhanbarthol.

c) improve access to and between key towns and settlements and provide sustainable transport solutions through the National and Regional Transport Plans.

*Cynnig NDM4633 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 33, Ymatal 6, Yn erbyn 10.
Motion NDM4633 as amended: For 33, Abstain 6, Against 10.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Bourne, Nick
Burns, Angela
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Paul
Graham, William
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
German, Veronica
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM4633 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
Motion NDM4633 as amended agreed.*

Dadl Fer a Ohiriwyd ers 8 Rhagfyr 2010 Short Debate Postponed from 8 December 2010

**'O Bydded i'r Hen Iaith Barhau'—'Cymru'n Un' a'r Iaith Gymraeg
'O Bydded i'r Hen Iaith Barhau'—'One Wales' and the Welsh Language**

David Lloyd: Mae'n bleser gennyf gyflwyno'r ddadl fer hon. Yr wyf wedi caniatáu munud o'm hamser i'm cyfaill Nerys Evans ddweud ychydig o eiriau ar

David Lloyd: It is a pleasure to present this short debate. I have given a minute of my time to my colleague Nerys Evans to say a few words at the end of my contribution.

ddiwedd fy nghyfraniad.

Pwrpas y ddadl hon yw olrhain, yn fyr, hanes yr iaith Gymraeg—rhai penawdau, felly—ac olrhain rhai o lwyddiannau Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un yn y maes hwn dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf.

Bydd pobl yn cofio, gan fy mod wedi annerch ar y pwnc hwn o'r blaen, fod ysgrifau Aneirin a Taliesin, y beirdd yn y llys yng Nghaeredin, yn brawf bod yr iaith Gymraeg yn fyw ac yn hyfyw ryw 1,500 o flynyddoedd yn ôl, sydd yn ei gwneud yn iaith hynaf Ewrop, tra bod rhyw 600,000 o siaradwyr Gymraeg yng Nghymru heddiw, sydd oddeutu 20 y cant o'r boblogaeth.

Mae'n wir dweud hefyd, os ydym yn olrhain yr hanes, fod hanes fy mhobl a'r iaith wedi ymdrybaeddu mewn gwaed. Yn 1136, lladdwyd Gwenllïan am ei bod yn Gymraes. Torrwyd ei phen i ffwrdd o flaen ei mab, wedi iddi golli'r frwydr yng Nghydsweli. Yn 1282, dioddefodd Llywelyn Ein Llyw Olaf ffawd debyg, ynghyd â channoedd o'i ddilynwyr. Yn 1400, yn sgîl brwydr ddewr Owain Glyndŵr am annibyniaeth i'm gwlad, collodd miloedd o bobl eu bywydau. Gyda'r Ddeddf Uno yn 1536 gwaharddwyd defnydd cyhoeddus o'r iaith Gymraeg. Gwelodd 1588 gyfieithu'r Beibl i'r Gymraeg, sydd yn un o'r rhesymau paham y mae'r iaith Gymraeg yn dal i fod heddiw.

Yn nes ymlaen, yn 1847, gwelwyd Brad y Llyfrau Gleision, fel y'i gelwid, gyda rhai o fawrion cenedl ein cyfeillion dros y ffin yn dweud pethau cas, diflas a sarhaus am ein hiaith a'n cenedl. Yn y 1870au, gwelwyd y 'Welsh Not' yn cyrraedd gerbron. Mae pobl yn tueddu i fychanu a gwadu bodolaeth hwnnw, ond yr oedd yn enbyd ac yr oedd yn bod. Ryw ganrif union yn ôl, yn Ysgol Gynradd Llanegryn, yn sir Feirionnydd, bu'n rhaid i'm taid ddioddef y sarhad o gael y 'Welsh Not' yn hongian o gylch ei wddf ar ddiwedd dydd, a dioddef y gansen am siarad ei famiaith. Ni fedrwyd wadu hanes byw eich pobl, oherwydd fe'i trosglwyddir o un genhedlaeth i'r llall. Dyfnder y sarhad yr ydym yn dal i'w deimlo sydd yn meithrin y penderfyniad llwyr i drosglwyddo'r iaith Gymraeg i'n plant.

The purpose of this debate is to outline, briefly, the history of the Welsh language—some headlines—and to outline some of the One Wales Government's successes in this field over the past few years.

People will recall, as I have spoken on this subject before, that the writings of Aneirin and Taliesin, poets in the court in Edinburgh, are proof that the Welsh language was very much alive some 1,500 years ago, which makes it the oldest language in Europe, while there are around 600,000 Welsh speakers in Wales today, which is around 20 per cent of the population.

It is also true to say, if we are outlining the history, that the history of my people and of the language are soaked in blood. In 1136, Gwenllïan was killed because she was Welsh. She was beheaded in front of her son, having lost the battle of Kidwelly. In 1282, Llywelyn Ein Llyw Olaf suffered a similar fate, along with hundreds of his followers. In 1400, Owain Glyndŵr's brave fight for independence for my country led to the loss of thousands of lives. With the Act of Union in 1536 the use of Welsh in public was prohibited. In 1588 the Bible was translated into Welsh, which is one reason why the Welsh language has survived to this date.

Later on, in 1847, we saw the Treason of the Blue Books, as it was called, with some of the national greats of our friends over the border saying some terrible, shameful things about our language and nation. In the 1870s, we saw the 'Welsh Not' introduced. Some people tend to belittle it and deny its existence, but it was an atrocity and it did exist. Around a century ago, in Llanegryn Primary School, in Merionethshire, my grandfather suffered the insult of having the 'Welsh Not' hung around his neck at the end of the day, and was caned for speaking his mother tongue. You cannot deny the living history of your people, because it is passed down from one generation to another. The depth of the insult that we still feel has engendered the determination to pass on the Welsh language to our children.

Yn y 1950au a'r 1960au gwelwyd y frwydr yn erbyn boddi Tryweryn, cymdeithas Gymraeg ei hiaith. Yn y 1970au hwyr a 1980 gwelwyd y frwydr i gael sianel deledu Gymraeg am y tro cyntaf. Dywedaf fwy am hynny yn nes ymlaen.

In the 1950s and 1960s we saw the battle against the drowning of Tryweryn, a Welsh-speaking community. In the late 1970s and 1980 we saw the battle for a Welsh-language television channel for the first time. I will say more about that later.

Er yr holl ddiodefaint hwnnw, mae'r rhod yn troi, yn naturiol. Mae nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg yn cynyddu, er yr holl erlid, y gwawd a'r sarhad yn y gorffennol. Mae'n destun clod i'r mwyafrif nad ydynt yn gallu siarad Cymraeg. Yn ogystal â'r sawl sydd yn siarad Cymraeg ac yn trosglwyddo'r iaith i'w plant, mae'r mwyafrif sylweddol yng Nghymru heddiw nad ydynt yn siarad Cymraeg hefyd yn gwneud cyfraniad sylweddol i barhad yr iaith. Yr wyf yn llywodraethwr yn Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Login Fach yn Waunarlwydd, Abertawe. Daw 92 y cant o'r plant sydd yn mynychu'r ysgol gynradd Gymraeg honno o gartrefi hollol ddi-Gymraeg, ac eto mae'r plant yn siarad yn naturiol yn y Gymraeg.

Despite all of that suffering, the tide is turning, naturally. The number of Welsh speakers is increasing, despite all of the persecution and the insults in the past. It is a credit to the majority that cannot speak Welsh. In addition to those who speak Welsh and pass on the language to their children, the vast majority in Wales today who do not speak Welsh also make a significant contribution to the future of the language. I am a governor of the Login Fach primary school in Waunarlwydd, Swansea. Ninety two per cent of the children attending that Welsh-medium primary school come from entirely non-Welsh-speaking homes, and yet the children speak Welsh naturally.

6.00 p.m.

Erys yr her o gofio'r hanes hwnnw. Byddwch yn falch o glywed nad wyf am adrodd mwy o'r hanes, ond mae'n gallu pwyso ar rai ohonom fel pe baent yn ddiodefwr, gan beri i rai ddiagonaloni neu hyd yn oed droi cefn ar yr iaith a gwatwar y sawl sydd yn parhau i geisio ei siarad a'i dysgu, a chan fychanu a gwadu'r hanes gwaedlyd hwnnw. Weithiau, mae'n llawer haws bod yn ddiodefwr a gwadu bod unrhyw beth cas wedi digwydd inni.

The challenge of bearing that history in mind remains. I will tell you no more of the history, you will be pleased to hear, but it does prey on some of us as if we are victims, causing some to lose heart or even to turn their backs on the language and deride those who still want to speak and learn it, and they mock and deny that blood-soaked history. On occasion, it is easier to be a victim and deny that anything bad has happened to us.

Yn rhannol, bwriad y ddadl hon yw ennyn rhywfaint o falchder yn y ffaith bod yr iaith Gymraeg yn dal i fod. Nid yn aml yn hanes dynoliaeth y mae iaith leiafrifol yn llwyddo i droi'r gornel a pheidio â diflannu, fel y mae nifer o ieithoedd dros y byd wedi gwneud. Dim ond tair iaith sydd wedi llwyddo i droi'r gornel yn wyneb iaith fawr y drws nesaf iddynt sy'n eu gormesu, sef yr Hebraeg, y Fasgeg a'r Gymraeg. Felly, mae testun dathlu a diolch bod ein hiaith fach ni yn un o'r pethau prin hynny sydd wedi llwyddo i droi'r gornel.

The intention of this debate in part is to generate some pride in the fact that the Welsh language still exists. It is very seldom in the history of humanity that a minority language has managed to turn the tide and refused to die, as so many languages throughout the world have done. Only three languages have succeeded in turning the tide in the shadow of an oppressive neighbouring language: Hebrew is one, Basque is another and the Welsh language is the third. Therefore, there is cause for celebration and thanks that our little language is one of those rare things that has managed to turn the tide.

O ran yr hyn a wnaeth Llywodraeth Cymru'n

On what the One Wales Government has

Un ers 2007, mae'n briodol llongyfarch y Gweinidog presennol a'r Gweinidog cynt, sef Alun Ffred Jones a Rhodri Glyn Thomas, ar eu gweithgaredd yn y maes. Mae gennym Fesur iaith newydd arfaethedig a fydd yn cyfleu statws swyddogol i'n hiaith. Bydd yn creu comisiynydd cadarn o blaid ein hiaith. Mae gennym strategaeth iaith Gymraeg, coleg cenedlaethol Cymraeg, a strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Fel Llywodraeth, yr ydym hefyd wedi ariannu *Golwg 360*, y papur newydd ar-lein hynod lwyddiannus, â £600,000. Mae hefyd yn deg llongyfarch ymgyrchwyr yn y maes.

Felly, mae cerdded ymlaen ac mae balchder. Mae llawer wedi cael ei wneud dros yr iaith, ond mae llawer i'w wneud eto. Ni fydd rhoi statws swyddogol i'r iaith yn do'i hun yn cynyddu nifer ei siaradwyr, na sicrhau cryfder yr iaith yn ei chadarnleoedd, na chynyddu hyder pobl i'w defnyddio. Mae hynny'n ddyletswydd arnom i gyd, drwy ddefnyddio'r iaith a mynnu bod cwmnïau yn darparu gwasanaethau ar ein cyfer yn ein hiaith. Dyna pam y mae eisiau defnyddio ysbrydoliaeth ein hanes a'n dioddefaint ac arallgyfeirio unrhyw ddieter am y gorffennol mewn modd cadarnhaol ac adeiladol, er mwyn meithrin iaith a meithrin gwlad.

Yr wyf yn un o'r bobl ffodus hynny sydd yn rhan o genedlaethau di-dor o siaradwyr Cymraeg—gallaf olrhain hanes fy nheulu dros ganrifoedd, ac mae pob cenedlaeth wedi siarad Cymraeg yn naturiol. Efallai mai lwc ddaeryddol yw hynny, ond yr wyf hefyd yn ysu i sicrhau bod fy mhlant yn gallu siarad y Gymraeg. Yr ydym yn teimlo cyfrifoldeb am ein hanes a chyfrifoldeb o ran parhad yr iaith.

Gwn fod sawl gwlad arall wedi dioddef hanes gwaedlyd—rhaf ohonynt yn ddiweddar. Nid ni yw'r unig genedl sydd wedi dioddef y fath hanes. Mae rhwystredigaeth ynom yn aml fel Cymry Cymraeg gan nad yw pethau'n digwydd mor gyflym ag y dymunwn. Yr ydym yn gallu codi gwrychyn pobl yn aml, weithiau wrth waeddi a chlochdar yn uchel yn ein rhwystredigaeth, ac nid yw hynny'n helpu'r ddadl. Fodd bynnag, gallwn ddioddef unrhyw wawd neu sarhad mewn llythyrau at bapurau newydd ac ati, achos yn y bôn yr

done since 2007, it is appropriate to congratulate the current Minister, Alun Ffred Jones, and his predecessor, Rhodri Glyn Thomas, on their activities in this area. We have a proposed Welsh language Measure that gives official status to our language. It will create a robust commissioner as an advocate for our language. We have a Welsh language strategy, a Welsh national college and a Welsh-medium education strategy. As a Government, we have also funded *Golwg 360*, the highly successful online newspaper, to the tune of £600,000. It is also fair to congratulate campaigners in this area.

Therefore, there have been some steps forward and there is pride. A great deal has been done for the Welsh language, but there is a great deal more to do. Giving official status to the language itself will not increase the number of speakers or ensure that it is strong in its heartlands or give people confidence in its use. It is a responsibility on all of us to use the Welsh language and insist that companies provide services for us through the medium of Welsh. That is why we need to use our history and our suffering as a spur, and redirect any anger that we may feel about the past in a positive and constructive way in order to nurture the language and the nation.

I am one of those fortunate people who come from an unbroken line of generations of Welsh speakers—I can trace my family history back over the centuries and every generation has spoken Welsh naturally. That may be a geographic fluke, but I also have a desire to ensure that my children have the ability to speak Welsh. We feel responsible for our history and for the continuation of our language.

I know that many other countries have suffered a bloody history—some of them recently. We are not the only nation that has suffered that sort of history. Very often there is some frustration in us as Welsh speakers because things are not happening as quickly as we would like them to. We can infuriate people on occasion, sometimes by shouting loudly in frustration, and that does not help our case in any way. However, we can put up with any gibe or insult in letters to newspapers and so on because, essentially, as

ydym fel cenedl wedi goroesi hir ymdrech benderfynol dros ganrifoedd i ddileu ein hiaith a'n cenedl oddi ar wyneb y ddaear.

Yr ydym ni a'n hiaith wedi goroesi, a mwy na hynny, mae'r iaith wedi ffynnu. Mae balchder a hyder, ond mae angen adeiladu arnynt. Mae eisiau iddynt gael eu hadlewyrchu yn ein gweithgaredd ym myd busnes. Weithiau, clywn o du busnes nad yw'n hoffi unrhyw reoliadau ynglŷn â'r iaith Gymraeg. Fodd bynnag, yn ôl arolwg gan Ffederasiwn y Busnesau Bach a gynhaliwyd ym mis Awst y llynedd, mae 27 y cant o holl fusnesau bach Cymru yn defnyddio'r Gymraeg yn rheolaidd. Yr oedd y 27 y cant o fusnesau hynny yn siarad â'u cwsmeriaid drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg 80 y cant o'r amser. Gwelai'r busnesau bach hynny fod yr iaith Gymraeg yn bwynt gwerthu unigryw. Mae'r busnesau hynny'n haeddu mwy o gefnogaeth, a byddwn yn awgrymu rhywbeth tebyg i'r hyn y maent ei eisiau, sef cymorth busnes iaith Gymraeg cydnabyddedig.

Nid perthyn i ddiwylliant yn unig y mae ein hiaith. Mae yn holl elfennau ein bywydau fel Cymry, hyd yn oed ym myd busnes, yn rhan o adeiladu cenedl. Cyn imi orffen, mae'n werth nodi bod ein sianel genedlaethol y bu inni frwydro drosti genhedlaeth yn ôl eto dan fygythiad. Mae gwir angen sianel annibynnol wedi ei hariannu o arian y drwydded, a dyna'n hawl. Wrth i ni ailadeiladu unwaith eto ac, efallai, ailddiffinio cenedl fach y Cymry a'r iaith sydd mor fyw ag erioed, 'O, bydded i'r heniaith barhau' yw geiriau ein hanthem genedlaethol a phenllanw'r holl falchder a hyder hwn fydd pleidleisio 'ie' yn y referendwm ar 3 Mawrth.

Nerys Evans: Fel llefarydd addysg Plaid Cymru, hoffwn gymryd munud i nodi arwyddocâd y datblygiadau yr ydym wedi eu gweld ym maes addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg ers ffurfio Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un bron i dair blynedd a hanner yn ôl. Ymgyrchu gan rieni sydd eisiau addysg Gymraeg i'w plant yw llwyddiant mwyaf y mudiad addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg dros yr hanner canrif diwethaf. Mae rhieni wedi brwydro ym mhob cwr o Gymru i sicrhau addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg i'w plant drwy roi pwysau ar awdurdodau lleol. Yn awr, mae gennym bolisi cenedlaethol ar

a nation, we have survived a long determined attempt over a period of centuries to wipe our language and nation off the face of the earth.

We, and our language, have survived and, more than that, the language has prospered. We have pride and confidence, but they need to be built upon. They must be reflected in our activities in the world of business. We often hear from business that it does not want any regulations on the Welsh language. However, according to a survey by the Federation of Small Businesses that was carried out in August last year, 27 per cent of all small businesses in Wales use the Welsh language regularly. Those 27 per cent of businesses conversed with their customers through the medium of Welsh 80 per cent of the time. Those small businesses saw the Welsh language as a unique selling point. Those businesses deserve more support, and I would suggest something similar to that which they requested, namely recognised Welsh language business support.

Our language is not just an issue for culture. It permeates all aspects of our lives as Welsh people, even the business world, and is part of nation building. Before I conclude, it is worth noting that our national channel, which we fought for a generation ago, is again under threat. We truly need an independent television channel that is funded by the licence fee, and that is our right. As we rebuild once again and, perhaps, redefine the small nation of Wales and the language that is as viable as ever, the words of our national anthem are, 'Oh, may the old language endure' and the high tide mark of all this pride and confidence would be a 'yes' vote in the referendum on 3 March.

Nerys Evans: As Plaid Cymru's education spokesperson, I would like to take a minute to note the significance of the developments that we have seen in the field of Welsh-language education since the One Wales Government was formed almost three-and-a-half years ago. Campaigns by parents who want Welsh-medium education for their children are the greatest achievements of the Welsh-medium education movement over the last 50 years. Parents have fought in every part of Wales to secure Welsh-medium education for their children by putting

addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg am y tro cyntaf. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi datblygu strategaeth er mwyn cynllunio'n strategol ar lefel leol. Bydd yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol fesur y galw am y tro cyntaf erioed ac ymateb yn gadarnhaol iddo.

Fel y cyfeiriodd Dr Dai, yr ail ddatblygiad, sy'n hynod arwyddocaol, yw'r coleg ffederal, y coleg Cymraeg cenedlaethol, i sicrhau darpariaeth ddigonol i'n myfyrwyr yn y sector addysg uwch. Fis Medi eleni, bydd y coleg Cymraeg ffederal yn derbyn myfyrwyr am y tro cyntaf. Nid oes dwywaith nad ydym ni fel unigolion ac fel plaid wedi ymgyrchu'n galed dros y polisiau hyn ers blynyddoedd, ac maent yn awr yn bolisiau cenedlaethol. Mae'r rhain yn gamau hanesyddol ac fel plaid yr ydym yn falch o allu eu gwireddu mewn Llywodraeth.

Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth (Alun Ffred Jones): Diolch i Dai am ddod â'r ddadl hon gerbron. Ni allaf gystadlu â'i huotledd, ond gwnaf fy ngorau i ymateb ar ran y Llywodraeth. Fel y dywedais wrth ymateb yn ystod dadl fer Gareth yr wythnos diwethaf, mae'r Gymraeg yn rhan allweddol o hunaniaeth ddiwylliannol a chymeriad Cymru. Mae'n rhan o'r hyn sy'n ein diffinio fel cenedl.

Er i gyfrifiad 2001 ddangos cynnydd yn nifer y rhai sy'n siarad Cymraeg, yn enwedig ymhlith plant a phobl ifanc, mae sefyllfa'r iaith yn dal yn fregus iawn ar lefel gymunedol. Mae pawb yn cydnabod hynny. Dyna pam mae'r Llywodraeth wedi achub ar y cyfle i wneud gwahaniaeth drwy Fesur Arfaethedig y Gymraeg (Cymru), y strategaeth addysg y cyfeiriwyd ati a'r strategaeth iaith newydd yr ydym yn ymgynghori arni ar hyn o bryd. Ni ddylai neb amau felly ein bod fel Llywodraeth yn gweld y Gymraeg fel un o'n blaenoriaethau.

6.10 p.m.

Ni fyddaf yn ailadrodd popeth a ddywedais yr wythnos diwethaf, ond mae'n werth nodi bod 7 Rhagfyr wedi bod yn ddiwrnod hanesyddol i'r iaith Gymraeg. Gwireddwyd ymrwymiadau'r Llywodraeth yn 'Cymru'n

pressure on local authorities. We now have a national policy on Welsh-medium education for the first time. The Government has developed a strategy to facilitate strategic planning at a local level. Local authorities will have to calculate the demand for the first time and respond positively to it.

As was referred to by Dr Dai, the second development, which is highly significant, is the federal college, the Welsh-medium national college, to ensure adequate provision for our students in the higher education sector. In September of this year, the Welsh-medium federal college will take admissions for the first time. There is no doubt that we as individuals and as a party have campaigned hard for these policies for years, and they are now national policy. These are historical steps, and as a party we are proud to have realised them in Government.

The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones): I thank Dai for tabling this debate. I cannot compete with his eloquence, but I will do my best to respond on behalf of the Government. As I said in my response in Gareth's short debate last week, the Welsh language is a key part of the cultural identity and character of Wales. It is part of what defines us as a nation.

Although the 2001 census showed an increase in the number of Welsh speakers, especially among children and young people, the situation for the language remains precarious at the community level. Everyone acknowledges that. That is why the Government has taken the opportunity to make a difference through the Proposed Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, the education strategy that was referred to and the new language strategy that we are consulting on at present. Nobody should be in any doubt that we as a Government see Welsh as one of our priorities.

I will not repeat everything I said last week, but it is worth noting that 7 December was a historic day for the Welsh language. That is when we realised the Government's 'One Wales' commitments to legislate in order to

Un' i ddeddfu er mwyn cadarnhau statws swyddogol yr iaith, sefydlu swydd y comisiynydd iaith a chreu hawliau i siaradwyr Cymraeg. Mae'n bwysig iawn ein bod oll yn troi ein sylw a'n brwdfrydedd at wneud i'r fframwaith deddfwriaethol hwn weithio; yr ydym wedi cynnal y dadleuon, ac wedi cael yr ymgyrchu, ac yn awr mae'n rhaid inni wneud y gwaith anodd o ofalu bod y Mesur arfaethedig ei hun, a'r strategaeth maes o law, yn gwneud gwahaniaeth go iawn, neu byddwn wedi gwastraffu ein hegni.

Dylwn hefyd nodi ein bod yn parhau i gefnogi Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg a Chyngor Llyfrau Cymru, a'n bod wedi sicrhau cefnogaeth ariannol deilwng i'r ddau gorff yn y gyllideb. O ran ymrwymadau eraill, mae'n bwysig bod 'Cymru'n Un' yn gwneud addewidion eraill mewn perthynas â'r Gymraeg; mae Nerys a Dai wedi cyfeirio at faes addysg a'r strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg gyntaf erioed, a honno'n cynnwys rhaglen weithredu a thargedau manwl ar gyfer y blynyddoedd nesaf. Mae seiliau'r Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol wedi cael eu gosod ond, unwaith eto, mae'r gwaith o wireddu'r freuddwyd a'r amcanion yn aros ar ôl.

Cyfeiriodd Dai at y ffaith bod *Golwg 360* wedi cael ei sefydlu, gyda'r cyhoeddiad hwnnw'n cael ei wneud gan Rhodri Glyn, fy rhagflaenydd. Mae'n werth dweud bod y ffigurau diweddaraf o ran yr ymweliadau â *Golwg 360* yn eithriadol o galonogol. Credaf fod hyn yn profi bod penderfyniad Rhodri Glyn ar y pryd yn gwbl gywir.

Mae'n werth nodi wrth fynd heibio fod cynnydd wedi bod mewn perthynas â'r Gymraeg ar lefel Ewropeaidd. Yn 2008, daeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i gytundeb â Chyngor y Gweinidogion i alluogi Gweinidogion o Gymru sy'n mynychu cyfarfodydd y cyngor i siarad Cymraeg. Mae gan gyrff cynghori'r Undeb Ewropeaidd, Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau a Phwyllgor Economaidd a Chymdeithasol Ewrop drefniadau tebyg, sy'n galluogi Aelodau o Gymru i siarad Cymraeg yn ystod y cyfarfodydd llawn. Wrth gwrs, mae gan bob dinesydd yr hawl i gysylltu â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

confirm the official status of the language, to establish the office of a language commissioner and to create linguistic rights for Welsh speakers. It is very important that we all direct our attentions and our enthusiasm towards making this legislative framework work; we have had the debates, and the campaign, and now we must undertake the difficult task of ensuring that the proposed Measure and, in due course, the strategy make a real difference, or we will have wasted our energies.

I should also note that we will continue to support the Welsh Language Board and the Welsh Books Council, and we have secured appropriate financial support for the two bodies in the budget. With regard to other commitments, it is important that 'One Wales' makes other pledges in relation to the Welsh language; Nerys and Dai referred to the field of education and the first ever Welsh-medium education strategy, which includes a detailed programme of action and targets for the coming years. The foundations of the national Welsh-medium college have been laid, but again, the work of realising the dream and the aims remain.

Dai referred to the fact that *Golwg 360* has been established, with the announcement for that made by Rhodri Glyn as my predecessor. It is worth saying that the latest figures for hits on the *Golwg 360* site are extremely encouraging. I believe that this proves that Rhodri Glyn's decision at the time was absolutely right.

It is worth noting in passing that progress has been made in relation to the Welsh language at a European level. In 2008, the Assembly Government reached agreement with the Council of Ministers to enable Welsh Ministers attending council meetings to speak Welsh. EU advisory bodies, the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee have similar arrangements, which allow Members from Wales to address plenary sessions in Welsh. Of course, every citizen has the right to correspond with the EU through the medium of Welsh.

Yr wyf yn falch iawn ein bod wedi llwyddo i gyflawni llawer dros y Gymraeg, a chyflawni ymrwymiadau ‘Cymru’n Un’. Serch y cynnydd, yr wyf yn dod yn ôl at y pwynt bod sefyllfa’r iaith yn parhau i fod yn fregus, a’r her yw gofalu bod ein gwaith yn cael ei gyflawni, nid yn unig yn ystod y misoedd nesaf ond yn y blynyddoedd i ddod, a sicrhau bod hynny’n gwneud gwahaniaeth.

I am very pleased that we have achieved so much for the Welsh language, and realised our ‘One Wales’ commitments. Despite the progress, I return to the point that the language remains in a precarious position, and the challenge is to ensure that our task is completed, not only during the next few months, but in the years to come, and to ensure that it makes a difference.

Cyfeiriodd Dai at ieithoedd llai eu defnydd sydd wedi llwyddo i droi’r gornel neu’r llan yn ei ôl. Yr Hebraeg yw’r enghraifft nodedig, er bod pethau sy’n gysylltiedig â’r enghraifft honno na fyddem eisiau eu hailadrodd. Mae sefyllfa’r Faseg yn ddiddorol iawn, ac yn debycach i’r sefyllfa yng Nghymru. Polisi canolog yng Ngwlad y Basg oedd polisi addysg trwyadl a chyflawn, a chredaf fod rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn gallu cyflawni newidiadau yn y maes hwnnw sy’n gwneud gwahaniaeth go iawn. Yr wyf wedi cyfeirio at y strategaeth addysg, a chredaf ei bod yn rhoi cyfle i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad brif-ffrydio’r Gymraeg ar draws pob agwedd ar ei busnes, ac mae hynny’n gosod dyletswyddau arnom fel Llywodraeth yn y ffordd yr ydym yn gweithredu o fewn y gwasanaeth sifil.

Dai referred to those lesser-used languages that have managed to turn the corner or to reverse the tide. Hebrew is a notable example, although there are certain things associated with that example that we would not wish to repeat. The position of the Basque language is very interesting, and more like the situation in Wales. The central policy in the Basque Country was a thorough and comprehensive education policy, and I believe that we must ensure we are able to deliver change in that area that makes a real difference. I have referred to the education strategy, and I believe it gives the Assembly Government an opportunity to mainstream the Welsh language across all aspects of its business, and that imposes duties on us as a Government in the way we operate within the civil service.

I gloi, cyfeiriaf eto at waith ardderchog pob math o fudiadau, fel yr Urdd, Merched y Wawr, yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, Cyngor Llyfrau Cymru, mudiadau’r ffermwyr ifanc a’r mentrau iaith, a chyrff eraill; dylwn fod yn ofalus iawn i gynnwys pawb wrth restru. Mae gweithgarwch hanfodol yn digwydd, a bydd angen cefnogi’r gwaith hwnnw i’r dyfodol, fel y byddaf yn cefnogi nifer o’r prosiectau y mae Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg eisoes yn eu hyrwyddo. Mae lle inni ymfalchïo, fel y dywedodd Dai, ond mae’r her yn aros, ac mae gwaith i’w wneud o hyd cyn i ni gyrraedd y nod.

In conclusion, I refer again to the excellent work by all sorts of organisations, such as the Urdd, Merched y Wawr, the National Eisteddfod, the Welsh Books Council, young farmers’ clubs and the *mentrau iaith*, as well as other organisations—one should be careful to include everyone when reeling off a list. Essential activities are taking place, and they will need to be supported in future, as I will support several of the projects that the Welsh Language Board is already promoting. There is cause for celebration, but as Dai said, the challenge remains, and we have work to do to achieve our aims.

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Aberdaugleddau ac Abergwaun—Yr Ardaloedd Adfywio Strategol Newydd? Milford Haven and Fishguard—The New Strategic Regeneration Areas?

Paul Davies: I have agreed that Nerys Evans can have a minute of my time in this debate.

Paul Davies: Rwyf wedi cytuno y caiff Nerys Evans funud o’r hamser yn y ddadl hon.

I am delighted to have the opportunity in this short debate to highlight the need for Milford Haven and Fishguard—towns in my constituency—to become new strategic regeneration areas, and to encourage the Welsh Assembly Government to look at further investment opportunities in those areas.

In the last few months, I have undertaken a constituency-wide survey, and I have been fortunate to receive many responses about the issues that matter to my constituents. It is clear from these responses that, after the health service, the most important issues affecting the people of Preseli Pembrokeshire are jobs and the local economy. In those circumstances, it is essential that, as politicians, we take the issues that matter to the people of Pembrokeshire seriously. That is why we should consider Milford Haven and Fishguard as strategic regeneration areas, given that Pembrokeshire is not included in the Welsh Assembly Government's current programme.

I appreciate that the Welsh Assembly Government has recently published a 'Framework for Regeneration Areas' document, and that a national regeneration panel will set the criteria and decide which areas will be included in future regeneration plans. Why, you might ask, should Milford Haven and Fishguard be earmarked as regeneration areas, given that Milford Haven, for example, has been fortunate to receive some substantial private investment in the last few years? These towns are undoubtedly strategically important to some of our country's industries, such as energy, tourism and agriculture. Indeed, I believe that they play an important strategic role for Wales and the United Kingdom—a point that I will expand on later in this debate.

Let us first look at Milford Haven. In recent years, the area has seen investment in the form of two liquefied natural gas terminals. Yes, in the short term, this has provided some good opportunities. During the construction phase, local people and small businesses benefited in terms of jobs and business—builders, welders, electricians and property

Mae'n bleser gennyf gael cyfle yn y ddadl fer hon i dynnu sylw at yr angen i Aberdaugleddau ac Abergwaun—trefi yn fy etholaeth i—ddod yn ardaloedd adfywio strategol newydd, ac i annog Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i edrych ar gyfleoedd buddsoddi pellach yn yr ardaloedd hynny.

Yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf, rwyf wedi cynnal arolwg ledled fy etholaeth, a bûm yn ffodus o dderbyn llawer o ymatebion am y materion sy'n bwysig i'm hetholwyr. Mae'n amlwg o'r ymatebion hyn, mai'r materion pwysicaf sy'n effeithio ar bobl Preseli Penfro ar wahân i'r gwasanaeth iechyd yw swyddi a'r economi leol. Yn yr amgylchiadau hynny, mae'n hollbwysig ein bod ni, wleidyddion, yn ystyried o ddifrif y materion sy'n bwysig i bobl sir Benfro. Dyna pam y dylem ystyried Aberdaugleddau ac Abergwaun yn ardaloedd adfywio strategol, o gofio nad yw sir Benfro'n rhan o raglen gyfredol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

Gwn fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ddiweddar wedi cyhoeddi dogfen 'Fframwaith Ardaloedd Adfywio', ac y bydd panel adfywio cenedlaethol yn gosod y meini prawf ac yn penderfynu pa ardaloedd a gaiff eu cynnwys mewn cynlluniau adfywio yn y dyfodol. Pam, tybed, y dylai Aberdaugleddau ac Abergwaun gael eu clustnodi'n ardaloedd adfywio, o gofio bod Aberdaugleddau, er enghraifft, wedi bod yn ffodus o dderbyn buddsoddiadau preifat sylweddol dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf? Mae'r trefi hyn heb amheuaeth yn strategol bwysig i rai o ddiwydiannau ein gwlad, megis ynni, twristiaeth ac amaethyddiaeth. Yn wir, credaf eu bod yn chwarae rhan strategol bwysig i Gymru a'r Deyrnas Unedig—pwynt y byddaf yn ymhelaethu arno yn nes ymlaen yn y ddadl.

Cymerwn Aberdaugleddau'n gyntaf. Yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, gwelodd yr ardal fuddsoddi ar ffurf dwy derfynell nwy hylif naturiol. Ydy, yn y tymor byr, mae hyn wedi darparu rhai cyfleoedd da. Yn ystod y cyfnod adeiladu, roedd pobl leol a busnesau bach ar eu hennill o ran swyddi a busnes—roedd adeiladwyr, weldwyr, trydanwyr a

rental companies benefited in the short term. However, these were short-term gains, not long-term benefits. We need to secure the legacy of these investments by expanding on these opportunities.

Milford Haven and the haven waterway are hugely significant to the country's economy. The waterway is one of the deepest natural harbours in the world, and Milford Haven is the largest port in Wales, and the third largest in the UK. This is why we have seen substantial companies, such as oil businesses, locating their operations in the area in the last few decades. The British Port Authority's 'Welsh Ports: Driving Growth' report tells us that, in 2009, Milford Haven handled 39 million tonnes of oil, liquid gas and oil products, making it the third-largest port in the UK, and the largest oil port. Indeed, I am given to understand that about 30 per cent of Britain's gas is handled by the terminals at Milford Haven.

However, it is clear that the oil refining industry in the UK and Europe is facing significant challenges, given that Murco and nearby Chevron are for sale. This means that 2,000 local high-skilled jobs could well be at risk. That is a huge number given the rural nature of the area. It is already difficult to attract high-skilled jobs to the area, and therefore this threat is even more worrying. Although there has been investment by oil companies and gas businesses in the area in recent years, which I very much welcome, it is clear that this has not brought enough significant benefit to the town itself. Milford Haven, along with Holyhead, has seen more shops close than anywhere else in Britain, according to the 2009 Experian report. Small business owners continue to raise concerns with me about the number of vacant shops in the town, and the effect that that is having on their own businesses. This is something that I have raised with Ministers on several occasions, and given that little has changed, I believe that the time has come to consider Milford Haven as a potential regeneration area.

It is essential that more focus is given to the energy sector and its importance to the west Wales economy. The Welsh Assembly

chwmmiau rhentu eiddo ar eu hennill yn y tymor byr. Ond enillion tymor byr oedd y rhain, nid manteision hirdymor. Mae angen inni ddiogelu etifeddiaeth y buddsoddiadau hyn drwy ehangu'r cyfleodd hyn.

Mae Aberdaugleddau a Dyfrffordd y Ddau Gleddau yn arwyddocaol iawn i economi'r wlad. Y ddyfrffordd yw un o'r harbyrau naturiol dyfnaf yn y byd, ac Aberdaugleddau yw'r porthladd mwyaf yng Nghymru, a'r mwyaf ond dau yn y DU. Dyna pam y gwelsom gwmmiau mawr, megis busnesau olew, yn lleoli eu gweithrediadau yn yr ardal dros y degawdau diwethaf. Dywed adroddiad Awdurdod Porthladdoedd Prydain 'Welsh Ports: Driving Growth' wrthym fod Aberdaugleddau, yn 2009, wedi ymdrin â 39 miliwn o dunelli o olew, nwy hylif a chynhyrchion olew, a hynny sy'n golygu mai dyma'r porthladd mwyaf ond dau yn y DU, a'r porthladd olew mwyaf. Yn wir, rwyf ar ddeall bod terfynellau Aberdaugleddau'n ymdrin ag oddeutu 30 y cant o nwy Prydain.

Er hynny, mae'n amlwg fod y diwydiant puro olew yn y DU ac yn Ewrop yn wynebu heriau mawr, o gofio bod Murco a Chevron gerllaw ar werth. Golyga hynny y gallai 2,000 o swyddi lleol hyfedr fod mewn perygl. Mae hynny'n nifer enfawr o ystyried natur wledig yr ardal. Mae eisoes yn anodd denu swyddi hyfedr i'r ardal, ac felly mae'r bygythiad hwn yn peri mwy o ofid fyth. Er y gwelwyd buddsoddi gan gwmmiau olew a busnesau nwy yn yr ardal yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf, a chroesawaf hynny'n fawr, mae'n amlwg nad yw hynny wedi dod â digon o fantais arwyddocaol i'r dref ei hun. Mae mwy o siopau wedi cau yn Aberdaugleddau, ynghyd â Chaergybi, nag yn unman arall ym Mhrydain, yn ôl adroddiad Experian yn 2009. Mae perchenogion busnesau bach yn dal i godi pryderon â mi am nifer y siopau gwag yn y dref, a'r effaith y mae hynny'n ei chael ar eu busnesau hwythau. Rwyf wedi codi hyn â Gweinidogion ar sawl achlysur, ac o ystyried nad oes fawr ddim wedi newid, credaf ei bod yn bryd inni ystyried Aberdaugleddau'n ardal adfywio bosibl.

Mae'n hollbwysig canolbwyntio mwy ar y sector ynni a'i bwysigrwydd i economi gorllewin Cymru. Mae'n rhaid i Lywodraeth

Government must recognise this, harness its potential and ensure that the local economy benefits from the energy sector. The spin-offs from the energy industry must be taken advantage of, and to do that we must have the support of Government.

6.20 p.m.

The links between the Haven's industries and the town must be strengthened, and the Assembly Government's assistance will be required to do that. It will require a Government strategy and focus for the town to benefit from the activities on the Haven, and to ensure a joined-up thinking approach that will develop the town and lead to the expansion and further development of the marina, for example. I am given to understand that plans are already under way to develop the marina into a premier leisure destination, by adding 250 berths to the 350 that are currently found at Milford Haven marina. However, with this work under way, it is essential that the Welsh Assembly Government supports this initiative effectively by helping to regenerate the town centre, encouraging private sector investment and developing the area's tourist facilities. The chief executive of the Milford Haven Port Authority, Alec Don, has made this clear recently by saying:

'We strongly believe that the marine leisure sector is capable of playing a much larger role in the Pembrokeshire economy.'

The Welsh Assembly Government needs to be working closer with key stakeholders in Pembrokeshire to develop businesses in areas such as cruising, and other forms of leisure activities, that will make full use of the port and marina facilities.

As I mentioned, Fishguard is also strategically important to Wales. It is an important ferry port, situated on the trans-European transport network, and it is a major European gateway to Ireland. As in Milford Haven's case, not enough has been done to develop links between the port and the town. Like Milford Haven, Fishguard needs to be renovated and developed, given that there are a number of closed shops in the town. I am

Cynulliad Cymru gydnabod hyn, defnyddio'i botensial a sicrhau bod yr economi leol yn elwa ar y sector ynni. Mae'n rhaid manteisio ar sgilgynnyrch y diwydiant ynni, ac er mwyn gwneud hynny mae'n rhaid wrth gefnogaeth y Llywodraeth.

Mae'n rhaid cryfhau'r cysylltiadau rhwng diwydiannau'r Hafan a'r dref, a bydd yn rhaid wrth gymorth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad er mwyn gwneud hynny. Bydd yn rhaid wrth strategaeth a ffocws gan y Llywodraeth er mwyn i'r dref elwa ar weithgareddau ar yr Hafan, ac er mwyn sicrhau ymagwedd gydgysylltiedig a fydd yn datblygu'r dref ac yn arwain at ehangu a datblygu'r marina ymhellach, er enghraifft. Rwyf ar ddeall fod cynlluniau ar y gweill eisoes i ddatblygu'r marina'n gyrchfan hamdden o'r radd flaenaf, drwy ychwanegu 250 o angorfeydd i'r 350 sydd ar hyn o bryd ym marina Aberdaugleddau. Er hynny, gyda'r gwaith hwn ar y gweill, mae'n hollbwysig fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n cefnogi'r fenter hon yn effeithiol drwy helpu i adfywio canol y dref, annog buddsoddi gan y sector preifat a datblygu cyfleusterau twristiaeth yr ardal. Mae prif weithredwr Awdurdod Porthladd Aberdaugleddau, Alec Don, wedi datgan hynny'n glir, gan ddweud:

'Credwn yn gryf y gallai sector y marinâu hamdden chwarae rhan fwy o lawer yn economi Sir Benfro.'

Mae angen i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru weithio'n agosach â rhanddeiliaid allweddol yn sir Benfro i ddatblygu busnesau mewn meysydd megis mordeithiau, a mathau eraill o weithgareddau hamdden, a fydd yn gwneud defnydd llawn o gyfleusterau'r porthladd a'r marina.

Fel y dywedais, mae Abergwaun hefyd yn strategol bwysig i Gymru. Mae'n borthladd llongau pwysig, wedi'i leoli ar y rhwydwaith trafndiaeth traws-Ewropeaidd, ac mae'n borth Ewropeaidd pwysig i Iwerddon. Fel yn Aberdaugleddau, nid oes digon wedi'i wneud i ddatblygu cysylltiadau rhwng y porthladd a'r dref. Fel Aberdaugleddau, mae angen adnewyddu a datblygu Abergwaun, o gofio bod nifer o siopau wedi cau yn y dref. Gwn

aware that the Welsh Assembly Government has undertaken some work with Pembrokeshire County Council on the Fishguard and north Pembrokeshire regeneration plan. Developing Fishguard's port facilities lies at the heart of regenerating the town and the surrounding area. Discussions are ongoing to develop a marina, which has the support of many key stakeholders, and designating the area as a strategic regeneration area would, in my opinion, speed up this process and give it the focus that it deserves.

Earmarking Fishguard as an official regeneration area would result in the development of its cultural facilities, which is much needed, given that Theatr Gwaun, for example, has been earmarked for closure by the local authority later this year. Giving the area official regeneration status would certainly help the group set up to save the theatre, Friends of Theatr Gwaun, of which I am a member, the opportunity to run the theatre themselves. Developing and expanding cultural facilities would undoubtedly attract tourists to the area.

What would designating Milford Haven and Fishguard as strategic regeneration areas mean to these towns? It would result in improving the transport infrastructure and would build a more integrated transport system, which is badly needed. These towns are currently badly served by transport links, and it is therefore essential that the transport infrastructure is much improved to boost the local economy. In the case of Fishguard, there are only two trains that currently access the area; one of which leaves during the early hours of the morning. That is incomprehensible, given that Fishguard is one of the major ports of Wales, as is stated in the national transport plan. However, only one train leaves there during the day.

We heard calls from the Enterprise and Learning Committee last year, following its inquiry into the Welsh railway infrastructure, for an improvement to these services—something that I have been calling for for some time. To create better links with Fishguard and Milford Haven, the Welsh Assembly Government needs to develop the

fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi gwneud peth gwaith gyda Chyngor Sir Penfro ar gynllun adfywio Abergwaun a gogledd sir Benfro. Mae datblygu cyfleusterau porthladd Abergwaun wrth wraidd adfywio'r dref a'r cyffiniau. Mae trafodaethau'n mynd rhagddynt i ddatblygu marina, ac mae hynny wedi cael cefnogaeth llawer o randdeiliaid allweddol, a byddai dynodi'r ardal yn ardal adfywio strategol, yn fy marn i, yn cyflymu'r broses ac yn rhoi iddi'r ffocws y mae'n ei haeddu.

Byddai clustnodi Abergwaun yn ardal adfywio swyddogol yn arwain ar ddatblygu ei chyfleusterau diwylliannol, ac y mae angen hynny'n ddirfawr, o ystyried bod Theatr Gwaun, er enghraifft, wedi'i chlustnodi i'w chau gan yr awdurdod lleol yn nes ymlaen eleni. Byddai rhoi statws adfywio swyddogol i'r ardal yn sicr yn helpu'r grŵp a sefydlwyd i achub y theatr, Cyfeillion Theatr Gwaun, yr wyf yn aelod ohono, i gael cyfle i redeg y theatr eu hunain. Byddai datblygu ac ehangu cyfleusterau diwylliannol heb amheuaeth yn denu twristiaid i'r ardal.

Beth fyddai dynodi Aberdaugleddau ac Abergwaun yn ardaloedd adfywio strategol yn ei olygu i'r trefi hynny? Byddai'n golygu gwella'r isadeiledd trafndiaeth ac yn adeiladu system drafndiaeth fwy integredig, y mae ei hangen yn ddirfawr. Mae cysylltiadau trafndiaeth â'r trefi hyn ar hyn o bryd yn wael, ac mae'n hollbwysig felly gwella cryn dipyn ar yr isadeiledd trafndiaeth er mwyn hybu'r economi leol. Yn achos Abergwaun, dim ond dau drên sy'n dod i'r ardal ar hyn o bryd; un yn gadael yn ystod oriau mân y bore. Mae'n amhosibl dirnad hynny, o ystyried mai Abergwaun yw un o brif borthladdoedd Cymru, fel y nodir yn y cynllun trafndiaeth cenedlaethol. Er hynny, dim ond un trên sy'n gadael y dref yn ystod y dydd.

Clywsom alwadau gan y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu y llynedd, yn sgîl ei ymchwiliad i isadeiledd rheilffyrdd Cymru, am wella'r gwasanaethau hyn—rhywbeth yr wyf fi wedi bod yn galw amdano ers peth amser. Er mwyn creu cysylltiadau gwell ag Abergwaun ac Aberdaugleddau, mae angen i Lywodraeth Cymru ddatblygu'r isadeiledd trafndiaeth

transport infrastructure by dualling the A40, which, as the Deputy First Minister is aware, I have also been campaigning for for many years. The A40 is a trans-European link in the European transport network and dualling that road would play a key part in developing economic prosperity in the area.

For these towns to be fully regenerated, the public transport infrastructure must be healthy, to attract workers, businesses and tourists. In addition to improving the transport infrastructure, we must create a better environment for business, particularly small businesses, which are the backbone of the Pembrokeshire economy. Some practical solutions would not require huge investment, only the right focus and a can-do attitude. We need to ensure that governments at all levels give existing businesses in these areas the opportunity to procure services. We need to ensure that local government and the Welsh Assembly Government pay small businesses on time, particularly if they have employed large companies that sub-contract work to small local businesses; that needs to be included in those contracts. We must also ensure that there is a lead agency that facilitates and promotes better links between businesses so that all local opportunities are maximised. This lead agency could also facilitate better links between education establishments and schools in the area, to ensure that young people's skills match the needs of small local businesses.

For far too long, we have seen the migration of young people away from Milford Haven and Fishguard due to the limited opportunities available. Milford Haven, Fishguard and, indeed, Pembrokeshire are fortunate to have talented and bright young people. Therefore, we must ensure that we harness their talents and give them the opportunities that they deserve. According to the Fishguard and north Pembrokeshire regeneration plan, there is a real risk that the current pattern of outward migration by young people will not only continue, but increase, if there is no public sector intervention. As such, it is essential that the Welsh Assembly Government invests in

drwy wneud yr A40 yn ffordd ddeuol, ac mae hynny, fel y gwŷr y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, hefyd yn rhywbeth yr wyf wedi bod yn ymgyrchu drosto ers sawl blwyddyn. Mae'r A40 yn gysylltiad traws-Ewropeaidd yn rhwydwaith trafniadaeth Ewrop a byddai gwneud y ffordd yn ffordd ddeuol yn chwarae rhan allweddol o ran datblygu ffyniant economaidd yr ardal.

Er mwyn adfywio'r trefi hyn yn llawn, rhaid i'r isadeiledd trafniadaeth gyhoeddus fod yn iach, i ddenu gweithwyr, busnesau a thwristiaid. Yn ogystal â gwella'r isadeiledd trafniadaeth, mae'n rhaid inni greu amgylchedd gwell i fusnesau, ac yn arbennig busnesau bach, sef asgwrn cefn economi sir Benfro. Ni fyddai angen buddsoddi mawr iawn er mwyn cymryd rhai o'r camau ymarferol hyn, dim ond y ffocws cywir ac agwedd gadarnhaol. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod llywodraethau ar bob lefel yn rhoi cyfle i'r busnesau sydd eisoes yn yr ardaloedd hyn gaffael gwasanaethau. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod llywodraeth leol a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n talu busnesau bach yn brydlon, yn enwedig os ydynt wedi cyflogi cwmnïau mawr sy'n is-gontractio gwaith i fusnesau bach lleol; mae angen cynnwys hynny yn y contractau. Rhaid inni hefyd sicrhau bod prif asiantaeth sy'n hwyluso ac yn hyrwyddo cysylltiadau gwell rhwng busnesau er mwyn gwneud y gorau o bob cyfle lleol. Gallai'r brif asiantaeth hon hefyd hwyluso cysylltiadau gwell rhwng sefydliadau addysgol ac ysgolion yn yr ardal, er mwyn sicrhau bod sgiliau pobl ifanc yn cyd-fynd ag anghenion busnesau lleol.

Ers yn rhy hir o lawer, gwelsom bobl ifanc yn symud o Aberdaugleddau ac Abergwaun oherwydd y cyfleoedd cyfyngedig sydd ar gael. Mae Aberdaugleddau, Abergwaun ac, yn wir, sir Benfro'n ffodus fod yno bobl ifanc dawns a disglair. Felly, mae'n rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn defnyddio'r doniau hynny ac yn rhoi iddynt y cyfleoedd y maent yn eu haeddu. Yn ôl cynllun adfywio Abergwaun a gogledd sir Benfro, mae perygl gwirioneddol y bydd patrwm cyfredol yr allfudo gan bobl ifanc nid yn unig yn parhau, ond yn cynyddu, oni fydd y sector cyhoeddus yn ymyrryd. Felly, mae'n hollbwysig fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n buddsoddi yn yr ardaloedd hynny er mwyn atal y duedd hon

these areas to prevent this trend from increasing and to boost the prosperity of the local economy. Given the strategic importance of Milford Haven and Fishguard to the economy of Wales, I very much hope that the Welsh Assembly Government and the new national regeneration panel will include these towns in their future strategic regeneration plans. I look forward to hearing the Deputy Minister's comments.

Nerys Evans: Diolch, Paul, am roi munud o'ch amser i mi gyfrannu. Er mwyn sicrhau adfywiad a ffyniant i Aberdaugleddau ac Abergwaun—dwy dref sydd wedi'u diffinio i ryw raddau gan arfordir gogoneddus y sir—mae'n rhaid sicrhau diogelwch ar y môr ac ar arfordir ac afonydd y sir. Yr wyf yn bryderus ynghylch cynlluniau Llywodraeth y Ceidwadwyr a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn Llundain i gau gorsaf gwylwyr y glannau yn Aberdaugleddau. Os caiff y cynlluniau eu cymeradwyo, ac os bydd yr orsaf yn cau, byddwn yn dibynnu ar orsaf yn Abertawe yn ystod y dydd a Southampton yn ystod y nos. Bydd arbenigedd lleol yn cael ei golli, ynghyd â dros 20 o swyddi.

Bûm yn siarad â gweithwyr a chyn-weithwyr yr orsaf yr wythnos diwethaf. Dywedodd un cyn-reolwr wrthyf,

'If these plans go through, lives will be lost.'

Nid ar chwarae bach y mae rhywun yn gwneud datganiad mor ddifrifol â hwnnw. Wrth edrych ar adfywio a denu busnesau a thwristiaeth i drefi sir Benfro, mae'n bwysig, fel y sonioch, ein bod yn brwydro yn erbyn penderfyniadau annoeth a pheryglus Llywodraeth y Ceidwadwyr a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn Llundain.

The Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration (Jocelyn Davies): Thank you, Paul, for bringing forward this short debate. I welcome the opportunity to discuss the challenges facing your part of Wales. I am pleased that Pembrokeshire has benefited from significant levels of investment by the Welsh Assembly Government over a number of years. Recent examples from my portfolio include the townscape heritage initiative scheme at Pembroke Dock and

rhag cynyddu ac er mwyn hybu ffyniant yr economi leol. O gofio pwysigrwydd strategol Aberdaugleddau ac Abergwaun i economi Cymru, rwyf yn mawr obeithio y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'r panel adfywio cenedlaethol newydd yn cynnwys y trefi hyn yn eu cynlluniau adfywio strategol yn y dyfodol. Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed sylwadau'r Dirprwy Weinidog.

Nerys Evans: Thank you, Paul, for allowing me a minute of your time. In order to ensure the regeneration and prosperity of Milford Haven and Fishguard—two towns that are defined to some extent by the wonderful coastline of the county—we have to ensure safety at sea, on the coast and on the county's waterways. I am concerned about the plans of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Government in London to close the coastguard centre at Milford Haven. If those plans are approved, and if the centre is closed, we will be dependent on the centre at Swansea during the day and the Southampton centre at night. Local expertise will be lost, as well as over 20 jobs.

I spoke to staff and former members of staff at the centre last week. One former manager told me,

'Os â'r cynlluniau hyn drwyddo, bydd bywydau'n cael eu colli.'

One would not make such a serious statement lightly. In looking at regeneration and attracting businesses and tourists to the towns of Pembrokeshire, which you mentioned, it is important that we oppose the unwise and dangerous decisions being taken by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Government in London.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Dai ac Adfywio (Jocelyn Davies): Diolch, Paul, am gyflwyno'r ddadl fer hon. Croesawaf y cyfle i drafod yr heriau sy'n wynebu'ch rhan chi o Gymru. Mae'n dda gennyf fod sir Benfro wedi elwa o lefelau sylweddol o fuddsoddi gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru dros sawl blwyddyn. Mae enghreifftiau diweddar o'm portffolio i yn cynnwys cynllun y fenter treftadaeth treflun yn Noc Penfro a Hwlfordd, a ddenodd dros £500,000. Ers

Haverfordwest, which has attracted over £500,000. Since 2004, Pembrokeshire County Council has received £9 million for its housing renewal areas in Haverfordwest and Milford Haven, including £1.25 million for this financial year. The county has also been successful in securing European funding contributions to projects, such as a £2.7 million investment in the Stackpole estate, £36.5 million on improvements to the A40, and £8.7 million for flood and coastal risk management across Pembrokeshire and Swansea bay. Current European programmes have already created 405 new jobs and helped 2,275 people to gain qualifications.

This debate focuses specifically on Milford Haven and Fishguard, and there is no question that these towns are of major importance, as Paul said. Fishguard is home to Stena Line, the biggest private employer in north Pembrokeshire. Paul set out the importance of Milford Haven and the challenges that it faces, but we have to acknowledge that it provides facilities for significant players in the energy market, as well as numerous successful smaller businesses in this and other sectors. Nerys is right: the proposed closure of the coastguard station would be a blow to the local economy as well as to the safety of our waters. We will do everything that we can to assist to press the case for the proposals to be reconsidered.

6.30 p.m.

As a Government, we acknowledge the challenges that both towns face, and we have been actively involved in work to help to shape their futures. In Fishguard, we funded the feasibility work that helped to unlock the multi-million pound modernisation of the port, and in Milford Haven, we have been involved in examining the opportunities for the town centre, and I agree with your analysis on the closure of shops and so on. We are also working with residents and other partners to develop an action plan for the Mount estate. That was highlighted as a priority by the local authority and the housing association. Milford Haven has also benefited from a new integrated primary care centre, which will be up and running from 2012.

We are always prepared to consider proposals

2004, mae Cyngor Sir Penfro wedi cael £9 miliwn i'w ardaloedd adfywio tai yn Hwlffordd ac Aberdaugleddau, gan gynnwys £1.25 miliwn ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol hon. Llwyddodd y sir i sicrhau cyfraniadau o gyllid Ewropeaidd at brosiectau hefyd, megis buddsoddiad gwerth £2.7 miliwn yn ystâd Ystangbwl, £36.5 miliwn ar welliannau i'r A40, ac £8.7 miliwn i reoli llifogydd a risgiau arfordirol ledled Sir Benfro a bae Abertawe. Mae rhaglenni cyfredol Ewrop eisoes wedi creu 405 o swyddi newydd a helpu 2,275 o bobl i ennill cymwysterau.

Ar Aberdaugleddau ac Abergwaun yn benodol y canolbwytia'r ddadl hon, ac nid oes amheuaeth nad yw'r trefi hyn yn bwysig iawn, fel y dywedodd Paul. Abergwaun yw cartref Stena Line, sef cyflogwr preifat mwyaf gogledd sir Benfro. Esboniodd Paul bwysigrwydd Aberdaugleddau a'r heriau sy'n ei hwynebu, ond rhaid inni gydnabod ei bod yn darparu cyfleusterau i chwaraewyr o bwys yn y farchnad ynni, yn ogystal ag i lawer o fusnesau llwyddiannus llai yn y sector hwnnw a rhai eraill. Mae Nerys yn iawn: byddai'r cynllun i gau orsaf gwylwyr y glannau sydd wedi'i gynnig yn ergyd i'r economi leol ac i ddiogelwch ein dyfroedd. Gwnawn ein gorau glas i helpu i hybu'r achos dros ailystyried y cynigion.

Fel Llywodraeth, cydnabyddwn yr heriau sy'n wynebu'r ddwy dref, a buom wrthi'n ddiwyd yn gweithio i helpu i lunio eu dyfodol. Yn Abergwaun arianasom y gwaith dichonoldeb a helpodd i agor y gwaith i foderneiddio'r porthladd, gwerth sawl miliwn o bunnoedd, ac yn Aberdaugleddau, buom wrthi'n ystyried y cyfleoedd i ganol y dref, a chytunaf â'ch dadansoddiad chi o ran cau siopau ac yn y blaen. Rydym hefyd yn gweithio â thrigolion a phartneriaid eraill i ddatblygu cynllun gweithredu i ystâd Mount. Amlygwyd honno fel blaenoriaeth gan yr awdurdod lleol a'r gymdeithas dai. Mae Aberdaugleddau hefyd wedi elwa o ganolfan gofal sylfaenol integredig newydd, a fydd wedi'i sefydlu ac ar waith o 2012.

Rydym bob amser yn barod i ystyried

from local partners for how we can attract investment into both towns as well as into Pembrokeshire as a whole. That includes new funding streams such as the regeneration investment fund, JESSICA, and I am happy to confirm again that it is available across Wales. Clearly, I do need to manage expectations regarding Government funding, and we are all aware of the constraints under which the public sector is operating. Those constraints focus our attention on what are sometimes very difficult decisions about our priorities. In that context, we need to make sure that public funding for an area benefits local people and businesses as much as possible, whatever that funding is for. You are right: all investment has the potential to regenerate by creating local jobs and business opportunities. Through initiatives such as the Can Do toolkit, which you mentioned earlier, Paul—we have a toolkit to make sure that we do as well as can do—we would encourage the public sector to harness that potential. We should all look at the potential in that respect and ensure that we do it. We talk a lot about ensuring that we create as many local benefits as possible, and we have created the toolkit to allow us to do that. I will make sure, Paul, that you receive a copy of that, and I will be interested to hear your views on it.

The question that you have asked, Paul, is whether Milford Haven and Fishguard are the next strategic regeneration areas. The current position in my portfolio is that I am prioritising the seven existing regeneration areas, and I have already said that I have no plans to announce any further ones before the end of this Assembly, because there would simply not be enough funding available to be divided between more areas. To do so would undermine the investment programme that is already under way.

With regard to future plans, I have set out how we intend to make such decisions once spending becomes available. In the framework for regeneration areas, we have made a commitment that our partners will be fully involved in deciding how we invest. Together, we will set priorities and criteria,

cynigion gan bartneriaid lleol ar sut y gallwn ddenu buddsoddiadau i'r ddwy dref yn ogystal ag i sir Benfro gyfan. Mae hynny'n cynnwys ffynonellau newydd o incwm megis y gronfa buddsoddi adfywio, JESSICA, ac mae'n dda gennyf gadarnhau eto ei bod ar gael ledled Cymru. Yn amlwg, mae angen imi reoli'r disgwyliadau o ran cyllid gan y Llywodraeth ac rydym oll yn ymwybodol o'r cyfyngiadau y mae'r sector cyhoeddus yn gweithredu o'u mewn. Mae'r cyfyngiadau hynny'n canolbwyntio ein sylw ar benderfyniadau ar ein blaenoriaethau sydd weithiau'n anodd iawn. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, mae angen inni sicrhau bod y cyllid cyhoeddus i ardal o fudd, i'r graddau mwyaf posib, i'r bobl a'r busnesau lleol, beth bynnag yw diben y cyllid hwnnw. Rydych yn iawn: mae gan bob buddsoddiad y potensial i adfywio drwy greu swyddi a chyfleoedd busnes lleol. Drwy fentrau megis pecyn Can Do, y soniasoch amdano o'r blaen, Paul—mae gennym becyn adnoddau i sicrhau ein bod yn gwneud cystal ag y gallwn—byddem yn annog y sector cyhoeddus i ddefnyddio'r potensial hwnnw. Dylem oll edrych ar y potensial yn hynny o beth a sicrhau ein bod yn dwyn y maen i'r wal. Siaradwn lawer am sicrhau ein bod yn creu cynifer o fanteision lleol â phosibl, ac rydym wedi creu pecyn adnoddau sy'n golygu y gallwn wneud hynny. Byddaf yn sicrhau y cewch chi, Paul, gopi o hynny, a bydd gennyf ddiddordeb clywed eich barn ar hynny.

Y cwestiwn a ofynasoch, Paul, yw ai Aberdaugleddau ac Abergwaun yw'r ardaloedd adfywio strategol nesaf. Y sefyllfa ar hyn o bryd yn fy mhortffolio yw fy mod yn blaenoriaethu'r saith ardal adfywio bresennol, a dywedais eisoes nad oes gennyf gynlluniau i gyhoeddi mwy cyn diwedd y Cynulliad hwn, oherwydd na fyddai digon o gyllid ar gael i'w rannu rhwng mwy o ardaloedd. Byddai gwneud hynny'n tanseilio'r rhaglen fuddsoddi sydd eisoes ar waith.

O ran cynlluniau at y dyfodol, rwyf wedi dweud sut y bwriadwn wneud penderfyniadau o'r fath pan fydd cyllid ar gael. Yn y fframwaith ardaloedd adfywio, rydym wedi ymrwymo y bydd einartneriaid yn chwarae rhan gyflawn wrth benderfynu sut y buddsoddwn. Gyda'n gilydd y byddwn

as you mentioned earlier, Paul, and I will soon be establishing the national regeneration panel to advise us on our work. Therefore, in answer to the specific question that you raised, there is no reason why Milford Haven and Fishguard could not be part of our regeneration area plans in the future, if the funding is available and if they meet the criteria that we will agree with our partners. In the meantime, we will continue to take seriously the representations of Members and of local partners on the challenges in their area, and, within our limited resources, we will work in partnership to agree priorities and to address them.

yn pennu blaenoriaethau a meini prawf, fel y dywedasoeh gynt, Paul, a byddaf yn sefydlu cyn hir y panel adfywio cenedlaethol i'n cynghori ar ein gwaith. Felly, ac ateb y cwestiwn a godasoeh, nid oes rheswm pam na allai Aberdaugleddau ac Abergwaun fod yn rhan o'n cynlluniau ardaloedd adfywio yn y dyfodol, os bydd y cyllid ar gael ac os bodlonant y meini prawf y cytunwn arnynt â'n partneriaid. Yn y cyfamser, byddwn yn dal i ystyried o ddifrif y sylwadau y mae Aelodau a phartneriaid lleol yn eu cyflwyno ar yr heriau yn eu hardaloedd, ac o fewn ein hadnoddau cyfyngedig, byddwn yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth i gytuno ar flaenoriaethau ac i ymdrin â hwy.

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

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Dyna ddod â busnes heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.34 p.m.
The meeting ended at 6.34 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, Veronica (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)