



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

**Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings**

**Dydd Mercher, 9 Chwefror 2011
Wednesday, 9 February 2011**

Cynnwys
Contents

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 3 | Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Fusnes a'r Gyllideb
Questions to the Minister for Business and Budget |
| 24 | Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth
Questions to the Minister for Heritage |
| 45 | Cwestiwn Brys: Diwygiadau Addysg
Urgent Question: Education Reforms |
| 53 | Cwestiynau i Gomisiwn y Cynulliad
Questions to the Assembly Commission |
| 55 | Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu ar Rôl Mentrau Cymdeithasol yn Economi
Cymru
The Enterprise and Learning Committee's Report on the Role of Social Enterprises in
the Welsh Economy |
| 76 | Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig: Awtistiaeth
Welsh Conservatives Debate: Autism |
| 105 | Dadl Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru: Cymorth Ariannol i Bobl a Heintwyd â
Hepatitis C ar ôl Cael Trallwysiadau Gwaed Halogedig
Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate: Financial Support to People Infected with Hepatitis
C after Receiving Contaminated Blood Transfusions |
| 124 | Cyfnod Pleidleisio
Voting Time |
| 130 | Dadl Fer: Yn Berffaith Iach? Byrddau Iechyd Lleol a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau yn
Effeithiol
Short Debate: A Picture of Health? LHBs and Effective Service Delivery |

Yn y golofn chwith, cofnodwyd y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi yn y Siambr.
Yn ogystal, cynhwysir cyfieithiad Saesneg o gyfraniadau yn y Gymraeg.

In the left-hand column, the proceedings are recorded in the language in which they were
spoken in the Chamber. In addition, an English translation of Welsh speeches is included.

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

Y Llywydd: Trefn ar gyfer cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Fusnes a'r Gyllideb.

The Presiding Officer: Order for questions to the Minister for Business and Budget.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Fusnes a'r Gyllideb Questions to the Minister for Business and Budget

Monitro'r Gyllideb

1. David Melding: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y mae cyllideb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cael ei monitro. OAQ(3)1320(BB)*

The Minister for Business and Budget (Jane Hutt): The Welsh Assembly Government constantly monitors its budget throughout the year.

David Melding: I believe that you will have read with concern, as did we, the Wales Audit Office report into the Assembly Government's transport portfolio. I realise that you cannot respond to that report at this stage. However, that report found that the transport budget line had overrun extensively—over £200 million in terms of road construction—that two thirds of those costs had escalated before construction had started, which is a disturbing finding, and that risk management in general was confused. Sometimes, there were two risk management registers for the same project—one held by the Welsh Assembly Government, and one held by the contractor. Can you assure us that cost control and risk management are now being looked at more vigorously across various Assembly Government budgets? Monitoring is a great art, and if it is not done effectively, we do not get the maximum value for the Welsh pound.

Jane Hutt: I am fully aware of that report, and it will be dealt with according to due process. The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport responded to the report on the day, to reassure people that systems had changed. Widening the M4 was a capital transport project that could be recognised as one

Monitoring the Budget

1. David Melding: *Will the Minister make a statement on how the Welsh Assembly Government budget is monitored. OAQ(3)1320(BB)*

Y Gweinidog dros Fusnes a'r Gyllideb (Jane Hutt): Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn monitro ei chyllideb yn gyson drwy gydol y flwyddyn.

David Melding: Rwy'n credu y byddwch wedi darllen gyda phryder, fel y gwnaethom ni, adroddiad Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru am bortffolio trafndiaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Rwy'n sylweddoli na allwch ymateb i'r adroddiad hwnnw ar hyn o bryd. Fodd bynnag, canfu'r adroddiad fod y llinell gyllideb trafndiaeth wedi gor-redeg yn helaeth—dros £200 miliwn o ran adeiladu ffyrdd—bod dwy ran o dair o'r costau hynny wedi gwaethygu cyn i'r gwaith adeiladu ddechrau, sydd yn ganfyddiad sy'n peri pryder, a bod rheoli risg yn gyffredinol yn ddryslyd. Weithiau, roedd dwy gofrestr rheoli risg ar gyfer yr un prosiect—cadwyd un gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, a chadwyd un gan y contractwr. A allwch ein sicrhau bod rheoli costau a rheoli risg yn cael eu hystyried yn fwy egniol yn awr ar draws gyllidebau gwahanol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad? Mae monitro yn gelfyddyd fawr, ac os nad yw'n cael ei wneud yn effeithiol, nid ydym yn cael y gwerth mwyaf am y bunt Gymreig.

Jane Hutt: Rwy'n gwbl ymwybodol o'r adroddiad hwnnw, a bydd yn cael ei drin yn unol â'r drefn briodol. Ymatebodd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth i'r adroddiad ar y diwrnod, i sicrhau pobl bod systemau wedi newid. Roedd ehangu'r M4 yn brosiect trafndiaeth cyfalaf a allai gael ei gydnabod

example of that. However, it is vital that our budget is carefully monitored across the board. This is at the forefront of our agenda, particularly at these times, where we seek not only to spend up to the hilt in terms of our departmental expenditure limit, but also to monitor our delivery systems, with our partners.

Janet Ryder: Monitoring value for money is incredibly important. If you look at the value for money that the small pot of money that is put towards autism has given, I am sure that everyone will say that it has been phenomenal. Unfortunately, some of that money may now not be available to be directed towards autism. We have seen changes in officer structure in the Assembly Government, and there are moves in local government to pick up some form of local networks for officers, but the needs of parents and carers in the field of autism will not be met. How can you monitor the money that you spend on autism, which I hope you continue to spend, to ensure that it will be used to the best advantage and continue to show the benefits that the money spent so far have given?

Jane Hutt: The Minister for Health and Social Services has responded to several issues relating to the health budget projections for next year, including autism funding. That is an important issue in terms of our priorities. She said in her letter to the Chair of the Finance Committee that she had agreed an additional transfer to the revenue support grant as part of the draft budget, to ensure that increased resources—for example, short breaks for disabled children and their families—would continue. That would include children with autism. Furthermore, to reassure you on adult services, £1.7 million has been allocated to develop and provide additional services to support adults with autistic spectrum disorders over the next three years.

Angela Burns: I wish to ask about monitoring budgets. What process did portfolio holders go through in assessing the

fel un enghraifft o hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae'n hanfodol bod ein cyllideb yn cael ei monitro'n ofalus yn gyffredinol. Mae hyn ar flaen ein hagenda, yn enwedig yn awr, wrth inni geisio nid yn unig gwario i'r carn o ran ein terfyn gwariant adrannol, ond hefyd monitro ein systemau darparu, gyda'n partneriaid.

Janet Ryder: Mae monitro gwerth am arian yn hynod o bwysig. Os edrychwch ar y gwerth am arian y mae'r pot bach o arian sy'n cael ei roi tuag at awtistiaeth wedi ei roi, rwy'n yn siŵr y bydd pawb yn dweud ei fod wedi bod yn anhygoel. Yn anffodus, efallai na fydd peth o'r arian hwnnw ar gael yn awr i gael ei gyfeirio tuag at awtistiaeth. Rydym wedi gweld newidiadau yn strwythur swyddogion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ac mae symudiadau mewn llywodraeth leol i godi rhyw fath o rwydweithiau lleol ar gyfer swyddogion, ond ni fydd anghenion rhieni a gofalwyr ym maes awtistiaeth yn cael eu diwallu. Sut allwch fonitro'r arian rydych yn ei wario ar awtistiaeth, a gobeithiaf y byddwch yn parhau i'w wario, er mwyn sicrhau y bydd yn cael ei ddefnyddio yn y ffordd orau ac yn parhau i ddangos y buddion mae'r arian a wariwyd hyd yn hyn wedi eu rhoi?

Jane Hutt: Mae'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol wedi ymateb i nifer o faterion sy'n ymwneud â rhagamcanion am y gyllideb iechyd ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf, gan gynnwys cyllid awtistiaeth. Mae hynny'n fater pwysig o ran ein blaenoriaethau. Dywedodd hi yn ei llythyr at Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid ei bod wedi cytuno gwneud trosglwyddiad ychwanegol at y grant cynnal refeniw fel rhan o'r gyllideb ddrafft, er mwyn sicrhau y byddai adnoddau a gynyddwyd—er enghraifft, seibiannau byr i blant anabl a'u teuluoedd—yn parhau. Byddai hynny'n cynnwys plant ag awtistiaeth. Ar ben hynny, i roi sicrwydd ichi am wasanaethau i oedolion, mae £1.7 miliwn wedi'i ddyrannu i ddatblygu a darparu gwasanaethau ychwanegol i gefnogi oedolion ag anhwylderau sbectrwm awtistig yn ystod y tair blynedd nesaf.

Angela Burns: Hoffwn ofyn am fonitro cyllidebau monitro. Pa broses oedd deiliaid portffolio yn mynd drwyddi wrth asesu'r

outcomes that they are required to deliver from their budgets when it comes to the cumulative effect of impending Measures? I am thinking of the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009, the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010, the Proposed Local Government (Wales) Measure, and the Proposed Welsh Language (Wales) Measure. Those are just some examples of where there has been little financial information to back them up, to date, and they were going to depend on further regulatory impact assessments.

Jane Hutt: That is an important point. As Minister for finance, I am scrutinising the legislation proposals that are coming forward, and not just those from the Government, but also ensuring, as you do, that we have clarity in terms of the financial implications, not only of legislation, but of delivery, too. That is critical to us, and to our partners. What is critical, as you say, is that we are clear about the outcomes that are going to be delivered. That goes back to David's point on monitoring our planning process and the expenditure as it comes down the line.

Angela Burns: Thank you for that, Minister, although I am not entirely clear that you answered my question. My question was about the empirical evidence that you have, as the Minister for Business and Budget, that individual departments have gone through this process. When you look at the accumulative effect of legislation that is outstanding, an awful lot is based on regulatory impact assessments that have not happened, or they have happened but have not been scrutinised by anyone, and that must have an effect on the budget. Although I hear the argument put forward that the money will be found from existing budgets, that money would have been spent on something else. It comes back to how this ties in with impacts and whether people are going through the proper procedure to ensure that this happens with the greater will of the Government, rather than in individual silos.

Jane Hutt: That is where we must turn to our corporate business planning process, and ensure that there is a clear focus not only on

canlyniadau y maent angen eu cyflawni o'u cyllidebau pan ddaw'n fater o effaith gronnus Mesurau sydd ar ddod? Rwy'n meddwl am y Mesur Dysgu a Sgiliau (Cymru) 2009, Mesur Gwastraff (Cymru) 2010, Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru), a Mesur Arfaethedig y Gymraeg (Cymru). Mae'r rheini ddim ond yn rhai enghreifftiau o le y bu ychydig o wybodaeth ariannol yn eu cefnogi, hyd yma, ac a oeddynt yn mynd i ddibynnu ar asesiadau effaith rheoleiddiol pellach.

Jane Hutt: Mae hwnnw'n bwynt pwysig. Fel y Gweinidog dros gyllid, rwy'n craffu ar y cynigion ddeddfwriaeth sy'n cael eu cynnig, ac nid yn unig y rhai gan y Llywodraeth, ond rwyf hefyd yn sicrhau, fel y gwnewch chi, ein bod yn glir o ran goblygiadau ariannol, nid yn unig deddfwriaeth, ond darparu, hefyd. Mae hynny yn hanfodol inni, ac i'n partneriaid. Yr hyn sy'n hanfodol, fel y dywedwch, yw ein bod yn glir ynghylch y canlyniadau sy'n mynd i gael eu darparu. Mae hynny'n mynd yn ôl at bwynt David am fonitro ein proses gynllunio a'r gwariant fel y daw i lawr y lein.

Angela Burns: Diolch ichi am hynny, Weinidog, er nad wyf yn hollol glir eich bod wedi ateb fy nghwestiwn. Roedd fy nghwestiwn am y dystiolaeth empirig sydd gennych, fel y Gweinidog dros Fusnes a'r Gyllideb, fod adrannau unigol wedi mynd trwy'r broses hon. Pan fyddwch yn edrych ar effaith gronnus y ddeddfwriaeth sy'n weddill, mae llawer iawn yn seiliedig ar asesiadau effaith reoleiddiol nad ydynt wedi digwydd, neu sydd wedi digwydd ond heb eu craffu gan unrhyw un, a rhaid bod gan hynny effaith ar y gyllideb. Er fy mod yn clywed y ddadl a gyflwynwyd y bydd yr arian ar gael o'r cyllidebau presennol, byddai'r arian hwnnw wedi cael ei wario ar rywbeth arall. Mae'n dod yn ôl i sut mae hyn yn cyd-fynd ag effeithiau ac a yw pobl yn mynd drwy'r weithdrefn briodol er mwyn sicrhau bod hyn yn digwydd gydag ewyllys mwy'r Llywodraeth, yn hytrach nag mewn seilos unigol.

Jane Hutt: Dyna lle mae'n rhaid inni droi at ein proses cynllunio busnes corfforaethol, a sicrhau bod ffocws clir nid yn unig ar

delivering the Government's objectives but on our effectiveness in achieving outcomes for people in Wales. The Permanent Secretary chairs the strategic delivery and performance board on this issue, receiving information quarterly on progress against delivery from the directors general. Also, issues are considered in terms of regulatory impact assessments, particularly relating to legislation. This is a challenge that we should be mature about, in terms of our management, particularly with reducing budget lines.

Blaenoriaethau

2. Darren Millar: *Beth yw blaenoriaethau cyllidebol y Gweinidog ar gyfer gweddill y Trydydd Cynulliad. OAQ(3)1307(BB)*

Jane Hutt: 'One Wales' set the policy for this Government. The principles and priorities set out there have been reflected in each budget since, including the supplementary budget that I published yesterday.

Darren Millar: Thank you for that response, Minister. You may or may not be aware that there are huge pressures on the national health service in north Wales at the moment. A number of reviews have been commissioned into services such as maternity and children's services and emergency general surgery services in the region. Many of these pressures will increase as a result of the budget that was laid by you and approved in the Assembly yesterday. This budget condemns the NHS in Wales to £1 billion of cuts over the next three years. Will you apologise, as the Minister responsible for laying the budget, to the people of north Wales for the pressure that the health service in that region now faces, and for the inevitable cuts that they will have to face in their health services?

Jane Hutt: I would have thought that it would be more of a question of people asking you to apologise on behalf of your party's partnership Government, led by the Conservatives, in London. That Government has imposed cuts on us too fast and too deep. There is particular concern about the national

gyflawni amcanion y Llywodraeth ond ar ein heffeithiolrwydd wrth gyflawni canlyniadau i bobl Cymru. Yr Ysgrifennydd Parhaol yw cadeirydd y bwrdd cyflawni a pherfformio strategol ar y mater hwn, sy'n derbyn gwybodaeth chwarterol ar gynnydd yn cyflawni gan y cyfarwyddwyr cyffredinol. Yn ogystal, mae materion yn cael eu hystyried o ran asesiadau effaith rheoleiddiol, yn enwedig o ran deddfwriaeth. Dylem fod yn aeddfed am yr her hon o ran ein rheolaeth, yn enwedig wrth leihau llinellau yn y gyllideb.

Priorities

2. Darren Millar: *What are the Minister's budgetary priorities for the remainder of the Third Assembly. OAQ(3)1307(BB)*

Jane Hutt: Gosododd 'Cymru'n Un' y polisi ar gyfer y Llywodraeth. Mae'r egwyddorion a'r blaenoriaethau a nodir ynddo wedi cael eu hadlewyrchu ym mhob cyllideb ers hynny, gan gynnwys y gyllideb atodol a gyhoeddais ddoe.

Darren Millar: Diolch am yr ymateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Efallai eich bod yn ymwybodol y bod pwysau enfawr ar y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol yn y gogledd ar hyn o bryd. Mae nifer o adolygiadau wedi cael eu comisiynu i mewn i wasanaethau fel gwasanaethau mamolaeth a phlant a gwasanaethau llawfeddygol cyffredinol brys yn y rhanbarth. Bydd llawer o'r pwysau hyn yn cynyddu o ganlyniad i'r gyllideb a wnaethoch ei osod ac a gymeradwywyd yn y Cynulliad ddoe. Mae'r gyllideb hon yn condemnio'r GIG yng Nghymru i £1 biliwn o doriadau dros y tair blynedd nesaf. A wnewch ymddiheuro, fel y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am osod y gyllideb, i bobl y gogledd am y pwysau mae gwasanaeth iechyd y rhanbarth hwnnw yn awr yn wynebu, ac am y toriadau anochel y bydd yn rhaid iddynt eu hwynebu yn eu gwasanaethau iechyd?

Jane Hutt: Buaswn wedi meddwl y buasai'n fwy o fater o bobl yn gofyn i chi ymddiheuro ar ran Llywodraeth partneriaeth eich plaid, a arweinir gan y Ceidwadwyr, yn Llundain. Mae'r Llywodraeth hwnnw wedi gosod toriadau arnom yn rhy gyflym ac yn rhy ddwfn. Mae pryder arbennig am y

health service. We do not spend our time looking over the border at how the NHS in England will fare, but I have read that £20 billion has to be found in the NHS in England in relation to efficiencies, and have reflected on the fact that £1 billion has to be taken out of the NHS budget uplift for social care there. When you take that money out of social care, you know that it will affect the NHS in England. The reforms that are taking place there are greeted with widespread fear by the health professions. The key point for us is that we have protected health and social services, which the NHS Confederation has welcomed. We recognise that we have to make efficiencies, as the NHS is already doing, and that is what the five-year service, workforce and financial strategic framework is doing.

Brian Gibbons: Minister, you quite rightly highlighted the effect of the UK coalition Government's cuts policy on our spending, but, surely, what is even more outrageous is the money that has already been voted to us by the UK Parliament for end-year flexibility, with £400 million being retained by the UK Government and not made available to the Assembly Government. Surely, Darren Millar would have been spending his time more productively in lobbying his colleagues in Westminster to give us back the money that has rightly been voted to us, as it would make a massive difference to addressing the budget pressures that we face.

1.40 p.m.

Jane Hutt: You make a very important point. As you know, I raised this matter with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. This was a major feature of the joint ministerial committee meeting last week, at which the First Ministers and Deputy First Ministers of all of the devolved administrations were present, and I believe that a meeting of the finance Ministers will be called to discuss this. This is £400 million of our money, voted by Parliament, which we could be spending on the health service. I also make the point—I am sure that you will agree with

gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol. Nid ydym yn treulio ein hamser yn edrych dros y ffin ar sut y bydd y GIG yn Lloegr yn ymdopi, ond rwyf wedi darllen bod yn rhaid canfod £20 biliwn yn y GIG yn Lloegr o ran effeithlonrwydd, ac wedi myfyrio ar y ffaith bod yn rhaid tynnu allan £1 biliwn o'r cynnydd yng nghyllideb y GIG ar gyfer gofal cymdeithasol yno. Pan fyddwch yn cymryd yr arian hwnnw allan o ofal cymdeithasol, rydych yn gwybod y bydd yn effeithio ar y GIG yn Lloegr. Mae'r diwygiadau sy'n cael eu cynnal yno yn ennyn ymateb o fraw eang yn y proffesiynau iechyd. Y pwynt allweddol inni yw ein bod wedi diogelu gwasanaethau iechyd a chymdeithasol, ac mae Cydffederasiwn y GIG wedi croesawu hynny. Rydym yn cydnabod bod yn rhaid inni wneud arbedion effeithlonrwydd, fel mae'r GIG yn gwneud eisoes, a dyna a wna'r fframwaith gwasanaeth, gweithlu a strategaeth ariannol dros bum mlynedd.

Brian Gibbons: Weinidog, gwnaethoch dynnu sylw haeddiannol i effaith polisi toriadau Llywodraeth glymblaid y DU ar ein gwariant, ond, yn sicr, yr hyn sydd hyd yn oed yn fwy beiddgar yw'r arian sydd eisoes wedi cael ei bleidleisio inni gan y Senedd y DU ar gyfer hyblygrwydd diwedd blwyddyn, gyda £400 miliwn yn cael ei gadw gan Lywodraeth y DU ac nid ar gael i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Yn sicr, byddai Darren Millar wedi treulio ei amser yn fwy cynhyrchiol yn llobio ei gydweithwyr yn San Steffan i ddychwelyd yr arian sydd wedi cael ei bleidleisio yn iawn inni, gan y buasai'n gwneud gwahaniaeth enfawr i fynd i'r afael â'r pwysau ar y gyllideb sy'n ein hwynebu.

Jane Hutt: Rydych yn gwneud pwynt pwysig iawn. Fel y gwyddoch, codais y mater hwn gyda Phrif Ysgrifennydd y Trysorlys. Roedd hwn yn nodwedd bwysig o gyfarfod y cydbwyllgor gweinidogol yr wythnos diwethaf, lle'r oedd Prif Weinidogion a Dirprwy Brif Weinidogion pob gweinyddiaeth ddatganoledig yn bresennol, a chredaf y bydd cyfarfod o'r Gweinidogion cyllid yn cael ei alw i drafod hyn. Soniwn am £400 miliwn o'n harian ni, a bleidleisir gan y Senedd, y gallem ei wario ar y gwasanaeth iechyd. Rwyf hefyd yn gwneud y pwynt—

me on this, Brian—that we were right not to make cuts in June 2010. We would have had to cut services by £113 million last year, and capital by £49 million. We found that money as a result of our careful financial management. Indeed, as a result of our careful financial management, we found another £110 million for the health service, which the Minister for health was able to announce as we entered those difficult weeks of winter.

Peter Black: You have had ReAct and ProAct, and now you have Adapt, which was certainly evident in the budget presented yesterday. As well as trying to protect public sector jobs and help those who lose their jobs, what is there in your budget to create new jobs, new wealth, and innovative ideas that will lead to high-quality jobs in the Welsh economy?

Jane Hutt: There is a link there with the work that we are doing to try to protect our capital programme, which is critical to the construction industry, and also with the economic renewal programme, led by the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport. We need also to recognise that that is linked to the funding that is enabling us to continue with apprenticeships and pathways to apprenticeships in relation to skills. When you talk to the private sector and to businesses, they say that they want a skilled workforce and infrastructure—that is where our capital programme is important, although we are still looking for important infrastructure developments such as the electrification of the railways, because that is critical to business. We also recognise that research and development is crucial in terms of the investment in higher education. We are supporting business through our economic renewal programme, through our capital programme, and through our skills base—that is particularly important to note in Apprenticeship Week—and Adapt has been widely welcomed as a successor to ReAct for the public sector. ReAct, of course, was our uniquely Welsh response to the recession for the private sector.

rwyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn cytuno â mi ar hyn, Brian—ein bod wedi bod yn iawn i wneud toriadau ym mis Mehefin 2010. Byddem wedi gorfod cwtdogi gwasanaethau'r flwyddyn ddiwethaf gan £113,000,000, a chyfalaf gan £49,000,000. Canfuom yr arian o ganlyniad i'n rheolaeth ariannol gofalus. Yn wir, o ganlyniad i'n rheolaeth ariannol gofalus, canfuom £110,000,000 arall ar gyfer y gwasanaeth iechyd, yr oedd y Gweinidog dros iechyd wedi gallu cyhoeddi ar ddechrau'r wythnosau anodd hynny o'r gaeaf.

Peter Black: Rydych wedi cael ReAct a ProAct, ac yn awr mae gennych Addasu, a oedd yn sicr yn amlwg yn y gyllideb a gyflwynwyd ddoe. Yn ogystal â cheisio diogelu swyddi yn y sector cyhoeddus a helpu'r rhai sy'n colli eu swyddi, beth sydd yn eich cyllideb i greu swyddi newydd, cyfoeth newydd, a syniadau arloesol a fydd yn arwain at swyddi o ansawdd uchel yn economi Cymru?

Jane Hutt: Mae cyswllt yno gyda'r gwaith yr ydym yn ei wneud i geisio amddiffyn ein rhaglen gyfalaf, sy'n hanfodol i'r diwydiant adeiladu, a hefyd gyda'r rhaglen adnewyddu economaidd, dan arweiniad y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Chludiant. Mae angen hefyd cydnabod bod hynny'n cael ei gysylltu â'r cyllid sydd yn ein galluogi i barhau gyda phrentisiaethau a llwybrau i brentisiaethau mewn perthynas â sgiliau. Pan fyddwch yn siarad â'r sector preifat ac i fusnesau, maent yn dweud eu bod am gael gweithlu medrus a seilwaith-dyna lle mae ein rhaglen gyfalaf yn bwysig, er ein bod yn parhau i chwilio am ddatblygiadau seilwaith pwysig fel trydaneiddio y rheilffyrdd, gan ei fod yn hanfodol i fusnes. Rydym hefyd yn cydnabod bod ymchwil a datblygu yn hanfodol o ran y buddsoddiad mewn addysg uwch. Rydym yn cefnogi busnes drwy ein rhaglen adnewyddu economaidd, drwy ein rhaglen gyfalaf, a thrwy ein sylfaen sgiliau-mae hwnnw'n arbennig o bwysig i'w nodi yn ystod Wythnos Prentisiaeth-ac y mae Addasu wedi cael ei groesawu'n eang fel olynnydd i ReAct ar gyfer y sector cyhoeddus. ReAct, wrth gwrs, oedd ein hymateb unigryw Cymreig i'r dirwasgiad ar gyfer y sector preifat.

Peter Black: Thank you for that answer, Minister, but until you mentioned research and development I feared that you were just talking about the same old same old, and not addressing the fact that Wales has one of the lowest rates of gross value added per capita in the United Kingdom. Research and development are very important to creating high-quality jobs. Will you look at the University of Wales POWIS programme, which uses a small amount of public investment to attract large amounts of private sector investment for research that leads directly to new jobs and new products coming into the marketplace, and see whether you can find some money in your budget so that the Welsh Assembly Government can do something similar? Will you also look at the Welsh Liberal Democrats' proposal for an innovation fund, which we proposed as part of our costed budget amendments, as a way of funding that way forward? Do you not think that we now need to do something different if we are to create those high-quality private sector jobs that the Welsh economy so badly needs?

Jane Hutt: Indeed, Peter, and you make important points, particularly in relation to the third mission agenda of higher education, which, of course, enables it to develop those links with the private sector in terms of opportunities from research and development—even in better times, universities were not doing enough of that. Also, our strategic capital investment fund has enabled higher education to move forward, and the recent announcements in relation to the Swansea innovation campus demonstrate our commitment in terms of public and private sector funding—we know about the Rolls-Royce investment in that. You make important points in relation to economic renewal.

Joyce Watson: I am sure that you will have seen recent reports in the press about a possible £10 million underspend by local authorities on transport projects. If that money is not spent before April, it will come back to the Assembly. I am sure that everyone in this Chamber can identify local

Peter Black: Diolch ichi am yr ateb, Weinidog, ond nes i chi sôn am ymchwil a datblygu, roeddwn yn ofni eich bod yn sôn am yr un hen bethau, yn hytrach na mynd i'r afael â'r ffaith bod gan Gymru un o'r cyfraddau isaf o werth ychwanegol crynswth y pen yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Mae ymchwil a datblygu yn bwysig iawn i greu swyddi o ansawdd uchel. A wnewch chi edrych ar raglen POWIS Prifysgol Cymru, sy'n defnyddio ychydig bach o fuddsoddiad cyhoeddus i ddenu symiau mawr o fuddsoddiad sector preifat ar gyfer ymchwil sy'n arwain yn uniongyrchol at swyddi newydd a chynhyrchion newydd sy'n dod i mewn i'r farchnad, a gweld a allwch ddod o hyd i arian yn eich cyllideb fel y gall Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wneud rhywbeth tebyg? A wnewch chi hefyd edrych ar gynig Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru ar gyfer cronfa arloesi a gynigiwyd gennym fel rhan o'n gwelliannau cyllideb wedi'u costio, fel ffordd o ariannu hyn fel ffordd ymlaen? Onid ydych yn meddwl bod angen bellach i ni wneud rhywbeth gwahanol os ydym am greu'r swyddi sector preifat hynny o ansawdd uchel y mae eu mawr hangen ar economi Cymru?

Jane Hutt: Yn wir, Peter, ac rydych yn gwneud pwyntiau pwysig, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â'r agenda trydedd genhadaeth o addysg uwch, sydd, wrth gwrs, yn ei alluogi i ddatblygu'r cysylltiadau hynny gyda'r sector preifat o ran cyfleoedd ymchwil a datblygu-hyd yn oed mewn amserau gwell, nid oedd prifysgolion yn gwneud digon o hynny. Hefyd, mae ein cronfa buddsoddi cyfalaf strategol wedi galluogi addysg uwch i symud ymlaen, ac y mae'r cyhoeddiadau diweddar o ran campws arloesi Abertawe yn dangos ein hymrwymiad o ran cyllid y sector cyhoeddus a phreifat-gwyddom am fuddsoddiad Rolls-Royce yn hynny. Rydych yn gwneud pwynt pwysig mewn perthynas ag adnewyddu economaidd.

Joyce Watson: Rwyf yn siŵr y byddwch wedi gweld adroddiadau diweddar yn y wasg am y tanwariant posibl o £10,000,000 gan awdurdodau lleol ar brosiectau trafniadaeth. Os nad yw'r arian yn cael ei wario cyn mis Ebrill, bydd yn dod yn ôl i'r Cynulliad. Rwyf yn siŵr y gall pawb yn y Siambr hon nodi

projects that need progressing. Two weeks ago, we debated the Committee on Equality of Opportunity's report on the need for better accessibility at railway stations, for example. Minister, what discussions have you had with the Minister for transport, regional consortia, local authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that the money is spent before April and used to good effect on priority projects?

Jane Hutt: That is a very important point. It goes back to the points raised by Brian Gibbons, in that, given that the Welsh Assembly Government is to lose some of its end-of-year flexibility, we have a duty to ensure that we maximise our spend up until the last possible moment in the financial year. We are monitoring spend closely, as are our partners in local government. I was glad that we could announce earlier this week that Welsh councils will get £7 million to repair potholes left by the freeze. That is critical in terms of the opportunity to spend that money where we know that people, business and communities will welcome it.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 3, OAQ(3)1316(BB), i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol

4. Eleanor Burnham: *Pa ffactorau wnaeth y Gweinidog eu hystyried wrth bennu'r gyllideb ar gyfer y portffolio Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol. OAQ(3)1305(BB)*

Jane Hutt: The final budget, debated yesterday, confirms a departmental expenditure line allocation of £4.375 billion to social justice and local government.

Eleanor Burnham: You may know that I chair the cross-party group on older people and ageing. We have been very taken with Age Cymru's community calculator, which I am sure that you are totally familiar with. It shows the deficits that affect older people in

prosiectau lleol y mae angen mynd rhagddo. Bythefnos yn ôl, roeddem yn trafod adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cyfartal Cyfle ar yr angen am well hygyrchedd mewn gorsafoedd rheilffordd, er enghraifft. Weinidog, pa drafodaethau a gawsoch gyda'r Gweinidog dros drafnidiaeth, consortia rhanbarthol, awdurdodau lleol a rhanddeiliaid eraill i sicrhau bod yr arian yn cael ei wario cyn mis Ebrill a'i ddefnyddio yn effeithiol ar brosiectau blaenoriaeth?

Jane Hutt: Mae hwnnw'n bwynt pwysig iawn. Mae'n mynd yn ôl at y pwyntiau a godwyd gan Brian Gibbons, hynny yw, o gofio bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn colli rhan o'i hyblygrwydd diwedd blwyddyn, mae gennym ddyletswydd i sicrhau ein bod yn gwneud y gorau o'n gwariant hyd nes y funud olaf yn y flwyddyn ariannol. Rydym yn monitro gwariant yn ofalus, fel y mae ein partneriaid mewn llywodraeth leol. Yr oeddwn yn falch o allu cyhoeddi yn gynharach yr wythnos hon y bydd cynghorau Cymru yn cael £7 miliwn i atgyweirio tyllau yn y ffyrdd a adawyd gan y rhewi. Mae hynny'n hollbwysig o ran y cyfle i wario'r arian hwnnw lle y gwyddom y bydd pobl, busnesau a chymunedau yn ei groesawu.

The Presiding Officer: Question 3, OAQ(3)1316(BB), is transferred for written answer.

Social Justice and Local Government

4. Eleanor Burnham: *What did the Minister take into consideration when setting the budget for the Social Justice and Local Government portfolio. OAQ(3)1305(BB)*

Jane Hutt: Mae'r gyllideb derfynol, a drafodwyd ddoe, yn cadarnhau dyraniad gwariant llinell adrannol o £4,375 biliwn i gyfiawnder cymdeithasol a llywodraeth leol.

Eleanor Burnham: Efallai eich bod yn gwybod fy mod yn cadeirio'r grŵp trawsbleidiol ar bobl hŷn a heneiddio. Cawsom argraff dda o gyfrifiannell gymuned Age Cymru, yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn hollol gyfarwydd ag ef. Mae'n dangos y

so many communities in what would seem to be basic requirements to make their lives easier and more meaningful. There are many issues regarding age-friendly communities, and the ultimate responsibility for allocating the budget from this portfolio to local authorities rests with you as a Government. What consideration have you given to this, so that local authorities can begin to make more improvements for older people?

Jane Hutt: Thank you for that important point, Eleanor, as it links to the equality impact assessment that we undertook. I hope that you have taken an opportunity to look at it—it was published on Monday. Carl Sargeant and I have asked all local authorities to ensure that they undertake their equality impact assessments as well.

As part of my pre-budget discussions, I met elderly people's groups that had a particular link to Age Cymru initiatives. I must say that one of the strongest messages to come back from them was that they wanted to keep their bus passes, which demonstrates that we are reflecting on the needs and interests of elderly people. In rural areas, there was also recognition of the fact that we need to ensure that we improve the subsidy for bus services. The equality impact assessment has helped us with our funding decisions, as it did when we looked at the needs of carers and the elderly with regard to social services. It was influential in our uplifting the social services budget line. It is very important, and I would be interested in your Age Cymru calculator to help us further. However, I would suggest that you look at our equality impact assessment.

David Lloyd: Weinidog, gyda gwasanaethau lleol dan fygythiad ar draws Cymru, a ydych yn condemnio cynlluniau'r Torïaid i ddiogelu gwariant ar iechyd yng Nghymru, a fyddai'n bwrw ergyd drymach ar feysydd eraill, megis cyfiawnder cymdeithasol a llywodraeth leol?

Jane Hutt: I have already said, in answers to

diffygion sy'n effeithio ar bobl hŷn mewn cymaint o gymunedau yn yr hyn sy'n ymddangos yn ofynion sylfaenol i wneud eu bywydau'n haws ac yn fwy ystyrlon. Mae llawer o faterion o ran cymunedau sy'n gefnogol i bobl oedrannus a saif y cyfrifoldeb terfynol am ddyrannu'r gyllideb o'r portffolio hwn i awdurdodau lleol gyda chi fel Llywodraeth. Pa ystyriaeth yr ydych wedi'i rhoi i hyn, fel y gall awdurdodau lleol dechrau gwneud mwy o welliannau ar gyfer pobl hŷn?

Jane Hutt: Diolch i chi am y pwynt pwysig hwnnw, Eleanor, gan ei fod yn cysylltu â'r asesiad o'r effaith ar gydraddoldeb a gynhaliwyd gennym. Gobeithio eich bod wedi cymryd y cyfle i edrych arno—cafodd ei gyhoeddi ddydd Llun. Mae Carl Sargeant a minnau wedi gofyn i bob awdurdod lleol i sicrhau eu bod hefyd yn ymgymryd â'u hasesiadau o'r effaith ar gydraddoldeb.

Fel rhan o fy nhrafodaethau rhag-gyllidebol, cyfarfŷm â grwpiau o bobl oedrannus â chysylltiad arbennig i fentrau Age Cymru. Rhaid i mi ddweud mai un o'r negeseuon cryfaf i ddod oddi wrthynt oedd eu bod am gadw eu tocynnau bws, sy'n dangos ein bod yn ystyried anghenion a diddordebau pobl oedrannus. Yn ardaloedd gwledig, roedd hefyd cydnabyddiaeth o'r ffaith bod angen i ni sicrhau ein bod yn gwella cymhorthdal ar gyfer gwasanaethau bws. Mae'r asesiad o'r effaith ar gydraddoldeb wedi bod o gymorth i ni o ran ein penderfyniadau ariannu, fel y gwnaeth pan roeddem yn edrych ar anghenion gofalwyr a'r henoed o ran gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Roedd yn ddylanwadol o ran codi llinell gyllideb gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Mae'n bwysig iawn, a byddai gennyf ddiddordeb yn eich cyfrifiannell Age Cymru er mwyn ein helpu ymhellach. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn awgrymu eich bod yn edrych ar ein hasesiad o'r effaith ar gydraddoldeb.

David Lloyd: Minister, with local services under threat across Wales, do you condemn Tory plans to ring-fence spending on health in Wales, given that that would land a heavier blow on other departments, such as social justice and local government?

Jane Hutt: Rwyf wedi dweud eisoes, mewn

questions this afternoon, that it is important, in protecting health and social services, that we look at what the Minister for Health and Social Services has been able to do in that respect and recognise, as the British Medical Association and the Welsh NHS Confederation have done, that no area of public services is exempt. If you protect the NHS, then you have to cut local government expenditure by up to 20 per cent, as we heard in this Chamber in terms of education.

1.50 p.m.

It is important to recognise that we have protected the NHS, including critical areas within it, such as mental health services. In addition, it is important that the funding that is available to implement the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010, for example, and to ensure the delivery of 'One Wales' commitments remains on track. If we had not looked at other measures, there would not have been the uplift that we have given in areas such as housing, education, the environment and social services, and there would have been huge cuts across local government and in those public services.

Cyrff a Noddir gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad

5. Chris Franks: *Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael yn ddiweddar ynghylch nifer y Cyrff a Noddir gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad a'u cost. OAQ(3)1322(BB)*

Jane Hutt: I have had a series of discussions with relevant Ministers on AGSBs as part of the preparation of the draft and final budgets.

Chris Franks: As you know, Minister, the bill for central services that is paid by Environment Agency Wales to its counterpart in England rose by almost 40 per cent in five years to £21 million in 2010-11. That is money that would have been useful in Wales. Could you give an indication of the cost savings that would result from the establishment of an all-Wales environment

atebion i gwestiynau'r prynhawn yma, ei bod yn bwysig, wrth ddiogelu gwasanaethau iechyd a chymdeithasol, ein bod yn edrych ar yr hyn y mae'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol wedi gallu ei wneud yn hynny o beth, ac yn cydnabod, fel y gwnaethant Gymdeithas Feddygol Prydain a'r Cydffederasiwn GIG Cymru, nad oes unrhyw ran o wasanaethau cyhoeddus yn cael ei eithrio. Os ydych yn amddiffyn y GIG, yna rhaid torri gwariant llywodraeth leol gan hyd at 20 y cant, fel y clywsom yn y Siambr hon o ran addysg.

Mae'n bwysig cydnabod ein bod wedi gwarchod y GIG, gan gynnwys meysydd allweddol oddi mewn iddo, fel gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl. Yn ogystal, mae'n bwysig bod y cyllid sydd ar gael i weithredu'r Strategaeth Iechyd Meddwl (Cymru) 2010, er enghraifft, ac i sicrhau bod ein gweithrediad o ymrwymadau 'Cymru'n Un' yn parhau i fod ar y trywydd iawn. Pe na fyddem wedi edrych ar fesurau eraill, ni fyddem wedi gallu gwneud yr ychwanegiad a wnaethom mewn meysydd fel tai, addysg, yr amgylchedd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, a byddai wedi bod toriadau mawr ar draws llywodraeth leol ac yn y gwasanaethau cyhoeddus hynny.

Assembly Government Sponsored Bodies

5. Chris Franks: *What recent discussions has the Minister had regarding the number and cost of Assembly Government Sponsored Bodies. OAQ(3)1322(BB)*

Jane Hutt: Cefais gyfres o drafodaethau gyda Gweinidogion perthnasol ar CNLCau fel rhan o'r gwaith o baratoi'r cyllidebau drafft a therfynol.

Chris Franks: Fel y gwyddoch, Weinidog, cododd y bil ar gyfer gwasanaethau canolog sy'n cael ei dalu gan Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru at y corff cyfatebol yn Lloegr gan bron i 40 y cant mewn pum mlynedd i £21 miliwn yn 2010-11. Byddai'r arian hwnnw wedi bod yn ddefnyddiol yng Nghymru. A allech roi syniad o'r arbedion costau a fyddai'n deillio o sefydlu corff

body including the Environment Agency, the Countryside Council for Wales and the Forestry Commission? Can you give an assurance that the new body will be robust enough to protect the environment and deal with industrial pollution?

Jane Hutt: It is important that we look at savings at every level, and a review is being undertaken of options for future delivery on environmental issues. The protection of the environment is our main priority in this respect, but we are considering the review and whether financial savings could be made through the adoption of a particular delivery model. Further work is being undertaken with regard to the costings and options for meeting the Environment Agency's responsibilities in Wales. This is an important area. The efficiency and innovation agenda and programme apply to existing AGSBs, including the Environment Agency, and it is playing its part.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Minister, the expenditure of public money is a vital consideration, especially with regard to bodies that are sponsored by the Assembly Government. What action are you taking to drive through greater synergies, especially in respect of services that are not at the front line? Many organisations have grown over the years while developing their own back-office operations. Could you give us an example of where the Welsh Assembly Government has worked proactively with organisations, and of the types of savings that such reorganisation has achieved?

Jane Hutt: As I said in response to Chris Franks, the efficiency and innovation agenda has involved engaging with the AGSBs. In fact, the board that I chair has been engaging on work streams for driving expertise in procurement, as well as on asset management, co-location, and having a more streamlined approach to public sector information and communication technology. They are part of that efficiency and innovation drive. Indeed, there are examples in the public sector, such as in the NHS. Other parts of the public sector are looking at particularly interesting options for co-

amgylchedd Cymru gyfan, gan gynnwys Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru a'r Comisiwn Coedwigaeth? A allwch roi sicrwydd y bydd y corff newydd yn ddigon cadarn i warchod yr amgylchedd ac i ymdrin â llygredd diwydiannol?

Jane Hutt: Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn edrych ar arbedion ar bob lefel, ac mae adolygiad yn cael ei gynnal o opsiynau ar gyfer gweithredu yn y dyfodol ar faterion amgylcheddol. Amddiffyn yr amgylchedd yw ein prif flaenoriaeth yn hyn o beth, ond rydym yn ystyried yr adolygiad ac a ellir gwneud arbedion ariannol drwy fabwysiadu model darparu penodol. Mae gwaith pellach yn cael ei wneud o ran y costau a'r opsiynau ar gyfer bodloni cyfrifoldebau Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yng Nghymru. Mae hwn yn faes pwysig. Mae'r agenda a'r rhaglen effeithlonrwydd ac arloesi yn berthnasol i CNLCau sy'n bodoli eisoes, gan gynnwys Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, ac y mae'n chwarae ei rhan.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Weinidog, mae'r gwariant o arian cyhoeddus yn ystyriaeth hanfodol, yn enwedig o ran cyrff sy'n cael eu noddi gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i sbarduno fwy o gydweithio, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â gwasanaethau nad ydynt yn y rheng flaen? Mae llawer o sefydliadau wedi tyfu dros y blynyddoedd wrth ddatblygu eu gweithrediadau swyddfa gefn eu hunain. A allwch roi enghraifft o le mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi gweithio'n rhagweithiol gyda sefydliadau, ac o'r mathau o arbedion y mae ad-drefnu o'r fath wedi cyflawni?

Jane Hutt: Fel y dywedais wrth ymateb i Chris Franks, mae'r agenda effeithlonrwydd ac arloesi wedi cynnwys ymgysylltu â'r CNLCau. Yn wir, mae'r bwrdd yr wyf yn ei gadeirio wedi bod yn ymgysylltu â ffrydiau gwaith ar gyfer gyrru arbenigedd yn y maes caffael yn ogystal ag ar rheoli asedau cyd-leoli, a chael dull symlach o ddarparu gwybodaeth sector cyhoeddus a thechnoleg wybodaeth a chyfathrebu. Maent yn rhan o'r ymgyrch effeithlonrwydd ac arloesi. Yn wir, mae enghreifftiau yn y sector cyhoeddus, megis yn y GIG. Mae rhannau eraill o'r sector cyhoeddus yn edrych ar ddewisiadau

location, for example, the fire service, the ambulance service, the police, and some of the Assembly Government sponsored bodies. They have a duty and responsibility as a result of reducing budgets.

Plant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes

6. Nerys Evans: *Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael yn ddiweddar ynghylch y dyraniad yn y gyllideb i'r portffolio Plant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes. OAQ(3)1311(BB)*

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf yn cynnal trafodaethau rheolaidd â'r Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes fel rhan o'r broses o bennu'r gyllideb.

Nerys Evans: Mae'r ochr gyfalaf hefyd yn bwysig yn y portffolio hwn. Mae cronfa ysgolion yr unfed ganrif ar hugain wedi bod yn ffordd effeithiol o gynllunio'n strategol er mwyn adeiladu ysgolion ledled Cymru dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae pob awdurdod lleol yn aros yn eiddgar i glywed canlyniad y penderfyniadau diweddar ar ddyraniadau o'r gronfa honno. A allwch ein diweddarau ynglŷn â phryd y mae cyhoeddiadau am y gronfa yn debygol o gael eu gwneud? Gan fod Llywodraeth San Steffan wedi ein condemnio i gwtogiad o 41 y cant yn y gyllideb gyfalaf, a ydych yn rhannu fy mhryder y bydd hynny'n effeithio'n fawr ar allu Llywodraeth Cymru i fuddsoddi mewn ysgolion dros y blynyddoedd nesaf?

Jane Hutt: One of the greatest challenges in relation to the budget that we debated and passed yesterday was the disproportionate reduction in our capital budget, particularly the 25 per cent cut to capital next year. We have already rehearsed the arguments and we discussed yesterday the devastating impact that this could have not only on our public service delivery, such as the twenty-first century schools programme, but also on economic growth and the construction sector. I am sure that you will welcome the fact that we have found an extra £57 million to put into the capital budget for next year in order to maximise our capital investment. Of course, we have taken measures to protect

arbennig o ddiddorol ar gyfer cyd-leoli, er enghraifft, y gwasanaeth tân, y gwasanaeth ambiwlans, yr heddlu, a rhai o'r cyrff a noddir gan y Cynulliad Llywodraeth. Mae ganddynt ddyletswydd a chyfrifoldeb o ganlyniad i leihau cyllidebau.

Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

6. Nerys Evans: *What recent discussions has the Minister had regarding the budget allocation for the Children, Education and Lifelong Learning portfolio. OAQ(3)1311(BB)*

Jane Hutt: I hold regular discussions with the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning as part of the budget setting process.

Nerys Evans: The capital side is also important in this portfolio. The twenty-first century schools fund has been an effective way of strategically planning the building of schools across Wales in recent years. Every local authority is eagerly awaiting the outcome of recent decisions on allocations from that fund. Will you give us an update on when announcements about the fund are likely to be made? As the Westminster Government has condemned us to a cut of 41 per cent in the capital budget, do you share my concern that that will have a huge impact on the Welsh Government's ability to invest in schools over the next few years?

Jane Hutt: Un o'r heriau mwyaf yn ymwneud â'r gyllideb y buom yn ei drafod a'i dderbyn ddoe oedd y gostyngiad anghymesur yn ein cyllideb cyfalaf, yn enwedig y toriad o 25 y cant i'r gyllideb cyfalaf y flwyddyn nesaf. Rydym eisoes wedi ymarfer y dadleuon a buom yn trafod ddoe'r effaith ddinistriol y gallai hyn gael nid yn unig ar ein darpariaeth o wasanaethau cyhoeddus, megis y rhaglen ysgolion unfed ganrif ar hugain, ond hefyd ar dwf economaidd a'r sector adeiladu. Rwyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn croesawu'r ffaith ein bod wedi dod o hyd i £57 miliwn ychwanegol i roi yn y gyllideb gyfalaf ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf er mwyn manteisio i'r eithaf ar ein

our capital spending against the £49 million cut earlier this year. We have levered in another £47 million this year, some of which went to important areas of education, such as school refurbishment and the refurbishment of further education colleges. We will be making an announcement in early March regarding Government-wide programmes for next year.

William Graham: Minister, education leaders in south-east Wales have contacted my office with concerns regarding forthcoming spending reductions, particularly with regard to funding for post-16 education. This concern has been compounded by the decision to abandon the activity-led methodology in favour of flat-rate funding, with local authority officers having trouble using the new methodology to give schools an idea of the size of their budget for post-16 education. What guidance is your Government offering local authorities and schools on this issue?

Jane Hutt: The Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning has stated clearly that this is an area in which we are looking at a three-year budget. It is not always appropriate, therefore, to stick to the same framework as the national planning and funding arrangements. In order to ensure that there is as much flexibility as possible, that is being suspended for the next three years. We are facing budgetary reductions across the board, but the second and third year put this particular funding stream into a better position.

Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol

7. Paul Davies: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y dyraniad cyffredinol o gyllid i'r portffolio Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol. OAQ(3)1323(BB)*

Jane Hutt: The final budget, debated yesterday, confirms a departmental expenditure line allocation of £4.375 billion to social justice and local government.

buddsoddiad cyfalaf. Wrth gwrs, rydym wedi cymryd camau i amddiffyn ein gwariant cyfalaf yn erbyn y toriad o £49 miliwn yn gynharach eleni. Rydym wedi llwyddo i godi £47 miliwn arall y flwyddyn hon, a wariwyd ar rannau pwysig o addysg, megis adnewyddu ysgolion ac adnewyddu colegau addysg bellach. Byddwn yn gwneud cyhoeddiad ar ddechrau mis Mawrth ynghylch y rhaglenni ar draws y Llywodraeth ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf.

William Graham: Weinidog, mae arweinwyr addysg yn ne-ddwyrain Cymru wedi cysylltu â fy swyddfa gyda phryderon ynghylch y gostyngiad mewn gwariant sydd i ddod, yn enwedig o ran cyllid ar gyfer addysg ôl-16. Mae'r pryder hwn wedi cael ei gymhlethu gan y penderfyniad i roi'r gorau i'r fethodoleg a arweinir gan weithgarwch o blaid gyfradd cyllid unffurf, gyda swyddogion yr awdurdod lleol yn cael trafferth gan ddefnyddio'r fethodoleg newydd i roi syniad i'r ysgolion o faint eu cyllidebau ar gyfer addysg ôl-16. Pa ganllawiau y mae eich Llywodraeth yn cynnig i awdurdodau lleol ac ysgolion ar y mater hwn?

Jane Hutt: Mae'r Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes wedi datgan yn glir ein bod yn edrych ar gyllideb tair blynedd ar gyfer y maes hwn. Felly, nid yw bob amser yn briodol i gadw at yr un fframwaith â'r trefniadau cynllunio cenedlaethol ac ariannu. Er mwyn sicrhau bod cymaint o hyblygrwydd ag y bo modd, caiff hwnnw ei ohirio am y tair blynedd nesaf. Rydym yn wynebu gostyngiadau cyllidebol drwodd draw, ond y mae'r ail a'r drydedd flwyddyn yn rhoi'r ffrwd ariannu penodol hwn mewn gwell sefyllfa.

Social Justice and Local Government

7. Paul Davies: *Will the Minister make a statement on the overall allocation of funding to the Social Justice and Local Government portfolio. OAQ(3)1323(BB)*

Jane Hutt: Mae'r gyllideb derfynol, buom yn ei drafod ddoe, yn cadarnhau dyraniad gwariant llinell adrannol o lywodraeth o £4.375 biliwn i gyfiawnder cymdeithasol a lleol.

Paul Davies: Thank you for that answer, Minister. You will be aware of our previous correspondence regarding Neyland Athletic Club in my constituency, and the desperate need for the club to be refurbished. Neyland Athletic Club is not your average sports club, of course. The current facilities are used by a host of different sports clubs and other groups, such as the University of the Third Age, and it is also a venue for local community events. It is truly a community facility. I have invited you to visit the club so that you can fully understand its needs when future funding decisions are made. I am sure that you would agree, Minister, that improving a facility like this is essential for community cohesion. In the circumstances, will you highlight what you are doing as the Minister for Business and Budget to ensure that funding is allocated to the social justice and local government portfolio in order to support community projects? Will you outline what funding is available to help community facilities like Neyland Athletic Club?

Jane Hutt: Once again, I draw your attention to the equality impact assessment that has been undertaken by all departments. The assessment for the Department for Social Justice and Local Government considers not only the impact on equality of decisions on funding for local government, but those for the third sector and communities. The assessment has clearly steered budgetary decisions at a level below the main expenditure group level. I assure you that the community facilities and activities programme grant is still in the budget and, I am sure, would be an option for the Neyland Athletic Club.

2.00 p.m.

Bethan Jenkins: The Minister will know that proposals to outsource or transfer care homes in Bridgend and adult services in Swansea are currently being mooted, in addition to long-running plans to privatise or transfer care homes in the Neath Port Talbot area. Has the Minister's department undertaken any assessment to determine

Paul Davies: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Byddwch yn ymwybodol o'n gohebiaeth flaenorol ynghylch Clwb Athletau Neyland yn fy etholaeth i, a'r angen dybryd i adnewyddu'r clwb. Nid eich clwb chwaraeon arferol yw Clwb Athletau Neyland, wrth gwrs. Mae'r cyfleusterau presennol yn cael eu defnyddio gan lu o wahanol glybiau chwaraeon a grwpiau eraill, fel Prifysgol y Drydedd Oes, ac mae hefyd yn lleoliad ar gyfer digwyddiadau cymunedol lleol. Mae'n wirioneddol yn gyfleuster cymunedol. Rwyf wedi eich gwahodd i ymweld â'r clwb er mwyn i chi ddeall ei hanghenion wrth wneud penderfyniadau cyllido yn y dyfodol. Rwyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cytuno, Weinidog, fod gwella cyfleuster fel hwn yn hanfodol ar gyfer cydlynid cymunedol. Yn yr amgylchiadau, a byddwch yn tynnu sylw at yr hyn yr ydych yn ei wneud fel y Gweinidog dros Fusnes a'r Gyllideb i sicrhau bod cyllid yn cael ei ddyrannu i'r portffolio cyfiawnder cymdeithasol a llywodraeth leol er mwyn cefnogi prosiectau cymunedol? A wnewch chi amlinellu pa gyllid sydd ar gael i helpu cyfleusterau cymunedol megis Clwb Athletau Neyland?

Jane Hutt: Unwaith eto, hoffwn dynnu eich sylw at yr asesiad o'r effaith ar gydraddoldeb a wnaed gan yr holl adrannau. Mae'r asesiad ar gyfer yr Adran Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol yn ystyried nid yn unig yr effaith ar gydraddoldeb penderfyniadau ar gyllid ar gyfer llywodraeth leol, ond y rhai ar gyfer y trydydd sector a chymunedau. Mae'r asesiad wedi llywio'r penderfyniadau cyllidebol yn amlwg ar lefel is na'r lefel prif grŵp gwariant. Gallaf eich sicrhau bod y rhaglen grant cyfleusterau a gweithgareddau cymunedol yn dal i fod yn y gyllideb ac, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai yn opsiwn ar gyfer Clwb Athletau Neyland.

Bethan Jenkins: Bydd y Gweinidog yn gwybod bod cynigion i allanoli cartrefi neu drosglwyddo gofal ym Mhenybont ar Ogwr a gwasanaethau i oedolion yn Abertawe ar hyn o bryd yn cael eu crybwyll, yn ogystal â hen gynlluniau i breifateiddio neu drosglwyddo cartrefi gofal yn ardal Castell-nedd Port Talbot. A adran y Gweinidog wedi cynnal

whether the allocation of funding to the social justice and local government portfolio will result in more councils being forced to transfer stock or to privatise in this manner?

Jane Hutt: I am very impressed, Bethan, with a recent memorandum of understanding—which I would like to draw to the attention of Members—and an equality impact assessment that have looked at tough decisions that have had to be made, but that have also taken our statutory responsibilities very seriously, in terms of the impact of these decisions on vulnerable people in our communities. In that memorandum of understanding, we have a clear commitment from the 22 local government leaders and the major public sector trade unions on how we should manage these financial pressures, working collaboratively, and minimise redundancies. Of course, there are opportunities within that framework for the local development of options. However, I draw Members' attention to the memorandum, because I think that it will provide reassurance on the unique way in which we are moving forward in Wales in working with local government. There are also interesting developments in opportunities for the third sector. In particular, the impacts on the third sector are important for social enterprise.

Sefydliadau Ariannol

8. Leanne Wood: *Pa drafodaeth y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'i chael gyda sefydliadau ariannol yng Nghymru. OAQ(3)1321(BB)*

Jane Hutt: I have had discussions with a number of financial institutions in Wales, as part of the work that we are undertaking to review the issues facing individuals and businesses in accessing finance, financial advice and support.

Leanne Wood: I am sure that most Members here will be aware that many small businesses are struggling at the moment to access finance. In the midlands, a non-profit distributing co-operative has been established, called the Black Country Reinvestment Society. It offers loans of

unrhyw asesiad i benderfynu a fydd y dyraniad o arian i lywodraeth y portffolio cyfiawnder cymdeithasol a lleol yn arwain at mwy o gynghorau yn cael eu gorfodi i drosglwyddo stoc neu i breifateiddio yn y modd hwn?

Jane Hutt: Rwyf yn falch iawn, Bethan, gyda memorandwm o ddealltwriaeth diweddar—yr hoffwn dynnu sylw Aelodau ato—ac asesiad o'r effaith ar gydraddoldeb sydd wedi edrych ar benderfyniadau anodd a wnaed, ond sydd hefyd wedi cymryd ein cyfrifoldebau statudol o ddifrif o ran effaith y penderfyniadau ar bobl sy'n agored i niwed yn ein cymunedau. Yn y memorandwm o ddealltwriaeth, mae gennym ymrwymiad clir gan y 22 o arweinwyr llywodraeth leol a'r prif undebau llafur sector cyhoeddus ar sut y dylem reoli'r pwysau ariannol hyn, gan weithio ar y cyd, a lleihau diswyddiadau. Wrth gwrs, mae cyfleoedd o fewn y fframwaith hwnnw ar gyfer datblygu opsiynau yn lleol. Fodd bynnag, rwyf yn tynnu sylw'r Aelodau at y memorandwm gan fy mod yn credu y bydd yn darparu sicrwydd ar y ffordd unigryw yr ydym yn symud ymlaen yng Nghymru gan weithio gyda llywodraeth leol. Mae yna hefyd datblygiadau diddorol o ran cyfleoedd ar gyfer y trydydd sector. Yn benodol, mae'r effeithiau ar y trydydd sector yn bwysig ar gyfer menter gymdeithasol.

Financial Institutions

8. Leanne Wood: *What discussion has the Minister had with financial institutions in Wales. OAQ(3)1321(BB)*

Jane Hutt: Rwyf wedi cael trafodaethau gyda nifer o sefydliadau ariannol yng Nghymru, fel rhan o'r gwaith yr ydym yn ei wneud i adolygu'r materion sy'n wynebu unigolion a busnesau i gael mynediad i gyngor ar gyllid a chymorth ariannol.

Leanne Wood: Rwyf yn siŵr y bydd y rhan fwyaf o Aelodau yma yn ymwybodol bod llawer o fusnesau bach yn ei chael hi'n anodd ar hyn o bryd i gael mynediad at gyllid. Yng nghanolbarth Lloegr, sefydlwyd cwmni cydweithredol dosbarthu, nad yw'n gwneud elw a elwir y Gymdeithas Ailfuddsoddi yr

between £10,000 and £50,000 for small businesses, social enterprises and other organisations that contribute to the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of the area. Minister, is this a good idea? Also, would you be prepared to look into this, with a view to replicating it here in Wales in order to provide much-needed help to small, struggling firms?

Jane Hutt: Some of the work that we have undertaken as part of the economic renewal programme has been to look at access to finance for small and medium-sized businesses. However, we have also been looking at financial issues relating to individuals and social enterprises. I would be very interested to have further information about that black country initiative.

Mark Isherwood: Clearly, an era of light-touch regulation allowed non-bankers running too many of our financial institutions to ignore the prudential rules, and the need to manage risk, capital adequacy and liquidity. Now, this situation has swung right around, and the need to manage those things is limiting the availability of finance for small businesses and mortgages for first-time buyers, who have to find ridiculous deposits that they clearly cannot afford; hence, the average age of first-time buyers is now 37. You will be aware that the Financial Services Authority has been carrying out a mortgage market review. You are also probably aware that the Treasury Committee has produced a report on financial regulation, calling for a balance between preventing abusive behaviour and ensuring that regulation does not impose excessive costs and restrictions that penalise consumers, customers, small businesses and mortgage borrowers. What representations, if any, has the Welsh Government made in relation to the mortgage market review and the broader review of financial regulation? Also, would the Welsh Government consider taking action to see if it could facilitate some form of mortgage guarantee scheme in Wales that would, once again, allow first-time buyers to enter the market without ridiculously high deposits?

Ardal Ddu. Mae'n cynnig benthyciadau o rhwng £10,000 a £50,000 ar gyfer busnesau bach, mentrau cymdeithasol a sefydliadau eraill sy'n cyfrannu at les cymdeithasol, amgylcheddol ac economaidd yr ardal. Weinidog, a yw hyn yn syniad da? Hefyd, a fydddech yn barod i edrych ar hyn, gyda golwg ar ei ddyblygu yma yng Nghymru er mwyn darparu cymorth y mae mawr ei hangen i gwmnïau bach sydd yn ei chael hi'n anodd?

Jane Hutt: Mae rhan o'r gwaith a wnaethom fel rhan o'r rhaglen adnewyddu economaidd wedi bod yn edrych ar fynediad i gyllid ar gyfer busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint. Fodd bynnag, rydym hefyd wedi bod yn edrych ar faterion ariannol sy'n ymwneud ag unigolion a mentrau cymdeithasol. Byddai gennyf ddiddordeb mawr i gael rhagor o wybodaeth am y fenter honno yn yr ardal ddu.

Mark Isherwood: Yn amlwg, wnaeth cyfnod o reoli ysgafn ganiatáu i bobl nad oeddent yn fancwyr, a oedd yn rhedeg gormod o'n sefydliadau ariannol, i anwybyddu'r rheolau darbodus a'r angen i reoli risg, digonolrwydd cyfalaf a hylifedd. Yn awr, mae'r sefyllfa hon wedi troi yn ei unfan ac y mae'r angen i reoli'r pethau hynny yn cyfyngu ar argaeledd cyllid ar gyfer busnesau bach ac ar forgeisi ar gyfer prynwyr tro cyntaf, sy'n gorfod dod o hyd i ddyddodion chwerthinllyd yn amlwg ni allant eu fforddio; felly, cyfartaledd oedran prynwyr tro cyntaf yn awr yw 37. Byddwch yn ymwybodol bod yr Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Ariannol wedi bod yn cynnal adolygiad morgais farchnad. Rydych chi hefyd yn fwy na thebyg yn ymwybodol bod Pwyllgor y Trysorlys wedi cynhyrchu adroddiad ar reoleiddio ariannol, yn galw am gydbwysedd rhwng atal ymddygiad ymosodol a sicrhau nad yw'r rheoliad hwnnw'n gosod costau gormodol a chyfyngiadau sy'n cosbi defnyddwyr, cwsmeriaid, busnesau bach a benthycwyr morgais. Pa sylwadau, os o gwbl, y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'u gwneud mewn perthynas â'r adolygiad morgais farchnad a'r adolygiad ehangach o reoleiddio ariannol? Hefyd, a fyddai Llywodraeth Cymru yn ystyried cymryd camau i weld a allai hwyluso rhyw fath o gynllun gwariant morgais yng Nghymru a fyddai, unwaith eto, yn caniatáu i

brynwyr tro cyntaf fynd i mewn i'r farchnad heb ddyddodion chwerthinllyd o uchel?

Jane Hutt: Yesterday, I was able to give some figures, which I am sure that you will agree were very disturbing, regarding the very low level of mortgage lending in Wales. The impact on housing and housing need is a serious issue, which we addressed with the mortgage rescue scheme, as part of our package of measures to lead Wales out of the recession. We are also working with building societies in this area and we are ensuring that we look at every way of leveraging private sector investment. I hope that that will lead to some innovative routes in due course.

Brian Gibbons: You will be aware, Minister, that the Rowlands report looked at the supply of finance to small and medium-sized businesses across the United Kingdom. It highlighted that, other than the recession, there are fairly significant structural reasons why small and medium-sized businesses, in particular, find access to funding a challenge. I am aware that this is an area that the Assembly Government is looking at. Will you provide an update to the Assembly on how the Assembly Government is taking this initiative forward?

Jane Hutt: I will mention the economic renewal programme again—the Deputy First Minister may wish to come back to the Assembly on this. We must remember that we have been at the forefront with the development of Finance Wales, providing a variety of loans and equity for Welsh SMEs. That ranges from microloans to equity investments of up to £2 million. A total of £37 million of new investment was made in 2009-10. I will also mention the joint European resources for micro to medium enterprises fund, which will invest £150 million over the next five years, providing capital to SMEs. So, we are making strides in this direction, but we are also exploring the potential for additional support for microfinance through European funding.

Jane Hutt: Ddoe, roeddwn yn gallu rhoi rhai ffigurau a oedd, rwyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn cytuno, yn annymunol dros ben o ran lefel isel iawn o fenthycia morgeisi yng Nghymru. Mae'r effaith ar dai a'r angen am dai yn fater difrifol a wnaethom fynd i'r afael ag ef drwy'r cynllun achub morgeisi, fel rhan o'n pecyn o fesurau i arwain Cymru allan o'r dirwasgiad. Rydym hefyd yn gweithio gyda chymdeithasau adeiladu yn y maes hwn ac rydym yn sicrhau ein bod yn edrych ar bob ffordd i sicrhau bod buddsoddiad gan y sector preifat. Rwyf yn gobeithio y bydd hynny'n arwain at rai llwybrau arloesol maes o law.

Brian Gibbons: Byddwch yn ymwybodol, Weinidog, fod adroddiad Rowlands yn edrych ar y cyflenwad o gyllid i fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint ledled y Deyrnas Unedig. Mae'n tynnu sylw at y ffaith fod, ar wahân i'r dirwasgiad, rhesymau strwythurol weddol sylweddol pam fod busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint, yn benodol, yn ei chael hi'n anodd dod o hyd i arian. Rwyf yn ymwybodol bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn edrych ar y mae hwn. A wnewch chi roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Cynulliad am sut y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn datblygu'r fenter hon?

Jane Hutt: Rwyf am sôn am y rhaglen adnewyddu economaidd eto—efallai bydd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn dymuno dod yn ôl i'r Cynulliad ar hyn. Rhaid i ni gofio ein bod wedi bod ar flaen y gad gyda datblygiad Cyllid Cymru, sy'n darparu amrywiaeth o fenthyciadau ac ecwiti ar gyfer busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint yng Nghymru. Mae hynny'n amrywio o fenthyciadau meicro i fuddsoddiadau ecwiti o hyd at £2 filiwn. Gwnaed cyfanswm o £37 miliwn o fuddsoddiad newydd yn 2009-10. Byddaf hefyd yn sôn am yr adnoddau ar y cyd Ewropeaidd ar gyfer cronfa mentrau meicro a chanolig a fydd yn buddsoddi £150 miliwn dros y pum mlynedd nesaf, gan ddarparu cyfalaf i fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint. Felly, rydym yn cymryd camau i'r cyfeiriad hwn, ond rydym hefyd yn archwilio'r potensial ar gyfer darparu cymorth ychwanegol ar gyfer meicrogyllid drwy gyllid Ewropeaidd.

Mick Bates: Minister, I am sure that you are aware of the shameful behaviour of some publicly owned banks, like the Royal Bank of Scotland, in closing branches throughout rural mid Wales. This is of intense concern to many people, especially those who run small businesses, who can no longer access business advice in small rural towns. What consideration has your Government given to, and what assessment has it made of, the impact of this? Where in your budget will you be able to find funding to provide support to alleviate some of the impact of these closures? While we sit and watch banks distribute great bonuses and make more profits, we are watching this publicly owned bank destroy some of our business network in rural Wales.

Jane Hutt: Thank you for that independent question, Mick, on the shameful situation that we find ourselves in due to the lack of responsibility that we have seen from the banking industry, as the major banks withdraw from our communities and high streets. I echo Ed Balls's comments yesterday, when he said that the announcement by the UK Government on bank taxes is a damp squib. Yesterday's announcement will not dent the banks' profits one iota. *[Interruption.]*

The Presiding Officer: Order. What is the problem with having a rational discussion? As I have emphasised on a number of occasions, if the Minister replies I might well call an opposition Member. However, I will not call any baying hounds. *[Interruption.]*

Jane Hutt: I have already mentioned the importance of Finance Wales, and I will not repeat myself. Thank goodness that we have a Welsh Assembly Government that has taken that pioneering step forward to develop and support Finance Wales, so as to enable us to have that vehicle to support SMEs. We also need to recognise that Finance Wales is running the Business Angels network, introducing investors to SMEs that are seeking growth funding, as well as loans. It is important that we look to Welsh needs and solutions. However, we recognise that this is

Mick Bates: Weinidog, rwyf yn siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol o ymddygiad cywilyddus rhai banciau sy'n eiddo i'r cyhoedd, fel y Royal Bank of Scotland, yn cau canghennau ledled cefn gwlad canolbarth Cymru. Mae hyn yn destun pryder mawr i lawer o bobl, yn enwedig y rhai sy'n rhedeg busnesau bach, nad sydd bellach yn gallu dod o hyd i gyngor busnes mewn trefi gwledig bach. Pa ystyriaeth a rhoddodd eich Llywodraeth i hyn, a pha asesiad a wnaed o effaith hyn? Lle yn eich cyllideb y byddwch yn gallu dod o hyd i gyllid i roi cymorth i leddfu effaith y cau hyn? Wrth i ni eistedd a gwylio banciau yn dosbarthu taliadau bonws mawr a gwneud mwy o elw, rydym yn gwylio'r banc hwn, sy'n eiddo i'r cyhoedd, yn dinistrio rhan o'n rhwydwaith busnes yng nghefn gwlad Cymru.

Jane Hutt: Diolch am y cwestiwn annibynnol hwnnw, Mick, ar y sefyllfa cywilyddus y cawn ein hunain ynddi oherwydd y diffyg cyfrifoldeb yr ydym wedi'i weld o'r diwydiant bancio, wrth i'r banciau mawr dynnu yn eu holau o'n cymunedau a'r stryd fawr. Rwyf yn ategu sylwadau Balls Ed ddoe, pan ddywedodd fod y cyhoeddiad gan Lywodraeth y DU ar drethi banc yn fethiant. Ni fydd cyhoeddiad ddoe yn tolacio elw'r banciau yr un mymryn. *[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Beth yw'r broblem gyda gael trafodaeth resymegol? Fel yr wyf wedi pwysleisio ar nifer o achlysuron, os yw'r Gweinidog yn ymateb efallai byddaf yn galw Aelod o'r wrthblaid. Fodd bynnag, ni fyddaf yn galw unrhyw gŵn hela â'ch udo. *[Torri ar draws.]*

Jane Hutt: Rwyf eisoes wedi sôn am bwysigrwydd Cyllid Cymru, ac nid wyf am ailadrodd fy hun. Diolch byth bod gennym Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru sydd wedi cymryd y cam arloesol i ddatblygu a chefnogi Cyllid Cymru, er mwyn ein galluogi i gael y cerbyd hwnnw i gefnogi busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint. Mae angen i ni hefyd gydnabod bod Cyllid Cymru yn rhedeg y rhwydwaith Angylion Busnes, gan gyflwyno buddsoddwyr i fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint sy'n chwilio am gyllid twf yn ogystal â benthyciadau. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn dal

a global issue, as well as a UK issue, in terms of financial institutions that need to take responsibility, as, to be fair, they say that they would like to do. However, unfortunately, headquarters are not always in Wales. That is something that I find difficult when talking to regional managers about local closures.

2.10 p.m.

The Presiding Officer: The final question comes from Veronica German—not a baying hound. [*Laughter.*]

Cyllidebau Adrannol

9. Veronica German: *Sut y mae'r Gweinidog yn monitro cyllidebau Adrannol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn effeithiol. OAQ(3)1303(BB)*

Jane Hutt: I place the highest importance on safeguarding and maximising the effectiveness of the public funds that are entrusted to us. That principle is at the heart of our budget allocation and monitoring processes.

Veronica German: Yesterday, Kirsty Williams highlighted that £12 million is spent every year on locum hospital doctors, which can even lead to an unsafe service. Meanwhile, we have heard about 80,000 lost ambulance hours over two years, costing £3 million every year. That is wasted money, which leads to people having to wait even longer for ambulances. Is this an effective use of the health budget?

Jane Hutt: In managing efficiencies and the financial pressures on the NHS, the role of the health boards and the health service across Wales with regard to their service and financial framework is crucial. It is important that, in referring back to the response to the Finance Committee during questions, the Minister for Health and Social Services was able to demonstrate the £850 million of efficiency savings that have been delivered in the NHS over the past few years. It is also

ar anghenion ac atebion Cymreig. Fodd bynnag, rydym yn cydnabod bod hwn yn fater byd-eang, yn ogystal â mater y DU, o ran sefydliadau ariannol a ddylai cymryd cyfrifoldeb, fel, a bod yn deg, maent yn dweud y byddent yn hoffi ei wneud. Fodd bynnag, yn anffodus, nid yw'r pencadlysoedd bob amser yng Nghymru. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth yr wyf yn ei chael yn anodd wrth siarad â rheolwyr rhanbarthol am gau lleol.

Y Llywydd: Daw'r cwestiwn olaf oddi wrth Veronica German—nid ci sy'n udo. [*Chwerthin.*]

Departmental Budgets

9. Veronica German: *How does the Minister monitor Welsh Assembly Government Departmental budgets to ensure their effectiveness. OAQ(3)1303(BB)*

Jane Hutt: Rhoddaf y pwys mwyaf ar ddiogelu a chynyddu effeithiolrwydd y cronfeydd cyhoeddus sy'n cael eu hymddiried inni. Mae'r egwyddor honno wrth wraidd ein dyraniad cyllideb a phrosesau monitro.

Veronica German: Ddoe, tynnodd Kirsty Williams sylw at y ffaith bod £12 miliwn yn cael ei wario bob blwyddyn ar feddygon ysbyty locwm, a all hyd yn oed arwain at wasanaeth anniogel. Yn y cyfamser, rydym wedi clywed am oddeutu 80,000 o oriau ambiwlans coll dros ddwy flynedd, sy'n costio £3 miliwn bob blwyddyn. Mae hynny'n arian sydd wedi cael ei wastraffu, gan orfodi pobl i aros hyd yn oed mwy o amser ar gyfer ambiwlansys. A yw hwn yn ddefnydd effeithiol o'r gyllideb iechyd?

Jane Hutt: Wrth reoli effeithlonrwydd a'r pwysau ariannol ar y GIG, mae rôl y byrddau iechyd a'r gwasanaeth iechyd ledled Cymru o ran eu fframwaith gwasanaeth a chyllid yn hanfodol. Mae'n bwysig, gan gyfeirio yn ôl at yr ymateb i'r Pwyllgor Cyllid yn ystod cwestiynau, bod y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol wedi gallu dangos bod £850 miliwn o arbedion effeithlonrwydd sydd wedi cael eu cyflwyno yn y GIG dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd

important to recognise that the final budget last year for the NHS was nearly 2 per cent higher than it was the previous year and that I have provided additional support with regard to pressures, particularly those faced during the cold winter weeks. Of course, it is the priority of this Government that every Welsh pound is spent wisely and efficiently. However, we must also invest in the training and education of doctors in order for them to remain in Wales and play their part in delivering a national health service. However, they are up against it.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Weinidog, yr ydym yn dod i ddiwedd y trydydd Cynulliad ac i ddiwedd blwyddyn ariannol arall. I ba raddau yr ydych yn cydweithio â'ch cyd-Weinidogion i sicrhau bod pob ceiniog yn cael ei gwario? Yr oeddwn yn gwrandio arnoch ddoe yn dweud nad oedd gennych fwriad i ddychwelyd unrhyw arian i'r Trysorlys. I ba raddau yr ydych yn gweithio gyda'ch cyd-Weinidogion i sicrhau bod prosiectau y gellid eu gweithredu ar draws y gwahanol adrannau yn cael eu gweithredu ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn ariannol hon, gan sicrhau bod yr arian hwnnw yn cyrraedd pobl Cymru?

Jane Hutt: I hope that it has been a hallmark of financial management throughout the past year that we have been monitoring spend and programme delivery, including with our partners in local government and our health service boards. We have ensured that we have contingency plans for slippage. We have a criterion if money is released as a result of slippage. The criterion that we set was whether an additional allocation, through capital in particular, would not only support the vulnerable but help the economic recovery. That is why, for example, we invested £23 million in the purchase of diagnostic equipment, such as scanners for the health service. There are some amounts that you cannot spend overnight; there are other amounts that you can spend very quickly. We have sought small refurbishments, such as school refurbishments and extra care schemes. We are approving allocations every day up until the end of this financial year so that that

diwethaf. Mae hefyd yn bwysig cydnabod bod y gyllideb derfynol ar gyfer y GIG y llynedd bron i 2 y cant yn uwch nag yr oedd yn y flwyddyn flaenorol a fy mod wedi darparu cymorth ychwanegol o ran pwysau, yn enwedig y rheini sy'n cael eu hwynebu yn ystod wythnosau oer y gaeaf. Wrth gwrs, blaenoriaeth y Llywodraeth hon yw bod pob punt Gymreig yn cael ei wario'n ddoeth ac yn effeithlon. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni hefyd fuddsoddi yn hyfforddiant ac addysg meddygon er mwyn iddynt aros yng Nghymru a chwarae eu rhan wrth ddarparu gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol. Fodd bynnag, mae'n galed arnynt.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Minister, we are approaching the end of the third Assembly and the end of another financial year. To what extent are you working with your fellow Ministers to ensure that every penny is spent? I listened to you yesterday saying that it was not your intention to return any money to the Treasury. To what extent are you working with your fellow Ministers to ensure that projects that could be implemented across various departments are implemented at the end of this financial year to ensure that that money reaches the people of Wales?

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf yn gobeithio ei fod wedi bod yn nodweddiadol o'n rheolaeth ariannol drwy gydol y flwyddyn ddiwethaf ein bod wedi monitro gwariant a chyflwyno rhaglenni, gan gynnwys ein partneriaid mewn llywodraeth leol a'r byrddau gwasanaeth iechyd. Yr ydym wedi sicrhau bod gennym gynlluniau wrth gefn ar gyfer llithriad. Mae gennym faen prawf os yw arian yn cael ei ryddhau o ganlyniad i lithriad. Y maen prawf a bennwyd gennym oedd a fyddai dyraniad ychwanegol, drwy gyfalaf yn arbennig, nid yn unig yn cefnogi pobl agored i niwed ond yn helpu'r adferiad economaidd. Dyna pam, er enghraifft, gwnaethom fuddsoddi £23 miliwn drwy brynu offer diagnostig, fel sganwyr, ar gyfer y gwasanaeth iechyd. Mae rhai symiau na allwch eu gwario dros nos; mae symiau eraill y gallwch eu gwario yn gyflym iawn. Yr ydym wedi chwilio am adnewyddiadu bach, fel gwaith adnewyddu ysgol a chynlluniau gofal ychwanegol. Yr ydym yn cymeradwyo dyraniadau bob dydd

money can be spent.

However, I would also ask why we are in the position where we have to manage our finances like this, when we are actually owed £400 million in end-of-year flexibilities from the UK coalition Government. That money is being denied to us despite a vote in Parliament that it should be ours. That is the sort of flexibility that we should have under a respect agenda with the UK Government.

Darren Millar: I listened very carefully to what you said, Minister. You said that you were monitoring expenditure and delivery very carefully. However, a recent report published by the Wales Audit Office found that major transport projects in Wales have cost substantially more than they should, and that they have taken far longer to complete than they should. In fact, between 2004 and 2010, the 18 projects that the Wales Audit Office looked at, on average, cost 61 per cent more than the original estimates. In fact, one of the projects, the Porth bypass, cost £97 million instead of an estimated £33 million. I do not have any confidence whatsoever in your party's ability to monitor and spend public money adequately and properly, given what we have seen from the previous UK Labour Government. It is because of Labour's mismanagement of the UK public finances that we are facing some cuts in this financial year. In the light of the Wales Audit Office report, what are you doing to improve the monitoring of public spending on such projects?

Jane Hutt: I was able to respond to your esteemed colleague, David Melding, who asked the first question and raised that very point about the Wales Audit Office report. As I said, not only did the Deputy Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport respond on the day, but there will be a formal Government response to ensure that we put the record straight that the systems have been changed and improved. It is about delivery with our partners in local government, particularly in relation to transport plans, but there is no question about the responsibility

hyd at ddiwedd y flwyddyn ariannol hon er mwyn i'r arian gael ei wario.

Fodd bynnag, buaswn hefyd yn gofyn pam ein bod mewn sefyllfa lle mae'n rhaid inni reoli ein cyllid fel hyn, pan fod £400 miliwn, mewn gwirionedd, yn ddyledus inni mewn hyblygrwydd ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn gan Lywodraeth glymblaid y DU. Gwrthodir rhoi'r arian inni er gwaethaf pleidlais yn y Senedd y dylid ei roi inni. Dyna'r math o hyblygrwydd y dylem ei gael o dan agenda parch Llywodraeth y DU.

Darren Millar: Gwrandewais yn ofalus ar yr hyn a wnaethoch ei ddweud, Weinidog. Gwnaethoch ddweud eich bod yn monitro gwariant a chyflwyno yn ofalus iawn. Fodd bynnag, gwnaeth adroddiad diweddar a gyhoeddwyd gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru ddarganfod bod prosiectau trafniadaeth mawr yng Nghymru wedi costio llawer mwy nag y dylent, a'u bod wedi cymryd llawer mwy o amser i'w cwblhau nag y dylent. Yn wir, rhwng 2004 a 2010, fe oedd y 18 o brosiectau yr edrychodd Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru arnynt, ar gyfartaledd, yn costio 61 y cant yn fwy na'r amcangyfrifon gwreiddiol. Yn wir, costiodd un o'r prosiectau, ffordd osgoi Porth, £97 miliwn yn hytrach na'r £33 miliwn a amcangyfrifwyd. Nid oes gennyf unrhyw hyder o gwbl yng ngallu eich plaid i fonitro a gwario arian cyhoeddus yn ddigonol ac yn briodol, o ystyried yr hyn yr ydym wedi gweld gan y Llywodraeth Lafur blaenorol y DU. Camreolaeth Llafur o arian cyhoeddus y DU sydd wedi golygu ein bod yn wynebu rhai toriadau yn y flwyddyn ariannol hon. Yn sgîl adroddiad Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru, beth ydych yn ei wneud i wella monitro gwariant cyhoeddus ar brosiectau o'r fath?

Jane Hutt: Yr oeddwn yn gallu ymateb i'ch cydweithiwr uchel ei barch, David Melding, a ofynnodd y cwestiwn cyntaf ac a gododd yr union bwynt hwnnw am adroddiad Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru. Fel y dywedais, nid yn unig gwnaeth y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth ymateb ar y diwrnod, ond bydd ymateb ffurfiol gan y Llywodraeth i sicrhau ein bod yn egluro'r sefyllfa, sef bod y systemau wedi cael eu newid a'u gwella. Mae'n ymwneud â darparu gyda'n partneriaid mewn llywodraeth leol, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â

and duty that we have to not only monitor, but ensure that we achieve value for money and increased efficiency. I would draw your attention to our route planner, for example, in relation to procurement, which hosts all of the advice and guidance issued by the Welsh Assembly Government's Value Wales in relation to good procurement practice, including value for money. We should also recognise that we have been delivering recently, particularly on the transport front. For example, we have delivered not only the excellent Church Village bypass, but the community benefits that came with that, which included training and apprenticeship opportunities, and the engagement of the local community in the delivery of that important transport project.

chynlluniau trafndiaeth, ond nid oes unrhyw gwestiwn am ein cyfrifoldeb a'n dyletswydd nid yn unig i fonitro, ond i sicrhau ein bod yn cyflawni gwerth am arian ac effeithlonrwydd cynyddol. Hoffwn dynnu eich sylw at ein cynllunydd llwybr, er enghraifft, ar gaffael, sy'n cynnwys yr holl gyngor a chanllawiau a gyhoeddwyd gan Gwerth Cymru Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru am arfer caffael da, yn cynnwys gwerth am arian. Dylem hefyd gydnabod ein darpariaeth ddiweddar, yn enwedig o ran trafndiaeth. Er enghraifft, gwnaethom ddarparu nid yn unig ffordd osgoi ardderchog Pentre'r Eglwys, ond yn ogystal y manteision i'r gymuned a ddaeth ymhlyg â hynny, a oedd yn cynnwys cyfleoedd hyfforddiant a phrentisiaeth, a thynnu'r gymuned leol i mewn o ran darparu'r prosiect trafndiaeth pwysig hwnnw.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth Questions to the Minister for Heritage

Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru

1. Eleanor Burnham: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am swyddogaeth Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. OAQ(3)1419(HER)*

Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth (Alun Ffred Jones): Fel y nodir yn ei siarter frenhinol, swyddogaeth Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru yw datblygu a gwella gwybodaeth am y celfyddydau, eu deall a'u hymarfer, a chynyddu hygyrchedd y celfyddydau i'r cyhoedd.

Eleanor Burnham: Yr ydym oll yn gyfarwydd â'r egwyddor hyd braich rhyngoch a'r cyngor, ond, o glywed pryderon am doriadau anferthol mewn amryw o grwpiau hanfodol o bwysig mewn amryw o gymunedau difreintiedig, pa rôl strategol sydd gennych a bwrdd strategol y celfyddydau yn y mater hwn, sydd yn peri pryder?

Alun Ffred Jones: Cafwyd cyfarfod o'r bwrdd strategol y bore yma, lle buom yn trafod nifer o faterion sydd yn berthnasol nid yn unig i'r celfyddydau ond hefyd i adfywio cymunedau. Yr ydym wedi trafod yn y Siambr hon yr egwyddor hyd braich, ac yr

The Arts Council of Wales

1. Eleanor Burnham: *Will the Minister make a statement on the role of the Arts Council of Wales. OAQ(3)1419(HER)*

The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones): The role of the Arts Council of Wales, as set out in its royal charter, is to develop and improve the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts, and to increase the accessibility of the arts to the public.

Eleanor Burnham: We are all familiar with the principle of an arm's length between you and the council, but, given the concerns about swathing cuts in a number of groups that are very important in a number of disadvantaged communities, what strategic role do you and the arts strategy board have in this matter, which is a cause of concern?

Alun Ffred Jones: There was a meeting of the strategy board this morning, at which we discussed a number of issues that are of relevance not only to the arts but to community regeneration. We have discussed the arm's-length principle in this Chamber,

oeddech chi a'ch plaid yn gwbl gytûn bod yr egwyddor hyd braich yn un bwysig. Os felly, nid yw'n addas nac yn briodol i Weinidog—ac nid myfi yn unig—ymyrryd mewn penderfyniadau unigol os ydym yn anhapus neu'n anfodlon â hwy. Gallaf eich sicrhau ein bod wedi trafod y mater yr ydych yn cyfeirio ato fwy nag unwaith, gan gynnwys mewn cyfarfod ddoe gyda chadeirydd a phrif weithredwr cyngor y celfyddydau. Byddaf yn cyfeirio ato yn fy llythyr at gyngor y celfyddydau ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf.

Eleanor Burnham: Yr wyf yn falch o glywed hynny, gan fy mod yn cymeradwyo'r egwyddor hyd braich yn fawr, ac yn ei chefnogi. Fodd bynnag, pa fath o gyfeiriad strategol y gallwch ei llywyddu ar ran y cymunedau hyn? Yr wyf yn deall yn union yr hyn a ddywedwch: nad ydych am ymyrryd. *Micromanagement* fu problem y Blaid Lafur dros y blynyddoedd, yn fy marn i. Serch hynny, o ran cyfeiriad strategol, beth, yn union, a gymerwch o adroddiad diweddar ein pwyllgor ar flaenoriaethau i wella mynediad i'r celfyddydau, yn enwedig—gofynnais am hyn yn gynharach—i'r cymunedau difreintiedig yr ydym oll yn pryderu yn eu cylch?

2.20 p.m.

Alun Ffred Jones: Gallaf gyfeirio at nifer o fanylion ynglŷn â'r hyn sy'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd yn y cymunedau hynny, ac mae'n siŵr y caf gyfle yn nes ymlaen i wneud hynny. Byddwn yn eich cyfeirio at y llythyr yr wyf yn ei roi yn flynyddol i gyngor y celfyddydau, sy'n cynnwys cyfeiriad penodol at wella hygyrchedd ar gyfer pawb yng Nghymru, yn enwedig pobl ifanc. Mae strategaethau cyngor y celfyddydau yn delio â hynny, ac mae'r cyngor yn ymgynghori ar hyn o bryd, fel y gwyddoch, ar ei strategaeth ar gyfer pobl ifanc.

Lynne Neagle: Do you agree that it is not incompatible with the arm's-length principle for the Assembly Government to accept its responsibilities for setting the strategic direction of the arts council? Do you also agree that providing services for some of the poorest communities in Wales is a strategic priority for this Government, as is ensuring that the arts are accessible to all? On that

and you and your party were in total agreement that the arm's-length principle is an important one. If that is the case, it is not appropriate for any Minister—not just myself—to intervene in individual decisions if we are unhappy with them. I can assure you that we have discussed the matter that you referred to more than once, including in a meeting yesterday with the chair and chief executive of the arts council. I will be referring to it in my letter to the arts council for the next year.

Eleanor Burnham: I am pleased to hear that, as I very much approve of and support the arm's-length principle. However, what sort of strategic direction can you provide on behalf of these communities? I understand exactly what you are saying: you do not want to intervene. Micromanagement has been Labour's problem over the years, in my view. However, in terms of a strategic direction, what, exactly, do you make of the recent report published by our committee on priorities for increasing access to the arts, particularly—I asked about this earlier—for the disadvantaged communities that we are all so concerned about?

Alun Ffred Jones: I can refer to a number of details about what is going on now in those communities, and I am sure that I will have an opportunity later on to do so. I would also refer you to the letter that I send each year to the arts council, which includes a specific reference to increasing accessibility for everyone, particularly young people. The arts council's strategies deal with that, and, as you know, the council is now consulting on its strategy for young people.

Lynne Neagle: A ydych yn cytuno ei bod hi ddim yn anghydnaws â'r egwyddor hyd braich i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad dderbyn ei chyfrifoldebau am osod cyfeiriad strategol cyngor y celfyddydau? A ydych hefyd yn cytuno bod darparu gwasanaethau ar gyfer rhai o'r cymunedau tlotaf yng Nghymru yn flaenoriaeth strategol ar gyfer y Llywodraeth hon, ynghyd â sicrhau bod y celfyddydau yn

basis and on the basis of the strong criticism of your approach in the Communities and Culture Committee, which accused you of washing your hands of this issue, will you look at this again and intervene with the arts council?

Alun Ffred Jones: I have not washed my hands of anything; all I said was that I will not comment on individual decisions made by the arts council. A strong strategic direction is provided in the remit letter, and there will be further directions in the next remit letter. If we are talking about theatre in education here, we should get our facts right. It is interesting that a number of you have raised this issue with me over the past few months, but no-one has raised the fact that half of Welsh local authorities do not support theatre in education at all. There is a strong correlation between support by authorities for theatre in education and its provision in those areas. There is a perception, at least, that there is uniform provision of theatre in education throughout Wales, but that is not so. For example, less than a third of schools in Pembrokeshire receive services from a theatre in education company, but then Pembrokeshire County Council does not support its local theatre in education company. The provision in south-east Wales has been different. Monmouthshire County Council supports its local Gwent Theatre, and there is fairly comprehensive coverage in Monmouthshire. However, in Torfaen, Caerphilly and Newport, where the local authorities have not been supportive in general of the local Gwent Theatre company, provision of theatre in education is as low as 20 per cent to 30 per cent of schools. So, at any one time, perhaps 80 per cent of schools in those areas were not receiving any services in any case. The arts council is looking at the provision of theatre and theatre experiences for young people in the round. The whole approach will change over the coming years, and that applies to all areas in Wales. I can give you more facts and figures and, no doubt, I will have the opportunity to do so later.

Mohammad Asghar: Minister, as you know, the Arts Council of Wales announced last

hygyrch i bawb? Ar y sail honno ac ar sail y feirniadaeth gref o'ch dull yn y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant, a'ch cyhuddodd o olchi eich dwylo o'r mater hwn, a wnewch chi edrych ar hyn eto ac ymyrryd gyda chynghor y celfyddydau?

Alun Ffred Jones: Nid wyf wedi golchi fy nwylo o ddim; y cyfan a ddywedais oedd na fyddaf yn gwneud sylwadau ar benderfyniadau unigol a wnaed gan gynghor y celfyddydau. Mae cyfeiriad strategol cryf yn cael ei ddarparu yn y llythyr cylch gwaith, a bydd cyfarwyddiadau pellach yn y llythyr cylch gwaith nesaf. Os mai sôn am theatr mewn addysg ydym, dylem gael ein ffeithiau'n gywir. Mae'n ddiddorol bod nifer ohonoch wedi codi'r mater hwn gyda mi yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf, ond nid oes neb wedi codi'r ffaith nad yw hanner awdurdodau lleol Cymru yn cefnogi theatr mewn addysg o gwbl. Mae cydberthynas gref rhwng cymorth gan awdurdodau ar gyfer theatr mewn addysg a'i darpariaeth yn yr ardaloedd hynny. Ceir canfyddiad, o leiaf, bod y ddarpariaeth theatr mewn addysg yn unffurf ledled Cymru, ond nid felly y mae. Er enghraifft, mae llai na thraean o ysgolion yn sir Benfro yn derbyn gwasanaethau gan gwmni theatr mewn addysg, ond nid yw Cynghor Sir Benfro yn cefnogi ei gwmni theatr mewn addysg lleol. Mae'r ddarpariaeth yn y de-ddwyrain wedi bod yn wahanol. Mae Cynghor Sir Fynwy yn cefnogi ei Theatr Gwent lleol, ac mae darpariaeth eithaf cynhwysfawr yn sir Fynwy. Fodd bynnag, yn Nhor-faen, Caerffili a Chasnewydd, lle nad yw'r awdurdodau lleol wedi bod yn gefnogol yn gyffredinol o'r cwmni Theatr Gwent lleol, mae darparith theatr mewn addysg mor isel ag 20 y cant i 30 y cant o ysgolion. Felly, ar unrhyw un adeg, efallai nad oedd 80 y cant o ysgolion yn yr ardaloedd hynny yn derbyn unrhyw wasanaethau beth bynnag. Mae cynghor y celfyddydau yn edrych ar ddarpariaeth theatr a phrofiadau o theatr i bobl ifanc yn eu cyfanrwydd. Bydd yr holl agwedd yn newid dros y blynyddoedd nesaf, ac mae hynny'n berthnasol i bob ardal yng Nghymru. Gallaf roi mwy o ffeithiau a ffigurau ichi ac, mae'n sicr y caf y cyfle i wneud hynny yn ddiweddarach.

Mohammad Asghar: Weinidog, fel y gwyddoch, cyhoeddodd Cynghor Celfyddydau

summer that it would cease funding for 32 groups, including Gwent Theatre in my region and many other theatre in education companies. While I respect that an arm's-length principle is in place, do you agree that the Assembly Government has some level of accountability for the decisions taken by the council? Do you also believe that the Assembly Government has a responsibility to do what it can to ensure that all communities across Wales have access to the arts, and to ensure that disadvantaged groups have adequate provision?

Alun Ffred Jones: I agree, of course, that the Government has responsibility in this area—that is why we have the arts strategy board and why the remit letter is given out every year. In relation to disadvantaged communities, it is interesting that there was a discussion in today's strategy board meeting about Communities First areas and regeneration. A lead official from a Communities First area said that he paid tribute to the arts council for its creditable record and its positive relationship with Communities First. If you look at Communities First areas over the past few years, you will find that, annually, there are capital projects to the value of £1 million, projects funded through the lottery totalling £0.75 million, and grant-in-aid funding of approaching £8 million to support key initiatives such as the Night Out community touring programme and other strategic initiatives. That is just part of the story of where provision of arts and related services is targeted firmly at areas where that provision has been traditionally lacking. However, I have more information, and, as I said, no doubt I will have an opportunity to relay it later today.

Mohammad Asghar: Part of the story is not good enough, we need the full picture. In this regard, the arts council's participation strategy promises to tackle barriers to participation and ensure that additional opportunities for people to actively participate in arts-based activities are put in place. Do you agree that the likely closure of

Cymru haf diwethaf y byddai'n gorffen cyllido 32 o grwpiau, gan gynnwys Theatr Gwent yn fy rhanbarth a llawer o gwmnïau theatr mewn addysg eraill. Er fy mod yn parchu bod egwyddor hyd braich mewn lle, a ydych yn cytuno bod gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad rhyw lefel o atebolrwydd am benderfyniadau'r cyngor? A ydych hefyd yn credu bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gyfrifol am wneud yr hyn a all i sicrhau bod pob cymuned ledled Cymru yn cael mynediad at y celfyddydau, ac i sicrhau bod grwpiau difreintiedig yn cael darpariaeth ddigonol?

Alun Ffred Jones: Cytunaf, wrth gwrs, fod gan y Llywodraeth gyfrifoldeb yn y maes hwn—dyna pam fod gennym fwrdd strategaeth y celfyddydau a pham y dosbarthir y llythyr cylch gwaith bob blwyddyn. O ran cymunedau difreintiedig, mae'n ddiddorol y bu trafodaeth yng nghyfarfod y bwrdd strategaeth heddiw am ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ac adfywio. Dywedodd swyddog arweiniol o ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ei fod yn talu teyrnged i gyngor y celfyddydau am ei record gymeradwy a'i berthynas gadarnhaol gyda Chymunedau yn Gyntaf. Os edrychwch ar ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, fe welwch, yn flynyddol, fod prosiectau cyfalaf gwerth hyd at £1 miliwn, prosiectau wedi eu hariannu drwy'r loteri yn gwneud cyfanswm o £0.75 miliwn, ac ariannu cymorth grant o yn agos at £8 miliwn i gefnogi mentrau allweddol fel y rhaglen deithiol gymunedol Noson Allan a mentrau strategol eraill. Dim ond rhan o'r stori am le mae darpariaeth y celfyddydau a gwasanaethau cysylltiedig yn cael eu targedu yn gadarn at feysydd lle mae'r ddarpariaeth honno wedi bod yn ddiffygiol yn draddodiadol yw hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae gennyf fwy o wybodaeth, ac, fel y dywedais, mae'n sicr y caf gyfle i'w rannu yn ddiweddarach heddiw.

Mohammad Asghar: Nid yw rhan o'r stori yn ddigon da, mae angen y darlun llawn arnom. Yn hyn o beth, mae strategaeth cyfranogiad cyngor y celfyddydau yn addo mynd i'r afael â rhwystrau i gyfranogiad a sicrhau bod rhagor o gyfleoedd i bobl gymryd rhan weithredol mewn gweithgareddau yn seiliedig ar y celfyddydau

many theatres in education companies across Wales will severely hamper the arts council's ability to carry out these aims? If so, what steps do you have planned to counter this and ensure that participation in the arts across Wales is increased in future? *[Interruption.]*

The Presiding Officer: Order. Mohammad Asghar is as able a spokesperson as any of you.

Alun Ffred Jones: The Arts Council of Wales is in discussion with education bodies about the revised strategy for making the arts available and relevant to young people. The need to provide arts opportunities, especially participatory ones, will be a key expectation of all revenue-funded organisations. I must reiterate that there is already excellent provision in the south-east and in many deprived communities. There is a lot of activity going on. I heard a lot about it this morning and I repeat that the Communities First official who was present this morning was very happy with the relationship with the arts council and with the activity that it promotes within Communities First areas.

Bethan Jenkins: Yr ydym yn ymwybodol bod ymgynghoriad ar y strategaeth newydd ar gelfyddydau a phobl ifanc ar hyn o bryd ac yr wyf yn croesawu'r ffaith bod cyngor y celfyddydau yn gwneud hynny. Y consŷrn, ac mae Aelodau eraill wedi ei godi heddiw, yw bod llawer o gwmnïau wedi cyflwyno ceisiadau busnes i gyngor y celfyddydau ar y sail y byddent yn parhau â'u gwaith mewn theatr mewn addysg, er enghraifft. Fodd bynnag, ymddengys yn awr fel pe bai'r arweiniad wedi newid o ran parhad theatr mewn addysg. A fedrwch roi rhyw fath o arweiniad inni fel Aelodau'r Cynulliad yng nghyd-destun y ffaith bod y strategaeth hon i'w chroesawu, wrth gwrs, ond pan fo cwmnïau theatr yn seilïo'u gwaith ar strategaeth flaenorol, sut maent wedyn i fod i addasu eu gwaith i gyd-fynd â hyn, yn enwedig gan fod arian rhai cwmnïau wedi cael ei dorri ac felly nad ydynt yn gallu newid eu gwaith i gyd-fynd â'r strategaeth

yn cael eu rhoi ar waith. A ydych yn cytuno y bydd cau llawer o gwmnïau theatr mewn addysg ledled Cymru, fel sy'n debygol, yn llesteirio gallu cyngor y celfyddydau i gyflawni'r amcanion hyn yn ddifrifol? Os felly, pa gamau a ydych wedi eu cynllunio i wrthsefyll hyn a sicrhau bod cyfranogiad yn y celfyddydau ledled Cymru yn cael ei gynyddu yn y dyfodol? *[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae Mohammad Asghar yn llefarydd yr un mor abal ag unrhyw un ohonoch.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru yn cynnal trafodaethau â chyrff addysg am y strategaeth ddiwygiedig ar gyfer gwneud y celfyddydau yn hygyrch ac yn berthnasol i bobl ifanc. Bydd yr angen i ddarparu cyfleoedd celfyddydol, yn enwedig rhai cyfranogol, yn ddisgwyliad allweddol o'r holl sefydliadau sy'n derbyn cyllid refeniw. Mae'n rhaid imi ailadrodd bod darpariaeth ragorol eisoes yn y de-ddwyrain ac mewn llawer o gymunedau difreintiedig. Mae llawer o weithgarwch yn digwydd. Clywais lawer amdano'r bore yma a dywedaf eto bod y swyddog Cymunedau yn Gyntaf a oedd yn bresennol y bore yma yn hapus iawn gyda'r berthynas gyda chyngor y celfyddydau a gyda'r gweithgarwch y mae'n ei hyrwyddo mewn ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf.

Bethan Jenkins: We are aware that the new strategy on arts and young people is out to consultation at present, and I welcome the fact that the arts council is doing that. The concern, and other Members have raised it today, is that many companies had submitted business cases to the arts council on the basis that they would continue their work in theatre in education, for example. However, it now appears that the steer has changed with regard to the continuation of theatre in education. Could you give some sort of guidance to us as Assembly Members in light of the fact that this strategy is, of course, to be welcomed, but when theatre companies base their work on a previous strategy, how then are they to adapt their work to correspond to this, particularly as some companies have had their funding cut and therefore cannot change their work to correspond to the new strategy that the council will implement?

newydd y bydd y cyngor yn ei gweithredu?

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae rhai cwmnïau theatr mewn addysg wedi cael cefnogaeth, ond mae disgwyl iddynt newid eu ffordd o weithio. Yr wyf wedi rhoi rhai ffigurau, ond gallwn roi llawer mwy, ynglŷn â chyrhaeddiad y cwmnïau hyn. Fel y dywedais, yn sir Benfro, un rhan o dair o ysgolion sydd yn derbyn y gwasanaeth. Yng nogledd-ddwyrain Cymru, mae'r ffigur yn nes at 50 y cant. Yn eich ardal chi, yng Nghastell-nedd, mae'r ffigur o ran yr ysgolion sydd yn derbyn y gwasanaeth yn amrywio o tua chwarter i tua hanner. Felly, mae'n annheg credu bod darlun unffurf wedi bod ar draws Cymru. Yn yr adolygiad a fu, yr oedd yn berffaith amlwg na fyddai rhai cwmnïau yn parhau â'u gwaith. Hynny yw, nod yr adolygiad oedd sicrhau mai'r cwmnïau mwyaf abl a llwyddiannus a fyddai'n parhau. Nid fy mhenderfyniad i oedd pa gwmnïau oedd y rheini. Bu cyfnod o apêl, ond yr hyn sydd yn digwydd yn awr sydd yn bwysig.

Yr wyf wedi dweud yn glir wrth gyngor y celfyddydau fod rhaid i ni weld darpariaeth ar gyfer pobl ifanc, ac y dylai cyflwyniadau cyffrous ym myd y theatr—ac mewn meysydd eraill—fod ar gael i bawb, ar draws Cymru, gan gynnwys yn y cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig.

2.30 p.m.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats (Kirsty Williams): While the arts council is consulting on its young people's strategy, and while you say that there will be new services in coming years, the reality on the ground is that people are having their redundancy notices issued to them, and services for young people are being cut. Are you satisfied that the young people of Brecon and Radnorshire will continue to have access to participatory theatre, as they have done for many years? That is in danger of being lost, because of the arts council's cuts to Theatr Powys. If you are satisfied that those young people are to have access to those opportunities, could you tell us what those opportunities are?

Alun Ffred Jones: That is a matter for the arts council, local authorities, and other

Alun Ffred Jones: Some theatre in education companies have received support, but they are expected to change their ways of working. I have given some figures, but I could give many more, about the achievement of these companies. As I said, in Pembrokeshire, only a third of schools receive the service. In north-east Wales, the figure is closer to 50 per cent. In your area, in Neath, the figure for schools receiving the service varies from a quarter to a half. Therefore it is unfair to believe that there is a uniform picture across Wales. In the review, it was perfectly clear that some companies would not continue with their work. That is, the aim of the review was to ensure that the most able and successful companies would continue. Which companies those were was not my decision. There was an appeals period, but what is important is what is happening now.

I have explicitly told the arts council that we must see provision for young people, and that exciting productions in theatre—and other media—should be available for all, across Wales, including in the most deprived communities.

Arweinydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Kirsty Williams): Er bod cyngor y celfyddydau yn ymgynghori ar ei strategaeth pobl ifanc, a tra eich bod yn dweud y bydd gwasanaethau newydd yn y blynyddoedd i ddod, y realiti ar lawr gwlad yw bod pobl yn cael eu hysbysu eu bod yn cael eu diswyddo a bod gwasanaethau i bobl ifanc yn cael eu cwtogi. A ydych yn fodlon y bydd pobl ifanc Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed yn parhau i gael mynediad i theatr gyfranogol, fel y maent wedi ei wneud ers blynyddoedd lawer? Mae perygl o golli hynny, oherwydd toriadau cyngor y celfyddydau i Theatr Powys. Os ydych yn fodlon y bydd y bobl ifanc hyn yn cael mynediad at y cyfleoedd hynny, a allwch ddweud wrthym beth yw'r cyfleoedd hynny?

Alun Ffred Jones: Mater i gyngor y celfyddydau, awdurdodau lleol ac

practitioners. The fact is that provision for young people will be available throughout Wales. That will have to be the case, although it has not always been the case up to now. As I explained, in terms of theatre in education, it has not been a uniform picture throughout Wales, and in some areas, it has been as low as 20 per cent of schools receiving a service. In those areas where companies are either ceasing or having to adapt their ways of working—there is provision for adapting ways of working—the new strategy will have to address all areas and show that there is provision, whatever it may be in the future, for exciting, engaging work to happen in performance arts. That is what we should be looking for, not merely to keep what we have already. The review was clear that things would not remain the same as they have been in the past, which is right and proper. Although it is more than unfortunate that people are losing their jobs in the present companies, I hope that there will be sufficient activity in the future for further provision in this field. While it is true to say that we have been focusing on theatre in education, it is also true that many other providers in these areas do exciting work, such as Valleys Kids and Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Arts. Those are not in Powys, admittedly—[*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. We cannot have this interrupting of the Minister when he is answering. If you want to ask a question, stand up.

Alun Ffred Jones: Theatre in education is not the only answer. In future, there will have to be provision throughout Wales.

Cefnogi Llyfrgelloedd

2. Sandy Mewies: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am gynlluniau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gefnogi llyfrgelloedd yng Nghymru.* OAQ(3)1413(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: The Welsh Assembly Government has invested a record £10.5 million in its 'Libraries for Life' programme,

ymarferwyr eraill yw hynny. Y ffaith amdani yw y bydd darpariaeth ar gyfer pobl ifanc ar gael ledled Cymru. Bydd yn rhaid i hynny ddigwydd, er nad yw wedi bod yn wir bob amser hyd yn hyn. Fel yr eglurais, nid yw'r darlun o ran theatr mewn addysg wedi bod yn unffurf ledled Cymru, ac mewn rhai ardaloedd, mae cyn ised ag 20 y cant o ysgolion wedi cael gwasanaeth. Yn yr ardaloedd hynny lle mae cwmnïau naill ai'n darfod neu yn gorfod addasu eu dulliau o weithio—mae darpariaeth ar gyfer addasu ffyrdd o weithio—bydd y strategaeth newydd yn gorfod ymdrin â'r holl feysydd a dangos bod darpariaeth, beth bynnag y bo yn y dyfodol, ar gyfer gwaith cyffrous, diddorol yn y celfyddydau perfformio. Dyna y dylem fod yn edrych amdano, nid yn unig cadw'r hyn sydd gennym eisoes. Roedd yr adolygiad yn glir na fyddai pethau'n aros yr un fath ag y maent wedi bod yn y gorffennol, sydd yn iawn ac yn briodol. Er ei bod yn fwy nag anffodus bod pobl yn colli eu swyddi yn y cwmnïau presennol, gobeithiaf y bydd digon o weithgarwch yn y dyfodol ar gyfer darpariaeth bellach yn y maes hwn. Er ei bod yn wir i ddweud ein bod wedi bod yn canolbwyntio ar theatr mewn addysg, gwir hefyd yw bod llawer o ddarparwyr eraill yn yr ardaloedd hyn yn gwneud gwaith cyffrous, fel Plant y Cymoedd a Chelfyddydau Cymunedol Rhondda Cynon Taf. Nid yw'r rheini ym Mhowys, rhaid cyfaddef—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni allwn gael y fath dorri ar draws y Gweinidog wrth iddo ateb. Os ydych am ofyn cwestiwn, sefwch ar eich traed.

Alun Ffred Jones: Nid theatr mewn addysg yw'r unig ateb. Yn y dyfodol, bydd yn rhaid cael darpariaeth ledled Cymru.

Support for Libraries

2. Sandy Mewies: *Will the Minister provide an update on Welsh Assembly Government initiatives to support libraries in Wales.* OAQ(3)1413(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi buddsoddi swm uwch nag erioed o £10.5 miliwn yn ei rhaglen

which has been successful in revitalising our libraries. We have worked with local authorities to modernise our public library buildings, and we have seen an increase in the number of people using our libraries.

Sandy Mewies: You are right. It was heartening to see from recent figures that library use is on the increase in Wales. However, across the country, including in my constituency, libraries are threatened with closure as councils tighten their belts. I understand why that is being done in some cases. I have been a library member since I was 11 years old; I will not say how many years that is. I have found great joy, as well as knowledge and intellectual stimulation, through them. They also provide easy access, in many cases, to computers and to training in computer skills. Therefore, will you do anything you can to encourage the retention of library services throughout Wales?

Alun Ffred Jones: The capital development programme strand of 'Libraries for Life' has provided funding to modernise around 67 public libraries. That has partly resulted in these excellent figures for the number of people using libraries, and the number of items loaned. I understand your concerns about the threat to some libraries, in some parts of Wales. I can assure you that CyMAL: Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales works in close partnership with local library services to monitor provision and provide local authorities with support to try to minimise the impact of some of the threats of closure. I admit that some authorities are considering closing or relocating libraries—I know that the local authority in Flintshire has been considering that—but we will continue to monitor the situation and remind local authorities of their statutory obligations.

David Melding: Minister, will you join me in commending the innovation shown by the National Library of Wales, particularly in terms of the digital project that is potentially taking Wales to the world and offering great

'Llyfrgelloedd am Oes', sydd wedi bod yn llwyddiannus yn adfywio ein llyfrgelloedd. Rydym wedi gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i foderneiddio ein hadeiladau llyfrgell cyhoeddus, ac rydym wedi gweld cynnydd yn nifer y bobl sy'n defnyddio ein llyfrgelloedd.

Sandy Mewies: Yr ydych yn gywir. Calonogol oedd gweld bod y defnydd o lyfrgelloedd ar gynnydd yng Nghymru mewn ffigyrau diweddar. Fodd bynnag, ledled y wlad, yn cynnwys fy etholaeth, mae bygwth cau llyfrgelloedd wrth i gynghorau dynhau eu gwregys. Deallaf pam y gwneir hynny mewn rhai achosion. Yr wyf wedi bod yn aelod o lyfrgell ers fy mod yn 11 mlwydd oed; nid wyf am ddweud faint o flynyddoedd yw hynny. Yr wyf wedi dod o hyd i lawenydd mawr, yn ogystal â gwybodaeth a symbyliad deallusol, drwyddynt. Maent hefyd yn darparu mynediad rhwydd, mewn llawer o achosion, i gyfrifiaduron a hyfforddiant mewn sgiliau cyfrifiadurol. Felly, a wnewch chi unrhyw beth y gallwch i annog cadw gwasanaethau llyfrgelloedd ledled Cymru?

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae llinyn y rhaglen datblygu cyfalaf yn 'Llyfrgelloedd am Oes' wedi darparu cyllid i foderneiddio tua 67 o lyfrgelloedd cyhoeddus. Mae hynny wedi arwain yn rhannol at y ffigurau ardderchog hyn ar gyfer nifer y bobl sy'n defnyddio llyfrgelloedd, a nifer yr eitemau ar fenthyg. Yr wyf yn deall eich pryderon am y bygythiad i rai llyfrgelloedd, mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru. Gallaf eich sicrhau bod CyMAL: Amgueddfeydd, Archifau a Llyfrgelloedd Cymru yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth agos â gwasanaethau llyfrgell lleol i fonitro darpariaeth a rhoi cefnogaeth i awdurdodau lleol i geisio lleihau effaith rhai o'r bygythiadau am gau. Yr wyf yn cyfaddef bod rhai awdurdodau yn ystyried cau neu adleoli llyfrgelloedd—gwn fod yr awdurdod lleol yn sir y Fflint wedi bod yn ystyried hynny—ond byddwn yn parhau i fonitro'r sefyllfa ac atgoffa awdurdodau lleol am eu rhwymedigaethau statudol.

David Melding: Weinidog, a wnewch fy ymuno yn cymeradwyo'r arloesi a ddangosir gan Lyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, yn enwedig o ran y prosiect digidol sydd o bosibl yn cymryd Cymru i'r byd ac yn cynnig

scope for creative and cultural enterprise, with schemes to promote access to the library, particularly among schools, and the county library network?

Alun Ffred Jones: I am very happy to endorse your remarks. I was happy to be able to support the national library in its digital project, which, as you say, has the potential to bring Wales to a worldwide audience, and is increasingly doing so; the figures from the national library for the number of hits on its website and for access to its materials are very encouraging. Undoubtedly, those figures will increase over the coming years.

Trafodaethau gyda Gweinidogion Llywodraeth y DU

3. Nerys Evans: *Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael yn ddiweddar gyda Gweinidogion Llywodraeth y DU. OAQ(3)1437(HER)*

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf wedi cynnal trafodaethau gyda fy nghymheiriaid o Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig ar amryw o faterion sy'n berthnasol i fy mhortffolio. Byddaf yn cynnal cyfarfod o'r cabinet chwaraeon yr wythnos nesaf, ac yr wyf yn edrych ymlaen at gyfarfod â Gweinidogion eraill y Deyrnas Unedig sydd â chyfrifoldeb am chwaraeon i drafod nifer o faterion sy'n gysylltiedig â'r maes hwn.

Nerys Evans: Mae pryder mawr yn parhau ynghylch dyfodol S4C, o ran annibyniaeth y sianel, ei chyllideb a pherthynas S4C â'r BBC. Mae hefyd bryder mawr ynglŷn â diffyg dealltwriaeth Jeremy Hunt, Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Ddiwylliant, y Gemau Olympaidd, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon, o bwysigrwydd dyfodol annibynnol S4C. A allwch roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y sefyllfa? Pa drafodaethau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi eu cael â Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig ynghylch dyfodol S4C?

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae cysylltiad ar lefel swyddogion yn parhau. Cefais gyfarfod â Jeremy Hunt ym mis Hydref, a bŵm yn San

cyfle gwych ar gyfer mentrau creadigol a diwylliannol, gyda chynlluniau yn hyrwyddo mynediad i'r llyfrgell, yn enwedig ymhlith ysgolion, ac i'r rhwydwaith o lyfrgelloedd sirol?

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf yn hapus iawn i gymeradwyo eich sylwadau. Yr oeddwn yn falch o allu cefnogi'r llyfrgell genedlaethol yn ei phrosiect digidol, sydd, fel y dywedwch, yn meddu ar y potensial i ddod â Chymru i gynulleidfa fyd-eang, ac yn gynyddol yn gwneud hynny; mae'r ffigurau wrth y llyfrgell genedlaethol am y nifer o ymweliadau i'w gwefan a mynediad at ei ddeunyddiau yn galonogol iawn. Heb os, bydd y ffigurau hynny yn cynyddu dros y blynyddoedd nesaf.

Discussions with UK Government Ministers

3. Nerys Evans: *What recent discussions has the Minister had with UK Government Ministers. OAQ(3)1437(HER)*

Alun Ffred Jones: I have held discussions with counterparts from the United Kingdom Government regarding various issues relevant to my portfolio. I will be hosting the sports cabinet meeting next week, where I look forward to meeting with other United Kingdom sports Ministers to discuss a number of sport-related matters.

Nerys Evans: There is still a great deal of concern about the future of S4C, in terms of the channel's independence, its budget and its relationship with the BBC. There is also a great deal of concern about the lack of understanding shown by Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, with regard to the importance of an independent future for S4C. Can you update us on the situation? What discussions has the Welsh Government had with the United Kingdom Government on the future of S4C?

Alun Ffred Jones: Official-level contact continues. I had a meeting with Jeremy Hunt in October and I went to Westminster to give

Steffan i gyflwyno tystiolaeth. Ar wahân i hynny, yr wyf wedi ysgrifennu at Mr Hunt nifer o weithiau yn mynegi ein siom am yr ymateb a gafwyd i lythyr gan bedwar arweinydd y Cynulliad, ac yr wyf hefyd wedi ysgrifennu ato i atgyfnerthu ein cred mai archwiliad annibynnol yw'r cam cyntaf er mwyn edrych ar ddyfodol priodol i S4C. Yr wyf wedi gwneud y pwynt ar fwy nag un achlysur fod annibyniaeth olygyddol S4C yn bwysig, a bod sicrwydd ariannol y tu hwnt i setliad presennol y BBC hefyd yn hanfodol.

Andrew R.T. Davies: With the Olympics now fast approaching, it is imperative that Assembly Government Ministers interact with Westminster Ministers and the Mayor of London's office to promote the virtues of Wales and the part that Wales can play in hosting the games and the tourists that will come to them. Could you inform us what measures you are taking, as Minister with responsibility for heritage and sport, to encourage greater understanding of what we in Wales can offer the Olympics, particularly in making those contacts with the Mayor of London's office, because it will also be active in promoting the Olympics and the UK?

Alun Ffred Jones: As I have noted, the Ministers with responsibility for sport will be meeting in Cardiff next week, and this will be one of the issues that we will be discussing. Our major events unit is heavily involved, and has direct links to the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Many of the events around that period will be linked to the Olympic Games. Visit Wales is also heavily involved to ensure that we have a presence in London during the Olympic Games, so that we can feed the world's press stories about Wales, and bring them to Wales, to ensure that we get as much coverage as possible during and in the run up to the Olympic Games. We are working on a number of fronts to ensure that Wales gets the maximum benefits from the Olympic Games.

evidence. Apart from that, I have written to Mr Hunt on a number of occasions expressing our disappointment at the response given to the letter sent by the four party leaders in the Assembly, and I have also written to him to reiterate our belief that the first step for looking at an appropriate future for S4C is to have an independent inquiry. I have made the point on more than one occasion that editorial independence for S4C is important, and that financial security beyond the current BBC settlement is also vital.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Gyda'r Gemau Olympaidd yn awr yn prysur agosáu, mae'n hanfodol bod Gweinidogion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ymwneud â Gweinidogion San Steffan a swyddfa Maer Llundain i hyrwyddo rhinweddau Cymru a'r rhan y gall Cymru ei chwarae wrth gynnal y gemau a'r twristiaid a fydd yn dod iddynt. A allwch ein hysbysu pa fesurau yr ydych yn eu cymryd, fel y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am dreftadaeth a chwaraeon, i annog gwell dealltwriaeth o'r hyn y gallwn ni yng Nghymru ei gynnig i'r Gemau Olympaidd, yn enwedig wrth gysylltu gyda swyddfa Maer Llundain, oherwydd bydd hefyd yn weithgar wrth hyrwyddo'r Gemau Olympaidd a'r DU?

Alun Ffred Jones: Fel yr wyf wedi nodi, bydd y Gweinidogion sy'n gyfrifol am chwaraeon yn cyfarfod yng Nghaerdydd yr wythnos nesaf, a bydd hyn yn un o'r materion y byddwn yn eu trafod. Mae ein huned digwyddiadau mawr yn ymwneud yn helaeth ac mae ganddo gysylltiadau uniongyrchol â Phwyllgor Trefnu Llundain y Gemau Olympaidd a Pharalympaidd. Bydd llawer o'r digwyddiadau o gwmpas y cyfnod hwnnw yn gysylltiedig â'r Gemau Olympaidd. Mae Croeso Cymru hefyd yn chwarae rhan bwysig i sicrhau bod gennym bresenoldeb yn Llundain yn ystod y Gemau Olympaidd, fel y gallwn fwydo straeon yn y wasg ar draws y byd am Gymru, a'u dwyn i Gymru, er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn cael cymaint o sylw ag y bo modd yn ystod ac ar yn y cyfnod sy'n arwain at y Gemau Olympaidd. Yr ydym yn gweithio mewn sawl ffordd i sicrhau bod Cymru'n cael y budd mwyaf posibl o'r Gemau Olympaidd.

2.40 p.m.

Jenny Randerson: Minister, it has always been the case that some organisations funded by the Arts Council of Wales tour in England and vice versa, in that organisations funded by Arts Council England tour in Wales. Indeed, the Welsh National Opera has received considerable funding for many years from Arts Council England. I wrote to you and the chief executive of the Arts Council of Wales about Hijinx Theatre company, along with my cross-party colleagues from Cardiff. The reply that we received seemed to suggest, without specifically saying so, that the cut in funding to Hijinx was, at least in part, due to the fact that the company was touring in England and that you were not prepared to fund touring in England by Welsh companies. Is that an accurate representation of the situation, Minister, and do you, in that case, not think that it could be a misguided approach? I realise that times are tough and that a little money has to go a long way, but it is an important advertisement for Wales and Welsh culture that Welsh groups tour in England and spread the word about excellence in Welsh culture, because that, in turn, encourages people to visit Wales.

Alun Ffred Jones: As I said in the letter, the highly valued activities for people with learning disabilities that Hijinx Theatre undertakes have been protected and, in fact, enhanced. The part of the revenue funding that has been cut has to do with their touring activities and that was part of the independent review that was conducted by the arts council. As I said, I am not willing to comment on individual decisions, because I was not party to them. The fact is that the highly valued activities for people with learning disabilities, for which Hijinx Theatre is renowned, have been protected and enhanced. That is an important message.

Darpariaeth y Celfyddydau

4. Veronica German: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddarpariaeth y Celfyddydau yn Nwyrain De Cymru. OAQ(3)1426(HER)*

Jenny Randerson: Weinidog, mae wastad wedi bod yn wir bod rhai sefydliadau a ariennir gan Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru yn teithio yn Lloegr ac i'r gwrthwyneb, sef bod sefydliadau a ariennir gan Gyngor Celfyddydau Lloegr yn teithio yng Nghymru. Yn wir, mae Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru wedi derbyn cyllid sylweddol am flynyddoedd lawer gan Gyngor Celfyddydau Lloegr. Ar y cyd ag Aelodau Caerdydd eraill, ysgrifennais atoch chi a phrif weithredwr Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru am gwmni Theatr Hijinx,. Mae'r ymateb a gawsom fel pe bai'n awgrymu, heb ddweud yn benodol, mai rheswm y toriad i gyllid Hijinx, o leiaf yn rhannol, oedd y ffaith bod y cwmni yn teithio yn Lloegr ac nad ydych yn barod i dalu i gwmnïau o Gymru deithio yno. A yw hynny'n ddisgrifiad cywir o'r sefyllfa, Weinidog, ac yn eich tyb chi, onid yw hynny'n ffordd gyfeiliornus o fynd ati? Sylweddolaf ei bod yn fain arnom a bod ychydig o arian yn gorfod mynd yn bell, ond mae cael grwpiau o Gymru yn teithio yn Lloegr yn hysbyseb pwysig i Gymru a diwylliant Cymru, gan gyhoeddi'r gair am yr hyn sy'n rhagorol yn niwylliant Cymru, am fod hynny yn ei dro yn annog pobl i ymweld â Chymru.

Alun Ffred Jones: Fel y dywedais yn y llythyr, diogelwyd—ac yn wir, fe wellwyd—y gweithgareddau gwerthfawr iawn y mae Theatr Hijinx yn ymgymryd â hwy ar gyfer pobl ag anableddau dysgu. Mae'r rhan o'r cyllid refeniw a dorwyd yn ymwneud â'u gweithgareddau teithiol ac roedd hynny'n rhan o'r adolygiad annibynnol a gynhaliwyd gan gyngor y celfyddydau. Fel y dywedais, nid wyf yn barod i sylwi ar benderfyniadau unigol gan nad oedd gennyf ran ynddynt. Y ffaith yw bod y gweithgareddau gwerthfawr iawn ar gyfer pobl ag anableddau dysgu y mae Theatr Hijinx yn enwog amdanynt wedi cael eu diogelu a'u gwella. Dyna neges bwysig.

Arts Provision

4. Veronica German: *Will the Minister make a statement about Arts provision in South Wales East. OAQ(3)1426(HER)*

Alun Ffred Jones: South Wales East benefits from a wide range of arts provision, a substantial amount of it funded by the Arts Council of Wales. From the new financial year, the Arts Council of Wales will be providing £635,000 of revenue funding to organisations based in the local authority areas of Blaenau Gwent, Newport and Torfaen.

Veronica German: I refer to a meeting of the Petitions Committee a couple of weeks ago, when Nick Capaldi came to give evidence about theatre in education, particularly Gwent Theatre. There was an admission that I found amazing, as did other members of the committee, I think: he said that people who had been bidding by putting their business plans in had not been told that theatre in education was not going to be a major plank in what was expected. Nonetheless, they waited until the business plans came in, looked at them and decided which way they were going. It seems bizarre to me that the review of the young people's strategy comes after people were invited to make bids in the first place. You would think that you would do the review first and ask people to bid on the basis of its conclusions. He also said that there was plenty of provision in Gwent because there was Theatr Ffynnon. I have been to see Theatr Ffynnon and it is excellent, but it is for people with learning disabilities: it is not generally for young people. After everything we have heard about the arm's-length strategy, do you condone moving the goalposts—

The Presiding Officer: Order. Could we have a question please?

Veronica German: I am coming to a question now.

The Presiding Officer: It is about time, too.

Veronica German: It is a very important point.

The Presiding Officer: Order. We are all subject to the same discipline in this place, and I will not allow anyone to make speeches in place of questions.

Veronica German: My question is coming

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae Dwyrain De Cymru yn elwa ar ddarpariaeth gelfyddydol eang ei ystod, a Chyngor Celfyddydau Cymru sy'n ariannu swm sylweddol ohoni. O'r flwyddyn ariannol newydd ymlaen, bydd Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru yn darparu £635,000 o gyllid refeniw i sefydliadau sydd wedi'u lleoli yn ardaloedd awdurdodau lleol Blaenau Gwent, Casnewydd a Thor-faen.

Veronica German: Cyfeiriai at gyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Deisebau ychydig wythnosau yn ôl, pan ddaeth Nick Capaldi i roi tystiolaeth am theatr mewn addysg a Theatr Gwent yn enwedig. Clywsom gyfaddefiad a oedd yn anhygoel i mi, ac i aelodau eraill y pwyllgor, yr wyf yn meddwl: dywedodd nad oedd pobl a oedd wedi gwneud cais drwy gyflwyno eu cynlluniau busnes wedi cael gwybod nad oedd theatr mewn addysg i fod yn elfen bwysig yn yr hyn a ddisgwyliid. Serch hynny, gwnaethant aros i'r cynlluniau busnes ddod i mewn, edrych arnynt a phenderfynu pa ffordd yr oeddent yn mynd. Mae'n rhyfedd i mi fod y strategaeth pobl ifanc yn cael ei hadolygu ar ôl i bobl gael eu gwahodd i wneud ceisiadau yn gyntaf. Byddech yn meddwl y byddech yn gwneud yr adolygiad yn gyntaf a gofyn i bobl wneud cais ar sail ei gasgliadau. Dywedodd ef hefyd nad oedd digon o ddarpariaeth yng Ngwent oherwydd Theatr Ffynnon. Yr wyf wedi bod i weld Theatr Ffynnon, ac mae'n wych, ond y mae ar gyfer pobl ag anabledau dysgu: nid yw ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn gyffredinol. Ar ôl popeth a glywsom am y strategaeth hyd fraich, a ydych yn esgusodi symud y nod—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. A gawn gwestiwn, os gwelwch yn dda?

Veronica German: Yr wyf yn dod i gwestiwn yn awr.

Y Llywydd: Hen bryd, hefyd.

Veronica German: Mae'n bwynt pwysig iawn.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Rydym i gyd yn ddarostyngedig i'r un ddisgyblaeth yn y lle hwn, ac ni fyddaf yn caniatáu i neb wneud areithiau yn lle gofyn cwestiynau.

Veronica German: Mae fy nghwestiwn yn

now. Do you condone moving the goalposts after business plans have been written, or do you really not care?

Alun Ffred Jones: I care very much about the provision of arts to young people and communities throughout Wales. That is why I have maintained such strong financial support for the arts council and related bodies here in Wales. As for the claim that goalposts have been moved, I have no knowledge of that, and an independent review upheld the decisions of the arts council. In terms of the provision, I have to say that theatre in education is changing, and will change over the coming years, so that we can provide young people with exciting, relevant and challenging experiences, and involve them in activity. I will return to the fact that there is a lot of activity going on—I have referred to Valleys Kids, Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Arts, the RCT theatre consortium, Head for Arts, Theatr Ffynnon and the Riverfront Theatre. On Head for Arts, the figures that I have show a growing range of arts activities across Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil and Torfaen, with 830 hours of activities delivered per art in 2008, including the well-received community play ‘Valley Girls’, involving over 1,000 participants. That is only one example of the type of activity that is provided in the area. I could list a number of other performances and companies, including, as I mentioned, the very successful Night Out scheme, which organised over 100 events in the Spectacle Theatre and Gwent Theatre catchment areas, and around 70 of those were events for children and family audiences.

Irene James: While supporting individual groups or artists is important, the right venues have to be in place for them. Earlier this week we had the excellent news that work has begun at Newbridge Memo, which is one of the finest examples of a miners’ institute anywhere in Wales, and one I am immensely proud to have been involved with for a number of years. Will you join me in congratulating all the individuals who have

dod yn awr. A ydych yn esgusodi symud y nod ar ôl i gynlluniau busnes gael eu hysgrifennu, ynteu a oes ots gennych chi o gwbl?

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae ots mawr gennyf lle bo darparu celfyddydau i bobl ifanc a chymunedau ledled Cymru yn y cwestiwn. Dyna pam yr wyf wedi cadw cymorth ariannol cadarn ar gyfer cyngor y celfyddydau a chyrrff cysylltiedig yma yng Nghymru. O ran yr honiad bod y nod wedi cael ei symud, nid oes gennyf ddim gwybodaeth am hynny, ac fe gadarnhaodd adolygiad annibynnol benderfyniadau cyngor y celfyddydau. O ran y ddarpariaeth, rhaid dweud bod theatr mewn addysg yn newid, a bydd yn newid dros y blynyddoedd nesaf, fel y gallwn ddarparu i bobl ifanc brofiadau cyffrous, perthnasol a heriol, a’u cynnwys mewn gweithgareddau. Dof yn ôl at y ffaith bod llawer yn digwydd—rwyf wedi cyfeirio at Blant y Cymoedd, Celfyddydau Cymunedol Rhondda Cynon Taf, consortiwm theatr Rhondda Cynon Taf, Celf ar y Blaen, Theatr Ffynnon a Theatr Glan yr Afon. O ran Celf ar y Blaen, mae’r ffigurau sydd gennyf yn dangos ystod gynyddol o weithgareddau celfyddydol ar draws Blaenau Gwent, Caerffili, Merthyr Tudful a Thor-faen, gydag 830 o oriau o weithgareddau yn cael eu darparu ymhob celfyddyd yn 2008, gan gynnwys ‘Valley Girls’, sef drama gymunedol a gafodd dderbyniad da a chanddi dros 1,000 o gyfranogwyr. Dyna un enghraifft yn unig o’r math o weithgareddau a ddarperir yn yr ardal. Gallwn restru nifer o berfformiadau a chwmmnïau eraill, gan gynnwys, fel y soniais, cynllun llwyddiannus Noson Allan, sy’n trefnu dros 100 o ddigwyddiadau yn nalgylchoedd Theatr Spectacle a Theatr Gwent, gyda thua 70 ohonynt yn ddigwyddiadau ar gyfer cynulleidfaoedd o blant a theuluoedd.

Irene James: Er bod cefnogi grwpiau neu artistiaid unigol yn bwysig, mae’n rhaid wrth y lleoliadau cywir iddynt. Yn gynharach yr wythnos hon, cawsom y newyddion gwych bod gwaith wedi dechrau yn Neuadd Goffa Trecelyn, sydd ymysg yr enghreifftiau gorau o sefydliadau glowyr yng Nghymru, ac rwyf yn hynod o falch o fod wedi bod yn gysylltiedig a’r neuadd ers nifer o flynyddoedd. A wnewch ymuno â mi i

been involved with this fantastic project?

Alun Ffred Jones: Indeed, I will join you in congratulating all those who have been committed to this project, who have had to labour long and hard, in the face of some initial setbacks. It is rewarding to hear that the money is now available and the work is proceeding. The next challenge will be to ensure that the venue is fully utilised and, again, that will be part of the remit of the arts council and the local authorities, as well as community groups.

William Graham: You may be aware that Urban Circle Productions, a prominent youth organisation in Newport, has had to close because a £225,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund that has maintained the organisation at its site in the centre of the city has now come to an end. It financed projects like Newport City Radio, Fashion Wales and others supporting the arts, including music and dance. The scheme provided opportunities for young people to engage in creative activities while costing about £2,500 a month to maintain and run the facility. How is the Assembly Government assisting organisations such as Urban Circle, which have previously been dependent on lottery funding, to either become self-supporting enterprises or to access guidance when they are pursuing new sources of funding in the months after losing lottery support?

Alun Ffred Jones: I do not know the circumstances of this particular case, but in terms of lottery funds that are available to the arts council, the company should approach the arts council and conduct a face-to-face dialogue with the council. The arts council has been doing this regularly over the past few months with companies, either because their revenue funding has ceased or because they are applying for new funding. That is the first port of call for them.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A gaf gymeradwyo'r Gweinidog am gynnal yr egwyddor hyd braich yng nghyd-destun y celfyddydau? Yr wyf yn gobeithio y byddai pawb yma'n cydnabod bod yr egwyddor honno yn gwbl

longyfarch yr holl unigolion sydd wedi ymwneud â'r prosiect gwych hwn?

Alun Ffred Jones: Yn wir, ymunaf â chi i longyfarch pawb sydd wedi ei ymrwymo i'r prosiect hwn, sydd wedi llafurio'n hir yn wyneb rhai anawsterau cychwynnol. Gwerthfawr yw clywed bod yr arian ar gael yn awr a bod y gwaith yn mynd rhagddo. Yr her nesaf fydd sicrhau bod y lleoliad yn cael ei ddefnyddio'n llawn, ac fe fydd hynny yn rhan o gylch gwaith cyngor y celfyddydau a'r awdurdodau lleol, yn ogystal â grwpiau cymunedol.

William Graham: Efallai eich bod yn ymwybodol bod Urban Circle Productions, sef mudiad ieuenctid amlwg yng Nghasnewydd, wedi gorfod cau oherwydd bod y grant o £225,000 oddi wrth y Gronfa Loteri Fawr sydd wedi cynnal y sefydliad yn ei safle yng nghanol y ddinas bellach wedi dod i ben. Ariannai brosiectau fel Radio Dinas Casnewydd, Ffasiwn Cymru ac eraill a oedd yn cefnogi'r celfyddydau, gan gynnwys cerddoriaeth a dawns. Mae'r cynllun yn rhoi cyfleoedd i bobl ifanc gymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau creadigol am gost o tua £2,500 y mis i gynnal a rhedeg y cyfleuster. Sut y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cynorthwyo sefydliadau fel Urban Circle, sydd wedi bod yn ddibynnol ar arian y loteri, naill ai iddynt ddod yn fentrau hunangynhaliol neu iddynt gael arweiniad pan fyddant yn mynd ar drywydd ffynonellau ariannu newydd yn y misoedd ar ôl colli cefnogaeth y loteri?

Alun Ffred Jones: Nid wyf yn gwybod amgylchiadau'r achos penodol hwn, ond o ran yr arian loteri sydd ar gael i gyngor y celfyddydau, dylai'r cwmni fynd at gyngor y celfyddydau a chael deialog wyneb yn wyneb ag ef. Mae cyngor y celfyddydau wedi bod yn gwneud hyn yn rheolaidd dros y misoedd diwethaf gyda chwmnïau, naill ai oherwydd bod eu cyllid refeniw wedi dod i ben neu am eu bod yn gwneud cais am gyllid newydd. Dyna'r man galw cyntaf ar eu cyfer.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: May I applaud the Minister for maintaining the arm's-length principle for the arts? I would hope that all Members would recognise that that is a fundamental principle for arts strategies for

sylyfaenol i strategaethau ar gyfer y celfyddydau i'r dyfodol. Byddai'n hawdd i'r Gweinidog blygu i bwysau oddi wrth Aelodau unigol sy'n sôn am achosion unigol, ond byddai hynny'n dadwneud ac yn tansailio'r egwyddor hyd braich yn gyfan gwbl.

2.50 p.m.

Hoffwn sôn am y strategaeth sy'n cael ei gweithredu i geisio integreiddio pobl ag anghenion arbennig o fewn y celfyddydau perfformio gyda phobl broffesiynol. Mae hynny wedi cael ei wneud gan gwmni Hijinx dros y blynyddoedd, nid yn unig yn ei ganolfan yn y de-ddwyrain ond hefyd o ran y teithiau y mae wedi ymgymryd â hwy. A yw'r Gweinidog yn barod i gynnal trafodaethau gyda Chyngor Celfyddydau Cymru i sicrhau bod y gwasanaeth hwnnw ar gael i'r dyfodol, heb inni ymyrryd â'r egwyddor hyd braich mewn unrhyw ffordd?

Alun Ffred Jones: Fel yr wyf wedi dweud deirgwaith heddiw, yr wyf wedi cyfarfod swyddogion cyngor y celfyddydau nifer o weithiau, gan gynnwys un cyfarfod ddoe. Yn benodol, yr wyf wedi mynegi pryder Aelodau o ran nifer o feysydd, ac mae'r pryder am gwmni theatr Hijinx yn un ohonynt. Yr wyf wedi cael sicrwydd y bydd y gwaith ardderchog y mae'r cwmni hwnnw wedi bod yn ei wneud gyda'r rhai sydd ag anableddau dysgu yn cael mwy o gefnogaeth nag y mae wedi'i gael yn y gorffennol. Mae'r un peth yn wir am Theatr Ffynnon yn Nhor-faen; bydd yr un gefnogaeth, a mwy, yn cael ei chynnig iddo. Fodd bynnag, deallaf nad yw'r gwaith teithio o angenrheidrwydd yn cyflawni'r un swyddogaeth, felly ni allaf wneud sylw ar y rhesymau dros dorri'r gefnogaeth ariannol i'r cwmni hwnnw. Os ydym o ddifrif ynglŷn â chefnogi cwmnïau'r celfyddydau mewn ffordd ystyrion yn ystod yr amser caled hwn, bydd yn rhaid gwneud rhai penderfyniadau anodd, ac mae cyngor y celfyddydau wedi gwneud y penderfyniadau hynny. O ganlyniad, gallwn roi sicrwydd i'r cwmnïau eraill ar gyfer y dyfodol. Ar yr un pryd, rhaid inni sicrhau bod darpariaeth ar draws Cymru yn y meysydd y credwn eu bod yn allweddol, ac mae gweithgareddau ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn un o'r meysydd hynny.

the future. It would be easy for the Minister to bow to pressure from individual Members talking about individual cases, but that would completely undo and undermine the arm's-length principle.

I would like to mention the strategy being implemented to try to integrate people with special needs with professionals in the performing arts. That has been done over the years by Hijinx, not only at its base in south-east Wales but also on the tours undertaken by the company. Is the Minister willing to hold discussions with the Arts Council of Wales to ensure that that service is available in the future, without interfering in any way with the arm's-length principle?

Alun Ffred Jones: As I have said three times today, I have met arts council officials on a number of occasions, including at one meeting yesterday. Specifically, I have raised the concerns of Members in a number of areas, one of which relates to Hijinx. I have been assured that the excellent work undertaken by that company with those with learning difficulties will be given more support than was the case in the past. The same is also true of Theatr Ffynnon in Torfaen; the same support, and more, will be offered to that company. However, I understand that the touring work does not necessarily fulfil the same function, so I cannot comment on the reasons for cutting the financial support for that company. If we are serious about supporting arts companies in a considered way in these difficult times, some difficult decisions will have to be made, and the arts council has made those decisions. As a result, we can provide other companies with assurances for the future. At the same time, we must ensure that there is provision across Wales in the areas that we consider to be key, one of which is provision for young people.

Gwasnaethau Llyfrgell

5. Darren Millar: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am wasanaethau llyfrgell yn y Gogledd. OAQ(3)1421(HER)*

Alun Ffred Jones: I have recently visited libraries in north Wales, from Bangor and Abergele to Wrexham, and have seen at first hand the positive impact of investment made by the Welsh Assembly Government and local authorities on improving our libraries for the benefit of library users.

Darren Millar: Thank you for that answer, Minister. I welcome the investment that has been put into libraries in my constituency, particularly in Abergele. You will know that Conwy County Borough Council has recently embarked on a review of library provision across the local authority area, and I am concerned about the future of Kinmel Bay library, which serves many of my constituents in what is quite a deprived local community. What guidance are you able to issue to local authorities regarding the consultation process that they might have to go through when the closure of a library is proposed? People in poorer communities cannot afford to buy books as easily as those in more affluent areas, therefore, given that Kinmel Bay library serves a deprived community, should there be guidance to give extra protection to libraries such as that one?

Alun Ffred Jones: As you know, the Welsh Assembly Government's Welsh public library standards set the tone for the provision of libraries in all local authorities. Of course, the library service is a statutory service. CyMAL works closely in partnership with local authorities and has been involved with the review that Conwy council is conducting into its public library service. We are reviewing the standards and a new standard framework will be available by the end of February. You will no doubt have contributed to that consultation. However, the present standard framework already sets high standards and is partly responsible for the very good story that we have to tell in Wales about our libraries.

Library Services

5. Darren Millar: *Will the Minister make a statement on library services in North Wales. OAQ(3)1421(HER)*

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf wedi ymweld yn ddiweddar â llyfrgelloedd yn y gogledd, o Fangor ac Abergele i Wrecsam, ac wedi gweld dros fy hun effaith gadarnhaol y buddsoddiad a wnaed gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac awdurdodau lleol ar wella ein llyfrgelloedd er budd eu defnyddwyr.

Darren Millar: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Croesawaf y buddsoddiad sydd wedi cael ei roi i mewn i lyfrgelloedd yn fy etholaeth, yn enwedig yn Abergele. Byddwch yn gwybod bod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy yn ddiweddar wedi cychwyn ar adolygiad o ddarpariaeth llyfrgelloedd yn yr awdurdod lleol, ac yr wyf yn bryderus am ddyfodol llyfrgell Bae Cinnel, sy'n gwasanaethu llawer o'm hetholwyr mewn cymuned sy'n eithaf difreintiedig. Pa arweiniad y gallwch ei roi i awdurdodau lleol ynghylch y broses ymgynghori a allai fod yn rhaid iddynt fynd drwyddo pe bai cau llyfrgell yn cael ei gynnig? Ni all pobl mewn cymunedau tlotach fforddio prynu llyfrau mor hawdd â phobl mewn ardaloedd mwy cefnog, felly, o gofio bod llyfrgell Bae Cinnel yn gwasanaethu cymuned ddifreintiedig, a ddylai fod canllawiau i warchod y fath lyfrgelloedd yn fwy?

Alun Ffred Jones: Fel y gwyrddoch, mae safonau llyfrgelloedd cyhoeddus Cymru Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn gosod y cywair ar gyfer darparu llyfrgelloedd ym mhob awdurdod lleol. Wrth gwrs, mae'r gwasanaeth llyfrgell yn wasanaeth statudol. Mae CyMAL yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth agos ag awdurdodau lleol ac mae wedi bod yn gysylltiedig ag adolygiad cyngor Conwy o'i wasanaeth llyfrgell gyhoeddus. Yr ydym yn adolygu'r safonau a bydd fframwaith safonau newydd ar gael erbyn diwedd mis Chwefror. Mae'n siŵr y gwnaethoch gyfrannu at yr ymgynghoriad hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, mae'r fframwaith safonau presennol eisoes yn gosod safonau uchel ac mae'n rhannol gyfrifol am y stori dda iawn sydd gennym i'w hadrodd yng Nghymru am ein

llyfrgelloedd.

Janet Ryder: Minister, had the Government chosen to follow the recommendation of the Tory group to ring-fence spending on health, what impact would that have had on library services?

Janet Ryder: Weinidog, pe bai'r Llywodraeth wedi dewis dilyn argymhelliad grŵp y Ceidwadwyr i glustnodi gwariant ar iechyd, pa effaith byddai hynny wedi'i gael ar wasanaethau llyfrgell?

Alun Ffred Jones: That is a question that should be addressed elsewhere, and it is a question that our colleagues opposite cannot, or dare not, ask themselves. They would make deeper cuts and miraculously maintain core services, although I doubt whether anyone believes them. The fact is that the present financial situation is proving very difficult for local authorities. I do not underestimate the difficulties that they face and the hard choices that they have to make. The only thing on which I would concur with my friend, Mr Millar, who asked the original question, is the fact that libraries are a valuable asset and that, in poorer communities, they are even more important. It is ultimately a matter for local authorities, but I would hope that they would be able to avoid closing libraries unless there is adequate provision nearby.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae hwnnw'n gwestiwn y dylid rhoi sylw iddo mewn manau eraill, ac mae'n gwestiwn na all, neu na feiddia, ein cyd-Aelodau gyferbyn ofyn iddynt eu hunain. Buasent yn gwneud toriadau dyfnach ond yn wyrthiol yn cynnal gwasanaethau craidd, er fy mod yn amau a oes unrhyw un yn eu credu. Y ffaith amdani yw bod y sefyllfa ariannol bresennol yn profi'n anodd iawn i awdurdodau lleol. Nid wyf yn tanbrisiô'r anawsterau sy'n eu hwynebu a'r dewisiadau anodd sy'n rhaid iddynt wneud. Yr unig beth y byddwn yn cytuno yn ei gylch gyda fy nghyfaill, Mr Millar, a ofynnodd y cwestiwn gwreiddiol, yw'r ffaith bod llyfrgelloedd yn ased gwerthfawr ac, mewn cymunedau tlotach, maent yn bwysicach fyth. Yn y pen draw, mater i awdurdodau lleol yw hyn, ond buaswn yn gobeithio y gallent osgoi cau llyfrgelloedd oni bai bod darpariaeth ddigonol gerllaw.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 6, OAQ(3)1423(HER), yn ôl.

The Presiding Officer: Question 6, OAQ(3)1423(HER), is withdrawn.

Gweithgareddau Diwylliannol

Cultural Activities

7. William Graham: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am fynediad at weithgareddau diwylliannol i blant a phobl ifanc yn Nwyrain De Cymru. OAQ(3)1434(HER)*

7. William Graham: *Will the Minister make a statement on the access to cultural activities for children and young people in South Wales East. OAQ(3)1434(HER)*

Alun Ffred Jones: I am committed to ensuring that children and young people have access to high-quality cultural activities across Wales. That includes encouraging their engagement with the arts, the historic environment and museums and libraries, as well as reducing the inequalities in the participation of low-income families.

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf wedi ymrwymo i sicrhau bod plant a phobl ifanc yn cael mynediad i weithgareddau diwylliannol o ansawdd uchel ledled Cymru. Mae hynny'n cynnwys annog eu hymwneud â'r celfyddydau, yr amgylchedd hanesyddol ac amgueddfeydd a llyfrgelloedd, yn ogystal â lleihau'r anghydraddoldebau o ran cyfranogiad teuluoedd incwm isel.

William Graham: Minister, I would ask you to look again at the position of Theatr Gwent. It has just been awarded, for the first time, funding from the Arts Council of Wales for youth theatre, and it attracts over 1,000 pupils

William Graham: Weinidog, buaswn yn gofyn ichi edrych eto ar sefyllfa Theatr Gwent. Am y tro cyntaf, mae Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru newydd ddyfarnu ariannu iddo ar gyfer theatr ieuenctid, ac

per week to its productions. However, the arts council's decision not to fund Theatr Gwent's theatre in education programme has effectively decapitated the company. No other provider of theatre in schools is likely to take over that responsibility, which will deprive many children of their only opportunity to experience live artistic performance. You will know that the two theatre organisations that have been earmarked to fill the void left by Gwent Theatre, namely Valleys Kids and Theatr Ffynnon, do not put on the same productions as Gwent Theatre—they specialise in working with young people in disadvantaged communities and adults with learning difficulties respectively.

Alun Ffred Jones: Live artistic performances are important and a sea change is happening at the moment. As I have said repeatedly this afternoon, the provision across Wales is patchy and uneven. Some of the theatre in education companies, even, will concentrate on performing in suitable venues, rather than taking their productions around schools or local halls. Therefore, we have to be careful in what we say. The idea that every child at one time had access to a live theatre experience is simply not true. It was not true last year and it was not true five years ago. We have to make sure—and I have impressed this upon the arts council many times—that there is exciting, high-class and high-quality provision in all parts of Wales, and it will have to adhere to that general strategy.

Blaenoriaethau

8. Lynne Neagle: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei flaenoriaethau ar gyfer Tor-faen dros weddill tymor hwn y Cynulliad. OAQ(3)1408(HER)*

Alun Ffred Jones: I am committed to fulfilling my 'One Wales' commitments across Wales. That includes modernising the public library network, increasing tourism by maximising the economic value of our heritage, encouraging more physical activity

mae'n denu dros 1,000 o ddisgyblion yr wythnos i'w gynyrchiadau. Fodd bynnag, mae penderfyniad cyngor y celfyddydau i beidio ag ariannu rhaglen theatr mewn addysg Theatr Gwent wedi dienyddio'r cwmni i bob pwrpas. Nid oes darparwr theatr mewn ysgolion arall yn debygol o gymryd drosodd y cyfrifoldeb hwnnw, a fydd yn amddifadu llawer o blant o'u hunig gyfle i brofi perfformiad byw artistig. Byddwch yn gwybod bod y ddau sefydliad theatr sydd wedi eu clustnodi i lenwi'r bwlch a adawyd gan Theatr Gwent, sef Plant y Cymoedd a Theatr Ffynnon, yn darparu cynyrchiadau gwahanol i rai Theatr Gwent—eu harbenigedd yw gweithio gyda phobl ifanc mewn cymunedau difreintiedig ac oedolion ag anawsterau dysgu yn y drefn honno.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae perfformiadau celfyddydol byw yn bwysig ac mae tro ar fyd yn digwydd ar hyn o bryd. Fel yr wyf wedi dweud dro ar ôl tro y prynhawn yma, mae'r ddarpariaeth ledled Cymru yn anghyson ac yn anwastad. Bydd rhai o'r cwmnïau theatr mewn addysg, hyd yn oed, yn canolbwyntio ar berfformio mewn lleoliadau addas, yn hytrach na chymryd eu cynyrchiadau o amgylch ysgolion neu neuaddau lleol. Felly, mae'n rhaid inni fod yn ofalus yn yr hyn a ddywedwn. Mae'r syniad yr oedd gan bob plentyn fynediad at brofiad theatr fyw yn syml yn anghywir. Yr oedd yn anghywir y llynedd, ac yr oedd yn anghywir bum mlynedd yn ôl. Mae'n rhaid inni wneud yn siŵr—ac yr wyf wedi pwysleisio hyn wrth gyngor y celfyddydau sawl gwaith—fod darpariaeth cyffrous, o safon uchel ac o ansawdd uchel yng Nghymru benbaladr, a bydd yn rhaid iddo gadw at y strategaeth gyffredinol honno.

Priorities

8. Lynne Neagle: *Will the Minister make a statement on his priorities for Torfaen for the remainder of this Assembly term. OAQ(3)1408(HER)*

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf wedi ymrwymo i gyflawni fy ymrwymadau yn 'Cymru'n Un' ledled Cymru. Mae hynny'n cynnwys moderneiddio'r rhwydwaith llyfrgelloedd cyhoeddus, cynyddu twristiaeth drwy wneud y gorau o werth economaidd ein treftadaeth,

for better health, and securing a thriving future for the Welsh language.

Lynne Neagle: It seems that there is widespread consensus among Assembly Members from all political parties, who have expressed repeated concerns not only in the Chamber, but through the committee system, about the process that has led to the withdrawal of funding from Theatr Gwent and other companies. Do you agree, Minister, that we are not expressing those concerns because we somehow have a desire to micromanage the arts council, but that we simply want to see a situation where the arts council is accountable for its decisions, based on the strategic priorities of the Assembly? Are you aware that the other theatre in education companies have indicated that they do not have the scope to take up their activities in those areas that will be left without provision? In view of your answer to Kirsty Williams earlier, in which you said that you hoped that provision would be made available for children and young people in her area, what assurances can you give me that provision will be available to children and young people in Torfaen, who are among the poorest in the country?

3.00 p.m.

Alun Ffred Jones: I fully recognise the concerns that have been expressed in the Chamber, and I have passed those concerns to the Arts Council of Wales. On provision, I will correct myself: I do not hope that there will be provision; there will be provision across Wales. It will not be uniform, but it never has been uniform. We need to ensure that there is exciting, high-quality provision, and that may not be in the same shape as the provision that has previously been available. I do not think that we should aim to keep everything as it is. As I said, the face of theatre provision for young people across Wales will change. I hope that, in future, it will be better and more exciting. That provision is already available in many parts of south-east Wales, but not through the usual channels, perhaps. However, in future, there will have to be provision and there will be provision, and it is part of the remit letter that I am sending to the arts council.

annog mwy o weithgarwch corfforol ar gyfer iechyd gwell, a sicrhau dyfodol ffyniannus i'r iaith Gymraeg.

Lynne Neagle: Ymddengys bod consensws cyffredinol ymysg Aelodau'r Cynulliad o bob plaid wleidyddol, sydd wedi mynegi pryderon dro ar ôl tro, nid yn unig yn y Siambr, ond drwy'r system pwyllgor, am y broses sydd wedi arwain at dynnu arian oddi wrth Theatr Gwent a chwmnïau eraill. A ydych yn cytuno, Weinidog, nad ydym yn mynegi'r pryderon hynny oherwydd bod gennym ryw awydd i ficoreoli cyngor y celfyddydau, ond ein bod yn syml am weld sefyllfa lle mae cyngor y celfyddydau yn atebol am ei benderfyniadau, yn seiliedig ar flaenoriaethau strategol y Cynulliad? A ydych yn ymwybodol bod y cwmnïau theatr mewn addysg eraill wedi nodi nad oes ganddynt y gallu i gynnal eu gweithgareddau yn yr ardaloedd hynny a fydd yn cael eu gadael heb ddarpariaeth? O ystyried eich ateb i Kirsty Williams yn gynharach, pan wnaethoch ddweud eich bod yn gobeithio y byddai darpariaeth ar gael i blant a phobl ifanc yn ei hardal, pa sicrwydd y gallwch ei roi imi y bydd darpariaeth ar gael i blant a phobl ifanc yn Nhor-faen, sydd ymhlith y tlotaf yn y wlad?

Alun Ffred Jones: Rwyf yn llwyr gydnabod y pryderon a fynegwyd yn y Siambr, ac yr wyf wedi pasio'r pryderon hynny i Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Ar y ddarpariaeth, cywiraf fy hun: nid wyf yn gobeithio y bydd darpariaeth; bydd darpariaeth ar draws Cymru. Ni fydd yn unffurf, ond nid yw byth wedi bod yn unffurf. Mae angen i ni sicrhau bod darpariaeth gyffrous, o ansawdd uchel ac ni all fod yn yr un siâp â'r ddarpariaeth a oedd ar gael yn flaenorol. Nid wyf yn credu y dylem anelu at gadw popeth fel y mae. Fel y dywedais, bydd wyneb darpariaeth theatr ar gyfer pobl ifanc ledled Cymru yn newid. Rwyf yn gobeithio, yn y dyfodol, y bydd yn well ac yn fwy cyffrous. Mae'r ddarpariaeth hwnnw eisoes ar gael mewn sawl rhan o ddeddwyrain Cymru, ond dim drwy'r sianeli arferol, efallai. Fodd bynnag, yn y dyfodol, bydd rhaid cael darpariaeth a bydd darpariaeth, ac mae'n rhan o'r llythyr cylch gwaith yr wyf yn ei anfon i gyngor y

celfyddydau.

Mohammad Asghar: Minister, recent figures have shown that the level of participation in sport and physical activity among those over the age of 50 in Torfaen is very low and considerably below the Welsh average. As you will know, the evidence base suggests that, if the older population engages in such activity, it can have major health, physical and psychological benefits. What steps are being taken by the Assembly Government to ensure that where participatory levels have been disappointing, such as in Torfaen, the benefits of sport and physical activity are publicised fully to people over the age of 50?

Mohammad Asghar: Weinidog, mae ffigurau diweddar wedi dangos bod lefel y cyfranogiad mewn chwaraeon a gweithgarwch corfforol ymhlith pobl dros 50 oed yn Nhorfaen yn isel iawn ac yn sylweddol is na chyfartaledd Cymru. Fel y gwyddoch, mae'r sylfaen dystiolaeth yn awgrymu, os bydd y boblogaeth hŷn yn cymryd rhan mewn gweithgaredd o'r fath, gall arwain at les iechyd, corfforol a seicolegol sylweddol. Pa gamau sy'n cael eu cymryd gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i sicrhau bod manteision chwaraeon a gweithgarwch corfforol yn cael eu hyrwyddo'n llawn i bobl dros 50 oed lle mae lefelau cyfranogol wedi bod yn siomedig, fel yn Nhor-faen?

Alun Ffred Jones: I agree entirely, of course, that the more active we are, the better chance we have of being healthy and even, probably, happier. Our physical activity plan has the strategic aim of involving more people in all kinds of physical activity, whether sport or recreational physical activity. There are numerous schemes already in place to try to encourage people, especially those in some communities who seem to find it more difficult to involve themselves in such activities. It is one of our priorities and that is why we have involved various departments across the Government in order to have a whole-Government approach to this issue.

Alun Ffred Jones: Cytunaf yn llwyr, wrth gwrs, â'r ffaith mai'r mwyaf egniol yr ydym ni, y cyfle gwell sydd gennym o fod yn iach ac, yn ôl pob tebyg, hyd yn oed yn hapusach. Mae gan ein cynllun gweithgarwch corfforol y nod strategol o gynnwys mwy o bobl mewn pob math o weithgarwch corfforol, boed chwaraeon neu weithgareddau hamdden corfforol. Mae nifer o gynlluniau eisoes ar waith i geisio annog pobl, yn enwedig y rhai mewn rhai cymunedau sydd fel petaent yn ei chael hi'n fwy anodd i gynnwys eu hunain mewn gweithgareddau o'r fath. Mae'n un o'n blaenoriaethau a dyna pam yr ydym wedi cynnwys adrannau amrywiol ar draws y Llywodraeth er mwyn cael ymagwedd Llywodraeth-gyfan at y mater hwn.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 9, OAQ(3)1424(HER), yn ôl.

The Presiding Officer: Question 9, OAQ(3)1424(HER), is withdrawn.

S4C

S4C

10. Gareth Jones: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am unrhyw drafodaethau y mae wedi'u cael yn ddiweddar ynghylch dyfodol S4C. OAQ(3)1414(HER)*

10. Gareth Jones: *Will the Minister make a statement on any recent discussions he has had concerning the future of S4C. OAQ(3)1414(HER)*

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf wedi cael llawer o drafodaethau am S4C yn ddiweddar, gan gynnwys cyfarfod â Mr Rheon Tomos, cadeirydd dros dro Awdurdod S4C, ar 31 Ionawr. Rhoddais dystiolaeth hefyd ar 11 Ionawr i ymchwiliad y Pwyllgor Materion Cymreig i S4C.

Alun Ffred Jones: I have had several recent discussions in relation to S4C, including a meeting on 31 January with the acting chair of the S4C Authority, Mr Rheon Tomos. I also gave evidence on 11 January to the Welsh Affairs Committee's inquiry into S4C.

Gareth Jones: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Wedi imi fynychu cyfarfod cyhoeddus yn fy etholaeth yn ddiweddar, clywais sawl aelod o'r cyhoedd yn datgan bod angen i S4C fod yn annibynnol o'r BBC ac y dylid sicrhau dyfodol ariannol i'r sianel. Wrth gydnabod nifer o lwyddiannau'r sianel dros y blynyddoedd, y farn gyffredinol oedd y dylai'r sianel wneud llawer mwy i hyrwyddo twf yr iaith Gymraeg ac i hyrwyddo cynaliadwyedd economaidd ein cymunedau Cymraeg. Os na fydd Cymry Cymraeg yn cymryd perchnogaeth o'r sianel a gweld gwerth ei photensial, ofer fydd pob math o ymgyrchu gan selogion brwdfrydig a charedigion yr iaith. Mae'n hollbwysig, wrth gwrs, ein bod yn mynnu adnoddau digonol i'r sianel, ond i ba raddau y byddech chi'n cytuno ei bod yr un mor bwysig sicrhau'n ogystal fod y defnydd gorau posibl yn cael ei wneud o'r arian hwnnw ar gyfer hybu adfywiad economaidd mewn cymunedau Cymraeg?

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae'n hawdd iawn imi gytuno gyda chi am annibyniaeth olygyddol y sianel a sicrwydd tymor hir o ran y trefniadau ariannol. Credaf hefyd fod S4C yn bwysig o ran delwedd y Gymraeg ac er mwyn hyrwyddo defnydd a'r ddealltwriaeth o'r Gymraeg mewn cartrefi cymysg eu hiaith. Mae'n galonogol bod y ffigurau gwyllo diweddaraf wedi cynyddu, ac yn dangos bod bron i 1 miliwn o bobl wedi gwyllo'r sianel yn ystod un wythnos yn unig ym mis Ionawr.

Fel y dywed adroddiad Hargreaves, mae'r sianel hefyd yn bwysig o safbwynt yr economi a'r diwydiannau creadigol yn arbennig. Dylai'r dylanwad hwnnw ymestyn i gymaint o gymunedau ar draws Cymru ag sy'n bosibl. Fodd bynnag, mae hwnnw yn fater mwy cymhleth, a chredaf y dylem ganolbwyntio yn gyntaf ar y pethau hanfodol, sef sicrhau dyfodol y sianel, ym mha ffurf bynnag, a chynnal ymchwiliad i ganfod y ffordd orau o ymateb i ofynion y gynulleidfa yn y blynyddoedd sydd i ddod.

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

Gareth Jones: Thank you for that reply, Minister. Having attended a public meeting recently in my constituency, I heard a number of people saying that S4C should be independent of the BBC and that the channel's financial future should be secured. In recognising a number of the channel's successes over the years, the general view was that the channel should do much more to encourage the growth of the Welsh language and to encourage economic sustainability in Welsh-speaking communities. If Welsh speakers do not take ownership of the channel and see the value of its potential, all the campaigning undertaken by enthusiastic individuals and friends of the language will be for nothing. It is vital, of course, that we insist on having adequate resources for the channel, but to what extent do you agree that it is just as important to ensure that the best possible use is made of the money involved in order to promote economic regeneration in Welsh-speaking communities?

Alun Ffred Jones: It is very easy for me to agree with you about the channel's editorial independence and its long-term security of funding. I also believe that S4C is important for the image of the Welsh language and for promoting the use and understanding of the language in mixed-language homes. It is encouraging that the latest viewing figures have shown an increase, and demonstrated that almost 1 million people watched the channel during one week alone in January.

As the Hargreaves report says, the channel is also important in terms of the economy, particularly the creative industries. That influence should extend to as many communities as possible across Wales. However, that is a more complex issue, and I believe that we should focus initially on the crucial issues of securing the channel's future, in whatever form, and holding an inquiry to see how best we can respond to the demands of the audience in the coming years.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you, Minister, for your replies.

Cwestiwn Brys Urgent Question

Diwygiadau Addysg Education Reforms

Jenny Randerson: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ddatganiad ar y diwygiadau addysg a gyhoeddodd yr wythnos ddiwethaf?*
EAQ(3)1657(CEL)

Jenny Randerson: *Will the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning make a statement on the education reforms that he announced last week?*
EAQ(3)1657(CEL)

The Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning (Leighton Andrews): I refer the Member to the written statement that I made on 2 February.

Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Leighton Andrews): Cyfeiriaf yr Aelod at y datganiad ysgrifenedig a wneuthum ar 2 Chwefror.

Jenny Randerson: Thank you, Minister, for that written statement, and I also thank the Presiding Officer for his guidance on this issue yesterday. I am sorry that it has been necessary to ask a question in order to get the statement that I think we should have here.

Jenny Randerson: Diolch, Weinidog, am y datganiad ysgrifenedig, a diolch hefyd i'r Llywydd am ei arweiniad ar y mater hwn ddoe. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf y bu'n rhaid gofyn cwestiwn er mwyn cael y datganiad yr wyf yn credu y dylem ei gael yma.

In general, Minister, I welcome your response. I characterised this last week as an emergency response to a lot of bad news, and I maintain that view. Every day that goes by under the status quo is another day of missed opportunity for young people. I agree with many things in your statement, but there are a number of questions that I wish to ask. I will rattle through them as quickly as possible.

Yn gyffredinol, Weinidog, rwyf yn croesawu eich ymateb. Rwy'n nodweddu'r wythnos diwethaf fel ymateb brys i lawer o newyddion drwg, ac yr wyf yn ategu'r farn honno. Mae bob dydd a aiff heibio o dan y sefyllfa bresennol, yn ddiwrnod arall o gyfle coll i bobl ifanc. Cytunaf â llawer o bethau yn eich datganiad, ond mae nifer o gwestiynau yr wyf am eu gofyn. Symudaf drwyddynt mor gyflym â phosibl.

First, your proposals on teacher training and the two-year master's course seem like a very sensible approach. However, this will create a different and more rigorous regime in Wales than in England. What thought have you given to cross-border issues here, specifically those relating to the status of the many people from England seeking to teach in Wales? Will they be required to undertake additional training in order to do that? Specifically, how will they meet the requirements on literacy and numeracy that you specifically say that you will be seeking in relation to Welsh teachers? Yesterday, there were press reports of a change in the funding regime for teacher training, and that you are going to provide additional funding for certain courses. I was not aware of this until I heard the press reports. I would invite you, Minister, to give

Yn gyntaf, mae eich cynigion ar hyfforddiant athrawon a'r cwrs meistr dwy flynedd yn ymddangos yn ddull synhwyrol iawn. Fodd bynnag, bydd hyn yn creu trefn wahanol a mwy trylwyr yng Nghymru nag yn Lloegr. Pa ystyriaeth a rhoddwyd gennych i faterion trawsffiniol yma, yn benodol y rhai sy'n ymwneud â statws y nifer o bobl o Loegr sy'n dymuno addysgu yng Nghymru? A fydd yn ofynnol arnynt i ymgymryd â hyfforddiant ychwanegol er mwyn gwneud hynny? Yn benodol, sut y byddant yn bodloni'r gofynion ar lythrennedd a rhifedd yr ydych yn dweud yn benodol y byddwch yn eu ceisio mewn perthynas ag athrawon Cymraeg? Ddoe, roedd adroddiadau yn y wasg o newid yn y drefn ariannu ar gyfer hyfforddi athrawon, ac eich bod yn mynd i ddarparu cyllid ychwanegol ar gyfer cyrsiau penodol. Nid

us a little more detail here today on your decisions in that respect. Clearly, that will be very important in terms of guiding people towards training.

Secondly, I turn to the General Teaching Council for Wales. The Education Bill currently going through Parliament will give us additional powers over this, and I would be interested in knowing your latest thoughts on what you propose to do about the General Teaching Council for Wales.

Moving on to national reading tests, the Estyn report refers specifically to poor levels of literacy in boys up to the age of 14. Do you have any specific proposals on what extra help will be given to those failing to do as well in this national reading test as they should? Specifically, how are you going to address the attainment gap between boys and girls, which is particularly acute at some ages? Estyn also refers in the report to a failure to stretch the most able. I notice that, in your written statement, there is a mere passing reference to stretching the most able. I would like some detail, if you have thought about this, on how you intend to ensure that that happens.

You also referred to a national system for grading schools. In your responses on this issue, you state specifically that this is not a return to school league tables. How will you guard against this happening? How exactly will it work? This is something that parents and teachers have raised with me in response to your statement.

3.10 p.m.

Finally, one of the more controversial points in your written statement is the reference to the closure of failing schools. Are you planning to take additional powers in order to be able to do that or are you comfortable that you have sufficient powers to close failing

oeddwn yn ymwybodol o hyn hyd nes y clywais yr adroddiadau yn y wasg. Byddwn yn eich gwahodd, Weinidog, i roi i ni ychydig mwy o fanylion yma heddiw ar eich penderfyniadau ar hynny. Yn amlwg, bydd hynny'n bwysig iawn o ran arwain pobl tuag at hyfforddiant.

Yn ail, trof at Gyngor Addysgu Cyffredinol Cymru. Bydd y Mesur Addysg sydd ar hyn o bryd yn mynd drwy'r Senedd yn rhoi pwerau ychwanegol i ni dros hyn, a byddai diddordeb gennyf glywed eich syniadau diweddaraf ar yr hyn yr ydych yn bwriadu ei wneud am Gyngor Addysgu Cyffredinol Cymru.

Gan symud ymlaen at brofion darllen cenedlaethol, mae adroddiad Estyn yn cyfeirio'n benodol at lefelau gwael o lythrennedd mewn bechgyn hyd at 14 oed. A oes gennych unrhyw gynigion penodol ar ba help ychwanegol a gaiff ei roi i'r rhai sy'n methu â gwneud mor dda yn y prawf darllen cenedlaethol ag y dylent? Yn benodol, sut ydych chi'n mynd i fynd i'r afael â'r bwloch cyrhaeddiad rhwng bechgyn a merched, sy'n arbennig o ddifrifol mewn rhai oedrannau? Mae Estyn hefyd yn cyfeirio yn yr adroddiad at fethiant i ymestyn y disgyblion mwyaf galluog. Sylwaf fod, yn eich datganiad ysgrifenedig, cyfeiriad diflannol yn unig at ymestyn y disgyblion mwyaf galluog. Hoffwn rywfaint o fanylion, os ydych wedi meddwl am hyn, ar sut yr ydych yn bwriadu sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd.

Rydych hefyd yn cyfeirio at system genedlaethol ar gyfer ysgolion graddio. Yn eich ymatebion ar y mater hwn, rydych yn datgan yn benodol nad yw hyn yn ein dychwelyd i'r tablau cynghrair ysgol. Sut y byddwch yn sicrhau nad yw hyn yn digwydd? Sut yn union bydd yn gweithio? Mae hyn yn rhywbeth y mae rhieni ac athrawon wedi codi gyda mi mewn ymateb i'ch datganiad.

Yn olaf, un o'r pwyntiau mwy dadleuol yn eich datganiad ysgrifenedig yw'r cyfeiriad at gau ysgolion sy'n methu. A ydych yn bwriadu cymryd pwerau ychwanegol er mwyn gallu gwneud hynny neu a ydych yn gyfforddus bod gennych ddigon o bwerau i

schools? Is it simply that those powers are not generally implemented?

Leighton Andrews: Llywydd, the Member did not have to ask a question in order to get the statement. I made a full and extensive written statement on 2 February. I am glad that she has welcomed in general the bulk of the proposals that I outlined in my speech last week and in my statement. The proposals derive largely from existing policy and legislation, aside from the clauses in the Proposed Education (Wales) Measure, which is currently going through the Assembly and that will give us additional powers. I also welcome the interest that she is taking in the scrutiny of me as a Minister. In fact, she has become something of a parliamentary stalker. It is not enough for her to ask me questions in the Assembly; I turned up at the Houses of Parliament on Monday night to explain the framework powers that we are seeking in the Education Bill, to find that I was being questioned by her there as well. [*Laughter.*]

The Presiding Officer: Quite right too.

Leighton Andrews: I look forward to the day, in due course, when I do not have to justify my request for framework powers to unelected Barons and Baronesses. [*Laughter.*]

Turning to the detail of the questions that the Member put to me, in respect of teacher training, I have asked officials to look at a two-year master's degree in teacher training. She is right to say that it will be more rigorous than what is on offer in England, particularly under the current proposals from the UK Government. The Secretary of State for Education that she and her party in London are supporting, intends to move away from teacher training delivered through universities and higher education institutions. Interestingly, this was raised by one of the Liberal Democrat backbenchers at the Houses of Parliament on Monday night as a matter for concern. Perhaps there is a split in their party.

The proposals in respect of teacher training, which the Member will have read about in

gau ysgolion sy'n methu? A yw'n syml yn fater o'r ffaith nad yw'r pwerau hynny'n cael eu gweithredu yn gyffredinol?

Leighton Andrews: Llywydd, nid oedd angen i'r Aelod ofyn cwestiwn er mwyn cael y datganiad. Gwneuthum ddatganiad ysgrifenedig llawn a helaeth ar 2 Chwefror. Rwyf yn falch ei bod wedi croesawu yn gyffredinol y rhan fwyaf o'r cynigion a amlinellwyd yn fy araith yr wythnos diwethaf ac yn fy natganiad. Mae'r cynigion yn deillio i raddau helaeth o bolisi a deddfwriaeth sy'n bodoli eisoes, ar wahân i'r cymalau yn y Mesur Arfaethedig Addysg (Cymru), sydd ar hyn o bryd yn mynd drwy'r Cynulliad a fydd yn rhoi pwerau ychwanegol i ni. Rwyf hefyd yn croesawu'r diddordeb y mae'n ei chymryd o ran craffu arnaf fi fel Gweinidog. Yn wir, mae hi wedi dod yn dipyn o 'stalker' seneddol. Nid yw'n ddigon iddi ofyn cwestiynau i mi yn y Cynulliad; trois i fyny yn y Senedd ar nos Lun i esbonio'r pwerau fframwaith yr ydym yn eu ceisio yn y Mesur Addysg, dim ond i ddod o hyd iddi hi yn fy holi yno hefyd. [*Chwerthin.*]

Y Llywydd: Yn gywir hefyd.

Leighton Andrews: Rwyf yn edrych ymlaen at y diwrnod, maes o law, pan nad oes rhaid i mi gyfiawnhau fy nghais am bwerau fframwaith i Barwniaid a Barwnesau anetholedig. [*Chwerthin.*]

Gan droi at fanylion cwestiynau'r Aelod, mewn perthynas â hyfforddiant athrawon, rwyf wedi gofyn i swyddogion edrych ar radd meistr dwy flynedd yn hyfforddi athrawon. Mae hi'n iawn i ddweud y bydd yn fwy llym na'r hyn sydd ar gael yn Lloegr, yn enwedig o dan y cynigion presennol gan Lywodraeth y DU. Mae'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Addysg, y mae hi a'i phlaid yn Llundain yn ei gefnogi, yn bwriadu symud i ffwrdd o hyfforddiant athrawon a ddarperir drwy brifysgolion a sefydliadau addysg uwch. Yn ddiddorol, mae hyn yn cael ei godi gan un o'r meinciau cefn Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn y Senedd ar nos Lun fel mater o bryder. Efallai bod rhaniad yn eu plaid.

Mae'r cynigion mewn perthynas â hyfforddiant athrawon, y bydd yr Aelod wedi

the media in the last 24 hours, are a continuation of existing policy. I do not think that there is anything particularly new to report. We will give consideration to the future of the General Teaching Council for Wales and come forward with further proposals, assuming that we get the powers that are being requested in the current Education Bill.

In respect of the national reading test, we will be putting in place extra help and catch-up courses. There are some excellent catch-up courses already in existence in Wales, but we need to ensure that the national reading test follows a common standard across Wales. I have also requested work to be done on how we can bridge the attainment gap between boys and girls.

In respect of the grading of schools, this is not—as I have made clear—a return to league tables. Elsewhere, league tables form a national list; we will not publish a national list based on the aggregation of GCSE scores, as that is not what we are looking at. We are looking at the grading of schools on a similar basis to the gradings that are undertaken by Estyn.

In respect of the challenges facing local authorities and schools in educating the most able, it is important that, within the context of the school effectiveness framework, we see specific proposals. We will be looking to the spread of best practice and ensuring that we can give support to more able pupils. Finally, in respect of the closure of failing schools, I do not believe that I require any further powers.

Nerys Evans: Diolch am y cyfle i godi materion a chwestiynau ynglŷn â'r datganiad yr wythnos diwethaf. Mae sawl cwestiwn yn codi o'r datganiad. Yn gyntaf, hoffwn holi am fwy o fanylion ynghylch cau ysgolion sy'n methu. Mae Jenny Randerson eisoes wedi cyfeirio at hyn. Mae adroddiad Estyn, a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar, yn dangos bod traean yr ysgolion wedi methu y llynedd. Fodd bynnag, mae gennym lawer o esiamplau lle mae ysgolion wedi newid cwrs ac wedi llwyddo. Mae gennych bwerau i roi ysgolion o dan fesurau arbennig, ac mae

darllen amdano yn y cyfryngau yn ystod y 24 awr ddiwethaf, yn barhad o bolisi presennol. Nid wyf yn credu bod unrhyw beth arbennig o newydd i'w adrodd. Byddwn yn rhoi ystyriaeth i ddyfodol Cyngor Addysgu Cyffredinol Cymru ac yn cyflwyno cynigion pellach, gan dybio y cawn y pwerau y gofynnir amdanynt yn y Mesur Addysg cyffredol.

O ran y prawf darllen genedlaethol, byddwn yn rhoi ar waith cymorth ychwanegol a chysiau dal i fyny. Mae rhai cyrsiau rhagorol dal i fyny eisoes yn bodoli yng Nghymru, ond mae angen sicrhau bod y prawf darllen genedlaethol yn dilyn safon gyffredin ar draws Cymru. Rwyf hefyd wedi gofyn am waith ar sut y gallwn gau'r bwlch cyrhaeddiad rhwng bechgyn a merched.

O ran y graddio o ysgolion, nid yw hyn—fel yr wyf wedi gwneud yn glir—yn ddychweliad at dablau cynghrair. Mewn manau eraill, mae tablau cynghrair yn ffurfio rhestr genedlaethol; ni fyddwn yn cyhoeddi rhestr genedlaethol yn seiliedig ar gydgasgliad o sgorau TGAU, gan nad ydym yn edrych ar hynny. Rydym yn edrych ar y graddio o ysgolion ar sail debyg i'r graddau a gyflawnir gan Estyn.

O ran yr heriau sy'n wynebu awdurdodau lleol ac ysgolion wrth addysgu'r mwyaf galluog, mae'n bwysig ein bod, o fewn cyddestun y fframwaith effeithiolrwydd ysgolion, yn gweld cynigion penodol. Byddwn yn edrych i ledaenu arfer gorau a sicrhau y gallwn roi cymorth i ddisgyblion mwy galluog. Yn olaf, o ran cau ysgolion sy'n methu, nid wyf yn credu bod arnaf angen unrhyw bwerau ychwanegol.

Nerys Evans: Thank you for the opportunity to raise issues and questions regarding last week's statement. A number of questions arise from the statement. First of all, I would like to ask for more detail about the closure of failing schools. Jenny Randerson has already made reference to this. The recently published Estyn report shows that a third of all schools were failing last year. However, there are many examples of schools that have succeeded in changing direction and succeeding. You have powers to place schools under special measures, and there is a

llawer o dystiolaeth sydd yn dangos bod yr ysgolion hynny'n gwella. Felly, a allwch amlinellu pam yr ydych yn credu bod angen cau ysgolion sydd yn methu? Onid arweinyddiaeth a chefnogaeth sydd eu angen ar yr ysgolion a'r cymunedau hyn? A ydych yn credu bod rhai ysgolion tu hwnt i gael eu hachub?

Ar dablau cynghrair—eto, cyfeiriodd Jenny Randerson at hyn—yr ydym ni ym Mhlaid Cymru yn erbyn tablau cynghrair i ysgolion ac yn erbyn cystadleuaeth annheg rhwng ysgolion, gan fod blaenoriaeth yr ysgol yn mynd ar farchnata, ac mae'n effeithio ar sefydlogrwydd yr ysgol. Hefyd, nid oes modd o fewn y tablau i adlewyrchu datblygiad unigolion. Yr ydych wedi cyhoeddi eich bwriad i raddio ysgolion a chyhoeddi'r canlyniadau. Felly, bydd modd cymharu ysgolion ar sail meini prafw penodol. A allwch amlinellu ac esbonio i ni sut yn union y mae eich bwriad i raddio ysgolion yn wahanol i dablau cynghrair?

Yn olaf, yr ydych wedi amlinellu sawl polisi newydd. Beth yw'r nod? Beth fydd mesur llwyddiant a beth yw'r meini prafw ar gyfer hynny?

Leighton Andrews: With regard to the closure of failing schools, after an Estyn report, some schools may be found to be in need of special measures and others in need of significant improvement. Processes and proposals are then put in place to address the issues identified and to turn things around. Clearly, no Minister for education would take a decision to close a failing school lightly. However, I am not prepared to forgo the right to do that, and I am not prepared to say that I will not, in any circumstances, close a failing school. If I regard the situation as irredeemable, I will close a failing school.

We are not bringing back league tables. I do not know how many times I have to say this. League tables are a national list based on GCSE performance. We have ruled that out. Of course, the reality is that schools market themselves all the time. We see plenty of secondary schools that like to boast about their GCSE results and the percentage of

great deal of evidence to demonstrate that these schools improve. So, can you outline why you believe that failing schools should be closed? Is leadership and support not what these schools and communities require? Do you believe that some schools are beyond redemption?

On league tables, something that Jenny Randerson also referred to, we in Plaid Cymru are against league tables for schools and against unfair competition between schools, as the school's priority is placed on marketing, and it affects the stability of the school. Also, there is no way within these tables to reflect the development of individuals. You have announced your intention to grade schools and publish the results. Therefore, schools could be compared on the basis of specific criteria. Can you outline and explain to us exactly how your intention to grade schools would differ from league tables?

Finally, you have set out a number of new policies. What is the aim? What are the criteria for success and how will you measure success?

Leighton Andrews: O ran cau ysgolion sy'n methu, ar ôl adroddiad gan Estyn, efallai y bydd angen mesurau arbennig ar rai ysgolion ac y bydd angen ar eraill welliant sylweddol. Rhoddir prosesau a chynigion mewn lle i fynd i'r afael â'r materion a nodwyd ac i newid pethau. Yn amlwg, ni fyddai unrhyw Weinidog dros addysg yn gwneud penderfyniad i gau ysgol sy'n methu yn ysgafn. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf yn barod i beidio â derbyn yr hawl i wneud hynny, ac nid wyf yn barod i ddweud na fyddaf, o dan unrhyw amgylchiadau, yn cau ysgol sy'n methu. Os byddaf yn ystyried y sefyllfa yn anadferadwy, byddaf yn cau ysgol sy'n methu.

Nid ydym yn dod â thablau cynghrair yn ôl. Ni wn faint o weithiau mae'n rhaid i mi ddweud hyn. Mae tablau cynghrair yn rhestr genedlaethol yn seiliedig ar berfformiad TGAU. Rydym wedi diystyru hynny. Wrth gwrs, y realiti yw bod ysgolion yn marchnata eu hunain drwy'r amser. Rydym yn gweld digon o ysgolion uwchradd sy'n hoffi brolio

pupils getting them. So, in any case, there is a degree of marketing going on by schools. With regard to the grading of schools, the Association of Directors of Education in Wales has brought forward proposals to me that it wants to see the grading of schools being undertaken locally through consortia. I have to say that it is inevitable that, if that takes place, those grades will be published because, once the grading has been done by local authorities, in the context of grades that could be set by Estyn, for example, they will inevitably become public, either through being published, which I think is preferable, or because they will be asked for under freedom of information legislation. It would be impossible to keep that information secret, and I think that people should be honest about that from the beginning.

With regard to the approach we are adopting, I set out in the statement that we want to see Wales in the top 20 countries in the PISA scores in 2015. We are also looking for an improvement in the next set of PISA scores in 2012. So, I think that we are setting very clear targets. We want the system to perform, and it will perform.

Paul Davies: I welcomed some aspects of your statement last week. Most of the questions that I wanted to ask have already been asked, so I will just touch on one issue in that statement. You spoke about poor behaviour in the classroom. Engaging children and young people more in teaching activities by learning through doing would go a long way towards tackling some of the poor behaviour. One way of doing that, and at the same time developing children's and young people's life and business skills, would be for all secondary schools in Wales to establish a social enterprise, which would be managed and run by pupils. That sort of hands-on involvement would provide and develop pupils' entrepreneurial skills and give them the chance to learn more about the business world through their studies. Yesterday, the First Minister agreed with me in principle that schools should be encouraged to set up social enterprises managed by pupils. In the circumstances, Minister, do you agree with

am eu canlyniadau TGAU a'r canran o ddisgyblion sydd yn eu cyflawni. Felly, mewn unrhyw achos, mae rhywfaint o farchnata yn mynd ymlaen gan ysgolion. O ran y graddio ysgolion, mae Cymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg yng Nghymru wedi cyflwyno cynigion i mi ei fod am i raddio ysgolion gael ei wneud yn lleol drwy gonsortia. Rhaid i mi ddweud, pe bai hynny'n digwydd, byddai'n anochel i'r graddau hynny cael eu cyhoeddi oherwydd, unwaith y bydd y graddfeydd wedi eu gwneud gan awdurdodau lleol, yng nghyd-destun y graddau y gellid eu gosod gan Estyn, er enghraifft, byddant yn anochel yn dod yn gyhoeddus, naill ai drwy gael ei gyhoeddi, ac yr wyf yn meddwl yn well, neu oherwydd byddant yn cael eu gofyn amdani o dan ddeddfwriaeth rhyddid gwybodaeth. Byddai'n amhosibl i gadw'r gyfrinach gwybodaeth, ac yr wyf yn meddwl y dylai pobl fod yn onest am hynny o'r cychwyn cyntaf.

O ran y dull yr ydym yn ei mabwysiadu, nodais yn y datganiad ein bod am weld Cymru yn y 20 uchaf o wledydd yn y sgoriau PISA yn 2015. Rydym hefyd yn chwilio am welliant yn y set nesaf o sgoriau PISA yn 2012. Felly, credaf ein bod yn gosod targedau clir iawn. Rydym am i'r system i berfformio, a bydd yn perfformio.

Paul Davies: Yr wyf yn croesawu rhai agweddau ar eich datganiad yr wythnos diwethaf. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r cwestiynau yr wyf am ei ofyn eisoes wedi cael eu gofyn, felly, yr unig gyffwrdd ar un mater yn y datganiad hwnnw. Soniasoch am ymddygiad gwael yn yr ystafell ddosbarth. Fyddai ymgysylltu â phlant a phobl ifanc yn fwy mewn gweithgareddau addysgu trwy ddysgu trwy wneud yn mynd yn bell tuag at fynd i'r afael â rhai o'r ymddygiad gwael. Un ffordd o wneud hynny, ac ar yr un pryd yn datblygu plant a phobl ifanc sgiliau bywyd a busnes, fod ar gyfer pob ysgol uwchradd yng Nghymru i sefydlu menter gymdeithasol, a fyddai'n cael ei reoli a'i redeg gan y disgyblion. Mae'r math hwnnw o ymarferol a fyddai'n cynnwys darparu a datblygu medrau menter y disgyblion a rhoi iddynt y cyfle i ddysgu mwy am y byd busnes drwy eu hastudiaethau. Ddoe, cytunodd y Prif Weinidog â mi mewn egwyddor y dylai ysgolion gael eu hannog i sefydlu mentrau

the First Minister and me that schools should be encouraged to establish social enterprises and, if so, is this something that the Welsh Assembly Government will now look at in the near future as part of the curriculum?

3.20 p.m.

Leighton Andrews: As a former Minister responsible for social enterprises, I am very keen to see them encouraged. There are a number of schemes in which we are engaged, such as the youth entrepreneurship strategy, which looks at the question of social enterprises and encourages young people to explore those as potential models. Exercises have been undertaken by some of the education business partnerships under the auspices of the Careers Wales companies. A debate on social enterprise is scheduled for today. I think that there are very significant challenges in respect of behaviour, and we should not kid ourselves that we do not have quite a lot to do on this in Wales. If we are able to raise behaviour levels to those of England, there would be something like eight weeks extra secondary education for pupils in Wales during the course of their school experience. We have put in place a number of pilot schemes under the behaviour and attendance action plan. I have asked officials to look again at some of that work. I think that there is a significant amount of work to be done.

Brian Gibbons: Thank you, Minister, for taking these questions. The issues that you are addressing are of fundamental importance to improving the life opportunities of many of our disadvantaged children in Wales. As a governor of a comprehensive school that serves one of the most disadvantaged communities in Wales, I found information on the performance of that school to be one of the most critical tools that I had, as a governor, in assessing how that school was getting on. I am glad to say that that information helped us to establish that that comprehensive school was providing real value added to our community and the pupils who were attending the school. I fully agree with you, and I would urge you—I wonder

cymdeithasol a reolir gan y disgyblion. O dan yr amgylchiadau, Weinidog, a ydych yn cytuno â'r Prif Weinidog a minnau y dylai ysgolion gael eu hannog i sefydlu mentrau cymdeithasol ac, os felly, yw hyn yn rhywbeth y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn awr yn edrych arno yn y dyfodol agos fel rhan o'r cwricwlwm ?

Leighton Andrews: Fel cyn Gweinidog a oedd yn gyfrifol am fentrau cymdeithasol, rwyf yn awyddus i'w gweld yn cael eu hannog. Mae nifer o gynlluniau yr ydym yn cymryd rhan ynddynt, megis y strategaeth entrepreneuriaeth ieuencid, sy'n edrych ar y cwestiwn o fentrau cymdeithasol ac yn annog pobl ifanc i'w harchwilio fel modelau posibl. Mae ymarferion wedi eu cynnal gan rai o'r partneriaethau addysg busnes o dan nawdd y cwmnïau Gyrfa Cymru. Mae dadl ar fenter gymdeithasol wedi'i drefnu ar gyfer heddiw. Rwyf yn meddwl bod heriau sylweddol iawn o ran ymddygiad, ac ni ddylem dwyllo ein hunain nad oes gennym gryn dipyn i'w wneud ar hyn yng Nghymru. Os ydym yn gallu codi lefelau ymddygiad i fod yr un fath â rhai Lloegr, byddai tua wyth wythnos ychwanegol o addysg uwchradd ar gyfer disgyblion yng Nghymru drwy gydol eu profiad ysgol. Rydym wedi sefydlu nifer o gynlluniau peilot o dan y cynllun gweithredu ymddygiad a phresenoldeb. Rwyf wedi gofyn i swyddogion edrych eto ar ran o'r gwaith hwnnw. Rwyf yn meddwl fod cryn dipyn o waith i'w wneud.

Brian Gibbons: Diolch, Weinidog, am gymryd y cwestiynau hyn. Mae'r materion yr ydych yn mynd i'r afael â hwy yn hanfodol bwysig i wella cyfleoedd bywyd llawer o'n plant difreintiedig yng Nghymru. Fel llywodraethwr ysgol gyfun sy'n gwasanaethu un o'r cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru, roedd gwybodaeth am berfformiad yr ysgol honno'n un o'r arfau mwyaf hanfodol yr oedd gen i, fel llywodraethwr, wrth asesu sut yr oedd yr ysgol honno'n symud ymlaen. Rwyf yn falch o ddweud bod y wybodaeth wedi ein helpu i sicrhau bod yr ysgol uwchradd yn darparu gwerth gwirioneddol at ein cymuned a'r disgyblion a oedd yn mynychu'r ysgol. Cytunaf yn llwyr â chi, a byddwn yn eich annog—tybed pa

what measures you are taking in this regard—to ensure that we have a much more objective, validated assessment of performance in place. I think that the Estyn report suggested that up to 20 per cent of schools did not have a rigorous assessment process in place. While that is not a systemic failure in that it is not across the whole system, 20 per cent is certainly a big enough minority to constitute almost systemic failure.

My second question is in relation to tackling educational disadvantage, which the PISA report highlighted as one main reason why children were not getting the best out of education. How do we demonstrate value added? It is all very well benchmarking a school serving a disadvantaged community against one serving a more affluent community, but I think that parents and governors will want to know how much extra value that school is delivering. The PISA report stated that one problem that we have in our education system is low expectations for children in socially disadvantaged areas. We must challenge those low expectations, but we need the assessment benchmarks by which we can demonstrate that the school is addressing effectively low expectations of those children and poverty of aspiration.

Leighton Andrews: I very much welcome what you have said. In respect of governors, there is no question that data are important to governors in ensuring a proper performance framework for the school on whose governing body they sit. In my speech, I said that no school would pass an Estyn inspection if unable to demonstrate that its governing body had discussed the school's data. That will be spelled out in the remit letter to Estyn, which will be sent shortly.

There is no question that, where we have seen school improvement, it has often been driven by governors and by local authorities demonstrating what can be achieved and what needs to be achieved. That brings me to the point that you make about value added. Through the school effectiveness framework, we are providing schools with data that

fesurau yr ydych yn eu cymryd yn hyn o beth—er mwyn sicrhau bod gennym asesiad llawer mwy gwrthrychol a dilysu o berfformiad yn eu lle. Credaf fod adroddiad Estyn yn awgrymu nad oedd gan hyd at 20 y cant o ysgolion broses asesu trwyadl yn eu lle. Er nad yw hwnnw'n fethiant systematig gan nad yw ar draws y system gyfan, mae 20 y cant yn sicr yn lleiafrif ddigon mawr i olygu'r nesaf peth i fethiant systemig.

Mae fy ail gwestiwn yn ymwneud â mynd i'r afael ag anfantais addysgol, y mae'r adroddiad PISA wedi'i amlygu fel un prif reswm pam nad yw plant yn cael y gorau o addysg. Sut ydym yn dangos gwerth ychwanegol? Mae'n ddigon hawdd meincnodi ysgol sy'n gwasanaethu cymuned ddifreintiedig yn erbyn un sy'n gwasanaethu cymuned fwy cefnog, ond credaf y bydd rhieni a llywodraethwyr am wybod faint o werth ychwanegol y mae'r ysgol yn ei ddarparu. Dywedodd adroddiad PISA mai un broblem sydd gennym yn ein system addysg yw disgwyliadau isel ar gyfer plant mewn ardaloedd dan anfantais gymdeithasol. Rhaid i ni herio'r disgwyliadau isel hynny, ond mae angen y meincnodau asesiad gan y gallwn ddangos fod yr ysgol yn mynd i'r afael yn effeithiol â disgwyliadau isel y plant hynny a'r diffyg uchelgais.

Leighton Andrews: Rwyf yn falch iawn o'r hyn yr ydych wedi'i ddweud. Mewn perthynas â llywodraethwyr, nid oes amheuaeth bod data yn bwysig i lywodraethwyr wrth sicrhau fframwaith perfformiad priodol ar gyfer yr ysgol ar ei chorff llywodraethol y maent yn eistedd. Yn fy araith, dywedais na fyddai unrhyw ysgol yn pasio arolygiad gan Estyn os nad oedd yn gallu dangos bod ei chorff llywodraethol wedi trafod data'r ysgol. Bydd hynny'n cael ei nodi yn y llythyr cylch gwaith i Estyn, a fydd yn cael ei anfon cyn bo hir.

Nid oes unrhyw gwestiwn, lle rydym wedi gweld gwelliant ysgol, mae'n aml wedi cael ei yrru gan y llywodraethwyr a'r awdurdodau lleol sy'n dangos yr hyn a ellir ei gyflawni a'r hyn sydd angen ei gyflawni. Daw hyn â mi at y pwynt a wnewch am werth ychwanegol. Drwy'r fframwaith effeithiolrwydd ysgolion, rydym yn darparu ysgolion gyda data sy'n eu

enable them to compare themselves with other schools with pupils from similar socioeconomic backgrounds. That enables them to look for excellence and to look at what is really being achieved elsewhere. If we ensure that the governors and parents are aware of those data, it empowers them to ensure that high expectations are being set. We know that Estyn has concluded that schools in socioeconomically deprived areas are doing many of the same things as all successful schools are doing. That is, they do have high expectations, they do engage with the community, and they do have after-school activities and a full range of support for their students. Sometimes, where new headteachers have gone into underperforming schools, they have been able to raise the expectations and aspirations in those schools, and helped to turn them around.

galluogi i gymharu eu hunain gydag ysgolion eraill gyda disgyblion o gefndiroedd economaidd-gymdeithasol tebyg. Mae hynny'n eu galluogi i chwilio am ragoriaeth ac i edrych ar yr hyn sydd mewn gwirionedd yn cael ei gyflawni mewn manau eraill. Os byddwn yn sicrhau bod y llywodraethwyr a'r rhieni yn ymwybodol o'r data hynny, mae'n eu galluogi i sicrhau bod disgwyliadau uchel yn cael eu gosod. Rydym yn gwybod bod Estyn wedi dod i'r casgliad bod ysgolion mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig economaidd-gymdeithasol yn gwneud llawer o'r un pethau ag y mae'r holl ysgolion llwyddiannus yn eu gwneud. Hynny yw, mae ganddynt ddisgwyliadau uchel, maent yn ymgysylltu â'r gymuned, maent yn cynnal gweithgareddau ar ôl ysgol ac y maent yn darparu ystod lawn o gefnogaeth ar gyfer eu myfyrwyr. Weithiau, lle mae penaethiaid newydd wedi mynd i mewn i ysgolion sy'n tanberfformio, maent wedi gallu codi disgwyliadau a dyheadau yn yr ysgolion hynny, ac wedi helpu i'w troi o gwmpas.

Y Llywydd: Diolch yn fawr i'r Gweinidog am ei barodrwydd i ateb cwestiynau a derbyn craffu gofalus gan y Cynulliad, fel sydd yn briodol.

The Presiding Officer: I thank the Minister for his willingness to answer questions and receive detailed scrutiny by the Assembly, as is appropriate.

Cwestiynau i Gomisiwn y Cynulliad Questions to the Assembly Commission

Adolygiad Llawn o'r Prosiect UNO

A Full Review of the UNO Project

I. Angela Burns: *A wnaiff y Comisiwn amlinellu pa bryd y maent yn bwriadu cwblhau adolygiad llawn o'r Prosiect UNO. OAQ(3)0050(AC)*

I. Angela Burns: *Will the Commission outline when they intend to complete a full review of the Unified Network for the Organisation Project (UNO). OAQ(3)0050(AC)*

The Commissioner for the Assembly and the Citizen (Peter Black): The Commission considered the review of the project, which was published on 3 February, at our last meeting. We decided that the Commission should receive a further report on the achievement of the envisaged savings and benefits in six months' time. The Assembly's internal auditor, KPMG, is currently undertaking an audit of the project for consideration by the Commission's audit committee. In addition, the Wales Audit Office, which has been engaged throughout

Comisiynydd y Cynulliad a'r Dinesydd (Peter Black): Bu'r Comisiwn yn ystyried adolygiad o'r prosiect, a gyhoeddwyd ar 3 Chwefror, yn ein cyfarfod diwethaf. Gwnaethom benderfynu y dylai'r Comisiwn dderbyn adroddiad pellach ar gyflawni'r arbedion a ragwelir a budd-daliadau ymhen chwe mis. Mae archwilydd mewnol y Cynulliad, KPMG, yn gwneud archwiliad o'r prosiect ar hyn o bryd i'w hystyried gan bwyllgor archwilio'r Comisiwn. Yn ogystal, bydd Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru, sydd wedi bod yn cymryd rhan drwy gydol y prosiect,

the project, will be completing its review later this year.

Angela Burns: I have also read the recent report by Dianne Bevan, which said that UNO had been completed and that we are trying to move forward. In these times of accountability, transparency and scrutiny, may I recommend that, before the Assembly breaks up, the Commission send a questionnaire or evaluation document to the 60 Assembly Members and their staff who have implemented this? Whoever wrote and developed this piece of software—I am not talking about the ICT department or the Assembly Commission—has some questions to answer, and there are questions that should be asked of them and that they should be accountable for. When we reach the fourth Assembly, a great number of people here now will have moved on and we will not have that wealth of experience to call upon to say what went wrong, how it went wrong, what went right and why that went right, in order to go back to the supplier—hopefully before you pay the final bill—to ensure that the supplier really has delivered what it said it would deliver, and at the right time. From talking to Members and their support staff, I know that there have been enormous problems and challenges, so there should be some accountability and traceability somewhere along the line, but, once we all go, our collective memory goes.

Peter Black: We have conducted a ‘lessons learned’ exercise, incorporating feedback from the project team user group and project board, and comments from Members and their staff were included as an important part of that exercise. The ‘lessons learned’ report has been submitted to the Assembly’s change board and is available to Members. Some of the lessons learned were considered by the Commission at its January meeting. However, your suggestion of a more structured survey is welcome, and we will try to take it on board.

yn cwblhau ei adolygiad yn ddiweddarach eleni.

Angela Burns: Rwyf hefyd wedi darllen yr adroddiad diweddar gan Dianne Bevan, a ddywedodd fod UNO wedi ei gwblhau a’n bod yn ceisio symud ymlaen. Yn y cyfnod hwn o dryloywder, atebolrwydd a chraffu, a gaf fi argymhell, cyn i’r Cynulliad dorri i fyny, bod y Comisiwn yn anfon dogfen holiadur neu arfarnu i’r 60 o Aelodau’r Cynulliad a’u staff sydd wedi gweithredu hyn? Mae gan bwy bynnag a wnaeth ysgrifennu a datblygu’r darn hwn o feddalwedd—nid wyf yn sôn am yr adran TGCh na Chomisiwn y Cynulliad—rai cwestiynau i’w hateb, ac y mae cwestiynau y dylid eu gofyn ohonynt ac y dylent fod yn atebol amdanynt. Pan fyddwn yn cyrraedd y pedwerydd Cynulliad, bydd nifer fawr o bobl yma yn awr wedi symud ymlaen ac ni fydd gennym y cyfoeth o brofiad i alw arno i ddweud beth aeth o’i le, sut yr aeth o’i le, yr hyn a aeth yn iawn a pham a aeth yn iawn, er mwyn mynd yn ôl i’r cyflenwr—gobeithio cyn i chi dalu’r bil terfynol—er mwyn sicrhau bod y cyflenwr mewn gwirionedd wedi cyflawni’r hyn a ddywedodd y byddai’n ei gyflawni, ac ar yr adeg iawn. Drwy siarad ag Aelodau a’u staff cymorth, gwn y bu problemau enfawr a heriau, felly dylid cael rhywfaint o atebolrwydd a’r gallu i olrhain yn rhywle ar hyd y lein, ond, ar ôl i ni gyd fynd, mae ein cof ar y cyd yn mynd.

Peter Black: Rydym wedi cynnal ymarfer ‘gwersi a ddysgwyd’, gan gynnwys adborth gan grŵp defnyddwyr y tîm prosiect a chan bwrdd y prosiect, a chafodd sylwadau gan Aelodau a’u staff eu cynnwys fel rhan bwysig o’r ymarfer hwnnw. Cyflwynwyd yr adroddiad ar y ‘gwersi a ddysgwyd’ i fwrdd newid y Cynulliad ac mae ar gael i’r Aelodau. Mae rhai o’r gwersi a ddysgwyd yn cael eu hystyried gan y Comisiwn yn ei gyfarfod ym mis Ionawr. Fodd bynnag, mae eich awgrym o arolwg mwy strwythuredig i’w groesawu, a byddwn yn ceisio ei dderbyn.

**Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu ar Rôl Mentrau Cymdeithasol yn
Economi Cymru**
**The Enterprise and Learning Committee's Report on the Role of Social
Enterprises in the Welsh Economy**

Cynnig NDM4659 Gareth Jones

Motion NDM4659 Gareth Jones

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

*To propose that the National Assembly for
Wales:*

*Yn nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Menter a
Dysgu ar Rôl Mentrau Cymdeithasol yn
Economi Cymru a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa
Gyflwyno ar 18 Tachwedd 2010.*

*Notes the Enterprise and Learning
Committee's report on the Role of social
enterprises in the Welsh economy which was
laid in the Table Office on 18 November
2010.*

Gareth Jones: Cynigiau y cynnig.

Gareth Jones: I move the motion.

Mae'n bleser gennyf agor y ddadl ar adroddiad y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu a rôl mentrau cymdeithasol yn economi Cymru. Yn wyneb yr argyfwng economaidd, mae'n dda o beth cael siarad am feysydd twf posibl. Yr ydym yn ddiolchgar i lawer o sefydliadau ac unigolion o'r sector mentrau cymdeithasol a gyfrannodd at ein hymchwiliad. Hoffem ddiolch yn arbennig i'n hymgyngorydd arbennig, Lis Burnett, a ddaeth â dwsinau o fentrau cymdeithasol at ei gilydd i drafod ein hadroddiad pan gafodd ei lansio ym mis Tachwedd. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar hefyd i'r Ddiwydiwr Brif Weinidog a'i swyddogion am eu tystiolaeth i'n hymchwiliad, ac am yr ymateb cadarnhaol ar y cyfan i'n hadroddiad gan y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol. O'r 16 o argymhellion a wnaeth y pwyllgor, mae'r Gweinidog wedi derbyn 13 ohonynt, wedi gwrthod dau, a derbyn un mewn egwyddor.

It gives me great pleasure to open the debate on the Enterprise and Learning Committee's report on the role of social enterprises in the Welsh economy. Given the current challenges in the economy, it is good to talk about potential areas of growth. We are grateful to the many organisations and individuals from the social enterprise sector who contributed to our inquiry, not least our special adviser, Lis Burnett, who brought together dozens of social enterprises to discuss our report when it was launched back in November. I am also grateful to the Deputy First Minister and his officials for their evidence to our inquiry, and for the generally positive response to our report from the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government. Out of the 16 recommendations we made, he has accepted 13, rejected two, and accepted one in principle.

Diben ein hymchwiliad oedd deall rôl bresennol mentrau cymdeithasol yn economi Cymru a'r heriau sy'n eu hwynebu, ystyried y cyfleoedd am ddatblygu economaidd cynaliadwy ac adfywio cymunedol y mae model busnes mentro cymdeithasol yn eu cynnig, yn ogystal â dylanwadu ar bolisi Llywodraeth Cymru a'r gefnogaeth i fentrau ac entrepreneuriaid cymdeithasol yn y dyfodol.

The purpose of our inquiry was to understand the current role of social enterprises in the Welsh economy and the challenges facing them, to consider the opportunities for sustainable economic development and community regeneration presented by the social enterprise business model, and to influence Welsh Government policy and support for social enterprises and entrepreneurs in the future.

3.30 p.m.

Mae'r term 'menter gymdeithasol' yn

The term 'social enterprise' spans a diverse

rhychwantu amrywiaeth fawr o sefydliadau ac unigolion, ond yr hyn ydynt yn eu hanfod yw mentrau sy'n masnachu at ddiben cymdeithasol neu amgylcheddol. Fel hyn y gwnaeth un o'n tystion, UnLtd, ei esbonio: mae entrepreneuriaid heb ymrwymiad cymdeithasol yn creu cyfoeth i'r ychydig; mae ymrwymiad cymdeithasol heb fenter yn draul ar y pwrs cyhoeddus—mae entrepreneuriaid cymdeithasol yn creu cyfoeth a'i rannu gyda'r gymuned gyfan.

Yr oedd rhai tystion yn dadlau na ddylem dreulio gormod o amser ar ddiffiniadau. Fodd bynnag, credai'r pwyllgor ei bod yn bwysig trafod sut mae mentrau cymdeithasol yn dehongli eu swyddogaeth gan fod hynny'n diffinio eu rôl economaidd.

Yr ydym wedi argymhell y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru fod yn fwy rhagweithiol wrth adnabod a chefnogi mentrau cymdeithasol ac entrepreneuriaid cymdeithasol, ac yr oeddem yn gweld potensial yn y model mentro cymdeithasol i gyfrannu mwy at economi Cymru fel rhan o raglen adnewyddu economaidd y Llywodraeth. Er fy mod yn croesawu'r ffaith bod y Gweinidog wedi derbyn mwyafrif llethol ein hargymhellion, yr wyf yn siomedig bod agwedd gyffredinol ymateb y Llywodraeth yn dal i ddangos meddylfryd sy'n ystyried mentro cymdeithasol fel rhywbeth ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â phroblemau, neu ar gyfer ymateb i doriadau yn y sector cyhoeddus.

Yn wahanol i'r Llywodraeth, yr oedd y pwyllgor yn gweld mentro cymdeithasol fel ffordd arloesol a mwy effeithiol o wneud busnes, a daethom i'r casgliad bod y cyfrifoldeb am fenter gymdeithasol wedi ei leoli yn y lle anghywir o fewn y Llywodraeth. Yr wyf yn siomedig, felly, fod y Llywodraeth wedi gwrthod ein hargymhelliad y dylai'r cyfrifoldeb polisi a phortffolio'r Gweinidog dros fentro cymdeithasol gael ei drosglwyddo o'r Adran dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol i'r Adran dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth. Os yw'r Llywodraeth o ddifrif yn gweld mentro cymdeithasol fel model busnes, dylai gael ei osod ym mhencadlys economaidd y Llywodraeth.

Yn ystod ein hymchwiliad, gwelsom amryw

range of organisations and individuals, but essentially they are enterprises that trade for a social or environmental purpose. UnLtd, one of our witnesses, explained it in these terms: entrepreneurs without social commitment create wealth for the few; social commitment without enterprise drains the public purse—social entrepreneurs create wealth and share it with the whole of the community.

Some witnesses argued that we should not get too hung up on definitions, but the committee believed that the way in which social enterprises interpret their function does matter in that it defines their economic role.

We recommended that the Welsh Assembly Government should be more proactive in identifying and supporting social enterprises and social entrepreneurs, and we saw an untapped potential for the social enterprise model to contribute to the Welsh economy as part of the Government's economic renewal programme. While I welcome the Minister's acceptance of the large majority of our recommendations, I am disappointed that the overall tone of the Government's response is still couched in terms of social enterprises dealing with problems, or responding to public sector cuts.

In contrast to the Government, the committee saw social enterprise as an innovative and more effective way of doing business, and we concluded that the accountability and focus of social enterprise is located in the wrong place within Government. I am therefore disappointed that the Government has rejected our recommendation that dedicated ministerial and policy responsibility for social enterprise should be transferred to the Department for the Economy and Transport from the Department for Social Justice and Local Government. If the Government truly sees social enterprise as a business model, it should be placed in its economic power house.

During the course of our inquiry, we

o enghreifftiau o lwyddiannau, megis Glas Cymru, Pack-IT, a Nofit State Circus, i enwi dim ond ychydig. Er inni weld potensial sylweddol ar gyfer ehangu'r model mentro cymdeithasol, bu i ni ganfod rhwystrau hefyd i dwf y sector. Y dasg i Lywodraeth Cymru yw troi'r rhwystrau hyn yn gyfleoedd ar gyfer y dyfodol. Cymerwch gaffael cyhoeddus fel enghraifft. Gwyddom fod y sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru yn gwario tua £4.3 biliwn y flwyddyn ar nwyddau a gwasanaethau allanol, ond mae hon yn farchnad nad oes ond ychydig o fentrau cymdeithasol wedi gallu treiddio iddi. Mae llawer o resymau dros hyn, gan gynnwys anawsterau gyda graddfa a biwrocratiaeth, ond mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn cydnabod hefyd yr anwybodaeth ymysg comisiynwyr y sector cyhoeddus ynghylch potensial y sector mentro cymdeithasol, a'r diffyg symbyliad ar gyfer caffael nwyddau a gwasanaethau'n lleol.

Bu i ni gydnabod bod Llywodraeth Cymru, drwy Gwerth Cymru, wedi gweithredu i wella caffael i'r sector cyhoeddus, ond mae cymaint o botensial yn y maes hwn, ac eto gynifer o gyfleoedd yn dal i gael eu colli. Er bod y Gweinidog yn dweud ei fod yn derbyn ein hargymhelliad ynghylch caffael, nid wyf wedi fy argyhoeddi o'i ateb y bydd yn gweithredu ar ein hargymhelliad y dylai pob corff cyhoeddus gael ei herio i wneud ei bolisi caffael yn fwy agored i fentro cymdeithasol. Mae angen i'r Llywodraeth wneud llawer mwy i sicrhau bod cymunedau lleol yn elwa ar arferion caffael y sector cyhoeddus a'r sector preifat.

Rhwyrstr arall i dwf mentrau cymdeithasol oedd diffyg ffynonellau addas o gyllid. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi anfon arwydd clir y bydd ei chefnogaeth i fusnes yn y dyfodol yn seiliedig ar fenthyciadau yn hytrach na grantiau. Ein canfyddiad oedd bod teimladau cymysg yn y sector hwn ynglŷn â'r newid trywydd hwn. Yr wyf yn falch bod Llywodraeth Cymru bellach yn adolygu'r cymorth ariannol y mae'n ei ddarparu i fentrau cymdeithasol fel ei bod yn diwallu eu hanghenion yn well o safbwynt cefnogi cychwyn mentrau a'u datblygiad hirdymor. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi cytuno hefyd, er mewn egwyddor yn unig, i ystyried system gyllid unswydd ar gyfer y sector mentro

identified some great success stories, such as Glas Cymru, Pack-IT, and Nofit State Circus to name but a few. While we saw significant potential for the wider application of the social enterprise model, we also detected some major challenges to the growth of the sector. The task for the Welsh Government is to turn current barriers into future opportunities. Take public procurement for example. We know that the public sector in Wales spends approximately £4.3 billion a year on external goods and services, but that is a market that few social enterprises have been able to penetrate. There are many reasons for that, including difficulties with scale and bureaucracy, but crucially it is also down to ignorance among public sector commissioners of the potential of the social enterprise sector, and a lack of impetus for contracting goods and services locally.

We recognised that the Welsh Assembly Government, through Value Wales, has acted to improve public sector procurement, but there is so much potential in this area, and yet still so many opportunities being missed. Although the Minister says that he accepts our recommendation on procurement, I am not convinced from his reply that he will act on our recommendation to challenge all public bodies to make their procurement policies and practices more open to social enterprise. Much more needs to be done by Government to ensure that local communities benefit from the procurement practices of both the public and private sectors.

Another barrier to the growth of social enterprises is the lack of appropriate funding sources. The Welsh Government has given a clear signal that its future support for business will be based on loans as opposed to grants. We found that there were mixed feelings in this sector about this new approach. I am pleased that the Welsh Government is now reviewing the financial support that it provides to social enterprises so that it more properly meets their needs in supporting start-ups and longer-term development. The Government has also agreed, albeit in principle only, to consider a bespoke finance system for the social enterprise sector in Wales.

cymdeithasol yng Nghymru.

Efallai y caf grybwyll yn y cyd-destun hwn argymhelliad y mae'r Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu wedi ei wneud yn y cyfamser yn ein hadroddiad diweddar ar weithredu'r rhaglen adfywio economaidd. Bu inni ofyn i'r Llywodraeth ystyried y syniad o sefydlu marchnad bondiau ar gyfer economi Cymru. Bu inni argymhell hefyd y dylai Gweinidogion Cymru ystyried sefydlu banc busnesau cymunedol yng Nghymru a fyddai'n anelu'n benodol at droi syniadau arloesol yn ddatblygiadau masnachol, yn hytrach na chanolbwyntio'n gyfan gwbl ar greu adenillion ariannol. Yr oeddwn yn hynod o siomedig bod y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog wedi gwrthod yr argymhellion hyn. Yn fy marn i, yr oeddent yn cynnig cyfle creadigol a phragmataidd i ddod â budd a manteision i gymunedau ar hyd a lled Cymru, ac yr wyf wedi ysgrifennu at y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog i ofyn iddo ailystyried ei farn ar y mater hwn.

I orffen ar nodyn mwy positif, yr wyf yn falch bod y Llywodraeth wedi derbyn ein hargymhellion i sicrhau bod mwy o gyngor busnes cyffredinol ar gael i fentrau cymdeithasol, a hefyd raglenni datblygu sgiliau i entrepreneuriaid cymdeithasol a fyddai'n eu galluogi i wella ac ehangu eu busnesau.

I gloi, nid yw'r pwyllgor yn twyllo'i hun fod mentro cymdeithasol yn ateb holl broblemau economaidd Cymru, ond mae'n gwbl amlwg o'r llwyddiannau mawr a bach yr ydym wedi eu gweld y gallai mentrau cymdeithasol wneud cyfraniad llawer mwy at ddatblygu economaidd yng Nghymru nag y maent yn ei wneud ar hyn o bryd. Mae rhai sefydliadau, yr wyf yn siŵr, yn fodlon parhau'n rhai bychain a fydd yn canolbwyntio'n bennaf ar eu cymuned tra bydd eraill yn eiddgar i gael cyfle i symud ymlaen i weithio ar sail fwy masnachol. Yr unig ffordd y gall hynny ddigwydd yw os bydd mwy o ymrwymiad ac o ymyrraeth gan Lywodraeth Cymru a'r sector cyhoeddus ehangach. Mae tasg fawr o'n blaenau i agor meddyliau a newid canfyddiadau ynghylch y model mentro cymdeithasol. Yr un mor bwysig, mae'n rhaid i Lywodraeth Cymru greu'r amodau iawn ar gyfer twf, fel sicrhau trefniadau teg ac addas ar gyfer caffael, a darparu cymorth

Perhaps I could mention in this context a recommendation that the Enterprise and Learning Committee has since made in our recent report on implementation of the economic renewal programme. We asked the Government to consider the merits of establishing a bond market for the Welsh economy. We also recommended that the Welsh Ministers should consider establishing a community business bank in Wales that would be specifically aimed at turning innovation into commercialisation, rather than focused solely on generating financial returns. I was bitterly disappointed that the Deputy First Minister rejected these recommendations. In my view, they represented a creative and pragmatic approach to benefiting communities the length and breadth of Wales, and I have written to the Deputy First Minister to ask him to reconsider his position on this issue.

To end on a more positive note, I am pleased that the Government has accepted our recommendations to improve access to more general business advice for social enterprises, and also skills development programmes for social entrepreneurs that would enable them to improve and expand their businesses.

In conclusion, the committee is under no illusion that social enterprise is a panacea for Wales's economic challenges, but it is completely obvious from the successes that we witnessed, little and large, that social enterprises could make a far greater contribution to economic development in Wales than they do currently. Some organisations are, I am sure, content to remain small and predominantly community-focused, while others would relish the opportunity to move onto a more commercial footing. That will only happen if there is greater commitment and intervention from the Welsh Government and from the wider public sector. There is a major task to be done to open minds and change perceptions about the social enterprise model. Equally, the Welsh Government has to create the right conditions for growth, such as ensuring fair and appropriate procurement arrangements and providing financial support and training

ariannol a hyfforddiant ar gyfer datblygu busnes a sgiliau. Yn bwysicach na dim, rhaid i'r pecynnau o gymorth sydd ar gael i fentrau cymdeithasol adlewyrchu amrywiaeth y sector.

Mae hynny heb anghofio, wrth gwrs, fod angen i Gymru ddatblygu mwy o unigolion gyda synnwyr o fentergarwch. Fel y dywedodd un o'n tystion wrthym:

'Entrepreneurship is an individual kind of thing. If you can create a playing field, give people enough space to manoeuvre, and provide them with some resources from which they can draw, but which are not dictated to them, I think that you will have gone a long way to creating a healthy social environment in Wales.'

Gobeithiaf fod y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu wedi chwarae rhan fach wrth ddylanwadu ar Weinidogion i elwa ar botensial entrepreneuriaid cymdeithasol a mentrau cymdeithasol yng Nghymru. Yr wyf yn credu'n gryf fod ganddynt, o gael y gefnogaeth iawn, y gallu i gynnig atebion arloesol yn y sefyllfa economaidd bresennol, a drwy hynny helpu i adeiladu economi gyfoethocach a mwy cynaliadwy i Gymru yn y dyfodol.

3.40 p.m.

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Carl Sargeant): I thank Gareth, as the Chair of the Enterprise and Learning Committee, and the members of the committee for this helpful report. We support the majority of the committee's recommendations, and our formal response has been agreed with the Deputy First Minister and the Deputy Minister for Science, Innovation and Skills in view of their responsibilities for the economy in Wales. We agree with recommendation 1 and will review the current funding agreement with the Social Enterprise Coalition to ensure that this important commitment is a full part of its work programme.

In response to recommendation 2, the Welsh Assembly Government's start-up support service and the Wales Co-operative Centre social enterprise project provides support for

for the development of businesses and skills. Most importantly, the packages of support available to social enterprises must reflect the diversity of the sector.

That is not to forget, of course, that Wales needs to develop more individuals with a sense of entrepreneurship. As one of our witnesses said to us:

Mae entrepreneuriaeth yn beth unigol. Os gallwch greu chwarae teg, rhoi i bobl ddigon o le i symud, a rhoi iddynt adnoddau y gallant dynnu arnynt, ond mewn modd nad yw'n orchmynnol, credaf y byddwch yn mynd rhan fawr o'r ffordd tuag at greu amgylchedd cymdeithasol iach yng Nghymru.

I hope that the Enterprise and Learning Committee has played some small part in influencing Ministers to capitalise on the potential of social entrepreneurs and social enterprises in Wales. I firmly believe that, given the right support, they have the ability to deliver innovative solutions to the current economic situation and can help build a wealthier, more sustainable Welsh economy in the future.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol (Carl Sargeant): Diolch i Gareth, Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu, ac i aelodau'r pwyllgor am yr adroddiad defnyddiol hwn. Rydym yn cefnogi y rhan fwyaf o argymhellion y pwyllgor, ac fe gytunwyd ein hymateb ffurfiol gyda'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wyddoniaeth, Arloesi a Sgiliau parthed eu cyfrifoldebau ar gyfer economi Cymru. Rydym yn cytuno ag argymhelliad 1 a byddwn yn adolygu'r cytundeb cyllid presennol gyda'r Cynghrair Mentrau Cymdeithasol i sicrhau bod yr ymrwymiad pwysig hwn yn rhan lawn o'i raglen waith.

Wrth ymateb i argymhelliad 2, mae gwasanaeth cymorth cychwyn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a phrosiect Canolfan Cydweithredol Cymru yn rhoi cymorth i

individuals who have set up social enterprises. In 'Economic Renewal: a new direction', we are also deploying a business volunteer mentoring framework, and we will establish and recruit a network of business entrepreneurship champions.

I listened carefully to Gareth's contribution today, and there was obviously some disappointment that we were unable to support some of the other recommendations. We do not agree with recommendation 3. While we are in favour of creating the right environment for growth in the social enterprise sector, we are not yet convinced that the setting of artificial targets is helpful or that it is the right approach. We found that the social enterprise sector has a large number of influences, and there is a need to be pragmatic about what Government can do to influence net growth as a whole. The current social enterprise mapping report shows the contribution made by social enterprise to the Welsh economy. I will keep a keen eye on the situation in future, but I do not think that setting targets is a helpful recommendation at present.

We also do not accept recommendation 4. As part of the whole Government approach to economic renewal, the emphasis should be on joint working rather than on deciding in which department a particular activity sits. This is part of the ethos of the Welsh Assembly Government, as there are cross-cutting themes that we believe all Ministers have opportunities to influence. Nevertheless, following your recommendation, I have met with the Deputy First Minister to discuss how we can strengthen our commitment across our two departments to promote growth and support on both sides, and there is scope for more help in that regard.

We fully agree with recommendation 5, that social enterprise should not be viewed as a means of mopping up services that need to be delivered more cheaply. In terms of public service delivery, the social enterprise sector is playing a key role in the efficiency and innovation programme. Representatives from

unigolion sydd wedi cychwyn mentrau cymdeithasol. Yn 'Adnewyddu'r Economi: cyfeiriad newydd', rydym hefyd yn defnyddio fframwaith mentora gwirfoddol busnesau, a byddwn yn sefydlu rhwydwaith o hyrwyddwyr entrepreneuriaeth mewn busnes a recriwtio iddo.

Gwrandewais yn ofalus ar gyfraniad Gareth heddiw, ac roedd yn amlwg bod rhywfaint o siom nad oedd modd inni gefnogi rhai o'r argymhellion. Nid ydym yn cytuno ag argymhelliad 3. Er ein bod o blaid creu'r amgylchedd cywir ar gyfer cynnydd yn y sector menter gymdeithasol, nid ydym yn argyhoeddedig eto fod gosod targedau artiffisial yn ddefnyddiol neu'n ffordd iawn o fynd ati. Cawsom fod gan y sector mentrau cymdeithasol nifer fawr o ddylanwadau, ac mae angen bod yn bragmatig ynghylch yr hyn y gall Llywodraeth ei wneud i ddylanwadu ar gynnydd net fel cyfanwaith. Mae'r adroddiad mapio presennol am fentrau cymdeithasol yn dangos cyfraniad mentrau cymdeithasol i economi Cymru. Byddaf yn cadw llygad barcud ar y sefyllfa yn y dyfodol, ond nid wyf yn credu bod gosod targedau yn argymhelliad defnyddiol ar hyn o bryd.

Nid ydym yn derbyn argymhelliad 4 ychwaith. Fel rhan o ymagwedd y Llywodraeth gyfan at adnewyddu economaidd, dylai'r pwyslais fod ar weithio ar y cyd yn hytrach nag ar benderfynu i ba adran y mae gweithgaredd penodol yn perthyn. Mae hyn yn rhan o ethos o Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, gan fod themâu trawsbynciol y credwn y mae gan bob Gweinidog gyfleoedd i ddylanwadu arnynt. Serch hynny, yn sgîl eich argymhelliad, rwyf wedi cwrdd â'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog i drafod sut y gallwn gryfhau ein hymrwymiad ar draws ein dwy adran i hyrwyddo cynnydd a chefnogaeth ar y ddwy ochr, ac mae lle i fwy o gymorth yn hynny o beth.

Rydym yn cytuno yn llwyr ag argymhelliad 5 na ddylai mentrau cymdeithasol gael eu gweld fel ffordd o roi trefn ar wasanaethau y mae angen eu darparu yn rhatach. O ran darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, mae'r sector mentrau cymdeithasol yn chwarae rhan allweddol yn y rhaglen effeithlonrwydd ac

the social enterprise field have been included in a number of the work streams that Jane Hutt works with as part of this programme.

On recommendation 6, the community asset transfer fund is jointly funded by the Assembly Government and the Big Lottery Fund, which manages it. The third round of funding is currently open for applications; so far, five projects have been awarded funding under the first fast-track round and, under the second round, 10 projects have been invited to develop their projects further—there is quite an exciting opportunity there.

We are aware of the research that covers much of recommendation 7. One of the key areas of the Third Sector Research Centre's work is service delivery by third sector organisations. In addition, you will be aware that the social enterprise mapping that we published in 2009 examines the views of social enterprises on issues including public sector procurement—I know that the efficiency and innovation board is keen on this, and the lead on procurement is Mohammed Mehmet, chief executive of Denbighshire County Council.

We agree with recommendation 8, that public bodies need to make their procurement policies and practices more open to social enterprise. We also accept recommendation 9 with regard to the Department for the Economy and Transport's supplier development service providing assistance to social enterprises on tendering for both private and public sector contracts. Over the past few years, a number of social enterprises have already seen successful tenders for contracts following attendance at the 'how to tender' workshops and 'meet the buyer' events that have been held across Wales.

Recommendation 10 is also linked to procurement, and it looks at what opportunities are presented by the private sector. The 'how to tender' workshops delivered by the supplier development service cover tendering for public sector contracts and are, as I said, available across Wales, and cover opportunities for and by the

arloesi. Mae cynrychiolwyr o faes mentrau cymdeithasol wedi cael eu cynnwys mewn sawl ffrwd waith y mae Jane Hutt yn gweithio â hi fel rhan o'r rhaglen hon.

Parthed argymhelliad 6, mae'r gronfa trosglwyddo asedau cymunedol yn cael ei hariannu ar y cyd gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r Gronfa Loteri Fawr, sy'n ei rheoli hi. Mae'r drydedd rownd o gyllid yn agored i geisiadau ar hyn o bryd; hyd yn hyn, pum prosiect sydd wedi derbyn cyllid o dan lwybr carlam y rownd gyntaf ac, o dan yr ail rownd, gwahodddwyd 10 prosiect i ddatblygu eu prosiectau ymhellach—mae cyfle cyffrous yn hynny beth.

Rydym yn ymwybodol o'r ymchwil sy'n cwmpasu llawer o argymhelliad 7. Un o'r meysydd allweddol yng ngwaith Canolfan Ymchwil y Trydydd Sector yw gwasanaethau a ddarperir gan sefydliadau trydydd sector. Yn ogystal, byddwch yn ymwybodol bod y mapio o fentrau cymdeithasol a gyhoeddwyd gennym yn 2009 yn edrych ar farn mentrau cymdeithasol ar faterion, gan gynnwys caffael sector cyhoeddus—gwn fod y bwrdd effeithlonrwydd ac arloesi yn frwdfrydig dros hyn, a Mohammed Mehmet, prif weithredwr Cyngor Sir Ddinbych, sy'n arwain yn hyn o beth.

Rydym yn cytuno ag argymhelliad 8, sef bod angen i gyrff cyhoeddus wneud eu polisiau a'u harferion caffael yn fwy agored i fentrau cymdeithasol. Rydym hefyd yn derbyn argymhelliad 9 o ran gwasanaeth datblygu cyflenwyr Adran yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth yn darparu cymorth i fentrau cymdeithasol ar dendro am gontractau yn y sector preifat a'r sector cyhoeddus. Dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, mae nifer o fentrau cymdeithasol wedi gweld tendrau llwyddiannus am gontractau ar ôl bod yn y gweithdai 'sut i dendro' a'r digwyddiadau 'cwrdd â'r prynwr' sydd wedi cael eu cynnal ledled Cymru.

Mae argymhelliad 10 hefyd yn gysylltiedig â chaffael, ac mae'n edrych ar y cyfleoedd a gynigir gan y sector preifat. Mae'r gweithdai 'sut i dendro' a ddarperir gan y gwasanaeth datblygu cyflenwyr yn ymwneud â thendro am gontractau sector cyhoeddus ac maent, fel y dywedais, ar gael ar draws Cymru. Maent yn ymwneud â chyfleoedd i'r sector preifat a

private sector.

Recommendation 11 requires further discussion. A review of the transferability of the Glas Cymru model could be arranged to identify whether and how it can be done. However, there is no question that it should be recognised that the gestation period for any similar model of a comparable scale would be long, and given its size, it would require the relevant expertise and clear opportunities. We would certainly not dismiss this model, and we are keen to look at developing it in future.

We believe that recommendation 12 is already happening in Wales. Social enterprise is implicit in the new youth entrepreneurship strategy action plan for 2010-15, launched in November 2010. A total of 77 per cent of Welsh FE and HE institutions engage students in activities that highlight social entrepreneurship. The terms of reference for the FE governance review include a remit to explore social enterprise in relation to the governance arrangements of the institutions.

With regard to recommendation 13, we have published a review of funding patterns to the third sector, which reviews secondary literature and data around funding to the third sector and collects and reviews primary data from funders, key stakeholders and third sector organisations. We readily accept the need to learn from others. If this is a moving feast, and a great opportunity as you described in your opening remarks, social enterprise will play a huge part in the future of the economy of Wales. We are trying to create an environment of sustainable growth for business development. I have often heard it stated that social enterprises are good social models, but I believe that social enterprises should not be afraid to make money: it is about being successful as a business organisation. I am very keen to assert that.

Recommendation 14 proposes the creation of a bespoke finance system for the social enterprise sector in Wales. While there can be

chanddo.

Mae argymhelliad 11 yn gofyn am drafodaeth bellach. Gellid trefnu adolygiad o drosglwyddedd parthed model Glas Cymru i nodi pa fodd y mae ei wneud os oes modd. Sut bynnag, nid oes amheuaeth y dylid cydnabod y byddai'r cyfnod datblygu ar gyfer unrhyw fodel tebyg ar raddfa debyg yn un hir ac, o ystyried ei faint, byddai angen arbenigedd perthnasol a chyfleoedd clir. Yn sicr, ni fyddem yn diystyru'r model hwn; rydym yn awyddus i edrych ar ei ddatblygu yn y dyfodol.

Rydym yn credu bod argymhelliad 12 eisoes yn digwydd yng Nghymru. Mae mentrau cymdeithasol ymhlyg yng nghynllun gweithredu'r strategaeth entrepreneuriaeth ieuenctid newydd ar gyfer 2010-15, a lansiwyd ym mis Tachwedd 2010. Mae cyfanswm o 77 y cant o sefydliadau addysg bellach ac addysg uwch Cymru yn cynnwys myfyrwyr mewn gweithgareddau sy'n pwysleisio entrepreneuriaeth gymdeithasol. Mae'r cylch gorchwyl i'r adolygiad o lywodraethu addysg bellach yn cynnwys cylch gwaith i archwilio mentrau cymdeithasol parthed trefniadau llywodraethu'r sefydliadau.

O ran argymhelliad 13, rydym wedi cyhoeddi adolygiad o batrymau cyllido i'r trydydd sector—adolygwyd llenyddiaeth eilaidd a data yn ymwneud ag ariannu'r trydydd sector a chasglwyd ac adolygwyd data cynradd oddi wrth gyllidwyr, budd-ddeiliaid allweddol a sefydliadau trydydd sector. Rydym yn barod i dderbyn bod angen i ddyddu oddi wrth eraill. Os yw hyn yn wledd symudol, ac yn gyfle gwych fel y'i disgrifiwyd yn eich sylwadau agoriadol, bydd mentrau cymdeithasol yn chwarae rhan fawr yn economi Cymru yn y dyfodol. Rydym yn ceisio creu amgylchedd o gynnydd cynaliadwy ar gyfer datblygu busnes. Clywais ddweud yn aml fod mentrau cymdeithasol yn fodolau cymdeithasol da, ond credaf na ddylai mentrau cymdeithasol ofni gwneud arian: mae'n ymwneud â bod yn llwyddiannus fel sefydliad busnes. Rwy'n awyddus iawn i haeru hynny.

Mae argymhelliad 14 yn cynnig creu system gyllid bwrpasol i'r sector mentrau cymdeithasol yng Nghymru. Er y gall fod

a reliance on grant funding in the sector, there is loan finance available and there are a number of specialist lenders to provide loan finance. As you will be aware, Gareth, I also have a ministerial advisory group on social enterprise and I tasked the group with looking at what opportunities exist and what the barriers are to setting up a social enterprise. I have also asked the group to look at whether it is about loan or grant funding.

As outlined in recommendation 15, we will continue to work with our partners to improve the provision of financial and business advice to social enterprises. 'Economic Renewal: a new direction' states that the Government has a role in providing information to business, especially online, to ensure easy access to clear guidance on important issues for businesses. It is not only about access and people being signposted in the right direction; from the further development work that we are considering, it is also about what the barriers are and how to access funding. We have a lot to learn from across the border. There are great models of social enterprise in England. We should not close doors and put up barriers to understanding what is delivered better elsewhere. It is an opportunity for us in Wales to do that.

Finally, we accept recommendation 16. Our current approach to workforce development is consistent across all sectors. Social enterprise employers can access services on the same basis as private sector employers. Work is currently under way to develop a volunteer business mentoring service in Wales. The service will draw together organisations and individuals from both the voluntary and business communities who can offer mentoring support to new business start-ups. I am aware of our close contact with Communitas. Charlotte Galsworthy is the name that springs to mind in relation to driving the agenda forward and moving social enterprise mentoring forward. The service will become available in 2011-12. Training in mentoring skills will be made available through the DCELLS mentoring and coaching skills training programme. The report is helpful as regards taking this

ddibyniaeth ar arian grant yn y sector, mae cyllid ar gael drwy fenthyciadau ac mae nifer o fenthycwyr arbenigol i roi cyllid drwy fenthyciad. Fel y gwyddoch, Gareth, mae gennyf yn ogystal grŵp cynghori'r Gweinidog ar fentrau cymdeithasol a gosodais iddo'r dasg o edrych ar ba gyfleoedd sydd a beth yw'r rhwystrau i sefydlu menter gymdeithasol. Rwyf hefyd wedi gofyn i'r grŵp i ganfod a yw'n ymwneud â chyllid drwy fenthyciad neu drwy grant.

Fel yr amlinellir yn argymhelliad 15, byddwn yn parhau i weithio gyda'n partneriaid i wella'r ddarpariaeth o gyngor ariannol a chyngor busnes i fentrau cymdeithasol. Mae 'Adnewyddu'r Economi: cyfeiriad newydd' yn nodi bod gan y Llywodraeth rôl o ran darparu gwybodaeth i fusnesau, yn enwedig ar-lein, i sicrhau mynediad hawdd i ganllawiau clir ar faterion pwysig ar gyfer busnesau. Nid yw'n ymwneud â mynediad a dangos y ffordd i bobl yn unig; o'r gwaith datblygu ymhellach yr ydym yn ei ystyried mae hefyd yn ymwneud â pha rwystrau sydd a sut mae cael hyd i gyllid. Mae gennym lawer i'w ddysgu o'r hyn a wneir dros y ffin. Mae modelau gwych o fentrau cymdeithasol yn Lloegr. Ni ddylem gau'r drysau a gosod rhwystrau rhag deall yr hyn sy'n cael ei ddarparu'n well mewn mannau eraill. Mae'n gyfle i ni yng Nghymru i wneud hynny.

Yn olaf, rydym yn derbyn argymhelliad 16. Mae ein dull presennol o ddatblygu'r gweithlu yn gyson ar draws pob sector. Mae cyflogwyr mentrau cymdeithasol yn cael mynediad i wasanaethau ar yr un sail â chyflogwyr yn y sector preifat. Mae gwaith yn mynd rhagddo ar hyn o bryd i ddatblygu gwasanaeth mentora gwirfoddol busnesau yng Nghymru. Bydd y gwasanaeth yn dwyn ynghyd sefydliadau ac unigolion o'r y sector gwirfoddol ac o fusnes fel ei gilydd a all gynnig cefnogaeth fentora i fusnesau sydd newydd gychwyn. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'n cysylltiad agos â Communitas. Charlotte Galsworthy yw'r enw sy'n dod i gof o ran gyrru'r agenda yn ei blaen a symud mentora mentrau cymdeithasol yn ei flaen. Bydd y gwasanaeth ar gael yn 2011-12. Bydd hyfforddiant mewn sgiliau mentora ar gael drwy raglen DCELLS ar gyfer hyfforddiant mentora a sgiliau hyfforddi. Mae'r adroddiad

forward. It is a fast-moving feast. We have learned from the committee stages and the advisory group that things change quickly in the world of business. We have to be able to adapt to that. I thank your committee and hope that we will take these recommendations forward.

Darren Millar: I am pleased to be able to participate in this debate, but I hasten to add that I was not present for any of the committee's evidence sessions because I did not join the committee until a later date. However, I have had the opportunity to digest the report and I have to say that it is fantastic, and I commend the members of the committee for coming up with such excellent recommendations. Indeed, I also have to give credit to the Minister for his positive response. I know that a few recommendations were rejected, but, to be fair, the Minister's response is encouraging. We are united across the Chamber on the need to support social enterprises. We see many of them on a daily basis in our constituencies, and they do some fantastic work, so the more support that we can give them to grow, develop and extend their influence throughout Wales, the better.

3.50 p.m.

There are some encouraging signs of entrepreneurial spirit in Wales. The committee's report showed that the WAG mapping exercise identified over 3,000 social enterprises in Wales in 2008. Two thirds of those were established, meaning that they earned at least half their income, and about a quarter were self-sustaining, with 100 per cent of their income being earned. There are opportunities, as identified in the report, for social enterprise to make a greater contribution to economic development in Wales. That is why the recommendation to bring social enterprise within the Department for Economy and Transport was so important. Although I accept what you said about working more closely with the Deputy First Minister and his officials to develop a more comprehensive approach by the Welsh Assembly Government, I think that you should think again, if that is unsuccessful, about whether a transfer of responsibilities should take place in future.

yn ddefnyddiol o ran bwrw ymlaen â hyn. Mae'r wyl yn hwylio ymlaen. Yr ydym wedi dysgu o'r camau pwyllgor a'r grŵp cynghori fod pethau yn newid yn gyflym ym myd busnes. Mae'n rhaid i ni allu addasu i hynny. Diolchaf eich pwyllgor ac rwy'n gobeithio yr awn â'r argymhellion hyn yn eu blaen.

Darren Millar: Yr wyf yn falch o gael cymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon, ond prysuraf i ychwanegu nad oeddwn yn bresennol yn yr un o sesiynau tystiolaeth y pwyllgor gan nad oeddwn wedi ymuno â'r pwyllgor tan rywbryd wedi hynny. Fodd bynnag, rwyf wedi cael cyfle i bwysu a mesur yr adroddiad a rhaid dweud ei fod yn wych, ac rwy'n cymeradwyo aelodau'r pwyllgor am gynnig argymhellion ardderchog o'r fath. Yn wir, rhaid yn ogystal roi clod i'r Gweinidog am ei ymateb cadarnhaol. Gwn i rai argymhellion gael eu gwrthod, ond, a bod yn deg, mae ymateb y Gweinidog yn galonogol. Rydym yn unedig drwy'r Siambr ynghylch yr angen i gefnogi mentrau cymdeithasol. Rydym yn gweld llawer ohonynt bob dydd yn ein hetholaethau, ac maent yn gwneud gwaith gwych, felly gorau po fwyaf y cymorth y gallwn ei roi iddynt dyfu, datblygu ac ymestyn eu dylanwad ar draws Cymru.

Mae rhai arwyddion calonogol bod ysbryd entrepreneuriaidd yng Nghymru. Mae adroddiad y pwyllgor yn dangos i ymarfer mapio Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru nodi dros 3,000 o fentrau cymdeithasol yng Nghymru yn 2008. Mae dwy o bob tair ohonynt yn sefydlog, sy'n golygu iddynt ennill o leiaf hanner eu hincwm, gyda thua chwarter ohonynt yn hunangynhaliol, sef eu bod yn ennill 100 y cant o'u hincwm. Mae cyfleoedd, fel y nodwyd yn yr adroddiad, i fenter gymdeithasol wneud cyfraniad mwy i ddatblygu economaidd yng Nghymru. Dyna pam yr oedd yr argymhelliad i ddod â menter gymdeithasol o dan Adran yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth mor bwysig. Er fy mod yn derbyn yr hyn a ddywedasoch am weithio'n agosach gyda'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'i swyddogion i ddatblygu ymagwedd fwy cynhwysfawr ar ran Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, credaf y dylech ailystyried, os yw hynny'n aflwyddiannus, a ddylid trosglwyddo cyfrifoldebau yn y dyfodol.

One of the key recommendations in the report was that enterprise education should include social enterprise and entrepreneurship, and that social enterprise should be integrated with the careers advice services and work experience programmes of schools and universities. This is something that we on this side of the Chamber feel strongly about. You may remember that we tabled a debate on this issue a few months ago, and we should be striving to encourage and promote the entrepreneurial spirit from an early school age. We need to ensure that our young people are equipped with the skills that they need to establish themselves in business and in life more widely. Social enterprises in schools would give our children and young people the opportunity to develop their life skills in that way, and to develop those business skills that would set them up for a successful life in the wider world. We want to see the next generation enter the workplace as astute businesspeople with real experience under their belts. They are the wealth creators of tomorrow and that is why establishing social enterprises in our schools and promoting them is so important.

Gareth touched on the issues around procurement that the committee identified. The public sector spends over £4 billion on external goods and services, and it is important that we encourage and promote opportunities for social enterprises to exploit the procurement system. The evidence that the committee received was telling; there just is not the capacity or wherewithal among social enterprises to take advantage of some of these opportunities, and it is important that we build that capacity within social enterprises on an individual basis, working together on procurement opportunities in the future.

Recommendation 14, on the need for a bespoke finance system, is also interesting. Those who watched Prime Minister's question time today will have heard that the UK Government is establishing the big society bank with £200 million. It would be great to see the Assembly Government working with the UK Government to see what can be drawn down to Wales for the development of social enterprises. I wonder

Un o'r prif argymhellion yn yr adroddiad oedd y dylai addysg fenter gynnwys menter ac entrepreneuriaeth gymdeithasol, ac y dylai menter gymdeithasol gael ei hintegreiddio â gwasanaethau cyngor ar yrfaeodd a rhaglenni profiad gwaith ysgolion a phrifysgolion. Mae hyn yn rhywbeth yr ydym ni yr ochr hon i'r Siambr yn teimlo'n gryf amdano. Efallai y cofiwch inni gyflwyno dadl ar y mater hwn ychydig fisoedd yn ôl; dylem fod yn ymdrechu i annog a hyrwyddo'r ysbryd entrepreneuriaidd ar oedran ysgol cynnar. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod ein pobl ifanc yn meddu ar y sgiliau y mae arnynt eu hangen i sefydlu eu hunain mewn busnes ac yn ehangach na hynny. Byddai mentrau cymdeithasol mewn ysgolion yn gyfle i'n plant a'n pobl ifanc i ddatblygu eu sgiliau bywyd yn y ffordd honno, ac i ddatblygu'r sgiliau busnes hynny a fyddai'n eu paratoi ar gyfer bywyd llwyddiannus yn y byd mawr. Rydym eisiau gweld y genhedlaeth nesaf yn mynd i'r gweithle yn bobl fusnes graff â chanddynt brofiad go iawn i'w henwau. Hwylwyr crewyr cyfoeth y dyfodol a dyna pam y mae sefydlu mentrau cymdeithasol yn ein hysgolion a'u hyrwyddo mor bwysig.

Soniodd Gareth am y materion caffael a nodwyd gan y pwyllgor. Mae'r sector cyhoeddus yn gwario dros £4 biliwn ar nwyddau a gwasanaethau allanol, ac mae'n bwysig ein bod yn annog ac yn hyrwyddo cyfleoedd i fentrau cymdeithasol fanteisio ar y system gaffael. Mae'r dystiolaeth a gafodd y pwyllgor yn drawiadol; nid oes gan fentrau cymdeithasol y capasiti a'r adnoddau i fanteisio ar rai o'r cyfleoedd hyn; mae'n bwysig ein bod yn adeiladu capasiti yn y mentrau cymdeithasol fesul un, gan weithio ar y cyd ar gyfleoedd caffael yn y dyfodol.

Mae argymhelliad 14, ar yr angen am system gyllid bwrpasol, hefyd yn ddiddorol. Bydd y rhai a wylodd sesiwn holi ac ateb Prif Weinidog y DU heddiw wedi clywed bod Llywodraeth y DU yn sefydlu banc y gymdeithas fawr gyda £200 miliwn. Byddai'n wych i weld Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gweithio gyda Llywodraeth y DU i weld pa beth y gellir ei dynnu i lawr i Gymru ar gyfer datblygu mentrau

whether we will be able to get a further response from the Minister on the UK Government's announcements today. Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this debate.

Jeff Cuthbert: I am pleased to have this opportunity to contribute to this debate. I speak as a member of the committee that approved this report and I would like to thank Gareth, our Chair, the committee clerks, the expert adviser and the other members of the committee for their work in bringing the report to fruition. I also thank all the witnesses who came to give us essential information and evidence. A particularly important form of social enterprise is the credit union and I will turn to the role that credit unions play, particularly in my constituency, in a few moments. However, first, I would like to concentrate on two particular recommendations in the report, focusing on the role of leadership and skills in small social enterprises and their importance to the economy overall.

I am pleased that the Welsh Government has accepted recommendation 12 in full. The 'Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy: An Action Plan for Wales 2010-15', which was launched last November, places great importance on the role of social enterprises. It is important that young people today are equipped with the necessary skills to enable them to set up and work in social enterprises. Many of these organisations, particularly those that are smaller in scale, have a skills deficit that they find difficult to address. Careers Wales and further and higher education institutions have an important role to play, and I am pleased that the recent FE governance review allows for that. It is also important that social enterprises do their bit by advertising work experience placements to local young people.

I am again pleased that the Welsh Government has decided to accept recommendation 16 in full. The importance of skills training is no different in the social enterprise sector than it is in the wider economy, particularly in these financially tough times. It is imperative that social enterprises make use of initiatives such as the

cymdeithasol. Tybed a fyddwn yn gallu cael ymateb pellach gan y Gweinidog ynghylch cyhoeddiadau Llywodraeth y DU heddiw? Diolch i chi am y cyfle i gymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon.

Jeff Cuthbert: Yr wyf yn falch o gael y cyfle i gyfrannu yn y ddadl hon. Siaradaf fel aelod o'r pwyllgor a gymeradwyodd yr adroddiad hwn a hoffwn ddiolch i Gareth, ein Cadeirydd, clercod y pwyllgor, y cynghorydd arbenigol ac aelodau eraill y pwyllgor am eu gwaith yn dod â'r adroddiad i'w derfyn. Diolchaf hefyd i'r holl dystion a ddaeth i roi gwybodaeth a thystiolaeth hanfodol i ni. Ffurf arbennig o bwysig ar fenter gymdeithasol yw'r undeb credyd a byddaf yn troi at y rôl y mae undebau credyd yn ei chwarae, yn enwedig yn fy etholaeth i, mewn eiliad. Fodd bynnag, yn gyntaf, hoffwn ganolbwyntio ar ddau argymhelliad penodol yn yr adroddiad, gan roi sylw i rôl arweinyddiaeth a sgiliau mewn mentrau cymdeithasol bach a'u pwysigrwydd i'r economi yn gyffredinol.

Rwy'n falch bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi derbyn argymhelliad 12 yn llawn. Mae'r 'Strategaeth Entrepreneuriaeth Ieuenctid: Cynllun Gweithredu i Gymru 2010-15', a lansiwyd fis Tachwedd diwethaf, yn rhoi pwyslais mawr ar rôl mentrau cymdeithasol. Mae'n bwysig bod pobl ifanc heddiw yn meddu ar y sgiliau angenrheidiol i'w galluogi i sefydlu mentrau cymdeithasol a gweithio ynddynt. Mewn llawer o'r sefydliadau hyn, yn enwedig y rhai llai eu maint, mae diffyg sgiliau y mae'n anodd iddynt fynd i'r afael ag ef. Mae gan Yrfa Cymru a sefydliadau addysg bellach ac addysg uwch rôl bwysig i'w chwarae, ac rwy'n falch bod yr adolygiad diweddar o lywodraethu addysg bellach yn caniatáu am hynny. Mae hefyd yn bwysig bod mentrau cymdeithasol yn gwneud eu rhan drwy hysbysebu lleoliadau profiad gwaith i bobl ifanc leol.

Yr wyf hefyd yn falch bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi penderfynu derbyn argymhelliad 16 yn llawn. Mae pwysigrwydd hyfforddiant mewn sgiliau yr un peth i'r sector menter gymdeithasol ag ydyw yn yr economi yn gyffredinol, yn enwedig yn y cyfnod ariannol anodd hwn. Mae'n hanfodol bod mentrau cymdeithasol yn defnyddio mentrau megis

workforce development programme, and take note of its particular flexibility, leadership and management development, modern apprenticeships and European-funded training and recruitment programmes, such as ReAct and its successor programmes, ReAct II and Adapt. I am also pleased that the Welsh Government's economic renewal programme has begun work to develop a volunteer business mentoring service, which I would urge social enterprises to make use of when it is up and running. By doing so, they can make use of expertise from the business community and the voluntary sector to their benefit.

Finally, I would like to come on to the issue of credit unions, which are some of the most important types of social enterprises. One example is Smart Money Credit Union, which is based in Caerphilly. Just this week, I was contacted by local councillors and residents in my constituency who are involved with Smart Money's work in the Rhymney valley. The local credit union in Tir-y-berth, organised by Lorna Card, a local resident, acts as a service point for Smart Money. Recently started, it currently collects up to £300 weekly from just 12 members, and holds regular coffee mornings to encourage greater local participation and to get more volunteers to help out. Indeed, they feel that the value to the community of voluntary ventures and social enterprises needs to be actively promoted. There is a golden opportunity here for social enterprises to play a greater role, in the economy and in community life. In terms of the broader picture, the report recognises that and I am pleased that, on the areas that I have chosen to highlight, the Welsh Government agrees completely.

Jenny Randerson: I start by thanking Gareth Jones, our Chair. As ever, he led us ably during this review. This is a key report, given that 29,000 people are employed in social enterprises across Wales. However, our study showed that social enterprises need help to compete for contracts and with the development of professional skills. They are often overlooked as a key part of the economy. It is therefore vital that we develop this sector to its full potential because, as a

rhaglen datblygu'r gweithlu, ac yn cymryd sylw o'i rhaglenni arbennig i ddatblygu hyblygrwydd, arweinyddiaeth a rheolaeth, prentisiaethau modern a rhaglenni hyfforddiant a recriwtio a ariennir gan Ewrop, megis ReAct a'r rhaglenni sy'n ei olynu, ReAct II ac Addasu. Rwyf hefyd yn falch bod rhaglen Llywodraeth Cymru i adnewyddu'r economi wedi dechrau datblygu gwasanaeth mentora gwirfoddol busnesau, a byddwn yn annog mentrau cymdeithasol i'w ddefnyddio pan fydd ar ei draed. Drwy wneud hynny, gallant ddefnyddio arbenigedd o'r gymuned fusnes a'r sector gwirfoddol er eu lles hwy.

Yn olaf, hoffwn ddod i fater yr undebau credyd, sydd ymysg y mathau pwysicaf o fentrau cymdeithasol. Un enghraifft yw Undeb Credyd Smart Money yng Nghaerffili. Mor ddiweddar â'r wythnos hon, cysylltwyd â mi gan gynghorwyr lleol a thrigolion yn fy etholaeth sy'n ymwneud â gwaith Smart Money yng nghwm Rhymni. Mae'r undeb credyd lleol yn Nhir-y-berth, a drefnir gan Lorna Card, un o'r trigolion lleol, yn gweithredu fel canolfan i gael gwasanaethau Smart Money. Cafodd ei ddechrau'n ddiweddar ac ar hyn o bryd mae'n casglu hyd at £300 yr wythnos gan 12 aelod yn unig, ac mae'n cynnal boreau coffi yn rheolaidd i annog mwy o gyfranogi'n lleol ac i gael mwy o wirfoddolwyr i roi help llaw. Yn wir, maent yn teimlo y dylid mynd ati i hyrwyddo gwerth mentrau gwirfoddol a mentrau cymdeithasol i'r gymuned. Mae cyfle euraid yma i fentrau cymdeithasol chwarae rôl ehangach, yn yr economi ac ym mywyd y gymuned. O ran y darlun ehangach, mae'r adroddiad yn cydnabod hynny ac rwy'n falch bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn cytuno yn llwyr ar y meysydd yr wyf wedi dewis tynnu sylw atynt.

Jenny Randerson: Dechreuaf drwy ddiolch i Gareth Jones, ein Cadeirydd. Fe arweiniodd ni, fel y mae bob amser, yn alluog yn ystod yr adolygiad hwn. Mae hwn yn adroddiad allweddol, o gofio bod 29,000 o bobl yn cael eu cyflogi gan fentrau cymdeithasol ledled Cymru. Er hynny, mae ein hastudiaeth yn dangos bod mentrau cymdeithasol angen help i gystadlu am gontractau a chyda datblygu sgiliau proffesiynol. Maent yn aml yn cael eu hanwybyddu fel rhan allweddol o'r economi.

country, we do not have the big company headquarters that other countries in the United Kingdom are able to call on and rely on.

We do not have a healthy economy at this time; indeed, our relative GVA is falling. Economic development has not been a success story of devolution, and I was interested to hear today Jeff Jones's comments, when he called Wales 'the basket case of the UK'. If Labour says that here in Wales, it is indeed a big problem. Therefore, we have to look for more imaginative solutions, and I believe that social enterprise could provide them. Particularly in these difficult financial times, the Welsh Assembly Government should be looking much more specifically at social enterprise to provide some public services. That has been badly overlooked in Wales, but it has been done in other parts of the United Kingdom, and it can be done here. Encouraging social enterprise in some of the public services would be a crucial development. A lot more can be done by the Welsh Assembly Government to encourage procurement, because, time and again, the witnesses talked about the problems of bidding for projects.

4.00 p.m.

I am pleased that the Minister has accepted most of our recommendations, but there are questions to answer as to why some of them have been rejected. You rejected the recommendation on targets, Minister, and said that targets are artificial. The problem is that, when there are targets for everything else, people inevitably work to them, and ignore the area that is target-free. Therefore, that is a problem. You have also rejected the proposal to give ministerial responsibility to the Department for the Economy and Transport. I would repeat the words of Andrew Davies, who said in the committee that

'one of the problems is a lack of focus or clarity about where responsibility, at ministerial and official level, for this initiative lies'.

Felly, mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn datblygu'r sector hwn i'w lawn botensial oherwydd, fel gwlad, nid oes gennym bencadlysoedd y cwmnïau mawr y gall gwledydd eraill yn y Deyrnas Unedig alw arnynt a dibynnu arnynt.

Nid oes gennym economi iach ar hyn o bryd; yn wir, mae lefel gymharol ein GYC yn gostwng. Nid yw datblygiad economaidd wedi bod yn un o straeon llwyddiant datganoli, ac roedd yn ddi-ddorol clywed sylwadau Jeff Jones heddiw, a ddisgrifiodd Gymru fel 'achos anobeithiol y DU'. Os yw Llafur yn dweud hynny yma yng Nghymru, mae'n wir yn broblem fawr. Felly, rhaid i ni chwilio am atebion mwy dychmygus, a chredaf y gallai menter gymdeithasol eu darparu. Yn enwedig yn y cyfnod o gyni ariannol hwn, dylai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru fod yn ystyried mentrau cymdeithasol yn fwy penodol o lawer i ddarparu rhai gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Mae hynny wedi cael ei esgeuluso yn druenus yng Nghymru, ond mae wedi cael ei wneud mewn rhannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig, a gellir ei wneud yma. Byddai annog mentrau cymdeithasol parthed rhai o'r gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn ddatblygiad allweddol. Gall Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wneud llawer mwy i annog caffael, oherwydd, dro ar ôl tro, soniodd y tystion am y problemau wrth geisio am brosiectau.

Rwy'n falch bod y Gweinidog wedi derbyn y rhan fwyaf o'n hargymhellion, ond mae yna gwestiynau i'w hateb ynghylch pam y mae rhai ohonynt wedi cael eu gwrthod. Rydych wedi gwrthod yr argymhelliad ar dargedau, Weinidog, a dywedoch fod targedau yn artiffisial. Y broblem yw, pan ceir targedau ar gyfer popeth arall, mae'n anochel y bydd pobl yn gweithio iddynt, ac yn anwybyddu'r maes sydd heb dargedau. Felly, mae hynny'n broblem. Rydych hefyd wedi gwrthod y cynnig i roi cyfrifoldeb gweinidogol i Adran yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth. Byddwn yn ailadrodd geiriau Andrew Davies, a ddywedodd wrth y pwyllgor mai

un o'r problemau yw diffyg ffocws neu eglurder ynghylch pwy sy'n gyfrifol, ar lefel gweinidogion a swyddogion, ar gyfer y fenter hon.

He goes on to point out that social enterprise has been shifted around so much between Ministers that

‘it feels like an illegitimate child and it often falls between several parents’.

The Minister says that the responsibility belongs to everyone, but the problem is that, all too often, when the responsibility is said to belong to everyone, in practice it belongs to no-one. I believe that, in order to make the most of the potential of social enterprise, it needs to be treated as part of the real, hard economy. It needs to be at the core of the economy, and at the core of the thinking of the Minister with responsibility for economic development. It should not be a philanthropic add-on. That is no aspersion on the Minister’s ability to deal with it—I am looking to the future, beyond the Assembly elections.

The Minister has only accepted in principle our recommendation on the need for a bespoke finance system. I am not convinced when the Minister says that there is not a significant gap in the financial support on offer. We received evidence during the inquiry that many banks assume that social enterprise will not be profitable. Only today, my office has been contacted by a representative of a social enterprise, who was stressing the need for long-term, flexible loans and for a good, coherent approach to financing. The Welsh Liberal Democrats would like to establish local enterprise funds, which would provide that flexibility. Dedicated funds are available, but there also needs to be a specific initiative that is undertaken with the commercial banks to encourage them to lend as well.

Finally, the Welsh Assembly Government has a key role in this respect. Anyone who doubts that should remember the crucial role that the Government played in the establishment of Glas Cymru, not to mention the encouragement and financial support that it received. The support that was given to it was absolutely key to its being set up in the first place, and, to this day, it is a very good example of an effective and efficient social

Mae’n mynd ymlaen i nodi bod menter gymdeithasol wedi cael ei symud o gwmpas cymaint rhwng Gweinidogion

mae’n teimlo fel plentyn anghyfreithlon ac y mae’n aml yn cael ei rhannu rhwng nifer o rieni.

Dywed y Gweinidog bod y cyfrifoldeb yn perthyn i bawb, ond y broblem yw, yn rhy aml, pan ddywedir bod y cyfrifoldeb yn perthyn i bawb, yn ymarferol mae’n perthyn i neb. Er mwyn gwneud y mwyaf o botensial mentrau cymdeithasol, credaf fod angen iddynt gael eu trin fel rhan o’r economi go iawn, yr economi caled. Mae angen iddynt fod yn ganolog i’r economi, ac yn ganolog i feddylfryd y Gweinidog sy’n gyfrifol am ddatblygu economaidd. Ni ddylai fod yn ychwanegiad dyngarol. Nid yw hynny’n feirniadaeth o allu’r Gweinidog i ddelio â hwn—rwy’n edrych i’r dyfodol, y tu hwnt i etholiadau’r Cynulliad.

Mae’r Gweinidog wedi derbyn mewn egwyddor yn unig ein hargymhelliad ar yr angen am system gyllid bwrpasol. Nid wyf yn argyhoeddedig pan ddywed y Gweinidog nad oes bwlch sylweddol yn y cymorth ariannol sydd ar gael. Cawsom dystiolaeth yn ystod yr ymchwiliad bod llawer o fanciau yn ei gymryd yn ganiataol na fydd menter gymdeithasol yn broffidiol. Dim ond heddiw, mae cynrychiolydd o fenter gymdeithasol wedi cysylltu â fy swyddfa, a bwysleisiodd yr angen am fenthyciadau hirdymor a hyblyg a dull da a threfnus o ariannu. Hoffai Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru sefydlu cronfeydd menter lleol, a fyddai’n darparu’r hyblygrwydd hwnnw. Mae cronfeydd penodol ar gael, ond mae hefyd angen menter benodol ar y cyd gyda’r banciau masnachol i’w hannog i fenthyg hefyd.

Yn olaf, mae gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru rôl allweddol yn hyn o beth. Dylai unrhyw un sy’n amau hynny gofio rôl hollbwysig y Llywodraeth wrth sefydlu Glas Cymru, heb sôn am yr anogaeth a’r cymorth ariannol a dderbyniodd. Roedd y gefnogaeth a roddwyd iddo yn gwbl allweddol i’w sefydliad yn y lle cyntaf, ac, hyd heddiw, mae’n enghraifft dda iawn o fenter gymdeithasol effeithiol ac effeithlon.

enterprise.

Lorraine Barrett: I thank Gareth for chairing the committee in producing the report. I wish that I had been a member of the committee for the inquiry, because, as Chair of the Assembly group of Labour co-operative party members, I take an interest in social enterprise. It is an amazing report. I am pleased that you mentioned that Lis Burnett was your special adviser, because she is an amazing champion for social enterprise. I can see her in the public gallery, and she looks rather embarrassed, but she lives, eats and breathes social enterprise and you could not have had a better adviser at your side.

I welcome the recommendation to integrate social enterprises into the careers advice services and work experience programmes of schools and universities. Education is the way forward. The recommendation that I am more taken with is recommendation 5, which should almost be the main heading at the beginning of the report. It says that the potential of social enterprise should not be viewed as a means of mopping up services that need to be delivered more cheaply. It should not be a cheap option; it should be a way of developing new, innovative and more effective methods of delivery.

I got quite excited when you named some of the organisations that came to speak to the committee—Pack-IT, NoFit State Circus and UnLtd, as all of these are based in my constituency. I have seen them grow over the years. The former First Minister is heckling me from a sedentary position, but I will take no notice.

The Presiding Officer: Order. He cannot do that, or he will be out on his head.

Lorraine Barrett: This will be true of many of us already, but people are getting to recognise the importance of social enterprise in society today and the need to develop individual social entrepreneurs. UnLtd develops social entrepreneurs and, in its contribution to the inquiry, Gareth Bickerton stated that

Lorraine Barrett: Diolch i Gareth am gadeirio'r pwyllgor a luniodd yr adroddiad hwn. Buaswn wedi hoffi bod yn aelod o'r pwyllgor ar gyfer yr ymchwiliad, oherwydd, fel Cadeirydd grŵp y Cynulliad o aelodau'r blaid Lafur cydweithredol, mae gennyf ddi-ddordeb mewn menter cymdeithasol. Mae'n adroddiad anhygoel. Rwy'n falch eich bod wedi sôn mai Lis Burnett oedd eich cynghorydd arbennig, am ei bod yn eiriolwr anhygoel dros menter gymdeithasol. Gallaf ei gweld yn yr oriel gyhoeddus, ac mae hi'n edrych mewn embaras, ond mae hi'n byw, bwyta ac anadlu menter gymdeithasol ac ni allech fod wedi cael cynghorydd gwell wrth eich ochr.

Rwy'n croesawu'r argymhelliad i integreiddio mentrau cymdeithasol i mewn i wasanaethau cyngor gyrfaedd a rhaglenni profiad gwaith ysgolion a phrifysgolion. Addysg yw'r ffordd ymlaen. Yr argymhelliad sy'n apelio fwyaf ataf yw argymhelliad 5, a ddylai fod bron iawn yn brif bennawd ar ddechrau'r adroddiad. Mae'n dweud na ddylai potensial menter gymdeithasol gael ei ystyried fel ffordd o geisio mopio i fyny'r gwasanaethau hynny sydd angen eu darparu yn rhatach. Ni ddylai fod yn ddewis rhad; dylai fod yn ffordd o ddatblygu dulliau newydd, arloesol a mwy effeithiol o delifro.

Bu i mi gynhyrfu pan fu ichi enwi rhai o'r sefydliadau a ddaeth i siarad â'r pwyllgor—Pack-IT, NoFit State Circus ac UnLtd, gan fod pob un o'r rhain wedi'u lleoli yn fy etholaeth. Rwyf wedi eu gweld yn tyfu dros y blynyddoedd. Mae'r Prif Weinidog blaenorol yn fy heclo ar ei eistedd, ond ni chymeraf sylw ohono.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni all wneud hynny, neu y bydd allan ar ei ben.

Lorraine Barrett: Bydd hyn yn wir am lawer ohonom yn barod, ond mae pobl yn dod i gydnabod pwysigrwydd menter gymdeithasol mewn cymdeithas heddiw ac yn gweld bod angen i ddatblygu entrepreneuriaid cymdeithasol unigol. Mae UnLtd yn datblygu entrepreneuriaid cymdeithasol ac, yn ei gyfraniad at yr ymchwiliad, dywedodd Gareth Bickerton bod

'entrepreneurs without social commitment create wealth for the few. Social commitment without enterprise drains the public funds. Social entrepreneurs create wealth and share it with the whole of the community.'

entrepreneuriaid heb ymrwymiad cymdeithasol yn creu cyfoeth ar gyfer ychydig o bobl. Mae ymrwymiad cymdeithasol heb fenter yn dreth ar adnoddau cyhoeddus. Mae entrepreneuriaid cymdeithasol yn creu cyfoeth ac yn ei rhannu gyda'r gymuned gyfan.

I think that it was worth repeating those important words.

Credaf ei fod yn werth ailadrodd y geiriau pwysig hynny.

Adele Brakebrough, who is one of my constituents and the chair of Breakthrough, is one of the UK's leading social entrepreneurs. In her evidence—and this goes back to the need to work within schools and universities—she says that the way forward is to encourage young people to be entrepreneurial, but in a social context. She also talked about it not being a case of the voluntary sector or social enterprise sector taking over from the public sector; that is not what it is about. It is about imaginative collaboration and removing the barriers that have been in place in the past. I see social enterprise as an important part of the jigsaw that makes up the economy of Wales and I hope that it continues to grow and mature, and that it is seen as a crucial part of Wales's economic future in the wider world.

Mae Adele Brakebrough, sydd yn un o fy etholwyr a chadeirydd Breakthrough, yn un o entrepreneuriaid cymdeithasol mwyaf blaenllaw'r DU. Yn ei thystiolaeth—ac y mae hyn yn ymwneud â'r angen i weithio mewn ysgolion a phrifysgolion—dywed mai'r ffordd ymlaen yw annog pobl ifanc i fod yn entrepreneuriaid, ond mewn cyddestun cymdeithasol. Dywed hefyd nad yw'n fater o'r sector gwirfoddol neu'r sector menter gymdeithasol yn cymryd drosodd oddi wrth y sector cyhoeddus; nid dyna yw'r pwrpas. Y pwrpas yw cydweithredu llawn dychymyg a chael gwared ar y rhwystrau a oedd yn bodoli yn y gorffennol. Rwy'n gweld menter gymdeithasol fel rhan bwysig o jig-so economi Cymru a gobeithiaf y bydd yn parhau i dyfu ac aeddfedu, a'i fod yn cael ei ystyried yn rhan hanfodol o ddyfodol economaidd Cymru yn y byd ehangach.

I will end by thanking you, Gareth, and your committee for an excellent report. It is one of the best that I have seen in a long time. It is very thorough and really gets to the crux of what social enterprise is about and what it should be about. Therefore, thank you for that.

Hoffwn gloi drwy ddiolch i chi, Gareth, a'ch pwyllgor am adroddiad ardderchog. Dyma un o'r adroddiadau gorau rwyf wedi ei weld ers amser maith. Mae'n drylwyr iawn ac yn wir yn mynd at wraidd pwrpas mentrau cymdeithasol a'r hyn y dylent eu gwneud. Felly, diolch am hynny.

David Melding: This is an excellent report. It was a pleasure to be on the committee that drafted it. I had a marvellous morning, when I joined Gareth Jones as he launched this report at the new, expanded headquarters of Pack-IT in Tremorfa. It was launched at a special conference held to examine the potential of social enterprises in Wales. The conference was packed and people were very heartened to receive the news of this report. In fact, I would say that they were enthused.

David Melding: Mae hwn yn adroddiad ardderchog. Roedd yn bleser i fod yn aelod o'r pwyllgor a ddrafftiodd ef. Cefais fore gwych, pan ymunais â Gareth Jones wrth iddo lansio'r adroddiad hwn ym mhencadlys newydd, estynedig Pack-IT yn Nhremorfa. Cafodd ei lansio mewn cynhadledd arbennig a gynhaliwyd i ystyried potensial mentrau cymdeithasol yng Nghymru. Roedd y gynhadledd yn orlawn ac roedd pobl yn falch iawn i dderbyn y newyddion am yr adroddiad hwn. Yn wir, byddwn yn dweud eu bod yn frwdfrydig.

Gareth has been a most exceptional Chair of a scrutiny committee, because he leads from the front and often makes life uncomfortable for the Welsh Assembly Government when he needs to—not gratuitously, but he takes the job seriously. I do not think that his speech could have been delivered with as much authority by someone on this side of the Chamber; it was a model of its form. You are right to say, Gareth, that the Government's response to this has been tired. Where it has accepted the recommendations, it has welcomed the report, but its response was tired. It is rare that I play hard cop to Darren Millar's soft cop, but I think that his natural generosity got the better of him when he responded to Carl Sargeant and I intend to interrogate the Minister a bit more thoroughly in terms of his response to recommendations 3 and 4.

4.10 p.m.

I will start with recommendation 3, namely the need to set some sort of benchmark or aspiration. This is about ambition and unless we say that we want an expanded social enterprise sector, meaning that it would be a larger part of the economy than it is today, we are not giving that leadership. This is not an artificial target; it is a statement of intent of our ambition. It is important that the Government revisits this recommendation and realises the purposes behind it. The evidence was very clear: this is the sort of statement that we need to make.

The use of social enterprises is an excellent vehicle for economic regeneration in general. It requires some reshaping of public services. Some are shy to mention this, as was the previous speaker, who gave an otherwise excellent speech. This will affect some forms of public service delivery. It is not about delivering public services on the cheap, and it is not about replacing current models for the sake of it. It is about adapting current models and giving local communities more power to have the most effective and appropriate public services. In part, that means local people being employed to deliver these services. Often, we do things to our poorest communities—not with those communities

Mae Gareth wedi bod yn Gadeirydd eithriadol o bwyllgor craffu, oherwydd ei fod yn arwain o'r blaen ac yn aml yn gwneud bywyd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn anghyfforddus pan fydd angen iddo wneud hynny—nid yn ddireswm, ond mae'n cymryd y swydd o ddifrif. Nid wyf yn credu y gallai ei araith wedi cael ei adrodd gyda chymaint o awdurdod gan rywun ar ochr hon y Siambr; roedd yn fodel o'i ffurf. Rydych yn gywir i ddweud, Gareth, nad oedd ymateb y Llywodraeth i hwn yn egniol. Lle y mae wedi derbyn yr argymhellion, mae wedi croesawu'r adroddiad, ond ni chafwyd ateb egniol. Mae'n anghyffredin i mi chwarae *hard cop* i *soft cop* Darren Millar, ond credaf fod ei haelioni naturiol wedi mynd yn drech nag ef pan ymatebodd i Carl Sargeant ac rwy'n bwriadu holi'r Gweinidog ychydig yn fwy trylwyr ar ei ymateb i argymhellion 3 a 4.

Dechreuaf gydag argymhelliad 3, sef yn angen i osod rhyw fath o feincnod neu ddyhead. Mae hyn yn ymwneud ag uchelgais ac oni bai y dywedwn ein bod am gael sector menter gymdeithasol ehangach, gan olygu y byddai'n rhan fwy o'r economi nag y mae heddiw, nid fyddwn yn rhoi'r arweiniad hwnnw. Nid yw hwn yn darged artiffisial; mae'n ddatganiad am fwriad ein huchelgais. Mae'n bwysig bod y Llywodraeth yn ailystyried yr argymhelliad hwn ac yn sylweddoli'r dibenion y tu ôl iddo. Yr oedd y dystiolaeth yn glir iawn: dyma'r math o ddatganiad y mae angen inni ei wneud.

Mae'r defnydd o fentrau cymdeithasol yn gyfrwng ardderchog ar gyfer adfywio economaidd yn gyffredinol. Mae'n gofyn am ail-lunio rhai o'r gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Mae rhai yn swil i sôn am hyn, fel yr oedd y siaradwr blaenorol, a roddodd araith ragorol fel arall. Bydd hyn yn effeithio ar rai mathau o ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Nid yw'n ymwneud â darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn rhad na disodli modelau presennol yn unig er mwyn eu disodli. Mae'n ymwneud ag addasu modelau presennol a rhoi mwy o bŵer i gymunedau lleol i gael y gwasanaethau mwyaf effeithiol a phriodol. Yn rhannol, mae hynny'n golygu bod pobl lleol yn cael eu cyflogi i ddarparu'r

and not through those communities. That is the depth of rethinking that needs to go on.

I turn now to recommendation 4. This would change the architecture a bit. It would not necessarily also mean a culture shift, though I think that it would help. By parking social enterprise in the social justice portfolio, I think that we send a signal that we regard social enterprises as 'social' first and 'enterprises' second. Frankly, the real purpose of this review is to look at that and to turn it around a bit. We need to see social enterprises deliver more of our economic activity. They only prosper if they get the social part right as well. Doing this will start to turn around some of the errors that have occurred over the last 20 or 30 years, when big businesses have come in and not been as aware of their social commitments as they should have been. As a result, they have become enterprises that are not as profitable in the long term. We have seen the absolute horror of what has happened in the financial services sector, where very basic human messages were lost or were partly downgraded. That is what must change. That is why the Minister for Economy and Transport should have responsibility for social enterprises. There should also be a designated social enterprises unit in that department. It is very important that that happens, so that we can meet the new aspirations that we want to set.

The work that the Enterprise and Learning Committee has undertaken this term has been outstanding in terms of its vast scope and in terms of the depth of its reviews. It has succeeded because there has been support from all parties. I cannot recall a vote on any of our reports; they have been accepted unanimously, with give and take on all sides. We have not put narrow party ideology first. We have looked at the wider good of Wales. I hope that the Government will revisit recommendations 3 and 4 and appreciate why they were included. They are challenging, but they deserve a more vigorous response than

gwasanaethau hyn. Yn aml, yr ydym yn gwneud pethau i'n cymunedau tlotaf—nid â'r cymunedau hynny na thrwyddynt. Dyna ddyfnder yr ailystyried sydd angen digwydd.

Trof yn awr at argymhelliad 4. Buasai hyn yn newid y bensaerniaeth ychydig. Ni fyddai o anghenraid hefyd yn golygu newid diwylliant, er fy mod yn credu y buasai hynny o gymorth. Drwy osod mentrau cymdeithasol yn y portffolio cyfiawnder cymdeithasol, yr wyf yn meddwl ein bod yn gyrru arwydd ein bod yn ystyried mentrau cymdeithasol yn 'gymdeithasol' yn gyntaf ac yn 'fentrau' yn ail. A dweud y gwir, gwir ddiben yr adolygiad hwn yw edrych ar hynny a'i droi o gwmpas ychydig. Mae angen inni weld mentrau cymdeithasol yn cyflawni mwy o'n gweithgarwch economaidd. Byddant yn ffynnu yn unig o gael y rhan gymdeithasol yn iawn hefyd. Bydd gwneud hyn yn dechrau troi o gwmpas rhai o'r gwallau sydd wedi digwydd dros yr 20 neu 30 mlynedd diwethaf, wrth i fusnesau mawr ddod i mewn heb fod mor ymwybodol o'u hymrwymadau cymdeithasol ag y dylent fod wedi bod. O ganlyniad, maent wedi dod yn fentrau sydd heb fod mor broffidiol yn y tymor hir. Yr ydym wedi gweld yr arswyd llwyr a ddigwyddodd yn y sector gwasanaethau ariannol, lle collwyd negeseuon dynol sylfaenol iawn neu lle cawsant eu hisraddio yn rhannol. Dyna beth sy'n rhaid newid. Dyna pam y dylai'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth fod yn gyfrifol am fentrau cymdeithasol. Dylai hefyd fod uned mentrau cymdeithasol dynodedig yn yr adran honno. Mae'n bwysig iawn bod hyn yn digwydd, fel y gallwn fodloni'r dyheadau newydd a ddymunwn osod.

Mae'r gwaith a ymgymerodd y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu'r tymor hwn wedi bod yn eithriadol o ran ei gwmpas helaeth a dyfnder ei adolygiadau. Mae wedi llwyddo oherwydd ei fod wedi cael cefnogaeth gan bob plaid. Ni allaf gofio pleidlais ar unrhyw un o'n hadroddiadau; derbyniwyd pob un yn unfrydol, gyda rhoi a chael eich cyfran ar bob ochr. Nid ydym wedi rhoi ideoleg bleidiol gul yn gyntaf. Yr ydym wedi edrych ar fudd ehangach Cymru. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Llywodraeth yn ailystyried argymhellion 3 a 4 ac yn gwerthfawrogi pam y cawsant eu cynnwys. Maent yn heriol, ond maent yn

the tired one that the Minister gave earlier.

haeddu ymateb mwy grymus na'r un blinedig a roddodd y Gweinidog yn gynharach.

The Presiding Officer: I am very grateful to you, David, for those remarks about the effectiveness of our committees.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar iawn ichi, David, am y sylwadau hynny am effeithiolrwydd ein pwyllgorau.

Trof yn awr at Gadeirydd clodwiw'r pwyllgor i ymateb i'r ddatl.

I now turn to the committee's excellent Chair to reply to the debate.

Gareth Jones: Diolch yn fawr, Lywydd.

Gareth Jones: Thank you, Presiding Officer.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (Rosemary Butler) i'r Gadair am 4.14 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer (Rosemary Butler) took the Chair at 4.14 p.m.*

I will start by thanking all Members who have participated in the debate this afternoon. When we started our review of social enterprise, we all knew that we were looking at something special and something that had a lot to offer—it is already offering a lot throughout Wales. However, we genuinely felt that more could be done; hence our report. I am very grateful for the way in which it has been received and for the comments made here this afternoon.

Dechreuaf drwy ddiolch i'r holl Aelodau sydd wedi cymryd rhan yn y ddatl y prynhawn yma. Pan wnaethom ddechrau ein hadolygiad ar fentrau cymdeithasol, yr oeddem i gyd yn gwybod ein bod yn edrych ar rywbeth arbennig a rhywbeth a oedd â llawer i'w gynnig—mae eisoes yn cynnig llawer ledled Cymru. Fodd bynnag, yr oeddem yn wirioneddol yn teimlo y gellid gwneud mwy; felly, wele ein hadroddiad. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar iawn am y ffordd y mae wedi cael ei dderbyn ac am y sylwadau a wnaed yma'r prynhawn yma.

Darren Millar started by referring to the importance of social enterprise being embedded in the learning situation in our schools and colleges. He referred also to that potential. In fact, I tend to agree with him. I can identify somewhat with the big society. I believe that there is something in it. We may not agree with the terminology, or even with the politics of it. However, there is a lot that resonates in Wales in terms of what the social enterprise can achieve for us. There is certainly scope for the future.

Dechreuodd Darren Millar drwy gyfeirio at bwysigrwydd ymgorffori mentrau cymdeithasol yn y sefyllfa ddydysgu yn ein hysgolion a'n colegau. Cyfeiriodd hefyd at y potensial hwnnw. Yn wir, yr wyf yn tueddu i gytuno ag ef. Gallaf uniaethu ychydig gyda'r gymdeithas fawr. Credaf fod rhywbeth ynddo. Efallai nad ydym yn cytuno â'r derminoleg, neu hyd yn oed gyda gwleidyddiaeth y peth. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer sy'n cyseinio yng Nghymru o ran yr hyn y gall mentrau cymdeithasol gyflawni drosom. Yn sicr mae posibiliadau ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Among other points, Jeff referred to the importance of skills training in all aspects of this. He also mentioned mentoring, and it is important that we get the skills level right.

Ymhlith pwyntiau eraill, cyfeiriodd Jeff at bwysigrwydd hyfforddiant sgiliau ym mhob agwedd o hyn. Soniodd hefyd am fentora, ac mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cael y lefel sgiliau yn iawn.

Jenny Randerson reminded us about current involvement in social enterprise throughout Wales. I think that you said that 29,000 people are employed in the sector, Jenny. You also emphasised the need for targets, as

Gwnaeth Jenny Randerson ein hatgoffa am gyfranogiad ar hyn o bryd mewn mentrau cymdeithasol ledled Cymru. Yr wyf yn meddwl y dywedasoch fod 29,000 o bobl yn cael eu cyflogi yn y sector, Jenny.

did David. You also highlighted a key issue for us, which is that there is possibly a lack of focus within the Government. I will come back to that point.

Lorraine reminded us of the essence of social enterprise and her involvement over the years. She has seen positive results and encouraging development. I am grateful to you, Lorraine, for your contribution this afternoon.

Darren mentioned that he was a latecomer to the committee; a lot of the work of listening to and gathering evidence was done when David Melding was a member. I am grateful to you as always, David, for your kind words. However, it has been an important time for all of us and, in reviewing and presenting topics to the Assembly, the only motivation has been the benefit of the people of Wales. There are some hard questions. We are not perfect, we understand that. No Government can say that it is perfect. However, if we can come up with a cross-party approach, as we have done in all our reports—this one especially—we can convey those messages in a positive light to the Government here. I thank you all for your contributions.

I also want to refer to the Minister. Listening to his response, I have been encouraged. Initially, when we undertook the review, I felt that social enterprises were not central to the thinking of the Government with regard to what can be done in Wales to revive our economy from the local level all the way through to the national level, as Glas Cymru has shown. It is a model that can be developed from the roots, as it were, up to a national basis. You referred, Minister, to the fact that you are also concerned about the focus within Government and you said that you have had discussions with the Deputy First Minister around extending that and making it far more cross-cutting. So, we need to be encouraged by your response, Minister—I have been encouraged by it personally. I know for a fact that this Government is now thinking seriously about social enterprise and its potential. That is the message that we all want to leave with you,

Gwnaethoch hefyd bwysleisio'r angen am dargedau, fel y gwnaeth David. Gwnaethoch hefyd dynnu mater allweddol at ein sylw, sef bod, o bosibl, diffyg ffocws o fewn y Llywodraeth. Dof yn ôl at y pwynt hwnnw.

Gwnaeth Lorraine ein hatgoffa am hanfod mentrau cymdeithasol a'i chyfranogiad hi dros y blynyddoedd. Mae hi wedi gweld canlyniadau cadarnhaol a datblygiadau calonogol. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi, Lorraine, am eich cyfraniad y prynhawn yma.

Gwnaeth Darren grybwyll ei fod yn hwyrddyfodiad i'r pwyllgor; gwnaed llawer o'r gwaith gwrando a chasglu tystiolaeth pan oedd David Melding yn aelod. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi fel bob amser, David, am eich geiriau caredig. Fodd bynnag, mae wedi bod yn amser pwysig i bob un ohonom ac, wrth adolygu a chyflwyno pynciau i'r Cynulliad, yr unig gymhelliad oedd budd pobl Cymru. Mae rhai cwestiynau anodd. Nid ydym yn berffaith, fe ddeallwn hynny. Ni all yr un Llywodraeth ddweud ei bod yn berffaith. Fodd bynnag, os gallwn ddod o hyd i ymagwedd drawsbleidiol, fel yr ydym wedi ei wneud ym mhob un o'n hadroddiadau—yn enwedig hwn—gallwn gyfleu'r negeseuon hynny mewn modd cadarnhaol i'r Llywodraeth yma. Diolch ichi i gyd am eich cyfraniadau.

Yr wyf hefyd am gyfeirio at y Gweinidog. Wrth wrando ar ei ymateb, cefais fy nghalonogi. I ddechrau, pan gynaliasom yr adolygiad, teimlais nad oedd mentrau cymdeithasol yn ganolog i feddylfryd y Llywodraeth o ran yr hyn y gellir ei wneud yng Nghymru i adfywio ein heconomi o'r lefel leol yr holl ffordd hyd at y lefel genedlaethol, fel mae Glas Cymru wedi dangos. Mae'n fodel y gellir ei ddatblygu gan y gwreiddiau, fel petai, hyd at y lefel genedlaethol. Gwnaethoch gyfeirio, Weinidog, at y ffaith eich bod yn pryderu hefyd am y ffocws o fewn y Llywodraeth a gwnaethoch ddweud eich bod wedi cael trafodaethau gyda'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog am ymestyn hynny a'i wneud yn llawer mwy trawsbynciol. Felly, mae angen inni gael ein calonogi gan eich ymateb, Weinidog—ceffais fy nghalonogi ganddo yn bersonol. Gwn am ffaith bod y Llywodraeth yn awr yn meddwl o ddifrif am fentrau cymdeithasol a'u

and I believe that we have succeeded in doing that.

I will conclude by saying that it has been a privilege for me to chair this committee. I thank committee members; I can look back at their interest, commitment and fairness in all of this, and I appreciate that greatly as Chair. I thank the clerk, the staff and the Members' research service; they have been excellent. I also thank Lis Burnett, our adviser, for her sterling contribution to our work. My heartfelt thanks also goes to all those who gave evidence; a whole range of people did so, and it is all on record, as you know. I hope that as a result of the work undertaken by this committee we can look forward to social enterprise becoming more firmly embedded in the economies of Wales, right up to national level.

potensial. Dyna'r neges yr ydym i gyd eisiau ei adael gyda chi, ac yr wyf yn credu ein bod wedi llwyddo i wneud hynny.

Yr wyf am gloi trwy ddweud ei fod wedi bod yn ffraind imi i gadeirio'r pwyllgor hwn. Diolch i aelodau'r pwyllgor; gallaf edrych yn ôl ar eu diddordeb, hymrwymiad a thegwch yn hyn i gyd, ac yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi hynny yn fawr fel Cadeirydd. Hoffwn ddiolch i'r cler, y staff a gwasanaeth ymchwil yr Aelodau; maent wedi bod yn ardderchog. Hoffwn ddiolch hefyd i Lis Burnett, ein hymgyngorydd, am ei chyfraniad gwiw at ein gwaith. Diolch o galon hefyd i bawb a roddodd dystiolaeth; gwnaeth ystod eang o bobl hynny, ac mae'r cyfan wedi ei gofnodi, fel y gwyddoch. Yr wyf yn gobeithio, o ganlyniad i'r gwaith a wnaed gan y pwyllgor hwn, y gallwn edrych ymlaen at ymgorffori mentrau cymdeithasol yn gadarnach yn economïau Cymru, hyd at y lefel genedlaethol.

4.20 p.m.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to note the Enterprise and Learning Committee's report. Are there any objections? I see that there are none. Therefore, in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35, the motion is agreed.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu. A oes gwrthwynebiad? Gwelaf nad oes. Felly, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35, mae'r cynnig wedi'i dderbyn.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion agreed.*

Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives Debate

Awtistiaeth Autism

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

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Rwyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Jane Hutt a gwelliant 2 yn enw Peter Black.

Cynnig NDM4658 Nick Ramsay

Motion NDM4658 Nick Ramsay

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. Yn nodi'r cynnydd a wnaed dan y Cynllun Gweithredu Strategol i Gymru ar gyfer Anhwyllderau yn y Sbectwm Awtistig;

1. Notes the progress made under the Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan for Wales;

2. *Yn mynegi pryder serch hynny nad yw nifer o bobl ag awtistiaeth a'u rheini/gofalwyr yn dal yn cael y gefnogaeth y mae ei hangen arnynt, fel y dangoswyd yn adroddiad Cymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru Ein bywyd—ein dewis;*

3. *Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i adolygu'r Cynllun Gweithredu Strategol ar gyfer Anhwylderau yn y Sbectrwm Awtistig er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r pryderon a godir yn Ein bywyd—ein dewis.*

Mark Isherwood: I move the motion.

The National Autistic Society Cymru has commended this motion to all the political parties in the hope that it will receive their support. The motion is very much in keeping with what the Welsh Government has said publicly about services and support for people with autism and their families and carers in Wales, which is that there has been significant and important progress made under the autistic spectrum disorder strategic action plan for Wales but that there is still a great deal left to do.

I was pleased to attend the recent launch of NAS Cymru's 'The life we choose: shaping autism services in Wales' research report here at the National Assembly for Wales. This report is the product of the largest ever piece of research undertaken into the views and experiences of people with autism and their families in Wales. A series of nine focus groups of people affected by autism and professionals took place in north and south Wales. These groups informed the development of a survey, which was completed by more than 400 people with autism and their families. Individuals, organisations and local authorities were also invited to share examples of what they thought was working well for people with autism in Wales.

The research is not an evaluation of the autism spectrum disorder strategic action plan launched by the Welsh Government in 2008. Its remit was much wider than that. However, the publication of the report is

2. *Expresses concern however that many people with autism and their parents/carers are still not getting the support they need, as illustrated in the National Autistic Society Cymru report The Life We Choose;*

3. *Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to review the Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan in order to address the concerns raised in The Life We Choose.*

Mark Isherwood: Cynigaf y cynnig.

Mae Cymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru wedi cymeradwyo'r cynnig hwn i'r holl bleidiau gwleidyddol yn y gobaith y bydd yn derbyn eu cefnogaeth. Mae'r cynnig yn gwbl unol â'r hyn y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi dweud yn gyhoeddus am wasanaethau a chymorth i bobl ag awtistiaeth, eu teuluoedd a'u gofalwyr yng Nghymru, sef y bu cynnydd sylweddol a phwysig o dan y cynllun gweithredu strategol ar gyfer anhwylderau yn y sbectrwm awtistig ar gyfer Cymru ond bod llawer iawn ar ôl i'w wneud o hyd.

Roeddwn yn falch i gael mynychu lansiad diweddar adroddiad ymchwil Cymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru 'Ein bywyd – ein dewis: llunio gwasanaethau awtistiaeth yng Nghymru' yma yng Nghynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn gynnyrch y darn mwyaf erioed o ymchwil a wnaed i farn a phrofiadau pobl ag awtistiaeth a'u teuluoedd yng Nghymru. Cynhaliwyd cyfres o naw o grwpiau ffocws gyda phobl sydd wedi'u heffeithio gan awtistiaeth a gweithwyr proffesiynol yng ngogledd a de Cymru. Roedd y grwpiau yn sail i ddatblygiad yr arolwg, a gwblhawyd gan fwy na 400 o bobl ag awtistiaeth a'u teuluoedd. Cafodd unigolion, sefydliadau ac awdurdodau lleol hefyd eu gwahodd i rannu enghreifftiau o'r hyn yr oeddent yn meddwl oedd yn gweithio'n dda ar gyfer pobl ag awtistiaeth yng Nghymru.

Nid yw'r ymchwil yn werthusiad o'r cynllun gweithredu strategol ar gyfer anhwylderau yn y sbectrwm awtistig a lansiwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn 2008. Roedd ei gylch gwaith yn llawer ehangach na hynny. Fodd

certainly very timely, as I understand that the Welsh Government's own evaluation of the action plan does not seek to engage with people with autism and their families on any meaningful scale. 'The life we choose' is a picture of the views and experiences of people affected by autism in Wales and a demonstration of what they are telling us their needs and priorities are. We are currently nearing the end of the first three-year implementation phase of the action plan. We are at a critical milestone and now is the time to take stock of progress thus far, learn lessons from it and set new priorities for the future.

In May 2008, I tabled a motion for debate here in the Assembly welcoming the publication of the ASD strategic action plan as a good first step, but expressing serious concern that it did not adequately seek to meet the needs of adults with autism. I have been pleased that, since then, the Minister has set up an adult task and finish group to report on various issues affecting adults with autism in Wales and accepted and funded the resulting recommendations. However, in 'The life we choose', the National Autistic Society Cymru asks adults with autism to what extent, if at all, they felt that they were receiving the services and support that they needed. The results make grim reading. Just 10 per cent of adults with autism surveyed could agree 'a great deal' that they were receiving the services and support that they needed; 54 per cent said that their needs were not being met. The report explores what adults with autism think the main barriers are to getting the services and support that they need. Just 4 per cent of adults with autism said that there was nothing stopping them from getting the services and support that they needed. For the other 96 per cent, many of the barriers to support that I identified back in 2008 remain in place.

In 2008, I demonstrated that local authorities

bynag, mae cyhoeddiad yr adroddiad yn amserol iawn, am y deallaf na fydd gwerthusiad Llywodraeth Cymru ei hun o'r cynllun gweithredu yn ceisio ymgysylltu â phobl ag awtistiaeth a'u teuluoedd ar unrhyw raddfa ystyrion. Mae 'Ein bywyd – ein dewis' yn ddarlun o farn a phrofiadau pobl sy'n cael eu heffeithio gan awtistiaeth yng Nghymru ac mae'n arddangos yr hyn maent yn ei ddweud wrthym am eu hanghenion a'u blaenoriaethau. Rydym ar hyn o bryd yn agosáu at ddiwedd cyfnod gweithredu tair blynedd cyntaf y cynllun gweithredu. Mae hynny yn garreg filltir allweddol a dyma'r amser i bwysu a mesur y cynnydd hyd yn hyn, dysgu gwersi oddi wrtho a gosod blaenoriaethau newydd ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Ym mis Mai 2008, cyflwynais gynnig ar gyfer dadl yma yn y Cynulliad yn croesawu cyhoeddiad y cynllun gweithredu strategol ar gyfer anhwylderau yn y sbectrwm awtistig fel cam cyntaf da, ond yn mynegi pryder difrifol nad oedd yn ddigonol o ran ceisio bodloni anghenion oedolion ag awtistiaeth. Rwy'n falch, ers hynny, bod y Gweinidog wedi sefydlu grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen oedolion i adrodd ar faterion amrywiol sy'n effeithio ar oedolion ag awtistiaeth yng Nghymru, a'i fod wedi derbyn ac ariannu ei argymhellion. Fodd bynnag, yn 'Ein bywyd – ein dewis', mae Cymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru yn gofyn i oedolion ag awtistiaeth i ba raddau, os o gwbl, eu bod yn teimlo eu bod yn derbyn y gwasanaethau a'r cymorth y maent eu hangen. Mae'r canlyniadau yn erchyll i'w darllen. Dim ond 10 y cant o oedolion ag awtistiaeth a arolygwyd a gytunodd 'yn fawr' eu bod yn derbyn y gwasanaethau a'r cymorth sydd eu hangen arnynt; dywedodd 54 y cant nad oedd eu hanghenion yn cael eu bodloni. Mae'r adroddiad yn archwilio beth yw barn oedolion ag awtistiaeth am y prif rwystrau sy'n eu hatal rhag cael y gwasanaethau a'r cymorth sydd eu hangen arnynt. Dim ond 4 y cant o oedolion ag awtistiaeth ddywedodd nad oedd unrhyw beth yn eu rhwystro rhag cael y gwasanaethau a'r cymorth sydd eu hangen arnynt. Ar gyfer y 96 y cant arall, mae llawer o'r rhwystrau sy'n eu hatal rhag cael cefnogaeth a nodais yn ôl yn 2008 yn eu lle o hyd.

Yn 2008, dangosais nad oedd gan

were not structured to meet the needs of people with autism, as highlighted in the NAS Cymru 'I Exist' report. Most local authorities provide services via learning disability or mental health teams. Autism is a developmental disorder, not a learning disability or mental health issue, so people with autism do not fall easily under either of these teams. Even for those people who access support under these teams, the support may not appropriately address their needs related to autism. Despite the fact that the Welsh Government has made it clear to local authorities that they must not base access to social care on IQ, 38 per cent of adults with autism surveyed said that not meeting the criteria has stopped them from getting support.

In 2008, a lack of professional understanding of autism was identified as a serious barrier to adults with autism accessing appropriate services and support. Now, 59 per cent say that this remains the case. It is shocking to read in the NAS Cymru report people with autism quoted as saying:

'No one cares or understands'

and family members quoted, in relation to seeking help, as saying that they have been

'made to feel foolish, so I don't like to ask.'

Every local authority in Wales has received grant funding over the past three years to undertake several first-stage actions relating to the implementation of the action plan. These include consulting people with autism and their families on the creation of local action plans to meet locally identified needs and gaps in services. I understand that the quality of this consultation has been mixed across Wales. The Welsh Government should take steps to address that.

awdurdodau lleol y strwythur i fodloni anghenion pobl ag awtistiaeth, fel yr amlygwyd yn adroddiad Cymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru 'Rwy'n Bodoli'. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o awdurdodau lleol yn darparu gwasanaethau trwy gyfrwng timau anabledd dysgu neu dimau iechyd meddwl. Mae awtistiaeth yn anhwylder datblygiadol, nid anabledd dysgu na phroblem iechyd meddwl mohono, felly nid oes yr un o'r timau hynny yn addas ar gyfer pobl ag awtistiaeth. Mae rhai pobl yn cael cymorth gan y timau hynny, ond efallai nad yw'r gefnogaeth yn briodol i fynd i'r afael â'u hanghenion sy'n gysylltiedig ag awtistiaeth. Er gwaethaf y ffaith bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gwneud yn glir i awdurdodau lleol bod rhaid iddynt beidio â seilio mynediad i ofal cymdeithasol ar IQ, dywedodd 38 y cant o'r oedolion ag awtistiaeth a holwyd bod methu â bodloni'r meini prawf wedi'u hatal rhag cael cymorth.

Yn 2008, cafodd diffyg dealltwriaeth broffesiynol o awtistiaeth ei nodi fel rhwystr difrifol i oedolion ag awtistiaeth o ran cael mynediad at wasanaethau a chefnogaeth briodol. Yn awr, mae 59 y cant yn dweud bod hynny'n wir o hyd. Mae'n frawychus darllen yn adroddiad Cymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru bod pobl ag awtistiaeth yn dweud:

'Does neb yn hidio nac yn deall'

a bod aelodau o'r teulu yn dweud, mewn perthynas â chwilio am help

'gwnaed i mi deimlo'n wirion, felly nid wyf yn hoffi gofyn.'

Mae pob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru wedi derbyn cyllid grant dros y tair blynedd diwethaf i ymgymryd â sawl cam gweithredu cyntaf i roi'r cynllun gweithredu ar waith. Mae'r rheiny yn cynnwys ymgynghori â phobl ag awtistiaeth a'u teuluoedd ar greu cynlluniau gweithredu lleol i ddiwallu anghenion a bylchau mewn gwasanaethau a ddaethpwyd o hyd iddynt yn lleol. Deallaf fod ansawdd yr ymgynghoriad hwn wedi bod yn gymysg ledled Cymru. Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru gymryd camau i fynd i'r afael â hynny.

We need clarity on what the £2 million funding mentioned in the Government amendment today refers to. It is understood that each local authority has been awarded £40,000 for the 2011-12 financial year and that this will probably be ring-fenced for autism. There is another £800,000 attached to the adult task and finish group recommendations, although the community monitoring and support projects attached to it are still waiting to be agreed by the Deputy Minister. 'The life we choose' report shows that these projects are vital. There will be a post in place to support an information and learning network, but the figures still do not add up to £2 million. It is therefore hoped that the £2 million does not include revenue support grant moneys, unless there will be greater pressure on local authorities to actually spend the money on autism.

It is unacceptable that, three years into the implementation of the autism spectrum disorder strategic action plan, 47 per cent of adults surveyed said that the lack of available services was stopping them from getting the help that they need, and 37 per cent could identify sources of private support but could not afford to pay for it. Local authorities must revisit their local action plans and work with neighbouring authorities to examine how they can increase the range and capacity of services and support the needs of adults with autism in their areas.

Adults with autism identify advocacy, counselling, education, social groups and speech and language therapy as some of the priority areas for improvement. The Enterprise and Learning Committee's recent inquiry into specialist education provision for people with autism in Wales found a gap between policy and practice. Welsh Government evaluation is not comprehensive, and future actions must have clear impact measurements built in from the start. I therefore congratulate the National Autistic Society Cymru on its robust research and its balanced reporting of the findings. I note that the number of responses was well in excess of that normally received to a consultation conducted by an Assembly

Mae angen eglurder ynghylch beth mae'r £2 miliwn o gyllid a nodwyd yng ngwelliant y Llywodraeth heddiw yn cyfeirio ato. Deallir bod pob awdurdod lleol wedi derbyn £40,000 am y flwyddyn ariannol 2011-12 ac y bydd yn debyg o gael ei neilltuo ar gyfer awtistiaeth. Mae £800,000 arall ynghlwm wrth argymhellion y grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen oedolion, er bod y prosiectau monitro a chymorth cymunedol sy'n gysylltiedig ag ef yn dal i aros i gael cymeradwyaeth gan y Dirprwy Weinidog. Mae'r adroddiad 'Ein bywyd – ein dewis' yn dangos bod y prosiectau hynny'n hanfodol. Bydd swydd yn cael ei chreu ar gyfer cynorthwyo rhwydwaith gwybodaeth a dysgu, ond nid yw'r ffigurau'n cyrraedd £2 filiwn. Gobeithio nad yw'r £2 filiwn yn cynnwys arian ar gyfer grantiau cymorth refeniw, oni bai y bydd mwy o bwysau ar awdurdodau lleol i wario'r arian ar awtistiaeth mewn gwirionedd.

Mae'n annerbyniol, tair blynedd i mewn i weithredu'r cynllun gweithredu strategol ar gyfer anhwylderau yn y sbectrwm awtistig, fod 47 y cant o'r oedolion a holwyd yn dweud bod y diffyg gwasanaethau sydd ar gael yn eu hatal rhag cael yr help sydd ei angen arnynt, ac y gallai 37 y cant nodi ffynonellau o gymorth preifat ond ni allent fforddio i dalu amdanynt. Rhaid i awdurdodau lleol ailedrych ar eu cynlluniau gweithredu lleol a gweithio gydag awdurdodau cyfagos i archwilio sut y gallant gynyddu ystod a gallu eu gwasanaethau a chefnogi anghenion oedolion ag awtistiaeth yn eu hardaloedd.

Mae oedolion ag awtistiaeth wedi nodi eiriolaeth, cynghori, addysg, grwpiau cymdeithasol a therapi lleferydd ac iaith fel rhai o'r meysydd blaenoriaeth ar gyfer gwella. Daeth ymchwiliad diweddar y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu i ddarpariaeth addysg arbenigol ar gyfer pobl ag awtistiaeth yng Nghymru o hyd i fwllch rhwng polisi ac arfer. Nid yw gwerthusiad Llywodraeth Cymru yn gynhwysfawr, ac mae'n rhaid i gamau gweithredu'r dyfodol gael dulliau mesur effeithiau clir yn rhan ohonynt o'r cychwyn cyntaf. Felly, rwy'n llongyfarch Cymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru ar ei gwaith ymchwil cadarn ac am adrodd yn gytbwys ar y canfyddiadau. Nodaf yr oedd nifer yr ymatebion yn lawer uwch nag sy'n

committee for an inquiry or even for a piece of proposed legislation. It is certainly fair to say that there has been progress under the ASD strategic action plan. Awareness of autism has never been higher; however, implementation of the plan has been patchy. It has not yet been sufficiently embedded within local authorities, and it will need a re-affirmation of commitment at the highest levels in the Welsh Government and local government to ensure the success of the plan in the long term. There is a long way to go before adults with autism in Wales have the services and the support that they need to live the life they choose. Let us play our part to ensure that that distance can be shortened as soon as is practicable in order to provide the services that those who depend upon them tell us are needed.

Gwelliant 1 Jane Hutt

Dileu pwynt 3 ac yn ei le rhoi:

3. Yn nodi y cytunwyd ar gyllid gwerth dros £2 filiwn ar gyfer 2011-12 i ddatblygu ymhellach y camau yn y Cynllun Gweithredu Strategol i Gymru ar gyfer Anhwylderau yn y Sbectrwm Awtistig; a

4. Yn nodi bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar hyn o bryd yn cynnal ei gwerthusiad ei hun o'r cynnydd a wnaed o ran y Cynllun Gweithredu Strategol ar gyfer Anhwylderau yn y Sbectrwm Awtistig yn ystod ei ddwy flynedd gyntaf, y bydd y gwerthusiad hwn yn nodi meysydd y mae angen ehangu neu wella arnynt a rhoddir ystyriaeth i ganfyddiadau Adroddiad Cymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru, Ein bywyd—ein Dewis, wrth lunio'r adroddiad gwerthuso hwn.

The Deputy Minister for Social Services (Gwenda Thomas): I move amendment 1.

Gwelliant 2 Peter Black

Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

arfer cael eu derbyn i ymgynghoriad gan un o bwyllgorau'r Cynulliad ar gyfer ymchwiliad neu ddarn o ddeddfwriaeth arfaethedig hyd yn oed. Mae'n sicr yn deg i ddweud y bu cynnydd o dan y cynllun gweithredu strategol ar gyfer anhwylderau yn y sbectrwm awtistig. Mae ymwybyddiaeth pobl ynghylch awtistiaeth ar ei orau erioed, fodd bynnag, mae gweithrediad y cynllun wedi bod yn anghyson. Nid yw eto wedi'i sefydlu'n ddigonol o fewn awdurdodau lleol, a bydd angen ailddatgan ymrwymiad iddo ar lefelau uchaf Llywodraeth Cymru a llywodraeth leol i sicrhau llwyddiant y cynllun yn hirdymor. Mae ffordd bell i fynd cyn bod gan oedolion ag awtistiaeth yng Nghymru'r gwasanaethau a'r cymorth sydd eu hangen arnynt i fyw'r bywyd maent yn ei ddewis. Gadewch i ni chwarae ein rhan i sicrhau y gellir lleihau'r pellter hwnnw cyn gynted ag y bo'n ymarferol er mwyn darparu'r gwasanaethau y mae'r rhai sy'n dibynnu arnynt yn dweud wrthym fod eu hangen.

Amendment 1 Jane Hutt

Delete point 3 and replace with:

3. Notes that funding of over £2 million has been agreed for 2011-12 to take forward actions in the Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan for Wales; and

4. Notes that the Welsh Assembly Government is currently undertaking its own evaluation of the progress made on the Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan during its first two years, that this evaluation will identify areas that need to be expanded on or improved on and that the findings of the NASC Report The Life We Choose will be considered in drawing up the evaluation report.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Gwenda Thomas): Cynigiau welliant 1.

Amendment 2 Peter Black

Add as new point at end of motion:

Yn nodi bod llawer o'r cymorth sydd ei angen ar bobl gydag awtistiaeth, a'u rhieni/gofalwyr, yn cael ei gyllido drwy gyllidebau addysg, llywodraeth leol a chyfiawnder cymdeithasol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, ac y byddai toriadau pellach i'r cyllidebau hyn yn cyfyngu'n sylweddol ar y gallu i gyllido cymorth i awtistiaeth.

Notes that much of the support that people with autism and their parents/carers need is funded through the Welsh Assembly Government's education, local government and social justice budgets, and that further cuts to these budgets would severely limit the ability to fund autism support.

Veronica German: I move amendment 2.

Veronica German: Cynigiau welliant 2.

Like other Assembly Members, last month, I had the pleasure of attending the launch of the National Autistic Society Cymru's report, 'The life we choose: shaping autism services in Wales'. I was struck by the contents of the report, particularly the testimonials from people with autism, and their parents and carers. It really brings the report to life. If you have not read it, I would recommend that you do so; it is quite different and informative.

Fel Aelodau eraill y Cynulliad, y mis diwethaf, cefais y pleser o fynychu lansiad adroddiad Cymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru, 'Ein bywyd – ein dewis: llunio gwasanaethau awtistiaeth yng Nghymru'. Gwnaeth cynnwys yr adroddiad argraff arnaf, yn enwedig y tystlythyrau gan bobl ag awtistiaeth, a'u rhieni a'u gofalwyr. Mae'n wir yn dod â'r adroddiad yn fyw. Os nad ydych wedi'i ddarllen, rwy'n argymhell i chi wneud; mae'n wahanol iawn ac yn llawn gwybodaeth.

4.30 p.m.

Autism is a complex condition with a variety of people on the spectrum. While 25,000 people in Wales are affected by autism, we still do not know enough about the condition. This report tells the story of people's experiences with autism. I particularly want to concentrate on the section of the report that talks about the support that parents and carers would like to receive.

Mae awtistiaeth yn gyflwr cymhleth gydag amrywiaeth o bobl ar y sbectrwm. Er bod awtistiaeth yn effeithio ar 25,000 o bobl yng Nghymru, nid ydym yn gwybod digon am y cyflwr o hyd. Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn adrodd hanes profiadau pobl ag awtistiaeth. Yr wyf yn arbennig am ganolbwyntio ar yr adran o'r adroddiad sy'n sôn am y cymorth a hoffai rhieni a gofalwyr ei dderbyn.

Their requests are incredibly modest, given the huge contribution that they make to the lives of the people they look after. Let us not forget that if they were not undertaking this caring responsibility, the cost would be enormous, but the cost to them is also enormous, emotionally and to the way in which they live their lives. If you do not have access to much-needed support, intense caring can have a huge effect on the person providing that care.

Mae eu gofynion yn anhygoel o gymedrol, o ystyried y cyfraniad enfawr y maent yn ei wneud i fywydau'r bobl maent yn gofalu danynt. Ni ddylem anghofio, pe na baent yn ymgymryd â'r cyfrifoldeb hwn o ofalu, byddai'r gost yn enfawr, ond mae'r gost iddynt hwy hefyd yn enfawr, yn emosiynol ac i'r ffordd y maent yn byw eu bywydau. Os nad oes ganddynt fynediad at gefnogaeth, sydd yn fawr ei angen, gall gofalu dwys gael effaith enfawr ar y person sy'n ei ddarparu.

Seventy per cent of parents and carers surveyed said that the lack of adequate support means that they sometimes feel isolated. One of the quotes in the report states:

Dywedodd 70 y cant o rieni a gofalwyr a holwyd fod y diffyg mewn cefnogaeth ddigonol yn golygu eu bod weithiau yn teimlo'n ynysig. Mae un o'r dyfyniadau yn yr adroddiad yn datgan:

'I feel alone and isolated...We feel a lot of the time that we are falling apart at the seams.'

Another 50 per cent said that caring without support had a negative effective on their mental health. The report quotes another parent as saying that

'If I didn't have the emotional support of my fellow carers I would have killed myself by now'.

Sixty five per cent of respondents said that their caring responsibilities had had a negative effect on their marriage or relationship. Another parent said

'There is no option to spend time as a couple. [We have had] one night's stay in a hotel as a couple on our own in 20 years.'

That says it all.

It is important that we provide the correct levels of support to those who suffer from a condition on the spectrum and to their parents or carers. Together, they make up 100,000 people in Wales, and they rely on social services every day, but in many ways they are not receiving the support that they need or deserve. We understand the steps that have been taken, which Mark outlined clearly and fairly, and everyone appreciates the work that has been done so far. However, we are not quite there yet. As Mark said, implementation has been patchy.

We have seen a number of cases where services are not being delivered sufficiently or not at all. In one example, a parent said to us that they had been denied respite at the last moment. They had it all planned, they thought that they were going away, but at the last moment the respite at a short break centre was cancelled, not once, but on many occasions. Another example was where an 18-year-old boy was unable to get to the school at which he was thriving because the local authority will not provide transport to the school. Another telling example was when an 18-year-old was refused break and lunchtime care at a college where she is gaining valuable skills, because she will be

'Rwy'n teimlo'n unig ac ar fy mhen fy hun...Yn aml rydym yn teimlo'n bod yn syrthio'n ddarnau.'

Dywedodd 50 y cant arall fod gofalu heb gefnogaeth wedi cael effeithiol negyddol ar eu hiechyd meddwl. Mae'r adroddiad yn dyfynnu rhiant arall yn dweud

'Pe na bawn wedi cael cymorth emosiynol fy nghyd-ofalwyr, byddwn wedi lladd fy hun erbyn hyn.'

Dywedodd 65 pump y cant o ymatebwyr bod eu cyfrifoldebau gofalu wedi cael effaith negyddol ar eu priodas neu berthynas. Dywedodd rhiant arall

'Nid oes dewis i dreulio amser fel cwpl. [Cawsom] un noson mewn gwesty fel cwpl ar ein pen ein hunain mewn 20 mlynedd.'

Mae hynny'n dweud y cyfan.

Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn darparu'r lefelau cywir o gymorth i'r sawl sy'n dioddef o gyflwr ar y sbectrum ac i'w rhieni neu ofalwyr. Gyda'i gilydd, mae 100,000 o'r bobl hyn yng Nghymru, ac maent yn dibynnu ar wasanaethau cymdeithasol bob dydd, ond mewn llawer o ffyrdd nid ydynt yn cael y cymorth y maent ei angen ac yn ei haeddu. Yr ydym yn deall y camau a gymerwyd, a amlinellodd Mark yn glir ac yn deg, ac mae pawb yn gwerthfawrogi'r gwaith sydd wedi'i wneud hyd yn hyn. Fodd bynnag, nid ydym wedi taro deuddeg eto. Fel y dywedodd Mark, anghyson fu'r gweithredu.

Yr ydym wedi gweld nifer o achosion lle nad yw gwasanaethau yn cael eu darparu'n ddigonol neu o gwbl. Mewn un enghraifft, dywedodd rhiant wrthym y gwrthodwyd eu seibiant ar y funud olaf. Yr oeddent wedi ei gynllunio'n llwyr, a chredent eu bod yn mynd i ffwrdd, ond ar y funud olaf cafodd y seibiant mewn canolfan seibiant byr ei ganslo, nid unwaith, ond ar sawl achlysur. Enghraifft arall oedd bod bachgen 18 mlwydd oed yn methu â chyrraedd yr ysgol lle'r oedd yn ffynnu oherwydd ni wna'i'r awdurdod lleol ddarparu cludiant i'r ysgol. Enghraifft drawiadol arall oedd pan wrthodwyd gofal yn ystod yr egwyl ac amser cinio i fyfyrwraig 18 mlwydd oed mewn

turning 19 and adult social services will not provide those services—she had been receiving them, and now she does not. That is not joined-up or helpful to the person with a condition.

Our amendment notes a concern that many services for autistic people are delivered through education, local government and social justice budgets, and not just through the health budget. The Conservatives' priorities for health have been well discussed, but the Welsh Liberal Democrats have stated from the outset that this is not something that we can support, because there are so many aspects to the care required by people with autism. We accept that we are living in difficult economic times, but if further cuts are made to these particular budgets, that would limit the ability of local government to fund further autism support. We need to recognise that fact, so I urge you to support the amendment.

Mohammad Asghar: Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important debate. The importance of the Welsh Conservatives' motion is highlighted by the fact that some 25,000 people in Wales suffer from some form of autism. When you take parents and carers into account, the lives of over 100,000 people in Wales are affected by autism each and every day.

On this side of the Chamber, we are pleased to welcome any improvements that have been made since the launch of the autism spectrum disorder strategic plan, which is now entering its second phase of implementation. I welcome too that, last year, the first specialist college for young people with Asperger's syndrome, a type of autism spectrum disorder, opened in Wales at Pontypool in my region and that some places at the college will be funded by the Assembly Government.

However, 'The life we choose', based upon a survey carried out by the National Autistic Society Cymru, raises some major issues that suggest that the strategic plan requires

coleg lle yr oedd yn ennill sgiliau gwerthfawr, oherwydd byddai'n troi 19 oed ac ni wnai'r gwasanaethau cymdeithasol i oedolion ddarparu'r gwasanaethau hynny—gwnaeth hi eu cael, ond nid bellach. Nid yw hynny'n gydgysylltiedig neu o gymorth i'r person sydd â chyflwr.

Mae ein gwelliant yn nodi pryder bod llawer o wasanaethau ar gyfer pobl awtistig yn cael eu darparu drwy gyllidebau addysg, llywodraeth leol a chyfiawnder cymdeithasol, ac nid yn unig drwy'r gyllideb iechyd. Mae blaenoriaethau'r Ceidwadwyr ar gyfer iechyd wedi cael eu trafod yn fanwl, ond mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru wedi datgan o'r cychwyn cyntaf nad yw hyn yn rhywbeth y gallwn ei gefnogi, gan fod cymaint o agweddau ar y gofal sydd ei angen ar bobl ag awtistiaeth. Derbyniwn ein bod yn byw mewn cyfnod economaidd anodd, ond os gwneir toriadau pellach i'r cyllidebau penodol hyn, bydd hynny'n cyfyngu ar allu llywodraeth leol i ariannu mwy o gymorth ar awtistiaeth. Mae angen i ni gydnabod y ffaith honno, felly fe'ch anogaf i gefnogi'r gwelliant.

Mohammad Asghar: Diolch i chi am y cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl bwysig hon. Mae pwysigrwydd cynnig y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn cael ei amlygu gan y ffaith bod tua 25,000 o bobl yng Nghymru yn dioddef o ryw fath o awtistiaeth. Pan fyddwch yn cymryd rhieni a gofalgwyr i ystyriaeth, effeithir bywydau dros 100,000 o bobl yng Nghymru gan awtistiaeth bob dydd.

Ar yr ochr hon o'r Siambr, yr ydym yn falch o groesawu unrhyw welliannau a wnaed ers lansiad y cynllun strategol ar gyfer anhwylderau ar y sbectrwm awtistig, sydd bellach yn ei ail gyfnod o weithredu. Croesawaf hefyd y ffaith yr agorwyd, y llynedd, y coleg arbenigol cyntaf ar gyfer pobl ifanc â syndrom Asperger, sef math o anhwylder ar y sbectrwm awtistig, yng Nghymru ym Mhont-y-pŵl yn fy rhanbarth ac y bydd rhai manau yn y coleg yn cael eu hariannu gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad.

Fodd bynnag, mae 'Ein bywyd—ein dewis', yn seiliedig ar arolwg a gynhaliwyd gan Gymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru, yn codi rhai materion pwysig sy'n

review. One statistic that I found particularly shocking and startling concerns employment, and this is the issue that I want to focus on primarily today. Just 6 per cent of those with autism who responded to the survey were in full-time employment. That figure, quite simply, is shocking and marks a major loss to the Welsh economy. People with autism can offer so much to society, and it is deeply concerning that present conditions mean that many are not fulfilling their potential; again, this is a loss to our communities and economy. It is important that the strategic plan works towards ensuring that people living with autism have the confidence to capture the same opportunities that exist for others in society.

To that end, the transition from school to adulthood is particularly important. This is a crucial time in anyone's life, but it is obviously important for people with autism. The support and information offered at this stage can have a dramatic impact on an individual's future life chances. A similar point that should be stressed is autism's impact on the employment prospects of carers and parents. Only 17 per cent of respondents said that their caring responsibilities did not affect their employment in some way. However, 22 per cent of parents and carers told NAS Cymru that they had to give up work because of their caring responsibilities, while 21 per cent had to reduce working hours and one in 10 had to take a lower-paid job. That suggests that the strategic plan needs to be reviewed to better consider the needs of parents and carers and how they can be supported, with 70 per cent saying that they feel isolated.

That highlights the importance of early diagnosis. As things stand, diagnosis can be slow and stressful. This is often due to a lack of expert professionals, with 10 per cent of people having to be diagnosed outside of Wales. Early diagnosis is hugely important as it ensures that sufferers and their families can be better equipped and prepared for the challenges ahead, so that families can benefit

awgrymu bod angen adolygu'r cynllun strategol. Mae un ystadegyn a'm brawychodd a'm synnodd yn arbennig ynghylch cyflogaeth, a hoffwn ganolbwyntio ar y mater hwnnw yn bennaf heddiw. Dim ond 6 y cant o'r sawl sydd ag awtistiaeth a ymatebodd i'r arolwg a oedd mewn cyflogaeth amser llawn. Mae'r ffigur hwnnw, yn syml iawn, yn frawychus ac yn nodi colled fawr i economi Cymru. Gall pobl ag awtistiaeth gynnig cymaint i gymdeithas, ac mae'n achosi cryn bryder bod yr amodau ar hyn o bryd yn golygu nad yw llawer yn cyflawni eu potensial; eto, mae hyn yn golled i'n cymunedau a'r economi. Mae'n bwysig bod y cynllun strategol yn gweithio tuag at sicrhau bod pobl sy'n byw gydag awtistiaeth yn cael yr hyder i ddal gafael ar yr un cyfleoedd sydd gan bobl eraill yn y gymdeithas.

I'r perwyl hwnnw, mae'r cyfnod pontio o'r ysgol i fod yn oedolyn yn arbennig o bwysig. Mae hwn yn amser pwysig ym mywyd unrhyw un, ond mae'n amlwg yn bwysig ar gyfer pobl ag awtistiaeth. Gall y gefnogaeth a'r wybodaeth a gynigir yn ystod y cyfnod hwn gael effaith ddramatig ar gyfleoedd bywyd unigolyn yn y dyfodol. Pwynt tebyg y dylid ei bwysleisio yw effaith awtistiaeth ar ragolygon cyflogaeth gofaluwr a rhieni. Dim ond 17 y cant o ymatebwyr a ddywedodd nad oedd eu cyfrifoldebau gofalu yn effeithio ar eu gwaith mewn rhyw ffordd. Fodd bynnag, dywedodd 22 y cant o rieni a gofaluwr wrth Gymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru fod yn rhaid iddynt roi'r gorau i weithio oherwydd eu cyfrifoldebau gofalu, tra bod 21 y cant wedi gorfod lleihau oriau gwaith, a bod un o bob 10 wedi gorfod cymryd swydd gyda llai o gyflog. Awgryma hynny bod angen adolygu'r cynllun strategol i ystyried anghenion rhieni a gofaluwr a sut y gallant gael eu cefnogi yn well, gyda 70 y cant yn dweud eu bod yn teimlo'n ynysig.

Amlyga hynny bwysigrwydd diagnosis cynnar. Fel y mae, gall diagnosis fod yn araf ac yn achos straen. Mae hyn yn aml oherwydd diffyg gweithwyr proffesiynol arbenigol, gyda 10 y cant o bobl yn gorfod cael diagnosis y tu allan i Gymru. Mae diagnosis cynnar yn hynod bwysig gan ei fod yn sicrhau y gall dioddefwyr a'u teuluoedd fod mewn sefyllfa well a mwy parod ar gyfer

from help and support from the outset. The opportunity to plan effectively is so important.

At present in Wales, some 54 per cent of adults with autism feel that services and support are not meeting their needs. That is concerning and alarming. Despite the intentions and aims of the strategic plan, a high percentage of survey respondents said that services for children and for carers have got worse rather than better over the previous three years. Clearly, a review of this plan is required to ensure that adequate services, support and information for those whose lives are touched by autism are in place and that they subsequently yield positive results.

Sandy Mewies: I am pleased to be able to speak in this debate. I have always had concerns about people with autism, and I have spoken about them in short debates in the past. I also have great concerns about carers and the way that we support them.

4.40 p.m.

This is a good report, and one that I would commend to anyone. As Mark Isherwood said, the report states that it is an evaluation of the Welsh Assembly Government's strategic plan; it offers a picture of the experiences and views of people affected by autism in Wales and those who support them. There are some very harrowing stories in the report, but it might be worth remembering that insofar as services and support for adults are concerned, 52 per cent of people with autism said that their condition had improved or had stayed the same over the past three years, while 17 per cent said that it was worse. Looking at services and support for children and young people with autism in Wales, 51 per cent of children and young people with autism said that their condition had improved or had stayed the same over the past three years, while 23 or 28 per cent—I cannot understand my own writing—said that they were worse.

yr heriau sydd o'u blaenau, fel y gall teuluoedd gael budd o gymorth a chefnogaeth o'r cychwyn cyntaf. Mae'r cyfle i gynllunio'n effeithiol mor bwysig.

Ar hyn o bryd yng Nghymru, mae oddeutu 54 y cant o oedolion ag awtistiaeth yn teimlo nad yw gwasanaethau a chymorth yn diwallu eu hanghenion. Mae hynny'n destun pryder a braw. Er gwaethaf bwriadau ac amcanion y cynllun strategol, dywedodd canran uchel o'r sawl a ymatebodd i'r arolwg bod gwasanaethau ar gyfer plant ac ar gyfer gofalwyr wedi gwaethygu yn hytrach na gwella dros y tair blynedd flaenorol. Yn amlwg, mae angen adolygiad o'r cynllun hwn er mwyn sicrhau bod gwasanaethau, cefnogaeth a gwybodaeth ddigonol ar gyfer y sawl y mae awtistiaeth wedi cyffwrdd eu bywydau mewn lle a'u bod yn cael eu dilyn gan ganlyniadau cadarnhaol.

Sandy Mewies: Yr wyf yn falch o allu i siarad yn y ddadl hon. Yr wyf wastad wedi pryderu am bobl ag awtistiaeth, ac yr wyf wedi siarad amdanynt mewn dadleuon byrion yn y gorffennol. Yr wyf hefyd yn pryderu'n fawr am ofalwyr a'r ffordd yr ydym yn eu cefnogi.

Mae hwn yn adroddiad da, ac fe'i cymeradwywn i bwy bynnag. Fel y dywedodd Mark Isherwood, mae'r adroddiad yn datgan mai gwerthusiad o gynllun strategol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ydyw; mae'n rhoi darlun o brofiadau a barn pobl yng Nghymru y mae awtistiaeth yn eu heffeithio a'r rhai sy'n eu cefnogi. Mae straeon dirdynnol iawn yn yr adroddiad, ond lle bo gwasanaethau a chefnogaeth i oedolion yn y cwestiwn, efallai y mae'n werth cofio i 52 y cant o bobl ag awtistiaeth ddweud bod eu cyflwr wedi gwella neu ei fod heb newid dros y tair blynedd diwethaf, gyda 17 y cant yn dweud ei fod yn waeth. O edrych ar wasanaethau a chymorth i blant a phobl ifanc ag awtistiaeth yng Nghymru, dywedodd 51 y cant ohonynt fod eu cyflwr wedi gwella neu wedi aros yr un fath dros y tair blynedd diwethaf, a 23 neu 28 y cant—rwy'n methu deall fy llawysgrifen fy hun—yn dweud ei fod yn waeth.

The report is a very fair evaluation of what has gone on, but because of its contents, I cannot support the Conservative motion. I find the motion quite surprising; Veronica German touched on the reason why at the end of her speech, when she said that much of the support for people with autism, their parents and carers is funded through the Welsh Assembly Government's budgets, which include spending on education, local government and social justice. Further cuts to these budgets could severely limit the ability to fund support for autism. Who are the people who would have supported further cuts to these budgets? They are sitting over there, and I hope that they will look at the carers' allowance, for example, and will lobby for it to be increased, as I think that it is just over £53 a week at present.

There are things that need to be done, and the best way to do them is to build on the work of the past three years. That is what is stated in Jane Hutt's amendment. We should be taking note of the report by monitoring and evaluating what has happened in the past. From some of what has been said, you would think that good things are not going on, but there are examples of best practice. Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board has set up the north Wales adult autism spectrum disorder project to oversee the scoping, planning, development, delivery and evaluation of services for adults with autism in north Wales and, crucially, for those who have not previously had one, as still happens, a confirmed diagnosis. The project will seek to improve access to both general and specialist services for adults who are diagnosed with autism. It began in December 2009, with the aim of developing a multi-agency service for adults with autism in north Wales. An assessment of need allows for the planning for an individual's future, and there is a focus on intervention and support, rather than on diagnosis alone. Those behind the project believe that informed service delivery should be underpinned by sound research and an evidence base, and that it should aim to include people with autism and their carers. They also want to see other relevant services, individuals and groups being educated and trained to enable them to work better with people with autism.

Mae'r adroddiad yn werthusiad teg iawn o'r hyn sydd wedi digwydd, ond oherwydd ei gynnwys, ni allaf gefnogi cynnig y Ceidwadwyr. Mae'r cynnig yn fy synnu braidd; cyfeiriodd Veronica German at y rheswm ar ddiwedd ei haraith, wrth ddweud bod llawer o'r cymorth i bobl ag awtistiaeth, eu rhieni a'u gofalwyr yn cael ei ariannu drwy gyllidebau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, sy'n cynnwys gwario ar addysg, llywodraeth leol a chyfiawnder cymdeithasol. Gallai toriadau pellach i'r cyllidebau hyn gyfyngu'n ddifrifol ar y gallu i ariannu cymorth awtistiaeth. Pwy yw'r bobl a fyddai wedi cefnogi toriadau pellach i'r cyllidebau hyn? Maent yn eistedd acw; gobeithio yr edrychant ar y lwfans gofalwyr, er enghraifft, a lobïo dros ei gynyddu, gan mai ychydig dros £53 yr wythnos ydyw ar hyn o bryd, fe gredaf.

Mae pethau y mae angen eu gwneud, a'r ffordd orau o'u gwneud yw adeiladu ar waith y tair blynedd diwethaf. Dyna'r hyn a nodir yng ngwelliant Jane Hutt. Dylem gymryd sylw o'r adroddiad drwy fonitro a gwerthuso'r hyn ddigwyddodd o'r blaen. Yn ôl rhai o'r pethau a ddywedwyd, byddai rhywun yn credu nad oes dim byd da yn digwydd, ond mae enghreifftiau o arfer gorau. Mae Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr wedi sefydlu prosiect gogledd Cymru i oedolion ag anhwylder ar y sbectwm awtistig i oruchwylio'r gwaith o gwmpasu, cynllunio, datblygu, darparu a gwerthuso gwasanaethau i oedolion ag awtistiaeth ac, yn hanfodol, i'r rhai sydd heb gael un o'r blaen, fel sy'n digwydd o hyd, ddiagnosis wedi'i gadarnhau. Bydd y prosiect yn ceisio gwella mynediad i wasanaethau cyffredinol ac arbenigol i oedolion â diagnosis o awtistiaeth. Dechreuodd ym mis Rhagfyr 2009, gyda'r nod o ddatblygu gwasanaeth aml-asiantaeth i oedolion ag awtistiaeth yng ngogledd Cymru. Mae asesiad o angen yn caniatáu cynllunio i'r dyfodol i unigolyn, ac mae ffocws ar ymyrraeth a chefnogaeth, yn hytrach na diagnosis yn unig. Mae'r rhai sydd y tu ôl i'r prosiect yn credu y dylai darpariaeth ddeallus o wasanaethau gael ei hategu gan ymchwil gadarn a sail tystiolaeth, ac y dylai anelu at gynnwys pobl ag awtistiaeth a'u gofalwyr. Maent hefyd am weld unigolion, grwpiau a gwasanaethau perthnasol eraill yn cael eu

haddysgu a'u hyfforddi i'w galluogi i weithio'n well gyda phobl ag awtistiaeth.

The university health board is investing in training professionals to increase their capacity to diagnose autism in the region, and it is extremely important that the chief executive of the Betsi Cadwaladr health board, Mary Burrows, is the project board sponsor, which means that the project is being led at a very high level. We should be looking at this sort of project. There are passages in the report that draw our attention to weaknesses in the system, and we should be building on projects like this and monitoring and evaluating our strategy. I commend this report, and I hope that Members will support amendment 1 in the name of Jane Hutt and amendment 2 in the name of Peter Black.

Nick Ramsay: Listening to Sandy Mewies's comments, I do not think that there is that much difference between us in the substance of what she picked out from the report and the good practice that is happening across Wales at the moment. Listening to Mark Isherwood's opening remarks and the contributions of the other speakers, we are not saying that there are no examples of good practice—clearly there are, and progress has been made—but I think that we need to recognise that there are areas where best practice can be extended beyond where it is at the moment, and the motion of this debate was tabled in that spirit. Many of the contributions from all parties have been very interesting and of merit.

At the moment, there is existing, patchy provision for autism sufferers and there are significant gaps in support, as have been identified in the report that was referred to. Some believe that autism services have improved, but less than 20 per cent—or one fifth—of autism sufferers who were questioned thought that there were no more ways in which the current situation should be improved. Many autism statistics have been quoted today and make interesting and, in some cases, disturbing reading. Just 7 per cent of adults with autism are in full-time employment. A total of 12 per cent of adults with autism have experienced some form of homelessness since leaving school. The

Mae'r bwrdd iechyd prifysgol yn buddsoddi mewn hyfforddiant proffesiynol i godi eu gallu i ganfod awtistiaeth yn y rhanbarth, ac mae'n hynod bwysig mai prif weithredwr bwrdd iechyd Betsi Cadwaladr, Mary Burrows, sy'n hyrwyddo'r prosiect ar y bwrdd, sy'n golygu bod y prosiect yn cael ei arwain ar lefel uchel iawn. Dylem fod yn cadw golwg ar y math hwn o brosiect. Mae darnau yn yr adroddiad sy'n tynnu ein sylw at wendidau yn y system, a dylem fod yn adeiladu ar brosiectau fel hyn ac yn monitro ac yn gwerthuso ein strategaeth. Cymeradwyaf yr adroddiad hwn, a gobeithiaf y bydd yr Aelodau'n cefnogi gwelliant 1 yn enw Jane Hutt a gwelliant 2 yn enw Peter Black.

Nick Ramsay: Wrth wrando ar sylwadau Sandy Mewies, ni chredaf fod llawer o wahaniaeth rhyngom parthed yr hyn y mae hi wedi ei gasglu o'r adroddiad a'r arfer da sy'n digwydd drwy Gymru ar hyn o bryd. Wedi gwrandao ar sylwadau agoriadol Mark Isherwood a chyfraniadau'r siaradwyr eraill, nid ydym yn dweud nad oes dim enghreifftiau o arfer da—mae'n amlwg bod rhai, ac mae cynnydd wedi cael ei wneud—ond credaf fod angen inni gydnabod bod meysydd y gellir ymestyn arfer gorau ymhellach fyth, ac yn yr ysbryd hwnnw y cyflwynwyd cynnig y ddadl hon. Mae llawer o'r cyfraniadau gan bob plaid wedi bod yn ddiddorol iawn ac o werth.

Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r ddarpariaeth sydd i ddiodefwyr awtistiaeth yn anghyson, ac mae bylchau sylweddol yn y cymorth, fel y nodwyd yn yr adroddiad y cyfeiriwyd ato. Mae rhai yn credu bod gwasanaethau awtistiaeth wedi gwella, ond mae llai na 20 y cant—neu un rhan o bump—o'r diodefwyr awtistiaeth a holwyd yn credu nad oedd ffyrdd amgen o wella'r sefyllfa bresennol. Dyfynnwyd llawer o ystadegau am awtistiaeth heddiw, a diddorol ac, mewn rhai achosion, poenus oedd eu darllen. Saith y cant yn unig o oedolion ag awtistiaeth sydd mewn gwaith amser llawn. Mae cyfanswm o 12 y cant o oedolion ag awtistiaeth wedi bod yn ddigartref ar ryw ffurf neu'i gilydd ers

statistic that I found particularly concerning was that 52 per cent of autism sufferers said that they felt that, with more support, they would have had a better chance of getting a job. We hear lots of well-meaning contributions in the Chamber in a range of debates, not least today, where we all recognise how much we want to give people support so that they are better able to get a job. However, the fact that only half of autism sufferers feel that they are getting adequate support at the moment shows that it is an area that needs to be addressed.

We know that the Welsh Assembly Government has its autism action plan and that progress has been made. However, we are calling for a review of that plan. Our motion today does not dispute that good work has been done. It says that we should take stock and have a review so that what we have at the moment can be evaluated fully and so that our resources—which I accept are limited because of the country's financial situation—can be focused on those areas where we would like to see the provision of services for autism sufferers being improved. That is the reason we are calling on the Welsh Assembly Government to review the strategic action plan. The other parts of our motion note that progress has been made and express concern that many people with autism and their parents and carers are still not getting the support that they need, as is illustrated in the NASC report, 'The life we choose'. I agree with Veronica German's comments that the report makes very interesting reading.

My colleague, Mohammad Asghar, spoke about the difference between high-functioning autism, Asperger's syndrome and low-functioning autism. Without going into the differences between those, because they have already been spoken about at great length by other speakers, I think that any review of the Government's strategic action plan for people with autism needs to take account of the fact that there is no one-size-fits-all with this condition. As has been said, it is a complex condition and it takes a long time for many people to be diagnosed with it.

gadael yr ysgol. Yr ystadegyn a berodd bryder penodol i mi yw i 52 y cant o ddiodefwyr awtistiaeth ddweud y buasai ganddynt well cyfle o gael swydd pe bai mwy o gefnogaeth. Yr ydym yn clywed llawer o gyfraniadau llawn bwriadau da yn y Siambr mewn amryw ddadleuon, a heddiw'n arbennig, lle rydym i gyd yn cydnabod cymaint yr ydym am roi cymorth i bobl fel eu bod yn fwy abl i gael swydd. Serch hynny, mae'r ffaith mai hanner y diodefwyr awtistiaeth yn unig sy'n teimlo eu bod yn cael cefnogaeth ddigonol ar hyn o bryd yn dangos mai maes y mae angen mynd i'r afael ag ef ydyw.

Rydym yn gwybod bod gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ei chynllun gweithredu ar awtistiaeth ac i gynnydd gael ei wneud. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn galw am adolygiad o'r cynllun hwnnw. Nid yw ein cynnig heddiw yn amau'r ffaith bod gwaith da wedi cael ei wneud. Dywed y dylem gymryd stoc a chynnal adolygiad fel y gellir gwerthuso'r hyn sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd yn llawn ac fel y gellir targedu ein hadnoddau—sy'n gyfyng, mi wn, oherwydd sefyllfa ariannol y wlad—ar y meysydd hynny lle'r hoffem weld y ddarpariaeth o wasanaethau i bobl ag awtistiaeth yn cael ei gwella. Dyna'r rheswm am alw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i adolygu'r cynllun gweithredu strategol. Mae rhannau eraill o'r ein cynnig yn nodi i gynnydd gael ei wneud ac mae'n mynegi pryder bod llawer o bobl ag awtistiaeth, ynghyd â'u rhieni a'u gofalwyr, nad ydynt eto'n cael y gefnogaeth y mae ei hangen arnynt, fel y gwelir yn yr adroddiad NASC, 'Ein bywyd—ein dewis'. Cytunaf â sylwadau Veronica German bod yr adroddiad yn ddiddorol iawn i'w ddarllen.

Siaradodd fy nghyd-Aelod, Mohammad Asghar, am y gwahaniaeth rhwng awtistiaeth uchel-weithredol, syndrom Asperger ac awtistiaeth isel-weithredol. Heb fynd i mewn i'r gwahaniaethau rhyngddynt, am fod siaradwyr eraill eisoes wedi eu trafod yn helaeth, credaf fod angen i unrhyw adolygiad o gynllun gweithredu strategol y Llywodraeth ar gyfer pobl ag awtistiaeth ystyried y ffaith nad oes elfen o 'bawb yr un peth' i'r cyflwr hwn. Fel y dywedwyd, mae'n gyflwr cymhleth ac mae'n cymryd amser hir i lawer o bobl gael diagnosis. Mae'n effeithio ar bobl

It affects people in different ways and we need to recognise that in reviewing the plan that we have.

There is a strong genetic basis for the condition and, as I have said, people can be characterised along a spectrum. According to the figures, autism affects 1 in 100 people. That means that there are over 25,000 people with autism in Wales at the moment. Together with their parents, families and carers, autism touches the lives of over 100,000 people in Wales every day. In a country of 3 million people, that is quite an extraordinary statistic.

To recap, after reading the report I felt that there was a lot of good practice, but it is not necessarily common practice. That is the reason that we are having this debate today. I regret that the Government has tabled amendment 1 because I think that our motion focused on the issues and appreciated that progress had been made. However, unless we have that thorough review and take account of all the issues that are affecting people with autism in Wales today, we will not get to grips with this problem and put the necessary solutions in place, which all of us in the Chamber would like to see.

Janet Ryder: I am pleased to speak in today's debate. As chair of the cross-party group, I would be pleased to welcome Nick Ramsay to the next meeting so that he can see the amount of work that has been done.

4.50 p.m.

I am a little concerned by some of the things that have been said in the Chamber today. I welcome the fact that this debate has been tabled, but we have to recognise that Wales has now become a world leader in the field of autism because of the work that has been done. There is a lot left to do, but at least this Government has started on it. We were the first nation to have a national plan and to start to put that into action. I have heard at the cross-party group that a number of people still have needs that are yet to be met. However, at least Wales has started on the work. We are making a difference and we are

mewn ffyrdd gwahanol ac fe ddylem gydnabod hynny wrth adolygu'r cynllun sydd gennym.

Mae sail enetig gref i'r cyflwr ac, fel y dywedais, gellir disgrifio pobl ar hyd sbectrwm. Yn ôl y ffigurau, mae awtistiaeth yn effeithio ar un o bob 100 o bobl. Mae hynny'n golygu bod dros 25,000 o bobl ag awtistiaeth yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd. Yn ogystal â'u rhieni, eu teuluoedd a'u gofalywyr, mae awtistiaeth yn cyffwrdd â bywydau dros 100,000 o bobl yng Nghymru bob dydd. Mewn gwlad o 3 miliwn, dyna ystadegyn syfrdanol.

I grynhoi, ar ôl darllen yr adroddiad, teimlais fod llawer o arfer da, ond nid yw o reidrwydd yn arfer cyffredin. Dyna'r rheswm rydym yn cael y ddadl hon heddiw. Gresyn bod y Llywodraeth wedi cyflwyno gwelliant 1 oherwydd fe gredaf fod ein cynnig wedi ffocysu ar y materion a gwerthfawrogi bod cynnydd wedi cael ei wneud. Er hynny, oni bai bod gennym yr adolygiad trylwyr hwnnw a'n bod yn ystyried yr holl faterion sy'n effeithio ar bobl ag awtistiaeth yng Nghymru heddiw, nid awn i'r afael â'r broblem hon a rhoi'r atebion angenrheidiol ar waith, sef yr hyn yr hoffai pob un ohonom yn y Siambr ei weld.

Janet Ryder: Yr wyf yn falch o siarad yn y ddadl heddiw. Fel cadeirydd y grŵp trawsbleidiol, byddwn yn falch o groesawu Nick Ramsay i'r cyfarfod nesaf er mwyn iddo allu gweld faint o waith sydd wedi cael ei wneud.

Yr wyf braidd yn bryderus am rai o'r pethau sydd wedi'u dweud yn y Siambr heddiw. Croesawaf y ffaith fod y ddadl hon wedi'i chyflwyno, ond rhaid inni gydnabod bod Cymru bellach wedi dod yn arweinydd byd ym maes awtistiaeth oherwydd y gwaith sydd wedi'i wneud. Mae llawer ar ôl i'w wneud, ond o leiaf mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi dechrau arni. Ni oedd y wlad gyntaf i gael cynllun cenedlaethol ac i ddechrau rhoi hynny ar waith. Yr wyf wedi clywed yn y grŵp trawsbleidiol fod nifer o bobl yn dal i fod ag anghenion sydd eto i'w bodloni. Fodd bynnag, o leiaf mae Cymru wedi dechrau ar y

being looked at by people around the world in relation to the work that is being done in this field, although there is still a long way to go.

The work that has been done on adult diagnosis in the Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board is incredible. That work is led by a woman who has personal experience of this and is determined to change this field. We have the first chair in autism at Cardiff University, helping to develop adult diagnosis. Much has been done, and there is much that we should celebrate in Wales, as well as acknowledging, as has been said, that there is a huge amount of work to do. I am sure that the Deputy Minister and the Minister would agree with me.

I was pleased with the launch of the National Autistic Society Cymru report, 'The life we choose', in January. We should have held that launch in the Pierhead building, but so many people wanted to come to that reception that we had to move it to the Neuadd. It is a sign of how important this issue is to many people in Wales. I was pleased, in 2009, when the Minister set up the adult task and finish group to explore and make recommendations on a number of areas of importance to adults with autism in Wales. I warmly welcome the progress that has been made thus far, including the announcement at the cross-party meeting in December—which no-one has mentioned yet—of the appointment of Robert Lloyd Griffiths as Wales's first autism employment ambassador. Of the adults with autism that NAS spoke to, only 6 per cent were in full-time employment and that is a shockingly low figure, even compared to the figures for those with other disabilities. Mr Griffiths will play an important part in raising awareness of the excellent contribution that people with autism can make in the workplace.

The success of this UK-first initiative must be measured by an increase in the number of people with autism in full-time employment. The initiative must be coupled with a new focus on employment support for people with autism. As others have said, this report shows

gwaith. Rydym yn gwneud gwahaniaeth ac yn cael ein hystyried ledled y byd mewn perthynas â'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud yn y maes hwn, er bod ffordd bell i fynd.

Mae'r gwaith sydd wedi'i wneud ar ddiagnosis oedolion ym Mwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr Lleol yn anhygoel. Caiff y gwaith hwnnw ei arwain gan wraig sydd â phrofiad personol o hyn ac sy'n benderfynol o newid y maes hwn. Mae gennym y gadair gyntaf mewn awtistiaeth ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd, gan helpu datblygu diagnosis oedolion. Mae llawer wedi'i wneud, ac mae llawer y dylem ei ddathlu yng Nghymru, yn ogystal â chydabod, fel y dywedwyd, fod llawer iawn o waith i'w wneud. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai'r Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Gweinidog yn cytuno â mi.

Yr oeddwn yn falch gyda lansiad yr adroddiad Cymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru, 'Y bywyd a ddewiswn', ym mis Ionawr. Dylem fod wedi cynnal y lansiad hwnnw yn adeilad y Pierhead, ond roedd cynifer o bobl am ddod i'r derbynriad nes inni orfod ei symud i'r Neuadd. Mae'n arwydd o bwysigrwydd y mater hwn i lawer o bobl yng Nghymru. Yr oeddwn yn falch, yn 2009, pan sefydlodd y Gweinidog y grŵp gorffennol a gorchwyl i oedolion i archwilio nifer o feysydd sy'n bwysig i oedolion sydd ag awtistiaeth yng Nghymru a gwneud argymhellion arnynt. Yr wyf yn croesawu'n fawr y cynnydd sydd wedi'i wneud hyd yma, gan gynnwys y cyhoeddiad yn y cyfarfod trawsbleidiol ym mis Rhagfyr—nad oes neb wedi sôn amdano eto—am benodiad Robert Griffiths Lloyd yn llysgennad cyntaf Cymru ar gyflogaeth awtistiaeth. O'r oedolion ag awtistiaeth y siaradodd NAS â hwy, dim ond 6 y cant oedd mewn cyflogaeth amser llawn ac mae hwnnw'n ffigwr arswydus o isel, hyd yn oed o'i gymharu â'r ffigurau ar gyfer pobl ag anableddau eraill. Bydd gan Mr Griffiths ran bwysig wrth godi ymwybyddiaeth o'r cyfraniad ardderchog y gall pobl ag awtistiaeth ei wneud yn y gweithle.

Rhaid mesur llwyddiant y fenter gyntaf hon yn y DU drwy gynyddu nifer y bobl ag awtistiaeth sydd mewn cyflogaeth amser llawn. Rhaid gosod y fenter ynghyd â ffocws newydd ar gymorth cyflogaeth i bobl ag awtistiaeth. Fel y mae eraill wedi'i ddweud,

that 13 per cent of people with autism are in receipt of employment support, while a further 53 per cent would like to have that kind of support. As I chair the cross-party group on autism, I know that one of the issues that comes up time and again in our meetings is that people with autism want to work. The Welsh Assembly Government and local authorities must redouble their efforts to ensure that people with autism are equipped with the skills that they need to successfully enter and stay in the workplace. We have Conwy and Denbighshire as examples of good practice; they have joined together to spend some of their strategic action plan funding on training 12 people as 'socialeyes' facilitators, working with people with autism on social integration skills and strategies.

The Minister has accepted a recommendation from the adult task and finish group that three regional monitoring and community support projects be set up to provide people with Asperger's syndrome with a range of low-level information, advice and local support to alleviate isolation and help prevent the development of greater needs in the long term. I know that the Minister has committed £80,000 to each region for the next three years for that work. I understand that the Minister received proposals from each of the regions in October, and I understand if she has reservations about one or more of the particular proposals. However, it is essential that people with Asperger's across Wales have access to community monitoring and support because they are precisely the kind of projects that people with autism, and particularly Asperger's syndrome, are telling us that they need.

The report shows that 59 per cent of people with Asperger's said that they would like help to develop their social skills, and 56 per cent would like counselling, which must be provided by people with the appropriate training. Without those low-level, low-cost types of support, the need can quickly escalate. Fifty-nine per cent of patients said that a lack of timely support had resulted in their child with autism having higher support needs in the longer term. There is evidence of increased prevalence of mental illness among

mae'r adroddiad hwn yn dangos bod 13 y cant o bobl sydd ag awtistiaeth yn cael cymorth cyflogaeth, a byddai 53 y cant yn ychwanegol yn hoffi cael y math hwnnw o gymorth. Fel cadeirydd y grŵp trawsbleidiol ar awtistiaeth, gwn mai un o'r materion sy'n codi dro ar ôl tro yn ein cyfarfodydd yw bod pobl ag awtistiaeth eisiau gweithio. Rhaid i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac awdurdodau lleol ddyblu eu hymdrechion i sicrhau bod pobl ag awtistiaeth yn meddu ar y sgiliau y mae arnynt eu hangen i lwyddo i fynd i mewn i'r gweithle ac aros yno. Mae Conwy a sir Ddinbych yn enghreifftiau o arfer da: maent wedi dod ynghyd i wario rhywfaint o gyllid eu cynllun gweithredu strategol ar hyfforddi 12 o bobl fel hwyluswyr 'llygad cymdeithas', gan weithio gyda phobl ag awtistiaeth ar sgiliau a strategaethau integreiddio cymdeithasol.

Mae'r Gweinidog wedi derbyn argymhelliad gan y grŵp gorffen a gorchwyl i oedolion y dylid sefydlu tri phrosiect rhanbarthol monitro a chymorth cymunedol i ddarparu i bobl sydd â syndrom Asperger ystod o wybodaeth, cyngor a chymorth lleol ar lefel isel i leddfu unigedd a helpu atal anghenion mwy rhag datblygu yn y tymor hir. Gwn fod y Gweinidog wedi ymrwymo £80,000 i bob rhanbarth am y tair blynedd nesaf ar gyfer y gwaith hwnnw. Deallaf fod y Gweinidog wedi cael cynigion gan bob un o'r rhanbarthau ym mis Hydref, a gallaf ddeall os oes ganddi amheuan am un neu fwy o'r cynigion penodol. Fodd bynnag, mae'n hanfodol i bobl sydd â syndrom Asperger ar draws Cymru allu cael monitro a chymorth cymunedol, oherwydd dyna'r union fath o brosiectau y mae pobl ag awtistiaeth, ac yn enwedig syndrom Asperger, yn dweud wrthym fod arnynt eu hangen.

Mae'r adroddiad yn dangos bod 59 y cant o bobl sydd â Syndrom Asperger yn dweud y byddent yn hoffi helpu datblygu eu sgiliau cymdeithasol, a byddai 56 y cant yn hoffi cael cwnsela, a rhaid darparu hynny gan bobl sydd â'r hyfforddiant priodol. Heb y mathau hynny o gefnogaeth lefel isel, cost isel, gall yr angen waethygu'n gyflym. Dywedodd 59 y cant o gleifion fod diffyg cefnogaeth amserol wedi golygu bod ar eu plant sydd ag awtistiaeth fwy o anghenion cymorth yn y pen draw. Mae tystiolaeth fod salwch

people with autism, and as many as 90 per cent of people with Asperger's syndrome have a recognisable psychiatric disorder. Seventy per cent of people with autism said that they thought that more mental health support would greatly improve their chances.

I would like to thank the Deputy Minister for all of the support that she has given to people with autism and for the way that she has worked with the cross-party group. I thank the Conservatives for tabling this debate today and I really hope that we can look on the positive side, while also appreciating that there is still a great deal to do.

Angela Burns: I am delighted to be able to take part in today's debate. The topic of this debate is very important and is also difficult to talk about because, as various people have said already, it covers an extremely wide range of people with an extremely wide range of ability and capability.

I thought long and hard about what I was going to add to this debate. I certainly do not want to go down the endless-statistics route, but I do want to be able to talk about some of the experiences that I have had in my constituency. At the end of the day, as an ordinary Assembly Member, who is not a specialist mental health worker or a specialist on autism, all I can do is relate the stories that I have heard and the experiences that I have seen. I also wish to draw upon the experiences of friends of mine who have not one, but two children who are at different points on the autistic spectrum.

I feel as if we are being accused of being temeritous for bringing forward this debate, when the Government is trying so hard to do what is right. We do not dispute that; indeed, we acknowledge that clearly in our points 1 and 2. However, what we are saying is that we want to be able to air this issue and talk about it, because it is so very important. There is so much more that can be done. I welcome the £2 million that has been put forward, but what we as a nation need to do, if we want to be world leaders, is to be encouraged to realise that people with autism are not very different to us. That is the key

meddwl cynyddol ymhlith pobl ag awtistiaeth, a bod gan gynifer â 90 y cant o bobl sydd â syndrom Asperger anhwylder seiciatrig cydnabyddedig. Dywedodd 70 y cant o bobl sydd ag awtistiaeth eu bod yn credu y byddai mwy o gymorth iechyd meddwl yn gwella'u rhagolygon yn fawr iawn.

Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Dirprwy Weinidog am yr holl gefnogaeth y mae wedi'i roi i bobl ag awtistiaeth, ac am y ffordd y mae wedi gweithio gyda'r grŵp trawsbleidiol. Diolch i'r Ceidwadwyr am gyflwyno'r ddadl heddiw, ac rwy'n gobeithio'n fawr y gallwn edrych ar yr ochr gadarnhaol, gan sylweddoli hefyd fod llawer iawn yn dal i'w wneud.

Angela Burns: Rwyf yn falch iawn gallu cymryd rhan yn y ddadl heddiw. Mae pwnc y ddadl hon yn bwysig iawn. Mae hefyd yn anodd siarad amdano, oherwydd fel y mae gwahanol bobl wedi dweud eisoes mae'n cwmpasu ystod eang iawn o bobl sydd ag ystod eang iawn o allu.

Rwyf wedi meddwl yn hir ac yn ddwys am yr hyn roeddwn am ei ychwanegu at y ddadl hon. Yn sicr, nid wyf am ddilyn y llwybr ystadegau diddiwedd, ond rwyf am allu siarad am rai o'r profiadau rwyf wedi'u cael yn fy etholaeth. Yn y pen draw, fel Aelod Cynulliad cyffredin nad yw'n weithiwr iechyd meddwl arbenigol neu'n arbenigwr ar awtistiaeth, y cyfan y gallaf ei wneud yw sôn am yr hanesion rwyf wedi'u clywed a'r profiadau rwyf wedi'u gweld. Hoffwn hefyd dynnu ar brofiadau ffrindiau imi sydd ag un os nad dau o blant ar bwyntiau gwahanol ar y sbectrum awtistig.

Rwyf yn teimlo fel pe baem yn cael ein cyhuddo o fod yn hyf wrth gyflwyno'r ddadl hon, a'r Llywodraeth yn ceisio mor galed i wneud yr hyn sy'n iawn. Nid ydym yn amau hynny, yn wir, rydym yn cydnabod hynny'n glir yn ein pwyntiau 1 a 2. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn rydym yn ei ddweud yw ein bod eisiau gallu trafod y mater hwn a siarad amdano, oherwydd mae mor eithriadol o bwysig. Mae cymaint mwy y gellir ei wneud. Croesawaf y £2 filiwn sydd wedi'u cynnig, ond yr hyn y mae angen i ni fel cenedl ei wneud, os ydym am fod yn arweinwyr byd, yw cael ein hannog i sylweddoli nad yw pobl ag

thing to understand. Sandy said earlier that 51 per cent of people say that things have improved, which is great, but that leaves 49 per cent who say that things have not improved. However, if, as a woman, I was in a particular area, looking at anything, and 49 per cent of women were being disadvantaged, all hell would break loose. If Oscar, for example, was in an area where 49 per cent of people from an ethnic background were being disadvantaged, then, again, all hell would break loose.

The way that we, in this country, treat people with mental health issues, mental or physical disabilities or anything like that—that is, people who are not classed as bolt-down-the-line normal—leaves a lot to be desired. However, the Government cannot necessarily change that; it is about changing the nation's mindset. It must be recognised that people who happen to have a disability of one sort or another are not odd or off the wall and should not be treated any less importantly or equitably than the rest of us. I say that because people come to see me in surgery and tell me that they are experiencing great difficulty in obtaining learning support for their children at school, or that they are having difficulty in getting their child into the appropriate secondary school that has the facilities to help them because they have autism. Someone came to see me not very long ago who was not diagnosed as having autism until she was about 24 or 25 years old. That seems nuts to me, because I would have thought that they would have been able to tell and that she would have been able to go through all of those processes.

When I make a phone call to the county council, the education authority, mental health professionals or the leader of the mental health team in Pembrokeshire or Carmarthenshire, there is a sense that questions are always asked as to whether there is enough money, whether there are professionals ready and available, whether the right department is talking to the right department, or whether there is the time to make things happen. I hate to say it, but it is almost as if people with autism, or almost anything else, are treated like third-class citizens. If I, Angela Burns, were knocking

awtistiaeth yn wahanol iawn i ni. Dyna'r peth allweddol i ddeall. Dywedodd Sandy yn gynharach fod 51 y cant o bobl yn dweud bod pethau wedi gwella, sy'n wych, ond mae hynny'n gadael 49 y cant sy'n dweud nad yw pethau wedi gwella. Fodd bynnag, pe bawn i, fel merch, mewn ardal benodol yn edrych ar unrhyw beth a bod 49 y cant o fenywod dan anfantais, byddai'n uffern fach ar y ddaear. Pe bai Oscar, er enghraifft, mewn ardal lle'r oedd 49 y cant o bobl o gefndir ethnig dan anfantais, yna, unwaith eto, byddai'n uffern fach ar y ddaear.

Mae'r ffordd rydym ni, yn y wlad hon, yn trin pobl sydd â phroblemau iechyd meddwl, anabledau meddyliol neu gorfforol neu unrhyw beth tebyg—hynny yw, pobl nad ydynt yn cael eu dosbarthu'n hollol normal tebyg—ymhell o fod yn foddhaol. Fodd bynnag, ni all y Llywodraeth o reidrwydd newid hynny; mae'n golygu newid meddylfryd y genedl. Rhaid cydnabod nad yw pobl sy'n digwydd bod ag anabled o ryw fath neu'i gilydd yn rhyfedd, ac na ddylid eu trin yn llai pwysig na theg na'r gweddill ohonom. Dywedaf hynny oherwydd bydd pobl yn dod i fy ngweld mewn meddygfa ac yn dweud wrthyf eu bod yn cael anhawster mawr i gael cymorth dysgu i'w plant yn yr ysgol, neu eu bod yn cael anhawster i gael eu plentyn i mewn i'r ysgol uwchradd briodol sydd â'r cyfleusterau i'w helpu am eu bod yn awtistig. Daeth rhywun i fy ngweld ychydig amser yn ôl nad oedd wedi cael diagnosis o awtistiaeth nes cyrraedd tua 24 neu 25 oed. Mae hynny'n ymddangos yn wirion i mi, oherwydd byddwn wedi meddwl y byddent wedi gallu dweud ac y byddai wedi gallu mynd drwy'r holl brosesau hynny.

Pan fyddaf yn ffonio'r cyngor sir, yr awdurdod addysg, gweithwyr proffesiynol ym maes iechyd meddwl, neu arweinydd y tîm iechyd meddwl yn sir Benfro neu sir Gaerfyrddin, mae yna ymdeimlad bod cwestiynau bob amser yn cael eu gofyn ynghylch a oes digon o arian, a oes gweithwyr proffesiynol yn barod ac ar gael, a yw'r adran iawn yn siarad â'r adran iawn, neu a oes amser i wneud i bethau ddigwydd. Mae'n gas gen i ddweud hyn, ond mae bron fel pe bai pobl ag awtistiaeth, neu bron unrhyw beth arall, yn cael eu trin fel dinasyddion trydydd dosbarth. Pe bawn i,

on the door, it would be a different story, but a parent whose child is in need of educational support to help them grow well to enable them to make a good and valuable contribution to society always has to go that extra mile to be told that the funds are not available. As I said, if you did that to women, to people of different ethnicities or people of a different sexual orientation, then we would be raising Cain and Abel; however, it seems to be okay that disabled people are sidestepped in this way.

5.00 p.m.

I do not think that the Government can necessarily answer all of that, because it is a question of changing public attitudes in our country. However, the Government needs to lead the way. That is why I was disappointed to see the amendment that was tabled, Minister. All that we asked was for the action plan to be re-evaluated and for you to take into consideration the report that has been produced by these people, who either have autism or live with people who have autism. They have the first-hand knowledge that I do not have. I feel that we are in danger of going down the political line again, whereas it is about trying to move forward. For the people whom I have met—and I appreciate that autism sometimes comes with many other issues—often it is not about anything other than seeing the world in a different way. If all of us can find the key, those people will have the ability to do amazing things. That is our responsibility. It is not their responsibility to find a key; it is our responsibility, as a nation and as an Assembly, as it is the Government's, to find the key so that those people can live fantastically fruitful and contented lives, instead of the lives that some of them currently end up living.

Jeff Cuthbert: I, for one, warmly welcome the new focus that the Welsh Government is putting on adult diagnosis of autism. 'The life we choose', which was recently issued by the National Autistic Society Cymru, and which has been mentioned by many speakers, shows that improvement is long overdue. As

Angela Burns, yn curo ar y drws, byddai'n stori wahanol, ond i riant sydd â phlentyn sydd ag angen cymorth addysgol i'w helpu i dyfu'n dda i'w alluogi i wneud cyfraniad da a gwerthfawr i gymdeithas, rhaid iddo bob amser wneud ymdrech ychwanegol i gael gwybod nad yw'r arian ar gael. Fel y dywedais, pe baech yn gwneud hynny i fenywod, i bobl o wahanol ethnigrwydd neu i bobl o dueddfryd rhywiol gwahanol, yna byddem yn gwneud twrw anferth: fodd bynnag, mae'n ymddangos yn iawn i bobl anabl gael eu hosgoi fel hyn.

Ni chredaf fod modd i'r Llywodraeth, o reidrwydd, ateb hyn oll, gan ei fod yn fater o newid agweddau cyhoeddus yn ein gwlad. Fodd bynnag, mae angen i'r Llywodraeth arwain yn hyn o beth. Dyna pam rwy'n siomedig o weld y gwelliant a gyflwynwyd, Weinidog. Y cyfan roeddem yn gofyn amdano oedd bod y cynllun gweithredu'n cael ei ail-werthuso a'ch bod yn ystyried yr adroddiad sydd wedi cael ei gynhyrchu gan y bobl hyn, sydd naill ai ag awtistiaeth neu'n byw gyda phobl sydd ag awtistiaeth. Mae ganddynt hwy'r wybodaeth uniongyrchol nad oes gen i mohoni. Teimlaf ein bod mewn perygl o fynd yn rhy wleidyddol eto, tra bo'n fater o geisio symud ymlaen. Ar gyfer y bobl hynny rwyf wedi cwrdd â hwy, a gwerthfawrogaf bod llawer o broblemau eraill sy'n gysylltiedig ag awtistiaeth weithiau, nid yw'n fater o ddim mwy na gweld y byd mewn ffordd wahanol. Os gall pob un ohonom ddod o hyd i'r allwedd, bydd y bobl hynny'n gallu gwneud pethau rhyfeddol. Dyna ein cyfrifoldeb ni. Nid eu cyfrifoldeb hwy yw dod o hyd i'r allwedd; mae'n gyfrifoldeb arnom ni, fel cenedl, ac fel Cynulliad, ac mae'n gyfrifoldeb ar y Llywodraeth hefyd, i ddod o hyd i'r allwedd fel y gall y bobl hynny fyw bywydau gwych, llawn a bodlon, yn lle'r bywydau y bydd rhai ohonynt yn fyw ar hyn o bryd.

Jeff Cuthbert: Rwyf fi, beth bynnag, yn croesawu'n fawr y ffocws newydd y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei roi ar ddiagnosis awtistiaeth mewn oedolion. Mae 'Ein bywyd - ein dewis', a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar gan Gymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru, ac y mae llawer o siaradwyr wedi'i

Mohammad Asghar said, waiting times for access to assessment and diagnosis can be long and stressful, and sometimes diagnosis comes only as a result of a breakdown in an individual's mental health. One reason for the unacceptably long waits for diagnosis is the chronic shortage of professionals in Wales who have the experience and knowledge necessary to make a diagnosis. Therefore, I warmly welcome the work on training and diagnostic tools that has been undertaken in north, mid and west Wales with the regional funding that has been made available by the action plan. However, the lack of training and capacity building in other areas means that we still lack an all-Wales strategic response to the training of clinicians with regard to diagnosis, particularly insofar as children are concerned.

As the Welsh Government determines the way forward for the action plan and the delivery of services and support for people who have autism and their families, the development of a strategic framework for the diagnosis of autism in children must be a priority. However, while widening access to diagnosis and increasing the capacity to assess and diagnose is vital, what matters most to people who have autism and their families is the subsequent quality and accessibility of services and support. 'The life we choose' shows that that is mixed across Wales at the moment. However, as Janet Ryder has said, a serious start has been made by the Welsh Assembly Government, and I believe that we are ahead of the game.

In my constituency of Caerphilly, we are fortunate to have a model of best practice in the Caerphilly Autistic Spectrum Service—CASS—which is a holistic model that is unique in Wales. The service provides a joined-up, multi-agency approach to managing the more challenging aspects of autism, and starts from the philosophy that everyone who is living or working with a child who has been diagnosed with autism should have an understanding of autism and the way in which it affects that child. CASS provides a wraparound service for children

grybwyll, yn dangos ei bod yn hen bryd cael gwelliant. Fel y dywedodd Mohammad Asghar, gall amseroedd aros ar gyfer cael asesiad a diagnosis fod yn hir ac yn gyfnod o straen, ac weithiau, dim ond ar ôl methiant iechyd meddwl yr unigolyn yn unig, y ceir diagnosis. Un rheswm dros y cyfnodau annerbyniol o hir o aros am ddiagnosis yw prinder difrifol o weithwyr proffesiynol yng Nghymru sydd â'r profiad a'r wybodaeth angenrheidiol i wneud diagnosis. Felly, rwy'n croesawu'n fawr y gwaith a gyflawnir yng ngogledd, canolbarth a gorllewin Cymru o ran hyfforddiant a dulliau diagnosteg, a sicrhawyd gan gyllid rhanbarthol a gafwyd drwy'r cynllun gweithredu. Fodd bynnag, mae'r diffyg hyfforddiant a meithrin gallu mewn ardaloedd eraill, yn golygu bod diffyg ymateb strategol ar sail Cymru gyfan i hyfforddi clinigwyr i roi diagnosis, yn enwedig mewn cysylltiad â phlant.

Gan mai Llywodraeth Cymru sy'n pennu'r ffordd ymlaen ar gyfer y cynllun gweithredu a darparu gwasanaethau a chymorth i bobl sydd ag awtistiaeth a'u teuluoedd, rhaid i'r gwaith o ddatblygu fframwaith strategol ar gyfer gwneud diagnosis o awtistiaeth mewn plant fod yn flaenoriaeth. Fodd bynnag, er bod ehangu mynediad at ddiagnosis a chynyddu'r gallu i asesu a gwneud diagnosis yn hanfodol, yr hyn sydd bwysicaf i bobl sydd ag awtistiaeth a'u teuluoedd yw ansawdd y gwasanaethau dilynol a'r gefnogaeth sydd ar gael, a pha mor hygyrch ydynt. Mae 'Ein bywyd - ein dewis' yn dangos bod hyn yn amrywiol ledled Cymru ar hyn o bryd. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedodd Janet Ryder, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cael dechrau da, a chredaf ein bod ar y blaen yn hyn o beth.

Yn fy etholaeth, Caerffili, rydym yn ffodus i gael model o arfer gorau yng Ngwasanaeth Sbectrwm Awtistig Caerffili, neu CASS, sy'n fodel cyfannol sy'n unigryw yng Nghymru. Mae'r gwasanaeth yn darparu dull cydgysylltiedig, aml-asiantaeth o reoli'r agweddau mwy heriol ar awtistiaeth, ac o'r dechrau yr athroniaeth yw y dylai pawb sy'n byw neu'n gweithio gyda phlentyn sydd wedi cael diagnosis o awtistiaeth gael dealltwriaeth o awtistiaeth a'r modd y mae'n effeithio ar y plentyn hwnnw. Bydd Gwasanaeth Sbectrwm Awtistig Caerffili yn darparu gwasanaeth

and young people who have autism, combining the traditional role of an outreach teacher with the addition of a communication support worker, school support worker and home support worker. I know that CASS recently gave a presentation to the cross-party group on autism, and it was well received. The unique CASS model should inspire good practice elsewhere in Wales, in order to improve outcomes for children and young people who have autism.

I also pay tribute to the work that is done for children who have autism by Trinity Fields Special School in my constituency, of which I am a governor. Long may its good work and support for learners and their families continue, because I know that it is highly valued.

CASS is currently funded by the Welsh Government's unlocking the potential of special schools grant. I know that there are serious concerns locally about the continued funding of the initiative, given that the funding will run out this August. CASS is unlocking the potential of children and young people in Caerphilly and the Rhymney valley who have autism, and I want to see that continue. It is also saving money for the health, education and social services, by keeping families together, helping children to stay in mainstream school with limited support and preventing the escalation of needs. Throughout 'The life we choose', the resourcefulness and commitment of parents comes through strongly. It is a sad fact that 83 per cent of the parents who were surveyed said that they had to fight to get services and support for their child.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the hard work of my constituent Jo Salmon, whose daughter Holly is on the autism spectrum. I recently had the pleasure of sponsoring the launch of Holly's Ball in the Senedd, and Holly's Ball will take place in the Millennium Stadium on World Autism Awareness Day in April to raise awareness about autism and also to raise funds for the National Autistic Society and Autism Cymru.

cofleidiol i blant a phobl ifanc sydd ag awtistiaeth, gan gyfuno rôl draddodiadol fel athro allgymorth â rôl ychwanegol fel gweithiwr cymorth cyfathrebu, gweithiwr cymorth ysgol a gweithiwr cymorth cartref. Gwn fod cyflwyniad diweddar Gwasanaeth Sbectrwm Awtistig Caerffili i'r grŵp trawsbleidiol ar awtistiaeth wedi cael croeso brwd. Dylai model unigryw Caerffili ysbrydoli arfer da mewn mannau eraill yng Nghymru, er mwyn gwella canlyniadau i blant a phobl ifanc sydd ag awtistiaeth.

Rwyf hefyd am talu teyrnged i'r gwaith a wneir ar gyfer plant sydd ag awtistiaeth gan Ysgol Arbennig Trinity Fields, yn fy etholaeth i, ac rwyf yn llywodraethwr ar yr ysgol hon. Boed i'w gwaith da a'i chefnogaeth ar gyfer disgyblion a'u teuluoedd barhau'n hir, gan fy mod yn gwybod ei fod yn cael ei werthfawrogi'n fawr.

Caiff Gwasanaeth Sbectrwm Awtistig Caerffili ei ariannu ar hyn o bryd gan grant datgloi potensial ysgolion arbennig gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Gwn fod pryderon difrifol yn lleol ynghylch parhad y cyllid i'r fenter, o gofio y bydd y cyllid yn dod i ben ym mis Awst. Mae Gwasanaeth Sbectrwm Awtistig Caerffili yn datgloi potensial plant a phobl ifanc sydd ag awtistiaeth yng Nghaerffili a Chwm Rhymni, a hoffwn weld hynny'n parhau. Mae hefyd yn arbed arian y gwasanaethau iechyd, addysg a'r gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, am ei fod yn cadw teuluoedd gyda'i gilydd, yn helpu plant i aros yn yr ysgol prif ffrwd gydag ychydig o gymorth, ac atal dwysáu'r anghenion. Daw dyfeisgarwch ac ymroddiad rhieni i'r amlwg yn bendant yn 'Ein bywyd - ein dewis' drwyddo. Mae'n drist gorfod nodi bod 83 y cant o'r rhieni a holwyd wedi dweud eu bod wedi gorfod brwydro i gael gwasanaethau a chefnogaeth ar gyfer eu plentyn.

Hoffwn gymryd y cyfle hwn i dalu teyrnged i waith caled fy etholwr, Jo Salmon, y mae ei merch Holly ar y sbectrwm awtistiaeth. Cefais y frain o noddi lansio Digwyddiad Holly yn y Senedd yn ddiweddar, a bydd Digwyddiad Holly yn digwydd yn Stadiwm y Mileniwm ar Ddiwrnod Ymwbyddiaeth Awtistiaeth y Byd ym mis Ebrill, i wella ymwbyddiaeth o awtistiaeth a hefyd i godi arian at y Gymdeithas Awtistiaeth

Jo is an inspirational and dedicated campaigner. Thanks to the ASD strategic action plan and the tireless campaigning of parents like Jo, awareness about autism has never been higher on the political agenda. Now is the time for us to reaffirm our commitment to delivering for people with autism in Caerphilly and across Wales.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Gwenda Thomas): Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Nick Ramsay am ddechrau trafodaeth ar y mater pwysig hwn ac yr wyf yn croesawu'r cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl.

Cyflyrau gydol-oes yw anhwylderau yn y sbectrum awtistig, sy'n aml yn gosod heriau cymhleth ac amrywiol iawn. Mae hefyd yn wir bod mwy o bobl yn cael diagnosis o anhwylder yn y sbectrum awtistig ac felly mae'n bwysig ein bod yn parhau i weithredu er mwyn cefnogi pobl sydd â'r cyflyrau hyn.

Er ein bod yn derbyn bwriad y cynnig, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn gwrthod pwynt 3, sef y cais i adolygu cynllun gweithredu strategol i Gymru ar gyfer anhwylderau yn y sbectrum awtistig er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r pryderon yn 'Ein bywyd—ein dewis'.

The Welsh Assembly Government is presently conducting an evaluation of the progress made on the ASD strategic action plan during its first two years and its impact on people with ASD. This evaluation will provide us with unique feedback from all Welsh local authority areas and collect examples of good practice. It will identify areas that need to be expanded or improved upon as the ASD strategic action plan moves into its next stage.

Hugh Morgan, the ASD implementation manager, has been tasked with drawing this evaluation report together and I have asked him to consider the findings of the NAS report in compiling the report. I expect to have sight of a final draft by the end of this month. The evaluation report will be published in due course.

Genedlaethol ac Awtistiaeth Cymru. Mae Jo yn ymgyrchydd ysbrydoledig ac ymroddgar. O ganlyniad i'r Cynllun Gweithredu Strategol Anhwylderau y Sbectrum Awtistig (ASD) ac ymgyrchu diflino rhieni fel Jo, mae ymwybyddiaeth o awtistiaeth yn uchel iawn ar yr agenda wleidyddol. Nawr yw'r amser i ni gadarnhau ein hymrwymiad i ddarparu ar gyfer pobl ag awtistiaeth yng Nghaerffili a ledled Cymru.

The Deputy Minister for Social Services (Gwenda Thomas): I am grateful to Nick Ramsay for initiating a discussion on this important issue and I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the debate.

Autism spectrum disorders are lifelong conditions that often pose challenges that are complex and multifaceted. It is also true that an increased number of individuals are being diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders and it is therefore important that we continue to take action to provide support for people with this condition.

While we accept the intention behind the motion, the Welsh Assembly Government rejects point 3, namely the call to review the autism spectrum disorders strategic action plan in order to address the concerns raised in 'The life we choose'.

Ar hyn o bryd mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cynnal gwerthusiad o'r cynnydd a wnaed ar y cynllun gweithredu strategol ASD yn ystod ei ddwy flynedd gyntaf, a'i effaith ar bobl ag ASD. Bydd y gwerthusiad hwn yn rhoi adborth unigryw i ni o bob ardal awdurdod lleol Cymru ac yn casglu enghreifftiau o arfer da. Bydd yn nodi meysydd y mae angen eu hehangu neu'u gwella, wrth i'r cynllun gweithredu strategol ASD yn symud i'w gam nesaf.

Cafodd Hugh Morgan, y rheolwr cyflawni ASD, y dasg o lunio'r adroddiad gwerthuso hwn, ac rwyf wedi gofyn iddo ystyried canfyddiadau'r adroddiad NAS wrth lunio'r adroddiad. Rwy'n disgwyl cael gweld y drafft terfynol erbyn diwedd y mis hwn. Bydd yr adroddiad gwerthuso yn cael ei gyhoeddi maes o law.

I am pleased to be able to announce that we have agreed funding of over £2 million for 2011-12 to take forward actions in the ASD strategic action plan. This funding will allow support for people with ASD to be maintained and will be used to further strengthen the existing local and national infrastructure and to improve the services available to children and adults with ASD. I will be issuing a press notice later this week setting out the full details of the funding agreed for 2011-12.

Funding will continue to be made available to local authorities to ensure that the infrastructure that they have developed, such as the ASD lead officers, can be retained. This infrastructure will be supported by a full-time Welsh Local Government Association project manager, who will oversee the establishment and running of an ASD learning and improvement network and the development of a new ASD e-learning resource. Local authorities will also be able to apply for additional grant funding to take forward projects that will benefit people with ASD on a regional basis. However, as Peter Black's amendment makes clear, people with ASD also rely on a wide range of other services and should there be significant cuts to these services or to the benefits that they receive, these individuals would be severely affected. Much of this lies beyond the responsibility of a devolved Government.

5.10 p.m.

Some areas of work have progressed more slowly than at first hoped and I acknowledge that there is still a great deal to be done. However, I hope that you will agree that great strides have been made since the ASD strategic action plan was launched in April 2008 and that we are beginning to make a real difference to the lives of people with ASD, their families and carers. In the few minutes that I have left, I will highlight some issues on which it would be good to share information this afternoon. Many of the recommendations in the National Autistic Society report are contained in the ASD strategic action plan or have come out of the work of the adults with ASD task and finish

Rwy'n falch o allu cyhoeddi ein bod wedi cytuno ar gyllid o dros £ 2 filiwn ar gyfer 2011-12 i gymryd camau ymlaen o ran y cynllun gweithredu strategol ASD. Bydd y cyllid hwn yn golygu y bydd cymorth i bobl ag ASD yn parhau a bydd yn cael ei ddefnyddio i gryfhau'r seilwaith lleol a chenedlaethol presennol, ac i wella'r gwasanaethau sydd ar gael i blant ac oedolion ag ASD. Byddaf yn cyhoeddi datganiad i'r wasg yn ddiweddarach yr wythnos hon yn nodi manylion llawn y cyllid y cytunwyd arno ar gyfer 2011-12.

Bydd yr arian yn parhau ar gael i awdurdodau lleol, i sicrhau y gall y seilwaith a ddatblygwyd ganddynt, fel y swyddogion arweiniol ASD, gael ei gadw. Cefnogir y seilwaith gan Reolwr Prosiect llawn-amser Cymdeithas Llywodaeth Leol Cymru, a fydd yn goruchwylio'r gwaith o sefydlu a chynnal rhwydwaith dysgu a gwella ym maes ASD ac o ddatblygu adnodd e-ddysgu ASD newydd. Gall awdurdodau lleol hefyd wneud cais am arian grant ychwanegol, i weithredu prosiectau ar sail ranbarthol a fydd o fudd i bobl ag ASD. Fodd bynnag, fel y mae gwelliant Peter Black yn nodi'n glir, bydd pobl ag ASD hefyd yn dibynnu ar amrywiaeth eang o wasanaethau eraill, a phe bai toriadau sylweddol yn y gwasanaethau hyn, neu yn y buddion a gânt, byddai'n effeithio'n ddifrifol ar yr unigolion hyn. Mae'r cyfrifoldeb dros hyn, i raddau helaeth, y tu hwnt i gyfrifoldeb Llywodraeth ddatganoledig.

Mae rhai meysydd gwaith wedi symud ymlaen yn arafach nag a obeithiwyd ar y dechrau ac rwyf yn cydnabod bod llawer iawn i'w wneud o hyd. Fodd bynnag, gobeithio y byddwch yn cytuno bod camau breision wedi'u gwneud ers lansio'r cynllun gweithredu strategol ASD ym mis Ebrill 2008 a'n bod yn dechrau gwneud gwahaniaeth go iawn i fywydau pobl sydd ag ASD, eu teuluoedd a'u gofalwyr. Yn yr ychydig funudau sydd gennyf ar ôl, byddaf yn tynnu sylw at rai materion y byddai'n dda rhannu gwybodaeth amdanynt y prynhawn yma. Mae llawer o'r argymhellion yn adroddiad y Gymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth wedi'u cynnwys yn y cynllun

group. The Welsh Assembly Government is planning, or has under way, action to address them. NAS Cymru, along with other voluntary sector organisations, has been involved in the process of planning and implementing many of the actions in the ASD strategic action plan following its launch in April 2008. I am grateful to those organisations for that.

I have been very grateful for the work that Hugh Morgan has done, as ASD action plan implementation manager, in driving forward the various actions and maintaining momentum. We are in the early stages of a world-first strategy, as far as we know. This is a 10-year, all-age strategy, and I believe that we are leading the way in this. I acknowledge the role of Janet Ryder as chair of the all-party group on autism and recognise the work of the group and other Members who have contributed to it.

We accepted the recommendations of the adults with ASD task and finish group about the provision of additional monitoring and support projects for adults with Asperger's syndrome on a regional basis. Three regional proposals were received. We were unable to consider them, of course, until after the Assembly budget was determined. A sum of £240,000 has been allocated for these three regional projects in the 2011-12 funding package. On children's diagnosis, Professor Sue Leekam, Chair of autism research at Cardiff University, has recently undertaken an evaluation of children's autism assessment and diagnosis services throughout Wales. Her report has been received and is under consideration. Hugh Morgan is working with Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board on the development of an all-Wales network that offers a diagnostic and pre-counselling and post-counselling service for adults with ASD. A proposal has now been received at the Assembly and is under consideration. All of the chief executive officers of the LHBs in Wales have been asked to nominate leads to represent them in the network. We are still awaiting some nominations.

gweithredu strategol ASD neu wedi deillio o waith y grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen ar oedolion sydd ag ASD. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n cynllunio camau i roi sylw iddynt neu maent ar y gweill. Mae NAS Cymru, ynghyd â sefydliadau eraill yn y sector gwirfoddol, wedi bod yn ymwneud yn y broses o gynllunio a gweithredu nifer o'r camau gweithredu yn y cynllun gweithredu strategol ar ASD yn dilyn ei lansio ym mis Ebrill 2008. Rwyf yn ddiolchgar i'r sefydliadau hynny am hyn.

Rwyf wedi bod yn ddiolchgar iawn am y gwaith y mae Hugh Morgan wedi'i wneud, fel rheolwr gweithredu'r cynllun ASD, wrth yrru ymlaen yr amrywiol gamau a chynnal momentwm. Rydym ar ddechrau strategaeth gyntaf o'r bath yn y byd, hyd y gwyddom. Mae hon yn strategaeth 10 mlynedd ar gyfer pob oed, a chredaf ein bod yn arwain y ffordd yn hyn. Rwyf yn cydnabod rôl Janet Ryder fel cadeirydd y grŵp trawsbleidiol ar awtistiaeth ac yn cydnabod gwaith y grŵp ac Aelodau eraill sydd wedi cyfrannu ato.

Derbyniwyd argymhellion y grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen ar oedolion sydd ag ASD ynglŷn â darparu prosiectau monitro a chymorth ychwanegol i oedolion sydd â syndrom Asperger ar sail ranbarthol. Cafwyd tri chynnig rhanbarthol. Nid oeddem yn gallu eu hystyried, wrth gwrs, nes i gyllideb y Cynulliad gael ei phenderfynu. Mae swm o £240,000 wedi'i glustnodi ar gyfer y tri phrosiect rhanbarthol ym mhecyn ariannu 2011-12. O ran diagnosis plant, mae'r Athro Sue Leekam, Cadeirydd ymchwil awtistiaeth ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd, yn ddiweddar wedi gwneud arfarniad o wasanaethau asesu a diagnosis awtistiaeth i blant ledled Cymru. Mae ei hadroddiad wedi cyrraedd ac yn cael ei ystyried. Mae Hugh Morgan yn gweithio gyda Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr ar ddatblygu rhwydwaith Cymru gyfan sy'n cynnig gwasanaeth diagnostig a chyn-cwrsela ac ôl gwnsela ar gyfer oedolion sydd ag ASD. Mae cynnig wedi'i wneud i'r Cynulliad ac mae'n cael ei ystyried. Mae pob un o brif weithredwr y BILl yng Nghymru wedi cael cais i enwebu arweinwyr i'w cynrychioli yn y rhwydwaith. Rydym yn dal i aros am rai enwebiadau.

Regarding communication, I do not have much time, but I would like Members to know that three different newsletters have been set up, as well as an internal information website called 'Connections'. A monthly newsletter is circulated to each ASD lead officer throughout Wales, and a newsletter that is jointly published by the Welsh Assembly Government and the Social Services Improvement Agency Wales is circulated to key organisations within the public and private sectors. A bulletin that gives an update on the implementation and progress being made through the ASD action plan is sent to Welsh MPs, AMs and heads of local authorities. Awareness-raising packages targeted at a wide range of practitioners' groups, including those working in education, health—I was glad that the BMA attended the event at which these were launched—and social services have been developed at national level by working group representatives from Autism Cymru, the National Autistic Society, regional support officers and the SSIA. A standards panel was set up to monitor the quality, consistency and readability of these materials. As I said, 11 final drafts have been completed, and I launched these on 3 February.

An 18-month feasibility study, jointly funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board, is looking into the development of a database or register of people with ASD, which can hopefully be rolled out for the whole of Wales. The adults with ASD task and finish group has agreed to reconvene, as we have heard, to consider five further areas affecting adults with ASD: mental health, the criminal justice system, further and higher education, older people with ASD and the impact of the Department for Work and Pensions' reforms on people with ASD. We have heard from Janet about the announcement of the appointment of Robert Lloyd-Griffiths as employment ambassador for people with autism. In the short time that Robert has been in that role, excellent progress has been made. I was pleased to announce last week that Admiral has become

O ran cyfathrebu, nid oes gennyf lawer o amser, ond hoffwn i'r Aelodau wybod bod tri chylchlythyr gwahanol wedi'u sefydlu, yn ogystal â gwefan gwybodaeth fewnol o'r enw 'Cysylltiadau'. Caiff cylchlythyr misol ei ddosbarthu i bob swyddog arweiniol ASD ledled Cymru, a chaiff cylchlythyr, sy'n cael ei gyhoeddi ar y cyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac Asiantaeth Gwella Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru, ei ddosbarthu i sefydliadau allweddol yn y sectorau cyhoeddus a phreifat. Mae bwletin sy'n rhoi diweddariad am y gweithredu a'r cynnydd sy'n digwydd trwy'r cynllun gweithredu ASD yn cael ei anfon at Aelodau Seneddol Cymru, Aelodau'r Cynulliad a phenaethiaid awdurdodau lleol. Mae pecynnau i godi ymwybyddiaeth sy'n targedu ystod eang o grwpiau ymarferwyr, gan gynnwys y rheini sy'n gweithio ym maes addysg, iechyd—ac roeddwn yn falch fod y BMA yn bresennol yn y digwyddiad lle cafodd y rhain eu lansio—a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol wedi'u datblygu ar lefel genedlaethol gan gynrychiolwyr gweithgor gan Awtistiaeth Cymru, y Gymdeithas Awtistiaeth Genedlaethol, swyddogion cymorth rhanbarthol ac SSIA. Sefydlwyd panel safonau i fonitro ansawdd, cysondeb a darllenadwyedd y deunyddiau hyn. Fel y dywedais, mae 11 o ddrafftiau terfynol wedi'u cwblhau, a lansiais y rhain ar 3 Chwefror.

Mae astudiaeth ddichonoldeb 18 mis, a ariennir ar y cyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr, yn edrych ar ddatblygu cronfa ddata neu gofrestr o bobl sydd ag ASD, a gobeithio y gellir ei chyflwyno ar gyfer Cymru gyfan. Mae'r grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen ar gyfer oedolion ag ASD wedi cytuno i ail-ymgynnull, fel y clywsom, i ystyried pum maes pellach sy'n effeithio ar oedolion sydd ag ASD: iechyd meddwl, y system cyfiawnder troseddol, addysg bellach ac uwch, pobl hŷn ag ASD, ac effaith diwygiadau'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau ar bobl sydd ag ASD. Rydym wedi clywed gan Janet am y cyhoeddiad am benodi Robert Lloyd-Griffiths yn llysgennad cyflogaeth ar gyfer pobl ag awtistiaeth. Yn yr amser byr mae Robert wedi bod yn y swydd honno, mae cynnydd rhagorol wedi'i wneud. Roeddwn yn falch cyhoeddi yr wythnos diwethaf mai

the first major employer in Wales to sign up to the Wales autism employment charter. This also looks into the needs of people with autism. I am confident that many more will follow. I am glad to have had the time to run through those points. I agree that there is much more to do, but the strategy is taking us the right way forward.

Jonathan Morgan: I thank all Members who have spoken in this debate this afternoon. It has been extremely useful. There has been a large degree of consensus on some of the enormous and complex challenges that families and individuals with autism face daily. I pay tribute to NAS Cymru and Autism Cymru for their work. I am slightly biased in that I am one of the trustees of Autism Cymru, but both organisations have shown considerable dedication in providing expert advice, help and support. They also make a significant contribution in working with Government, the all-party group and with politicians across the Chamber to champion the cause of those with autism, who face those considerable challenges. It is important that we consider the views and experiences of those affected by autism, which is why I welcome the report published by NAS Cymru. We have to consider the impact on families and individuals, and that will help us to reflect on what has been achieved thus far.

A few years ago, I remember being in a conference in Washington D.C. with colleagues of ours from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland. They were all arguing among themselves about the need for legislation to improve services for people with autism. Both Huw Morgan and I were quick off the mark to point out that you do not need legislation to solve every single problem, and that what we had seen here was an action plan and a strategic approach to improving services. That is now being reviewed. We welcome that fact that you are reviewing what has happened over the past few years, but it is important that any review takes into account the opinions, views and experiences of those people and families who

Admiral yw'r cyflogwr mawr cyntaf yng Nghymru i ymuno â siarter cyflogaeth awtistiaeth Cymru. Mae hon hefyd yn edrych ar anghenion pobl sydd ag awtistiaeth. Rwyf yn hyderus y bydd llawer mwy yn dilyn. Rwyf yn falch o fod wedi cael yr amser i fynd drwy'r pwyntiau hynny. Rwyf yn cytuno bod llawer mwy i'w wneud, ond mae'r strategaeth yn mynd â ni ymlaen ar hyd y llwybr cywir.

Jonathan Morgan: Rwyf yn diolch i'r holl Aelodau sydd wedi siarad yn y ddadl hon y prynhawn yma. Mae wedi bod yn ddefnyddiol iawn. Cafwyd llawer iawn o gytundeb ar rai o'r heriau enfawr a chymhleth sy'n wynebu teuluoedd ac unigolion sydd ag awtistiaeth bob dydd. Rwyf yn rhoi teyrnged i NAS Cymru ac Awtistiaeth Cymru am eu gwaith. Rwyf ychydig yn rhagfarnlyd gan fy mod yn un o'r ymddiriedolwyr Awtistiaeth Cymru, ond mae'r ddau sefydliad wedi dangos ymroddiad sylweddol wrth ddarparu cyngor, cymorth a chefnogaeth arbenigol. Maent hefyd yn gwneud cyfraniad sylweddol wrth weithio gyda'r Llywodraeth, y grŵp trawsbleidiol a chyda gwleidyddion ar draws y Siambr i hyrwyddo achos pobl sydd ag awtistiaeth ac sy'n wynebu'r heriau sylweddol hynny. Mae'n bwysig inni ystyried barn a phrofiadau'r rheini mae awtistiaeth yn effeithio arnynt, a dyna pam rwyf yn croesawu'r adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd gan NAS Cymru. Rhaid inni ystyried yr effaith ar deuluoedd ac unigolion, a bydd hynny'n ein helpu i fyfyrrio ar yr hyn sydd wedi'i gyflawni hyd yn hyn.

Ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl, rwy'n cofio bod mewn cynhadledd yn Washington D.C. gyda chydweithwyr o'r Alban, Gogledd Iwerddon ac Iwerddon. Roeddent i gyd yn dadlau ymysg ei gilydd fod angen deddfwriaeth i wella gwasanaethau ar gyfer pobl ag awtistiaeth. Roedd Huw Morgan a minnau'n gyflym i nodi nad oes angen deddfwriaeth i ddatrys pob un broblem, ac mai'r hyn roeddem wedi'i weld yma oedd cynllun gweithredu a dull strategol o wella gwasanaethau. Mae hwnnw'n awr yn cael ei adolygu. Rydym yn croesawu'r ffaith eich bod yn adolygu'r hyn sydd wedi digwydd dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, ond mae'n bwysig i unrhyw adolygiad roi ystyriaeth i farn, safbwyntiau a phrofiadau'r bobl a'r

deal with autism daily. Many Members have talked about the complexity of autism and the autism spectrum. Where you are on the spectrum, when your diagnosis was achieved, where you are living in Wales, and how rigorous your family is in arguing on your behalf all determine your experiences and your access to services. That will determine, in part, the degree to which public bodies are joined up in how they deal with you as an individual. I do not think that that is appropriate. We need to have a service that delivers access to the highest quality services regardless of where you live.

It is high time that, in reviewing what has been achieved in recent years, we examine the capacity of organisations in Wales to deliver first-class services. There are some incredible gaps throughout Wales in the delivery of services. Some young people need more specialised services. Those who have developed more acute forms of autism, which mean that they can no longer be educated in school and can no longer be looked after at home, may need a residential educational setting. However, the public sector does not provide anything of that sort in Wales. Local authorities do not do it. So, in order for those young people to get that service, we either send them to organisations such as Tŷ Coryton in my constituency, which is a privately-run establishment, or to organisations outside Wales. We have large numbers of young people who are being looked after, cared for and provided for outside of the country, because we have nothing here for them.

5.20 p.m.

Any review must look at the capacity of organisations in Wales to care for and provide for people in Wales. I do not always believe that we can do absolutely everything in Wales. I know that that is not always feasible or practical. However, children and young people are being sent many hundreds of miles away—in many cases to Norwich. I know of families who travel to Norwich on a Friday, spending seven hours in a car to get there, and then seven hours in a car on the Sunday to come home, so that they can visit one of their children. Knowing that, you

teuluoedd hynny sy'n delio ag awtistiaeth bob dydd. Mae nifer o'r Aelodau wedi sôn am gymhlethdod awtistiaeth a'r sbectrwm awtistiaeth. Mae'r pwynt lle rydych ar y sbectrwm, pryd cafodd eich diagnosis ei wneud, ble'r ydych yn byw yng Nghymru, a pha mor rymus mae eich teulu'n dadlau ar eich rhan i gyd yn penderfynu eich profiadau a'r gwasanaethau a gewch. Bydd hynny'n rhannol yn penderfynu pa mor gyfunol yw cyrff cyhoeddus wrth ddelio â chi fel unigolyn. Nid wyf yn credu bod hynny'n briodol. Mae angen inni gael gwasanaeth sy'n darparu mynediad i wasanaethau o'r safon uchaf waeth ble bynnag rydych yn byw.

Mae'n hen bryd, wrth adolygu'r hyn a gyflawnwyd yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf, inni edrych ar allu sefydliadau yng Nghymru i ddarparu gwasanaethau o'r radd flaenaf. Mae rhai bylchau anhygoel ledled Cymru wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau. Mae ar rai pobl ifanc angen gwasanaethau mwy arbenigol. Gall pobl sydd wedi datblygu mathau mwy difrifol o awtistiaeth, sy'n golygu na allant bellach gael eu haddysgu yn yr ysgol ac na ellir gofalu amdanynt yn y cartref, fod ag angen lleoliad addysgol breswyl. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r sector cyhoeddus yn darparu dim byd o'r fath yng Nghymru. Nid yw awdurdodau lleol yn gwneud hynny. Felly, er mwyn i'r bobl ifanc hynny gael y gwasanaeth hwnnw, rydym naill ai'n eu hanfon i sefydliadau fel Tŷ Coryton yn fy etholaeth i, sef sefydliad sy'n cael ei rhedeg yn breifat, neu i sefydliadau y tu allan i Gymru. Mae gennym nifer fawr o bobl ifanc sy'n cael gofal, a'r gofal yn cael ei ddarparu y tu allan i'r wlad, am nad oes gennym ddim yma ar eu cyfer.

Rhaid i unrhyw adolygiad edrych ar allu sefydliadau yng Nghymru i ofalu am bobl yng Nghymru a darparu ar eu cyfer. Nid wyf bob amser yn credu y gallwn wneud popeth yng Nghymru. Gwn nad yw hynny bob amser yn bosibl nac yn ymarferol. Fodd bynnag, mae plant a phobl ifanc yn cael eu hanfon gannoedd o filltiroedd i ffwrdd—mewn llawer achos i Norwich. Gwn am deuluoedd sy'n teithio i Norwich ar ddydd Gwener, yn treulio saith awr mewn car i gyrraedd yno, a saith awr wedyn mewn car ar y Sul i ddod adref, er mwyn ymweld ag un o'u plant. O wybod

understand the depth of the problem that we face. We must look at capacity as part of this review.

We are the first nation of the UK to have an action plan, and we welcome that. We are also the first nation of the UK to appoint a chair in autism research, which we have done at Cardiff University. Professor Sue Leekam has the ability to do an immense job in leading that research. However, we can never forget the complexity of the problems that we face nor the statistics that we face with regard to the number of people who are likely to encounter autism and the likely number of people who are therefore going to require extra support and help. Deputy Minister, if we were to ask local authorities now to tell us how many families or individuals in their area require support because of autism, hand on heart, I think that they would struggle to tell us. Deep down, we know that some local authorities have been better at responding to this action plan than others, and perhaps we need to start dealing with those others to ensure that they take their responsibilities more seriously.

We have to start thinking holistically about the range of services that people will require, about the difficult transition from child to adult services, and about joining up some of those areas where we know we have good practice and projects helping people in employment and individuals in that difficult transition from childhood to adulthood. In conclusion, perhaps we expected too much too soon. There has been progress, and I do not think that one debate in this Assembly will take us a huge step forward. However, what will take us forward is the Assembly Government's dealing with this as rigorously as possible and with as much enthusiasm as possible, so that we can show the people of Wales over the next four years of the next Assembly that we have truly become the leader in the area of the provision of services for those people with autism.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree the motion without amendment. Are there any objections? I see

hynny, rydych yn deall dyfnder y broblem sy'n ein hwynebu. Rhaid inni edrych ar gapasiti fel rhan o'r adolygiad hwn.

Ni yw'r wlad gyntaf yn y DU i gael cynllun gweithredu, ac rydym yn croesawu hynny. Ni hefyd yw'r wlad gyntaf yn y DU i sefydlu cadair mewn ymchwil awtistiaeth, sef yr hyn rydym wedi'i wneud ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd. Mae gan yr Athro Sue Leekam y gallu i wneud gwaith aruthrol yn arwain y gwaith ymchwil. Fodd bynnag, ni allwn anghofio cymhlethdod y problemau a wynebwn na'r ystadegau sy'n ein hwynebu o ran nifer y bobl sy'n debygol o ddod wyneb yn wyneb ag awtistiaeth a nifer tebygol y bobl sydd felly'n mynd i fod ag angen mwy o gefnogaeth a chymorth. Ddirprwy Weinidog, pe byddem yn gofyn i awdurdodau lleol yn awr ddweud wrthym faint o deuluoedd neu unigolion yn eu hardal sydd angen cefnogaeth oherwydd awtistiaeth, i fod yn holl onest, credaf y byddent yn ei chael yn anodd dweud wrthym. Yn y bôn, gwyddom fod rhai awdurdodau lleol wedi ymateb yn well nag eraill i'r cynllun gweithredu hwn, ac efallai bod angen inni ddechrau ymdrin â'r rhai eraill i sicrhau eu bod yn cymryd eu cyfrifoldebau yn fwy o ddifrif.

Rhaid inni ddechrau meddwl yn gyfannol am yr ystod o wasanaethau y bydd ar bobl eu hangen, am y newid anodd o wasanaethau plant i wasanaethau oedolion, ac am uno rhai o'r meysydd hynny lle gwyddom fod gennym arfer da a phrosiectau sy'n helpu pobl mewn cyflogaeth ac unigolion yn y trosglwyddo anodd hwnnw o fod yn blant i fod yn oedolion. I gloi, hwyrach ein bod yn disgwyl gormod yn rhy fuan. Fe gafwyd cynnydd, ac ni chredaf y bydd un ddadl yn y Cynulliad hwn yn mynd â ni gam mawr ymlaen. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn a fydd yn mynd â ni ymlaen yw gweld Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn delio â hyn mor drylwyr ag y bo modd a chyda chymaint o frwdfrydedd ag y bo modd, fel y gallwn ddangos i bobl Cymru dros bedair blynedd nesaf y Cynulliad nesaf ein bod yn wirioneddol dod yn arweinydd ym maes darparu gwasanaethau ar gyfer y bobl hynny sydd ag awtistiaeth.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw derbyn y cynnig heb ei ddiwygio. A oes gwrthwynebiad? Gwelaf fod gwrthwynebiad;

that there are, and therefore I defer all voting on this item until voting time.

felly, byddaf yn gohirio'r holl bleidleisiau ar yr eitem hon tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

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

Dadl Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate

Cymorth Ariannol i Bobl a Heintwyd â Hepatitis C ar ôl Cael Trallwysiadau Gwaed Halogedig Financial Support to People Infected with Hepatitis C after Receiving Contaminated Blood Transfusions

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

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

Cynnig NDM4656 Peter Black

Motion NDM4656 Peter Black

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. Yn croesawu penderfyniad Llywodraeth y DU i roi cymorth ariannol i bobl yn Lloegr a heintwyd â hepatitis C ar ôl cael trallwysiadau gwaed halogedig.

1. Welcomes the decision of the UK government to provide financial support to people in England infected with hepatitis C after receiving contaminated blood transfusions.

2. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i ddarparu cymorth ariannol tebyg i bobl yng Nghymru sydd mewn sefyllfa debyg.

2. Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to provide similar financial support for people in Wales who are similarly affected.

Veronica German: I move the motion.

Veronica German: Cynigiau y cynnig.

Back in the 1970s and 1980s, nearly 5,000 patients in Britain were infected with hepatitis C or HIV after being given infected blood transfusions by the NHS. Since that time, 1,700 people have died as a direct result of the blood that they were given at an NHS hospital. In addition, hundreds of others have had their lives devastated by these infections. Many people have had to give up work or greatly reduce their working hours as a result of their debilitating conditions, which obviously results in a greatly reduced income. Many people infected with these viruses require carers to look after them and have experienced drastic changes to their lives and the lives of their families since becoming infected.

Yn ôl yn y 1970au a'r 1980au, cafodd bron i 5,000 o gleifion ym Mhrydain eu heintio â hepatitis C neu HIV ar ôl cael trallwysiadau gwaed wedi'i heintio gan y GIG. Ers hynny, mae 1,700 o bobl wedi marw o ganlyniad uniongyrchol i'r gwaed a gawsant mewn ysbyty GIG. Yn ogystal, mae bywydau cannoedd o bobl eraill wedi'u difrodi gan yr heintiau hyn. Mae llawer o bobl wedi gorfod rhoi'r gorau i weithio neu leihau eu horiau gwaith yn fawr iawn oherwydd eu cyflyrau gwanychol, sy'n amlwg yn golygu llawer iawn llai o incwm. Mae nifer o'r bobl sydd wedi'u heintio â'r firysau hyn yn gorfod cael gofalu amdanynt ac wedi gweld newidiadau mawr yn eu bywydau eu hunain a bywydau eu teuluoedd ers cael eu heintio.

It is essential that people who are suffering as a result of treatment that they received from

Mae'n hanfodol i bobl sy'n dioddef o ganlyniad i driniaeth a gawsant gan y GIG

the NHS receive as much support as possible. Until now, financial support has been patchy at best, and there has been a distinct difference between the payments issued to people who contracted HIV and to those who contracted hepatitis C. It should have been a matter of priority for Governments to respond to the issue as promptly as possible, as the Irish did, but, unfortunately, successive Governments did not take the action necessary. With hindsight, it is easy to see the mistakes that were made. Contaminated blood concentrate obtained from paid donors in an unregulated market in the United States in the 1970s was imported to the UK and used routinely in the NHS. The United Kingdom was a long way from being self-sufficient in blood products and relied on imports from the US, even though the quality of the blood product could not be guaranteed. The groups of people who were most likely to sell their blood were more likely to be those who, statistically, were more susceptible to infections. They were also more likely to have underlying health conditions, patchy medical backgrounds, and to conceal medical details. In addition, a large proportion of blood products came from prisoners: another group of people who, statistically, are more susceptible to infections.

At the time, hepatitis C was unknown, and therefore there was no screening for the virus. Fortunately, today, stricter regulations and better screening means that a similar situation is, hopefully, unlikely to happen again. However, new viruses are always being discovered, and therefore it is crucial for Governments to keep up to date with the situation and to ensure that screening techniques keep pace with the identification of new viruses.

Successive Governments have failed to tackle the issue. In 2007, an inquiry was conducted into the cases. Unfortunately, that inquiry had to be funded privately rather than being undertaken by the Government, as the then Labour Government claimed that the treatment was given in good faith and that there was nothing that the Government could do. In addition to the individual tragedies, the other tragedy is that it has taken so long for Governments to take action to attempt to put

gael cymaint o gymorth ag y bo modd. Hyd yn hyn, mae cymorth ariannol wedi bod yn anghyson ar y gorau, a bu gwahaniaeth amlwg rhwng y taliadau a roddir i bobl a gafodd HIV a'r rhai a gafodd hepatitis C. Dylasai fod yn fater o flaenoriaeth i Lywodraethau ymateb i'r broblem mor brydlon â phosibl, fel y gwnaeth y Gwyddelod. Ond, yn anffodus, ni chymerwyd y camau angenrheidiol gan Lywodraethau olynol. O edrych yn ôl, mae'n hawdd gweld y camgymeriadau a wnaethpwyd. Cafodd gwaed wedi'u halogi oddi wrth roddwyr cyflogedig mewn marchnad heb ei rheoleiddio yn yr Unol Daleithiau yn y 1970au ei fewnforio i'r DU a'i ddefnyddio'n rheolaidd yn y GIG. Roedd y Deyrnas Unedig ymhell o fod yn hunangynhaliol o ran cynhyrchion gwaed, a dibynnai ar fewnforion o'r Unol Daleithiau, er na allai ansawdd y cynnyrch gwaed gael ei warantu. Roedd y grwpiau o bobl, a oedd fwyaf tebygol o werthu eu gwaed, yn fwyaf tebygol, yn ystadegol, o fod yn fwy agored i heintiau. Roeddent hefyd yn fwy tebygol o fod â chyflyrau iechyd sylfaenol, cefndir meddygol anghyson, ac o guddio manylion meddygol. Yn ogystal, daeth cyfran fawr o gynhyrchion gwaed oddi wrth garcharorion: grŵp arall o bobl sydd, yn ystadegol, yn fwy agored i heintiau.

Ar y pryd, roedd hepatitis C yn anhysbys, ac felly nid oedd dim sgrinio am y feirws. Yn ffodus, heddiw mae rheoliadau llymach a gwell sgrinio'n golygu bod sefyllfa debyg, gobeithio, yn annhebygol o ddigwydd eto. Fodd bynnag, mae firysau newydd o hyd yn cael eu darganfod, ac felly mae'n hanfodol i Lywodraethau fod yn ymwybodol o'r sefyllfa a sicrhau bod technegau sgrinio'n cyd-fynd â nodi firysau newydd.

Mae Llywodraethau olynol wedi methu â mynd i'r afael â'r mater. Yn 2007, cynhaliwyd ymchwiliad cynnal i'r achosion. Yn anffodus, roedd yn rhaid talu am yr ymchwiliad hwnnw'n breifat yn hytrach na chael ei wneud gan y Llywodraeth. Dywedodd y Llywodraeth Lafur ar y pryd fod y driniaeth wedi'i rhoi yn hollol ddiwyll ac nad oedd dim y gallai'r Llywodraeth ei wneud. Yn ogystal â'r trychinebau unigol, y trychineb arall yw ei bod wedi cymryd cyhyd i

this right. The fact that, in 2007, the Government would not look at the issue is a shocking indictment. An issue as serious as this should never have been ignored and left to Lord Archer's committee—made up of volunteers and paid for by private donations—to investigate. That inquiry made several recommendations to the Government, the majority of which, fortunately, have since been implemented by the UK Government.

Finally, in October 2010, the new coalition Government in Westminster announced that it would review the funding support given to patients who were infected as a result of receiving contaminated blood. Specifically, the Government wanted to redress the inequality between the HIV and hepatitis C support packages. In January, changes were announced that saw a dramatic improvement in the support packages available for people with hepatitis C in England, which will substantially improve people's quality of life. As yet, there has not been any such announcement in Wales.

The purpose of our debate this afternoon is to call on the Government to come forward with a set of proposals at least as good as those announced for England for those people in Wales living with hepatitis C as a result of NHS blood transfusions.

Gwelliant 1 Jane Hutt

Dileu'r cyfan ac yn ei le rhoi:

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

1. Yn nodi penderfyniad Llywodraeth y DU i ddarparu cymorth ariannol i bobl yn Lloegr a heintiwyd â hepatitis C ar ôl cael trallwysiadau gwaed halogedig.

2. Yn nodi bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar hyn o bryd yn ystyried Adolygiad Adran Iechyd y DU o'r Cymorth sydd ar gael i Unigolion a heintiwyd â hepatitis C a/neu HIV ar ôl cael Trallwysiadau Gwaed neu Gynhyrchion Gwaed a gyflenwir gan y GIG, ac i'w dibynnyddion, ac mae'n ymgynghori â phartïon sydd â diddordeb.

Lywodraethau gymryd camau i geisio unioni hyn. Mae'r ffaith fod y Llywodraeth, yn 2007, yn amharod i edrych ar y mater yn ddamniol. Ni ddylai problem mor ddifrifol â hon fyth fod wedi'i hanwybyddu a'i gadael i bwyllgor yr Arglwydd Archer ymchwilio iddi. Cynhwysai hwnnw wirfoddolwyr a thalwyd amdano gan roddion preifat. Gwnaeth yr ymchwiliad hwnnw nifer o argymhellion i'r Llywodraeth, a'r mwyafrif o'r rheini, yn ffodus, wedi eu rhoi ar waith ers hynny gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Yn olaf, ym mis Hydref 2010 cyhoeddodd y Llywodraeth glymblaid newydd yn San Steffan y byddai'n adolygu'r cymorth ariannol a roddir i gleifion a gafodd eu heintio oherwydd cael gwaed wedi'u halogi. Yn benodol, roedd y Llywodraeth yn awyddus i wneud iawn am yr annhegwch rhwng y pecynnau cymorth HIV a hepatitis C. Ym mis Ionawr, cyhoeddwyd newidiadau a olygai welliant syfrdanol yn y pecynnau cymorth sydd ar gael i bobl sydd â hepatitis C yn Lloegr. Bydd hynny'n gwella ansawdd bywyd pobl yn sylweddol. Hyd yn hyn, ni chafwyd cyhoeddiad o'r fath yng Nghymru.

Diben ein dadl y prynhawn yma yw galw ar y Llywodraeth i gyflwyno cyfres o gynigion o leiaf cystal â'r rhai a gyhoeddwyd ar gyfer Lloegr i'r bobl hynny yng Nghymru sy'n byw gyda hepatitis C oherwydd trallwysiadau gwaed y GIG.

Amendment 1 Jane Hutt

Delete all and replace with:

The National Assembly for Wales

1. Notes the decision of the UK government to provide financial support to people in England infected with hepatitis C after receiving contaminated blood transfusions.

2. Notes that the Welsh Assembly Government is currently considering the UK Department of Health's 'Review of the Support Available to Individuals Infected with Hepatitis C and/or HIV by NHS supplied Blood Transfusions or Blood Products and their Dependants' and is consulting with interested parties.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): I move amendment 1.

Kirsty Williams: I am grateful for the opportunity to speak in this debate. These issues have long exercised the National Assembly for Wales. In the first Assembly, the then Minister for health took evidence on this issue, and it has taken a long time to get to the point we are at now, where, hopefully, we will finally complete the picture of support. We need the Assembly Government to act responsibly and quickly in responding to the UK Government's report into financial support for people who contracted hepatitis C as a result of NHS blood transfusions.

The UK Government has reversed years of inaction by settling the inequality that existed between those patients who contracted HIV and those who contracted hepatitis C. So far, the Welsh Assembly Government has not come forward to say how it will respond with regard to patients and their families living in Wales. Over the last few weeks, the Government has been asked again and again by Liberal Democrats, and by Jonathan Morgan from the Conservative benches, to make a formal statement on how it intends to respond. However, to date, as we all know, we have not had a response from the Government. The Government now says that it needs time to consider the report, which is not an unreasonable thing to ask for, and to assess what the impact would be in Wales if it were to duplicate what the UK Government has done in England. We are all too aware that, when the Minister responsible for business first responded, she claimed that the Government in Wales had not had sight of the report before it was published, and therefore needed additional time to consider its response. However, as was highlighted last week and again yesterday by Jonathan Morgan, it seems that the Welsh Assembly Government was involved in that process and had sight of a number of documents, including those which indicated the direction of travel and the likely English solution in the months running up to the announcement of the UK Government's decision.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Cynigiad welliant 1

Kirsty Williams: Rwyf yn ddiolchgar am y cyfle i siarad yn y ddadl hon. Mae'r materion hyn wedi bod yn destun trafod maith i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Yn y Cynulliad cyntaf, cafodd y Gweinidog iechyd ar y pryd dystiolaeth ar y mater hwn, ac mae wedi cymryd amser hir i gyrraedd y man lle rydym heddiw. Gobeithio y bydd hyn yn y diwedd yn cwblhau'r darlun o gefnogaeth. Mae angen i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ymddwyn yn gyfrifol ac yn gyflym wrth ymateb i adroddiad Llywodraeth y DU i gymorth ariannol i bobl a gafodd hepatitis C o ganlyniad i drallwysïadau gwaed y GIG.

Mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi newid blynyddoedd o ddiffyg gweithredu drwy setlo'r anghydraddoldeb a oedd rhwng y cleifion hynny a gafodd HIV a'r rheini gafodd hepatitis C. Hyd yn hyn, nid yw Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi dweud sut y bydd yn ymateb o ran cleifion a'u teuluoedd sy'n byw yng Nghymru. Dros yr wythnosau diwethaf, gofynnwyd i'r Llywodraeth dro ar ôl tro gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, a chan Jonathan Morgan o feinciau Ceidwadwyr, i wneud datganiad ffurfiol am y ffordd y mae'n bwriadu ymateb. Fodd bynnag, hyd yma, fel y gwyddom, nid ydym wedi cael ymateb gan y Llywodraeth. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn awr yn dweud bod angen amser i ystyried yr adroddiad—ac nid yw hynny'n beth afresymol i ofyn amdano—ac i asesu beth fyddai'r effaith yng Nghymru pe bai'n dyblygu'r hyn y mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi'i wneud yn Lloegr. Rydym i gyd yn ymwybodol iawn, pan ymatebodd y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am fusnes y tro cyntaf, iddi honni nad oedd y Llywodraeth yng Nghymru wedi cael gweld yr adroddiad cyn ei gyhoeddi, ac felly roedd angen amser ychwanegol i ystyried ei ymateb. Fodd bynnag, fel y tynnwyd sylw yr wythnos diwethaf ac eto ddoe gan Jonathan Morgan, mae'n ymddangos bod gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ran yn y broses honno a'i bod wedi gweld nifer o ddogfennau, gan gynnwys y rheini a oedd yn dangos y bwriad teithio a'r ateb tebygol yn Lloegr yn y misoedd cyn cyhoeddi penderfyniad Llywodraeth y DU.

5.30 p.m.

On 1 December, the draft of the clinical report was shared with the Assembly Government, and on 17 December, further cost estimates were shared with the Assembly Government. Given the action that the UK Government has taken, it would be difficult for the Assembly Government not to offer a package of support at least as generous as the UK Government's offer for English citizens. If the two packages are significantly less than what it is being offered in England, there is a real danger that people could be left out and let down.

For example, Dr Ted Wolfenden from Clydach—whose permission I have to use his name in the debate—had been living in Wokingham for many years, but for personal reasons moved back to Wales. Had he stayed in Wokingham, he could have been eligible for the support being offered by the UK Government. If the Welsh Assembly Government does not offer a similar support package, people like Dr Wolfenden may well lose out.

The UK Government arrived at its decision to provide more financial support after listening to the views of those who have been affected, their families and those that have campaigned alongside them, who have been fighting for years for more support from the Government. One of the findings from the Archer inquiry into the case highlighted that one of the biggest problems through the years has been the unwillingness of Government to keep those affected informed of what was going on. Not only was there little support, there was also little indication from the Government as to whether they were likely to get additional support, or if their campaign was a hopeless case.

This is such an easy thing to put right. The Welsh Assembly Government should follow the lead set by the UK Government and decide quickly on how it intends to support these patients, to put their minds at ease. We should not keep these patients waiting any longer.

There is a considerable amount of mixed

Ar 1 Rhagfyr, rhannwyd y drafft o'r adroddiad clinigol â Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ac ar 17 Rhagfyr, rhannwyd amcangyfrifon costau pellach â Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. O ystyried y camau y mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi'u cymryd, byddai'n anodd i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad beidio â chynnig pecyn o gymorth yr un mor hael o leiaf â chynnig y Llywodraeth y DU i ddinasyddion Lloegr. Os bydd y ddau becyn yn sylweddol lai na'r hyn a gynigir yn Lloegr, mae perygl gwirioneddol y gellid gadael pobl allan a'u siomi.

Er enghraifft, roedd Dr Ted Wolfenden o Glydach—y mae gennyf ei ganiatâd i mi ddefnyddio ei enw yn y ddaol—yn byw yn Wokingham am flynyddoedd lawer, ond am resymau personol, symudodd yn ôl i Gymru. Pe bai wedi aros yn Wokingham, gallai fod wedi bod yn gymwys am y gefnogaeth a gynigir gan Lywodraeth y DU. Os nad yw Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cynnig pecyn cymorth tebyg, gallai pobl fel Dr Wolfenden fod ar eu colled.

Daeth Llywodraeth y DU i'w phenderfyniad i ddarparu mwy o gymorth ariannol ar ôl gwrandao ar farn y rhai a effeithiwyd, eu teuluoedd a'r rhai sydd wedi ymgrychu ochr yn ochr â hwy, sydd wedi bod yn ymladd am flynyddoedd am fwy o gefnogaeth gan y Llywodraeth. Amlygodd un o ganfyddiadau ymchwiliad Archer i'r achos y ffaith mai un o'r problemau mwyaf ar hyd y blynyddoedd fu amharodrwydd y Llywodraeth i hysbysu'r rhai yr effeithir arnynt o'r hyn oedd yn digwydd. Prin oedd y gefnogaeth, a phrin hefyd fod unrhyw arwydd gan y Llywodraeth o ran a oeddent yn debygol o gael cymorth ychwanegol, neu a oedd eu hymgyrch yn anobeithiol.

Peth mor hawdd i'w unioni ydyw. Dylai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ddilyn esiampl Llywodraeth y DU a phenderfynu'n gyflym sut y mae'n bwriadu cefnogi'r cleifion hyn, i dawelu eu meddyliau. Ni ddylem gadw'r cleifion hyn yn aros dim hwy.

Mae cryn dipyn o gamddealltwriaeth ar led ar

messages out there at the moment. For example, several people have tried to claim compensation from the Government and have taken their cases to the High Court. Several of these cases have been lost, usually for technical reasons, which is why it is even more important that the Government steps in to provide the financial support to meet the needs of those affected by this tragic set of circumstances.

Helen Mary Jones: Many of us will have seen constituents with cases relating to this matter, and we will have been struck not only by the difficulties of living with a highly distressing condition that can deteriorate into a dangerous one, but also the ongoing sense of injustice felt by hepatitis C patients, who feel that they have not been treated fairly in comparison with HIV patients. Kirsty Williams is right to remind us that this issue has been raised on a number of occasions over the years in the Assembly.

It has taken much too long for the UK Government to respond, but we would all welcome the fact that there is now a substantive report on which further progress can be based. We would all wish our Minister to respond as soon as possible, but there are a number of complex moral, legal and financial issues that need to be addressed in this regard. We would also wish to ensure that patients in Wales receive the best possible deal, which might not necessarily mean rubber-stamping what has been offered in England. There are sections in the report that relate to England but are not relevant to us—for example, there is a whole section on prescription charges, which are not relevant to Wales. That is simple for our Government to deal with—it just needs a red line through it, because it does not apply. However, there are other, complex issues, and we need to ensure that they are responded to effectively.

Perhaps this is more of an issue when money is so tight, but should the Assembly Government be liable for actions that were undertaken by the previous Department of Health many years ago? I am sure that none of us would wish for patients' redress to be delayed while those issues were being

hyn o bryd. Er enghraifft, mae nifer o bobl wedi ceisio hawlio iawndal gan y Llywodraeth ac wedi mynd â'u hachosion i'r Uchel Lys. Mae nifer o'r achosion hyn wedi methu, fel arfer am resymau technegol, a dyna pam y mae'n bwysicach fyth bod y Llywodraeth ymyrryd i ddarparu cymorth ariannol i ddiwallu anghenion y rhai a effeithir gan y set hon o amgylchiadau trasig.

Helen Mary Jones: Bydd llawer ohonom wedi gweld etholwyr ag achosion sy'n ymwneud â'r mater hwn, a byddwn wedi cael eu taro nid yn unig gan yr anawsterau o fyw gyda chyflwr trallodus iawn sy'n gallu dirywio yn beryglus, ond hefyd gan yr ymdeimlad parhaus o anghyfiawnder y mae cleifion hepatitis C yn ei deimlo—teimlant nad ydynt wedi cael eu trin yn deg o gymharu â chleifion HIV. Mae Kirsty Williams yn iawn i'n hatgoffa bod y mater hwn wedi cael ei godi sawl gwaith dros y blynyddoedd yn y Cynulliad.

Mae wedi cymryd llawer gormod o amser i Lywodraeth y DU i ymateb, ond byddem i gyd yn croesawu'r ffaith bod adroddiad sylweddol bellach sy'n gallu bod yn sail i gynnydd pellach. Byddai pob un ohonom yn dymuno i'n Gweinidog ymateb cyn gynted â phosibl, ond mae nifer o faterion cymhleth, moesol, cyfreithiol ac ariannol y mae angen mynd i'r afael â hwy yn hyn o beth. Byddem hefyd yn dymuno sicrhau bod cleifion yng Nghymru yn cael y fargen orau bosibl, sy'n golygu na fydd yr hyn a gynigiwyd yn Lloegr o reidrwydd yn cael sêl bendith. Mae adrannau yn yr adroddiad sy'n ymwneud â Lloegr sydd eto'n amherthnasol i ni—er enghraifft, mae adran gyfan ar daliadau am bresgripsiynau, nad ydynt yn berthnasol i Gymru. Peth syml i ein Llywodraeth ddelio ag ef ydyw—y cyfan sydd ei eisiau yw llinell goch drwyddo, gan nad yw'n berthnasol. Fodd bynnag, mae rhai materion cymhleth, ac mae angen sicrhau y cânt ymateb effeithiol.

Efallai fod hyn yn fwy o broblem adeg y mae arian mor dynn, ond a ddylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad fod yn atebol am weithredoedd a wnaed gan yr Adran Iechyd flaenorol flynyddoedd yn ôl? Rwy'n siŵr na fyddai neb ohonom am weld gwneud iawn i gleifion yn cael ei oedi wrth i'r materion hynny gael

discussed, and while I do not know whether the Minister is considering this matter—perhaps she will tell us—it is nonetheless an issue that will need consideration.

We may also need to consider how we co-operate with the other devolved administrations. We know that our Minister is working within tight financial constraints, but it may be possible for our Minister to be more generous to the families of hepatitis C sufferers who have not had the same treatment as the families of HIV sufferers. Like everyone else in the Chamber today, I urge the Minister to act as quickly as possible, but my emphasis would be on the ‘as possible’ and to ensure that whatever package of redress is eventually made available to these patients and, hopefully, to their families, it is the best possible package that we can attain and afford. No-one wants people who have been waiting many years to wait any longer than necessary, but I am sure that, for those families, waiting a few more weeks to get the best possible outcome is better than rushing and possibly getting a botched result.

Eleanor Burnham: I have to say that I feel quite queasy talking about this, but, in all seriousness, I am grateful to be discussing this important issue. It is a very serious matter and, like others, I welcome the UK Government’s recent announcement and the fact that the Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley, has assured Parliament that he will try to ensure that payments are made as soon as possible. After all, we have had many years of delay, so this announcement must be very reassuring for the people affected and their families. Taken together, the announcements represent a significant rise in the support available to those affected by this tragedy. The Government estimates that the package of support that is being offered is between £100 million and £130 million-worth of additional support over the course of this Parliament. It is a considerable sum of money and it goes to show just how many people have been affected by this dreadful situation.

The UK health Secretary has promised that

eu trafod, ac er nad wyf yn gwybod a yw'r Gweinidog yn ystyried y mater hwn—efallai y bydd yn dweud wrthym—mae er hynny'n fater y bydd angen ei ystyried.

Efallai y bydd angen hefyd i ni ystyried y modd yr ydym yn cydweithio â gweinyddiaethau datganoledig eraill. Gwyddom fod ein Gweinidog yn gweithio dan gyfyngiadau ariannol tynn, ond gall fod yn bosibl i'n Gweinidog ni fod yn fwy hael i deuluoedd dioddefwyr hepatitis C nad ydynt wedi cael eu drin yn yr un modd â theuluoedd dioddefwyr HIV. Fel pawb yn y Siambr heddiw, rwy'n annog y Gweinidog i weithredu cyn gynted ag y bo modd, ond byddai fy mhwylysais i ar yr ‘ag y bo modd’ ac ar sicrhau bod pa becyn bynnag o wneud iawn a gynigir yn y pen draw i'r cleifion hyn a'u teuluoedd, gobeithio, y pecyn gorau posibl y gallwn ei gyrraedd a'i fforddio ydyw. Nid oes neb am i bobl sydd wedi bod yn aros ers blynyddoedd lawer aros yn hwy nag sydd ei angen, ond rwy'n siŵr ei bod yn well gan y teuluoedd hynny aros ychydig wythnosau eto i gael y canlyniad gorau posibl na rhuthro a chwilio'r canlyniad o bosibl.

Eleanor Burnham: Rhaid dweud fy mod yn teimlo'n eithaf sâl yn siarad am hyn, ond, o ddifrif, yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i gael ei drafod y mater pwysig hwn. Mae'n fater difrifol iawn ac, fel eraill, yr wyf yn croesawu cyhoeddiad y Llywodraeth y DU yn ddiweddar a'r ffaith bod yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Iechyd, Andrew Lansley, wedi rhoi sicrwydd i Senedd y bydd yn ceisio sicrhau bod taliadau'n cael eu gwneud cyn gynted ag y bo modd. Wedi'r cyfan, yr ydym wedi cael nifer o flynyddoedd o oedi, felly mae'n rhaid fod y cyhoeddiad hwn yn galonogol iawn ar gyfer y bobl yr effeithir arnynt a'u teuluoedd. Gyda'i gilydd, mae'r cyhoeddiadau yn cynrychioli cynnydd sylweddol yn y cymorth sydd ar gael i'r rhai a effeithir gan y trychineb hwn. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn amcangyfrif bod y pecyn o gefnogaeth sy'n cael ei gynnig yw rhwng £ 100 miliwn a £ 130 miliwn o gymorth gwerth ychwanegol yn ystod y Senedd hon. Mae'n swm sylweddol o arian ac mae'n mynd i ddangos yn union faint o bobl wedi cael eu heffeithio gan y sefyllfa hon ofnadwy.

Mae'r Ysgrifennydd Iechyd y DU wedi addo

he will work with the devolved administrations to try to extend payments beyond England. We must remember that this is an example of where the NHS, in trying to treat people, caused them more harm than they had previously suffered. It is tragic. The examples of people contracting these fatal diseases and illnesses while in NHS care are rare, thankfully. We should remember the tremendous hard work that occurs on a daily basis in the NHS. There are lessons to be learned. Lord Archer's report points out that blood products are regularly tested today for syphilis, hepatitis B and C, HIV and other viruses, but we must remember that these patients contracted hepatitis C or HIV before we knew or understood much about either virus. The most important thing for the future is that the Government ensures that policies are up to date and able to adapt to changing circumstances in order to ensure that any new viruses identified in the future are similarly tested and kept out of the blood donation system, which is absolutely essential.

We now rely more on blood transfusions and blood products than ever before. We use around five times more blood products than we did when these cases occurred and so the risks attached are much greater. Ultimately, the Government needs to ensure that the rates of hepatitis C are as low as possible. Hepatitis C can be cured, and it is cured in 40 to 85 per cent of cases. That is why early detection is absolutely essential.

Nick Ramsay: I, too, am grateful to the Liberal Democrats for bringing this important and thought-provoking debate forward today. In a similar vein to Kirsty Williams's earlier comments, I welcome the UK Government's decision to provide financial support to people in England who have been infected by hepatitis C through receiving contaminated blood transfusions. We support this motion. We also call on the Welsh Government to do what it can to mirror the policy being followed in England.

y bydd yn gweithio gyda'r gweinyddiaethau datganoledig i geisio ymestyn y tu hwnt i daliadau Lloegr. Rhaid inni gofio bod hyn yn enghraifft o ble y GIG, wrth geisio trin pobl, achosi iddynt mwy o ddrwg nag yr oeddent wedi dioddef yn flaenorol. Mae'n drist. Mae'r enghreifftiau o bobl sy'n dal y clefydau hyn ac afiechydon angheuol tra mewn gofal y GIG yn brin, diolch byth. Dylem gofio y gwaith caled aruthrol sy'n digwydd o ddydd i ddydd yn y GIG. Mae gwersi i'w dysgu. Pwyntiau adroddiad yr Arglwydd Archer yn nodi bod cynhyrchion gwaed yn cael eu profi'n rheolaidd heddiw am syffilis, hepatitis B ac C, HIV a firsau eraill, ond rhaid inni gofio bod y cleifion hyn wedi'u contractio hepatitis C neu HIV cyn y byddwn yn gwybod neu ddeall llawer am naill ai feirws. Y peth mwyaf pwysig ar gyfer y dyfodol yw bod y Llywodraeth yn sicrhau bod polisiâu yn gyfoes ac yn gallu addasu i amgylchiadau sy'n newid er mwyn sicrhau bod unrhyw firsau newydd a nodwyd yn y dyfodol yn cael eu profi yr un modd ac yn cadw allan o'r system rhoi gwaed, sy'n yn gwbl hanfodol.

Rydym bellach yn dibynnu mwy ar drallwysyadau gwaed a chynhyrchion gwaed nag erioed o'r blaen. Rydym yn defnyddio tua phum gwaith cynhyrchion gwaed yn fwy nag yr oeddem pan ddigwyddodd yr achosion hyn ac felly y risgiau sy'n gysylltiedig yn llawer mwy. Yn y pen draw, mae angen i'r Llywodraeth sicrhau bod y cyfraddau o hepatitis C mor isel ag y bo modd. Gall hepatitis C yn cael eu gwella, ac mae'n cael ei halltu mewn 40 i 85 y cant o achosion. Dyna pam ganfod yn gynnar yn gwbl hanfodol.

Nick Ramsay: Yr wyf fi, hefyd, wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am ddod â'r ddadl bwysig ac yn ysgogi'r meddwl ymlaen heddiw. Yn yr un modd i Kirsty Williams sylwadau cynharach, yr wyf yn croesawu penderfyniad Llywodraeth y DU i roi cymorth ariannol i bobl yn Lloegr sydd wedi cael eu heintio gan hepatitis C thrwy dderbyn trallwysyadau gwaed wedi'u halogi. Rydym yn cefnogi'r cynnig hwn. Rydym hefyd yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i wneud yr hyn a all i adlewyrchu'r polisi cael ei ddilyn yn Lloegr.

While listening to Helen Mary Jones's earlier comments, I understood the gist of what she said to be that these people have waited a long time until now, but I do not think that I would use language suggesting that a few more weeks do not matter. I do not think that that is helpful to the people out there, but I do not think that Helen Mary Jones meant it in the way that it came across.

Helen Mary Jones: I am sorry if that was what you heard, Nick. What I said was that none of us would want anyone to wait any longer than they had to, but that it might be better to wait a little bit longer and then get the best possible result rather than rush to something that proved less than adequate, particularly if there was a possibility that we may be able to offer a slightly more generous deal for patients. The Minister will be able to tell us whether that is a possibility, and I am sure that you and others would welcome such a deal.

5.40 p.m.

Nick Ramsay: I hear your clarification on that point, Helen Mary. The Government needs to deal with this situation as quickly as possible. How many people are we dealing with here? Before heat treatment of blood supplies was introduced in 1985 and a test for hepatitis C developed in 1991, 4,675 haemophiliacs in the UK were infected with hepatitis C by NHS blood products in the 1970s and 1980s. The expert scientific review that was undertaken put forward a number of options for payments to individuals affected by hepatitis C, and these are listed on pages 15 and 16 of this fascinating report. Different options were provided in England, ranging from keeping stage 1 and 2 payments at current levels, which would have no financial impact, to increasing stage 2 payments by £25,000, both prospectively and retrospectively, at a cost of £19 million in the first year of operation.

We know that the previous UK Government was unwilling to look at changing the system of recompense, and there was a wider

Wrth wrando ar Helen Mary Jones sylwadau cynharach, yr wyf yn deall byrdwn yr hyn a ddywedodd fod y bobl hyn wedi disgwyl yn hir hyd yn hyn, ond nid wyf yn meddwl y byddwn yn defnyddio iaith sy'n awgrymu nad yw rhai wythnosau yn cyfrif. Nid wyf yn credu bod hynny'n ddefnyddiol i bobl allan yna, ond nid wyf yn meddwl a oedd yn golygu Helen Mary Jones yn y ffordd y mae'n dod ar draws.

Helen Mary Jones: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf os oedd eich clywed, Nick. Yr hyn a ddywedais oedd y byddai un ohonom eisiau i neb aros yn hwy nag oedd yn rhaid iddynt, ond y gallai fod yn well aros ychydig yn hwy, ac yna yn cael y canlyniad gorau posibl yn hytrach na rhuthro i rywbeth sy'n profi'n llai na digonol, yn enwedig os oedd posiblwydd y mae'n bosibl y byddwn yn gallu cynnig llawer ychydig yn fwy hael ar gyfer cleifion. Bydd y Gweinidog yn gallu dweud wrthym a bod yn bosiblwydd, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn croesawu ac eraill o'r fath gytundeb.

Nick Ramsay: Clywaf eich eglurhad ar y pwynt hwnnw, Helen Mary. Mae angen i'r Llywodraeth fynd i'r afael â'r sefyllfa hon cyn gynted â phosibl. Faint o bobl yr ydym yn sôn amdanynt? Cyn i driniaeth gwres cyflenwadau gwaed cael ei gyflwyno yn 1985 a chyn i brawf ar gyfer hepatitis C gael ei ddatblygu yn 1991, cafodd 4,675 o hemoffiligion yn y DU eu heintio â hepatitis C gan gynhyrchion gwaed y GIG yn y 1970au a'r 1980au. Cyflwynodd yr adolygiad gwyddonol arbenigol a gynhaliwyd nifer o opsiynau ar gyfer taliadau i unigolion yr effeithir arnynt gan hepatitis C, ac mae'r rhain wedi eu rhestru ar dudalennau 15 ac 16 o'r adroddiad diddorol hwn. Darperir gwahanol opsiynau yn Lloegr, yn amrywio o gadw taliadau fesul camau 1 a 2 ar y lefelau presennol, na fyddai'n cael unrhyw effaith ariannol, i gynyddu taliadau cam 2 o £25,000, yn rhagolygol ac yn ôl-weithredol, gan gostio £19 miliwn yn ystod y flwyddyn gyntaf o weithredu.

Rydym yn gwybod bod Llywodraeth y DU blaenorol yn amharod i edrych ar newid y system o iawndal, ac roedd amharodrwydd

unwillingness to follow the Irish model. I am very pleased that Andrew Lansley has now decided that the right path should be taken in England and appropriate compensation provided. We are looking at the introduction of a flat-rate payment of £12,000 for living Skipton Fund stage 2 recipients, uprated to keep up with inflation, and providing £100,000 per annum to third sector organisations over the next three years to provide additional access to counselling for people who have been affected. This report has been seen as a balanced package of support, and the UK Government's response to it was significant in going down this path. We take on board what the Liberal Democrats have been trying to achieve with this motion, as this is a complicated and sensitive matter. As Helen Mary Jones said, it is important that the Welsh Assembly Government provides, not necessarily the same solution as in England, but one that is suited to Welsh needs.

As a result of the Government review, Andrew Lansley confirmed that the amount of the second payment would rise to £50,000, and as I said, the Government is introducing a new annual payment of £12,800. The case for greater similarity between ex gratia payments for HIV and hepatitis C infection is based on the argument that the impact on the quality of life of those living with chronic hepatitis C—recognising that this motion refers specifically to that—is at least as great as that of living with HIV. We support this motion; I recognise the difficulties facing the Assembly Government in meeting this obligation, and I find it slightly ironic that the Liberal Democrats are asking the Government to take this course of action when, in the previous debate, the Welsh Conservatives were lambasted for looking to protect the health budget in Wales. Clearly, if you are taking money out of the health budget over three years, it becomes increasingly difficult to honour these commitments. We support this motion, and I look forward to hearing the Government's response.

Lorraine Barrett: I was interested in what Helen Mary Jones said in giving her take on

ehangach i ddilyn y model Gwyddelig. Rwyf yn falch iawn bod Andrew Lansley bellach wedi penderfynu y dylai'r llwybr cywir cael ei gymryd yn Lloegr ac y dylir darparu iawndal priodol. Rydym yn edrych ar gyflwyno taliad cyfradd unffurf o £12,000 ar gyfer byw ar gyfer derbynwyr Cronfa Skipton cam 2, wedi'i huwchraddio i gadw i fyny â chwyddiant, ac ar ddarparu £100,000 y flwyddyn i sefydliadau trydydd sector dros y tair blynedd nesaf i ddarparu mynediad ychwanegol i gwnsela ar gyfer pobl sydd wedi cael eu heffeithio. Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi cael ei weld fel pecyn cytbwys o gymorth, ac yr oedd ymateb Llywodraeth y DU yn arwyddocaol o ran mynd i lawr y llwybr hwn. Rydym yn derbyn yr hyn y mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi bod yn ceisio ei gyflawni gyda'r cynnig hwn, gan ei fod yn fater cymhleth a sensitif. Fel y dywedodd Helen Mary Jones, mae'n bwysig bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn darparu, nid o reidrwydd yr un ateb â Lloegr, ond un sy'n addas i anghenion Cymru.

O ganlyniad i adolygiad y Llywodraeth, cadarnhaodd Andrew Lansley y byddai swm yr ail daliad yn codi i £50,000, ac fel y dywedais, mae'r Llywodraeth yn cyflwyno taliad blynyddol newydd o £12,800. Mae'r achos dros fwy o debygrwydd rhwng taliadau ex gratia ar gyfer haint HIV a hepatitis C yn seiliedig ar y ddadl bod yr effaith ar ansawdd bywyd y rhai sy'n byw gyda hepatitis C cronig—gan gydnabod bod y cynnig hwn yn cyfeirio'n benodol at hynny—o leiaf mor fawr ag y mae'r effaith o fyw gyda HIV. Rydym yn cefnogi'r cynnig hwn, rwyf yn cydnabod yr anawsterau sy'n wynebu Llywodraeth y Cynulliad o ran cyflawni'r rhwymedigaeth hon, ac yr wyf yn ei chael yn ychydig yn eironig bod y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn gofyn i'r Llywodraeth gymryd y camau hyn pan, yn y ddadl flaenorol, rhoddwyd Ceidwadwyr Cymru o dan yr ordd am geisio gwarchod y gyllideb iechyd yng Nghymru. Yn amlwg, os ydych yn cymryd arian allan o'r gyllideb iechyd dros dair blynedd, mae'n dod yn fwyfwy anodd i anrhydeddu'r ymrwymadau hyn. Rydym yn cefnogi'r cynnig hwn, ac edrychaf ymlaen at glywed ymateb y Llywodraeth.

Lorraine Barrett: Roedd gen i ddiddordeb yn yr hyn a ddywedodd Helen Mary Jones yn

the situation. While we welcome the decision made by the UK Government, the Haemophilia Society still has reservations and has raised a raft of issues that it feels still need to be addressed. It is a difficult subject; I do not want to play political ping-pong with people's lives across the Chamber. I would have been concerned if we were seen to be rejecting this motion, but I felt a bit better when I saw the amendment tabled on behalf of the Government stating that it will consider the UK department's review of support for people affected in this way and will consult with interested parties. That is what is needed. It has been going on for a long time. The other reason that I wanted to say something was that I received an email today—I have not had permission to use the family name—from a young family that lives in my constituency. The husband was infected with hepatitis C via contaminated blood products. He now has liver damage and it has devastated the family's life. They have small children and the point was made to me that it is alright to offer compensation, but when you have a family growing up, you have socioeconomic needs that may be different to those of older people. This family has other needs and support that it is desperately crying out for. I know that our hearts go out to all the people who are affected in this way. I am looking forward to hearing what support the Minister might be able to offer these families.

Jonathan Morgan: I will start by welcoming the fact that we are able to discuss this matter this afternoon and thanking the Liberal Democrats for tabling this debate. It is the only opportunity that we have had to discuss the matter as the Assembly Government has not been forthcoming with a statement. Whatever the reasons for that may be, it is important that, if a Minister is unable to tell us about how the Assembly Government can help and support people in Wales who are suffering as a result of contaminated blood, those people are told why that detail cannot be made available. The difficulty that we had is that, in the past five weeks, when I have asked for a statement from the Minister, the Minister for Business and Budget has said that they are merely looking at the report and

rhoi ei barn ar y sefyllfa. Er ein bod yn croesawu'r penderfyniad a wnaed gan Lywodraeth y DU, mae Cymdeithas Hemoffilia yn dal i fod ag amheuan ac mae wedi codi llu o faterion y mae'n teimlo y dylir rhoi sylw iddynt. Mae'n bwnc anodd; nid wyf am chwarae ping-pong gwleidyddol â bywydau pobl ledled y Siambr. Byddwn wedi pryderu pe baem wedi cael ein gweld yn gwrthod y cynnig hwn, ond roeddwn yn teimlo ychydig yn well pan welais y gwelliant a gyflwynwyd ar ran y Llywodraeth yn datgan y bydd yn ystyried adolygiad adran y DU o gymorth i bobl yr effeithir arnynt yn y ffordd hon ac y bydd yn ymgynghori â phartion â diddordeb. Dyna beth sydd ei angen. Mae wedi bod yn mynd ymlaen am amser hir. Y rheswm arall yr oeddwn am ddweud rhywbeth oedd fy mod wedi derbyn e-bost heddiw-nid wyf wedi cael caniatâd i ddefnyddio enw'r teulu-o deulu ifanc sy'n byw yn fy etholaeth. Cafodd y gŵr ei heintio â hepatitis C drwy gynnyrch gwaed wedi'i halogi. Erbyn hyn mae ganddo niwed i'r iau ac mae wedi difetha bywyd y teulu. Mae ganddynt blant bach a gwnaed y pwynt i mi ei bod yn iawn i gynnig iawndal, ond pan fydd gennych deulu sy'n tyfu i fyny, mae gennych anghenion economaidd-gymdeithasol a all fod yn wahanol i rai pobl hŷn. Mae gan y teulu hwn anghenion eraill a chefnogaeth y mae'n galw'n daer amdanynt. Gwn fod ein calonnau'n mynd allan i'r holl bobl yr effeithir arnynt yn y modd hwn. Rwyf yn edrych ymlaen at glywed pa gymorth a allai'r Gweinidog gynnig i'r teuluoedd hyn.

Jonathan Morgan: Rwyf am ddechrau drwy groesawu'r ffaith ein bod yn gallu trafod y mater hwn y prynhawn yma a diolchaf i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am gyflwyno'r ddatl hon. Dyma'r unig gyfle yr ydym wedi'i gael i drafod y mater gan na fu datganiad gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Beth bynnag fo'r rhesymau dros hynny, mae'n bwysig, os nad yw Gweinidog yn gallu dweud wrthym am sut y gall Llywodraeth y Cynulliad helpu a chefnogi pobl yng Nghymru sy'n dioddef o ganlyniad i waed halogedig, bod y bobl hynny'n cael gwybod pam na ellir darparu'r manylion hynny. Yn y pum wythnos diwethaf, pan rwyf wedi gofyn am ddatganiad gan y Gweinidog, yr anhawster sydd gennym yw bod y Gweinidog dros Fusnes a'r Gyllideb wedi dweud eu bod ond

considering the information in order to come to a view. I do not think that that is good enough because the people of Wales, and those who are suffering in Wales, know that the Assembly Government had full sight of the clinical expert group's report in December. The people of Wales also know that the Assembly Government was given the cost estimates of the schemes that were being considered by the Department of Health. That information was made available in December; 10 January was not the first time that Assembly Government officials had sight of the report that was announced by Andrew Lansley. It is therefore important that people who are suffering get a better understanding from the Minister and the Government as to why they are being asked to wait a bit longer. With so many people in Britain who have been infected by contaminated blood, and with so many people living in England who will now benefit as a result of the scheme, the difficulty is that there are people living in Wales who are wondering why we are not acting quickly enough to respond to the situation that they face.

I do not think that the Minister for business, on the five occasions that this has been discussed in the Chamber, has provided an adequate explanation as to why we are where we are without detail from Government. It cannot be down to a lack of information because we know that the Government had the information. It cannot be down to a lack of ministerial support because I would imagine that the Minister would want to resolve this as quickly as possible, so we know that the will is there. I cannot imagine that it is down to a lack of money because that would be plain crass. Therefore, there must be some sort of dispute in relation to what the UK Government has announced for England and what the Assembly Government is looking at for Wales. There must be some problem that we are not being told about. This level of secrecy is unacceptable. People need to know where we are, what is being looked at, what the problem of the detail is, what the Assembly Government was given in December and why it is unable to make a statement now. People need to know the reasons for that.

yn edrych ar yr adroddiad ac yn ystyried y wybodaeth er mwyn ffurfio barn. Nid wyf yn credu bod hynny'n ddigon da oherwydd bod pobl Cymru, a'r rhai sy'n dioddef yng Nghymru, yn gwybod fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi gweld holl adroddiad y grŵp arbenigol clinigol ym mis Rhagfyr. Mae pobl Cymru yn gwybod hefyd fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi derbyn amcangyfrifon cost y cynlluniau a oedd yn cael eu hystyried gan yr Adran Iechyd. Yr oedd y wybodaeth honno ar gael ym mis Rhagfyr; nid 10 Ionawr oedd y tro cyntaf i swyddogion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad weld yr adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd gan Andrew Lansley. Felly, mae'n bwysig bod pobl sy'n dioddef yn cael gwell dealltwriaeth gan y Gweinidog a'r Llywodraeth ynglŷn â pham eu bod yn cael eu gofyn i aros ychydig yn hirach. Gyda chymaint o bobl ym Mhrydain sydd wedi cael eu heintio gan waed wedi'i halogi, a chymaint o bobl sy'n byw yn Lloegr a fydd yn awr yn elwa o ganlyniad i'r cynllun, yr anhawster yw bod pobl yn byw yng Nghymru sy'n meddwl tybed pam nad ydym yn gweithredu yn ddigon cyflym i ymateb i'r sefyllfa sy'n eu hwynebu.

Nid wyf yn credu fod y Gweinidog dros fusnes, ar y pum achlysur y mae hwn wedi ei drafod yn y Siambr, wedi rhoi esboniad digonol ynghylch pam ein bod yn y lle'r ydym heb fanylion gan y Llywodraeth. Ni all fod i lawr i ddiffyg gwybodaeth am ein bod yn gwybod bod y Llywodraeth yn cael y wybodaeth. Ni all fod i lawr i ddiffyg cefnogaeth gweinidogion oherwydd byddwn yn dychmygu y byddai'r Gweinidog am ddatrys hyn cyn gynted ag y bo modd, felly rydym yn gwybod bod yr ewyllys yno. Ni allaf dychmygu ei bod i lawr i ddiffyg arian gan y byddai hynny'n gwbl ddiiddeall. Felly, mae'n rhaid bod rhyw fath o anghydfod mewn perthynas â'r hyn y mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi cyhoeddi ar gyfer Lloegr a'r hyn y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei ystyried ar gyfer Cymru. Mae'n rhaid bod rhyw broblem nad ydym yn cael gwybod amdano. Mae'r lefel hon o gyfrinachedd yn annerbyniol. Mae angen i bobl wybod ble'r ydym ni, beth sy'n cael ei ystyried, beth yw'r broblem gyda'r manylion, beth a roddwyd i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ym mis Rhagfyr a pham nad yw'n gallu gwneud datganiad yn awr. Mae angen i bobl wybod y rhesymau

dros hynny.

The Assembly Government needs to say today if there is a difficulty, what that difficulty is, how quickly it thinks the problem will be resolved and when the Minister thinks that she may be in a position to come forward with a scheme that will provide that support, help and assistance to people in Wales who are suffering. The Minister needs to give a better response today than has been given by Jane Hutt on the past five occasions that I have raised the issue with her in the Chamber. It is not acceptable for us to ask people in Wales to wait a few more weeks to get a bit more information. Now, today, this afternoon: this is the time for the people of Wales to be told where we are with this extremely important scheme. There are people here today who are completely in the dark as to what the Assembly Government will be able to do on their behalf.

5.50 p.m.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): I thank the Liberal Democrats for tabling this debate. As Nick Ramsay said, it is on a sensitive issue, which is precisely why I have been consulting with affected parties. I also thank Veronica German for her opening remarks, which set the issue in context.

I would like to address the points raised about information in the report received by the Welsh Assembly Government. The final report, published on 10 January, entitled 'Review of the support available to individuals infected with Hepatitis C and/or HIV by an NHS supplied blood transfusions or blood products and their dependants', was not shared with me before the publication date. What had been shared with my officials was a draft of an expert scientific assessment, which appears in the final report as annex 4. This draft provides a scientific assessment of the natural history of hepatitis C infection. It suggests criteria to weigh in deciding whom payment might be made to, but it is advice only, and in draft; it does not contain any steer on the likely policy direction that Department of Health Ministers might take.

Mae angen i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ddweud heddiw os oes anhawster, beth yw'r anhawster, pa mor gyflym y mae'n credu y bydd y broblem yn cael ei ddatrys a phryd bydd y Gweinidog yn credu y gall fod mewn sefyllfa i gyflwyno cynllun a fydd yn darparu'r cymorth a'r help i bobl yng Nghymru sy'n dioddef. Mae angen i'r Gweinidog roi gwell ymateb heddiw nag a roddwyd gan Jane Hutt ar y pum achlysur y bu i mi godi'r mater gyda hi yn y Siambr. Nid yw'n dderbyniol i ni ofyn i bobl yng Nghymru aros mwy o wythnosau i gael ychydig mwy o wybodaeth. Yn awr, heddiw, y prynhawn yma: dyma'r amser i bobl Cymru gael gwybod lle'r ydym â'r cynllun hanfodol pwysig hwn. Mae pobl yma heddiw sydd yn gyfan gwbl yn y niwl o ran yr hyn y bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gallu gwneud ar eu rhan.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Diolch i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am gyflwyno'r ddaid hon. Fel y dywedodd Nick Ramsay, mae ar fater sensitif, a dyna'n union pam rwyf wedi bod yn ymgynghori â phartion yr effeithir arnynt. Diolch hefyd i Veronica German am ei sylwadau agoriadol, a oedd yn rhoi'r mater mewn cyd-destun.

Hoffwn fynd i'r afael â'r pwyntiau a godwyd am wybodaeth yn yr adroddiad a dderbyniwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Ni rannwyd yr adroddiad terfynol, a gyhoeddwyd ar 10 Ionawr, o'r enw 'Adolygiad o'r gefnogaeth sydd ar gael i unigolion a heintwyd â Hepatitis C ac/neu HIV gan drallwysiadau gwaed a gyflenwir gan y GIG neu gynhyrchion gwaed a'u dibynyddion' gyda mi cyn y dyddiad cyhoeddi. Yr hyn a oedd wedi ei rannu gyda fy swyddogion oedd drafft o asesiad gwyddonol arbenigol, sy'n ymddangos yn yr adroddiad terfynol fel atodiad 4. Mae'r drafft hwn yn rhoi asesiad gwyddonol o hanes naturiol yr haint hepatitis C. Mae'n awgrymu meini prawf i bwyso a mesur wrth benderfynu i bwy y gallai taliad gael ei wneud, ond cyngor yn unig ydyw, ac ar ffurf

drafft; nid yw'n cynnwys unrhyw arweiniad o ran y cyfeiriad polisi tebygol y gallai Gweinidogion yr Adran Iechyd eu cymryd.

In respect of cost estimates, officials did receive information from the Department of Health in e-mails on 4 and 17 December, which provided cost estimates at a UK level. Again, there was nothing in the correspondence that indicated the likely policy direction of the Department of Health's Ministers. Both the draft assessment of the clinical expert group and the provisional cost estimates were shared on the basis of being very much a work in progress and no further information was received. Indeed, officials in all the devolved administrations were informed by teleconference on 22 December that the Department of Health was unable to share the review's report, or any detailed recommendations, before publication. I subsequently wrote to Anne Milton MP, expressing my disappointment that I would not have sight of the report and its recommendations before the announcement. I remain concerned that there was not full consultation or co-operation with devolved Ministers, as promised by Anne Milton MP in a letter to me, dated 13 October, when she announced the review. As Minister for Health and Social Services, I have had discussions with my counterparts in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and I have written to the Minister of State for Health today expressing some concerns.

However, let us be frank: we have had a good discussion today. I wish to put the issue of inter-governmental relationships aside, as the key issue for us is the impact on the individual. That was very much the context in which the Liberal Democrat health spokesperson started the debate.

It is only proper that I give these vital issues my full consideration before proceeding. I recently met the Haemophilia Society, which represents concerned groups, families and individuals affected by these issues. This was an important opportunity for me to hear at first hand their views about the Department of Health's report. The society had several concerns about the recommendations in the

O ran amcangyfrifon costau, roedd swyddogion wedi derbyn gwybodaeth gan yr Adran Iechyd mewn e-bost ar 4 a 17 Rhagfyr, a oedd yn darparu amcangyfrifon cost ar lefel y DU. Unwaith eto, nid oedd dim yn yr ohebiaeth a oedd yn dangos y cyfeiriad polisi tebygol gan Weinidogion yr Adran Iechyd. Mae asesiad drafft y grŵp arbenigol clinigol a chost yr amcangyfrifon dros dro yn cael eu rhannu ar y sail eu bod i raddau helaeth yn waith ar y gweill ac ni ddaeth unrhyw wybodaeth bellach i law. Yn wir, hysbyswyd swyddogion yn yr holl weinyddiaethau datganoledig drwy telegynhadledd ar 22 Rhagfyr bod yr Adran Iechyd yn gallu rhannu adroddiad yr adolygiad, neu unrhyw argymhellion manwl, cyn ei gyhoeddi. Yn dilyn hynny, ysgrifennais at Anne Milton AS, yn mynegi fy siom nad oeddwn yn cael gweld yr adroddiad a'i hargymhellion cyn y cyhoeddiad. Rwy'n dal yn bryderus nad oedd ymgynghori llawn neu gydweithrediad â Gweinidogion datganoledig, fel yr addawyd gan Anne Milton AS mewn llythyr i mi, dyddiedig 13 Hydref, pan gyhoeddodd yr adolygiad. Fel y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, yr wyf wedi cael trafodaethau gyda fy nghymheiriaid yn yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon, ac yr wyf wedi ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog Gwladol dros Iechyd heddiw yn mynegi rhai pryderon.

Fodd bynnag, gadewch inni fod yn onest: rydym wedi cael trafodaeth dda heddiw. Hoffwn roi'r mater o berthynas rhynglywodraethol o'r neilltu, gan mai'r mater allweddol i ni yw'r effaith ar yr unigolyn. Dyna yn fawr iawn oedd y cyd-destun y dechreuodd llefarydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol y ddadl ynddo.

Mae ond yn briodol fy mod yn rhoi'r materion hollbwysig hyn fy ystyriaeth lawn cyn symud ymlaen. Yn ddiweddar, cyfarfûm y Gymdeithas Hemoffilia, sy'n cynrychioli grwpiau dan sylw, teuluoedd ac unigolion yr effeithir arnynt gan y materion hyn. Roedd hwn yn gyfle pwysig i mi glywed o lygad y ffynnon eu barn am adroddiad yr Adran Iechyd. Roedd gan y gymdeithas nifer o

report, and felt that the overall level of payment recommended did not reflect the impact of the viruses. There was no financial help for people with hepatitis C whose employment and quality of life were affected, but who do not qualify for stage 2 payments. The group emphasised at the meeting that all infected patients need support due to the need for intensive treatment requiring time off work, and some were unable to hold down jobs, particularly if employers were unsympathetic, even if they had developed severe liver disease. They advised me that it was wrong to only support patients with certain findings on a liver biopsy. Indeed, that would force patients to seek liver biopsies for financial reasons, whereas they are normally performed every five years for purely clinical reasons. Members will be aware that a liver biopsy is not a pleasant experience at any time, and not without risk in a patient with haemophilia and bleeding problems.

We discussed the invasive nature of the biopsy, and they expressed concern that there was no NHS access to a FibroScan in Wales. I am pleased to say that this issue has now been resolved, and as part of the overall funding package that I agreed for year 1 of the blood-borne viral hepatitis action plan, Cardiff and Vale University Local Health Board is purchasing FibroScan equipment. As a result of other issues that they raised, I have asked Dr Chris Jones, my medical director, to undertake a review of the services provided to these individuals. There was also concern that there were no criteria for the discretionary fund proposed by the Department of Health, and there was no allowance for problems in obtaining insurance. I was also advised by those affected by these issues that it is unreasonable for widows to have to provide evidence of infection by contaminated blood. In fact, I was told that it was not possible for infusions prior to 1981, when blood testing for hepatitis C was first introduced.

bryderon am yr argymhellion yn yr adroddiad, ac roedd yn teimlo nad oedd lefel gyffredinol y taliad a argymhellir yn adlewyrchu effaith y firysau. Nid oedd unrhyw gymorth ariannol ar gyfer pobl â hepatitis C, y mae eu cyflogaeth ac ansawdd bywyd yn cael eu heffeithio, ond nad ydynt yn gymwys ar gyfer taliadau cam 2. Pwysleisiodd y grŵp yn y cyfarfod bod angen cefnogaeth ar yr holl gleifion sydd wedi'u heintio oherwydd yr angen am driniaeth ddwys sy'n gofyn am amser i ffwrdd o'r gwaith, ac yr oedd rhai yn methu cadw eu swyddi, yn enwedig os oedd cyflogwyr yn anghydnaws, hyd yn oed os oeddent wedi datblygu clefyd yr iau difrifol. Maent yn dweud wrthyf ei bod yn anghywir i gefnogi cleifion gyda chanfyddiadau penodol ar biopsi afu yn unig. Yn wir, byddai hynny'n gorfodi cleifion i ofyn am biopsiau iau am resymau ariannol, ond maent yn cael eu perfformio fel arfer bob pum mlynedd am resymau clinigol. Bydd yr Aelodau'n ymwybodol nad yw biopsi iau yn brofiad pleruser ar unrhyw adeg, ac nid heb risg mewn cleifion â hemoffilia a phroblemau gwaedu.

Buom yn trafod natur ymledol y biopsi, ac maent yn mynegi pryder nad oedd unrhyw fynediad GIG i FibroScan yng Nghymru. Rwyf yn falch o ddweud bod y mater hwn bellach wedi ei ddatrys, ac fel rhan o'r pecyn cyllido cyffredinol a gytunwyd ar gyfer blwyddyn 1 o'r cynllun gweithredu hepatitis firaol a gludir yn y gwaed, mae Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro yn prynu offer FibroScan. O ganlyniad i faterion eraill a godwyd ganddynt, yr wyf wedi gofyn i Dr Chris Jones, fy nghyfarwyddwr meddygol, i gynnal adolygiad o'r gwasanaethau a ddarperir i'r unigolion hyn. Roedd pryder hefyd nad oedd unrhyw feini prawf ar gyfer y gronfa ddewisol a gynigir gan yr Adran Iechyd, ac nid oedd unrhyw lwfans ar gyfer problemau wrth gael yswiriant. Cefais fy nghynghori hefyd gan y rhai a effeithir gan y materion hyn ei bod yn afresymol i weddwon orfod darparu tystiolaeth o haint gan waed wedi'i halogi. Yn wir, dywedwyd wrthyf nad oedd yn bosibl ar gyfer arllwysiadau cyn 1981, pan gyflwynwyd profion gwaed ar gyfer hepatitis C yn gyntaf.

I have been especially struck by the tragic stories, as were all Members who have heard them from their own constituents, about what happens to members of their families and those with haemophilia. While haemophilia has sometimes been previously mild in families, and people have lived with it to a good age, we now see much younger individuals dying of liver disease as a result of contaminated blood. That naturally causes concern about how those people's families will be provided for after they have gone, because life insurance is just not an option for them.

Therefore, I am aware of the need to proceed with matters as quickly as possible, but Members must understand, as Helen Mary Jones said, that there are complex moral, legal and financial issues to be considered here. The support provided to those affected by contaminated blood is an UK-wide arrangement. The fact that the Department of Health took the decision unilaterally to implement the review's recommendations has put additional financial pressure on the Welsh Assembly Government's budget without our agreement. I need to give careful consideration before proceeding and I certainly need to have further discussions with those affected and other interested parties before making a final decision. As of today, I am aware that my counterparts in Scotland and Northern Ireland are also considering their position with regard to this.

I understand the heartfelt comments that have been made here today, by Jonathan and everyone else, and I want to reassure Members that we want this matter resolved quickly. I very much hope that I can conclude my meetings during the course of next week, and I will come to the Chamber as soon as my decision has been made. I also wish to give further consideration to some of the representations that have been made to me.

Jenny Randerson: The debate has been very helpful and I want to thank everyone who has participated in it. Many Members will be aware of my long-standing interest in this issue. I know that Jane Hutt and Brian Gibbons, when they were Ministers for

Cefais fy nharo yn enwedig gan y straeon trasig, fel yr holl Aelodau sydd wedi eu clywed gan eu hetholwyr eu hunain, am yr hyn sy'n digwydd i aelodau o'u teuluoedd a'r rhai â hemoffilia. Er bod hemoffilia weithiau wedi bod yn ysgafn o'r blaen mewn teuluoedd, ac er bod pobl wedi byw ag ef i oedran da, rydym yn awr yn gweld llawer o unigolion iau yn marw o glefyd yr afu o ganlyniad i waed wedi'i halogi. Mae hynny'n naturiol yn achosi pryder ynghylch sut y bydd modd darparu ar gyfer teuluoedd y bobl hynny ar ôl iddynt fynd, oherwydd nid yw yswiriant bywyd yn opsiwn iddynt hwy.

Felly, rwyf yn ymwybodol o'r angen i frwr ymlaen â materion mor gyflym â phosibl, ond mae'n rhaid i Aelodau ddeall, fel y dywedodd Helen Mary Jones, fod materion moesol, cyfreithiol ac ariannol cymhleth i'w hystyried yma. Mae'r gefnogaeth a ddarperir i'r rhai yr effeithir arnynt gan waed wedi'i halogi yn drefniant ar draws y DU. Mae'r ffaith bod yr Adran Iechyd yn cymryd y penderfyniad unochrog i weithredu argymhellion yr adolygiad wedi rhoi pwysau ariannol ychwanegol ar gyllideb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru heb ein caniatâd. Mae angen i mi ystyried yn ofalus cyn bwrw ymlaen ac yr wyf yn sicr fod angen i mi gael trafodaethau pellach gyda'r rheiny yr effeithir arnynt a phartion eraill â diddordeb cyn gwneud penderfyniad terfynol. O heddiw ymlaen, rwyf yn ymwybodol bod fy nghymheiriaid yn yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon hefyd yn ystyried eu sefyllfa o ran hyn.

Rwyf yn deall y sylwadau didwyll sydd wedi eu gwneud yma heddiw, gan Jonathan a phawb arall, ac yr wyf am sicrhau Aelodau ein bod am ddatrys y mater hwn yn gyflym. Gobeithiaf yn fawr y gallaf ddod i'r casgliad fy cyfarfod yn ystod y cwrs wythnos nesaf, a byddaf yn dod i'r Siambr cyn gynted ag fy penderfyniad wedi'i wneud. Yr wyf hefyd yn dymuno rhoi ystyriaeth bellach i rai o'r sylwadau a wnaed i mi.

Jenny Randerson: Mae'r ddadl wedi bod yn ddefnyddiol iawn ac rwyf am ddiolch i bawb sydd wedi cymryd rhan ynddo. Bydd llawer o Aelodau fod yn ymwybodol o fy hirsefydlog diddordeb yn y mater. Yr wyf yn gwybod a oedd Jane Hutt a Brian Gibbons, pan oeddent

health, were subject to pressure from me on this issue. I went to see them and corresponded with them fully on this issue, simply because, like other Members here, I have constituents who were very much affected by this and were strongly campaigning on it; sadly, two of those constituents have died.

When I went to see Brian Gibbons and Jane Hutt, their line was very clear: they were not able to do anything different to that which was being done by the UK Government. Of course, at that time, the UK Government was not doing anything on this issue. Therefore, I am now very worried that the Minister for health and other Members on the Government side are now taking the line that the UK Government's approach should not necessarily be followed on this issue, when, up until now, the line has been, 'We have to do what the UK Government is doing'.

Edwina Hart: I want to make it clear that I made my statement today in absolute good faith and outlined my position on discussions. I have not indicated in any of my contributions today what I am going to do or that I would not take the same position as the UK Government.

Jenny Randerson: I am happy to hear that, Minister. However, you will be aware that Helen Mary Jones raised the issue of whether it was right that we, in Wales, should be funding something that the UK Government should be funding. That was never an issue that your predecessors raised and I would be delighted to have your confirmation that you accept that the funding for this must come from Wales. As Nick Ramsay said, given that the amount of money is extremely small—it is actually in the order of £5 million over the term of the next Assembly—the amount of money cannot possibly be the problem. The Government needs to bear in mind the negative public perception if it is an issue of money.

6.00 p.m.

Moving on to the contributions to the debate,

yn y Gweinidogion ar gyfer iechyd, yn amodol ar bwysau oddi wrthyf ar y mater hwn. Es i weld nhw a gohebu â hwy yn llawn ar y mater hwn, am y rheswm syml, fel Aelodau eraill yma, mae gen i etholwyr a oedd yn fawr iawn hwn yn effeithio arnynt ac roeddent yn gryf ymgyrchu arno; yn anffodus, dau o'r cyfansoddion hynny wedi marw.

Pan es i weld Brian Gibbons a Jane Hutt, eu llinell yn glir iawn: nid oeddent yn gallu gwneud unrhyw beth gwahanol i'r hyn a oedd yn cael ei wneud gan Lywodraeth y DU. Wrth gwrs, ar y pryd, nid yw Llywodraeth y DU yn gwneud dim ar y mater hwn. Felly, yr wyf yn awr yn bryderus iawn bod y Gweinidog dros iechyd ac Aelodau eraill ar ochr y Llywodraeth yn awr yn cymryd y llinell na ddylai'r dull Llywodraeth y DU o reidrydd yn cael eu dilyn ar y mater hwn, pryd, hyd yn hyn, y llinell wedi bod, ' Mae'n rhaid i ni wneud yr hyn y mae Llywodraeth y DU yn ei wneud '.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf am ei gwneud yn glir fy mod yn gwneud fy natganiad heddiw yn ymddiried yn llwyr yn dda ac yn amlinellu fy safbwynt ar drafodaethau. Nid wyf wedi nodi yn unrhyw un o fy nghyfraniadau heddiw hyn yr wyf yn mynd i'w wneud neu na fyddwn yn cymryd yr un sefyllfa â Llywodraeth y DU.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn falch o glywed hynny, Weinidog. Fodd bynnag, byddwch yn ymwybodol a godwyd gan Helen Mary Jones y cwestiwn a oedd yn iawn ein bod ni, yng Nghymru, gael ei ariannu rhywbeth y dylai Llywodraeth y DU yn ei ariannu. Nid yw hynny erioed yn fater y mae eich rhagflaenwyr a godwyd a byddwn yn falch iawn o gael eich cadarnhad eich bod yn derbyn bod yn rhaid i'r cyllid ar gyfer hyn yn dod o Gymru. Fel y dywedodd Nick Ramsay, o ystyried bod y swm o arian yn fach dros ben-ei fod mewn gwirionedd yn y drefn o £ 5 miliwn dros dymor y Cynulliad nesaf-y Ni all swm o arian o bosibl fod yn broblem. Mae angen i'r Llywodraeth gadw mewn cof y canfyddiad negyddol y cyhoedd os yw'n fater o arian.

Gan symud ymlaen at y cyfraniadau i'r ddadl,

my first point is that there has never been a proper public inquiry on this issue. The nearest that we got to one was the Archer inquiry, which did a superb job, but it was funded by voluntary donations. It is important that we bear in mind that, for the families of the sufferers and those who are affected directly, the issue of culpability still remains a strong point. Lorraine mentioned the fact that the Haemophilia Society still has issues in that respect. I know that there are comparisons to be drawn with the situation in Ireland, where responsibility has been accepted, but, as was pointed out, this was an issue regarding the Department of Health, and I would not expect the Welsh Assembly Government to address the issue of culpability in any response.

Helen Mary Jones says that the Government should not rush. I would point out that the review in England was not even announced until October, and yet we know, from evidence that Jonathan has given, that the draft report was shared with the Assembly by the beginning of December. Therefore, it did not take a long time, and it is not something that the Assembly Government must suddenly get up to speed with in a great hurry, involving the assimilation of mountains of work and so on—this is a clear and simple situation. Cost estimates, as Jonathan has pointed out, were shared on 14 December, and options were shared on 17 December. The Minister has stated that they were not shared with her, but, with all due respect, Minister, your officials should share something as crucial as that with you, given that there was a rapid timescale. I would say to Helen Mary that time is of the essence, and it is an important factor.

I want to draw the attention of the Assembly to the words of Diane Abbott in the House of Commons, when she thanked the Secretary of State for Health for the statement, saying that

‘when we remember that more than 4,500 completely innocent and trusting patients contracted HIV, hepatitis C or both as a consequence of tainted blood, and that more than 1,900 of those people have died, leaving thousands of dependants behind, should we

fy mhwynt cyntaf yw na fu erioed ymchwiliad cyhoeddus priodol ar y mater hwn. Yr agosaf a gawsom i un oedd yr ymchwiliad Archer a wnaeth waith rhagorol, ond a gafodd ei ariannu gan roddion gwirfoddol. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cadw mewn cof, ar gyfer teuluoedd y dioddefwyr a'r rhai sy'n cael eu heffeithio arnynt yn uniongyrchol, fod y mater o euogrwydd yn dal i fod yn bwynt cryf. Soniodd Lorraine am y ffaith bod y Gymdeithas Hemoffilia yn dal i fod â phroblemau yn hynny o beth. Gwn y gellir gwneud cymariaethau â'r sefyllfa yn Iwerddon, lle mae cyfrifoldeb wedi cael ei dderbyn, ond, fel y dywedwyd, mae hyn yn fater ynghylch yr Adran Iechyd, ac ni fyddwn yn disgwyl i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru fynd i'r afael â'r mater o euogrwydd mewn unrhyw ymateb.

Dywed Helen Mary Jones na ddylai'r Llywodraeth frysio. Hoffwn dynnu sylw at y ffaith na chafodd yr adolygiad yn Lloegr hyd yn oed ei gyhoeddi tan fis Hydref, ac eto rydym yn gwybod, o'r dystiolaeth a roddodd Jonathan, fod yr adroddiad drafft wedi cael ei rannu gyda'r Cynulliad erbyn dechrau Rhagfyr. Felly, ni chymerodd lawer o amser, ac nid yw'n rhywbeth y mae'n rhaid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ddod i wybod amdano ar frys mawr, gan gynnwys dod â mynyddoedd o waith at ei gilydd ac yn y blaen—mae hon yn sefyllfa glir a syml. Rhannwyd amcangyfrifon cost, fel y dywedodd Jonathan, ar 14 Rhagfyr, a rhannwyd opsiynau ar 17 Rhagfyr. Mae'r Gweinidog wedi dweud na chawsant eu rhannu gyda hi, ond gyda phob dyledus barch, Weinidog, dylai eich swyddogion rannu rhywbeth mor hanfodol â hynny gyda chi, o gofio bod amserlen brysur. Byddwn yn dweud wrth Helen Mary bod amser yn brin, a'i fod yn ffactor pwysig.

Hoffwn dynnu sylw'r Cynulliad at eiriau Diane Abbott yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin, pan ddiolchodd yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Iechyd am y datganiad, gan ddweud

pan gofiwn bod mwy na 4,500 o gleifion yn gyfan gwbl ddiniwed ac ymddiriedus wedi cael HIV, hepatitis C neu'r ddau o ganlyniad i waed llygredig, a bod mwy na 1,900 o'r bobl hynny wedi marw, gan adael miloedd o ddibynyddion ar eu hôl, oni ddylem, fel Tŷ,

not, as a House, resolve that it should never again take 25 years for perfectly innocent victims of errors and mistakes to have proper justice and recompense?’

I do not think that we in the Assembly should make the terrible period during which they have suffered any lengthier.

Jonathan referred to the mystery regarding the delay, and I think that the Minister has answered some of the points made in that contribution. Lorraine referred to the needs of younger families, and it is important to point out that the UK Government announced that it would set up a new trust that would be funded to deal with that kind of issue. The Minister talked about the need for further consideration. I realise, Minister, that this is a complex issue—you only have to read the statement to see that. When I read it, it was a bittersweet day for me. It was a sweet day because of the statement, but it was also a sad day, because the two constituents to whom I have referred died within the few months immediately prior to the statement being made. The issue is that the settlement is very complex, and I understand that, Minister. However, time is of the essence. I emphasise for a reason that my constituents died within those few months. One of them has left behind a widow, who is also infected. Therefore, time is of the essence to those who remain. Every week of every month that they wait for the finance to which that they are entitled, and for the daily assistance that that finance would provide, is a week of pain for them. It is not just about physical pain and discomfort, which the extra money would help them with, but also mental anguish, because they know that, for 25 years, they have been denied justice. This money will not bring them that justice, but it will do a great deal to alleviate that daily anguish. Minister, please set aside your arguments with the UK Government about the process and provide them with an answer as soon as possible.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is that we agree the motion without amendment. Does any Member object? I see that there are objections. Therefore, I defer

benderfynu na ddylai byth eto gymryd 25 mlynedd i ddiodefwyr hollol ddiniwed o wallau a chamgymeriadau gael cyfiawnder priodol ac ad-daliad?

Nid wyf yn credu y dylem ni yn y Cynulliad wneud y cyfnod ofnadwy y gwnaethant ddiodef ynddo barhau yn hirach.

Cyfeiriodd Jonathan at y dirgelwch ynghylch yr oedi, a chredaf fod y Gweinidog wedi ateb rhai o'r pwyntiau a wnaed yn y cyfraniad hwnnw. Cyfeiriodd Lorraine at anghenion teuluoedd iau, ac mae'n bwysig nodi bod Llywodraeth y DU wedi cyhoeddi y byddai'n sefydlu ymddiriedolaeth newydd a fyddai'n cael eu hariannu i ddelio â materion fel hyn. Soniodd y Gweinidog am yr angen i ystyried ymellach. Rwyf yn sylweddoli, Weinidog, fod hwn yn fater cymhleth—nod oes on raid ichi ddarllen y datganiad i weld hynny. Pan ddarllenais ef, roedd yn ddiwrnod chwerwfelys i mi. Roedd yn ddiwrnod melys oherwydd y datganiad, ond roedd hefyd yn ddiwrnod trist, gan fod y ddau etholwyr y cyfeirias atynt wedi marw o fewn y misoedd yn union cyn i'r datganiad gael ei wneud. Y broblem yw bod y setliad yn gymhleth iawn, ac rwyf yn deall hynny, Weinidog. Fodd bynnag, mae amser yn brin. Rwyf yn pwysleisio fod fy etholwyr wedi marw o fewn yr ychydig fisoedd hynny am reswm. Mae un ohonynt wedi gadael gwraig weddw ar ôl, sydd hefyd wedi'i heintio. Felly, mae amser yn brin i'r rhai sydd ar ôl. Mae bob wythnos o bob mis y maent yn aros am y cyllid y mae ganddynt hawl iddo, ac am y cymorth dyddiol y byddai'r arian hwnnw yn ei ddarparu, yn wythnos o boen iddynt. Nid yw'n ymwneud yn unig â phoen ac anghysur corfforol, y byddai'r arian ychwanegol yn eu helpu gyda hwy, ond hefyd gofid meddwl, oherwydd eu bod yn gwybod bod cyfiawnder wedi ei wrthod iddynt am 25 mlynedd. Ni fydd yr arian hwn yn dod â'r cyfiawnder hwnnw iddynt, ond bydd yn gwneud llawer iawn i liniaru'r loes ddyddiol honno. Weinidog, rhowch eich dadleuon gyda Llywodraeth y DU am y broses i'r neilltu a rhoi ateb iddynt cyn gynted â phosibl.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw ein bod yn cytuno ar y cynnig heb ei ddiwygio. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf nad oes. Felly, rwyf yn gohirio'r bleidlais tan y

the vote until voting time.

cyfnod pleidleisio.

As it is past 5 p.m. I propose to move directly to voting time. Does any Member wish the bell to be rung? I see that no-one does.

Gan ei bod wedi troi 5 p.m. rwyf yn cynnig symud yn syth i'r amser pleidleisio. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn dymuno i'r gloch gael ei chanu? Gwelaf nad oes.

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

Cyfnod Pleidleisio Voting Time

*Cynnig NDM4658: O blaid 17, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 31.
Motion NDM4658: For 17, Abstain 0, Against 31.*

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
Isherwood, Mark
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
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
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 NDM4658: O blaid 38, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 11.
Amendment 1 to NDM4658: For 38, Abstain 0, Against 11.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Asghar, Mohammad
Bourne, Nick

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 German, Veronica
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce
 Williams, Kirsty

Burns, Angela
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Paul
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment agreed.*

*Gwelliant 2 i NDM4658: O blaid 38, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 11.
 Amendment 2 to NDM4658: For 38, Abstain 0, Against 11.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 German, Veronica
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan

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
 Isherwood, Mark
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick

Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment agreed.*

Cynnig NDM4658 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

Motion NDM4658 as amended:

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. Yn nodi'r cynnydd a wnaed dan y Cynllun Gweithredu Strategol i Gymru ar gyfer Anhwylderau yn y Sbectrwm Awtistig;

1. Notes the progress made under the Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan for Wales;

2. Yn mynegi pryder serch hynny nad yw nifer o bobl ag awtistiaeth a'u rheini/gofalwyr yn dal yn cael y gefnogaeth y mae ei hangen arnynt, fel y dangoswyd yn adroddiad Cymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru Ein bywyd—ein dewis;

2. Expresses concern however that many people with autism and their parents/carers are still not getting the support they need, as illustrated in the NASC report The Life We Choose;

3. Yn nodi y cytunwyd ar gyllid gwerth dros £2 filiwn ar gyfer 2011-12 i ddatblygu ymhellach y camau yn y Cynllun Gweithredu Strategol i Gymru ar gyfer Anhwylderau yn y Sbectrwm Awtistig; a

3. Notes that funding of over £2 million has been agreed for 2011-12 to take forward actions in the Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan for Wales; and

4. Yn nodi bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar hyn o bryd yn cynnal ei gwerthusiad ei hun o'r cynnydd a wnaed o ran y Cynllun Gweithredu Strategol ar gyfer Anhwylderau yn y Sbectrwm Awtistig yn ystod ei ddwy flynedd gyntaf, y bydd y gwerthusiad hwn yn nodi meysydd y mae angen ehangu neu wella arnynt a rhoddir ystyriaeth i ganfyddiadau Adroddiad Cymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth Cymru, Ein bywyd—ein Dewis, wrth lunio'r adroddiad gwerthuso hwn.

4. Notes that the Welsh Assembly Government is currently undertaking its own evaluation of the progress made on the Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan during its first two years, that this evaluation will identify areas that need to be expanded on or improved on and that the findings of the NASC Report The Life We Choose will be considered in drawing up the evaluation report.

5. Yn nodi bod llawer o'r cymorth sydd ei angen ar bobl gydag awtistiaeth, a'u rhieni/gofalwyr, yn cael ei gyllido drwy

5. Notes that much of the support that people with autism and their parents/carers need is funded through the Welsh Assembly

gyllidebau addysg, llywodraeth leol a chyfiawnder cymdeithasol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, ac y byddai toriadau pellach i'r cyllidebau hyn yn cyfyngu'n sylweddol ar y gallu i gyllido cymorth i awtistiaeth. *Government's education, local government and social justice budgets, and that further cuts to these budgets would severely limit the ability to fund autism support.*

*Cynnig NDM4658 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 38, Ymatal 11, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion NDM4658 as amended: For 38, Abstain 11, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
German, Veronica
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Asghar, Mohammad
Bourne, Nick
Burns, Angela
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Paul
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan

Ramsay, Nick

*Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM4658 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
Motion NDM4658 as amended agreed.*

*Cynnig NDM4656: O blaid 16, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 33.
Motion NDM4656: 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
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Williams, Kirsty

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
Motion not agreed.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM4656: O blaid 32, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 17.
Amendment 1 to NDM4656: For 32, Abstain 0, Against 17.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice

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

Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce

Isherwood, Mark
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment agreed.*

Cynnig NDM4656 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

Motion NDM4656 as amended:

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

The National Assembly for Wales

1. Yn nodi penderfyniad Llywodraeth y DU i ddarparu cymorth ariannol i bobl yn Lloegr a heintiwyd â hepatitis C ar ôl cael trallwysiadau gwaed halogedig.

1. Notes the decision of the UK Government to provide financial support to people in England infected with hepatitis C after receiving contaminated blood transfusions.

2. Yn nodi bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar hyn o bryd yn ystyried Adolygiad Adran Iechyd y DU o'r Cymorth sydd ar gael i Unigolion a heintiwyd â hepatitis C a/neu HIV ar ôl cael Trallwysiadau Gwaed neu Gynhyrchion Gwaed a gyflenwir gan y GIG, ac i'w dibynnyddion, ac mae'n ymgynghori â pharŵion sydd â diddordeb.

2. Notes that the Welsh Assembly Government is currently considering the UK Department of Health's 'Review of the Support Available to Individuals Infected with Hepatitis C and/or HIV by NHS supplied Blood Transfusions or Blood Products and their Dependants' and is consulting with interested parties.

*Cynnig NDM4656 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 32, Ymatal 6, Yn erbyn 11.
 Motion NDM4656 as amended: For 32, Abstain 6, Against 11.*

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

*Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
 The following Members voted against:*

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley

Asghar, Mohammad
 Bourne, Nick
 Burns, Angela
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Paul
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick

Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
 The following Members abstained:

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 German, Veronica
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM4656 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
 Motion NDM4656 as amended agreed.*

*Ni chofnodwyd pleidleisiau Jane Davidson oherwydd nam technegol.
 Jane Davidson's votes were not recorded due to a technical fault.*

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Yn Berffaith Iach? Byrddau Iechyd Lleol a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau yn Effeithiol A Picture of Health? LHBs and Effective Service Delivery

Eleanor Burnham: I have been privileged to have two previous short debates and I am in no doubt that this will probably be my last before the end of the Assembly term. I am therefore very grateful to have this short time to discuss service delivery.

My reason for tabling this debate is to provide an opportunity to discuss, in a rational manner, some of the things that can hinder effective service delivery in healthcare, particularly in north Wales. I am not here to bash staff; I would just like to question the strategic direction that is being followed. I will concentrate on the area covered by the Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board, because it is a board in

Eleanor Burnham: Rwyf wedi cael y fraind o gynnal y ddwy ddadl fer blaenorol ac rwyf yn sicr fod hon yn debygol o fod fy un olaf cyn diwedd tymor y Cynulliad. Rwyf felly'n ddiolchgar iawn i gael y cyfnod byr hwn i drafod darparu gwasanaethau.

Fy rheswm dros gyflwyno'r ddadl hon yw rhoi cyfle i drafod, mewn modd rhesymol, rhai o'r pethau a all rwystro darparu gwasanaethau effeithiol mewn gofal iechyd, yn enwedig yn y gogledd. Nid wyf yma i weld bai ar staff; hoffwn gwestiynu'r cyfeiriad strategol sy'n cael ei ddilyn. Byddaf yn canolbwyntio ar yr ardal a gwmpesir gan y Fwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr, gan ei fod yn fwrdd yn fy

my region and one of which I have some knowledge.

6.10 p.m.

We are all aware that we live in complex times. There are many ethical issues and issues relating to capacity, along with more complex clinical decisions that have to be made. I am also well aware of the pressures faced by front-line staff, and how hardworking and committed they must be to carry out their work in such a massive geographical area, equivalent to almost a third of the entire land mass of Wales. The Public Health Wales website states—and I believe that these are 2009 figures—that the board serves almost 700,000 people in the six counties of north Wales, and that around 6,700 patients from parts of mid-Wales, Cheshire and Shropshire also use its services. It is an exceptionally large and complex organisation that faces some exceptional challenges to meet the ever-increasing demands of patients.

There are issues, for instance, regarding best value for money. The infamous McKinsey report that our leader identified mentioned savings of between £100 million and £170 million were the procurement and supply chain improved throughout the health service in Wales. We have been asking questions, as is our duty as opposition Members, and I would be very interested to know about the strategic direction questions that I am sure have been on the mind of our Minister for Health and Social Services.

We have to remind ourselves that about 43 per cent of the Welsh budget is spent on health, which is about £6 billion in my estimation, though I am sure that the Minister will correct me if I am incorrect. Health and wellbeing is an absolutely essential part of the day-to-day issues that we must debate. As a nation, we must have the very best health and wellbeing. Front-line services are losing out. Regarding the Betsi Cadwaladr example, the McKinsey report identified shortcomings in Welsh Assembly Government strategy. The report went on to suggest that there were objectives that were too numerous, that were not prioritised and that were politically

rhanbarth ac rwyf yn gwybod rhywfaint amdano.

Rydym i gyd yn gwybod ein bod yn byw mewn oes gymhleth. Mae llawer o faterion moesegol a materion yn ymwneud â chapasiti, ynghyd â phenderfyniadau clinigol mwy cymhleth y mae'n rhaid eu gwneud. Gwn yn iawn hefyd am y pwysau a wynebir gan staff rheng flaen, a pha mor weithgar ac ymroddedig mae'n rhaid iddynt fod i wneud eu gwaith mewn ardal ddaearyddol mor fawr, sy'n cyfateb i bron i draean o dir Cymru gyfan. Mae gwefan Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru—credaf mai ffigurau 22009 yw'r rhain—bod y bwrdd yn gwasanaethu bron 700,000 o bobl yn chwe sir y gogledd, a bod tua 6,700 o gleifion o rannau o'r canolbarth, swydd Gaer a swydd Amwythig hefyd yn defnyddio ei wasanaethau. Mae'n sefydliad eithriadol o fawr a chymhleth sy'n wynebu rhai heriau eithriadol i gwrdd â gofynion cynyddol ei gleifion.

Mae problemau, er enghraifft, o ran gwerth gorau am arian. Mae'r adroddiad McKinsey enwog a nododd ein harweinydd yn sôn y gellid gwneud arbedion rhwng £100 miliwn a £170 miliwn pe bai caffael a'r gadwyn gyflenwi yn cael eu gwella ar draws y gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru. Buom yn gofyn cwestiynau, fel y mae dyletswydd arnom fel Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau, a byddai gennyf ddiddordeb mawr gwybod am y cwestiynau cyfeiriad strategol y tybiaf fu ar feddwl ein Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol.

Mae'n rhaid i ni atgoffa ein hunain bod tua 43 y cant o holl gyllideb Cymru yn cael ei wario ar iechyd, tua £6 biliwn yn ôl fy amcangyfrif i, er rwyf yn siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn fy nghywiros os wyf yn anghywir. Mae iechyd a lles yn rhan gwbl hanfodol o'r materion dydd i ddydd y mae'n rhaid inni eu trafod. Fel cenedl, rhaid i ni gael yr iechyd a lles gorau. Mae gwasanaethau rheng flaen yn cael cam. O ran yr enghraifft Betsi Cadwaladr, mae'r adroddiad McKinsey yn nodi diffygion yn strategaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Aeth yr adroddiad ymlaen i awgrymu bod gormod o amcanion, nid oeddynt wedi cael eu blaenoriaethu ac a oedd yn anymarferol yn

unviable. It said that implementation lacked accountability, that initiatives were not financially affordable and that there was a lack of capability to deliver. Those are not my words; they are from the infamous McKinsey report, or whatever else it might be called by now.

One issue that struck me while I was doing some research with my staff was the fact that every public body, including the Assembly Commission, has to go—quite rightly—through rigorous and meaningful scrutiny. When Sir Roger came to look at us, we were told that perception was just as important as reality. Whether we agreed with that or not, he kept reiterating that it was a fact. I put it to you, Minister, that the perception of leased cars in the Betsi Cadwaladr board, for instance, which apparently cost more than £1 million per annum, is something that I would be concerned about. I would like your views and strategic direction on this matter. Research that has been undertaken suggests that about £2 million a year is spent on leased cars, which I personally find quite staggering. More staggering still, however, is the fact that if I went around in a Jaguar, Alfa Romeo or Mercedes on behalf of the Assembly Commission, someone might have something to say about it. I bring this to your attention because I think that it is an important issue that might be perceived as one that might need your strategic direction.

Protected salaries represent another issue that many would suggest also needs your strategic direction. My understanding is that there are some people in the Betsi Cadwaladr board who have a total salary of about £0.75 million and have a pay protection period of 10 years, which I think would cause most of us genuine concern. I bring this to your attention because, in this day and age, when we are looking at huge costs—we have them now, and they will possibly be with us tomorrow as well—we need to ensure that we endeavour to get the best value for money. This money should be spent on front-line services, and not on things that others might perceive as not entirely essential. So, I look forward to your comments on that.

wleidyddol. Dywedodd fod diffyg atebolrwydd o ran y camau gweithredu, nad oedd mentrau yn fforddiadwy'n ariannol fforddiadwy a bod diffyg gallu i weithredu. Nid fi sy'n dweud hynny; maent yn dod o'r adroddiad McKinsey enwog, neu beth bynnag arall yw ei enw bellach.

Un mater a fy nharodd tra roeddwn yn gwneud rhywfaint o waith ymchwil gyda fy staff oedd y ffaith bod pob corff cyhoeddus, gan gynnwys Comisiwn y Cynulliad, yn gorfod mynd—yn ddigon teg—drwy broses graffu drylwyr ac ystyrion. Pan ddaeth Syr Roger i edrych arnom, dywedwyd wrthym fod canfyddiad yr un mor bwysig â realiti. Pa un a oeddem yn cytuno â hynny neu beidio, cadwodd ailadrodd ei fod yn ffaith. Rwyf yn awgrymu i chi, Weinidog, fod y canfyddiad o geir ar brydles ym mwrdd Betsi Cadwaladr, er enghraifft, sydd yn ôl pob tebyg yn costio mwy na £1 miliwn y flwyddyn, yn rhywbeth y byddwn yn boeni amdano. Hoffwn gael eich barn a'ch cyfeiriad strategol ar y mater hwn. Mae ymchwil a wnaed yn awgrymu bod tua £2 filiwn y flwyddyn yn cael ei wario ar geir ar brydles, sydd yn eithaf syfrdanol a siarad yn bersonol. Mae hyd yn oed yn fwy syfrdanol, fodd bynnag, pe bawn i yn mynd o gwmpas mewn Jaguar, Alfa Romeo neu Mercedes ar ran y Comisiwn y Cynulliad, y byddai gan rhywun rywbeth i'w ddweud am y peth. Rwy'n dod â hyn i'ch sylw gan fy mod yn credu ei fod yn fater pwysig a allai gael ei weld fel un sydd angen eich cyfarwyddyd strategol.

Mae cyflogau a ddiogelir yn cynrychioli mater arall y byddai llawer yn awgrymu sydd hefyd angen eich cyfarwyddyd strategol. Rwyf yn cael ar ddeall bod bod rhai pobl ym mwrdd Betsi Cadwaladr yn ennill cyfanswm cyflog o tua £0.75 miliwn ac â chyfnod diogelu cyflog o 10 mlynedd, y tybiaf y byddai'n achos pryder gwirioneddol i'r rhan fwyaf ohonom. Rwy'n dod â hyn i'ch sylw oherwydd, yn yr oes sydd ohoni, pan rydym yn edrych ar gostau enfawr—maent gennym yn awr, a byddant o bosibl fod gyda ni fory hefyd—mae angen i ni sicrhau ein bod yn ymdrechu i gael y gwerth gorau am arian. Dylid gwario'r arian ar wasanaethau rheng flaen, ac nid ar bethau na fyddai pobl eraill yn eu hystyried yn gwbl hanfodol. Felly, edrychaf ymlaen at eich sylwadau ar hynny.

There are other grave issues with regard to neonatal death rates and maternity services. North Wales has recently been highlighted as possibly having one the worst infant mortality rates in western Europe. I know that I should not refer to the *Daily Post* from October 2010, but I hope that it has endeavoured to be correct. It is one source from which I have heard of this issue; people have also brought it to my attention. Apparently, the death rate of 5.7 per 1,000 live births is the worst in the whole of western Europe. It is unsatisfactory perhaps that we should consider these things in terms of statistics, but, apparently, when the rate is compared with that in England, it is worse, and it is certainly worse than it is in the Republic of Ireland, France, Spain, Italy and Germany. In human cost, it is a huge tragedy. We have all met constituents who have been devastated by neonatal deaths. The sheer size of the region—particularly when it comes to premature births—gives us a huge cause for concern. Bliss is one organisation alone that has brought this to our attention.

Another issue that should concern us is the maintenance backlog. When I first came to the Assembly, all those years ago, I was a member of the Audit Committee, and considerable concern was expressed then about the state of the NHS estate. It would have been in 2001-02, I think, when that was brought to our attention by the Wales Audit Office. My understanding is that the current maintenance backlog is just short of £127 million. I can appreciate the huge impact that this will have in relation to Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, and the situation with asbestos there. I have had a recent missive from the hospital about what is happening in this regard. I worry about the issue; I also understand there has also been a significant issue in Ysbyty Gwynedd with copper pipes, if I remember correctly. I am sure that the Minister will correct me if I am wrong. It is a worry that, 12 years down the line, we still have a backlog for this capital expenditure, which is essential to service delivery for our constituents.

The other issue that concerns many of us is

Mae materion difrifol eraill o ran cyfraddau marwolaeth newyddanedig a gwasanaethau mamolaeth. Dywedwyd yn ddiweddar mai'r gogledd sydd ag un o'r cyfraddau marwolaethau babanod gwaethaf yng ngorllewin Ewrop. Gwn na ddylwn gyfeirio at y *Daily Post* o fis Hydref 2010, ond gobeithio ei fod wedi ymdrechu i fod yn gywir. Mae'n un ffynhonnell lle clywais am y mater hwn; mae pobl hefyd wedi tynnu fy sylw ato. Yn ôl pob tebyg, y gyfradd farwolaeth o 5.7 am bob 1,000 o enedigaethau byw yw'r gwaethaf yn y cyfan o orllewin Ewrop. Efallai nad yw'n foddhaol edrych ar y pethau hyn o safbwynt ystadegau, ond, yn ôl pob golwg, pan gymherir y gyfradd â'r sefyllfa yn Lloegr, mae'n waeth, ac mae'n sicr yn waeth nag ydyw yng Ngweriniaeth Iwerddon, Ffrainc, Sbaen, yr Eidal a'r Almaen. Mewn cost ddynol, mae'n drasiedi fawr. Rydym oll wedi cwrdd ag etholwyr sydd wedi dioddef yn enbyd oherwydd marwolaethau newyddanedig. Mae maint anferth y rhanbarth—yn enwedig pan ddaw i enedigaethau cynamsero—yn achos pryder mawr i ni. Mae Bliss yn un sefydliad a ddaeth â hyn i'n sylw.

Mater arall a ddylai fod o bwys yw'r ôl-groniad cynnal a chadw. Pan ddeuthum i'r Cynulliad y tro cyntaf, flynyddoedd maith yn ôl, roeddwn yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor Archwilio, a mynegwyd cryn bryder yr adeg honno am gyflwr ystad y GIG. Byddai hynny tua 2001-02, rwyf yn meddwl, pan dynnwyd ein sylw ato gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru. Fy nealltwriaeth i yw bod yr ôl-groniad cynnal a chadw presennol ychydig yn brin o £127 miliwn. Rwyf yn sylweddoli'r effaith fawr y bydd hyn yn ei gael mewn o ran Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, a'r sefyllfa gydag asbestos yno. Cefais lith yn ddiweddar gan yr ysbyty am yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn hyn o beth. Rwy'n poeni am y mater; rwyf hefyd yn deall y bu cryn broblem yn Ysbyty Gwynedd gyda phibellau copr, os cofiaf yn iawn. Rwyf yn siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn fy nghywiros os wyf yn anghywir. Mae'n peri pryder, 12 mlynedd yn ddiweddarach, fod gennym ôl-groniad ar gyfer y gwariant cyfalaf hwn, sy'n hanfodol i ddarparu gwasanaethau i'n hetholwyr.

Y mater arall sy'n peri pryder i nifer ohonom

hospice funding. We know that you carried out a review, Minister, and I understand that it has improved the situation. However, people still come to us with concerns about what is happening and how we can best manage the future of hospice funding.

There is also an issue around avoidable deaths. Apparently there were 50 avoidable deaths in the NHS in north Wales in just six months. Ambulance waiting times are perhaps not such an issue for us, but they are still an issue. One main concern around relates to social care and healthcare, which desperately need to be much more closely coordinated.

If I remember correctly, the Wanless review, about five years ago, looked at critical mass. It said that we do not have the critical mass in north Wales to warrant some NHS services, and that we would have to go to England for them. That is a huge concern, because cross-border services are constantly referred to as being underfunded; the recent issues with the Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital are just one example of that. I look forward to hearing what the Minister has to say about the strategic direction in that regard. Obviously, living on the border, it will be very difficult.

6.20 p.m.

About 18 months ago, you very kindly told me that you would be putting right the fact that fertility treatment was dealt with rather insensitively, with people who were trying desperately for a child often being seen in a room also used for antenatal clinics. Unfortunately, that is still the case: my understanding from reviewing the situation is that things still have not improved. I urge you to let us have your thoughts on that matter.

I have brought some of these issues to your attention, because I think that there is a worry about the future strategic direction in the planning of health services in north Wales. I could say more, but I think that I might have said too much already. I await your response with bated breath, Minister. I am sure that people have very busy schedules, but I regret

yw cyllid hosbis. Gwyddom eich bod wedi cynnal adolygiad, Weinidog, ac rwyf yn deall ei fod wedi gwella'r sefyllfa. Fodd bynnag, mae pobl yn dal i ddod atom gyda phryderon am yr hyn sy'n digwydd a sut y gallwn reoli dyfodol cyllid hosbis orau.

Mae problem hefyd o ran marwolaethau y gellid eu hosgoi. Mae'n debyg fod 50 o farwolaethau y gellid eu hosgoi yn y GIG yn y gogledd Cymru mewn dim ond chwe mis. Efallai nad yw amseroedd aros am ambiwlans yn gymaint o broblem i ni, ond maent yn dal yn broblem. Mae un o'r prif bryderon ymwneud â gofal cymdeithasol a gofal iechyd, lle mae dirfawr angen eu cydlynu'n agosach.

Os cofiaf yn iawn, edrychodd adolygiad Wanless tua phum mlynedd yn ôl ar màs critigol. Dywedodd nad oes gennym y màs critigol yn y gogledd i gyfiawnhau rhai gwasanaethau GIG, ac y byddai'n rhaid i ni fynd i Loegr ar eu cyfer. Mae hynny'n peri pryder mawr, oherwydd cyfeirir yn gyson at y ffaith nad yw gwasanaethau trawsffiniol yn cael digon o gyllid; mae'r problemau diweddar gyda Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital yn enghraifft o hynny. Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed yr hyn sydd gan y Gweinidog i'w ddweud am y cyfeiriad strategol yn hynny o beth. Yn amlwg, bydd yn anodd iawn os ydych yn byw ar y ffin.

Tua 18 mis yn ôl, dywedoch yn garedig iawn wrthyf y byddech yn ymdrin â'r ffaith bod triniaeth ffrwythlondeb yn cael ei drin yn ansensitif, gyda phobl a oedd yn ceisio'n daer am blentyn yn aml yn cael eu gweld mewn ystafell a ddefnyddir hefyd ar gyfer clinigau cyn-geni. Yn anffodus, mae hynny'n dal yn wir: deallaf, o adolygu'r sefyllfa, nad yw pethau wedi gwella o hyd. Fe'ch anogaf i roi eich barn ar y mater.

Rwyf wedi dod â rhai o'r materion hyn i'ch sylw, oherwydd yr wyf yn meddwl bod pryder ynghylch cyfeiriad strategol y dyfodol wrth gynllunio gwasanaethau iechyd yng ngogledd Cymru. Gallwn ddweud mwy, ond yr wyf yn meddwl fy mod wedi dweud gormod eisoes. Arhosaf yn eiddgar am eich ymateb, Weinidog. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod gan

that nobody else took part in this debate. However, that is that.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): Eleanor has raised quite a wide-ranging area of discussion today. On one of the last points that she made with regard to IVF treatment, I will certainly make further inquiries with my officials. Like you, I agree that IVF treatment should be dealt with in a very sensitive manner. However, I am very pleased that we now have a common policy on IVF treatment across Wales, so that you can have two attempts on the NHS. That is the standard policy across Wales. Across the border, there is an absolute nightmare in that respect; it is a postcode lottery.

With regard to services in England, I have always made it quite clear that for specialist tertiary services—you in north Wales will understand this better than most, with regard to Alder Hey hospital and others—we must always maintain these links within the national health service. At the moment, people are raising other issues with me about proposals in England and how those are having an impact on patients on the border, in Powys and elsewhere, and whether people will have to travel further for services. I have to recognise that we are a national health service in those terms. We will have to sort out our cross-border protocols, but people will still obviously have an entitlement if they require that treatment across the border, because that is what is important.

With a national health service, particularly when you are dealing with children, people will go further afield than our border areas even. Some can end up in Sheffield, and some can end up in Great Ormond Street hospital. That is the flexibility we need if we are to make it a patient-focused service.

On some of the other issues you raised, you are right to draw our attention to some of what has been going on in north Wales. You expressed particular concern about maternity services, neonatal deaths and issues in that regard. The Betsi Cadwaladr University

bobl amserlenni prysur, ond yr wyf yn edifar na chymerodd unrhyw un arall rhan yn y ddadl hon. Fodd bynnag, dyna fel y mae.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Mae Eleanor wedi codi mater eithaf eang o drafodaeth heddiw. Ar un o'r pwyntiau olaf a wnaeth o ran triniaeth IVF, byddaf yn sicr yn gwneud ymholiadau pellach gyda fy swyddogion. Fel chi, yr wyf yn cytuno y dylai triniaeth IVF gael ei drin mewn modd sensitif iawn. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn falch iawn bod gennym bellach bolisi cyffredin ar driniaeth IVF ar draws Cymru, fel eich bod yn gall cael dau gynnig ar y GIG. Dyna'r polisi safonol ar draws Cymru. Ar draws y ffin, mae hunllef llwyr yn hynny o beth; mae'n loteri cod post.

O ran gwasanaethau yn Lloegr, yr wyf bob amser wedi gwneud yn gwbl glir o ran gwasanaethau trydyddol arbenigol—byddwch chi yn y gogledd yn deall hyn yn well na'r rhan fwyaf, o ran ysbyty Alder Hey ac eraill—bod rhaid cynnal y cysylltiadau o fewn y iechyd gwladol gwasanaeth bob amser. Ar hyn o bryd, mae pobl yn codi materion eraill gyda mi am y cynigion yn Lloegr a sut y mae'r rhain yn cael effaith ar gleifion ar y ffin, ym Mhowys ac mewn mannau eraill, ac a fydd rhaid i bobl deithio yn bellach i gael gwasanaethau. Rhaid i mi gydnabod ein bod yn wasanaeth iechyd gwladol yn y termau hynny. Bydd rhaid i ni drefnu ein protocolau traws-ffiniol, ond bydd pobl yn amlwg yn dal â'r hawl os oes angen y driniaeth honno arnynt ar draws y ffin, oherwydd dyna beth sy'n bwysig.

Gyda gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol, yn enwedig pan ydych yn delio â phlant, bydd pobl yn mynd ymhellach na'n hardaloedd ni ar y ffin hyd yn oed. Gall rhai fod yn Sheffield yn y pendraw, a rhai yn ysbyty Great Ormond Street. Dyna'r hyblygrwydd sydd ei angen arnom os ydym i'w wneud yn wasanaeth sy'n canolbwyntio ar gleifion.

Ar rai o'r materion eraill a godwyd gennych, rydych yn iawn i dynnu ein sylw at yr hyn sydd wedi bod yn digwydd yn y gogledd. Mynegwyd pryder arbennig gennych ynghylch gwasanaethau mamolaeth, marwolaethau newydd-anedig a materion yn

Local Health Board is currently reviewing all of those services, because of some of the concerns that you raised. It is looking at maternity, gynaecology, neonatal and child health services. It has confirmed that it will take more time to review those services, because it has to develop a clinical consensus on how those are to be developed so that we can tackle the issues.

There are other reviews going on, about which I know there are concerns, with regard to general surgery. However, those are being looked at, and patients' and stakeholders' views are being taken into account. Recently, I published consultation guides on how the NHS would engage on proposed change. We expect the discussion to be open and transparent, because, with any change that might occur as a result of a wish to improve services, you have to take people with you.

There are key issues with regard to efficiency and productivity, which you also raised in your contribution today. There are many specific examples of improved efficiency and productivity within the health board that demonstrate a move towards a more effective use of NHS resources. The issues that are being looked at include engagement with citizens and wider partnerships. You made a very good point about the health and social services link and how we have not done that well since the Wanless report in certain key areas. However, we are now seeing improvements across Wales, with many projects moving forward bringing about that integration.

We have also used the third sector very well in some areas of north Wales with regard to community services and help with timely discharge. That has been very useful. Gwynedd and Wrexham have led on national programmes for the improvement of chronic conditions management, maintaining patient safety in the community. That initial work is

hynny o beth. Mae Bwrdd Prifysgol Iechyd Lleol Betsi Betsi Cadwaladr yn adolygu pob un o'r gwasanaethau hynny, oherwydd rhai o'r pryderon a godwyd gennych. Mae'n edrych ar famolaeth, gynecoleg, gwasanaethau newydd-anedig a gwasanaethau iechyd plant. Mae wedi cadarnhau y bydd yn cymryd mwy o amser i adolygu'r gwasanaethau hynny, oherwydd mae'n rhaid iddo ddatblygu consensws glinigol ar sut y bydd y rheiny yn cael eu datblygu fel y gallwn fynd i'r afael â'r materion.

Mae adolygiadau eraill yn mynd ymlaen, a gwn fod pryderon amdanynt, o ran llawdriniaeth gyffredinol. Fodd bynnag, mae rhai yn cael eu hystyried, a barn cleifion a rhanddeiliaid yn cael eu cymryd i ystyriaeth. Yn ddiweddar, cyhoeddais ganllawiau ymgynghori ar sut y byddai'r GIG yn ymgysylltu ar y newid arfaethedig. Disgwyliwn i'r drafodaeth fod yn agored ac yn dryloyw, oherwydd, gydag unrhyw newidiadau a allai ddigwydd o ganlyniad i ddymuniad i wella gwasanaethau, rhaid i chi fynd â phobl gyda chi.

Mae materion allweddol o ran effeithlonrwydd a chynhyrchiant, a godwyd gennych hefyd yn eich cyfraniad heddiw. Mae yna lawer o enghreifftiau penodol o well effeithlonrwydd a chynhyrchiant o fewn y bwrdd iechyd sy'n dangos symudiad tuag at ddefnydd mwy effeithiol o adnoddau GIG. Mae'r materion sy'n cael eu hystyried yn cynnwys ymgysylltu â dinasyddion a phartneriaethau ehangach. Gwnaethoch bwynt da iawn am y cyswllt iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a sut nad ydym wedi gwneud hynny yn dda ers adroddiad Wanless mewn rhai meysydd allweddol. Fodd bynnag, rydym bellach yn gweld gwelliannau ar draws Cymru, gyda llawer o brosiectau yn symud ymlaen gan sicrhau'r integreiddio hwnnw.

Rydym hefyd wedi defnyddio'r trydydd sector yn dda iawn mewn rhai rhannau o ogledd Cymru o ran gwasanaethau cymunedol a help gyda rhyddhau amserol. Mae hynny wedi bod yn ddefnyddiol iawn. Mae Gwynedd a Wrecsam wedi arwain ar raglenni cenedlaethol ar gyfer gwella rheoli cyflyrau cronig a chynnal diogelwch cleifion

looking very good at present; it shows a 25 per cent reduction in emergency admissions for that patient group. There is an excellent project on frailty in Wrexham, where the service is fast-tracking between health and social services to get frail patients through the hospital system quicker in order to have a quick discharge. Therefore, there are some examples of positive working.

One issue that you raised was that of the safety of patients in general, and issues did arise in that area. The 1000 Lives Plus campaign is one of the five-year strategic framework national programmes. It is about reducing harm, waste, and variation across the NHS. We only have to look at the period between 2008 and 2010 to see that an additional 1,199 lives were estimated to have been saved and 50,000 episodes of harm avoided. Therefore, there has been real progress as a result of that campaign. It has looked at improving the quality of leadership, reducing healthcare infections, which is a key area, improving critical care, improving medicines management, reducing surgical complications, and transforming care at the bedside, which is also very important to a patient's recovery. However, I accept that much more work probably needs to be undertaken within those areas.

You also touched upon issues about maintenance and capital investment. We had a very good debate last week on capital investment, where we indicated that there is £1.4 billion of capital expenditure in facilities and medical equipment. When you look at some of the issues in north Wales, you will see that capital funding has been used to upgrade and modernise secondary care facilities, with £18 million for a new community hospital in Porthmadog, for example. I admit that capital expenditure has focused on providing fit-for-purpose buildings in the right places rather than on backlog maintenance for an estate that will never be fit for purpose. In 2009-10, backlog maintenance costs decreased. If I wished to be uncharitable, I would say that I would not want to take any lectures on capital investment from you, bearing in mind what

yn y gymuned. Mae'r gwaith cychwynnol yn edrych yn dda iawn ar hyn o bryd; mae'n dangos gostyngiad o 25 y cant mewn derbyniadau brys ar gyfer y grŵp cleifion hwnnw. Mae prosiect ardderchog ar wendid yn Wrexham, lle mae llwybr carlam rhwng iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol er mwyn cael cleifion bregus drwy'r system ysbyty yn gyflymach er mwyn eu rhyddhau'n gyflymach. Felly, mae rhai enghreifftiau o weithio cadarnhaol.

Un mater a godwyd gennych oedd diogelwch cleifion yn gyffredinol, ac fe gododd materion yn y maes hwnnw. Mae'r ymgyrch 1000 o Fywydau a Mwy yn un o'r rhaglenni fframwaith strategol cenedlaethol pum mlynedd. Mae'n ymwneud â lleihau niwed, gwastraff, ac amrywiaeth ar draws y GIG. Does ond rhaid inni edrych ar y cyfnod rhwng 2008 a 2010 i weld bod amcangyfrif bod 1,199 o fywydau ychwanegol wedi'u hachub a 50,000 o achosion o niwed wedi eu hosgoi. Felly, bu cynnydd gwirioneddol o ganlyniad i'r ymgyrch honno. Mae wedi edrych ar wella ansawdd yr arweinyddiaeth, lleihau heintiau gofal iechyd, sy'n faes allweddol, gwella gofal critigol, gwella rheoli meddyginiaethau, lleihau cymhlethodau llawfeddygol, a thrawsnewid gofal wrth erchwyn y gwely, sydd hefyd yn bwysig iawn i adferiad claf. Fodd bynnag, derbyniaf fod llawer mwy o waith angen ei wneud o fewn yr ardaloedd hynny.

Mi wnaethoch hefyd gyffwrdd ar faterion yn ymwneud â chynnal a chadw a buddsoddi cyfalaf. Cawsom ddadl dda iawn yr wythnos diwethaf ar fuddsoddiad cyfalaf, lle nodom bod £1.4 biliwn o wariant cyfalaf mewn cyfleusterau a chyfarpar meddygol. Pan fyddwch yn edrych ar rai o'r materion yn y gogledd, fe welwch fod arian cyfalaf wedi cael ei ddefnyddio i wella a moderneiddio cyfleusterau gofal eilaidd, gyda £18 miliwn ar gyfer ysbyty cymunedol newydd ym Mhorthmadog, er enghraifft. Yr wyf yn cyfaddef bod gwariant cyfalaf wedi canolbwyntio ar ddarparu adeiladau addas at y diben yn y lleoedd cywir yn hytrach nag ar ôl-groniad ar gyfer gwaith cynnal a chadw ar gyfer ystad na fydd byth yn addas at y diben. Yn 2009-10, gostyngodd costau cynnal a chadw ôl-groniad. Pe dymunwn fod yn angharedig, byddwn yn dweud na fyddwn am

has happened to our capital budget as a result of the UK Government's decisions. However, I will not be churlish at this stage.

You have a very effective and efficient ambulance service in north Wales, which has really risen to the task, even in very difficult conditions. There is a lot to be learned from the way that things are managed in north Wales in terms of the ambulance service.

The very tricky issue of pay protection was also raised. All NHS staff, irrespective of their grade, have a right to pay protection if organisational change has a detrimental effect on their salary. That is an agreement that has been signed by the trade unions, and I think that is right and proper. The majority of staff with protected pay are likely to retire or move on to new jobs. That does happen. Therefore, it is important to recognise that this is part of terms and conditions, and, particularly, service arrangements within the area of health.

I will turn to the crux of the overall issue, which is about the state of the health of the nation and its impact in north Wales. It is important that we have new organisational structures in place to help to streamline some of the work. The strategic direction of the NHS in Wales is clear, and north Wales is no different from anywhere else. I expect the NHS, following the restructure, to get a grip on the challenges. I accept that it has not had a grip on all of the challenges, because there are issues around financial stringency, clinical quality, and the creation of sustainable services, which I regard as really quite important. We have to look at that. However, we all recognise that when we start to talk about sustainable services, we start to stir a hornets' nest, as people think that theirs is the sustainable service, and that things should always be provided in their back garden, rather than a sustainable service being provided elsewhere. It is important to engage in the right manner with the public.

wrando ar unrhyw ddarlith wrthoch chi ar fuddsoddiad cyfalaf, gan gadw mewn cof yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd i'n cyllideb cyfalaf o ganlyniad i benderfyniadau Llywodraeth y DU. Fodd bynnag, ni fyddaf yn anfoesgar ar hyn o bryd.

Mae gennych wasanaeth ambiwlans effeithiol ac effeithlon iawn yng ngogledd Cymru, sydd wedi cwrdd â'r her, hyd yn oed mewn amgylchiadau anodd iawn. Mae llawer i'w ddysgu o'r ffordd y mae pethau yn cael eu rheoli yn y gogledd o ran y gwasanaeth ambiwlans.

Codwyd y mater dyrys iawn o ddiogelu cyflog hefyd. Mae gan holl staff y GIG, waeth beth yw eu gradd, yr hawl i ddiogelwch cyflog os yw newid sefydliadol yn cael effaith andwyol ar eu cyflog. Dyna gytundeb sydd wedi cael ei lofnodi gan yr undebau llafur, a chredaf fod hynny'n iawn ac yn briodol. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o staff sydd â diogelwch cyflog yn debygol o ymddeol neu symud ymlaen i swyddi newydd. Mae hynny'n digwydd. Felly, mae'n bwysig cydnabod bod hyn yn rhan o'r telerau ac amodau, ac, yn arbennig trefniadau gwasanaeth, o fewn y maes iechyd.

Trof at wraidd y mater cyffredinol, sef cyflwr iechyd y genedl a'i effaith yn y gogledd. Mae'n bwysig bod gennym strwythurau trefniadol newydd ar waith i helpu i symleiddio peth o'r gwaith. Mae cyfeiriad strategol y GIG yng Nghymru yn glir, ac nid yw gogledd Cymru yn wahanol i unrhyw le arall. Rwyf yn disgwyl i'r GIG, yn dilyn yr ailstrwythuro, i fynd i'r afael â'r heriau. Yr wyf yn derbyn nad yw wedi cael gafael ar yr holl heriau, oherwydd y mae materion yn ymwneud â llymder ariannol, ansawdd clinigol, a chreu gwasanaethau cynaliadwy, yr wyf yn ei hystyried yn eithaf pwysig. Mae'n rhaid i ni edrych ar hynny. Fodd bynnag, rydym i gyd yn cydnabod pan fyddwn yn dechrau siarad am wasanaethau cynaliadwy, rydym yn dechrau aflonyddu nyth cacwn, gan fod pobl mai eu gwasanaeth nhw yw'r gwasanaeth cynaliadwy, ac y dylai pethau bob amser gael eu darparu yn eu gardd cefn nhw, yn hytrach na gwasanaeth cynaliadwy yn cael ei ddarparu mewn mannau eraill. Mae'n bwysig ymgysylltu yn y modd cywir gyda'r cyhoedd.

The annual operating framework is also good, because it has three key themes. It maintains a strong emphasis on health improvement, and we must shift the balance towards national and local actions to tackle problems before they occur or become serious. Secondly, it stresses integrated health and social care, which you mentioned and which is very important. Thirdly, it strengthens the responsibility of the NHS to develop and monitor quality. Those are the key issues. We need a focus on reducing harm, waste, and variation. The key objective across the NHS is to benefit patients, save money and empower staff to make change. That is no different in north Wales from the rest of Wales.

Mae'r fframwaith gweithredu blynyddol hefyd yn dda, oherwydd mae ganddo dair thema allweddol. Mae'n rhoi pwyslais gref ar wella iechyd, a rhaid inni newid y cydbwysedd tuag at weithredu cenedlaethol a lleol i fynd i'r afael â phroblemau cyn iddynt ddigwydd neu fynd yn ddifrifol. Yn ail, mae'n pwysleisio iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol integredig, a grybwyllwyd gennych ac sydd yn bwysig iawn. Yn drydydd, mae'n cryfhau cyfrifoldeb y GIG i ddatblygu a monitro ansawdd. Dyna'r materion allweddol. Mae angen canolbwyntio ar leihau niwed, gwastraff, ac amrywiad. Yr amcan allweddol ar draws y GIG yw i rhoi budd i gleifion, arbed arian a grymuso staff i wneud newid. Nid yw hynny'n wahanol yn y gogledd i weddill Cymru.

I thank Eleanor for bringing forward this topic for discussion in the Assembly. I trust that I have covered the majority of the points that were made in her contribution.

Diolch i Eleanor am gyflwyno'r pwnc hwn i'w drafod yn y Cynulliad. Hyderaf fy mod wedi ymdrin â'r rhan fwyaf o'r pwntiau a wnaethpwyd yn ei chyfraniad.

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

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

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.29 p.m.
The meeting ended at 6.29 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)