



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

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

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Yn y golofn chwith, cofnodwyd y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi 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 i'r Prif Weinidog Questions to the First Minister

Cymoedd y De The South Wales Valleys

Q1 Janice Gregory: How is the Assembly Government helping to ensure that the south Wales Valleys are an attractive area for business activity? (OAQ26320)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): The Assembly Government's economic development strategy, 'A Winning Wales', identifies how we intend to nurture new business development and business expansion throughout Wales, with priority given to the south Wales Valleys. This area qualifies for maximum levels of assistance. The Welsh Assembly Government has, since 1999, supported 412 regional selective assistance and Assembly investment grant projects, worth more than £155 million, in the five local authorities of the eastern south Wales Valleys. These projects are expected to create and safeguard over 17,000 jobs. It is more difficult in the Bridgend County Borough Council, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Carmarthenshire County Council areas, as they are not entirely valley areas—they are a mixture of valleys and coast. However, you could probably add another 50 per cent to the figures that I have just quoted. The unemployment claimant count has fallen sharply in the south Wales Valleys since 1999. The economic activity rate has improved even more.

Janice Gregory: Thank you for that positive response. In the wake of the Bevan Foundation's 'Ambitions for the Future' report, does the Government intend to introduce a specific initiative for town and village centre regeneration? To press you further on a point that I raised a few weeks ago, will the Government and the Welsh Development Agency consider what can be done to complement UK initiatives, such as the abolition of stamp duty on business premises in the least prosperous wards?

C1 Janice Gregory: Sut y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn helpu sicrhau bod Cymoedd y De yn ardal ddeniadol i weithgarwch busnes? (OAQ26320)

Y Prif Weinidog (Rhodri Morgan): Mae strategaeth datblygu economaidd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, 'Cymru'n Ennill', yn nodi sut y bwriadwn hybu'r gwaith o ddatblygu busnesau newydd ac ehangu busnesau ledled Cymru, gan roi blaenoriaeth i Gymoedd y De. Mae'r ardal hon yn gymwys i gael y lefelau uchaf o gymorth. Er 1999, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi cefnogi 412 o brosiectau drwy gymorth rhanbarthol dewisol a grant buddsoddi'r Cynulliad, sy'n werth mwy na £155 miliwn, yn y pum awdurdod lleol yn nwyrain Cymoedd y De. Disgwylir y bydd y prosiectau hynny'n creu ac yn diogelu mwy na 17,000 o swyddi. Mae'n anos dweud am ardaloedd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Castell-nedd Port Talbot a Chyngor Sir Gaerfyrddin, gan nad ydynt yn gymoedd i gyd—maent yn gymysgedd o gymoedd ac arfordir—. Fodd bynnag, mae'n debyg y gellid ychwanegu 50 y cant arall at y ffigurau yr wyf newydd eu dyfynnu. Bu gostyngiad sylweddol yn nifer yr hawlwyr budd-dal diweithdra yng Nghymoedd y De er 1999. Mae cyfradd gweithgarwch economaidd wedi gwella'n fwy byth.

Janice Gregory: Diolch i chi am yr ymateb cadarnhaol hwnnw. Yn sgîl adroddiad Sefydliad Bevan, 'Ambitions for the Future', a yw'r Llywodraeth yn bwriadu cyflwyno menter benodol ar gyfer adfywio canol trefi a phentrefi? A phwyso ymhellach arnoch ar bwynt a godais ychydig wythnosau'n ôl, a wnaiff y Llywodraeth ac Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru ystyried beth y gellir ei wneud i ategu mentrau'r DU, fel diddymu'r dreth stamp ar adeiladau busnes yn y wardiau lleiaf llewyrchus?

The First Minister: These two things work together: if you can generate more business exchanges by abolishing stamp duty in relevant areas—and many Welsh wards qualify for stamp duty exemption—it fits in with local regeneration activities funded directly by the Government. In that way, the phenomenon of boarded-up shops in areas affected by a combination of the attractions of big towns on the coast and of out-of-town shopping centres, can be addressed. This is not just about the incomes that are earned in factories, but also about trying to regenerate life in towns. People feel more confident about the future of their communities when they see boards being taken down from shops to be replaced by retail premises, or former retail premises being put to other uses.

Janet Davies: Despite what you have said, the Objective 1 mid-term evaluation has shown that only 15 per cent of the jobs promised for the Objective 1 area have been created to date. The latest employment figures demonstrate that 80 per cent of new jobs created in the last year have been outside the Objective 1 area. Do you accept that the Government must be more proactive in leading the way on job creation? Following on from Janice Gregory's point about villages and communities, should not the Government lead the way with significant public sector investment in the Objective 1 area?

The First Minister: I understand that the draft evaluation report on the past two-and-a-half or two-and-three-quarter years of Objective 1 activity was constructively discussed by representatives at Friday's Objective 1 Programme Monitoring Committee meeting, which included representatives of your party. The report is still in draft form, and it is important that we protect the integrity of the independent evaluation system. We strongly believe in evidence-based government and in independent evaluation. I understand that the draft report will become a fully-fledged document in a few months' time. My initial

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r ddau beth hyn yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd: os gellir creu mwy o drafodion busnes drwy ddi-ddymu'r dreth stamp mewn ardaloedd perthnasol—ac mae llawer o wardiau yng Nghymru yn gymwys i'w heithrio rhag y dreth stamp—mae'n cydfynd â gweithgareddau adfywio lleol y mae'r Llywodraeth yn eu cyllido'n uniongyrchol. Yn y modd hwnnw, gellir ymdrin â'r ffenomen o siopau â'u ffenestri dan goed mewn ardaloedd a effeithir gan y cyfuniad o atyniadau'r trefi mawr ar yr arfordir a chanolfannau siopa y tu allan i'r dref. Mae hyn yn ymwneud â cheisio adfywio trefi yn ogystal â'r incwm a enillir mewn ffatrioedd. Mae pobl yn teimlo'n fwy hyderus ynghylch dyfodol eu cymunedau pan welant y byrddau'n cael eu tynnu oddi ar siopau ac adeiladau adwerthu'n dod yn eu lle, neu hen adeiladau adwerthu yn cael eu defnyddio at ddibenion eraill.

Janet Davies: Er gwaethaf yr hyn a ddywedaso, mae gwerthusiad canol tymor Amcan 1 wedi dangos mai dim ond 15 y cant o'r swyddi a addawyd ar gyfer ardal Amcan 1 sydd wedi'u creu hyd yma. Dengys y ffigurau cyflogaeth diweddaraf mai y tu allan i ardal Amcan 1 y crewyd 80 y cant o'r swyddi newydd yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. A ydych yn derbyn bod rhaid i'r Llywodraeth fod yn fwy rhagweithiol wrth arwain y ffordd ar greu swyddi? Gan ddilyn y pwynt a wnaeth Janice Gregory am bentrefi a chymunedau, oni ddylai'r Llywodraeth arwain y ffordd gan wneud buddsoddiad sector cyhoeddus sylweddol yn ardal Amcan 1?

Y Prif Weinidog: Deallaf fod yr adroddiad gwerthuso drafft ar y ddwy flynedd a hanner neu ddwy flynedd a thri chwarter diwethaf o weithgarwch Amcan 1 wedi'i drafod yn adeiladol ddydd Gwener gan gynrychiolwyr yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglen Amcan 1, a oedd yn cynnwys cynrychiolwyr o'ch plaid chi. Mae'r adroddiad ar ffurf drafft o hyd, ac mae'n bwysig inni warchod uniondeb y system gwerthuso annibynnol. Credwn yn gryf mewn llywodraeth ar sail tystiolaeth ac mewn gwerthuso annibynnol. Deallaf y bydd yr adroddiad drafft yn ddogfen gyflawn ymhen ychydig fisoedd. Fy ymateb cyntaf i'r adroddiad yn *The Western*

reaction to the story in *The Western Mail* on this issue was that it was over-hyped writing about a standard independent evaluation report. We will always protect the integrity of the independent evaluation process, so I do not want to say too much on this issue. However, the story said that 15 per cent of the money had been spent, and that 15 per cent of the expected jobs had been created; I saw no reason for treating that as a shock-horror story.

Alun Cairns: Does this not demonstrate how much of a disaster Objective 1 has been to date? Only 15 per cent of the jobs that should have been created have been created, and we are almost halfway through the programme. Is it not time for you to accept that it was a flawed strategy and a flawed structure, and that its implementation has been a disaster?

The First Minister: That is a classic example of jumping up and down to see to what extent you can create some bad news out of good news. There was no such implication in the independent evaluation report. It is a balanced document, which is currently in draft form. We will read the document in full when we get the final version. There was a mature discussion, if I can put it that way to you, Alun, in the vain hope that you might learn something, in the Objective 1 Programme Monitoring Committee meeting last Friday. Let us hope that those who are actively engaged in this and who are not trying to make political capital out of it continue to treat this maturely. That happened on a cross-party basis, and with other stakeholders who were not party-political representatives, last Friday.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): I am sure that you will agree that a well-educated workforce is essential to attracting businesses to south Wales. The imposition of tuition fees, and even more so, top-up fees, is a significant barrier to young people from the south Wales Valleys who want to enter higher education. Can you inform us of the progress of your discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales in securing the power and the funding to kick top-up fees

Mail am y pwnc hwn oedd mai ysgrifennu wedi'i orliwio ydoedd am adroddiad arferol ar werthuso annibynnol. Gwnawn warchod uniondeb y broses gwerthuso annibynnol bob amser, felly ni ddymunaf ddweud gormod am y mater hwn. Fodd bynnag, dywedwyd yn yr adroddiad fod 15 y cant o'r arian wedi'i wario, a bod 15 y cant o'r swyddi disgwylidig wedi'u creu; ni welais unrhyw reswm dros drin hynny fel pe bai'n syndod.

Alun Cairns: Onid yw hyn yn dangos cymaint o drychineb y bu Amcan 1 hyd yma? Ni chrëwyd ond 15 y cant o'r swyddi y dylid bod wedi'u creu, ac yr ydym bron hanner y ffordd drwy'r rhaglen. Onid yw'n bryd ichi dderbyn mai strategaeth ddiffygiol a strwythur diffygiol ydoedd, ac mai trychineb fu'r dull o'i weithredu?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hynny'n enghraifft glasurrol o gynhyrfu er mwyn gweld i ba raddau y gallwch greu ychydig o newyddion drwg o newyddion da. Nid oedd unrhyw ensyniad o'r fath yn yr adroddiad gwerthuso annibynnol. Mae'n ddogfen gytbwys, sydd ar ffurf drafft ar hyn o bryd. Darllenwn y ddogfen gyfan pan gawn y fersiwn terfynol. Bu trafodaeth aeddfed yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglen Amcan 1 ddydd Gwener diwethaf, os gallaf ei gyfleu felly i chi, Alun, yn gobaith ofer y byddech yn dysgu rhywbeth. Gadewch inni obeithio y bydd y rhai sy'n ymwneud yn weithgar â hyn nad ydynt yn ceisio gwneud elw gwleidyddol ohono yn dal i drafod y mater yn aeddfed. Digwyddodd hynny ar draws y pleidiau, a chyda rhanddeiliaid eraill nad oeddent yn cynrychioli pleidiau gwleidyddol, ddydd Gwener diwethaf.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Yr wyf yn sicr y cytunwch ei bod yn hollbwysig cael gweithlu a addysgwyd yn dda er mwyn denu busnesau i'r De. Mae gorfodi ffioedd dysgu, ac yn fwy byth, ffioedd ychwanegol, yn gryn rwystr i bobl ifanc o Gymoedd y De sy'n dymuno mynd i addysg uwch. A allwch roi gwybod inni am hynt eich trafodaethau ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru wrth sicrhau'r pŵer a'r cyllid i allu bwrw ffioedd ychwanegol o'r

into touch for good, or has the Secretary of State been too busy as Leader of the House of Commons to deal with this, because he has a part-time job for Wales?

The First Minister: That was an unnecessary tailpiece to an otherwise well-placed, intelligent and well-structured question. Negotiations are continuing and Jane Davidson has written to Alan Johnson, the new Minister of State responsible for higher education who has succeeded Margaret Hodge, to pursue our agenda of proposed devolution of student support. We have not received his reply yet. We are continuing to negotiate, while we also continue to bottom-out what the financial implications are. This is one of those areas where it is incredibly difficult to quantify what is going to happen in terms of the numbers of students who will be crossing the border in both directions in 2007. You referred to the fundamental point: it is strange and paradoxical that the people who are most put off higher education by tuition fees are the ones who would probably not have to pay them anyway because of means testing. We have done our best through the Assembly learning grant to sweep away the long-standing distinction between further and higher education, which is a major step forward, but it does not solve the problem of tuition fees. I hope that we will be able to return to that when we know whether legislation in the Queen's Speech will include a transfer of responsibility to us.

Brian Gibbons: First Minister, do you not agree that Alun Cairns's negative reaction to Objective 1 explains why the Conservatives did not deliver Objective 1 for Wales, and why they did not deliver extra European funding for Wales? Their proposed 20 per cent cut in public expenditure will not deliver the match-funding that is necessary to ensure that Objective 1 succeeds.

The First Minister: They had the opportunity and they chose not to take it, and some here follow the Redwood tradition better than others. John Redwood had the opportunity but decided, 'no thank you, no Objective 1 for Wales'.

Elin Jones: A dderbyniwch fod yn rhaid i'ch

neilltu am byth, neu a fu'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol yn rhy brysur fel Arweinydd Tŷ'r Cyffredin i ddelio â hyn, am mai swydd ran amser dros Gymru sydd ganddo?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr oedd hwnnw'n ychwanegiad diangen i'r hyn a oedd fel arall yn gwestiwn amserol, deallus a threfnus. Mae negodiadau'n parhau ac mae Jane Davidson wedi ysgrifennu at Alan Johnson, y Gweinidog Gwladol newydd sydd â chyfrifoldeb dros addysg uwch ac olynydd Margaret Hodge, i ddilyn ein hagenda o gynnig y caiff cyfrifoldeb am gymorth i fyfyrwyr ei ddatganoli. Ni chawsom ateb ganddo eto. Yr ydym yn dal i negodi, tra ein bod hefyd yn dal i fynd at wraidd y goblygiadau ariannol. Dyma un o'r meysydd lle y mae'n anhygoel o anodd mesur yr hyn a fydd yn digwydd o ran niferoedd y myfyrwyr a fydd yn croesi'r ffin yn y ddau gyfeiriad yn 2007. Gwnaethoch gyfeirio at y pwynt sylfaenol: mae'n rhyfedd ac yn baradoesaidd mai'r bobl a gaiff eu troi fwyaf oddi wrth addysg uwch gan ffioedd dysgu yw'r rhai na fyddai'n gorfod eu talu beth bynnag, yn ôl pob tebyg, oherwydd y prawf moddion. Gwnaethom ein gorau drwy grant dysgu'r Cynulliad i chwalu'r gwahaniaeth hirsefydlog rhwng addysg bellach ac addysg uwch, sy'n gam mawr ymlaen, ond nid yw'n datrys problem ffioedd hyfforddi. Gobeithiaf y byddwn yn gallu dod yn ôl at hynny pan wyddom a fydd Araith y Frenhines yn cynnwys deddfwriaeth i drosglwyddo'r cyfrifoldeb i ni.

Brian Gibbons: Brif Weinidog, oni chytunwch fod ymateb negyddol Alun Cairns i Amcan 1 yn egluro pam na chafodd y Ceidwadwyr Amcan 1 i Gymru, a pham na chawsant gyllid Ewropeaidd ychwanegol i Gymru? Ni fydd eu toriad arfaethedig o 20 y cant mewn gwariant cyhoeddus yn dod â'r arian cyfatebol sydd ei angen i sicrhau llwyddiant Amcan 1.

Y Prif Weinidog: Cawsant gyfle a dewisasant beidio â'i gymryd, ac mae rhai yma'n dilyn traddodiad Redwood yn well nag eraill. Cafodd John Redwood y cyfle ond penderfynodd, 'dim diolch, dim Amcan 1 i Gymru'.

Elin Jones: Do you accept that your

Llywodraeth gymryd cyfrifoldeb am y ffaith bod 80 y cant o swyddi newydd a grëir yng Nghymru yn dal i gael eu creu y tu allan i ardal Amcan 1? Mae hyn yn adlewyrchiad o'r ffaith y bu gweithredu Amcan 1 yn rhy araf ac yn rhy gymhleth. Er y buddsoddiad yn ardal Amcan 1, nid yw eich Llywodraeth yn targedu adnoddau a buddsoddiad yn yr ardaloedd o fewn ardal Amcan 1 ag arnynt angen y gefnogaeth fwyaf.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae 75 y cant o'r cwmp mewn diweithdra wedi digwydd yn ardal Amcan 1 Cymru, a dim ond 65 y cant o'r boblogaeth sydd yn byw yno. Gallwch weld y budd a ddaeth yn sgîl Amcan 1 a pholisïau eraill a luniwyd gennym ni a Llywodraeth San Steffan, gan eu bod wedi gwasgu ar ddiweithdra a darparu cyfleoedd newydd. Mae hyn yn gweithio, ac yn gweithio'n well yn ardal Amcan 1, neu ni fyddem wedi gweld y gwmp honno sydd yn fwy yn ardal Amcan 1—yr oedd angen mwy o gwmp yno. Bu cwmp o 75 y cant mewn diweithdra yn ardal Amcan 1, a dim ond 65 y cant o'r boblogaeth sy'n byw yno.

Government must take responsibility for the fact that 80 per cent of the new jobs created in Wales continue to be created outside the Objective 1 area? This is symptomatic of the fact that the implementation of Objective 1 was too slow and too complex. Although there is investment in the Objective 1 area, your Government is not targeting resources and investment at the areas within the Objective 1 area that need most support.

The First Minister: Seventy-five per cent of the fall in unemployment has occurred in Wales's Objective 1 area, and only 65 per cent of the population lives there. You can see the benefits of Objective 1 and other policies formulated by ourselves and the Westminster Government, in cutting unemployment and by providing new opportunities. This is working, and it is working more effectively in the Objective 1 area, or that fall, which is greater in the Objective 1 area—a greater fall was needed there—would not have happened. A 75 per cent fall in unemployment has occurred in the Objective 1 area, and only 65 per cent of the population lives there.

Y Strategaeth ar gyfer Pobl Hŷn The Older People's Strategy

Q2 Sandy Mewies: Would the First Minister make a statement on the implementation of the older people's strategy in the constituency of Delyn? (OAQ26338)

The First Minister: The creation of a £100,000 fund to help voluntary transport schemes in Wales, including in the constituency of Delyn, is an innovative part of the older people's strategy. The Community Transport Association runs the scheme on our behalf. Grants of up to £15,000 are available towards the costs of community transport projects. There are no restrictions on the types of projects, but they must accord with the strategy for older people and local authority community transport strategies. The closing date for applications was 31 May, and applications total more than £300,000. The Community Transport Association hopes to make decisions in August. Like you, I am sure, I hope that applications were made from Delyn and that they will be among the successful

C2 Sandy Mewies: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar y modd y gweithredir y strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn yn etholaeth Delyn? (OAQ26338)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae creu cronfa o £100,000 i roi cymorth i gynlluniau trafndiaeth gwirfoddol yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys etholaeth Delyn, yn rhan arloesol o'r strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn. Mae'r Gymdeithas Trafnidiaeth Gymunedol yn rhedeg y cynllun ar ein rhan. Mae grantiau o hyd at £15,000 ar gael tuag at gostau prosiectau trafndiaeth gymunedol. Nid oes cyfyngiadau ar y mathau o brosiectau, ond rhaid iddynt fod yn gyson â'r strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn a strategaethau trafndiaeth gymunedol awdurdodau lleol. Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer ceisiadau oedd 31 Mai, ac mae'r ceisiadau'n gwneud cyfanswm o fwy na £300,000. Mae'r Gymdeithas Trafnidiaeth Gymunedol yn gobeithio gwneud penderfyniadau yn Awst. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cytuno â fy ngobaith bod

applications.

ceisiadau wedi dod o Ddelyn ac y byddant ymysg y rhai llwyddiannus.

2.10 p.m.

Sandy Mewies: I know that you share my concerns about older people and the problems that they face with regard to housing. Homeowners can find that repairs, large gardens and stairs become too much for them as they age. On occasion, such problems have contributed to people having to move into residential care when, with a little extra support, they could have remained in the community. I welcome the fact that the Welsh Assembly Government will conduct a wide-ranging debate on the future housing needs of older people over the coming months. Do you also welcome the fact that this important cross-cutting issue will be examined by the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee, with the aim of contributing to the Government's debate and to providing practical, positive solutions to these problems?

The First Minister: I agree that maintaining the independence of older people—whether they are homeowners or tenants—is important, so that they can stay in their homes for as long as possible despite the increasing problems that they may have in getting up ladders and so on. I am pleased that Edwina Hart, the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration—although she did not have that title at the time—agreed enhanced funding of almost £3.5 million for care and repair services for this financial year. There are 24 care and repair agencies in Wales and they enable older people to remain in their homes for longer, by tackling the issues that you mentioned.

Mark Isherwood: The strategy for older people in Wales rightly states that older people in Wales have the right to live independently and with dignity. It also states that a partnership approach involving older people, the voluntary sector, the private sector, and others, must be followed. I am sure that we all agree with that. However, how does the First Minister square that with the exclusion of Flintshire's voluntary sector from the local crime and disorder partnership, and with the statement made by the manager

Sandy Mewies: Gwn eich bod yn rhannu fy mhryderon ynghylch pobl hŷn a'r problemau a wynebant gyda thai. Mae gwaith trwsio, gerddi mawr a dringo grisiau'n gallu mynd yn ormod i berchnogion tai wrth iddynt heneiddio. Mewn rhai achosion, mae problemau o'r fath wedi gorfodi pobl i symud i ofal preswyl, er y gallent, o gael ychydig o gymorth ychwanegol, fod wedi aros yn y gymuned. Croesawaf y ffaith y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cynnal dadl gynhwysfawr yn y misoedd nesaf ar anghenion tai pobl hŷn yn y dyfodol. A ydych hefyd yn croesawu'r ffaith y bydd y mater trawsbynciol pwysig hwn yn cael ei ystyried gan y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, gyda'r bwriad o gyfrannu at ddadl y Llywodraeth a chynnig atebion cadarnhaol ac ymarferol i'r problemau hyn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Cytunaf ei bod yn bwysig cynnal annibyniaeth pobl hŷn—pa un a ydynt yn berchnogion cartrefi neu'n denantiaid—fel y gallant aros yn eu cartrefi cyhyd ag y bo modd er gwaethaf y problemau cynyddol y gallent eu profi o ran dringo ysgolion ac yn y blaen. Yr wyf yn falch bod Edwina Hart, y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio—er nad oedd y teitl hwnnw ganddi ar y pryd—wedi cytuno ar gyllid pellach o ymron i £3.5 miliwn ar gyfer gwasanaethau gofal a thrwsio am y flwyddyn ariannol hon. Mae 24 o asiantaethau gofal a thrwsio yng Nghymru ac maent yn galluogi pobl hŷn i aros yn eu cartrefi'n hwy, drwy ymdrin â'r materion y cyfeiriasoch atynt.

Mark Isherwood: Mae'r strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn yng Nghymru'n datgan yn briodol fod hawl gan bobl hŷn yng Nghymru i fyw'n annibynnol a chydag urddas. Dywed hefyd fod rhaid gweithredu drwy bartneriaeth sy'n cynnwys pobl hŷn, y sector gwirfoddol, y sector preifat, ac eraill. Yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod oll yn cytuno â hynny. Fodd bynnag, sut y mae'r Prif Weinidog yn cysoni hynny â'r ffaith bod sector gwirfoddol Sir y Fflint wedi'i gau allan o'r bartneriaeth troseddu ac anhrefn leol, ac â'r datganiad gan reolwr

of Flintshire Local Voluntary Council at its annual general meeting on 20 June that the partnerships are not true partnerships because they have not gone through the process of agreeing what they are about? How does he square it with the fact that 30 per cent of care beds have been lost in north-east Wales and with the fact that pensioners in towns such as Holywell are afraid to go out after dark? How does he square it with the inadequate partnerships with registered social landlords over the provision of care for the elderly in the community, and with the cuts in rural bus services after free bus passes were introduced? That denies pensioners the dignity and independence that they want and deserve.

The First Minister: You paint an overly depressing picture. The overwhelming reaction from pensioners' groups in Wales has been to say how wonderful the greater availability of bus services is since the introduction of free bus passes. That has provided a backbone for the provision of more bus services. On pensioners not going out after dark, that is a matter for the local crime reduction partnership. I have not heard of the report from Flintshire County Council officials or the Flintshire voluntary sector partnership. If you could supply me with a copy, I will give you a detailed reply.

Cyngor Gwirfoddol Lleol Sir y Fflint yn ei gyfarfod blynyddol cyffredinol ar 20 Mehefin nad yw'r partneriaethau'n wir bartneriaethau am nad aethant drwy'r broses o gytuno ar eu pwrpas? Sut y mae'n cysoni hynny â'r ffaith bod 30 y cant o'r gwelyau gofal wedi'u colli yn y Gogledd-ddwyrain a'r ffaith bod ar bensiynwyr mewn trefi fel Treffynnon ofn mynd allan wedi iddi nosi? Sut y mae'n cysoni hynny â'r partneriaethau annigonol â landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig er mwyn darparu gofal yn y gymuned i'r henoed, a chyda'r toriadau mewn gwasanaethau bysiau gwledig ar ôl cyflwyno tocynnau bws am ddim? Mae hynny'n nacáu i bensiynwyr yr urddas a'r annibyniaeth y maent yn eu dymuno a'u haeddu.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydych yn creu darlun rhy ddigalon. Yr ymateb llethol gan grwpiau pensiywyr yng Nghymru oedd dweud mor braf ydoedd bod rhagor o wasanaethau bws ar gael iddynt ers cyflwyno tocynnau bws am ddim. Bu hynny'n sylfaen i ddarparu rhagor o wasanaethau bws. Ynghylch pensiywyr yn peidio â mynd allan wedi iddi nosi, mae hynny'n fater i'r bartneriaeth lleihau troseddu leol. Ni chlywais am yr adroddiad gan swyddogion o Gyngor Sir y Fflint na phartneriaeth sector gwirfoddol sir y Fflint. Os gallech roi copi i mi, rhoddaf ateb manwl i chi.

Hyrwyddo Cysylltiadau ag Ewrop Promoting Links with Europe

Q3 Brian Gibbons: What progress is being made in promoting bilateral links with smaller European countries and regions? (OAQ26322)

C3 Brian Gibbons: Pa gamau sy'n cael eu cymryd i hyrwyddo'r cysylltiadau dwyochrog â gwledydd a rhanbarthau llai yn Ewrop? (OAQ26322)

The First Minister: We signed a memorandum of understanding with Silesia in October 2002. I will accompany a trade mission to Estonia and Latvia in September. Also, as I think that you will know, as I have mentioned it previously, the Welsh Development Agency has won a twinning-like contract to assist a region of the Czech Republic with problems similar to those of some of the former coalfields in Wales in terms of brownfield regeneration. We are working on many issues with either regions of some of the large new EU accession states such as Poland or the Czech Republic, or

Y Prif Weinidog: Gwnaethom lofnodi memorandwm cyd-ddealltwriaeth â Silesia yn Hydref 2002. Byddaf yn mynd gydag ymgyrch fasnach i Estonia a Latfia ym Medi. Hefyd, fel y gwyddoch, mi gredaf, gan fy mod wedi sôn am hyn o'r blaen, mae Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru wedi ennill contract tebyg i efeillio er mwyn cynorthwyo rhanbarth yn y Weriniaeth Tsiec sydd â phroblemau tebyg i eiddo'r cyn feysydd glo yng Nghymru o ran adfywio ar dir llwyd. Yr ydym yn gweithio ar lawer o faterion, un ai gyda rhanbarthau rhai o'r gwladwriaethau mawr sydd newydd ymuno â'r UE fel Gwlad

directly with some of the accession states that are the same size as, or smaller than, Wales, such as Estonia and Latvia.

Brian Gibbons: There are many positive examples of the bilateral links that the Welsh Assembly Government is developing with regard to the issues that you mentioned, and also in relation to health, social care, education and so on. Do we need to bring these together in a more coherent, strategic way to promote Wales more holistically across Europe and the world?

The First Minister: We cannot run before we can walk. I have brought forward the issue of what links we should make, either with the small states when they become EU member states—as everyone assumes that they will by the time of the European elections next year—or with the regions within the larger new member states. We are working hard on that.

It is not all about fostering links with the states to be included in the enlargement of the European Union, although we are prioritising those states. We also have links with regions of existing member states, such as Baden Württemberg and Catalonia, which I visited recently. We also have natural cultural links with Brittany: the President of the Regional Council of Brittany, Josselin de Rohan, paid a good-will visit to Wales recently, and I hope to undertake a reciprocal visit soon.

Ultimately, you must have a strategy, and ours is to link with those states where we can do good, promote trade, bring in students, win contracts and so forth, or to make links where there are natural cultural connections, such as with Brittany.

Laura Anne Jones: First Minister, I agree that it is important for Wales that we develop links with other European countries, whether they are bilateral or otherwise. However, your Government seems to be squandering

Pwyl a'r Weriniaeth Tsiec, neu'n uniongyrchol gyda rhai o'r gwladwriaethau sy'n ymuno sydd o'r un maint, neu'n llai na, Chymru, fel Estonia a Latfia.

Brian Gibbons: Mae llawer o enghreifftiau cadarnhaol o'r cysylltiadau dwyochrog y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n eu meithrin yngylch y materion y cyfeiriasoch atynt, a hefyd ynghylch iechyd, gofal cymdeithasol, addysg ac yn y blaen. A oes angen inni ddod â'r rhain at ei gilydd mewn modd mwy cydlynol a strategol er mwyn hyrwyddo Cymru'n fwy cyfannol ledled Ewrop a thrwy'r byd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Rhaid cropian cyn cerdded. Yr wyf wedi dwyn ger eich bron y mater o'r cysylltiadau y dylem eu creu, un ai gyda'r gwladwriaethau bach pan ddeuant yn aelod-wladwriaethau o'r UE—fel y mae pawb yn cymryd y byddant erbyn yr etholiadau Ewropeaidd y flwyddyn nesaf—neu gyda rhanbarthau yn yr aelod-wladwriaethau newydd mwy. Yr ydym yn gweithio'n galed ar hynny.

Nid meithrin cysylltiadau â'r gwladwriaethau sydd i'w cynnwys wrth i'r Undeb Ewropeaidd ehangu yw'r unig beth dan sylw, er ein bod yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i'r gwladwriaethau hynny. Mae gennym gysylltiadau hefyd â rhanbarthau aelod-wladwriaethau presennol, megis Baden Württemberg a Chatalonia, yr ymwelais â hwy'n ddiweddar. Mae gennym gysylltiadau diwylliannol naturiol hefyd â Llydaw: daeth Llywydd Cyngor Rhanbarthol Llydaw, Josselin de Rohan, ar ymweliad ewyllys da â Chymru'n ddiweddar, a gobeithiaf ymgymryd ag ymweliad tebyg cyn hir.

Yn y pen draw, rhaid wrth strategaeth, a'r un sydd gennym ni yw cysylltu â'r gwladwriaethau hynny lle y gallwn wneud lles, hyrwyddo masnach, denu myfyrwyr, ennill contractau ac yn y blaen, neu ffurfio perthynas lle y mae cysylltiadau diwylliannol naturiol, fel y rhai â Llydaw.

Laura Anne Jones: Brif Weinidog, cytunaf ei bod yn bwysig i Gymru ein bod yn meithrin cysylltiadau â gwledydd eraill yn Ewrop, byddent hwy'n rhai dwyochrog neu fel arall. Fodd bynnag, ymddengys bod eich

millions of pounds on mini-embassies around Europe and on pointless projects like the palace for politicians that you want to place in the bay. It is no wonder that voter apathy is so bad in Wales, when you plough money into projects to satisfy your egos instead of investing in our failing public services. Last year, there was talk of establishing six of these so-called Welsh embassies around the world. You stated that you would like more, but that this is all we can afford.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I am reluctant to interrupt new Members, but it is inappropriate to quote other Members without asking a question. Please ask a question.

Laura Anne Jones: Sorry, Presiding Officer. First Minister, how many more embassies are you planning to waste Welsh taxpayers' money on?

The First Minister: Laura, you seem to be suggesting a principle that anyone associated with the words 'embassies' or 'mini-embassies' has an over-sized ego. If so, David Davies would not have been able to walk through the door 10 minutes ago, because he is the only Member who has ever mentioned them. Let us be clear about that: the only Assembly Member associated with embassies is the Member for Monmouth. If there is a problem over egos and embassies, ask your colleague, whose constituent you are.

Llywodraeth yn afradu miliynau o bunnoedd ar lysgenadaethau bach o gwmpas Ewrop ac ar brosiectau dibwrpas fel y palas i wleidyddion yr ydych am ei godi yn y bae. Nid oes ryfedd bod cymaint o ddifaterwch ymysg pleidleiswyr yng Nghymru, a chithau'n arllwys arian i brosiectau sy'n porthi eich balchder yn hytrach na buddsoddi yn ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus diffygiol. Y llynedd, yr oedd sôn am sefydlu chwech o lysgenadaethau i Gymru, fel y'u gelwir, o gwmpas y byd. Dywedasoeh y byddai'n well gennyh gael rhagor, ond mai hyn yw'r cwbl y gallwn ei fforddio.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf yn gyndyn o dorri ar draws Aelodau newydd, ond amhriodol yw dyfynnu geiriau Aelodau eraill heb ofyn cwestiwn. Gofynnwch gwestiwn, os gwelwch yn dda.

Laura Anne Jones: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, Lywydd. Brif Weinidog, pa sawl llysgenadaeth yn rhagor yr ydych yn bwriadu gwastraffu arian trethdalwyr Cymru arnynt?

Y Prif Weinidog: Laura, ymddengys eich bod yn awgrymu egwyddor y byddai rhywun sy'n gysylltiedig â'r geiriau 'llysgenadaethau' neu 'lysigenadaethau bach' â chanddo ben mawr. Os felly, ni fyddai David Davies wedi gallu cerdded drwy'r drws 10 munud yn ôl, gan mai ef yw'r unig Aelod sydd erioed wedi sôn amdanynt. Gadewch inni fod yn glir am hynny: yr unig Aelod o'r Cynulliad sy'n gysylltiedig â llysgenadaethau yw'r Aelod dros Fynwy. Os oes problem ynghylch hunanfaldher a llysgenadaethau, gofynnwch i'ch cyd-Aelod, yr ydych yn un o'i etholwyr.

Cau Swyddfeydd Post Post Offices Closures

Q4 Mick Bates: Will the First Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's efforts to protect post offices in Wales from closure? (OAQ26347)

The First Minister: The Assembly Government recognises that post offices provide a lifeline for many local communities, and wishes to maintain a viable

C4 Mick Bates: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar ymdrechion Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i amddiffyn swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru rhag gorfod cau? (OAQ26347)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cydnabod bod swyddfeydd post yn cynnal llawer o gymunedau lleol, ac yn dymuno cynnal rhwydwaith dichonadwy

network throughout Wales. That is why we have launched the post office development fund and have extended the rural rate relief scheme, to help ensure that disadvantaged communities continue to receive post office services.

Mick Bates: I do not doubt that good work is being undertaken. However, do you agree that many pensioners have been discouraged from using their local post offices by the Government's actions in changing the method of collecting pensions? Pensioners would prefer to continue using their familiar pension books rather than use plastic cards and personal identification numbers.

The First Minister: I have heard that point of view put, but the Government has made an irrevocable decision to transfer benefits directly into bank accounts. The Government believes that it will cost around a twentieth of what a direct Giro payment costs, or some such sharp distinction. Therefore, I do not think that it will go back on its decision. Instead, it will try to allow post offices time to adapt to the great loss of business, which could amount to as much as 70 per cent in areas with a population mostly dependent on pensions or other welfare payments. It is a big blow to some post offices. The UK and the Assembly Governments are helping post offices to get over that hump and into a new field of activity by providing a new range of services without going back on the decision to pay benefits directly into bank accounts.

Peter Law: First Minister, will you enter into discussions with the Royal Mail about its regrettable proposal to transfer mail transportation from rail to road? That move will affect the jobs of railway personnel and Royal Mail workers, not to mention the added congestion that it could mean on the roads in Wales.

The First Minister: Yesterday, Edwina Hart sent a letter to Stephen Timms, Minister of State for Energy, e-Commerce and Postal Services, in which she raised the matter of over-dependence on road haulage and the

ledled Cymru. Dyna pam yr ydym wedi lansio cronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post ac wedi ehangu'r cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi gwledig, i helpu i sicrhau y bydd cymunedau difreintiedig yn dal i gael gwasanaethau swyddfa bost.

Mick Bates: Nid wyf yn amau na wneir gwaith da. Er hynny, a gytunwch fod llawer o bensïynwyr wedi'u hannog i beidio â defnyddio eu swyddfeydd post lleol drwy'r camau a gymerodd y Llywodraeth o ran newid y dull o gasglu pensiynau? Byddai'n well gan bensïynwyr barhau i ddefnyddio'r llyfrau pensiwn y maent yn gyfarwydd â hwy yn hytrach na defnyddio cardiau plastig a rhifau adnabod personol.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf wedi clywed y farn honno, ond mae'r Llywodraeth wedi gwneud penderfyniad terfynol i drosglwyddo budd-daliadau'n uniongyrchol i gyfrifon banc. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn credu y bydd hynny'n costio tuag un rhan o ugain o gost talu'n uniongyrchol drwy Giro, neu ryw wahaniaeth pendant o'r fath. Gan hynny, ni chredaf y gwnaiff ailystyried ei phenderfyniad. Yn lle hynny, bydd yn ceisio caniatáu amser i swyddfeydd post ymaddasu i'r colli mawr ar fusnes, a allai fod yn gymaint â 70 y cant mewn ardaloedd lle y mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r boblogaeth yn dibynnu ar pensiynau neu fudd-daliadau eraill. Mae'n ergyd fawr i rai swyddfeydd post. Mae Llywodraeth y DU a'r Cynulliad yn helpu swyddfeydd post i oresgyn y rhwystr hwnnw ac i ymhél â gweithgarwch amgen drwy ddarparu amrediad newydd o wasanaethau, heb newid y penderfyniad i dalu budd-daliadau'n uniongyrchol i gyfrifon banc.

Peter Law: Brif Weinidog, a wnewch chi gychwyn trafodaethau gyda'r Post Brenhinol ynghylch ei fwriad anffodus i gludo'r post ar y ffyrdd yn hytrach nag ar reilffyrdd? Bydd y newid hwnnw'n effeithio ar swyddi staff rheilffyrdd a gweithwyr y Post Brenhinol, heb sôn am y tagfeydd ychwanegol y gallai hynny ei olygu ar y ffyrdd yng Nghymru.

Y Prif Weinidog: Ddoe, anfonodd Edwina Hart lythyr at Stephen Timms, y Gweinidog Gwladol dros Ynni, e-Fasnach a Gwasanaethau Post, lle y cododd fater y gorddibynnu ar gludiant ar ffyrdd a'r

possibility of congestion in the Midlands. That is where the road hub will replace the mail train that has been the main way of transporting mail between regions in this country for a century or more.

Lisa Francis: I am pleased that you recognise that village post offices are a lifeline for local communities. You must also be aware that the closure of a post office often sounds a death-knell for the village concerned. Do you agree that the classification model used by Post Office Ltd to distinguish between urban and rural post offices for the purposes of its urban network reinvention programme is nebulous and extremely complex?

2.20 p.m.

The First Minister: I do not have the details of that programme with me. I think that the definition of a rural post office is one that serves a community of less than 3,000 people, but I am not sure as to how far it must be from a neighbouring community in order to be classified as being rural. Post offices in Wales's 125 most deprived and 125 most isolated electoral divisions are eligible for assistance under our post office development fund. Wherever the line is drawn, there will always be communities that narrowly miss the cut, and those who wish that we had drawn the line elsewhere, thus meaning that their post office would be eligible for assistance. That is the problem of the shadow effect and it cannot be escaped, no matter how you administer any type of assistance scheme. You can make a case for shifting the line, but that only moves the problem; it does not solve it. We must all continue to promote the scheme. We have already assisted eight post offices—in Abertyswg, Bargoed, Graiglwyd, Gwyddelwern, Llangeitho, Llangurig, Llanhilleth and Rhosneigr. We have provided those post offices with £300,000 in grant. Ten times that amount is available under the scheme, so many more post offices can be assisted if we promote the scheme.

posibilrwydd o dagfeydd yng nghanolbarth Lloegr. Dyna lle y bydd y canolbwynt ffyrdd yn cymryd lle'r trê'n post a fu'n brif fodd i gludo post rhwng rhanbarthau yn y wlad hon am ganrif neu fwy.

Lisa Francis: Yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn cydnabod bod swyddfeydd post mewn pentrefi'n rhaff achub i gymunedau lleol. Rhaid eich bod yn ymwybodol hefyd fod cau swyddfa post yn aml yn seinio cnul marwolaeth y pentref dan sylw. A ydych yn cytuno bod y model dosbarthu y mae Swyddfa'r Post Cyf yn ei ddefnyddio i wahaniaethu rhwng swyddfeydd post gwledig a threfol i ddibenion ei raglen aiddfyfisio rhwydweithiau trefol yn un niwlog a chymhleth dros ben?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid yw manylion y rhaglen honno gennyf. Credaf mai'r diffiniad o swyddfa bost wledig yw un sy'n gwasanaethu cymuned o lai na 3,000 o bobl, ond nid wyf yn sicr pa mor bell y mae'n rhaid iddi fod o gymuned gyfagos i gael ei chyfrif yn wledig. Mae swyddfeydd post yn y 125 o adrannau etholiadol mwyaf difreintedig a'r 125 o adrannau etholiadol mwyaf anghysbell yng Nghymru'n gymwys i gael cymorth dan ein cynllun datblygu swyddfeydd post. Ym mhle bynnag y tynnir y llinell, bydd bob amser gymunedau sy'n methu â dod o fewn y llinell o drwch blewyn, a rhai y byddai'n dda ganddynt pe baem wedi tynnu'r llinell yn rhywle arall, a olygai y byddai eu swyddfa bost yn gymwys i gael cymorth. Dyna broblem yr effaith gysgod ac nid oes modd ei hosgoi, ni waeth sut y gweinyddir unrhyw fath o gynllun cymorth. Gallwch ddadlau dros symud y llinell, ond nid yw hynny ond yn symud y broblem; nid yw'n ei datrys. Rhaid inni barhau i hyrwyddo'r cynllun. Yr ydym eisoes wedi cynorthwyo wyth swyddfa bost—yn Abertyswg, Bargoed, Graiglwyd, Gwyddelwern, Llangeitho, Llangurig, Llanhilleth a Rhosneigr. Yr ydym wedi darparu £300,000 i'r swyddfeydd post hynny drwy grantiau. Mae deg gwaith y swm hwnnw ar gael dan y cynllun, felly gellir cynorthwyo llawer o swyddfeydd post yn rhagor os hyrwyddwn y cynllun.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn) **The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn)**

Jones): Gwrandewais ar eich sylwadau ar y cymorth a roddir i swyddfeydd post. Cyfeiriaf yn benodol at swyddfeydd post gwledig. Mae nifer o swyddfeydd post yn Ynys Môn yn cau oherwydd diffyg cefnogaeth i'r gwasanaethau y maent yn eu darparu. Os oes cronfa gymorth ar gyfer swyddfeydd post, pam y mae cynifer yn cau?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid dim ond un gronfa sydd ar gael; mae nifer ohonynt. Ceir cronfa ar gyfer swyddfeydd post gwledig a chronfa ddatblygu ar gyfer swyddfeydd post sy'n gwasanaethau'r 125 ward tlotaf yng Nghymru. Dywedais eisoes i swyddfa bost Rhosneigr dderbyn grant. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer mwy o arian ar gael. Os yw'r is-bost feistr neu feistres am barhau â'r busnes, mae arian ar gael i'w cynorthwyo os y gallant ddarparu cynllun busnes synhwylol. Fodd bynnag, os nad oes ganddynt yr ewyllys i barhau, ac os ydynt am werthu'r busnes, ni allwn eu rhwystro. Serch hynny, gallwn eu cymell â'r posibilrwydd eu bod yn gymwys i dderbyn arian o'r gronfa ar gyfer swyddfeydd post gwledig neu'r gronfa ar gyfer swyddfeydd post sy'n gwasanaethu'r wardiau lleiaf llewyrchus yng Nghymru. Nid dim ond swyddfa bost Rhosneigr a all fanteisio ar hyn; mae llawer mwy o swyddfeydd post Ynys Môn yn gymwys i dderbyn cymorth.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Y broblem yw nad oes swyddfeydd post newydd yn agor pan fo swyddfa bost yn cau. Pan fo is-bost feistr wedi penderfynu peidio â pharhau â'i fusnes, am ba reswm bynnag, nid oes eraill yn manteisio ar y cynllun y cyfeiriwch ato. Rhan o'r broblem yw'r mater y cyfeiriodd Mick Bates ato, sef nad yw'r Llywodraeth yn egluro wrth bensiynwyr bod ganddynt yr hawl i ddewis sut y derbyniant eu taliadau pensiwn. A ydych yn ymwybodol bod honno'n broblem wirioneddol i swyddfeydd post bach, ac y teimla'r sawl sy'n rhedeg y swyddfeydd post hynny fod y modd y mae'r Llywodraeth yn Llundain yn cyfleu'r dewis i bensiynwyr yn annheg? Yn ogystal â hybu'r cronfeydd y cyfeiriwch atynt, a wnewch sicrhau bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn egluro wrth bensiynwyr bod ganddynt ddewis? Os nad yw'r Llywodraeth yn Llundain yn fodlon gwneud hynny, a wnewch sicrhau bod bensiynwyr Cymru yn ymwybodol bod ganddynt ddewis?

Jones): I have listened to your comments on the assistance afforded to post offices. I refer specifically to rural post offices. Several post offices in Anglesey are closing due to a lack of support for the services that they provide. If there is an assistance fund for post offices, why are so many closing?

The First Minister: It is not just one fund; there are many such funds available. There is a fund for rural post offices and a development fund for post offices serving the 125 poorest wards in Wales. I have already named Rhosneigr post office as one that has received a grant. However, much more money is available. If the sub-post-master or sub-post-mistress wishes to keep the post office in operation, money is available to help them, subject to them providing a sensible business plan. However, if they choose not to continue, and if they want to sell the business, we cannot stand in their way. However, we can provide them with the incentive that they may be eligible to receive money from the fund for rural post offices or from the fund for post offices serving the least prosperous wards in Wales. It is not only Rhosneigr post office that can take advantage of this; many other post offices in Anglesey are eligible to receive assistance.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: The problem is that, when post offices close, no new post offices open. When a sub-post-master decides, for whatever reason, not to continue with his business, others do not come forward to take advantage of the scheme to which you refer. Part of the problem is the issue to which Mick Bates referred, namely that the Government is not explaining to pensioners that they have the right to choose how their pension payments are made. Are you aware that that is a serious problem for small post offices, and that those who run those post offices feel that the way in which the Government in London communicates the choice to pensioners is unfair? In addition to promoting the funds to which you refer, will you ensure that the Assembly Government explains to pensioners that they have a choice? If the Government in London is unwilling to do that, will you ensure that Welsh pensioners are aware that they have a choice?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae gan bensiynwyr ddewis, wrth gwrs. Derbyniaf fod gwneud dewis teg rhwng y ddau opsiwn yn anos nag y dylai fod. Mae'r broses o agor cyfrif swyddfa bost, yn hytrach na chyfrif banc, hefyd yn anos nag y dylai fod; rhaid ichi lenwi tua chwe ffurflen cyn y cewch agor cyfrif. Mae hynny'n rhy gymhleth.

The First Minister: Of course pensioners have a choice. I accept that it is more difficult than it should be to make a fair choice between the two options. The process of opening a post office account, as opposed to a bank account, is also more complex than it should be; you have to complete about six forms before you can do so. That is too complex.

Gwaith Atgyweirio (A55 ger Twunnel Penmaenbach) Repair Work (A55 near Penmaenbach Tunnel)

Q5 Denise Idris Jones: What developments are being made on the repair work being undertaken on the A55 near the Penmaenbach tunnel? (OAQ26321)

C5 Denise Idris Jones: Pa ddatblygiadau sy'n cael eu gwneud ar waith atgyweirio'r A55 ger twunnel Penmaenbach? (OAQ26321)

The First Minister: Phase 1 of the works was completed on time. The road has been re-opened for the summer holiday period. Phase 2 of the works will commence in September, for completion in early 2004. The total cost of both phases will be about £4 million.

Y Prif Weinidog: Cwblhawyd y rhan gyntaf o'r gwaith yn brydlon. Ailagorwyd y ffordd ar gyfer cyfnod gwyliau'r haf. Bydd ail ran y gwaith yn dechrau ym mis Medi, er mwyn ei gwblhau ddechrau 2004. Cyfanswm cost y ddwy ran fydd tua £4 miliwn.

Denise Idris Jones: I hope that most of my constituents were listening to that answer because I am constantly asked about traffic problems on the A55. One lane has been almost permanently coned off at Penmaenbach because of the roadworks over the railway line. We have been told, and I am pleased to hear your reassurance, that this work will soon be completed.

Denise Idris Jones: Gobeithiaf fod y rhan fwyaf o'm hetholwyr yn gwranddo ar yr ateb hwnnw oherwydd fe'm holir yn gyson am broblemau traffig ar yr A55. Mae un lôn wedi'i chau'n barhaol bron â chonau ym Mhenmaenbach oherwydd y gwaith ar y ffordd dros y rheilffordd. Dywedwyd wrthym, ac yr wyf yn falch o glywed y sicrwydd a roesoch, y cwblheir y gwaith hwn cyn hir.

The First Minister: I am pleased about this. Everyone accepts that the A55 is an almost unique road in its dependence on holiday traffic flow, which is greater during July and August than at any other time of the year. In order to ensure that work on the A55 would not block holiday traffic, the phases were arranged to take place before and after the holiday season. This work is a direct consequence of the Selby rail disaster, which highlighted the need to strengthen barriers separating rail and road traffic. It has been discovered that, after 153 years, one of Telford's iron beams is not quite as strong as it should be. However, that is more of a tribute to Telford and the quality of workmanship in the Victorian era rather than

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn falch o hynny. Mae pawb yn derbyn bod yr A55 yn ffordd unigryw bron am ei bod yn dibynnu ar lif traffig yn y gwyliau, sy'n fwy yn ystod Gorffennaf ac Awst nag ar unrhyw adeg arall o'r flwyddyn. Er mwyn sicrhau na fyddai gwaith ar yr A55 yn rhwystro traffig yn y gwyliau, rhannwyd y gwaith fel ei fod yn digwydd cyn ac ar ôl tymor y gwyliau. Mae'r gwaith hwn yn ganlyniad uniongyrchol i'r trychineb rheilffordd yn Selby, a dynnodd sylw at yr angen i atgyfnerthu rhwystrau rhwng traffig rheilffyrdd a thraffig ffyrdd. Darganfuwyd nad yw un o drawstiau haearn Telford, ar ôl 153 o flynyddoedd, mor gryf ag y dylai fod. Fodd bynnag, mae hynny'n fwy o deyrnged i Telford ac i ansawdd gwaith

a criticism. The safety of all barriers separating road traffic and overhead rail bridges will be examined following the Selby incident.

Brynle Williams: I am pleased to hear your reply. However, is it not time that we considered reinforcing the rail link in order to send traffic from ferries direct to mainland Europe? The amount of traffic using the A55 means that a third lane will soon be needed. I believe that about 90 per cent of traffic travelling to mainland Europe comes from ferries, which is equivalent to 6,000 tonnes per ferry. Would it not be better for this traffic to use rail links and travel through the channel tunnel rather than use roads, which leaves people in north Wales with bills for road repairs and reinforcement?

The First Minister: That is an interesting point. We expect an increase in freight traffic in Holyhead when the two-level loading ramp, funded by Objective 1, is completed. When that happens, Holyhead will be able to compete on an equal basis with the Pembroke to Rosslare ferry, which already has a two-level loading ramp. If the Irish economy and its exports continue to grow, there will be more traffic on the roads. At what point it becomes a congestion factor on the A55 is a matter upon which highway engineers will need to advise. When we receive advice from the chief highway engineer, I will write to you.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae cost y gwaith presennol yn £4 miliwn. A yw'r Llywodraeth wedi ystyried creu twnnel newydd cyfochrog â'r twnnel presennol, fel y mae busnesau yng Nghonwy a gogledd-orllewin Cymru wedi gofyn amdano lawer gwaith? Cynigiwyd hynny gan y contractiwr gwreiddiol pan adeiladwyd y twnnel presennol, gan fod traffic yn teithio i'r dwyrain yn gorfod symud yn araf o gwmpas Penmaenbach.

Y Prif Weinidog: Derbyniaf nad yw traffig yn gallu teithio 70 mya ar hyd y ffordd am tua dwy filltir o amgylch Penmaenbach a bod y ffordd yn peri problem. Serch hynny, nid wyf wedi gweld costau adeiladu twnnel a fyddai'n sicrhau llif di-dor ar hyd yr A55 yn

crefftwy'r oes Fictoria nag ydyw o feirniadaeth. Ymchwilir i ddiogelwch yr holl rwystrau sy'n gwahanu traffig ffyrdd a phontydd rheilffyrdd uwchben ar ôl y digwyddiad yn Selby.

Brynle Williams: Yr wyf yn falch o glywed eich ateb. Fodd bynnag, onid yw'n bryd inni ystyried atgyfnerthu'r cyswllt rheilffordd er mwyn anfon traffig o longau fferi yn uniongyrchol i dir mawr Ewrop? Mae maint y traffig sy'n defnyddio'r A55 yn golygu y bydd angen trydedd lôn cyn hir. Credaf fod tua 90 y cant o'r traffig sy'n teithio i dir mawr Ewrop yn dod o longau fferi, sy'n cyfateb i 6,000 tunnell fetrig y llong. Oni fyddai'n well i'r traffig hwn ddefnyddio rheilffyrdd a theithio drwy dwunnel y sianel yn hytrach na defnyddio ffyrdd, sy'n gadael biliau i'w talu gan bobl yn y Gogledd am atgyweirio ac atgyfnerthu ffyrdd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hwnnw'n bwynt diddorol. Disgwyliwn y bydd cynnydd mewn traffig cludiant yng Nghaergybi pan gwblheir y ramp llwytho dwy lefel, a gyllidir drwy Amcan 1. Pan ddigwydd hynny, bydd Caergybi'n gallu cystadlu'n deg â'r llong fferi o Benfro i Rosslare, sydd â ramp llwytho dwy lefel eisoes. Os yw economi Iwerddon a'i hallforion yn parhau i gynyddu, bydd mwy o draffig ar y ffyrdd. Mae'r adeg y daw hynny'n ffactor sy'n achosi tagfeydd ar yr A55 yn fater y bydd yn rhaid i beirianwyr priffyrdd gynghori arno. Pan gawn gyngor gan y prif beiriannydd priffyrdd, ysgrifennaf atoch.

Alun Ffred Jones: The cost of the work being undertaken is £4 million. Has the Government considered building a new tunnel parallel with the existing one? Businesses in Conwy and north-west Wales have asked repeatedly for this. This was proposed by the original contractors when the existing tunnel was built due to the fact that eastbound traffic moves slowly around Penmaenbach.

The First Minister: I accept that traffic cannot travel at 70 mph along the two-mile stretch at Penmaenbach and that the road causes some difficulty. However, I have not seen any cost proposals for a new tunnel that would allow the free flow of traffic along the

ardal Penmaenbach. Os oes gennych amcangyfrif oddi wrth y cyngor sir, neu unrhyw un arall, byddai diddordeb gennyf glywed am hynny, ynghyd â chynnig y contractiwr gwreiddiol i adeiladu twnnel ychwanegol.

A55 in the Penmaenbach area. If you have any estimates from the county council, or anyone else, I would be interested to hear about them, along with the original contractor's proposal to build a second tunnel.

Darpariaeth Cyfrwng Cymraeg ym Maes Addysg Uwch Welsh-medium Provision in Higher Education

C6 Eleanor Burnham: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar y ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg ym maes addysg uwch? (OAQ26329)

Q6 Eleanor Burnham: Will the First Minister make a statement on Welsh-medium provision in higher education? (OAQ26329)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae strategaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer y Gymraeg wedi ei nodi yn 'Iaith Pawb'. Yn ddiweddar, lluniodd Cyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru adroddiad ar y ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd ar gael, a'r galw amdani, yn y sector addysg uwch, ac yr ydym, ar y cyd â'r cyngor, yn asesu sut y gallwn gynyddu darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg gynaliadwy tymor hir.

The First Minister: The Welsh Assembly Government's strategy for the Welsh language is set out in 'Iaith Pawb'. The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales recently produced a report on the supply of, and demand for, Welsh-medium provision within the higher education sector and, together with the council, we are assessing how we can increase sustainable Welsh-medium provision in the long term.

2.30 p.m.

Eleanor Burnham: Yr wyf yn sicr eich bod yn ymwybodol o sefyllfa Adran y Gymraeg Prifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth, lle na fydd y Brifysgol yn penodi olynnydd ar gyfer athro sy'n ymdeol. A gytunwch nad yw hynny'n argoeli'n dda ar gyfer dyfodol dysgu pynciau eraill drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, a bod angen i'ch Llywodraeth weithredu'n bendant gan fod y galw am addysg Gymraeg yn parhau i gynyddu o ysgol feithrin hyd at brifysgol?

Eleanor Burnham: I am sure that you are aware of the situation in the Department of Welsh of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, where the University has decided not to appoint a successor to a retiring professor. Do you agree that that does not bode well for the future of teaching other subjects through the medium of Welsh and that your Government needs to act decisively given that demand for Welsh-medium education continues to increase from nursery provision to university?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o lwyddiant mawr Adran y Gymraeg, Prifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth. Derbyniodd asesiad 5* yn ystod yr asesiad ymchwil diwethaf. Mae'n bosibl astudio hyd at 20 o bynciau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg at lefel anrhydedd, gan gynnwys mathemateg, gwleidyddiaeth, daearyddiaeth, celfyddyd ac addysg. Yn ogystal, mae neuadd breswyl ar gyfer myfyrwyr sy'n awyddus i fyw mewn awyrgylch Gymraeg a Chymreig.

The First Minister: I am aware of the great success of the Department of Welsh of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. It received a 5* rating in the last research assessment exercise. It is possible to study up to 20 subjects through the medium of Welsh to degree level, including mathematics, politics, geography, art and education. There is also a hall of residence for students who wish to live in a Welsh-language environment.

Mae Aberystwyth wedi cymryd nifer o

Aberystwyth has taken many steps to provide

gamau er mwyn darparu gwasanaeth addysg uwch drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Hoffwn glywed am unrhyw gwynion ynghylch penodiad arbennig, ac yr wyf yn sicr y byddai Jane Davidson yn dweud yr un peth.

Helen Mary Jones: Dywedasoeh eich bod yn cynnal trafodaethau ynghylch sut i hybu addysg Gymraeg yn y sector addysg uwch. A ydych yn ymwybodol bod eich Gweinidog Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes wedi gweld tri chynllun manwl ynghylch coleg ffederal, gan gynnwys defnyddio'r we a ffurf fodern o hybu dysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg? Hyd yn hyn nid yw wedi ymateb yn ffurfiol, ac y mae rhai'n dweud bod ei hymateb anffurfiol yn negyddol. A ydych yn barod i ailystyried y cynlluniau ar gyfer coleg ffederal ac, os nad ydych, ble fyddwch yn dod o hyd i'r athrawon a fydd yn angenrheidiol i weithredu'r cynlluniau a nodir yn 'Iaith Pawb'?

Y Prif Weinidog: Y cwestiwn pwysig yw a oes rhwystrau i ddod o hyd i ddigon o bobl sy'n arbenigo mewn pwnc penodol ac sydd yn meistrolï'r Gymraeg. Mae'n rhaid eich bod yn gallu meistrolï'r pwnc yn ogystal â gallu ei ddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae'n syndod faint o bynciau sydd ar gael drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn y sector addysg uwch. Mae 20 o bynciau ar gael yn Aberystwyth a mwy ym Mangor, ond nid oes cynifer yn Abertawe na Chaerdydd. Fodd bynnag, mae hynny'n gryn dipyn o'i gymharu â'r sefyllfa chwarter canrif yn ôl. Nid wyf yn siŵr am gynlluniau ar gyfer coleg ffederal, ond mae'n bwysig ei fod yn gallu cyflenwi'r galw am fwy o athrawon i ddysgu Cymraeg yn ein hysgolion gan fod prinder ohonynt.

David Davies: A gytunwch mai'r rheswm y mae mor anodd i ddod o hyd i ddigon o athrawon Cymraeg yw bod y rhan fwyaf yn gwastraffu eu hamser yn dysgu plant yn sir Fynwy sydd â dim diddordeb mewn dysgu'r Gymraeg?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni allaf siarad am yr amgylchiadau a arweiniodd at eich ailethol yn Aelod y Cynulliad dros Fynwy. Yr wyf yn sicr bod gan bobl yr hawl i gymryd rhan mewn democratiaeth lle bynnag y maent yn dewis gwneud hynny. Mae honno'n

higher education through the medium of Welsh. I would like to hear of any complaints about a particular appointment, and I am sure that Jane Davidson would say the same.

Helen Mary Jones: You said that you are in discussions on how to promote Welsh education in the higher education sector. Are you aware that your Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning has had sight of three detailed plans on a federal college, including the use of the web and modern ways of promoting Welsh-medium teaching? She has not yet responded formally and some say that her informal response is negative. Are you prepared to reconsider proposals for a federal college and, if not, where will you find the teachers that will be necessary to implement the schemes outlined in 'Iaith Pawb'?

The First Minister: The important question is whether there are barriers to getting enough people who specialise in a specific subject and have also mastered the Welsh language. You must be able to master the subject as well as being able to teach it through the medium of Welsh. It is surprising how many subjects are taught through the medium of Welsh in higher education. There are 20 subjects in Aberystwyth and more in Bangor, but there are fewer in Swansea and Cardiff. However, that is quite a lot given the situation a quarter of a century ago. I am not sure about the proposals for a federal college, but it is important that it can supply the demand for more Welsh teachers in our schools, given that there is a shortage of them.

David Davies: Do you agree that the reason for the difficulty in finding enough Welsh teachers is that most of them are wasting their time teaching children in Monmouthshire who are not interested in learning Welsh?

The First Minister: I cannot talk about the circumstances that led to your re-election as Assembly Member for Monmouth. I am sure that people have the right to take part in democracy wherever they choose to do so. That is an important principle.

egwyddor bwysig.

Y System Etholiadol ar gyfer Etholiadau Lleol The Electoral System for Local Elections

Q7 Michael German: Will the First Minister make a statement on the electoral system for local elections in Wales? (OAQ26332)

The First Minister: Local elections will be held across Wales next year and will use the same electoral system as previously: candidates receiving the highest number of votes will get elected in single or multi-member divisions. I am not aware of any plans by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to consider alternative electoral methods for local government in Wales.

Michael German: I am sure that some members of your party are anxious to hear the result of the discussion that was held in this Assembly on the Sunderland commission's recommendations and whether they were due for further discussion during this session. What plans do you have to bring these matters before a Committee or Plenary?

The First Minister: None.

Glyn Davies: Given the clarity of your answer, on which I congratulate you, can you assure us that you will not contemplate introducing changes to the first-past-the-post system now or in the future?

The First Minister: It is not advisable to rule things out completely, and it is unwise for politicians to use the word 'never'. However, we must recognise that responsibility for local government elections is not devolved to this Assembly—it is the responsibility of the office of the Deputy Prime Minister. A Bill will be introduced in the Scottish Parliament to introduce local elections through the single transferable vote, but others will be able to educate me further on that. We will watch that experiment with interest, but there is no proposal at present to take the Sunderland commission's recommendations any further by way of this Assembly, nor, as far as I am aware, in Westminster, via the offices of John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

C7 Michael German: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar y system etholiadol ar gyfer etholiadau lleol yng Nghymru? (OAQ26332)

Y Prif Weinidog: Cynhelir etholiadau lleol ledled Cymru y flwyddyn nesaf a defnyddiwn yr un system etholiadol ag o'r blaen: bydd ymgeiswyr sy'n cael y nifer fwyaf o bleidleisiau yn cael eu hethol mewn adrannau a chanddynt un aelod neu ragor. Ni wn am unrhyw gynlluniau sydd Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog i ystyried dulliau etholiadol eraill ar gyfer llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru.

Michael German: Yr wyf yn siŵr bod rhai aelodau o'ch plaid yn awyddus i glywed canlyniad y drafodaeth a gynhaliwyd yn y Cynulliad hwn ar argymhellion comisiwn Sunderland ac a ydynt i'w trafod ymhellach yn ystod y sesiwn hwn. Pa gynlluniau sydd gennych i ddwyn y materion hyn gerbron Pwyllgor neu Gyfarfod Llawn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Dim.

Glyn Davies: Yng ngolwg eglurder eich ateb, y'ch llongyfarchaf arno, a allwch ein sicrhau na wnewch ystyried cyflwyno newidiadau i system y cyntaf i'r felin yn awr neu yn y dyfodol?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid peth call yw diystyru pethau'n gyfan gwbl, ac mae'n annoeth i wleidyddion ddefnyddio'r gair 'byth'. Er hynny, rhaid inni gydnabod na ddatganolwyd cyfrifoldeb dros etholiadau llywodraeth leol i'r Cynulliad hwn—cyfrifoldeb swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yw hynny. Cyflwynir Mesur yn Senedd yr Alban i gyflwyno etholiadau lleol drwy'r bleidlais sengl drosglwyddadwy, ond bydd eraill yn gallu fy addysgu ymhellach ar hynny. Gwylw'n yr arbrawf hwnnw gyda diddordeb, ond nid oes bwriad ar hyn o bryd i fynd ag argymhellion comisiwn Sunderland ymhellach drwy'r Cynulliad hwn, nac ychwaith, hyd y gwn i, yn San Steffan, drwy waith John Prescott, y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog.

Janet Ryder: Whatever mechanisms are used to elect councillors, they need to know the date of their election. We should be less than 11 months away from their next election, but you have failed to confirm a date. It has been strongly rumoured that you are considering postponing the local elections for yet another year. Will you guarantee today that the elections for local government will happen in May next year, as was originally planned?

The First Minister: Changing the election date to coincide with the European election date is being considered. When we have reached a decision on that, we will inform the Assembly. However, I would not believe any rumour mill, somewhere in Wales, that believes that we are proposing to delay elections for another year.

Janet Ryder: Pa bynnag ddulliau a ddefnyddir i ethol cynghorwyr, rhaid iddynt gael gwybod dyddiad eu hetholiad. Mae'r etholiad nesaf i fod i'w gynnal ymhen llai na 11 mis, ond yr ydych wedi methu â chadarnhau dyddiad. Mae si ar led eich bod yn ystyried gohirio'r etholiadau lleol am flwyddyn arall eto. A wnewch warantu heddiw y bydd yr etholiadau ar gyfer llywodraeth leol yn digwydd ym Mai y flwyddyn nesaf, fel y bwriadwyd yn wreiddiol?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ystyrir newid dyddiad yr etholiad fel ei fod ar yr un diwrnod â'r etholiad Ewropeaidd. Pan fyddwn wedi penderfynu ar hynny, rhown wybod i'r Cynulliad. Er hynny, ni chredwn unrhyw si a greir, yn unman yng Nghymru, i'r perwyl ein bod yn bwriadu gohirio etholiadau am flwyddyn arall.

Pwyllgor Paratoi Cymru ar gyfer yr Ewro The Wales Euro Preparation Committee

Q8 Gwenda Thomas: What discussions has the First Minister had with the Secretary of State for Wales concerning the Wales euro preparation committee? (OAQ26337)

The First Minister: I have had preliminary discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales concerning the role and membership of the committee, which he will chair. We are looking to finalise the arrangements as soon as possible, and I hope to make announcements soon.

Gwenda Thomas: Are you able to begin outlining the timetable for the preparation committee's work?

The First Minister: Yes. I understand from the Secretary of State for Wales that it is essential that the body completes its work by 1 October. We must assemble the membership and agree with the stakeholders' proposed nominees quickly, in time for a scoping meeting in July. There will possibly be a meeting in August, but certainly in September, to determine a set of recommendations for Wales, so that the material can be sent to the Chancellor, who

C8 Gwenda Thomas: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ynghylch pwyllgor paratoi Cymru ar gyfer yr ewro? (OAQ26337)

Y Prif Weinidog: Cefais drafodaethau rhagarweiniol ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ynghylch rôl ac aelodaeth y pwyllgor, y bydd ef yn ei gadeirio. Bwriadwn gwblhau'r trefniadau cyn gynted ag y bo modd, a gobeithiaf wneud cyhoeddiadau cyn hir.

Gwenda Thomas: A allwch ddechrau amlinellu'r amserlen ar gyfer gwaith y pwyllgor paratoi?

Y Prif Weinidog: Gallaf. Cefais wybod gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ei bod yn hollbwysig i'r corff gwblhau ei waith erbyn 1 Hydref. Rhaid inni gynnwyl yr aelodau a chytuno'n fuan ar yr enwebeion a gynigir gan y rhanddeiliaid, mewn pryd ar gyfer cyfarfod cwmpasu yng Ngorffennaf. Mae'n bosibl y bydd cyfarfod yn Awst, ond bydd un yn sicr o fod ym Medi, i bennu set o argymhellion ar gyfer Cymru, fel y gellir anfon y deunydd at y Canghellor, sydd â chyfrifoldeb yn y DU

has UK responsibility for this matter. The work must be completed quickly over the next three months.

Elin Jones: Yr ydych chi, a Peter Hain, fel Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, wedi gwneud ymrwymiad cyhoeddus i deithio'r wlad i drafod a hyrwyddo'r ewro. A ydych yn cadw at yr ymrwymiad hwnnw, yn dilyn penodiad Peter Hain yn Arweinydd Tŷ'r Cyffredin?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni allaf siarad ar ran Peter Hain, ond ailadroddaf yr hyn a ddywedais yr wythnos diwethaf: pan genir y gloch, byddaf yn ymgyrchu ar draws Cymru.

William Graham: With regard to the European Parliament elections next year, has the Secretary of State for Wales confirmed the Chancellor's proposal to announce a referendum bill this autumn? Do you also believe that council elections should be on the same day as the European elections?

The First Minister: I will answer those two questions separately. On the referendum, it is clear from the speed with which the Chancellor wants the Wales euro preparation committee and the committees for England, Scotland and then the UK as a whole, to be drawn together after finalising their recommendations on 30 September, that he wants to maintain the possibility of a referendum within the remainder of this Westminster Parliament. I do not know the date, and it may not have been decided upon in the highest councils of the UK Government. That does not have a bearing on the date of the European elections next year. The issue for us is the burden on the returning officers of local government elections, community council elections and European elections being held on the same day. On the other hand, if they are not held on the same day, what will the turnout be in elections that do not coincide with the bulk of the elections throughout England and Scotland?

2.40 p.m.

Jenny Randerson: In the light of that answer, do you agree that the momentum

dros y mater hwn. Rhaid cwblhau'r gwaith yn gyflym dros y tri mis nesaf.

Elin Jones: You, and the Secretary of State for Wales, Peter Hain, have made a public commitment to travel the country discussing and promoting the euro. Will you keep to that commitment, following the appointment of Peter Hain as Leader of the House of Commons?

The First Minister: I cannot speak on behalf of Peter Hain, but I reiterate what I said last week: when the bell is rung, I will campaign across Wales.

William Graham: Mewn cysylltiad â'r etholiadau i Senedd Ewrop y flwyddyn nesaf, a yw Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru wedi cadarnhau bwriad y Canghellor i gyhoeddi mesur refferendwm yr hydref hwn? A ydych hefyd yn credu y dylai'r etholiadau i gynghorau fod ar yr un diwrnod â'r etholiadau Ewropeaidd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Atebaf y ddau gwestiwn hynny ar wahân. Ynghylch y refferendwm, mae'n amlwg yn ôl awydd y Canghellor i gynnull pwyllgor paratoi Cymru ar gyfer yr ewro a'r pwyllgorau ar gyfer Lloegr, yr Alban ac wedyn y DU gyfan yn fuan ar ôl iddynt gwblhau eu hargymhellion ar 30 Medi, ei fod yn dymuno cadw'r posibilrwydd o gynnal refferendwm cyn diwedd y Senedd hon yn San Steffan. Ni wn y dyddiad, ac efallai na phenderfynwyd arno yng nghynghorau uchaf Llywodraeth y DU. Nid yw hynny'n berthnasol i ddyddiad yr etholiadau Ewropeaidd y flwyddyn nesaf. Yr hyn sy'n bwysig i ni yw'r baich ar swyddogion canlyniadau o gynnal etholiadau llywodraeth leol, etholiadau i gynghorau cymuned ac etholiadau Ewropeaidd ar yr un diwrnod. Ar y llaw arall, os na chynhelir hwy ar yr un diwrnod, pa nifer a bleidleisia mewn etholiadau nad ydynt yn digwydd yr un pryd â'r rhan helaethaf o'r etholiadau ledled Lloegr a'r Alban?

Jenny Randerson: Yng ngolwg yr ateb hwnnw, a ydych yn cytuno bod rhaid cynnal

established by the preparation committee must be maintained to ensure that we work with large and small businesses in Wales, involving them in preparations for the euro in a thorough and ongoing way, up until the referendum?

The First Minister: This is not a commitment to an early referendum. I am not slamming the door on the possibility of a referendum during the remaining years of the Westminster Parliament, which could mean that it happens before the end of 2005. This does not mean there will be a referendum at that time, but at least we will be ready if there is. I agree that we must continue to make an effort to engage with the stakeholders.

y momentwm a greir gan y pwyllgor paratoi er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn gweithio gyda busnesau mawr a mân yng Nghymru, gan eu cynnwys yn y paratoadau ar gyfer yr ewro mewn modd trwyadl a pharhaol, hyd at y refferendwm?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid ymrwymiad i gynnal refferendwm yn fuan yw hwn. Nid wyf yn cau'r drws ar y posibilrwydd o gael refferendwm yn ystod y blynyddoedd sy'n weddill o Senedd San Steffan, a allai olygu ei bod yn digwydd cyn diwedd 2005. Nid yw hynny'n golygu y bydd refferendwm bryd hynny, ond o leiaf y byddwn yn barod os ceir un. Cytunaf fod rhaid inni ddal i ymdrechu i gysylltu â'r rhanddeiliaid.

Lleihau Biwrocratiaeth Reducing Bureaucracy

C9 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar y camau y bydd ei Lywodraeth yn eu cymryd i leihau biwrocratiaeth wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru? (OAQ26340)

Q9 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the First Minister make a statement on the measures that his Government will introduce to reduce bureaucracy in the delivery of public services in Wales? (OAQ26340)

Y Prif Weinidog: Bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn pennu blaenoriaethau strategol, clir, er mwyn cynnig gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru sydd o ansawdd uchel, sy'n ymateb i anghenion lleol, ac sy'n atebol yn gyhoeddus. Byddwn yn gweithio gyda'n partneriaid yn y sector cyhoeddus i sicrhau bod y gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn canolbwyntio ar ganlyniadau yn hytrach na'r prosesau a ddefnyddir.

The First Minister: The Welsh Assembly Government will set clear strategic priorities to offer high-quality public services in Wales that are responsive to local need and are publicly accountable. We will work with our public-sector partners to ensure that public services focus on outcomes and not on the processes used.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Cymeraf y bu ad-drefnu'r gwasanaeth iechyd yn enghraifft o'r strategaeth glir hon, lle y crëwyd biwrocratiaeth ddiangen sy'n cyflawni dim ond sy'n costio £18 miliwn—ffigur sy'n codi o ddydd i ddydd. A ydych yn derbyn ichi greu micro-fiwrocratiaeth, sy'n golygu bod pobl yn rhoi ticiau mewn blychau yn lle darparu'r gwasanaethau sy'n angenrheidiol i bobl Cymru?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I take it that restructuring the health service was an example of this clear strategy, where unnecessary bureaucracy that achieves nothing was created at a cost of £18 million—a figure that increases daily. Do you accept that you have created a micro-bureaucracy, which means that people tick boxes instead of providing the necessary services to the people of Wales?

Y Prif Weinidog: Byddwn yn derbyn unrhyw beth ond y disgrifiad hwnnw, nad wyf yn ei adnabod o gwbl. Drwy greu rhwydwaith o atebolrwydd lleol a chlymu gwasanaethau cymdeithasol gyda'r gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol, yr ydym yn

The First Minister: I would accept anything other than that description, which I do not recognise at all. By creating a network of local accountability and linking social services with the national health service, we are trying to provide a service that works for

ceisio cael gwasanaeth sy'n gweithio ar gyfer cleifion a phobl anghenus, sy'n atebol ac sy'n gweithio'n dda gyda llywodraeth leol, ac sy'n gallu dewis ei flaenoriaethau yn lleol yn y 22 ardal wahanol ledled Cymru.

Jonathan Morgan: Returning to the question that Rhodri Glyn Thomas asked, your Government gave a commitment that restructuring the NHS would be cost-neutral. We then learnt that the restructuring will cost about £16 million, although Rhodri Glyn just referred to £18 million. Can you assure us that the costs will not exceed the figures that were mentioned today?

The First Minister: I am not familiar with costings of £16 million or £18 million. We did not say that the restructuring would cost nothing, we said that the running costs would not exceed the costs of the previous system. As far as I am aware, the position remains the same.

Kirsty Williams: Do you agree with the comments made by Dr Ian Bogle, the retiring chair of the British Medical Association, that the Government's obsession with waiting list targets is strangling the health service, distorting clinical priorities and—potentially—harming patients? Do you agree that it is time to move to a more holistic way of measuring the NHS's performance?

The First Minister: I heard the interview that he gave on the *Today* programme this morning. It was the sort of interview that you would expect from a retiring, but distinguished, chair of the BMA. I do not disagree with what he said, but public pressure on politicians, pressure from politicians on hospital managers and pressure from hospital managers on doctors is always there; you cannot escape from that. I agree that if we lived in an era when performance could be considered holistically, everyone would be happy. Doctors and other health professionals resent managers ringing up to say 'We will miss our waiting list target if you do not do this and this', but when the doctor replies, 'Yes, but my clinical priorities are that and that,' there is a difficult clash. I believe that the BMA has the right and,

patients and the disadvantaged, that is accountable and works well with local government, which chooses its priorities locally in the 22 different areas across Wales.

Jonathan Morgan: Gan fynd yn ôl at y cwestiwn a ofynnodd Rhodri Glyn Thomas, rhoddodd eich Llywodraeth ymrwymiad y byddai'r ad-drefnu ar y GIG yn niwtral o ran costau. Cawsom wybod wedyn y bydd yr ad-drefnu'n costio tua £16 miliwn, er bod Rhodri Glyn newydd gyfeirio at swm o £18 miliwn. A allwch ein sicrhau na fydd y costau'n fwy na'r ffigurau a grybwyllwyd heddiw?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn gyfarwydd â phrasiadau o £16 filiwn neu £18 miliwn. Ni ddywedasom y byddai'r ad-drefnu'n costio dim, dywedasom na fyddai'r costau rhedeg yn fwy na rhai'r system flaenorol. Hyd y gwn i, nid yw'r sefyllfa wedi newid.

Kirsty Williams: A ydych yn cytuno â'r sylwadau a wnaeth Dr Ian Bogle, sy'n ymddeol fel cadeirydd Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain, fod obsesiwn y Llywodraeth â thargedau rhestrau aros yn tagu'r gwasanaeth iechyd ac yn gwyrddroi blaenoriaethau clinigol, ac y gallai fod yn niweidiol i gleifion? A ydych yn cytuno ei bod yn bryd symud tuag at ddull mwy cyfannol o fesur perfformiad y GIG?

Y Prif Weinidog: Clywais y cyfweliad a roddodd ar raglen *Today* y bore yma. Y math o gyfweliad ydoedd a ddisgwyliech gan gadeirydd nodedig ar Gymdeithas Feddygol Prydain wrth ymddeol. Nid anghytunaf â'r hyn a ddywedodd, ond mae pwysau bob amser gan y cyhoedd ar wleidyddion, gan wleidyddion ar reolwyr ysbytai a chan reolwyr ysbytai ar feddygon; ni ellir osgoi hynny. Cytunaf y byddai pawb yn fodlon pe byddem yn byw mewn oes pan ellid ystyried perfformiad yn gyfannol. Mae meddygon a gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol eraill yn cael eu digio gan reolwyr sy'n ffonio i ddweud 'Byddwn yn methu ein targed ar gyfer rhestrau aros os na wnewch hyn a'r llall', ond pan etyb y meddyg gan ddweud, 'Ie, ond fy mlaenoriaethau clinigol yw hyn a'r llall,' ceir gwrthdaro sy'n anodd ei ddatrys. Credaf fod

because you cannot stop him, the retiring chair certainly has the right, to say exactly what they think about their experiences of a target-driven health service. Kirsty, you would probably agree that his remarks were mostly directed at problems that he had seen in England rather than in Wales.

hawl gan Gymdeithas Feddygol Prydain a chan y cadeirydd sy'n ymddeol, yn sicr, am na ellir ei rwystro, i ddweud yn union beth y maent yn ei feddwl am eu profiadau o wasanaeth iechyd sy'n cael ei yrru gan dargedau. Kirsty, mae'n debyg y cytunech fod ei sylwadau wedi'u cyfeirio'n bennaf at broblemau a welodd yn Lloegr yn hytrach na Chymru.

Cysylltiadau gyda Llywodraeth San Steffan Links with the Westminster Government

C10 Owen John Thomas: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi'u cael â Phrif Weinidog y DU ynghylch y cysylltiadau rhwng y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a Llywodraeth San Steffan yn y dyfodol? (OAQ26336)

Q10 Owen John Thomas: What discussions has the First Minister had with the UK Prime Minister concerning future links between the National Assembly and the Westminster Government? (OAQ26336)

Y Prif Weinidog: Er nad oes unrhyw drafodaethau penodol wedi'u cynnal ynghylch y berthynas rhwng y Cynulliad a Llywodraeth San Steffan, gallai unrhyw drafodaethau ar bolisiau penodol effeithio'n anuniongyrchol ar ddatblygiad y berthynas.

The First Minister: While there have been no specific discussions on the relationship between the Assembly and the Westminster Government, any discussion on specific policies may have an indirect impact on the development of that relationship.

Owen John Thomas: A private Member's Bill on household recycling is currently at committee stage in Westminster. However, it is an England-only Bill. Does that not highlight the fact that it is high time that the National Assembly had legislative powers to make its own decisions?

Owen John Thomas: Mae Mesur Aelod preifat ar ailgylchu domestig gerbron y pwyllgor perthnasol yn San Steffan ar hyn o bryd. Fodd bynnag, Mesur i Loegr yn unig ydyw. Onid yw hynny'n amlygu'r ffaith ei bod yn hen bryd i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol gael pwerau deddfwriaethol i wneud ei benderfyniadau ei hun?

The First Minister: It is an unusual Bill because, although it is a private Member's Bill, it was adopted by the Government. Elliot Morely is now the Minister of State at the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs instead of Michael Meacher. While Michael Meacher may have been in touch with us before leaving office, Elliot Morely did so and we have until a week Friday to respond. However, the unusual circumstances of the Government's adopting a private Member's Bill does not demonstrate a breakdown in relations in the Westminster political process.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n Fesur anarferol oherwydd, er mai Mesur Aelod preifat ydyw, fe'i mabwysiadwyd gan y Llywodraeth. Elliot Morely yw'r Gweinidog Gwladol yn Adran yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig yn awr yn lle Michael Meacher. Er ei bod yn bosibl bod Michael Meacher wedi cysylltu â ni cyn iddo adael ei swydd, gwnaeth Elliot Morely hynny ac mae gennym tan wythnos i ddydd Gwener i ymateb. Er hynny, nid yw'r amgylchiadau anarferol o fabwysiadu Mesur Aelod preifat gan y Llywodraeth yn arwydd o fethiant yn y cysylltiadau â'r broses wleidyddol yn San Steffan.

Peter Black: Is it not regrettable that the Richard commission report is delayed because of the change in the role of the

Peter Black: Onid yw'n anffodus bod adroddiad comisiwn Richard wedi'i ohirio oherwydd y newid yn rôl Ysgrifennydd

Secretary of State for Wales? Once that commission reports, will it not be important that its recommendations are expedited and implemented quickly so that we can secure a more equitable balance in our relations with the UK Government in terms of the allocation of powers?

The First Minister: I hoped that I had made it clear last week that the changes announced in the Prime Minister's recent reshuffle caused no delay to the Richard commission. In other words, there will be a delay—not for the reason you gave, but because of the volume of work in writing up the evidence taken. I do not think that the delay will be long or that it will affect the report's overall conclusions.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): When you meet Tony Blair, will you discuss your support for the part-time Secretary of State for Wales's stand on tax and spend? In 1998, you said on the BBC's *On the Record* that the ability to sting the upper-middle classes and the wealthy without them realising that they have been stung was the Holy Grail for Labour. Also, have you had an opportunity to discuss with the Prime Minister the three opposition leaders' request—the four opposition leaders—that the Secretary of State for Wales come before Plenary to explain the new settlement? There is confusion about which powers remain with Peter Hain and which particular powers the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs has. Lord Falconer seems to have ultimate responsibility in relation to the Richard commission proposals. It would be useful to us if we had the opportunity to discuss those points with him in Plenary.

The First Minister: I will pass that request on, but I am not aware of a formal request. You may have sent one, but I am not aware of such a request. I will, however, relay your oral request to see whether that is possible. The diligence of your research is fascinating in recalling my interview on *On the Record*. I remember it well; I was sat on a wall in the middle of Ely, in my constituency. My point was in praise of Gordon Brown's redistribution policies, which were working

Gwladol Cymru? Wedi i'r comisiwn hwnnw roi ei adroddiad, oni fydd yn bwysig hwyluso ei argymhellion a'u rhoi ar waith yn gyflym fel y gallwn sicrhau mwy o degwch yn ein cysylltiadau â Llywodraeth y DU o ran dyrannu pwerau?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr oeddwn wedi gobeithio fy mod wedi rhoi ar ddeall yr wythnos diwethaf nad oedd y newidiadau a gyhoeddwyd yn yr ad-drefnu diweddar gan y Prif Weinidog wedi peri oedi i gomisiwn Richard. Mewn geiriau eraill, bydd oedi—nid am y rheswm a roesoch chi, ond oherwydd maint y gwaith o gofnodi'r dystiolaeth a dderbyniwyd. Ni chredaf y bydd oedi hir nac y bydd hynny'n effeithio ar gasgliadau cyffredinol yr adroddiad.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Pan gyfarfyddwch â Tony Blair, a wnewch drafod eich cefnogaeth i safiad yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru rhan amser ar drethu a gwario? Yn 1998, dywedasoch ar *On the Record* ar y BBC mai'r gallu i gosbi'r dosbarthiadau canol uwch a'r cyfoethogion heb iddynt sylweddoli hynny oedd nod Llafur. Hefyd a gawsoch gyfle i drafod gyda'r Prif Weinidog y cais gan dri arweinydd y gwrthbleidiau—pedwar arweinydd y gwrthbleidiau—am i Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ddod gerbron y Cyfarfod Llawn i egluro'r ardrefniant newydd? Mae dryswch o hyd ynghylch pa bwerau sydd gan Peter Hain a pha bwerau penodol sydd gan yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Faterion Cyfansoddiadol. Ymddengys mai'r Arglwydd Falconer sy'n gyfrifol yn y pen draw mewn cysylltiad â chynigion comisiwn Richard. Byddai'n fuddiol inni gael gyfle i drafod y pwyntiau hynny gydag ef yn y Cyfarfod Llawn.

Y Prif Weinidog: Trosglwyddaf y cais hwnnw, ond ni wn am unrhyw gais ffurfiol. Efallai eich bod chi wedi anfon un, ond ni wn i am gais o'r fath. Serch hynny, trosglwyddaf eich cais llafar i weld a yw hynny'n bosibl. Mae'ch sêl wrth ymchwilio o ran dwyn i gof fy nghyfweliad ar *On the Record* yn ddiddorol iawn. Fe'i cofiaf yn iawn; yr oeddwn yn eistedd ar ben wal yng nghanol Trelái, yn fy etholaeth. Yr odd y pwynt a wneuthum yn ganmoliaeth i bolisiau

extremely well and which continue to work well.

Nick Bourne: To return to the first point that you answered and my second point on Peter Hain coming here, I think that you were copied in in the correspondence that contained that request. It is important that he comes here to discuss the issues because, apparently, the budget for Wales will go to the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, who will then decide what part of the budget goes to the Wales Office, with the remainder coming to the Assembly. You may shake your head, First Minister, but that is why we need clarification, because there is doubt. Many issues that people would assume to be matters for the Wales Office—if it still exists within this new structure—are referred to his department and answered by his civil servants. We therefore need clarification and I repeat my request that the First Minister ensures that Peter Hain comes here to make a statement on which we can question him to settle these important issues.

The First Minister: You and Plaid Cymru are playing a dreary tennis match of trying to create doubts and then saying that we must try to solve them by having Peter Hain here. In fact, there is no doubt. It is a nonsense to say that Lord Falconer, as Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, will have a role in determining the Welsh block grant and that the Wales Office will receive its funding. That is a matter for Peter Hain, not Charlie Falconer. This misconception is due to a misunderstanding by the leader of the Plaid Cymru group in the House of Commons, as he had not looked at the provisions of the Ministerial Names Act 1979. Therefore there is no point saying ‘we are in doubt about this issue having read something in *The Western Mail* by Elfyn Llwyd MP, therefore we must have Peter Hain here’. Just ask a question. I settled your doubt by saying that there is no change and, therefore, there is no need. However, I will pass on your request when I receive it formally.

aiddosbarthu Gordon Brown, a oedd yn gweithio'n dda dros ben ac sy'n dal i weithio'n dda.

Nick Bourne: Gan fynd yn ôl at y pwynt cyntaf y gwnaethoch ei ateb a'r ail bwynt a wneuthum am Peter Hain yn dod yma, credaf fod copi wedi'i anfon atoch o'r ohebiaeth a oedd yn cynnwys y cais hwnnw. Mae'n bwysig ei fod yn dod yma i drafod y materion sy'n codi oherwydd, yn ôl pob golwg, bydd y gyllideb ar gyfer Cymru yn fater sy'n mynd i'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Faterion Cyfansoddiadol, a fydd wedyn yn penderfynu pa ran o'r gyllideb a aiff i Swyddfa Cymru, gyda'r gweddill yn dod i'r Cynulliad. Cewch ysgwyd eich pen, Brif Weinidog, ond dyna pam y mae arnom angen eglurhad, am fod amheuaeth. Mae llawer o faterion y byddai pobl yn cymryd eu bod yn faterion i Swyddfa Cymru—os yw'n dal i fod o fewn y drefn newydd hon—yn cael eu cyfeirio i'w adran ef ac yn cael eu hateb gan ei weision sifil ef. Gan hynny, mae arnom angen eglurhad ac ailadroddaf fy nghais am i'r Prif Weinidog sicrhau bod Peter Hain yn dod yma i wneud datganiad y gallwn ei holi amdano i ddod â'r materion pwysig hyn i ben.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydych chi a Phlaid Cymru yn chwarae gêm dennis ddiflas o geisio creu amheuon a dweud wedyn fod rhaid inni geisio ymdrin â hwy drwy gael Peter Hain yma. Mewn gwirionedd, nid oes unrhyw amheuaeth. Lol yw dweud y bydd rôl gan yr Arglwydd Falconer, fel yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Faterion Cyfansoddiadol, wrth benderfynu ar grant bloc Cymru ac y bydd Swyddfa Cymru yn derbyn ei chyllid. Mae hynny'n fater i Peter Hain, nid i Charlie Falconer. Mae'r camsyniad hwn yn ganlyniad i gamddealltwriaeth gan arweinydd grŵp Plaid Cymru yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin, gan nad oedd wedi edrych ar ddarpariaethau Deddf Enwau Gweinidogol 1979. Felly nid oes diben mewn dweud ‘mae gennym amheuon ynghylch y mater hwn ar ôl darllen rhywbeth yn *The Western Mail* gan Elfyn Llwyd AS, felly rhaid inni gael Peter Hain yma’. Gofynnwch gwestiwn. Atebais eich amheuon drwy ddweud nad oes newid ac, felly, nid oes angen hynny. Er hynny, trosglwyddaf eich cais wedi imi ei dderbyn yn ffurfiol.

2.50 p.m.

Nick Bourne: This is an important issue because—although the First Minister disagrees with this—it seems that there is doubt. It is clear that questions relating to the Richard commission and the future devolution of Wales are being referred to the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, rather than to the Secretary of State for Wales. If that is the case, there is doubt on this matter and it needs to be clarified. The First Minister said that he is able to clear up these doubts. Will he clear up the question of why such letters are being referred to the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs for response rather than to the Secretary of State of Wales? If he cannot answer that, Peter Hain must come to the Assembly to explain why it is happening.

Nick Bourne: Mae hyn yn fater pwysig oherwydd—er bod y Prif Weinidog yn anghydweld â hyn—ymddengys fod amheuaeth. Mae'n amlwg bod cwestiynau sy'n gysylltiedig â chomisiwn Richard a datganoli i Gymru yn y dyfodol yn cael eu cyfeirio at y Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Faterion Cyfansoddiadol, yn hytrach nag at Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru. Os felly y mae, mae amheuaeth ynghylch y mater hwn y mae'n rhaid ei egluro. Dywedodd y Prif Weinidog ei fod yn gallu ymdrin â'r amheuon hyn. A wnaiff egluro pam y mae llythrau o'r fath yn cael eu cyfeirio at yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Faterion Cyfansoddiadol i'w hateb yn hytrach nag at Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru? Os na all ateb hynny, rhaid i Peter Hain ddod i'r Cynulliad i egluro pam y mae hynny'n digwydd.

The First Minister: I understand that one clerk made one error on one occasion and that that has since been put right. It is as simple as that.

Y Prif Weinidog: Deallaf fod un clerwr wedi gwneud un camgymeriad ar un achlysur a bod hynny wedi'i gywiro bellach. Mae cyn symled â hynny.

Cwestiwn Brys Urgent Question

Colli Swyddi yn Hoya Lens UK Cyf Hoya Lens UK Ltd Job Losses

The Presiding Officer: Under Standing Order No. 6.31, I have accepted a question of urgent public importance to be answered by the Minister for Economic Development and Transport.

Y Llywydd: O dan reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.31, yr wyf wedi derbyn cwestiwn brys sy'n ymwneud â mater o bwys cyhoeddus i'w ateb gan y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth.

Janet Ryder: Will the Minister for Economic Development and Transport make a statement on the announcement that more than 200 jobs will be lost at Hoya Lens UK Ltd, a lens-making factory in Wrexham? (EAQ26927)

Janet Ryder: A wnaiff y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth ddatganiad ar y cyhoeddiad y bydd 200 o swyddi yn cael eu colli yn Hoya Lens UK Cyf yn Wrecsam? (EAQ26927)

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): I am deeply concerned by the announcement made by Hoya Lens UK Ltd yesterday that it is to shed 200 of the 450 jobs at its Wrexham plant. The announcement came as a complete shock to all concerned. I understand that local management did not take the decision and that it was irreversible.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Yr wyf yn bryderus iawn ynghylch y cyhoeddiad gan Hoya Lens UK Cyf ddoe y bydd yn cael gwared â 200 o'r 450 o swyddi yn ei waith yn Wrecsam. Yr oedd y cyhoeddiad yn gwbl annisgwyl i bawb. Deallaf nad y rheolwyr lleol a wnaeth y penderfyniad ac na ellid ei wrthdroi.

Hoya Lens UK Ltd's workforce has played a crucial role in delivering significant performance improvements at the plant and deserves recognition for that. However, unfortunately, the improvements could not bridge the gap between the UK unit cost and that of other parts of the world. Team Wales is ready to assist affected workers. A fully co-ordinated response involving the Welsh Development Agency, Jobcentre Plus and Careers Wales will ensure that appropriate support is made available to help those affected to regain work quickly or to access training opportunities.

I understand that the decision to shed these 200 jobs is part of a larger rationalisation exercise designed to develop Hoya Lens UK Ltd's global manufacturing and supply chain capability. The move will allow the Wrexham plant to focus on UK market development, for which Hoya Lens UK Ltd has long-term plans. The clarity brought by this change will enable the company to better develop those plans. It will use an outplacement company to assist its staff and will vigorously pursue employment opportunities with local companies.

Janet Ryder: I share your concerns, especially for those people in Wrexham who will lose these jobs. Unfortunately, this is the latest in a series of blows to the manufacturing industry and to manufacturing jobs in the Wrexham area. In this year alone, Wrexham has lost 500 jobs and now a further 200 jobs will be lost. Ruabon, which is a small area of Wrexham, has already lost 100 jobs in Brother Industries UK Ltd, and Hoya Lens UK Ltd has now announced these further 244 job losses. The company employs 464 people in Wrexham, meaning that over 200 people will still be employed at that site. Wrexham County Borough Council wants an assurance that you will do everything possible to maintain those jobs in Wrexham so that the other half of the plant, and its jobs, remain. A crucial way of doing that is to consider Wrexham's assisted area status. I am sure that you are aware that Wrexham is the only area in Wales not to receive regional selective assistance. Even the Vale of

Mae gweithlu Hoya Lens UK Cyf wedi chwarae rhan hollbwysig wrth sicrhau gwelliannau sylweddol yn y perfformiad yn y gwaith ac mae'n haeddu ei gydnabod am hynny. Serch hynny, gwaetha'r modd, ni allai'r gwelliannau gau'r bwll rhwng cost yr uned yn y DU a'r hyn a geir mewn rhannau eraill o'r byd. Mae Tîm Cymru yn barod i helpu gweithwyr a gaiff eu heffeithio. Bydd ymateb cwbl gydlynol a fydd yn cynnwys Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, Canolfan Byd Gwaith a Gyrfa Cymru yn sicrhau y bydd cymorth priodol ar gael i'r rhai a effeithir fel y gallant gael gwaith newydd yn fuan neu gael cyfleoedd i hyfforddi.

Deallaf fod y penderfyniad i gael gwared â'r 200 o swyddi yn rhan o ymarfer rhesymoli ehangach sydd â'r bwriad o ddatblygu gallu Hoya Lens UK Cyf o ran gweithgynhyrchu byd-eang a'r gadwyn gyflenwi. Bydd y symudiad hwn yn caniatáu i'r gwaith yn Wrecsam ganolbwyntio ar ddatblygu'r farchnad yn y DU, y mae gan Hoya Lens UK Cyf gynlluniau tymor hir ar ei chyfer. Bydd yr eglurder a geir drwy'r newid hwn yn galluogi'r cwmni i hwyluso'r cynlluniau hynny ymhellach. Bydd yn defnyddio cwmni all-leoli i helpu ei staff ac yn chwilio'n egnïol am gyfleoedd gwaith gyda chwmnïau lleol.

Janet Ryder: Rhannaf eich pryderon, yn enwedig ynghylch y rhai yn Wrecsam a fydd yn colli'r swyddi hyn. Gwaetha'r modd, hon yw'r ddiweddaraf mewn cyfres o ergydion i ddiwydiant gweithgynhyrchu a swyddi gweithgynhyrchu yn ardal Wrecsam. Yn y flwyddyn hon yn unig, mae Wrecsam wedi colli 500 o swyddi ac, yn awr, collir 200 o swyddi'n rhagor. Mae Rhiwabon, sy'n ardal fach yn Wrecsam, eisoes wedi colli 100 o swyddi yn Brother Industries UK Cyf, ac mae Hoya Lens UK Cyf bellach wedi cyhoeddi colli'r 244 o swyddi hyn ar ben hynny. Mae'r cwmni'n cyflogi 464 o bobl yn Wrecsam, sy'n golygu y bydd dros 200 o bobl yn dal i gael eu cyflogi ar y safle hwnnw. Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam yn dymuno cael sicrwydd gennych y gwnewch bopeth y gellir i gadw'r swyddi hynny yn Wrecsam fel y bydd hanner arall y gwaith, a'i swyddi, yn parhau. Un modd hanfodol i wneud hynny yw ystyried statws Wrecsam fel rhanbarth cymorth. Yr wyf yn sicr y

Glamorgan, which has no Communities First areas, receives regional selective assistance, and yet Wrexham, which has many such areas, does not receive it. Will you give priority to considering granting Wrexham assisted area status to support its manufacturing industries and to try to stem this steady stream of job losses from an area that desperately depends on them?

Andrew Davies: As I said in my response to your first question, this decision took everybody by surprise, including the management, the workforce, the WDA, and my officials and me. As I indicated, we will hold discussions with the company about its future plans. Hoya Lens UK Ltd is concentrating on its UK market, rather than on the wider global market. Qualification for regional selective assistance, and assisted area status is based on gross domestic product per capita levels and unemployment. At present, unemployment in Wrexham, and in north-east Wales in general, is at a historically low level. Unemployment has dropped by 26 per cent in Wrexham since 1999; that is a significant drop. This is obviously bad news for the employees at Hoya who will be made redundant. However, I am confident that, working with Team Wales partners, we can assist those being made redundant to find alternative work, if they wish, or training opportunities.

Mark Isherwood: This is devastating news for the over 200 people concerned and their families and communities. My heart—and those of my colleagues, I am sure—goes out to them at this terrible time. This follows the warning made last month, I believe, by Digby Jones, the director general of the Confederation of British Industry, that north Wales businesses would face failure in future because of Government policy. It has also been suggested that the refusal to extend the Wrexham bypass—or, I should say, the unacceptable delays in its extension—played a part in Hoya's decision. Hoya had

gwyddoch mai Wrecsam yw'r unig ardal yng Nghymru nad yw'n cael cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol. Mae hyd yn oed Bro Morgannwg, nad oes ganddi unrhyw ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, yn cael cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol, ac eto nid yw Wrecsam yn ei gael, er bod ganddi lawer o ardaloedd o'r fath. A wnewch roi blaenoriaeth i ystyried rhoi statws rhanbarthol cymorth i Wrecsam er mwyn cynorthwyo ei diwydiannau gweithgynhyrchu a cheisio rhoi pen ar y llif cyson hwn o golledion swyddi o ardal sy'n dibynnu arnynt yn ddirfawr?

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais yn fy ymateb i'ch cwestiwn cyntaf, yr oedd y penderfyniad hwn yn gwbl annisgwyl i bawb, gan gynnwys y rheolwyr, y gweithlu, y WDA, a'm swyddogion a minnau. Fel y nodais, byddwn yn cynnal trafodaethau â'r cwmni ynghylch ei gynlluniau ar gyfer y dyfodol. Mae Hoya Lens UK Cyf yn canolbwyntio ar ei farchnad yn y DU, yn hytrach nag ar y farchnad fyd-eang. Mae cymhwyster i gael cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol, a statws rhanbarthol cymorth, yn seiliedig ar lefelau o gynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen a diweithdra. Ar hyn o bryd, mae diweithdra yn Wrecsam, ac yn y Gogledd-ddwyrain yn gyffredinol, ar ei isaf ers cyfnod maith. Mae diweithdra wedi gostwng o 26 y cant yn Wrecsam ers 1999; mae hynny'n ostyngiad sylweddol. Mae'n amlwg bod hyn yn newyddion drwg i'r gweithwyr yn Hoya a gaiff eu diswyddo. Er hynny, yr wyf yn ffyddiog, drwy weithio gyda'n partneriaid yn Nhîm Cymru, y byddwn yn gallu helpu'r rhai a ddiswyddir i ddod o hyd i waith arall, os dymunant hynny, neu gyfleoedd i hyfforddi.

Mark Isherwood: Mae hyn yn newyddion trychinebus i'r 200 a rhagor o bobl a effeithir a'u teuluoedd a'u cymunedau. Yr wyf fi—a'm cyd-Aelodau, yr wyf yn siŵr—yn cydymdeimlo â hwy ar yr adeg ofnadwy hon. Mae hyn yn dilyn y rhybudd a wnaed y mis diwethaf, yr wyf yn credu, gan Digby Jones, cyfarwyddwr cyffredinol Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain, y byddai busnesau yn y Gogledd yn wynebu methiant yn y dyfodol oherwydd polisiau'r Llywodraeth. Awgrymwyd hefyd fod y gwrthodiad i ymestyn ffordd osgoi Wrecsam—neu, dylwn ddweud, yr oedi annerbyniol cyn ei

championed the extension of the bypass. As I have mentioned previously, we must also remember that the profitability of companies in Wales has fallen by 90 per cent over the last five years. Dun and Bradstreet has pointed out that business failures have increased in Wales by more than they have in England. It also refers to the falling average GDP per capita and average incomes in Wales. No part of Wales, even prosperous areas such as north-east Wales, is immune. What action will the Government take to prevent these sorts of recurrences by finally sitting down with business in Wales and listening to what it needs?

Andrew Davies: Insofar as I could follow that question and the reasoning behind it, as I said in my response to Janet Ryder, the reason given by the company for shedding these jobs was that unit labour costs are much higher in Wrexham than they are in the far east, and in Thailand, where Hoya is to develop its facility. How that can be linked to an alleged delay in the Wrexham bypass is beyond me. We are talking about macroeconomics. You are talking about microeconomics on the most micro scale, Mark. We must bear in mind that the manufacturing sector is undergoing major changes. We cannot, and should not, compete on the basis of labour costs. Labour costs in central Europe, north Africa, and the far east are a tenth of what they are in Wales. We must compete on the basis of innovation and high-value-added products. We will do all that we can to work with Hoya, as with any other company in Wales, to assist it in the challenges faced by manufacturers across the UK. This is not just an issue for Wales—the fall in manufacturing jobs in Wales has been broadly equivalent to that in England and Scotland. These challenges are not being faced by Welsh companies, or the Welsh economy, alone.

Eleanor Burnham: As someone who has had personal experience of redundancy through my husband's being made redundant,

hymestyn—wedi chwarae rhan ym mhenderfyniad Hoya. Yr oedd Hoya wedi dadlau dros ymestyn y ffordd osgoi. Fel y dywedais o'r blaen, rhaid inni gofio hefyd fod proffidioldeb cwmnïau yng Nghymru wedi gostwng o 90 y cant dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf. Mae Dun and Bradstreet wedi tynnu sylw at y ffaith bod y cynnydd yn nifer y busnesau sy'n methu yn fwy yng Nghymru nag ydyw yn Lloegr. Cyfeiria hefyd at y gostyngiad yn y CMC y pen ac mewn incwm ar gyfartaledd yng Nghymru. Nid oes yr un rhan o Gymru, hyd yn oed ardaloedd llewyrchus megis y Gogledd-ddwyrain, yn rhydd oddi wrth hyn. Pa gamau a gymer y Llywodraeth i atal digwyddiadau o'r fath eto drwy eistedd gyda busnes yng Nghymru a gwrando ar ei anghenion?

Andrew Davies: I'r graddau y gallwn ddilyn y cwestiwn hwnnw a'r rhesymu a oedd yn sail iddo, fel y dywedais yn fy ymateb i Janet Ryder, y rheswm a roddwyd gan y cwmni dros gael gwared â'r swyddi hyn oedd bod costau llafur yr uned yn fwy o lawer yn Wrecsam nag y maent yn y dwyrain pell, ac yng Ngwlad y Thai, lle y mae Hoya yn datblygu ei gyfleuster. Ni allaf ddeall sut y gellir cysylltu hynny ag oedi honedig cyn cwblhau ffordd osgoi Wrecsam. Yr ydym ni'n sôn am facroeconomeg. Yr ydych chi'n sôn am feicroeconomig ar y raddfa leiaf un, Mark. Rhaid inni gofio bod y sector gweithgynhyrchu'n profi newidiadau mawr. Ni allwn, ac ni ddylem, gystadlu ar sail costau llafur. Mae costau llafur yng nghanol Ewrop, gogledd Affrica, a'r dwyrain pell yn ddegfed ran o'r hyn ydynt yng Nghymru. Rhaid inni gystadlu ar sail arloesi a chynhyrchion â llawer o werth ychwanegol. Gwnawn bopeth a allwn i weithio gyda Hoya, yn yr un modd ag unrhyw gwmmi arall yng Nghymru, i'w helpu i wynebu'r heriau a ddaw i ran gweithgynhyrchwyr ledled y DU. Nid mater i Gymru'n unig yw hwn—bu'r gostyngiad yn nifer y swyddi gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru yn weddol debyg i'r hyn a fu yn Lloegr a'r Alban. Nid cwmnïau yng Nghymru, neu economi Cymru, yw'r unig rai sy'n wynebu'r heriau hyn.

Eleanor Burnham: Fel un a gafodd brofiad personol o ddiswyddo drwy ddiswyddiad fy ngŵr, cydymdeimlaf â gweithwyr Hoya. Mae

I sympathise with the Hoya employees. This is a large number of redundancies. Other Members have alluded to the fact that Wrexham is doing well, with low unemployment. However, we need your assurance, Minister, that you will consider the quality of jobs and where those leaving Hoya can use their high level of skills. You say that we are talking about microeconomics. You will remember that I recently asked you, at the behest of Wrexham County Borough Council, to seriously consider dualling the road to the south of Wrexham to link into the M54, the M6, and so on. Should you not put pressure on the UK Government to do more to help address the recession? If we lose all our manufacturing base in Wales, we will have an unbalanced economy.

Andrew Davies: The UK and Welsh economies are not in recession. The term is being used loosely—by the Conservative economic spokesman in particular. However, neither the Welsh nor British economies are in recession. The economy has performed better than that of most of our competitors—Germany and most other European Union countries, as well as America and Japan—despite difficult world trading conditions.

3.00 p.m.

The manufacturing sector has gone through major changes over the past few years. Many manufacturing jobs have been lost in Wales. However, many have been created—around one in seven of the jobs in manufacturing have been created over the past year. We will work with companies and industrial sectors, and the electronics, automotive and aerospace fora, to help them through those difficulties. We have invested a significant amount of money in Wrexham, in the Brymbo site development and the new hotel development there. Although Wrexham does not have assisted area status, the Team Wales agencies, and the Assembly Government, have given it substantial support. That is among the reasons why unemployment is at its lowest level in Wrexham, as it is in the rest of Wales, since the mid 1970s.

hyn yn nifer fawr o ddiswyddiadau. Mae Aelodau eraill wedi cyfeirio at y ffaith bod Wrecsam yn gwneud yn dda, a bod ganddi ddiweithdra isel. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni gael sicrwydd gennych, Weinidog, y gwnewch ystyried ansawdd swyddi ac ym mhle y caiff y rhai sy'n gadael Hoya arfer eu hyfedredd. Dywedwch ein bod yn sôn am feicroeconomeg. Byddwch yn cofio fy mod wedi gofyn yn ddiweddar i chi, ar gais Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam, ystyried o ddifrif ddeuli'r ffordd i'r de o Wrecsam i gysylltu â'r M54, yr M6, ac yn y blaen. Oni ddylech roi rhagor o bwysau ar Lywodraeth y DU i wneud rhagor i ymdrin â'r dirwasgiad? Os collwn y cwbl o'n sylfaen gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru, bydd gennym economi anghytwys.

Andrew Davies: Nid yw economïau'r DU a Chymru mewn dirwasgiad. Defnyddir y gair yn llac—gan lefarydd y Ceidwadwyr ar yr economi yn enwedig. Fodd bynnag, nid yw economi Cymru nac economi Prydain mewn dirwasgiad. Mae'r economi wedi perfformio'n well na rhai'r rhan fwyaf o'r rhai sy'n cystadlu â ni—yr Almaen a'r mwyafrif o wledydd eraill yr Undeb Ewropeaidd, yn ogystal ag America a Siapan—er gwaethaf yr amodau masnachu anodd drwy'r byd.

Mae'r sector gweithgynhyrchu wedi profi newidiadau mawr dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Collwyd llawer o swyddi gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru. Er hynny, mae llawer wedi'u creu—mae tua un o bob saith o'r swyddi gweithgynhyrchu wedi'u creu dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Gweithiwn gyda chwmnïau a sectorau diwydiannol, a'r fforymau electronig, moduron ac awyrfod, i'w helpu i drechu'r anawsterau hynny. Yr ydym wedi buddsoddi swm sylweddol o arian yn Wrecsam, yn y datblygiad ar safle Brymbo a'r datblygiad gwesty newydd yn y fan honno. Er nad oes gan Wrecsam statws rhanbarth cymorth, mae asiantaethau Tîm Cymru, a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, wedi rhoi cymorth sylweddol iddi. Mae hynny'n un o'r rhesymau y mae diweithdra ar ei lefel isaf yn Wrecsam, fel y mae yng ngweddill Cymru, ers canol y 1970au.

The Presiding Officer: Order. We are running out of time, but, unfortunately, the Minister mentioned Alun Cairns; I call Alun to speak.

Alun Cairns: Thank you, Presiding Officer, for the opportunity to ask the Minister to repeat what he said about the state of manufacturing in Wales. The jobs being lost are high-quality manufacturing jobs, and follow a string of other losses. This is a continuing trend; manufacturing jobs are being lost time and again. Manufacturing employees face a difficult situation. If the Government does not accept reality and does not admit that manufacturing is in difficulty and is, and has been, in recession for some time, what hope can it offer those employees? What hope can the Government offer the employees being made redundant if it is not prepared to introduce policies? It cannot introduce the right policies until it accepts reality. If I wanted to take political advantage of the situation, I would be happy for the Minister to say again that manufacturing is not in recession, because, every time he says it, business in Wales just laughs.

Andrew Davies: The Presiding Officer used the word 'unfortunate' when you were called to speak, Alun. You keep repeating the same mantra. You never say what needs to be done or what policies we need to deliver the nirvana that you keep promising. Many Members remember the 1980s, when your party was in power, when manufacturing was decimated and when there were record unemployment levels. We now have record employment levels and the lowest unemployment levels since the mid 1970s.

The Presiding Officer: I wish to point out that it was not unfortunate that Alun Cairns was called; it was unfortunate that I felt obliged to call him even though we were running out of time.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr ydym yn mynd yn brin o amser, ond, yn anffodus, cyfeiriodd y Gweinidog at Alun Cairns; galwaf ar Alun i siarad.

Alun Cairns: Diolch i chi, Lywydd, am y cyfle i ofyn i'r Gweinidog ailadrodd yr hyn a ddywedodd am gyflwr gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru. Mae'r swyddi a gollir yn swyddi gweithgynhyrchu o ansawdd da, ac maent yn dilyn cyfres o golledion eraill. Mae hyn yn duedd parhaus; collir swyddi gweithgynhyrchu dro ar ôl tro. Mae gweithwyr mewn gweithgynhyrchu'n wynebu sefyllfa anodd. Os na wnaiff y Gweinidog dderbyn y gwir a chydabod bod gweithgynhyrchu mewn trafferthion a'i fod yn profi dirwasgiad ers cryn amser, pa obaith y gall ei gynnig i'r gweithwyr hynny? Pa obaith y gall y Llywodraeth ei gynnig i'r gweithwyr a ddiswyddir os nad yw'n barod i gyflwyno polisiau? Ni fydd modd iddi gyflwyno'r polisiau iawn hyd nes y bydd yn derbyn y gwir. Pe byddwn am wneud elw gwleidyddol o'r sefyllfa, byddwn yn fodlon i'r Gweinidog ddweud eto nad yw gweithgynhyrchu mewn dirwasgiad, oherwydd, bob tro y dywed hynny, mae busnes yng Nghymru'n chwerthin.

Andrew Davies: Defnyddiodd y Llywydd y gair 'anffodus' pan alwyd chi i siarad, Alun. Yr ydych yn dal i ailadrodd yr un mantra. Ni ddywedwch byth beth y mae angen ei wneud neu ba bolisiau y mae arnom eu hangen i gael y baradwys yr ydych yn ei haddo. Mae llawer o Aelodau'n cofio'r 1980au, pan oedd eich plaid chi mewn grym, pan ddinistriwyd gweithgynhyrchu a phan oedd diweithdra ar ei uchaf erioed. Bellach mae gennym y lefelau uchaf o gyflogaeth a gafwyd erioed a'r lefelau isaf o ddiweithdra ers canol y 1970au.

Y Llywydd: Dymunaf nodi nad y ffaith bod Alun Cairns wedi'i alw oedd yn anffodus, ond y ffaith fy mod i'n teimlo bod rhaid imi ei alw er ein bod yn mynd yn brin o amser.

Datganiad Busnes Business Statement

The Business Minister (Karen Sinclair): There are two changes to this week's business. Following today's business statement, the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration will make a statement on the devolution of the fire service. The motion to approve three items of subordinate legislation under Standing Order No. 22.25 will not be proposed today: those items will now be debated separately in Plenary on Tuesday 8 July. In addition to the business shown on the draft three-week business statement, which can be found on the Chamberweb under supporting papers, there will be a motion on Wednesday 9 July to approve the Plant Protection Products (Amendment) Regulations 2003.

Finally, the Deputy Presiding Officer determined today, under Standing Order No. 22.5, that the following Orders need not be referred to a Subject Committee for extended consideration: the Feeding Stuffs, the Feeding Stuffs (Sampling and Analysis) and the Feeding Stuffs (Enforcement) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2003, the Coast Protection (Notices) (Wales) Regulations 2003, the Action Programme for Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2003, the Plant Health (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2003, the Protection of Animals (Anaesthetics) Amendment (Wales) Order 2003, the Housing (Right to Buy) (Priority of Charges) (Wales) Order 2003, the Home Loss Payments (Prescribed Amounts) (Wales) Regulations 2003, the Prohibition of Fishing with Multiple Trawls (Wales) Order 2003, the Care Standards Act 2000 (Commencement No. 12) (Wales) Order 2003, the Education (Assisted Places) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2003, the Animal By-products (Identification) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2003 and the Air Quality (Ozone) (Wales) Regulations 2003.

I hope that we can get through all our business today but, if that does not prove possible, I am grateful to Jonathan for offering to defer the Conservative minority

Y Trefnydd (Karen Sinclair): Mae dau newid i fusnes yr wythnos hon. Yn dilyn y datganiad busnes heddiw, bydd y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio yn gwneud datganiad ar ddatganoli'r gwasanaeth tân. Ni fydd y cynnig i gymeradwyo tair eitem o is-ddeddfwriaeth o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.25 yn cael ei gynnig heddiw: ceir dadl ar yr eitemau hynny ar wahân bellach yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar ddydd Mawrth 8 Gorffennaf. Yn ogystal â'r busnes a ddangosir ar y datganiad busnes drafft tair wythnos, y gellir ei weld ar we'r Siambr dan bapurau ategol, bydd cynnig ar ddydd Mercher 9 Gorffennaf i gymeradwyo Rheoliadau Cynhyrchion Diogelu Planhigion (Diwygio) 2003.

Yn olaf, penderfynodd y Dirprwy Lywydd heddiw, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.5, nad oes angen cyfeirio'r Gorchmynion a ganlyn i Bwyllgor Pwnc i'w hystyried yn helaethach: Rheoliadau Porthiant, Porthiant (Samplu a Dadansoddi) a Phorthiant (Gorfodi) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2003, Rheoliadau Diogelu'r Arfordir (Hysbysyddau) (Cymru) 2003, Rheoliadau'r Rhaglen Weithredu ar gyfer Parthau Perygl Nitradau (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2003, Gorchymyn Iechyd Planhigion (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2003, Gorchymyn Diogelu Anifeiliaid (Anesthetyddion) Diwygio (Cymru) 2003, Gorchymyn Tai (Hawl i Brynu) (Blaenoriaethau Taliadau) (Cymru) 2003, Rheoliadau Taliadau Colli Cartref (Symiau Rhagnodedig) (Cymru) 2003, Gorchymyn Gwahardd Pysgota â Threillrwydi Lluosog (Cymru) 2003, Gorchymyn Deddf Safonau Gofal 2000 (Cychwyn Rhif 12) (Cymru) 2003, Rheoliadau Addysg (Lleoedd a Gynorthwyr) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2003, Rheoliadau Sgîl-gynhyrchion Anifeiliaid (Adnabod) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2003 a Rheoliadau Ansawdd Aer (Osôn) (Cymru) 2003.

Gobeithiaf y bydd modd inni fynd drwy'r holl fusnes sydd gennym heddiw ond, os na fydd, yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Jonathan am gynnig gohirio dadl plaid leiafrifol y

party debate to accommodate us.

Ceidwadwyr er mwyn ein cynorthwyo.

Y Llywydd: A oes gwrthwynebiadau i'r datganiad busnes drafft? Gwelaf fod o leiaf 10 gwrthwynebiad. O dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 5.4, galwaf ar y Trefnydd i gynnig y datganiad busnes yn ffurfiol.

The Presiding Officer: Are there any objections to the draft business statement? I see that there are at least 10 objections. Under Standing Order No. 5.4, I call the Business Minister to formally propose the business statement.

The Business Minister (Karen Sinclair): I propose that

Y Trefnydd (Karen Sinclair): Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales adopts the business statement.

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn derbyn y datganiad busnes.

Elin Jones: Drefnydd, hoffwn wneud cais ffurfiol am ddadl ar gynlluniau Llywodraeth San Steffan i ailwladoli'r cronfeydd strwythurol. Bu i'n rheolwr busnes wneud cais am hynny yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma. Ymddengys i mi, o'r flaenraglen waith, fod cyfleoedd i gynnal y ddadl bwysig hon dros yr wythnosau nesaf. Gadewch imi egluro pam yr wyf yn gofyn am hyn. Mae effaith cynlluniau Llywodraeth San Steffan yn bellgyrhaeddol ar Gymru. Mae'n cynnig na ddylai'r Deyrnas Gyfunol fod yn gymwys am gronfeydd strwythurol o'r Undeb Ewropeaidd ar ôl 2006, ac y byddai Llywodraeth San Steffan yn ymgymryd â pholisi rhanbarthol gyda'r Trysorlys presennol yn ymrwmo i ddarparu cyllid cyfatebol i gyllid presennol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd i ardaloedd Amcan 1 am y cyfnod cychwynnol. Sut y gall unrhyw Lywodraeth wneud ymrwymiad sy'n para'n hwy na thymor etholiadol y Llywodraeth honno?

Elin Jones: Business Minister, I formally request a debate on the Westminster Government's plans to repatriate structural funds. Our business manager requested that in this morning's Business Committee meeting. It seems to me, from the forward work programme, that there are opportunities to hold this important debate over the next few weeks. Let me explain why making this request. The Westminster Government's plans have far-reaching consequences for Wales. It proposes that the United Kingdom should not be eligible for structural funds from the European Union after 2006, and that the Westminster Government should adopt a regional policy, with the current Treasury committing to match current European Union funding to Objective 1 areas for the initial period. How can any Government make a commitment that lasts longer than that Government's term of office?

Mae'r mater eisoes yn ddadleuol yng Nghymru. Mae Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yn gwrthwynebu cynlluniau Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Gyfunol yn glir, tra ymddengys o gyfweliadau teledu fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn dilyn agenda Gordon Brown yn slafaidd. Rhoi Cymru'n gyntaf sy'n bwysig, ac mae record yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ar bolisi rhanbarthol llawer yn well nag un unrhyw Lywodraeth yn San Steffan, yn enwedig o ystyried diffygion fformiwlâ Barnett.

The matter has already caused controversy in Wales. The Welsh Local Government Association clearly opposes the United Kingdom Government's proposals, while it appears from television interviews that the Assembly Government is slavishly following Gordon Brown's agenda. It is important to put Wales first, and the European Union's track record on regional policy is far better than that of any Westminster Government, particularly given the shortcomings of the Barnett formula.

Rhaid i'r Cynulliad llawn gael trafod a phleidleisio ar fater mor bellgyrhaeddol â hyn. Mae'r amserlen yn dynn, felly gofynnaf

The full Assembly must be allowed to debate and vote on such a far-reaching matter as this. The timetable is tight, so I request a

am ddadl o fewn yr wythnosau nesaf; bydd Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Gyfunol yn trafod y mater ar ôl 4 Gorffennaf. Os na chawn y cyfle i drafod mater mor bwysig ac mor sylfaenol â hyn i Gymru, a bod yn llais dros fuddiannau Cymru, beth yw pwrpas cael Cynulliad Cenedlaethol?

Jonathan Morgan: First, we object to the business statement on the grounds that the Government will not bring forward its forward work programme for debate until September. It is diabolical that we have been back since May and have not had a forward work programme from the Government. We must now wait until the end of the summer recess for that, many months after the Assembly elections.

Secondly, in the Business Committee some weeks ago, the Minister gave a list of the business that she would try to bring forward before the summer recess. How much of that list have you been able to incorporate into your draft business statement, Minister? There seem to be glaring omissions.

Thirdly, we discussed the periodic timetable statement this morning. We feel that you should bring that forward before the July recess, so that the Committees sitting from September know exactly when they will meet, and voluntary and other external organisations know the Committees' autumn and winter timetable. Will you confirm that that will be debated and voted upon in Plenary before the summer recess?

Can you confirm, Minister, that, in the Business Committee's meeting last week, the Deputy Presiding Officer advised you that business today was likely to be tight, and that the minority party debate would be put under pressure if we discussed all of the business scheduled for this afternoon? Will you also confirm that I e-mailed you last week and offered to withdraw the minority party debate in order to ease those time pressures, and suggested that we could hold that debate another time, preferably before the summer recess? I did not receive a reply from you, which displays a lack of courtesy. That offer was made in good faith, yet I heard nothing until today. The motion has been tabled and

debate within the next few weeks; the United Kingdom Government will discuss the matter after 4 July. If we are not given the chance to discuss a matter as important and as fundamental to Wales, and to be a voice for Wales's interests, what is the purpose of having a National Assembly?

Jonathan Morgan: Yn gyntaf, gwrthwynebwn y datganiad busnes am na wnaiff y Llywodraeth ddwyn ei blaenraglen waith gerbron i'w drafod hyd fis Medi. Mae'n warthus ein bod yn ein hól ers mis Mai ac heb gael blaenraglen waith gan y Llywodraeth. Rhaid inni ddisgwyl bellach tan ddiwedd toriad yr haf am hynny, sy'n fisoedd lawer ar ôl etholiadau'r Cynulliad.

Yn ail, yn y Pwyllgor Busnes rai wythnosau'n ôl, rhoddodd y Gweinidog restr o'r busnes y ceisiai ei ddwyn gerbron cyn toriad yr haf. Pa ran o'r rhestr honno y bu modd ichi ei chynnwys yn eich datganiad busnes drafft, Weinidog? Ymddengys bod pethau amlwg wedi'u gadael allan.

Yn drydydd, gwnaethom drafod y datganiad ar yr amserlen gyfnodol y bore yma. Teimlwn y dylech ei rhoi gerbron cyn y toriad ym mis Gorffennaf, fel y bydd y Pwyllgorau sy'n eistedd o fis Medi ymlaen yn gwybod yn union pa bryd y byddant yn cwrdd, ac fel y gŵyr cyrff gwirfoddol a chyrrff allanol eraill amserlen y Pwyllgorau ar gyfer yr hydref a'r gaeaf. A wnewch gadarnhau y bydd dadl a phleidlais ar hynny yn y Cyfarfod Llawn cyn toriad yr haf?

A allwch gadarnhau, Weinidog, fod y Dirprwy Lywydd wedi'ch hysbysu yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Busnes yr wythnos diwethaf y byddai'r busnes ar gyfer heddiw'n debygol o fod yn dynn, ac y byddai'r ddadl plaid leiafrifol dan bwysau pe trafodem y cwbl o'r busnes a amserlennwyd ar gyfer y prynhawn yma? A wnewch gadarnhau hefyd imi anfon neges e-bost atoch yr wythnos diwethaf a chynnig tynnu'n ôl y ddadl plaid leiafrifol er mwyn lleddfu'r pwysau hynny ar amser, ac awgrymu y gallem gynnal y ddadl honno rywbryd arall, cyn toriad yr haf, os oedd modd? Ni chefais ateb gennyh, ac mae hynny'n dangos diffyg cwртеisi. Gwnaed y cynnig yn ddiwyll, ac eto ni chlywais ddim

withdrawing it now would be difficult. However, we will consider doing so if the pressure on time is such that the session would overrun. The practices adopted by the Minister are somewhat sloppy. If the Minister ensures more efficient practices in future, perhaps we will not face difficulties such as those we face this afternoon.

3.10 p.m.

The Presiding Officer: I draw Jonathan Morgan's attention, and direct the Business Minister accordingly, to Standing Order No. 13.5, which relates to the Business Committee. The Standing Order states that

'The Committee shall meet each week that the Assembly holds a plenary meeting. It shall meet in private.'

Jenny Randerson: The Welsh Liberal Democrat group will oppose the business statement for the following reasons. First, we agree with Elin Jones's comments. At last week's joint meeting of the Committee on European and External Affairs and the Economic Development and Transport Committee, I was pleased to hear the First Minister say that a debate on repatriation and associated issues—which could result in Wales losing millions of pounds—would be held in Plenary. However, he did not give a commitment that that debate would be held before the summer recess. The debate will be superfluous if it is held after the recess, as the Whitehall representatives present at the meeting made it clear that the UK Government would respond to representations by September. We would be putting in our two-pennyworth well after the event if we were to postpone holding the debate until after the recess. The debate must be held as a matter of urgency.

Secondly, there is still nothing in the business statement about free prescriptions for the chronically ill. The Government has committed to bringing forward legislation as soon as possible. That has, in the past, been interpreted as being within three months of the Plenary debate on the subject. Four months have passed since the Assembly

hyd heddiw. Mae'r cynnig wedi'i gyflwyno ac anodd fyddai ei dynnu'n ôl yn awr. Fodd bynnag, ystyriwn wneud hynny os bydd cymaint o bwysau ar amser fel y byddai'r sesiwn yn rhedeg yn hwyr. Mae'r arferion a ddilynir gan y Gweinidog braidd yn ddi-drefn. Os bydd y Gweinidog yn sicrhau arferion mwy effeithlon yn y dyfodol, efallai na fyddwn yn wynebu anawsterau fel y rhai a wynebwn y prynhawn yma.

Y Llywydd: Tynnaf sylw Jonathan Morgan, a chyfeiriaf y Trefnydd yn unol â hynny, at Reol Sefydlog Rhif 13.5, sy'n ymwneud â'r Pwyllgor Busnes. Dywed y Rheol Sefydlog

'Bydd y Pwyllgor yn cyfarfod bob wythnos y bydd y Cynulliad yn cynnal cyfarfod llawn. Yn breifat y bydd yn cyfarfod.'

Jenny Randerson: Bydd grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn gwrthwynebu'r datganiad busnes am y rhesymau a ganlyn. Yn gyntaf, cytunwn â sylwadau Elin Jones. Yn y cyfarfod ar y cyd yr wythnos diwethaf o'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol a'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth, yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed y Prif Weinidog yn dweud y byddid yn cynnal dadl ar ailwladoli a materion cysylltiedig—a allai beri i Gymru gollu miliynau o bunnoedd—yn y Cyfarfod Llawn. Fodd bynnag, ni roddodd ymrwymiad y byddid yn cynnal dadl cyn toriad yr haf. Bydd y ddadl yn ddiangen os cynhelir hi ar ôl y toriad, gan fod y cynrychiolwyr o Whitehall a oedd yn bresennol yn y cyfarfod wedi rhoi ar ddeall y byddai Llywodraeth y DU yn ymateb i sylwadau erbyn mis Medi. Byddem yn dweud ein pwt yn rhy hwyr o lawer pe byddem yn gohirio cynnal y ddadl hyd nes ar ôl y toriad. Rhaid cynnal y ddadl fel mater brys.

Yn ail, nid oes dim byd yn y datganiad busnes byth am bresgripsiynau am ddim i rai â salwch cronig. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi ymrwymo i ddwyn deddfwriaeth gerbron cyn gynted ag y bo modd. Yn y gorffennol, dehonglwyd fod hynny'n golygu o fewn tri mis i'r ddadl ar y pwnc yn y Cyfarfod Llawn. Aeth pedwar mis heibio ers i'r Cynulliad

voted in favour of a motion requesting that that legislation be brought forward. If we do not take our legislative decisions seriously, we bring the Assembly into disrepute.

Finally, it is a sad day when we must rely on the Conservative group to make suggestions in a minority party debate as to what should be included in the Government's programme. Although I am happy to participate in that debate this afternoon, or whenever it is held, it would be better if the Government were to bring forward its own programme—and sooner rather than later.

The Business Minister (Karen Sinclair): I will try to respond to all the comments in the order in which they were made, although I apologise in advance if I do not stick to the exact order. The Government's forward work programme has been scheduled for debate during the first week of the autumn term. Elin and Jenny inquired about a debate on the repatriation of structural funds. I have been asked to allocate time for that debate before the recess, and I hope that it can be held during the last week of this term. However, that depends on the time required to debate the subordinate legislation that has been scheduled for debate on 15 and 16 July.

On Government business, I will not cover the same ground again, Jonathan. Government business for the next three weeks is as shown in the business statement. Business that is not debated before the summer recess will be covered in the Government's forward work programme. I confirm that the periodic timetable for the autumn term will be brought before Plenary during the last week of this term. Jonathan knows that, as I have already told him.

Jenny inquired about free prescriptions. That is a manifesto commitment, and the Minister for Health and Social Services is currently engaged in discussions with officials on the proposals. I assure Jenny that a statement will be made, or a debate held, when the Government believes that the time is right.

Jenny Randerson and Jonathan Morgan
rose—

bleidleisio o blaid cynnig yn gofyn am ddwyn y ddeddfwriaeth honno gerbron. Os na chymerwn ein penderfyniadau deddfwriaethol o ddifrif, yr ydym yn dwyn anfri ar y Cynulliad.

Yn olaf, peth trist yw ein bod bellach yn gorfod dibynnu ar grŵp y Ceidwadwyr i roi awgrymiadau mewn dadl plaid leiafrifol am yr hyn y dylid ei gynnwys yn rhaglen y Llywodraeth. Er fy mod yn fodlon cymryd rhan yn y ddadl honno y prynhawn yma, neu ba bryd bynnag y'i cynhelir, byddai'n well pe byddai'r Llywodraeth yn dwyn ei rhaglen ei hun gerbron—a gorau po gyntaf.

Y Trefnydd (Karen Sinclair): Ceisïaf ymateb i'r holl sylwadau yn ôl y drefn y'u gwnaed, er fy mod yn ymddiheuro ymlaen llaw os na ddaliaf at yr union drefn. Amserlennwyd dadl ar flaenraglen waith y Llywodraeth yn ystod wythnos gyntaf tymor yr hydref. Holodd Elin a Jenny am ddadl ar ailwladoli cronfeydd strwythurol. Gofynnwyd imi neilltuo amser ar gyfer y ddadl honno cyn y toriad, a gobeithiaf y bydd modd ei chynnal yn ystod wythnos olaf y tymor hwn. Fodd bynnag, mae hynny'n dibynnu ar yr amser sydd ei angen i drafod yr is-ddeddfwriaeth yr amserlennwyd dadleuon arni ar 15 a 16 Gorffennaf.

Ynghylch busnes y Llywodraeth, nid af dros yr un tir eto, Jonathan. Mae busnes y Llywodraeth ar gyfer y tair wythnos nesaf fel y'i dangosir yn y datganiad busnes. Bydd busnes na thrafodir cyn toriad yr haf yn cael ei gynnwys ym mlaenraglen waith y Llywodraeth. Cadarnhaf y bydd yr amserlen gyfnodol ar gyfer tymor yr hydref yn cael ei dwyn gerbron y Cyfarfod Llawn yn ystod wythnos olaf y tymor hwn. Gŵyr Jonathan hynny, gan fy mod wedi dweud wrtho eisoes.

Holodd Jenny am bresgripsiynau am ddim. Ymrwymiad yn y manifesto yw hwnnw, ac mae'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol wrthi'n cynnal trafodaethau â swyddogion ar y cynigion. Yr wyf yn sicrhau Jenny y gwneir datganiad, neu y cynhelir dadl, pan fo'r Llywodraeth yn credu bod hynny'n briodol.

Jenny Randerson a Jonathan Morgan
godasant—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I am afraid that there cannot be anything further to that. Sometimes I wish that there could be; sometimes I do not. Standing Orders are clear in this case, in that they state that one Member from each party group shall be called to speak.

Jonathan Morgan: I request that the bell be rung.

The Presiding Officer: Under Standing Order No. 6.21, at least three Members must request that the bell be rung. Do three Members support the request? I see that they do.

Cyn imi ofyn am i'r gloch gael ei chanu, gofynnaf i'r sawl nad yw wedi diffodd ei ffôn symudol—yn groes i'r Protocol ar Ymddygiad yn y Siambr—wneud hynny yn awr. Gall defnyddio offer electronig yn y Siambr effeithio ar y sain, ac felly beri trafferth o ran sicrhau sain pur ar gyfer y Cofnod a darlledu ein trafodion.

Glerc, canwch y gloch.

3.20 p.m.

*Cynnig: O blaid 31, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 26.
Motion: For 31, Abstain 0, Against 26.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae arnaf ofn na ellir ychwanegu dim at hynny. Weithiau byddai'n dda gennyf pe gellid; weithiau ni fyddai'n dda gennyf hynny. Mae'r Rheolau Sefydlog yn glir yn yr achos hwn, gan eu bod yn dweud y gelwir ar un Aelod o bob grŵp plaid i siarad.

Jonathan Morgan: Galwaf am i'r gloch gael ei chanu.

Y Llywydd: O dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.21, rhaid i o leiaf dri Aelod alw am ganu'r gloch. A oes tri Aelod sy'n cefnogi'r cais? Gwelaf fod.

Before I ask for the bell to be rung, I ask whoever has not switched off his or her mobile phone—in contravention of the Protocol on Conduct in the Chamber—to do so now. The use of electronic equipment in the Chamber can affect the sound feed, and can therefore cause difficulties in terms of ensuring a clear feed for the purposes of the Record and for broadcasting our proceedings.

Clerk, please ring the bell.

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Isherwood, Mark
Lloyd, David
Marek, John
Melding, David

Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Williams, Brynle

Morgan, Jonathan
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Pwynt o Drefn Point of Order

David Davies: Point of order. [*Laughter.*] I think that Members may be laughing because they believe that I am about to say that I voted incorrectly, but I did not. I wish to raise a point of order relating to today's questions.

David Davies: Pwynt o drefn. [*Chwerthin.*] Credaf y gallai Aelodau fod yn chwerthin am y credant fy mod ar fin dweud imi bleidleisio'n anghywir, ond ni wneuthum. Dymunaf godi pwynt o drefn sy'n gysylltiedig â'r cwestiynau heddiw.

The Presiding Officer: I will take points of order after the two statements that are to follow.

Y Llywydd: Derbyniaf bwyntiau o drefn ar ôl y ddau ddatganiad sydd i ddilyn.

Datganiad ar Ddatganioli'r Gwasanaeth Tân Statement on Fire Service Devolution

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): I am pleased to report to the Assembly the UK Government's intention to devolve full responsibility for firefighting and fire safety in Wales to the National Assembly for Wales. This intention was confirmed in yesterday's publication of the White Paper, 'Our Fire and Rescue Service', by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart): Yr wyf yn falch o hysbysu'r Cynulliad am fwriad Llywodraeth y DU i ddatganioli cyfrifoldeb llawn dros ymladd tân a diogelwch tân yng Nghymru i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Cadarnhawyd y bwriad hwn yn y Papur Gwyn, 'Our Fire and Rescue Service', a gyhoeddwyd ddoe gan Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog.

Currently, responsibility for the fire service is split between the Assembly and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The Welsh Assembly Government is responsible for the fire service's revenue funding, while the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has responsibility for capital funding and fire policy. Since 1999, we have worked hard to ensure that the fire service is supported by the current arrangements. Nevertheless, on the basis of evidence and experience, we came to the conclusion that devolving responsibility to the Assembly would make for more effective management of the service and its funding.

Ar hyn o bryd, rhennir cyfrifoldeb dros y gwasanaeth tân rhwng y Cynulliad a Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog. Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru sy'n gyfrifol am gyllid refeniw'r gwasanaeth tân, tra bo Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn gyfrifol am gyllid cyfalaf a pholisi tân. Er 1999, yr ydym wedi gweithio'n galed i sicrhau bod y gwasanaeth tân yn cael ei gynnal drwy'r trefniadau presennol. Er hynny, ar sail tystiolaeth a phrofiad, daethom i'r casgliad y byddai datganioli cyfrifoldeb i'r Cynulliad yn fodd o reoli a chyllido'r gwasanaeth yn fwy effeithiol.

A close and productive relationship has been developed between the three Welsh fire authorities and the Assembly. The Welsh Assembly Government has sought, wherever possible, to involve the fire authorities in its policy work and has sought to encourage a holistic approach to fire safety, in particular fostering the fire services' innovative approach to community fire safety and arson prevention.

The Assembly Government made the case for change to the independent review of the fire service chaired by Sir George Bain, which recommended devolving responsibilities when it reported at the end of last year. The Bain review accepted our view that devolving to the Assembly of responsibility for the fire service would create a single line of responsibility for the fire authorities and contribute to the effective management, planning, and delivery of fire services in Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government does not have any plans to change the existing structure of fire authorities. I believe that there is a strong case for stability. The number of fire authorities was reduced from eight to three only seven years ago. Devolution will allow us to increase the collaboration between fire authorities, local authorities and other emergency services in Wales.

Over the summer, Ministers and officials will discuss with the UK Government the detailed arrangements for the transfer of responsibility for the fire service. I hope that the new arrangements will come into effect next year. This reflects a pragmatic approach to devolution, when powers are transferred for a purpose, on the basis of evidence that the delivery of services will be improved by devolution.

Leanne Wood: We welcome the transfer of powers in relation to the fire service from the UK to Wales. We also welcome your statement that you do not have any plans to further restructure the fire service. We understand that pay matters will not be devolved. This is a shame, as we could have had the opportunity to consider the Fire

Meithrinwyd cydberthynas agos a chynhyrchiol rhwng tri awdurdod tân Cymru a'r Cynulliad. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi ceisio cynnwys yr awdurdodau tân, lle bynnag y bo modd, yn ei gwaith polisi ac wedi ceisio hybu dull cyfannol o ymdrin â diogelwch tân, gan feithrin yn benodol ymagwedd arloesol y gwasanaethau tân at ddiogelwch tân cymunedol ac atal llosgi bwriadol.

Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a gyflwynodd y ddatl dros newid i'r adolygiad annibynnol o'r gwasanaeth tân o dan gadeiryddiaeth Syr George Bain, a argymhellodd ddatganoli cyfrifoldebau pan adroddodd ddiwedd y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Yr oedd adolygiad Bain yn derbyn ein barn y byddai datganoli cyfrifoldeb dros y gwasanaeth tân i'r Cynulliad yn creu llinell cyfrifoldeb sengl i'r awdurdodau tân ac yn cyfrannu at reoli, cynllunio, a darparu gwasanaethau tân yn effeithiol yng Nghymru.

Nid oes gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru unrhyw fwriad i newid strwythur presennol yr awdurdodau tân. Credaf fod dadl gryf o blaid sefydlogrwydd. Lleihawyd nifer yr awdurdodau tân o wyth i dri ddim ond saith mlynedd yn ôl. Bydd datganoli'n caniatáu inni hybu cydweithio rhwng yr awdurdodau tân, yr awdurdodau lleol a gwasanaethau brys eraill yng Nghymru.

Dros yr haf, bydd Gweinidogion a swyddogion yn trafod gyda Llywodraeth y DU y trefniadau manwl ar gyfer trosglwyddo'r cyfrifoldeb dros y gwasanaeth tân. Gobeithiaf y bydd y trefniadau newydd yn dod i rym y flwyddyn nesaf. Mae hyn yn dangos agwedd bragmatig at ddatganoli, lle y trosglwyddir pwerau i gyflawni diben, ar sail tystiolaeth y bydd gwasanaethau'n cael eu darparu'n well drwy ddatganoli.

Leanne Wood: Croesawn drosglwyddo pwerau mewn cysylltiad â'r gwasanaeth tân o'r DU i Gymru. Yr ydym hefyd yn croesawu'ch datganiad nad oes gennych unrhyw fwriad i ad-drefnu'r gwasanaeth tân ymhellach. Deallwn na chaiff materion tâl eu datganoli. Mae hynny'n drueni, gan y gallem fod wedi cael y cyfle i ystyried hawliad

Brigades Union's claim for a fair and decent wage for firefighters and control staff. However, this power will remain in London.

Undeb y Brigadau Tân am gyflog teg a derbyniol i ddiffoddwyr tân a staff rheoli. Fodd bynnag, bydd y pŵer hwn yn aros yn Llundain.

The Bain report recommends modernisation of the fire service. Modernisation, in this case, will involve a reduction in emergency fire cover and the closure of fire stations. Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales believes that there should be no reduction in emergency back-up, especially in rural areas and at night. No fire stations in Wales should be closed. Will the Minister commit not to reduce such emergency cover and not to close any fire stations in Wales?

Mae adroddiad Bain yn argymhell moderneiddio'r gwasanaeth tân. Yn yr achos hwn, bydd moderneiddio'n golygu llai o wasanaethau tân brys a chau gorsafoedd tân. Mae Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales yn credu na ddylid lleihau'r gwasanaeth brys wrth gefn, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd gwledig ac yn ystod y nos. Ni ddylid cau unrhyw orsafoedd tân yng Nghymru. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ymrwymo i beidio â lleihau gwasanaethau brys o'r fath ac i beidio â chau unrhyw orsafoedd tân yng Nghymru?

Edwina Hart: Thank you for your initial remarks, welcoming the devolution of this power to the Assembly; this Government has fought hard for that. I will discuss Wales's needs in these matters with the fire chiefs and the fire authorities. I am mindful of the situation regarding rural areas and the excellent service that is currently provided by the fire brigade in Wales and its ability to come to the rescue quickly. I will take on board representations before undertaking any changes. However, you cannot say that no fire stations will ever close, because that would put one in the situation of being a hostage to fortune. Change could often be welcomed because there might be a new fire station located elsewhere. Therefore, it is important to consult on this matter with all the interested parties. I want to go ahead on the basis of consensus. I currently have an excellent relationship with fire authorities and chief fire officers, on which I will build.

Edwina Hart: Diolch i chi am eich sylwadau cychwynnol, yn croesawu datganoli'r pŵer hwn i'r Cynulliad; mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi ymladd yn galed dros hynny. Trafodaf anghenion Cymru yn y materion hyn â'r prif swyddogion tân a'r awdurdodau tân. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r sefyllfa o ran ardaloedd gwledig a'r gwasanaeth rhagorol a ddarperir ar hyn o bryd gan y frigâd dân yng Nghymru a'i gallu i ddod i'r adwy'n gyflym. Ystyriaf unrhyw sylwadau a gyflwynir cyn ymgymryd ag unrhyw newidiadau. Er hynny, ni ellir dweud na fydd unrhyw orsafoedd tân byth yn cau, gan y byddai hynny'n gwneud person yn wystl ffawd. Gellid croesawu newid yn aml gan y gellid cael gorsaf dân newydd mewn man arall. Gan hynny, mae'n bwysig ymgynghori ar y mater hwn gyda phawb sy'n gysylltiedig. Dymunaf symud ymlaen drwy gonsensws. Ar hyn o bryd, mae gennyf berthynas ragorol â'r awdurdodau tân a'r prif swyddogion tân, a byddaf yn adeiladu ar y sail honno.

Ann Jones: I welcome the devolution of this power to the Assembly. We have had a close working relationship with the fire authorities on community and fire safety. I am pleased that we will now take over that responsibility. I and my former colleagues welcome the fact that fire safety in Wales will not be restructured. As the fire service moves towards integrated risk management plans to determine fire cover across Wales, you said that you intended to consult with fire authorities and chiefs, but will you also consult with the Fire Brigades Union and

Ann Jones: Croesawaf ddatganoli'r pŵer hwn i'r Cynulliad. Cawsom berthynas waith agos â'r awdurdodau tân ynghylch diogelwch cymunedol a diogelwch tân. Yr wyf yn falch y byddwn bellach yn derbyn y cyfrifoldeb hwnnw. Yr wyf fi a'm cyn gydweithwyr yn croesawu'r ffaith na fydd diogelwch tân yng Nghymru'n cael ei ad-drefnu. Wrth i'r gwasanaeth tân symud tuag at gynlluniau rheoli risg integredig i benderfynu ar y gofal rhag tân ledled Cymru, dywedwch eich bod yn bwriadu ymgynghori â'r awdurdodau tân a'r prif swyddogion tân, ond a wnewch

staff to ensure that we can work together to reach a consensus and that whatever the risk management plans indicate, it will be in the best interest of the people of Wales?

Edwina Hart: Fire service staff will be pleased that this power has now been devolved to Wales as a result of a close-working relationship with fire authorities and the innovative ways in which we have tried to approach these issues. I will consult with all interested parties, but I have to draw a line between the management responsibilities of senior fire officers and their relationship with their staff and our role and function. However, I intend to consult as widely as possible because there are several issues on which we could improve our performance now that this power has been devolved.

William Graham: In welcoming your statement, the Welsh Conservative group supports any measure that will increase the safety of the public throughout Wales. However, we will oppose any closure of stations, particularly in rural communities and ask that any reductions in staff be brought about through natural wastage and not compulsory redundancy. When you consult with the fire service, we ask that you take on board what we have discussed in Committee, such as making the introduction of sprinklers mandatory, particularly in new school buildings. Will you also ensure that there is an increasing awareness of the dangers of fire, particularly of arson, and that increased fire safety issues become paramount? Will you join me in condemning the failure to include a ban on strikes? A modern fire service should offer a no-strike policy—the right to strike is important, but it is not more important than the policy of right to life.

In welcoming a fire and rescue service, will you clarify that it will be along the lines of the European model? Will you also ensure that it will not follow the model of the downgrading of the ambulance service—once the envy of many services—about which there is now a great deal of complaints. If there is to be a broader role with the emphasis on prevention, that role must be in

ymgyngori hefyd ag Undeb y Brigadau Tân a staff i sicrhau y gallwn weithio gyda'n gilydd i ddod i gonsensws a, beth bynnag a ddengys y cynlluniau rheoli risg, y bydd hynny er y budd gorau i bobl Cymru?

Edwina Hart: Bydd staff y gwasanaeth tân yn falch bod y pŵer hwn wedi'i ddatganoli i Gymru bellach o ganlyniad i'r berthynas waith agos â'r awdurdodau tân a'r dulliau arloesol yr ydym wedi'u defnyddio i geisio ymdrin â'r materion hyn. Gwnaf ymgynghori â phawb sy'n gysylltiedig, ond rhaid imi dynnu llinell rhwng cyfrifoldebau rheoli uwch swyddogion tân a'u perthynas â'u staff a'n rôl a'n swyddogaeth ni. Fodd bynnag, bwriadaf ymgynghori mor eang ag y bo modd am fod sawl mater y gallem wella ein perfformiad ynddynt gan fod y pŵer hwn wedi'i ddatganoli bellach.

William Graham: Wrth groesawu'ch datganiad, mae grŵp Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn cefnogi unrhyw fesur a fydd yn hyrwyddo diogelwch y cyhoedd ledled Cymru. Er hynny, gwnawn wrthwynebu cau unrhyw orsafoedd, yn enwedig mewn cymunedau gwledig a gofynnwn i unrhyw ostyngiadau yn nifer y staff ddigwydd drwy golli swyddi'n naturiol ac nid drwy ddiswyddo gorfodol. Pan ymgynghorwch â'r gwasanaeth tân, gofynnwn ichi ystyried yr hyn a drafodasom yn y Pwyllgor, megis peri iddi fod yn orfodol cyflwyno taenellwyr, yn enwedig mewn adeiladau ysgol newydd. A wnewch sicrhau hefyd fod mwy o ymwybyddiaeth o beryglon tân, yn enwedig llosgi bwriadol, a bod y pwys mwyaf yn cael ei roi ar faterion sy'n ymwneud â gwella diogelwch tân? A wnewch ymuno â mi i gollfarnu'r methiant i gynnwys gwaharddiad ar streicio? Dylai gwasanaeth tân modern gynnig polisi o beidio â streicio—mae'r hawl i streicio'n bwysig, ond nid yw'n bwysicach na'r polisi o hawl i fyw.

Wrth groesawu gwasanaeth tân ac achub, a wnewch egluro y bydd yn debyg i'r model Ewropeaidd? A wnewch sicrhau hefyd na fydd yn dilyn y model o israddio'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans—a fu unwaith yn destun cenfigen i lawer o wasanaethau—y mae llawer iawn o gwynion yn ei gylch bellach. Os ceir rôl ehangach gyda phwyslais ar atal, rhaid i'r rôl honno fodoli yng nghyd-

terms of saving life and reducing injuries. Will you also use your influence in respect of equality issues and ensure that environmental disasters and terrorism become the responsibility, at least in terms of the immediate response, of this new service? We welcome the emphasis on fire prevention and education as a way of increasing the level of public protection. Will you also clarify the former role of the partnership council, where fire authorities were represented? I hope that that will continue and that there will not be an erosion of local authority consultation—I will not say control—throughout our fire service. We welcome achieving safer communities in Wales and ask you to ensure an equality of emergency cover throughout Wales.

3.30 p.m.

Edwina Hart: I broadly welcome the points that you made with one exception: I have always believed that the right to strike is a fundamental human right. When I see persecuted workers who cannot strike in countries across the world, my trade union background comes straight to the fore. It is an absolute right, and I am delighted that the Government has decided not to legislate in that manner. On your other points, fire prevention measures, such as sprinkler systems and hardwired smoke alarms, which we have discussed in Committee, are at the heart of this discussion. We now have the opportunity to move that agenda further forward. The Assembly will be able to make financial decisions and decide how to prioritise this particular agenda. I am also anxious to see equality of service across Wales, and that will be at the forefront of my discussions with the fire service when we deal with these newly devolved issues. I will take forward your point about the European model, and it will probably be the subject of further discussion with the fire service. It is important that we capitalise on this development and use the opportunity for closer working relationships between the emergency services. We have a good record on that to date, but I want to improve it.

Peter Black: I also welcome this statement

destun achub bywydau a lleihau anafiadau. A wnewch ddefnyddio'ch dylanwad hefyd mewn cysylltiad â materion cydraddoldeb a sicrhau bod trychinebau amgylcheddol a therfysgaeth yn dod yn gyfrifoldeb i'r gwasanaeth newydd hwn, o ran yr ymateb cyntaf o leiaf? Croesawn y pwyslais ar atal tân ac addysg fel modd i gynyddu'r amddiffyniad i'r cyhoedd. A wnewch egluro rôl flaenorol y cyngor partneriaeth, lle y cynrychiolid awdurdodau tân? Gobeithiaf y bydd hynny'n parhau ac na fydd erydu ar yr ymgynghori ag awdurdodau lleol—ni ddefnyddiaf y gair rheoli—yn ein gwasanaeth tân drwyddo draw. Croesawn y bwriad i sicrhau y ceir cymunedau mwy diogel yng Nghymru a gofynnwn ichi sicrhau gwasanaeth brys cydradd ledled Cymru.

Edwina Hart: Croesawaf y pwyntiau a wnaethoch at ei gilydd heblaw am un: yr wyf yn credu erioed fod yr hawl i streicio yn hawl ddynol sylfaenol. Pan welaf weithwyr dan erledigaeth nad ydynt yn cael streicio mewn gwledydd ledled y byd, mae fy nghefnidir yn yr undebau llafur yn dod i'r amlwg. Mae'n hawl absoliwt, ac yr wyf yn falch bod y Llywodraeth wedi penderfynu peidio â deddfu yn y modd hwnnw. O ran y pwyntiau eraill a wnaethoch, mae mesurau atal tân, fel systemau taenellwyr a larymau mwg gwifredig, yr ydym wedi'u trafod yn y Pwyllgor, yn ganolog yn y drafodaeth hon. Mae gennym gyfle'n awr i yruu'r agenda honno yn ei blaen. Bydd y Cynulliad yn gallu gwneud penderfyniadau ariannol a phenderfynu sut i flaenoriaethu'r agenda benodol hon. Yr wyf hefyd yn awyddus i sicrhau gwasanaeth cydradd ledled Cymru, a chaiff hynny le amlwg yn fy nhrefnadaethau â'r gwasanaeth tân pan ddeliwn â'r materion hyn sydd newydd eu datganoli. Byddaf yn ystyried y pwynt a wnaethoch am y model Ewropeaidd, ac mae'n debyg y bydd yn destun trafodaeth pellach gyda'r gwasanaeth tân. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn manteisio ar y datblygiad hwn ac yn achub ar y cyfle i gael cydberthynas waith agosach rhwng y gwasanaethau brys. Mae gennym record dda ar hynny hyd yn hyn, ond yr wyf am ei gwella.

Peter Black: Yr wyf finnau'n croesawu'r

today, and the Minister's statement this morning, which stated her desire to also transfer responsibility for the police to the Assembly. It is essential that all emergency services are under our control. I also welcome the Minister's comments about the strong case for stability. There is no call for change to the existing structure of fire authorities in Wales. That stability is vital if we are to take forward our agenda on fire prevention across Wales. Will the Minister give assurances that, as part of the transfer, we will also receive the relevant funding, and that we will not lose out as a result of this change? Will the Minister also make an early statement on how the Welsh Assembly Government will approach the modernisation agenda? There is already speculation on the future of small stations in terms of single control rooms and so on. An early statement on that will make people aware of the position.

Edwina Hart: I am already scheduling meetings with the interested parties to achieve a coherent approach to some of the wider issues included in the paper. My views about policing are well known and established. Gaining control of all the emergency services would ensure better value for money and better coverage across Wales.

Janice Gregory: I am sure that members of the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee would want me, as Chair, to welcome your statement today and the Deputy Prime Minister's announcement. You rightly mentioned the close relationship between the National Assembly and the three Welsh fire authorities. Like you, I look forward to building on that solid base. There is no doubt that this announcement will end the confusion, uncertainty and tension caused by the split in responsibilities between the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Assembly and the fire brigade. How will this announcement impact on the work of the community fire safety trust for Wales?

Edwina Hart: The community fire safety

datganiad hwn heddiw, a datganiad y Gweinidog y bore yma, a ddatganodd ei hawydd i drosglwyddo cyfrifoldeb dros yr heddlu i'r Cynulliad hefyd. Mae'n hollbwysig bod pob gwasanaeth brys dan ein rheolaeth. Yr wyf hefyd yn croesawu sylwadau'r Gweinidog am y ddatl gryf dros sefydlogrwydd. Nid oes galw am newid i drefn bresennol yr awdurdodau tân yng Nghymru. Mae'n hanfodol cael y sefydlogrwydd hwnnw os ydym i fwrw ymlaen â'n agenda ar atal tân ledled Cymru. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi sicrwydd y byddwn, fel rhan o'r trosglwyddo, yn cael y cyllid perthnasol hefyd, ac na fyddwn ar ein colled o ganlyniad i'r newid hwn? A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad yn fuan hefyd ar y modd y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ymdrin â'r agenda moderneiddio? Mae dyfalu eisoes ynghylch dyfodol gorsafoedd bach yng nghyd-destun ystafelloedd rheoli sengl ac yn y blaen. Bydd datganiad ar hynny'n fuan yn fodd i bobl gael gwybod am y sefyllfa.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf eisoes yn trefnu cyfarfodydd gyda'r rhai sy'n gysylltiedig er mwyn sicrhau ymagwedd gydlynol at rai o'r materion mwy cyffredinol a geir yn y papur. Mae fy marn am blismona'n hysbys ac yn sefydledig. Drwy gael rheolaeth ar yr holl wasanaethau brys, gellid sicrhau gwell gwerth am arian a gwell gwasanaeth ledled Cymru.

Janice Gregory: Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio yn dymuno i mi, fel Cadeirydd, groesawu'ch datganiad chi heddiw a chyhoeddiad y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog. Gwnaethoch sôn yn briodol am y berthynas agos rhwng y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a'r tri awdurdod tân yng Nghymru. Fel chithau, edrychaf ymlaen at adeiladu ar y sail gadarn honno. Nid oes amheuaeth na fydd y cyhoeddiad hwn yn rhoi pen ar y dryswch, yr ansicrwydd a'r tyndra sy'n ganlyniad i'r rhannu ar gyfrifoldebau rhwng Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, y Cynulliad a'r frigâd dân. Sut y bydd y cyhoeddiad hwn yn effeithio ar waith yr ymddiriedolaeth diogelwch tân cymunedol i Gymru?

Edwina Hart: Mae'r ymddiriedolaeth

trust for Wales is an excellent Assembly initiative, supported by fire authorities across Wales. The latest development will enhance its role and function. We can now effectively consider what other areas it can influence in terms of fire prevention and fire safety. I look forward to the new working relationships that are bound to emerge as a result of these changes. If I may respond, Presiding Officer, to Peter Black about the crucial issue of funding—I omitted to do so earlier; that shows that I am no longer Finance Minister. On funding, it will be essential to have the proper transfers in place, but we are lucky in terms of funding the fire service. We know what the figures for an appropriate transfer are—we are not in the dark about that.

Janet Ryder: I share your pleasure that this power has now been devolved to the National Assembly, and that you can guarantee a good financial settlement. There was a recent pay settlement with the fire service, and it is crucial that this settlement is fully funded on transfer and will not involve cuts to services in Wales, or increased council taxes.

In response to William's comments about a ban on strikes, you said that you were glad that there was no ban, and I agree. However, William said that banning strikes within the fire service meant a right to life for victims of fire. One way to help guarantee that is to change the emphasis of policy on crewing tenders to save lives rather than property. Minister, will you give a guarantee today that you will shift the emphasis of the fire service in Wales from saving property to saving lives?

Edwina Hart: My experience of the fire service in Wales shows that it does emphasise saving lives and not property. If you consider the recent tragic events in Gwauncaegurwen, in Gwenda Thomas's constituency, the fire service fought to do the right thing—it put lives first. In terms of the policy agenda, saving lives is the issue that concerns me and fire prevention is the most

diogelwch tân cymunedol i Gymru'n fenter ragorol ar ran y Cynulliad, sy'n cael ei chefnogi gan awdurdodau tân ledled Cymru. Bydd y datblygiad diweddaraf yn hyrwyddo ei rôl a'i swyddogaeth. Bellach gallwn ystyried yn effeithiol y meysydd eraill y gall ddylanwadu arnynt o ran atal tân a diogelwch tân. Edrychaf ymlaen at y cydberthnasau gweithio newydd sy'n sicr o ddatblygu o ganlyniad i'r newidiadau hyn. Os caf ymateb, Lywydd, i Peter Black am y mater hollbwysig o gyllido—anghofiais wneud hynny'n gynharach; dengys hynny nad y Gweinidog Cyllid ydwyf bellach. O ran cyllido, bydd yn hollbwysig cael y trosglwyddiadau priodol, ond yr ydym yn ffodus o ran cyllido'r gwasanaeth tân. Gwyddom beth yw'r ffigurau ar gyfer trosglwyddiad priodol—nid ydym yn y niwl ynghylch hynny.

Janet Ryder: Fel chithau, yr wyf wrth fy modd bod y pŵer hwn wedi'i ddatganoli bellach i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, a'ch bod yn gallu sicrhau setliad ariannol da. Bu setliad ar dâl gyda'r gwasanaeth tân yn ddiweddar, ac mae'n hollbwysig bod y setliad hwn yn cael ei gyllido'n llawn wrth drosglwyddo ac na fydd yn golygu torri ar wasanaethau yng Nghymru, neu drethi cyngor uwch.

Yn eich ymateb i sylwadau William am wahardd streicio, dywedasoeh eich bod yn falch nad oedd streicio wedi'i wahardd, ac yr wyf yn cytuno. Fodd bynnag, dywedodd William fod gwahardd streicio yn y gwasanaeth tân yn golygu hawl i fyw i rai sy'n dioddef oherwydd tân. Un modd i helpu sicrhau hynny yw newid pwyslais y polisi ar griwio injans tân i fod yn un o achub bywydau yn hytrach nag arbed eiddo. Weinidog, a wnewch roi sicrwydd heddiw y newidiwch bwyslais y gwasanaeth tân yng Nghymru o arbed eiddo at achub bywydau?

Edwina Hart: Mae fy mhrofiad i o'r gwasanaeth tân yng Nghymru'n dangos ei fod yn rhoi pwyslais ar achub bywydau ac nid ar arbed eiddo. Os ystyriwch y digwyddiadau trist yn ddiweddar yng Ngwauncaegurwen, yn etholaeth Gwenda Thomas, ceisiodd y gwasanaeth tân wneud y peth iawn—rhoddodd fywydau'n gyntaf. O ran yr agenda polisi, achub bywydau yw'r

important issue for us all.

Gwenda Thomas: A fire tragedy has weighed heavily on my constituency during the last week. Yesterday, we saw a community in mourning, supporting a family that deserved all our sympathy.

Minister, I welcome the devolution of power over the fire service to Wales. I commend your actions during the first Assembly, in the way that you established a partnership, not only with the fire service, but also with the fire authorities. You mentioned that the reorganisation of the fire service has already taken place in Wales and I am sure that you will agree that high quality and diverse training is offered and undertaken. Will you assure us that there will be full and meaningful negotiation with the Fire Brigades Union before any further operational changes are introduced, and that the future role of the fire authorities in Wales will be clearly defined? What will be the new service be called, could it be 'Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achubiaeth Cymru'?

Edwina Hart: I will not attempt to pronounce that, but it sounds all right to me. [*Laughter.*] It is important that 'rescue' now appears in the title, although the fire service has always undertaken such tasks. There is nothing new in its work on major spillages, and terrorist or environmental incidents; there has always been excellent training in Wales for those tasks. Diverse training initiatives should continue, and we should support firefighters in the training that they undertake.

You and William Graham both mentioned fire authorities; that democratic link must be retained. The involvement of local authority members with fire authorities is most useful and they take the issues involved seriously. A local authority leader told me that when councillors become members of a fire authority, they don the helmet so that they press the fire authority's case strongly within local government. It is good that they take such an interest and show such a commitment; I want to retain that.

mater sydd o bwys i mi ac atal tân yw'r mater pwysicaf inni oll.

Gwenda Thomas: Mae trychineb sy'n gysylltiedig â tân wedi pwysio'n drwm ar fy etholaeth i yn ystod yr wythnos diwethaf. Ddoe, gwelsom gymuned mewn galar, yn cynnal teulu a oedd yn haeddu ein holl gydymdeimlad.

Weinidog, croesawaf ddatganoli pŵer dros y gwasanaeth tân i Gymru. Canmolaf y camau a gymerasoch yn ystod y Cynulliad cyntaf, o ran y modd y sefydlasoch bartneriaeth, nid yn unig â'r gwasanaeth tân, ond â'r awdurdodau tân hefyd. Cyfeiriasoch at yr ad-drefnu a fu ar y gwasanaeth tân yng Nghymru eisoes ac yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunech fod hyfforddiant da ac amrywiol yn cael ei gynnig a'i ddilyn. A wnewch ein sicrhau y bydd negodi llawn ac ystyrlon ag Undeb y Brigadau Tân cyn cyflwyno unrhyw newidiadau gweithredol pellach, ac y bydd rôl yr awdurdodau tân yng Nghymru yn cael ei diffinio'n glir yn y dyfodol? Beth fydd enw'r gwasanaeth newydd, ai 'Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achubiaeth Cymru'?

Edwina Hart: Ni cheisiaf ynganu hynny, ond mae'n swnio'n iawn i mi. [*Chwerthin.*] Mae'n bwysig bod y gair 'achub' yn ymddangos yn y teitl yn awr, er bod y gwasanaeth tân yn ymgymryd â thasgau o'r fath erioed. Nid oes dim byd newydd o ran ei waith ar ollyngiadau mawr, a digwyddiadau terfysgol neu amgylcheddol; bu hyfforddiant rhagorol yng Nghymru erioed ar gyfer y tasgau hynny. Dylai mentrau hyfforddi amrywiol barhau, a dylem gefnogi diffoddwyr tân yn yr hyfforddiant yr ymgymmerant ag ef.

Gwnaethoch chi a William Graham sôn am awdurdodau tân; rhaid cadw'r cyswllt democrataidd hwnnw. Mae'r rhan a gymer aelodau awdurdod lleol mewn awdurdodau tân yn dra buddiol a chymerant y materion dan sylw o ddifrif. Dywedodd un arweinydd awdurdod lleol wrthyf fod cynghorwyr, wrth ddod yn aelodau o awdurdod tân, yn gwisgo'r helmed fel eu bod yn pwysio'n gryf dros yr awdurdod tân mewn llywodraeth leol. Mae'n beth da eu bod yn ymddiddori felly ac yn dangos y fath ymroddiad; yr wyf am gadw

hynny.

Any operational changes will give rise to issues for chief fire officers, but I hope that all changes will be fully negotiated with the relevant trade union. We can only deliver the service that we want through consensus. I must place on record the fact that it is good to have a fire service in Wales with such dedicated professionals.

Nick Bourne: I thank the Minister for promptly making this statement after the decision was made. I agree with her that the fire service in Wales is uniformly professional and that it does a fantastic job. I emphasise that we need restructuring like we need a hole in the head. I also believe that the way that the UK Government mishandled the firefighters' dispute is one reason why control of the fire service has been a ready candidate for devolution.

Aspects of the so-called modernisation agenda cause me some concern. I visited many fire stations in my region during the firefighters' dispute and discovered that the peak time for domestic fires was 3 a.m. To consider withdrawing night cover is not progress—it is moving backwards with a vengeance. I would welcome an assurance that power will be devolved over terms of conditions and that sensible decisions will be made; we need to hear that today, more than anything else. Some of us were taken by surprise by the timing of this decision—although we welcome it and understand the reasons behind it—as the Richard commission is still sitting. The commission was certainly considering this issue because we gave specific evidence on it. Is this part of a plan? Will we see more such ad hoc decisions or will we have to wait until the end of the year for the Richard commission's report before other functions become possible candidates for transferral? The Minister's views on powers over the police, for example, are well known. However, shall we be waiting for the Richard commission's final report or is there a possibility that we shall again be overtaken by events and that such a transfer could happen in advance of the report? If the Minister could deal with that

Bydd unrhyw newidiadau gweithredol yn codi materion i'w hystyried gan brif swyddogion tân, ond gobeithiaf y bydd pob newid yn cael ei negodi'n drwyadl â'r undeb llafur perthnasol. Dim ond drwy gonsensws y gallwn ddarparu'r math o wasanaeth a ddymunwn. Rhaid imi ddweud ar goedd ei bod yn dda cael gwasanaeth tân yng Nghymru sydd â'r fath weithwyr proffesiynol ymroddedig.

Nick Bourne: Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am wneud y datganiad hwn yn brydlon wedi i'r penderfyniad gael ei wneud. Cytunaf â hi fod y gwasanaeth tân yng Nghymru'n broffesiynol drwyddo draw a'i fod yn gwneud gwaith gwych. Pwysleisiaf mai'r peth olaf y mae arnom ei angen yw ad-drefnu. Credaf hefyd mai'r modd y gwnaeth Llywodraeth y DU gamdraffod anghydfod y diffoddwyr tân yw un rheswm y buwyd mor barod i ystyried datganoli'r gwasanaeth tân.

Mae rhai agweddau ar yr agenda moderneiddio, fel y'i gelwir, yn peri peth pryder i mi. Ymwelais â llawer o orsafoedd tân yn fy rhanbarth i yn ystod anghydfod y diffoddwyr tân a darganfod mai am 3 a.m. y ceir y nifer mwyaf o danau mewn cartrefi. Nid cynnydd yw ystyried tynnu'n ôl darpariaeth yn ystod y nos—cam mawr yn ôl ydyw. Byddwn yn croesawu sicrwydd y datganolir pŵer dros delerau ac amodau ac y gwneir penderfyniadau synhwyrol; rhaid inni gael clywed hynny heddiw, yn fwy na dim byd arall. Gwnaeth rhai ohonom synnu at amseriad y penderfyniad hwn—er ein bod yn ei groesawu ac yn deall y rhesymau sy'n sail iddo—gan fod comisiwn Richard yn dal i eistedd. Yr oedd y comisiwn yn ystyried y mater hwn, yn sicr, oherwydd rhoesom dystiolaeth benodol arno. A yw hyn yn rhan o gynllun? A welwn ragor o benderfyniadau *ad hoc* o'r fath neu a fydd yn rhaid inni ddisgwyl tan ddiwedd y flwyddyn am adroddiad comisiwn Richard cyn y gellir ystyried y posibilrwydd o drosglwyddo swyddogaethau eraill? Mae barn y Gweinidog am bwerau dros yr heddlu, er enghraifft, yn hysbys iawn. Fodd bynnag, a fyddwn yn disgwyl am adroddiad terfynol comisiwn Richard neu a oes posibilrwydd y bydd digwyddiadau'n ein dal yn annisgwyl

question too, I would be grateful.

ac y gallai trosglwyddo o'r fath ddigwydd cyn cael yr adroddiad? Os gallai'r Gweinidog ymdrin â'r cwestiwn hwnnw hefyd, byddwn yn ddiolchgar.

3.40 p.m.

Edwina Hart: I am not aware of any further devolution of functions by the UK Government within my portfolio. The Richard commission will cover responsibility for the police, and that will then generate debate with our Westminster colleagues. Unlike you, I am not worried by the decision on the timing as I had anticipated it for some time. Once the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister accepted the main recommendations, we knew that the fire service would become a devolved matter in Wales. I firmly believe that you cannot value human life too highly. As the Government Minister with responsibility in Wales, I would want to maintain the quality of the service, which would allow chief fire officers within that framework to make the right decisions on cover. Ultimately, it is important to recognise that Wales is not metropolitan England, where you can nip down a motorway at high speed to reach a fire in the middle of the night. That is why I am so pleased that the fire service has been devolved. We can create a fire service that is fit for purpose for the people of Wales, not one that is led by the demands of metropolitan England. I hope that you will support me in the matter of related resources, Nick, as it is important that the necessary resources are in place to provide an excellent fire service.

Edwina Hart: Nid wyf yn ymwybodol o unrhyw ddatganoli pellach ar swyddogaethau gan Lywodraeth y DU yn fy mhortffolio i. Bydd comisiwn Richard yn ymdrin â chyfrifoldeb dros yr heddlu, a bydd hynny wedyn yn arwain at drafod gyda'n cyd-Weinidogion yn San Steffan. Yn wahanol i chi, nid wyf yn poeni am y penderfyniad ar yr amseriad gan fy mod yn ei ddisgwyl ers tro. Wedi i Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog dderbyn y prif argymhellion, gwyddem y byddai'r gwasanaeth tân yn fater a ddatganolid i Gymru. Credaf yn gryf na ellir rhoi gormod o werth ar fywyd dynol. Fel y Gweinidog mewn Llywodraeth sydd â chyfrifoldeb yng Nghymru, byddwn am gynnal ansawdd y gwasanaeth, a ganiatâi i brif swyddogion tân wneud y penderfyniadau iawn o fewn y fframwaith hwnnw ar y ddarpariaeth. Yn y diwedd, mae'n bwysig cydnabod nad Lloegr fetropolitan yw Cymru, ac na ellir brysio i lawr traffordd i gyrraedd tân gefn nos. Dyna pam yr wyf mor falch bod y gwasanaeth tân wedi'i ddatganoli. Gallwn greu gwasanaeth tân sy'n diwallu anghenion pobl Cymru, nid un sy'n cael ei arwain gan ofynion Lloegr fetropolitan. Gobeithiaf y gwnewch fy nghefnogi ar fater adnoddau cysylltiedig, Nick, gan ei bod yn bwysig bod yr adnoddau angenrheidiol ar gael i ddarparu gwasanaeth tân rhagorol.

However, I thank you for your support on restructuring. You are quite right: another restructure would be welcomed like a hole in head—Wales's fire authorities have bedded down well. There will be wider issues to consider in the future about coterminous boundaries on emergency services in general and further devolution for Wales. However, that is a matter for another day, in a few years perhaps.

Fodd bynnag, diolch i chi am eich cefnogaeth ar ad-drefnu. Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle: ni fyddai croeso o gwbl i ad-drefnu pellach—mae awdurdodau tân Cymru wedi ymsefydlu'n dda. Bydd materion ehangach i'w hystyried yn y dyfodol ynghylch cydffiniau'r holl wasanaethau brys a datganoli pellach i Gymru. Fodd bynnag, mae hynny'n fater i'w drafod eto, ymhen rhai blynyddoedd o bosibl.

Peter Law: I congratulate you, Minister, on your hard work on this matter over the last two-and-a-half years, and on your negotiations. This is a significant day in that

Peter Law: Fe'ch llongyfarchaf, Weinidog, ar eich gwaith caled ar y mater hwn dros y ddwy flynedd a hanner diwethaf, ac ar eich negodiadau. Diwrnod pwysig yw hwn, i'r

we have achieved administrative devolution of the fire service, which is what the Committee wanted. It shows that the UK Labour Government is listening to the Assembly and that it has given the Welsh Assembly Government the opportunity to care for the people of Wales by devolving such powers. Can you assure me that you will enter into discussions not only with the Fire Brigades Union, but also with our partners in local government and in fire authorities, as soon as possible, so that you can design a structure that will serve all the people of Wales?

Edwina Hart: I am happy to assure you that all necessary discussions will take place and I will be delighted to come before the first Committee meeting after recess to discuss the fire service. I am grateful for cross-party support on this matter, which has been particularly helpful.

Rosemary Butler: I too welcome the devolution of this function to Wales. The name change is important as it recognises the kind of work undertaken by firefighters. Given your excellent record on listening and having meaningful consultations, I hope that you will listen to the firefighters to find out what sort of service they want to deliver. Although pay is, quite rightly, not devolved to Wales, it is important that the responsibility for the conditions in which firefighters work will be devolved. It is not only important that quality equipment is available to them to develop this service, but facilities in fire stations are also crucial. I invite you to Newport to see the facilities in Malpas fire station, and to hear the views of firefighters on how they would like the service to be developed.

Edwina Hart: I gratefully accept your kind invitation. Issues with regard to conditions and fire stations must be addressed. The issuing of quality equipment is also close to my heart as I know that several fire authorities wish to invest in more modern and better equipment, and we will consider that when this matter is fully devolved. It is important that the people of Wales have a professional, high-quality service delivered

graddau ein bod wedi sicrhau datganoli gweinyddol ar y gwasanaeth tân, sef yr hyn a ddymunai'r Pwyllgor. Dengys fod Llywodraeth Lafur y DU yn gwrando ar y Cynulliad a'i bod wedi rhoi cyfle i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ofalu am bobl Cymru drwy ddatganoli pwerau o'r fath. A allwch fy sicrhau y byddwch yn cychwyn trafodaethau gydag Undeb y Brigadau Tân, a hefyd â'n partneriaid mewn llywodraeth leol ac mewn awdurdodau tân, cyn gynted ag y bo modd, fel y gallwch gynllunio strwythur a fydd yn gwasanaethu pawb yng Nghymru?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn falch o'ch sicrhau y bydd yr holl drafodaethau angenrheidiol yn digwydd ac y byddaf yn falch o ddod gerbron cyfarfod cyntaf y Pwyllgor ar ôl y toriad i drafod y gwasanaeth tân. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am gefnogaeth drawsbleidiol ar y mater hwn, a fu'n gymorth mawr.

Rosemary Butler: Yr wyf finnau'n croesawu datganoli'r swyddogaeth hon i Gymru. Mae'r newid i'r enw'n bwysig gan ei fod yn cydnabod y math o waith a wnaiff diffoddwyr tân. Yng ngolwg y record ragorol sydd gennych o ran gwrando ac ymgynghori mewn modd ystyrllon, gobeithiaf y gwnewch wrando ar y diffoddwyr tân er mwyn darganfod pa fath o wasanaeth y dymunant ei ddarparu. Er na ddatganolwyd tâl i Gymru, a hynny'n briodol, mae'n bwysig y datganolir y cyfrifoldeb dros yr amodau y mae diffoddwyr tân yn gweithio odanynt. Mae'n bwysig bod offer o ansawdd da ar gael iddynt er mwyn datblygu'r gwasanaeth hwn, ac mae cyfleusterau mewn gorsafoedd tân yn hollbwysig hefyd. Fe'ch gwahoddaf i Gasnewydd i weld y cyfleusterau yng ngorsaf dân Malpas, ac i glywed barn diffoddwyr tân am y math o ddatblygu yr hoffent ei weld yn y gwasanaeth.

Edwina Hart: Derbyniaf eich gwahoddiad caredig yn ddiolchgar. Rhaid ymdrin â materion sy'n codi ynghylch amodau a gorsafoedd tân. Mae dosbarthu offer o ansawdd da'n fater sy'n agos at fy nghalon hefyd gan y gwn fod sawl awdurdod tân yn dymuno buddsoddi mewn offer gwell a mwy modern, a gwnawn ystyried hynny wedi i'r mater hwn gael ei ddatganoli'n llawn. Mae'n bwysig bod pobl Cymru yn cael gwasanaeth

across the whole of Wales, not just urban Wales.

proffesiynol o ansawdd da a ddarperir ledled Cymru, nid yng Nghymru drefol yn unig.

Datganiad ar Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru Statement on Education and Learning Wales

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): I will make a statement today about the way ahead at National Council—ELWa. This is in relation to deficiencies in the application of the proper procurement procedures required by the Assembly Government, and to problems affecting a number of projects commissioned by the council at broadly the same time, which are being independently investigated by the Auditor General. There was a pattern in what occurred over a number of projects late in 2001 and early in 2002. The common thread concerns weaknesses in the operation of important business systems, notably those bearing on contract, compliance, project, risk and payment management. All were marked by an absence of the usual business standards that we expect in any Assembly sponsored public body. I welcome the acting chief executive's decision to undertake a comprehensive review of other council contracts. The advice I have at present suggests that this wider review has raised no new issues.

What happened was truly regrettable, notwithstanding ELWa's excellent record of achievement for learners. Although the problems affect only a small percentage of the council's overall expenditure and activity, we cannot disregard or dismiss control and compliance failures of the sort that existed, particularly up-front payments, which contravene Government accounting rules. Members can be assured that the robust audit systems that the Assembly Government has put in place will ensure that lessons are learned and acted upon.

The audit process must now take its course to ensure that the appropriate lessons are learned and operational practical changes implemented. It may be helpful to lay out the timetable for Members: I understand that the

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Gwnaf ddatganiad heddiw am y ffordd ymlaen yn y Cyngor Cenedlaethol—ELWa. Mae hyn yn ymwneud â diffygion wrth gymhwyso'r gweithdrefnau caffael priodol sy'n ofynnol gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, a'r problemau sy'n effeithio ar nifer o brosiectau a gomisiynwyd gan y cyngor tua'r un pryd, sy'n destun ymchwiliad annibynnol gan yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol. Yr oedd patrwm i'r hyn a ddigwyddodd mewn sawl prosiect ddiwedd 2001 a dechrau 2002. Mae'r elfen gyffredin yn ymwneud â gwendidau yng ngweithrediad systemau busnes pwysig ac, yn neilltuol, y rhai sy'n effeithio ar gontractio, cydymffurfio, rheoli prosiectau, risg a thaliadau. Yr oedd pob un yn amlygu diffyg o ran y safonau busnes arferol a ddisgwyliwn mewn unrhyw gorff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad. Croesawaf y penderfyniad gan y prif weithredwr gweithredol i ymgymryd ag adolygiad cynhwysfawr o gontractau eraill y cyngor. Mae'r wybodaeth sydd gennyf ar hyn o bryd yn awgrymu nad yw'r adolygiad ehangach hwn wedi codi unrhyw faterion newydd.

Yr oedd yr hyn a ddigwyddodd yn destun gofid gwirioneddol, er rhagored yw record ELWa o ran ei gyflawniadau dros ddysgwyr. Er nad yw'r problemau ond yn effeithio ar ganran fach o holl wariant a gweithgaredd y cyngor, ni allwn ddiystyru neu anwybyddu methiannau o ran rheoli a chydymffurfio o'r math a gafwyd, yn enwedig taliadau ymlaen llaw, sy'n groes i reolau cyfrifyddu'r Llywodraeth. Caiff Aelodau fod yn dawel eu meddwl y bydd y systemau archwilio cadarn a sefydlodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn sicrhau y dysgir gwersi ac y gweithredir yng ngoleuni hynny.

Rhaid i'r broses archwilio fynd rhagddi'n awr er mwyn sicrhau y dysgir y gwersi priodol ac y rhoddir newidiadau ymarferol gweithredol ar waith. Gallai fod yn fuddiol disgrifio'r amserlen i Aelodau: deallaf fod yr

Auditor General is likely to publish his independent report in September, the contents and timing of which are matters for him, and not for the Assembly Government. When that report is available, the Assembly's Audit Committee will conduct its own hearing, take evidence and publish its report. The Assembly Government will respond to the Committee's recommendations within 30 days, as required by Assembly Standing Orders.

Since I first reported the council's concerns to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee in May 2002, the Assembly Government has instigated several specific actions to ensure that the council is fit for purpose. First, we sought immediate reassurance from the council about action to be taken to ensure that a proper control framework was in place. Secondly, the Assembly Government agreed to the Rawlings recommendations, namely that the council should have a separate chief executive and finance director. I reported that to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee on 21 November 2002. Thirdly, in my remit letter this year, I required the council to urgently review its key business systems to ensure that key aspects of its project management, contract practices, procurement procedures, payment and treasury arrangements, risk management and compliance are in sound condition. Fourthly, I required the council to prepare a prioritised action plan to deal effectively with all areas of weakness, for full implementation by September. The action plan covers measures to restructure and reshape the organisation, overhaul business systems, institute a training and development programme to secure the council's management of projects, and to buttress its compliance regime. Milestones and targets have been agreed with the Permanent Secretary and measures are now in hand to recruit a permanent chief executive and financial director, and to appoint a successor to Enid Rowlands, who has decided not to seek a second term.

The sponsor division is monitoring the council's progress against its action plan through monthly meetings with the interim chief executive. The Assembly Government

Archwilydd Cyffredinol yn debygol o gyhoeddi ei adroddiad annibynnol ym mis Medi, ac mae ei gynnwys ac adeg ei gyhoeddi'n faterion iddo ef, nid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Pan fydd yr adroddiad hwnnw ar gael, bydd Pwyllgor Archwilio'r Cynulliad yn cynnal ei wrandawriad ei hun, yn cymryd tystiolaeth ac yn cyhoeddi ei adroddiad. Bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ymateb i argymhellion y Pwyllgor o fewn 30 niwrnod, yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog y Cynulliad.

Ers imi adrodd yn gyntaf am bryderon y cyngor i'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ym Mai 2002, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi cymryd sawl cam penodol i sicrhau bod y cyngor yn addas i'w ddiben. Yn gyntaf, gofynasom am sicrwydd ar unwaith gan y cyngor ynghylch y camau a gymerid i sicrhau bod fframwaith rheoli priodol ar waith. Yn ail, cytunodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ag argymhellion Rawlings, sef y dylai'r cyngor gael prif weithredwr a chyfarwyddwr cyllid ar wahân. Adroddais hynny i'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ar 21 Tachwedd 2002. Yn drydydd, yn fy llythyr cylch gorchwyl eleni, mynnais fod y cyngor yn adolygu ei brif systemau ar frys i sicrhau bod agweddau allweddol ar ei reolaeth ar brosiectau, ei arferion contractio, ei weithdrefnau caffael, ei drefniadau talu a thrysorlys, ei reolaeth ar risg a'i gydymffurfio yn gadarn. Yn bedwerydd, mynnais fod y cyngor yn paratoi cynllun gweithredu yn ôl blaenoriaeth i ddelio'n effeithiol â phob maes lle y ceir gwendid, i'w weithredu'n llawn erbyn mis Medi. Mae'r cynllun gweithredu'n ymdrin â mesurau i aildrefnu ac ailffurfio'r corff, ailwampio systemau busnes, cychwyn rhaglen hyfforddi a datblygu i sicrhau rheolaeth y cyngor ar brosiectau, ac atgyfnerthu ei gyfundrefn cydymffurfio. Cytunwyd ar gerrig milltir a thargedau â'r Ysgrifennydd Parhaol ac mae mesurau ar y gweill yn awr i recriwtio prif weithredwr a chyfarwyddwr ariannol parhaol, ac i benodi olynnydd i Enid Rowlands, sydd wedi penderfynu peidio ag ymgeisio am ei hailbenodi ar gyfer ail dymor.

Mae'r adran sy'n ei noddi yn monitro cynnydd y cyngor yn erbyn ei gynllun gweithredu drwy gyfarfodydd misol â'r prif weithredwr dros dro. Mae Llywodraeth y

has made it a requirement that its internal auditors undertake quarterly reviews of the council's business systems to ensure compliance with control documents. Checks are made on project management, contract practices, procurement procedures and payments. The council is also now required to provide an annual statement of compliance with the control documents. Meanwhile, Sue Essex and I have agreed to commission an independent examination of the action plan to provide assurance on the council's ability to discharge the plan effectively and to confirm delivery to time. That work will be dovetailed with the roll out of the council's plan, and will be completed in line with the council's progress.

The Assembly resolved that the council should be established from 1 April 2001, with the following clear aims in view: to bring coherence to a disjointed system for post-16 learners; to eradicate unnecessary competition between providers and the duplication of investment and work in partnership at local, regional or national levels; to improve choice, and to bring a level playing field to funding for learners in sixth forms, further education and work-based settings. Those benefits are now within our grasp. That means better provision for skills; parity of treatment for vocational and academic pathways; higher standards of learning; fewer dropouts; higher quality of provision, and more choice. It means breaking down the barriers to learning for individuals, communities, and businesses. It means increasing the number, and the attainments, of learners in Wales.

The council has made an important and valuable start and has achieved a great deal for learners in a short time. It has important housekeeping to complete but there can be no doubting the commitment of council members. They are determined to ensure that a painful experience is turned to good effect, and that the council builds on its strengths. Members of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee will have the opportunity in the autumn to hear directly from the council about progress on its action plan. I look forward to rapid progress on the delivery of the action plan and on being able

Cynulliad wedi mynnu y bydd ei archwilwyr mewnol yn cynnal adolygiadau chwarterol o systemau busnes y cyngor i sicrhau ei fod yn cydymffurfio â dogfennau rheoli. Cynhelir archwiliadau o'r rheolaeth ar brosiectau, arferion contractio, gweithdrefnau caffael a thaliadau. Yn ogystal â hynny, mae bellach yn ofynnol i'r cyngor ddarparu datganiad blynyddol o gydymffurfiad â'r dogfennau rheoli. Yn y cyfamser, mae Sue Essex a minnau wedi cytuno i gomisiynu archwiliad annibynnol o'r cynllun gweithredu er mwyn rhoi sicrwydd o allu'r cyngor i gyflawni'r cynllun yn effeithiol ac i gadarnhau ei fod yn ei weithredu'n brydlon. Cyfunir y gwaith hwnnw â'r gwaith o weithredu cynllun y cyngor, ac fe'i cwblheir yn unol â'r cynnydd a wnaiff y cyngor.

Penderfynodd y Cynulliad y dylid sefydlu'r cyngor o 1 Ebrill 2001, gan anelu at y nodau clir canlynol: cydlynu'r system wasgarog ar gyfer dysgwyr ôl-16; dileu cystadlu diangen rhwng darparwyr a dyblygu ar fuddsoddi a gweithio mewn partneriaeth yn lleol, yn rhanbarthol neu'n genedlaethol; hyrwyddo dewis, a sicrhau chwarae teg ar gyfer cyllido dysgwyr mewn cyfleusterau chweched dosbarth, addysg bellach a lleoliadau sy'n seiliedig ar waith. Mae'r manteision hynny o fewn ein gafael bellach. Mae hynny'n golygu darparu'n well ar gyfer sgiliau; trin y llwybrau galwedigaethol ac academaidd yn gyfartal; safonau dysgu uwch; llai'n gadael cyrsiau; darpariaeth o ansawdd gwell, a rhagor o ddewis. Mae'n golygu chwalu'r rhwystrau i ddysgu ar gyfer dysgwyr, cymunedau, a busnesau. Mae'n golygu cynnydd yn nifer y dysgwyr yng Nghymru, ac yn eu cyflawniadau.

Mae'r cyngor wedi cyflawni gwaith pwysig a gwerthfawr ers iddo gychwyn ac mae wedi cyflawni llawer iawn dros ddysgwyr mewn cyfnod byr. Mae ganddo waith pwysig i'w gwblhau o ran cadw tŷ ond ni ellir amau ymroddiad aelodau'r cyngor. Maent yn benderfynol o sicrhau y ceir budd o'r profiad poenus hwn, ac y bydd y cyngor yn datblygu ei gryfderau. Bydd aelodau'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes yn cael cyfle yn yr hydref i glywed yn uniongyrchol gan y cyngor am ei gynnydd wrth ddilyn ei gynllun gweithredu. Edrychaf ymlaen at weld cynnydd buan yn y gwaith o gyflawni'r

to assure Members of the strength of the independent study that will report to me in the autumn.

3.50 p.m.

Helen Mary Jones: I have always been a great admirer of the Minister's ability to say almost nothing with a great deal of conviction. I am afraid that we had another example of that today. The Minister must be the only person in Wales who believes that the benefits from ELWa, which we all hoped for, are within our grasp. Many of us are not convinced that all ELWa must deal with are housekeeping issues. It is still disappointing, although not surprising, that the Minister takes no political responsibility for what went wrong, or acknowledges that there are still real and present concerns.

The Audit Committee's first report raises questions about the political decision-making during ELWa's establishment. The Minister still refuses to acknowledge or to respond to these concerns. There are still important issues that the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee should be enabled to investigate thoroughly. In her statement, the Minister attempted to say that there were issues in the past, and that all is well now. However, you will remember, Minister, quoting to me last week in response to concerns that I raised about work-based training, a letter that had been sent out the day before from ELWa to training providers. In that letter to training providers, ELWa says that all pieces of the jigsaw are not fully in place.

On my copy of the letter, one training provider has written:

'This is hopeless—I still cannot plan.'

Will you acknowledge that this is not the sign of an organisation that has sorted itself out and is enabled to move on? These are serious issues that still need to be addressed. The extension to current contracts helps, but it does not deal with the medium-term issues.

cynllun gweithredu ac at allu sicrhau Aelodau ynghylch cadernid yr astudiaeth annibynnol y caf adroddiad amdani yn yr hydref.

Helen Mary Jones: Yr wyf yn edmygydd mawr erioed o allu'r Gweinidog i ddweud bron ddim gyda llawer o arddeliad. Mae arnaf ofn inni gael enghraifft arall o hynny heddiw. Rhaid mai'r Gweinidog yw'r unig un yng Nghymru sy'n credu bod y manteision o ELWa, yr oedd pob un ohonom yn gobeithio eu cael, o fewn ein gafael. Mae llawer ohonom heb ein hargyhoeddi mai materion cadw tŷ yw'r cwbl y mae'n rhaid i ELWa ymdrin â hwy. Mae'n dal i beri siom, er nad yw'n syndod, nad yw'r Gweinidog yn derbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb gwleidyddol am yr hyn a aeth o'i le, nac yn cydnabod bod pryderon gwirioneddol o hyd.

Mae adroddiad cyntaf y Pwyllgor Archwilio yn codi cwestiynau ynghylch y penderfyniadau gwleidyddol a wnaed wrth sefydlu ELWa. Mae'r Gweinidog yn dal i wrthod cydnabod neu ymateb i'r pryderon hyn. Mae materion pwysig o hyd y dylid galluogi'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes i ymchwilio iddynt yn drylwyr. Yn ei datganiad, honnai'r Gweinidog fod materion wedi codi yn y gorffennol, a bod popeth yn iawn bellach. Fodd bynnag, Weinidog, byddwch yn cofio dyfynnu yr wythnos diwethaf, mewn ymateb i bryderon a godais am hyfforddiant sy'n seiliedig ar waith, o lythyr a anfonwyd gan ELWa y diwrnod cynt at ddarparwyr hyfforddiant. Yn y llythyr hwnnw at ddarparwyr hyfforddiant, dywed ELWa nad yw pob darn o'r jig-so yn ei le eto.

Ar fy nghopi i o'r llythyr, mae un darparwr hyfforddiant wedi ysgrifennu:

Mae hyn yn anobeithiol—ni allaf gynllunio o hyd.

A wnewch gydnabod nad yw hyn yn arwydd o gorff sydd wedi rhoi trefn ar ei bethau ac sydd wedi'i alluogi i symud ymlaen? Materion difrifol yw'r rhain sy'n gofyn sylw o hyd. Mae'r estyniad i gontractau cyfredol yn gymorth, ond nid yw hynny'n fodd i ddelio â materion yn y tymor canolig.

It was difficult to come up with specific questions based on the Minister's statement, because it says so little. However, I have managed to come up with a few. The Minister will recall my asking in the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee's last meeting whether ELWa's action plan—which, I believe, was then being described as a recovery plan—will now be published. Can you confirm today, Minister, that that will not be the case, because the Committee, and Members in Plenary, will not be able to monitor against the action plan and will not be able to say whether they believe that it is adequate unless they see it publicly? Are you prepared to publish the terms of reference for the independent study that you have commissioned jointly with the Finance Minister? We welcome this, but we would like to see what exactly it is being asked to study. Can you tell us what steps you have taken to ensure that the new chief executive and the new chair will have the capabilities to undertake such an enormous task? The original people had an enormous job to do, but they now have an even bigger job to put concerns right and to readdress—even if the concerns are now historical—issues of confidence in training providers and educators. Finally, I ask again—although I believe that I know the answer—will you ever take political responsibility for this mess?

Jane Davidson: Thank you, Helen Mary, for being predictable. Once again, you have not acknowledged achievements against targets. ELWa has achieved against the educational targets set by the Assembly. Trainees in work-based learning are up against target by 12 per cent. Organisations gaining recognition as Investors in People are up against target by 22 per cent. The number of companies supported by workforce development is up against target by 7 per cent. The knowledge exploitation fund is 240 per cent over target, supporting 1,977 companies. Learners from the poorest Welsh wards on work-based learning programmes are up against target by 36 per cent. Modern apprenticeship recruits are up against target by 10 per cent. It is important that I make those achievements against targets known to the Assembly once again, because you refuse

Yr oedd yn anodd meddwl am gwestiynau penodol ar sail datganiad y Gweinidog, gan ei fod yn dweud cyn lleied. Er hynny, llwyddais i feddwl am ychydig. Bydd y Gweinidog yn cofio fy mod wedi gofyn yng nghyfarfod diwethaf y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes a fydd cynllun gweithredu ELWa—a elwid yn gynllun adfer bryd hynny, yr wyf yn credu—yn cael ei gyhoeddi. A allwch gadarnhau heddiw, Weinidog, na fydd hynny'n digwydd, oherwydd ni fydd y Pwyllgor, ac Aelodau yn y Cyfarfod Llawn, yn gallu monitro yn ôl y cynllun gweithredu ac ni fyddant yn gallu dweud a gredant ei fod yn ddigonol oni chaiff ei gyhoeddi? A ydych yn barod i gyhoeddi'r cylch gorchwyl ar gyfer yr astudiaeth annibynnol yr ydych wedi'i chomisiynu ar y cyd â'r Gweinidog Cyllid? Croesawn hynny, ond carem weld beth yn union y gofynnir iddi ei astudio. A allwch ddweud pa gamau a gymerasoch i sicrhau bod gan y prif weithredwr newydd a'r cadeirydd newydd y gallu i ymgymryd â'r dasg anferth hon? Yr oedd gwaith aruthrol gan y rhai gwreiddiol, ond mae ganddynt waith mwy byth yn awr wrth ymateb i bryderon ac adfer hyder—hyd yn oed os yw'r pryderon yn y gorffennol bellach—ymysg darparwyr hyfforddiant ac addysgwyr. Yn olaf, gofynnaf eto—er y credaf fy mod yn gwybod yr ateb—a wnewch dderbyn cyfrifoldeb gwleidyddol byth am y llanastr hwn?

Jane Davidson: Diolch i chi, Helen Mary, am fod yn rhagweladwy. Unwaith eto, nid ydych wedi cydnabod cyflawniadau yn erbyn targedau. Mae ELWa wedi llwyddo yn erbyn y targedau addysgol a bennwyd gan y Cynulliad. Mae nifer yr hyfforddeion mewn dysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith 12 y cant yn uwch na'r targed. Mae nifer y cyrff sy'n ennill cydnabyddiaeth fel Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl 22 y cant yn uwch na'r targed. Mae nifer y cwmnïau sy'n derbyn cymorth i ddatblygu eu gweithlu 7 y cant yn uwch na'r targed. Mae'r gronfa defnyddio gwybodaeth 240 y cant yn uwch na'r targed, ac yn cynorthwyo 1,977 o gwmnïau. Mae nifer y dysgwyr o wardiau tlotaf Cymru ar raglenni dysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith 36 y cant yn uwch na'r targed. Mae'r nifer a gafodd eu recriwtio i brentisiaethau modern 10 y cant yn uwch na'r targed. Mae'n bwysig fy mod

to acknowledge at all points the contribution made to learners in Wales.

The Assembly Government has fully responded to the Audit Committee, as it is bound by Standing Orders, within the 30 days on the issues raised in the first Audit Committee report. In my response to your question last week, Helen Mary, the letter that went to training providers, which was welcomed by the National Training Federation on behalf of training providers in Wales, said that contracts would be extended to the end of the calendar year and that a comprehensive tendering exercise in the autumn will allow 18-month contracts to be awarded, which will provide longer-term stability and planning continuity. The ultimate review of numbers is taking place this week. The National Training Federation, which I am meeting on 15 July to consider the outcome of that review, welcomes that.

In terms of the action plan, ELWa representatives will come before the Committee to discuss that plan, which will be made available to Committee members for the September meeting. When Sue Essex and I have finally agreed on the terms under which the independent organisation will consider the action plan, we will make them available to Members.

Jeff Cuthbert: The statement sets out the situation that ELWa faces in a balanced way. I believe that we can be confident that the audit process will identify and resolve any problems. Do you agree, however, that the continual failure of ELWa's critics to mention the value of its help to businesses, such as support for staff training, and the Investors in People programme—which exceeded its target—only serves to undermine learners' achievements and destroys confidence in ELWa's services to business? We know that difficulties still need to be resolved, such as the concerns of some training providers. However, do you agree that we must maintain a sense of proportion

yn rhoi gwybod i'r Cynulliad unwaith eto am y cyflawniadau hynny yn erbyn targedau, gan eich bod bob amser yn gwrthod cydnabod y cyfraniad a wnaed ar gyfer dysgwyr yng Nghymru.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ymateb yn llawn i'r Pwyllgor Archwilio, fel y mae'n gorfod gwneud o dan y Rheolau Sefydlog, o fewn 30 niwrnod ar y materion a godwyd yn adroddiad cyntaf y Pwyllgor Archwilio. Yn fy ymateb i'ch cwestiwn yr wythnos diwethaf, Helen Mary, yr oedd y llythyr a anfonwyd at ddarparwyr hyfforddiant, a groesawyd gan y Ffederasiwn Hyfforddiant Cenedlaethol ar ran darparwyr hyfforddiant yng Nghymru, yn dweud y byddid yn ymestyn contractau hyd ddiwedd y flwyddyn galendr ac y bydd ymarfer tendro cynhwysfawr yn yr hydref yn caniatáu dyfarnu contractau 18 mis, a fydd yn rhoi sefydlogrwydd yn y tymor hwy a pharhad o ran cynllunio. Cynhelir yr adolygiad terfynol o niferoedd yr wythnos hon. Mae'r Ffederasiwn Hyfforddiant Cenedlaethol, y byddaf yn cwrdd ag ef ar 15 Gorffennaf i ystyried canlyniad yr adolygiad hwnnw, yn croesawu hynny.

O ran y cynllun gweithredu, daw cynrychiolwyr o ELWa gerbron y Pwyllgor i drafod y cynllun hwnnw a ddarperir i aelodau'r Pwyllgor ar gyfer y cyfarfod ym Medi. Pan fydd Sue Essex a minnau wedi cytuno'n derfynol ar ba delerau y bydd y corff annibynnol yn ystyried y cynllun gweithredu, byddwn yn eu darparu i Aelodau.

Jeff Cuthbert: Mae'r datganiad yn rhoi disgrifiad cytbwys o'r sefyllfa y mae ELWa yn ei hwynebu. Credaf y gallwn fod yn ffyddiog y bydd y broses archwilio yn canfod ac yn datrys unrhyw broblemau. A ydych yn cytuno, fodd bynnag, bod methiant parhaus beirniaid ELWa i sôn am werth ei gymorth i fusnesau, fel y cymorth i hyfforddi staff, a'r rhaglen Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl—sydd wedi rhagori ar ei tharged—yn tanseilio cyflawniadau dysgwyr ac i chwalu hyder yng ngwasanaethau ELWa ar gyfer busnesau? Gwyddom fod anawsterau sydd angen eu datrys o hyd, fel y pryderon sydd gan rai darparwyr hyfforddiant. Er hynny, a gytunwch fod rhaid inni weld pethau yn eu

and demonstrate our confidence in the professionalism of ELWa's front-line staff?

Jane Davidson: It is important that the Assembly does nothing to undermine learners' achievements. There has been a 3 per cent increase in learner participation rates in Wales. We have more learners in our system than ever before. As my statement fully explains, the practices followed at ELWa are unacceptable and contravene Government accounting rules. However, that does not in any way contradict the points that you have made, Jeff. Every Assembly Member, while denigrating problems that should not have arisen, should also be continually looking for opportunities to expand learning in Wales.

David Davies: How many leading members of the Welsh business community have you spoken to about ELWa? I have spoken to two during the past fortnight, who described ELWa in terms that would contravene Standing Orders and the BBC watershed. Your statement raises far more questions than it answers. You spoke about the comprehensive review of other council contracts that has taken place and how no new issues have been raised. Does that mean that you are now confirming that only one improper, up-front payment was made, or were there others? Does your comment about no new issues relate to specific up-front contracts or to the general policy that ELWa appeared to have had of making up-front payments?

You say that steps have been taken to recruit a new chief executive. Will the current acting chief executive be allowed to apply for that job? He worked closely with the chair in a different body prior to working for ELWa, he was recruited without any proper selection procedure, and many people think that it would be wrong for him to be allowed to apply for the job of chief executive considering what has taken place. You say that monitoring is now taking place. Have your monitors considered how much is being spent on public relations and marketing, particularly in view of the fact that ELWa

gwir oleuni a dangos ein hymddiriedaeth ym mhroffesiynoldeb staff rheng flaen ELWa?

Jane Davidson: Mae'n bwysig na wnaiff y Cynulliad ddim i danseilio cyflawniadau dysgwyr. Bu cynnydd o 3 y cant yng nghyfraddau cyfranogi dysgwyr yng Nghymru. Mae gennym fwy o ddysgwyr yn ein system nag erioed o'r blaen. Fel yr eglurir yn llawn yn fy natganiad, mae'r arferion a ddilynwyd yn ELWa yn annerbyniol ac maent yn groes i reolau cyfrifyddu'r Llywodraeth. Er hynny, nid yw hynny'n gwrth-ddweud o gwbl y pwyntiau a wnaethoch chi, Jeff. Dylai pob Aelod o'r Cynulliad, wrth feirniadu problemau na ddylent fod wedi codi, chwilio'n barhaus hefyd am gyfleoedd i ehangu dysgu yng Nghymru.

David Davies: Â sawl aelod blaenllaw o gymuned fusnes Cymru yr ydych wedi siarad ynghylch ELWa? Yr wyf fi wedi siarad â dau yn ystod y pythefnos diwethaf, a ddisgrifiodd ELWa gan ddefnyddio geiriau a fyddai'n groes i'n Rheolau Sefydlog ac na allai'r BBC eu darlledu mor gynnar yn y dydd. Mae'ch datganiad yn codi llawer mwy o gwestiynau nag y mae'n eu hateb. Gwnaethoch sôn am yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr a gafwyd o gontractau eraill o eiddo'r cyngor a dweud na chodwyd unrhyw faterion newydd. A yw hynny'n golygu eich bod yn cadarnhau'n awr mai dim ond un taliad ymlaen llaw amhriodol a wnaed, neu a oedd eraill? A yw'ch sylw nad oes unrhyw faterion newydd yn ymwneud â chontractau penodol lle y talwyd ymlaen llaw neu'r polisi cyffredinol a oedd gan ELWa, i bob golwg, o roi taliadau ymlaen llaw?

Dywedwch fod camau wedi'u cymryd i recriwtio prif weithredwr newydd. A ganiateir i'r prif weithredwr gweithredol presennol ymgeisio am y swydd honno? Bu'n gweithio'n agos gyda'r cadeirydd mewn corff gwahanol cyn dod i weithio i ELWa, cafodd ei recriwtio heb fynd drwy unrhyw weithdrefn ddethol briodol, ac mae llawer o'r farn na fyddai'n iawn caniatáu iddo ymgeisio am swydd y prif weithredwr yng ngolwg yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd. Dywedwch fod monitro'n digwydd bellach. A yw'r rhai sy'n monitro ar eich rhan wedi ystyried faint sy'n cael ei wario ar gysylltiadau cyhoeddus a

representatives will not currently participate in radio interviews? I wonder what the public relations people are doing. Are the monitors considering whether money was spent on a DVD suite, studio lights and a plasma screen, which were purchased by a private company with ELWa's money, and which have not been used to train anyone? ELWa refuses to talk about that and cites commercial confidentiality. I say that it has spent that money on those resources. What do you have to say about that, Minister? You talk about weaknesses in operating important business systems, but you are actually referring to the fact that you established ELWa with no financial standing orders. You speak coyly about an absence of the usual expected business standards. In other words, Minister, by your own admission, ELWa has been incompetent. You tell us that we may be reassured and that lessons have been learnt. The only lesson that we can learn from this is that it is possible for you, as an Assembly Minister, to set up a quango with a budget of £500 million without any proper financial Standing Orders. Furthermore, the chair, the chief executive and other senior management of that quango have displayed a complete lack of financial competence, yet have still kept their jobs. Is it not the case that no amount of warm words, spin or bland civil service jargon can hide the fact that something is deeply wrong at the core of post-16 education in Wales, and that you, Minister, are responsible for it?

4.00 p.m.

Jane Davidson: Thank you for repeating the rant that I heard on Radio Wales this morning; that was almost word-for-word, so now we have your script. I have talked to business representatives, and am meeting members of the Confederation of British Industry to discuss a range of education issues. Business supported the principle of establishing Education and Learning Wales, as did most Assembly Members. ELWa ensures a level playing field in education, a greater emphasis on key skills, and provides greater opportunities for learners in Wales. On the comprehensive review of the

marchnata, yn enwedig yng ngolwg y ffaith na wnaiff cynrychiolwyr ELWa gymryd rhan mewn cyfweiliadau ar y radio ar hyn o bryd? Beth y mae'r bobl cysylltiadau cyhoeddus yn ei wneud, tybed? A yw'r rhai sy'n monitro yn ystyried a wariwyd arian ar ystafell DVD, ar oleuadau stiwdio a sgrîn plasma, a brynwyd gan gwmni preifat ag arian ELWa, ac sydd heb eu defnyddio i hyfforddi neb? Mae ELWa yn gwrthod siarad am hynny gan gyfeirio at gyfrinachedd masnachol. Dywedaf ei fod wedi gwario'r arian hwnnw ar yr adnoddau hynny. Beth sydd gennych chi i'w ddweud am hynny, Weinidog? Yr ydych yn sôn am wendidau wrth weithredu systemau busnes pwysig, ond yr ydych yn cyfeirio mewn gwirionedd at y ffaith eich bod wedi sefydlu ELWa heb unrhyw reolau sefydlog ariannol. Soniwch yn dawedog am ddiffyg o ran y safonau busnes a ddisgwyliid fel arfer. Mewn geiriau eraill, Weinidog, drwy eich cyfaddefiad eich hun, bu ELWa yn anghymwys. Dywedwch wrthym y cawn fod yn dawel ein meddwl a bod gwersi wedi'u dysgu. Yr unig wers y gallwn ni ddysgu oddi wrth hyn oedd bod modd i chi, yn Weinidog Cynulliad, sefydlu cwango gyda chyllideb o £500 miliwn heb unrhyw Reolau Sefydlog ariannol priodol. At hynny, mae'r cadeirydd, y prif weithredwr ac uwch reolwyr eraill y cwango hwnnw wedi dangos analluogrwydd ariannol llwyr, ac eto wedi cadw eu swyddi. Onid yw'n wir na fydd unrhyw eiriau braf, sbin neu jargon di-liw'r gwasanaeth sifil yn ddigon i gelu'r ffaith bod rhywbeth mawr o'i le wrth wraidd addysg ôl-16 yng Nghymru, ac mai chi, Weinidog, sy'n gyfrifol am hynny?

Jane Davidson: Diolch i chi am ailadrodd y brygowthan a glywais ar Radio Wales y bore yma; yr oedd hynny'n ailadrodd air am air bron, felly mae'ch sgript gennym bellach. Yr wyf wedi siarad â chynrychiolwyr busnes, ac yr wyf yn cwrdd ag aelodau o Gydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain i drafod amryw o faterion sy'n ymwneud ag addysg. Yr oedd busnes o blaid yr egwyddor o sefydlu Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru, fel yr oedd y rhan fwyaf o Aelodau'r Cynulliad. Mae ELWa yn sicrhau chwarae teg mewn addysg, mwy o bwyslais ar sgiliau allweddol, ac yn cynnig mwy o gyfleoedd i ddysgwyr

council's contracts, the interim chief executive wanted to reassure himself, council members and the Assembly Government—with the education department as the sponsor department—that no issues that had not been properly addressed remained within the internal audit process. His reassurance is important: all aspects are now being properly addressed.

I have made it clear on several occasions that the Assembly Government has never permitted up-front payments; it contravenes a Government accounting rule. That information has been sent to all Assembly sponsored public bodies and it will be explored in the Audit Committee as the proper forum, as I said in my statement.

You alleged that the interim chief executive was recruited without a proper selection procedure, but it is a well-established principle supported by business in Wales that people with the appropriate skills are seconded. The interim chief executive was already on secondment in ELWa when the council recognised that he had the appropriate skills to take the action plan forward. All the contact that officials, Members and I have had with the interim chief executive has reaffirmed that he has the skills and determination to ensure that ELWa is put back on track.

Despite your many allegations about public relations, ELWa's public relations budget is less than 0.04 per cent of its budget, which is less than any other Assembly sponsored public body spends on public relations.

An accusation was made about the original Audit Committee report that, when ELWa's executive had not adopted the proper procurement practices, it went against the organisation's overall wellbeing. The Auditor General said that he fully accepted that the people involved in the inappropriate procurement practices, which we do not endorse in any way, had operated acts of omission not of commission.

Yng Nghymru. Ynghylch yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr o gontractau'r cyngor, yr oedd y prif weithredwr dros dro am gael sicrwydd iddo'i hun, i aelodau'r cyngor ac i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad—â'r adran addysg fel yr adran sy'n ei noddi—nad oedd unrhyw faterion a oedd heb eu trin yn briodol drwy'r broses archwilio mewnol. Mae'r sicrwydd a roddodd yn bwysig: mae pob agwedd yn cael ei thrin yn briodol yn awr.

Rhoddais ar ddeall ar sawl achlysur nad yw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad erioed wedi caniatáu taliadau ymlaen llaw; mae'n groes i un o reolau cyfrifyddu'r Llywodraeth. Anfonwyd y wybodaeth honno i'r holl gyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad ac fe'i hystyrir yn y Pwyllgor Archwilio gan mai hwnnw yw'r fforwm priodol, fel y dywedais yn fy natganiad.

Gwnaethoch honni bod y prif weithredwr dros dro wedi'i recriwtio heb fynd drwy weithdrefn ddethol briodol, ond mae secondio pobl sydd â'r sgiliau priodol yn egwyddor sefydledig a gefnogir gan fusnes yng Nghymru. Yr oedd y prif weithredwr dros dro eisoes ar secondiad yn ELWa pan gydnabu'r cyngor ei fod yn meddu ar y sgiliau priodol i fwrw ymlaen â'r cynllun gweithredu. Mae pob cysylltiad a gafodd swyddogion, Aelodau a minnau â'r prif weithredwr dros dro wedi cadarnhau ei fod yn meddu ar y sgiliau a'r penderfyniad sydd eu hangen i roi ELWa yn ôl ar y llwybr cywir.

Er gwaethaf eich honiadau am gysylltiadau cyhoeddus, mae cyllideb cysylltiadau cyhoeddus ELWa yn llai na 0.04 y cant o'i gyllideb, sy'n llai nag y mae unrhyw gorff cyhoeddus arall a noddir gan y Cynulliad yn ei wario ar gysylltiadau cyhoeddus.

Gwnaed cyhuddiad ynghylch adroddiad gwreiddiol y Pwyllgor Archwilio i'r perwyl bod gweithrediaeth ELWa heb fabwysiadu arferion caffael priodol wedi gwneud drwg i'r corff yn gyffredinol. Dywedodd yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol ei fod yn llwyr dderbyn mai anwaith a gyflawnodd y rhai a fu'n gysylltiedig â'r arferion caffael amhriodol, nad ydym yn eu cymeradwyo mewn unrhyw fodd, ac nid camwaith.

David Davies *rose*—

The Presiding Officer: Order. David Davies, you have asked your questions. The Minister is replying. I want her to be heard in relative quiet.

Jane Davidson: What David Davies has said in the Chamber and on Radio Wales today is clear: you want to intervene in the audit process. You asked a series of questions that are included in the audit process. You did not listen to my response on work-based learning last week, when I stated what action was being taken, including this week's action on reviewing numbers. Your act of omission, David, is that you are not prepared to be honest about what is happening. I repeat that we will not tolerate standards not being achieved in terms of ELWa's financial procurement or any other matters relating to financial practices. Such practices will be fully explored through the audit process.

Peter Black: I start by recognising ELWa's many achievements in further education in Wales, which we must acknowledge. However, concerns remain, as is clear from Members' questions today. It is not yet time to draw a line under those concerns. As you said, ELWa representatives will appear before the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee on a number of occasions this year, so we will have an opportunity to raise our concerns with them.

Do you agree that it is important, as you said in your statement, that the internal funding arrangements and the accounting procedures are right? If that is not the case, there is severe danger of the mistakes that have been made being repeated. No Member wants to see that. Do you acknowledge that concerns remain across Wales, particularly in terms of the budgets for work-based learning? According to some providers, these have led directly to a reduction in training places on the foundation modern apprenticeship programme. What action are you taking to address those concerns and to tackle the shortages caused by the budgets?

David Davies *a gododd*—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. David Davies, yr ydych wedi gofyn eich cwestiynau. Mae'r Gweinidog yn ateb. Dymunaf iddi gael ei chlywed mewn distawrwydd cymharol.

Jane Davidson: Mae'r hyn a ddywedodd David Davies yn y Siambr ac ar Radio Wales heddiw'n glir: yr ydych am ymyrryd yn y broses archwilio. Gofynasoch gyfres o gwestiynau sydd wedi'u cynnwys yn y broses archwilio. Ni wnaethoch wrando ar fy ymateb ar ddysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith yr wythnos diwethaf, pan nodais y camau a oedd yn cael eu cymryd, gan gynnwys camau'r wythnos hon ar adolygu niferoedd. Yr anwaith ar eich rhan chi, David, yw nad ydych yn barod i ddweud y gwir am yr hyn sy'n digwydd. Dywedaf eto na wnawn oddef methiant i fodloni safonau yng nghyd-destun caffael ariannol ELWa neu unrhyw faterion eraill sy'n ymwneud ag arferion ariannol. Ymchwilir yn llawn i arferion o'r fath drwy'r broses archwilio.

Peter Black: Dechreuaf drwy gydnabod cyflawniadau niferus ELWa ym maes addysg bellach yng Nghymru, y mae'n rhaid inni eu cydnabod. Mae pryderon o hyd, fodd bynnag, fel y gwelir yn ôl cwestiynau Aelodau heddiw. Nid yw eto'n bryd rhoi'r pryderon hynny o'r neilltu. Fel y dywedasoch, bydd cynrychiolwyr ELWa yn ymddangos gerbron y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes sawl gwaith eleni, felly cawn gyfle i godi ein pryderon gyda hwy.

A ydych yn cytuno, fel y dywedasoch yn eich datganiad, ei bod yn bwysig bod y trefniadau cyllido mewnol a'r gweithdrefnau cyfrifyddu'n iawn? Os nad ydych, mae perygl dybryd y bydd y camgymeriadau a wnaed yn cael eu gwneud drachefn. Nid oes yr un Aelod sy'n dymuno gweld hynny. A ydych yn cytuno bod pryderon o hyd ledled Cymru, yn enwedig ynglŷn â'r cyllidebau ar gyfer dysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith? Yn ôl rhai darparwyr, mae'r rhain wedi arwain yn uniongyrchol at ostyngiad yn nifer y lleoedd hyfforddi yn y rhaglen prentisiaethau modern sylfaen. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i ymateb i'r pryderon hynny ac i fynd i'r afael â'r prinder y mae'r cyllidebau'n ei achosi?

I notice that the National Council's indicative budget figures for 2004-05, as stated in the 2003-04 remit letter, show an increase of less than 2 per cent on the previous year. Given the concerns about work-based learning and the demands of the further education sector, not to mention bids from the Association of Directors of Education in Wales and others, do you believe that the increase is sufficient if the National Council is to fulfil the remit set in your remit letter earlier this year? Is it not the case that the restructuring and the tightening-up of procedures mentioned in your statement will not address all the issues relating to ELWa's further education provision, particularly in terms of resources? Are you confident that ELWa is sufficiently resourced to fulfil its remit? How do you anticipate ELWa delivering a rapidly-expanding learning agenda in future years with such modest increases in resources?

Jane Davidson: I am grateful to you for acknowledging ELWa's achievements. My statement is not an indication that it is time to draw a line under these events; it is time to start to put the record straight. We must recognise that only a small amount of the £500 million spend is under scrutiny. We must also recognise that learning achievements in Wales are at their highest-ever level. I agree that the accounting procedures must be right. That is why the Assembly Government has taken the appropriate action, is undertaking monitoring and has requested that an action plan be prepared and independently assessed. That will give confidence to everyone, other than those who are determined to continue to denigrate learning opportunities in Wales.

In my response to a question on work-based learning in Plenary last week, I highlighted that the council was reviewing the balance between foundation modern apprenticeships and modern apprenticeships. I said that organisations that are delivering foundation modern apprenticeships are likely to see enhanced provision as a result of this week's review. Overall, there will be a 7 per cent increase in work-based learning provision. When we discuss budget issues in Committee

Sylwaf fod y ffigurau yng nghyllideb ddynodol y Cyngor Cenedlaethol ar gyfer 2004-05, fel y nodir yn y llythyr cylch gwaith ar gyfer 2003-04, yn dangos cynnydd o lai na 2 y cant o'i gymharu â'r flwyddyn flaenorol. O gofio'r pryderon ynghylch dysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith a gofynion y sector addysg bellach, heb sôn am geisiadau oddi wrth Gymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg Cymru ac eraill, a ydych yn credu bod y cynnydd yn ddigon i alluogi'r Cyngor Cenedlaethol i gyflawni'r cylch gorchwyl a nodwyd yn eich llythyr cylch gorchwyl yn gynharach eleni? Onid yw'n wir na fydd yr ad-drefnu a'r tynhau ar weithdrefnau a grybwyllir yn eich datganiad yn ymdrin â'r holl faterion sy'n gysylltiedig â darpariaeth addysg bellach ELWa, yn enwedig o ran adnoddau? A ydych yn sicr bod gan ELWa ddigon o adnoddau i gyflawni ei gylch gorchwyl? Sut y rhagwelwch y bydd ELWa yn cyflawni agenda ar gyfer dysgu a fydd yn ehangu'n gyflym yn y blynyddoedd i ddod gyda cyn lleied o gynnydd yn ei adnoddau?

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi am gydnabod cyflawniadau ELWa. Nid yw fy natganiad yn arwydd ei bod yn bryd rhoi'r digwyddiadau hyn o'r neilltu; mae'n bryd dechrau egluro'r sefyllfa. Rhaid inni dderbyn mai dim ond cyfran fach o'r £500 miliwn o wariant sy'n cael ei harchwilio. Rhaid inni gydnabod hefyd fod y cyflawniadau o ran dysgu yng Nghymru ar eu lefel uchaf erioed. Cytunaf fod yn rhaid i'r gweithdrefnau cyfrifyddu fod yn iawn. Dyna pam y cymerodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad y camau priodol, ac ymgymryd â monitro a gofyn am baratoi cynllun gweithredu ac am asesu hwnnw'n annibynnol. Bydd hynny'n ennyn hyder ym mhawb, heblaw am y rhai sy'n benderfynol o ddal i fychanu'r cyfleoedd i ddysgu a geir yng Nghymru.

Yn fy ymateb i gwestiwn ar ddysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith yn y Cyfarfod Llawn yr wythnos diwethaf, tynnais sylw at y ffaith bod y cyngor yn adolygu'r cydbwysedd rhwng prentisiaethau modern sylfaen a phrentisiaethau modern. Dywedais fod y cyrff sy'n darparu prentisiaethau modern sylfaen yn debygol o weld cynnydd yn y ddarpariaeth ar eu cyfer o ganlyniad i'r adolygiad yr wythnos hon. At ei gilydd, bydd cynnydd o 7 y cant yn y ddarpariaeth o

next week, I will seek the Committee's support to ensure that the council has the right budget, which it needs if it is to deliver the service that we require of it.

Leighton Andrews: You may be aware that, as a member of the Audit Committee, I requested at our last meeting that ELWa's outgoing chair and its previous chief executive attend the Audit Committee hearing on issues relating to the Learn to Live contract. I believe that they have questions to answer. Do you agree that it is essential that the independent examination of the ELWa action plan proceeds swiftly if ELWa's new chair and chief executive are to start the process of restoring trust in the organisation?

4.10 p.m.

Jane Davidson: It is right that the former chief executive and the outgoing chair appear before the Audit Committee. We have put robust Audit Committee processes in place, as I described in my statement. I am sure that Audit Committee members will ensure that they adhere fully to the principles agreed at the first meeting. These principles include: proper examination of witnesses who appear before the Committee; not prejudging the Committee's investigations by commenting on National Audit Office reports prior to the report being considered in Committee; briefing material for evidence sessions and Committee reports prior to publication being made available to Committee members and not being made available more widely; and, where the Committee receives information in confidence, members must respect the confidentiality of the information. The Audit Committee agreed these important principles, which will enable it to carry out its work effectively and properly, and not lead to the situation seen before the election when we became aware of a leak, about which no action has been taken.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I am afraid, Minister, that

ddysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith. Pan drafodwn faterion cyllideb yn y Pwyllgor yr wythnos nesaf, ceisiaf gefnogaeth gan y Pwyllgor i sicrhau bod gan y cyngor y gyllideb iawn y bydd arno'i hangen os yw i ddarparu'r gwasanaeth yr ydym yn ei ofyn ganddo.

Leighton Andrews: Efallai y gwyddoch fy mod, fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor Archwilio, wedi gofyn yn ein cyfarfod diwethaf am i gadeirydd ymadawol ELWa a'i brif weithredwr blaenorol ddod i wrandawriad y Pwyllgor Archwilio ar faterion sy'n gysylltiedig â chontract Learn to Live. Credaf fod cwestiynau y dylent eu hateb. A gytnwch ei bod yn hollbwysig i'r archwiliad annibynnol o gynllun gweithredu ELWa fynd rhagddo'n gyflym os yw cadeirydd a phrif weithredwr newydd ELWa i gael cychwyn ar y broses o adfer ffydd yn y corff?

Jane Davidson: Mae'n briodol i'r cyn brif weithredwr a'r cadeirydd ymadawol ymddangos gerbron y Pwyllgor Archwilio. Rhoesom brosesau cadarn ar waith drwy'r Pwyllgor Archwilio, fel y nodais yn fy natganiad. Hyderaf y bydd aelodau'r Pwyllgor Archwilio yn sicrhau eu bod yn llwyr gydymffurfio â'r egwyddorion a gytnwyd yn y cyfarfod cyntaf. Ymysg yr egwyddorion hynny y mae: croesholi tystion sy'n ymddangos gerbron y Pwyllgor yn briodol; peidio â rhagfarnu ynghylch ymchwiliadau'r Pwyllgor drwy wneud sylwadau am adroddiadau'r Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol cyn i'r adroddiad gael ei ystyried gan y Pwyllgor; darparu deunydd briffio ar gyfer sesiynau cymryd tystiolaeth ac adroddiadau Pwyllgor cyn eu cyhoeddi i aelodau'r Pwyllgor a pheidio â'u darparu'n fwy cyffredinol; ac, os yw'r Pwyllgor yn derbyn gwybodaeth yn gyfrinachol, rhaid i aelodau barchu cyfrinachedd y wybodaeth. Cytunodd y Pwyllgor Archwilio ar yr egwyddorion pwysig hyn, a fydd yn ei alluogi i gyflawni ei waith yn effeithiol ac yn briodol, heb arwain at y sefyllfa a welwyd cyn yr etholiad pan ddaethom i wybod bod gwybodaeth gyfrinachol wedi'i datgelu, na chymerwyd camau yn ei chylch.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Mae arnaf ofn, Weinidog,

you are wrong to protest again this afternoon that Assembly Members wish only to make headline-grabbing statements by raising legitimate questions about ELWa's role. You, as Minister, should take responsibility for the deficiencies that are apparent in the national council. When you say that we do not acknowledge ELWa's good work, I remind you about the content of your statement—the first paragraph states that it will discuss ELWa's deficiencies. As you are asking us to respond to that, it is legitimate that we should be raising questions about the national council's performance and its departure from the Government's accounting rules. Had you been prepared to come to Plenary and accept responsibility for that, we would not have to repeat many of these questions. It is time, Minister, for you to accept responsibility for some of these issues. When you persist in coming to the Chamber to say that everything is the responsibility of the Audit Committee, while you are responsible for nothing, these questions will continue to be raised.

We need to be clear about what you are telling us today. You have said that breaches of Government accounting rules will be reviewed. The only breach that the public is aware of is the breach in relation to the Pop Factory contract. Minister, are you aware of whether other contracts entered into by ELWa are in breach of Government accounting rules?

Jane Davidson: I will continue to respond to you as previously. We should look at the relationship between Assembly sponsored public bodies and the Assembly Government. Ministers are responsible for overall policy and direction and for issuing remit letters to ASPBs, which are then totally responsible for their own decisions. ELWa is responsible for all operational matters, and it will have to account for itself as part of the Audit Committee process.

I am disappointed with your sleight of words because I did not talk about the deficiencies in ELWa. I talked about the deficiencies in the application of proper procurement procedures required by the Assembly Government, and deficiencies in relation to

eich bod yn anghywir eto'r prynhawn yma wrth daeru nad yw Aelodau'r Cynulliad ond am wneud datganiadau i gipio penawdau'r newyddion drwy godi cwestiynau dilys am rôl ELWa. Dylech chi, fel Gweinidog, dderbyn cyfrifoldeb am y diffygion sy'n amlwg yn y cyngor cenedlaethol. Dywedwch nad ydym yn cydnabod gwaith da ELWa, ond yr wyf yn eich atgoffa am gynnwys eich datganiad—mae'r paragraff cyntaf yn datgan y bydd yn ymdrin â diffygion ELWa. Gan eich bod yn gofyn inni ymateb i hynny, mae'n iawn inni ofyn cwestiynau am berfformiad y cyngor cenedlaethol a'r ffaith ei fod wedi gwyro oddi wrth reolau cyfrifyddu'r Llywodraeth. Pe buasech yn barod i ddod i'r Cyfarfod Llawn a derbyn cyfrifoldeb am hynny, ni fyddem yn gorfod ailadrodd llawer o'r cwestiynau hyn. Weinidog, mae'n bryd ichi dderbyn cyfrifoldeb am rai o'r materion hyn. Gan eich bod yn mynnu dod i'r Siambr a dweud mai cyfrifoldeb y Pwyllgor Archwilio yw popeth, ac nad ydych chi'n gyfrifol am ddim, parheir i ofyn y cwestiynau hyn.

Rhaid inni fod yn glir ynghylch yr hyn yr ydych yn ei ddweud wrthym heddiw. Yr ydych wedi dweud y bydd adolygiad o'r torri ar reolau cyfrifyddu'r Llywodraeth. Yr unig dor-rheol y mae'r cyhoedd yn ymwybodol ohono yw'r un sy'n ymwneud â chontract y Ffatri Bop. Weinidog, a ydych yn gwybod a oes contractau eraill gydag ELWa sy'n torri rheolau cyfrifyddu'r Llywodraeth?

Jane Davidson: Parhaf i ymateb i chi fel y gwneuthum o'r blaen. Dylem edrych ar y berthynas rhwng gyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Gweinidogion sy'n gyfrifol am bolisi a chyfeiriad cyffredinol ac am roi llythyron cylch gwaith i gyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad sydd yn gwbl atebol am eu penderfyniadau eu hun. ELWa sy'n gyfrifol am bob mater gweithredol, a bydd yn rhaid iddo ateb drosto'i hun fel rhan o broses y Pwyllgor Archwilio.

Yr wyf yn siomedig â'ch dewis o eiriau amwys oherwydd ni soniais am y diffygion yn ELWa. Soniais am y diffygion o ran rhoi ar waith y gweithdrefnau caffael priodol sy'n ofynnol gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, a diffygion mewn cysylltiad â phroblemau sy'n

problems affecting a number of projects commissioned by the council around the same time. I did not use the phrase 'deficiencies in ELWa' as a general principle. I talked about the issues that are, quite properly, under Audit Committee investigation. That is why I said that there are a number of projects commissioned by the council at broadly the same time that are being independently investigated by the Auditor General. There are 18 projects—*[Interruption.]*

The Presiding Officer: Order. We are already out of time on this statement. Please allow the Minister to finish.

Jane Davidson: There are 18 projects in total in the innovation and development fund that are being investigated. However, neither you nor I, nor any other Member, can make a judgment about whether or not any or all or some of those projects have breached government accounting rules until they are properly dealt with through the Audit Committee process.

effeithio ar nifer o brosiectau a gomisiynwyd gan y cyngor tua'r un pryd. Ni ddefnyddiais y geiriau 'diffygion yn ELWa' fel egwyddor gyffredinol. Soniais am y materion sy'n destun ymchwiliad gan y Pwyllgor Archwilio, a hynny'n gwbl briodol. Dyna pam y dywedais fod nifer o brosiectau a gomisiynwyd tua'r un pryd gan y cyngor y mae'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol yn ymchwilio iddynt yn annibynnol. Mae 18 o brosiectau—*[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r amser ar gyfer y datganiad hwn wedi dod i ben eisoes. Gadewch i'r Gweinidog orffen, os gwelwch yn dda.

Jane Davidson: Mae cyfanswm o 18 o brosiectau yn y gronfa arloesi a datblygu yn destun ymchwiliad. Fodd bynnag, ni allwch chi na minnau, nac unrhyw Aelod arall, ddyfarnu ynghylch a yw unrhyw un neu'r cwbl neu rai o'r prosiectau hynny wedi torri rheolau cyfrifyddu'r Llywodraeth hyd nes y byddant wedi'u trafod yn briodol fel rhan o broses y Pwyllgor Archwilio.

Pwyntiau o Drefn Points of Order

Jonathan Morgan: Point of order. I raise this point of order under Standing Order No. 6.13, relating to guidance on tabling amendments to motions. Last week, I attempted to table an amendment to the motion on the new Assembly building for debate today, but was prevented from doing so by the Table Office on the grounds that an amendment cannot negate a motion. I was informed that that did not accord with the practices followed by the Presiding Office, based, I understand, on practices followed in Parliament. However, I have checked the Record of Proceedings, and, on Tuesday 20 July 1999, a similar debate was held on the new Assembly building in which the then First Secretary proposed a motion stating that the Assembly would be instructed to continue the development of the new Assembly building project with cost parameters and so on. My colleague, Nick Bourne, tabled an amendment to the motion, and proposed it in Plenary on 20 July 1999, which, had it been

Jonathan Morgan: Pwynt o drefn. Codaf y pwynt o drefn hwn o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.13, sy'n ymwneud â chanllawiau ar gyflwyno gwelliannau i gynigion. Yr wythnos diwethaf, ceisiais gyflwyno gwelliant i'r cynnig ar adeilad newydd y Cynulliad sydd i'w drafod heddiw, ond fe'm hataliwyd rhag gwneud hynny gan y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar y sail na all gwelliant negyddu cynnig. Fe'm hysbyswyd nad oedd yn unol â'r arferion a ddilynir gan Swyddfa'r Llywydd, sy'n seiliedig, yr wyf yn deall, ar arferion a ddilynir yn y Senedd. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf wedi edrych ar Gofnod y Trafodion, ac, ar ddydd Mawrth 20 Gorffennaf 1999, cynhaliwyd dadl debyg ar adeilad newydd y Cynulliad lle y cynigiwyd cynnig gan y Prif Ysgrifennydd ar y pryd yn datgan y byddai'r Cynulliad yn cael ei gyfarwyddo i barhau i ddatblygu prosiect adeilad newydd y Cynulliad gyda therfynau ar gost ac yn y blaen. Cyflwynodd fy nghyd-Aelod, Nick Bourne, welliant i'r cynnig, a'i

carried, would have negated the original motion. In fact, the amendment would have inserted the word 'not' in between 'should be instructed' and the word 'to'. I understand the position of the Table Office, which claims that precedents and the practice adopted by the Assembly would prevent me from tabling a similar amendment now. However, it seems that, according to previous practices and established convention, the Table Office had allowed a similar amendment to be tabled in the past.

Secondly, there is guidance on the acceptability of amendments under the general guidance on tabling motions, and point 9.2 states that amendments can

'modify a motion in such a way as to increase its acceptability or to present to the Assembly a different proposition as an alternative to the original motion.'

In addition, point 3 of the guidance on the grouping, selection and refusal of amendments lists reasons as to why an amendment may be deemed to be unacceptable. The negation of a motion is not included in that list. Therefore, I seek your ruling: was my amendment out of order according to the current written guidance? Also, was it out of order according to established conventions, bearing in mind that previous practices differed, particularly those that were happily adopted on Tuesday 20 July 1999?

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful to you for giving me advance notice of this point of order, enabling me to provide you with a reasoned reply. I congratulate you on your research, extending as far back as 1999. On that precedent, we have perhaps improved our understanding of conventions and parliamentary rules of order since 1999—not perhaps unconnected with the quality of advice that we now receive, for which I am always grateful—[*Interruption.*] Order. There should be no cause for gasping at that point. We receive high-quality parliamentary advice in this Assembly, for which I am extremely grateful.

gynnig yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar 20 Gorffennaf 1999, a fyddai, o'i dderbyn, wedi negyddu'r cynnig gwreiddiol. Mewn gwirionedd, byddai'r gwelliant wedi ychwanegu'r geiriau 'beidio â' rhwng 'i' a 'barhau'. Deallaf safbwynt y Swyddfa Gyflwyno, sy'n honni y byddai cynseiliau a'r arfer a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cynulliad yn fy rhwystro rhag cyflwyno gwelliant tebyg yn awr. Fodd bynnag, ymddengys fod y Swyddfa Gyflwyno, yn ôl arferion blaenorol a chonfensiwn sefydledig, wedi caniatáu cyflwyno gwelliant tebyg yn y gorffennol.

Yn ail, mae canllawiau ar ba welliannau sy'n dderbyniol o dan y canllawiau cyffredinol ar gyflwyno cynigion, ac mae pwynt 9.2 yn dweud y gall gwelliannau

addasu cynnig yn y fath fodd ag i'w wneud yn fwy derbyniol neu gyflwyno i'r Cynulliad gynnig gwahanol fel dewis gwahanol yn lle'r cynnig gwreiddiol.

Yn ogystal, mae pwynt 3 o'r canllawiau ar grwpio, dethol a gwrthod gwelliannau'n rhestru rhesymau pam y gellid barnu bod gwelliant yn annerbyniol. Nid yw negyddu cynnig wedi'i gynnwys yn y rhestr honno. Gan hynny, ceisiaf ddyfarniad gennych: a oedd fy ngwelliant allan o drefn yn ôl y canllawiau ysgrifenedig cyffredol? Hefyd, a oedd allan o drefn yn ôl confensiynau sefydledig, o gofio bod arferion gwahanol o'r blaen, yn enwedig y rhai a fabwysiadwyd yn ddigon bodlon ddydd Mawrth 20 Gorffennaf 1999?

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi am roi rhybudd ymlaen llaw i mi o'r pwynt o drefn hwn, fel bod modd imi roi ateb rhesymedig i chi. Fe'ch llongyfarchaf ar eich ymchwil, a aeth cyn belled yn ôl â 1999. Ynghylch y cysail hwnnw, mae'n bosibl bod ein dealltwriaeth o gonfensiynau a rheolau trefniadaeth seneddol wedi gwella ers 1999—ac efallai fod hynny'n gysylltiedig ag ansawdd y cyngor a dderbyniwn bellach, y byddaf bob amser yn ddiolchgar amdano—[*Torri ar draws.*] Trefn. Nid oedd achos i ebychu ynghylch y pwynt hwnnw. Cawn gyngor seneddol o ansawdd da yn y Cynulliad hwn, ac yr wyf yn dra diolchgar amdano.

It is an accepted parliamentary convention that amendments should not directly negate the terms of the motion. The proper method of expressing a contrary opinion is to vote against a motion. Therefore, I am content that the Table Office has exercised its judgment properly on this occasion, and on most similar occasions in the past. I am content that it should act similarly in future. I hope that that now provides Members with greater clarity on this issue as it currently stands. However—and I believe that this is what Jonathan Morgan is waiting for—his point was well made. Matters such as this should be reflected in our guidance, as well as through convention. Precedents, even in many parliamentary traditions, can vary, as astute readers of Erskine May, and other guidance to parliamentary procedure throughout the Commonwealth, will know. I am sure that there are many readers of such books in this Chamber. I therefore ask the Business Committee to advise me on revised guidance to reflect my ruling on this matter, and to expand on it if necessary. Such a review might also usefully include a more general review of the guidance on motions and amendments, to ensure that all our guidance is as clear and accessible as possible, and reflects the practice that has developed in the Assembly since it was first adopted in 1999. I hope that Members will find that helpful.

4.20 p.m.

Janet Davies: Point of order. I believe that the Assembly may have been inadvertently misled with regard to the summoning of witnesses to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee can only summon as witnesses those accounting officers with particular responsibility who are in post. In exceptional circumstances, it is possible to invite other people to attend, and this particular case may well be exceptional. However, the Assembly should not think that it is normal procedure.

Leighton Andrews: Further to that point of order, I clarify that I said that I had requested the attendance of the outgoing chair and the previous chief executive. I did not suggest

Mae'n gonfensiwn seneddol sefydledig na ddylai gwelliannau negyddu cynnig yn uniongyrchol. Y modd priodol i fynegi barn groes yw pleidleisio yn erbyn cynnig. Gan hynny, yr wyf yn fodlon bod y Swyddfa Gyflwyno wedi barnu'n briodol y tro hwn, ac ar y rhan fwyaf o achlysuron tebyg yn y gorffennol. Yr wyf yn fodlon y dylai weithredu yn yr un modd yn y dyfodol. Gobeithiaf fod hynny'n gwneud y mater hwn, fel y mae ar hyn o bryd, yn fwy eglur i Aelodau. Fodd bynnag—a chredaf mai am hyn y mae Jonathan Morgan yn disgwyl—gwnaeth bwynt da. Dylai materion fel hyn gael eu hadlewyrchu yn ein canllawiau, yn ogystal â thrwy gonfensiwn. Gall cynseiliau amrywio, hyd yn oed mewn llawer o draddodiadau seneddol, fel y gŵyr darllenwyr craff Erskine May, a chanllawiau eraill ar weithdrefn seneddol ledled y Gymanwlad. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod llawer sy'n darllen llyfrau o'r fath yn y Siambr hon. Gan hynny, gofynnaf i'r Pwyllgor Busnes fy nghyngori ar ganllawiau diwygiedig i adlewyrchu fy nyfarniad ar y mater hwn, ac i ymhelaethu arno os oes angen. Gallai hefyd fod yn fuddiol i adolygiad o'r fath gynnwys adolygiad mwy cyffredinol o'r canllawiau ar gynigion a gwelliannau, er mwyn sicrhau bod ein holl ganllawiau mor eglur a dealladwy ag y bo modd, a'u bod yn adlewyrchu'r arferion a ddatblygodd yn y Cynulliad ers eu mabwysiadu gyntaf yn 1999. Gobeithiaf y bydd Aelodau'n cael bod hynny o gymorth.

Janet Davies: Pwynt o drefn. Credaf ei bod yn bosibl bod y Cynulliad wedi'i gamarwain drwy amryfusedd mewn cysylltiad â gwysio tystion i'r Pwyllgor Archwilio. Yr unig rai y gall y Pwyllgor Archwilio eu gwysio'n dystion yw'r swyddogion cyfrifo hynny â chyfrifoldeb penodol sydd yn eu swyddi ar hyn o bryd. Mewn amgylchiadau eithriadol, mae modd gwahodd eraill i fod yn bresennol, ac mae'n ddigon posibl bod yr achos penodol hwn yn eithriad. Er hynny, ni ddylai'r Cynulliad gredu mai dyna'r weithdrefn arferol.

Leighton Andrews: Ymhellach i'r pwynt o drefn hwnnw, egluraf imi ddweud fy mod wedi gofyn am bresenoldeb y cadeirydd ymadawol a'r prif weithredwr blaenorol. Nid

that we have the power to compel them to attend. However, I believe that they have an obligation to come before the Audit Committee and to account for what has happened under their stewardship.

awgrymais fod gennym bŵer i'w gorfodi i fod yn bresennol. Er hynny, credaf fod dyletswydd arnynt i ddod gerbron y Pwyllgor Archwilio i egluro'r hyn a ddigwyddodd o dan eu stiwardiaeth.

The Presiding Officer: Order. This is a matter for the Audit Committee, and I am grateful for the explanations and the points that have been made.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mater i'r Pwyllgor Archwilio yw hwn, ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am yr esboniadau a'r pwyntiau a wnaed.

Cynnig Cyfansawdd: Cymeradwyo Gorchmynion Composite Motion: Approval of Orders

Y Llywydd: Derbyniwyd hysbysiad o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.25(ii) mewn perthynas â'r cynnig cyfansawdd a gyflwynwyd ar gyfer trafodaeth heddiw, sef NDM1517. Gan fod tri Aelod wedi cyflwyno hysbysiad i sicrhau bod y Gorchmynion drafft yn cael eu trafod ar wahân, ni ellir cynnig y cynnig hwn heddiw.

The Presiding Officer: Notice has been received under Standing Order No. 22.25(ii) with regard to the composite motion tabled for debate today, NDM1517. As three Members have tabled a notice to ensure that the draft Orders are discussed separately, this motion cannot be proposed today.

Sefydlu Pwyllgor y Mesur Archwilio Cyhoeddus (Cymru) The Establishment of the Public Audit (Wales) Bill Committee

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Jonathan Morgan.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Jonathan Morgan.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I propose that

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Cynigiad fod

the National Assembly establishes a Committee under Standing Order No. 8.1 to advise the Assembly on the terms of the draft Public Audit (Wales) Bill. The title of the Committee shall be the Public Audit (Wales) Bill Committee. Membership of the Committee shall comprise five Assembly Members, two from the Labour Party, and one each from Plaid Cymru, the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrat Party.

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn sefydlu Pwyllgor o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 8.1 i gynghori'r Cynulliad ar delerau'r Mesur Archwilio Cyhoeddus (Cymru) drafft. Teitl y Pwyllgor fydd Pwyllgor y Mesur Archwilio Cyhoeddus (Cymru). Bydd pump Aelod o'r Cynulliad ar y Pwyllgor, dau o'r Blaid Lafur ac un yr un o Blaid Cymru, y Ceidwadwyr a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol.

The terms of reference for the Committee will be to:

Cylch gorchwyl y Pwyllgor fydd:

1) scrutinise the provisions of the draft Bill;

1) craffu ar ddarpariaethau'r Mesur drafft;

2) to take written or oral evidence from any parties the Committee considers will assist their consideration;

2) derbyn tystiolaeth ysgrifenedig a llafar gan unrhyw garfan a fydd yn gallu helpu gyda'i ystyriaeth ym marn y Pwyllgor;

3) report to the Assembly by 18 July on any

3) adrodd i'r Cynulliad erbyn 18 Gorffennaf

amendments that the Committee recommends should be made to the draft Bill.

The Committee shall cease to exist on 18 July 2003. (NDM1519)

We are currently involved in the pre-scrutiny stages of the draft Public Audit (Wales) Bill, and the establishment of this Committee will enable the Assembly to be part of this pre-scrutiny process. The draft Bill has been subject to public consultation, which ended on 27 June. The Welsh Affairs Select Committee has also considered it, and its report is expected shortly. The Assembly Government will give careful consideration to the Public Audit (Wales) Bill Committee's report, together with the consultation responses and the Welsh Affairs Select Committee's report, before issuing revised instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel. The aim of this Bill is to create a more unified public accountability framework. This is better suited to the partnership way of working that, over the last four years, the Assembly has demonstrated as being so important to what we do in Wales, and which is still developing.

The Audit Commission and the Auditor General for Wales undertake excellent work in helping to achieve the highest possible standards of financial accountability, but a unitary audit arrangement would eliminate the current and increasingly artificial split in responsibilities. The Assembly Government believes that the new arrangements will encourage the development and spread of innovative audit practice, while building on existing high standards. The Bill will ensure that the new body is outward looking, by encouraging joint working between regulatory bodies, both within Wales and across the border. The opportunity to harmonise essential value-for-money audit work should also lessen the practical burden on bodies that are subject to audit.

I will not support the amendment tabled in the name of Jonathan Morgan. We have given a date and made a commitment to deal with this Bill before the end of the term. The Tory amendment would introduce an

ar unrhyw ddiwygiadau y mae'r Pwyllgor yn argymhell y dylid eu gwneud i'r Mesur drafft.

Bydd bodolaeth y Pwyllgor yn dod i ben ar 18 Gorffennaf 2003. (NDM1519)

Yr ydym yn cymryd rhan ar hyn o bryd yn y camau cyn craffu ar gyfer y Mesur Archwilio Cyhoeddus (Cymru) drafft, a bydd sefydlu'r Pwyllgor hwn yn galluogi'r Cynulliad i fod yn rhan o'r broses cyn craffu hon. Bu'r Mesur drafft yn destun ymgynghori cyhoeddus, a ddaeth i ben ar 27 Mehefin. Mae'r Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cymreig wedi'i ystyried hefyd, a disgwylir ei adroddiad cyn hir. Bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ystyried adroddiad Pwyllgor y Mesur Archwilio Cyhoeddus (Cymru) yn ofalus, ynghyd â'r ymatebion i'r ymgynghori ac adroddiad y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cymreig, cyn rhoi cyfarwyddiadau diwygiedig i'r Cwnsler Seneddol. Nod y Mesur hwn yw creu fframwaith mwy unedig ar gyfer atebolrwydd cyhoeddus. Mae hyn yn fwy addas i'r dull o weithio mewn partneriaeth y dangosodd y Cynulliad, dros y pedair blynedd diwethaf, ei fod mor bwysig i'r hyn a wnawn yng Nghymru, ac sy'n dal i ddatblygu.

Mae'r Comisiwn Archwilio ac Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru yn cyflawni gwaith rhagorol o ran helpu i sicrhau'r safonau uchaf posibl o atebolrwydd ariannol, ond byddai trefniant archwilio unedol yn dileu'r rhaniad presennol rhwng cyfrifoldebau—rhaniad sy'n mynd yn fwyfwy artiffisial. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn credu y bydd y trefniadau newydd yn hyrwyddo'r gwaith o ddatblygu a lledaenu arferion archwilio arloesol, gan adeiladu ar sail y safonau uchel presennol. Bydd y Mesur yn sicrhau bod y corff newydd yn un eangfrydig, drwy hybu gweithio ar y cyd rhwng cyrff rheoliadol, oddi mewn i Gymru a thros y ffin. Dylai'r cyfle i gysoni'r gwaith archwilio hollbwysig i sicrhau gwerth am arian fod yn fodd hefyd i ysgafnhau'r baich ymarferol ar gyrrff sy'n cael eu harchwilio.

Ni chefnogaf y gwelliant a gyflwynwyd yn enw Jonathan Morgan. Yr ydym wedi rhoi dyddiad ac wedi ymrwymo i ddelio â'r Mesur hwn cyn diwedd y tymor. Byddai gwelliant y Toriaid yn creu amhendrantrwydd amhriodol.

inappropriate vagueness.

Alun Cairns: I propose the following amendment in the name of Jonathan Morgan. Amendment 1: in point 3 delete *'by 18 July'* and replace with *'at the earliest opportunity'*.

Amendment 1 was coupled with another amendment that was ruled as being out of order for technical reasons. Consequently amendment 1 is ineffective and I therefore withdraw it.

The Welsh Conservative Party supports the principles behind this Bill and we look forward to the scrutiny of the Bill. It is a pragmatic and sensible move to unify the audit bodies for the different organisations for which the Assembly responsible.

Mick Bates: The Welsh Liberal Democrats welcome the motion and that the Public Audit (Wales) Bill is being taken forward by the Westminster Government. This piece of primary legislation was proposed by the previous partnership Government during the first Assembly. It was among the primary legislation proposals that came before the Assembly on 19 March 2002. The Bill has the sensible aim of merging the functions of the Audit Commission in Wales and the Auditor General for Wales to create one audit body for Wales. Mergers have already happened in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

It is welcome that, through this Committee, the Assembly will have an opportunity to engage in pre-legislative scrutiny of a Wales-specific Bill. However, it is also a matter of regret, because the Welsh Liberal Democrats look forward to the day when the Assembly is reconstituted as a Welsh Senedd and can pass its own primary legislation, without having to go cap in hand to Westminster. If we had primary legislative powers, this sensible piece of legislation would already have been passed, as has similar legislation in Scotland and in Northern Ireland. This draft Bill is only the third Wales-specific piece of primary legislation since the Assembly was established. When the Public Audit (Wales) Bill was put forward in March 2002, the Assembly also proposed seven other Bills,

Alun Cairns: Cynigiau y gwelliant canlynol yn enw Jonathan Morgan. Gwelliant 1: ym mhwynt 3, dileu *'erbyn 18 Gorffennaf'* ac ychwanegu *'cyn gynted â phosibl'*.

Yr oedd gwelliant 1 wedi'i gyplysu â gwelliant arall y dyfarnwyd ei fod allan o drefn am resymau technegol. O ganlyniad i hynny, mae gwelliant 1 yn aneffeithiol ac yr wyf felly'n ei dynnu'n ôl.

Mae Plaid Geidwadol Cymru yn cefnogi'r egwyddorion sy'n sail i'r Mesur hwn ac edrychwn ymlaen at graffu ar y Mesur. Mae uno'r cyrff archwilio ar gyfer y gwahanol gyrff y mae'r Cynulliad yn gyfrifol amdanynt yn gam ymarferol a synhwyrol.

Mick Bates: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn croesawu'r cynnig a'r ffaith bod Llywodraeth San Steffan wedi cyflwyno Mesur Archwilio Cyhoeddus (Cymru). Cynigiwyd yr eitem hon o ddeddfwriaeth sylfaenol gan y Llywodraeth bartneriaeth flaenorol yn ystod y Cynulliad cyntaf. Yr oedd yn un o blith y nifer o gynigion ar gyfer deddfwriaeth sylfaenol a ddaeth gerbron y Cynulliad ar 19 Mawrth 2002. Nod synhwyrol y Mesur yw cyfuno swyddogaethau'r Comisiwn Archwilio yng Nghymru ac Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru i greu un corff archwilio i Gymru. Cafwyd cyfuno eisoes yn yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon.

Mae'r ffaith y bydd cyfle gan y Cynulliad, drwy'r Pwyllgor hwn, i graffu ar Fesur sydd ar gyfer Cymru'n benodol cyn dechrau'r broses deddfwriaethol i'w chroesawu. Serch hynny, mae hefyd yn destun gofid, gan fod Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn edrych ymlaen at y dydd y caiff y Cynulliad ei ailgyfansoddi'n Senedd i Gymru ac y caiff wneud ei ddeddfwriaeth sylfaenol ei hun, heb orfod mynd ar ofyn San Steffan. Pe byddai pwerau deddfu sylfaenol gennym, byddai'r eitem synhwyrol hon o ddeddfwriaeth wedi'i phasio eisoes, fel y gwnaed yn achos deddfwriaeth debyg yn yr Alban ac yng Ngogledd Iwerddon. Mae'r Mesur drafft hwn yn un o ddim ond tair eitem o ddeddfwriaeth sylfaenol a gafwyd ar gyfer Cymru'n benodol ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad. Pan gyflwynwyd

one of which was the St David's Day Bill, which was proposed, and rejected, for a second time. Anyone with half a brain can see that the process whereby we secure primary legislation is slow, cumbersome, inefficient and not particularly effective.

Mesur Archwilio Cyhoeddus (Cymru) ym Mawrth 2002, cynigiodd y Cynulliad saith Mesur arall hefyd, ac un ohonynt oedd Mesur Dydd Gŵyl Dewi a gynigiwyd, ac a wrthodwyd, am yr eildro. Gall rhywun sydd â hanner ymennydd weld bod y broses sydd gennym i sicrhau deddfwriaeth sylfaenol yn araf, yn drwsgl, yn aneffeithlon a heb fod yn arbennig o effeithiol.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I am pleased to say that I have a whole brain. I thank Alun for withdrawing amendment 1. I commend the motion to Members.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Yr wyf yn falch o ddweud bod gennyf ymennydd cyfan. Diolchaf i Alun am dynnu gwelliant 1 yn ôl. Cymeradwyaf y cynnig i Aelodau.

*Cynnig (NDM1519): O blaid 57, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM1519): For 57, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gibbons, Brian
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David

Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Adeilad Newydd y Cynulliad The New Assembly Building

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1, 2 a 3 yn enw Jonathan Morgan.

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1, 2 and 3 in the name of Jonathan Morgan.

Y Prif Weinidog: Cynigiaf fod

The First Minister: I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn cytuno i wneud contract cyfandaliad ar gyfer adeilad Siambr newydd y Cynulliad gyda Taylor Woodrow Construction Cyf ar gost o £40,997,000.00 (heb gynnwys TAW). (NDM1518)

the National Assembly for Wales agrees to enter into a lump-sum contract for the new Assembly Chamber building with Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd at a cost of £40,997,000.00 (exclusive of VAT). (NDM1518)

Pan ddaeth y Prif Weinidog, Tony Blair, i'n hannerch tua blwyddyn neu 18 mis yn ôl, daeth â llond bws o ohebwy'r o Lundain. Yn eu plith, yr oedd un a ddisgrifiodd y Siambr hon fel

When the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, came to address us some 12 or 18 months ago, he brought with him a busload of journalists from London. There was one in their midst who described this Chamber as

'the passenger lounge on an ageing cross-channel ferry.'

lolfâ i deithwyr ar hen long fferi sy'n croesi'r sianel.

Disgrifiad lliwgar, doniol, sydd â rhyw ronyn o wirionedd ynddo o bosibl. Mae'n bwysig inni gasglu o'r disgrifiad hwnnw bod gwendidau ymarferol yn ein cyfleusterau presennol. Yr oedd hon yn Siambr dros dro o'r cychwyn. Bu inni gymryd yr adeilad hwn ac addasu'r ystafell hon i fod yn Siambr ar yr amod ei bod dros dro.

That is a colourful, humorous description that perhaps contains a grain of truth. It is important that we realise from that description that our present facilities have practical flaws. This Chamber has always been a temporary chamber. We took over this building and converted this room into a Chamber on the condition that it was temporary.

4.30 p.m.

Ni allwn beidio ag adeiladu Siambr newydd, We cannot not build a new, permanent

barhaol heb dorri amod y tirfeddiannwr, Associated British Ports, a gadael ein hunain yn agored i sialens gerbron llys barn am golledion torcytundeb. Ar yr amod hwnnw y cafwyd y tir am £1 pan lofnodwyd y cytundeb gydag ABP gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru yn 1998, cyn sefydlu'r Cynulliad.

Leanne Wood: How much would the project have cost had you not stopped it? In May 2001, all the professionals agreed that it would cost £24.1 million, including contingencies. We now have a cost of £41 million. Are we seeing an extra £17 million-worth of building? No. It is more likely that that money has gone to line the pockets of lawyers, consultants and advisers. Do you accept personal responsibility for this increase, which has given ammunition to the anti-devolutionists? If so, are you prepared to apologise to the people of Wales?

The First Minister: That was a highly constructive contribution, Leanne; I compliment you on it. The problem is that you are not comparing like with like. This is the first time that we have had a fixed-cost contract. If you want to return to the management contractor method that we had previously, you should consider our cousins in Scotland, who have proceeded on that basis. The management contractor method is certainly not delivering a building on time for them, and it is doing everything but delivering a building for anything close to the original cost. The cost for the Scottish building is now probably 10 times the original figure. This is the first time that we have had a fixed-cost, lump-sum contract for the building before the Assembly. Despite your contribution, Leanne, it is fair to say that, every time the Assembly has discussed this matter, three parties have supported it. The matter has not been before this Assembly, but every time that the building was discussed in the first Assembly, there was support for executing the terms of the agreement with Associated British Ports as signed by the Secretary of State for Wales in 1998, under which the land adjacent to this building was acquired for £1. The question

Chamber without breaking the condition stipulated by the landowner, Associated British Ports, and without leaving ourselves open to a court challenge for damages for losses due to breach of contract. It was on that condition that the land was obtained for £1 when the agreement was signed with ABP by the Secretary of State for Wales in 1998, before the Assembly was established.

Leanne Wood: Faint y byddai'r prosiect wedi'i gostio pe na byddech wedi'i atal? Ym Mai 2001, yr oedd yr holl weithwyr proffesiynol yn cytuno y costiai £24.1 miliwn, gan gynnwys treuliau annisgwyl. Bellach mae gennym gost o £41 miliwn. A welwn adeilad sy'n werth £17 miliwn yn ychwanegol? Na welwn. Mae'n fwy tebygol bod yr arian wedi mynd i lenwi pocedi cyfreithwyr, ymgynghorwyr a chyngoryddion. A ydych yn derbyn cyfrifoldeb personol am y cynnydd hwn, sy'n fêl ar fysedd y rhai sy'n gwrthwynebu datganoli? Os ydych, a ydych yn barod i ymddiheuro i bobl Cymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr oedd hwnnw'n gyfraniad tra adeiladol, Leanne; fe'ch canmolaf arno. Y broblem yw nad ydych yn cymharu pethau tebyg. Dyma'r tro cyntaf inni gael contract cost benodol. Os ydych yn dymuno mynd yn ôl at y dull contractwr rheoli a oedd gennym o'r blaen, dylech ystyried ein cefndryd yn yr Alban, sydd wedi dilyn y dull hwnnw. Yn sicr, nid yw'r dull contractwr rheoli yn rhoi adeilad iddynt yn brydlon, ac yn bendant nid ydyw'n sicrhau adeilad am gost debyg i'r gost wreiddiol. Mae'n debyg bod cost yr adeilad yn yr Alban yn 10 gwaith y ffigur gwreiddiol bellach. Dyma'r tro cyntaf inni roi contract cyfandaliad, cost benodol ar gyfer yr adeilad gerbron y Cynulliad. Er gwaethaf eich cyfraniad, Leanne, teg yw dweud i gefnogaeth tair plaid gael ei sicrhau bob tro y mae'r Cynulliad wedi trafod y mater hwn. Ni fu'r mater gerbron y Cynulliad hwn, ond bob tro y trafodwyd yr adeilad yn y Cynulliad cyntaf, cafwyd cefnogaeth i gyflawni telerau'r cytundeb ag Associated British Ports fel y'i harwyddwyd gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru yn 1998—y cytundeb lle y cafwyd y tir cyfagos i'r adeilad hwn am £1. Y cwestiwn y prynhawn yma yw a fydd yr hen long fferi'r môr Udd yn cyrraedd y

this afternoon is whether the ageing cross-channel ferry will finally reach a port by our approving the lump-sum agreement so that the building can proceed this summer ready for occupation in the summer of 2005.

There is an exception to the cross-party support, which is the Conservative and Unionist Party. I had hoped that your party would have a change of mind, Nick. However, I see from the amendments that that is not the case. The Conservatives have a problem with devolution. The Conservative Members take their seats and enjoy their salaries and privileges, but, in their hearts, they want to appeal to all those who are still in denial about devolution. They oppose proportional representation, yet 10 of the 11 Conservative Members draw their salaries because of it—including their leader. Similarly, with the new Chamber, they are trying to cash in on any evanescent popularity that they can, but, once the Chamber is open, I am sure that they will gladly take their seats in it and take visiting schools parties around it as well. We say to the Conservatives that denial is not just a big river in Egypt; it drenches the Conservative Party on any matter relating to devolution.

We have been looking for four things from this contract. One is cost certainty: it is a lump-sum contract. The second is a flagship building. The third is a building with green credentials. The fourth is a showcase for Welsh building materials and skills. It has been difficult to obtain these. A landmark building is not a standard building like a supermarket or a primary school. It is a unique building, and obtaining individuality along with cost certainty is difficult for flagship buildings. The new Assembly Chamber may only exist as foundations and a design today, but it has a long and complex history, as Leanne mentioned. There was the design competition in 1998, the project review in 2000, and a project suspension in 2001 when we sought to break away from the management contractor system with which the Scots have proceeded. We stopped that because, when the superstructure packages started coming in, the costs were far higher than the original estimates. The design in 2001 was, essentially, undercooked. The only advantage of the management contractor

porthladd o'r diwedd drwy inni gymeradwyo'r cytundeb cyfandaliad fel y gall yr adeilad fynd rhagddo yr haf hwn a bod yn barod i'w feddiannu yn haf 2005.

Mae eithriad i'r gefnogaeth drawsbleidiol, sef y Blaid Geidwadol ac Unoliaethol. Yr oeddwn wedi gobeithio y byddai'ch plaid yn newid ei meddwl, Nick. Fodd bynnag, gwelaf yn ôl y gwelliannau nad felly y mae. Mae datganoli'n peri anhawster i'r Ceidwadwyr. Mae'r Aelodau Ceidwadol yn cymryd eu seddau ac yn mwynhau eu cyflogau a'u breintiau ond, yn eu calonnau, dymunant apelio i bawb sy'n dal i wadu datganoli. Gwrthwynebant gynrychiolaeth gyfrannol, ac eto mae 10 o'r 11 Aelod Ceidwadol yn cael eu cyflog o'i herwydd—gan gynnwys eu harweinydd. Yn yr un modd, yn achos y Siambr newydd, maent yn ceisio manteisio ar unrhyw boblogrwydd byrhoedlog y gallant ei sicrhau ond, wedi agor y Siambr, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddant yn falch o gymryd eu seddau ynddi a dechrau ei dangos i grwpiau ysgol sy'n ymweld hefyd. Dywedwn wrth y Ceidwadwyr fod eu hymwadiad yn amlwg ym mhob mater sy'n gysylltiedig â datganoli.

Buom yn ceisio pedwar peth yn y contract hwn. Un ohonynt yw sicrwydd o ran costau: contract cyfandaliad ydyw. Yr ail yw adeilad sy'n nodedig. Y trydydd yw adeilad ag iddo nodweddion gwyrdd. Y pedwerydd yw man arddangos i ddefnyddiau adeiladu a sgiliau Cymru. Bu'n anodd sicrhau'r rhain. Nid adeilad arferol fel archfarchnad neu ysgol gynradd yw adeilad nodedig. Adeilad unigryw ydyw, ac anodd yw sicrhau unigoliaeth ochr yn ochr â sicrwydd o ran cost yn achos adeiladau nodedig. Efallai nad yw Siambr newydd y Cynulliad ond yn bodoli ar ffurf sylfeini a chynllun heddiw, ond mae iddi hanes hir a chymhleth, fel y nododd Leanne. Cafwyd y gystadleuaeth dylunio yn 1998, adolygwyd y prosiect yn 2000, ac ataliwyd y prosiect yn 2001 pan fu inni geisio cefnu ar y system contractwr rheoli y mae'r Albanwyr wedi'i defnyddio. Rhoesom y gorau i hynny oherwydd, pan ddechreuodd pecynnau'r goruwchadeilad ddod i law, yr oedd y costau'n uwch o lawer na'r amcangyfrifon gwreiddiol. Yn y bôn, nid oedd y dyluniad yn 2001 wedi'i baratoi'n

system over the lump-sum system is that it should enable you to proceed more quickly—although the Scots have not found that to be the case—and that was the reason for it: we were trying to open the building by 2003. That was not possible. The Permanent Secretary has made clear his view that the original cost for the design of £8 million or £10 million was never realistic.

Today, for the first time, we have a fixed lump-sum contract. If you approve the motion today, the cost will not change. Provided that the client does not change the specifications, the contractor will not change the price and will bear any cost overruns. We have been ably assisted in arriving at this point by the TPS Schal project management team, acting on our behalf. We identified a preferred bidder in Taylor Woodrow, and the Assembly and TPS Schal have been working in partnership with it since January to complete the design detail, the construction strategy and the supply option, so that Taylor Woodrow could offer a lump-sum contract to construct the building according to specification for a shade under £41 million. If we do not vary the specification, Taylor Woodrow will not vary the price. That is also the basis on which Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd is building the Wales Millennium Centre next door and the basis on which the Millennium Stadium was built three or four years ago ready for the 1999 rugby world cup. Far more companies were willing to engage in fixed-price contracts then. Now, possibly because John Laing plc lost so much money on the cost overrun on the Millennium Stadium, if you mention 'fixed-price', 'Cardiff', and a big public building in the same sentence, fewer contractors will come forward. Luckily, however, Taylor Woodrow is willing to take on the project in conjunction with the other partners in the consortium that has offered the £41 million contract. I commend the motion to the Assembly and stress that, for the first time, we will have cost certainty. I ask you to compare what we have achieved in gaining that cost certainty with what has happened with other public procurement exercises such as that for the Scottish Parliament building, the costs of which continue to escalate in the absence of the cost

ddigonol. Yr unig fantais yn y system contractwr rheoli o'i chymharu â'r system cyfandaliad yw y dylai eich galluogi i symud ymlaen yn gynt—er nad dyna a ganfu'r Albanwyr—a dyna oedd y rheswm am hynny: yr oeddem yn ceisio agor yr adeilad erbyn 2003. Ni fu modd gwneud hynny. Mae'r Ysgrifennydd Parhaol wedi egluro ei farn na fu'r gost wreiddiol ar gyfer y dyluniad o £8 miliwn neu £10 miliwn erioed yn un realistig.

Heddiw, am y tro cyntaf, mae gennym gontract cyfandaliad penodol. Os cymeradwywch y cynnig heddiw, ni fydd y gost yn newid. Ar yr amod nad yw'r cleient yn newid y manylebau, ni fydd y contractwr yn newid y pris a bydd yn dwyn unrhyw gostau sy'n gor-redeg. Cawsom gymorth medrus i gyrraedd y pwynt hwn gan dîm rheoli prosiect TPS Schal a oedd yn gweithredu ar ein rhan. Yr adeiladwr a benodwyd gennym oedd Taylor Woodrow, ac mae'r Cynulliad a TPS Schal yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth ag ef ers Ionawr i gwblhau manylion y dyluniad, y strategaeth adeiladu a'r dewis o gyflenwadau, fel y gallai Taylor Woodrow gynnig contract cyfandaliad i godi'r adeilad yn unol â'r fanyleb am ychydig llai na £41 miliwn. Os na wnawn ni newid y fanyleb, ni wnaiff Taylor Woodrow newid y pris. Ar y sail honno y mae Syr Robert McAlpine Cyf yn codi Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru y drws nesaf ac ar y sail honno y codwyd Stadiwm y Mileniwm dair neu bedair blynedd yn ôl yn barod ar gyfer cwpan rygbi'r byd yn 1999. Yr oedd llawer mwy o gwmnïau'n barod i ymgymryd â chontractau am bris penodol y pryd hynny. Yn awr, am fod John Laing ccc wedi colli cymaint o arian oherwydd y gor-redeg ar gostau ar Stadiwm y Mileniwm o bosibl, os rhowch 'pris penodol', 'Caerdydd', ac adeilad cyhoeddus mawr gyda'i gilydd yn yr un frawddeg, daw llai o gontractwyr ymlaen. Yn ffodus, fodd bynnag, mae Taylor Woodrow yn barod i ymgymryd â'r prosiect ar y cyd â'r partneriaid eraill yn y consortiwm sydd wedi cynnig y contract gwerth £41 miliwn. Cymeradwyaf y cynnig i'r Cynulliad a phwysleisiaf y cawn sicrwydd o ran costau, am y tro cyntaf. Gofynnaf ichi gymharu'r hyn a gyflawnasom wrth gael y sicrwydd hwnnw o ran costau â'r hyn a ddigwyddodd yn achos ymarferion caffael

control that we will now have.

The new building has been fully appraised and amended to meet the additional safety requirements that are sadly needed in the first decade of the twenty-first century, post 11 September. Achieving those safety standards has added approximately £5 million to the cost of the building, but it is a sad fact of twenty-first century life that they are needed. There has been speculation as to the extent to which VAT is being charged on the building. That cost is not part of the contract with Taylor Woodrow, but is, as far as we are aware, payable.

I am particularly pleased that, although we cannot specify that materials be sourced from Wales because of EU procurement guidelines, Taylor Woodrow, in working out its costing, has been able to identify Welsh suppliers for the flooring slate and steel fabrication and for Welsh oak for the desks. It believes that over 50 per cent of the building's prime cost materials will come from Welsh sources and that a significant percentage of the labour will come from Wales. Overall, we understand that the project could lead to some £15 million being invested in Welsh industry and Welsh employment in the construction industry. Therefore, the building will be a showcase for the Welsh building industry and Welsh building products. More details on that will be supplied later this week.

I am enthusiastic about the innovations that add to this building's sustainability. Heating and ventilation costs are estimated to be between 30 and 50 per cent of those of more conventional buildings. Bore holes have been drilled 180m into the earth's surface and tap into the constant temperatures at that level. Heat will also be produced from waste by-products of the furniture industry in the Bridgend area, which would otherwise be put into landfill, or, possibly, from woodchips made from the 850 tonnes of waste timber that float down the Taff and Ely rivers into the waters of Cardiff bay. That will contribute to the lean, clean, green image of Wales.

cyhoeddus eraill fel yr un ar gyfer adeilad Senedd yr Alban, y mae'r costau ar ei gyfer yn dal i godi yn niffyg y rheolaeth ar gostau a gawn ni'n awr.

Mae'r adeilad newydd wedi'i werthuso'n drylwyr a'i addasu i fodloni'r gofynion diogelwch ychwanegol sydd eu hangen, gwaetha'r modd, yn negawd cyntaf yr unfed ganrif ar hugain, yn sgîl 11 Medi. Ychwanegwyd tua £5 miliwn at gost yr adeilad er mwyn bodloni'r safonau diogelwch hynny, sy'n angenrheidiol, gwaetha'r modd, yn y byd sydd ohoni. Bu dyfalu ynghylch maint y TAW a godir ar yr adeilad. Nid yw'r gost honno'n rhan o'r contract â Taylor Woodrow, ond mae'n rhaid ei thalu, hyd y gwyddom ni.

Yr wyf yn arbennig o falch, er na allwn fynnu y ceir defnyddiau o ffynonellau yng Nghymru oherwydd canllawiau caffael yr UE, fod Taylor Woodrow, wrth gyfrifo ei brisiau, wedi gallu dod o hyd i rai yng Nghymru i gyflenwi llechi'r llawr a ffabrigiadau dur a choed derw o Gymru ar gyfer y desgiau. Cred y bydd mwy na 50 y cant o ddefnyddiau drutaf yr adeilad yn dod o ffynonellau yng Nghymru ac y daw canran sylweddol o'r llafurwyr o Gymru. Deallwn y gallai'r prosiect arwain at fuddsoddi tua £15 miliwn, at ei gilydd, mewn diwydiant yng Nghymru ac mewn cyflogaeth yng Nghymru yn y diwydiant adeiladu. Felly, bydd yr adeilad yn fan arddangos i ddiwydiant adeiladu Cymru a chynhyrchion adeiladu Cymru. Rhoddir rhagor o fanylion am hynny yn ddiweddarach yr wythnos hon.

Yr wyf yn frwdfrydig ynghylch y datblygiadau newydd sy'n gwneud yr adeilad hwn yn fwy cynaliadwy. Amcangyfrifir y bydd y costau gwresogi ac awyru rhwng 30 a 50 y cant o'r rhai a geir mewn adeiladau mwy confensiynol. Turiwyd tyllau 180 medr o ddyfnder i wyneb y ddaear ac maent yn tynnu'r gwres cyson a geir ar y lefel honno. Cynhyrchir gwres hefyd o isgynhyrchion gwastraff y diwydiant dodrefn yn ardal Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, a roddir mewn safleoedd tirlenwi fel arall, neu, efallai, o ysglodion a wneir o'r 850 tunnell fetrig o goed gwastraff sy'n nofio i lawr afonydd Taf ac Elái i ddyfroedd bae Caerdydd. Bydd hynny'n cyfrannu at y ddelwedd iach, glân a gwyrdd

sydd gan Gymru.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I am sure that we all welcome the commitment to use local products and companies, but I bring you back to the question of cost. We still have not received a reply to Leanne Wood's question as to the cost of the delay. You may or may not recall that I questioned you about that when you made your original decision to delay the project. I asked you specifically whether you had considered how much it would cost to delay this project. Can you give us a figure, because it is nowhere to be seen? How much did your failure to reach a decision cost? You decided to delay this project; what is the additional cost of that?

The First Minister: I am not in a position to give a figure for that. You only have to consider what would have happened had we proceeded along the route taken by the Scottish Parliament. Its project started at a cost of £40 million and now stands at £375 million because it has used the management contractor method. We have switched to a fixed-price method, thereby transferring the risk of cost overruns to the contractor. You may pay slightly more up-front to do that, but any cost overruns are at the risk of the contractor, provided that the client does not change the specifications.

4.40 p.m.

Yn olaf, golyga'r system twymo ac oeri y cawn adeilad craff. Bydd yr adeilad bach, clyfar hwn yn symbol o'n cenedl fach, glyfar a'i dyfodol. Drwy gyd-ddigwyddiad sydd bron â bod yn wyrthiol, bydd yr adeilad yn agor yn ystod dathliadau hanner canmlwyddiant Caerdydd yn brifddinas Cymru.

Today, just for once, I have the pleasure of asking Members to do exactly what Nick Bourne asked us to do the last time that we discussed this issue, on 29 January, when he said:

'if you are going to build it, build it.'

Thank you, Nick. We will follow your words today. I recommend that Members oppose all

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod ni oll yn croesawu'r ymrwymiad i ddefnyddio cynhyrchion a chwmnïau lleol, ond deuaif â chi'n ôl at gwestiwn y gost. Nid ydym wedi cael ateb o hyd i gwestiwn Leanne Wood am gost yr oedi. Efallai y cofiwch imi eich holi am hynny pan wnaethoch eich penderfyniad gwreiddiol i ohirio'r prosiect. Gofynnais ichi'n benodol a oeddech wedi ystyried pa faint a gostiai i ohirio'r prosiect hwn. A allwch roi ffigur i ni, oherwydd ni ellir ei weld yn unman? Beth oedd cost eich methiant i benderfynu? Penderfynasoch ohirio'r prosiect hwn; beth yw'r gost ychwanegol oherwydd hynny?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf mewn sefyllfa i allu rhoi ffigur am hynny. Nid oes ond rhaid ichi ystyried beth a ddigwyddasai pe byddem wedi dilyn yr un llwybr â Senedd yr Alban. Dechreuodd ei phrosiect ar gost o £40 miliwn ac mae bellach yn £375 miliwn am ei bod wedi defnyddio dull y contractwr rheoli. Yr ydym ni wedi troi at ddull pris penodol, gan drosglwyddo'r risg o or-redeg ar gostau i'r contractwr. Mae'n bosibl y telir rhagor ymlaen llaw i wneud hynny, ond bydd unrhyw or-redeg ar gostau ar fenter y contractwr, ar yr amod nad yw'r cleient yn newid y manylebau.

Finally, the heating and ventilation system means that we will have an intelligent building. This small, clever building will be a symbol of our small, clever nation and its future. By an almost miraculous coincidence, the building will be opened during the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of Cardiff as Wales's capital city.

Heddiw, am unwaith, pleser imi yw gofyn i Aelodau wneud yn union fel y gofynnodd Nick Bourne inni ei wneud pan drafodasom y mater hwn ddiwethaf, ar 29 Ionawr, pan ddywedodd:

'os ydych yn mynd i'w godi, codwch yr adeilad.'

Diolch i chi, Nick. Gwnawn ddilyn eich geiriau heddiw. Argymhellaf y dylai Aelodau

amendments and support the motion.

wrthwynebu'r holl welliannau a chefnogi'r cynnig.

The Presiding Officer: Before I call the leader of the Welsh Conservatives, I announce a time limit on speeches, under Standing Order No. 7.3. The leader of the Welsh Conservatives will have five minutes to speak and to move his amendments; all other speeches will be limited to three minutes, save for the Finance Minister when she winds up.

Y Llywydd: Cyn imi alw arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru, cyhoeddaf derfyn amser ar areithiau, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 7.3. Caiff arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru bum munud i siarad ac i gynnig ei welliannau; cyfyngir pob araith arall i dri munud, heblaw am un y Gweinidog Cyllid wrth gloi.

Nick Bourne: I propose the following amendments in the name of Jonathan Morgan. Amendment 1: replace '£40,997,000.00' with '£1'.

Nick Bourne: Cynigiau y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Jonathan Morgan. Gwelliant 1: rhoi '£1' yn lle '£40,997,000.00'.

I propose amendment 2. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

Cynigiau welliant 2. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

recognises that the new additional Assembly building project is contrary to the wishes of the majority of the people of Wales.

yn cydnabod bod prosiect newydd ychwanegol adeilad y Cynulliad yn groes i ddymuniadau mwyafrif pobl Cymru.

I propose amendment 3. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

Cynigiau welliant 3. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

condemns the failure of the Assembly Government to prioritise the delivery of public services ahead of the new additional Assembly building project.

yn condemnio'r ffaith bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi rhoi mwy o flaenoriaeth i brosiect newydd ychwanegol Adeilad y Cynulliad nag i ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

The First Minister—although I do not believe that he believes it in his heart—accuses my party of being anti-devolution, and then proposes this motion by praying in aid what a London journalist said about our Chamber on a day return from Paddington. That is extraordinary. If you want to pray anybody in aid, First Minister, why not ask the people of Wales what they think about this building? I suspect that you know the truth. Although only one party in the Chamber may be against this dreadful waste of money, hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people in Wales regard it as the most monstrous waste of money.

Mae'r Prif Weinidog—er na chredaf ei fod yn credu hynny yn ei galon—yn cyhuddo fy mhlaid i o fod yn erbyn datganoli, ac wedyn yn dyfynnu'r hyn a ddywedodd newyddiadurwr o Lundain ar siwrnai ddwyffordd o Paddington am ein Siambr ni i'w ategu. Mae hynny'n rhyfedd. Os ydych am ddyfynnu geiriau rhywun i'ch cefnogi, Brif Weinidog, beth am ofyn i bobl Cymru am eu barn hwy am yr adeilad hwn? Yr wyf yn amau eich bod yn gwybod y gwir. Er mai dim ond un blaid yn y Siambr sy'n gwrthwynebu'r gwastraff arian ofnadwy hwn, mae cannoedd o filoedd, os nad miliynau, o bobl yng Nghymru yn ei ystyried yn wastraff gwarthus o arian.

Eleanor Burnham: Why, therefore, did the Tory Party vote for Portcullis House, which cost five times as much as this building?

Eleanor Burnham: Pam, felly, y pleidleisiodd y Blaid Doriaidd o blaid codi Portcullis House, a gostiodd bum gwaith cymaint â'r adeilad hwn?

Nick Bourne: You also need to learn about devolution, Eleanor. Why not throw questions to me about what happens in Scotland? The Portcullis House building was a massive waste of money. However, we are not answerable for what happens in Westminster, any more than we are answerable for what happens in Scotland. That is why the First Minister, doubtless, wanted to keep drawing analogies with what is happening elsewhere. Let us consider what has happened in Wales since this project was first mooted. The First Minister mentioned unrealistic talk of £10 million; that was the cost mentioned in the White Paper, 'A Voice for Wales', which launched the devolution campaign. We said that it was unrealistic then, and we were told that we were scaremongering. The cost is now £55 million, which does not include the cost of furniture, information technology, management time or Crickhowell House.

The Assembly first voted on the new building project in 2000, when the then First Secretary, Alun Michael, said:

'Often, with a major public building, nobody knows about it until the finalised design is unveiled with a fanfare of trumpets.'

At every painful step of this project, there has been no fanfare from the people of Wales. Alun Michael went on to say:

'I agree that we should be open and transparent about all aspects of the building, including the costs.'

When the cost was at £23 million, he announced:

'we now have full and robust cost estimates.'

Three years later, Rhodri Morgan insists that there will be no more cost over runs. With this project, it appears that there is no ceiling figure; the sky is the limit. We are told that the cost is £41 million plus VAT, information technology and furniture. I have heard that a company sold a desk to the Scottish Parliament for just under £1 million. It is now

Nick Bourne: Rhaid i chithau ddysgu am ddatganoli, Eleanor. Pam na thafllwch gwestiynau ataf ynghylch yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn yr Alban? Yr oedd adeilad Portcullis House yn wastraff arian ofnadwy. Fodd bynnag, nid ydym yn atebol dros yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn San Steffan, mwy nag yr ydym yn atebol dros yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn yr Alban. Mae'n siŵr mai dyna pam yr oedd y Prif Weinidog am ddal i wneud cymariaethau â'r hyn a oedd yn digwydd yn rhywle arall. Gadewch inni ystyried yr hyn a ddigwyddodd yng Nghymru ers crybwyll y prosiect hwn am y tro cyntaf. Cyfeiriodd y Prif Weinidog at y sôn afrealistig am £10 miliwn; dyna oedd y gost a grybwyllwyd yn y Papur Gwyn, 'Llais i Gymru', a lansiodd yr ymgyrch datganoli. Dywedasom ei fod yn afrealistig bryd hynny, a dywedwyd wrthym ein bod yn codi bwganod. Y gost bellach yw £55 miliwn, nad yw'n cynnwys cost dodrefn, technoleg gwybodaeth, amser rheoli neu Dŷ Crucywel.

Pleidleisiodd y Cynulliad ar brosiect yr adeilad newydd yn 2000, pan ddywedodd y Prif Ysgrifennydd ar y pryd, Alun Michael:

Yn aml, ni ŵyr neb am adeilad cyhoeddus pwysig hyd nes y dadlennir y dyluniad terfynol yn sain yr utgyrn.

Ar bob cam poenus yn y prosiect hwn, ni chanwyd yr utgyrn gan bobl Cymru. Aeth Alun Michael ymlaen i ddweud:

Cytunaf y dylem fod yn agored a thryloyw ynghylch pob agwedd ar yr adeilad, gan gynnwys y costau.

Pan oedd y gost yn £23 miliwn, cyhoeddodd:

mae gennym amcangyfrifon llawn a dibynadwy o'r gost bellach.

Dair blynedd yn ddiweddarach, mynn Rhodri Morgan na fydd rhagor o or-redeg ar gostau. Yn achos y prosiect hwn, nid ymddengys bod unrhyw ffigur uchaf; nid oes terfyn. Dywedir wrthym mai'r gost yw £41 miliwn ynghyd â TAW, technoleg gwybodaeth a dodrefn. Clywais fod cwmni wedi gwerthu desg i Senedd yr Alban am ychydig llai nag £1

apparently keen to sell one to Rhodri Morgan. I imagine, on the basis of how this project has proceeded over the last few years, that its luck will be in.

In February 2002, Edwina Hart said that Lord Rogers had got the cost of the building wrong, and that she hoped that the right professionals would be brought in to take over the project. Now, the Richard Rogers Partnership is back on board, and the taxpayer has footed the bill for thousands of pounds in disputed fees for the building's design. The dithering and mismanagement that has plagued this Labour Government is epitomised by this project. The first real issue that we vote on, two months into the new Assembly, is the new Assembly building. That is not what devolution is about. It is not what the people of Wales want, as all Members know. The people of Wales are talking about the health service, education, rural Wales and jobs. They do not want this incredible waste of money.

Eleanor Burnham had a point when she warned the Audit Committee in 2001 that the Assembly was in danger of being perceived as being in the same position as the Millennium Dome. She was worried that the Assembly would be seen as a huge white elephant of complete mismanagement. She was right, as she often is. The final cost of the Dome rose by 90 per cent. The costs of building the new Chamber have risen by 400 per cent thus far. As the costs rose, Ron Davies conceded that this was a major embarrassment for the National Assembly, and Ieuan Wyn Jones agreed. Neil Kinnock said that he wondered whether anyone would choose the Assembly building as a priority. However, this is the first real issue being voted upon in the second Assembly. The Government has not tabled a motion on prescription charges, education, or any other issues in its manifesto, but rather a motion on the new Assembly building project. No Assembly session goes by without this issue appearing on the agenda. The First Minister spoke on the issue as if it was the first time that it had appeared on the agenda. He said that what had gone wrong had nothing to do with him and the previous Government. He moved another motion and asked us to vote

filiwn. Ymddengys yn awr ei fod yn awyddus i werthu un i Rhodri Morgan. Yr wyf yn tybio, yn ôl y modd y mae'r prosiect hwn wedi mynd rhagddo dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, y gallai lwyddo.

Yn Chwefror 2002, dywedodd Edwina Hart fod yr Arglwydd Rogers wedi cael cost yr adeilad yn anghywir, ac y gobeithiai y byddid yn cael y gweithwyr proffesiynol priodol i gymryd y prosiect drosodd. Bellach, mae Partneriaeth Richard Rogers wedi ailymuno, ac mae'r trethdalwr wedi talu'r bil am filoedd o bunnoedd o ffioedd dadleuol am ddylunio'r adeilad. Mae'r gwamalu a'r camreoli sydd wedi plagio'r Llywodraeth Lafur hon wedi'u hymgorffori yn y prosiect hwn. Y mater pwysig cyntaf yr ydym yn pleidleisio arno, ddeufis ar ôl dechrau'r Cynulliad newydd, yw adeilad newydd y Cynulliad. Nid dyna ystyr datganoli. Nid dyna ddymuniad pobl Cymru, fel y gŵyr yr holl Aelodau. Mae pobl Cymru'n sôn am y gwasanaeth iechyd, addysg, Cymru wledig a swyddi. Nid ydynt am gael y gwastraff arian anhygoel hwn.

Yr oedd Eleanor Burnham yn llygad ei lle pan rybuddiodd y Pwyllgor Archwilio yn 2001 fod perygl i'r Cynulliad gael ei weld yn yr un sefyllfa â Dôm y Mileniwm. Pryderai y byddai'r Cynulliad yn cael ei ystyried yn eliffant gwyn mawr o gamreolaeth lwyr. Yr oedd yn iawn, fel y mae yn aml. Bu cynnydd o 90 y cant yng nghost y Dôm erbyn y diwedd. Mae costau adeiladu'r Siambr newydd wedi codi o 400 y cant hyd yn hyn. Wrth i'r costau godi, derbyniodd Ron Davies fod hyn yn destun cywilydd mawr i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, a chytunodd Ieuan Wyn Jones. Dywedodd Neil Kinnock ei fod yn meddwl tybed a fyddai unrhyw un yn dewis adeilad y Cynulliad fel blaenoriaeth. Er hynny, dyma'r mater pwysig cyntaf y pleidleisir arno yn yr ail Gynulliad. Nid yw'r Llywodraeth wedi cyflwyno cynnig ar daliadau presgripsiwn, addysg, neu unrhyw faterion eraill yn ei manifesto, ond yn hytrach gynnig ar brosiect adeilad newydd y Cynulliad. Nid aiff yr un sesiwn o'r Cynulliad heibio heb i'r mater hwn ymddangos ar yr agenda. Siaradodd y Prif Weinidog ar y testun hwn fel pe byddai wedi ymddangos ar yr agenda am y tro cyntaf. Dywedodd nad oedd a wnelo ef a'r Llywodraeth flaenorol ddim â'r hyn a aeth o'i

on this issue for the last time. However, we will be in the Chamber again discussing the miserable rise in hospital waiting lists, the problems facing rural Wales, manufacturing job losses and the need to tackle the ELWA scandal. Many Members come to the Chamber time and again because they believe in devolution. However, we do not believe in this incredible waste of money.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Bu'r holl drafodaethau am adeilad newydd y Cynulliad yn saga diangen. Dyma'r nawfed tro i'r Cynulliad drafod y mater, a'r tro cyntaf inni ei drafod yn yr ail Gynulliad. Bu i'r trafodaethau ymddangos yn gwbl ffarsaidd ar brydiau i bobl Cymru. Rhaid inni gydnabod nad yw bodolaeth y twll yn y ddaear drws nesaf i'r adeilad hwn wedi helpu pobl i deimlo y bu'r Cynulliad cyntaf yn llwyddiant. Rhaid inni gydnabod hefyd fod gan bobl Cymru gryn bryderon ynglŷn â'r ffordd yr ymdriniwyd â'r prosiect hwn yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf.

Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig ein bod yn derbyn yr achos o blaid cael adeilad newydd. Er y bydd llawer yn dathlu pan gaiff yr adeilad newydd ei agor, byddaf i yn dathlu pan gaiff yr adeilad ei droi yn Senedd go iawn i bobl Cymru. Dyna pam yr ydym eisiau adeilad sy'n dangos Cymru ar ei gorau ac sy'n adlewyrchu hyder y genedl. Dyna'r hyn y mae pobl Cymru yn dymuno ei gael. Pa sefydliad democrataidd arall sydd ag adeilad mor dila â'r adeilad hwn—tomen o frics coch sy'n ddim mwy na bloc o swyddfeydd hyll o'r 1960au neu'r 1970au? Dylem gywilyddio bod pobl Cymru yn ein gweld yn perfformio mewn lle mor dila. Gwariwyd cannoedd o filoedd o bunnoedd yn Llundain, gyda chefnogaeth y blaid Doriaidd, ar swyddfeydd i Aelodau Seneddol. Fodd, bynnag, ni chred y Toriaid ei bod yn iawn inni gael Siambr ar gyfer pobl Cymru y gallwn ymfalchïo ynddi. Dylem ddangos mwy o hunan hyder fel cenedl a sicrhau bod gennym adeilad sy'n addas i Gymru yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain.

David Davies: Mae gwahaniaeth mawr rhwng yr hyn a ddigwyddodd yn Portcullis House a'r hyn sy'n digwydd yma. Nid oedd

le. Cynigiodd gynnig arall a gofyn inni bleidleisio ar y mater hwn am y tro olaf. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn y Siambr eto'n trafod y cynnydd truenus yn rhestrau aros yr ysbytai, y problemau sy'n wynebu Cymru wledig, colli swyddi gweithgynhyrchu a'r angen i ymdrin â sgandal ELWa. Daw llawer o Aelodau i'r Siambr dro ar ôl tro am eu bod yn credu mewn datganoli. Fodd bynnag, ni chredwn yn y gwastraff arian anhygoel hwn.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: All the discussions on the new Assembly building have been part of an unnecessary saga. This is the ninth time that the Assembly has discussed the issue, and the first time that we have discussed it in the second Assembly. At times, discussions have appeared totally farcical to the people of Wales. We must acknowledge that the existence of the hole in the ground next to this building has not helped people to feel that the first Assembly was a success. We must also recognise that the people of Wales have deep concerns about the way in which this project has been handled during the last few years.

However, it is important that we accept the case in favour of a new building. Although many people will celebrate once the new building is opened, I will celebrate when the building becomes a proper Parliament for the people of Wales. That is why we want a building that shows Wales at its best and which reflects the nation's confidence. That is what the people of Wales want. What other democratic institution has a building as inadequate as this—a pile of red bricks which is nothing more than an ugly office block from the 1960s or 1970s? We should be ashamed that the people of Wales see us performing in such an inadequate place. Hundreds of thousands of pounds have been spent in London, with Tory party support, on offices for Members of Parliament. However, the Tories do not believe that it is right for us to have a Chamber for the people of Wales that we can be proud of. We should be more self-confident as a nation and ensure that we have a building that is appropriate for Wales in the twenty-first century.

David Davies: There is a great difference between what occurred at Portcullis House and what is happening here. They did not

ganddynt ddigon o swyddfeydd ar gyfer Aelodau Seneddol yn Llundain, a dyna pam yr adeiladwyd Portcullis House.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I am sure that David Davies is looking forward to taking his seat in the new Assembly Chamber. He will not be left out and will want to sit there like everyone else. He should be honest about his intentions.

I have two concerns. We welcome the fact that this is a lump-sum contract. However, we want assurances that those concerns—

Lisa Francis *rose*—

The Presiding Officer: Order. The leader of the opposition is not giving way. He only has half a minute left.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: We want assurances that the concerns of the disabled lobby have been taken into account and addressed in relation to the contract. The second point that I wanted to make clear was that we need to have certainty on the issue of materials coming from Wales and in relation to Welsh labour.

4.50 p.m.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Dyna ddiwedd eich amser.

Michael German: I suspect that most Members will be pleased to see this project contract finalised and the decision finally taken to build our new Assembly building. For the past four years, we have been dogged by a project largely determined before we came into existence, and we have struggled to manage a project that was in great danger of running away with cost and uncertainty. We were offered an unrealistic price at the outset, when this project was handed to the new National Assembly, and we were also handed a style of contract that gave us no cost certainty. We just could not end up, as an Assembly, with the runaway-cost form of contract that the Scottish Parliament seems unable to control. The fixed-price, lump-sum contract solution that we now have is the right way to proceed. It gives us certainty of

have sufficient office space for Members of Parliament in London, and that is why Portcullis House was built.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr wyf yn siŵr bod David Davies yn edrych ymlaen at gymryd ei sedd yn Siambr newydd y Cynulliad. Ni chaiff ei adael y tu allan a bydd am eistedd yno fel pawb arall. Dylai ddweud y gwir am ei fwriadau.

Mae dau beth yn peri pryder i mi. Croesawn y ffaith mai contract cyfandaliad yw hwn. Er hynny, yr ydym am gael sicrwydd bod y pryderon hynny—

Lisa Francis *a gododd*—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw arweinydd yr wrthblaid yn ildio. Dim ond hanner munud sydd ganddo ar ôl.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr ydym am gael sicrwydd bod pryderon y lobi dros bobl anabl wedi'u hystyried ac wedi'u hateb mewn cysylltiad â'r contract. Yr ail bwynt yr oeddwn am ei egluro yw bod rhaid inni gael sicrwydd ar fater defnyddiau sy'n dod o Gymru ac mewn cysylltiad â llafur o Gymru.

The Presiding Officer: Order. Your time is up.

Michael German: Yr wyf yn amau y bydd y rhan fwyaf o Aelodau'n falch o weld cwblhau'r contract ar gyfer y prosiect hwn a phenderfyniad terfynol i godi ein hadeilad Cynulliad newydd. Dros y pedair blynedd diwethaf, fe'n plagiwyd gan brosiect a bennwyd i raddau helaeth cyn inni ddod i fodolaeth, ac yr ydym wedi'i chael yn anodd rheoli prosiect a oedd mewn perygl mawr o fynd allan o reolaeth o ran costau ac ansicrwydd. Cynigiwyd pris afrealistig inni ar y cychwyn, pan drosglwyddwyd y prosiect hwn i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol newydd, a rhoddwyd inni hefyd fath o gontract na roddai inni unrhyw sicrwydd o ran costau. Fel Cynulliad, ni allem oddef y math o gontract â'r costau dilyffethair y mae'n ymddangos nad yw Senedd yr Alban yn gallu ei reoli. Y contract cyfandaliad, am bris

outcome price and it removes many of the risks associated with the building project. It also allows Richard Rogers to complete his building design.

No-one likes a new public building when it is being developed and built. It is only when it is complete that it grows in people's affections. There are plenty of examples of that: we have one just up the road in the Millennium Stadium. It attracted fierce opposition and criticism during its planning and development, but now it stands as a symbol of Wales, providing a stadium known throughout Britain and the world, putting both Cardiff and Wales on the map.

No-one in their right minds now asks whether it was the right decision in the mid-nineteenth century to rebuild the current Palace of Westminster. Not only has it stood as a monument to democracy for all our people, it has attracted millions of tourists. More than half of overseas tourists to the UK go to London. They see Buckingham Palace and the Palace of Westminster and have their photographs taken outside. They do not remember the MP for Monmouth, Benjamin Hall, whose name has been given to the bell in the clock tower, but they spend their money in the hotels, restaurants and shops. Wales also needs a slice of that action. This building hardly warrants a visit from an American tourist.

David Melding: Will you give way?

Michael German: No, I do not have time.

We need confidence in ourselves and in our people. Wales will receive substantial income from this building, as visitors come here from the United Kingdom and beyond. We have proven that with the Millennium Stadium. The new Assembly will grow in the affections of the Welsh people, as a symbol of a strong nation. Sometimes, you need to lift your eyes beyond the rough pathways along which you travel and have the vision and imagination to plan for the future. Today is the time for that ambition.

penodol, sydd gennym yn awr yw'r ffordd ymlaen. Mae'n rhoi sicrwydd inni am y pris terfynol ac yn dileu llawer o'r risgiau a oedd ynghlwm wrth y prosiect adeiladu. Mae hefyd yn caniatáu i Richard Rogers gwblhau ei waith o ddylunio'r adeilad.

Nid oes neb yn hoffi adeilad cyhoeddus newydd pan yw'n cael ei ddatblygu a'i adeiladu. Dim ond ar ôl ei gwblhau y bydd pobl yn dechrau dod i'w hoffi. Mae digon o enghreifftiau o hynny: mae gennym ni un nid nepell oddi yma yn Stadiwm y Mileniwm. Enynnai wrthwynebiad a beirniadaeth lem pan oedd yn cael ei gynllunio a'i ddatblygu, ond mae bellach yn symbol o Gymru, ac yn stadiwm sy'n adnabyddus drwy Brydain a'r byd, gan roi Caerdydd a Chymru ar y map.

Nid oes neb yn ei iawn bwyll yn gofyn yn awr ai iawn oedd penderfynu ganol y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg ailgodi'r Palas Westminster presennol. Yn ogystal â bod yn symbol o ddemocratiaeth i bawb ohonom, mae wedi denu miliynau o ymwelwyr. Mae mwy na hanner y rhai sy'n ymweld â'r DU o wledydd tramor yn mynd i Lundain. Ânt i weld Palas Buckingham a Phalas Westminster a thynnu eu lluniau y tu allan. Ni chofiant yr AS dros Fynwy, Benjamin Hall, y rhoddwyd ei enw ar y gloch yn y clocdwr, ond gwariant eu harian yn y gwystai, y bwytai a'r siopau. Mae ar Gymru angen rhywfaint o'r busnes hwnnw. Prin bod yr adeilad hwn yn teilyngu ymweliad gan dwristiaid o America.

David Melding: A wnewch ildio?

Michael German: Na wnaif, nid oes gennyf ddigon o amser.

Rhaid inni fod â ffydd ynom ni'n hunain ac yn ein pobl. Caiff Cymru incwm sylweddol o'r adeilad hwn, gan fod ymwelwyr yn dod yma o'r Deyrnas Unedig a'r tu hwnt. Yr ydym wedi profi hynny drwy Stadiwm y Mileniwm. Bydd pobl Cymru'n dod i hoffi'r Cynulliad newydd fel symbol o genedl gref. Weithiau, rhaid ichi godi'ch golygon uwchlaw'r llwybrau garw yr ydych yn teithio ar eu hyd a meddu ar y weledigaeth a'r dychymyg i gynllunio ar gyfer y dyfodol. Daeth yn bryd arddel yr uchelgais hwnnw.

Most tourists do not enter the Palace of Westminster, because it is not the most inviting place. That is in stark contrast to the openness of our proposed new building. You will be able to see right through from the front to the back of the building, and it will be as open to the public as it possibly can be in line with the constraints of security advice.

However, there is an issue for the future that Members must address, namely how open we are in running our building. Its architecture designed it to be open, inviting and, above all, a demonstration of democracy. Let us not blot that aspiration by closing ourselves off from the press and the public. In this building, the public and the media have open access to Members in the neuadd. The House Committee will decide on whether or not to stick to this important principle in the next few months. Access by privilege should be kept to a minimum. Surely that is what our open building should be about. As we take this final decision, remember that this is an enduring building, which will stand as a symbol for our nation. It is the right decision for Wales.

Peter Law: Most of the people that I represent are in deprived situations, mainly because of the effect of the Conservative years of government—and I remind the Conservatives of that today. However, I cannot support this development because spending £55 million on building a palace of vanity is unacceptable. It is not where we sit but what we do for the people that counts. Members should remember that, and should reflect on their constituency backgrounds.

I have studied my constituency. I have seen people living in their rows of houses, and have seen houses boarded up with no money to knock them down. I have seen houses in need of repairs. I have spoken with people in need of operations, who must wait or must travel to England for treatment, as we cannot provide it here. I have talked to people about all of these things, and there is no appetite to support this development. Where is the common mandate? When you have a survey telling you that 75 people sleep rough on the streets of Swansea—and a few half a mile or

Nid yw'r rhan fwyaf o dwristiaid yn mynd i mewn i Balas Westminster, gan nad yw'n lle arbennig o groesawgar. Mae'n gwbl wahanol i natur agored ein hadeilad newydd arfaethedig ni. Byddwch yn gallu gweld drwyddo o ffrynt yr adeilad i'r cefn, a bydd mor agored i'r cyhoedd ag y gall fod wrth gydymffurfio â'r cyngor ar ddiogelwch.

Fodd bynnag, mae un mater ar gyfer y dyfodol y bydd yn rhaid i Aelodau roi sylw iddo, sef pa mor agored yr ydym wrth redeg ein hadeilad. Drwy ei bensaerniaeth, bwriedir iddo fod yn lle agored a chroesawgar ac, yn fwy na dim, yn lle sy'n dangos democratiaeth ar waith. Gadewch inni beidio â rhwystro'r dyhead hwnnw drwy ein cau ein hunain oddi wrth y wasg a'r cyhoedd. Yn yr adeilad hwn, caiff y cyhoedd a'r cyfryngau weld Aelodau yn y neuadd yn ddirwysr. Bydd Pwyllgor y Tŷ yn penderfynu a fydd yn dal at yr egwyddor bwysig hon yn y misoedd nesaf. Dylid cael y lleiaf posibl o fynediad ar sail braint. Siawns nad hynny yw pwrpas ein hadeilad agored. Wrth inni wneud y penderfyniad terfynol hwn, cofiwch mai adeilad ar gyfer yr oesoedd i ddod yw hwn, ac y bydd yn symbol o'n cenedl. Dyma'r penderfyniad iawn i Gymru.

Peter Law: Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r bobl a gynrychiolaf yn ddifreintiedig, yn bennaf oherwydd effaith y blynyddoedd o lywodraeth y Ceidwadwyr—yr wyf yn atgoffa'r Ceidwadwyr am hynny heddiw. Er hynny, ni allaf gefnogi'r datblygiad hwn am mai annerbyniol yw gwario £55 miliwn ar godi palas i borthi balchder. Nid lle eisteddwn sy'n cyfrif ond yr hyn a wnawn dros y bobl. Dylai Aelodau gofio hynny, a dylent ystyried eu hetholaethau.

Yr wyf wedi astudio fy etholaeth. Yr wyf wedi gweld pobl yn byw yn eu rhesi o dai, ac wedi gweld tai â'u ffenestri dan goed a dim arian i'w dymchwel. Yr wyf wedi gweld tai y mae angen eu hatgyweirio. Yr wyf wedi siarad â phobl y mae arnynt angen llawdriniaeth, sy'n gorfod disgwyl neu fynd i Loegr i gael eu trin, gan na allwn ddarparu ar eu cyfer yma. Yr wyf wedi siarad â phobl am yr holl bethau hynny, ac nid oes unrhyw awydd i gefnogi'r datblygiad hwn. Ym mhle y mae'r mandad cyhoeddus? Pan fo arolwg sy'n dweud wrthyfych bod 75 o bobl yn cysgu

so from here—

Eleanor Burnham: Will you give way?

Peter Law: I will not give way, as I only have three minutes in which to speak. We must consider the priorities.

Eleanor Burnham *rose*—

The Presiding Officer: Order. Peter Law is not giving way; he seems to be in full stride.

Peter Law: Everyone has expectations of the Assembly and, to date, we have not fully met those expectations. A sum of £55 million would go a long way. We could divide it, with every local authority receiving £2.5 million to target social deprivation.

Eleanor Burnham: Will you give way?

The Presiding Officer: Order. Peter Law is not giving way.

Peter Law: We could establish a fund, to which people could apply for money to enhance their communities and improve their quality of life. We could do that with £55 million. Where is the social justice in building a new Assembly Chamber? People say that it will be an icon. I doubt that; it will be a bauble of self-indulgence for Assembly Members. The people of Wales have asked for help and have, for some time, expected us to deliver. They expect their lives to be changed. They do not want to see money squandered as is being suggested today. Having looked around my constituency, I cannot justify voting in favour of the motion and supporting the expenditure. Many people view it as a narcissistic extravaganza. We have much to do for the people whom we represent. Many people look to us to improve their lives. If you do not believe me, come to stand in the square in Brynmawr or the Circle in Tredegar, come to Abertillery or Ebbw Vale to see what I see every day and to talk to the people. I could almost say that I was re-elected on a mandate to oppose the new building, as people feel so strongly about money being poured into such developments while social deprivation is ignored. That is

allan ar strydoedd Abertawe—a rhai ryw hanner milltir oddi yma—

Eleanor Burnham: A wnewch ildio?

Peter Law: Nid ildiaf, gan mai dim ond tri munud sydd gennyf i siarad. Rhaid inni ystyried y blaenoriaethau.

Eleanor Burnham *a gododd*—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw Peter Law yn ildio; ymddengys ei fod yn dod i'w gamre.

Peter Law: Mae pawb yn disgwyl pethau gan y Cynulliad a, hyd yn hyn, nid ydym wedi cwrdd â'r disgwyliadau hynny'n llawn. Byddai swm o £55 miliwn yn gyfraniad mawr at hynny. Gallem ei rannu, fel bod pob awdurdod lleol yn derbyn £2.5 miliwn i dargedu amddifadedd cymdeithasol.

Eleanor Burnham: A wnewch ildio?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw Peter Law yn ildio.

Peter Law: Gallem sefydlu cronfa, y gallai pobl ymgeisio am arian ohoni i hybu eu cymunedau a gwella ansawdd eu bywyd. Gallem wneud hynny â £55 miliwn. Pa gyfiawnder cymdeithasol sydd mewn adeiladu Siambr newydd i'r Cynulliad? Dywed rhai y bydd yn eicon. Yr wyf yn amau hynny; bydd yn degan hunanfaldodus i Aelodau'r Cynulliad. Mae pobl Cymru wedi gofyn am gymorth ac yn disgwyl, ers cryn amser, inni fynd â'r maen i'r wal. Disgwylant i'w bywydau gael eu newid. Nid ydynt am weld gwastraffu arian fel yr awgrymir ei wneud heddiw. Ar ôl mynd o gwmpas fy etholaeth, ni allaf gyfiawnhau pleidleisio o blaid y cynnig a chefnogi'r gwariant. Mae pobl yn ei ystyried yn wastraff narsisaidd. Mae gennym lawer i'w wneud dros y bobl a gynrychiolwn. Mae llawer o bobl yn disgwyl inni wella eu bywyd. Os na chredwch hynny, dewch i sefyll yn y sgwâr ym Mrynawr neu yn y Cylch yn Nhredegar, dewch i Abertyleri neu Lynebwy i weld yr hyn a welaf fi bob diwrnod ac i siarad â'r bobl. Gallwn bron â dweud imi gael fy ailethol ar fandad i wrthwynebu'r adeilad newydd, gan fod pobl yn teimlo mor gryf am arllwys arian i ddatblygiadau o'r fath tra

why I cannot support the new building, and why I will not vote in favour of the motion.

Elin Jones: Siaradaf o blaid y cynnig i awdurdodi'r gwariant ar adeilad newydd y Cynulliad. Nid oherwydd fy mod am eistedd mewn adeilad mwy cyfforddus â system awyru effeithiol a dim pileri y gwnaf hynny; siaradaf o blaid yr adeilad oherwydd y bydd yn fuddsoddiad tymor hir ar gyfer y 100 mlynedd nesaf a thu hwnt, ac oherwydd y bydd yn gydnabyddiaeth weledol sylweddol o ddemocratiaeth Cymru. Bydd yn symbol fod Cymru'n bodoli fel cenedl. Mae gan ein timau rygbi a phêl-droed cenedlaethol gartref anrhydeddus, byd-enwog a bydd gan Gwmni Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru ac eraill gartref anrhydeddus yng Nghanolfan Mileniwm Cymru cyn bo hir. Er 1999, mae Cymru'n bodoli fel gwlad gyfansoddiadol gydnabyddedig, ac mae'r genedl yn haeddu cartref parhaol i'w chynrychiolwyr etholedig—rhai heddiw a rhai'r dyfodol. Bydd y Cynulliad, maes o law, yn senedd a phleidleisiwn heddiw o blaid adeiladu senedd-dy ar gyfer y dyfodol. Mae'r Torïaid yn gwybod hynny, a dyna sydd wrth wraidd eu gwrthwynebiad i'r adeilad. Llugoer yw eu cefnogaeth i gydnabod statws y genedl Gymreig.

Lisa Francis: A wnewch ildio?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid ymddengys fod Elin Jones yn ildio.

Elin Jones: Mae'r adeilad yn flaengar o ran defnydd ynni, o ran yr amgylchedd, o ran y defnydd o ddeunyddiau Cymreig ac o ran tryloywder a mynediad i'r cyhoedd. Dylem fod yn wirioneddol falch ohono a dylem ei gefnogi. Wrth imi bleidleisio o blaid adeiladu senedd-dy i Gymru, yr wyf yn ymwybodol fy mod yn pleidleisio i sefydlu adeilad ar gyfer cynrychiolwyr Ceredigion yn 2005, 2055 a 2105, adeilad lle y gallant gynrychioli buddiannau pobl Ceredigion mewn senedd genedlaethol ddemocrataidd. Pleidlais i'r dyfodol yw hon, ac mae'n drueni bod un grŵp gwleidyddol yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i fanteision pleidiol hunanol a thymor byr. Yr wyf yn falch y bydd mwyaftrif Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn dangos tipyn o hyder yn statws a haeddiant Cymru.

anwybyddir amddifadedd cymdeithasol. Dyna pam na allaf gefnogi'r adeilad newydd, a pham na phleidleisias o blaid y cynnig.

Elin Jones: I speak in favour of the motion to authorise the expenditure on the new Assembly building. I do not do so because I want to sit in a more comfortable building with an effective air-conditioning system and no pillars; I speak in favour of the building because it will be a long-term investment for the next 100 years and beyond, and because it will provide a significant visual symbol of Wales's democracy. It will be a symbol that Wales exists as a nation. Our national rugby and football teams have a worthy, world-renowned home and the Welsh National Opera and others will soon have a worthy home in the Wales Millennium Centre. Since 1999, Wales exists as a recognised constitutional nation, and the nation deserves a permanent home for its elected representatives—the current representatives and those in the future. The Assembly, in due course, will become a parliament and we are voting today in favour of constructing a parliament building for the future. The Tories know that, and that is the basis of their opposition to the building. They are only lukewarm in their support of recognising the status of the Welsh nation.

Lisa Francis: Will you give away?

The Presiding Officer: Order. It does not appear that Elin Jones is giving way.

Elin Jones: The building is innovative in terms of energy use, in environmental terms, in the use of Welsh materials and in terms of transparency and public access. We should be truly proud of it, and we should support it. As I vote in favour of a parliament building for Wales, I am aware that I am voting to establish a building for Ceredigion's representatives in 2005, 2055 and 2105, a building where they can represent the interests of the people of Ceredigion in a national democratic parliament. This is a vote for the future, and it is a shame that one political group gives priority to self-serving, short-term party political gains. I am pleased that the majority of Assembly Members will show a little faith in Wales's status and its merit.

Glyn Davies: It seems almost certain that, later today, the National Assembly for Wales will commit a large sum of money towards the construction of a new debating chamber. It is difficult to be certain of the cost, but it seems that it will be in the region of £60 million. From what I have seen, I expect the new building to provide a more prestigious floor for debate than the current Chamber, but at what cost? I have always accepted that there are two sides to this debate. I accept that this Chamber is no more than adequate. I have, in the past, conceded that, should the National Assembly for Wales have chalked up a series of successes to its name, won the respect and affection of the Welsh people and won their support for this project, the case for building a new debating chamber would be stronger. However, none of this has happened and we should invest the millions of pounds in public services.

5.00 p.m.

The Government has made a horlicks of this project from the start. The First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, is the main culprit. His first act after taking over from Alun Michael was to suspend the project in order to avoid signing a cheque. That act of dithering cost Welsh taxpayers about £386,000. The First Minister then promoted the idea of a ludicrous compromise building, which made Wales a laughing stock throughout Britain. When the project restarted, he tried to pretend that he still was not in favour of the new building, because he had correctly judged that the lads in the pub did not support it, thus leaving Edwina Hart dangling in mid air to carry the can. Not surprisingly, Edwina Hart decided that she would not cop the wrath of the nation on her own, and so she sacked Richard Rogers and suspended the building project again. The First Minister then decided that his Government should behave like an Arthur Daley-type outfit by refusing to pay the architects' bill. More hundreds of thousands of pounds disappeared in legal costs when a court ordered the Government of Wales to pay up.

We are where we are today—the Assembly elections are safely out of the way, and Lord

Glyn Davies: Ymddengys bron yn sicr y bydd Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn ddiweddarach heddiw, yn rhoi swm mawr o arian tuag at godi siambr ddadlau newydd. Anodd yw bod yn sicr o'r gost, ond ymddengys y bydd tua £60 miliwn. O'r hyn a welais, disgwyliaf y bydd yr adeilad newydd yn cynnig llwyfan mwy mawreddog ar gyfer dadlau na'r Siambr bresennol, ond ar ba gost? Yr wyf yn derbyn erioed bod dwy ochr i'r ddadl hon. Derbyniaf nad yw'r Siambr hon yn fawr gwell na bod yn ddigonol. Yr wyf wedi derbyn, yn y gorffennol, pe byddai Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru wedi ennill clod am gyfres o lwyddiannau, wedi ennyn parch a hoffter pobl Cymru ac wedi ennill eu cefnogaeth i'r prosiect hwn, y byddai'r ddadl dros godi siambr ddadlau newydd yn gryfach. Fodd bynnag, nid oes dim o hynny wedi digwydd a dylem fuddsoddi'r miliynau o bunnoedd mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi gwneud traed moch o'r prosiect hwn ers y cychwyn. Y Prif Weinidog, Rhodri Morgan, sy'n bennaf cyfrifol am hynny. Ei weithred gyntaf ar ôl cymryd lle Alun Michael oedd atal y prosiect er mwyn peidio â llofnodi sic. Mae'r gwamalu hwnnw wedi costio tua £386,000 i drethdalwyr Cymru. Ar ôl hynny, hyrwyddodd y Prif Weinidog y syniad o adeilad a fyddai'n gyfaddawd chwerthinllyd, a wnaeth Gymru'n destun sbort ledled Prydain. Pan ailgychwynnodd y prosiect, ceisiodd gymryd arno o hyd nad oedd o blaid yr adeilad newydd, am ei fod wedi barnu'n gywir nad oedd y bechgyn yn y darfarn yn ei gefnogi, gan adael Edwina Hart heb droed i sefyll arni i gymryd y bai. Nid yw'n syndod i Edwina Hart benderfynu na wnâi ddiodesdef digofaint y genedl ar ei phen ei hun, ac felly diswyddodd Richard Rogers ac atal y prosiect adeiladu eto. Penderfynodd y Prif Weinidog wedyn y dylai ei Lywodraeth ymddwyn yn null Arthur Daley drwy wrthod talu bil y penseiri. Diflannodd cannoedd o filoedd o bunnoedd ychwanegol ar ffurf costau cyfreithiol pan wnaeth llys orchymyn i Lywodraeth Cymru dalu.

Dyna lle'r ydym heddiw—mae etholiadau'r Cynulliad o'r ffordd yn ddiogel, ac mae'r

Rogers is back in charge of the project. Whatever the total bill, the real scandal is that a significant proportion of the cost—millions of pounds of Welsh taxpayers' money—has been frittered away as a direct result of the behaviour of an Assembly Government leader. He could not or would not make a decision, and could not or would not show any sort of leadership, and will not, even now, accept any responsibility for the shambles he has caused.

On St David's Day 2006, I can envisage Lord Elis-Thomas glowing with pride as he escorts some person of great eminence through the portals of a new democratic open space, glancing left and right at as yet uncoded works of art and then into the vastness of a sparkling new Chamber. If Rhodri Morgan is still First Minister, I hope that he will have the grace to hang his head in shame, because the only part of the new building for which he will carry any personal responsibility is the inflated bill.

Leighton Andrews: I will not pretend that this building is popular in my constituency; it is not. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Vote against it.']

The Presiding Officer: Order. I urge Members not to get overexcited.

Leighton Andrews: However, we sometimes have to take decisions because we think that they are right, not because they are popular. My priorities for capital spending in Rhondda are the new hospital at Llwynypia and the Porth-Rhondda Fach relief road. I make those points upfront, as I want to see those projects proceed. I do not want them left behind in the construction queue. I support the Cabinet because I believe that it will deliver the capital investment that my constituents need. That was the outcome of the election on 1 May. The choice facing Assembly Members in 2003 is different from that which faced the Assembly Members elected in 1999. It is not a choice between a blank sheet of paper and a price of £41 million. Costs have already been incurred and money spent, and aborting the project and breaking a contract would lead to further costs. Money will have to be spent on

prosiect dan ofal yr Arglwydd Rogers eto. Beth bynnag fydd cyfanswm y bil, y wir sgandal yw bod cyfran sylweddol o'r gost—miliynau o bunnoedd o arian trethdalwyr Cymru—wedi'i gwastraffu o ganlyniad uniongyrchol i ymddygiad arweinydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Ni allai neu ni wnâi benderfynu, ac ni allai neu ni wnâi ddangos unrhyw fath o arweiniad, a hyd yn oed yn awr, ni wnaiff dderbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb am y llanastr a achosodd.

Ar Ddydd Gŵyl Dewi 2006, gallaf ddychmygu'r Arglwydd Elis-Thomas yn gwrido gan falchder wrth iddo hebrwng rhywun enwog iawn drwy'r pyrth i fan agored newydd ar gyfer democratiaeth, gan fwrw golwg i'r dde a'r chwith ar weithiau celf sydd heb eu prisio eto ac wedyn i ehanger Siambr newydd sbon. Os yw Rhodri Morgan yn dal i fod yn Brif Weinidog, gobeithiaf y bydd yn ddigon graslon i ostwng ei ben mewn cywilydd, oherwydd yr unig ran o'r adeilad newydd y bydd ganddo ef unrhyw gyfrifoldeb personol amdani yw'r bil chwyddedig.

Leighton Andrews: Ni chymeraf arnaf fod yr adeilad hwn yn boblogaidd yn fy etholaeth; nid ydyw. [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'Pleidleisiwch yn ei erbyn.']

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Anogaf Aelodau i beidio â gorgynhyrfu.

Leighton Andrews: Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni wneud penderfyniadau weithiau am ein bod yn credu eu bod yn iawn, nid am eu bod yn boblogaidd. Fy mlaenoriaethau i ar gyfer gwariant cyfalaf yn y Rhondda yw'r ysbyty newydd yn Llwynypia a ffordd liniaru'r Porth-Rhondda Fach. Gwnaf y pwyntiau hynny'n gyntaf, gan fy mod yn dymuno gweld y prosiectau hynny'n mynd rhagddynt. Nid wyf am iddynt gael eu gadael ar ôl yn y ciw adeiladu. Cefnogaf y Cabinet am y credaf y bydd yn rhoi'r buddsoddiad cyfalaf y mae ar fy etholwyr ei angen. Dyna oedd canlyniad yr etholiad ar 1 Mai. Mae'r dewis sy'n wynebu Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn 2003 yn wahanol i'r un a wynebodd yr Aelodau Cynulliad a etholwyd yn 1999. Nid yw'n ddewis rhwng dalen bapur wag a phris o £41 miliwn. Tynnwyd costau eisoes a gwariwyd arian, a byddai rhoi'r gorau i'r prosiect a

security and physical access in this building if we do not go ahead with the new building. Therefore it is not a choice between spending nothing and spending £41 million, and people should not pretend otherwise. To put it bluntly, the choice before us in July 2003 appears to be between spending a lot of money for nothing in return or spending more money to get something that works for Wales.

It is significant that only the Conservative group opposes this building. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'What about Peter Law?'] The Conservatives opposed the establishment of the Assembly.

Lisa Francis and Nick Bourne *rose*—

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Member is not giving way.

Leighton Andrews: The Conservatives opposed devolution; they were the abominable 'no' men. We read in the papers that, when the Conservative group discussed the new building, the only question raised by two of its members was, 'Where will the bar be?'. They oppose the building now but, once it is built, they will make full use of it. They will be getting in the gins for farmers, young and old, carrying around the Camparis for their cronies in the Cardiff and County Club and breaking out the Bacardis for the blazer brigade. The Tories, as we all know, say one thing, and do another. [*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. Leighton Andrews is not giving way.

Leighton Andrews: I will give way to Nick Bourne.

Nick Bourne: I am grateful to you for giving way. I would like to point out the inconsistencies in what you say. You began by saying that the people of the Rhondda are against this project, then you accused the Conservatives of being the only people in Wales who were against it. It is well known that most people in Wales are against this

thorri contract yn arwain at gostau pellach. Bydd yn rhaid gwario arian ar ddiogelwch a mynediad ffisegol i'r adeilad hwn os nad awn ymlaen â'r adeilad newydd. Felly nid yw'n ddewis rhwng gwario dim a gwario £41 miliwn, ac ni ddylai neb gymryd arno fel arall. I'w roi'n blwmp ac yn blaen, ymddengys bod y dewis sydd ger ein bron yng Ngorffennaf 2003 yn un rhwng gwario llawer o arian a chael dim yn ôl a gwario mwy o arian i gael rhywbeth sy'n gweithio dros Gymru.

Mae'n arwyddocaol mai dim ond y grŵp Ceidwadol sy'n gwrthwynebu'r adeilad hwn. [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'Beth am Peter Law?'] Yr oedd y Ceidwadwyr yn erbyn sefydlu'r Cynulliad.

Lisa Francis a Nick Bourne *a godasant*—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw'r Aelod yn ildio.

Leighton Andrews: Yr oedd y Ceidwadwyr yn erbyn datganoli; hwy oedd dynion ofnadwy y 'na'. Darllenwn yn y papurau newydd mai'r unig gwestiwn a godwyd gan ddau o aelodau'r grŵp Ceidwadol, pan drafododd yr adeilad newydd, oedd, 'Ym mhle y bydd y bar?'. Maent yn erbyn yr adeilad yn awr, ond wedi iddo gael ei godi, byddant yn ei ddefnyddio'n llawn. Byddant yn prynu diodydd o jin i ffermwyr, hen ac ifanc, yn rhannu'r diodydd o Campari ymysg eu ffrindiau yng Nghlwb Caerdydd a'r Sir ac yn estyn y Bacardis i griw'r blaseri. Mae'r Toriaid, fel y gwyddom i gyd, yn dweud un peth, ac yn gwneud peth arall. [*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw Leighton Andrews yn ildio.

Leighton Andrews: Ildiaf i Nick Bourne.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i chi am ildio. Carwn dynnu sylw at yr anghysonderau yn yr hyn a ddywedwch. Dechreuasoch drwy ddweud bod pobl y Rhondda yn erbyn y prosiect hwn, ac wedyn cyhuddo'r Ceidwadwyr o fod yn unig wrthwynebwyr iddo yng Nghymru. Mae'n dra hysbys bod y rhan fwyaf o bobl yng Nghymru yn erbyn y

monstrous waste of money. You talk about rising costs and the mess that we were in the last time, but whose fault was that? It was the First Minister's fault; blame him for the rising costs.

Leighton Andrews: The only group opposed to this building is the Welsh Conservative group. That is what I said and that is the truth. I support this building because it is right to do so. The choice before us today in 2003 is different from the choice that was before Members in 1999. Money has been spent; we need to complete the job and get on with it.

David Davies: I have not heard a single word of justification for this new building. Some people mentioned landmark buildings. We already have landmark buildings in Cardiff: we have the City Hall and the Coal Exchange. Either of those two buildings might have made a justifiable parliament. We heard of the cost of other buildings around the country—and it still is a country at the moment—such as Portcullis House. That was different, because Members of Parliament did not have proper offices before it was built, but even if it was a waste of money, we are not here to discuss money being wasted elsewhere in the UK. The amount of money that has been thrown away on the Scottish Parliament, and, possibly, on Portcullis House, does not justify what we are about to do today.

We are responsible for the £55 million that will be spent on the new building. We are responsible for safeguarding and spending that money. As the previous speaker made clear, even people in strong Labour constituencies do not support this new building. Rhodri Morgan said that we oppose the new Assembly building because we oppose devolution. How wrong you are, First Minister. If we wanted to increase apathy towards the Assembly, it would be much easier to quietly go along with your plans to waste £55 million. It strikes me as a supreme irony that those of us who opposed devolution now want to increase support for the Assembly by taking action that reflects what the people of Wales want. You are digging a hole for yourselves in more ways than one by going against the wishes of the

gwastraff arian ofnadwy hwn. Soniwch am gostau cynyddol a'r llastr yr oeddem ynddo'r tro diwethaf, ond bai pwy oedd hynny? Bai'r Prif Weinidog ydoedd; rhowch y bai arno ef am y costau cynyddol.

Leighton Andrews: Yr unig grŵp sy'n gwrthwynebu'r adeilad hwn yw grŵp Ceidwadwyr Cymru. Dyna a ddywedais a dyna'r gwir. Cefnogaf yr adeilad hwn am mai iawn yw gwneud hynny. Mae'r dewis sydd ger ein bron heddiw yn 2003 yn wahanol i'r un a oedd gerbron Aelodau yn 1999. Gwariwyd arian; rhaid inni fwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith a'i gwblhau.

David Davies: Ni chlywais yr un gair i gyfiawnhau codi'r adeilad hwn. Mae rhai wedi sôn am adeiladau nodedig. Mae gennym adeiladau nodedig yng Nghaerdydd eisoes; mae Neuadd y Ddinas gennym a'r Gyfnewidfa Lo. Gellid cyfiawnhau defnyddio'r naill neu'r llall o'r adeiladau hynny fel senedd. Clywsom am gost adeiladau eraill o gwmpas y wlad—ac mae'n dal i fod yn wlad ar hyn o bryd—fel Portcullis House. Yr oedd hynny'n wahanol, am nad oedd gan Aelodau Seneddol swyddfeydd iawn cyn ei godi, ond hyd yn oed os ydoedd yn wastraff arian, nid ydym yma i drafod gwastraffu arian mewn mannau eraill yn y DU. Nid yw'r swm o arian a wastraffwyd ar Senedd yr Alban ac, o bosibl, ar Portcullis House, yn cyfiawnhau'r hyn yr ydym ar fin ei wneud heddiw.

Ni sy'n gyfrifol am y £55 miliwn a gaiff ei wario ar yr adeilad newydd. Ni sy'n gyfrifol am ddiogelu a gwario'r arian hwnnw. Fel yr eglurodd y siaradwr blaenorol, nid yw hyd yn oed rhai mewn etholaethau Llafur cryf yn cefnogi'r adeilad newydd hwn. Dywedodd Rhodri Morgan ein bod yn erbyn adeilad newydd y Cynulliad am ein bod yn erbyn datganoli. Yr ydych yn camgymryd yn arw, Brif Weinidog. Pe byddem am gynyddu'r difaterwch ynghylch y Cynulliad, byddai'n haws o lawer cydsynio'n dawel â'ch bwriad i wastraffu £55 miliwn. Mae'n fy nharo fel eironi o'r mwyaf bod y rhai ohonom a wrthwynebodd ddatganoli bellach yn dymuno hybu'r gefnogaeth i'r Cynulliad drwy gymryd camau sy'n adlewyrchu dymuniad pobl Cymru. Yr ydych yn torri twll i chi'ch hun ar fwy nag un ystyr drwy fynd yn groes i

people of Wales. As the new building rises, you will be undermining the shallow foundations of the very institution that you want it to house. This is the final opportunity for common sense to prevail—

Lorraine Barrett: Will you give way?

David Davies: No, I do not have time. This is the final opportunity for common sense to prevail. Frankly, First Minister, you should remember that it is not the location of the Chamber that counts, but the substance of what we say. Therefore, abandon the plans for the new building and let us spend that £55 million on schools and hospitals and on delivering high-class public services that will be relevant to everyone in Wales.

Helen Mary Jones: It is with some sadness that I rise to make my contribution to this debate. I am on record as being a strong supporter of a new Chamber in principle. Wales deserves better than being represented out of a remodelled computer room that looks like a remodelled computer room. We had, and I hope still have, the opportunity to create a building that will reflect Wales as a nation and the key principles of sustainability and equality to which legislation binds the Assembly and which the first Assembly embraced with enthusiasm. Therefore, I was deeply concerned to learn, less than a fortnight ago, that major disability organisations have grave concerns about the process by which disabled people have been consulted about the building and about a major aspect of the current design.

Last night, all Members were sent a letter from Disability Wales outlining those concerns. Briefly, the issue is that, despite many positive changes to the original design that have greatly improved access for wheelchair users to most of the new building, the Chamber itself is so steeply raked that any wheelchair user who was in the Cabinet, or a leader of an opposition party seated in the front rows, will have to use an electronic wheelchair lift to enable them to move around the Chamber. The raking is to enable broadcasters to get a better shot of the

ddymuniad pobl Cymru. Wrth i'r adeilad newydd godi'n uwch, byddwch yn tanseilio sylfeini brau yr union sefydliad yr ydych am ei gartrefu ynddo. Dyma'r cyfle olaf i synnwyr cyffredin ennill y dydd—

Lorraine Barrett: A wnewch ildio?

David Davies: Na wnaif, nid oes gennyf ddigon o amser. Dyma'r cyfle olaf i synnwyr cyffredin ennill y dydd. A siarad yn blwmp ac yn blaen, Brif Weinidog, dylech gofio nad lleoliad y Siambr sy'n cyfrif, ond sylwedd yr hyn a ddywedwn. Gan hynny, rhowch y gorau i'r cynlluniau ar gyfer yr adeilad newydd a gadewch inni wario'r £55 miliwn hwnnw ar ysgolion ac ysbytai ac ar ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus o safon dda a fydd yn berthnasol i bawb yng Nghymru.

Helen Mary Jones: Teimlaf beth tristwch wrth godi i gyfrannu i'r ddadl hon. Yr wyf wedi dweud ar goedd fy mod yn bleidiol iawn i Siambr newydd mewn egwyddor. Mae Cymru'n haeddu gwell na chael ei chynrychioli mewn ystafell gyfrifiaduron wedi'i hailwampio sydd â golwg ystafell gyfrifiaduron wedi'i hailwampio. Yr oedd gennym gyfle, ac mae gennym o hyd yr wyf yn gobeithio, i greu adeilad a fydd yn adlewyrchu Cymru fel cenedl a'r egwyddorion allweddol o gynaliadwyedd a chydaddoldeb y mae deddfwriaeth yn rhwymo'r Cynulliad iddynt ac a dderbyniwyd yn frwd gan y Cynulliad cyntaf. Gan hynny, gofid mawr i mi oedd cael gwybod, lai na phythefnos yn ôl, bod cyrff anabledd o bwys yn bryderus dros ben ynghylch y broses o ymgynghori â phobl anabl am yr adeilad ac ynghylch un agwedd o bwys ar y cynllun presennol.

Neithiwr, anfonwyd llythyr at yr holl Aelodau gan Anabledd Cymru sy'n disgrifio'r pryderon hynny. Yn fyr, y mater dan sylw yw, er gwaethaf y nifer fawr o newidiadau cadarnhaol i'r cynllun gwreiddiol sydd wedi gwneud yr adeilad newydd yn llawer mwy hygyrch i ddefnyddwyr cadeiriau olwynion, fod y Siambr ei hun ar oledf mor serth fel y bydd unrhyw ddefnyddiwr cadair olwynion a oedd yn y Cabinet, neu'n arweinydd gwrthblaid â'i sedd yn y rhesi blaen, yn gorfod defnyddio lifft cadeiriau olwynion electronig i'w alluogi i symud o

proceedings than a flat or flatter Chamber would allow. That is important. Indeed, it is an access issue in itself, because it is chiefly through broadcasting that many people in Wales access our proceedings. However, I would be prepared to live with an unflattering camera angle to avoid a disabled colleague's having to suffer the indignity of having to use a noisy piece of electronic equipment to move around the new Chamber. Electronic lifts are acceptable solutions in old buildings, but the new Chamber is supposed to be an exemplar, state-of-the-art building. In that one regard, it is not. There are also practical considerations. The lift is expensive, it would be costly to maintain, and would need to be regularly replaced, and that raises questions about sustainability. Disabled groups have not raised these issues publicly, but they have attempted to raise them internally. It is regrettable that the Assembly access advisory group, and others, were not allowed to meet broadcasters face to face until yesterday.

5.10 p.m.

Wales needs a new Chamber. We need a symbol of which we can be proud, but we do not need a Chamber that stigmatises wheelchair users and others with mobility problems. Those who have been involved in this process have been full of good intentions, but good intentions are not enough. The fault can be traced back to the beginning of this process, when the highest possible access standards clearly did not form part of the original specification set by the Secretary of State for Wales. Whatever the history, I ask the Government to reconsider the Chamber. I do not claim to know what the technical answers are, but I find it hard to believe that there are none. Disabled people have compromised on the building. The presence of steps at the front of the building—now, rightly, to be interspersed with ramps—has been seen by some as being oppressive and exclusionary, but has now been accepted. I will vote for this motion, because not to do so would risk making the shambles that the Government has made of the whole process even worse. However, I do so with some

gwmpas y Siambr. Pwrpas y goleddf yw galluogi darlledwyr i gael llun gwell o'r trafodion nag y gallent mewn Siambr wastad neu fwy gwastad. Mae hynny'n bwysig. Yn wir, mae hynny'n fater mynediad ynddo'i hun, oherwydd drwy ddarlledu'n bennaf y bydd llawer o bobl yng Nghymru'n gweld ein trafodion. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn barod i oddef ongl camera angharedig i sicrhau na fyddai cyd-Aelod anabl yn gorfod dioddef defnyddio offer electronig swmlyd i symud o gwmpas y Siambr newydd. Mae lifftiau electronig yn ateb derbyniol mewn hen adeiladau, ond mae'r Siambr newydd i fod yn batrwm o adeilad a fydd gyda'r mwyaf modern. Yn hynny o beth, nid ydyw. Mae ystyriaethau ymarferol hefyd. Mae'r lifft yn gostus, byddai'n ddrud i'w chynnal, a byddai'n rhaid ei hamnewid yn rheolaidd, ac mae hynny'n codi cwestiynau ynghylch cynaliadwyedd. Nid yw grwpiau anabled wedi codi'r materion hynny'n gyhoeddus, ond maent wedi ceisio eu codi'n fewnol. Testun gofid yw na chaniatawyd i grŵp ymgynghorol y Cynulliad ar fynediad, ac eraill, gwrdd â darlledwyr wyneb yn wyneb tan ddoe.

Mae ar Gymru angen Siambr newydd. Mae arnom angen symbol y gallwn ymfalchïo ynddi, ond nid oes arnom angen Siambr sy'n gwarthnodi defnyddwyr cadeiriau olwynion ac eraill sy'n ei chael yn anodd symud o gwmpas. Yr oedd y rhai a gymerodd ran yn y broses hon yn dda eu bwriad, ond nid yw bwriadau da'n ddigon. Gellir olrhain y diffyg i ddechrau'r broses hon, gan ei bod yn amlwg nad oedd y safonau mynediad gorau posibl yn rhan o'r fanyleb wreiddiol a osodwyd gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru. Beth bynnag fu'r hanes, gofynnaf i'r Llywodraeth ailystyried y Siambr. Ni honnaf fy mod yn gwybod yr atebion technegol, ond yr wyf yn ei chael yn anodd credu nad oes rhai. Mae pobl anabl wedi cyfaddawdu ynghylch yr adeilad. Mae rhai o'r farn bod presenoldeb grisiau o flaen yr adeilad—y gosodir rampiau rhyngddynt yn awr, fel y bo'n briodol—yn ormesol ac yn anghynhwysol, ond derbyniwyd hynny bellach. Pleidleisiaf o blaid y cynnig hwn, gan y byddai peidio â gwneud hynny'n mentro gwneud y llanastr a wnaeth y Llywodraeth o'r holl broses yn

regret. The Government has let down one in six of the citizens of Wales—our disabled citizens. I hope that there is still time to put that right.

Alun Cairns: There are three key issues with regard to the new building. The first is the cost of the Assembly building as opposed to its prestige and status: the argument presented by those in favour of the building. I remember asking some years ago in the Assembly—the cost at that time was a little over £20 million—at what point, if the prestige and status argument were allowed to preside, should we stop: at £25 million, £30 million or £35 million? I remember all the Members who will vote in favour of it today, saying, ‘no, no, no, it will never cost that amount’. We have now reached that amount, and it is time that those of you who intend to vote in favour of the motion today, think long and hard about the answer that you gave some three years ago when you said that the building would never reach the cost of £55 million.

The second issue relates to the role of the First Minister. He personally intervened and added to the cost of this building. That is the consequence of his lack of leadership. He has cost the taxpayer, the patient, the nurse and the pupil hundreds of thousands of pounds, possibly millions of pounds, as a result of his personal intervention and delays. People must judge him on that. The third issue relates to timing. The timing of this debate stinks. To come forward with a much inflated figure—more than £55 million from some £40 million—within weeks of an Assembly election in the hope that, because there are four years to the next Assembly election, the people of Wales will forget about the First Minister’s lack of leadership, stinks. Those are the three issues with regard to the building, but there are also the consequences that face your constituents.

I have been in contact today with a Bridgend constituent who is waiting for a heart operation. He is living from day to day, out of breath. He is waiting for a response from the chief executive of the specialist heart unit

waeth byth. Fodd bynnag, gwnaf hynny â pheth gofid. Mae’r Llywodraeth wedi gwneud cam ag un o bob chwech o ddinasyddion Cymru—ein dinasyddion anabl. Gobeithiaf fod digon o amser i gywiro hynny.

Alun Cairns: Cyfyd tri mater allweddol mewn cysylltiad â’r adeilad newydd. Y cyntaf yw cost adeilad y Cynulliad yn hytrach na’i statws a’i fri, sef y ddadl a gyflwynwyd gan y rhai sydd o blaid yr adeilad. Cofiaf ofyn rai blynyddoedd yn ôl yn y Cynulliad—y gost bryd hynny oedd ychydig yn fwy nag £20 miliwn—ar ba bwynt, pe rhoddid y lle blaenaf i’r ddadl statws a bri, y dylem roi’r gorau iddo: ar ôl cyrraedd £25 miliwn, £30 miliwn neu £35 miliwn? Cofiaf fod yr holl Aelodau a fydd yn pleidleisio o’i blaid heddiw wedi dweud, ‘na, na, na, ni wnaiff byth gostio cymaint â hynny’. Yr ydym wedi cyrraedd y swm hwnnw bellach, ac mae’n bryd i’r rhai ohonoch sy’n bwriadu pleidleisio dros y cynnig heddiw feddwl yn hir ac yn ddwys am yr ateb a roesoch tua thair blynedd yn ôl pan ddywedasoch na fyddai’r adeilad byth yn cyrraedd y gost o £55 miliwn.

Mae’r ail fater yn ymwneud â rôl y Prif Weinidog. Ymyrodd yn bersonol ac ychwanegu at gost yr adeilad hwn. Dyna’r canlyniad i’w ddiffyg arweiniad. Mae wedi costio cannoedd o filoedd, neu filiynau o bunnoedd o bosibl, i’r trethdalwr, y claf, y nyrs a’r disgybl, o ganlyniad i’w ymyrryd a’i ohirio. Rhaid i bobl ei farnu ar hynny. Mae’r trydydd mater yn ymwneud ag amseru. Mae amseriad y ddadl hon yn drewi. Mae’r ffaith bod ffigur uwch o lawer wedi’i roi gerbron—mwy na £55 miliwn o’i gymharu â thua £40 miliwn—o fewn wythnosau i etholiadau i’r Cynulliad gan obeithio, am fod pedair blynedd tan yr etholiadau nesaf i’r Cynulliad, y bydd pobl Cymru’n anghofio am ddiffyg arweiniad y Prif Weinidog, yn drewi. Dyna’r tri mater sy’n codi mewn cysylltiad â’r adeilad, ond mae canlyniadau hefyd i’ch etholwyr.

Bûm mewn cysylltiad heddiw ag etholwr ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr sy’n aros am lawdriniaeth i’w galon. Mae’n byw o ddydd i ddydd, ac yn methu â chael ei wynt. Mae’n disgwyl ateb gan brif weithredwr yr uned

at Morryston Hospital. That is the reality. Were I to vote for spending £55 million on a new Assembly building today, I could never look that constituent in the eye again. All of you must face that. You need to be able to look your constituents in the eye. When the next one needs a hip operation or a heart operation—

The Presiding Officer: Order. You are out of time.

Denise Idris Jones: Yr wyf yn falch y bydd llechen Bethesda yn cael ei defnyddio yn adeilad newydd y Cynulliad.

I am delighted that the slate that will be used in the new Assembly building will be quarried in my constituency, using local Welsh labour. That will boost the area and will provide an excellent example of the beauty of a natural Welsh material.

Jonathan Morgan: This debate is not just about whether we should enter into a contract to spend £55 million of public money on a new palace for politicians. It is also about the damage done to the perception of this institution by the Labour Assembly Government and its allies in the opposition parties during this long-running farce.

It is worth reminding ourselves of the events that have brought us to where we are today. After the referendum, the Secretary of State for Wales could not decide whether the Assembly should be based in Swansea or in Cardiff, so we had a debate on it.

Jenny Randerson: Will you give way?

Jonathan Morgan: No. I may do later on. Having determined that the Assembly building should be located in Cardiff, the Secretary of State could not decide whether the building should be in the city centre—in City Hall—or in Cardiff bay. There was another debate about that. He then decided that City Hall might be the best option, so he entered into negotiations with the Labour leader of Cardiff County Council, but they could not reach an agreement on price. This

galon arbenigol yn Ysbyty Treforys. Dyna'r wir sefyllfa. Pe byddwn yn pleidleisio heddiw dros wario £55 miliwn ar adeilad newydd i'r Cynulliad, ni allwn byth edrych i fyw llygad yr etholwr hwnnw eto. Rhaid i bob un ohonoch wynebu hynny. Rhaid ichi allu edrych i fyw llygad eich etholwyr. Pan fo ar yr un nesaf angen llawdriniaeth i'w glun neu ei galon—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'ch amser ar ben.

Denise Idris Jones: I am pleased that Bethesda slate will be used in the new Assembly building.

Yr wyf yn falch y bydd y llechi a ddefnyddir yn adeilad newydd y Cynulliad yn cael eu cloddio yn fy etholaeth i, gan weithwyr lleol o Gymru. Bydd hynny'n hwb i'r ardal ac yn cynnig enghraifft ragorol o harddwch deunydd Cymreig naturiol.

Jonathan Morgan: Mae'r ddadl hon yn ymwneud â mwy nag a ddylem wneud contract i wario £55 miliwn o arian cyhoeddus ar balas newydd i wleidyddion. Mae'n ymwneud hefyd â'r niwed a wnaed i'r canfyddiad o'r sefydliad hwn gan y Llywodraeth Cynulliad Lafur a'i chynghreiriaid yn y gwrthbleidiau yn ystod y ffars hirhoedlog hon.

Mae'n werth ein hatgoffa ein hunain o'r digwyddiadau a ddaeth â ni i'r sefyllfa hon heddiw. Ar ôl y refferendwm, ni allai Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru benderfynu a ddylid lleoli'r Cynulliad yn Abertawe neu yng Nghaerdydd, felly cawsom ddadl ar hynny.

Jenny Randerson: A wnewch ildio?

Jonathan Morgan: Na wna. Efallai y gwnaf yn ddiweddarach. Ar ôl penderfynu y dylid lleoli adeilad y Cynulliad yng Nghaerdydd, ni allai'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol benderfynu a ddylai'r adeilad fod yng nghanol y ddinas—yn Neuadd y Ddinas—neu ym mae Caerdydd. Bu dadl arall am hynny. Penderfynodd wedyn mai Neuadd y Ddinas allai fod yn ddewis gorau, felly cychwynnodd negodiadau ag arweinydd Llafur Cyngor Sir Caerdydd, ond ni allent gytuno ar bris.

farce continued for months and years and has led us to where we are today. City Hall would have been a fine building in which to locate the Assembly but, because of a disagreement on price, we find ourselves in Cardiff bay by default. We are here today because of the ineptitude of Labour politicians, and of the Secretary of State for Wales in particular, at that time.

We then saw the greatest farce of all. There was a *Blue-Peter*-style competition to see who could design and build the nicest Chamber for egotistical politicians to sit in. The design competition was judged by a committee that was chaired by a Labour peer, whose daughter was the Labour leader of the House of Lords, who then chose another Labour peer to build the new Assembly Chamber. It was sleazy and conniving and illustrates the way in which the Labour Party in Cardiff bay has handled the entire debacle.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I ask Jonathan Morgan to consider whether the remarks he has made about some of my parliamentary colleagues are in order.

Jonathan Morgan: I did not refer to any individual as being sleazy. I said that the way in which the Labour Party has handled the matter has been sleazy. It has led to the handling of the project as being seen as not in the best interests of the people of Wales. The way that the Government has handled this has damaged the public's perception of the National Assembly for Wales. We have had a turnout of 38 per cent in a National Assembly election, and building a new Chamber for £55 million will do nothing to encourage more people to vote. The Assembly Labour Party has done that damage. This building is not the priority of the people of Wales—it is the priority of the Cabinet and its allies in the Assembly. We should ditch this project and concentrate on public services.

Edwina Hart: The people of Wales showed their priorities on 1 May when they elected a Labour Government. You fought and lost an election on the issue of the new building and prattled on about a children's hospital, yet it is this Government that has provided money

Parhaodd y ffars hon am fisoedd a blynyddoedd ac fe'n harweiniodd i sefyllfa heddiw. Buasai Neuadd y Ddinas yn adeilad rhagorol i gartrefu'r Cynulliad ond, oherwydd anghytuno ar bris, cawn ein hunain ym mae Caerdydd yn niffyg hynny. Yr ydym yma heddiw oherwydd anfedrusrwydd gwleidyddion Llafur, ac Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru yn benodol, bryd hynny.

Wedyn gwelsom y ffars fwyaf oll. Bu cystadleuaeth yn null *Blue Peter* i weld pwy a allai ddylunio ac adeiladu'r Siambr brafiat i wleidyddion hunanbwysig gael eistedd ynddi. Barnwyd y gystadleuaeth dylunio gan bwyllgor dan gadeiryddiaeth arglwydd Llafur, yr oedd ei ferch yn arweinydd Llafur yn Nhŷ'r Arglwyddi, a aeth ymlaen i ddewis arglwydd Llafur arall i adeiladu Siambr newydd y Cynulliad. Bu hynny'n amheus ac yn llechwraidd ac mae'n dangos y modd y mae'r Blaid Lafur ym mae Caerdydd wedi trafod y llangstr hwn o'r dechrau.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Gofynnaf i Jonathan Morgan ystyried a yw'r sylwadau a wnaeth am rai o'm cyd-seneddwyr mewn trefn.

Jonathan Morgan: Ni ddywedais fod unrhyw unigolyn yn amheus. Dywedais fod dull y Blaid Lafur o drafod y mater yn amheus. Arweiniodd at y canfyddiad na fu'r dull o drafod y prosiect hwn er budd pobl Cymru. Mae'r modd y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi trafod hyn wedi gwneud drwg i ganfyddiad y cyhoedd o Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Deunaw ar hugain y cant o'r etholwyr a bleidleisiodd yn etholiadau'r Cynulliad, ac ni fydd codi Siambr newydd am £55 miliwn yn gwneud dim i gymell rhagor o bobl i bleidleisio. Y Blaid Lafur yn y Cynulliad a wnaeth y niwed hwnnw. Nid yr adeilad hwn yw blaenoriaeth pobl Cymru—blaenoriaeth y Cabinet a'i gynghreiriaid yn y Cynulliad ydyw. Dylem roi'r gorau i'r prosiect hwn a chanolbwyntio ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Edwina Hart: Dangosodd pobl Cymru eu blaenoriaethau ar 1 Mai pan etholasant Lywodraeth Lafur. Gwnaethoch chi ymladd a cholli etholiad ar fater yr adeilad newydd a chlebran am ysbyty plant, ond y Llywodraeth hon a ddarparodd arian ar gyfer Tŷ Hafan ac

for Tŷ Hafan and other resources for children across Wales. You did not win.

On the new building, I say to Peter Law that the result of the competition and the decision on where to locate the Assembly dismayed me, as an AM for the Swansea area. I speak for my fellow Swansea AMs and the people of Swansea when I say that we were hurt when matters went pear-shaped and it was decided to locate the Assembly in Cardiff, which I thought was inevitable. Despite that, I am prepared to support the building. You mentioned a bauble of self-indulgence, Peter, but your speech was a self-indulgent bauble. As a politician, you must ultimately be prepared to stand up for what is right and not always look to the main electoral chance.

5.20 p.m.

On Helen Mary's comments on disability, we always wanted to ensure the best building possible. It is acknowledged that the public areas in the new building will be first class. There are issues about the Chamber, but there must be a balance between the requirements of the disabled and requirements of the media because the Assembly is the democratic showcase for Wales: I am sorry that a better compromise could not have been made. Also, you must acknowledge the press release issued today by Disability Wales, which was involved in the discussions. I am sorry, Helen, that you do not feel that it was sufficiently involved, but I feel that it was. Disability Wales was represented, and it was important that it was represented, and we must now follow the path chosen.

This is a historic day for democracy and devolution in Wales. Today, we will decide to proceed with a new public building with the Assembly Chamber at its heart, where issues affecting Wales will be debated and decided. It is a home for Welsh democracy and the cradle of devolution, and I feel passionately about this matter. As chair of the policy steering group, I have lived and breathed this building and I am pleased—

adnoddau eraill i blant ledled Cymru. Ni wnaethoch ennill.

Ynghylch yr adeilad newydd, dywedaf wrth Peter Law fod canlyniad y gystadleuaeth a'r penderfyniad ar leoli'r Cynulliad yn destun siom i mi, fel Aelod Cynulliad dros ardal Abertawe. Siaradaf ar ran fy nghyd-Aelodau Cynulliad yn Abertawe a phobl Abertawe pan ddywedaf inni gael ein brifo pan aeth pethau o chwith ac y penderfynwyd lleoli'r Cynulliad yng Nghaerdydd, a hynny'n anorfod, yn fy marn i. Er gwaethaf hynny, yr wyf yn barod i gefnogi'r adeilad. Cyfeiriasoch at degan hunanfaldodus, Peter, ond peth felly oedd eich araith chi. Fel gwleidydd, rhaid ichi fod yn barod yn y pen draw i sefyll dros yr hyn sy'n iawn a pheidio â gofalu am eich lles etholiadol eich hun bob amser.

Ynghylch sylwadau Helen Mary am anabledd, yr oeddem bob amser am sicrhau'r adeilad gorau posibl. Cydnabyddir y bydd y manau cyhoeddus yn yr adeilad newydd o'r radd flaenaf. Mae materion wedi codi ynghylch y Siambr, ond rhaid dal y ddysgl yn wastad rhwng anghenion pobl anabl ac anghenion y cyfryngau oherwydd y Cynulliad yw'r man i arddangos democratiaeth Cymru: mae'n ddrwg gennyf na fu modd dod i gyfaddawd gwell. Hefyd, rhaid ichi gydnabod y datganiad i'r wasg a gyhoeddwyd heddiw gan Anabledd Cymru, a gymerodd ran yn y trafodaethau. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, Helen, eich bod yn teimlo nad oedd wedi cymryd digon o ran, ond yr wyf fi'n teimlo ei fod. Cynrychiolwyd Anabledd Cymru, ac yr oedd yn bwysig iddo gael ei gynrychioli, a rhaid inni ddilyn y llwybr a ddewiswyd yn awr.

Mae hwn yn ddiwrnod hanesyddol i ddemocratiaeth a datganoli yng Nghymru. Heddiw, penderfynwn fwrw ymlaen ag adeilad cyhoeddus newydd â Siambr y Cynulliad ar ei ganol, lle y bydd materion sy'n effeithio ar Gymru'n cael eu trafod a'u penderfynu. Mae'n gartref i ddemocratiaeth Cymru ac yn grud i ddatganoli, a theimlaf yn angerddol am y mater hwn. Fel cadeirydd y grŵp llywio polisi, yr wyf wedi byw a bod gyda'r adeilad hwn ac yr wyf yn falch—

Nick Bourne *rose*—

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Minister is not giving way.

Edwina Hart: I am pleased that the final stage for the building is now being discussed and that the final price has been agreed. I record my thanks to all the staff, past and present, who were involved in the policy steering group, and to you, Presiding Officer, for being at the heart of this matter, and willing to discuss all the issues. I thank Mike German and the Welsh Liberal Democrat group, who have always readily given their support—and their criticism when necessary. I also thank two former colleagues who are not here today, Cynog Dafis and Dafydd Wigley, both of whom were members of the policy steering group. I am sure that Cynog will be delighted with the green standards—the natural ventilation, passive heating and cooling systems and a wood-fired central heating boiler system. We dealt with these issues on the policy steering group. I think that the model now on display in the neuadd is beautiful. It is a building that people will be proud of in 100 years time. Jonathan attempted to give us a history lesson, but ultimately, history will judge us well on our vision of a first-class public building. You can spend the next 100 years, as it looks even more beautiful, in opposition.

Brynle Williams: I have listened to this debate and we are forgetting someone—people. [*Interruption.*] No, it is not farmers, you can laugh and jeer all you want, but Labour has always looked after and been concerned about people. Peter Law's contribution made sense, and Members must search their consciences and consider the amount of expenditure—£55 million. I could not look my constituents back in north Wales in the eye were I to vote for this motion. People in north Wales feel remote from Cardiff, and part of that £55 million could possibly be used to bring north Wales a bit closer, by improving the A470, for example. Perhaps we could have a better hospital service throughout the country—

Nick Bourne *a gododd*—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw'r Gweinidog yn ildio.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn falch bod y cam terfynol ar gyfer yr adeilad yn cael ei drafod yn awr ac y cytunwyd ar y pris terfynol. Cofnodaf fy niolchiadau i'r holl staff, yn y presennol a'r gorffennol, a fu'n gysylltiedig â'r grŵp llywio polisi, ac i chi, Lywydd, am gymryd rhan lawn yn y mater hwn ac am fod yn barod i drafod yr holl faterion a oedd yn codi. Diolchaf i Mike German a grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, a fu bob amser yn barod i gefnogi—ac i feirniadu pan oedd angen hynny. Diolchaf hefyd i ddau gyn gyd-Aelod nad ydynt yma heddiw, Cynog Dafis a Dafydd Wigley, y bu'r ddau ohonynt yn aelodau o'r grŵp llywio polisi. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd Cynog wrth ei fodd gyda'r safonau gwyrdd—yr awyru naturiol, systemau gwresogi ac oeri goddefol a system boeler gwresogi canolog sy'n llosgi coed. Gwnaethom ymdrin â'r materion hyn yn y grŵp llywio polisi. Credaf fod y model sy'n cael ei arddangos yn awr yn y neuadd yn un hyfryd. Mae'n adeilad y bydd pobl yn falch ohono ymhen 100 mlynedd. Ceisiodd Jonathan roi gwrs hanes i ni, ond yn y pen draw, bydd hanes yn barnu o'n plaid ar ein gweledigaeth o adeilad cyhoeddus o'r radd flaenaf. Cewch chi dreulio'r 100 mlynedd nesaf, gan ei bod yn ymddangos yn fwy hyfryd byth, yn yr wrthblaid.

Brynle Williams: Gwrandewais ar y ddadl hon a bu inni anghofio rhywrai—pobl. [*Torri ar draws.*] Nage, nid y ffermwyr, cewch chwerrthin a gwawdio fel y mynnwch, ond mae Llafur wedi arfer gofalu a phoeni am bobl erioed. Yr oedd cyfraniad Peter Law yn gwneud synnwyr, a rhaid i Aelodau chwilio eu cydwybod ac ystyried maint y gwariant—£55 miliwn. Ni allwn edrych i fyw llygaid fy etholwyr yn y Gogledd pe byddwn yn pleidleisio dros y cynnig hwn. Mae pobl y Gogledd yn teimlo eu bod yn bell o Gaerdydd, ac efallai y gellid defnyddio rhan o'r £55 miliwn hwnnw i ddod â'r Gogledd ychydig yn nes, drwy wella'r A470, er enghraifft. Efallai y gallem gael gwell gwasanaeth ysbytai ledled y wlad—

Jeff Cuthbert *rose*—

Brynle Williams: I will not give way to you. I am sorry, but this is my first major speech and I feel passionately about this matter. Wales should have a palace to house its Government. We have waited for over 600 years for one. We should only build a new building when we can afford to do so. I do not believe that we can afford it at present. I am not prepared to tell people in north Wales that their hospital appointments have been put back by six to 12 months, nor am I prepared to tell the parent of a child with leukaemia that we cannot afford treatment. That is all I have to say on the matter.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I cannot respond to everyone in detail, as Members covered many points in their contributions. However, I hope that, during my five minutes, I will cover the main points raised and sum up at the end. I will not take interventions otherwise I will not do justice to the points raised.

Having become involved as Finance Minister at the end of the design project, I believe that it is my duty to support the will of the majority of Members and to take forward the intense development work and preparation that has already been undertaken, as Edwina mentioned. The reason for this debate was to clarify a commitment, made in the last Assembly, to bring this proposal forward, towards the end of this term. Therefore, there is no ambiguity nor a connection with the election, Alun, as it was clearly stated when this proposal would come before the Assembly. We have stood by that. Members have received a substantial amount of information, and briefing sessions were given to the three groups that wanted them; they were offered to the fourth group but it did not want it. A model of the building has been placed outside the Chamber and I am sure that any further information required will be supplied.

The core issues of this debate are the same as those that existed in the beginning: whether you believe that this building should be built; whether you believe that it will be a symbol

Jeff Cuthbert *a gododd*—

Brynle Williams: Nid ildiaf i chi. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ond hon yw fy araith fawr gyntaf a theimlaf yn angerddol ynghylch y mater hwn. Dylai Cymru gael palas i gartrefu ei Llywodraeth. Buom yn disgwyl am un ers mwy na 600 mlynedd. Ni ddylem ond codi adeilad newydd pan allwn fforddio gwneud hynny. Ni chredaf y gallwn ei fforddio ar hyn o bryd. Nid wyf yn barod i ddweud wrth bobl yn y Gogledd bod eu hapwyntiadau ysbty wedi'u gohirio am chwech i 12 mis, ac nid wyf yn barod ychwaith i ddweud wrth riant i blentyn sydd â lewcemia na allwn fforddio triniaeth. Dyna'r cwbl sydd gennyf i'w ddweud ar y mater.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Ni allaf ymateb i bawb yn fanwl, gan fod Aelodau wedi ymdrin â llawer o bwyntiau yn eu cyfraniadau. Er hynny, yr wyf yn gobeithio, yn ystod y pum munud sydd gennyf, y byddaf yn ymdrin â'r prif bwyntiau a godwyd ac yn crynhoi ar y diwedd. Ni dderbyniaf ymyriadau neu, fel arall, ni wnaaf gyfiawnder â'r pwyntiau a godwyd.

A minnau wedi dechrau cymryd rhan fel Gweinidog Cyllid ar ddiwedd y prosiect dylunio, credaf ei bod yn ddyletswydd arnaf gefnogi ewyllys y mwyafrif o Aelodau a bwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith datblygu a pharatoi dwys a gyflawnwyd eisoes, fel y nododd Edwina. Cynhaliwyd y ddadl hon er mwyn egluro ymrwymiad, a wnaed yn y Cynulliad diwethaf, i ddwyn y cynnig hwn gerbron, tua diwedd y tymor hwn. Gan hynny, nid oes unrhyw amwysedd na chysylltiad â'r etholiad, Alun, gan y nodwyd yn glir pa bryd y deuai'r cynnig hwn gerbron y Cynulliad. Yr ydym wedi dal at hynny. Mae Aelodau wedi cael swm sylweddol o wybodaeth, a darparwyd sesiynau briffio ar gyfer y tri grŵp a oedd yn dymuno eu cael; fe'u cynigiwyd i'r pedwerydd grŵp ond nid oedd am eu cael. Gosodwyd model o'r adeilad y tu allan i'r Siambr ac yr wyf yn sicr y darperir unrhyw wybodaeth bellach y gofynnir amdani.

Yr un yw materion canolog y ddadl hon â'r rhai a fu ar y dechrau: a ydych yn credu y dylid codi'r adeilad hwn; a ydych yn credu y bydd yn symbol o'r ddemocratiaeth newydd i

of the new democracy for Wales, and whether you believe that it will be a symbol of sustainable development in Wales and a building of which subsequent generations can be proud. That is at the core of today's debate. I understand that some Members do not believe in the project and do not want it. I also believe that those who want to take the project forward should not be chastised as not believing in, or caring about, public services, and as not having taken enough care. We have fought to reach this point, and those who believe in the project should not be chastised for the decision that they will make, with a clear conscience, on behalf of the people they represent and the rest of Wales today. It is important to make that clear.

In my experience, flagship buildings, particularly public buildings, entail difficult decisions on design and costs. Therefore, we must be sure that, when we make this decision this afternoon, we have done our level best to get that right. Having sat with the project steering group and the team that have been working on this project, I have witnessed the work that they have carried out over the last few days, and I know that they have done their level best to get it right.

This is an interesting situation for me because I was a member of the Cardiff planning committee when plans for our current building came before it. If I remember correctly, we took six months to give permission for that building, as the view across the political parties was that it was not a good enough building. I was also a member of the Cardiff council planning committee when the original Richard Rogers Partnership design was submitted. Therefore, I have followed this project over several years, and it has been part and parcel of my life. I never thought, when sitting on that planning committee, that I would be standing here now—life is strange. However, I have seen people trying to grapple honestly and sincerely with these difficult choices and decisions. That has been reflected in the contributions today.

On Mike German's point, we must acknowledge that icon buildings have a real economic value. We should not forget that. Look at the model and consider the

Gymru, ac a ydych yn credu y bydd yn symbol o ddatblygu cynaliadwy yng Nghymru ac yn adeilad y gall cenedlaethau'r dyfodol ymfalchïo ynddo. Dyna graidd y ddadl heddiw. Deallaf fod rhai Aelodau nad ydynt yn credu yn y prosiect ac nad ydynt am ei gael. Credaf hefyd na ddylid ceryddu'r rhai sy'n dymuno bwrw ymlaen â'r prosiect fel rhai nad ydynt yn credu mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus nac yn pryderu amdanynt, ac fel rhai sydd heb fod yn ddigon gofalus. Yr ydym wedi ymladd i gyrraedd y fan hon, ac ni ddylid ceryddu'r rhai sy'n credu yn y prosiect am y penderfyniad a wnânt, â chydwybod glir, ar ran y bobl a gynrychiolant a gweddill Cymru heddiw. Mae'n bwysig egluro hynny.

Yn fy mhrofiad i, mae adeiladau nodedig, yn enwedig rhai cyhoeddus, yn gofyn penderfyniadau anodd ar ddylunio a chostau. Gan hynny, rhaid inni sicrhau, pan wnawn y penderfyniad hwn y prynhawn yma, inni wneud ein gorau glas i gael hynny'n iawn. A minnau wedi eistedd gyda grŵp llywio'r prosiect a'r tîm a fu'n gweithio ar y prosiect hwn, gwelais y gwaith a gyflawnasant dros y dyddiau diwethaf, a gwn eu bod wedi gwneud eu gorau glas i'w gael yn iawn.

Mae'r sefyllfa hon yn un ddiddorol i mi gan y bûm yn aelod o bwyllgor cynllunio Caerdydd pan ddaeth cynlluniau ar gyfer ein hadeilad presennol ger ei fron. Os cofiaf yn iawn, cymerasom chwe mis i roi caniatâd ar gyfer yr adeilad hwnnw, gan mai'r farn ar draws y pleidiau gwleidyddol oedd nad oedd yn adeilad digon da. Yr oeddwn hefyd yn aelod o bwyllgor cynllunio cyngor Caerdydd pan gyflwynwyd cynllun gwreiddiol Partneriaeth Richard Rogers. Felly, yr wyf yn dilyn y prosiect hwn ers rhai blynnyddoedd, a bu'n rhan annatod o'm bywyd. Ni chredais erioed, wrth eistedd ar y pwyllgor cynllunio hwnnw, y byddwn yn sefyll yma'n awr—mae bywyd yn rhyfedd. Fodd bynnag, gwelais bobl yn ceisio ymdrin yn onest ac yn ddiffuant â'r dewisiadau a'r penderfyniadau anodd hyn. Adlewyrchwyd hynny yn y cyfraniadau heddiw.

Ynghylch y pwynt a wnaeth Mike German, rhaid inni gydnabod bod gwerth economaidd gwirioneddol i adeiladau sy'n eiconau. Ni ddylem anghofio hynny. Edrychwch ar y

concentration of resources that will go into the building. Consider how Wales has been projected as a result of developments such as the Millennium Stadium. People in Wales, not just in Cardiff, are proud of that building. We understand that this is not only a building for ourselves; it is a building for economic regeneration, and for many years it will be a symbol of Wales's new democracy.

On Ieuan's points about disabled access, I have carefully considered the relevant papers and have spoken to Edwina and to the other people involved, and I can trace the development of this building and the way in which the plans have changed. I saw the original design, which gave little consideration to accessibility, and I have seen how people have tried to overcome those difficulties to ensure that we respect issues surrounding people's abilities. Over £1 million has been added to the cost—rightly in my opinion—to ensure that many, if not most, of the range of features that we would want to deal with disability access issues, have been included.

5.30 p.m.

The Presiding Officer: Order. We are out of time for this debate.

Sue Essex: Okay. Could I mention a few things quickly—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I am afraid that you cannot. We are out of time for this debate. Please conclude with two sentences.

Sue Essex: Okay. To sum up, we have responded confidently to the issue of disabled access, and we can hold our heads high on sustainable development. Members will be proud to have made this difficult decision on the building today. Finally, looking back at history, we must be grateful for previous generations who made difficult decisions. We are in such a situation today—I hope that Members will make the right decision.

model ac ystyriwch yr adnoddau a gaiff eu crynhoi yn yr adeilad hwnnw. Ystyriwch y ddelwedd o Gymru a gyflewyd o ganlyniad i ddatblygiadau fel Stadiwm y Mileniwm. Mae pobl yng Nghymru, ac nid yng Nghaerdydd yn unig, yn falch o'r adeilad hwnnw. Deallwn nad adeilad i ni'n unig yw hwn; mae'n adeilad ar gyfer adfywio economaidd, ac am flynyddoedd lawer bydd yn symbol o ddemocratiaeth newydd Cymru.

Ynghylch y pwyntiau a wnaeth Ieuan am fynediad i'r anabl, yr wyf wedi ystyried y papurau perthnasol yn ofalus ac wedi siarad ag Edwina a'r rhai eraill sy'n ymwneud â hyn, a gallaf olrhain datblygiad yr adeilad hwn a'r modd y newidiwyd y cynlluniau. Gwelais y dyluniad gwreiddiol, nad oedd yn rhoi fawr o ystyriaeth i hygyrchedd, a gwelais sut y mae pobl wedi ceisio goresgyn yr anawsterau hynny er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn parhau materion sy'n ymwneud ag anableddau pobl. Ychwanegwyd mwy nag £1 filiwn at y gost—yn briodol, yn fy marn i—i sicrhau bod llawer, os nad y cyfan, o'r amrediad o nodweddion y dymunem eu cael i ddelio â materion mynediad i'r anabl, wedi'u cynnwys.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r amser ar gyfer y ddadl hon wedi dod i ben.

Sue Essex: O'r gorau. A gaf sôn am ychydig o bethau'n gyflym—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae arnaf ofn na chewch. Mae'r amser ar gyfer y ddadl hon wedi dod i ben. Terfynwch â dwy frawddeg, os gwelwch yn dda.

Sue Essex: O'r gorau. I grynhoi, yr ydym wedi ymateb yn hyderus i fater mynediad i'r anabl, a gallwn ddal ein pennau'n uchel ar fater datblygu cynaliadwy. Bydd Aelodau'n falch o fod wedi gwneud y penderfyniad anodd ar yr adeilad heddiw. Yn olaf, gan edrych yn ôl ar hanes, rhaid inni fod yn ddiolchgar i'r cenedlaethau a'n blaenorodd a wnaeth benderfyniadau anodd. Yr ydym ni mewn sefyllfa o'r fath heddiw—gobeithiaf y bydd Aelodau'n gwneud y penderfyniad iawn.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 11, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 47.
Amendment 1: For 11, Abstain 0, Against 47.*

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

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Williams, Brynle

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Marek, John
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment rejected.*

*Gwelliant 2: O blaid 12, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 46.
Amendment 2: For 12, Abstain 0, Against 46.*

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

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine

Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Francis, Lisa
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Marek, John
 Melding, David
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Williams, Brynle

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment rejected.*

*Gwelliant 3: O blaid 11, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 47.
 Amendment 3: For 11, Abstain 0, Against 47.*

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

Bourne, Nick
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Francis, Lisa
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Melding, David
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Williams, Brynle

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn

Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Marek, John
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment rejected.*

Cynnig (NDM1518): O blaid 46, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 12.

Motion (NDM1518): For 46, Abstain 0, Against 12.

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane

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

Bourne, Nick
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Francis, Lisa
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Law, Peter
 Melding, David
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Williams, Brynle

Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Marek, John
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion

Jonathan Morgan: I propose that

Jonathan Morgan: Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly, under Standing Order No. 6.10, agrees to postpone the minority party debate until sometime in September.

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.10, yn cytuno i ohirio'r ddadl plaid leiafrifol hyd ryw ddyddiad ym mis Medi.

*Cynnig: O blaid 48, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 48, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice

Griffiths, John
Gibbons, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Marek, John
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Y Llywydd: Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.
The Presiding Officer: That brings today's proceedings to a close.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.34 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.34 p.m.*

**Aelodau a'u Pleidiau
Members and their Parties**

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Davies, Glyn (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Davies, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin (Llafur - Labour)
Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Essex, Sue (Llafur – Labour)
Francis, Lisa (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)

Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
 Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
 Gwyther, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Idris Jones, Denise (Llafur – Labour)
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Laura Anne (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Law, Peter (Llafur – Labour)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
 Marek, John (Annibynnol – Independent)
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
 Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
 Pugh, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
 Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
 Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Catherine (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Owen John (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
 Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)