



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales

Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings

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Yn y golofn chwith, cofnodwyd y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynddi yn y Siambwr.
Yn y golofn dde, cynhwyswyd cyfieithiad.

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

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

The Presiding Officer: Good afternoon. The National Assembly for Wales is now in session.

Y Llywydd: Prynawn da. Dyma ddechrau trafodion Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau Questions to the Minister for Education and Skills

Bandio Ysgolion

I. Lindsay Whittle: *Sut mae'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu ymdrin ag unrhyw effeithiau ar forâl athrawon, disgylion a rhieni ledled Cymru yn sgil ei bolisi ar fandio ysgolion. OAQ(4)0077(ESK)*

The Minister for Education and Skills (Leighton Andrews): Banding provides a systematic view of a school's performance, based on long-standing, publicly available data. The most important outcome of banding is the extra support now being targeted at schools most in need, which I hope will be motivating for those who might not otherwise have received it.

Lindsay Whittle: We are already hearing reports of teachers across Wales feeling the effects of this policy, and there is a serious risk of undermining the professionalism of teachers and their ability to work with students to reach their potential. I have many friends on Facebook who are students and are saddened by this particular action. When will the Minister accept that this policy needs to be reconsidered?

Leighton Andrews: This was a manifesto commitment of my party, which won an extra four seats in last May's election on that basis. The policy will be implemented.

David Rees: Minister, I welcome the decision to provide a banding scheme that considers more than a mere look at examination results. I think that the term 'league table' has been bandied about in the wrong context, in line with the previous concepts. However, the current process does not reflect any trend—because it is a one-

Banding of Schools

I. Lindsay Whittle: *How does the Minister intend to deal with any demoralising effects that his policy on the banding of schools may have on teachers, pupils and parents across Wales. OAQ(4)0077(ESK)*

Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau (Leighton Andrews): Mae bandio yn rhoi darlun systematig o berfformiad ysgol, ar sail data hirsefydlog sydd ar gael i'r cyhoedd. Canlyniad pwysicaf bandio yw'r cymorth ychwanegol sy'n cael ei dargedu yn awr at yr ysgolion sydd fwyaf mewn angen, ac rwyf yn gobeithio y bydd hynny'n ysgogi'r rheini na fyddent fel arall wedi ei gael.

Lindsay Whittle: Rydym eisoes yn clywed adroddiadau am athrawon ledled Cymru yr effeithir arnynt gan y polisi hwn, ac mae perygl mawr y bydd proffesiynoldeb athrawon yn cael ei danseilio ynghyd â'u gallu i weithio gyda myfyrwyr fel eu bod yn cyrraedd eu potensial. Mae gennyl nifer o ffrindiau ar Facebook sy'n fyfyrwyr ac sydd wedi'u siomi gan y camau penodol hyn. Pryd y bydd y Gweinidog yn cydnabod bod angen ailystyried y polisi hwn?

Leighton Andrews: Roedd hwn yn ymrwymiad ym manifesto fy mhlaid, a enillodd bedair sedd ychwanegol yn etholiad mis Mai y llynedd o ganlyniad. Bydd y polisi'n cael ei weithredu.

David Rees: Weinidog, rwyf yn croesawu'r penderfyniad i ddarparu cynllun bandio sy'n ystyried mwy na chanlyniadau arholiadau yn unig. Credaf fod y term 'tabl cynghrair' wedi'i grybwyllyn ym y cyd-destun anghywir, yn unol â'r cysyniadau blaenorol. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r broses bresennol yn adlewyrchu unrhyw duedd—oherwydd

year calculation—or any extenuating factors such as special units attached to schools. Will your department be reviewing the process adopted to arrive at banding figures, with a view to modifying the process to account for such issues?

Leighton Andrews: The Member for Aberavon is right to raise the question of trends. The banding calculation takes account of them; three of the 12 measures look at progress in performance over the last two or three years. Looking at the latest year's data is important because it highlights some of the major fluctuations in school performance from one year to the next. The majority of measures take account of the circumstances of pupils in a school through using information such as the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals, the mobility of pupils or ethnicity.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Minister, I welcome the supply of information to parents and the education profession, because information is power and you can drive improvement with it. I have reservations about some of the criteria for the banding scheme that you have introduced, but I welcome that supply of information. Given your understanding of the banding system that you have brought forward, what other measures are you considering as a department that could encourage greater understanding by parents and teachers via the supply of information to improve standards here in Wales?

Leighton Andrews: We have provided information to parents; we drew up a leaflet that has been circulated to parents via schools and we have also put materials on the Welsh Government website to explain the process. I have made it clear that I expect school governing bodies to consider the school performance data that are available to them, which will become a condition of their school passing Estyn inspections. We are committed to ensuring that information is available to parents, pupils, teachers, headteachers and other members of staff in schools, and that process has been welcomed.

cyfrifiad ar gyfer un blwyddyn yw—nac unrhyw ffactorau arbennig megis unedau arbennig sydd ynghlwm wrth ysgolion. A fydd eich adran yn adolygu'r broses a fabwysiadwyd i gyfrifo ffigurau'r bandiau, gyda'r bwriad o addasu'r broses fel ei bod yn ystyried materion o'r fath?

Leighton Andrews: Mae'r Aelod dros Aberafan yn iawn i godi mater y tueddiadau. Mae'r cyfrifiad bandio yn eu cynnwys; mae tri o'r 12 mesur yn ystyried y cynnydd a wnaed o ran perfformiad dros y ddwy neu dair blynedd diwethaf. Mae ystyried data'r flwyddyn ddiweddaraf yn bwysig gan fod hynny'n tynnu sylw at rai o'r prif amrywiadau ym mherfformiad ysgol o un flwyddyn i'r llall. Mae'r mwyafrif o'r mesurau yn ystyried amgylchiadau'r disgyblion mewn ysgol drwy ddefnyddio gwybodaeth fel y gyfran o'r disgyblion sydd â hawl i gael prydau ysgol am ddim, symudedd disgyblion neu ethnigrwydd.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Weinidog, rwyf yn croesawu'r ffaith bod y wybodaeth hon yn cael ei darparu i rieni a'r proffesiwn addysg, oherwydd mewn gwybodaeth mae nerth, a gallwch ysgogi gwelliant drwy ei defnyddio. Mae gennyd amheuon yngylch rhai o'r meinu prawf rydych wedi'u cyflwyno fel rhan o'r cynllun bandio, ond eto rwyf yn croesawu'r ffaith eich bod wedi darparu'r wybodaeth honno. O ystyried eich dealltwriaeth chi o'r system fandio rydych wedi'i chyflwyno, pa fesurau eraill y mae eich adran yn eu hystyried a allai wella dealltwriaeth rhieni ac athrawon drwy gyfrwng gwybodaeth er mwyn gwella safonau yma yng Nghymru?

Leighton Andrews: Rydym wedi darparu gwybodaeth i rieni; gwnaethom lunio taflen a ddosbarthwyd i rieni drwy ysgolion, ac rydym hefyd wedi rhoi deunyddiau ar wefan Llywodraeth Cymru i esbonio'r broses. Rwyf wedi ei gwneud yn glir fy mod yn disgwyl i gyrrf llywodraethu ysgolion ystyried y data sydd ar gael iddynt ar berfformiad yr ysgol; bydd yn rhaid gwneud hynny er mwyn i'r ysgol lwyddo yn arolygiadau Estyn. Rydym wedi ymrwymo i sicrhau bod gwybodaeth ar gael i rieni, disgyblion, athrawon, penaethiaid ac aelodau eraill o staff mewn ysgolion, ac mae'r broses honno wedi'i chroesawu.

Safleoedd Ysgolion

2. Janet Finch-Saunders: A wnaiff y Gweinidog egluro'r gwahaniaeth mawr rhwng safleoedd ysgolion yn y system fandio newydd a safleoedd blaenorol. OAQ(4)0075(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: I do not accept the basic premise of the Member's question.

Janet Finch-Saunders: Does the Presiding Officer want me to repeat it? [Laughter.]

The Presiding Officer: Order. Will you ask your supplementary question, please?

Janet Finch-Saunders: Minister, concerns have been raised in my constituency about how you have gone about the banding scheme. Is it not another way of manipulating data that are already in the public domain? It seems that the school standards unit set up to support the scheme has cost the taxpayer a third of £1 million. How do you justify this additional cost to support a system that the National Union of Teachers opposes, as it means a return to league tables in all but name? Furthermore, how have you explained the scheme to teaching staff, parents and school governors and consulted them on its implementation?

Leighton Andrews: The leader of the opposition has just welcomed the banding approach. Perhaps he should have a conversation with the Member who sits behind him about her approach to this issue. When we announced the creation of the school standards unit, the opposition's education spokesperson welcomed the appointment of that unit. Perhaps she should have a word with the Member behind her.

The Presiding Officer: Order. Members are entitled to ask whichever questions they wish, Minister.

Simon Thomas: Now that we have seen the details of your banding system and the statistical basis upon which this snapshot was taken, particularly the statistical basis on which schools will be assessed continually in

Rankings of Schools

2. Janet Finch-Saunders: Will the Minister explain the wide differential between the rankings of schools in the new banding system and previous rankings. OAQ(4)0075(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: Nid wyf yn derbyn y gosodiad sylfaenol yng nghwestiwn yr Aelod.

Janet Finch-Saunders: A hoffai'r Llywydd imi ei ailadrodd? [Chwerthin.]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. A wnewch ofyn eich cwestiwn atodol, os gwelwch yn dda?

Janet Finch-Saunders: Weinidog, codwyd pryderon yn fy etholaeth yngylch sut rydych wedi ymdrin â'r cynllun bandio. Onid ffordd arall yw o drin a thrafod data sydd eisoes ar gael i'r cyhoedd? Ymddengys fod yr uned safonau ysgolion a sefydlwyd i gefnogi'r cynllun wedi costio traean £1 filiwn i'r trethdalwr. Sut rydych yn cyflawnhau'r gost ychwanegol hon i gefnogi system y mae Undeb Cenedlaethol yr Athrawon yn ei gwrthwynebu, gan ei bod, i bob pwrpas, yn golygu dychwelyd i ddefnyddio tablau cynghrair? Ar ben hynny, sut rydych wedi egluro'r cynllun i staff addysgu, rhieni a llywodraethwyr ysgolion, a sut rydych wedi ymgynghori â hwy yngylch ei weithredu?

Leighton Andrews: Mae arweinydd yr wrthblaidd newydd groesawu'r cynllun bandio. Efallai y dylai gael sgwrs â'r Aelod sy'n eistedd y tu ôl iddo am ei hymagwedd tuag at y mater hwn. Pan wnaethom gyhoeddi y byddai'r uned safonau ysgol yn cael ei chreu, croesawodd llefarydd addysg yr wrthblaidd benodiad yr uned honno. Efallai y dylai gael gair â'r Aelod y tu ôl iddi.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae gan Aelodau'r hawl i ofyn pa gwestiynau bynnag y dymunant eu gofyn, Weinidog.

Simon Thomas: Gan ein bod bellach wedi gweld manylion eich system fandio a'r sail ystadegol i'r braslun hwn, ac yn enwedig y sail ystadegol a fydd yn cael ei defnyddio i asesu ysgolion yn barhaus mewn perthynas

relation to each other—and you may never accept it, Minister—when will you tell the nation and your backbenchers that these are league tables in all but name?

â'i gilydd—ac efallai na fyddwch byth yn ei dderbyn, Weinidog—pryd y byddwch yn dweud wrth y genedl ac wrth Aelodau eich meinciau cefn mai tablau cynghrair yw'r rhain i bob pwrrpas?

Leighton Andrews: These are not league tables and I note that the Plaid Cymru motion before us today does not oppose the banding system.

Leighton Andrews: Nid tablau cynghrair ydynt, a nodaf nad yw cynnig Plaid Cymru sydd ger ein bron heddiw yn gwrthwynebu'r system fandio.

Simon Thomas: Our debate later will be an interesting one in which you will hear clearly what we have to say about the banding system and particularly your use of it to create league tables for schools in Wales. Could you explain why your Cabinet in September agreed to meet representatives of key workforce trade unions to work with you to establish agreed lines to take and key messages to give on the purpose and methodology of the banding model? You now have every trade union in Wales disagreeing with those key messages and saying that these are league tables.

Simon Thomas: Bydd ein dadl yn ddiweddarach yn un diddorol; byddwch yn clywed yn glir ynddi yr hyn sydd gennym i'w ddweud am y system fandio, ac yn arbennig am y ffaith ichi ei defnyddio i greu tablau cynghrair i ysgolion yng Nghymru. A allwch esbonio pam y cytunodd eich Cabinet ym mis Medi i gwrdd â chynrychiolwyr undebau llafur gweithluoedd allweddol er mwyn iddynt gydweithio â chi i sefydlu dulliau gweithredu y cytunwyd arnynt, a negeseuon allweddol i'w cyhoeddi ynghylch diben a methodoleg y model bandio? Mae pob undeb llafur yng Nghymru yn awr yn anghytuno â'r negeseuon allweddol hynny, gan ddweud mai tablau cynghrair ydynt.

Leighton Andrews: Banding was one of my party's manifesto commitments at the last election. On the basis of that manifesto commitment, and our overall manifesto and commitments on education, we won four additional seats. Your party, Plaid Cymru, lost seats at the last election.

Leighton Andrews: Roedd bandio yn un o'r ymrwymiadau ym manifesto fy mhlaid yn yr etholiad diwethaf. Ar sail yr ymrwymiad manifesto hwnnw, a'n manifesto a'n hymrwymiadau ar addysg yn gyffredinol, enillasom bedair sedd ychwanegol. Colli seddi a wnaeth eich plaid chi, Plaid Cymru, yn yr etholiad diwethaf.

We are putting forward a programme of school improvement. The banding proposals were announced by the Labour and Plaid Cymru One Wales Government. We have followed that policy through. I am not clear about Plaid Cymru's position on this issue. It has a motion before the Assembly today that does not oppose the banding system.

Rydym yn cyflwyno rhaglen i wella ysgolion. Cyhoeddwyd y cynigion ynghylch bandio gan Lywodraeth Cymru'n Un y Blaid Lafur a Phlaid Cymru. Rydym wedi cyflawni'r polisi hwnnw. Nid wyf yn glir ynghylch safbwyt Plaid Cymru ar y mater hwn. Mae ganddi gynnig gerbron y Cynulliad heddiw nad yw'n gwrthwynebu'r system fandio.

Aled Roberts: In your written statement, when the provisional bandings were announced, you indicated that there would be no national requirement for specific action to be taken in relation to schools in different bands and that it would be a matter for local authorities and consortia to determine the action that they would seek to take to ensure improvement in performance. When can we

Aled Roberts: Yn eich datganiad ysgrifenedig, pan gyhoeddwyd y bandiau dros dro, gwnaethoch nodi na fyddai gofyniad cenedlaethol i gymryd camau penodol mewn perthynas ag ysgolion mewn gwahanol fandiau, ac mai mater i'r awdurdodau lleol a'r consortia fyddai penderfynu ar y camau y byddent yn ceisio'u cymryd i sicrhau bod perfformiad yn gwella.

expect the consortia and local authorities to determine the nature of that action? Will they have to seek ministerial approval to take the action that they suggest?

Erbyn pryd y gallwn ddisgwyl i'r consortia ac awdurdodau lleol bennu natur y camau hynny? A fydd yn rhaid iddynt geisio cymeradwyaeth weinidogol i gymryd y camau y maent yn eu hawgrymu?

Leighton Andrews: In my meetings with the consortia, it has become clear that a number of them already have proposals that they are working through. I met two consortia before Christmas and both were committed to ensuring that, within a few years, they have no schools within band 5, for example. Trying to lift the profile and performance of all schools is a challenge, but I welcome that commitment. For example, in one case, they were looking at specifically identifying a targeted number of days of support for individual schools in band 5. I welcome that. It is important that the different consortia in Wales learn from the practice that they are evolving, but the focus that they are putting in place on school improvement as the priority for moves within the different regions indicates that they are very serious about this issue.

Leighton Andrews: Yn fy nghyfarfodydd â'r consortia, mae wedi dod yn amlwg fod gan nifer ohonynt gynigion eisoes y maent yn eu datblygu. Cwrddais â dau gonsortiwm cyn y Nadolig, ac roedd y ddau wedi ymrwymo i sicrhau nad oes ganddynt unrhyw ysgolion ym mand 5, er enghraifft, ymhen ychydig flynyddoedd. Mae ceisio codi proffil a gwella perfformiad pob ysgol yn her, ond rwyf yn croesawu'r ymrwymiad hwnnw. Er enghraifft, mewn un achos, roeddent yn edrych yn benodol ar nodi nifer o ddiwrnodau o gefnogaeth wedi'u targedu ar gyfer ysgolion unigol ym mand 5. Rwyf yn croesawu hynny. Mae'n bwysig bod y consortia gwahanol yng Nghymru yn dysgu o'r arfer y maent yn ei ddatblygu, ond mae'r ffaith eu bod yn canolbwytio ar roi blaenoriaeth i weithrediadau sy'n gwella ysgolion yn y rhanbarthau gwahanol yn dangos eu bod o ddifrif ynghylch y mater hwn.

Aled Roberts: There is also reference in your written statement to the fact that there will be regular stocktakes of school performance throughout the academic year. How often will those returns be submitted to the school improvement unit and would it be the responsibility of the consortia again, if there were a rapid deterioration in the performance of an individual school?

Aled Roberts: Ceir hefyd gyfeiriad yn eich datganiad ysgrifenedig at y ffaith y bydd archwiliadau rheolaidd o berfformiad ysgolion yn cael eu cynnal drwy gydol y flwyddyn academaidd. Pa mor aml y bydd yr adroddiadau hynny'n cael eu cyflwyno i'r uned gwella ysgolion, ac ai cyfrifoldeb y consortia fyddai hynny unwaith eto pe bai dirywiad cyflym ym mherfformiad ysgol unigol?

Leighton Andrews: The schools standards unit will meet with the regional consortia on a regular basis during the course of the year and will certainly be meeting at least termly to look at these issues. I will expect them to be feeding back to the schools standards unit the precise measures they are taking to turn things around. Already, it is true to say that some 70 or so schools across Wales have been identified as needing additional support.

Leighton Andrews: Bydd yr uned safonau ysgolion yn cwrdd â'r consortia rhanbarthol yn rheolaidd yn ystod y flwyddyn, ac yn sicr bydd yn cyfarfod o leiaf bob tymor i ystyried y materion hyn. Byddaf yn disgwyl iddynt hysbysu'r uned safonau ysgolion ynghylch yr union fesurau y maent yn eu rhoi ar waith i wella'r sefyllfa. Mae 70 o ysgolion ledled Cymru eisoes wedi'u nodi yn rhai y mae angen cymorth ychwanegol arnynt.

Cynllun Brecwast am Ddim

3. Sandy Mewies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am gynllun

Free School Breakfast Scheme

3. Sandy Mewies: Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Government's free

Llywodraeth Cymru o gynnig brecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion. OAQ(4)0078(ESK)

school breakfast scheme. OAQ(4)0078(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: More than 70% of primary schools are currently participating in the scheme, providing pupils with the opportunity to have a good start to the school day.

Sandy Mewies: A recent report indicated that obesity is becoming increasingly evident among very young schoolchildren, and that just 56% of them eat breakfast. That is a very worrying statistic, but it would clearly be even worse if we did not have a free breakfast policy—consistently opposed by the Conservatives—here in Wales. Minister, will you assure me that we will work as hard as we can to consolidate and extend, where possible, this policy, and do everything that we can to ensure the health of our schoolchildren?

Leighton Andrews: I fully agree that we need to stem the practice of skipping breakfast, given that it is certainly linked to poor health outcomes. The breakfast initiative aims to address dietary behaviour in the longer term by encouraging the consumption of a healthy breakfast from an early age, which is why we do not fund Coco Pops at breakfast time. Our children and young people are also being supported through our healthy schools scheme, which encourages the development of health-promoting schools in local areas.

Darren Millar: Minister, I am sure that you know my views on the free school breakfast policy. I happen to believe that parents, not teachers, should be giving their children breakfast. However, I wanted to ask you whether you thought that the £14.7 million that is forecast to be spent on this particular policy initiative in 2013-14 would be better spent on perhaps helping to fund free bus passes for those between the ages of 16 and 25 who are in full-time education. The arrangements for transport to FE colleges in particular can be prohibitive for some pupils who do not get access to the education maintenance allowance to support their transport costs.

Leighton Andrews: Mae mwy na 70% o ysgolion cynradd yn cymryd rhan yn y cynllun ar hyn o bryd, gan roi'r cyfle i ddisgyblion ddechrau'r diwrnod ysgol yn dda.

Sandy Mewies: Nododd adroddiad diweddar fod gordewdra yn dod yn fwyfwy amlwg ymhli plant ysgol ifanc iawn, ac mai 56% ohonynt yn unig sy'n bwyta brecwast. Mae hynny'n ystadegyn sy'n peri cryn bryder, ond yn amlwg byddai hyd yn oed yn waeth pe na bai'r polisi brecwast am ddim—sy'n cael ei wrthwynebu'n gyson gan y Ceidwadwyr—gennym yma yng Nghymru. Weinidog, a wnewch fy sicrhau y byddwn yn gweithio mor galed ag y gallwn i atgyfnerthu'r polisi hwn a'i ymestyn, lle y bo hynny'n bosibl, ac yn gwneud popeth y gallwn ei wneud i sicrhau bod ein plant ysgol yn iach?

Leighton Andrews: Rwyf yn cytuno'n llwyr fod angen inni atal yr arfer o fynd heb frecwast, o ystyried ei bod yn sicr yn gysylltiedig â chanlyniadau iechyd gwael. Mae'r fenter brecwast yn anelu at fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad dietegol yn y tymor hwy drwy annog bwyta brecwast iach o oedran cynnar, a dyna pam nad ydym yn ariannu cael Coco Pops amser brecwast. Mae ein plant a phobl ifanc yn cael eu cefnogi hefyd drwy ein cynllun ysgolion iach, sy'n annog datblygu ysgolion sy'n hybu iechyd mewn ardaloedd lleol.

Darren Millar: Weinidog, rwyf yn siŵr eich bod yn gwybod fy marn ar y polisi o ddarparu brecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion. Rwyf yn credu mai rhieni, ac nid athrawon, ddylai roi brecwast i'w plant, fel mae'n digwydd. Fodd bynnag, roeddwn am ofyn ichi a ydych yn meddwl y byddai'n well pe bai'r £14.7 miliwn y rhagwelir y bydd yn cael ei wario ar y fenter bolisi benodol hon yn 2013-14 yn cael ei wario efallai ar helpu i ariannu tocynnau bws am ddim i'r rheini rhwng 16 a 25 oed sydd mewn addysg amser llawn. Gall y trefniadau o ran cludiant i golegau addysg bellach yn benodol fod yn afresymol i rai disgyblion nad ydynt yn cael y lwfans cynhaliaeth addysg i'w helpu i dalu eu costau cludiant.

Leighton Andrews: I know the Member does not support free school breakfasts, but then, of course, his party also wanted to ring-fence the health budget, which probably would have meant that we would not have had the money for the free school breakfast scheme in the first place.

Bethan Jenkins: Yr ydym wedi gweld cynnydd eithriadol yn ddiweddar yn nifer y plant sy'n byw mewn tlodi drwy Brydain. Pwynt y polisi a ddechreuwyd yn 2004 oedd helpu'r plant hynny sydd angen y cynllun yn fwy nag eraill, plant sy'n dod o gartrefi tlawd, er enghraifft. A ydych yn hyderus bod y mecanwaith yn ei le er mwyn asesu a yw'r plant hynny sydd wir angen y cynllun hwn yn cael budd ohono?

Leighton Andrews: The scheme is delivering and is clearly popular. As I said in answer to the first question, 70% of primary schools are now participating. I am certain that we can always improve the delivery of services and I am always open to ideas on improving delivery.

Addysg y Blynnyddoedd Cynnar

4. Gwyn R. Price: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am addysg y blynnyddoedd cynnar yng Nghymru. OAQ(4)0073(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: At the start of this school year, we reached a significant milestone, when the foundation phase completed its roll-out. This innovative and purpose-built curriculum for three to 7-year-olds has been fully embraced by teachers, parents and pupils in Wales and is widely envied by practitioners elsewhere.

Gwyn R. Price: Thank you for that answer. On a recent visit to Pontllanffraith Primary School, I was impressed by the enthusiasm shown by both pupils and staff towards the foundation phase. Is this in contrast to the way in which the English Government is battling the teaching profession to introduce an unpopular change there? Do you agree that the foundation phase is a vast

Leighton Andrews: Gwn nad yw'r Aelod yn cefnogi'r polisi o ddarparu brecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion, ond eto, wrth gwrs, roedd ei blaidd ef hefyd yn dymuno neilltuo'r gyllideb iechyd, a fyddai, yn ôl pob tebyg, wedi golygu na fyddai gennym yr arian ar gyfer y cynllun brecwast ysgol am ddim yn y lle cyntaf.

Bethan Jenkins: We have recently seen a significant increase in the number of children living in poverty across Britain. The aim of the policy, which was introduced in 2004, was to help those who have greater needs than others, children from poor backgrounds for example. Are you confident that the mechanism is in place to assess whether or not those children who truly need support are benefiting from the scheme?

Leighton Andrews: Mae'r cynllun yn cyflawni ac mae'n amlwg ei fod yn boblogaidd. Fel y dywedais wrth ateb y cwestiwn cyntaf, mae 70% o ysgolion cynradd yn awr yn cymryd rhan. Rwyf yn sicr y gallwn bob amser wella'r ffordd y darperir gwasanaethau, ac rwyf bob amser yn agored i syniadau ar wella yn hynny o beth.

Early Years Education

4. Gwyn R. Price: Will the Minister make a statement on early years education in Wales. OAQ(4)0073(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: Ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn ysgol hon, gwnaethom gyrraedd carreg filltir bwysig, pan orffenwyd y broses o gyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen. Mae'r cwricwlwm arloesol a phwrpasol hwn i blant rhwng tair a 7 oed wedi cael ei groesawu'n llwyr gan athrawon, rhieni a disgyblion yng Nghymru, ac mae'n destun eiddigedd ymhliith ymarferwyr mewn mannau eraill.

Gwyn R. Price: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw. Ar ymweliad diweddar ag Ysgol Gynradd Pontllanffraith, gwnaed cryn argraff arnaf gan y brwdfrydedd a ddangosodd y disgyblion a'r staff tuag at y cyfnod sylfaen. A yw hyn yn wahanol i'r ffordd y mae'r Llywodraeth yn Lloegr yn brwydro yn erbyn y proffesiwn addysgu i gyflwyno newid amhoblogaidd yno? A ydych yn cytuno bod y

improvement on the chaos that we see in England?

Leighton Andrews: I completely agree with that. [Laughter.] The Member for Islwyn is right to draw attention to the way in which the Government in England is currently at loggerheads with the teaching profession over a range of issues, not least teachers' pensions. With the foundation phase, we have a curriculum that was developed in partnership with teachers and other stakeholders. We have a curriculum that is fit for purpose; it has been fully embraced by practitioners, and has children, their development, and their future learning opportunities, at its heart.

1.45 p.m.

Angela Burns: Minister, as you will be aware, if we concentrate on Wales, the country that we are here to represent, the Welsh Conservatives are great supporters of the foundation phase. What analysis have you made of the different ways in which male and female children respond to the learning elements within the foundation phase? Have you, for example, looked at when boys start to read as opposed to when young girls start reading?

Leighton Andrews: First of all, I welcome the Member's continued support for the foundation phase, which I know has never been in doubt. We have quite a range of evidence in terms of the different development of boys and girls, and the different performance of boys and girls throughout the system. Indeed, if we could lift boys' performance to that of girls throughout education in Wales, then we would be among the top-performing school systems in the world. There are significant challenges, and they are not limited to us in Wales; that gender gap has been identified in education systems throughout western Europe and beyond. We have, through the baseline assessments that we have developed, started to track new factors through the foundation phase. We will be properly evaluating the foundation phase now that it has been rolled out, and we also have in place specific measures to target the literacy

cyfnod sylfaen yn welliant mawr ar yr anhreftn a welwn yn Lloegr?

Leighton Andrews: Rwyf yn cytuno'n llwyr â hynny. [Chwerthin.] Mae'r Aelod dros Islwyn yn iawn i dynnu sylw at y ffordd y mae'r Llywodraeth yn Lloegr ar hyn o bryd benben â'r proffesiwn addysgu ynghylch ystod o faterion, a phensiynau athrawon yn arbennig. Drwy'r cyfnod sylfaen, mae gennym gwricwlwm a ddatblygwyd mewn partneriaeth ag athrawon a rhanddeiliaid eraill. Mae gennym gwricwlwm sy'n addas at y diben; mae wedi'i groesawu'n llawn gan ymarferwyr, ac mae plant, eu datblygiad, a'u cyfleoedd dysgu yn y dyfodol, wrth wraidd y cwricwlwm.

Angela Burns: Weinidog, fel y byddwch yn gwybod, os canolbwytwn ar Gymru, y wlad rydym yma i'w chynrychioli, mae'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn gefnogwyr mawr o'r cyfnod sylfaen. Pa ddadansoddiad rydych chi wedi'i wneud o'r gwahanol ffyrdd y mae plant gwrywaidd a benywaidd yn ymateb i'r elfennau dysgu yn y cyfnod sylfaen? A ydych, er enghraifft, wedi edrych ar pryd y mae bechgyn yn dechrau darllen ac wedi cymharu hyn â phryd y mae merched ifanc yn dechrau darllen?

Leighton Andrews: Yn gyntaf oll, rwyf yn croesawu cefnogaeth barhaus yr Aelod ar gyfer y cyfnod sylfaen, a gwn nad oedd erioed amheuaeth am hynny. Mae gennym ystod o dystiolaeth ynghylch datblygiad gwahanol bechgyn a merched, a pherfformiad gwahanol bechgyn a merched drwy'r system. Yn wir, pe gallem wella perfformiad bechgyn i'r un lefel â pherfformiad merched drwy addysg yng Nghymru, byddai gennym un o'r systemau addysg sy'n perfformio orau yn y byd. Mae heriau sylweddol, ac nid ydynt yn gyfyngedig i ni yng Nghymru; nodwyd y bwlcw hwnnw rhwng y rhywiau mewn systemau addysg ledled gorllewin Ewrop a thu hwnt. Rydym wedi dechrau olrhain ffactorau newydd drwy'r cyfnod sylfaen drwy'r asesiadau sylfaenol a ddatblygwyd gennym. Byddwn yn gwerthuso'r cyfnod sylfaen yn iawn yn awr gan ei fod wedi ei gyflwyno, ac rydym hefyd wedi sefydlu mesurau penodol i dargedu datblygiad

development of boys.

Angela Burns: Thank you for that answer, because the query that I have is: how can we square the circle that will arise when we start to implement a reading test, which looks as if it might happen in year 7, when we know that boys will be a year, or even a year and a half, behind? How will we be able to evaluate those results in a meaningful way within the school in order to drive forward that increase in their capabilities, and to ensure that it does not get misinterpreted by those outside the school?

Leighton Andrews: We are developing the reading tests for years 2 to 9, and they will be implemented on a voluntary basis by local authorities from this year, and on a statutory basis from next year. However, we also have a specific programme in place to support the learning achievements of boys, and their reading achievements in particular, and I will be happy to supply her with further information on that.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: Mae'r asesiadau cychwynnol i ddisgyblion ar ddechrau'r cyfnod sylfaen wedi bod yn destun gofid i nifer am nad yw'r Llywodraeth wedi cynnig digon o fanylder nac arweiniad ar y mater. A ydych yn hyderus y bydd yr asesiadau hynny yn llwyddiant? A ydych yn cydnabod y dylai'r Llywodraeth gynnig mwy arweiniad ar y mater?

Leighton Andrews: I think that they have been controversial, but not for the reason that the Member gave, because we have provided very significant guidance and a lot of detail. However, they have clearly faced challenges, and we have had representations from some teachers and headteachers, and from some of the teaching unions about these, which is why I announced a review of the child development assessment profile.

Rebecca Evans: Minister, last week the Prince's Trust reported that children who lack structure and routine at home are less likely to do well in school. How is the Welsh Government helping schools and parents to work together to develop structured routines to ensure that children are given the best

llythrennedd ymysg bechgyn.

Angela Burns: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, oherwydd y cwestiwn sydd gennyl fi yw: sut allwn ni ymdrin â'r broblem a fydd yn codi wrth inni ddechrau gweithredu prawf darllen—y mae'n ymddangos y gallai ddigwydd ym mlwyddyn 7—pan wyddom y bydd bechgyn flwyddyn, neu hyd yn oed flwyddyn a hanner, y tu ôl i ferched? Sut y byddwn yn gallu gwerthuso'r canlyniadau hynny mewn ffordd ystyrlon o fewn yr ysgol er mwyn hybu'r cynnydd hwnnw yn eu gallu, a sicrhau nad yw'n cael ei gamddehongli gan bobl y tu allan i'r ysgol?

Leighton Andrews: Rydym yn datblygu profion darllen ar gyfer blynnyddoedd 2 i 9, a byddant yn cael eu gweithredu ar sail wirfoddol gan awdurdodau lleol o'r flwyddyn hon ymlaen, ac ar sail statudol o flwyddyn nesaf ymlaen. Fodd bynnag, mae gennym hefyd raglen benodol ar waith i gefnogi cyflawniadau dysgu bechgyn, a'u cyflawniadau darllen yn benodol, a byddaf yn hapus i roi mwy o wybodaeth iddi am hynny.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: The initial assessments of pupils at the start of the foundation phase have been a cause of concern for many, because the Government has not provided adequate detail or leadership on the issue. Are you confident that these assessments will be successful? Do you recognise that the Government should give more guidance on this issue?

Leighton Andrews: Rwyf yn credu y buont yn ddadleuol, ond nid am y rheswm a roddodd yr Aelod, gan ein bod wedi darparu canllawiau sylweddol iawn a llawer o fanylion. Fodd bynnag, mae'n amlwg eu bod wedi wynebu heriau, ac rydym wedi cael sylwadau gan rai athrawon a phenaethiaid, a chan rai o'r undebau addysgu amdanyst, a dyna pam y cyhoeddais adolygiad o'r proffil asesu datblygiad plant.

Rebecca Evans: Weinidog, wythnos diwethaf, dywedodd Ymddiriedolaeth y Tywysog fod plant sydd heb strwythur a threfn yn y cartref yn llai tebygol o wneud yn dda yn yr ysgol. Sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn helpu ysgolion a rhieni i weithio gyda'i gilydd i ddatblygu arferion

chance to do well at school from an early age?

Leighton Andrews: As my colleague, the Member for Mid and West Wales, will know, we announced as a Government our manifesto commitment to a doubling of support for Flying Start, which now falls within the portfolio of my colleague, the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services. The evidence that we have on the early years of Flying Start is that children who have been through that process are more attentive, better behaved and enjoy the wider support of parents. The evidence that we have from Estyn and from other inspections is that, where schools are providing that level of support, we are more likely to see successful schools and successful pupils. We will continue to invest in that Flying Start programme.

strwythur dig i sicrhau bod plant yn cael y cyfle gorau posibl i wneud yn dda yn yr ysgol o oed cynnar?

Leighton Andrews: Fel y gŵyr fy nghyd-Aelod, yr Aelod dros Ganolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru, gwnaethom ni fel Llywodraeth gyhoeddi ein hymrwymiad maniffesto i ddyblu'r gefnogaeth sydd ar gael ar gyfer Dechrau'n Deg, a ddaw bellach o fewn portffolio fy nghyd-Aelod, y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Mae'r dystiolaeth sydd gennym am flynyddoedd cynnar Dechrau'n Deg yn nodi bod plant a fu drwy'r broses honno yn fwy sylwgar, yn ymddwyn yn well ac yn mwynhau cefnogaeth ehangach gan eu rhieni. Mae'r dystiolaeth sydd gennym gan Estyn ac arolygiadau eraill yn nodi ein bod yn fwy tebygol o weld ysgolion llwyddiannus a disgylion llwyddiannus lle mae ysgolion yn darparu'r lefel honno o gefnogaeth. Byddwn yn parhau i fuddsoddi yn y rhaglen Dechrau'n Deg.

Safonau Ysgolion

5. Kirsty Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn eu cymryd i fonitro gwelliannau mewn safonau ysgolion yng Nghymru. OAQ(4)0085(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: We continue to monitor improvement by way of stocktakes undertaken by the school standards unit, the provision of more transparent data, and the banding information, which has informed regional action plans for specific support and intervention for targeted schools. In addition, Estyn has a key role in monitoring school standards.

Kirsty Williams: Thank you, Minister, for that answer. Earlier you mentioned that there are some 70 schools that, as a result of the work that your department is doing, have been identified for additional support. Quite rightly, support should be targeted at those schools in bands 4 or 5. However, there may be other schools in bands 3 or 2 that have particular problems within a department or within a particular cohort of pupils, whether that is based on gender, social demographics, or a particular problem or need for a certain

School Standards

5. Kirsty Williams: Will the Minister outline what steps the Welsh Government is taking to monitor improvements in school standards in Wales. OAQ(4)0085(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: Rydym yn parhau i fonitro gwelliant drwy archwiliadau gan yr uned safonau ysgolion, darparu data mwy tryloyw a gwybodaeth am fandio, sydd wedi dylanwadu ar gynlluniau gweithredu rhanbarthol ar gyfer cefnogaeth ac ymyrraeth benodol i ysgolion a dargedir. Yn ogystal, mae gan Estyn rôl allweddol mewn perthynas â monitro safonau ysgolion.

Kirsty Williams: Diolch, Weinidog, am yr ateb hwnnw. Yn gynharach, dywedasoch fod tua 70 o ysgolion wedi cael eu pennu i gael cymorth ychwanegol o ganlyniad i'r gwaith y mae eich adran yn ei wneud. Mae'n gywir dweud y dylai cefnogaeth gael ei dargedu at ysgolion ym mandiau 4 neu 5. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bosibl bod ysgolion eraill ym mandiau 3 neu 2 sy'n cael problemau penodol o fewn adran neu gohort penodol o ddisgyblion, boed hynny'n seiliedig ar ryw, demograffeg gymdeithasol, neu broblem neu angan

cohort. What steps are you taking to ensure that there is adequate support for those schools to tackle departmental problems or problems within individual cohorts?

Leighton Andrews: That is a very fair question. One of the interesting things in the banding process is that it has revealed schools that might have been described as ‘coasting’. Indeed, there are schools that have found themselves, for the sake of argument, in band 3—I can think of a specific school about which I was asked questions by the media just before Christmas, whose performance over recent years has not been what would have been expected given its cohort and given the demographics surrounding that school. It is very important that the different consortia, in developing their plans, consider not only the support for the schools in bands 4 and 5, but also what they can do to raise the performance of schools that might be performing below the levels that we would expect. The consortia are engaged in that. If the Member, or any other Member, has examples of failures to do that, I would welcome hearing about them.

Nick Ramsay: Minister, I think that I am right in saying that a significant number of schools, particularly primary schools and smaller schools, will not be included in the new banding regime because of their small size. While I understand that, it is important that standards in all schools remain firmly on your Government’s radar. Therefore, what action are you taking to ensure that we do not end up with a two-tier system, in which certain schools are not being monitored at the same level as others?

Leighton Andrews: That is a good question. We have identified the difficulties that exist in relation to primary school banding. They are smaller schools than secondary schools and it is therefore more difficult to use some of the data. If there are particularly small cohorts in an age group, then the movement could be quite distorted year on year. Therefore, we have decided that the 30% of primary schools that are the smallest schools

penodol sydd gan gohort arbennig. Pa gamau rydych yn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod cefnogaeth ddigonol ar gyfer yr ysgolion hynny i fynd i'r afael â phroblemau adrannol neu broblemau o fewn cohort unigol?

Leighton Andrews: Mae hwnnw'n gwestiwn teg iawn. Un o'r pethau diddorol a gododd yn y broses fandio yw ei bod wedi datgelu ysgolion a allai fod wedi cael eu disgrifio fel rhai sy'n gorffwys ar eu rhwyfau. Yn wir, mae ysgolion a gafodd eu rhoi ym mand 3, er enghraift—gallaf feddwl am ysgol benodol y bu'r cyfryngau'n gofyn cwestiynau imi amdani ychydig cyn y Nadolig nad yw ei berfformiad dros y byddwn wedi ei ddisgwyl o ystyried cohort a demograffeg yr ysgol honno. Mae'n bwysig iawn bod y gwahanol gonsortia, wrth ddatblygu eu cynlluniau, yn ystyried nid yn unig y gefnogaeth ar gyfer yr ysgolion ym mandiau 4 a 5, ond hefyd yr hyn y gallant ei wneud i wella perfformiad ysgolion sy'n perfformio islaw'r lefel y byddem yn ei disgwyl. Mae'r consortia yn rhan o'r broses honno. Os oes gan yr Aelod, neu unrhyw Aelod arall, enghreiffiau o gonsortia sy'n methu â gwneud hynny, byddwn yn croesawu'r cyfle i glywed amdanynt.

Nick Ramsay: Weinidog, rwyf yn meddwl fy mod yn iawn wrth ddweud na fydd nifer sylweddol o ysgolion, yn enwedig ysgolion cynradd ac ysgolion llai, yn cael eu cynnwys yn y drefn fandio newydd oherwydd eu bod yn fach. Er fy mod yn deall hynny, mae'n bwysig bod eich Llywodraeth yn parhau i fod yn llwyr ymwybodol o'r safonau ym mhob ysgol. Felly, pa gamau rydych yn eu cymryd i sicrhau nad ydym yn cael system ddwy haen yn y pen draw, lle nad yw rhai ysgolion yn cael eu monitro ar yr un lefel ag ysgolion eraill?

Leighton Andrews: Mae hwnnw'n gwestiwn da. Rydym wedi nodi'r anawsterau sy'n bodoli mewn perthynas â bandio ysgolion cynradd. Maent yn llai nag ysgolion uwchradd ac felly mae'n fwy anodd defnyddio rhai o'r data. Os oes cohorts arbennig o fach mewn grŵp oedran, gallai'r symudiad gael ei ystumio flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn. Felly, rydym wedi penderfynu y bydd y 30% o ysgolion cynradd sy'n

will be excluded from the banding system. However, 95% of all primary school pupils will be captured by the banding system, because that 30% represents only 5% of primary school pupils. We will be providing a range of measures for local authorities and providing information to those primary schools, drawing on the performance data that we have from the primary schools universe as a whole, so that they can see the kind of challenges that we are expecting them to meet.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae penneth ysgol uwchradd yn y gorllewin wedi datgan bod y tablau perfformiad, y bandiau, wedi eu seilio ar dywod ystadegol. A ydych yn barod i ailystyried eich methodoleg?

Leighton Andrews: I am always happy for people to bring forward specific, concrete examples where they think that there are problems with anything that we have done in the banding system. For every school that has been brought to my attention where someone has suggested that there is a problem with the banding performance, I have personally had that checked out by my officials. So far, I have not had a single example brought to me where I am uncomfortable with the banding information that I have been given. Therefore, if there are specific and concrete examples, then, by all means, bring them to my attention, but I also think that there has been a significant amount of rhetoric around this issue that is not borne out by the facts.

Darpariaeth Addysgol

6. Mark Isherwood: Pa ddarpariaeth addysgol sydd ar gael i bobl sy'n cefnogi pobl ddall a phobl sy'n gweld yn rhannol i fyw'n annibynnol. OAQ(4)0080(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: While we do not identify specific educational provision as being for informal carers of visually handicapped or impaired people, I am keen that they are able to access the education that they need, and there is a range of financial assistance to support them as appropriate.

cynrychioli'r ysgolion lleiaf yn cael eu heithrio o'r system fandio. Fodd bynnag, bydd 95% o'r holl ddisgyblion ysgolion cynradd yn cael eu cynnwys yn y system fandio, oherwydd bod y 30% hwnnw'n cynrychioli dim ond 5% o ddisgyblion ysgolion cynradd. Byddwn yn darparu ystod o fesurau ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol ac yn darparu gwybodaeth i'r ysgolion cynradd hynny, gan ddefnyddio'r data perfformiad rydym wedi eu cael gan fyddawd ysgolion cynradd yn gyffredinol, er mwyn iddynt allu gweld y math o heriau rydym yn disgwyl iddynt fynd i'r afael â hwy.

Alun Ffred Jones: The head of a secondary school in west Wales has stated that the performance tables, the bands, are based on statistical sand. Are you prepared to reconsider your methodology?

Leighton Andrews: Rwyf bob amser yn hapus i bobl gyflwyno enghreifftiau penodol, cadarn lle maent yn credu bod problemau o ran unrhyw beth rydym wedi ei wneud yn y system fandio. Pob tro rwyf yn cael gwybod am ysgol lle mae rhywun wedi awgrymu bod problem o ran y perfformiad bandio, rwyf yn bersonol wedi sicrhau bod fy swyddogion yn edrych ar hynny. Hyd yma, nid wyf wedi cael un enghraifft lle mae'r wybodaeth fandio a roddwyd i mi wedi fy ngwneud yn anghyfforddus. Felly, os oes enghreifftiau penodol a chadarn, rhowch wybod imi amdanynt ar bob cyfrif, ond rwyf hefyd yn credu y bu cryn dipyn o rethreg am y mater hwn nad yw'n cael ei chadarnhau gan y ffeithiau.

Educational Provision

6. Mark Isherwood: What educational provision is in place for people supporting the blind and partially sighted to live independently. OAQ(4)0080(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: Er nad ydym yn nodi bod darpariaeth addysgol benodol ar gyfer gofalwyr anffurfiol pobl sydd o dan anfantais o ran eu golwg neu sydd â nam ar eu golwg, rwyf yn awyddus iddynt allu cael mynediad at yr addysg sydd ei hangen arnynt, a bod amrywiaeth o gymorth ariannol ar gael i'w cefnogi fel y bo'n briodol.

Mark Isherwood: Vision Support, which is a charity that works across four north-east Wales counties, and RNIB Cymru are both acting to tackle shortages in specialist rehabilitation and training for people with sight problems in Wales at present. Vision Support has set up a course with the University of Wales, Newport to deliver a specialist qualification for people working with children who have vision impairment and related issues, perhaps deafblind issues, ensuring that those children can grow up to secure independence. It says that it does not want visually impaired people to be unable to work, but it currently receives no Welsh Government support for that course. Similarly, RNIB has asked me to mention its Beyond Vision project with Neath Port Talbot College, which is establishing an employment and learning centre on the campus to provide blind and partially sighted people with support to attain equality in employment and educational outcomes. Both organisations are asking what support the Welsh Government can offer to these excellent partnership projects with education providers in Wales.

Leighton Andrews: I very much welcome the measures taken by a number of third sector organisations to provide that support. The Member gave us examples of some very good practice. We have support in place for carers of blind and partially sighted people. If they need additional financial support, for example, that is available through non-repayable grants, such as the adult dependants grant. I am happy to explore further with those organisations what gaps they think may exist within the system.

Acwsteg Briodol i Blant sydd â Nam ar eu Clyw

7. Ann Jones: *Sut gall Llywodraeth Cymru sicrhau bod gan ysgolion yng Nghymru acwsteg briodol i blant sydd â nam ar eu clyw. OAQ(4)0074(ESK)*

Leighton Andrews: Conditions of funding for current and future capital contracts

Mark Isherwood: Mae Vision Support, sef elusen sy'n gweithio ar draws pedair sir gogledd-ddwyrain Cymru, ac RNIB Cymru yn gweithredu i fynd i'r afael â'r diffyg gwasanaeth adsefydlu arbenigol a hyfforddiant sydd ar gael i bobl sydd â phroblemau golwg yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd. Mae Vision Support wedi sefydlu cwrs ar y cyd â Phrifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd i gyflwyno cymhwyster arbenigol ar gyfer pobl sy'n gweithio gyda phlant sydd â nam ar eu golwg a materion cysylltiedig—materion sy'n gysylltiedig â bod yn ddall ac yn fyddar o bosibl—gan sicrhau y gall y plant hynny dyfu i fyny i fod yn annibynnol. Mae'n dweud nad yw eisiau i bobl sydd â nam gweledol fethu â gweithio ond, ar hyn o bryd, nid yw'n cael unrhyw gefnogaeth gan Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer y cwrs hwnnw. Yn yr un modd, mae'r RNIB wedi gofyn imi sôn am ei brosiect Beyond Vision, sef prosiect ar y cyd â Choleg Castell-nedd Port Talbot, sy'n sefydlu canolfan gyflogaeth a dysgu ar y campws i roi cymorth i bobl ddall a rhannol ddall gael eu trin yn gyfartal mewn cyflogaeth a chanlyniadau addysgol. Mae'r ddau gorff yn gofyn pa gymorth y gall Llywodraeth Cymru ei gynnig i'r prosiectau partneriaeth ardderchog hyn a ddarperir ar y cyd â darparwyr addysg yng Nghymru.

Leighton Andrews: Rwyf yn croesawu'r camau a gymerwyd gan nifer o sefydliadau trydydd sector i ddarparu'r gefnogaeth honno. Rhoddodd yr Aelod enghreifftiau o arfer da iawn. Mae cymorth ar gael i ofalwyr pobl ddall a rhannol ddall. Os oes angen cymorth ariannol ychwanegol arnynt, er enghraifft, mae ar gael drwy grantiau nad oes yn rhaid eu had-dalu, fel y grant oedolion dibynnol. Rwyf yn hapus i weithio gyda'r sefydliadau hynny i ganfod pa fylchau sy'n bodoli o fewn y system yn eu tyb hwy.

Appropriate Acoustics for Children with Hearing Impairments

7. Ann Jones: *How can the Welsh Government ensure that schools in Wales have the appropriate acoustics for children with hearing impairments. OAQ(4)0074(ESK)*

Leighton Andrews: Mae amodau ariannu ar gyfer contractau cyfalaf presennol a rhai yn y

require compliance with the technical guidance published by the UK Government Department for Education, 'Building Bulletin 93'. This requires local authorities to undertake a post-completion acoustic test in schools. Work has been undertaken with the National Deaf Children's Society.

dyfodol yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol eu bod yn cydymffurfio â'r canllawiau technegol a gyhoeddwyd gan adran addysg Llywodraeth y DU, 'Building Bulletin 93'. Mae'n ei gwneud yn ofynnol bod awdurdodau lleol yn cynnal profion acwstig ar ôl cwblhau gwaith adeiladu mewn ysgolion. Mae gwaith wedi'i wneud ar y cyd â'r Gymdeithas Genedlaethol i Blant Byddar.

Ann Jones: The National Deaf Children's Society has campaigned for good acoustics in schools to be a new year's resolution for Assembly Members, and I am delighted that 29 of us have agreed for that to become our resolution. It will be a good resolution, and will not be easy to break, like those on trying to lose weight, to give up smoking or whatever else. The Welsh Government has made progress on this, on which I congratulate you, with a clause in the twenty-first century schools grant funding to ensure that there are good acoustics in schools. However, it is worrying that only 11% of projects have been tested for compliance with the acoustic standards. Does your Government have any plans to make this testing mandatory, and also to extend this provision to nursery and college buildings?

Ann Jones: Bu'r Gymdeithas Genedlaethol i Blant Byddar yn ymgyrchu i sicrhau bod cael acwsteg dda mewn ysgolion yn adduned flwyddyn newydd i Aelodau'r Cynulliad, ac rwyf wrth fy modd bod 29 ohonom wedi cytuno mai dyna fydd ein hadduned. Bydd yn adduned dda, ac ni fydd yn hawdd ei thorri, yn wahanol i addunedau yngylch ceisio colli pwysau, rhoi'r gorau i ysmgu neu beth bynnag arall. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gwneud cynnydd yn y maes hwn, ac rwyf yn eich llonyfarch am hynny, gyda chymal yn arian grant ysgolion yr unfed ganrif ar hugain i sicrhau bod acwsteg dda mewn ysgolion. Fodd bynnag, mae'n destun pryder mai dim ond 11% o brosiectau a brofwyd i weld a ydynt yn cydymffurfio â'r safonau acwstig. A oes gan eich Llywodraeth gynlluniau i wneud y profion yn orfodol, a hefyd i ymestyn y ddarpariaeth i adeiladau meithrin ac adeiladau coleg?

Leighton Andrews: I welcome the support from my colleague, the Member for the Vale of Clwyd, and from other Members, including the Member for Swansea East, for this campaign by the National Deaf Children's Society. We took the step of incorporating guidance on this in the twenty-first century schools programme, and that work continues; we will continue to provide support for that programme, and we will also look at its implications for buildings in other parts of the education sector.

Leighton Andrews: Rwyf yn croesawu'r gefnogaeth gan fy nghyd-Aelod, yr Aelod dros Ddyffryn Clwyd, a chan Aelodau eraill, gan gynnwys yr Aelod dros Ddwyrain Abertawe, ar gyfer yr ymgyrch gan y Gymdeithas Genedlaethol i Blant Byddar. Rydym wedi cymryd y cam o gynnwys canllawiau ar hyn yn rhaglen ysgolion yr unfed ganrif ar hugain, ac mae'r gwaith hwnnw'n parhau; byddwn yn parhau i roi cefnogaeth i'r rhaglen honno, a byddwn hefyd yn edrych ar ei goblygiadau ar gyfer adeiladau mewn rhannau eraill o'r sector addysg.

Russell George: Minister, I am pleased to sign up to the NDCS's new year's resolution campaign. We cannot and should not allow poor acoustics in the classroom to be a barrier that prevents deaf pupils from achieving their full potential. It is vital that our newly afforded powers over building regulations are used to ensure that regulations are robust.

Russell George: Weinidog, rwyf yn falch o ymuno ag ymgyrch adduned flwyddyn newydd y Gymdeithas Genedlaethol i Blant Byddar. Ni allwn ac ni ddylem ganiatáu i acwsteg wael yn yr ystafell ddosbarth rwystro disgyblion byddar rhag cyflawni eu potensial llawn. Mae'n hanfodol bod ein pweirau newydd dros reoliadau adeiladu yn cael eu

While pre-completion testing is part of the twenty-first century schools programme, how does the Minister believe that the issue with regard to local authority compliance can be overcome for all new school buildings?

defnyddio i sicrhau bod y rheoliadau yn gadarn. Er bod profion cyn cwblhau gwaith adeiladu yn rhan o raglen ysgolion yr unfed ganrif ar hugain, sut y mae'r Gweinidog yn credu y gellir ymdrin â'r mater o sicrhau cydymffurfiad awdurdodau lleol ar gyfer pob adeilad ysgol newydd?

Leighton Andrews: It would be a lot easier had the UK coalition Government not cut our capital programme by 40%.

Peter Black: It is easier to tackle this particular problem in new build schools, but the worst examples of poor acoustics are in older schools, some of which will not be replaced as part of the twenty-first century schools programme. Do you have any ideas as to how local authorities may tackle this particular issue, and are you in discussion with them regarding those older schools that are not due to be replaced?

Leighton Andrews: Byddai'n haws o lawer pe na bai Llywodraeth glymblaid y DU wedi torri ein rhaglen gyfalaf 40%.

Peter Black: Mae'n haws mynd i'r afael â'r broblem benodol hon mewn ysgolion sy'n cael eu hadeiladu o'r newydd, ond mae'r enghreifftiau gwaethaf o acwsteg wael i'w cael mewn ysgolion hŷn, ac ni fydd rhai ohonynt yn cael eu disodli fel rhan o raglen ysgolion yr unfed ganrif ar hugain. A oes gennych syniadau yngylch sut y gall awdurdodau lleol fynd i'r afael â'r mater penodol hwn, ac a ydych yn trafod â hwy yr ysgolion hŷn hynny na fwriedir eu hail-adeiladu?

Leighton Andrews: I think that the Member is well aware of the impact on our capital programme of the cuts imposed by the UK coalition Government, of which his party is a member. We provide significant guidance to local authorities to undertake this programme. We do not have all the capital that we require to provide local authorities with the support that they need to undertake this programme on a rigorous basis, but we are doing what we can to support them from our resources.

Leighton Andrews: Rwyf yn credu bod yr Aelod yn ymwybodol iawn o'r effaith y mae'r toriadau a orfodwyd arnom gan Lywodraeth glymblaid y DU—y mae ei blaidd yn aelod ohoni—wedi ei chael ar ein rhaglen gyfalaf. Rydym yn darparu canllawiau sylweddol i awdurdodau lleol weithredu'r rhaglen hon. Nid oes gennym yr holl gyfalaf y mae ei angen arnom i roi'r gefnogaeth sydd ei hangen ar awdurdodau lleol i'w galluogi i weithredu'r rhaglen hon yn drwyndl, ond rydym yn gwneud yr hyn y gallwn ei wneud i roi cymorth iddynt o'n hadnoddau.

Blaenoriaethau Addysg

8. Jocelyn Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am flaenoriaethau addysg ar gyfer De Ddwyrain Cymru. OAQ(4)0083(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: My priorities are to raise standards across all education sectors, raise skill levels and tackle youth unemployment.

Jocelyn Davies: You will know that we have given our support to the action that you are taking in Blaenau Gwent, and you will also probably know that Blaenau Gwent has just one school in your lowest banding for

Education Priorities

8. Jocelyn Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on education priorities for South East Wales. OAQ(4)0083(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: Fy mlaenoriaethau yw gwella safonau drwy'r holl sectorau addysg, gwella lefelau sgiliau a mynd i'r afael â diweithdra ymysg yr ifanc.

Jocelyn Davies: Byddwch yn gwybod ein bod wedi cefnogi'r camau rydych yn eu cymryd ym Mlaenau Gwent, a byddwch hefyd, yn ôl pob tebyg, yn gwybod mai dim ond un ysgol yn y band isaf ar gyfer ysgolion

secondary schools, despite the authority being subject to special measures because of its educational provision. Can you explain this?

2.00 p.m.

Leighton Andrews: It demonstrates that the leadership in secondary schools in Blaenau Gwent is outperforming the local authority in its delivery of its education services. I welcome the support that she has given for the steps that we have taken in respect of the educational performance of Blaenau Gwent as a local authority over the last six months. I met with the commissioners before Christmas, and I was pleased with the progress that they have made. They have set in train a series of actions to turn around educational performance in Blaenau Gwent, and they are working closely with the schools there.

William Graham: I commend your action in Blaenau Gwent, but how have you evaluated the determining factors so that this situation does not arise again?

Leighton Andrews: There have been specific lessons in respect of Blaenau Gwent's experience, which resulted in the action that we took. Estyn is carrying out its inspections of local authorities, and local authorities are finding those inspections quite challenging. Very few local authorities have received a good grading from Estyn, a number have been graded as adequate, Blaenau Gwent was in the unsatisfactory category and we have had specific circumstances in Pembrokeshire that relate to issues that Members are familiar with.

We have to identify best practice and ensure that it is being used throughout the education system. That is where the consortia will help us. There is a role in focusing on school improvement services, and I am glad that the consortia are doing that at the present time.

uwchradd sydd gan Blaenau Gwent, er bod yr awdurdod yn destun mesurau arbennig oherwydd ei ddarpariaeth addysgol. A allwch chi esbonio hyn?

Leighton Andrews: Mae'n dangos bod yr arweinyddiaeth yn ysgolion uwchradd Blaenau Gwent yn gwneud yn well na'r awdurdod lleol o ran sut mae'n darparu ei wasanaethau addysg. Rwyf yn croesawu ei chefnogaeth ar gyfer y camau rydym wedi eu cymryd mewn perthynas â pherfformiad addysgol Blaenau Gwent fel awdurdod lleol yn ystod y chwe mis diwethaf. Cefais gyfarfod gyda'r comisiynwyr cyn y Nadolig, ac roeddwn yn fodlon â'r cynnydd y maent wedi'i wneud. Maent wedi rhoi cyfres o gamau gweithredu ar waith i droi perfformiad addysgol ym Mlaenau Gwent ar ei ben, ac maent yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r ysgolion yno.

William Graham: Rwyf yn cymeradwyo'r camau a gymerwyd gennych ym Mlaenau Gwent, ond sut y gwnaethoch werthuso'r ffactorau dylanwadol fel na fydd y sefyllfa hon yn codi eto?

Leighton Andrews: Bu gwensi penodol mewn perthynas â phrofiad Blaenau Gwent, a arweiniodd at y camau y gwnaethom eu cymryd. Mae Estyn yn cynnal ei arolygiadau o awdurdodau lleol, ac mae'r arolygiadau hynny'n eithaf heriol i'r awdurdodau lleol. Ychydig iawn o awdurdodau lleol sydd wedi cael gradd dda gan Estyn, rhoddyd gradd ddigonol i nifer ohonynt, roedd Blaenau Gwent yn y categori anfoddhaol a bu amgylchiadau penodol yn Sir Benfro sy'n ymwneud â materion y mae Aelodau'n gyfarwydd â hwy.

Mae'n rhaid inni nodi arfer gorau a sicrhau ei fod yn cael ei ddefnyddio drwy'r system addysg. Dyna sut y bydd y consortia yn ein helpu. Mae'r rôl o ran canolbwytio ar y gwasanaethau i wella ysgolion, ac rwyf yn falch bod y consortia yn gwneud hynny ar hyn o bryd.

System Fandio

Banding System

9. Simon Thomas: *Pa ganran o ysgolion cynradd Cymru mae'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu eu hepgor o'r system fandio arfaethedig oherwydd eu maint, eu natur neu ystyriaethau perthnasol eraill.* OAQ(4)0076(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: We shall know more precisely after we have completed the detailed analysis over the next few weeks, but we anticipate that around 30% of schools will be excluded from the proposed primary banding system. However, more importantly, the schools included will account for around 95% of pupils.

Simon Thomas: Diolch i'r Gweinidog am y ffigurau hynny. A wnaiff gadarnhau na fydd y ffigur yn codi'n uwch na 30%? Mae llawer o sôn y gallai fod yn nes at 40% o holl ysgolion cynradd Cymru. Er fy mod yn derbyn bod hynny'n cynnwys rhan helaethaf disgyblion Cymru, dylai'r system fandio ddelio â methiannau ysgol yn ogystal â methiannau disgyblion. Onid yw synnwyd cyffredin yn dweud, tra'i fod yn casglu gwybodaeth, na ddylai'r system fandio ar gyfer ysgolion cynradd fodoli, gan nad oes modd cael system genedlaethol gyda thraean o'r ysgolion wedi eu hepgor o'r system honno?

Leighton Andrews: We will provide the provisional banding data on the primary sector by Easter, and the full banding information will be made available during the course of the summer. The banding system will be implemented.

Plant Ysgol sydd â Nam ar eu Clyw

10. Mohammad Asghar: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu sut mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn sicrhau bod plant ysgol sydd â nam ar eu clyw yn cael pob cyfle i gyflawni eu potensial yn system addysg Cymru. OAQ(4)0082(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that all pupils are provided with an education that enables them to reach their full potential. Local authorities have a duty to meet the needs of pupils with special needs, such as hearing impairment,

9. Simon Thomas: *What percentage of Welsh Primary Schools does the Minister intend to omit from the proposed banding system due to their size, type or other relevant considerations. OAQ(4)0076(ESK)*

Leighton Andrews: Bydd gennym fwy o fanylion ar ôl inni gwblhau'r dadansoddiad manwl yn ystod yr wythnosau nesaf, ond rydym yn rhagweld y bydd tua 30% o ysgolion yn cael eu heithrio o'r system fandio cynradd arfaethedig. Fodd bynnag, ac yn bwysicach, bydd tua 95% o'r disgyblion yn dod o'r ysgolion sy'n cael eu cynnwys.

Simon Thomas: I thank the Minister for those figures. Will he confirm that the figure will not rise above 30%? There is a great deal of talk about the possibility of it being closer to 40% of Welsh primary schools. While I accept that that would include the vast majority of Welsh pupils, the banding system should deal with the failings of schools as well as the failings of pupils. Does it not make sense, as he is gathering information, for the banding system for primary schools not to come into force, as there is no way of having a national system while a third of schools are omitted from that system?

Leighton Andrews: Byddwn yn darparu'r data bandio dros dro ar y sector cynradd erbyn y Pasg, a bydd y wybodaeth fandio lawn ar gael yn ystod yr haf. Bydd y system fandio yn cael ei gweithredu.

School Children with Hearing Impairments

10. Mohammad Asghar: *Will the Minister outline how the Welsh Government ensures that school children with hearing impairments have every opportunity to fulfill their full potential within the Welsh educational system. OAQ(4)0082(ESK)*

Leighton Andrews: Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymrwymo i sicrhau bod pob disgybl yn cael addysg sy'n ei alluogi i gyrraedd ei botensial llawn. Mae gan awdurdodau lleol ddyletswydd i ateb anghenion disgyblion ag anghenion arbennig,

the majority of whom are educated in mainstream schools with additional support.

Mohammad Asghar: It is imperative to provide an egalitarian system within a classroom for children with hearing impairments. Good acoustics in schools across Wales are important for all children, but particularly for deaf children, as lack of hearing can lead to bullying. How is the Welsh Government responding to statistics that show that almost two thirds, or 64%, of deaf children are leaving primary schools without grasping simple sums and sentences? How will the Welsh Government ensure that acoustic facilities in school buildings adequately provide for Welsh children suffering of hearing loss to learn basic skills and excel when compared to their class mates and to prevent them from being bullied for their hearing impairments?

Leighton Andrews: Following evidence produced by the National Deaf Children's Society Cymru, demonstrating a gap between the attainment of hearing-impaired pupils and that of those without hearing impairments, my officials wrote to all local authorities to ensure that schools were complying with the statutory requirements in completing the pupil level annual school census returns and the need to record pupils with hearing impairments as having special educational needs. We have put guidance and support in place through the twenty-first century schools programme, and we look to local authorities to implement that.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Weinidog, yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi eich ymateb i'r cwestiwn ynglŷn â phobl sydd â nam ar eu clyw. A oes problem benodol yn bodoli o ran pobl sy'n dymuno cael addysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, ac a allwch chi gadarnhau heddiw bod yr un cyfleoedd ar gael i siaradwyr Cymraeg sydd â nam ar eu clyw?

Leighton Andrews: My honest answer is that I hope that the same opportunities are available. However, if the Member has any examples that he wants to bring to my attention where he is concerned that that is

megis nam ar y clyw. Caiff y mwyafrif ohonynt eu haddysgu mewn ysgolion prif ffrwd gyda chymorth ychwanegol.

Mohammad Asghar: Mae'n hollbwysig darparu system egalitaraid mewn ystafell ddosbarth ar gyfer plant sydd â nam ar eu clyw. Mae acwsteg dda mewn ysgolion ledled Cymru yn bwysig i bob plentyn, ond yn enwedig plant byddar, gan fod diffyg clyw yn gallu arwain at fwlio. Sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymateb i ystadegau sy'n dangos bod bron i ddwy ran o dair, neu 64%, o blant byddar yn gadael ysgolion cynradd heb amgyffred symiau a brawddegau syml? Sut y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn sicrhau bod cyfleusterau acwstig mewn adeiladau ysgol yn darparu'n ddigonol ar gyfer plant o Gymru sy'n dioddef o nam ar eu clyw fel eu bod yn dysgu sgiliau sylfaenol ac yn rhagori o'u cymharu â'u cyd-ddisgyblion ac i'w hatal rhag cael eu bwlio oherwydd y nam ar eu clyw?

Leighton Andrews: Yn dilyn tystiolaeth a gyhoeddwyd gan y Gymdeithas Genedlaethol i Blant Byddar Cymru sy'n dangos bwlch rhwng cyrhaeddiad disgylion sydd â nam ar eu clyw a'r rheini sydd heb nam ar eu clyw, ysgrifennodd fy swyddogion at bob awdurdod lleol i sicrhau bod ysgolion yn cydymffurfio â'r gofynion statudol wrth lenwi'r ffurflenni cyfrifiad ysgolion blynnyddol ar lefelau disgylion a'r angen i gofnodi bod gan ddisgyblion sydd â nam ar eu clyw anghenion addysgol arbennig. Rydym wedi darparu canllawiau a chymorth drwy raglen ysgolion yr unfed ganrif ar hugain, ac rydym yn disgwyl i awdurdodau lleol eu rhoi ar waith.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Minister, I appreciate your reply to the question about people with hearing impairments. Is there a specific problem with regard to those who wish to undertake Welsh-medium education, and can you confirm today that the same opportunities are available for Welsh speakers with hearing impairments?

Leighton Andrews: Fy ateb gonest yw fy mod yn gobeithio bod yr un cyfleoedd ar gael. Fodd bynnag, os oes gan yr Aelod unrhyw engrheifftiau yr hoffai eu dwyn i'm sylw lle mae'n pryderu nad yw hynny'n

not happening, I would very much like to hear about them.

digwydd, byddai'n dda iawn gennyf glywed amdanynt.

Bwlio

11. Christine Chapman: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am yr hyn y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud i fynd i'r afael â bwlio mewn ysgolion. OAQ(4)0072(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: In addition to the comprehensive anti-bullying guidance that we published in the autumn, we have made £300,000 available to local authorities in the current academic year for well-evaluated behaviour management training for teachers, including specific anti-bullying interventions.

Christine Chapman: I know that that will be much welcomed, Minister. Bullying can be very traumatic for young people. The Beatbullying charity says that cyberbullying is almost at epidemic levels, with estimates suggesting that 20% to 30% of children and young people, as well as over a third of teachers, have been victims of cyberbullying. I met with a number of schools in my constituency before Christmas. One issue that was raised with me was the fact that, with new technologies and social media, there can be no escape even in your own home. Minister, can you give me your assurances that you will continue to work on this issue to ensure that schools, parents and pupils receive the advice and support that they need to tackle cyberbullying?

Leighton Andrews: Yes, indeed. Cyberbullying is specifically covered in the guidance that we published in the autumn, which is obviously designed to help school leaders and staff familiarise themselves with the ways in which social media are currently being used by learners, and the potential abuse of that media. As you will be aware, I set up a task and finish group to look at the issue of digital materials in the classroom. One member of that group is the chief executive of Wise Kids, which has done excellent work throughout Wales, working with young people and those who work with young people on issues relating to internet

Bullying

11. Christine Chapman: Will the Minister make a statement on what the Welsh Government is doing to address bullying in schools. OAQ(4)0072(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: Yn ogystal â'r canllawiau gwirth-fwlio cynhwysfawr a gyhoeddwyd gennym yn ystod yr hydref, rydym wedi darparu £300,000 i awdurdodau lleol yn ystod y flwyddyn academaidd gyfredol ar gyfer hyfforddiant rheoli ymddygiad wedi'i werthuso'n dda, sy'n cynnwys ymyriadau gwirth-fwlio penodol.

Christine Chapman: Gwn y caiff hynny ei groesawu'n fawr, Weinidog. Gall bwlio fod yn drawmatig iawn i bobl ifanc. Mae'r elusen Beatbullying yn dweud bod seiberfwlio bron ar lefel epidemig, gydag amcangyfrifon yn awgrymu bod rhwng 20% a 30% o blant a phobl ifanc, yn ogystal â dros draean o athrawon, wedi dioddef seiberfwlio. Bûm mewn nifer o gyfarfodydd mewn ysgolion yn fy etholaeth cyn y Nadolig. Un mater a godwyd gyda mi oedd y ffaith na ellir dianc yn eich cartref eich hun hyd yn oed oherwydd technolegau newydd a chyfryngau cymdeithasu. Weinidog, a allwch roi sicrwydd i mi y byddwch yn parhau i weithio ar y mater hwn er mwyn sicrhau bod ysgolion, rhieni a disgylion yn cael y cyngor a'r cymorth sydd eu hangen arnynt i fynd i'r afael â seiberfwlio?

Leighton Andrews: Gallaf, yn wir. Mae seiberfwlio'n cael ei gynnwys yn benodol yn y canllawiau a gyhoeddasom yn yr hydref, sy'n amlwg wedi eu cynllunio i helpu arweinwyr a staff ysgolion ymgynfarwyddo â'r ffyrdd y mae dysgwyr yn defnyddio cyfryngau cymdeithasu ar hyn o bryd, a sut y mae'n bosibl cam-drin y cyfryngau hynny. Fel y gwyddoch, sefydlais grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen i edrych ar ddeunyddiau digidol yn yr ystafell ddosbarth. Un aelod o'r grŵp hwnnw yw prif weithredwr Wise Kids, sydd wedi gwneud gwaith rhagorol ledled Cymru gan weithio gyda phobl ifanc a'r rheini sy'n gweithio gyda phobl ifanc ar faterion yn

safety.

Mohammad Asghar: Minister, I would like to cite the Welsh Government website, which states that, to curb bullying at schools, headteachers and governing bodies must, by law, have a policy to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils. I have come across many parents in the South Wales East region whose children have been victimised by physical, verbal and racist bullying. It goes without saying that they are not satisfied by the measures that have been put in place. Undoubtedly, a lot needs to be done to ensure that the problem is resolved. Therefore, what new checks and balances will the Welsh Government put in place to ensure that schools abide by their anti-bullying policies and that they deter bullies from victimising other pupils in our schools?

Leighton Andrews: I take this issue very seriously. If you have specific examples of schools that do not have in place an appropriate anti-bullying policy, which I doubt, or specific examples of parents who have sought satisfaction but have not received it, and who therefore feel that their case has not been attended to properly, I invite you to write to me regarding those examples.

Addysg Uwch yng Ngogledd Ddwyrain Cymru

12. Kenneth Skates: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei gynlluniau ar gyfer dyfodol Addysg Uwch yng Ngogledd Ddwyrain Cymru. OAQ(4)0079(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: I made a statement to the Assembly in November outlining my initial response to the reconfiguration proposals made by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. I shall make a further statement in relation to the review of higher education provision in north-east Wales in due course.

Kenneth Skates: Minister, I am very much looking forward to the upcoming review of higher education needs in north-east Wales, and the Welsh Government's vision for the future of Glyndŵr University. One of the major achievements of the university over the

ymwneud â diogelwch ar y rhyngrwyd.

Mohammad Asghar: Weinidog, hoffwn ddyfynnu gwefan Llywodraeth Cymru, sy'n datgan, er mwyn atal bwlio mewn ysgolion, fod yn rhaid i benaethiaid a chyrrff llywodraethu gael polisi i atal unrhyw fath o fwlio ymysg disgyblion yn ôl y gyfraith. Rwyf wedi dod ar draws nifer o rieni yn rhanbarth Dwyrain De Cymru y mae eu plant wedi cael eu herlid o ganlyniad i fwlio corfforol, geiriol a hiliol. Afraid dweud nad yw'r mesurau a roddwyd ar waith yn eu bodloni. Heb os, mae llawer i'w wneud i sicrhau bod y broblem yn cael ei datrys. Felly, pa strwythurau newydd y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn eu rhoi ar waith i sicrhau bod ysgolion yn glynu at eu polisiau gwrth-fwlio a'u bod yn atal bwlloed rhag erlid disgyblion eraill yn ein hsgolion?

Leighton Andrews: Rwyf yn cymryd y mater hwn o ddifrif. Os oes gennych enghreifftiau penodol o ysgolion heb bolisi gwrth-fwlio priodol ar waith, ac rwyf yn amau hynny, neu enghreifftiau penodol o rieni sydd wedi ceisio cael boddhad ond heb ei gael, ac sydd felly'n teimlo nad yw eu hachos wedi cael y sylw cywir, rwyf yn eich gwahodd i ysgrifennu ataf ynghylch yr enghreifftiau hynny.

Higher Education in North East Wales

12. Kenneth Skates: Will the Minister outline his plans for the future of Higher Education in North East Wales. OAQ(4)0079(ESK)

Leighton Andrews: Ym mis Tachwedd, gwneuthum ddatganiad i'r Cynulliad yn amlinellu fy ymateb cyntaf i'r cynigion ail-gyflunio a wnaed gan Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru. Byddaf yn gwneud datganiad pellach ynghylch yr adolygiad o ddarpariaeth addysg uwch yn y gogledd-ddwyrain maes o law.

Kenneth Skates: Weinidog, rwyf yn edrych ymlaen yn fawr at yr adolygiad sydd i ddod o anghenion addysg uwch yn y gogledd-ddwyrain, a gweledigaeth Llywodraeth Cymru am ddyfodol Prifysgol Glyndŵr. Un o lwyddiannau mawr y brifysgol dros y

last few years has been the excellent access that it has facilitated to higher education for individuals from non-traditional backgrounds—people who would not normally have taken this path. Will you reassure me that the review panel will take time to examine closely the accessibility of HE in north-east Wales, and that HE in north-east Wales will incorporate a broad access agenda into its future structure and ethos?

blynnyddoedd diwethaf yw sut y mae wedi hwyluso mynediad gwych at addysg uwch ar gyfer unigolion o gefndiroedd nad ydynt yn rhai traddodiadol—pobl na fyddent fel arfer wedi cymryd y llwybr hwn. A wnewch chi roi sicrwydd i mi y bydd y panel adolygu yn cymryd amser i archwilio hygyrchedd addysg uwch yn y gogledd-ddwyrain yn fanwl, ac y bydd addysg uwch yn y gogledd-ddwyrain yn ymgorffori agenda o fynediad eang yn ei strwythur a'i ethos yn y dyfodol?

Leighton Andrews: Indeed. The success of Glyndŵr University and a number of other post-1992 higher education institutions in Wales in widening access to students from non-traditional backgrounds is to be praised. I would have been slightly more impressed with some of the campaigns relating to the future of Glyndŵr and higher education provision in north Wales if they had paid more attention to that factor in their representations. What we want to do in looking at the approach to higher education in north-east Wales is ensure that we consider it in the round. That will include a range of factors, including widening access, the relationship between higher education and industry and between higher education and further education institutions, the opportunities that may be provided by a significant manufacturing base for research potential, which would have been one of the advantages of a relationship between Glyndŵr and other higher education institutions in north Wales, and the increasing competition that there will undoubtedly be for students from north-east Wales from institutions in north-west England.

Mark Isherwood: You refer to your higher education statement from the end of November in which you said that you were examining further options for north-east Wales. On 3 January, you made some encouraging comments in the *Daily Post*, acknowledging Glyndŵr's strong relationships with industry, notably Airbus, how vital it was to the local economy and that it had enabled access to higher education for people from non-traditional backgrounds. Given your evident recognition of the local factors, and therefore your support for the institution, what further options, if any, for its constitutional status are you considering

Leighton Andrews: Yn wir. Dylid canmol llwyddiant Prifysgol Glyndŵr a nifer o sefydliadau addysg uwch ôl-1992 eraill yng Nghymru am ehangu mynediad i fyfyrwyr o gefndiroedd nad ydynt yn rhai traddodiadol. Byddai rhai o'r ymgyrchoedd sy'n ymwneud â dyfodol Glyndŵr a darpariaeth addysg uwch yn y gogledd wedi cael ychydig mwy o argraff arnaf pe baent wedi talu mwy o sylw i'r ffactor hwnnw yn eu sylwadau. Wrth edrych ar ddarpariaeth addysg uwch yn y gogledd-ddwyrain, rydym am sicrhau ein bod yn ei hystyried yn ei chyfanrwydd. Bydd hynny'n cynnwys amrywiaeth o ffactorau, gan gynnwys ehangu mynediad, y berthynas rhwng addysg uwch a diwydiant a rhwng addysg uwch a sefydliadau addysg bellach, y cyfleoedd posibl i wneud gwaith ymchwil y gall sylfaen gweithgynhyrchu sylweddol eu darparu—a fyddai wedi bod yn un o fanteision perthynas rhwng Glyndŵr a sefydliadau addysg uwch eraill yn y gogledd—a'r gystadleuaeth gynyddol sy'n sicr o fodoli ar gyfer myfyrwyr o'r gogledd-ddwyrain mewn perthynas â sefydliadau yng ngogledd-orllewin Lloegr.

Mark Isherwood: Gwnaethoch gyfeirio at y datganiad ar addysg uwch a wnaethoch ddiwedd mis Tachwedd pan wnaethoch ddweud eich bod yn edrych ar opsiynau eraill ar gyfer y gogledd-ddwyrain. Ar 3 Ionawr, gwnaethoch rai sylwadau calonogol yn y *Daily Post*, gan gydnabod perthynas gref Glyndŵr gyda diwydiant, yn arbennig Airbus, pa mor hanfodol oedd i'r economi leol a'r ffaith ei fod wedi galluogi mynediad i addysg uwch i bobl o gefndiroedd nad oedd ynt yn rhai traddodiadol. O ystyried eich cydnabyddiaeth amlwg o'r ffactorau lleol, ac felly eich cefnogaeth ar gyfer y sefydliad, pa opsiynau eraill ar gyfer ei statws

beyond the strategic alliance deal with Aberystwyth and Bangor universities, or is that effectively it?

Leighton Andrews: I have nothing to add to the statement I made at the end of November.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: Rwy'n falch o glywed eich bod am weld y brifysgol yn datblygu cysylltiadau ehangach o fewn y gymuned. Un berthynas bwysig yw honno â'r sector iechyd. Tra'n bod yn croesawu eich cyhoeddiad diweddar ynglŷn â Glyndŵr yn gorfodi uno, mae peth ansicrwydd ynglŷn â dyfodol ysgol nyrso Wrecsam. Pa gamau y byddwch yn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod yr ysgol, sy'n paratoi myfyrwyr ar gyfer ein gwasanaeth iechyd, yn cael sicrwydd ynglŷn â'i dyfodol?

Leighton Andrews: Obviously, the issue of nursing is a matter for my colleague the Minister for Health and Social Services. These are matters that we discuss from time to time and which, no doubt, we will discuss in future.

Aled Roberts: Minister, I am sure that colleagues from across north Wales welcomed your statement in November. However, may I ask that you provide us with a definite idea of timescales? Any added period of uncertainty as far as Glyndŵr is concerned, particularly with regard to further education reviews, which I think will probably be concluded under the transformation agenda early in the new year, will mean that there is some anxiety in north-east Wales about knowing where we are going as soon as possible. However, I accept and support what Ken Skates said regarding the widening access agenda.

Leighton Andrews: I intend to announce the remit for the review and the members of the review team shortly.

Adnewyddu'r Cwricwlwm Cenedlaethol

13. Julie James: A oes gan y Gweinidog unrhyw gynlluniau i adnewyddu'r

cychwynnol rydych yn eu hystyried, os o gwbl, y tu hwnt i'r cytundeb cynghrair strategol gyda phrifysgolion Aberystwyth a Bangor, neu ai dyna'r cwbl sydd, i bob pwrrpas?

Leighton Andrews: Nid oes gennyf ddim i'w ychwanegu at y datganiad a wnes ddiwedd mis Tachwedd.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: I am pleased to hear that you want to see the university develop broader links within the community. One important sector in this context is health. Although I welcome your recent announcement on Glyndŵr and the forced merger, there is some uncertainty about the future of the nursing school in Wrexham. What steps will you take, Minister, to ensure that that school, which prepares nurses for our health service, has an assurance about its future?

Leighton Andrews: Yn amlwg, mater ar gyfer fy nghyd-Aelod, y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, yw nyrso. Mae'r rhain yn faterion rydym yn eu trafod o bryd i'w gilydd ac, yn ddiua, byddwn yn eu trafod yn y dyfodol.

Aled Roberts: Weinidog, rwyf yn siŵr y croesawodd cydweithwyr o bob rhan o'r gogledd eich datganiad ym mis Tachwedd. Fodd bynnag, a gaf ofyn ichi roi gwybodaeth bendant inni ynghylch amserlenni? Bydd unrhyw gyfnod ychwanegol o ansicrwydd mewn perthynas â Glyndŵr, yn enwedig o ran adolygiadau addysg bellach—a ddaw i ben, fwy na thebyg, o dan yr agenda gweddnewid yn gynnar yn y flwyddyn newydd—yn golygu bod tipyn o bryder yn y gogledd-ddwyrain ynghylch gwybod cyn gynted â phosibl beth sy'n digwydd. Fodd bynnag, rwyf yn derbyn ac yn cefnogi'r hyn a ddywedodd Ken Skates ynglŷn â'r agenda ehangu mynediad.

Leighton Andrews: Rwyf yn bwriadu cyhoeddi cylch gwaith yr adolygiad ac aelodau'r tîm adolygu cyn bo hir.

Refresh the National Curriculum

13. Julie James: Does the Minister have any plans to refresh the national curriculum over

*cwricwlwm cenedlaethol dros oes y the lifetime of this Assembly.
Cynlliad hwn. OAQ(4)0081(ESK)*

Leighton Andrews: A skills-based approach was embedded in the curriculum in 2008. Alongside this, we are developing a statutory national literacy and numeracy framework to ensure that all teachers understand their role in developing literacy and numeracy. The qualifications review currently under way clearly has curriculum implications.

Julie James: Thank you for that answer, Minister. Here in Wales we are all very fond of the phrase, ‘a small, smart nation’ and we are all advocates of that. I wish to draw your attention to a growing skills shortage in the computer programming industry—an industry that is much bigger than most people think. For example, more than £2 billion is generated in global sales by the video games industry from the UK as a whole. Wales leads the way in providing IT training in schools, but may I ask you to consider looking at long-term opportunities for teaching computer programming to young people under 16—because there are examples at A-level—as part of the school curriculum in order to get ahead in that area?

Leighton Andrews: I am glad that the Member for Swansea West has raised this issue, because computer programming is being discussed by the task and finish group that I have set up to look at the digital classroom. I met the group just before Christmas to look at where it had got to and its conclusions. It is developing some exciting and interesting ideas. I have extended the timescale for its report to me until the end of March. I think that, at the time that it publishes its report, we will have some interesting initiatives to take forward.

2.15 p.m.

Paul Davies: Minister, as you are aware, I have been pressing for social enterprise skills to be taught as part of the curriculum in Wales. While I acknowledge the Welsh Government’s youth entrepreneurial strategy,

Leighton Andrews: Cafodd dull sy’n seiliedig ar sgiliau ei ymgorffori yn y cwricwlwm yn 2008. Ochr yn ochr â hyn, rydym yn datblygu fframwaith statudol llythrennedd a rhifedd cenedlaethol i sicrhau bod pob athro yn deall ei rôl mewn perthynas â datblygu llythrennedd a rhifedd. Mae gan yr adolygiad o gymwysterau sy’n mynd rhagddo ar hyn o bryd oblygiadau i’r cwricwlwm.

Julie James: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Yma yng Nghymru, rydym i gyd yn hoff iawn o’r ymadrodd, ‘cenedl fach, ddeallus’ ac rydym i gyd yn cefnogi hynny. Hoffwn dynnu eich sylw at y prinder sgiliau cynyddol yn y diwydiant rhaglennu cyfrifiaduron—diwydiant sy’n llawer mwy nag y mae’r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn ei feddwl. Er enghraifft, cynhyrchir mwy na £2 biliwn mewn gwerthiant byd-eang gan ddiwydiant gemau fideo’r DU yn ei chyfarwydd. Mae Cymru ar flaen y gad o ran darparu hyfforddiant TG mewn ysgolion, ond gofynnaf ichi ystyried edrych ar gyfleoedd hirdymor ar gyfer dysgu rhaglennu cyfrifiadurol i bobl ifanc o dan 16 oed—oherwydd mae enghreiftiau mewn Safon Uwch—fel rhan o gwricwlwm ysgolion er mwyn symud ymlaen yn y maes hwnnw?

Leighton Andrews: Rwyf yn falch bod yr Aelod dros Orllewin Abertawe wedi codi’r mater hwn, gan fod rhaglennu cyfrifiaduron yn cael ei drafod gan y grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen rwyf wedi ei sefydlu i edrych ar yr ystafell ddosbarth ddigidol. Cefais gyfarfod gyda’r grŵp ychydig cyn y Nadolig i edrych ar ei gynnydd a’i gasgliadau hyd yn hyn. Mae’n datblygu rhai syniadau cyffrous a diddorol. Rwyf wedi ymestyn yr amserlen ar gyfer ei adroddiad i mi tan ddiwedd mis Mawrth. Yn fy marn i, pan fydd yn cyhoeddi ei adroddiad, bydd gennym fentrau diddorol i’w rhoi ar waith.

Paul Davies: Weinidog, fel y gwyddoch, rwyf wedi bod yn pwysio i sicrhau bod sgiliau menter gymdeithasol yn cael eu haddysgu fel rhan o’r cwricwlwm yng Nghymru. Er fy mod yn cydnabod strategaeth

I believe that more can be done to encourage schools to engage with social enterprising. The Minister has been positive in the past as regards possibly introducing social enterprises in schools. Therefore, will he commit to looking at a system where schools, especially secondary schools, would establish social enterprises to be managed and run by pupils as part of the curriculum?

entrepreneuriaeth ieuencid Llywodraeth Cymru, credaf y gellir gwneud mwy i annog ysgolion i ymgysylltu â menter gymdeithasol. Bu'r Gweinidog yn gadarnhaol yn y gorffennol ynghylch y posiblirwydd o gyflwyno mentrau cymdeithasol mewn ysgolion. Felly, a wnaiff ymroi i edrych ar system lle y byddai ysgolion, yn enwedig ysgolion uwchradd, yn sefydlu mentrau cymdeithasol a fyddai'n cael eu rheoli a'u rhedeg gan ddisgyblion fel rhan o'r cwricwlwm?

Leighton Andrews: I very much welcome that as an idea. The Member is right to refer to the youth entrepreneurship strategy, which was developed between my department and the department of the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science. We will certainly consider approaches to social enterprise within that context; it is something that the Minister for business also feels strongly about. As a Government, we have given considerable support to a range of programmes that support the development of social enterprise, not least the programme supported through European funds with the Wales Co-operative Centre. I have seen some good work being done at a local level by some of the education business partnerships in this area. Some of that work is taking place, but, of course, I am sure that we can always do more and we welcome further ideas that any Member may have.

Leighton Andrews: Rwyf yn croesawu hynny fel syniad. Mae'r Aelod yn iawn i gyfeirio at y strategaeth entrepreneuriaeth ieuencid a gafodd ei datblygu rhwng fy adran i ac adran y Gweinidog Busnes, Menter, Technoleg a Gwyddoniaeth. Byddwn yn sicr yn ystyried agweddau ar fentrau cymdeithasol o fewn y cyd-destun hwnnw; mae'n rhywbeth y mae'r Gweinidog dros fusnes hefyd yn teimlo'n gryf yn ei gylch. Fel Llywodraeth, rydym wedi rhoi cefnogaeth sylweddol i ystod o raglenni sy'n cefnogi datblygiad mentrau cymdeithasol, yn enwedig y rhaglen sy'n cael ei chefnogi drwy gronfeydd Ewropeidd gyda Chanolfan Cydweithredol Cymru. Rwyf wedi gweld gwaith da'n cael ei wneud ar lefel leol gan rai o'r partneriaethau addysg busnes yn y maes hwn. Mae peth o'r gwaith hwnnw'n digwydd ond, wrth gwrs, rwyf yn siŵr y gallwn wneud mwy bob amser, ac rydym yn croesawu syniadau eraill sydd gan unrhyw Aelod.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae cwmni Gaia ym Mangor yn darparu systemau technoleg gwybodaeth i ysgolion ac yn creu deunyddiau gweledol 3D blaengar ar gyfer y cwricwlwm cenedlaethol. A fyddch yn derbyn gwahoddiad gan y cwmni i'w gyfarfod i weld ei waith a'i gynlluniau?

Alun Ffred Jones: The Gaia company in Bangor provides information technology systems for schools and creates innovative 3D visual materials for use in the national curriculum. Would you accept an invitation to visit the company so that you can look at its work and plans?

Leighton Andrews: I would certainly consider an invitation from the company to look at the work that it is doing. I am always interested in seeing innovative work that is going on in Wales, especially in the field of digital technology. I look forward to hearing from the Member on this subject.

Leighton Andrews: Byddwn yn sicr yn ystyried gwahoddiad gan y cwmni i edrych ar y gwaith y mae'n ei wneud. Mae gennyf o hyd ddiddordeb mewn gweld gwaith arloesol sy'n cael ei wneud yng Nghymru, yn enwedig ym maes technoleg ddigidol. Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed oddi wrth yr Aelod ar y pwnc hwn.

Mike Hedges: Would the Minister consider adding life skills, such as financial

Mike Hedges: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ystyried ychwanegu sgiliau bywyd, megis

management and first aid, when any changes are made to the national curriculum so that when children leave school, they would possess these essential life skills?

rheoli arian a chymorth cyntaf, pan fydd unrhyw newidiadau yn cael eu gwneud i'r cwricwlwm cenedlaethol fel bod plant yn gadael yr ysgol gan feddu ar y sgiliau bywyd hanfodol hyn?

Leighton Andrews: We have, in fact, done a considerable amount in recent years under the leadership of my colleague, the Minister for finance, who was the former Minister for education, especially on personal financial education. If we were to look at significant revisions to the curriculum, we could look at that and the other issues that the Member has raised. I am not yet certain that I want to embark on a wholesale review of the curriculum given that we only introduced the skills-based curriculum in 2008.

Leighton Andrews: Rydym, mewn gwirionedd, wedi gwneud cryn dipyn yn ystod y blynnyddoedd diwethaf o dan arweiniad fy nghyd-Aelod, y Gweinidog dros gyllid, sef y cyn Weinidog dros addysg, yn enwedig ar addysg ariannol bersonol. Pe baem yn edrych ar newidiadau sylweddol i'r cwricwlwm, gallem edrych ar hynny ac ar y materion eraill y mae'r Aelod wedi eu codi. Nid wyf yn sicr eto fy mod am gychwyn ar adolygiad eang o'r cwricwlwm gan mai yn 2008 yn unig y gwnaethom gyflwyno'r cwricwlwm sy'n seiliedig ar sgiliau.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau Questions to the Minister for Local Government and Communities

Beicio

1. Kenneth Skates: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei gynlluniau ar gyfer hybu a datblygu beicio yng Nghymru.
OAQ(4)0081(LGC)

The Minister for Local Government and Communities (Carl Sargeant): I thank the Member for Clwyd South for his question. The Government is committed to taking forward, with key partners, a programme of various cycling initiatives. This includes funding new infrastructure and promotional projects such as Bike It, and personalised travel planning to encourage more people to cycle.

Kenneth Skates: Minister, I welcome the Government's bold commitment to introduce a cycling Bill during this Assembly and to provide vital cycle routes in key areas of Wales. On Monday, I met officials at the major events unit to discuss building on the success of the recent Etape Cymru closed road cycling event in north Wales, which attracted more than 1,600 competitors and generated £1.8 million for the economy. Given the growth potential for this excellent race and for cycling more generally, what work is the Welsh Government doing to

Cycling

1. Kenneth Skates: Will the Minister outline his plans for the promotion and development of cycling in Wales. *OAQ(4)0081(LGC)*

Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Carl Sargeant): Diolch i'r Aelod dros Dde Clwyd am ei gwestiwn. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi ymrwymo i fwrw ymlaen, ynghyd â phartneriaid allweddol, gyda rhaglen o fentrau beicio amrywiol. Mae hyn yn cynnwys ariannu seilwaith newydd a phrosiectau hyrwyddo megis Beiciwch Hi, a chynllunio teithio personol i annog mwy o bobl i feicio.

Kenneth Skates: Weinidog, rwyf yn croesawu ymrwymiad hyderus y Llywodraeth i gyflwyno Bil beicio yn ystod y Cynulliad hwn ac i ddarparu llwybrau beicio hanfodol mewn ardaloedd allweddol yng Nghymru. Ddydd Llun, cefais gyfarfod â swyddogion yn yr uned digwyddiadau mawr i drafod datblygu llwyddiant y digwyddiad beicio ar ffyrdd wedi eu cau, a gynhalwyd gan Etape Cymru yn ddiweddar yn y gogledd, a ddenodd mwy na 1,600 o gystadleuwyr ac a gynhyrchodd £1.8 miliwn i'r economi. O ystyried y potensial i dyfu sydd gan y ras

expand this event in north Wales and to encourage the wider take-up of cycling across the country?

ardderchog hon ac sydd gan feicio yn fwy cyffredinol, pa waith y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud i ymestyn y digwyddiad hwn yn y gogledd ac i annog mwy o bobl i feicio ledled y wlad?

Carl Sargeant: I am aware of the Member's interest in cycling and I recognise the events that he mentioned in his constituency and in north Wales at the end of last year. The Welsh Government, of course, is committed to supporting cycling, and the highways and transport Bill will include support for making walking and cycling a more practical, safe and enjoyable option for people travelling around Wales.

Carl Sargeant: Rwyf yn ymwybodol o ddiddordeb yr Aelod mewn beicio a gwn am y digwyddiadau yn ei etholaeth ac yn y gogledd ddiwed y llynedd a grybwylodd. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru, wrth gwrs, wedi ymrwymo i gefnogi beicio, a bydd y Bil priffyrrd a thrafnidiaeth yn cynnwys cymorth ar gyfer gwneud cerdded a beicio yn opsiynau mwy ymarferol, diogel a phleserus ar gyfer pobl sy'n teithio o amgylch Cymru.

Darren Millar: Minister, one issue that cyclists sometimes face is that they may want to cycle part of their journey, for example to and from work, and at the same time need to use public transport. One issue that has been brought to my attention is the lack of available space on buses in particular for people to store their bikes during that part of their journey, which obviously then encourages them to use cars and other forms of transport. What action are you taking as a Government to ensure that bus operators that are awarded contracts in future by local government or by the Welsh Government are aware of this issue, so that something could perhaps be drawn into the contractual arrangements?

Darren Millar: Weinidog, un broblem y mae beicwyr yn ei hwynebu weithiau yw eu bod yn dymuno beicio am ran o'u taith o bosibl, er enghraifft i'r gwaith ac o'r gwaith, ond, ar yr un pryd, mae angen iddynt ddefnyddio trafnidiaeth gyhoeddus. Un mater sydd wedi cael ei ddwyn i'm sylw yw'r diffyg lle sydd ar gael ar fysiau yn arbennig fel y gall pobl storio eu beiciau arnynt yn ystod y rhan honno o'u taith, sy'n amlwg yn eu hannog wedyn i ddefnyddio ceir a mathau eraill o drafnidiaeth. Pa gamau rydych yn eu cymryd fel Llywodraeth i sicrhau bod cwmnïau bysiau y mae llywodraeth leol neu Lywodraeth Cymru yn rhoi contractau iddynt yn y dyfodol yn ymwybodol o hyn, fel y gellir cynnwys rhywbeth yn y trefniadau cytundebol?

Carl Sargeant: The Member will be aware of the buses in Denbighshire that have cycle racks on the front to take bikes and their owners, along with other passengers, around his constituency and many other constituencies as well. There is a great opportunity to enhance support for cyclists and tourism across Wales, and it is something that my team, in discussions with commercial operators, will have in mind with regard to future contracts.

Carl Sargeant: Bydd yr Aelod yn ymwybodol o'r bysiau yn Sir Ddinbych sydd â rheseli beiciau ar y blaen i fynd â beiciau a'u perchnogion, ynghyd â theithwyr eraill, o amgylch ei etholaeth a sawl etholaeth arall hefyd. Mae cyfle gwych i wella'r gefnogaeth ar gyfer beicwyr a thwristiaeth ledled Cymru, ac mae'n rhywbeth y mae fy nhîm, mewn trafodaethau gyda gweithredwyr masnachol, yn ei gadw mewn golwg o ran contractau yn y dyfodol.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae ystadegau yn dangos bod beicio ar briffyrrd yn beryglus. A yw'r Gweinidog yn credu y dylai pob ffordd newydd a gwaith uwchraddio priffyrrd gynnwys cynllun i adeiladu llwybrau beicio a cherdded cyfochrog?

Alun Ffred Jones: Statistics demonstrate that cycling on highways is dangerous. Does the Minister believe that every new road and any upgrading of highways should include the construction of parallel paths for cyclists and pedestrians?

Carl Sargeant: That depends on individual schemes. There are opportunities to encourage and develop more cycle routes across Wales, where appropriate. I have asked my officials, in the designing schemes, to consider this in the future, and, where this is appropriate, we will install cycle lanes or routes that are appropriate for each constituency and individual scheme.

Julie Morgan: I am sure that the Minister is aware that the OYBike cycle hire scheme was withdrawn from Cardiff on 23 December, despite the fact that there were 2,000 registered users and that it was a good base on which to build a sustainable form of transport. Does the Minister agree that the loss of this scheme is a big disappointment, and what discussions has the Government had with Cardiff Council in seeking a replacement?

Carl Sargeant: I thank the Member for Cardiff North for raising this with me. I am aware that cycling is an important part of the sustainable travel centres initiative that the Welsh Government funds. I am concerned about the reduction in services for residents of Cardiff and beyond with regard to this bike scheme that was in place. I will ask my officials to examine with Cardiff Council how it plans to introduce a new fit-for-purpose scheme. I will also ask it to undertake a value-for-money exercise as to the money spent on this programme given that it was withdrawn at such short notice from the 2,000 registered users in Cardiff.

Carl Sargeant: Mae hynny'n dibynnu ar gynlluniau unigol. Mae cyfleoedd i annog a datblygu mwy o lwybrau beicio ledled Cymru, lle y bo'n briodol. Rwyf wedi gofyn i'm swyddigion, yn y cynlluniau dylunio, i ystyried hyn yn y dyfodol, a, lle y bo'n briodol, byddwn yn gosod lonydd beicio neu lwybrau sy'n addas ar gyfer pob etholaeth a chynllun unigol.

Julie Morgan: Rwyf yn siŵr bod y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol y gohirwyd y cynllun llogi beiciau OYBike yng Nghaerdydd ar 23 Rhagfyr, er gwaethaf y ffaith bod 2,000 o ddefnyddwyr cofrestredig a'i fod yn sylfaen dda ar gyfer adeiladu dull cynaliadwy o deithio. A yw'r Gweinidog yn cytuno bod colli'r cynllun hwn yn siom fawr, a pha drafodaethau y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi eu cael gyda Chyngor Caerdydd ynghylch chwilio am un newydd?

Carl Sargeant: Diolch i'r Aelod dros Ogledd Caerdydd am godi hyn gyda mi. Rwyf yn ymwybodol bod beicio yn rhan bwysig o'r cynllun canolfannau teithio cynaliadwy y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei ariannu. Rwyf yn pryderu ynghylch y lleihad mewn gwasanaethau ar gyfer trigolion Caerdydd a thu hwnt o ran y cynllun beicio hwn a oedd ar waith. Byddaf yn gofyn i'm swyddigion archwilio gyda Chyngor Caerdydd sut y mae'n bwriadu cyflwyno cynllun newydd sy'n ateb y gofyn. Byddaf hefyd yn gofyn iddo gynnal ymarfer gwerth am arian ar yr arian a wariwyd ar y rhaglen hon o ystyried y cafodd ei thynnu ar fyr rybudd oddi ar y 2,000 o ddefnyddwyr cofrestredig yng Nghaerdydd.

Sector Trafnidiaeth Gymunedol

2. Suzy Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am gynlluniau Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer y sector Trafnidiaeth Gymunedol yng Nghymru. OAQ(4)0072(LGC)

Carl Sargeant: I announced my priorities in the national transport plan in December, which sets out the improvements that I will deliver. I support the sector through the local transport services grant, and I will consider supporting innovative services, such as the Bwcabus network, and help the sector to

Community Transport Sector

2. Suzy Davies: Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Government's plans for the Community Transport sector in Wales. OAQ(4)0072(LGC)

Carl Sargeant: Cyhoeddais fy mlaenoriaethau yn y cynllun trafnidiaeth cenedlaethol ym mis Rhagfyr, sy'n nodi'r gwelliannau y byddaf yn eu cyflwyno. Rwyf yn cefnogi'r sector drwy'r grant gwasanaethau trafnidiaeth lleol, a byddaf yn ystyried cefnogi gwasanaethau arloesol, fel y

develop some non-emergency patient transport services with my colleague the Minister for Health and Social Services.

rhwydwaith Bwcabus, a helpu'r sector i ddatblygu gwasanaethau cludo cleifion mewn achosion nad ydynt yn rhai brys gyda fy nghyd-Aelod, y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol.

Suzy Davies: Thank you for that answer. It is clear that the community transport sector still plays a huge role in the integrated transport plan, but Community Transport Association figures shows that over 1.2 million passenger journeys were undertaken in 2009-10. Yet, despite this obvious benefit, no prominence was given to that sector in the revised national transport plan and uncertainty still exists as to what will happen after March this year. What funding reassurance can you give to existing voluntary providers and what future role do you see for community transport?

Suzy Davies: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw. Mae'n amlwg bod y sector trafnidiaeth gymunedol yn dal i chwarae rhan fawr yn y cynllun trafnidiaeth integredig, ond dengys ffigurau'r Gymdeithas Cludiant Cymunedol fod teithwyr wedi bod ar 1.2 filiwn o deithiau yn 2009-10. Eto i gyd, er gwaethaf y budd amlwg hwn, ni roddwyd sylw i'r sector hwnnw yn y cynllun trafnidiaeth cenedlaethol diwygiedig ac mae ansicrwydd o hyd o ran beth fydd yn digwydd ar ôl mis Mawrth eleni. Pa sicrwydd ynghylch ariannu y gallwch ei roi i'r darparwyr gwirfoddol sy'n bodoli eisoes a pha'r ôl rydych yn ei rhagweld ar gyfer trafnidiaeth gymunedol yn y dyfodol?

Carl Sargeant: I accept the Member's comments about the uncertainty. The community transport concessionary fares initiative will close on 31 March 2012. I am committed to the Community Transport Association and will continue to fund it through local authorities. I support it in spending 10% of the local transport services grant on community transport. However, although the Member suggests that she is a supporter of communities, she may wish to ask herself why she did not support the local government settlement yesterday.

Carl Sargeant: Rwyf yn derbyn sylwadau'r Aelod ynghylch yr ansicrwydd. Bydd y fenter tocynnau teithio rhatach ar drafnidiaeth gymunedol yn cau ar 31 Mawrth 2012. Rwyf wedi ymrwymo i'r Gymdeithas Cludiant Cymunedol a byddaf yn parhau i'w hariannu drwy awdurdodau lleol. Rwyf yn ei chefnogi drwy wario 10% o'r grant gwasanaethau trafnidiaeth lleol ar drafnidiaeth gymunedol. Fodd bynnag, er bod yr Aelod yn awgrymu ei bod yn cefnogi cymunedau, efallai y bydd yn dymuno holi ei hun pam na wnaeth gefnogi'r setliad llywodraeth leol ddoe.

David Rees: I welcome the support that the Welsh Government has given to community transport. Will you be having discussions with your Cabinet colleague the Minister for Health and Social Services to see how local health boards and the community transport sector can work together to improve the alternative approaches that they provide to accessing health services?

David Rees: Rwyf yn croesawu'r gefnogaeth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ei rhoi i drafnidiaeth gymunedol. A fyddwch yn cynnal trafodaethau gyda'ch cyd-Aelod yn y Cabinet, y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, er mwyn gweld sut y gall byrddau iechyd lleol a'r sector trafnidiaeth gymunedol weithio gyda'i gilydd i wella'r dulliau amgen sydd ganddynt i gael mynediad at wasanaethau iechyd?

Carl Sargeant: The Member for Aberavon raises an important point. The issue of supporting the sector into the future is about developing a service that is fit for the future, working with my colleague from the Department for Health and Social Services. We have already started discussions on how

Carl Sargeant: Mae'r Aelod dros Aberafan yn codi pwynt pwysig. Mae cefnogi'r sector i'r dyfodol yn ymneud â datblygu gwasanaeth sy'n addas ar gyfer y dyfodol, gan weithio gyda fy nghydweithiwr o'r Adran Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Rydym eisoes wedi dechrau trafod sut i

to take this forward.

Elin Jones: Ar fater tebyg iawn, mae byrddau iechyd ar hyn o bryd yn edrych i ganoli rhai gwasnaethau ysbty. Mae trafnidiaeth gymunedol a gyrrwyr gwirfoddol yn darparu nifer o'r cyfleoedd teithio i apwyntiadau NHS. A ydych yn trafod gyda'r Gweinidog iechyd a'r byrddau iechyd lleol i weld sut y gallai trafnidiaeth gymunedol gymryd baich ychwanegol drwy gludo cleifion a theuluoedd dros bellteroedd hirach yn y dyfodol?

Carl Sargeant: Following on from Win Griffiths's report on non-emergency patient transport services, we have a lot to learn. My colleague and I, as I mentioned to the Member for Aberavon, are taking this forward, with discussions being held across both departments and local health boards.

Kirsty Williams: Minister, in those discussions with the Minister for health, will you ensure that local health boards pay adequate amounts in mileage payments to those volunteers who use their own cars to take their fellow citizens to and from hospital appointments? They are happy to give freely of their time to provide that service for their fellow citizens, so it is only fair that they should be compensated adequately. At the moment, there is a vast array of payment regimes, depending on the LHB area in which you are providing transport for patients. Surely, that cannot be fair or equitable.

Carl Sargeant: The Member has raised this issue with me in the past. I will give that further consideration with the Minister for health.

Cydweithio rhwng Awdurdodau Lleol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Eraill

3. Jenny Rathbone: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei weithgareddau presennol i wella cydweithio rhwng awdurdodau lleol a gwasanaethau cyhoeddus eraill. OAQ(4)0088(LGC)

Carl Sargeant: I thank the Member for

symud hyn yn ei flaen.

Elin Jones: On a similar issue, health boards are currently looking to centralise some hospital services. Community transport and volunteer drivers provide many opportunities for travel to NHS appointments. Are you having any discussions with the Minister for health and the local health boards to see whether community transport could take on an additional responsibility in taking patients and their families over longer distances in future?

Carl Sargeant: Yn dilyn adroddiad Win Griffiths ar wasanaethau cludo cleifion mewn achosion nad ydynt yn rhai brys, mae gennym lawer i'w ddysgu. Mae fy nghydweithiwr a minnau, fel y soniais wrth yr Aelod dros Aberafan, yn bwrw ymlaen â hyn, gan gynnal trafodaethau ar draws y ddwy adran a byrddau iechyd lleol.

Kirsty Williams: Weinidog, yn y trafodaethau hynny gyda'r Gweinidog dros iechyd, a wnewch chi sicrhau bod byrddau iechyd lleol yn talu symiau digonol mewn taliadau fesul milltir i'r gwirfoddolwyr hynny sy'n defnyddio eu ceir eu hunain i gludo'u cyd-ddinasyddion yn ôl ac ymlaen i apwyntiadau ysbty? Maent yn hapus i roi yn hael o'u hamser i ddarparu'r gwasanaeth hwnnw ar gyfer eu cyd-ddinasyddion, felly mae'n deg eu bod yn cael eu had-dalu'n ddigonol. Ar hyn o bryd, mae amrywiaeth eang o gyfundrefnau talu, gan ddibynnu ym mha ardal bwrdd iechyd lleol rydych yn darparu cludiant i gleifion. Yn sicr, ni all hynny fod yn deg nac yn gyflawn.

Carl Sargeant: Mae'r Aelod wedi codi'r mater hwn gyda mi yn y gorffennol. Byddaf yn rhoi ystyriaeth bellach iddo gyda'r Gweinidog dros iechyd.

Collaborative Working between Local Authorities and other Public Services

3. Jenny Rathbone: Will the Minister outline his current activities to improve collaborative working between local authorities and other public services. OAQ(4)0088(LGC)

Carl Sargeant: Diolch i'r Aelod dros Ganol

Cardiff Central for her question. Local authorities have always co-operated with other public bodies. However, they have to do more where it makes for cheaper and better services. I have an outcome agreement with each local authority, and these all include extensive collaboration across the public sector.

Jenny Rathbone: Thank you for that answer. I am a great fan of collaboration as a way of improving services and making better use of resources. However, I am concerned about George Osborne's proposal to raid the local government pension fund to the tune of £140 billion to fund infrastructure projects. Will that mean infrastructure projects in Wales, or will it be used to fund Boris's runway in London, given that the local government pension fund for Wales is not separated from the local government pension fund for England?

Carl Sargeant: The Member raises some important points. There is huge debate around pensions across the UK, including contributions from Wales. I will give your question further consideration and write to you with a response.

William Graham: Minister, I take you back to your address to the WLGA conference last year when you remarked that the first step towards greater collaboration between authorities would be joint appointments. You also suggested that local government should halve the number of partnerships across public services by last December. What steps have you taken to implement both those suggestions?

Carl Sargeant: I have had discussions with the WLGA and authority leaders, both political and professional. We are working towards consideration of all opportunities where joint appointments should and could be implemented. I have never been hung up on joint appointments. The fact is that if it creates an environment where there is better service provision and reduced cost, then it should be done. That is what I will pursue with colleagues in local government to take this forward.

Caerdydd am ei chwestiwn. Mae awdurdodau lleol bob tro wedi cydweithredu â chyrff cyhoeddus eraill. Fodd bynnag, rhaid iddynt wneud mwy, lle mae hynny'n peri bod gwasanaethau yn rhatach ac yn well. Mae gennyl gyntdeb canlyniadau gyda phob awdurdod lleol, sy'n cynnwys cydweithio'n helaeth drwy'r sector cyhoeddus.

Jenny Rathbone: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw. Rywf yn gefnogol iawn o gydweithio fel ffordd o wella gwasanaethau a gwneud defnydd gwell o adnoddau. Fodd bynnag, rwyf yn pryderu ynghylch cynnig George Osborne i ysbeilio rhyw £140 biliwn o gronfa bensiwn llywodraeth leol i ariannu prosiectau sealwaith. A fydd hynny'n golygu y ceir prosiectau sealwaith yng Nghymru, neu a fydd yn cael ei ddefnyddio i ariannu rhedfa Boris yn Llundain, o ystyried nad yw'r gronfa bensiwn llywodraeth leol ar gyfer Cymru wedi'i gwahanu oddi wrth y gronfa bensiwn llywodraeth leol ar gyfer Lloegr?

Carl Sargeant: Mae'r Aelod yn codi pwyntiau pwysig. Mae dadl enfawr ynghylch pensiynau ledled y DU, sy'n cynnwys cyfraniadau o Gymru. Byddaf yn rhoi ystyriaeth bellach i'ch cwestiwn ac yn ysgrifennu atoch gydag ymateb.

William Graham: Weinidog, hoffwn gyfeirio at eich anerchiad i gynhadledd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru y llynedd pan ddywedasoch mai'r cam cyntaf tuag at sicrhau mwy o gydweithredu rhwng awdurdodau fyddai gwneud penodiadau ar y cyd. Awgrymasoch hefyd y dylai llywodraeth leol haneru nifer y partneriaethau ar draws y gwasanaethau cyhoeddus erbyn mis Rhagfyr diwethaf. Pa gamau a gymerwyd gennych i weithredu'r ddau awgrym hwnnw?

Carl Sargeant: Rywf wedi cael trafodaethau gydag CLILC ac arweinwyr yr awdurdodau, yn rhai gwleidyddol a phroffesiynol. Rydym yn gweithio tuag at ystyried yr holl gylleoedd lle dylid penodi ar y cyd ac y gellid gwneud hynny. Nid wyf erioed wedi poeni'n ormodol am benodiadau ar y cyd. Y gwir yw, os yw'n creu amgylchedd lle mae gwasanaethau gwell a rhatach yn cael eu darparu, yna dylid ei wneud. Dyna'r trywydd y byddaf yn ei ddilyn gyda chydweithwyr mewn llywodraeth leol i ddatblygu hyn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Weinidog, a ydych yn rhannu fy mhryder bod awdurdooau lleol yng Nghymru yn aml yn defnyddio'r wasgfa bresennol ar y gyllideb i drosglwyddo gwasanaethau sylfaenol yn y gymuned i elusennau ac i wirfoddolwyr, yn hytrach na chyflenwi'r gwasanaethau hynny eu hunain? A fyddwch, fel Gweinidog, yn ceisio gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau bod y gwasanaethau hynny yn parhau i fod yn rhan o'u cyfrifoldebau?

Carl Sargeant: The squeeze on the finances of local government does give a cause for concern with regard to some service delivery within some authorities. It is fair to say that some are acting with responsibility when it comes to their duties. I am looking to create legislation around a compact between local government and the third sector in terms of how they develop and can deliver services that are appropriate for the citizens of Wales and where that is best delivered, whether by local government or by the third sector.

2.30 p.m.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Pan ewch ati i greu'r compact hwnnw, a wnewch chi geisio sicrhau bod cynhaliaeth ar gyfer elusennau a grwpiau o wirfoddolwyr pan eu bod yn cymryd y cyfrifoldebau hyn ymlaen, er enghraifft, gyda chylchoedd cinio, fel y rhai yn Llandeilo yn Sir Gaerfyrddin? Pan fo gwirfoddolwyr yn cymryd cyfrifoldeb am ganolfannau cymunedol, fel canolfan cymunedol Ystradowen, a allwch sicrhau bod elfen o gynhaliaeth yn cael ei ddarparu gan yr awdurdod lleol neu gan Lywodraeth Cymru a bod rhwyd diogelwch os yw'r elusen neu wirfoddolwyr yn wynebu problemau sylfaenol cyllid ac eraill?

Carl Sargeant: To be clear, passporting a service from a local authority to a charity or to a member of the third sector without providing funding or support is simply sidestepping the obligation to deliver a service. I would be concerned if that were happening and I will keep a close eye on it.

Peter Black: I heard your answer to Jenny

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Minister, do you share my concern that local authorities in Wales are using the current squeeze on their budgets as a reason for transferring fundamental community services to charities and volunteers, rather than providing those services themselves? Will you, as Minister, endeavour to work with local authorities in order to ensure that the provision of those services remains a local authority responsibility?

Carl Sargeant: Mae'r wasgfa ar gyllid llywodraeth leol yn peri pryder o ran rhai agweddu ar ddarparu gwasanaethau mewn rhai awdurdodau. Mae'n deg dweud bod rhai yn ymddywyn yn gyfrifol wrth weithredu eu dyletswyddau. Fy nod yw creu deddfwriaeth ar gompact rhwng llywodraeth leol a'r trydydd sector ynghylch sut y maent yn datblygu ac yn gallu darparu gwasanaethau sy'n briodol ar gyfer dinasyddion Cymru, ac ynghylch y lle gorau i ddarparu hynny, boed hynny drwy lywodraeth leol neu'r trydydd sector.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: When you set about establishing that compact, will you endeavour to ensure that there is support for charities and volunteer groups when they take on these responsibilities, for example, with regard to *cylchoedd cinio*, such as those in Llandeilo in Carmarthenshire? When volunteers take responsibility for community centres, such as the Ystradowen community centre, could you ensure that there is an element of support provided by the local authority or the Welsh Government and that there is a safety net if the charity or volunteers face fundamental financial and other problems?

Carl Sargeant: Er mwyn bod yn glir, mae trosglwyddo gwasanaeth o awdurdod lleol i elusen neu i aelod o'r trydydd sector heb ddarparu cyllid neu gymorth yn enghraifft o osgoi'r rhwymedigaeth i ddarparu gwasanaeth. Byddwn yn pryderu pe bai hynny'n digwydd, a byddaf yn cadw llygad barcud arno.

Peter Black: Clywais eich ateb i gwestiwn

Rathbone's first question on your compact with local authorities and their agreement to collaborate outside their own sphere. That is commendable and most local authorities have expressed a willingness to do that. What agreements do you have in place with other public service providers, specifically ones directly controlled by Ministers, to enable them to proactively pursue a similar agenda?

cyntaf Jenny Rathbone ynghylch eich compact gydag awdurdodau lleol a'r ffaith eu bod wedi cytuno i gydweithio y tu hwnt i'w hardaloedd eu hunain. Mae hynny'n ganmoladwy ac mae'r mwyafrif o awdurdodau lleol wedi mynegi eu bod yn barod i wneud hynny. Pa gytundebau sydd gennych â darparwyr gwasanaethau cyhoeddus eraill, yn benodol y rheini a reolir yn uniongyrchol gan Weinidogion, i'w galluogi i fynd ati'n rhagweithiol i ddilyn agenda tebyg?

Carl Sargeant: All my colleagues are aware of the collaboration agenda—it is a Cabinet position of collective responsibility and we act on that as appropriate. I would not expect local government to operate a compact on a collaboration agenda if we were not doing the same. As I have clearly stated in the past, this is about taking a measured approach to whether we will get a better and a cheaper service by delivering in a different way. If local government and this Government can do that together, then we will all benefit.

Carl Sargeant: Mae fy nghydweithwyr i gyd yn gwybod am yr agenda cydweithredu—mae'n gyfrifoldeb ar y cyd yn y Cabinet ac rydym yn gweithredu ar hynny fel y bo'n briodol. Ni fyddwn yn disgwyl i lywodraeth leol weithredu compact ar sail agenda cydweithredu pe na baem ninnau'n gwneud yr un peth. Fel rwyf wedi ei ddatgan yn glir yn y gorffennol, mae hyn yn ymneud â chymryd ymagwedd bwylllog tuag at ganfod a allwn greu gwasanaeth gwell a rhatach drwy ddarparu mewn ffordd wahanol. Os gall llywodraeth leol a'r Llywodraeth hon wneud hynny gyda'i gilydd, byddwn i gyd yn elwa.

Peter Black: I accept that all of the Cabinet is aware of this agenda, but where is the evidence, particularly in the last six months or so, of public service providers such as health boards proactively trying to share services and to collaborate in this way?

Peter Black: Rwyf yn derbyn bod y Cabinet i gyd yn ymwybodol o'r agenda hon, ond ble y mae'r dystiolaeth bod darparwyr gwasanaethau cyhoeddus fel byrddau iechyd wedi ceisio rhannu gwasanaethau'n rhagweithiol a chydweithio yn y ffordd hon, yn enwedig yn ystod y chwe mis diwethaf?

Carl Sargeant: I can provide many examples for the Member and I will write to him with the specifics. My colleagues are working hard to ensure that the collaboration agenda is driven forwards.

Carl Sargeant: Gallaf roi nifer o engrheifftiau i'r Aelod, a byddaf yn ysgrifennu ato gyda'r manylion. Mae fy nghydweithwyr yn gweithio'n galed i sicrhau bod yr agenda cydweithio'n cael ei datblygu.

On the public service leadership group, one of the regions is led by the north Wales local health board chief executive, Mary Burrows, who is working hard with her local government colleagues to deliver the collaboration agenda, specifically in north Wales in that case, but, more broadly, across a public service development agreement.

O ran grŵp arweinyddiaeth gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, mae un o'r rhanbarthau'n cael ei harwain gan Mary Burrows, prifweithredwr bwrdd iechyd lleol gogledd Cymru, sy'n gweithio'n galed gyda'i chydweithwyr o lywodraeth leol i gyflawni'r agenda cydweithio, yn benodol yng ngogledd Cymru yn yr achos hwnnw, ond , yn fwy cyffredinol, drwy gytundeb i ddatblygu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

4. Mick Antoniw: A yw'r Gweinidog wedi gwneud neu wedi cael sylwadau ynghylch posibilrwydd neilltuo cyllid ar gyfer Adrannau Cofrestru Etholiadol Awdurdodau Lleol. OAQ(4)0077(LG)

Carl Sargeant: I have not received any representations regarding the possibility of ring-fencing funding for local authority electoral registration departments. The majority of funding for local government is not ring-fenced to allow authorities to determine how best to deliver services to meet the needs of their electorates.

Mick Antoniw: As you know, the UK coalition Government is proposing changes that will, effectively, take away compulsory voter registration, which will decimate electoral registers. If that were to happen, would the Welsh Government consider how funding could still be used, possibly by ring-fencing or other means, to maintain the promotion of the electoral register? Can you confirm that this Government values the importance of electoral registration in Wales?

Carl Sargeant: I am aware of this and I share the Member's concern. I have given this some thought. It will be for Welsh Ministers to decide how any funding that comes to Wales as a consequential is introduced in terms of individual electoral registration. I will be giving that further thought.

What concerns me more broadly is the possibility of withdrawing the compulsory element of registration and introducing it on a voluntary basis. That will be very disappointing and detrimental to democracy

Bethan Jenkins: As you will know, many young people are currently not taking part in the electoral process, be it on a council, Assembly or UK level. That is very unfortunate, because young people are interested in the real issues of the day and the issues that affect them, but do not feel as engaged with politics and politicians—not

4. Mick Antoniw: Has the Minister made or received representations regarding the possibility of ring-fencing funding for Local Authorities' Electoral Registration Departments. OAQ(4)0077(LG)

Carl Sargeant: Ni chyflwynwyd sylwadau imi ynghylch y posibilrwydd o neilltuo cyllid ar gyfer adrannau cofrestru etholiadol awdurodau lleol. Nid yw'r rhan fwyaf o'r cyllid ar gyfer llywodraeth leol wedi'i neilltuo, er mwyn caniatáu i awdurdodau benderfynu ar y ffordd orau o ddarparu gwasanaethau i ddiwallu anghenion eu hetholwyr.

Mick Antoniw: Fel y gwyddoch, mae Llywodraeth glymblaid y DU yn cynnig newidiadau a fydd, i bob pwrrpas, yn cael gwared ar gofrestru gorfodol i bleidleiswyr, a fydd yn arwain at leihau nifer yr enwau ar y cofrestrau etholiadol yn fawr. Pe bai hynny'n digwydd, a fyddai Llywodraeth Cymru yn ystyried sut y gellid defnyddio cyllid o hyd, drwy neilltuo cyllid o bosibl neu drwy ddefnyddio dulliau eraill, i gynnal y gwaith o hyrwyddo'r gofrestr etholiadol? A allwch gadarnhau bod y Llywodraeth hon yn gwerthfawrogi pa mor bwysig yw cofrestru etholiadol yng Nghymru?

Carl Sargeant: Rwyf yn gwybod am hynny ac rwyf yn rhannu pryder yr Aelod. Rwyf wedi ystyried hyn. Mater i Weinidogion Cymru fydd penderfynu sut y caiff unrhyw arian sy'n dod i Gymru drwy symiau canlyniadol ei gyflwyno mewn perthynas â chofrestru etholiadol unigol. Byddaf yn ystyried hynny ymhellach.

Yr hyn sy'n fy mhryderu'n fwy eang yw'r posibilrwydd y bydd cofrestru gorfodol yn cael ei ddileu ac y bydd cofrestru yn dod yn rhywbeth gwirfoddol. Bydd hynny'n siom fawr ac yn niweidio democratiaeth.

Bethan Jenkins: Fel y gwyddoch, mae nifer o bobl ifanc nad ydynt ar hyn o bryd yn cymryd rhan yn y broses etholiadol, boed hynny ar lefel y cyngor, y Cynulliad neu'r DU. Mae hynny'n anffodus iawn, oherwydd mae gan bobl ifanc diddordeb yn y materion cyfoes gwirioneddol sy'n effeithio arnynt, ond nid ydynt yn teimlo bod ganddynt

mentioning anyone in this room, of course; I am sure they are all engaged with us. How would you encourage more young people to take part in local democracy and to go out and vote on election day?

gymaint o gyswllt â gwleidyddiaeth a gwleidyddion—nid wyf yn sôn am unrhyw un yn yr ystafell hon, wrth gwrs; rwyf yn siŵr eu bod i gyd yn ymgysylltu â ni. Sut y byddech yn annog mwy o bobl ifanc i gymryd rhan mewn democratiaeth leol ac i fynd allan a phleidleisio ar ddiwrnod yr etholiad?

Carl Sargeant: The Member raises a very important point about engagement, whether that be the engagement of young people or people of any age. The Member will recall her early days in politics and a discussion we had in the old Chamber, when you first started lobbying the Assembly. You recognised then the importance of democracy and voting, and you have a lot to offer in terms of explaining to our younger students and voters the reasons why we should enter into debate and try to influence decision makers, whether here or anywhere else in the UK.

Carl Sargeant: Mae'r Aelod yn codi pwynt pwysig iawn ynghylch ymgysylltu, boed hynny'n ymgysylltu â phobl ifanc neu â phobl o unrhyw oedran. Bydd yr Aelod yn cofio ei dyddiau cynnar ym myd gwleidyddiaeth, ac am drafodaeth a gawsom yn yr hen Siambra, pan ddechreuodd lobio'r Cynulliad. Roeddech yn cydnabod bryd hynny bwysigrwydd democratiaeth a phleidleisio, ac mae gennych lawer i'w gynnig o ran egluro i fyfyrwyr a phleidleiswyr iau y rhesymau pam y dylem gynnal dadleuon a cheisio dylanwadu ar y sawl sy'n gwneud penderfyniadau, boed hynny yma neu yn unrhyw le arall yn y Deyrnas Unedig.

Adroddiad Blynnyddol Panel Annibynnol Cymru ar Gydnabyddiaeth Ariannol

5. Leanne Wood: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am adroddiad blynnyddol Panel Annibynnol Cymru ar Gydnabyddiaeth Ariannol. OAQ(4)0086(LGC)*

Carl Sargeant: I thank the Member for South Wales Central for her question. The panel's final annual report has now been published and the changes from the draft clearly show that issues raised during the consultation have been taken on board without abandoning the aim of ensuring that, overall, its decisions do not place financial burdens on local government.

Leanne Wood: Two months ago, I asked you about the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, with particular reference to the recommendation regarding the council leader's role being a full-time one. You replied then that you were awaiting the final report. In the panel's subsequent annual report, which was published in December, the position on the full-time status of a council

Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

5. Leanne Wood: *Will the Minister make a statement on the annual report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. OAQ(4)0086(LGC)*

Carl Sargeant: Diolch i'r Aelod dros Ganol De Cymru am ei chwestiwn. Mae adroddiad blynnyddol terfynol y panel bellach wedi'i gyhoeddi ac mae'r newidiadau a wnaed i'r adroddiad drafft yn dangos yn glir fod y materion a godwyd yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad wedi cael eu hystyried, ac na roddwyd gorau i'r nod o sicrhau, yn gyffredinol, nad yw ei benderfyniadau yn gosod baich ariannol ar lywodraeth leol.

Leanne Wood: Ddeufis yn ôl, gofynnais ichi am argymhellion Panel Taliadau Annibynnol Cymru, gan gyfeirio'n benodol at yr argymhelliaid ynghylch y ffaith bod rôl arweinydd y cyngor yn un llawn-amser. Eich ateb bryd hynny oedd eich bod yn aros am yr adroddiad terfynol. Yn yr adroddiad blynnyddol hwnnw, a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Rhagfyr, ail-gadarnhawyd y sefyllfa o ran statws llawn-amser arweinydd cyngor. A

leader was reaffirmed. Will you now, therefore, issue guidelines to those council leaders who carry out additional roles, such as Rhondda Cynon Taf leader, Russell Roberts, who has two other paid positions, and is, as a result, paid nearly a six-figure sum out of the public purse?

Carl Sargeant: The Member has always had an interest in the independent remuneration panel. It published its report on 20 December and it will come into force on 1 April 2012; I have no need to issue guidance around this independent report.

Janet Finch-Saunders: Minister, the independent remuneration panel was obviously brought into being in the first instance because Members did not want to address their own pay awards. In many instances, the basic allowance for a councillor is part of their main income. However, this particular report is now set in stone—unlike last year's, on which councils could put their own interpretation—and is now a forced position, as you rightly pointed out. There are concerns that the report is lacking in equality, in that, in some constituencies, it penalises councillors with regard to the basic allowance, but rewards them with regard to some of the special responsibility allowances, as has just been mentioned. I have two questions for you, Minister—

The Presiding Officer: Order. One question.

Janet Finch-Saunders: Okay, one question. What evaluation are you making of the impact of the remuneration panel's recommendations on the settlement, and on taxpayers across Wales?

Carl Sargeant: As I said earlier, the remit was to have a no-cost base for local government. I believe that the independent panel report is fair. I will make assessments once the report has been put in place and we have some time for that to bed in and to have a better understanding of its implications.

fyddwch yn awr, felly, yn cyhoeddi canllawiau i'r arweinyddion hynny sy'n cyflawni swyddogaethau ychwanegol, fel Russell Roberts, arweinydd Rhondda Cynon Taf, sydd â dwy swydd gyflogedig arall, ac sydd, o ganlyniad, yn cael ei dalu bron i swm chwe ffigur o'r pwrs cyhoeddus?

Carl Sargeant: Bu gan yr Aelod wastad ddiddordeb yn y panel taliadau annibynnol. Cyhoeddodd y panel ei adroddiad ar 20 Rhagfyr a bydd yn dod i rym ar 1 Ebrill 2012; nid oes angen imi gyhoeddi canllawiau ar yr adroddiad annibynnol hwn.

Janet Finch-Saunders: Weinidog, yn amlwg, sefydlwyd y panel taliadau annibynnol yn y lle cyntaf gan nad oedd Aelodau'n dymuno ymdrin â'u dyfarniadau cyflog eu hunain. Mewn nifer o achosion, mae lwfans sylfaenol cyngphonydd yn rhan o'i brif incwm. Fodd bynnag, ni ellir newid yr adroddiad penodol hwn bellach—yn wahanol i adroddiad y llynedd, y gallai cynghorau ei ddehongli fel y mynnent—ac mae'r sefyllfa bellach wedi'i gorfodi, fel y bu ichi nodi, yn gywir ddigon. Mae pryderon bod diffyg cydraddoldeb yn yr adroddiad, oherwydd mewn rhai etholaethau mae'n cosbi cynghorwyr mewn perthynas â'r lwfans sylfaenol, ond mae'n eu gwobrwyd mewn perthynas â rhai o'r lwfansau cyfrifoldeb arbennig, fel y nodwyd funud yn ôl. Mae gennyf ddau gwestiwn i'w gofyn ichi, Weinidog—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Un cwestiwn.

Janet Finch-Saunders: Iawn, un cwestiwn. Pa werthusiad rydych yn ei gynnal ar effaith argymhellion y panel taliadau ar y setliad, ac ar drethdalwyr ledled Cymru?

Carl Sargeant: Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, roedd y cylch gorchwyl yn ymwneud â chreu sail ddigost i lywodraeth leol. Credaf fod adroddiad y panel annibynnol yn deg. Byddaf yn gwneud asesiadau unwaith y bydd yr adroddiad wedi cael ei roi ar waith a'i fod wedi cael amser i ymsefydlu a'n bod yn deall ei oblygiadau yn well.

6. Nick Ramsay: Beth mae'r Gweinidog yn ei wneud i hybu arbedion effeithlonrwydd yn awdurdodau lleol Cymru. OAQ(4)0084(LGC)

Carl Sargeant: I have provided local government in Wales with a fair and realistic settlement in difficult financial circumstances. However, local government is clear that it needs to deliver efficiency savings in order to deliver the range of services that it is responsible for.

Nick Ramsay: I am aware of the Minister's efforts in this area, and, clearly, with public finances as they are at this time, they are important.

I am sure that you are aware, Minister, that my local authority—the Conservative-run Monmouthshire County Council—has been able to make £1.1 million in efficiency savings over the past 12 months, while, at the same time, committing to freeze council tax from April 2012. That is in stark contrast to a number of councils in Wales. Would you agree that Monmouthshire has made excellent efforts in this regard and that it would be a very good idea if that experience could be rolled out across Wales so that other, non-Conservative councils could deliver the same kind of results?

Carl Sargeant: Many councils in Wales are demonstrating their keenness to save money and deliver good services. Where that is evident, they are doing a good job in taking forward what is a very serious agenda in terms of ensuring that our focus is on service delivery for the citizens of Wales.

Janet Finch-Saunders: Minister, as my colleague has pointed out, Monmouthshire council is a fine example of how one can run a council efficiently and deliver a council tax freeze. In fact, the Vale of Glamorgan Council is saving £150,000 every year by improving productivity. In Conwy, my local authority has reduced the cost of its publication, the *Bulletin*, from £97,000 a year to £18,000 a year. However, the UK Government has given Wales £39 million for a much-needed council tax freeze. While our party is leading the calls for greater

6. Nick Ramsay: What is the Minister doing to encourage efficiency savings in Welsh local authorities. OAQ(4)0084(LGC)

Carl Sargeant: Rwyf wedi darparu setliad teg a realistig i lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru mewn amgylchiadau ariannol anodd. Fodd bynnag, mae llywodraeth leol yn deall bod angen iddi sicrhau arbedion effeithlonrwydd i ddarparu'r ystod o wasanaethau y mae'n gyfrifol amdanynt.

Nick Ramsay: Rwyf yn gwybod am ymdrechion y Gweinidog yn y maes hwn, ac, yn amlwg, o ystyried y sefyllfa bresennol o ran arian gyhoeddus, maent yn bwysig.

Rwyf yn siŵr eich bod yn gwybod, Weinidog, fod fy awdurdod lleol i—sef Cyngor Sir Fynwy, a reolir gan y Ceidwadwyr—wedi gallu gwneud arbedion effeithlonrwydd gwerth £1.1 filiwn dros y 12 mis diwethaf, gan ymrwymo ar yr un pryd i rewi'r dreth gyngor o fis Ebrill 2012. Mae hynny'n gwrthgyferbynnu'n llwyr â nifer o gynghorau yng Nghymru. A fyddch yn cytuno bod Sir Fynwy wedi gwneud ymdrechion rhagorol yn y cyswllt hwn ac y byddai'n syniad da iawn rhoi'r profiad hwnnw ar waith ledled Cymru fel y gall cynghorau eraill, nad ydynt yn rhai Ceidwadol, sicrhau'r un math o ganlyniadau?

Carl Sargeant: Mae nifer o gynghorau yng Nghymru yn dangos eu bod yn awyddus i arbed arian ac i ddarparu gwasanaethau da. Lle y bo hynny'n amlwg, maent yn llwyddo i fwrw ymlaen ag agenda ddifrifol iawn o ran sicrhau ein bod yn canolbwytio ar ddarparu gwasanaethau i ddinasyddion Cymru.

Janet Finch-Saunders: Weinidog, fel y nododd fy nghyd-Aelod, mae Cyngor Sir Fynwy yn enghraift wych o sut y gellir rhedeg cyngor yn effeithlon yn ogystal â rhewi'r dreth gyngor. Yn wir, mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn arbed £150,000 bob blwyddyn drwy wella cynhyrchiant. Yng Nghonwy, mae fy awdurdod lleol i wedi lleihau cost ei gyhoeddiad, *Bulletin*, o £97,000 y flwyddyn i £18,000 y flwyddyn. Fodd bynnag, mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi rhoi £39 miliwn i Gymru i rewi'r dreth gyngor, y mae angen gwneud hynny'n

efficiency and value for money, why is your party and your Government so content to allow Labour-run councils to waste money while passing on the cost to council tax payers?

ddirfawr. Er bod ein plaid yn arwain y galwadau am fwy o effeithlonrwydd a gwerth am arian, pam mae eich plaid a'ch Llywodraeth yn fodlon caniatáu i gynghorau sy'n cael eu rhedeg gan y Blaid Lafur wastraffu arian gan drosglwyddo'r gost i'r rheini sy'n talu'r dreth gyngor?

Carl Sargeant: Let me just explain to the Member, as I did yesterday, that the fact of the matter is that this Welsh Labour Government is delivering a local government settlement that is at a much higher rate than the settlement in Conservative-run councils in England. The Welsh revenue settlement is significantly better. Over the four years, we will see an increase in local government spend of 0.7% in Wales, while, England, with a Conservative administration running local authority finances, will see a reduction of 0.6%, which is a marked difference. Unfortunately, yesterday, you again failed to see the improvements to local services for the people of Wales.

Carl Sargeant: Gadewch imi egluro i'r Aelod, fel y gwneuthum ddoe, mai'r ffaith amdani yw bod Llywodraeth Llafur Cymru yn darparu setliad i lywodraeth leol sydd ar raddfa lawer uwch na'r setliad mewn cynghorau yn Lloegr sy'n cael eu rhedeg gan y Ceidwadwyr. Mae setliad refeniw Cymru yn well o lawer. Dros y pedair blynedd, byddwn yn gweld cynnydd o 0.7% yng ngwariant llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru, tra bydd Lloegr, sydd â gweinyddiaeth Geidwadol yn rheoli cyllid awdurdodau lleol, yn gweld gostyngiad o 0.6%, sy'n wahaniaeth amlwg. Yn anffodus, ddoe, gwnaethoch fethu unwaith eto â gweld y gwelliannau i wasanaethau lleol ar gyfer pobl Cymru.

Janet Finch-Saunders: Let us be honest, we all know that the pressures that we face are the result of 12 years of your party's governance of the United Kingdom, which has left us in a situation of having to pay £120 million a day in interest. Through cuts to the special responsibility allowance—this is again a fine example—Newport City Council has successfully funded Project 21, while delivering efficiency savings for a road improvement scheme. Conversely, in the past 10 years, Welsh Labour has presided over the inflation of council executive pay to more than 10 times that of the average British citizen. Minister, what actions are you really taking to encourage better practice in your councils when spending our Welsh council tax payers' money?

Janet Finch-Saunders: Gadewch inni fod yn onest, rydym i gyd yn gwybod bod y pwysau sy'n ein hwynebu yn deillio o'r 12 mlynedd pan oedd eich plaid chi yn llywodraethu'r Deyrnas Unedig, sydd wedi ein gadael mewn sefyllfa lle y mae'n rhaid inni dalu £120 miliwn y dydd mewn llog. Drwy dorri'r lwfans cyfrifoldeb arbennig—dyma enghraift wych arall—mae Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd wedi llwyddo i gyllido Prosiect 21, tra bo'n cyflawni arbedion effeithlonrwydd ar gyfer cynllun gwella ffyrdd. I'r gwrthwyneb, yn y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, o dan oruchwyliaeth Llafur Cymru, chwyddodd cyflog swyddogion gweithredol cynghorau i fwy na 10 gwaith cyflog cyfartalog dinesydd ym Mhrydain. Weinidog, pa gamau rydych yn eu cymryd o ddifrif i annog arferion gwell yn eich cynghorau wrth iddynt wario arian trethdalwyr yng Nghymru?

Carl Sargeant: The Member offers an interesting take on the local government settlement in Wales—from here, I cannot see the rose-tinted spectacles that she seems to be wearing. The fact of the matter is that council tax levels in Wales are, on average, 19% lower than in England. In Wales, we believe

Carl Sargeant: Mae'r Aelod yn cynnig dehongliad diddorol o'r setliad llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru—ni allaf weld sut y daethoch i'r casgliad hwn. Y ffaith amdani yw bod lefelau'r dreth gyngor yng Nghymru, ar gyfartaledd, 19% yn is nag yn Lloegr. Yng Nghymru, rydym yn credu mewn cefnogi'r

in supporting the public sector and our local government colleagues, and we will continue to do that.

Lindsay Whittle: I am delighted that Monmouth is following Caerphilly's fine example. Minister, do you and your officials have any system in place to enable and encourage local authorities to learn from each other's best practice? Do your officials participate in efficiency savings proposals?

Carl Sargeant: Yes, we do. Jeff Cuthbert, the Member for Caerphilly, is always raising with me the fact that there are some great services supported by Welsh Government in the appropriate areas. I am glad that the Member now sees the light and is supportive of the collaboration agenda, and I wish him well in working with me and my colleagues to deliver better services for the public.

Aled Roberts: Minister, I will not mention Wrexham.

Carl Sargeant: You should.

2.45 p.m.

Aled Roberts: In local government, many of the efficiency programmes are funded through the invest-to-save scheme. Are you satisfied that the efficiencies envisaged when those applications are submitted, and the timescales for repayment within those schemes, are currently being met?

Carl Sargeant: The Member may not be aware that invest to save falls within the remit of Jane Hutt. However, I am assured that we keep a close eye on the return and the effectiveness of the scheme.

Trafnidiaeth Gyhoeddus

7. Simon Thomas: Pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Gweinidog i wella trafnidiaeth gyhoeddus yng Nghanolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru. OAQ(4)0073(LGC)

Carl Sargeant: I thank the Member for Mid

sector cyhoeddus a'n cydweithwyr mewn llywodraeth leol, a byddwn yn parhau i wneud hynny.

Lindsay Whittle: Rwyf yn falch iawn bod Mynwy yn dilyn enghrafft wych Caerffili. Weinidog, a oes gennych chi neu eich swyddogion system ar waith i alluogi awdurdodau lleol i ddysgu oddi wrth arfer gorau ei gilydd, ac i'w hannog i wneud hynny? A yw eich swyddogion yn cymryd rhan yn y broses o lunio cynigion ar gyfer arbedion effeithiolrwydd?

Carl Sargeant: Ydym, rydym yn gwneud hynny. Mae Jeff Cuthbert, yr Aelod dros Gaerffili, wastad yn crybwyl y ffaith wrthyf fod gwasanaethau gwych a gefnogir gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn yr ardaloedd priodol. Rwyf yn falch bod yr Aelod yn gweld y goleuni yn awr a'i fod yn cefnogi'r agenda cydweithio, ac rwyf yn dymuno'n dda iddo wrth iddo weithio gyda mi a'm cydweithwyr i ddarparu gwasanaethau gwell i'r cyhoedd.

Aled Roberts: Weinidog, ni fyddaf yn sôn am Wrecsam.

Carl Sargeant: Dylech.

Aled Roberts: Ar lefel llywodraeth leol, mae llawer o'r rhaglenni effeithlonrwydd yn cael eu hariannu drwy'r cynllun buddsoddi i arbed. A ydych yn fodlon bod yr arbedion effeithlonrwydd a ragwelir pan gaiff y ceisiadau'u cyflwyno, a'r amserlenni ar gyfer ad-dalu o fewn y cynlluniau hynny, yn cael eu sicrhau ar hyn o bryd?

Carl Sargeant: Efallai nad yw'r Aelod yn ymwybodol bod buddsoddi i arbed yn dod o fewn cylch gwaith Jane Hutt. Fodd bynnag, rwyf yn sicr y byddwn yn cadw llygad barcud ar y ffurflen ac effeithiolrwydd y cynllun.

Public Transport

7. Simon Thomas: What plans does the Minister have for improving public transport in Mid and West Wales. OAQ(4)0073(LGC)

Carl Sargeant: Rwyf yn diolch i'r Aelod

and West Wales. I have made recent improvements to public transport services in the area, with the introduction of a new train service to Fishguard and the expansion of the Bwcabus network. My prioritisation of the national transport plan sets out further improvements that will be delivered.

dros Ganolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru. Yn ddiweddgar, rwyf wedi gwneud gwelliannau i wasanaethau cludiant cyhoeddus yn yr ardal, gan gyflwyno gwasanaeth trêñ newydd i Abergwaun ac ehangu'r rhwydwaith Bwcabus. Rwyf wedi blaenoriaethu'r cynllun trafnidiaeth cenedlaethol a thrwy hynny wedi nodi gwelliannau pellach a fydd yn cael eu cyflawni.

Simon Thomas: Diolch i'r Gweinidog am ei ymateb. Mae ambell beth yn ei raglen flaenoriaethau sydd wedi'u croesawu yn y rhanbarth, gan gynnwys wrth gwrs y datblygiad yn Wdig ac Abergwaun, ond mae siom o hyd nad oes golau ar y gorwel ar gyfer gwasanaeth bob awr ar lein y Cambrian o Amwythig i Aberystwyth. Faint o arian cyhoeddus sydd wedi'i wario ar y lein hyd yma, Weinidog? Pryd y byddwn yn gweld y budd yn dod i drigolion canolbarth Cymru o'r gwariant cyhoeddus hwnnw mewn gwasanaeth bob awr?

Simon Thomas: I thank the Minister for that response. There are a few things in his prioritisation programme that have been welcomed in the region, including, of course, the developments in Goodwick and Fishguard, but there is still disappointment that we do not have any light at the end of the tunnel for an hourly service on the Cambrian line from Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth. How much public money has been spent on that line to date, Minister, and when are we going to see the benefit coming to the people of mid Wales from that public expenditure, in the form of an hourly service?

Carl Sargeant: Significant amounts of money have been spent on the Cambrian line, including an £8 million joint project between Network Rail and the Welsh Government to improve the infrastructure. This will support the principle of moving to an hourly service, and as the Member will be aware, the programme will be delivered between 2012 and 2015.

Carl Sargeant: Mae symiau sylweddol o arian wedi cael eu gwario ar lein y Cambrian, gan gynnwys prosiect £8 miliwn ar y cyd rhwng Network Rail a Llywodraeth Cymru i wella'r seilwaith. Bydd hyn yn cefnogi'r egwyddor o symud i wasanaeth bob awr, ac fel y gŵyr yr Aelod, bydd y rhaglen yn cael ei chyflwyno rhwng 2012 a 2015.

Keith Davies: I lawer dros Gymru, Weinidog, mae'r gwasanaeth rheilffordd yn bwysig. Oherwydd ei enw da, prisiau tocynnau tren fforddiadwy a gwasanaeth dibynadwy, mae llawer yn ei ddefnyddio i deithio i'r gwaith, i deithio'n bell neu i fynd ar eu gwyliau. Gwaetha'r modd, mae'r pris wedi codi. Dychmygwch y sioc i un o'm hetholwyr, a ddaeth i'm gweld yr wythnos diwethaf, sy'n gweithio i elusen ac sy'n teithio o Lanelli i Leeds, pan welodd fod pris ei docyn trêñ wedi codi o £78 i £163—mwy na dwywaith yn fwy. Yn ogystal, wrth ddarllen papurau'r penwythnos, gwelais mai un o'r pump lein drutaf yn y wlad yw'r lein rhwng Porth Tywyn a Llanelli. I lawer, mae hwn yn ychwanegu at bwysau ariannol sy'n bodoli eisoes. Beth wnaiff Llywodraeth Cymru i wneud yn siŵr bod defnyddwyr gwasanaethau rheilffordd yn dal i allu teithio

Keith Davies: For many people in Wales, Minister, the railway service is important. As a result of its good reputation, affordable train tickets and a dependable service many people use it to travel to work, to travel long distances or to go on holiday. Unfortunately, prices have increased. Imagine the shock for one of my constituents who came to see me last week, who works for a charity and who travels from Llanelli to Leeds, when he saw that his train ticket had increased from £78 to £163—more than twice as much. In addition, reading the papers over the weekend, I saw that one of the five most expensive lines in the country is the line between Burry Port and Llanelli. For many, this adds to financial pressures that already exist. What will the Welsh Government do to ensure that users of the railway network can continue to travel by rail in future?

ar y trenau yn y dyfodol?

Carl Sargeant: The Member raises an important issue. We are trying to create an environment for sustainable travel and ease of travel on integrated services for buses and trains. There are, of course, financial burdens arising from the fare increases, as the Member has illustrated very well. In terms of the proposals that you raise, Arriva Trains is responsible for determining its price structure. There are some regulated fares where we in Wales have decided to limit increases to no more than the retail price index level of inflation plus 1%; in England, it was RPI plus 3%. The complication comes with the offsetting of the basket of fares that is created with the RPI-plus-1% effect; for example, if there is an increase above 5% in one area, it can be offset against a reduction of 5% elsewhere. It is for the Member to take this up directly with Arriva, but I will also look into the matter and write to him accordingly.

Russell George: Minister, I raised the issue of the future of the Dyfi bridge with you back in October, and at that point you said that a decision on the preferred way forward was under consideration. I know that you have had representations from Machynlleth Town Council, which is of course concerned that there is no mention of the future upgrading or replacement of the bridge in your prioritised national transport plan, published in December. Can you assure me, and the council, that this has not fallen off your agenda, and that a decision on the future of the bridge is imminent?

Carl Sargeant: The Dyfi bridge has not fallen off my agenda. There are issues around how we progress this. Cadw has concerns around the historic nature of the bridge, and what we can physically do to improve its condition. However, this is under consideration within my department. The Member will keep pressing me and I will keep responding accordingly at the appropriate time.

William Powell: Minister, as you may be

Carl Sargeant: Mae'r Aelod yn codi mater pwysig. Rydym yn ceisio creu amgylchedd ar gyfer teithio cynaliadwy a hwylus ar wasanaethau bysiau a threnau integredig. Wrth gwrs, mae beichiau ariannol sy'n deillio o'r cynnydd mewn prisiau, fel y mae'r Aelod wedi ei ddangos yn effeithiol iawn. O ran y cynigion rydych yn eu codi, mae Trenau Arriva yn gyfrifol am bennu ei strwythur prisiau. Mae rhai prisiau wedi'u rheoleiddio lle rydym ni yng Nghymru wedi penderfynu cyfyngu ar gynnydd i ddim mwy na lefel chwyddiant y mynegai prisiau manwerthu ynghyd ag 1%; yn Lloegr, defnyddiwyd y mynegai prisiau manwerthu ynghyd â 3%. Mae'r cymhlethdod yn deillio o wrthbwys o'r casgliad o brisiau sy'n cael ei greu drwy effaith y mynegai prisiau manwerthu ynghyd ag 1%. Er enghraifft, os bydd cynnydd o fwy na 5% mewn un ardal, gellir ei wrthbwys yn erbyn gostyngiad o 5% mewn man arall. Mater i'r Aelod yw codi hyn yn uniongyrchol gydag Arriva, ond byddaf hefyd yn ystyried y mater ac yn ysgrifennu ato yn unol â hynny.

Russell George: Weinidog, codais y mater o ddyfodol pont Ddyfi gyda chi yn ôl ym mis Hydref, a bryd hynny dywedasoch fod penderfyniad ar y ffordd orau ymlaen o dan ystyriaeth. Gwn eich bod wedi cael sylwadau oddi wrth Gyngor Tref Machynlleth, sydd wrth gwrs yn pryderu nad oes unrhyw sôn am uwchraddio'r bont yn y dyfodol neu am gael pont newydd yn eich cynllun trafnidiaeth cenedlaethol sydd wedi'i flaenoriaethu, a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Rhagfyr. A allwch fy sicrhau, a'r cyngor, nad yw hyn wedi diflannu oddi ar eich agenda, a bod penderfyniad ar ddyfodol y bont ar fin digwydd?

Carl Sargeant: Nid yw pont Ddyfi wedi diflannu oddi ar fy agenda. Mae materion yn codi o ran sut rydym yn symud ymlaen mewn perthynas â hyn. Mae gan Cadw bryderon yngylch natur hanesyddol y bont, a beth y gallwn ei wneud yn gorfforol i wella ei chyflwr. Fodd bynnag, mae hyn yn cael ei ystyried gan fy adran. Bydd yr Aelod yn parhau i bwys arnaf a byddaf yn ymateb yn unol â hynny pan y bo'n briodol.

William Powell: Weinidog, fel y mae'n

aware, the Enterprise and Business Committee had a stimulating session this morning, taking evidence on the future of European Union structural funds in Wales. Will you make a commitment to engage with your ministerial colleagues to consider the potential for EU structural funding to be used in key public transport infrastructure projects in future, such as the Bow Street railway station park and ride scheme that links to important regeneration priorities in the area?

bosibl eich bod yn gwybod, cafodd y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes sesiwn ysgogol y bore yma, lle'r oedd yn cymryd dystiolaeth ar ddyfodol cronfeydd strwythurol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yng Nghymru. A wnewch chi ymrwymiad i ymgysylltu â'ch cyd-Weinidogion i ystyried y potensial ar gyfer defnyddio cronfeydd strwythurol yr UE mewn prosiectau seilwaith trafnidiaeth gyhoeddus allweddol yn y dyfodol, megis cynllun parcio a theithio gorsaf reilffordd Bow Street sy'n cysylltu â blaenoriaethau adfywio pwysig yn yr ardal?

Carl Sargeant: Of course, European funding already plays a significant part in terms of funding for transport schemes. I note the Member's concerns around the particular issue that he has raised and I will ask my officials to look at that matter in more depth. However, I already work with my ministerial colleagues and my colleague Alun Davies is the Deputy Minister responsible for the European element of that.

Carl Sargeant: Wrth gwrs, mae cyllid Ewropeaidd eisoes yn chwarae rhan allweddol yn y broses o ariannu cynlluniau trafnidiaeth. Nodaf bryderon yr Aelod ynghyllch y mater penodol a gododd a byddaf yn gofyn i fy swyddogion edrych ar y mater yn fwy manwl. Fodd bynnag, rwyf eisoes yn gweithio gyda fy nghyd-Weinidogion a'm cyd-Aelod Alun Davies yw'r Dirprwy Weinidog sy'n gyfrifol am yr elfen Ewropeaidd o hynny.

Rebecca Evans: During recent months, the north Pembrokeshire transport forum has been keeping a record of the views expressed about what discourages people from using public transport in the area. Poor disabled access and inaccessible information have emerged as common problems; how are you working with transport providers to overcome this?

Rebecca Evans: Yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf, bu fforwm cludiant gogledd Sir Benfro yn cadw cofnod o'r sylwadau a fynegwyd ynghyllch yr hyn sy'n achosi i bobl beidio â defnyddio cludiant cyhoeddus yn yr ardal. Mae mynediad gwael ar gyfer pobl anabl a gwybodaeth anhygrych wedi dod i'r amlwg fel problemau cyffredin; sut rydych yn gweithio gyda darparwyr trafnidiaeth i oresgyn hyn?

Carl Sargeant: I am very aware of access to transport across Wales, which has been raised by you and by many other Members in the Chamber. We are trying to ensure that any new services provided have much better signage and an improved information network. The Welsh Government already provides funding of over £1 million for Traveline Cymru in order to ensure more information bases for public transport users. It has recently introduced applications for iPhones and Android phones to enable colleagues and constituents to access information far more easily. I am very concerned about some of the issues relating to rail accessibility. As you will be aware, this is a non-devolved function, responsibility for which rests with the Department for

Carl Sargeant: Rwyf yn ymwybodol iawn o fynediad i drafnidiaeth ledled Cymru, sydd yn bwnc a godwyd gennych chi a chan Aelodau eraill yn y Siambwr. Rydym yn ceisio sicrhau bod gan unrhyw wasanaethau newydd a ddarperir arwyddion llawer gwell a rhwydwaith gwybodaeth well. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru eisoes yn darparu cyllid o dros £1 filiwn i Traveline Cymru er mwyn sicrhau bod mwy o ganolfannau gwybodaeth ar gyfer defnyddwyr cludiant cyhoeddus. Yn ddiweddar, mae wedi cyflwyno rhagleni ar gyfer iPhones a ffonau Android er mwyn ei gwneud yn llawer haws i gydweithwyr ac etholwyr gael gafael ar wybodaeth. Rwyf yn bryderus iawn ynghyllch rhai o'r materion sy'n gysylltiedig â hygyrchedd rheilffyrdd. Fel y gwyddoch, mae hwn yn swyddogaeth

Transport. However, my department works very closely with the Department for Transport to see how we can overcome these problems together.

nas datganolwyd, ac mae'r Adran Drafnidiaeth yn gyfrifol amdani. Fodd bynnag, mae fy adran yn gweithio'n agos iawn gyda'r Adran Drafnidiaeth i weld sut y gallwn oresgyn y problemau hyn gyda'n gilydd.

Undebau Credyd

8. David Melding: *Pa asesiad y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'i wneud o swyddogaeth Undebau Credyd. OAQ(4)0079(LGC)*

Carl Sargeant: Credit unions play a key role in our efforts to tackle poverty and financial exclusion. More than 55,000 members and young savers benefit from membership. Credit unions offer an affordable alternative to higher-cost loan providers and we must continue to support them to advertise this message more widely.

David Melding: Minister, do you welcome the recent reforms to shake up the financial sector and allow credit unions to compete with banks, in particular through paying interest on deposits, new types of members being admitted, including businesses so that they can receive loans, and also generally being an alternative to payday loans and rent-to-own loans? This is good news for everyone, but particularly for those who have traditionally been excluded from financial services.

Carl Sargeant: I do welcome the regulations that were introduced on 8 January. In Wales, we have to promote accessibility and provide more access to people from all walks of life so that they can use credit unions as a safe opportunity to borrow and to save. We will shortly be introducing a limited television campaign to introduce the virtues of credit unions and providing support for credit unions across Wales.

Mick Antoniw: Following on from that, have you given any consideration—or would you be prepared to give consideration—to ways in which the Welsh Government can use its funds in the light of the changes, and perhaps encourage local authorities to do the same, by investing some of our funds in this

Credit Unions

8. David Melding: *What assessment has the Minister made of the role of Credit Unions. OAQ(4)0079(LGC)*

Carl Sargeant: Mae undebau credyd yn chwarae rhan allweddol yn ein hymdrehigion i fynd i'r afael â thlodi ac allgáu ariannol. Mae mwy na 55,000 o aelodau ac arbedwyr ifanc yn elwa ar fod yn aelodau ohonynt. Mae undebau credyd yn cynnig dewis fforddiadwy arall i ddarparwyr benthyciadau cost uwch a rhaid i ni barhau i'w cefnogi i hysbysebu'r neges hon yn fwy eang.

David Melding: Weinidog, a ydych yn croesawu'r diwygiadau diweddar i ad-drefnu'r sector ariannol a chaniatáu i'r undebau credyd gystadlu â banciau, yn enwedig drwy dalu llog ar adneuon, derbyn mathau newydd o aelodau, gan gynnwys busnesau fel y gallant gael benthyciadau, a hefyd yn gyffredinol bod yn ddewis amgen yn lle benthyciadau diwrnod cyflog a benthyciadau rhentu i brynu? Mae hyn yn newyddion da i bawb, ond yn enwedig y rhai sy'n draddodiadol wedi'u heithrio o wasanaethau ariannol.

Carl Sargeant: Rwyf yn croesawu'r rheoliadau a gyflwynwyd ar 8 Ionawr. Yng Nghymru, mae'n rhaid inni hyrwyddo hygyrchedd a darparu mwy o fynediad i bobl o bob cefndir er mwyn iddynt allu defnyddio undebau credyd fel cyfle diogel i fenthyg ac i arbed. Cyn bo hir, byddwn yn cyflwyno ymgyrch deledu gyfyngedig i gyflwyno rhinweddau'r undebau credyd a darparu cefnogaeth i undebau credyd ledled Cymru.

Mick Antoniw: Yn dilyn hynny, a ydych wedi rhoi unrhyw ystyriaeth—neu a fydd ech yn barod i roi ystyriaeth—i ffyrdd y gall Llywodraeth Cymru ddefnyddio ei harian yn sgil y newidiadau, ac efallai annog awdurdodau lleol i wneud yr un peth, drwy fuddsoddi rhai o'n cronfeydd yn y system

alternative banking system in order to give the moral and political support that will enable it to develop over coming years?

Carl Sargeant: One of the largest credit union schemes is run by Cardiff Council. We should explore opportunities for the Government and local authorities to invest directly in credit unions to make them stronger and provide growth for people in Wales.

Blaenoriaethau

9. Nick Ramsay: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei flaenoriaethau ar gyfer gwella'r seilwaith ffyrdd yn Ne Ddwyrain Cymru. OAQ(4)0083(LGC)

Carl Sargeant: I thank the Member for Monmouth. I made my announcement of the national transport plan in December, in which I identified the priorities for south-east Wales. In the short to medium term, we will invest in interventions to increase the efficiency of our road network, as well as schemes to increase economic growth.

Nick Ramsay: Thank you, Minister, for that answer. I know that you are asked repeatedly, and are probably fed up with answering, questions on your plans for improving the M4, but I am sure that you would agree that it is a vital artery into south Wales and that it is also a vital European route. However, it is a road that is increasingly becoming more congested and is experiencing more problems. How will you factor the recent announcement by George Osborne that he was seeking to work with the Welsh Government on ways to improve that road in to your transport plan? What changes do you see being made to that road over the next five years that will considerably improve the quality of life of people living in south-east Wales and improve the chances of businesses to grow more successfully?

Carl Sargeant: Discussions are ongoing between the First Minister and the Westminster Government on the M4 project, and I will be introducing a package of measures to deal with the resilience, safety

fancio amgen er mwyn rhoi cefnogaeth foesol a gwleidyddol a fydd yn ei galluogi i ddatblygu dros y blynnyddoedd nesaf?

Carl Sargeant: Mae un o'r cynlluniau undeb credyd mwyaf yn cael ei redeg gan Gyngor Caerdydd. Dylem edrych ar gyfleoedd ar gyfer y Llywodraeth ac awdurdodau lleol i fuddsoddi'n uniongyrchol mewn undebau credyd i'w gwneud yn gryfach ac i sicrhau twf i bobl Cymru.

Priorities

9. Nick Ramsay: Will the Minister make a statement on his priorities for improving the road infrastructure in South East Wales. OAQ(4)0083(LGC)

Carl Sargeant: Diolchaf i'r Aelod dros Drefynwy. Cyhoeddais y cynllun trafnidiaeth cenedlaethol ym mis Rhagfyr, lle nodais y blaenoriaethau ar gyfer de-ddwyrain Cymru. Yn y tymor byr i'r tymor canolig, byddwn yn buddsoddi mewn ymyriadau i gynyddu effeithlonrwydd ein rhwydwaith ffyrdd, yn ogystal â chynlluniau i gynyddu twf economaidd.

Nick Ramsay: Diolch, Weinidog, am yr ateb hwnnw. Rwyf yn gwybod bod cwestiynau'n cael eu gofyn dro ar ôl tro am eich cynlluniau ar gyfer gwella'r M4, ac rydych siŵr o fod wedi cael llond bol ar eu hateb, ond rwyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cytuno ei fod yn wythien hanfodol i dde Cymru a'i fod hefyd yn llwybr Ewropeaidd hanfodol. Fodd bynnag, mae'n ffordd sy'n gynyddol yn dod yn fwy prysur ac yn profi mwy o broblemau. Sut y byddwch yn ystyried cyhoeddiad diweddar George Osborne ei fod yn ceisio gweithio gyda Llywodraeth Cymru ar ffyrdd o wella'r ffordd o fewn eich cynllun trafnidiaeth? Pa newidiadau y rhagwelwch fydd yn cael eu gwneud i'r ffordd honno dros y pum mlynedd nesaf a fydd yn gwella ansawdd bywyd y bobl sy'n byw yn ne-ddwyrain Cymru'n sylweddol ac yn gwella cyfle busnesau i dyfu'n fwy llwyddiannus?

Carl Sargeant: Mae trafodaethau'n parhau rhwng Prif Weinidog Cymru a Llywodraeth San Steffan ynghylch prosiect yr M4, a byddaf yn cyflwyno pecyn o fesurau i ymdrin â chadernid, diogelwch a dibynadwyedd yr

and reliability of the M4. These measures include the construction of the Newport eastern distributor road through the former Llanwern steelworks.

Lynne Neagle: I regularly receive representations from constituents who are frustrated about the condition of local roads. We know that potholes in particular lengthen journey times, and are a hazard for motorists and other road users, particularly at this time of year, when weather conditions are often poor. What support is the Welsh Government giving to local authorities to help them to address this important issue?

Carl Sargeant: In these difficult financial times, the Welsh Government has come up with a package of solutions to solve some of the problems that you raised. Working with my colleague, the Minister for Finance, we have committed to support local authorities in Wales to increase their borrowing for investment in hard infrastructure. Should the initiative continue, it will deliver a programme of highway improvements worth around £172 million over the next three years to identify highway and pothole infrastructure problems.

The Presiding Officer: Question 10, OAQ(4)0080(LGC), is transferred for written answer.

Agenda Cydweithio

II. Peter Black: Pa gynnydd mae'r Gweinidog yn ei wneud o ran cyflawni ei agenda cydweithio. OAQ(4)0078(LGC)

Carl Sargeant: I thank the Member for South Wales West. The Welsh Government is supporting and leading collaboration across public services locally, through local service boards, regionally, through the footprint for regional collaboration, and nationally, through the public service leadership group. The Simpson compact, signed with local government, is a joint commitment to action.

Peter Black: Given the central part that the collaboration agenda plays in your role as

M4. Mae'r mesurau hyn yn cynnwys adeiladu ffordd ddosbarthu ddwyreiniol Casnewydd drwy hen weithfeydd dur Llanwern.

Lynne Neagle: Daw sylwadau i'm llaw gan etholwyr yn rheolaidd sy'n teimlo'n rhwystredig ynghylch cyflwr ffyrdd lleol. Rydym yn gwybod bod ceudyllau, yn enwedig, yn ymestyn amseroedd teithio, ac yn beryglus i fodurwyr a defnyddwyr eraill y ffyrdd, yn enwedig ar yr adeg hon o'r flwyddyn, pan fydd y tywydd yn aml yn wael. Pa gymorth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei roi i awdurdodau lleol i'w helpu i fynd i'r afael â'r mater pwysig hwn?

Carl Sargeant: Yn ystod y cyfnod ariannol anodd hwn, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi llunio pecyn o atebion i ddatrys rhai o'r problemau a godwyd gennych. Gan weithio gyda fy nghyd-Aelod, y Gweinidog Cyllid, rydym wedi ymrwymo i gefnogi awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru i gynyddu eu cyfleoedd i fenthyc er mwyn buddsoddi mewn seilwaith caled. Os bydd y fenter yn parhau, bydd yn darparu rhaglen o welliannau priffyrdd sy'n werth tua £172 miliwn dros y tair blynedd nesaf er mwyn nodi problemau seilwaith mewn perthynas â cheudyllau a phrifffyrdd.

Y Llywydd: Cwestiwn 10, OAQ(4)0080(LGC), i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

Collaboration Agenda

II. Peter Black: What progress is the Minister making in delivering his collaboration agenda. OAQ(4)0078(LGC)

Carl Sargeant: Diolch i'r Aelod dros Orllewin De Cymru. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cefnogi ac yn arwain cydweithio ar draws y gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn lleol, drwy ffyrddau gwasanaeth lleol, yn rhanbarthol, drwy'r ôl-troed ar gyfer cydweithio rhanbarthol, ac yn genedlaethol, drwy'r grŵp arweinyddiaeth gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Mae'r compact Simpson, a lofnodwyd gyda llywodraeth leol, yn ymrwymiad ar y cyd i weithredu.

Peter Black: O ystyried y rhan ganolog y mae'r agenda cydweithio yn ei chwarae yn

Minister, will you consider publishing an annual report, so that we can properly scrutinise progress on this issue?

eich gwaith fel Gweinidog, a fyddwch yn ystyried cyhoeddi adroddiad blynnyddol, fel y gallwn graffu'n effeithiol ar y cynnydd a wnaed mewn perthynas â'r mater hwn?

Carl Sargeant: I will give that further consideration with my department. When we have decided on an outcome, I will write to the Member.

Carl Sargeant: Byddaf yn ystyried hynny ymhellach gyda'm hadran. Pan fyddwn wedi penderfynu ar ganlyniad, byddaf yn ysgrifennu at yr Aelod.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: Un o'r cynlluniau cydweithio yn y gogledd yw canoli camerâu teledu cylch cyfyng mewn un pencadlys. Mae gofid ymhlið staff y gall hyn olygu llai o gyswilt lleol a mwy o dor-cyfraith. Er enghraifft, mae canolfan Wrecsam yn gyfrifol am 900 o arestiadau bob mis. Onid yw hyn yn enghraifft o orfodi agenda i dorri costau ar draul gwasanaethau effeithiol?

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: One collaboration scheme in north Wales is looking to centralise CCTV cameras in one headquarters. There is concern among staff that this could mean fewer local connections and more crime. For example, the Wrexham centre is responsible for 900 arrests every month. Is this not an example of pushing an agenda to cut costs as the expense of effective services?

Carl Sargeant: As I said earlier, we have to examine all opportunities to get a better service and a more effective financial package. There are many examples of public sector organisations beyond local government working together. If the Member has specific examples of which he can provide evidence, I would be keen to see it if he wishes to write to me about it.

Carl Sargeant: Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, mae'n rhaid inni edrych ar yr holl gyfleoedd i gael gwasanaeth gwell a phecyn ariannol mwy effeithiol. Ceir llawer o enghreifftiau o sefydliadau sector cyhoeddus y tu hwnt i lywodraeth leol yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd. Os oes gan yr Aelod enghreifftiau penodol y gall roi tystiolaeth imi yn eu cylch, byddwn yn awyddus i'w gweld, os yw'n dymuno ysgrifennu imi yngylch y mater.

Uned Benthyca Arian Anghyfreithlon Cymru

Wales Illegal Money Lending Unit

12. Mark Drakeford: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am waith Uned Benthyca Arian Anghyfreithlon Cymru. OAQ(4)0082(LGC)

12. Mark Drakeford: Will the Minister make a statement on the work of the Wales Illegal Money Lending Unit. OAQ(4)0082(LGC):

Carl Sargeant: The Welsh Government is fully supportive of the vital work that the Wales Illegal Money Lending Unit is undertaking to combat illegal money lending. We will continue to work with the unit to tackle loan sharks, improve referral systems and encourage closer working with credit unions to promote affordable credit.

Carl Sargeant: Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn gwbl gefnogol o'r gwaith hanfodol y mae Uned Benthyca Arian Anghyfreithlon Cymru yn ei wneud i fynd i'r afael â benthyca arian yn anghyfreithlon. Byddwn yn parhau i weithio gyda'r uned i fynd i'r afael â benthycwyr arian didrwydded, i wella systemau cyfeirio ac i annog gweithio agosach gydag undebau credyd i hyrwyddo credyd fforddiadwy.

Mark Drakeford: I welcome the statement that you issued yesterday on the range of support available in Wales for people

Mark Drakeford: Rwyf yn croesawu'r datganiad a gyhoeddwyd gennych ddoe ar yr ystod o gefnogaeth sydd ar gael yng

struggling with their finances. The illegal money lending unit operates at one end of that spectrum, but in the post-Christmas period, with bills rolling in, will you encourage the unit to report to you specifically on its experience of dealing with illegal money lending over the next few months, so that the lessons of its excellent work can be learned for the future?

Nghymru ar gyfer pobl sy'n profi trafferthion ariannol. Mae'r uned benthyca arian anghyfreithlon yn gweithredu ar un pen o'r sbectwm hwnnw, ond yn y cyfnod ar ôl y Nadolig, gyda biliau'n llofo i mewn, a fyddwch yn annog yr uned i roi gwybod i chi'n benodol am ei phrofiad o ddelio â benthyca arian yn anghyfreithlon dros yr ychydig fisoeedd nesaf, fel y gellid dysgu gwersi o'i gwaith ardderchog ar gyfer y dyfodol?

3.00 p.m.

Carl Sargeant: It is a difficult financial climate, and more people are turning to loan sharks when money is tight. We have to create an environment where people feel safe and have the ability to use credit unions effectively. I have visited the illegal money lending unit, where I had first-hand discussions with people who had accessed the service of loan sharks. That was a real eye-opener. I will ask the unit to brief me on further interventions that it has made during the past 12 months.

Carl Sargeant: Mae'n hinsawdd ariannol anodd, ac mae mwy o bobl yn troi at fenthycwyr arian didrwydded pan fo arian yn brin. Mae'n rhaid inni greu amgylchedd lle mae pobl yn teimlo'n ddiogel ac mae ganddynt y gallu i ddefnyddio undebau credyd yn effeithiol. Rwyf wedi ymweld â'r uned benthyca arian anghyfreithlon, lle y cefais drafodaethau uniongyrchol â phobl a oedd wedi defnyddio gwasanaeth benthycwyr arian didrwydded. Roedd yn agoriad llygad go iawn. Byddaf yn gofyn i'r uned fy mrifio ar ymyriadau eraill y mae wedi eu gwneud yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf.

Diogelwch Cymunedol

13. Keith Davies: Beth mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud i hybu Diogelwch Cymunedol. OAQ(4)0075(LGC)

Carl Sargeant: The Welsh Government works closely with the community safety partnerships in Wales to ensure a joined-up multi-agency approach to tackling crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, youth offending, violence against women and domestic abuse, and it will continue to do so.

Community Safety

13. Keith Davies: What is the Welsh Government doing to promote Community Safety. OAQ(4)0075(LGC)

Carl Sargeant: Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithio'n agos gyda phartneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol yng Nghymru i sicrhau bod dull cydgysylltiedig aml-asiantaeth yn cael ei ddefnyddio i fynd i'r afael â throseddau, ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, camddefnyddio sylweddau, troseddau ieuengtid, trais yn erbyn menywod a chandrin yn y cartref, a bydd yn parhau i wneud hynny.

Keith Davies: Diolch yn fawr am yr ateb. Fel pobl ym mhob rhan o Gymru, mae pobl Llanelli'n pryderu am drosedd, ond mae pethau y gallwn eu gwneud. Yn lleol, mae grŵp gweithredu dros gymunedau diogelach Glanymor a Tyisha wrthi'n gostwng troseddau ac ofn troseddau gan roi pwyslais ar ddiogelwch. Mae'r grŵp sydd wedi elwa o gynllun Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn awr yn

Keith Davies: Thank you very much for that answer. Just as people in all parts of Wales are concerned about crime, so the people of Llanelli are concerned, but there are things that we could do about that. Locally, the Glanymor and Tyisha safer communities action group is striving to reduce crime and the fear of crime, by placing an emphasis on security. This group, which has benefited

gobeithio agor swyddfa lle gall pobl alw i drafod diogelwch yn eu bywydau bob dydd. A yw'r Gweinidog yn cytuno â mi fod mudiadau fel y rhain yn helpu i wneud cymunedau deimlo'n gryfach yn y frwydr yn erbyn ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a throsedd, ac, oherwydd hynny, y dylid eu hybu?

Carl Sargeant: I applaud the good work carried out by Glanymor and Tyisha Communities First project in setting up the community safety action group. I will be supportive of any groups in Wales that feel that they are able to create a safer environment for their communities. It is something that we should promote. I agree with the Member in terms of taking this forward to promote safety across Wales. It is an important part of my agenda as the Minister who has responsibility for community safety.

Lindsay Whittle: To what extent is there liaison in Wales between community safety partnerships and youth offending teams with regard to the effectiveness of anti-social behaviour orders?

Carl Sargeant: I am having discussions with the youth justice team and the community safety partnership teams to see how they can work closer together in providing effective support for our communities and for young people—and all people, actually—who have been subject to ASBOs. I need them to consider whether the ASBOs are an effective tool, and we have to work together across departments to look at how we can ensure that our communities are safe and support people who are in need and who have fallen off the rails. We need to be able to support them to get their lives back on track in an effective way, and this could sometimes mean using ASBOs.

from the Communities First programme, now hopes to open an office where people can call in to discuss security in their daily lives. Does the Minister agree that organisations such as these help communities feel stronger in the fight against anti-social behaviour and crime, and, as a result, should be promoted?

Carl Sargeant: Rwyf yn canmol y gwaith da a wnaed gan brosiect Cymunedau yn Gyntaf Glanymor a Tyisha o ran sefydlu'r grŵp gweithredu diogelwch cymunedol. Byddaf yn cefnogi unrhyw grwpiau yng Nghymru sy'n teimlo eu bod yn gallu creu amgylchedd mwy diogel ar gyfer eu cymunedau. Mae'n rhywbeth y dylem ei hyrwyddo. Rwyf yn cytuno â'r Aelod o ran bwrw ymlaen â hyn i hyrwyddo diogelwch ledled Cymru. Mae'n rhan bwysig o'm hagenda fel y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am ddiogelwch cymunedol.

Lindsay Whittle: I ba raddau y mae cyswllt yng Nghymru rhwng partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol a thimau troseddau ieuenciad o ran sicrhau effeithiolrwydd gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol?

Carl Sargeant: Rwyf yn cynnal trafodaethau gyda'r tîm cyflawnder ieuenciad a'r timau partneriaeth diogelwch cymunedol i weld sut y gallant gydweithio'n agosach i ddarparu cymorth effeithiol i'n cymunedau ac i bobl ifanc—i bawb, mewn gwirionedd—a fu'n destun gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Rwyf angen iddynt ystyried a yw'r gorchmynion hyn yn arf effeithiol, ac mae'n rhaid inni weithio gyda'n gilydd ar draws adrannau i edrych ar sut y gallwn sicrhau bod ein cymunedau yn ddiogel ac yn cefnogi pobl sydd mewn angen ac sydd wedi mynd ar gyfeiliorn. Mae angen inni allu eu cefnogi i roi trefn ar eu bywydau mewn ffordd effeithiol, a gallai hyn weithiau olygu defnyddio'r gorchmynion hyn.

Dadl i Geisio Cytundeb y Cynulliad i Gyflwyno Bil Arfaethedig Aelod yng hylch Parhad o Ofal i Fwyd fel Oedolyn (Kenneth Skates)

Debate Seeking the Assembly's Agreement to Introduce a Member-proposed Bill on Continuity from Care into Adult Life (Kenneth Skates)

Cynnig NDM4885 Kenneth Skates

Motion NDM4885 Kenneth Skates

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 26.91:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order 26.91:

Yn cytuno y caiff Ken Skates gyflwyno Bil a fydd yn rhoi ar waith y wybodaeth cyn y balot a gyflwynwyd ar 14 Hydref 2011 o dan Reol Sefydlog 26.90.

Kenneth Skates: I move the motion.

It is an absolute privilege and honour to have this opportunity today. From the outset, I thank and pay tribute to my predecessor, Karen Sinclair, who invested enormous time and energy in investigating how we can improve care for looked-after children. This is of concern to Members across the Chamber, and I hope that we can illustrate how we can occupy the same territory when looking to help society's most vulnerable people.

Today I hope to outline how we can construct a package of enhanced care for looked-after children and set an example of good practice that the rest of the UK, and, indeed, much of the world, could follow. No parent will ever tire of expressing just how difficult the job of raising a child is and how it does not end on the day of their eighteenth birthday. As they grow older, move through their teenage years and make the journey towards independent adult life, the parental role may alter and the type of assistance may change, but parents go on worrying about their children, loving them and giving them a safe haven in difficult times. Beside the emotional and familial bonds, this process happens for sound, practical and important reasons. Young people develop at different rates, and even the most competent and confident young person needs a helping hand now and again. However, as a society, we do not fully apply these same standards to the children in our care. Instead, we allow some of our most damaged, vulnerable and fragile people to leave the care system and start setting up for a life on their own at 18, or sometimes, very worryingly, at an even younger age.

For most looked-after children, the prospect

Agrees that Ken Skates may introduce a Bill to give effect to the pre-ballot information tabled on 14 October 2011 under Standing Order 26.90.

Kenneth Skates: Cynigiaf y cynnig.

Mae'n faint ac yn anrhydedd llwyr cael y cyfle hwn heddiw. O'r cychwyn cyntaf, rwyf yn diolch ac yn talu teyrnedd i'm rhagflaenydd, Karen Sinclair, a fuddsoddodd amser ac egni aruthrol mewn ymchwilio sut y gallwn wella gofal ar gyfer plant sy'n ei dderbyn. Mae hyn yn peri pryder i Aelodau ar draws y Siambra, a gobeithiaf y gallwn ddangos sut y gallwn ddod i gytundeb wrth geisio helpu'r bobl sydd fwyaf agored i niwed yn y gymdeithas.

Heddiw, rwyf yn gobeithio amlinellu sut y gallwn lunio pecyn gofal gwell ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal a gosod esiampl o arfer da y gallai gweddill y DU, ac, yn wir, llawer o'r byd, ei ddilyn. Ni fydd unrhyw riant byth yn blino ar fynegi pa mor anodd yw'r gwaith o fagu plentyn a sut nad yw'n dod i ben ar ddiwrnod eu pen-blwydd yn 18 oed. Wrth iddynt fynd yn hŷn, gan symud drwy eu harddegau a thuag at fywyd annibynnol fel oedolyn, efallai y bydd rôl rhieni yn newid ac efallai y bydd y math o gymorth yn newid, ond mae rhieni yn dal i boeni am eu plant, i'w caru ac i roi hafan ddiogel iddynt mewn cyfnodau anodd. Yn ogystal â'r rhwymau emosiynol a theuluol, mae'r broses hon yn digwydd am resymau cadarn, ymarferol a phwysig. Mae pobl ifanc yn datblygu ar gyflymderau gwahanol, a bydd hyd yn oed y person ifanc mwyaf cymwys a hyderus angen help llaw o bryd i'w gilydd. Fodd bynnag, fel cymdeithas, nid ydym yn rhoi'r un safonau hyn ar waith yn llawn mewn perthynas â'r plant yn ein gofal. Yn hytrach, rydym yn caniatâu i rai o'r bobl sydd wedi'u niweidio fwyaf, ac sydd fwyaf agored i niwed a bregus i adael y system gofal a dechrau eu bywyd ar eu pen eu hunain yn 18 oed, neu weithiau, ac mae hyn yn achos pryder, hyd yn oed yn iau.

Ar gyfer y rhan fwyaf o blant sy'n derbyn

of leaving the care system starts to hang heavily over their young lives from the age of 14 and 15. It becomes the defining moment of their adolescence, just as their peers are able to concentrate wholly on passing exams. It causes tremendous emotional damage and creates a bleak darkness on their horizon. It is tragic that too many looked-after children in Wales still leave the care system ill-equipped to deal with the difficult and sharp transition to adult life. It is a truly startling fact that prisoners are 13 times more likely to have been in care for some of their young lives, with around 30% of all care leavers as a whole thought to have a clinically significant mental health problem. Martin Narey, the former chief executive of Barnardo's, said:

'The proportion of young people who are on their own aged 16 and 17—precisely the time when most children of that age still enjoy huge financial and emotional support from their parents—is astonishing. We should not scratch our heads and wonder why so many of them are in prison; where else are so many of them going to go? It is astonishing that some of them survive the process.'

That is why, when the Assembly asked for Members to submit ideas for the first ballot for a Member-proposed Bill, my attention turned to the need for greater support for young people in their transition from care. I propose that we use the new Assembly powers to construct a Bill to tackle what Professor Ian Sinclair describes as the Achilles heel of the care system, and to build upon rather than sabotage the good work undertaken by professionals and carers when looked-after children make the transition to adult life. The aim of this Bill would be to help level the playing field for young people in care who are approaching the age of 18 and after, applying the very same standards to looked-after children as we do to our own. It is important to note that, in relation to where we were 10 years ago, we have made solid progress in terms of child protection, strengthening the voice of children in the national debate and raising standards of care, with many local authorities doing excellent

gofal, mae'r posibilrwydd o adael y system gofal yn dechrau pwysô'n drwm ar eu bywydau ifanc pan fyddant yn 14 ac 15 oed. Mae'n dod yn foment sy'n diffinio eu glasoed, ar yr union adeg pan fydd eu cyfoedion yn gallu canolbwytio yn gyfan gwbl ar basio arholiadau. Mae'n achosi niwed emosiyol aruthrol ac yn gwneud i'w dyfodol ymddangos yn dywyll a llwm. Mae'n drasiedi bod gormod o blant sy'n derbyn gofal yng Nghymru yn dal i adael y system ofal heb y cymwysterau i ymdrin â'r cyfnod pontio anodd a llym wrth iddynt ddod yn oedolion. Mae'n ffaith wirioneddol frawychus bod carcharorion 13 gwaith yn fwy tebygol o fod wedi bod mewn gofal am ran o'u bywydau ifanc, a chredir bod gan tua 30% o bob un sy'n gadael gofal broblem iechyd meddwl gydag arwyddocâd clinigol. Dywedodd Martin Narey, cyn-brif weithredwr Barnardo's:

Mae'r gyfran o bobl ifanc sydd ar eu pen eu hunain yn 16 ac 17 oed—yr union amser pan fydd y rhan fwyaf o blant o'r oed hwnnw yn dal i fwynhau cymorth ariannol ac emosiyol mawr oddi wrth eu rhieni—yn rhyfeddol. Ni ddylem grafu ein pennau a thybio pam mae cymaint ohonynt yn y carchar; i ble arall yr aiff cymaint ohonynt? Mae'n rhyfeddol bod rhai ohonynt yn goroesi'r broses.

Dyna pam, pan ofynnodd y Cynulliad i Aelodau gyflwyno syniadau ar gyfer y balot cyntaf ar gyfer Bil arfaethedig Aelod, trodd fy sylw at yr angen am fwy o gefnogaeth i bobl ifanc yn y cyfnod pontio ar ôl gadael gofal. Rwyf yn cynnig ein bod yn defnyddio pwerau newydd y Cynulliad i lunio Bil i fynd i'r afael â'r hyn y mae'r Athro Ian Sinclair yn ei ddisgrifio fel man gwan y system ofal, ac i ddatblygu yn hytrach na difetha'r gwaith da a wneir gan weithwyr profesiynol a gofalwyr yn ystod y cyfnod pontio wrth i blant sy'n derbyn gofal ddechrau ar eu bywyd fel oedolyn. Nod y Bil hwn fyddai helpu i sicrhau amodau teg i bobl ifanc mewn gofal sy'n nesâu at 18 oed ac ar ôl hynny, gan roi'r un safonau'n union a roddwn ar waith ar gyfer ein plant ein hunain ar waith ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal. Mae'n bwysig nodi, o ran y sefyllfa 10 mlynedd yn ôl, ein bod wedi gwneud cynnydd cadarn o ran amddiffyn plant, cryfhau llais plant yn y drafodaeth genedlaethol a chodi safonau

work.

However, as the Children's Commissioner for Wales pointed out in his recent report, 'Lost After Care', the fact remains that this support is often patchy across Wales, and we could be doing more. After vulnerable young people reach the age of 18, there is no requirement for local authorities to ensure that they can stay in care or with their foster families, even if that is deemed appropriate or in the best interests of the young person. Also, there is no obligation to provide accommodation to a care leaver once he or she reaches 18, unless that young person is in full-time education. My hope is that we can, in the spirit of partnership, go further for these young people and put together a Bill that will ensure that, in a case where local authority care has successfully achieved stability for a looked-after child, this success is not lost because the young person is obliged to leave care upon reaching 18 years of age. It would seek to replace the abrupt 'cliff edge' ending of care, with gradual phases tailored to the individual's needs, possibly to the age of 25.

It is important to note that each child is different and will need their own tailored and phased support, but I want to address quickly some of the practical areas that the Bill could go on to cover. These include: allowing stable and successful care placements to continue unchanged beyond the age of 18 for a period agreed in the young person's pathway plan; possibly allowing a young person between the ages of 18 and 25 who is leaving a care placement to convert that placement into supported lodgings or other 'suitable accommodation'; possibly including an entitlement, providing it can be agreed by both parties, to continue contact from a final carer for a young person after the age of 18 who leaves a care placement; possibly including an entitlement for a young person leaving the care system to return to care or access support packages up to the age of 25; and possibly raising the minimum age at which a child leaves care from 16 to 18.

gofal, gyda nifer o awdurdodau lleol yn gwneud gwaith rhagorol.

Fodd bynnag, fel y nododd Comisiynydd Plant Cymru yn ei adroddiad diweddar, 'Ar Goll Ar ôl Gofal', ers y ffaith bod y cymorth hwn yn aml yn anghyson ledled Cymru, a gallem fod yn gwneud mwy. Wedi i bobl ifanc sy'n agored i niwed gyrraedd 18 oed, nid oes gofyniad i awdurdodau lleol sicrhau y gallant aros mewn gofal neu gyda'u teuluoedd maeth, hyd yn oed os yw hynny'n briodol neu os mai dyna fydd o'r budd pennaf i'r person ifanc. Hefyd, nid oes unrhyw rwymedigaeth i ddarparu llety i berson ifanc sy'n gadael gofal unwaith y mae'n cyrraedd 18 oed, oni bai ei fod mewn addysg amser llawn. Fy ngobaith i yw y gallwn ni, mewn ysbryd o bartneriaeth, fynd ymhellach ar gyfer y bobl ifanc hyn a llunio Bil a fydd yn sicrhau, mewn achos lle mae gofal yr awdurdod lleol wedi llwyddo i sicrhau sefydlogrwydd ar gyfer plentyn sy'n derbyn gofal, nad yw'r llwyddiant hwnnw'n cael ei golli oherwydd bod y person ifanc yn gorfol gadael gofal ar ôl iddo gyrraedd 18 oed. Byddai'n ceisio disodli diwedd sydyn gofal, gyda chyfnodau graddol wedi'u teilwra i anghenion yr unigolyn, o bosibl hyd nes ei fod yn 25 oed.

Mae'n bwysig nodi bod pob plentyn yn wahanol ac y bydd angen cefnogaeth wedi'i theilwra a'i chyflwyno fesul cam ar bob un, ond rwyf am fynd i'r afael yn gyflym â rhai o'r meysydd ymarferol y gallai'r Bil eu cynnwys. Yn eu plith mae: caniatáu i leoliadau gofal sefydlog a llwyddiannus barhau heb eu newid pan fydd unigolyn yn 18 oed am gyfnod y cytunwyd arno yng nghynllun llwybr y person ifanc; o bosibl, caniatáu i berson ifanc rhwng 18 a 25 oed sy'n gadael lleoliad gofal i droi'r lleoliad hwnnw'n llety â chymorth neu'n llety addas arall; o bosibl, cynnwys yr hawl, ar yr amod bod y ddwy ochr yn cytuno, i gyswilt gyda'r gofalwr terfynol barhau ar gyfer person ifanc sy'n gadael lleoliad gofal ar ôl iddo gyrraedd 18 oed; o bosibl, cynnwys hawl i berson ifanc sy'n gadael y system ofal ddychwelyd i ofal neu gael mynediad at becynnau o gefnogaeth hyd nes ei fod yn 25 oed; ac, o bosibl, codi'r oedran isaf y mae plentyn yn gadael gofal o 16 i 18 oed.

These are, of course, some of the areas that could be included, and it is vital to consult widely on these issues in the coming months, and that the end result bears the fingerprints of children and young people who are in care and who should be consulted. The important point is that we need to remove the fear and anxiety that currently accompanies the prospect of leaving care. It is hard to overestimate the vulnerability of care leavers at this time. These are individuals who, as we already know, are behind other young people in terms of educational achievement, as well as employment, training and other opportunities. Thankfully, the results are improving, but in 2011, 29% of care leavers had no recognised qualifications whatsoever. The evidence on this point is clear: positive education and employment outcomes after leaving care are closely linked to stable housing, strong life skills and a lack of problems with substance misuse or offending—issues that are most effectively tackled by allowing children to leave care at an older age. It is really important to stress that this Bill, if it gets the support of colleagues, will not be a silver bullet. However, it would bring more rationality to the process and give control over the timing of the transition from care to the young people themselves.

Just this week many of us met an astonishing group of young people who came to the Assembly to share their experiences of being in care. One of those we met, Kai, is just 17 years old and hopes to be a doctor. He has 11 GCSEs under his belt, he is studying four A-levels and is well on his way to realising his enormous potential. However, the problem is that, before he starts his exams in May, he turns 18 in February and, although his foster family want him to stay on with them so he can concentrate on his exams, it is by no means certain that he will be able to. This struck me as a perfect example of what this Bill can achieve: to help bring stability—if only for a few vital months—to the lives of young people like Kai. He is an exceptional person, and we need to ensure that Kai's educational success is the norm not the exception. We need to provide a more

Mae'r rhain, wrth gwrs, yn rhai o'r meysydd y gellid eu cynnwys, ac mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn ymgynghori'n eang ar y materion hyn yn y misoedd nesaf a bod dylanwad y plant a'r bobl ifanc sydd mewn gofal i'w weld ar y canlyniad terfynol a'u bod yn cael eu cynnwys yn y broses ymgynghori. Y pwynt pwysig yw bod angen inni gael gwared ar yr ofn a'r pryder sydd ar hyn o bryd yn cydfynd â'r syniad o adael gofal. Mae'n anodd gorbwysleisio pa mor agored i niwed yw'r rheini sy'n gadael gofal ar hyn o bryd. Mae'r rhain yn unigolion sydd, fel y gwyddom eisoes, y tu ôl i bobl ifanc eraill o ran cyrhaeddiad addysgol, yn ogystal â chyflogaeth, hyfforddiant a chyfleoedd eraill. Diolch byth, mae'r canlyniadau yn gwella, ond yn 2011, nid oedd gan 29% o'r bobl a oedd yn gadael gofal unrhyw gymwysterau cydnabyddedig o gwbl. Mae'r dystiolaeth ar y pwynt hwn yn glir: mae cysylltiad agos rhwng canlyniadau addysg a chyflogaeth gadarnhaol ar ôl gadael gofal a thai sefydlog, sgiliau bywyd cryf a diffyg problemau mewn perthynas â chamdefnyddio sylweddau neu droseddu-materion sy'n cael eu trin yn fwyaf effeithiol drwy ganiatáu i blant adael gofal pan fyddant yn hŷn. Mae'n wirioneddol bwysig pwysleisio na fydd y Bil hwn, os bydd yn ennill cefnogaeth fy nghyd-Aelodau, yn datrys popeth. Fodd bynnag, byddai'n gwneud y broses yn fwy rhesymol ac yn rhoi rheolaeth dros amseriad y cyfnod pontio o ofal i'r bobl ifanc eu hunain.

Dim ond yr wythnos hon gwnaeth nifer ohonom gwrdd â grŵp rhyfeddol o bobl ifanc a ddaeth i'r Cynulliad i rannu eu profiadau o fod mewn gofal. Mae un o'r rhai y gwnaethom eu cyfarfod, Kai, ddim ond yn 17 mlwydd oed ac mae'n gobeithio bod yn feddyg. Mae ganddo 11 TGAU, mae'n astudio pedwar pwnc Safon Uwch ac mae ar ei ffordd tuag at wireddu ei botensial enfawr. Fodd bynnag, y broblem yw ei fod yn troi'n 18 oed ym mis Chwefror, cyn iddo ddechrau ei arholiadau ym mis Mai, ac, er bod ei deulu maeth am iddo aros gyda hwy er mwyn iddo ganolbwytio ar ei arholiadau, nid oes sicrwydd y bydd yn gallu gwneud hynny. Gwnaeth hyn fy nharo fel enghraifft berffaith o'r hyn y gall y Bil hwn ei gyflawni: helpu i ddod â sefydlogrwydd—hyd yn oed os mai dim ond am ychydig fisoeedd hanfodol fyddai hynny—i fywydau pobl ifanc fel Kai. Mae'n

comprehensive framework of support for care leavers to ensure they are not left to drown in the sea of new responsibilities and daunting challenges as they begin their adult lives.

As the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services, Gwenda Thomas, said in a recent debate on looked-after children,

'It is our great privilege to serve our communities, and I believe our first priority is to those who are most in need.'

I, and I am sure everyone in this Chamber, concurs wholeheartedly with this sentiment. That is where this idea comes from, and it is in this spirit—and in the hope of cross-party support—that I offer this legislative proposal for the Assembly's consideration today.

The Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services (Gwenda Thomas): As set out by Ken Skates, looked-after children are among those in greatest need. They enter care for a variety of reasons, have different needs and characteristics, and will have very different experiences while they are in and preparing to leave care. It is essential that services are responsive in order to meet individual needs. There have been improvements, but too many young people are still ill-prepared for the realities of adulthood and the abrupt ending of care. Therefore, I pay tribute to the Member for Clwyd South for tabling this motion. It is symbolic of our collective role as corporate parents that our first Member-proposed Bill is focused on this very important group. The Member has provided a comprehensive brief to Members on his proposals. I have also met him to discuss how we can combine our efforts in devising a scheme to improve the transition from care into adulthood. Common to our vision is the desire for a care system that promotes stability, resilience, healthy development and opportunity for all our looked-after children and which prepares and

berson eithriadol, ac mae angen inni sicrhau mai'r hyn sy'n arferol ac nid eithriad yw llwyddiant addysgol Kai. Mae angen inni ddarparu fframwaith mwy cynhwysfawr o gefnogaeth i'r rheini sy'n gadael gofal i sicrhau nad ydynt yn cael eu gadael i foddi mewn môr o gyfrifoldebau newydd a heriau hynod anodd wrth iddynt ddechrau eu bywydau fel oedolion.

Fel dywedodd y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, Gwenda Thomas, mewn dadl ddiweddar ar blant sy'n derbyn gofal,

Mae'n faint fawr inni wasanaethu ein cymunedau, ac rwyf yn credu mai ein blaenoriaeth gyntaf yw'r rheini sydd fwyaf mewn angen.

Rwyf i, a phawb yn y Siambwr hon rwyf yn siŵr, yn unfryd yn cefnogi'r teimlad hwnnw. O'r fan honno y daw'r syniad hwn, ac yn yr ysbryd hwn—ac yn y gobaith o ennill cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol—cynigiaf y cynnig deddfwriaethol hwn i'w ystyried gan y Cynulliad heddiw.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Gwenda Thomas): Fel yr amlinellwyd gan Ken Skates, mae plant sy'n derbyn gofal ymhliith y rhai sydd â'r angen mwyaf. Maent yn dod yn rhan o'r system ofal am amrywiaeth o resymau, mae ganddynt wahanol anghenion a nodweddion, a byddant wedi cael profiadau gwahanol iawn mewn gofal ac wrth iddynt baratoi i ymadael â gofal. Mae'n hanfodol bod gwasanaethau yn ymateb mewn modd sy'n diwallu anghenion unigol. Bu gwelliannau, ond mae gormod o bobl ifanc yn dal heb eu paratoi'n ddigonol ar gyfer realiti bod yn oedolyn a therfyn sydyn gofal. Felly, talaf deyrnged i'r Aelod dros Dde Clwyd am gyflwyno'r cynnig hwn. Mae'n symbol o'n rôl ni oll fel rhieni corfforaethol bod ein Bil arfaethedig Aelod cyntaf yn canolbwytio ar y grŵp pwysig iawn hwn. Mae'r Aelod wedi darparu briff cynhwysfawr i Aelodau ar ei gynigion. Rwyf hefyd wedi cyfarfod ag ef i drafod sut y gallwn gyfuno ein hymdrechion wrth ddyfeisio cynllun i wella'r cyfnod pontio rhwng bod mewn gofal a bod yn oedolyn. Yr hyn sy'n gyffredin yn ein gweledigaeth yw'r dymuniad am system

supports the important transition to adulthood.

It is a decade since the introduction of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, and a great deal of energy and commitment has been put into leaving care services. Unfortunately, as highlighted in the children's commissioner's report 'Lost After Care', and as mentioned by Ken Skates, practice is variable, as is the experience of young people leaving care. At the heart of the Member's proposed Bill is enabling young people beyond the age of 18 to have a smooth journey on their exit from care to adulthood and independence, sensitive to individual needs and circumstances and enabling continuity and stability in living arrangements.

There are a number of entitlements in law and guidance—and changes are proposed from this summer—for relevant and formerly relevant care leavers aged 18 to 21. With regard to those young people, local authorities must avoid moving those who are settled unless it is unavoidable or offers clear advantages; create opportunities for foster carers to convert arrangements to maintain the placement, support the young person to keep in contact with family and previous carers and enable care leavers to reconnect to care, and to pursue education or training up to the age of 25.

3.15 p.m.

Like all young people, care leavers have a voice, and many choose to leave care before or at the age of 18. For example, last year some 400 16 and 17 year-olds left care. Improving the life chances of looked-after children and care leavers is a key plank of 'Sustainable Social Services for Wales: A Framework for Action' and our programme for government. We have committed to establishing the compliance and standards unit for looked-after children to advance outcomes and address variability in practice. We also firmly believe that supporting young people to achieve in education, employment and training is the best passport to nurturing a

ofal sy'n hyrwyddo sefydlogrwydd, cadernid, datblygiad iach a chyfle i bob un o'r plant sy'n derbyn gofal ac sy'n paratoi a chefnogi'r cam pwysig tuag at fod yn oedolyn.

Aeth degawd heibio ers cyflwyno Deddf Plant (Gadael Gofal) 2000, a buddsoddwyd llawer iawn o egni ac ymrwymiad mewn gwasanaethau gadael gofal. Yn anffodus, fel yr amlygwyd yn adroddiad y comisiynydd plant 'Ar Goll Ar ôl Gofal', ac fel y nodwyd gan Ken Skates, mae arferion yn amrywio, fel y mae profiad pobl ifanc sy'n gadael gofal. Wrth wraidd y Bil arfaethedig Aelod mae dymuniad i alluogi pobl ifanc y tu hwnt i 18 oed gael taith lyfn wrth ymadael â gofal a dod yn oedolyn ac yn annibynnol, gydag ymwybyddiaeth o anghenion ac amgylchiadau unigol a dull i alluogi parhad a sefydlogrwydd mewn trefniadau byw.

Mae nifer o hawliau yn y gyfraith ac mewn canllawiau—a chynigir newidiadau o'r haf hwn—ar gyfer bobl rhwng 18 a 21 oed sy'n gadael gofal sy'n gymwys neu a arferai fod yn gymwys. O ran y bobl ifanc hynny, mae'n rhaid i awdurdodau lleol osgoi symud y rheini sydd wedi ymgynfarwyddo oni bai ei bod yn amhosibl osgoi gwneud hynny neu ei fod yn cynnig manteision clir; creu cyfleoedd i ofalwyr maeth newid trefniadau i gynnal y lleoliad, cefnogi'r person ifanc i gadw mewn cysylltiad â'i deulu a gofalwyr blaenorol a galluogi'r rhai sy'n gadael gofal i ailgysylltu â gofal ac i gael addysg neu hyfforddiant hyd nes y byddant yn 25 oed.

Fel pob person ifanc, mae gan y rheini sy'n gadael gofal lais, ac mae nifer ohonynt yn dewis gadael gofal pan fyddant yn 18 oed, neu cyn hynny. Er enghraifft, gadawodd tua 400 o bobl ifanc 16 a 17 oed ofal y llynedd. Mae gwella cyfleoedd bywyd plant sy'n derbyn gofal a'r rheini sy'n gadael gofal yn rhan allweddol o 'Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cynaliadwy i Gymru: Fframwaith Gweithredu' a'n rhaglen lywodraethu. Rydym wedi ymrwymo i sefydlu'r uned gydymffurfio a safonau i blant sy'n derbyn gofal er mwyn datblygu canlyniadau ac i fynd i'r afael ag amrywiaeth o ran arferion. Rydym hefyd yn credu'n gryf

young person's journey to maturity, to take on more responsibility and to develop independent living skills.

I recognise that some young people who are particularly vulnerable because of disability or mental health issues—around 7% of the leaving-care population—will have difficulty in maintaining a programme of education, employment or training but would also benefit from continuity of placement. I know that this is a concern that Peter Black has raised previously.

We know that some young people form life bonds with their foster carers and others who were close to them in care. It is important that these ongoing relationships are encouraged. It is also important to explore workable solutions to some of the current disincentives in the tax and benefits rules that disadvantage the young people or foster carers to maintaining placements post 18.

I therefore want to work with Ken Skates in devising a scheme that achieves these aims. I will want to look further at the case to continue support beyond a young person's twenty-first birthday, over and above where the intention is for a young person to remain on a programme of education, employment or training that concludes beyond their twenty-first birthday or where there are exceptional circumstances, for example, disability.

There is scope within the current law for the introduction of a statutory scheme and, as we know, a lot more can be done to improve practice. The scheme will therefore aim to reinvigorate local corporate parenting accountability, to strengthen practice to promote, encourage and establish arrangements for greater numbers of young people to remain in care up to and beyond their eighteenth birthday, for young people to be actively engaged in a programme of education, employment or training, unless there are exceptional circumstances, and for options and support for both young persons and foster carers to maintain stability through

mai cefnogi pobl ifanc i lwyddo mewn addysg, cyflogaeth a hyfforddiant yw'r pasbort gorau i feithrin taith person ifanc i aeddfedrwydd, fel ei fod yn cymryd mwy o gyfrifoldeb ac yn datblygu sgiliau ar gyfer byw'n annibynnol.

Rwyf yn cydnabod y bydd yn anodd i rai pobl ifanc sy'n arbennig o fregus oherwydd anabledd neu faterion iechyd meddwel—sef tua 7% o'r rheini sy'n gadael gofal—gynnal rhaglen addysg, cyflogaeth neu hyfforddiant, ond byddent hefyd yn elwa ar gael lleoliad parhaus. Gwn fod hynny'n bryder y mae Peter Black wedi'i godi o'r blaen.

Gwyddom fod rhai pobl ifanc yn ffurfio cysylltiad â'u gofalwyr maeth ac eraill mewn gofal a oedd yn agos atynt sy'n parhau am oes. Mae'n bwysig bod y cysylltiadau parhaus hynny'n cael eu hannog. Mae'n bwysig hefyd edrych ar atebion ymarferol i rai o'r anghymhellion presennol yn y rheolau treth a budd-daliadau sy'n rhoi pobl ifanc neu ofalwyr maeth o dan anfantais os yw'r person ifanc yn aros gyda'r gofalwr maeth ar ôl ei ben-blwydd yn 18 oed.

Felly, hoffwn weithio gyda Ken Skates i ddyfeisio cynllun sy'n cyflawni'r amcanion hyn. Byddaf yn awyddus i edrych ymhellach ar yr achos i barhau i gefnogi person ifanc ar ôl ei ben-blwydd yn 21 oed, yn ychwanegol at achosion lle mai'r bwriad yw i berson ifanc aros mewn rhaglen addysg, cyflogaeth neu hyfforddiant sy'n dod i ben cyn ei ben-blwydd yn 21 oed, neu lle y bo amgylchiadau eithriadol, megis anabledd, er enghraiftt.

Mae lle yn y gyfraith bresennol i gyflwyno cynllun statudol ac, fel y gwyddom, gellid gwneud llawer mwy i wella arferion. Bydd y cynllun, felly, yn anelu at adfywio atebolrwydd rhieni corfforaethol lleol, er mwyn cryfhau arferion i hybu, annog a sefydlu trefniadau fel y gall mwy o bobl ifanc aros mewn gofal hyd at eu pen-blwydd yn 18 oed a thu hwnt, fel y gall pobl ifanc gymryd rhan weithredol mewn rhaglen addysg, cyflogaeth neu hyfforddiant, oni bai bod amgylchiadau eithriadol, ac fel y gellir cynnal sefydlogrwydd o ran opsiynau a chefnogaeth i bobl ifanc a gofalwyr maeth drwy sicrhau parhad o ran eu llety. Byddwn

continuity in accommodation. We will draw on the experience of other schemes, such as Staying Put, in England, and GEM—Going the Extra Mile—in Northern Ireland.

I therefore support the spirit and aims of Ken Skates's motion. Together, we will bring back a scheme to Members later this year, following consultation with key people, including young people. We will offer a brighter future for these young people, who we believe have talent and the potential to grow their self-esteem and to mature towards a successful transition into adulthood and independent living.

Mark Isherwood: As we have heard, the Children's Commissioner for Wales's report 'Lost After Care' highlighted that support services for looked-after children were inconsistent across Welsh local authorities. The Children's Commissioner for Wales 2010-11 annual report states:

'advocacy is an essential element of safeguarding'

and that

'the provision of advocacy for looked after children, care leavers and children in need is inconsistent across Wales.'

That is a matter of continuing concern for the all-party group on looked-after children, chaired by David Melding.

This Member-proposed Bill deserves support to ensure that success in achieving stability for a looked-after child is not lost when the young person leaves care at the age of 18 and to secure as much continuity as possible, even when stability has not been achieved. We need to ensure that our most vulnerable children and young people are given the support and opportunities that they need to succeed in life after care. However, the rising numbers of children in care puts increasing pressure on that.

On 31 March 2011, 5,500 children in Wales

yn manteisio ar brofiad cynlluniau eraill, fel Staying Put, yn Lloegr, a GEM—Going the Extra Mile—yn Ngogledd Iwerddon.

Felly, rwyf yn cefnogi ysbryd ac amcanion cynnig Ken Skates. Gyda'n gilydd, byddwn yn cyflwyno cynllun i'r Aelodau yn ddiweddarach eleni, ar ôl ymgynghori â phobl allweddol, gan gynnwys pobl ifanc. Byddwn yn cynnig dyfodol mwy disgrair i'r bobl ifanc hyn, sydd, yn ein barn ni, yn meddu ar y dalent a'r potensial i gynyddu eu hunan-barch ac i aeddfedu gan gwblhau cyfnod pontio llwyddiannus wrth ddod yn oedolion a dechrau byw'n annibynnol.

Mark Isherwood: Fel y clywsom, tynnodd adroddiad Comisiynydd Plant Cymru 'Ar Goll Ar Ôl Gofal' sylw at y ffaith bod gwasanaethau cymorth i blant sy'n derbyn gofal yn anghyson ar draws awdurdodau lleol Cymru. Mae adroddiad blynnyddol Comisiynydd Plant Cymru ar gyfer 2010-11 yn dweud bod:

'eiriolaeth yn elfen hanfodol o ddiogelu'

a bod

'darpariaeth eiriolaeth ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal, pobl sy'n gadael gofal a phlant mewn angen yn anghyson ledled Cymru.'

Mae hynny'n dal yn destun pryder i'r grŵp hollbleidiol ar blant sy'n derbyn gofal, sy'n cael ei gadeirio gan David Melding.

Mae'r Bil arfaethedig Aelod hwn yn haeddu cefnogaeth er mwyn sicrhau nad yw'r llwyddiant o ran creu sefydlogrwydd i blentyn sy'n derbyn gofal yn cael ei golli pan fydd y person ifanc yn gadael gofal yn 18 oed, ac i sicrhau bod cymaint o barhad â phosibl, hyd yn oed pan nad yw wedi bod yn bosibl creu sefydlogrwydd. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod ein plant a'n pobl ifanc sydd fwyaf agored i niwed yn cael y gefnogaeth a'r cyfleoedd sydd eu hangen arnynt i lwyddo yn eu bywyd ar ôl gofal. Fodd bynnag, mae'r nifer cynyddol o blant mewn gofal yn rhoi pwysau cynyddol ar hynny.

Ar 31 Mawrth 2011, roedd 5,500 o blant yng

were looked after. That figure is up by 5% over the previous year and 20% over the previous five years. Looked-after children have much poorer psychological and social outcomes than their peers. A study in 2004 found that the prevalence of mental disorders among children and young people aged five to 17 looked after by local authorities in Wales was 49%. Some 42% had clinically significant conduct disorders, 10% per cent had emotional disorders, such as anxiety and depression, and 12% were classed as 'hyperactive'. Another study found that the prevalence of psychiatric disorders is particularly high among those living in residential care who have many changes of placement. At a UK level, figures from 2005 show that up to 41% of children who end up in custody will have some history of being in care.

A 2009 Westminster Children, Schools and Families Committee report found that the state is failing in its duty to act as a parent to children in care by not adequately protecting them from sexual exploitation, homelessness and falling into crime. The report stated that children in care aged 10 and over are more than twice as likely to be cautioned or convicted of an offence, and blamed Government for the

'disproportionate criminalisation of young people in care'.

It also revealed evidence of organised, targeted exploitation of girls in residential homes and hostels and warned that the vulnerability of young people leaving care is a matter of great concern.

The Centre for Social Justice report 'Couldn't Care Less' stated that:

'Despite over a decade of reforming legislation and initiatives, the treatment of many children in care and those leaving the care system deserves to be a source of national shame. These children too often go on to experience lives characterised by unemployment, homelessness, mental illness

Nghymru yn derbyn gofal. Mae'r ffigur hwnnw wedi cynyddu 5% o'i gymharu â'r flwyddyn flaenorol a 20% dros y pum mlynedd blaenorol. Mae plant sy'n derbyn gofal yn cael canlyniadau seicolegol a chymdeithasol llawer gwaeth na'u cyfoedion. Canfu astudiaeth yn 2004 fod 49% o blant a phobl ifanc rhwng pump a 17 oed sy'n derbyn gofal gan awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru ag anhwylderau meddwl. Roedd gan 42% anhwylderau ymddygiad gydag arwyddocâd clinigol, roedd gan 10% anhwylderau emosiynol, fel pryder ac iselder, ac roedd 12% yn cael eu dynodi'n 'orfywiog'. Canfu astudiaeth arall fod nifer yr achosion o anhwylderau seiciatrig yn arbennig o uchel ymhlið y rheini sy'n byw mewn gofal preswyl ac a gaiff eu rhoi mewn nifer o leoliadau gwahanol. Ar lefel y DU, dangosodd ffigurau a gyhoeddwyd yn 2005 fod hyd at 41% o blant sy'n cael eu cadw yn y ddalfa wedi bod mewn gofal.

Canfu adroddiad Pwyllgor Plant, Ysgolion a Theuluoedd San Steffan fod y wladwriaeth yn methu o ran ei dyletswydd i weithredu fel rhiant i blant mewn gofal drwy beidio â'u diogelu'n ddigonol rhag camfanteisio rhywiol, digartrefedd a dechrau troseddu. Dywedodd yr adroddiad bod plant mewn gofal sy'n 10 oed neu'n hŷn yn fwy na dwywaith yn fwy tebygol o gael rhybudd neu o gael eu dyfarnu'n euog am droseddu, ac roedd yn beio'r Llywodraeth am

droseddoli pobl ifanc mewn gofal mewn modd anghymesur.

Datgelodd hefyd dystiolaeth o achosion o gam-fanteisio ar ferched mewn cartrefi preswyl a hosteli a oedd wedi'u trefnu a'u dargedu, a rhybuddiodd fod natur fregus pobl ifanc sy'n gadael gofal yn destun pryder mawr.

Dywedodd adroddiad y Ganolfan Cyflawnder Cymdeithasol, 'Couldn't Care Less':

Er gwaethaf dros ddegawd o ddeddfwriaeth a mentrau i ddiwygio'r drefn, dylai'r ffordd y caiff nifer o blant mewn gofal a'r rhai sy'n gadael y system gofal eu trin beri cywilydd cenedlaethol. Mae'r plant hyn yn rhy aml yn mynd ymlaen i fyw bywydau a nodweddir gan ddiweithdra, digartrefedd, salwch

and addiction'.

We are picking up these enormous costs through the criminal justice system and the health service, and they are set to rise. Its paper also shows that other countries seem to be much more responsive to the needs of the children who they have taken into care, often with better results. The NSPCC was right to emphasise that care can provide greater stability and better outcomes for some maltreated children, and the importance of comparing outcomes for looked-after children with those of a similar population. However, we also need to change the way that we look at children in care and at young people leaving care and how we live up to our responsibilities. As Ken Skates says, when things go wrong the cost to the state can often be enormous in later life because these individuals are ill-equipped to deal with the transition to independence.

During Stages 2 and 3 of the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, the Welsh Conservatives tabled an amendment that would have ensured that Welsh Ministers had regard to the transition period that children go through in their journey into becoming adults, who, by virtue of their age, cease to benefit from the protection of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to the need to plan for the transition into adult services. We believe that there is a need to carefully plan children's transition into adult services after they cease to be protected by the UNCRC, and, working with statutory and voluntary bodies, this Member-proposed Bill can develop many key areas for inclusion. It has our support.

Ann Jones: This Member-proposed Bill has the potential to show once more how backbench legislation can be made to effect positive and urgent reforms that will change lives. It is a huge responsibility, and I thank Ken Skates for introducing this Bill. I wait to watch his smile disappear as he goes through

meddwl a dibyniaeth.

Rydym yn talu'r costau enfawr hyn drwy'r system cyflawnder troseddol a'r gwasanaeth iechyd, a disgylir iddynt godi. Mae ei hadroddiad hefyd yn dangos ei bod yn ymddangos bod gwledydd eraill yn fwy ymatebol o lawer i anghenion y plant y maent wedi'u derbyn i ofal, ac yn aml ceir canlyniadau gwell yno. Roedd y Gymdeithas Genedlaethol er Atal Creulondeb i Blant yn iawn i bwysleisio y gallai gofal ddarparu mwy o sefydlogrwydd a chanlyniadau gwell i rai plant sydd wedi cael eu cam-drin, ac i bwysleisio pwysigrwydd cymharu canlyniadau plant sy'n derbyn gofal â chanlyniadau poblogaeth debyg. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni hefyd newid y ffordd rydym yn ystyried plant mewn gofal a phobl ifanc sy'n gadael gofal a sut rydym yn cyflawni ein cyfrifoldebau. Fel y dywed Ken Skates, pan aiff pethau o chwith, yn aml gall y gost i'r wladwriaeth fod yn enfawr yn ddiweddarach yn eu bywydau gan nad oes gan yr unigolion hyn y sgliau i ymdopi â bod yn annibynnol.

Yn ystod Camau 2 a 3 Mesur Hawliau Plant a Phobl Ifanc (Cymru) 2011, cyflwynodd y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig welliant a fyddai wedi sicrhau bod Gweinidogion Cymru yn rhoi sylw i'r cyfnod pontio y mae plant yn ei brofi ar eu taith i ddod yn oedolion—nid ydynt, oherwydd eu hoed, yn cael eu diogelu wedyn gan Gonfensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau'r Plentyn—ac hefyd i'r angen i gynllunio ar gyfer y cyfnod pontio wrth i bobl ifanc ddechrau defnyddio gwasanaethau oedolion. Rydym yn credu bod angen cynllunio'r cyfnod pan fydd plant yn dechrau defnyddio gwasanaethau oedolion yn ofalus, pan na fyddant yn cael eu diogelu gan y Confensiwn. Drwy weithio gyda chyrff statudol a gwirfoddol, gall y Bil arfaethedig Aelod hwn ddatblygu nifer o feysydd allweddol i'w cynnwys. Rydym yn ei gefnogi.

Ann Jones: Mae gan y Bil arfaethedig Aelod hwn y potensial i ddangos unwaith eto sut y gellir sicrhau bod deddfwriaeth mainc gefn yn rhoi diwygiadau cadarnhaol, brys ar waith a fydd yn newid bywydau. Mae'n gyfrifoldeb enfawr, ac rwyf yn diolch i Ken Skates am gyflwyno'r Bil hwn. Byddaf yn aros i weld ei

all the treacle that I went through in the previous Assembly. So, good luck to you.

I also echo the words of Ken Skates in paying tribute to Karen Sinclair. Without Karen's work, neither Ken nor anyone else would have been in a position to put forward this Bill. It is great that we have acknowledged the work that Karen Sinclair did previously. The Member in charge has already spoken about the complex nature of a young person's upbringing. There are enough coming-of-age literature and films out there to reflect that every family grapples with children's coming of age. We all make mistakes and have setbacks, but many of us are lucky enough to have a loving family around us, who will be there when we need them. The difference for looked-after children is an emotional one. Often, it is a very lonely experience.

The Staying Put pilot projects, set up in England in 2008, recognise that. The emphasis is placed on relationships and attachments, rather than on interventions and services. I hope that this Bill will be promoted in that same spirit. Transition should relate to where a young person is at the time, and it should not force them into a system of boxes being ticked at the age of 18. A system of box ticking cannot produce a lasting and positive transition. We need to ensure flexibility, so that if a young person feels that they want to return to care after they have gone out into the world, and wants to come back in because they have made the wrong decision, or have fallen on hard times, then they can return to that situation. Many young people rely on being able to return to the family home, often when they need a little more support.

The English pilot projects also suggest the need to establish specialist training for foster families and carers to aid what could be difficult transitions, and to ensure that young people are not trapped in care into adulthood. On the matter of approaching adulthood, it is important that young people feel in control of their transition. At present, regardless of the hard work and compassion of many foster families and social care staff, leaving care is something that happens to young people. It is

wên yn diflannu wrth iddo fynd drwy'r holl driog yr euthum drwyddo yn y Cynulliad blaenorol. Felly, pob lwc ichi.

Hoffwn innau hefyd adleisio geiriau Ken Skates wrth dalu teyrnged i Karen Sinclair. Heb waith Karen, ni fyddai Ken nac unrhyw un arall yn gallu cyflwyno'r Bil hwn. Mae'n wych ein bod wedi cydnabod y gwaith a wnaeth Karen Sinclair. Mae'r Aelod sy'n gyfrifol wedi siarad eisoes am natur gymhleth magwraeth person ifanc. Mae digon o lenyddiaeth a ffilmiau yn y byd i ddangos bod pob teulu yn ei chael yn anodd ymdrin â'r cyfnod pan fydd plant yn dod i oed. Rydym i gyd yn gwneud camgymeriadau ac yn wynebu anawsterau, ond mae nifer ohonom yn ddigon ffodus i gael teulu cariadus o'n cwmpas, a fydd yno pan fydd eu hangen arnom. Mae'r gwahaniaeth i blant sy'n derbyn gofal yn un emosiynol. Yn aml, mae'n brofiad unig iawn.

Mae prosiectau peilot Staying Put, a sefydlwyd yn Lloegr yn 2008, yn cydnabod hynny. Rhoddir y pwyslais ar berthnasau a chysylltiadau, yn hytrach nag ar ymyriadau a gwasanaethau. Rwyf yn gobeithio y bydd y Bil hwn yn cael ei hyrwyddo yn yr un ysbryd. Dylai pontio ymwneud â lle y mae person ifanc ar y pryd, ac ni ddylai ei orfodi i fynd i mewn i system o roi tic mewn blwch pan fydd yn 18 oed. Ni all system o roi tic mewn blwch greu newid parhaol a chadarnhaol. Mae angen inni sicrhau hyblygrwydd, fel bod person ifanc sy'n dymuno dychwelyd i ofal ar ôl iddo fynd allan i'r byd, ac sy'n awyddus i ddychwelyd gan ei fod wedi gwneud y penderfyniad anghywir neu'n cael pethau'n anodd, yn gallu dychwelyd i'r sefyllfa honno. Mae nifer o bobl ifanc yn dibynnau ar allu dychwelyd i gartref y teulu, yn aml pan fydd angen ychydig mwy o gefnogaeth arnynt.

Mae'r prosiectau peilot yn Lloegr hefyd yn awgrymu bod angen creu hyfforddiant arbenigol i deuluoedd a gofalwyr maeth i gynorthwyo gyda chyfnodau pontio a all fod yn anodd, ac i sicrhau nad yw pobl ifanc yn cael eu cadw mewn gofal pan fyddant yn oedolion. O ran dod yn oedolyn, mae'n bwysig bod pobl ifanc yn teimlo y gallant reoli'r cyfnod pontio. Ar hyn o bryd, er gwaethaf gwaith caled a thosturi nifer o deuluoedd maeth a staff gofal cymdeithasol,

done to them; it is not a process in their life.

mae gadael gofal yn rhywbeth sy'n digwydd i bobl ifanc. Mae'n cael ei wneud ar eu cyfer; nid yw'n broses yn eu bywyd.

This Bill will allow us to change that relationship so that care leavers are responsible for and are in control of their own futures. It is true of anybody that if you feel that you are being pushed around, either at home or in the workplace, then that will have a negative outcome or connotation. It is important that we stop that from happening. I am not saying that the transition of every person in care is wrong. I do not want to offend the professionals, because there are many good people out there who work with young people. The problem is one of unintended failure by the corporate parent.

Bydd y Bil hwn yn ein galluogi i newid y berthynas honno fel bod y rheini sy'n gadael gofal yn gyfrifol am eu dyfodol eu hunain ac yn ei reoli. Os ydych yn teimlo eich bod yn cael eich gorfodi i wneud pethau, boed hynny yn y cartref neu yn y gweithle, bydd canlyniad neu arwyddocâd negyddol i hynny. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn atal hynny rhag digwydd. Nid wyf yn dweud bod y cyfnod pontio i bob person mewn gofal yn anghywir. Nid wyf yn dymuno sarhau'r gweithwyr proffesiynol, oherwydd mae nifer o bobl dda sy'n gweithio gyda phobl ifanc. Mae'r broblem yn ymwneud â methiant anfwriadol ar ran y rhiant corfforaethol.

As I said earlier, as politicians, we are responsible for removing such problems when we discover them. As we debate this legislation, we could place duties on councils, which are the corporate parents. We need to understand the rationale for different approaches and look carefully at what support may already be in place for those who leave care. In England, some authorities look to support only those leavers in employment or training; a smaller group of authorities concentrate on supporting those who are not in employment or training.

Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, fel gwleidyddion, rydym yn gyfrifol am gael gwared ar broblemau o'r fath pan fyddwn yn eu canfod. Wrth inni drafod y ddeddfwriaeth hon, gallem osod dyletswyddau ar gynghorau, sef y rhieni corfforaethol. Mae angen inni ddeall y rhesymeg y tu ôl i ddulliau gwahanol ac ystyried yn ofalus y cymorth sydd eisoes ar gael ar gyfer y rhai sy'n gadael gofal. Yn Lloegr, mae rhai awdurdodau nad ydynt ond yn cefnogi'r rheini sydd mewn gwaith neu hyfforddiant; mae grŵp llai o awdurdodau yn canolbwytio ar gefnogi'r rheini nad ydynt mewn cyflogaeth neu hyfforddiant.

This Bill should not exclude the most isolated and vulnerable of our young people when approaching adulthood. It has the ability to change their lives. There is a lot more to this Bill than we could discuss, and it will be scrutinised. However, the potential to act sooner will make a real difference. For many people in care, let downs and disappointments characterise the first two decades of their lives. I have every faith that the Assembly, with the Welsh Government's support, will not add to that burden by rejecting the opportunities presented in this Bill proposed by Ken Skates.

Ni ddylai'r Bil hwn eithrio'r bobl ifanc sydd wedi'u hynysu fwyaf ac sydd fwyaf agored i niwed wrth iddynt agosáu at fod yn oedolion. Mae ganddo'r gallu i newid eu bywydau. Mae llawer mwy yn gysylltiedig â'r Bil hwn y gallem ei drafod, a bydd gwaith craffu yn cael ei wneud arno. Fodd bynnag, bydd y potentiai i weithredu'n gynt yn gwneud gwahaniaeth go iawn. Mae siomedigaethau yn nodweddu dau ddegawd cyntaf bywydau nifer o bobl mewn gofal. Mae gennyd bob ffydd na fydd y Cynulliad, a hynny gyda chymorth Llywodraeth Cymru, yn ychwanegu at y baich hwnnw drwy wrthod y cyfleoedd a gyflwynir yn y Bil arfaethedig a gynigiwyd gan Ken Skates.

Lindsay Whittle: I said yesterday—I am getting old now, I guess—that I was getting

Lindsay Whittle: Dywedais ddoe—rwyf yn mynd yn hen erbyn hyn, mae'n debyg—fy

fed up with confrontational politics. Well, at last, this is what we came to the Assembly for. I sincerely congratulate Ken Skates on this excellent proposal. If I were a Minister, I would no doubt shout, 'Praise the Lord'. For now, I will say, 'Praise Ken Skates'. I was privileged to have very loving parents, and for that I am thankful. They taught me to also look after other people, and that is why we are all here, regardless of our politics. I sometimes think that we should stop the kick about and the slap around.

3.30 p.m.

We should start getting down to things like this. I hope that in Wales we will be seen to be leaders in the field of care for looked-after children and young people, and not just followers. We do not want to be followers; we want to be leaders. In some European countries, such as Denmark, young people can be placed in care up to the age of 22. A recent statement by the UK Government accepted a report stating that remaining in care until at least the age of 21 should become routine. The United Kingdom Government also proposed that a personal adviser be provided to all care leavers up to the age of 25. We can do better in Wales than the UK Government, because I do not think that it will be there for long.

An important issue for us in Wales is to support young people after they leave care. They often leave with poorer life chances than other young people in terms of educational and skills attainment and, as a result, are more likely to become long-term unemployed and socially excluded. Some become involved in crime, which is in no-one's interest. It is vital that we take a lead in enabling young people with disabilities who leave care to have at least the same access to education, training and employment opportunities as other care leavers, although that level of support, as we are debating, needs to improve across Wales.

We should make it obligatory in any future Bill to consult with those young people. Ken

mod wedi cael llond bol ar wleidyddiaeth ymosodol. Wel, o'r diwedd, dyma pam y daethom i'r Cynulliad. Rwyf yn llongyfarch Ken Skates yn ddiffuant ar y cynnig gwych hwn. Pe bawn yn Weinidog, byddwn, yn ddiau, yn gweiddi, 'Mawl i Dduw'. Am y tro, dywedaf, 'Mawl i Ken Skates'. Cefais y faint o gael rhieni cariadus iawn, ac rwyf yn ddiolchgar am hynny. Gwnaethant fy nysgu hefyd i edrych ar ôl pobl eraill, a dyna pam ein bod i gyd yma, waeth beth fo ein safbwyt gwleidyddol. Weithiau rwyf yn credu y dylem roi'r gorau i gicio a ffraeo.

Dylem ddechrau mynd i'r afael â phethau fel hyn. Rwyf yn gobeithio y byddwn ni yng Nghymru yn cael ein gweld fel arweinwyr ym maes gofal ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc sy'n derbyn gofal, ac nid fel dilynwyr yn unig. Nid ydym am fod yn ddilynwyr; rydym am fod yn arweinwyr. Mewn rhai gwledydd Ewropeaidd, megis Denmarc, gall pobl ifanc fod mewn gofal hyd nes eu bod yn 22 oed. Mewn datganiad diweddar, derbyniodd Llywodraeth y DU adroddiad yn datgan y dylai ddod yn arfer bod pobl ifanc yn aros mewn gofal hyd nes eu bod yn o leiaf 21 oed. Hefyd, cynigiodd Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig y dylid darparu ymgynghorydd personol ar gyfer pawb sy'n gadael gofal hyd nes eu bod yn 25 oed. Gallwn ni wneud yn well yng Nghymru na Llywodraeth y DU, gan nad wyf yn credu y bydd yno'n hir.

Mater pwysig i ni yng Nghymru yw cefnogi pobl ifanc ar ôl iddynt adael gofal. Maent yn aml yn gadael gyda chyfleoedd bywyd gwaeth na phobl ifanc eraill o ran cyrhaeddiad addysgol a sgiliau ac, o ganlyniad, maent yn fwy tebygol o fod yn ddi-waith am gyfnod hir ac wedi'u heithrio'n gymdeithasol. Mae rhai'n troi at droseddu, ac nid yw hynny o fudd i unrhyw un. Mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn cymryd yr awenau o ran galluogi pobl ifanc ag anableddau sy'n gadael gofal i gael yr un mynediad i gyfleoedd addysg, hyfforddiant a chyflogaeth â phobl eraill sy'n gadael gofal, o leiaf, er bod angen gwella'r lefel o gefnogaeth ledled Cymru, yn unol â'n trafodaeth.

Dylem ei gwneud yn orfodol mewn unrhyw Fil yn y dyfodol i ymgynghori â'r bobl ifanc

Skates has already done so—I am sorry that I could not attend his event, but I did attend such events before becoming an AM. We should consult with those young people to seek their views on what actions need to be taken to improve their life chances, not once they have left care, but before they have left and before they are 18 years of age, in order to prepare them for greater independence. Any eventual Bill would make it obligatory, as Ann Jones has said, for all local authorities in Wales to offer extended care and support up to the age of 25 and only if necessary. Children placed in care are often already disadvantaged from a very early age. This Welsh Government must take steps to ensure that such disadvantages do not extend into early adulthood.

Young people in care, as has been said, are as precious as our own children. No matter what their age, you never stop loving and caring for your child and you never stop paying for them. I say that as a father who had a wedding to pay for last year and an MOT to pay on a car that I do not own. That should be the case for those young people in care who belong to our community and country. Most importantly, they should also belong to us in our hearts and minds. I am delighted to support Ken Skates's debate.

Aled Roberts: Hoffwn i hefyd ddiolch i Ken Skates ac, wrth wneud hynny, gydnabod gwaith Karen Sinclair, y bu iddo gyfeirio ati'n gynharach, fel cyn Aelod dros Dde Clwyd.

Mae rhan o'r gwaith y dylem ei wneud fel Cynulliad yn cael ei gynrychioli yn y Bil a drafodwn heddiw. Mae'n bleser dweud bod fy mhlaid yn cefnogi'r Bil ac yr ydym fel unigolion yn awyddus i'w weld yn llwyddo. Fodd bynnag, mae cwestiynau elfennol yn codi o waith Ken.

One of the most frustrating experiences that I have had, in a similar role to Lindsay's, was sitting on the corporate parenting panel in Wrexham. That authority had cross-party support for many innovative projects that we

hynny. Mae Ken Skates eisoes wedi gwneud hynny—roedd yn ddrwg gennyf na allwn fynd i'w ddigwyddiad, ond es i ddigwyddiadau o'r fath cyn i mi ddod yn Aelod Cynulliad. Dylem ymgynghori â'r bobl ifanc hynny i ofyn am eu barn am y camau y mae angen eu cymryd i wella eu cyfleoedd mewn bywyd, unwaith y byddant wedi gadael gofal, ond cyn iddynt adael a chyn eu bod yn 18 oed, er mwyn eu paratoi ar gyfer rhagor o annibyniaeth. Byddai unrhyw Fil yn y pen draw yn ei gwneud yn orfodol, fel y dywedodd Ann Jones, i bob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru gynnig gofal a chefnogaeth estynedig i bobl ifanc hyd nes eu bod yn 25 oed a dim ond os oes eu hangen arnynt. Mae plant mewn gofal yn aml o dan anfantais eisoes o oedran cynnar iawn. Rhaid i Lywodraeth Cymru gymryd camau i sicrhau nad yw anfanteision o'r fath yn ymestyn i'w blynnyddoedd cynnar fel oedolion.

Mae pobl ifanc mewn gofal, fel y dywedwyd, yr un mor werthfawr â'n plant ni ein hunain. Ni waeth beth yw eu hoed, nid ydych byth yn rhoi'r gorau i garu a gofalu am eich plentyn ac nid ydych byth yn rhoi'r gorau i dalu amdanynt. Dywedaf hynny fel tad a dalodd am briodas llynedd ac am MOT i gar nad wyl yn berchen arno. Dylai hynny fod yn wir ar gyfer y bobl ifanc mewn gofal sy'n perthyn i'n cymuned a'n gwlad. Yn bwysicaf oll, dylent hefyd fod yn perthyn i ni yn ein calonau a'n meddyliau. Mae'n bleser gennyf gefnogi dadl Ken Skates.

Aled Roberts: I, too, would like to thank Ken Skates and, in doing so, recognise the work done by Karen Sinclair, whom he mentioned earlier, as the former Member for Clwyd South.

Part of the work that we should be doing as an Assembly is represented in the Bill being discussed today. It is a pleasure to say that my party supports the Bill and that we, as individuals, are eager to ensure its success. However, some fundamental questions arise from Ken's work.

Un o'r profiadau mwyaf rhwystredig rwyl wedi ei gael, mewn rôl debyg i Lindsay, oedd eistedd ar y panel rhianta corfforaethol yn Wrecsam. Roedd gan yr awdurdod hwnnw gefnogaeth drawsbleidiol ar gyfer nifer o

introduced. For example, we put a great deal of money into providing a therapeutic fostering care service. However, if we look at almost all of the statistics that reflect the life chances of looked-after children, they are a damning indictment of all our roles as politicians in Wales. That is not an attempt to castigate Government, but it makes for sorry reading.

One of the most powerful experiences that you can have as a politician is listening to young people like those to whom we listened on Monday evening explaining the practical difficulties that they face because of the system that they are in and the bureaucracy that they face. Unfortunately, that was my experience on many occasions in my role as a member of the corporate parenting panel in Wrexham. If we are going to change these young people's lives, it is very important that we do not accept platitudes and pass strategic documents. It is important that we do what we say on the tin. That will mean some very difficult practical scenarios, which were referred to on Monday, and which were picked up by Joyce Watson. I know full well that, when we went to set up a therapeutic fostering service in Wrexham, we had difficulty in convincing local people about the nature of the service that was being provided. That meant that there was a delay of some 18 months before we were able to roll out the service. It is those kinds of practical issues that we need to confront as part of this Bill.

The reality also is that we need to have an understanding. My party committed itself in the 2007 and 2011 manifestos to extend the responsibility for looked-after children to the age of 21. I note from Ken's briefing the other day that he has left the age element open at this stage, presumably because he wants to look at the possibility of extending that to the age of 25 if that is the general feeling behind the Bill. However, we need to understand the consequences of any of the Bills that we pass on what are already stretched budgets at local authority level. It would be no good us as an Assembly passing a Bill that we know full well in practice has little or no prospect of being delivered on the

brosiectau arloesol a gyflwynwyd gennym. Er enghraifft, rhoddwyd llawer iawn o arian gennym i ddarparu gwasanaeth gofal maeth therapiwtig. Fodd bynnag, os edrychwn ar bron pob un o'r ystadegau sy'n adlewyrchu cyfleoedd bywyd plant sy'n derbyn gofal, maent yn adlewyrchiad damniol o'n rolau ni i gyd fel gwleidyddion yng Nghymru. Nid ymgais i geryddu'r Llywodraeth yw hwn, ond mae'r ystadegau'n rhai truenus.

Un o'r profiadau mwyaf pwerus y gallwch ei gael fel gwleidydd yw gwrandu ar bobl ifanc fel y rhai y bûm yn gwrandu arnynt nos Lun yn esbonio'r anawsterau ymarferol y maent yn eu hwynebu oherwydd y system y maent yn rhan ohoni a'r fiwrocratiaeth y maent yn ei hwynebu. Yn anffodus, dyna oedd fy mhrofiad i ar sawl achlysur yn fy rôl fel aelod o'r panel rhianta corfforaethol yn Wrecsam. Os ydym yn mynd i newid bywydau'r bobl ifanc hyn, mae'n bwysig iawn nad ydym yn derbyn ystrydebau ac yn pasio dogfennau strategol. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn gwneud yr hyn rydym yn dweud y byddwn yn ei wneud. Bydd hynny'n golygu rhai sefyllfaedd ymarferol anodd iawn, y cyfeiriwyd atynt ddydd Llun, ac a gafodd eu codi gan Joyce Watson. Rwyf yn gwybod yn iawn pan aethom ati i sefydlu gwasanaeth maeth therapiwtig yn Wrecsam, cawsom anawsterau o ran argyhoeddi pobl leol ynghylch natur y gwasanaeth a oedd yn cael ei ddarparu. Roedd hynny'n golygu y bu oedi o tua 18 mis cyn inni allu cyflwyno'r gwasanaeth. Y mae angen inni fynd i'r afael â'r mathau hynny o faterion ymarferol fel rhan o'r Bil hwn.

Y gwirionedd hefyd yw bod angen inni gael dealltwriaeth. Yn ein maniffestos ar gyfer 2007 a 2011, ymrwymodd fy mhlaid i ymestyn y cyfrifoldeb dros blant sy'n derbyn gofal hyd nes eu bod yn 21 oed. Sylwais fod Ken, yn ei gyflwyniad ychydig ddyddiau yn ôl, wedi gadael yr elfen oedran ar agor am y tro, yn ôl pob tebyg oherwydd ei fod yn awyddus i edrych ar y posiblwydd o'i hymestyn i 25 oed os mai dyna yw'r teimlad cyffredinol y tu ôl i'r Bil. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni ddeall goblygiadau unrhyw un o'r Biliau rydym yn eu pasio ar gyfer cyllidebau sydd eisoes o dan bwysau ar lefel awdurdodau lleol. Ni fyddai o fudd inni fel Cynulliad basio Bil rydym yn gwybod yn

ground. That is why, as individual Members, we need to be part of the debate on the age limit.

I welcome the opportunity that we have to change young people's lives. My view is that the mark of a civilised society—the society that we are all, hopefully, trying to achieve here in Wales—is the care given to the most vulnerable people. The kind of statistics that Ken has given us this afternoon, whether on the number of looked-after children who end up in the prison system or the educational attainment of children who have been put through the care system, are not good enough in the twenty-first century.

However, we must accept that local authorities, in practice, would be unwilling to provide the step change that we require unless the resources are provided. The reality is that the increase in the number of child protection referrals, following the baby P scenario, means that we have to be very careful in debating the implications of the extra commitments that we are asking of local authorities.

Joyce Watson: In the United States of America, there is a saying that 'if you haven't got a problem, boy you've got a problem'. It is a fact that we can all recognise if we take the time to think about it; if we treat something as a problem, then it is, or it becomes, a problem. Talking about the care system as a problem will make it a problem, but when a young person leaves the care system, we should not see them as a problem that needs solving. When a young person leaves the care system, they are not a financial burden or a political headache. Have we not as a society the duty to adopt strategies that make us able to support young people who have been brought up in care? Is it more than a duty? I think that it is. It should be a pleasure and a celebration of success.

That was the message that I took from the meeting on Monday, at which I joined Ken Skates, the Member for Clwyd South, and listened to a group of looked-after children

iawn nad oes ganddo lawer o siawns, os o gwbl, o gael ei weithredu ar lawr gwlad. Dyna pam, fel Aelodau unigol, mae angen inni fod yn rhan o'r drafodaeth ar y terfyn oedran.

Rwyf yn croesawu'r cyfle sydd gennym i newid bywydau pobl ifanc. Fy marn i yw mai arwydd o gymdeithas wâr—y gymdeithas rydym i gyd, rwyf yn gobeithio, yn ceisio ei sicrhau yma yng Nghymru—yw'r gofal a roddir i'r bobl fwyaf agored i niwed. Nid yw'r math o ystadegau y mae Ken wedi eu rhoi inni'r prynhawn yma, p'un a ydynt ar y nifer o blant sy'n derbyn gofal a fydd yn mynd i mewn i'r system garchar yn y pen draw neu ar gyrhaeddiad addysgol y plant a fu drwy'r system gofal, yn ddigon da yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain.

Fodd bynnag, mae'n rhaid inni dderbyn y bydd awdurdodau lleol, yn ymarferol, yn amharod i wneud y newid sylweddol sydd ei angen arnom oni fydd yr adnoddau'n cael eu darparu. Y gwirionedd yw bod y cynnydd yn nifer yr atgyfeiriadau amddiffyn plant, yn dilyn achos babi P, yn golygu bod yn rhaid inni fod yn ofalus iawn wrth drafod goblygiadau'r ymrwymiadau ychwanegol rydym yn eu gosod ar awdurdodau lleol.

Joyce Watson: Yn Unol Daleithiau America, maent yn dweud os nad oes gennych broblem, yna mae gennych broblem. Mae'n ffaith y gall pob un ohonom ei chydnabod os cymerwn amser i feddwl am y peth; os byddwn yn trin rhywbeth fel problem, yna y mae'n broblem, neu mae'n dod yn broblem. Bydd siarad am y system ofal fel problem yn ei gwneud yn broblem, ond pan fydd person ifanc yn gadael y system ofal, ni ddylem ei weld fel problem y mae angen ei datrys. Pan fydd person ifanc yn gadael y system ofal, nid yw'n faich ariannol neu'n gur pen gwleidyddol. Onid yw'n ddyletswydd arnom fel cymdeithas i fabwysiadu strategaethau sy'n rhoi'r gallu inni gefnogi pobl ifanc sydd wedi eu magu mewn gofal? A yw'n fwy na ddyletswydd? Rwyf yn credu ei fod. Dylai fod yn bleser ac yn ddathliad o lwyddiant.

Dyna oedd y neges a gefais o'r cyfarfod ddydd Llun, lle ymunais â Ken Skates, yr Aelod dros Dde Clwyd, a gwrandawais ar grŵp o blant sy'n derbyn gofal a oedd yn dod

who were approaching the end of their time in care. The strategies can be discussed in time. In the briefing paper that Ken Skates has provided for today's debate, there are useful and helpful suggestions. What we need to firmly establish today is the principle behind the strategy. We need to agree that young people who have been in care deserve, between the ages of 18 and 25, the support that will enable them to make the most of the opportunities that present themselves during the early years of their adult life if they wish to. In short, we need to agree that young people who have been in care should be afforded the support that we take for granted in our families—much has been made of that here already.

When research shows that almost half of all middle-class young people are still financially dependent on their parents into their mid-20s, it is hardly surprising that young people find the prospect of leaving care before they feel ready extremely frightening. That cannot be the right situation for those young people. The Children's Commissioner for Wales's report raises important questions, but one aspect of support that I hope we will be able to look at under the Bill is the £2,000 higher education bursary. We should look to introduce a broader bursary system to support those looked-after children going into post-16 further education, vocational training and apprenticeships as well as those going into higher education. However, that is a debate for another day. As I have said, today is about establishing the principle that young people who are in care should be empowered to decide how and when they make the transition to living independently. That should not be cast off when the ties have been cut.

I commend the Bill and I congratulate Ken Skates on his imagination, dedication and hard work in bringing it forward.

Byron Davies: I wanted to take part in this debate. Much of what I wanted to say has already been said, so I will make a short but

at ddiwedd eu cyfnod mewn gofal. Gellir trafod y strategaethau maes o law. Yn y papur briffio a ddarparwyd gan Ken Skates ar gyfer y ddadl heddiw, ceir awgrymiadau defnyddiol a chynorthwyol. Yr hyn y mae angen inni ei sefydlu'n gadarn heddiw yw'r egwyddor y tu ôl i'r strategaeth. Mae angen inni gytuno bod pobl ifanc rhwng 18 a 25 oed a fu mewn gofal yn haeddu cymorth a fydd yn eu galluogi i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar y cyfleoedd a ddaw i'w rhan yn ystod blynnyddoedd cynnar eu bywyd fel oedolion, os ydynt yn dymuno gwneud hynny. Yn fyr, mae angen inni gytuno y dylai pobl ifanc a fu mewn gofal gael y gefnogaeth rydym yn ei chymryd yn ganiataol o fewn ein teuluoedd—mae llawer wedi'i ddweud ar y pwynt hwnnw eisoes.

Pan fo gwaith ymchwil yn dangos bod bron i hanner yr holl bobl ifanc dosbarth canol yn dal i fod yn ddibynnol yn ariannol ar eu rhieni hyd nes eu bod ynghanol eu 20au, nid yw'n syndod bod pobl ifanc yn gweld y syniad o adael gofal cyn eu bod yn teimlo'n wir barod i wneud hynny fel un brawychus. Ni all y sefyllfa hon fod yn ddelfrydol i'r bobl ifanc hynny. Mae adroddiad Comisiynydd Plant Cymru yn codi cwestiynau pwysig, ond un agwedd ar gefnogaeth rwyf yn gobeithio y byddwn yn gallu edrych arni o dan y Bil yw'r fwrsariaeth addysg uwch o £2,000. Dylem edrych ar gyflwyno system fwrsariaeth ehangach i gefnogi'r plant hynny sy'n derbyn gofal ac yn mynd i mewn i addysg bellach ôl-16, hyfforddiant galwedigaethol a phrentisiaethau, yn ogystal â'r rhai sy'n gwneud cyrsiau addysg uwch. Fodd bynnag, mae hynny'n ddadl ar gyfer diwrnod arall. Fel y dywedais, mae'r ddadl heddiw'n ymwneud a sefydlu'r egwyddor y dylai pobl ifanc sydd mewn gofal gael eu grymuso i benderfynu sut a phryd y maent yn gwneud y newid i fyw'n annibynnol. Ni ddylid cefnu ar yr egwyddor honno pan fydd y cysylltiadau wedi cael eu torri.

Cymeradwyaf y Bil hwn ac rwyf yn llongyfarch Ken Skates ar ei ddychymyg, ei ymroddiad a'i waith caled wrth ei gyflwyno.

Byron Davies: Roeddwn eisiau cymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon. Mae llawer o'r hyn roeddwn eisiau ei ddweud eisoes wedi'i ddweud, felly

sincere contribution and pay a genuine tribute to Ken Skates for raising this important issue as his Member-proposed Bill—a Bill, of course, that we on this side of the Chamber support fully. We look forward to working alongside you, Ken, in turning it into legislation.

I am sure that all Assembly Members have dealt with cases where the care of a young person could have been far more successful, and have unfortunately been left wondering what could have been done to give young people looked after by local authorities more security in life. This is an important and essential step forward that will provide these young people with stability as they enter the working world. A requirement for continuing contact until they reach the age of 25 is extremely welcome. Indeed, I am only too aware of how badly wrong a young person's life can go without proper support. It goes without saying that the support and assistance that we provide to our future generations is key to our nation's fabric, economically and morally.

As I suggested, the pertinent points about this Bill have already been made by others in this Chamber, and I do not want to repeat them for the sake of it. So, at this juncture, I wish this Bill and its champion, Ken Skates, well on the journey towards legislation. I will end by emphasising again that continuity of care is essential, and I hope that this Bill will in some way assist the most vulnerable in society to achieve their true potential.

David Melding: I, too, pour praise over Ken Skates—I think that he has been showered in it this afternoon. However, I thought that his speech, appropriately, was poignant, thoughtful and relevant. I also think that it was right for him to refer, as he did in a very kind way, to Karen Sinclair, as have other Members. When Karen was afflicted with serious illness, she continued to work hard as a member of the all-party group on looked-after children. In fact, she took up a

byddaf yn gwneud cyfraniad byr ond diffuant ac yn talu teyrnged i Ken Skates am godi'r mater pwysig hwn fel Bil arfaethedig Aelod—sydd, wrth gwrs, yn Fil rydym ni ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambra yn ei gefnogi'n llawn. Rydym yn edrych ymlaen at weithio ochr yn ochr â chi, Ken, wrth droi hwn yn ddeddfwriaeth.

Rwyf yn siŵr bod holl Aelodau'r Cynulliad wedi delio ag achosion lle y gallai'r gofal a roddwyd i berson ifanc fod wedi'i ddarparu mewn ffordd llawer mwy llwyddiannus, ac yn anffodus maent wedi cael eu gadael yn meddwl beth y gellid fod wedi'i wneud i sicrhau bod bywydau pobl ifanc sy'n derbyn gofal gan awdurdodau lleol yn fwy diogel. Mae hwn yn gam pwysig a hanfodol ymlaen a fydd yn cynnig sefydlogrwydd i'r bobl ifanc hynny wrth iddynt fynd i mewn i'r byd gwaith. Mae'r gofyniad ar gyfer parhau i gysylltu â hwy hyd nes iddynt gyrraedd 25 oed yn un i'w groesawu'n fawr. Yn wir, rwyf ond yn rhy ymwybodol o ba mor ddifrifol wael y gall bywyd person ifanc fod heb gefnogaeth briodol. Afraid dweud bod y gefnogaeth a'r cymorth a ddarparwn i genedlaethau'r dyfodol yn allweddol i sylfaen ein cenedl, yn economaidd ac yn foesol.

Fel yr awgrymais, mae pobl eraill yn y Siambra hon eisoes wedi gwneud y pwyntiau perthnasol am y Bil hwn, ac nid wyf am eu hailadrodd heb fod angen. Felly, rwyf yn dymuno'r gorau i'r Bil hwn a'i hyrwyddwr, Ken Skates, ar y daith tuag at ddod yn ddeddfwriaeth. Byddaf yn gorffen drwy bwysleisio unwaith eto bod dilyniant gofal yn hanfodol, ac rwyf yn gobeithio y bydd y Bil hwn mewn rhyw ffordd yn cynorthwyo'r rhai sydd fwyaf agored i niwed mewn cymdeithas i gyflawni eu gwir botensial.

David Melding: Rwyf i hefyd am ganmol Ken Skates yn fawr—rwyf yn credu ei fod wedi cael llawer o glod y prynhawn yma. Fodd bynnag, yn fy marn i—yn briodol—roedd ei araith yn deimladwy, yn feddylgar ac yn berthnasol. Rwyf hefyd yn credu ei bod yn iawn iddo gyfeirio, fel y gwnaeth mewn ffordd garedig iawn, at Karen Sinclair, fel y gwnaeth Aelodau eraill. Pan gafodd Karen ei heffeithio gan salwch difrifol, parhaodd i weithio'n galed fel aelod o'r grŵp

groundbreaking study on the nature of corporate parenting, and much of that is informing this debate. I therefore think that this Bill, should it go forward, would be a fitting tribute to Karen's work over many years as an Assembly Member.

It is clear that transition is crucial. Early adult life brings wonderful joys and new experiences, but it is also a very challenging time for everyone. This is the case for all looked-after children as they become care leavers, but their challenges are often greater than those most of us have to face at that age. We have to preserve all the good practice that we hope they are receiving more of in schools and in stable placements, and in the support that they get, along with the health advice and all sorts of other things.

hollbleidiol ar blant sy'n derbyn gofal. Yn wir, dechreuodd astudiaeth arloesol ar natur rhianta corfforaethol, ac mae llawer ohono'n dylanwadu ar y ddadl hon. Felly, rwyf yn credu y byddai'r Bil hwn, os caiff ei basio, yn deyrnged briodol i waith Karen dros nifer o flynyddoedd fel Aelod Cynulliad.

Mae'n amlwg bod y cyfnod pontio yn hanfodol. Mae cyfnod cynnar bywyd oedolion ifanc yn dod â llawenydd rhyfeddol a phrofiadau newydd, ond mae hefyd yn amser heriol iawn i bawb. Mae hyn yn wir ar gyfer yr holl blant sy'n derbyn gofal wrth iddynt adael y gofal hwnnw, ond mae eu heriau yn aml yn fwy na'r rhai y mae'r rhan fwyaf ohonom yn gorfod eu hwynnebu pan fyddwn yr un oed. Mae'n rhaid inni warchod yr holl arfer da rydym yn gobeithio eu bod yn derbyn mwy ohono mewn ysgolion ac mewn lleoliadau sefydlog, ac yn y gefnogaeth y maent yn ei chael, ynghyd â chyngor ar iechyd a phob math o bethau eraill.

3.45 p.m.

However, in any system we need to ensure that social contacts and all that good practice are maintained. If a care leaver wishes to remain under care until the age of 21, or perhaps even 22 or 23, why not? That is more or less what most people experience when they return to their parental home if they are in full-time education, for instance. That is a more realistic reflection of what happens out there in society. Why should looked-after children be any different? It is about preserving these contacts, these friendships, these sources of advice—that is what keeps people strong and healthy, and it sets high aspirations for them. That ought to be part of corporate parenting: high aspirations for these people in care. Far too often we accept that, because this is a group that can be difficult to help, due to past experiences, they will not do well in their GCSEs, and will not do well enough at A-level to become doctors, or enter medical training. That is what we have to end. The casework that I have had from care leavers, and sometimes from children still in care, shows that they have the same range of abilities as the general population. They can have outstanding intellectual gifts, but you wonder, when you are trying to help them, how much of their

Fodd bynnag, mewn unrhyw system mae angen inni sicrhau bod cysylltiadau cymdeithasol a'r holl arfer da hwnnw'n cael eu cynnal. Os yw rhywun sy'n gadael gofal yn dymuno aros mewn gofal tan eu bod yn 21 oed, neu effalai hyd yn oed yn 22 neu 23 oed, pam lai? Dyna fwy neu lai'r hyn y mae'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn ei brofi pan fyddant yn dychwelyd i gartref eu rhieni os ydynt mewn addysg amser llawn, er enghraifft. Mae hynny'n adlewyrchiad mwy realistig o'r hyn sy'n digwydd yng nghymdeithas. Pam y dylai plant sy'n derbyn gofal fod yn wahanol? Mae'n rhaid diogelu'r cysylltiadau hyn, y perthnasau hyn gyda chyfeillion, y ffynonellau cyngor hyn—dyna sy'n cadw pobl yn gryf ac yn iach, ac mae'n gosod dyheadau uchel ar eu cyfer. Dylai hynny fod yn rhan o rianta corfforaethol: dyheadau uchel ar gyfer y bobl hyn sydd mewn gofal. Yn llawer rhy aml, rydym yn derbyn na fydd aelodau'r grŵp hwn yn gwneud yn dda yn eu harholiadau TGAU, ac na fyddant yn gwneud yn ddigon da mewn arholiadau Safon Uwch i fod yn feddygon, neu i ddechrau hyfforddiant meddygol, gan y gall fod yn grŵp sy'n anodd ei helpu, oherwydd profiadau yn y gorffennol. Mae'n rhaid inni ddod â hynny i ben. Mae'r gwaith achos rwyf wedi ei gael

potential will not be realised because of the simple fact that they are in care and, for whatever reason, are not in a parental home, or have suffered bereavement—whatever the situation is. That is a sign that we must do much better.

Christine Chapman: You talk about particular careers, like medicine, and the fact that these young people can reach their potential, but sometimes it is not just down to the qualifications, but the wider experiences where a supportive family can make a difference. That is why this debate is so important—it should reflect those wider experiences and the support that these young people should receive.

David Melding: You make a very good point, particularly about what we should expect to deliver, and the need for effective advocacy, and role models—people who have succeeded in life and have had high aspirations despite being in the care system. They are out there. There are some famous people who would be quite happy to do more work in terms of inspiring as role models. In education, employment, or any sphere of life, if your housing is uncertain, then you are in a precarious situation. That is key. How many of us have spoken to people at university who face a miserable situation once the term ends because they cannot return to a parental home? We need to look at those pinch points. I think that maintaining placements is often the best route, and again, we should not be shackled by old-fashioned concepts, such as the idea that we cannot pay foster carers any expenses after the age of 18. Why not? We need a much more flexible and imaginative system than that.

Finally, I welcome what the Deputy Minister said. I have no doubt about the Deputy Minister's commitment on these issues, but there was a slight reservation in what the

gan bobl sy'n gadael gofal, ac weithiau gan blant sy'n dal mewn gofal, yn dangos bod ganddynt yr un ystod o alluoedd â'r boblogaeth yn gyffredinol. Gallant gael talentau deallusol rhagorol, ond pan ydych yn ceisio eu helpu, rydych yn meddwl tybed faint o'u potensial na fydd yn cael ei wireddu oherwydd y ffaith syml eu bod mewn gofal ac, am ba reswm bynnag, nad ydynt mewn cartref gyda rhiant, neu efallai eu bod wedi dioddef profedigaeth—beth bynnag fo'r sefyllfa. Mae hynny'n arwydd bod yn rhaid inni wneud yn llawer gwell.

Christine Chapman: Rydych yn sôn am yrfaedd penodol, megis meddygaeth, a'r ffaith y gall y bobl ifanc hyn gyrraedd eu potensial, ond weithiau nid dim ond y cymwysterau sy'n cyfrif, ond y profiadau ehangach lle y gall teulu cefnogol wneud gwahaniaeth. Dyna pam y mae'r ddadl hon mor bwysig—dylai adlewyrchu'r profiadau ehangach a'r cymorth y dylai'r bobl ifanc hyn eu cael.

David Melding: Rydych yn gwneud pwynt da iawn, yn arbennig am yr hyn y dylem fod yn disgwyl ei ddarparu, a'r angen am eiriolaeth effeithiol a modelau rôl—pobl sydd wedi llwyddo mewn bywyd ac sydd wedi bod â dyheadau uchel er eu bod yn y system ofal. Maent yn bodoli. Mae rhai pobl enwog a fyddai'n ddigon hapus i wneud mwy o waith o ran ysbrydoli fel modelau rôl. Ym maes addysg, cyflogaeth, neu unrhyw agwedd ar fywyd, os yw ble rydych yn byw yn ansicr, rydych mewn sefyllfa ansicr. Mae hynny'n allweddol. Sawl un ohonom sydd wedi siarad â phobl yn y brifysgol sy'n wynebu sefyllfa ddiflas unwaith y bydd y tymor yn dod i ben oherwydd nad ydynt yn gallu dychwelyd i gartref eu rhieni neu riant? Mae angen inni edrych ar yr agweddu anodd hynny. Credaf mai cynnal lleoliadau yw'r ffordd orau yn aml, ac unwaith eto, ni ddylem gael ein llyffetheirio gan gysyniadau hen-ffasiwn, megis y syniad na allwn dalu unrhyw dreuliau i ofalwyr maeth ar ôl iddynt droi'n 18 oed. Pam lai? Mae angen system lawer mwy hyblyg a dychmygus na hynny arnom.

Yn olaf, croesawaf yr hyn a ddywedodd y Dirprwy Weinidog. Nid oes gennyf unrhyw amheuaeth yngylch ymrwymiad y Dirprwy Weinidog ar y materion hyn, ond roedd

Deputy Minister said right at the end, that perhaps the best vehicle would be for a new scheme to come forward. I myself think that the best vehicle to mark the importance of this issue would be a Bill, and I thought that you were just keeping a door open to another route, possibly. While we must always focus on the outcome, I do think that this area deserves its own specific, bespoke legislation, and I wish Ken Skates well.

ychydig o ymatal yn yr hyn a ddywedodd y Dirprwy Weinidog ar y diwedd, sef mai cyflwyno cynllun newydd fyddai'r ffordd orau ymlaen, efallai. Yn bersonol, rwyf yn credu mai drwy Fil y gellid nodi pwysigrwydd y mater hwn orau, ac roeddw yn meddwl nad oeddech ond yn cadw'r glwyd yn agored i lwybr arall, o bosibl. Er bod rhaid inni ganolbwytio ar y canlyniad bob amser, credaf fod y maes hwn yn haeddu ei ddeddfwriaeth benodol a phwrpasol ei hun, a dymunaf yn dda i Ken Skates.

Kenneth Skates: I thank Members for their excellent and knowledgeable contributions to today's important debate. Expressions of support from all parties have been fantastic, and I hope that this gives hope and reassurance to vulnerable people. I would also like to thank the myriad of third sector groups and organisations that I have engaged with over the last few months, including Action for Children, NSPCC Cymru, Barnardo's Cymru, Fostering Network Wales, Children in Wales, and, of course, the Children's Commissioner for Wales. My predecessor, Karen Sinclair, did a lot of comprehensive work on this issue, and the expertise of many professionals and recent care leavers that I have spoken to have aided my research immensely. I thank them wholeheartedly. I would particularly like to thank the Deputy Minister, Gwenda Thomas, and her officials for meeting with me over the last few months and for setting out the Government's position. I am delighted by her commitment to vote for this motion. I could not have wished for a better partner in Government to work with on this issue. I look forward to continuing this good work.

Kenneth Skates: Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Aelodau am eu cyfraniadau rhagorol a gwybodus i'r ddadl bwysig hon heddiw. Mae'r datganiadau o gefnogaeth gan bob plaid wedi bod yn wych, ac rwyf yn gobeithio bod hyn yn rhoi gobaith a sicrwydd i bobl sy'n agored i niwed. Hoffwn hefyd ddiolch i'r myrdd o grwpiau a sefydliadau trydydd sector rwyf wedi ymgysylltu â hwy dros y misoedd diwethaf, gan gynnwys Gweithredu dros Blant, NSPCC Cymru, Barnardo's Cymru, Rhwydwaith Maethu Cymru, Plant yng Nghymru, ac, wrth gwrs, Comisiynydd Plant Cymru. Gwnaeth fy rhagflaenydd, Karen Sinclair, lawer o waith cynhwysfawr ar y mater hwn, ac mae arbenigedd llawer o weithwyr proffesiynol a phobl sydd wedi gadael gofal yn ddiweddar yr wyf wedi siarad â hwy wedi helpu fy ngwaith ymchwil yn fawr iawn. Rwyf yn diolch iddynt o waelod calon. Yn benodol, hoffwn ddiolch i'r Dirprwy Weinidog, Gwenda Thomas, a'i swyddogion am gyfarfod â mi dros y misoedd diwethaf ac am amlinellu safbwyt y Llywodraeth. Rwyf wrth fy modd gyda'i hymrwymiad i bleidleisio o blaidd y cynnig. Ni allwn fod wedi dymuno gweithio gyda phartner gwell yn y Llywodraeth ar y mater hwn. Rwyf yn edrych ymlaen at barhau â'r gwaith da.

If I may, Presiding Officer, I would like to address as many points raised in today's debate as possible. First, I would like to thank Mark Isherwood for his facts and outstanding sources, which pointed to the considerable public cost of essentially writing off vulnerable people when they leave care. In a recent report entitled 'In Loco Parentis', Demos mapped out the cost to the taxpayer of the transition and post-care journeys of two children, both living outside London, and

Os caf, Lywydd, hoffwn fynd i'r afael â chymaint o'r pwyntiau a godwyd yn y ddadl heddiw ag y bo modd. Yn gyntaf, hoffwn ddiolch i Mark Isherwood am ei ffeithiau a ffynonellau rhagorol, a dynnodd sylw at y gost gyhoeddus sylweddol sydd ynghlwm wrth gefnu ar bobl sy'n agored i niwed, i bob pwrrpas, pan fyddant yn gadael gofal. Mewn adroddiad diweddar sy'n dwyn y teitl 'In Loco Parentis', amcangyfrifodd Demos gost cyfnod pontio ac ôl-ofal dau o blant i'r

examined the cost to the state from the age of 16 to 30. One child, who stayed in care until she was 18 and then went on to university and secured a graduate job, cost the state about £20,000 by the age of 30. The second child left care at 16 and a half and cost the state £111,000 as a result of underemployment, unemployment and mental health problems. This shows a massive difference. A small investment upfront offers a potential saving of around £90,000 in just one child. If you replicate this for the 500 children who leave care each year, and there is potentially a massive saving to the public purse.

trethdalwr, ill dau yn byw y tu allan i Lundain, ac archwiliodd y gost i'r wladwriaeth yn y cyfnod pan oeddent rhwng 16 a 30 oed. Gwnaeth un plentyn, a arhosodd mewn gofal nes ei bod yn 18 oed ac a aeth ymlaen i'r brifysgol a chael swydd i raddedigion, gestio tua £20,000 i'r wladwriaeth erbyn ei bod yn 30 oed. Gadawodd yr ail blentyn ofal yn 16 a hanner oed a chostiodd £111,000 i'r wladwriaeth o ganlyniad i dangyflogaeth, diweithdra a phroblemau iechyd meddwl. Dengys hyn wahaniaeth enfawr. Gall fuddsoddiad bychan cynnar mewn un plentyn yn unig gynnig arbedion o tua £90,000. Pe baech yn ailadrodd hyn ar gyfer y 500 o blant sy'n gadael gofal bob blwyddyn, efallai y byddai'n bosibl arbed swm enfawr i'r pwrs cyhoeddus.

Ann Jones mentioned the Staying Put scheme, which is an excellent precedent. A lot of interesting work is being done in this area. The background to the Staying Put scheme is that 11 local authorities in England set up systems to look at foster carers offering help and support to allow children to remain there until they reach the age of 21. It will be very interesting to see the outcomes of those pilot schemes. However, the early indications are that the Staying Put pilot schemes have led to more young people engaging, or re-engaging, with education, employment and training. Young people have said that they feel more in control of their destinies. That is important, as we learned on Monday when we met looked-after children.

Crybwylodd Ann Jones y cynllun Staying Put, sy'n gynsail ardderchog. Mae llawer o waith diddorol yn cael ei wneud yn y maes hwn. Cefndir y cynllun Staying Put yw bod 11 awdurdod lleol yn Lloegr yn sefydlu systemau fel bod gofalwyr maeth yn cynnig cymorth a chefnogaeth i alluogi plant i aros gyda hwy nes iddynt gyrraedd 21 oed. Bydd yn ddiddorol iawn gweld canlyniadau'r cynlluniau peilot hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae'r arwyddion cynnar yn dangos bod cynlluniau peilot Staying Put wedi arwain at fwy o bobl ifanc yn ymgysylltu, neu'n ailymgysylltu, ag addysg, cyflogaeth a hyfforddiant. Mae pobl ifanc wedi dweud eu bod yn teimlo bod ganddynt fwy o reolaeth dros eu tynged. Mae hynny'n bwysig, fel y gwnaethom ddysgu ddydd Llun pan wnaethom gwrdd â phlant sy'n derbyn gofal.

Lindsay Whittle's contribution was passionate and very welcome, and I praise him for this. He picked up on an issue about Europe, which is very important. I met a looked-after child in north Wales just before Christmas with my colleague, Ann Jones. The child was from Europe and was 18 years old. She told us 'In the country I come from, I would still be considered a child'. It is therefore absolutely essential that we offer opportunities—and that is the key thing. This is not a one-size-fits-all obligation to looked-after children; it is offering opportunities for them to stay in care if they need to, or to come back into care if they require it.

Roedd cyfraniad Lindsay Whittle yn angerddol ac i'w groesawu, ac rwyf yn ei ganmol am hyn. Nododd fater am Ewrop sy'n bwysig iawn. Cwrddais â phlentyn sy'n derbyn gofal yn y gogledd ychydig cyn y Nadolig gyda'm cyd-Aelod, Ann Jones. Roedd y plentyn yn dod o Ewrop ac yn 18 oed. Dywedodd hi wrthym 'Yn y wlad rwy'n dod ohoni, byddwn yn dal i gael fy ystyried yn blentyn'. Felly, mae'n gwbl hanfodol ein bod yn cynnig cyfleoedd—a dyna'r peth allweddol. Nid yw hon yn rhwymedigaeth lle y mae un maint yn addas i bob plentyn sy'n derbyn gofal; mae'n cynnig cyfleoedd iddynt aros mewn gofal os oes angen, neu i ddod yn

ol i mewn i ofal os oes angen hynny arnynt.

I agree with Aled Roberts that Wrexham County Borough Council's therapeutic fostering scheme is excellent. I wish that we could roll out such schemes across Wales. It needs to be done as best practice. The Deputy Minister spoke about having a scheme through which we can ensure compliance, and I hope that that can be achieved. It is true that resources are under stress, and I want to make it clear that I recognise the important challenges thrown up by such proposed changes. Resources are stretched, but I really do not think that any challenge in this regard is insurmountable. Not only is supporting looked-after children in their transition from care the right and just thing to do, it also makes prudent economic sense. It is an attempt to address the negative spending cycle in which the public sector can often find itself.

Joyce Watson, you spoke about the language that we use when referring to looked-after children. Over time, as I have studied this, I have come to realise that corporate language is used, but we would not use that language to our own children. You often hear the words 'burden', 'cost' or 'spending' being used, but you do not hear the words 'investment' or 'assets'. We need to change the language that we use in referring to looked-after children. Very interestingly, Joyce raised the issue of further and higher education, which is something that I would like to consider as part of the consultation process, because I think that there could be a greater role for further and higher education institutions, particularly those that are looking to draw in more people from outside what are sometimes called 'regular' backgrounds.

Byron Davies, you mentioned continuity of care, which is absolutely essential. I hope that this proposal will help.

I am so glad that David Melding spoke in this debate, because we really need to pay tribute to David for his chairing of the cross-party group on looked-after children. He spoke eloquently about ensuring that effective care continues. He also reflected entirely and

Rwyf yn cytuno ag Aled Roberts fod cynllun maethu therapiwtig Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam yn ardderchog. Hoffwn y gallem gyflwyno cynlluniau o'r fath ledled Cymru. Mae angen ei wneud fel arfer gorau. Siaradodd y Dirprwy Weinidog am gael cynllun a fydd yn sicrhau cydymffurfriad, ac rwyf yn gobeithio y gellir cyflawni hynny. Mae'n wir fod adnoddau o dan straen, ac rwyf am ei gwneud yn glir fy mod yn cydnabod yr heriau pwysig y mae newidiadau arfaethedig o'r fath yn eu codi. Mae adnoddau o dan bwysau, ond nid wyf yn meddwl bod unrhyw her yn y cyswllt hwn yn anorchfygol. Mae cefnogi plant sy'n derbyn gofal wrth iddynt gymryd y cam o ofal yn gyfiawn ac yn gywir; mae hefyd yn gwneud synnwyr economaidd darbodus. Mae'n ymgais i fynd i'r afael â'r cylch gwario negyddol y mae'r sector cyhoeddus yn cael ei hun ynddo yn aml.

Joyce Watson, bu ichi siarad am yr iaith rydym yn ei defnyddio wrth gyfeirio at blant sy'n derbyn gofal. Dros amser, wrth imi astudio hyn, rwyf wedi dod i sylweddoli bod iaith gorfforaethol yn cael ei defnyddio, ond ni fyddem yn defnyddio'r fath iaith gyda'n plant ein hunain. Rydych yn aml yn clywed y geiriau 'baich', 'cost' neu 'gwariant' yn cael eu defnyddio, ond ni chlywch y geiriau 'buddsoddi' neu 'asedau'. Mae angen inni newid yr iaith rydym yn ei defnyddio wrth gyfeirio at blant sy'n derbyn gofal. Yn ddiddorol iawn, soniodd Joyce am addysg bellach ac uwch, sy'n rhywbeth arall yr hoffwn ei ystyried fel rhan o'r broses ymgynghori, oherwydd fy mod yn credu y gallai sefydliadau addysg bellach ac uwch gael mwy o rôl, yn enwedig y rheini sy'n ceisio denu mwy o bobl o'r tu allan i'r hyn a elwir weithiau'n gefndiroedd 'arferol'.

Byron Davies, gwnaethoch grybwyl parhad o ran gofal, sy'n gwbl hanfodol. Rwyf yn gobeithio y bydd y cynnig hwn yn helpu.

Rwyf mor falch bod David Melding wedi siarad yn y ddadl hon, oherwydd mae angen gwirioneddol inni dalu teyrnged i David am gadeirio'r grŵp trawsbleidiol ar blant sy'n derbyn gofal. Siaradodd yn huawdl am sicrhau bod gofal effeithiol yn parhau.

precisely the concerns expressed by the looked-after children and carers that we met on Monday, which gave us considerable insight.

It is time to give a more rigorous definition of our role as corporate parents, and to turn the national debate about the wellbeing, attainment and life quality of our looked-after children into comprehensive and concerted action. We have to ensure that the approach and obligations to young care leavers is consistent across Wales. We have the power to improve the life chances of people in greatest need of assistance. We have the opportunity to eliminate one of the starker of inequalities in our society, and we have the responsibility to ensure that no-one is left behind as Wales moves forward. Now is the time for us to ensure that a bright dawn sits on the horizon for care leavers to replace the impending darkness of fear that threatens their current outlook. It is time to be bold and to create a new deal for our young people. I commend this motion to the Chamber.

The Presiding Officer: That was an excellent debate. The proposal is to agree the motion. Does any Member object? I see that there is no objection, therefore the motion is agreed in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.36. Congratulations, Ken Skates.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion agreed.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (David Melding) i'r Gadair am 3.56 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer (David Melding) took the Chair at 3.56 p.m.*

Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives Debate

Sgiliau Skills

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1 and 2 in the name of Jane Hutt, and amendment 3 in the name of Peter Black.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Rwyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1 a 2 yn enw Jane Hutt, a gwelliant 3 yn enw Peter Black.

Cynnig NDM4886 William Graham

Mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. Yn nodi â phryder sylwadau Sefydliad Cyfrifwyr Siartredig Cymru a Lloegr, wrth ymateb i Raglen Adnewyddu'r Economi 2010, fod gan Gymru gymysgedd wael o sgiliau.

2. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i:

a) cydnabod pwysigrwydd darpariaeth sgiliau sy'n cael ei harwain gan y galw, yn unol ag argymhellion Adolygiad Leitch; a

b) cynnal asesiad llawn o'r angen am sgiliau arbenigol yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol.

Angela Burns: I move the motion.

We will not be accepting amendments 1 and 2 tabled by the Government, because we believe that the National Assembly in general and the Welsh Labour Government in particular should be concerned that the institute of chartered accountants has made such strong comments about the mix of skills within the workforce of Wales. We do not think that any level of unconcern is acceptable by this Government, given the negative impact that having such a mismatch of necessary skills is having on the Welsh economy, and consequently on the employability of workers within Wales. While we welcome the qualifications review announced by the Deputy Minister in September of last year, our concern is the erosion of time and the stagnation of the current skills provision while the review is being undertaken, a review that will only, given the nature of its scope, address part of the problem.

You talk about substantive commitment and, yes, I am aware of Welsh Labour's manifesto commitments to improving Welsh skills for employment, but as most of it seems to be about refocusing existing resources and providing initiatives that should be pretty standard fare for any Government, I cannot accept your point.

Motion NDM4886 William Graham

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes with concern the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales comments, in response to the Economic Renewal Programme 2010, that Wales has a 'poor skills mix'.

2. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) recognise the importance of demand-led skills provision in line with the recommendations of the Leitch Review; and

b) conduct a full assessment of Wales' future need for specialised skills.

Angela Burns: Cynigiaf y cynnig.

Ni fyddwn yn derbyn gwelliannau 1 a 2 a gyflwynwyd gan y Llywodraeth, oherwydd ein bod yn credu y dylai fod yn destun pryder i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn gyffredinol, a Llywodraeth Lafur Cymru yn arbennig, fod sefydliad y cyfrifwyr siartredig wedi gwneud sylwadau mor gryf am y cymysgedd o sgiliau yn y gweithlu yng Nghymru. Nid ydym yn credu bod unrhyw ddifaterwch ar ran y Llywodraeth hon yn dderbyniol, o ystyried effaith negyddol y fath ddiffyg cyfatebiaeth o ran sgiliau angenrheidiol ar economi Cymru, ac, o ganlyniad, ar gyflogadwyedd gweithwyr yng Nghymru. Er ein bod yn croesawu'r adolygiad cymwysterau a gyhoeddwyd gan y Dirprwy Weinidog ym mis Medi'r llynedd, rydym yn pryderu am golli amser a marweidd-dra'r ddarpariaeth sgiliau presennol tra bydd yr adolygiad yn cael ei gynnal, sef adolygiad a fydd, o ystyried natur ei gwmpas, yn ymdrin â rhan o'r broblem yn unig.

Rydych yn siarad am ymrwymiad sylweddol ac, ydw, rwyf yn ymwybodol o ymrwymiadau maniffesto Llafur Cymru i wella sgiliau yng Nghymru ar gyfer cyflogaeth, ond gan yr ymddengys fod y rhan fwyaf ohono'n ymwneud ag ailffocysu adnoddau presennol a darparu mentrau y dylai unrhyw Lywodraeth eu darparu, ni allaf dderbyn eich pwynt.

With regard to amendment 3, tabled by the Welsh Liberal Democrats, we are lukewarm about these tokens negotiated in the wooing of the Liberal Democrats, and we have concerns as to the sustainability of the Government's commitment to these extra moneys.

So what did the institute of chartered accountants actually state about the skills provision in Wales? It said that we are both under and over-skilled. It is a paradox that is perhaps explained when you compare us with nations that we would deem as competitors, such as Germany and France, as well as most parts of the UK. It said that the Government puts too much effort into quasi-commercial services to businesses, rather than allowing them to choose the learning provider that is most responsive to their needs. The analysis is that some 80,000 workers are not fully proficient in their jobs, and that this lack of proficiency is to be found in many sectors. Additionally, we have too many people with low or no skills. We also have a significant number of workers who are taking jobs that do not reflect the skills that they have acquired, but are unable to put into practice.

The Wales Employment and Skills Board points to the skills escalator facing us. The fastest growing occupational groups, such as information and communication technology professionals, require skills at level 4 and above, whereas the fastest declining occupations, such as assemblers and routine operatives, seek skills of level 2 and below. In fact, the skills audit for Wales has shown that half of the 10 fastest-growing occupations have a dominant qualification level of 4 and above, and, perhaps most importantly, that nine out of 10 of the fastest-declining occupations have a dominant qualification level of 2 and below.

4.00 p.m.

We have concerns that the workforce in other

O ran gwelliant 3, a gyflwynwyd gan Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, rydym yn llugoer am yr addewidion hyn a drafodwyd wrth ganlyn y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, ac mae gennym bryderon am gynaliadwyedd ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth i'r arian ychwanegol hwn.

Felly, beth a ddywedodd sefydliad y cyfrifwyr siartredig mewn gwirionedd am y ddarpariaeth sgiliau yng Nghymru? Dywedodd fod diffyg sgiliau a gormod o sgiliau gennym. Mae'n baradocs sy'n cael ei esbonio, efallai, pan fyddwch yn ein cymharu â chenhedloedd y byddem yn eu hystyried yn gystadleuwyd, megis yr Almaen a Ffrainc, yn ogystal â'r mwyafrif o rannau'r DU. Dywedodd fod y Llywodraeth yn gwneud gormod o ymdrech mewn perthynas â gwasanaethau lled-fasnachol i fusnesau, yn hytrach na'u galluogi i ddewis y darparwr dysgu sy'n ymateb orau i'w hanghenion. Dadansoddir nad yw tua 80,000 o weithwyr yn gwbl hyfedr yn eu swyddi, a bod y diffyg hyfedredd hwn i'w weld mewn llawer o sectorau. Yn ogystal, mae gennym ormod o bobl nad oes ganddynt sgiliau neu sydd â sgiliau isel. Mae gennym hefyd nifer sylweddol o weithwyr sy'n cymryd swyddi nad ydynt yn adlewyrchu'r sgiliau y maent wedi eu meithrin, ond na allant eu rhoi ar waith.

Mae Bwrdd Cyflogaeth a Sgiliau Cymru yn cyfeirio at yr esgaladur sgiliau sy'n ein hwynebu. Mae'r grwpiau galwedigaethol sy'n tyfu gyflymaf, megis gweithwyr proffesiynol ym maes technoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu, yn gofyn am sgiliau ar lefel 4 ac yn uwch, tra bo'r galwedigaethau sy'n dirywio gyflymaf, fel cydosodwyr a gweithwyr rheolwaith, yn ceisio sgiliau ar lefel 2 ac yn is. Yn wir, mae archwiliad sgiliau Cymru wedi dangos mai'r brif lefel ar gyfer cymwysterau yn hanner y 10 galwedigaeth sy'n tyfu gyflymaf yw lefel 4 neu'n uwch, ac yn bwysicaf oll, efallai, mai'r brif lefel ar gyfer cymwysterau yn naw o'r 10 galwedigaeth sy'n dirywio gyflymaf yw lefel 2 neu'n is.

Mae gennym bryderon bod y gweithlu mewn

parts of the UK is better skilled and has a better mix of those skills, and is therefore better placed to take advantage of economic opportunities. Make no mistake: I do not begrudge those workers that, I simply want our people to be in a similar situation, and sooner rather than later.

Research for the Centre for Cities has found and tested the strong link between young people's results in maths and English and difficulties in securing employment. It states that leaving school without at least a C grade in maths and English, that is, basic literacy and numeracy skills, leaves youngsters unable to get a job. We all know from the Welsh Government's examination results in 2010-11 that 50% of pupils did not reach that desired level, which means that 50% of our young people are not best placed to secure meaningful and sustainable employment.

Minister, I am sure that you will agree that we need to improve our basic skills levels to ensure that people are best placed to find employment. We need to recognise the importance of demand-led skills provision. The Leitch review was clear about that in its recommendations and we are aware that the Government has sought to respond to those recommendations. However, 'Skills That Work for Wales' lacks any real ambition. Intermediate skills are defined as level 2 on the national qualifications framework, in other words a C at GCSE, rather than at level 3, which is an A-level or equivalent. That does not help to address the skills escalator that I spoke of earlier, nor will it help us to raise the bar and secure our workers jobs in growing rather than declining industries. It does not address the issue of demand-led education. We believe that the strategy needs to give more commissioning power to students and employers. I wonder whether adopting that strategy would also help to address some of the reasons why a person may not complete their apprenticeship, as identified in 'Apprenticeships in Wales and the UK'. If students could commission better what they are going to do then there may be less chance of boredom, of disappointment that the training did not cover what was expected, and, conversely, employers may be

rhannau eraill o'r DU yn meddu ar sgiliau gwell ac yn cynnwys cymysgedd gwell o'r sgiliau hynny, ac, felly, mae mewn gwell sefyllfa i fanteisio ar gyfleoedd economaidd. Nid wyf am eiliad yn gwarafun hynny i'r gweithwyr hynny. Rwyf am i'n pobl ni fod mewn sefyllfa debyg, ac yn gynt yn hytrach nag yn hwyrach.

Mae gwaith ymchwil i'r Centre for Cities wedi profi cysylltiad cryf rhwng canlyniadau pobl ifanc mewn mathemateg a Saesneg ac anawsterau i sicrhau cyflogaeth. Mae'n datgan bod gadael yr ysgol heb o leiaf gradd C mewn mathemateg a Saesneg, hynny yw, llythrennedd a rhifedd sylfaenol, yn golygu nad yw pobl ifanc yn gallu cael swydd. Rydym i gyd yn gwybod o ganlyniadau arholiadau Llywodraeth Cymru yn 2010-11 na wnaeth 50% o ddisgyblion gyrraedd y lefel honno, sy'n golygu nad yw 50% o'n pobl ifanc yn y sefyllfa orau i sicrhau cyflogaeth ystyrlon a chynaliadwy.

Weinidog, rwyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn cytuno bod angen i ni wella lefelau ein sgiliau sylfaenol er mwyn sicrhau bod pobl yn y sefyllfa orau i ddod o hyd i gyflogaeth. Mae angen i ni gydnabod pwysigrwydd darparu sgiliau sy'n cael ei arwain gan alw. Roedd adolygiad Leitch yn glir am hynny yn ei argymhellion ac rydym yn ymwybodol bod y Llywodraeth wedi ceisio ymateb i'r argymhellion hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae diffyg gwir uchelgais yn 'Sgiliau sy'n Gweithio i Gymru'. Caiff sgiliau canolradd eu diffinio fel lefel 2 ar y fframwaith cymwysterau cenedlaethol, sef C mewn TGAU, yn hytrach na lefel 3, sef Safon Uwch neu gyfwerth. Nid yw hynny'n helpu i fynd i'r afael â'r raddfa sgiliau y soniais amdani yn gynharach, ac ni fydd yn ein helpu i godi'r safon a sicrhau swyddi i'n gweithwyr mewn diwydiannau sy'n tyfu yn hytrach na dirywio. Nid yw'n mynd i'r afael â'r mater o addysg sy'n ymateb i alw. Rydym ni'n credu bod angen i'r strategaeth roi mwy o rym comisiynu i fyfyrwyr a chyflogwyr. Tybed a fyddai mabwysiadu'r strategaeth honno hefyd yn helpu i fynd i'r afael â rhai o'r rhesymau pam nad yw rhai'n cwblhau eu prentisiaeth, fel y nodwyd yn 'Prentisiaethau yng Nghymru ac yn y DU'. Pe gallai myfyrwyr gomisiynu'n well yr hyn y maent am ei wneud, efallai byddai llai o siawns iddynt

more supportive when they can really target training to their needs.

Employers raise concerns as to how demand can be identified and truly employer-led when it is based on a regional level and not an employer level. In its response to the economic renewal programme, the Industrial Communities Alliance said that:

'Investment in skills should sit at the heart of the economic development agenda given that the low level of skills in the Welsh workforce remains a fundamental structural weakness and a major impediment to competitiveness and productivity'.

Given those concerns, Deputy Minister, how will the need for demand-led skills provision fit in with the new enterprise zones that are supposed to be key drivers of the economic development agenda?

I will now turn our attention to the second element of our motion. University is often seen as an avenue open only to those who want to become involved in medicine, to study an academic subject or enter academia further, but there are many courses that are not given as much attention that provide specialist vocational skills to those finishing secondary school, whether that is after GCSE or A-level. Pembrokeshire College in my constituency provides many courses that are directly related to a profession. It can give those who do not go to university specialist skills and a head start in gaining a job after study. As many options as possible should be open to those finishing school in order to provide them with the best opportunities after education.

One possible idea would be to have more opportunities open to graduates. For example, with regard to teacher training, graduates currently have two options; they can either study at a post-graduate level to gain qualified teacher status or they can be employed by a school for their training to

gael eu diflasu, neu eu siomi nad oedd yr hyfforddiant yn cwmpasu'r hyn a ddisgwylid, ac, ar y llaw arall, gall cyflogwyr fod yn fwy cefnogol pan allant dargedu hyfforddiant i'w hanghenion.

Mae cyflogwyr yn mynegi pryderon ynghylch sut mae mesur galw a sicrhau bod y galw'n cael ei arwain yn wirioneddol gan gyflogwyr pan fo'n seiliedig ar lefel ranbarthol ac nid ar lefel cyflogwr. Yn ei ymateb i'r rhaglen adnewyddu economaidd, dywedodd Cynghrair y Cymunedau Diwydiannol:

Dylai buddsoddi mewn sgiliau fod wrth wraidd yr agenda datblygu economaidd o gofio bod y lefel isel o sgiliau yng ngweithlu Cymru yn parhau i fod yn wendid strwythurol sylfaenol ac yn rhwystr mawr i gystadlu a chynhyrchiant.

O ystyried y pryderon hynny, Ddirprwy Weinidog, sut fydd yr angen am ddarpariaeth sgiliau sy'n cael ei arwain gan alw yn cydfynd â'r ardaloedd menter newydd sydd i fod i arwain yr agenda datblygu economaidd?

Trof ein sylw yn awr at yr ail elfen yn ein cynnig. Yn aml, ystyrir prifysgolion fel llwybr sydd ond yn agored i'r rhai sydd am fynd i'r byd meddygol, astudio pwnc academaidd neu fynd i'r byd academaidd, ond mae llawer o gyrsiau nad ydynt yn cael cymaint o sylw sy'n darparu sgiliau galwedigaethol arbenigol i'r rhai sy'n gorffen yn yr ysgol uwchradd, boed hynny ar ôl TGAU neu Safon Uwch. Mae Coleg Sir Benfro yn fy etholaeth i yn darparu llawer o gyrsiau sy'n uniongyrchol gysylltiedig â phroffesiwn. Gall roi sgiliau arbenigol i'r rhai nad ydynt yn mynd i'r brifysgol, sy'n golygu y gallant achub y blaen wrth gael swydd ar ôl gorffen astudio. Dylai cynifer o opsiynau â phosibl fod yn agored i'r rhai sy'n gorffen yn yr ysgol er mwyn rhoi'r cyfleoedd gorau iddynt ar ôl addysg.

Un syniad posibl fyddai rhoi rhagor o gyfleoedd i raddedigion. Er enghraift, o ran hyfforddi athrawon, mae gan raddedigion ddu ddewis ar hyn o bryd; gallant naill ai astudio ar lefel ôl-raddedig i ennill statws athro cymwysedig neu gall ysgol eu cyflogi er mwyn cymhwysyo'n llawn. Mae'r dewis

become fully qualified. The latter option gives teachers practical work-related skills for their future career. Similarly, those studying to become doctors, nurses or therapists, and those wishing to enter sports or sports management, all receive practical experience while at university or on programs available to them after graduating. However, what about those who are not doing a career-related degree? They, too, should have the opportunity to enter training during or after university to give them the skills that they need to succeed.

Even outside of school, college and university, training and education in specialist courses should be available to mature students who may already have a full-time job. Part-time courses should be promoted and encouraged by employers. Many universities and colleges have part-time courses in the evening, for instance. Cardiff University, for example, provides courses from nursing to engineering to philosophy and post-graduate courses for those wishing to further specialise in their field.

Just listen to the voices of employers: Diane Johnson, president of the Electrical Contractors' Association, says that the UK is facing a ticking time bomb because of the potential shortage of skilled workers, such as electricians and plumbers, with the right level of skills. Ms Johnson says that the emphasis has been on university education rather than on job skills training, and that craft training has been seen as a lesser route. Deputy Minister, are there any plans to open up access and opportunities to students who wish to improve their skills and qualifications by entering specialist courses for certain professions after secondary education? We believe that action along those lines is vital for the economic renewal of the country and the needs of the individual.

Simon Thomas: The Member talked about widening opportunities for young people to enter the skills market, and I agree with her about that. Would she support me on an issue that I have taken up with a Westminster colleague of hers, Iain Duncan Smith,

olaf yn rhoi sgiliau ymarferol sy'n gysylltiedig â gwaith ar gyfer eu gyrrfa yn y dyfodol. Yn yr un modd, mae'r rhai sy'n astudio i fod yn feddygon, nyrssy'n neu therapyddion, a'r rhai sydd am fynd i fydd chwaraeon neu reoli chwaraeon, i gyd yn cael profiad ymarferol yn y brifysgol neu ar raglenni sydd ar gael iddynt ar ôl graddio. Fodd bynnag, beth am y rhai nad ydynt yn gwneud cwrs gradd sy'n gysylltiedig â gyrrfa? Dylent hwythau gael y cyfle i gael hyfforddiant yn ystod eu cyfnod mewn prifysgol, neu ar ôl hynny, i roi'r sgiliau iddynt sydd eu hangen arnynt i lwyddo.

Hyd yn oed y tu allan i'r ysgol, y coleg a'r brifysgol, dylai hyfforddiant ac addysg mewn cysiau arbenigol fod ar gael i fyfyrwyr aeddfeid sydd eisoes â swydd lawn-amser. Dylai cyflogwyr hybu ac annog cysiau rhan-amser. Mae gan nifer o brifysgolion a cholegau cysiau nos rhan-amser, er enghraifft. Mae Prifysgol Caerdydd, er enghraifft, yn cynnig cysiau mor amrywiol â nyrssio, peirianneg ac athroniaeth a chyrsiau ôl-raddedig i'r rhai sy'n dymuno arbenigo ymhellach yn eu maes.

Beth am inni wrando ar leisiau'r cyflogwyr: dywed Diane Johnson, llywydd Cymdeithas y Contractwyr Trydanol, fod y DU yn wynebu argyfwng ar y gorwel oherwydd y prinder posibl o weithwyr, fel trydanwyr a phlymwyd, sydd â'r lefel gywir o sgiliau. Dywed Ms Johnson fod y pwyslais wedi bod ar addysg brifysgol yn hytrach nag ar hyfforddiant sgiliau yn y gwaith, a bod hyfforddiant crefft wedi cael ei gweld fel rhywbeth israddol. Ddirprwy Weinidog, a oes unrhyw gynlluniau i ehangu'r mynediad a'r cyfleoedd i fyfyrwyr sydd am wella eu sgiliau a'u cymwysterau drwy fynd ar gyrsiau arbenigol i broffesiynau penodol ar ôl addysg uwchradd? Rydym yn credu bod cymryd camau fel hyn yn hanfodol i adnewyddiad economaidd y wlad ac anghenion yr unigolyn.

Simon Thomas: Siaradodd yr Aelod am ehangu cyfleoedd i bobl ifanc i ymuno â'r farchnad sgiliau, ac rwyf yn cytuno â hi ar hynny. A fyddai hi'n fy nghefnogi i ar fater yr wyf wedi ei godi ag un o'i chydweithwyr yn San Steffan, Iain Duncan Smith, o ran y

regarding the interaction between the benefits regime and young people, particularly young homeless people? It is easier, better and pays for people to stay on benefits—as young homeless people in shared accommodation, for example—than for them to enter further education, as they lose any entitlement to support when they do the latter. Surely, if we want to see fewer NEETs in Wales, we need to press the Westminster Government on having a more flexible benefits system that encourages our young people to take up education and training opportunities.

Angela Burns: I will give a qualified acknowledgement to that. I have also raised with Iain Duncan Smith the fact that if you have an opportunity to be an apprentice, but not on your own doorstep, you have no means of being able to pay for living accommodation in another town or city—if you are located in north Wales and the apprenticeship is in south Wales, for example. I am quite sure that you and I could find some common ground on that, and I would be very happy to try to move that agenda forward with you.

That leads me on to my last two points. A way of achieving this goal would be to create private sector-led skills academies to provide job-focused training. That is vital if we want to match people with sectors that need to hire, although I would always caution that there has to be a balance, with a broad brush of general education and skills upon which the specialist sector skills can be built. Finally, Deputy Minister, I would wish to emphasise yet again the need for soft skills training for all of our learners of any age. Basic skills, in the form of communication, interview training and improved soft skills, can give graduates, the long-term unemployed, and new school leavers, a huge boost in relation to finding a job. More soft skills training can lead to an increase in performance and career prospects, and that will help Welsh workers to fulfil their potential.

Gwelliant 1 Jane Hutt

Dileu 'â phryder' o bwynt 1.

cysylltiad rhwng y gyfundrefn budd-daliadau a phobl ifanc, yn enwedig pobl ifanc ddigartref? Mae'n haws ac yn well i bobl aros ar fudd-daliadau—pobl ifanc ddigartref mewn llety a rennir, er enghraifft—na mynd i addysg bellach, ac mae'n talu iddynt wneud hynny gan eu bod yn colli unrhyw hawl i gymorth os ydnt mewn addysg. Yn sicr, os ydym am weld llai o bobl ifanc NEET yng Nghymru, mae angen i ni bwys o ymhellach ar Lywodraeth San Steffan i gael system fudd-daliadau fwy hyblyg sy'n annog ein pobl ifanc i fanteisio ar gyfleoedd addysg a hyfforddiant.

Angela Burns: Rwyf yn fodlon rhoi cydnabyddiaeth amodol i hynny. Rwyf hefyd wedi sôn wrth Iain Duncan Smith am y ffaith, os ydych yn cael cyfle i fod yn brentis, ond nid ar garreg eich drws eich hun, nad oes gennych ffodd o allu talu am lety mewn tref neu ddinas arall—os ydych yn byw yng ngogledd Cymru ac mae'r brentisiaeth yn ne Cymru, er enghraifft. Rwyf yn holol sicr y gallwch chi a minnau ddod o hyd i dir cyffredin ar hynny, a byddwn yn hapus iawn i geisio symud yr agenda yn ei blaen gyda chi.

Mae hynny'n fy arwain at fy nau bwynt olaf. Byddai creu academiâu sgiliau o dan arweiniad y sector preifat i ddarparu swyddi sy'n canolbwytio ar hyfforddiant yn ffodd o gyrraedd y nod hwn. Mae hynny'n hanfodol os ydym am baru pobl â sectorau sy'n chwilio am weithwyr, er y byddwn yn rhybuddio bod angen cydbwysedd, gyda chyfuniad eang o addysg gyffredinol a sgiliau y gellir eu defnyddio i ddatblygu'r sector sgiliau arbenigol. Yn olaf, Ddirprwy Weinidog, hoffwn bwysleisio unwaith eto yr angen am hyfforddiant sgiliau meddal ar gyfer pob dysgwr o bob oed. Gall sgiliau sylfaenol, ar ffurf cyfathrebu, hyfforddiant cyfweld a gwell sgiliau meddal, roi hwb fawr i raddedigion, y di-waith tymor hir, a'r rhai sy'n gadael yr ysgol i ddod o hyd i swydd. Gall hyfforddiant sgiliau mwy meddal arwain at gynnydd mewn perfformiad a rhagolygon gyrfa, a fydd yn helpu gweithwyr Cymru i gyflawni eu potensial.

Amendment 1 Jane Hutt

Delete 'with concern' from point 1.

Gwelliant 2 Jane Hutt

Ar ddiwedd pwynt 1 mewnosod ‘ac felly’n cydnabod pwysigrwydd y ffaith bod Sgiliau Twf Cymru ar fin ailagor a’r Adolygiad o Gymwysterau sy’n parhau fel rhan o’r ymrwymiad sylweddol i sgiliau a amlinellir yn y Rhaglen Lywodraethu’.

The Deputy Minister for Skills (Jeff Cuthbert): I move amendments 1 and 2 in the name of Jane Hutt.

Gwelliant 3 Peter Black

Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Yn croesawu’r £4.88 miliwn ychwanegol ar gyfer y Rhaglen Recriwtiaid Newydd a’r £3 miliwn ychwanegol ar gyfer Sgiliau Twf Cymru a gyhoeddwyd yn y gyllideb derfynol ym mis Rhagfyr 2011.

Aled Roberts: I move amendment 3 in the name of Peter Black.

We welcome the additional funding for targeted support for apprenticeships. We also welcome the Government’s extension of Skills Growth Wales, which now provides a renewed focus on the private sector. A selective and targeted approach is welcome to identify key strategic areas. Skills Growth Wales also shows the ways in which European social fund money can be used in a strong and creative way to create real jobs in the private and public sectors, and to provide training to those already in the workforce. The task now facing the Government, therefore, is to ensure that that programme is implemented correctly.

However, in welcoming the chance that the Welsh Conservatives have given us to debate this issue today, we feel that, as a body, we need to understand the needs and demands of the business community, which is fundamental to the future of Wales. In November, the Children and Young People Committee heard evidence from the Federation of Small Businesses that indicated

Amendment 2 Jane Hutt

At end of point 1 insert ‘and therefore recognises the importance of the imminent re-opening of Skills Growth Wales and the ongoing Qualifications Review as part of the substantive commitment to skills set out in the Programme of Government’.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Sgiliau (Jeff Cuthbert): Cynigiaf welliannau 1 a 2 yn enw Jane Hutt.

Amendment 3 Peter Black

Add as new point at end of motion:

Welcomes the additional £4.88 million for the Young Recruits Programme and the additional £3 million for Skills Growth Wales announced in the final budget in December 2011.

Aled Roberts: Cynigiaf welliant 3 yn enw Peter Black.

Rydym yn croesawu’r arian ychwanegol ar gyfer cymorth wedi’i dargedu ar gyfer prentisiaethau. Rydym hefyd yn croesawu’r ffaith bod y Llywodraeth yn ehangu Sgiliau Twf Cymru, sydd bellach yn darparu ffocws o’r newydd ar y sector preifat. Dylid croesawu’r dull dewisol wedi’i dargedu o adnabod y meysydd strategol allweddol. Mae Sgiliau Twf Cymru hefyd yn dangos y ffyrdd y gellir defnyddio arian cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop mewn modd cryf a chreadigol i greu swyddi go iawn yn y sectorau preifat a chyhoeddus, ac i ddarparu hyfforddiant i’r rhai sydd eisoes yn y gweithlu. Y dasg sydd yn wynebu’r Llywodraeth yn awr, felly, yw sicrhau bod y rhaglen yn cael ei rhoi ar waith yn iawn.

Fodd bynnag, wrth groesawu’r cyfle y mae’r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig wedi’i roi i ni i drafod y mater hwn heddiw, rydym yn teimlo, fel corff, bod angen i ni ddeall anghenion a gofynion y gymuned fusnes, sy’n hanfodol i ddyfodol Cymru. Ym mis Tachwedd, cafodd y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc dystiolaeth gan y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach a oedd yn dangos bod llawer o fusnesau yn dal i

that many businesses are still reporting an inability to find young people with the relevant skills to form part of their workforce. It is noticeable that the Leitch review and report calls for increased employer engagement in England. We would suggest that the same needs to happen in Wales; at the moment, public funding is pursuing policy rather than responding to it. The review itself suggests that public funding for vocational training should be approved only where there is demand under the Train to Gain scheme in England.

If businesses cannot find the skills that they need in Wales, they will simply not locate here. We need to make Wales as attractive as possible for potential businesses to set up or expand here, with other measures such as grants and preferential business rates. However, the real challenge facing us as a country is the shortage of skills identified in this report at a UK-wide level. Basic skills are a crucial foundation for further and stronger skills. They also have a strong influence on people's life chances, as was mentioned in the previous debate. The sad fact is that 61% of adults with no qualifications were out of work in 2011, which is an increase from 50% in the previous year and compares to 27% across the population as a whole. In debating this issue, we also need to ask whether our targets are sufficiently aspirational. The review itself suggests that, even with those aspirational targets, we are aiming to move up only two places to fifteenth in an international league. Across the UK, current targets would have to be trebled for us to reach a standard whereby 95% of our population achieved basic skills.

Our amendment also points to our ongoing concerns about the falling levels of part-time adult learners in Wales. The change in funding formulae leads to difficulties with regard to the provision of part-time courses. In 2005, 11% of 25 to 30-year-olds studied part-time, but this fell to 7% in 2010, and this is not correlated with an increase in full-time education undertaken by the same age group.

David Rees: Will you not therefore support

ddweud nad ydynt yn gallu dod o hyd i bobl ifanc sydd â'r sgiliau perthnasol i ymuno â'u gweithlu. Mae'n werth nodi bod adolygiad ac adroddiad Leitch yn galw am ragor o ymrwymiad gan gyflogwyr yn Lloegr. Rydym ni'n awgrymu bod angen i'r un peth ddigwydd yng Nghymru; ar hyn o bryd, mae arian cyhoeddus yn dilyn polisiau yn hytrach nag ymateb iddynt. Mae'r adolygiad ei hun yn awgrymu y dylai arian cyhoeddus ar gyfer hyfforddiant galwedigaethol ond gael ei gymeradwyo lle mae galw o dan y cynllun Train to Gain yn Lloegr.

Os na all busnesau ddod o hyd i'r sgiliau sydd eu hangen arnynt yng Nghymru, ni fyddant yn dod yma. Mae angen i ni wneud Cymru mor ddeniadol â phosibl i fusnesau sefydlu neu ehangu yma, gyda mesurau eraill fel grantiau a threthi busnes ffafriol. Fodd bynnag, yr her go iawn sy'n ein hwynebu fel gwlad yw'r prinder sgiliau a nodwyd yn yr adroddiad hwn ar lefel y DU gyfan. Mae sgiliau sylfaenol yn sylfaen hanfodol i ragor o sgiliau cryfach. Maent hefyd yn cael dylanwad cryf ar gyfleoedd bywyd pobl, fel y crybwylwyd yn y ddadl flaenorol. Y ffaith drist yw bod 61% o oedolion a oedd heb gymwysterau yn ddi-waith yn 2011, sy'n gynnydd o'r ganran yn y flwyddyn flaenorol, sef 50%, ac sy'n cymharu â 27% ar draws y boblogaeth gyfan. Wrth drafod y mater hwn, mae hefyd angen i ni ofyn a yw ein targedau yn ddigon uchelgeisiol. Mae'r adolygiad ei hun yn awgrymu, hyd yn oed gyda'r targedau uchelgeisiol hynny, ein bod ond yn anelu at symud dau le i fyny cynghrair rhyngwladol, i bymthegfed. Ledled y DU, byddai'n rhaid treblu'r targedau presennol er mwyn i ni gyrraedd safon lle mae gan 95% o'n poblogaeth sgiliau sylfaenol.

Mae ein gwelliant hefyd yn cyfeirio at ein pryderon parhaus ynghylch lefelau sy'n gostwng yng Nghymru o ddysgwyr rhan-amser sy'n oedolion. Mae'r newid yn y fformiwlâu ariannu yn arwain at anawsterau o ran darparu cyrsiau rhan-amser. Yn 2005, roedd 11% o'r rhai rhwng 25 a 30 oed yn astudio'n rhan-amser, ond disgynnodd hyn i 7% yn 2010, ac ni fu cynnydd perthnasol mewn addysg llawn-amser ymysg yr un grŵp oedran.

David Rees: A wnewch chi, felly, gefnogi

the Welsh Government's decision, as announced by the Minister, to fund part-time students as well as full-time students?

Aled Roberts: Yes, I welcome that, although there was a further announcement that, in some instances, the implementation was going to be delayed. I would welcome hearing what the Government has to say about that. The reality is that we must all recognise that skills are important to Wales's future. We would support any measure that the Government could introduce to allow everyone to reach their potential. However, given the evidence that we have heard in the Children and Young People Committee, we need to ensure that school leavers enter the world of work with adequate basic skills. More importantly, current evidence suggests that skills councils in Wales are still failing to consult industry with regard to the skills and trades that industry in Wales needs.

Finally, to conclude, we must allow those who have left school already the flexibility to retrain and upskill by encouraging part-time study, which David Rees referred to.

Mohammad Asghar: For many of us, the subject of skills is of grave concern, especially for me. A vast number of individuals in the South Wales East region are less skilled than their English, Scottish and Irish counterparts. Some 18% of working-age adults in South Wales East have no qualifications, in comparison to 15% in Wales as a whole. That statistic is horrifying, particularly as the budget of Careers Wales is almost £40 million, yet studies have shown that Wales has a poor skills mix. I have always believed that there is a massive problem of brain drain in Wales. Talented Welsh individuals are being headhunted by large companies and offered opportunities that are far beyond those available here in Wales. These individuals are moving across the border on a yearly and daily basis.

Consequently, we are losing many skilled

penderfyniad Llywodraeth Cymru, fel y cyhoeddodd y Gweinidog, i ariannu myfyrwyr rhan-amser yn ogystal â myfyrwyr llawn-amser?

Aled Roberts: Gwnaf. Rwyf yn croesawu hynny, er bod cyhoeddiad pellach y bydd rhoi hynny ar waith mewn rhai achosion yn cael ei ohirio. Byddwn yn croesawu clywed beth sydd gan y Llywodraeth i'w ddweud am hynny. Y gwir amdani yw bod yn rhaid i ni i gyd gydnabod bod sgiliau'n bwysig i ddyfodol Cymru. Byddem yn cefnogi unrhyw fesur y gallai'r Llywodraeth ei gyflwyno i alluogi pawb i gyrraedd eu potensial. Fodd bynnag, o ystyried y dystiolaeth yr ydym wedi ei chlywed yn y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, mae angen i ni sicrhau bod y rhai sy'n gadael yr ysgol yn mynd i mewn i fyd gwaith gyda sgiliau sylfaenol digonol. Yn bwysicach, mae dystiolaeth gyfredol yn awgrymu bod cynhorau sgiliau yng Nghymru yn dal i fethu ag ymgynghori â diwydiant o ran y sgiliau a'r crefftâu y mae diwydiant eu hangen yng Nghymru.

Yn olaf, mae'n rhaid i ni roi hyblygrwydd i'r rhai sydd eisoes wedi gadael yr ysgol i ailhyfforddi a chynyddu eu sgiliau drwy annog astudio'n rhan-amser, fel y soniodd David Rees.

Mohammad Asghar: I lawer ohom, mae sgiliau yn destun pryer mawr, yn arbennig i mi. Mae nifer fawr o unigolion yn rhanbarth Dwyrain De Cymru yn llai medrus na'u cymheiriad yn Lloegr, yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon. Mae tua 18% o oedolion o oedran gweithio yn Nwyrain De Cymru heb unrhyw gymwysterau, o'i gymharu â 15% yng Nghymru gyfan. Mae hynny'n ystadegyn arswydus, yn enwedig gan fod gan Gyrfa Cymru gyllideb o bron i £40 miliwn, ond mae astudiaethau wedi dangos bod gan Gymru gymsgedd sgiliau gwael. Rwyf wedi credu erioed bod problem enfawr yng Nghymru o ran colli talent. Caiff unigolion talentog o Gymru eu targedu ar gyfer eu cyflogi gan gwmniau mawr sy'n cynnig cyfleoedd sydd ymhell tu hwnt i'r rhai sydd ar gael yma yng Nghymru. Mae'r unigolion hyn yn symud dros y ffin yn flynyddol ac yn ddyddiol.

O ganlyniad, rydym yn colli pobl fedrus a

and accomplished people to other parts of the country and abroad. As many of you are aware, I am a huge supporter of making Newport an enterprise zone. Supporting such a positive and inventive move will make local residents from an array of backgrounds and ages feel positive about gaining new skills and give them the knowledge that the skills they possess will be put to good use. I am sure that many people will reap the benefits when Newport is given enterprise zone status. Studies have clearly shown, and I agree, that economic development will lead to a skilled population, better education facilities and a much more positive community across Wales.

4.15 p.m.

The Leitch review states that

'it is unacceptable in the 21st century in the fifth richest economy in the world that young people should leave school unable to read, write and add up'.

The Welsh Government must be aware of the new generation of people leaving school without basic skills. According to Dylan Jones-Evans—

Simon Thomas: Who is he?

Mohammad Asghar: You will know in a minute. [Laughter.]

According to Dylan Jones-Evans, reporting on a study by the Wales employment and skills board called 'Skills That Work for Wales',

'if skills are improved within Welsh businesses then we will have a more prosperous society, reduced inequality, more jobs and less poverty'.

My learned colleague Angela Burns just said that, in challenging economic times, all public bodies have a duty to examine how essential services can be delivered in a more efficient manner. Where is the Welsh Government now?

As a Welsh Conservative, I am 100%

dawnus i rannau eraill o'r wlad a thramor. Fel y gwyf llawer ohonoch, rwyf yn frwd iawn dros wneud Casnewydd yn ardal fenter. Byddai cefnogi cam cadarnhaol ac arloesol o'r fath yn gwneud i drigolion lleol o amrywiaeth o gefndiroedd ac oedran deimlo'n bositif ynghylch ennill sgiliau newydd ac yn rhoi iddynt yr hyder y bydd y sgiliau sydd ganddynt yn cael defnydd da. Rwyf yn siŵr y bydd nifer o bobl yn elwa pan fydd Casnewydd yn sicrhau statws ardal fenter. Mae astudiaethau wedi dangos yn glir, ac rwyf yn cytuno â hwy, y bydd datblygu economaidd yn arwain at boblogaeth fedrus, at well cyfleusterau addysg ac at gymunedau mwy cadarnhaol ledled Cymru.

Mae adolygiad Leitch yn nodi

ei bod yn annerbyniol yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain, yn yr economi bumod gyfoethocaf yn y byd, fod pobl ifanc yn gadael yr ysgol heb allu darllen, ysgrifennu ac adio.

Rhaid i Lywodraeth Cymru sylweddoli bod cenhedlaeth newydd o bobl yn gadael yr ysgol heb sgiliau sylfaenol. Yn ôl Dylan Jones-Evans—

Simon Thomas: Pwy yw ef?

Mohammad Asghar: Byddwch yn gwybod mewn munud. [Chwerthin.]

Yn ôl Dylan Jones-Evans, a oedd yn adrodd am astudiaeth a gynhalwyd gan fwrdd cyflogaeth a sgiliau Cymru, sef 'Sgiliau sy'n Gweithio i Gymru',

os bydd sgiliau yn gwella ym musnesau Cymru, bydd gennym gymdeithas fwy llewyrchus, llai o anghydraddoldeb, mwy o swyddi a llai o dlodi.

Mae fy nghyfaill dysgedig Angela Burns newydd ddweud y dylai pob corff cyhoeddus, mewn cyfnod economaidd anodd, fod â dyletswydd i archwilio sut y gellir darparu gwasanaethau hanfodol mewn modd mwy effeithlon. Ble y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn awr?

Fel Ceidwadwr Cymreig, rwyf yn llwyr

supportive of all measures to improve the skills of young people, such as internships, work experience schemes and vocational qualifications. However, in order to reduce the skills gap, Wales's working population must also be given training in skills and ongoing career advice. I would like to know what the Welsh Government is doing to ensure that opportunities to develop skills are available to all Welsh residents, regardless of their age, gender and background. What provisions are being made by the Welsh Government to ensure that people in Wales with useful skills are utilised to the best of their ability?

I have always been a huge advocate of skills and no-one knows when a change in circumstances may occur. It is vital that each person in Wales is fully equipped for any social and economic change in their lives. Therefore, in order to achieve a more skilled population in Wales, it is essential to improve links between education and industry to prevent more brain drain taking place, make individuals more positive about their work and give them the opportunity to develop the skills that will be required to carry out their job effectively.

Ann Jones: I was frustrated to read this Conservative motion as it seeks to take some kind of moral high ground on areas that the Government at Westminster have entirely ignored. In practice, the Conservative ambition for the Welsh economy is pitiful. In March of last year, the Secretary of State for Wales revealed the findings of the Experian report that she commissioned on the Welsh economy. She said that it showed the opportunities available to the Welsh economy. One of the four opportunities in the report was affordable labour. As a number of people pointed out at the time, that is convenient code for a conveyor belt for cheap labour in Wales. It will do nothing to strengthen the Welsh economy and it just shows that, no matter how many motions the Welsh Conservative group proposes, it really has no control over, or it cannot go to talk to, its political masters in Westminster. It has no power or influence over them, and those are the people who are wrecking the recovery

gefnogi pob mesur i wella sgiliau pobl ifanc, megis lleoliadau, cynlluniau profiad gwaith a chymwysterau galwedigaethol. Fodd bynnag, er mwyn lleihau'r bwlch sgiliau, rhaid i'r boblogaeth yng Nghymru sy'n gweithio hefyd gael hyfforddiant ar sgiliau a chyngor gyraol. Hoffwn wybod beth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod cyfleoedd i ddatblygu sgiliau ar gael i holl drigolion Cymru, ni waeth beth fo'u hoedran, eu rhyw a'u cefndir. Pa ddarpariaethau sy'n cael eu gwneud gan Lywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau bod pobl yng Nghymru sydd â sgiliau defnyddiol yn cael eu defnyddio hyd eithaf eu gallu?

Rwyf wastad wedi hyrwyddo sgiliau'n frwd, ac nid oes neb yn gwybod pryd y gallai newid mewn amgylchiadau ddigwydd. Mae'n hanfodol bod gan bob person yng Nghymru yr holl arfau i ymdopi ag unrhyw newid cymdeithasol ac economaidd yn eu bywydau. Felly, er mwyn sicrhau bod poblogaeth fwy medrus yng Nghymru, mae'n hanfodol gwella cysylltiadau rhwng addysg a diwydiant er mwyn atal pobl fedrus rhag gadael y wlad, gwneud unigolion yn fwy cadarnhaol ynghylch eu gwaith a rhoi iddynt y cyfre i ddatblygu'r sgiliau y bydd eu hangen arnynt i gyflawni eu gwaith yn effeithiol.

Ann Jones: Roeddwn yn teimlo'n rhwystredig wrth ddarllen cynnig y Ceidwadwyr gan ei fod yn ceisio cymryd safbwyt moesol aruchel ar feysydd y mae'r Llywodraeth yn San Steffan wedi'u hanwybyddu'n gyfan gwbl. Yn ymarferol, mae uchelgais y Ceidwadwyr ar gyfer economi Cymru yn druenus. Ym mis Mawrth y llynedd, datgelodd Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ganlyniadau adroddiad Experian yr oedd wedi'i gomisiynu ar economi Cymru. Dywedodd ei fod yn dangos y cyfleoedd sydd ar gael i economi Cymru. Llafur fforddiadwy oedd un o'r pedwar cyfleoedd yn yr adroddiad. Fel y nododd nifer o bobl ar y pryd, cod cyfleus yw hynny i ddynodi llwybr rhwydd ar gyfer llafur rhad yng Nghymru. Ni fydd yn gwneud dim i gryfhau economi Cymru a'r unig beth y mae'n ei ddangos yw nad oes gan grŵp y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig, ni waeth faint o gynigion y bydd yn eu cynnig, reolaeth dros ei feistri gwleidyddol yn San Steffan, neu ni all siarad â hwy. Nid oes

and failing utterly on the deficit reduction.

In contrast, the Welsh Government is taking what I believe to be responsible action on the economy. There is only so much that can be done as the conditions that determine the backdrop of our economy at this time lie with the Tory-run Government at Westminster. That is why carefully designed policies within sector panels and the Welsh Government's anchor company imitative should be welcomed. This is not some short-sighted offer of cheap labour, and I am delighted that the Welsh Government is also pursuing a living wage policy in Wales. This approach is built on a long-term vision of a strong Welsh economy that engages businesses through a close working relationship and through a growing skills base.

It will be difficult task for the Welsh Government, but it is absolutely necessary if we are to avoid the obvious failures of an economy centred on low skills and low pay. That approach means a growing gap between the rich and poor and lasting unemployment reminiscent of the catastrophe of the Thatcher years. In Wales, the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science is showing leadership on our economy strategy, and I have faith in her ability to work with businesses in a robust and frank way that is allowing us to get things done and is turning words into actions.

In north Wales, we should welcome the development of specialist sector training academies, in association with, for example, the National Skills Academy for Nuclear, the Photonics Academy at the OptIC centre in St Asaph, and, with the National Skills Academy for Retail, the first retail academy in Wales, recognising that retail is an industry on which we will rely. Here we have specialist work being carried out and opened up to the people of north Wales. More broadly, I was pleased to see the Minister include new sectors within the economic renewal programme, which are key to the economy of north Wales. Construction and

ganddo unrhyw bŵer na dylanwad drostynt, a hwy yw'r bobl sy'n dinistrio'r adferiad ac yn methu'n llwyr o ran lleihau'r diffyg ariannol.

Mewn cyberbyniad â hynny, credaf fod Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithredu'n gyfrifol ar yr economi. Ni ellir gwneud popeth, gan mai'r Llywodraeth Doriadd yn San Steffan sy'n gyfrifol am yr amodau sy'n pennu cefndir ein heconomi ar hyn o bryd. Dyna pam y dylid croesawu polisiau a gynlluniwyd yn ofalus gan baneli sector a menter Llywodraeth Cymru ynghylch cwmnïau angori. Nid yw hwn yn gynnig cibddall o lafur rhad, ac rwyf yn hynod falch fod Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd yn mynd ar drywydd polisi cyflog byw yng Nghymru. Mae'r ymagwedd hon yn datblygu gweledigaeth tymor hir o gael economi gref yng Nghymru sy'n ymgysylltu â busnesau drwy berthynas waith agos a thrwy sylfaen sgiliau sy'n tyfu.

Bydd yn dasg anodd i Lywodraeth Cymru, ond mae'n gwbl angenheidiol os ydym am osgoi methiannau amlwg economi sy'n canolbwyntio ar sgiliau a chyflogau isel. Mae'r ymagwedd honno'n creu bwlch cynyddol rhwng y rheini sy'n gyfoethog a'r rheini sy'n dlawd, ynghyd â diweithdra parhaol sy'n dwyn i gof drychineb blynnyddoedd Thatcher. Yng Nghymru, mae'r Gweinidog Busnes, Menter, Technoleg a Gwyddoniaeth yn dangos arweiniad o ran ein strategaeth ar gyfer yr economi, ac mae gennyl ffydd yn ei gallu i weithio gyda busnesau mewn ffordd gadarn a didwyll sy'n caniatáu inni gyflawni pethau, ac sy'n troi geiriau'n weithredoedd.

Yng ngogledd Cymru, dylem groesawu datblygiad academiâu hyfforddi sectorau arbenigol, a wnaed ar y cyd â'r Academi Sgiliau Cenedlaethol ar gyfer Niwclear, er enghraift, yr Academi Ffotoneg yng nghanholfan OptIC yn Llanelwy, a'r Academi Sgiliau Cenedlaethol ar gyfer Manwerthu, sef yr academi fanwerthu gyntaf yng Nghymru, sy'n cydnabod bod manwerthu yn ddiwydiant y byddwn yn dibynnu arno. Yma mae gwaith arbenigol yn mynd rhagddo sydd ar gael i bobl gogledd Cymru. Yn fwy cyffredinol, roeddwn yn falch o weld y Gweinidog yn cynnwys sectorau newydd yn rhaglen adnewyddu'r economi, sy'n allweddol i

tourism in particular will be pivotal to the future of my constituency, the Vale of Clwyd. These priorities show that the Government is thinking in a joined-up way of maximising opportunities presented through regeneration and our natural environment.

This approach also forms part of the social partnership that is central to the Welsh Government's work across all departments. That includes the council for economic renewal, with representatives across sectors well placed to deliver on our economic priorities. I would welcome further information on the nature of those meetings and whether there is a robust working framework in place to avoid protracted debates on decided policy and legislation. It is fair to expect that this can happen, as it can never be possible to meet everyone's personal ambition or priorities when dealing with legislation. Negotiation should be key to this collaboration and I hope that social partnership in Wales is being pursued in this spirit in order that real progress can be made in the key areas of our economy that require concerted and collective action. Only a Welsh Labour Government will do that. The Tories need to go back to talk to their colleagues in Westminster.

Mark Isherwood: Responding to the Welsh Government's economic renewal programme 2010, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales rightly said that Wales can offer an outstanding environment with clear attractions in terms of the quality of life on offer. It identified the strengths of the Welsh economy, which are largely shared by the rest of the UK. However, worryingly, it identified weaknesses in the Welsh economy, including the high level of economic inactivity, with some communities having an endemic culture of worklessness, and a poor skills mix and high levels of basic skills needs compared with the rest of the UK. It added that the Welsh Government has been unduly concerned with processes rather than outcomes and that it should focus on putting in place the right conditions for business to prosper and delivering fundamental public

economy gogledd Cymru. Bydd adeiladu a thwristiaeth yn benodol yn ganolog i ddyfodol fy etholaeth, Dyffryn Clwyd. Mae'r blaenoriaethau hyn yn dangos bod y Llywodraeth yn meddwl mewn ffordd gydgysylltiedig am wneud y mwyaf o'r cyfleoedd a gyflwynir drwy adfywio a'n hamgylchedd naturiol.

Mae'r dull hwn hefyd yn rhan o'r bartneriaeth gymdeithasol sydd wrth galon gwaith Llywodraeth Cymru ar draws ei holl adrannau. Mae hynny'n cynnwys cyngor adnewyddu'r economi, sydd â chynrychiolwyr ar draws sectorau sydd â'r gallu i gyflawni ein blaenoriaethau economaidd. Byddwn yn croesawu rhagor o wybodaeth am natur y cyfarfodydd hynny a gwybodaeth o ran a oes fframwaith cadarn ar waith i osgoi dadleuon hirfaith ar bolisi a deddfwriaeth y penderfynwyd arnynt. Mae'n deg disgwyl y gall hyn ddigwydd, gan na fydd byth modd gwireddu uchelgais neu flaenoriaethau personol pawb wrth ymdrin â deddfwriaeth. Dylai trafod fod yn rhan allweddol o'r broses hon o gydweithio, ac rwyf yn gobeithio bod partneriaethau cymdeithasol yng Nghymru yn cael eu rhoi ar waith yn yr un ysbryd fel y gellir gwneud cynnydd go iawn ym meysydd allweddol ein heconomi lle y mae angen gweithredu ar y cyd. Dim ond Llywodraeth Lafur Cymru all wneud hynny. Mae angen i'r Torïaid fynd yn ôl i siarad â'u cydweithwyr yn San Steffan.

Mark Isherwood: Wrth ymateb i raglen Llywodraeth Cymru yn 2010 i adnewyddu'r economi, dywedodd Sefydliad Cyfrifwyr Siartredig Cymru a Lloegr, yn gywir ddigon, y gall Cymru gynnig amgylchedd rhagorol gan fod ganddi atyniadau clir o ran ansawdd bywyd. Nododd gryfderau economi Cymru, a rennir i raddau helaeth â gweddill y DU. Fodd bynnag, er mawr bryder, nododd wendidau yn economi Cymru, gan gynnwys y lefel uchel o anweithgarwch economaidd, o ystyried bod gan rai cymunedau ddiwylliant endemig o ddiweithdra, cymysgedd sgiliau gwael a lefelau uchel o anghenion sgiliau sylfaenol o'u cymharu â gweddill y DU. Ychwanegodd fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi canolbwytio'n ormodol ar brosesau yn hytrach nag ar ganlyniadau, ac y dylai ganolbwytio ar roi'r amodau cywir ar waith fel y gall busnesau ffynnu, ac ar ddarparu

services efficiently and effectively.

The 2006 UK Leitch review, launched following concerns over the UK's ability to compete in global markets due to poor levels of literacy and numeracy, found that poor skills are a key contributor to low productivity, as well as having a wider impact on social welfare. Recognising the importance of demand-led skills provision, its recommendations called for employer engagement in training.

Record youth unemployment in Wales has been rising since 2005, and 611,000 working-aged people in Wales were not in work according to the figures published in December. Before the recession began, the UK had over 4 million people stuck on out-of-work benefits—many for a decade or more—and one in three working-aged adults in Wales were not in work, which is double the UK rate. It is a matter of shame that, despite spending billions on economic development, including two rounds of EU funds, the Welsh Government failed to tackle this.

At UK level, the work programme is about giving new skills to people far from the jobs market. Those able to work immediately will seek employment and join the work programme; others who could work in the future will get tailored support. Last November's Spotlight North Wales conference, the region's premiere business event, opened by the First Minister, was sponsored by JobFit, a prime contractor of the UK Government's work programme in Wales. Addressing the conference, JobFit described the work programme as a radical transformation in the way that the Department for Work and Pensions will deliver welfare to work services across the UK. It said that this was one of the biggest welfare to work programmes the UK had ever seen, with payment by results for getting people into work as well as for keeping them in work. It said that it was dealing with people's lives. Almost everyone has the ability and capacity to work, but they do not

gwasanaethau cyhoeddus sylfaenol yn effeithlon ac yn effeithiol.

Canfu adolygiad Leitch y DU yn 2006, a lansiwyd yn sgil pryderon am allu'r DU i gystadlu mewn marchnadoedd byd-eang oherwydd lefelau gwael o ran llythrennedd a rhifedd, fod sgiliau gwael yn gwneud cyfraniad allweddol i gynhyrchiant isel, ac yn cael effaith ehangach ar les cymdeithasol. Gan gydnabod pwysigrwydd darparu sgiliau yn ôl y galw, roedd ei argymhellion yn galw am sicrhau bod cyflogwyr yn ymgysylltu â hyfforddiant.

Bu'r lefelau diweithdra uchaf erioed ymysg ieuengtid yng Nghymru yn cynyddu er 2005, ac roedd 611,000 o bobl yng Nghymru o oedran gweithio yn ddi-waith yn ôl y ffigurau a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Rhagfyr. Cyn y dirwasgiad, roedd 4 miliwn o bobl nad oeddent yn gallu dod oddi ar fudd-daliadau a geir drwy fod yn ddi-waith—a llawer ohonynt ers degawd neu fwy—ac roedd un o bob tri oedolyn yng Nghymru o oedran gweithio yn ddi-waith, sef dwbl cyfradd y DU. Mae'n destun cywilydd fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi methu â mynd i'r afael â hynny, er gwaethaf y ffaith iddi wario biliynau o bunnoedd ar ddatblygu economaidd, gan gynnwys dau gylch ariannu yr UE.

Ar lefel y DU, mae'r rhaglen waith yn ymwneud â rhoi sgiliau newydd i bobl sydd ymhell o'r farchnad swyddi. Bydd y rheini sy'n gallu gweithio ar unwaith yn chwilio am waith ac yn ymuno â'r rhaglen waith; bydd eraill a allai weithio yn y dyfodol yn cael cymorth wedi'i deilwra. Cynhaliwyd cynhadledd Goleuo'r Gogledd ym mis Tachwedd, sef prif ddigwyddiad busnes y rhanbarth, a chafodd ei hagor gan y Prif Weinidog. Noddwyd y gynhadledd gan JobFit, sef un o brif gontactwyr rhaglen waith Llywodraeth y DU yng Nghymru. Wrth annerch y gynhadledd, dywedodd JobFit fod y rhaglen waith yn newid radical i'r ffordd y bydd yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau yn darparu gwasanaethau i symud pobl oddi ar fudd-dal ac i waith ledled y DU. Dywedodd fod y rhaglen hon yn un o'r rhagleni mwyaf ar gyfer symud pobl oddi ar fudd-daliadau ac i waith a welwyd yn y DU erioed, gyda thaliadau'n cael eu gwneud ar sail y canlyniadau mewn perthynas â dod o

all know it yet. JobFit provides individual support accordingly. It added that it had got off to a positive start, although much more needed to be done. The work programme in Wales is chaired by the Welsh Government. If the programme does not work for employers, then it just does not work. We need to hear less whingeing about the work programme from the Welsh Government, and more facts about its engagement with the programme.

Careers Wales also has a key role to play in building on the positive outcomes from its work with young people in danger of dropping out from education, and with post-education youth gateway programmes. It is engaged in discussions about setting up projects to complement the UK work programme, but is still awaiting the Welsh Government's decision on its future structure—two years after the Minister for education announced his decision to merge the six Careers Wales non-profit companies into a single organisation by 1 April 2012. There is also concern that its Welsh Government budget until 2014 equates to a disproportionate 40% cut in real terms over five years, causing front-line staff redundancies and reduced careers advice and support.

The third sector has experience in building confidence and developing the work and life skills of people who need support. It has a positive track record of successfully delivering employment projects in Wales. The Welsh Government should, therefore, also ensure that its Welsh jobs fund uses the expertise of the third sector in engaging with the hardest to engage, providing them with the motivation and skills needed if we are finally to rebalance the Welsh economy.

Simon Thomas: Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Ceidwadwyr am ddod â dadl am sgiliau gerbron y Cynulliad. Nid oes dwywaith bod hwn yn faes pwysig i economi Cymru. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn gwyntyllu rhai agweddau

hyd i waith i bobl, a'u cadw yn y gwaith. Dywedodd ei fod yn ymdrin â bywydau pobl. Mae gan bron pawb y gallu i weithio, ond nid ydynt i gyd yn gwybod hynny eto. Mae JobFit yn darparu cefnogaeth unigol yn unol â hynny. Ychwanegodd ei bod wedi dechrau'n gadarnhaol, er bod angen gwneud llawer mwy. Mae'r rhaglen waith yng Nghymru yn cael ei chadeirio gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Os nad yw'r rhaglen yn gweithio ar ran cyflogwyr, nid yw'n gweithio o gwbl. Mae angen inni glywed llai o swnian gan Lywodraeth Cymru am y rhaglen waith, a mwy o ffeithiau am ei hymgysylltiad â'r rhaglen.

Mae gan Gyrfa Cymru hefyd rôl allweddol i'w chwarae o ran datblygu canlyniadau cadarnhaol ei waith gyda phobl ifanc sydd mewn perygl o roi'r gorau i addysg, a chyda rhagleni porth ieuenciad ar ôl addysg. Mae'n cymryd rhan mewn trafodaethau ar sefydlu prosiectau i gyd-fynd â rhaglen waith y DU, ond mae'n dal yn aros am benderfyniad Llywodraeth Cymru ar ei strwythur yn y dyfodol—ddwy flynedd ar ôl i'r Gweinidog dros addysg gyhoeddi ei benderfyniad i uno chwe chwmni dielw Gyrfa Cymru yn un sefydliad erbyn 1 Ebrill 2012. Mae pryder hefyd fod y gyllideb y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'i neilltuo ar ei gyfer hyd at 2014 yn cyfateb i doriad anghymesur o 40% mewn termau real dros bum mlynedd, a fydd yn arwain at ddiswyddo staff rheng flaen a llai o gyngor a chymorth ynghylch gyrfaoedd.

Mae gan y trydydd sector brofiad o feithrin hyder a datblygu sgiliau gwaith a bywyd pobl y mae angen cymorth arnynt. Mae ganddo hanes da o lwyddo i gyflawni prosiectau cyflogaeth yng Nghymru. Felly, dylai Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd sicrhau bod ei chronfa ar gyfer ariannu swyddi yng Nghymru yn defnyddio arbenigedd y trydydd sector wrth ymgysylltu â'r rheini y mae'n fwyaf anodd ymgysylltu â hwy, gan roi iddynt y cymhelliant a'r sgiliau sydd eu hangen arnynt os byddwn o'r diwedd yn ail-gydbwyo economi Cymru.

Simon Thomas: I would like to thank the Conservatives for bringing a debate on skills to the Assembly. There is no doubt that this is an important area for the Welsh economy. It is important that we air some of the issues

ar raglen sgiliau'r Llywodraeth er mwyn gweld lle mae'n ddifygiol a lle mae modd ei gwella. Mae'n ddiddorol bod y Ceidwadwyr wedi dewis tanlinellu dau brif beth yn y cynnig ger ein bron heddiw. Y cyntaf yw adolygiad Leitch, sy'n deillio yn uniongyrchol o waith y cyn Lywodraeth Llafur yn San Steffan, a'r ail yw rhaglen adfywio'r economi, sy'n deillio yn uniongyrchol o waith clodwiw Ieuan Wyn Jones yn Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un Plaid Cymru a Llafur. Mae gan y Ceidwadwyr ffrwyth gwaith dwy blaid arall sydd wedi cydweithio yn y gorffennol i wella sgiliau ac economi Cymru. Ar hynny rwyf am ganolbwytio rhai o fy sylwadau heddiw.

Nododd adroddiad Leitch yn glir bod unrhyw hyfforddiant sgiliau ar gyfer oedolion yng Nghymru, a Phrydain yn gyffredinol, yn gorfol cael eu rhannu rhwng cyflogwyr, Llywodraeth ac unigolion. Mae cael y cydbwysedd hwnnw yn iawn yn bwysig i sicrhau bod y rhaglen sgiliau yn llwyddo. Nid ydym am weld pobl yn gadael rhaglenni a phrentisiaethau. Rhaid sicrhau bod y rhaglenni yr ydym yn eu paratoi, o fewn ein sefydliadau addysg bellach yn benodol, ond hefyd yn ein prif safleoedd gwaith, yn rhaglenni sydd yn cryfhau'r sgiliau sydd eu hangen ar economi Cymru. Mae'n hynod bwysig bod y cydbwysedd hwnnw yn cael ei gynnal. Nid wyf wedi clywed hynny oddi wrth y Ceidwadwyr hyd yma. Yr wyf yn synhwyro ymgais i wneud rhywbeth tebyg i'r hyn yr oeddent yn ceisio'i wneud yn y system addysg flaenorol, sef rhoi arian i bobl allu prynu addysg a sgiliau—allforio cyfrifoldeb am sgiliau o'r Llywodraeth i'r unigolion. Mae'n ddeniadol i'r Ceidwadwyr, ond nid yw'n ddeniadol i mi, o ystyried pa mor fregus yw nifer o'n pobl ifanc sydd am wella eu sgiliau. Mae arnynt angen cefnogaeth y Llywodraeth er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn cael sgiliau priodol.

Angela Burns: I must clarify your point, Simon Thomas. We are seeking to ensure that a person with the right skills is in a place where the right kind of employer is able to offer them a good job that gives them a future. It is not about trying to hive off education to employers or other providers; it is about ensuring that people get the skills

on the Government's skills programme in order to see where it is deficient and where it can be improved. It is interesting that the Conservatives have chosen to underline two main things in the motion before us today. The first is the Leitch review, which emerged directly from the work of the previous Labour Government in Westminster, and the second is the economic renewal programme, which emerged directly from the excellent work done by Ieuan Wyn Jones in the previous Plaid Cymru/Labour One Wales Government. What the Conservatives have here is the fruit of the work of two parties that have collaborated in the past to improve Wales's skills and economy. It is on that that I will focus some of my comments today.

The Leitch report clearly noted that any skills training for adults in Wales, and Britain in general, has to be shared between employers, individuals and the Government. Finding the correct balance is important in ensuring that any skills programme succeeds. We do not want to see people falling out of programmes and apprenticeships. We must ensure that the programmes that we provide, within our further education institutions in particular, but also in the workplace, are ones that improve the skills that are required within the Welsh economy. It is vital that we maintain that balance. I have not yet heard that from the Conservatives. I sense an attempt to do something similar to what they tried to do previously in the education system, namely to give funding to individuals so that they can purchase education and skills—exporting responsibility for skills training from Government to individuals. That is attractive to the Conservatives, but it is not attractive to me, given the vulnerability of many of our young people seeking to improve their skills. They need support from Government in order to gain the appropriate skills.

Angela Burns: Mae'n rhaid imi egluro eich pwynt, Simon Thomas. Rydym yn ceisio sicrhau bod unigolyn sydd â'r sgiliau cywir mewn man lle y mae'r math cywir o gyflogwr yn gallu cynnig swydd dda sy'n rhoi dyfodol iddynt. Nid yw'n fater o geisio trosglwyddo addysg i ddwylo cyflogwyr neu ddarparwyr eraill; mae'n fater o sicrhau bod

that they need in order to move forward. At no point have we ever said to the people of Wales that we intend to sell off the provision of skills.

pobl yn cael y sgiliau sydd eu hangen arnynt er mwyn symud ymlaen. Nid ydym ar unrhyw adeg wedi dweud wrth bobl Cymru ein bod yn bwriadu cael gwared ar y ddarpariaeth o sgiliau.

4.30 p.m.

Simon Thomas: I am grateful to Angela Burns for that clarification. I heard the word ‘commissioning’, which rather set the hares running. However, I certainly agree with what Angela has just said, and I have no argument with how she has just put it. So, let the record show that.

Simon Thomas: Rwyf yn ddiolchgar i Angela Burns am yr eglurhad. Clywais y gair ‘comisiynu’, a dyna wnaeth achosi fy ymateb. Fodd bynnag, rwyf yn sicr yn cytuno â’r hyn a ddywedodd Angela, ac nid oes gennyl unrhyw ddadl yn erbyn yr hyn y mae newydd ei ddweud. Felly, gadewch i’r cofnod ddangos hynny.

Serch hynny—hyn oedd yn dod nesaf yn naturiol—rhaid inni edrych ar yr hyn y mae’r Llywodraeth bresennol wedi ei wneud go iawn wrth ymateb i adroddiad Leitch yn San Steffan. Wedi iddi ddod i rym ym mis Mai 2010, tynnodd y Llywodraeth honno yn Hydref 2010 dros £1 biliwn o raglen hyfforddi *Train to Gain* a’r rhaglen hyfforddi oedolion. Dyna’r hyn y mae Ceidwadwyr yn ei wneud go iawn. Efallai fod y rhai sydd yma yn dweud y pethau iawn o ran hyfforddi pobl ifanc, ond yn anffodus, yn San Steffan, maent wedi tynnu dros £1 biliwn o hyfforddiant o’r math hwn. Os yw hyn mor allweddol i ddatblygu ein pobl ifanc, hoffwn weld yr arian yn aros yn y system i sicrhau bod pobl ifanc yn gallu manteisio arno.

However—this is what was naturally coming up next—we need to look at what the current Government in Westminster has really done in response to the Leitch report. Having come to power in May 2010, in the following October that Government cut £1 billion from the Train to Gain training programme and the adult training programme. That is what Conservatives do in power. Conservatives here might say the right things about the training of young people but, unfortunately, in Westminster they have cut over £1 billion from this sort of training. If this is so key to the development of our young people, I would like to see the money staying in the system to ensure that young people can benefit from it.

Trof yn awr at gwpl o bethau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi eu gwneud. Yn gyntaf oll, croesawaf y cyhoeddiad bod Sgiliau Twf Cymru yn cael mwy o arian a bod yr olynnyd hwnnw i ProAct-rhaglen a gyflwynwyd gan Weinidog Plaid Cymru yn y Llywodraeth flaenorol-wedi cael hwb sylweddol bellach o £30 miliwn fel bod modd iddo barhau. Mae hon yn rhaglen yr wyf yn ei chroesawu’n fawr.

I now turn to a few things that the Welsh Government has done. First of all, I welcome the announcement that Skills Growth Wales is to be given enhanced funding and that that successor to ProAct—a programme introduced by a Plaid Cymru Minister in the previous Government—has been given a substantial boost of £30 million in order to continue. That is a programme that I warmly welcome.

Serch hynny, byddwn wedi hoffi gweld y Llywodraeth bresennol yn dangos mwy o bwrpas, gan weithio ar y cyd â phartneriaid, megis y trydydd sector, fel y soniodd Mark Isherwood, a busnesau preifat. Un o’r pethau penodol y byddwn i wedi hoffi gweld y Llywodraeth hon yn ei adfywio yw'r rôl a model y partneriaethau cymdeithasol a oedd gennym yn ystod y Llywodraeth ddiwethaf.

I would, however, like to see more purpose in the activities of the current Government, working in partnership with, for example, the third sector, as Mark Isherwood mentioned, and private businesses. One of the specific things that I would like to have seen the Government resurrect is the social partnership role and model that existed under the previous Government.

Nick Ramsay: There you go again, Simon Thomas; teasing us on the Conservative benches. It seemed that you were initially coming our way, then you backed away and put that green water between us. It is like there is a leadership campaign in the offing. I do not know much about those, so I will not offer you any advice on the matter. [Laughter.]

I am pleased to be contributing in this debate today. Skills are at the heart of many of our debates, so I am pleased that we are having a debate that focuses primarily on them. Let us face it; skills are the basis not only for current prosperity, but also for future prosperity. That is why, as Angela Burns said at the start of this debate, we frame the debate around the comment made by the institute of chartered accountants that Wales has a poor skills mix. That comment really leapt out at me when I saw it. I heard some of the Government Members talking earlier about the Government's rather poor amendment 1, which says that concern should not be registered about that comment and that it should just be noted. We feel that it is very concerning that such an institute believes that we do not have a proper skills mix. We think that the first step towards recognising that and addressing what is not a recent problem, but a long-term problem, is to recognise that there is a problem and express concern. We will therefore not support that amendment.

Things have to change. This is not just a Welsh problem; it would be disingenuous to say that it is something that is happening here and nowhere else in Britain. It is clear that there is a problem with skills, and that it has been over a considerable length of time across Britain as a whole. The issue is this: how is the situation in the rest of Britain, or even just in England, improving relative to Wales, and do we see policies in place in the rest of the UK and here to deal with the problem? We feel that while some progress has been made, a lot more could and should have been done.

Nick Ramsay: Dyna chi unwaith eto, Simon Thomas; yn ein pryfocio ni ar feinciau'r Ceidwadwyr. Roedd yn ymddangos eich bod yn dod i'r un cyfeiriad â ni i ddechrau, yna gwnaethoch gamu yn ôl a rhoi'r dŵr gwyrdd hwnnw rhyngom ni. Mae fel pe bai ymgyrch arweinyddiaeth ar y gweill. Nid wyf yn gwybod llawer am y rheiny, felly ni fyddaf yn cynnig unrhyw gyngor ar y mater hwnnw. [Chwerthin.]

Rwyf yn falch fy mod yn cyfrannu i'r ddadl hon heddiw. Mae sgiliau wrth wraidd llawer o'n dadleuon, felly rwyf yn falch ein bod yn cael dadl sy'n canolbwytio'n bennaf arnynt. Gadewch inni fod yn onest; sgiliau yw'r sail nid yn unig i ffyniant ar hyn o bryd, ond hefyd i ffyniant yn y dyfodol. Dyna pam, fel y dywedodd Angela Burns ar ddechrau'r ddadl hon, rydym yn llunio'r drafodaeth o amgylch y sylw a wnaed gan sefydliad y cyfrifwyr siartredig, sef bod gan Gymru gymysgedd wael o sgiliau. Neidiodd y sylw hwnnw allan arnaf. Yn gynharach, clywais rai o Aelodau'r Llywodraeth yn siarad am welliant eithaf gwan gan y Llywodraeth, sef gwelliant 1, sy'n dweud na ddylid mynegi pryder am y sylw hwnnw ac y dylid ei nodi yn unig. Rydym yn teimlo ei bod yn fater o bryder mawr bod y math hwnnw o sefydliad yn credu nad oes gennym gymysgedd priodol o sgiliau. Rydym yn credu mai'r cam cyntaf tuag at gydnabod hynny a mynd i'r afael â phroblem nad yw'n broblem ddiweddar ond yn un yn y tymor hir, yw cydnabod bod problem a mynegi pryder. Felly, ni fyddwn yn cefnogi'r gwelliant hwnnw.

Mae'n rhaid i bethau newid. Nid yw hon yn broblem yng Nghymru yn unig; byddai'n annidwyll dweud ei fod yn rhywbeth sy'n digwydd yma ac nid yn unrhyw le arall ym Mhrydain. Mae'n amlwg bod problem o ran sgiliau, a bod hynny wedi bod yn wir dros gyfnod sylweddol ledled Prydain. Y pwynt yw: sut mae'r sefyllfa yng ngweddill Prydain, neu hyd yn oed yn Lloegr yn unig, yn gwella o'i chymharu â sefyllfa Cymru, ac a oes polisiau ar waith yng ngweddill y DU ac yma i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem? Teimlwn, er bod rhywfaint o gynnydd wedi'i wneud, fod llawer mwy y gellid ac y dylid bod wedi'i wneud.

Diane Johnson, the president of Electrical Contractors' Association—I know that this has been mentioned already, but it is an important point—says that Britain faces a ticking time bomb with a shortage of electricians and plumbers. For some time now, there has been a perception that if you go into that sort of skills education rather than to university, you are somehow not ticking the right boxes. That has happened under successive Governments and under different philosophies, and has to be addressed, because I do not think that there is a single Member who would say that if someone was training to be an electrician, plumber or carpenter, that should be seen in any way as less of an achievement than going to university. I will take an intervention from David Rees.

David Rees: I know that your colleague mentioned this earlier, but Neath-Port Talbot College has over-subscribed courses for plumbers and electricians. Young people are trying to get into those areas, and acquire those skills, but the problem they have is getting the work placements beyond that. That is what we need to address, not the actual courses. The courses are there, but they cannot get the work placements.

Nick Ramsay: You speak from experience there, David, and I agree. I was not really saying that there were not enough people going into those areas; it is just that there is an ongoing perception in some quarters that people are better suited to university when a lot of people, let us face it, are not. A lot of people would be better off taking that different skills route. So, I do not think that we are disagreeing there.

In terms of the problem itself, if you look at the actual numbers, the skills gaps that we are looking at affect around 80,000 employees in Wales. I agree that it is good to see the new sectors added to the economic renewal programme, as Ann Jones and others mentioned. I am not quite sure why they were not there to start with, but, to be fair, that was

Mae Diane Johnson, llywydd sefydliad y contractwyr trydanol—rwyf yn gwybod bod hyn wedi cael ei grybwyl eisoes, ond mae'n bwynt pwysig—yn dweud bod Prydain yn wynebu argyfwng oherwydd prinder trydanwyr a phlymwyd. Ers peth amser bellach, bu canfyddiad os byddwch yn mynd i mewn i'r math hwnnw o addysg sgiliau yn hytrach nag i'r brifysgol, nad ydych rywsut yn ticio'r blychau cywir. Mae hynny wedi digwydd o dan y naill Lywodraeth ar ôl y llall ac o dan wahanol athroniaethau, ac mae'n rhaid mynd i'r afael â hynny, oherwydd nid wyf yn credu y byddai'r un Aelod yn dweud, pe byddai rhywun yn hyfforddi i fod yn drydanwr, yn blymwr neu'n saer coed, y dylid gweld hynny fel llai o gyflawniad mewn unrhyw ffordd na mynd i'r brifysgol. Cymeraf ymyriad gan David Rees.

David Rees: Gwn fod eich cyd-Aelod wedi sôn am hyn yn gynharach, ond mae Castell-nedd Port Talbot wedi cael gormod o geisiadau am gyrsiau ar gyfer plymwyd a thrydanwyr. Mae pobl ifanc yn ceisio cael mynediad i'r meysydd hynny, a datblygu'r sgiliau hynny, ond y broblem sydd ganddynt yw cael y lleoliadau gwaith y tu hwnt i hynny. Dyna beth y mae angen inni fynd i'r afael ag ef, nid y cyrsiau eu hunain. Mae'r cyrsiau yno, ond ni allant gael y lleoliadau gwaith.

Nick Ramsay: Rydych yn siarad o brofiad, David, ac rwyf yn cytuno. Nid oeddwn mewn gwirionedd yn dweud nad oedd digon o bobl yn mynd i mewn i'r meysydd hynny; dim ond bod canfyddiad parhaus mewn rhai mannau fod y brifysgol yn fwy addas i rai pobl, pan na fydd, mewn gwirionedd, yn addas i nifer o bobl. Byddai nifer o bobl yn well eu byd pe byddent yn dilyn y llwybr gwahanol hwnnw o sgiliau. Felly, nid wyf yn credu ein bod yn anghytuno ar y mater hwnnw.

O ran y broblem ei hun, os edrychwch ar y niferoedd gwirioneddol, mae'r bylchau sgiliau rydym yn edrych arnynt yn effeithio ar tua 80,000 o weithwyr yng Nghymru. Rwyf yn cytuno ei bod yn dda gweld y sectorau newydd a ychwanegwyd at y rhaglen adnewyddu economaidd, fel y soniodd Ann Jones ac eraill. Nid wyf yn siŵr

probably more to do with the previous Minister than the current one. It is excellent that those new sectors have been added, and we need to see a range of skills promoted across all of those sectors, because we all want that economic renewal programme to succeed—it is vital that Wales has a programme like that that fits our young people and the economy of Wales. I will close by picking up on a comment that Ann Jones made: she conjured up an apocalyptic image, actually—she was not her usual, cheery self—speaking about a conveyor belt of cheap labour. I do not think that anyone is talking about that. You only have to look at what the CBI says—

Ann Jones: Do I care about the CBI? It does not care about my sprinklers.

Nick Ramsay: Let us face it, the Government is getting on quite well with the CBI now, given that members of the CBI have rightly been taken on for advice. The CBI has said that—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Conclude, please.

Nick Ramsay: It said that skills support needs to be flexible, demand-led and designed to meet the needs of the economy in Wales. Let us not bring all this down to some sort of picture of a cheap-labour economy; it is not about that at all.

David Rees: As many of you know, my previous life was in education, so I saw at first hand how many of these skills go on to play a decisive role in people's lives. Skills matter fundamentally to the economic and social health of our nation. While we stand here debating the provision of skills, let us not forget that it is not simply about economic renewal; it is also about people's lives. It is about giving people opportunities and enabling them to fulfil their potential. There is no denying that, in Wales, we still face challenges regarding skills levels. The

pam nad oeddent yno o'r cychwyn, ond, i fod yn deg, yn ôl pob tebyg, cyfrifoldeb y Gweinidog blaenorol oedd hwnnw yn hytrach na'r un presennol. Mae'n wych bod y sectorau newydd hynny wedi cael eu hychwanegu, ac mae angen inni weld ystod o sgiliau'n cael eu hyrwyddo ar draws yr holl sectorau hynny, oherwydd ein bod i gyd am i'r rhaglen adnewyddu economaidd lwyddo—mae'n hanfodol bod gan Gymru raglen o'r fath sy'n gweddu i'n pobl ifanc ac i economi Cymru. Gwnaf gloi drwy gyfeirio at sylw a wnaeth Ann Jones: creodd ddelwedd apocalyptaid, mewn gwirionedd—nid oedd mor llawen ag y mae fel arfer—gan siarad am lwybr rhwydd ar gyfer llafur rhad. Nid wyf yn credu bod unrhyw un yn siarad am hynny. Nid oes ond yn rhaid ichi edrych ar yr hyn y mae'r CBI yn ei ddweud—

Ann Jones: A wyf i'n poeni am y CBI? Nid yw'n poeni am fy chwistrellwyr i.

Nick Ramsay: Gadewch inni wynebu'r gwir: mae'r Llywodraeth yn tynnu ymlaen yn eithaf da gyda'r CBI yn awr, o ystyried ei bod wedi troi at rai o aelodau'r CBI am gyngor. Mae'r CBI wedi dweud—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Gorffennwch, os gwelwch yn dda.

Nick Ramsay: Dywedodd fod angen i gymorth ar gyfer sgiliau fod yn hyblyg, wedi'i arwain gan y galw ac wedi'i gynllunio i ateb anghenion yr economi yng Nghymru. Gadewch i ni beidio â phortreadu rhyw fath o lun o economi llafur rhad; nid dyna yw'r sefyllfa o gwbl.

David Rees: Fel y gwŷr llawer ohonoch, roeddwn ym myd addysg yn fy mywyd blaenorol, felly gwelais drosof fy hun sut y gall llawer o'r sgiliau hyn chwarae'r rôl bendant ym mywydau pobl. Mae sgiliau o bwys sylfaenol i iechyd economaidd a chymdeithasol ein cenedl. Er ein bod yn sefyll yma'n dadlau am y ddarpariaeth o sgiliau, gadewch inni beidio ag anghofio nad yw'n fater syml o adnewyddu'r economi; mae'n ymwneud hefyd â bywydau pobl. Mae'n ymwneud â rhoi cyfle i bobl a'u galluogi i gyflawni eu potensial. Ni ellir

poor skills mix has been mentioned. There has also been reference to the lack of qualifications, but, in the past 10 years, we have seen a dramatic reduction in those figures—not down to 15%, but down to 12%—so we are making strides in reducing the number of people without qualifications in Wales. In fact, the biggest improvement anywhere in the UK is being seen here in Wales. This is a result of Welsh Labour focusing on skills not just as an economic renewal tool, but as a key factor in tackling inequality, low self-worth, deprivation and child poverty. People have worked incredibly hard to improve on those issues, and, as Simon Thomas said, the previous Government introduced the ProAct and ReAct schemes, which got over 27,000 people reskilled and retrained to fight redundancy and unemployment. It has worked tremendously well, and the announcement yesterday of the extra investment in Skills Growth Wales has taken that even further. There are already 90 companies and over 8,000 people who have benefitted from that.

At the same time, we see other projects coming forward. There is the employer pledge programme, and Lord Leitch, who has already been mentioned, has shown an exemplar of best practice within the UK. The Wales union learning fund has not yet been mentioned, but it has been excellent in supporting skills training for individuals. Jobs Growth Wales has been brought forward by this Welsh Government, and we mentioned higher education earlier on—we are also helping students by not putting the extra burden of increased fees upon them, unlike the UK Government.

I agree that we must focus on skills that genuinely meet the needs of learners and employers and not simply on programmes that meet the needs of training providers. I am concerned by the mention of private sector skills academies in the debate.

Angela Burns: It may well have been due to my diction. I was not saying that it should be

gwadu ein bod ni yng Nghymru yn parhau i wynebu heriau o ran lefelau sgiliau. Soniwyd eisoes am y gymysgedd wael o sgiliau. Cyfeiriwyd hefyd at y diffyg cymwysterau, ond, dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, rydym wedi gweld gostyngiad dramatig yn y ffigurau hynny—nid i lawr i 15%, ond i lawr i 12%—felly rydym yn gwneud cynnydd o ran lleihau nifer y bobl heb gymwysterau yng Nghymru. Yn wir, mae'r gwelliant mwyaf yn unrhyw le yn y DU i'w weld yma yng Nghymru. Mae hyn o ganlyniad i'r ffaith bod Llafur Cymru yn canolbwytio ar sgiliau nid yn unig fel dull ar gyfer adnewyddu'r economi, ond hefyd fel ffactor allweddol wrth fynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldeb, diffyg hunanwerth, amddfadiad a thlodi plant. Mae pobl wedi gweithio'n anhygoel o galed i wella'r problemau hynny, ac, fel y dywedodd Simon Thomas, cyflwynodd y Llywodraeth flaenorol gynlluniau ProAct a ReAct, a helpodd dros 27,000 o bobl i gael sgiliau newydd ac i ail-hyfforddi i frwydro yn erbyn diswyddiadau a diweithdra. Mae wedi gweithio'n hynod o dda, a bydd cyhoeddiad ddoe ynghylch y buddsoddiad ychwanegol yn Sgiliau Twf Cymru yn arwain at gynnydd pellach. Mae 90 o gwmniau a dros 8,000 o bobl eisoes wedi elwa ar hynny.

Ar yr un pryd, gwelwn brosiectau eraill yn cael eu cyflwyno. Mae rhaglen adduned y cyflogwr yn un prosiect, ac mae'r Arglwydd Leitch, y soniwyd amdano eisoes, wedi dangos enghraifft o arfer gorau yn y DU. Ni soniwyd am gronfa ddysgu undebau Cymru eto, ond bu'n wych o ran cefnogi hyfforddiant sgiliau ar gyfer unigolion. Cyflwynwyd Twf Swyddi Cymru gan Lywodraeth bresennol Cymru, a buom yn trafod addysg uwch yn gynharach—rydym hefyd yn helpu myfyrwyr drwy beidio â rhoi'r baich ychwanegol o ffioedd uwch arnynt, yn wahanol i Lywodraeth y DU.

Rwyf yn cytuno bod yn rhaid inni ganolbwytio ar sgiliau sy'n wirioneddol ateb anghenion dysgwyr a chyflogwyr ac nid dim ond ar raglenni sy'n ateb anghenion darparwyr hyfforddiant. Mae'r cyfeiriad a wnaed at academiâu sgiliau sector preifat yn y ddadl yn fy mhryderu.

Angela Burns: Mae'n bosibl mai fy ynganiad i a oedd ar fai. Nid oeddwn yn

privately led, but that sector skills for the private sector are needed, but it does not necessarily have to come from the private sector. However, these are skills that the private sector requires, so we should have academies that might say that they need people who can build a certain type of car or who have certain engineering skills. I was not saying that private sector companies should deliver our skills. I apologise, because I think that I have caused confusion there by not enunciating correctly.

David Rees: Thank you for that information and clarification. However, the sector skills councils and the economic renewal panels would probably provide the type of information that you have talked about.

It is important that we look at employers' needs. I come from one of the most industrialised towns in Wales and am aware of the need to engage employers and look at their needs so that there is co-operation with employers in producing well-informed learners. Therefore, I am pleased to see the way in which the review of qualifications is coming on board, because that is critical to moving forward, in particular engaging with employers to see which qualifications they will be looking for.

With these points in mind, I agree with my colleague, Ann Jones, in that I find this motion typically hypocritical, in one sense. The same party that is calling upon us to recognise the importance of skills wanted to inflict a 30% cut in the budget of the business department in the run-up to the last election, and a 20% cut in the education budget—and I saw Nick Bourne saying that on television at the time. Such cuts would have a devastating effect upon the development of skills. When it comes to higher level skills, we know what the coalition Government is doing and are aware of the impact of its fee increase in Wales. We have seen a 7.6% drop in the number of UCAS applications as a consequence of that increase. We have brutally high levels of unemployment. We have seen the level of youth unemployment going through the roof, reaching levels that

dweud y dylid ei arwain yn breifat, ond bod angen sgiliau sector ar gyfer y sector preifat; ond nid ydynt o reidrwydd yn gorfod dod o'r sector preifat. Fodd bynnag, dyma'r sgiliau sydd eu hangen ar y sector preifat, felly dylai fod gennym academiâu a allai fod yn dweud bod angen pobl sy'n gallu adeiladu math penodol o gar neu sydd â sgiliau peirianneg penodol. Nid oeddwn yn dweud y dylai cwmniâu sector preifat ddarparu ein sgiliau. Rwyf yn ymddiheuro, oherwydd rwyf yn credu fy mod wedi achosi dryswch drwy beidio ag ynganu'n gywir.

David Rees: Diolch i chi am y wybodaeth a'r eglurhad. Fodd bynnag, bydd y cyngorau sgiliau sector a'r paneli adnewyddu economaidd o bosibl yn darparu'r math o wybodaeth rydych yn sôn amdan.

Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn edrych ar anghenion cyflogwyr. Rwyf yn dod o un o'r trefi mwyaf diwydiannol yng Nghymru ac rwyf yn ymwybodol o'r angen i gynnwys cyflogwyr ac edrych ar eu hanghenion fel bod cydweithio â chyflogwyr er mwyn paratoi digon o wybodaeth i ddysgwyr. Felly, rwyf yn falch o weld y ffordd y mae'r adolygiad o gymwysterau yn dod yn rhan o'r broses, oherwydd mae hynny'n hanfodol wrth symud ymlaen, yn enwedig o ran ymgysylltu â chyflogwyr i weld pa gymwysterau y byddant yn chwilio amdan.

Gan gadw'r pwyntiau hyn mewn cof, rwyf yn cytuno â'm cyd-Aelod, Ann Jones, yn yr ystyr fy mod yn teimlo bod y cynnig yn nodwediadol o ragrithiol, mewn un ystyr. Roedd yr un blaidd sy'n galw arnom i gydnabod pwysigrwydd sgiliau am dorri cyllideb yr adran fusnes 30% yn y cyfnod cyn yr etholiad diwethaf, a thorri'r gyllideb addysg 20%—a gwelais Nick Bourne yn dweud hynny ar y teledu ar y pryd. Byddai toriadau o'r fath yn cael effaith andwyol ar ddatblygiad sgiliau. O ran sgiliau lefel uwch, rydym yn gwybod beth y mae'r Llywodraeth glymblaidd yn ei wneud ac yn ymwybodol o effaith ei chynnydd mewn ffioedd yng Nghymru. Rydym wedi gweld gostyngiad o 7.6% yn nifer y ceisiadau UCAS o ganlyniad i'r cynnydd hwnnw. Mae gennym lefelau diweithdra torcalonns o uchel. Mae lefel diweithdra ymmsg pobl ifanc wedi codi i'r

we have not seen before, or, at least, not for a long time—not since youth opportunity programmes were in place, and I remember those being in place many years ago. We risk a generation being cut off permanently because of the actions of the UK Government. That is hardly a recipe for a well-skilled workforce.

I have also heard mention of looking at this for skills in Wales, because the money side is important. We have recently heard much about regionalisation of pay, which is a way of making Wales a poorer country, by reducing the incomes of public sector workers to private sector levels. That is what they want to do. This will discourage the development of skills as it will make people go down and not up. We want to raise people, not take them down.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Please conclude now.

David Rees: We recognise that the global economy is changing rapidly. We therefore have to address the skills issue as a consequence.

The Deputy Minister for Skills (Jeff Cuthbert): I welcome the opportunity to respond to this debate on behalf of the Welsh Government, because I want the Welsh offer on skills to business to be a source of competitive advantage—an offer that will encourage employers to invest and grow their operations in Wales. Moreover, I believe that our flexible and responsive offer is creating this advantage.

We are not in denial. We recognise the job that needs to be done, which is why we do not reject the Conservatives' motion out of hand, but rather seek to amend it. In the same spirit, I will support the Lib Dem amendment—deliberately this time [*Laughter.*] I welcome the amendment tabled in the name of Jane Hutt, citing our investments, which are helping businesses to take on apprentices through the young recruits programme and to develop their skills for growth through Skills Growth

entrychion, gan gyrraedd lefelau nad ydym wedi eu gweld o'r blaen, neu, o leiaf, nid am amser hir—nid ers sefydlu'r rhaglenni i roi cyfleoedd i bobl ifanc, ac rwyf yn cofio'r rhaglenni hynny'n cael eu sefydlu nifer o flynyddoedd yn ôl. Rydym yn wynebu'r risg y bydd cenhedaeth yn cael ei heithrio'n barhaol o ganlyniad i weithredoedd Llywodraeth y DU. Nid yw hynny'n ffordd o sicrhau bod gennym weithlu medrus.

Rwyf hefyd wedi clywed sôn hefyd ynghylch edrych ar hyn o safbwyt sgiliau yng Nghymru, gan fod yr ochr ariannol yn bwysig. Rydym wedi clywed llawer yn ddiweddar am ranbartholi cyflogau, sy'n ffordd o wneud Cymru yn wlad dlotach, drwy leihau incwm gweithwyr y sector cyhoeddus i lefelau'r sector preifat. Dyna beth maent am ei wneud. Bydd hyn yn atal datblygiad sgiliau gan y bydd yn golygu y bydd pobl yn mynd ar i lawr ac nid ar i fyny. Rydym am godi pobl yn hytrach na'u tynnu i lawr.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Gorffennwch, os gwelwch yn dda.

David Rees: Rydym yn cydnabod bod yr economi byd-eang yn newid yn gyflym. Felly, rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â'r mater o sgiliau o ganlyniad i hynny.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Sgiliau (Jeff Cuthbert): Rwyf yn croesawu'r cyfle i ymateb i'r ddadl hon ar ran Llywodraeth Cymru, am fy mod am i gynnig Cymru ar sgiliau i fusnesau fod yn ffynhonnell o fantais gystadleuol—cynnig a fydd yn annog cyflogwyr i fuddsoddi yn eu gweithrediadau yng Nghymru ac i'w ehangu. At hynny, credaf fod ein cynnig hyblyg ac ymatebol yn creu'r fantais hon.

Nid ydym yn gwadu'r gwir. Rydym yn cydnabod y gwaith sydd angen ei wneud, a dyna pam nad ydym yn gwrthod cynnig y Ceidwadwyr yn llwyr, ond yn hytrach yn ceisio ei ddiwygio. Yn yr un modd, byddaf yn cefnogi gwelliant y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol—yn fwriadol y tro hwn [*Chwerthin.*] Croesawaf y gwelliant a gyflwynwyd yn enw Jane Hutt, sy'n nodi ein buddsoddiadau, sy'n helpu busnesau i gyflogi prentisiaid drwy'r rhaglen reciriwtiaid ifanc ac i ddatblygu eu sgiliau ar gyfer twf drwy

Wales. I would like to say for the record that we are proud of our work on apprenticeships and they remain our gold standard for vocational qualifications.

Skills Growth Wales is a true example of Welsh Government investment based on relationships with business and of proactive government delivering for people in tough times. As David Rees has mentioned, to date, Skills Growth Wales has supported over 90 companies to train more than 8,000 individuals.

4.45 p.m.

Yesterday, I was pleased to issue a written statement, while visiting TES Aviation Group in Bridgend, to set out how we have been able to secure an additional £17 million of European social funding for the continuation of the Skills Growth Wales scheme, with the Welsh Government committing a further £13 million over the term of the extended programme. With this budget, we anticipate being able to provide training support for almost 12,000 employees in key business sectors.

As the Conservative spokesperson said, in September I launched a review of qualifications for 14 to 19-year-olds in Wales. Since that time, we have appointed Huw Edwards OBE to lead the review, and he is being supported by a project board that includes eminent stakeholders. The review is well under way, and the project board will be updating me on progress at the end of this month. I have made it clear that the review will want to hear what stakeholders, including key employer groups, have to say about skills and the qualifications that they value.

A number of speakers have mentioned the importance of essential skills. That will be a particular workstream of the qualifications review, because many qualifications claim to improve language, literacy and communication skills, but are they all understood and valued? Part of the review's

Sgiliau Twf Cymru. Hoffwn nodi ein bod yn falch o'n gwaith ar brentisiaethau ac maent yn parhau i fod yn safon aur ar gyfer cymwysterau galwedigaethol.

Mae Sgiliau Twf Cymru yn enghraifft wirioneddol o fuddsoddiad Llywodraeth Cymru sy'n seiliedig ar gysylltiadau gyda busnes ac o lywodraeth ragweithiol yn darparu ar gyfer pobl mewn cyfnod anodd. Fel y dywedodd David Rees, hyd yma, mae Sgiliau Twf Cymru wedi cefnogi dros 90 o gwmniau i hyfforddi mwy na 8,000 o unigolion.

Ddoe, roeddwn yn falch o gyhoeddi datganiad ysgrifenedig, wrth ymweld â TES Aviation Group, ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr, i gyflwyno sut rydym wedi llwyddo i sicrhau £17 miliwn ychwanegol o gyllid Ewropeaidd cymdeithasol ar gyfer parhad cynllun Sgiliau Twf Cymru, a bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn neilltuo £13 miliwn yn ychwanegol dros oes y rhaglen estynedig. Gyda'r gyllideb hon, rydym yn rhagweld y byddwn yn gallu darparu cefnogaeth ym maes hyfforddiant i bron 12,000 o weithwyr mewn sectorau busnes allweddol.

Fel y dywedodd llefarydd y Ceidwadwyr, ym mis Medi lansiais adolygiad o gymwysterau i ddysgwyr rhwng 14 a 19 oed yng Nghymru. Ers hynny, rydym wedi penodi Huw Edwards OBE i arwain yr adolygiad, ac mae'n cael ei gefnogi gan fwrrdd prosiect sy'n cynnwys rhanddeiliaid amlwg. Mae'r adolygiad yn mynd rhagddo, a bydd y bwrdd prosiect yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf imi ddiwedd y mis am y cynnydd a wnaed. Rwyf wedi ei gwneud yn glir y bydd yr adolygiad yn awyddus i glywed yr hyn sydd gan randdeiliaid, gan gynnwys grwpiau cyflogwyr allweddol, i'w ddweud am sgiliau a'r cymwysterau y maent yn eu gwerthfawrogi.

Mae nifer o siaradwyr wedi crybwyl pwysigrwydd sgiliau hanfodol. Bydd hynny'n ffrwd waith benodol yn yr adolygiad cymwysterau, gan fod llawer o gymwysterau yn honni eu bod yn gwella sgiliau iaith, llythrennedd a chyfathrebu, ond a ydynt i gyd yn cael eu deall a'u gwerthfawrogi? Rhan o

work will be to establish what qualifications are indeed trusted, valued and understood.

Those are the types of issues that the review is exploring. Although I expect a final report in the autumn, I do not want this exercise to be rushed. We need to listen to what people have to say and we need to make decisions in the light of what we hear.

Turning specifically to concerns about the skills mix in Wales, it is worth mentioning that results from the 2011 employer skills survey, which covered 87,000 businesses across the UK, including 6,000 in Wales, showed that only 4 per cent of UK establishments in 2011 reported hard-to-fill skills shortage vacancies, such as those arising from a lack of applicants with the required skills, work experience or qualifications. Over the six years to 2010, we made great strides in improving qualification levels in Wales. The proportion of the working-age population—18 to 64 for males and 18 to 59 for females—with a degree or higher qualification rose by 5.2 percentage points, while the proportion with no qualifications fell by 4.9 percentage points.

I take this opportunity to put on record my congratulations to all the Welsh members of the UK team at the recent world skills championships in London.

The recently published report ‘Working Futures 2010-20’ predicts that Wales’s skills mix will continue to improve significantly over the next decade. The gap between Wales and the UK in terms of the proportion of adults with no formal and entry-level qualifications and the proportion qualified at qualification and credit framework levels 7 to 8 is predicted to narrow. The same research suggests that employment growth in Wales is projected to exceed that in the west Midlands, Yorkshire, the north-west and north-east of England and Scotland. Employment growth is expected in skilled trades in Wales, while projected to decline in all other regions of the

waith yr adolygiad fydd cadarnhau pa gymwysterau yr ymddiriedir ynddynt ac sy’n cael eu gwerthfawrogi a’u deall mewn gwirionedd.

Dyma’r mathau o faterion y mae’r adolygiad yn eu harchwilio. Er fy mod yn disgwyli adroddiad terfynol yn yr hydref, nid wyf am i’r ymarfer hwn gael ei wneud ar frys. Mae angen inni wrando ar yr hyn sydd gan bobl i’w ddweud ac mae angen inni wneud penderfyniadau yng ngoleuni’r hyn a glywn.

Gan droi’n benodol at bryderon yng Nghymru, mae’n werth nodi bod canlyniadau arolwg sgiliau cyflogwyr 2011, a oedd yn cynnwys 87,000 o fusnesau ar draws y DU, gan gynnwys 6,000 yng Nghymru, yn dangos mai dim ond 4 y cant o sefydliadau yn y DU yn 2011 a nododd fod ganddynt swyddi gwag a oedd yn anodd eu llenwi oherwydd prinder sgiliau, megis y rheini a oedd yn wag oherwydd diffyg ymgeiswyr â’r sgiliau, profiad gwaith neu gymwysterau angenrheidiol. Dros y chwiblynedd hyd at 2010, rydym wedi gwneud cynnydd sylweddol o ran gwella lefelau cymwysterau yng Nghymru. Mae cyfran y boblogaeth o oedran gweithio—rhwng 18 a 64 oed i ddynion a 18 a 59 oed i fenywod—sydd â gradd neu gymhwyster uwch wedi cynyddu 5.2 pwynt canran, tra bo’r gyfran nad oes ganddynt unrhyw gymwysterau wedi gostwng 4.9 pwynt canran.

Hoffwn gymryd y cyfre hwn i gofnodi fy llonyfarchiadau i holl aelodau Cymreig tîm y DU ym mhencampwriaethau sgiliau y byd, a gynhalwyd yn Llundain yn ddiweddar.

Mae’r adroddiad ‘Working Futures 2010-20’ a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar yn darogan y bydd cymysgedd sgiliau Cymru yn parhau i wella yn sylweddol dros y degawd nesaf. Rhagwelir y bydd y bwlch rhwng Cymru a’r DU o ran cyfran yr oedolion nad oes ganddynt gymwysterau ffurfiol a lefel mynediad a’r gyfran sydd â chymwysterau ar lefel 7 neu 8 y fframwaith cymwysterau a chredyd yn culhau. Mae’r un ymchwil yn awgrymu y rhagamcenir y bydd twf cyflogaeth yng Nghymru yn fwy nag yng ngorllewin canolbarth Lloegr, Swydd Efrog, gogledd-orllewin a gogledd-ddwyrain Lloegr ac yn yr Alban. Disgwylir twf cyflogaeth

UK. Of course, all this depends upon the Welsh Government working successfully with employers, FE, HE and work-based learning providers to ensure that the right environment is created to enable skills needs to be identified and delivered.

In terms of the Leitch report, which has been mentioned a number of times, I continue to support Leitch's broad principle that the skills system should be responsive to employer demand. However, his report, although important, should not dominate the current debate in Wales. I met recently Charlie Mayfield, chair of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, to discuss the commission's proposition for employer ownership of vocational skills, pilot schemes for which are to be taken forward by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in England as part of its growth review. My response to him was that, while I am interested to follow the progress of these pilot schemes, we are not aware of pressures from employers in Wales for similar reforms, and I will continue to base my decisions on what is best for Wales. In that regard, the revised Wales employment and skills board, which will meet for the first time next month under my chairmanship, has a key role in contributing to and testing our policy thinking. In closing, I believe that I have demonstrated, through reference to our new programme of skills survey and skills forecasting work, which will be complementing the new labour market intelligence unit, that we are building a robust evidence base on current and future anticipated skills needs. That is central to our ability to effectively plan and fund skills delivery and provide the right information, advice and guidance services to help people make well-informed learning choices.

Giving people the right level of skills, which meet the needs of the economy now and for the foreseeable future, is the best weapon that

mewn crefftaw medrus yng Nghymru, tra rhagwelir y bydd yn dirywio yn holl ranbarthau eraill y DU. Wrth gwrs, mae hyn i gyd yn dibynnu ar fod Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithio'n llwyddiannus gyda chyflogwyr, addysg bellach ac uwch, a darparwyr dysgu i sicrhau bod yr amgylchedd cywir yn cael ei greu fel y gellir nodi anghenion sgiliau a'u cyflenwi.

O ran adroddiad Leitch, sydd wedi cael ei grybwyl nifer o weithiau, rwyf yn parhau i gefnogi egwyddor gyffredinol Leitch y dylai'r system sgiliau ymateb i'r galw oddi wrth gyflogwyr. Fodd bynnag, er bod ei adroddiad yn bwysig, ni ddylai fod yn brif elfen y ddadl ar hyn o bryd yng Nghymru. Cefais gyfarfod yn ddiweddar gyda Charlie Mayfield, cadeirydd Comisiwn y DU dros Gyflogaeth a Sgiliau, i drafod cynnig y comisiwn mewn perthynas â pherchnogaeth cyflogwyr ar sgiliau galwedigaethol; bydd yr Adran Busnes, Arloesedd a Sgiliau yn Lloegr yn cyflwyno cynlluniau peilot ar gyfer hyn fel rhan o'i hadolygiad o dwf. Fy ymateb iddo oedd nad yw cyflogwyr yng Nghymru, hyd y gwyddom, yn pwysu am ddiwygiadau tebyg, er bod gennyf ddiddordeb mewn dilyn cynnydd y cynlluniau peilot hyn, a byddaf yn parhau i seilio fy mhenderfyniadau ar yr hyn sydd orau i Gymru. Yn hynny o beth, mae gan y bwrdd cyflogaeth a sgiliau diwygiedig yng Nghymru, a fydd yn cyfarfod am y tro cyntaf y mis nesaf o dan fy nghadeiryddiaeth i, rôl allweddol o ran cyfrannu at ein ffordd o feddwl am bolisi a'i phrofi. I gloi, drwy gyfeirio at ein rhaglen newydd i arolygu sgiliau a'r gwaith o ragweld pa sgiliau y bydd eu hangen, a fydd yn cyd-fynd â'r uned newydd ar gyfer gwybodaeth am y farchnad lafur, credaf fy mod wedi dangos ein bod yn adeiladu sail dystiolaeth gadarn ynghylch anghenion sgiliau cyfredol a'r rhai y rhagwelir y bydd eu hangen yn y dyfodol. Mae hynny'n ganolog i'n gallu i gynnllunio'n effeithiol o ran sut y darperir sgiliau ac i ariannu hynny'n effeithiol, a'n gallu i ddarparu gwasanaethau a fydd yn rhoi'r wybodaeth, y cyngor a'r arweiniad cywir i bobl i'w helpu i wneud dewisiadau gwybodus mewn perthynas â dysgu.

Rhoi'r lefel gywir o sgiliau i bobl, sy'n cwrdd ag anghenion yr economi yn awr ac yn y dyfodol rhagweladwy, yw'r arf gorau sydd

we have to help people, particularly young people, to make the very best of themselves. I urge Members to engage fully with the findings of our work so that we can progress a well-informed debate in Wales, and to support the steps that we are taking to invest in skills in partnership with employers.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I thank everyone who has contributed to the debate this afternoon, and, in particular, the Deputy Minister in responding to the debate. I was a little bemused by the two contributions from the Labour backbenches, one from the Member for the Vale of Clwyd and the other from the Member for Aberavon, who was painting an apocalyptic vision of what is going on in the Westminster Government—

Ann Jones rose—

Andrew R.T. Davies: Let me get started, Ann. I will gladly let you intervene later.

If you look at Labour's record when it was in Government, we had a record 40% increase in youth unemployment, and the New Deal programme, which placed less than 50% of participants in jobs. Regional pay was actually introduced by the Labour Government in the courts service: all that the coalition Government has talked about is having a review into regional pay. In Wales, after 10 years of devolution, we have lower GVA per capita than when we started. So, I do not know what kind of picture the Member was trying to paint other than just a political, apocalyptic one. It did not help this debate at all. The motion before the Chamber today is one on which there can be consensus; it is about a new Deputy Minister, who is a couple of months into his job, and putting a marker down in the hope that progress can be made on skills in Wales. I will now take the intervention, Ann.

Ann Jones: Thank you. The reason why I jumped up so quickly is because you always jump up before anyone can finish a sentence. So, learn from that.

gennym i helpu pobl, yn enwedig pobl ifanc, i wneud y gorau o'u hunain. Rywf yn annog Aelodau i ymgysylltu'n llawn â chanfyddiadau ein gwaith fel y gallwn symud dadl wybodus ymlaen yng Nghymru, ac i gefnogi'r camau rydym yn eu cymryd i fuddsoddi mewn sgiliau mewn partneriaeth â chyflogwyr.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Diolch i bawb sydd wedi cyfrannu at y ddadl y prynhawn yma, ac, yn benodol, i'r Dirprwy Weinidog wrth ymateb i'r ddadl. Cefais fy nrystu ychydig gan y ddau gyfraniad o feinciau cefn y Blaid Lafur, un gan yr Aelod dros Ddyffryn Clwyd a'r llall gan yr Aelod dros Aberafan, a oedd yn rhoi darlun apocalyptaidd o'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn Llywodraeth San Steffan—

Ann Jones a gododd—

Andrew R.T. Davies: Gadewch imi ddechrau arni, Ann. Byddaf yn falch o adael ichi ymyrryd yn nes ymlaen.

Dyma record y Blaid Lafur pan oedd mewn Llywodraeth: cawsom gynnydd heb ei ail o 40% mewn diweithdra ymhlih pobl ifanc, a rhaglen y Fargen Newydd, a ganfu swyddi i lai na 50% o'r sawl oedd yn cymryd rhan. Cyflwynwyd cyflogau rhanbarthol mewn gwirionedd gan y Llywodraeth Lafur yn y gwasanaeth llysoedd: y cyfan y mae'r Llywodraeth glymblaid wedi sôn amdano yw cynnal adolygiad i gyflogau rhanbarthol. Yng Nghymru, ar ôl 10 mlynedd o ddatganoli, mae gennym werth ychwanegol crynswth y pen is nag oedd gennym ar y dechrau. Felly, nid wyl yn gwybod pa fath o ddarlun roedd yr Aelod yn ceisio ei roi ar wahan i un gwleidyddol, apocalyptaidd. Nid oedd o gymorth i'r ddadl hon o gwbl. Gellir cael consensws ar y cynnig ger bron y Siambwr heddiw. Mae'n ymwned â Dirprwy Weinidog newydd, sydd yn ei swydd ers ychydig o fisoeedd, a gosod sail yn y gobaith y gellir gwneud cynnydd ar sgiliau yng Nghymru. Cymeraf yr ymyriad yn awr, Ann.

Ann Jones: Diolch yn fawr. Y rheswm y neidais i fyny mor gyflym oedd eich bod bob amser yn neidio i fyny cyn y gall unrhyw un orffen brawddeg. Felly, dylech ddysgu o hynny.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Let us have the intervention.

Ann Jones: Sorry. When I referred to affordable labour, those were not my words, but the words of the Secretary of State for Wales, who I believe is a member of your party. The rumour going around at the moment is that when you are in a hole, you dig a tunnel; perhaps you would like to join her.

Andrew R.T. Davies: What we can learn from the Secretary of State for Wales is that when you lobby as a good constituency Member you can project the concerns of your constituents. [Interruption.] The point that the Member needs to remember—[Interruption.]

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I cannot hear what the speaker is saying. Decorum, please.

Andrew R.T. Davies: The point is that, under the last Labour Government, there was a 40% increase in youth unemployment. That is a fact. This motion seeks to put a marker down to mark the progress of this new Government in the field of skills. There is much evidence that shows that initiatives that have been brought forward in previous years have not necessarily met the requirements of employers. Indeed, there is a stark report on Wales Online, for example, that shows that many basic services, such as plumbing and electrical services, cost 20% more in Wales, because we do not have the experts and the professionals in the field who have qualified after apprenticeships. I take the point made by the Member for Aberavon that, sadly, there are few placements and opportunities for students to progress from further education colleges and other places of learning into apprenticeships. I was in Newport City Council last night looking at the excellent work that it is undertaking in offering apprenticeships. That is a model whereby the public sector, which is a large employer in Wales, can embrace the opportunity to offer apprenticeships. However, the sinew running throughout this debate is about balance and getting the balance right between what the Government

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Gadewch inni glywed yr ymyriad.

Ann Jones: Mae'n ddrwg gennyd. Pan gyfeiriai at lafur fforddiadwy, nid fy ngeiriau i oeddent, ond geiriau Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, sydd, rwyf yn credu, yn aelod o'ch plaid. Y si ar hyn o bryd yw pan ydych mewn twll, rydych yn cloddio twnnel; efallai yr hoffech chi ymuno â hi.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Yr hyn y gallwn ei ddysgu gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru yw pan fyddwch yn lobio fel Aelod etholaeth da gallwch gyflwyno pryderon eich etholwyr. [Torri ar draws.] Y pwynt y mae angen i'r Aelod ei gofio—[Torri ar draws.]

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid wyf yn gallu clywed yr hyn y mae'r siaradwr yn ei ddweud. Gosteg, os gwelwch yn dda.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Y pwynt yw, o dan y Llywodraeth Lafur ddiwethaf, cafwyd cynnydd o 40% mewn diweithdra ymhliith pobl ifanc. Mae hynny'n ffaith. Mae'r cynnig hwn yn ceisio gosod sail er mwyn nodi cynnydd y Llywodraeth newydd hon ym maes sgiliau. Mae llawer o dystiolaeth sy'n dangos nad yw'r mentrau a gyflwynwyd mewn blynnyddoedd a fu o reidrwydd wedi cwrdd â gofynion cyflogwyr. Yn wir, ceir adroddiad llwm ar Wales Online, er enghraift, sy'n dangos bod llawer o wasanaethau sylfaenol, megis gwasanaethau plymio a thrydan, yn costio 20% yn fwy yng Nghymru, gan nad oes gennym yr arbenigwyr a'r gweithwyr proffesiynol yn y maes sydd wedi cymwys o ar ôl prentisiaethau. Rwyf yn derbyn y pwynt a wnaed gan yr Aelod dros Aberafan, sef mai ychydig o leoliadau a chyflleoedd, yn anffodus, sy'n galluogi myfyrwyr i symud ymlaen o golegau addysg bellach a mannau dysgu eraill i brentisiaethau. Roeddwn yng Nghyngor Dinas Casnewydd neithiwr yn edrych ar ei waith ardderchog o ran cynnig prentisiaethau. Mae hynny'n fodel lle y gall y sector cyhoeddus, sydd yn gyflogwr mawr yng Nghymru, achub ar y cyfle i gynnig prentisiaethau. Fodd bynnag, yr edefyn cyffredin yn y ddadl hon drwyddi draw yw

proposes to do with the resources it has available—and those resources are substantial—the aspirations of employers to maintain or grow their businesses, and learning institutions offering meaningful qualifications so that, when students gain those qualifications, they can achieve meaningful employment in the workplace. Surely, no one can doubt or call into question those motives.

I hope that when Members look at the motion on the agenda today, they will feel that they can support it. I believe that the Deputy Minister has indicated his tacit support for the motion, although the Government has tabled an amendment to it. Surely it has to be a concern when a body such as the Chartered Accountants of England and Wales expresses such great concern about the balance of skills in the Welsh economy. I hope that today's motion will go through unopposed. We look to colleagues to back the motion so that it can be put down as a marker, and so that, as the Government progresses with its initiatives, we can look back at this debate to see whether the sentiments expressed here have been delivered at the end of this Assembly. That is why I urge Members to support the motion before them today.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree the motion without amendment. Does any Member object? I see that there is objection. I therefore defer all voting on this item until voting time.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.
Voting deferred until voting time.*

Dadl Plaid Cymru Plaid Cymru Debate

Bandio Ysgolion School Banding

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw William Graham, gwelliannau 2 a 3 yn enw Jane Hutt a gwelliannau 4 a 5 yn enw Peter Black.

cydbwysedd a chael y cydbwysedd iawn rhwng yr hyn y mae'r Llywodraeth yn bwriadu ei wneud gyda'r adnoddau sydd ar gael iddi—ac mae'r adnoddau hynny yn sylwedol—dyheadau cyflogwyr i gynnal eu busnesau neu eu tyfu, a sefydliadau dysgu yn cynnig cymwysterau ystyrlon fel bod myfyrwyr, pan fyddant yn ennill y cymwysterau hynny, yn gallu dod o hyd i swyddi ystyrlon. Yn sicr, ni all unrhyw un amau neu gwestiynu'r cymhellion hynny.

Rwyf yn gobeithio y bydd yr Aelodau, pan fyddant yn edrych ar y cynnig sydd ar yr agenda heddiw, yn teimlo y gallant ei gefnogi. Credaf fod y Dirprwy Weinidog wedi mynogi ei gefnogaeth ddealledig i'r cynnig, er bod y Llywodraeth wedi cyflwyno gwelliant iddo. Yn sicr, mae'n rhaid ei fod yn destun pryder pan fydd corff megis Sefydliad Cyfrifwyr Siartredig Cymru a Lloegr yn mynogi cymaint o bryder am y cydbwysedd sgiliau yn economi Cymru. Rwyf yn gobeithio y bydd cynnig heddiw yn cael ei dderbyn heb wrthwynebiad. Rydym yn disgwyl i gyd-Aelodau gefnogi'r cynnig fel y gall fod yn sail, ac, wrth i'r Llywodraeth fwrw ymlaen â'i mentrau, gallwn edrych yn ôl ar y ddadl hon i weld a fydd y teimladau a fynegwyd yma wedi cael eu gwireddu ar ddiweddf y Cynulliad hwn. Dyna pam rwyf yn annog Aelodau i gefnogi'r cynnig ger eu bron heddiw.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw bod y cynnig yn cael ei dderbyn heb ei ddiwygio. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrrthwynebu? Gwelaf fod. Felly, rwyf yn gohirio'r holl bleidleisio ar yr eitem hon tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Cynnig NDM4887 Jocelyn Davies

Mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. *Yn nodi bwriad Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflwyno system fandio ar gyfer ysgolion uwchradd a chynradd yng Nghymru;*
2. *Yn credu nad yw bandio'n rhoi darlun cyflawn o berfformiad ysgol a dylid cyfyngu ei ddefnydd i sicrhau bod unrhyw ysgol yn cael y cymorth angenheidol sydd ei angen arni i wella'r meysydd hynny a gaiff eu mesur gan y system fandio;*
3. *Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i gyflwyno proses werthuso adeiladol sy'n arwain at gymorth wedi'i dargedu i ddatrys perfformiad gwael mewn ysgolion.*

Simon Thomas: Cynigiaf y cynnig.

I am very pleased to introduce this Plaid Cymru debate. This is the Assembly's first opportunity to debate the issue of school banding and performance and the actions being taken by the Minister to improve standards in schools.

It is also apposite that this follows a debate on skills, as this is about what comes before the skills. Having already heard that 12% of our young people do not have the key skills—or even basic skills—to engage in the workplace, these are the steps and approaches that have been taken in schools to ensure that our young people are able to achieve those skills and play a full part in Welsh citizenship, as people who work for Wales, who learn in Wales and who contribute to Wales in various ways.

I will start with a declaration of where we support and find common ground with the Government. First, broadly speaking, we support and agree with the Minister's assessment of the difficulties and lack of progress within the Welsh education system. We do not accept that we have a good system that we should be trying to make even better. We think that the system is fair to good, and that there are parts of it that need urgent action. Therefore, we agree with the

Motion NDM4887 Jocelyn Davies

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. *Notes the intention of the Welsh Government to introduce banding for both secondary and primary schools in Wales;*
2. *Believes that banding does not provide a whole view of a school's performance and its use should be limited to securing the necessary support for any school to improve in those areas measured by banding;*
3. *Calls on the Welsh Government to introduce a constructive evaluation process which leads to targeted support to remedy poor performance in schools.*

Simon Thomas: I move the motion.

Rwyf yn falch iawn o gyflwyno dadl Plaid Cymru. Dyma gyfle cyntaf y Cynulliad i draffod bandio ysgolion a pherfformiad a'r camau y mae'r Gweinidog yn eu cymryd i wella safonau mewn ysgolion.

Mae hefyd yn addas bod y ddadl yn dilyn dadl ar sgiliau, gan fod hyn yn ymneud â'r hyn sy'n dod cyn y sgiliau. Ar ôl clywed eisoes nad yw 12% o'n pobl ifanc yn meddu ar y sgiliau sy'n allweddol—neu hyd yn oed y sgiliau sylfaenol—i gymryd rhan yn y gweithle, dyma'r camau a'r dulliau sydd wedi'u cymryd mewn ysgolion i sicrhau bod ein pobl ifanc yn gallu ennill y sgiliau hynny a chwarae rhan lawn yn ninasyddiaeth Gymreig, fel pobl sy'n gweithio dros Gymru, sy'n dysgu yng Nghymru ac sy'n cyfrannu at Gymru mewn sawl ffordd.

Byddaf yn dechrau gyda datganiad am y meysydd lle rydym yn cefnogi'r Llywodraeth a lle rydym yn rhannu tir cyffredin. Yn gyntaf, yn fras, rydym yn cefnogi ac yn cytuno ag asesiad y Gweinidog o'r anawsterau a'r diffyg cynnydd yn y system addysg yng Nghymru. Nid ydym yn derbyn bod gennym system dda y dylem fod yn ceisio ei gwneud hyd yn oed yn well. Rydym yn credu bod y system rhwng bod yn weddol a bod yn dda, a bod rhannau ohoni lle y mae

Minister's assessment that steps need to be taken. We also agree with many of the Minister's actions to date. The establishment of a schools standards unit is to be welcomed. The move towards regional consortia and bringing a wider range of expertise to bear in individual schools will be welcomed when it happens. We also accept that the Government has to collect information, make use of it and, in an age of freedom of information, publish it, as it did today in relation to the full picture of school banding. To date, we have given the Government the benefit of the doubt when it has said—and when the Minister in particular has said—that bandings will not constitute league tables. However, we have arrived at a situation today where we have seen the full picture and where we have seen how these bandings work within our communities. It is very clear that these bandings are, in effect, league tables. We should treat them as such, we should be honest about it, and we should measure the Government's performance on the basis of such league tables.

I wish to explain briefly why I believe that we do have league tables in the banding system. For a start, if this is a genuine banding measurement designed to improve school performance, over time, the bottom two bands would empty, and I believe that the Minister once said that his wish was to see band 5 become empty. However, any examination of the statistical analysis, and of the statistical relationships within the banding system, shows clearly that all bands will continue to be populated. Every band will have a proportionate number of schools in it. If a school improves and bypasses a colleague in its family during its improvement journey, it will push that other school into a lower band. That is what is happening. To me, that sounds a lot like Swansea City getting into the Premiership and Cardiff City staying in the Championship. I think that we would call that a league table, and we should treat it as such.

Secondly, it is being treated as a league table by the schools themselves: by the pupils, parents and governing bodies. Everyone who lives in a community in which there are only

angen gweithredu ar frys. Felly, rydym yn cytuno ag asesiad y Gweinidog bod angen cymryd camau yn hynny o beth. Rydym hefyd yn cytuno â llawer o gamau gweithredu'r Gweinidog hyd yn hyn. Mae sefydlu uned safonau ysgolion i'w groesawu. Bydd y symud at gonsortia rhanbarthol a dod ag ystod ehangach o arbenigedd i mewn i ysgolion unigol yn cael ei groesawu pan fydd yn digwydd. Rydym hefyd yn derbyn bod y Llywodraeth yn gorfol casglu gwybodaeth, ei defnyddio ac, mewn oes rhyddid gwybodaeth, ei chyhoeddi, fel y gwnaeth heddiw mewn perthynas â'r darlun cyflawn yngylch bandio ysgolion. Hyd yn hyn, rydym wedi rhoi pob cyfle i'r Llywodraeth pan fo wedi dweud—a phan fo'r Gweinidog yn arbennig wedi dweud—na fydd bandio yn gyfystyr â thablau cynghrair. Fodd bynnag, heddiw rydym wedi gweld y darlun cyflawn ac wedi gweld sut y mae'r bandio hyn yn gweithio yn ein cymunedau. Mae'n amlwg iawn mai tablau cynghrair yw'r bandiau hyn, mewn gwirionedd. Dylem eu trin felly, dylem fod yn onest yn ei gylch, a dylem fesur perfformiad y Llywodraeth ar sail tablau cynghrair o'r fath.

Hoffwn esbonio'n fras pam rwyf yn credu bod gennym dablau cynghrair yn y system fandio. I ddechrau, os mesuriad bandio gwirioneddol yw hwn a gynlluniwyd i wella perfformiad ysgolion, dros amser, byddai'r ddau fand ar y gwaelod yn gwacáu, a chredaf fod y Gweinidog wedi dweud unwaith mai ei ddymuniad oedd gweld band 5 yn gwacáu. Fodd bynnag, mae archwilio'r dadansoddiad ystadegol, a'r perthnasau ystadegol yn y system fandio, yn dangos yn glir y bydd pob band yn parhau i gael ei lenwi. Bydd nifer cymesur o ysgolion ym mhob band. Os bydd ysgol yn gwella ac yn mynd heibio ysgol yn ei theulu yn ystod ei thaith tuag at welliant, bydd yn gwthio'r ysgol arall honno i mewn i fand is. Dyna sy'n digwydd. I mi, mae hynny'n swnio ychydig fel Abertawe yn mynd i'r Uwchgyngħrair a Chaerdydd yn aros yn y Bencampwriaeth. Rwyf yn credu y byddem yn galw hynny'n dabl cynghrair, a dylem ei drin felly.

Yn ail, mae'n cael ei drin fel tabl cynghrair gan yr ysgolion eu hunain: gan y disgylion, y rhieni a'r cyrff llywodraethol. Bydd pawb sy'n byw mewn cymuned lle nad oes ond un

one or two secondary schools will know by now what that school has said about itself, and how the pupils and parents treat it. It is somewhat the reverse of 'The Emperor's New Clothes', if the truth be told. You can take something called banding, dress it in a pretty dress, put a bit of lipstick on it and say that it looks like something that is not a school league table, but it is still a school league table behind that appearance.

5.00 p.m.

Leighton Andrews: In February 2011, the One Wales Government published a written statement that confirmed that we were introducing a national system for the grading of schools, which would be operated by all local authorities and consortia. Why were you in favour of this in February and not in favour of it now?

Simon Thomas: I thank the Minister for that; those are the exact words that I have next on my piece of paper. On 2 February 2011, the One Wales Government introduced, in a written statement made by the current Minister, the proposal that there should be a national grading system for schools. We then had an election. In that election, his party said that it would introduce banding, and my party said that its response to a national grading system would be annual profiles made available to parents in every school in Wales. That was our approach. That was our manifesto commitment—

Leighton Andrews: It was not very successful then, was it?

Simon Thomas: As the Minister says, we did not quite win the election. [Laughter.] Nor did the Labour Party, and now there is a minority Labour Government introducing league tables, which it said that it would never do. That is the truth behind the statement and what has emerged from that statement in February. Let us be more clear: the banding system, the programme, the 12 measures, the statistical process, the relationship between the measures, the choice

neu ddwy ysgol uwchradd yn gwybod erbyn hyn beth y mae'r ysgol honno wedi ei ddweud am ei hun, a sut y mae'r disgyblion a'r rhieni yn trin hynny. Y gwrthwyneb i 'Dillad Newydd yr Ymerawdwr' yw, i ryw raddau, a dweud y gwir. Gallwch gymryd rhywbeth a elwir yn fandio, ei wisgo mewn ffrog bert, rhoi ychydig o finlliw arno a dweud ei fod yn edrych fel rhywbeth nad yw'n dabl cynghrair ysgolion, ond mae'n dal yn dabl cynghrair ysgolion, y tu ôl i'r wedd honno.

Leighton Andrews: Ym mis Chwefror 2011, cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un ddatganiad ysgrifenedig a oedd yn cadarnhau ein bod yn cyflwyno system genedlaethol i raddio ysgolion, a fyddai'n cael ei gweithredu gan yr holl awdurdodau lleol a chonsortia. Pam roeddech chi o blaid hyn ym mis Chwefror ond nad ydych o blaid hynny erbyn hyn?

Simon Thomas: Diolch i'r Gweinidog am hynny; dyna'r union eiriau sydd nesaf ar fy narn o bapur. Mewn datganiad ysgrifenedig a wnaeth y Gweinidog presennol ar 2 Chwefror 2011, cyflwynodd Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un y cynnig y dylid cael system raddio genedlaethol i ysgolion. Yna, cafwyd yr etholiad. Yn yr etholiad hwnnw, dywedodd ei blaid y byddai'n cyflwyno system fandio, a dywedodd fy mhlaid i mai ei hymateb i system raddio genedlaethol fyddai proffiliau blynnyddol sydd ar gael i rieni ym mhob ysgol yng Nghymru. Dyna oedd ein dull ni o weithredu. Dyna oedd ein hymrwymiad yn ein manifesto—

Leighton Andrews: Oni fyddch yn cytuno nad oedd yn llwyddiannus iawn, felly?

Simon Thomas: Fel y dywed y Gweinidog, ni wnaethom ennill yr etholiad, o drwch blewyn. [Chwerthin.] Ni wnaeth y Blaidd Lafur ychwaith, ac yn awr mae Llywodraeth Lafur leiafrifol yn cyflwyno tablau cynghrair, er iddi ddweud na fyddai byth yn gwneud hynny. Dyna'r gwirionedd y tu ôl i'r datganiad a'r hyn sydd wedi dod i'r amlwg o'r datganiad hwnnw ym mis Chwefror. Gadewch inni fod yn fwy eglur: cafodd y system fandio, y rhaglen, y 12 mesur, y

of those measures were all done by the Labour Party and this Minister. Banding is a Labour programme, and banding is Labour league tables.

Leighton Andrews: Can you confirm today whether your party opposes banding? If it opposes banding, why do you not say so in the motion before the Assembly today?

Simon Thomas: I will come to some aspects of that. Let me say to the Minister that we will be asking him today to oppose primary school banding before it is introduced. As he has already introduced secondary school banding, we cannot put that genie back in the bottle, so we will be asking him to take several steps to ameliorate the worst effects of his league tables on pupils and school bodies in Wales. I hope that that answers his question.

With the league tables that the Government has now introduced, we have three fundamental problems. The first is that of stigma. Schools have been named and shamed; there is no doubt about that. Secondly, we have a problem of the cycle of decline coming in. Pupils, parents and the best teachers will be minded to try to abandon those schools in bands 4 and 5. However, that is difficult because, in most of Wales, there is no choice of secondary school. If you have a bad school in your local community you have to work with it to improve it rather than abandon it.

Finally, we have the problem of unfairness in the banding system. This has been pointed out by the chair of the National Association of Head Teachers, Frank Ciccotti, who, I understand, is the head of Pembroke School. In an article, he has pointed out what can happen with the current banding system to two schools with similar average performance. If one consistently scores in the quartile slightly above average and the other consistently scores in the quartile slightly below average, although both schools are about average, once the count has been done

broses ystadegol, y berthynas rhwng y mesurau a'r dewis ohonynt i gyd eu gwneud gan y Blaid Lafur a'r Gweinidog hwn. Rhaglen y Blaid Lafur yw bandio, a thablau cynghrair y Blaid Lafur yw.

Leighton Andrews: A allwch gadarnhau heddiw a yw eich plaid yn gwrthwynebu'r system fandio? Os yw'n gwrthwynebu'r system fandio, pam nad ydych yn dweud hynny yn y cynnig gerbron y Cynulliad heddiw?

Simon Thomas: Byddaf yn siarad am rai agweddau ar hynny yn ddiweddarach. Gadewch imi ddweud wrth y Gweinidog y byddwn yn gofyn iddo heddiw wrthwynebu bandio ysgolion cynradd cyn i hynny gael ei gyflwyno. Gan ei fod eisoes wedi cyflwyno bandio ar gyfer ysgolion uwchradd, ni allwn ddadwneud yr hyn a wnaethpwyd; felly, byddwn yn gofyn iddo gymryd sawl cam i liniaru ar effeithiau gwaethaf ei dablau cynghrair ar ddisgyblion a chyrff ysgolion yng Nghymru. Rwyf yn gobeithio bod hynny'n ateb ei gwestiwn.

Mae tair problem sylfaenol o ran y tablau cynghrair y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi'u cyflwyno. Y cyntaf yw stigma. Mae ysgolion wedi cael eu henwi a'u cywilyddio; nid oes amheuaeth am hynny. Yn ail, mae problem y cylch dirywiad yn dechrau. Bydd disgyblion, rhieni a'r athrawon gorau am gefnu ar yr ysgolion hynny ym mandiau 4 a 5. Fodd bynnag, mae hynny'n anodd oherwydd yn y rhan fwyaf o Gymru nid oes dewis o ran yr ysgol uwchradd. Os oes ysgol wael yn eich cymuned leol mae'n rhaid ichi weithio gyda hi i'w gwella yn hytrach na chefnu arni.

Yn olaf, mae gennym y broblem ynghylch annhegwrch yn y system fandio. Tynnwyd sylw at hynny gan Frank Ciccotti, Cadeirydd Cymdeithas Genedlaethol y Prifathrawon, sydd, fel y deallaf, yn bennaeth ar Ysgol Penfro. Mewn erthygl, mae wedi nodi'r hyn a all ddigwydd o ganlyniad i'r system fandio bresennol i ddwy ysgol sydd â chyfartaledd tebyg o ran eu perfformiad. Os yw un yn cael sgôr sy'n gyson yn y chwartel sydd ychydig yn uwch na'r cyfartaledd a bod y llall yn cael sgôr sy'n gyson yn y chwartel ychydig yn is na'r cyfartaledd, er bod y ddwy ysgol yn agos

in a very crude arithmetical way—because, although the performance indicators are complex and interesting and we do not challenge them as such, the counting done for the banding is crude and crass, in the words of the NAHT—the school that is slightly above average will shoot up to band 2 and the school that is slightly below average will shoot down to band 4. In other words, there is an amplification—a feedback effect, if you like—which amplifies the faults of the school. That is why so many schools are puzzled by their banding, particularly when comparing those findings with their original Estyn reports for example.

There is a further problem. The Government, through the Minister, has already admitted directly to me today that a third of primary schools in Wales cannot be included in any national banding scheme because they are too small or because of their particular nature. That means that, for those of us who represent rural areas, we are talking about half or more than half of the schools in our areas not being part of a national banding scheme. I cannot accept that there should be a national banding scheme for primary schools when a third of all schools are excluded from it, and when, in many areas, more than half of schools will be excluded from it. It does not make sense, and pupils, teachers and governing bodies will not understand it. I call on the Minister now to abandon banding for primary schools before it is introduced and before it is too late. I do not accept the argument that, because over 90 per cent of pupils are in schools that would be in the banding, that somehow makes it right. This is a scheme for schools, school bodies, governors and school performance as well as for pupils. We are missing a trick if we insist on this coming in. It would be much worse in rural areas.

That is why we have already called for primary banding to be scrapped, of which the Minister may be aware. It is being made clear today that, although banding in secondary schools already exists and we cannot put the

at y cyfartaledd, ar ôl cyfrif mewn modd rhifyddol bras iawn—oherwydd, er bod y dangosyddion perfformiad yn gymhleth a diddorol ac nid ydym yn eu herio fel y cyfryw, mae'r cyfrif a wneir ar gyfer y bandio yn fras ac yn ansensitif, yng ngeiriau Cymdeithas Genedlaethol y Prifathrawon—bydd yr ysgol sydd ychydig yn uwch na'r cyfartaledd yn neidio i fand 2 a bydd yr ysgol sydd ychydig yn is na'r cyfartaledd yn disgyn i fand 4. Mewn geiriau eraill, mae yma chwyddiad—effaith adlais, fel petai—sy'n chwyddo diffygion yr ysgol. Dyna pam y mae cymaint o ysgolion mewn penbleth yngylch y band y maent ynddo, yn enwedig wrth gymharu'r canfyddiadau hynny ag adroddiadau gwreiddiol Estyn arnynt, er enghrafft.

Mae problem arall. Drwy'r Gweinidog, mae'r Llywodraeth eisoes wedi cyfaddef yn uniongyrchol imi heddiw na ellir cynnwys traean o ysgolion cynradd Cymru mewn unrhyw gynllun bandio cenedlaethol, gan eu bod yn rhy fach neu oherwydd eu natur arbennig. I'r rheini ohonom sy'n cynrychioli ardaloedd gwledig, golyga hynny na fyddai hanner neu fwy na hanner yr ysgolion yn ein hardaloedd yn rhan o gynllun bandio cenedlaethol. Ni allaf dderbyn y dylid cael cynllun bandio cenedlaethol i ysgolion cynradd os bydd traean o'r holl ysgolion yn cael eu heithrio ohono, ac os bydd mwy na hanner yr ysgolion mewn nifer o ardaloedd yn cael eu heithrio ohono. Nid yw'n gwneud synnwyd, ac ni fydd disgyblion, athrawon na chyrff llywodraethol yn ei ddeall. Rwyf yn galw ar y Gweinidog yn awr i roi'r gorau i fandio ysgolion cynradd cyn iddo gael ei gyflwyno a chyn ei bod yn rhy hwyr. Nid wyt yn derbyn y ddadl y fyddai'n iawn oherwydd bod dros 90 y cant o ddisgyblion mewn ysgolion a fyddai'n cael eu bandio. Mae hwn yn gynllun ar gyfer ysgolion, cyrff ysgolion, llywodraethwyr a pherfformiad yr ysgol, yn ogystal ag ar gyfer disgyblion. Rydym yn colli rhywbeth os byddwn yn mynnu cyflwyno hyn. Byddai'n llawer gwaeth mewn ardaloedd gwledig.

Dyna pam rydym eisoes wedi galw am ddileu bandio ysgolion cynradd, ac efallai fod y Gweinidog yn gwybod am hynny. Er bod bandio ysgolion uwchradd yn bodoli eisoes ac ni allwn ddadwneud yr hyn a wnaethpwyd,

genie back in the bottle, our focus is on getting the Government to admit that these are operating as league tables and, therefore, to deal with and improve the workings of the banding system and the worst side effects of the league table aspects of this banding system.

There is great concern at the moment in many schools about the lack of clarity regarding what support will be given to failing schools—schools in band 5 in particular. There is a school standards unit—we support that—and the work of the consortia was referred to in the amendments put forward by the Minister and the Government, but the consortia do not start their work fully until September. In the meantime, we have schools in band 5 now, and I hope that the Minister will take the opportunity of this debate to say what action is being taken to support those schools. Many people, including the Association of Teachers and Lecturers Cymru, do not believe that local authorities are capable of delivering the support necessary for failing schools.

The final thing that I will say is that, so far, we have seen no resources advanced for the schools that are failing and in band 5. More resources were put in in the deal between the ex-Liberal and the new Liberals, but the new resources are designed to follow the pupil premium. With regard to the Lib Dem policy on a pupil premium, I am not against extra money going into education, but that money is not targeted at schools in bands 4 and 5. It follows free-school-meal pupils, many of whom, thankfully, go to schools in the league tables ranked above bands 4 and 5.

I hope that this is an opportunity for the Minister and the Assembly as a whole to debate the effect of these league tables on Welsh education and to examine whether we can make the information that is now out there, in the possession of all school governing bodies, drive up standards in our

fe'i gwneir yn glir heddiw ein bod yn canolbwyntio ar sicrhau bod y Llywodraeth yn cyfaddef bod y rhain yn gweithredu fel tablau cynghrair ac, felly, ei bod yn mynd i'r afael â gwella sut y mae'r system fandio yn gweithredu a sgil-effeithiau gwaethaf yr agweddau hynny ar y system fandio hon sy'n ymwneud â'r tabl cynghrair.

Mae pryder mawr ar hyn o bryd mewn llawer o ysgolion am y diffyg eglurder o ran y cymorth a roddir i ysgolion sy'n methu—ysgolion ym mand 5 yn arbennig. Ceir uned safonau ysgol—rydym yn cefnogi hynny—a chyfeiriwyd at waith y consortia yn y gwelliannau a gyflwynwyd gan y Gweinidog a'r Llywodraeth, ond ni fydd y consortia yn dechrau ar eu gwaith yn llawn tan fis Medi. Yn y cyfamser, mae gennym ysgolion sydd ym mand 5 yn awr, ac rwyf yn gobeithio y bydd y Gweinidog yn manteisio ar y cyfle a roddir drwy gyfrwng y ddadl hon i ddweud pa gamau sy'n cael eu cymryd i gefnogi'r ysgolion hynny. Nid yw llawer o bobl, gan gynnwys Cymdeithas Athrawon a Darlithwyr Cymru, yn credu bod awdurdodau lleol yn gallu darparu'r gefnogaeth angenrheidiol i ysgolion sy'n methu.

Y peth olaf y byddaf yn ei ddweud yw nad ydym, hyd yma, wedi gweld unrhyw adnoddau'n cael eu darparu ar gyfer yr ysgolion sy'n methu ac sydd ym mand 5. Darparwyd rhagor o adnoddau yn y cytundeb rhwng y cyn-Ryddfrydwyr a'r Rhyddfrydwyr presennol, ond mae'r adnoddau newydd wedi'u cynllunio i ddilyn y premiwm disgyblion. Gyda golwg ar bolisi'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar bremiwm disgyblion, nid wyf yn erbyn rhoi arian ychwanegol i addysg, ond nid yw'r arian hwnnw'n cael ei dargedu at ysgolion ym mandiau 4 a 5. Mae'n dilyn disgyblion sy'n cael prydau ysgol am ddim, y mae llawer ohonynt yn mynd i ysgolion sy'n uwch na bandiau 4 a 5 yn y tablau cynghrair, diolch i'r drefn.

Rwy'n gobeithio bod hwn yn gyfle i'r Gweinidog a'r Cynulliad cyfan draffod effaith y tablau cynghrair hyn ar addysg yng Nghymru ac archwilio a allwn sicrhau bod y wybodaeth sydd bellach ar gael, ac sydd ym mediant yr holl gyrrf llywodraethu ysgolion, yn codi safonau yn ein hysgolion.

schools.

Gwelliant 1 William Graham

Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i fonitro dealltwriaeth rhieni, athrawon a Llywodraethwyr o'r system fandio ac ystyried y pryderon a fyngwyd gan staff addysgu a chymryd camau eraill i egluro os bydd angen.

Angela Burns: I move amendment 1 in the name of William Graham.

I thank Plaid Cymru for bringing forward this debate today. Irritating as it may be, banding is a topic that will not just evaporate over the next few months, because it concerns so many people. It concerns parents as they send their children to primary and secondary schools; it concerns some pupils—not all, obviously, because some are far too young to understand much about this; it concerns teachers and the unions; it obviously taxes the opposition parties; and it concerns governors.

What has surprised me most about the issue of banding is how many headteachers that I respect enormously have picked up the phone, knocked on my door or sent e-mails to say why they are concerned about this. I am no educationalist, and it is a complex field, but it seems to me that we have come up with an intervention by Government that has the best objectives at its core, to try to ensure that we have the best possible standards in our schools and to drive each school to do the best it can—it is a good principle—but, somewhere along the way, in the delivery and in putting it together, it has become incredibly soured. I fear that it will have a negative effect on education in Wales.

The amendment in the name of William Graham is at the heart of a lot of my concerns. We want to monitor the understanding of parents, teachers and governors of the banding system, given all the concerns that have been raised, and, if required, I believe that the Government needs

Amendment 1 William Graham

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to monitor parent, teacher and Governor's understanding of the banding system given concerns raised by teaching staff and take further explanatory action if required.

Angela Burns: Cynigiaf welliant 1 yn enw William Graham.

Diolch i Blaid Cymru am gyflwyno'r ddadl hon heddiw. Er ei bod yn ein cythruddo, mae bandio yn bwnc na fydd yn diflannu dros y misoedd nesaf, gan ei fod yn effeithio ar gymaint o bobl. Mae'n peri pryder i rieni gan eu bod yn anfon eu plant i ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd; mae'n peri pryder i rai disgyblion—nid pob un, yn amlwg, oherwydd bod rhai ohonynt yn llawer rhy ifanc i ddeall llawer am hyn; mae'n peri pryder i athrawon a'r undebau; mae'n amlwg yn peri pryder mawr i'r gwrthbleidiau; ac mae'n peri pryder i lywodraethwyr.

Yr hyn sydd wedi fy synnu fwyaf am fater bandio yw'r nifer o benaethiaid yr wyf yn eu parchu'n aruthrol sydd wedi codi'r ffôn, wedi curo ar fy nrws neu wedi anfon e-byst i ddweud pam eu bod yn pryderu am hyn. Nid wyf yn addysgwr, ac mae hwn yn faes cymhleth, ond ymddengys i mi ein bod wedi dod o hyd i ymyriad gan y Llywodraeth sydd â'r amcanion gorau wrth ei wraidd, er mwyn ceisio sicrhau bod gennym y safonau gorau posibl yn ein ysgolion ac i annog pob ysgol i wneud y gorau y gall ei wneud—mae hynny'n egwyddor da—ond, rywle, wrth iddo gael ei gyflwyno a'i roi at ei gilydd, mae wedi dod yn hynod sur. Ofnaf y bydd yn cael effaith negyddol ar addysg yng Nghymru.

Mae'r gwelliant yn enw William Graham wrth wraidd llawer o'm pryderon. Rydym am fonitro dealltwriaeth rhieni, athrawon a llywodraethwyr o'r system fandio, o ystyried yr holl bryderon a godwyd, ac, os oes angen, credaf fod angen i'r Llywodraeth barhau i esbonio ac adrodd y stori, os yw wir yn credu

to carry on with the explaining and the telling of the story if it truly believes that the story is different to the way that we all interpret it.

We do not want to label schools or students; we talk an awful lot in the Assembly about trying to get rid of labels on people altogether. However, this banding does exactly that. One of the Government's amendments states that the National Assembly for Wales

'recognises moves by Local Authorities through consortia to reconfigure school improvement services and believes that support drawing on the expertise of leading practitioners should become a model throughout Wales'.

However, what I do not understand is this: I have met some leading practitioners who, up to a few months ago, were in demand within their county, their local education authority, within neighbouring counties and within Wales itself to explain how they were doing things, why they were so successful and how great their results were, but they had woken up to find that their school is in a low band. They do not understand that and I do not understand that. That has happened time and again. Therefore, when the Government talks about bringing forward these people to lead—

Leighton Andrews: In answer to questions earlier on, I said that, whenever a school has been referenced as showing some kind of anomaly, I have personally asked my officials to check it. If the Member knows of schools where she thinks that that has happened, I invite her to write to me with that list and I will check every one of those schools.

Angela Burns: I will most certainly do that. I pick my words here carefully: these people have perhaps written to me because they do not feel able to write to the Government about their concerns for their school. You may think that it is a laughing matter, but when you have the kind of culture where people do not believe that they can go back to their LEA, or through their LEA to the Government, to say that they are

bod y stori'n wahanol i'r ffordd rydym oll yn ei dehongli.

Nid ydym eisiau labelu ysgolion na myfyrwyr; rydym yn siarad yn aml iawn yn y Cynulliad am geisio cael gwared ar labelu pobl yn gyfan gwbl. Fodd bynnag, dyna'n union y mae'r bandio hwn yn ei wneud. Mae un o welliannau'r Llywodraeth yn datgan bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

'yn cydnabod y camau y mae Awdurdodau Lleol wedi'u cymryd, drwy gonsortia, i ad-drefnu'r gwasanaethau gwella ysgolion ac yn credu y dylai cefnogaeth sy'n manteisio ar arbenigedd yr ymarferwyr blaenllaw ddod yn fodel ledled Cymru.'

Fodd bynnag, dyma'r hyn nad wyf yn ei ddeall: rwyf wedi cwrdd â rhai ymarferwyr blaenllaw yr oedd galw amdanynt, hyd at ychydig fisoeedd yn ôl, yn eu hawdurdod addysg lleol, mewn siroedd cyfagos ac yng Nghymru i egluro sut roeddent yn gwneud pethau, pam eu bod mor llwyddiannus, a pha mor dda oedd eu canlyniadau, ond roeddent wedi canfod bod eu hysgol mewn band isel. Nid ydynt yn deall hynny ac nid wyf innau'n deall hynny. Mae hynny wedi digwydd dro ar ôl tro. Felly, pan fydd y Llywodraeth yn sôn am ddwyn y bobl hyn ymlaen i arwain—

Leighton Andrews: I ateb cwestiynau a ofynnwyd yn gynharach, dywedais fy mod i yn bersonol wedi gofyn i swyddogion wirio achosion lle y nodwyd rhyw fath o anghysondeb mewn perthynas ag ysgol. Os yw'r Aelod yn gwybod am ysgolion lle y mae'n credu bod hynny wedi digwydd, rwyf yn ei gwahodd i ysgrifennu ataf gyda'r rhestr honno, a byddaf yn gwirio pob un o'r ysgolion hynny.

Angela Burns: Byddaf yn sicr yn gwneud hynny. Rwyf yn dewis fy ngeiriau yn ofalus yn hyn o beth: mae'r bobl hyn wedi ysgrifennu ataf gan nad ydynt, o bosibl, yn teimlo y gallant ysgrifennu at y Llywodraeth yngylch eu pryderon am eu hysgol. Efallai eich bod yn meddwl bod hyn yn ddoniol, ond os oes gennych y math o ddiwylliant lle nad yw pobl yn credu y gallant fynd yn ôl at eu hawdurdod addysg lleol, neu drwy eu AALL

uncomfortable with the situation that they are in, that is a really poor way of being able to lead education forward. We are talking about good teachers and schools, which offer exemplary benefits to the rest of Wales, and yet they are now in very low bandings. However, I will take your offer back to them and ask them whether they want me to bring their concerns to your kind attention.

It is incredibly important that parents, above all, understand what the banding system is all about. I do not have children in secondary school, but many of my friends do, and they have asked me what the banding system is about. They ask me what this means and what it is trying to say about Pembroke School, Whitland school or Queen Elizabeth High School in Carmarthen. People are asking me these questions, and I am concerned that, when we look at primary schools, of which we have far more in Wales, there will be far more new parents who are a lot more jumpy about education who will raise further questions.

Gwelliant 2 Jane Hutt

Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Yn cydnabod y camau y mae Awdurdodau Lleol wedi'u cymryd, drwy gonsortia, i adrefnu'r gwasanaethau gwella ysgolion ac yn credu y dylai cefnogaeth sy'n manteisio ar arbenigedd yr ymarferwyr blaenllaw ddod yn fodel ledled Cymru.

Gwelliant 3 Jane Hutt

Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Yn credu mai safon yr addysgu ac arweinyddiaeth ysgolion yw'r ffactorau allweddol ar gyfer gwella ysgolion ac yn talu teyrnged i waith y proffesiwn addysgu yng Nghymru am sicrhau bod safonau wedi codi dros y degawd diwethaf.

Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau (Leighton Andrews): Cynigiaf welliannau 2 a 3 yn enw Jane Hutt.

at y Llywodraeth, i ddweud eu bod yn teimlo'n annifyr ynghylch y sefyllfa y maent ynnddi, dyna ffordd wael iawn o arwain addysg. Rydym yn sôn am athrawon ac ysgolion da, sy'n cynnig manteision rhagorol i weddill Cymru, ac eto maent yn awr mewn bandiau isel iawn. Fodd bynnag, byddaf yn mynd â'ch cynnig yn ôl atynt ac yn gofyn iddynt a ydynt am imi ddod â'u pryderon i'ch sylw caredig.

Mae'n eithriadol o bwysig bod rhieni, yn anad dim, yn deall yr hyn y mae'r system fandio yn ei olygu. Nid oes gennyl blant yn yr ysgol uwchradd, ond mae gan lawer o fy ffrindiau blant o'r oedran hwnnw, ac maent wedi gofyn imi am y system fandio. Maent yn gofyn imi beth yw ystyr hyn a'r hyn y mae'n ceisio ei ddweud am Ysgol Penfro, ysgol Hendy-gwyn neu Ysgol Uwchradd y Frenhines Elisabeth yng Nghaerfyddin. Mae pobl yn gofyn y cwestiynau hyn imi, ac rwyf yn pryderu y bydd llawer mwy o rieni newydd yn ansicr ynghylch addysg ac yn gofyn rhagor o gwestiynau pan fyddwn yn ystyried ysgolion cynradd, gan fod llawer mwy ohonynt yng Nghymru.

Amendment 2 Jane Hutt

Add as new point at end of motion:

Recognises moves by Local Authorities through consortia to reconfigure school improvement services and believes that support drawing on the expertise of leading practitioners should become a model throughout Wales.

Amendment 3 Jane Hutt

Add as new point at end of motion:

Believes that the quality of teaching and school leadership are the key drivers of school improvement and pays tribute to the work of the teaching profession in Wales for delivering rising standards over the last decade.

The Minister for Education and Skills (Leighton Andrews): I move amendments 2 and 3 in the name of Jane Hutt.

Gwelliant 4 Peter Black

Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Yn credu y bydd y system fandio hon, drwy ganolbwytio ar berfformiad cyffredinol ysgolion, yn methu cydnabod perfformiadau unigol disgylion ac adrannau yn yr ysgolion hynny.

Gwelliant 5 Peter Black

Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Yn bryderus nad yw Llywodraeth Cymru wedi llunio canllawiau penodol ar gyfer sut gall awdurdodau lleol a chanddynt nifer o ysgolion ym Mandiau 3, 4 a 5 wneud gwelliannau ymarferol.

Aled Roberts: I move amendments 4 and 5 in the name of Peter Black.

I will follow the same pattern that Simon Thomas followed earlier, because it is important at the outset that we set out our support for some of the approaches being adopted by the Government and that we also raise some concerns—not with the system specifically, but perhaps with regard to the way that some of the system has been worked out. While we all welcome the extensive debate that has been afforded to education over recent months, it is important that we do not become embroiled in talking about the structures and processes that we are adopting and lose sight of the fact that we have an education system that we need to improve for the benefit of all of our youngsters, which then feeds through to deal with some of the issues that we dealt with in the earlier debate.

5.15 p.m.

What is surprising and perhaps disappointing is that, while we should all be setting out on that journey to improve the school system, it is clear that the Government, up to now, has not been able to take a large number of stakeholders along with it. The Association of Teachers and Lecturers has not noted its

Amendment 4 Peter Black

Add as new point at end of motion:

Believes that in concentrating on overall school performance this banding system fails to acknowledge the individual performances of pupils and departments within those schools.

Amendment 5 Peter Black

Add as new point at end of motion:

Is concerned that the Welsh Government has produced no specific guidance for how local authorities with a number of schools in Bands 3, 4, and 5 can make practical improvements.

Aled Roberts: Cynigiaf welliannau 4 a 5 yn enw Peter Black.

Byddaf yn dilyn yr un patrwm a ddilynodd Simon Thomas yn gynharach, oherwydd ei bod yn bwysig ein bod yn nodi ar y cychwyn ein bod yn cefnogi rhai o'r dulliau y mae'r Llywodraeth yn eu mabwysiadu, a'n bod hefyd yn codi rhai pryderon—nid ynghylch y system yn benodol, ond efallai o ran y ffordd y mae rhan o'r system wedi cael ei llunio. Er ein bod i gyd yn croesawu'r drafodaeth helaeth a gafwyd ynglŷn ag addysg yn y misoedd diwethaf, mae'n bwysig nad ydym yn ymgolli mewn siarad am y strwythurau a'r prosesau rydym yn eu mabwysiadu, ac nad ydym yn colli golwg ar y ffaith bod gennym system addysg y mae angen inni ei gwella er budd ein holl bobl ifanc, sydd wedyn yn ymdrin â rhai o'r materion rydym wedi sôn amdanyst yn y ddadl a gynhalwyd yn gynharach.

Yr hyn sy'n peri syndod a siom efallai yw, er y dylem oll fod yn ceisio gwella'r system ysgolion, mae'n amlwg nad yw'r Llywodraeth, hyd yma, wedi gallu sicrhau cefnogaeth nifer fawr o randdeiliaid. Nid yw Cymdeithas yr Athrawon a'r Darlithwyr wedi nodi ei gwrthwynebiad i'r system fandio fel y

opposition to the banding system per se, but has suggested that a rigorous amount of work needs to be carried out so that the system reflects schools' progress. The National Union of Teachers has, over last few days, started a campaign in opposition of the system. There is a danger that the Assembly spends all its time talking about the difficulties with the process, rather than about the real task that faces us. As a party, we support the fact that parents should have information on the relative performance of schools. It is disingenuous to suggest that there were no means by which parents could obtain information with regard to schools' performance. A secondary school in the area in which I live has, because of parental perception regarding the level of education at the school, seen its admission numbers halved, over a period two years, when compared with what they had been historically.

Our concerns are in line with some of the concerns raised by UCAC this week, whereby the current banding system reflects an overall view of the school rather than address concerns to do with departmental performance in the school. If a school is in a particular band, it could mask difficulties with a certain department's performance. This approach does not have proper regard to individual performance in schools. The Government's amendment 3 rightly notes that GCSE results have improved over the past 10 years, but it does hint at a certain degree of complacency. As supported by the statement made by the Minister in December, there is a danger that, in the period since devolution, we took our eye off the ball with regard to educational attainment in Wales. We support and recognise the work of dedicated teachers, and I know that the work carried out in education is dependent on good leadership. However, we need to acknowledge that there are schools in Wales that are not performing as all of us would want to see them performing.

Moving on from the identification of schools, we want to see a discussion on the level and degree of support that the schools in the lower bands will be given over the coming months and years to ensure that we achieve what we set out to achieve. The Labour

cyfryw, ond mae wedi awgrymu bod angen gwneud gwaith sylweddol er mwyn i'r system adlewyrchu cynnydd ysgolion. Mae Undeb Cenedlaethol yr Athrawon, dros y diwrnodau diwethaf, wedi dechrau ymgyrch yn gwrthwynebu'r system. Mae perygl bod y Cynulliad yn gwario ei holl amser yn siarad am anawsterau'r broses, yn hytrach nag am y dasg go iawn sy'n ein hwynebu. Fel plaid, rydym yn cefnogi'r ffaith y dylai rhieni gael gwybodaeth am berfformiad cymharol ysgolion. Mae'n annidwyll awgrymu nad oedd unrhyw ffordd y gallai rhieni gael gwybodaeth mewn perthynas â pherfformiad ysgolion. Mewn ysgol uwchradd yn yr ardal lle rwyf yn byw, oherwydd canfyddiad rhieni ynghylch lefel yr addysg yn yr ysgol, mae ei niferoedd derbyn wedi haneru, dros gyfnod o ddwy flynedd, o'u cymharu â'r niferoedd hanesyddol.

Mae ein pryderon yn cyd-fynd â rhai o'r pryderon a godwyd gan UCAC yr wythnos hon, sef bod y system fandio bresennol yn rhoi darlun cyffredinol o'r ysgol yn hytrach na mynd i'r afael â phryderon ynghylch perfformiad adrannau yn yr ysgol. Os yw ysgol mewn band penodol, gallai hynny guddio anawsterau o ran perfformiad adran benodol. Nid yw'r dull hwn yn rhoi ystyriaeth briodol i berfformiad unigol mewn ysgolion. Mae gwelliant 3 y Llywodraeth yn gywir yn nodi bod canlyniadau TGAU wedi gwella dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, ond mae'n awgrym rhywfaint o laesu dwylo. Fel y cefnogir gan y datganiad a wnaed gan y Gweinidog ym mis Rhagfyr, mae perygl, yn y cyfnod ers datganoli, ein bod colli golwg ar gyrhaeddiad addysgol yng Nghymru. Rydym yn cefnogi ac yn cydnabod gwaith athrawon ymroddedig, a gwn fod y gwaith a wneir ym maes addysg yn dibynnu ar arweinyddiaeth dda. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni gydnabod bod ysgolion yng Nghymru nad ydynt yn perfformio i'r lefel y byddai pob un ohonom eisiau eu gweld yn perfformio.

Gan symud ymlaen o fandio ysgolion, rydym am weld trafodaeth ar lefel y cymorth y bydd ysgolion yn y bandiau isaf yn ei gael dros y misoedd a'r blynnyddoedd nesaf i sicrhau ein bod yn cyflawni'r hyn rydym yn bwriadu ei gyflawni. Mae maniffesto Llafur yn crybwyll

manifesto mentions the level of delegation to schools. It is not acceptable, in looking at the pattern across Wales, that levels of delegation can vary from 76.2% in one authority to 66.3% in another in my region. I give qualified support to the system at this stage. There are tweaks that need to be carried out, in relation, for example, to the concerns regarding the number of primary schools that are going to be excluded under the primary arrangements. Let us get on with the job of improving attainment in schools rather than constantly talking about process.

Jocelyn Davies: I would like to begin my contribution by reminding Members about the abolition of league tables in 2001, when the Assembly was a corporate body and Jane Davidson was the Minister. She recognised and said that league tables were divisive, harmful and an unnecessary burden on schools, and they did not have the support of teachers or parents. This was not the intention of those who dreamed up the policy; they were introduced by the Conservatives to expose poor standards and to encourage choice. There is no doubt that the unintended consequences were detrimental to the education system as a whole, and this Assembly wanted to demonstrate a very different vision for Welsh pupils. I was very happy to support this move. I am sure that you will all remember the widespread welcome for the decision to scrap the tables.

The Minister has already this afternoon made much of the fact that our motion does not condemn or reject the banding system. He knows full well that we have given him the benefit of the doubt, and he knows that we will definitely not support a return to league tables. Of course, as soon as he admits that these are league tables, we will reject the banding system. Our motion makes it clear that school assessment should be used to target resources to remedy underperformance. We do not want to see the return of demoralised pupils being taught by demoralised teachers. It appears to me that the motion and the debate present the ideal opportunity to put on record support for those schools that need it.

lefel y dirprwyo i ysgolion. Nid yw'n dderbyniol, wrth edrych ar y patrwm ledled Cymru, fod lefelau dirprwyo yn gallu amrywio o 76.2% mewn un awdurdod i 66.3% mewn un arall yn fy rhanbarth. Cefnogaf y system yn amodol ar hyn o bryd. Mae angen gwneud newidiadau bach mewn perthynas, er enghrafft, â'r pryderon ynghylch nifer yr ysgolion cynradd a fydd yn cael eu heithrio o dan y trefniadau sylfaenol. Gadewch inni ymgymryd â'r gwaith o wella cyrhaeddiad mewn ysgolion yn hytrach na siarad am y broses o hyd.

Jocelyn Davies: Hoffwn ddechrau fy nghyfraniad drwy atgoffa'r Aelodau am ddiddymu'r tablau cynghrair yn 2001; bryd hynny, roedd y Cynulliad yn gorff corfforaethol a Jane Davidson oedd y Gweinidog. Roedd hi'n cydnabod bod tablau cynghrair yn gynhennus, yn niweidiol ac yn faich diangen ar ysgolion, ac nad oedd athrawon na rhieni yn eu cefnogi. Nid dyna oedd bwriad y rhai a ddyfeisiodd y polisi; cawsant eu cyflwyno gan y Ceidwadwyr i ddatgelu safonau isel ac annog dewis. Nid oes unrhyw amheuaeth y bu'r canlyniadau anfwriadol yn niweidiol i'r system addysg yn ei chyfarwydd, ac roedd y Cynulliad hwn yn awyddus i ddangos gweledigaeth wahanol iawn ar gyfer disgylion Cymru. Roeddwn yn hapus iawn i gefnogi'r camau hynny. Rwyf yn siŵr y bydd pob un ohonoch yn cofio'r croeso eang i'r penderfyniad i gael gwared ar y tablau.

Mae'r Gweinidog eisoes wedi gwneud yn fawr o'r ffaith nad yw ein cynnig yn condemnio neu'n gwrthod y system fandio y prynhawn yma. Mae'n gwybod yn iawn ein bod wedi rhoi pob cyfle iddo, ac mae'n gwybod yn bendant na fyddwn yn cefnogi dychwelyd i ddefnyddio tablau cynghrair. Wrth gwrs, cyn gynted ag y bydd yn cyfaddef mai tablau cynghrair ydynt, byddwn yn gwrthod y system fandio. Mae ein cynnig yn ei gwneud yn glir y dylid defnyddio asesiadau ysgol i dargedu adnoddau i fynd i'r afael â thanberfformio. Nid ydym am ddychwelyd at sefyllfa lle bydd disgylion sydd wedi digalonni yn cael eu dysgu gan athrawon sydd wedi digalonni. Mae'n ymddangos imi fod y cynnig a'r ddadl yn rhoi cyfle delfrydol i nodi cefnogaeth ar gyfer yr ysgolion hynny sydd ei hangen.

There are genuine concerns that banding is being interpreted as a proxy for league tables. After all, it compares your school with others, and schools can of course move between bands over time depending on performance and other factors. The BBC has published individual scores: you can rank schools from top to bottom. It is therefore perfectly predictable that there would be fears of an unintended consequence of the system, which is that this system would be used as a proxy for league tables. The Minister may not like it, but those concerns are being expressed, and they deserve attention and a patient response; otherwise, the unintended consequences will become a harsh reality.

The worry is that banding will have an adverse effect on morale and funding. Government support for our motion would make it clear that banding will not lead to fewer resources for those schools in the lower bands. I am looking for a commitment from the Minister on that point.

I would also like clarification on the record of the how the system works. One school governor in Torfaen contacted me to point out that a secondary school with a regional special needs unit attached to it may end up in a lower band than it deserves. This point was also mentioned during questions earlier, and it was noted that this anomaly should be addressed. The Minister did not respond to that part of the question asked by one of the Labour backbenchers; he now has a second opportunity to commit to revisit the matter.

Another school governor, from Blackwood, told me that if his school had three more pupils on free school meals, it would have been placed in a higher band. I think that pupils and parents will find this difficult to understand. We also heard from Lindsay Whittle, during questions, that pupils who had been in touch with him were surprised and disappointed by the lower banding of their school. They did not identify with that outcome. They were proud of their school; they thought that they were going to a good

Mae pryderon gwirioneddol bod bandio'n cael ei ddehongli fel procsi ar gyfer tablau cynghrair. Wedi'r cyfan, mae'n cymharu eich ysgol gydag ysgolion eraill, ac, wrth gwrs, gall ysgolion symud rhwng bandiau dros amser, yn dibynnu ar berfformiad a ffactorau eraill. Mae'r BBC wedi cyhoeddi sgorau unigol: gallwch raddio ysgolion o'r brig i'r gwaelod. Felly, mae'n gwbl ragweladwy y byddai pryer ynghylch canlyniad anfwriadol y system, sef y byddai'r system hon yn cael ei defnyddio fel procsi ar gyfer tablau cynghrair. Efallai na fydd y Gweinidog yn hapus am hynny, ond mae'r pryeron hynny'n cael eu mynegi, ac maent yn haeddu sylw ac ymateb amyneddgar; fel arall, bydd y canlyniadau anfwriadol yn dod yn wirionedd llym.

Y pryer yw y bydd bandio'n cael effaith andwyol ar forâl a chyllid. Byddai cefnogaeth y Llywodraeth ar gyfer ein cynnig yn ei gwneud yn glir na fydd bandio'n arwain at lai o adnoddau ar gyfer yr ysgolion hynny yn y bandiau is. Rwyf yn edrych am ymrwymiad gan y Gweinidog ar y pwyt hwnnw.

Hefyd, hoffwn gael eglurhad ynghylch y cofnod o'r modd y mae'r system yn gweithio. Cysylltodd un llywodraethwr ysgol yn Nhoraefn â mi i ddweud y gall ysgol uwchradd sydd ag uned anghenion arbennig rhanbarthol ynghlwm â hi gael ei gosod mewn band is nag y mae'n ei haeddu. Crybwyllyd y pwyt yn ystod cwestiynau yn gynharach hefyd, a nodwyd y dylid mynd i'r afael â'r anghysondeb hwn. Ni wnaeth y Gweinidog ymateb i'r rhan honno o'r cwestiwn a ofynnwyd gan un o Aelodau meinciau cefn Llafur; mae ganddo ail gyfle i ymrwymo i ddychwelyd at y mater hwn.

Dyweddodd llywodraethwr ysgol arall o'r Coed-duon wrthyf, pe byddai tri disgybl arall yn ei ysgol yn cael prydau ysgol am ddim, byddai wedi cael ei gosod mewn band uwch. Rwyf yn credu y bydd y disgyblion a rhieni yn cael trafferth deall hyn. Clywsom hefyd gan Lindsay Whittle, yn ystod y cwestiynau, fod disgyblion a gysylltodd ag ef yn synnu at y ffaith bod eu hysgol wedi'i gosod mewn band is ac roeddent yn siomedig ynghylch hynny. Nid oeddent yn uniaethu â'r canlyniad hwnnw. Roeddent yn falch o'u hysgol;

school. On being published, the banding immediately changed their perception of their school. Let us just hope that it does not change their perception of how they will achieve.

Minister, I can see that you are taking a hard line on banding—it is good to see a Minister with some passion for what he is doing—that is, of course, with the aim of raising standards. However, do not let that passion prevent you from listening to genuine concerns or dismiss the views of others out of hand.

Keith Davies: Rhaid dweud fy mod wedi clywed pethau mawr y prynhawn yma. Gyda'm cefndir ym myd addysg, dim ond dau sydd wedi gofyn cwestiynau i mi am y bandio. Nid ydynt yn benaethiaid; maent yn gweithio i ryw undeb, a hwnnw yn amlwg wedi cael ei aelodau i ysgrifennu ataf. Yn y pen draw, yr hyn yr ydym yn ei ymofyn yw i'r ysgolion gorau lwyddo ac i'r ysgolion nad ydynt cystal wella. Hyd y gwelaf i, dyna bwrrpas y bandio hwn. Nid wyf yn gweld tablau cynghrair yn hyn o beth—efallai ei fod yn debycach i bêl-droed, gyda'r uwchgyngħrair a chyngħrair y bencampwriaeth.

Bethan Jenkins: Yr oeddech yn dweud mai undebau yn unig sy'n cysylltu â chi, ond aelodau'r undebau hynny yw'r athrawon sy'n gweithio ar lawr gwlad ac yn poeni am y sefyllfa. Onid ydych wedi cael negeseuon e-bost am y mater, fel yr wyf i wedi'u cael?

Keith Davies: Nac ydw. Fel y dywedais, rwyf wedi cael dau unigolyn yn unig yn holi amdanyst. Rwyf yn aelod o ddaugorff llywodraethu a phwyllgor sy'n cynnwys pump neu chwech o brifathrawon uwchradd, ac nid ydynt hwy wedi cwyno. Yn y pen draw, credaf y bydd pobl yn cwyno am hyn heb edrych yn fanwl ar yr hyn sy'n digwydd. Os edrychwch ar y mein prawf, fe welwch fod dau ohonynt, sy'n bwysig iawn, yn ymwneud â chanlyniadau TGAU, a'r trothwy, sef pump TGAU gyda'r graddau A* i C, neu i gael TGAU yn Saesneg, Cymraeg a Mathemateg. Ond, mae'r bandiau sydd gennym yn awr wedi eu seilio ar un flwyddyn

roeddent yn credu eu bod yn mynd i ysgol dda. Newidiwyd eu canfyddiad o'u hysgol ar unwaith gan y cyhoeddiad ynghylch bandio'r ysgol. Gadewch inni obeithio na fydd yn newid eu canfyddiad o sut y byddant yn cyflawni.

Weinidog, gallaf weld eich bod yn bod yn llym ynghylch bandio—mae'n dda gweld Gweinidog sydd â rhywfaint o angerdd ynghylch yr hyn y mae'n ei wneud—hynny yw, wrth gwrs, gyda'r nod o godi safonau. Fodd bynnag, peidiwch â gadael i'r angerdd hwnnw eich atal rhag gwrando ar bryderon gwirioneddol neu wrthod barn pobl eraill yn syth.

Keith Davies: I have to say that I have heard some remarkable things this afternoon. Despite my background in education, only two people have asked me about the banding system. Those people were not headteachers; they work for a union, which has obviously encouraged its members to write to me. Ultimately, what we want is for the best schools to succeed and for those that are weaker to improve. As far as I understand it, that is the purpose of the banding system. I do not see any league tables—perhaps it is more similar to football, with the premiership and the championship.

Bethan Jenkins: You said that it is only union members who have been in contract with you, but those members are the very teachers in our schools who are concerned about the situation. Have you not received emails on the matter, such as I have?

Keith Davies: No, I have not. As I said, I have only had two enquiries about the banding system. I am a member of two governing bodies, and of a committee that includes five or six secondary headteachers, and I have not heard any complaints from those directions. Ultimately, people are going to complain about this without looking in detail at what is happening. If you look at the criteria, you will see that two of them, which are important, are based on GCSE results, and the threshold, which means five GCSEs at grades A* to C, or, of course, to get English, Welsh and Mathematics at GCSE. However, the banding that we have at present

yn unig. Mae pobl sydd wedi bod ym myd addysg yn gwybod cystal â fi fod pob blwyddyn ysgol yn amrywio. Cewch flwyddyn dda, a chewch flwyddyn wael, ac, felly, nid ydym wedi rhoi cyfle i'r bandio eto. Bydd ysgolion yn cael eu mesur dros dair blynedd. Felly, os oes gennych chi flwyddyn wael, efallai y cewch chi flwyddyn dda y flwyddyn ganlynol. Mae'n hollol annheg i seilio hyn ar un flwyddyn.

Peth pwysig arall yw'r angen i edrych ar ddalgylch yr ysgol, a chefn dir y teuluoedd. Os edrychwrch ar sir Gâr er enghraifft, mae un ysgol ym mand 1, a hynny mewn ardal ddifreintiedig. Yr oeddym yn siarad am ysgolion da, ond beth yw 'ysgolion da'? Ai ysgol dda yw un sy'n dod ymlaen yn iawn, neu un sy'n cael canlyniadau eithaf da? Gallech chi gael canlyniadau eithaf da ac athrawon gwael, ond, wrth gwrs, mae'r rhieni yn eu cefnogi. Yr oedd un ysgol yng Nghaerdydd—ac yr wyf yn gwybod amdani oherwydd aeth fy nghyfnither i'r chweched dosbarth yno—lle'r oedd pob disgylbl lefel A yn cael cefnogaeth tu fas i oriau ysgol.

Yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw ein bod ni'n edrych ar berfformiad bandio, gan gynnwys y ffactorau i gyd. Yn y pen draw, pwrpas y bandio yw caniatáu i'r awdurdod a'r consortia, os yw ysgol ym mand 5, neu ym mand 4, drafod hynny gyda'r pennath, gan ofyn, 'Pam ydych chi'n meddwl eich bod yn y sefyllfa hon? Beth allwch chi ei wneud yn yr ysgol i ddelio gyda'r sefyllfa?' Fel y mae'r Gweinidog wedi ei ddweud yn barod, mae arian ychwanegol wedi mynd i gyllido'r consortia i weithio gydag ysgolion. Yr hyn sy'n fy mhoeni i yw ein bod ni'n neidio i mewn yn rhy gyflym o lawer heb roi cyfle i'r bandio.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Rwyf yn cytuno yn llwyr â'r hyn rwyt ti'n ei ddadlau, sef na ddylem dod i gasgliad am berfformiad ysgol ar sail un flwyddyn. Rwyf yn derbyn yr hyn rwyt ti'n ei ddweud am flynyddoedd ysgol yn amrywio o fewn yr un ysgol. Os felly, pam cyhoeddi'r bandiau ar sail un flwyddyn? Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi'u gwneud yn gyhoeddus, gan wahodd pobl i feirniadu ysgolion ar sail un flwyddyn yn unig.

is based on one year alone. People who have worked in education know as well as I do that school years vary—you have a good year, and then a poor year—so we have not given this banding a chance. Schools will be measured over three years. So, if there is a poor year, it could well be followed by a good year. It is entirely unfair to base this on one year.

What is also important is that you look at the school catchment area, and the background of the families that send their children to that school. If you look at Carmarthenshire, for example, there is one school in band 1, but it is in a disadvantaged area. We were talking about good schools, but what do you mean by 'good school'? Is a good school one that gets on well, or where the results are quite good? You can get quite good results with poor teachers, but the parents support those teachers. There was one school in Cardiff—which I know about because a cousin of mine went to the sixth form—where every A-level pupil received support and tutoring outside of school hours.

What is important is that we look at how banding works, by taking all the factors into consideration. Ultimately, the whole point of the bands is that, if a school is in band 5 or 4, then the authority and the consortia discuss that with the headteacher, asking why the school thinks it is in that position, and what could be done in the school to tackle the situation. As the Minister has already said, additional funding has been provided to fund the consortia to work with the schools. What concerns me is that we are jumping in far too quickly without giving this a chance.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I agree entirely with your argument, which is that we should not come to a conclusion on the performance of a school on the basis of one year. I accept what you say about school years varying within a single school. However, if that is the case, why publish these bands based on a single year? The Government has made this public, thereby inviting people to criticise schools on the basis of one academic year.

Keith Davies: Mae hynny oherwydd taw hon yw'r flwyddyn gyntaf. Rwy'n derbyn y pwynt, ond rwyf fi'n dweud ein bod ni'n neidio yn rhy gynnar, ond os arhoswn ni ddwy neu dair blynedd, byddwn yn gweld ysgolion yn gwella, ac yn gweld gwelliant yn y ffigurau sy'n dangos sut ysgolion ydynt. Yr hyn sy'n fy mecs i yw ein bod ni am newid pethau yn rhy gyflym.

Alun Ffred Jones: Rwyf am ddechrau drwy gyfeirio at sylwadau cadeirydd corff llywodraethu ysgol yn fy etholaeth—sylwadau a anfonwyd ataf yn ddigymhell. Dylwn ddweud bod yr ysgol hon wedi'i gosod yn y band uchaf, felly nid grawnwin surion yn sicr sydd yma. Dywedodd cadeirydd y llywodraethwyr nad oes ots faint rydych yn ceisio dweud fel arall, mae hon yn system sy'n rhoi ysgolion uwchradd mewn cynghrair genedlaethol flynyddol, a hynny ar sail sydd yn gyfyng ac yn gorfodi hyd at hanner yr ysgolion i fethu yn llygaid y cyhoedd. Dywedodd hefyd fod hon yn system sy'n brandio ysgolion yn hytrach na'u bandio, ac yn un sy'n tanseilio morâl staff gweithgar a chydwybodol ysgolion, ac yn tanseilio hygrededd cyfundrefn addysg uwchradd yng Nghymru. Dilynir y sylwadau gan nifer o fanylion yn gosod allan y ddadl.

Mae sylwadau'r undebau yn ategu'r pwyntiau uchod. Dywed un undeb fod y Gweinidog wedi dweud dro ar ôl tro nad yw bandio yn ffordd o godi cywilydd ar ysgolion ac nad cynghrair sydd yma, ond mae'r undeb yn anghytuno. Os edrychwch ar wefan y BBC heddiw, byddwch yn gweld bod sgôr unigol bob ysgol bellach ar gael. Gallwch eu darllen o'r top i'r gwaelod—ac ysgol yn Arfon sy'n digwydd bod ar ben y rhestr. Fodd bynnag, beth yw'r rhestr hwnnw ond cynghrair? Ni allwch ei alw yn unrhyw beth arall. Mae unrhyw ysgol sy'n sgorio yn uwch—neu yn is, yn yr achos hwn—na phob ysgol arall yn dod ar y top, ac mae ysgolion ar y gwaelod ar y gwaelod. Mae athrawon a rhieni yn mynd i weld y rhestr hon fel cynghrair a dim byd arall.

5.30 p.m.

Yn ddiweddar, roeddwn yn siarad ag athrawes beripatetic brofiadol iawn, sy'n mynd o gwmpas ysgolion yn yr ardal, ac aeth

Keith Davies: That is because this is the first year. I accept the point, but what I am saying is that we are moving too quickly, and if we wait two or three years, we will see improvement in schools and in the figures that show what kind of schools they are. What concerns me is that we want to change things too soon.

Alun Ffred Jones: I start by referring to comments made by the chair of a secondary school's governing body in my constituency—comments that were sent to me unsolicited. I should say that this school has been placed in the top band, so this certainly is not sour grapes. He said that no matter how much you try to say otherwise, this is a system that places secondary schools in a national league table on an annual basis, and on a basis that is narrow and forces up to half of those schools to fail in the eyes of the public. He went on to say that it is a system that brands schools rather than bands them, and undermines the morale of the staff who are working hard in our schools, as well as the credibility of the whole secondary education system in Wales. There follow a number of details setting out his argument.

The comments of the unions endorse that view. One of them points out that the Minister has said time and again that banding is not a means of naming and shaming schools, and that this is not a league table, but the union disagrees. If you look at the BBC website today, you will see that the individual scores of every school are now available. You can read them from the top to bottom—and a school in Arfon happens to be at the top of the list. However, what is that list but a league table? You cannot call it anything else. Any school that scores higher—or lower, in this case—than every other school comes out on top, and the schools at the bottom are at the bottom. Teachers and parents will see this list as a league table and nothing else.

Recently, I was talking to a very experienced peripatetic teacher, who travels around schools in the area and who went to two

i ddwy ysgol ar yr un diwrnod—un ohonynt ym mand 4 a'r llall ym mand 1. Yr oedd y canlyniadau newydd gael eu cyhoeddi yn y papur lleol. Yr oedd ynt wedi cael eu cyhoeddi yn union yr un ffordd ag y mae'r papur yn cyhoeddi tablau pêl-droed y cynghreiriau lleol. Bu i'r athrawes ddweud bod yr awyrgylch yn yr ysgol a oedd wedi ei osod ym mand 4 yn ddigalon. Roedd yr athrawon yn teimlo nad oeddent yn cael eu gwerthfawrogi o gwbl a bod eu hymdrehigion yn ofer. Aeth yr athrawes wedyn i'r ysgol a oedd ym mand 1—sef yr un ysgol a oedd yn destun llythyr imi gan y cadeirydd. Ei barn hi fel athrawes brofiadol yw nad oes gwahaniaeth rhwng y ddwy ysgol hynny. Nid oes gwahaniaeth o ran yr awyrgylch, ymddygiad y disgyblion, nac yn y gefnogaeth a roddwyd gan yr athrawon. Nid yw hynny'n brawf gwyddonol, ond mae'n bwysig ein bod yn gwrandio ar y lleisiau hynny. Nid oes ganddynt gymhellion gwleidyddol. Yn ei hachos hi, nid ydyw hyd yn oed yn ceisio amddiffyn ei hysgol ei hunan. Yr oedd yn sôn am yr ysgolion y mae hi'n ymweld â nhw. Er bod gwahaniaethau ac er bod rhai ysgolion yn well na'i gilydd, nid yw'r system bresennol fel petai'n gwneud y gwaith y bwriedir iddi ei wneud.

Credaf ei fod yn hollbwysig bod llywodraethwyr a rhieni yn cael cymaint o wybodaeth â phosibl am berfformiad ysgol a'r hyn y gall gynnig i blentyn. Buaswn yn dymuno hynny fel rhiant a llywodraethwr. Fodd bynnag, wrth geisio dod â'r manylion hyn at ei gilydd mewn un fformiwla, mae potensial i wneud cam mawr ar staff, ysgolion, a'u hymdrehigion. Mae gennyf un dyfyniad gan brifathro:

‘They take all the careful analysis and stuff it into a really crude calculation system.’

Dyna yw'r pryder sydd gennym o ran y drefn sydd wedi cael ei chyhoeddi. Hoffwn ofyn yr un cwestiwn i'r Gweinidog ag y bu i Simon Thomas ofyn, sef: a fydd y bandiau hyn yn aros gyda'r un canran o ysgolion ynddynt? Os felly, yr ydych yn condemnio ysgolion i gael eu stigmateiddio dro ar ôl tro—efallai nid yr un ysgolion—ac felly bydd hynny yn creu cystadleuaeth. Os, ar y llaw arall, yr ydych yn creu system lle y gallwch godi

schools on the same day—one in band 4 and the other in band 1. The new results had just been published in the local paper. They had been published in exactly the same way as the paper publishes the local football league tables. The teacher said that the atmosphere in the school that had been placed in band 4 was very depressed. The teachers felt that they were not appreciated at all and that their efforts were in vain. The teacher then went to the school in band 1, which was the same school that was the subject of a letter to me by the chair. Her opinion as an experienced teacher is that there is no difference between those two schools. There is no difference in terms of the environment, the pupils' behaviour, or in the support provided by the teachers. That is not scientific proof, but it is important that we listen to these voices. They do not have political motives. In her case, she is not even trying to defend her own school. She was talking about schools that she visits. Although there are differences and some schools are better than others, the current system does not seem to do what it is intended to do.

I think that is crucial that governors and parents have as much information as possible about school performance and what a school can offer a child. I would want that as a parent and a governor. However, in trying to draw these details together in a single formula, there is the potential to do staff, schools, and their efforts, a great disservice. I have a quotation from a headteacher:

Maent yn cymryd yr holl ddadansoddi gofalus a'i stwffio i mewn i system cyfrifiad gwirioneddol amrwd.

That is the concern that we have about the system that has been published. I would like to ask the Minister the same question that Simon Thomas asked, namely: will the bands keep the same percentage of schools in them? If so, you are condemning schools to being stigmatised time and again—not the same schools, perhaps—and that will then create competition. If, on the other hand, you are creating a system where you can lift schools

ysgolion o'r gwaelod i fyny a gwagio'r bandiau is, yna gallwch ddadlau bod rhyw gyfiawnhad. Fodd bynnag, fel y mae, mae gennylf bryderon mawr ynglŷn â'r drefn.

Suzy Davies: I am grateful for the opportunity to take part in today's debate. In contrast to some other debates that we have had in the Chamber, at least in this debate we are examining the actions of a Minister who has looked at his area of responsibility, devised a plan to tackle problems, presented that plan to the Assembly and is now acting on it. Many of us have very deep reservations about the details of that plan, but, as we watch the tumbleweed blow through other departments, at least the Minister for Education and Skills has given the opposition parties material with which we can hold this Government to account.

I do not think that any of us question the Minister's commitment to improving educational standards. The Programme for International Student Assessment results alone demand it of him. However, the questions that arise from the banding system as it stands are not just coming from teachers who are loath to take on yet another load of unnecessary bureaucracy; there is genuine disquiet that these plans will not achieve his very laudable aims.

The main purpose of banding, as I understand it, is to help local authorities identify and support schools that need improvement, rather than to communicate with parents. It comes as something of a shock to hear that local authorities are presently unaware of which of their secondary schools need improvement, what with Estyn, the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales, school improvement officers and school effectiveness grants to help them. Some may ask why the finance made available under banding is going to local authority consortia when local authorities already have direct and indirect access to a myriad of valuable resources for school improvement. Might that money not be better sent directly to school leaders rather than local authorities, which Estyn seem to be rather unimpressed with, as the Minister mentioned earlier?

up from the bottom and empty the lower bands, then you could argue that there is some justification for it. However, as it is, I have great concerns about the system.

Suzy Davies: Rwy'n ddiolchgar am y cyfle i gymryd rhan yn y ddadl heddiw. Yn wahanol i rai dadlleuon eraill yr ydym wedi'u cael yn y Siambwr, o leiaf yn y ddadl hon rydym yn edrych ar gamau gweithredu Gweinidog sydd wedi edrych ar ei faes cyfrifoldeb, dyfeisio cynllun i fynd i'r afael â phroblemau, cyflwyno'r cynllun hwnnw i'r Cynulliad ac sydd nawr yn ei weithredu. Mae gan lawer ohonom amheuon dwfn iawn am fanylion y cynllun hwnnw, ond, wrth inni wyllo peli chwyn yn troelli drwy adrannau eraill, o leiaf mae'r Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau wedi rhoi deunydd i'r gwrthbleidiau fel y gallwn ddwyn Llywodraeth i gyfrif.

Nid wyf yn meddwl bod unrhyw un ohonom yn cwestiynu ymrwymiad y Gweinidog i wella safonau addysgol. Mae canlyniadau'r Rhaglen Ryngwladol Asesu Myfyrwyr eu hun yn mynnu'r ymrwymiad hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, ni ddaw'r cwestiynau am y system fandio fel y mae yn unig o athrawon sy'n gyndyn i ysgwyddo un llwyth arall o fiwrocratiaeth ddiangen; mae anniddigrwydd gwirioneddol na fydd y cynlluniau hyn yn cyflawni ei amcanion canmoladwy iawn ef.

Prif bwrrpas bandio, fel yr wyf yn ei ddeall, yw helpu awdurdodau lleol i nodi a chefnogi ysgolion sydd angen gwella, yn hytrach na chyfathrebu â rhieni. Mae'n dipyn o syndod i glywed nad yw awdurdodau lleol yn ymwybodol ar hyn o bryd o ba ysgolion uwchradd yn eu hardal sydd angen gwella, o gofio bod Estyn, Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru, swyddogion gwella ysgolion a grantiau effeithiolrwydd ysgolion yno i'w helpu. Efallai y bydd rhai yn gofyn pam fod y cyllid sydd ar gael ar gyfer bandio yn mynd i gonsortia awdurdodau lleol pan fod gan awdurdodau lleol eisoed fynediad uniongyrchol ac anuniongyrchol at fyrrd o adnoddau gwerthfawr ar gyfer gwella ysgolion. Oni fyddai'n well anfon yr arian hwnnw yn uniongyrchol i arweinwyr ysgol yn hytrach nag awdurdodau lleol, gan yr ymddengys nad ydynt wedi gadael fawr o argraff ar Estyn, fel y nododd y Gweinidog

yn gynharach?

It is hard to see how this blunt scoring system tells local authorities anything that they did not already know and should have already been acting on. If they were not doing that, perhaps the Minister might want to look more closely at the failings of local education authorities, rather than inviting inferences of failure in particular schools, because the first impression that the band score gives a parent is that a school is a success or a failure. Banding may not be league tables, but there is a real risk that it will be treated as such.

It is quite right that some parents will always want to access information; in fact, it rather surprised me that the recent Beaufort Research survey showed that over half of those asked would prefer a return to the exam result league tables than the new banding system. I am not sure that I would rely on that survey, but it shows that there is a desire on the part of parents and carers to formulate an opinion about their children's school. Unfortunately, interesting information is not always put to useful purpose, and a parent looking at a band 5 school may not be inclined to look more closely at the school's more detailed, but still limited, report card to discover that the main reasons for the banding results is down to aspects that do not concern them too much, but will just not send their child there. That is when the unions' concerns about a spiral of decline acquire a degree of credibility.

Conversely, when a school is in the happy position of having a band 1 rating, negative murmurs are bound to start if it is reclassified downwards at any point. In my region, Neath Port Talbot has one of the highest, if not the highest, number of band 1 schools in Wales, and I congratulate everyone involved in those schools on their achievement. It has come as a result of hard slog, inspiration and determination on the part of those schools.

However, I have spoken to some of those band 1 schools' headteachers, and they are

Mae'n anodd gweld sut mae'r system sgorio amrwd hon yn dweud unrhyw beth wrth awdurdodau lleol nad oeddent yn ei wybod yn barod ac y dylent fod wedi bod yn cymryd camau gweithredu yn ei gylch eisoes. Os nad oeddynt yn gwneud hynny, efallai y bydd y Gweinidog am edrych yn fanylach ar fethiannau awdurdodau addysg lleol, yn hytrach na gwahodd casgliadau ynglŷn â methiannau mewn rhai ysgolion penodol, gan mai'r argraff gyntaf y mae'r sgôr bandio yn ei roi i riant yw bod ysgol yn llwyddo neu'n methu. Efallai nad tablau cynghrair mo bandio, ond mae perygl gwirioneddol y bydd yn cael ei drin felly.

Mae'n holol iawn y bydd rhai rhieni bob amser yn awyddus i gael mynediad at wybodaeth; yn wir, fe'm synnwyd braidd gan arolwg diweddar Beaufort Research a ddangosodd y byddai'n well gan dros hanner y sawl a holwyd ddychwelyd at y tablau cynghrair canlyniadau arholiad na'r system fandio newydd. Nid wyf yn siŵr y byddwn yn dibynnu ar yr arolwg hwnnw, ond dengys fod awydd gan rieni a gofalwyr i ffurfio barn am ysgolion eu plant. Yn anffodus, ni wneir defnydd da o wybodaeth ddiddorol bob amser, ac efallai na fydd rhiant sy'n edrych ar ysgol band 5 yn tueddu i edrych yn fwy manwl ar gerdyn adroddiad yr ysgol, sy'n fwy manwl er yn gyfyngedig o hyd, a darganfod nad yw'r prif resymau am ganlyniadau'r bandio yn bethau sy'n peri pryder gormodol iddynt; er hynny, ni fydd yn anfon ei blentyn yno. Dyna pryd y mae pryderon yr undebau am gylch o ddirywiad yn ennill rhywfaint o hygrededd.

I'r gwrthwyneb, pan fydd ysgol yn y sefyllfa braf o gael gradd band 1, bydd grwgnach yn anochel yn dechrau os yw'n cael ei bandio'n is ar unrhyw adeg. Yn fy rhanbarth i, mae gan Gastell-nedd Port Talbot un o'r niferoedd uchaf, os nad y mwyaf, o ysgolion band 1 yng Nghymru, ac rwy'n llonyfarch pawb sy'n gysylltiedig â'r ysgolion hynny ar eu cyflawniad. Mae'n ganlyniad gwaith caled, ysbrydoliaeth a phenderfyniad ar ran yr ysgolion hynny.

Fodd bynnag, rwyf wedi siarad â rhai o'r penaethiaid yn yr ysgolion band 1 hynny, ac

worried that if they do not continue to make improvements at the same pace, or if there is a bad year, they will lose their accolade. Minister, you have said that the purpose of banding is to deter schools from resting on their laurels—you used the word ‘coasting’ in questions earlier—but this system does not seem to readily recognise the maintenance of excellence; it is always looking for more. One reason why Neath Port Talbot schools have such high scores is because the area is home to many pupils who are in receipt of free school meals and do well in school. Results such as that suggest that poverty per se is not the barrier to achievement. Rather, it is a result of some of the social problems that we have seen, which are associated with poverty but not exclusive to those on low incomes or to particular parts of Wales, such as lack of aspiration, lack of confidence, poor parenting, debt, addiction, health problems, caring responsibilities, and so on.

We run the risk of the free school meals indicator having too great a role in the banding process. It is a useful tool, but it can also be a problem. I know from my time as a governor of a rural school that families entitled to free meals sometimes refuse to claim them. A school cannot force them to do so just to improve its statistics. Furthermore, poverty, sometimes deep poverty, tends to present itself in small pockets in sparsely populated areas, and the number of children coming from those pockets can vary hugely from year to year. In smaller secondary schools, that can make a big difference to the statistics, especially when, from time to time, you hit a cohort of pupils, as Simon Thomas said, that struggle to achieve. Can it be right that the academic results of perhaps as few as two pupils—I will ask this school to write to you, Minister—can change the banding of a school and affect the confidence of staff, parents and pupils?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae'n amser i gloi.

Suzy Davies: Everyone wants to see every

maent yn poeni os na fyddant yn parhau i wneud gwelliannau ar yr un cyflymder, neu os oes blwyddyn wael, y byddant yn colli eu hanrhydedd. Weinidog, rydych wedi dweud mai diben bandio yw atal ysgolion rhag gorffwys ar eu bri—bu ichi ddefnyddio'r geiriau 'gorffwys ar eu rhwyfau' yn ystod y cwestiynau yn gynharach—ond nid yw'r system hon yn ymddangos fel pe bai'n fodlon cydnabod cynnal rhagoriaeth; mae bob amser yn chwilio am fwy. Un rheswm pam fod gan ysgolion Castell-nedd Port Talbot sgoriau mor uchel yw oherwydd bod yr ardal yn gartref i lawer o ddisgyblion sy'n derbyn prydau ysgol am ddim ac yn gwneud yn dda yn yr ysgol. Awgryma'r fath ganlyniadau nad yw tlodi ynddo'i hun yn rhwystr i gyflawniad. Yn hytrach, mae'n ganlyniad rhai o'r problemau cymdeithasol yr ydym wedi eu gweld, sy'n gysylltiedig â thlodi, ond heb fod yn unigryw i bobl ar incwm isel neu i rannau penodol o Gymru, megis diffyg dyhead, diffyg hyder, rhianta gwael, dyled, dibyniaeth, problemau iechyd, cyfrifoldebau gofalu ac yn y blaen.

Y perygl yw y bydd gormod o bwys yn cael ei roi ar brydau ysgol am ddim yn y broses fandio. Mae'n offeryn defnyddiol, ond gall hefyd fod yn broblem. Gwn o brofiad fel llywodraethwr ysgol wledig bod teuluoedd sydd â hawl i gael prydau am ddim weithiau yn gwrrhod ei hawlio. Ni all ysgol eu gorfodi i wneud hynny yn unig er mwyn gwella ei hystadegau. Ar ben hynny, mae tlodi, sydd weithiau yn dlodi dwfn, yn tueddu i amlygu'i hun mewn pocedi bach mewn ardaloedd gwasgaredig eu poblogaeth, a gall nifer y plant sy'n dod o'r pocedi hynny amrywio'n fawr o flwyddyn i flwyddyn. Mewn ysgolion uwchradd llai, gall hynny wneud gwahaniaeth mawr i'r ystadegau, yn enwedig pan, o dro i dro, byddwch yn cael carfan o ddisgyblion sydd, fel y dywedodd Simon Thomas, yn ei chael hi'n anodd i lwyddo. A yw hi'n iawn bod canlyniadau academaidd cyn lleied â dau ddisgybl, efallai—byddaf yn gofyn i'r ysgol hon i ysgrifennu atoch, Weinidog—yn gallu newid band ysgol ac effeithio ar hyder staff, rhieni a disgylion?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. It is time to wind up.

Suzy Davies: Mae pawb yn awyddus i weld

child fulfil their potential, Minister, but, at the moment, banding is just fulfilling its potential to confuse and demoralise.

Mick Antoniw: I also welcome the opportunity to speak in this debate on education policy and banding. There are important issues in this regard, and I accept that some of them have been perfectly validly raised. They are genuine concerns, and I am sure that they will be addressed.

I find the motion a little strange, if not somewhat premature. It states that:

‘banding does not provide a whole view of a school’s performance and its use should be limited to securing the necessary support for...schools’.

That has already been made clear in the statement by the Minister for Education and Skills on 1 November 2011. On that occasion, he said that

‘banding is not about labelling, naming or shaming or creating divisive league tables. It is a starting point...to discuss performance, and a basis for making decisions about directing resources.’

Part 3 of the motion calls for a constructive evaluation process leading to targeted support. From my reading of the Cofnod, this was very clear in the statement of the Minister for education and the debate at that time. I welcome the introduction of banding and I am opposed to the concept of league tables. However, I acknowledge the concerns and anxieties that this process has inevitably caused. Some of those have been raised by Members in this debate today. Despite the considerable progress that has been made in our schools during the past decade, which is confirmed in year by year exam improvements, improvement has been inconsistent and has varied from school to school and from authority to authority. We all accept that. We also accept that these improvements are not being achieved consistently, nor to the extent that we want to see and in comparison with other areas and countries. Too many of our pupils leave

pob plentyn yn cyflawni ei botensial, Weinidog, ond, ar hyn o bryd, mae bandio yn cyflawni ei botensial i ddrys a digalonni yn unig.

Mick Antoniw: Rwyf hefyd yn croesawu'r cyfle i siarad yn y ddadl hon ar bolisi addysg a bandio. Mae yna faterion pwysig yn hyn o beth, ac rwy'n derbyn bod rhai ohonynt wedi cael eu codi yn berffaith ddilys. Maent yn bryderon gwirioneddol, ac rwy'n siŵr y byddant yn cael eu hymdrin â hwy.

I mi, mae'r cynnig ychydig yn rhyfedd, os nad braidd yn gynamserol. Mae'n datgan:

‘nad yw bandio'n rhoi darlun cyflawn o berfformiad ysgol a dylid cyfyngu ei ddefnydd i sicrhau bod unrhyw ysgol yn cael y cymorth angenrheidiol’.

Gwnaed hynny yn glir eisioes yn y datganiad gan y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau ar 1 Tachwedd 2011. Ar yr achlysur hwnnw, dywedodd

nid hanfod bandio yw labelu ysgolion, eu henwi na chodi cywilydd arnyn nhw, na chreu tabl cynghrair cynhennus. Mae'n fan cychwyn...i drafod perfformiad, ac yn sail ar gyfer gwneud penderfyniadau am gyfeirio adnoddau.

Mae rhan 3 o'r cynnig yn galw am broses werthuso adeiladol sy'n arwain at gymorth wedi'i darged. Yn ôl fy narlleniad i o'r Cofnod, roedd hyn yn glir iawn yn natganiad y Gweinidog dros addysg a'r ddadl ar yr adeg honno. Rwy'n croesawu cyflwyno bandio ac rwy'n gwrthwynebu'r cysyniad o dablau cynghrair. Fodd bynnag, rwy'n cydnabod y pryderon a'r gofidiad y mae'r broses hon yn anochel wedi eu hachosi. Mae rhai o'r rheini wedi cael eu codi gan Aelodau yn y ddadl hon heddiw. Er gwaethaf y cynnydd sylweddol a wnaed yn ein hysgolion yn ystod y degawd diwethaf, sydd wedi'i gadarnhau gan welliannau arholiad flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn, mae'r gwelliannau wedi bod yn anghyson ac wedi amrywio o ysgol i ysgol ac o awdurdod i awdurdod. Rydym i gyd yn derbyn hynny. Rydym hefyd yn derbyn nad yw'r gwelliannau hyn yn cael eu cyflawni'n gyson, nac i'r graddau yr ydym am eu gweld nac mewn cymhariaeth ag ardaloedd a

school without the basic skills, particularly numeracy and literacy, that are the cornerstones to achievement in all other subjects. While there are some areas where success has been achieved, it is clear, and I think that it is a matter of agreement in this Chamber, that, in areas of high unemployment and poverty, excellent results are far too often the exception, and social conditions far too often determine the educational outcomes of too many of our students.

It is also fair to say, and is probably accepted, that the science of banding is not precise. It is true that establishing the criteria for banding has been fraught with complexity. However, I believe that a workable model has been created with the best information and data available. I note that the Wrexham Plaid Cymru website on 8 December stated that there appears to be general agreement that the bands seem to have been pretty accurate. Looking at the banding in my constituency, I think that that is fairly true. It is also the case that it is inevitable that the media will seek to turn banding into league tables. That was identified by Simon Thomas on 1 November when he said

‘I think there will be an attempt by some in the media to rejig these bands and publish them as league tables.’

Unfortunately, that is exactly what has been happening. Parents expect us to ensure the best education possible. That is what we are trying to achieve. It is important that the policy has the confidence of parents and the public at large. So, I must express my concerns about the flip-flopping on this particular issue by Plaid Cymru. On 1 November 2011, in the debate on the Minister’s statement, its spokesman said

‘I welcome the statement...that these are not league tables. I very much welcome that. Plaid Cymru does not support league tables, and I do not think that the Minister supports them either.’

Those comments were welcomed by the Minister for education at that particular time. So, I find it strange that only a week or so later, on the Plaid Cymru website, on 11

gwledydd eraill. Mae gormod o’n disgylion yn gadael yr ysgol heb y sgiliau sylfaenol, yn enwedig rhifedd a llythrennedd, sy’n gonglfeini ar gyfer cyflawni yn yr holl bynciau eraill. Er y cafwyd llwyddiant mewn rhai meysydd, mae’n amlwg—ac rwy’n credu ei fod yn fater o gytundeb yn y Siambrau—mai eithriadau yn amlach na pheidio yw canlyniadau rhagorol mewn ardaloedd o ddiweithdra a thlodi uchel, a bod amodau cymdeithasol yn pennu canlyniadau addysgol gormod o’n myfyrwyr yn llawer rhy aml.

Mae hefyd yn deg dweud, a derbynir hyn yn ôl pob tebyg, nad yw gwyddor bandio yn fanwl gwir. Mae’n wir fod sefydlu’r meini prawf ar gyfer bandio wedi bod yn llawn cymhlethdod. Fodd bynnag, rwy’n credu bod model ymarferol wedi cael ei greu gyda’r wybodaeth a’r data gorau sydd ar gael. Nodaf fod gwefan Plaid Cymru yn Wrecsam ar 8 Rhagfyr yn dweud yr ymddengys fod cytundeb cyffredinol bod y bandiau yn eithaf cywir. O edrych ar y bandio yn fy etholaeth i, credaf fod hynny’n eithaf gwir. Mae hefyd yn wir ei bod yn anochel y bydd y cyfryngau yn ceisio troi bandio i mewn i dablau cynghrair. Nodwyd hynny gan Simon Thomas ar 1 Tachwedd pan ddywedodd

‘credaf y bydd ymgais gan rai yn y cyfryngau i ailwampio’r tablau a’u cyhoeddi fel tablau cynghrair.’

Yn anffodus, dyna’n union beth sydd wedi digwydd. Mae rhieni yn disgwyl inni sicrhau’r addysg orau posibl. Dyna’r hyn yr ydym yn ceisio ei gyflawni. Mae’n bwysig bod gan rieni a’r cyhoedd yn gyffredinol hyder yn y polisi. Felly, mae’n rhaid imi fynegi fy mhryderon yngylch anwadalarwydd Plaid Cymru ar y mater penodol hwn. Ar 1 Tachwedd 2011, yn y ddadl ar ddatganiad y Gweinidog, dywedodd ei llefarydd

‘croesawaf y datganiad...nad tablau cynghrair yw’r rhain. Croesawaf hynny’n fawr. Nid yw Plaid Cymru’n cefnogi tablau cynghrair, ac ni chredaf fod y Gweinidog yn eu cefnogi ychwaith.’

Croesawyd y sylwadau hynny ar y pryd gan y Gweinidog dros addysg. Felly, rwy’n ei chael hi’n rhyfedd, dim ond rhyw wythnos yn ddiweddarach ar 11 Tachwedd 2011, y

November 2011, the spokesman is quoted as saying:

'School banding is at the heart of the work of the School Standards Unit but Plaid Cymru has consistently questioned the plans. The main concerns are that it will only succeed in stigmatising schools at the bottom of the band as "failing" schools and undermine efforts to improve education standards.... The Education Minister has himself conceded that league tables are "simplistic" and "destructive" yet continues to establish them in Wales by another name.'

Within a matter of a week we have had a change from a welcoming of the proposals to a situation where they are suddenly being called league tables.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae'n amser i gloi.

Mick Antoniw: No doubt he will explain the change, but, for my part, I think that it is probably the correct course to take. It is very much a work in progress, but it is up to us to make it work. At least we will be consistent in the policies that we put forward and support.

The Minister for Education and Skills (Leighton Andrews): At 8 a.m. this morning I had my blood pressure checked. It was excellent. I hope that it still is. Banding was a commitment in the manifesto of my party in May. It was a manifesto on which we won four additional seats. I note with interest that neither the motion nor any of the amendments expresses opposition to the banding of schools.

5.45 p.m.

Banding is a way of using national data on school performance, in context, to group schools according to where they are relative to other schools in Wales, taking account of the challenge that they face from socioeconomic circumstances, and focusing on our priorities of improving literacy and numeracy and reducing the impact of deprivation on educational outcomes.

dyfynnwyd y llefarydd yn dweud, ar wefan Plaid Cymru:

'Mae bandio ysgolion wrth galon gwaith yr Uned Safonau Ysgolion, ond mae Plaid Cymru yn gyson wedi cwestiynu'r cynlluniau. Y prif bryderon yw mai ei unig ganlyniad fydd codi gwarth ar ysgolion sydd ar waelod y band a'u nodi fel ysgolion sy'n "methu", gan danseilio ymdrechion i wella safonau addysg....Dyweddodd y Gweinidog Addysg ei hun fod tablau cynghrair yn "simplistig" a "dinistriol" ac eto mae'n parhau i'w sefydlu yng Nghymru dan enw arall.'

O fewn prin wythnos gwelsom newid o groesawu'r cynigion i sefyllfa lle maent yn sydyn yn cael eu galw'n dablau cynghrair.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. It is time to wind up.

Mick Antoniw: Mae'n siŵr y bydd yn esbonio'r newid, ond, o'm rhan i, credaf mai dyma'r llwybr cywir i'w gymryd. Mae'n sicr yn waith sydd heb ei gwblhau, ond mater inni fydd gwneud iddo weithio. O leiaf byddwn yn gyson yn y polisiau yr ydym yn eu cyflwyno a'u cefnogi.

Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau (Leighton Andrews): Am wyth o'r gloch y bore yma cafodd fy mhwyseidd gwaed ei fesur. Roedd yn wych. Rwy'n gobeithio bod hynny dal yn wir. Roedd bandio yn ymrwymiad ym maniffesto fy mhlaid ym mis Mai ac ennillodd bedair sedd ychwanegol ar sail y maniffesto hwnnw. Nodaf gyda diddordeb nad yw'r cynnig na'r un o'r gwelliannau yn mynegi gwrthwynebiad i fandio ysgolion.

Mae bandio yn ffordd o ddefnyddio data cenedlaethol ar berfformiad ysgolion, yn eu cyd-destun, i grwpio ysgolion yn ôl eu sefyllfa o'i chymharu ag ysgolion eraill yng Nghymru, gan ystyried yr her sy'n eu hwynebu o ran eu hamgylchiadau cymdeithasol-economaidd, a chan ganolbwytio ar ein blaenoriaethau, sef gwella llythrennedd a rhifedd a lleihau effaith amddifadedd ar ganlyniadau addysgol.

I agree with the second element of the motion, namely that banding does not provide the whole view of a school's performance. Mick Antoniw, the Member for Pontypridd, has just made this point. It is an important element of information, but we need to look not only at the bands of schools in isolation, but at their overall level of performance and the level for the whole of Wales. The bands need to be used alongside other key information, including Estyn inspection reports and information held by local authorities and consortia.

However, the bands give consortia and local authorities a starting point for discussion with schools, and they provide a basis upon which to direct resources to where they are needed most. One of the consortia that I met recently, for example, was talking about having 40 days of support specifically for schools in band 5. We need to ensure that that support is there to secure the improvements necessary in our school system. Prior to the introduction of bands, the consortia and their local authorities used their own separate criteria. Therefore, the bands provide a unified national system, as opposed to 22 different systems.

I am perfectly willing to look at any examples that Members may wish to bring to me of what they see as anomalies in the banding system. As I said, I have personally checked every school that has been brought to my attention. I will respond to Jocelyn Davies, the Member for South East Wales. There may be issues in respect of some schools where there are regional SEN facilities. As we move through this process, I am certainly willing to look at the implications of that. In the case of the school in Blackwood, I would welcome Jocelyn Davies writing to me, because it is unlikely that a marginal movement in the number of pupils on free school meals would make the difference that has been suggested to her. A similar suggestion was made by a headteacher in north Wales in the autumn, and when we looked at the data, it simply was not the case.

Banding uses the relative performance of

Rwyf yn cytuno ag ail elfen y cynnig, sef nad yw bandio yn rhoi'r darlun cyfan o berfformiad ysgol. Mae Mick Antoniw, yr Aelod dros Bontypridd, newydd wneud y pwynt hwn. Mae'n elfen bwysig o'r wybodaeth, ond mae angen inni edrych nid yn unig ar fandiau'r ysgolion ar wahân, ond ar lefel eu perfformiad yn gyffredinol a lefel Cymru gyfan. Mae angen defnyddio'r bandiau ochr yn ochr â gwybodaeth allweddol arall, gan gynnwys adroddiadau arolygu Estyn a gwybodaeth a gedwir gan awdurdodau lleol a chonsortia.

Fodd bynnag, mae'r bandiau yn fan cychwyn i gonsortia ac awdurdodau lleol wrth drafod ag ysgolion, ac maent yn darparu sail ar gyfer cyfeirio adnoddau i'r manau lle y mae eu hangen fwyaf. Roedd un o'r consortia y cyfarfum â hwy'n ddiweddar, er enghraifft, yn siarad am gael 40 diwrnod o gymorth yn benodol i ysgolion ym mand 5. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod y cymorth hwnnw ar gael fel y gellir cyflawni'r gwelliannau y mae eu hangen yn ein system ysgolion. Cyn cyflwyno'r bandiau, roedd y consortia a'u hawdurdodau lleol yn defnyddio eu mein prawf eu hunain ar wahân. Felly, mae'r bandiau'n darparu system genedlaethol unedig, yn hytrach na 22 system wahanol.

Rwyf yn berffaith barod i edrych ar unrhyw enghreifftiau yr hoffai'r Aelodau eu cyflwyno imi o'r hyn y maent yn eu hystyried yn anghysondebau yn y system fandio. Fel y dywedais, rwyf wedi gwirio pob ysgol yn bersonol a ddygwyd i'm sylw. Ymatebaf i Jocelyn Davies, yr Aelod dros Dde-ddwyrain Cymru. Efallai fod materion mewn perthynas â rhai ysgolion lle y mae cyfleusterau rhanbarthol mewn perthynas ag anghenion addysgol arbennig. Wrth inni symud drwy'r broses hon, rwyf yn sicr yn barod i edrych ar oblygiadau hynny. Yn achos yr ysgol yng Nghoed-duon, mae croeso i Jocelyn Davies ysgrifennu ataf, gan ei bod yn annhebygol y byddai newid bach yn nifer y disgylion sy'n cael prydau ysgol am ddim yn gwneud gwahaniaeth, fel yr awgrymwyd iddi. Gwnaed awgrym tebyg gan bennaeth yng ngogledd Cymru yn yr hydref, a phan wnaethom edrych ar y data, nid oedd yn wir.

Mae bandio'n defnyddio perfformiad

schools across 12 measures to group them into one of five bands, reflecting the strength of their performance. The measurement of schools' performance takes account of actual performance in public examinations, progress over time and performance relative to context and cohort, as Keith Davies pointed out earlier. Clearly, the bands cannot be considered as crude league tables, as this is a far more sophisticated approach than those approaches used in other parts of the UK, where performance on a small number of measures is presented with no account taken of the context in which schools are working. I therefore believe that, through banding, we have introduced a constructive evaluation process that will lead to targeted support to remedy poor performance in schools, as set out in the final element of the motion.

Simon Thomas: The Minister said clearly that he does not consider these to be crude league tables. Does he consider them to be league tables?

Leighton Andrews: No, I do not consider them to be league tables. I think that I have been explicit on that point throughout.

Local authority consortia have already used information on school bands as a basis for developing specific school improvement plans for around 75 schools. We have provided the four consortia with £0.5 million of additional financial support this year to aid the implementation of school improvement plans, including the plans for specific schools. This will enable them to provide immediate specialist support and challenge to their lowest performing secondary schools. This seed funding is intended to accelerate the reform and integration of school improvement services, and I expect to see the early deployment of system leaders to support our most challenged schools. Our school standards unit will monitor the implementation and progress of the plans as part of its termly visits to local authority consortia.

The quality of teaching and the leadership of schools are the key factors in driving up

cymharol ysgolion ar draws 12 mesur er mwyn eu rhoi mewn un o bum band, gan adlewyrchu cryfder eu perfformiad. Mae'r dull o fesur perfformiad ysgolion yn ystyried perfformiad gwirioneddol mewn arholiadau cyhoeddus, cynnydd dros amser, a pherfformiad o ystyried y cyd-destun a'r cohort, fel y nododd Keith Davies yn gynharach. Yn amlwg, ni ellir ystyried y bandiau yn dablau cynghrair bras, gan fod hwn yn ddull llawer mwy soffistigedig na'r dulliau a ddefnyddir mewn rhannau eraill o'r DU, lle y cyflwynir perfformiad yn ôl nifer fach o fesurau heb ystyried y cyd-destun y mae ysgolion yn gweithio yn ymddygiad. Felly, rwyf o'r farn ein bod, drwy gyfrwng y bandio, wedi cyflwyno proses werthuso adeiladol a fydd yn arwain at gymorth wedi'i darged i fynd i'r afael â pherfformiad gwael mewn ysgolion, fel y nodir yn rhan olaf y cynnig.

Simon Thomas: Dywedodd y Gweinidog yn glir nad oedd yn ystyried y rhain yn dablau cynghrair bras. A yw'n eu hystyried yn dablau cynghrair?

Leighton Andrews: Na, nid wyf o'r farn eu bod yn dablau cynghrair. Credaf fy mod wastad wedi bod yn glir ynghylch y pwynt hwnnw.

Mae consortia awdurdodau lleol eisoes wedi defnyddio gwybodaeth am fandiau ysgolion fel sail i ddatblygu cynlluniau gwella ysgolion penodol ar gyfer tua 75 o ysgolion. Rydym wedi rhoi cefnogaeth ariannol ychwanegol gwerth £0.5 miliwn eleni i'r pedwar consortiwm er mwyn eu helpu i weithredu cynlluniau gwella ysgolion, gan gynnwys y cynlluniau ar gyfer ysgolion penodol. Bydd hyn yn eu galluogi i roi cefnogaeth arbenigol a heriau ar unwaith i'w hysgolion uwchradd sy'n perfformio waethaf. Bwriedir i'r cyllid sbarduno hwn gyflymu'r broses o ddiwygio ac integreiddio gwasanaethau gwella ysgolion, ac rwyf yn disgwyl gweld defnydd cynnar o arweinwyr systemau i gefnogi'r ysgolion sy'n wynebu'r her fwyaf. Bydd ein huned safonau ysgol yn monitro sut y gweithredir y cynlluniau a'u cynnydd fel rhan o'i hymweliadau â chonsortia awdurdodau lleol bob tymor.

Ansawdd yr addysgu ac arweinyddiaeth ysgolion yw'r ffactorau allweddol wrth wella

performance. As a Government, we believe that we need to pay tribute to the work of the teaching profession in Wales for delivering rising standards over the last decade. That is set out in our amendments. We also believe that drawing on the expertise of leading practitioners should become a model for support to weaker schools throughout Wales. Too much of the response to the release of the bands has related to schools that are in the lowest bands or that are in bands lower than they expected. We also need to look at those schools that are performing outstandingly and ensure that we learn from them. I suspect that Aled Roberts was aiming to express some of that sentiment in the Liberal Democrat amendment. However, I oppose their addition, as I believe that schools, local authorities and consortia should be using the banding information to drill down further into the performance of individual pupils and departments. We already have many examples of where that is happening.

We also oppose the Liberal Democrat amendment expressing concern over the Welsh Government's not issuing guidance. What we are trying to put in place here is a fundamental new way of working, where school improvement is based on the best available information and a systematic approach understood by all parties. We have already said that we will produce statutory guidance for school improvement, and this will be provided as a result of our school standards Bill. We have provided schools with a leaflet to distribute to parents that explains the key aspects of banding. We have also placed several documents on our website to explain in detail how the bands are calculated. The evidence is that parents welcome the banding.

I support the Conservative amendment, which refers to the need to ensure that there is wide understanding of the banding system among all parties. We already have in train some further discussions with key stakeholders on how we present information on banding and to assess how effectively that helps understanding. I am also keen that there is transparency about the bands, and that is why we decided to publish the bands for all

perfformiad. Fel Llywodraeth, credwn fod angen inni dalu teyrnged i waith y proffesiwn addysgu yng Nghymru am godi safonau dros y degawd diwethaf. Dyna a nodwyd yn ein gwelliannau. Rydym hefyd yn credu y dylai manteisio ar arbenigedd ymarferwyr blaenllaw ddod yn fodel ar gyfer rhoi cymorth i ysgolion gwannach ledled Cymru. Mae gormod o'r ymateb i gyhoeddi'r bandiau wedi ymwneud ag ysgolion sydd yn y bandiau isaf neu sydd mewn bandiau is na'r disgwyl. Mae angen inni hefyd edrych ar yr ysgolion hynny sy'n perfformio'n rhagorol a sicrhau ein bod yn dysgu ganddynt. Rwyf yn amau mai bwriad Aled Roberts oedd mynogi rhywfaint o'r teimlad hwnnw yng ngwelliant y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Fodd bynnag, rwyf yn ei wrthwynebu, gan fy mod yn credu y dylai ysgolion, awdurdodau lleol a chonsortia ddefnyddio'r wybodaeth a geir drwy fandio i ymchwilio'n ddyfnach i berfformiad disgynblion ac adrannau unigol. Mae gennym eisoes sawl enghraift o le y mae hynny'n digwydd.

Rydym hefyd yn gwrthwynebu gwelliant y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol sy'n mynogi pryder yngylch y ffaith nad yw Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cyhoeddi canllawiau. Yr hyn rydym yn ceisio ei roi ar waith yw ffordd o weithio sy'n sylfaenol newydd, lle y mae gwella ysgolion yn seiliedig ar y wybodaeth orau sydd ar gael ac ymagwedd systematig y mae pawb yn ei deall. Rydym eisoes wedi dweud y byddwn yn llunio canllawiau statudol ar wella ysgolion, a bydd hynny'n cael ei ddarparu o ganlyniad i'n Bil yngylch safonau ysgolion. Rydym wedi rhoi taflen i ysgolion i'w dosbarthu i rieni sy'n esbonio agweddau allweddol bandio. Rydym hefyd wedi rhoi nifer o ddogfennau ar ein gwefan i egluro'n fanwl sut y cyfrifir y bandiau. Mae'r dystiolaeth yn dangos bod rhieni yn croesawu'r bandio.

Rwyf yn cefnogi gwelliant y Ceidwadwyr, sy'n cyfeirio at yr angen i sicrhau bod pawb sy'n ymwneud â'r system fandio yn ei deall. Rydym eisoes wedi trefnu trafodaethau pellach â rhanddeiliaid allweddol ynglŷn â'r ffordd rydym yn cyflwyno gwybodaeth am fandio, ac i asesu pa mor effeithiol yw hynny o ran gwella dealltwriaeth. Rwyf hefyd yn awyddus bod eglurder o ran y bandiau, a dyna pam y gwnaethom benderfynu cyhoeddi

schools on the Welsh Government website, along with data to set the context in which each school is working. It is important that parents are able to access information on the schools that their children attend. You cannot uninvent the Freedom of Information Act in any case.

On primary school banding, we have made it clear that we want an approach that is objective, as consistent as possible with the approach for secondary schools and that focuses on our key priorities. There are greater challenges in developing an objective model for primary schools compared with secondary schools. The greatest of these is the large number of schools that have a small number of pupils. Primary schools will be provided with a provisional band before Easter. We shall provide the final band in the summer term. Banding of primary schools is important, as we want to ensure that the system of providing support to schools is there from the very start of children's education, so that they get the best possible start to their education.

This debate is about being serious about school improvement, and any divide in the Chamber is between those who are serious—as we are as a party and as a Government—and those who are not. We are serious about improving standards in Wales and we will implement our manifesto.

Simon Thomas: Diolchaf i bawb sydd wedi cyfrannu at y ddadl hon. Teimlaf fod pawb wedi gwneud cyfraniadau difrifol iawn, ac yn sicr teimlaf fod pawb o ddifrif ynglŷn â'r pwnc. Wrth inni drafod hyn, daeth yr hyn roeddem yn ei ofni i fodolaeth—cyhoeddwyd tabl perfformiad ar gyfer holl ysgolion Cymru, yn mynd o Ysgol Tryfan yn rhif un yr wythnos hon, *pop pickers*, i Llanrumney High ar waelod y tabl. Mae'n rhaid inni dderbyn, os yw'n edrych fel hwyaden, os yw'n symud fel hwyaden, os yw'n cwacio fel hwyaden, hwyaden ydyw. Dyna sydd gennym yn y system fandio bresennol: tablau perfformiad i Gymru. Mae'n rhaid inni dderbyn hynny a symud ymlaen. Rwy'n cytuno gyda llawer o sylwadau a wnaed yn ystod y drafodaeth ynglŷn â sicrhau mai'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn awr yw cefnogi'r

bandiau pob ysgol ar wefan Llywodraeth Cymru, ynghyd â data i osod y cyd-destun y mae pob ysgol yn gweithio ynddo. Mae'n bwysig bod rhieni yn gallu cael gafael ar wybodaeth am yr ysgolion y mae eu plant yn eu mynchy. Ni allwch ddadwneud y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth, beth bynnag.

O ran bandio ysgolion cynradd, rydym wedi ei gwneud yn glir yr hoffwn ddull sy'n wrthrychol, sydd mor gyson â phosibl â'r dull a ddefnyddir ar gyfer ysgolion uwchradd, ac sy'n canolbwytio ar ein blaenorriaethau allweddol. Mae heriau anos wrth ddatblygu model gwrthrychol i ysgolion cynradd o'u cymharu ag ysgolion uwchradd. Yr her fwyaf ymhlied y rhain yw'r nifer fawr o ysgolion sydd â nifer fach o ddisgyblion. Bydd ysgolion cynradd yn cael band dros dro cyn y Pasg. Byddant yn cael band terfynol yn nhymor yr haf. Mae bandio ysgolion cynradd yn bwysig, gan ein bod am sicrhau bod y system o ddarparu cymorth i ysgolion ar gael o gychwyn cyntaf addysg plant, fel eu bod yn cael y dechrau gorau posibl i'w haddysg.

Mae'r ddadl hon yn ymneud â bod o ddifrif yngylch gwella ysgolion, ac mae unrhyw rwyg yn y Siambro'r rhwng y rheini sydd o ddifrif—fel rydym ni, fel plaid ac fel Llywodraeth—a'r rheini nad ydynt o ddifrif. Rydym o ddifrif yngylch gwella safonau yng Nghymru a byddwn yn rhoi ein maniffesto ar waith.

Simon Thomas: I thank everyone who contributed to this debate. I believe that everyone made very serious contributions, and I certainly think that everyone is taking this issue seriously. As we were discussing this, what we had feared came to pass—a league table for all Welsh schools was published, from Ysgol Tryfan at number one, pop pickers, to Llanrumney High at the bottom of the table. We must accept that, if it looks like a duck, moves like a duck and quacks like a duck, it is a duck. That is what we have here with this current banding system: league tables for Wales. We have to accept that point and move on. I agree with many of the comments made during the debate on ensuring that what happens now is that support is provided to those schools where deficiencies have been identified under

ysgolion hynny lle nodwyd gwendid dan y system hon—ac nid dan y system hon yn unig, ond lle nodwyd gwendidau mewn arolygon gan Estyn, nid yn unig mewn ysgolion ond mewn awdurdodau addysg hefyd. Mae'n rhaid inni dderbyn bod y system bresennol o arolygon Estyn yn nodi gwendidau sylweddol mewn nifer o awdurdodau addysg. Mae hynny'n rhan o sut y dylem edrych ar y mater hwn.

Hoffwn ddiolch i'r holl siaradwyr. Nid oes gennyl amser i ateb bob pwynt a wnaed. Yr oedd y sylwadau o feinciau cefn y Blaid Lafur yn rhai deallus iawn, ac yr oeddwn yn eu mwynhau, ond nid wyf yn siŵr beth yw barn y Blaid Lafur bellach ar dablau perfformiad. Mae'r Aelodau hynny fel pe baent am guddio y tu ôl i'r disgrifiad ohonynt fel bandiau ac nid tablau perfformiad. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf am fod yn glir bod Plaid Cymru wastad wedi gwrthwynebu tablau cynghrair i ysgolion Cymru. Ar 8 Mawrth y llynedd, yn union ar ôl gwneud datganiad 'Cymru'n Un' ar raddio, dywedodd Nerys Evans, a oedd yn llefarydd addysg ar y pryd:

'The Labour commitment to re-introducing league tables shows their worrying lack of ambition and innovation'.

Nid wyf o reidrwydd am daflu'r geiriau hynny at y Gweinidog heddiw, ond mae hyn yn gwneud yn glir bod Plaid Cymru wastad wedi gwrthwynebu tablau cynghrair ac mae wedi bod yn ceisio sicrhau nad yw'r system fandio yn troi yn dablau perfformiad. Os ydym yn euog o unrhyw beth, rydym yn euog o roi gormod o ryddid, cefnogaeth a lle i'r Gweinidog ddatblygu ei syniadau. I mi, mae hyn yn aros yn wir: os oes gennych system lle nad yw'r gwaelod yn gwagio wrth i'r system gyfan wella, yr hyn sydd gennych yw tabl perfformiad neu dabl cynghrair.

Mae'r system fandio sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd yn golygu y bydd bron i hanner ysgolion Cymru wastad yn cael eu brandio fel ysgolion sy'n methu. Nid wyf yn credu bod hynny'n iach i'r system addysg yng Nghymru. Rwy'n derbyn bod y Llywodraeth am wneud rhywbeth ynglŷn â pherfformiad yn yr ysgolion hynny, ond ni chredaf ei bod yn iach ein bod yn brandio bron i hanner ein hysgolion fel ysgolion sy'n methu.

this system—and not only under this system, but where deficiencies have been identified in the Estyn inspections, not only in schools but also in education authorities. We have to accept that the current Estyn inspection regime identifies significant deficiencies in a number of education authorities. That is part of how we need to approach this.

I would like to thank all the speakers. I do not have time to respond to every comment made. The comments made from the Labour back benches were very intelligent contributions and I enjoyed them, but I am not really sure what the Labour Party's view is currently on performance tables. Its Members seem to want to hide behind the description of them as bands rather than league tables. However, I want to be clear that Plaid Cymru has always opposed league tables of schools in Wales. On 8 March last year, just after the 'One Wales' statement was made on grading, Nerys Evans, education spokesperson at the time, said:

Mae ymrwymiad Llafur i ailgyflwyno tablau cynghrair yn cyfleu diffyg uchelgais ac arloesedd, sy'n peri pryder.

I will not necessarily throw those words back at the Minister today, but it makes it clear that Plaid Cymru has always been opposed to league tables and has sought to ensure that the banding system does not turn into a league table system. If we are guilty of anything, we are guilty of giving the Minister too much support and space to develop his ideas. To me, this remains the case: if you have a system where the bottom bands do not empty as the whole system improves, what you have is a performance table or a league table.

The banding system that we have at present means that nearly half of Welsh schools are always going to be branded as failing schools. I do not think that that is healthy for the education system in Wales. I accept that the Government wants to do something about performance in those schools, but I do not think that it is healthy that we should brand almost half our schools as failing schools.

Hoffwn orffen gyda phwynt mwy cadarnhaol. Awgrymaf fod ffordd allan o'r sefyllfa bresennol, yn ogystal â'r hyn mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei wneud ar hyn o bryd. Mae gennym Estyn yn ogystal â system fandio. Mae Estyn yn arolygu ysgolion bob chwe blynedd. Mae'n bryd inni ystyried cyflwyno arolygon yn y fan a'r lle, heb rybudd. Mae'n bryd inni ystyried y gallu i Estyn fynd i mewn i ysgolion a gweld y sefyllfa go iawn yn y dosbarth ar y diwrnod hwnnw, heb roi rybudd fisodd ymlaen llaw. Gobeithiaf y bydd hynny hefyd yn ffordd ymlaen i'r Llywodraeth.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cwestiwn yw a ddylid derbyn y cynnig heb ei ddiwygio. A oes gwrrthwynebiad? Gwelaf fod. Gohiriaf bob pleidlais ar yr eitem hon tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Before we proceed, do three Members wish for the bell to be rung? I see that no-one does, so we will proceed immediately to voting time.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.
Voting deferred until voting time.*

Cyfnod Pleidleisio Voting Time

*Cynnig NDM4886: O blaid 22, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 34.
Motion NDM4886: For 22, Abstain 0, Against 34.*

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

- Asghar, Mohammad
- Burns, Angela
- Davies, Andrew R.T.
- Davies, Byron
- Davies, Jocelyn
- Davies, Paul
- Davies, Suzy
- Finch-Saunders, Janet
- George, Russell
- Graham, William
- Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
- Isherwood, Mark
- Jenkins, Bethan
- Jones, Alun Ffred
- Jones, Elin
- Jones, Ieuan Wyn
- Millar, Darren
- Ramsay, Nick
- Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
- Thomas, Simon

I would like to close with a more positive point. I suggest that there is a way out of the current situation, in addition to what the Government is doing at present. As well as the banding system, we have Estyn. Estyn inspects schools every six years, and it is time for us to consider spot inspections. We need to consider giving Estyn the ability to go into schools to see the real situation in the classroom, without giving months' notice. I hope that that is a suggestion that the Government can take forward.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is that the motion be agreed without amendment. Is there any objection? I see that there is. I defer all votes on this item to voting time.

Cyn inni symud ymlaen, a oes tri Aelod yn dymuno i'r gloch gael ei chanu? Gwelaf nad oes; felly, byddwn yn symud yn syth at y cyfnod pleidleisio.

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

- Andrews, Leighton
- Antoniw, Mick
- Black, Peter
- Chapman, Christine
- Cuthbert, Jeff
- Davies, Alun
- Davies, Keith
- Drakeford, Mark
- Elis-Thomas, Yr Arglwydd/Lord
- Evans, Rebecca
- Gething, Vaughan
- Gregory, Janice
- Griffiths, John
- Griffiths, Lesley
- Hart, Edwina
- Hedges, Mike
- Hutt, Jane
- James, Julie
- Jones, Ann
- Jones, Carwyn

Whittle, Lindsay
Wood, Leanne

Lewis, Huw
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Julie
Neagle, Lynne
Powell, William
Price, Gwyn R.
Rathbone, Jenny
Rees, David
Roberts, Aled
Sargeant, Carl
Skates, Kenneth
Thomas, Gwenda
Watson, Joyce
Williams, Kirsty

Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
Motion not agreed.

Gwelliant 1 i NDM4886: O blaid 30, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 26.
Amendment 1 to NDM4886: For 30, Abstain 0, Against 26.

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

Andrews, Leighton
Antoniw, Mick
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Keith
Drakeford, Mark
Evans, Rebecca
Gething, Vaughan
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hedges, Mike
Hutt, Jane
James, Julie
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Lewis, Huw
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Julie
Neagle, Lynne
Price, Gwyn R.
Rathbone, Jenny
Rees, David
Sargeant, Carl
Skates, Kenneth
Thomas, Gwenda
Watson, Joyce
Whittle, Lindsay

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Burns, Angela
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Byron
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Paul
Davies, Suzy
Elis-Thomas, Yr Arglydd/Lord
Finch-Saunders, Janet
George, Russell
Graham, William
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
Isherwood, Mark
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Millar, Darren
Powell, William
Ramsay, Nick
Roberts, Aled
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Thomas, Simon
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment agreed.

Gwelliant 2 i NDM4886: O blaid 40, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 16.
Amendment 2 to NDM4886: For 40, Abstain 0, Against 16.

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

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

Andrews, Leighton	Asghar, Mohammad
Antoniw, Mick	Black, Peter
Chapman, Christine	Burns, Angela
Cuthbert, Jeff	Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Alun	Davies, Byron
Davies, Jocelyn	Davies, Paul
Davies, Keith	Davies, Suzy
Drakeford, Mark	Finch-Saunders, Janet
Elis-Thomas, Yr Arglwydd/Lord	George, Russell
Evans, Rebecca	Graham, William
Gething, Vaughan	Isherwood, Mark
Gregory, Janice	Millar, Darren
Griffiths, John	Powell, William
Griffiths, Lesley	Ramsay, Nick
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws	Roberts, Aled
Hart, Edwina	Williams, Kirsty
Hedges, Mike	
Hutt, Jane	
James, Julie	
Jenkins, Bethan	
Jones, Alun Ffred	
Jones, Ann	
Jones, Carwyn	
Jones, Elin	
Jones, Ieuan Wyn	
Lewis, Huw	
Mewies, Sandy	
Morgan, Julie	
Neagle, Lynne	
Price, Gwyn R.	
Rathbone, Jenny	
Rees, David	
Sargeant, Carl	
Skates, Kenneth	
Thomas, Gwenda	
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn	
Thomas, Simon	
Watson, Joyce	
Whittle, Lindsay	
Wood, Leanne	

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment agreed.*

*Gwelliant 3 i NDM4886: O blaid 44, Ymatal 12, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 3 to NDM4886: For 44, Abstain 12, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Antoniw, Mick
Black, Peter
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Keith
Drakeford, Mark
Elis-Thomas, Yr Arglwydd/Lord
Evans, Rebecca
Gething, Vaughan
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws

Hart, Edwina
Hedges, Mike
Hutt, Jane
James, Julie
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Julie
Neagle, Lynne
Powell, William
Price, Gwyn R.
Rathbone, Jenny
Rees, David
Roberts, Aled
Sargeant, Carl
Skates, Kenneth
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Thomas, Simon
Watson, Joyce
Whittle, Lindsay
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Asghar, Mohammad
Burns, Angela
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Byron
Davies, Paul
Davies, Suzy
Finch-Saunders, Janet
George, Russell
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Millar, Darren
Ramsay, Nick

Derbynwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment agreed.

Cynnig NDM4886 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

Mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. Yn nodi sylwadau Sefydliad Cyfrifwyr Siartredig Cymru a Lloegr, wrth ymateb i Raglen Adnewyddu'r Economi 2010, fod gan Gymru gymysgedd wael o sgiliau ac felly'n cydnabod pwysigrwydd yffaith bod Sgiliau Twf Cymru ar fin ailagor a'r Adolygiad o Gymwysterau sy'n parhau fel rhan o'r ymrwymiad sylweddol i sgiliau a amlinellir yn y Rhaglen Lywodraethu.

Motion NDM4886 as amended:

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales comments, in response to the Economic Renewal Programme 2010, that Wales has a 'poor skills mix' and therefore recognises the importance of the imminent re-opening of Skills Growth Wales and the ongoing Qualifications Review as part of the substantive commitment to skills set out in the Programme of Government'.

2. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i:

- a) cydnabod pwysigrwydd darpariaeth sgiliau sy'n cael ei harwain gan y galw, yn unol ag argymhellion Adolygiad Leitch; a
- b) cynnal asesiad llawn o'r angen am sgiliau arbenigol yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol.

3. Yn croesawu'r £4.88 miliwn ychwanegol ar gyfer y Rhaglen Recriwtiaid Newydd a'r £3 miliwn ychwanegol ar gyfer Sgiliau Twf Cymru a gyhoeddwyd yn y gyllideb derfynol ym mis Rhagfyr 2011.

2. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) recognise the importance of demand-led skills provision in line with the recommendations of the Leitch Review; and
 - b) conduct a full assessment of Wales' future need for specialised skills.
- 3. Welcomes the additional £4.88 million for the Young Recruits Programme and the additional £3 million for Skills Growth Wales announced in the final budget in December 2011.*

*Cynnig NDM4886 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 12.
Motion NDM4886 as amended: For 44, Abstain 0, Against 12.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Antoniw, Mick
Black, Peter
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Keith
Drakeford, Mark
Elis-Thomas, Yr Arglwydd/Lord
Evans, Rebecca
Gething, Vaughan
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
Hart, Edwina
Hedges, Mike
Hutt, Jane
James, Julie
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Julie
Neagle, Lynne
Powell, William
Price, Gwyn R.
Rathbone, Jenny
Rees, David
Roberts, Aled
Sargeant, Carl
Skates, Kenneth
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Thomas, Simon
Watson, Joyce
Whittle, Lindsay

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Burns, Angela
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Byron
Davies, Paul
Davies, Suzy
Finch-Saunders, Janet
George, Russell
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Millar, Darren
Ramsay, Nick

Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM4886 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
Motion NDM4886 as amended agreed.*

*Cynnig NDM4887: O blaid 12, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 44.
Motion NDM4887: For 12, Abstain 0, Against 44.*

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Davies, Jocelyn
Elis-Thomas, Yr Arglwydd/Lord
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Thomas, Simon
Whittle, Lindsay
Wood, Leanne

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

Andrews, Leighton
Antoniw, Mick
Black, Peter
Burns, Angela
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Byron
Davies, Keith
Davies, Paul
Davies, Suzy
Drakeford, Mark
Evans, Rebecca
Finch-Saunders, Janet
George, Russell
Gething, Vaughan
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hedges, Mike
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
James, Julie
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Lewis, Huw
Mewies, Sandy
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Julie
Neagle, Lynne
Powell, William
Price, Gwyn R.
Ramsay, Nick
Rathbone, Jenny
Rees, David
Roberts, Aled
Sargeant, Carl
Skates, Kenneth
Thomas, Gwenda
Watson, Joyce
Williams, Kirsty

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
Motion not agreed.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM4887: O blaid 55, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 1 to NDM4887: For 55, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:

The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
 Antoniw, Mick
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Black, Peter
 Burns, Angela
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davies, Andrew R.T
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Byron
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Keith
 Davies, Paul
 Davies, Suzy
 Drakeford, Mark
 Elis-Thomas, Yr Arglwydd/Lord
 Evans, Rebecca
 Finch-Saunders, Janet
 George, Russell
 Gething, Vaughan
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
 Hart, Edwina
 Hedges, Mike
 Hutt, Jane
 Isherwood, Mark
 James, Julie
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Mewies, Sandy
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Julie
 Neagle, Lynne
 Powell, William
 Price, Gwyn R.
 Rathbone, Jenny
 Rees, David
 Roberts, Aled
 Sargeant, Carl
 Skates, Kenneth
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Thomas, Simon
 Watson, Joyce
 Whittle, Lindsay
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment agreed.

6.00 p.m.

Gwelliant 2 i NDM4887: O blaidd 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 12.
Amendment 2 to NDM4887: For 44, Abstain 0, Against 12.

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Antoniw, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Keith
 Drakeford, Mark
 Elis-Thomas, Yr Arglwydd/Lord
 Evans, Rebecca
 Gething, Vaughan
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
 Hart, Edwin
 Hedges, Mike
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Julie
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Julie
 Neagle, Lynne
 Powell, William
 Price, Gwyn R.
 Rathbone, Jenny
 Rees, David
 Roberts, Aled
 Sargeant, Carl
 Skates, Kenneth
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Thomas, Simon
 Watson, Joyce
 Whittle, Lindsay
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment agreed.*

*Gwelliant 3 i NDM4887: O blaid 56, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
 Amendment 3 to NDM4887: For 56, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Antoniw, Mick
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Black, Peter
 Burns, Angela
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff

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

Asghar, Mohammad
 Burns, Angela
 Davies, Andrew R.T
 Davies, Byron
 Davies, Paul
 Davies, Suzy
 Finch-Saunders, Janet
 George, Russell
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Millar, Darren
 Ramsay, Nick

Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Byron
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Keith
 Davies, Paul
 Davies, Suzy
 Drakeford, Mark
 Elis-Thomas, Yr Arglwydd/Lord
 Evans, Rebecca
 Finch-Saunders, Janet
 George, Russell
 Gething, Vaughan
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
 Hart, Edwina
 Hedges, Mike
 Hutt, Jane
 Isherwood, Mark
 James, Julie
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Mewies, Sandy
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Julie
 Neagle, Lynne
 Powell, William
 Price, Gwyn R.
 Ramsay, Nick
 Rathbone, Jenny
 Rees, David
 Roberts, Aled
 Sargeant, Carl
 Skates, Kenneth
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Thomas, Simon
 Watson, Joyce
 Whittle, Lindsay
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment agreed.

Gwelliant 4 i NDM4887: O blaid 17, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 39.
Amendment 4 to NDM4887: For 17, Abstain 0, Against 39.

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

Asghar, Mohammad
 Black, Peter
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Burns, Angela
 Davies, Byron
 Davies, Paul
 Davies, Suzy

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Antoniw, Mick
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Keith

Finch-Saunders, Janet	Drakeford, Mark
George, Russell	Elis-Thomas, Yr Arglwydd/Lord
Graham, William	Evans, Rebecca
Isherwood, Mark	Gething, Vaughan
Jones, Elin	Gregory, Janice
Millar, Darren	Griffiths, John
Powell, William	Griffiths, Lesley
Ramsay, Nick	Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
Roberts, Aled	Hart, Edwina
Williams, Kirsty	Hedges, Mike
	Hutt, Jane
	James, Julie
	Jenkins, Bethan
	Jones, Alun Ffred
	Jones, Ann
	Jones, Carwyn
	Jones, Ieuan Wyn
	Lewis, Huw
	Mewies, Sandy
	Morgan, Julie
	Neagle, Lynne
	Price, Gwyn R.
	Rathbone, Jenny
	Rees, David
	Sargeant, Carl
	Skates, Kenneth
	Thomas, Gwenda
	Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
	Thomas, Simon
	Watson, Joyce
	Whittle, Lindsay
	Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment not agreed.*

*Gwelliant 5 i NDM4887: O blaidd 27, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 29.
Amendment 5 to NDM4887: For 27, Abstain 0, Against 29.*

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Burns, Angela
Davies, Andrew R.T
Davies, Byron
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Paul
Davies, Suzy
Elis-Thomas, Yr Arglwydd/Lord
Finch-Saunders, Janet
George, Russell
Graham, William
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
Isherwood, Mark
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Millar, Darren
Powell, William
Ramsay, Nick
Roberts, Aled
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Thomas, Simon

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

Andrews, Leighton
Antoniw, Mick
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Keith
Drakeford, Mark
Evans, Rebecca
Gething, Vaughan
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hedges, Mike
Hutt, Jane
James, Julie
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Lewis, Huw
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Julie
Neagle, Lynne
Price, Gwyn R.
Rathbone, Jenny

Whittle, Lindsay
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Rees, David
Sargeant, Carl
Skates, Kenneth
Thomas, Gwenda
Watson, Joyce

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment not agreed.*

Cynnig NDM4887 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

Mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. Yn nodi bwriad Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflwyno system fandio ar gyfer ysgolion uwchradd a chynradd yng Nghymru;

2. Yn credu nad yw bandio'n rhoi darlun cyflawn o berfformiad ysgol a dylid cyfyngu ei ddefnydd i sicrhau bod unrhyw ysgol yn cael y cymorth angenrheidiol sydd ei angen arni i wella'r meysydd hynny a gaiff eu mesur gan y system fandio;

3. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i gyflwyno proses werthuso adeiladol sy'n arwain at gymorth wedi'i dargedu i ddatrys perfformiad gwael mewn ysgolion.

4. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i fonitro dealltwriaeth rhieni, athrawon a Llywodraethwyr o'r system fandio ac ystyried y pryderon a fynegwyd gan staff addysgu a chymryd camau eraill i egluro os bydd angen.

5. Yn cydnabod y camau y mae Awdurdodau Lleol wedi'u cymryd, drwy gonsortia, i ad-drefnu'r gwasanaethau gwella ysgolion ac yn credu y dylai cefnogaeth sy'n manteisio ar arbenigedd yr ymarferwyr blaenllaw ddod yn fodel ledled Cymru.

6. Yn credu mai safon yr addysgu ac arweinyddiaeth ysgolion yw'r ffactorau allweddol ar gyfer gwella ysgolion ac yn talu teyrnged i waith y proffesiwn addysgu yng Nghymru am sicrhau bod safonau wedi codi dros y degawd diwethaf.

Motion NDM4887 as amended:

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the intention of the Welsh Government to introduce banding for both secondary and primary schools in Wales;

2. Believes that banding does not provide a whole view of a school's performance and its use should be limited to securing the necessary support for any school to improve in those areas measured by banding;

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to introduce a constructive evaluation process which leads to targeted support to remedy poor performance in schools.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to monitor parent, teacher and Governor's understanding of the banding system given concerns raised by teaching staff and take further explanatory action if required.

5. Recognises moves by Local Authorities through consortia to reconfigure school improvement services and believes that support drawing on the expertise of leading practitioners should become a model throughout Wales.

6. Believes that the quality of teaching and school leadership are the key drivers of school improvement and pays tribute to the work of the teaching profession in Wales for delivering rising standards over the last decade.

*Cynnig NDM4887 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 12.
Motion NDM4887 as amended: For 44, Abstain 0, Against 12.*

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

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

Andrews, Leighton	Asghar, Mohammad
Antoniw, Mick	Burns, Angela
Black, Peter	Davies, Andrew R.T.
Chapman, Christine	Davies, Byron
Cuthbert, Jeff	Davies, Paul
Davies, Alun	Davies, Suzy
Davies, Jocelyn	Finch-Saunders, Janet
Davies, Keith	George, Russell
Drakeford, Mark	Graham, William
Elis-Thomas, Yr Arglwydd/Lord	Isherwood, Mark
Evans, Rebecca	Millar, Darren
Gething, Vaughan	Ramsay, Nick
Gregory, Janice	
Griffiths, John	
Griffiths, Lesley	
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws	
Hart, Edwina	
Hedges, Mike	
Hutt, Jane	
James, Julie	
Jenkins, Bethan	
Jones, Alun Ffred	
Jones, Ann	
Jones, Carwyn	
Jones, Elin	
Jones, Ieuan Wyn	
Lewis, Huw	
Mewies, Sandy	
Morgan, Julie	
Neagle, Lynne	
Powell, William	
Price, Gwyn R.	
Rathbone, Jenny	
Rees, David	
Roberts, Aled	
Sargeant, Carl	
Skates, Kenneth	
Thomas, Gwenda	
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn	
Thomas, Simon	
Watson, Joyce	
Whittle, Lindsay	
Williams, Kirsty	
Wood, Leanne	

Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM4887 fel y'i diwygiwyd.

Motion NDM4887 as amended agreed.

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Chwythy'r Chwiban: A oes Cyfrifoldeb Moesol ar Lywodraeth Cymru i Geisio Gwarchod y Rheini sy'n Chwythy'r Chwiban ym Mhob Agwedd ar Fwyd? Whistleblowing: Does the Welsh Government Have a Moral Responsibility to Seek to Protect Whistleblowers in All Walks of Life?

Angela Burns: I am grateful for the opportunity today to introduce a short debate on whistleblowing. I have given a minute each of my time to Mark Isherwood and Joyce Watson.

Angela Burns: Rwyf yn ddiolchgar i gael y cyfre heddiw i gyflwyno dadl fer ar chwythy'r chwiban. Rwyf wedi rhoi munud yr un o'm hamser i Mark Isherwood a Joyce Watson.

I want to start by making it clear that this is not a debate based on political ideology—whether that is Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Plaid or any other political persuasion. I believe that all Governments have a moral obligation to protect whistleblowers and, as I develop my argument, I hope that I might persuade this Government and this Minister of that belief. By doing so, I also hope to explore ways that the Assembly might lead other countries by example, in the same way that it set a new pace by enshrining equality and sustainability as central tenets of governance in Wales. In another field, we lead the UK and much of Europe in our adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Therefore, I want to argue that, given this libertarian theme, the Assembly could also lead the way in the protection of whistleblowers. It will not be an easy task; from the research that I have undertaken so far, I can see the complexities, but I still believe that it is an objective worth striving for.

Whistleblowing, to my mind, is a most unfortunate phrase. This casual turn of the language dilutes what is actually happening. The term is often used in a throwaway manner and is sometimes used pejoratively. There is sometimes a view that the person blowing the whistle is a troublemaker or is acting out a grievance, or that what they are exposing will be a small win at the expense of an organisation and other workers within that organisation. Of course, there has been and always will be the troublemaker—the exaggerator out to do damage to the individual, team, company or organisation in their sights—and sometimes there is the person who is just plain misguided, who has incorrectly assumed or interpreted something that they have come across.

However, these instances are small in comparison with the motivation of most people who are deemed whistleblowers. This again reinforces my concerns over the phrase.

Hoffwn ddechrau drwy ei gwneud yn glir nad yw'r ddadl hon yn seiliedig ar ideoleg wleidyddol—boed o du Llafur, y Ceidwadwyr, y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, Plaid Cymru neu unrhyw blaid wleidyddol arall. Credaf fod rhwymedigaeth foesol ar bob Llywodraeth i ddiogelu'r rheini sy'n chwythu'r chwiban ac, wrth imi ddatblygu fy nadl, rwyf yn gobeithio y gallaf berswadio'r Llywodraeth hon a'r Gweinidog i gredu hynny. Drwy wneud hynny, rwyf hefyd yn gobeithio edrych ar ffyrdd y gall y Cynulliad arwain gwledydd eraill drwy esiampl, yn yr un ffordd ag y gosododd gynsail newydd drwy ymgorffori cydraddoldeb a chynaliadwyedd fel daliadau canolog llywodraethu yng Nghymru. Mewn maes arall, rydym wedi arwain y DU a llawer o Ewrop drwy fabwysiadu Confensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau'r Plentyn. Felly, rwyf am ddadlau, o ystyried y thema libertaraidd hon, y gallai'r Cynulliad hefyd arwain y ffordd o ran diogelu'r rheini sy'n chwythu'r chwiban. Ni fydd yn dasg hawdd; ar sail y gwaith ymchwil rwyf wedi ei wneud hyd yn hyn, gallaf weld y cymhlethdodau, ond rwyf yn dal i gredu ei bod yn werth gweithio tua'r nod hwnnw.

Mae chwythu'r chwiban, yn fy marn i, yn ymadrodd hynod o anffodus. Mae'r ymadrodd diofal hwn yn gwanhau'r hyn sy'n digwydd mewn gwirionedd. Mae'r term yn aml yn cael ei ddefnyddio mewn modd ffwrdd-â-hi ac weithiau fe'i defnyddir mewn ffordd ddifriol. Weithiau credir bod y person sy'n chwythu'r chwiban yn creu trafferth neu yn gweithredu ar sail cwyn sydd ganddynt, neu fod yr hyn y maent yn ei ddatgelu yn fuddugoliaeth fach ar draul sefydliad a gweithwyr eraill o fewn y sefydliad hwnnw. Wrth gwrs, mae pobl sy'n creu trafferth yn bodoli erioed, a byddant yn parhau i fodoli—pobl sy'n gor-ddweud am eu bod am wneud niwed i'r unigolyn, i'r tîm, i'r cwmni neu i'r sefydliad o dan sylw—ac weithiau ceir pobl sydd, yn sym, yn gyfeiliornus, sydd wedi gwneud rhagdybiaeth anghywir ynghylch rhywbeth y maent wedi dod ar ei draws, neu wedi'i gamddehongli.

Fodd bynnag, prin yw'r achosion hyn o'u cymharu â chymhelliant y rhan fwyaf o bobl sy'n cael eu hystyried yn bobl sy'n chwythu'r chwiban. Mae hyn eto yn cadarnhau fy

What exactly is a whistleblower? We are talking about a person who has seen a wrong, who more often than not has tried to rectify that wrong through all the usual channels, and who has been ignored or pacified with some version of change and renewal. However, that person cannot stay quiet, because their sense of right and wrong will simply not allow it. They put other people or society before themselves. They become the idea that we all have of people who will do the decent thing, who will stand up and be counted. We—Government and people—ask this of each other. We want our fellow citizens to be moral, to give a damn. How shocked were you by the CCTV images of that tiny child dying in a street in China while one, two, 10, 19 people walked by? How many other tales can we recount in other cities, other countries—including our own—that demonstrate the lack of moral fibre within some people?

We politicians talk in our endless committees and debates about making a difference, about doing the right thing, about bringing the public with us, about awakening citizenship and responsibility in other people. In fact, we often go further and demand it of people—especially those in public organisations. We ask for the highest levels of ethics and morality, yet when someone delivers just that, we are not always there for them. That is the experience of a great number of whistleblowers.

I know that that is unpalatable, and I am sure that it will be disputed, but I want to give three examples of people who came to see me in my first term as an Assembly Member who blew the whistle and subsequently suffered, and one example of someone who could and should have blown the whistle, but did not because they did not believe that we—society, Government, Assembly, the system—would be behind them. If I have had this number of cases that I can speak of publicly, plus a few others that I am not at

mhryderon ynghylch yr ymadrodd. Beth yn union yw rhywun sy'n chwythu'r chwiban? Rydym yn sôn am berson sydd wedi gweld cam yn cael ei wneud, sydd yn amlach na pheidio wedi ceisio unioni'r cam hwnnw drwy'r holl sianelau arferol, ac sydd wedi cael ei anwybyddu neu ei dawelu gan ryw fersiwn o newid ac adnewyddu. Fodd bynnag, ni all y person hwnnw aros yn dawel, yn syml oherwydd na fydd ei ymwybyddiaeth o'r hyn sy'n dda a drwg yn caniatáu hynny. Mae'n rhoi pobl eraill neu gymdeithas o flaen ei hunan. Mae'n gwreddu'r syniad sydd gennym i gyd o berson a fydd yn gwneud y peth iawn, ac a fydd yn sefyll i fyny ac yn cael ei gyfrif. Fel Llywodraeth a phobl, gofynnwn am hyn oddi wrth ein gilydd. Rydym eisiau i'n cyd-ddinasydion fod yn foesol, ac i falio. Faint y cawsoch eich synnu gan y delweddau teledu cylch cyfng o'r plentyn bach yn marw ar stryd yn Tsieina wrth i un, dau, 10, 19 o bobl gerdded heibio? Sawl hanesyn arall o ddinasoedd a gwledydd eraill—gan gynnwys ein gwlaid ein hunain—rydym yn ei ailadrodd sy'n dangos diffyg moesau rhai pobl?

Rydym ni fel gwleidyddion yn siarad yn ein pwylgorau a dadleuon diddiwedd am wneud gwahaniaeth, am wneud y peth iawn, am ddod â'r cyhoedd gyda ni, am ddeffro ymdeimlad o ddinasydiaeth a chyfrifoldeb mewn pobl eraill. Yn wir, byddwn yn aml yn mynd ymhellach ac yn ei fynnu gan bobl—yn enwedig y rheini o fewn sefydliadau cyhoeddus. Rydym yn gofyn i bobl ddangos y lefelau uchaf o foeseg a moesoldeb, ond pan fydd rhywun yn cyflawni hynny, nid ydym bob amser yno ar ei gyfer. Dyna brofiad nifer fawr o'r rheini sy'n chwythu'r chwiban.

Rwyf yn gwybod bod hynny yn annymunol, ac rwyf yn siŵr y bydd rhai pobl yn ei gwestiynu, ond rwyf am roi tair engrhrafft o bobl a ddaeth i'm gweld yn ystod fy nhymor cyntaf fel Aelod Cynulliad a chwythodd y chwiban ac a ddioddefodd ar ôl hynny, ac un engrhrafft o rhywun a ddylai fod wedi chwythu'r chwiban, ond na wnaeth oherwydd nad oedd yn credu ein bod ni—y gymdeithas, y Llywodraeth, y Cynulliad, y system—yn ei gefnogi. Os wyf fi wedi cael y nifer hon o achosion y gallaf siarad amdanyst yn

liberty to speak of, and I am but one of 60 and have been here for a mere five years, then over the life of the Assembly how many others have been asked to help whistleblowers who have been wronged for standing up for what is right? How many cases have come to us collectively? I suspect that they will be the tip of the iceberg. There will be some who have been wronged who go nowhere for help, but chalk their experiences up to the unfairness of life. They may then walk on by if faced with another wrong situation. Having met with people who have lost their income and homes, who are fearful of reprisal and have lost their sense of self, I could not say that I blame them.

Imagine, if you will, that you are foster carers to a lovely boy, an adolescent who is completely unable to move—a boy who is so incapacitated that your role is to provide the parental love that the child needs while a 24-hour medical team is tasked with keeping the child alive, comfortable and mentally stable. You see some members of that medical team treating the boy child completely inappropriately. You see them dropping him out of hoists. You see them inserting catheters incorrectly—causing anguish and infection. You see them shouting at him and calling him names—all for a joke, apparently. You see them holding urine-soaked incontinence pads to his face, for a laugh, because he will not stop crying or shouting, and, worst of all, you see them disconnecting his ventilator to teach him manners.

You report it. You tell his case worker, the head of the medical team, the agency that you work for, the social services, the police. You find out that his previous carers had walked away because they could not handle the conflict with the medical team. You get the lad into hospital and he makes a statement to the police. However, the same medical team are charged with his care in the hospital, and the lead assailant—who has been taken off his team—visits him in hospital with the connivance of the rest of the team. That

gyhoeddus, yn ogystal â rhai eraill nad wyl yn rhydd i siarad amdanyst, ac rwyf ond yn un o 60 o Aelodau ac wedi bod yma am bum mlynedd yn unig, yna, dros oes y Cynulliad, faint yn fwy o Aelodau sydd wedi cael cais i helpu'r rheini sydd wedi chwythu'r chwiban ac sydd wedi cael cam am sefyll dros yr hyn sy'n iawn? Faint o achosion sydd wedi dod ger ein bron ni i gyd? Rwyf yn amau y byddant ond yn crafu'r wyneb. Bydd rhai sydd wedi cael cam nad ydynt yn mynd i unman i gael cymorth, ac sy'n credu mai annhegwnch bywyd yw achos eu profiadau. Efallai y byddant yn cerdded heibio os wynebant sefyllfa anghywir arall. Ar ôl i mi gyfarfod â phobl sydd wedi colli eu hincwm a'u cartrefi, sydd yn ofni dial ac sydd wedi colli eu synnwyr o'u hunain, ni allwn ddweud fy mod yn eu beio.

Dychmygwch eich bod yn ofalwr maeth i fachgen hyfryd, person ifanc sy'n methu symud o gwbl—bachgen sydd mor analluog fel mai eich rôl chi yw darparu'r cariad gan riant sydd ei angen ar y plentyn tra bod gan dîm meddygol 24-awr y dasg o gadw'r plentyn yn fyw, yn gyfforddus ac yn sefydlog yn feddylol. Rydych yn gweld rhai aelodau o'r tîm meddygol hwnnw yn trin y plentyn mewn ffordd sy'n hollol amhriodol. Rydych yn eu gweld yn ei ollwng ef allan o'r teclynnau codi. Rydych yn eu gweld yn mewnosod cathetrau yn anghywir, gan achosi loes a haint. Rydych yn eu gweld yn gweiddi arno ac yn galw enwau arno—i gyd am jôc, mae'n debyg. Rydych yn eu gweld yn dal padiau anymataliaeth wedi eu gwlychu ag wrin i'w wyneb, am hwyl, oherwydd nad yw'n rhoi'r gorau i grio neu weiddi, ac, yn waeth na dim, rydych yn eu gweld yn datgysylltu ei beiriant anadlu i ddysgu iddo sut mae ymddwyn.

Rydych yn hysbysu rhywun am hyn. Rydych yn dweud wrth ei weithiwr achos, pennath y tîm meddygol, yr asiantaeth rydych yn gweithio iddo, y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, yr heddlu. Rydych yn canfod bod ei ofalwyr blaenorol wedi cefnu arno oherwydd nad oeddent yn gallu ymdopi â'r gwrthdaroga dyda'r tîm meddygol. Rydych yn llwyddo i gael y llanc i'r ysbyty ac mae'n gwneud datganiad i'r heddlu. Fodd bynnag, yr un tîm meddygol sy'n gyfrifol am ei ofal yn yr ysbyty, ac mae'r prif ymosodwr—sydd wedi

person whispers long and hard to the boy child, and he withdraws his statement. He withdraws, full stop. He will not see you, his fear is so great.

He is taken away from you, and you are marginalised. Your calls are not returned, you are fobbed off. Your fear for him grows. He has no advocate, he has no voice, he is no-one. You pick up your shattered soul, and turn back to your life and your affairs. However, your life has changed, and it appears irrevocably changed. You are no longer deemed fit to look after a child, disabled or otherwise, despite the fact that you have been doing it for over a decade and, during that time, have looked after some of the most disabled and unloved children in our society. No-one will give you justice. You have no income. You lose your home and your car, and, above all, the boy has lost two people who genuinely gave a damn and were ready to be his parents for the rest of their lives, and his life.

Finally, you reach your AM, who—I will admit—could not read the enormous file that included the boy's statement without suffering profound shock at the appalling horror of a totally paralysed person being treated in this manner. I involve the police again, who admit that they did not handle the case properly and that they should have pursued his statement more rigorously. However, now that he has withdrawn it and that time has passed, there is little they can do. C'est la vie.

I go to the Minister, who was great, and galvanised some of her team to take a look at the situation, the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales, who were appallingly uninterested, the office of the children's commissioner, which passed the matter to the police—oh yes; we have been there already, have we not?—and, finally, Healthcare

ei dynnu oddi ar y tîm—yn ymweld ag ef yn yr ysbty gyda chydsyniad gweddill y tîm. Mae'r person hwnnw yn sibrwd i'r bachgen am amser maith, ac mae ef yn tynnu ei ddatganiad yn ôl. Mae'n mynd i'w gragen yn gyfan gwbl. Ni wnaiff eich gweld, cymaint yw ei ofn.

Mae'n cael ei gymryd oddi arnoch, ac rydych yn cael eich gwthio i'r cyrion. Nid yw eich galwadau'n cael eu dychwelyd, a rhoddir esgusodion i chi. Mae eich ofn drosto yn cynyddu. Nid oes ganddo eiriolwr, nid oes ganddo lais, nid yw'n neb. Rydych yn codi eich enaid clwyfus, ac yn dychwelyd i'ch bywyd a'ch helyntion. Fodd bynnag, mae eich bywyd wedi newid, ac ymddengys ei fod wedi newid am byth. Nid ydych mwyach yn cael eich ystyried yn addas i ofalu am blentyn, sy'n anabl ai peidio, er gwaethaf yffaith eich bod wedi gwneud hynny ers dros ddegawd, a'ch bod, yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw, wedi edrych ar ôl rhai o'r plant mwyaf anabl a digariad yn ein cymdeithas. Nid oes neb yn rhoi cyflawnader ichi. Nid oes gennych unrhyw incwm. Rydych yn colli eich cartref a'ch car, ac, yn anad dim, mae'r bachgen wedi colli dau berson a oedd yn wirioneddol yn malio ac a oedd yn barod i fod yn rhieni iddo am weddill eu bywydau, a'i fywyd ef.

Yn olaf, byddwch yn cael gafael ar eich Aelod Cynulliad, a oedd—rwyf yn cyfaddef—yn methu â darllen y ffeil enfawr a oedd yn cynnwys datganiad y bachgen heb deimlo syndod dwfn ynghylch y sefyllfa arswydus lle'r oedd person sydd wedi ei barlysu'n llwyr yn cael ei drin yn y modd hwn. Rwyf yn cysylltu â'r heddlu eto, sy'n cyfaddef nad oeddent wedi trin yr achos yn briodol ac y dylent fod wedi ymchwilio i'w ddatganiad yn fwy trylwyr. Fodd bynnag, gan ei fod wedi ei dynnu'n ôl, a bod amser wedi mynd heibio, nid oes llawer y gallant ei wneud. C'est la vie.

Rwyf yn mynd at y Gweinidog, a oedd yn wych, a ysgogodd rhai o'i thîm i edrych ar y sefyllfa, Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru, a oedd yn ofnadwy o ddifater, swyddfa'r comisiynydd plant, a basiodd y mater i heddlu—o ydym, rydym wedi bod yno eisoes, onid ydym?—ac, yn olaf, Arolygiaeth Gofal Iechyd Cymru, y

Inspectorate Wales, for which I have only praise, because it enabled the couple to talk, to yell, to express their sorrow and hurt, and to have some closure.

However, Minister, there was no action, no protection, no recourse. All agencies exonerated them from any counter-accusation of trouble stirring; all agencies said that they would improve their procedures. No-one was sacked and no-one resigned—some of the medical team were retrained and put back with the boy, but this couple cannot work for lack of a reference from the private agency that they worked for that was subcontracted to social services. I get no answer when I ask why one of the Government agencies cannot write them a reference. And the boy? Who looks out for him now? What life is he having?

Imagine something entirely different: you are a policeman—a good and experienced policeman. You see some appalling corruption from a very powerfully placed individual, which, in turn, is engendering lots of smaller frauds by other officers—'Oh, it's okay; the boss does it, so we can do this, too'. You are uncomfortable about it. You make some noises. You are told to shut up; you are leaned on in oblique ways. You can see where the rot is but you cannot get to it. You feel that it is fundamentally wrong that those charged with upholding the law are, in fact, breaking it. You worry about the secret connections, the old boy network, and you do not know how to stop it. You come to see your AM—you demand a secret meeting in an out of the way location, because you are worried for your job and your family's future.

My final example is in the private sector and concerns a person who has worked for a company for years. She is predictable, safe, very ordinary and a bit of a geek. She does her job as an administrator in that responsible

gallaf wneud dim ond ei chanmol, am iddi alluogi'r cwpl i siarad, i weiddi, i fynegi eu tristwch a'u loes, ac i allu cau pen y mwdwl i ryw raddau.

Fodd bynnag, Weinidog, ni chymerwyd unrhyw gamau, ni ddarparwyd unrhyw warchodaeth, ac nid oedd unrhyw atebolrwydd. Gwnaeth pob asiantaeth eu rhyddhau o unrhyw wrthgyhuddiad o greu trafferth; dywedodd pob asiantaeth y byddent yn gwella eu gweithdrefnau. Ni chafodd neb eu diswyddo ac ni wnaeth neb ymddiswyddo—cafodd rhai o'r tîm meddygol eu hailhyfforddi a'u rhoi yn ôl i weithio gyda'r bachgen, ond ni all y cwpl hwn weithio oherwydd diffyg geirda gan yr asiantaeth breifat yr oeddyn yn gweithio iddo a is-contractiwyd gan y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Ni chaf ateb pan ofynnaf pam na all un o asiantaethau'r Llywodraeth ysgrifennu geirda drostynt. A'r bachgen? Pwy sy'n ei warchod yn awr? Pa fath o fywyd y mae'n ei gael?

Dychmygwch rywbedd holol wahanol: rydych yn heddwas—heddwas da a phrofiadol. Rydych yn gweld unigolyn mewn sefyllfa bwerus iawn yn ymddwyn mewn ffordd lygredig iawn, ac mae ef, yn ei dro, yn ennyn llawer o achosion o dwyll llai gan swyddogion eraill—'O, mae'n iawn; mae'r bos yn ei wneud, felly gallwn ni ei wneud hefyd'. Rydych yn anghyfforddus ynghylch hyn. Rydych yn ei gwestiynu. Dywedir wrthych am gau eich ceg; rhoddir pwysau arnoch mewn ffyrdd anuniongyrchol. Gallwch weld lle y mae'r broblem, ond ni allwch ei chyrraedd. Rydych yn teimlo ei fod yn sylfaenol anghywir bod y rheini sy'n gyfrifol am gynnal y gyfraith, mewn gwirionedd, yn ei thorri. Rydych yn poeni am y cysylltiadau cyfrinachol, y rhwydwaith cyn-ddisgyblion, ac nid ydych yn gwybod sut i'w hatal. Rydych yn mynd i weld eich Aelod Cynulliad—rydych yn mynnu cael cyfarfod dirgel mewn lleoliad diarffordd, oherwydd eich bod yn poeni am eich swydd ac am ddyfodol eich teulu.

Daw fy enghraifft derfynol o'r sector preifat ac mae'n ymwneud â pherson sydd wedi gweithio i gwmni am flynyddoedd. Mae hi'n ymddwyn yn ôl y disgwyl, mae'n ddiogel, yn gyffredin ac yn dipyn o geek. Mae'n gwneud

and pedantic way some people have—she will forgive me this description, because what she did was not ordinary. She saw a person in the care home being struck. She reported it to management and then suffered a terrible amount of grief, bullying and being told not to be silly. She was asked to reinterpret what she saw, even though the struck person had been hit hard enough to fall out of their chair. Then she was struck, allegedly in a playful way. Then, this redoubtable, older, single woman tried to take them on. A tribunal, the ombudsman—and yes, she was vindicated. What does she have now? Nothing—no job, no reference and no way forward.

My final example will be brief and short on detail for reasons that you will understand. A foster carer looks after some young children, one of whom is in a wheelchair. A social worker calls up and says that he has an emergency and drops off an older boy. Later that day, the foster carer checks the wheelchair-bound child, who is in bed. The boy had been in to see that child. There is the smell of semen in the air. The social worker is called and told to remove the boy. It is then revealed that the boy has sex issues and abuse issues with younger children. The social worker has no place for the boy, so he sends a member of his own family to stand guard for the night. The boy leaves the next day and the foster carer is asked to keep quiet—"This was just a slip up; it won't happen again. You don't want to lose the other kids, do you?" No, that foster carer did not, because they knew that they would get no support from any quarter and they did not want to lose the children, their job, their income, their future. They still feel bad about it, but they felt trapped.

I have shared these cases with you all, not because I want to tug at your heartstrings or

ei swydd weinyddol yn y ffordd gyfrifol a phedantig honno y mae rhai pobl yn gwneud eu swyddi—bydd hi'n maddau imi am y disgrifiad, oherwydd nid oedd yr hyn a wnaeth hi'n gyffredin. Gwelodd hi berson yn y cartref gofal yn cael ei daro. Adroddodd hyn i'r rheolwyr ac yna dioddefodd gryn dipyn o alar, bwlio ac achosion lle'r oedd pobl yn dweud wrthi am beidio â bod yn wirion. Gofynnwyd iddi ail-ddehongli'r hyn a welodd, er bod y person a gafodd ei daro wedi cael ei daro'n ddigon caled fel ei fod wedi syrthio allan o'i gadair. Yna, cafodd hi ei tharo, mewn ffordd chwareus, yn honedig. Yna, ceisiodd y fenyw gref, hŷn, sengl hon eu herio. Aeth i'r tribynlys, ac at yr ombwdsmon—a, do, cafodd gyfiawnder. Beth sydd ganddi yn awr? Dim—dim swydd, dim geirda a dim ffordd ymlaen.

Bydd fy enghraifft derfynol yn gryno a heb lawer o fanylion am resymau y byddwch yn eu deall. Mae gofalwr maeth yn gofalu am blant ifanc, ac mae un ohonynt mewn cadair olwyn. Mae gweithiwr cymdeithasol yn galw ac yn dweud bod ganddo broblem brys ac y mae'n gadael bachgen hŷn gyda'r gofalwr. Yn ddiweddarach y diwrnod hwnnw, mae'r gofalwr maeth yn ymweld â'r plentyn sy'n defnyddio cadair olwyn, sydd yn y gwely. Roedd y bachgen hŷn wedi bod i weld y plentyn hwnnw. Mae arogl semen yn yr awyr. Mae'n ffonio'r gweithiwr cymdeithasol a dywadir wrtho am gael gwared ar y bachgen. Datgelir wedyn fod gan y bachgen broblemau mewn perthynas â rhyw a phlant iau, ac o ran eu cam-drin. Nid oes gan y gweithiwr cymdeithasol le ar gyfer y bachgen, felly mae'n anfon aelod o'i deulu ei hun i'w warchod dros nos. Mae'r bachgen yn gadael y diwrnod canlynol a gofynnir i'r gofalwr maeth gadw'n dawel—"Dim ond camgymeriad oedd hwn; ni fydd yn digwydd eto. Dydych chi ddim eisiau colli'r plant eraill, ydych chi?" Na, nid oedd y gofalwr maeth eisiau gwneud hynny, oherwydd gwyddai na fyddent yn cael unrhyw gefnogaeth o unrhyw du ac nid oedd y gofalwr maeth eisiau colli'r plant, ei swydd, ei incwm na'i dyfodol. Mae'r gofalwr maeth yn dal i deimlo'n ddrwg am y peth, ond roedd wedi'i gornelu.

Rwyf wedi rhannu'r achosion hyn gyda chi i gyd, nid am fy mod eisiau tynnu ar linynnau

outrage your sensibilities, but because I want to demonstrate unequivocally that whistleblowing is about right and wrong, and we have a moral duty to stand up for what is right. I therefore have four demands to make of you, Minister.

First, I ask you to acknowledge that the Welsh Government has a moral duty to protect whistleblowers from all walks of life. I accept that you may say that you do not have the power or the legislation or the remit, but if we collectively accept our duty, we can work towards achieving that goal, in the same way as we have worked towards achieving other high-minded principles.

Secondly, I ask that you consider how we can offer protection and recourse. I have looked at putting together a Member-proposed Bill, but examining where the law lies is incredibly complex. The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 is the main piece of legislation protecting workers. Clearly, employment legislation is not a devolved matter, but that does not mean that we cannot legislate on the issue of whistleblowing. For example, the vulnerable children's legislative competence Order, as it was termed, included a provision to review and monitor local authorities' procedures for children who blew the whistle. I know that we have a public services ombudsman, and the Wales Audit Office has some powers—everyone has a bit of something—but to someone who needs legal protection or recourse, there is no clear route. Could we look at having a tribunal-style system or binding reviews conducted under the auspices of a Minister? I wonder whether someone like the inscrutable Mr Huckle could be persuaded to review this entire area with a view to seeing not what we cannot do, but what we can put forward within the areas where we have room for manoeuvre.

6.15 p.m.

Thirdly, I would like to see if it is possible for a whistleblower to gain a Government-

eich calon neu ennyn dicter ynoch, ond am fy mod eisiau dangos yn ddiamheuol bod chwythu'r chwiban yn ymwneud â'r hyn sy'n iawn a'r hyn sy'n anghywir, ac mae gennym ddyletswydd foesol i sefyll dros yr hyn sy'n iawn. Rwyf felly'n galw am bedwar peth oddi wrthych, Weinidog.

Yn gyntaf, gofynnaf ichi gydnabod bod gan Lywodraeth Cymru ddyletswydd foesol i warchod y rheini sy'n chwythu'r chwiban o bob cefndir. Rwyf yn derbyn y gallwch ddweud nad oes gennych y pŵer na'r ddeddfwriaeth na'r gallu, ond os ydym yn derbyn ein dyletswydd ar y cyd, gallwn weithio tuag at gyrraedd y nod hwnnw, yn yr un ffordd ag yr ydym wedi gweithio tuag at weithredu egwyddorion dyrchafedig eraill.

Yn ail, gofynnaf ichi ystyried sut y gallwn warchod pobl a sicrhau atebolwydd. Rwyf wedi ystyried llunio Bil arfaethedig Aelod, ond mae archwilio'r gyfraith yn y maes hwn yn broses hynod gymhleth. Deddf Datgelu er Lles y Cyhoedd 1998 yw'r prif ddarn o ddeddfwriaeth sy'n diogelu gweithwyr. Yn amlwg, nid yw ddeddfwriaeth cyflogaeth yn fater datganoledig, ond nid yw hynny'n golygu na allwn ni ddeddfu ynghylch chwythu'r chwiban. Er enghraift, roedd y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd ddeddfwriaethol ar blant sy'n agored i niwed, fel y'i gelwid, yn cynnwys darpariaeth i adolygu a monitro gweithdrefnau awdurdodau lleol ar gyfer plant a oedd yn chwythu'r chwiban. Gwn fod gennym ombwdsmon gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, ac mae gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru rai pwerau—mae gan bawb ychydig o rywbed—ond i rywun y mae angen amddiffyniad cyfreithiol arnynt neu sy'n chwilio am atebolwydd, nid oes llwybr clir. A allem edrych ar gael system ar ffurf tribiwnlys neu adolygiadau gorfodol a gynhelir o dan nawdd Gweinidog? Tybed a fyddai modd i rywun fel yr annirnadwy Mr Huckle gael ei berswadio i adolygu'r holl faes hwn gyda'r bwriad o weld nid yn unig yr hyn na allwn ei wneud, ond yr hyn y gallwn ei gyflwyno o fewn y meysydd lle mae gennym hyblygrwydd.

Yn drydydd, hoffwn weld a yw'n bosibl i rywun sy'n chwythu'r chwiban gael geirda a

sponsored reference. I am only talking of whistleblowers about whom it is abundantly clear that they were bang on the money and have been proven right, yet, for reasons beyond their control, their professional standing has been tarnished and the organisation that they used to work for, public or private, will not give them a sufficiently full reference to enable the whistleblower to move on.

Finally, I ask that you use your position within the Welsh Government to lobby the Westminster Parliament and the Westminster Government to re-examine the non-devolved areas of legislation in order to protect and give accessible succour and recourse to whistleblowers. Minister, I believe there is a moral obligation on us all.

Mark Isherwood: Thank you, Angela, for a very timely debate on a key issue, which affects many people. I have had wide experience of people who are now vindicated whistleblowers. Last term, I referred, on the basis of what they have told me, to a Wales in which messengers are shot, complainants silenced, dissent quashed and whistleblowers smeared. I first referred 10 years ago to the whistleblower in Flintshire, the internal audit manager, who suffered smears, threats and intimidation, but who won his case, defeated the council at appeal, and who had suffered dramatically and dreadfully. When I raised this in the Assembly Chamber in the second Assembly, quoting from the tribunal document and from official minutes, I was accused by Welsh Government Ministers of bringing the Assembly into disrepute.

More recently, I referred to the Plas Madoc Communities First whistleblower, vindicated by the Wales Audit Office, who was subjected to a false allegation made to a professional body by a collection of public sector bodies. Since then, I have attended official apologies from the police, and I am aware that a full investigation has been carried out by Wrexham County Borough Council, which has completely vindicated her again. However, there are public bodies in Wales, apparently colluding together,

noddir gan y Llywodraeth. Rwyf ond yn sôn am y rhai sydd wedi chwythu'r chwiban y mae'n gwbl glir yr oeddent yn llygad eu lle ac y'u profwyd yn iawn, ac eto, am resymau sydd y tu hwnt i'w rheolaeth, mae eu statws proffesiynol wedi'i bardduo ac nid yw'r sefydliad roeddent yn arfer gweithio iddo, boed yn sefydliad cyhoeddus neu breifat, yn fodlon rhoi geirda digon llawn i alluogi'r chwythwr chwiban i symud ymlaen.

Yn olaf, rwyf yn gofyn eich bod yn defnyddio eich safle o fewn Llywodraeth Cymru i lobio Senedd San Steffan a Llywodraeth San Steffan i ailedrych ar y meysydd deddfu nas datganolwyd er mwyn diogelu chwythwyr chwiban a rhoi cefnogaeth a chymorth hygrych iddynt. Weinidog, rwy'n credu bod rhwymedigaeth foesol ar bob un ohonom.

Mark Isherwood: Diolch i chi, Angela, am ddadl amserol iawn ar fater allweddol, sy'n effeithio ar lawer o bobl. Rwyf wedi cael profiad eang o bobl sydd wedi chwythu'r chwiban a gafodd eu profi'n iawn. Y tymor diwethaf, ar sail yr hyn y maent wedi ei ddweud wrthyf, cyfeiriais at Gymru lle caiff cenhadon eu saethu, achwynwyr eu tawelu, anghydffurfiaeth ei dileu ac enw da chwythwyr chwiban ei bardduo. Yn gyntaf, cyfeiriais at y chwythwr chwiban yn Sir y Fflint 10 mlynedd yn ôl, y rheolwr archwilio mewnol, a ddioddefodd sarhad, bygythiadau a brawychiadau, ond a enillodd ei achos, gan orchfygu'r cyngor mewn apêl, ac a ddioddefodd yn sylweddol ac yn ofnadwy. Pan godais hyn yn Siambra y Cynulliad yn yr ail Gynulliad, gan ddyfynnu o ddogfen y tribynlys ac o gofnodion swyddogol, fe'm cyhuddwyd gan Weinidogion Llywodraeth Cymru o ddwyn anfri ar y Cynulliad.

Yn fwy diweddar, cyfeiriais at y sawl a oedd wedi chwythu'r chwiban yn achos y rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ym Mhlais Madog, a brofwyd yn iawn gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru, ac a oedd yn destun honiad anwir a wnaed i gorff proffesiynol gan gasgliad o gyrff y sector cyhoeddus. Ers hynny, rwyf wedi bod yn bresennol mewn ymddiheuriadau swyddogol gan yr heddlu, ac rwy'n ymwybodol y cynaliwyd ymchwiliad llawn gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam, sydd wedi cyfiawnhau ei

attempting to destroy whistleblowers; I have countless cases like this. Most recently, there was a damning tribunal decision document with regard to the Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham. The Welsh Government has been asked to intervene and for support and help, at least morally, but has gone out of its way to do the other. Does the Welsh Government have a moral responsibility to seek to protect whistleblowers? You bet it does.

gweithredoedd yn llwyr unwaith eto. Fodd bynnag, mae yna gyrrf cyhoeddus yng Nghymru, sy'n ymddangos i fod yn cydgynllwynio, gan geisio dinistrio'r sawl sy'n chwythu'r chwiban; rwyf wedi clywed am nifer di-ri o achosion fel hyn. Yn fwyaf diweddar, roedd dogfen penderfyniad tribynlys damniol mewn perthynas â Chymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Wrecsam. Gofynnwyd i Lywodraeth Cymru ymyrryd a rhoi cefnogaeth a chymorth, o leiaf yn foesol, ond mae wedi mynd allan o'i ffordd i wneud fel arall. A oes gan Lywodraeth Cymru gyfrifoldeb moesol i geisio diogelu'r sawl sy'n chwythu'r chwiban? Oes, gallwch fod yn siŵr o hynny.

Joyce Watson: I thank Angela for bringing this debate to the Chamber today. The importance of whistleblowing was brought to the fore in Pembrokeshire with the exposure of systematic failure in how the council dealt with child protection, which was an example of what the Labour Government sought to expose when it introduced the Public Interest Disclosure Act in 1998. When the case was discussed here in the Assembly, I made the point that, apart from the tragedy of the way in which the children were betrayed and let down, there was also the tragedy of the front-line staff who recognised that things were seriously wrong, but who were unable to do anything about it because of the lack of accountability and transparency. I made the point that the Government should look at the whistleblowing mechanisms for front-line staff so that they feel that they too can have a voice, and the Minister has said that the new ministerial board must have that at its heart. Has the Government received any updates from Pembrokeshire County Council about the board's deliberation on this aspect of what was, ultimately, a damning report?

Joyce Watson: Diolch i Angela am ddod â'r ddadl hon gerbron y Siambwr heddiw. Daeth pwysigrwydd chwythu'r chwiban i'r amlwg yn Sir Benfro yn ddiweddar yn sgil datguddio methiant systematig o ran sut roedd y cyngor yn ymdrin ag amddiffyn plant, sy'n enghraift o'r hyn roedd y Llywodraeth Lafur yn ceisio ei amlyu pan gyflwynodd Deddf Datgelu er Lles y Cyhoedd 1998. Pan drafodwyd yr achos hwn yn y Cynulliad, mynegais y pwyst, ar wahân i'r drasiedi o ran y modd y cafodd y plant eu bradychu a'u gadael i lawr, ei bod hefyd yn y drasiedi bod yna staff rheng flaen a oedd yn cydnabod bod rhywbeth mawr o'i le, ond nad oeddent yn gallu gwneud dim am y peth oherwydd y diffyg atebolwydd a thryloywder. Dywedais y dylai'r Llywodraeth ystyried dulliau chwythu'r chwiban ar gyfer staff rheng flaen, fel eu bod yn teimlo y gallant hefyd gael llais, a dywedodd y Gweinidog bod yn rhaid i'r bwrdd gweinidogion newydd gael hynny wrth ei galon. A yw'r Llywodraeth wedi cael unrhyw wybodaeth newydd gan Gyngor Sir Penfro am drafodaeth y bwrdd am yr agwedd hon ar adroddiad a oedd, ar ddiwedd y dydd, yn un damniol?

The Minister for Finance and Leader of the House (Jane Hutt): I thank Angela Burns for choosing this important topic for the short debate today. The Welsh Government seeks to ensure high standards in public and corporate life in Wales, and, as such, actively encourages individuals who believe that there is wrongdoing in their workplace to speak out and challenge. It is important that people in any circumstances

Y Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Tŷ (Jane Hutt): Diolch i Angela Burns am ddewis y pwnc pwysig hwn ar gyfer y ddadl fer heddiw. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ceisio sicrhau safonau uchel mewn bywyd cyhoeddus a chorfforaethol yng Nghymru, ac, yn unol â hynny, yn annog unigolion sy'n credu bod yna gamymddwyn yn eu gweithle i godi'u llais a herio'r sefyllfa. Mae'n bwysig bod pobl o dan unrhyw amgylchiadau yn

feel assured and confident that their disclosure will be listened to and taken seriously without fear of detriment or victimisation. Indeed, ‘speaking out and challenging’ is perhaps a much better description than the probably devalued term ‘whistleblowers’, as Angela Burns said in her opening remarks, because it is about how we then act on what is brought before us; Angela highlighted very powerful and distressing examples of constituents’ cases. We must learn from those cases and they are on record here today. As she said, while employment policy and legislation is not devolved, as you said, the Welsh Government wants to provide leadership on whistleblowing in Wales. I assure you that this is about delivering that moral duty that you call upon us to exercise and to use our powers and consider what powers we need to seek in this respect.

As Joyce Watson said, the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 seeks to protect the employment rights of workers in the public, private and voluntary sectors who raise a concern about malpractice in their workplaces, as long as they make that disclosure in good faith, with honest intent and without malice, and as long as they have a reasonable belief that the information is substantially true and that they are making the disclosure to an appropriate prescribed person. Joyce drew our attention to past failures and issues. I will seek information in order to respond to her point on Pembrokeshire County Council.

It is important that individuals who wish to report wrongdoing have access to guidance and support and can trust and rely on the integrity of that support. The Act requires an organisation to have a whistleblowing policy or procedure in place and, at a minimum, a senior manager responsible for addressing concerns raised in confidence outside the usual management chain. I am keen to ensure that organisations have internal procedures in place that are simple to use, readily accessible and that people are encouraged to follow. While the Welsh Government does not have responsibility for whistleblowing policy or procedures in other organisations,

teimlo’n sicr ac yn hyderus y bydd pobl eraill yn gwrando ar eu datgeliad ac yn ei gymryd o ddifrif heb ofni unrhyw effaith andwyol neu erledigaeth. Yn wir, efallai fod codi llais a herio yn ddisgrifiad llawer gwell na ‘chwythu’r chwiban’, sy’n derm sydd wedi’i ddibrisio yn ôl pob tebyg, fel y dywedodd Angela Burns yn ei sylwadau agoriadol, gan ei fod yn fater o’r ffordd rydym yn gweithredu yn sgîl yr hyn sy’n dod ger ein bron. Amlygodd Angela enghreiffiau pwerus a thrallodus o achosion etholwyr. Rhaid inni ddysgu gwensi o’r achosion hynny a chânt eu cofnodi yma heddiw. Fel y dywedodd hi, er nad yw polisi a deddfwriaeth cyflogaeth wedi’u datganoli, mae Llywodraeth Cymru am ddarparu arweiniad ar chwythu’r chwiban yng Nghymru. Gallaf roi sicrwydd ichi fod hyn yn ymwneud â darparu’r ddyletswydd foesol honno rydych yn galw arnom i’w harfer a defnyddio ein pwerau ac ystyried pa bwerau y mae angen inni eu ceisio yn hyn o beth.

Fel y dywedodd Joyce Watson, mae Deddf Datgelu er Lles y Cyhoedd 1998 yn ceisio diogelu hawliau cyflogaeth gweithwyr yn y sectorau cyhoeddus, preifat a gwirfoddol sy’n mynegi pryer am gamymddygiad yn eu gweithleoedd, cyn belled â’u bod yn gwneud y datgeliad hwnnw yn ddidwyll, gyda bwriad gonest a heb falais, a chyn belled â bod ganddynt reswm i gredu bod y wybodaeth yn sylweddol wir a’u bod yn gwneud y datgeliad i berson rhagnodedig priodol. Tynnodd Joyce ein sylw at fethiannau a materion a gododd yn y gorffennol. Byddaf yn chwilio am wybodaeth er mwyn ymateb i’w phwynt ar Gyngor Sir Penfro.

Mae’n bwysig bod unigolion sy’n dymuno achwyn am ddrwgweithredu yn cael mynediad at arweiniad a chefnogaeth ac y gallant ddibynnu ar ddilysrwydd y gefnogaeth honno a’u bod yn gallu dibynnu arno. Mae’r Ddeddf yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol bod gan sefydliad bolisi chwythu’r chwiban neu weithdrefn ar waith ac, o leiaf, uwch reolwr sy’n gyfrifol am fynd i’r afael â phryderon a godwyd yn gyfrinachol y tu allan i’r gadwyn reoli arferol. Rwy’n awyddus i sicrhau bod gan sefydliadau weithdrefnau mewnol ar waith sy’n symbl i’w defnyddio, ar gael yn hawdd a bod pobl yn cael eu hannog i’w dilyn. Er nad yw Llywodraeth Cymru yn

we strive to lead by example through our own whistleblowing policy, which provides guidance to all staff.

In addition, the Welsh Government has undertaken particular work in the fields of education and health, which are both devolved. In 2008, following public consultation, the Welsh Government published guidance for school governing bodies on whistleblowing procedures in schools, including a model whistleblowing policy that they could adopt. Furthermore, the Welsh Government has provided written guidance to NHS trusts, requiring each to develop its own policy. The structured assessment, undertaken by the Wales Audit Office, of NHS bodies in 2010 sought high-level assurance that whistleblowing policies and guidance to staff were in place. Other key sources of guidance include the Wales Audit Office, which has been mentioned. It has information on its website and distributes a leaflet widely to public bodies. Free advice and support is also provided by Public Concern at Work. Members will be aware that that is an independent authority on public interest whistleblowing, established as a charity in 1993. It has played a leading role in putting whistleblowing on the governance agenda and in developing legislation in the UK and abroad.

The Welsh Government encourages disclosures to be made internally to the employer in the first instance so that problems can be identified and resolved quickly within organisations. If the whistleblower discloses their concerns internally and is worried either by the response or lack of response or feels unable to talk to anyone internally, then there are other prescribed people to whom they can go to make a disclosure. I appreciate that things can break down quickly at that point, as shown in the examples provided by Members this afternoon.

The Auditor General for Wales may also be

gyfrifol am weithdrefnau na pholisi chwythu'r chwiban sefydliadau eraill, rydym yn ymdrechu i arwain drwy esiampl, drwy ein polisi ni ar chwythu'r chwiban, sy'n rhoi canllawiau i'n holl staff.

At hynny, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gwneud gwaith neilltuol ym meysydd addysg ac iechyd, sydd ill dau wedi'u datganoli. Yn 2008, yn dilyn ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus, cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru ganllawiau i gyrrf llywodraethu ysgolion ar weithdrefnau chwythu'r chwiban mewn ysgolion, gan gynnwys polisi chwythu'r chwiban engriffiol y gellid ei fabwysiadu. Ar ben hynny, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi darparu canllawiau ysgrifenedig i ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG, sy'n ei gwneud yn ofynnol i bob un ohonynt ddatblygu ei pholisi ei hun. Roedd yr asesiad strwythur dig o gyrrf y GIG, a gynhalwyd gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru, yn 2010 yn chwilio am sicrwydd ar lefel uchel fod polisiau chwythu'r chwiban a chanllawiau i staff ar gael. Mae ffynonellau allweddol eraill o arweiniad yn cynnwys Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru, a grybwyllywd eisoes. Mae ganddi wybodaeth ar ei gwefan ac mae'n dosbarthu taflen wybodaeth i gyrrf cyhoeddus yn eang. Darperir cyngor a chymorth am ddim gan Public Concern at Work hefyd. Bydd Aelodau'n gwybod mai awdurdod annibynnol ar chwythu'r chwiban er budd y cyhoedd yw hwn, a sefydlwyd fel elusen ym 1993. Mae wedi chwarae rhan flaenllaw o ran gosod datgelu camarfer ar yr agenda llywodraethu a datblygu deddfwriaeth yn y DU a thramor.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn annog pobl i ddatgelu achosion o gamarfer yn fewnol i'r cyflogwr yn y lle cyntaf fel y gellir nodi problemau a'u datrys yn gyflym o fewn sefydliadau. Os bydd y sawl sy'n chwythu'r chwiban yn datgelu ei bryderon yn fewnol ac yn poeni naill ai am yr ymateb neu ddiffyg ymateb, neu'n teimlo na all siarad ag unrhyw un yn fewnol, yna mae yna bobl eraill ar gael y gall fynd atynt i wneud hyn. Rwy'n gwerthfawrogi y gall pethau dorri i lawr yn gyflym ar y pwyt hwnnw, fel y dangoswyd yn yr engriffiau a ddarparwyd gan yr Aelodau y prynhawn yma.

Hefyd, gellir cysylltu ag Archwilydd

approached in relation to public businesses in Wales on value for money, fraud and corruption in providing public services. Indeed, the Wales Audit Office's audit teams work in public bodies throughout Wales and are routinely on site conducting financial and value-for-money audits.

Should the Welsh Government be approached by an individual from an external organisation, as I said, as long as the disclosure is made in good faith and follows the appropriate procedures, we will consider the information provided. We will undertake to treat whistleblowers sensitively. We will try to maintain their anonymity if they wish as far as can be reasonably and legally done. We have to learn from whistleblowers' experiences with regard to these points, and Angela Burns has provided powerful examples this afternoon.

I pay tribute to Mark Isherwood for his vigilance in bringing these issues to the attention of the relevant authorities and, rightly, to this Assembly and to the Welsh Government, because that has been powerful in the support of those individuals who have come to him for support and advice.

This debate will play an important part in reminding authorities in Wales—albeit that this is outside our devolved responsibilities, we can, in terms of our devolved responsibilities, seek to provide leadership—that they should take all reasonable steps to protect a whistleblower from any personal detriment or victimisation. It is important that we learn lessons from the experiences that have brought great concern, not in relation to those individuals, but in relation to those who sought to intervene and have found that there are still barriers in the way of addressing concerns and victimisation.

I have already ensured that whistleblowing is on the agenda for both the public service workforce partnership council sub-groups, and that is an important development in

Cyffredinol Cymru mewn perthynas â busnesau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru o ran gwerth am arian, twyll a llygredd wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Yn wir, mae timau archwilio Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru yn gweithio mewn cyrff cyhoeddus ledled Cymru ac maent yn gweithio ar y safle'n rheolaidd yn cynnal archwiliadau ariannol ac archwiliadaugwerth am arian.

Os bydd unigolyn o sefydliad allanol yn cysylltu â Llywodraeth Cymru, fel y dywedais, cyn belled â bod y datgeliad yn cael ei wneud gyda phob ewyllys da a chan ddilyn y gweithdrefnau priodol, byddwn yn ystyried y wybodaeth a ddarperir. Byddwn yn ymrwymo i drin y sawl sy'n chwythu'r chwiban mewn modd sensitif. Byddwn yn ceisio eu cadw'n ddienw os ydynt yn dymuno hynny, cyn belled ag y gellir gwneud hynny'n rhesymol ac yn gyfreithlon. Mae'n rhaid inni ddysgu gwersi o brofiadau pobl eraill sydd wedi chwythu'r chwiban o ran y pwyntiau hyn, ac mae Angela Burns wedi rhoi enghreifftiau pwerus y prynhawn yma.

Rwy'n talu teyrnged i Mark Isherwood am fod yn wyliadwrus wrth dynnu sylw'r awdurdodau perthnasol at y materion hyn ac, yn berffaith gywir, am dynnu sylw'r Cynulliad hwn a Llywodraeth Cymru atynt, oherwydd mae hynny wedi bod yn bwerus o ran rhoi cefnogaeth i'r unigolion hynny sydd wedi mynd ato am gefnogaeth a chyngor.

Bydd y ddadl hon yn chwarae rhan bwysig yn y gwaith o atgoffa awdurdodau yng Nghymru—er ei bod y tu allan i'n cyfrifoldebau datganoledig, gallwn, o ran ein cyfrifoldebau datganoledig, geisio darparu arweinyddiaeth—y dylent gymryd pob cam rhesymol i ddiogelu'r sawl sy'n chwythu'r chwiban rhag unrhyw niwed personol neu erledigaeth. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn dysgu gwersi o brofiadau sydd wedi arwain at bryder mawr, nid mewn perthynas â'r unigolion hynny, ond mewn perthynas â'r rhai sydd wedi ceisio ymyrryd ac wedi canfod fod yna rwystrau yn bodoli o hyd o ran mynd i'r afael â phryderon ac erledigaeth.

Rwyf eisoes wedi sicrhau bod chwythu'r chwiban ar yr agenda ar gyfer y ddau is-grŵp cyngor partneriaeth gweithlu'r gwasanaeth cyhoeddus, ac mae hynny'n ddatblygiad

response to this debate. Also, it is on the agenda for a future meeting of a sub-group of the economic renewal council. The Permanent Secretary intends to raise this issue at a future meeting of Welsh Government sponsored bodies. We can only go so far, but we have a responsibility to further put this on the public governance agenda.

Angela Burns: I would like to reiterate one point: I want to see some kind of visible action for the many whistleblowers who have suffered so much. The second point is that the couple that I spoke of, with the charge regarding the disabled boy, are happy to go public in order to inform the debate, because they feel that they went everywhere to try to stop what was happening and that no-one listened to them. They want to prevent it from happening to another child in Wales.

Jane Hutt: The examples given today by Angela Burns, and the references made by Mark Isherwood and Joyce Watson are important. They are now on record. The Welsh Government seeks to provide leadership on the issue of whistleblowing in Wales. We will work with the auditor general and others to remind organisations of their responsibilities to ensure good practice is disseminated and that higher standards are achieved. This debate is now on the record and I will bring it to the attention of the relevant authorities and to Ministers for them to consider their response to this powerful debate.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That concludes today's proceedings.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.27 p.m.
The meeting ended at 6.27 p.m.*

Aelodau a'u Pleidiau Members and their Parties

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
 Antoniw, Mick (Llafur – Labour)
 Asghar, Mohammad (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Burns, Angela (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
 Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)

pwysig mewn ymateb i'r ddadl hon. Hefyd, mae ar yr agenda ar gyfer cyfarfod is-grŵp cyngor adnewyddu'r economi yn y dyfodol. Mae'r Ysgrifennydd Parhaol yn bwriadu codi'r mater hwn mewn cyfarfod o gyrrf a noddir gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn y dyfodol. Dim ond hyn a hyn y gallwn ei wneud, ond mae gennym gyfrifoldeb i roi hyn ar agenda llywodraethu'r sector cyhoeddus.

Angela Burns: Hoffwn ailadrodd un pwynt: rwyf am weld rhyw fath o gamau amlwg ar gyfer y bobl niferus sydd wedi dioddef cymaint wrth chwythu'r chwiban. Yr ail bwynt yw bod y pâr y siaradais amdanyst, gyda'r cyhuddiad yngylch y bachgen anabl, yn fodlon siarad am hyn yn gyhoeddus er mwyn bod yn sail i'r ddadl, oherwydd eu bod yn teimlo eu bod wedi mynd i bob man i geisio atal yr hyn a oedd yn digwydd ac nad oedd neb wedi gwrando arnynt. Maent am atal hyn rhag digwydd i blentyn arall yng Nghymru.

Jane Hutt: Mae'r enghreifftiau a roddwyd gan Angela Burns heddiw, a'r cyfeiriadau a wnaed gan Mark Isherwood a Joyce Watson, yn bwysig. Maent ar gofnod yn awr. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ceisio darparu arweiniad ar chwythu'r chwiban yng Nghymru. Byddwn yn gweithio gyda'r archwilydd cyffredinol ac eraill i atgoffa sefydliadau o'u cyfrifoldeb i sicrhau bod arfer da yn cael ei ledaenu a bod safonau uwch yn cael eu cyflawni. Mae'r ddadl hon yn awr wedi'i chofnodi a byddaf yn ei dwyn at sylw'r awdurdodau perthnasol a Gweinidogion er mwyn iddynt ystyried eu hymateb i'r ddadl bwerus hon.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Dyna ddiwedd ein trafodion am heddiw.

Davies, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Andrew R.T. (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Byron (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Davies, Keith (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Paul (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Suzy (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Drakeford, Mark (Llafur – Labour)
 Elis-Thomas, Yr Arglwydd/Lord (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Evans, Rebecca (Llafur – Labour)
 Finch-Saunders, Janet (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 George, Russell (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gething, Vaughan (Llafur – Labour)
 Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, Lesley (Llafur – Labour)
 Gruffydd, Llyr Huws (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
 Hedges, Mike (Llafur – Labour)
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 James, Julie (Llafur – Labour)
 Jenkins, Bethan (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
 Millar, Darren (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Julie (Llafur – Labour)
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
 Parrott, Eluned (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Powell, William (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Price, Gwyn R. (Llafur – Labour)
 Ramsay, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Rathbone, Jenny (Llafur – Labour)
 Rees, David (Llafur – Labour)
 Roberts, Aled (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Sandbach, Antoinette (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Sergeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
 Skates, Kenneth (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Thomas, Simon (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Watson, Joyce (Llafur – Labour)
 Whittle, Lindsay (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)