



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
(Y Cofnod Swyddogol)**

**The National Assembly for Wales
(The Official Record)**

Dydd Mercher 13 Tachwedd 2002

Wednesday 13 November 2002

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

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

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

Cwestiynau ar Lywodraeth Leol i'r Gweinidog Cyllid Questions on Local Government to the Finance Minister

Rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf Communities First Programme

Q1 Christine Chapman: What progress is being made on the implementation of the Communities First programme? (OAQ20226)

The Finance Minister (Edwina Hart): Good progress is being made in implementing Communities First. To date, 44 embryonic partnerships have been established to drive forward the programme, and others are in the process of being set up. Funding of approximately £19 million has been approved under the programme in 2002-03, for a wide range of preparatory and capacity-building activities. The Assembly Government published guidance for Communities First co-ordinators in July, and guidance for local authorities in August of this year. These supplement the generic Communities First guidance, which was issued last year and which is currently being updated.

Christine Chapman: I welcome the good progress that is being made. Do you agree that in order to secure the most effective community regeneration, this progress must be sustainable? It is vital that the private, public and voluntary sectors of each partnership are encouraged to contribute on an equal basis to the future of their communities. In some areas, it is a challenge to get some of these sectors on board. Do you agree that measures to engage local individuals should be innovative to ensure the widest involvement within the community? Do you also agree that there should be a mechanism for sharing best practice within the Communities First programme?

Edwina Hart: A plethora of mechanisms exist for sharing best practice but I agree with you on the nature of the partnerships—that is important. A good example can be found in Abercwmboi, where the partnership arrangement comprises 18 representatives from the statutory and business sectors. This

C1 Christine Chapman: Beth yw hynt y gwaith o roi'r rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ar waith? (OAQ20226)

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Edwina Hart): Gwneir cynnydd da ar weithredu'r rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Hyd yn hyn, sefydlwyd 44 o egin bartneriaethau i ddatblygu'r rhaglen, ac mae eraill yn cael eu sefydlu ar hyn o bryd. Cymeradwywyd cyllid o tua £19 miliwn o dan y rhaglen yn ystod 2002-03, ar gyfer ystod eang o weithgareddau paratoadol a chynyddu capasiti. Cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ganllawiau ar gyfer cydlynwyr Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ym mis Gorffennaf, ac ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol ym mis Awst eleni. Mae'r rhain yn atodol i ganllawiau cyffredinol Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, a gyhoeddwyd y llynedd ac sy'n cael eu diweddarau ar hyn o bryd.

Christine Chapman: Croesawaf y cynnydd da sy'n cael ei wneud. A gytunwch, er mwyn sicrhau'r adfywio cymunedol mwyaf effeithiol, y dylai'r cynnydd hwn fod yn gynaliadwy? Mae'n holl bwysig bod sectorau preifat, cyhoeddus a gwirfoddol pob partneriaeth yn cael eu hannog i gyfrannu'n gyfartal i ddyfodol eu cymunedau. Mewn rhai ardaloedd, mae'n her sicrhau cefnogaeth rhai o'r sectorau hyn. A gytunwch y dylai mesurau i gynnwys unigolion lleol fod yn ddyfeisgar er mwyn sicrhau'r cyfranogiad ehangaf o fewn y gymuned? A gytunwch hefyd y dylid cael dull o rannu arferion gorau o fewn y rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf?

Edwina Hart: Ceir dulliau lu o rannu arferion gorau ond cytunaf â chi ynglŷn â natur y partneriaethau—mae hynny'n bwysig. Ceir enghraifft dda yn Abercwmboi, lle mae'r cytundeb partneriaeth yn cynnwys 18 cynrychiolydd o'r sectorau statudol a busnes. Dyma'r ffordd ymlaen i Cymunedau

is the way forward for Communities First.

yn Gyntaf.

Janet Ryder: I am sure that you agree that national bodies do much good work in local wards under Communities First. Do you also agree that, where a national body puts forward a bid to develop work in a local ward, it should be agreed by the local partnership before its submission, and that monitoring mechanisms should be developed to ensure that consultation takes place? Do you monitor all bids made by national bodies under Communities First, to ensure that they are closely connected to work in local wards?

Janet Ryder: Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch fod cyrff cenedlaethol yn gwneud llawer o waith da mewn wardiau lleol o dan Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. A gytunwch hefyd, pan fydd corff cenedlaethol yn cyflwyno cais i ddatblygu gwaith mewn ward leol, y dylai gael ei gymeradwyo gan y bartneriaeth leol cyn cael ei gyflwyno'n derfynol, ac y dylid datblygu dulliau monitro i sicrhau bod ymgynghoriad yn digwydd? A ydych yn monitro pob cais a wneir gan gyrff cenedlaethol o dan Cymunedau yn Gyntaf i sicrhau bod ganddynt gysylltiad agos â gwaith mewn wardiau lleol?

Edwina Hart: We receive bids from national bodies, and it is important that I can give the necessary resources to good projects that fulfil the Communities First criteria. I believe that you are alluding to the Prince's Trust issue, on which you have written to me. I am aware that some work being done under Communities First is comparable to that undertaken by the Prince's Trust. The necessary arrangements have been made for organisations to meet and we will keep a close eye on this in future to ensure that there is no duplication of effort or waste of resources.

Edwina Hart: Cawn geisiadau gan gyrff cenedlaethol, ac mae'n bwysig fy mod yn gallu rhoi'r adnoddau angenrheidiol i brosiectau da sy'n bodloni meini prawf Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Credaf eich bod yn cyfeirio at fater Ymddiriedolaeth Tywysog Cymru, yr ysgrifenasoch ataf yn ei gylch. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol bod peth o'r gwaith a wneir o dan Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn debyg i'r hyn a wneir gan Ymddiriedolaeth Tywysog Cymru. Gwnaethpwyd y trefniadau angenrheidiol i sefydliadau gwrdd a byddwn yn cadw llygad barcud ar hyn yn y dyfodol er mwyn sicrhau na chaiff ymdrechion eu dyblygu ac na chaiff adnoddau eu gwastraffu.

Delyth Evans: I welcome the substantial sum of money that you have awarded through Communities First to three wards in Llanelli this week. The relevant communities will also welcome it. Do you believe that communities could be encouraged to think more creatively about the way in which this money could benefit them?

Delyth Evans: Croesawaf y swm sylweddol o arian a roddwyd gennych drwy Cymunedau yn Gyntaf i dair ward yn Llanelli yr wythnos hon. Bydd y cymunedau hynny yn ei groesawu hefyd. A gredwch y gellid annog cymunedau i feddwl yn fwy creadigol am sut y gallai'r arian hwn fod o fudd iddynt?

Edwina Hart: Many communities are already thinking creatively. Some have suggested that we make provision for more police officers on the beat in their area, and I am currently considering whether we could fund this. Some communities want improved street lighting and more police officers on the street rather than a community hall, for example. We could consider using Communities First money for such improvements.

Edwina Hart: Mae llawer o gymunedau eisoes yn meddwl yn greadigol. Mae rhai wedi awgrymu ein bod yn darparu mwy o heddlu ar y bîd yn eu hardal, ac yr wyf ar hyn o bryd yn ystyried a allwn ariannu hyn. Mae rhai cymunedau am gael goleuadau stryd gwell a mwy o heddlu ar y strydoedd yn hytrach na neuadd gymuned, er enghraifft. Gallem ystyried defnyddio arian Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ar gyfer gwelliannau o'r fath.

William Graham: Minister, will you

William Graham: Weinidog, a wnewch

comment on the availability of qualified community workers with neighbourhood working experience, and how their recruitment into project administration by local authorities is affecting the implementation of this and other community programmes?

Edwina Hart: There are some concerns about the employment capacity within the sector to undertake Communities First work. Concerns have been voiced, and the Local Government and Housing Committee has suggested a way forward in its report, involving more training and development. I will certainly reconsider the situation on the ground, William. We have not seen many examples of poaching staff recently, but you raise serious issues. I must move on and implement the Committee's report, to get more training facilities for people who work with their community.

Rosemary Butler: Everybody thinks that this is a marvellous scheme, Edwina; it is really innovative. However, is there any way of recording the process? The outcomes will be clear to us, but can we encourage project workers to keep photographic or video evidence of the process of communities developing? It is social history in the making, and it would be a shame if we missed the opportunity to record it.

Edwina Hart: It is a shame that the history of communities, the labour movement and others are never recorded. Grandiose displays in museums only record the history of the monarchy and the like. It is a good idea to watch how communities develop, and I will take that helpful suggestion on board.

sylwadau ar argaeledd gweithwyr cymunedol cymwys sydd â phrofiad o weithio mewn cymdogaethau, a sut y mae'r ffaith bod awdurdodau lleol yn eu recriwtio i weinyddu prosiectau yn effeithio ar weithredu'r rhaglen hon a rhaglenni cymunedol eraill?

Edwina Hart: Mae rhai pryderon ynglŷn â chapasiti'r sector, o ran y bobl a gyflogir, i ymgymryd â gwaith Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Mynegwyd pryderon, ac mae'r Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai wedi awgrymu ffordd ymlaen yn ei adroddiad, sy'n cynnwys mwy o waith hyfforddi a datblygu. Yn sicr, byddaf yn ailystyried y sefyllfa ar lawr gwlad, William. Nid ydym wedi gweld llawer o enghreifftiau o ddwyn staff yn ddiweddar, ond codwch fater difrifol. Rhaid imi symud ymlaen a gweithredu ar adroddiad y Pwyllgor, i sicrhau mwy o gyfleusterau hyfforddi ar gyfer pobl sy'n gweithio gyda'u cymunedau.

Rosemary Butler: Mae pawb yn credu bod hwn yn gynllun ardderchog, Edwina; mae'n hynod o ddyfeisgar. Fodd bynnag, a oes unrhyw fodd o gofnodi'r broses? Bydd y canlyniadau yn amlwg i ni, ond a allwn annog y rhai sy'n gweithio ar brosiectau i gadw tystiolaeth ffotograffig neu fideo o'r broses o ddatblygu cymunedau? Mae hanes cymdeithasol yn cael ei greu, a byddai'n drueni pe baem yn colli'r cyfle i'w gofnodi.

Edwina Hart: Mae'n drueni nad yw hanes cymunedau, y mudiad llafur nac eraill byth yn cael ei gofnodi. Dim ond hanes y frenhiniaeth neu bethau tebyg a gaiff ei gofnodi gan arddangosfeydd mawreddog mewn amgueddfeydd. Mae'n syniad da gwylio sut mae cymunedau'n datblygu, a byddaf yn ystyried yr awgrym defnyddiol hwnnw.

Mentrau Cyffuriau ac Alcohol Drug and Alcohol Initiatives

C2 David Lloyd: Pa fentrau i fynd i'r afael â chyffuriau ac alcohol y mae'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu'u lansio yn ystod yr hyn sy'n weddill o dymor y Llywodraeth? (OAQ20198)

Q2 David Lloyd: What drug and alcohol initiatives does the Minister plan to launch during the remainder of the Government's term? (OAQ20198)

Edwina Hart: I set out my proposals for

Edwina Hart: Nodais fy nghynigion ar gyfer

tackling substance misuse in Wales in my budget speech on 6 November. As I indicated in Committee today, this is an ever-evolving area in terms of the information that I continue to receive. I will try to provide whatever resources I can to develop this area over the next few months.

David Lloyd: O ble y mae'r arian yn dod i ariannu Ymgyrch Tarian?

Edwina Hart: I have indicated that there is a fund to pay for Operation Tarian. I have not yet made the final decision on the amounts available to it, but as soon as I have, I will advise Assembly Members.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): Minister, your recent announcement of extra funding for drug rehabilitation was certainly welcome. Drugs are devastating for both the individuals and for the community as a whole, as drug addicts are forced onto conveyor belts of crime to fund their habit. Has the Minister studied the excellent project in Nottinghamshire and also, I believe, in Rhondda, which is run by Drug Abuse Resistance Education (UK) Ltd and which impresses upon school children at an early age the dangers of drug addiction? Will the Minister commit resources to that project and encourage local authorities to follow the lead taken by DARE in Rhondda?

Edwina Hart: I recently met DARE staff, and was impressed by their work in Rhondda. I spoke to them about a way forward, as their work must be evaluated. I have also discussed the issue with chief constables, as some particularly valuable work has been undertaken in the primary sector. I hope that we can work with DARE in future to develop a programme across Wales that will be eminently suitable to address these issues in the early stages of a child's education.

John Griffiths: You have adopted a twin-track approach to tackling illegal and legal drugs, such as alcohol, and I agree with your approach. Do you agree that we need much more education on the dangers of alcohol

mynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio sylweddau yng Nghymru yn fy araith ar y gyllideb ar 6 Tachwedd. Fel y dywedais yn y Pwyllgor heddiw, mae hwn yn faes sy'n datblygu o hyd o ran y wybodaeth sy'n parhau i ddod i law. Ceisiaf ddarparu pa adnoddau bynnag a allaf i ddatblygu'r maes hwn dros yr ychydig fisoedd nesaf.

David Lloyd: From where is the money coming to fund Operation Tarian?

Edwina Hart: Nodais fod cronfa i dalu am Ymgyrch Tarian. Nid wyf wedi gwneud y penderfyniad terfynol eto ar y swm a fydd ar gael iddi, ond unwaith y gwnaf hynny, byddaf yn hysbysu Aelodau'r Cynulliad.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Weinidog, yr oedd eich cyhoeddiad diweddar am gyllid ychwanegol i adsefydlu'r rhai sy'n gaeth i gyffuriau yn sicr i'w groesawu. Mae cyffuriau yn ddinistriol i unigolion ac i gymunedau cyfan, gan fod y rhai sy'n gaeth i gyffuriau yn cael eu gorfodi i droseddu'n barhaus er mwyn ariannu eu dibyniaeth ar gyffuriau. A yw'r Gweinidog wedi astudio'r prosiect ardderchog yn Swydd Nottingham a hefyd, fe gredaf, yn y Rhondda, sy'n cael ei redeg gan Drug Abuse Resistance Education (UK) Cyf ac sy'n pwysleisio i blant ysgol ifanc beryglon bod yn gaeth i gyffuriau? A wnaiff y Gweinidog neilltuo adnoddau ar gyfer y prosiect hwnnw ac annog awdurdodau lleol i ddilyn yr arweiniad a roddir gan DARE yn y Rhondda?

Edwina Hart: Cyfarfûm yn ddiweddar â staff DARE, ac yr oeddwn yn llawn edmygedd o'u gwaith yn y Rhondda. Siaradais â hwy am y ffordd ymlaen, gan fod yn rhaid gwerthuso eu gwaith. Yr wyf hefyd wedi trafod y mater â phrif gwnstablaid, gan fod gwaith gwerthfawr iawn wedi ei wneud yn y sector cynradd. Gobeithiaf y gallwn gydweithio â DARE yn y dyfodol i ddatblygu rhaglen ledled Cymru a fydd yn gwbl addas i fynd i'r afael â'r materion hyn yn ystod blynnyddoedd cyntaf addysg plant.

John Griffiths: Mabwysiadwyd ymagwedd ddeuol gennych tuag at fynd i'r afael â chyffuriau anghyfreithlon a chyfreithlon, megis alcohol, a chytunaf â hynny. A gytunwch fod angen llawer mwy o addysg

because we have a culture of binge drinking, which results in so much violent crime in our communities and society?

arnom ar beryglon alcohol gan fod gennym ddiwylliant o oryfed, sy'n arwain at gymaint o droseddau treisiol yn ein cymunedau a chymdeithas?

Edwina Hart: How to deal with illegal and legal drugs, particularly alcohol, is an issue. We have been successful in conveying our message about tobacco. There is no tobacco advertising, so perhaps there should not be any alcohol advertising either. The Local Government and Housing Committee will discuss those issues shortly.

Edwina Hart: Mae'r ffordd o ymdrin â chyffuriau anghyfreithiol a chyfreithiol yn broblem. Buom yn llwyddiannus wrth gyfleu ein neges am dybaco. Nid oes hysbysebion tybaco, felly efallai na ddylid cael unrhyw hysbysebion alcohol ychwaith. Bydd y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai yn trafod y materion hynny cyn bo hir.

Llwybrau Diogel i'r Ysgol Safe Routes to School

Q3 Jonathan Morgan: How frequently does the Minister meet with officials from Cardiff County Council to discuss issues of community safety relating to Safe Routes to School? (OAQ20227)

C3 Jonathan Morgan: Pa mor aml y bydd y Gweinidog yn cyfarfod â swyddogion Cyngor Sir Caerdydd i drafod materion diogelwch cymunedol sy'n ymwneud â Llwybrau Diogel i'r Ysgol? (OAQ20227)

Edwina Hart: The Safe Routes to School initiative is primarily a matter for the Minister for Environment. I meet with Cardiff County Council at its request to discuss many issues.

Edwina Hart: Mater ar gyfer y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd yn bennaf yw'r fenter Llwybrau Diogel i'r Ysgol. Byddaf yn cwrdd â Chyngor Sir Caerdydd yn ôl y gofyn i drafod sawl mater.

Jonathan Morgan: I am sure that the Minister agrees that Safe Routes to School will be of prime concern and interest to people in the capital city, because it could be one aspect of a community safety policy. Can you give any examples of how projects have been rolled out in Cardiff and, indeed, across South Wales Central, which I represent? If this project is so important, with some £8 million being allocated in future years, we should hopefully see some progress. Can you give us an example?

Jonathan Morgan: Yr wyf yn siŵr bod y Gweinidog yn cytuno y bydd Llwybrau Diogel i'r Ysgol o bwys a diddordeb mawr i bobl yn y brifddinas, gan y gallai fod yn un agwedd ar bolisi diogelwch cymunedol. A allwch roi unrhyw enghreifftiau o sut y cyflwynwyd prosiectau yng Nghaerdydd, ac yn wir, ledled Canol De Cymru, a gynrychiolir gennych? Os yw'r prosiect hwn mor bwysig, gyda thua £8 miliwn yn cael ei neilltuo yn y blynyddoedd i ddod, y gobaith yw y dylem weld peth cynnydd. A allwch roi enghraifft inni?

Edwina Hart: I see that my colleague, the Minister for Environment, is here, and I am sure that she can consider giving some excellent examples of Safe Routes to School initiatives. However, I will update Assembly Members on how community safety measures are being rolled out across Wales, including in Cardiff.

Edwina Hart: Gwelaf fod fy nghyd-Weinidog, y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, yma, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y gall ystyried rhoi rhai enghreifftiau ardderchog o fentrau Llwybrau Diogel i'r Ysgol. Fodd bynnag, byddaf yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i Aelodau'r Cynulliad am sut y mae mesurau diogelwch cymunedol yn cael eu cyflwyno ar draws Cymru, gan gynnwys yng Nghaerdydd.

2:10 p.m.

Alun Pugh: Safe Routes to School is a popular and worthwhile Assembly Government programme. On Monday of this week, I was able to cut the first turf on an Assembly-funded footbridge in Kinnel Bay. Will you look favourably at some imaginative proposals from Conwy to safeguard children on their way to school?

Edwina Hart: Sue Essex and myself are always delighted to look at any imaginative proposals in terms of children's safety on their way to school. Safe Routes to School has proved to be a wonderful initiative, and I know that Sue Essex awaits developments in that area.

Owen John Thomas: Three and four-year-olds, as well as 17 and 18-year-olds, are currently excluded from the statutory arrangements that make provision for free transport to and from school. Will you add your support to the campaign to persuade the UK Government to amend current statutory arrangements and thus improve the safety of three and four-year-olds and 17 and 18-year-olds making long journeys to school?

Edwina Hart: That is a transport issue, but I will consider the issues that you raise.

Alun Pugh: Mae Llwybrau Diogel i'r Ysgol yn un o raglenni poblogaidd a gwerth chweil Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Ddydd Llun yr wythnos hon, torrais y dywarchen gyntaf ar bont droed ym Mae Cinnel a ariannwyd gan y Cynulliad. A wnewch chi roi ystyriaeth garedig i rai cynigion dyfeisgar gan Gonwy i ddiogelu plant ar eu ffordd i'r ysgol?

Edwina Hart: Bydd Sue Essex a minnau bob amser yn falch o edrych ar unrhyw gynigion dyfeisgar o ran diogelwch plant ar eu ffordd i'r ysgol. Mae'r fenter Llwybrau Diogel i'r Ysgol yn fenter wych, a gwn fod Sue Essex yn disgwyl datblygiadau yn y maes hwnnw.

Owen John Thomas: Ar hyn o bryd, caiff plant tair a phedair oed, yn ogystal â phobl ifanc 17 ac 18 oed, eu heithrio o'r trefniadau statudol sy'n darparu trafnidiaeth am ddim i'r ysgol ac oddi yno. A wnewch chi gefnogi'r ymgyrch i ddarbwylllo Llywodraeth y DU i ddiwygio trefniadau statudol presennol ac, o ganlyniad, wella diogelwch plant tair a phedair oed a phobl ifanc 17 a 18 oed sy'n teithio'n bell i'r ysgol?

Edwina Hart: Mae hyn yn fater sy'n ymwneud â thrafnidiaeth, ond ystyriaf y materion a godwch.

Anghydfodau Lleol Local Disputes

Q4 Alun Cairns: What guidance is available to Welsh local authorities regarding the conduct of members in handling local disputes? (OAQ20181)

Edwina Hart: On 21 June 2001, the Assembly approved regulations that put in place a new and robust framework to promote the observance of consistent standards of conduct by all local government elected members in Wales. The Assembly Government consulted over the summer on draft guidance on the new framework. Consultation responses are being considered, and final guidance will be prepared before the end of the year.

Alun Cairns: What action does the Minister suggest taking against the leader of Bridgend

C4 Alun Cairns: Pa ganllawiau sydd ar gael i awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru ynghylch ymddygiad aelodau wrth ddelio ag anghydfodau lleol? (OAQ20181)

Edwina Hart: Ar 21 Mehefin 2001, cymeradwyodd y Cynulliad reoliadau a roddodd fframwaith newydd a chadarn ar waith i annog pob aelod etholedig o lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru i gadw at safonau ymddygiad cyson. Dros yr haf, ymgynghorodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar ganllawiau drafft ar y fframwaith newydd. Mae ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad wrthi'n cael eu hystyried, a pharatoir y canllawiau terfynol cyn diwedd y flwyddyn.

Alun Cairns: Pa gamau yr awgryma'r Gweinidog y dylid eu cymryd yn erbyn

County Borough Council, when, in seeking to defend his position on the proposed Island Farm development, he called all Germans 'Nazis' in referring to the prisoner of war camp?

Edwina Hart: It would be inappropriate for me to comment about the behaviour of a local authority leader. I am sure that it will be dealt with in another place, if that is appropriate.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: O ystyried yr ieithwedd a ddefnyddir yn achlysurol gan y Ceidwadwyr yn y Siambr wrth gyfeirio at wahanol garfannau yn ein cymdeithas, a gytunwch bod angen i rai Aelodau yn y grŵp arbennig hwnnw gael hyfforddiant ynglŷn â'r ffordd gywir i gyfeirio at bobl?

Edwina Hart: I cannot comment on that.

arweinydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, pan, galwodd pob Almaenwr yn 'Natsïaid' wrth gyfeirio at y gwersyll carcharorion rhyfel pan oedd yn ceisio amddiffyn ei safiad ar ddatblygiadau arfaethedig Island Farm?

Edwina Hart: Byddai'n amhriodol i mi wneud sylwadau am ymddygiad arweinydd awdurdod lleol. Yr wyf yn siŵr yr ymdrinnir â'r mater mewn lle arall, os yw hynny'n briodol.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Considering the language occasionally used by the Conservatives in the Chamber when referring to different sections of our society, do you agree that some Members of that particular group need training on the correct way to refer to people?

Edwina Hart: Ni allaf wneud sylw am hynny.

Cyffuriau Dosbarth A Class A Drugs

Q5 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the policy measures being pursued to respond to the growing supply of class A drugs along the north Wales coast? (OAQ20206)

Edwina Hart: Responsibility for operational policing matters is not devolved and rests with the Home Office. However, the North Wales Police force's policy is to be particularly tough on those people who use or trade in banned substances. It is one of the force's top three policy areas. While being tough on drug dealers, the police encourage people with substance misuse problems to seek rehabilitation. North Wales Police is promoting the arrest referral scheme, and it is one of six police authorities across the UK which is conducting a two-year drug testing pilot for people held in custody. The communities against drugs programme is supporting a range of initiatives to tackle drug-related crime and trafficking across north Wales.

C5 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y camau sy'n cael eu cymryd i ymateb i'r cyflenwad cynyddol o gyffuriau dosbarth A ar hyd arfordir y Gogledd? (OAQ20206)

Edwina Hart: Nid yw'r cyfrifoldeb dros faterion plismona gweithredol yn fater datganoledig. Y Swyddfa Gartref sy'n gyfrifol am hynny. Fodd bynnag, polisi Heddlu Gogledd Cymru yw bod yn llym iawn ar y bobl hynny sy'n defnyddio neu sy'n gwerthu sylweddau a waharddwyd. Mae'n un o dri maes polisi pwysicaf yr heddlu. Wrth fod yn llym ar y bobl sy'n gwerthu cyffuriau, bydd yr heddlu yn annog pobl sy'n dioddef o broblemau camddefnyddio sylweddau i chwilio am gymorth ymadfer. Mae heddlu Gogledd Cymru yn hyrwyddo'r cynllun cyfeirio ar ôl arestio, ac mae'n un o chwe awdurdod heddlu ledled y DU sy'n cynnal rhaglen beilot dwy flynedd o brofion cyffuriau i bobl a gedwir yn y ddalfa. Mae'r rhaglen cymunedau yn erbyn cyffuriau yn cefnogi ystod o fentrau i fynd i'r afael â throseddau sy'n ymwneud â chyffuriau a gwerthu cyffuriau ledled gogledd Cymru.

Ann Jones: I thank you for the £88,000 for Rhyl, which was announced in your budget statement last week. I was also pleased to hear the announcement of £12 million in ring-fenced funding for treatment services for people who need help in kicking their dependency. Do you share my view that we need an intelligence-led effort to target the dealers in misery, along with the organised gangs who supply them, alongside better facilities to help addicts, so that young lives do not disappear down the drain of drug addiction? Do you agree that such a twin-track approach is the best way to halt the spread of the scourge of hard drugs in Rhyl, and across the north Wales coast?

Ann Jones: Diolchaf ichi am yr £88,000 ar gyfer y Rhyl, a gyhoeddwyd yn eich datganiad cyllideb yr wythnos diwethaf. Yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed y cyhoeddiad am y £12 miliwn a neilltuwyd yn arbennig ar gyfer gwasanaethau i drin pobl y mae angen help arnynt i ddod dros eu dibyniaeth. A ydych yn cyd-fynd fod angen inni gael ymgyrch wedi ei harwain gan wybodaeth i dargedu'r gwerthwyr dieflig, ynghyd â'r grwpiau o droseddwr sy'n cyflenwi cyffuriau iddynt, yn ogystal â gwell cyfleusterau i helpu'r rhai sy'n gaeth, fel na fydd bywydau ifanc yn diflannu i bydew caethiwed i gyffuriau. A gytunwch mai ymagwedd ddeuol o'r fath yw'r ffordd orau o atal y pla o gyffuriau caled yn y Rhyl ac ar hyd arfordir gogledd Cymru?

Edwina Hart: I agree with the twin-track approach, and it is essential that we deal with the rehabilitation issues, as well as gathering enough intelligence to deal with the dealers and put them away in the appropriate place.

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf â'r ymagwedd ddeuol, ac mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn mynd i'r afael â'r materion adsefydlu, yn ogystal â chasglu digon o wybodaeth i fynd i'r afael a'r gwerthwyr cyffuriau a'u rhoi yn y lle priodol.

David Ian Jones: Do you agree that it is necessary to educate young people about the extreme dangers of class A drugs, such as heroin and cocaine, and the devastation that they can wreak on their lives? In that context, what is the role of the chief constable of North Wales Police?

David Ian Jones: A gytunwch fod angen addysgu pobl ifanc am beryglon eithriadol cyffuriau dosbarth A, megis heroin a chocâin a'r niwed y gallant ei achosi yn eu bywydau? Beth yw rôl prif gwnstabl Heddlu Gogledd Cymru o fewn y cyd-destun hwnnw?

Edwina Hart: I do not comment on matters concerning the chief constable because they are Home Office responsibilities. However, I agree that we must educate young people about the dangers of drugs, as I said in my response to Nick Bourne when discussing the success of the DARE project.

Edwina Hart: Ni fyddaf yn gwneud sylw am faterion sy'n ymwneud â'r prif gwnstabl gan mai cyfrifoldebau'r Swyddfa Gartref ydynt. Fodd bynnag, cytunaf y dylem addysgu ein pobl ifanc am beryglon cyffuriau, fel y dywedais wrth ymateb i Nick Bourne yn ystod y drafodaeth ynglŷn â llwyddiant prosiect DARE.

Gareth Jones: Mae'r epidemig cyffuriau yn argyfwng sy'n effeithio ar bob rhan o Gymru, gan gynnwys cymunedau yn fy etholaeth, Conwy. A gytunwch, wrth drin y sawl sy'n gaeth i gyffuriau ac yn y frwydr yn erbyn gwerthwyr cyffuriau, y byddai'n fanteisiol pe bai cyfrifoldeb am heddluoedd Cymru yn cael ei drosglwyddo i'r Cynulliad? Byddai hefyd yn fanteisiol pe bai enillion ariannol y gwerthwyr hynny yn cael eu hailfuddsoddi mewn rhaglenni adfer a chynnal ar gyfer y teuluoedd a'r cymunedau hynny sy'n dioddef

Gareth Jones: The drug epidemic is a crisis that affects every part of Wales, including communities in my constituency, Conwy. Do you agree that it would be advantageous, in terms of treating those addicted to drugs and in the battle against drug dealers, if responsibility for Wales's police forces were transferred to the Assembly? It would also be advantageous if the financial gains of those dealers were reinvested in rehabilitation programmes and support for those families and communities that suffer as a result of the

effeithiau camdrin cyffuriau.

effects of drug misuse.

Edwina Hart: There is a definite issue of resource deployment and availability to ensure that we can deal with the issues, particularly rehabilitation, in affected areas. I will not comment on devolving responsibility for the police to the National Assembly because it is not currently a devolved matter. The whole anti-drugs policy agenda is driven by the Home Office. However, I welcome the good relationship that has developed between myself and the four chief constables and police authorities in Wales, which has enabled this administration to assist financially in tackling these problems.

Edwina Hart: Yn sicr mae angen ystyried yr adnoddau sydd ar gael a'r ffordd y dylid eu defnyddio er mwyn sicrhau y gallwn fynd i'r afael â'r materion, yn arbennig adsefydlu, mewn ardaloedd yr effeithir arnynt. Ni wnaf unrhyw sylwadau ar ddatganoli cyfrifoldebau'r heddlu i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol gan nad yw'n fater datganoledig. Caiff holl agenda'r polisi gwrth-gyffuriau ei lywio gan y Swyddfa Gartref. Fodd bynnag, croesawaf y berthynas dda a ddatblygwyd rhyngof fi a'r pedwar prif gwnstabl a'r pedwar awdurdod heddlu yng Nghymru, sydd wedi galluogi'r weinyddiaeth hon i roi cymorth ariannol i fynd i'r afael â'r problemau hyn.

Y Llywydd: Mae cwestiwn 6 (OAQ20221) wedi ei dynnu yn ôl.

The Presiding Officer: Question 6 (OAQ20221) has been withdrawn.

Cynnydd yn y Dreth Gyngor Council Tax Increases

Q7 Alun Cairns: What steps is the Minister taking to ensure council tax increases next year are limited to inflation? (OAQ20182)

C7 Alun Cairns: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog yn eu cymryd i sicrhau na fydd y cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor y flwyddyn nesaf yn uwch na chwyddiant? (OAQ20182)

Edwina Hart: The level of council tax is a matter for each local authority.

Edwina Hart: Mae lefel y dreth gyngor yn fater i bob awdurdod lleol.

Alun Cairns: I am staggered by the Minister's refusal to accept any responsibility when she has the right to cap proposed council tax increases. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has increased taxes through national insurance contributions, pension funds and a host of other issues that will take effect from 1 April. Is it not time for the Labour administration to cut taxes such as council taxes, where it can?

Alun Cairns: Synnaf yn fawr at y Gweinidog am beidio â derbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb pan fo'r hawl ganddi i gapio cynnydd arfaethedig yn y dreth gyngor. Mae Canghellor y Trysorlys wedi cynyddu trethi drwy gyfraniadau yswiriant gwladol, cronfeydd pensiwn a llu o faterion eraill a ddaw i rym o 1 Ebrill. Onid yw'n bryd i'r weinyddiaeth Lafur dorri trethi, megis y dreth gyngor, lle y gall wneud hynny?

Edwina Hart: Council tax is entirely a matter for local authorities. It is they who judge the appropriate level of services. The local government settlement will be announced on 28 November, and I think that the rise is around 7 per cent, which will allow local authorities to deliver better services.

Edwina Hart: Mater i awdurdodau lleol yn llwyr yw'r dreth gyngor. Hwyr sy'n penderfynu ar y lefelau priodol o wasanaethau. Cyhoeddir y setliad llywodraeth leol ar 28 Tachwedd, a chredaf mai tua 7 y cant fydd y cynnydd, a fydd yn galluogi awdurdodau lleol i ddarparu gwell gwasanaethau.

Richard Edwards: Taking a different tack to comrade Cairns, what steps can you take to

Richard Edwards: Gan fynd ar drywydd gwahanol i'r cymrawd Cairns, pa gamau y

guard against the artificial suppression of council tax rates in some authorities at the expense of the most vulnerable members of society, who are users or would-be users of social services?

Edwina Hart: In this year's budget, we have put much additional money into the health and social services budget. There will be substantial specific grants and good settlements for the revenue support grant. I would hope that local authorities would not do that. It is important that they recognise their responsibilities for social services and the needs of the most vulnerable in society. I would expect them to look closely at how they spend their money in that regard. If Members wish to draw my attention to specific examples, I will be delighted to consider them.

Tom Middlehurst: Is this not yet another example of the command and control mentality of the principal opposition parties in the Chamber? They want to tell local government what to do and how to do it. Is it not healthier to pursue a relationship such as the one that you are developing on behalf of the Labour Party to ensure a meaningful partnership with local government? As you have already said, local authorities are allowed to set the council tax that is necessary to deliver services on behalf of their communities.

Edwina Hart: It is important that local government decides the level of council tax itself. Each authority must face its own electorate and will stand on its record. I have never had a local authority leader, including the leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, ask me to change my policy in this regard.

gallwch eu cymryd i warchod rhag ffug ffrwyno y dreth gyngor mewn rhai awdurdodau ar draul aelodau mwyaf diamddiffyn cymdeithas, sy'n ddefnyddwyr neu'n ddarpar-ddefnyddwyr y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol?

Edwina Hart: Yn y gyllideb eleni, yr ydym wedi rhoi llawer o arian ychwanegol i'r gyllideb iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Bydd grantiau penodol sylweddol a setliadau da ar gyfer y grant cynnal refeniw. Gobeithiaf na fydd awdurdodau lleol yn gwneud hynny. Mae'n bwysig eu bod yn cydnabod eu cyfrifoldebau dros wasanaethau cymdeithasol ac anghenion pobl fwyaf diamddiffyn ein cymdeithas. Disgwyliaf iddynt edrych yn graff ar sut y maent yn gwario eu harian yn hynny o beth. Os yw Aelodau yn dymuno tynnu fy sylw at enghreifftiau penodol, byddwn yn falch o'u hystyried.

Tom Middlehurst: Onid yw hyn yn enghraifft arall eto o feddylfryd reolaethol y prif wrthbleidiau yn y Siambr? Maent am ddweud wrth lywodraeth leol beth i'w wneud a sut i'w wneud. Onid yw'n iachach meithrin perthynas megis y berthynas yr ydych yn ei datblygu ar ran y Blaid Lafur i sicrhau partneriaeth ystyrlon â llywodraeth leol? Fel y dywedasoeh eisoes, gall awdurdodau lleol bennu y dreth gyngor yn ôl yr hyn sydd ei angen i ddarparu gwasanaethau ar ran eu cymunedau?

Edwina Hart: Mae'n bwysig mai llywodraeth leol ei hun sy'n penderfynu ar lefel y dreth gyngor. Rhaid i bob awdurdod wynebu ei etholwyr ei hun a rhaid iddo frwydro etholiad ar ei record. Ni chefais erioed arweinydd yr un awdurdod lleol, gan gynnwys Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, yn gofyn i mi newid fy mholisi ar hyn.

Meithrin Gallu'r Gymuned Building Community Capacity

Q8 John Griffiths: Will the Minister make a statement on progress in building community capacity in our most deprived communities? (OAQ20185)

Edwina Hart: Building community capacity

C8 John Griffiths: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am hynt y gwaith o feithrin gallu'r gymuned yn ein cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig? (OAQ20185)

Edwina Hart: Mae meithrin gallu'r

in our most deprived communities is a success and a key element of the Communities First programme. The majority of Communities First areas are undertaking preparatory activities prior to focusing on their capacity-building plans to ensure that individuals have adequate skills to implement the programme.

John Griffiths: In Ringland, Alway, Underwood and elsewhere in Newport East, a small number of dedicated community activists are making a positive difference to their communities. That small number is a precious resource if we are to realise our hopes and ambitions. Can we explore every possibility to ensure that all possible assistance is given to those people so that they are not out of pocket because of their activities?

Edwina Hart: There is an issue that some things always seem to fall to the same people in communities. That is why capacity building is so important. It is important that we recognise the role of these volunteers. In light of the points that you made, I will examine this issue.

David Davies: In all the communities mentioned by John Griffiths, and in many of the most deprived communities in Wales, the biggest problem faced by the inhabitants is that of persistent criminality. Do you agree that dealing firmly—and harshly in some cases—with persistent criminals would do as much, if not more, than schemes such as Communities First, to improve the lives of the inhabitants of those communities?

2:20 p.m.

Edwina Hart: You must approach many issues concerning communities by means of a twin or a triple-pronged attack. You must consider whether the communities themselves want to take action and give them the capacity and the resources to do so. You must work with, and support, the police to tackle the criminality issue. You must also arrange support for the wide range of organisations that work on community improvement—it is the carrot and stick

gymuned yn ein cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig yn llwyddiant ac yn elfen allweddol o'r rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Mae mwyafrif yr ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn ymgymryd â gwaith paratoi cyn canolbwyntio ar eu cynlluniau meithrin gallu er mwyn sicrhau bod unigolion yn meddu ar sgiliau digonol i weithredu'r rhaglen.

John Griffiths: Yn Ringland, Alway, Underwood ac ardaloedd eraill yn Nwyrain Casnewydd, mae nifer fach o weithredwyr cymunedol ymroddedig yn gwneud gwahaniaeth cadarnhaol i'w cymunedau. Mae'r nifer fach hwnnw yn adnodd gwerthfawr os ydym am wireddu ein gobeithion a'n huchelgeisiau. A allwn archwilio pob posibilrwydd i sicrhau y rhoddir pob cymorth posibl i'r bobl hynny fel nad ydynt ar eu colled oherwydd eu gweithgareddau?

Edwina Hart: Mae pryder fod rhai pethau fel pe baent yn disgyn ar yr un bobl mewn cymunedau. Dyna pam mae meithrin gallu mor bwysig. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cydnabod rôl y gwirfoddolwyr hyn. Yng ngoleuni'r pwyntiau a wnaethoch, archwiliaf y mater hwn.

David Davies: Ym mhob un o'r cymunedau y cyfeiriodd John Griffiths atynt, ac mewn llawer o'r cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru, y broblem fwyaf sy'n wynebu'r trigolion yw troseddu parhaus. A gytunwch y byddai ymdrin â'r rhai sy'n troseddu'n barhaus yn gadarn—ac yn llym mewn rhai achosion—yn cyflawni cymaint, os nad mwy, na chynlluniau megis Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, i wella bywydau trigolion y cymunedau hynny?

Edwina Hart: Rhaid mynd i'r afael â sawl mater sy'n ymwneud â chymunedau drwy ymgyrch ddeuol neu driphlyg. Rhaid ichi ystyried a yw'r cymunedau eu hunain am weithredu a rhoi iddynt y gallu a'r adnoddau i wneud hynny. Rhaid ichi gydweithio â'r heddlu a'u cynorthwyo i fynd i'r afael â thorcyfraith. Rhaid ichi hefyd drefnu cymorth i'r ystod eang o sefydliadau sy'n ymwneud â gwella'r gymuned—hynny yw, cynnig abwyd iddynt. Rhaid i gymunedau eu hunain

approach. Communities themselves must tackle these issues and help drive out crime. At the same time, we must support the police when they require our assistance.

fynd i'r afael â'r materion hyn a helpu i gael gwared â throseddau. Ar yr un pryd, rhaid inni gynorthwyo'r heddlu pan fydd angen ein cymorth arnynt.

Rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf Communities First Programme

Q9 Jonathan Morgan: Will the Minister make a statement on the progress of the Communities First programme? (OAQ20229)

C9 Jonathan Morgan: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am hynt y rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf? (OAQ20229)

Edwina Hart: I refer you to my earlier answer to Christine Chapman's question.

Edwina Hart: Fe'ch cyfeiraf at fy ateb cynharach i gwestiwn Christine Chapman.

Jonathan Morgan: Will you outline particular projects that have been successful within the south Wales region, particularly within South Wales Central—the region that I represent—which includes Pontypridd, Rhondda and the Cynon valley? Will you outline how Communities First projects have helped those deprived communities and young people in particular?

Jonathan Morgan: A wnewch chi amlinellu prosiectau penodol a fu'n llwyddiannus yn y De, yn arbennig Canol De Cymru—y rhanbarth a gynrychiolaf—sy'n cynnwys Pontypridd, Rhondda a chwm Cynon? A wnewch chi amlinellu sut y mae prosiectau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf wedi helpu'r cymunedau difreintiedig hynny a phobl ifanc yn arbennig?

Edwina Hart: I have been pleased with the exceptionally good progress that has been made in Rhondda Cynon Taf, with 14 of the 21 designated areas forming embryonic partnerships. I am meeting with Councillor Russell Goodway shortly to discuss Communities First developments in Cardiff.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf wedi bod yn falch o'r cynnydd ardderchog a wnaed yn Rhondda Cynon Taf. Mae 14 o'r 21 ardal a ddynodwyd yn llunio egin-bartneriaethau. Byddaf yn cwrdd â'r Cynghorydd Russell Goodway cyn bo hir i drafod datblygiadau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yng Nghaerdydd.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr wyf yn falch o glywed newyddion da am Rhondda Cynon Taf. Fodd bynnag, mewn perthynas â Chymru gyfan, a ydych yn monitro yr holl geisiadau er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn codi o'r gwreiddiau, a'u bod yn gyson â dyheadau cymunedau lleol?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I am glad to hear good news regarding Rhondda Cynon Taf. However, on an all-Wales basis, are you monitoring each and every application in order to ensure that they are emanating from the grass roots, and that they are consistent with local communities' aspirations?

Edwina Hart: Every application received is monitored against the criteria and, in the main, I believe that I am satisfied that these partnerships represent what communities want. However, I am always aware that difficulties sometimes emerge—you know what it is like with community partnerships. If there are any problems that Members can draw to my attention, I would be grateful.

Edwina Hart: Caiff pob cais a ddaw i law ei fonitro yn erbyn y meini prawf ac, ar y cyfan, credaf fy mod yn fodlon bod y partneriaethau hyn yn cynrychioli dyheadau cymunedau. Fodd bynnag, byddaf bob amser yn ymwybodol bod anawsterau yn codi weithiau—gwyddoch sut y mae partneriaethau cymunedol. Os oes unrhyw broblemau y gall yr Aelodau ddwyn ger fy mron, byddwn yn ddiolchgar.

Stoc Tai Awdurdodau Lleol Local Authority Housing Stock

Q10 William Graham: Will the Minister make a statement on local authority housing stock that has been vacant for more than six months? (OAQ20189)

Edwina Hart: At the end of March 2001, about 3,600 local authority units had been vacant for six months or more—2 per cent of the total stock. Of the vacancies, 45 per cent were ready for letting, 22 per cent would be ready for letting following minor repairs or major works, 17 per cent were being held back, 2 per cent were to be sold and 14 per cent were awaiting demolition. Each local authority must respond to the problems of long-term voids, but, to assist, we have issued good practice guidance on voids and low demand. We have also provided revenue funding for landlords to pilot innovative approaches to tackling issues of low demand. We continually monitor the situation through annual performance indicator returns.

William Graham: Will you undertake to monitor the way in which local authorities attempt to relet their housing as soon as possible? You will be aware that one authority in Wales discovered, through its scrutiny committee, that one flat had been vacant for 17 years.

Edwina Hart: I will certainly continue to monitor and if it is helpful, I will prepare an updated report for the Local Government and Housing Committee.

C10 William Graham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am stoc tai sy'n eiddo i'r awdurdodau lleol sydd wedi bod yn wag ers mwy na chwe mis? (OAQ20189)

Edwina Hart: Ar ddiwedd mis Mawrth 2001, yr oedd tua 3,600 o unedau awdurdodau lleol wedi bod yn wag ers chwe mis neu fwy—2 y cant o'r stoc gyfan. O'r rhai oedd yn wag, yr oedd 45 yn barod i'w gosod, byddai 22 yn barod i'w gosod ar ôl mân waith trwsio neu waith mawr, yr oedd 17 yn cael eu dal yn ôl, yr oedd 2 y cant yn cael eu gwerthu ac yr oedd 14 y cant ar fin cael eu dymchwel. Rhaid i bob awdurdod lleol ymateb i broblemau o ran eiddo gwag hirdymor, ond, er mwyn bod o gymorth, yr ydym wedi cyhoeddi canllawiau arferion da ar gyfer eiddo gwag a diffyg galw. Yr ydym hefyd wedi darparu cyllid refeniw i landlordiaid gynnal rhaglen beilot o ffyrdd dyfeisgar o fynd i'r afael â materion o ddiffyg galw. Byddwn yn monitro'r sefyllfa yn barhaus drwy ganlyniadau dangosyddion perfformiad blyneddol.

William Graham: A wnewch chi ymgymryd i fonitro'r ffordd y bydd awdurdodau lleol yn ceisio ailosod eu tai cyn gynted â phosibl? Byddwch yn ymwybodol bod un awdurdod yng Nghymru, drwy ei bwyllgor craffu, wedi darganfod fod un fflat wedi bod yn wag ers 17 mlynedd.

Edwina Hart: Byddaf yn sicr yn parhau i fonitro, ac os yw'n ddefnyddiol, byddaf yn paratoi adroddiad wedi'i ddiweddarau ar gyfer y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd Questions to the Minister for Environment

Targedau Ailgylchu Recycling Targets

Q1 John Griffiths: Will the Minister make a statement on progress in meeting the National Assembly's recycling targets? (OAQ20137)

The Minister for Environment (Sue Essex): The average recycling and

C1 John Griffiths: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am yr hyn sy'n cael ei wneud i gyrraedd targedau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ar gyfer ailgylchu? (OAQ20137)

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd (Sue Essex): Saith y cant oedd cyfraddau

composting rate of our local authorities for 2001-02 was 7 per cent. This year, that figure should increase towards the 15 per cent target that was set for 2003-04, using the considerable additional funding provided by the Welsh Assembly Government. Further targets aim for the recycling of at least 40 per cent of municipal waste by each authority by 2009-10.

John Griffiths: If we are to achieve our targets, one major challenge facing us is the need to change people's attitudes and practices. I know that you recognise Newport Wastesavers as an exemplar of best practice in Wales, and it was recognised with a '10 of the Best' environmental award in a recent ceremony held in the Assembly. It has tremendously ambitious plans for new state-of-the-art premises in Newport East, and it also has plans to extend its green box kerbside collections to include plastic and establishing a separate scheme for kitchen waste. It envisages having weekly recycling collections of waste from green boxes and fortnightly collections of other waste. Do you agree that we must make changes on that scale if we are to achieve our targets?

Sue Essex: I attended the '10 of the Best' awards reception held in the Assembly hall the week before last. I was pleased that Newport Wastesavers won an award as it has a good track record. The work of such organisations has informed the action that we are taking on waste and played an important part in the development of the waste strategy.

We need to change public awareness of this issue, as you rightly said. We have a waste awareness programme because we must ensure that people understand what we are trying to achieve in addition to establishing the supply side, which is what Newport Wastesavers is doing. The schemes that you mentioned are important in terms of making it possible for the public to comply with recycling targets. We must make it easy for people to do that.

ailgylchu a chompostio cyfartalog ein hawdurdodau lleol ar gyfer 2001-02. Eleni, dylai'r ffigur hwnnw gynyddu tua'r targed o 15 y cant a osodwyd ar gyfer 2003-04, gan ddefnyddio'r swm sylweddol o arian ychwanegol a ddarparwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Mae targedau eraill yn anelu at sicrhau bod pob awdurdod yn ailgylchu o leiaf 40 y cant o wastraff dinesig erbyn 2009-10.

John Griffiths: Er mwyn inni gyflawni ein targedau, un brif her sy'n ein hwynebu yw'r angen i newid agweddau ac arferion pobl. Gwn eich bod yn ystyried Wastesavers Casnewydd fel enghraifft o arfer gorau yng Nghymru, ac fe'i cydnabuwyd â gwobr amgylchedd '10 o'r Gorau' mewn seremoni a gynhaliwyd yn y Cynulliad yn ddiweddar. Mae ganddo gynlluniau uchelgeisiol iawn ar gyfer safle newydd modern yn Nwyrain Casnewydd, ac mae ganddo gynlluniau hefyd i ymestyn ei gasgliadau blwch gwyrdd ymyl y ffordd i gynnwys plastig a sefydlu cynllun ar wahân ar gyfer gwastraff y gegin. Mae'n rhagweld y bydd yn casglu gwastraff ailgylchu yn wythnosol o flychau gwyrdd a chasglu mathau eraill o wastraff bob pythefnos. A gytunwch fod angen inni wneud newidiadau ar y raddfa honno er mwyn cyflawni ein targedau?

Sue Essex: Mynychais dderbynwest gwobrau '10 o'r Gorau' yn neuadd y Cynulliad yr wythnos diwethaf ond un. Yr oeddwn yn falch fod Wastesavers Casnewydd wedi ennill gwobr gan fod record dda ganddo. Mae gwaith sefydliadau o'r fath wedi llywio'r gwaith ar wastraff a wneir gennym ac mae wedi chwarae rhan bwysig yn natblygiad y strategaeth wastraff.

Mae angen inni newid ymwybyddiaeth y cyhoedd o'r mater hwn, fel y dywedasoeh. Mae gennym raglen ymwybyddiaeth gwastraff am fod yn rhaid inni sicrhau bod pobl yn deall yr hyn yr ydym yn ceisio ei gyflawni yn ogystal â chyflenwi gwasanaeth, sef yr hyn a wneir gan Wastesavers Casnewydd. Mae'r cynlluniau y soniasoeh amdanynt yn bwysig o ran ei gwneud yn bosibl i'r cyhoedd gydymffurfio â thargedau ailgylchu. Rhaid inni ei gwneud yn hawdd i bobl wneud hynny.

Gareth Jones: Mae'n siŵr eich bod yn gwybod am ymgyrch Operation Cubit, sy'n targedu Conwy, Llandudno a Bae Colwyn yr wythnos hon, ac a weithredir gan y cynghorau sir mewn partneriaeth â Heddlu Gogledd Cymru a'r Asiantaeth Trwyddedu Gyrwyr a Cherbydau i waredu ceir sydd wedi eu gadael a cheir heb eu trethu. A gytunwch y byddai modd gwella lefelau ailgylchu yng Nghonwy yn sylweddol pe na bai ceir a feddiannir yn cael eu anfon i'r peiriant malu ar ôl saith diwrnod ond yn hytrach yn cael eu hanfon at waith ailgylchu ceir lleol? Gallai brosesu ac ailgylchu llawer o'r darnau cydrannol a byddai hynny'n dod â gwelliannau economaidd ac amgylcheddol i etholaeth Conwy.

Sue Essex: I agree, Gareth. There is an opportunity to match up unwanted materials with recycling facilities. That is what the waste and resources action programme is about, although it does not specifically relate to cars. You made a good point, namely that we must reuse materials from end products to ensure that we get full value from them. You gave a good example of that.

Peter Rogers: We face a terrific challenge on recycling targets. Your response to John Griffiths's question about people's attitudes and awareness was interesting. It is striking that more people from my generation than others seem to visit recycling centres. Do you agree that we need to put more emphasis on educating young people about this issue?

Sue Essex: You mentioned people of your generation, Peter: are you referring to young people? [*Laughter.*]

Peter Rogers: I did not want to say old people.

Sue Essex: It is important to embed this issue in the home so that it permeates through to parents, youngsters and also grandparents, if they are part of the household. When I visit schools—as I know other Members do—I see great enthusiasm from youngsters. Quite often, children shame their parents into action because they work on related projects at school and then take the information back into the home. Children have a good

Gareth Jones: I am sure that you are aware of the Operation Cubit campaign, which is targeting Conwy, Llandudno and Colwyn Bay this week. It is administered by the county councils in partnership with North Wales Police and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and its aim is to rid us of abandoned and untaxed cars. Do you agree that the amount of recycling in Conwy could be considerably improved if impounded cars were not taken to the crusher after seven days but were sent instead to a local car recycling centre? It could process and recycle many of the components and that would bring economic and environmental benefits to the constituency of Conwy.

Sue Essex: Cytunaf, Gareth. Mae cyfle i gyfateb deunyddiau gwastraff â chyfleusterau ailgylchu. Dyma hanfod y rhaglen weithredu gwastraff ac adnoddau, er nad yw'n cyfeirio yn benodol at geir. Gwnaethoch bwynt da, sef y dylem aildefnyddio deunyddiau o gynnyrch terfynol i sicrhau ein bod yn cael gwerth llawn ohonynt. Mae gennych enghraifft dda o hynny.

Peter Rogers: Wynebwn her anferth ar dargedau ailgylchu. Yr oedd eich ymateb i gwestiwn John Griffiths am agweddau ac ymwybyddiaeth pobl yn ddiddorol. Mae'n syndod fod mwy o bobl o'm cenhedlaeth i nag eraill yn ymweld â chanolfannau ailgylchu. A gytunwch y dylem roi mwy o bwyslais ar addysgu pobl ifanc am y mater hwn?

Sue Essex: Cyfeiriasoch at bobl o'ch cenhedlaeth chi, Peter: a gyfeiriwch at bobl ifanc? [*Chwerthin.*]

Peter Rogers: Nid oeddwn am ddweud hen bobl.

Sue Essex: Mae'n bwysig sefydlu'r mater hwn yn y cartref fel y gall ymdreiddio i rieni, pobl ifanc a hefyd deidiau a neiniau, os ydynt yn rhan o'r cartref hwnnw. Pan fyddaf yn ymweld ag ysgolion—fel y gwn y gwnaiff Aelodau eraill—gwelaf lawer o frwdfrydedd gan y bobl ifanc. Yn aml iawn, bydd plant yn codi cywilydd ar eu rhieni i weithredu am eu bod yn gweithio ar brosiectau o'r fath yn yr ysgol ac yna'n cyfleu'r wybodaeth yn y

understanding of the issue, but know that the core responsibility for recycling lies with adults. We must get the message across to people of all ages.

cartref. Mae gan blant ddealltwriaeth dda o'r mater, ond gwyddant mai oedolion sy'n bennaf gyfrifol am ailgylchu. Rhaid inni gyfleu'r neges i bobl o bob oed.

Trafnidiaeth Awyr yng Nghymru **Air Transport in Wales**

Q2 William Graham: Will the Minister make a statement on the development of air transport in Wales? (OAQ20141)

C2 William Graham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddatblygu trafndiaeth awyr yng Nghymru? (OAQ20141)

Sue Essex: The Department for Transport is currently consulting on the future development of air transport in the UK. As part of that consultation exercise, several meetings have been held, including with key Welsh stakeholders. Responses to the consultation are due by 30 November. A White Paper setting out the UK Government's policy is expected to be published in 2003. The Assembly Government is closely involved in that process.

Sue Essex: Mae'r Adran Drafndiaeth wrthi ar hyn o bryd yn ymgynghori ar ddatblygu trafndiaeth awyr yn y dyfodol yn y DU. Fel rhan o'r ymgynghoriad hwnnw, cynhaliwyd sawl cyfarfod, gan gynnwys cyfarfod gyda'r rhanddeiliaid allweddol yng Nghymru. Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad yw 30 Tachwedd. Disgwylir i Bapur Gwyn yn nodi polisi Llywodraeth y DU gael ei gyhoeddi yn 2003. Mae gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ran bwysig yn y broses honno.

William Graham: Will you outline the considerations for an additional airport in south-east Wales to capture a greater share of the UK air passenger market and, in particular, the freight transportation market?

William Graham: A amlinellwch yr ystyriaethau ar gyfer maes awyr ychwanegol yn y De-ddwyrain i ddenu cyfran fwy o farchnad teithwyr awyr y DU ac, yn arbennig, y farchnad cludo nwyddau?

Sue Essex: Studies carried out on this issue generally indicate that Cardiff international airport provides a major opportunity for development. That has been evident recently with the airport's acquiring of the bmibaby contract. There is a major opportunity to secure much of the home-grown traffic in Wales and to stop leakage out to Bristol. However, there is also an opportunity to develop freight traffic. Recent work undertaken by the Welsh Development Agency and partners shows that to be true. I am optimistic that the freight traffic side will grow.

Sue Essex: Mae astudiaethau a gynhaliwyd ar y pwnc hwn yn nodi'n gyffredinol fod cyfle mawr ar gael i ddatblygu maes awyr rhyngwladol Caerdydd. Bu hynny'n amlwg yn ddiweddar wrth i'r maes awyr gaffael contract bmibaby. Mae cyfle mawr i sicrhau cyfran sylweddol o'r teithwyr o Gymru, yn hytrach na'u bod yn teithio o Fryste. Fodd bynnag, mae cyfle hefyd i ddatblygu'r traffig cludo nwyddau. Dengys gwaith diweddar a wnaed gan Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a'i bartneriaid fod hynny'n wir. Yr wyf yn obeithiol y bydd yr ochr traffig cludo nwyddau yn tyfu.

2:30 p.m.

Eleanor Burnham: The Welsh Liberal Democrats support the development of a high-speed public transport link between Cardiff city centre and the airport. Will you support the possibility of having a shuttle service supplied by means of a tram, or a bus service powered by hydrogen fuel cells, in

Eleanor Burnham: Cefnoga Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru y cynnig i ddatblygu cyswllt trafndiaeth gyhoeddus cyflym rhwng canol dinas Caerdydd a'r maes awyr. A gefnogwch y posibilrwydd o sefydlu gwasanaeth gwennol drwy gyfrwng tram, neu wasanaeth bws yn defnyddio pŵer

line with the Assembly's sustainable development remit—I believe such a service has been trialled in Belgium and Canada.

Sue Essex: There is a scheme called PowerShift, which is working well in making new forms of sustainable energy available to public transport and other sectors—actually I am not sure if it applies to public transport, but it certainly applies to the commercial sector. On the Vale of Glamorgan line, we are delighted to say that work will progress on this line for passengers to the airport and those who live in the Vale. We hope to secure a modal shift so that those who live in the Vale and drive into Cardiff to work can, hopefully, use the train instead.

You are perhaps referring to the shuttle service between Rhoose station and the airport. The railway line will not continue all the way to the airport. If memory serves me right, there will be a shuttle service connecting the station and the airport; the airport is keen on that. The idea that the shuttle might use a renewable energy source, such as the one that you mentioned, is appealing and we will ensure that that is passed on.

Janet Davies: Given that we do not have the power to do much about the railway service between north and south Wales for much of its length, have you considered promoting and assisting the development of scheduled air services from either Caernarfon or Valley down to Swansea and/or Cardiff?

Sue Essex: I do not necessarily agree that we cannot do much about the north-south rail service. We have proved that we can. Peter Law started work on that in supporting and subsidising the north-south rail service, which has proved successful and goes from strength to strength.

We have considered providing an air service. However, there is the issue of public subsidy to consider, and how it would be delivered. That will continue to be considered and I will

celloedd tanwydd hydrogen, yn unol â chylch gwaith datblygu cynaliadwy'r Cynulliad—credaf i wasanaeth o'r fath gael ei roi ar brawf yng Ngwlad Belg a Chanada.

Sue Essex: Mae cynllun o'r enw PowerShift, sy'n llwyddo i sicrhau bod ffurfiau newydd ar ynni cynaliadwy ar gael i'r sector trafnidiaeth gyhoeddus a sectorau eraill—mewn gwirionedd nid wyf yn siŵr pa un ai a yw'n berthnasol i drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus, ond mae'n sicr yn berthnasol i'r sector masnachol. Ar linell rheilffordd Bro Morgannwg, mae'n bleser gennym ddatgan y bydd gwaith yn mynd rhagddo ar y llinell hon i deithwyr i'r maes awyr ac i'r rhai sy'n byw yn y Fro. Gobeithiwn sicrhau newid modd er mwyn galluogi'r rhai sy'n byw yn y Fro ac yn gyrru i Gaerdydd i'r gwaith i newid, gobeithio, i ddefnyddio'r trên.

Efallai mai at y gwasanaeth gwennol rhwng gorsaf y Rhŵs a'r maes awyr y cyfeiriwch. Ni fydd y llinell rheilffordd yn parhau yr holl ffordd i'r maes awyr. Os cofiaf yn iawn, bydd gwasanaeth gwennol yn cysylltu'r orsaf a'r maes awyr; mae'r maes awyr yn awyddus i weld hynny. Mae'r syniad y gallai'r gwasanaeth gwennol ddefnyddio ffynhonnell ynni adnewyddol, megis yr un y sonioch amdano, yn ddeniadol ac fe sicrhawn y caiff y syniad hwnnw ei gyfleu.

Janet Davies: O gofio nad oes gennym y grym i wneud llawer am y gwasanaeth rheilffordd rhwng y Gogledd a'r De ar gyfer y rhan fwyaf o'i hyd, a ystyriasoch hyrwyddo a chynorthwyo datblygu gwasanaethau awyr wedi'u trefnu naill ai o Gaernarfon neu'r Fali i Abertawe a/neu Gaerdydd?

Sue Essex: Ni chytunaf o reidrwydd na allwn wneud llawer am y gwasanaeth rheilffordd o'r Gogledd i'r De. Yr ydym wedi profi y gallwn. Dechreuodd Peter Law y gwaith ar hynny drwy gefnogi'r gwasanaeth rheilffordd o'r Gogledd i'r De a darparu cymorthdaliadau ar ei gyfer. Bu'n llwyddiannus ac mae'n mynd o nerth i nerth.

Yr ydym wedi ystyried darparu gwasanaeth awyr. Fodd bynnag, rhaid ystyried cymorthdaliadau cyhoeddus, a sut y gellid eu cyflwyno. Parhawn i ystyried hynny ac

await the outcome of the consultation on the regional strategy for Wales.

arhosaf am ganlyniad yr ymgynghoriad ar y strategaeth ranbarthol i Gymru.

Cloddio Mwynau Extraction of Minerals

Q3 David Davies: Will the Minister give an up-to-date report on the potential for extraction of minerals in Monmouthshire? (OAQ20148)

C3 David Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y posibilïadau o ran cloddio mwynau yn Sir Fynwy? (OAQ20148)

Sue Essex: I assume that your question refers to the current debate in the Usk valley about future sand and gravel extraction. Planning applications for mineral extraction are determined by the mineral planning authority, in this case Monmouthshire County Council. I am not aware that any proposals or planning applications have been submitted for the extraction of sand or gravel anywhere in the Usk valley. The Assembly Government is not promoting any sites for extraction. Its policy is that deposits should be safeguarded from any development that would sterilise them. I intend to issue a position statement on aggregates shortly.

Sue Essex: Cymeraf yn ganiataol fod eich cwestiwn yn cyfeirio at y ddadl gyfredol yn nyffryn Wysg am gloddio tywod a graean yn y dyfodol. Yr awdurdod cynllunio mwynau sy'n gyfrifol am benderfynu ar geisiadau cynllunio ar gyfer cloddio mwynau, yn yr achos hwn Cyngor Sir Fynwy. Nid wyf yn ymwybodol y cyflwynwyd unrhyw gynigion neu geisiadau cynllunio ar gyfer cloddio tywod neu raeau unrhyw le arall yn nyffryn Wysg. Nid yw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn hyrwyddo unrhyw safleoedd ar gyfer cloddio. Ei pholisi yw y dylid gwarchod unrhyw ddyddodion rhag unrhyw ddatblygiad a fyddai'n eu diheintio. Bwriadaf gyhoeddi datganiad safbwynt ar agregau cyn bo hir.

David Davies: Forgive me for saying so, but that answer is a little disingenuous because the Assembly is ordering Monmouthshire County Council to set aside areas of land precisely for the purposes of aggregate extraction. Monmouthshire County Council is firmly resisting that. Are you now suggesting that you will support Monmouthshire County Council in resisting these instructions from the Assembly to set aside areas for quarrying? If not, you can be certain that the bulldozers will be poised and that landowners will be putting in planning applications quickly for just that purpose. Will you accept that this is causing widespread concern in my constituency and will you also meet demonstrators and protesters, who wish to save the Usk valley for future generations, when they come to the Assembly next month?

David Davies: Maddeuwch imi am ddweud hynny, ond mae'r ateb hwnnw braidd yn ffuantus gan fod y Cynulliad yn gorchymyn i Gyngor Sir Fynwy neilltuo ardaloedd o dir at union ddiben cloddio agregau. Mae Cyngor Sir Fynwy yn llwyr ymwrthod â hynny. A ydych bellach yn awgrymu y byddech yn cefnogi Cyngor Sir Fynwy wrth iddynt ymwrthod â'r cyfarwyddiadau hyn gan y Cynulliad i neilltuo ardaloedd ar gyfer cloddio? Os nad ydych, mae'n sicr y bydd y teirw dur yn barod ac y bydd tirfeddianwyr yn cyflwyno ceisiadau cynllunio yn gyflym at yr union ddiben hwnnw. A dderbyniwch fod hyn yn achosi pryder eang yn fy etholaeth ac a gytunwch hefyd i gwrdd â gwrthdystwyr a phrotestwyr, sydd am achub dyffryn Wysg ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol, pan ddônt i'r Cynulliad fis nesaf?

Sue Essex: I appreciate that there is widespread concern, some of which is along the lines of the comments that you have made. Kay Powell will meet people in Monmouthshire next week or the following

Sue Essex: Gwerthfawrogaf fod pryder eang, gyda rhywfaint ohono yn gydnaws â'r sylwadau a wnaethoch. Bydd Kay Powell yn cwrdd â phobl yn Sir Fynwy yr wythnos nesaf neu'r wythnos ganlynol. Nid ydym yn

week. We are not ordering any extraction. We are following the recommendations in the Symonds Group report, which identified sites for sand and gravel, particularly in south Wales. That is what any Government must do. We have said that sites should not be sterilised by development. That is completely different from what you are suggesting. We are not actively encouraging development on such sites. I have not researched this, but I am sure that your party operated the same policy when it was in charge in Wales, which was a long time ago, and which I hope will never be repeated.

This policy makes sense in terms of sustainability. What we are saying is that development should never occur in such a way that those resources cannot be extracted, because we cannot predict whether there will be a national emergency in future. That has been a consistent policy for a long time. It is included in the minerals planning guidance and in the draft aggregates policy. That is why we made that comment to Monmouthshire County Council in terms of its unitary development plan.

Val Lloyd: To approach this issue from a different direction, and less emotionally, will you inform us of the demand for aggregates in Wales and of any work you have commissioned to assess how this demand can be met?

Sue Essex: There is a continuous demand for aggregates. We all use sand and gravel, although we may not always realise it. An example that I have often cited is that people use these materials when patios or extensions to their homes are built. Therefore, we must ensure that there is a supply of aggregates. Work is ongoing to consider the total demand and from where the supply may come. It is often forgotten that we are doing much research on recycled and substitute materials. I am sure that all Members would want us to find adequate substitutes and develop quality recyclates, as that would enable us to reduce the level of extraction of primary resources. I am sure that everyone would prefer to use recyclates; this harks back to the first question I answered this afternoon. Being able to crack that would be a major breakthrough.

gorchymyn unrhyw gloddio. Yr ydym yn dilyn yr argymhellion o fewn adroddiad Grŵp Symonds, a nododd safleoedd ar gyfer tywod a graean, yn arbennig yn y De. Dyna sy'n rhaid i unrhyw Lywodraeth ei wneud. Yr ydym wedi nodi na ddylai safleoedd gael eu diheintio gan ddatblygiadau. Mae hynny'n gwbl wahanol i'r hyn a awgrymwch. Nid ydym yn annog datblygiad ar safleoedd o'r fath. Nid wyf wedi ymchwilio i hyn, ond yr wyf yn siŵr y gweithredwyd yr un polisi gan eich plaid chi pan oedd Cymru o dan ei gofal, a oedd beth amser yn ôl, ac y gobeithiaf na ddigwydd fyth eto.

Mae'r polisi hwn yn gwneud synnwyr o ran cynaliadwyedd. Yr hyn a ddywedwn yw na ddylai datblygiad fyth ddigwydd mewn ffordd sy'n golygu na ellir cloddio'r adnoddau hynny, gan na allwn ragweld pa un a fydd argyfwng cenedlaethol yn y dyfodol ai peidio. Bu hynny'n bolisi cyson ers peth amser. Fe'i cynhwysir yn y canllawiau cynllunio mwynau ac yn y polisi agregau drafft. Dyna pam y gwnaed y sylw hwnnw i Gyngor Sir Fynwy mewn perthynas â'i gynllun datblygu unedol.

Val Lloyd: Gan ystyried y mater hwn o gyfeiriad gwahanol, ac mewn ffordd llai emosiynol, a allwch ein hysbysu am y galw am agregau yng Nghymru ac am unrhyw waith a gomisiynwyd gennych i asesu sut y gellir bodloni'r galw hwn?

Sue Essex: Mae galw parhaus am agregau. Mae pob un ohonom yn defnyddio tywod a graean, er na fyddwn bob amser yn sylweddoli hynny. Enghraifft a ddefnyddiaf yn aml yw bod pobl yn defnyddio'r deunyddiau hyn wrth adeiladu patios neu estyniadau i'w cartrefi. Felly, rhaid inni sicrhau bod cyflenwad o agregau. Mae'r gwaith yn mynd rhagddo i ystyried cyfanswm y galw ac o ble y gallai'r cyflenwad ddod. Anghofir yn aml ein bod yn gwneud llawer o ymchwil ar ddeunyddiau wedi'u hailgylchu a deunyddiau amnewidiol. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai pob Aelod am ein gweld yn dod o hyd i ddeunyddiau amnewidiol ac yn datblygu deunyddiau wedi'u hailgylchu o ansawdd, gan y byddai hynny yn ein galluogi i leihau lefel yr adnoddau sylfaenol a gaiff eu cloddio. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai'n well gan bawb ddefnyddio deunydd wedi'i ailgylchu;

daw hyn â ni yn ôl at y cwestiwn cyntaf a atebais y prynhawn yma. Byddai llwyddo yn hynny o beth yn gam mawr ymlaen.

Y Dreth Dirlenwi Landfill Tax

Q4 Peter Black: What discussions has the Minister had with the UK Government about landfill tax? (OAQ20151)

Sue Essex: I have raised this issue with Her Majesty's Treasury, and I also raised it with Michael Meacher MP, the Minister of State for Environment at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, at our last meeting on 28 September. I would particularly like to see the rate of landfill tax increased substantially each year at a higher rate than the current £1 escalator.

Peter Black: It is reported that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is considering a substantial increase in landfill tax over the next two years, which will have an impact on local government and other landfill operators. It will also enable more money to be made available for recycling schemes through landfill tax credits. Do you agree that one problem is that local authorities tend to concentrate on recycling bulk products such as newspapers and glass, and severely neglect the work of finding alternative ways of recycling plastics? Will you consider how some of the landfill tax credits could be used to develop a suitable method of recycling plastic?

Sue Essex: As I have said previously, I hope that the landfill tax credit system is freed up so that it is more applicable to local situations. I understand why local authorities concentrate on recycling bulk products, because they must find a market for their recyclates. There is good news in terms of WRAP's work in trying to find markets for a whole range of products—not only the materials that we commonly associate with recycling, but different types of plastics and glass, as you mentioned. WRAP's chief executive, Jenny Price, made an exciting presentation in the Assembly last week on the determined way in which she is considering all aspects of this issue and ensuring markets

C4 Peter Black: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cael gyda Llywodraeth y DU ynghylch y dreth dirlenwi? (OAQ20151)

Sue Essex: Yr wyf wedi codi'r mater hwn gyda Thrysorlys Ei Mawrhydi, ac fe'i codais hefyd gyda Michael Meacher AS, y Gweinidog Gwladol dros yr Amgylchedd yn Adran yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig, yn ein cyfarfod diwethaf ar 28 Medi. Yr wyf yn awyddus iawn i weld y dreth dirlenwi yn cael ei chynyddu'n sylweddol bob blwyddyn ar gyfradd uwch na'r cynnydd presennol o £1.

Peter Black: Nodir fod Canghellor y Trysorlys yn ystyried cynnydd sylweddol yn y dreth dirlenwi yn ystod y ddwy flynedd nesaf, a fydd yn effeithio ar lywodraeth leol a gweithredwyr tirlenwi eraill. Bydd hefyd yn galluogi i fwy o arian gael ei ryddhau ar gyfer cynlluniau ailgylchu drwy gredydau treth tirlenwi. A gytunwch mai un broblem yw'r ffaith bod awdurdodau lleol yn tueddu i ganolbwyntio ar ailgylchu swmp gynnyrch megis papurau newydd a gwydr, ac yn esgeuluso'r gwaith o ddod o hyd i ffyrdd amgen o ailgylchu plastigau yn ddifrifol? A ystyriwch sut y gellid defnyddio rhai o'r credydau treth tirlenwi i ddatblygu dull addas o ailgylchu plastig?

Sue Essex: Fel y dywedais yn y gorffennol, gobeithiaf y caiff y system credyd treth tirlenwi ei rhyddhau er mwyn iddi fod yn fwy perthnasol i sefyllfaoedd lleol. Deallaf pam fod awdurdodau lleol yn canolbwyntio ar ailgylchu swmp gynnyrch, gan fod yn rhaid iddynt ddod o hyd i farchnad ar gyfer y deunydd a ailgylchir. Mae yna newyddion da yn nhermau gwaith WRAP wrth geisio dod o hyd i farchnadoedd ar gyfer ystod lawn o gynnyrch—nid yn unig y deunyddiau a gysylltir yn gyffredin ag ailgylchu, ond gwahanol fathau o blastigau a gwydr, fel y crybwylloch. Gwnaeth prif weithredwr WRAP, Jenny Price, gyflwyniad cyffrous yn y Cynulliad yr wythnos diwethaf ar y ffordd

for all these different products. Research is also vital, as it will determine whether many of these products can be used and whether recycling will provide value for money.

Glyn Davies: I accept that there may well be a case for increasing landfill tax. However, do you agree that, for this to have the desired effect, all the money should be used to develop alternative recycling schemes? The current system does not allow all of the landfill tax to be used for that purpose. If you are serious about this, you must press the Chancellor to ensure that all the tax can be used in this way.

Sue Essex: I am not sure whether you are talking about landfill tax or landfill credits. I have always argued that landfill tax should be ring-fenced in order to deliver the major change in waste management that is required. It is a huge problem. The Chancellor may not like hypothecation, and I can understand that. However, in other countries, landfill tax, or similar tax regimes, are hypothecated in order to achieve an outcome; it is a useful way of making those connections, and it works.

2:40 p.m.

To take up Peter's point, landfill tax credits have been used in many ways, and have resulted in excellent schemes. However, we feel that these credits should be targeted to deal with the difficult problem of waste.

Geraint Davies: What steps have you taken to ensure that funds raised through landfill tax in Wales are transferred to the National Assembly's budget and, in particular, to ensure that landfill tax credits are ring-fenced so that they go directly towards recycling programmes?

Sue Essex: I think that I have covered that point. We will have to wait for the outcome of current deliberations, as Peter indicated. A

benderfynol y mae'n ystyried pob agwedd ar y mater hwn ac yn sicrhau marchnadoedd ar gyfer yr holl wahanol gynnyrch hyn. Mae gwaith ymchwil yn holl bwysig hefyd, gan mai dyma fydd yn penderfynu pa un a ellir defnyddio llawer o'r cynnyrch hyn a pha un a fydd ailgylchu yn darparu gwerth am arian.

Glyn Davies: Derbyniaf y gallai fod yna achos dros gynyddu'r dreth dirlenwi. Fodd bynnag, a gytunwch y dylid defnyddio'r holl arian i ddatblygu cynlluniau ailgylchu amgen, er mwyn sicrhau'r effaith ddymunol? Nid yw'r system gyfredol yn caniatáu i'r dreth dirlenwi i gyd gael ei defnyddio at y diben hwnnw. Os ydych o ddifrif yn hyn o beth, rhaid ichi ddwyn pwysau ar y Canghellor i sicrhau y gall y dreth i gyd gael ei defnyddio yn y fath fodd.

Sue Essex: Nid wyf yn siŵr pa un ai a ydych yn sôn am y dreth dirlenwi neu gredydau tirlenwi. Yr wyf bob amser wedi dadlau y dylid neilltuo'r dreth dirlenwi er mwyn cyflwyno'r newid mawr sy'n ofynnol ym maes rheoli gwastraff. Mae'n broblem enfawr. Efallai nad yw'r Canghellor yn hoff o adneuo, a gallaf ddeall hynny. Fodd bynnag, mewn gwledydd eraill, caiff treth tirlenwi, neu gyfundrefnau treth tebyg, eu hadneuo er mwyn cyflawni canlyniad; mae'n ffordd ddefnyddiol o lunio'r cysylltiadau hynny, ac mae'n gweithio.

Gan ymateb i bwynt Peter, defnyddiwyd credydau treth tirlenwi mewn sawl ffordd, gan arwain at gynlluniau ardderchog. Fodd bynnag, teimlwn y dylid targedu'r credydau hyn er mwyn ymdrin â'r broblem anodd o wastraff.

Geraint Davies: Pa gamau a gymerwyd gennych i sicrhau y trosglwyddir yr arian a godir drwy'r dreth dirlenwi yng Nghymru i gyllideb y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ac, yn arbennig, i sicrhau y caiff credydau treth tirlenwi eu neilltuo er mwyn iddynt gael eu buddsoddi'n uniongyrchol mewn rhaglenni ailgylchu?

Sue Essex: Credaf imi gwmpasu'r pwynt hwnnw. Bydd yn rhaid inni aros am ganlyniad y trafodaethau cyfredol, fel y

change in direction now seems possible. I cannot pre-empt any announcement, but we hope that there will be a change and that finance comes with that. That was recognised in the budget.

nododd Peter. Ymddengys bellach y bydd newid cyfeiriad yn bosibl. Ni allaf achub y blaen ar unrhyw gyhoeddiad, ond gobeithiwn y bydd newid ac y darperir cyllid gyda'r newid hwnnw. Cydnabuwyd hynny yn y gyllideb.

Prosiect ULTra ULTra Project

Q5 Jonathan Morgan: Will the Minister make a statement on the current status of the funding for the urban light transport project allocated from Assembly finances? (OAQ20154)

C5 Jonathan Morgan: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y sefyllfa bresennol o ran yr arian a ddyrannwyd gan y Cynulliad i'r prosiect trafndiaeth drefol ysgafn, ULTra? (OAQ20154)

Sue Essex: The Welsh Assembly Government has agreed to fund the initial design costs of the construction for the first stage of ULTra up to £3.75 million. Before the next stage of the project and funding goes ahead, an evaluation of the project in terms of design and testing is required, and the project will need to obtain statutory consents, such as planning permission. We will also need an assurance that Cardiff County Council is in a position to meet any operating deficits. The Department for Transport is funding the prototype testing of ULTra with a grant under its innovative transport scheme. Design manufacture of the prototype ULTra vehicle is being supported by the Department of Trade and Industry, with a grant under its foresight scheme.

Sue Essex: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cytuno i ariannu costau dylunio cychwynnol y gwaith adeiladu ar gyfer cam cyntaf ULTra hyd at £3.75 miliwn. Cyn dechrau ar gam nesaf y prosiect a'i ariannu, bydd angen cynnal gwerthusiad o'r prosiect o ran dylunio a phrofi, a bydd angen i'r prosiect gael cysyniadau statudol, megis caniatâd cynllunio. Bydd angen sicrwydd arnom hefyd bod Cyngor Sir Caerdydd mewn sefyllfa i gwrdd ag unrhyw ddiffygion gweithredol. Mae'r Adran Drafndiaeth yn ariannu'r profion prototeip ar gyfer ULTra gyda grant o dan ei chynllun trafndiaeth arloesol. Mae'r Adran Masnach a Diwydiant yn cefnogi'r broses o weithgynhyrchu dyluniad prototeip o'r cerbyd ULTra, gyda grant o dan ei chynllun rhagweld.

Jonathan Morgan: Are you aware that many of my constituents throughout Cardiff believe that the ULTra pods scheme is a waste of money and that money would be better spent attempting to regenerate areas of Cardiff by improving the road system? Will you give an update on the progress towards completing the peripheral distributor road, which is badly needed in this part of Cardiff and would assist economic development and the business sector? That road should have been completed a long time ago.

Jonathan Morgan: A ydych yn ymwybodol bod llawer o'm hetholwyr ledled Caerdydd o'r farn mai gwastraff arian yw'r cynllun pods ULTra ac y byddai'n well gwario'r arian yn ceisio adfywio ardaloedd o Gaerdydd drwy wella'r system ffyrdd? A roddwch y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni o ran y cynnydd tuag at gwblhau'r ffordd ddosbarthu ymylol, y mae ei hangen yn ddirfawr yn y rhan hon o Gaerdydd ac a fyddai'n cynorthwyo datblygiad economaidd a'r sector busnes? Dylid fod wedi cwblhau'r ffordd honno ers peth amser.

Sue Essex: The funding for the ULTra scheme is only one part of the transport allocation for Cardiff. It receives revenue support grant and other elements of the transport grant. It is because people have not seen the ULTra scheme in the round that it is

Sue Essex: Dim ond un rhan o'r dyraniad trafndiaeth ar gyfer Caerdydd yw'r arian ar gyfer y cynllun ULTra. Mae'n derbyn grant cynnal refeniw ac elfennau eraill o'r grant trafndiaeth. Mae'n hawdd i bobl ddisgrifio'r cynllun ULTra fel y gwnaethoch chi,

easy to describe it as you did, Jonathan. However, in referring to EDICT, the environmentally improved transport programme, a spokesperson for the European Commission said that

‘The fact that such systems would cost between a third and a half of a traditional light rail system is an asset for medium sized cities such as Cardiff. In addition, the high standard of comfort and convenience brought by such systems...could attract new types of users who today are in love with their cars. The Commission very much supports the objective of the Cardiff County Council to have 50% of all passenger trips being delivered by public transport in the medium term. The Commission believes the ULTRA system is a right way to reach this objective.’

The statement contains more complimentary words about the scheme. I quoted that because I know that you are a keen European and because Cardiff is in the running for Cultural Capital of Europe. What we say in one area must be matched with what we say in another. Europe has strongly supported this scheme, and four European cities have recognised its value and are keen to support it. I would hope that people could be a little more open-minded about what it might achieve for Cardiff as a European capital city.

Lorraine Barrett: Were you disappointed that none of the Members who keep objecting to the ULTRA scheme bothered to turn up to an excellent presentation on the scheme, which I hosted, a few months ago? Perhaps you can help to put this expenditure into perspective.

Sue Essex: Yes, I was disappointed. You, as the Member for Cardiff South and Penarth, hosted a two-hour presentation. The designer came from Bristol, and Cardiff council presented information. To my certain knowledge, none of the consistent objectors to this scheme came to the presentation, nor did their representatives or researchers. That was a great shame. The presentation was about two hours long. It showed the genesis of the scheme, which is environmentally

Jonathan, heb ei weld ar waith. Fodd bynnag, wrth gyfeirio at EDICT, y rhaglen drafnidiaeth a wellwyd yn nhermau'r amgylchedd, nododd llefarydd ar ran y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd:

Mae'r ffaith y byddai systemau o'r fath yn costio rhwng traean a hanner cost system reilffordd ysgafn draddodiadol o fudd i ddinasoedd canolig eu maint, megis Caerdydd. Hefyd, gallai'r safonau uchel o esmwythdra a'r cyfleustra y mae systemau o'r fath yn eu cynnig....ddenu mathau newydd ar ddefnyddwyr sydd ar hyn o bryd yn driw i'w ceir. Mae'r Comisiwn yn gefnogol iawn i nod Cyngor Sir Caerdydd i drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus ddarparu 50% o'r holl deithiau a wneir yn y tymor canolig. Cred y Comisiwn bod y system ULTRA yn ddull addas o gyrraedd y nod hwn.

Mae mwy o eiriau canmoladwy yn y datganiad am y cynllun. Dyfynnais y rhan benodol honno am fy mod yn ymwybodol eich bod yn Ewropead brwd ac am fod Caerdydd yn cael ei hystyried fel Prifddinas Diwylliant Ewrop. Rhaid i'r hyn a ddywedwn mewn un ardal gyfateb â'r hyn a ddywedwn mewn ardal arall. Rhoddodd Ewrop gefnogaeth gref i'r cynllun hwn, ac mae pedair dinas yn Ewrop wedi cydnabod ei werth ac yn awyddus i'w gefnogi. Byddwn yn gobeithio y gallai pobl fod ychydig yn fwy eangfrydig am yr hyn y gallai ei gyflawni i Gaerdydd fel prifddinas Ewropeaidd.

Lorraine Barrett: A gawsoch eich siomi na thrafferthodd yr un Aelod sy'n gwrthwynebu'r cynllun ULTRA yn ddi-baid i fynychu cyflwyniad ardderchog ar y cynllun, a gynhaliwyd gennyf, ychydig fisoedd yn ôl? Efallai y gallwch helpu i roi'r gwariant hwn yn ei wir oleuni.

Sue Essex: Do, fe'm siomwyd. Bu ichi, fel yr Aelod dros Dde Caerdydd a Phenarth, gynnal cyflwyniad dwy awr. Daeth y dyluniwr o Fryste, a chyflwynodd cyngor Caerdydd wybodaeth. Hyd eithaf fy ngwybodaeth, ni ddaeth un o wrthwynebwyr cyson y cynllun hwn i'r cyflwyniad, na'u cynrychiolwyr na'u hymchwylwyr ychwaith. Yr oedd hynny'n drueni mawr. Yr oedd y cyflwyniad tua dwy awr o hyd. Dangosodd darddiad y cynllun, sy'n gyfeillgar i'r amgylchedd ac yn fodern

friendly and modern in approach. Some people went in with a sceptical attitude, but they did not come out with that attitude, because they saw the scheme in its totality. They also saw how it fits in with the bay. That is an important point. I thank you for putting on that presentation, Lorraine.

Secondly, the scheme must be kept in perspective. We are spending money on transport schemes across Wales, whether that is in Newport or on the Ebbw Vale railway, PFI schemes and the Howey and Bargoed bypasses. We are undertaking an innovation project in Gwynedd in a completely different way with the Snowdonia Green Key Partnership. We have tried to respond to the schemes that local authorities present for their areas. That is what this scheme, and the other schemes, are about.

Owen John Thomas: Like many other Members in the greater Cardiff region, you seem more than a little uncomfortable with the expensive ULTra experiment, though you have given it generous public funding. In case the viability study proves the ULTra project to be a non-starter, what discussions are you having with South Wales Integrated Fast Transit consortium to upgrade rail and bus services to Cardiff and the bay in time for the opening of the Wales Millennium Centre in 2004?

Sue Essex: The testing of the design of the system must take place, and then we will assess the report. I meet SWIFT all the time. We are funding the SWIFT package across south Wales. I have had discussions with transport operators, including Cardiff Bus. We are putting money in to secure the improvement of Herbert Street bridge. I assure you that we have been strongly involved in considering and financially supporting SWIFT projects across south Wales. I am pleased with how the consortium is developing.

ei ymagwedd. Cyrhaeddodd rhai gydag agwedd amheus, ond diflannodd yr agwedd honno, ar ôl iddynt weld y cynllun yn ei gyfanrwydd. Gwelwyd hefyd sut y mae'n cydweddu i'r bae. Mae hynny'n bwynt pwysig. Diolchaf ichi am drefnu'r cyflwyniad hwnnw, Lorraine.

Yn ail, rhaid cadw'r cynllun mewn persbectif. Yr ydym yn gwario arian ar gynlluniau trafnidiaeth ledled Cymru, boed yng Nghasnewydd neu ar reilffordd Glynebwy, cynlluniau PFI a ffordd osgoi'r Hawau a Bargoed. Yr ydym yn ymgymryd â phrosiect arloesol yng Ngwynedd mewn ffordd gwbl wahanol gyda Phartneriaeth Goriad Gwyrdd Eryri. Yr ydym wedi ceisio ymateb i'r cynlluniau a gyflwynir gan awdurdodau lleol ar gyfer eu hardaloedd. Dyna yw bwriad y cynllun hwn, a'r cynlluniau eraill.

Owen John Thomas: Fel sawl Aelod arall yn rhanbarth Caerdydd fwyaf, nid ymdengys eich bod yn gwbl gyfforddus â'r arbrawf ULTra drud, er ichi ddyrannu swm sylweddol o arian cyhoeddus iddo. Rhag ofn y dengys yr astudiaeth dichonoldeb nad yw'r prosiect ULTra yn ymarferol, pa drafodaethau sy'n mynd rhagddynt gyda chonsortium Teithio Cyflym Integredig De Cymru i uwchraddio gwasanaethau rheilffordd a bws i Gaerdydd a'r bae mewn pryd ar gyfer agor Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru yn 2004?

Sue Essex: Rhaid profi dyluniad y system, ac yna byddwn yn asesu'r adroddiad. Yr wyf yn cyfarfod â SWIFT yn rheolaidd. Yr ydym yn ariannu'r pecyn SWIFT ledled y De. Cynhaliais drafodaethau gyda gweithredwyr trafnidiaeth, gan gynnwys Bws Caerdydd. Yr ydym yn buddsoddi arian i sicrhau y caiff pont Stryd Herbert ei gwella. Gallaf eich sicrhau ein bod wedi cymryd rhan bwysig wrth ystyried prosiectau SWIFT a'u cefnogi'n ariannol ledled y De. Yr wyf yn fodlon â'r modd y mae'r consortiwm yn datblygu.

Cwestiwn Brys Urgent Question

Gweithredu Diwydiannol gan y Gwasanaeth Tân Industrial Action by the Fire Service

Janet Ryder: Will the First Minister make a statement on discussions between his Government and each local authority emergency planning officer to ensure that their emergency plans are able to deal with any eventuality that may arise during industrial action by the fire service? (EAQ20528)

The Finance Minister (Edwina Hart): Responsibility for emergency planning has not been devolved to the National Assembly. The Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat is co-ordinating the development of UK resilience work. However, the Assembly works closely with the Welsh Local Government Association on issues of integrated emergency planning in Wales. The Assembly also works with the local authority emergency planning officers on regional joint agency groups in developing emergency planning arrangements, and emergency planning officers are involved in local contingency planning arrangements for the firefighters' strike.

Janet Ryder: It is a matter of great public concern that we are facing a firefighters' strike today. The Assembly Government does have responsibility for community safety, and this strike will certainly impact on that. It is therefore a little disappointing that you have not brought your plans before us, but have left it up to us to table an urgent question to find out what those plans are. You have clearly told us that you do not have any plans. Do you accept that, as far as local government is concerned, you have a co-ordinating role to play, and that you should by now have issued guidance to local authorities to ensure that their emergency plans are in place and that they are capable of dealing with any consequences that might arise? That guidance should include ensuring that people sign in and out of public buildings and that a record is kept of that so that it is known who is in the building. Those

Janet Ryder: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar y trafodaethau a gafwyd rhwng ei Lywodraeth a'r swyddogion cynllunio argyfwng ym mhob un o'r awdurdodau lleol er mwyn sicrhau bod eu cynlluniau argyfwng yn gallu ymdopi ag unrhyw ddigwyddiad a allai godi yn ystod y gweithredu diwydiannol gan y gwasanaeth tân? (EAQ20528)

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Edwina Hart): Nid yw'r cyfrifoldeb dros gynllunio brys wedi ei ddatganoli i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Mae Ysgrifenyddiaeth Paratodau Sifil Swyddfa'r Cabinet yn cydgysylltu datblygiad gwaith gwrthsefyll y DU. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Cynulliad yn gweithio'n agos gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru ar faterion yn ymwneud â chynllunio integredig brys yng Nghymru. Mae'r Cynulliad hefyd yn gweithio gyda swyddogion cynllunio brys yr awdurdodau lleol ar grwpiau cydasiantaethol rhanbarthol i ddatblygu trefniadau cynllunio brys, ac mae'r swyddogion cynllunio brys yn rhan o drefniadau cynllunio wrth gefn lleol ar gyfer streic y diffoddwyr tân.

Janet Ryder: Mae'n fater o bryder cyhoeddus mawr ein bod yn wynebu streic gan y diffoddwyr tân heddiw. Mae gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad gyfrifoldeb dros ddiogelwch y gymuned a bydd y streic hon yn sic o effeithio ar hynny. Mae felly braidd yn siomedig nad ydych wedi dwyn eich cynlluniau ger ein bron, ac yn hytrach bu'n rhaid inni gyflwyno cwestiwn brys i ddarganfod beth yw'r cynlluniau hynny. Yr ydych wedi dweud yn glir nad oes gennych unrhyw gynlluniau. A ydych yn derbyn, o ran llywodraeth leol, bod gennych rôl cydlynu, ac y dylech erbyn hyn fod wedi cyhoeddi arweiniad i awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau bod eu cynlluniau brys yn eu lle a'u bod yn gallu ymdrin ag unrhyw sefyllfa a allai godi? Dylai'r arweiniad hwnnw gynnwys sicrhau bod pobl yn arwyddo wrth fynd i mewn ac allan o adeiladau cyhoeddus a bod cofnod yn cael ei gadw o hynny fel y gwyddys pwy

are basic measures, as is issuing guidance to cleaners. Surely you should be co-ordinating that to ensure community safety. I am disappointed that you have not reviewed all local authorities' emergency plans, because the union has been planning for this for some time. Will you issue regular status reports to the local authorities so that they can keep those plans updated and respond accordingly?

Edwina Hart: The Wales national emergency co-ordination arrangements have been developed in light of the experience of previous emergencies that form the basis of the response in Wales. Operational activities are to be co-ordinated by the military police and fire services from the joint operation control centres in each of the fire service areas. Local authority emergency planning officers are involved in local contingency arrangements for the firefighters' strike. The Welsh Assembly Government is activating its emergency co-ordination centre in Cathays park, which will co-ordinate information on the impact of the strike in Wales. Therefore, all the necessary measures are being taken by the administration in accordance with our responsibilities. I do not need to remind Members that the fire service is not a devolved matter.

2:50 p.m.

Ann Jones: We all recognise that we will need to be extra vigilant in our communities to minimise the risks from fire during this unnecessary and disappointing action. I am sure that the fire service management will issue instructions to the public on how to behave during the industrial action, as the Fire Brigades Union has done. Do you agree that these talks and plans could have been avoided with emergency planning officers and the fire service management if the employers had not rushed to embrace the Bain report despite not having seen the full report or even fully evaluating its implications for the British fire service? Do you also agree that any plans for emergency fire cover cannot, and will not, replicate the modern, professional service, which we should protect? Will you join me in urging the employers to seriously reconsider their

sydd yn yr adeilad. Mae'r rhain yn fesurau sylfaenol, fel y mae cyhoeddi arweiniad i lanhawyr. Oni ddylech fod yn cydlynu hynny i sicrhau diogelwch y gymuned? Yr wyf yn siomedig nad ydych wedi adolygu cynlluniau brys pob awdurdod lleol, oherwydd bu'r undeb yn cynllunio hyn ers peth amser. A wnewch chi gyhoeddi adroddiadau statws cyson i'r awdurdodau lleol er mwyn iddynt ddiweddarau'r cynlluniau hynny ac ymateb yn briodol?

Edwina Hart: Mae trefniadau cyd-drefnu brys cenedlaethol Cymru wedi cael eu datblygu yng ngoleuni profiad achosion brys yn y gorffennol sy'n sail i'r ymateb yng Nghymru. Bydd y gweithgareddau gweithredol yn cael eu cyd-drefnu gan yr heddlu milwrol a'r gwasanaethau tân o'r cyd-ganolfannau rheoli gweithrediadau ym mhob un o ardaloedd y gwasanaeth tân. Mae swyddogion cynllunio brys yr awdurdodau lleol yn rhan o drefniadau wrth gefn lleol ar gyfer streic y diffoddwyr tân. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn rhoi ei ganolfan gydgyssylltu brys ym mharc Cathays ar waith, a bydd yn cydgysylltu gwybodaeth ar effaith y streic yng Nghymru. Felly mae'r weinyddiaeth yn cymryd yr holl fesurau angenrheidiol yn unol â'n cyfrifoldebau. Nid oes angen imi atgoffa'r Aelodau nad yw'r gwasanaeth tân yn fater a ddatganolwyd.

Ann Jones: Yr ydym oll yn cydnabod y bydd angen inni fod yn fwy gwyliadwrus yn ein cymunedau i leihau'r risgiau o dân yn ystod y gweithredu diwydiannol diangen a siomedig hwn. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd rheolwyr y gwasanaeth tân yn rhoi cyfarwyddiadau i'r cyhoedd ar sut i ymddwyn yn ystod y gweithredu diwydiannol, fel y gwnaeth Undeb y Brigadau Tân. A gytunwch y gellid bod wedi osgoi'r trafodaethau a'r cynlluniau hyn gyda rheolwyr y gwasanaeth tân pe bai'r cyflogwyr heb ruthro i goleddu adroddiad Bain er nad oeddent wedi gweld yr adroddiad llawn nac ychwaith wedi gwerthuso ei oblygiadau i wasanaeth tân Prydain yn llawn? A gytunwch hefyd na all, ac na fydd, unrhyw gynlluniau ar gyfer gwasanaeth tân brys, yn gallu efelychu'r gwasanaeth modern, proffesiynol, y dylem ei amddiffyn? A ymunwch â mi i bwysu ar y cyflogwyr i

position and return to the negotiating table with a realistic offer—not the 4 per cent offered this year, followed by 7 per cent next year, of the total wage bill? It is not an increase of 11 per cent for each firefighter and control staff member. A 4 per cent pay increase for the total pay bill is not what the fire service or the FBU wants. We need to get them back around the table before people lose their lives.

Edwina Hart: I believe that we all wish negotiations between the employers and the FBU to restart to resolve the position to mutual satisfaction. We also need to recognise that there will be cover during the fire strike, but it will not be the same as the excellent service that we have enjoyed from the fire service across Wales.

William Graham: You cannot hide from your responsibility for this matter, Minister. Strike action is taking place in light of what was known must happen. Once the FBU had a mandate for a strike from the current 28-day legislation, it had to allow the strike to go ahead. You are aware of that. You will also be mindful that strike action begins just after the Prime Minister alerted the country to the possibility of a terrorist attack. How will the public be protected in the event of a national emergency or major security incident? The FBU has admitted that in the event of such an incident, firefighters will not be able to respond in a co-ordinated manner. You must explain your plans to protect public safety in the event of such an incident. The public needs to be satisfied that everything that can be done is being done to ensure that its safety is paramount.

At every stage in the development of this crisis, the Conservatives have pressed the Government to train military personnel in the use of modern fire engines. It should end its spurious excuses and commence such training immediately. It took nine weeks for the Bain position paper to be presented, and only 24 hours for the union to respond to it. Do you not agree that this is a vain attempt to destroy public confidence in the FBU and its

ailystyried eu sefyllfa o ddifrif ac ailddechrau trafodaethau gyda chynnig realistig—nid y 4 y cant a gynigiwyd eleni, wedi ei ddilyn gan 7 y cant y flwyddyn nesaf, o'r bil cyflogau cyfan? Nid yw'n gynnydd o 11 y cant i bob diffoddwr tân ac aelod o'r staff rheoli. Nid 4 y cant o godiad cyflog o'r bil cyflog cyfan y mae'r gwasanaeth tân a'r undeb am ei gael. Mae angen inni eu cael i ddod yn ôl o amgylch y bwrdd cyn i bobl golli eu bywydau.

Edwina Hart: Credaf ein bod oll yn dymuno gweld trafodaethau rhwng y cyflogwyr a'r undeb yn ailddechrau i ddatrys y sefyllfa er lles pawb. Mae angen inni hefyd gydnabod y bydd darpariaeth yn ystod y streic dân, ond ni fydd cystal â gwasanaeth rhagorol y gwasanaeth tân ledled Cymru.

William Graham: Ni allwch guddio rhag eich cyfrifoldeb dros y mater hwn, Weinidog. Mae streic yn digwydd yng ngoleuni yr hyn a oedd yn rhwym o ddigwydd. Unwaith i'r undeb gael mandad i gynnal streic o'r ddeddfwriaeth 28—diwrnod gyfredol, yr oedd yn rhaid iddo ganiatáu i'r streic fynd rhagddi. Yr ydych yn ymwybodol o hynny. Byddwch hefyd yn ymwybodol bod y streic yn dechrau yn union ar ôl i Brif Weinidog y DU hysbysu'r wlad bod posibilrwydd o ymosodiad terfysgol. Sut yr amddiffynnir y cyhoedd pe digwyddai argyfwng cenedlaethol neu ddigwyddiad mawr yn ymwneud â diogelwch? Cyfaddefodd yr undeb pe digwyddai digwyddiad o'r fath, na fyddai diffoddwyr tân yn gallu ymateb mewn dull cyd-gysylltiedig. Rhaid i chi esbonio eich cynlluniau i sicrhau diogelwch y cyhoedd yn wyneb digwyddiad o'r fath. Mae angen i'r cyhoedd gael ei bodloni fod popeth posibl yn cael ei wneud er mwyn sicrhau bod diogelwch o'r pwys mwyaf.

Ar bob cam yn natblygiad yr argyfwng hwn, mae'r Ceidwadwyr wedi pwyso ar y Llywodraeth i hyfforddi personél milwrol i ddefnyddio injanau tân modern. Dylai roi'r gorau i wneud esgusodion gwag a dechrau hyfforddiant o'r fath ar unwaith. Cymerodd naw wythnos i bapur Bain gael ei gyflwyno, a dim ond 24 awr i'r undeb ymateb iddo. Oni chytunwch mai ymgais ofer yw hyn i ddinistrio hyder y cyhoedd yn yr undeb a'i

rightful strike for action that should have been taken many months ago? Will you ensure that your limited response to this matter will be fully discharged, and that you will press your colleagues in the Westminster Government to urge that this action be ended as soon as possible?

Edwina Hart: Thank you for your comments, William. I take my responsibilities, such as they are, seriously regarding the fire service strike. As you are aware, military fire cover has been organised from the army's hundred and sixtieth brigade headquarters in Brecon. Locally, the action is being co-ordinated by the police, the fire service and the military, operating from joint operations control centres. Military activists will be deployed by the local military commander, acting in consultation with the police and fire service representatives. We hope and pray that there will be no major incidents, particularly relating to what the Prime Minister said about the imminent danger of terrorist attacks.

Peter Black: Nobody wanted this strike, and I concur with your earlier comments that we should encourage both sides to get back around the negotiating table and try to reach a settlement. In the meantime, the strike will cause particular problems for other emergency services in Wales, particularly regarding road accidents, where specialist help is currently available, but may not be available any more. How are we co-ordinating with those emergency services to try to make contingency arrangements to deal with such specialist situations? What information will be made available from the Assembly central command station in Cathays park to Assembly Members as this situation develops?

Edwina Hart: This will be a difficult situation. The arrangements that we have put in place in Cathays park will deal with incidents on the ground. I will look into the issue of how I can update Members on relevant information and inform you of how it will be done. There is an issue of the other emergency services, and this is being co-ordinated via the various groups that have been set up. We hope that there will be no serious incidents during the strike.

hawl cyfiawn i gynnal streic y dylid bod wedi ei chynnal fisoedd yn ôl? A wnewch chi sicrhau y caiff eich ymateb cyfyngedig i'r mater hwn ei gyflawni'n llwyr, ac y byddwch yn pwysu ar eich cyd-aelodau yn San Steffan i annog dod â'r streic i ben cyn gynted â phosibl?

Edwina Hart: Diolch am eich sylwadau, William. Cymeraf fy nghyfrifoldebau, fel ag y maent, o ddifrif mewn perthynas â streic y gwasanaeth tân. Fel y gwyddoch, trefnwyd y ddarpariaeth filwrol o bencadlys can brigâd a thrigain y fyddin yn Aberhonddu. Yn lleol cyd-drefnir y gweithredu gan yr heddlu, y gwasanaeth tân a'r fyddin, yn gweithredu o ganolfannau cyd-reoli gweithrediadau. Bydd gweithredwyr milwrol yn cael eu trefnu gan y cadlywydd milwrol lleol, drwy ymgynghori â'r heddlu a chynrychiolwyr y gwasanaeth tân. Gobeithiwn i Dduw a'r Tad na fydd digwyddiadau mawr, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â'r hyn a ddywedodd Prif Weinidog y DU ynglŷn â pherygl arfaethedig ymosodiadau terfysgwyr.

Peter Black: Nid oedd unrhyw un am weld y streic hon, a chytunaf a'ch sylwadau cynharach y dylem annog y ddwy ochr i ailddechrau trafodaethau a cheisio dod i gytundeb. Yn y cyfamser, bydd y streic yn achosi problemau arbennig, i wasanaethau brys eraill yng Nghymru, yn arbennig o ran damweiniau ffyrdd, lle mae cymorth arbenigol ar gael ar hyn o bryd, ond efallai na fydd ar gael mwyach. Sut yr ydym yn cydgyssylltu â'r gwasanaethau brys hynny i geisio gwneud trefniadau wrth gefn i ymdrin â sefyllfaoedd arbenigol o'r fath? Pa wybodaeth fydd yn cael ei darparu o orsaf reoli ganolog y Cynulliad ym mharc Cathays i Aelodau'r Cynulliad wrth i'r sefyllfa hon ddatblygu?

Edwina Hart: Bydd y sefyllfa hon yn un anodd. Bydd y trefniadau a sefydlwyd gennym ym mharc Cathays yn ymdrin â digwyddiadau ar lawr gwlad. Byddaf yn ymchwilio sut y gallaf roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf berthnasol i Aelodau a rhoi gwybod i chi sut y gwneir hynny. Mae mater y gwasanaethau brys eraill, a chydgyssylltir hyn drwy'r amrywiol grwpiau a sefydlwyd. Gobeithiwn na fydd digwyddiadau difrifol yn ystod y streic.

Datganiad ar Hynt Datblygu Strategaeth Dosbarthu'r Loteri yng Nghymru Statement on the Progress of Developing the Lottery Distribution Strategy for Wales

The Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language (Jenny Randerson): Our plans for Wales and my culture strategy, 'Creative Future: Cymru Greadigol', commit the Assembly to ensure that all main lottery funding streams have a clear Welsh direction. Over the past year and a half, we have been working closely with the five main lottery distributors in Wales—the Sports Council for Wales, the Arts Council of Wales, the New Opportunities Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Community Fund—to develop a more strategically focused way of working. We have been looking to maximise the benefit of the lottery in Wales and to ensure that people in Wales see real benefit from the funding available. However, under the current arrangements only two of the lottery distributors are directly accountable to the Assembly. The sports council and the arts council are Assembly sponsored public bodies. The other bodies are UK-based organisations—albeit with a growing presence in Wales—that are accountable to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

While we are consulted over the formulation of policy and the strategic direction for these UK organisations, we can only influence these via the DCMS. We have, on some occasions, failed to convince both DCMS and the distributors of the different needs of Wales. This is a major barrier to developing a strategic approach that is sensitive to the needs and priorities of Wales. For this reason, I was pleased to launch, jointly with the other UK Ministers with responsibility for lottery funding, a major review of the distribution of lottery funding across the UK. The review, which was the subject of a public consultation that ended on 30 October, provides us with a unique and timely opportunity to look carefully at the present arrangements. It also allows us to see whether improvements can be made to ensure that the Assembly has much greater influence on the

Y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg (Jenny Randerson): Mae ein cynlluniau ar gyfer Cymru a'm strategaeth diwylliant, 'Creative Future: Cymru Greadigol', yn ymrwymo'r Cynulliad i sicrhau bod pwyslais Cymreig eglur i holl ffrydiau ariannu'r loteri. Dros y flwyddyn a hanner ddiwethaf, buom yn cydweithio'n agos gyda phrif ddosbarthwyr y loteri yng Nghymru—Cyngor Chwaraeon Cymru, Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, y Gronfa Cyfleoedd Newydd, Cronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri a'r Gronfa Gymunedol—i ddatblygu dull o weithio ac iddo ffocws mwy strategol. Buom yn edrych ar ffyrdd o gael y manteision mwyaf posibl o'r loteri yng Nghymru ac i sicrhau bod pobl Cymru yn gweld mantais wirioneddol o'r arian sydd ar gael. Fodd bynnag, o dan y trefniadau presennol dim ond dau o ddosbarthwyr y loteri sy'n uniongyrchol atebol i'r Cynulliad. Mae'r cyngor chwaraeon a chyngor y celfyddydau yn gyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad. Mae'r gyrff eraill yn gyrff y DU—ond â phresenoldeb cynyddol yng Nghymru—sy'n atebol i'r Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon.

Er yr ymgynghorir â ni ynglŷn â chreu polisi a chyfeiriad strategol sefydliadau'r DU, dim ond drwy'r Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon y gallwn ddylanwadu ar y rhain. Yr ydym ar rai achlysuron, wedi methu â darbwyllo'r adran a'r dosbarthwyr o anghenion gwahanol Cymru. Mae hyn yn rhwystr mawr rhag datblygu ymagwedd strategol sy'n sensitif i anghenion a blaenoriaethau Cymru. Am y rheswm hwn, yr oedd yn dda gennyf lansio, ar y cyd â Gweinidogion eraill y DU sydd â chyfrifoldeb dros arian y loteri, adolygiad o bwys ar ddosbarthu arian y loteri ledled y DU. Rhydd yr adolygiad, a oedd yn destun ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus ar 30 Hydref, gyfle unigryw ac amserol inni edrych yn ofalus ar y trefniadau presennol. Mae hefyd yn caniatáu inni weld a ellir gwneud gwelliannau i sicrhau y bydd gan y Cynulliad fwy o

future direction of lottery funding in Wales to reflect our needs and deliver the maximum benefit in terms of improving the quality of life of communities across Wales. Responses to the consultation already indicate that key stakeholders in Wales are keen for the Assembly to have a greater role in setting the overall direction for lottery funding in Wales.

We also know that there are other issues that people in Wales want addressed. We need to ensure that, in future, the lottery becomes more accessible to communities across Wales and that application procedures are simplified. This is of particular importance to the voluntary sector and to small community groups. The range of funding available must be looked at carefully and, where possible, we need to encourage joint working between the lottery distributors and other funding providers where there is potential for a common approach. One of the main focuses for the future will be the development of capacity, particularly in areas of extreme deprivation or exclusion, but also in other areas where there is less deprivation but still a lack of ability to access lottery funding. We must consider carefully with the lottery distributors how we can increase awareness, improve skills levels within communities, realise opportunities and ensure fair distribution of lottery funding across Wales. Importantly, we must ensure that organisations and agencies from all sectors working within communities in Wales are empowered to put forward quality applications for lottery funding. This capacity building will not only be relevant for applications to lottery distributors, but will also contribute towards the capacity of groups and communities to bid for other funding—the skills can easily be transferred.

3.00 p.m.

I am pleased that, in Wales, lottery distributors are leading the way in the UK as far as co-operation and joint working are concerned—particularly in how they promote awareness of lottery funding and the opportunities that funding offers. I will ask the distributors to build upon this work and consider how they can target this activity, particularly at those areas of Wales with a

ddylanwad ar gyfeiriad arian y loteri yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol i adlewyrchu ein hanghenion a sicrhau'r fantais fwyaf posibl o ran gwella ansawdd bywyd mewn cymunedau ledled Cymru. Dangosodd yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad eisoes bod rhanddeiliaid allweddol yng Nghymru yn awyddus i gael rôl fwy mewn pennu cyfeiriad cyffredinol ariannu y loteri yng Nghymru.

Yr ydym hefyd yn gwybod bod materion eraill y mae pobl yng Nghymru am iddynt gael eu datrys. Mae angen sicrhau, yn y dyfodol, bod y loteri yn dod yn fwy hygyrch i gymunedau ledled Cymru a bod y gweithdrefnau gwneud cais yn cael eu symleiddio. Mae hyn o bwys arbennig i'r sector gwirfoddol ac i grwpiau cymunedol bach. Rhaid edrych yn ofalus ar ystod yr arian sydd ar gael a, lle y bo'n bosibl, rhaid inni annog cydweithio rhwng dosbarthwyr y loteri a darparwyr arian eraill lle mae modd cael ymagwedd gyffredin. Un o'r prif faterion y dylid canolbwyntio arnynt yn y dyfodol yw datblygu gallu, yn arbennig mewn ardaloedd o amddifadedd neu allgáu difrifol, ond hefyd mewn ardaloedd eraill lle mae llai o amddifadedd ond diffyg gallu o hyd i gael gafael ar arian y loteri. Rhaid inni ystyried yn ofalus gyda dosbarthwyr y loteri sut y gallwn gynyddu ymwybyddiaeth, gwella lefelau sgiliau o fewn cymunedau, gwireddu cyfleoedd a sicrhau dosbarthiad teg o arian y loteri ledled Cymru. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn sicrhau bod cyrff ac asiantaethau o bob sector sy'n gweithio o fewn cymunedau yng Nghymru yn cael eu grymuso i gyflwyno ceisiadau o safon am arian y loteri. Bydd meithrin gallu yn y fath fodd nid yn unig yn berthnasol i geisiadau i ddosbarthwyr y loteri, ond hefyd yn cyfrannu tuag at allu grwpiau a chymunedau i wneud cais am arian arall—gellir trosglwyddo'r sgiliau yn rhwydd.

Mae'n dda gennyf fod dosbarthwyr y loteri, yng Nghymru, yn arwain y ffordd yn y DU o ran cydweithredu a chydweithio—yn arbennig yn y ffordd yr hyrwyddant ymwybyddiaeth o arian y loteri a'r cyfleoedd a gynigir gan yr arian. Byddaf yn gofyn i ddosbarthwyr adeiladau ar y gwaith hwn ac ystyried sut y gallant dargedu'r gweithgaredd hwn, yn arbennig yn yr ardaloedd hynny o

poor record of accessing lottery funding and, moreover, at our deprived or excluded communities.

As I stated earlier, there is a general consensus that the Assembly should have a greater say in the strategic direction of lottery funding in Wales, without necessarily exerting central control. I am also aware that there have been calls previously for a reduction in the number of distributors in Wales, and even the proposal of having a single distributing body. I can confirm that responses to the consultation show that this would not be a positive step forward. While a single body is attractive cosmetically, it is acknowledged that it could have several disadvantages—not least the loss of expertise built up by the distributors, and the disruption that would be caused by organisational and structural changes. I therefore intend to pursue with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport how we can make changes in Wales that really make a difference to how lottery funding is distributed in Wales. Giving us the powers to set the lottery directions generally across all distributors would ensure that they are more sensitive to our needs.

I have already received broad support for my proposals from the Culture Committee. I will make the Welsh Assembly Government's views known to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport before the end of November, and the views of Members in Plenary will help to shape my conclusions.

Owen John Thomas: Croesawaf y datganiad yn gyffredinol, Weinidog. Bob tro y mae pwnc y loteri yn codi ei ben, y mae Aelodau o bob rhan o'r wlad yn cwyno nad yw'r arian yn cael ei ddosbarthu'n deg—mai'r tlawd sy'n cynnal y loteri a'r dosbarth canol sy'n manteisio arni. O'r diwedd, ymddengys y caiff y cwestiwn pwysig hwn ei ystyried.

Croesawaf, hefyd, yr awgrym i ddod â phenderfyniadau yn nes at y bobl, gan wneud y loteri yn fwy atebol i anghenion cymunedau ac yn symleiddio'r holl gyfundrefn drwy ddod â'r cyrff sy'n gyfrifol am ddosbarthu'r arian yn nes at ei gilydd.

Gymru sydd â record wael o gael gafael ar arian y loteri ac, yn fwy na hynny, yn ein cymunedau difreintiedig neu'r rhai sydd wedi eu hallgáu.

Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, mae consensws cyffredinol y dylai'r Cynulliad gael mwy o lais ar gyfeiriad strategol arian y loteri yng Nghymru, heb reolaeth ganolog o anghenraid. Yr wyf hefyd yn ymwybodol y bu galw am leihad yn nifer y dosbarthwyr yng Nghymru, a hyd yn oed gynnig y dylid cael un corff dosbarthu. Gallaf gadarnhau bod ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad yn dangos na fyddai hyn yn gam positif ymlaen. Er bod un corff yn ymddangos yn ddeniadol ar yr wyneb, cydnabyddir y gallai fod iddo lawer o anfanteision—yn bennaf colli'r arbenigedd a adeiladwyd gan y dosbarthwyr, a'r tarfu y byddai newidiadau trefniadol a strwythurol yn ei achosi. Bwriadaf felly, drafod gyda'r Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon sut y gallwn wneud newidiadau yng Nghymru a fydd yn gwneud gwir wahaniaeth i sut y caiff arian y loteri ei ddosbarthu yng Nghymru. Bydd rhoi'r pwerau inni bennu cyfeiriad y loteri yn gyffredinol ar draws yr holl ddosbarthwyr yn sicrhau eu bod yn fwy sensitif i'n hanghenion.

Cefais gefnogaeth gyffredinol i'm cynigion eisoes gan y Pwyllgor Diwylliant. Byddaf yn hysbysu'r Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon o farn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru cyn diwedd Tachwedd, a bydd barn yr Aelodau yn y Cyfarfod Llawn yn fy nghynorthwyo i lunio fy nghasgliadau.

Owen John Thomas: I welcome the statement in general, Minister. Every time the subject of the lottery comes up, Members from all parts of the country complain that money is not fairly distributed—that it is the poor who sustain the lottery and the middle classes who benefit from it. At last, it seems that this important question is being considered.

I also welcome the suggestion of bringing decision-making closer to the people, making the lottery more answerable to the needs of communities, and simplifying the process by bringing together the bodies responsible for distributing funds. We must also ensure that

Rhaid hefyd sicrhau nad yw achosion teilwng yn colli cyfle drwy syrthio rhwng dwy stôl. Sut ydych chi am sicrhau hyn?

worthy causes do lose out because they fall between two stools. How will you ensure that does not happen?

Mae Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru a Chyngor Chwaraeon Cymru yn atebol i'r Cynulliad o ran polisi, ac i'r Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon yn San Steffan am reolaeth ariannol. Mae'r cyrff eraill—y gronfa gymunedol, cronfa dreftadaeth y loteri a'r gronfa cyfleoedd newydd—oll yn llwyr atebol i'r Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon. Croesawaf eich bwriad i gryfhau dylanwad y Cynulliad yn y maes hwn.

The Arts Council of Wales and the Sports Council for Wales are accountable to the Assembly in terms of policy and to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in Westminster for financial regulation. The other bodies—the community fund, the heritage lottery fund and the new opportunities fund—are all entirely accountable to the DCMS. I welcome your intention to ensure that the Assembly will have more influence in this area.

Mae'r Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol ac eraill am weld cyfran Cymru o arian y loteri yn codi i adlewyrchu anghenion, yn hytrach na phoblogaeth, hynny yw, i lefel o ryw 6.5 y cant. Caiff yr egwyddor ei pharchu yn barod gan rai o'r cyrff Prydeinig, gan gynnwys y gronfa gymunedol a'r gronfa cyfleoedd newydd, ond nid yn achos chwaraeon a'r celfyddydau. A yw'r Gweinidog yn rhagweld newid yn y ffigurau hyn?

The Local Government Association and others want to see Wales's share of lottery money increased to reflect need, rather than population. That would give us a share of some 6.5 per cent. This principle is already observed by some of the British bodies, including the community fund and the new opportunities fund, but not in the case of sports and the arts. Does the Minister predict a change in these figures?

Hoffwn feddwl bod yr adolygiad yn agor y drws i ni yng Nghymru gymryd yr awenau drwy hawlio'r cyfrifoldeb am weinyddu ein cyfundrefn ein hunain drwy Gymru. Teimlaf, er mwyn i'r broses ddod yn nes at y bobl, ac er mwyn symleiddio pethau, mai'r Cynulliad ddylai fod yn gyfrifol am lywio a rheoleiddio polisi pob un o'r cyrff sy'n dosrannu grantiau yng Nghymru. Beth yw agwedd y Gweinidog at hyn?

I would like to think that the review opens the door for us in Wales to take the lead by taking responsibility for administering our own system throughout Wales. I feel that, in order to bring the process closer to the people, and to simplify matters, the Assembly should be responsible for steering and regulating the policies of each body that distributes grants in Wales. What is the Minister's stance on this?

Jenny Randerson: The figures do not show quite the stark picture that you paint of the middle classes benefiting and the working classes paying. I do not think that. However, there are cold spots. The best way to address those cold spots is to ensure that the lottery directions are sensitive to our needs in Wales, and the best way of doing that is to ensure that they are set in Wales, by the Assembly.

Jenny Randerson: Nid yw'r ffigurau'n dangos darlun mor llwm ag y tynnwch chi o'r dosbarth canol yn elwa a'r dosbarth gweithiol yn talu. Nid wyf yn credu hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae mannau oer. Y ffordd orau o fynd i'r afael â'r mannau oer hynny yw sicrhau bod pwyslais y loteri yn sensitif i'n hanghenion ni yng Nghymru, a'r ffordd orau o wneud hynny yw sicrhau eu bod yn cael eu pennu yng Nghymru, gan y Cynulliad.

The distributors are currently working well together and are ahead of the rest of the UK in that; one advantage of being a small country is that working together is easier. Three distributors are producing awards for all, which is a common scheme.

Mae'r dosbarthwyr ar hyn o bryd yn cydweithio'n dda ac maent ar y blaen i weddill y DU yn hynny o beth; un fantais o fod yn wlad fach yw bod cydweithio'n haws. Mae tri dosbarthwr yn cynhyrchu dyfarniadau i bawb, sy'n gynllun cyffredin.

Occasionally, they hold lottery fairs at which they are all present, and invite members of the public and local organisations to find out what is on offer. People can move easily between the stands and can get the information that they require. If the Assembly had more influence, we would make it a priority to encourage working together.

On the percentage of lottery share issued, the present situation is, frankly, illogical. The new opportunities fund takes deprivation into account, the Sports Council for Wales percentage share does not, yet its grant programme does. It is unfair and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is aware that we regard this issue as an important part of the consultation. We are submitting more representations on this.

Peter Law: Minister, it is important that we are all lottery winners in terms of benefiting from these funds, especially our deprived communities. I come from an area that has not been particularly successful in winning lottery funding for many projects. Having said that, I recognise that matters are improving. I appreciate the good work of the new opportunities fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund in particular, which sends teams to places like Blaenau Gwent to help build capacity and to help inform people in the community of the opportunities available to them. Lack of information and communication is a great problem and, as there are so many different funds, people are confused.

Match funding is also a problem, and always has been. It has meant that deprived areas like Blaenau Gwent remain on the bottom level. That was highlighted in a recent press article which noted that around three Sportslot applications were received from Blaenau Gwent as opposed to 100 or so from a county in north Wales—and good luck to them. Without match funding, you cannot go anywhere, and without business sponsorship, you are in your own world—you have had it. That is the problem that my constituents face.

Yn achlysurol cynhaliant ffeiriau loteri lle byddant i gyd yn bresennol, a gwahoddant aelodau'r cyhoedd a chyrff lleol i ddarganfod beth sydd ar gael. Gall pobl symud yn hawdd rhwng stondinau a gallant gael y wybodaeth sydd ei hangen arnynt. Pe bai gan y Cynulliad fwy o ddylanwad, byddem yn ei gwneud yn flaenoriaeth i annog cydweithio.

O ran y ganran o gyfran y loteri a ddosbarthwyd, y mae'r sefyllfa bresennol, mewn gair, yn afresymegol. Mae'r gronfa cyfleoedd newydd yn rhoi ystyriaeth i amddifadedd, ond nid yw cyfran ganrannol Cyngor Chwaraeon Cymru yn gwneud hynny, er bod ei raglen grant yn gwneud hynny. Mae'n annheg ac mae'r Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon yn ymwybodol ein bod yn ystyried y mater hwn yn rhan bwysig o'r ymgynghoriad. Yr ydym yn cyflwyno rhagor o sylwadau ar hyn.

Peter Law: Weinidog, mae'n bwysig ein bod i gyd yn enillwyr y loteri o ran elwa ar y cronfeydd hyn, yn enwedig ein cymunedau difreintiedig. Yr wyf fi yn dod o ardal na fu'n arbennig o llwyddiannus o ran ennill arian y loteri ar gyfer sawl prosiect. Ar ôl dweud hynny, cydnabyddaf fod pethau yn gwella. Gwerthfawrogaf waith da y gronfa cyfleoedd newydd a Chronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri yn arbennig, sy'n anfon timau i leoedd fel Blaenau Gwent i gynorthwyo cynyddu capasiti ac i hysbysu pobl yn y gymuned o'r cyfleoedd sydd ar gael iddynt. Mae diffyg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu yn broblem fawr a, chan fod cynifer o gronfeydd gwahanol, mae pobl wedi drysu.

Mae arian cyfatebol hefyd yn broblem, a bu'n broblem erioed. Mae wedi golygu bod ardaloedd difreintiedig fel Blaenau Gwent yn aros ar y lefel isaf. Amlygwyd hynny mewn erthygl ddiweddar yn y wasg a nododd fod o ddeutu tri chais Sportslot wedi eu derbyn o Flaenau Gwent o gymharu â thua 100 o sir yn y gogledd—a phob lwc iddynt. Heb arian cyfatebol, ni allwch fynd i unman, a heb nawdd busnes, yr ydych ar eich pen eich hun—mae ar ben arnoch. Dyna'r broblem sy'n wynebu fy etholwyr i.

Will the Minister redouble her efforts to

A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddyblu ei

encourage the lottery funds distributors to be more visible? If necessary, they could hold mini-conferences in each county to inform people of what is available. They should try to get away from match funding as much as possible, and provide people with the capacity building capability that some of these funds have begun to provide, which is vital for deprived and excluded communities like mine.

Jenny Randerson: I am sure that the lottery distributors will welcome your comments, as they have been working hard to deal with the issues surrounding the so-called cold spots in Wales. Over the next year or so, I hope that they will ensure that lottery fairs, which I referred to in my earlier answer, are held in areas with cold spots. However, cold spots are not the same for each distributor, which is a complicating factor. For example, Blaenau Gwent has a good record with the Sports Council for Wales. It has received a significant amount of money from the sports council—well over £3 million—compared to other areas, which have only received £1 million within the same categories of grant. It is not an even balance, but we need to learn from that. We must find out why it is not even. What are some distributors doing that others are not?

Finally, the question of capacity building is clearly important. We have identified that we need to tackle match funding and the sources of match funding.

Glyn Davies: Minister, we welcome the major review of the distribution of lottery funding across the UK. Indeed, we welcome and support most of what you said in your statement today. It is impossible for us not to support the need for a clear Welsh direction for all lottery funding streams and a strategically focused approach. We particularly support your enthusiasm for joint working with other supporting organisations. Some small bodies find it more difficult to deal with the administration than larger organisations. If there is joint working between organisations that support those small bodies, it often reduces the administrative burden on charities making

hymdrechion i annog dosbarthwyr arian y loteri i fod yn fwy amlwg? Os oes rhaid, gallant gynnal is-gynadleddau ym mhob sir i hysbysu pobl o'r hyn sydd ar gael. Dylent geisio pellhau oddi wrth arian cyfatebol gymaint â phosibl a galluogi pobl i gynyddu capasiti, fel y gwnaeth rhai o'r cronfeydd hyn eisoes, sy'n hanfodol i gymunedau difreintiedig ac sydd wedi eu hallgáu fel fy un innau.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y bydd dosbarthwyr y loteri yn croesawu eich sylwadau, gan eu bod wedi bod yn gweithio'n galed i ymdrin â'r materion sy'n ymwneud â'r manau oer, fel y'u gelwir, yng Nghymru. Dros y flwyddyn a mwy nesaf, gobeithio y byddant yn sicrhau y caiff ffeiriau'r loteri, y cyfeiriais atynt yn fy ateb cynharach, eu cynnal yn yr ardaloedd lle ceir manau oer. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r manau oer yr un peth ar gyfer pob dosbarthwr, sy'n cymhlethu'r sefyllfa. Er enghraifft, mae gan Flaenau Gwent record dda gyda Chyngor Chwaraeon Cymru. Derbyniodd symiau sylweddol o arian gan y cyngor chwaraeon—ymhell dros £3 miliwn—o gymharu ag ardaloedd eraill, sydd ond wedi derbyn £1 miliwn o fewn yr un categorïau grant. Nid yw'n ddosbarthiad cyfartal, ond rhaid inni ddysgu o hynny. Rhaid inni ddarganfod pam y mae'n anghyfartal. Beth y mae rhai dosbarthwyr yn ei wneud nas gwneir gan y lleill?

Yn olaf, mae cynyddu capasiti yn bwysig. Yr ydym wedi nodi ein bod am fynd i'r afael ag arian cyfatebol a ffynonellau arian cyfatebol.

Glyn Davies: Weinidog, croesawn yr adolygiad mawr o ddosraniad arian loteri ledled y DU. Yn wir, croesawn a chefnogwn y rhan fwyaf a ddywedasochn yn eich datganiad heddiw. Mae'n amhosibl inni beidio â chefnogi'r angen am gyfeiriad Cymreig eglur ar gyfer llif ariannu'r loteri ac ymagwedd ag iddi ffocws strategol. Yr ydym yn cefnogi eich brwdfrydedd dros gydweithio gyda chyrrff cefnogol eraill yn arbennig. Mae rhai cyrrff bychain yn ei chael hi'n fwy anodd ymdrin â'r gwaith gweinyddol na chyrrff mwy. Os oes cydweithio rhwng cyrrff sy'n cefnogi'r cyrrff bychain hynny, mae'n aml yn lleihau'r baich gweinyddol ar elusennau sy'n gwneud y ceisiadau.

applications.

3:10 p.m.

On Owen John Thomas's point, you mentioned the Sports Council for Wales, which the Assembly controls. We have a problem with regard to the percentage of funding available to the council, which was 5 per cent until 0.5 per cent was redistributed four years ago for UK purposes. In broad terms, Wales lost around £1.2 million, although it has been given back £600,000 in terms of grants. We are still losing around £500,000 a year, even without considering deprivation and the greater costs relating to the issues of sparsity and rurality that are linked with deprivation. If those issues were brought into the debate, perhaps funding of 6 per cent would be more appropriate, which is the point that you make. Are you taking forward every aspect of this argument and making a strong case on this issue? I am sure that you will find support from all parties if you take a strong line. Wales is not getting its fair share in terms of this area of funding. Every Member supports you on this issue, particularly Conservative Members.

Jenny Randerson: Your support, in general, is helpful, particularly on the final point that you made. Funding of 5 per cent is too low because it does not reflect the greater costs that arise because of deprivation. When 0.5 per cent was redistributed for the UK performance programme—regardless of whether we get our money's worth from that programme—we lost our ability to decide on how that money is spent. That percentage share is a problem because it costs the same amount of money to build a swimming pool in Wales as it does in the Midlands. The fact that Wales is such a small country reduces our ability to fund capital development.

The number of athletes from Wales on the performance programme varies, which causes a problem in terms of ensuring that we get our money's worth from the 0.5 per cent that was redistributed for UK use. We certainly do not benefit fully from some aspects of that programme. To my knowledge, there is only one performance manager working in Wales. I assure you that I have raised this issue at every meeting of the UK Sports Cabinet that

Ar bwynt Owen John Thomas, soniasoch am Gyngor Chwaraeon Cymru, a reolir gan y Cynulliad. Mae gennym broblem o ran canran yr arian sydd ar gael i'r cyngor, a oedd yn 5 y cant hyd nes i 0.5 y cant gael ei ailddosbarthu bedair blynedd yn ôl at ddibenion y DU. Yn fras, collodd Cymru oddeutu £1.2 filiwn, er iddi adennill £600,000 yn ôl drwy grantiau. Yr ydym yn parhau i golli tua £500,000 y flwyddyn, hyd yn oed heb ystyried amddifadedd a'r costau uwch sy'n ymwneud â theneurwydd y boblogaeth a gwledigrwydd sy'n gysylltiedig ag amddifadedd. Pe bai'r materion hynny yn cael eu cyflwyno i'r drafodaeth, efallai y byddai arian o 6 y cant yn fwy priodol, sef y pwynt a wnewch. A ydych yn datblygu pob agwedd ar y ddadl hon ac yn gwneud achos cryf ar y mater hwn? Yr wyf yn siŵr y cewch gefnogaeth gan bob plaid os cymerwch agwedd gadarn. Nid yw Cymru'n cael cyfran deg o'r arian hwn. Mae pob Aelod yn eich cefnogi ar y mater hwn, yn enwedig yr Aelodau Ceidwadol.

Jenny Randerson: Mae eich cefnogaeth, yn gyffredinol, o gymorth, yn enwedig ar y pwynt olaf a wnaethoch. Mae 5 y cant yn rhy isel oherwydd nad yw'n adlewyrchu'r costau uwch sy'n deillio o amddifadedd. Pan gafodd 0.5 y cant ei ailddosbarthu ar gyfer rhaglen perfformiad y DU—pa un a gawn werth ein harian o'r rhaglen honno ai peidio—yr ydym wedi colli'n gallu i benderfynu sut y gwerir yr arian hwnnw. Mae'r gyfran ganrannol honno yn broblem gan ei bod yn costio'r un faint i godi pwll nofio yng Nghymru ag y gwna yng Nghanolbarth Lloegr. Mae'r ffaith bod Cymru yn wlad mor fach yn lleihau'n gallu i ariannu datblygiadau cyfalaf.

Mae nifer yr athletwyr o Gymru yn y rhaglen perfformiad yn amrywio, sy'n achosi problem o ran sicrhau ein bod yn cael gwerth ein harian o'r 0.5 y cant a gafodd ei ailddosbarthu at ddefnydd y DU. Yn sicr nid ydym yn elwa'n llawn ar rai agweddau ar y rhaglen honno. Hyd y gwn i dim ond un rheolwr perfformiad sy'n gweithio yng Nghymru. Fe'ch sicrhaf fy mod wedi codi hyn ym mhob cyfarfod o Gabinet Chwaraeon

we have held, and in many other ways. It will be a central part of our response on lottery funding. The DCMS has recognised that this is an important issue for us and has stated that it expects to address it as part of its review. We can only hope that it will consider the issue positively. I hope that we will be able to unite on this in order to put forward the strongest possible case.

Peter Black: I also welcome this statement. It is important that lottery distributors are more aware of the needs of Wales when deciding how to distribute funding and resources, so that Wales gets its fair share. I welcome the commitment in the statement to asking distributors to consider how they can target their activities at those areas of Wales with a poor record of accessing lottery funding.

I think the idea of teams going into areas to consider match funding and to try to simplify funds is particularly important. One of the areas that I represent, Bridgend, currently receives the lowest amount of lottery funding per capita, despite the fact that it has many deprived areas. It is important that we consider ways of improving the flow of money to areas like that and, to that end, I would welcome any contribution that you can make as part of this review.

There is also the issue of the sustainability of lottery funding. A number of organisations rely on lottery funding to get projects up and running and they have great difficulty with the administrative burden and the red-tape and bureaucracy involved in acquiring funding. At the same time, they are establishing schemes without necessarily having the core funding in place to support them and that is a huge problem. At the end of three years, the funding is taken away from that scheme; it is almost impossible to get a scheme renewed with lottery funding and, as a result, the good work that it has been doing effectively comes to an end and the community suffers.

A Swansea charity that established the Play Resource Centre, which collects waste

y DU a gynhaliwyd gennym, ac mewn sawl ffordd arall. Bydd yn rhan ganolog o'n hymateb ar arian y loteri. Mae'r DCMS yn cydnabod bod hwn yn fater pwysig inni ac mae wedi datgan ei bod yn disgwyl mynd i'r afael ag ef fel rhan o'i hadolygiad. Ni allwn ond gobeithio y bydd yn ystyried y mater yn gadarnhaol. Gobeithiaf y byddwn yn gallu uno ar hyn er mwyn cyflwyno'r achos cryfaf posibl.

Peter Black: Yr wyf innau hefyd yn croesawu'r datganiad hwn. Mae'n bwysig bod dosbarthwyr y loteri yn fwy ymwybodol o anghenion Cymru wrth benderfynu sut i ddosbarthu arian ac adnoddau, er mwyn i Gymru gael ei chyfran deg. Croesawaf ymrwymiad y datganiad i ofyn i ddosbarthwyr ystyried sut y gallant dargeddu eu gweithgareddau yng Nghymru ar yr ardaloedd hynny sydd â record wael o gael gafael ar arian y loteri.

Credaf fod y syniad o dimau yn mynd i ardaloedd i ystyried arian cyfatebol a cheisio symleiddio'r broses ariannu yn arbennig o bwysig. Mae Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, un o'r ardaloedd a gynrychiolaf, ar hyn o bryd yn derbyn y swm lleiaf o ariannu loteri y pen, er gwaetha'r ffaith bod ganddi lawer o ardaloedd difreintiedig. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn ystyried ffyrdd o wella llif yr arian i ardaloedd fel hynny ac, i'r perwyl hwnnw, byddwn yn croesawu unrhyw gyfraniad y gallwch ei wneud fel rhan o'r adolygiad hwn.

Hefyd ceir mater cynaliadwyedd arian y loteri. Mae nifer o gyrff yn dibynnu ar arian y loteri i sefydlu prosiectau a chânt anhawster mawr gyda'r baich gweinyddol a'r fiwrocratiaeth sy'n gysylltiedig â chael arian. Ar yr un pryd maent yn sefydlu cynlluniau heb fod ganddynt yr arian craidd i'w cefnogi ac mae honno'n broblem enfawr. Ar ddiwedd tair blynedd, caiff yr ariannu ei dynnu o'r cynllun hwnnw; mae bron yn amhosibl adnewyddu cynllun gydag arian y loteri ac, o ganlyniad, mae'r gwaith da a wnaeth i bob pwrpas yn dod i ben ac mae'r gymuned yn dioddef.

Yn ddiweddar, bu'n rhaid i elusen yn Abertawe a sefydlodd y Ganolfan Adnoddau

material for resale to schools and community groups, recently had to make four workers redundant because of those problems. Minister, as a part of this review, will you consider making lottery funding more sustainable, given the reliance of the voluntary sector on it, and will you make representations to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to try to find mechanisms by which crucial community regeneration schemes, dependent on lottery money, are able to keep going once that lottery money falls off the end of the cliff?

Jenny Randerson: I am well aware of the thorny issue of sustainability and, in fact, almost all the responses to our consultation referred to it. Sustainability was certainly underplayed in the early years of the lottery. The reasoning is that if you continuously renew lottery grants for the organisations that you have already given money to, then you do not have the opportunity to give fresh money to new organisations. At the same time, there is an element of erasing people's hopes and wasting money by creating projects that eventually fail because they are not sustainable. I think we need to consider the length and renewability of funding, so that we give organisations a fair chance to get up and running properly before the money is withdrawn. There must be a clear exit strategy—as it is commonly called—in applications which need annually renewed funding, so that those organisations set out a clear programme as to how they will fund themselves in future. There is also a strong case for potential future partners to make a commitment. For example, local authorities could be stronger partners in some projects to ensure that there is an element of sustainability, when the lottery funding comes to an end.

David Davies: It has been widely reported that lottery ticket sales across the UK have fallen because of the large sums of money that are being handed out to extreme left-wing politicised groups, some of which have been extremely scathing about the Government; one inferred that the Government was an extreme right-wing Government—we all know that is not true. Can you ensure that any changes you make

Chwarae, sy'n casglu deunydd gwastraff ar gyfer ei ailwerthu i ysgolion a grwpiau cymunedol, ddiswyddo pedwar gweithiwr oherwydd y problemau hyn. Weinidog, a wnewch chi, fel rhan o'r adolygiad hwn, ystyried gwneud arian y loteri yn fwy cynaliadwy, o gofio dibyniaeth y sector gwirfoddol arno, ac a wnewch sylwadau i'r Adran dros Ddiwylliant Y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon i geisio darganfod dulliau i sicrhau parhad cynlluniau cymunedol hanfodol sy'n dibynnu ar arian y loteri, unwaith y bydd yr arian hwnnw yn dod i ben?

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn llwyr ymwybodol o bwnc dadleuol cynaliadwyedd ac, yn wir, cyfeiriodd bron pob un o'r ymatebion i'n hymgyngghoriad ato. Yn sicr ni roddwyd y sylw dyledus i gynaliadwyedd ym mlynnyddoedd cynnar y loteri. Y rhesymeg yw, os byddwch yn adnewyddu grantiau'r loteri yn gyson i'r cyrff yr ydych eisoes wedi rhoi arian iddynt, ni fydd cyfle i roi arian newydd i gyrff newydd. Ar yr un pryd, ceir elfen o chwalu gobeithion pobl a gwastraffu arian drwy greu prosiectau sydd yn methu yn y pen draw oherwydd nad ydynt yn rhai cynaliadwy. Credaf fod angen inni ystyried yr hyd a'r gallu i adnewyddu'r arian, fel ein bod yn rhoi cyfle teg i gyrff gael eu sefydlu yn iawn cyn bod yr arian yn cael ei dynnu'n ôl. Rhaid bod strategaeth ymadael glir—fel y'i gelwir yn gyffredin—i geisiadau sydd angen ariannu wedi'i adnewyddu'n flynyddol, fel bod y cyrff hyn yn nodi rhaglen eglur o ran sut y byddant yn ariannu eu hunain i'r dyfodol. Mae hefyd achos cryf i bartneriaid posibl i'r dyfodol roi ymrwymiad. Er enghraifft, gallai awdurdodau lleol fod yn bartneriaid cryfach mewn rhai prosiectau i sicrhau bod elfen o gynaliadwyedd, pan ddaw arian y loteri i ben.

David Davies: Adroddwyd yn helaeth fod gwerthiant tocynnau loteri ledled y DU wedi gostwng oherwydd y symiau mawr o arian sy'n cael ei dosbarthu i grwpiau eithafol adain chwith, y mae rhai ohonynt wedi bod yn arbennig o feirniadol o'r Llywodraeth; awgrymodd un fod y Llywodraeth yn Llywodraeth adain dde eithafol—yr ydym i gyd yn gwybod nad yw hynny'n wir. A allwch roi sicrwydd na fydd unrhyw

will not allow this to happen in Wales?

newidiadau a wnewch yn caniatáu i hyn ddigwydd yng Nghymru?

Jenny Randerson: I am delighted that you read the *Daily Mail*, David—I would have expected no less of you. However, I agree with your view of the Government's political complexion. The way that lottery money is handed out to organisations is clearly a key issue in terms of the original concept of the lottery. The original idea was that it should provide additional money for organisations to undertake work that would not otherwise be funded from the Government's pot of money.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf wrth fy modd eich bod yn darllen y *Daily Mail*, David—ni fyddwn wedi disgwyl dim llai gennych. Fodd bynnag, cytunaf â'ch barn am liw gwleidyddol y Llywodraeth. Mae'r modd y caiff arian y loteri ei ddosbarthu i gyrff yn amlwg yn fater allweddol o ran cysyniad gwreiddiol y loteri. Y syniad gwreiddiol oedd y byddai yn darparu arian ychwanegol i gyrff i ymgymryd â gwaith na fyddai fel arall yn cael ei ariannu gan y Llywodraeth.

3:20 p.m.

As other Members have said, the application process for lottery funding is sufficiently complex and rigorous. The checks on the submission of business plans, the status of organisations and so on are rigorous enough to ensure that the money is generally well spent. In any system that involves so many hundreds of millions of pounds being handed out to third party organisations, there is bound to be the occasional controversy. I welcome the idea that organisations take risks with money by trying out new ideas that have been considered to be acceptable according to the general principles. The Government should not dictate exactly how every penny of lottery money should be spent, and I do not think that you would agree that it should. I deplore the campaign in the *Daily Mail*. Having received one or two letters on that subject, I can tell you that the matter was irrelevant to Wales. The kind of hatred that that campaign has stirred up does nothing but divide, and detract from, our society.

Fel y dywedodd Aelodau eraill, mae'r broses o wneud cais am arian y loteri yn ddigon cymhleth a chadarn. Mae'r gwiriadau ar gyflwyno cynlluniau busnes, statws y cyrff ac yn y blaen yn ddigon cadarn i sicrhau bod yr arian yn cael ei wario yn dda yn gyffredinol. Mewn unrhyw system sy'n golygu bod cymaint o gannoedd o filiynau o bunnoedd yn cael eu trosglwyddo i gyrff trydydd parti, mae dadleuon achlysurol yn anorfod. Croesawaf y syniad bod cyrff yn mentro gydag arian drwy roi cynnig ar syniadau newydd yr ystyrir eu bod yn dderbyniol yn ôl egwyddorion cyffredinol. Ni ddylai'r Llywodraeth bennu sut yn union y dylai pob ceiniog o arian y loteri gael ei gwario, ac ni chredaf y byddech chi'n cytuno â hynny. Gresynaf am yr ymgyrch yn y *Daily Mail*. Gan imi dderbyn un neu ddau lythyr ar y pwnc hwnnw, gallaf ddweud wrthyach nad oedd y mater yn berthnasol i Gymru. Nid yw'r math o atgasedd a enynnwyd gan yr ymgyrch honno yn gwneud dim ond rhannu, a bychanu, ein cymdeithas.

Janice Gregory: I also welcome the statement. Like Peter Law, I am one of those who represents a cold spot. As Peter Black mentioned, Bridgend is severely disadvantaged in terms of lottery funding. I often wonder if that is because of the capacity within communities. Community groups are desperate for funding and are aware of the importance of lottery funding, but they are terrified of the forms and are concerned about the application process. That is why I am glad that there will be capacity building. Who will help those groups—which, in the main,

Janice Gregory: Croesawaf innau'r datganiad hefyd. Fel Peter Law, yr wyf yn un o'r rhai hynny sy'n cynrychioli man oer. Fel y soniodd Peter Black, mae Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr o dan anfantais ddifrifol o ran arian y loteri. Byddaf yn aml yn meddwl ai'r rheswm am hynny yw'r capasiti o fewn cymunedau. Mae grwpiau cymunedol yn crefu am arian ac maent yn ymwybodol o bwysigrwydd arian y loteri, ond y mae'r ffurflenni'n codi ofn arnynt ac y maent yn pryderu am y broses o wneud cais. Dyna pam yr wyf yn falch y bydd proses o gynyddu capasiti. Pwy wnaiff

consist of volunteers—to fill out those forms and thus possibly access funding? Can we streamline the forms so that they are easier to complete? We must address those issues. I compliment the Finance Minister—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I would prefer not to hear any more compliments: not for me nor anyone else. Please ask the question.

Janice Gregory: The community and facilities programme that Edwina Hart announced in October has simplified forms. The community groups to which I have spoken are heartened by the fact that the Assembly has considered the complexity of funding forms, which has made them less fearful of filling them in.

Jenny Randerson: I am pleased to be able to tell you, Janice, that the Sports Council for Wales has simplified its system so that there is no application form for community chest applications. That is because it works with local authorities, local groups and local contacts, which provide the capacity that you mentioned. I am pleased that other lottery distributors are prepared to consider that approach as the way ahead. The key aspect of the sports council's system is that it has set up partnerships with local authorities. The Arts Council of Wales and the sports council have been good at working with partners in that way.

Alun Cairns: I thank the Minister for her statement. It is received positively. Of course we would like to see a Welsh agenda and Welsh influence better placed as regards lottery spending. However, I sound a note of caution. If funding for Wales is allocated merely on the basis of population, UK-scale projects will never take place in Wales. I highlight the example of the national swimming pool that is about to be built in Swansea. That is welcome. However, that is not a UK-scale project, partly because the funding requirement for such a large-scale project is not available in Wales because the population is split and because of the Sports Council for Wales. Therefore when you seek

helpu'r grwpiau hynny—sydd, gan amlaf, yn wirfoddolwyr—i lanw'r ffurflenni hynny a thrwy hynny o bosibl gael mynediad i arian? A allwn symleiddio'r ffurflenni fel eu bod yn haws i'w cwblhau? Rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â'r materion hynny. Canmolaf y Gweinidog Cyllid—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Byddai'n well gennyf beidio â chlywed rhagor o ganmoliaeth: nid i mi nac unrhyw un arall. A wnewch chi ofyn y cwestiwn.

Janice Gregory: Mae gan y rhaglen cymunedau a chyfleusterau a gyhoeddwyd gan Edwina Hart ym mis Hydref ffurflenni wedi'u symleiddio. Mae'r grwpiau cymunedol y siaradais â hwy wedi'u calonogi gan y ffaith bod y Cynulliad wedi ystyried cymhlethdod y ffurflenni ariannu, sydd wedi eu gwneud yn llai ofnus o'u cwblhau.

Jenny Randerson: Mae'n dda gennyf allu dweud wrthy, Janice, fod Cyngor Chwaraeon Cymru wedi symleiddio'i system fel nad oes ffurflen gais ar gyfer ceisiadau'r gronfa gymunedol. Mae hynny oherwydd ei fod yn cydweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol, grwpiau lleol a chysylltiadau lleol, sy'n rhoi'r capasiti y soniasoch amdano. Yr wyf yn falch bod dosbarthwyr eraill y loteri yn barod i ystyried yr ymagwedd honno fel y ffordd ymlaen. Agwedd allweddol system y cyngor chwaraeon yw ei fod wedi sefydlu partneriaethau ag awdurdodau lleol. Bu Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru a'r cyngor chwaraeon yn dda yn gweithio â phartneriaid yn y modd hwnnw.

Alun Cairns: Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am ei datganiad. Caiff ei dderbyn yn gadarnhaol. Wrth gwrs byddem yn falch o weld agenda Gymreig a dylanwad Cymreig yn cael lle gwell o ran gwariant y loteri. Fodd bynnag fe'ch rhybuddiaf i fod yn ofalus. Os bydd arian yng Nghymru yn cael ei ddosbarthu ar sail poblogaeth yn unig, ni fydd prosiectau ar sail y DU byth yn digwydd yng Nghymru. Amlygaf enghraifft y pwll nofio cenedlaethol sydd ar fin cael ei godi yn Abertawe. Mae hwnnw i'w groesawu. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hwnnw'n brosiect ar raddfa'r DU, yn rhannol oherwydd nad yw'r cyllid ar gyfer prosiect ar raddfa mor fawr ar gael yng Nghymru oherwydd bod y boblogaeth wedi'i rhannu ac

to interpose a Welsh agenda, which we would view positively, will you also ensure that UK-scale projects will come to Wales? If the matter is considered simply in terms of population, we will not see a project of that scale again.

Jenny Randerson: You have pinpointed a crucial issue. One problem is that we have had UK-scale projects from two funds; the Millennium Commission, which is winding down and no longer gives money for UK-scale projects, and the Heritage Lottery Fund. My proposals do not affect the way in which the Heritage Lottery Fund distributes money. We are conscious of the fact that the Heritage Lottery Fund has a Wales fund, which provides smaller grants, and a UK fund for large projects, such as the Swansea Maritime Museum. The availability of large sums of money is important for the kind of projects that that fund is dealing with. I will be careful not to interfere with that concept in putting forward the proposals. One reason why a single lottery body in Wales was proposed—though it was unpopular in consultation—was that different funds could then be amalgamated to get the significant sums of money that are occasionally needed. However, the overwhelming view was that the disadvantages of that outweighed the advantages.

John Griffiths: This lottery is a regressive tax, as Members have said, and we must ensure that our deprived communities get their fair share. You know of the situation in Newport East. I have statistics from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport—

The Presiding Officer: Order. We are short of time.

John Griffiths: Will you address that situation? The people of Newport East are among the highest contributors, but they receive the least benefit.

Jenny Randerson: I did not catch all of that.

oherwydd bodolaeth Cyngor Chwaraeon Cymru. Felly pan fyddwch yn ceisio pennu agenda Gymreig, y byddem yn edrych arni'n gadarnhaol, a fyddwch hefyd yn sicrhau y bydd prosiectau ar raddfa'r DU yn dod i Gymru? Os caiff y mater ei ystyried ar sail poblogaeth yn unig, ni welwn brosiect ar y raddfa honno eto.

Jenny Randerson: Yr ydych wedi rhoi eich bys ar fater hollbwysig. Un broblem yw ein bod wedi cael prosiectau'r DU o ddwy gronfa; Comisiwn y Mileniwm sy'n dirwyn i ben ac nid yw bellach yn rhoi arian i brosiectau'r DU, a Chronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri. Nid yw fy nghynigion yn effeithio ar y modd y mae Cronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri yn dosbarthu ei harian. Yr ydym yn ymwybodol o'r ffaith bod gan Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri gronfa Gymreig sy'n rhoi grantiau llai, a chronfa'r DU ar gyfer prosiectau mawr, megis Amgueddfa Forwrol Abertawe. Mae argaeledd symiau mawr o arian yn bwysig i'r math o brosiectau y mae'r gronfa honno yn ymdrin â hwy. Byddaf yn ofalus i beidio ag ymyrryd â'r cysyniad hwnnw wrth roi'r cynigion gerbron. Un rheswm pam y cynigiwyd corff loteri unigol yng Nghymru—er ei fod yn amhoblogaidd yn ystod yr ymgynghori—oedd y gallai gwahanol gronfeydd gael eu huno wedyn i sicrhau y symiau arwyddocaol sydd eu hangen weithiau. Fodd bynnag, y farn a goleddir fwyaf o bell ffordd oedd bod anfanteision hynny yn gorbwyso'r manteision.

John Griffiths: Mae'r loteri yn dreth atchweliadol, fel y dywedodd Aelodau, a rhaid sicrhau bod ein cymunedau difreintiedig yn cael eu cyfran deg. Gwyddoch am y sefyllfa yn Nwyrain Casnewydd. Mae gennyf ystadegau gan yr Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr ydym yn brin o amser.

John Griffiths: A wnewch chi fynd i'r afael â'r sefyllfa honno? Mae pobl Dwyrain Casnewydd ymhlith y cyfranwyr uchaf, ond derbyniant y lleiaf o fudd.

Jenny Randerson: Ni lwyddais i glywed

However, the key issue that you pinpoint is that there are areas where lottery spend is higher. Transparency on what is distributed in different areas is important, and it would encourage fairness. However, to ensure complete transparency, consideration must be given to the money that goes to Wales-wide organisations, which gets attached to individual postcodes. That distorts the overall figures in certain areas.

popeth a ddywedaso. Fodd bynnag, y mater allweddol a amlygir gennych yw bod ardaloedd lle mae gwariant ar y loteri yn uwch. Mae tryloywder o ran yr hyn a ddosberthir mewn gwahanol ardaloedd yn bwysig, a byddai'n annog tegwch. Fodd bynnag i sicrhau tryloywder llwyr, rhaid rhoi ystyriaeth i'r arian sy'n mynd i gyrff Cymru gyfan, a gysylltir â chodau post unigol. Mae hynny'n anffurfio'r ffigurau cyffredinol mewn rhai ardaloedd.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Mynegaf fy ngwerthfawrogiad, ar ran y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, o'r ffordd gynhwysol y mae'r Gweinidog wedi ymdrin â'r mater hwn yn y Pwyllgor ac yn y Cyfarfod Llawn y prynhawn yma. Clywodd bryderon rhai Aelodau. Yn benodol, mae angen hyfforddi pobl ar sut i lanw ffurflenni. Mae bron â bod yn wyddor erbyn hyn, sy'n golygu mai dim ond rhai mudiadau sy'n medru gwneud ceisiadau. Fodd bynnag, cefnogwn yr hyn y mae'r Gweinidog yn ceisio'i wneud er mwyn sicrhau cyfiawnder i Gymru yn y maes hwn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I express my appreciation, on behalf of the Culture Committee, of the inclusive way in which the Minister has dealt with this matter in the Committee and in Plenary this afternoon. She has heard some Members' concerns. Specifically, people need to be trained in how to complete forms. It is almost an art in itself by now, which means that only some societies are able to make bids. However, we support the Minister's attempts to secure justice for Wales in this area.

Jenny Randerson: Thank you. I assure you that the views expressed today will be taken into account in our final comments to the DCMS.

Jenny Randerson: Diolch. Rhoddaf sicrwydd i chi y caiff y barnau a fynegwyd heddiw eu hystyried yn ein sylwadau terfynol i'r adran ddiwylliant.

Datganiad ar Allied Steel and Wire, Caerdydd Statement on Allied Steel and Wire, Cardiff

The Minister for Economic Development (Andrew Davies): Monday's announcement that the major Spanish steelmaker Celsa is the prospective buyer of Allied Steel and Wire's assets is an important step forward. The joint administrative receivers of ASW Holdings plc announced yesterday that they have reached an exclusivity agreement with Celsa Group, a leading steel manufacturer, for the sale of most of the Cardiff site of ASW, together with some plant and machinery at the Cardiff site and at Sheerness. It is hoped that the proposed transaction will take place in January 2003. Confidentiality clauses prevent the receivers providing further details at this stage. However, we all hope that steel-making will recommence in Cardiff next year.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd (Andrew Davies): Mae cyhoeddiad dydd Llun mai Celsa, y gwneuthurwr dur blaenllaw o Sbaen, yw darpar brynwr asedau Allied Steel and Wire yn gam pwysig ymlaen. Cyhoeddodd cyd-dderbynwyr ASW Holdings ccc ddoe eu bod wedi dod i gytundeb cyfyngedig â Celsa Group, gwneuthurwr dur blaenllaw, ar gyfer gwerthu'r rhan fwyaf o safle ASW Caerdydd, ynghyd ag offer a pheiriannau ar safle Caerdydd ac yn Sheerness. Y gobaith yw y bydd y gwerthiant arfaethedig yn digwydd yn Ionawr 2003. Mae cymalau cyfrinachedd yn atal y derbynwyr rhag rhoi manylion pellach ar hyn o bryd. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym oll yn gobeithio y caiff dur ei gynhyrchu unwaith eto yng Nghaerdydd y flwyddyn nesaf.

On Monday, the First Minister and I spoke

Ddydd Llun, siaradodd y Prif Weinidog a

with Juan Carlos Orozco, Celsa's finance director, to hear of Celsa's next steps. The First Minister welcomed the announcement of the prospect of continued steel-making in Cardiff. Both he and I extended a standing invitation to the company's executives to meet us at an appropriate future date, and that was accepted. It has been a long five months for former ASW staff and the communities around the Cardiff plants. Last July, there was devastation at the news from ASW. I was involved in the nine-hour marathon negotiation session in London, where it proved impossible to retain the support of ASW's financial backers for a continuing operation in Cardiff. I applaud the Welsh Development Agency, Education and Learning Wales, the Employment Service, Jobcentre Plus, Careers Wales, Steel Partnership Training, Cardiff County Council, and others—and the receivers remarked on the agencies' commitment and focus—for the terrific progress that has been made since then in helping former ASW employees to find new work and to claim their entitlements.

3:30 p.m.

The news for Sheerness is devastating. We sympathise deeply with those who have continued to produce steel there. The encouraging news for Cardiff does not prevent us from feeling for those who may lose their jobs at Sheerness.

I emphasise that the speculation that the Assembly Government provided financial inducements for Celsa to commit to Cardiff is groundless. Such assistance would, in any case, be illegal under the European steel code, and would have to be paid back with punitive interest by the company concerned on discovery. I spoke to the Minister for Employment Relations, Industry and the Regions, Alan Johnson, earlier today to assure him that no aid had been offered to Celsa, and that the company's decision was taken on a purely commercial basis.

The Welsh Assembly Government has campaigned hard and has been successful in ensuring that former ASW staff qualify for

minnau â Juan Carlos Orozco, cyfarwyddwr cyllid Celsa, er mwyn cael gwybod am gamau nesaf Celsa. Croesawodd y Prif Weinidog y cyhoeddiad y bydd cynhyrchu dur yn parhau yng Nghaerdydd. Estynnodd ef a minnau wahoddiad parhaol i brif weithredwyr y cwmni gyfarfod â ni ar ddyddiad priodol yn y dyfodol, a derbyniwyd hynny. Bu'n bum mis hir i gyn-staff ASW a'r cymunedau o amgylch y gweithfeydd yng Nghaerdydd. Fis Gorffennaf diwethaf, bu tristwch mawr yn dilyn y newyddion gan ASW. Cymerais innau ran yn y sesiwn drafod, a barhaodd am naw awr, yn Llundain, lle bu'n amhosibl cadw cefnogaeth cefnogwyr ariannol ASW er mwyn parhau â'r gwaith yng Nghaerdydd. Llongyfarchaf Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru, y Gwasanaeth Cyflogi, Canolfan Byd Gwaith, Gyrfa Cymru, Hyfforddiant Partneriaeth Ddur, Cyngor Sir Caerdydd, ac eraill—a chanmolodd y derbynwyr ymrwymiad a ffocws yr asiantaethau—am y cynnydd arbennig a wnaed ers hynny wrth helpu cyn- gyflogaion ASW i ddod o hyd i waith newydd ac i hawlio'r hyn sy'n ddyledus iddynt.

Mae'r newyddion i Sheerness yn ofnadwy. Cydymdeimlwn yn fawr â'r rhai sydd wedi parhau i gynhyrchu dur yno. Nid yw'r newyddion calonogol i Gaerdydd yn ein rhwystro rhag teimlo dros y rhai a all golli eu swyddi yn Sheerness.

Pwysleisiaf nad oes sail i'r damcaniaethu bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi cynnig cymhellion ariannol i Celsa i ymrwymo i Gaerdydd. Byddai cymhorthdal o'r fath yn anghyfreithlon o dan god dur Ewrop, a byddai'n rhaid i'r cwmni dan sylw ei ad-dalu â llog cosbol pe câi cymhorthdal o'r fath ei ganfod. Siaradais â'r Gweinidog dros Gysylltiadau Cyflogaeth, Diwydiant a'r Rhanbarthau, Alan Johnson, yn gynharach heddiw er mwyn ei sicrhau na chynigiwyd unrhyw gymhorthdal i Celsa, a gwnaeth y cwmni ei benderfyniad ar sail cwbl fasnachol.

Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi ymgysgu'n galed a bu'n llwyddiannus wrth sicrhau bod cyn-staff ASW yn gymwys i gael

the one-off iron and steel employees re-adaptation benefits scheme payment, which is paid to redundant steel workers in recognition of the severe restrictions on state aid to the industry. Those made redundant by ASW now know that discussions will continue until January.

The Assembly Government has made a great effort to convince Celsa that reopening the Cardiff plant will not only be good news for the Welsh economy but also exceptionally good news for Celsa. We expect to see a major gear change now that we have formal confirmation of Celsa's involvement. However, further discussions are needed. Yesterday morning, the First Minister and I co-chaired a further meeting between ASW's receiver and interested parties, including trade unions, Assembly Members and Members of Parliament, to discuss the proposed sale of ASW. This was another in the series of meetings that the Assembly Government has brokered since July. The tone of the meeting was positive, although it is inevitable that, at this stage in negotiations, there are more questions than answers. Team Wales will continue to do everything possible to ensure a fair and positive resolution to the outstanding issues surrounding the sale. However, for the present, our attention is focused on providing every support to allow the Celsa purchase to go ahead so that steel-making returns to Cardiff as soon as possible.

While we recognise that several hurdles remain, we believe that, after a spell of continuous bad news in the Welsh steel industry, the news of a potential buyer for ASW is a much welcome good news story.

Owen John Thomas: I too welcome Celsa's continued interest in these negotiations and the extension of the exclusivity talks. It is important that we continue to work together without trying to make political capital of the situation. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the meetings.

It is an ill wind that blows no good: the blow

taliad unwaith ac am byth o gynllun budd-daliadau ail-addasu gweithwyr dur a haearn, a delir i weithwyr dur sydd wedi colli eu gwaith mewn cydnabyddiaeth o'r cyfyngiadau difrifol ar nawdd y wladwriaeth i'r diwydiant. Gŵyr y rhai a ddiswyddwyd gan ASW bellach y bydd trafodaethau yn parhau tan fis Ionawr.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi gwneud ymdrech fawr i argyhoeddi Celsa y bydd ailagor y gwaith yng Nghaerdydd nid yn unig yn newyddion da i'r economi yng Nghymru ond hefyd yn newyddion eithriadol o dda i Celsa. Disgwyliwn weld pethau'n symud yn llawer cynt gan fod cadarnhad ffurfiol gennym bellach o gyfranogiad Celsa. Fodd bynnag, mae angen cynnal trafodaethau pellach. Bore ddoe, cyd-gadeiriaais, gyda'r Prif Weinidog, gyfarfod arall rhwng derbyniwr ASW a charfanau â diddordeb, yn cynnwys undebau llafur, Aelodau'r Cynulliad ac Aelodau Seneddol, i drafod gwerthiant arfaethedig ASW. Yr oedd hwn yn un arall o'r cyfarfodydd a drefnwyd gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ers Gorffennaf. Yr oedd naws y cyfarfod yn gadarnhaol, er ei bod yn anochel, ar y cam hwn o'r trafodaethau, bod mwy o gwestiynau nag atebion. Bydd Tîm Cymru yn parhau i wneud popeth o fewn ei allu i sicrhau y caiff y materion sy'n ymwneud â'r gwerthiant eu datrys mewn ffordd deg a chadarnhaol. Fodd bynnag, am y tro, hoelir ein sylw ar roi pob cymorth i alluogi Celsa i fwrw ymlaen i brynu'r gwaith er mwyn i gynhyrchu dur ddychwelyd i Gaerdydd cyn gynted â phosibl.

Er ein bod yn cydnabod bod sawl rhwystr o hyd, credwn, ar ôl cyfnod o newyddion drwg parhaus yn y diwydiant dur yng Nghymru, fod y newyddion bod prynwyr posibl ar gyfer ASW yn newyddion da y mae croeso mawr iddo.

Owen John Thomas: Yr wyf innau hefyd yn croesawu diddordeb parhaus Celsa yn y trafodaethau hyn ac ymestyn y trafodaethau cyfyngedig. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn parhau i gydweithio heb geisio cael mantais wleidyddol o'r sefyllfa. Diolch ichi am roi'r cyfle imi gymryd rhan yn y cyfarfodydd.

Daw rhyw ddaioni o bob drwg: bu'r ergyd i

to Sheerness means good news for Cardiff as it may enhance our chances of reopening the steelworks here. I regret the closure of the Cardiff nail shop and the sale of its plant and machinery, but I welcome the National Assembly Government's intention to ensure that nail shop workers, who do not produce steel, and therefore do not qualify for ISERBS payments, get some measure of help from this Government for their years of work.

I understand that the receiver, KPMG, has not arranged for a meeting between Celsa and the ASW workers. I can understand the sensitivity of the situation but, considering the workers' experience, knowledge and skills I am sure that, if representatives of the workers were to meet with Celsa, Celsa would understand the benefit of re-opening the works and drawing upon the skills of those who know the machinery and understand the workings of the site. It would get them off to a great start. Therefore, I urge you to arrange a meeting between Celsa and the ASW workforce, as this would help to ease the concerns of, and pressure on, the workers as we approach Christmas.

I understand that the Spanish Government has strict rules on the treatment of staff and safeguarding jobs. That is important and a good omen. Celsa is a Catalonia-based firm that also has branches in the Basque country. There are long-standing links between the iron and steel industries in the Basque country and Wales. The Dowlais iron works in Cardiff used to ship iron ore in from, and railway track out to, Spain and other parts of the world. We should draw Celsa's attention to these links, as the idea of two small countries working together might have some influence upon it.

KPMG has made it clear that the agreement to buy the works is not binding, and has stated that at no time was there mention of restarting the—

The Presiding Officer: Order. There is a difference between a preamble and a speech.

Owen John Thomas: I will draw to a close now. The wind-up process of the pension—*[Interruption.]* I will be glad to hear what the

Sheerness yn hwb i Gaerdydd gan y gall roi mwy o obaith o ailagor y gwaith dur yma. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf fod siop hoelion Caerdydd wedi'i chau a bod y peiriannau wedi'u gwerthu, ond croesawaf fwriad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sicrhau bod y gweithwyr siop hoelion, nad ydynt yn cynhyrchu dur, ac felly nad ydynt yn gymwys i gael taliadau ISERBS, yn cael rhyw fath o gymorth gan y Llywodraeth hon am eu blynyddoedd o waith.

Deallaf nad yw'r derbyniwr, KPMG, wedi trefnu cynnal cyfarfod rhwng Celsa a gweithwyr ASW. Deallaf sensitifrwydd y sefyllfa ond, o ystyried profiad y gweithwyr, eu gwybodaeth a'u sgiliau yr wyf yn siŵr, pe bai cynrychiolwyr y gweithwyr yn cyfarfod â Celsa, y byddai Celsa yn deall y fantais o ailagor y gwaith a manteisio ar sgiliau'r rhai sy'n deall y peiriannau ac yn deall sut mae'r safle yn gweithio. Byddai hynny yn sicrhau bod y cwmni'n dechrau yn dda. Felly, yr wyf yn eich annog i drefnu cyfarfod rhwng Celsa a gweithlu ASW, gan y byddai hyn yn helpu i leddfu pryderon y gweithwyr, a'r pwysau arnynt, wrth i'r Nadolig nesáu.

Deallaf fod gan Lywodraeth Sbaen reolau llym ar drin staff a diogelu swyddi. Mae hynny'n bwysig ac yn arwydd da. Mae Celsa yn gwmni a leolir yng Nghatalonia sydd hefyd â changhennau yng ngwlad y Basg. Mae cysylltiadau hirsefydlog rhwng y diwydiannau haearn a dur yng ngwlad y Basg a Chymru. Arferai gwaith haearn Dowlais yng Nghaerdydd fewnforio mwyn haearn o Sbaen a rhannau eraill o'r byd, ac allforio cledrau rheilffordd. Dylem dynnu sylw Celsa at y cysylltiadau hyn, oherwydd gallai'r syniad o ddwy wlad fach yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd gael rhywfaint o ddylanwad arno.

Mae KPMG wedi pwysleisio nad yw'r cytundeb i brynu'r gwaith yn gyfrwymol, gan bwysleisio na wnaeth, ar unrhyw adeg, grybwyll ailddechrau'r—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae gwahaniaeth rhwng rhagymadroddi ac areithio.

Owen John Thomas: Gorffennaf yn awr. Mae'r broses o ddirwyn y pensiwn i ben—*[Torri ar draws.]* Byddaf yn falch o glywed

Tories have to say later. The wind-up of the pension scheme is causing great concern. Will you try to accelerate the process? It is, after all, no more than an arithmetical exercise, but it takes four to five years, largely because of the lack of civil servants to deal with the issue of the inland revenue national insurance contributions office, and the fact that the professional bodies do not hurry as they make a lot of money out of it. I hope that you can take steps in this matter and that, in a few months' time, we can celebrate the reopening of the works with the workers.

Andrew Davies: In terms of development in Cardiff, we are gratified. The fact that Celsa, apparently within one week of ASW's going into receivership, was in active negotiations with KPMG, the receivers, over a possible purchase, and that it has spent three months visiting the ASW site and holding meetings with senior and middle management, are excellent omens for the future. Celsa is not a peripheral player in the steel industry; it is a major player. We welcome its interest, and hope that steel production will start soon.

On relations with the trade unions, we understand that Celsa has a positive industrial relations record, and, as you know, following the meeting yesterday, I gave a commitment that the First Minister and I would help the trade unions engage with Celsa in negotiating the restart of production in Cardiff.

Pensions are a separate issue. It is a complex area, which is not devolved; it is a reserved matter for the Westminster Government. We have taken the matter up with Whitehall Ministers, as have Members of Parliament. The pension fund is run by independent trustees and is a complex issue. We have raised some of the workers' concerns with the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department of Trade and Industry, and we are still pressing and hoping for a positive conclusion. The pension shortfall is unfortunate, and a major contributory factor has been the recent decline in the stock market, which has meant that investments have lost considerable value. We are taking up the other, statutory issues with Whitehall

yr hyn sydd gan y Torïaid i'w ddweud yn nes ymlaen. Mae'r broses o ddirwyn y cynllun pensiwn i ben yn peri pryder mawr. A geisiwch gyflymu'r broses? Wedi'r cwbl, nid yw ond yn ymarfer rhifyddol, ond mae'n cymryd pedair i bum mlynedd, yn bennaf oherwydd prinder gweision sifil i ymdrin â'r mater yn swyddfa cyfraniadau yswiriant gwladol cyllid y wlad, a'r ffaith nad yw'r cyrff proffesiynol yn prysuro gan eu bod yn gwneud llawer o arian ohono. Gobeithiaf y gallwch gymryd camau o ran y mater hwn ac y gallwn, ymhen ychydig fisoedd, ddathlu ailagor y gwaith gyda'r gweithwyr.

Andrew Davies: O ran datblygiad yng Nghaerdydd, yr ydym yn falch. Mae'r ffaith bod Celsa, o fewn wythnos i ASW fynd i ddwylo'r derbyniwr mae'n debyg, yn cynnal trafodaethau gweithredol â KPMG, y derbynwyr, ynglŷn â phryniad posibl, a'i fod wedi treulio tri mis yn ymweld â safle ASW a chynnal cyfarfodydd ag uwch reolwyr a rheolwyr canol, yn argoeli'n dda ar gyfer y dyfodol. Nid yw Celsa yn gwmni ymylol yn y diwydiant dur; mae'n gwmni bwysig. Croesawn ei ddiddordeb, a gobeithiwn y bydd cynhyrchu dur yn dechrau cyn bo hir.

O ran cysylltiadau â'r undebau llafur, deallwn fod gan Celsa record gadarnhaol ar gysylltiadau diwydiannol ac, fel y gwyddoch, yn dilyn y cyfarfod ddoe, rhoddais ymrwymiad y byddai'r Prif Weinidog a minnau yn helpu'r undebau llafur i ymrwymo â Celsa wrth drafod ailgychwyn cynhyrchu yng Nghaerdydd.

Mae pensiynau yn fater ar wahân. Mae'n faes cymhleth, nad yw wedi ei ddatganoli; mae'n fater wedi'i gadw i Lywodraeth San Steffan. Yr ydym wedi codi'r mater â Gweinidogion Whitehall, fel y mae Aelodau Seneddol. Gweinyddir y gronfa bensiwn gan ymddiriedolwyr annibynnol ac mae'n fater cymhleth. Yr ydym wedi codi rhai o bryderon y gweithwyr â'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau a'r Adran Masnach a Diwydiant, ac yr ydym yn pwyso o hyd ac yn gobeithio dod i gasgliad cadarnhaol. Mae'r diffyg yn y pensiwn yn anffodus, ac mae'r dirywiad diweddar yn y farchnad stoc yn ffactor amlwg sy'n cyfrannu at hyn, sydd wedi golygu bod buddsoddiadau wedi colli gwerth sylweddol. Yr ydym yn codi'r materion

Ministers.

eraill, statudol â Gweinidogion Whitehall.

3:40 p.m.

Lorraine Barrett: I thank you, Minister, and the First Minister for facilitating the meetings since ASW went into receivership. Those meetings have included everyone: elected Members from all parties, county councils, the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, who has attended each meeting, the trade unions—Amicus and the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and their shop stewards—the WDA and the receivers. That has been helpful as everyone has known what is happening, even though much of the information was commercially sensitive. The receivers in particular had some difficulty in giving us information at some junctures.

We welcome this announcement, though somewhat cautiously until matters are more certain. However, what more can be done to ensure that former ASW workers are given the first choice of any new jobs? What training funds might be available to Celsa to facilitate any necessary up-skilling, as many of the craftspeople from ASW have now found other work? Owen John covered the issue of encouraging Celsa to meet local people, the unions, the workforce and the Lord Mayor, particularly as the council is prepared to put all the resources it can towards ensuring that this steel plant re-opens in Cardiff.

Andrew Davies: I welcome your praise for all those who played a part in this matter. It has been a Team Wales approach. KPMG said that it has never encountered such a concerted and committed response to any of the big receivership issues that it has dealt with. That is a tribute to all those who have played a part in this all-party, all-institution matter.

If and when Celsa starts operating in Cardiff, I cannot give a commitment that the jobs will go to former ASW workers. It is a matter for the trade unions and us to discuss with Celsa. However, due to the specialist production at ASW and its highly skilled, committed and adaptable workforce—one of the most attractive aspects of ASW for any potential

Lorraine Barrett: Diolch ichi, Weinidog, a'r Prif Weinidog am hwyluso'r cyfarfodydd ers i ASW fynd i ddwylo'r derbyniwr. Mae'r cyfarfodydd hynny wedi cynnwys pawb: Aelodau etholedig o bob plaid, cynghorau sir, Arglwydd Faer Caerdydd, sydd wedi mynychu pob cyfarfod, yr undebau llafur—Amicus a'r Cydffederasiwn Haearn a Dur a'u stiwardiau siop—Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a'r derbynwyr. Bu hynny'n ddefnyddiol gan bod pawb yn gwybod beth sy'n digwydd, er bod llawer o'r wybodaeth yn fasnachol sensitif. Cafodd y derbynwyr, yn arbennig, anawsterau wrth roi gwybodaeth inni ar rai adegau.

Croesawn y cyhoeddiad hwn, er ychydig yn betrusgar, hyd nes y bydd materion yn fwy pendant. Fodd bynnag, faint yn fwy y gellir ei wneud i sicrhau bod cyn-weithwyr ASW yn cael y dewis cyntaf o unrhyw swyddi newydd? Pa gronfeydd hyfforddi a all fod ar gael i Celsa er mwyn hwyluso datblygu mwy o sgiliau yn ôl yr angen, gan fod llawer o grefftwyr ASW bellach wedi dod o hyd i waith arall? Soniodd Owen John am y mater o annog Celsa i gyfarfod â phobl leol, yr undebau, y gweithlu a'r Arglwydd Faer, yn arbennig gan fod y cyngor yn barod i roi'r holl adnoddau posibl tuag at sicrhau bod y gwaith dur hwn yn ailagor yng Nghaerdydd.

Andrew Davies: Croesawaf eich canmoliaeth i bawb a chwaraeodd ran yn y mater hwn. Yr oedd yn enghraifft o Dîm Cymru ar waith. Dywedodd KPMG na ddaeth erioed ar draws ymateb mor gadarn ac ymrwymedig tuag at unrhyw fater yn ymwneud â mynd i ddwylo'r derbyniwr y mae wedi delio ag ef. Mae hynny'n deyrnged i bawb a fu'n rhan o'r mater pob-plaid, pob-sefydliad hwn.

Os a phryd y bydd Celsa yn dechrau gweithredu yng Nghaerdydd, ni allaf addo y bydd y swyddi yn mynd i gyn-weithwyr ASW. Mae'n fater i'r undebau llafur a ninnau i'w drafod â Celsa. Fodd bynnag, oherwydd y gwaith cynhyrchu arbenigol yn ASW a'i weithlu medrus, ymrwymedig a hyblyg—un o agweddau mwyaf deniadol ASW i unrhyw

purchaser—the workers are probably well placed. There are retraining issues, as you mentioned, and they emerged during yesterday's meeting. I said that I would take the matter up with ELWa, the WDA and the local authority to see what we can do to match skills to jobs and to retraining. That is one of the major issues that we will take up.

Alun Cairns: The statement is good news, not only for the former employees of Allied Steel and Wire, but also for Cardiff and the wider community. I can understand why the Minister wants to be associated with such good news. He mentioned in his statement that, last July, everyone was devastated by the news from ASW. Should he not have addressed the Chamber prior to that devastation to make a statement on the difficulties that would be experienced? I note the congratulatory comments made by some of his backbench colleagues. Was the Chamber not the place to share the information? Obviously, that does not include the commercially sensitive information, but you should have come here, at what you called a devastating time, to make a statement. However, this is good news, and we welcome it.

On a separate point, will you now commit to lobbying the Westminster Government to review pension legislation so that people who have worked for an organisation for many years—sometimes for as many as 40 years—do not find that there are no funds to pay their pensions after their retirement? Such legislation needs to be reviewed. I do not have the answers, but a review is the first step to ensure that such a situation is never repeated. I noticed that, during an answer to another Member's questions on pensions, you said that stock market falls had not been helpful. Were the tax raises that the Chancellor of the Exchequer imposed on pension funds also unhelpful?

Andrew Davies: Getting agreement from all parties except the Conservatives is becoming common practice, and we have come to expect it. I made a statement in Plenary—you may not have been present, Alun—in response to ASW's going into receivership. I felt it appropriate to do that, and I have tried,

ddarpar brynwyr—mae'r gweithwyr mewn sefyllfa dda mae'n siŵr. Mae materion ailhyfforddi, fel y dywedoch, a chododd y rheini yn ystod y cyfarfod ddoe. Dywedais y byddwn yn codi'r mater gydag ELWa, y WDA a'r awdurdod lleol i weld beth y gallwn ei wneud i gyfateb sgiliau â swyddi, ac ailhyfforddi. Dyna un o'r prif faterion y byddwn yn eu codi.

Alun Cairns: Mae'r datganiad yn newyddion da, nid yn unig i gyn-gyflogwyr Allied Steel and Wire, ond hefyd i Gaerdydd a'r gymuned ehangach. Gallaf ddeall pam y mae'r Gweinidog yn dymuno bod yn gysylltiedig â newyddion da o'r fath. Dywedodd yn ei ddatganiad, fis Gorffennaf diwethaf, fod pawb wedi'u siomi'n fawr â'r newyddion o ASW. Oni ddylai fod wedi annerch y Siambr cyn y siom fawr honno er mwyn gwneud datganiad ar yr anawsterau a gâi eu profi? Nodaf y llongyfarchiadau a roddwyd gan rai o'i gyd-Aelodau ar y meinciau cefn. Onid y Siambr oedd y lle i rannu'r wybodaeth? Yn amlwg, nid yw hynny'n cynnwys y wybodaeth fasnachol sensitif, ond dylech fod wedi dod yma, ar yr adeg ofnadwy honno, er mwyn gwneud datganiad. Fodd bynnag, mae hyn yn newyddion da, ac fe'i croesawn.

Ar bwynt ar wahân, a ymrwymwch yn awr i lobio Llywodraeth San Steffan i adolygu deddfwriaeth sy'n ymwneud â phensiynau fel na fydd pobl sydd wedi gweithio i sefydliad am lawer o flynyddoedd—weithiau gymaint â 40 mlynedd—yn canfod nad oes arian i dalu am eu pensiynau ar ôl ymddeol? Mae angen adolygu deddfwriaeth o'r fath. Nid yw'r atebion gennyf, ond adolygiad yw'r cam cyntaf i sicrhau na fydd hynny yn digwydd byth eto. Nodais, yn ystod ateb i gwestiynau Aelod arall ar bensiynau, i chi ddweud na fu'r cwymp yn y farchnad stoc o fudd. Onid oedd y codiadau treth a osododd Canghellor y Trysorlys ar gronfeydd pensiynau hefyd yn ddi-fudd?

Andrew Davies: Mae cael cytundeb pob plaid heblaw'r Ceidwadwyr yn dod yn arfer cyffredin, ac yr ydym yn ei ddisgwyl bellach. Gwneuthum ddatganiad mewn Cyfarfod Llawn—efallai nad oeddech yn bresennol, Alun—mewn ymateb i ASW yn mynd i ddwylo'r derbyniwr. Teimlais ei bod yn

wherever possible, to keep Members with a constituency interest informed, either through the Economic Development Committee or privately. As Lorraine Barrett and Owen John Thomas said, they have been actively involved, as has a member of the Conservative group, in some of the meetings. I regret that you wish to make party political points out of this. I have kept Members as fully informed as possible, in Plenary and Committee, although we have been unable to inform Members of all developments because of commercial confidentiality issues. On pensions, we have already lobbied the UK Government and will continue to do so. The local Member of Parliament, Alun Michael, has taken up this issue, as have other south Wales MPs with a constituency or industry interest.

On the pension fund, the most important contributory factor has been the decline in the stock market, which has affected many pension funds. Therefore, I refute that the problem has been caused by anything other than market forces, which your party has always so actively supported.

Mick Bates: I thank the Minister for his statement. I am sure that others would join me in congratulating all the parties that have worked together to bring about this announcement, which I am sure we all accept, although with some caution, because it is not yet finalised. At the same time, we sympathise with the demise of the works at Sheerness.

Your statement referred to the 'sale of most of the Cardiff site'. What will happen to the rest of the site? It is important that we know.

I join other Members in expressing deep concern about the pension situation, but I also want your view on the increased insurance premiums that are being demanded as a result of 11 September. That is beginning to impact on many businesses. Has this been taken into account during discussions with Celsa?

I also want to know more about the

briodol gwneud hynny, ac yr wyf wedi ceisio, lle bynnag y bo'n bosibl, i hysbysu'r Aelodau sydd â diddordeb etholaethol, naill ai drwy'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd neu yn breifat. Fel y dywedodd Lorraine Barrett ac Owen John Thomas, maent wedi bod yn cymryd rhan weithgar, fel y mae aelod o grŵp y Ceidwadwyr, mewn rhai o'r cyfarfodydd. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf eich bod yn dymuno gwneud pwyntiau pleidiol ynglŷn â hyn. Yr wyf wedi rhoi cymaint o wybodaeth â phosibl i'r Aelodau, mewn Cyfarfodydd Llawn a Phwyllgorau, er na fu'n bosibl inni ddweud wrth yr Aelodau am bob datblygiad oherwydd materion cyfrinachedd masnachol. O ran pensiynau, yr ydym eisoes wedi lobïo Llywodraeth y DU a byddwn yn parhau i wneud hynny. Mae'r Aelod Seneddol lleol, Alun Michael, wedi mynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn, yn ogystal ag Aelodau Seneddol eraill yn y De sydd â diddordeb etholaethol neu ddiwydiannol.

O ran y gronfa bensiwn, y ffactor a gyfrannodd fwyaf fu'r dirywiad yn y farchnad stoc, sydd wedi effeithio ar gymaint o gronfeydd pensiwn. Felly, gwrthodaf fod y broblem wedi'i hachosi gan unrhyw beth heblaw grymoedd y farchnad, y mae eich plaid bob tro wedi'u cefnogi mor frwd.

Mick Bates: Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am ei ddatganiad. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai eraill yn ymuno â mi i longyfarch y pleidiau sydd wedi gweithio gyda'i gilydd i sicrhau'r cyhoeddiad hwn, yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod i gyd yn ei dderbyn, er ychydig yn betrusgar, gan nad yw wedi'i derfynu eto. Ar yr un pryd, yr ydym yn cydymdeimlo â thranc y gwaith yn Sheerness.

Cyfeiriodd eich datganiad at 'werthu'r rhan fwyaf o safle ASW Caerdydd'. Beth fydd yn digwydd i weddill y safle? Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn gwybod.

Ymunaf ag Aelodau eraill i fynegi pryder mawr am y sefyllfa o ran pensiynau, ond hoffwn hefyd gael eich barn ar y premiymau yswiriant uwch a fynnir o ganlyniad i 11 Medi. Mae hynny'n dechrau cael effaith ar lawer o fusnesau. A ystyriwyd hyn yn ystod y trafodaethau â Celsa?

Yn ogystal, yr wyf am wybod mwy am

sustainability of the jobs—and I am sure that you have discussed that—particularly with respect to wage rates. Can you tell us how many of the previous employees will want to take up employment with the new company? While we all welcome a takeover, we must ensure that the quality of pay is retained.

Finally, I commend the task group approach. Has research been undertaken on the back of this into the impact on the community? Could the community be assisted through Assembly grants—perhaps not Communities First, but similar social grants—because, often, the impact on families is forgotten, particularly as we approach Christmas?

Andrew Davies: I said, deliberately, that the sale was not of the whole of the site. Celsa has decided, for commercial reasons, that it does not wish to acquire the nails plant and, on that basis, the receiver has sought to dispose of those assets to other purchasers. That is a commercial matter and I am not party to that. That was discussed in the meeting yesterday, as Lorraine and Owen John Thomas know.

Insurance premiums is a big issue and is affecting many companies in Wales. Our economy is largely made up of small companies—98 per cent of our companies are small and medium-sized enterprises—and they are particularly hard hit by any increase in insurance premiums. I have taken this matter up with my ministerial colleagues in Westminster, pointing out that, while this may be a short-term blip in the market, it could cause a longer-term, secular rise in interest premiums, which would have a disproportionate effect on companies in Wales. I have therefore asked for early meetings with my ministerial colleagues, and have sought to influence their policy in this matter, as we are concerned about this.

3:50 p.m.

On the sustainability of jobs, Mick, our concern is that the long-term future of the plant is secured and that the jobs are sustainable. Everything we know about Celsa gives us confidence that that is the case. It

gynaliadwydd y swyddi—ac yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod wedi trafod hynny—yn arbennig o ran cyfraddau cyflog. A allwch ddweud wrthym faint o'r cyflogeion blaenorol a fydd yn dymuno cael eu cyflogi gan y cwmni newydd? Er ein bod oll yn croesawu cynnig i feddiannu, rhaid inni sicrhau y bydd cyflogau cystal.

Yn olaf, cymeradwyaf y dull o weithio fel grŵp gorchwyl. A wnaed ymchwil yn sgîl hyn o ran yr effaith ar y gymuned? A oes modd cynorthwyo'r gymuned drwy grantiau'r Cynulliad—efallai nid Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, ond grantiau cymdeithasol tebyg—oherwydd, yn aml, anghofir am yr effaith ar deuluoedd, yn enwedig wrth inni nesáu at y Nadolig?

Andrew Davies: Dywedais, yn fwriadol, nad oedd y safle cyfan yn cael ei werthu. Mae Celsa wedi penderfynu, am resymau masnachol, nad yw'n dymuno prynu'r gwaith hoelion ac, ar y sail honno, mae'r derbyniwr wedi ceisio gwerthu'r asedau hynny i brynwyr eraill. Mater masnachol yw hynny ac nid wyf yn rhan o hynny. Trafodwyd hynny yn y cyfarfod ddoe, fel y gŵyr Lorraine ac Owen John Thomas.

Mae premiymau yswiriant yn fater o bwys ac mae'n effeithio ar nifer o gwmnïau yng Nghymru. Cwmnïau bach yw ein heconomi ar y cyfan—mae 98 y cant o'n cwmnïau yn fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint—ac mae unrhyw gynnydd mewn premiymau yswiriant yn ergyd drom iddynt. Yr wyf wedi codi'r mater hwn â'm cyd-Weinidogion yn San Steffan, gan dynnu sylw, er bod hyn o bosibl yn ddiffyg byr dymor yn y farchnad, y gallai achosi cynnydd tymor hwy, secwlar mewn premiymau llog, a fyddai'n cael effaith anghyfartal ar gwmnïau yng Nghymru. Felly yr wyf wedi gofyn am gyfarfodydd cynnar â'm cyd-Weinidogion, ac wedi ceisio dylanwadu ar eu polisi o ran y mater hwn, gan ein bod yn pryderu amdano.

O ran cynaliadwydd swyddi, Mick, ein pryder yw sicrhau dyfodol hirdymor y gwaith a bod y swyddi yn gynaliadwy. Mae popeth a wyddom am Celsa yn rhoi hyder inni bod hynny yn wir. Mae ganddo record dda yn

has a good record in Spain, and its industrial relations record is also good. However, I understand that many ASW workers have already obtained alternative work or, in many cases, have sought education and training. One employee said on the radio yesterday that he was training to be a teacher. ASW employees have reacted in different ways, but we want to ensure that as many former ASW employees as possible are given an offer of employment with Celsa.

That relates to your fourth point about research on the impact on the community. Many of the former ASW workers lived in areas such as Splott and Tremorfa, which are some of the poorest communities in Wales. We do not have any research at present on the impact on those communities, but there is ongoing research about the effect, for example, of the Corus redundancy announcement on the communities affected by that. We are considering what can be done to help ASW workers and their families. For example, there is an Objective 3 training package, which was signed-off recently, which is aimed specifically at former ASW workers. We will be considering every avenue, whether it is through us, through agencies such as the Welsh Development Agency and ELWa, or with the local authority, to provide support to the local community.

Nick Bourne: I have several questions, but before I ask them, I welcome the statement. The Minister will acknowledge that I have pressed for a statement on this matter for some time now—since we returned to business this term and before then. I wrote to him on 2 August, and, after raising in the Chamber the fact that I had not received a reply, I received a response dated 8 November. Therefore it has not all been good news on responding to concerns, nor have I been asked to any meeting. Had I been, I would have attended. I am seeing some of the workers next week, and many of them realise, as Mick Bates said, that we are not out of the woods yet. We must lower expectations a little.

Will you indicate how many of the 1,000 jobs lost Celsa hopes to secure? Will you ensure that those who have lost their jobs are the

Sbaen, ac mae ei record cysylltiadau diwydiannol yn dda hefyd. Fodd bynnag, deallaf fod nifer o weithwyr ASW eisoes wedi cael gwaith arall neu, mewn sawl achos, wedi ceisio addysg a hyfforddiant. Dywedodd un gweithiwr ar y radio ddoe ei fod yn hyfforddi i fod yn athro. Mae cyflogeion ASW wedi ymateb mewn ffyrdd gwahanol, ond yr ydym am sicrhau bod cymaint o gyn-gyflogeion ASW â phosibl yn cael cynnig gwaith gyda Celsa.

Mae hynny'n gysylltiedig â'ch pedwerydd pwynt am ymchwil ar yr effaith ar y gymuned. Yr oedd nifer o gyn-weithwyr ASW yn byw mewn ardaloedd fel Sblot a Thremorfa, sef rhai o'r cymunedau tlotaf yng Nghymru. Ar hyn o bryd nid oes ymchwil gennym ar yr effaith ar y cymunedau hynny, ond mae ymchwil barhaus ar effaith cyhoeddiad diswyddo Corus, er enghraifft, ar y cymunedau yr effeithir arnynt gan hynny. Yr ydym yn ystyried beth y gellid ei wneud i helpu gweithwyr ASW a'u teuluoedd. Er enghraifft, mae pecyn hyfforddiant Amcan 3 ar gael, a baratowyd yn ddiweddar, sydd wedi ei anelu'n benodol at gyn-weithwyr ASW. Byddwn yn ystyried pob opsiwn, pa un ai yw drwyddom ni, drwy asiantaethau megis Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru ac ELWa, neu â'r awdurdod lleol, i roi cymorth i'r gymuned leol.

Nick Bourne: Mae gennyf sawl cwestiwn, ond cyn imi eu gofyn, croesawaf y datganiad. Bydd y Gweinidog yn cydnabod fy mod wedi pwyso am ddatganiad ar y mater hwn ers peth amser bellach—ers inni ailymgynnull y tymor hwn a chyn hynny. Ysgrifennais ato ar 2 Awst, ac, ar ôl codi'r ffaith, yn y Siambr, nad oeddwn wedi cael ateb, cefais ymateb dyddiedig 8 Tachwedd. Felly ni fu'n newyddion da i gyd o ran ymateb i bryderon, ac ni ofynnwyd imi ychwaith fynd i unrhyw gyfarfod. Pe gofynasid imi, byddwn wedi bod yn bresennol. Yr wyf yn gweld rhai o'r gweithwyr yr wythnos nesaf, ac mae llawer ohonynt yn sylweddoli, fel y dywedodd Mick Bates, nad ydym allan o'r gwyll eto. Rhaid inni ostwng ein disgwyliadau rywfaint.

A ddywedwch wrthym faint o'r 1,000 o swyddi a gollwyd y mae Celsa yn dymuno eu sicrhau? A sicrhewch mai'r rhai a gollodd eu

first in the queue when it comes to filling posts? That is an important point. I also press you on the issue of state aids, which I feel sure that this company will be seeking. I hope that I am wrong, but I would be surprised if it does not. There has already been some talk of offering resources from Cardiff and so on. If we are able to do that, that is fine, but I pressed you on state aids previously in relation to ASW, and you seemed unwilling to present a case for that. The European competition directorate-general confirmed that steel is one of the sectors for which it is more open to us to give state aid. Recently, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Ireland, and Spain have received approval for state aid. I am uncertain as to why we have not pursued that. Belgium and France are currently seeking permission.

One reason that our steel industry in Wales has been suffering is that the Welsh Assembly Government and the UK Government have been unwilling to pursue state aid, while other countries have. I press you on that again, and I would be surprised if we were not asked to help in terms of state aid. I hope that you will be willing to seek approval of that. However, that raises the issue of why that approval was not sought previously, particularly in relation to emission abatement equipment, which was approved in principle and then not pursued in relation to ASW in 2001. Much more must be done, Minister, and we should not be too self-congratulatory yet. The workers will need the reassurance that these jobs will be genuine opportunities, and I hope that they are.

On pensions, there is not much that you could do about the stock exchange position, short of resigning as a Government here and in Westminster, which I do not believe you will do. However, you can press Gordon Brown on the tax hike that he has placed on the stock market, which has undoubtedly made a difference to pensions, as any worker or pension fund manager would tell you. Will

swyddi fydd yn cael blaenoriaeth pan gaiff swyddi eu llanw? Mae hynny'n bwynt pwysig. Yn ogystal, pwysaf arnoch ar fater nawdd y wladwriaeth, yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y cwmni hwn yn gofyn amdano. Gobeithiaf fy mod yn anghywir, ond synnaf os na fydd yn gofyn am hyn. Bu sôn eisoes am gynnig adnoddau o Gaerdydd ac ati. Os gallwn wneud hynny, mae hynny'n ddigon teg, ond pwysais arnoch o ran nawdd y wladwriaeth cyn hyn mewn cysylltiad ag ASW, ac yr oeddech yn ymddangos yn amharod i gyflwyno achos dros wneud hynny. Cadarnhaodd y gyfarwyddiaeth gyffredinol cystadleuaeth Ewropeaidd mai dur yw un o'r sectorau y mae'n fwy agored inni roi nawdd y wladwriaeth iddo. Yn diweddar, mae'r Almaen, yr Eidal, Portiwgal, Iwerddon a Sbaen wedi cael cymeradwyaeth ar gyfer nawdd y wladwriaeth. Nid wyf yn sicr pam nad aethom ar drywydd hynny. Mae Gwlad Belg a Ffrainc yn gofyn am ganiatâd ar hyn o bryd.

Un rheswm pam y mae ein diwydiant dur yng Nghymru wedi dioddef yw bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a Llywodraeth y DU wedi bod yn amharod i fynd ar drywydd nawdd y wladwriaeth, tra bod gwledydd eraill wedi gwneud hynny. Pwysaf arnoch eto o ran hynny, a synnaf os na ofynnir inni gynorthwyo o ran nawdd gwladwriaeth. Gobeithiaf y byddwch yn barod i geisio cymeradwyaeth o hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae hynny'n codi'r mater o ran pam na cheisiwyd y gymeradwyaeth honno cyn hyn, yn enwedig mewn cysylltiad â chyfarpar lleihau allyriadau, a gymeradwywyd mewn egwyddor ac yna nad aethpwyd ar ei drywydd mewn cysylltiad ag ASW yn 2001. Rhaid gwneud llawer mwy, Weinidog, ac ni ddylem fod yn rhy hunanganmoliaethus eto. Bydd angen y sicrwydd ar y gweithwyr y bydd y swyddi hyn yn gyfleoedd gwirioneddol, a gobeithiaf y byddant.

O ran pensiynau, nid oes fawr y gallech ei wneud ynglŷn â sefyllfa'r farchnad stoc, heblaw ymddiswyddo fel Llywodraeth yma ac yn San Steffan, ac ni chredaf y gwnewch hynny. Fodd bynnag, gallwch roi pwysau ar Gordon Brown am y baich treth y mae ef wedi ei osod ar y farchnad stoc, sydd, heb os, wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth i bensiynau, fel y byddai unrhyw weithiwr neu reolwr

you make representations on that, because we are unable to influence the level of the stock market in the short term?

Andrew Davies: I hope that I was not self-congratulatory. The statement cautiously welcomed the news by Celsa, and acknowledged that a considerable amount of work is yet to be done. In terms of your involvement, you are more than welcome to attend any future meetings. Those invited were invited because they had a local constituency interest; Jonathan Morgan attended the meeting in the summer. That was the principle behind who was invited, but I would be more than happy to welcome you to the meetings.

In terms of the number of jobs, it is again difficult to say. The number 600 has been mentioned, linked to a company statement, but it would be wrong for me to make a commitment on that, as it is a matter for the company. As I said in yesterday's meeting with the trade unions and the receivers, as a Government we will do everything possible to ensure that former Allied Steel and Wire workers are first in line for jobs. The fact that they have the skills that a steel producer needs gives them a lead in that.

On state aids, it is not true that there is a dispensation on this. We have sought clarification from the Department of Trade and Industry and from all the experts available about the issue of state aid. Under the European Coal and Steel Community agreement, support for the steel industry is limited to helping redundant steelworkers or to enhancing the environmental sustainability of steel production. We cannot give direct financial assistance to steel companies. Given that allegations were made about other countries being able to do so, we researched the matter and found that, where that had been the case, the European Commission—as soon as it had discovered it—had come down on those companies like a tonne of bricks, and had sought punitive repayment. In fact, that forced those steel companies into receivership. The rules are clear, but I will put into the public domain the information that we have on the rules concerning state aid

cronfeydd pensiwn yn dweud wrthyhych. A wnewch gynrychioliadau ar hynny, oherwydd ni allwn ddylanwadu ar lefel y farchnad stoc yn y byr dymor?

Andrew Davies: Gobeithiaf nad oeddwn yn rhy hunanganmoliaethus. Yr oedd y datganiad yn croesawu'r newyddion gan Celsa yn ofalus, gan gydnabod bod cryn dipyn o waith i'w wneud eto. O ran eich cyfranogiad chi, mae croeso mawr ichi fynychu unrhyw gyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol. Gwahoddwyd y rhai a wahoddwyd oherwydd bod diddordeb etholaethol lleol ganddynt; mynychodd Jonathan Morgan y cyfarfod yn yr haf. Dyna'r egwyddor y tu ôl i bwy a wahoddwyd, ond byddwn yn fwy na pharod i'ch croesawu i'r cyfarfodydd.

O ran nifer y swyddi, unwaith eto mae'n anodd dweud. Crybwyllwyd 600, yn gysylltiedig â datganiad gan y cwmni, ond ni fyddai'n iawn imi wneud ymrwymiad ar hynny, gan mai mater i'r cwmni ydyw. Fel y dywedais yng nghyfarfod ddoe â'r undebau llafur a'r derbynwyr, fel Llywodraeth byddwn yn gwneud popeth o fewn ein gallu i sicrhau mai cyn-weithwyr Allied Steel and Wire sy'n cael blaenoriaeth o ran swyddi. Mae'r ffaith bod ganddynt y sgiliau sydd eu hangen ar gynhyrchydd dur yn rhoi mantais iddynt yn hyn o beth.

O ran nawdd y wladwriaeth, nid yw'n wir bod gollyngiad ar hyn. Yr ydym wedi ceisio cael eglurhad gan yr Adran Masnach a Diwydiant ac oddi wrth yr holl arbenigwyr sydd ar gael ar fater nawdd y wladwriaeth. O dan gytundeb Cymuned Glo a Dur Ewrop, mae cymorth ar gyfer y diwydiant dur wedi ei gyfyngu i helpu gweithwyr dur sydd wedi eu diswyddo neu i wella cynaliadwyedd amgylcheddol cynhyrchu dur. Ni allwn roi cymorth ariannol uniongyrchol i gwmnïau dur. O ystyried y gwnaethpwyd honiadau ynglŷn â gwledydd eraill yn gallu gwneud hynny, ymchwiliad i'r mater a chanfuom, lle mai hyn oedd yr achos, bod y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd—cyn gynted ag yr oedd wedi ei ddarganfod—wedi cosbi'r cwmnïau hynny yn llym, ac wedi ceisio ad-daliad cosbol. Yn wir, gorfododd hynny'r cwmnïau i fynd i ddwylo'r derbyniwr. Mae'r rheolau'n glir, ond byddaf yn cyhoeddi'r wybodaeth sydd gennym ar y rheolau'n ymwneud â nawdd y

for the steel industry, and I am more than happy to send you a copy of that.

Brian Hancock: Minister, thank you for this statement. It is an important day. There is better news today and yesterday than there was last week. I should declare that my father is a retired pensioner of ASW—or GKN as it was then. My brother is a former employee and worked in the nail factory until August this year, and his son, my godson, is also a former employee. Therefore, I have concerns. Most of them have been mentioned, but do you intend to hold an investigation into activities on the stock market relating to ASW's receivership? I have been told that a director's wife dumped 8 million shares before the announcement of receivership in July. I have also observed operations material being transported out of the plant—I travel that way regularly on my way to the Assembly.

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

Brian Hancock: Will there be an investigation into those matters?

Andrew Davies: I am unaware of these allegations, but if you want to write to me with specific issues, Brian, I will consider them and respond. On the nail factory, I know that you have a family connection, and I am sorry that it will not be sold as a going concern. However, we are considering whether the staff of the nail factory, which is part of the ASW plant, can be included in the ISERB scheme—and I have taken this up personally with the Department of Trade and Industry. We may be able to do that for some of the staff, but we are awaiting a final decision.

The Presiding Officer: Before I call a point of order relating to yesterday's business, I remind Members that I am always keen to accommodate as many Members as possible on statements. We have an agreed procedure whereby spokespeople are allowed a brief preamble and a series of questions to which

wladwriaeth ar gyfer y diwydiant dur, ac yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i anfon copi o hynny atoch.

Brian Hancock: Weinidog, diolch am y datganiad hwn. Mae'n ddiwrnod pwysig. Cawsom newyddion gwell heddiw a ddoe na'r wythnos diwethaf. Dylwn ddatgan bod fy nhad yn bensiynwr wedi ymddeol o ASW—neu GKN fel yr oedd bryd hynny. Mae fy mrawd yn gyn-gyflogai a gweithiodd yn y ffatri hoelion tan fis Awst eleni, ac mae ei fab ef, fy mab bedydd, yn gyn-gyflogai hefyd. Felly, mae gennyf bryderon. Cyfeiriwyd at y rhan fwyaf ohonynt, ond a ydych yn bwriadu cynnal ymchwiliad i weithgareddau ar y farchnad stoc yn gysylltiedig ag ASW yn mynd i ddwylo'r derbyniwr? Dywedwyd wrthyf fod gwraig cyfarwyddwr wedi gwerthu 8 miliwn o gyfranddaliadau cyn i'r cwmni gyhoeddi ei fod wedi mynd i ddwylo'r derbyniwr ym mis Gorffennaf. Yn ogystal, sylwais fod defnydd gweithrediadau yn cael ei gludo o'r gwaith—teithiaf y ffordd honno'n rheolaidd ar fy ffordd i'r Cynulliad.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. A allwn gael cwestiwn, os gwelwch yn dda?

Brian Hancock: A fydd ymchwiliad i'r materion hynny?

Andrew Davies: Nid wyf yn ymwybodol o'r honiadau hyn, ond os hoffech ysgrifennu ataf â'ch materion penodol, Brian, rhoddaf ystyriaeth iddynt ac ymateb. O ran y ffatri hoelion, gwn fod cysylltiad teuluol gennyh, ac mae'n flin gennyf na chaiff ei werthu fel busnes gweithredol. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn ystyried pa un a ellir cynnwys staff y ffatri hoelion, sy'n rhan o waith ASW, yng nghynllun ISERB—ac yr wyf wedi codi'r mater hwn yn bersonol â'r Adran Masnach a Diwydiant. Efallai y gallwn wneud hynny ar gyfer rhai o'r staff, ond yr ydym yn aros am benderfyniad terfynol.

Y Llywydd: Cyn galw pwynt o drefn yn gysylltiedig â busnes ddoe, atgoffaf yr Aelodau fy mod bob amser yn awyddus i gynnwys cymaint o Aelodau â phosibl ar ddatganiadau. Yr ydym wedi cytuno ar weithdrefn lle caniateir rhagymadrodd byr a chyfres o gwestiynau i'r siaradwyr ac y bydd

the Minister will respond. Then, to accommodate as many Members as possible, Members should ask brief and specific questions, and Ministers should respond similarly—which the Minister did today, I hasten to add, before he thinks that I am criticising him. It is important that we abide by these procedures when they are agreed through the advice of the Business Committee, because it makes all our lives easier, including that of whoever is presiding.

y Gweinidog yn ymateb iddynt. Yna, er mwyn cynnwys cymaint o Aelodau â phosibl, dylai'r Aelodau ofyn cwestiynau byr a phenodol, a dylai'r Gweinidogion ymateb yn yr un ffordd—fel y gwnaeth y Gweinidog heddiw, brysiaf i ychwanegu, cyn iddo gredu fy mod yn ei feirniadu. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn glynu wrth y gweithdrefnau hyn pan gytnir arnynt drwy gyngor y Pwyllgor Busnes, gan ei fod yn gwneud ein bywydau i gyd yn haws, yn cynnwys pwy bynnag sy'n llywyddu.

4:00 p.m.

Pwynt o Drefn Point of Order

The Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language (Jenny Randerson): Point of order. I raised this with the Deputy Presiding Officer at the end of yesterday's Plenary meeting. I inadvertently voted incorrectly during the last vote yesterday, and would like the record to show that.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg (Jenny Randerson): Pwynt o drefn. Codais hwn gyda'r Dirprwy Lywydd ar ddiwedd y Cyfarfod Llawn ddoe. Mewn camgymeriad, pleidleisiais yn anghywir yn ystod y bleidlais ddiwethaf ddoe, a hoffwn i'r cofnod ddangos hynny.

The Presiding Officer: That is now on the record. I am sure that future historians will realise that you voted incorrectly inadvertently.

Y Llywydd: Mae hynny bellach wedi ei gofnodi. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd haneswyr y dyfodol yn sylweddoli ichi bleidleisio'n anghywir a hynny mewn camgymeriad.

Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) Adroddiad Grant Arbennig (Rhif 9) (Cymru) 2002 The Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (No. 9) (Wales) 2002

The Finance Minister (Edwina Hart): I propose that

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Edwina Hart): Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly, under Section 88 (b) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, and in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.8, approves the Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (No. 9) (Wales) 2002, which was laid in the Table Office on 5 November 2002. (NDM1211)

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, o dan Adran 88 (b) o Ddeddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 1988, ac yn unol a Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 19.8, yn cymeradwyo Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) Adroddiad Grant Arbennig (Rhif 9) (Cymru) 2002 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 5 Tachwedd 2002. (NDM1211)

Asset management plans are important in terms of enabling public sector bodies to understand what assets they have, to identify, plan and budget for the maintenance of those assets, to ensure that they are fully utilised and to plan for appropriate replacement of

Mae cynlluniau rheoli asedau yn bwysig o ran galluogi cyrff y sector cyhoeddus i ddeall pa asedau sydd ganddynt, i nodi, cynllunio a chyllidebu ar gyfer cynnal yr asedau hynny, i sicrhau eu bod yn cael eu defnyddio'n llawn a chynllunio ar gyfer adnewyddu'r asedau

those assets at the end of their useful working life. If public services are to be maintained and improved across Wales, it is important that all public bodies properly maintain and utilise their stock of capital assets. I am pleased to report that the further and higher education sectors have had fairly comprehensive asset management plans in place for several years. The Assembly and its sponsored bodies have developed asset management plans over the past 12 months and the national health service expects to have comprehensive asset management plans in place within the next three to six months.

It was recognised that local authorities in Wales had further to go in terms of developing comprehensive asset management plans. Therefore, the Welsh Assembly Government agreed in early 2001 to set up a joint working group with the Welsh Local Government Association and the National Audit Commission to review the issue situation in the 22 local authorities in Wales and to make proposals to the WLGA. As a result, the consortium of local authorities property group in Wales produced detailed guidance on the way forward and a timetable for Welsh local authorities to develop comprehensive asset management plans. This guidance was launched at a conference in Llandrindod Wells in September 2001.

In order to give this initiative a kick-start, I announced support of £1 million to Welsh local authorities in last year's budget statement to fund work on the development of asset management plans in the current financial year. A progress report at the end of March 2002 showed that the basic system for collecting asset management plan data was either in place or was planned to be in place by December 2002. By December 2003, most authorities expect to utilise the asset management plan information as part of their overall corporate planning strategy. This special grant report makes provision for local authorities in Wales to provide further reports on progress to the Assembly as at September 2002 and March 2003. I propose to keep the Assembly informed of progress being made by local authorities.

hynny'n briodol ar ddiwedd eu bywyd gwaith defnyddiol. Os am gynnal a gwella gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ar draws Cymru, mae'n bwysig i bob corff cyhoeddus gynnal a chadw a defnyddio eu stoc o asedau cyfalaf yn briodol. Yr wyf yn falch o nodi y bu gan y sectorau addysgu bellach ac addysg uwch gynlluniau rheoli asedau eithaf cynhwysfawr ar waith ers blynnyddoedd. Mae'r Cynulliad a'r cyrff a noddir ganddo wedi datblygu cynlluniau rheoli asedau dros y 12 mis diwethaf ac mae'r gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol yn disgwyl rhoi cynlluniau rheoli asedau cynhwysfawr ar waith o fewn y tri i chwe mis nesaf.

Cydnabuwyd bod gan awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru ffordd bellach i fynd o ran datblygu cynlluniau rheoli asedau cynhwysfawr. Felly, ar ddechrau 2001 cytunodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sefydlu gweithgor ar y cyd â Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a'r Comisiwn Archwilio Cenedlaethol i adolygu'r sefyllfa yn y 22 o awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru ac i wneud cynigion i CLILC. O ganlyniad, cynhyrchodd y consortiwm grŵp eiddo awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru arweiniad manwl ar y ffordd ymlaen ac amserlen ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol Cymru er mwyn datblygu cynlluniau rheoli asedau cynhwysfawr. Lanswyd y canllaw hwn mewn cynhadledd yn Llandrindod ym mis Medi 2001.

Er mwyn rhoi hwb cychwynnol i'r fenter hon, cyhoeddais gymorth o £1 miliwn i awdurdodau lleol Cymru yn natganiad y llynedd ar y gyllideb er mwyn ariannu gwaith ar ddatblygu cynlluniau rheoli asedau yn y flwyddyn ariannol gyfredol. Dangosodd adroddiad cynnydd ar ddiwedd Mawrth 2002 fod y system sylfaenol ar gyfer casglu data ar gynlluniau rheoli asedau naill ai'n bodoli neu y bwriadwyd ei sefydlu erbyn Rhagfyr 2002. Erbyn Rhagfyr 2003, disgwylia'r rhan fwyaf o awdurdodau ddefnyddio'r wybodaeth am y cynllun rheoli asedau fel rhan o'u strategaeth cynllunio corfforaethol gyffredinol. Mae'r adroddiad grant arbennig hwn yn gwneud darpariaeth i awdurdodau lleol Cymru gyflwyno adroddiadau pellach ar gynnydd i'r Cynulliad hyd at Fedi 2002 a Mawrth 2003. Bwriadaf roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Cynulliad ynghylch y cynnydd a wneir gan awdurdodau lleol.

In agreeing last year's budget, the Assembly made a commitment to support local authorities in Wales in developing asset management plans. I therefore seek the Assembly's approval of this special grant report.

Janet Ryder: It is interesting to note that the funding to implement these plans, or at least to draw them up, will be split equally among local authorities. It is good to hear the Minister outlining why these asset management plans are important. However, funding to enable local authorities to respond to the needs highlighted within the plans will be equally important. I will be interested to hear about any plans the Minister has for follow-up money and how she will distribute any such funding.

For many years, public buildings have not been recognised as assets, particularly during the Tory reign in Government. We are now reaping the seeds planted during those years of Tory rule in public buildings in poor condition and in sub-standard school buildings. Council employees are expected to work in poor office conditions and the public is expected to access services in buildings in the same poor condition. That is the legacy of many years of neglect, which needs to be assessed and tackled through one plan so that local authorities can plan ahead and deal with the backlog of repairs. That requires financial support and so follow-up funding will be crucial, as will any funding that will enable authorities to make buildings accessible under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. That is an important piece of legislation. I know that the Minister is fully aware of it. However, it has serious ramifications for councils, in particular, in terms of making public buildings accessible. Think, for example, of the great deal of work needed to make a school accessible to all, especially if it has Portakabins. The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning admitted that almost £1 billion-worth of work needs to be done on school buildings to bring them up to the standard necessary to reach the target set by your Government for 2010. How does the Minister intend to achieve that target? Given that there is a backlog of £1 billion-

Wrth gytuno ar gyllideb y llynedd, gwnaeth y Cynulliad ymrwymiad i gefnogi awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru yn y gwaith o ddatblygu cynlluniau datblygu asedau. Felly gofynnaf i'r Cynulliad gymeradwyo'r adroddiad grant arbennig hwn.

Janet Ryder: Mae'n ddiddorol nodi y caiff yr arian i weithredu'r cynlluniau hyn, neu i'w llunio o leiaf, ei rannu'n gyfartal rhwng awdurdodau lleol. Mae'n dda clywed y Gweinidog yn amlinellu pam y mae'r cynlluniau rheoli asedau hyn yn bwysig. Fodd bynnag, bydd darparu arian er mwyn galluogi'r awdurdodau lleol i ymateb i'r anghenion a amlygir o fewn y cynlluniau yr un mor bwysig. Bydd gennyf ddiddordeb clywed am unrhyw gynlluniau sydd gan y Gweinidog ar gyfer arian ategol a sut y bydd yn dosbarthu cyllid o'r fath.

Ers blynyddoedd lawer, ni chydabuwyd adeiladau cyhoeddus fel asedau, yn arbennig yn ystod teyrnasiad y Torïaid. Yr ydym bellach yn cynaeafu cynnyrch yr hadau a blannwyd yn ystod y blynyddoedd hynny y bu'r Torïaid yn llywodraethu, sef adeiladau cyhoeddus mewn cyflwr gwael ac adeiladau ysgolion sy'n is na'r safon. Disgwylir i weithwyr y Cyngor weithio mewn amodau swyddfa gwael a disgwylir i'r cyhoedd gael mynediad i wasanaethau mewn adeiladau yn yr un cyflwr gwael. Etifeddiaeth blynyddoedd o esgeulustod yw hynny, ac mae angen ei asesu a mynd i'r afael ag ef drwy un cynllun fel y gall awdurdodau lleol gynllunio ymlaen llaw a delio gyda'r ôl-groniat o atgyweiriadau. Mae hynny'n gofyn am gymorth ariannol ac felly bydd arian ategol yn hanfodol, yn ogystal ag unrhyw arian a fydd yn galluogi i awdurdodau sicrhau mynediad i adeiladau o dan Ddeddf Gwahaniaethu ar Sail Anabledd 1995. Mae hwnnw'n ddarn pwysig o ddeddfwriaeth. Gwn fod y Gweinidog yn gwbl ymwybodol ohono. Fodd bynnag, mae iddo oblygiadau difrifol i gynghorau, yn arbennig, yn nhermau sicrhau mynediad i adeiladau cyhoeddus. Ystyriwch, er enghraifft, y gwaith aruthrol sydd ei angen i sicrhau mynediad i bawb i ysgol, yn arbennig os oes ganddi adeiladau Portakabin. Cyfaddefodd y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes bod angen gwneud gwerth bron i £1 biliwn o waith ar

worth of repairs in education alone, which does not take into account the backlog of repairs for council buildings, care homes and other public buildings, how do you intend to help local authorities to reach those targets? What financial plans are you putting in place to help them?

adeiladau ysgolion er mwyn iddynt gyrraedd y safon angenrheidiol a chyrraedd y targed a bennwyd gan eich Llywodraeth ar gyfer 2010. Sut y bwriada'r Gweinidog gyrraedd y targed hwnnw? O gofio bod ôl-groniad gwerth £1 biliwn o atgyweiriadau mewn addysg yn unig, ac nid yw hynny'n ystyried yr ôl-groniad o atgyweiriadau i adeiladau'r cyngor, cartrefi gofal ac adeiladau cyhoeddus eraill, sut y bwriadwch helpu awdurdodau lleol i gwrdd â'r targedau hynny? Pa gynlluniau ariannol yr ydych yn eu rhoi ar waith i'w helpu?

Eleanor Burnham: The Welsh Liberal Democrats welcome the special grant report because it provides local authorities with the resources to prepare and implement asset management plans. We understand that local authorities in Wales have asset holdings of £7.5 billion, most of which is held for the delivery of, and in support of, services to the public. Local authorities are therefore significant property holders and it is important to ensure that they use those resources in the most effective way, so that the properties that they hold are aligned to demand, are appropriate to the services that they are providing, and are financially affordable and sustainable. Can the Minister assure us that that is so?

Eleanor Burnham: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn croesawu'r adroddiad grant arbennig gan ei fod yn darparu'r adnoddau i baratoi a gweithredu cynlluniau rheoli asedau i'r awdurdodau lleol. Deallwn fod gan awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru ddaliadau asedau gwerth £7.5 biliwn, y rhan fwyaf ohonynt er mwyn darparu, a chynnal, gwasanaethau i'r cyhoedd. Mae awdurdodau lleol, felly, yn ddeiliaid eiddo arwyddocaol ac mae'n bwysig sicrhau eu bod yn defnyddio'r adnoddau hynny yn y ffordd fwyaf effeithiol, er mwyn cyfateb yr eiddo a ddelir ganddynt â'r galw, sicrhau eu bod yn briodol i'r gwasanaethau y maent yn eu darparu, a'u bod yn ariannol fforddiadwy ac yn gynaliadwy. A all y Gweinidog roi sicrwydd inni mai dyma yw'r sefyllfa?

William Graham: We accept that there is £7.5 billion-worth of local government property in Wales, which is held expressly for the delivery of, and in support of, services to the public by local authorities. It is therefore essential that such assets are used as effectively and efficiently as possible. Given the Assembly administration's commitment in 'Plan for Wales 2001' to ensure that all public bodies in Wales have asset management plans in place or in preparation by April this year, it should offer additional financial support to local authorities for the preparation and implementation of those plans. We note that the special grant report provides funds for all authorities in addition to those prescribed in the Assembly budget. Written approval is needed to spend that money outside the financial year 2002-03. It is specified that the funds are solely for activities related to preparing and implementing asset management plans. The

William Graham: Derbyniwn fod gwerth £7.5 biliwn o eiddo llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru, a ddelir yn benodol er mwyn i awdurdodau lleol ddarparu, a chynnal, gwasanaethau i'r cyhoedd. Mae felly'n hanfodol defnyddio asedau o'r fath mor effeithiol ac effeithlon â phosibl. O gofio ymrwymiad gweinyddol y Cynulliad yn 'Cynllun i Gymru 2001' i sicrhau bod gan bob corff cyhoeddus yng Nghymru gynlluniau rheoli asedau ar waith neu eu bod wrthi'n eu paratoi erbyn mis Ebrill eleni, dylai gynnig cymorth ariannol ychwanegol i awdurdodau lleol er mwyn paratoi a gweithredu'r cynlluniau hynny. Nodwn fod yr adroddiad grant arbennig yn darparu arian ar gyfer pob awdurdod yn ogystal â'r rheini a ragnodir yng nghyllideb y Cynulliad. Mae angen cymeradwyaeth ysgrifenedig i wario'r arian hwnnw y tu allan i'r flwyddyn ariannol 2002-03. Nodir yn benodol fod yr arian ar gyfer gweithgareddau sy'n gysylltiedig â

procedure to claim repayments from local authorities that fail to adhere to those rules of payment is also stated.

We recognise the diverse social, economic, geographic and management efficiencies of local authorities in Wales, together with the effects of rurality and sparsity on the services provided for our communities. Mindful of the need to move away from the one-size-fits-all policy, we question whether these factors have been taken into account in providing equal amounts of funding to all 22 unitary authorities to progress their asset management plans in Wales. We invite the Minister to reassure local authorities throughout Wales.

The Finance Minister (Edwina Hart): I note William's point about the equal distribution of funds among local authorities in Wales, and his concern that such distribution is inequitable because some authorities are further advanced with their plans than others. I assure him that I have agreed this with the Welsh Local Government Association and that it felt that it was equitable to give each local authority the same amount of money. On William's further points, it is incumbent upon me to continue to monitor asset management plans and I will report on progress to the Assembly on all these matters.

To remind other Members about the nature of asset management plans—this does not include you, William—I indicated the importance of these plans in my speech on 27 November 2001. These plans consider performance information and indicators, will be a method of corporate prioritisation for action and will have a property utilisation assessment system, which is essential to an asset management plan. They will also have a system for identifying surplus property and a disposal programme, if necessary, which will be key to the proper management of assets in some areas. The plans will also include initial estimates of the investment needed in estate, alongside initial estimates of capital receipts from disposal.

pharatoi a gweithredu cynlluniau rheoli asedau yn unig. Nodir hefyd y weithdrefn i wneud cais am ad-daliadau gan awdurdodau lleol sy'n methu â glynw at y rheolau talu hynny.

Yr ydym yn cydnabod effeithlonrwydd cymdeithasol, economaidd, daearyddol a rheoli amrywiol yr awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru, ynghyd ag effeithiau natur wledig yr ardal a theneurwydd y boblogaeth ar y gwasanaethau a ddarperir i'n cymunedau. O gofio'r angen i gefnu ar y polisi o un ymagwedd i bawb, gofynnwn a gymerwyd y ffactorau hyn i ystyriaeth o ran darparu yr un faint o arian i bob un o'r 22 o awdurdodau unedol er mwyn datblygu eu cynlluniau rheoli asedau yng Nghymru. Gwahoddwn y Gweinidog i sicrhau awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Edwina Hart): Nodaf bwynt William ynghylch dosbarthu arian yn gyfartal ymysg awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru, a'i bryder bod dosbarthu yn y fath fodd yn anghyfartal oherwydd bod cynlluniau rhai awdurdodau yn fwy datblygedig nag eraill. Rhoddaf sicrwydd iddo fy mod wedi cytuno ar hyn gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a'i bod yn teimlo ei bod yn deg rhoi yr un faint o arian i bob awdurdod lleol. O ran pwyntiau eraill William, mae'n ddyletswydd arnaf i barhau i fonitro cynlluniau rheoli asedau a rhoddaf adroddiad ar y cynnydd i'r Cynulliad ar bob un o'r materion hyn.

I atgoffa'r Aelodau eraill o natur cynlluniau rheoli asedau—nid yw hyn yn eich cynnwys chi, William—nodais bwysigrwydd y cynlluniau hyn yn fy araith ar 27 Tachwedd 2001. Mae'r cynlluniau hyn yn ystyried gwybodaeth am berfformiad a dangosyddion; byddant yn ddull o bennu blaenoriaethau corfforaethol i weithredu arnynt a bydd ganddynt system asesu'r defnydd o eiddo, sy'n hanfodol i gynllun rheoli asedau. Bydd ganddynt hefyd system ar gyfer nodi eiddo nas defnyddir a rhaglen i gael gwared ar eiddo, os bydd angen, a fydd yn allweddol i reoli asedau yn briodol mewn rhai ardaloedd. Bydd y cynlluniau hefyd yn cynnwys amcangyfrifon cychwynnol o'r buddsoddiad sydd ei angen mewn ystad, ochr yn ochr ag amcangyfrifon cychwynnol o gyfalaf a

dderbynnir drwy waredu.

All these factors will be taken into account in the asset management plans. Going through these issues, Janet, will enable local authorities to deal with several of the points that you raise, because it will mean that they consider their corporate assets holistically. It is important that we recognise that asset management plans are essential to the management of modern government.

Caiff yr holl ffactorau hyn eu hystyried yn y cynlluniau rheoli asedau. Bydd trafod y materion hyn, Janet, yn galluogi awdurdodau lleol i ymdrin â sawl un o'r pwyntiau a godwyd gennych, gan y bydd yn golygu eu bod yn ystyried eu hasedau corfforaethol yn gyfannol. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cydnabod bod cynlluniau rheoli asedau yn hanfodol i reoli llywodraeth fodern.

Cynnig (NDM1211): O blaid 41, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM1211): For 41, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Ron
Evans, Delyth
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, David Ian
Jones, Gareth
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 4.09 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 4.09 p.m.*

Adroddiad Blynyddol y Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad Annual Report of the Committee on Standards of Conduct

David Melding: I propose that

the National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 6.5, notes the annual report of the Committee on Standards of Conduct, which was laid in table Office on 5 November 2002. (NDM1210)

I am pleased that only a few complaints were made during the year covered by this report; in fact, the Committee heard only one complaint. That complaint was upheld and details of it are included in the annual report. The major item of work that we brought before Plenary was on indirect interests, guidance on which was adopted in 1999, in the early months of the Assembly's existence. The Committee proposed a range of amendments, which led to the adoption of new rules that we believe are clearer and more consistent.

The Committee has just completed a comprehensive review of standards within the Assembly, and we have been assisted by Professor Diana Woodhouse's report, which is about to be published. We anticipate that a wide range of measures arising from that report will be brought before the Assembly in the year ahead. I commend Professor Woodhouse's work; her report was well-received in Committee. It is clear, concise and relevant, and an excellent piece of work.

4:10 p.m.

Another issue that has been of concern to the Assembly is the requirement to register membership of the Freemasons. As that is the subject of the next debate today, I will not spend much time discussing it now, other than to say that the Committee was involved in this work throughout the year and expended much effort in drawing up a new set of arrangements to be brought before the Assembly.

David Melding: Cynigiau fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, yn unol a Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 6.5, yn nodi adroddiad blynyddol y Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 5 Tachwedd 2002. (NDM1210)

Yr wyf yn falch mai dim ond nifer fach o gwynion a wnaed yn ystod y flwyddyn a gwmpesir gan yr adroddiad hwn; yn wir, dim ond un gŵyn a ddaeth ger bron y Pwyllgor. Cadarnhawyd y gŵyn honno a cheir manylion amdani yn yr adroddiad blynyddol. Yr oedd y prif waith a gyflwynwyd ger bron y Cyfarfod Llawn yn ymwneud â buddiannau anuniongyrchol, y mabwysiadwyd canllawiau ar eu cyfer yn 1999, yn ystod y misoedd cyntaf o fodolaeth y Cynulliad. Cynigiodd y Pwyllgor amrywiaeth o welliannau, a arweiniodd at fabwysiadu rheolau newydd sy'n gliriach ac yn fwy cyson, yn ein barn ni.

Mae'r Pwyllgor newydd gwblhau adolygiad cynhwysfawr o safonau o fewn y Cynulliad, gyda chymorth adroddiad yr Athro Diana Woodhouse, sydd ar fin cael ei gyhoeddi. Rhagwelwn y cyflwynir amrywiaeth eang o fesurau yn deillio o'r adroddiad hwnnw ger bron y Cynulliad yn ystod y flwyddyn sydd i ddod. Cymeradwyaf waith yr Athro Woodhouse; cafodd ei hadroddiad groeso mawr gan y Pwyllgor. Mae'n glir, yn gryno ac yn berthnasol, ac yn ddarn rhagorol o waith.

Mater arall a fu'n destun pryder i'r Cynulliad yw'r gofyniad i gofrestru aelodaeth o'r Seiri Rhyddion. Gan mai dyna yw pwnc y ddadl nesaf heddiw, ni threuliaf lawer o amser yn ei drafod yn awr, ac eithrio nodi y bu'r Pwyllgor yn ymwneud â'r gwaith hwn drwy gydol y flwyddyn ac y gwnaed ymdrech fawr i lunio set newydd o drefniadau i'w cyflwyno ger bron y Cynulliad.

I conclude by thanking the Committee for working in such a co-operative and non-partisan way. I also thank our independent adviser, Richard Penn, and our excellent secretariat. I commend the report to Members.

Eleanor Burnham: The Welsh Liberal Democrats would like to thank David Melding for his impartial chairing of the Committee. I am not currently a member of the Committee, but I was a member previously and I know how hard David works. All the Committee members have worked in a non-partisan manner, as David said. That is essential to ensure that the standard of conduct in the Assembly remains as high and unimpeachable as it currently is. I also thank Richard Penn and the secretariat.

The Committee on Standards of Conduct is an important part of the Assembly. People expect Assembly Members to maintain the highest possible standards in all that we do. As the Assembly is a new institution, it is incumbent on us all to ensure its good reputation. We must be seen to be whiter than white. The public does not have a good opinion of politicians, and we are regularly ranked among the least trustworthy professions—along with journalists and lawyers—in public opinion polls. We must all continue to work towards dispelling that unfair view.

Only one complaint was heard during the Assembly's third year, which is wonderful. On the basis of the evidence presented to the Committee, there are few grounds for concern about Members' ethical standards.

The Committee's conclusion on the Assembly's requirement for Members to register membership of the Freemasons should resolve this matter once and for all. The Committee found that this requirement was hard to defend, and believes that its new proposals are the right way to proceed. The creation of a new Standing Order requiring the recording of membership of societies should ensure that membership of the

I gloi, hoffwn ddiolch i'r Pwyllgor am weithio mewn ffordd mor gydweithredol a diduedd. Hoffwn ddiolch hefyd i'n hymgyngorydd annibynnol, Richard Penn, a'n hysgrifenyddiaeth ragorol. Cymeradwyaf yr adroddiad i'r Aelodau.

Eleanor Burnham: Hoffai Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru ddiolch i David Melding am fod mor ddiduedd wrth gadeirio'r Pwyllgor. Nid wyf yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor ar hyn o bryd, ond bûm yn aelod yn y gorffennol a gwn pa mor galed y mae David yn gweithio. Gweithiodd pob aelod o'r Pwyllgor mewn ffordd ddiduedd, fel y nododd David. Mae hynny'n hanfodol er mwyn sicrhau yr erys safon ymddygiad y Cynulliad mor uchel a dilychwin ag y mae ar hyn o bryd. Diolchaf hefyd i Richard Penn a'r ysgrifenyddiaeth.

Mae'r Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad yn rhan bwysig o'r Cynulliad. Mae pobl yn disgwyl i Aelodau'r Cynulliad gynnal y safonau uchaf posibl ym mhob peth a wnawn. Gan mai sefydliad newydd yw'r Cynulliad, mae dyletswydd ar bob un ohonom i sicrhau ei enw da. Rhaid inni gael ein gweld fel sefydliad sy'n wynnach na gwyn. Nid oes gan y cyhoedd feddwl uchel o wleidyddion, ac fe'n gosodir yn rheolaidd ymhlith y proffesiynau y gellid ymddiried ynddynt leiaf—ochr yn ochr â newyddiadurwyr a chyfreithwyr—mewn arolygon barn cyhoeddus. Rhaid i bob un ohonom barhau i weithio tuag at ddileu'r farn annheg honno.

Dim ond un gŵyn a ddaeth i law yn ystod trydedd flwyddyn y Cynulliad, sy'n ardderchog. Ar sail y dystiolaeth a gyflwynwyd i'r Pwyllgor, nid oes llawer o sail i bryderu am safonau moesegol yr Aelodau.

Dylai casgliad y Pwyllgor ar ofyniad y Cynulliad i Aelodau gofrestru eu bod yn aelodau o'r Seiri Rhyddion ddatrys y mater hwn unwaith ac am byth. Canfu'r Pwyllgor fod y gofyniad hwn yn anodd i'w amddiffyn, a chred mai ei gynigion newydd yw'r ffordd orau ymlaen. Dylai creu Rheol Sefydlog newydd sy'n ei gwneud yn ofynnol i gofnodi aelodaeth o gymdeithasau sicrhau y cofrestrir aelodaeth o'r Seiri Rhyddion ynghyd ag

Freemasons is registered along with membership of other societies. That will satisfy many people's concerns about the organisation while not singling out freemasonry in an unfair and illiberal fashion.

Gareth Jones: Bûm yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad ers y cychwyn, ac mae'n bleser ategu geiriau David Melding ac Eleanor Burnham ynglŷn â'r adroddiad blynyddol. Nid yw'r Pwyllgor yn cyfarfod yn fynych—cyfarfu bum gwaith yn ystod y flwyddyn, gan ystyried un gŵyn yn erbyn Aelod o'r Cynulliad—ac mae hynny'n adlewyrchu safonau ymddygiad tra derbyniol ac aeddfedrwydd Aelodau wrth ymgymryd â'u dyletswyddau yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Er anfynddardd y cyfarfodydd, mae cylch gwaith y Pwyllgor yn fater o bwys i bob un ohonom ac yn haeddu sylw difrifol.

Gweithiodd y Pwyllgor yn ddiwyd i sicrhau bod tegwch a synnwyr cyffredin yn nodweddu ein hargymhellion. Hyderaf y bydd gweddill yr Aelodau'n cytuno â hynny. Mae llawer o'r clod am effeithiolrwydd a chyflawniadau y Pwyllgor yn ddyledus i David Melding am ei gadeiryddiaeth ddeheuig a doeth. Dylem hefyd gydnabod ein dyled i'r swyddogion hynod ddeallus ac amyneddgar sy'n dehongli materion cyfreithiol dwys ar ein rhan ac sy'n ein cynghori'n ddoeth bob amser.

Nodi'r adroddiad yn unig sydd angen inni ei wneud heddiw—tasg eithaf syml—ond dylid cofio ei fod yn grynodeb o weithgarwch o safon, fel sy'n gweddu i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: As David Melding does not wish to respond to the debate, we will move to a vote.

aelodaeth o gymdeithasau eraill. Bydd hynny'n bodloni pryderon llawer o bobl am y sefydliad tra'n osgoi trin y Seiri Rhyddion yn wahanol i sefydliadau eraill mewn ffordd annheg a chul.

Gareth Jones: I have been a member of the Committee on Standards of Conduct from the outset, and it is a pleasure to endorse the comments made by David Melding and Eleanor Burnham on the annual report. The Committee does not meet often—it met five times during the year, and considered one complaint against an Assembly Member—and that reflects Members' high standards of conduct and their maturity in undertaking their duties in the National Assembly. Although its meetings are infrequent, the Committee's remit is important to all of us and deserves serious consideration.

The Committee worked diligently to ensure that fairness and common sense prevail in our recommendations. I am confident that other Assembly Members will agree with that. Much of the praise for the Committee's effectiveness and its achievements is due to David Melding's skilful and wise chairmanship. We should also acknowledge our debt to the highly knowledgeable and patient officials who interpret complex legal issues on our behalf and who offer wise advice at all times.

We only need to note the report today—a fairly simple task—but we should remember that it is a summary of work of high quality, as befits the National Assembly.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Gan nad yw David Melding am ymateb i'r ddadl, symudwn i bleidlais.

*Cynnig (NDM1210): O blaid 37, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM1210): For 37, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog

Davidson, Jane
 Davies, David
 Davies, Geraint
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Ron
 Edwards, Richard
 Evans, Delyth
 Graham, William
 Halford, Alison
 Hancock, Brian
 Hutt, Jane
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, David Ian
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Lewis, Huw
 Law, Peter
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Neagle, Lynne
 Randerson, Jenny
 Rogers, Peter
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wigley, Dafydd
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

**Arweiniad ar Gofrestru, Datgan a Chofnodi Buddiannau Ariannol a
 Buddiannau Eraill Aelodau
 Guidance on Registration, Declaration and Recording of Members' Financial
 and Other Interests**

The Business Minister (Carwyn Jones): I propose that

the National Assembly, acting under section 46(6) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, and Standing Order No. 34:

1. considers the report of the Business Committee (Requirement to Register Membership of the Freemasons—LD1663 and LD1663a) laid in the Table Office on 5 November 2002;

2. notes the proposed changes to the guidance for registering and declaring Assembly Members' financial and other interests;

3. approves the deletion in its entirety of registrable interest 11 in Standing Order No. 4 annex; and

Y Trefnydd (Carwyn Jones): Cynigiau fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan weithredu o dan adran 46(6) o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, a Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 34:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Busnes (Gofyniad i Gofrestru Aelodaeth o'r Seiri Rhyddion—LD1663 a LD1663a) a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 5 Tachwedd 2002;

2. yn nodi'r newidiadau arfaethedig i'r canllawiau ar gofrestru a datgan buddiannau ariannol a buddiannau eraill Aelodau'r Cynulliad;

3. yn cymeradwyo dileu yn ei gyfanrwydd fuddiant cofrestradwy 11 yn yr atodiad i Reol Sefydlog Rhif 4; ac

4. approves the creation of the following new Standing Orders:

i) Standing Order No. 37;

ii) Standing Order No. 37 annex; and

iii) Standing Order No. 16.1(ia.);

as set out in the document laid in the Table Office on 5 November 2002. (NDM1213)

David Melding: I suspect that this debate will not run as smoothly and as uncontentiously as the previous debate. However, perhaps I should not anticipate that; we will see.

These proposals do not remove the requirement for members of freemason lodges to register that membership. Members must still register their membership of the Freemasons; that requirement does not change. These proposals decriminalise the current requirements and make our procedures more even-handed and, we believe, proportionate, by introducing a general category of private clubs and societies, the membership of which is required to be registered. Essentially, the current practice of singling out freemasons and treating them in a unique way would cease. Instead of a specific requirement to register membership of the Freemasons, there would be a general requirement to register membership of private clubs and societies, as defined in Standing Orders if they are amended.

Given that this general approach is more extensive, we propose to decriminalise the requirement to register. However, any breach of the new requirements—if adopted—would be referred to the Committee on Standards of Conduct for deliberation.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Can you clarify whether there is a requirement for people who have been members of the Freemasons, but who are not currently members, to register an interest?

4. yn cymeradwyo creu'r Rheolau Sefydlog newydd a ganlyn:

i) Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 37;

ii) Atodaid i Reol Sefydlog Rhif 37; a

iii) Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 16.1(ia.);

fel ag a nodir yn y ddogfen a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 5 Tachwedd 2002. (NDM1213)

David Melding: Amheuauf na fydd rhediad y ddadl hon mor ddidrafferth ac annadluel â'r ddadl flaenorol. Fodd bynnag, efallai na ddylwn ragweld hynny; cawn weld.

Nid yw'r cynigion hyn yn diddymu'r gofyniad i aelodau o gyfrinfeydd y Seiri Rhyddion gofrestru'r aelodaeth honno. Rhaid i Aelodau gofrestru eu haelodaeth o'r Seiri Rhyddion o hyd; nid yw'r gofyniad hwnnw yn newid. Mae'r cynigion hyn yn cyfreithloni'r gofynion cyfredol ac yn golygu bod ein gweithdrefnau yn decach ac, yn ein barn ni, yn gymesur, drwy gyflwyno categori cyffredinol o glybiau a chymdeithasau preifat, y mae'n ofynnol cofrestru aelodaeth ohonynt. Yn ei hanfod, byddai'r arfer cyfredol o nodi Seiri Rhyddion yn benodol a'u trin mewn ffordd unigryw yn dod i ben. Yn lle gofyniad penodol i gofrestru aelodaeth o'r Seiri Rhyddion, byddai gofyniad cyffredinol i gofrestru aelodaeth o glybiau neu gymdeithasau preifat, fel y'u diffinnir yn y Rheolau Sefydlog os cânt eu diwygio.

O gofio bod yr ymagwedd gyffredinol hon yn fwy eang ei chwmpas, cynigiwn gyfreithloni'r gofyniad i gofrestru. Fodd bynnag, byddai unrhyw achos o dorri'r gofynion newydd—os cânt eu mabwysiadu—yn cael ei gyfeirio i'r Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad i'w ystyried.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A allwch egluro a oes gofyniad i bobl a fu'n aelodau o'r Seiri Rhyddion, ond nad ydynt yn aelodau ar hyn o bryd, gofrestru buddiant?

David Melding: The Member should read the guidance and the Standing Orders on the registration of interests. There is no requirement to register interests retrospectively; otherwise I imagine that we would have a list running into several encyclopaedias.

I will explain the background to this. The Presiding Officer referred this matter to the Committee after the Freemasons requested a review. It is important that Members realise that the Committee did not identify this issue itself and then decide to bring proposals before the Assembly. However, when the matter was brought to our attention, we realised that we had to give serious consideration to it. Although the initial referral related to the Human Rights Act 1998, wider considerations became apparent. We had to consider whether the Freemasons is a secret society, and whether it shows improper favour to other freemasons. Another area of concern is whether freemasons offer greater loyalty to fellow freemasons than to the state or to the rule of law. Finally, we had to consider whether freemasonry is, in some way, unique.

There was a great degree of consensus on this in the Committee and, after hard deliberation, we concluded that there is no conclusive evidence against the Freemasons as an organisation. There may be individual cases of abuse, but one must concede that that is true of most areas of human conduct.

4:20 p.m.

Helen Mary Jones: Not having sat through the evidence sessions, I do not want to question what you say. However, I am aware of the evidence presented to the National Assembly Advisory Group on this matter, particularly with regard to the Home Office's attitude on and approach to whether senior police officers should be members of this organisation. It is worth reminding Members that this organisation was singled out in the light of those public representations. Can David tell us whether the Committee on Standards of Conduct considered the Home Office's regulations and its reasons for

David Melding: Dylai'r Aelod ddarllen y canllawiau a'r Rheolau Sefydlog ar gofrestru buddiannau. Nid oes unrhyw ofyniad i gofrestru buddiannau yn ôl-syllol; pe byddai gofyniad o'r fath, mae'n siŵr y byddai gennym restr a fyddai cyhyd â sawl gwyddoniadur.

Egluraf y cefndir. Cyfeiriodd y Llywydd y mater hwn i'r Pwyllgor ar ôl i'r Seiri Rhyddion wneud cais am adolygiad. Mae'n bwysig i'r Aelodau sylweddoli nad y Pwyllgor a nododd y mater hwn ei hun gan benderfynu cyflwyno cynigion ger bron y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, pan dynnwyd ein sylw at y mater, sylweddolasom y byddai'n rhaid inni ei ystyried o ddifrif. Er bod y cyfeiriad gwreiddiol yn ymwneud â Deddf Hawliau Dynol 1998, daeth ystyriaethau ehangach i'r amlwg. Bu'n rhaid inni ystyried pa un a yw'r Seiri Rhyddion yn gymdeithas gyfrin, a pha un a yw'n dangos ffafriaeth amhriodol tuag at seiri rhyddion eraill. Maes arall o bryder yw pa un a yw'r Seiri Rhyddion yn dangos mwy o deyrngarwch i'w cyd-seiri rhyddion nag i'r wladwriaeth neu i'r gyfraith. Yn olaf, bu'n rhaid inni ystyried pa un a yw'r Seiri Rhyddion, mewn rhyw ffordd, yn unigryw.

Cafwyd cytundeb ar hyn yn y Pwyllgor i raddau helaeth ac, ar ôl trafodaethau manwl, daethpwyd i'r casgliad nad oes unrhyw dystiolaeth gadarn yn erbyn y Seiri Rhyddion fel sefydliad. Efallai fod achosion unigol o gamddefnydd, ond rhaid cyfaddef fod hynny'n wir am ymddygiad dynol yn gyffredinol.

Helen Mary Jones: Gan nad oeddwn yn bresennol yn y sesiynau tystiolaeth, nid wyf am amau'r hyn a ddywedwch. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r dystiolaeth a gyflwynwyd i Grŵp Ymgynghorol y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ar y mater hwn, yn arbennig mewn perthynas ag agwedd ac ymagwedd y Swyddfa Gartref o ran pa un a ddylai uwch swyddogion yr heddlu fod yn aelodau o'r sefydliad hwn. Mae'n werth atgoffa'r Aelodau y nodwyd y sefydliad hwn yn benodol yng ngoleuni'r sylwadau cyhoeddus hynny. A all David ddweud wrthym pa un a ystyriodd y Pwyllgor

making them? If so, can you tell us what the Committee's attitude to those regulations was; why they are in existence and, indeed, whether they ought to be, in the light of your remarks?

David Melding: We are dealing here with Members elected to a public institution. That is not the same as discussing the requirements made of professional officers. However, we did consider the Home Office's regulations and NAAG's deliberations. I will argue later that our proposals are pretty much based on NAAG's decisions, and on trying to maintain that principle as much as possible while still complying with the law.

The Home Affairs Select Committee concluded that most allegations against freemasons are groundless. No other legislature in the United Kingdom has adopted the unique requirement of freemasons that we have. In giving evidence, the Freemasons—and I commend the society for its diligence; representatives attended on two occasions and were conscientious in delivering evidence—absolutely assured us, on the record, that no freemason was above the law. Unless there are grounds for us to challenge that, we must accept the integrity of that statement. The European Court of Human Rights recently concluded that the Freemasons is not a secret society. We believe that precedent could not be denied in a challenge under the Human Rights Act. The Freemasons does not appear to us to be unique. Many other groups are private in character. A wide range of bodies would fall into that category.

Turning to the legal advice that we have received, last year the Assembly introduced a legally binding code of conduct on local councillors. This included a general requirement to register membership of private organisations. There was no unique requirement that freemasons register as such. Such inconsistency, we are told, leaves us open to legal challenge. In singling out the Freemasons for unique treatment, a court

Safonau Ymddygiad reoliadau'r Swyddfa Gartref a'i rhesymau dros eu llunio? Os felly, a allwch ddweud wrthym beth oedd agwedd y Pwyllgor tuag at y rheoliadau hynny; pam eu bod yn bodoli ac, yn wir, pa un a ddylent fodoli, yng ngoleuni eich sylwadau?

David Melding: Yr ydym yn delio ag Aelodau a etholwyd i sefydliad cyhoeddus yma. Nid yw hynny yr un peth â thrafod y gofynion ar swyddogion proffesiynol. Fodd bynnag, ystyriwyd rheoliadau'r Swyddfa Gartref a thrafodaethau Grŵp Ymgynghorol y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Dadleuaf yn ddiweddarach bod ein cynigion, fwy neu lai, yn seiliedig ar benderfyniadau'r grŵp, ac ar geisio glynu at yr egwyddor honno gymaint â phosibl tra'n parhau i gydymffurfio â'r gyfraith.

Daeth y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cartref i'r casgliad nad oes sail i'r rhan fwyaf o'r honiadau yn erbyn seiri rhyddion. Nid oes unrhyw gorff deddfwriaethol arall yn y Deyrnas Unedig wedi mabwysiadu'r gofyniad unigryw ar gyfer seiri rhyddion fel y gwnaethom ni. Wrth roi tystiolaeth, cawsom sicrwydd cwbl bendant gan y Seiri Rhyddion—a chymeradwyaf y gymdeithas am ei diwydrwydd; mynychodd cynrychiolwyr ar ddau achlysur ac yr oeddent yn gydwybodol wrth gyflwyno tystiolaeth—yn swyddogol, nad oedd unrhyw un o'r Seiri Rhyddion uwchlaw'r gyfraith. Onid oes sail gennym i herio hynny, rhaid inni dderbyn gonestrwydd y datganiad hwnnw. Daeth y Llys Iawnderau Dynol Ewrop i'r casgliad yn ddiweddar nad yw'r Seiri Rhyddion yn gymdeithas gyfrin. Credwn na ellid gwadu cynsail wrth herio o dan y Ddeddf Iawnderau Dynol. Nid ymddengys i ni fod y Seiri Rhyddion yn unigryw. Mae sawl grŵp arall yn breifat o ran eu natur. Byddai amrywiaeth eang o gyrff yn perthyn i'r categori hwnnw.

Gan droi at y cyngor cyfreithiol a gawsom, y llynedd cyflwynodd y Cynulliad god ymddygiad cyfreithiol rwymol ar gyfer cynghorwyr lleol. Yr oedd y cod hwn yn cynnwys gofyniad cyffredinol i gofrestru aelodaeth o sefydliadau preifat. Nid oedd unrhyw ofyniad unigryw i seiri rhyddion gofrestru felly. Dywedir wrthym bod anghysondeb o'r fath yn ein gadael yn agored i her gyfreithiol. Wrth drin y Seiri Rhyddion

acting under schedule 8 to the Government of Wales Act 1998 could decide that the Assembly had acted illegally in imposing this requirement uniquely on freemasons. That is the legal advice. At no time was that seriously challenged. I repeat it now and put it before you that, if we decide not to follow legal advice, then we could be behaving in a reckless and ill-considered way.

I turn now to the proposals laid before you. The Committee recognised that NAAG had identified a degree of public concern about freemasons. Whatever the basis for it, that concern is certainly felt by many in Wales. Therefore, the Committee did not think it appropriate to simply remove the requirement to register membership of the Freemasons. However, it felt that current practice is inconsistent and open to legal challenge and we cannot be confident that we would win any such challenge. Our proposal is to turn the current requirement that freemasons register as such into a general requirement for Members to register membership of private clubs and societies. Private in this regard means organisations where membership is, to some degree, by invitation or selection. The amended guidance gives Members further details and illustrates it with examples.

Finally, because the new requirement is much wider, we propose to decriminalise the new procedures. Not to do so could leave the system open to ridicule should a Member innocently forget to register membership of one of the many organisations that could be categorised as private. It would be more appropriate for the Committee on Standards of Conduct to consider any breach and then decide what weight it should be given, rather than simply referring it to sanctions under criminal law immediately.

I will conclude by saying that the Committee has spent much time on this issue. I am grateful to all its members as there were established positions on the Committee.

yn wahanol, gallai llys a oedd yn gweithredu o dan atodlen 8 Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998 benderfynu bod y Cynulliad wedi gweithredu'n anghyfreithlon drwy osod y gofyniad hwn yn unigryw ar seiri rhyddion. Dyna'r cyngor cyfreithiol. Ni heriwyd hynny o ddifrif ar unrhyw adeg. Fe'i hailadroddaf yn awr gan ddatgan wrthyh y gallem fod yn ymddwyn mewn ffordd ddiofal ac annoeth pe penderfynwn beidio â dilyn cyngor cyfreithiol.

Trof yn awr at y cynigion a gyflwynwyd ger eich bron. Cydnabu'r Pwyllgor fod Grŵp Ymgynghorol y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol wedi nodi rhywfaint o bryder ymysg y cyhoedd ynghylch seiri rhyddion. Waeth beth fo'i sail, mae llawer o bobl yng Nghymru yn bendant yn rhannu'r pryder hwnnw. Felly, nid oedd y Pwyllgor o'r farn y byddai'n briodol diddymu'r gofyniad i gofrestru aelodaeth o'r Seiri Rhyddion. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd o'r farn nad yw'r arfer presennol yn gyson a'i fod yn agored i her gyfreithiol ac na allwn fod yn hyderus y byddem yn ennill unrhyw her o'r fath. Cynigiwn y dylid troi'r gofyniad presennol, sef y dylai'r Aelodau gofrestru eu bod yn aelod o'r Seiri Rhyddion, yn ofyniad cyffredinol iddynt gofrestru eu bod yn aelodau o glybiau a chymdeithasau preifat. Ystyr preifat yn y cyswllt hwn yw sefydliadau lle y mae'r aelodau, i ryw raddau, yn cael eu gwahodd neu eu dewis i ymuno â'r sefydliad. Rhydd y canllawiau diwygiedig fanylion pellach i'r Aelodau gan nodi enghreifftiau.

Yn olaf, gan fod y gofyniad newydd yn llawer ehangach, cynigiwn y dylid cyfreithloni'r gweithdrefnau newydd. Gallai'r system ddod yn destun sbort pe na wneid hynny a phe byddai Aelod, yn ddiniwed, yn anghofio cofrestru aelodaeth o unrhyw un o'r sefydliadau niferus y gellid eu categoreiddio fel rhai preifat. Byddai'n fwy priodol i'r Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad ystyried unrhyw achos o fethu â chydymffurfio â'r gweithdrefnau ac yna penderfynu pa bwys y dylid rhoi arno, yn hytrach na'i gyfeirio ar unwaith i gosbau o dan y gyfraith droseddol.

Hoffwn gloi drwy ddweud bod y Pwyllgor wedi treulio llawer o amser ar y mater hwn. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i bob un o'i aelodau gan fod safbwyntiau penodol ar y Pwyllgor.

Some wanted to maintain the status quo; some wanted the requirement only to be made of freemasons and some thought it best to remove the current requirement and not replace it with another measure. We have sought a compromise that preserves as much as possible of the original principle behind the requirement to register membership of the Freemasons. We believe that these proposals are legally robust. They are not overly onerous because the requirement is decriminalised, and they are, above all, open and transparent. I commend them to you.

Peter Law: The phrase that comes to mind is that there are forces at work in this country of which we have no knowledge. I have not been involved in these discussions. The Committee has done a good job on issues relating to standards in the past. However, Standing Order No. 4, which states that freemasons should register that interest, stands out, and has been applauded by many. I do not want to embarrass him, but the newest Assembly Member, David Ian Jones, has registered an interest as a freemason. He will also appear in the *Guinness Book of World Records* next May for having the fastest golden handshake from the Assembly. He is here on a six-month sojourn in the Conservative holiday club. He is the first Assembly Member to register an interest as a freemason. It is his democratic right to be a freemason.

Do you also have an interest to declare Kirsty? You do not look happy.

That is his democratic right. I do not argue with those who want to be in the Freemasons; that is their democratic right. In fact, I recently sent the Freemasons an e-mail thanking it for its contribution to a hospice in my community. However, I object to another Standing Order being introduced to decriminalise a failure to register membership of the Freemasons. That is not right. We are bowing to threats, and that it is not necessary. When you consider the proposed Standing Order No. 37, you begin to wonder what we will have to register in future. The Standing Order is a catch-all, and

Yr oedd rhai am gadw'r status quo; yr oedd rhai am i'r gofyniad gynnwys seiri rhyddion yn unig ac yr oedd rhai o'r farn mai diddymu'r gofyniad presennol a pheidio â rhoi mesur arall yn ei le fyddai'r ateb gorau. Yr ydym wedi ceisio dod i gyfaddawd sy'n cadw cymaint â phosibl o'r egwyddor wreiddiol sy'n sail i'r gofyniad i gofrestru aelodaeth o'r Seiri Rhyddion. Credwn fod y cynigion hyn yn gyfreithiol gadarn. Nid ydynt yn orfeichus gan fod y gofyniad wedi'i gyfreithloni, ac yn anad dim, maent yn agored ac yn eglur. Fe'u cymeradwyaf ichi.

Peter Law: Yr ymadrodd a ddaw i'r meddwl yw bod grymoedd ar waith yn y wlad hon na wyddom ddim amdanynt. Ni fûm yn rhan o'r trafodaethau hyn. Mae'r Pwyllgor wedi gwneud gwaith da ar faterion sy'n ymwneud â safonau yn y gorffennol. Fodd bynnag, mae Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 4, sy'n nodi y dylai seiri rhyddion gofrestru'r buddiant hwnnw, yn sefyll allan, ac fe'i cymeradwywyd gan lawer. Nid wyf am achosi embaras iddo, ond mae'r Aelod diweddaraf o'r Cynulliad, David Ian Jones, wedi cofrestru buddiant fel aelod o'r Seiri Rhyddion. Bydd hefyd yn ymddangos yn y *Guinness Book of World Records* fis Mai nesaf am yr aelod a ymadawodd â'r Cynulliad gyflymaf. Mae yma am gyfnod o chwe mis yng nglwb gwyliau'r Ceidwadwyr. Ef yw'r Aelod cyntaf o'r Cynulliad i gofrestru buddiant fel un o'r Seiri Rhyddion. Mae ganddo hawl ddemocrataidd i fod yn un o'r Seiri Rhyddion.

A oes gennych chithau hefyd fuddiant i'w ddatgan Kirsty? Nid ydych yn edrych yn hapus.

Mae ganddo hawl ddemocrataidd i hynny. Ni ddadleuaf â'r rhai sydd am fod yn aelod o'r Seiri Rhyddion; mae ganddynt hawl ddemocrataidd i wneud hynny. Yn wir, fe anfonais e-bost at y Seiri Rhyddion yn ddiweddar yn diolch i'r gymdeithas am gyfrannu at hosbis yn fy nghymuned. Fodd bynnag, gwrthwynebam y cynnig i gyflwyno Rheol Sefydlog arall i gyfreithloni methiant i gofrestru aelodaeth o'r Seiri Rhyddion. Nid yw hynny'n iawn. Yr ydym yn plygu i fygythiadau, ac nid oes angen gwneud hynny. O ystyried Rheol Sefydlog arfaethedig Rhif 37, tybed beth y bydd yn rhaid inni ei

relates to no end of different societies. Fifteen years ago when I was mayor of Blaenau Gwent, I was made a member of the Moose Society, as it was its centenary. I resigned afterwards, and was never even taught the handshake. The Moose Society does wonderful, charitable work, and meets in a prefabricated building. The Buffs Club meets upstairs in a pub, the Foresters come to your house to sell insurance and probably meet in a pub. All these people would have to register under Standing Order No. 37. However, those societies do not compare with freemasonry.

David Melding: Your comments illustrate that the requirement is a general one, which requires more work than simply singling out one organisation. However, local councillors are already required to do this. Do we lack the wherewithal that we think local councillors have?

Peter Law: David, I never cease to be amazed at the work you do to refine the standard of conduct in the Assembly. I pay tribute to you for that. Sometimes, I wonder if it is like a dexterity test, and that, eventually, we will find a hole that we are bound to fall into. However, this is the National Assembly, not local government. People must start to realise that. This is the National Assembly for Wales. If Members want to make comparisons, they should do so with Parliament—that would be interesting.

To return to my point, some of my distinguished colleagues in this Chamber are Members of Gorsedd y Beirdd. What would they do? They would have to register, because membership of the Gorsedd is by invitation, and it is sometimes regarded as a secret society. Just think about it. There are many other such organisations.

It is not necessary that we should be used in this way, just because someone feels that a failure to register and declare membership of the Freemasons should be decriminalised. That requirement has been generally applauded throughout Wales. The principles

gofrestru yn y dyfodol. Mae'r Rheol Sefydlog yn ddiderfyn, ac yn berthnasol i nifer ddibendraw o wahanol gymdeithasau. Bymtheng mlynedd yn ôl pan oeddwn yn faer ym Mlaenau Gwent, fe'm gwnaed yn aelod o'r Moose Society, gan ei bod yn dathlu ei chanmlwyddiant. Ymddiswyddais wedi hynny, heb ddysgu sut i ysgwyd llaw hyd yn oed. Mae'r Moose Society yn gwneud gwaith elusennol gwyb ac yn cwrdd mewn adeilad parod. Mae'r Buffs Club yn cwrdd uwchben tafarn, daw'r Foresters i'ch tŷ i werthu yswiriant gan gwrdd, fwy na thebyg, mewn tafarn. Byddai'n rhaid i'r holl bobl hyn gofrestru o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 37. Fodd bynnag, nid oes cymhariaeth rhwng y cymdeithasau hyn a'r Seiri Rhyddion.

David Melding: Dengys eich sylwadau mai gofyniad cyffredinol yw'r gofyniad hwn, sy'n golygu mwy o waith na nodi un sefydliad yn benodol. Fodd bynnag, mae eisoes yn ofynnol i gynghorwyr lleol wneud hyn. Onid oes gennym y modd y tybiwn sydd gan gynghorwyr lleol?

Peter Law: David, yr wyf bob amser yn synnu at y gwaith a wneuch i goethi safon ymddygiad yn y Cynulliad. Talaf deyrnged ichi am hynny. Weithiau, meddyliaf tybed a yw'n debyg i brawf medrusrwydd, ac, yn y pen draw, y deawn o hyd i fagl i'n dal. Fodd bynnag, y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yw hwn, nid llywodraeth leol. Rhaid i bobl ddechrau sylweddoli hynny. Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yw hwn. Os dymuna'r Aelodau wneud cymariaethau, dylent wneud hynny â'r Senedd—byddai hynny'n ddiddorol.

I ddychwelyd at fy mhwynt, mae rhai o'm cyd-Aelodau anrhydeddus yn y Siambr hon yn Aelodau o Orsedd y Beirdd. Beth fyddent hwy yn ei wneud? Byddai'n rhaid iddynt gofrestru, gan mai drwy wahoddiad y deuir yn aelod o'r Orsedd, ac fe'i hystyrir weithiau yn gymdeithas gyfrin. Meddylwch am hynny. Mae llawer o sefydliadau eraill o'r fath.

Nid oes angen inni gael ein defnyddio fel hyn, am fod rhywun yn teimlo y dylid cyfreithloni methiant i gofrestru a datgan aelodaeth o'r Seiri Rhyddion. Cymeradwywyd y gofyniad hwnnw yn gyffredinol ledled Cymru. Cadarnheir yr

of openness, accountability and transparency are upheld in Standing Order No. 4. We should not amend Standing Orders in this way. It would be a backward step. It is not appropriate for us to support this proposed change to Standing Orders.

4:30 p.m.

Cynog Dafis: Yr wyf yn cefnogi Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 37 a'r atodiad iddo, sydd yn disodli'r gofyniad i ddatgan aelodaeth o'r Seiri Rhyddion gyda gofyniad cyffredinol i gofrestru aelodaeth o gymdeithas neu glwb preifat sydd â gofynion o ran mynediad i aelodaeth. Mae amryw o'r rheini.

Mae rhesymau cyfreithiol yn golygu nad oes fawr o ddewis o ran cyflwyno'r newid hwn— a dyna'r ddadl sydd yn clensio hyn. Fodd bynnag, credaf fod y newid hwn yn iawn ar sail egwyddor. Nid wyf am amddiffyn y Seiri Rhyddion nac aelodaeth o'r mudiad hwnnw. Nid wyf yn amau mai hunan-les a hunan-ddyrchafiad sydd wedi peri i lawer o bobl ymuno â'r Seiri Rhyddion. Nid wyf ychwaith yn amau nad yw aelodau o'r mudiad wedi dylanwadu'n amhriodol ar benderfyniadau o bryd i'w gilydd, ac, efallai, wedi bod yn ddylanwad afiach ar adegau. Wedi dweud hynny, mae aelodau o'r Seiri Rhyddion ymysg y dynion yr wyf yn eu parchu fwyaf. Yr wyf am gofnodi hynny yn ogystal.

Ceir canfyddiad cyhoeddus cyffredinol i'r perwyl hwnnw, sef y gall y Seiri Rhyddion fod yn ddylanwad niweidiol. Y canfyddiad cyhoeddus hwnnw a barodd i'r gofyniad gael ei gynnwys yn y Rheolau Sefydlog yn y lle cyntaf. Mae gennyf ddau beth i'w dweud ynglŷn â hynny. Yn gyntaf, nid yw canfyddiad cyhoeddus yn sylfaen ddiogel ar gyfer creu rheolau ynglŷn â grwpiau penodol mewn cymdeithas. Yn wir, gall fod yn beryglus. Gall arwain at bardduo, at gamwahaniantu ac, ar adegau, at erledigaeth. Mae digon o enghreifftiau lle mae canfod grŵp fel bygythiad i gymdeithas wedi arwain at ganlyniadau difrifol.

Yn ail, mae'n anodd dadlau bod y Seiri Rhyddion yn unigryw o ran yr awydd am hunan-les a hunan-ddyrchafiad a chael dylanwad amhriodol. Ceir digon o sefydliadau y mae pobl wedi ymuno â hwy er

egwyddorion o fod yn agored, yn atebol ac yn eglur yn Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 4. Ni ddylem ddiwygio Rheolau Sefydlog fel hyn. Byddai'n gam yn ôl. Nid yw'n briodol inni gefnogi'r newid arfaethedig hwn i'r Rheolau Sefydlog.

Cynog Dafis: I support Standing Order No 37 and the annex to it, which replaces the requirement to declare membership of the Freemasons with a general requirement to register membership of any private club or society that has entry requirements. There are a variety of such organisations.

For legal reasons, we have little choice but to make this change—and that argument clinches it. However, I believe that this change is justified on ethical grounds. I will not defend the Freemasons or membership of that organisation, and I have no doubt that many people join the Freemasons for reasons of self-interest and self-advancement. I also have no doubt that members of that society have occasionally had undue influence on decisions, and may, at time, have been a truly unhealthy influence. That said, members of the Freemasons are among those whom I respect most. I want to put that on the record as well.

There is a general perception that leads us to believe that the Freemasons can be a harmful influence. That public perception led to the requirement being included in Standing Orders in the first place. On that point, I would like to say two things. First, public perception is not a solid basis on which to make rules in relation to specific groups in society. Indeed, that can be dangerous. It can lead to defamation, discrimination, and, at times, persecution. There are plenty of examples where the perception of certain groups as threats to society has had serious implications.

Secondly, it is difficult to argue that freemasonry is unique in terms of the desire for self-interest, self-advancement and undue influence. There are plenty of organisations which people join to benefit and advance

mwyn eu lles eu hunain ac er mwyn dyrchafiad. Bu amser pan oedd aelodaeth o gapel yn basport i lwyddiant. Erbyn hyn, mae'r clwb golff yn rymusach dylanwad. Nid er mwyn chwarae golff yn unig yn mae pobl yn ymuno â chlybiau golff. Mae'n siŵr bod aelodaeth o'r Cardiff and County Club yn help ar gyfer ennill statws a hyrwyddo busnes.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Rhag ofn bod camddealltwriaeth, hoffwn wneud sylw am hynny. Efallai fod y clwb golff yn fwy buddiol yn y bywyd hwn, ond gobeithiaf dy fod yn cytuno bod y capel, o ran y bywyd tragwyddol, yn parhau'n rymusach dylanwad.

Cynog Dafis: Pawb at y peth y bo. Mae Rhodri Glyn yn gonsyrniol am dynged ei enaid yn y byd nesaf. Nid wyf am wneud unrhyw awgrymiadau ynglŷn ag unrhyw gyswllt rhwng hynny â'r ffordd y mae'n ymddwyn yn y byd hwn.

Mae pleidiau gwleidyddol, heb enwi yr un—nid wyf yn siarad o safbwynt pleidiol—wedi, ac yn parhau i fod, yn sianel ar gyfer swyddi a dyrchafiad. A yw'r Seiri Rhyddion yn unigryw o ran cyfrinachedd? Yn ôl Llys Iawnderau Dynol Ewrop, fel y dywedodd David Melding, nid yw'r Seiri Rhyddion yn gymdeithas gyfrin. Cawsom dystiolaeth fod copïau o flywyddlyfr y Seiri Rhyddion, sy'n rhestru'r cyfrinfeydd a'r swyddogion, ar gael ac yn cael eu hanfon i bob llyfrgell gyhoeddus yn y wlad. Ymhellach, cawsom dystiolaeth nad yw seiri rhyddion yn tyngu llw o deyrngarwch i'w gilydd nac i'r sefydliad. Rhaid inni gredu hynny onibai y gall rhywun brofi'n wahanol. Mae'n anodd gweld bod y Seiri Rhyddion yn unigryw. Fodd bynnag, gan ei fod yn gymdeithas breifat, mae'n bwysig bod aelodaeth yn cael ei gofrestru.

Brian Hancock: Do you agree that the Freemasons is a hierarchical organisation where honour and privilege accrues to those who have sponsorship and support?

Cynog Dafis: Pe baem yn gweld trefniadaeth hierarchaidd fel peth peryglus, byddai nifer o sefydliadau y byddai'n rhaid bod yn ddrwgdybus ohonynt, gan gynnwys yr Eglwys yng Nghymru ac Eglwys Rufain. Ni

themselves. There was a time when membership of the chapel was a passport to success. These days, the golf club is a far more powerful influence. People do not only join golf clubs to play golf. Surely, membership of the Cardiff and County Club helps in terms of acquiring status and promoting business.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: In case there is any misunderstanding, I would like to comment on that. The golf club may have more influence in this life, but in terms of eternal life, I hope you agree that the chapel still exerts a far more powerful influence.

Cynog Dafis: Well, each to his own. Rhodri Glyn is concerned about the fate of his soul in the next world. I do not want to make any suggestions about any link between that and his behaviour in this world.

Political parties, without naming any—I am not talking from a party political viewpoint—have been, and still are, a channel to jobs and promotion. Are the Freemasons unique in terms of secrecy? According to the European Court of Human Rights, as David Melding pointed out, the Freemasons is not a secret society. We have heard evidence that the Freemasons' annual report, which lists the lodges and their officials, is published and sent to every public library in the country. Furthermore, we heard evidence stating that freemasons to do not pledge an oath of allegiance to each other or to the institution. We must believe that to be true unless someone can prove otherwise. It is difficult to see how freemasonry is unique. However, since it is a private society, it is important that membership is registered.

Brian Hancock: A gytunwch mai sefydliad hierarchaidd yw'r Seiri Rhyddion lle daw bri a braint i ran y rhai sydd â nawdd a chefnogaeth?

Cynog Dafis: If we were to consider hierarchical organisations as dangerous, we would need to be suspicious of several institutions, including the Church in Wales and the Roman Catholic Church. I do not

chredaf fod hynny yn rheswm dros fod yn ddrwgdybus.

Mae'n bwysig, fel y dywedais, fod aelodaeth o'r Seiri Rhyddion yn cael ei chofrestru gan ei bod yn gymdeithas breifat. Dylai hyn ddigwydd gyda phob cymdeithas breifat. Efallai y bydd hi'n draffethus i bobl gofio i ba fudiadau y maent yn perthyn, ond credaf y byddai'n werth y drafferth er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn dryloyw, yn gyson ac yn deg wrth drin pawb yn yr un modd.

Kirsty Williams: As a member of the National Assembly Advisory Group, I became aware, as we travelled around the country, that many people had grave misgivings about the Freemasons, and what they perceived the organisation to be about. In reflecting that concern, the group recommended that this specific interest be registered. However, we have learnt from Committee on Standards of Conduct deliberations—some of which took place before I became a Committee member, and some subsequent to that—that singling out the Freemasons as the only secret organisation required to be registered puts us on shaky legal ground. Members should reflect carefully on the legal advice given on this issue and what the consequences of that legal advice might mean if we were to regret the change to Standing Orders.

As we heard from David Melding and Cynog Dafis, one of the tests we applied to this difficult subject was that of uniqueness, and whether we could justify our actions, as the National Assembly for Wales, on the grounds that freemasonry is unique. As Cynog said, membership of several organisations across Wales could be perceived as having a potential influence over what an Assembly Member might say or do on a particular issue. Cynog also rightly said that membership of a certain golf club or a gentleman's club not a million miles away from the National Assembly for Wales, namely, the Cardiff and County Club, may have greater influence on a Member's actions in the Chamber than some of the other organisations we are discussing. The same goes for the Buffs Club and the Moose Society, to which Peter Law referred. Freemasonry is not unique—

believe that that is a reason for suspicion.

It is important, as I said, that membership of the Freemasons is registered because it is a private society. This should be the case with every private society. It may be troublesome for people to remember to which societies they subscribe, but it will be worth it in order to ensure that we are transparent, consistent and fair in dealing with everyone in the same way.

Kirsty Williams: Fel aelod o Grŵp Ymgynghorol y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, deuthum yn ymwybodol, wrth inni deithio'r wlad, fod gan lawer o bobl bryderon difrifol am y Seiri Rhyddion, a phwrpas y sefydliad, yn eu barn hwy. Wrth adlewyrchu'r pryder hwnnw, argymhellodd y grŵp y dylid cofrestru'r buddiant penodol hwn. Fodd bynnag, yn sgîl trafodaethau'r Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad—y cynhaliwyd rhai ohonynt cyn imi ddod yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor, a rhai ohonynt wedi hynny—dysgasom fod nodi'r Seiri Rhyddion yn benodol fel yr unig sefydliad cyfrin i'w gofrestru yn ein rhoi ar dir cyfreithiol sigledig. Dylai'r Aelodau feddwl yn ofalus am y cyngor cyfreithiol a roddwyd ar y mater hwn a chanlyniadau'r cyngor cyfreithiol hwnnw pe byddem yn edifarhau newid y Rheolau Sefydlog.

Fel y clywsom gan David Melding a Cynog Dafis, yr oedd un o'r profion a gymhwyswyd gennym wrth ystyried y pwnc anodd hwn yn ymwneud â natur unigryw cymdeithas benodol, a pha un a allem gyfiawnhau ein gweithredoedd, fel Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, ar y sail bod y Seiri Rhyddion yn unigryw. Fel y dywedodd Cynog, gellid ystyried bod aelodaeth o sawl sefydliad yng Nghymru yn arwain at ddylanwad ar yr hyn y gallai Aelod o'r Cynulliad ei ddweud neu ei wneud yng nghyd-destun mater penodol. Dywedodd Cynog hefyd, yn gwbl gywir, y gallai bod yn aelod o glwb golff neu glwb gwŷr bonheddig penodol nid nepell o Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, sef Cardiff and County Club, gael mwy o ddylanwad ar weithredoedd Aelod yn y Siambr na rhai o'r sefydliadau eraill a drafodwn. Mae'r un peth yn wir am y Buffs Club a'r Moose Society, y cyfeiriodd Peter Law atynt. Nid yw'r Seiri

Rhyddion yn unigryw—

Peter Law: If you compare masonic lodges with the location in which the Buffs meet, you get a perception of the power of the Freemasons. The difference between the two societies is immense.

Kirsty Williams: I do not accept that argument. The Buffs Club and the Moose Society also have closed membership on a nomination and invitation basis. It does not matter whether they meet in a grand building—and the Assembly should know all about this—or in a more lowly location; surroundings have no effect on the power and influence of these societies. Therefore, I do not accept your argument. The culture and the means by which people become members of these organisations are the same.

I believe that the dealings of the Freemasons are unacceptable, and it is abhorrent to me to speak in favour of changing Standing Orders. However, as a Liberal, I must often approach arguments on the basis that my personal distaste for a subject should not be allowed to overshadow my reasoning on it. I do not agree with the Freemasons, or any other organisation that prohibits more than 50 per cent of the population from being members—I find this particularly difficult to agree with—but I cannot allow that judgment and my personal prejudices to affect my decision in the Chamber. We must consider the law and the legal advice that we have been given.

4:40 p.m.

We must also dispel the myth that Members will be required to register every membership under the new Standing Orders. This is not the case. Members will not have to register the fact that they are members of a choir, a church or a chapel; they will only be required to register membership of closed societies. We are not talking about whether you are the president of your local WI or bowling club. If that organisation is open to the population as a whole, you do not have to require it—

Helen Mary Jones: Explain to me how this will affect membership of organisations such

Peter Law: Os cymharwch gyfrinfeydd y Seiri Rhyddion â lleoliad cyfarfodydd Buffs, fe gewch syniad o rym y Seiri Rhyddion. Mae'r gwahaniaeth rhwng y ddwy gymdeithas yn enfawr.

Kirsty Williams: Ni dderbyniaf y ddadl honno. Mae gan y Buffs Club a'r Moose Society aelodaeth gaeedig hefyd ar sail enwebiadau a gwahoddiadau. Ni waeth pa un a ydynt yn cwrdd mewn adeilad crand—a dylai'r Cynulliad wybod am hynny—neu mewn lleoliad mwy dinod; ni chaiff y lleoliad unrhyw effaith ar rym a dylanwad y cymdeithasau hyn. Felly, ni dderbyniaf eich dadl. Mae diwylliant y sefydliadau hyn a'r ffyrdd y daw pobl yn aelodau ohonynt yr un fath.

Ni chredaf fod dulliau gweithredu'r Seiri Rhyddion yn dderbyniol, ac mae'n gas iawn gennyf siarad o blaid newid Rheolau Sefydlog. Fodd bynnag, fel Rhyddfrydwr, rhaid imi ystyried dadleuon yn aml ar y sail na ddylai fy nghasineb personol tuag at bwnc gymylu fy rhesymeg ar y pwnc hwnnw. Ni chytunaf â'r Seiri Rhyddion, nac unrhyw sefydliad arall sy'n gwahardd dros 50 y cant o'r boblogaeth rhag bod yn aelodau ohono—yr wyf yn ei chael yn anodd iawn cytuno â hynny—ond ni allaf ganiatáu i'r farn honno a'm rhagfarn bersonol effeithio ar fy mhenderfyniad yn y Siambr. Rhaid inni ystyried y gyfraith a'r cyngor cyfreithiol a roddwyd inni.

Rhaid inni hefyd chwalu'r myth y bydd yn ofynnol i Aelodau gofrestru pob aelodaeth o dan y Rheolau Sefydlog newydd. Nid yw hynny'n wir. Ni fydd rhaid i Aelodau gofrestru'r ffaith eu bod yn aelodau o gôr, eglwys neu gapel; dim ond aelodaeth o gymdeithasau caeedig y bydd yn ofynnol iddynt ei chofrestru. Nid ydym yn sôn am ba un a ydych yn llywydd cangen Sefydliad y Merched neu eich clwb bowlio lleol. Os yw'r sefydliad hwnnw yn agored i'r boblogaeth gyfan, ni fydd yn ofynnol—

Helen Mary Jones: Eglurwch imi sut y bydd hyn yn effeithio ar aelodaeth o sefydliadau

as Merched y Wawr and the WI? I am a member of Merched y Wawr, I am not yet a member of the WI, although I am about to join. Those organisations are not open to the whole of the population. They exclude half of it. There is no evidence to suggest that they act in a sinister manner. However, having considered the examples, there is some concern about this. I do not believe that members of the rotary club in my constituency would feel happy about me having to register the fact that I am an honorary member of that organisation. It was recently opened to women, as it was not in the past. It is not right to put those organisations in the same bracket as freemasonry.

Kirsty Williams: I do not think that Tony Blair would describe the WI as an organisation that cannot inflict grave damage. However, as a proud member of Craddock WI, I can tell you that it does allow men to join, as does the Mother's Union. Those organisations are open to both sexes and would therefore not be required to be registered under these circumstances—

Cynog Dafis *rose—*

Kirsty Williams: I cannot give way, Cynog. I have to wind-up.

We cannot ignore the legal situation nor allow our personal prejudices against a single organisation to lead us down what is potentially a damaging path for the Assembly.

David Ian Jones: I speak, as you have heard, as the only declared freemason in this Assembly. It causes me no difficulty whatsoever to disclose that I am a freemason. In fact, I am entirely proud to be one. I am a member of an institution, which has as its founding tenets a belief in God, submission to the civil legislature and the equality of the human race. However, I am not here to plead on behalf of freemasonry. I strongly object to the fact that I have been compelled on pain of criminal prosecution to disclose matters that relate to my private life and affect my freedom of association. This Assembly has

fel Merched y Wawr a Sefydliad y Merched? Yr wyf yn aelod o Ferched y Wawr, nid wyf eto yn aelod o Sefydliad y Merched, ond yr wyf ar fin ymuno. Nid yw'r sefydliadau hynny yn agored i'r boblogaeth gyfan. Maent yn eithrio ei hanner. Nid oes unrhyw dystiolaeth i awgrymu eu bod yn gweithredu mewn modd sinistr. Fodd bynnag, ar ôl ystyried yr enghreifftiau, mae rhywfaint o bryder ynglŷn â hyn. Ni chredaf y byddai aelodau'r clwb rotari yn fy etholaeth i yn fodlon iawn fy mod yn gorfod cofrestru'r ffaith fy mod yn aelod anrhydeddus o'r sefydliad hwnnw. Fe'i hagarwyd yn ddiweddar i fenywod, gan nad oedd yn agored iddynt yn y gorffennol. Nid yw'n briodol rhoi'r sefydliadau hynny yn yr un categori â'r Seiri Rhyddion.

Kirsty Williams: Ni chredaf y byddai Tony Blair yn disgrifio Sefydliad y Merched fel sefydliad na all wneud difrod sylweddol. Fodd bynnag, fel aelod balch o Sefydliad y Merched Craddock, gallaf eich hysbysu y gall dynion ymuno, felly hefyd Undeb y Mamau. Mae'r sefydliadau hynny yn agored i'r ddau ryw ac felly ni fyddai'n ofynnol iddynt gael eu cofrestru o dan yr amgylchiadau hyn—

Cynog Dafis *a gododd—*

Kirsty Williams: Ni allaf ildio, Cynog. Rhaid imi ddirwyn i ben.

Ni allwn anwybyddu'r sefyllfa gyfreithiol na chaniatáu i'n rhagfarn bersonol yn erbyn un sefydliad ein tywys ar hyd llwybr a allai fod yn niweidiol i'r Cynulliad.

David Ian Jones: Siaradaf, fel y clywsoch, fel yr unig Aelod o'r Cynulliad hwn a ddatganodd ei fod yn aelod o'r Seiri Rhyddion. Nid yw datgelu fy mod yn un o'r Seiri Rhyddion yn peri unrhyw anhawster i mi o gwbl. Yn wir, yr wyf yn falch o fod yn un ohonynt. Yr wyf yn aelod o sefydliad sy'n seiliedig ar yr egwyddorion o gredu yn Nuw, parchu deddfwriaeth sifil a chydaddoldeb yr hil ddynol. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf yma i bledio ar ran y Seiri Rhyddion. Gwrthwynebaf yn gryf y ffaith imi gael fy ngorfodi o dan fygythiad erlyniad troseddol i ddatgelu materion sy'n ymwneud â'm bywyd

perpetrated a breach of my human rights upon me.

The Committee on Standards of Conduct has rightly concluded that the current arrangements are unsustainable in terms of human rights. Therefore, what has it decided to do? Instead of breaching the human rights of a small section of this Assembly, it has decided to breach the human rights of an even bigger section by making rotarians, members of the round table, soroptimists and almost anyone register their interests. That is not because the Committee regards those groups as being subversive and a threat to the Assembly's integrity, but because it wishes to continue the witch hunt against freemasons. That is highly disreputable.

The truth of the matter is that this is a disreputable fudge, intended to perpetuate an unwarranted intrusion into the private lives and freedom of association of Assembly Members. The purpose of a register of interests is quite proper. It is to enable anyone who wishes to do so to relate the actions of Assembly Members with their own private interests. It is proper that Assembly Members, and anyone else who wishes to enquire, should know that I have office premises in Llandudno because if a measure came before this Assembly affecting the value of such premises, it is right to know whether or not I might be impelled by some untoward motive. However, declaring myself as a freemason, a member of the Round table or a rotarian does not enable anyone, in any way, to relate what I do here with my personal interests. It is a bigoted measure, prompted by ignorance. It is disreputable and I strongly urge that it be referred back to the Committee on Standards of Conduct with a view to expunging the requirement for registration as a freemason.

John Griffiths: I agree with the points that Peter Law made earlier. It is entirely wrong to equate an organisation like the Freemasons with the other organisations that have been mentioned today. Why is there so much public concern about freemasonry, but not

preifat ac sy'n effeithio ar fy rhyddid cyfartal i ymgysylltu. Mae'r Cynulliad hwn wedi torri fy hawliau dynol.

Daeth y Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad yn briodol i'r casgliad nad yw'r trefniadau presennol yn gynaliadwy yn nhermau hawliau dynol. Felly, beth y penderfynodd ei wneud? Yn hytrach na thorri hawliau dynol carfan fach o'r Cynulliad hwn, mae wedi penderfynu torri hawliau dynol carfan fwy byth drwy ei gwneud yn ofynnol i aelodau o glybiau rotari, aelodau'r ford gron, soroptimyddion a bron unrhyw un arall gofrestru eu buddiannau. Ni wnaed hynny am fod y Pwyllgor o'r farn bod y grwpiau hynny yn wyrdroadol ac yn fygythiad i integredd y Cynulliad, ond am ei fod am barhau i erlid y Seiri Rhyddion. Mae hynny'n dwyn anfri mawr arno.

Y gwir amdani yw bod hwn yn achos gwarthus o geisio celu'r ffeithiau, gyda'r bwriad o ymyrryd yn ddiangen ym mywydau preifat a rhyddid cyfartal Aelodau'r Cynulliad i ymgysylltu. Mae diben y gofrestr fuddiannau yn gwbl briodol, sef galluogi unrhyw un sydd am wneud hynny i gysylltu gweithredoedd Aelodau'r Cynulliad â'u buddiannau preifat hwy. Mae'n briodol y dylai Aelodau'r Cynulliad, ac unrhyw un arall sydd am wneud ymholiadau, wybod bod gennyf swyddfa yn Llandudno oherwydd pe cyflwynwyd mesur ger bron y Cynulliad hwn a fyddai'n effeithio ar werth yr eiddo hwnnw, mae'n briodol gwybod pa un a allai cymhelliant amhriodol fod yn lliwio fy marn. Fodd bynnag, ni fyddai datgan fy mod yn un o'r Seiri Rhyddion, yn aelod o'r ford gron neu'r clwb rotari yn galluogi i unrhyw un gysylltu yr hyn a wnaef yma gyda'm buddiannau personol mewn unrhyw ffordd. Mae'n fesur rhagfarnllyd, wedi'i ysgogi gan anwybodaeth. Mae'n warthus ac erfyniaf yn gryf iddo gael ei ailgyfeirio i'r Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad gyda'r nod o ddiddymu'r gofyniad i gofrestru fel un o'r Seiri Rhyddion.

John Griffiths: Cytunaf â'r pwyntiau a wnaeth Peter Law yn gynharach. Mae'n gwbl amhriodol cymharu sefydliad fel y Seiri Rhyddion â'r sefydliadau eraill y soniwyd amdanynt heddiw. Pam bod cymaint o bryder cyhoeddus am y Seiri Rhyddion, ond nid am

about those other organisations? Is that concern for no good reason? I think not. I attended a meeting earlier this week, where people expressed their concerns about freemasonry, how it operates, and the secrecy involved despite some of the changes that we have heard of today. People are involved in the Freemasons for naked self-advancement and self-interest. The public expects a judiciary, the police force and public administration to operate and be seen to operate entirely above board without individuals within those organisations allowing membership of secret organisations for mutual self-advancement to colour and affect how they make decisions and how they act.

Cynog Dafis: Ar ddechrau ei araith soniodd John Griffiths am y ffaith bod pryder cyhoeddus yn rheswm dros gredu bod rhywbeth amhriodol yn digwydd. Yr wyf yn sicr y derbynia fod hwnnw'n gysail beryglus. Mae'n gwybod cystal â mi y bu pryder cyhoeddus mawr yn ystod hanner cyntaf yr ugeinfed ganrif ynghylch Iddewon a bod hynny wedi arwain at ganlyniadau difrifol. Bu pryder cyhoeddus dirfawr ynghylch aelodau o'r Eglwys Gatholig ym Mhrydain yn ystod y ddeunawfed ganrif ac wedi hynny. Arweiniodd hynny hefyd at ganlyniadau difrifol. Oni bai fod tystiolaeth glir, ni allwn ganiatáu i bryder cyhoeddus yn unig lywio ein penderfyniadau ynghylch grwpiau penodol o bobl.

John Griffiths: I accept what you say, but this public concern is well founded. It is based on issues that have been raised with me in my representative role as an Assembly Member and before that in other walks of life. Many people share these concerns. With public administration and the law, it is not only a case of justice having to be done, but it must be seen to be done. There is so much well-founded mistrust and suspicion around public administration, the legal system and freemasonry—

David Lloyd *rose*—

y sefydliadau eraill hynny? Onid oes rheswm da dros y pryder hwnnw? Oes wrth gwrs. Bûm mewn cyfarfod yn gynharach yr wythnos hon, lle y mynegodd pobl eu pryderon am y Seiri Rhyddion, sut y gweithredant, a'r cyfrinachedd sydd yn gysylltiedig â hwy er gwaethaf rhai o'r newidiadau y clywsom amdanynt heddiw. Mae pobl yn ymwneud â'r Seiri Rhyddion er mwyn hunan-ddyrchafiad a hunan-les yn unig. Mae'r cyhoedd yn disgwyl i farnwriaeth, yr heddlu a gweinyddiaeth gyhoeddus weithredu, a hynny'n amlwg, mewn ffordd briodol heb fod unigolion o fewn y sefydliadau hynny yn caniatáu i aelodaeth o sefydliadau cyfrin sy'n hyrwyddo hunan-ddyrchafiad liwio ac effeithio ar eu ffordd o wneud penderfyniadau ac o weithredu.

Cynog Dafis: At the start of his speech, John Griffiths mentioned the fact that public concern was a reason for believing that something inappropriate was taking place. I am sure that he would accept that that is a dangerous precedence. He knows as well as I do that there was serious public concern during the first half of the twentieth century about Jews and that that led to serious consequences. There was extreme public concern about members of the Catholic Church in Britain during and after the eighteenth century. That also led to serious consequences. Unless there is clear evidence, we cannot allow public concern alone to guide our decisions about specific groups of people.

John Griffiths: Derbyniaf yr hyn a ddywedwch, ond mae sail gadarn i'r pryder cyhoeddus hwn. Mae'n seiliedig ar faterion y tynnwyd fy sylw atynt yn fy rôl gynrychioliadol fel Aelod o'r Cynulliad a chyn hynny o fewn swyddogaethau eraill. Mae llawer o bobl yn rhannu'r pryderon hyn. O ran gweinyddiaeth gyhoeddus a'r gyfraith, nid mater syml o weithredu cyfiawnder mohono, ond sicrhau bod y cyfiawnder hwnnw yn bodoli. Mae cymaint o ddiffyg ymddiriedaeth ac amheuan cadarn ynghlwm wrth weinyddiaeth gyhoeddus, y system gyfreithiol a'r Seiri Rhyddion—

David Lloyd *a gododd*—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Dai, please sit down. Only one person should be standing. You can kneel down, but you should not stand up. I have powers to protect the short debate and I intend to do so. John, please wind up as quickly as possible. I want to call Peter Black and David Melding next.

John Griffiths: In conclusion, for those reasons, it would be entirely wrong to try to equate freemasonry with the other organisations that have been mentioned here today.

Peter Black: I wanted to respond because David Ian Jones would not allow me to intervene. I was astonished by the claim that the Freemasons believe in equality when the organisation does not admit women. This is clearly not a breach of his human rights because David Ian Jones chose to represent the public in this Assembly. If he, and others, believe in probity and transparency in public life, he should have no qualms about declaring those clubs and societies that could possibly influence how he makes decisions as far as the public is concerned. There is no witch hunt. We all have interests in our communities and private lives that impinge on our public role. It is right and proper that those influences are known to the public when we make decisions.

In the early 1980s, I worked for a county council where people sought to join the Freemasons because they considered it to be a means of advancement. That may or may not be the case, but there are other clubs and societies that are equally perceived as offering people advantage by being a member. Cynog listed some of those. It is right that we should not only ensure that people declare membership of the Freemasons, but that they should also declare membership of other clubs and societies so that people can be aware of what may influence them when making decisions and what informs them as politicians. That is why we should vote for this change in our Standing Orders.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Dai, eisteddych. Dim ond un person ddylai fod ar ei draed. Gallwch benlinio, ond ni ddylech sefyll. Mae gennyf bwerau i amddiffyn y ddadl fer a bwriadaf wneud hynny. John, a fyddech cystal â dirwyn i ben cyn gynted â phosibl. Hoffwn alw Peter Black a David Melding nesaf.

John Griffiths: I gloi, am y rhesymau hynny, byddai'n gwbl amhriodol ceisio cymharu'r sefydliadau eraill y soniwyd amdanynt heddiw â'r Seiri Rhyddion.

Peter Black: Yr oeddwn am ymateb gan na chaniataodd David Ian Jones imi ymyrryd. Fe'm synnwyd gan yr honiad bod y Seiri Rhyddion yn credu mewn cydraddoldeb pan nad yw'r sefydliad yn derbyn menywod. Yn amlwg, ni thorwyd ar ei hawliau dynol ef oherwydd dewisodd David Ian Jones gynrychioli'r cyhoedd yn y Cynulliad hwn. Os yw ef, ac eraill, yn credu mewn gwedduster a thryloywder mewn bywyd cyhoeddus, ni ddylai boeni dim am ddatgan y clybiau a'r cymdeithasau hynny a allai, o bosibl, ddylanwadu ar sut y gwna benderfyniadau mewn perthynas â'r cyhoedd. Nid oes erledigaeth. Mae gan bob un ohonom fuddiannau yn ein cymunedau a'n bywydau preifat sy'n effeithio ar ein rôl gyhoeddus. Mae'n briodol hysbysu'r cyhoedd am y dylanwadau hynny wrth inni wneud penderfyniadau.

Ar ddechrau'r 1980au, yr oeddwn yn gweithio i gyngor sir lle yr oedd pobl yn awyddus i ymuno â'r Seiri Rhyddion am eu bod o'r farn y byddai'n fodd o gael dyrchafiad. Pa un a yw hynny'n wir ai peidio, mae yna glybiau a chymdeithasau eraill yr ystyrir bod ymaelodi â hwy yn rhoi mantais i bobl. Rhestrodd Cynog rai ohonynt. Mae'n briodol y dylem nid yn unig sicrhau bod pobl yn datgan aelodaeth o'r Seiri Rhyddion, ond y dylent hefyd ddatgan aelodaeth o unrhyw glybiau a chymdeithasau eraill er mwyn i bobl fod yn ymwybodol o'r hyn a allai ddylanwadu arnynt wrth wneud penderfyniadau a'r hyn sy'n eu llywio fel gwleidyddion. Dyna pam y dylem bleidleisio o blaid y newid hwn yn ein Rheolau Sefydlog.

4:50 p.m.

David Melding: In many ways, today's debate has replicated some of the Committee's early debates. The same range of opinions and intense feelings were expressed at the early stage of our deliberations. We worked through this for months and reached a consensus position that respects and acts on the legal advice that we have been given. That legal advice became stronger as a few cases before the European Court of Human Rights were declared and as we then received information regarding broader legislation from other legislatures and analogous bodies. We have put before you a compromise that preserves the original principle, but makes it legally robust. If you reject it, we will be in grave danger of losing a legal challenge and this Assembly will be brought into disrepute in a way that no other institution in this country will. That will not be good for any of us.

On specific points, earlier a Member asked me about the recommendations in terms of declaring membership of the Freemasons as far as the police were concerned. We were told that that requirement was never enforced. In any event, it is not something that can be compared directly to political office—

Helen Mary Jones: Who told you that that recommendation is never enforced? When the National Assembly Advisory Group took evidence, we understood that such matters were rigorously enforced and that it was not a question of having to declare membership, but that in many police forces, you could not be an officer of above a certain rank. I realise that this is different, but who gave you that information because it would be helpful for us to have that source?

David Melding: The information came from the Secretariat after it had liaised with the Home Office, therefore it is authoritative.

Peter Law started in his excellent and wonderful knock-about style, which we all cherish. I thought he might not move on from that, but he did and he raised some serious

David Melding: Mewn sawl ffordd, mae'r ddadl hon heddiw wedi ailadrodd rhai o ddadleuon cynnar y Pwyllgor. Mynegwyd yr un amrywiaeth o safbwyntiau a theimladau cryf yn gynnar yn ein trafodaethau. Bu inni drafod hyn am fisoedd, gan ddod i gytundeb sy'n parchu'r cyngor cyfreithiol a gawsom ac yn gweithredu arno. Daeth y cyngor cyfreithiol hwnnw yn gryfach wrth i ychydig o achosion ger bron y Llys Iawnderau Dynol Ewrop gael eu datgan a chawsom wybodaeth am ddeddfwriaeth ehangach gan ddeddfwrfeydd a chyrff eraill tebyg. Cyflwynasom ger eich bron gyfaddawd sy'n dilyn yr egwyddor wreiddiol, ond sy'n ei wneud yn gyfreithiol gadarn. Os caiff ei wrthod gennych, bydd perygl mawr o golli her gyfreithiol gan ddwyn gwarth ar y Cynulliad hwn mewn ffordd na wêl unrhyw sefydliad arall yn y wlad hon. Ni fydd hynny'n beth da i unrhyw un ohonom.

O ran pwyntiau penodol, gofynnodd un o'r Aelodau imi yn gynharach am yr argymhellion yn nhermau datgan aelodaeth o'r Seiri Rhyddion mewn perthynas â'r heddlu. Dywedwyd wrthym na orfodwyd y gofyniad erioed. Beth bynnag, nid yw'n rhywbeth y gellir ei gymharu'n uniongyrchol â swydd wleidyddol—

Helen Mary Jones: Pwy a ddywedodd wrthyf na orfodir yr argymhelliad hwnnw? Pan dderbyniodd Grŵp Ymgynghorol y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol dystiolaeth, yr oeddem ar ddeall bod materion o'r fath yn cael eu gorfodi'n llym ac nad mater o orfod datgan aelodaeth ydoedd, ond mewn sawl heddlu, na allech fod yn swyddog uwchlaw gradd benodol. Sylweddolaf fod hyn yn wahanol, ond pwy a roddodd y wybodaeth honno ichi? Byddai'n ddefnyddiol inni gael gwybod ei ffynhonnell.

David Melding: Cawsom y wybodaeth gan yr Ysgrifenyddiaeth ar ôl iddi gysylltu â'r Swyddfa Gartref, felly mae'n wybodaeth awdurdodol.

Dechreuodd Peter Law gyda'r cecru ardderchog y mae pob un ohonom mor hoff ohono. Tybiais efallai na fyddai'n newid ei gywair, ond gwnaeth hynny gan godi rhai

points that deserve an answer.

The motion is not a catch-all. We are talking about private societies and clubs, which are strictly defined in the Standing Orders and illustrated in the guidance. The Gorsedd, for example, was mentioned. Membership of that would have to be registered, which is why we want the Committee on Standards of Conduct to deal with these issues instead of the courts. We could be ridiculed if this general requirement went directly to the courts because some organisations could easily be overlooked in good faith. We have thought about this.

In general, religious organisations do not have specific requirements. If you believe in that faith, you are not required to be registered. Someone mentioned the WI, as far as I know women who want to join that organisation and agree with its principles and pay an annual fee, can do so. There is a form of selection beyond that, therefore they will not have to register. By contrast, I believe that one is invited to be a member of the soroptimists—I hope that I do not disparage or misrepresent them by saying so. Members of that organisation would have to register.

The principles are clear and I do not take kindly to Members, who have not read all the information, disparaging it. We have spent a great deal of time considering a principle as something on which we could act to preserve the original principle of registering an interest as a freemason. However, we believe that that should be extended to private societies in general.

David Davies: A Member referred earlier to the fact that the Cardiff and County Club does not accept women. As far as I am aware, the WI does not accept male members. Is that not that a similar situation?

David Melding: Organisations can have a basis for membership, otherwise we would be registering that we were members of the Conservative Party. You cannot join that party unless you believe in its principles. This

pwyntiau difrifol sy'n haeddu ateb.

Nid cynnig sy'n effeithio ar bawb yw'r cynnig. Yr ydym yn sôn am gymdeithasau a chlybiau preifat, a ddiffinnir yn fanwl yn y Rheolau Sefydlog ac y ceir enghreifftiau ohonynt yn y canllawiau. Soniwyd am yr Orsedd, er enghraifft. Byddai'n rhaid cofrestru aelodaeth ohoni, a dyna pam ein bod am i'r Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad ymdrin â'r materion hyn yn hytrach na'r llysoedd. Gallwn ddod yn destun sbort pe bai'r gofyniad cyffredinol hwn yn mynd yn uniongyrchol i'r llysoedd gan y gellid anwybyddu rhai sefydliadau ar gam. Yr ydym wedi ystyried hynny.

Yn gyffredinol, nid oes gan sefydliadau crefyddol ofynion penodol. Os credwch yn y ffydd honno, nid yw'n ofynnol ichi gael eich cofrestru. Soniodd rhywun am Sefydliad y Merched, hyd y gwn i, gall menywod sydd am ymuno â'r sefydliad hwnnw a chytuno â'i egwyddorion a thalu ffi flynyddol wneud hynny. Mae math o ddethol wedi hynny, felly ni fydd yn rhaid iddynt gofrestru. I'r gwrthwyneb, credaf fod yn rhaid cael gwahoddiad i fod yn aelod o'r soroptimyddion—gobeithio nad wyf yn eu dilorni na'u camgynrychioli drwy ddweud hynny. Byddai'n rhaid i aelodau o'r sefydliad hwnnw gofrestru.

Mae'r egwyddorion yn glir ac nid wyf yn hoffi gweld Aelodau yn eu dilorni, am nad ydynt wedi darllen yr holl wybodaeth. Treuliasom gryn dipyn o amser yn ystyried egwyddor fel rhywbeth y gallem ei weithredu i gadw'r egwyddor wreiddiol o gofrestru buddiant fel un o'r Seiri Rhyddion. Fodd bynnag, credwn y dylid ehangu hynny i gymdeithasau preifat yn gyffredinol.

David Davies: Cyfeiriodd un o'r Aelodau yn gynharach at y ffaith nad yw'r Cardiff and County Club yn derbyn menywod. Hyd y gwn i, nid yw Sefydliad y Merched yn derbyn dynion fel aelodau. Onid yw honno'n sefyllfa debyg?

David Melding: Mae hawl gan sefydliadau i gael sail ar gyfer ymaelodi, fel arall byddem yn cofrestru ein bod yn aelodau o'r Blaid Geidwadol. Ni allwch ymuno â'r blaid honno oni chredwch yn ei hegwyddorion. Mae

debate is now in danger of becoming too eclectic.

We should look long and hard for a principle—

Peter Law *rose*—

David Melding: I will give way in a moment. We believe that we have found a principle. I was pleased to hear the contributions made by Cynog and Kirsty, who have long experience in this area. Kirsty referred to her membership of NAAG. She had to travel a long way from her original position, and realised that the situation had to be reformed. Her speech today was very powerful.

Peter Law: Do you accept that you do these wonderful charitable organisations, such as Moose, the Buffs and the Women's Institute, a great disservice by lumping them into the same category as freemasonry? When did you last hear of a Buffs lodge in the Metropolitan Police?

David Melding: If we do not move to a general category, we will have to remove the specific requirement on freemasons, either by our own volition or by being dragged through the courts, where we would probably be humiliated. It is better to move to a general principle.

I conclude by turning to the issue raised by David Ian Jones. Even the new reformed system would be a breach of human rights. The European Court on Human Rights has considered the principle of having to register membership of certain societies. It did not find that that was a breach of a person's privacy or their right to free association. It would only be a breach if they were then prohibited from taking up public office. We can require people to register in a general sense. That would not be in breach of the Human Rights Act 1998. The measures before us have been well thought out, and I commend them to Members.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I remind Members that a two-thirds majority is required if this motion is to be carried.

perygl i'r ddadl hon fynd yn rhy eclectic yn awr.

Dylem edrych yn ofalus am egwyddor—

Peter Law *a gododd*—

David Melding: Ildiaf mewn munud. Credwn ein bod wedi dod o hyd i egwyddor. Yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed y cyfraniadau a wnaed gan Cynog a Kirsty, sydd â phrofiad helaeth yn y maes hwn. Cyfeiriodd Kirsty at y ffaith ei bod yn aelod o Grŵp Ymgynghorol y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Bu'n rhaid iddi addasu ei safbwynt gwreiddiol yn sylweddol, a sylweddolodd bod yn rhaid diwygio'r sefyllfa. Yr oedd ei haraith heddiw yn bwerus iawn.

Peter Law: A dderbyniwch eich bod yn bod yn annheg iawn â'r sefydliadau elusennol ardderchog hyn, fel y Moose Society, y Buffs, a Sefydliad y Merched drwy eu rhoi yn yr un categori â'r Seiri Rhyddion? Pryd y clywsoch ddiwethaf am gyfrinfa Buffs o fewn Heddlu Llundain?

David Melding: Oni symudwn tuag at gategori cyffredinol, bydd yn rhaid inni ddiddymu'r gofyniad penodol ar seiri rhyddion, naill ai o'n gwirfodd neu drwy gael ein tynnu drwy'r llysoedd, lle y byddem fwy na thebyg yn colli'r dydd. Mae'n well symud tuag at egwyddor gyffredinol.

Hoffwn gloi drwy drafod y mater a godwyd gan David Ian Jones. Byddai'r system newydd ddiwygiedig hyd yn oed yn torri hawliau dynol. Mae'r Llys Ewropeaidd dros Hawliau Dynol wedi ystyried yr egwyddor o orfod cofrestru aelodaeth o gymdeithasau penodol. Ni chanfu fod hynny'n torri preifatrwydd person na'i hawl i ryddgysylltu. Dim ond pe'u gwaharddwyd wedyn rhag cael swydd gyhoeddus y byddai'n torri eu hawliau. Gallwn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i bobl gofrestru mewn ystyr cyffredinol. Ni fyddai hynny'n torri Deddf Hawliau Dynol 1998. Mae ôl meddwl sylweddol ar y mesurau ger ein bron, ac fe'u cymeradwyaf i'r Aelodau.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Hoffwn atgoffa'r Aelodau bod angen mwyafrif o ddwy ran o dair er mwyn derbyn y cynnig.

*Cynnig (NDM1213): O blaid 29, Ymatal 3, Yn erbyn 15.
Motion (NDM1213): For 29, Abstain 3, Against 15.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Elis Thomas, Dafydd
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
Hancock, Brian
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Gareth
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Halford, Alison
Jones, Helen Mary
Thomas, Owen John

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
Motion rejected.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew
Edwards, Richard
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Jones, Ann
Jones, David Ian
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Neagle, Lynne

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Gweithgareddau Diwylliannol a Chwaraeon yn Ysgolion Cymru Sporting and Cultural Activities in the Schools of Wales

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I ask Members leaving the Chamber to please do so quietly.

Dafydd Wigley: Deallaf nad yw Aelodau yn gadael y Siambr oherwydd diffyg diddordeb mewn chwaraeon a'r celfyddydau.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Gofynnaf i'r Aelodau sy'n gadael y Siambr wneud hynny yn ddistaw.

Dafydd Wigley: I appreciate the fact the Members are not leaving because of lack of interest in sport or the arts.

Yr wyf yn falch o'r cyfle hwn i dynnu sylw at I am pleased to have this opportunity to

y ddarpariaeth, neu'r diffyg darpariaeth weithiau, ar gyfer y celfyddydau a chwaraeon yn ysgolion Cymru. Rhaid imi ddatgan buddiant yn hyn o beth. Mae fy ngwraig, Elinor, yn ymwneud â darparu addysg gerddorol yng Ngwynedd ac â meysydd perthnasol eraill, ac yr wyf fi yn aelod o nifer o glybiau chwaraeon. Nid wyf yn siŵr os bydd angen imi ddatgan hynny o hyn ymlaen.

Mae'r sefyllfa wedi gwella ers chwalfa drychinebus cyfnod Margaret Thatcher a Kenneth Baker. Mae hyn yn wir am Gymru oherwydd, yn rhannol, cyfraniad y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Ond nid yw chwaraeon a'r celfyddydau yn ysgolion Cymru heddiw, ac yr wyf yn sôn yn arbennig am ysgolion uwchradd, yn cael yr un sylw, statws ac amser ag a roddwyd iddynt cyn chwalfa'r 1980au.

Nid oes dwywaith bod rhywbeth wedi mynd ar goll o'r hen batrwm a oedd yn bodoli am ddegawdau yn ein hysgolion gramadeg ac wedyn yn ein hysgolion cyfun gorau. Nid oes gennyf ddim amheuaeth am bwysigrwydd y llu o weithgareddau allgyrsiol a gynhaliwyd, megis pêl-droed, rygbi, hoci, pêl-rwyd, athletau, cyngherddau, dramâu a chorau, nac am bwysigrwydd clybiau a chymdeithasau. Mae'r fath weithgareddau wedi cyfoethogi bywydau disgyblion, eu datblygu fel dinasyddion, ehangu eu gorwelion, eu gwneud yn gorfforol iachach, a hefyd wedi creu cynhesach berthynas rhyngddynt ag athrawon. I'r graddau y bu dirywiad a bod rhai o'r gweithgareddau hyn wedi gwanio neu ddiiflannu, mae'r gyfundrefn addysg yn methu â chyflawni ei photensial yn llawn. Yn wir, mae cymdeithas eisoes yn talu'r pris o ran iechyd ac ymddygiad, a safonau mewn chwaraeon a'r celfyddydau.

5:00 p.m.

Nid wyf yn beirniadu'r gwaith clodwiw a wneir gan gynifer o athrawon. Maent o dan bwysau aruthrol o ran amser dysgu, gofynion biwrocraidd a goblygiadau'r cwricwlwm. Yn y patrwm sydd ohoni, nid yw'n ymarferol disgwyl i athrawon wneud yr hyn a oedd yn bosibl mewn oes o'r blaen, a hynny yn eu hamser hamdden, yn wirfoddol ac yn ddi-dâl. Mae'r oes wedi newid. Sut y gallwn ddarparu, o fewn realiti bywyd cyfoes,

highlight the provision, or sometimes lack of provision, made for the arts and sport in schools in Wales. I must declare an interest, as Elinor, my wife, is involved in the provision of musical education in Gwynedd and with other related areas, and I am a member of several sports clubs. I am not sure whether I will have to declare that from now on.

The situation has improved since the disastrous collapse during Margaret Thatcher's and Kenneth Baker's time in office. In Wales, this is partly down to the contribution made by National Assembly. However, sport and the arts in our schools today, and I refer specifically to secondary schools, are not given the same attention, status or time as was given prior to the the collapse in the 1980s.

There is no doubt that something has been lost from the old pattern that existed for decades in our grammar schools and subsequently in our best comprehensive schools. I have no doubt of the importance of the whole host of extra-curricular activities, such as football, rugby, hockey, netball, athletics, concerts, dramas and choirs, nor of the importance of clubs and societies. Such activities enriched the lives of school pupils, aided their development as citizens, broadened their horizons, made them physically fitter, and also created a closer relationship between pupils and teachers. To the extent that there has been a decline and that some of these activities have faded away or disappeared, the education system is failing to achieve its full potential. Indeed, society is already paying the price in terms of health and conduct, and standards in sport and the arts.

I am by no means criticising the excellent work undertaken by so many teachers. The amount of time available for teaching, the bureaucratic burdens and the obligations of the curriculum all add to the pressure they experience. In the current scheme of things, it would not be practical to expect teachers, in their own free time, voluntarily and without pay, to undertake what was possible in another age. Times have changed. How can

gyfundrefn newydd sy'n sicrhau nad yw pobl ifanc yn cael eu hamddifadu o'r agweddau allgyrsiol ar addysg sydd yr un mor bwysig â chymwysterau academiaidd? Diben hynny yw datblygu disgyblion ysgol yn ddinasyddion llawn. Yn y byd sydd ohoni, mae cyflogwyr a chymdeithas yn galw am bobl sy'n gallu gweithio mewn tîm, sydd â dychymyg a chreadigrwydd, sy'n gallu cymdeithasu ac sydd mewn harmoni â'u cymdeithas. Mae dibrisio'r agweddau hyn ar addysg yn golled i gymdeithas yn gyffredinol ac yn gwneud Cymru, fel gwlad a chenedl, yn dlotach. Efallai fod hyn yn elfen o'n dirywiad ar y cae rygbi ac o ddiflaniad corau a'r arfer o gydganu mewn tafarndai.

Anodd yw credu y bu, mewn rhai ysgolion uwchradd, batrwm lle'r arferai'r tîm rygbi ymarfer ar ddydd Llun a dydd Mawrth, chwarae gêm ar ddydd Mercher, ymarfer eto ar nos Iau, gael noson rydd ar nos Wener a chwarae gêm arall ar fore Sadwrn. Nid oes rhyfedd ein bod wedi magu timau galluog yn ogystal ag unigolion dawnus. Yr oedd patrwm tebyg yn bodoli gyda chorau a chymdeithasau drama. A chofiwn hefyd y cyfoeth a'r deall a ddeilliai o gymdeithasau dadlau, a oedd yn ddechreufan i yrfaoedd nifer o wleidyddion Cymru.

Y gwir yw bod cymdeithas yn gwerthfawrogi chwaraewyr pêl-droed da llawn gymaint â chlercod banc, artist da llawn gymaint ag athro, canwr opera llawn gymaint â chyfrifydd, a dramodydd llawn gymaint â deintydd. Felly, yn enw pob rheswm, pam nad yw'r system addysg yn rhoi yr un cyfle i bobl ifanc sydd â dawn i chwarae pêl-droed, arlunio, canu neu actio, i ddatblygu eu doniau i'r un graddau â'r sawl sydd â gallu academiaidd? Mae gan bobl ifanc sydd â doniau yn y celfyddydau neu chwaraeon llawn gymaint o hawl i gael lle yn yr haul. Mae gan bob un ohonom ryw ddawn neu'i gilydd, a'r gamp yw sicrhau bod doniau pawb yn cael chwarae teg. Pe bai hyn yn digwydd, efallai y gwelem lai o bobl ifanc wedi'u heithrio o gymdeithas.

Beth yw prif nodweddion y problemau yn y gyfundrefn addysg sydd wedi arwain at sefyllfa lle y mae'r celfyddydau a chwaraeon,

we provide, given the reality of life today, a new system that ensures that young people do not miss out on the extra-curricular aspects of education that are just as important as academic qualifications? This is what will develop school pupils into fully-fledged citizens. Employers and society as a whole want people who can work as part of a team, who possess imagination and creativity, who can socialise and who are in harmony with their society. Disregarding these aspects of education has a detrimental effect on society as a whole and makes Wales, as a country and a nation, a poorer place. This may be one of the reasons for our decline on the rugby pitch and why our choirs and the tradition of singing in pubs have all but disappeared.

It is difficult to believe that the rugby teams of some secondary schools used to follow a weekly pattern that included training on Monday and Tuesday, playing a game on Wednesday, training again on Thursday, with Friday night free before the next game on Saturday morning. Little wonder, therefore, that we fostered talented teams as well as gifted individuals. Choirs and drama societies used to follow a similar pattern. We should also recall the wealth and intellectual capacity developed within debating societies, which were the starting point of the careers of many Welsh politicians.

If truth be told, society appreciates good footballers just as much as it does bank clerks, a good artist as much as a teacher, an opera singer as much as an accountant, and a playwright as much as a dentist. Therefore, why, in the name of all reason, does the education system not offer young people with a talent for football, art, singing or acting, the same opportunities to develop these talents as it offers those with academic abilities? Young people with skills in sport and the arts have just as much right to a place in the sun. We all possess some talent or other, and the challenge is to ensure fair play for each and every one. Were this to happen, perhaps there would be fewer disaffected young people in society today.

What are the main aspects of the problems within the education system that have led to a situation where the arts and sport, according

yn ôl un prifathro yn fy etholaeth, wedi eu gwthio i'r sedd gefn ac yn ail sâl? Dywedodd prifathro arall wrthyf fod llwyddiant ysgol yn cael ei fesur yn ormodol ar sail academiaidd, a bod addysg yn fwy na llwyddiant academiaidd yn unig. Wrth baratoi ar gyfer y ddadl hon, siaradais â hanner dwsin o brifathrawon uwchradd yn fy etholaeth, nifer o athrawon eraill a sawl arbenigwr yn myd chwaraeon a'r celfyddydau. Mae'r un patrwm i'w weld yn y dadansoddiad a gynigiwyd gan bob un ohonynt. Yn gyntaf ac yn bennaf oll, mae'r cwricwlwm yn llyncu llawer gormod o amser athrawon a disgyblion. Hefyd, mae'r nifer helaeth o arholiadau y disgwylir i ddisgyblion rhwng 14 ac 18 oed eu sefyll yn cyfyngu ar gyfleoedd celfyddydol, megis cerddoriaeth a drama, a chyfleoedd i ymgymryd â chwaraeon. Felly, mae'n rhaid inni naill ai newid meddylfryd y cwricwlwm neu greu amser penodol, statudol i chwaraeon a'r celfyddydau fel rhan o'r cwricwlwm.

Daw'r awgrym y dylid neilltuo dwy awr y wythnos ar gyfer chwaraeon i bob plentyn rhwng pump ac 16 oed o sawl cyfeiriad, gan gynnwys yr adroddiad ar chwaraeon a gomisiynwyd gan y Gweinidog. Yr unig amod a roddwn ar hynny yw y dylai fod ystod eang o ddewisiadau chwaraeon ar gael i siwtio'r unigolyn. Mae angen i'r celfyddydau gael yr un gofod fel rhan o'r cwricwlwm, gan gynnig dewis o weithgareddau ym myd y ddrama, cerddoriaeth a'r celfyddydau cain.

Trof at addysg offerynnol mewn ysgolion. Yn sgîl cysgod Thatcher, bu chwalfa yn narpariaeth ffurfiol y gwersi hyn. Dyma a barodd i bobl yng Ngwynedd, gan gynnwys fy ngwraig, sefydlu Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias, a arweiniodd at Wasanaeth Cerdd Ysgolion William Mathias. Mae'r ymddiriedolaeth hon bellach yn darparu addysg offerynnol i holl ysgolion uwchradd Gwynedd, Ynys Môn a Sir Ddinbych ynghyd â nifer fawr o ysgolion cynradd yn yr ardaloedd hynny. Mae'n cyflogi 64 o athrawon offerynnol, ac yn cynnig cyfleoedd i bobl ifanc ymuno â cherddorfeydd, band chwyth, a band pres. Caiff hyn ei gyllido yn rhannol gan yr ysgolion, ac felly mae'r arian sydd ar gael yn amrywio. Yn gyffredinol, mae'n galluogi tua chwarter awr y wythnos o hyfforddiant offerynnol. Dywed pawb nad

to one headteacher in my constituency, have been pushed to the back seat and now come a very poor second? According to another headteacher, too much emphasis is placed on evaluating a school's success on an academic basis, when education amounts to more than just academic success. In preparing for this debate, I spoke to half a dozen secondary headteachers in my constituency, a number of other teachers and several experts in the fields of art and sport. The same pattern is reflected in each of their analyses. First and foremost, the curriculum takes up far too much of teachers' and pupils' time. Also, the vast number of examinations that pupils are required to sit between the ages of 14 and 18 limits artistic opportunities, in music and drama, for example, as well as opportunities to participate in sport. Therefore, we either need to change the thinking behind the curriculum or allocate specific, statutory time for sport and the arts as part of the curriculum.

Several sources, including the report on sport commissioned by the Minister, have recommended that every pupil between the ages of five and 16 should participate in sport for two hours a week. The only proviso I would add is that we should ensure that a range of sports is available to suit every individual. The arts should be given the same amount of time as part of the curriculum, and should offer a range of activities that includes drama, music and the fine arts.

I turn to musical instrument lessons in schools. During the Thatcher era, the formal provision of these lessons collapsed. This is what led many people in Gwynedd, including my wife, to establish the William Mathias Music Centre, which, in turn, led to the Williams Mathias School Music Service. The trust now provides musical instrument lessons for pupils in all secondary schools in Gwynedd, Anglesey and Denbighshire, as well as for a large number of primary schools in those areas. It employs 64 music teachers, and offers young people the opportunity to join orchestras, a woodwind band and a brass band. This is partly funded by the schools, and so the funding available varies. In general, it enables about a quarter of an hour a week of instrument tuition. The general belief is that quarter of an hour is not enough

yw chwarter awr yn ddigon i fod yn effeithiol. Mae angen hanner awr, ond nid yw'r cyllid ar gael. Daw rhan o'r cyllid, ar hyn o bryd, o'r gronfa datblygu cerdd, a diolch amdani. Y Cynulliad sydd wedi arwain ar hynny. Fodd bynnag, beth fydd yn digwydd i'r gronfa hon ar ôl 2004, Weinidog? Mae sôn y gallai gael ei thynnu o afael awdurdodau lleol ac ysgolion a'i chanoli o dan reolaeth Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Byddai hynny'n anffodus. Mae teimlad eisoes nad yw darpariaeth cerdd yn rhan o'r fframwaith addysg. Mae angen ei dynnu i mewn i'r cwricwlwm, ac nid ei neilltuo i grafangau cwango.

Gwendid y sefyllfa bresennol yw'r amrywiaeth o sir i sir, a dagrau pethau yw bod angen cyrff megis Gwasanaeth Cerdd Ysgolion William Mathias oherwydd methiant y gyfundrefn addysg i ddarparu. Nid oes amser o fewn oriau ysgol i wneud yr holl waith o ran cerddoriaeth a chwaraeon, megis ymarfer ar gyfer cyngherddau, neu ymarferion rygbi a phêl-droed, felly mae'n rhaid gwneud hyn ar ddiwedd y dydd neu yn ystod yr awr ginio. Mae'r un peth yn wir os yw ysgolion am adfywio clybiau a chymdeithasau sydd wedi edwino. Rhaid derbyn na fydd athrawon yn gwneud hyn i gyd yn wirfoddol fel yn y gorffennol, er bod llawer yn dal i wneud hynny ar hyn o bryd.

Mae'n rhaid i athrawon chwaraeon yn aml weithio oriau ychwanegol, a hynny yn ddi-dâl, sydd yn annheg o gofio bod athrawon sydd yn ymgymryd â chlybiau, megis clybiau gwaith cartref, neu glybiau technoleg gwybodaeth, yn cael eu talu o'r gronfa cyfleoedd newydd. Credaf mai'r ateb—a gwn nad yw'r undebau yn cytuno'n llwyr â hyn—yw sefydlu cronfa ffurfiol, statudol i dalu am weithgareddau allgyrsiol o ran chwaraeon, y celfyddydau a chlybiau. Dylid darparu hyn yn ganolog a'i weinyddu ar lefel sirol. Dylai cronfa o'r fath alluogi ysgolion i dalu athrawon sydd yn gweithio oriau ychwanegol yn wirfoddol neu i dalu am gymorth ychwanegol oddi allan i'r ysgol os oes angen. Gallai hyn helpu i sicrhau arbenigedd nad ydyw ar gael ymhlith staff ysgol, a gellid tynnu ar brofiad cerddorion, actorion proffesiynol, neu hyfforddwyr timau pêl-droed neu rygbi lleol.

to be effective. You need half an hour, but the funding is not available. Part of the funding comes, at present, from the music development fund, for which we are truly grateful. The Assembly has led the way on that. However, what will happen to that fund after 2004, Minister? There has been some talk that it might be taken away from the local authorities and the schools, and centralised under the control of the Arts Council of Wales. That would be unfortunate. It is already felt that music provision falls outside the education framework. It should be drawn into the curriculum, and not left to the clutches of a quango.

The problem with the present situation is that provision varies from one county to another, and the fact that we need organisations such as the William Mathias School Music Service to make up for the education system's failure to make provision is a sorry state of affairs. As there is no time during the school day to do everything required in terms of music and sport, such as rehearsing for concerts, or rugby or football training, this must be done at the end of the day or during the lunch hour. The same is true if schools want to rebuild clubs and societies that have all but disappeared. We must accept that teachers will not do all this voluntarily, as happened in the past, although many still do so at present.

Sports teachers must often work additional hours without pay, which is unfair given that teachers who undertake work with clubs, such as homework or information technology clubs, are paid from the new opportunities fund. I believe that the answer—and I know that the unions do not entirely agree with this—is to establish a formal, statutory fund to pay for extra-curricular activities related to sport, the arts and clubs. This should be provided centrally and administered at a county level. Such a fund should enable schools to pay teachers who work additional hours voluntarily or to pay for additional help from outside the school if need be. This could help to ensure the availability of specialists that are not available among school staff, and could involve drawing on the experience of musicians, professional actors, or the coaches of local football or rugby teams.

Ni fydd hyn yn rhad. Byddai rhedeg cynllun o'r fath drwy Gymru yn costio degau o filiynau o bunnoedd y flwyddyn, ond gellid dechrau â phrosiectau peilot. Os ydym o ddifrif ynglŷn â darparu addysg gyflawn i fagu dinasyddion cyflawn, dyma'r pris fydd yn rhaid ei dalu.

Mae'n rhaid gweithredu nifer o ddarpariaethau a newidiadau eraill os ydym am fod yn effeithiol. Mae'r gronfa cyfleoedd newydd yn cynnig adnoddau pwysig ond, fel y clywsom yn gynharach, mae'n llawer rhy fïwrocataidd, ac mae angen ei symleiddio. Mae angen cynyddu'n sylweddol nifer y meysydd at bob tywydd sydd ar gael i'n hysgolion. Mae angen rhesymoli'r ffynonellau cyllido. Mae pob pot o arian newydd—megis y £5 miliwn a gyhoeddodd y Gweinidog yn ddiweddar—i'w groesawu, ond mae angen fframwaith gyllido ddealladwy sydd yn sefydlog dros gyfnod o flynyddoedd, nid dim ond dros dair blynedd. Mae angen lleihau'r pwysau ar athrawon er mwyn eu rhyddhau i ymgymryd â'r gweithgareddau hyn. Efallai fod yn rhaid inni edrych yn radical ar batrwm gwaith athrawon, ac ystyried eu talu ar sail broffesiynol am ymgymryd â gwaith proffesiynol. Mae'n bwysig cael cyrsiau hyfforddi ar gyfer darpar athrawon i'w helpu i ddatblygu sgiliau ar gyfer gwaith allgyrsiol. Mae angen hyfforddiant hefyd ar y gwirfoddolwyr yn y meysydd hyn. Mae angen cynllun integredig, sydd yn pennu cyfrifoldebau clir ar gyfer datblygu strwythurau o'r fath.

I gloi, pe bawn wedi cael y cyfle i arwain Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, dyma fyddai un o'm cynlluniau pennaf, oherwydd y byddai, yn llythrennol, yn creu cenedl iachach a hapusach, ac yn creu gwell dinasyddion. Gan na chaf fyth mo'r cyfle i wireddu hynny, apeliaf at y rhai sy'n llywodraethu heddiw, a'r rhai a fydd ar ôl 1 Mai, i ystyried yr argymhellion hyn o ddifrif.

5:10 p.m.

Owen John Thomas: Fel cyn athro ysgol, cofiaf y dyddiau pan oeddwn yn dysgu ymarfer corff i blant rhwng saith ac 11 oed. Yr oedd bwlch mawr rhwng yr uchelgeisiau yn y polisïau addysg a'r adnoddau dynol a'r

This will not be cheap. Implementing such a scheme throughout Wales would cost tens of millions of pounds a year, but we could start with pilot projects. If we are serious about providing a complete education that will produce rounded citizens, this is the price we will have to pay.

Several other provisions and changes must be made if we are to be effective. The new opportunities fund offers important resources, but, as we heard earlier, it is far too bureaucratic and needs to be simplified. We need to make a substantial increase in the number of all-weather pitches available to our schools. We need to rationalise the funding streams. Every new pot of funding—such as the £5 million announced recently by the Minister—is welcome, but we need an intelligible funding framework that is constant over a period of many years, not just over three years. We need to alleviate the pressure on teachers so that they can be released to undertake these activities. We may need to look radically at teachers' working patterns, and consider paying them on a professional basis for professional work undertaken. It is important that we have training courses for prospective teachers to help them develop skills for extra-curricular work. We also need to train volunteers in these areas. We need an integrated scheme that determines clear responsibilities for developing such structures.

In conclusion, if I had had the opportunity to lead the Assembly Government, this would have been one of my main priorities, because it would, literally, create a healthier, happier nation, and better citizens. As I shall never have the chance to realise that, I appeal to those in Government today, and those who will be in office after 1 May, to consider these recommendations seriously.

Owen John Thomas: As a former schoolteacher, I remember the days when I taught physical education to children between the ages of seven and 11. There was a huge gulf between the aspirations of education

offer a oedd ar gael i'w cyflawni. Yr wyf am sôn am batrwm arferol gwers hanner awr. Byddai'r plant yn newid yn y dosbarth—rhai ohonynt yn cuddio y tu ôl i'r bwrdd du—ac wedyn yn mynd i'r neuadd. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd y neuadd, yn ogystal â bod yn gampfa, yn ffreutur, lle y byddai'r plant yn bwyta amser cinio. Os oedd y wers rhwng 11 a.m. a 11.30 a.m., byddai'n rhaid brysio oherwydd byddai'r menywod cinio yn dod i osod y byrddau bwyd dri chwarter ffordd drwy'r wers. Felly, byddai pum munud i newid, pum munud i osod yr offer, 10 munud i chwarae, pum munud i roi'r offer i gadw a dychwelyd i'r dosbarth, a phum munud i newid. Dyna oedd hanner awr o wers ymarfer corff.

Nid yw'r cwricwlwm cenedlaethol yn adlewyrchu'r hyn sy'n digwydd mewn gwirionedd. Nid wyf am fod yn negyddol; yr wyf am fod yn adeiladol er mwyn tynnu sylw at yr hyn sydd angen ei wneud. Mae angen adeiladu ysgolion pwrpasol i sicrhau y gall plant gael gwersi ymarfer corff addas.

Glyn Davies: Like Dafydd, I share an obsession with sport; perhaps I am even more obsessed with it. To a large extent, my whole life has been changed because of my interest in sport. It is massively important to me. I agree with almost everything Dafydd said. However, I will challenge him on one issue. He has taken a line which, I believe, is supported by every party in the Assembly. Therefore, I was sorry that he chose to make a few references to history, almost as if the decline in sporting and cultural activities in our schools was caused by a particular individual leading our country. There are many issues in terms of changing lifestyles, and several reasons why these changes have occurred. We want to generate an interest in sport in schools. We are doing well, and we have all-party support for this. Making unnecessary and damaging points does not help the case that you put forward so eloquently, Dafydd.

Mick Bates: Thank you, Dafydd, for raising

policies and the human resources and equipment available to fulfil them. I wish to outline the pattern of a typical half-hour lesson. The children would change in the classroom—some of them hiding behind the blackboard—then they would go to the hall. However, the hall, as well as being a gymnasium, was used as a canteen, where the children ate at lunchtime. If the lesson was held between 11 a.m. and 11.30 a.m., we would have to hurry because the dinner ladies would bring out the dining tables three quarters of the way through the lesson. Therefore, there would be five minutes to change, five minutes to set up the equipment, 10 minutes to exercise, five minutes to clear the equipment away and return to the classroom, and five minutes to change. That is what constituted a half-hour physical education lesson.

The national curriculum has no bearing on reality. I do not want to be negative; I want to be constructive in order to highlight what needs to be done. We need to build suitable schools so that children can have proper physical education lessons.

Glyn Davies: Fel Dafydd, rhannaf obsesiwn â chwaraeon; efallai fod gennyf fwy byth o obsesiwn â hwy. I raddau helaeth, newidiwyd fy mywyd yn llwyr oherwydd fy niddordeb mewn chwaraeon. Mae'n bwysig tu hwnt i mi. Cytunaf â bron popeth a ddywedodd Dafydd. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf am ei herio ar un mater. Nododd safbwynt a fydd, mi gredaf, yn cael cefnogaeth pob plaid yn y Cynulliad. Felly, yr oedd yn flin gennyf iddo ddewis gwneud rhai cyfeiriadau at hanes, bron fel pe bai'r dirywiad mewn chwaraeon a gweithgareddau diwylliannol yn ein hysgolion wedi ei achosi gan un unigolyn arbennig yn arwain ein gwlad. Ceir nifer o faterion sy'n ymwneud â ffyrdd o fyw newidiol, a sawl rheswm pam mae'r newidiadau hyn wedi digwydd. Yr ydym am greu diddordeb mewn chwaraeon yn ein hysgolion. Yr ydym yn gwneud yn dda, ac mae gennym gefnogaeth pob plaid i hyn. Nid yw gwneud pwyntiau diangen a niweidiol yn helpu'r achos a gyflwynwyd gennych mor huawdl, Dafydd.

Mick Bates: Diolch, Dafydd, am godi'r

this issue. There are difficulties, and we must accept that today's society is diverse and pluralistic, which makes it difficult to meet every demand. However, like Glyn, I believe that there is consensus on this in the Assembly, and we have established the principle of support for sport and cultural activities. This is a battle against the Playstation, and a battle to ensure that we open the minds of our young people and give them cultural experiences that enrich their lives. I support everything that Dafydd said, but I believe that we should depoliticise this issue because of the Assembly's ethos. We want to produce all the results in which you believe. I share your views, and I am certain that that is also true of Assembly Ministers.

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Diolch am ddewis y pwnc pwysig hwn ar gyfer y ddadl fer, Dafydd. Mae'n bwysig i mi, gan fy mod wedi dysgu ymarfer corff, drama a Saesneg. Yr wyf hefyd wedi actio gyda chwmni proffesiynol. Felly mae'r pwnc o ddiddordeb mawr i mi.

I am pleased that we are debating this issue today. I will deal with sport first, and then move on to culture, both within and outside the curriculum. I liked Mick's comment about the battle against the Playstation. In a sense, there was a golden age before the Playstation arrived on the planet. Attracting young people to participate in different kinds of activities is a major issue, when there are so many other things to attract them in the digital and computer age.

We are committed as a Government; I am glad that Jenny Randerson is still in the Chamber as we work closely on these issues. Jane Hutt would have liked to have been here also, but she had to attend another meeting. Sport is indivisible from the health agenda, and Jenny is undertaking tremendous work on the sports agenda, which links in with the curriculum. We have set up a specialist task group to promote a common vision for the future development of physical education and school sport in Wales, and, as you acknowledged, we announced last week an extra £5 million over the next three years.

mater hwn. Mae anawsterau, a rhaid inni dderbyn bod cymdeithas heddiw yn amrywiol a lluoseddol, sy'n ei gwneud yn anodd inni ddiwallu pob angen. Fodd bynnag, fel Glyn, credaf fod cytundeb barn ar hyn yn y Cynulliad, ac yr ydym wedi sefydlu egwyddor o gefnogaeth i chwaraeon a gweithgareddau diwylliannol. Brwydr yn erbyn y Playstation yw hon, a brwydr i sicrhau ein bod yn agor meddyliau ein pobl ifanc ac yn rhoi profiadau diwylliannol iddynt a fydd yn cyfoethogi eu bywydau. Cefnogaf bopeth a ddywedodd Dafydd, ond credaf y dylem ddadwleidyddoli'r mater hwn oherwydd ethos y Cynulliad. Yr ydym am gynhyrchu bob un o'r canlyniadau y credwch ynddynt. Yr wyf yn cyd-fynd â chi, ac yr wyf yn sicr fod hynny'n wir hefyd am Weinidogion y Cynulliad.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): Thank you for choosing this important topic for your short debate, Dafydd. It is important to me, as I have taught physical education, drama and English. I have also acted with a professional company. Therefore, I have a great interest in this topic.

Yr wyf yn falch ein bod yn trafod y mater hwn heddiw. Ymdriniaf â chwaraeon yn gyntaf, gan symud ymlaen wedyn i ddiwylliant, o fewn y cwricwlwm a thu allan iddo. Hoffais sylw Mick am y frwydr yn erbyn y Playstation. Mewn ffordd, yr oedd oes aur cyn i'r Playstation gyrraedd y blaned. Mae denu pobl ifanc i gymryd rhan mewn gwahanol fathau o weithgareddau yn fater o bwys, pan fo cymaint o bethau eraill i'w denu yn yr oes ddigidol a chyfrifiadurol.

Yr ydym yn ymrwymedig fel Llywodraeth; yr wyf yn falch fod Jenny Randerson yn dal yn y Siambr, gan ein bod yn gweithio'n agos ar y materion hyn. Byddai Jane Hutt wedi hoffi bod yma hefyd ond yr oedd yn rhaid iddi fynychu cyfarfod arall. Ni ellir gwahanu chwaraeon oddi wrth yr agenda iechyd, ac mae Jenny yn gwneud gwaith aruthrol ar yr agenda chwaraeon, sy'n gysylltiedig â'r cwricwlwm. Yr ydym wedi sefydlu grŵp gorchwyl arbenigol er mwyn hybu gweledigaeth gyffredin ar gyfer datblygu addysg gorfforol a chwaraeon mewn ysgolion yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol, ac, fel y bu ichi

gydnabod, yr wythnos diwethaf cyhoeddassom £5 miliwn ychwanegol dros y tair blynedd nesaf.

Brian Hancock *rose—*

Jane Davidson: Gosh, I nearly got to the end of a paragraph before Brian Hancock stood up.

Brian Hancock: As chair of Newport Harriers Athletic Club, I can vouch for the benefits of any activity or sport, particularly for our young people. However, in our schools, it is sometimes impractical to practise and keep fit, particularly given our climate. Primary school children are either out on a yard made of concrete or tarmac or on fields which, if it is raining, turn to mud. Both surfaces pose problems. Will you consider the provision of rubber surfaces to facilitate sport and exercise in our schools, so that children can play and exercise in safety? Furthermore, if we linked that with the recycling of tyres, we could reduce the rubber tyre mountain—an issue that must be addressed by 2006.

Jane Davidson: The new opportunities fund is providing £48.7 million of investment in the sporting facilities available to schools and communities.

In response to Dafydd's comments, it is important to lay out the Assembly Government's policy in these areas. The decision to establish the taskforce was based on the recognition that physical education and school sport are not about providing opportunities for young people to let off steam, or necessarily about creating the champions of the future, although that would be welcome in some fields. Good quality physical education helps young people to develop body control, it develops their physical skills, and it raises their self-confidence and self-esteem. We also know that good habits developed in early age—that is, the recognition of the value and enjoyment derived from regular exercise—provide the cornerstone for good health throughout life. That is particularly true when you talk to older people who used to walk to school, thus

Brian Hancock *a gododd—*

Jane Davidson: Jiw, bu bron imi gyrraedd diwedd paragraff cyn i Brian Hancock godi ar ei draed.

Brian Hancock: Fel cadeirydd clwb athletwyr y Newport Harriers, gallaf dystio i fanteision unrhyw weithgaredd neu chwaraeon, yn arbennig i'n pobl ifanc. Fodd bynnag, yn ein hysgolion, nid yw bob amser yn ymarferol i gynnal gweithgareddau ymarfer corff a chadw'n heini, yn arbennig o gofio am ein hinsawdd. Mae plant ysgol gynradd naill ai allan ar iard goncridd neu darmac neu ar gaeau sy'n troi'n fwd os bydd yn bwrw glaw. Ceir problemau gyda'r ddau wyneb. A wnewch chi ystyried darparu cyfleusterau â wyneb rwber er mwyn hwyluso chwaraeon ac ymarfer corff yn ein hysgolion, fel y gall plant chwarae ac ymarfer corff yn ddiogel? At hynny, pe baem yn cysylltu hynny ag ailgylchu teiars, gallem leihau'r mynydd teiars rwber—mater y mae'n rhaid ymdrin ag ef erbyn 2006.

Jane Davidson: Mae'r gronfa cyfleoedd newydd yn darparu £48.7 miliwn o fuddsoddiad yn y cyfleusterau chwaraeon sydd ar gael i ysgolion a chymunedau.

Mewn ymateb i sylwadau Dafydd, mae'n bwysig amlinellu polisi Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn y meysydd hyn. Seiliwyd y penderfyniad i sefydlu'r grŵp gorchwyl ar y gydnabyddiaeth nad yw addysg gorfforol a chwaraeon mewn ysgolion yn ymwneud â rhoi cyfle i bobl ifanc ollwng stêm, ac nad ydynt o anghenraid yn ymwneud â chreu pencampwyr y dyfodol, er y byddai croeso i hynny mewn rhai meysydd. Mae addysg gorfforol o ansawdd dda yn helpu pobl ifanc i ddysgu sut i reoli eu cyrff, mae'n datblygu eu sgiliau corfforol, ac yn hybu eu hunanhyder a'u hunan-barch. Gwyddom hefyd fod arferion da a ddatblygir yn gynnar—hynny yw, sylweddoli'r gwerth a'r mwynhad a ddaw yn sgîl ymarfer corff rheolaidd—yn darparu'r sylfaen ar gyfer iechyd da drwy gydol eich bywyd. Mae hynny'n arbennig o wir pan siaradwch â phobl hŷn a arferai

creating a life-long habit of walking as a way of keeping fit. We must instil habits at a young age.

I agree that the choice of sports should not be limited. As a former physical education teacher, I taught unwilling participants in some sports. How many people want to play netball in the rain? We must offer a far greater variety. That is why the task group's recommendation is for the Sports Council for Wales, the Assembly, the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales, Estyn, the youth sport trust, and all those with an interest in sport to work together and consider a range of issues. Initial teacher training is one issue.

Lorraine Barrett: There are other means of exercise, other than sport. As someone who has never forgiven my PE teacher for trying to make me climb up a rope, do you agree that dance and aerobics play an equally important part for those who have no interest in sport?

Jane Davidson: Not only do they play an important part, but the number of schools throughout Wales that offer dance and aerobics is burgeoning. There is an enormous amount of sport and cultural activity in our schools, and people are becoming inventive about new kinds of opportunities. Dance and aerobics are extremely popular activities among young girls.

However, we must also take on board the issue of teachers' continuous professional development. It was pleasing to find that about 28 per cent of our primary school teachers specialise in physical education. There was concern that physical education was being squeezed out of primary school education. Our ambition for schools to provide two hours of good quality physical education per week is important. That is why we have set up 10 physical education and school sport development centres, which will increase to a total of 18 by March 2003. Their purpose is to encourage co-operation between primary schools, secondary schools, colleges that offer specialist provision, and others, in order to enhance opportunities.

gerdded i'r ysgol, ac a drodd hynny yn arfer gydol oes o gerdded i gadw'n heini. Rhaid inni sefydlu arferion pan fo plant yn ifanc.

Cytunaf na ddylai'r dewis o chwaraeon fod yn gyfyngedig. Fel cyn athrawes addysg gorfforol, dysgais ddisgyblion anfoddog mewn gwersi chwaraeon. Faint o bobl sydd am chwarae pêl rwyd yn y glaw? Rhaid inni gynnig llawer mwy o amrywiaeth. Dyna pam mai argymhelliad y grŵp gorchwyl yw i Gyngor Chwaraeon Cymru, y Cynulliad, Awdurdod Cymwysterau, Cwricwlwm ac Asesu Cymru, Estyn, yr ymddiriedolaeth chwaraeon i ieuenctid, a phawb arall sydd â diddordeb mewn chwaraeon, gydweithio ac ystyried amrywiaeth o faterion. Un mater yw hyfforddiant cychwynol athrawon.

Lorraine Barrett: Ceir dulliau eraill o ymarfer corff, ar wahân i chwaraeon. Fel rhywun na faddeuodd i athrawes addysg gorfforol am geisio gwneud imi ddringo i fyny rhaff, a gytunwch fod dawns ac aerobeg yn chwarae rhan yr un mor bwysig i'r rhai nad oes ganddynt unrhyw ddiddordeb mewn chwaraeon?

Jane Davidson: Nid yn unig y maent yn chwarae rhan bwysig, ond mae nifer yr ysgolion ledled Cymru sy'n cynnig dawns ac aerobeg yn cynyddu. Mae ystod eang o chwaraeon a gweithgarwch diwylliannol yn ein hysgolion, ac mae pobl yn dechrau dyfeisio pob mathau o gyfleoedd newydd. Mae dawns ac aerobeg yn weithgareddau hynod o boblogaidd ymysg merched ifanc.

Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni hefyd ystyried datblygiad proffesiynol parhaus athrawon. Yr oedd yn dda gweld bod tua 28 y cant o'n hathrawon ysgol gynradd yn arbenigo mewn addysg gorfforol. Yr oedd pryder fod addysg gorfforol yn cael ei wthio allan o addysg ysgol gynradd. Ein huchelgais bwysig yw sicrhau bod ysgolion yn darparu dwy awr o addysg gorfforol o ansawdd dda bob wythnos. Dyna pam ein bod wedi sefydlu 10 o ganolfannau i ddatblygu addysg gorfforol a chwaraeon mewn ysgolion, a fydd yn cynyddu i gyfanswm o 18 erbyn Mawrth 2003. Eu diben yw annog cydweithrediad rhwng ysgolion cynradd, ysgolion uwchradd, colegau sy'n cynnig darpariaeth arbenigol, ac eraill, er mwyn gwella cyfleoedd.

5:20 p.m.

If primary schools do not have specialists in physical education, secondary school specialists can enable them to enhance and extend their range of activities. This issue is about a common approach to assessment, training supervisors to promote lunchtime playground games and activities, and promoting the wider use by schools of facilities at leisure centres and local clubs. It is about using the same collaborative agenda that is used for many aspects of the education agenda to pull needs together. The work being done on the ground so far, which is being led by the Sports Council for Wales, has been exciting. We must also improve the opportunities available for young people outside school hours. We have invested £7 million in Dragon Sport, an important initiative which I know that you welcome, and the junior club development, which is targeted at 7 to 11-year-olds and 11 to 16-year-olds respectively, as well as the girls first initiative. There are now 1,000 extra volunteers, including parents and others in communities, working with young people in sport.

Owen John Thomas: As someone who taught in a school for almost 30 years, will you tell me what is being done to address the situation in many inner city schools and small country schools, namely that they have only one hall, which is used for religious services, as a canteen, and for play rehearsals and PE lessons? That means that sports lessons have to be squeezed into a ten-minute period.

Jane Davidson: You are right, Owen, and you have had two bites at that particular cherry. However, there was no golden age in terms of this issue. Schools have been using one hall for all activities since the turn of the century, when many of the schools were built. We are now looking forward to creating better opportunities.

On the girls first initiative, an acutely unequal situation existed whereby many girls wanted to play football but were not given the

Os nad oes gan ysgolion cynradd arbenigwyr mewn addysg gorfforol, gall arbenigwyr ysgolion uwchradd eu galluogi i wella ac ymestyn eu hamrywiaeth o weithgareddau. Mae'r mater hwn yn ymwneud ag ymagwedd gyffredin tuag at asesu, gan hyfforddi goruchwylwyr i hybu gemau a gweithgareddau ar yr iard chwarae amser cinio, ac annog ysgolion i wneud defnydd ehangach o gyfleusterau mewn canolfannau hamdden a chlybiau lleol. Mae'n ymwneud â'r un agenda gydweithrediadol a ddefnyddir ar gyfer sawl agwedd ar yr agenda addysg er mwyn cyfuno anghenion. Bu'r gwaith a wnaed ar lawr gwlad hyd yma, a arweinir gan Gyngor Chwaraeon Cymru, yn gyffrous. Rhaid inni hefyd wella'r cyfleoedd sydd ar gael i bobl ifanc y tu allan i oriau ysgol. Yr ydym wedi buddsoddi £7 miliwn yn Campau'r Ddraig, menter bwysig y gwn eich bod yn ei chroesawu, a datblygu'r clybiau iau a dargedir at rai rhwng 7 ac 11 mlwydd oed, a rhwng 11 ac 16 mlwydd oed, yn ogystal â'r fenter merched yn gyntaf. Erbyn hyn mae 1,000 o wirfoddolwyr ychwanegol, gan gynnwys rhieni ac eraill yn y gymuned, sy'n gweithio gyda phobl ifanc mewn chwaraeon.

Owen John Thomas: Fel rhywun a fu'n dysgu mewn ysgol am bron 30 mlynedd, a ddywedwch wrthyf beth sy'n cael ei wneud i ymdrin â'r ffaith mai dim ond un neuadd sydd gan lawer o ysgolion yng nghanol dinasoedd ac ysgolion gwledig bach? Defnyddir y neuadd honno ar gyfer gwasanaethau crefyddol, fel ffreutur, ac ar gyfer ymarferion drama a gwersi addysg gorfforol. Golyga hynny fod rhaid gwasgu gwersi chwaraeon i gyfnod o ddeng munud.

Jane Davidson: Yr ydych yn iawn, Owen, a dyna'r eildro ichi wneud sylwadau ar y pwnc arbennig hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, nid oedd oes aur o ran y mater hwn. Bu ysgolion yn defnyddio un neuadd ar gyfer pob gweithgaredd ers troad y ganrif, pan adeiladwyd llawer o'r ysgolion. Edrychwn ymlaen yn awr at greu cyfleoedd gwell.

O ran y fenter merched yn gyntaf, bodolai sefyllfa hynod o annheg lle yr oedd llawer o ferched a oedd am chwarae pêl-droed ond

opportunity. Now 13,000 girls are taking the opportunity to play football in 70 per cent of secondary schools across Wales. The new opportunities fund has committed £48 million over four years for physical education and school sport. The money will be used to refurbish existing sports facilities in schools and to build new facilities. Every local authority has prepared an initial outline bid. Jenny Randerson announced a funding boost of £1.3 million this week to develop Welsh football. Although that does not directly apply to schools, it relates to out-of-school activities and is aimed at overall participation and closing the gap between the number of girls and boys that play football.

heb gael y cyfle i wneud hynny. Bellach mae 13,000 o ferched yn manteisio ar y cyfle i chwarae pêl-droed mewn 70 y cant o ysgolion uwchradd ledled Cymru. Ymrwymodd y gronfa cyfleoedd newydd £48 miliwn dros bedair blynedd ar gyfer addysg gorfforol a chwaraeon mewn ysgolion. Defnyddir yr arian i adnewyddu'r cyfleusterau chwaraeon sy'n bodoli eisoes mewn ysgolion ac er mwyn adeiladu cyfleusterau newydd. Mae pob awdurdod lleol wedi paratoi cais amlinellol cychwynnol. Cyhoeddodd Jenny Randerson hwb ariannol o £1.3 miliwn yr wythnos hon i ddatblygu pêl-droed yng Nghymru. Er nad yw hynny'n uniongyrchol berthnasol i ysgolion, mae'n ymwneud â gweithgareddau y tu allan i oriau ysgol ac fe'i anelir at gyfranogiad cyffredinol a chau'r bwlch rhwng nifer y merched a'r bechgyn sy'n chwarae pêl-droed.

Dafydd Wigley: Will you discuss the issue of bureaucracy with the new opportunities fund, because every school I spoke to said that it was a serious problem? If that was overcome, it would make the funding much easier to access.

Dafydd Wigley: A wnewch chi drafod mater biwrocratiaeth gyda'r gronfa cyfleoedd newydd gan i bob ysgol y siaredais innau â hi ddweud ei bod yn broblem ddifrifol? Os gellid goresgyn hynny, byddai'n llawer haws cael at yr arian.

Jane Davidson: Local authorities are working with schools to decide on the best strategic outcome for the funding. Therefore, that is a matter for schools and your local authority.

Jane Davidson: Mae awdurdodau lleol yn gweithio gydag ysgolion er mwyn penderfynu'r canlyniad strategol gorau ar gyfer yr arian. Felly, mater i ysgolion a'ch awdurdod lleol chi yw hynny.

It is important to note that 95 per cent of physical education lessons in primary schools and 93 per cent in secondary schools were assessed as being satisfactory or better. We have a great deal to work on and we must get the partnership right.

Mae'n bwysig nodi bod un asesiad wedi dyfarnu bod 95 y cant o wersi addysg gorfforol mewn ysgolion cynradd a 93 y cant mewn ysgolion uwchradd yn foddhaol neu'n well na hynny. Mae gennym gryn dipyn i weithio arno a rhaid inni gael y bartneriaeth yn gywir.

The other issue in this debate is how we can open up opportunities for young people to experience culture in its widest sense. It is important that we have a wide definition of that term, as I know Dafydd and Elinor would confirm. I think that you are being too hard on the national curriculum. It offers a great deal of scope for pupils to gain an insight into the distinctive nature of the culture in Wales, whether it is through the study of the work of Welsh artists and musicians, our history or our languages—and

Mater arall yn y ddadl hon yw sut y gallwn greu cyfleoedd i bobl ifanc gael profiad o ddiwylliant yn ei ystyr ehangaf. Mae'n bwysig bod gennym ddiffiniad eang o'r term hwnnw, fel y gwn y byddai Dafydd ac Elinor yn cadarnhau. Credaf eich bod yn bod yn rhy llawdrwm â'r cwricwlwm cenedlaethol. Mae'n cynnig cryn gyfle i ddisgyblion gael mewnwelediad i natur arbennig diwylliant yng Nghymru, p'un a wneir hynny drwy astudio gwaith artistiaid a cherddorion o Gymru, ein hanes neu ein hieithoedd—a

I will comment on Curriculum Cymreig shortly. Up until the end of key stage 3, arts and sports are contained within the curriculum—physical education is within the basic curriculum and the arts are within the national curriculum. More performances are taking place in schools now than in the past. More young people are taking performing arts courses, particularly in further education colleges. Interest in such courses is burgeoning as a result of the interest in this subject in schools. The Arts Council of Wales has indicated that there are more artists in residence in our schools. Many opportunities are now available. The number of pupils taking arts-related GCSE courses is growing. If my proposal in our agenda for 14 to 19-year-olds to secure access to vocational subjects for all pupils is realised, we can look to further expand opportunities in physical education and the arts. It is important to lay the foundation for artistic development in Wales.

I am glad that you welcome the money, because £8 million for the music development fund is not a small amount of money. It has had a major impact, and is delivered by the effective partnership between local government and the Assembly. Looking to the future, there will be a fundamental review of the grants for education support and training, the need for which was agreed by all Committee members. We will consider how best to deliver this important agenda as part of that review.

In Gwynedd, the harp initiative, the bi-county brass band—which has achieved success at UK level—and the one-day master classes in vocal techniques are supported by this fund. Across Wales, there is tuition in minority instruments, rock and pop music, percussion skills, drumming, steel pans, gospel singing, African drumming, Indian classical music and samba. Such activities are run courtesy of the music development fund, *o Fôn i Fynwy*—throughout Wales. It is a huge opportunity and there are many more activities, outside the fund, financed by local authorities. We are a musical nation and there is still an enormous interest in music.

gwnaf sylwadau ar y Cwricwlwm Cymreig maes o law. Hyd at ddiwedd cyfnod allweddol 3, caiff celfyddydau a chwaraeon eu cynnwys yn y cwricwlwm—mae addysg gorfforol yn y cwricwlwm sylfaenol ac mae'r celfyddydau yn y cwricwlwm cenedlaethol. Cynhelir mwy o berfformiadau mewn ysgolion nag yn y gorffennol. Mae mwy o bobl ifanc yn dilyn cyrsiau celfyddydau perfformio, yn enwedig mewn colegau addysg bellach. Mae diddordeb mewn cyrsiau o'r fath yn tyfu o ganlyniad i'r diddordeb yn y pwnc hwn mewn ysgolion. Dynododd Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru fod mwy o artistiaid preswyl yn ein hysgolion. Mae llawer o gyfleoedd ar gael bellach. Mae nifer y disgyblion sy'n dewis cyrsiau TGAU celfyddydol yn tyfu. Os gwiredir fy nghynnig yn ein hagenda ar gyfer pobl ifanc rhwng 14 ac 19 mlwydd oed er mwyn sicrhau mynediad i bynciau galwedigaethol i bob disgybl, gallwn ystyried ehangu cyfleoedd mewn addysg gorfforol a'r celfyddydau ymhellach. Mae'n bwysig gosod y sylfaen ar gyfer datblygiad artistig yng Nghymru.

Yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn croesawu'r arian, gan nad swm bach o arian yw £8 miliwn ar gyfer y gronfa datblygu cerddoriaeth. Cafodd effaith o bwys, ac fe'i gweithredir gan bartneriaeth effeithiol rhwng llywodraeth leol a'r Cynulliad. Gan edrych i'r dyfodol, cynhelir adolygiad sylfaenol o'r grantiau cynnal addysg a hyfforddiant, y cytunwyd fod ei angen gan bob aelod o'r Pwyllgor. Byddwn yn ystyried y ffordd orau o weithredu'r agenda bwysig hon fel rhan o'r adolygiad hwnnw.

Yng Ngwynedd, caiff y fenter delynau, y band pres dwy sir—a fu'n llwyddiannus ar lefel y DU—a'r dosbarthiadau meistr undydd mewn technegau lleisiol eu cynorthwyo gan y gronfa hon. Ledled Cymru, ceir hyfforddiant mewn offerynnau cerdd lleiafrifol, cerddoriaeth roc a phop, sgiliau offerynnau taro, chwarae'r drymiau, drymiau dur, canu gospel, drymio Affricanaidd, cerddoriaeth glasurol Indiaidd a samba. Cynhelir gweithgareddau o'r fath drwy gyfrwng y gronfa datblygu cerddoriaeth, o Fôn i Fynwy. Mae'n gyfle aruthrol ac mae awdurdodau lleol yn ariannu llawer mwy o weithgareddau, y tu allan i'r gronfa. Yr ydym

yn genedl gerddorol a cheir diddordeb aruthrol o hyd mewn cerddoriaeth.

On access to performances, in my previous life I was a member of the Arts Council of Wales, and I constantly promoted the fact that young people should be able to access performances. This could be difficult given the rural nature of much of Wales. However, I am delighted that the money made available, in July this year, under the Millennium Encore scheme will enable 4,500 young people to attend professional performing arts productions around Wales. The Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales is administering the money. It will also consider providing careers advice for those who are inspired to tread the boards, which could be used widely in schools. We have provided £100,000 for the Shakespeare Schools Drama Festival; I am looking forward to attending the last night of that festival, because it is about our schools performing effectively.

O ran cael cyfle i weld perfformiadau, yr oeddwn yn aelod o Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru yn fy mywyd blaenorol, ac yr oeddwn o hyd yn hybu'r ffaith y dylai pobl ifanc gael cyfle i weld perfformiadau. Gallai hyn fod yn anodd o gofio natur wledig rhannau helaeth o Gymru. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf wrth fy modd y bydd yr arian a ryddhawyd ym mis Gorffennaf eleni o dan y cynllun Millennium Encore yn galluogi 4,500 o bobl ifanc i fynychu cynhyrchiadau celfyddydau perfformio proffesiynol o amgylch Cymru. Clybiau Bechgyn a Merched Cymru sy'n gweinyddu'r arian. Bydd hefyd yn ystyried rhoi cyngor gyrfaoedd i'r sawl a ysbrydolir i fynd ar lwyfan, y gellir ei ddefnyddio'n helaeth mewn ysgolion. Yr ydym wedi darparu £100,000 ar gyfer gŵyl ddrama ysgolion Shakespeare; edrychaf ymlaen at fynychu noson olaf yr ŵyl honno, gan ei bod yn ymwneud â'n hysgolion yn perfformio'n effeithiol.

The Curriculum Cymreig is important as it reflects Wales's distinctive and creative culture. Our subject orders in Wales are different from those in England because they build on the distinctive and varied nature of the Welsh identity. I am committed to this being a statutory common requirement, not an add-on. It is about giving young people a sense of belonging and heritage, an awareness of the importance of language and theatre, an understanding of the creative and expressive arts in Wales and an awareness of the factors that have shaped Welsh religious beliefs and practices. I am currently working with Estyn and the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales to arrange a conference in the summer to ensure that all schools are aware of the resources available to help them deliver this agenda. The effective use of Curriculum Cymreig is important. ACCAC will provide further guidance for schools. English and Welsh is taught in schools, we have Urdd Gobaith Cymru and many out-of-school activities, and we should remember that all of these play an important role in this, as will the new Welsh baccalaureate.

Mae'r Cwricwlwm Cymreig yn bwysig gan ei fod yn adlewyrchu diwylliant arbennig a chreadigol Cymru. Mae ein gorchmynion pwnc yng Nghymru yn wahanol i rai Lloegr gan eu bod yn adeiladu ar natur arbennig ac amrywiol yr hunaniaeth Gymreig. Yr wyf yn ymrwymedig i hyn fod yn ofyniad cyffredin statudol, ac nid yn elfen ychwanegol. Mae'n ymwneud â rhoi ymdeimlad o berthyn a threftadaeth i bobl ifanc, ymwybyddiaeth o bwysigrwydd iaith a theatr, a dealltwriaeth o'r celfyddydau creadigol a mynegiannol yng Nghymru ac ymwybyddiaeth o'r ffactorau a ffurfiodd greddoau ac arferion crefyddol Cymru. Yr wyf ar hyn o bryd yn gweithio gydag Estyn ac Awdurdod Cymwysterau, Cwricwlwm ac Asesu Cymru er mwyn trefnu cynhadledd yn ystod yr haf i sicrhau bod pob ysgol yn ymwybodol o'r adnoddau sydd ar gael i'w cynorthwyo i weithredu'r agenda hon. Mae defnyddio'r Cwricwlwm Cymreig yn effeithiol yn bwysig. Bydd ACCAC yn darparu arweiniad pellach i ysgolion. Dysgir Cymraeg a Saesneg mewn ysgolion, mae gennym Urdd Gobaith Cymru a sawl gweithgaredd y tu allan i oriau ysgol, a dylem gofio fod y rhain i gyd yn chwarae rhan bwysig yn hyn, fel y bydd y fagloriaeth Gymreig newydd.

Finally, on Education Extra, we have commissioned specific funding to develop out-of-hours learning in schools across Wales. There is much going on. It is an important agenda for us and I hope that I have reassured you that the Assembly Government takes this seriously. I am sure that we will continue talking to you about it after next May.

Yn olaf, o ran Education Extra, yr ydym wedi comisiynu arian penodol er mwyn datblygu dysgu y tu allan i oriau ysgol mewn ysgolion ledled Cymru. Mae llawer yn digwydd. Mae'n agenda bwysig inni a gobeithiaf imi eich sicrhau bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cymryd hyn o ddifrif. Yr wyf yn sicr y byddwn yn parhau i siarad â chi am hyn ar ôl mis Mai nesaf.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That concludes today's business.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.27 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.27 p.m.*