



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
(Y Cofnod Swyddogol)

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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.

Anerchiad gan Tanni Grey-Thompson Address by Tanni Grey-Thompson

Y Llywydd: Mae'n bleser a braint i mi i wahodd Tanni Grey-Thompson i annerch Aelodau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

The Presiding Officer: It is a pleasure and privilege for me to invite Tanni Grey-Thompson to address the Members of the National Assembly.

Tanni Grey-Thompson: Presiding Officer, First Minister and Members of the National Assembly. It is a pleasure to address you here today. I have never before spoken in a place where there is a timer on the wall telling me for how long I have been speaking. I am not sure what will happen when I get to the end of my 10 minutes, but I have been told that that is my limit.

Tanni Grey-Thompson: Lywydd, Brif Weinidog ac Aelodau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Pleser yw eich annerch yma heddiw. Nid wyf erioed wedi siarad mewn man lle ceir cloc ar y wal yn dweud wrthyf pa mor hir y bŵm yn siarad. Nid wyf yn siŵr beth fydd yn digwydd pan ddof i ddiwedd fy 10 munud, ond dywedwyd wrthyf mai dyna yw fy amser penodedig.

It is great to be here. I am a politics graduate. I studied at Loughborough University, a wonderful seat of learning, which is better known for its sporting prowess than its politics. My head of department never thought I would make it into politics. I feel I should break into song: 'If they could see me now'. I feel like ringing him and saying 'Ha'.

Mae'n wych cael bod yma. Mae gennyf radd mewn gwleidyddiaeth. Astudiais ym Mhrifysgol Loughborough, canolfan ddysg ardderchog, sydd yn fwy adnabyddus am ei medrau ym myd chwaraeon nag am ei gwleidyddiaeth. Ni chredodd fy mhennaeth adran y byddwn yn llwyddo ym myd gwleidyddiaeth. Teimlaf y dylwn ddechrau canu '*If they could see me now*'. Teimlaf fel ei ffonio a dweud 'Ha'.

I am proud to be here and to be a Welsh athlete. Wales fielded 15 Olympians and 18 Paralympians this year. I realise that you are bombarded with statistics, but for Wales to make up more than 5 per cent of the British team is a good achievement. Welsh athletes form 8.5 per cent of the British Paralympic team. We broke five world records, although I did not break any of them. Emma Brown's record of lifting 135 kilograms most amazed me. On a good day, that is the equivalent of three of me. That is impressive. Wales won 20 per cent of the British medal tally, which was 26 medals, a total of 12 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze. If we had competed as a separate nation at the Paralympic games, we would have come sixteenth overall out of a total of around 60 competing countries.

Yr wyf yn falch o fod yma ac o fod yn athletwraig o Gymru. Cynrychiolwyd Cymru gan 15 Olympiad a 18 Paralympiad eleni. Sylweddlaf eich bod yn cael eich bombardio ag ystadegau, ond mae'r ffaith bod mwy na 5 y cant o dîm Prydain yn dod o Gymru yn gyflawniad da. Cynrychiolodd athletwyr Cymru 8.5 y cant o dîm Paralympaidd Prydain. Torasom bum record y byd, er na thoris i unrhyw un ohonynt. Fe'm synnwyd gan record Emma Brown o godi 135 cilogram. Ar ddiwrnod da, mae hynny'n cyfateb â thair ohonof fi. Mae hynny'n aruthrol. Enillodd Cymru 20 y cant o gyfanswm medalau Prydain, a oedd yn 26 medal, cyfanswm o 12 aur, 8 arian a 6 efydd. Pe baem wedi cystadlu fel gwlad ar wahân yn y gemau Paralympaidd, byddem wedi dod yn unfed ar bymtheg allan o gyfanswm o tua 60 gwlad a oedd yn cystadlu.

One of the most important things to me in the Olympic and Paralympic village, where the

Un o'r pethau pwysicaf i mi yn y pentref Olympaidd a Pharalympaidd, lle yr arhosodd

British team stayed, was seeing the British flags and the Welsh dragon side by side. That support made a difference to the Welsh athletes participating in the games. For me, as a Welsh athlete, having my family there was important. I can always spot them in the crowd waving the Union Jack alongside the Welsh dragon. I am not sure whether this is down to my family's Welshness, but my sister always arrives six hours before the race to get a good seat because you never know what may happen. It is great to be in a stadium with a crowd of 110,000 spectators and be able to pick out the Welsh supporters. That support is amazing. There are no words to describe how it feels to be there, to have Welsh support and to know that so many people have travelled for the Paralympic games.

I feel fortunate as a Welsh athlete, because many things have supported me along the way. Three of the most important are genetics, my school and my early coaches. I would like to say that I inherited sporting genes from my family, but that is not the case. My mother is passionate about Welsh sport and completely biased towards Welsh rugby, and my father is objective, wants to see a fair game and for things to be done properly. My mother has a lot to answer for. She used to make me watch the Welsh games while wearing a red bobble hat and a scarf, which probably accounts for the way I am today.

My school gave me much support. The best advice that my PE teacher gave me was to give up basketball because I was rubbish. That must have had something to do with the fact that I could not throw, catch or shoot. The PE teacher said that I would be better off doing athletics. I also feel fortunate to have been a member of Bridgend Athletics Club and then Cardiff. I am probably showing my age when I say that at Bridgend we had a grass track and a strip of tarmac near the river that used to flood. In the winter, when it was really bad, we used to train in a multi-storey car park in Bridgend. Twice a year we went by bus to a proper track in Swansea. I still remember the excitement I felt for weeks in advance. I am glad to say that Cardiff has

tîm Prydain, oedd gweld baneri Prydain a draig goch Cymru ochr yn ochr. Gwnaeth y gefnogaeth honno wahaniaeth i'r athletwyr o Gymru a oedd yn cymryd rhan yn y gemau. I mi, fel athletwraig o Gymru, yr oedd cael fy nheulu yno yn bwysig. Hawdd yw eu gweld yn y dorf yn chwifio Jac yr Undeb wrth ymyl y ddraig goch. Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw hyn oherwydd Cymreigrwydd fy nheulu, ond bydd fy chwaer bob amser yn cyrraedd chwe awr cyn y ras i gael sedd dda oherwydd wyddoch chi byth beth allai ddigwydd. Profiad gwych yw bod mewn stadiwm â thorf o 110,000 o wylwyr a gweld cefnogwyr o Gymru yn eu plith. Mae'r gefnogaeth honno yn anhygoel. Nid oes geiriau i ddisgrifio'r teimlad o fod yno, o gael cefnogaeth Gymreig a gwybod bod cymaint o bobl wedi teithio i'r gemau Paralympaidd.

Teimlaf yn ffodus fel athletwraig o Gymru, oherwydd cefais gymorth nifer o bethau ar hyd y daith. Tri o'r pethau pwysicaf yw geneteg, fy ysgol a'm hyfforddwyr cynnar. Hoffwn ddweud imi etifeddu genynnau chwaraeon gan fy nheulu, ond nid dyna'r achos. Mae fy mam yn teimlo'n angerddol dros chwaraeon yng Nghymru ac yn cefnogi dim byd ond rygbi Cymru a'm tad yn wrthrychol, am weld gêm deg a bod pethau'n cael eu gwneud yn iawn. Mae gan fy mam lawer i ateb drosto. Arferai wneud i mi wyllo gemau Cymru tra'n gwisgo het wllân goch a sgarff, sydd fwy na thebyg yn gyfrifol am y ffordd yr ydwyf heddiw.

Cefais lawer o gefnogaeth gan fy ysgol. Y cyngor gorau a gefais gan fy athro ymarfer corff oedd i roi'r gorau i chwarae pêl-faged oherwydd nad oeddwn yn dda i ddim. Rhaid bod hynny rywbeth i wneud â'r ffaith na allwn daflu, dal na saethu. Dywedodd yr athro ymarfer corff y byddwn yn well ym myd athletau. Teimlaf yn ffodus, hefyd, y bûm yn aelod o Glwb Athletau Pen-y-bont ac yna Caerdydd. Mae'n debyg fy mod yn dangos fy oed drwy ddweud mai'r hyn a oedd gennym oedd trac â glaswellt arno a strip o darmac ger yr afon oedd yn dioddef o lifogydd. Yn y gaeaf, pan oedd yn ddrwg iawn, yr oeddem yn arfer ymarfer mewn maes parcio aml-lawr ym Mhen-y-bont. Ddwywaith y flwyddyn fe'n cludwyd ar fws i

its own track now. Younger members of the team think it is funny when I talk about that because luckily, nowadays, they have access to much better facilities. I keep telling them it was hard when I was young.

I competed for Wales as a junior athlete, which was amazing. The last time I competed as a junior was in the Commonwealth games in 1990 in a demonstration event in New Zealand. The two athletes that were selected—Chris Hallam and myself—shared a Welsh vest. Apparently we could not have a vest each. I competed first, for which I was grateful. It would probably have been rather big if Chris had worn it first. I look forward, as do many other Welsh athletes, to the 2002 Commonwealth games because we will nearly be competing before a home crowd—it is not too far away—but also we will be competing for Wales.

I have also had support from local sponsors. Another fantastic thing about living in Wales is that there are many Welsh companies, and companies based in Wales, that take a chance on up and coming athletes, which is very important. The Welsh media has also been good for us. They give the athletes tremendous support. One thing you realise as an athlete is that you do not do it all on your own. As you progress, you find that you need more help to become a good athlete. When I started, I had help from the Sports Aid Foundation. I remember my first cheque from them for £250. When I was about 14, that seemed like a great deal of money. It made a real difference to what I could do. As I developed and improved, Elite Cymru gave me a great deal of confidence. There was somebody there to support me and listen to my concerns as an athlete, to discover what I wanted and needed and to ensure that I could compete at the best level that I could. There was some joking among the media in Sydney this year about lottery funding. All the athletes were well briefed, who then ensured that they did the right thing by referring

drac go iawn yn Abertawe. Gallaf gofio'r cyffro a deimlais am wythnosau cyn hynny. Yr wyf yn falch o ddweud bod gan Gaerdydd ei drac ei hun bellach. Cred aelodau ieuengaf y tîm ei bod yn ddoniol pan fyddaf yn sôn am hynny oherwydd heddiw, yn ffodus, mae ganddynt fynediad i gyfleusterau llawer gwell. Byddaf yn dweud wrthynt yn aml y bu'n anodd pan oeddwn yn ifanc.

Bûm yn cystadlu dros Gymru fel athletwraig iau, a oedd yn anhygoel. Y tro diwethaf i mi gystadlu fel athletwraig iau oedd yng ngemau'r Gymanwlad mewn digwyddiad arddangosol yn Seland Newydd. Yr oedd y ddau athletwr a ddewiswyd—Chris Hallam a minnau—yn rhannu un o festiau Cymru. Mae'n debyg nad oedd modd inni gael fest yr un. Diolch byth mai fi oedd yn cystadlu yn gyntaf. Byddai braidd yn fawr pe bai Chris wedi ei gwisgo yn gyntaf. Edrychaf ymlaen, fel y gwna llawer o athletwyr eraill o Gymru, at gemau'r Gymanwlad yn 2002 oherwydd byddwn bron a bod yn cystadlu o flaen torf gartref—nid yw'n rhy bell i ffwrdd—ond hefyd byddwn yn cystadlu dros Gymru.

Yr wyf hefyd wedi cael cefnogaeth gan noddwyr lleol. Peth anhygoel arall am fyw yng Nghymru yw bod llawer o gwmnïau Cymreig, a chwmnïau a leolir yng Nghymru, yn barod i gymryd siawns gydag athletwyr newydd, sydd yn bwysig iawn. Hefyd bu'r cyfryngau yng Nghymru yn dda iawn i ni. Rhoddant gymorth aruthrol i'r athletwyr. Un peth a sylweddolwch fel athletwr yw na wnewch y cyfan ar eich pen eich hun. Wrth i chi ddatblygu, byddwch yn canfod bod angen mwy o help arnoch i ddod yn athletwr da. Pan ddechreuais, cefais help gan y Sports Aid Foundation. Cofiaf fy siec cyntaf ganddynt am £250. Pan oeddwn tua 14 oed, yr oedd hynny'n ymddangos fel swm mawr o arian. Gwnaeth wahaniaeth mawr i'r hyn y gallwn ei wneud. Wrth i mi ddatblygu a gwella, rhoddodd Elite Cymru lawer o hyder imi. Yr oedd rhywun yno i roi cymorth imi a gwrandao ar fy mhryderon fel athletwraig, i ganfod yr hyn yr oeddwn ei eisiau a'i angen ac i sicrhau y gallwn gystadlu ar y lefel orau y gallwn. Yr oedd rhywfaint o dynnu coes ymysg y cyfryngau yn Sydney eleni am arian y loteri. Briffiwyd yr holl athletwyr yn dda, a

frequently to lottery funding. The media could not edit that from most of our interviews. However, on a serious note, the lottery funding that has enabled Welsh and British athletes to perform has been tremendous. It has meant that we have the fittest team that we have ever had and has enabled younger athletes and people who do not earn much money from sport to receive the medical care and the perfect backing that they need to ensure that they can do their best. For us, it is about confidence and knowing that there are people supporting everything that we do. That makes a tremendous difference.

I began competing because I watched the London marathon on television and thought that if they could do it, so could I. I then realised how far 26 miles was. However, I was also fortunate. A number of lucky things happened to me. I bumped—quite by chance—into a woman named Marilyn Godfrey who was employed by the Sport Council for Wales. She helped me choose the right club, get good coaching and be in the right position. You might have guessed that I am passionate about athletics. Most of my non-athletic friends think that I am sad about athletics. However, it is part of my life. All the Paralympic and Olympic athletes are passionate about their sport. Of course, athletics is the only true sport. [*Laughter.*]

If I am passionate about sport, I am obsessive about supporting athletes. That is so important. I am lucky that I am involved in a sport that has a relatively high profile. We get looked after. However, athletes are a precious commodity. The benefits of Welsh athletes doing well stretches far and wide. We achieve a great deal of good things in Wales, but one thing that we are very good at is sport. We are exceptional at looking after our athletes, because we have history and expertise in doing so. We look after athletes from the time they get started and show talent, right the way up. We look after them when they get removed from the UK scheme because somebody decides they are not doing

sicrhasant eu bod yn gwneud y peth cywir drwy gyfeirio'n aml at arian y loteri. Ni allai'r cyfryngau olygu hynny a'i hepgor o'r rhan fwyaf o'n cyfweiliadau. Fodd bynnag, ar nodyn difrifol, bu arian y loteri, a alluogodd athletwyr o Gymru a Phrydain i berfformio, yn anhygoel. Golygodd fod gennym y tîm mwyaf heini a gawsom erioed, a galluogodd athletwyr ifanc a phobl nad ydynt yn ennill llawer o arian o chwaraeon i dderbyn y gofal meddygol a'r union gefnogaeth sydd ei angen arnynt i sicrhau y gallant wneud eu gorau. I ni, mae'n ymwneud â hyder a gwybod bod pobl yn ein cynorthwyo ym mhopeth a wnawn. Gwna hynny wahaniaeth aruthrol.

Dechreuais gystadlu oherwydd i mi wylio marathon Llundain ar y teledu a meddwl os gallant hwy wneud hynny, y gallwn i hefyd. Yna sylweddolais pa mor bell oedd 26 milltir. Fodd bynnag, yr oeddwn yn ffodus hefyd. Digwyddodd nifer o bethau ffodus i mi. Deuthum ar draws gwraig—yn hollol ddamweiniol—o'r enw Marilyn Godfrey a oedd yn gweithio i Gyngor Chwaraeon Cymru. Fe'm helpodd i ddewis y clwb cywir, cael hyfforddiant da a bod yn y sefyllfa iawn. Efallai eich bod wedi dyfalu fy mod yn teimlo'n angerddol tuag at athletau. Cred y rhan fwyaf o'm ffrindiau nad ydynt yn athletwyr fy mod yn wirion am athletau. Fodd bynnag, mae'n rhan o'm bywyd. Mae'r holl athletwyr Olympaidd a Pharalympaidd yn teimlo'n angerddol tuag at eu chwaraeon. Wrth gwrs, athletau yw'r unig wir chwaraeon. [*Chwerthin.*]

Os wyf fi'n teimlo'n angerddol tuag at chwaraeon, mae cefnogi athletau yn obsesiwn gennyf. Mae hynny mor bwysig. Yr wyf yn ffodus fy mod yn gysylltiedig â chwaraeon sydd â phroffil gweddol uchel. Gofelir amdanom. Fodd bynnag, mae athletwyr yn werthfawr. Mae'r buddiannau a ddaw yn sgîl llwyddiant athletwyr Cymru yn ymestyn yn eang. Cyflawnwn lawer o bethau da yng Nghymru, ond chwaraeon yw un o'r pethau a wnawn yn dda iawn. Yr ydym yn arbennig o dda am ofalu am ein hathletwyr, oherwydd bod gennym brofiad ac arbenigedd wrth wneud hynny. Gofalwn am ein hathletwyr o'r amser y dechreuant wrth ddangos talent, drwy gydol eu datblygiad.

well or are not meeting some of the standards. It is care from the cradle to the grave. We ensure that the athletes are looked after through to the end of their career. Wales will experience massive, continued success because we look after our athletes. They will return to the sport and want to be part of it.

The timer is ticking away. In conclusion, thank you for your continued support for sport in Wales. More money is always nice. I guess everybody says that. You never find an athlete who turns down money. However, the most important thing is to get the correct support and to apply that in the right place. We do that very well in Wales. If we carry on doing that we will have tremendous success, not only in the Commonwealth games, but at the next Olympics and Paralympics. *[Applause.]*

Prif Weinidog Cymru (Rhodri Morgan): Diolch Lywydd, diolch i Tanni, a diolch i bawb a gymerodd ran yn y derbyniad heddiw.

I am delighted, on behalf of the Assembly, to welcome some of Wales's finest sportsmen and women to the National Assembly for Wales. I welcome Tanni in particular because of her recent triumph in the BBC Sports Personality of the Year, when she came third overall and also won the Helen Rollason award for courage. That was a tremendous achievement, but was no more than she deserved for having brought enormous pride to everyone in Britain, and to Wales in particular, in winning her four gold medals in the Sydney Paralympics. That was not the first time that she won four gold medals. Not many people have done it once, let alone twice, in the Olympic games. It is a phenomenal achievement, especially considering the margins by which she won almost all of her races.

It gives us great pleasure to have you here, to reflect on the way that you have achieved,

Gofalwn amdanynt pan gânt eu tynnu o gynllun y DU oherwydd bod rhywun yn penderfynu nad ydynt yn gwneud yn dda neu nad ydynt yn cwrdd â rhai o'r safonau. Dyma ofal o'r crud i'r bedd. Sicrhawn y gofelir am yr athletwyr hyd ddiwedd eu gyrfaedd. Bydd Cymru'n profi llwyddiant mawr a pharhaus oherwydd ein bod yn gofalu am ein hathletwyr. Byddant yn dychwelyd at y chwaraeon ac am fod yn rhan ohono.

Mae'r cloc yn ticio'n gyflym. I grynhoi, diolch am eich cymorth parhaus i chwaraeon yng Nghymru. Mae mwy o arian wastad yn beth da. Mae'n debyg bod pawb yn dweud hynny. Ni welwch athletwr yn gwrthod arian byth. Fodd bynnag, y peth pwysicaf yw cael y gefnogaeth gywir a defnyddio hynny yn y lle cywir. Gwnawn hynny'n dda iawn yng Nghymru. Os parhawn i wneud hynny byddwn yn hynod o llwyddiannus, nid yn unig yng ngemau'r Gymanwlad, ond hefyd yn y gemau Olympaidd a'r gemau Paralympaidd. *[Cymeradwyaeth.]*

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): Thank you Presiding Officer, thank you Tanni, and thank you to everyone who took part in the reception today.

Mae'n bleser gennyf, ar ran y Cynulliad, groesawu rhai o fabolgampwyr a mabolgampwragedd gorau Cymru i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Croesawaf Tanni yn arbennig oherwydd ei llwyddiant diweddar wrth ddod yn drydydd ym Mhersonoliaeth Chwaraeon y Flwyddyn y BBC, gan ennill hefyd wobr Helen Rollason am ddewrder. Yr oedd hynny'n gyflawniad aruthrol, ond yn llwyr haeddiannol am iddi ddod â balchder mawr i bawb ym Mhrydain, ac i Gymru yn arbennig, wrth ennill pedair medal aur yng ngemau Paralympaidd Sydney. Nid dyna oedd y tro cyntaf iddi ennill pedair medal aur. Prin yw'r bobl sydd wedi gwneud hynny unwaith, heb sôn am ddwywaith, yn y gemau Olympaidd. Mae hyn yn gyflawniad aruthrol, yn enwedig o ystyried o faint yr enillodd bron bob un o'i rasys.

Mae'n ffraind fawr i ni eich cael chi yma, i fyfyrion ar y ffordd y cyflawnasoch, y ffordd y

the way in which we can assist people in every walk of life to achieve their full potential, whether in the field of sport, culture, music or politics. I did not know that you were a politics graduate until you mentioned it, but I should have noticed from your fluency today that you have many gifts. The important thing is that everybody should have the opportunity to exploit their potential to the full. If it takes public money, bursaries, the Elite Cymru scheme and the Sports Aid Foundation scheme, that is what we have to provide. It gives such enormous pleasure and interest to us when we see Welsh sportsmen and women doing well, whether they are in a UK vest in the Olympics or in a Welsh vest in the Commonwealth games or representing Wales on the rugby or football field or in the many other sports in which we take an interest.

You have brought enormous credit on yourself, the whole world of sport and all of us in Wales by the way in which you have conducted yourself in your long sporting career. You will be an inspiration to young Welsh men and women whether they are people with disabilities or without. Your achievements in Australia have been a great inspiration to everybody, against the background of the well organised Olympics and even better organised Paralympics, which reflects credit on our partner state of New South Wales. They did a great job. They provided you with the platform and, my goodness, you took advantage of it with a superb performance. The only matter on which I disagree with you is when you said the Welsh media are always supportive. Apart from that, everybody in the Assembly would agree with every word you said. Thank you very much, Tanni. [*Applause.*]

gallwn gynorthwyo pobl o bob cefndir i gyflawni eu llawn botensial, boed ym maes chwaraeon, diwylliant, cerddoriaeth neu wleidyddiaeth. Ni wyddwn fod gennych radd mewn gwleidyddiaeth tan ichi grybwyll hynny, ond dylwn fod wedi sylwi o'ch huodledd heddiw bod gennych nifer o ddoniau. Y peth pwysig yw y dylai pawb gael y cyfle i ddefnyddio eu potensial i'r eithaf. Os yw hyn yn golygu arian cyhoeddus, ysgoloriaethau, y cynllun Elite Cymru a chynllun y Sports Aid Foundation, dyna'r hyn sydd rhaid inni ei ddarparu. Rhydd gymaint o bleser a diddordeb inni pan welwn fabolgampwyr a mabolgampwagedd o Gymru yn gwneud yn dda, pa un ai a ydynt yn gwisgo fest y DU yng ngemau'r Gymanwlad neu'n cynrychioli Cymru ar y cae rygbi neu bêl-droed neu yn un o'r llu o chwaraeon eraill y mae gennym ddiddordeb ynddynt.

Daethoch â chlod mawr i chi eich hun, i'r holl fyd chwaraeon a phawb yng Nghymru drwy gyfrwng eich ymddygiad yn ystod eich gyrfa hir mewn chwaraeon. Byddwch yn ysbrydoliaeth i bobl ifanc o Gymru, boed yn bobl ag anabledd ai peidio. Bu eich cyflawniadau yn Awstralia yn ysbrydoliaeth fawr i bawb, yng nghyd-destun y gemau Olympaidd a drefnwyd mor dda a'r gemau Paralympaidd a drefnwyd yn well byth, a ddaw â chlod i'r dalaith sydd yn bartner inni, sef De Cymru Newydd. Gwnaethant waith ardderchog. Darparwyd y llwyfan i chi a, gwarchod pawb, manteisioch ar hynny â pherfformiad rhagorol. Yr unig fater yr anghytunaf â chi arno yw pan ddywedoch fod y cyfryngau yng Nghymru yn gefnogol bob amser. Ar wahân i hynny, byddai pawb yn y Cynulliad yn cytuno â phob gair a ddywedasoeh. Diolch yn fawr iawn, Tanni. [*Cymeradwyaeth.*]

*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 Brif Weinidog Cymru Questions to the First Minister

Trafodaethau gyda Changhellor y Trysorlys Discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer

Q1 Peter Black: What discussions has the First Minister had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer with regard to how his tax policy affects Wales? (OAQ8397)

C1 Peter Black: Pa drafodaethau a gafodd Prif Weinidog Cymru gyda Changhellor y Trysorlys o ran sut y mae ei bolisi treth yn effeithio ar Gymru? (OAQ8397)

The First Minister: Peter, you may not have heard, but we expressed our condolences to you at your sad loss last week. We all feel for you.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Peter, efallai nad ydych wedi clywed, ond mynegwyd ein cydymdeimlad i chi am eich colled drist yr wythnos diwethaf. Yr ydym oll yn teimlo drosoch.

As you would expect, I have discussed various aspects of economic policy with Ministers in the UK Government from time to time, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer. These discussions have covered taxation policy. The Government's taxation policy is aimed at rewarding work, supporting families and increasing fairness. Key elements in this strategy include the children's tax credit, the working families tax credit, and a variety of measures to help the low paid, including reforms to national insurance contributions.

Fel y disgwyliech, yr wyf wedi trafod amrywiol agweddau ar bolisi economaidd gyda Gweinidogion Llywodraeth y DU o bryd i'w gilydd, gan gynnwys Canghellor y Trysorlys. Yr oedd y trafodaethau hyn yn cynnwys polisi treth. Nod polisi treth y Llywodraeth yw gwobrwyo gwaith, cynorthwyo teuluoedd a gwella tegwch. Ymysg elfennau allweddol y strategaeth hon ceir credyd treth i blant, credyd treth i deuluoedd mewn gwaith, ac amrywiaeth o fesurau i helpu'r rhai ar incwm isel, yn cynnwys diwygiadau i gyfraniadau yswiriant gwladol.

Peter Black: I refer you to the Chancellor's pre-budget statement and the changes he announced to VAT on housing, particularly reducing VAT on conversions of residential properties. Are you prepared to take the view previously expressed by the Assembly to the Chancellor on the need to do more on housing, particularly in equalising the rates of VAT for repairs and maintenance with that for new build on greenfield and other sites? Will you take that forward in order to persuade the Chancellor that there is a greater need for more work to be done on this?

Peter Black: Fe'ch cyfeiriaf at ddatganiad y Canghellor cyn y gyllideb a'i gyhoeddiad am newidiadau i TAW ar dai, yn enwedig gostwng TAW ar drawsnewidiadau eiddo preswyl. A ydych yn barod i gyflwyno'r farn a fynegodd y Cynulliad yn flaenorol i'r Canghellor ar yr angen i wneud mwy ynglŷn â thai, yn enwedig wrth gyfartalu cyfraddau TAW ar gyfer atgyweiriadau a chynnal a chadw gyda'r cyfraddau ar gyfer prosiectau adeiladu newydd ar feysydd glas a safleoedd eraill? A weithredwch ar hynny er mwyn darbwyllo'r Canghellor bod mwy o angen am i waith pellach gael ei wneud ar hyn?

The First Minister: I am grateful for your comments because one of the advantages of having a pre-budget report is that before the budget proposals are set in stone, we can discuss various matters with the Chancellor on behalf of the Assembly, where there is an

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich sylwadau oherwydd un o fanteision cael adroddiad cyn y gyllideb yw y gallwn drafod amrywiol faterion gyda'r Canghellor ar ran y Cynulliad, lle ceir polisi pendant gan y Cynulliad, cyn i gynigion y

expressed Assembly policy. One of the long-standing anomalies is the differential treatment of new housing compared to housing repairs and improvements to energy efficiency. We are interested to read some of the Chancellor's ideas on that and I am prepared to take this matter further with him.

Janet Davies: The First Minister will be aware that the Prime Minister acknowledged, in answer to a question raised by Dafydd Wigley in the House of Commons debate on the Nice summit yesterday, that, as taxation and social security issues remain matters for member states, the possibility of using operating aids such as the variation of corporation tax or national insurance within the west Wales and Valleys Objective 1 area, is a matter for London, not Brussels. In light of this recognition, and the indication given by the Prime Minister that he would consider positively the requests made by the Lib-Lab Government in Cardiff in this respect, what specific action do you now intend to take to pursue this issue with the Chancellor of the Exchequer?

The First Minister: It is not quite as simple as you say. Where it raises competition issues, then I think Brussels would still challenge that definition about the impact of the veto on making tax changes by qualified majority voting. The directorate of the European Commission that deals with competition would still take the view that it would need to be convinced. The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development raised this issue when he was in Brussels recently to discuss whether that is seen as a fundamental competition issue, and what tests would we have to pass to make operating aids acceptable to Brussels in competition terms so that we are not chasing will-o'-the-wisps in pressing the British Government to do something that, even if it was to agree to it, would be ruled out on competition grounds.

gyllideb gael eu pennu'n derfynol. Un afreoleidd-dra hir sefydlog yw'r driniaeth wahanol a gaiff tai newydd o'i gymharu ag atgyweirio tai a gwella effeithlonrwydd ynni. Mae gennym ddiddordeb mewn darllen rhai o syniadau'r Canghellor ar hynny ac yr wyf yn barod i fynd ar drywydd y mater hwn ymhellach ag ef.

Janet Davies: Gŵyr Prif Weinidog Cymru y bu i'r Prif Weinidog gydnabod, wrth ateb cwestiwn a godwyd gan Dafydd Wigley yn y ddadl yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin ar uwchgynhadledd Nice ddoe, gan fod materion treth a nawdd cymdeithasol yn parhau i fod yn faterion ar gyfer aelod-wladwriaethau, bod y posibilrwydd o ddefnyddio cymhorthion gweithredu megis amrywio treth gorfforaeth neu yswiriant gwladol o fewn ardal Amcan 1 gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, yn fater i Lundain, nid Brwsel. O gofio'r gydnabyddiaeth hon, a'r arwydd a roddwyd gan y Prif Weinidog y byddai'n ystyried ceisiadau'r Llywodraeth Lafur-Ryddfrydol yng Nghaerdydd yn gadarnhaol yn y cyswllt hwn, pa gamau penodol y bwriadwch eu cymryd i fynd ar drywydd y mater hwn gyda Changhellor y Trysorlys?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid yw mor syml ag y dywedwch. Lle y codir materion yn ymwneud â chystadleuaeth, credaf y byddai Brwsel yn parhau i herio'r diffiniad hwnnw am effaith y feto ar wneud newidiadau treth drwy bleidleisio mwyafrifol amodol. Byddai cyfarwyddiaeth y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd sydd yn ymdrin â chystadleuaeth yn dal i fod o'r farn y byddai angen ei argyhoeddi. Cododd Dirprwy Brif Weinidog Cymru a Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd y mater hwn pan oedd ym Mrwsel yn ddiweddar i drafod a gaiff hynny ei ystyried fel mater cystadleuaeth sylfaenol ai peidio, a pha brofion y byddai angen inni eu pasio i wneud cymhorthion gweithredu yn dderbyniol gan Frwsel yn nhermau cystadleuaeth fel na fyddwn yn mynd ar drywydd rhywbeth di-ddal wrth bwysio Llywodraeth Prydain i wneud rhywbeth a fyddai'n cael ei wrthod ar sail cystadleuaeth, hyd yn oed pe byddai'n cytuno â hynny.

Dylanwadu ar Flaenraglen Ddeddfwriaethol Llywodraeth y DU
Influencing the UK Government's Forward Legislative Programme

C2 Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Pa sicrwydd y gall Prif Weinidog Cymru ei roi y bydd modd i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ddylanwadu'n bositif ar flaenraglen ddeddfwriaethol Llywodraeth y DU? (OAQ8412)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'r dystiolaeth yn Araith y Frenhines. Mae un Mesur penodol i Gymru, a phedwar Mesur arall lle ceir elfennau penodol i Gymru, er mai Mesurau i Loegr a Chymru ydynt. Y rhain yw'r Mesur Cartrefi, y Mesur Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol, y Mesur Diwygio Rheoleiddiol a'r Mesur Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig ac Anableddau. Buom yn ymgynghori ar elfennau o Fesurau eraill, yn enwedig Mesurau'r Swyddfa Gartref, er bod y rheini'n faterion nas datganolwyd.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Felly, o'r 15 Mesur yn Araith y Frenhines, dim ond un, fel yr awgrymwch, sydd yn ymwneud â Chymru'n unig, sef y Mesur sydd yn ehangu pwerau'r Comisynydd Plant. Mae Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales yn croesawu'r Mesur hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, mae'r 14 Mesur arall yn ymwneud â Chymru mewn rhyw ffordd neu'i gilydd. A allwch chi egluro pa fecanwaith ffurfiol sydd yn bodoli er mwyn sicrhau yr ystyrir buddiannau Cymru a buddiannau'r Cynulliad, neu a ydych yn awgrymu, fel y gwnaethoch yn ddiweddar, mai trafod dros ddishgled o de â Paul Murphy y byddwch yn ei wneud?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni thrafodais y mater mewn modd mor ysgafn â hynny. Mae Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yn Llundain yn dewis pa Fesurau y dylid eu cynnwys yn Araith y Frenhines. Os yw mater yn un yr ymdrinnir ag ef gan y Cynulliad, fel mater datganoledig, er enghraifft iechyd, addysg neu dai, bydd y Llywodraeth yn ymgynghori â'n swyddogion a'n Gweinidogion Cabinet ni. Fodd bynnag, y Llywodraeth sydd yn dewis beth y dylid ei gynnwys yn Araith y Frenhines, os nad oes cais penodol gennym ni, fel yn achos y Mesur i ehangu pwerau'r Comisynydd Plant annibynnol i Gymru.

Q2 The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): What assurances can the First Minister give that the National Assembly will be able to positively influence the UK Government's forward legislative programme? (OAQ8412)

The First Minister: The evidence is in the Queen's Speech. There is one Bill specifically for Wales, and four other Bills where there will be elements that are specific to Wales, although they are Bills for England and Wales. These are the Homes Bill, the Health and Social Care Bill, the Regulatory Reform Bill and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Bill. We were consulted on elements of other Bills, particularly Home Office Bills, although they are non-devolved matters.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Therefore, of the 15 Bills in the Queen's Speech, only one, as you suggest, relates solely to Wales, and that is the Bill to extend the powers of the Children's Commissioner. Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales welcomes that Bill. However, the other 14 Bills relate to Wales in some way or another. Can you explain what formal mechanism exists to ensure that Wales's interests and the Assembly's interests are considered, or are you suggesting, as you did recently, that you hold discussions with Paul Murphy over a cup of tea?

The First Minister: I did not discuss the matter as lightly as that. The United Kingdom Government in London chooses which Bills should be included in the Queen's Speech. If a matter is one that is dealt with by the Assembly, as a devolved matter, for example, health, education or housing, the Government consults our officials and Cabinet Ministers. However, the Government chooses what should be included in the Queen's Speech, if we do not make a specific request, as in the case of the Bill to extend the powers of the independent Children's Commissioner for Wales.

Mae'r Llywodraeth yn ymgynghori hefyd ar faterion nas datganolwyd, megis y pedwar Mesur o'r Swyddfa Gartref yn Araith y Frenhines. Digwydd yr ymgynghori hwnnw, felly, oherwydd eu bod yn effeithio ar Gymru ac ar ein cymunedau, er nas datganolwyd y pwerau hynny inni.

2:10 p.m.

Fodd bynnag, credaf fod yr awyrgylch wedi gwella llawer yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, gan fod adrannau'r Llywodraeth yn Llundain erbyn hyn yn ymgynghori â ni, bron yn ddiethriad, ar Fesurau sydd yn effeithio ar Gymru.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Fel yr awgrymasoch, mae pedwar Mesur mewn meysydd datganoledig. O ganlyniad, disgwyliem y byddai'r Cabinet wedi rhoi ei fewnbwn cyn i'r Llywodraeth benderfynu pa Fesurau y byddai am eu cyflwyno. Os ydym ni yn y Cynulliad am basio deddfwriaeth eilaidd, oni fyddai'n ddoeth inni gyflwyno ein syniadau cyn i'r Llywodraeth benderfynu pa Fesurau y dylid eu cyflwyno? Os edrychwch ar y pedwar Mesur hynny—iechyd, tai, addysg, a rheoleiddio—onid yw'n bwysig eich bod yn dweud wrthym ba gymalau y gofynasoch i'r Llywodraeth eu cynnwys?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni allaf wneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, gallaf ddweud ein bod wedi gwneud yn dda eleni o ran maint yr ymgynghori, a hefyd canran yr holl Fesurau yn Araith y Frenhines sydd yn benodol i Gymru neu sydd yn rhannol benodol i Gymru. Felly, ni allaf ond dweud ein bod yn cael Mesurau lle mae'r pwerau wedi eu datganoli inni, a bod San Steffan yn ysyried beth mae'r Cynulliad wedi ei ddweud; os yw'r Cynulliad wedi gwneud cais, byddant yn ymwybodol o hynny yn Llundain. Hefyd, mae'r Cabinet wedi gwasgu arnynt i wneud rhywbeth dros Gymru mewn modd arbennig er ein mwyn ni, ac er mwyn paratoi ar gyfer y ddeddfwriaeth eilaidd y byddem yn fwy na thebyg yn ei phasio ar ôl i'r Mesurau hyn gael eu deddfu.

It also consults on non-devolved issues, such as the four Bills from the Home Office in the Queen's Speech. Therefore, that consultation takes place because they affect Wales and our communities, although those powers have not been devolved to us.

However, I believe that the atmosphere has improved greatly during the last year, because Government departments in London now consult with us, almost as a matter of course, on Bills that affect Wales.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: As you suggested, there are four Bills in devolved areas. As a result, we would have expected the Cabinet to have had an input before the Government decided which Bills it wanted to introduce. If we in the Assembly want to pass secondary legislation, would it not be wise for us to put forward our ideas before the Government decides which Bills should be introduced? If you look at those four Bills—health, housing, education, and regulation—is it not important that you tell us which clauses you have asked the Government to include?

The First Minister: I cannot do that. However, I can say that we have done well this year as regards the amount of consultation, and also the percentage of all the Bills in the Queen's Speech which are specific to Wales, or which are partially specific to Wales. Therefore, I can only say that we have Bills where powers have been devolved to us, and that Westminster considers what the Assembly has said; if the Assembly has made a request, they will be aware of that in London. Also, the Cabinet, has applied pressure on them to do something for Wales in a specific way for us, and in order to prepare for the secondary legislation that we are likely to pass after these Bills are enacted.

**Y Cabinet ar ei Newydd Wedd
The Newly restructured Cabinet**

Q3 Pauline Jarman: How is the First Minister monitoring the effectiveness of the newly restructured Cabinet? (OAQ8413)

The First Minister: Very closely, by participating in it.

Pauline Jarman: In pursuit of accountable, transparent government, is the Cabinet sufficiently effective and confident to enable Cabinet meetings to be held in public?

The First Minister: We are not prepared to consider holding Cabinet meetings in public yet.

David Davies: Will the First Minister make a particular point of monitoring the effectiveness of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development? It is about to be faced with yet another artificially-induced crisis as a result of the Government's divisive plans, wreaking havoc in the countryside with a ban on hunting foxes with hounds.

The First Minister: I am trying to spot the connection here between the effectiveness of the Cabinet and the Bill to ban hunting. There will be three options, based on the recommendations of the Burns report. There will be a free vote in the House of Commons when the Bill has its second reading. That matter, as far as I am aware, does not come before this Cabinet.

C3 Pauline Jarman: Sut y mae Prif Weinidog Cymru yn monitro effeithiolrwydd y Cabinet sydd newydd ei ailstrwythuro? (OAQ8413)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yn agos iawn, drwy gymryd rhan ynddo.

Pauline Jarman: Gan fynd ar drywydd llywodraethu atebol, tryloyw, a yw'r Cabinet yn ddigon effeithiol a hyderus i alluogi i gyfarfodydd y Cabinet gael eu cynnal yn gyhoeddus?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid ydym yn barod i ystyried cynnal cyfarfodydd Cabinet yn gyhoeddus eto.

David Davies: A wna Prif Weinidog Cymru bwynt arbennig o fonitro effeithiolrwydd y Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig? Mae ar fin cael ei wynebu ag argyfwng arall eto a grewyd yn artiffisial o ganlyniad i gynlluniau rhwygol y Llywodraeth, sydd yn creu hafoc yng nghefn gwlad â gwaharddiad ar hela llwynogod gyda chŵn hela.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ceisiaf ganfod y cysylltiad yma rhwng effeithiolrwydd y Cabinet a'r Mesur i wahardd hela. Bydd tri opsiwn, yn seiliedig ar argymhellion adroddiad Burns. Bydd pleidlais rydd yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin pan ddarllenir y Mesur am yr ail waith. Ni ddaw'r mater hwnnw, hyd y gwyddys, gerbron y Cabinet hwn.

**Comisiwn Annibynnol ar Bwerau a Threfniadau Etholiadol y Cynulliad
The Independent Commission into the Assembly's Powers and Electoral Arrangements**

Q4 Helen Mary Jones: Has the First Minister started to arrange the independent commission into the powers and electoral arrangements of the National Assembly for Wales? (OAQ8411)

The First Minister: The partnership agreement commits the Assembly to establishing an independent commission before the end of its first term in May 2003.

C4 Helen Mary Jones: A yw Prif Weinidog Cymru wedi dechrau trefnu'r comisiwn annibynnol i mewn i bwerau a threfniadau etholiadol Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru? (OAQ8411)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'r cytundeb partneriaeth yn ymrwmo'r Cynulliad i sefydlu comisiwn annibynnol cyn diwedd ei dymor cyntaf ym mis Mai 2003. Bydd cyfle

There will be an opportunity for the Assembly, once the terms of reference have been established, to debate the proposal.

Helen Mary Jones: Do you have a timetable for establishing the commission and are your Liberal Democrat colleagues happy with that timetable? Exactly when will the Assembly be able to debate those terms of reference?

The First Minister: As soon as they have been published by the partnership Government. No, I do not know yet. I do not want confusion with the other independent commission into local government voting systems. We should wait a while until it is underway before starting the other. However, we will stick to the timetable given in the partnership agreement and I am sure that Helen Mary, like many other Assembly Members, will be looking forward to participating in that debate. The logic behind the timing, around May 2003, and to report after May 2003, is simple. It may not reflect her party's desire, but we have always believed that we should have a term of the Assembly from May 1999 to May 2003 to be able to assess our experience of working the settlement as it is today before starting to tinker with the clockwork and taking the back off the watch, fiddling about and putting it back together and always finding that you have a couple of bits left over, if your mechanical abilities are similar to mine. It is much better if we have that four years' worth of experience before we start messing about and having a great changeover period from the Assembly settlement that we have today, and before any moves that we might wish to make for the Assembly's rules to be changed.

Mick Bates: As a Liberal Democrat who believes that we must have full primary legislative competence along the lines of Scotland, and having voted for a partnership agreement that gives Wales an opportunity to begin debating the issues even before the next Assembly elections, I am baffled as to why Plaid Cymru is playing to the Tory gallery of 'no' voters by trying to pretend that the Assembly is not working. Can you enlighten me as to why the so-called Party of

i'r Cynulliad, unwaith y bydd y cylch gorchwyl wedi ei sefydlu, i gynnal dadl ar y cynnig.

Helen Mary Jones: A oes gennych amserlen ar gyfer sefydlu'r comisiwn ac a yw eich cyd-Aelodau yn y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn fodlon gyda'r amserlen honno? Pryd yn union y gall y Cynulliad gael dadl ar y cylch gorchwyl hwnnw?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cyn gynted ag y byddant wedi eu cyhoeddi gan y Llywodraeth bartneriaeth. Na, ni wn eto. Nid wyf am greu dryswch gyda'r comisiwn annibynnol arall i systemau pleidleisio llywodraeth leol. Dylem aros ychydig tan y bydd ar waith cyn dechrau'r llall. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn glynu at yr amserlen a roddwyd yn y cytundeb partneriaeth ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd Helen Mary, fel llawer o Aelodau eraill y Cynulliad, yn edrych ymlaen at gymryd rhan yn y ddadl honno. Mae'r rhesymeg y tu ôl i'r amseru, oddeutu Mai 2003, a chyflwyno adroddiad ar ôl Mai 2003, yn syml. Efallai nad yw'n adlewyrchu dymuniad ei phlaid, ond credem bob amser y dylem gael tymor o'r Cynulliad o Fai 1999 i Fai 2003 i allu asesu ein profiad o weithredu'r setliad fel y mae heddiw cyn dechrau chwarae gyda'r clocwaith a thynnu'r cefn oddi ar yr oriawr, chwarae â'i thu mewn am ychydig a'i rhoi yn ôl at ei gilydd a chanfod bod ambell ddarn ar goll bob tro, os yw eich gallu mecanyddol yn debyg i'm hun i. Mae'n llawer gwell cael profiad y pedair blynedd honno cyn dechrau cyboli a chael cyfnod o newid mawr o setliad y Cynulliad sydd gennym heddiw, a chyn cymryd unrhyw gamau y byddwn efallai yn dymuno eu gwneud i newid rheolau'r Cynulliad.

Mick Bates: Fel Democrat Rhyddfrydol sydd yn credu bod rhaid inni gael gallu deddfwriaethol sylfaenol llawn fel yr Alban, ac wedi pleidleisio am gytundeb partneriaeth a rydd gyfle i Gymru ddechrau dadlau'r materion hyd yn oed cyn etholiadau nesaf y Cynulliad, ni allaf ddeall pam bod Plaid Cymru yn chwarae i ddwylo oriel y Toriaid a bleidleisiodd 'na' drwy geisio esgus nad yw'r Cynulliad yn gweithio. A allwch egluro imi pam bod Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales,

Wales seems so determined to ensure that this National Assembly fails?

The Presiding Officer: Order. This question is not about Plaid Cymru.

The First Minister: Your remarks, Mick, may be on the limits of relevance to the question. It is important that, instead of whingeing about the settlement that we have, we should attempt to make it work as best we can, across all four parties. It is important for our relationship with the people of Wales that, instead of whingeing about the Assembly, we attempt to make the settlement work.

Glyn Davies: Do you agree that the key to taking the devolution process forward is adapting the existing system, rather than having a divisive debate about new law-making powers and new legislative powers, and that we should seek to work closely with Westminster to ensure that all Bills have the maximum degree of delegation for the National Assembly?

The First Minister: That is the view that I would take. What we often find difficult is individual parties or individuals in the Assembly taking an *à la carte* approach to this. If they want an issue debated in the Assembly because they think that they might have a better chance of having a different outcome here than if it is debated in Westminster, they are all in favour of greater powers for the Assembly. If they think that there is a better chance of getting their way in Westminster, they do not want the power devolved to the Assembly. You must have a set of principles, otherwise you will end up with the same kind of arguments that we see on the nightly news about how they will eventually solve the voting system question in Florida and its impact on the United States. You must be consistent in your principles and in your attitude to devolution, and not pick and choose just because it suits you on a particular issue.

fel y'i gelwir, mor benderfynol o sicrhau bod y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn methu?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid cwestiwn am Blaid Cymru yw hwn.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Efallai bod eich sylwadau, Mick, yn braidd gyffwrdd perthnasedd y cwestiwn. Mae'n bwysig, yn lle cwyno am y setliad sydd gennym, y dylem geisio gwneud iddo weithio gystal ag y gallwn, ar draws y pedair plaid. Mae'n bwysig o ran ein perthynas â phobl Cymru, ein bod yn ceisio gwneud i'r setliad weithio yn lle cwyno am y Cynulliad.

Glyn Davies: A gytunwch mai'r allwedd i ddatblygu'r broses ddatganoli yw addasu'r system bresennol, yn hytrach na chael trafodaeth rhwygol am bwerau creu cyfreithiau newydd a phwerau deddfwriaethol newydd, ac y dylem geisio gweithio'n agos â San Steffan i sicrhau y caiff pob Mesur gymaint â phosibl o ddirprwyaeth ar gyfer y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Dyna fyddai fy marn. Yr hyn sydd yn anodd inni yn aml yw pleidiau unigol neu unigolion yn y Cynulliad yn cymryd agwedd *à la carte* tuag at hyn. Os ydynt am weld mater yn cael ei ddadlau yn y Cynulliad oherwydd y credant y byddai ganddynt well siawns o gael canlyniad gwahanol yma nag os caiff ei ddadlau yn San Steffan, maent oll o blaid mwy o bwerau i'r Cynulliad. Os credant fod cyfle gwell o gael eu ffordd yn San Steffan, nid ydynt am weld y pŵer yn cael ei ddatganoli i'r Cynulliad. Rhaid ichi gael set o egwyddorion, neu byddwch yn cael yr un math o ddadleuon ag a welwn ar y newyddion nosweithiol ynglŷn â sut y byddant yn y pen draw yn datrys problem y system bleidleisio yn Fflorida a'i heffaith ar yr Unol Daleithiau. Rhaid ichi fod yn gyson â'ch egwyddorion ac yn eich ymateb i ddatganoli, a pheidio â dewis a dethol oherwydd ei fod yn eich siwtio chi ar fater penodol.

Effaith Araith y Frenhines ar Gymru
The Impact of the Queen's Speech on Wales

C5 Cynog Dafis: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ar effaith Araith y Frenhines ar Gymru? (OAQ8422)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Bydd Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru yn annerch y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ynghylch Araith y Frenhines yn ddiweddarach y prynhawn yma. Byddaf yn gwneud datganiad ar effaith yr araith ar Gymru yn ystod y Cyfarfod Llawn ddydd Mawrth nesaf.

Cynog Dafis: Noda Araith y Frenhines mai amcan economaidd canolog y Llywodraeth yw lefelau uchel a sefydlog o dwf economaidd a chyflogau. Pam nad oes unrhyw gyfeiriad at y ffaith bod gagendor anferth wedi agor, o ran ffyniant, rhwng deddwyrain Lloegr a Chymru a rhai o ranbarthau Lloegr? Mae'r gagendor hwnnw wedi gwaethygu ers i Lafur ddod i rym, fel y mae'r gagendor rhwng y mwyaf cyfoethog a'r mwyaf tlawd ar lefel gymdeithasol. A fuoch—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. A wnewch chi ofyn cwestiwn?

Cynog Dafis: A fydd y Prif Weinidog yn pwyso ar y Canghellor i newid cyfeiriad er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon? Pa fath o syniadau a thystiolaeth a gyflwynodd iddo, ac os na ofynnodd, pam na wnaeth hynny?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid wyf yn siŵr pa dystiolaeth sydd y tu ôl i'r cwestiwn. Os ystyriwch y Mesurau a gafwyd ers 1997, megis y Mesur i sefydlu'r credyd treth i deuluoedd mewn gwaith a'r Mesur i osod isafswm cyflog, cawsant effaith anferth ar Gymru. Mae hynny wedi gwella sefyllfa pobl a oedd yn derbyn tâl o lai na £4 yr awr. Mae cael isafswm cyflog statudol yn rhoi codiad cyflog i ganran uwch o bobl yng Nghymru nag mewn unrhyw ardal yn Lloegr. Nid wyf yn siŵr pa dystiolaeth sydd yn sail i gwestiwn Cynog. Hoffwn iddo ysgrifennu ataf, gan gynnwys ei dystiolaeth ynghlŷn â'r gagendor y tybia sydd wedi agor rhwng

Q5 Cynog Dafis: Would the First Minister make a statement on the impact of the Queen's Speech on Wales? (OAQ8422)

The First Minister: The Secretary of State for Wales will address the National Assembly on the Queen's Speech later this afternoon. I will make a statement on the speech's effect on Wales during next Tuesday's Plenary session.

Cynog Dafis: The Queen's Speech notes that the Government's central economic objective is high and stable levels of economic growth and salaries. Why is there no reference to the fact that a massive gulf has opened up, as regards prosperity, between south-east England and Wales and some regions of England? That gulf has widened since Labour came to power, as has the gulf between the wealthiest and the poorest on a social level. Have you—

The Presiding Officer: Order. Will you ask a question?

Cynog Dafis: Will the First Minister urge the Chancellor to change direction in order to grapple with this problem? What kinds of ideas and evidence did he present to him, and if he did not ask, why did he not do so?

The First Minister: I am not sure what evidence underpins the question. If you consider the Bills that have been introduced since 1997 such as the Bill to establish the working families tax credit and the Bill to secure a minimum wage, they have had a massive impact in Wales. That has improved the situation of people who were on a wage of less than £4 per hour. Having a statutory minimum wage gives a pay increase to a greater percentage of people in Wales than in any area in England. I am not sure what evidence underlies Cynog's question. I would like him to write to me, including his evidence about the gulf that he believes has

Lloegr a Chymru, a de-ddwyrain Lloegr yn arbennig.

opened between England and Wales, and south-east England in particular.

2:20 p.m.

Delyth Evans: A gytunwch y daw'r ystadegau y cyfeiria Cynog atynt o adroddiad gan y Joseph Rowntree Foundation, a'u bod yn cyfeirio at y sefyllfa ddwy flynedd yn ôl? Cydnabu awduron yr adroddiad nad yw'r ffigurau'n berthnasol heddiw oherwydd i fesurau a gymerwyd gan y Llywodraeth Lafur bontio'r gagedor y cyfeiriwch ato.

Delyth Evans: Do you agree that the statistics to which Cynog refers come from a report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and that they refer to the situation two years ago? The authors of the report have acknowledged that the figures are not relevant today because measures taken by the Labour Government have narrowed the gap to which you refer.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'n bwysig gweithio ar sail ystadegau diweddar, yn hytrach na chyfeirio yn ôl at 1997 ac 1998 a'r cyfnod yn fuan wedi i'r Llywodraeth Lafur gael ei hethol. Wedi'r etholiad ym Mai 1997, byddai'n anodd dweud beth fyddai'r effeithiau yn y cyfnod cynnar hwnnw. Ni fydddech yn disgwyl effeithiau economaidd o'r mathau y cyfeiria Cynog atynt o fewn chwe neu 12 mis o gael eich hethol yn Llywodraeth.

The First Minister: It is important to work on the basis of recent statistics, rather than refer back to 1997 and 1998 and the period soon after the Labour Government was elected. After being elected in May 1997, it would be difficult to say what the effects would be in that early period. You would not expect the kind of economic effects to which Cynog refers within six or 12 months of being elected to Government.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): What representations did you make to the Secretary of State for Wales on behalf of rural Wales in relation to the Queen's Speech, and how are those representations reflected in it?

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Pa sylwadau a wnaethoch i Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ar ran Cymru wledig mewn perthynas ag Araith y Frenhines, a sut yr adlewyrchir y sylwadau hynny ynddi?

The First Minister: On behalf of the whole of Wales, we sought to ensure that the maximum degree of flexibility was built into the Bills that were being considered for the Queen's Speech. We were also interested in their impact on the Assembly's ability to suit the circumstances of the whole of Wales. Some of the Bills will be of particular interest to rural Wales, while others will be more relevant to urban Wales. We must protect the interests of Wales as a whole when making our pleas to the Government as regards the Bills that it wants to include in the Queen's Speech, as distinct from the Bills that we have asked to be included in it, namely the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill. We must now turn our thoughts to forthcoming Queen's Speeches, and consider what measures we want to see in the

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ar ran Cymru gyfan, ceisiwyd sicrhau y cafodd y gyfradd uchaf o hyblygrwydd ei chynnwys yn y Mesurau a gafodd eu hystyried ar gyfer Araith y Frenhines. Yr oedd gennym ddiddordeb hefyd yn eu heffaith ar allu'r Cynulliad i gyfaddasu amgylchiadau Cymru gyfan. Bydd rhai o'r Mesurau o ddiddordeb arbennig i Gymru wledig, tra bydd eraill yn fwy perthnasol i Gymru ddinesig. Rhaid diogelu buddiannau Cymru gyfan wrth gyflwyno ein hachos i'r Llywodraeth o ran y Mesurau y mae am eu cynnwys yn Araith y Frenhines, yn wahanol i'r Mesurau y gofynasom iddynt gael eu cynnwys ynddi, sef Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru. Yn awr rhaid troi ein golygon at Areithiau'r Frenhines sydd i ddod, ac ystyried pa fesurau yr ydym am eu gweld yn Araith y Frenhines yn 2001 a 2002.

Queen's Speech in 2001 and 2002.

Nick Bourne: We must all protect the whole of Wales. However, it is particularly regrettable that there was nothing in the Queen's Speech to tackle the rural crisis, farming incomes, rising fuel prices or the crisis in sub-post offices, particularly in rural areas. There was nothing to improve funding for rural healthcare nor to tackle the problems faced by small rural schools. The only item in relation to rural Wales in the Queen's Speech was an assault on countryside pursuits. Will you condemn that?

The First Minister: Nick has forgotten that there is a distinction between taxation and legislation. You do not legislate in order to change farming prices, for example. These are matters of taxation or agricultural support that do not appear in legislative programmes such as the Queen's Speech. There is an enormous Government agenda on sub-post offices. However, that issue is not confined to rural areas, as you keep repeating. That is a great and fundamental misunderstanding from which you suffer. The issue of sub-post offices is important for rural Wales. However, it is also important for the more isolated communities in the Welsh valleys. The sub-post office agenda is high in salience in the Government's thinking.

Nick Bourne: Rhaid inni ddiogelu Cymru gyfan. Fodd bynnag, mae'n drueni mawr nad oedd unrhyw beth yn Araith y Frenhines i ymdrin â'r argyfwng gwledig, incymau ffermwyr, y cynnydd ym mhrisiau tanwydd neu'r argyfwng mewn is-swyddfeydd post, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Nid oedd unrhyw beth i wella ariannu ar gyfer gofal iechyd gwledig nac i ymdrin â'r problemau a wynebir gan ysgolion bach gwledig. Yr unig eitem mewn perthynas â Chymru wledig yn Araith y Frenhines oedd ymosodiad ar weithgareddau cefn gwlad. A gondemniwch hynny?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae Nick wedi anghofio bod gwahaniaeth rhwng trethi a deddfwriaeth. Ni ellir deddfu i newid prisiau ffermio, er enghraifft. Mae'r rhain yn faterion trethiannol neu gymorth amaethyddol nad ydynt yn ymddangos mewn rhaglenni deddfwriaethol megis Araith y Frenhines. Mae gan y Llywodraeth agenda anferth ar is-swyddfeydd post. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r mater hwnnw yn gyfyngedig i ardaloedd gwledig, fel yr ydych yn ailadrodd o hyd. Dioddefwch o gamddealltwriaeth fawr, sylfaenol. Mae mater is-swyddfeydd post yn bwysig i Gymru wledig. Fodd bynnag, mae hefyd yn bwysig i'r cymunedau mwy diarffordd yng nghymoedd Cymru. Mae'r agenda is-swyddfeydd post yn amlwg iawn ym meddwl y Llywodraeth.

Ail-frandio Cymru Rebranding Wales

Q6 Christine Gwyther: Will the First Minister give a progress report on the rebranding of Wales? (OAQ8400)

The First Minister: I recently met a cross-section of public and private sector representatives from the marketing profession who have specialist experience and successful track records in branding, in order to obtain a range of views and ideas on how we can promote and modernise the image of Wales more positively. I am currently considering the large number of issues that arose from that meeting and how to move the agenda forward.

C6 Christine Gwyther: A rydd Prif Weinidog Cymru adroddiad datblygiad ar ailfrandio Cymru? (CAQ8400)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yn ddiweddar cefais gyfarfod â thrawsdoriad o gynrychiolwyr sector cyhoeddus a phreifat o'r proffesiwn marchnata sydd â phrofiad arbenigol ac enw da llwyddiannus wrth frandio, er mwyn cael ystod o farn a syniadau ar sut y gallwn hybu a moderneiddio delwedd Cymru'n fwy cadarnhaol. Ar hyn o bryd yr wyf yn ystyried y nifer fawr o faterion a gododd o'r cyfarfod hwnnw a sut i symud yr agenda yn ei blaen.

Christine Gwyther: We are proud of our heritage in Wales, be it rural or urban. The census debate in the Chamber last week proved that. As you say, we are proud of our new, modern, vibrant image: the reception that Tanni Grey-Thompson received here this afternoon was proof of that. How can a corporate image combine those two faces of Wales? How will the team that you mention try to overcome this in-built anomaly?

The First Minister: That is probably the \$64 million question regarding the image of any country. It is certainly true of Wales. We must maintain our pride in our linguistic and cultural heritage which dates back to medieval times and even earlier, and in our industrial heritage of mining, iron and steel during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. However, at the same time and without denying that heritage, we must move things on so that people understand where we are. The words that I often use is that Wales is probably the country with the newest democracy and the oldest national flag in the world. However, you have to combine those two. Somehow, you have to bring together the heritage and the new, modern, vibrant image that we have with the Assembly being so new and with the current cultural and sporting successes of people like Tanni Grey-Thompson and the famous pop groups, the names of which I can never quite remember.

William Graham: You have given us a short outline of what you have in mind for the image of Wales. Do you think that you are successful in putting that across to the world?

The First Minister: We are designing a set of materials that can be continuously updated. We are hoping to develop quality positive promotional material that can always be updated because it will be in CD-ROM form, website form and journalist information pack form, as well as a standard hardback book.

Christine Gwyther: Ymfalchiwn yn ein treftadaeth yng Nghymru, boed yn wledig neu'n ddinesig. Profwyd hynny gan y ddadl ar y cyfrifiad yn y Siambr yr wythnos diwethaf. Fel y dywedwch, ymfalchiwn yn ein delwedd newydd, fodern, fywiog: yr oedd y derbyniad a gafodd Tanni Grey-Thompson yma brynhawn heddiw yn dystiolaeth o hynny. Sut y gall delwedd gorfforaethol gyfuno dwy wedd Cymru? Sut y bydd y tîm a grybwyllwyd gennych yn goresgyn yr anghysondeb mewnol hwn?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'n debyg mai hwn yw'r cwestiwn tyngedfennol ynghylch delwedd unrhyw wlad. Mae'n sicr yn wir am Gymru. Rhaid inni gynnal ein balchder yn ein treftadaeth ieithyddol a diwylliannol sydd yn dyddio o'r oesoedd canol a hyd yn oed ynghynt, ac yn ein treftadaeth ddiwydiannol o weithfeydd glo, haearn a dur yn ystod y ddeunawfed ganrif a'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg. Fodd bynnag, ar yr un pryd a heb wadu'r dreftadaeth honno, rhaid inni symud pethau ymlaen er mwyn i bobl ddeall lle yr ydym. Geiriau a ddefnyddiaf yn aml yw mai Cymru fwy na thebyg yw'r wlad gyda'r ddemocratiaeth fwyaf newydd a'r faner genedlaethol hynaf yn y byd. Fodd bynnag, rhaid cyfuno'r ddau beth hyn. Rywsut, rhaid cyfuno'r dreftadaeth a'r ddelwedd newydd, fodern, fywiog sydd gennym gyda newydddeb y Cynulliad a chyda llwyddiannau presennol diwylliannol ac ym myd chwaraeon gan bobl fel Tanni Grey-Thompson a'r grwpiau pop, na allaf fyth gofio eu henwau yn iawn.

William Graham: Rhoddasoch amlinelliaid byr o'r hyn sydd gennych mewn golwg ar gyfer delwedd Cymru. A gredwch eich bod yn llwyddiannus wrth gyfleu hynny i'r byd?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Dyluniwn set o ddeunyddiau y gellir eu diweddarau'n barhaus. Gobeithio y gallwn ddatblygu deunydd hyrwyddol cadarnhaol o ansawdd da y gellir ei ddiweddarau o hyd oherwydd bydd ar ffurf CD-ROM, ar ffurf gwefan ac ar ffurf pecyn gwybodaeth i newyddiadurwyr, yn ogystal â llyfr clawr caled safonol.

Elin Jones: Clywsom gyfeiriad eisoes y prynhawn yma at gemau'r Gymanwlad yn 2002, a fydd yn digwydd ar ein stepen drws yng Nghymru. Pa gynlluniau sydd gan Brif Weinidog Cymru i Gymru, a'r gogledd yn benodol, i gymryd y fantais fwyaf o'r gemau hyn ac i farchnata i'r perwyl hwnnw o hyn ymlaen?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'r cysylltiad rhwng Manceinion a'r gogledd ar yr ochr chwaraeon yn mynd yn ôl i'r cais cyntaf a wnaethpwyd gan Fanceinion i fod yn gartref i'r gemau Olympaidd. Yr oeddent yn mynd i gael y chwaraeon hwylio yn Abersoch, os cofiaf yn iawn.

Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw'r pecyn a luniwyd gan Fanceinion ar gyfer 2002 yn cynnwys cynigion ar gyfer cynnal rhai o'r agweddau, neu'r chwaraeon mwy gwledig megis hwylio a rhwyfo, yng ngogledd Cymru. Ni wn y manylion.

Yn sicr, mae'n hawdd cyrraedd Manceinion o ogledd Cymru ac fel arall. Disgwyliaf y gallwn fanteisio ar hynny pan fydd rhyw hanner miliwn o ymwelwyr a chystadleuwyr ym Manceinion a'r cylch neu yn cymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon eraill na fydd yn cael eu cynnal yn ninas Manceinion.

Elin Jones: We have heard a reference already to the Commonwealth games in 2002, which will happen on our doorstep in Wales. What plans does the First Minister have for Wales, and the north in particular, to gain the maximum advantage from these games and to market to that end from now on?

The First Minister: The link between Manchester and the north on the sports front goes back to the first application by Manchester to be the home of the Olympic games. They were going to hold the sailing events in Abersoch, if I remember correctly.

I am not sure whether Manchester's package for 2002 contains proposals for holding some aspects, or some of the more rural sports such as rowing and sailing, in north Wales. I do not know the details.

It is easy to reach Manchester from north Wales and vice versa. I expect that we can take advantage of that when some half a million visitors and competitors will be in Manchester and the surrounding area or taking part in other events that will not be held in the city itself.

Masnachfreintiau Radio Band Llydan (Ardaloedd Gwledig Cymru) Wireless Broadband Franchises (Welsh Rural Areas)

Q7 Brian Gibbons: Has the First Minister had any discussions with the Secretary of State on the implications of the failure of the UK Government's auction of wireless broadband franchises to secure a buyer for Welsh rural areas? (OAQ8419)

The First Minister: I have not discussed this matter with the Secretary of State for Wales. However, I wrote to Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, some three weeks ago expressing my deep concern that the Wales license had not been sold. I asked that he consider, as a matter of urgency, reducing the reserve price for Wales and that the Wales region be made available once again as part of the auction process. I await his reply.

C7 Brian Gibbons: A gafodd Prif Weinidog Cymru drafodaethau â'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol ar oblygiadau methiant arwerthiant masnachfreintiau radio band llydan Llywodraeth y DU i sicrhau prynwr i ardaloedd gwledig Cymru? (OAQ8419)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni thrafodais y mater hwn gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru. Fodd bynnag, ysgrifennais at Stephen Byers, yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Fasnach a Diwydiant, ryw dair wythnos yn ôl, yn mynegi fy mhryder dwys am na werthwyd trwydded Cymru. Gofynnais iddo ystyried gostwng y pris cadw ar gyfer Cymru, a gwneud rhanbarth Cymru ar gael unwaith eto yn rhan o'r broses arwerthu. Arhosaf am ei ateb.

Brian Gibbons: I am pleased to hear that. We heard at the meeting of the South West Wales Regional Committee of some of the work that has been done to improve the landline connectivity in that part of Wales, but that will still leave large parts of Wales disconnected from broadband. It is vital that you continue your efforts with Stephen Byers. Hopefully he will respond along the lines that he is amenable to your suggestion.

The First Minister: He has not said no yet, so I hope that this is something that is being considered as a response to the failure of the auction to reach the reserve price. After the incredible success of the third wave mobile telecommunications auction earlier, everybody had high prices in mind. However, the bank loans are now practically killing the telecommunications industry that people put together in order to be able to buy some of these franchises in the UK, France, Germany and so on. The prices since have come down for both. If that mobile telephone auction were held again we would not get £22.5 billion in the coffers. It would probably be less than half that, but if you sell at the right time you get a high price.

As regards rural Wales, we are not quite in such a bad position as you are implying. Asymmetric digital subscriber line is being rolled out in 10 rural towns as well as in much of south Wales through strand 6 of the Llwybr/Pathway project. You will also have noted, no doubt with interest, that we recently placed an advertisement in the contract supplement of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* stating the Assembly's intention to invite proposals from companies to set up a joint venture using the telecommunications network in the A55, to improve telecom services at broadband level across north Wales.

2:30 p.m.

Phil Williams: You share my enthusiasm for spreading broadband communication to all parts. However, as a result of the failure of

Brian Gibbons: Yr wyf yn falch o glywed hynny. Clywsom yng nghyfarfod Pwyllgor Rhanbarth y De Orllewin am ryw faint o'r gwaith a wnaethpwyd i wella cysylltedd tirwifrau yn y rhan honno o Gymru, ond bydd hynny'n dal i adael rhannau helaeth o Gymru heb eu cysylltu i'r band llydan. Mae'n holl bwysig eich bod yn parhau â'ch ymdrechion gyda Stephen Byers. Gobeithio yr ymateba mewn modd sydd yn agored i'ch awgrymiad.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni ddywedodd na eto, felly gobeithiaf fod hyn yn rhywbeth a gaiff ei ystyried fel ymateb i fethiant yr arwerthiant i gyrraedd y pris cadw. Ar ôl llwyddiant anghredadwy gwerthiant telathrebu symudol y drydedd don yn gynharach, yr oedd pawb â'u meddwl ar brisiau uchel. Fodd bynnag, erbyn hyn mae'r benthyciadau banc fwy neu lai yn lladd y diwydiant telathrebu a roddodd pobl at ei gilydd er mwyn gallu prynu rhai o'r masnachfreintiau hyn yn y DU, Ffrainc, yr Almaen ac yn y blaen. Ers hynny gostyngodd y prisiau ar gyfer y ddau. Pe cynhelid yr arwerthiant ffonau symudol eto ni lwyddem i gael £22.5 biliwn yn y coffrau. Byddai'n llai na hanner hynny fwy na thebyg, ond os gwerthwch ar yr amser iawn cewch bris uchel.

O ran Cymru wledig, nid ydym mewn sefyllfa mor ddrwg ag yr awgrymwch. Mae llinell danysgrifio ddigidol anghymesur yn cael ei chyflwyno mewn 10 o drefi gwledig yn ogystal ag yn ne Cymru drwy llyn 6 y prosiect Llwybr. Byddwch wedi nodi hefyd, â diddordeb yn ddiamau, ein bod wedi rhoi hysbyseb yn ddiweddar yn atodiad contractau yr *Official Journal of the European Communities* yn datgan bwriad y Cynulliad i wahodd cynigion gan gwmnïau i sefydlu menter ar y cyd gan ddefnyddio rhwydwaith telathrebu'r A55, i wella gwasanaethau telathrebu ar lefel band llydan ar draws gogledd Cymru.

Phil Williams: Yr ydych yn rhannu fy mrawdfrwydedd ynghylch lledaenu cysylltiadau band llydan i bob ardal. Fodd bynnag, o

the present auction and with possible difficulties in unbundling—I think that that is the phrase—the local provision of ADSL, which is a vital part of our future programme, to what extent can the Government in London or in Cardiff take steps to fill any serious gaps left by the private sector, possibly by re-establishing a public sector service to ensure broadband communication throughout Wales?

The First Minister: You are right to refer to a current dispute between OFTEL and BT about the progress that is being made in unbundling the local loop. I am not sure how that will play out. I do not know whether the answer is to provide a public sector alternative, since BT was privatised in 1985, a long time ago. In general, we have used European structural funds or some such to provide some sort of subsidy or addition that encourages either BT or another supplier such as ntl to come in and provide a service where, initially, they would not want to invest because of their uncertainty about the rate of return. That is the basis on which the Llwybr/Pathway Strand 6 programme has gone ahead in 10 rural Welsh towns. I would have thought that we could perhaps consider that rather than renationalising BT or finding some other public sector alternative.

ganlyniad i fethiant yr arwerthiant presennol a chydag anawsterau posibl wrth ddadfwndelu—credaf mai dyna'r term—y ddarpariaeth leol o'r llinell danysgrifio ddigidol anghymesur, sydd yn rhan hanfodol o'n rhaglen yn y dyfodol, i ba raddau y gall y Llywodraeth yn Llundain neu yng Nghaerdydd gymryd camau i lenwi unrhyw fylchau difrifol a adawyd gan y sector preifat, gan ailsefydlu gwasanaeth sector cyhoeddus o bosibl i sicrhau cysylltiadau band llydan ledled Cymru?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr ydych yn iawn i gyfeirio at anghydfod cyfredol rhwng OFTEL a BT ynghylch y cynnydd a wneir wrth ddadfwndelu'r cylch lleol. Nid wyf yn siŵr beth fydd yn digwydd ynglŷn â hynny yn y diwedd. Ni wn ai'r ateb yw darparu dewis sector cyhoeddus arall, gan i BT gael ei breifateiddio yn 1985, amser maith yn ôl. Ar y cyfan, defnyddiasom arian strwythurol Ewropeaidd neu rywbeth tebyg i ddarparu rhyw fath o gymhorthdal neu ychwanegiad sydd yn annog naill ai BT neu gyflenwr arall megis ntl i ddod i mewn a darparu gwasanaeth lle na fyddent, ar y dechrau, yn dymuno buddsoddi oherwydd eu hansicrwydd am y gyfradd enillion. Ar y sail honno yr aeth Llinyn 6 y rhaglen Llwybr rhagddi mewn 10 o drefi gwledig Cymru. Byddwn wedi tybio y byddem yn gallu ystyried hynny o bosibl yn hytrach nag ailwladoli BT neu ganfod rhyw ddewis sector cyhoeddus arall.

Rhaglen Waith Flynyddol y Llywodraeth The Government's Annual Business Programme

Q8 Janet Ryder: Has the First Minister discussed the Government's annual business programme with the Secretary of State for Wales? (OAQ8407)

The First Minister: I informed the Secretary of State for Wales as a matter of courtesy of the programme's contents.

Janet Ryder: Do you agree that the Government's annual business programme is a product of the partnership agreement? As you said this afternoon, part of that agreement is to bring forward a commission

C8 Janet Ryder: A drafododd Prif Weinidog Cymru raglen waith flynyddol y Llywodraeth gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru? (OAQ8407)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Hysbysais Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru o gynnwys y rhaglen fel mater o gwrteisi.

Janet Ryder: A gytunwch fod rhaglen waith flynyddol y Llywodraeth yn gynnyrch y cytundeb partneriaeth? Fel y dywedasoch y prynhawn yma, rhan o'r cytundeb hwnnw yw cyflwyno comisiwn i ystyried dulliau amgen

to consider alternative forms of voting for local government. That does not appear in this year's work programme. When do you propose to bring forward that commission?

The First Minister: I do not think that it will be delayed long. We are mulling over who to put on the commission to ensure that we get the right personnel who will be acceptable to people outside, as well as inside, this Assembly. When you appoint an independent commission, it must be seen to be independent, to be fair and to have a degree of expertise in the field. I am sure that you will not be disappointed when we finally announce the names when we have checked out the availability of the people who we would like to see serving on that independent commission.

David Melding: Have you discussed with the Secretary of State for Wales the voluntary sector's role in delivering your programme, and in particular its concerns about the cost of police checks?

The First Minister: This issue has arisen during the past few days. I believe that this matter is now on the voluntary sector partnership's agenda. It will meet soon and will consider whether we want to make a recommendation. No one wants to see people slipping through the net. On the other hand, you do not want to formalise every single contact with every single child in Wales by insisting that there must be police checks before anybody can get involved at even the slightest level. The difficulty is getting the balance right between ensuring that children are protected from people who may be quite manipulative and organised in getting access to children, and making it impossible for the voluntary sector in all manner of activities—whether it is the boy scouts or the adoption and fostering service—to continue to conduct services at that time.

o bleidleisio dros lywodraeth leol. Nid ymddengys hynny yn rhaglen waith eleni. Pryd y bwriadwch gyflwyno'r comisiwn hwnnw?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni chredaf y bydd llawer o oedi. Yr ydym yn ystyried pwy i roi ar y comisiwn i sicrhau ein bod yn cael y personél iawn a fydd yn dderbyniol i bobl y tu allan, yn ogystal â'r tu mewn, i'r Cynulliad hwn. Pan benodwch gomisiwn annibynnol, rhaid iddo gael ei weld i fod yn annibynnol, yn deg a bod ganddo ryw faint o arbenigedd yn y maes. Yr wyf yn siŵr na chewch eich siomi pan gyhoeddwn yr enwau yn derfynol ar ôl inni sicrhau bod y bobl yr hoffem eu gweld yn gwasanaethu ar y comisiwn annibynnol hwnnw ar gael.

David Melding: A drafodasoch gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru rôl y sector gwirfoddol wrth gyflwyno eich rhaglen, ac yn benodol ei bryderon ynghylch cost gwiriadau'r heddlu?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cododd y mater hwn yn ystod yr ychydig ddyddiau diwethaf. Credaf fod y mater hwn erbyn hyn ar agenda partneriaeth y sector gwirfoddol. Bydd yn cyfarfod yn fuan ac yn ystyried a ddymunwn wneud argymhelliad. Nid oes unrhyw un am weld pobl yn llithro drwy'r rhwyd. Ar y llaw arall, nid ydych am ffurfioli pob contract unigol gyda phob plentyn unigol yng Nghymru drwy fynnu bod rhaid cael gwiriadau'r heddlu cyn y gall unrhyw un fod yn gysylltiedig hyd yn oed ar y lefel leiaf. Yr anhawster yw cael y balans yn iawn rhwng sicrhau y diogelir plant rhag pobl a all fod yn lled ystrywgar a threfnus wrth ddod i gysylltiad â phlant, a'i gwneud yn amhosibl i'r sector gwirfoddol ym mhob math o weithgareddau—pa un ai'r sgowtiaid neu'r gwasanaeth mabwysiadu a maethu ydyw—i barhau i gynnal gwasanaethau ar yr adeg honno.

Cau Is-Swyddfeydd Post yng Nghymru The Closure of Sub-Post Offices in Wales

Q9 Nick Bourne: What discussions has the First Minister had with the Secretary of State for Wales in relation to the closure of sub-

C9 Nick Bourne: Pa drafodaethau gafodd Prif Weinidog Cymru gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru mewn perthynas â chau is-

post offices in Wales? (OAQ8404)

The First Minister: I meet the Secretary of State for Wales on a regular basis. We discuss a wide range of issues affecting Wales, including sub-post offices.

Nick Bourne: Do you agree that sub-post offices are vital in both rural and urban communities? They are closing at an alarming rate despite the Government's proposals. The best thing that the Government could do would be to drop its plans for compulsory automated credit transfer, or any form of ACT, so that we can reverse this unhealthy trend.

The First Minister: I agree that we need to ensure that the network of rural post offices and sub-post offices and difficult urban post offices and sub-post offices is maintained to the maximum degree possible. Where there are sub-post offices, they are private businesses, and they cannot be forced to stay open where they are not viable, but the Post Office is determined to maintain an effective network. Since the publication of the No. 10 Downing Street performance and innovation unit's report and its recommendations, Stephen Byers, as the responsible Secretary of State, has accepted the PIU's report's proposals in full.

The Presiding Officer: I call the leader of the Welsh Conservatives, although you have had your supplementary question.

Nick Bourne: I am happy to have another leader's question, but you have given me one.

The Presiding Officer: I am always generous to you.

Nick Bourne: Despite all this talk from the Government, post offices are closing at an alarming rate. All Members receive notifications of post office closures, and it is not good enough to huff and puff. Will you put pressure on the Secretary of State for

swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru? (OAQ8404)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr wyf yn cyfarfod ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru yn rheolaidd. Trafodwn ystod eang o faterion sydd yn effeithio ar Gymru, gan gynnwys is-swyddfeydd post.

Nick Bourne: A gytunwch fod is-swyddfeydd post yn hanfodol i gymunedau gwledig a threfol? Caeant ar raddfa frawychus er gwaethaf cynigion y Llywodraeth. Y peth gorau y gallai'r Llywodraeth ei wneud fyddai rhoi'r gorau i'w chynlluniau ar gyfer trosglwyddiad credyd awtomataidd gorfodol, neu unrhyw ffurf arno, fel y gallwn wyrdroi'r duedd afiach hon.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cytunaf fod angen inni sicrhau y dylid cynnal y rhwydwaith o swyddfeydd post ac is-swyddfeydd post gwledig a swyddfeydd post ac is-swyddfeydd post trefol anodd i'r graddau mwyaf posibl. Lle y ceir is-swyddfeydd post, maent yn fusnesau preifat, ac ni ellir eu gorfodi i aros ar agor pan nad ydynt yn ymarferol, ond mae'r Swyddfa Bost yn benderfynol o gynnal rhwydwaith effeithiol. Ers cyhoeddi adroddiad ac argymhellion uned berfformio ac arloesi Rhif 10 Downing Street, derbyniodd Stephen Byers, fel yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol cyfrifol, gynigion adroddiad yr uned berfformio ac arloesi yn llawn.

Y Llywydd: Galwaf ar arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru, er eich bod wedi cael eich cwestiwn atodol.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn hapus i gael cwestiwn arweinydd arall, ond yr ydych wedi rhoi un imi.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf bob amser yn hael wrthyich.

Nick Bourne: Er gwaethaf yr holl siarad hwn gan y Llywodraeth, mae swyddfeydd post yn cau ar raddfa frawychus. Mae'r holl Aelodau yn derbyn hysbysiadau am swyddfeydd post yn cau, ac nid yw chwythu bygythion yn ddigon da. A roddwch bwysau

Wales, under section 31 of the Postal Services Act 2000, to bring forward proposals so that we can drop automated credit transfer from the Government's legislative programme and keep our sub-post offices open?

The First Minister: I cannot give you a commitment on that. However, we are studying the PIU report and are discussing its proposals with our opposite numbers in the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, Northern Ireland, Scotland and the Post Office to decide on the best way forward. It is not true to say that there has been an increase in the rate of sub-post office closures; there has been a reduction in that rate this year, compared to last year. Therefore, the crisis has not worsened. However, I accept that there is a crisis. Without an effective network of sub-post offices, in many of our valley communities and outlying council estates, in constituencies such as mine and across rural Wales, to provide post office services, benefit payments and so on is in peril.

Kirsty Williams: Do you condemn the Post Office's decision, which will effectively close Aberedw's village post office, not to provide a cabinet in which to house computer equipment. As the person who runs that post office from her front room could not afford that cabinet, the community of Aberedw will lose its post office.

The First Minister: I drive past the community of Aberedw but I have never stopped at its sub-post office, so I cannot make specific comments about it. However, I agree that post offices provide a valuable social, commercial and economic service across rural and urban Wales. It is important, therefore, that nit-picking rules—if that is what happened here—do not cause post offices to close. Sometimes, a sub-post office, as a private business, cannot afford the investment required. If that business closes, the Post Office makes huge efforts to re-let the franchise so that another business that has been persuaded to take on that sub-

ar Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, o dan adran 31 o Ddeddf Gwasanaethau Post 2000, i gyflwyno cynigion fel y gallwn roi'r gorau i drosglwyddiad credyd awtomataidd o raglen ddeddfwriaethol y Llywodraeth a chadw ein his-swyddfeydd post ar agor?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni allaf roi ymrwymiad ichi ar hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym wrthi'n astudio adroddiad yr uned berfformio ac arloesi ac yn trafod ei chynigion â'n rhifau cyfatebol yn yr Adran Masnach a Diwydiant, Adran yr Amgylchedd, Trafnidiaeth a'r Rhanbarthau, Gogledd Iwerddon, yr Alban a Swyddfa'r Post i benderfynu ar y ffordd orau ymlaen. Nid yw'n wir dweud y cafwyd cynnydd yng ngraddfa cau'r is-swyddfeydd post; cafwyd gostyngiad yn y raddfa honno eleni, o'i chymharu â'r llynedd. Felly, ni waethygodd yr argyfwng. Fodd bynnag, derbynïaf fod argyfwng yn bodoli. Heb rwydwaith effeithiol o is-swyddfeydd post, mewn llawer o'n cymunedau yn y cymoedd a'n hystadau tai cyngor anghysbell, mewn etholaethau fel fy etholaeth i ac ar draws Cymru wledig, i ddarparu gwasanaethau swyddfa'r post, mae budd-daliadau ac ati mewn perygl.

Kirsty Williams: A welwch fai ar benderfyniad Swyddfa'r Post, a fydd i bob diben yn cau swyddfa bost pentref Aberedw, i beidio â darparu cabinet i ddal offer cyfrifiadurol. Gan na allai'r person sydd yn rhedeg y swyddfa bost honno o'i hystafell ffrynt fforddio'r cabinet hwnnw, bydd cymuned Aberedw yn colli ei swyddfa bost.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Gyrraf heibio i gymuned Aberedw ond nid arhosais erioed yn ei his-swyddfa bost, felly ni allaf wneud sylwadau penodol amdani. Fodd bynnag, cytunaf fod swyddfeydd post yn cynnig gwasanaeth cymdeithasol, masnachol ac economaidd gwerthfawr ledled Cymru wledig a threfol. Mae'n bwysig, felly, nad yw hollti blew—os mai dyna a ddigwyddodd yma—yn achosi i swyddfeydd post gau. Weithiau, ni all is-swyddfa bost, fel busnes preifat, fforddio'r buddsoddiad sydd ei angen. Os bydd y busnes hwnnw'n cau, gwnaiff Swyddfa'r Post ymdrech enfawr i ailosod y fasnachfaint fel y gall busnes arall

post office can serve the same area. That does not happen every time, but that is the basic principle on which Post Office Counters Limited works.

a berswadiwyd i ymgymryd â'r is-swyddfa honno wasanaethu'r un ardal. Nid yw hynny'n digwydd bob tro, ond dyna'r egwyddor sylfaenol y gweithreda Cownteri'r Swyddfa Post Cyfyngedig arni.

Datganiad ar Geiswyr Lloches Statement on Asylum Seekers

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): I promised to keep the Assembly informed about dispersal arrangements for asylum seekers in Wales, so I will report on the present position. I state at this juncture that this is a moveable feast, every week of the year and every day. Therefore, I will probably update this statement over the Christmas recess.

The number of asylum seekers arriving in Wales under the dispersal arrangements continues to be low. Around 30 asylum seekers are being provided with support and accommodation through a private sector contractor in Wrexham. Twenty asylum seekers, who live with family or friends, receive support-only packages in south Wales, mainly in Cardiff.

However, the number of asylum seekers is expected to increase in the new year. I understand that Cardiff City and County Council will shortly sign a contract with National Asylum Support Services to provide 350 units of accommodation for asylum seekers in the next 12 months. I also understand that asylum seekers may now be accommodated in Adams Court. While Cardiff council has concluded contract negotiations with NASS, the situation for the all-Wales consortia remains unclear.

The NASS contract with private sector providers restricts them to procuring accommodation only in designated cluster areas in Wales where it is judged that adequate support arrangements are in place. NASS has carried out a review on whether the number of designated cluster areas should be increased from those already agreed, namely Bridgend, Cardiff, Newport, Swansea and Wrexham. It concluded that no areas will

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Edwina Hart): Addewais hysbysu'r Cynulliad am drefniadau didoli ceiswyr lloches yng Nghymru, felly cyflwynaf adroddiad ar y sefyllfa bresennol. Datganaf yn y fan hon fod hwn yn wyl symudol, bob wythnos o'r flwyddyn a phob dydd. Felly, yn ôl pob tebyg byddaf yn diweddarau'r datganiad hwn dros doriad y Nadolig.

Parhau yn isel y mae nifer y ceiswyr lloches sydd yn cyrraedd yng Nghymru o dan y trefniadau didoli. Darperir cynhaliaeth a llety drwy gontractwr sector preifat yn Wrecsam ar gyfer tua 30 o geiswyr lloches. Derbynia 20 o geiswyr lloches, sydd yn byw gyda theulu neu ffrindiau, becynnau cynhaliaeth yn unig yn ne Cymru, yng Nghaerdydd yn bennaf.

Fodd bynnag, disgwylir y cynyddu nifer y ceiswyr lloches yn y flwyddyn newydd. Deallaf y bydd Cyngor Dinas a Sir Caerdydd yn arwyddo contract yn fuan gyda'r Gwasanaethau Cynhaliaeth Lloches Cenedlaethol i ddarparu 350 o unedau llety ar gyfer ceiswyr lloches yn ystod y 12 mis nesaf. Deallaf hefyd y gellir lletya ceiswyr lloches erbyn hyn yn Adams Court. Er bod cyngor Caerdydd wedi cwblhau negodiadau contract gyda'r Gwasanaeth, erys y sefyllfa ar gyfer consortia Cymru gyfan yn aneglur.

Mae contract y Gwasanaethau Cynhaliaeth Lloches Cenedlaethol gyda darparwyr sector preifat yn eu cyfyngu i sicrhau llety dim ond mewn ardaloedd o glystyrau penodedig yng Nghymru lle y bernir bod trefniadau cynhaliaeth digonol yn eu lle. Cynhaliodd y Gwasanaeth adolygiad ynghylch a ddylid cynyddu nifer yr ardaloedd o glystyrau penodedig y cytunwyd arnynt eisoes, sef Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, Caerdydd, Casnewydd,

be added to the list in the near future. NASS has also given an undertaking that it will consult with local authorities and the Assembly, before giving its approval, where private sector contractors are planning to acquire properties of six or more beds.

I am advised that an agreement has now been reached between local authorities and NASS about the management fee that they will receive for taking on the responsibility for managing the disbenefited. That is, where asylum seekers' state benefits have been stopped because they have received a negative decision about their immigration status but have decided to appeal against that decision. Local authorities have been informed that they can make emergency payments to families with children who apply to them while they await a decision from NASS about whether it will support them. It is estimated that there are about 200 such cases in Wales. I hope that statement is of interest to the National Assembly.

2:40 p.m.

Helen Mary Jones: I am grateful for that statement. I am sure that the Assembly appreciates your regular updates on these issues. We welcome the commitment that you have obtained to consultation over the large-scale use of private contractors. That has been a matter of concern. With regard to the support arrangements for asylum seekers, and in the light of your comments about expecting many more asylum seekers in the near future, how confident are you that the full support arrangements are in place and that asylum seekers will get the support that they need? What discussions have you had with specific local authorities about those support arrangements? With regard to those asylum seekers who are disbenefited, will local government be reimbursed for the emergency payments that they make? If so, I presume that they will be reimbursed by the Home Office and not by the Government of Wales. Do you expect the numbers of asylum seekers in this category to rise over the coming months?

Abertawe a Wrecsam. Daeth i'r casgliad nad ychwanegir unrhyw ardaloedd at y rhestr yn y dyfodol agos. Ymrwymodd y Gwasanaeth hefyd i ymgynghori ag awdurdodau lleol a'r Cynulliad, cyn rhoi sêl ei fendith, lle y bydd contractwyr sector preifat yn cynllunio i gaffael eiddo o chwe gwely neu fwy.

Fe'm hysbyswyd y daethpwyd i gytundeb erbyn hyn rhwng awdurdodau lleol a'r Gwasanaethau Cynhaliath Lloches Cenedlaethol ynglŷn â'r ffi rheoli a dderbyniant am gymryd y cyfrifoldeb dros reoli'r rhai y tynnwyd budd-daliadau oddi wrthynt. Hynny yw, pan ataliwyd budd-daliadau'r wladwriaeth i geiswyr lloches derbyniodd benderfyniad negyddol ynghylch eu statws mewnfudo ac a benderfynodd apelio yn erbyn y penderfyniad hwnnw. Hysbyswyd awdurdodau lleol y gallant wneud taliadau brys i deuluoedd â phlant sydd yn gwneud cais iddynt tra arhosant am benderfyniad gan y Gwasanaeth i weld a fydd yn eu cynnal. Amcangyfrifir bod tua 200 o achosion o'r fath yng Nghymru. Gobeithiaf fod y datganiad hwnnw o ddiddordeb i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

Helen Mary Jones: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y datganiad hwnnw. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod y Cynulliad yn gwerthfawrogi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf reolaidd a roddwch ar y materion hyn. Croesawn yr ymrwymiad a gawsoch i ymgynghori ar y defnydd eang o gontractwyr preifat. Bu hynny'n fater o bryder. O ran y trefniadau cynhaliath ar gyfer ceiswyr lloches, ac yng ngoleuni eich sylwadau ynglŷn â disgwyl llawer mwy o geiswyr lloches yn y dyfodol agos, pa mor hyderus ydych fod y trefniadau cynhaliath llawn yn eu lle ac y caiff ceiswyr lloches y gynhaliath sydd ei hangen arnynt? Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch gydag awdurdodau lleol penodedig ynglŷn â'r trefniadau cynhaliath hynny? O ran y ceiswyr lloches hynny y tynnwyd eu budd-daliadau oddi wrthynt, a ad-delir llywodraeth leol am y taliadau brys a wnânt? Os felly, rhagdybiaf mai'r Swyddfa Gartref fydd yn eu had-dalu ac nid Llywodraeth Cymru. A ddisgwyliwch i nifer y ceiswyr lloches yn y categori hwn godi yn ystod y misoedd i ddod?

Edwina Hart: You have asked several questions that I cannot answer at this juncture, concerning the reimbursement of local authorities, which I am currently pursuing, and the necessary support arrangements. It is clear from the last but one meeting of the Partnership Council that local authorities were concerned about the arrangements and the necessary support provided. As a result, in conjunction with Sir Harry Jones of the Welsh Local Government Association, I wrote to the Home Office to express some of our reservations within those areas. I am hopeful of arranging a meeting in the new year to discuss some of our concerns regarding these issues.

Regarding the wider issues, Helen, it is essential that my officials continue to keep up the work that they have undertaken in maintaining close liaisons with NASS. It is also essential that Assembly Members pass on any information that they gather in their communities. It is a difficult area to control and I am sure that many questions need to be answered, particularly in respect of the disadvantaged. I cannot give you precise numbers or any indications of increase. The fact that I cannot answer certain questions indicates, perhaps, the frustration that we feel in dealing with the issue of asylum and immigration. We, in the National Assembly, want to be welcoming to ensure that we can deal with these matters properly, but we must ensure that that commitment is reciprocated.

William Graham: The Welsh Conservatives are grateful for the update on the situation with regard to dispersal arrangements for asylum seekers and we welcome your commitment to continue those updates. We understand the difficulties that you are experiencing. However, we ask you to restate your commitment to monitor these arrangements, particularly with regard to education and social services, where clearly additional costs will fall on local authorities. I appreciate that you cannot give an exact figure as to what those costs will be, but I

Edwina Hart: Gofynasoch nifer o gwestiynau na allaf eu hateb yn y fan hon, ynglŷn ag ad-dalu awdurdodau lleol, yr wyf yn mynd ar eu trywydd ar hyn o bryd, a'r trefniadau cynhaliaeth angenrheidiol. Mae'n glir o gyfarfod olaf ond un y Cyngor Partneriaeth fod awdurdodau lleol yn bryderus ynghylch y trefniadau a'r gynhaliaeth angenrheidiol a ddarparwyd. O ganlyniad, ar y cyd â Syr Harry Jones o Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, ysgrifennais at y Swyddfa Gartref i fynegi rhai o'n hamheuron o fewn y meysydd hynny. Yr wyf yn obeithiol ynglŷn â threfnu cyfarfod yn y flwyddyn newydd i drafod rhai o'n pryderon ynghylch y materion hyn.

O ran y materion ehangach, Helen, mae'n hanfodol i'm swyddogion barhau gyda'r gwaith yr ymgwymerwyd ag ef wrth gynnal cysylltiadau agos â'r Gwasanaethau Cynhaliaeth Ceiswyr Lloches Cenedlaethol. Mae hefyd yn hanfodol i Aelodau'r Cynulliad drosglwyddo unrhyw wybodaeth y byddant yn ei gasglu yn eu cymunedau. Mae'n faes anodd i'w reoli ac yr wyf yn siŵr fod angen ateb llawer o gwestiynau, yn arbennig mewn perthynas â'r rhai y tynnwyd eu budd-daliadau oddi wrthynt. Ni allaf roi'r union ffigurau ichi nac unrhyw arwyddion o'r codiad. Mae'r ffaith na allaf ateb rhai cwestiynau yn nodi, o bosibl, y rhwystredigaeth a deimlwn wrth ymdrin â mater lloches a mewnfudo. Dymunwn ni, yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, fod yn groesawgar i sicrhau y gallwn ymdrin â'r materion hyn yn gywir, ond rhaid inni sicrhau ymrwymiad cyfatebol.

William Graham: Mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn ddiolchgar am y newyddion diweddaraf ar y sefyllfa o ran trefniadau didoli ceiswyr lloches a chroesawn eich ymrwymiad i barhau i roi'r newyddion diweddaraf hwnnw. Deallwn yr anawsterau a gewch. Fodd bynnag, gofynnwn ichi ailddatgan eich ymrwymiad i fonitro'r trefniadau hyn, yn arbennig o safbwynt addysg a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, lle y bydd costau ychwanegol yn amlwg yn disgyn ar awdurdodau lleol. Sylweddolaf na allwch roi union ffigur ar gyfer y costau, ond croesawn eich

would welcome an undertaking that you will report to this Assembly as soon as possible when those are known.

Edwina Hart: Thank you for those points, William. I will continue to report to the National Assembly. I am reminded by your contribution to formally write to local authorities to ask them for an indication of any costs that they might have already incurred. I will also ask if, to aid future reporting mechanisms, they could provide any indications in a proper, structured way so that we can establish whether any costs are being incurred of which we are not aware.

Gwenda Thomas: With regard to the disbenefited, I quote from the latter section of your statement:

‘Local authorities have been informed that they can make emergency payments to families with children’.

Is it not the case that a local authority has a statutory responsibility for the accommodation and welfare of children in need in their areas, whatever their status?

Edwina Hart: The simple answer to that question is ‘yes’. That is my understanding of the legal position regarding local authorities. I will make the necessary inquiries in case there are any differences in respect of the children of asylum seekers.

Alun Pugh: On Sunday night, I attended a church service in Colwyn Bay held by Amnesty International, which detailed some horrific human rights abuses. Will you join me in condemning those who attempt to stir up this issue against people who are fleeing persecution?

Edwina Hart: We clearly want to condemn anybody who makes remarks that incite racial hatred against asylum seekers. We recognise that asylum seekers are fleeing poverty, war and other crises. It is important that our principled position on this continues. Members have expressed interest in

ymrwymiad i adrodd yn ôl i'r Cynulliad hwn cyn gynted â phosibl pan fyddant yn hysbys.

Edwina Hart: Diolch am y pwyntiau hynny, William. Parhaf i adrodd yn ôl i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Fe'm hatgoffir gan eich cyfraniad i ysgrifennu'n ffurfiol at awdurdodau lleol i ofyn iddynt am nodi unrhyw gostau a dalwyd ganddynt eisoes efallai. Gofynnaf hefyd a allent, er mwyn cynorthwyo dulliau o adrodd yn ôl yn y dyfodol, eu nodi mewn ffordd gyfundrefnus, gywir fel y gallwn sefydlu a delir unrhyw gostau nad ydym yn ymwybodol ohonynt.

Gwenda Thomas: O ran y rhai y tynnwyd budd-daliadau oddi wrthynt, dyfynnaf o adran olaf eich datganiad:

‘Hysbyswyd awdurdodau lleol y gallant wneud taliadau brys i deuluoedd â phlant’.

Onid oes gan awdurdod lleol gyfrifoldeb statudol dros letya a lles plant mewn angen yn eu hardaloedd, beth bynnag y bo'u statws?

Edwina Hart: Yr ateb syml i'r cwestiwn hwnnw yw ‘oes’. Dyna fy nealltwriaeth i o'r sefyllfa gyfreithiol mewn perthynas ag awdurdodau lleol. Gwnaf yr ymholiadau angenrheidiol rhag ofn bod unrhyw wahaniaethau o safbwynt plant ceiswyr lloches.

Alun Pugh: Nos Sul, mynychais wasanaeth eglwys ym Mae Colwyn a gynhaliwyd gan Amnest Rhyngwladol, a oedd yn manylu ar rai anghyfiawnderau erchyll o ran hawliau dynol. A ymunwch â mi i gondemnio'r sawl sydd yn ceisio defnyddio'r mater hwn i greu casineb yn erbyn pobl sydd yn ffoi rhag erledigaeth?

Edwina Hart: Dymunwn yn glir gondemnio unrhyw un sydd yn gwneud sylwadau a ysgoga gasineb hiliol yn erbyn ceiswyr lloches. Sylweddolwn fod ceiswyr lloches yn ffoi rhag tlodi, rhyfel ac argyfyngau eraill. Mae'n bwysig fod ein barn egwyddorol ar hyn yn parhau. Mynegodd aelodau

receiving updates and have welcomed the fact that I am responding to queries today and continuing to update them on issues arising.

ddiddordeb mewn derbyn y newyddion diweddaraf a chroesawsant y ffaith fy mod yn ymateb i ymholiadau heddiw ac yn parhau i roi'r newyddion diweddaraf iddynt ar faterion sydd yn codi.

Pwyntiau o Drefn Points of Order

Alun Cairns: Point of order. I draw your attention to a press release that was distributed by Gallery News today informing us that James Wallace, the Deputy First Minister of the Scottish Parliament is to be made a Privy Councillor. Should we be preparing to call the leader of the Liberal Democrats here, the Right Honourable Michael German?

Alun Cairns: Pwynt o drefn. Tynnaf eich sylw at ddatganiad i'r wasg a ddosbarthwyd gan Gallery News heddiw i'n hysbysu bod James Wallace, Dirprwy Brif Weinidog Senedd yr Alban i'w wneud yn Gyfrin Gynghorwr. A ddylem ymbaratoi i gyfarch arweinydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yma fel y Gwir Anrhydeddus Michael German?

The Presiding Officer: I am pleased to say that I have no responsibility whatsoever for what appears in the news media. Neither do I have responsibility for the nomination of Privy Councillors, yet.

Y Llywydd: Pleser gennyf yw nodi nad oes gennyf unrhyw gyfrifoldeb o gwbl dros yr hyn a ymddengys yn y cyfryngau newyddiadurol. Nid wyf ychwaith yn gyfrifol am enwebu Cyfrin Gynghorwyr, eto.

Jonathan Morgan: I raise a point of order under Standing Order No. 6.8 relating to statements by Assembly Ministers. Has the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning been asked to offer a full statement of apology to the Assembly and to the teaching unions and profession? Last week, a letter was issued to Alan Jones, the director of the National Association of Head Teachers in Wales explaining the funding mechanism for education in Wales. I will quote the offensive statement:

Jonathan Morgan: Codaf bwynt o drefn o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.8 yn ymwneud â datganiadau gan Weinidogion Cynulliad. A ofynnwyd i'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes i gynnig datganiad llawn o ymddiheuriad i'r Cynulliad ac i'r undebau a'r proffesiwn addysgu? Yr wythnos diwethaf, anfonwyd llythyr at Alan Jones, cyfarwyddwr Cymdeithas Genedlaethol y Prifathrawon yng Nghymru yn egluro'r dull ariannu ar gyfer addysg yng Nghymru. Dyfynnaf y datganiad tramgwyddus:

'funding for education, as with other local government services, is made to the revenue support grant and not in plain brown envelopes to head teachers.'

To my mind, Presiding Officer, this language is deeply offensive to head teachers throughout Wales who pride themselves on the effective management of their schools. It will do nothing to enhance the Assembly's relationship with the teaching profession, particularly for teachers who feel aggrieved at this attitude. Will the Minister issue a statement under Standing Order No. 6.8 to apologise to this Assembly and to teachers in Wales?

Yn fy marn i, Lywydd, mae'r iaith hon yn dramgwyddus iawn i benaethiaid ledled Cymru sydd yn ymfalchïo yn eu gallu i reoli eu hysgolion yn effeithiol. Ni wnaiff ddim i wella perthynas y Cynulliad â'r proffesiwn addysgu, yn arbennig ar gyfer athrawon sydd wedi eu siomi â'r agwedd hon. A fydd y Gweinidog yn cyhoeddi datganiad o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.8 i ymddiheuro i'r Cynulliad hwn ac i athrawon yng Nghymru?

The Presiding Officer: The content of ministerial correspondence is not a matter of order for me in this Chamber, neither is the issue of whether or not Ministers make statements, although I always welcome the offer of statements from Ministers in this Chamber. However, the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning can read the record and if she wishes to respond, she will be allowed to do so at our next Plenary session or later today.

The First Minister: Further to that point of order, Jane Davidson is not present at the moment. I do not know whether Jonathan gave her notice that he would raise that point of order, but I am certain that no slur was intended.

Alun Pugh: I raise a point of order under Standing Order No. 4.4. In the *News of the World*, there is a column that should be entitled 'Ieuan's Weekly Whinge'. I am certainly not alleging that any of Mr Murdoch's money has found its way into Mr Jones's pocket. I make no complaint that a US national is financing Plaid Cymru's private office, after all, US financing for the Party of Wales is not new, but it should have been declared within four weeks. Will you investigate?

The Presiding Officer: I do not read the *News of the World*, and I do not intend to do so. However, matters of standards should be reported directly to the independent adviser on standards, who will investigate them.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Further to that point of order, that column is registered in the Assembly Members' register of interests.

The Presiding Officer: I am not interested in the *News of the World* at all. I will investigate the issue of registration. However, matters of standards are to be reported directly to our independent adviser on standards, and I would be grateful if Alun Pugh would do so because these matters cannot be discussed usefully in Plenary unless the points of order are intended for

Y Llywydd: Nid yw cynnwys gohebiaeth weinidogol yn fater o drefn i mi yn y Siambr hon, na'r mater o pa un ai a yw Gweinidogion yn gwneud datganiadau, er fy mod bob amser yn croesawu cynigion o ddatganiadau gan Weinidogion yn y Siambr hon. Fodd bynnag, gall y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ddarllen y cofnod ac os dymuna ymateb, caniateir iddi wneud hynny yn ein Cyfarfod Llawn nesaf neu'n ddiweddarach heddiw.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ymhellach i'r pwynt hwnnw o drefn, nid yw Jane Davidson yn bresennol ar hyn o bryd. Ni wn a roddodd Jonathan rybudd iddi y byddai'n codi'r pwynt hwnnw o drefn, ond yr wyf yn siŵr na fwriadwyd unrhyw dramgwydd.

Alun Pugh: Codaf bwynt o drefn o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 4.4. Yn y *News of the World*, mae colofn a ddylai ddwyn y teitl 'Cwyn Wythnosol Ieuan'. Yn sicr nid wyf yn honni bod unrhyw arian gan Mr Murdoch yn mynd i boced Mr Jones. Ni chwynaf fod un o ddinasyddion yr Unol Daleithiau yn ariannu swyddfa breifat Plaid Cymru, wedi'r cwbl, nid yw arian o'r Unol Daleithiau i Blaid Cymru yn newydd, ond dylid fod wedi ei ddatgan o fewn pedair wythnos. A ymchwiliwch i hyn?

Y Llywydd: Ni ddarllenaf y *News of the World*, ac ni fwriadaf wneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, dylid cofnodi materion sydd yn ymwneud â safonau yn uniongyrchol gyda'r cynghorydd annibynnol ar safonau, a fydd yn ymchwilio iddynt.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Ymhellach i'r pwynt hwnnw o drefn, mae'r golofn honno wedi ei chofrestru yng nghofrestr buddiannau Aelodau'r Cynulliad.

Y Llywydd: Nid oes gennyf unrhyw ddiddordeb yn y *News of the World*. Ymchwiliaf i'r mater o gofrestru. Fodd bynnag, dylid cofnodi materion sydd yn ymwneud â safonau yn uniongyrchol gyda'n cynghorydd annibynnol ar safonau, a byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gwnâi Alun Pugh hynny gan na ellir trafod y materion hyn yn ddefnyddiol yn y Cyfarfod Llawn oni

another purpose.

Brian Gibbons: Further to Alun Cairns's point of order, I appreciate its frivolous and provocative spirit, but I query the fact that you did not rule on its appropriateness. Not under any conceivable stretching of the rules and your indulgence could Alun Cairns's point of order have been in order. I am surprised that you did not reprimand him for raising a point that was so obviously irrelevant to the Assembly's Standing Orders.

2:50 p.m.

Alun Cairns: Further to my point of order, if anyone was insulted by my comments, I apologise out of respect to you as Chair.

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful for the generous tone of your apology.

fwriedir y pwyntiau o drefn at ddiben arall.

Brian Gibbons: Ymhellach i bwynt o drefn Alun Cairns, gwerthfawrogaf ei ysbryd hwyliog a chellweirus, ond ni ddeallaf pam na wnaethoch ddyfarniad ar ei briodolrwydd. Ni allai pwynt o drefn Alun Cairns fod wedi bod mewn trefn mewn unrhyw ffordd, hyd yn oed drwy ymestyn y rheolau a'ch goddefgarwch chi. Synnaf na ddywedasochoch y drefn wrtho am godi pwynt a oedd mor amlwg yn amherthnasol i Reolau Sefydlog y Cynulliad.

Alun Cairns: Ymhellach i'm pwynt o drefn, os achoswyd tramgwydd i unrhyw un gan fy sylwadau, ymddiheuraf o barch ichi fel Cadeirydd.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am naws garedig eich ymddiheuriad.

Datganiad Busnes Business Statement

The Minister for Assembly Business (Andrew Davies): Business for the next three weeks is as follows. Business on Tuesday, 19 December will include a composite motion to approve two items of subordinate legislation, a motion to approve a Special Grant Report for the Leadership Pay Costs and School Improvement Measures 2000-01, and a debate on the Queen's Speech. The Assembly will be in recess between 20 December and 10 January. Business on 11 January is as I reported last week. On Tuesday, 16 January, there will be two items of subordinate legislation to approve a debate on the former Post-16 Education and Training Committee's report on arts and culture policy in Wales and a debate on a motion proposed by Plaid Cymru. Business on Thursday, 18 January, will include a debate on consultation and participation, which will involve reviewing and implementing the more open and inclusive way of working with our partners and other stakeholders outside the Assembly. Finally, on the Business Committee's advice this morning, the Deputy Presiding Officer

Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Mae'r busnes ar gyfer y tair wythnos nesaf fel a ganlyn. Bydd y busnes ar ddydd Mawrth, 19 Rhagfyr yn cynnwys cynnig cyfansawdd i gymeradwyo dwy eitem o is-ddeddfwriaeth, cynnig i gymeradwyo Adroddiad Grant Arbennig ar gyfer Costau Cyflogau Arweinwyr a Mesurau Gwella Ysgolion 2000-01, a dadl ar Araith y Frenhines. Bydd y Cynulliad yn cael toriad rhwng 20 Rhagfyr a 10 Ionawr. Bydd y busnes ar 11 Ionawr fel y nodais yr wythnos diwethaf. Ddydd Mawrth, 16 Ionawr, bydd dwy eitem o is-ddeddfwriaeth i'w cymeradwyo, dadl ar adroddiad y cyn Bwyllgor Addysg a Hyfforddiant Ôl-16 ar bolisi celfyddydau a diwylliant yng Nghymru a dadl ar gynnig a gynigir gan Blaid Cymru. Bydd busnes ar ddydd Iau, 18 Ionawr, yn cynnwys dadl ar ymgynghori a chyfranogi, a fydd yn cynnwys adolygu a gweithredu'r ffordd fwy agored a chynhwysol o weithio gyda'n partneriaid a budd-ddeiliaid eraill y tu allan i'r Cynulliad. Yn olaf, ar gyngor y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma, penderfynodd y Dirprwy Lywydd, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 22.5, nad oes

determined, in accordance with Standing Order No. 22.5, that the following items of subordinate legislation need not be referred to a Subject Committee: the Care Standards Act 2000 (Commencement No. 2 and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Order 2001, the Children's Homes Amendment (Wales) Regulations 2001 and the Feeding Stuffs (Wales) Regulations 2001. Arrangement will be made to post a copy of this statement to the intranet and the internet later today.

William Graham: We were told in Business Committee this morning that Mr Michael German will not take part in the debate on the Queen's Speech as Minister for Economic Development, but as the leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats. Does that mean that the Assembly will be denied the opportunity of proper questioning?

Andrew Davies: I am rather lost by the reasoning behind William's question. It was made clear in the Business Committee this morning that Mike German would be able to take part in the debate. His party's business manager made that point. I am perplexed by that question.

The Presiding Officer: Because of my generous temper this afternoon, I will allow William Graham to comment further even though the Standing Orders do not allow it.

William Graham: Llywydd, I am grateful for your indulgence today. You must also be in the recreational mood that was mentioned earlier. To clarify my comment, if Mr German will not ask questions as Minister for Economic Development, he will not ask questions on economic development, which is allegedly his field of competence, but will ask questions as the leader of a political party.

Andrew Davies: Mike German's business manager made that clear this morning.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Ynglŷn â sefyllfa Mike German yn y ddadl hon, os yw'n gweithredu fel arweinydd y Democratiaid

angen cyfeirio'r eitemau canlynol o is-ddeddfwriaeth i Bwyllgor Pwnc: Gorchymyn Deddf Safonau Gofal 2000 (Cychwyn Rhif 2 a Darpariaethau Trosiannol) (Cymru) 2001, Rheoliadau Diwygio Cartrefi Plant (Cymru) 2001 a Rheoliadau Porthiant (Cymru) 2001. Trefnir i gopi o'r datganiad hwn gael ei osod ar y fewnwyd a'r rhyngwyd yn ddiweddarach heddiw.

William Graham: Dywedwyd wrthym yn y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma na fydd Mr Michael German yn cymryd rhan yn y ddadl ar Araith y Frenhines fel Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd, ond fel arweinydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru. A olyga hynny na chaiff y Cynulliad y cyfle i holi cwestiynau'n gywir?

Andrew Davies: Nid wyf yn siŵr o'r rhesymeg y tu ôl i gwestiwn William. Eglurwyd yn y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma y gallai Mike German gymryd rhan yn y ddadl. Rheolwr busnes ei blaid a wnaeth y pwynt hwnnw. Yr wyf wedi'm drysu gan y cwestiwn hwnnw.

Y Llywydd: Gan fy mod mewn tymer garedig y prynhawn yma, caniatâf i William Graham roi sylwadau pellach er nad yw'r Rheolau Sefydlog yn caniatáu hynny.

William Graham: Lywydd, yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich goddefgarwch heddiw. Tybiaf eich bod chi hefyd yn yr hwyliau hamddenol a grybwyllwyd yn gynharach. I egluro fy sylw, os na fydd Mr German yn holi cwestiynau fel Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd, ni fydd yn holi cwestiynau ar ddatblygu economaidd, sef ei faes honedig o fedruswydd, ond bydd yn holi cwestiynau fel arweinydd plaid wleidyddol.

Andrew Davies: Eglurodd rheolwr busnes Mike German hynny y bore yma.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: On Mike German's position in this debate, if he acts as leader of the Liberal Democrats, does that mean that

Rhyddfrydol, a yw hynny'n golygu ei fod, am y diwrnod hwnnw, yn ymddiswyddo o'i gyfrifoldebau fel Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Dirprwy Brif Weinidog? A yw hynny'n golygu ei fod yn rhoi heibio ei gyflog am y diwrnod hwnnw? Pa fath o gynsail y mae hynny'n ei osod ar gyfer trafodaethau yn y Siambr? Hoffwn wybod pryd y mae Mike German yn Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog ac yn Weinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a phryd y mae'n arweinydd gwrthblaid. Mae hyn yn codi pob math o gwestiynau a dibynnaf ar eich doethineb, Lywydd, i benderfynu ar y materion hyn.

Kirsty Williams: I realise that the Welsh Conservatives and Plaid Cymru have difficulties in understanding the concept of partnership government. I tried to use the forum of the Business Committee this morning to avoid the kind of spectacle now displayed by the opposition parties. The issue was clarified in the Business Committee this morning and accepted by everyone present. I am surprised that William Graham did not see fit to make these comments then—

The First Minister: It took him a long time to think of any comments.

Kirsty Williams: I appreciate that it takes time for some people to think of ideas. However, as stated in the Business Committee this morning, Mike German will make it clear in his questions to the Secretary of State for Wales whether he speaks in his capacity as leader of the Liberal Democrats or as the Minister for Economic Development. I am sure that when he does so, everyone in this Chamber will be able to understand.

Andrew Davies: Kirsty clarified that point eloquently.

The purpose of the Business Committee is to try to resolve these issues in Committee. It has always been made clear that the business statement is not an opportunity for other parties, including their business managers, to raise issues. Those concerns, as Kirsty indicated, should have been made strongly in Business Committee, but no indication was

on that day he will resign from his responsibilities as Minister for Economic Development and Deputy First Minister? Does that mean that he will forego his salary for that day? What kind of precedent does that set for discussions in the Chamber? I would like to know when Mike German is Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development and when he is leader of an opposition party. This raises all kinds of questions and I rely on your wisdom, Presiding Officer, to decide on these matters.

Kirsty Williams: Sylweddolaf fod Ceidwadwyr Cymru a Phlaid Cymru yn ei chael hi'n anodd deall y cysyniad o lywodraeth bartneriaeth. Ceisiais ddefnyddio fforwm y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma i osgoi'r math o sioe a gynhelir yn awr gan y gwrthbleidiau. Eglurwyd y mater yn y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma ac fe'i derbyniwyd gan bawb a oedd yn bresennol. Synnaf na wnaeth William Graham y sylwadau hyn bryd hynny—

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cymerodd amser hir iddo feddwl am unrhyw sylwadau.

Kirsty Williams: Gwerthfawrogaf ei bod yn cymryd amser i rai pobl feddwl am syniadau. Fodd bynnag, fel y nodwyd yn y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma, bydd Mike German yn ei gwneud yn glir yn ei gwestiynau i Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru pa un ai a yw'n siarad yn ei rinwedd fel arweinydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol neu fel y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd. Yr wyf yn siŵr pan wnaiff hynny, y bydd pawb yn y Siambr hon yn gallu deall.

Andrew Davies: Eglurodd Kirsty y pwyt hwnnw yn huawdl.

Diben y Pwyllgor Busnes yw ceisio datrys y materion hyn yn y Pwyllgor. Eglurwyd o'r cychwyn nad cyfle i bleidiau eraill, gan gynnwys eu rheolwyr busnes, i godi materion yw'r datganiad busnes. Dylai'r pryderon hynny, fel y nododd Kirsty, fod wedi eu lleisio'n gryf yn y Pwyllgor Busnes, ond ni roddwyd unrhyw arwydd bod rheolwyr

given that the opposition parties' business managers wished to do so. busnes y gwrthbleidiau yn dymuno gwneud hynny.

*Derbyniwyd y datganiad busnes.
Business statement adopted.*

Cynnig Cyfansawdd i Gymeradwyo Rheoliadau Composite Motion to Approve Regulations

The Minister for Assembly Business (Andrew Davies): I propose that **Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies):** Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly, acting under Standing Order No. 22.25 y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan weithredu yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 22.25:

approves the Individual Learning Accounts (Wales) Regulations 2000 laid in the Table Office on 17 November 2000; and yn cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Cyfrifon Dysgu Unigol (Cymru) 2000, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Tachwedd 2000; ac

considers the report of the Legislation Committee which has not identified any matters for concern in the draft Order, the Individual Learning Accounts (Wales) Regulations 2000, laid in the Table Office 29 November 2000; yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau nad yw wedi darganfod unrhyw faterion sydd yn peri pryder yn y Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Cyfrifon Dysgu Unigol (Cymru) 2000, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 29 Tachwedd 2000;

approves the Non-Domestic Rating (Telecommunications Apparatus) (Wales) Regulations 2000 laid in the Table Office on 17 November 2000; and yn cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Ardrethu Annomestig (Offer Telathrebu) (Cymru) 2000, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Tachwedd 2000; ac

considers the report of the Legislation Committee which has not identified any matters for concern in the draft Order, the Non-Domestic Rating (Telecommunications Apparatus) (Wales) Regulations 2000, laid in the Table Office 29 November 2000; yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau nad yw wedi darganfod unrhyw faterion sydd yn peri pryder yn y Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Ardrethu Annomestig (Offer Telathrebu) (Cymru) 2000, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 29 Tachwedd 2000;

approves the Non-Domestic Rating Contributions (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2000 laid in the Table Office on 17 November 2000; and yn cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Cyfraniadau Ardrethu Annomestig (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2000, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Tachwedd 2000; ac

considers the report of the Legislation Committee which has not identified any matters for concern in the draft Order, the Non-Domestic Rating Contributions (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2000, laid in the Table Office 29 November 2000. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau nad yw wedi darganfod unrhyw faterion sydd yn peri pryder yn y Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Cyfraniadau Ardrethu Annomestig (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2000, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 29 Tachwedd 2000.

Cynnig: O blaid 42, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 42, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
Feld, Val
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion adopted*

**Cymeradwyo Trosglwyddiadau'r Flwyddyn yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 19.5
Approval of In-year Transfers in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.5**

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): I propose that
Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Edwina Hart): Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.5, approves the changes to budgets across main expenditure groups for the financial year
yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 19.5, yn cymeradwyo'r newidiadau i'r cyllidebau ar draws y prif grwpiau gwariant ar gyfer

2000-01, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on Monday, 4 December by the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities, Edwina Hart; and

notes the explanatory note entitled 'Proposed Changes To Budgets Across Main Expenditure Groups For The Financial Year 2000-2001' which was laid in the Table Office on Monday 4 December 2000.

Features of the above changes are set out in tables attached to the motion and the accompanying notes.

This is one of a series of motions that I propose to the Assembly every year to explain necessary changes to the budget in year. The changes are often of a technical nature and this is one of those occasions when I have added more resources to the budget. Over £140 million is added to the Assembly's budget for the current financial year, which is a significant amount. The bulk of that is carried forward from previous financial years.

It is worth reminding Members of the carry-forward arrangements. In my written statement to the Assembly on 12 July, I informed Members that the total amount of resources that were carried forward from previous financial years was £232 million, £90 million of which was carried forward for financial years 1998-99 and £142 million for 1999-2000. It is the Assembly's money to use at our discretion. We do not have to draw it all down at once as it can be rolled forward to future financial years. When we decide how much we require at any given time, we will advise the Treasury and it will be added to our departmental expenditure limits. The resulting change to the parliamentary estimate is voted on by the UK Parliament and those are winter or spring supplementary estimates.

As part of my written statement on 12 July, I provided tables to show how, at that time, I proposed to allocate the resources. Not all of

blwyddyn ariannol 2000-01, y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ddydd Llun 4 Rhagfyr gan y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau, Edwina Hart;

yn nodi'r nodyn esboniadol, 'Newidiadau Argymelledig i Gyllidebau ar Draws y Prif Grwpiau Gwariant ar gyfer Blwyddyn Ariannol 2000-2001', a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ddydd Llun 4 Rhagfyr 2000.

Nodir nodweddion y newidiadau uchod yn y tablau sydd yn atodedig i'r cynnig a'r nodiadau ategol.

Mae hon yn un o gyfres o gynigion a gynigiau i'r Cynulliad bob blwyddyn i egluro newidiadau angenrheidiol i gyllideb y flwyddyn. Yn aml, mae'r newidiadau o natur dechnegol a dyma un o'r achlysuron hynny lle yr wyf wedi ychwanegu mwy o adnoddau i'r gyllideb. Ychwanegir dros £140 miliwn i gyllideb y Cynulliad ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol gyfredol, sydd yn swm sylweddol. Caiff y rhan fwyaf ohono ei gario drosodd o flynyddoedd ariannol blaenorol.

Mae'n werth atgoffa'r Aelodau o'r trefniadau cario drosodd. Yn fy natganiad ysgrifenedig i'r Cynulliad ar 12 Gorffennaf, hysbysais yr Aelodau mai £232 miliwn oedd cyfanswm yr adnoddau a gariwyd drosodd o flynyddoedd ariannol blaenorol, ac y carwyd £90 miliwn ohono drosodd ar gyfer y blynyddoedd ariannol 1998-99 a £142 miliwn ar gyfer 1999-2000. Arian y Cynulliad ydyw i'w ddefnyddio yn ôl ein disgrisiwn. Nid oes rhaid inni ei ddefnyddio i gyd ar unwaith oherwydd gellir ei gario drosodd i flynyddoedd ariannol yn y dyfodol. Pan benderfynwn faint sydd ei angen arnom ar unrhyw adeg benodol, hysbyswn y Trysorlys ac fe'i hychwanegir at ein terfynau gwariant adrannol. Mae Senedd y DU yn pleidleisio ar y newid dilynol i amcangyfrif y Senedd, sef amcangyfrifon ategol y gaeaf neu'r gwanwyn.

Fel rhan o'm datganiad ysgrifenedig ar 12 Gorffennaf, darparais dablau i nodi sut, bryd hynny, y bwriadwn ddyrannu'r adnoddau.

the developments listed are ready to spend the money allocated to them and some no longer need the amount of resources that were previously agreed. As a result, the changes to the main expenditure groups, which are the subject of this motion, include over £99 million of the money carried forward. Of the remainder, I have already informed the Assembly of my plans to spend a further £55 million of the carry-forward to add to the package of proposals set up in the budget, which has now been adopted. This leaves a balance of £77 million, most of which has been earmarked for commitments that have already been identified. For example, £28 million is related to health expenditure and will be used during this financial year and the next one. It may be necessary to draw down further carry-forward later in this financial year, and I will bring proposals to the Assembly at that time.

3:00 p.m.

Before leaving the subject of carry-forward, I will make a few comments on underspending. With a budget of over £8 billion, rising to over £11 billion, it is inevitable that underspending will occur. For example, expenditure on capital projects often slips because poor weather and demand-led expenditure is difficult to estimate precisely. An underspend of £142 million is less than 2 per cent of the total Assembly budget. We must put that into context. This is a good outcome as regards how we manage money.

I will always seek to ensure that the level of underspending is kept to a minimum. We encourage budget holders to spend up to their budgets, subject to need, and we monitor the position closely. We do not set out to create an underspend. However, for the reasons that I have given, underspends can occur. I would rather underspend than return to the old arrangements, whereby there was a rush to spend at the end of the financial year, with some of the expenditure incurred providing little or no value for money. The Assembly has complete end of year flexibility to carry forward all underspending on its departmental expenditure limit assigned

Nid yw'r holl ddatblygiadau a restrir yn barod i wario'r arian a ddyrannwyd iddynt ac nid oes angen y swm o adnoddau y cytunwyd arno'n flaenorol ar rai ohonynt. O ganlyniad, mae'r newidiadau i'r prif grwpiau gwariant, sef testun y cynnig hwn, yn cynnwys dros £99 miliwn o'r arian sydd yn cael ei gario drosodd. O'r gweddill, yr wyf eisoes wedi hysbysu'r Cynulliad o'm cynlluniau i wario £55 miliwn arall o'r arian a gariwyd drosodd i ychwanegu at y pecyn o gynigion a sefydlwyd yn y gyllideb, sydd erbyn hyn wedi ei dderbyn. Mae £77 miliwn yn weddill, y mae'r rhan fwyaf ohono wedi ei glustnodi ar gyfer ymrwymadau a nodwyd eisoes. Er enghraifft, mae £28 miliwn yn ymwneud â gwariant iechyd ac fe'i defnyddir yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol hon a'r un nesaf. Efallai y bydd angen defnyddio mwy o arian a gariwyd drosodd yn ddiweddarach yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol hon, a chyflwynaf gynigion i'r Cynulliad bryd hynny.

Cyn gadael y pwnc o gario arian drosodd, hoffwn wneud rhai sylwadau ar danwario. Gyda chyllideb o dros £8 biliwn, yn cynyddu i dros £11 biliwn, mae'n anochel y ceir tanwario. Er enghraifft, mae gwariant ar brosiectau cyfalaf yn aml yn methu oherwydd tywydd garw ac mae gwariant ar sail galw yn anodd i'w amcangyfrif yn fanwl gywir. Mae tanwariant o £142 miliwn yn llai na 2 y cant o gyfanswm cyllideb y Cynulliad. Rhaid inni roi hynny yn ei gyd-destun. Mae hwn yn ganlyniad da o ran sut y rheolwn arian.

Byddaf bob amser yn ceisio sicrhau y cedwir y lefel o danwario i'w hisafswm. Anogwn ddeiliaid cyllidebau i wario eu cyllidebau, yn amodol ar angen, ac yr ydym yn monitro'r sefyllfa'n fanwl. Nid ydym yn bwriadu creu tanwariant. Fodd bynnag, am y rhesymau a roddais, gall tanwario ddigwydd. Byddai'n well gennyf danwario na dychwelyd i'r hen drefniadau, lle yr oedd rhuthr i wario ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn ariannol, gyda rhywfaint o'r gwariant a gafwyd yn rhoi gwerth bach am arian, os o gwbl. Mae gan y Cynulliad hyblygrwydd diwedd blwyddyn llawn i gario'r holl danwariant drosodd ar ei gyllidebau terfynau penodedig ar gyfer

budgets. That allows us to manage resources far more effectively, as illustrated recently by the need to find resources to meet the costs of the floods. There must be sufficient flexibility in the system to be able to switch underspend to areas of need. The current arrangements provide for that.

The other changes in the main expenditure groups result in transfers to and from Government departments and a claim on the reserve. Details are included in the notes accompanying the motion. I commend the motion to the National Assembly.

Phil Williams: We were told when we were young that, if there was a loose thread on a garment, we should never pull it or the whole garment may unravel. In considering the Government's budget, the end of year flexibility is the loose thread. I will give it a gentle tug.

The introduction of end of year flexibility was an advance. It ensures more open government and allows a better use of finance. However, it encourages delay in expenditure and therefore introduces an element of underspending. In the summer of 1999, we learnt that, at the end of 1998-99, there was an accumulated underspend of £180 million. Part of that was reallocated to the 1999-2000 budget. Edwina will remember that, from January onwards, I made myself a bit of a pest by asking her department for its estimates of the likely underspend for 1999-2000. I was told that no estimate could be given until near the end of the year. That is strange. By January, the Government should have a clear idea of the likely outcome of expenditure. It should certainly be aware of any slippage in spending on major projects.

We now know the answer to my question. Of the old underspend, £90 million is still unspent. In addition, there was a £142 million underspend on the 1999-2000 budget. Therefore, at the end of the financial year, we had an accumulated underspend of £232 million. That is an increase of over £50

gwariant adrannol. Mae hynny'n ein galluogi i reoli adnoddau yn llawer mwy effeithiol, fel y dangoswyd yn ddiweddar gan yr angen i ddod o hyd i adnoddau i dalu costau'r llywodraeth. Rhaid cael hyblygrwydd digonol yn y system i allu symud tanwariant i feysydd lle ceir angen. Darpara'r trefniadau cyfredol ar gyfer hynny.

Arweinir newidiadau eraill yn y prif grwpiau gwariant at drosglwyddo i adrannau'r Llywodraeth ac oddi wrthynt a chais i'r gronfa wrth gefn. Cynhwysir manylion yn y nodiadau sydd yn cyd-fynd â'r cynnig. Cymeradwyaf y cynnig i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

Phil Williams: Dywedwyd wrthym pan oeddem yn ifanc na ddylem fyth dynnu darn o edau rhydd ar ddilledyn gan y gallai ddatod y dilledyn cyfan. Wrth ystyried cyllideb y Llywodraeth, darn o edau rhydd yw'r hyblygrwydd diwedd blwyddyn. Tynnaf yn ysgafn arno.

Yr oedd cyflwyno hyblygrwydd diwedd blwyddyn yn ddatblygiad. Mae'n sicrhau llywodraeth fwy agored ac yn galluogi i gyllid gael ei ddefnyddio'n well. Fodd bynnag, mae'n annog oedi mewn gwariant ac felly'n cyflwyno elfen o danwario. Yn ystod haf 1999, dysgasom y cafwyd tanwariant cronedig o £180 miliwn ar ddiwedd 1998-99. Ailddyrannwyd rhan ohono i gyllideb 1999-2000. Bydd Edwina yn cofio, o fis Ionawr ymlaen, imi boenydio ei hadran drwy ofyn am ei hancangyfrifon o'r gwariant tebygol ar gyfer 1999-2000. Dywedwyd wrthyf na ellid rhoi amcangyfrif tan yn agos at ddiwedd y flwyddyn. Rhyfedd o beth yw hynny. Erbyn Ionawr, dylai fod gan y Llywodraeth syniad clir o ganlyniad tebygol gwariant. Yn sicr, dylai fod yn ymwybodol o unrhyw newid yn y gwariant ar brosiectau mawr.

Erbyn hyn, gwyddom yr ateb i'm cwestiwn. O'r hen danwariant, mae £90 miliwn heb ei wario o hyd. Yn ogystal, cafwyd tanwariant o £142 miliwn ar gyllideb 1999-2000. Felly, ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn ariannol, yr oeddem wedi cronni tanwariant o £232 miliwn. Mae hynny'n gynydd o dros £50 miliwn mewn

million in one year. The total represents over 3 per cent of our budget. In a European context, that is a large reserve. Any modern management should have sufficient forward planning to be able to advance future expenditure to compensate for a delay in any current plans. Will Hutton, in a recent article in *The Observer*, pointed out that an accumulated underspend is a form of surplus budgeting. As someone who refuses to reject everything that Keynes said, I do not believe that now is the time for surplus budgeting in Wales.

I have three questions for Edwina. First, why was the underspend so high and, in particular, why was there a £45 million underspend on health? Surely, in a service that suffers chronically and acutely from underspend, there are projects that are ready to go ahead and are only held back by budget limitations. Secondly, what is the process for the reallocation of underspend?

I recently asked a similar question in the Economic Development Committee, expecting a simple answer, only to be told that I would get an answer in January. I wanted to know to what extent money that has been allocated for the European regional development fund is ring-fenced, because that is what we were told. Who made that decision? Even more importantly, who made the decision that, of the £232 million accumulated reserve on underspend, only £155 million—I think—has now been allocated? I am not sure of the figures—they seem to change. In July, we were promised that £199 million would be allocated, so our planned underspend has increased from £35 million to £77 million in only a few months. Over that same period, however, when we proposed that the damping grants for local government should be increased from £3.9 million to £11 million, we were told that the money was not available.

This leads to my third, and perhaps most important point. To what extent do we rely on this accumulated underspend this year, next year, and the year after to fill the gap

blwyddyn. Cynrychiola'r cyfanswm dros 3 y cant o'n cyllideb. Mewn cyd-destun Ewropeaidd, mae hynny'n gronfa fawr wrth gefn. Dylai fod gan unrhyw reolwyr modern system ddigonol o flaengynllunio i allu defnyddio gwariant ar gyfer y dyfodol i ddigolledu am oedi i unrhyw gynlluniau cyfredol. Nododd Will Hutton, mewn erthygl ddiweddar yn *The Observer*, mai ffurf ar gyllidebu gwarged yw tanwariant cronedig. Fel rhywun sydd yn gwrthod diystyru popeth a ddywedodd Keynes, ni chredaf mai yn awr yw'r amser ar gyfer cyllidebu gwarged yng Nghymru.

Mae gennyf dri chwestiwn i Edwina. Yn gyntaf, pam oedd y tanwariant mor uchel ac, yn benodol, pam oedd tanwariant o £45 miliwn ar iechyd? Rhaid bod prosiectau sydd yn barod i'w datblygu ac sydd yn cael eu dal yn ôl gan gyfyngiadau cyllidebol mewn gwasanaeth sydd yn dioddef yn barhaus ac yn enbyd o danwario. Yn ail, beth yw'r broses ar gyfer ailddyrrannu tanwariant?

Gofynnais gwestiwn tebyg yn y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd yn ddiweddar, gan ddisgwyl ateb syml, ond dywedwyd wrthyf y byddwn yn cael ateb yn Ionawr. Yr oeddwn am wybod i ba raddau y caiff arian a ddyrannwyd i'r gronfa datblygu rhanbarthol Ewropeaidd ei neilltuo, gan mai dyna a ddywedwyd wrthym. Pwy wnaeth y penderfyniad hwnnw? Yn bwysicach fyth, pwy wnaeth y penderfyniad mai dim ond £155 miliwn—fe gredaf—o'r gronfa gronedig o £232 miliwn ar danwario, sydd bellach wedi ei ddyrrannu? Nid wyf yn siŵr o'r ffigurau—ymddengys eu bod yn newid. Yng Ngorffennaf, addawyd y byddai £199 miliwn yn cael ei ddyrrannu, felly mae ein tanwariant arfaethedig wedi cynyddu o £35 miliwn i £77 miliwn mewn ychydig fisoedd. Fodd bynnag, yn ystod yr un cyfnod, pan gynigiasom y dylid cynyddu'r grantiau dampio ar gyfer llywodraeth leol o £3.9 miliwn i £11 miliwn, dywedwyd wrthym nad oedd yr arian ar gael.

Arweinïa hyn at fy nhrydydd pwynt, ac efallai y pwysicaf. I ba raddau y dibynnwn ar y tanwariant cronedig hwn eleni, y flwyddyn nesaf, a'r flwyddyn wedi hynny i lenwi'r

between the likely expenditure on European projects and the total allocated by Gordon Brown as a supplement to our Barnett expenditure? We will spend just under £80 million on European grants during this financial year. The Treasury will draw this money down from Europe, but Gordon Brown is only passing on £21 million. This shortfall, which is in the figures in front of you, has to be taken out of last year's underspend. If the Treasury refuses to pass on all the money that it draws down from Europe, which is transparently the case this year, as a result we must take money from our normal budget for health, education and local government to bridge the gap.

I have made this point frequently before. I am glad that, through Edwina, we have the transparency to see this in the figures. It may be a decision with which we all agree, but we must make it clear that, in deciding how we deal with a large underspend—Mike German confirmed that it would be used to support worthwhile projects in European funding—the Assembly as a whole must fully understand this.

Nick Bourne: I am in the awkward position of agreeing with both the previous speakers. I agree with the Minister for Finance on the need for carry-forward. Will she confirm that this problem, namely that money remains unspent at the end of a year, and that it is undesirable to spend all the money in a rush, has plagued previous Ministers and Secretaries of State for Wales? It is far better that it should be allowed to be carried forward. We are agreeing to transfers from one area to another and I support that element. As I said, I am in the surprising position of agreeing with the Minister for Finance as well as with Phil Williams—he is likely to prove a pest before January.

Peter Black: I sometimes wonder about the wisdom of Plaid Cymru in allowing an expert on black holes to speak for it on finance. Every time I listen to Phil discuss the budget, while he appears to be clear, he suddenly seems to be sucked into a great mass of

bwllch rhwng y gwariant tebygol ar brosiectau Ewropeaidd a'r cyfanswm a ddyrannwyd gan Gordon Brown i ategu ein gwariant Barnett? Byddwn yn gwario ychydig o dan £80 miliwn ar grantiau Ewropeaidd yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol hon. Bydd y Trysorlys yn derbyn yr arian hwn o Ewrop, ond dim ond £21 miliwn y mae Gordon Brown yn ei drosglwyddo. Rhaid i'r diffyg hwn, sydd yn y ffigurau ger eich bron, gael ei gymryd o danwariant y llynedd. Os gwrthoda'r Trysorlys drosglwyddo'r holl arian a ddaw o Ewrop, sef yr achos eleni, yn amlwg, o ganlyniad rhaid inni gymryd arian o'n cyllideb arferol ar gyfer iechyd, addysg a llywodraeth leol i bontio'r bwllch.

Gwneuthum y pwynt hwn yn aml cyn hyn. Yr wyf yn falch, drwy Edwina, bod gennym yr eglurder i weld hyn yn y ffigurau. Efallai ei fod yn benderfyniad y cytunwn oll ag ef, ond rhaid inni egluro, wrth benderfynu sut y deliwn â thanwariant mawr—cadarnhaodd Mike German y câi ei ddefnyddio i gynnal prosiectau gwerthfawr o ran ariannu Ewropeaidd—bod yn rhaid i'r Cynulliad fel cyfangorff ddeall hyn yn llawn.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf mewn sefyllfa anodd o gytuno â'r ddau siaradwr blaenorol. Cytunaf â'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid o ran yr angen i gario arian drosodd. A wnaiff gadarnhau bod y broblem hon, sef bod arian yn parhau heb ei wario ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn, ac nad yw'n ddymunol gwario'r holl arian ar frys, wedi achosi poendod i Weiniogion ac Ysgrifenyddion Gwladol Cymru yn y gorffennol? Mae'n llawer gwell caniatáu iddo gael ei gario drosodd. Cytunwn ar drosglwyddiadau o un maes i'r llall a chefnogaf yr elfen honno. Fel y dywedais, yr wyf mewn sefyllfa hynod o gytuno gyda'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid yn ogystal â Phil Williams—mae'n debygol o fod yn boen cyn mis Ionawr.

Peter Black: Amheufaf weithiau ddoethineb Plaid Cymru wrth ganiatáu i arbenigwr ar dyllau du siarad ar ei ran ar gyllid. Bob tro y gwrandawaf ar Phil yn trafod y gyllideb, er iddo ymddangos yn glir, yn sydyn ymddengys ei fod yn cael ei sugno i ryw

blackness and no longer seems to be as clear as he should be.

I welcome the carry-forwards that are noted in front of us. It is important that we have the flexibility that Edwina has outlined. I do not agree with Phil that we are talking about creating a reserve. When you are trying to administer a budget as large as that of the National Assembly, it is inevitable that there will be underspend, particularly on capital projects. It is also inevitable, given that we do not directly deliver the services for which that money pays, that those underspends must be carried forward on a year by year basis to ensure that that money is being spent. I am thankful that we are not in the situation that existed under previous Governments, when those underspends were sent back to Westminster. It is important that we keep them in the National Assembly, that we spend them in the National Assembly, and that we spend them on worthwhile projects that need to be carried out by us.

3:10 p.m.

Phil talked about how he would marshal the underspends that were at his disposal. He mentioned allocating extra money for the local government settlement. It is difficult to talk in those terms given the many pressures that the Assembly is under. Also, a number of these underspends are committed for specific projects that need to be carried forward to the following financial year. It is not as easy as saying that we have a £35 million underspend in one particular field that need to be carried forward, and then we will give so much extra to local government. A large amount of that underspend is money that has already been committed, or will be committed, for example, for health and social services, for transport, planning and the environment and for economic development, such as £62 million for the European regional development fund. That money must stay in the budget headings for which it has been committed. As Edwina said, that money must be kept for emergencies. The recent floods are a good example. When Edwina replies to the debate, will she give an indication of how much extra money she is

ddiŵch mawr gan ymddangos yn llai clir nag y dylai.

Croesawaf yr arian a gariwyd drosodd a nodir o'n blaenau. Mae'n bwysig cael yr hyblygrwydd a amlinellwyd gan Edwina. Ni chytunaf â Phil ein bod yn sôn am greu cronfa wrth gefn. Wrth geisio gweinyddu cyllideb mor fawr â chyllideb y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, mae'n anochel y bydd tanwario, yn arbennig ar brosiectau cyfalaf. Mae hefyd yn anochel, o gofio nad ydym yn cyflwyno'r gwasanaethau y mae'r arian hwnnw yn talu amdanynt yn uniongyrchol, bod yn rhaid cario'r tanwariant hwnnw drosodd flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn er mwyn sicrhau y caiff yr arian ei wario. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar nad ydym yn y sefyllfa a fodolai o dan Lywodraethau'r gorffennol, pan ddychwelwyd unrhyw danwariant i San Steffan. Mae'n bwysig inni eu cadw yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, eu gwario yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a'u gwario ar brosiectau gwerth chweil y mae angen inni eu datblygu.

Soniodd Phil am sut y byddai'n goruchwylio'r tanwariannau a oedd ar gael iddo. Crybwyllodd ddyrannu arian ychwanegol i'r setliad llywodraeth leol. Mae'n anodd siarad yn y termau hynny o gofio'r pwysau niferus ar y Cynulliad. Hefyd, mae nifer o'r tanwariannau hyn wedi eu neilltuo ar gyfer prosiectau penodol y mae angen eu cario drosodd i'r flwyddyn ariannol nesaf. Nid yw mor hawdd â dweud bod gennym danwariant o £35 miliwn mewn un maes penodol y mae angen ei gario drosodd, ac yna byddwn yn rhoi hyn a hyn yn ychwanegol i lywodraeth leol. Mae swm mawr o'r tanwariant hwnnw yn arian sydd eisoes wedi ei ddyrannu, neu a gaiff ei ddyrannu, er enghraifft, i iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, i drafnidiaeth, cynllunio a'r amgylchedd ac i ddatblygu economaidd, megis £62 miliwn i'r gronfa datblygu rhanbarthol Ewropeaidd. Rhaid i'r arian hwnnw aros o dan y penawdau cyllidebol a ddyrannwyd ar ei gyfer. Fel y dywedodd Edwina, rhaid i'r arian hwnnw gael ei gadw ar gyfer achosion brys. Mae'r llifogydd diweddar yn enghraifft dda. Pan

likely to be able to commit next year towards tackling the many flooding problems around Wales, and particularly, the need for capital projects that may arise as a result of that? The money may not be available now, but can we have an indication that Edwina will look at that? It would be helpful.

In relation to the documents that Edwina sent us, there was a reference to the £99 million that has already been approved for carry forward. I welcome the £952,000 that has been carried forward for homelessness and rough sleeping. That was an underspend this year. That money shows that the Assembly's commitment to tackle that issue continues. That money will be available next year, and, hopefully, we will be able to spend it next year and continue to tackle that particular evil—

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I wanted to allow you to finish your speech, but will you clarify whether you are now speaking as the Deputy Minister for Local Government, or as the Liberal Democrat spokesman?

Peter Black: I am sorry that you and the Conservatives want to play silly games today. As you well know from the guidance that has been issued to every Member, I speak as an individual Member of the Assembly, unless I say otherwise and I speak on behalf of the Government. I am sure that you knew that before you attempted to make mischief.

Alun Cairns: I thank the Minister for Finance for her statement. The carrying forward of any sum is regrettable, but when we play with large sums of money it is almost inevitable, particularly at this time of year. We will support the switch around and the move between budgets. Will the Minister for Finance use this opportunity to confirm that the carry-forward for which a former Secretary of State for Wales was criticised is the same kind of carry-forward that we now have? Will you clarify that once and for all?

fydd Edwina'n ymateb i'r ddadl, a rydd arwydd o faint o arian ychwanegol y mae'n debygol o allu ei ymrwymo y flwyddyn nesaf tuag at fynd i'r afael â'r problemau niferus yn ymwneud â llifogydd ledled Cymru, ac yn arbennig, yr angen am brosiectau cyfalaf a allai godi o ganlyniad i hynny? Efallai nad yw'r arian ar gael yn awr, ond a allwn gael arwydd y bydd Edwina yn ystyried hyn? Byddai'n ddefnyddiol.

Mewn perthynas â dogfennau a anfonwyd atom gan Edwina, cyfeiriwyd at y £99 miliwn a gymeradwywyd eisoes i'w gario drosodd. Croesawaf y £952,000 a gariwyd drosodd ar gyfer digartrefedd a phobl sydd yn cysgu ar y strydoedd. Yr oedd hynny'n danwariant eleni. Dengys yr arian hwnnw fod ymrwymiad y Cynulliad i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwnnw yn parhau. Bydd yr arian hwnnw ar gael y flwyddyn nesaf, a, gobeithio, gallwn ei wario'r flwyddyn nesaf a pharhau i fynd i'r afael â'r drygioni penodol hwnnw—

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr oeddwn am adael ichi orffen eich araith, ond a eglurwch a ydych yn siarad yn awr fel y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Lywodraeth Leol, neu fel llefarydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol?

Peter Black: Mae'n flin gennyf eich bod chi a'r Ceidwadwyr am chwarae gemau gwirion heddiw. Fel y gwyddoch o'r arweiniad a gyhoeddwyd i bob Aelod, siaradaf fel Aelod unigol o'r Cynulliad, oni nodaf yn wahanol a siaradaf ar ran y Llywodraeth. Mae'n siŵr eich bod yn gwybod hynny cyn ichi geisio creu drygioni.

Alun Cairns: Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid am ei datganiad. Mae cario unrhyw swm drosodd yn anffodus, ond pan fyddwn yn chwarae â symiau mawr o arian mae ymron yn anochel, yn arbennig yr adeg hon o'r flwyddyn. Cefnogwn y trosglwyddo a'r symud rhwng cyllidebau. A wnaiff y Gweinidog dros Gyllid fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn i gadarnhau bod y broses o gario arian drosodd sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd yr un peth â'r broses y beirniadwyd un o gyn Ysgrifenyddion Gwladol Cymru amdani? A wnewch egluro hynny unwaith ac am byth?

Edwina Hart: It is always nice to respond to a short, concise debate and one that was relatively well-informed. I will deal with the relatively well-informed part first. I am happy to confirm that rules exist regarding the carrying forward of money. I am always able to confirm that. However, it is only in recent years that the Treasury rules have changed to allow me to keep all the money in Wales. That is the significant difference. When I have a carry forward, with the departmental expenditure limits, that money stays in Wales. Different Treasury rules now apply. Treasury rules govern the arrangements with regard to money and any carry forward arrangements that we may have—

Glyn Davies: I accept what you are saying, but that is not the point. We all agree with the end of-year flexibility. However, we are discussing political criticism by members of the Labour Party and others in the past of a much smaller sum of money left at the end of the year than that of this year. In the past, the money returned to the Treasury, as has all of the non-spending in every other department. That money has been available to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for distribution in the following year. Wales has not missed out. It would be appropriate if you pointed that out and encouraged all Assembly Members to desist from those kind of attacks in the future.

Edwina Hart: I will deem what is appropriate in my right to reply. It is appropriate that any money underspent now is kept in Wales for the benefit of the people of Wales. The important change in the arrangements regarding the Treasury rules is that the money stays in Wales. I will move on to some of the serious issues that have been raised in this discussion. Much has been made of some of the underspends, to which Phil alluded, particularly in terms of health. Alun Cairns's point was well made in many ways. We must look at the underspend in the context of the overall budget. It is very small. When you consider the £45 million underspend in health, that is a tiny part of the

Edwina Hart: Mae bob amser yn braf ymateb i ddadl fer, gryno ac un a oedd yn gymharol hyddysg. Deliaf â'r rhan gymharol hyddysg yn gyntaf. Yr wyf yn fodlon cadarnhau bod rheolau yn bodoli o ran cario arian drosodd. Gallaf gadarnhau hynny bob tro. Fodd bynnag, dim ond yn ddiweddar y mae rheolau'r Trysorlys wedi newid i ganiatáu i mi gadw'r holl arian yng Nghymru. Mae hynny'n wahaniaeth arwyddocaol. Pan fydd arian wedi ei gario drosodd, gyda'r terfynau gwariant adrannol, erys yr arian hwnnw yng Nghymru. Erbyn hyn mae gwahanol reolau gan y Trysorlys yn berthnasol. Mae rheolau'r Trysorlys yn llywodraethu'r trefniadau o ran arian ac unrhyw drefniadau cario drosodd a allai fod gennym—

Glyn Davies: Derbyniaf yr hyn a ddywedwch, ond nid dyna'r pwynt. Cytunwn oll â'r hyblygrwydd diwedd y flwyddyn. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn trafod beirniadaeth wleidyddol gan aelodau o'r Blaid Lafur ac eraill yn y gorffennol o swm llawer llai o arian yn weddill ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn nag eleni. Yn y gorffennol, dychwelodd yr arian i'r Trysorlys, fel gyda'r holl ddiffyg gwariant ymhob adran arall. Bu'r arian hwnnw ar gael i Ganghellor y Trysorlys i'w ddosbarthu'r flwyddyn ganlynol. Nid yw Cymru ar ei cholled. Byddai'n briodol pe nodech hynny gan annog holl Aelodau'r Cynulliad i ymwrthod â'r mathau hynny o ymosodiadau yn y dyfodol.

Edwina Hart: Penderfynaf ar yr hyn sydd yn briodol yn fy hawl i ateb. Mae'n briodol y cedwir unrhyw arian a danwerir yng Nghymru er budd pobl Cymru. Y newid pwysig yn y trefniadau ynghylch rheolau'r Trysorlys yw bod yr arian yn aros yng Nghymru. Symudaf i rai o'r materion difrifol a godwyd gennych wrth drafod. Soniwyd llawer am rai o'r tanwariannau, y cyfeiriodd Phil atynt, yn arbennig o ran iechyd. Cyflwynodd Alun Cairns ei bwynt yn dda mewn sawl ffordd. Rhaid inni edrych ar y tanwario yng nghyd-destun y gyllideb gyffredinol. Mae'n fach iawn. Wrth ystyried y tanwariant o £45 miliwn ar iechyd, mae hynny'n rhan fach iawn o'r gyllideb iechyd.

health budget. I know that it sounds like megabucks to individuals, but in terms of the billions that go into health, it is relatively small. That underspend was because of slippage. It was not money that had not been spent on something. I assure the National Assembly that I am currently considering the underspends that exist within departments to monitor where those underspends are, and I receive reports. I am currently undertaking an exercise to look at any underspends that may arise to ensure that I have sufficient funds in hand to deal with the serious issues of flooding and the fact that I will be fully compensating on the Bellwin formula.

The flooding issue is an area of major concern for Members. I am obviously pleased to have discussions with Sue Essex about what funds can be made available. We had some impassioned pleas on the flooding issue at the partnership meeting with local government yesterday. They are concerned about the costs of capital projects and the fact that even though they might be able to restore a road, they must restore it better than it was originally to ensure that some of the same problems that happened recently do not reoccur. The small amount of underspend that I have to carry forward allows me the luxury of considering how I can cost effectively and help local authorities, if necessary, with the issues regarding flooding.

I thank Phil for his comments regarding the openness and transparency of this process. It is a transparent process. Nothing is done behind the closed doors of the Welsh Office these days. When we talk about figures, one can follow the trail through on what we are doing in terms of underspend. When I consider underspend, I do not see it as a reserve issue as Phil does. I see it as money that is available, and I have clearly defined why some of it is available and what has happened to it. I know that divisions and Ministers are undertaking vigorous exercises to consider what is happening. I can tell that from the levels of submissions that I now have about underspends and wanting to move across budgets.

Gwn ei fod yn swnio fel arian mawr i unigolion, ond yn nhermau'r biliynau a werir ar iechyd, mae'n gymharol fach. Llithriad oedd y rheswm dros y tanwariant hwnnw. Nid arian nas gwariwyd ar rywbeth ydoedd. Sicrhaf y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol fy mod wrthi'n ystyried y tanwariannau sydd yn bodoli o fewn adrannau er mwyn monitro lleoliad y tanwariannau hynny, a derbyniasom adroddiadau. Yr wyf wrthi ar hyn o bryd yn cynnal ymarfer i ystyried unrhyw danwariannau a allai godi er mwyn sicrhau bod gennyf gronfeydd digonol wrth law i ddelio â materion difrifol fel llifogydd a'r ffaith y byddaf yn digolledu'n llawn ar fformwla Bellwin.

Mae'r llifogydd yn faes o bryder mawr i Aelodau. Yr wyf yn falch, yn amlwg, o gael trafodaethau gyda Sue Essex ynghylch pa arian y gellir ei ryddhau. Derbyniasom geisiadau teimladwy ar y llifogydd yn y cyfarfod partneriaeth gyda llywodraeth leol ddoe. Maent yn pryderu am gostau prosiectau cyfalaf a'r ffaith er y gallant o bosibl adnewyddu ffordd, rhaid iddynt ei hadnewyddu'n well na'r gwreiddiol er mwyn sicrhau na fydd rhai o'r un problemau a ddigwyddodd yn ddiweddar yn digwydd eto. Mae'r swm bach o danwario y mae'n rhaid i mi ei gario drosodd yn rhoi'r gallu i mi ystyried sut y gallaf gostio'n effeithiol a helpu awdurdodau lleol, os bydd angen, gyda'r materion sydd yn ymwneud â llifogydd.

Diolchaf i Phil am ei sylwadau ynghylch natur agored ac eglur y broses hon. Mae yn broses eglur. Ni wneir unrhyw beth y tu ôl i ddrysau caeëdig y Swyddfa Gymreig bellach. Wrth sôn am ffigurau, gallwn ddilyn trywydd yr hyn a wnawn yn nhermau tanwario. Wrth ystyried tanwario, nid wyf yn ei ystyried fel mater o gronfa wrth gefn fel y gwna Phil. Fe'i gwelaf fel arian sydd ar gael, a diffiniais yn glir pam bod rhywfaint ohono ar gael a beth a ddigwyddodd iddo. Gwn fod is-adrannau a Gweinidogion wrthi'n cynnal ymarferion trwyadl i ystyried beth sydd yn digwydd. Gallaf weld hynny o lefel y cyflwyniadau sydd gennyf erbyn hyn ar danwario a cheisiadau i symud ar draws cyllidebau.

On the figures, I can only reiterate that the figures I gave in my opening statement are the correct ones in terms of money. I have been able to earmark additional funds to supplement the budget, and those funds have been warmly welcomed. I appreciate that Members are concerned when there are underspends and other money within areas, but I can assure you that these issues are being dealt with properly. I do not accept Nick Bourne's point about Phil being a pest. I am meeting Phil tomorrow to go through some of these figures in detail. There must be a role for people to keep an eye on the Executive to follow the money around penny by penny and to ask all the questions. Sometimes it is more difficult for me than for any of you because I have to respond and consider the areas that Phil raises in terms of where all the money is. We can be confident—in our open and transparent process—that Assembly Members are clear about what is happening. If there are concerns about the way any of these systems are managed or concerns about any issue, I will be happy to generally brief Assembly Members on the operation of the system. If political groups want to contact me, I will be happy to do so.

O ran y ffigurau, gallaf ond ailadrodd bod y ffigurau a gyflwynais yn fy natganiad agoriadol yn gywir yn nhermau arian. Llwyddais i neilltuo cronfeydd ychwanegol i ategu'r gyllideb, a chroesawyd y cronfeydd hynny. Gwerthfawrogaf fod yr Aelodau yn pryderu pan fydd tanwario ac arian arall o fewn meysydd, ond gallaf eich sicrhau yr ymdrinnir â'r materion hyn yn gywir. Ni dderbyniaf bwynt Nick Bourne fod Phil yn boen. Yr wyf yn cwrdd â Phil yfory i drafod rhai o'r ffigurau hyn yn fanwl. Rhaid cael rôl i bobl gadw golwg ar y Weithrediaeth er mwyn dilyn yr arian geiniog wrth geiniog a holi unrhyw gwestiynau. Weithiau mae'n anos i mi nag i unrhyw un ohonoch gan fy mod yn gorfod ymateb ac ystyried y meysydd a goda Phil yn nhermau lleoliad yr holl arian. Gallwn fod yn hyderus—yn ein proses agored ac eglur—bod Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn glir am yr hyn sydd yn digwydd. Os ceir pryderon ynghylch y ffordd y rheolir unrhyw un o'r systemau hyn neu bryderon am unrhyw fater, byddaf yn fwy na pharod i friffio Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn gyffredinol ar weithrediad y system. Os bydd grwpiau gwleidyddol am gysylltu â mi, byddaf yn fwy na pharod i wneud hynny.

Cynnig: O blaid 40, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion: For 40, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Ron
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
Feld, Val
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Halford, Alison

Hancock, Brian
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Jarman, Pauline
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Rogers, Peter
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty
 Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion adopted.*

3:20 p.m.

Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol Penodi Comisiynydd Plant The Report of the Children's Commissioner Appointment Advisory Committee

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): I propose that

the National Assembly notes the report of the Children's Commissioner Appointment Advisory Committee laid in the Table Office on Monday 4 December 2000.

The Committee was set up to make the appointment of the Children's Commissioner. Members will know from Rhodri Morgan's statement last Thursday that Peter Clarke has been selected for appointment as the Children's Commissioner for Wales. The office will be the first of its kind in the United Kingdom. It is an achievement of which everybody in Wales can be proud, especially those involved in the recruitment and selection process. Our approach to this process represents a model for the public appointments process procedures in the future. We have shown how the National Assembly can be inclusive, imaginative and open, particularly in the involvement of children and young people. I hope that other administrations can learn from our experience, and that we can adopt a similar approach for other significant public

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Cynigiau fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol Penodi Comisiynydd Plant a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar ddydd Llun 4 Rhagfyr 2000.

Sefydlwyd y Pwyllgor er mwyn penodi'r Comisiynydd Plant. Bydd yr Aelodau yn gwybod o ddatganiad Rhodri Morgan ddydd Iau diwethaf i Peter Clarke gael ei ddethol i'w benodi'n Gomisiynydd Plant Cymru. Y swydd hon fydd y cyntaf o'i bath yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Mae'n gyflawniad y gall pawb yng Nghymru ymfalchïo ynddo, yn arbennig y rheini sydd yn ymwneud â'r broses recriwtio a dethol. Mae ein hymagwedd tuag at y broses hon yn cynrychioli model ar gyfer gweithdrefnau'r broses penodiadau cyhoeddus yn y dyfodol. Yr ydym wedi dangos sut y gall y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol fod yn gynhwysol, yn llawn dychymyg ac yn agored, yn arbennig wrth gynnwys plant a phobl ifanc. Gobeithiaf y gall gweinyddiaethau eraill ddysgu o'n profiad, ac y gallwn fabwysiadu ymagwedd debyg ar gyfer penodiadau cyhoeddus

appointments.

Following on from the extensive consultation that the Health and Social Services Committee undertook, Assembly Members have played a full role in the recruitment and selection process throughout the deliberations of the appointment advisory committee. They formed the final selection panel and they advised on the format for applications, including the criteria and how we might meaningfully involve children and young people. I thank Lorraine Barrett, Kirsty Williams, Helen Mary Jones and David Melding, who took part in that process, providing continuity in the Committee. I thank them for their commitment, their insight and their hard work. I also thank the independent assessors who joined us to advise the Committee and formed part of the final panel. I am particularly grateful to the voluntary organisations in the children's voluntary sector, the statutory agencies and the individuals who helped and worked with us in this process. My most important and heartfelt tribute goes to the children and young people who took part and contributed to the selection of the first Children's Commissioner. I recommend that you support the motion and commend this report.

Helen Mary Jones: In urging colleagues to support the motion and accept the report, I thank Jane Hutt. As I said last week, she has been an excellent and sometimes brave Minister throughout this process. There was a great deal about this process that was new and innovative and there were risks to be taken. Those risks came off successfully. This is an excellent example of what the National Assembly can achieve with cross-party work when there is a consensus. However, it was not always an easy process and none of us would claim that we got it entirely right. There were some concerns, for example, that the views of children and young people from black and ethnic minority communities were not as fully and properly heard as we would have liked. The Members involved in the process accepted that criticism and we can learn from it. To balance against that, I am particularly pleased that one of the two young people

arwyddocaol eraill.

Yn dilyn yr ymgynghori helaeth yr ymgymerodd y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ag ef, mae Aelodau'r Cynulliad wedi chwarae rôl lawn yn y broses recriwtio a dethol drwy gydol trafodaethau'r pwyllgor ymgynghorol penodi. Ffuriasant y panel dethol terfynol gan roi cyngor ar fformat y ceisiadau, gan gynnwys y meini prawf a sut y gallem gynnwys plant a phobl ifanc mewn ffordd ystyrlon. Diolchaf i Lorraine Barrett, Kirsty Williams, Helen Mary Jones a David Melding, a gymerodd ran yn y broses honno, gan ddarparu parhad yn y Pwyllgor. Diolchaf iddynt am eu hymrwymiad, eu craffter a'u gwaith caled. Diolchaf hefyd i'r aseswyr annibynnol a ymunodd â ni i gynghori'r Pwyllgor ac a ffurfiodd ran o'r panel terfynol. Yr wyf yn arbennig o ddiolchgar i'r sefydliadau gwirfoddol yn sector gwirfoddol y plant, yr asiantaethau statudol a'r unigolion a gynorthwyodd ac a weithiodd gyda ni yn y broses hon. Mae fy nheyrnged bwysicaf a mwyaf didwyll i'r plant a'r bobl ifanc a gymerodd ran ac a gyfrannodd at y gwaith o ddethol y Comisiynydd Plant cyntaf. Argymhellaf ichi gefnogi'r cynnig a chymeradwyo'r adroddiad hwn.

Helen Mary Jones: Diolchaf i Jane Hutt am annog ei chyd-Aelodau i gefnogi'r cynnig a derbyn yr adroddiad. Fel y dywedais yr wythnos diwethaf, bu'n Weinidog gwych, a dewr weithiau, drwy gydol y broses hon. Yr oedd llawer ynglŷn â'r broses hon a oedd yn newydd ac yn arloesol ac yr oedd risgiau i'w cymryd. Bu'r risgiau hynny a gymerwyd yn rhai llwyddiannus. Mae hon yn enghraifft wych o'r hyn y gall y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ei gyflawni gyda gwaith trawsbleidiol pan fydd consensws. Fodd bynnag, ni fu'n broses hawdd bob amser ac ni fyddai'r un ohonom yn honni inni wneud pethau'n hollol gywir. Yr oedd rhai pryderon, er enghraifft, na wrandawyd mor llawn a chywir ag y byddem wedi ei hoffi ar farn plant a phobl ifanc o gymunedau du a lleiafrifoedd ethnig. Yr oedd yr Aelodau a oedd yn ymwneud â'r broses yn derbyn y feirniadaeth honno a gallwn ddsygu oddi wrthi. I wrthbwyso hynny, yr wyf yn arbennig o falch mai gwraig ifanc ag

who were involved in the whole process was a young woman with learning disabilities. She was a great example to us all in her rigorous approach to the whole process and in the sharp questions that she wanted put to the candidates.

It was—as Jane Hutt said—a groundbreaking process. We must ensure that the National Assembly and the Government of Wales learns from that process and uses it again, not only with children and young people, but with many more users of services when we consider other public appointments. I strongly echo what Jane Hutt said about thanking the children and young people involved. They were wonderful and I give a personal thank you to them because I received personal support from them many times during the process. They helped us to see what we were doing clearly.

This is a further opportunity to wish Peter Clarke well in his new role. His track record speaks for itself and I know that he will do an excellent job. It will not be easy and it will not always be easy on us as politicians. We may find ourselves—especially those of us in Government—cursing him from time to time. Perhaps that will be a sign of his success because the Children's Commissioner's job is to hold us all to account, without fear or favour, on behalf of the children of Wales. I know that Peter Clarke will do that.

Today is merely the beginning, not only for the Children's Commissioner, but also for the whole way in which we consider the rights of children and young people in Wales. The Bill on this issue that will come before Parliament in the next session is good news indeed. However, the National Assembly will want to scrutinise that Bill and ensure that it reflects all, not only some of the wishes of the Health and Social Services Committee, which were accepted by the Government of Wales. In that light, I hope that, contrary to some press reports today, the Conservative Members of Parliament will not oppose this measure. Perhaps David Melding will be able to clarify that point. It would be a great pity

anableddau dysgu oedd un o'r ddau berson ifanc a oedd â rhan yn y broses gyfan. Yr oedd yn esiampl wych inni i gyd yn ei hymagwedd drwyadl tuag at y broses gyfan ac o ran y cwestiynau miniog yr oedd am eu gofyn i'r ymgeiswyr.

Yr oedd—fel y dywedodd Jane Hutt—yn broses o dorri tir newydd. Rhaid inni sicrhau y dysga'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a Llywodraeth Cymru o'r broses honno ac y caiff ei defnyddio eto, nid yn unig gyda phlant a phobl ifanc, ond gyda llawer mwy o ddefnyddwyr gwasanaethau pan fyddwn yn ystyried penodiadau cyhoeddus eraill. Adleisiaf yn gryf yr hyn a ddywedodd Jane Hutt am ddiolch i'r plant a'r bobl ifanc berthnasol. Yr oeddent yn wych a diolchaf iddynt yn bersonol gan imi dderbyn cefnogaeth bersonol ganddynt sawl gwaith yn ystod y broses. Fe'n cynorthwyasant i weld yr hyn yr oeddem yn ei wneud yn glir.

Mae hwn yn gyfle pellach i ddymuno'n dda i Peter Clarke yn ei rôl newydd. Mae ei brofiad yn siarad drosto'i hun a gwn y gwnaiff waith gwych. Ni fydd yn hawdd ac ni fydd bob amser yn hawdd i ni fel gwleidyddion. Efallai y cawn ein hunain—yn arbennig y rheini ohonom sydd yn y Llywodraeth—yn ei felltithio o bryd i'w gilydd. Efallai mai arwydd o'i lwyddiant fydd hynny gan mai gwaith y Comisiynydd Plant yw ein galw oll i gyfrif, yn ddiuedd, ar ran plant Cymru. Gwn y bydd Peter Clarke yn gwneud hynny.

Dim ond megis dechrau yw heddiw, nid yn unig i'r Comisiynydd Plant, ond hefyd i'n holl ffordd o ystyried hawliau plant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru. Mae'r Mesur ar y mater hwn a ddaw gerbron y Senedd yn ystod y sesiwn nesaf yn newyddion da yn wir. Fodd bynnag, bydd y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol am archwilio'r Mesur hwnnw yn fanwl a sicrhau ei fod yn adlewyrchu pob un o ddymuniadau'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a dderbyniwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru, nid dim ond rhai ohonynt. Yng ngoleuni hynny, gobeithiaf, yn groes i rai adroddiadau yn y wasg heddiw, na fydd Aelodau Seneddol Ceidwadol yn gwrthwynebu'r mesur hwn. Efallai y gall

if this became a matter of party political difference in another place, because it has been an issue on which the Assembly has been united. I know that the Assembly will give the Children's Commissioner its full support, which I know will extend to the times when Peter may be giving us hell. I urge you to support the motion.

Val Feld: I congratulate Jane Hutt for the significant achievement that this debate represents. It is not just about establishing the Children's Commissioner, it is also about the whole process, for which many members of the Health and Social Services Committee also deserve our congratulations. We should also be conscious today, during Paul Murphy's contribution, of the breakthrough in achieving additional powers from a Westminster Bill. This is important and, even though it was said last week, it should be repeated; the establishment of a Children's Commissioner means that children in Wales will no longer have to face fear, violence or abuse without having someone to whom they can turn, knowing that their voices will be heard. If we were ever to invest in anything, this must be the most important investment that the Assembly could make in the future of our country.

Will Jane Hutt also consider continuing the innovative and imaginative approach to this process, which involved going beyond mainstream thinking? Will she also consider locating the Children's Commissioner's office, which I understand has not yet been decided upon, outside Cardiff? I ask her to consider locating the office in Swansea, which is home to the Childline Cymru offices. That suggestion is not meant to reflect a partisan position; I am merely concerned that we start to locate public institutions outside the capital city. Twenty years ago I established the Shelter Cymru office in Swansea, and it is still there. I can say with certainty that its advice function is strengthened by not being part of the bureaucracy found in a capital city. The link with Childline Cymru offers an opportunity

David Melding egluro'r pwynt hwnnw. Byddai'n drueni mawr pe byddai hyn yn dod yn fater o wahaniaeth gwleidyddol rhwng pleidiau mewn man arall, gan y bu'n fater y bu'r Cynulliad yn unedig yn ei gylch. Gwn y bydd y Cynulliad yn rhoi ei gefnogaeth lawn i'r Comisiynydd Plant, a fydd, fe wn, yn ymestyn i'r amseroedd y bydd Peter o bosibl yn dweud y drefn wrthym. Fe'ch anogaf i gefnogi'r cynnig.

Val Feld: Llongyfarchaf Jane Hutt am y cyflawniad arwyddocaol y mae'r ddadl hon yn ei gynrychioli. Nid mater o sefydlu Comisiynydd Plant yn unig mohono, mae hefyd yn fater o broses gyfan, y mae llawer o aelodau'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol hefyd yn haeddu cael eu llongyfarch yn ei gylch. Dylem hefyd fod yn ymwybodol heddiw, yn ystod cyfraniad Paul Murphy, o'r llwyddiant a gafwyd wrth sicrhau pwerau ychwanegol o Fesur o San Steffan. Mae hyn yn bwysig ac, er i hyn gael ei ddweud yr wythnos diwethaf, dylid ei ailadrodd; mae sefydlu Comisiynydd Plant yn golygu na fydd yn rhaid i blant Cymru mwyach wynebu ofn, trais na chamdriniaeth heb fod rhywun y gallant droi ato, gan wybod y caiff eu llais ei glywed. Os oeddem am fuddsoddi yn unrhyw beth ar unrhyw adeg, rhaid mai hwn yw'r buddsoddiad pwysicaf y gallai'r Cynulliad ei wneud yn nyfodol ein gwlad.

A ystyria Jane Hutt hefyd barhau'r ymagwedd arloesol, llawn dychymyg tuag at y broses hon, a olygodd fynd y tu hwnt i feddylfryd y prif ffrwd? A ystyria hefyd leoli swyddfa'r Comisiynydd Plant, na phenderfynwyd arno eto yn ôl yr hyn a ddeallaf, y tu allan i Gaerdydd? Gofynnaf iddi ystyried lleoli'r swyddfa yn Abertawe, sef cartref swyddfeydd Childline Cymru. Ni fwriedir i'r awgrym hwnnw adlewyrchu barn bleidiol; dim ond mynegi pryder a wnaaf y dylem ddechrau lleoli sefydliadau cyhoeddus y tu allan i'r brifddinas. Ugain mlynedd yn ôl sefydlais swyddfa Shelter Cymru yn Abertawe, ac mae yno o hyd. Gallaf ddweud gyda sicrwydd y cryfheir ei swyddogaeth gynghori drwy beidio â bod yn rhan o'r fiwrocratiaeth a geir mewn prifddinas. Mae'r cysylltiad â Childline Cymru yn cynnig cyfle

to establish a public body outside Cardiff, which should not be missed. I have written to you about that point, Jane, as you may have expected, and I hope that you will give it serious consideration. I am sure that some of my Swansea colleagues would agree that this is a line that we wish to pursue.

David Melding: I welcome the appointment of the Children's Commissioner and the process involved in establishing the post. I will not repeat my remarks of last week, which were sincerely made, including the tribute to the Minister.

The Welsh Conservative Party fully supports the extension of powers that will now occur, which we believe will make the Children's Commissioner more effective in his role and a champion for children. Therefore, the Welsh Conservative Party fully supports the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill, which has now been published and which I have had a chance to read. I would like to clarify that, during the committee stage of the Care Standards Bill, the Parliamentary team supported a fuller role for the commissioner. This morning, I reviewed my colleague Robert Walter MP's speech to Parliament, which I consider to be consistent with extending the powers of the Children's Commissioner. Indeed, one of the criticisms at that stage was that those powers would be too restrictive because they were only linked to the Care Standards Bill. I look forward to liaising with my Parliamentary colleagues further, to ensure that the position of the Welsh Conservative Party is made perfectly clear.

A fully effective Children's Commissioner will offer great support to parents without undermining the responsibility of the family in any way. The example of parents of children with special educational needs illustrates this. They will find a great friend and champion in the Children's Commissioner, and good wholesome family life will be enhanced as a result.

3:30 p.m.

Kirsty Williams: The whole process of

i sefydlu corff cyhoeddus y tu allan i Gaerdydd, na ddylid ei gollu. Ysgrifennais atoch ynglŷn â'r pwynt hwnnw, Jane, fel y gallech ddisgwyl, a gobeithiaf y rhowch ystyriaeth ddifrifol iddo. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai rhai o'm cyd-Aelodau o Abertawe yn cytuno bod hwn yn drywydd yr ydym am ei ddilyn.

David Melding: Croesawaf benodiad y Comisiynydd Plant a'r broses sydd yn rhan o sefydlu'r swydd. Nid ailadroddaf y sylwadau a wneuthum yr wythnos diwethaf, a wnaethpwyd yn ddidwyll, gan gynnwys y deyrnged i'r Gweinidog.

Mae Plaid Geidwadol Cymru yn cefnogi'n llawn y broses o ehangu pwerau a fydd bellach yn digwydd, ac a fydd, fe gredwn, yn gwneud y Comisiynydd Plant yn fwy effeithiol yn ei rôl ac yn amddiffynnydd plant. Felly, mae Plaid Geidwadol Cymru yn cefnogi Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru yn llawn, sydd bellach wedi ei gyhoeddi ac y cefais gyfle i'w ddarllen. Hoffwn egluro i'r tîm Seneddol, yn ystod cyfnod pwyllgor y Mesur Safonau Gofal, gefnogi rôl lawnach ar gyfer y comisiynydd. Y bore yma, adolygais araith fy nghyd-Aelod Robert Walter AS i'r Senedd, a ystyriaf fel araith sydd yn gyson ag ehangu pwerau'r Comisiynydd Plant. Yn wir, un feirniadaeth ar yr adeg honno oedd y byddai'r pwerau hynny yn rhy gyfyngedig gan mai dim ond â'r Mesur Safonau Gofal y'u cysylltwyd. Edrychaf ymlaen at gael cyswllt pellach â'm cyd-Aelodau Seneddol, er mwyn sicrhau y gwneir sefyllfa Plaid Geidwadol Cymru yn berffaith glir.

Bydd Comisiynydd Plant cwbl effeithiol yn cynnig cefnogaeth fawr i rieni heb danseilio cyfrifoldeb y teulu mewn unrhyw ffordd. Mae esiampl rhieni plant ag anghenion addysgol arbennig yn darlunio hyn. Cânt gyfaill mawr ac amddiffynnydd yn y Comisiynydd Plant, a bydd bywyd teuluol iach da yn gwella o ganlyniad.

Kirsty Williams: Yr oedd y broses gyfan o

establishing the Children's Commissioner, not only the process of appointing Peter Clarke, was unique from start to finish. When the Health and Social Services Committee first met, the Children's Commissioner was a priority for every member, as was creating policy in a new way. When the Committee said that it would go out to consultation, many organisations and individuals throughout Wales waited for the heavy tome of paper to arrive at their door. They expected merely to look at ideas that we had already formulated, offer responses that they felt would be ignored and watch us do what we wanted to do in the first place. Many were therefore surprised, when they received a list of eight questions. We truly engaged in an open and honest discussion with all those in Wales who wanted a children's commissioner and had ideas to present about that role. The process and the way in which policy was developed, as I said, has been unique. It has also been unique in the way that it has received the wholehearted support of all parties in the Assembly. I also pay tribute to all those who took part in the unique appointment process.

I was relieved to hear David Melding's comments this afternoon. I never doubted David's personal commitment to this post, or the commitment of the Welsh Conservative Party. The comments made yesterday by your colleague, Robert Walter MP, seemed to be at odds to what you and your colleagues in the Assembly had said about the Children's Commissioner. I am mightily relieved that you will pursue this matter with your Westminster colleagues to ensure that the legislative opportunity in Westminster, which was secured by the National Assembly, is not lost due to petty wranglings. We have, I suspect, only a short timescale before the next general election. Westminster has allowed us the opportunity for this Bill to be passed and I hope that all political parties will do their level best to ensure that the children of Wales do not miss out on this unique opportunity, which is simply too great to be lost.

The location of the office of the Children's Commissioner will not only be Jane Hutt's

sefydlu Comisiynydd Plant, nid yn unig y broses o benodi Peter Clarke, yn unigryw o'i dechrau i'w diwedd. Pan gyfarfu'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol gyntaf, yr oedd y Comisiynydd Plant yn flaenoriaeth i bob aelod, yn ogystal â chreu polisi mewn ffordd newydd. Pan ddywedodd y Pwyllgor y byddai'n ymgynghori'n allanol, disgwyliodd llawer o sefydliadau ac unigolion ledled Cymru i'r gyfrol drom o bapur gyrraedd eu drws. Disgwyliasant edrych dim ond ar syniadau yr oeddem eisoes wedi eu ffurfio, cynnig ymatebion a gâi, yn eu barn hwy, eu hanwybyddu a'n gwyllo yn gwneud yr hyn yr oeddem am ei wneud yn y lle cyntaf. Yr oedd llawer yn synnu felly, pan dderbyniasant restr o wyth cwestiwn. Cynhaliwyd trafodaeth wirioneddol agored a gonest â phawb o'r rheini yng Nghymru a oedd eisiau comisiynydd plant ac yr oedd ganddynt syniadau i'w cyflwyno ynglŷn â'r rôl honno. Bu'r broses a'r ffordd y datblygwyd polisi, fel y dywedais, yn unigryw. Bu'n unigryw hefyd o ran y ffordd y derbyniodd gefnogaeth lwyr pob un o bleidiau'r Cynulliad. Talaf deyrnged hefyd i bob un o'r rheini a gymerodd ran yn y broses benodi unigryw.

Yr oedd yn rhyddhad clywed sylwadau David Melding y prynhawn yma. Nid amheuais ymrwymiad personol David i'r swydd hon erioed, nac ymrwymiad Plaid Geidwadol Cymru. Yr oedd y sylwadau a wnaethpwyd ddoe gan eich cyd-Aelod, Robert Walter AS, fel pe bai'n gwrthddech yr hyn yr oeddech chi a'ch cyd-Aelodau yn y Cynulliad wedi ei ddweud am y Comisiynydd Plant. Mae'n rhyddhad aruthrol imi eich bod am ddilyn y mater hwn gyda'ch cyd-Aelodau yn San Steffan er mwyn sicrhau na chollir y cyfle deddfwriaethol yn San Steffan, a sicrhawyd gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, oherwydd mân anghydfodau. Tybiaf mai dim ond amser byr sydd gennym cyn yr etholiad cyffredinol nesaf. Mae San Steffan wedi caniatáu'r cyfle i'r Mesur hwn gael ei basio a gobeithiaf y gwnaiff pob plaid wleidyddol eu gorau glas i sicrhau na fydd plant Cymru yn colli allan ar y cyfle unigryw hwn, sydd yn rhy bwysig i'w golli.

Nid penderfyniad Jane Hutt yn unig fydd lleoliad swyddfa'r Comisiynydd Plant.

decision. I take on board your point about a location outside of Cardiff, Val. In closing, I would like to remind people of how nice Llandrindod Wells is at this time of year.

Lorraine Barrett: I had not intended to contribute to today's debate, as we have had several opportunities to discuss the Children's Commissioner and, now that he has been appointed, we would all want him to get on with the job. I take this opportunity to echo Kirsty's comments in welcoming David Melding's commitment. I have described David as the co-operative Conservative in the Assembly. The last thing that we would want is for this issue to become a party political football, but I do not think that that was the intention. Therefore, I hope that we can progress positively.

I have received positive feedback about the appointment, which bodes well for the future. With regard to the siting of the commissioner's office, without giving away any secrets, Peter Clarke has the commitment to go out to talk to people and to communicate with young people in particular and, therefore, the office will only be an administrative base, as the commissioner intends to ensure that all parts of Wales are covered. While I can take on board Val's point about not siting the office in Cardiff, it will be spread across Wales. The administrative base must be established in one place. However, the commissioner has given a commitment to involve young people by setting up groups throughout Wales to find out what is the most effective way of developing the office of the Children's Commissioner.

Alison Halford: I did not plan to contribute today either, and I do not wish to start an unseemly wrangle as to where the office of the Children's Commissioner should be sited, because this is a wonderful concept. However, perhaps we should consider north Wales as a location, as that is where the Waterhouse inquiry sat. It took place in Ewloe, just a few hundred yards from my home, and I used to attend the meetings whenever I could, and listened to the shocking evidence that was presented week

Ystyriaaf eich pwynt am leoliad y tu allan i Gaerdydd, Val. Wrth gloi, hoffwn atgoffa pobl pa mor braf yw Llandrindod yr adeg hon o'r flwyddyn.

Lorraine Barrett: Nid oeddwn wedi bwriadu cyfrannu at y ddaadl heddiw, gan inni gael sawl cyfle i drafod y Comisiynydd Plant ac, yn awr iddo gael ei benodi, byddem i gyd am iddo fwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith. Achubaf ar y cyfle hwn i adleisio sylwadau Kirsty wrth groesawu ymrwymiad David Melding. Yr wyf wedi disgrifio David fel Ceidwadwr cydweithredol y Cynulliad. Y peth olaf y byddem yn ei ddymuno fyddai i'r mater hwn ddod yn bêl-droed wleidyddol bleidiol, ond ni chredaf mai dyna oedd y bwriad. Felly, gobeithiaf y gallwn symud ymlaen mewn ffordd gadarnhaol.

Cefais adborth cadarnhaol ynglŷn â'r penodiad, sydd yn argoeli'n dda ar gyfer y dyfodol. O ran lleoliad swyddfa'r comisiynydd, heb rannu unrhyw gyfrinachau, mae gan Peter Clarke yr ymrwymiad i fynd allan a siarad â phobl a chyfathrebu â phobl ifanc yn arbennig ac, felly, dim ond canolfan weinyddol fydd y swyddfa, gan fod y comisiynydd yn bwriadu sicrhau y cwmpesir pob rhan o Gymru. Er y gallaf ystyried pwynt Val ynglŷn â pheidio â lleoli'r swyddfa yng Nghaerdydd, caiff ei lledaenu ar draws Cymru. Rhaid sefydlu'r ganolfan weinyddol mewn un lle. Fodd bynnag, mae'r comisiynydd wedi ymrwymo i gynnwys pobl ifanc drwy sefydlu grwpiau ledled Cymru er mwyn canfod y ffordd fwyaf effeithiol o ddatblygu swydd y Comisiynydd Plant.

Alison Halford: Ni fwriedais innau gyfrannu heddiw ychwaith, ac nid wyf am ddechrau dadl amhriodol o ran ble y dylid lleoli swyddfa'r Comisiynydd Plant, gan fod hwn yn gysyniad gwych. Fodd bynnag, efallai y dylem ystyried gogledd Cymru fel lleoliad, gan mai dyna lle y digwyddodd ymchwiliad Waterhouse. Yn Ewlo y digwyddodd, ychydig gannoedd o lathenni o'm cartref, ac arferwn fynychu'r cyfarfodydd pryd bynnag y gallwn, a gwrando ar y dystiolaeth syfrdanol a gâi ei chyflwyno wythnos ar ôl

after week.

I am always banging on about the difficulty of journeys between north and south Wales and, quite frankly, north Wales should be given some consideration. Without demeaning any of the wonderful work carried out in appointing the commissioner, if there is to be a deputy—I do not know if there will be such a position—could consideration be given to appointing a woman? However wonderful, skilled and brilliant he may be at the job, a man can sometimes be a difficult figure for some abused children to approach.

Rosemary Butler: When I was a member of the Cabinet, my role included responsibility for children, which was a great privilege. I pay tribute to Jane Hutt for the way in which she has pursued this legislation. On occasion, I was allowed the opportunity to visit London to help brief MPs with the process of this Bill. Tribute should also be paid to Julie Morgan MP. She is not an Assembly Member but she has championed the cause of the Children's Commissioner; no-one could resist the combination of Julie Morgan and Jane Hutt. I hope that we can end our discussions on this issue, move on and be brave enough to allow the commissioner to do his job.

Jane Hutt: Peter Clarke is present here today, and I am sure that he has listened with great interest to every contribution, which should instil confidence in him.

Thank you for your comments, Helen Mary. During this process, we felt that we were taking great risks. However, with hindsight, that was the only way in which it could have been done. From my experience in politics, I have always believed that you must take risks, break down barriers and involve people. That is what we did. We recognise that that was the right and the only way to make it work. A great deal can be learnt from this process and applied to other aspects of the Assembly's work. However, we must not be too complacent or self-congratulatory. We have lessons to learn.

wythnos.

Yr wyf bob amser yn rhefru am anhawster teithio rhwng gogledd a de Cymru ac, a bod yn hollol onest, dylid rhoi rhywfaint o ystyriaeth i'r Gogledd. Heb ddiraddio dim o'r gwaith gwych a gyflawnwyd wrth benodi'r comisiynydd, os oes dirprwy i fod—ni wn a fydd swydd o'r fath ai peidio—a ellid rhoi ystyriaeth i benodi merch? Pa mor wych bynnag y mae wrth ei waith, beth bynnag ei sgiliau, pa mor rhagorol bynnag y bo, gall dyn weithiau fod yn ffigwr anodd i rai plant a gafodd eu cam-drin gysylltu ag ef.

Rosemary Butler: Pan oeddwn yn aelod o'r Cabinet, yr oedd fy rôl yn cynnwys cyfrifoldeb dros blant, a oedd yn ffrainc fawr. Talaf deyrnged i Jane Hutt am y ffordd y gwthiodd am y ddeddfwriaeth hon. Yn achlysurol, caniateid y cyfle imi ymweld â Llundain er mwyn helpu i friffio ASau gyda phroses y Mesur hwn. Dylid talu teyrnged hefyd i Julie Morgan AS. Nid yw'n Aelod o'r Cynulliad ond mae wedi amddiffyn achos y Comisiynydd Plant; ni allai unrhyw un wrthsefyll y cyfuniad o Julie Morgan a Jane Hutt. Gobeithiaf y gallwn ddod â'n trafodaethau ar y mater hwn i ben, symud ymlaen a bod yn ddigon dewr i ganiatáu i'r comisiynydd wneud ei waith.

Jane Hutt: Mae Peter Clarke yn bresennol yma heddiw, ac yr wyf yn siŵr ei fod wedi gwrandao â diddordeb mawr ar bob cyfraniad, a ddylai ennyn hyder ynddo.

Diolch am eich sylwadau, Helen Mary. Yn ystod y broses hon, yr oeddem o'r farn ein bod yn cymryd risgiau mawr. Fodd bynnag, o edrych yn ôl, dyna'r unig ffordd y gellid bod wedi ei wneud. O'm profiad i mewn gwleidyddiaeth, yr wyf bob amser wedi credu bod yn rhaid cymryd risgiau, torri rhwystrau i lawr a chynnwys pobl. Dyna a wnaethom. Cydnabyddwn mai dyna oedd y ffordd gywir a'r unig ffordd o wneud i bethau weithio. Gellir dysgu llawer iawn o'r broses hon a'i gymhwyso i agweddau eraill ar waith y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, ni ddylem fod yn rhy hunanfodlon na llongyfarch ein hunain yn ormodol. Mae

gennym wersi i'w dysgu.

The process involved a wide representation of young people, particularly from north Wales, Alison. That was an important aspect of the work, and we consulted with some groups that had supported young people, particularly following the north Wales abuse tribunal. It was a dipstick of opinion, and we must ensure that we always reach out, which is the challenge that faces Peter Clarke. He has shown a great commitment to immediately involving young people throughout Wales. We must also ensure that children and young people from black and ethnic minorities in Wales are fully involved. The Assembly, not just Peter Clarke, must address that issue and ensure that we extend our work to involve those groups. We must continue to improve on what we have already achieved, while recognising that there are lessons to be learnt. The young people will be coming together in January to reflect on their involvement in this process, and they will report back to us on the lessons that they feel that they have learnt. They are a confident, articulate and courageous group of young people and, therefore, will not be short of telling us how they think we could have done things better.

I am pleased that the Secretary of State of Wales is present to hear this debate, as the Bill to extend these powers and the prompt appointment is a double first for Wales. We will move on to discuss that shortly. The process was started under Kirsty's leadership as Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee. When the Committee first met, all members agreed that we should begin the task of collating evidence and securing the appointment of a children's commissioner. Kirsty reminded us of the history of this process. We talk of the need for Welsh history, of which this achievement is an important piece that should not be forgotten. It should be chronicled, and not only in the Assembly's records. The way in which the role develops and the response of young people, children and agencies working in this field will also be part of this piece of history. As Helen Mary said, the Assembly will also be in the spotlight as the work of the

Yr oedd y broses yn cynnwys cynrychiolaeth eang o bobl ifanc, yn arbennig o ogledd Cymru, Alison. Yr oedd hynny yn agwedd bwysig ar y gwaith, ac ymgynghorwyd â rhai grwpiau a oedd wedi cefnogi pobl ifanc, yn arbennig yn dilyn tribiwnlys cam-drin plant gogledd Cymru. Yr oedd yn fodd o fesur barn, a rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn estyn allan bob amser, a dyna yw'r her sydd yn wynebu Peter Clarke. Dangosodd ymrwymiad mawr i gynnwys pobl ifanc ledled Cymru yn syth. Rhaid inni sicrhau hefyd y cynhwysir plant a phobl ifanc du a lleiafrifoedd ethnig Cymru yn llawn. Rhaid i'r Cynulliad, nid Peter Clarke yn unig, fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwnnw a sicrhau ein bod yn ehangu ein gwaith er mwyn cynnwys y grwpiau hynny. Rhaid inni barhau i wella ar yr hyn yr ydym wedi ei gyflawni eisoes, tra'n cydnabod bod gwersi i'w dysgu. Bydd y bobl ifanc yn dod ynghyd yn Ionawr i ystyried eu rhan yn y broses hon, a byddant yn cyflwyno adroddiad inni ar y gwersi y maent o'r farn iddynt eu dysgu. Maent yn grŵp hyderus, llafar a dewr o bobl ifanc ac, felly, ni fyddant yn amharod i ddweud wrthym sut y credant y gallem fod wedi gwneud pethau'n well.

Yr wyf yn falch bod Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru yn bresennol i wrando ar y ddadl hon, gan fod y Mesur i ymestyn y pwerau hyn a'r penodiad prydlon yn ddau fater o lawenydd i Gymru. Awn ymlaen i drafod hynny cyn hir. Dechreuwyd y broses o dan arweinyddiaeth Kirsty fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Pan gyfarfu'r Pwyllgor gyntaf, cytunodd yr aelodau i gyd y dylem ddechrau ar y dasg o goladu tystiolaeth a sicrhau bod comisiynydd plant yn cael ei benodi. Fe'n hatgoffwyd gan Kirsty o hanes y broses hon. Siaradwn am yr angen am hanes Cymru, y mae'r cyflawniad hwn yn rhan bwysig ohono na ddylid ei anghofio. Dylid ei groniclo, ac nid yng nghofnodion y Cynulliad yn unig. Bydd y ffordd y bydd y rôl yn datblygu ac ymateb pobl ifanc, plant ac asiantaethau sydd yn gweithio yn y maes hwn hefyd yn rhan o'r darn hwn o hanes. Fel y dywedodd Helen Mary, rhoddir sylw i'r Cynulliad hefyd wrth i

Children's Commissioner develops.

waith y Comisiynydd Plant ddatblygu.

3:40 p.m.

Peter Clarke will receive much guidance and advice about the office's location: Swansea was mentioned, Alison talked about north Wales, Lorraine said that we must reach out to people across Wales, and Richard Edwards, in a recent discussion, mentioned Pembrokeshire. However, we also need to examine how the Children's Commissioner is based throughout Wales. Those of us who have been involved in establishing organisations know that the sooner you regionalise, as well as establishing a national office—not necessarily in Cardiff—the better. However, we must have locations at accessible points in all parts of Wales. I know that Peter is concerned about that, and we will discuss that with him. He will take a whole range of views and guidance into account, including those of the Assembly.

Bydd Peter Clarke yn derbyn llawer o arweiniad a chynghor am leoliad y swyddfa: crybwyllwyd Abertawe, siaradodd Alison am ogledd Cymru, dywedodd Lorraine bod yn rhaid inni estyn allan i bobl ar draws Cymru, a chrybwyllodd Richard Edwards Sir Benfro mewn trafodaeth ddiweddar. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni hefyd edrych yn ofalus ar y modd y lleolir y Comisiynydd Plant ledled Cymru. Gwyr y rheini ohonom a fu'n rhan o sefydlu sefydliadau mai gorau po gyntaf y rhanbartholir swyddfa genedlaethol, yn ogystal â'i sefydlu—nid yng Nghaerdydd o anghenraid. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni gael lleoliadau mewn mannau hygyrch ym mhob rhan o Gymru. Gwn fod Peter yn pryderu am hynny, a byddwn yn trafod hynny gydag ef. Bydd yn ystyried ystod gyfan o farn ac arweiniad, gan gynnwys barn ac arweiniad y Cynulliad.

I am glad of your comments, David. We did not doubt that the Welsh Conservative Party fully supports the extension of powers. Thank you for endorsing the new Bill. I know that you will help ensure that we get it through Westminster in the available time. The coming weeks are a critical time in getting it through. The children's commissioner will be of great benefit to children and their parents. It will be important for him to be able to advise, guide and comment on the role of families and communities in Wales. I am grateful for your comments.

Yr wyf yn falch o'ch sylwadau, David. Nid oeddem yn amau nad oedd Plaid Geidwadol Cymru yn cefnogi ehangu'r pwerau yn llawn. Diolch am gymeradwyo'r Mesur newydd. Gwn y byddwch yn rhoi eich cymorth i sicrhau y caiff hyn ei basio yn San Steffan o fewn yr amser sydd ar gael. Mae'r wythnosau sydd i ddod yn amser holl bwysig o ran ei basio. Bydd y comisiynydd plant o fudd mawr i blant a'u rhieni. Bydd yn bwysig ei fod yn gallu rhoi cynghor, arweiniad a sylwadau ar rôl teuluoedd a chymunedau yng Nghymru. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich sylwadau.

We must also recognise that we have worked together inclusively across all parties in Wales. That is what the children and young people want to hear from us as politicians. We must keep pace with that as we progress and ensure that the Bill gets support and becomes legislation—the first piece of important legislation that has happened through the Assembly.

Rhaid inni gydnabod hefyd inni gydweithio mewn ffordd gynhwysol ar draws pob plaid yng Nghymru. Dyna mae'r plant a'r bobl ifanc am ei glywed gennym fel gwleidyddion. Rhaid inni barhau i wneud hynny wrth inni symud ymlaen a sicrhau bod y Mesur yn cael ei gefnogi ac yn dod yn ddeddfwriaeth—y darn cyntaf o ddeddfwriaeth bwysig sydd wedi digwydd drwy'r Cynulliad.

Alison made points about its location. We appointed the best person for the job, Alison, but he will also set up an office that will

Gwnaeth Alison bwyntiau ynglŷn â'i leoliad. Penodasom y person gorau ar gyfer y swydd, Alison, ond bydd hefyd yn sefydlu swyddfa a

reflect and represent the people of Wales. Your points were well made.

fydd yn adlewyrchu ac yn cynrychioli pobl Cymru. Gwnaethoch eich pwyntiau yn dda.

Finally I thank Rosemary for recognising the contributions that other people have made in the House of Commons; people such as Julie Morgan, who campaigned tirelessly, and indeed all those in the voluntary sector who also campaigned tirelessly for this children's commissioner post.

Yn olaf diolchaf i Rosemary am gydnabod y cyfraniadau a wnaeth pobl eraill yn Nhy'r Cyffredin; pobl megis Julie Morgan, a ymgyrchodd yn ddiflino, ac yn wir pawb o'r rheini o fewn y sector gwirfoddol hefyd a ymgyrchodd yn ddiflino dros y swydd hon ar gyfer comisiynydd plant.

We now move forward: it is appropriate that Children in Wales is holding its conference tomorrow, where this, I know, will be celebrated. It is also being celebrated, rightly, in this Assembly by all Members. I am pleased to offer this report and I am thankful for that backing.

Symudwn ymlaen yn awr: mae'n briodol bod Plant yng Nghymru yn cynnal ei gynhadledd yfory, lle, fe wn, y dethlir hyn. Fe'i dethlir hefyd, ac yn briodol felly, yn y Cynulliad hwn gan bob Aelod. Mae'n bleser gennyf gynnig yr adroddiad hwn ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y gefnogaeth honno.

Cynnig: O blaid 45, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion: For 45, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
Feld, Val
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun

Randerson, Jenny
 Rogers, Peter
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty
 Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion adopted.*

Datganiad gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ar Araith y Frenhines Statement by the Secretary of State for Wales on the Queen's Speech

The Secretary of State for Wales (Paul Murphy): I am delighted to be here for the second time to speak to you about the United Kingdom Government's legislative programme. In doing so, I am fulfilling an obligation under Section 31 of the Government of Wales Act 1998, but it is also a pleasant duty to be with you this afternoon.

In many ways, the legislative process is a more meaningful event this year than it was last year. Last year, devolution was still very new. The Government programme had largely been determined before the Assembly came into existence. In last year's debate, Assembly Members expressed frustration about their lack of input into that process. However, the devolution settlement has delivered Assembly input into this year's legislative programme.

The Assembly has discussed and agreed policy lines in Committee and Plenary. The Assembly Cabinet has passed those on to me and to my Whitehall colleagues. We have considered and discussed these views with the Assembly Cabinet, and the Bills in this year's programme are framed in the light of that input. As we just heard, the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill is a prime example of that input, but as other Bills are published in the weeks ahead, you will see how the Assembly's views and positions were accommodated.

It is also important to remember that even if

Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru (Paul Murphy): Yr wyf yn falch iawn o fod yma am yr ail dro i siarad â chi am raglen ddeddfwriaethol Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig Wrth wneud hyn, cyflawnaf rwymedigaeth o dan Adran 31 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, ond mae hefyd yn ddyletswydd bleserus imi fod gyda chi y prynhawn yma.

Mewn sawl ffordd, mae'r broses ddeddfwriaethol yn ddigwyddiad mwy ystyrlon eleni. Y llynedd, yr oedd datganoli yn newydd iawn o hyd. Pennwyd rhaglen y Llywodraeth i raddau helaeth cyn i'r Cynulliad ddod i fodolaeth. Yn y ddadl y llynedd, mynegodd Aelodau'r Cynulliad eu rhwystredigaeth ynglŷn â'r diffyg mewnbnwn a oedd ganddynt yn y broses honno. Fodd bynnag, mae'r setliad datganoli wedi llwyddo i gynnwys mewnbnwn y Cynulliad yn y rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol eleni.

Mae'r Cynulliad wedi trafod a chytuno ar feysydd polisiâu yn y Pwyllgorau a'r Cyfarfodydd Llawn. Fe'u cyflëwyd imi a'm cyd-Aelodau yn Whitehall gan Gabinet y Cynulliad. Yr ydym wedi ystyried a thrafod y sylwadau hyn gyda Chabinet y Cynulliad, a lluniwyd y Mesurau yn y rhaglen eleni yng ngoleuni'r mewnbnwn hwnnw. Fel y clywsom, mae Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru yn enghraifft wych o'r mewnbnwn hwnnw, ond wrth i Fesurau eraill gael eu cyhoeddi yn ystod yr wythnosau nesaf, fe welwch sut yr ystyriwyd sylwadau a safbwyntiau'r Cynulliad.

Mae'n bwysig cofio hefyd y bydd gan y

clauses do not make separate provision for Wales, the Assembly will often have powers under the Bill that will give it the flexibility to implement appropriately for Wales. This year, there are no large Welsh sections, as there were in other Bills last year. However, four Bills give significant secondary legislative powers to the Assembly: the Health and Social Care Modernisation Bill, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Bill, the Homes Bill and the proposed Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Bill. The Queen's Speech included 15 Bills and four draft ones. That is the full programme. At the top of that agenda is legislation to tackle two of the public's concerns: crime and health. Tackling crime is a symbol of responsibility, and health a symbol of security.

Wales has its own Bill—the Children's Commissioner Bill, which is a symbol of responsibility and security: society's responsibility to listen to children and take account of their interests, and children's need for a secure place in society. This was the fourth Queen's Speech of the Parliament and the start of the fourth phase of the Government's policies. Phase one was about the economy. We set a tough inflation target and put public finances back in order, which has paid off. We now have the lowest rate of inflation in 30 years, cheaper mortgages, and public finances are in good shape, with steady growth. Phase two tackled work. We put in place policies to give opportunities to the young and the long-term unemployed to find work. We tackled the problems of single mothers stuck on benefits and problems faced by disabled people in finding work. Thanks, in part, to the New Deal, over 25,000 people have found jobs. Long-term youth unemployment in Wales has been reduced by 81 per cent since May 1997, and benefit bills, which were the cost of failure, have been reduced.

Phase three concentrated on schools, education and training. That meant putting a proper infrastructure in place and aiming to

Cynulliad bwerau yn aml o dan y Mesur a fydd yn rhoi hyblygrwydd iddo weithredu fel y bo'n briodol dros Gymru hyd yn oed os na fydd cymalau sydd yn rhoi darpariaeth ar wahân i Gymru. Eleni, nid oes unrhyw adrannau mawr yn ymwneud â Chymru, fel y bu mewn Mesurau eraill y llynedd. Fodd bynnag, rhoddodd pedwar Mesur bwerau is-ddeddfwriaethol sylweddol i'r Cynulliad: y Mesur Moderneiddio Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol, y Mesur Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig ac Anabledd, y Mesur Cartrefi a'r Mesur Daliadaeth ar y Cyd a Diwygio Prydlesi arfaethedig. Yr oedd Araith y Frenhines yn cynnwys 15 Mesur a phedwar mesur drafft. Dyna'r rhaglen lawn. Ar ben yr agenda honno mae deddfwriaeth i fynd i'r afael â dau o bryderon y cyhoedd: troseddu ac iechyd. Mae mynd i'r afael â throseddu yn symbol o gyfrifoldeb, ac iechyd yn symbol o ddiogelwch.

Mae gan Gymru ei Fesur ei hun—Mesur y Comisiynydd Plant, sydd yn symbol o gyfrifoldeb a diogelwch: cyfrifoldeb cymdeithas i wrando ar blant ac ystyried eu buddiannau, ac angen plant am le diogel mewn cymdeithas. Hon oedd pedwaredd Araith y Frenhines yn nhymor y Senedd gan ddechrau'r pedwerydd cam ym mholisiau'r Llywodraeth. Yr oedd cam un yn ymwneud â'r economi. Pennwyd targed chwyddiant llym gennym wrth inni lwyddo i roi'r cyllid cyhoeddus ar y trywydd iawn, sydd wedi talu ar ei ganfed. Bellach mae gennym y gyfradd chwyddiant isaf ers 30 mlynedd, morgeisi rhatach, a chyllid cyhoeddus iach, â thwf cyson. Yr oedd cam dau yn ymwneud â gwaith. Rhoesom bolisiau ar waith a roddodd gyfle i'r ifanc a phobl ddi-waith tymor hir i gael gwaith. Aethom i'r afael â phroblemau mamau sengl a oedd yn gaeth i fudd-daliadau a'r problemau a wyneba pobl anabl wrth ddod o hyd i waith. Diolch, yn rhannol, i'r Fargen Newydd, cafodd dros 25,000 o bobl swyddi. Mae diweithdra tymor hir ymhlith yr ifanc yng Nghymru wedi gostwng 81 y cant ers Mai 1997, a chafwyd gostyngiad mewn biliau budd-daliadau, sef cost methiant.

Canolbwyntiodd cam tri ar ysgolion, addysg a hyfforddiant. Golygai hynny roi isadeiledd cywir ar waith gan anelu at roi cyfleoedd i

give all children and young people opportunities through education. The Learning and Skills Act 2000 established the National Council for Education and Training for Wales, which will bring together the various strands of funding for post-16 training and education in Wales. The Act gives the Assembly considerable flexibility to decide on the structure of the council, allowing the circumstances in Wales to be taken fully into account. The idea of establishing such a council came from the education and training action plan that started life under Welsh Office Ministers and was developed by this Assembly. That was indeed a Welsh solution for a Welsh issue. Therefore, phases one to three put in place the opportunity economy: low inflation, cheaper mortgages, more jobs and better education and training.

The fourth phase kicked off by this Queen's Speech is about crime and health. That means matching the opportunity economy with a responsibility society. There are five Bills that show how all parts of government, local communities, this Assembly and the police are fighting crime together. The Bills will tackle job culture, drug traffickers, car crime, the private security industry and benefit fraud. The focus is on responsibility and security; importantly, the security of our young people.

Older people are rightly concerned about walking the streets in some Welsh towns, but most victims of street violence are young men. The majority of law-abiding young people have the right to go out with their friends in the evening without the fear of violence. The Criminal Justice and Police Bill will help to achieve one of the Government's main objectives, namely to reduce crime and the fear of crime. It contains extra powers for the police to tackle disorder in public places, for example closing licensed premises where disorder occurs.

The Bill is good news for Wales. Crime in Wales fell by 2.5 per cent last year against a

bob plentyn a pherson ifanc drwy addysg. Sefydlwyd Cyngor Cenedlaethol Cymru dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant gan Ddeddf Dysgu a Sgiliau 2000, a fydd yn cyfuno'r gwahanol ffynonellau ariannu ar gyfer hyfforddiant ac addysg ôl-16 yng Nghymru. Rhydd y Ddeddf gryn hyblygrwydd i'r Cynulliad benderfynu ar strwythur y cyngor, gan ganiatáu ystyried amgylchiadau Cymru yn llawn. Deilliodd y syniad o sefydlu cyngor o'r fath o gynllun gweithredu addysg a hyfforddiant a ddechreuwyd o dan Weinidogion y Swyddfa Gymreig ac a ddatblygwyd gan y Cynulliad hwn. Yr oedd hynny'n wir yn ateb Cymreig i fater Cymreig. Felly, rhoddodd camau un i dri yr economi gyfle ar waith: chwyddiant isel, morgeisi rhatach, mwy o swyddi a gwell addysg a hyfforddiant.

Mae'r pedwerydd cam a ddechreuwyd gan Araith y Frenhines eleni yn ymwneud â throeddu ac iechyd. Golygai hynny gyfateb yr economi gyfle â chymdeithas â chyfrifoldeb. Mae pum Mesur a ddengys sut y mae pob rhan o'r llywodraeth, cymunedau lleol, y Cynulliad hwn a'r heddlu yn gwrthsefyll troseddau gyda'i gilydd. Bydd y Mesurau'n mynd i'r afael â diwylliant iob, gwerthwyr cyffuriau, troseddau'n ymwneud â cheir, y diwydiant diogelwch preifat a thwyll budd-daliadau. Canolbwyntir ar gyfrifoldeb a diogelwch; ac yn bwysicach, diogelwch ein pobl ifanc.

Mae pobl hyn yn iawn i bryderu ynghylch cerdded y strydoedd mewn rhai trefi yng Nghymru, ond dynion ifanc sydd yn dioddef trais amlaf ar y strydoedd. Mae hawl gan fwyafrif y bobl ifanc sydd yn parchu'r gyfraith i fynd allan gyda ffrindiau gyda'r nos heb ofn trais. Bydd y Mesur Cyfiawnder Troseddol a'r Heddlu yn helpu i gyflawni un o brif amcanion y Llywodraeth, sef lleihau troseddau ac ofn troseddau. Mae'n cynnwys pwerau ychwanegol i'r heddlu fynd i'r afael ag anhrefn mewn mannau cyhoeddus, er enghraifft, cau eiddo trwyddedig lle y digwydd anhrefn.

Mae'r Mesur yn newyddion da i Gymru. Gostyngodd nifer y troseddau yng Nghymru

3.8 per cent rise in England and Wales as a whole. However, we cannot be complacent as over a third of notifiable offences in Wales last year involved violent or criminal damage. Police in Wales say that most of the violent offences with which they deal are public order situations. The Bill will give the police specific powers to tackle public disorder.

2.5 y cant y llynedd o'i chymharu â chynnydd o 3.8 y cant yng Nghymru a Lloegr yn gyffredinol. Fodd bynnag, ni allwn fod yn hunan fodlon am fod dros draean o'r troseddau y gellir eu cofnodi yng Nghymru y llynedd yn ymwneud â difrod treisgar neu droseddol. Dywed yr heddlu yng Nghymru fod y rhan fwyaf o'r troseddau treisgar y mae'n rhaid iddynt ymdrin â hwy yn ymwneud â threfn gyhoeddus. Rhydd y Mesur bwerau penodol i'r heddlu fynd i'r afael ag anhrefn gyhoeddus.

3:50 p.m.

Another important Bill is the Vehicle (Crime) Bill. Vehicle crime accounts for about 30 per cent of recorded crime in Wales. The Bill will extend compulsory vehicle registration and regulate the motor salvage industry. That will help to tackle fraud in the motor industry by making it harder for identities of legitimate written-off vehicles to be given to stolen cars, for example.

Mesur pwysig arall yw'r Mesur Cerbydau (Troseddu). Mae troseddau'n ymwneud â cherbydau yn cyfrif am tua 30 y cant o'r troseddau a gofnodwyd yng Nghymru. Bydd y Mesur yn ymestyn cofrestru cerbydau gorfodol a rheoleiddio'r diwydiant adfer moduron. Bydd hynny'n helpu i fynd i'r afael â thwyll yn y diwydiant moduron drwy sicrhau y bydd yn anos trosglwyddo manylion cerbydau a ddifrodwyd yn gyfreithlon i geir wedi eu dwyn, er enghraifft.

The Social Security Fraud Bill tackles the criminals who defraud the benefit system. It will provide powers to reduce or withdraw benefits from people who have been convicted twice of benefit fraud and increase punishments and tighten requirements to report changed circumstances that affect benefits. The Private Security Industry Bill will regulate the private security industry to ensure that bouncers and door staff are not involved in crime.

Mae Mesur Twyll Nawdd Cymdeithasol yn mynd i'r afael â throreddwyr sydd yn twyllo'r system fudd-daliadau. Bydd yn darparu pwerau i ostwng budd-daliadau neu eu tynnu'n ôl oddi wrth bobl a gollfarnwyd ddwywaith oherwydd twyll budd-daliadau gan roi cosbau llymach a gofynion llymach o ran nodi newid mewn amgylchiadau, sydd yn effeithio ar fudd-daliadau. Bydd y Mesur Diwydiant Diogelwch Preifat yn rheoleiddio'r diwydiant diogelwch preifat er mwyn sicrhau nad yw ceidwaid a staff wrth y drws yn ymwneud â throreddu.

Another major part of the Queen's Speech was on the Government's 10-year plan for the NHS. While the Assembly is responsible for the health service in Wales, the primary legislation proposed for this area is also significant. The Assembly Cabinet has been consulted on the content. There are two Bills: the Health and Social Care Modernisation Bill and the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Bill.

Un o brif rannau eraill Araith y Frenhines oedd cynllun 10 mlynedd y Llywodraeth ar gyfer yr NHS. Er mai'r Cynulliad sydd yn gyfrifol am y gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru, mae'r ddeddfwriaeth sylfaenol arfaethedig yn y maes hwn yn arwyddocaol hefyd. Ymgynghorwyd â Chabinet y Cynulliad ynglŷn â'r cynnwys. Mae dau Fesur: y Mesur Moderneiddio Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol a'r Mesur Hysbysebu a Hyrwyddo Tybaco.

The first Bill will help to bring the NHS in England and Wales into the twenty-first century. There are three strands to modernising the service. First, encouraging better performance by providing a modern national health service and rewarding good performance in tackling persistent failures. Secondly, setting the framework for providing better and more efficient services and delivering seamless care to patients. Thirdly, strengthening the power of patients and providing for more democracy in the health service. The Bill also modernises social care by improving health and social care for older people and making nursing care the responsibility of the NHS and, therefore, free.

The Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Bill will implement the Government's manifesto commitment to ban tobacco advertising. Research shows that where advertising is banned, there has been a fall in tobacco consumption. Smoking related illnesses such as cancer and heart disease could account for up to 20 per cent of deaths in Wales. Those of us who represent Valley communities know that better than most. This Bill could have a positive impact on reducing deaths.

I turn, Presiding Officer, to an important Bill for Wales, which you have just debated here, the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill. It is a symbol of responsibility and security, society's responsibility to listen to children and take account of their interests and children's need for a secure place within the wider community. I am pleased that as a result of my co-operation with David Hanson, Under Secretary of State for Wales and the Assembly Cabinet officials in Cardiff, we have delivered the first Wales-only Bill since the implementation of devolution. This shows that devolution is working to deliver the primary legislation that Wales needs and enables you to implement made-for-Wales policies. It also shows that the United Kingdom Government is prepared to embrace the concept of devolution using different ways of tackling today's big issues in the United Kingdom.

Bydd y Mesur cyntaf yn helpu i ddod â'r NHS yng Nghymru a Lloegr i'r unfed ganrif ar hugain. Mae tair elfen i foderneiddio'r gwasanaeth. Yn gyntaf, annog gwell perfformiad drwy ddarparu gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol modern a gwobrwyo perfformiad da wrth fynd i'r afael â methiannau parhaol. Yn ail, pennu'r fframwaith ar gyfer darparu gwasanaethau gwell a mwy effeithlon a darparu gofal di-dor i gleifion. Yn drydydd, grymuso cleifion a chyflwyno mwy o ddemocratiaeth yn y gwasanaeth iechyd. Mae'r Mesur hefyd yn moderneiddio gofal cymdeithasol drwy wella gofal iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol i bobl hyn a sicrhau mai'r NHS fydd â'r cyfrifoldeb dros ofal nyrsio ac, felly, ei fod am ddim.

Bydd Mesur Hysbysebu a Hyrwyddo Tybaco yn gweithredu ymrwymiad maniffesto'r Llywodraeth i wahardd hysbysebu tybaco. Dengys ymchwil fod y defnydd o dybaco yn lleihau lle y gwaherddir hysbysebu. Mae'n bosibl bod salwch sydd yn gysylltiedig ag ysmygu fel canser a chlefyd y galon yn gyfrifol am hyd at 20 y cant o farwolaethau yng Nghymru. Mae rhai ohonom a gynrychiola gymunedau yn y Cymoedd yn gwybod hynny'n well na neb. Gallai'r Mesur hwn gael effaith gadarnhaol o ran lleihau nifer y marwolaethau.

Trof, Lywydd, at Fesur pwysig i Gymru, yr ydych wedi ei drafod yma, sef Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru. Mae'n symbol o gyfrifoldeb a diogelwch, cyfrifoldeb cymdeithas i wrando ar blant ac ystyried eu buddiannau ac angen plant am le diogel o fewn y gymdeithas ehangach. Yr wyf yn falch ein bod wedi cyflwyno'r Mesur cyntaf i Gymru yn unig ers datganoli o ganlyniad i'm cydweithrediad â David Hanson, Is-Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru a swyddogion Cabinet y Cynulliad yng Nghaerdydd. Dengys hyn fod datganoli yn llwyddo i gyflwyno'r ddeddfwriaeth sylfaenol sydd ei hangen ar Gymru ac yn eich galluogi i weithredu polisiau unswydd dros Gymru. Dengys hefyd fod Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yn barod i groesawu'r cysyniad o ddatganoli gan ddefnyddio gwahanol ffyrdd o fynd i'r afael â materion pwysig y dydd yn y Deyrnas Unedig.

The Bill is published today and is on the internet. It gives wide-ranging powers to the Children's Commissioner, which are beyond the powers set out in the Care Standards Act. In particular, the aim of the commissioner will be to exercise all functions to safeguard and promote rights of the welfare of children. He will have new powers to review the effect on children of a wide range of public body actions and policies, including those of the Assembly and to review and monitor arrangements for complaints procedures, whistle-blowing and advocacy that will apply to a wider range of public bodies. Many of the commissioner's powers under the Care Standards Act will apply to a wider range of public bodies whose functions may now affect children in Wales. He will retain his role of ensuring that children in care settings are protected by his power to review and monitor the complaints procedures.

The new role will go much further in the interest of children throughout Wales. The Commissioner will not only focus on protection from abuse, although that is important, but he will also look at the big picture and evaluate how the actions of a wide range of bodies impact on children in Wales. It is a first for the United Kingdom. Wales now joins a number of European countries that have similar posts. The Assembly and the 40 of us who represent Wales in the House of Commons should be proud of this significant Bill, not just for its intrinsic value, but for what it does for the relationship between you as an Assembly and us as a Parliament that jointly represent the people of Wales.

I would like to mention other Bills as they are all important in their own right and they affect the Assembly. The Special Educational Needs and Disability Bill was introduced to the Lords on 7 December. It will promote educational choice and improve the educational experience of disabled learners and those with special educational needs. The Cabinet here has been fully consulted as this Bill has been developed and will

Cyhoeddir y Mesur heddiw ac mae ar y rhyngwyd. Rhydd bwerau eang i'r Comisiynydd Plant, sydd y tu hwnt i'r pwerau a nodwyd yn y Ddeddf Safonau Gofal. Yn arbennig, nod y comisiynydd fydd ymarfer pob swyddogaeth i ddiogelu a hyrwyddo hawliau lles plant. Bydd ganddo bwerau newydd i adolygu'r effaith y caiff ystod eang o weithredu a pholisïau cyrff cyhoeddus ar blant, gan gynnwys rhai'r Cynulliad gan adolygu a monitro'r trefniadau ar gyfer gweithdrefnau cwyno, datgelu cyfrinachau ac eiriolaeth a fydd yn berthnasol i ystod ehangach o gyrff cyhoeddus. Bydd llawer o bwerau'r comisiynydd o dan y Ddeddf Safonau Gofal yn berthnasol i ystod ehangach o gyrff cyhoeddus y gallai eu swyddogaeth effeithio ar blant yng Nghymru. Bydd yn cadw ei rôl o sicrhau bod plant mewn lleoliadau gofal wedi eu diogelu drwy ei bwr i adolygu a monitro'r gweithdrefnau cwyno.

Bydd y rôl newydd yn llawer mwy ymestynnol er lles plant ledled Cymru. Bydd y Comisiynydd nid yn unig yn canolbwyntio ar ddiogelu plant rhag cael eu camdrin, er bod hynny'n bwysig, ond bydd hefyd yn ystyried y cyfanwaith a gwerthuso sut y mae gweithredoedd ystod eang o gyrff yn effeithio ar blant yng Nghymru. Mae'n gam arloesol i'r Deyrnas Unedig. Ymunu Cymru bellach â nifer o wledydd Ewrop sydd â swyddi cyffelyb. Dylai'r Cynulliad a'r 40 ohonom a gynrychiola Gymru yn Nhy'r Cyffredin ymfalchïo yn y Mesur arwyddocaol hwn, nid yn unig am ei werth cynhenid ond am yr hyn a gyflawna o ran y berthynas rhyngoch chi fel Cynulliad a ni fel Senedd sydd yn cynrychioli pobl Cymru ar y cyd.

Hoffwn sôn am Fesurau eraill gan eu bod oll yn bwysig yn eu rhinwedd eu hunain ac yn effeithio ar y Cynulliad. Cyflwynwyd Mesur Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig ac Anabledd yn Nhy'r Arglwyddi ar 7 Rhagfyr. Bydd yn hyrwyddo dewisiadau addysgol ac yn gwella profiad addysgol dysgwyr anabl a'r rhai ag anghenion addysgol arbennig. Ymgynghorwyd yn llawn â'r Cabinet yma wrth i'r Mesur hwn gael ei ddatblygu a bydd

continue to be involved during its passage through the House of Lords and the House of Commons. I was particularly pleased to see that the Bill has been welcomed by the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning as an important piece of legislation that will strengthen and reinforce some of this Assembly's key objectives.

There are two elements to the Homes Bill, the reform of home buying and tackling homelessness. It will reduce the chances of gazumping and require the provision of sellers' packs. There will be measures to enable local authorities in Wales to deal more effectively with homelessness. While cases of homelessness have fallen in Wales since 1997, it remains a matter of great concern to us in the United Kingdom Government and to you in the Assembly. The measures over which you will have control could therefore be of great benefit and help to over 3,500 homeless people in Wales.

The proposed Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Bill was published in draft earlier this year, so you have had an opportunity to comment on it. Commonhold reform will give flat owners the same security as freehold ownership. While leasehold reform provisions, which have been of huge significance in the past in Wales, will give greater protection against unscrupulous landlords, commonhold is dealt with on an England and Wales basis, but you will have regulation making powers under the leasehold reform measures.

Other Bills include the Hunting Bill, which will allow a free vote on the future of hunting with dogs, which fulfils my party's manifesto commitment. The Bill contains three self-contained options, which have been put forward by the main hunting interest groups and will take place shortly.

The Regulatory Reform Bill will introduce wider powers to reform burdensome legislation. Regulatory reform orders would simplify and improve regulations that would benefit businesses, the public, charities,

y Cabinet yn parhau i chwarae rhan yn ystod ei daith drwy Dy'r Arglwyddi a Thy'r Cyffredin. Yr oeddwn yn hynod o falch o weld bod y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes wedi croesawu'r Mesur fel darn pwysig o ddeddfwriaeth a fydd yn cryfhau ac atgyfnerthu rhai o amcanion allweddol y Cynulliad hwn.

Mae dwy elfen i'r Mesur Cartrefi, sef diwygio'r broses o brynu cartref a mynd i'r afael â digartrefedd. Bydd yn lleihau'r posibilrwydd o gasympio ac yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i ddarparu pecynnau ar gyfer gwerthwyr. Bydd mesurau i alluogi awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru i ymdrin â digartrefedd yn llawer mwy effeithiol. Er bod nifer yr achosion o ddigartrefedd wedi gostwng yng Nghymru ers 1997, mae'n parhau i achosi pryder mawr inni yn Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig ac i chithau yn y Cynulliad. Gallai'r mesurau y bydd gennych reolaeth drostynt felly fod o fudd mawr a helpu dros 3,500 o bobl ddigartref yng Nghymru.

Cyhoeddwyd Mesur Deiliadaeth ar y Cyd a Diwygio Prydlesi ar ffurf drafft yn gynharach eleni, felly cawsoch gyfle i roi sylwadau arno. Bydd diwygio Deiliadaeth ar y Cyd yn rhoi'r un sicrwydd i berchenogion fflatiau â pherchenogion rhydd-ddeiliadaeth. Er y bydd darpariaethau diwygio prydlesi, a fu'n arwyddocaol dros ben yn y gorffennol yng Nghymru, yn rhoi gwell diogelwch rhag landlordiaid diegwyddor, ymdrinnir â deiliadaeth ar y cyd ar sail Cymru a Lloegr, ond bydd gennych bwerau i wneud rheoliadau o dan y mesurau diwygio prydlesi.

Ymhlith y Mesurau eraill mae'r Mesur Hela, a fydd yn caniatáu pleidlais rydd ar ddyfodol hela â chwn, sydd yn cyflawni ymrwymiad maniffesto fy mhlaidd. Mae'r Mesur yn cynnwys tri opsiwn ar wahân, a gyflwynwyd gan y prif grwpiau â diddordeb mewn hela ac fe'i cynhelir yn fuan.

Bydd Mesur Diwygio Rheoleiddiol yn cyflwyno pwerau ehangach i ddiwygio deddfwriaeth feichus. Byddai gorchmynion diwygio rheoleiddiol yn symleiddio a gwella rheoliadau a fyddai o fudd i fusnesau, y

voluntary sectors, local authorities and the wider public sector. Regulatory reform functions have not been transferred to the Assembly but we recognise that such Orders will be important to bodies acting in areas for which the Assembly is responsible. To meet that point, the Bill will require the United Kingdom's Secretary of State—not me—to obtain the Assembly's consent on any regulatory reform Order, which amends or removes those of the Assembly. He will also be required to consult if the provisions of any Order extend to Wales.

Presiding Officer and colleagues, the Queen's Speech is an important and exciting programme. It recognises the role and the huge responsibilities that fall upon your shoulders as Assembly Members. It deals with issues of vital importance to the people of Wales who elected me and my 39 colleagues to the House of Commons and you to the National Assembly in Cardiff to represent their interests. The programme makes the partnership clear in that, while tackling crime is a matter for the United Kingdom Government, it affects the Assembly's responsibility in health, education and economic, environmental and social regeneration. As you exercise the responsibility that the legislation will give you on health, education and housing, it will help the police in the task of making our streets safer for the young and old. I wish the Assembly well in its deliberations on behalf of the Welsh people and I wish you well for Christmas and the New Year.

4:00 p.m.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I welcome the Secretary of State for Wales to the National Assembly. As he indicated, this is the second occasion on which he has come to outline the provisions of the Queen's Speech, the UK Government's legislative programme, to us. I gently remind him that this was, probably, the most electioneering Queen's Speech that we have heard during the last four years.

cyhoedd, elusennau, y sectorau gwirfoddol, awdurdodau lleol a'r sector cyhoeddus ehangach. Ni throsglwyddwyd swyddogaethau diwygio rheoleiddiol i'r Cynulliad ond cydnabyddwn y bydd Gorchmynion o'r fath yn bwysig i gyrff a weithreda yn y meysydd y mae'r Cynulliad yn gyfrifol amdanynt. Er mwyn cyflawni'r nod hwnnw, bydd y Mesur yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i Ysgrifennydd Gwladol y Deyrnas Unedig—nid myfi—gael caniatâd y Cynulliad ar unrhyw Orchymyn diwygio rheoleiddiol, sydd yn gwella neu'n dileu Gorchmynion y Cynulliad. Bydd hefyd yn ofynnol iddo ymgynghori os bydd darpariaethau unrhyw Orchymyn yn ymestyn i Gymru.

Lywydd a chyfeillion, mae Araith y Frenhines yn rhaglen bwysig a chyffrous. Mae'n cydnabod y rôl a'r cyfrifoldebau enfawr yr ydych chi fel Aelodau'r Cynulliad eu hysgwyddo. Ymdrinia â materion sydd yn holl bwysig i bobl Cymru a'm hetholodd i a'r 39 o'm cyd-Aelodau i Dy'r Cyffredin a chithau i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yng Nghaerdydd i gynrychioli eu buddiannau. Mae'r rhaglen yn nodi'r bartneriaeth yn glir yn yr ystyr, er mai mater i Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yw mynd i'r afael â throseddu, effeithia ar gyfrifoldeb y Cynulliad dros iechyd, addysg ac adfywio economaidd, amgylcheddol a chymdeithasol. Wrth ichi ymgymryd â'r cyfrifoldeb a rydd y ddeddfwriaeth ichi o ran iechyd, addysg a thai, bydd yn helpu'r heddlu yn eu gwaith o sicrhau bod ein strydoedd yn fwy diogel i'r hen a'r ifanc. Dymunaf yn dda i'r Cynulliad yn ei drafodion ar ran pobl Cymru a dymunaf yn dda ichi ar gyfer y Nadolig a'r Flwyddyn Newydd.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Estynnaf groeso i Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Fel y nododd, hwn yw'r ail achlysur iddo ddod yma i nodi darpariaethau Araith y Frenhines, rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol Llywodraeth y DU inni. Hoffwn ei atgoffa'n garedig mai hon oedd yr Araith fwyaf etholiadol a glywsom yn ystod y pedair blynedd diwethaf. A gytuna iddo nodi

Does he agree that he has highlighted the Labour Party's programme for that general election, bearing in mind that it is highly unlikely that all these Bills will reach the statute book before the May election?

There are two Bills that my party unreservedly welcome. However, does he recognise that many people from all parties, and independent people, have campaigned for many years not only for a children's commissioner in Wales, but for substantial powers for that commissioner? Will he pay tribute to those who have campaigned over the years? It will be a great day for Wales when that Bill reaches the statute book. Will he also accept that another measure is welcomed in Wales, that is, the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Bill? The Government ought to have done that years ago and we will support it all the way to the statute book, which it will reach, hopefully, before the general election.

Will he tell us how the Queen's Speech will tackle people's growing concern about poverty levels in Wales? Has he read the Joseph Rowntree Foundation report? It states that about 500,000 people in the United Kingdom and 25,000 in Wales are living below the poverty line, an increase of 25,000 on the overall total since New Labour came into power. How will the Queen's Speech address that major issue? What will it do to address the inequalities in terms of income and health in Wales? There are greater inequalities now than when New Labour came to power.

What commitment is in the Queen's Speech to improve public services in Wales, bearing in mind that the Labour Party goes into the next general election with the proportion of spending on public services at the same level as it was during John Major's last year in power?

In reality, are the Bills that the Government has announced for tackling crime anything more than window dressing? Is it not true that the way to tackle crime and to instil confidence in people that the Government is

rhaglen y Blaid Lafur ar gyfer yr etholiad cyffredinol hwnnw, o gofio mai go brin y bydd pob un o'r Mesurau hyn yn cyrraedd y llyfr statud cyn yr etholiad ym mis Mai?

Mae dau Fesur a groesewir yn ddiamed gan fy mhlaid i. Fodd bynnag, a yw'n cydnabod bod llawer o bobl, o bob plaid, a phobl annibynnol, wedi ymgyrchu ers nifer o flynyddoedd nid yn unig dros gomisiynydd plant yng Nghymru, ond am bwerau sylweddol i'r comisiynydd hwnnw? A wnaiff dalu teyrnged i'r rhai a ymgyrchodd dros y blynyddoedd? Bydd yn ddiwrnod mawr i Gymru pan fydd y Mesur hwnnw'n cyrraedd y llyfr statud. A dderbynia hefyd y croesewir mesur arall yng Nghymru, sef Mesur Hysbysebu a Hyrwyddo Tybaco? Dylai'r Llywodraeth fod wedi gwneud hynny flynyddoedd yn ôl ac fe'i cefnogwn bob cam o'r ffordd i'r llyfr statud, a fydd yn digwydd, gobeithio, cyn yr etholiad cyffredinol.

A wnaiff ddweud wrthym sut y bydd Araith y Frenhines yn mynd i'r afael â phryder cynyddol pobl ynglŷn â lefelau tlodi yng Nghymru? A ddarllenodd adroddiad Sefydliad Joseph Rowntree? Noda fod tua 500,000 o bobl yn y Deyrnas Unedig a 25,000 yng Nghymru yn byw islaw'r llinell dlodi, sef cynnydd o 25,000 yn y cyfanswm ers i Lafur Newydd ddod i rym. Sut y bydd Araith y Frenhines yn mynd i'r afael â'r mater pwysig hwnnw? Beth a wna i fynd i'r afael â'r anghydraddoldebau o ran incwm a iechyd yng Nghymru? Mae mwy o anghydraddoldebau yn awr na phan ddaeth Llafur Newydd i rym.

Pa ymrwymiad sydd yn Araith y Frenhines i wella gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru, o gofio bod y Blaid Lafur yn mynd i mewn i'r etholiad cyffredinol nesaf gyda'r un gyfran o wariant ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus ag a fu yn ystod blwyddyn olaf John Major mewn grym?

Onid yw'r Mesurau a gyhoeddwyd gan y Llywodraeth ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â throseddu yn ddim mwy na sioe mewn gwirionedd? Onid yw'n wir mai'r ffordd i fynd i'r afael a throseddau a darbwylllo pobl

tackling crime is to put more police officers on the beat? Are there measures in the Queen's Speech to tackle that fundamental issue?

We want more police officers on the beat, not good headlines in the *Daily Mail*. Will he confirm that the Queen's Speech is not really about the problems facing the people of Wales, but about Labour preparing for a general election?

Paul Murphy: You put some of those points to me yesterday in the Welsh Grand Committee. I have not yet read the Rowntree report, but I have seen the newspaper reports. I welcome unreservedly everyone who has been supportive of the Bills that you mentioned initially in your statement, namely the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill and the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Bill. I accept, of course, that many things need to be done in terms of alleviating poverty in Wales. I believe, however, that the Government has made an enormous effort since its election in 1997 to do precisely that. Indeed, the Queen's Speech contains an opportunity to do that. It is not mentioned in the list, because it is always included in the Finance Bill, which comes as a result of the financial measures introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

On many occasions during the last few months—and I hope it will happen in the months ahead as well—the Chancellor has introduced many measures that will improve the quality of life of the people of Wales. This relates to pensioners, with the recent increases in the pension and the various measures that we announced in the pre-Budget report. It relates to the Government's actions in dealing with child poverty. It also relates to the comprehensive spending review. Whatever comparisons we make, there is no doubt, when we consider the increases in public funding allocated to this Assembly by the Government during the course of that spending review, that there has been an enormous increase. Nearly £10,000 billion is being paid by the Government

bod y Llywodraeth yn mynd i'r afael â throseddau yw rhoi mwy o heddweision ar y strydoedd? A oes mesurau yn Araith y Frenhines i fynd i'r afael â'r mater sylfaenol hwnnw?

Hoffem gael mwy o heddweision ar y strydoedd, nid penawdau da yn y *Daily Mail*. A wnaiff gadarnhau bod Araith y Frenhines mewn gwirionedd yn ymwneud â Llafur yn paratoi ar gyfer etholiad cyffredinol yn hytrach na'r problemau y mae pobl Cymru yn eu hwynebu?

Paul Murphy: Codasoch rai o'r pwyntiau hynny â mi ddoe yn Uwch-Bwyllgor Cymru. Nid wyf wedi darllen adroddiad Rowntree eto, ond gwelais yr adroddiadau papurau newydd. Croesawaf bawb yn ddiamod a fu'n gefnogol i'r Mesurau a nodwyd gennych ar ddechrau'r datganiad, sef Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru a Mesur Hysbysebu a Hyrwyddo Tybaco. Derbyniaf, wrth gwrs, fod angen gwneud llawer o ran lleihau tlodi yng Nghymru. Credaf, fodd bynnag, fod y Llywodraeth wedi gwneud ymdrech enfawr ers iddi gael ei hethol yn 1997 i wneud yr union beth hwnnw. Yn wir, rhydd Araith y Frenhines gyfle i wneud hynny. Nis nodir yn y rhestr, am ei fod bob amser wedi ei gynnwys yn y Mesur Cyllid, sydd yn deillio o'r mesurau ariannol a gyflwynwyd gan Ganghellor y Trysorlys.

Ar sawl achlysur yn ystod yr ychydig fisoedd diwethaf—a gobeithiaf y digwydd yn y misoedd nesaf hefyd—mae'r Canghellor wedi cyflwyno llawer o fesurau a fydd yn gwella ansawdd bywyd pobl Cymru. Mae hyn yn ymwneud â phensiynwyr, gyda'r cynnydd diweddar yn y pensiwn a'r amryw o fesurau a gyhoeddwyd gennym yn yr adroddiad cyn y Gyllideb. Mae'n ymwneud â chamau'r Llywodraeth i fynd i'r afael â thlodi ymysg plant. Mae hefyd yn ymwneud â'r adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant. Pa gymariaethau bynnag a wnawn, nid oes unrhyw amheuaeth, o ystyried y cynnydd mewn arian cyhoeddus a ddyrannwyd gan y Llywodraeth i'r Cynulliad hwn yn ystod yr adolygiad hwnnw o wariant, y bu cynnydd anferthol. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn talu bron i

through a block grant system to the Assembly. There are increases in health and in education, as well as in other areas that you in the Assembly decide and deliberate upon in terms of priorities.

As far as the *Daily Mail* is concerned, I doubt that we will ever get good headlines in that newspaper. However, I agree with you on police officers, and the Government has increased the number of police officers in Wales. However, I do not agree with your comment about window dressing. Any of us who represent—as I do—towns and urban villages in the south Wales valleys or cities or even some country areas, where violent crime has been a source of enormous concern, will agree that we must take measures to deal with that. Violent crime is often associated with the abuse of alcohol outside public houses and elsewhere. We must tackle it. I believe that the people of Wales will welcome that Bill and certainly, the Vehicle (Crime) Bill to ensure that the proceeds of their misdeeds are brought back into the public arena.

There is nothing at all that could be described as ‘window dressing’ about the importance of modernising the health service, which I know that you as an Assembly, as much as we as an United Kingdom Government, are intent upon doing. I know that Jane has been exercising her talents and energies over the last few months.

Nick Bourne: I welcome the Secretary of State for Wales. It is a pleasure to see him. Many of us feel that it would be appropriate if he visited more regularly than once a year. Under Section 76 of the Government of Wales Act 1998, he has every right to be here. One of the dangers of the devolution process is that the Westminster-Cardiff nexus does not always work as well as it could. That would benefit from more regular visits by the Secretary of State. I am sure that that would be widely welcomed across the Chamber.

I will ask some questions regarding the

£10,000 biliwn i'r Cynulliad drwy system grant bloc. Mae cynnydd ym maes iechyd ac addysg, yn ogystal â meysydd eraill y'u trafodir ac y penderfynir arnynt gennych chi yn y Cynulliad o ran blaenoriaethau.

O ran y *Daily Mail*, mae'n amheus gennyf a gawn benawdau da byth yn y papur newydd hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, cytunaf â chi o ran heddweision, ac mae'r Llywodraeth wedi cynyddu nifer yr heddweision yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, ni chytunaf â'ch sylw ynglŷn â chynnal sioe. Bydd pawb ohonom sydd yn cynrychioli—fel y gwnaf fi—drefi a phentrefi mewn ardaloedd trefol yng nghymoedd neu ddinasoedd de Cymru neu hyd yn oed mewn rhai ardaloedd gwledig, lle y bu troseddu treisgar yn peri cryn bryder, yn cytuno bod yn rhaid inni gymryd camau i fynd i'r afael â hynny. Yn aml mae troseddau treisgar yn gysylltiedig â chamddefnyddio alcohol y tu allan i dafarndai a mannau eraill. Rhaid inni fynd i'r afael ag ef. Credaf y bydd pobl Cymru yn croesawu'r Mesur hwnnw ac yn sicr, y Mesur Cerbydau (Troseddau) sydd yn sicrhau y caiff enillion o'u camweddau eu dychwelyd i'r cyhoedd.

Nid oes unrhyw beth y gellid ei ddisgrifio fel ‘cynnal sioe’ ynghylch pwysigrwydd moderneiddio'r gwasanaeth iechyd, gwn eich bod chi fel Cynulliad, cystal â ninnau yn Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig, yn awyddus i'w wneud. Gwn fod Jane wedi bod wrthi'n defnyddio ei doniau a'i hegni yn ystod yr ychydig fisoedd diwethaf.

Nick Bourne: Estynnaf groeso i Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru. Mae'n bleser ei weld. Teimla llawer ohonom y byddai'n briodol pe bai'n ymweld â ni yn amlach nag unwaith y flwyddyn. O dan Adran 76 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, mae ganddo bob hawl i fod yma. Un o beryglon y broses ddatganoli yw nad yw'r cysylltiad rhwng San Steffan a Chaerdydd yn gweithio cystal ag y gallai. Byddai hynny'n elwa ar ymweliadau mwy rheolaidd gan yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai croeso cyffredinol i hynny ar draws y Siambr.

Gofynnaf ychydig o gwestiynau ynglŷn â'r

background to the Queen's Speech, before progressing to some of the specific legislative areas. Much was made about the growth that has been achieved. However, will he not confirm that there has been an increase in taxation under this Government, since it came to power three and a half years ago, which is the equivalent of nearly 10p on the basic rate of income tax? Against that background, it would be surprising if some of that did not filter through into increased spending on public services. Is not the real question about how we ensure that the money is well spent rather than simply continuing to ratchet up taxation, whether direct or indirect?

Could he also, as it was mentioned in the Queen's Speech, comment on the commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation? Many of us and many people throughout Wales are concerned about the Government's commitment to NATO and about the danger of the rapid reaction force undermining that commitment.

On the specific issues of legislation contained in the Queen's Speech, there is little that will affect some of the fundamental problems in Wales. There is little to tackle the growing crisis in waiting lists, as they are defined by the administration. It wants to tackle waiting lists, while we are more concerned about waiting times. Waiting lists have increased compared to last year.

There is little to tackle the problem that we saw in the budget last week about getting money to schools. We heard comments earlier about brown paper envelopes not reaching headteachers. Many headteachers found that offensive. Would you like to comment on the process in England, where the money goes directly to schools, so that we can be certain that the money is being usefully employed?

We welcome certain aspects of the criminal law programme. However, will you confirm that some of the measures for dealing with anti-social behaviour have not been used?

cefnidir i Araith y Frenhines, cyn symud ymlaen i feysydd penodol o ddeddfwriaeth. Bu cryn sôn am y twf a gafwyd. Fodd bynnag, oni chadarnhâ fod trethiant wedi cynyddu o dan y Llywodraeth hon, ers iddi ddod i rym dair blynedd a hanner yn ôl, sef cynnydd sydd yn cyfateb i bron i 10c ar y gyfradd sylfaenol o dreth incwm? Yn erbyn y cefndir hwnnw, byddai'n rhyfeddol pe na bai peth o'r arian hwnnw wedi ymdreiglo i'r gwasanaethau cyhoeddus fel gwariant ychwanegol. Onid sut y sicrhawn y gwerir yr arian yn dda yw'r gwir gwestiwn yn hytrach na pharhau i godi trethiant, boed hynny'n uniongyrchol neu'n anuniongyrchol.

A allai hefyd, fel y nodwyd yn Araith y Frenhines, wneud sylw ar yr ymrwymiad i Sefydliad Cytundeb Gogledd yr Iwerydd, NATO? Mae llawer ohonom a phobl ledled Cymru yn pryderu ynglŷn ag ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth i NATO a'r perygl y bydd y llu ymateb cyflym yn tansilio'r ymrwymiad hwnnw.

Ar y materion penodol sydd yn ymwneud â deddfwriaeth yn Araith y Frenhines, nid oes llawer a fydd yn effeithio ar rai o'r problemau hanfodol yng Nghymru. Nid oes llawer a fydd yn mynd i'r afael ag argyfwng cynyddol y rhestrau aros, fel y'u diffinnir gan y weinyddiaeth. Mae am fynd i'r afael â rhestrau aros, tra byddwn ninnau'n fwy pryderus ynglŷn ag amseroedd aros. Mae'r amseroedd aros wedi cynyddu o'u cymharu â rhai'r llynedd.

Nid oes llawer a fydd yn mynd i'r afael â'r broblem a welsom yn y gyllideb yr wythnos diwethaf ynghylch rhoi arian i ysgolion. Clywsom sylwadau'n gynharach nad oedd amlenni bach brown yn cyrraedd penaethiaid. Yr oedd y sylw hwnnw'n sarhaus i lawer o benaethiaid. A hoffech roi sylwadau ar y broses yn Lloegr, lle yr aiff yr arian yn uniongyrchol i ysgolion, fel y gallwn fod yn sicr y caiff yr arian ei ddefnyddio'n dda?

Croesawn agweddau penodol ar y rhaglen cyfraith droseddol. Fodd bynnag, a gadarnhewch na ddefnyddiwyd rhai o'r mesurau i ymdrin ag ymddygiad gwrth-

There has not been a single child curfew order since it was brought in. There have been few anti-social behaviour orders. Therefore, is this is not all election window dressing?

4:10 p.m.

Furthermore, it contains the commitment once again to reintroduce the abolition of jury trial, which the Assembly voted against last year on a free vote. Apart from about three Members, all parties voted against this measure. Therefore, it is disappointing to see jury trial being eroded in the Queen's Speech.

I refer to two items that could have been taken directly from the Conservative Party pre-manifesto document, 'Believing in Britain'. Perhaps they were taken directly from that. The commitment to combat social security fraud is currently costing the Exchequer £7 billion a year based on Government figures. Would he confirm that that kind of expenditure could make a massive difference to life in Wales, for example, in tackling our health and education problems? Is this not the Government's forty-third announcement that it will tackle social security fraud? Is it not contained in a Bill because we have an election around the corner?

We welcome measures to deregulate. Indeed, we have started an initiative in the Assembly and in the UK about the amount of regulation that the Labour Government has brought in at Westminster. Would he confirm that this is costing the economy £5 billion a year? The commitment to reducing regulation would be more convincing if the Government had not introduced a record number of regulations last year, namely 3,473. It must be seen against that background.

I know that Lorraine Barrett would not call me a co-operative Conservative—at least I hope that she would not. However, I welcome this opportunity to reassure her that the Welsh Conservative Party is fully committed to the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill—not the Hunting Bill, John.

gymdeithasol? Ni fu'r un gorchymyn cyrffiw plant ers iddo gael ei gyflwyno. Ychydig iawn o orchmynion ymddygiad gwrth-gymdeithasol a gafwyd. Felly, onid sioe cyn yr etholiad yw'r cyfan oll?

Ar ben hynny, mae'n cynnwys ymrwymiad unwaith eto i ddiddymu prawf drwy reithgor, y pleidleisiodd y Cynulliad yn ei erbyn y llynedd mewn pleidlais rydd. Ar wahân i tua thri Aelod, pleidleisiodd pob plaid yn erbyn y mater hwn. Felly, mae'n siomedig gweld prawf drwy reithgor yn cael ei danseilio yn Araith y Frenhines.

Cyfeiriaf at ddwy eitem y gellid bod wedi eu cymryd yn uniongyrchol o ddogfen ragarweiniol i fanifesto'r Blaid Geidwadol, sef 'Believing in Britain'. Efallai eu bod wedi eu cymryd yn uniongyrchol ohoni. Mae'r ymrwymiad i wrthsefyll twyll nawdd cymdeithasol yn costio £7 miliwn bob blwyddyn i'r Trysorlys yn seiliedig ar ffigurau'r Llywodraeth. A wnaiff gadarnhau y gallai gwariant o'r fath wneud gwahaniaeth enfawr i fywyd Cymru, er enghraifft, drwy fynd i'r afael â phroblemau iechedd ac addysg? Onid hwn yw'r trydydd cyhoeddiad a deugain gan y Llywodraeth y bydd yn mynd i'r afael â thwyll nawdd cymdeithasol? Onid yw wedi ei gynnwys mewn Mesur am fod etholiad ar y gorwel?

Croesawn fesurau i ddadreoleiddio. Yn wir, cychwynasom ymgyrch yn y Cynulliad a'r Deyrnas Unedig ynglŷn â maint y rheoleiddio y mae'r Llywodraeth Lafur wedi ei gyflwyno yn San Steffan. A wnaiff gadarnhau bod hyn yn costio £5 biliwn y flwyddyn i'r economi? Byddai'r ymrwymiad i leihau rheoleiddio yn fwy argyhoeddiadol pe na bai'r Llywodraeth wedi cyflwyno'r nifer uchaf o reoliadau a welwyd erioed y llynedd, sef 3,473. Rhaid ei ystyried yn erbyn y cefndir hwnnw.

Gwn na fyddai Lorraine Barrett yn fy ngalw'n Geidwadwr cydweithredol—gobeithiaf na fyddai'n gwneud o leiaf. Fodd bynnag, croesawaf y cyfle hwn i'w sicrhau fod Plaid Geidwadol Cymru yn gwbl ymrwymedig i Fesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru—nid y Mesur Hela, John. Down at

We are coming to that. Be attentive. It is not simply David Melding's policy, but the policy of the entire group. It is also, as far as I can gather, the policy of the party in Westminster. Philip Hammond MP committed himself to supporting David Melding's policy, indeed, our policy, in the Committee stage of the Care Standards Bill when that went through Parliament. He mentioned David Melding by name. I am grateful for the opportunity to once more pin our colours firmly to the mast on that issue.

The Hunting Bill, which John Griffiths and others mentioned, is irrelevant to the needs of rural Wales. Whether or not you are in favour of this Bill, the most outstanding feature of the Queen's Speech is that the only issue that directly concerns rural areas is an assault on hunting. In any system of priorities something should be done to meet the needs of rural Britain and rural Wales. This Bill is irrelevant regardless of whether one wants it or not. It is an insult to people who are living through a crisis in rural Wales and rural Britain.

In short, this is an election Queen's Speech. It is thin. We welcome the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill. However, concerning much else of what is contained in the speech, if it has not been taken from 'Believing in Britain'—most of your successful policies have been taken from us. [*Laughter.*]

Sue Essex: Such as devolution.

Nick Bourne: I can see support for this across the Chamber. We welcome the measures that have real content, but the great bulk of this, I fear, is an election Queen's Speech and much of it is destined to fail when the election is called.

Paul Murphy: I hope that much of it, whenever that election is called, will not fail, because from what you and others have said, Nick, there are several Bills with which you agree. As you know, if an election is called

hynny. Gwrandawer yn ofalus. Nid polisi David Melding yn unig ydyw, ond polisi'r grŵp cyfan. Mae hefyd, hyd y gwelaf, yn bolisi'r blaid yn San Steffan. Ymrwymodd Philip Hammond AS i gefnogi polisi David Melding, yn wir, ein polisi ni, wrth i'r Mesur Safonau Gofal fynd drwy'r Pwyllgor ar ei daith drwy'r Senedd. Enwodd David Melding. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y cyfle i ddangos ein lliwiau unwaith eto ynglŷn â'r mater hwnnw.

Mae'r Mesur Hela, y cyfeiriodd John Griffiths ac eraill ato, yn amherthnasol i anghenion cefn gwlad Cymru. Pa un ai a ydych yn cefnogi'r Mesur hwn ai peidio, nodwedd amlycaf Araith y Frenhines yw mai'r unig fater sydd yn ymwneud yn uniongyrchol ag ardaloedd gwledig yw'r ymosodiad ar hela. Mewn unrhyw system flaenoriaethu dylid gwneud rhywbeth er mwyn ateb anghenion cefn gwlad Prydain a Chymru. Mae'r Mesur hwn yn amherthnasol pa un ai a ydych yn ei gefnogi ai peidio. Mae'n sarhad i bobl sydd yn byw drwy argyfwng yng nghefn gwlad Cymru a Phrydain.

Yn fyr, araith etholiadol yw Araith y Frenhines eleni. Mae'n denau. Croesawn Fesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru. Fodd bynnag, ynglŷn â gweddill cynnwys yr araith, os nad yw wedi ei gymryd o 'Believing in Britain'—cymerwyd y rhan fwyaf o'ch polisiau llwyddiannus oddi wrthym ni. [*Chwerthin.*]

Sue Essex: Megis datganoli.

Nick Bourne: Gallaf weld bod cefnogaeth i hyn ar draws y Siambr. Croesawn y mesurau sydd â chynnwys gwirioneddol, ond mae mwyafrif llethol yr araith, fe ofnaf, yn Araith y Frenhines ar gyfer etholiad ac mae'r rhan fwyaf ohoni yn rhwym o gael ei cholli pan gyhoeddir etholiad.

Paul Murphy: Gobeithiaf na fydd y rhan fwyaf ohoni, pryd bynnag y cyhoeddir etholiad, yn cael ei golli oherwydd, yn ôl yr hyn a ddywedasoich chi a phobl eraill, Nick, yr ydych yn cefnogi sawl Mesur. Fel y

in the middle of a Parliamentary session, the various political parties in the House of Commons get together and work out how they can fast-track to complete the significant Bills. From the point of view of Wales, the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill and other Bills are important.

In terms of coming here to spend time in debates and answer Members' questions, I am more than happy to do that whenever the Assembly requests it. I am conscious that we are at the beginning of the devolution process. It is for those of you who are elected to this body, rather than for myself, who is appointed, to undertake those tasks. As it so happens, I am here nearly every Monday and if you want to have a chat, I would be more than happy to do that. However, I make it clear, Presiding Officer, that there is no indication whatsoever from my office or from me of reluctance to come to this Chamber and address the Assembly at any time on issues which are of mutual importance.

Nick mentioned an increase in taxation. He also mentioned that it is important that money received by public bodies is well spent. First, much of the finance that has gone into improving public services has come because we are paying much less interest off the national debt and also because we are paying much less in benefits because people have gone back to work. When you combine that, money that has been dissipated in the wrong way is now rightly being spent on improving public services. That is what is important. That is why, here in the Assembly as in the rest of the United Kingdom, we have had the biggest ever increases in public spending for many years.

I agree that money on its own is not the answer. It has to be spent wisely and in such a way that it goes to those most in need. How to do that is a matter for you in your Assembly. For example, you touch upon waiting times and lists, upon moneys going directly to schools, and so on, issues which are entirely matters for the Assembly to deal with. I accept that, because people watch the

gwyddoch, os cyhoeddir etholiad yng nghanol sesiwn Seneddol, mae'r gwahanol bleidiau yn Nhy'r Cyffredin yn dod ynghyd i drefnu sut y gallant gyflymu'r broses er mwyn cwblhau'r Mesurau arwyddocaol. O safbwynt Cymru, mae Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru a Mesurau eraill yn bwysig.

O ran dod yma a mynychu dadleuon ac ateb cwestiynau'r Aelodau, yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i wneud hynny pryd bynnag y bydd y Cynulliad yn gofyn imi. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol mai megis dechrau yr ydym ar y broses ddatganoli. Mae'n fater i'r rhai ohonoch a etholwyd i'r corff hwn, yn hytrach nag i mi, fel un a benodwyd, i ymgymryd â'r tasgau hynny. Fel y mae'n digwydd, yr wyf yma bron bob dydd Llun ac os hoffech gael sgwrs, byddwn yn fwy na pharod i wneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, nodaf yn glir, Lywydd nad oes dim arwydd o gwbl gan fy swyddfa na minnau fy mod yn amharod i ddod i'r Siambr hon ac annerch y Cynulliad ar unrhyw adeg ar faterion sydd o bwys i'r ddwy ochr.

Cyfeiriodd Nick at gynnydd mewn trethiant. Soniodd hefyd ei bod yn bwysig bod arian a dderbynnir gan gyrff cyhoeddus yn cael ei wario'n dda. Yn gyntaf, mae'r rhan helaeth o'r arian a wariwyd er mwyn gwella gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ar gael am ein bod yn talu llai o log ar y ddyled genedlaethol ac am ein bod hefyd yn talu llai o fudd-daliadau oherwydd bod pobl wedi dychwelyd i'r gwaith. Pan gyfunwch hynny, mae'r arian a wariwyd mewn modd anghywir erbyn hyn yn cael ei wario yn gywir ar wella gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Dyna beth sydd yn bwysig. Dyna pam bod gennym y cynnydd mwyaf o ran gwariant cyhoeddus ers blynyddoedd lawer yma yn Cynulliad ac yng ngweddill y Deyrnas Unedig.

Cytunaf nad yw arian ar ei ben ei hun yn rhoi'r ateb. Rhaid ei wario'n ddoeth ac yn y cyfryw fodd fel y'i rhoddir i'r rhai â'r angen mwyaf. Mater i chi yn eich Cynulliad yw penderfynu sut i wneud hynny. Er enghraifft, cyfeiriwch at amseroedd a rhestrau aros, at arian yn mynd yn uniongyrchol i ysgolion, ac ati, sef materion i'r Cynulliad ymdrin â hwy yn gyfan gwbl. Derbyniaf y ffaith y gall fod

UK national news on television and see this and that happening by way of announcements by my colleagues, such as the Secretary of State for Health and the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, it can be a little confusing. I understand that. It is up to us, and the media, to ensure that it is made clear what the responsibilities of the, as it were, English Secretaries of State are and what the responsibilities of the Assembly are.

Nick also mentioned NATO and the undoubted commitment there. I am a former shadow defence spokesman. I assure you that there is no question whatsoever that the United Kingdom Government is committed to our membership of NATO as the main body to ensure peace for the world. However, I see no difficulty in the European Union countries getting together as well, complementing the role of NATO to ensure that we can help peacekeeping throughout the world.

Nick also talked about regulations and about trial by jury. On regulations, I think that the Regulatory Reform Bill—or Act as it will become—will be significant in reducing regulations and the red tape. The Assembly will play its part in that. The Criminal Justice (Mode of Trial) (No. 2) Bill is being reintroduced from the last session. Nick rightly welcomed the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill and he touched upon the Hunting Bill. As he knows, and as Rhodri mentioned earlier, there will be a free vote on the Hunting Bill. It will be for us, individually, to decide how we vote on that issue and on the different options before us, when we get to the House of Commons. Above all, we said to the British people that we would do this. We are committed by way of our manifesto to give that free vote to the Members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. That is what we shall do.

4:20 p.m.

The Presiding Officer: I call the leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats.

Michael German: I also make it clear that I will speak in my capacity as leader of the

ychedig yn ddryslyd, am fod pobl yn gwyllo newyddion cenedlaethol y DU ar y teledu a gweld bod hyn a hyn yn digwydd ar ôl ei gyhoeddi gan fy nghyd-Aelodau, fel yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Iechyd a'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Addysg a Chyflogaeth. Deallaf hynny. Mae'n fater inni, a'r cyfryngau, i sicrhau y caiff cyfrifoldebau Ysgrifenyddion Gwladol Lloegr, fel petai, a chyfrifoldebau'r Cynulliad eu nodi'n glir.

Cyfeiriodd Nick hefyd at NATO a'r ymrwymiad pendant yma. Yr wyf yn gynlefarlydd yr wrthblaid dros amddiffyn. Fe'ch sicrhaf nad oes unrhyw amheuaeth o gwbl bod Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yn ymrwymedig i'n haelodaeth o NATO fel y prif gorff dros sicrhau heddwch yn y byd. Fodd bynnag, ni welaf fod unrhyw rwystr i wledydd yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ddod ynghyd yn ogystal, gan ategu rôl NATO wrth sicrhau y gallwn helpu i gadw heddwch ledled y byd.

Soniodd Nick hefyd am reoliadau a phrawf drwy reithgor. Ynglŷn â rheoliadau, credaf y bydd y Mesur Diwygio Rheoleiddiol—neu'r Ddeddf fel y bydd—yn gam arwyddocaol i leihau rheoliadau a biwrocratiaeth. Bydd y Cynulliad yn chwarae rhan yn hynny o beth. Ailgyflwynir y Mesur Cyfiawnder Troseddol (Dull Prawf) (Rhif 2) o'r sesiwn ddiwethaf. Mae Nick yn llygad ei le i groesawu Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru ac mae wedi crybwyll y Mesur Hela. Fel y gwyr, ac fel y soniodd Rhodri yn gynharach, bydd pleidlais rydd ar y Mesur Hela. Bydd yn rhaid inni, fel unigolion, benderfynu sut y pleidleisiwn ar y mater hwn ac ar y gwahanol opsiynau ger ein bron, pan fyddwn yn Nhy'r Cyffredin. Yn anad dim, dywedasom wrth bobl Prydain y byddem yn gwneud hyn. Yr ydym yn ymrwymedig drwy ein maniffesto i roi pleidlais rydd i Aelodau Ty'r Cyffredin a Thy'r Arglwyddi. Dyna a wnawn.

Y Llywydd: Galwaf ar arweinydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru.

Michael German: Nodaf yn glir hefyd mai yn rhinwedd fy swydd fel arweinydd

Welsh Liberal Democrats. There are some people here, Secretary of State, who do not understand that you are from a different Government and a different place and a different party. However, it is obvious to me, as it is obvious to my colleagues in my own party. I am speaking to you as a Liberal Democrat Member. One of the Assembly's strengths has been the fact that, during the past year, we have been able to work together as Assembly Members on a common agenda and now on a common programme for this Government which will bring benefits to the National Assembly. That is the new politics at work, therefore it does not surprise me that others in the Chamber find that difficult.

That is also why we as Liberal Democrats welcome the step forward that is being made here in the Queen's Speech, which represents for us, perhaps, the influence over key areas of legislation that affect Wales. That is why I particularly welcome the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill and that you saw fit to give statutory powers across the board. Your personal commitment to the issue is largely responsible for this success and that should be put on record in the Assembly. I agree with Nick, though, that it would be helpful for us to have, as an Assembly as a whole, an opportunity to have discussions with you in a broader context. Most of the discussions that have taken place have been with Assembly Cabinet members. It may well be that we need to extend a broader invitation to you so that we obtain a better understanding of the role that Westminster can play in relation to us. I also welcome the fact that you are able, by answering questions here this year, to differentiate from the practice last year. That is a step forward. However, as you might expect, there are issues in the Queen's Speech with which we do not agree.

On the crime measures that you produced, we draw the line at aggressive, headline-grabbing types of issues. They are probably designed, as I think that Ieuan said, more to grab headlines in the *Daily Mail*, where you have had difficulty in getting headlines, than to tackle the effects of crime. We are also

Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru y byddaf yn siarad. Mae rhai pobl yma, Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, nad ydynt yn deall eich bod yn dod o Lywodraeth wahanol a lle gwahanol a phlaid wahanol. Fodd bynnag, mae'n amlwg imi, fel y mae'n amlwg i'm cyd-Aelodau yn fy mhlaid fy hun. Yr wyf yn siarad â chi fel Aelod dros y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Un o gryfderau'r Cynulliad yw'r ffaith inni allu gweithio gyda'n gilydd fel Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf ar agenda gyffredin, ac ar raglen gyffredin erbyn hyn, ar gyfer y Llywodraeth hon a ddaw â manteision i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Dyna'r wleidyddiaeth newydd ar waith, felly nid yw'n syndod imi fod eraill yn y Siambr hon yn cael hynny'n anodd.

Dyma pam ein bod ni fel Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol hefyd yn croesawu'r cam ymlaen a wneir yn Araith y Frenhines, sydd yn cynrychioli inni, efallai, y dylanwad dros feysydd allweddol o ddeddfwriaeth sydd yn effeithio ar Gymru. Dyna pam fy mod yn croesawu Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru yn arbennig a'ch bod chi wedi gweld yn dda i roi pwerau statudol cyffredinol. Eich ymrwymiad personol chi i'r mater sydd yn bennaf gyfrifol am y llwyddiant hwn a dylid cofnodi hynny yn y Cynulliad. Cytunaf â Nick, fodd bynnag, y byddai o gymorth inni gael cyfle, fel Cynulliad cyfan, i gynnal trafodaethau â chi mewn cyd-destun ehangach. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r trafodaethau a gynhaliwyd wedi bod ag aelodau Cabinet y Cynulliad. Efallai fod angen inni estyn gwahoddiad ehangach ichi fel y gallwn ddeall yn well y rôl y gall San Steffan ei chwarae yn ei pherthynas â ni. Croesawaf hefyd y ffaith eich bod, drwy ateb cwestiynau yma eleni, yn gallu gwahaniaethu oddi wrth yr arfer y llynedd. Mae hynny'n gam ymlaen. Fodd bynnag, fel y gallwch ddisgwyl, mae materion yn Araith y Frenhines na chytunwn arnynt.

O ran y mesurau ar droseddau a gynhyrchwyd gennych, yr ydym yn ymrwngod â mathau o faterion sydd yn ymosodol, ac yn cipio'r penawdau. Eu nod yw, fel y dywedodd Ieuan, mae'n debyg, cipio'r penawdau yn y *Daily Mail* lle yr ydych wedi cael anhawster cael penawdau, yn hytrach na mynd i'r afael ag

disappointed that this Queen's Speech did not grasp the opportunity to include many of the matters. For a Government with a huge majority to duck the key issues, is indefensible. I will outline some of those key issues.

On crime, we see that your Government is embarking upon a course of pre-election stand-offs between yourselves and the Conservatives about who can erode the civil liberties of this country more in fighting crime. Some of the stand-offs that we have seen between the two parties in Westminster give us that view. Do you recognise that a slimline populist programme, much of which does not have much opportunity to become law before the next general election, is playing only to the most illiberal instincts of middle England and offers little for people in Wales?

Will you take on board the deep concerns shared by all parties here—on a free vote in the Assembly—as well as the judiciary, the House of Lords, and even the House of Commons, that your Government's continued assistance to reduce the right to trial by jury is not only illiberal, but affects the basic human rights of people in this country? It has been thrown out twice in Parliament; to have a third attempt beggars belief. Will you explain why, having such a limited legislative programme, you have put forward this measure yet again? Why have you not taken the hint from the National Assembly, all parties of the judiciary, the House of Lords and the House of Commons? Although we recognise that no Government can legislate on everything that opposition parties wish it to, will you clarify how your Government intends to explain the absence of your promised legislation, which we expected to see, from the Queen's Speech?

On tackling arms exports, especially with a cloud still hanging over your Government's promise to bring ethics into foreign policy, we would have expected to see some mention of that in the Queen's Speech. The regulation

effeithiau troseddau. Yr ydym hefyd yn siomedig nad yw Araith y Frenhines eleni wedi bachu ar y cyfle i gynnwys llawer o faterion. Mae'n anfaddeuol i Lywodraeth sydd â mwyafrif enfawr, osgoi'r materion allweddol. Amlinellaf rai o'r materion allweddol hynny.

O ran troseddu, gwelwn fod eich Llywodraeth yn dechrau'r herio cynetholiadol rhyngoch chi a'r Ceidwadwyr ynghylch pwy all ddileu hawliau sifil y wlad hon fwyaf wrth wrthsefyll troseddau. Mae peth o'r herio a welsom rhwng y ddwy blaid yn San Steffan yn ein harwain i gredu hynny. A ydych yn cydnabod nad yw'r rhaglen boblogaidd denau, na fydd cyfle i'r rhan fwyaf ohoni gael ei phasio'n ddeddfau cyn yr etholiad cyffredinol nesaf, ond yn chwarae ar reddfau mwyaf cul Lloegr ganol ac yn cynnig bron dim i bobl Cymru?

A ystyriwch y pryderon dwys a rennir gan bob plaid yma—mewn pleidlais rydd yn y Cynulliad—yn ogystal â'r farnwriaeth, Ty'r Arglwyddi, a hyd yn oed Ty'r Cyffredin, ynghylch y ffaith bod penderfyniad eich Llywodraeth o hyd i gyfyngu ar yr hawl i brawf drwy reithgor nid yn unig yn adweithiol, ond yn effeithio ar hawliau dynol sylfaenol pobl y wlad hon? Fe'i gwrthodwyd ddwywaith gan y Senedd; mae'r ffaith eich bod am ei gynnig am y trydydd tro y tu hwnt i bob deall. A eglurwch pam eich bod wedi cyflwyno'r mesur hwn unwaith eto, o ystyried y rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol gyfyngedig sydd gennych? Pam na ddilynasoch awgrym y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, pob rhan o'r farwniaeth, Ty'r Arglwyddi a Thy'r Cyffredin? Er ein bod yn cydnabod na all unrhyw Lywodraeth ddeddfu ar bopeth y mae'r gwrthbleidiau yn ei ddymino, a eglurwch sut y mae eich Llywodraeth yn bwriadu egluro absenoldeb y ddeddfwriaeth a addawyd gennych ac a ddisgwylasom ei gweld, yn Araith y Frenhines?

O ran mynd i'r afael ag allforio arfau, yn arbennig am fod addewid eich Llywodraeth i arddel polisi tramor moesol o dan gwmwl o hyd, byddem wedi disgwyl clywed sôn am hynny yn Araith y Frenhines. Mae

of houses in multiple occupation is of great relevance to the National Assembly, and especially to students in Wales, many of whom live in sub-standard accommodation with no legal protection against unscrupulous landlords. Finally, we expected you to take forward the recommendations of the Royal Commission report into long-term care to provide free care for residents in old people's homes.

Those are the issues which we would have liked to see included. However, much has happened since 1997 that we welcome, not least devolution. This year, we recognise that Wales has done better in terms of specific Welsh-made legislation than ever before. We also recognise that we have a better hit rate in the number of Bills upon which the National Assembly has an influence than in the previous year. However, with your record Parliamentary majority, I cannot disguise the Liberal Democrats' disappointment that your Government has not brought forward some of the key measures that you promised us. We, like you, have a devolution promise to make devolution work. There are some measures, particularly the ones that I mentioned, which are in interest of the National Assembly, which you have not brought forward and which you promised us in the past. I hope that you will explain why those have been left out.

Paul Murphy: Thank you for your comments and your kind words about the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill. I also welcome the stability that the partnership has given to the Assembly. That is a common feeling among Members of Parliament and Assembly Members.

I am more than happy to come to the Assembly and discuss various issues. However, I emphasise that the initiative, on balance and generally, should come from you, as an Assembly. It is not for me to turn up every couple of days in the middle of the week and listen in and start talking when I feel like it. That may be my right, but I am not sure that it is my responsibility. However, there are occasions when a

rheoleiddio tai mewn ambreswyliaeth yn berthnasol iawn i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, yn arbennig i fyfyrwyr yng Nghymru, y mae llawer ohonynt yn byw mewn llety ansafonol heb unrhyw ddiogelwch cyfreithiol rhag landlordiaid diegwyddor. I gloi, disgwyliwn ichi weithredu ar argymhellion adroddiad y Comisiwn Brenhinol ar ofal tymor hir a fydd yn rhoi gofal am ddim i breswylwyr cartrefi'r henoed.

Dyna'r materion yr hoffem fod wedi eu gweld yn cael eu cynnwys. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer wedi digwydd ers 1997 yr ydym yn ei groesawu, yn bennaf datganoli. Eleni, cydnabyddwn fod Cymru wedi gwneud yn well o ran deddfwriaeth sydd yn benodol ar gyfer Cymru nag erioed o'r blaen. Cydnabyddwn hefyd fod y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol wedi llwyddo i ddylanwadu ar fwy o Fesurau nag y gwnaeth y llynedd. Fodd bynnag, o ystyried y mwyafrif Seneddol mwyaf erioed sydd gennych, ni allaf guddio siom y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol nad yw eich Llywodraeth wedi cyflwyno rhai o'r mesurau allweddol a addawsoch inni. Yr ydym ni, fel chithau, wedi gwneud addewid i sicrhau bod datganoli yn llwyddo. Mae rhai mesurau, yn arbennig y rhai a nodais, sydd o ddiddordeb i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, nad ydych wedi eu cyflwyno er ichi addo gwneud hynny yn y gorffennol. Gobeithiaf y byddwch yn egluro pam nad ydych wedi eu cynnwys.

Paul Murphy: Diolch yn fawr am eich sylwadau a'r geiriau caredig am Fesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru. Croesawaf innau'r sefydlogrwydd y mae'r bartneriaeth wedi ei roi i'r Cynulliad. Mae hynny'n deimlad cyffredinol ymhlith yr Aelodau Seneddol ac Aelodau'r Cynulliad.

Yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i ddod i'r Cynulliad a thrafod gwahanol faterion. Fodd bynnag, pwysleisiaf mai chi fel Cynulliad, yn gyffredinol, a ddylai benderfynu ar hynny. Nid fy lle i yw ymddangos pob cwpl o ddyddiau yng nghanol yr wythnos a gwrando a dechrau siarad pryd bynnag y dymunaf. Efallai fod hawl gennyf ond nid wyf yn siŵr ai fy nghyfrifoldeb i ydyw. Fodd bynnag, mae adegau pan fyddai dialog rhyngom, ar y

dialogue between us, in this format, namely a statement and questions and answers, would be useful.

You referred to issues that were not in the Bill. I cannot agree with you in terms of the erosion of civil liberties. I accept your point that there is a genuine difference of view about the Criminal Justice (Mode of Trial) Bill. There are various safeguards in it, which I will not rehearse today because we will return to a debate on that. There is a difference of view on that.

Over the last few years, when the Government has brought in Bills on crime, law and order to make Wales and Britain a better and safer place in which to live, the people who have suffered most from crime are those whom we represent. It is not the wealthy who suffer most from crime, including violent crime and burglary, but the least well-off. We must be conscious of that in our towns, cities and villages in Wales.

On the extent of the programme, some people argue that it is too thin and others say that it is almost nothing. I disagree with both those points of view. It does not take a rocket scientist to work out that, when a Government is in its fourth year, the chances of a general election increase monthly. The timing of general elections since the war show that, inevitably, as you come to the fourth year, even though it is possible to run to a fifth term, there is a possibility of an election. Those of us who have some kind of responsibility for ensuring a legislative programme must consider that.

As a result of that, there are draft Bills in this year's Queen's Speech and Government's programme. In the event of the legislative session lasting after the spring, when it is possible that an election will be held, Bills will be published on various issues to be included in the Government's programme. We do not know when any Prime Minister will call a general election. Interestingly, those additional Bills include one to which you referred, namely the draft Export Control

ffurf hon, sef datganiad a sesiwn holi ac ateb yn ddefnyddiol.

Cyfeiriasoch at faterion nad oeddent yn y Mesur. Ni allaf gytuno â chi o ran dileu hawliau sifil. Derbyniaf eich pwynt bod gwahaniaeth barn gwirioneddol o ran y Mesur Cyfiawnder Troseddol (Dull Prawf). Mae amrywiol gamau diogelu ynddo, nas nodaf heddiw am y gallwn ddychwelyd at ddadl ar hynny. Ceir gwahaniaeth barn yn ei gylch.

Yn ystod yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf, pan gyflwynodd y Llywodraeth Fesurau ar droseddu, cyfraith a threfn er mwyn sicrhau bod Cymru a Phrydain yn lleoedd gwell a mwy diogel i fyw ynddynt, y bobl a ddioddefodd fwyaf oherwydd troseddau yw'r rhai a gynrychiolir gennym ni. Nid y cyfoethog sydd yn dioddef fwyaf oherwydd troseddau, gan gynnwys troseddau a bwrgleriaeth dreisgar, ond y tlotaf. Rhaid inni fod yn ymwybodol o hynny yn eu trefi, dinasoedd a phentrefi yng Nghymru.

O ran cwmpas y rhaglen, mae rhai pobl yn dadlau ei bod yn rhy denau ac mae eraill yn dweud bod bron dim byd ynddi. Ni chytunaf â'r naill safbwynt na'r llall. Nid oes angen gwyddonydd o fri i weld, pan fydd Llywodraeth ar ei phedwaredd flwyddyn, y bydd y posibilrwydd o etholiad cyffredinol yn cynyddu'n fisol. Dengys amseriad etholiadau cyffredinol ers y rhyfel ei bod yn anochel y bydd posibilrwydd o etholiad wrth ddechrau ar y bedwaredd flwyddyn, hyd yn oed os bydd modd cael pumed tymor. Rhaid i'r rhai ohonom sydd â rhywfaint o gyfrifoldeb dros sicrhau rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol ystyried hynny.

O ganlyniad i hynny, ceir Mesurau drafft yn Araith y Frenhines a rhaglen y Llywodraeth eleni. Os digwydd i'r sesiwn ddeddfu barhau ar ôl y gwanwyn, pan fydd yn bosibl y cynhelir etholiad, caiff Mesurau eu cyhoeddi ar wahanol faterion i'w cynnwys yn rhaglen y Llywodraeth. Ni wyddom pryd y bydd unrhyw Brif Weinidog yn galw etholiad cyffredinol. Mae'n ddiddorol bod y Mesurau ychwanegol yn cynnwys yr un y cyfeiriasoch ato, sef Mesur drafft Rheoli Allforion ac Atal

and Non-proliferation Bill. That Bill would strengthen controls on trafficking and brokering weapons, ban weapons of torture, and strengthen legislation on chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. Such Bills are on the shelf ready to take off if the legislative programme permits that to happen.

This year, or during the last session, we were criticised because the programme was too heavy and because we put too many Bills through. The number of Bills with which we dealt was a heavy burden on Parliament. You mentioned long-term care. Nursing care in the health service will be dealt with by the Health and Social Care Bill. Whatever your feelings about the number of Bills before us in Parliament, most of us agree that some of those Bills are vital to improve our people's quality of life.

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful to the Secretary of State for Wales for reminding the Assembly that this is a question and answer session, not a debate.

Cynog Dafis: Yr wyf wedi fy siomi'n fawr nad oes cyfeiriad—

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Rhowch amser i'r Ysgrifennydd wisgo'r clustffonau ar gyfer y cyfieithiad.

Cynog Dafis: Ei fusnes ef yw gwisgo'r clustffonau mewn pryd.

Y Llywydd: Nage, Cynog. Mater o gwrteisi yw caniatáu amser i Aelodau sydd yn defnyddio clustffonau i'w gwisgo.

Cynog Dafis: Yr wyf bob amser yn barod i dderbyn eich barn, Lywydd.

Yr hyn sydd yn fy siomi yn fwy nag unrhyw beth ynglŷn ag Araith y Frenhines yw nad oes sôn am ailddosbarthu cyfoeth yn systematig ar draws y Deyrnas Gyfunol er mwyn codi perfformiad economaidd a dileu tlodi mewn rhanbarthau megis Cymru.

Efallai y bydd o ddiddordeb i Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru i nifer ohonom wrando ar

Ymlediad. Byddai'r Mesur yn atgyfnerthu'r rheolaethau ar fasnachu anghyfreithlon a phrynu a gwerthu arfau, gwahardd arfau arteithio a chryfhau'r ddeddfwriaeth ar arfau cemegol, biolegol a niwclear. Mae Mesurau o'r fath yn barod i'w cyflwyno os bydd y rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol yn caniatáu hynny.

Eleni, neu yn ystod y sesiwn ddiwethaf, fe'n beirniadwyd am fod y rhaglen yn rhy drwm ac am inni gyflwyno gormod o Fesurau. Yr oedd nifer y Mesurau yr ymdriniwyd â hwy yn faich drwm ar y Senedd. Soniasoch am ofal tymor hir. Bydd y Mesur Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol yn ymdrin â gofal nyrsio yn y gwasanaeth iechyd. Beth bynnag fo'ch teimladau ynglŷn â nifer y Mesurau ger ein bron yn y Senedd, mae'r rhan fwyaf ohonoch yn cytuno fod rhai o'r Mesurau hynny'n hanfodol i wella ansawdd bywyd ein pobl.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru am atgoffa'r Cynulliad mai sesiwn holi ac ateb ydyw ac nid dadl.

Cynog Dafis: I am greatly disappointed that there is no reference—

The First Minister: Allow the Secretary time to put on the headphones for the translation.

Cynog Dafis: It his business to put on the headphones in time.

The Presiding Officer: No, it is not, Cynog. It is a matter of courtesy to allow Members who use headphones time to put them on.

Cynog Dafis: I am always willing to accept your judgement, Presiding Officer.

What disappoints me more than anything else about the Queen's Speech is that there is no mention of redistributing wealth systematically across the United Kingdom to raise economic performance and eradicate poverty in regions such as Wales.

It might be of interest to the Secretary of State for Wales that several of us listened to

gyflwyniad meistrrolgar yn y Cynulliad yr wythnos diwethaf gan David Lambert, sydd yn arbenigwr ar ddeddfwriaeth. Yr oedd yn hallt ei feirniadaeth o'r modd y mae deddfwriaeth gynradd yn San Steffan yn methu â darparu ar gyfer anghenion Cymru. Mae'r ddeddfwriaeth honno yn ddifrifol o anghyson, yn fymptyol ac yn anodd ei deall. Mae'n methu â throsglwyddo pwerau yn gynhwysfawr ac yn crafangu pwerau yn ôl. Gwelsom hynny oll yn digwydd yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Gobeithiaf y bydd y sefyllfa yn wahanol y flwyddyn nesaf. Disgrifiodd yr arbenigwr y broses fel '*near chaos*', a dywedodd fod y sefyllfa yn fethiant trasig i weithredu dataganoli.

A wnaiff Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ddisgrifio'r broses drafod a fu rhyngddo ef a Phrif Weinidog Cymru o ran gwneud argymhellion ar ddeddfwriaeth yn San Steffan? A allwn gael manylion am y cyfarfodydd, megis pryd y cynhaliwyd hwy, pwy oedd yn bresennol, pa ddogfennau a ddefnyddiwyd ac yn y blaen? Hefyd, pa argymhellion a gafodd eu gwneud a faint ohonynt a gynhwyswyd yn y rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol? Pa drefniadau sydd ar y gweill i symud o'r sefyllfa o '*near chaos*' sydd wedi nodweddu'r flwyddyn diwethaf i drefn drwyadl o ddarparu ar gyfer anghenion Cymru mewn deddfwriaeth gynradd a rhoi'r grym mwyaf posibl i'r Cynulliad?

Yn olaf, pam nad yw'r concordat drafft rhwng Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru a'r Cynulliad, neu rhwng yr Ysgrifennydd a'r Cabinet, y buom yn ei drafod ryw flwyddyn yn ôl, ac a allai fod o gymorth i roi trefn ar y cawdel hwn, byth wedi cael ei gytuno? Pryd y mae hynny'n debygol o ddigwydd? Beth yn y byd yw'r rheswm am y methiant i gytuno ar y broses ddeddfwriaethol drwy goncordat?

4:30 p.m.

Paul Murphy: First of all, on the redistribution of wealth and economic matters, Cynog, as I said in answer to earlier questions, that is included in the Queen's Speech, but in terms of what is covered by the Finance Bill. Most of those extra issues

a masterful presentation in the Assembly last week by David Lambert, who is an expert on legislation. He was extremely critical of the way in which primary legislation in Westminster fails to deliver for Wales's needs. That legislation is seriously inconsistent, arbitrary and difficult to understand. It fails to transfer power comprehensively and claws back power. We have seen all that happen during the last year. I hope that the situation will be different next year. The expert described the process as '*near chaos*', and said that the situation is a tragic failure to operate devolution.

Will the Secretary of State for Wales describe the discussion process between him and the First Minister in terms of making recommendations on legislation in Westminster? Can we have details of the meetings, such as when they took place, who was present, what documents were used and so on? Also, what recommendations were made and how many of them were included in the legislative programme? What arrangements are being made to move from the situation of near chaos that has characterised the past year to a comprehensive system of providing for the needs of Wales through primary legislation and giving the Assembly the greatest possible powers?

Finally, why has the draft concordat between the Secretary of State for Wales and the Assembly, or between the Secretary and the Cabinet, which we discussed about a year ago, and which could be of assistance in sorting out this mess, never been agreed? When is that likely to happen? What on earth is the reason for the failure to agree on the legislative process through a concordat?

Paul Murphy: Yn gyntaf oll, o ran ail-ddosbarthu cyfoeth a materion economaidd, Cynog, fel y dywedais wrth ateb cwestiynau cynharach, mae hynny wedi ei gynnwys yn Araith y Frenhnes, ond o ran yr hyn a gwmpesir gan y Mesur Cyllid. Bydd y rhan

will be economic ones.

I will touch on your points about how primary legislation is dealt with. I could not agree less with the description of 'near chaos' and mess. I do not agree for one second with that. The reality is what has been delivered. If you consider the number of Bills that we have already been criticised for not including, there is not enough space for them. There are 13 Bills in the legislative programme. One of those is exclusive to Wales. Others have Welsh aspects to them. Last year we had at least four Bills, it may have been more, which had large numbers of Welsh clauses. The Learning and Skills Bill comes immediately to mind.

I accept that we should improve on that from year to year. It is inevitable that in the early years of devolution people have to get used to new systems. We would be foolish if we thought otherwise. This year, I have no doubt, given my connections and meetings with my Westminster colleagues and the fact that I meet Rhodri and his Cabinet colleagues regularly to discuss these issues, that the process is working. You will have to ask Rhodri and his colleagues about the detail of their meetings. However, I assure you that the process that has led to the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill—which has been hugely successful—and those other Bills is working. It of course takes negotiation and detailed discussions. That is true for any sort of legislation. However, the process is working well.

What about the future? You are right, Cynog, to point to the protocol that we need to establish to ensure how we deal with legislation. It is late, partly deliberately. It has been prepared. I have seen several drafts and have not been satisfied with them. I wanted to ensure that we got it right. The way that we have done that is by seeing how the process of the important Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill was gone through. All our experience prior to that was

fwyaf o'r materion ychwanegol yn rhai economaidd.

Trafodaf eich pwyntiau ynghylch sut yr ymdrinnir â deddfwriaeth sylfaenol. Ni chytunaf o gwbl â'r disgrifiad o '*near chaos*' a dryswch. Ni chytunaf â hynny am eiliad. Y realiti yw'r hyn a gyflwynwyd. Os ystyriwch nifer y Mesurau y mae pobl wedi ein beirniadu am beidio â'u cynnwys, nid oes digon o le iddynt. Mae 13 o Fesurau yn y rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol. Mae un o'r rhain yn unigryw i Gymru. Mae mesurau eraill sydd ag agweddau Cymreig iddynt. Y llynedd cawsom o leiaf bedwar Mesur, efallai mwy, a chanddynt nifer uchel o gymalau Cymreig. Meddylier am y Mesur Dysgu a Sgiliau.

Derbyniaf y dylem wella ar hynny o flwyddyn i flwyddyn. Mae'n anochel bod rhaid i bobl ymgyfarwyddo â systemau newydd ym mlynnyddoedd cynnar datganoli. Byddem yn ffôl pe baem yn meddwl fel arall. Eleni, nid oes amheuaeth gennyf, o gofio fy nghysylltiadau a chyfarfodydd â'm cyd-Aelodau yn San Steffan a'r ffaith imi gyfarfod â Rhodri a'i gyd-Aelodau yn y Cabinet yn rheolaidd i drafod y materion hyn, fod y broses yn gweithio. Bydd yn rhaid ichi ofyn i Rhodri a'i gyd-Aelodau ynglŷn â manylion eu cyfarfodydd. Fodd bynnag, fe'ch sicrhaf fod y broses sydd wedi arwain at Fesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru—a fu'n llwyddiannus iawn—a'r Mesurau eraill yn gweithio. Mae'n gofyn am negodi a thrafodaethau manwl wrth reswm. Mae hynny'n wir am unrhyw fath o ddeddfwriaeth. Fodd bynnag, mae'r broses yn gweithio'n dda.

Beth am y dyfodol? Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle, Cynog, i nodi'r protocol y mae angen inni ei sefydlu er mwyn sicrhau sut yr ymdriniwn â deddfwriaeth. Mae'n hwyr, yn rhannol o fwriad. Fe'i paratowyd. Gwelais sawl drafft ac nid oeddwn yn fodlon arnynt. Yr oeddwn am sicrhau eu bod yn gywir gennym. Y ffordd yr ydym wedi mynd ati i wneud hynny yw drwy weld sut yr ymdriniwyd â'r broses o ran Mesur pwysig Comisiynydd Plant Cymru. Cyn hynny dim

of Bills with Welsh clauses, as opposed to Wales-only Bills. Having now seen the process by which a Wales-only Bill goes through, we are in a better position to ensure that the protocol is published and agreed between Rhodri and myself and then the Assembly. That will happen within a few weeks, I should think.

There are two distinct aspects to this. First, there is legislation initiated by my Government. As you, as a former Member of Parliament, know, the Queen's Speech is not decided until almost the last moment. Inevitably, there are competing bids from government departments as to what should be included. All have worthwhile bids. We also have our worthwhile bids from a Welsh point of view. They face the same situation. As we go through a legislative session, we have to discuss and consult in the event of those bids for Bills being successful.

There is another aspect that is much more the Assembly's direct responsibility. That is when you want to sponsor a Bill, like the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill, or, and perhaps more regularly, when you do not want a separate Bill but legislation that can be added on to other Bills. That would be because the matter does not require a separate Bill and can be done through the ordinary passage of legislation. In other words, we have to have Bills on the shelf ready to go. It is then the Assembly's process to work out how best to deal with those Bills. During the next months, the Assembly will be in a position to say how best the procedure works in getting legislation through. However, it is early days. This year is much better than last, although I did not think that last year was that bad. That is proven by the fact that Wales has its own Bill and that parts of other Bills are relevant to us.

Lorraine Barrett: I thank the Secretary of State for Wales for coming to the Assembly today. Welsh Labour is proud to work with you and the Labour Government in

ond ymwneud â Mesurau a chanddynt gymalau Cymreig, yn hytrach na Mesurau i Gymru'n unig, a wnaethom. Ar ôl gweld y broses yr aeth Mesur i Gymru'n unig drwyddi, yr ydym mewn sefyllfa well i sicrhau y caiff y protocol ei gyhoeddi ac y bydd Rhodri a minnau ac wedyn y Cynulliad yn cytuno arno. Bydd hynny'n digwydd o fewn ychydig wythnosau, fe gredaf.

Mae dwy agwedd wahanol ar hyn. Yn gyntaf, mae deddfwriaeth a ddechreuir gan fy Llywodraeth. Fel y gwyddoch, fel cyn-Aelod Seneddol, ni phenderfynir ar Araith y Frenhines tan y funud olaf bron. Yn anochel, ceir cynigion sydd yn cystadlu â'i gilydd gan adrannau'r llywodraeth ynglŷn â'r hyn y dylid ei gynnwys. Mae cynigion gwerth chweil gan bob un ohonynt. Mae gennym ni ein cynigion gwerth chweil o safbwynt Cymru. Maent yn yr un sefyllfa. Wrth inni fynd drwy sesiwn deddfwriaethol, rhaid inni drafod ac ymgynghori os digwydd i'r cynigion hynny am Fesurau fod yn llwyddiannus.

Mae agwedd arall sydd yn ymwneud llawer mwy â chyfrifoldeb uniongyrchol y Cynulliad, hynny yw lle y byddwch am noddi Mesur fel Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru, neu yn amlach efallai, lle na fyddwch am gael Mesur ar wahân ond deddfwriaeth y gellir ei hychwanegu at Fesurau eraill am nad oes angen Mesur ar wahân ar gyfer y mater hwnnw a gellir ei gyflawni drwy'r broses arferol o basio deddfwriaeth. Hynny yw, rhaid bod gennym Fesurau sydd yn barod i'w gweithredu. Wedyn proses y Cynulliad fydd yn pennu'r ffordd orau o ymdrin â'r Mesurau hynny. Yn ystod y misoedd nesaf, bydd y Cynulliad mewn sefyllfa i nodi'r weithdrefn orau ar gyfer pasio deddfwriaeth. Fodd bynnag, mae'n gynnar o hyd. Yr oedd eleni'n llawer gwell na'r llynedd, er nad oedd y llynedd yn wael yn fy marn i. Mae'r ffaith bod Cymru wedi cael ei Mesur ei hun a bod rhannau o Fesurau eraill yn berthnasol i ni yn profi hynny.

Lorraine Barrett: Diolchaf i Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru am ddod i'r Cynulliad heddiw. Mae Plaid Lafur Cymru yn falch o weithio gyda chi a'r Llywodraeth Lafur yn

Westminster to bring huge improvements to the living conditions of people in Wales. We look forward to continuing that working relationship for decades to come.

As this is meant to be a question and answer session, I will convert some of my comments into questions. Would you be surprised to know that, during a street surgery with Alun Michael in our constituency on Saturday, three families went out of their way to tell us what a good job they thought Labour was doing in Westminster and in the Assembly? That is perfectly true, and I could bring the families here to testify to that.

Alun Cairns: Three whole families? [*Laughter.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order.

Lorraine Barrett: Would you also be surprised to know that I welcome the commitment to give Members of Parliament the opportunity to vote on the future of hunting with hounds in this country? Many people have felt let down on this issue since 1997. People expected something to happen almost straight away. However, we understand that there have been difficulties with the legislative programme up to now. While it may not be the first issue that people raise on the doorstep, do you agree that letters from people calling for a ban on this barbaric practice result in the largest postbags for elected Members? Nick Bourne said that the Bill is an insult to people. Do you agree that it will bring liberty and fair play to foxes and other hunted animals? I assure you that I do not wear the red jacket that I am wearing today in support of hunters; it is merely a statement of my socialist politics. That is why I welcome the Government's legislative programme.

Paul Murphy: I am grateful for your suggestion that we may work together for decades. I agree with your comments on the public's view. I have evidence from my constituency of how people feel about the Labour Government's legislative programme. Our postbags are currently full, as people make representations on hunting. My postbag

San Steffan er mwyn gwella amodau byw pobl Cymru yn sylweddol. Edrychwn ymlaen at barhau â'r berthynas waith honno am ddegawdau yn y dyfodol.

Gan mai sesiwn holi ac ateb yw hon i fod, newidiaf rai o'm sylwadau yn gwestiynau. A fydddech yn synnu wrth glywed bod tri theulu, yn ystod sesiwn gynghori ar y stryd ag Alun Michael yn ein hetholaeth ddydd Sadwrn, wedi gwneud ymdrech i ddweud wrthym pa mor dda oedd Llafur yn ei wneud yn San Steffan a'r Cynulliad yn eu tyb hwy? Mae hynny'n berffaith wir, a gallwn ddod â'r teuluoedd yma i ardystio i hynny.

Alun Cairns: Tri theulu cyfan? [*Chwerthin.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn.

Lorraine Barrett: A fydddech hefyd yn synnu wrth glywed fy mod yn croesawu'r ymrwymiad i roi cyfle i Aelodau Seneddol bleidleisio ar ddyfodol hela â chwn yn y wlad hon? Mae llawer o bobl wedi eu siomi ar y mater hwn ers 1997. Yr oedd pobl yn disgwyl i rywbeth ddigwydd ar unwaith bron. Fodd bynnag, deallwn y bu anawsterau o ran y rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol hyd yn awr. Er nad hwn yw'r mater cyntaf y mae pobl yn ei godi wrth y drws efallai, a gytunwch mai llythyrau oddi wrth bobl yn galw am wahardd yr arfer ffaidd hwn sydd yn gyfrifol am y sachau post mwyaf a gaiff Aelodau etholedig? Dywedodd Nick Bourne fod y Mesur yn sarhad i bobl. A gytunwch y bydd yn dod â rhyddid a chwarae teg i lwynogod ac anifeiliaid eraill a gaiff eu hela? Fe'ch sicrhaf nad wyf yn gwisgo'r siaced goch a wisgaf heddiw er mwyn cefnogi'r helwyr; dim ond datganiad o'm gwleidyddiaeth sosialaidd ydyw. Dyna pam y croesawaf raglen ddeddfwriaethol y Llywodraeth.

Paul Murphy: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich awgrym y galledd weithio gyda'n gilydd am ddegawdau. Cytunaf â'ch sylwadau ar farn y cyhoedd. Mae gennyf dystiolaeth o'm hetholaeth ynghylch sut y teimla pobl am raglen ddeddfwriaethol y Llywodraeth Lafur. Mae ein sachau post yn llawn ar hyn o bryd, wrth i bobl wneud sylwadau ar hela.

mostly contains representations against foxhunting.

David Davies: You obviously did not want to discuss hunting in your last answer. However, I want you to answer a few questions on the subject. Have you read the Burns report, which was commissioned by your Government, which makes clear that a ban on hunting with dogs would be detrimental to this country's fox population? Do you accept that the alternatives to hunting with dogs—gassing or snaring—would be far more cruel than the split second that it takes for a hound to kill a fox cleanly? Do you also accept that banning hunting with dogs will lead to job losses all over Wales? Do you accept that withholding compensation will cause further devastation in rural areas that are already hard-pressed? Do you also accept that hunting leads to a sustainable fox population and a sustainable environment? Furthermore, do you regret that Her Majesty's Government has jumped on a populist bandwagon and is shamelessly trying to milk a few votes? This is not because it is worried about four-legged vermin in rural areas but because it is worried about its two-legged Members of Parliament in marginal Labour seats in cities and towns.

4:40 p.m.

Paul Murphy: I remind David of two points that I made earlier. First of all, this was a manifesto commitment for which people voted overwhelmingly. People voted for a Labour Government and, as a part of that, they voted for the opportunity for Members of Parliament to have a free vote on whether there should be a ban on fox hunting and fox control. That is what will come before Members in the House of Commons. Although the Government does not have a view on this, individual Members of Parliament do. I will exercise my free vote, as will all other Members, to ensure that a decision is reached. We have been honest with the people of Wales and Britain by telling them that we would introduce that free vote. It is then a matter for those who either favour or oppose hunting to express their point of view, as they have done in this

Sylwadau yn erbyn hela llwynogod sydd yn y rhan fwyaf o'r llythyrau yn fy sach bost.

David Davies: Nid oeddech am drafod hela yn eich ateb olaf, yn amlwg. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn ichi ateb ychydig gwestiynau ar y pwnc. A ddarllenasoch adroddiad Burns, a gomisiynwyd gan eich Llywodraeth, sydd yn nodi'n glir y byddai gwahardd hela â chwn yn niweidiol i nifer y llwynogod yn y wlad hon? A dderbyniwch y byddai'r dulliau eraill heblaw hela â chwn—gwenwyno â nwy neu ddal mewn magl—yn llawer mwy creulon na'r eiliad a gymer i gi hela ladd llwynog yn lân? A dderbyniwch hefyd y bydd gwahardd hela â chwn yn arwain at golli swyddi ledled Cymru? A dderbyniwch y bydd yr oedi cyn rhoi iawndal yn achosi dinistr pellach i ardaloedd gwledig sydd eisoes o dan bwysau mawr? A dderbyniwch hefyd fod hela yn arwain at boblogaeth gynaliadwy o llwynogod ac amgylchedd cynaliadwy? Yn ogystal, a ydych yn edifarhau bod Llywodraeth Ei Mawrhydi wedi cydio mewn pwnc poblogaidd er mwyn denu ychydig bleidleisiau a hynny'n ddigywilydd? Gwna hyn nid am ei bod yn pryderu ynglŷn â'r fermin pedair coes ond am ei bod yn pryderu am ei Haelodau Seneddol dwy goes mewn seddi Llafur ymylol mewn dinasoedd a threfi.

Paul Murphy: Atgoffaf David o ddau bwynt a wneuthum yn gynharach. Yn gyntaf, yr oedd hwn yn ymrwymiad maniffesto y pleidleisiodd pobl drosto â mwyafrif llethol. Pleidleisiodd pobl dros Lywodraeth Lafur ac, fel rhan o hynny, pleidleisiasant dros y cyfle i Aelodau Seneddol gael pleidlais rydd ynglŷn ag a ddylid gwahardd hela llwynogod a rheoli llwynogod. Dyna'r hyn a ddaw gerbron yr Aelodau yn Nhy'r Cyffredin. Er nad oes barn gan y Llywodraeth ynglŷn â hyn, mae barn gan Aelodau Seneddol unigol. Defnyddiaf fy mhleidlais rydd, fel y gwna pob Aelod arall, i sicrhau y gwneir penderfyniad. Buom yn onest gyda phobl Cymru a Phrydain drwy ddweud wrthynt y cyflwynem y bleidlais rydd honno. Mater i'r rheini sydd o blaid neu yn erbyn hela i fynegi eu barn ydyw wedyn, fel y gwnaethant yn y Cynulliad hwn, ac fel y gwnant yn Nhy'r

Assembly, and will undoubtedly do in the House of Commons.

Alun Pugh: There are things about the Queen's Speech that I do not like—pantomime costumes, walking backwards, Ruritanian titles. You must be glad that you did not have to turn up in fancy dress this afternoon.

However, the substance of the Queen's Speech is good. I particularly welcome the Bill that will give the Children's Commissioner extra powers. It shows that it is possible to have a mature relationship between Parliament and the Assembly. Can you confirm that if, for example, there is an election in May, this Bill is likely to make it to the statute book?

Secondly, the focus on crime is welcome. Crime and disorder are some of the biggest problems in my postbag. There are major problems on the coastal strip in north Wales. You are right that most of it is alcohol fuelled, and it is a major problem in Colwyn Bay.

The Bill to ban tobacco advertising is excellent news. It is Wales's number one public health issue. It kills 7,000 people in Wales every year and you are right to say that it has a disproportionate effect on deprived communities. That Bill is welcome, and I regret the EU ban to throw it out by the courts. We all know that tobacco companies target children. I hope that this Bill is a step in a process and not the end of the process. I would like to see the age at which tobacco products are bought and consumed raised to a rigidly enforced 18, and a ban on smoking in public places such as restaurants in line with best practice in other parts of Europe, the United States of America and Australia. Will there be more legislation to reduce the death toll from smoking in future years?

Finally, I come to the national health service. The NHS is the crowning achievement of the

Cyffredin yn ddiamau.

Alun Pugh: Mae pethau am Araith y Frenhines nad ydwyf yn eu hoffi—gwisg bantomeim, cerdded wysg eich cefn, teitlau Rwrwanaidd. Rhaid eich bod yn falch nad oedd rhaid ichi ddod yma mewn gwisg ffansi y prynhawn yma.

Fodd bynnag, mae sylwedd Araith y Frenhines yn dda. Croesawaf yn arbennig y Mesur a fydd yn rhoi pwerau ychwanegol i'r Comisiynydd Plant. Dengys ei bod yn bosibl cael cydberthynas aeddfed rhwng y Senedd a'r Cynulliad. A allwch gadarnhau bod y Mesur hwn yn debygol o gyrraedd y llyfr statud, os cynhelir etholiad ym Mai, er enghraifft?

Yn ail, croesawaf y ffocws ar droseddu. Troseddu ac anhrefn yw rhai o'r problemau mwyaf yn fy mag post. Mae problemau mawr ar arfordir gogledd Cymru. Yr ydych yn gywir yr achosir y rhan fwyaf ohonynt gan alcohol, ac mae'n broblem fawr ym Mae Colwyn.

Mae'r Mesur i wahardd hysbysebion tybaco yn newyddion ardderchog. Dyma brif fater iechyd cyhoeddus Cymru. Mae'n lladd 7,000 o bobl yng Nghymru bob blwyddyn ac yr ydych yn gywir i ddweud y caiff effaith anghymesur ar gymunedau difreintiedig. Croesewir y Mesur hwnnw, ac mae'n drueni gennyf am waharddiad yr UE i gael gwared ohono drwy'r llysoedd. Gwyr pob un ohonom fod cwmnïau tybaco yn targedu plant. Gobeithiaf mai un cam mewn proses ac nid diwedd y broses yw'r Mesur hwn. Hoffwn weld yr oedran pan ellir prynu a defnyddio cynnyrch tybaco yn cael ei godi i 18 oed gan lynu ato'n gaeth, a hoffwn i ysmegu gael ei wahardd mewn lleoedd cyhoeddus megis tai bwyta yn unol â'r arfer gorau mewn rhannau eraill o Ewrop, Unol Daleithiau America ac Awstralia. A fydd mwy o ddeddfwriaeth i leihau nifer y marwolaethau oherwydd ysmegu yn y dyfodol?

Yn olaf, deuf at y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol. Prif gyflawniad y Llywodraeth

post-war Labour Government. Legislation to modernise it is helpful, but better still is the huge rise in resources to allow us in this Assembly to tackle the serious issues of health and health inequalities in Wales.

Paul Murphy: I tried to find a white shirt this morning, Alun, but the purple one had to do. I take your point about a mature relationship between two Parliaments, which is important. I cannot guarantee anything in terms of the passage of legislation through Parliament, but if I were to be a betting man on any of those Bills, I would have thought that the one likely to get through would be the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill. There is all-party support for it. The Assembly has spoken as one in its favour. It results from the recommendations of the Waterhouse report. There is undoubtedly a strong feeling in Wales that we should have this. I hope that even in the event of a shortened parliamentary session, to which I referred earlier when I was answering Nick about what happens to Bills if the session is shortened, that this would be a Bill that would receive all-party support.

I take your point about the north Wales coastal strip and Colwyn Bay and elsewhere where violent crime, particularly that linked to alcohol, needs to be tackled. It is important to refer to the resources that are going to the health service. I agree with your points on tobacco. Both my parents died of lung cancer, so I am aware of the results of smoking. I suspect that every family knows of people who have suffered because of this. The Assembly is fully behind us on that.

Janet Ryder: In the Queen's Speech, the Westminster Government promised to bring forward legislation to improve protection for homeless people. How will that legislation affect the legislation that the Government in Wales has promised to bring forward, before Christmas, I believe, on homelessness? Will the Westminster legislation reflect the legislation to be brought forward in Wales?

Lafur ar ôl y rhyfel yw'r NHS. Mae deddfwriaeth i'w foderneiddio yn ddefnyddiol, ond gwell byth yw'r cynnydd enfawr o ran adnoddau er mwyn caniatáu i ni yn y Cynulliad hwn fynd i'r afael â'r materion difrifol o iechyd ac anghydraddoldebau iechyd yng Nghymru.

Paul Murphy: Ceisiais ddod o hyd i grys gwyn y bore yma, Alun, ond bu'n rhaid i'r un porffor wneud y tro. Derbyniaf eich pwynt am y gydberthynas aeddfed rhwng y ddwy Senedd, sydd yn bwysig. Ni allaf sicrhau unrhyw beth o ran pasio'r ddeddfwriaeth drwy'r Senedd, ond pe betiwn ar un o'r Mesurau hynny, credwn mai'r un a fyddai'n debygol o gael ei basio fyddai'r Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru. Mae pob plaid yn ei gefnogi. Siaradodd y Cynulliad fel un llais o'i blaid. Deillia o argymhellion adroddiad Waterhouse. Mae ymdeimlad cryf yng Nghymru yn ddiamau y dylai hyn fod gennym. Gobeithiaf y byddai'r Mesur hwn yn un y byddai pob plaid yn ei gefnogi, hyd yn oed os ceir sesiwn seneddol fyrrach, y cyfeiriais ato yn gynharach wrth ateb cwestiwn Nick ynglŷn â beth fydd yn digwydd i Fesurau pe byrheir y sesiwn.

Derbyniaf eich pwynt am arfordir gogledd Cymru a Bae Colwyn a mannau eraill lle y mae angen mynd i'r afael â throseddau treisiol, yn enwedig y rheini sydd yn gysylltiedig ag alcohol. Mae'n bwysig cyfeirio at yr adnoddau sydd yn mynd i'r gwasanaeth iechyd. Cytunaf â'ch pwyntiau am dybaco. Bu farw fy rhieni ill dau o ganser yr ysgyfaint, ac felly yr wyf yn ymwybodol o ganlyniadau ysmegu. Tybiaf fod pob teulu yn adnabod pobl a ddiodefodd oherwydd hyn. Mae'r Cynulliad yn ein cefnogi'n llawn yn hynny o beth.

Janet Ryder: Yn Araith y Frenhines, addawodd Llywodraeth San Steffan gyflwyno deddfwriaeth i wella diogelwch i bobl ddiartref. Sut bydd y ddeddfwriaeth honno yn effeithio ar y ddeddfwriaeth a addawodd Llywodraeth Cymru ei chyflwyno o ran digartrefedd, cyn y Nadolig, fe gredaf? A adlewyrcha deddfwriaeth San Steffan y ddeddfwriaeth a gyflwynir yng Nghymru?

Also, the Queen's Speech states that the Westminster Government is committed to the development of devolution in Wales and Scotland. How will you progress that? What measures will you put in place to ensure progress on that next year? The Queen's Speech goes on to note that the Government in Westminster is committed to increasing the decentralisation of Government throughout the UK. I was born and brought up in north-east England, therefore I would like to know what you intend to do to progress that matter in England?

Paul Murphy: I am not familiar with the precise proposals of the Assembly's policy on homeless people. The Bill will contain a permissive clause, so that how to deal with the issues becomes a matter for the Assembly. I will be in close touch with the appropriate Ministers in Whitehall and the Assembly to follow progress. However, generally speaking, it is permissive, never mandatory, and the Assembly, in this particular case, will have an opportunity to use the contents of the Bill—I will have to check whether it has been published yet—to complement the measures that it wishes to present to tackle homelessness, which continues to be a problem in some parts of Wales.

On the point about devolution, today's debate is a good example of our progress in dealing with the devolution settlement year on year. As I said earlier, there has been a distinct improvement in how we prepare legislation. The situation has developed since I was here last year, in that I am today answering your questions on the legislative programme. I know that Rhodri, and all Members, are considering ways to improve the progress of devolution.

To answer the question about decentralisation, I have always firmly believed that decentralisation should occur in England. The north-east of England is a region that has been pressing for decentralisation for some time. However, you must also be conscious of what people in England want, and a balance must be struck between those two aspects.

Hefyd, nodi Araith y Frenhines fod Llywodraeth San Steffan yn ymrwymedig i ddatblygu datganoli yng Nghymru a'r Alban. Sut y symudwch hynny yn ei flaen? Pa fesurau a sefydlwch i sicrhau y gwneir cynnydd ar hynny y flwyddyn nesaf? Â Araith y Frenhines ymlaen i nodi bod y Llywodraeth yn San Steffan yn ymrwymedig i gynyddu datganoli ledled y DU. Cefais fy ngeni a'm magu yng ngogledd ddwyrain Lloegr, ac felly hoffwn wybod beth y bwriadwch ei wneud er mwyn symud y mater hwnnw yn ei flaen yn Lloegr?

Paul Murphy: Nid wyf yn gyfarwydd ag union gynigion polisi'r Cynulliad ar bobl ddigartref. Bydd y Mesur yn cynnwys cymal caniatol, fel y daw sut i ddelio â'r materion yn fater i'r Cynulliad. Byddaf mewn cysylltiad agos â'r Gweinidogion priodol yn Whitehall a'r Cynulliad i ddilyn cynnydd. Fodd bynnag, ar y cyfan, caniatol ydyw, nid yw byth yn orfodol, ac yn yr achos penodol hwn, caiff y Cynulliad gyfle i ddefnyddio cynnwys y Mesur—bydd yn rhaid imi wirio a yw wedi ei gyhoeddi eto—er mwyn ategu'r mesurau y dymuna eu cyflwyno i fynd i'r afael â digartrefedd, a barha i fod yn broblem mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru.

Ynglŷn â'r pwynt am ddatganoli, mae'r ddadl heddiw yn enghraifft dda o'n cynnydd wrth ddelio â'r setliad datganoli un flwyddyn ar ôl y llall. Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, bu gwelliant pendant o ran sut y paratown ddeddfwriaeth. Mae'r sefyllfa wedi datblygu ers imi fod yma y llynedd, gan fy mod yn ateb eich cwestiynau ar y rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol heddiw. Gwn fod Rhodri, a phob Aelod, yn ystyried ffyrdd o wella cynnydd datganoli.

I ateb y cwestiwn am ddatganoli, yr wyf bob amser wedi credu'n gryf y dylai datganoli ddigwydd yn Lloegr. Mae gogledd ddwyrain Lloegr yn ardal sydd wedi pwyso am ddatganoli ers peth amser. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i chi fod yn ymwybodol o'r hyn y dymuna pobl Lloegr, a rhaid cael cydbwysedd rhwng y ddwy agwedd hynny.

Brian Gibbons: It is somewhat of a backhanded compliment to say that this Queen's Speech was prepared in anticipation of an election. We are, after all, part of a democratic process where an election involves listening to the views of people and reacting accordingly. That is an important principle that should underpin all of our political activity, particularly within Welsh Labour.

I do not know what your reaction was to Plaid Cymru's comments following the Queen's Speech. I saw an interview with Elfyn Llwyd on television. His reaction to law and order, as you rightly said, was astounding, and it could almost be suggested that he had completely lost the plot. I speak with experience, as a village in my constituency in the upper Afan valley featured in a recent television programme dealing with the ravages that crime creates in many communities. Anybody who underestimates the importance of tackling crime, law and order or car theft is not dealing with the real world or with the problems of constituencies that Welsh Labour is committed to represent.

Ieuan Wyn Jones's comments on the state of the economy were extraordinary, particularly when the level of unemployment is approximately 1 million and will probably fall below that figure in the next few months, which will be a decrease of almost two-thirds since the last Conservative Government. In my constituency, youth unemployment has also decreased by three-quarters. Taking a holistic attitude towards dealing with crime and having a policy that enables young people to get back into work are fundamental in tackling crime and its causes, to which the Welsh Labour Party is committed. Ieuan Wyn Jones also said that public expenditure is at the same level as it was during John Major's Government. To make such a bold statement without qualifying it by saying how that money is being spent is extraordinary. Spending money on paying off the public debt and maintaining unemployment rather than promoting public services, such as health and education, would

Brian Gibbons: Mae dweud y paratowyd Araith y Frenhines gan ragweld etholiad yn rhywfaint o ganmoliaeth ddeufiniog. Wedi'r cyfan, yr ydym yn rhan o broses ddemocrataidd lle y mae etholiad yn cynnwys gwranddo ar farn pobl ac ymateb yn briodol. Mae hynny'n egwyddor bwysig a ddylai fod wrth wraidd ein holl weithgarwch gwleidyddol, yn enwedig o fewn Plaid Lafur Cymru.

Ni wn beth oedd eich ymateb i sylwadau Plaid Cymru yn dilyn Araith y Frenhines. Gwelais gyfweiliad ag Elfyn Llwyd ar y teledu. Yr oedd ei ymateb i droseddau ac anhrefn, fel y dywedasoch yn gywir, yn syfrdanol, a gellir bron awgrymu ei fod wedi drysu'n llwyr. Siaradaf o brofiad, gan fod pentref yn fy etholaeth yng nghwm Afan uchaf yn rhan o raglen deledu ddiweddar yn delio â'r difrod a wneir gan droseddau mewn llawer o gymunedau. Nid yw unrhyw un sydd yn tanamcangyfrif pwysigrwydd mynd i'r afael â throseddu, cyfraith a threfn neu ddwyn ceir yn delio â'r byd gwirioneddol neu â phroblemau'r etholaethau y mae Plaid Lafur Cymru wedi ymrwymo i'w cynrychioli.

Yr oedd sylwadau Ieuan Wyn Jones am sefyllfa'r economi yn rhyfeddol, yn enwedig pan fo lefel diweithdra tua 1 miliwn a phan fo'n debygol y bydd y ffigur hwn yn lleihau dros yr ychydig fisoedd nesaf, sef gostyngiad o ddwy ran o dair bron ers y Llywodraeth Geidwadol ddiwethaf. Yn fy etholaeth, mae diweithdra ymysg pobl ifanc wedi lleihau dri chwarter hefyd. Mae agwedd gyfannol tuag at ddelio â throseddu a meddu ar bolisi sydd yn galluogi pobl ifanc i ddychwelyd i'r gwaith yn hanfodol wrth fynd i'r afael â throseddau a'u hachosion, y mae Plaid Lafur Cymru yn ymrwymedig iddo. Dywedodd Ieuan Wyn Jones hefyd fod gwariant cyhoeddus ar yr un lefel ag yn ystod Llywodraeth John Major. Mae'n syfrdanol gwneud datganiad eofn o'r fath heb ei oleddfdu drwy ddweud sut y gwerir yr arian hwnnw. Gwnâi gwario arian i dalu'r ddyled gyhoeddus a chynnal diweithdra yn hytrach na hyrwyddo gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, megis iechyd ac addysg, wahaniaeth enfawr i

make a vast difference to ordinary people. The people that we represent would notice that difference and would also find Ieuan's statement to be extraordinary.

We must compliment the Secretary of State on securing a Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill. I declare an interest here as my wife works in children's services. I have worked for 20 years as a general practitioner and, knowing of my wife's experience of the problems and difficulties faced by many children in Wales, I have learnt that GPs only see the tip of the iceberg. It is vital, therefore, that children's services are underpinned with further legislation.

I appeal to you on the issue of democratisation and public accountability in the NHS. England has sought a particular solution to articulating public need in that way. I hope that you will take the message back to Westminster that Wales may be looking for a different way to devise made-in-Wales policies to represent the public and its voice within the NHS.

4:50 p.m.

Paul Murphy: I agree that those of us who represent the south Wales Valleys know that we must be careful about how we deal with crime. I have been to a couple of pubs in the last few months that I would like to have closed down on the spot because of rowdiness and yobbishness and that sort of culture, which does none of us any good. I hope that people are aware that we are doing this to ensure that the lives of the overwhelming majority of people who are law-abiding citizens are not adversely affected.

I also agree with you on the question of youth unemployment. The drop in youth unemployment over the last few years is an important issue for all who represent Wales, be that in rural or urban areas.

I note your point about the public accountability of NHS bodies and I will talk to Jane Hutt and Alan Milburn about that.

bobl gyffredin. Byddai'r bobl a gynrychiolwn yn sylwi ar y gwahaniaeth hwnnw a chaent ddatganiad Ieuan yn syfrdanol hefyd.

Rhaid inni ganmol yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol am sicrhau Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru. Datganaf fuddiant yma gan fod fy ngwraig yn gweithio mewn gwasanaethau plant. Gweithiais am 20 mlynedd fel meddyg teulu a, chan wybod am brofiad fy ngwraig o'r problemau a'r anawsterau a wynebir gan lawer o blant yng Nghymru, dysgais fod meddygon ond yn gweld rhan fechan iawn o'r broblem. Mae'n hanfodol, felly, bod deddfwriaeth bellach wrth wraidd gwasanaethau plant.

Apeliaf i chi ar fater democrateiddio ac atebolrwydd gyhoeddus yn yr NHS. Chwiliodd Lloegr am ateb penodol i fynegi angen cyhoeddus yn y modd hwnnw. Gobeithiaf yr ewch â'r neges yn ôl i San Steffan bod Cymru yn chwilio o bosibl am ffordd wahanol o lunio polisiau Cymreig i gynrychioli'r cyhoedd a'i lais o fewn yr NHS.

Paul Murphy: Cytunaf fod y rheini ohonom sydd yn cynrychioli Cymoedd y de yn gwybod bod rhaid inni fod yn ofalus am sut yr ymdriniwn â throsteddu. Euthum i sawl tafarn yn ystod yr ychydig fisoedd diwethaf yr hoffwn eu cau yn syth oherwydd twrw ac ymddygiad iobaidd a diwylliant o'r math hwnnw, nad yw'n gwneud lles i un ohonom. Gobeithiaf fod pobl yn ymwybodol y gwnawn hyn i sicrhau na cheir effaith andwyol ar fywydau mwyafrif helaeth y bobl sydd yn parchu'r gyfraith.

Cytunaf â chi hefyd ar y mater o ddiweithdra ymysg pobl ifanc. Mae'r gostyngiad yn nifer y bobl ifanc ddi-waith dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf yn fater pwysig i bawb sydd yn cynrychioli Cymru, boed hynny mewn ardaloedd gwledig neu drefol.

Nodaf eich pwynt am atebolrwydd cyhoeddus cyrff yr NHS a siaradaf â Jane Hutt ac Alan Milburn ynglŷn â hynny.

Glyn Davies: I am pleased that you are here in our National Assembly. I approve of your engagement with this Assembly. You have a key role to ensure that Acts of Parliament are passed in a way that maximises the involvement of the Assembly in their implementation. The First Minister seemed ambivalent about this in his response to me today. We depend on you greatly on that point.

I preface my questions on the Hunting Bill by saying that I have never participated in hunting and I do not intend to. However, I am implacably opposed to the imposition of a ban. The inclusion of the Bill in the Queen's Speech was a cynical ploy by the Government to create division—we have seen some of that in the Assembly today—between town and country in an attempt to activate old Labour voters who are so disillusioned with your Government's first term that they might not want to vote at all. The Government has put electoral considerations before the interest of Wales. Do you condemn this contemptuous and cynical way in which the Queen's Speech has been formed to create division? Do you accept that hunting is more important to Wales than other parts of the United Kingdom because of the density of the sheep population in Wales and because there are forests alongside where the sheep are kept? Will you seek to ensure that the Act, should it be passed at Westminster, requires the agreement of this Assembly before it is implemented in Wales?

Paul Murphy: The answer to the last question is 'no'. The vote in the next few days on the hunting issue will be a free vote because my party has made that commitment to Members of Parliament. I said earlier that the Government does not have a view on this. It is a free vote, and for Members of Parliament to vote according to their conscience. However, I accept that as a consequence of whatever option is decided upon by the House of Commons, there may be implementation methods and detail that would be appropriate for the National

Glyn Davies: Yr wyf yn falch eich bod yma yn ein Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Cymeradwyaf eich ymrwymiad i'r Cynulliad hwn. Mae gennych rôl allweddol i sicrhau y caiff Deddfau Seneddol eu pasio mewn ffordd sydd yn sicrhau y gwna'r Cynulliad y cyfraniad mwyaf posibl i'w weithredu. Ymddangosodd Prif Weinidog Cymru yn amwys ynglŷn â hyn pan ymatebodd imi heddiw. Dibynnwn yn fawr arnoch ynglŷn â hynny.

Rhagflaenaf fy nghwestiynau ar y Mesur Hela drwy ddweud na chymerais ran erioed mewn hela ac na fwriadaf wneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, gwrthwynebam yn llwyr ei wahardd. Yr oedd cynnwys y Mesur yn Araith y Frenhines yn ddyfais sinicaidd gan y Llywodraeth i greu ymraniad—gwelsom dipyn o hynny yn y Cynulliad heddiw—rhwng y dref a'r wlad mewn ymdrech i ysgogi pleidleiswyr hen Lafur sydd wedi eu siomi cymaint gan dymor cyntaf eich Llywodraeth fel na ddymument bleidleisio o gwbl. Rhoddodd y Llywodraeth ystyriaethau etholiadol cyn buddiannau Cymru. A gondemniwch y ffordd ddirmygus a sinicaidd y lluniwyd Araith y Frenhines i greu ymraniadau? A dderbyniwch fod hela yn bwysicach i Gymru na rhannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig oherwydd dwysedd y boblogaeth defaid yng Nghymru ac oherwydd bod coedwigoedd ger y lleoedd lle y cedwir defaid? A geisiwch sicrhau bod angen i'r Cynulliad hwn gytuno ar y Ddeddf, os caiff ei phasio yn San Steffan, cyn ei gweithredu yng Nghymru?

Paul Murphy: 'Na wna' yw'r ateb i'r cwestiwn olaf. Bydd y bleidlais yn yr ychydig ddyddiau nesaf ar y mater hela yn bleidlais rydd oherwydd i'm plaid wneud yr ymrwymiad hwnnw i'r Aelodau Seneddol. Dywedais yn gynharach nad oes barn gan y Llywodraeth ynglŷn â hyn. Pleidlais rydd ydyw, a dylai Aelodau Seneddol bleidleisio yn ôl eu cydwybod. Fodd bynnag, derbyniaw y gallai fod dulliau a manylion gweithredu y byddai'n briodol i'r Cynulliad eu hystyried, yn sgîl pa opsiwn bynnag a ddewisir gan Dy'r Cyffredin. Ni wn beth fydd y manylion

Assembly to consider. I do not know what that detail will be; we shall have to wait and see.

I do not accept that this is a question of electoral advantage. First, people knew that we were committed to this issue when they voted for Labour in 1997. In Wales we cannot have that complete, clear distinction between town and country. There is hardly a Member of Parliament, or an Assembly Member, except perhaps for some city Members from Cardiff, who does not represent, in some part or other, a rural area in their constituency. I represent many farmers. There are many Labour MPs in Welsh constituencies who represent rural areas. In fact, in the United Kingdom there are more Labour MPs representing rural areas than all the other parties put together. That must be accepted. It is not a simple one-party situation as regards who represents the countryside.

Secondly, I talk to MPs and AMs who represent country areas, as well as urban ones, and they also get postbags from people representing the countryside, as well as from people who live in the towns, who are opposed to foxhunting. It is not as clear-cut as that. Of course, I accept that there may be different points of view put forward in a wholly rural constituency. That is why the debate is being held. That is one reason why it has taken years to get to the stage in the Parliamentary process where we must have that debate, and why we had the Burns report. It is now a matter for MPs to decide and to see that the process goes through; then it will be up to the Assembly to implement anything that might fall to it.

Helen Mary Jones: We all share your concern about crime and disorder. Could you explain to us why the Government at Westminster thinks that putting young people under curfew will be useful, given that the current powers to curfew children have, mercifully, not been used at all? Do you share my concern that the most likely effect of a curfew in any particular community will be to further alienate children and young

hynny; bydd yn rhaid inni aros i weld.

Ni dderbyniaf mai mater o fantais etholiadol yw hwn. Yn gyntaf, gwyddai pobl ein bod yn ymrwymedig i'r mater hwn pan bleidleisiasant dros y Blaid Lafur yn 1997. Ni allwn gael y gwahaniaeth clir, cyfan hwnnw rhwng gwlad a thref yng Nghymru. Nid oes bron unrhyw Aelod Seneddol, neu Aelod o'r Cynulliad, ac eithrio rhai Aelodau o ddinas Caerdydd, na chynrychiolant, mewn rhyw ffordd neu'i gilydd, ardal wledig yn eu hetholaeth. Cynrychiolaf lawer o ffermwyr. Mae llawer o AS Llafur mewn etholaethau Cymreig sydd yn cynrychioli ardaloedd gwledig. Mewn gwirionedd, mae mwy o AS Llafur yn cynrychioli ardaloedd gwledig yn y Deyrnas Unedig na phob plaid arall gyda'i gilydd. Rhaid derbyn hynny. Nid yw'n sefyllfa syml un blaid o ran pwy sydd yn cynrychioli cefn gwlad.

Yn ail, siaradaf ag ASau ac ACau sydd yn cynrychioli ardaloedd gwledig, ynghyd ag ardaloedd trefol, a chânt lythyron gan bobl sydd yn cynrychioli ardaloedd gwledig hefyd, ynghyd â phobl sydd yn byw mewn trefi, sydd yn gwrthwynebu hela llwynogod. Nid yw mor syml â hynny. Wrth gwrs, derbyniaf y gellir datgan barnau gwahanol mewn etholaeth hollol wledig. Dyna'r rheswm pam y cynhelir y ddadl. Dyna'r rheswm pam y cymerodd flynyddoedd i gyrraedd y cam yn y broses Seneddol lle y mae'n rhaid inni gael y ddadl honno, a pham y cawsom adroddiad Burns. Mater i'r ASau benderfynu arno ydyw erbyn hyn ac i sicrhau y caiff y broses ei phasio; wedyn bydd yn rhaid i'r Cynulliad weithredu unrhyw beth a allai ddod i'w ran.

Helen Mary Jones: Mae pob un ohonom yn rhannu eich pryder ynglŷn â throseddu ac anhrefn. A allech egluro inni pam y cred y Llywodraeth yn San Steffan fod rhoi pobl ifanc o dan gyrffiw yn ddefnyddiol, gan ystyried na ddefnyddiwyd y pwerau presennol i roi cyrffiw ar blant o gwbl, yn ffodus? A rannwch fy mhryder mai effaith fwyaf tebygol cyrffiw ar unrhyw gymuned benodol fydd gelyniaethu plant a phobl ifanc

people from adult society and, therefore, potentially create further crime and disorder?

In relation to the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill, I echo what has been said and warmly welcome the fact that it is in the speech. I ask you to also look at two additional specific areas: first, powers relating to non-devolved matters like policing and benefits, and other powers with regard to children receiving services across the border, for example in the case of out-of-county care placements, or where there is need for specialist medical treatment. There are precedents, such as the Welsh Language Act 1993, that could be considered in this context. Powers in both these areas were recommended by the Health and Social Services Committee and I believe that the Government of Wales accepted that. I have not been able to find reference to them in my initial reading of the draft Bill, and I would be grateful if you could look at these areas.

Paul Murphy: We must agree to differ in terms of how the Criminal Justice and Police Bill would affect people. I am sure that we both agree that we want to see an end to the increasing violence that we all see in our communities, in urban areas in particular.

As far as the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill is concerned, it is modelled, as you know, on other ombudsmen. That was the legislative model that we followed. The Care Standards Act 2000 set up the post, and children who are looked after are dealt with in that Act. All matters that are devolved to this Assembly, including the spin-offs from the Assembly's responsibilities—whether that be hospitals, education authorities, and so on—and all Assembly bodies that are in the purview of the Assembly will be a matter for the Children's Commissioner. Reserved matters will not be, because the Assembly is not responsible for them. However, there may be areas of joint responsibility. That must be examined during the passage of legislation. To be honest, I gave a cursory look at that technical Bill today, and I could

oddi wrth gymdeithas oedolion ac, felly, creu rhagor o droseddau ac anhrefn o bosibl?

Mewn perthynas â'r Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru, adleisiaf yr hyn a ddywedwyd a chroesawaf yn gynnes y ffaith ei fod yn yr araith. Gofynnaf ichi edrych ar ddau faes penodol ychwanegol hefyd: yn gyntaf, y pwerau sydd yn ymwneud â materion nas datganolwyd megis plismona a budd-daliadau, a phwerau eraill yn ymwneud â phlant yn cael gwasanaethau dros y ffin, er enghraifft yn achos lleoliadau gofal y tu allan i'r sir, neu lle bo angen triniaeth feddygol arbenigol. Mae cynseiliau, megis Deddf yr Iaith Gymraeg 1993, y gellid eu hystyried yn y cyd-destun hwn. Argymhellwyd pwerau yn y ddau faes hwn gan y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a chredaf y derbyniodd Llywodraeth Cymru hynny. Ni allwn ddod o hyd i gyfeiriadau atynt wrth ddarllen y Mesur drafft am y tro cyntaf, a byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech edrych ar y meysydd hyn.

Paul Murphy: Rhaid inni gytuno i anghytuno o ran sut yr effeithiai'r Mesur Cyfiawnder Troseddol a'r Heddlu ar bobl. Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytuna'r ddau ohonom ein bod yn awyddus i weld diwedd ar y trais cynyddol y mae pob un ohonom yn ei weld yn ein cymunedau, mewn ardaloedd trefol yn benodol.

Ynglŷn â'r Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru, fe'i modelir, fel y gwyddoch, ar ombwdsmyr eraill. Dyna oedd y model deddfwriaethol a ddilynwyd. Sefydlwyd y swydd gan Ddeddf Safonau Gofal 2000, ac ymdrinnir â phlant y gofelir amdanynt yn y Ddeddf honno. Bydd pob mater a ddatganolir i'r Cynulliad hwn, gan gynnwys sgîl-ffeithiau cyfrifoldebau'r Cynulliad—ysbytai, awdurdodau addysg, ac ati—a phob corff y Cynulliad sydd o fewn cwrmpas y Cynulliad yn fater i'r Comisiynydd Plant. Nid felly materion sydd wedi eu cadw, oherwydd nid yw'r Cynulliad yn gyfrifol amdanynt. Fodd bynnag, efallai y bydd meysydd o gyfrifoldeb ar y cyd. Rhaid archwilio hynny yn ystod taith y ddeddfwriaeth drwy'r senedd. I fod yn onest, edrychais ar y Mesur technegol hwnnw yn

not necessarily give you any useful information until it has been looked at in more detail. There may be areas of joint responsibility between the Assembly and with non-Assembly bodies, which may need to be examined.

However, we should focus not only on the technical responsibilities of the Children's Commissioner but on the fact that we now have a champion for children in Wales. The symbolism of that is hugely important. The Assembly can rightly be proud of it.

Delyth Evans: It is a great pleasure to have you here with us today, Paul. You are held in high regard by the people of Wales. I thank you for the excellent job that you are doing in representing Wales in the UK Government. Do you agree that the measures in the Queen's Speech will be most welcome to the people of mid and west Wales, particularly the measures that deal with crime and housing? I recently had a meeting with the Chief Constable of Dyfed-Powys Police, who set out the measures his force is undertaking to tackle rural crime, thanks to new funding from the Government for this particular purpose. Therefore, these additional measures in the Queen's Speech will be even more welcome in rural areas. The people of mid and west Wales will warmly welcome these, and other measures, as they have welcomed the massive drop in youth employment in mid and west Wales, the huge drop in long-term unemployment, the increase in family incomes through the working families tax credit and the record increases in child benefits. They have all been delivered by this Labour Government for the people of rural Wales.

Therefore, the leader of the Welsh Conservatives and other members of the Welsh Conservative Party are wrong to say that this Government is not delivering for the people of rural Wales. I welcome your comments that this Labour Party and Labour Government governs for the whole of Wales

fras heddiw, ac ni allwn o anghenrhaid roi unrhyw wybodaeth ddefnyddiol i chi nes inni eu harchwilio yn fanylach. Efallai bod rhai meysydd o gyfrifoldeb ar y cyd rhwng y Cynulliad a chyrrff nad ydynt yn rhan o'r Cynulliad, y bydd yn rhaid eu harchwilio o bosibl.

Fodd bynnag, dylem ganolbwyntio nid yn unig ar gyfrifoldebau technegol y Comisiynydd Plant ond ar y ffaith fod gennym yn awr rywun sydd yn gyfrifol am blant yng Nghymru. Mae symboliaeth hynny yn bwysig dros ben. Gall y Cynulliad ymfalchïo ynddo, a hynny'n haeddiannol.

Delyth Evans: Mae'n bleser mawr cael eich cwmni yma heddiw, Paul. Mae parch mawr gan bobl Cymru tuag atoch. Diolch am y gwaith ardderchog a wnewch wrth gynrychioli Cymru yn Llywodraeth y DU. A gytunwch y croesewir y mesurau a geir yn Araith y Frenhines yn fawr gan bobl canolbarth a gorllewin Cymru, yn enwedig y mesurau sydd yn delio â throseddu a thai? Cefais gyfarfod yn ddiweddar gyda Phrif Gwnstabl Heddlu Dyfed-Powys, a nododd y mesurau y mae ei heddlu yn ymgymryd â hwy er mwyn mynd i'r afael â throseddau yng nghefn gwlad, diolch i arian newydd gan y Llywodraeth at y diben penodol hwn. Felly, croesewir y mesurau ychwanegol hyn a geir yn Araith y Frenhines hyd yn oed yn fwy mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Croesawa pobl canolbarth a gorllewin Cymru y rhain, a mesurau eraill, yn fawr, fel y croesawsant y gostyngiad enfawr yn nifer y bobl ifanc ddi-waith yng nghanolbarth a gorllewin Cymru, y gostyngiad enfawr yn nifer y bobl ddi-waith tymor hir, y cynnydd yng nghyflogau teuluoedd drwy greddyd treth i deuluoedd mewn gwaith a'r codiadau eithriadol mewn budd-daliadau plant. Cyflwynwyd pob un ohonynt gan y Llywodraeth Lafur hon i bobl Cymru wledig.

Felly, mae arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru ac aelodau eraill o Blaid Geidwadol Cymru yn anghywir pan ddywedant nad yw'r Llywodraeth hon yn cyflawni ei haddewidion i bobl Cymru wledig. Croesawaf eich sylwadau fod y Blaid Lafur a'r Llywodraeth Lafur hon yn llywodraethu Cymru gyfan a

and all the people of this country. It is not splitting urban and rural areas, but is delivering policies for all our people. Finally, Secretary of State, will you join me in commiserating with the UK Conservative Party, which has so few policies that appeal to the voters that it has failed to win a single by-election during the entire course of this UK Parliament?

5:00 p.m.

The Presiding Officer: Order. Before I call the Secretary of State for Wales to answer some of those questions, I remind Assembly Members that this is a question and answer session on the United Kingdom Government's legislative programme; it is not about by-elections in England.

Paul Murphy: I would be admonished by the Presiding Officer if I commented on many of those issues. However, the important point to make is that the Government Bills that are before us—we will exclude the Hunting Bill for the time being, which is obviously a matter of controversy—such as those dealing with tobacco, homelessness, the health service and the Children's Commissioner, are equally valid in whichever part of Wales you live, whether it is the most remote village in mid Wales or a densely populated ward here in the capital city.

Alun Cairns: Brian Gibbons said that this was an election Queen's Speech. If this is all that Labour can come up with, I am looking forward to fighting the next general election on this Queen's Speech and the record of the Government.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I made it clear a few moments ago that this statement is about the UK Government's legislative programme; it is not about the next Westminster election. I warn Assembly Members that next year I will not allow debate in this Chamber that is a surrogate for a parliamentary election campaign conducted elsewhere. There is no election in this Assembly next year. Our general election is in 2003.

phawb yn y wlad hon. Nid yw'n rhannu ardaloedd trefol a gwledig, ond yn hytrach cyflwyna bolisiau i bawb. Yn olaf, Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, a ymunwch â mi i gydymdeimlo â Phlaid Geidwadol y DU, sydd â chyn lleied o bolisiau sydd yn apelio at bleidleiswyr fel nad enillodd unrhyw isetholiad yn ystod y sesiwn gyfan hon o Senedd y DU?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Cyn i mi alw ar Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru i ateb rhai o'r cwestiynau hynny, atgoffaf Aelodau'r Cynulliad mai sesiwn holi ac ateb ar raglen ddeddfwriaethol Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yw hon; nid yw'n ymwneud ag isetholiadau yn Lloegr.

Paul Murphy: Byddai'r Llywydd yn fy ngheryddu pe rhoddwn sylwadau ar lawer o'r materion hynny. Fodd bynnag, y pwynt pwysig i'w wneud yw bod y Mesurau Llywodraeth sydd ger ein bron—eithriwn y Mesur Hela ar hyn o bryd, sydd yn amlwg yn fater dadleuol—megis y rheini sydd yn delio â thybaco, digartrefedd, y gwasanaeth iechyd a'r Comisiynydd Plant, yr un mor ddilys ble bynnag yr ydych yn byw yng Nghymru, boed yn y pentref mwyaf anghysbell yn y Canolbarth neu ward boblog yma yn y brifddinas.

Alun Cairns: Dywedodd Brian Gibbons mai Araith y Frenhines cyn yr etholiad oedd hon. Os mai dyma'r unig beth y gall y Blaid Lafur ei wneud, edrychaf ymlaen at ymladd yr etholiad cyffredinol nesaf ar yr Araith hon gan y Frenhines ac ar record y Llywodraeth.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Esboniais yn glir ychydig funudau yn ôl bod y datganiad hwn yn ymwneud â rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol Llywodraeth y DU; nid yw'n ymwneud â'r etholiad nesaf ar gyfer San Steffan. Rhybuddiaf Aelodau'r Cynulliad na chaniatâf ddadl yn y Siambr hon y flwyddyn nesaf sydd yn baratoad ar gyfer ymgyrch etholiad seneddol a gynhelir mewn man arall. Nid oes etholiad yn y Cynulliad hwn y flwyddyn nesaf. Yn 2003 y bydd ein hetholiad cyffredinol ni.

Alun Cairns: Secretary of State, in your speech you highlighted plans that you claim will improve the quality of life in Wales. You and other Members have mentioned that you want to introduce measures to improve law enforcement. Whatever the spin in your statement, do you accept that there are 3,000 fewer police officers in the United Kingdom now than before the last general election? You mentioned plans to improve the health service. However, is it not the reality, despite the billboard posters and the pledge card promises that you made before the last election, that waiting lists for treatment are up by 10,000, waiting times to see a consultant have risen by 78,000 and the number of people waiting longer than six months to see a consultant have risen by 642 per cent to 44,000? Is this what you meant by health improvement before the last general election? Is it the case that whatever the spin in your statement, whatever the promises that you have made, the people of Wales are being taxed more and are receiving fewer public services than ever before?

Paul Murphy: I do not think, Presiding Officer, that you will allow me to answer most of that. I do not agree with any of it, I am afraid. However, there will be an opportunity, I am sure, during hustings before the next election, whenever it is held, for us to discuss those issues. I do not think that the issues that you and your party have already supported this afternoon, such as the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Bill and the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill and some of the other Bills, are matters of spin. We do not need spin on a children's commissioner or on banning tobacco advertising. All of us, whatever our party, believe in those issues.

John Griffiths: Do you agree, Paul, that the Hunting Bill is nowhere near as controversial as people try to state it to be as far as the general population is concerned? Opinion poll after opinion poll, in urban and rural areas, have shown that people are overwhelmingly opposed to hunting with

Alun Cairns: Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, yn eich araith, amlygasoch gynlluniau yr honnwch y byddant yn gwella ansawdd bywyd yng Nghymru. Crybwyllasoch chi ac Aelodau eraill eich bod yn awyddus i gyflwyno mesurau i wella gorfodi'r gyfraith. Beth bynnag fo'r sbin yn eich datganiad, a dderbyniwch fod 3,000 o swyddogion yr heddlu yn llai yn y Deyrnas Unedig yn awr na chyn yr etholiad cyffredinol diwethaf? Crybwyllasoch gynlluniau i wella'r gwasanaeth iechyd. Fodd bynnag, onid yw'n wir, er gwaethaf y byrddau posteri a'r addewidion a wnaethoch cyn yr etholiad diwethaf, bod rhestrau aros am driniaeth wedi codi 10,000, amserau aros i weld meddyg ymgynghorol wedi codi 78,000 a nifer y bobl sydd yn aros yn hwy na chwe mis i weld meddyg ymgynghorol wedi codi 642 y cant i 44,000? Ai dyma yr olygasid olygu wrth sôn am wella iechyd cyn yr etholiad cyffredinol diwethaf? Onid yw'n wir, beth bynnag fo'r sbin sydd yn eich datganiad, beth bynnag fo'r addewidion a wnaethoch, bod pobl Cymru yn talu mwy o drethi ac yn cael llai o wasanaethau cyhoeddus nag erioed o'r blaen?

Paul Murphy: Ni chredaf, Lywydd, y caniatewch imi ateb y rhan fwyaf o hynny. Ni chytunaf ag unrhyw ran ohono, mae arnaf ofn. Fodd bynnag, bydd cyfle, yr wyf yn siŵr, yn ystod y llwyfannau etholiad cyn yr etholiad cyffredinol nesaf, pryd bynnag y'i cynhelir, inni drafod y materion hynny. Ni chredaf fod y materion a gefnogwyd eisoes gennych chi a'ch plaid y prynhawn yma, megis y Mesur Hysbysebu a Hyrwyddo Tybaco a Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru a rhai o'r Mesurau eraill yn faterion o sbin. Nid oes angen inni roi sbin ar gomisiynydd plant nac ar wahardd hysbysebion tybaco. Mae pob un ohonom, beth bynnag fo'n plaid, yn credu yn y materion hynny.

John Griffiths: A gytunwch, Paul, nad yw'r Mesur Hela hanner mor ddadleuol ag y ceisia pobl ddweud ei fod, yng ngolwg y boblogaeth gyffredinol? Dangosodd un arolwg barn ar ôl y llall, mewn ardaloedd trefol a gwledig, bod mwyafrif helaeth y bobl yn gwrthwynebu hela â chwn. Croesawaf y

hounds. I welcome the Hunting Bill because I agree with the vast majority of people in rural and urban areas that it is a barbaric practice with no place in the modern age.

On the ban on tobacco advertising, Paul, I wonder if at some stage we might move towards educating the public towards a total ban on smoking in public places. I believe, as other speakers have said, that the toll that smoking is taking on the health of the people of Wales is unacceptable and must be radically addressed in the short, medium and long term. Such a ban would send a strong message that smoking in public places is socially unacceptable. We might have to work towards that in terms of educating the public.

We need a strong dialogue between the Assembly and Westminster on crime and justice issues. As far as youth justice is concerned, I welcome the move away from the unenlightened view of the last Tory Government, which failed to see a connection between unemployment and crime. That, to most people, is obvious and common sense. I am glad that we have moved away from that and that there is an emphasis on tackling the causes of crime. Custody simply tends to make many young offenders far worse, more sophisticated and hardened. We need to move away from that and recognise that a more enlightened approach is right and effective.

The Presiding Officer: Order. It would be helpful if you were to ask a question.

John Griffiths: Is it the case that there is a recognition that there are an inadequate number of places in young offender institutions in Wales, which results in Welsh offenders going into custody in England? That creates all sorts of problems for the agencies that deal with young offenders because it is far more difficult and time consuming to arrange visits and that leads to difficulties in rehabilitation, which is compounded by the difficulty in arranging family visits.

Mesur Hela oherwydd y cytunaf â mwyafrif helaeth y bobl mewn ardaloedd gwledig a threfol ei fod yn arfer anwaraidd nad oes lle iddo yn yr oes fodern.

Ynglŷn â gwahardd hysbysebion tybaco, Paul, tybed a allem symud rywbryd tuag at addysgu'r cyhoedd i dderbyn gwaharddiad llwyr ar ysmegu mewn lleoedd cyhoeddus. Credaf, fel y dywedodd siaradwyr eraill, fod y niwed a wna ysmegu i iechyd pobl Cymru yn annerbyniol a bod rhaid ymdrin ag ef mewn ffordd radicalaidd yn y tymor byr, canolig a hir. Byddai gwaharddiad o'r fath yn anofon neges glir bod ysmegu mewn lleoedd cyhoeddus yn gymdeithasol annerbyniol. Efallai y bydd yn rhaid inni weithio tuag at hynny mewn perthynas ag addysgu'r cyhoedd.

Mae angen trafodaeth gref rhwng y Cynulliad a San Steffan ynglŷn â materion troseddu a chyfiawnder. O ran cyfiawnder ieuencid, croesawaf y ffaith ein bod wedi symud oddi wrth farn anoleuedig y Llywodraeth Doriadaidd ddiwethaf, a fethodd â gweld cysylltiad rhwng diweithdra a throseddau. Mae hynny'n amlwg ac yn synnwyr cyffredin i'r rhan fwyaf o bobl. Yr wyf yn falch bod hynny wedi newid a bod pwyslais ar fynd i'r afael ag achosion troseddau. Tuedda rhoi troseddwy'r ifanc yn y ddalfa i wneud llawer ohonynt yn llawer gwaeth, yn fwy soffistigedig ac yn galetach. Mae angen inni newid hynny a chydabod bod ymagwedd oleuedig yn gywir ac yn effeithiol.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Byddai'n ddefnyddiol pe gofynnech gwestiwn.

John Griffiths: Onid yw'n wir y cydnabyddir nad oes digon o leoedd mewn sefydliadau troseddwy'r ifanc yng Nghymru, sydd yn arwain at droseddwy'r Cymreig yn cael eu rhoi yn y ddalfa yn Lloegr? Crea hynny bob math o broblemau i'r asiantaethau sydd yn delio â throseddwy'r ifanc oherwydd ei bod llawer anos a llawer mwy llafurus i drefnu ymweliadau ac arweinia hynny at anawsterau o ran ailsefydlu, a gymhlethir gan yr anhawster a geir i drefnu ymweliadau teulu.

Paul Murphy: Your views on the Hunting Bill were interesting because you do not represent an exclusively urban area. Your point about education in tobacco advertising is important and there is a huge role for the Assembly in that. I accept your point about dialogue on issues affecting law and order, crime and agencies, between the United Kingdom Government and the National Assembly for Wales. That is why—I think that Rhodri mentioned it earlier in his question and answer session—there is strong consultation between the Assembly and the Government, even though matters of criminal law are reserved.

Geraint Davies: I disagree with Lorraine Barrett and her three families in Cardiff. I do not know when she last visited the Rhondda, but there are far more families in Valley communities who are disappointed with the performance of the Labour Government over the last three and half years. In my community, for example, we have seen hospitals close, services withdrawn and the infrastructure of our communities deteriorate: our houses, schools and roads. We cannot even repair our bridges because of the lack of public spending. As you have heard, more people are in poverty since the Labour Government came to power. How can you justify paying back the national debt when there is such dire poverty in the south Wales valleys? There is so much deprivation. Are you more interested in the prosperous areas of middle England than in the poor areas of the South Wales valleys?

5:10 p.m.

Paul Murphy: I also represent a south Wales Valley constituency, and I hope to continue to do so. I think that all of us who represent south Wales's ex-mining communities are conscious of the important job of work that falls upon our shoulders.

On disappointment with the Government's performance, that will have to be put to the test. I do not know when that test will come. It cannot be far away; it must be within the next 18 months to two years. We will then

Paul Murphy: Yr oedd eich sylwadau ar y Mesur Hela yn ddiddorol gan na chynrychiolwch ardal sydd yn drefol yn unig. Mae eich pwynt am addysg o ran hysbysebion tybaco yn bwysig ac mae rôl enfawr gan y Cynulliad yn hynny o beth. Derbynïaf eich pwynt am drafodaeth ar faterion sydd yn effeithio ar gyfraith a threfn, troseddu ac asiantaethau, rhwng Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig a Chynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Dyna pam—credaf y'i crybwyllwyd gan Rhodri yn gynharach yn ei sesiwn holi ac ateb—bod ymgynghoriad cryf rhwng y Cynulliad a'r Llywodraeth, er bod materion cyfraith droseddol wedi eu cadw.

Geraint Davies: Anghytunaf â Lorraine Barrett a'i thri theulu yng Nghaerdydd. Ni wn pryd yr ymwelodd â'r Rhondda ddiwethaf, ond mae llawer mwy o deuluoedd yng nghymunedau'r Cymoedd a siomwyd gan berfformiad y Llywodraeth Lafur dros y tair blynedd a hanner diwethaf. Yn fy nghymuned i, er enghraifft, gwelsom ysbytai yn cau, gwasanaethau yn cael eu diddymu ac isadeiledd ein cymunedau yn dirywio: ein tai, ein hysgolion a'n ffyrdd. Ni allwn hyd yn oed atgyweirio ein pontydd oherwydd y diffyg gwariant cyhoeddus. Fel y clywsoch, mae mwy o bobl yn byw mewn tlodi ers i'r Llywodraeth Lafur ddod i rym. Sut y gallwch gyfiawnhau ad-dalu'r ddyled genedlaethol pan fo tlodi mor ddifrifol yng nghymoedd de Cymru? Mae cymaint o amddifadedd. A oes gennych fwy o ddiddordeb yn ardaloedd ffyniannus Lloegr ganol nag yn ardaloedd tlawd cymoedd de Cymru?

Paul Murphy: Cynrychiolaf hefyd etholaeth yng Nghymoedd de Cymru, a gobeithiaf barhau i wneud hynny. Credaf fod y rheini ohonom sydd yn cynrychioli cyn gymunedau glofaol de Cymru yn ymwybodol o'r gwaith pwysig y mae'n rhaid inni ei ysgwyddo.

Ynglŷn â'r siom am berfformiad y Llywodraeth, bydd yn rhaid rhoi prawf ar hynny. Ni wn pryd y daw'r prawf hwnnw. Ni all fod ymhell i ffwrdd; rhaid iddo fod o fewn y 18 mis neu'r ddwy flynedd nesaf.

see who the people of Wales think should form the Government of the United Kingdom.

I do not agree with you on the national debt. Paying a huge amount of interest on debt every year is counterproductive. The enormous amounts that we were paying in debt repayments and unemployment benefit meant that we were depriving our public services of the necessary resources. We have reduced those payments and that is the main reason why the Assembly has had an enormous increase in the resources available to it as a result of this Government.

Richard Edwards: I welcome you to the Assembly, Paul, and I also welcome the Queen's Speech, including the Hunting Bill, which is supported by people in rural and urban Wales. Do you share my amazement at the temerity of the leader of the Welsh Conservatives, when he professes to shed tears for rural Wales, given his party's abysmal record in rural Wales? I am amazed at his reference to the burden of increasing regulation, not least because of the unmitigated disaster of his party's policy of bus deregulation, which delivered hammer blows to people living in Wales's rural communities.

At the risk of upsetting some of our Liberal Democrat friends, and I use that word advisedly, I ask you to remind the leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats—and I am sorry that he is not in the Chamber at the moment—that he may be the leader of that party, but that he is also a member of the Welsh Government now: Deputy First Minister, no less. As such, whether he likes it or not, he has an umbilical relationship with the Westminster Government, and he needs to exercise collective Cabinet responsibility and not pick and choose when he can and cannot attack Labour.

Paul Murphy: Those are matters for the National Assembly for Wales and I would rather leave them to be dealt with by your excellent procedures and processes. I am tempted to discuss some of the issues that

Gwelwn wedyn pwy y mae pobl Cymru yn credu a ddylai ffurfio Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig.

Ni chytunaf â chi ynglŷn â'r ddyled genedlaethol. Mae talu llog anferth ar ddyled bob blwyddyn yn wrthgynhyrchiol. Golygai'r symiau enfawr yr oeddem yn eu talu fel ad-daliadau'r ddyled a budd-daliadau diweithdra ein bod yn amddifadu ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus o'r adnoddau angenrheidiol. Gostyngasom y taliadau hynny a dyna'r prif reswm pam y cafodd y Cynulliad gynnydd enfawr yn yr adnoddau sydd ar gael iddo o ganlyniad i'r Llywodraeth hon.

Richard Edwards: Fe'ch croesawaf i'r Cynulliad, Paul, a chroesawaf hefyd Araith y Frenhines, gan gynnwys y Mesur Hela, a gefnogir gan bobl yng Nghymru wledig a threfol. A rannwch fy syndod at hyfdra arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru, pan honna wylo dagrau dros Gymru wledig, o ystyried hanes gwarthus ei blaid yng Nghymru wledig? Synnaf iddo gyfeirio at faich rheoliadau cynyddol, nid lleiaf oherwydd trychineb llwyr polisi ei blaid o ran dadreoli'r bysiau, a gafodd effaith andwyol ar y bobl sydd yn byw yng nghymunedau gwledig Cymru.

Gan fentro cynhyrfu rhai o'n ffrindiau yn y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, a defnyddiaf y gair 'ffrindiau' yn ystyriol, gofynnaf ichi atgoffa arweinydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru—ac mae'n ddrwg gennyf nad yw yn y Siambr ar hyn o bryd—er ei fod yn arweinydd y blaid honno, mae hefyd yn aelod o Lywodraeth Cymru erbyn hyn: dim llai na'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog. Felly, pa un ai a yw'n hoffi hynny ai peidio, mae ganddo berthynas na all ei thorri â Llywodraeth San Steffan, ac mae angen iddo arfer cydgyfrifoldeb y Cabinet a pheidio â dewis a dethol pryd i ymosod ar y Blaid Lafur a phryd i beidio.

Paul Murphy: Materion i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yw'r rheini a byddai'n well gennyf adael i'ch gweithdrefnau a'ch prosesau ardderchog chi ddelio â hwy. Caf fy nhemtio i drafod rhai o'r materion a

you raised, particularly with regard to rural Wales, but I think that, if I went too far, I would risk the wrath of the Presiding Officer. However, I accept your points and I think that we agree very much on the general issues and on how rural Wales has benefited from the Government's actions.

Pauline Jarman: I declare an interest as a local councillor and a school governor.

The Queen's Speech is unclear on whether secondary education will be covered by an initiative or a Bill. However, I will presume that it will be a Bill. The Queen's Speech also mentions creating more specialist schools. As it is the practice of schools in England, often in their admission policy, to rely heavily on at least 10 per cent of pupils being selected, can you guarantee that education Bills, as they affect Wales, will give us the freedom to determine an admission policy that does not demand selection?

The Queen's Speech also includes the Vehicle (Crime) Bill. Do you consider dumping vehicles in the countryside to be a vehicle crime? There is an increasing trend towards that and, in view of the cost, in millions of pounds, to local authorities and police authorities and the grave cost to the environment and child safety, will you examine whether this Bill will consider the abandonment of vehicles in the countryside to be a vehicle crime?

Paul Murphy: Part of this is about regulating the motor salvage industry. We think that about 39,000 thefts and 6,000 fraudulent insurance claims could be avoided. Off the top of my head, I do not think that the Vehicle (Crime) Bill is specifically about the issue that Pauline raised, which I agree is a dreadful nuisance in our towns, cities and rural areas—I see such abandoned vehicles in my constituency. It is more about dealing with car theft and the receipts from that, but I will have to come back to you on that detail. However, I agree entirely with the principle to which you referred.

godasoch, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â Chymru wledig, ond credaf y byddwn mewn perygl o ennyn digofaint y Llywydd pe bawn yn mynd yn rhy bell. Fodd bynnag, derbyniaf eich pwyntiau a chredaf y cytunwn i raddau helaeth ar y materion cyffredinol ac ar sut y bu i Gymru wledig elwa ar weithredoedd y Llywodraeth.

Pauline Jarman: Datganaf fuddiant fel cynghorydd lleol a llywodraethwr ysgol.

Nid yw Araith y Frenhines yn glir ynglŷn ag a gaiff addysg uwchradd ei chwmpasu gan fenter neu Fesur. Fodd bynnag, cymeraf mai Mesur a fydd. Crybwylla Araith y Frenhines greu mwy o ysgolion arbenigol hefyd. Gan ei bod yn arfer yn ysgolion Lloegr, yn aml yn eu polisi derbyn, i ddibynnu'n fawr ar o leiaf 10 y cant o'r disgyblion yn cael eu dewis, a allwch sicrhau y rhydd Mesurau addysg, fel yr effeithiant ar Gymru, y rhyddid inni benderfynu ar bolisi derbyn nad yw'n mynnu dethol disgyblion?

Mae Araith y Frenhines yn cynnwys y Mesur Cerbydau (Trosedd) hefyd. A ystyriwch fod gadael cerbydau yng nghefn gwlad yn drosedd cerbyd? Mae tuedd gynyddol tuag at hynny a, chan ystyried y gost, sydd yn filiynau o bunnau, i awdurdodau lleol ac awdurdodau'r heddlu a'r gost ddifrifol i'r amgylchedd a diogelwch plant, a wnewch chi archwilio a yw'r Mesur hwn yn ystyried bod gadael cerbydau yng nghefn gwlad yn drosedd cerbyd?

Paul Murphy: Mae rhan o hyn yn ymwneud â rheoleiddio'r diwydiant adfer cerbydau. Credwn y gellid osgoi tua 39,000 o achosion o ddwyn a 6,000 o geisiadau yswiriant twyllodrus. O'm cof, ni chredaf fod y Mesur Cerbydau (Trosedd) yn ymwneud yn benodol â'r mater a gododd Pauline, y cytunaf ei fod yn niwsans ofnadwy yn ein trefi, ein dinasoedd a'n hardaloedd gwledig—gwelaf gerbydau o'r fath wedi eu gadael yn fy etholaeth i. Mae'n ymwneud yn fwy â delio â dwyn ceir a'r derbyniadau o hynny, ond bydd rhaid imi ddod yn ôl atoch ynglŷn â'r manylion. Fodd bynnag, cytunaf yn llwyr â'r egwyddor y cyfeiriasoch ati.

On the Special Educational Needs and Disability Bill, there has been close contact at official level—and, I guess, at Cabinet level—on that Bill. The Assembly's wishes will be adhered to.

Christine Chapman: I thank Paul for outlining the benefits that will come to Wales as a result of the Queen's Speech. I will ask a few questions about the Special Educational Needs and Disability Bill. Unlike the leader of the Welsh Conservatives, I know that this legislation will make a difference to Wales; in particular, to more vulnerable members of society. I am sure that, as Assembly Members, many of us see people coming to our surgeries with these kinds of problems. We want to have solutions to offer them.

This Bill will mean that parents of children with special educational needs will have a stronger voice, and it will have a huge impact on social inclusion. The Act will place new duties on schools, further and higher education institutions and adult education providers to ensure reasonable access for disabled people. It will benefit around 17,000 pupils with statements of special educational need in Wales. It will also give people with disabilities the opportunity to participate fully in our lifelong learning agenda. It is about giving our people a stake in society and a future in Wales.

Do you agree that this is another important step in securing an inclusive and tolerant society in Wales? Will you join me in condemning the remarks of Conservative Members who dismissed this Bill so lightly? I am sure that we all agree that this will make a difference to the people we see every day in our surgeries. It will make a difference in Wales and I warmly welcome it.

Paul Murphy: I also welcome it; it is an important Bill. I remind the Assembly that it covers devolved and reserved matters. Disability rights provision, apart from the duty to plan to increase accessibility, and equal opportunities, are reserved to

Ynglŷn â'r Mesur Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig ac Anabledd, bu cysylltiad agos ar lefel swyddogol—ac yn y Cabinet, fe dybiaf—ynglŷn â'r Mesur hwnnw. Glynir at ddymuniadau'r Cynulliad.

Christine Chapman: Diolchaf i Paul am amlinellu'r manteision a ddaw i Gymru o ganlyniad i Araith y Frenhines. Gofynnaf am bell gwestiwn am y Mesur Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig ac Anabledd. Yn wahanol i arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru, gwn y gwna'r ddeddfwriaeth hon wahaniaeth i Gymru; yn benodol, i aelodau mwy diamddiffyn cymdeithas. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod llawer ohonom, fel Aelodau'r Cynulliad, yn gweld pobl yn ein cymorthfeydd â'r mathau hyn o broblemau. Yr ydym yn awyddus i gael atebion i'w cynnig iddynt.

Golyga'r Mesur hwn y bydd llais cryfach gan rieni plant ag anghenion addysgol arbennig, a chaiff effaith enfawr ar gynhwysiant cymdeithasol. Gosoda'r Ddeddf ddyletswyddau newydd ar ysgolion, sefydliadau addysg bellach ac addysg uwch a darparwyr addysg i oedolion i sicrhau mynediad rhesymol i bobl anabl. Bydd tua 17,000 o ddisgyblion â datganiadau o angen addysgol arbennig yn elwa yng Nghymru. Rhydd hefyd gyfle i bobl ag anableddau gymryd rhan lawn yn ein hagenda dysgu gydol oes. Mae'n ymwneud â rhoi rhan mewn cymdeithas a dyfodol yng Nghymru i'n pobl.

A gytunwch fod hwn yn gam pwysig arall tuag at sicrhau cymdeithas gynhwysol a goddefgar yng Nghymru? A ymunwch â mi i gondemnio sylwadau'r Aelodau Ceidwadol a ddiystyriodd y Mesur hwn? Yr wyf yn siŵr bod pob un ohonom yn cytuno y gwna hyn wahaniaeth i'r bobl a welwn bob dydd yn ein cymorthfeydd. Gwna wahaniaeth yng Nghymru ac fe'i croesawaf yn fawr.

Paul Murphy: Fe'i croesawaf hefyd; mae'n Fesur pwysig. Atgoffaf y Cynulliad ei fod yn cwmpasu materion datganoledig a materion wedi eu cadw. Mae darpariaeth hawliau anabledd, ar wahân i'r ddyletswydd i gynllunio i gynyddu hygyrchedd, a chyfle

Westminster. However, the duty to plan, although intended to help disabled pupils, primarily in relation to the organisation and administration of schools, is an Assembly matter. Therefore, there is a close working relationship between the Government and the Assembly on a matter with which I think everybody agrees.

Elin Jones: Ym Mehefin, pleidleisiodd y Cynulliad o blaid cynnig a oedd yn gofyn i Lywodraeth San Steffan lunio unrhyw Fesur ar hela â chwn mewn modd a fyddai'n galluogi'r Cynulliad i benderfynu ar y mater pwysig hwnnw yng Nghymru. O wrando ar eich ymateb i Glyn Davies ynghynt, a wnewch chi ehangu ar pam nad ydych yn barod i gydnabod a gweithredu ar ran ewyllys ddemocrataidd y Cynulliad drwy drafod y Mesur Hela ymhellach yn San Steffan? Yn fwy penodol, a wnaeth Llywodraeth Cymru ofyn ichi ddylanwadu ar lunio'r Mesur hwnnw yn y modd hwnnw, gan roi'r pwerau i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol benderfynu ar y mater hwn, yn unol â phenderfyniad y Cynulliad ym Mehefin?

Paul Murphy: The Labour Party made a commitment at the general election to ensure a free vote in the House of Commons on hunting with dogs. That must be done through the House of Commons. That was the commitment that we made, and I think that it is right. The devolution settlement is such that criminal justice matters, which this is, should be matters for the House of Commons.

On contact with the National Assembly, on the general principle, which is covered by the options, that is a matter for the House of Commons. However, there may be, depending on the outcome of the vote, issues that will touch on the Assembly's responsibilities. To that end, I will be in contact with Rhodri, or the appropriate Minister, to deal with those issues.

On propriety and the procedures involved, there will be occasions, and I remember saying that on my first day in the job, when I will disagree with the National Assembly. I am part of the collective responsibility of one

cyfartal, wedi eu cadw i San Steffan. Fodd bynnag, mater i'r Cynulliad yw'r ddyletswydd i gynllunio, er y'i bwriedir yn bennaf i helpu disgyblion anabl o ran materion trefniadol a gweinyddol mewn ysgolion. Felly, mae cydberthynas waith agos rhwng y Llywodraeth a'r Cynulliad ar fater y credaf fod pawb yn cytuno arno.

Elin Jones: In June, the Assembly voted for a motion that asked the Westminster Government to draw up any Bill on hunting with dogs in a way that would enable the Assembly to decide on this important issue in Wales. After listening to your response to Glyn Davies earlier, will you expand on why you are not willing to recognise and act on the Assembly's democratic will by discussing the Hunting Bill further in Westminster? More specifically, did the Government of Wales ask you to influence the drawing up of that Bill in that way, giving the National Assembly the powers to decide on this matter, in accordance with the Assembly's decision in June?

Paul Murphy: Gwnaeth y Blaid Lafur ymrwymiad yn yr etholiad cyffredinol i sicrhau pleidlais rydd yn Nhy'r Cyffredin ar hela â chwn. Rhaid gwneud hynny drwy Dy'r Cyffredin. Dyna'r ymrwymiad a wnaethom, a chredaf ei fod yn gywir. Yn unol â'r setliad datganoli, dylai materion cyfiawnder troseddol—a dyna yw hwn—fod yn faterion i Dy'r Cyffredin.

Ynglŷn â chysylltu â'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, o ran yr egwyddor gyffredinol, a gwmpesir gan yr opsiynau, mater i Dy'r Cyffredin yw hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, gall fod materion a fydd yn cyffwrdd â chyfrifoldebau'r Cynulliad, yn dibynnu ar ganlyniad y bleidlais. I'r diben hwnnw, cysylltaf â Rhodri, neu'r Gweinidog priodol, i ddelio â'r materion hynny.

Ynglŷn â phriodoldeb a'r gweithdrefnau dan sylw, bydd achlysuron, a chofiaf ddweud hynny ar fy niwrnod cyntaf yn y swydd, pan fyddaf yn anghytuno â'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Yr wyf yn rhan o

Government—the United Kingdom Government—which also represents the people of Wales. The National Assembly has its own responsibilities. It has been elected separately, and may well have a different view from mine. I hope that that will not happen often; I am sure that it will not, but there may be occasions when that will happen. It is my responsibility to relay the National Assembly's views. However, there is no responsibility on my part to always agree with them.

5:20 p.m.

Alison Halford: Are you aware that, despite the rather angry and aggressive rant to which you were subjected some while ago by a member of the Welsh Conservatives, this was not personally directed at you? He is usually a nice chap, one-to-one, but it is his style, and, frankly, I regret it. You have behaved with great dignity and supreme control. I am sorry that you have not always been accorded the courtesy that most Members of the National Assembly would wish to afford you when addressing you. I thank you for coming here.

Paul Murphy: I am used to all sorts of behaviour in the House of Commons. I did not take any offence from any Member of the Assembly. Thank you very much, however, for your kind comments.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I extend a warm welcome to you, in case you feel that certain Members of this Assembly are not according you the welcome that you deserve. I will ask a general question. As Secretary of State for Wales, you are the link between the National Assembly and the Westminster Government. As you know, we have a statutory obligation in the Assembly to sustainable development. We have placed that at the centre of all our policies and activities. In terms of the Queen's Speech, were representations made to you about the importance of ensuring that legislation that is applicable to and that is to be implemented in Wales, includes sustainable development as an integral part of it? Did you pass those representations on to fellow Government Ministers to be

gydgyfrifoldeb un Llywodraeth—Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig—sydd yn cynrychioli pobl Cymru hefyd. Mae gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ei gyfrifoldebau ei hun. Fe'i hetholwyd ar wahân, ac mae'n bosibl bod ganddo farn wahanol i'm h'un i. Gobeithiaf na ddigwydd hynny yn aml; yr wyf yn siŵr na wnaiff, ond gall fod achlysuron pan ddigwydd hynny. Fy nghyfrifoldeb i yw cyfleu barn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Fodd bynnag, nid oes unrhyw gyfrifoldeb arnaf i gytuno â hi bob tro.

Alison Halford: A ydych yn ymwybodol, er gwaethaf y rhefru braidd yn ddig ac ymosodol a anelwyd atoch beth amser yn ôl gan aelod o Geidwadwyr Cymru, na chyfeiriwyd hyn atoch chi yn bersonol? Fel arfer mae'n ddyn dymunol, pan fo wyneb yn wyneb â chi, ond dyna'i ffordd ac, i fod yn onest, mae'n anffodus. Ymddygasoch gydag urddas mawr a rheolaeth neilltuol. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf na ddangoswyd ichi bob amser y cwrteisi y dymunai'r rhan fwyaf o Aelodau o'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ei ddangos wrth siarad â chi. Diolch ichi am ddod yma.

Paul Murphy: Yr wyf yn gyfarwydd â phob math o ymddygiad yn Nhy'r Cyffredin. Ni ddigiais o achos unrhyw Aelod o'r Cynulliad. Diolch yn fawr ichi, fodd bynnag, am eich sylwadau caredig.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Estynnaf groeso cynnes ichi, rhag ofn y teimlwch nad yw rhai Aelodau o'r Cynulliad hwn yn rhoi'r croeso haeddiannol ichi. Gofynnaf gwestiwn cyffredinol. Fel Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, chi yw'r cyswllt rhwng y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a Llywodraeth San Steffan. Fel y gwyddoch, mae rhwymedigaeth statudol arnom yn y Cynulliad o ran datblygu cynaliadwy. Gosodasom hynny wrth wraidd pob un o'n polisiau a'n gweithgareddau. O ran Araith y Frenhines, a gyflwynwyd sylwadau ichi am bwysigrwydd sicrhau bod deddfwriaeth sydd yn berthnasol i Gymru ac sydd i'w gweithredu yng Nghymru yn cynnwys datblygu cynaliadwy fel rhan annatod ohoni? A drosglwyddasoch y sylwadau hynny i'ch cyd-Weinidogion yn y

included in the Queen's Speech?

Paul Murphy: I do not know. Much of the detailed representations, as opposed to the big issues of whether this Bill or that Bill should go through, would be done at official level. I would have to check to see whether that occurred. If it were a matter of huge importance to the Assembly, then those matters would have been referred to the appropriate department. I do not have executive responsibility for any particular Bill. I am there as someone who has to facilitate the settlement and the ease of the negotiations. I have not had any representations made to me, but that does not mean that they have not been made. The appropriate department that is drawing up the details of the Bill might have to check that.

Lynne Neagle: I warmly welcome the proposals that you have outlined today, Paul. I was particularly pleased to see the provision to extend the powers of the Children's Commissioner. The fact that the Government will legislate on that issue twice in 12 months shows just how committed it is to the welfare of children across the UK, and also how willing it is to listen to representations from the Assembly. I thank my colleagues on the Health and Social Services Committee for helping to flesh out a Welsh Labour manifesto commitment. Are you, like me, confused about the position of the Conservatives here in the Assembly and in Westminster on this issue? Whereas David Melding has been calling for the Bill to be fast-tracked, the Conservatives in Westminster—in the form of their Welsh affairs spokesperson—have been calling for a pause. Do you agree that for this Bill to get on to the statute book we need to have all-party support, not just in this Assembly, but in the Houses of Parliament as well?

I also warmly welcome the strong focus on crime in the Queen's Speech. Are you as disappointed as I am with Plaid Cymru's attitude on this issue? Not only has Elfyn Llwyd dismissed that as a right-wing agenda, but Ieuan Wyn Jones has described it today

Llywodraeth i'w cynnwys yn Araith y Frenhines?

Paul Murphy: Ni wn. Byddai llawer o'r sylwadau manwl, o'u cyferbynnu â'r materion mawr o ran a ddylem basio'r Mesur hwn neu'r Mesur acw, yn cael eu gwneud ar lefel swyddogol. Byddai'n rhaid inni wirio a ddigwyddodd hynny. Pe byddai'n fater o bwys enfawr i'r Cynulliad, byddent wedi cyfeirio'r materion hynny at yr adran briodol. Nid oes cyfrifoldeb gweithredol gennyf dros unrhyw Fesur penodol. Yr wyf yno fel rhywun sydd yn gorfod hwyluso'r setliad ac esmwythdra'r negodiadau. Ni chyflwynwyd unrhyw sylwadau imi, ond ni olyga hynny na chyflwynwyd rhai. Efallai y byddai'n rhaid i'r adran briodol sydd yn llunio manylion y Mesur wirio hynny.

Lynne Neagle: Croesawaf yn gynnes y cynigion a amlinellasoedd heddiw, Paul. Yr oeddwn yn arbennig o falch o weld y ddarpariaeth i ehangu pwerau'r Comisiynydd Plant. Dengys y ffaith y bydd y Llywodraeth yn deddfwriaethu ar y mater hwnnw ddwywaith o fewn 12 mis pa mor ymrwymedig ydyw i les plant ledled y DU, a hefyd pa mor fodlon ydyw i wrando ar sylwadau gan y Cynulliad. Diolchaf i'm cydweithwyr ar y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol am helpu i ddatblygu ymrwymiad maniffesto Plaid Lafur Cymru. A ydych chi, fel minnau, yn ddryslyd ynglŷn â safle'r Ceidwadwyr yma yn y Cynulliad ac yn San Steffan ynglŷn â'r mater hwn? Er i David Melding alw ar i'r Mesur gael ei roi ar lwybr cyflym, galwodd y Ceidwadwyr yn San Steffan—ar ffurf eu llefarydd ar faterion Cymreig—am seibiant. A gytunwch fod angen cefnogaeth pob plaid, nid yn unig yn y Cynulliad hwn, ond yn Nhy'r Cyffredin a Thy'r Arglwyddi hefyd, er mwyn i'r Mesur hwn gael ei roi ar y llyfr statud?

Croesawaf yn gynnes hefyd y pwyslais cryf ar droseddu yn Araith y Frenhines. A ydych mor siomedig â mi gydag agwedd Plaid Cymru at y mater hwn? Nid yn unig y mae Elfyn Llwyd wedi diystyru hynny fel agenda adain-dde, ond fe'i disgrifiwyd heddiw gan

as just window-dressing. As you said, Paul, crime is an issue that affects people in deprived communities, such as those that we represent, more than most. Do you agree that Plaid Cymru's attitude shows how detached it is from the lives of people in the south Wales Valleys?

Paul Murphy: I congratulate you on representing the finest constituency in Wales. I have heard the comments of all parties today on the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill. I do not doubt that all the parties in this Chamber support that Bill and that Nick will liaise with his counterpart in the Palace of Westminster. I, like you, hope that there will be support for the Bill as it goes through the stages that I have no doubt it will. However, there was a little confusion over the last day or so. On your points on crime, you and I represent the same place. We know the importance, in Pontypool, Cwmbran and Blaenavon, of ensuring that we tackle violent crime. These measures will improve the quality of life for our joint constituents.

Peter Rogers: I have listened to the hunting lobby and anti-hunting lobby here today. I would like to warn you that you will see many of your MPs taking the about turn that we have noticed Gareth Thomas, the MP for Clwyd West, take this week. He has obviously understood that he will lose that seat because of his previous support for—

The Presiding Officer: Order. May I have a question, please?

Peter Rogers: Secretary of State, you negotiated well with the fuel lobby during the 60 days. It is disturbing to see, after the announcements on fuel in Westminster, that there is no immediate help for hauliers and people in rural areas in the Queen's Speech. What will you do to support hauliers and rural people who now pay more for their fuel than at any time in history?

Paul Murphy: In terms of the fuel lobby,

Ieuan Wyn Jones fel dim mwy na sioe. Fel y dywedasoch, Paul, mae troseddu yn fater sydd yn effeithio ar bobl mewn cymunedau difreintiedig, megis y rhai a gynrychiolwn, yn waeth nag odid neb. A gytunwch y dengys agwedd Plaid Cymru pa mor bell y mae oddi wrth fywydau pobl yng Nghymoedd y De?

Paul Murphy: Fe'ch llongyfarchaf am gynrychioli'r etholaeth orau yng Nghymru. Clywais sylwadau pob plaid heddiw ar Fesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru. Nid oes amheuaeth gennyf na fydd pob plaid yn y Siambr hon yn cefnogi'r Mesur hwnnw ac y bydd Nick yn trafod â'i gyfar ym Mhalas Westminster. Yr wyf i, fel chithau, yn gobeithio y bydd cefnogaeth i'r Mesur wrth iddo fynd drwy'r camau ac nid oes amheuaeth gennyf na fydd yn gwneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd peth ddryswch dros yr ychydig ddyddiau diwethaf. Ynglŷn â'ch pwyntiau ar droseddu, cynrychiolwch yr un lle â mi. Gwyddom mor bwysig yw hi ym Mhont-y-pwl, Cwmbrân a Blaenafon i sicrhau ein bod yn mynd i'r afael â throseddu treisgar. Bydd y mesurau hyn yn gwella ansawdd bywyd ein cyd-etholwyr.

Peter Rogers: Gwrandewais ar y lobi hela a'r lobi gwrth-hela yma heddiw. Hoffwn eich rhybuddio y gwelwch lawer o'ch AS yn newid eu barn yn llwyr fel y gwnaeth Gareth Thomas, AS Gorllewin Clwyd, yr wythnos hon. Mae'n amlwg y deallodd y bydd yn colli'r sedd honno oherwydd ei gefnogaeth flaenorol i—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. A gaf fi gwestiwn, os gwelwch yn dda?

Peter Rogers: Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, fe wnaethoch yn dda wrth negodi â'r lobi danwydd yn ystod y 60 diwrnod. Mae'n destun pryder gweld, ar ôl y cyhoeddiadau ar danwydd yn San Steffan, nad oes help ar unwaith ar gyfer cludwyr nwyddau a phobl mewn ardaloedd gwledig yn Araith y Frenhines. Beth a wnewch i gefnogi cludwyr nwyddau a phobl cefn gwlad, sydd yn talu mwy am eu tanwydd yn awr nag yn ystod unrhyw gyfnod arall mewn hanes?

Paul Murphy: O ran y lobi danwydd, a

and the importance of that issue in rural areas, which is quite acute, the measures that were brought in in the pre-budget review by Gordon Brown go a long way to assuaging some of the difficulties. As you said, I met a fair number of representatives of the haulage industry. The reduction in vehicle excise duty, together with the reduction in the price of fuel after the next budget and the other measures that we have introduced, will directly help financially those people concerned about the cost of fuel. You will also be aware that the increase in fuel prices was largely the result of an increase in crude oil prices. However, there are other ways that we can help the hauliers and they have been reasonably successful.

You touched again on the hunting lobby and mentioned my colleague, Gareth Thomas. I come back to the important point that there will be a free vote on that Bill. Members of the House of Commons must decide as their conscience directs them; it is up to them how they will vote. That applies to all MPs.

Mick Bates: Welcome, Secretary of State. I would like to look briefly at the agricultural content of the Queen's Speech and draw your attention to measures that will be adopted by the National Assembly for Wales. One is a free advisory service for farmers, another is an independent appeals panel to deal with problems and, finally, the provision of free school milk to children at key stage 1. Do you not agree that the partnership Government of Wales is leading the way for agriculture and that it is time that Westminster caught up?

Paul Murphy: I would agree that—you could not expect me to say anything else in the Assembly; if I said 'no' I would be in awful trouble—the measures that the partnership Government here has provided for agriculture over the last few months are welcome. We are all conscious of the difficulties that people in farming and in rural communities face. I hope that those measures will be successful.

phwysigrwydd y mater hwnnw mewn ardaloedd gwledig, sydd yn eithaf sylweddol, â'r mesurau a gyflwynwyd gan Gordon Brown yn yr adolygiad cyn y gyllideb yn bell i leddfu rhai o'r anawsterau. Fel y dywedaso, cyfarfûm â nifer cymharol fawr o gynrychiolwyr y diwydiant cludiant. Bydd y gostyngiad yn y dreth gerbydau, ynghyd â'r gostyngiad ym mhris tanwydd ar ôl y gyllideb nesaf a'r mesurau eraill a gyflwynasom, yn rhoi cymorth ariannol uniongyrchol i'r bobl hynny sydd yn pryderu am gost tanwydd. Byddwch yn ymwybodol hefyd mai'r cynnydd mewn prisiau olew crai oedd achos pennaf y prisiau tanwydd uwch. Fodd bynnag, mae ffyrdd eraill o helpu'r cludwyr nwyddau a buont yn eithaf llwyddiannus.

Crybwyllasoch y lobi hela eto a'm cydweithiwr, Gareth Thomas. Dychwelaf at y pwynt pwysig y bydd pleidlais rydd ar y Mesur hwnnw. Rhaid i Aelodau Ty'r Cyffredin benderfynu yn ôl sut y'u harweinig gan eu cydwybod; gallant benderfynu eu hunain sut y pleidleisiant. Mae hynny'n berthnasol i bob AS.

Mick Bates: Croeso, Ysgrifennydd Gwladol. Hoffwn edrych yn fras ar gynnwys amaethyddol Araith y Frenhines a thynnu eich sylw at y mesurau a fabwysiedir gan Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Un mesur yw gwasanaeth ymgynghorol am ddim ar gyfer ffermwyr, mesur arall yw panel apeliadau annibynnol i ddelio â phroblemau ac, yn olaf, darparu llaeth ysgol am ddim i blant cyfnod allweddol 1. Oni chytunwch fod Llywodraeth bartneriaeth Cymru yn achub y blaen mewn amaethyddiaeth a'i bod yn hen bryd i San Steffan ddal i fyny â ni?

Paul Murphy: Byddwn yn cytuno—ni allech ddisgwyl imi ddweud unrhyw beth arall yn y Cynulliad; pe dywedwn 'na', byddwn mewn trafferth mawr—y croesewir y mesurau a ddarparodd y Llywodraeth bartneriaeth yma ar gyfer amaethyddiaeth dros yr ychydig fisoedd diwethaf. Mae pob un ohonom yn ymwybodol o'r anawsterau a wynebir gan bobl ym maes ffermio ac mewn cymunedau gwledig. Gobeithiaf y bydd y mesurau hynny yn llwyddiannus.

Brian Hancock: Welcome, Secretary of State. I will be brief and ask four questions. [*Laughter.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order.

Brian Hancock: Why is it that the working families tax credit and the disabled person's tax credit are not made easier so that people can get their benefits from the post office weekly? What steps will be taken to curtail the Benefits Agency from forcing people to use automated credit transfer and to receive their benefits on a monthly basis instead of weekly at their local sub-post offices? What steps will be taken to address the delays that are currently facing all applicants for disability living allowance and mobility benefits? Only last week, two constituents came to me having gone to appeal. These appeals are outstanding for months, if not years—for example, 14 months—when those benefits are refused. Finally, what steps have been taken to safeguard sub-post offices, not just in rural areas, because everyone understands the rural situation, even John Prescott, but to safeguard the suburban post offices that serve our communities?

Paul Murphy: I think that Brian was wandering a long way from the Queen's Speech. However, I spoke to the First Minister this afternoon about the importance of post offices, not just to our rural communities, but to those which you and I serve. We represent Valleys constituencies and we know that many of what we might call urban villages in the Valleys are in similar position to villages in rural areas. In England, money has been set aside to safeguard post offices in urban areas. There was a consequential read-across and it is now up to the Assembly to work out how best to deal with that. However, I am in constant contact with Rhodri on this and I accept your points, Brian.

Peter Law: I am delighted to welcome you. I am sorry that I have not been here to listen to

Brian Hancock: Croeso, Ysgrifennydd Gwladol. Byddaf yn fyr a gofyn pedwar cwestiwn. [*Chwerthin.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn.

Brian Hancock: Pam na wneir y credyd treth i deuluoedd mewn gwaith a'r credyd treth i bobl anabl yn haws fel y gall pobl gael eu budd-daliadau o'r swyddfa bost yn wythnosol? Pa gamau a gymerir i rwystro'r Asiantaeth Budd-daliadau rhag gorfodi pobl i ddefnyddio'r system trosglwyddiadau credyd awtomataidd ac i gael eu budd-daliadau yn fisol yn lle yn wythnosol yn eu his-swyddfeydd post lleol? Pa gamau a gymerir i ymdrin â'r oedi y mae pob ymgeisydd am lwfans byw i'r anabl a budd-daliadau symudedd yn ei wynebu ar hyn o bryd? Dim ond yr wythnos diwethaf, daeth dau etholwr i'm gweld ar ôl cyflwyno apêl. Ni phenderfynir ar yr apeliadau hyn am fisoedd, efallai blynyddoedd—er enghraifft, 14 mis—pan wrthodir y budd-daliadau hynny. Yn olaf, pa gamau a gymerwyd i ddiogelu is-swyddfeydd post, nid yn unig mewn ardaloedd gwledig, oherwydd dealla pawb y sefyllfa wledig, hyd yn oed John Prescott, ond i ddiogelu'r swyddfeydd post maestrefol sydd yn gwasanaethu ein cymunedau?

Paul Murphy: Credaf i Brian grwydro ymhell oddi wrth Araith y Frenhines. Fodd bynnag, siaradais â Phrif Weinidog Cymru y prynhawn yma am bwysigrwydd swyddfeydd post, nid yn unig i'n cymunedau gwledig, ond i'r cymunedau a wasanaethir gennych chi a minnau. Cynrychiolwn etholaethau yn y Cymoedd a gwyddom fod llawer o'r hyn y gallem eu galw'n bentrefi trefol yn y Cymoedd mewn sefyllfa debyg i bentrefi mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Yn Lloegr, neilltuwyd arian i ddiogelu swyddfeydd post mewn ardaloedd trefol. Yr oedd effaith ar Gymru o ganlyniad i hynny a dylai'r Cynulliad ei hun yn awr benderfynu sut i ddelio â hynny orau. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf mewn cysylltiad cyson â Rhodri ynglŷn â hyn a derbynaf eich pwyntiau, Brian.

Peter Law: Mae'n bleser gennyf eich croesawu. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf na fŷm yma i

you as I have been on constituency business. Do you agree—

wrando arnoch gan y bûm ar fusnes etholaethol. A gytunwch—

The Presiding Officer: Order. Are you confessing to not having been in the Chamber?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. A ydych yn cyfaddef na fuoch yn y Siambr?

Peter Law: I felt that I had to, Llywydd, at this late stage.

Peter Law: Teimlais fod yn rhaid imi, Lywydd, gan ei bod mor hwyr.

Do you agree that the excellent programme that we heard about from the partnership Government that is led by Labour, to which Mick Bates referred, has mainly come about as a result of an excellent comprehensive spending review? You, and Labour MPs, fought to get a good settlement from Gordon Brown and I thank you for that.

A gytunwch i'r rhaglen ardderchog y clywsom amdani gan y Llywodraeth bartneriaeth a arweinir gan y Blaid Lafur, y cyfeiriodd Mick ati, ddeillio'n bennaf o'r adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant ardderchog? Buoch chi, ac AS y Blaid Lafur, yn brwydro i gael setliad da gan Gordon Brown a diolchaf ichi am hynny.

Paul Murphy: I could not disagree with that, Peter. I understand how important the problems in your constituency, Blaenau Gwent, are and why you needed to be there.

Paul Murphy: Ni allwn anghytuno â hynny, Peter. Deallaf pa mor bwysig yw'r problemau yn eich etholaeth chi, Blaenau Gwent, a pham y bu'n rhaid ichi fod yno.

The Presiding Officer: Secretary of State, you finished at exactly 5.30 p.m. Thank you all.

Y Llywydd: Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, gorffenasoch am 5.30 p.m. ar ei ben. Diolch i bawb.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.30 p.m.
The session ended at 5.30 p.m.*