



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

**Y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol
The Committee on European and External Affairs**

**Dydd Mawrth, 29 Medi 2009
Tuesday, 29 September 2009**

Cynnwys
Contents

- 4 Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau a Dirprwyon
Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions
- 4 Ymchwiliad Craffu Byr: Dyfodol Strategaeth Lisbon ar ôl 2010—Pwyllgor y
Rhanbarthau
Short Scrutiny Inquiry: Future of the Lisbon Strategy post 2010—Committee of the
Regions
- 8 Ymchwiliad Craffu Byr: Dyfodol Strategaeth Lisbon ar ôl 2010—Casglu Tystiolaeth
Short Scrutiny Inquiry: Future of the Lisbon Strategy Post 2010—Evidence Gathering
- 16 Ymchwiliad Craffu: Dyfodol y Polisi Cydlyniant—Casglu Tystiolaeth
Scrutiny Inquiry: The Future of Cohesion Policy—Evidence Gathering
- 22 Annog Dinasyddiaeth Fyd-eang Weithredol
Encouraging Active Global Citizenship
- 33 Papurau i'w Nodi
Papers to Note

Cofnodir y trafodion hyn yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi yn y pwyllgor. Yn ogystal,
cynhwysir cyfieithiad Saesneg o gyfraniadau yn y Gymraeg.

These proceedings are reported in the language in which they were spoken in the committee.
In addition, an English translation of Welsh speeches is included.

Aelodau'r pwyllgor yn bresennol
Committee members in attendance

Nick Bourne	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives
Jeff Cuthbert	Llafur Labour
Sandy Mewies	Llafur (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor) Labour (Committee Chair)
Rhodri Glyn Thomas	Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales

Eraill yn bresennol
Others in attendance

Philip Bird	Pennaeth Ysgrifenyddiaeth Polisi'r Undeb Ewropeaidd Head of EU Policy Secretariat
Christine Chapman	Aelod Cynulliad, Llafur (Cynrychiolydd y Cynulliad ar Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau) Assembly Member, Labour (Assembly Representative on Committee of the Regions)
Paul Harris	Pennaeth Swyddfa Addysg Uwch Cymru ym Mrwsel Head of Office, Wales Higher Education Brussels
Ceri James	Cyfarwyddwr, CILT Cymru Director, CILT Cymru
Ieuan Wyn Jones	Aelod Cynulliad, Plaid Cymru (Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth) Assembly Member, the Party of Wales (Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport)
Andy Klom	Swyddfa Comisiwn Ewrop yng Nghymru European Commission Office in Wales
Yr Athro/Professor Noel Lloyd	Cadeirydd Addysg Uwch Cymru ac Is-ganghellor Prifysgol Aberystwyth Chair, Higher Education Wales and Vice-chancellor of Aberystwyth University
Caroline Marston	Swyddog Gwybodaeth Ewropeaidd, Europe Direct European Information Officer, Europe Direct
Claire Parry	Cynghorydd Addysgu Iaith Uwchradd, CILT Cymru Secondary Language Teaching Adviser, CILT Cymru
Tom Smithson	Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru Welsh European Funding Office
Greg Walker	Cynghorydd Polisi, Addysg Uwch Cymru Policy Adviser, Higher Education Wales

Swyddogion Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn bresennol
National Assembly for Wales officials in attendance

Steve George	Clerc Clerk
Gregg Jones	Pennaeth Swyddfa UE Cymru, Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau Head of Wales EU Office, Members' Research Service

Abigail Phillips

Dirprwy Glerc
Deputy Clerk

*Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 9 a.m.
The meeting began at 9 a.m.*

Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau a Dirprwyon Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

[1] **Sandy Mewies:** Good morning, everyone. I welcome Members and officials, and those in the public gallery, when they arrive. Headsets are available, with translation on channel 1 and amplification of sound on channel 0. Please would everyone ensure that mobile phones and BlackBerrys are switched off? In the event of an emergency an alarm will sound and the ushers will direct us out.

[2] Mike German has tendered his apologies—he is representing the National Assembly for Wales at a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference in Tanzania—but we do not have a substitute. We are not aware of any other apologies.

[3] **Jeff Cuthbert:** I wonder if this would be the right point for me to say, for the record, that it will be difficult for me to take part in items 2, 3 and 4 on the agenda, because I am chair of the programme monitoring committee for structural funds. That is a Welsh Assembly Government appointment, and that committee has a formal role in scrutinising and planning the use of the Lisbon strategy and cohesion policy post 2013. It would be inappropriate for me to take part in scrutiny of the Minister and the Welsh European Funding Office, but I will listen with great interest to all points that are made, and if I feel that I can answer a question that does not amount to scrutiny, I might do so, if you will allow me.

[4] **Sandy Mewies:** Of course. Does anyone else have any declarations of interest?

[5] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** It is lucky that I am here. It is all down to me now.

[6] **Sandy Mewies:** Indeed, you can keep the rest of us going.

[7] I will draw your attention to changes in the committee support arrangements that I think are temporary; some of you may know that Lara Date is recovering from a knee operation, and Abigail Phillips has taken over from Annette Millet as deputy clerk to the committee, so Steve George is the acting clerk. I am sure that Members would like to send Lara their best wishes for a speedy recovery, and I believe that she is doing well.

9.03 a.m.

Ymchwiliad Craffu Byr: Dyfodol Strategaeth Lisbon ar ôl 2010—Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau Short Scrutiny Inquiry: Future of the Lisbon Strategy post 2010— Committee of the Regions

[8] **Sandy Mewies:** Christine Chapman, as everyone knows, is our full member of the Committee of the Regions, and she has been appointed as rapporteur for an own-initiative report on the future of the business strategy post 2010. Christine has been here before, and we are interested in her work. She is accompanied by Gregg Jones today, who at this stage is wearing his expert hat, and supporting Christine in that capacity. Please tell us about where you are now.

[9] **Christine Chapman:** First, I was pleased to be selected as the rapporteur on such a key dossier for the European Union. I thank Gregg Jones for his support in this. In my opinion, this is an important dossier for Wales and the whole of the European Union, and that has been reflected in the level and quality of discussions that we have had during what has been a very active research phase in preparing the draft opinion.

[10] Equally, I was pleased that the opinion was debated and agreed at the recent Economic and Social Affairs Commission meeting in Poland, with only six minor amendments, which suggests cross-party and cross-European support at Committee of the Regions level. This will now be taken to plenary in Brussels in December. I will quickly summarise the key messages—although, obviously, the paper covers them. There is a strong consensus that the Lisbon strategy should have a successor, but that business as usual is not the right option for Europe. The growing awareness of the crisis around climate change underlines the need for a strategy centred upon sustainable living—what I call a sustainable Europe strategy. So, I am looking for a new definition.

[11] The new strategy must start from the premise that we live on a planet with finite resources, and that economic and other activity must work within and respect those ecological constraints. It is, therefore, not sufficient to talk about balancing the economic, social and environmental pillars—rather, we must see our economic and social policies as taking place within the framework of these wider ecological constraints. This needs to be reflected in the indicators that we use to measure success and prosperity, and in the opinion, you will see that, although we talk about gross domestic product, I am suggesting that we should also start to look at other indicators to reflect wellbeing, quality of life and so on. To do this, the strategy must focus on developing Europe's competitiveness in the green economy, by which I mean prioritising investments in green technologies, undertaking the appropriate research and development, and also skills training.

[12] Secondly, the strategy must prioritise social cohesion. We know that the economic crisis has also raised the spectre of growing unemployment, particularly among young people. We have also seen a growing social unrest, social exclusion and also, as I said, the threat of protectionism. As demonstrated by the commission's revised social agenda, published last year, there was a growing social divide within Europe even before the economic and financial crisis, during a period when the European economy was seen as performing relatively well. That is a very powerful point. The new strategy must give a stronger emphasis to a renewed and reinvigorated social policy as a matter of urgency.

[13] Thirdly, the EU cohesion policy also provides one of the potential solutions to the governance problems of the current Lisbon strategy. I believe that the new strategy must tackle this governance deficit. As we know, the Committee of the Regions' White Paper on multi-level governance gave explicit recognition to the crucial role to be played by local and regional authorities and governments in developing, implementing and communicating the Lisbon strategy. The picture is mixed across Europe, with some countries much more effective than others in engaging local and regional stakeholders in the Lisbon strategy. I have been very keen to draw on good practice across Europe.

[14] It makes sense to use the existing partnership structures already in place for the structural funds programme to engage with stakeholders. This was a point made in the Barca report on the future of the cohesion policy published last year.

[15] I will leave it at that, Chair, and we can have a discussion on some of the points raised.

[16] **Sandy Mewies:** Thank you, Christine. You did not actually mention that, on 6 October, you will be chairing a seminar on the future of the Lisbon strategy with a high-powered panel

of experts. I hope that the committee will have a note on that seminar, because I am sure that we would all be very interested in it. We will now take questions.

[17] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Nid oes llawer o ddewis, mewn gwirionedd, ond i mi ofyn y cwestiynau. Yr ydych yn sôn yn eich datganiad drafft am yr angen i gydnabod bod cyfyngiadau ar y blaned, bod rhaid byw o fewn y cyfyngiadau hynny, a'ch bod am newid y pwyslais o bwyslais ar dwf, swyddi a'r economi i bwyslais ar ansawdd bywyd. A gredwch bod y dirwasgiad economaidd ledled Ewrop yn gwneud hynny'n haws neu'n anos i'w gyflawni?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: In reality, there was little option but for me to ask the questions. In your draft opinion, you mention the need to recognise the planet's finite resources, that we would need to live within those limitations, and that you want to change the emphasis from one on growth, jobs and the economy to an emphasis on the quality of life. Do you think that the current recession affecting the whole of Europe makes that more difficult or easier to achieve?

[18] **Christine Chapman:** The current crisis has called into question how we have operated until now, and, as I said, there has been a lot of consensus on this. We have drawn on the Tim Jackson report, 'Prosperity without Growth?: the transition to a sustainable economy', much of which is reflected in the opinion. Also, the green jobs strategy and agenda is a good opportunity to address this, and is a solution to it. We have also looked at the current crisis. In the short term, we have to address these things now, but we cannot ignore the future—the long term. Therefore, there is a real opportunity to do things differently. We have, until now, seen the environment as one pillar and the economy as another. It must be looked at more holistically.

9.10 a.m.

[19] **Jeff Cuthbert:** I do not think that this is a scrutiny question. I wish to refer to the Committee of the Regions in the long term, post 2013, as you mentioned, and the issue of transitional funding, which Wales will probably qualify for. I cannot take part in full scrutiny of this because the programme monitoring committee will have a formal role in helping to form an opinion on how Wales should use that money, if, indeed, it gets it. Has the Committee of the Regions thought about the Lisbon strategy post 2013 and the type of activities that may be appropriate when this round of structural funds comes to an end?

[20] **Christine Chapman:** First, I am suggesting that this should be a 10-year strategy, so that would happen. However, the point that I raised about the cohesion policy should be part of the Lisbon strategy—it should be seen as the same thing, and structural funds should feed into this because I think that there is a feeling that it is slightly different; we should think of it as one strategy. It is very much a long-term strategy.

[21] The other point that came out very strongly is the role that regional and local authorities have to play in this. They get very involved in structural funds, and I am suggesting that there is a clearer role for them in that regard. They have access to ordinary citizens and must deliver these programmes and ensure that they work.

[22] **Mr Jones:** The member for Saxony-Anhalt has been appointed as a rapporteur to look at a similar situation. He will also be preparing an own-initiative opinion to look at the debate regarding the future of cohesion policy. That is not quite in parallel because I think that his report will be published in March or April, but there is an overlap between the two.

[23] **Sandy Mewies:** This rebalancing will mean quite a major upheaval in some ways. I think that it probably does fit the situation rather better than what was going on before. I know that Welsh stakeholders, such as the Welsh Local Government Association, the Wales Council for Voluntary Action and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, and

Rhodri Morgan and our Ministers, have spoken to you about this. Have you come across any resistance to this change, given that that is the way in which everyone has been working and sometimes it is quite difficult for people to turn the ship around? Could you or Gregg give us a timeline for what will happen? This will feed into the European Council eventually, will it not? Can you give us a timeline so that we can keep track of what happens? We will return time and again to the Lisbon strategy and cohesion policy, as you know, and it would be good for us to have notes on how your part fits into this.

[24] **Christine Chapman:** I will start, and then perhaps Gregg can tell you more about the timeline. I have had a lot of support on this from within Europe, from stakeholders in Brussels and Wales. As you said, Sandy, I have spoken to the WLGA and HEFCW, and I have had responses from the Federation of Small Businesses, for example. I have been very careful to ensure that I consult as widely as possible, because I was anticipating that it could be a subject that divides people. I have been very heartened by the support that we have had on this. Obviously, I have spoken to the First Minister, who read the document with interest, and I have also spoken to Jane Davidson, as the Minister for the environment. It was interesting to read her comments in the *Western Mail* last week, I think. She is attending a climate change conference, and her words were ‘business as usual is not an option’, which are the words used in my report. I have been very pleased with the level support that I have received, which I think has come about because I have continued to involve as many stakeholders as possible. The main point is that because of the economic and financial crisis, people are starting to question the values that we have had until now. I think that this is a really good opportunity to start to do things differently, because, at the end of the day, we can talk about the economy, but, as my report has suggested, if you look at the poverty levels, you will see that even when the economy was performing well, there was still a high level of poverty across Europe. That calls into question the way that we have been doing things until now. You can get nothing starker than that. That is a powerful point that we should bear in mind. Gregg, would you like to comment on the timeline?

[25] **Mr Jones:** If we work backwards, the European Council meets for its spring summit in March, and the intention is to consider and potentially adopt the successor to the Lisbon strategy, which still has to be debated among the member states, but it looks as if there is agreement that Lisbon should carry on into the future. The commission will probably publish proposals at the beginning of 2010. It is due to carry out a consultation, which was originally anticipated to start in mid September—I think that 20 September was mentioned—but it has been delayed and it is now anticipated that it will start in mid October. That consultation is an opportunity for stakeholders across Europe to give their views on the future of the strategy. This means that the timing of Christine’s opinion paper is good, because the draft has come out before that consultation. However, events this week and elsewhere in Europe this week may impact on the timeframe, so that may change.

[26] **Christine Chapman:** On the influence, this opinion was voted upon in Poland a few weeks ago. There were six minor amendments and one person voted against it, but it was a tactical vote and he said, ‘I totally agree with this, but if it is unanimous it will stay at the committee level’, and he wanted it to go forward to the plenary in December. I was pleased, because, again, we are talking about cross-party support. There will obviously be lots of amendments in December, but I was heartened by the level of support and the comments about this opinion. I also wanted to refer to the commission, which has been mentioned. We know that President Barroso has started using the phrase ‘people-centred approach’, which he did not at the outset, so I am hoping that this has had some influence. There is a long way to go, but I hope that this has already started to influence the various stakeholders across Europe.

[27] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Yn eich **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** In your opinion datganiad o farn, yr ydych yn cyfeirio at paper, you refer to taking a territorial ‘territorial approach’—agwedd approach to all policies. Do you think that

diriogaethol—tuag at bolisiau'n gyffredinol. A ydych yn credu y bydd hynny'n fanteisiol i Gymru, yn hytrach na'r agwedd draddodiadol o edrych ar y Deyrnas Unedig fel un uned gyson?

that will benefit Wales as opposed to the traditional approach, which treats the United Kingdom as a single entity?

[28] **Christine Chapman:** Definitely. We have already seen good examples of that. I suppose that this is almost a question on devolution, is it not? Wales has been congratulated because of the approach that we have been able to take, with schemes such as ProAct and ReAct, because we are a small country and because we know each other. So, there are already good examples of that. There are also good examples across Europe, and I have tried to incorporate some case studies into the paper. On particular issues such as child poverty, there has been a much greater emphasis on child poverty in Wales than perhaps in other parts of the UK. So, there is an opportunity to do that.

[29] **Sandy Mewies:** Thank you very much, Chris. I am looking forward to seeing what happens next. It is an exciting journey, is it not? Thank you too, Gregg.

9.20 a.m.

Ymchwiliad Craffu Byr: Dyfodol Strategaeth Lisbon ar ôl 2010—Casglu Tystiolaeth
Short Scrutiny Inquiry: Future of the Lisbon Strategy Post 2010—Evidence Gathering

[30] **Sandy Mewies:** Good morning and welcome. We have before us the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport, Ieuan Wyn Jones, along with Philip Bird, who is the head of the EU policy secretariat, and, instead of Cathy Presland, we have Tom Smithson, who is a policy officer, I believe—please correct me if I am wrong.

[31] **Mr Smithson:** That is correct.

[32] **Sandy Mewies:** We are looking at the future of the Lisbon strategy, and today's session, because of the timescale, will be an opportunity for us to see how the Welsh Assembly Government is working on its priorities in relation to the strategy up to 2010. I think, Deputy First Minister, that it probably will be something that we will come back to because of the way things are currently working out. Thank you for your paper, Deputy First Minister. I invite you to make some introductory remarks, and I will then bring in Members with their questions.

[33] **Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth (Ieuan Wyn Jones):** Diolch yn fawr iawn, Gadeirydd. Yr wyf yn falch iawn o'r cyfle i ddod yma i rannu syniadau gyda chi ynglŷn â strategaeth Lisbon ar ôl 2010, ac amlinellaf rai o'r pethau y byddwn yn disgwyl iddynt gael eu hystyried ar gyfer y strategaeth newydd. Yr oeddwn yn gobeithio y byddai'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd wedi cyhoeddi'r Papur Gwyrdd ar 20 Medi, ond deallaf bellach na chaiff y papur hwnnw ei gyhoeddi am o leiaf fis arall. Credaf fod heddiw yn gyfle i ni gael gweld i ba gyfeiriad

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Thank you very much, Chair. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to attend the meeting and to share ideas with you regarding the Lisbon strategy post 2010, and I will outline some of the things that we expect to be considered in relation to the new strategy. We were hoping that the European Commission would have published its Green Paper on 20 September, but I am now given to understand that that paper will not be published for at least another month. I believe that today is an opportunity to consider the

y mae'n mynd.

direction of travel.

[34] Mae'r papur yr wyf wedi'i gyflwyno i chi yn rhoi cefndir a dylanwad strategaeth Lisbon ac yn egluro sut mae'n Llywodraeth ni wedi bod yn rhan o'r broses a sut yr ydym yn meddwl y bydd pethau'n datblygu yn dilyn 2010. Sylwais fod Christine wedi rhoi tystiolaeth i chi o'm mlaen i, a chroesawn y ffaith ei bod hi'n rapporteur ym Mhwyllgor y Rhanbarthau a gwerthfawrogwn y gwaith y mae hi'n ymgymryd ag ef ar gyfer y strategaeth wedi 2010. Wrth gwrs, yr ydym yn disgwyl, yn ystod y chwech i 12 mis nesaf, y bydd yr aelod-wladwriaethau yn dechrau trafodaethau ar sut y dylai ddatblygu.

The paper that I have presented to you provides the background and the influence of the Lisbon strategy and explains how our Government has been part of the process and how we think that things will develop post 2010. I am aware that Christine gave evidence to you earlier, and we welcome the fact that she is now a rapporteur in the Committee of the Regions and we appreciate the work that she is undertaking on the strategy post 2010. Of course, we expect that, over the next six to 12 months, the member states will commence negotiations on how it should develop.

[35] Hoffwn ddweud, yn fyr ar y dechrau, bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi mabwysiadu llawer o flaenoriaethau Lisbon yn y polisiau yr ydym yn eu gweithredu ar hyn o bryd. Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol bod y gronfa strwythurol sydd gennym ni, a'r arian cydgyfeiriant yn awr, yn cyd-fynd â'r agenda hwnnw, a bod canran yr arian sydd wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer blaenoriaethau Lisbon yn uwch na chanran llawer o ranbarthau ac aelod-wladwriaethau eraill.

I would like to say, very briefly at the outset, that the Assembly Government has adopted a number of the Lisbon priorities in the policies that we are currently implementing. I am sure that you will be aware that the structural fund that we have, and now the convergence funding, is very much in line with that agenda, and that the percentage of money allocated for Lisbon priorities is higher than that of a number of other regions and member states.

[36] In terms of the Lisbon agenda priorities that we have adopted—and many of these, of course, are in 'One Wales'—we see things such as the onus on skills and training, employment, research and development, innovation, entrepreneurship, housing supply, and climate change, which, of course, brings in the Gothenburg agenda. I think that we need to recognise that the strategy will probably build on some of those key areas, but, naturally, it will have to bear in mind the impact of the recession on jobs and growth. All of us recognise, although we are very much committed to the agenda of jobs and growth, that, in a recession, you must protect what you have. The whole intention of the Lisbon agenda is to attract new jobs, and growth based on those new jobs, but, in a recession, you also have to protect your base, so we have had to amend our proposals a little. I heard Christine mention ProAct, which is basically a scheme to protect the existing skills base, and that is something that every country should be doing during a recession. Therefore, with the new strategy, we must bear in mind that some of the targets set out in the original strategy could not possibly be achieved within the timescales that have been set and, therefore, need to reflect the fact that we are going forward in a new economic era.

[37] The final point is that, as a Government, we are looking again to see whether we have the right mechanisms in place to deliver post-recession, because we suspect that the economy will be in a bit of a different shape when we come out of the recession, and we must bear that in mind. In due course, we will put forward our own response to the Green Paper, which I am sure the committee will also be considering.

[38] **Sandy Mewies:** Are there any questions from Members?

[39] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Yr ydych **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** You have referred to

wedi cyfeirio at sut y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi cydweithio o ran strategaeth Lisbon. Yr oeddwn am ofyn cwestiwn ichi am y llwyddiannau penodol sydd wedi deillio o hynny yng Nghymru. Yr ydych wedi cyfeirio'n gyffredinol at sut y mae polisiau'r Llywodraeth wedi cydweddu â'r strategaeth, a'r math o bolisiau a ymgorfforwyd yn 'Cymru'n Un' o ganlyniad i hynny. Yr ydych wedi cyfeirio'n benodol at ProAct, a chredaf ein bod i gyd yn derbyn bod hwnnw'n llwyddiant penodol. A allwch feddwl am ddau lwyddiant arall i wneud tri?

[40] **Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog:** Gallaf. Cyn i'r dirwasgiad ddigwydd, yr oeddem wedi rhoi pwyslais eithaf sylweddol ar sgiliau a phrentisiaeth. Mae'r cynllun prentisiaeth sydd gennym, yr ydym wedi ei gryfhau ers y dirwasgiad, yn un pwysig iawn. Gall hwnnw elwa o arian y gronfa strwythurol yr ydym wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer hynny. Yr ail faes yw ymchwil a datblygu. Yr ydym bellach fel Llywodraeth wedi neilltuo pedwar prif faes y credwn y dylem fod yn denu buddsoddiad ar eu cyfer. Yr ydym fel Llywodraeth yn dweud, beth bynnag y bo'r blaenoriaethau—a deallaf y bydd gan brifysgolion eu blaenoriaethau eu hunain—os oes angen arian gan y Llywodraeth arnynt, dyma'r meysydd y byddwn yn rhoi arian iddynt. Un peth yr ydym wedi'i sylweddoli yn ystod y dirwasgiad yw, pan fydd eich cefn yn erbyn y wal, os oes gennych gwmmiau yma sydd â phencadlys ymchwil a datblygu ochr yn ochr â'r buddsoddiad, maent yn llawer tebycach o oresgyn y dirwasgiad. Felly, dyna'r ddau faes yr hoffwn ganolbwyntio arnynt, a bu cydweithio, fel mae'n digwydd, rhwng fy adran i ac adran Jane Davidson a John Griffiths ar hyn.

[41] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Beth yw gwendidau strategaeth Lisbon? A oes rhwystredigaeth oherwydd bod y strategaeth yn dal datblygiadau yn ôl rywsut y byddai'r Llywodraeth a chithau eisiau eu hyrwyddo, petai hynny'n bosibl?

[42] **Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog:** Na, ni chredaf fod hynny'n digwydd, mewn gwirionedd. Yn naturiol, pan fydd gennych strategaeth sy'n weithredol dros gyfnod o flynyddoedd, nid oes rhyw fath o gontinwam amlwg, theoretig fel bod modd gweld sut y

the way in which the Government has collaborated on the Lisbon strategy. I was going to ask you a question about the specific successes that have resulted from that in Wales. You have made a general reference to the way in which Government policies have linked to the strategy, and the kinds of policies that have been incorporated in 'One Wales' as a result of that. You have referred specifically to ProAct, and I think that we all accept that that is a specific success. Can you give us another two successes to make it three?

The Deputy First Minister: I can. Prior to the recession, we had placed particular emphasis on skills and apprenticeships. Our apprenticeship scheme, which we have made more resilient since the recession, is very important. That can benefit from the structural funds that we have allocated to that end. The second area is research and development. As a Government, we have now allocated four main areas for which we believe we should be attracting investment. We as a Government have said, whatever the priorities are—and I understand that universities will have their own priorities—if they want money from the Government, these are the areas that we will be funding. One of the things that we have realised during the recession is that, when you have your back to the wall, if you have companies here that have research and development headquarters alongside the investment, they are far more likely to survive the recession. Therefore, those are the two areas that I want to concentrate on, and, as it happens, there has been collaboration between my department and that of Jane Davidson and John Griffiths on this.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What are the weaknesses of the Lisbon strategy? Are there frustrations because the strategy is in some way holding development back that you and the Government may wish to promote, if that were possible?

The Deputy First Minister: No, I do not think that that happens, to be honest. Naturally, when you have a strategy that is operational over a period of years, there is no obvious theoretic continuum so that you see how things are developing without

mae pethau'n datblygu heb ymyrraeth, fel sy'n digwydd mewn cyfnod o ddirwasgiad pan fydd Llywodraethau yn sylweddoli bod ganddynt flaenoriaethau sydd ychydig yn wahanol, o safbwynt newid yn yr hinsawdd, er enghraifft. Yr oeddwn yn edrych ar flaenoriaethau strategaeth Lisbon wrth baratoi ar gyfer y cyfarfod hwn, a'r hyn sy'n syndod yw bod cynifer o bolisiau'r Llywodraeth, fel y cânt eu gweithredu, yn ffitio'n glir iawn yn y maes hwnnw. Mewn gwirionedd, fel yr awgrymais mewn ateb blaenorol, yr ydym wedi neilltuo canran uchel iawn o arian y gronfa strwythurol ar gyfer yr agenda honno.

[43] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Yr ydych hefyd wedi awgrymu yn eich sylwadau agoriadol bod rhywfaint o hyblygrwydd wedi'i gyflwyno i strategaeth Lisbon o ganlyniad i'r dirwasgiad economaidd ledled Cymru. A allwch fod yn fwy penodol ynghylch sut yr ydych wedi llwyddo i fanteisio ar yr hyblygrwydd hwnnw?

[44] **Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog:** Gallaf. Cyn y dirwasgiad, yr oedd fy adran i a'r Llywodraeth wedi blaenoriaethu sectorau penodol yn yr economi yr oeddem eisieu eu gweld yn tyfu. Er mwyn i'r economi dyfu, yr oeddem yn sylweddoli'r angen inni ganolbwyntio ar sectorau penodol oherwydd rhaid i bob gwlad gael blaenoriaethau neu bydd prinder. Felly, yr oeddem wedi cytuno ar flaenoriaethau strategol, a oedd yn ffitio gyda Lisbon.

9.30 a.m.

[45] Unwaith y daeth y dirwasgiad, bu inni sylweddoli bod angen amddiffyn rhai sectorau nad oeddem wedi'u blaenoriaethu o'r blaen, oherwydd rhaid i chi amddiffyn yr economi gyfan mewn dirwasgiad. Felly, gwelwyd nad oedd yn bosibl inni ddewis peidio â chynorthwyo cwmnïau drwy'r dirwasgiad. Er nad oeddent yn ffitio i mewn i'r sectorau yr oeddem wedi'u blaenoriaethu, rhaid oedd amddiffyn y swyddi. Yr oedd cwmnïau yn dweud wrthym nad oeddent am wynebu'r un sefyllfa â'r un a welwyd yn ystod dirwasgiad y 1970au, 1980au a'r 1990au, pan gollwyd sgiliau; yr oeddent am amddiffyn sgiliau. Felly, dyna ein blaenoriaeth. Unwaith y byddwn allan o'r

intervention, which is what happens during a period of recession, as Governments realise that they have priorities that are slightly different, such as those relating to climate change, for example. I was looking at the priorities of the Lisbon strategy when preparing for this meeting, and what is surprising is that so many Government policies, as they are being implemented, fit very clearly into that area. In reality, as I suggested in a previous answer, we have allocated a very large percentage of the structural funds moneys to that particular agenda.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: You have also suggested in your opening remarks that an element of flexibility has been introduced into the Lisbon strategy as a result of the economic recession throughout Wales. Can you be more specific about how you have been able to take advantage of that flexibility?

The Deputy First Minister: Yes, I can. Prior to the recession, my department and the Government had prioritised particular sectors of the economy in which we wanted to see growth. In order for the economy to grow, we realised that we had to concentrate on specific sectors because every nation must have those priorities or there will be shortages. Therefore, we had agreed on strategic priorities, which fitted with Lisbon.

Once the recession was upon us, we realised that we needed to protect some other sectors that we had not previously prioritised, because you have to protect the economy across the board in a recession. Therefore, we saw that it was impossible for us to choose not to support companies through the recession. Although they did not fit into the sectors that we had prioritised, we had to safeguard the jobs. Companies had told us that they did not want to face the same situation as that which they faced in the recession of the 1970s, 1980s and the 1990s, when skills were lost; they wanted to protect skills. Therefore, that is our priority. Once we are out of the recession, we believe that the

dirwasgiad, credwn y bydd y blaenoriaethau priorities that we have set will return.
yr ydym wedi eu gosod yn dod yn ôl.

[46] **Jeff Cuthbert:** I want to offer a brief word of explanation. Before the meeting began, I pointed out that, as chair of the programme monitoring committee, which is a Welsh Assembly Government appointment, it would be difficult for me to scrutinise the Government, certainly with representatives of the Welsh European Funding Office present. However, it would be like purgatory for me to have to go through an entire session without saying something, so I want to ask a more general question about the future and how ideas and plans are to be drawn up. I mentioned the programme monitoring committee, and I feel that the way in which it works is a real strength. It draws in representatives of the business world, local government, regional government, the voluntary sector, higher education and the trade unions. On the future of the Lisbon agenda post 2010 and the longer-term future of cohesion policy when we come to transitional payments after 2013, do you agree that it is such a partnership approach that will give extra strength and validity to the policies that we develop in Wales?

[47] **The Deputy First Minister:** You are absolutely right. We can take a leaf out of our own book in many ways, because that is the situation that we adopted with our economic summits. We brought people together. A great strength of our economic summits is that all partners have come together. All the partners that you mentioned have been represented and, to be frank, many of the ideas that we have adopted to try to meet the challenges of the recession have come forward through that partnership approach. So, there is something valuable there that we should maintain. That partnership approach will serve us well because the lessons that we have learned collectively as a result of the recession will be put to good use as we look for the post-Lisbon strategy.

[48] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Yng nghydestun ceisio dylanwadu ar bolisi Ewropeaidd a cheisio sicrhau bod buddiannau gwledydd a rhanbarthau yn cael eu diogelu, mae gwledydd bychain a rhanbarthau Ewrop yn wynebu problem o ran y berthynas â'r aelod-wladwriaeth. I ba raddau yr ydych yn teimlo bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi llwyddo i sicrhau bod y pethau sy'n bwysig i Gymru yn cael eu codi yn y trafodaethau am bolisi Ewropeaidd, fel strategaeth Lisbon—sydd, wrth gwrs, yn perthyn i'r gorffennol, cyn 'Cymru'n Un'? Sut yr ydych yn gweld y broses honno'n gweithio? A allwn ddiogelu buddiannau Cymru yn ddigonol o fewn y broses hon?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: In the context of attempting to influence European policy and trying to ensure that the interests of countries and regions are safeguarded, small countries and regions of Europe face a problem in relation to their relationship with the member state. To what extent do you feel that the Welsh Government has succeeded in ensuring that those things that are important to Wales are raised in discussions about European policy, such as the Lisbon strategy—and that, of course, belongs to the past, before 'One Wales'? How do you see that process working? Can we safeguard the interests of Wales sufficiently within this process?

[49] **Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog:** Dylwn ddweud dau beth. Yn gyntaf, bydd y Llywodraeth yn cyflwyno ei phapur ei hun fel ymateb i strategaeth newydd Lisbon, fel yr ydym wedi'i wneud yn y gorffennol.

The Deputy First Minister: I should say two things. First, the Government will present its own paper in response to the new Lisbon strategy, as we have done in the past.

[50] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Mae'n ddrwg gennyf dorri ar draws, ond sut yn union y mae hynny'n digwydd? Yr ydych yn cyflwyno papur, ond pwy fydd yn dadlau'r achos yn Ewrop?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I apologise for interrupting, but how exactly does that happen? You submit a paper, but who argues the case in Europe?

[51] **Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog:** Bydd Comisiwn Ewrop yn derbyn sylwadau gan lawer o gyrff y byddwn ni yn un ohonynt. Felly, gallwn ymateb yn uniongyrchol i'r Papur Gwyrdd. Pan fydd hi'n amser gwneud penderfyniad terfynol ar dderbyn y strategaeth newydd, bydd yr aelod-wladwriaethau yn gwneud y penderfyniad, drwy aelodau'r cyngor, ond o leiaf y byddwn wedi cael rhan uniongyrchol yn y broses.

The Deputy First Minister: The European Commission will receive comments from a number of different bodies, and we will be one of those. Therefore, we can respond directly to the Green Paper. When it is time to make a final decision on accepting the new strategy, the member states will make the decision, through the members in council, but at least we will have had a direct role to play in the process.

[52] Ni chredaf fod hynny yn do'i hun yn ddigonol. Rhaid i'r aelod-wladwriaeth, yn flynyddol, roi adroddiad i'r comisiwn ar y cynnydd y mae wedi'i wneud o ran ymateb i agenda Lisbon oherwydd mae'n rhaid i'r aelod-wladwriaeth roi adroddiad blynyddol i'r comisiwn ar y cynnydd y mae wedi'i wneud i ymateb i agenda Lisbon drwy'r hyn a elwir yn '*national reform programme*', sef dogfen sy'n cael ei rhoi bob blwyddyn. Yn wreiddiol, cafwyd cyfeiriad byr, o bosibl, at y gwledydd datganoledig ym Mhrydain sydd â Llywodraethau eu hunain, ond yn gynyddol mae'r dogfennau mwy diweddar wedi cynnwys llawer o bethau y mae'r Llywodraethau yng Ngogledd Iwerddon, yr Alban a Chymru yn eu gwneud. Mae'r broses honno eleni yn digwydd ar hyn o bryd, ac y mae'r ddogfen yr ydym yn disgwyl y bydd y Deyrnas Gyfunol yn ei hanfon i Frwsel yn cynnwys nifer fawr o bethau yr ydym wedi'u gwneud yng Nghymru. Un o'r rheiny fydd ProAct. Yr ydym yn hynod falch y bydd y ddogfen honno'n cael ei rhoi yn rhan o adroddiad Prydain.

I do not believe that that in itself is sufficient. The member states must submit a report to the commission annually on the progress that it has made in responding to the Lisbon agenda, because the member state must give an annual report to the commission on the progress that it has made in responding to the Lisbon agenda by way of what is termed the '*national reform programme*', which is a document that is submitted annually. Originally, there may have been a brief reference, possibly, to the devolved nations of Britain, which have their own Governments, but increasingly the more recent documents have included many things that the Governments in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are doing. This year's process is under way at the moment, and the document that we expect the United Kingdom to be sending to Brussels includes very many things that we have done in Wales. One of those will be ProAct. We are extremely proud that that document will be submitted as part of Britain's report.

[53] Felly, mae dau beth: gallwn roi gwybodaeth uniongyrchol; a phan ddaw adroddiad blynyddol i'r comisiwn, yr ydym yn rhan gynyddol o'r broses honno.

So, there are two things: we can provide information directly; and when an annual report is submitted to the commission, we are increasingly a part of that process.

[54] **Sandy Mewies:** Thank you. I have a couple of questions. There seems to be little doubt that the Lisbon strategy will change. We heard Christine talking about rebalancing, looking at green jobs and a green economy, but also at quality-of-life indicators. Barroso has also talked about a people-centred approach, and things seem to be changing. As far as you know, are stakeholders in Wales signed up to that? We have concentrated very much on growth and the economy, and worked very hard indeed on those things. It matters that stakeholders have to be signed up to those changes and will work towards them. Do you have any impression of how that is working?

[55] **The Deputy First Minister:** The only impression that we have, I suppose, is how they respond to the initiatives that we put forward. The green jobs strategy was a key part of that, and it fits very well with what the European Commission has been asking us to do. I

think that there is an increasingly positive response from stakeholders, particularly in the private sector, but also the other groups that are involved in the environmental scene. I find that they are quite excited by the prospect. Looking to the future, it is pretty obvious that this agenda will go higher and higher. When I talk to the representatives of automotive companies in particular, they tell me that they are already planning for the post-Lisbon era by thinking about electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles. The new generation of vehicles will have to meet quite stringent emissions targets, and they are already planning along those lines. We are already beginning to see research and development investment in those areas. There is hard evidence that that is coming through. It is clear that the major players in the field are already thinking along these lines because they know that they will have to meet higher emissions reduction targets.

[56] If you are thinking about smaller companies, which perhaps do not have access to that sort of high-level research and development, we can help them particularly with such things as energy efficiency and making it easier for people to travel to work using public transport rather than private vehicles. I think that most companies recognise now that they cannot bury their heads in the sand and that they have to go with the grain. So, I suspect that it is variable but, by and large, I think that it is moving in the right direction.

[57] **Sandy Mewies:** There have been some criticisms in the past from the Committee of the Regions about the involvement of regions and local authorities in planning for the Lisbon strategy and what comes next. This is along the lines of Rhodri Glyn's questioning. How has the Welsh Government been able to take those views into account and present them to influence the UK Government's views on the current strategy? I am particularly interested in how we have managed to have a say in the national reform programmes, the NRP.

9.40 a.m.

[58] **The Deputy First Minister:** I will ask Philip to explain the relationship that he has with officials at a UK level so that you can understand the process by which information is shared. I was quite pleased, having obviously had a quick look at some of the ideas that will be included in that new document, the national reform programme, which I think is an annual document. Some of the initiatives that we have been undertaking figure quite prominently now, as do things from Scotland and Northern Ireland. It very much carries that flavour of there being a responsibility at a Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish level that needs to be accommodated within it, and I was quite pleased with some of those references. As I indicated earlier, we feel that many of the initiatives that we are pursuing fit quite squarely within the Lisbon agenda. Would you like to mention, Philip, how you discuss with your official colleagues the way in which the Welsh situation is brought to their attention?

[59] **Mr Bird:** Thank you, Deputy First Minister. Basically, our engagement with the national reform programme has grown, year on year, over the past three years. The term 'national reform programme' does not roll off the tongue very well, does it? Essentially, it is an annual reporting mechanism that takes place and which is directed at the member-state level by the commission, which makes an assessment. The council then makes recommendations to the member state on what should be taken forward in terms of priorities. The programme itself is, basically, split. A large part of it is in respect of macro-economic issues in which our involvement is marginal, to say the least—it involves, as you would imagine, public finances, credit flows and that sort of thing.

[60] However, when it gets down to the micro level, we have a role to play and our role, along with the other devolved administrations, as I said, has grown year on year. We are now at the table when the very first meeting takes place, when the European Commission engages with the Treasury, and that has been the case for the last few years. We are invited to comment on all the areas that have been identified within the reform programme that would

fall to a devolved administration. This year, in particular, we have done very well indeed. The First Minister—sorry, the Deputy First Minister; I was promoting you then—is absolutely right. We have been engaged with a whole range of issues, and I will mention some: from housing, where we have been able to identify the additional funding that we have identified from 2008 to 2011; the business development initiatives with programmes such as JEREMIE and JESSICA; initiatives undertaken on skills and training, such as the Skills@Work programme; and even down to areas such as childcare, which has also been brought to the table in terms of the additional funding that has been made available between 2008 and 2011.

[61] There is, therefore, a natural progression here in terms of what our engagement is and what we have brought to the table. Some of these things, of course, are at an even lower level, in that they are also delivered at the local authority level. We have a good story to tell here on our level of engagement. What we have been able to do in terms of the Lisbon strategy has grown considerably.

[62] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Hoffwn ddychwelyd at y pwyntiau sydd wedi'u gwneud ynghylch dyfodol strategaeth Lisbon a symud y pwyslais oddi wrth dwf a swyddi—yr hen ddangosyddion traddodiadol—tuag at yr hyn y cyfeirir ato fel ansawdd bywyd a byw o fewn cyfyngiadau ecolegol y blaned. Mae'r Arlywydd Sarkozy wedi bod yn sôn am fynd y tu hwnt i GDP. Ymddengys i mi bod tensiwn arbennig yno i Gymru, oherwydd yr ydym wedi cael arian strwythurol yn y gorffennol, ac yr ydym wedi'i gael eto, yn benodol er mwyn codi GDP Cymru gan ein bod yn tanberfformio o fewn Ewrop. A oes tensiwn yn y fan honno? A ydym yn gallu gwneud y ddau beth, neu a oes rhaid i ni hyd yn oed newid ein blaenoriaethau o ran ein defnydd o arian strwythurol yn y cyfnod presennol ac yn sicr wrth feddwl am y dyfodol y tu hwnt i 2012?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I would like to return to the points that have been made regarding the future of the Lisbon strategy and shifting the emphasis away from growth and jobs—the old, traditional indicators—towards what is referred to as quality of life and living within the ecological limits of the planet. President Sarkozy has been talking of looking beyond GDP. It appears to me that there is a particular tension there for Wales, because we have received structural funds in the past, and we have received them again, specifically to increase Wales's GDP as a result of our underperforming on a European level. Is there a tension there? Can we do both things, or do we even have to change our priorities regarding our use of structural funds in the current period and certainly when we consider the future beyond 2012?

[63] **Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog:** Bydd cyfle, yn sicr, i adolygu'r gronfa strwythurol hanner ffordd drwy'r cyfnod, er na fyddwn yn disgwyl y byddai newidiadau sylfaenol i'r cyfeiriad yr ydym wedi'i osod. Yr unig beth y byddwn yn ei feddwl o ran y gronfa strwythurol yw y byddech eisiau ystyried y ffaith bod y dirwasgiad wedi digwydd a'n bod wedi gorfod ymateb i hynny. Ni chredaf fod tensiynau cwbl sylfaenol yn y fan hon, oherwydd gallwch gael ymrwymiad i wella ansawdd bywyd pobl a chael swyddi sy'n talu'n well na'r swyddi sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd. Ni chredaf fod hynny'n densiwn na allwch ei ddatrys. Yr hyn y byddwn yn ei ddweud yw y bydd llwybr yr economi dros y blynyddoedd nesaf yn dangos bod yn rhaid i bob cwmni sy'n buddsoddi mewn technoleg

The Deputy First Minister: There will certainly be an opportunity to review the structural funds halfway through the period, although I would not expect there to be fundamental changes to the direction that we have set. The only thing that I would think in terms of the structural funds is that you would want to take into consideration the fact that the recession has struck and that we have had to respond to that. I do not think that there are fundamental tensions here, because you can have a commitment to improve people's quality of life and provide jobs that pay better salaries than the jobs that we currently have. I do not see that as an insurmountable tension. What I would say is that the route that the economy will take over the next few years will demonstrate that

newydd sylweddoli y bydd rheoliadau caeth o ran allyriadau ac, felly, na allant ddim ond buddsoddi yn yr hen dechnoleg sy'n cynyddu allyriadau. Credaf fod rhywfaint o ddod ynghyd yn y fan hon rhwng y cwmnïau hynny—cwmnïau ceir, er enghraifft—sy'n buddsoddi mewn technolegau newydd a'r ffaith bod Cymru, bellach, wedi ymdynghedu, drwy'r strategaeth swyddi gwyrdd, i fynd i lawr llwybr arbennig carbon isel.

every company that invests in new technology will have to realise that there will be strict regulations in terms of emissions and, therefore, that they cannot just invest in the old technology that increases emissions. I think that there is a coming together here between those companies—car companies, for example—that are investing in new technologies and the fact that Wales has now committed itself, through the green jobs strategy, to go down a particular low-carbon route.

[64] Derbynïaf y pwynt bod angen inni fod yn ofalus nad ydym yn mynd ar drywydd twf a swyddi ar draul yr agenda arall, ond yr wyf yn eithaf hyderus, yn sgîl y math o lwybr yr ydym wedi'i osod ar ein cyfer ein hunain, y byddwn yn llwyddo i oresgyn hynny.

I accept the point that we need to be careful that we do not chase growth and jobs at the expense of the other agenda, but I am quite confident, given the kind of route that we have set for ourselves, that we will succeed in overcoming that.

[65] **Sandy Mewies:** Are there any other questions for the Deputy First Minister and his team? I see that there are not. Thank you for coming today. I am quite sure that we will be returning to this. Even though we are looking at the intermediate stage, we are hoping that some of this information will feed into our scrutiny of the future of the cohesion policy too. Everything is linked, is it not, in the end?

[66] **The Deputy First Minister:** It is, rather, yes.

[67] **Sandy Mewies:** Thank you for coming today.

[68] **The Deputy First Minister:** It was a great pleasure. Diolch yn fawr.

9.47 a.m.

Ymchwiliad Craffu: Dyfodol y Polisi Cydlyniant—Casglu Tystiolaeth Scrutiny Inquiry: The Future of Cohesion Policy—Evidence Gathering

[69] **Sandy Mewies:** This is the fifth evidence session for the committee's inquiry. We have been looking at the views of key stakeholders in Wales and, today, evidence is being taken from Higher Education Wales. I welcome Professor Noel Lloyd, chair of Higher Education Wales and vice-chancellor of Aberystwyth University, Greg Walker, policy adviser for Higher Education Wales, and Paul Harris, head of office, Welsh Higher Education Brussels. Thank you for your paper. Are you all going to make introductory remarks, or will it just be one person?

[70] **Professor Lloyd:** It will just be me.

[71] **Sandy Mewies:** Okay. Jeff, do you want to make your position known?

[72] **Jeff Cuthbert:** Yes. I am being relatively silent today, which is very hard for me. As I am the chair of the programme monitoring committee for Wales—Greg sits on that committee—it is difficult for me to take part in scrutiny sessions, as it is a Welsh Assembly Government appointment. That does not mean to say that I will not ask questions, but they may not be scrutiny—as long as you understand that. It is not a lack of interest.

[73] **Sandy Mewies:** I can assure you that he will ask questions. It has just been business as usual as far as I can see. [*Laughter.*] We will move on swiftly. Please introduce your paper, Professor Lloyd.

9.50 a.m.

[74] **Yr Athro Lloyd:** Diolch yn fawr, **Professor Lloyd:** Thank you, Chair. First of Gadeirydd. Yn gyntaf, yr wyf yn all, I appreciate this opportunity to give gwerthfawrogi'r cyfle hwn i roi tystiolaeth evidence to you on an issue that is very ichi ar fater sy'n dra phwysig i ni yng important to us in Wales. Nghymru.

[75] I am grateful for the opportunity to give evidence, having provided some in advance in writing and in coming to the committee. It is a very important topic, and one that is close to the priorities of higher education as well as of the Assembly. It is central to the future of the economy and society of Wales. You will be aware, of course, that the university sector in Wales has been very much at the forefront of efforts to use structural funds to ensure that we develop the skills and research base that we need to be able to prosper. It is clear that, in the kind of economy that we are trying to build, high-level skills will be required. You hear estimates of 90 per cent of new jobs requiring these high-level skills. Universities have worked closely together and with the Assembly in relation to these matters, and it has resulted in a number of landmark university-based projects—the Institute of Life Science in Swansea is one—and a range of other important projects, some involving my own institution. They are across universities in west Wales and the Valleys and, in the main, they have been very much collaborative. They have enabled us to bring interdisciplinary teams together. One of the important things that we are trying to do, and for which structural funds have been important, is to address the global challenges. In order to do that, you have to bring together as wide a range of expertise as possible and that means inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional working.

[76] So far in the convergence programme we have seen some very good projects being proposed and delivered by higher education, and we have outlined some of these in the written evidence, and I will not repeat them. Very recently we have seen the approval of the new £37 million leadership and management project led by Cardiff and Glyndŵr universities. The Low Carbon Research Institute involves most of the institutions in Wales; I think that that will be launched on Friday. We know that other projects are at various stages of approval, and these are generally very important, not only for the strategic objectives of the institutions but, collectively, for the linkage between institutions and the important part that they play in economic development. Many of these projects will help us to be increasingly competitive in terms of the global economic environment, which is particularly important as we emerge from recession. The sector in Wales has been working closely together on these projects. We have what one might term a strategic reach that will have a lasting impact in west Wales and the Valleys, and that lasting impact is crucial. Although they are projects over a specific period of time, they are all designed to have a lasting impact and to continue.

[77] We are pleased to say that there are indications that a tranche of other projects agreed collaboratively by universities under the convergence programme, both the European regional development fund and the European social fund, are well on track for approval. As we have suggested in our written evidence, the case for Wales's eligibility for transition funding in the next programming period is very strong, and it is very important for us that that continues. Under a place-based approach as suggested in the Barca report, we believe that Wales can make a compelling argument for this continued investment. We certainly wish to provide as much information and evidence as we can to help that to go forward. There is a huge amount of untapped potential that we need to unlock in Wales, and with the transformation strategy

backed with sustained European and Assembly funding in high-level skills and in research and development, we feel that we can do a lot to tap that underused potential. The university sector will play a full part in the effort to ensure that we qualify for this transition funding.

[78] We are already working with our UK and European university networks, which are reactive, to make the case for continued regional funding and linking that with other sources of European research funding, with FP7 and FP8 coming up and the European Research Council. Finally, I would like to emphasise that our vision—which I am sure we all share—is that by 2020 we will have created a high-value knowledge economy in Wales, and by that time we hope that we will be ineligible for regional funding because we have achieved our GDP objectives as well as our objectives in relation to social and cultural development. Our continued qualification for structural funding is, ultimately, a continued chance to make the radical changes that the Welsh economy needs—and these changes have been started—to reach a position of strength within Europe and internationally. We look forward to working with the National Assembly and other partners to deliver that change.

[79] Yr ydym yn edrych ymlaen at weithio gyda chi yn y Cynulliad a chyda phartneriaid eraill i gyflawni'r her ac i gyflawni ein nod o ran bod yn gystadleuol yn rhyngwladol a gwneud hynny, fel y soniais ynghynt, drwy weithio gyda'n gilydd. Mae hynny'n hanfodol o ran y fenter yr ydym yn ceisio ei rhoi ar waith ar hyn o bryd. Diolch yn fawr.

We look forward to working with you in the Assembly and with other partners to meet the challenge and to achieve our goals in relation to being competitive internationally and to doing so, as I mentioned earlier, by working together. That is essential to the initiative that we are trying to put in place at present. Thank you very much.

[80] **Sandy Mewies:** Thank you very much indeed. Our first question is from Jeff Cuthbert. [*Laughter.*]

[81] **Jeff Cuthbert:** It is a non-scrutiny-type question, I trust. Thank you for your paper and for what you have just said. I read the paper with great interest and I note that you refer to the fact that the programme monitoring committee—on which Greg and Richard Davies from Swansea sit—is likely to have a formal role in the determination of the structure of cohesion policy post-2013-14. I think that that is sensible because of the partnership nature of that committee. In your paper you refer to the planning for transitional funding, and I trust that you are right that we will not qualify for the full round of structural funds after 2013, but we will, in all probability—because it has always happened before—qualify for transitional funding. The whole of Wales is likely to qualify either for convergence or competitiveness funding, so there will be some funding across the country, but how is higher education across Wales drawing down the best lessons across Europe? Presumably, you have links across Europe. Do you systematically gather examples of good practice that could apply to Wales for the future, and examples of not so good practice with which we would not want to make the same mistakes? How do you arrange getting the best input from higher education?

[82] **Professor Lloyd:** As you said, and as I mentioned earlier, we have networks both at UK level and at a European level. In particular, Universities UK has a Europe unit with which we are well connected. It is a matter of getting as much information as possible from such bodies, which can act as a focus for those exercises. We also have other close contacts, and perhaps Paul can respond in more detail to that.

[83] **Sandy Mewies:** You do not need to touch the microphones at all as that will throw everything off.

[84] **Mr Harris:** Sorry about that, it is different in Brussels. One initiative by the Commission that has been useful recently is that it has commenced a series of university-

business fora over the last year on different topics, and these have been designed to bring together different stakeholders to share practice on particular issues of university-business co-operation, which is very much at the heart of regional policy. We have had representatives of our sector at each of those fora in various places. There is one coming up shortly in Dublin on skills and university-business co-operation. Two representatives of the Dragon Innovation Partnership in south-west Wales, which involves three of our universities, will be participating at that event. Therefore, we have those opportunities to hear of best practice and there are conferences in Brussels organised by the commission's Directorate-General for Regional Policy. There are also examples in the Regions for Economic Change conferences, and we follow those through our office.

10.00 a.m.

[85] **Professor Lloyd:** Greg, would you like to come in on this?

[86] **Mr Walker:** Very briefly, it is also the case that European countries and other parts of the EU are coming to Wales to look for good examples of structural fund projects. We have had a couple of RegioStars awards in the last few years, which are excellent examples of where we are leading the way on best practice on some EU projects. It is therefore a two-way street with regard to learning about good practice.

[87] **Sandy Mewies:** Thank you. Welcome, Nick.

[88] **Nick Bourne:** Thank you very much, Sandy, and apologies for the late appearance. Something cropped up, as they say. Thank you for the presentation, Noel. I have a couple of questions. The first relates to the transitional funding that you talked about—hoping that we get there—and the possibility referred to in the paper of renationalisation of regional policy and structural funds. Is there any lobbying on that at university level throughout the community? Perhaps Paul would know, from the Brussels perspective, whether there is something happening pan-Europe on that. The second question follows on from something that Jeff hinted at, and this applies irrespective of the position in 2013 and refers to now, I suppose. What do you do to liaise and work with universities that are not in the convergence area? I realise that European programmes exist, but does it constrain you in any way? You mentioned dealing with Cardiff and Glyndŵr universities, for example. I can see that it would be easier with Bangor because Bangor, Aberystwyth and Trinity Saint David and so on are in convergence areas. Are there any constraints when you are dealing with other institutions in Wales that are not in convergence areas?

[89] **Professor Lloyd:** On the renationalisation, it is hard to assess the real pressure for that, but perhaps Paul would be the expert on that.

[90] **Mr Harris:** With regard to higher education representatives in Brussels, not a huge number of them are in economic convergence areas and we are probably quite advanced in looking at this debate compared to them. I also think, as we have seen from the evidence and what the commission has been saying, that the case that has been made against renationalisation has and is being made quite publicly in Brussels. There is a feeling that lobbying from the higher education sector is not necessarily required at the moment. That takes us back to the UK level and Government level. You have mentioned the UK Higher Education Europe Unit, which is monitoring the UK Government's position on this.

[91] **Mr Walker:** The higher education sectors of the four parts of the United Kingdom meet the sector representatives and the funding council representatives, and also the departmental representatives—so the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills here in Wales, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Scottish education department meet every six months to discuss high-level policy issues. We have

been using that forum internally to try to ensure that the position in relation to the next round supports regions such as Wales in attaining transition funding. Decisions will be made by Ministers rather than by officials in higher education funding councils or officials in Government departments, but we are using those fora to put out strong messages about the necessity of transition funding beyond 2013 and we will continue to do so.

[92] **Professor Lloyd:** On your second question, Nick, interestingly, universities across Wales do work together in these areas. The fact that some of us are in the convergence area and others are not is a given that you embed in your thinking from the beginning. My experience is that it has not been a particular barrier to taking things forward simply because it is an axiom, almost, and you work to that. Perhaps Greg has a wider view on that.

[93] **Mr Walker:** It is not a particular barrier. The split between convergence and competitiveness is not a problem with skills training and degree courses. Cardiff University and other universities—such as the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff—that are not in the convergence area are participating in convergence programmes, as Nick mentioned, on the leadership and management initiative that we have just discussed, and also the Low Carbon Research Institute. There is also a foundation degree and other programmes that run under the European social fund, where they can take students. The eligibility of the student is the primary issue rather than where the studying is taking place.

[94] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Mae gennyf ddau gwestiwn; y naill yn ymwneud â phroses, a'r llall yn ymwneud â chynnwys polisi. Yr ydych wedi sôn gryn lawer am y strwythurau a sefydlwyd gennych mewn addysg uwch er mwyn sicrhau y gallwch ddylanwadu ar bolisi Ewropeaidd. O ran eich perthynas gyda Llywodraeth Cymru, a ydych yn teimlo eich bod, o fewn y berthynas honno, yn gallu dylanwadu'n ddigonol er mwyn sicrhau bod agenda addysg uwch Cymru yn cael ei chynrychioli yn ymwneud Llywodraeth Cymru ag Ewrop?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I have two questions, one of which relates to process, and the other to policy. You talked a great deal about the structures that you have put in place within higher education to ensure that you can influence European policy. In relation to your relationship with the Welsh Government, do you believe that, within that relationship, you have sufficient influence to ensure that the higher education agenda in Wales is represented in the Government's dealings with Europe?

[95] Ceir cam arall lle mae'n rhaid i Lywodraeth Cymru weithio fel rhan o aelod-wladwriaeth. A gredwch fod Llywodraeth Cymru'n llwyddo'n ddigonol i sicrhau bod agenda addysg uwch Cymru yn cael ei throsglwyddo i'r aelod-wladwriaeth sydd, yn y pen draw, yn dylanwadu'n uniongyrchol ar bolisi Ewropeaidd?

There is another step where the Welsh Government has to work as part of a member state. Do you think that the Welsh Government is adequately successful in ensuring that the higher education agenda in Wales is transferred to the member state which, ultimately, has a direct influence on European policy?

[96] **Yr Athro Lloyd:** Dyna gwestiynau diddorol. Yn gyntaf, o ran ein perthynas â Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, gofynasoch a oeddem yn teimlo ein bod yn cyfleu'r neges. Credaf ein bod yn gwneud hynny. Yr ydym yn gwerthfawrogi'n fawr y cysylltiadau sydd gennym; mae rhwydweithiau ar bob lefel gyda swyddogion a gwleidyddion ac mae o fantais fawr bod mewn sector gymharol fechan. Teimlwn fod gwrandawriad i'r hyn a ddywedwn, a gobeithiwn fod hynny'n cael

Professor Lloyd: Those are interesting questions. First, with regard to our relationship with the Assembly Government, you asked whether we feel that we are getting our message across. I think that we are getting that message across. We very much appreciate the links that we have; networks exist on all levels with officials and politicians and there is a great benefit to being in a relatively small sector. We feel that we are listened to, and we hope that we

dylanwad. Sylweddolwn hefyd mai un llais ymysg nifer yw addysg uwch.

have an influence. We also realise that higher education is merely one voice among many.

[97] O safbwynt symud yr agenda yn ei blaen, teimlaf eto ei bod yn berthynas iach, ac er y teimlwn weithiau yr hoffem weld rhai pethau yn digwydd, sylweddolwn mai cystadleuaeth ydyw. Mae'n rhaid bod yn ddewisol yn y prosiectau a ddewisir. Yr wyf yn gymharol fodlon â'r berthynas.

In relation to moving the agenda forward, again, I feel that this is a healthy relationship, and although we sometimes feel that we would like to see certain things happening, we realise that it is a contest. We have to be selective in the projects that are selected. I am relatively content with the relationship.

[98] **Mr Walker:** On the further point that you raised, Rhodri, on the influence of the Assembly Government and the UK Government, when we discuss with officials in the UK Government at the fora that I have just mentioned, they know the position of the Assembly Government, which is stated and reiterated. Therefore, there is certainly no blockage at that level to the communication getting through. To use a cliché, the proof of the pudding will be in the eating and we will have to wait to see whether renationalisation takes place. That prospect is now receding somewhat, in which case the influence of the Assembly Government may, to some measure, have had an effect, which would be very encouraging and lead to a positive outcome. We will not prejudge the outcome of the commission's consultation.

[99] **Yr Athro Lloyd:** A allaf wneud un pwynt gan nad atebais y cwestiwn yn llwyr? Mae'r berthynas rhwng Cymru a'r Llywodraeth yn San Steffan yn bwysig. Mae cyfrifoldebau ar wleidyddion a swyddogion, ond mae cyfrifoldebau arnom ninnau hefyd i sicrhau bod ein neges yn cael ei throsglwyddo i fudiadau yn Lloegr i geisio sicrhau, mewn perthynas â phenderfyniadau a wneir ym Mrwsel ac yn Llundain, ein bod yn egluro'r effaith bosibl ar Gymru oherwydd gall y penderfyniadau hynny gael effaith er lles neu fel arall. Mae cyfrifoldeb arnom i gyfleu hynny.

Professor Lloyd: May I make one point as I did not answer the question in full? The relationship between Wales and the Westminster Government is important. Politicians and officials have responsibilities, but we also have a responsibility to ensure that our message is conveyed to organisations in England to try to ensure that, in relation to decisions taken in Brussels and in London, we explain the possible impact of those decisions on Wales because their impact can be beneficial or otherwise. We have a responsibility to convey that.

[100] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Trof yn awr at eich papur. Oni bai fy mod wedi methu â gweld rhywbeth, nid oes sôn yn eich papur am newid yn yr hinsawdd na'r economi werdd. A gredwch fod y rhain yn bwysig o ran datblygu polisi cydlyniant ar gyfer y dyfodol, ac a gredwch fod gan y sector addysg uwch gyfraniad i'w wneud wrth ddatblygu'r syniadaeth hynny o fewn y polisi?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I will now turn to your paper. Unless I have missed something, there is no mention in your paper of climate change or the green economy. Do you believe that these are important in developing cohesion policy for the future, and do you think that the HE sector has a contribution to make to develop those concepts within policy?

10.10 a.m.

[101] **Yr Athro Lloyd:** Credaf fod gan addysg uwch gyfraniad cwbl ganolog i'w wneud tuag at ddatblygu syniadau wrth ymateb i newid yn yr hinsawdd. Os caf adrodd profiad fy mhrifysgol i, un o'n themâu canolog ar gyfer y dyfodol yw edrych

Professor Lloyd: I think that higher education has a vital contribution to make to developing ideas in response to climate change. If I may relate the experience of my university, one of our central themes for the future is to look at the major global

ar yr heriau mawr byd-eang ac ymateb iddynt. Mae newid yn yr hinsawdd yn sicr yn un ohonynt. Os edrychwch ar y prosiectau unigol sydd yn yr arfaeth ac nad ydynt wedi'u cyhoeddi eto, gwelwch fod nifer ohonynt—a gwn yn bersonol am rai yn Aberystwyth ac ym Mangor—yn ymwneud â'r materion hyn. Yr wyf yn gwbl argyhoeddedig bod gan addysg uwch gyfraniad unigryw i'w wneud i'r materion amgylcheddol hyn o ran yr ymchwil a wnawn a'r ffordd y gallwn addysgu'r boblogaeth a chwmniau ac yn y blaen. Os nad ydym wedi gwneud hynny'n hollol glir yn ein papur, mae yno'n gwbl sicr yn yr hyn a wnawn.

challenges and respond to them. Climate change is certainly one of them. If you look at the individual projects that are in the pipeline and that have not yet been announced, you will see that many of them—and I know of some in Aberystwyth and Bangor—relate to these issues. I am entirely convinced that higher education has a unique contribution to make to these environmental issues in terms of the research that we carry out and how we can educate the population and companies and so on. If we failed to make that clear in our paper, then it is implicit in what we do.

[102] **Mr Walker:** We expect one of the key elements of European funding beyond 2013 to address one of the great challenges that we all face. That is also mainstreamed in the research funding for which universities apply to the Assembly Government and to UK research councils. Therefore, there is a strong case for synergy between the framework programme, for example, and research council funding on the UK level and Assembly Government funding, as encapsulated by Jane Hutt's new priority areas this spring. There is a strong case for transition funding to be re-engineered to address some of the key climate change challenges that we face.

[103] We mention in paragraph 12 one of the projects on marine and coastal climate change and given the prospect—or hopefully the prospect—of a Severn barrage, that will be a key area where Welsh universities have strengths across two or three institutions. Some research projects are well advanced and we are working further on that area. As Noel says, this is not a marginal area for us.

[104] **Sandy Mewies:** Did you have anything to add, Professor Lloyd?

[105] **Professor Lloyd:** I am trying to go through the current projects in my mind. I know that we are talking about the future, but I am trying to think of the current projects that I am familiar with. I can think of four major projects, which is around half the total, to which these environmental and climate change issues are absolutely central.

[106] **Sandy Mewies:** It might be useful and interesting to the committee, if and when these projects come into the public domain, for you to let us know about them. We are always interested to see what we are doing to meet the aspirations set out in these papers.

[107] **Professor Lloyd:** I am very happy to do that.

[108] **Sandy Mewies:** Are there any further questions from Members? I see that there are not. Thank you, gentlemen, for coming here today and for your written evidence, which has been useful.

10.14 a.m.

Annog Dinasyddiaeth Fyd-eang Weithredol Encouraging Active Global Citizenship

[109] **Sandy Mewies:** We will now move on to item 5 on our agenda. May I remind witnesses to switch off any mobile phones and BlackBerrys? There is translation equipment

in front of you. Channel 1 will provide the translation and channel 0 will amplify the sound for the hard of hearing. Some Members will speak Welsh, so perhaps you would like to get the headsets ready before we begin, and that now puts an onus on those Members to speak.

[110] I thank Caroline Marston, the European information officer for Europe Direct; Ceri James, the director of CILT Cymru; and Claire Parry, the secondary language teaching adviser for CILT Cymru, who are here today. We have all seen your paper. I thank you very much indeed for the contributions that you have made. I understand that you will speak first, Caroline, followed by Ceri James. I will then ask Members to come in with questions.

[111] **Ms Marston:** I would like to give a basic overview of Europe Direct's role, relevance and impact in Wales. My centre is based within the European Centre for Training and Regional Co-operation. It is a fantastic centre for promoting the mobility in Wales of young people. We run the Leonardo da Vinci programme and the Grundtvig programme. Europe Direct is based within this centre. As you are aware, Europe Direct has 470 centres across the European Union, three of which are in Wales. Our role is to act as an interface between the European Union and citizens at a local level.

[112] Europe Direct Llangollen has been in existence since 2006. We play a proactive role in raising awareness of the EU, its policies, its institutions and funding opportunities. We are part funded by the European Commission, but we are also funded by local government—Flintshire County Council, Denbighshire County Council and Glyndŵr University. This is something that I wanted to draw on. We are funded for the next four years, but, after that, we are not sure where our funding will be coming from. It is very difficult. We do a lot of work in Wales, particularly in the field of education. Most of our work, at the moment, involves the Welsh baccalaureate. We get a lot of requests from schools, colleges and institutions asking us to help them with a particular module—Wales, Europe and the world. This is something that the Welsh Assembly Government has requested. It takes place within schools, but Europe Direct has to help the schools to deliver this module. This can be difficult because we work separately from the Welsh Assembly Government, we are not funded by it, nor do we get its support.

[113] We also fulfil the education for sustainable development and global citizenship remit in schools. I am on the north-east Wales forum for ESDGC. Europe Direct Llangollen plays a large role in trying to promote this in north-east Wales and many schools ask Europe Direct to assist them to deliver this, which we try our hardest to do. However, it can be difficult. I run the centre in Llangollen independently and try to cover the whole region. This can be challenging. I do it, but it is difficult without the support of the Welsh Assembly Government or from regional organisations. It concerns me that we do not have recognition in Wales of the work that we are doing.

[114] We also work with the general public. We do not work purely in education, although this is a large part of it. That is something that I want to draw on. I run regular surgeries in libraries and universities, which allow the general public to come to me, in an environment in which they are comfortable, to ask questions about the European Union and how policies affect them. I also run many events for the general public. This year, we organised a Danish fashion show to promote Europe Direct and to promote inter-cultural dialogue. I organised a European employment circus within Glyndŵr University, which drew on the Lisbon agenda, but also the renewed social agenda.

[115] We attend many local and regional events to make our presence known. We would like to attend more of these events and expand our work. It would be great to have more members of staff, but, in our current situation, we are unable to do this because we do not have the support, the manpower, or the funding. This concerns me, because there is a need for us in Wales, particularly in the field of education. I would like to expand this work, but,

without the support, we will not be able to do that. I would like that to be a possibility in four years' time.

10.20 a.m.

[116] **Mr James:** Bore da ichi i gyd. Hoffwn gyflwyno fy nghydweithwraig, Claire Parry. Mae hi'n arbenigwraig ar ieithoedd a chymwysterau galwedigaethol. Felly, gall ateb unrhyw gwestiynau perthnasol nes ymlaen. Diolch am roi'r cyfle inni eich annerch fel pwyllgor. Yr oeddem yn awyddus i wneud hyn oherwydd pryder CILT Cymru, sef y corff sydd yn gyfrifol am ieithoedd tramor yng Nghymru, a'm pryder personol, fel cyn athro ac un sydd wedi ymwneud â dysgu ieithoedd tramor ers 27 mlynedd, bod ein gallu ieithyddol fel cenedl wedi dirywio'n arw dros y 15 mlynedd diwethaf. Erbyn hyn dim ond 27.4 y cant o'n plant sy'n sefyll TGAU mewn iaith dramor, o gymharu â 55 y cant yn 1995. Nid yw ein system addysg a chyngor gyrfaedd yn paratoi ein pobl ifanc i gystadlu am swyddi yng Nghymru na thu hwnt, nac i fanteisio ar gyfleoedd i astudio neu hyfforddi dramor.

Mr James: Good morning to you all. I would like to introduce my colleague, Claire Parry. She is a specialist in languages and vocational qualifications. Therefore, she can answer any relevant questions later on. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to address you as a committee. We were eager to do this because the concern of CILT Cymru, which is the body responsible for foreign languages in Wales, and my personal concern, as a former teacher and as someone who has been involved in teaching foreign languages for 27 years, is that, as a nation, our linguistic ability has deteriorated sharply over the last 15 years. Only 27.4 per cent of our children now sit GCSEs in a foreign language, compared with 55 per cent in 1995. Our educational and careers advice system does not prepare our young people to compete for jobs in Wales or beyond, or to take the opportunity to study or train abroad.

[117] Mae tuedd i ystyried ieithoedd tramor modern fel pwnc i'r plant mwyaf disglair yn unig, ond dylai sgiliau ieithyddol fod yn berthnasol i bawb—i beirianwyr, pobl fusnes, gyrwyr bysiau, pobl sy'n gweithio mewn gwestai, pobl sy'n gweithio mewn swyddfeydd twristiaeth, a hyd yn oed i bobl sy'n hyfforddi ar gwrs trin gwallt. Mae'r agwedd tuag at ieithoedd tramor modern yma yn wahanol iawn i'r agwedd yng ngwledydd eraill Ewrop, lle nad yw ieithoedd tramor yn cael eu hystyried fel pynciau anodd ond fel sgil angenrheidiol. Gwelais erthygl yn y *Western Mail* y llynedd am grŵp o fyfyrwyr trin gwallt o Goleg Merthyr Tudful a oedd wedi treulio pythefnos ar gwrs ym Majorca. Yr oedd Jane Hutt yn llawn canmoliaeth i'r myfyrwyr, gan ddweud eu bod wedi llwyddo i oresgyn rhwystrau ieithyddol drwy ddefnyddio ystumiau. Mae'n drueni na fanteisiodd ar y cyfle i bwysleisio pwysigrwydd meddu ar rywfaint o'r iaith cyn mentro yno ar gwrs, er enghraifft, cyfarchion, lliwiau, cwestiynau syml, megis 'Ydy hyn yn ddigon byr?', 'Pa liw sydd orau gennych chi?' ac yn y blaen. Nid oedd angen i'r myfyrwyr hynny fod yn hollol rugl ond byddai dysgu ychydig o Sbaeneg cyn mynd

There is a tendency to consider modern foreign languages as a subject for only the brightest children, but linguistic skills should be relevant to everyone—to engineers, business people, bus drivers, people working in hotels, people working in tourism offices, and even people training to be hairdressers. The attitude towards modern foreign languages here is very different to that in other European countries, where foreign languages are not considered to be a difficult subject, but a necessary skill. I saw an article in the *Western Mail* last year about a group of hairdressing students from Merthyr Tydfil College who spent a fortnight on a course in Majorca. Jane Hutt was full of praise for the students and said that they had managed to overcome linguistic barriers by using gestures. It is a shame that she did not take the opportunity to emphasise the importance of having a grasp of the language before embarking on a course there, for example, greetings, colours, simple questions, such as 'Is this short enough?', 'What shade would you prefer', and so on. Those students did not need to be completely fluent, but learning a little Spanish before going there would have improved the experience for them and for the

yno wedi hwyluso'r profiad iddynt hwy ac i'r bobl yr oeddent yn ymwneud â hwy ar y cwrs, a byddai'r cwrs wedi bod yn fwy buddiol i bawb. Mae'r un peth yn wir am gyrsiau arlwyyo mewn gwledydd tramor. Yn aml, mae pobl ifanc yn mynd i Ffrainc ar gyrsiau arlwyyo. Os nad oes Ffrangeg o gwbl ganddynt, i ba raddau y byddant yn manteisio ar y profiad hwnnw? Gwn fod staff ECTAC yn Llangollen yn gweld yr angen i wneud hyn ac yn gwneud gwaith ardderchog yn y maes, yn paratoi pobl ifanc cyn iddynt fynd dramor ond, yn anffodus, prin iawn yw'r enghreifftiau o arfer da yng Nghymru. Mae'n ffaith drist iawn bod colegau addysg bellach yn cwtoegi ar staff ieithoedd tramor modern, ac mae hynny'n ei gwneud yn annhebygol iawn y gwelwn welliant yn y cyfeiriad hwn.

people they dealt with on the course, and the course would then have been more beneficial to all. The same is true of catering courses in foreign countries. Often, young people go to France on catering courses. If they have no French, to what extent will they benefit from that experience? I know that ECTAC staff in Llangollen see the need for doing this and do excellent work in the field, preparing young people before they go abroad but, unfortunately, the examples of good practice in Wales are rare. It is a sad fact that further education colleges are cutting modern foreign language staff, and that makes it very unlikely that we will see an improvement in this area.

[118] Mae llawer o sôn mewn dogfennau swyddogol a strategaethau am fanteision bod yn genedl ddwyieithog, ond, mewn gwirionedd, nid ydym yn adeiladu ar y manteision hynny. Heblaw ein bod yn rhoi statws go iawn a chefnogaeth i ieithoedd, gan gynnwys y Gymraeg, ac yn pwysleisio pwysigrwydd sgiliau rhwng-ddiwyllynnol yn gyson o fewn y system addysg, bydd y sefyllfa yn dal i ddirywio. Ymwelais â Latfia gyda dirprwyaeth o Gymru yn 2007. Mae Latfia yn wlad fach a chymharol dlawd. Bwriad y daith oedd edrych ar system addysg dwyieithog Latfia. Yr oedd y disgyblion yn Latfia nid yn unig y gallu siarad Latfieg a Rwsieg, yr oeddent hefyd yn meddu ar Saesneg o safon uchel. O siarad â hwy, synnais bod nifer ohonynt hefyd yn gallu cynnal sgwrs yn y Ffrangeg neu yn y Sbaeneg. Yr oedd y bobl ifanc hyn yn barod i gystadlu am swyddi yn Ewrop a chredaf eu bod yn barod iawn i gystadlu am swyddi ym Mhrydain—yr oedd safon eu Saesneg cystal â hynny. Rhaid inni ddeffro i hyn. Yr wyf wedi siarad â chynghorwyr gyrfaoedd mewn prifysgolion ac maent wedi dweud wrthyf,

There is much talk in official documents and strategies about the advantages of being a bilingual nation, but, in reality, we do not build on those advantages. Unless we give languages, including Welsh, proper status and support and constantly emphasise the importance of inter-cultural skills in the education system, the situation will continue to deteriorate. I visited Latvia with a delegation from Wales in 2007. Latvia is a small and relatively poor country. The intention of the trip was to look at the bilingual education system of Latvia. Not only could the pupils in Latvia speak Latvian and Russian, they also had a high standard of English. In speaking to them, I was surprised that many could also hold a conversation in French or Spanish. These young people were ready to compete for jobs in Europe, and I believe that they are ready to compete for jobs in Britain—the standard of their English was that good. We must wake up to this. I have spoken to careers advisers in universities and they have told me,

[119] 'Our graduates need to wake up and smell the coffee'.

[120] Nid ydynt yn sylweddoli eu bod yn awr yn cystadlu am swyddi ar lefel Ewropeaidd.

They do not realise that they are competing for jobs at a European level.

[121] Syndod arall i mi oedd sylweddoli ar y daith hon mai'r unig berson uniaith ymhlith y ddirprwyaeth o Gymru oedd cynrychiolydd

I was equally surprised when I realised on this trip that the only monolingual person in the delegation from Wales was the

Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Byddai'n gwneud byd o les pe byddai'r Cynulliad yn ei gwneud yn angenrheidiol i ymgeiswyr am swyddi yn yr adrannau rhyngwladol, megis Busnes Rhyngwladol Cymru, feddu ar gymhwyster o ryw fath mewn iaith dramor.

representative from the Assembly Government. It would make a world of difference if the Assembly made it necessary for candidates for jobs in international departments, such as International Business Wales, to have some kind of qualification in a foreign language.

[122] Mae parch at ieithoedd a diwylliannau eraill yn nodwedd o'r gwledydd hynny ar gyfandir Ewrop sydd wedi gwneud cynnydd tuag at wireddu nod agenda Lisbon, sef siarad eich iaith eich hun a dwy iaith arall. Yr ydym ni, yr wyf yn ofni, yn bell ar ei hôl hi. Mae'n dristwch mawr gennyf fod sefyllfa ieithoedd tramor modern yng Nghymru yn waeth hyd yn oed nag y mae yn Lloegr. Nid ydym, felly, yn adeiladu ar y fantais o fod yn ddwyieithog sydd gennym yng Nghymru.

Respect for other languages and cultures is a feature of those nations on the continent of Europe that have made progress towards achieving the aim of the Lisbon agenda of speaking your own language and two others. We, I am afraid, are lagging a long way behind, and it is a great sadness to me that the situation of modern foreign languages in Wales is worse even than it is in England. We are not, therefore, building on the advantage of being a bilingual nation in Wales.

[123] Yn bersonol, yr wyf yn ddiolchgar iawn i'r Cynulliad am ei gefnogaeth i CILT Cymru fel corff, a chredaf fod strategaeth ieithoedd tramor newydd y Cynulliad yn un cryf. Serch hynny, mae angen mwy na strategaeth ar bapur os ydym am newid agweddau pobl. Mae angen i ystod eang o gyrff gydweithio, gyda'r nod o feithrin poblogaeth sy'n medru cyfathrebu, cystadlu am swyddi, a chymryd rhan flaenllaw ym mywyd yr Undeb Ewropeaidd a gweddill y byd. Yr wyf yn hapus i ateb eich cwestiynau.

Personally, I am very grateful to the Assembly for its support for CILT Cymru as an organisation, and I believe that the Assembly's new foreign language strategy is robust. However, we need more than a strategy on paper if we are to change people's attitude. A broad range of organisations need to collaborate, with the aim of nurturing a population that can communicate, compete for jobs and take a prominent role in the life of the European Union and the rest of the world. I would be happy to answer your questions.

[124] **Jeff Cuthbert:** I thank you both for the written paper and the comments that you have just made. I have some questions to Caroline first, and I will ask them all together.

[125] I notice that you operate out of three centres that cover south-west and north-east Wales. I am embarrassed that I do not know the answer to this, but why are you not in south-east Wales, which is the most densely populated part of Wales? I presume that there is a reason for that.

[126] I appreciate your plea for funding for the future, because every organisation that comes here, as I am sure you will appreciate, makes similar points. In terms of the work that you do with schools—I notice that you visit infants, primary and secondary schools, as well as the further education sector—you run workshops that introduce the European Union, European citizenship and the European elections. Could you say a little more about what you mean by 'introduce'? What does it actually mean? How do the learners of all those ages understand what we mean by 'the European Union'? Perhaps you could say a little more about how that is built into the Welsh baccalaureate. I understand the module on Wales and its place in Europe and the world, but how do you work with students on an ongoing basis to make sure that they get the very best from your organisation?

[127] I went to the misnamed employment travelling circus, as it gave the impression that it was a bit of a circus—but there was no big top, and that did not help. However, I was pleased

to visit Glyndŵr University, and we had some excellent discussions. As you know, Wrexham is in a competitiveness area, not a convergence area. The day I was there, the attendance of the public was poor. I do not know quite why that was, because these events are expensive to run and need to have maximum impact. There were a lot of participants who had good messages to give to people, but the turnout was poor on the day that I was there. However, the evening event, which was a panel discussion, was well attended. Whether that is because I was speaking, I do not know [*Laughter.*]

[128] My final point is to both of you. I have a lot of sympathy with the point that Ceri made—and you are sitting there together—so how do you work together to try to improve the situation?

[129] **Mr James:** The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales recently invested £0.25 million a year for three years in a new project called routes into languages, which is all about getting more young people to study languages at university. As I mentioned in my paper, the number of specialist linguists has been in decline for years, and it is leading to a crisis in terms of translators and interpreters, as well as our supply of language teachers and those who use languages in business. That project will be launched within the next month. We have taken on two staff to run the project, which involves all the main Welsh universities, including Glyndŵr University, that deliver courses in modern foreign languages. We will be starting a range of outreach events between universities, schools and colleges soon. I met Caroline only yesterday to discuss the possibility of running an event for young people called Wales, Europe and the world. We are already running it in partnership with people like Andy Klom from the European Commission in Cardiff. We are expecting 600 young people to attend an event in February 2010 in Cardiff, and we are looking at running a similar event in north-east Wales.

10.30 a.m.

[130] We will be rolling that programme out to all corners of Wales with this project. That is one area where we will be working together. Caroline obviously achieves a great deal on her own and we hope we will be able to support her in the next few years to do more.

[131] **Ms Marston:** I will start with the first question of why there are not more centres in Wales. There were six centres originally but, since last year, that has become three. There are a variety of reasons for this. Perhaps it is because there is not enough support in Wales, not enough awareness and not enough people willing to fund it, because they are not aware of the good work that Europe Direct does. Those are possibilities. There was a centre in Cardiff, but unfortunately it did not receive funding this year, so we are left with the three centres in Wrexham, Llangollen and Carmarthen. It makes our work very difficult because there is still the same need that there was a year ago, and three years ago, for us to cover a bigger geographical region. I am constantly asked by schools in Gwynedd to come to their schools to deliver workshops, but I cannot do that because I am on my own; there is not enough support. If more people were aware of Europe Direct, were aware of the work that we do and were perhaps willing to fund it, be it local authorities or regional organisations, then perhaps we could roll out those centres again and cover the whole of Wales.

[132] On the second question, regarding the workshops I run within schools to address the subject of Wales, Europe and the world, I organise a number of workshops and I generally start by introducing the European Union to young people, because I have found, when I go into schools, that young people are not aware that they live in Europe, but they think they go on holiday to Europe, and they are not aware of what the European Union is. Therefore we have to start from the lowest level, at the grass roots. We have to introduce them to what it means to be a citizen of Wales, what it means to be a citizen of the UK, what it means to be a citizen of the European Union and what is available to them as a citizen of the European

Union. So, we start at that level, and it really depends on the school and the pupils, how much they know about the European Union, and what they have been taught by their parents or their teachers. I often find that they do not know much at all, so I have to start at this level.

[133] The third question was regarding the European employment circus, as I refer to it in this paper. It was, for me, a disappointing event in terms of numbers. It could have been a fantastic event and I had high hopes for it, but it was very difficult. It was a large event and, again, I could not get the support that I wanted from Wales, from regional organisations. We did a lot of promotion on radio and in newspapers. I pulled out all the stops on a personal level, but in terms of getting people there, I do not know whether it was because there was not enough interest from the general public—when they see the word ‘Europe’, it turns them away—so it was very difficult. I have learned some lessons from that—who I can work with, who I cannot work with, and who I would like to work with. That is why I want more regional support, and why I want Wales to support me, so that I can fulfil my mission far more easily than has been possible this year.

[134] **Mr James:** May I add something to what Caroline said about raising awareness of Europe and the opportunities to work or study earlier in children’s careers? It does start in primary school, but we are also letting them down at secondary level, in the career guidance we are giving to young people. I have sat in on a number of enterprise days delivered by Careers Wales and I have been shocked to see that when the task given was to design a toy and present it to an audience, there was no international dimension at all: they did not say, ‘Where are you going to sell this toy, and if you are selling it abroad, how are you going to sell it? Is it through a website and, if so, how many languages do you need to present the website in?’.

[135] There is no embedding of the international dimension in so many aspects of our education system. We are bringing up a generation of young people who could travel to Barcelona for £55 rather than to London for £75—so, it is cheaper and easier—but they cannot talk to the locals, they have no real awareness of the culture and they do not realise what their rights are as a European citizen. Neither do they realise that they could spend part of their ERASMUS study at a university abroad. Cardiff, for example, is apparently one of the best universities in the UK for outgoing ERASMUS students, as it sends about 220. That is out of 22,000 students, and there are over 500 students from China alone coming in to Cardiff. The imbalance is massive, and it means that we are breeding a parochial generation of young people who cannot cope with life in the European Union, and this compares badly with small and quite poor nations in other parts of the European Union that are preparing their young people better to be competitive in the jobs market and for life and training in general.

[136] **Sandy Mewies:** Perhaps you are not aware that this committee did a piece of work some time ago on how citizenship was focused on in the education system. I do not know whether you saw that report.

[137] **Mr James:** I did not. I have seen the strategy document entitled ‘World Class Wales’.

[138] **Sandy Mewies:** This was a committee report. We were quite disappointed in the differences between Spain, for example, and Wales. Before I ask other people to contribute, I want to ask Andy Klom to clarify the position on the centres. It was my understanding that some people just did not tender, as they did not want to go forward. I would like Andy to clarify that point. From a personal perspective, I would be interested to have one or two pointers as regards the people who come to surgeries to talk to you about Europe. I find that there is a low level of interest in Europe generally, so I would be interested to know who comes in and what they ask you.

[139] **Mr Klom:** Thank you very much, Chair. I start with Jeff's specific question about the absence of a Europe Direct centre in the south-east of Wales, where, of course, there is the heartland population. This is very significant, because there was an offer for a centre from Cardiff University, where such a centre had been hosted for many years. However, that centre was very much focused and based on the academic community, whereas the Europe Direct mandate is to reach out to the general community and that was, for us, very much a reason to turn down the offer. Why was that offer so focused on the academic community? It is because local government, local authorities, and other elements in civil society in the south-east of Wales just do not have an interest, or a will, to support or fund a centre like a Europe Direct centre. That was the handicap that Cardiff was dealing with: that even here, in the capital city of Wales, there was no such interest in having a European information centre that would go further than passive information provision, into outreach and citizenship activities.

[140] In Swansea there was, briefly, an interest from the local authority, which we stimulated. We worked closely with the authority to coach the bid towards the call for proposals in the autumn of last year. Unfortunately, the financial crisis intervened, and in the case of Swansea, the credit crunch scuppered the bid. On the whole, it confirms the tendency not just in the south-east, but all over Wales, with the exceptions of the three centres we have, that civil society, and authorities, be they education, local or Wales wide, just do not take a strong enough interest in supporting a Europe Direct centre.

[141] **Sandy Mewies:** Not strongly enough to put their money in. Caroline, will you come back on that issue? Jeff, do you have a short question? It needs to be extremely short, because I have other Members who want to ask questions.

[142] **Jeff Cuthbert:** Okay. I mention the ongoing support for the Welsh baccalaureate and how you handle that. In addition, the issue that Andy raised is disappointing. It would be interesting to know whether the University of Glamorgan and the University of Wales, Newport, which cover convergence areas in the main, have been approached. My final point is about establishing good practices through contact with other Europe Direct centres and other parts of Europe. How is that handled? If that is a big question, maybe you could send us a note giving us examples of the good practices that are drawn out as a result of that type of contact, so that we can see what is happening.

[143] **Ms Marsden:** Okay, I will just make a quick point on that. I personally like to do a lot of work with other Europe Direct centres across Europe. I am not sure if it is how all Europe Direct centres work, but I like to work like that, because I think that we can learn a lot from our partners across Europe. We can learn about how they handle situations, how they organise things and how they work with certain policy issues in their countries. That is something that I would be happy to expand on in a note.

[144] On surgeries, these are run once a month, mostly within libraries, because they are a good public space. People use them regularly in my region, and holding a surgery in such a place makes Europe a bit less scary, rather than asking people to come to see me at ECTARC, which people would not do. I advertise the surgeries through the media so that people are aware that they happen on the second Tuesday of every month. In terms of attendance, it is sometimes poor.

10.40 a.m.

[145] **Sandy Mewies:** What do they ask you? What are the questions that come up?

[146] **Ms Marston:** It can vary. It even varies according to the time of year, but most recently they have been about the Lisbon agenda, the European elections in May, and we have had a lot of questions from Irish constituents about the vote on 2 October. We also get more

general questions about how easy it is to travel in the European Union, to live there, and what the working opportunities are. I work with the Enterprise Europe Network on these surgeries, and it has a representative who comes along and who can address any business questions.

[147] **Sandy Mewies:** That is very interesting.

[148] **Nick Bourne:** I have a couple of questions. Many thanks for the presentation, which I found very interesting. Following Jeff's point on locations, I sympathise very much with the argument that we need a better spread, and I am sure that we will do anything that we can to help with that. Clearly, finance plays a part, but with Wrexham and Llangollen being so close together—and I know that the Chair will be happy with that strong representation in the north, and I am not against it—we need some representation in the south east as well. Linked to that, you have given us a very detailed review of what happens in Llangollen, which I found immensely interesting. Is similar work happening in Wrexham and Carmarthen? Perhaps you could say a bit about that.

[149] May I ask quickly about language teaching? I am as concerned as you are about the drop in the number of students taking up foreign languages, and it seems to be getting worse. Without defending the position of English speakers in the whole of the United Kingdom, an element of this is clearly what happens when you go to mainland Europe. I will give two examples. First, in the summer, I was in Rome briefly, in a not terribly touristy area, eating with friends, and I heard some people on the next table ask for a menu, because it was not in the language that they wanted. The language that they wanted was Italian, but the menu being given to everybody was in English. I thought that that was extraordinary. Similarly, a few years ago, I went on a tour of Prague town hall with people of all nationalities, including Czech, and the tour was conducted only in English, without a word of complaint from anybody. What was more telling from your presentation and of more concern—and I would be grateful if you had some evidence of this, or some figures that we could look at—is that the position in Wales is worse even than in England. That reason about the prevalence of English overseas would apply at least as strongly in England as it does in Wales. Given that we have always believed in bilingualism—well, I am a strong believer in bilingualism, anyway—and said that it helps people to learn foreign languages, it makes it worrying if the position in Wales is worse than in England. If there is some evidence of that, it would be terribly useful to look at it, to see why that is the case.

[150] **Mr James:** The position in England is that foreign languages were statutory at key stage 4 until a couple of years ago, so everyone was doing a GCSE in a foreign language until a few years ago when it was taken out of the compulsory curriculum and it has dropped to 44 per cent in those few years in England. It is declining rapidly in England, but it has never been a statutory subject here in Wales. It reached a high of about 55 per cent and it has dropped every year since then.

[151] On the point about travelling, I was in France and Germany this summer. I did not speak any English to people and they were quite happy to speak to me in their languages. When you converse in English to people in other countries, you do so on their terms. In business, particularly, it is a huge advantage to other countries that you are not able to talk their language. We cannot market our products or do the after-sales and so on solely in English. It just does not work.

[152] **Nick Bourne:** I do not disagree with that, but I was giving it as a reason why the interest is less in Britain than in other places.

[153] **Mr James:** Yes, I can see why, as a nation, we are complacent about languages, but it is no real excuse for the terrible decline in modern foreign languages in the past 10 or 15 years. We probably have the shortest period of compulsory language learning of anywhere in

Europe: just three years.

[154] **Sandy Mewies:** You gave the percentage in England; do you have the percentage in Wales to which it has fallen?

[155] **Mr James:** It is 27.4 per cent, according to the Estyn figures for 2008. So, a quarter of our children are equipped in any way to have a conversation with our near neighbours in Europe. I walked into the Cardiff tourism office posing as a French tourist not so long ago, but nobody could speak to me in French at the front desk and there were no flyers available in French. Where else in Europe could you walk into a capital city and not converse in another language? They usually deal with a range of languages. Saying that English is the world language is just an excuse for laziness, in my opinion. Mandarin is the world language. It is spoken by more people than English is, and—[*Interruption.*]

10.40 a.m.

[156] **Sandy Mewies:** I will stop you all there, as we are getting into a dialogue that is not about answering questions or allowing others to come in. Other people want to come in and I will be winding up quite shortly. I would like to hear what Caroline has to say in answer to the questions that were posed to her, and Rhodri Glyn has not asked his questions yet. So, perhaps you could come back at the end, if we have time, if you have anything to add.

[157] **Ms Marston:** Briefly, to answer the question about what the other centres deliver, it is generally very similar. It would be fair to say that it is up to individual managers to decide how to deliver it and how much they deliver, but we have a basic remit in that we have to deliver the European Commission communication priorities each year. We must deliver a certain number of events. We each have similar budgets so, in that respect, we deliver similar things, but it is up to individual centres to decide how much of what they deliver.

[158] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** I fynd yn ôl at y diffygion o ran dysgu ieithoedd tramor modern, mae'r ffigur o 27.4 y cant a'r dirywiad sydd wedi bod yng Nghymru yn frawychus. Yr ydych yn dweud yn eich papur nad ydym yn llwyddo i adeiladu ar y fantais ddwyieithog sydd gennym, a chyfeiriodd Nick at hyn. Nid yw llygwr fel fi—ac mae wastad yn beryglus i leygwr fynegi barn pan fydd arbenigwyr yn bresennol—yn deall sut, os ydym yn cyflwyno'r iaith Gymraeg i blant yn y sector meithrin ac yn dwysáu hynny yn y blynyddoedd cynnar, nad ydym yn gallu cyflwyno iaith dramor fodern ar ddiwedd y cyfnod cynradd ac un arall yn y sector uwchradd. Dylai ein plant allu meistroli pedair iaith erbyn gadael yr ysgol uwchradd. I mi, mae hynny'n ymddangos yn gwbl resymol a rhesymegol. A oes gennym broblem yn hynny o beth? Pam nad yw'n bosibl inni wneud hynny?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: To return to the weaknesses in teaching modern foreign languages, the figure of 27.4 per cent and the decline that there has been in Wales is shocking. You say in your paper that we are not succeeding in building on the bilingual advantage that we have, and Nick referred to that. As a layman—and it is always dangerous for a layman to express an opinion in the presence of experts—I do not understand why, if we introduce the Welsh language to children in the nursery sector and intensify that in the early years, we cannot introduce a modern foreign language at the end of the primary phase, and another language in the secondary. Our children should be able to master four languages by the time they leave secondary school. That appears to me to be completely reasonable and logical. Do we have a problem in that regard? Why is that not possible?

[159] **Mr James:** Fel y gwyddoch, buom yn rhedeg cynllun peilot ar ran Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, gyda dros 100 o ysgolion yn cyflwyno ieithoedd tramor ym mlwyddyn 6,

Mr James: As you know, we have been running a pilot scheme on behalf of the Assembly Government, in which more than 100 schools have introduced a foreign

yn bennaf, er bod rhai ohonynt wedi'u cyflwyno cyn hynny—gorau po gynted. Fel y gwyddom gyda'r Gymraeg, mae plant yn amsugno iaith pan fyddant yn ifanc iawn ac mae'n hawdd iddynt ddysgu ieithoedd eraill. Yn yr ysgolion hynny sydd wedi ymwneud â'r prosiect, bu'r ymateb yn wych—gan blant, rhieni ac ysgolion uwchradd—gan eu bod yn gweld mwy o gynnydd erbyn blwyddyn 8, gyda phlant yn symud yn llawer cyflymach drwy lefelau'r cwricwlwm cenedlaethol. Felly, bu'r prosiect hwnnw yn llwyddiannus iawn.

language, mainly in year 6, although some have done so before then—the sooner the better. As we know with the Welsh language, children absorb languages when they are very young and it is easy for them to learn other languages. In those schools that have taken part in the project, the response has been excellent from children, parents and secondary schools, which see more progress by year 8, with children moving far more rapidly through national curriculum levels. Therefore, the project has been very successful.

[160] Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi dweud y byddwn yn cael rhwydwaith o ysgolion arloesol i ymledu'r arfer da i fwy o ysgolion, sy'n beth da. Hefyd, mae arian o fewn cronfa Ysgolion Gwell i ganiatáu i awdurdodau ddatblygu ieithoedd tramor modern yn y cwricwlwm cynradd yn eu hardaloedd. Mae hynny i gyd yn bositif iawn. Mae Lloegr ar y blaen; bydd y pwnc yn cael ei gyflwyno yno fel pwnc statudol yng nghyfnod allweddol 2 erbyn 2011. Yn fy marn i, ni ddylai'r Gymraeg ein dal yn ôl; dylai ein hannog i barhau ar y trywydd hwnnw.

The Government has said that we are to have a network of innovative schools to spread that good practice to more schools, which is a good thing. There is also money in the Better Schools fund to allow authorities to develop modern foreign languages in the primary curriculum in their areas. That is all very positive. England is leading the way; the subject will be introduced as a statutory subject there at key stage 2 in 2011. In my view, the Welsh language should not be holding us back; it should encourage us to continue along this route.

[161] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Mae gennyf un pwynt arall, cryno iawn, Gadeirydd. Yr oeddech yn gwneud y pwynt am sgiliau, ac nad yw hwn yn ymwneud â deallusrwydd pur. Sgil yw dysgu iaith, ac mae modd i unrhyw blentyn o unrhyw allu ddatblygu'r sgil hwnnw i ryw raddau. Dylai datblygu'r sgil hwnnw gydag un iaith agor y drws i ieithoedd eraill.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I have one other, very brief, point, Chair. You made the point about skills, and that this is not purely an issue of intelligence. Learning a language is a skill, and all children of all abilities can develop that skill to some level. Developing that skill with one language should open the door to other languages.

[162] **Mr James:** Yr wyf yn cytuno. Mae gennym fantais yng Nghymru. Yr wyf wedi cwrdd â phobl yng Nghymru sy'n siarad Almaeneg a Sbaeneg yn wych, gan mai dyna'r ddwy iaith lle mae'n arbennig o hawdd inni ynganu'r geiriau. Os ydych yn gallu ynganu geiriau Cymraeg, mae'n hawdd iawn ynganu geiriau Sbaeneg ac elfennau o'r Almaeneg. Mae gennym fantais, ond yr ydym yn ei afradu, mewn ffordd, gan nad ydym yn adeiladu arno.

Mr James: I agree. We have an advantage in Wales. I have met people in Wales who speak excellent German and Spanish, as those are the two languages for which pronunciation is particularly easy for us. If you are able to pronounce Welsh words, it is very easy to pronounce Spanish words and some elements of German. We have an advantage, but we are wasting it, in a way, as we are not building on it.

[163] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** I think, Chair, that we should pass those comments on to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, because they are pertinent.

[164] **Sandy Mewies:** We will discuss that at the end of the session. I have some ideas on that. Was there anything that you wanted to add, Caroline or Ceri, before we draw this session

to a close?

[165] **Ms Marston:** No.

[166] **Mr James:** I have just one point, in answer to Mr Bourne. My point about Mandarin was flippant, although it is the most spoken language in the world—more so than English. There was, however, a serious point in there. We all assume that everyone speaks English, but in fact only 8 per cent of the world's population speaks English as a first language, and 25 per cent as a first or second language. So, three quarters of the world's population do not speak English. Within the next few decades, the biggest English-speaking country in the world will probably be China. Other countries are racing ahead with their language learning. If we are content just to let them get on with it, that is fine, but we will be dealing with people on their terms.

[167] **Sandy Mewies:** Thank you for your enthusiasm in telling us about the work that you are doing, which is very interesting. The citizenship debate and the language debate are both issues that Rosemary Butler brought up many times when she was a member of this committee. If you have anything that you wish to add in writing, please feel free to send it to the clerk. Thank you.

10.51 a.m.

Papurau i'w Nodi Papers to Note

[168] **Sandy Mewies:** The final item on our agenda this morning is a letter to note from Rhodri Morgan about the Committee of the Regions and the transposition of Rhodri Glyn Thomas as an alternate member.

[169] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** Yes, it has taken only two years.

[170] **Nick Bourne:** That is an outrageous suggestion. [*Laughter.*]

[171] **Rhodri Glyn Thomas:** I might even get to attend a meeting before the election.

[172] **Sandy Mewies:** Congratulations, and we look forward to hearing from you on that. We like to keep in contact with that committee. With that, I formally close the meeting.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 10.51 a.m.
The meeting ended at 10.51 a.m.*