



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
(Cofnod y Trafodion)

The National Assembly for Wales
(The Record of Proceedings)

Dydd Mercher, 27 Ebrill 2005
Wednesday, 27 April 2005

**Cynnwys
Contents**

Datganiad gan y Dirprwy Lywydd Statement by the Deputy Presiding Officer.....	3
Ethol i Bwyllgorau Rhanbarthol Elections to Regional Committees	3
Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services	5
Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon Questions to the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport.....	20
Cwestiynau i Bwyllgor y Tŷ Questions to the House Committee	35
Datganiad ar Iechyd Statement on Health	37
Fframwaith Strategol ar gyfer Blaenau'r Cymoedd Strategic Framework for the Heads of the Valleys.....	48
Dadl Fer: Yr Economi yn Ne-ddwyrain Cymru Short Debate: The Economy in South-east Wales.....	79

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

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

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

Datganiad gan y Dirprwy Lywydd
Statement by the Deputy Presiding Officer

The Deputy Presiding Officer: In the **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Yn absenoldeb y absence of the Presiding Officer, I will be Llywydd, fi fydd yn cadeirio cyfarfod heddiw. chairing today's meeting.

Ethol i Bwyllgorau Rhanbarthol
Elections to Regional Committees

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

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

1. acting under Standing Order No. 10.3(ii) elects the following Assembly Members to its North Wales Regional Committee: Janet Ryder, Brynle Williams, Mark Isherwood and Eleanor Burnham; and

1. gan weithredu dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 10.3(ii) yn ethol yr Aelodau Cynulliad canlynol i Bwyllgor Rhanbarth y Gogledd: Janet Ryder, Brynle Williams, Mark Isherwood ac Eleanor Burnham; a

2. resolves that the first meeting of the committee will be held on 20 May 2005. (NDM2404)

I propose that

2. yn penderfynu bod cyfarfod cyntaf y pwylgor yn cael ei gynnal ar 20 Mai 2005. (NDM2404)

Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

1. acting under Standing Order No. 10.3(ii) elects the following Assembly Members to its Mid and West Wales Regional Committee: Nick Bourne, Glyn Davies, Lisa Francis and Helen Mary Jones; and

1. gan weithredu dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 10.3(ii) yn ethol yr Aelodau Cynulliad canlynol i Bwyllgor Rhanbarth Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru: Nick Bourne, Glyn Davies, Lisa Francis a Helen Mary Jones; a

2. resolves that the first meeting of the committee will be held on 17 June 2005. (NDM2405)

I propose that

2. yn penderfynu bod cyfarfod cyntaf y pwylgor yn cael ei gynnal ar 17 Mehefin 2005. (NDM2405)

Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

1. acting under Standing Order No. 10.3(ii) elects the following Assembly Members to its South Wales West Regional Committee: Alun Cairns, Peter Black, Janet Davies and Dai Lloyd; and

1. gan weithredu dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 10.3(ii) yn ethol yr Aelodau Cynulliad canlynol i Bwyllgor Rhanbarth Gorllewin De Cymru: Alun Cairns, Peter Black, Janet Davies a Dai Lloyd; a

2. resolves that the first meeting of the committee will be held on 20 May 2005. (NDM2406)

2. yn penderfynu bod cyfarfod cyntaf y pwylgor yn cael ei gynnal ar 20 Mai 2005. (NDM2406)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. acting under Standing Order No. 10.3(ii) elects the following Assembly Members to its South Wales Central Regional Committee: Jonathan Morgan, David Melding, Leanne Wood and Owen John Thomas; and

2. resolves that the first meeting of the committee will be held on 13 May 2005. (NDM2407)

Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

1. gan weithredu dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 10.3(ii) yn ethol yr Aelodau Cynulliad canlynol i Bwyllgor Rhanbarth Canol De Cymru: Jonathan Morgan, David Melding, Leanne Wood ac Owen John Thomas; a

2. yn penderfynu bod cyfarfod cyntaf y pwylgor yn cael ei gynnal ar 13 Mai 2005. (NDM2407)

I propose that

Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

1. acting under Standing Order No. 10.3(ii) elects the following Assembly Members to its South Wales East Regional Committee: William Graham, Laura Anne Jones, Mike German and Jocelyn Davies; and

2. resolves that the first meeting of the committee will be held on 10 June 2005. (NDM2408)

1. gan weithredu dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 10.3(ii) yn ethol yr Aelodau Cynulliad canlynol i Bwyllgor Rhanbarth Dwyrain De Cymru: William Graham, Laura Anne Jones, Mike German a Jocelyn Davies; a

2. yn penderfynu bod cyfarfod cyntaf y pwylgor yn cael ei gynnal ar 10 Mehefin 2005. (NDM2408)

Cynigion (NDM2404, NDM2405, NDM2406, NDM2407, NDM2408):

O blaid 26, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motions (NDM2404, NDM2405, NDM2406, NDM2407, NDM2408):

For 26, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davies, Janet
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Francis, Lisa
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun

Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynigion.
Motions carried.*

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

Ymchwil Cancer Cancer Research

Q1 Jeff Cuthbert: Will the Minister make a statement on what the Welsh Assembly Government is doing to support cancer research in Wales? OAQ0202(HSS)

C1 Jeff Cuthbert: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am yr hyn mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i gefnogi ymchwil canser yng Nghymru? OAQ0202(HSS)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to cancer research and supports several major initiatives such as the Wales Cancer Bank, the Wales Cancer Trials Network and the Wales Gene Park. In addition, the Assembly supports a number of smaller research grants and contributes to the National Prevention Research Initiative.

Jeff Cuthbert: I welcome the progress of the cancer bank during the year in which it has been open. Will you join me in welcoming the improvement of cancer services within the Caerphilly borough with the start of a new outreach service that will allow cancer patients to receive an improved service much closer to home? The service commenced last week at the St David's Foundation Hospice—

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi ymrwymo i ymchwil canser ac mae'n cefnogi llawer menter bwysig, megis Banc Cancer Cymru, Rhwydwaith Ymchwil Cancer Cymru a Pharc Genynnau Cymru. Yn ogystal, mae'r Cynulliad yn cefnogi nifer o grantiau ymchwil llai ac yn cyfrannu at y Fenter Genedlaethol i Ymchwilio i Ddulliau Atal.

Jeff Cuthbert: Croesawaf gynnydd y banc canser yn ystod y flwyddyn y mae wedi bod ar agor. A ymunwch â mi i groesawu'r gwelliant mewn gwasanaethau canser ym mwrdeistref Caerffili o ganlyniad i gyflwyno gwasanaeth allgymorth newydd, a fydd yn galluogi cleifion canser i gael gwasanaeth gwell lawer yn nes at eu cartrefi? Dechreuodd y gwasanaeth yr wythnos diwethaf yn Hosbis Sefydliad Dewi Sant—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I am in the chair this afternoon, and I would prefer to have questions. I am well aware that you want to make statements. Do finish, but please ask a question.

Jeff Cuthbert: Will the Minister join me in welcoming that initiative and in congratulating all those within the local health board—clinicians and others—who have worked so hard to make this a reality?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Fi sydd yn cadeirio'r prynhawn yma, a byddai'n well gennyl gael cwestiynau. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol eich bod am wneud datganiadau. Cewch orffen, ond a fyddch cystal â gofyn cwestiwn.

Jeff Cuthbert: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ymuno â mi i groesawu'r fenter honno ac i longyfarch pawb sy'n rhan o'r bwrdd iechyd lleol—clinigwyr a phobl eraill—sydd wedi gweithio mor galed i droi'r syniad yn realiti?

Brian Gibbons: I certainly will join you, Jeff, in doing that. The work being undertaken in Caerphilly is a model for how cancer services will develop in a multidisciplinary way through the use of managed clinical networks. Where specialist treatment needs to be given in a specialist centre, at the hub, that is what will be provided. However, we are also committed to trying to ensure that all care can be provided as close as possible to patients' homes or within their community. The work in Caerphilly is to be commended.

William Graham: Though we acknowledge the advances in medical science and in the treatment of cancer, why are the postbags of opposition Members continuously occupied by correspondence from people who do not receive diagnostic testing and cancer treatment within a reasonable time?

Brian Gibbons: I also receive a large volume of correspondence, and your question does not correspond with my experience. If you are dealing with a vast amount of correspondence on that subject regularly, I have not been copied in, and I would say that the situation that you described does not reflect what is happening. You will know, from the capital programme that my predecessor, Jane Hutt, announced last November, and from the capital programme that I announced last month, that the amount of NHS capital expenditure for cancer services has improved dramatically.

Linked to that, the new cancer standards will be published soon. With the linking of the increased investment in capital expenditure into the upgraded standards, I am sure that patients' experiences will improve dramatically, and the positive outcomes that we are seeing in terms of cancer treatment will continue to improve.

Gweithredu Fformiwla Townsend Implementing the Townsend Formula

Q2 Lynne Neagle: Will the Minister give an update on the progress made in implementing the Townsend formula? OAQ0187(HSS)

Brian Gibbons: To date, £41 million in funding has been allocated to take forward the implementation of the Townsend direct-

Brian Gibbons: Yn sicr, ymunaf â chi, Jeff, i wneud hynny. Mae'r gwaith sy'n mynd rhagddo yng Nghaerffili yn batrwm o'r ffordd y bydd gwasanaethau cancer yn datblygu mewn ffordd aml-ddisgyblaethol drwy ddefnyddio rhwydweithiau clinigol sy'n cael eu rheoli. Lle bydd angen rhoi triniaeth arbenigol mewn canolfan arbenigol, yn y rheng flaen, dyna a gaiff ei ddarparu. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym hefyd wedi ymrwymo i geisio sicrhau y gellir darparu pob gofal mor agos â phosibl at gartrefi cleifion neu o fewn eu cymuned. Dylid canmol y gwaith yng Nghaerffili.

William Graham: Er ein bod yn cydnabod y datblygiadau yn y byd meddygol ac o ran trin cancer, pam mae sachau post Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau byth a hefyd yn cynnwys gohebiaeth gan bobl nad ydynt yn cael profion diagnostig a thriniaeth am ganser o fewn cyfnod rhesymol o amser?

Brian Gibbons: Yr wyf fi hefyd yn cael llawer iawn o ohebiaeth, ac nid yw eich cwestiwn yn cyd-fynd â m profiad i. Os ydych chi'n delio'n rheolaidd â llawer iawn o ohebiaeth ar y pwnc hwnnw, nid wyf fi wedi cael copïau o'r ohebiaeth honno, a byddwn yn dweud nad yw'r sefyllfa a ddisgrifiwyd gennych yn adlewyrchu'r hyn sy'n digwydd. Fe wyddoch, o'r rhaglen gyfalaf a gyhoeddwyd gan fy rhagflaenydd, Jane Hutt, fis Tachwedd diwethaf, ac o'r rhaglen gyfalaf a gyhoeddais i fis diwethaf, fod swm gwariant cyfalaf y GIG ar wasanaethau cancer wedi gwella'n sylweddol.

Yn gysylltiedig â hynny, caiff y safonau cancer newydd eu cyhoeddi'n fuan. Drwy gysylltu'r buddsoddiad uwch mewn gwariant cyfalaf â'r safonau uwch, yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd profiadau cleifion yn gwella'n sylweddol, ac y bydd y canlyniadau cadarnhaol yr ydym yn eu gweld o ran trin cancer yn parhau i wella.

C2 Lynne Neagle: A all y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y cynnydd wrth weithredu fformiwla Townsend? OAQ0187(HSS)

Brian Gibbons: Hyd yn hyn, dyrannwyd cyllid o £41 miliwn i ddatblygu'r broses o weithredu fformiwla anghenion uniongyrchol Townsend.

needs formula. A marginal element of differential distribution in growth funding has also been included in the budget for local health boards' 2005-06 allocations, targeted at the four local health boards that are currently furthest from the 5 per cent target by which we aim to achieve equity.

Lynne Neagle: Despite good progress last year on taking forward the Townsend formula, it remains the case that Torfaen is some £8 million from target. As you know, Professor Townsend said that the formula should be implemented in full in three to five years. At our current pace, it will take many years before Torfaen receives its full Townsend share, and, as you know, Torfaen was highlighted in the report as having serious unmet needs. What assurances can you give, Minister, that we will quicken the pace of Townsend implementation, so that my constituents can have the money that an independent body has said that they need?

Brian Gibbons: The Assembly Government is clearly committed to the Townsend formula. It is one of the great achievements of the Assembly Government that we went down this road, and it was an innovative project. From the very beginning we pointed out that the only way that we could proceed was on the basis of differential growth. There has nonetheless been significant progress in Torfaen, and the distance between its original allocation and the target allocation has, effectively, been halved. We are determined to continue to move in that direction. However, that must be achieved on the basis of differential growth. I think that Professor Townsend mentioned that, in addressing inequalities in health experience, as well as ensuring that individual local health boards get their fair share, it is also important that those local health boards address inequalities in health experience within their populations. Hopefully, the local health board will use the extra money that we have given to Torfaen within its communities to address the areas of greatest need.

David Melding: Do you agree that a change in the formula should not be seen as a panacea? The central challenge remains of allowing those who suffer from economic and social deprivation effective access to

Yn ogystal, cynhwyswyd elfen ymylol o ddosbarthu gwahaniaethol o ran cyllid twf yn y gyllideb ar gyfer dyraniadau byrddau iechyd lleol yn 2005-06, wedi'i thargeddu at y pedwar bwrdd iechyd lleol sydd ar hyn o bryd bellaf o'r targed o 5 y cant a ddefnyddir gennym i geisio cyflawni cydraddoldeb.

Lynne Neagle: Er gwaethaf cynnydd da y llynedd wrth ddatblygu fformiwlau Townsend, mae Torfaen yn dal tuag £8 miliwn o'r targed. Fel y gwyddoch, dywedodd yr Athro Townsend y dylied gweithredu'r fformiwlau yn llawn ymhen tair i bum mlynedd. O ystyried ein cyflymder presennol, fe gymer flynyddoedd i Torfaen gael ei gyfran Townsend lawn, ac fel y gwyddoch, tynnwyd sylw yn yr adroddiad at y ffaith fod gan Dorfaen anghenion difrifol heb eu diwallu. Pa sicrwydd allwch ei roi, Weinidog, y bydd y broses o weithredu Townsend yn cyflymu, fel y gall fy etholwyr gael yr arian y mae corff annibynnol wedi dweud bod arnynt ei angen?

Brian Gibbons: Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn amlwg wedi ymrwymo i weithredu fformiwlau Townsend. Mae'r ffaith inni ddilyn y trywydd hwn yn un o lwyddiannau mawr Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ac yr oedd yn brosiect arloesol. O'r cychwyn cyntaf, nodwyd gennym mai'r unig ffordd y gallem fynd ymlaen oedd ar sail twf gwahaniaethol. Serch hynny, bu cynnydd sylweddol yn Nhorfaen, ac mewn gwirionedd llwyddwyd i haneru'r gwahaniaeth rhwng ei ddyraniad gwreiddiol a'r dyraniad targed. Yr ydym yn benderfynol o barhau i symud i'r cyfeiriad hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, rhaid cyflawni hynny ar sail twf gwahaniaethol. Credaf i'r Athro Townsend grybwyl, wrth ymdrin ag anghydraddoldebau mewn profiadau iechyd, yn ogystal â sicrhau bod byrddau iechyd lleol unigol yn cael cyfran deg, ei bod hefyd yn bwysig i'r byrddau iechyd lleol hynny fynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau mewn profiadau iechyd o fewn eu poblogaethau. Gobeithio y bydd y bwrdd iechyd lleol yn defnyddio'r arian ychwanegol a roddwyd gennym i Dorfaen i fynd i'r afael â'r meysydd lle mae'r angen mwyaf yn ei gymunedau.

David Melding: A gytunwch na ddylid ystyried newid yn y fformiwlau fel ateb i bopeth? Erys yr her ganolog, sef sicrhau y gall y rheini sy'n dioddef oherwydd amddifadedd economaidd a chymdeithasol gael gafael ar wasanaethau

health services.

iechyd yn effeithiol.

Brian Gibbons: Undoubtedly. You could even go back a step further than that. It is clear that those who have the poorest health experience are those who live in the poorest social and economic circumstances. It is true that it is through the economic regeneration programmes that the Assembly Government is pursuing in creative schemes such as the Heads of the Valleys scheme, which is tackling the most deprived communities, that we will see the greatest improvement. However, Professor Townsend said that the injustice of areas with greatest healthcare needs not getting a fair share of resources to tackle those healthcare needs must be addressed, and, as an Assembly Government, we are determined to do that.

Brian Gibbons: Yn sicr. Gallech hyd yn oed fynd yn ôl gam ymhellach na hynny. Mae'n amlwg mai'r rheini sy'n byw yn yr amgylchiadau cymdeithasol ac economaidd tloaf sy'n cael y profiad iechyd gwaethaf. Mae'n wir mai drwy'r rhagleni adfywio economaidd y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn eu cyflwyno drwy gynlluniau creadigol, megis cynllun Blaenau'r Cymoedd, sy'n mynd i'r afael â'r cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig, y gwelwn y gwelliant mwyaf. Fodd bynnag, dywedodd yr Athro Townsend bod yn rhaid ymdrin â'r anghyflawnader lle nad yw ardaloedd sydd â'r anghenion gofal iechyd mwyaf yn cael cyfran deg o'r adnoddau i allu mynd i'r afael â'r anghenion gofal iechyd hynny. Fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, yr ydym yn benderfynol o wneud hynny.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Questions 3, OAQ0176(HSS), and 4, OAQ0178(HSS), have been withdrawn.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiynau 3, OAQ0176(HSS), a 4, OAQ0178(HSS), yn ôl.

Gwasanaethau Ambiwlans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru) Ambulance Services (Mid and West Wales)

Q5 Lisa Francis: Will the Minister make a statement on ambulance services in Mid and West Wales? OAQ0185(HSS)

C5 Lisa Francis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am wasanaethau ambwlans yng Nghanolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru? OAQ0185(HSS)

Brian Gibbons: The performance of the emergency ambulance service has improved in the last year, and the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust is continuing to work with Health Commission Wales to secure further improvements.

Brian Gibbons: Mae perfformiad y gwasanaeth ambwlans brys wedi gwella yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, ac mae Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gwasanaethau Ambiwlans Cymru yn parhau i weithio gyda Chomisiwn Iechyd Cymru i sicrhau gwelliannau pellach.

Lisa Francis: I have recently sent you copies of two leaked e-mails that were sent to me in respect of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust. The e-mails suggest that the reason why the remaining four standby stations in Mid and West Wales are not being upgraded is because of a fear of disruption to industrial relations. Does that concern you, and have you had any input on that particular matter in discussions with the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust? Will you not now agree to seeing that funding is made available for this vital service?

Lisa Francis: Anfonais gopïau atoch yn ddiweddar o ddwy neges e-bost a oedd wedi eu rhyddhau i'r cyhoedd ac a oedd wedi eu hanfon ataf fi, yn sôn am Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gwasanaethau Ambiwlans Cymru. Mae'r negeseuon e-bost yn awgrymu mai ofn amharu ar gysylltiadau diwydiannol yw'r rheswm dros beidio ag uwchraddio'r pedair gorsaf wrth gefn sy'n weddill yn y Canolbarth a'r Gorllewin. A yw hynny'n peri pryder ichi, ac a fu gennych unrhyw gyfraniad i'r mater penodol hwnnw mewn trafodaethau gydag Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gwasanaethau Ambiwlans Cymru? A gytunwch yn awr i sicrhau y caiff arian ei ryddhau i'r gwasanaeth hanfodol hwn?

2.10 p.m.

Brian Gibbons: Everyone in Wales is entitled to fair access to the ambulance service. Having said that, we need to recognise that even though significant improvements have been made in terms of response times increasing from just under 50 per cent to 57.3 per cent in category A life-threatening circumstances, further improvement is needed. If we are to achieve that, and if the ambulance trust is to achieve that, it must invest its resources in a way that will most effectively deliver those improvements for as many people as possible. There is a long way to go.

Kirsty Williams: The ambulance trust says that it could improve performance if it could transform Knighton station into a fully operational, 24-hour station. However, it does not have the resources to do that. In February, you gave me a commitment that you would look at the Knighton case. Can you give me an update on your findings? Do you think that it is acceptable that the ambulance trust cannot guarantee that there is a qualified paramedic on all ambulances in mid and west Wales as they respond to a shout? Is it acceptable that staff in Knighton are only paid £9 per night for being on-call between midnight and 8 a.m.?

Brian Gibbons: This is not only an issue about Knighton. There is an issue here about the 40 per cent of calls in Wales to which the ambulance trust does not respond within the times as set out in the targets for the life-threatening emergency category. If we are to ensure improvement as regards the 40 per cent of calls not responded to within target times, we must respond on a much wider basis than just dealing with the Knighton situation. This is a wider problem. Knighton is part of the situation, but it is not exclusively a Knighton problem. The ambulance trust must improve its performance not just in Knighton, but across a much wider part of Wales, to ensure that patients receive services as quickly as they are entitled to expect.

Brian Gibbons: Mae gan bawb yng Nghymru yr un hawl i allu defnyddio'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans. Wedi dweud hynny, mae angen inni gydnabod, er bod gwelliannau sylweddol wedi eu gwneud o ran amseroedd ymateb, gan godi o ychydig llai na 50 y cant i 57.3 y cant mewn amgylchiadau sy'n bygwth bywyd categori A, fod angen gwella ymhellach. Er mwyn inni gyflawni hynny, ac er mwyn i'r ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans gyflawni hynny, rhaid iddi fuddsoddi ei hadnoddau mewn ffordd sy'n sicrhau'r gwelliannau hynny yn y modd mwyaf effeithiol i gynifer â phosibl o bobl. Mae llawer i'w wneud o hyd.

Kirsty Williams: Dywed yr ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans y gallai wella perfformiad pe gallai droi gorsaf Trefyclo yn orsaф sy'n gweithredu 24 awr y dydd. Fodd bynnag, nid oes ganddi'r adnoddau i wneud hynny. Ym mis Chwefror, rhoesoch ymrwymiad imi y byddech yn ymchwilio i achos Trefyclo. A allwch roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf imi am yr hyn yr ydych wedi ei ddarganfod? A ydych yn credu ei bod yn dderbyniol na all yr ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans warantu y bydd parafeddyg cymwys ar bob ambiwlans yn y Canolbarth a'r Gorllewin wrth ymateb i alwad? A yw'n dderbyniol mai dim ond £9 y noson a delir i staff yn Nhrefyclo am fod ar ddyletswydd rhwng canol nos ac 8a.m.?

Brian Gibbons: Nid mater sy'n berthnasol i Drefyclo yn unig yw hwn. Mae a wnelo â'r 40 y cant o alwadau yng Nghymru nad yw'r ymddiriedolaeth yn ymateb iddynt o fewn yr amseroedd sydd wedi eu gosod allan yn y targedau ar gyfer y categori argyfwng sy'n bygwth bywyd. Er mwyn sicrhau gwelliant o ran y 40 y cant o alwadau nad ymatebir iddynt o fewn amseroedd targed, rhaid inni ymateb ar sail lawer ehangach nag ymdrin â sefyllfa Trefyclo yn unig. Mae hon yn broblem ehangach. Mae Trefyclo yn rhan o'r sefyllfa, ond nid problem yn Nhrefyclo yn unig ydyw. Rhaid i'r ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans wella ei perfformiad nid yn unig yn Nhrefyclo, ond ar draws rhan lawer ehangach o Gymru, er mwyn sicrhau bod cleifion yn cael gwasanaethau mor gyflym ag y mae ganddynt hawl i'w disgwyl.

Gwasanaethau Meddygon Teulu

General Practitioner Services

Q6 Karen Sinclair: Would the Minister outline what is being done to improve GP services in Wales? OAQ0194(HSS)

Brian Gibbons: We have implemented important reforms to general medical services and are investing an additional £100 million across Wales over three years. This will extend the range and quality of local services available to the people of Wales.

Karen Sinclair: In my constituency, some GP satellite services, set up to provide a better and more comprehensive standard of provision for the local community, have recently had problems in ensuring that they can provide adequate cover for their area. With some GPs threatening to withdraw this service, what innovative ways can we look at to supplement these services, so that we guarantee comprehensive coverage? For many areas, the siting and services of nurse practitioners in the locality—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Is this a question?

Karen Sinclair: Of course it is a question.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: You have been going on. Please ask your question.

Karen Sinclair: I will continue.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Please ask a question.

Karen Sinclair: It is a question, Deputy Presiding Officer. In many areas, the siting and services of nurse practitioners in a locality is adequate for community needs—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. That is not a question; that is a statement. I do not want to labour this, but you are meant to use this time to question Ministers, and not make statements. Please ask a question.

Karen Sinclair: I thought that it was a fairly

C6 Karen Sinclair: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu beth sy'n cael ei wneud i wella gwasanaethau meddygon teulu yng Nghymru? OAQ0194(HSS)

Brian Gibbons: Yr ydym wedi gweithredu diwygiadau pwysig mewn gwasanaethau meddygol cyffredinol, ac yr ydym yn buddsoddi £100 miliwn yn ychwanegol ledled Cymru dros dair blynedd. Bydd hyn yn ehangu amrywiaeth ac yn gwella ansawdd y gwasanaethau lleol sydd ar gael i bobl Cymru.

Karen Sinclair: Yn fy etholaeth i, mae rhai gwasanaethau meddygon teulu ategol, a sefydlwyd i ddarparu safon well a mwy cynhwysfawr o ddarpariaeth i'r gymuned leol, wedi cael problemau'n ddiweddar wrth sicrhau eu bod yn gallu darparu gwasanaeth digonol i gwmpasu eu hardal. Gan fod rhai meddygon teulu yn bygwth tynnu'r gwasanaeth hwn yn ôl, pa ffyrdd arloesol y gallwn eu hystyried i ategu'r gwasanaethau hyn, er mwyn inni warantu gwasanaeth cynhwysfawr? I lawer ardal, mae lleoliad a gwasanaethau nyrssys yn yr ardal leol—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Ai cwestiwn sydd gennych?

Karen Sinclair: Ie, wrth gwrs.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Buoch yn rhynnu ymlaen. Gofynnwch eich cwestiwn, os gwelwch yn dda.

Karen Sinclair: Parhaf.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Gofynnwch gwestiwn, os gwelwch yn dda.

Karen Sinclair: Cwestiwn sydd gennyl, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Mewn llawer ardal, mae lleoliad a gwasanaethau nyrssys yn yr ardal leol yn ddigonol i ddiwallu anghenion cymunedol—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid cwestiwn yw hynny; datganiad ydyw. Nid wyf am fanylu, ond disgwylir ichi ddefnyddio'r amser hwn i holi Gweinidogion, yn hytrach na gwneud datganiadau. Gofynnwch gwestiwn, os gwelwch yn dda.

Karen Sinclair: Yr oedd yn gwestiwn

concise question, Deputy Presiding Officer. I did not think that I laboured any points, and I would like you to check that in the Record.

Brian Gibbons: In response to your question, Karen, the new GP contract gives general practices new flexibility in the way that they employ and deploy staff. One of the advantages of the new contract is that there will be greater opportunities to use nurse practitioners, extended-role nurses and so on. Their role, particularly in the management of chronic diseases, is important. You will know that nurses will also have an increasing role in prescribing. As nurses develop more competencies in chronic disease management, and have more prescribing powers, their role in surgeries will improve.

Bryngle Williams: As Minister for Health and Social Services, Jane Hutt is on record as welcoming the Royal National Institute for the Deaf report released at the end of last year. Since taking office, what have you done to address the problem that up to 96 per cent of surgeries do not have hearing loops fitted in consultation rooms? This is having a severe affect on those who are deaf and hard of hearing when trying to communicate with health professionals.

Brian Gibbons: I cannot give you a specific answer but, if it is okay with you, I will ask my officials to do so.

cymharol gryno yn fy marn i, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Ni fanylais ar unrhyw bwyntiau, a hoffwn ichi gadarnhau hynny yn y Cofnod.

Brian Gibbons: Mewn ymateb i'ch cwestiwn, Karen, mae'r contract newydd i feddygon teulu yn rhoi hyblygrwydd newydd i bractisau cyffredinol o ran y ffordd y caiff staff eu cyflogi a'u defnyddio ganddynt. Un o fanteision y contract newydd yw y bydd mwy o gyfleoedd i ddefnyddio nyrssys, nyrssys sydd â rôl estynedig, ac ati. Mae eu rôl hwy, yn arbennig wrth reoli afiechydon croniog, yn bwysig. Byddwch yn ymwybodol hefyd y bydd gan nyrssys fwy o rôl wrth ragnodi. Wrth i nyrssys ddatblygu mwy o gymhwysedd ym maes rheoli afiechydon croniog, ac wrth ddyrannu mwy o bwerau rhagnodi iddynt, bydd eu rôl mewn meddygfeydd yn gwella.

Bryngle Williams: Fel y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, cofnodwyd yffaith fod Jane Hutt yn croesawu adroddiad y Sefydliad Cenedlaethol Brenhinol i Bobl Fyddar a gyhoeddwyd ddiwedd y llynedd. Ers dechrau yn eich swydd, beth yr ydych wedi ei wneud i ymdrin â'r broblem nad oes gan 96 y cant o feddygfeydd ddolenni clywed yn eu hystafelloedd ymgynghori? Mae hyn yn cael effaith ddifrifol ar y rheini sy'n fyddar ac yn drwm eu clyw wrth geisio cyfathrebu â gweithwyr proffesiynol ym maes iechyd.

Brian Gibbons: Ni allaf roi ateb penodol ichi, ond os yw'n dderbyniol ichi, gofynnaf i'm swyddogion wneud hynny.

Pwysau ar Ysbytai o ran Lleoedd Capacity Pressures on Hospitals

Q7 Janet Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on capacity pressures experienced by hospitals? OAQ0168(HSS)

Brian Gibbons: Assembly Government policies are directed towards preventing avoidable hospital admissions, strengthening the discharge-planning process and improving the efficiency of internal processes, including managing risks. Capital investment will increase from £107 million in 2004-05 to £309 million in 2007-08. Since 1997, the number of staff working in NHS Wales has increased by 22,000 to address those concerns.

C7 Janet Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y pwysau sydd ar ysbytai wrth ddarparu lleoedd? OAQ0168(HSS)

Brian Gibbons: Nod polisiau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yw atal pobl rhag cael eu hanfon i'r ysbyty'n ddiangen, atgyfnerthu'r broses gynllunio ar gyfer rhyddhau cleifion, a gwella effeithlonrwydd prosesau mewnol, gan gynnwys rheoli risgau. Bydd buddsoddiad cyfalaif yn cynyddu o £107 miliwn yn 2004-05 i £309 miliwn yn 2007-08. Ers 1997, mae nifer y staff sy'n gweithio yn GIG Cymru wedi cynyddu 22,000 er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r pryderon hyn.

Janet Davies: Referring to the latter part of your answer, you will be aware that, despite what you have said, this week, the Royal College of Nursing has again said that nurse numbers are low and that recruitment needs to double just to maintain present numbers. In light of that, how are you addressing retention problems in the nursing profession, and what discussions have you had with NHS trusts?

Brian Gibbons: The turnover of nurses generally in the NHS is around 4 or 5 per cent, and so the recruitment and retention of nurses is reasonably good. The number of nurse vacancies is roughly 400 to 500, which, given the number of additional nurses working in the NHS, has gone down from the 700 that was regularly quoted here.

In recent years, the number of nurse training posts has increased by something like 30 per cent, and the number of nurses now working in the NHS is of the order of 27,000—a significant increase.

Carl Sergeant: In Alyn and Deeside, pressures have been relieved in hospitals and local services, particularly in dentistry, with an emergency dentist facility set up in Deeside Hospital. What funds has this Government invested recently in dentistry?

Brian Gibbons: You will be aware that the Assembly Government is committed to introducing a new dental contract. Initially, we had hoped to introduce it in April at the beginning of this financial year, but it has had to be put back to the autumn, because the negotiations between the British Dental Association and the Department of Health were not making as rapid progress as we would have wished. Consequently, yesterday, I gave the go-ahead for personal dental service schemes in Wales and, in order to facilitate that, I have made an additional £5 million available on top of the £5.3 million made available towards the end of last year to facilitate the introduction of a new dental contract.

Janet Davies: Gan gyfeirio at ran olaf eich ateb, er gwaethaf yr hyn yr ydych wedi'i ddweud, byddwch yn ymwybodol fod Coleg Brenhinol y Nyrssys, yr wythnos hon, wedi dweud unwaith eto fod nifer y nyrssys a gyflogir yn isel, a bod angen dyblu nifer y nyrssys a gaiff eu reciwtio dim ond er mwyn cynnal y niferoedd presennol. Yng ngoleuni hynny, sut yr ydych yn mynd i'r afael â phroblemau sy'n gysylltiedig â chadw staff yn y proffesiwn nyrssio, a pha drafodaethau yr ydych wedi'u cael gydag ymddiriedolaethau GIG?

Brian Gibbons: Mae trosiant cyffredinol nyrssys yn y GIG tua 4 neu 5 y cant, ac felly mae nifer y nyrssys a gaiff eu reciwtio a'u cadw yn eithaf da. Mae tua 400 i 500 o swyddi gwag ar gyfer nyrssys, sydd, o ystyried nifer y nyrssys ychwanegol sy'n gweithio yn y GIG, wedi gostwng o'r 700 a nodwyd yn rheolaidd yma.

Yn ystod y blynnyddoedd diwethaf, mae nifer y swyddi i nyrssys dan hyfforddiant wedi cynyddu tua 30 y cant, ac mae tua 27,000 o nyrssys bellach yn gweithio yn y GIG—sy'n gynnydd sylwedol.

Carl Sergeant: Yn Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy, mae'r pwysau ar ysbytai a gwasanaethau lleol wedi lleihau, yn enwedig o ran deintyddiaeth, ac mae gwasanaeth deintydd brys wedi'i sefydlu yn Ysbyty Glannau Dyfrdwy. Faint o arian y mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi'i fuddsoddi mewn deintyddiaeth yn ddiweddar?

Brian Gibbons: Fe wyddoch fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ymrwymo i gyflwyno contract deintyddol newydd. Yn wreiddiol, yr oeddem wedi gobeithio'i gyflwyno ym mis Ebrill ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn ariannol hon. Ond bu'n rhaid ei ohirio tan yr hydref, am nad yw'r trafodaethau rhwng Cymdeithas Ddeintyddol Prydain a'r Adran Iechyd wedi symud ymlaen mor gyflym ag y byddem wedi'i ddymuno. O ganlyniad, ddoe cytunais i gyflwyno cynlluniau gwasanaethau deintyddol personol yng Nghymru, ac er mwyn hwyluso hynny yr wyf wedi darparu £5 miliwn yn ychwanegol at y £5.3 miliwn a ddarparwyd ar ddiwedd y llynedd er mwyn hwyluso'r broses o gyflwyno contract deintyddol newydd.

Mark Isherwood: In its evidence to the Audit Committee last month, Wrexham Local Health Board stated that delayed transfers of care had arisen because insufficient resources were available to local authorities to fund their social service budgets and because independent care home capacity was falling. Those concerns were repeated to me by staff earlier this month, when I visited hospitals in Conwy and Denbighshire. Will you now act to reverse the cuts being imposed on social services and independent care home beds in many parts of Wales?

Mark Isherwood: Yn ei dystiolaeth i'r Pwyllgor Archwilio fis diwethaf, dywedodd Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Wrecsam fod nifer yr achosion o oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal wedi cynyddu am nad oedd digon o adnoddau ar gael i awdurdodau lleol i ariannu eu cyllidebau gwasanaeth cymdeithasol, ac am fod nifer y lleoedd mewn cartrefi gofal annibynnol wedi gostwng. Mynegwyd y pryderon hynny gan aelodau staff unwaith eto yn gynharach y mis hwn, pan ymwlais ag ysbytai yng Nghonwy a Sir Ddinbych. A wnewch weithredu yn awr i wrthdroi'r toriadau mewn gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a gwelyau mewn cartrefi gofal annibynnol mewn llawer rhan o Gymru?

Brian Gibbons: Mark, will you write to me to indicate where the funding cuts have taken place, because, quite honestly, I am not aware of any such incidence? In making his statement, I am sure that Mark knows that the social services reasons for delayed transfers of care have gone down from around a third to a quarter, so local authorities have made significant improvement in addressing that issue.

When you were in Wrexham, Mark, I am sure that you were informed of the new toolkit being developed and piloted there, which is trying to introduce a new and transparent system to ensure that reasonable agreement will be reached between local authorities, when they set their fee, and the care home sector. I am sure that you welcome all of those positive developments.

Brian Gibbons: Mark, a ysgrifennwch ataf i nodi ble y gwnaed y toriadau ariannol, oherwydd, a dweud y gwir, nid wyf yn ymwybodol o hyn? Wrth wneud ei sylwadau, yr wyf yn siŵr bod Mark yn gwybod bod rhesymau'r gwasanaethau cymdeithasol dros oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal wedi gostwng o ryw draean i chwarter. Felly mae awdurdodau lleol wedi gwneud gwelliannau sylweddol wrth fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwnnw.

Pan oeddech yn Wrecsam, Mark, yr wyf yn siŵr i chi gael gwybod am y pecyn offer newydd sy'n cael ei ddatblygu a'i dreialu yno. Mae'n ceisio cyflwyno system newydd ac eglur i sicrhau y gall awdurdodau lleol, pan fyddant yn pennu eu ffioedd, ddod i gytundeb rhesymol â'r sector cartrefi gofal. Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn croesawu'r holl ddatblygiadau cadarnhaol hynny.

Ysbytai Cymuned Community Hospitals

Q8 Mick Bates: What action is the Assembly Government taking to implement the Wanless recommendation that community hospitals be used more effectively?
OAQ0222(HSS)

C8 Mick Bates: Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn eu cymryd i weithredu argymhelliaid Wanless y dylid gwneud defnydd mwy effeithiol o ysbytai cymuned?
OAQ0222(HSS)

2.20 p.m.

Brian Gibbons: The role and use of community hospitals has been considered in the preparation of Wanless local action plans, and health, social care and wellbeing strategies. These form the backdrop of service commissioning for health and social care, which is necessary at community level.

Brian Gibbons: Ystyriwyd rôl ysbytai cymuned a'r defnydd a wneir ohonynt wrth baratoi cynlluniau gweithredu lleol Wanless, a strategaethau iechyd, gofal cymdeithasol a lles. Y rhain yw sail y gwaith o gomisiynu gwasanaethau ar gyfer iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol, sy'n angenrheidiol ar lefel

gymunedol.

Mick Bates: I am not quite sure what that answer meant, Minister. If you were to give that answer to some of my constituents in Llanidloes and Machynlleth, it would not reassure them that their hospitals would still be there in the future. When it comes to effective use, how is it that, in the Welshpool area of my constituency, 20 or more patients travel to Shrewsbury to receive cancer treatment, which is a difficult and uncomfortable journey, when such treatments could be developed in their community hospital in Welshpool? When will you implement that recommendation and make effective use of existing community hospitals?

Brian Gibbons: I am sure you know that that is not a matter for me; that needs to be tackled by your local health board and by Health Commission Wales. This point was made in an audit report, which suggested that the Assembly Government should not be trying to micro-manage the NHS, yet that is precisely what you are asking me to do. You will be aware that the local Wanless action plans are being brought together to produce a broader 10-year strategy for the NHS in Wales in line with Wanless recommendations. I hope that that document will be published after the general election.

On the back of that, more regional plans will be dealing with the configuration and future role of community hospitals. We need a fully informed debate to ensure that community hospitals provide these services because, ultimately, community hospitals are only bricks and mortar. The crucial question is whether services are being delivered to people as locally as possible and whether they are of adequate quality.

Lisa Francis: I am interested to hear you say that. Last year, Gwynedd Local Health Board said that they saw community hospitals as the cornerstone of out-of-hours provision. Tywyn Hospital does not have a 24-hour minor injuries unit. The nearest district general hospital is 30 miles away. In addition, NHS Direct is difficult to access for people in that area. Do you concede that cutting back on facilities because of an argument of a sparse

Mick Bates: Nid wyf yn holol siŵr beth oedd ystyr eich ateb, Weinidog. Pe byddech yn rhoi'r ateb hwnnw i rai o'm hetholwyr yn Llanidloes a Machynlleth, ni fyddai'n tawelu eu meddyliau o ran dyfodol eu hysbytai. O ran defnyddio'n effeithiol, pam mae 20 neu fwy o gleifion, yn ardal y Trallwng yn fy etholaeth i, yn teithio i Amwythig i gael triniaeth am ganser, sy'n daith anodd ac anghysurus, pan ellid datblygu triniaethau o'r fath yn eu hysbyty cymuned yn y Trallwng? Pryd fyddwch chi'n gweithredu'r argymhelliaid hwnnw a gwneud defnydd effeithiol o'r ysbytai cymuned presennol?

Brian Gibbons: Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn gwybod nad fy nghyfrifoldeb i yw hynny; mae angen i'ch bwrdd iechyd lleol a Chomisiwn Iechyd Cymru fynd i'r afael â hynny. Gwnaethpwyd y pwyt hwn mewn adroddiad archwiliad, a awgrymai na ddylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad geisio micro-reoli'r GIG. Ond dyna'n union yr ydych yn gofyn imi ei wneud. Fe wyddoch fod cynlluniau gweithredu lleol Wanless yn cael eu casglu ynghyd i lunio strategaeth 10-mlynedd ehangach ar gyfer y GIG yng Nghymru, yn unol ag argymhellion Wanless. Gobeithio y caiff y ddogfen honno ei chyhoeddi ar ôl yr etholiad cyffredinol.

At hynny, bydd cynlluniau mwy rhanbarthol yn ymdrin â chyfluniad ysbytai cymuned a'u rôl yn y dyfodol. Mae angen inni gael trafodaeth ar sail gwybodaeth lawn er mwyn sicrhau bod ysbytai cymuned yn darparu'r gwasanaethau hyn, oherwydd yn y pen draw dim ond adeiladau yw ysbytai cymuned. Y cwestiwn sylfaenol yw a gaiff gwasanaethau eu darparu i bobl mor lleol â phosibl ac a ydynt o safon ddigonol.

Lisa Francis: Mae'n ddiddorol eich clywed yn dweud hynny. Y llynedd, dywedodd Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Gwynedd ei fod mai ysbytai cymuned oedd conglfaen y ddarpariaeth y tu allan i oriau. Nid oes uned mân anafiadau 24 awr yn Ysbyty Tywyn. Mae'r ysbyty cyffredinol dosbarth agosaf 30 milltir i ffwrdd. At hynny, mae pobl yn yr ardal honno'n ei chael yn anodd cael gwasanaeth Galw Iechyd Cymru. A ydych yn derbyn ei bod yn afresymol cwtogi

population is unreasonable when what we are really seeing is a retreat on all fronts?

cyfleusterau oherwydd dadl ynghylch poblogaeth brin, er mai'r hyn yr ydym yn ei weld mewn gwirionedd yw encilio o bob cyfeiriad?

Brian Gibbons: You are returning to Mick Bates's point. Members of your party have been on their feet many times, supporting the Audit Commission's criticism of micro-managing the NHS, yet you ask what I am doing to micro-manage the NHS. You cannot have it both ways. The responsibility for organising out-of-hours services rests with Gwynedd Local Health Board, which has been in communication with you and other interested persons in Tywyn to address precisely the issue that you raise with me. They are the most appropriate people to raise your concerns with.

Brian Gibbons: Yr ydych yn dychwelyd at bwynt Mick Bates. Mae aelodau eich plaid wedi codi ar eu traed droeon, i gefnogi beirniadaeth y Comisiwn Archwilio ynghylch micro-reoli'r GIG. Ond gofynnwch beth yr wyf fi'n ei wneud i ficro-reoli'r GIG. Ni allwch ei chael y ddwy ffordd. Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Gwynedd sy'n gyfrifol am drefnu gwasanaethau y tu allan i oriau, ac mae wedi bod mewn cysylltiad â chi a phobl eraill yn Nhŷwyn sydd â diddordeb i fynd i'r afael â'r union fater yr ydych yn ei godi gyda mi. Hwy yw'r bobl fwyaf priodol i chi leisio'ch pryderon wrthynt.

Amseroedd Aros (Gorllewin De Cymru) Waiting Times (South Wales West)

Q9 Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on waiting times in South Wales West? OAQ0161(HSS)

C9 Peter Black: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am amseroedd aros yng Ngorllewin De Cymru? OAQ0161(HSS)

Brian Gibbons: Significant progress has been made in reducing the length of time that patients wait across the whole of Wales including South Wales West.

Brian Gibbons: Gwnaethpwyd cynnydd sylwedol i ostwng yr amser y mae cleifion yn gorfol aros ledled Cymru, gan gynnwys Gorllewin De Cymru.

Peter Black: Do you share my concern about the report that 100 operations a week are being cancelled in the city of Swansea within 24 hours of planned surgery? That is blamed on the lack of intensive-care and high-dependency beds. Given the deficits faced by Swansea NHS Trust, will you provide additional investment to increase the number of beds to try to tackle that problem?

Peter Black: A ydych chi, fel finnau, yn pryderu am yr adroddiad a oedd yn dweud bod 100 o lawdriniaethau yr wythnos yn cael eu canslo yn ninas Abertawe o fewn 24 awr cyn llawdriniaethau wedi'u cynllunio? Rhoddir y bai am hynny ar brinder gwelyau gofal dwys a dibyniaeth fawr. O ystyried y diffygion a wynebir gan Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Abertawe, a ydych am fuddsoddi arian ychwanegol i gynyddu nifer y gwelyau er mwyn ceisio mynd i'r afael â'r broblem honno?

Brian Gibbons: The number of operations cancelled across Wales due to a lack of intensive-care beds is something of the order of 200 per year. If you are saying that 100 operations are cancelled every week due to the lack of intensive-care beds, then I do not recognise that figure. The single biggest reason for cancelling operations within 24 hours is what is termed 'patient reasons'. In other words, the patient does not turn up, or phones the hospital with less than 24-hours'

Brian Gibbons: Caiff tua 200 o lawdriniaethau eu canslo ledled Cymru bob blwyddyn oherwydd prinder gwelyau gofal dwys. Os dweud yr ydych bod 100 o lawdriniaethau'r wythnos yn cael eu canslo oherwydd prinder gwelyau gofal dwys, nid wyf yn gyfarwydd â'r ffigur hwnnw. Y prif reswm dros ganslo llawdriniaethau o fewn 24 awr yw'r hyn a elwir yn 'rhesymau cleifion'. Hynny yw, nid yw'r claf yn cyrraedd, neu mae'n ffonio'r ysbyty gan roi rhybudd o lai na 24 awr, gan ddweud na all

notice, stating that they are unable to attend. Your thesis that 100 operations are being cancelled in Swansea exclusively because of a lack of intensive-care beds just cannot be correct.

Janet Davies: Given your answers to question 7 and its supplementaries, I understand that you are content with the number of nurses working in hospitals. However, the recent report 'Teamwork' says that the nursing levels are dangerously low in 31 out of 74 wards in Swansea hospitals. What action are you taking to help Swansea NHS Trust address this issue?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. The question is about waiting times, so I hope that the answer will be.

Brian Gibbons: If you check the Record of Proceedings, you will see that I did not say that I was satisfied with the number of nurses. As you know, we are about two thirds along the road of achieving the number of extra nurses needed in the NHS, but we still have an extra third to recruit. That is why we are continuing to train record numbers of nurses. If we were satisfied with the number of nurses in the NHS, that would not be happening.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Question 10, OAQ0179(HSS), has been withdrawn.

ddod i'r ysbyty. Ni all eich gosodiad, fod 100 o lawdriniaethau'n cael eu canslo yn Abertawe yn unig oherwydd prinder gwelyau gofal dwys, fod yn gywir.

Janes Davies: O ystyried eich atebion i gwestiwn 7 a'r cwestiynau atodol, deallaf eich bod yn fodlon â nifer y nyrssy sy'n gweithio mewn ysbytai. Fodd bynnag, yn ôl yr adroddiad 'Teamwork' yn ddiweddar, mae'r lefelau nyrssio yn isel iawn mewn 31 o'r 74 o wardiau yn ysbytai Abertawe. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i helpu Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Abertawe i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn?

Comment:

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae'r cwestiwn yn ymwneud ag amseroedd aros, felly, gobeithio y bydd eich ateb yn ymwneud â hynny.

Brian Gibbons: Os edrychwch ar Gofnod y Trafodion, fe welwch na ddywedais fy mod yn fodlon â nifer y nyrssy. Fel y gwyddoch, yr ydym wedi cyflawni tua dwy ran o dair o'r targed ar gyfer nifer y nyrssy ychwanegol sydd eu hangen yn y GIG, ond mae angen inni recriwtio traean ychwanegol o hyd. Dyna'r rheswm pam yr ydym yn parhau i hyfforddi'r nifer mwyaf erioed o nyrssy. Pe byddem yn fodlon â nifer y nyrssy yn y GIG, ni fyddai hynny'n digwydd.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 10, OAQ0179(HSS), yn ôl.

Presgripsiynau Prescriptions

Q11 Eleanor Burnham: What is the Assembly Government doing to help the chronically ill pay for their prescriptions? OAQ0212(HSS)

Brian Gibbons: Prescription charges were frozen in April 2001 at £6. Those aged under 25 were exempt from prescription charges from that date. The charge was reduced to £5 in October 2004 and £4 in 2005. Pre-payment certificates have also been proportionally reduced, which means that people with chronic illnesses will benefit significantly.

Eleanor Burnham: On 4 February, you agreed that the system is fairly chaotic and in need of attention. Do you not agree that,

C11 Eleanor Burnham: Beth mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei wneud i helpu pobl sydd â salwch cronig i dalu am eu presgripsiynau? OAQ0212(HSS)

Brian Gibbons: Cafodd taliadau presgripsiwn eu rhewi yn £6 ym mis Ebrill 2001. Cafodd pobl dan 25 oed eu rhyddhau o orfod talu am bresgripsiwn o'r dyddiad hwnnw. Gostyngwyd y taliad i £5 ym mis ym mis Hydref 2004 ac i £4 yn 2004. Hefyd mae cost dystysgrifau rhagdalu wedi gostwng yn gymesur, sy'n golygu y bydd pobl sydd â salwch cronig yn elwa'n sylweddol.

Eleanor Burnham: Ar 4 Chwefror, yr oeddech yn cytuno bod y system yn eithaf di-drefn a bod angen rhoi sylw iddi. Oni chytunwch, o dan

under the Liberal Democrats' proposals, chronically ill people would have received free prescriptions immediately, whereas they are still paying under Labour?

Brian Gibbons: I have crossed swords with Kirsty Williams and others on many occasions, because I think that the Liberal Democrats' proposals are simply unworkable. It is a classic example of a poorly thought-out policy. Welsh Labour's proposals to introduce free prescriptions by the time of the next Assembly elections are simpler to understand, and are entirely in line with the mandate that the public has given us to implement.

Ann Jones: I am glad that you mentioned that, because it is right to make clear our proposal to introduce free prescriptions for everyone. In the meantime, will you join me in congratulating the initiative to assist people via their credit unions, to take out their pre-paid prescription target, which allows them to receive their prescriptions a lot cheaper?

As you are a medical practitioner, how would you define 'chronic illness'? We could argue about what constitutes a chronic illness, and which illnesses should be eligible under the Liberal Democrats' proposals.

Brian Gibbons: I welcome the moves taken to facilitate the role that credit unions can play in allowing people to receive discounted and exempt prescriptions. It is an imaginative and creative decision to go down that road.

In relation to chronic disease, I agree that it is a difficult issue. It becomes even more difficult when you include the word 'lifelong' to that definition. It makes a difficult situation even more difficult.

David Melding: Is the truth of the situation not that many people with a chronic condition are exempt for social and economic reasons in any case, and they fall into the 80 per cent or so of people who receive free prescriptions? Is not extending free prescriptions to everyone just a way of removing £40 million pounds or so out of our health service?

gynigion y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, y byddai pobl sydd â salwch cronig wedi cael presgripsiynau am ddim ar unwaith, ond yn dal i dalu amdanynt o dan Lafur?

Brian Gibbons: Yr wyf wedi cael dadl â Kirsty Williams ac eraill ynghylch y mater hwn droeon, oherwydd yn fy marn i nid yw cynigion y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn ymarferol. Mae'n engraifft berffaith o bolisi nad yw wedi'i ystyried yn ddigonol. Mae cynigion Llafur Cymru i gyflwyno presgripsiynau am ddim erbyn etholiadau nesaf y Cynulliad yn symlach i'w deall, ac yn gwbl gyson â'r mandad y mae'r cyhoedd wedi'i roi inni ei weithredu.

Ann Jones: Yr wyf yn falch ichi grybwyllynny, oherwydd y mae'n iawn inni wneud ein cynnig i gyflwyno presgripsiynau am ddim i bawb yn glir. Yn y cyfamser, a ydych chi, fel finnau, yn llonygfarch y fenter i gynorthwyo pobl drwy eu hundebau credyd i gael eu targed o ran presgripsiynau rhagdaledig, sy'n eu galluogi i gael eu presgripsiynau lawer yn rhatach?

Fel ymarferydd meddygol, sut y byddech chi'n diffinio 'salwch cronig'? Gallem ddadlau ynghylch beth yw salwch cronig, a pha fathau o salwch a ddylai fod yn gymwys o dan gynigion y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol.

Brian Gibbons: Yr wyf yn croesawu'r camau a gymerwyd i hwyluso'r rhan y gall undebau credyd ei chwarae i alluogi pobl i gael presgripsiynau ar ddisgownt a phresgripsiynau esempt. Mae dewis y llwybr hwn yn benderfyniad creadigol sy'n llawn dychymyg.

O ran afiechyd cronig, cytunaf ei fod yn fater anodd. Mae hyd yn oed yn anos o gynnwys y geiriau 'gydol oes' yn y diffiniad hwnnw. Mae'n gwneud sefyllfa anodd hyd yn oed yn anos.

David Melding: Ai'r gwirionedd yw fod nifer o bobl sydd â chyflwr cronig yn cael eu heithrio am resymau cymdeithasol ac economaidd sut bynnag, a'u bod yn perthyn i'r ganran o ryw 80 y cant o bobl sy'n cael presgripsiynau am ddim? Ai dim ond modd i ddileu £40 miliwn o bunnoedd o'n gwasanaeth iechyd yw cynnig presgripsiynau am ddim i bawb?

Brian Gibbons: It is also something that we have a clear democratic mandate to implement, and we will do it.

Brian Gibbons: Mae hefyd yn rhywbeth y mae gennym fandad democraidd clir i'w weithredu, a byddwn yn gwneud hynny.

Gwasanaethau Iechyd Meddwl i Blant a Phobl Ifanc Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Q12 Carl Sergeant: Will the Minister make a statement on what the Welsh Assembly Government is doing to support children and adolescent mental health services in Wales? OAQ0208(HSS)

Brian Gibbons: In support of 'Everybody's Business', the children and adolescent mental health services strategy, recurrent money totalling £1.2 million has been made available in 2004-05. In addition, £2.4 million of non-recurrent waiting time money has been earmarked for CAMHS services this year.

Carl Sergeant: This is an important issue for Members on this side of the Chamber, and it is disappointing that neither the Conservative nor the Plaid Cymru delegation on health is here to question you this afternoon. [*Interruption.*]

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. That was not in order. Please question the Minister on his responsibilities and functions.

2.30 p.m.

Carl Sergeant: Thank you for that guidance, Deputy Presiding Officer. Wherever possible, the views of the children and young people who use the services should be actively sought. Will you assure me that the views of children and young adults in relation to support are listened to and taken seriously?

Brian Gibbons: That is absolutely correct. As for many chronic or long-term illnesses, engagement with the patient or the sufferer is crucial. Without an adequate level of engagement, a satisfactory therapeutic outcome is less likely. It is crucial that we do what you suggest, Carl.

Mark Isherwood: The children's commissioner has commented that funding for child and adolescent mental health services is inadequate in the face of the

C12 Carl Sergeant: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am yr hyn mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i gefnogi gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl i blant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru? OAQ0208(HSS)

Brian Gibbons: I gynorthwyo 'Busnes Pawb', sef y strategaeth gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl i blant a'r glasoed, mae cyfanswm o £1.2 miliwn o arian rheolaidd wedi'i ddarparu yn 2004-05. Yn ogystal, mae £2.4 miliwn o arian nad yw'n rheolaidd ar gyfer amseroedd aros wedi'i glustnodi ar gyfer gwasanaethau CAMHS eleni.

Carl Sergeant: Mae hwn yn fater pwysig i Aelodau ar yr ochr hon o'r Siambwr, a siom yw sylwi nad yw dirprwyd iechyd y Ceidwadwyr na Phlaid Cymru yma i'ch holi y prynhawn yma. [*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid oedd hynny mewn trefn. Holwch y Gweinidog am ei gyfrifoldebau a'i swyddogaethau, os gwelwch yn dda.

Carl Sergeant: Diolch am yr arweiniad hwnnw, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Ble bynnag y bydd modd, dylid mynd ati i geisio barn y plant a'r bobl ifanc sy'n defnyddio'r gwasanaethau. A roddwch sicrwydd imi y gwrandewir ar farn plant a phobl ifanc mewn cysylltiad â chymorth, ac y caint eu cymryd o ddifrif?

Brian Gibbons: Mae hynny'n holol gywir. Fel gyda llawer salwch cronig neu hirdymor, mae cysylltu â'r claf neu'r dioddefwr yn hollbwysig. Heb ddigon o gysylltiad, mae'n llai tebygol y caiff driniaeth fodhaol. Mae'n hollbwysig inni wneud yr hyn a awgrymwch, Carl.

Mark Isherwood: Mae'r comisiynydd plant wedi nodi bod cyllid ar gyfer gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl plant a'r glasoed yn annigonol o gofio'r argyfwng parhaus yn y ddarpariaeth. Sut

continuing crisis in provision. How do you answer the parents of a child with Asperger syndrome, who were told by Flintshire's child and adolescent mental health service that, 'due to extremely high demand upon this service, we're currently concentrating on life-threatening mental health disorders, suicide ideation, and serious self-harming, which excludes youngsters with the sort of problems your son is presenting'? The father told me that there is a high rate of suicide among people with Asperger syndrome, and that his son has already self-harmed.

yr ydych yn ateb rhieni plentyn sydd â syndrom Asperger, a'r gwasanaeth iechyd meddwl plant a glasoed yn Sir y Fflint wedi dweud wrthynt, 'oherwydd galw mawr iawn ar y gwasanaeth hwn, yr ydym yn canolbwytio ar anhwylderau iechyd meddwl lle mae bywyd unigolyn mewn perygl, lle mae unigolyn yn ystyried lladd ei hun, neu lle mae unigolyn yn niweidio'i hun yn ddifrifol, a lle nad yw hynny'n cynnwys pobl ifanc sy'n dioddef o'r math o broblemau sydd gan eich mab chi'? Dywedodd y tad wrthyf fod cyfradd uchel o hunanladdiad ymhliith pobl sydd syndrom Asperger, a bod ei fab eisoes wedi niweidio'i hun.

Brian Gibbons: I do not know from where you are getting this. You will be aware that the level of response for children and adolescents who need mental health care is in a number of tiers. The extra money that we have announced, which I mentioned to Carl, is designed precisely to deliver the tiered service. A big development in providing this tier is to strengthen the primary-care end of child and adolescent mental health services: that is, to provide that care for people with lower levels of mental health problems. The strategy that we are pursuing is not just confined to children with severe psychotic illnesses; it is a balanced programme that is specifically designed to address the whole spectrum of disorders.

Brian Gibbons: Ni wn beth yw'r sail i'ch sylwadau. Fe wyddoch fod yr ymateb ar gyfer plant a'r glasoed sydd ag angen gofal iechyd meddwl arnynt yn digwydd ar lawer lefel. Mae'r arian ychwanegol a gyhoeddwyd gennym, fel y soniais wrth Carl, wedi'i gynllunio'n union i ddarparu'r gwasanaeth mewn haenau. Un datblygiad mawr wrth ddarparu'r haen hon yw cryfhau gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl plant a'r glasoed yn y sector gofal sylfaenol: hynny yw, darparu'r gofal hwnnw ar gyfer pobl sydd â phroblemau iechyd meddwl llai difrifol. Mae'r strategaeth a weithredir gennym nid yn unig yn ymwneud â phlant sydd â salwch seicotig difrifol; mae hefyd yn rhaglen gytbwys wedi'i chynllunio'n benodol i fynd i'r afael a'r holl ystod o anhwylderau.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Question 13, OAQ0169(HSS), has been withdrawn.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 13, OAQ0169(HSS), yn ôl.

Ymddiriedolaeth Gofal Iechyd Gwent Gwent Healthcare Trust

Q14 Rosemary Butler: Will the Minister make a statement on the number of nurses and doctors working in Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust? OAQ0216(HSS)

Brian Gibbons: The latest Assembly Government figures show that, at 30 September 2004, the total number of qualified nurses, midwives and health visitors employed by Gwent NHS Trust was 9,090 on a head-count basis. That is 4,709 full-time equivalents. The number of hospital medical staff, including consultants, for the same period was 730 on a head-count basis, with a full-time equivalent of 633.

C14 Rosemary Butler: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am nifer y nyrssy a'r meddygon sy'n gweithio yn Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gofal Iechyd Gwent? OAQ0216(HSS)

Brian Gibbons: Dengys ffigurau diweddaraf Llywodraeth y Cynulliad fod Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gwent yn cyflogi cyfanswm o 9,090 o nyrssy, bydwragedd ac ymwelwyr iechyd cymwysedig yn ôl niferoedd, sy'n 4,709. Mae hynny'n cyfateb i 4,709 o staff amser llawn. Yr oedd cyfanswm o 730 o staff ysbty meddygol yn cael eu cyflogi, gan gynnwys meddygon ymgynghorol, yn yr un cyfnod, yn ôl niferoedd, sy'n cyfateb i 633 o staff amser llawn.

Rosemary Butler: That is obviously a very welcome increase. Would you agree that we get added value when we can encourage nurses to return to practice, as these nurses are well qualified and have the additional experience of life outside nursing? Do you plan to continue funding the return to work scheme for these practice nurses?

Brian Gibbons: The return to work scheme was a project that was enthusiastically supported by my predecessor, and is recognised as an example of good practice. There are issues in the Gwent trust regarding recruitment and retention that need to be addressed, and attracting trained and experienced nurses back into the profession would, I hope, be part of that broader strategy.

William Graham: Minister, can you confirm that the Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust follows what might be termed a national trend, in that while the number of nursing and midwifery staff and health visitors has increased by 17 per cent, the number of administrators and estate staff has increased by 33 per cent?

Brian Gibbons: I am sure, William, if you are using the same brief as Mark, that you will know that many of the people that you are including in that category are ward clerks, consultants' secretaries and other crucial members of staff, who are essential to the running of the NHS. That group includes a large number of people who are key players in the clinical team.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Question 15 has been withdrawn.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon Questions to the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Question 1, OAQ0206(CWS), has been withdrawn.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 1, OAQ0206(CWS), yn ôl.

Uwchraddio Cyfleusterau Hamdden Upgrading Leisure Facilities

Q2 Brynle Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the financial assistance

C2 Brynle Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar y cymorth ariannol sydd ar gael i

available to local councils for the purpose of upgrading leisure facilities? OAQ0172(CWS)

gynghorau lleol er mwyn codi safon cyfleusterau hamdden? OAQ0172(CWS)

The Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport (Alun Pugh): While the Sports Council for Wales has provided some £12 million in Sportlot funding since 2000 to assist local authorities in upgrading their sporting facilities, the primary responsibility for capital raising for local authorities lies, of course, with local authorities themselves.

Bryngle Williams: Barnardo's recently released findings that contain information about the lack of disabled facilities in many council-run leisure facilities. What funds will you make available to be ring-fenced by local authorities for the specific purpose of improving disabled facilities in leisure centres, and providing training for staff?

Y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon (Alun Pugh): Er bod Cyngor Chwaraeon Cymru wedi darparu tua £12 miliwn fel arian Sportlot ers 2000 i helpu awdurdodau lleol i godi safon eu cyfleusterau chwaraeon, yr awdurdodau lleol eu hunain, wrth gwrs, sy'n bennaf gyfrifol am godi cyfalaf.

Bryngle Williams: Cyhoeddodd Barnardo's ddarganfyddiadau'n ddiweddar sy'n cynnwys gwybodaeth am y prinder cyfleusterau i bobl anabl mewn nifer o gyfleusterau hamdden sy'n cael eu rhedeg gan gynghorau. Pa gyllid y byddwch yn ei ddarparu i'w glustnodi'n benodol gan awdurdodau lleol at y diben penodol o wella cyfleusterau i bobl anabl mewn canolfannau hamdden, a darparu hyfforddiant i staff?

Alun Pugh: You will know that a number of groups are significantly under-represented in terms of participation in sport, and people with disabilities are one such group. This is why the whole issue has been given a major focus of attention in the Assembly Government's 'Climbing Higher' strategy. However, as you know, we do not have major hypothecation of grants to local authorities in Wales.

Alun Pugh: Fe wyddoch fod nifer o grwpiau yn cael eu tangynrychioli'n sylweddol o ran cymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon, a phobl ag anableddau yw un o'r grwpiau hynny. Dyna pam mae'r mater hwn wedi cael llawer o sylw yn strategaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, 'Dringo'n Uwch'. Fodd bynnag, fel y gwyddoch, nid ydym yn tueddu i neilltuo grantiau i awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru ar gyfer gwariant penodol.

John Griffiths: As you know, Alun, Underwood Leisure Centre in my constituency is in difficulty at the moment, because major repairs are required. One route out of those difficulties may be the creation of a trust, which would be able to access funding that would not be available while the centre remains under local authority control. This is probably a picture that is replicated elsewhere in Wales. Could you have a look at the advice, support and training available for potential trustees in these situations, because it can seem an onerous responsibility and sometimes support is not what it might be?

John Griffiths: Fel y gwyddoch, Alun, mae Canolfan Hamdden Underwood yn fy etholaeth i yn wynebu anawsterau ar hyn o bryd, oherwydd y gwaith atgyweirio mawr sydd ei angen. Un ateb i ddatrys yr anawsterau hynny yw creu ymddiriedolaeth, a allai gael cyllid na fyddai ar gael tra bydd y ganolfan o dan reolaeth yr awdurdod lleol. Mae'r darlun hwn i'w weld mewn lleoedd eraill yng Nghymru, mae'n siŵr. A allech ystyried y cyngor, y cymorth a'r hyfforddiant sydd ar gael i ddarpar ymddiriedolwyr yn y sefyllfa oedd hyn, oherwydd gall ymddangos yn gyfrifoldeb trwm, ac weithiau nid oes llawer o gymorth ar gael?

Alun Pugh: We have exchanged correspondence on this matter. Trusts are able to secure funding from a number of sources, including lottery funding, but I know, particularly in more deprived communities, that it can be difficult to get together that body of expertise on law,

Alun Pugh: Yr ydym wedi bod yn gohebu am y mater hwn. Gall ymddiriedolaethau gael gafael ar arian o nifer o ffynonellau, gan gynnwys arian loteri. Ond gwn, mewn cymunedau difreintiedig yn enwedig, y gall fod yn anodd tynnu ynghyd gorff o arbenigedd ar y gyfraith, cyllid a nifer o feysydd eraill. Yn sicr, teimlaf

finance and a number of other areas. I certainly feel that disadvantaged areas should not be further disadvantaged because of a lack of access to technical support.

Kirsty Williams: Powys County Council is currently out to consultation on a strategic plan for leisure services. One danger identified to the continuation of leisure services in Powys is a lack of resources. Last financial year there were threats to close leisure centres at Gwernyfed, Knighton and Crickhowell, and constituents are concerned that that will happen again. What can you do to work with local authorities to ensure that leisure centres remain open?

Alun Pugh: I know that many leisure centres the length and breadth of Wales are much valued by their local communities. Where there are threats to close a leisure centre, either for structural or other reasons, people get pretty agitated, understandably. I have not been informed of the particular circumstances to which you refer, but I would be happy to engage in correspondence with you on this.

Christine Chapman: I have been involved in efforts to improve football amenities in my constituency, and have urged the local authority to take this forward. For example, the lack of adequate changing facilities at many pitches currently prevents the accommodation of all clubs who wish to play in the Aberdare Association Football League. How are you working in partnership with local authorities to promote a high uptake of sporting activities, given the social, cultural and health advantages that they bring?

Alun Pugh: We want to see more people playing football. I know that there has been a remarkable and welcome growth in the sport, particularly in girls' football. It seems that many girls in Wales are taking up this great sport. We would want to encourage that.

Having access to good quality changing facilities, rather than having to change by the side of the pitch, is a major issue in many constituencies. An important aspect of the 'Climbing Higher' strategy is getting the

na ddylai ardaloedd sydd dan anfantais fod dan hyd yn oed mwy o anfantais am nad oes cymorth technegol ar gael.

Kirsty Williams: Mae Cyngor Sir Powys wrthi'n ymgynghori ar gynllun strategol ar gyfer gwasanaethau hamdden. Un perygl a nodwyd i barhad gwasanaethau hamdden ym Mhowys yw prinder adnoddau. Yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol ddiwethaf, yr oedd bygythiad i gau canolfannau hamdden yng Ngwernyfed, Trefyclo a Chrucywel, ac mae etholwyr yn pryderu y gall hynny ddigwydd eto. Beth allwch chi ei wneud i weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau bod canolfannau hamdden yn parhau ar agor?

Alun Pugh: Gwn fod nifer o ganolfannau hamdden ledled Cymru yn cael eu gwerthfawrogi'n fawr gan eu cymunedau lleol. Lle mae bygythiadau i gau canolfan hamdden, naill ai am resymau adeiledd neu am resymau eraill, mae pobl yn cynhyrfu, ac mae hynny'n ddealladwy. Nid wyf wedi cael gwybodaeth am yr amgylchiadau penodol y cyfeiriwch atynt, ond byddwn yn fwya na pharod i ohebu â chi am y mater hwn.

Christine Chapman: Yr wyf wedi bod yn rhan o ymdrech i wella cyfleusterau pêl-droed yn fy etholaeth i, ac yr wyf wedi annog yr awdurdod lleol i weithredu ar hyn. Er enghraifft, mae'r ffaith nad oes cyfleusterau newid digonol mewn nifer o gaeau ar hyn o bryd yn golygu nad oes modd i bob clwb sydd am chwarae yng Nghyngahrir Pêl-droed Aberdâr wneud hynny. Sut yr ydych yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth ag awdurdodau lleol i annog nifer o bobl i gymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau chwaraeon, o gofio'r manteision cymdeithasol, diwylliannol ac iechyd a ddaw yn eu sgil?

Alun Pugh: Yr ydym am weld mwy o bobl yn chwarae pêl-droed. Gwn fod y gêm wedi cynyddu'n rhyfeddol, ac mae hynny i'w groesawu, yn enwedig mewn pêl-droed i ferched. Ymddengys fod nifer o ferched yng Nghymru yn dechrau chwarae'r gêm wych hon. Hoffem annog hynny.

Mae gallu defnyddio cyfleusterau newid o safon dda, yn hytrach na gorfol newid wrth ymyl y cae, yn broblem fawr mewn llawer etholaeth. Un agwedd bwysig ar y strategaeth 'Dringo'n Uwch' yw sicrhau bod cyfleusterau hamdden

leisure facilities in Wales into reasonable shape in order to support initiatives such as this.

Janet Davies: Minister, you will agree that swimming pools are important leisure facilities, yet Cardiff council has cut the opening hours of its swimming pools, and Bridgend council passed one of theirs to a community association that struggled to keep it open over the years. Although older people now have free swimming during holiday time, what steps is the Government taking to ensure that public swimming pools are open for adequate hours, and are accessible throughout Wales?

Alun Pugh: We certainly want to encourage activities such as cycling, walking and swimming. They are activities that do not discriminate on the grounds of age or gender. That is precisely why the Assembly Government is investing literally millions of pounds in free swimming. Those millions of pounds are going into local authority budgets to support capital and revenue schemes that keep more pools busy.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Question 3, OAQ0157(CWS), has been withdrawn.

2.40 p.m.

Treftadaeth Ddiwylliannol Cymunedau'r Cymoedd Cultural Heritage of the Valleys Communities

Q4 Janice Gregory: Will the Minister make a statement on initiatives to protect the cultural heritage of our Valleys communities? OAQ0181(CWS)

Alun Pugh: Funding and initiatives by the Assembly Government and other organisations, such as the Lottery Fund, are helping to protect the rich cultural heritage, in its widest sense, in the south Wales Valleys, as well as helping to regenerate local communities.

Janice Gregory: I am sure that you will agree that rugby union is an important part of our national heritage, as well as a national sport. To play at the Millennium Stadium must be every young player's dream—it certainly is for those in the Bridgend and

Cymru o safon resymol er mwyn cynnal mentrau fel hon.

Janet Davies: Weinidog, a gytunwch fod pyllau nofio yn gyfleusterau hamdden pwysig, ond eto mae cyngor Caerdydd wedi torri ei oriau agor mewn pyllau nofio, a throsglwyddodd cyngor Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr un o byllau nofio'r cyngor i gymdeithas gymunedol, sydd wedi cael anhawster i'w gadw ar agor dros y blynnyddoedd. Er bod pobl hŷn erbyn hyn yn cael nofio am ddim yn ystod y gwyliau, pa gamau y mae'r Llywodraeth yn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod pyllau nofio cyhoeddus ar agor yn ddigon hir, ac yn hwylus ledled Cymru?

Alun Pugh: Yn sicr, yr ydym am annog gweithgareddau megis seiclo, cerdded a nofio. Maent yn weithgareddau nad ydynt yn gwahaniaethu ar sail oedran na rhyw. Dyna'n union pam mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn llythrennol yn buddsoddi miliynau o bunnau mewn nofio am ddim. Mae'r miliynau hynny'n cael eu rhoi yng nghyllidebau awdurdodol lleol, i gynnal cynlluniau cyfalaf a refeniw sy'n cadw mwy o byllau nofio yn brysur.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Tynnwyd cwestion 3, OAQ0157(CWS), yn ôl.

C4 Janice Gregory: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar fentrau i ddiogelu treftadaeth ddiwylliannol y cymunedau yn ein Cymoedd? OAQ0181(CWS)

Alun Pugh: Mae cyllid a mentrau gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad a sefydliadau eraill, megis Cronfa'r Loteri, yn helpu diogelu'r dreftadaeth ddiwylliannol gyfoethog, yn yr ystyr ehangaf, yng Nghymroedd y De, yn ogystal â helpu adfywio cymunedau lleol.

Janice Gregory: Yr wyf yn sicr y byddwch yn cytuno bod rygbi'r undeb yn rhan bwysig o'n treftadaeth genedlaethol, yn ogystal â bod yn gêm genedlaethol. Mae'n sicr bod pob chwaraewr ifanc yn breuddwydio am chwarae yn Stadiwm y Mileniwm—yn sicr mae'n

District Schools Rugby Union, in which many of my constituents play. Will you join me in condemning the Welsh Rugby Union's decision to refuse permission for these youngsters—and we may even have another Gavin Henson among these players—to play the final of their youth events on this hallowed turf? Will you give an assurance that you will do all that you can to reverse this appalling and devastating decision? I also ask Members to be so kind as to sign my statement of opinion, which will be circulating later.

freuddwyd i'r rheini yn Undeb Rygbi Ysgolion Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a'r Cylch, lle mae nifer o'm hetholwyr yn chwarae. A ymunwch â mi i gondemnio penderfyniad Undeb Rygbi Cymru i wrthod rhoi caniatâd i'r bobl ifanc hyn—ac effallai fod gennym Gavin Henson arall ymhlið y chwaraewyr hyn—chwarae rownd derfynol eu digwyddiadau ieuenctid ar y maes cysegredig hwnnw? A roddwch sierwydd y byddwch yn gwneud popeth o fewn eich gallu i newid y penderfyniad ofnadwy a chreulon hwn? Gofynnaf hefyd i'r Aelodau fod mor garedig â llofnodi fy natganiad barn, a gaiff ei gylchredeg yn ddiweddarach.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You should ask the Minister to do that.

Alun Pugh: Who plays on the pitch is ultimately a matter for the WRU. I can understand its need to protect the pitch in order to keep it in pristine condition for major competitions such as the cup final. However, I know that there are many upset children in Wales. Many people have put it to me that small children do not cut up the surface in the way that a rampaging international pack does. If you write to me, Janice, I will pass your comments on to the WRU.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Dylech ofyn i'r Gweinidog wneud hynny.

Alun Pugh: Mater i Undeb Rygbi Cymru yn y pen draw yw penderfynu pwysy'n chwarae ar y cae. Gallaf ddeall fod angen diogelu'r cae er mwyn ei gadw yn y cylwr gorau ar gyfer cystadlaethau mawr, megis rownd derfynol cwpan yr FA. Fodd bynnag, gwn fod nifer o blant siomedig yng Nghymru. Mae nifer o bobl wedi dweud wrthyf nad yw plant bach yn difrodi wyneb y cae fel y bydd pac rhyngwladol yn ei anterth. Os ysgrifennwch ataf, Janice, fe drosglwyddaf eich sylwadau i Undeb Rygbi Cymru.

Michael German: The link between cultural heritage and tourism is well made. The Valleys Herian project, which seeks to join up all the tourism attractions across the top of the Valleys, includes some important areas of cultural heritage. Have you been able to support Book Town Blaenavon and give it any grant aid to support the change that it is bringing, which makes a difference to the nature of the economy of that area?

Michael German: Mae'r cysylltiad rhwng treftadaeth ddiwylliannol a thwristiaeth yn un da. Mae prosiect Herian y Cymoedd, sy'n ceisio cydlynur'r holl atyniadau i dwristiaid ar draws blaenau'r Cymoedd, yn cynnwys rhai mannau pwysig o dreftadaeth ddiwylliannol. A ydych wedi llwyddo i gefnogi Tref Lyfrau Blaenafon a rhoi unrhyw gymorth grant iddi i gefnogi'r newid sy'n dod yn ei sgil, ac sy'n gwneud gwahaniaeth i natur yr economi yn yr ardal honno?

Alun Pugh: As Lynne Neagle will tell you, as the local Assembly Member, Blaenavon has benefited greatly from Assembly Government investment—directly in the case of things such as the ironworks—and via lottery investment, in the case of the outstanding exhibition at Big Pit, which has rightly qualified to be on the shortlist for a Gulbenkian award. I know of several efforts that now want to take it to the next step, and Book Town is one of those efforts.

Alun Pugh: Fel y bydd Lynne Neagle yn dweud wrthych, fel yr Aelod Cynulliad lleol, mae Blaenafon wedi elwa'n sylweddol o fuddsoddiad gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad—yn uniongyrchol yn achos pethau megis y gwaith haearn—a thrwy fuddsoddiad loteri, yn achos yr arddangosfa wych ym Mhwll Mawr, sydd wedi ei gynnwys ar y rhestr fer ar gyfer gwobr Gulbenkian, a hynny'n holol deilwng. Gwn am lawer ymdrech sydd am symud i'r cam nesaf, ac mae'r Dref Lyfrau yn un o'r ymdrechion hynny.

Michael German: Indeed, Minister, and, as you say, there are two extremely good attractions in Blaenavon. However, one way in which it was seeking to regenerate itself was through using the Book Town as a means of attracting more visitors and creating a bigger industry. That sort of creative cultural industry is important. I ask you this specific question: what level of assistance have you been able to provide to Book Town Blaenavon, in other words, to the concept of improving the area through a book town?

Alun Pugh: We have not provided direct assistance in respect of that specific initiative at this stage, but we can look at that in future budget planning rounds.

John Griffiths: The south-east Wales valleys have a great cultural heritage. One initiative proposed in a commissioned study to promote that heritage is an iconic landmark work of art welcoming people to Wales, similar to the Angel of the North. It might be, for example, placed on the Gwent Levels near the second Severn crossing. It could be a giant steel fire-breathing dragon, or something more modern and abstract. Do you support this concept?

Alun Pugh: It is amazing that public art projects, at the conception stage, often attract huge storms of public ridicule—and you referred to the Angel of the North—but, once they are built, people start to take a great deal of pride in them. However, even though I am in favour of bringing certain functions of the Arts Council of Wales and the Sports Council for Wales into the Assembly Government, the specifics of which statues get built and which ones do not should not be a matter for me.

Janet Davies: Historically, whether in community groups, theatres, or chapels, the dramatic arts have been a colourful part of everyday life in the Valleys. Today, it is often an unremitting struggle to keep these arts alive, particularly in the smaller valleys. What increased funding can you provide to help stimulate arts, particularly in the small valleys?

Alun Pugh: The arts council has been busy in supporting arts infrastructure in the Valleys in terms of revenue and capital

Michael German: Yn wir, Weinidog, ac fel y dywedwch mae dau atyniad da iawn ym Mlaenafon. Fodd bynnag, un ffordd yr oedd y lle'n ceisio adfywio ei hun oedd drwy ddefnyddio'r Dref Lyfrau fel modd i ddenu mwy o ymwelwyr a chreu diwydiant mwy. Mae'r math hwnnw o ddiwydiant diwylliannol creadigol yn bwysig. Gofynnaf y cwestiwn penodol hwn ichi: pa gymorth yr ydych wedi gallu ei roi i Dref Lyfrau Blaenafon, hynny yw, i'r cysyniad o wella'r ardal drwy dref lyfrau?

Alun Pugh: Nid ydym wedi darparu cymorth unioingyrchol ar gyfer y fenter benodol honno hyd yma, ond gallwn edrych ar hynny yng nghylchoedd cynllunio'r gyllideb yn y dyfodol.

John Griffiths: Mae gan gymoedd y De-ddwyrain dreftadaeth ddiwylliannol wych. Un fenter a gynigiwyd mewn astudiaeth a gomisiynwyd i hyrwyddo'r dreftadaeth honno oedd gwaith celf eiconig nodedig i groesawu pobl i Gymru, yn debyg i Angel y Gogledd yn Lloegr. Gellid ei osod, er enghraifft, ar Wastadeddau Gwent ger ail bont Hafren. Gallai fod yn ddraig ddur anferth yn anadlu tân, neu rywbeth mwy modern a haniaethol? A ydych yn cefnogi'r cysyniad hwn?

Alun Pugh: Mae'n rhyfeddol fod prosiectau celf gyhoeddus, pan fyddant yn gysyniadau, yn aml yn ennyn llawer o wawd ymhlih y cyhoedd—ac yr ydych wedi cyfeirio at Angel y Gogledd—ond ar ôl eu hadeiladu, bydd pobl yn dechrau ymfalchiō'n fawr ynddynt. Fodd bynnag, er fy mod o blaid trosglwyddo rhai o swyddogaethau Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru a Chyngor Chwaraeon Cymru i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, ni ddylai'r manylion ynghylch pa gerfluniau sy'n cael eu hadeiladu a pha rai na ddylid eu hadeiladu fod yn fater i mi.

Janet Davies: Yn hanesyddol, boed mewn grwpiau cymunedol, theatrau, neu gapeli, mae'r celfyddydau dramatig wedi bod yn rhan liwgar o fywyd bob dydd yn y Cymoedd. Heddiw, yn aml, mae'n frwydr ddi-baid i gadw'r celfyddydau hyn yn fyw, yn arbennig yn y cymoedd llai. Pa arian ychwanegol y gallwch ei ddarparu i helpu ysgogi'r celfyddydau, yn arbennig yn y cymoedd llai?

Alun Pugh: Mae cyngor y celfyddydau wedi bod yn brysur yn cefnogi'r seilwaith celfyddydau yn y Cymoedd o ran arian refeniw

funding. In that context, I was delighted to announce the latest pot of lottery funding for the Park and Dare Theatre, which is a well-loved facility in the Rhondda, as Leighton Andrews will tell you.

David Melding: The industrial valleys are among the wonders of the modern world. Their communities have changed the way in which we live because of their achievements. Can we get some filmmakers to take on this sort of subject to perhaps rectify the rather strange and romantic bias that came across in *How Green Was My Valley*?

Alun Pugh: I am not going to directly respond to your call for ‘How Green Was My Valley II’.

Celfyddydau Cymunedol Community Arts

Q5 Lorraine Barrett: What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to support community arts? OAQ0200(CWS)

Alun Pugh: Almost £1 million was spent on community arts projects across Wales in 2003-04. The Assembly Government recently commissioned the report ‘Changing Spaces’ to look at the development of the arts in health, social inclusion and learning and to further develop research in the area of socially engaged arts activity.

Lorraine Barrett: Will you join me in welcoming an initiative in Penarth to save the much-loved Italian garden shelter on the seafront, whereby several groups have come together, including the Penarth community arts project, of which I am a trustee, the Penarth Society and South Wales Art Society, to put a proposal to the council to keep the building for community art use?

Alun Pugh: The Italian shelter is a much-appreciated facility; it was supported by the Arts Council of Wales small grant scheme for a lantern project in the summer of 2004. However, the Penarth seafront, ultimately, is the responsibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, and any decisions regarding its

a chyfalaf. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, yr oeddwn yn falch iawn cyhoeddi'r swm diweddaraf o arian loteri ar gyfer Theatr y Parc a'r Dâr, sy'n gyfleuster poblogaidd yn y Rhondda, fel y dywed Leighton Andrews wrthych.

David Melding: Mae'r cymoedd diwydiannol ymhliith rhyfeddodau'r byd modern. Mae eu cymunedau wedi newid y ffordd yr ydym yn byw oherwydd eu cyflawniadau. A allwn annog rhai gwneuthurwyr ffilmiau i ymgymryd â'r math hwn o bwnc i unioni efallai y darlun rhyfedd a rhamantaidd a gyflëwyd yn *How Green Was My Valley*?

Alun Pugh: Nid wyf yn mynd i ymateb yn uniongyrchol i'ch cais am ‘*How Green Was My Valley II*’

C5 Lorraine Barrett: Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cymryd i gefnogi celfyddydau cymunedol? OAQ0200(CWS)

Alun Pugh: Gwariwyd bron i £1 filiwn ar brosiectau celfyddydau cymunedol ledled Cymru yn 2003-04. Comisiynodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yr adroddiad ‘Changing Spaces’ yn ddiweddar i edrych ar ddatblygiad y celfyddydau ym maes iechyd, cynhwysiant cymdeithasol a dysgu, ac i ddatblygu ymchwil ym maes gweithgareddau celfyddydol sy'n cynnwys y gymdeithas.

Lorraine Barrett: A ymunwch â mi i groesawu menter ym Mhenarth i arbed cysgodfan boblogaidd yr ardd Eidalaidd ar lan y môr? Mae nifer o grwpiau wedi dod ynghyd, gan gynnwys prosiect celfyddydau cymunedol Penarth, lle yr wyf yn un o'r ymddiriedolwyr, Cymdeithas Penarth a Chymdeithas Celfyddydau De Cymru, i gyflwyno cynnig i'r cyngor i gadw'r adeilad i'w ddefnyddio ar gyfer celfyddydau cymunedol?

Alun Pugh: Mae'r gysgodfan Eidalaidd yn gyfleuster sy'n cael ei gwerthfawrogi gan lawer, ac fe'i cefnogwyd gan gynllun grantiau bach Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru ar gyfer prosiect llusern yn ystod yr haf 2004. Fodd bynnag, yn y pen draw, cyfrifoldeb Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yw glan y môr ym Mhenarth, a'r cyngor sy'n

future lie with the council. I understand that no decisions have yet been made.

gyfrifol am wneud penderfyniadau ynglŷn â'i dyfodol. Deallaf na wnaed unrhyw benderfyniadau hyd yma.

William Graham: You will know that, for many community arts groups, much of their time is dominated by trying to find funding for their next project, and that that takes away the focus of their activities. Although you have done some work in this respect, can you impress upon local authorities that they must join with you in the same activity?

William Graham: Byddwch yn ymwybodol, i nifer o grwpiau celfyddydau cymunedol, eu bod yn treulio llawer o'u hamser yn chwilio am arian ar gyfer eu prosiect nesaf, a bod hynny'n golygu eu bod yn canolbwytio llai ar eu gweithgareddau. Er eich bod wedi gwneud rhywfaint o waith ar hyn, a allwch bwysleisio wrth awdurdodau lleol fod yn rhaid iddynt ymuno â chi yn yr un gweithgaredd?

Alun Pugh: If people want to see good funding for the arts in Wales, and across the United Kingdom, then they should look at the manifesto statements of all the political parties and make their clear choice in the general election next week. I stand by Labour's record in funding the arts.

Alun Pugh: Os yw pobl am weld llawer o arian ar gael ar gyfer y celfyddydau yng Nghymru, a ledled y Deyrnas Unedig, yna dylent edrych ar ddatganiadau manifesto'r holl bleidiau gwleidyddol a gwneud dewis pendant yn yr etholiad cyffredinol yr wythnos nesaf. Yr wyf yn cefnogi record y Blaid Lafur o ran ariannu'r celfyddydau.

Jenny Randerson: In yesterday's debate on the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee report, I referred to the misconception that Cardiff gets too much in the way of arts grants. In practice, per head of population, the level of funding for local community organisations is low in comparison with other areas. Will you, therefore, agree to implement the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee's proposal to introduce an audit of community arts spending and activity across Wales so that the true situation can be exposed?

Jenny Randerson: Yn ystod y ddadl ddoe ar adroddiad y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon, cyfeiriais at y camsyniad fod Caerdydd yn cael gormod o grantiau celfyddydol. Mewn gwirionedd, yn ôl y pen o'r boblogaeth, mae lefel yr arian ar gyfer sefydliadau cymunedol lleol yn isel o'i gymharu ag ardaloedd eraill. Felly, a gytunwch i weithredu cynnig y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon i gyflwyno archwiliad o wariant a gweithgarwch celfyddydau cymunedol ledled Cymru er mwyn inni gael gweld y sefyllfa wirioneddol?

Alun Pugh: The whole pattern of expenditure on the arts and on sports and their contribution to community regeneration was the subject of a pretty exhaustive inquiry by the committee. I am, obviously, considering those recommendations carefully, and the Assembly Government will make a formal statement to Plenary in due course.

Alun Pugh: Gwnaed ymchwiliad eithaf cynhwysfawr gan y pwylgor i batrwm gwariant ar y celfyddydau ac ar chwaraeon, a'u cyfraniad at adfywio cymunedol. Yr wyf, wrth gwrs, yn ystyried yr argymhellion hynny'n ofalus, a bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gwneud datganiad ffurfiol gerbron y Cyfarfod Llawn maes o law.

Dyfodol Clwb Pêl-droed Wrecsam **The Future of Wrexham Football Club**

Q6 Eleanor Burnham: Will the Minister make a statement on the future of Wrexham football club? OAQ0196(OAQ)

Given its magnificent trophy win against Southend—

C6 Eleanor Burnham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ddyfodol clwb pêl-droed Wrecsam? OAQ0196(OAQ)

O gofio'i fuddugoliaeth wych yn erbyn Southend—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. That is highly out of order. Your additional remarks are not in the question as tabled.

Alun Pugh: The Racecourse ground is of national importance. I very much hope that it remains the north Wales venue for regional and international sport and, that Wrexham AFC survives and flourishes in the football league. The administrators are currently undertaking a range of discussions, and I have asked to be kept fully informed of developments there.

Eleanor Burnham: I beg your pardon, Dirprwy Lywydd.

2.50 p.m.

Minister, following the magnificent trophy win against Southend United Football Club at the Millennium Stadium a few weeks ago, do you agree that Wrexham football club's survival is essential, as is that of the Racecourse, because it is a multi-functional, international-standard regional asset? What are you and the Labour Government doing to secure its survival and its future development?

Alun Pugh: You are right; it was an excellent win. Given the trials and tribulations that Wrexham fans have faced during the past months, I am sure that all the club's supporters had a big smile on their faces that day. I am concerned about the club's future, and there must be an anchor tenant for the Racecourse. However, Wrexham FC and Cardiff City Football Club—and I know that Leighton is a Cardiff City FC season-ticket holder—are essentially private clubs, although we have a major investment in the Racecourse.

Ann Jones: You will know that I have raised many times in the Chamber the issue of the importance of the Racecourse to other teams across north Wales, not least the team that I support, Rhyl Football Club, which has finished second in the league and, should we get to Europe and progress in the UEFA cup, will be able to play at the Racecourse.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae hynny'n holol allan o drefn. Nid yw eich sylwadau ychwanegol yn y cwestiwn fel y'i cyflwynwyd.

Alun Pugh: Mae'r Cae Ras o bwys cenedlaethol. Yr wyf yn gobeithio'n fawr iawn y bydd yn parhau'n lleoliad ar gyfer chwaraeon rhanbarthol a ryngwladol yn y Gogledd, ac y bydd Clwb Pêl-droed Wrecsam yn goroesi ac yn ffynnu yng nghyngħrair bêl-droed Lloegr. Mae'r gweinyddwyr wrthi'n cynnal nifer o drafodaethau, ac yr wyf wedi gofyn iddynt roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf imi am ddatblygiadau yno.

Eleanor Burnham: Ymddiheuriadau, Ddirprwy Lywydd.

2.50 p.m.

Weinidog, yn dilyn y fuddugoliaeth wych yn erbyn Clwb Pêl-droed Southend yn Stadiwm y Mileniwm ychydig wythnosau yn ôl, a gytunwch fod parhad clwb pêl-droed Wrecsam yn hanfodol, a'r Cae Ras hefyd, am ei fod yn ased rhanbarthol aml-swyddogaeth o safon ryngwladol? Beth ydych chi a'r Llywodraeth Lafur yn ei wneud i sicrhau ei barhad a'i ddatblygiad yn y dyfodol?

Alun Pugh: Yr ydych yn iawn; yr oedd yn fuddugoliaeth wych. O gofio'r anawsterau y mae cefnogwyr Wrecsam wedi'u hwynebu yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf, yr wyf yn siŵr fod gwêr fawr ar wyneb pob un o gefnogwyr y clwb y diwrnod hnwnw. Mae dyfodol y clwb yn destun pryder i mi, a rhaid sicrhau tenant angor ar gyfer y Cae Ras. Fodd bynnag, mae Clwb Pêl-droed Wrecsam a Chlwb Pêl-droed Dinas Caerdydd—a gwn fod gan Leighton docyn tymor yng Nghlwrb Pêl-droed Dinas Caerdydd—yn glybiau preifat yn y bôn, er ein bod wedi buddsoddi'n helaeth yn y Cae Ras.

Ann Jones: Byddwch yn ymwybodol fy mod wedi codi pwysigrwydd y Cae Ras yn y Siambra gyda thimau eraill ledled y Gogledd, ac yn arbennig y tîm yr wyf finnau'n ei gefnogi, sef Clwb Pêl-droed y Rhyl, a ddaeth yn ail yn y gynghrair. Os llwyddwn i fynd i Ewrop a gwneud yn dda yng nghwpan UEFA, byddwn yn gallu chwarae ar y Cae Ras.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. The question was about Wrexham football club.

Ann Jones: I am coming to that.

Brian Gibbons: She is just warming up.

Ann Jones: Yes, I am warming up and coming on as a sub on this.

The facilities at the Racecourse are first class, and we need such facilities in north Wales. I hope that you will join me in wishing Wrexham football club well in its last few games, and in hoping that we can see championship football played at the Racecourse for many years to come and aspire to premiership football in years to come.

Alun Pugh: Indeed. I can give you an assurance that I fully recognise the strategic importance of the ground, not just as a home for Wrexham FC, but as a regional venue for the whole of north Wales for clubs that may progress in European football. It is also important as an international venue; if we lose the Racecourse, there is nowhere to play international football or international or regional rugby north of the M4, let alone in north Wales.

Mark Isherwood: If, as we understand, Wrexham FC must provide details of a rescue package to the football league before its annual general meeting on 10 June, what discussions have you had with the administrators, and possibly others, concerning the wider commercial use of what is, as you say, the Welsh nation's stadium of the north?

Alun Pugh: Discussions on this continue, and I will be in Wrexham tomorrow to discuss this issue further.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Yr oedd y cwestiwn yn ymwneud â chlwb pêl-droed Wrecsam.

Ann Jones: Yr wyf yn dod at hynny.

Brian Gibbons: Mae'n ymbaratoi.

Ann Jones: Ydwyt yr wyf yn ymbaratoi ac yn dod ymlaen fel eilydd ar hyn.

Mae'r cyfleusterau ar y Cae Ras o'r radd flaenaf, ac mae arnom angen cyfleusterau o'r fath yn y Gogledd. Gobeithio yr ymunwch â mi i ddymuno'n dda i glwb pêl-droed Wrecsam yn yr ychydig gemau sydd ar ôl, ac i obeithio y gallwn weld pêl-droed pencampwriaeth yn cael ei chwarae ar y Cae Ras am flynyddoedd lawer i ddod, ac i anelu at bêl-droed uwch-gynghrair Lloegr mewn blynyddoedd i ddod.

Alun Pugh: Yn wir. Gallaf roi sicrwydd ichi fy mod yn cydnabod yn llawn bwysigrwydd strategol y maes, nid fel cartref i Glwb Pêl-droed Wrecsam yn unig, ond fel lleoliad rhanbarthol i'r Gogledd yn gyfan ar gyfer clybiau a allai chwarae ym mhencampwriaethau pêl-droed Ewrop. Mae hefyd yn bwysig fel lleoliad rhwngwladol; os collwn y Cae Ras, ni fydd unrhyw le i chwarae pêl-droed rhwngwladol na rygbi rhanbarthol neu ryngwladol i'r gogledd o'r M4, heb sôn am ogledd Cymru.

Mark Isherwood: Os oes rhaid i Glwb Pêl-droed Wrecsam, fel y deallwn, roi manylion am becyn achub i'r gynghrair bêl-droed cyn ei chyfarfod cyffredinol blynyddol ar 10 Mehefin, pa drafodaethau ydych chi wedi eu cael gyda'r gweinyddwyr, ac eraill o bosibl, yngylch defnydd masnachol ehangu o'r hyn a alwch yn stadiwm y genedl yn y Gogledd?

Alun Pugh: Mae trafodaethau'n parhau ynglŷn â hyn, a byddaf yn Wrecsam yfory i drafod y mater hwn ymhellach.

Diogelu Cymunedau Cymraeg eu Hiaith Safeguarding Welsh Speaking Communities

Q7 Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister make a statement on what he is doing to safeguard Welsh-speaking communities? OAQ0163(OAQ)

C7 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar yr hyn y mae'n ei wneud i ddiogelu cymunedau Cymraeg eu hiaith? OAQ0163(OAQ)

Alun Pugh: The Welsh Assembly Government recognises the importance of maintaining Welsh as a living community language if it is to thrive and flourish. One of the main focuses of 'Iaith Pawb' is the community and the language. In implementing 'Iaith Pawb', we have increased funding to a number of community initiatives.

Mark Isherwood: The Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru has linked the supply of affordable housing with population changes that put the Welsh language and culture under threat in some areas. What discussions have you had with your colleague, the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, on tackling this impact on language and culture by urging a reverse in the massive cuts in affordable housing that have occurred under this Welsh Assembly Government?

Alun Pugh: I am certainly not going to take lectures from a Conservative about cuts in housing budgets. I met with Edwina Hart last week for the latest of our regular meetings on the interface between the language and the social justice portfolio. I am fully briefed on the problems regarding house price affordability in Welsh-speaking areas. However, there are also significant problems regarding house price affordability in English-speaking areas.

Leighton Andrews: One of the organisations that the Government is supporting is Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

A wnaiff y Gweinidog groesawu'r neges o heddwch ac ewyllys da gan ieuenciad Cymru i ieuenciad y byd? Mae pobl ifanc o Ysgol Gyfun Treorci wedi dod i'r Cynulliad heddiw i esbonio'r neges.

Will you congratulate the school for being the first bilingual school to be asked by the Urdd to convey the message?

Alun Pugh: Yr wyf yn hapus i gefnogi hynny ac i longyfarch Ysgol Gyfun Treorci.

Alun Pugh: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd cadw'r Gymraeg fel iaith gymunedol fyw os yw i lwyddo a ffynnu. Un o'r pethau y mae 'Iaith Pawb' yn canolbwytio arno yw'r gymuned a'r iaith. Wrth weithredu 'Iaith Pawb', yr ydym wedi cynyddu'r cyllid ar gyfer nifer o fentrau cymunedol.

Mark Isherwood: Mae Sefydliad Tai Siartredig Cymru wedi cysylltu'r cyflenwad o dai fforddiadwy â newidiadau yn y boblogaeth sydd wedi gosod yr iaith a'r diwylliant Gymraeg o dan fygythiad mewn rhai ardaloedd. Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch gyda'ch cyd-Weinidog, y Gweinidog dros Gyflawnnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, i fynd i'r afael â'r effaith hon ar iaith a diwylliant drwy annog dadwneud y toriadau anferth mewn tai fforddiadwy sydd wedi digwydd o dan Lywodraeth bresennol Cynulliad Cymru?

Alun Pugh: Yn sier, nid wyf yn fodlon derbyn pregeth gan Geidwadwr ynglŷn â thoriadau mewn cyllidebau tai. Cyfarfum ag Edwina Hart yr wythnos diwethaf ar gyfer y diweddaraf o'n cyfarfodydd rheolaidd ar y rhyngwneb rhwng yr iaith a'r portffolio cyflawnnder cymdeithasol. Yr wyf wedi cael brîff llawn ar y problemau ynglŷn â gallu fforddio prisiau tai mewn ardaloedd Gymraeg eu hiaith. Fodd bynnag, mae problemau sylweddol yn bodoli o ran gallu fforddio prisiau tai mewn ardaloedd Saesneg eu hiaith hefyd.

Leighton Andrews: Un o'r sefydliadau y mae'r Llywodraeth yn eu cynorthwyo yw Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

Will the Minister welcome the message of peace and goodwill from the youth of Wales to the youth of the world? Young people from Treorchy Comprehensive School have come to the Assembly today to explain the message.

A wnewch chi longyfarch yr ysgol am fod yr ysgol ddwyieithog gyntaf i gael ei gwahodd gan yr Urdd i gyfleo'r neges?

Alun Pugh: I am happy to support that and to congratulate Treorchy Comprehensive School.

Rôl CADW The Role of CADW

Q8 Irene James: Will the Minister make a statement on the role of CADW? OAQ0183(CWS)

Alun Pugh: Cadw is part of the Assembly Government and is responsible for protecting, conserving and promoting an appreciation of the historic environment of Wales. I made a statement in Plenary yesterday on how Cadw fits within the wider agenda for historic Wales.

Irene James: In response to points raised following your statement yesterday, you recognised the rich, mainly industrial, historic environment across the south Wales coalfields. You will be aware that Cadw allocates a disproportionately small amount of grants to this area for the preservation of this unique historical environment. Will you ensure that the strategic remit of Cadw, and its spending, reflects the importance of preserving this historic environment? Will you ensure that Cadw works harder with stakeholders to preserve our historic buildings before they are lost, beyond restoration and repair?

Alun Pugh: I understand the importance of the historic environment in industrial areas. Huw Lewis made the point well in comments on yesterday's statement. It is fair to say that Cadw has made many small, and a couple of major, strategic grants to industrial areas, including the ironworks in Blaenavon that we were talking about five minutes ago.

Lisa Francis: If Cadw is to continue to chair the historic environment group, can you give a categorical assurance that the views of that group will be properly championed on the new culture board?

Alun Pugh: Yes.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Question 9, OAQ0178(CWS), has been transferred for written answer and question 10, OAQ0192(CWS), have been withdrawn.

C8 Irene James: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar rôl CADW? OAQ0183(CWS)

Alun Pugh: Mae Cadw yn rhan o Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ac mae'n gyfrifol am ddiogelu, gwarchod a hyrwyddo gwerthfawrogiad o amgylchedd hanesyddol Cymru. Gwneuthum ddatganiad yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ddoe ar le Cadw yn yr agenda ehangach ar gyfer Cymru hanesyddol.

Irene James: I ymateb i'r pwyntiau a godwyd yn dilyn eich datganiad ddoe, yr oeddech yn cydnabod amgylchedd hanesyddol cyfoethog meysydd glo'r De, sy'n amgylchedd diwydiannol gan mwyaf. Byddwch yn gwybod bod Cadw yn dyrannu swm anghymesur o fach i'r ardal hon ar gyfer cadwraeth yr amgylchedd hanesyddol unigryw hwn. A sicrhewch fod cylch gwaith strategol Cadw, a'i wariant, yn adlewyrchu pwysigrwydd diogelu'r amgylchedd hanesyddol hwn? A sicrhewch fod Cadw'n gweithio'n galetach gyda rhanddeiliaid i ddiogelu'n hadeiladau hanesyddol cyn iddynt gael eu colli fel na ellir eu hadfer na'u hatgyweirio.

Alun Pugh: Yr wyf yn deall pwysigrwydd yr amgylchedd hanesyddol mewn ardaloedd diwydiannol. Cyflwynodd Huw Lewis y pwynt yn dda yn ei sylwadau ar y datganiad ddoe. Mae'n deg dweud bod Cadw wedi rhoi llawer o grantiau bach, a llawer un strategol mwy i ardaloedd diwydiannol, yn cynnwys y gwaith haearn ym Mlaenafon y buom yn sôn amdano tua phum munud yn ôl.

Lisa Francis: Os bydd Cadw yn parhau i gadeirio'r grŵp amgylcheddol hanesyddol, a allwch roi sicrwydd pendant y caiff safbwytiau'r grŵp eu mynegi'n gadarn ar y bwrdd diwylliant newydd?

Alun Pugh: Gallaf.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae cwestiwn 9, OAQ0178(CWS), wedi'i drosglwyddo i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig, ac mae cwestiwn 10, OAQ0192(CWS), wedi ei dynnu'n ôl.

**Hen Adeilad Ysgol Greenfield
The Old Greenfield School Building**

Q11 Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister make a statement on his visit to the old Greenfield school building? OAQ0162(CWS)

Alun Pugh: I have made no such visit.

Mark Isherwood: On 30 March, the *Flintshire Evening Leader* reported that Sandy Mewies AM and David Hanson MP had invited you to visit the threatened old Greenfield school. Have you accepted that invitation and when do you intend to visit? How do you intend to respond to Flintshire County Council's proposals to demolish the building and replace it with housing, when the deeds, which the council was forced to release under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, include a covenant stipulating that the site must be used for education and for no other purpose?

Alun Pugh: I will visit the site shortly—it is in the diary for 17 May. I decided to hold back for a while, because I did not want to be accused of engaging in crude electioneering.

C11 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ei ymweliad â hen adeilad ysgol Greenfield? OAQ0162(CWS)

Alun Pugh: Nid wyf wedi gwneud ymweliad o'r fath.

Mark Isherwood: Ar 30 Mawrth, dywedodd y Flintshire Evening Leader fod Sandy Mewies AC a David Hanson AS wedi'ch gwahodd i ymweld â hen adeilad ysgol Greenfield sydd o dan fygythiad. A ydych wedi derbyn y gwahoddiad a phryd yr ydych yn bwriadu ymweld? Sut yr ydych yn bwriadu ymateb i gynigion Cyngor Sir y Fflint i ddymchwel yr adeilad ac adeiladu tai yn ei le, tra mae'r gweithredoedd, y gor fodwyd y cyngor i'w rhyddhau o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000, yn cynnwys cyfamod sy'n pennu bod yn rhaid defnyddio'r safle ar gyfer addysg, ac nid at unrhyw ddiben arall?

Alun Pugh: Byddaf yn ymweld â'r safle cyn hir—mae yn y dyddiadur ar gyfer 17 Mai. Penderfynais oedi am ychydig, oherwydd nid oeddwn am gael fy nghyhuiddo o gymryd rhan mewn lecsyna amrwd.

Gwasanaethau Llyfrgell Library Services

Q12 John Griffiths: Will the Minister make a statement on progress in developing library services in Wales? OAQ0199(CWS)

Alun Pugh: CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales was established on 1 April 2004 as a new policy division. In 2004-05, an initial programme invested £970,000 in over 100 library development projects. I recently announced £1 million for 2005-06 as part of the strategic library development programme for 2005-07.

John Griffiths: Do you agree that in taking forward library services in Wales it is important to recruit a new generation of readers? In that respect, information and communications technology is important, and the shape of our library services is constantly changing in line with that. Do you also agree that Newport has some good examples of

C12 John Griffiths: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar y cynnydd o ran datblygu gwasanaethau llyfrgell yng Nghymru? OAQ0199(CWS)

Alun Pugh: CyMAL: Sefydlwyd Amgueddfeydd, Archifau a Llyfrgelloedd Cymru ar 1 Ebrill 2004 fel is-adran bolisi newydd. Yn 2004-05, buddsoddodd rhaglen gychwynnol £970,000 mewn mwy na 100 o brosiectau datblygu llyfrgelloedd. Cyhoeddais £1 filiwn yn ddiweddar ar gyfer 2005-06 fel rhan o'r rhaglen strategol i ddatblygu llyfrgelloedd ar gyfer 2005-07.

John Griffiths: A gytunwch wrth hyrwyddo gwasanaethau llyfrgelloedd yng Nghymru ei bod yn bwysig reciwtio cenhedlaeth newydd o ddarllenwyr? Yn hynny o beth, mae technoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu'n bwysig, ac mae ffurf ein gwasanaethau llyfrgelloedd yn newid drwy'r amser yn unol â hynny. A gytunwch hefyd fod gan Gasnewydd enghreifftiau da o

using that new technology to recruit new library users?

Alun Pugh: Bringing in new generations of users is an important development issue for the public library network in Wales. Of course, ICT is a major way in which that can be done and I am proud of the fact that a combination of lottery investment in terminals and Assembly Government investment in upgrading the communications infrastructure, has allowed many people in Wales to experience free internet access at their local public library.

Lisa Francis: Many of Wales's leading academics have suggested that the National Library of Wales would be a natural home for a Welsh national public records office. Will you give this any consideration in the future?

Alun Pugh: I do not have any plans to bring that forward, given the capital and revenue requirements.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Question 13, OAQ0167(CWS), has been withdrawn.

ddefnyddio'r dechnoleg newydd honno i recriwtio defnyddwyr newydd i lyfrgelloedd?.

Alun Pugh: Mae cyflwyno cenedlaethau newydd o ddefnyddwyr yn fater datblygu pwysig i'r rhwydwaith llyfrgelloedd cyhoeddus yng Nghymru. Wrth gwrs, mae TGCh yn ffordd allweddol i allu gwneud hynny, ac yr wyf yn ymfalchio yn y ffaith fod cyfuniad o fuddsoddiad loteri mewn terfynellau, a buddsoddiad gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i uwchraddio'r seilwaith cyfathrebu, wedi galluogi nifer o bobl yng Nghymru i ddefnyddio'r rhyngrywd am ddim yn eu lyfrgell gyhoeddus leol.

Lisa Francis: Mae nifer o academyddion blaenllaw Cymru wedi awgrymu y byddai Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru yn gartref naturiol ar gyfer swyddfa cofnodion cyhoeddus genedlaethol i Gymru. A wnewch chi ystyried hyn yn y dyfodol?

Alun Pugh: Nid oes gennyf unrhyw gynlluniau i hyrwyddo hynny, o gofio'r gofynion o ran cyfalaf a refeniw.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 13, OAQ0167(CWS), yn ôl.

Arian ar gyfer Treftadaeth Heritage Funding

Q14 Irene James: Will the Minister make a statement about heritage funding in Wales? OAQ0184(CWS)

Alun Pugh: The principal sources of heritage funding in Wales are the Welsh Assembly Government, directly and through ASPBs, and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Many tens of millions of pounds have been provided to worthy projects since the National Assembly was founded.

3.00 p.m.

Irene James: In your statement yesterday, you referred to working in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund in terms of identifying areas for preservation and recognising the rich heritage of south Wales, which I also referred to in my previous question. Minister, you will also be aware of the disproportionately low funding provided

C14 Irene James: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar yr arian sydd ar gael ar gyfer treftadaeth yng Nghymru? OAQ0184(CWS)

Alun Pugh: Y prif ffynonellau arian ar gyfer treftadaeth yng Nghymru yw Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, yn uniongyrchol a thrwy CCNCau, a Chronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri. Rhoddwyd degau ar filoedd o bunnoedd i brosiectau teilwng ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

Irene James: Yn eich datganiad ddoe, cyfeiriach at weithio mewn partneriaeth gyda Chronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri o ran nodi ardalau cadwraeth a chydnewabod treftadaeth gyfoethog y De, fel y cyfeiriai i hefyd yn fy nghwestiwn blaenorol. Weinidog, byddwch hefyd yn ymwybodol o'r swm anghymesur o fach, yn cael ei ddarparu drwy Gronfa

through the Heritage Lottery Fund allocated for heritage in south Wales. In July 2002, the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, the Coalfield Communities Campaign and the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation presented a report to the Heritage Lottery Fund on the basis of consultation to increase recognition of this heritage, which received little response. What representation can you make to the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding this report and the implementation of its recommendations?

Dreftadaeth y Loteri, sy'n cael ei ddyrannu ar gyfer treftadaeth yn y De. Ym mis Gorffennaf 2002, cyflwynwyd adroddiad i Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri gan Ymddiriedolaeth Adfywio'r Meysydd Glo, Ymgyrch Cymunedau'r Meysydd Glo a Mudiad Lles Cymdeithasol y Diwydiant Glo ar sail ymgynghori i gynyddu cydnabyddiaeth i'r dreftadaeth hon. Ni chafwyd fawr o ymateb iddo. Pa sylwadau y gallwch chi eu cyflwyno i Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri parthed yr adroddiad hwn a gweithredu'r argymhellion sydd ynnddo?

Alun Pugh: I assure you that social disadvantage will be a key thread running right through future remit letters and letters of guidance to the Heritage Lottery Fund and to other lottery distributors.

Alun Pugh: Yr wyf yn eich sicrhau y bydd anfantais gymdeithasol yn elfen allweddol mewn llythyron cylch gwaith a llythyron arweiniad yn y dyfodol i Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri ac i ddosbarthwyr loteri eraill.

Chwaraeon Mewn Cymunedau Difreintiedig Sport in Deprived Communities

Q15 Lynne Neagle: Will the Minister make a statement on Assembly Government support for sport in deprived communities? OAQ0176(CWS)

Alun Pugh : The 'Climbing Higher' strategy recognises that people in deprived communities are less likely to participate in sport and physical activity, and this contributes to higher levels of chronic disease and disability. In future, we intend to focus resources on communities that are most in need and with most to gain.

Lynne Neagle: I welcome that commitment. As you know, a particular concern of mine is support for pigeon-racing groups in my constituency, which have had significant difficulty accessing funding, despite your best efforts to advise them. As you know, changes to the lottery in England have enabled groups to access funding from the Awards for All scheme. In a recent letter, you indicated that the lottery fund and Heritage Lottery Fund in Wales are looking at that. Can you provide an update, and can you give any other assurances on funding as regards this important issue?

C15 Lynne Neagle: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar gefnogaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i chwaraeon mewn cymunedau difreintiedig? OAQ0176(CWS)

Alun Pugh: Mae'r strategaeth 'Dringo'n Uwch' yn cydnabod bod pobl mewn cymunedau difreintiedig yn llai tebygol o gymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon ac ymarfer corff, ac mae hyn yn cyfrannu at lefelau uwch o afiechydon croniog ac anabledd. Yn y dyfodol, bwriadwn ganolbwytio adnoddau ar gymunedau lle mae'r angen mwyaf a'r rheini a fydd yn elwa fwyaf.

Lynne Neagle: Yr wyf yn croesawu'r ymrwymiad hwnnw. Fel y gwyddoch, mae cefnogaeth i grwpiau rasio colomennod yn fy etholaeth yn bwysig i mi. Bu'n anodd iawn i'r grwpiau hyn gael arian er gwaethaf eich ymdrechion glew i'w cynggori. Fel y gwyddoch, mae newidiadau yn y loteri yn Lloegr wedi galluogi grwpiau i gael arian drwy'r cynllun Arian i Bawb. Mewn llythyr yn ddiweddar, yr oeddech yn crybwyl bod cronfa'r loteri a Chronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri yng Nghymru yn edrych ar hynny. A allwch roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am hynny, ac a allwch roi unrhyw sicrwydd arall ynglŷn ag ariannu yn y mater pwysig hwn?

Alun Pugh: Pigeon racing is an important

Alun Pugh: Mae rasio colomennod yn

social activity in many parts of Wales, and the fact that it is not officially recognised as a sport does not ban it from getting financial support, either from the Assembly Government or from one of the lottery pots.

weithgaredd cymdeithasol pwysig mewn llawer man yng Nghymru, ac nid yw'r ffaith na chaiff ei gydnabod yn swyddogol fel chwaraeaeth yn ei atal rhag cael cymorth ariannol, naill ai gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad neu gan un o'r cronfeydd loteri.

Lisa Francis: In 2000, the Sports Council for Wales set up a social inclusion in sport forum, and gave it access to £8 million of lottery funding over five years. How does your Government intend to support deprived communities, in that sense, five years on?

Lisa Francis: Yn 2000, sefydlodd Cyngor Chwaraeon Cymru fforwm cynhwysiant cymdeithasol mewn chwaraeon, gan sicrhau bod £8 miliwn o arian loteri ar gael iddo dros bum mlynedd. Bum mlynedd yn ddiweddarach, sut mae eich Llywodraeth yn bwriadu cefnogi cymunedau difreintiedig yn y cyd-destun hwnnw?

Alun Pugh: With regard to the history of lottery funding in sport, it is fair to say that middle-class communities, which have more than their fair share of accountants, lawyers and project planners, have been able to produce strong applications and have done so to a much greater extent than socially deprived communities have done. I intend to redress that balance in future funding years.

Alun Pugh: O ran hanes arian loteri ym myd chwaraeon, mae'n deg dweud bod cymunedau dosbarth canol, sydd â chyfran uwch o gyfrifwyr, cyfreithwyr a chynllunwyr prosiect, wedi gallu cynhyrchu ceisiadau cryf, ac wedi gwneud hyn i raddau mwy o lawer na chymunedau sy'n gymdeithasol ddifreintiedig. Bwriadaf unioni'r anghydwbwysedd hwnnw yn y blynnyddoedd ariannu sydd i ddod.

Cwestiynau i Bwyllgor y Tŷ Questions to the House Committee

Cyfleusterau Arlwo yn Adeilad y Cynulliad Catering Facilities in the Assembly Building

Q1 Mark Isherwood: Will the representative of the House Committee make a statement on the catering facilities in the Assembly building in Cardiff bay? OAQ0004(HC)

Janice Gregory: The catering facilities in the Assembly building in Cardiff Bay include a main kitchen, staff restaurant, coffee and snack shop, vending machines, deli bar and Members' tea room. The facilities are used to provide a range of services to all building occupants, which include hot and cold meals, snacks, confectionery, beverages, and with waited food service and bar in the Members' tea room. Hospitality services are also provided for meetings and events in the building.

Mark Isherwood: Given the relatively low usage by Members at present, what consideration has the committee given to

C1 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff cynrychiolydd Pwyllgor y Tŷ ddatganiad am y cyfleusterau arlwo yn adeilad y Cynulliad ym mae Caerdydd? OAQ0004(HC)

Janice Gregory: Mae'r cyfleusterau arlwo yn adeilad y Cynulliad ym Mae Caerdydd yn cynnwys prif gegin, bwyty'r staff, siop goffi a byrbrydau, peiriannau gwerthu byrbrydau, bar deli ac ystafell de i'r Aelodau. Defnyddir y cyfleusterau i ddarparu ystod o wasanaethau i bawb yn yr adeilad, sy'n cynnwys prydau poeth ac oer, byrbrydau, melysion, diodydd a gwasanaeth gweini bwyd a diodydd yn ystafell de'r Aelodau. Darperir gwasanaethau arlwo hefyd ar gyfer cyfarfodydd a digwyddiadau yn yr adeilad.

Mark Isherwood: Gan ystyried na ddefnyddir y cyfleusterau'n helaeth gan yr Aelodau ar hyn o bryd, pa ystyriaeth a roddwyd gan y pwylgor i

providing incentives for Members and their guests to make greater use of catering facilities in the evening in the Members' tea room?

Janice Gregory: All members of the House Committee would like to encourage more usage of all Assembly facilities, especially the catering ones. It is not possible to encourage any type of discount for quantity, although we would encourage the caterers, perhaps, to put on some special events, which they have done in the past. You may be aware that the current catering contract is subject to tender, and it may be possible to consider this in the new round, when we look at retendering the contract. If you have any bright suggestions as to how to encourage Members to make more use of these facilities, I recommend that you write to David Melding, who chairs the catering sub-group.

John Griffiths: I wonder if you could investigate the possibilities of better labelling of foodstuffs in the Assembly. Many people would like to know the fat, salt and sugar content, for example, of the foods that they eat, be they foods on the restaurant menu, the sandwiches or any other food products sold here.

Janice Gregory: I know that this is a particular hobbyhorse of yours, and you have raised it with me before. In the last Assembly, we encouraged the caterer to go down this road and I think that it had started, but we then changed the catering contract. I repeat what I said to Mark: the contract is currently out for tender. I am sure that David Melding, who chairs the catering sub-group, will have heard what you have said, and I will also raise it with him.

Brynle Williams: Following on from John's question, could we have an assurance that, as far as is physically possible, Welsh food is used and sold here? I would welcome that.

Janice Gregory: David and I were responsible for the last catering contract and we did a tremendous amount of work on it. One of the biggest considerations for us was the use of local products, which would

geisio cymell Aelodau a'u gwesteion i wneud mwy o ddefnydd o'r cyfleusterau arlwo gyda'r nos yn ystafell de'r Aelodau?

Janice Gregory: Byddai pob aelod o Bwyllgor y Tŷ yn dymuno annog pobl i wneud mwy o ddefnydd o holl gyfleusterau'r Cynulliad, yn enwedig y cyfleusterau arlwoyo. Nid yw'n bosibl annog unrhyw fath o ddisgownt am nifer, er y byddem yn annog yr arlywyd, efallai, i gynnal rhai digwyddiadau arbennig, fel y maent wedi ei wneud yn y gorffennol. Hwyrach eich bod yn gwybod bod y contract arlwoyo presennol yn agored i dendr, a gall fod yn bosibl ystyried hyn yn y cylch tendro newydd pan fwriadwn ail-dendro'r contract. Os oes gennych unrhyw syniadau ysbrydoledig ar gyfer annog yr Aelodau i wneud mwy o ddefnydd o'r cyfleusterau hyn, argymhellaf eich bod yn ysgrifennu at David Melding, sy'n cadeirio'r is-grŵp arlwoyo.

John Griffiths: Tybed a allech ymchwilio i'r posibiliadau o gael gwell labeli ar fwydydd yn y Cynulliad. Byddai rhai pobl yn dymuno gwybod faint o fraster, halen a siwgr sydd yn y bwydydd y maent yn eu bwyta, boed yn y bwyd ar fwydlen y bwyty, y brechdanau, neu unrhyw fwydydd eraill a werthir yma.

Janice Gregory: Gwn mai un o'ch hoff bynciau yw hyn a'ch bod wedi'i godi yn y gorffennol. Yn y Cynulliad diwethaf, anogwyd yr arlywr i fabwysiadu'r arfer hwn, a chredaf fod hynny wedi dechrau digwydd, ond newidiwyd y contract arlwoyo. Yr wyf yn ailadrodd yr hyn a ddywedais wrth Mark: mae'r broses dendro'n mynd rhagddi ar hyn o bryd. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd David Melding, sy'n cadeirio'r is-grŵp arlwoyo, wedi clywed yr hyn a ddywedech, a byddaf fi hefyd yn codi'r mater gydag ef.

Brynle Williams: Yn dilyn cwestiwn John, a fyddai modd rhoi sicrwydd inni mai bwyd o Gymru a gaiff ei ddefnyddio a'i werthu yma, cyhyd ag y bo'n bosibl? Byddwn yn croesawu hynny.

Janice Gregory: David a minnau oedd yn gyfrifol am y contract arlwoyo diwethaf, a gwnaethom lawer iawn o waith arno. Un o'n prif ystyriaethau oedd defnyddio cynyrrch lleol, a fyddai'n gynyrrch Cymreig, wrth gwrs.

obviously be Welsh.

Jeff Cuthbert: Will you speak to the caterer about ensuring that sugar-free confectionery and chocolate, which are readily available in retail outlets, are provided?

Janice Gregory: That is vital, and, again, I will raise this in the House Committee meeting and with the chair of the catering sub-group.

Jeff Cuthbert: A wnewch chi siarad â'r arlywywr yngylch sicrhau darparu melysion a siocled heb siwgr, sydd ar gael yn hwylus mewn siopau?

Janice Gregory: Mae hynny'n hanfodol, ac unwaith eto byddaf yn codi hyn yng nghyfarfod Pwyllgor y Tŷ a chyda chadeirydd yr is-grŵp arlwyd.

Datganiad ar Iechyd Statement on Health

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): Our twin-track approach continues to drive this administration's health policy, focusing strongly on the underlying causes of demand for health services in Wales and improving the patient experience for those who fall ill.

As Wanless reminded us, we will never achieve a sustainable future for the NHS unless we persuade people to engage fully with their own health needs and circumstances. Health Challenge Wales, which has received strong support from many Assembly Members, is our major programme for securing that engagement.

I can report that the public awareness campaign that ran in February and March was a huge success. A total of 6,500 action packs were issued to members of the public, a rate which well outstrips that achieved in similar campaigns. Evaluation shows that awareness of Health Challenge Wales almost doubled over a four-month period to the end of March. We have created a new platform in the public mind from which we can build a critical mass and momentum for the campaign, and, with the help of all parties in the Assembly, I am confident that we can do that.

Alongside the public health agenda, the Assembly Government has acted to tackle waiting times in the health service. The figures published today show the astonishing success that has been achieved over the last year. At the end of March, there were no patients waiting for over eight months for

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Ein hymagwedd ddeublyg sy'n llywio polisi iechyd y weinyddiaeth hon o hyd, gan ganolbwytio'n gryf ar achosion sylfaenol y galw am wasanaethau iechyd yng Nghymru a gwella profiadau'r claf i'r rheini sy'n mynd yn sâl.

Fel y cawsom ein hatgoffa gan Wanless, ni allwn byth sicrhau dyfodol cynaliadwy i'r GIG oni fyddwn yn dwyn perswâd ar bobl i roi sylw i'w hanghenion iechyd a'u hamgylchiadau eu hunain. Her Iechyd Cymru yw ein prif raglen ar gyfer sicrhau'r broses honno, ac mae wedi cael cefnogaeth gref gan nifer o Aelodau'r Cynulliad.

Gallaf ddweud i'r ymgyrch yn Chwefror a Mawrth i wneud y cyhoedd yn fwy ymwybodol fod yn llwyddiant ysgubol. Dosbarthwyd cyfanswm o 6,500 o becynnau gweithredu ymhlið y cyhoedd, sef cyfradd sy'n rhagori ar yr hyn a gafwyd mewn ymgyrchoedd tebyg. Dengys gwerthusiad o'r ymgyrch i'r ymwybyddiaeth o Her Iechyd Cymru ddyblu bron dros gyfnod o bedwar mis hyd ddiwedd Mawrth. Yr ydym wedi creu llwyfan newydd ym meddyliau'r cyhoedd, ac o'r fan honno gallwn greu mäs critigol a momentwm ar gyfer yr ymgyrch. A chyda chymorth pob plaid yn y Cynulliad, yr wyf yn hyderus y gallwn wneud hynny.

Ochr yn ochr ag agenda iechyd y cyhoedd, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi gweithredu i fynd i'r asfael ag amseroedd aros yn y gwasanaeth iechyd. Dengys y ffigurau a gyhoeddwyd heddiw y llwyddiant ysgubol a gafwyd dros y flwyddyn ddiweddaf. Ddiwedd Mawrth nid oedd unrhyw glaf yn aros mwy nag

cardiac surgery or angioplasty in Wales or for over six months for a cataract operation at a Welsh trust, and there were only 18 patients waiting more than four months—17 of whom were waiting at English trusts, which were unable to meet the Welsh target.

More generally, out-patient waits of more than 18 months fell by 99.5 per cent, which means that they were down from 6,100 to 31, and 15 of those were waiting for treatment outside Wales. In-patient waits of more than 18 months fell by 98.5 per cent, from 1,380 to 21, and nine of those had declined a second offer of treatment and were, therefore, not being kept waiting by the health service. In-patient waits of more than 12 months fell equally dramatically, falling by 90 per cent from 8,457 to 845. When account is taken of those declining second offers, only 108 people were kept waiting at the end of the year. This means that the number of patients waiting for over 12 months for in-patient treatment in Wales is at its lowest since March 1994 and is lower than the figures inherited from the previous Conservative Government.

These fantastic achievements are due to many factors, but the Assembly Government's second-offer scheme has undoubtedly been a key driver in bringing about the change. I visited the second-offer commissioning team responsible for the scheme earlier this morning to congratulate it on the work that it has carried out on behalf of patients in the last year. The challenge that we have set the health service in Wales is to build on these achievements over the coming 12 months.

3.10 p.m.

The maximum patient waits in Wales are currently 18 months for an out-patient appointment and 12 months for in-patient surgery. In 2005-06, we will reduce that further so that, at the end of March 2006, no-one will have waited more than 12 months for either a first out-patient appointment or in-patient or day-case surgery. I stress again that most patients in Wales wait nothing like

wyth mis am lawdriniaeth ar y galon neu angioplasti yng Nghymru, neu fwy na chwe mis am lawdriniaeth cataract mewn ymddiriedolaeth yng Nghymru. A dim ond 18 claf oedd yn aros am fwy na phedwar mis—ac yr oedd 17 o'r rheini yn aros mewn ymddiriedolaethau yn Lloegr, nad oeddent yn gallu cyrraedd targed Cymru.

Yn fwy cyffredinol, gwelwyd lleihad o 99.5 y cant yn nifer y cleifion allanol hynny a oedd yn aros mwy na 18 mis, sy'n golygu gostyngiad mewn niferoedd o 6,100 i 31. Yr oedd 15 o'r rheini'n aros i gael triniaeth y tu allan i Gymru. Gwelwyd lleihad o 98.5 y cant yn nifer y cleifion mewnol hynny a oedd yn aros mwy na 18 mis, sef gostyngiad mewn niferoedd o 1,380 i 21. Yr oedd naw o'r rheini wedi gwrthod ail gynnig am driniaeth, ac felly nid oeddent yn aros am driniaeth oherwydd y gwasanaeth iechyd. Gwelwyd gostyngiad llawn mor syfrdanol yn nifer y cleifion mewnol a oedd yn aros mwy na 12 mis, gan ostwng 90 y cant o 8,457 i 845. Pan ystyri'r achosion hynny lle gwrthodir ail gynnig am driniaeth, dim ond 108 o bobl a oedd yn aros ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn. Golyga hyn fod nifer y cleifion sy'n aros mwy na 12 mis am driniaeth claf mewnol yng Nghymru ar ei isaf ers Mawrth 1994, ac mae'n is na'r ffigurau a etifeddwyd oddi wrth y Llywodraeth Geidwadol flaenorol.

Mae'r llwyddiannau ysgubol hyn i'w priodoli i nifer o ffactorau, ond yn ddi-au, mae cynllun ail gynnig Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi bod yn ffactor allweddol i sicrhau newid yn y sefyllfa. Ymwelais â'r tîm comisiynu ail gynnig, sy'n gyfrifol am y cynllun, yn gynharach y bore yma i'w longyfarch ar y gwaith a wnaed ganddo ar ran cleifion yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Yr her yr ydym wedi ei gosod i'r gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru yw adeiladu ar y llwyddiannau hyn dros y 12 mis i ddod.

Ar hyn o bryd, 18 mis ar y mwyaf y mae'n rhaid i glaf yng Nghymru aros i gael apwyntiad claf allanol, a 12 mis am lawdriniaeth claf mewnol. Yn 2005-06 byddwn yn lleihau hynny ymhellach. Felly, erbyn diwedd Mawrth 2006 ni fydd unrhyw un yn gorfol aros mwy na 12 mis am apwyntiad claf allanol cyntaf, neu am lawdriniaeth claf mewnol neu lawdriniaeth dydd. Pwysleisaf unwaith yn rhagor nad oes

that these maximum times. Seven out of 10 people on the March out-patient list had been waiting less than six months, not the maximum 18 months. Three quarters of those waiting for elective in-patient treatment had been waiting less than six months, not the 12 months maximum. The median wait for a hospital operation is 11 weeks, not 11 months.

Let me place these achievements in a wider context. When I became Minister for Health and Social Services, opposition parties queued up to tell me that the NHS in Wales was beyond repair. I rejected these self-serving assertions then, and, four months later, I reject them even more emphatically. In that period, I have announced a much-expanded capital programme, which will see spending rise to over £300 million on new and modernised buildings and equipment in the NHS in Wales. Published record staff levels show a rise of 32 per cent in NHS staff numbers since 1997. There are 10,727 more nurses, midwives and health visitors, 443 more hospital medical consultants since 1997, and 3,369 more scientific, therapeutic and technical staff since 1997. I have demonstrated the reductions in delayed transfers of care that the new money and new policy focus have produced. Since January 2004, delays have been reduced by 36 per cent in the number of patients and the total number of delays reduced by 45 per cent—the lowest figures since records began in April 2002.

Of course, more needs to be done, and I was able to announce yesterday that, with immediate effect, an additional £5 million will help modernise dental NHS contracts in Wales. This is in line with what dentists want, and, hopefully, it will strengthen NHS dentistry in Wales pending the new dental contract.

The Welsh health service now has a guaranteed four-year horizon over which to bring waiting times down progressively to a maximum of six months in total, from

rhaid i'r rhan fwyaf o gleifion yng Nghymru aros am gyfnodau mor hir â hyn. Mae saith person o bob 10 ar restr cleifion allanol mis Mawrth wedi bod yn aros am lai na chwe mis, nid 18 mis a nodir fel y cyfnod hiraf. Mae tri chwarter y rheini sy'n aros am driniaeth claf mewnol dewisol wedi bod yn aros am lai na chwe mis, nid 12 mis a nodir fel y cyfnod hiraf. Un ar ddeg wythnos yw'r cyfnod aros canolrif ar gyfer llawdriniaeth mewn ysbyty, nid 11 mis.

Gadewch i mi roi'r llwyddiannau hyn mewn cyd-destun ehangach. Pan ddeuthum yn Weinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, roedd y gwrthbleidiau'n awyddus i ddweud wrthyf nad oedd modd adfer y GIG yng Nghymru. Gwrthodais yr haeriadau hunanlesol hyn bryd hynny, a phedwar mis yn ddiweddarach yr wyf yn eu gwrthod yn fwy egniol byth. Yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw, yr wyf wedi cyhoeddi rhaglen gyfalaif fwy estynedig o lawer, a fydd yn golygu cynyddu gwariant i fwy na £300 miliwn ar offer ac adeiladau newydd ac wedi'u moderneiddio yn y GIG yng Nghymru. Mae'r lefelau staffio uchaf a gyhoeddwyd erioed yn dangos cynydd o 32 y cant yn niferoedd staff y GIG er 1997. Mae yna 10,727 yn fwy o nyrsys, bydwragedd ac ymwelwyr iechyd, 443 yn fwy o ymgynghorwyr meddygol mewn ysbytai er 1997, a 3,369 yn fwy o staff gwyddonol, therapiwtig a thechnegol er 1997. Yr wyf wedi dangos y gostyngiadau yn nifer yr achosion o oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal sydd wedi eu cynhyrchu gan yr arian newydd a'r canolbwytio newydd ar bolisi. Ers Ionawr 2004, gwelwyd gostyngiad o 36 y cant yn nifer yr achosion o oedi o ran nifer y cleifion, a gostyngiad o 45 y cant yng nghyfanswm yr achosion o oedi—y ffigur isaf ers i gofnodion ddechrau yn Ebrill 2002.

Wrth gwrs, mae angen gwneud mwy, a ddoe yr oedawn yn gallu cyhoeddi y bydd £5 miliwn ychwanegol yn helpu moderneiddio contractau deintyddol y GIG yng Nghymru, a hynny ar unwaith. Mae hyn yn cyd-fynd â'r hyn y mae deintyddion yn gofyn amdano, a gobeithio y bydd yn cryfau deintyddiaeth y GIG yng Nghymru cyn dyfodiad y contract deintyddol newydd.

Bellach mae gan y gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru bedair blynedd gwaranteedig i leihau amseroedd aros gam wrth gam i gyfanswm o chwe mis, o'r atgyfeirio i'r driniaeth. Gall fod

referral to treatment. It has the confidence of knowing that the money is there to provide the first-class facilities needed to support that reduction. It has the confidence of knowing that the staff will be there to provide the services needed, and it has the confidence of knowing that there is an Assembly Government in Wales determined to put an unrelenting focus on ending inequality and tackling the causes of ill health. The fundamentals are now in place to create a world-class health and social care system in Wales. I commend our record and our future plans to the Assembly.

Janet Davies: Thank you, Minister, for your statement. The waiting time figures in your statement certainly show improvement, but they will be examined more closely in the days to come. I congratulate the hard-working staff who have achieved these improvements in recent months. I draw your attention to comments made by the director of NHS Wales and chief executive officers of NHS trusts in the audit committee meetings held last month. They asked for a clear strategy for waiting times, to bring your policies and targets into a comprehensive and well-understood way forward. I would like to know whether there is a timescale for doing that. In particular, do you have a plan to make full use of community hospital beds, whether for transfers from district general hospitals, for diagnostic and day care, long-term social care, or for a mixture of all of them?

Many separate innovations have taken place in Wales in recent years. Will your strategy roll out those that have been successful so that they will spread throughout Wales?

Finally, on Health Challenge Wales, which Plaid Cymru has supported all along, what new money has been identified for it and what new initiatives will be created in the next 12 months? Have you considered the successful community schemes for health improvement, as seen in north Karelia, and could they be integrated into Health Challenge Wales?

Brian Gibbons: Thank you for your positive comments, and I appreciate your

yn hyderus fod yr arian ar gael i ddarparu'r cyfleusterau o'r radd flaenaf sydd eu hangen i gefnogi'r lleihad hwnnw. Gall fod yn hyderus y bydd y staff yno i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau sydd eu hangen, a gall fod yn hyderus fod yma Lywodraeth Cynulliad yng Nghymru sy'n benderfynol o ganolbwytio'n ddi-ildio ar ddileu anghydraddoldeb a mynd i'r afael ag achosion salwch. Mae'r elfennau craidd bellach ar waith i greu system iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol o'r radd flaenaf yng Nghymru. Cymeradwyaf i'r Cynulliad ein record a'n cynlluniau ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Janet Davies: Diolch, Weinidog, am eich datganiad. Mae'r amseroedd aros yn eich datganiad yn sicr yn dangos gwelliant, ond cânt eu harchwilio'n fanylach yn y dyddiau i ddod. Yr wyf yn llonyfarch y staff sydd wedi gweithio'n ddygn i sicrhau'r gwelliannau hyn yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf. Tynnaf eich sylw at sylwadau a wnaed gan gyfarwyddwr GIG Cymru a phrif swyddogion gweithredol ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG yng nghyfarfodydd y pwylgor archwilio a gynhaliwyd fis diwethaf. Yr oeddent yn gofyn am strategaeth glir ar gyfer amseroedd aros, er mwyn sicrhau ffordd ymlaen gynhwysfawr a dealladwy i'ch polisiau a'ch targedau. Hoffwn wybod a oes amserlen ar gyfer gwneud hynny. Yn arbennig, a oes cynllun gennych i wneud defnydd llawn o welyau ysbytai cymuned, boed ar gyfer trosglwyddo cleifion o ysbytai cyffredinol dosbarth, ar gyfer gofal diagnostig a gofal dydd, gofal cymdeithasol hirdymor neu gyfuniad o'r rhain i gyd?

Cafwyd nifer o fentrau ar wahân yng Nghymru yn y blynnyddoedd diwethaf. A fydd eich strategaeth yn cyflwyno'r rheini a fu'n llwyddiannus er mwyn eu lledaenu ar draws Cymru?

Yn olaf, o ran Her Iechyd Cymru, sydd wedi ei gefnogi gan Blaid Cymru o'r cychwyn, faint o arian newydd sydd wedi'i glustnodi ar ei gyfer a pha fentrau newydd a gaiff eu creu yn ystod y 12 mis nesaf? A ydych wedi ystyried y cynlluniau cymunedol llwyddiannus ar gyfer gwella iechyd, fel y gwelwyd yng ngogledd Karelia, ac a ellid eu hymgorffori yn Her Iechyd Cymru?

Brian Gibbons: Diolch ichi am eich sylwadau cadarnhaol, ac yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi'r ffraith

congratulations to NHS staff for their work because what we have achieved over the last 12 months has been tremendous and it would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of staff, and the clinical and managerial leadership in the NHS trusts. We are grateful to everyone for having achieved that.

We need to have a clear strategy, but it would be a mistake to be too narrowly focused on waiting times; the Wanless report showed us that such a narrow focus will not provide us with a sustainable service. We need to take a whole-systems view of this, not least because, if we are going to be able to meet waiting time targets, we need to have, for example, protected elective capacity. We must also ensure that there is an adequate through-put in the NHS system and that the social care systems are in place to facilitate appropriate discharge and so on.

Therefore, it is for that reason that, hopefully, soon after the general election, the Assembly Government will publish a 10-year strategy, which will be based on the Wanless local action plans. Hopefully, through being informed by those grass-roots plans, we will have a challenging and exciting 10-year strategy that will underpin our waiting times targets. Key to that will be the role of community hospitals. You are right that community hospitals have an important role to play, and not only in dealing with delayed transfers of care. They can also be important locations for rehabilitation and intermediate care services and so on. The crucial test that we must apply to all community hospitals is whether they are delivering the services that will give us a world-class health service. If they are, the strategy will be in place to ensure that they can continue to contribute to the health service.

It is important that we spread best practice because, when you go around the health service in Wales, there is no doubt that some of the most innovative practice is taking place in Wales but, too often, it is in isolated pockets. Through the new national leadership agency that we have established in Wales, we are developing a clear strategy to ensure that best practice is universalised here and that we

ichi longyfarch staff y GIG am eu gwaith, oherwydd mae'r hyn yr ydym wedi'i gyflawni dros y 12 mis diwethaf wedi bod yn rhyfeddol, ac ni fuasai'n bosibl heb ymrwymiad ac ymroddiad y staff, a'r arweinyddiaeth glinigol a rheoli yn yr ymddiriedolaethau GIG. Yr ydym yn ddiolchgar i bawb am gyflawni hynny.

Mae arnom angen strategaeth glir. Ond byddai'n gamgymeriad canolbwytio'n ormodol ar amseroedd aros; dangosodd adroddiad Wanless inni na fydd ffocws mor gul yn rhoi gwasanaeth cynaliadwy inni. Rhaid inni edrych ar hyn o ran y system gyfan, yn anad dim oherwydd bod yn angen inni gael adnoddau dewisol sy'n cael eu hamddiffyn, er enghraifft, er mwyn cyrraedd targedau amseroedd aros. Rhaid inni hefyd sicrhau bod gofal digonol o'r dechrau i'r diwedd yn system y GIG, a bod y systemau gofal cymdeithasol ar waith i hwyluso'r broses o ryddhau cleifion o'r ysbyty yn briodol, ac ati.

Felly, dyna pam, yn fuan ar ôl yr etholiad cyffredinol, gobeithio, y bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cyhoeddi strategaeth 10 mlynedd yn seiliedig ar gynlluniau gweithredu lleol Wanless. Ar sail y cynlluniau hynny ar lawr gwlaid, gobeithio y bydd gennym strategaeth 10 mlynedd heriol a chyffrous a fydd yn sail i'n targedau ar gyfer amseroedd aros. Yn ganolog i hynny bydd rôl ysbytai cymuned. Yr ydych yn gywir pan ddywedwch fod gan ysbytai cymuned rôl bwysig i'w chwarae, ac nid yn unig o ran ymdrin ag achosion o oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal. Gallant hefyd fod yn fannau pwysig ar gyfer gwasanaethau adfer a gwasanaethau gofal canolraddol, ac ati. Y prawf hollbwysig y mae'n rhaid inni ei ddefnyddio ym mhob ysbyty cymuned yw a ydynt yn darparu'r gwasanaethau a fydd yn rhoi inni wasanaeth iechyd o'r radd flaenaf. Os ydynt, bydd y strategaeth ar waith i sicrhau y gallant barhau i gyfrannu at y gwasanaeth iechyd.

Mae'n bwysig inni ledaenu arferion gorau, oherwydd pan edrychwch ar y gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru, nid oes amheuaeth nad oes rhai o'r arferion mwyaf arloesol i'w gweld yng Nghymru. Ond yn rhy aml, maent mewn ardaloedd bach unigol. Drwy'r asiantaeth arwain genedlaethol newydd a sefydlwyd gennym yng Nghymru, yr ydym yn datblygu strategaeth glir i sicrhau bod arferion gorau yn

learn from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and other European countries, such as Finland and the Karelia region, which Janet Davies mentioned.

Around £30 million has been budgeted for various Health Challenge Wales projects over the next few years, but they are not specifically under a Health Challenge Wales budget line. They are mainstreamed into other activities, whether through my colleague Alun Pugh's department or through other schemes under education, for example, pertaining to fitness and food and promoting healthy schools and so on. We need to take a holistic approach to the Health Challenge Wales message. The culture in Wales must change and we need to get the public policy in line to facilitate that culture change.

David Melding: There is more chance of the Kaiser being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize posthumously than of Labour being congratulated on its health policy. This statement is eclectic, if not random. Its title is no more than the word 'health'. When I heard that you were to make this statement, I did wonder what would be its focus. However, you have focused on nothing more than a rather unsuccessful defence of what you consider to be the Welsh Assembly Government's achievements.

3.20 p.m.

I found the tone very boastful, which is probably because we are halfway through a general election campaign. However, the humility that you showed a little earlier, when you said that you would review some of the policies in response to the pressure from your Labour Party colleagues in Westminster, now appears to be lost.

At the centre of your great claim to have delivered wonderful achievements is the waiting list policy. One person in 10 is on a waiting list, which is massively more than in 1997. You have the cheek to say that fewer in-patients are waiting now than there were in 1997, when your Labour colleagues entered Government. I remind you that the way in which statistics were calculated changed in

dod yn gyffredinol yma, a'n bod yn dysgu oddi wrth Loegr, yr Alban, Gogledd Iwerddon a gwledydd eraill yn Ewrop, fel y Ffindir a rhanbarth Karelia, fel y soniodd Janet Davies.

Mae oddeutu £30 miliwn wedi ei neilltuo ar gyfer amrywiol brosiectau Her Iechyd Cymru dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf. Ond nid ydynt yn benodol o dan linell wariant cyllideb Her Iechyd Cymru. Cânt eu prif-ffrydio mewn gweithgareddau eraill, boed drwy adran fy nghyd-Weinidog, Alun Pugh, neu drwy gynlluniau eraill o dan addysg, er enghraifft, yn ymwneud â ffitrwydd a bwyd a hyrwyddo ysgolion iach, ac ati. Mae angen inni gymryd ymagwedd gyfannol tuag at neges Her Iechyd Cymru. Rhaid i'r diwylliant yng Nghymru newid, a rhaid inni sicrhau bod y polisi cyhoeddus yn cyd-fynd â hwyluso'r newid hwnnw yn y diwylliant.

David Melding: Mae mwy o obaith i'r Kaiser ennill y Wobr Nobel am Heddwch ar ôl ei farw nag i'r blaidd Lafur gael ei llonyfarch ar ei pholisi iechyd. Mae'r datganiad hwn yn eclectig, os nad yn ddiamcean. Nid yw ei deitl yn ddim mwy na'r gair 'iechyd'. Pan glywais eich bod yn bwriadu gwneud y datganiad hwn, yr oeddwn yn dyfalu beth fyddai ei ffocws. Fodd bynnag, nid ydych wedi canolbwytio ar ddim mwy nag amddiffyniad digon aflwyddiannus o'r hyn a ystyriwch chi yn llwyddiannau gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

I mi, yr oedd y naws yn ymfrostgar iawn, a hynny mae'n debyg am ein bod hanner ffordd drwy ymgyrch etholiadol. Fodd bynnag, ymddengys fod y gwyleidd-dra a ddangoswyd gennych ychydig yn gynharach, pan ddywedasoch y byddech yn adolygu rhai o'r polisiau mewn ymateb i'r pwysau gan eich cyd-aelodau yn y Blaidd Lafur yn San Steffan, wedi diflannu erbyn hyn.

Wrth wraidd eich honiad mawr ichi gyflawni rhyfeddodau mawr mae'r polisi rhestrau aros. Mae un person o bob 10 ar restr aros, sydd gryn dipyn yn fwy nag yn 1997. Yr ydych mor hyf â dweud bod llai o gleifion mewnol ar restrau aros yn awr nag yr oedd yn 1997, pan ddaeth eich cyd-Aelodau Llafur i rym. Hoffwn eich atgoffa fod y ffordd y cyfrifid ystadegau wedi newid yn 2000, a hynny'n tynnu sawl mil oddi ar y rhestr

2000, which shaved several thousand off the in-patient waiting list. If we use the same calculation, the waiting lists, even for inpatients, would still be longer than those that you inherited. In any event, even on today's figures and the way in which they have been recalculated, you have not honoured your 1997 manifesto pledge, and you have still not delivered for the people of Wales, but you say that this is a great success. The lists went up massively, and it is true that they are now reducing in terms of the longer waits, but it is not very hard to improve on absolute failure. You should return to your previous attitude of humility.

I also object to your comments that opposition parties told you that the NHS in Wales was beyond repair. What we said was that we could run it properly. With the investment and spending going in, we could have had appropriate returns. Is it not true that the Welsh Assembly Government has spent on health, but has delivered very little in return? Is that not the truth?

Brian Gibbons: When the Conservative Party thankfully left office in 1997, there were 6,274 waiting over a year for treatment; the figure is nothing like that now. There were more than 1,400 patients waiting over 18 months for treatment then, but the figure is nothing like that now. The tens of thousands of patients who have benefited from the second-offer scheme initiative and the necessary changes in the NHS's performance will be thankful for what has been achieved.

It is ironic for David Melding to say that the Tories could run the NHS. If anyone were desperate enough to read the Conservative health manifesto for Wales, they would see that it is a disjointed document. Anyone wanting to try to run the NHS on the basis of that document would be in for a rude surprise. It does not contain any references to social care, and it is so disjointed that it was probably written by four or five different authors, cobbled together with a staple, and not proofread to see whether any of the policies join up. Therefore, I do not think that the Conservatives can make any promises to run the national health service—they cannot even agree between themselves on their

o gleifion mewnol sy'n aros. Os defnyddiwn yr un cyfrifiad, byddai'r rhestrau aros, hyd yn oed ar gyfer cleifion mewnol, yn dal yn fwy na'r rhai a etifeddwyd gennych. Beth bynnag yw'r sefyllfa, hyd yn oed gyda'r ffigurau presennol a'r ffordd y cawsant eu hail-gyfrifo, nid ydych wedi cadw at yr addewid a wnaethoch yn eich maniffesto yn 1997, ac nid ydych wedi darparu dim i bobl Cymru o hyd. Ond dywedwch fod hyn yn llwyddiant mawr. Cynyddodd y rhestrau'n sylweddol iawn, ac mae'n wir eu bod bellach yn lleihau o ran yr arosiadau hiraf. Ond nid yw'n fawr o gamp gwella ar fethiant llwyr. Dylech ddychwelyd at eich agwedd wylaidd flaenorol.

Yr wyf hefyd yn gwrthwynebu eich sylwadau bod y gwrthbleidiau wedi dweud wrthych fod y GIG yng Nghymru y tu hwnt i achubiaeth. Yr hyn a ddywedwyd oedd y gallem ni ei redeg yn gywir. Gyda'r buddsoddiad a'r gwariant arno, gallem fod wedi sicrhau canlyniadau priodol. Onid yw'n wir fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi gwario ar iechyd ond nad oes fawr ddim i'w weld am hynny? Onid dyna'r gwir?

Brian Gibbons: Pan ddaeth cyfnod y Blaid Geidwadol i ben, diolch i'r drefn, yn 1997, yr oedd 6,274 o gleifion yn aros dros flwyddyn i gael triniaeth; nid yw'r ffigur yn ddim byd tebyg i hynny yn awr. Yr oedd mwy na 1,400 o gleifion yn aros dros 18 mis i gael triniaeth bryd hynny, ond nid yw'r ffigur yn ddim byd tebyg i hynny yn awr. Bydd y degau o filoedd o gleifion sydd wedi elwa ar y cynllun ail gynnig a'r newidiadau angenrheidiol ym mherfformiad y GIG yn ddiolchgar am yr hyn a gyflawnwyd.

Mae'n eironig bod David Melding yn dweud y gallai'r Torïaid redeg y GIG. Pe bai pethau cynddrwg ar rywun nes ei fod yn troi at fanifesto iechyd y Ceidwadwyr ar gyfer Cymru, byddai'n gweld mai dogfen ddi-drefn ydyw. Byddai unrhyw un a fyddai am geisio rhedeg y GIG ar sail y ddogfen honno yn cael sioc enfawr. Nid yw'r ddogfen yn cynnwys unrhyw gyfeiriad at ofal cymdeithasol, ac mae mor ddi-drefn nes ymddangos iddi gael ei hysgrifennu gan bedwar neu bum awdurdwyr, ei chysylltu â stwffwl, a heb ei phrawfddarllen i weld a oes unrhyw rai o'r polisiau'n cydgysylltu. Felly, ni chredaf y gall y Ceidwadwyr wneud unrhyw addewidion i redeg y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol—ni allant hyd yn

policy.

Kirsty Williams: Just so that the First Minister cannot jump to his feet next week and say that we never say anything nice about NHS staff, I wish to say that the staff in the NHS deserve our congratulations very much indeed, not only for being able to treat patients who have finally received a service after waiting for years, often, but also for doing so in the system that you have provided. That is why they deserve the most congratulations, because they are still managing to undertake the work despite the system with which they have been landed.

Looking through the statement, much of it, as David Melding said, is an opportunity to try to cover up past failings by the Minister and his Labour colleagues. There is little in the statement that can be challenged. You say that the second-offer scheme has been fantastically successful and, yes, it has been, but only for those who were able to accept the second offer. I am worried about the wording concerning those who have declined the second offer; they are waiting now, not because of the NHS, but because it is now their own fault.

Brian Gibbons: No.

Kirsty Williams: It says so here, Brian. The implication is that, if they are not being kept waiting by the health service, it is their own fault. There may be significant reasons why those people were unable to accept the second offer. They may have caring responsibilities closer to home that mean that they cannot travel miles from their home to receive treatment. Perhaps the 700 or so people who have turned down the second offer over 12 months cannot accept it for sane and sensible reasons.

This demonstrates to the Welsh Liberal Democrats the fallacy promoted by you and the Tories that people want to pick and choose the hospitals that they go to. What people want is good, timely treatment in their local hospitals. For many of them, the prospect of having to go many miles across the border to another country to get treatment is not acceptable. They cannot do it. I want to know, Brian, what will happen to those

oed gytuno ar eu polisi ymysg ei gilydd.

Kirsty Williams: Er mwyn atal y Prif Weinidog rhag neidio ar ei draed yr wythnos nesaf a dweud nad ydym byth yn dweud dim byd caredig am staff y GIG, hoffwn ddweud bod staff y GIG yn haeddu cael eu llonyfarch gennym yn fawr iawn. A hynny nid dim ond am allu trin cleifion sydd, o'r diwedd, wedi cael gwasanaeth ar ôl aros am flynyddoedd, yn aml, ond hefyd am wneud hynny o fewn y system a ddarparwyd gennych. Dyna pam maent yn haeddu cael eu llonyfarch fwyaf, oherwydd maent yn parhau i lwyddo i wneud y gwaith er gwaethaf y system sydd wedi ei gorfodi arnynt.

O edrych drwy'r datganiad, mae llawer ohono, fel y dywedodd David Melding, yn gyfle i geisio celu methiannau'r Gweinidog a'i gyd-Aelodau Llafur yn y gorffennol. Nid oes fawr ddim yn datganiad y gellir ei herio. Dywedwch i'r cynllun ail gynnig fod yn llwyddiant ysgubol, ac mae hynny'n wir, ydyw, ond dim ond i'r rhai a oedd yn gallu derbyn yr ail gynnig. Yr wyf yn pryderu am y geiriad ynglŷn â'r rhieni sydd wedi gwrtihod yr ail gynnig. Maent yn aros yn awr, nid oherwydd y GIG, ond oherwydd mai nhw eu hunain sydd ar fai yn awr.

Brian Gibbons: Nac ydynt.

Kirsty Williams: Mae'n dweud hynny yma, Brian. Yr awgrym yw, os nad y gwasanaeth iechyd sy'n gwneud iddynt aros, mai nhw sydd ar fai. Efallai fod rhesymau arwyddocao pam na allai'r bobl hynny dderbyn yr ail gynnig. Efallai bod ganddynt gyfrifoldebau gofal gartref sy'n golygu na allant deithio filltiroedd o'u cartref i gael triniaeth. Efallai fod gan y 700 neu fwy o bobl sydd wedi gwrtihod yr ail gynnig dros 12 mis resymau cadarn a synhwyrol pam na allant ei dderbyn.

Mae hyn yn dangos i Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru y camsyniad sy'n cael ei hyrwyddo gennych chi a'r Torïaid, sef fod pobl am ddewis a dethol yr ysbytai yr ânt iddynt. Yr hyn y mae pobl am ei gael yw triniaeth dda yn ei phryd yn eu hysbytai lleol. I nifer ohonynt, mae'r syniad o orfod teithio filltiroedd lawer dros Glawdd Offa i wlad arall i gael triniaeth yn annerbyniol. Ni allant wneud hynny. Hoffwn wybod, Brian, beth fydd yn digwydd i'r cleifion

patients whom you now regard as not being kept waiting by the NHS. The fact is that, if the NHS was working properly, there would be no need for the second-offer scheme.

The list of so-called achievements goes on. It talks about a new extended capital programme. Tell that to my constituents who have seen the number of beds in Builth Hospital halved, because the state of the building is so poor that for fire-safety reasons they cannot admit any more than the 20 patients that they have.

You talked about record staffing levels. Yes, there are more staff, yet we are currently paying more for agency nurses in the NHS in Wales than ever before. We have a record number of midwifery vacancies. It is true that we have more consultants, but they are threatening to take industrial action because they are so unhappy with how you are running the system. You say that we have more therapists, but you are about to cut the number of training places for physiotherapists in Welsh universities next year. You told the Health and Social Services Committee that the reason was because you need to spend the money on speech and language therapists. The choice for Welsh patients is either to have physiotherapists or speech and language therapists. It seems that, under Labour, we cannot have both in Wales.

We are, thank goodness, beginning to see a reduction in delayed transfers of care. However, I have a patient in my constituency who is 90 years old, and whose care manager rang me this week. She has been in her residential home for three years as a self-funder. This funding has now come to an end, and the money that social services are prepared to pay that home is simply not acceptable to the home. Incidentally, the sum is much less than that which the council pays BUPA in Powys for taking over the running of its homes. According to her consultant, that lady should not be moved, but that 90-year-old lady with severe dementia will be removed from that home because she can no longer afford to pay the bills herself. Social services departments in Wales, under Welsh Labour, are so poorly funded that they cannot

hynny nad ydych yn ystyried eu bod bellach yn aros am driniaeth oherwydd y GIG. Y gwir amdani yw na fyddai angen cynllun ail gyfle pe bai'r GIG yn gweithio'n iawn.

Mae'r rhestr o lwyddiannau bondigrybwyl yn parhau. Mae'n sôn am raglen gyfalaf estynedig newydd. Dywedwch hynny wrth fy etholwyr i, sydd wedi nifer y gwelyau yn Ysbyty Llanfair-ym-Muallt yn cael ei haneru, oherwydd bod yr adeilad mewn cyflwr mor wael fel na all gymryd mwy na'r 20 claf sydd yno am resymau diogelwch tân.

Yr oeddech yn sôn am y lefelau staffio uchaf erioed. Oes, mae mwy o staff, ond ar hyn o bryd yr ydym yn talu mwy am nrysos asiantaeth yn y GIG nag erioed o'r blaen. Mae gennym y nifer uchaf erioed o swyddi gwag i fydwragedd. Mae'n wir bod gennym fwy o ymgynghorwyr, ond maent yn bygwth gweithredu'n ddiwydiannol am eu bod mor anfodlon â'r ffordd yr ydych yn rhedeg y system. Dywedwch fod gennym fwy o therapyddion, ond yr ydych ar fin cwtogi nifer y lleoedd hyfforddi i ffisiotherapyddion ym mhristyngolion Cymru y flwyddyn nesaf. Dywedasoch wrth y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol mai'r rheswm am hynny oedd bod angen ichi warior arian ar therapyddion iaith a lleferydd. Y dewis i gleifion yng Nghymru yw naill ai cael ffisiotherapyddion neu therapyddion iaith a lleferydd. Mae'n ymddangos o dan Lafur na allwn gael y ddau yng Nghymru.

Yr ydym, diolch i'r drefn, yn dechrau gweld gostyngiad yn nifer yr achosion o oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal. Fodd bynnag, mae gennyl glaf yn fy etholaeth sy'n 90 oed, a chefas alwad ffôn gan ei rheolwr gofal yr wythnos hon. Mae wedi bod yn ei chartref preswyl ers tair blynedd, yn talu amdani ei hun. Mae'r arian hwn bellach wedi dod i ben, ac nid yw'r arian y mae'r gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn barod i'w dalu i'r cartref hwnnw yn dderbynol i'r cartref. Gyda llaw, mae'r swm lawer yn llai na'r swm y mae'r cyngor yn ei dalu i BUPA ym Mhowys am ymgymryd â'r gwaith o redeg cartrefi'r sir. Yn ôl ei hymgyngorydd, ni ddylid symud y wraig hon, ond fe gaiff y wraig 90 oed hon sy'n dioddef gan ddementia difrifol ei symud o'r cartref hwnnw gan na all fforddio talu'r biliau ei hun mwyach. Mae adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yng Nghymru wedi eu hariannu

make up the additional £40 per week to keep her in her home. Is that how any of us would like to see an elderly relative of ours treated? What am I to say to that elderly lady and her carers, who know the consequences for her if she is forced to move in her vulnerable state?

It is all very well, Brian, to look at the specific targets that you have set yourself, but what about the targets that are never mentioned? There is nothing in this report about the hidden wait for diagnostics, or the hidden wait for parents with children with speech and language therapy needs. You may think that this will save you in Cardiff Central and other places, but the experience of constituents in those areas is different. They know different, and will act accordingly.

3.30 p.m.

Brian Gibbons: Fortunately for the NHS in Wales, we have a much longer strategy than what is going to happen in Cardiff Central or even in the general election. We are outlining a four to five-year strategy to deliver the type of health service that people in Wales have rightly come to expect. The targets that we have set for the NHS in Wales are ambitious, but also achievable. The targets that we have set to be met by the end of 2009, as you probably know, include diagnostic waits as well as waits to be assessed and to be treated. We hope to publish data in relation to the length of time that people wait for the various diagnostic procedures, including radiology, speech therapy, physiotherapy and so forth. Once we are satisfied that the data collection process is sufficiently robust, we will do that. There is no problem about making that information available—it is what we plan to do.

To deal with some of the other points that you made, this achievement would not have happened by chance. My predecessor announced £25 million specifically to ensure that the second offer guarantee scheme would

mor wael o dan Lafur Cymru fel na allant dalu'r £40 ychwanegol yr wythnos i'w chadw yn ei chartref. Ai dyna sut y byddai unrhyw un ohonom yn dymuno gweld un o'n perthnasau oedrannus yn cael ei drin? Beth fedraf fi ei ddweud wrth y wraig oedrannus honno a'i gofalwyr, sy'n gwybod beth fydd y canlyniadau os caiff ei gorfodi i symud yn ei chyflwr bregus?

Mae'n ddigon hawdd edrych ar y targedau penodol yr ydych wedi eu gosod ichi eich hun, Brian, ond beth am y targedau na chânt byth eu crybwyl? Nid oes dim yn yr adroddiad hwn am y rhestrau/cyfnodau aros cudd ar gyfer triniaeth ddiagnostig, neu'r rhestrau/cyfnodau aros cudd ar gyfer rhieni sydd â phlant ag anghenion therapi iaith a lleferydd. Efallai eich bod yn credu y bydd hyn yn eich achub yng Nghanol Caerdydd a lleoedd eraill, ond mae profiad yr etholwyr yn yr ardaloedd hynny yn wahanol. Maent yn gwybod yn wahanol, a byddant yn gweithredu yn unol â hynny.

Brian Gibbons: Yn ffodus i'r GIG yng Nghymru, mae gennym strategaeth lawer hwy na'r hyn sy'n mynd i ddigwydd yng Nghanol Caerdydd, neu hyd yn oed yn yr etholiad cyffredinol. Yr ydym yn amlinellu strategaeth pedair i bum mlynedd i ddarparu'r math o wasanaeth iechyd y mae pobl yng Nghymru wedi dod i'w ddisgwyll, a hynny'n briodol. Mae'r targedau a osodwyd gennym ar gyfer y GIG yng Nghymru rhai uchelgeisiol, ond maent hefyd yn gyraeddadwy. Mae'r targedau a bennwyd gennym i'w cyrraedd erbyn diwedd 2009, fel y gwyddoch, mae'n siŵr, yn cynnwys amser aros ar gyfer diagnosis, yn ogystal â'r amser y bydd pobl yn aros i gael eu hasesu a'u trin. Gobeithiwn gyhoeddi data am yr amser y bydd pobl yn aros ar gyfer yr amrywiol weithdrefnau diagnostig, gan gynnwys radioleg, therapi lleferydd, ffisiotherapi, ac ati. Pan fyddwn yn fodlon fod y broses o gasglu data yn ddigon cadarn, byddwn yn gwneud hynny. Nid oes problem ynglŷn â sicrhau bod y wybodaeth honno ar gael—dyna y bwriadwn ei wneud.

I ymdrin â rhai o'r pwyntiau eraill a godwyd gennych, ni fyddai hyn wedi'i gyflawni ar hap. Cyhoeddodd fy rhagflaenydd £25 miliwn yn benodol i sicrhau y byddai cynllun gwarant yr ail gynnig yn cyflawni'r targedau uchelgeisiol a

deliver the ambitious targets that we launched at the time. I do not remember anybody, when my predecessor mentioned those targets, getting up and saying that that was going to be easy to achieve. If my memory serves me correctly, when that announcement was made there was grave scepticism that we would get anywhere near these targets. I hope that those who expressed their scepticism at that juncture will have the graciousness to admit that they were wrong. Furthermore, we have put £32 million into the system for next year to make sure that the progress that we have achieved to date will continue to be delivered.

I have never said that it is the fault of people who decline an operation. I have never put it in those terms, and I do not accept that that is even the way that I think that it should be presented. Those patients exercised a choice, and in their exercising of that choice, the social factors that Kirsty mentioned in her contribution would be decisive. No-one is saying that they are not legitimate factors in making that choice. However, no-one is blaming the patients for making that choice.

All we did was to give patients an option, so that, if they could not be treated locally, then they could go elsewhere for their treatment. I am sure that you are aware, in any event, that the number of patients that were treated locally under the second offer guarantee scheme considerably—possibly by something like 2:1—outnumbered the patients who were transferred to trusts outside Wales. So, you slightly overstated your case in suggesting that the success of this scheme was dependent upon patients not being treated locally. If you look at the figures, the discipline of the second offer guarantee—setting aside the fact that some 7,000 patients have been treated under it—has meant that many more patients have been treated as a result of the general smartening of the commissioning process. Thousands of patients have directly benefited from the second offer guarantee, but I would suggest that further thousands of patients have benefited indirectly as a result of the improved process.

There have been dramatic improvements in delayed transfers of care. It is particularly

lansiwyd gennym bryd hynny. Pan grybwylodd fy rhagflaenydd y targedau hynny, ni chofiaf fod unrhyw un wedi codi a dweud y byddai hynny'n hawdd ei gyflawni. Os cofiaf yn iawn, pan wnaed y cyhoeddad hwnnw, yr oedd cryn amheuaeth a fyddem yn cyflawni unrhyw beth tebyg i'r targedau hyn. Gobeithio y bydd y rhai a fynegodd amheuaeth bryd hynny yn ddigon hynaws i gyfaddef eu bod yn anghywir. At hynny, rhoesom £32 miliwn yn y system ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf, i sicrhau y bydd y cynnydd a wnaed gennym hyd yn hyn yn parhau i ddigwydd.

Nid wyf erioed wedi dweud mai'r rheini sy'n gwrthod cael llawdriniaeth sydd ar fai. Nid wyf erioed wedi ei ddweud fel hynny, ac nid wyf yn derbyn mai dyna'r ffordd y credaf y dylai gael ei gyflwyno hyd yn oed. Mae'r cleifion hynny wedi gwneud eu dewis, ac wrth arfer y dewis hwnnw byddai'r ffactorau cymdeithasol a grybwylodd Kirsty yn ei chyfraniad yn hollbwysig. Nid oes neb yn dweud nad ydynt yn ffactorau dilys wrth wneud y dewis hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, nid oes neb yn beio'r cleifion am wneud y dewis hwnnw.

Y cyfan a wnaethom oedd rhoi dewis i gleifion, fel y gallent fynd i rywle arall i gael eu triniaeth os na ellid eu trin yn lleol. Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol, beth bynnag, fod nifer y cleifion a gafodd eu trin yn lleol o dan gynllun gwarant yr ail gynnig yn sylwedol fwy—cymaint â 2:1 o bosibl—na'r nifer a drosglwyddwyd i ymddiriedolaethau y tu allan i Gymru. Felly, yr oeddech yn gorwysleisio hynny i raddau drwy awgrymu bod llwyddiant y cynllun hwn yn dibynnu ar gleifion yn peidio â chael eu trin yn lleol. Os edrychwch ar y ffigurau, mae disgylfaeth gwarant yr ail gynnig—gan anwybyddu'r ffaith bod tua 7,000 o gleifion wedi cael eu trin o dan y cynllun hwnnw—wedi golygu bod llawer mwy o gleifion wedi cael eu trin o ganlyniad i wella'r broses gomisiynu yn gyffredinol. Mae miloedd o gleifion wedi elwa'n uniongyrchol o warant yr ail gynnig, ond byddwn yn awgrymu bod miloedd o gleifion eraill wedi elwa'n anuniongyrchol o ganlyniad i'r broses well.

Cafwyd gwelliannau sylwedol o ran achosion o oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal. Mae'n arbennig

gratifying that a number of the local authorities that have demonstrated improvement were some of the poorest performing local authorities in the first round. Some of those local authorities have achieved reductions of 70 to 90 per cent. I am sure that that is something that even you, at your most begrudging, would be willing to acknowledge.

Overall, there is a lot to celebrate in these achievements, and anybody who tries to minimise what has been achieved in the success of the second offer scheme and the new disciplines that have followed with it, would deprive the tens of thousands of patients in Wales who have benefited from this new discipline of the type of treatment that we can now reasonably expect.

o braf fod nifer o'r awdurdodau lleol sydd wedi dangos gwelliant ymhlieth yr awdurdodau lleol a oedd yn perfformio waethaf yn y cylch cyntaf. Mae rhai o'r awdurdodau lleol hynny wedi gweld gostyngiadau o 70 i 90 y cant. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod hynny'n rhywbeth y byddech chi, hyd yn oed, ar eich mwyaf cyndyn, yn fodlon ei gydnabod.

Ar y cyfan, mae llawer i'w ddathlu yn y cyflawniadau hyn, a byddai unrhyw un sy'n ceisio bychanu'r hyn a gyflawnwyd gan lwyddiant cynllun yr ail gynnig, a'r disgylblaethau newydd sydd wedi ei ddilyn, yn amddifadu'r degau ar filoedd o gleifion yng Nghymru sydd wedi elwa o'r ddisgylblaeth newydd hon o'r math o driniaeth y gallwn ei disgwyl yn rhesymol yn awr.

Fframwaith Strategol ar gyfer Blaenau'r Cymoedd Strategic Framework for the Heads of the Valleys

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1 and 2 in the name of Jocelyn Davies and amendments 3 and 4 in the name of David Melding.

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): I propose that

The National Assembly for Wales

1. welcomes the consultation paper 'Heads—We Win...: A Strategic Framework for the Heads of the Valleys', which was circulated to Members on 20 April 2005; and

2. welcomes the Minister for Economic Development and Transport's commitment to develop a full and detailed strategy and action plan for the Heads of the Valleys in light of the consultation, and report to the National Assembly on this work by the end of this year. (NDM2403)

In November last year I launched the Heads of the Valleys partnership programme. The partnership programme will focus the Team Wales approach to maximise the economic benefit of public sector and private sector spend in the Heads of the Valleys area. As I said, it is a partnership, and the intention is to lever in and attract a greater degree of private

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1 a 2 yn enw Jocelyn Davies a gwelliannau 3 a 4 yn enw David Melding.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

1. yn croesawu'r papur ymgynghori 'Heads—We Win...: A Strategic Framework for the Heads of the Valleys', a ddosbarthwyd i Aelodau ar 20 Ebrill 2005; ac

2. yn croesawu ymrwymiad y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth i ddatblygu strategaeth lawn a manwl, a chynllun gweithredu ar gyfer Blaenau'r Cymoedd yn wyneb yr ymgynghoriad, ac i gyflwyno adroddiad i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol am y gwaith hwn erbyn diwedd eleni. (NDM2403)

Ym mis Tachwedd y llynedd, lansiad raglen bartneriaeth Blaenau'r Cymoedd. Bydd y rhaglen bartneriaeth yn canolbwytio ymagwedd Tîm Cymru i sicrhau'r budd economaidd mwyaf posibl o ran gwariant gan y sector cyhoeddus a'r sector preifat yn ardal Blaenau'r Cymoedd. Fel y dywedais, partneriaeth ydyw, a'r bwriad yw sicrhau a denu

sector investment.

The industrial revolution was born in these Valleys communities. They have in the past demonstrated a remarkable ability to use their strengths and drive the Welsh economy forward. Given the right conditions and infrastructure, I see no reason why they cannot do so again. Many of those communities demonstrate significant problems. However, if we concentrate only on the problems, and not the potential, we will be doing these communities a disservice, which will result only in the acceptance of inevitable decline.

I am proud of our record as an Assembly Government since 1999, but decades of economic stagnation, and the decline of the traditional industries once at the core of the social and economic life of those communities, cannot be undone in five years. However, I believe strongly that we are heading in the right direction, and we have made real progress. Throughout Wales, including in the Heads of the Valleys corridor, we are seeing levels of investment and employment that we have not seen for a generation.

European structural funds, such as Objective 1, have been part of that process, and the Heads of the Valleys area has benefited from that. The Assembly Government's direct financial support for business, such as regional selective assistance and the relatively new Assembly investment grants, has also supported the establishment and growth of many businesses in the Valleys. These businesses, such as Cardinal Packaging on Rassau industrial estate, Ebbw Vale, have added greatly to the opportunities available in the Valleys.

The massive road investment—such as the Cwm bypass—and the rail and other investment undertaken by the Welsh Assembly Government presents us with a major opportunity to make an impact on the lives and life chances of our people in these communities. The completion of the dualling of the A465 between Tredegar and Dowlais Top in November last year was a significant step in the Assembly Government's overall aim to strengthen the Heads of the Valleys corridor as an attractive location for

mwy o fuddsoddiad gan y sector preifat.

Ganwyd y chwyldro diwydiannol yn y cymunedau hyn yn y Cymoedd. Yn y gorffennol, maent wedi dangos gallu aruthrol i ddefnyddio'u cryfderau a hyrwyddo economi Cymru. Gyda'r amodau a'r seilwaith cywir, ni welaf unrhyw reswm pam na allant wneud hynny eto. Mae problemau mawr mewn nifer o'r cymunedau hynny. Fodd bynnag, os canolbwyntiw ar y problemau hynny'n unig, ac nid ar y posibiliadau, byddwn yn gwneud cam â'r cymunedau hyn, ac ni fydd hynny ond yn arwain at dderbyn dirywiad anochel.

Yr wyf yn falch o'n record fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad er 1999, ond ni ellir dadwneud mewn pum mlynedd ddegawdau o farweidd-dra economaidd, a dirywiad y diwydiannau traddodiadol a oedd ar un adeg yn graidd i fywyd cymdeithasol ac economaidd y cymunedau hynny. Fodd bynnag, credaf yn gryf ein bod yn mynd i'r cyfeiriad iawn, ac yr ydym wedi gwneud cynnydd gwirioneddol. Ledled Cymru, gan gynnwys corridor Blaenau'r Cymoedd, gwelwn lefelau buddsoddiad a chyflogaeth nad ydym wedi'u gweld ers cenhedlaeth.

Mae croneydd strwythurol Ewrop, megis Amcan 1, wedi bod yn rhan o'r broses honno, ac mae ardal Blaenau'r Cymoedd wedi elwa o hynny. Mae cymorth ariannol uniongyrchol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i fusnesau, megis cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol a grantiau buddsoddi cymharol newydd y Cynulliad, hefyd wedi cynorthwyo'r broses o sefydlu nifer o fusnesau yn y Cymoedd a'u twf. Mae'r busnesau hyn, megis Cardinal Packaging ar ystad ddiwydiannol Rasau yng Nglwynebwy, wedi ychwanegu'n sylweddol at y cyfleoedd sydd ar gael yn y Cymoedd.

Mae'r buddsoddiad mawr mewn ffyrdd—megis ffordd osgoi Cwm—a'r buddsoddiad yn y rheilffyrdd a buddsodiadau eraill gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn gyfle mawr inni gael effaith ar fywydau a chyflleoedd bywyd ein pobl yn y cymunedau hyn. Yr oedd cwblhau'r gwaith o ddeuoli'r A465 rhwng Tredegar a Dowlais Top ym mis Tachwedd y llynedd yn gam sylweddol tuag at gyflawni nod cyffredinol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, o atgyfnerthu corridor Blaenau'r Cymoedd fel lleoliad deniadol ar gyfer datblygu.

development.

In February, I announced a £25 million contract to design and build the road-widening scheme between Abergavenny and Gilwern, which was awarded to a local contractor. Site clearance and final design are now well underway. Funding of £28 million is supporting the reopening of the passenger service between Ebbw Vale and Cardiff, and, eventually, between Ebbw Vale and Newport—this line will be carrying passengers for the first time since the Beeching cuts in the early 1960s. Over £50 million is being invested to improve and increase capacity on the Rhymney and Taff Vale railway lines.

The steel regeneration package—our response to the Corus closure programme a few years ago—is supported by more than £76 million of Assembly Government funding. Only this morning, I had the pleasure of opening the Hammerson Cyfarthfa retail park development in Merthyr. A total of £35 million has been spent on developing this scheme. It represents the type of inward investment that is an integral part of building prosperity and encouraging economic growth in the south Wales Valleys. Building on what we have already achieved, the main objective of the partnership programme is the preparation of a long-term programme—of 10 to 15 years—and a development strategy for the Heads of the Valleys in the context of the Wales spatial plan. To facilitate change, the Assembly Government will invest special funding of some £140 million, at today's prices, over the course of the programme. This will stimulate improved, joined-up service delivery, and bring in at least £360 million of additional private sector investment. In all, the programme will inject, directly or indirectly, at least £500 million into the area. This will be on top of the £1 billion of public sector money invested in the Heads of the Valleys area every year. A key aim of the programme is to ensure that we make the most of this massive investment.

3.40 p.m.

We have an obligation to get the maximum impact for every £1 of public sector money spent. The launch of the strategic framework

Ym mis Chwefror, cyhoeddais gcontract gwerth £25 miliwn i ddylunio ac adeiladu cynllun i ehangu'r ffordd rhwng y Fenni a Gilwern. Dyfarnwyd y gwaith i gcontractwr lleol. Mae'r gwaith o glirio'r safle a'r gwaith dylunio terfynol yn mynd rhagddynt yn awr. Mae £28 miliwn o gyllid yn cefnogi'r broses o ailagor y gwasanaeth teithwyr rhwng Glynebw y a Chaerdydd, ac yn y pen draw rhwng Glynebw y a Chasnewydd. Bydd y llinell hon yn cludo teithwyr am y tro cyntaf ers toriadau Beeching ar ddechrau'r 1960au. Mae dros £50 miliwn yn cael ei fuddsoddi i wella a chynyddu'r gallu ar linellau rheilffordd Rhymni a Chwm Taf.

Caiff pecyn adfywio'r diwydiant dur—ein hymateb i'r rhaglen gau gan Corus ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl—ei gefnogi gan dros £76 miliwn o arian Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Bore heddiw ddiwethaf cefais y pleser o agror datblygiad parc manwerthu Cyfarthfa Hammerson ym Merthyr. Gwariwyd cyfanswm o £35 miliwn ar ddatblygu'r cynllun hwn. Dyma'r math o fewnfuddsoddiad sy'n rhan annatod o sicrhau ffyniant ac annog twf economaidd yng Nghymoedd y De.

Gan adeiladu ar yr hyn yr ydym wedi'i gyflawni eisoes, prif amcan y rhaglen bartneriaeth yw paratoi rhaglen hirdymor— 10 i 15 mlynedd—a strategaeth ddatblygu ar gyfer Blaenau'r Cymoedd yng nghyd-destun cynllun gofodol Cymru. Er mwyn hwyluso newid, bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn buddsoddi tua £140 miliwn o gyllid arbennig, yn ôl prisiau heddiw, dros gyfnod y rhaglen. Bydd hyn yn ysgogi proses well a chydgyssylltiedig o ddarparu gwasanaethau, ac yn creu o leiaf £360 miliwn o fuddsoddiad ychwanegol gan y sector preifat. At ei gilydd, bydd y rhaglen, yn uniongyrchol neu'n anuniongyrchol, yn dod ag o leiaf £500 miliwn i'r ardal. Bydd hyn yn ychwanegol at yr £1 biliwn o arian y sector cyhoeddus sy'n cael ei fuddsoddi yn ardal Blaenau'r Cymoedd bob blwyddyn. Un o brif nodau'r rhaglen yw sierhau ein bod yn manteisio i'r eithaf ar y buddsoddiad enfawr hwn.

Mae gennym rwymedigaeth i sicrhau bod pob £1 o arian y sector cyhoeddus sy'n cael ei gwario yn cael yr effaith fwyaf bosibl. Yr oedd

for the Heads of the Valleys a few weeks ago marked the first step in the process. The strategic framework outlines the issues that must be addressed, and the actions that we are committed to delivering to achieve a more prosperous future for these communities. During the development of the framework document, the aim has been to engage with stakeholders fully, and as early in the process as possible. The overall objective is to deliver a high-quality, inclusive document. The responses received to the strategic framework will inform the development of the full strategy and related action plan.

With regard to amendments 1 and 2 in the name of Jocelyn Davies, I advise Members to reject both. A comprehensive and timely piece of work such as the strategic framework deserves to be wholeheartedly welcomed by the Assembly, as does a commitment to develop a full and detailed strategy and action plan for the Heads of the Valleys in the light of consultation. I would also advise Members to reject amendments 3 and 4 in the name of David Melding. On amendment 3, the motion commits me to report back to the Assembly on the development of a full and detailed strategy and action plan by the end of the year. With regard to amendment 4, I assure Members that the merger of the Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board with the Economic Development and Transport Department will secure the co-ordinated approach to maximising the benefits of upgrading the A465 that the Heads of the Valleys so badly needs and deserves. The revised economic development strategy underlines our approach, and will guide future activities. I commend this programme to Members and look forward to the debate.

Janet Davies: I propose the following amendments in the name of Jocelyn Davies. Amendment 1: in point 1, delete ‘welcomes’ and replace with ‘notes’.

I propose amendment 2. In point 2, delete ‘welcomes’ and replace with ‘notes’.

I propose these amendments because Plaid Cymru is not yet fully convinced that the Labour Assembly Government has got to grips with its long-standing failure to spread prosperity to all parts of the country.

lansio'r fframwaith strategol ar gyfer Blaenau'r Cymoedd ychydig wythnosau'n ôl yn nodi' cam cyntaf yn y broses. Mae'r fframwaith strategol yn amlinellu'r materion y mae'n rhaid mynd i'r afael â hwy, a'r camau yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i'w cymryd i sicrhau dyfodol mwy ffyniannus i'r cymunedau hyn. Wrth ddatblygu'r ddogfen fframwaith, y nod oedd cysylltu â rhanddeiliaid yn llawn, mor gynnar â phosibl yn y broses. Yr amcan cyffredinol yw darparu dogfen gynhwysol o safon uchel. Bydd yr ymatebion a gawn i'r fframwaith strategol yn llywio'r broses o ddatblygu'r strategaeth lawn a'r cynllun gweithredu cysylltiedig.

O ran gwelliannau 1 a 2 yn enw Jocelyn Davies, cynghoraf Aelodau i wrthod y ddau. Mae darn o waith cynhwysfawr ac amserol megis y fframwaith strategol yn haeddu cael ei groesawu'n frwd gan y Cynulliad, fel y mae ymrwymiad i ddatblygu strategaeth a chynllun gweithredu llawn a manwl ar gyfer Blaenau'r Cymoedd ar ôl ymgynghori. Byddwn hefyd yn cynghori'r Aelodau i wrthod gwelliannau 3 a 4 yn enw David Melding. O ran gwelliant 3, mae'r cynnig yn fy ymrwymo i gyflwyno adroddiad i'r Cynulliad ar y gwaith o ddatblygu strategaeth a chynllun gweithredu llawn a manwl erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn. O ran gwelliant 4, sicrhaf Aelodau y bydd uno Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a Bwrdd Croeso Cymru â'r Adran Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth yn sicrhau'r ymagwedd gydgysylltiedig i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar y broses o uwchraddio'r A465. Mae angen hon yn ddirfawr ar ardal Blaenau'r Cymoedd, ac y mae'n ei haeddu. Mae'r strategaeth datblygu economaidd ddiwygiedig yn amlinellu ein hymagwedd, a bydd yn arwain gweithgareddau yn y dyfodol. Cymeradwyaf y rhaglen hon i'r Aelodau ac edrychaf ymlaen at y ddadl.

Janet Davies: Cynigiaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Gwelliant 1: ym mhwynt 1, dileu ‘croesawu’ a rhoi ‘nodi’ yn ei le.

Cynigiaf welliant 2. Ym mhwynt 2, dileu ‘croesawu’ a rhoi ‘nodi’ yn ei le.

Cynigiaf y gwelliannau hyn gan nad yw Plaid Cymru wedi'i hargyhoeddi'n llawn eto fod Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad wedi mynd i'r afael â'i methiant ers blynnyddoedd i ledaenu ffyniant i bob rhan o'r wlad. Fodd bynnag,

However, we recognise that economic prosperity for the heads of the central and eastern valleys is not only essential for the people who live there, but for the whole of Wales. There are many positive factors there. People want a better lifestyle, and have the resilience and ambition to achieve it. In addition, the A465 provides good communications to the West Midlands and is near to the Brecon Beacons, and access to adequate funding is promised.

There are, however, negative factors that will have to be overcome. The experiences of people in the Valleys undermine their confidence. Previous attempts to move forward have been hindered by piecemeal action and the reluctance of local authorities and organisations to work together for the whole area, instead of trying to gain advantage for very local areas. Some of the newly built industrial premises have not been of good quality, and have not attracted enterprises that want highly skilled people. Vision, driven by self confidence and common sense, has been noticeably lacking. Money has gone in, but the desired outcomes have not always been achieved. There must, therefore, be real determination by the Assembly Government and by the relevant local authorities to achieve considerable step changes both economically and socially.

A balance needs to be struck in terms of establishing training and employment that stretches and improves local skills and raises wages, without becoming unrealistic and thereby resulting in a failure to achieve. Steps to improve the quality of employment to very high-quality employment need to be planned and entrenched in the strategy from the start. Targets can be of value if they are carefully set and monitored. They must be used to create jobs in the area, and not to create commuter villages. The recent Sheffield Hallam report showed that only 19 per cent of jobs have been replaced, and that, among the coalfields studied, economic inactivity is highest in the Valleys.

I have three major concerns about the implementation of the ideas in this framework plan. First, as the recent Bevan Foundation report highlighted, there is a lack of data on which to base a strategy. I find this difficult to grasp. What has the Government

cydnabyddwn fod ffyniant economaidd ar gyfer blaenau'r cymoedd canolog a dwyreiniol nid yn unig yn hanfodol ar gyfer y bobl sy'n byw yno, ond ar gyfer Cymru gyfan. Mae yno nifer o ffactorau cadarnhaol. Mae pobl am gael gwell ffordd o fyw, ac mae ganddynt y gwydnwch a'r uchelgais i'w sicrhau hynny. Yn ogystal, mae'r A465 yn rhoi cysylltiad da â Gorllewin Canolbarth Lloegr, ac mae'n agos i Fannau Brycheiniog, ac addewir y bydd digon o gyllid ar gael.

Fodd bynnag, mae yna ffactorau negyddol a fydd yn anodd eu goresgyn. Mae profiadau pobl yn y Cymoedd yn tanseilio eu hyder. Cafodd ymdrechion blaenorol i symud ymlaen eu rhwystro gan weithredu fesul tipyn, ac amharodrwydd awdurdodau lleol a sefydliadau i gydweithio ar gyfer yr ardal gyfan, yn lle ceisio ennill mantais ar gyfer ardaloedd lleol iawn. Nid yw rhai o'r adeiladau diwydiannol sydd newydd eu codi o ansawdd da, ac nid ydynt wedi denu mentrau lle mae angen pobl fedrus iawn. Mae gweledigaeth, wedi ei llywio gan hunanhyder a synnwyr cyffredin, yn amlwg wedi bod yn brin. Buddsoddwyd arian, ond nid yw'r canlyniadau a ddymunid bob amser wedi digwydd. Felly, rhaid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, a hefyd yr awdurdodau lleol perthnasol, fod yn wirioneddol benderfynol o sicrhau newidiadau sylwedol yn economaidd ac yn gymdeithasol.

Rhaid sicrhau cydbwysedd o ran sefydlu hyfforddiant a chyflogaeth sy'n ymestyn ac yn gwella sgiliau lleol ac yn codi cyflogau, heb fod yn afrealistig ac arwain felly at fethu cyflawni. Rhaid cynllunio camau i wella ansawdd cyflogaeth i ddarparu cyflogaeth o ansawdd uchel iawn, ac ymgorffori'r camau hynny yn y strategaeth o'r cychwyn. Gall targedau fod o werth os caint eu pennu a'u monitro'n ofalus. Rhaid eu defnyddio i greu swyddi yn yr ardal, ac nid i greu pentrefi i gymudwyr. Dangosodd adroddiad Sheffield Hallam yn ddiweddar mai dim ond 19 y cant o swyddi newydd sydd wedi eu creu yn lle'r rhai a gollwyd, ac ymhli y meysydd glo a astudiwyd, mae anweithgarwch economaidd ar ei uchaf yn y Cymoedd.

Mae tri pheth yn peri pryder imi ynglŷn â gweithredu'r syniadau sydd yn y cynllun fframwaith hwn. Yn gyntaf, fel y dangosodd adroddiad Sefydliad Bevan yn ddiweddar, nid oes digon o ddata i fod yn sail i strategaeth. Mae hyn yn anodd imi ei amgyffred. Beth mae'r

been doing in an area that so greatly needs visionary policy that means that the basic data is missing? Secondly, Objective 1 funding, which should form a highly significant part of the programme in the years ahead, is uncertain from 2007. The time when decisions are taken in the European Union is important, and we all know that the level of funding from member states is crucial. The UK Government's determination to reduce funding to 1 per cent of GVA would have a devastatingly adverse effect on the Heads of the Valleys. However, we have seen no sign of the Labour Assembly Government doing anything apart from tamely going along with the UK Government's wishes. What does that say about the plans to address the real problems of the Heads of the Valleys?

Lastly, the strategy refers to Merthyr Tydfil as being one of the two hubs for attracting high-quality employment to the area. However, planning permission has just been given for a one-and-a-half mile long open-cast coal site, which will be parallel and close to the town. This can do nothing but downgrade the area, and I fear that it could drive new business away. I am sure that the Minister will point out that a planning decision committee took this decision. However, the Labour Assembly Government can provide advice and guidance, showing the destructive effect of this permission on a high-spending and ambitious, yet essential, strategy. Instead, it has sat back and criticised Members who have opposed this development. That is why I lack confidence that the Government will do much expect spin. Taking action can be difficult, but that is the Government's duty. Plaid Cymru will work with you, Minister, for the Heads of the Valleys, but you need to address the problems that I have raised and any others that emerge during the debate and the consultation.

Lisa Francis: I propose the following amendments in the name of David Melding. Amendment 3: at the end of point 2, add:

and stresses that this will need to be the subject of a full plenary debate.

Llywodraeth wedi bod yn ei wneud mewn ardal lle mae angen mor ddybryd am bolisi gweledigaethol, sy'n golygu bod y data sylfaenol ar goll? Yn ail, mae arian Amcan 1, a ddylai fod yn rhan sylweddol iawn o'r rhaglen yn y blynnyddoedd nesaf, yn ansicr o 2007 ymlaen. Mae'r adeg pan wneir penderfyniadau yn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yn bwysig, a gwyddom i gyd fod lefel yr ariannu gan y gwledydd sy'n aelodau yn hollbwysig. Byddai penderfyniad Llywodraeth y DU i ostwng yr ariannu i 1 y cant o Werth Ychwanegol Gros yn cael effaith andwyol iawn ar Flaenau'r Cymoedd. Fodd bynnag, ni welwyd unrhyw arwydd bod Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynlliad wedi gwneud dim heblaw cytuno'n ddof i ddymuniadau Llywodraeth y DU. Beth ddywed hynny am y cynlluniau i fynd i'r afael â phroblemau gwirioneddol Blaenau'r Cymoedd?

Yn olaf, mae'r strategaeth yn cyfeirio at Merthyr Tudful fel un o'r ddwy ganolfan ar gyfer denu cyflogaeth o safon i'r ardal. Fodd bynnag, rhoddyd caniatâd cynllunio yn ddiweddar ar gyfer safle glo brig milltir a hanner o hyd a fydd yn gyfochrog â'r dref ac yn agos iddi. Ni fydd hyn yn gwneud dim ond israddio'r ardal, ac ofnaf y gallai atal busnesau newydd rhag cael eu denu yno. Mae'n siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn pwysleisio mai pwylgor penderfyniadau cynllunio a wnaeth y penderfyniad hwn. Fodd bynnag, gall Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynlliad ddarparu cyngor a chanllawiau, gan ddangos effaith ddinistriol y caniatâd hwn ar strategaeth uchelgeisiol, ond hanfodol, sy'n golygu gwariant uchel. Yn hytrach, nid yw wedi gwneud dim ond beirniadu Aelodau sydd wedi gwirthwynebu'r datblygiad hwn. Dyna pam nad wyf yn hyderus y bydd y Llywodraeth yn gwneud fawr ddim heblaw rhoi sbin ar bethau. Gall cymryd camau fod yn anodd, ond dyletswydd y Llywodraeth yw gwneud hynny. Bydd Plaid Cymru yn gweithio gyda chi, Weinidog, ar gyfer Blaenau'r Cymoedd, ond mae angen ichi fynd i'r afael â'r problemau a godwyd gennylf ac unrhyw broblemau eraill sy'n codi yn ystod y ddadl a'r ymgynghori.

Lisa Francis: Cynigiaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw David Melding. Gwelliant 3: ar ddiwedd pwynt 2, ychwanegu:

a phwysleisio y bydd gofyn i hyn fod yn destun dadl mewn cyfarfod llawn

I propose amendment 4. At the end of the motion add a new point:

the National Assembly for Wales recognises that the economic development strategies of the Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board will seek to exploit the potential economic benefits unlocked by the progressive improvement of the A465 but expresses concern about the lack of detail and information concerning the future activities of these two organisations post April 2006 which may hinder any such development.

Amendment 3 states that the development of a full and detailed strategy and action plan for the Heads of the Valleys, which will hopefully come about as a result of the consultation, will need to be the subject of a full Plenary debate. That may appear to be rather an obvious point to stress, but discussions held during the Economic Development and Transport Committee meeting last week make that necessary.

The Minister's foreword in 'Heads—We Win...: A Strategic Framework for the Heads of the Valleys' outlines how the problem in terms of delivering for the area has been a lack of capacity and co-ordination. That is why regeneration initiatives in the past have failed to make an impact. In terms of the current information that we have, this is a long 15-year programme, and it would be useful to know what the investment projections in the early years were and on what this money will be spent. We also need more information and detail about how much European funding can be made available. As we cannot anticipate how much that will be post 2006, it will be difficult to factor in details on demand against resources.

On health and housing initiatives, it still appears that discussions are in the early stages, Minister. You mentioned last week in committee that you would consider additional work being done on health initiatives if money is available from the health budget. Thus far, there are no certain or detailed plans, and I do not think that it is therefore unreasonable to require accountability on

Cynigiaf welliant 4. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn cydnabod y bydd strategaethau Datblygu Economaidd Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a Bwrdd Croeso Cymru yn ceisio elwa ar y buddiannau economaidd posibl a ryddheir trwy welliant parhaus yr A465 ond mae'n mynegi pryder am y diffyg manylion a gwybodaeth am weithgareddau'r ddau gorff yma i'r dyfodol, ar ôl Ebrill 2006, a allai lesteirio unrhyw ddatblygiad o'r fath.

Mae Gwelliant 3 yn nodi y bydd angen i'r gwaith o ddatblygu strategaeth a chynllun gweithredu llawn a manwl ar gyfer Blaenau'r Cymoedd, a fydd yn mynd rhagdynt o ganlyniad i'r ymgynghori, gobeithio, fod yn destun dadl yn y Cyfarfod Llawn. Efallai fod hynny'n ymddangos yn bwynt amlwg i'w bwysleisio, ond mae trafodaethau a gynhalwyd yn ystod cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth yr wythnos diwethaf yn mynnu hynny.

Mae rhagair y Gweinidog yn 'Blaenau'r Cymoedd ar y Blaen...Fframwaith Strategol ar gyfer Blaenau'r Cymoedd' yn amlinellu mai diffyg gallu a chydgyssylltu yw'r broblem o ran cyflawni ar gyfer yr ardal. Dyna pam nad yw mentrau adfywio wedi llwyddo i gael effaith yn y gorffennol. O ran y wybodaeth bresennol sydd gennym, mae hon yn rhaglen faith o 15 mlynedd, a byddai'n ddefnyddiol gwybod beth oedd y rhagolygon buddsoddi yn ystod y blynnyddoedd cyntaf ac ar beth y caiff yr arian hwn ei wario. Mae arnom angen rhagor o wybodaeth a manylion hefyd ynglŷn â faint o arian Ewropeaidd y gellir ei ddarparu. Gan na allwn rag-weld faint fydd hynny ar ôl 2006, bydd yn anodd cynnwys manylion am y galw o'i gymharu â'r adnoddau.

O ran mentrau iechyd a thai, ymddengys mai megis dechrau y mae'r trafodaethau, Weinidog. Soniech yr wythnos diwethaf yn y pwylgor y byddech yn ystyried gwneud gwaith ychwanegol ar fentrau iechyd os bydd arian ar gael o'r gyllideb iechyd. Hyd yma, nid oes unrhyw gynlluniau pendant na manwl, ac felly ni chredaf ei bod yn afresymol gofyn am atebolrwydd yn hyn o beth.

this.

The theme contained within this document is collaboration and the importance of all local authorities, stakeholders, and the public, private and voluntary sectors working together. The document states that skills levels must be improved and that access to them needs to be facilitated. It also highlights the need to guarantee 'flexible, bespoke training for local businesses'.

Emphasis is placed on the development of the Heritage in Action initiative, for example, and on the south Wales industrial heritage route. How much money has the Wales Tourist Board committed to that plan? How will financing that and the work on this particular project be affected post April 2006? As yet, we do not have any real detail on how the merger will work in practice.

3.50 p.m.

I have mentioned to you before my concerns about tourism training, which links in with bespoke training for local businesses. In the future, which Government portfolio or strand will this come under and from where will it be financed?

The merger of the quangos is meant to create an economic powerhouse and bring greater accountability, yet much work needs to be undertaken. According to page 18 of 'Making the Connections', when we talk about the costs, benefits and investment required from the merger, very provisional estimates are available, but they exclude any staff investment that may be necessary. Also, those estimates do not include any investment expenditure that might arise as a result of the Assembly Government's wider change agenda that has been designed to improve public services in Wales. That is what it says in this booklet and, as far as I know, we do not have any further details on that. I think that that will naturally have an important bearing on the implementation of any strategy that is the result of any consultation. That is why the Welsh Conservative group is asking for a full Plenary debate on the matter, after the detailed strategy and action plan have come to fruition, and why the Assembly administration should be happy to agree. The

Cydweithio a phwysigrwydd cydweithio rhwng yr holl awdurdodau lleol, y rhanddeiliaid a'r sector cyhoeddus, y sector preifat a'r sector gwirfoddol yw thema'r ddogfen hon. Dywed y ddogfen fod yn rhaid gwella lefelau sgiliau a bod angen hwyluso mynediad iddynt. Mae hefyd yn amlygu'r angen i sicrhau

hyfforddiant hyblyg a phwrpasol ar gyfer busnesau lleol.

Rhoddir pwyslais ar ddatblygu'r fenter 'Treftadaeth ar Waith', er enghrafft, ac ar lwybr treftadaeth ddiwydiannol y De. Faint o arian y mae Bwrdd Croeso Cymru wedi'i ymrwymo i'r cynllun hwnn? Sut yr effeithir ar y broses o ariannu hynny a'r gwaith ar y prosiect penodol hwn ar ôl mis Ebrill 2006? Hyd yma, nid oes gennym unrhyw fanylion gwirioneddol am y modd y bydd yr uno yn gweithio mewn gwirionedd.

Yr wyf eisoes wedi sôn wrthych am fy mhryderon ynglŷn â hyfforddiant ym maes twristiaeth, sy'n cysylltu â hyfforddiant pwrrpasol ar gyfer busnesau lleol. Yn y dyfodol, o dan ba bortffolio neu faes Llywodraeth y daw hyn, ac o ble y daw'r arian ar ei gyfer?

Bwriedir i'r broses o uno'r cwangos greu pwerdy economaidd a dod â mwy o atebolrwydd. Ond mae angen gwneud llawer o waith ar hyn. Yn ôl tudalen 18 yn 'Creu'r Cysylltiadau', pan fyddwn yn sôn am y costau, y buddiannau a'r buddsoddiad sy'n ofynnol ar gyfer y broses uno, mae amcangyfrifon dros dro ar gael. Ond nid ydynt yn cynnwys unrhyw fuddsoddiad mewn staff a all fod yn angenrheidiol. Yn ogystal, nid yw'r amcangyfrifon hynny yn cynnwys unrhyw wariant buddsoddi a all godi o ganlyniad i agenda Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar newid ehangu a gynlluniwyd i wella gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru. Dyna a ddywedir yn y llyfryn hwn, a hyd y gwn i, nid oes gennym unrhyw fanylion pellach am hynny. Credaf y bydd hynny, yn naturiol, yn cael dylanwad pwysig ar y broses o weithredu unrhyw strategaeth a ddaw yn sgil unrhyw ymgynghori. Dyna pam mae grŵp Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn gofyn am ddadl ar y mater yn y Cyfarfod Llawn, ar ôl i'r strategaeth a'r cynllun gweithredu manwl ddwyn ffrwyth. A dyna pam

roll out or implementation of the strategy is not clear, and cannot possibly be clear while the details on the ASPB merger are so obviously absent.

Gwenda Thomas: I welcome the opportunity to debate the framework for the Heads of the Valleys strategy that further underlines the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to regenerating our communities. In this case, those communities are in the south Wales Valleys economically ruined by the last Conservative Government. As the Minister sets out in the foreword to the strategy, 'decades of economic stagnation and the decline of industries require long term solutions'.

That is precisely what we have in this strategy.

As the AM for Neath, I feel that it is important to recognise the fact that the Valleys of south Wales cover a much wider area than that set out in this strategy. The Neath, Dulais, upper Swansea and upper Amman valleys should be included, especially when you consider that some wards in my constituency are highly placed on the Welsh index of multiple deprivation. Is the Minister able to make a commitment today that he will seriously consider extending the area covered in this strategy to include the valleys of Neath Port Talbot?

Also, as Chair of the Committee on Equality of Opportunity, I am pleased to see that equality of opportunity has been placed at the heart of this programme. I hope that the Committee on Equality of Opportunity plays a full and active role in ensuring the success of the strategy, now and in years to come.

Jenny Randerson: The Welsh Liberal Democrats welcome this document on the basis that it is a consultation document. It is much better than the so-called creative industries strategy, which the Minister produced, that had only one real action point. In comparison, this is a much better document and, as I said, it is a consultation document. However, we will be disappointed if the final document is not much more comprehensive and precise and, above all, if

y dylai gweinyddiaeth y Cynulliad fod yn fwy na pharod i gytuno. Nid yw'r broses o gyflwyno'r strategaeth na'i rhoi ar waith yn glir, ac nid yw'n bosibl iddi fod yn glir tra bydd diffyg amlwg o fanylion am y broses o uno'r CCNC.

Gwenda Thomas: Croesawaf y cyfle i drafod y fframwaith ar gyfer strategaeth Blaenau'r Cymoedd, sy'n pwysleisio ymhellach ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i adfywio ein cymunedau. Yn yr achos hwn, mae'r cymunedau hynny yng Nghymoedd y De, a gafodd eu difetha'n economaidd gan y Llywodraeth Geidwadol ddiwethaf. Fel y dywed y Gweinidog yn y rhagair i'r strategaeth,

mae angen atebion hirdymor i fynd i'r afael â degawdau o ddiffyg twf economaidd a dirywiad diwydianau.

Dyna'n union a geir yn y strategaeth hon.

Fel yr AC dros Castell-nedd, credaf ei bod yn bwysig cydnabod y ffaith fod Cymoedd y De yn cwmpasu ardal lawer ehangach na'r hyn a nodir yn y strategaeth hon. Dylid cynnwys cymoedd Castell-nedd a Dulais a chymoedd uchaf Tawe ac Aman, yn arbennig pan fyddwch yn ystyried bod rhai wardiau yn fy etholaeth mewn safle uchel ar fynegrif Cymru o amddifadedd lluosog. A all y Gweinidog wneud ymrwymiad heddiw y bydd yn ystyried o ddifrif ymestyn yr ardal sy'n cael ei chwmpasu yn y strategaeth hon i gynnwys cymoedd Castell-nedd Port Talbot?

Yn ogystal, fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal, yr wyf yn falch gweld bod cyfle cyfartal yn ganolog i'r rhaglen hon. Gobeithio y bydd y Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal yn chwarae rhan lawn a gweithgar wrth sicrhau llwyddiant y strategaeth, yn awr ac yn y dyfodol.

Jenny Randerson: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn croesawu'r ddogfen hon ar y sail mai dogfen ymgynghori yw hi. Mae'n well o lawer na'r strategaeth diwydiannau creadigol bondigrybwyl a gynhyrchwyd gan y Gweinidog, ac a oedd yn cynnwys dim ond un pwynt gweithredu gwirioneddol. O'i chymharu, mae hon yn ddogfen well o lawer, ac fel y dywedais mae'n ddogfen ymgynghori. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn siomedig os na fydd y ddogfen derfynol lawer yn fwy cynhwysfawr a

it does not have precise figures and timescales set against the targets.

I was impressed by the Bevan Foundation report that warned that if there was not a proper strategy for the Valleys, the money being poured in to improve the Heads of the Valleys road would simply mean that it became a road out rather than a stimulator for economic development. I therefore regret that this document does not seem to have fully taken on board the recommendations in the Bevan Foundation report.

On the lessons learnt so far, we have learnt that Objective 1 money did not work a miracle, that it was slow to work and that high levels of economic inactivity remain. This is a 15-year programme and I warn you, Minister, that the people of the Valleys cannot afford to wait 15 years to see big improvements. The document boasts of a £15 billion investment over 15 years, taking all Government funding into account. To get to the real figures we must look at the additional money that this Government plans to put in, which is £140 million, I assume, over the 15 years. However, in year one we get down to the real level of commitment—only £2 million, as you said in answer to a question that I asked in committee. In the first three years, the figure is £22 million. Beyond that we have no certainty; Governments change, as do their priorities. This also depends very much on the future of European Union funding, on which we have no certainty after 2006. Given the breadth of the scheme and the problems it seeks to address, this level of funding will not even touch many of the problems. The document mentions £360 million in private sector investment, with no details as to how that would be stimulated, so I would like to know where that precise figure comes from.

There was another idea for the development of firm proposals to increase the number of people delivering primary healthcare. When I asked you about this, you could not give me a timescale for when the plan would be ready, let alone when it would be implemented. In

phenodol, ac yn anad dim os na fydd yn cynnwys ffigurau ac amserlenni penodol yn erbyn y targedau.

Gwnaed argraff arnaf gan adroddiad Sefydliad Bevan, a oedd yn rhybuddio, os na fyddai strategaeth briodol ar waith ar gyfer y Cymoedd, y byddai'r arian mawr sy'n cael ei fuddsoddi i wella ffordd Blaenau'r Cymoedd, yn golygu mai ffordd allan fyddai honno, nid ffactor i ysgogi datblygiad economaidd. Felly, gresynaf nad yw'r ddogfen hon fel pe bai wedi ystyried yr argymhellion yn adroddiad Sefydliad Bevan yn llawn.

Ar sail y gwersi a ddysgywyd hyd yn hyn, yr ydym wedi dysgu nad oedd arian Amcan 1 yn creu gwyrthiau, ei fod yn gweithio'n araf a bod lefelau uchel o anweithgarwch economaidd yn parhau. Rhaglen 15 mlynedd yw hon, ac yr wyf yn eich rhybuddio, Weinidog, na all pobl y Cymoedd fforddio aros 15 mlynedd i weld gwelliannau mawr. Mae'r ddogfen yn ymfalchiō mewn buddsoddiad o £15 biliwn dros gyfnod o 15 mlynedd, gan ystyried yr holl arian gan y Llywodraeth. Er mwyn cael y ffigurau gwirioneddol, rhaid inni edrych ar yr arian ychwanegol y mae'r Llywodraeth hon yn bwriadu ei fuddsoddi, sy'n £140 miliwn, fe dybiaf, dros y 15 mlynedd. Fodd bynnag, yn ystod y flwyddyn gyntaf gwelwn yr ymrwymiad gwirioneddol—£2 filiwn yn unig, fel y dywedasoch wrth ateb cwestiwn a ofynnais yn y pwylgor. Yn ystod y tair blynedd cyntaf, £22 miliwn yw'r ffigur. Ar ôl hynny, nid oes gennym unrhyw sicrwydd; mae Llywodraethau'n newid, ac felly hefyd eu blaenoriaethau. Mae hyn hefyd yn dibynnu llawer ar ddyfodol arian yr Undeb Ewropeaidd, ac nid oes unrhyw sicrwydd y bydd ar gael ar ôl 2006. O gofio mor eang yw'r cynllun a'r problemau y mae'n ceisio mynd i'r afael â hwy, ni fydd yr arian hwn ond prin cyffwrdd â nifer o'r problemau. Mae'r ddogfen yn sôn am fuddsoddiad o £360 miliwn gan y sector preifat, heb unrhyw fanylion ynghylch y modd y byddai hynny'n cael ei ysgogi. Felly, hoffwn wybod o ble y daw'r union ffigur hwnnw.

Yr oedd syniad arall ar gyfer datblygu cynigion cadarn i gynyddu nifer y bobl sy'n darparu gofal iechyd sylfaenol. Pan holais chi am hyn, ni allech roi amserlen imi pryd y byddai'r cynllun yn barod, heb sôn am pryd y byddai'n cael ei roi ar waith. Yn y gorffennol, cafwyd bwriadau da

the past there have been good intentions which have failed in practice; an example would be the spending of the Corus money.

In conclusion, this document is fine as far as it goes, as a consultative document, but it lacks precision, targets, timescales and price tags. Above all, it lacks big ideas. The Welsh Liberal Democrats welcome the fact that you have dipped your toe in the water, but we are yet to be convinced that these proposals alone will work the economic miracle that we need. Above all, it will take much more than this to persuade the people of the Valleys that this limited strategy will work. I remind you, Minister that the title of the document is ‘Heads—We Win...’; the rest of that popular phrase, of course, is ‘tails you lose’. The people of the Valleys have lost for far too long. They need something far more radical and far more precise than this in order to create the economic miracle that they need.

a fethodd yn ymarferol; enghraifft o hynny fyddai'r modd y gwariwyd arian Corus.

I gloi, mae'r ddogfen hon yn iawn cyn belled ag y mae'n mynd, fel dogfen ymgynghori. Ond mae diffyg manylder, targedau, amserlenni a phrisiau ynddi. Yn anad dim, mae diffyg syniadau mawr ynddi. Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn croesawu'r ffaith eich bod wedi mentro rywfaint, ond nid ydym wedi ein hargyhoeddi, hyd yma, y bydd y cynigion hyn yn unig yn creu'r wyrth economaidd y mae arnom ei hangen. Yn anad dim, bydd angen gwneud llawer mwy na hyn i ddarbwyllo pobl y Cymoedd y bydd y strategaeth gyfngedig hon yn gweithio. Yr wyf yn eich atgoffa, Weinidog, mai ‘Heads-We Win...’ yw teitl y ddogfen Saesneg; ac wrth gwrs ‘tails you lose’ yw gweddill yr ymadrodd poblogaidd hwnnw. Mae pobl y Cymoedd wedi bod ar eu colled lawer yn rhy hir. Mae angen rhywbeth llawer mwy radical a manwl na hyn arnynt i greu'r wyrth economaidd y mae arnynt ei hangen.

Lynne Neagle: I begin by congratulating the Minister, not just for this strategy, but for seizing the opportunity to prioritise work in an area, which is recognised as being among the most deprived in the UK. I also place on record my thanks to the Bevan Foundation, whose excellent report, ‘A Route to Prosperity: making the most of the Heads of the Valleys road’, has informed a considerable amount of the work that we are now considering.

In my comments I will focus on two points: the need to target investment in the Heads of the Valleys region across all areas of Government, and the important role that our industrial heritage can play in the future prosperity of the region. This strategy should mark an important turning point, at which we show that we are serious about regenerating the Heads of the Valleys. We fully recognise that only by targeting Assembly investment and spending in the region can we reverse decades of economic decline, and end the inherited poverty that still scars our communities. I am pleased that this strategy recognises that the decline of the Valleys is not inevitable, and that it gives a clear commitment to redistributing resources to the Valleys. I, along with other Valleys AMs,

Lynne Neagle: Dechreuaaf drwy longyfarch y Gweinidog, nid yn unig am y strategaeth hon, ond am achub y cyfle i flaenoriaethu gwaith mewn ardal a gydnabyddir yn un o'r ardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig yn y DU. Hoffwn ddiolch hefyd i Sefydliad Bevan. Mae ei adroddiad gwych ‘A Route to Prosperity: making the most of the Heads of the Valleys road’, wedi llywio llawer iawn o'r gwaith yr ydym nawr yn ei ystyried.

Yn fy sylwadau, byddaf yn canolbwyntio ar ddau bwynt: yr angen am dargedu buddsoddiad yn rhanbarth Blaenau'r Cymoedd ym mhob maes Llywodraeth, a'r rôl bwysig y gall ein treftadaeth ddiwydiannol ei chwarae yn ffyniant y rhanbarth yn y dyfodol. Dylai'r strategaeth hon nodi trobwyt pwysig, lle yr ydym yn dangos ein bod o ddifrif ynglŷn ag adfywio Blaenau'r Cymoedd. Cydnabyddwn yn llwyr mai dim ond drwy dargedu buddsoddiadau a gwariant yn y rhanbarth y gallwn wrth-droi degawdau o ddirywiad economaidd, a rhoi terfyn ar y tlodi sydd wedi ei etifeddu ac sy'n dal yn graith ar ein cymunedau. Yr wyf yn falch fod y strategaeth hon yn cydnabod nad yw ddirywiad y Cymoedd yn anochel, a'i bod yn rhoi ymrwymiad clir i ailddosbarthu adnoddau i'r Cymoedd. Yr wyf fi, ynghyd ag AC eraill y

have been championing this for years, and I am pleased that the Minister has responded accordingly.

The strategy, rightly, calls for the removal of barriers to prosperity, but we must acknowledge that if we are to tackle high levels of unemployment, child poverty, poor housing and lower educational attainment in the Valleys, every Minister across every department must engage with this new agenda, reshaping and redesigning their policies and spending plans accordingly. Therefore, I hope that this strategy before us today not only marks a shift in your priorities, Minister, but marks a shift that will be reflected across all areas of Government.

The dualling of the Heads of the Valleys road presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform communities in the upper Valleys. In my constituency there was a fear that the programme would only cover a narrow area of communities along this road. In reality, the A465 is a lifeline for many more communities in the upper Valleys. I am delighted that the strategic framework will now include five wards in the north of my constituency.

I end by noting the important contribution of our industrial heritage to regeneration. Undoubtedly, the industrial heritage of the Valleys not only provides an economic stimulus for the region, promoting tourism and attracting inward investment, but it instils a sense of collective pride in our culture and returns a sense of confidence and aspiration to our communities.

4.00 p.m.

I hope that a significant role can be found for Blaenavon within the framework that we are discussing today. The world heritage site and the book town are helping to transform Blaenavon, and considerable Assembly investment is also going into area renewal there. Will the Minister look further at how we can use the area's rich heritage to promote economic regeneration, building on what I believe is a model for regeneration for the Valleys? Blaenavon should be seen as the gateway for the Heads of the Valleys. We must finish the job there and show what can

Cymoedd, wedi bod yn hyrwyddo hyn ers blynnyddoedd, ac yr wylf yn falch fod y Gweinidog wedi ymateb yn unol â hynny.

Mae'r strategaeth yn galw am gael gwared â'r hyn sy'n rhwystro ffyniant, a hynny'n briodol. Ond rhaid inni gydnabod bod yn rhaid i bob Gweinidog ym mhob adrann ymgysylltu â'r agenda newydd hon, gan ailffurfio ac ailgynnllunio eu polisiau a'u cynlluniau gwario yn unol â hynny, er mwyn mynd i'r afael â lefelau uchel o ddiweithdra, tlodi ymysg plant, tai gwael a chyrhaeddiad addysgol is. Felly, gobeithio bod y strategaeth hon sydd ger ein bron heddiw yn nodi newid yn eich blaenorriaethau, Weinidog, yn ogystal â newid a gaiff ei adlewyrchu ym mhob maes Llywodraeth.

Mae'r ffaith fod ffordd Blaenau'r Cymoedd yn cael ei gwneud yn ffordd ddeuol yn gyfle unigryw i drawsnewid cymunedau yn y Cymoedd uchaf. Yn fy etholaeth i, ofnid mai ardal gul o gymunedau ar hyd y ffordd hon yn unig fyddai'n cael eu cwmpasu gan y rhaglen. Mewn gwirionedd, mae'r A465 yn hanfodol i lawer mwy o gymunedau yn y Cymoedd uchaf. Yr wylf wrth fy modd fod y fframwaith strategol bellach i gynnwys pum ward yng ngogledd fy etholaeth i.

Yn olaf, nodaf gyfraniad pwysig ein treftadaeth ddiwydiannol at adfywio. Yn ddi-os, mae treftadaeth ddiwydiannol y Cymoedd nid yn unig yn symbyliad economaidd i'r ardal, gan hybu twristiaeth a mewnfuddsoddiad, ond mae hefyd yn meithrin ymdeimlad o falchder yn ein diwylliant, ac yn ennyn eto hyder ac uchelgais yn ein cymunedau.

Gobeithio y gellir cael rôl sylweddol i Flaenafon yn y fframwaith a drafodir gennym heddiw. Mae safle treftadaeth y byd a'r dref llyfrau yn helpu trawsnewid Blaenafon, ac mae'r Cynulliad yn buddsoddi'n sylweddol er mwyn adnewyddu'r ardal. A wnaiff y Gweinidog edrych ymhellach ar y ffordd y gallwn ddefnyddio treftadaeth gyfoethog yr ardal i hybu adfywiad economaidd, gan adeiladu ar yr hyn a gredaf sy'n batrwm ar gyfer adfywio'r Cymoedd? Dylid ystyried Blaenafon yn borth i Flaenau'r Cymoedd. Rhaid inni orffen y gwaith yno a dangos yr hyn y gellir ei

be done with this kind of strategic planning.

The document before us is Welsh Labour's blueprint for realising the potential of the people and places of the Valleys. These communities have a past of monumental heroism. If our ambitions for them are fulfilled, they will also have a future worth anticipating.

William Graham: The Welsh Conservatives support this strategy's aspirations and we realise that, to achieve them, we need to work with those who seek, or have the potential, to invest in the area. That does not mean simply creating transport networks to industrial estates and then asking investors to best fit their activities into what is available; it will require paying attention to detail and not using a one-size-for-all solution.

The consultation must be meaningful with all stakeholders. It is essential that we have the widest possible co-ordination in the planning and development of infrastructure. The vision of a new rail network along the western valley is welcome but is no panacea. The Rhondda Valley has long enjoyed a rail network, and that has not particularly given it an industrial heritage to be proud of.

We need to appreciate that, while unemployment in this area is above the Welsh average, less than a quarter of those living in the Heads of the Valleys communities travel outside their immediate area to work. That has an enormous impact on development policies, especially as investment in directly promoting this area will also bring potentially greater benefits to the whole of the M4 corridor. If people are not prepared to travel to work, their future employment prospects could be hindered, irrespective of even greater promotion of this area.

Opportunities to create industries are arising from advanced internet communication and computer technologies. However, if these industries are to be sustainable and to be sources of wealth creation within these communities, they must ideally be generated by those living within the area. We need to develop entrepreneurial skills and an outlook

wneud gyda'r math hwn o gynllunio strategol.

Glasbrint Llafur Cymru ar gyfer gwireddu potensial pobl a lleoedd yn y Cymoedd yw'r ddogfen sydd ger ein bron. Mae gan y cymunedau hyn orffennol arwrol iawn. Os caiff ein huchelgais ar eu cyfer ei gwireddu, bydd ganddynt ddyfodol gwerth ei ddisgwyl hefyd.

William Graham: Mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn cefnogi dyheadau'r strategaeth hon, ac er mwyn eu cyflawni derbyniwn fod angen inni gydweithio â'r rheini sydd am fuddsoddi yn yr ardal, neu sydd â'r potensial i wneud hynny. Nid creu rhwydweithiau trafnidiaeth i ystadau diwydiannol yn unig mae hynny'n ei olygu, ac yna ofyn i fuddsoddwyr addasu eu gweithgareddau i gyd-fynd â'r adnoddau sydd ar gael; bydd angen rhoi sylw i fanylion a pheidio â defnyddio un ateb cyffredinol ar gyfer pawb.

Rhaid i'r ymgynghori fod yn ystyrion gyda'r holl randdeiliaid. Mae'n hanfodol inni gydlynun mor eang â phosibl wrth gynllunio a datblygu seilwaith. Mae'r weledigaeth o rwydwaith rheilffyrdd newydd yng ngorllewin y cymoedd i'w chroesawu, ond nid dyna'r ateb i bob problem. Mae yn rwydwaith rheilffyrdd yng Nghwm Rhondda ers amser maith, ac nid yw hynny wedi rhoi treftadaeth ddiwylliannol i ymfalchiō'n arbennig ynddi.

Er bod diweithdra yn yr ardal hon yn uwch na'r cyfartaledd yng Nghymru, rhaid inni sylweddoli mai llai na chwarter y bobl sy'n byw yng nghymunedau Blaenau'r Cymoedd sy'n teithio y tu allan i'w hardal leol i weithio. Caiff hynny effaith fawr ar bolisiau datblygu, yn arbennig gan y bydd buddsoddi i hybu'r ardal hon yn uniongyrchol yn dod â mwy o fudd o bosibl i ardal gyfan corridor yr M4. Os nad yw pobl yn fodlon teithio i'r gwaith, gallai hynny amharu ar eu cyfleoedd cyflogaeth yn y dyfodol, er y gwaith o hybu'r ardal hon ymhellach.

Mae cyfleoedd i greu diwydiannau yn deillio o gyfathrebu ehangu ar y rhyngrywd a thechnolegau cyfrifiadurol. Fodd bynnag, os yw'r diwydiannau hyn i fod yn gynaliadwy ac yn ffynonellau sy'n creu cyfoeth o fewn y cymunedau hyn, yn ddelfrydol rhaid iddynt gael eu cynhyrchu gan y rheini sy'n byw yn yr ardal. Mae angen inni ddatblygu sgiliau

of seeking to employ, not simply to be employed.

We also need to unlock the potential resources of the natural beauty and scenery of this area, which will require direct investment in new employment options, the development of which should not be impeded by gender boundaries. The area must also lift itself above the reputation of ill health, benefit dependency and economic inactivity. Failure to do that will further impede all effort to attract investment.

I was recently contacted by an employer in this area, who outlined how training organisations were initially reluctant to let their students go to become employees of manufacturing concerns, as the declining numbers of those trainees resulted in the loss of funding. The employer now takes people on via the New Deal scheme and, regrettably, finds that many of those people have difficulties in reading or counting.

The roads on the industrial estate on which this company is located have not been properly maintained and are full of potholes. On complaint, somebody from the local authority attended the factory and told the employer that he would receive details of environment improvement schemes. He hoped that the road would then be made serviceable for all vehicles. However, there was no improvement to the road but simply new grass verges and shrubberies.

Minister, we seek the same aims, and, therefore you will receive our support for genuine proposals to regenerate this area, although you will continue to attract criticism if the proposals are not realistic. This will require the widest possible co-ordination of public and independent resources to promote better education, employment, health and leisure provision.

Irene James: I believe that 'Heads—We Win' is an appropriate title for the level of optimism that this proposed development inspires, not just for a community, a single town or a single local authority, but for the whole south-east Wales capital network as defined in the Wales spatial plan.

entrepreneuraidd ac ymagwedd o geisio cyflogi pobl, yn hytrach na dim ond cael eu cyflogi.

Mae angen hefyd inni ddatglo ffynonellau posibl o harddwch naturiol a golygfeydd yr ardal, a fydd yn gofyn am fuddsoddiad unioengyrchol mewn dewisiadau cyflogaeth newydd, ac ni ddylai ffiniau rhwng y ddau ryw rwystro'r datblygiad hwn. Rhaid i'r ardal hefyd oresgyn yr enw drwg sydd ganddi o ran salwch, dibyniaeth ar fudd-daliadau ac anweithgarwch economaidd. Bydd methu gwneud hynny'n rhwystr pellach i bob ymdrech i ddenu buddsoddiad.

Cysylltodd cyflogwr o'r ardal hon â mi yn ddiweddar, gan amlinellu sut yr oedd sefydliadau hyfforddi'n gyndyn ar y cychwyn i adael i'w myfyrwyr gael eu cyflogi gan fusnesau gweithgynhyrchu, gan fod y gostyngiad yn nifer y rhieni sy'n cael hyfforddiant felly yn arwain at golli cyllid. Mae'r cyflogwr bellach yn cyflogi pobl drwy gynllun y Fargen Newydd, ac yn anffodus mae'n darganfod bod gan nifer o'r bobl hyn anawsterau darllen a rhifo.

Nid yw ffyrdd yr ystâd ddiwydiannol lle mae'r cwmni hwn wedi ei leoli wedi cael eu cynnal a'u cadw'n briodol, ac maent yn llawn tyllau. Pan gwynodd y cwmni am hyn, aeth rhywun o'r awdurdod lleol i'r ffatri a dweud wrth y cyflogwr y cai fanylion cynlluniau i wella'r amgylchedd. Ei obaith oedd y byddai'r ffordd wedyn yn addas ar gyfer pob cerbyd. Fodd bynnag, ni chafodd y ffordd ei gwell, ond ychwanegwyd lleiniau glas newydd a llwyni.

Weinidog, yr un yw ein hamcanion, ac felly cewch ein cefnogaeth i gynigion dilys i adfywio'r ardal hon. Ond cewch eich beirniadu o hyd os nad yw'r cynigion yn realistig. Bydd angen cydgysylltu'r adnoddau cyhoeddus ac annibynnol ehangaf posibl er mwyn hybu gwell addysg, cyflogaeth, iechyd a darpariaeth hamdden.

Irene James: Credaf fod 'Blaenau'r Cymoedd—Ar y Blaen' yn deitl priodol ar gyfer yr optimistaeth y mae'r datblygiad arfaethedig hwn yn ei ysgogi, nid yn unig ar gyfer cymuned, un dref neu un awdurdod lleol, ond ar gyfer rhwydwaith cyfan y De-ddwyrain fel y caiff ei ddiffinio yng nghynllun gofodol Cymru.

The Heads of the Valleys is one of the first initiatives to embrace the principle of a regional development mindset, as set out in the spatial plan, and it is far stronger for it. The strategy defines the key problems in the region and recognises how past programmes for regeneration have failed to have maximum effect through improper coordination. It also recognises that this cannot happen now. Getting this right is about revitalising the region and means that infrastructure must be supported by an integrated package of measures to stimulate and anchor investment and business development, or, as the Bevan Foundation warns, there is a serious risk that the potential benefits arising from the improvements will not be realised. There is no place for sectoral or localised political thinking in this strategy, geographically or by Government portfolio.

If we are to change trends, which fail justly to empower our Valleys communities, this strategy must not be confined to economic development, but be extended to greater strategic thinking and leadership in cultural development, heritage funding, community regeneration, learning and tourism. It must be a catalyst that builds on a convergence of themes and ideas, be it the child poverty strategy, or the implications of the inactivity review, which we considered last week, for unlocking the potential of our people, as set out on page 8 of this document. Renewed optimism, fresh thinking, new activity and confidence across south Wales generated by the strategy presents a new strategic opportunity to deliver social justice for the south Wales Valleys from across every Assembly Government portfolio. Social justice demands that this is an opportunity we now take.

Michael German: I am interested to know whether this is the blueprint, or whether the Minister intends for it to be a starting point on a map. If it is the starting point, then it is to be welcomed. He said at the beginning that he is seeking coherence. It would have helped if he had been here during questions earlier this afternoon, which unfortunately he was not, but he has heard Lynne Neagle's point about Blaenavon. That is interesting because I asked the Minister for Culture, Welsh

Blaenau'r Cymoedd yw un o'r mentrau cyntaf i fanteisio ar yr egwyddor o feddylfryd datblygu rhanbarthol, fel y nodwyd yn y cynllun gofodol, ac mae'n llawer cryfach oherwydd hynny. Mae'r strategaeth yn diffinio'r problemau allweddol yn y rhanbarth ac yn cydnabod y ffordd y mae rhaglenni adfywio yn y gorffennol wedi methu cael yr effaith lawn oherwydd diffyg cydlynus priodol. Mae hefyd yn cydnabod na all hyn ddigwydd yn awr. I wneud hyn yn iawn, rhaid adfywio'r rhanbarth a golyga hyn bod angen cynnal y seilwaith drwy tecyn integredig o fesurau i ysgogi ac angori buddsoddiad a datblygu busnesau. Fel arall, fel y rhybuddia Sefydliad Bevan, mae risg fawr na chaiff y manteision possibl sy'n deillio o'r gwelliannau eu gwireddu. Nid oes lle i feddylfryd gwleidyddol sectoraidd na lleol yn y strategaeth hon, yn ddaearyddol nac yn ôl portffolios y Llywodraeth.

Os ydym i newid tueddiadau, sy'n methu'n lân a grymuso ein cymunedau yn y Cymoedd, rhaid peidio â chyfyngu'r strategaeth hon i ddatblygiad economaidd, ond yn hytrach ei ymestyn i gwmpasu meddylfryd ac arweinyddiaeth fwy strategol o ran datblygiad diwylliannol, ariannu treftadaeth, adfywio cymunedau, dysgu a thwristiaeth. Rhaid iddi fod yn gatalydd sy'n adeiladu ar lu o themâu a syniadau, boed yn strategaeth tlodi plant, neu oblygiadau'r adolygiad o anweithgarwch, a ystyriwyd gennym yr wythnos diwethaf, ar gyfer rhyddhau potensial ein pobl, fel y nodwyd ar dudalen 8 o'r ddogfen hon. Mae gobaith newydd, meddylfryd newydd, gweithgaredd newydd a hyder ledled y De yn cael ei ysgogi gan y strategaeth yn gyfle strategol newydd i sicrhau cyflawnder cymdeithasol i Gymoedd y De gan bob portffolio Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Mae cyflawnder cymdeithasol yn mynnu bod hwn yn gyfle y dylem fanteisio arno yn awr.

Michael German: Hoffwn wybod ai dyma'r glasbrint, ynteu ai bwriad y Gweinidog yw iddo fod yn fan cychwyn ar fap. Os man cychwyn ydyw, yna mae i'w groesawu. Dywedodd ar y dechrau ei fod yn chwilio am gydlyniaeth. Byddai wedi helpu pe bai wedi bod yn bresennol yn ystod y cwestiynau yn gynharach y prynhawn yma. Yn anffodus, nid oedd yma, ond mae wedi clywed pwyt Lynne Neagle am Flaenafon. Mae hynny'n ddiddorol gan imi ofyn i'r Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a

Language and Sport during questions what Welsh Assembly Government support has been given to promoting Blaenavon as a book town. The Minister said that no support had been given. However, support has been given, through various mechanisms by the Welsh Assembly Government, to the Big Pit mining museum and the ironworks. That gives us an interesting perspective on whether we have coherence across Government—there is obviously room for improvement. I have two questions for the Minister, therefore. First, is this a starting point, in other words, is it setting out the broad strands of what you will do? If so, that is to be welcomed, and if the intention is to achieve coherence, that is also to be welcomed. Secondly, how much additional money will be spent on doing the things that you want to do? I am a little confused about that, and I wonder whether the Minister can explain this to me.

I understand that the £140 million of extra funding referred to on page 7, amounts to an average, if you take that over the 15 years, of £9.3 million per year. Yet, only £22 million will be spent in the first three years. The expectation, therefore, is that the £140 million will be back-end loaded, in other words, towards the end of the programme. Page 8 talks about an additional £100 million—and the word ‘additional’ is important—to be spent on health capital monies over the next three years, and a further £150 million after that. Has this money already been committed in the health budget, is it truly extra money, or is it money that we have presumably already seen in the plans for the three new hospitals in the area? On page 9, there is a claim about a special fund for people with disabilities. We are not told how much that fund will be. Will that fund come out of the £140 million, which we expect to be back-end loaded? Perhaps the Minister can answer that.

4.10 p.m.

The Minister partially answered my question about page 11 in his opening speech. Page 11 states that an extra £1 billion will be unlocked to bring social housing up to standard. Unlock the £1 billion. Perhaps you could explain whether that means there will be any leverage from the public sector, or is it

Chwaraeon yn ystod y cwestiynau pa gymorth sydd wedi ei roi gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i hybu Blaenafon fel tref llyfrau. Dywedodd y Gweinidog na roddwyd unrhyw gymorth iddi. Fodd bynnag, drwy ddulliau amrywiol, rhoddodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gymorth i amgueddfa lofaol a gwaith haearn y Pwll Mawr. Mae hynny'n rhoi gwedd ddiddorol inni ar y cwestiwn a oes cydlyniaeth ar draws y Llywodraeth-mae'n amlwg bod lle i wella. Mae gennyf ddau gwestiwn i'r Gweinidog, felly. Yn gyntaf, ai man cychwyn yw'r ddogfen hon. Hynny yw, a yw'n nodi elfennau cyffredinol yr hyn y byddwch yn ei wneud? Os felly, dylid ei chroesawu, ac os y bwriad yw sicrhau cydlyniaeth, mae hynny hefyd i'w groesawu. Yn ail, faint o arian ychwanegol a gaiff ei wario ar wneud yr hyn yr ydych am ei wneud? Yr wyf ychydig yn ddryslyd ynglŷn â hynny, at tybed a all y Gweinidog egluro hynny imi?

Deallaf fod yr arian ychwanegol, sef y £140 miliwn y cyfeirir ato ar dudalen 7, os ystyriwch hynny dros y 15 mlynedd, yn cyfateb i gyfartaledd o £9.3 miliwn y flwyddyn. Ond dim ond £22 miliwn a gaiff ei wario yn ystod y tair blynedd cyntaf. Y disgwyliad, felly, yw y bydd y £140 miliwn yn cael ei wario tua diwedd y rhaglen. Mae tudalen 8 yn cyfeirio at £100 miliwn yn ychwanegol—ac mae'r gair ‘ychwanegol’ yn bwysig—i'w wario ar arian cyfalaf iechyd dros y tair blynedd nesaf, a £150 miliwn arall wedi hynny. A yw'r arian hwn eisoes wedi ei ymrwymo yn y gyllideb iechyd, a yw'n arian ychwanegol gwirioneddol, ynteu a yw'n arian yr ydym, yn ôl pob tebyg, eisoes wedi ei weld yn y cynlluniau ar gyfer y tri ysbtyt newydd yn yr ardal? Ar dudalen 9, mae honiad yngylch cronfa arbennig ar gyfer pobl ag anableddau. Ni ddywedir wrthym faint fydd y gronfa honno. A ddaw'r gronfa honno allan o'r £140 miliwn, y disgwyliwn i'r rhan fwyaf ohono gael ei fuddsoddi tua'r diwedd? Hwyach y gall y Gweinidog ateb hynny.

Atebodd y Gweinidog fy nghwestiwn am dudalen 11 yn rhannol yn ei arraith agoriadol. Mae tudalen 11 yn dweud y caiff £1 biliwn ychwanegol ei rhyddhau i godi safonau tai cymdeithasol. Rhyddhau'r £1 biliwn. Efallai y gallwch egluro a yw hynny'n golygu y bydd unrhyw drosoliad o'r sector cyhoeddus, ynteu ai

all private-sector money? What sort of key would you need to unlock that £1 billion?

Finally, page 12 refers to a surplus land fund. That is a wise fund to have, but is it meant to be self-financing ultimately, and, if not, what is the initial pump-priming sum for that? Does that money come out of the £140 million at the beginning?

My final question is about the rail network. Two important loops are needed beyond the Ebbw Vale rail link into Cardiff and Newport. These are the Taff Vale loop, which would allow a half-hour rail service to Merthyr Tydfil, and the one north of Bargoed, which would allow a half-hour service to Rhymney. Are those included as specific plans in the funding that you mentioned?

If this programme is about coherence, then I welcome it. However, does this document provide ambition for the future? The answer to that is that it is probably too soon to tell because we are lacking the specifics. Will there be a Cabinet sub-committee with overall responsibility for this matter?

Jeff Cuthbert: Realising the unfulfilled economic potential of the Heads of the Valleys is essential if we are to increase our nation's long-term growth rate and fulfil the Valleys' potential to become a major economic driver in Wales. Only by working together, through this strategic framework for change, can we remove the barriers to productivity and growth and, in turn, remove the barriers to opportunity and hope that are far too common in local Valleys communities.

We all know the challenges that the Heads of the Valleys areas face. Long-term economic decline, high unemployment and low skills have caused high levels of deprivation and a claimant count for incapacity benefits that runs at twice the national average. There are clearly great challenges ahead. However, in turn, we have achieved amazing benefits. Caerphilly has reached 100 per cent broadband availability, which is a major draw to new businesses and an advantage to existing ones. The Valleys have rapid road

arian y sector preifat i gyd yw hwn? Sut y bwriadwch ryddhau'r £1 biliwn hwnnw?

Yn olaf, cyfeiria tudalen 12 at gronfa o dir dros ben. Mae honno'n gronfa ddoeth i'w chael, ond a fwriedir iddi dalu amdani ei hun yn y pen draw, ac os na wneir, faint yw'r swm ysgogi cychwynnol ar gyfer hynny? A ddaw'r arian hwnnw allan o'r £140 miliwn ar y dechrau?

Mae fy nghwestiwn olaf yn ymwneud â rhwydwaith rheilffyrrd. Mae angen dwy ddolen bwysig y tu hwnt i gyswllt rheilffordd Glynebw y i Gaerdydd a Chasnewydd. Y naill yw dolen Cwm Taf a fyddai'n caniatau gwasanaeth trêb bob hanner awr i Ferthyr Tudful, a'r llall i'r gogledd o Fargod, a fyddai'n caniatau gwasanaeth trêb bob hanner awr i Rymni. A yw'r rheini wedi eu cynnwys fel cynlluniau penodol yn yr arian yr oeddech yn sôn amdano?

Os yw'r rhaglen hon yn ymwneud â chydlyniaeth, yna fe'i croesawaf. Fodd bynnag, a yw'r ddogfen hon yn darparu uchelgais ar gyfer y dyfodol? Yr ateb i hynny yw ein bod hwyrrach yn rhy fuan i ddweud gan nad oes gennym fanylion. A fydd is-bwyllgor Cabinet yn cael ei benodi gyda chyfrifoldeb cyffredinol dros y mater hwn?

Jeff Cuthbert: Mae gwireddu potensial economaidd Blaenau'r Cymoedd yn hanfodol os ydym i gynyddu cyfradd twf hirdymor y genedl a chyflawni potensial y Cymoedd i fod yn un o'r prif hyrwyddwyr economaidd yng Nghymru. Dim ond drwy weithio gyda'n gilydd, drwy'r fframwaith strategol hwn ar gyfer newid, y gallwn ddileu'r hyn sy'n rhwystro cynhyrchiant a thwf, ac yn ei dro ddileu'r hyn sy'n rhwystro cyfleoedd a gobaith sydd lawer yn rhy gyffredin yng nghymunedau lleol y Cymoedd.

Gwyddom oll am yr heriau sy'n wynebu ardalau Blaenau'r Cymoedd. Mae dirywiad economaidd hirdymor, cyfraddau diweithdra uchel a phrinder sgiliau wedi achosi llawer o amddifadedd, ac mae nifer y bobl sy'n hawlio budd-daliadau analluedd ddwywaith yn fwy na'r cyfartaedd cenedlaethol. Mae'n amlwg fod heriau mawr o'n blaenau. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym hefyd wedi sicrhau manteision rhyfeddol. Mae Caerffili wedi sicrhau bod band eang 100 y cant, sy'n atyniad mawr i fusnesau newydd ac o fudd i'r rhai sydd yno eisoes. Mae gan y

and rail links to the capital city and other important centres that are developing daily, and new and improved schools and hospitals.

The mid Rhymney valley is one area to benefit, with a brand new £100 million hospital complex that will be operational by 2009, provided that no parties introduce massive cuts in the meantime. Objective 1 funding has also generated far greater opportunities and delivered 92,000 sustainable jobs to the west Wales and Valleys area. As a result of those strides forwards, the last five years have seen a reduction in the claimant count for incapacity benefit, by as much as 33 per cent in areas like Blaenau Gwent. Two thirds of the drop in Wales's economic inactivity has occurred in the west Wales and Valleys areas. This framework, therefore, is a great way of capitalising on this progress and of ensuring the best use of the £300 million dualling of the A645.

It is clear that to meet these new major challenges, as set out in the strategic framework, all stakeholders must pull together and use all the levers of public policy at our disposal. We must prove that the Heads of the Valleys can offer an unbeatable package of access, quality sites and premises, a high skills base and business-friendly funding and support. Breathing new life and opportunity into Valleys communities will require this framework to complement existing regeneration schemes, such as the one in Bargoed in my constituency, which has arisen out of Assembly funding for the badly needed Bargoed relief road, as it is now called locally. This is as welcome regeneration scheme and I would want the framework to be sensitive to the progress that it has already made. I would like the Minister to say a little more about how the local schemes will weave together with the strategic framework.

Fundamental to all this important work must be the continued consultation and dialogue with those who represent businesses and the workers of Wales. The unions and employer groups represent both the financial and intellectual capital of our nation, and it is only by securing their support that we can truly achieve these aims. That is why I am

Cymoedd gysylltiadau ffyrdd a rheilffyrdd cyflym i'r brifddinas a chanolfannau pwysig eraill sy'n datblygu bob dydd, ac i ysgolion ac ysbtyai newydd a gwell.

Un ardal sydd wedi elwa o hyn yw canol cwm Rhymni, lle mae ysbty newydd gwerth £100 miliwn a fydd ar waith erbyn 2009, ar yr amod na fydd unrhyw blaid yn cyflwyno toriadau anferth yn y cyfamser. Mae arian Amcan 1 hefyd wedi cynhyrchu llawer mwy o gyfleoedd ac wedi darparu 92,000 o swyddi cynaliadwy yn ardal gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd. O ganlyniad i'r camau breision hyn dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf, gwelwyd gostyngiad y nifer y bobl sy'n hawlio budd-daliadau analluedd, gymaint â 33 y cant mewn ardaloedd fel Blaenau Gwent. Mae dwy ran o dair o'r gostyngiad mewn anweithgarwch economaidd yng Nghymru wedi digwydd yn y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd. Mae'r fframwaith hwn, felly, yn ffordd wych i fanteisio ar y cynnydd hwn a sicrhau defnyddio y y ffordd orau y £300 miliwn i wneud yr A465 yn ffordd ddeuol. Er mwyn ymateb i'r heriau mawr newydd hyn, fel y maent wedi eu gosod allan yn y fframwaith strategol, mae'n amlwg bod rhaid i bob rhanddeiliad gydwethio a defnyddio pob agwedd ar bolisi cyhoeddus sydd ar gael inni. Rhaid inni brofi y gall Blaenau'r Cymoedd gynnig pecyn di-ail sy'n cynnwys mynediad, safleoedd ac adeiladau o safon, pobl fedrus ac arian a chymorth i fusnesau. Er mwyn rhoi bywyd newydd a cyfleoedd newydd i gymunedau'r Cymoedd, bydd angen i'r fframwaith hwn gyfateb i gynlluniau adfywio presennol, megis yr un ym Margod yn fy etholaeth i, sydd wedi deillio o arian y Cynulliad ar gyfer yr hyn a elwir yn lleol yn ffordd liniaru Bargoed erbyn hyn, ffordd y mae ei hangen yn ddifawr. Mae hwn yn gynllun adfywio i'w groesawu, a hoffwn i'r fframwaith fod yn sensitif i'r cynnydd a wnaed eisoes. Hoffwn i'r Gweinidog ddweud ychydig mwy am y ffordd y bydd cynlluniau lleol yn cyblethu â'r fframwaith strategol.

Rhaid i'r gwaith ymgynghori a thrafod parhaus gyda'r rhai sy'n cynrychioli busnesau a gweithwyr Cymru fod yn sylfaen i'r holl waith pwysig hwn. Mae'r undebau a'r grwpiau cyflogwyr yn cynrychioli adnoddau ariannol a deallusol ein cenedl, a dim ond drwy sicrhau eu cefnogaeth y gallwn yn wirioneddol gyflawni'r nodau hynny. Dyna pam yr wyf yn falch o weld

very happy to see that the framework takes this on board. At the end of the day, private-sector investment will only be secured if we meet their needs.

The Heads of the Valleys skills forum is a key example within the framework of an open dialogue with business. The forum promises to involve local employers, unions, learners and the sector skills council. It seems to be a vital forum, which, if equipped with sufficient power and capital, has the potential to do a great deal to drive up the skills in the areas and enable an effective attack on existing and projected local skills gaps. Can the Minister expand a little on the forum's role in his response to this debate?

The strategy provides a shared vision and a joint solution, but, as we know, the devil is in the detail, and I look forward to reading the outcomes of this consultation and being active in helping to deliver the huge benefits. Every Member wants to see this strategy deliver for the Heads of the Valleys.

Christine Chapman: The long-term vision of this strategy is very welcome. It is a 15-year programme with an aim that, by 2020, the Heads of the Valleys will be an attractive and viable place for people to live, work and play.

For me, the important part is providing the physical, social and economic environment in which people can realise their full potential. We must do away with the perception that, after receiving their education and training, people need a passport out of the Valleys to use these to develop professional careers. We must ensure that, once we give people the skills and attributes that they need to thrive, this benefit is retained within the Valleys economy, and that settling in the Valleys in the long-term is a viable and desirable proposition.

There is a need for a long-term plan, as the problems in the Valleys are of a long-term nature. Members of my constituency and neighbouring constituencies will remember the hollow promises of Peter Walker's so-called 'Valleys initiative', when he was the Conservative Secretary of State for Wales. In

bod y fframwaith yn ystyried hyn. Yn y pen draw, dim ond os bodlonwn eu hanghenion y gellir sicrhau buddsoddiad y sector preifat.

Mae fforwm sgiliau Blaenau'r Cymoedd yn engraifft allweddol yn y fframwaith o drafodaeth agored gyda busnes. Mae'r fforwm yn addo cynnwys cyflogwyr lleol, undebau, dysgwyr a'r cyngor sgiliau sector. Ymddengys yn fforwm hollbwysig, ac os caiff y pŵer a'r cyfalaf digonol, bydd ganddo'r potensial i wneud llawer iawn i wella'r sgiliau yn yr ardal oedd a helpu mynd i'r afael yn effeithiol â'r broblem o ran y bylchau presennol a'r bylchau arfaethedig mewn sgiliau lleol. A all y Gweinidog ymhelaethu ychydig ar rôl y fforwm yn ei ymateb i'r ddadl hon?

Mae'r strategaeth yn darparu gweledigaeth sy'n cael ei rhannu ac ateb ar y cyd, ond, fel y gwyddom, rhaid edrych yn fanwl ar y manylion, ac edrychaf ymlaen at ddarllen canlyniadau'r ymgynghori hwn a bod yn weithgar wrth helpu sicrhau'r buddiannau enfawr. Mae pob Aelod am weld y strategaeth hon yn gwneud gwahaniaeth i Flaenau'r Cymoedd.

Christine Chapman: Croesewir gweledigaeth hirdymor y strategaeth hon yn frwd. Mae'n rhaglen 15 mlynedd sydd â'r nod o sicrhau y bydd Blaenau'r Cymoedd, erbyn 2020, yn lle atyniadol a dichonadwy i bobl fyw, gweithio a chwarae.

I mi, y rhan bwysig yw darparu'r amgylchedd ffisegol, cymdeithasol ac economaidd lle gall pobl wireddu eu potensial llawn. Rhaid chwalu'r canfyddiad ei bod yn rhaid i bobl, ar ôl cael addysg a hyfforddiant, eu defnyddio er mwyn gadael y Cymoedd i ddatblygu gyfra broffesiynol. Rhaid inni sicrhau, ar ôl rhoi iddynt y sgiliau a'r priodoleddau sydd eu hangen arnynt i ffynnu, y cedwir y budd hwn o fewn economi'r Cymoedd, ac y bydd ymsefydlu yn y Cymoedd yn yr hirdymor yn gynnig dichonadwy a dymunol.

Mae angen cynllun hirdymor, gan fod y problemau yn y Cymoedd o natur hirdymor. Bydd aelodau yn fy etholaeth ac etholaethau cyfagos yn cofio addewidion gwag 'menter y Cymoedd', fel y'i gelwid, gan Peter Walker pan oedd yn Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru o dan Lywodraeth Geidwadol. I'r gwrthwyneb, rhaid

contrast to that, this strategy must not be allowed to fail, and it must address the cycle of second and third-generation unemployment and the symptoms that go with it.

For this programme to succeed and make a real difference, it needs co-operation and the strategic capacity to deliver strong and clear leadership. The Heads of the Valleys have great potential, and there is no reason why they must remain on the scrapheap where the Tories left them. This strategy is a chance to overcome the cynicism that has set in over the years that change simply will not happen. We are already seeing success, and that the Valleys have a key role to play in a devolved Wales with the relocation of government offices to Merthyr Tydfil.

Mark Isherwood: If everything has been so good since 1997, why is everything so bad now? Why do independent reports state that Wales has lower prosperity and poorer basic skills than any other nation or region in the United Kingdom? Why is inward investment falling, and outward investment increasing as UK and Welsh manufacturers relocate abroad? Why are debt levels at record levels? Why did we see after-tax incomes fall for the first time in 15 years last year? Why do we have a housing crisis in Wales under Labour? That is the reality of your legacy, and that is why Gordon Brown should be sacked, as Peter Walker has called for today.

Christine Chapman: I was around in the 1970s and 1980s, and I can remember the damage done by the Tories to the area in which I live and work, and I am sorry but I would not wish to return to those days. Of course there are problems in the Valleys, but we need to address them, which is what this strategy will do.

I am also pleased that Welsh Labour has secured a future for the former Phurnacite land in Abercwmboi, in my constituency, where there was contaminated waste. Welsh Labour is securing a future for the area, and I thank Andrew Davies and Sue Essex who have had the vision to resolve this problem. My constituents are looking forward to a

sierhau na fydd y strategaeth hon yn methu, a rhaid iddi ymdrin â'r cylch o ddiweithdra ail a thrydedd genhedlaeth a'r symptomau sydd ynghlwm wrth hynny.

Er mwyn i'r rhaglen hon lwyddo a gwneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol, mae angen cydweithrediad arni a'r gallu strategol i roi arweinyddiaeth gref a chlir. Mae gan Flaenau'r Cymoedd botensial mawr, ac nid oes unrhyw reswm pam y mae'n rhaid iddynt aros ar y domen lle cawsant eu gadael gan y Toraïad. Mae'r strategaeth hon yn gyfle i oresgyn y sinigiaeth sydd wedi codi dros y blynnyddoedd na fydd y newid yn digwydd. Yr ydym eisoes yn gweld llwyddiant, ac yn gweld bod gan y Cymoedd ran allweddol i'w chwarae mewn Cymru ddatganoledig drwy symud swyddfeydd y llywodraeth i Ferthery Tudful.

Mark Isherwood: Os yw popeth wedi bod crystal er 1997, pam mae popeth mor wael yn awr? Pam mae adroddiadau annibynnol yn dweud bod gan Gymru ffyniant is a sgilau sylfaenol gwaeth nag unrhyw wlad neu ranbarth arall yn y Deyrnas Unedig? Pam mae mewnfuddsoddiad yn lleihau, ac allfuddsoddi yn cynyddu wrth i weithgynhyrchwyr o'r DU a Chymru symud dramor? Pam mae lefelau dyledion ar eu huchaf erioed? Pam y gwelsom incwm ar ôl treth yn gostwng y llynedd am y tro cyntaf mewn 15 mlynedd? Pam mae gennym argyfwng tai yng Nghymru o dan Lafur? Dyna realiti yr hyn a drosglwyddwyd gennych, a dyna pam y dylid diswyddo Gordon Brown, fel y mynnodd Peter Walker heddiw.

Christine Chapman: Cofiaf y niwed a wnaeth y Toraïad yn yr 1970au a'r 1980au i'r ardal lle yr wyf yn byw ac yn gweithio, ac mae'n ddrwg gennyf ddweud na fyddwn yn dymuno dychwelyd i'r cyfnod hwnnw. Wrth gwrs, mae problemau yn y Cymoedd, ond mae angen inni fynd i'r afael â hwy, sef yr hyn y bydd y strategaeth hon yn ei wneud.

Yr wyf yn falch hefyd fod Llafur Cymru wedi sierhau dyfodol i'r hen dir Phurnacite yn Abercwm-boi, yn fy etholaeth i, lle yr oedd gwastraff wedi ei halogi. Mae Llafur Cymru yn sierhau dyfodol i'r ardal, a diolchaf i Andrew Davies a Sue Essex a oedd â'r weledigaeth i ddatrys y broblem hon. Mae fy etholwyr yn edrych ymlaen at ddyfodol gwell o lawer.

much better future.

4.20 p.m.

However, we need more than this with regard to the strategy. We need to establish the Valleys as economically sustainable communities in their own right. As the Wales spatial plan outlines, we must make the Valleys an area that functions as a coherent urban network that can compete internationally. With the right strategic thinking, and sufficient investment and forward planning, the Valleys can merge the benefits of an urban economy with the cultural advantages of its proximity to rural areas.

How do we make this happen? I think that it is through collaboration and partnership that this will be achieved, and there needs to be a balance between direction from the centre and implementation in the communities. For example, universities, local authorities and key stakeholders must work together, and this also means that local authorities must work with each other. We will achieve more working as a team rather than as individual units, and by drawing on a collective pool of resources.

Finally, I welcome this strategy and would be interested to hear the Minister's views on how he will ensure that we achieve this spirit of collaboration and partnership.

Huw Lewis: I would like to begin by warmly welcoming the Heads of the Valleys strategy and place on record my thanks to the Minister for the work that has been achieved so far. It represents a great leap forward in Labour's mission to rid Wales of poverty and deprivation. The strategy enables the Assembly to fight the war on poverty, poor health and poor skills in a more coherent and concerted way.

The Minister will be aware that I, along with other Valleys Forward Assembly Members and Members of Parliament, and the Bevan Foundation, have long called for a more integrated response to the problems facing the Heads of the Valleys; we now have it. It is a response that uses the full weight of Government—every department, every

Fodd bynnag, mae angen mwy na hyn arnom o ran y strategaeth. Mae angen inni sefydlu'r Cymoedd fel cymunedau sy'n economaidd gynaliadwy ynddynt eu hunain. Fel y mae cynllun gofodol Cymru yn ei amlinellu, rhaid inni wneud y Cymoedd yn ardal sy'n gweithredu fel rhwydwaith trefol cydlynol a all gystadlu'n rhyngwladol. Gyda'r meddylfryd strategol cywir, a digon o fuddsoddi a blaengynllunio, gall y Cymoedd uno buddiannau economi drefol â'r manteision diwylliannol o fod yn agos i ardaloedd gwledig.

Sut mae cyflawni hyn? Credaf mai drwy gydweithio a phartneriaeth y cyflawnir hyn, ac mae angen cydbwysedd rhwng cyfeiriad o'r canol a gweithredu yn y cymunedau. Er enghraifft, rhaid i brifysgolion, awdurdodau lleol a rhanddeiliaid allweddol gydweithio, ac mae hyn hefyd yn golygu bod yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol gydweithio. Byddwn yn cyflawni mwy drwy weithio fel tîm yn hytrach nag fel unedau unigol, a thrwy ddefnyddio cronfa gyfunol o adnoddau.

I gloi, yr wyf yn croesawu'r strategaeth hon, a hoffwn glywed barn y Gweinidog am y ffordd y bydd yn sicrhau ein bod yn cyflawni'r ysbryd hwn o gydweithio a phartneriaeth.

Huw Lewis: Hoffwn ddechrau drwy groesawu strategaeth Blaenau'r Cymoedd yn gynnes a chofnodi fy niolch i'r Gweinidog am y gwaith a wnaed hyd yma. Mae'n gam enfawr ymlaen yng nghenhadaeth Llafur i ddileu tlodi ac amddifadedd yng Nghymru. Mae'r strategaeth yn galluogi'r Cynulliad i ymladd y frwydr ar dldoli, iechyd gwael a sgiliau gwael mewn ffordd fwy cydlynol ac unedig.

Gŵyr y Gweinidog fy mod i, ynghyd ag Aelodau Cynulliad eraill Valleys Forward ac Aelodau Seneddol, a'r Sefydliad Bevan, wedi galw ers amser am ymateb mwy integredig i'r problemau sy'n wynebu Blaenau'r Cymoedd; bellach mae hynny gennym. Mae'n ymateb sy'n defnyddio grym llwyr y Llywodraeth—pob adran, pob asiantaeth, a heb anghofio

agency, and not forgetting local government—to tackle the problems that we face. It is a response that not only commits to alleviating the consequences of poverty, but also seeks to eradicate the causes of that poverty. This is a strategy rooted in Labour values; a strategy that only a Labour Government could deliver.

I would like to address some passing comments to the Cassandras of Plaid Cymru, whose response to this £140 million strategy, thought through with respected partners like the Bevan Foundation, hanging onto a £300 million investment in the dualling of the Heads of the Valleys road, was to bleat over an opencast application in my constituency, for a few votes, while Labour gets on with this massive regenerative mission.

Janet Davies: Will you take an intervention?

Huw Lewis: In a moment, Janet. I must tell Plaid Cymru not to worry: all two dozen protest votes in Merthyr are secure, they are theirs. They can now move on to another issue, rather than the Ffos-y-Fran opencast site.

Janet Davies: It is not an issue of the votes; I talked about this last July, Huw. When I raised this in a committee meeting that was to look at the Bevan Foundation report, which I think that this has largely come out of, there was a look of real concern on the Minister's face. Having a working opencast site so close to an area that will be attracting high-quality investment cannot be good.

Huw Lewis: You are trying hard, Janet, and I appreciate it. I have not seen such an effort since your colleague Jocelyn Davies described the area in question as an area of outstanding natural beauty. Anyone who knows the area will know that it is a moonscape. It is in itself worth an injection of £350 million in terms of wages, building a new road, and a new rail link to Merthyr—and that is worth another £350 million of investment to the area. However, let us move on to the bigger picture, which Plaid Cymru cannot see.

Fighting the causes of poverty in the Valleys is fundamental to moving the whole of Wales

llywodraeth leol— i fynd i'r afael â'r problemau a wynebwn. Mae'n ymateb sydd nid yn unig yn ymrwymo i leddfu canlyniadau tlodi, ond sydd hefyd yn ceisio dileu achosion y tlodi hwnnw. Mae hon yn strategaeth sydd wedi ei gwreiddio yng ngwerthoedd Llafur; strategaeth na all ond Llywodraeth Lafur ei chyflawni.

Hoffwn gyfeirio rhai sylwadau wrth fynd heibio at broffwydi gwaes Plaid Cymru, a ymatebodd i'r strategaeth hon gwerth £140 miliwn, a gafodd ei hystyried gyda phartneriaid uchel eu parch fel Sefydliad Bevan, gan ddal gafael ar fuddsoddiad o £300 miliwn i ddeuoli ffordd Blaenau'r Cymoedd, drwy gwyno am gais am gael gwaith glo brig yn fy etholaeth, am ychydig bleidleisiau, tra mae Llafur yn parhau â'r genhadaeth adfywio enfawr hon.

Janet Davies: A dderbyniwch ymyriad?

Huw Lewis: Ymhen eiliad, Janet. Rhaid imi ddweud wrth Blaid Cymru am beidio â phoeni: mae'r ddau ddwsin o bleidleisiau gwrthdystio ym Merthyr yn ddiogel, eu pleidleisiau hwy ydynt. Gallant symud ymlaen yn awr i fater arall, yn hytrach na safle glo brig Ffos-y-frân.

Janet Davies: Nid mater o bleidleisiau yw hwn; soniwyd am hyn fis Gorffennaf diwethaf, Huw. Pan godais hyn mewn cyfarfod o'r pwylgor a oedd â'r dasg o ystyried adroddiad Sefydliad Bevan y mae hyn, i raddau helaeth, wedi deillio ohono, fe gredaf, yr oedd golwg bryderus iawn ar wyneb y Gweinidog. Nid yw'n iawn cael safle glo brig sy'n gweithio mor agos i ardal a fydd yn denu buddsoddiad o safon.

Huw Lewis: Yr ydych yn ymdrechu'n galed, Janet, ac yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi hynny. Ni welais ymdrech debyg ers i'ch cyd-Aelod Jocelyn Davies ddisgrifio'r ardal dan sylw fel ardal o harddwch naturiol eithriadol. Bydd unrhyw un sy'n gyfarwydd â'r ardal yn gwybod ei bod fel darn o'r lleuad. Ynddi ei hun mae'n werth chwistrelliad o £350 miliwn mewn cyflogau, adeiladu ffordd newydd, a chyswllt rheilffordd newydd i Ferthyr—ac mae hynny'n werth £350 miliwn arall o fuddsoddiad yn yr ardal. Fodd bynnag, gadewch inni weld y darlun mwy, y darlun na all Plaid Cymru ei weld.

Mae ymladd achosion tlodi yn y Cymoedd yn hollbwysig er mwyn datblygiad Cymru gyfan.

forward. Spreading prosperity to the Heads of the Valleys, a region scarred by the highest levels of unemployment, economic inactivity and child poverty, should not be an endeavour of interest only to Valleys communities. The contribution of the Valleys is key to the future prosperity of Wales as a whole; if the Valleys fail, the whole of Wales fails. That is why it is important that we do not tackle only the consequences of deprivation: poor housing, poor health and poor education. We must also tackle the causes of deprivation: poor skills, poor jobs and underinvestment.

As the people of the Valleys know, past attempts at regeneration have largely failed to kill off deprivation at its roots—potshing by Peter Walker not excepted. These attempts, by and large, have focused more on places and processes than on people and their potential. This strategy marks a change in that approach. The Bevan Foundation argues, like this strategy, that the future success of the Heads of the Valleys—the goal of securing more prosperous communities with social justice and opportunity at their core—can only be delivered if the Assembly ensures investment and expenditure is focused.

The A465 upgrade is a once-in-a-generation chance to combine capital investment in infrastructure with added investment in public services—an attractive option for private investment alongside investment in the people of the region. The Minister is right to call on the key players to work together to this end. We must ensure that local authorities, Assembly sponsored public bodies, and the voluntary and private sectors work to the goals set out in the strategy.

Lisa Francis: The theme of this report, then, is collaboration, as you have said, and you mentioned skills and so on. Does it not concern you that the lack of detail in this document on ASPBs will seriously affect the implementation of this document? Surely it must.

Huw Lewis: It only concerns me in so much as the Tories seem incapable of

Dylai lledaenu ffyniant i Flaenau'r Cymoedd, sef rhanbarth sydd wedi ei chreithio gan y lefelau uchaf o ddiweithdra, anweithgarwch economaidd a thlodi ymhli plant, fod o fuddnid i gymunedau'r Cymoedd yn unig. Mae cyfraniad y Cymoedd yn allweddol i ffyniant Cymru gyfan yn y dyfodol; os bydd y Cymoedd yn methu, bydd Cymru gyfan yn methu. Dyna pam mae'n bwysig inni nid yn unig fynd i'r afael â chanlyniadau amddifadedd: tai gwael, iechyd gwael ac addysg wael. Rhaid inni hefyd fynd i'r afael ag achosion amddifadedd: sgiliau gwael, swyddi gwael a thanfuddsoddiad.

Fel y gŵyr pobl y Cymoedd, mae ymdrechion yn y gorffennol i adfywio wedi methu i raddau helaeth â dileu amddifadedd yn y gwraidd—ac eithrio'r potsio gan Peter Walker. Mae'r ymdrechion hyn, ar y cyfan, wedi canolbwytio ar leoedd a phrosesau yn fwy nag ar bobl a'u potensial. Mae'r strategaeth hon yn nodi newid yn yr ymagwedd honno. Mae Sefydliad Bevan yn dadlau, fel y strategaeth hon, mai dim ond os bydd y Cynulliad yn canolbwytio ar fuddsoddiad a gwariant y bydd Blaenau'r Cymoedd yn llwyddo yn y dyfodol—sef y nod o sicrhau cymunedau mwy ffyniannus gyda chyflawnder cymdeithasol a chyfleoedd yn ganolbwyt iddynt.

Mae'r gwaith o uwchraddio ffordd yr A465 yn gyfle unwaith mewn cenhedaeth i gyfuno buddsoddiad cyfalaf mewn seilwaith â buddsoddiad ychwanegol mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus—dewis atyniadol ar gyfer buddsoddiad preifat ochr yn ochr â buddsoddiad ym mhobl y rhanbarth. Mae'r Gweinidog yn iawn i alw ar y chwaraewyr allweddol i gydweithio i'r perwyl hwn. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol, cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad, a'r sectorau gwirfoddol a phreifat yn gweithio i gyflawni'r nodau yn y strategaeth.

Lisa Francis: Thema'r adroddiad hwn, felly, yw cydweithio, fel y dywedwch, ac yr oeddech yn sôn am sgiliau, ac yn y blaen. Onid yw'n achosi pryder ichi y bydd y diffyg manylion yn y ddogfen hon am CCNCau yn effeithio'n ddifrifol ar weithredu'r ddogfen hon? Mae'n rhaid ei fod.

Huw Lewis: Mae'n achosi pryder imi dim ond i'r graddau nad yw'n ymddangos bod y Torïaid

understanding the process by which we will work towards the implementation of this strategy. If you read the strategy, it will tell you that we will soon appoint a director and, after that, we will work towards a detailed strategic action plan for delivery. We have not quite reached the stage of Stalinist five-year plans, even though the Tory Party seems to be demanding them. Perhaps we should move on to thinking in that direction and make them happy in that regard.

On education, Education and Learning Wales and the learning sector must ensure that people in the Valleys are equipped with the right skills and knowledge. That means, for instance—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You need to wind up at some time, Huw, I know that you have allowed two interventions, for which I will allow you half a minute, but then you need to come to an end.

Huw Lewis: You have imposed no time limits on any other speaker. We have an enormous amount of time available this afternoon.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I am sorry, but the time limit is normally five minutes, with an extra minute for interventions. You have now had six and a quarter minutes. Do continue, but come to an end, please.

Huw Lewis: ELWa must stop its endless consulting on a lifelong learning campus for Merthyr and just get on and build one. Merthyr must become a university town during the lifetime of this strategy. Local authorities must put aside their individual interests to work together for the common good. The Welsh Development Agency must secure investment and growth in the A465 corridor, as it has successfully done along the M4 corridor. They must work with Communities First partnerships to ensure that the economy grows from the bottom up as well as from the top down.

The Wales Tourist Board must change its way of working fundamentally—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You

yn gallu deall y broses a ddefnyddiwn i weithio tuag at weithredu'r strategaeth hon. Os darllenwch y strategaeth, bydd yn dweud wrth y byddwn yn penodi cyfarwyddwr yn fuan, ac ar ôl hynny byddwn yn gweithio tuag at gyflawni cynllun gweithredu strategol manwl. Nid ydym wedi cyrraedd y fan eto lle mae gennym gynlluniau pum mlynedd Stalinaidd, er bod y Blaid Doriaidd yn eu mynnu, yn ôl pob tebyg. Efallai y dylem ddechrau ystyried hynny a'u gwneud yn hapus yn hynny o beth.

O ran addysg, rhaid i Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru a'r sector dysgu sicrhau bod gan bobl yn y Cymoedd y sgiliau a'r wybodaeth gywir. Mae hynny'n golygu, er enghraift—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae angen ichi ddirwyn i ben rywbryd, Huw. Gwn eich bod wedi caniatâu dau ymyriad, a rhoddfa hanner munud ichi am hynny, ond yna rhaid ichi ddirwyn i ben.

Huw Lewis: Nid ydych wedi gosod unrhyw derfynau amser ar unrhyw siaradwr arall. Mae gennym lawer iawn o amser y prynhawn yma.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae'n ddrwg gennyl, ond pum munud yw'r terfyn amser fel arfer, gyda munud ychwanegol ar gyfer ymyriadau. Yr ydych bellach wedi cael chwe munud a hanner. Ewch yn eich blaen, ond ceisiwch ddod i ben, os gwelwch yn dda.

Huw Lewis: Rhaid i ELWa roi'r gorau i'w ymgynghori diddiwedd ar gampws dysgu gydol oes i Ferthyr, a mynd ati i adeiladu un. Rhaid i Ferthyr ddod yn dref prifysgol yn ystod oes y strategaeth hon. Rhaid i awdurdodau lleol roi eu buddiannau unigol o'r neilltu i gydweithio er lles pawb. Rhaid i Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru sicrhau buddsoddiad a thwf cadarn yng nghoridor yr A465, fel y gwnaeth yn llwyddiannus ar hyd corridor yr M4. Rhaid iddynt weithio gyda phartneriaethau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf i sicrhau bod yr economi'n tyfu o'r gwaelod i fyny yn ogystal ag o'r brig i lawr.

Rhaid i Fwrdd Croeso Cymru newid ei ffordd o weithio yn y bôn—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Rhaid ichi ddirwyn

must come to an end now; you have gone over seven minutes.

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): I remember visiting the Corus steel plant in Ebbw Vale a few years ago, a week before it closed; I was also privileged enough to take part in the march organised by the community and the employees of the factory through Ebbw Vale to mark the end of centuries of steel production there. What struck me in the conversations that I had with the people who had worked in the plant and lived in that community was their pride in their community. They were proud of their skills and tradition. They believed that they had a prosperous future.

Like some of my Labour colleagues, I have been rather depressed by the negative tone of many of the contributions from opposition members this afternoon. They have attempted to create a picture of failure, not just of those communities, but of the Labour Government, and a picture of a future where there is no hope for communities in the Heads of the Valleys. As I have just indicated, this picture is not recognised by the people of the Heads of the Valleys, Blaenau Gwent or any of the other communities in that corridor. They have pride in their communities and in their potential, they have increasing hope for their future and an understanding that it is Labour in Government that is investing in their future and realising the potential of their communities.

4.30 p.m.

Irene James and several colleagues made the point that this is a new approach, which recognises that it is only through an integrated regional approach to development that our policies and delivery will be successful. That success will only be achieved through collaboration between all the key players in the public, private and voluntary sectors, but, above all, between those in the public sector—particularly the five local authorities covered by this strategic approach.

There has been significant success since Cafwyd cryn lwyddiant er 1997. Fel y

i ben yn awr; yr ydych wedi cael mwy na saith munud.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Cofiaf ym weld â gwaith dur Corus yng Nglynnebwyr rai blynnyddoedd yn ôl, wythnos cyn iddo gau; cefais y faint hefyd o gymryd rhan yn yr orymdaith a drefnwyd gan y gymuned a gweithwyr y ffatri drwy Lynebwyr, i nodi diwedd canrifioedd o gynhyrchu dur yno. Yr hyn a'm trawodd yn y sgyrsiau a gefais gyda'r bobl a oedd wedi gweithio yno, ac a oedd wedi byw yn y gymuned honno, oedd eu balchder yn eu cymuned. Yr oeddent yn falch o'u sgiliau a'u traddodiad. Yr oeddent yn credu bod ganddynt ddyfodol ffyniannus.

Fel rhai o'm cyd-Aelodau Llafur, yr wyf wedi digalonni braidd wrth glywed y cyfraniadau negyddol gan aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau y prynhawn yma. Maent wedi ceisio creu darlun o fethiant: nid methiant y cymunedau hynny yn unig, ond methiant Llywodraeth Lafur, a darlun o ddyfodol lle nad oes unrhyw obaith i gymunedau ym Mlaenau'r Cymoedd. Fel yr wyf newydd ddweud, nid yw'r darlun hwn yn gyfarwydd i bobl Blaenau'r Cymoedd, Blaenau Gwent nac unrhyw gymuned arall yn y corridor hwnnw. Maent yn ymfalchiö yn eu cymunedau ac yn eu potensial, mae ganddynt obaith cynyddol am eu dyfodol a dealltwriaeth mai Llywodraeth Lafur sy'n buddsoddi yn eu dyfodol ac yn gwireddu potensial eu cymunedau.

Gwnaeth Irene James a nifer o'i chyd-Aelodau y pwyt fod hon yn ymagwedd newydd, sy'n cydnabod mai dim ond drwy fabwysiadu ymagwedd ranbarthol integredig tuag at ddatblygu y bydd ein polisiau a'r broses o'u cyflwyno yn llwyddiannus. Dim ond drwy sicrhau bod holl aelodau allweddol y sector cyhoeddus, y sector preifat a'r sector gwirfoddol yn cydweithio ond, yn bennaf oll, y rhai o fewn y sector cyhoeddus—yn enwedig y pum awdurdod lleol sy'n cael eu cynnwys gan yr ymagwedd strategol hon—y gellir sicrhau llwyddiant.

1997. As some of my colleagues have said, the reason why we have to come forward with major and significant regeneration projects in communities such as the Heads of the Valleys is largely because of the de-industrialisation visited upon these communities by the 18 years of Conservative Government between 1979 and 1997. The Members' Research Service did a study for the last meeting of the Economic Development and Transport Committee. In its very dry and inimitable research way, it indicated why we have significant economic and social problems in these communities, and stated that it was largely down to the policies inflicted on those communities between 1979 and 1997. We now have an unemployment rate in Wales that is below that of the rest of the UK. Who would have thought that that would have been possible in the mid to late 1980s, or, indeed, in the early 1990s?

I turn to some of the specific points that were raised—I will not have time to respond to them all in detail. I thank Mike German and Jenny Randerson for their welcome, although, as ever, it is qualified. I agree with Mike German that coherence is needed. I believe that this strategic framework provides that coherence. It is a starting point, and it is about broad strands at this stage—this is, after all, a consultation document. Much of the detail, as Huw Lewis said, will be filled out once the project director is appointed, and the project team is appointed and assembled; we can then fill out the more detailed points in the document.

You made some points about finance, Mike, and the £150 million of additional funding. That will be spread out evenly over the 15 years of the programme. I will provide you with a detailed response in writing on your specific questions about health, disability, and transport—particularly rail infrastructure. On your question about the surplus land fund, and the issue of housing stock improvement, it is far too early at this stage to give any detail on that. However, the broad principle that underlies this document—and one of the ways in which the approach is innovative—is that this is a Cabinet document. I take the lead responsibility for it as the Minister responsible for south-east Wales in the Wales spatial plan, but, nevertheless, this is a Cabinet approach. It is innovative in the

dywedodd rhai o'm cyd-Aelodau, y prif reswm dros orfod cyflwyno prosiectau adfywio mawr a sylweddol mewn cymunedau megis Blaenau'r Cymoedd yw'r dad-ddiwydiannu a ddigwyddodd yn y cymunedau hyn yn ystod y 18 mlynedd pan oedd y Llywodraeth Geidwadol mewn grym rhwng 1979 a 1997. Gwnaed astudiaeth gan Wasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau ar gyfer cyfarfod diwethaf y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth. Yn ei ddull ymchwilio sych iawn a digyffelyb, nododd y rheswm dros y problemau economaidd a chymdeithasol sylweddol yn ein cymunedau, a nododd mai'r prif reswm dros hynny oedd y polisiau a gyflwynwyd yn y cymunedau hynny rhwng 1979 a 1997. Bellach mae gennym gyfradd ddiweithdra yng Nghymru sy'n is na'r hyn a geir yng ngweddill y DU. Pwy fyddai wedi dychmygu y byddai hynny'n bosibl yng nghanol ac ar ddiwedd yr 1980au, neu, yn wir, ar ddechrau'r 1990au?

Trof at rai o'r pwyntiau penodol a godwyd—ni fydd gennyd amser i ymateb i bob un ohonynt yn fanwl. Hoffwn ddiolch i Mike German a Jenny Randerson am eu croeso, er bod hwnnw, fel erioed, yn amodol. Cytunaf gyda Mike German fod angen cydlyniaeth. Credaf fod y fframwaith strategol hwn yn darparu'r gydlyniaeth honno. Mae'n fan cychwyn, ac mae a wnelo â meysydd eang yn y cyfnod hwn—dogfen ymgynghori yw hon wedi'r cyfan. Fel y dywedodd Huw Lewis, bydd mwy o fanylion ar gael ar ôl penodi cyfarwyddwr y prosiect, ac ar ôl penodi a sefydlu tîm y prosiect; yna gallwn gynnwys y pwyntiau manylach yn y ddogfen.

Gwnaethoch rai pwyntiau yngylch cyllid, Mike, a'r £150 miliwn o gyllid ychwanegol. Bydd y swm hwnnw'n cael ei ddyrannu'n gyfartal yn ystod 15 mlynedd y rhaglen. Darparaf ymateb manwl ysgrifenedig i'ch cwestiynau penodol ar iechyd, anabledd, a thrafnidiaeth—yn enwedig y seilwaith rheilffyrdd. O ran eich cwestiwn ar y gronfa tir dros ben, a'r mater yngylch gwella stoc tai, mae hi lawer yn rhy gynnar i roi unrhyw fanylion yngylch hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr egwyddor gyffredinol sy'n sail i'r ddogfen hon—ac un o'r ffyrdd y mae'r ymagwedd yn arloesol—yw mai dogfen Gabinet yw hon. Fel y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am dde-ddwyrain Cymru yng nghynllun gofodol Cymru, fi sy'n bennaf gyfrifol amdani, ond er hynny, ymagwedd Gabinet yw hon. Mae'n arloesol yn

sense that I am working collaboratively in terms of using the £140 million as match funding for programme initiatives that other colleagues will have as priorities in this area, whether it is housing stock improvement for Edwina Hart, skills development and developing a skills forum for the area for Jane Davidson, or developing primary healthcare for Brian Gibbons. Therefore, it is a new collaborative approach across all Assembly ministerial portfolios.

I will respond in detail to the detailed questions from Jeff Cuthbert and others, particularly those concerning Caerphilly. However, I come back to the point that Jeff made about local schemes. The reason why that level of detail is not present is because the whole idea of this is that we want to work with local partners to ensure that what is happening on the ground complements the overall strategy and the big picture. That is another reason why, at this stage, the detail that some are asking for is not present. I am confident that the final document will contain that detail.

I have often heard people being described as one-club golfers, and I afraid that Lisa Francis is in danger of being described as such, given her obsession with the merger of the ASPBs.

Lisa Francis: Will you give way?

Andrew Davies: I will make my point first.

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): She does not know what she is going to be accused of yet.

Andrew Davies: Exactly.

As I was about to say, between 1979 and 1997, as their democratic mandate was progressively eliminated, the Tories increasingly ruled Wales through their friends, the quangocrats. Are you genuinely saying, Lisa, that your concern is for those quangos rather than for the more effective delivery of services? I would argue strongly that we need a focused approach to regeneration, particularly in the Heads of the Valleys areas, and the new merged organisations in the Economic Development and Transport Department and the Education and Lifelong Learning Department will deliver that. You seem to be harking back, as always with the Tories, to some mythical

yr ystyr fy mod yn cydweithio o ran defnyddio'r £140 miliwn fel arian cyfatebol ar gyfer mentrau rhagleni a fydd yn flaenorriaethau i gyd-Aelodau eraill yn y maes hwn, p'un a yw'n ymwned â gwella stoc tai i Edwina Hart, datblygu sgiliau a datblygu fforwm sgiliau ar gyfer yr ardal i Jane Davidson, neu ddatblygu gofal iechyd sylfaenol i Brian Gibbons. Felly, mae'n ymagwedd newydd ar y cyd ar draws pob portffolio gweinidogol yn y Cynulliad.

Rhof ymateb manwl i gwestiynau manwl Jeff Cuthbert ac eraill, yn enwedig y rhai sy'n ymwned â Chaerffili. Fodd bynnag, dychwelaf at y pwynt a wnaeth Jeff ynghylch cynlluniau lleol. Y rheswm pam nad yw'r manylder hwnnw'n bodoli yw ein bod am weithio gyda phartneriaid lleol i sierhau bod yr hyn sy'n digwydd ar lawr gwlad yn ategu'r strategaeth gyffredinol a'r darlun mawr. Mae hynny'n rheswm arall pam nad yw'r manylder y mae rhai yn gofyn amdano ar gael ar hyn o bryd. Hyderaf y bydd y ddogfen derfynol yn cynnwys y manylder hwnnw.

Yr wyf wedi clywed pobl yn cael eu disgrifio fel golffwyr un clwb yn aml, ac yr wyf yn ofni bod Lisa Francis mewn perygl o gael ei disgrifio felly, o ystyried ei hobsesiwn i uno'r CCNCau.

Lisa Francis: A ildiwrch?

Andrew Davies: Gwnaf fy mhwynt yn gyntaf.

Y Prif Weinidog (Rhodri Morgan): Nid yw'n gwybod beth yw'r cyhuddiad yn ei herbyn eto.

Andrew Davies: Yn union.

Fel yr oeddwn ar fin dweud, rhwng 1979 a 1997, wrth i'w mandad democrataidd gael ei ddileu'n gynyddol, bu'r Torïaid yn rheoli Cymru yn gynyddol drwy eu ffrindiau, y cwangoratsiaid. A ydych yn wir yn dweud, Lisa, eich bod yn pryderu am y cwangos hynny, yn hytrach na'r broses fwy effeithiol o ddarparu gwasanaethau? Byddwn yn dadlau'n gryf fod angen inni fabwysiadu ymagwedd benodedig tuag at adfywio, yn enwedig yn ardaloedd Blaenau'r Cymoedd. Bydd y sefydliadau unedig newydd yn yr Adran Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth a'r Adran Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes yn sierhau hynny. Ymddengys eich bod, fel sy'n digwydd bob amser gyda'r Torïaid, yn cyfeirio'n ôl at ryw

golden age when your party was in power.

oes euraid chwedlonol pan oedd eich plaid mewn gymr.

Lisa Francis: Golf is probably more your game than mine. However, where is the detail in this document? That is what we are asking. If we turn to the Record of last week's Economic Development and Transport Committee meeting, a gentleman from the WDA said,

'Quite a good team spirit has emerged, so I think that people recognise that all organisations, including organisations such as the WDA, have paid lip service... to working together.'

Do you think that the WDA is just paying lip service to working together because it does not have any certainty about its future role in this programme?

Andrew Davies: I notice that you are more interested in discussing the merger programme for the ASPBs than you are in discussing the motion. [Interruption.]

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. The Minister is winding up.

Andrew Davies: I am confident that the new merged organisations will deliver for the communities in the Heads of the Valleys area much more effectively than has been the case in the past. However, if you want to go to the people of Wales with a programme of defending the quangos, then that is entirely a matter for you.

This is a vision for the future for these communities, and it furthers the growing confidence that the people in Heads of the Valleys communities are developing themselves. Above all, it provides leadership and a commitment from this Government to work with those communities for a more prosperous future.

Lisa Francis: Credaf fod gennych chi fwy o ddiddordeb na mi mewn golff. Fodd bynnag, ble mae'r manylder yn y ddogfen hon? Dyna beth yr ydym yn ei ofyn. Os trown at Gofnod cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth yr wythnos diwethaf, dywedodd gŵr o'r WDA,

Mae ysbryd cyd-dynnu eithaf da wedi datblygu, felly, credaf fod pobl yn cydnabod bod pob sefydliad, gan gynnwys sefydliadau megis WDA, wedi esgus cefnogi...cydweithio.

A gredwch mai dim ond esgus cefnogi'r syniad o gydweithio a wna WDA, am nad yw'n sicr o'i rôl yn y rhaglen hon yn y dyfodol?

Andrew Davies: Mae gennych fwy o ddiddordeb mewn trafod y rhaglen i uno'r CCNCau nag oes gennych mewn trafod y cynnig. [Torri ar draws.]

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae'r Gweinidog ar fin gorffen.

Andrew Davies: Hyderaf y bydd y sefydliadau unedig newydd yn cyflawni'n fwy effeithiol o lawer ar gyfer y cymunedau yn ardal Blaenau'r Cymoedd nag a fu yn y gorffennol. Fodd bynnag, os ydych am gyflwyno rhaglen sy'n amddiffyn y cwangos i bobl Cymru, eich dewis chi yw hynny.

Mae hon yn weledigaeth ar gyfer y dyfodol i'r cymunedau hynny, ac mae'n adeiladu ar yr hyder cynyddol y mae pobl yng nghymunedau Blaenau'r Cymoedd yn ei ddatblygu eu hunain. Yn bennaf oll, mae'n darparu arweinyddiaeth ac ymrwymiad gan y Llywodraeth hon i weithio gyda'r cymunedau hynny i sicrhau dyfodol mwy ffyniannus.

Gwelliant 1: O blaid 6, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 31.

Amendment 1: For 6, Abstain 0, Against 31.

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

Davies, Janet
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary

Williams, Brynle

Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda

Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.

Amendment defeated.

Gwelliant 2: O blaid 6, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 31.

Amendment 2: For 6, Abstain 0, Against 31.

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

Davies, Janet
 Francis, Lisa
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Melding, David
 Williams, Brynle

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
 The following Members voted against:

Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Catherine

Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 3: O blaid 11, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 26.
Amendment 3: For 11, Abstain 0, Against 26.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Janet
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 4: O blaid 11, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 26.
Amendment 4: For 11, Abstain 0, Against 26.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Janet
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Lewis, Huw

Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.

Amendment defeated.

4.40 p.m.

*Cynnig (NDM2403): O blaid 37, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2403): For 37, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Brynle

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

**Dadl Fer
Short Debate**

**Yr Economi yn Ne-ddwyrain Cymru
The Economy in South-east Wales**

Rosemary Butler: I have received several requests from several Members who wish to contribute to the debate. I will allow William Graham, Irene James, Janet Davies and Jenny Randerson to contribute at the end of my speech if there is any time left, which I hope that there will be.

South-east Wales has a proud past and a great future. It was the furnace of the industrialised world and the engine of the global economy. We are proud of our past but we are also looking forward to a prosperous future. However, we must not forget the 18 years of failure, during which unemployment, interest rates and inflation soared. The Tories said that unemployment was a price worth paying, but people in Wales were shackled by unemployment. Under the Tories, unemployment reached 3 million. In Wales, unemployment was three times higher when Michael Howard was Secretary of State for Employment than it is today.

Wales has come a long way since 1997. We have 127,000 more jobs, unemployment has been cut by half and 75,000 people have been helped into work through the New Deal. We have the strongest economy in more than a generation, with interest rates and inflation at sustained low levels. In Newport West, unemployment is down by 50 per cent since 1997, the New Deal has helped over 2,000 people into work and long-term unemployment is down by 80 per cent. The innovative strategies of the Welsh Assembly Government have led the way. These include 'A Winning Wales', the entrepreneurship action plan, Assembly investment grants, regional selective assistance, and the strategic framework for the Heads of the Valleys, which we discussed earlier.

Our vision is clear. Labour rejects the Tory view that economic decline is inevitable and that unemployment is ever a price worth paying, and we reject the Tory mantra that

Rosemary Butler: Yr wyf wedi cael nifer o geisiadau gan nifer o Aelodau sydd am gyfrannu i'r ddadl. Rhoddaf gyfle i William Graham, Irene James, Janet Davies a Jenny Randerson gyfrannu ar ddiwedd fy arraith os bydd amser dros ben, a gobeithio y bydd.

Mae gan dde-ddwyrain Cymru orffennol gwych a dyfodol llewyrchus. Dyma oedd ffwrnais y byd diwydiannol a pheiriant economi'r byd. Ymfalchiwn yn ein gorffennol, ond edrychwn ymlaen hefyd at ddyfodol ffyniannus. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni beidio ag anghofio'r 18 mlynedd o fethiant, pan gynyddodd diweithdra, cyfraddau llog a chwyddiant yn sylwedol. Dywedodd y Toriaid fod diweithdra yn werth yr aberth, ond yr oedd pobl yng Nghymru yn cael eu hatal gan ddiweithdra. O dan y Toriaid, yr oedd 3 miliwn o bobl yn ddi-waith. Yng Nghymru, yr oedd diweithdra deirgwaith yn uwch pan oedd Michael Howard yn Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Gyflogaeth nag ydyw heddiw.

Mae Cymru wedi datblygu'n sylwedol ers 1997. Mae gennym 127,000 o swyddi ychwanegol, hanerwyd diweithdra ac mae 75,000 o bobl wedi cael cymorth i gael gwaith drwy'r Fargen Newydd. Mae gennym yr economi gryfaf ers dros genhedlaeth, gyda chyfraddau llog a chwyddiant ar lefelau isel cyson. Yng Ngorllewin Casnewydd, mae diweithdra wedi gostwng 50 y cant ers 1997, mae'r Fargen Newydd wedi helpu dros 2,000 o bobl i gael gwaith, ac mae diweithdra hirdymor 80 y cant yn llai. Mae strategaethau arloesol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi arwain y ffordd. Ymhlieth y rhain mae 'Cymru'n Ennill', y cynllun gweithredu ar gyfer entrepreneuriaeth, grantiau buddsoddi'r Cynulliad, cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol, a'r fframwaith strategol ar gyfer Blaenau'r Cymoedd, a drafodwyd gennym yn gynharach.

Mae ein gweledigaeth yn glir. Nid yw Llafur yn derbyn barn y Toriaid bod dirywiad economaidd yn anochel, nac ychwaith ei bod byth yn werth talu'r pris o ran diweithdra. Ac nid ydym yn

people are best left to the fate of the markets. We recognise that, although Government cannot create wealth, it must provide the infrastructure to help drive forward economic growth. Labour's policies are on improving our infrastructure of skills, science, regulation, planning and transport. We know that the future of our economy will be based on knowledge, innovation and creativity. Labour will never allow Wales to go back to the Tory years of decay, decline and stagnation.

Securing employment with Labour has helped to set people free and to unleash their talents. Work provides dignity, and I am sure that we all agree that unemployment is the greatest waste of human talent. With Labour, south-east Wales has a great future.

Newport is our newest city and the gateway to south Wales. I believe that the success and the prosperity of south-east Wales depends upon the city's success. Labour's vision is for a Newport that can attract business and investment, that offers high-quality skills training and that can be a motor for growth in south-east Wales. Under the Tories, cities such as Newport seemed condemned to terminal decline and failure. Local economies were struggling, public services were failing and crime and anti-social behaviour made the centre of many cities no-go areas. Today, Newport is being transformed as a result of the investment that Labour is providing and the hard work and enterprise of our communities and public services. Newport is a symbol of how far Wales has come in the last eight years. It is the gateway to Wales, and it helps to link industries in Bristol, Cardiff and the Midlands. In 2010, the city will host the Ryder cup, which will put Newport on the world stage.

However, we still have challenges to face. We need to march onwards to full employment, which will require sustained investment in skills and training. It will also mean continuing the Wales union learning fund—a programme that the Tories would scrap—and fulfilling the vision set out in the skills and employment action plan. The new economic powerhouse to be created through the merger of the WDA and the Assembly

derbyn mantra'r Torïaid ei bod yn well gadael pobl i dynged y marchnadoedd. Er na all y Llywodraeth greu cyfoeth, cydnabyddwn fod yn rhaid iddi ddarparu'r seilwaith i hyrwyddo twf economaidd. Mae polisiau'r Llywodraeth yn ymneud â gwella ein seilwaith sgiliau, gwyddorau, rheoleiddio, cynllunio a thrafnidiaeth. Gwyddom y bydd dyfodol ein heonomi'n seiliedig ar wybodaeth, arloesedd a chreadigrwydd. Ni fydd Llafur byth yn gadael i Gymru ddychwelyd i flynyddoedd y Torïaid pan gafwyd dirywiad a diffyg twf.

Mae sicrhau cyflogaeth gyda Llafur wedi helpu galluogi pobl i wireddu eu potensial. Mae gwaith yn creu urddas, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwn bob un mai diweithdra yw'r gwastraff mwyaf o dalent pobl. Gyda Llafur, mae gan dde-ddwyrain Cymru ddyfodol gwych.

Casnewydd yw ein dinas fwyaf newydd a'r porth i dde Cymru. Credaf fod llwyddiant a ffyniant de-ddwyrain Cymru yn dibynnu ar lwyddiant y ddinas. Gweledigaeth Llafur yw Casnewydd a all ddenu busnes a buddsoddiad, sy'n cynnig hyfforddiant sgiliau o safon ac a all sicrhau twf yn ne-ddwyrain Cymru. O dan y Torïaid, tynged dinasoedd megis Casnewydd, yn ôl pob tebyg, oedd dirywiad a methiant parhaus. Yr oedd yr economi leol yn wynebu anawsterau, yr oedd gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn methu ac yr oedd troseddau ac ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn golygu nad oedd pobl am fynd i ganol nifer o ddinasoedd. Heddiw, mae Casnewydd yn cael ei thrawsnewid o ganlyniad i fuddsoddiad gan Lafur ynghyd â gwaith caled a mentergarwch ein cymunedau a'n gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Mae Casnewydd yn symbol o ddatblygiad Cymru dros yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf. Dyma'r porth i Gymru, ac mae'n helpu cysylltu diwydiannau ym Mryste, Caerdydd a Chanolbarth Lloegr. Yn 2010, bydd y ddinas yn croesawu'r cwpan Ryder, a fydd yn rhoi Casnewydd ar lwyfan byd-eang.

Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn wynebu heriau o hyd. Mae angen inni barhau â'r gwaith o sicrhau cyflogaeth i bawb, a fydd yn gofyn am fuddsoddiad parhaus mewn sgiliau a hyfforddiant. Bydd hefyd yn golygu parhau â chronfa ddysgu undebau Cymru—rhaglen y byddai'r Torïaid yn cael gwared arni—a chyflawni'r weledigaeth a nodir yn y cynllun gweithredu ar gyfer sgiliau a chyflogaeth. Gall y grym economaidd newydd a grëir drwy uno

Government, alongside the manufacturing advisory service, can help to drive manufacturing forward.

We have come a long way since Corus announced major job losses in 2001. The Corus announcement led the Welsh Assembly Government to commission the five counties regeneration framework and separate regeneration programmes for Newport and Blaenau Gwent, which were endorsed in summer 2002. A key action arising from the regeneration framework was to ensure that Newport, once again, fulfils its former strategic economic role within the sub-region. The establishment of an urban regeneration company, Newport Unlimited, to draw up regeneration proposals for the city was considered key to achieving this.

I am delighted to say that Newport is now enjoying its best ever jobs bonanza. In the past few months, the good news has been rolling in. Against fierce competition, Newport won 600 good jobs in the National Statistics office and most of the new staff will be recruited in Wales. After much intelligent lobbying, another 500 jobs were secured in the prison service. Newport is the UK's best home for the relocation of civil service jobs—and those are permanent, decently paid and highly skilled jobs. A recent Westminster Government report praised the Newport Patent Office as a model for relocation. It needed courage and foresight to invest in the splendid Celtic Springs building and e-commerce park at junction 28 on the M4. The e-commerce park is a major hub for quality jobs. It is also the home of Cogent HQ, a company that recently won a £1-billion order from the Atlas Consortium. Sunset jobs are being replaced by sunrise ones. Newport is also in the hunt for more public services jobs. It is impossible to overemphasise how vital these jobs are to the city and to south-east Wales.

There is a dream of an even greater bonanza: it is an enormous project called Galileo. The EU proposal is for a new network of navigational satellites to provide data for drivers, sailors, and mobile phone and computer users. The project will create

WDA a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ynghyd â'r gwasanaeth cyngori gweithgynhyrchu, helpu datblygu'r diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu.

Yr ydym wedi gwneud camau breision ers i Corus gyhoeddi diswyddiadau mawr yn 2001. Ysgogwyd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gan gyhoeddiad Corus i gomisiynu fframwaith adfywio'r pum sir a rhaglenni adfywio ar wahân ar gyfer Casnewydd a Blaenau Gwent. Cafodd y rheiny eu cymeradwyo yn ystod yr haf 2002. Un o'r prif gamau a ddeilliodd o'r fframwaith adfywio oedd sicrhau bod Casnewydd, unwaith eto, yn cyflawni ei rôl economaidd strategol flaenorol yn yr isranbarth. Ystyriwyd bod sefydlu cwmni adfywio trefol, Newport Unlimited, i lunio'r cynigion adfywio ar gyfer ddinas yn allweddol i gyflawni hyn.

Mae'n dda iawn gennyf ddweud ein bod bellach yn gweld y cynnydd mwyaf erioed mewn swyddi yng Nghasnewydd. Yn ystod yr ychydig fisodd diwethaf, cafwyd llawer o newyddion da. Yn erbyn cystadleuaeth lem, llwyddodd Casnewydd i ennill 600 o swyddi da yn y swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol, a chaiff y rhan fwyaf o'r staff newydd eu reciwtio yng Nghymru. Ar ôl llawer o waith lobio deallus, sicrhawyd 500 o swyddi eraill yn y gwasanaeth carchardai. Casnewydd yw'r cartref gorau yn y DU ar gyfer symud swyddi'r gwasanaeth sifil - ac mae'r rheini'n swyddi parhaol, medrus gyda chyflwyniadau da. Yr oedd adroddiad yn ddiweddar gan Lywodraeth San Steffan yn canmol Swyddfa Batentau Casnewydd fel patrwm ar gyfer adleoli. Yr oedd angen dewrder a rhagwelediad i fuddsoddi yn adeilad gwych Celtic Springs a'r parc e-fasnach ger cyffordd 28 ar yr M4. Mae'r parc e-fasnach yn brif ganolfan ar gyfer swyddi o safon. Mae hefyd yn gartref i bencadlys Cogent, cwmni a enillodd archeb gwerth £1-biliwn gan Atlas Consortium yn ddiweddar. Mae swyddi a gollwyd yn cael eu disodli gan swyddi newydd. Mae Casnewydd hefyd yn y ras ar gyfer rhagor o swyddi gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Mae'n amhosibl gorbwysleisio mor hanfodol yw'r swyddi hyn i'r ddinas ac i'r De-ddwyrain.

Mae breuddwyd o gynnydd mwy byth yn nifer y swyddi, sef prosiect enfawr o'r enw Galileo. Mae cynnig yr UE yn ymneud â rhwydwaith newydd o loerenwi llywio i ddarparu data ar gyfer gyrwyr, llongwyr, a defnyddwyr ffonau symudol a chyfrifiaduron. Bydd y prosiect yn

12,000 new jobs. This is a cornucopia of investment. The Labour Government will nominate a location in Cardiff or, as I prefer to call it, 'Newport Far West'. The top-level choice of south-east Wales by Government is proof of faith in the local economy. The commitment of our Labour Government to Newport should demonstrate to business that Newport and south-east Wales are places in which they can invest.

In south-east Wales, hundreds of millions of pounds is being invested in the transport system: £300 million for dualling the Heads of the Valleys road, £27 million for the greater Bargoed by-pass in Caerphilly, plans for additional capacity on the M4, and, of course, the re-opening of the Ebbw valley railway in 2006-07, which is a major investment in the future of Blaenau Gwent.

A world-class south-east Wales needs to be at the forefront of science and research and development. I look forward to the Minister's response on how he can help to achieve this. Through Business Eye, Assembly investment grants and Finance Wales we already provide effective and tailored support to business—contrast this to the Tory plans to axe the small business service. Labour is now the party of business as well as the party of social justice and enterprise. We are now the party trusted to run the economy. People have long memories and they remember Black Wednesday, 15 per cent interest rates, 3 million people unemployed, and the two worst recessions since the war.

South-east Wales needs a strong Labour partnership between Westminster, the Assembly and local government. Our communities cannot afford to go back to the Tory years. They cannot afford to go back to boom and bust economics, to soaring interest rates and mass unemployment. We need more investment in our infrastructure, not cuts in services. Businesses need more support, not cuts, and our people need the dignity and liberty of employment, not a return to mass unemployment.

William Graham: I was going to say that

creu 12,000 o swyddi newydd. Mae hwn yn fuddsoddiad enfawr. Bydd y Llywodraeth Lafur yn enwebu lleoliad yng Nghaerdydd, neu 'Gorllewin Eithaf Casnewydd', fel yr hoffaf ei alw. Mae'r ffaith i'r Llywodraeth ddewis y De-ddwyrain ar y lefel uchaf yn dyst i'r hyder yn yr economi leol. Dylai ymrwymiad ein Llywodraeth Lafur i Gasnewydd ddangos i fusnesau fod Casnewydd a'r De-ddwyrain yn lleoedd y gallant fuddsoddi ynddynt.

Yn y De-ddwyrain, mae cannoedd ar filoedd o bunnau yn cael ei fuddsoddi yn y system drafniadaeth: £300 miliwn ar gyfer gwneud ffordd Blaenau'r Cymoedd yn ffordd ddeuol, £27 miliwn ar gyfer ffordd osgoi Bargod yng Nghaerffili, cynlluniau ar gyfer ehangu'r M4, ac, wrth gwrs, ailagor rheilffordd cwm Ebwy yn 2006-07, sy'n fuddsoddiad mawr yn nyfodol Blaenau Gwent.

Mae angen i'r De-ddwyrain, fel ardal o'r radd flaenaf, fod ar flaen y gad o ran gwyddoniaeth ac ymchwil a datblygu. Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed ymateb y Gweinidog i'r ffordd y gall ein helpu i gyflawni hyn. Drwy Llygad Busnes, grantiau buddsoddi'r Cynulliad a Chyllid Cymru yr ydym eisoes yn darparu cymorth effeithiol wedi'i deilwra i fusnesau—cymharwch hyn â chynlluniau'r Torïaid i gael gwared â'r gwasanaeth i fusnesau bach. Llafur erbyn hyn yw'r blaid ar gyfer busnes, yn ogystal â'r blaid ar gyfer cyflawnder cymdeithasol a menter. Ni bellach yw'r blaid yr ymddiriedir ynddi i redeg yr economi. Mae gan bobl gof hir ac y maent yn cofio Dydd Mercher Du, cyfraddau llog o 15 y cant, 3 miliwn o bobl yn ddi-waith, a'r ddau ddirwasgiad gwaethaf ers y rhyfel.

Mae angen partneriaeth Lafur gref ar y De-ddwyrain rhwng San Steffan, y Cynulliad a llywodraeth leol. Ni all ein cymunedau fforddio dychwelyd i oes y Torïaid. Ni allant fforddio dychwelyd at economeg o ffyniant ac yna fethiant, at gyfraddau llog sy'n cynyddu'n ddi-ben-draw a chyfraddau diweithdra uchel. Rhagor o fuddsoddiad yn ein seilwaith, nid cwtogi gwasanaethau, sydd eu hangen arnom. Rhagor o gymorth, nid toriadau sydd ei angen ar fusnesau, ac mae angen yr urddas a'r rhyddid a ddaw yn sgil cyflogaeth ar ein pobl, yn hytrach na dychwelyd i gyfraddau diweithdra uchel.

William Graham: Yr oeddwn am ddweud fod

your speech was polemic, written through rather rosy tinted spectacles, but perhaps it is just simply a matter of selective memory. The 1 million jobs lost in manufacturing under the Labour Government will be remembered in this election. We also know that the growth in jobs has primarily been in service industries and in sectors that are Government-funded—no wonder taxation is not likely to decrease under the Labour Party. Electors will of course remember that it was a Labour Government that closed forever the manufacturing of iron and steel in Ebbw Vale and removed the same facility from the Llanwern steelworks in Newport, for which encouragement and a go-ahead was given by the Conservative Government. The future may look brighter in south-east Wales, but it is because of the excellent workforce, not Government incentive.

eich arraith yn ddadleuol, wedi'i hysgrifennu gan edrych ar bopeth yn rhy ffyddio, ond efallai mai mater o ddewis a dethol yr hyn yr ydych yn ei gofio ydyw. Yr hyn a gaiff ei gofio yn yr etholiad hwn yw'r 1 filiwn o swyddi gweithgynhyrchu a gollwyd o dan y Llywodraeth Lafur. Gwyddom hefyd mai yn y diwydiannau gwasanaeth ac mewn sectorau sy'n cael eu hariannu gan y Llywodraeth yr oedd y cynnydd pennaf mewn swyddi - nid oes rhyfedd nad yw trethi'n debygol o ostwng o dan y Blaid Lafur. Bydd yr etholwyr wrth gwrs yn cofio mai'r Llywodraeth Lafur a fu'n gyfrifol am ddod â gweithgynhyrchu haearn a dur i ben am byth yng Nglynebwyl, a chael gwared â'r un cyfleuster o waith dur Llan-wern yng Nghasnewydd. Cafodd hynny ei annog a'i gymeradwyo gan y Llywodraeth Geidwadol. Efallai fod y dyfodol yn edrych yn ddisgleiriach yn y De-ddwyrain, ond mae hynny oherwydd y gweithlu rhagorol, nid oherwydd menter y Llywodraeth.

4.50 p.m.

Irene James: I thank Rosemary for allowing me to contribute to this debate. I share many of the sentiments that Rosemary has already expressed. Since 1997, the economy of south-east Wales has been renewed. If you include the entire south-east Wales capital network, as defined in the Wales spatial plan, the measure of success is greater. Our capital city has been renewed as a business, cultural, sport and recreational centre, rivalling cities across Europe. In the Objective 1 region, which has levered in £1.2 billion in investment, unemployment is falling faster than anywhere else in the UK, and the mass unemployment and devastation of Thatcherism is, gradually, being left behind. The Labour Assembly Government, as well as the Labour UK Government, is maximising the advantages of this stable, well-managed economy, with low interest rates and low inflation, creating the ideal environment for economic growth, learning and investment, through Assembly investment grants and regional selective assistance, and by maximising structural investment funds.

Janet Davies: Thank you, Rosemary for allowing my contribution; I was late in asking you. The economy of east Wales is

Irene James: Diolch i Rosemary am ganiatáu imi gyfrannu at y ddadl hon. Yr wyf finnau'n teimlo llawer o'r hyn a gyfléwyd eisoes gan Rosemary. Er 1997, mae economi'r De-ddwyrain wedi ei hadfywio. Os edrychwch ar rwydwaith cyfalaf cyfan y De-ddwyrain, fel y diffinnir yng nghynllun gofodol Cymru, mae'r llwyddiant hyd yn oed yn fwy. Adnewyddwyd ein prifddinas fel canolfan busnes, diwylliant, chwaraeon a hamdden, gan gystadlu â dinasoedd ledled Ewrop. Yn rhanbarth Amcan 1, sydd wedi denu dros £1.2 biliwn o fuddsoddiad, mae diweithdra'n gostwng yn gyflymach nag yn unman arall yn y DU, ac mae'r cyfraddau diweithdra uchel a dinistr cyfnod Thatcher yn diflannu'n raddol. Mae Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad, yn ogystal â Llywodraeth Lafur y DU, yn sicrhau'r manteision gorau posibl yn sgil yr economi sefydlog hon sy'n cael ei rheoli'n dda, gyda chyfraddau llog isel a chwyddiant isel. Mae'n creu'r amgylchedd delfrydol ar gyfer twf economaidd, dysgu a buddsoddi, drwy grantiau buddsoddi'r Cynulliad a chymorth rhanbarthol dewisol, a thrwy sicrhau'r cronfeydd buddsoddi strwythurol mwyaf posibl.

Janet Davies: Diolch ichi, Rosemary am ganiatáu imi gyfrannu; yr oeddwn yn hwyr yn gofyn ichi a allwn wneud hynny. Mae

above average compared with the rest of the UK, but we should make sure that all continues to go well there in the future, as well as working for west Wales and the Valleys. I foresee a problem in that the probable changes to state aid rules from 2007 could make it difficult to maintain present levels. It is possible that regional aid and urban investment grants will no longer be available to businesses outside Objective 1 or transitional successor areas. This would greatly disadvantage small and medium-sized enterprises in east Wales. Therefore, the Labour Assembly Government should be fighting hard for the best deal for Wales during the present European Union battles, including telling the UK Government to 'Prescott off' when necessary.

Jenny Randerson: The recently published south-east Wales development strategy, 'Enter the Dragon Economy', puts forward a vision of innovation and competitiveness for south-east Wales to which we can all subscribe, but it contrasts that with the problem of high levels of economic inactivity in the Valleys. That is why it is important to recognise the importance of both Cardiff and Newport as hubs which spread economic prosperity. Both cities are often written off due to their economic prosperity—the attitude is, 'they are okay; we don't have to worry about them'. We do, however, have to continue with much economic investment in both cities in order to develop their role as centres of economic development for the surrounding, travel-to-work area.

I particularly emphasise the importance of the potential of greater collaboration, possibly even merger, between the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff and the University of Wales, Newport, which provides much opportunity.

Thank you, Rosemary, for allowing me to participate.

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): I thank Rosemary for choosing this topic for debate. I, like her, think that it provides a good opportunity to celebrate the success of what has been achieved in south-east Wales, and

economi'r Dwyrain yn well na'r cyffredin o'i chymharu â gweddill y DU, ond dylem sicrhau bod popeth yn parhau i ffynnu yno yn y dyfodol, yn ogystal â gweithio dros y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd. Rhagwelaf broblem yn yr ystyr y gallai'r newidiadau posibl yn rheolau nawdd y wladwriaeth o 2007 ymlaen ei gwneud yn anodd cynnal y lefelau presennol. Mae'n bosibl na fydd cymorth rhanbarthol a grantiau buddsoddi trefol ar gael mwyach i fusnesau y tu allan i ardaloedd Amcan 1 nac ardaloedd olynol trosiannol. Byddai hyn yn rhoi busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint yn y Dwyrain o dan anfantais fawr. Felly, dylai Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad fod yn brwydro'n galed i sicrhau'r fargen orau i Gymru yn ystod y brwydrau presennol yn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd, gan gynnwys dweud 'Prescott off' wrth Lywodraeth y DU pan fydd angen.

Jenny Randerson: Mae strategaeth datblygu'r De-ddwyrain a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar, sef 'Enter the Dragon Economy', yn cyflwyno gweledigaeth o arloesedd a chystadleurwydd i'r De-ddwyrain y gallwn oll ymrwymo iddi. Ond mae'n gwrthgyferbynnu hynny â phroblem lefelau uchel o anweithgarwch economaidd yn y Cymoedd. Dyna pam y mae'n bwysig cydnabod pwysigrwydd Caerdydd a Chasnewydd fel canolfannau sy'n lledaenu ffyniant economaidd. Anwybyddir y ddwy ddinas yn aml oherwydd eu ffyniant economaidd - yr agwedd yw, 'maen nhw'n iawn; nid oes angen inni boeni amdanyn nhw'. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni barhau i wneud buddsodiad economaidd helaeth yn y ddwy ddinas er mwyn datblygu eu rôl fel canolfannau datblygu economaidd ar gyfer yr ardal teithio-i'r-gwaith o'u hamgylch.

Pwysleisiaf yn benodol bwysigrwydd gwell cydweithio, hyd yn oed uno o bosibl, rhwng Athrofa Prifysgol Cymru, Caerdydd a Phrifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd, sy'n darparu llawer o gyfleoedd.

Diolch i chi, Rosemary, am ganiatáu imi gyfrannu.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Diolch i Rosemary am ddewis y pwnc hwn ar gyfer y ddadl. Yr wyf fi, fel hithau, yn credu ei fod yn gyfle da i ddathlu llwyddiant yr hyn a gyflawnwyd yn y De-ddwyrain, a'r hyn sy'n

which is helping to drive prosperity throughout Wales. Rosemary has mentioned Newport, but the other major city, Cardiff, is also crucial to the future prosperity of the whole of Wales, as indeed are all our major towns and cities.

As Rosemary has mentioned, south-east Wales is a hive of innovation and enterprise. I welcome the recent success of Newport as the Welsh winner, and the third among UK regions, in the first ever Enterprising Britain competition. That is an excellent example of how Newport is developing a culture of enterprise for all. You also kindly pointed out the success of Newport Unlimited, which was an imaginative response by the Assembly Government to the results of the outcome of the Corus redundancy announcement, and the way in which Team Wales responded to the needs of Newport and the greater south-east Wales area. We recognise that the success of south-east Wales is fundamental to the success of the whole of Wales. My ministerial colleagues and I are committed to seeing south-east Wales fulfil its undoubtedly potential as a driver of our economic prosperity. That is why I have taken responsibility for the vital role of overseeing the implementation of the Wales spatial plan in south-east Wales, and, as we discussed earlier in the debate on the Heads of the Valleys programme, why I am also taking a lead in that area. That is why I set such great store by delivering upon the clear vision set out in the south-east Wales development strategy that I launched in City Hall in Cardiff last month.

As Rosemary pointed out, south-east Wales has huge strengths, such as increasingly competitive businesses. You have outlined some examples, such as Cogent, which is now EADS Defence and Security Systems Ltd, and its success in winning, as part of the Atlas Consortium, the defence information infrastructure Ministry of Defence contract, as the preferred bidder. Increasingly, south-east Wales is seen as the global centre for certain elements of digital technology and digitisation, and companies such as EADS Defence and Security Systems Ltd, General Dynamics and others are world leaders in their technology. Crucial to that is having access to higher education institutions such as

helpu hybu ffyniant ledled Cymru. Soniodd Rosemary am Gasnewydd, ond mae'r ddinas fawr arall, Caerdydd, hefyd yn allweddol i ffyniant Cymru gyfan yn y dyfodol, ac felly hefyd ein holl drefi a'n dinasoedd.

Fel y soniodd Rosemary, mae'r De-ddwyrain yn fwrlwm o arloesedd a menter. Yr wyf yn croesawu llwyddiant Casnewydd yn ddiweddar fel enillydd Cymru, a'r trydydd ymyst rhanbarthau'r DU, yng nghystadleuaeth gyntaf Prydain Fentrus. Mae hynny'n engraifft wych o'r ffordd mae Casnewydd yn datblygu diwylliant o fenter i bawb. Soniech yn garedig hefyd am lwyddiant Newport Unlimited, sef ymateb dychmygus gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i ganlyniadau cyhoeddiad Corus ynghylch diswyddiadau, a'r ffordd yr ymatebodd Tîm Cymru i anghenion Casnewydd a'r De-ddwyrain yn ehangach. Yr ydym yn cydnabod bod llwyddiant y De-ddwyrain yn hollbwysig i lwyddiant Cymru gyfan. Mae fy nghyd-Weinidogion a minnau wedi ymrwymo i weld y De-ddwyrain yn cyflawni ei botensial amlwg fel hyrwyddwr ein ffyniant economaidd. Dyna pam yr wyf wedi cymryd cyfrifoldeb dros y rôl allweddol o oruchwylion'r broses o roi cynllun gofodol Cymru ar waith yn y De-ddwyrain. Ac fel y trafodwyd gennym yn gynharach yn y ddadl ar raglen Blaenau'r Cymoedd, dyna pam yr wyf hefyd yn arwain yn yr ardal honno. Dyna pam y rhoddaf gymaint o bwys ar gyflawni'r weledigaeth glir a nodir yn strategaeth datblygu'r De-ddwyrain a lansiwyd gennyd yn Neuadd y Ddinas yng Nghaerdydd fis diwethaf.

Fel y dywedodd Rosemary, mae gan y De-ddwyrain gryfderau enfawr, fel busnesau sy'n dod yn gynyddol gystadleuol. Yr ydych wedi amlinellu rhai engraifftiau, fel Cogent, sydd bellach yn cael ei alw'n EADS Defence and Security Systems Cyf, a'i lwyddiant yn ennill contract seilwaith gwybodaeth amddiffyn y Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn, fel rhan o'r Atlas Consortium, fel y cynigiwr gorau. Mae'r De-Ddwyrain yn gynyddol yn cael ei ystyried yn ganolfan fydeang ar gyfer rhai elfennau technoleg ddigidol a digideiddio, ac mae cwmniau fel EADS Defence and Security Systems Cyf, General Dynamics ac eraill yn arweinwyr byd-eang yn eu technoleg. Yn allweddol i hynny mae cael mynediad i

University of Wales, Newport, Cardiff University and others. Having those close links between higher education, further education and business is crucial.

Another major factor and huge resource—and this is our biggest advantage—is a highly skilled and motivated workforce. I speak to companies large and small, particularly inward investors, who say that one of the reasons why they invest in Wales and have stayed in Wales is because the quality of the workforce is second to none. All these factors, together with our developing economic policies, produce a strong economic output.

You quoted the latest employment figures, Rosemary, and they are testament to the improvement that we have seen since 1999 in south-east Wales. Those improvements are reflected across the whole of Wales. Employment levels in south-east Wales are up by 8.2 per cent on the figure for 1999, employment rates are also up by 1.5 per cent and claimant count figures are down by just over 35 per cent. By any benchmark, that is a substantial success. As you clearly pointed out, that is in great contrast to what happened under the previous Conservative Government. Much as I hate to repeat myself, William, between 1979 and 1997, 360,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in Wales, which is an average of 20,000 a year under a Conservative Government.

I also put on record that, two thirds of the new jobs that have been created since 1999 are in the private sector. It is often said that jobs in Wales are purely created in the public sector. That is not true and the Labour Force Survey figures show clearly that two thirds of the new jobs are in the private sector, which is a considerable achievement.

I do not believe for a moment that the turnaround in the economic fortunes of south-east Wales has occurred by accident. I believe that it is evidence of the success of our economic policies, and, as Rosemary said, of Labour working at Westminster, in the Assembly Government and at local authority level, particularly in Newport and other south-east Wales areas. We are now increasingly able to support business in the

sefydliadau addysg uwch fel Prifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd, Prifysgol Caerdydd ac eraill. Mae sicrhau'r cysylltiadau agos hynny rhwng addysg uwch, addysg bellach a busnes yn hollbwysig.

Ffactor pwysig arall ac adnodd enfawr—a dyma yw ein mantais fwyaf—yw gweithlu hyfedr llawn cymhelliant. Siaradaf â chwmniau bach a mawr, yn arbennig mewnfuddsoddwyr, sy'n dweud mai un o'r rhesymau pam eu bod yn buddsoddi yng Nghymru ac wedi aros yng Nghymru yw oherwydd bob ansawdd y gweithlu heb ei ail. Mae'r holl ffactorau hyn ynghyd â'n polisiau economaidd sy'n datblygu, yn arwain at gynnrych economaidd cryf.

Yr oeddech yn dyfynnu'r ffigurau diweithdra diweddaraf, Rosemary, ac maent yn dyst i'r gwelliant a welsom er 1999 yn y De-ddwyrain. Caiff y gwelliannau hynny eu hadlewyrchu drwy Gymru gyfan. Mae lefelau cyflogaeth yn y De-ddwyrain wedi cynyddu 8.2 y cant o'u cymharu â'r ffigur ar gyfer 1999. Mae cyfraddau cyflogaeth hefyd wedi cynyddu 1.5 y cant a'r nifer sy'n hawlio budd-daliadau hefyd wedi gostwng ychydig dros 35 y cant. Yn erbyn unrhyw feincnod, mae hynny'n llwyddiant mawr. Fel yr oeddech yn nodi'n glir, mae hynny'n wrthgyferbyniad mawr i'r hyn a ddigwyddodd o dan y Llywodraeth Geidwadol flaenorol. Er fy mod yn casáu ailadrodd fy hun, William, rhwng 1979 a 1997, collwyd 360,000 o swyddi gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru, sy'n gyfartaledd o 20,000 y flwyddyn o dan Llywodraeth Geidwadol.

Hoffwn gofnodi hefyd bod dwy ran o dair o'r swyddi newydd a grëwyd ers 1999 yn y sector preifat. Dywedir yn aml mai dim ond yn y sector cyhoeddus y caiff swyddi yng Nghymru eu creu. Nid yw hynny'n wir ac mae ffigurau Arolwg y Gweithlu yn dangos yn glir bod dwy ran o dair o swyddi newydd wedi eu creu yn y sector preifat, sy'n dipyn o gamp.

Ni chredaf am funud i'r newid sylweddol yn economi'r De-ddwyrain ddigwydd ar hap. Credaf ei fod yn dystiolaeth o lwyddiant ein polisiau economaidd, ac fel y dywedodd Rosemary, o Lafur yn gweithio yn San Steffan, yn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ac ar lefel awdurdodau lleol, yn arbennig yng Nghasnewydd ac ardaloedd eraill yn y De-ddwyrain. Gallwn bellach gefnogi ein busnesau yn y ffordd y mae arnynt ei hangen, a hynny'n

way that it requires. We promote enterprise and innovation and we are driving forward the skills agenda and helping those excluded from the job market into work.

From broadband to road and rail, investment in our communication infrastructure continues so that we are increasingly developing a twenty-first century communications infrastructure for a twenty-first century economy. Therefore, whether it is road, rail or broadband, we are providing the foundations for a successful regional and national economy in Wales.

5.00 p.m.

In conclusion, I thank Rosemary again for bringing forward this topic for debate today. There is a huge amount to be positive about in south-east Wales—a region whose economy is stronger and whose communities are more sustainable and more prosperous than ever before. It is an economy that is creating not just more jobs, but, increasingly, more quality jobs; it is attracting not just more investment, but more long-term investment; and it is building not just increasing prosperity, but is spreading that prosperity to all its communities. I am confident that we now have in place the policies to maximise the potential of south-east Wales as an economic powerhouse that creates not only growing prosperity, but spreads that prosperity across the whole of the region and beyond.

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

gynyddol. Yr ydym yn hyrwyddo menter ac arloesedd, ac yn hyrwyddo'r agenda sgiliau gan helpu'r rheini sydd wedi eu hallgáu o'r farchnad waith i ddod o hyd i waith.

O fand eang i ffyrdd a rheilffyrdd, mae buddsoddi yn ein seilwaith cyfathrebu yn parhau i sicrhau ein bod yn parhau i ddatblygu seilwaith cyfathrebu'r unfed ganrif ar hugain ar gyfer economi'r unfed ganrif ar hugain. Felly, boed yn fater o ffyrdd, rheilffyrdd neu fand eang, yr ydym yn darparu'r seilwaith ar gyfer economi ranbarthol a chenedlaethol lwyddiannus yng Nghymru.

I gloi, diolch i Rosemary unwaith eto am gyflwyno'r pwnc hwn ar gyfer y ddadl hon heddiw. Mae llawer i fod yn gadarnhaol yn ei gylch yn y De-ddwyrain - rhanbarth y mae ei economi'n gryfach a'i gymunedau'n fwy cynaliadwy ac yn fwy ffyniannus nag erioed o'r blaen. Mae'n economi sy'n creu mwy na swyddi. Yn gynyddol mae'n creu mwy o swyddi o safon; mae'n denu nid yn unig ragor o fuddsoddiad, ond rhagor o fuddsoddiad hirdymor; ac mae'n ysgogi nid yn unig ragor o ffyniant, ond yn lledaenu'r ffyniant hwnnw i'w holl gymunedau. Yr wyl yn hyderus bod gennym bolisiau ar waith bellach i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar botensial y De-ddwyrain fel pwerdy economaidd sydd nid yn unig yn creu rhagor o ffyniant, ond sy'n lledaenu'r ffyniant hwnnw ar draws y rhanbarth cyfan a thu hwnt.

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

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.04 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.04 p.m.*

Aelodau a'u Pleidiau Members and their Parties

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
 Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
 Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
 Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
 Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)

Davies, Glyn (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin (Llafur - Labour)
 Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Essex, Sue (Llafur – Labour)
 Francis, Lisa (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
 Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
 Gwyther, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Idris Jones, Denise (Llafur – Labour)
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Laura Anne (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Law, Peter (Annibynnol – Independent)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
 Marek, John (Annibynnol – Independent)
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
 Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
 Pugh, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
 Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
 Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Catherine (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Owen John (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)