



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

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

**Dydd Mawrth, 4 Tachwedd 2003
Tuesday, 4 November 2003**

Cynnwys
Contents

- 3 Cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog
Questions to the First Minister
- 27 Datganiad Busnes
Business Statement
- 30 Datganiad ar Ymateb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i'r Adroddiad ar Gynlluniau
Amaeth-amgylchedd
Statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's Response to the Report on Agri-
Environment Schemes
- 39 Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Diwygio Rheoleiddio (Tenantiaethau Busnes) (Cymru a
Lloegr) 2003
Approval of the Regulatory Reform Order (Business Tenancies) (England and Wales)
Order 2003
- 39 Cymorth i Fusnesau
Business Support
- 39 Dadl Plaid Leiafrifol (Y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol): Y Dreth Gyngor
Minority Party Debate (The Liberal Democrats): Council Tax

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

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

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

Cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog Questions to the First Minister

Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru Education and Learning Wales

Q1 Janet Ryder: Will the First Minister make a statement on Education and Learning Wales? (OAQ29174)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): The new chair, Sheila Drury, is now in post and, on 23 October, following its mid-year review, ELWa announced that an extra £4.4 million had been allocated for workplace learning programmes. As a result, an additional 5,000 places will be available.

Janet Ryder: I am sure that you are aware of the concerns of many schools regarding the funding of their sixth forms. There is uncertainty about that money: schools do not know how many pupils will go into the sixth form each year. That makes staff planning difficult. I am sure that you are also aware of the concerns about the value of each pupil unit. At the moment, the average is £3,000 for each pupil that goes into the sixth form. Schools such as Ysgol Brynhyfryd in Ruthin, which has a sixth form of over 200 pupils, estimate that it costs around £10,000 to run a sixth-form class. That means that at least 11 pupils are needed to make a class viable. It is much cheaper to run classes in colleges. If we follow ELWa's course with regard to the funding unit, what guarantee can you give to schools like Ysgol Brynhyfryd that the future of their sixth forms is secure, and that you will address this funding problem that is causing them immense difficulties at the moment?

The First Minister: I do not recognise the picture you have painted. I understand that ELWa has increased its funding for sixth forms by 12 per cent this year. That is a healthy increase, and is greater than that

C1 Janet Ryder: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am Ddysgu ac Addysgu Cymru? (OAQ29174)

Y Prif Weinidog (Rhodri Morgan): Mae'r cadeirydd newydd, Sheila Drury, wrth ei gwaith bellach ac, ar 23 Hydref, ar ôl ei adolygiad canol blwyddyn, cyhoeddodd ELWa fod £4.4 miliwn ychwanegol wedi'i ddyrannu ar gyfer rhaglenni dysgu yn y gweithle. O ganlyniad, bydd 5,000 o leoedd ychwanegol ar gael.

Janet Ryder: Yr wyf yn siŵr y gwyddoch am y pryderon mewn sawl ysgol ynghylch cyllido eu cyfleusterau chweched dosbarth. Mae ansicrwydd ynghylch yr arian hwnnw: ni ŵyr ysgolion pa nifer o ddisgyblion a aiff i'r chweched dosbarth bob blwyddyn. Mae hynny'n ei gwneud yn anodd cynllunio ar gyfer staffio. Yr wyf yn siŵr y gwyddoch hefyd am y pryderon ynghylch gwerth pob uned disgybl. Ar hyn o bryd, y cyfartaledd yw £3,000 ar gyfer pob disgybl a aiff i'r chweched dosbarth. Mae ysgolion fel Ysgol Brynhyfryd yn Rhuthun, sydd â mwy na 200 o ddisgyblion yn ei chweched dosbarth, yn amcangyfrif ei bod yn costio tua £10,000 i redeg dosbarth yn y chweched dosbarth. Golyga hynny fod angen o leiaf 11 disgybl i beri i gynnal dosbarth fod yn ddichonadwy. Mae'n rhatach o lawer rhedeg dosbarthiadau mewn colegau. Os dilynwn lwybr ELWa o ran yr uned gyllido, pa sicrwydd y gallwch ei roi i ysgolion fel Ysgol Brynhyfryd y bydd eu cyfleusterau chweched dosbarth yn ddiogel at y dyfodol, ac y gwnewch ymdrin â'r broblem gyllido hon sy'n peri anawsterau dirfawr iddynt ar hyn o bryd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn adnabod y darlun yr ydych wedi'i dynnu. Deallaf fod ELWa wedi cynyddu ei gyllid ar gyfer cyfleusterau chweched dosbarth 12 y cant eleni. Mae hynny'n gynnydd iach, ac mae'n

provided by local authorities for education for the five to 16-year-old sector. We should welcome that 12 per cent increase.

Your more general point was about long-term planning. You should perhaps look at the work done by Cynog Dafis, when he was an Assembly Member and chaired the Post-16 Education and Training Committee, and Tom Middlehurst, who was then the Secretary for Post-16 Education and Training. Their work on the implementation plan was, as far as I remember, welcomed by both your party and ours. Its aim was to produce a level playing field for post-16 education in terms of provision in schools and in colleges. You cannot have a situation whereby the unit of resource provided for sixth-form-type education in colleges is less than that provided for such education in schools. If schools provide sixth-form places that are more expensive than comparable provision in a college within a reasonable travelling distance, there will tend to be a switch to funding such education in further education colleges rather than in schools. However, schools can address that through arrangements with the local further education college to ensure that post-16 education offers best value for money and the widest choice to pupils.

Jeff Cuthbert: You will no doubt be aware of the continuing negative reporting about ELWa in the media. There have also been some unfortunate comments made by opposition Assembly Members. Do you agree that, although it was unfortunate that ELWa did not meet Investor in People standards during its reassessment, the organisation now has clear guidance about the steps it needs to take on staff development provision under its new organisational structure? Is it not now likely that ELWa will emerge stronger from this, as a result of the steps it will take to meet the gaps identified in the assessment? Finally, do you agree that this shows that the IIP award is a quality benchmark, the pursuit of which can only benefit an organisation?

fwy na'r hyn a ddarparodd awdurdodau lleol ar gyfer addysg y sector pump i 16 mlwydd oed. Dylem groesawu'r cynnydd hwnnw o 12 y cant.

Yr oedd y pwynt mwy cyffredinol a wnaethoch yn ymwneud â chynllunio tymor hir. Efallai y dylech edrych ar y gwaith a wnaeth Cynog Dafis, pan oedd yn Aelod o'r Cynulliad ac yn gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Addysg a Hyfforddiant Ôl-16, a Tom Middlehurst, a oedd yn Ysgrifennydd Addysg a Hyfforddiant Ôl-16 ar y pryd. Hyd y cofiaf, croesawyd y gwaith a wnaethant ar y cynllun gweithredu gan eich plaid chi a'n plaid ni. Ei nod oedd sicrhau cysondeb ar gyfer addysg ôl-16 o ran y ddarpariaeth mewn ysgolion ac mewn colegau. Ni ellir cael sefyllfa lle y darperir uned adnodd ar gyfer addysg mewn colegau o'r math a geir mewn cyfleusterau chweched dosbarth sy'n llai na honno ar gyfer addysg o'r math hwnnw mewn ysgolion. Os yw ysgolion yn darparu lleoedd mewn chweched dosbarth sy'n ddrutach na darpariaeth debyg mewn coleg sydd o fewn pellter teithio rhesymol, bydd tuedd i newid at gyllido addysg o'r fath mewn colegau addysg bellach yn hytrach nag mewn ysgolion. Fodd bynnag, gall ysgolion ymateb i hynny drwy wneud trefniadau gyda'r coleg addysg bellach lleol i sicrhau bod addysg ôl-16 yn cynnig y gwerth gorau am arian a'r dewis ehangaf i ddisgyblion.

Jeff Cuthbert: Mae'n sicr y gwyddoch am yr adroddiadau negyddol parhaus am ELWa yn y cyfryngau. Gwnaed rhai sylwadau anffodus hefyd gan Aelodau Cynulliad yr wrthblaid. A ydych yn cytuno, er ei bod yn anffodus na chyrhaeddodd ELWa y safonau ar gyfer Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl yn ystod yr ailasesiad ohono, fod canllawiau pendant gan y corff hwnnw bellach ynghylch y camau y mae'n rhaid iddo eu cymryd i ddarparu ar gyfer datblygu ei staff o fewn ei fframwaith trefniadol newydd? Onid yw'n debygol y bydd ELWa yn gadarnach yn sgîl y profiad hwn, o ganlyniad i'r camau a gymer i lenwi'r bylchau a ganfuwyd yn yr asesiad? Yn olaf, a ydych yn cytuno bod hyn yn dangos mai meincnod safonol yw'r dyfarniad Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl, y byddai'r ymgais i'w ennill yn sicr o fod o fantais i unrhyw gorff?

The First Minister: I agree that it is a healthy sign that there is not any fixing of IIP awards. If a Government quango fails an IIP assessment, it must take that on board. There is no favouritism shown in awarding Investor in People status. Everyone's confidence in IIP will be strengthened as a result of this. ELWa will now have to find out why IIP accreditation has been withdrawn and it will have to see to it that, when it resubmits for IIP, it will have corrected all the weaknesses that caused the accreditation to be withdrawn. I agree with the first premise of your question, namely that, despite the knocking copy of opposition parties and one or two organs in the media—and it really is no more than one or two—which think that they have found an easy target in ELWa, its achievements are enormous. When you consider the increase in the number of modern apprenticeships, the modern skills diploma for adults, and the additional 5,000 places in workplace learning—I mentioned the £4.4 million that was announced on 23 October for that—ELWa is making an enormous contribution to developing skills, training and lifelong learning throughout Wales.

David Davies: It is unfortunate that opposition Members have had to draw attention in recent weeks to the fact the ELWa has failed to achieve the important IIP accreditation, to the business background of the chair of ELWa and to the fact that learners in Wales are not getting funded to the same extent as those in England. This has diverted attention from other important issues, such as the Pop Factory, about which many questions remain unanswered. Do you accept that all we have to show for the £2 million that ELWa has spent on the Pop Factory is four training modules, of which only one has been trialled and from which not one young person has benefited? Do you accept that that is a disgrace, that future abuse of public money must be prevented, and that those responsible in ELWa for this debacle must be severely punished?

The First Minister: I congratulate you, David, on getting married last week; the

Y Prif Weinidog: Cytunaf ei bod yn arwydd iach nad oes unrhyw ffugio ynghylch dyfarnu nod Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl. Os yw cwango Llywodraeth yn methu asesiad Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl, rhaid iddo dderbyn hynny. Ni ddangosir ffafriaeth wrth ddyfarnu statws Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl. Bydd gan bawb fwy o ymddiriedaeth mewn Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl o ganlyniad i hyn. Yn awr, bydd yn rhaid i ELWa ddarganfod pam y tynnwyd achrediad Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl yn ôl a bydd yn rhaid iddo sicrhau, wrth ailymgeisio am nod Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl, ei fod wedi cywiro'r holl wendidau a barodd dynnu'r achrediad yn ôl. Cytunaf â chynsail gyntaf eich cwestiwn, sef, er gwaethaf beirniadaeth y gwrthbleidiau ac un neu ddau o leisiau yn y cyfryngau—ac nid yw'n fwy nag un neu ddau, mewn gwirionedd—sy'n credu bod ELWa yn darged hawdd iddynt, fod ei gyflawniadau'n aruthrol. Pan ystyriwch y cynnydd yn nifer y prentisiaethau modern, y diploma sgiliau modern i oedolion, y 5,000 o leoedd ychwanegol mewn dysgu yn y gweithle—soniais am y £4.4 miliwn a gyhoeddwyd ar gyfer hynny ar 23 Hydref—mae ELWa yn gwneud cyfraniad enfawr at ddatblygu sgiliau, hyfforddiant a dysgu gydol oes ledled Cymru.

David Davies: Mae'n anffodus bod Aelodau'r wrthblaid wedi gorfod tynnu sylw yn yr wythnosau diwethaf at y ffaith bod ELWa wedi methu â sicrhau'r achrediad pwysig o Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl, at gefndir busnes cadeirydd ELWa ac at y ffaith nad yw dysgwyr yng Nghymru'n cael eu cyllido i'r un graddau â'r rhai yn Lloegr. Mae hynny wedi tynnu sylw oddi wrth faterion pwysig eraill, fel y Ffatri Bop, y mae llawer o gwestiynau amdani heb eu hateb o hyd. A ydych yn derbyn mai'r cwbl sydd gennym i'w ddangos am y £2 filiwn a wariodd ELWa ar y Ffatri Bop yw pedwar modiwl hyfforddi, na roddwyd prawf ond ar un ohonynt ac na chafodd yr un person ifanc fudd ohonynt? A ydych yn derbyn bod hynny'n warthus, bod rhaid atal camddefnydd ar arian cyhoeddus yn y dyfodol, a bod rhaid cosbi'n llym y rhai yn ELWa a oedd yn gyfrifol am y llanastr hwn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Fe'ch llongyfarchaf, David, ar eich priodas yr wythnos diwethaf;

mellowing process that one might have anticipated has clearly not occurred. I remind you that you had to apologise to the Assembly for the disgraceful remarks that you made about the incoming chair of ELWa. It will perhaps go down in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the most graceless apology of modern times, but in the end you had to withdraw your absurd remarks—so much for your knowledge of the businesses of those who are involved in quangos in Wales. You made a fool of yourself. ELWa makes a major contribution, and that is clear from all the figures that I have quoted, which you do not accept. You also do not accept that, on Thursday 23 October, an extra £4.4 million was invested in training. It will provide an additional 5,000 young people with training on ELWa-funded schemes this year. That answers the pleas of many people in the training organisations. You should look to ELWa's genuine achievements. I mentioned earlier the increase in the number of apprenticeships that ELWa has funded and the 12 per cent increase in ELWa's funding for sixth-form education. I cannot understand why you ignore those genuine, solid achievements of Wales's largest quango or public body.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Sut yn y byd y gallwch chi gael hyder a ffydd mewn corff sy'n cynghori pobl ar sut i gael cymhwyster Buddsoddi mewn Pobl, pan fo'r corff cynghori hwnnw wedi colli'r statws hwnnw? Sut yn y byd y gallwch chi ddweud wrth bobl Cymru bod hyder gennych yn y corff hwnnw? Nid yw'r Llywodraeth hon wedi cymryd cyfrifoldeb am fethiannau ELWa. Pryd y bydd y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes yn cymryd cyfrifoldeb dros ffiasgo'r misoedd diwethaf?

Y Prif Weinidog: Dyna'r gor-ddweud—defnyddio geiriau fel 'ffiasgo'—mae'r wrthblaid yn ei ddefnyddio bob amser pan nad oes dadl ganddi. Yr ydych yn taflu geiriau gor-ddweud fel 'ffiasgo' o gwmpas, ond mae'r ffeithiau yn dangos i'r gwrthwyneb. Derbyniais yn gynharach fod y ffaith fod ELWa wedi methu â sicrhau cymhwyster IIP eleni yn dangos bod ganddo

mae'n amlwg nad yw'r tyneru y gallai rhywun ei ddisgwyl wedi digwydd. Yr wyf yn eich atgoffa eich bod wedi gorfod ymddiheuro i'r Cynulliad am y sylwadau gwarthus a wnaethoch am gadeirydd newydd ELWa. Efallai y caiff ei gofnodi yn y *Guinness Book of Records* fel yr ymddiheuriad mwyaf anrasol yn yr oes fodern, ond yn y diwedd bu'ch rhaid ichi dynnu'n ôl eich sylwadau hurt—naw wffft i'ch gwybodaeth am fusnesau'r rhai sy'n ymwneud â chwangos yng Nghymru. Gwnaethoch gyff gwawd ohonoch eich hun. Mae ELWa yn gwneud cyfraniad o bwys, ac mae hynny'n amlwg o'r holl ffigurau a ddyfynnais, nad ydych chi'n eu derbyn. Nid ydych yn derbyn ychwaith fod £4.4 miliwn ychwanegol wedi'i fuddsoddi mewn hyfforddiant ar ddydd Iau, 23 Hydref. Bydd hynny'n rhoi hyfforddiant i 5,000 o bobl ifanc yn ychwanegol eleni mewn cynlluniau a gyllidir gan ELWa. Mae hynny'n ateb i'r apêl gan lawer o bobl yn y cyrff hyfforddi. Dylech ystyried gwir gyflawniadau ELWa. Soniais yn gynharach am y cynnydd yn nifer y prentisiaethau y mae ELWa wedi'u cyllido a'r 12 y cant o gynnydd yng nghyllid ELWa ar gyfer addysg chweched dosbarth. Ni allaf ddeall pam yr anwybyddwch y cyflawniadau pendant, gwirioneddol hynny gan y cwango neu gorff cyhoeddus mwyaf yng Nghymru.

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): How on earth can you have faith and confidence in an organisation that advises people on how to gain Investor in People accreditation, when that organisation itself has lost that status? How on earth can you tell the people of Wales that you have confidence in that organisation? This Government has not taken responsibility for ELWa's failings. When will the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning take responsibility for the fiasco of recent months?

The First Minister: That is the hyperbole—using words such as 'fiasco'—that the opposition always uses when it does not have an argument. You throw hyperbole such as 'fiasco' around, but the facts show that the opposite is true. I accepted earlier that the fact the ELWa has failed to secure IIP accreditation this year shows that it has weaknesses. It also shows that IIP is

wendidau. Mae hefyd yn dangos bod IIP yn annibynnol. Mae pawb yn magu hyder yn IIP o gofio bod corff fel ELWa wedi methu. Nid yw hynny'n golygu bod y bobl sy'n cynghori cwmnïau bach a chanolig eu maint ar sut i ennill statws IIP yn colli eu statws ac arbenigedd.

2.10 p.m.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: You constantly criticise the opposition for bringing criticism of this organisation to your attention. You fail to appreciate the fact that an organisation that is supposed to advise people about IIP has lost its own accreditation. If you will not listen to what opposition Members say, will you listen to the staff of ELWa? What did they tell the IIP when it carried out its investigation? They said that they attended work but that their morale was so low that they dreaded arriving each morning. They said that they were afraid to speak out and that some teams had lost freedom of speech. They were given no direction, and they were not given a clear focus as to what was required of the team or the organisation in terms of making a contribution. Do you not agree that that is a damning indictment? Why does the Minister not take responsibility for that?

The First Minister: When you raise the tone of your voice in the way that you just did, it becomes obvious that you are on weak ground, Ieuan. Yours is a poor argument, but you think that it is improved when it is made in this unseemly way. It was not the opposition that drew ELWa's IIP problems to our attention, but Jeff Cuthbert; he is not a Member of the opposition. I have already referred to IIP. Let us consider the facts. In respect of adult education, recent figures produced by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education show that 42 per cent of adults in Wales are current or recent learners, compared with 39 per cent in England. Work-based learning qualifications have increased by 25 per cent: in 2002-03, 328,000 learners were supported, which is a 4 per cent increase on the previous year. That means that 17.5 per cent of the working-age population of Wales is pursuing ELWa-funded learning opportunities. The number of learners from Wales's poorest wards on work-based learning programmes grew by 36

independent. Everyone feels more confident in IIP bearing in mind that an organisation such as ELWa has failed. That does not mean that those who advise small and medium-sized enterprises on how to achieve IIP lose their status and expertise.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr ydych yn beirniadu'r wrthblaid o hyd am ddwyn y feirniadaeth ar y corff hwn i'ch sylw. Methwch â gwerthfawrogi'r ffaith bod corff sydd i fod i gynghori pobl ynghylch Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl wedi colli ei achrediad ei hun. Os na wrandewch ar yr hyn a ddywed Aelodau'r wrthblaid, a wnewch wrando ar staff ELWa? Beth a ddywedasant hwy wrth Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl pan gyflawnodd ei ymchwiliad? Dywedasant eu bod yn dod i'w gwaith ond eu bod mor ddigalon fel eu bod yn arswydo rhag cyrraedd bob bore. Dywedasant fod arnynt ofn codi eu llais a bod rhai timau wedi colli eu rhyddid barn. Ni roddwyd arweiniad iddynt, ac nid eglurwyd iddynt ba gyfraniad a oedd yn ofynnol gan y tîm neu'r corff. Oni chytunwch mai beirniadaeth ddamniol yw hynny? Pam nad yw'r Gweinidog yn derbyn cyfrifoldeb am hynny?

Y Prif Weinidog: Pan godwch dôn eich llais fel yr ydych newydd ei wneud, daw'n amlwg eich bod ar dir sigledig, Ieuan. Mae'ch dadl yn un wael, ond credwch ei bod yn well wrth ei gyflwyno yn y modd anwedus hwn. Nid yr wrthblaid a dynnodd y problemau a oedd gan ELWa o ran Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl i'n sylw, ond Jeff Cuthbert; nid yw'n Aelod o'r wrthblaid. Yr wyf eisoes wedi cyfeirio at Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl. Gadewch inni ystyried y ffeithiau. Gyda golwg ar addysg i oedolion, mae ffigurau diweddar a gynhyrchwyd gan y Sefydliad Cenedlaethol dros Addysg Barhaus i Oedolion yn dangos bod 42 y cant o oedolion yng Nghymru yn ddysgwyr ar hyn o bryd, neu iddynt fod yn ddiweddar, o'i gymharu â 39 y cant yn Lloegr. Bu cynnydd o 25 y cant mewn cymwysterau dysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith: yn 2002-03, rhoddwyd cymorth i 328,000 o ddysgwyr, sef cynnydd o 4 y cant oddi ar y flwyddyn flaenorol. Golyga hynny fod 17.5 y cant o'r boblogaeth oedran gweithio yng Nghymru yn ymgymryd â chyfleoedd dysgu

per cent in 2002-03. The number of workers starting on the modern skills diploma for adults, designed to raise the skills levels of the Welsh workforce, rose by 8 per cent above the target. These are the solid, concrete achievements of ELWa. I do not understand why you want to drag this organisation down when it is doing so much good work in raising skills levels in Wales.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German):

When you appoint a new chair and chief executive, it is important that they have the widespread support of the community that they serve. I hope that all Members wish to support the new chair of ELWa to ensure that she takes off on a good footing. However, there are still questions to be asked about the organisation. Do you not agree that it is appropriate for us to ask questions about the running of ELWa? In the National Audit Office's report, we were told that the Minister knew about the Pop Factory project but we were not told about her responsibilities. Will you ensure that your Minister understands that there should be a clear line of accountability, and will you tell us what line of accountability you believe exists between the Minister, the chair, the board and ELWa as a body?

The First Minister: I have no objection to questions but I do not want to hear rants like that we heard from David Davies two weeks ago, whose remarks had to be withdrawn in a graceless apology. He was attempting to drag down the incoming chair, because he believed that certain organs of the press would pick up on anything to do with ELWa. We know of your tricks; unfortunately for you, they do not work. The line of responsibility between ministers and quango chairs and chief executives is clear. As accounting officers, it is quango chief executives who are responsible for ensuring value for money, propriety and regularity. The Permanent Secretary, as the head of the Assembly's civil service and the head of public services in Wales, has an overriding responsibility to consider issues surrounding value for money, propriety and regularity.

a gyllidir gan ELWa. Bu cynnydd o 36 y cant yn nifer y dysgwyr o wardiau tlotaf Cymru mewn rhaglenni dysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith yn 2002-03. Yr oedd nifer y gweithwyr a ddechreuodd ar y diploma sgiliau modern i oedolion, sydd â'r bwriad o godi lefelau sgiliau'r gweithlu yng Nghymru, yn 8 y cant yn uwch na'r targed. Cyflawniadau cadarn a phendant gan ELWa yw'r rhain. Ni ddeallaf pam y dymunwch ladd ar y corff hwn ac yntau'n gwneud cymaint o waith da wrth godi lefelau sgiliau yng Nghymru.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German):

Pan benodwch gadeirydd a phrif weithredwr newydd, mae'n bwysig iddynt gael cefnogaeth gyffredinol gan y gymuned a wasanaethant. Gobeithiaf y bydd yr holl Aelodau'n dymuno cefnogi cadeirydd newydd ELWa er mwyn sicrhau ei bod yn cychwyn yn dda. Er hynny, mae cwestiynau i'w gofyn am y corff o hyd. Oni chytunwch ei bod yn briodol inni ofyn cwestiynau am y dull o redeg ELWa? Yn adroddiad y Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol, dywedwyd wrthym fod y Gweinidog yn gwybod am brosiect y Ffatri Bop ond ni chawsom wybod am ei chyfrifoldebau. A wnewch sicrhau bod eich Gweinidog yn deall bod rhaid cael llinell atebolrwydd glir, ac a ddywedwch wrthym ba linell atebolrwydd a geir, yn eich barn chi, rhwng y Gweinidog, y cadeirydd, y bwrdd ac ELWa fel corff?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid oes gennyf unrhyw wrthwynebiad i gwestiynau ond nid wyf am glywed arthio o'r math a glywsom bythefnos yn ôl gan David Davies, a oedd wedi gorfod tynnu ei sylwadau yn ôl drwy ymddiheuriad anrasol. Ceisiodd ladd ar y cadeirydd newydd, am y credai y byddai rhai papurau newydd yn cymryd sylw o unrhyw beth a oedd yn ymwneud ag ELWa. Gwyddom am eich ystrywiau; yn anffodus i chi, nid ydynt yn llwyddo. Mae'r llinell gyfrifoldeb rhwng gweinidogion a chadeiryddion a phrif weithredwyr cwangos yn eglur. Fel swyddogion cyfrifo, prif weithredwyr y cwangos sy'n gyfrifol am sicrhau gwerth am arian, priodoldeb a rheoleidd-dra. Yr Ysgrifennydd Parhaol, fel pennaeth gwasanaeth sifil y Cynulliad a phennaeth gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru, sy'n bennaf cyfrifol am ystyried materion sy'n

That is the accounting officer concept, which dates back hundreds of years. You are familiar with that, Mike; there is nothing new to say on that. When proposals come up which are not within the delegated limits—either because they are novel or because of the size of the project being proposed—they need ministerial approval. That is what happened in the case of the Pop Factory; it was said to be novel, so it required ministerial approval. That is the basis on which the submission was put to the Minister; I believe that that is in the public domain and has been seen by the Audit Committee.

Michael German: I am grateful to you for making a distinction between operational and strategic matters and the role of Ministers. Just two weeks ago, the Minister was keen to get involved in operational matters in relation to work-based learning, when there was a good news story to celebrate. Yet, when there was a bad-news story, the Minister was nowhere to be seen. Can we be clear that the Minister does not have a role in running Education and Learning Wales? Are you clear on that, or is there a grey line that she can transfer across?

The First Minister: Concerns about regularity or value for money are matters for the chief executive and for the Permanent Secretary. That is a cast-iron rule, which was followed in the House of Commons before devolution and which continues to be followed. As far as I know, the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons strongly approves of that rule, as do all parties in the Assembly, except when it is politically inconvenient. You want that rule but you sometimes find it inconvenient, as you want to drag the Minister into issues of propriety, regularity and value for money that are not her concern. As far as I know, you are happy with the system, as is the Public Accounts Committee. If you want change, you should perhaps tell us that you want to change the system, and not change the rules only when it suits you, because you think that there is adverse publicity to be created or mud to be thrown.

ymwneud â gwerth am arian, priodoldeb a rheoleidd-dra. Dyna gysyniad y swyddog cyfrifo, sy'n bod ers cannoedd o flynyddoedd. Yr ydych yn gyfarwydd â hynny, Mike; nid oes dim newydd i'w ddweud am hynny. Pan geir cynigion nad ydynt o fewn y terfynau a ddirprwywyd—un ai am eu bod yn newydd neu oherwydd maint y prosiect a gynigir—rhaid iddynt gael eu cymeradwyo gan Weinidog. Dyna a ddigwyddodd yn achos y Ffatri Bop; dywedwyd ei bod yn rhywbeth newydd, felly yr oedd angen i'r Gweinidog ei chymeradwyo. Ar y sail honno y'i cyflwynwyd i'r Gweinidog; credaf fod hynny yn wybyddus i'r cyhoedd a bod y Pwyllgor Archwilio wedi'i weld.

Michael German: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i chi am wahaniaethu rhwng materion gweithredol a strategol a rôl Gweinidogion. Brin bythefnos yn ôl, yr oedd y Gweinidog yn awyddus i gymryd rhan mewn materion gweithredol mewn cysylltiad â dysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith, pan oedd stori newyddion dda i'w dathlu. Ac eto, pan fu stori newyddion ddrwg, nid oedd y Gweinidog i'w gweld yn unman. A allwn fod yn bendant nad oes gan y Gweinidog rôl mewn rhedeg Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru? A ydych chi'n bendant ynghylch hynny, neu a oes llinell lwyd y gall ei chroesi?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae pryderon ynghylch rheoleidd-dra neu werth am arian yn faterion i'r prif weithredwr ac i'r Ysgrifennydd Parhaol. Mae honno'n rheol gadarn, a ddilynwyd yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin cyn datganoli ac a ddilynir o hyd. Hyd y gwn i, mae Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus Tŷ'r Cyffredin yn llwyr gymeradwyo'r rheol honno, fel y mae pob plaid yn y Cynulliad, ac eithrio pan yw'n wleidyddol anghyfleus. Yr ydych am gael y rheol honno ond yr ydych yn ei chael yn anghyfleus weithiau, gan eich bod yn dymuno tynnu'r Gweinidog i faterion priodoldeb, rheoleidd-dra a gwerth am arian nad ydynt yn faes iddi hi. Hyd y gwn i, yr ydych yn fodlon ar y system hon, fel y mae'r Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus. Os ydych am gael newid, efallai y dylech ddweud wrthym eich bod am newid y system, ac nid newid y rheolau dim ond pan fo hynny'n gyfleus i chi, gan y tybiwch y gellir creu cyhoeddusrwydd niweidiol neu daflu baw.

Sefydlu Canolfannau Technium Establishing Techniums

C2 Elin Jones: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am y strategaeth o sefydlu canolfannau Technium yng Nghymru? (OAQ29175)

Y Prif Weinidog: Bydd y rhaglen Technium yn costio rhyw £150 miliwn. Mae Technium 1 yn Abertawe wedi bod yn llwyddiannus dros ben ac mae'n orlawn o denantiaid. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ymrwymo i gyflwyno'r cysyniad Technium ar draws Cymru dros y bum mlynedd nesaf.

Elin Jones: Fel y dywedoch, un o brif weithredoedd strategaeth economaidd eich Llywodraeth yw datblygu'r canolfannau Technium. A yw'n wir bod eich Llywodraeth ar fin gollwng ei phrif darged economaidd, sef cyrraedd 90 y cant o lefel cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen y Deyrnas Gyfunol, ac a fyddwch yn cyfaddef yn gyhoeddus fod eich strategaeth economaidd ar chwâl?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn adnabod eich disgrifiad o'n strategaeth economaidd.

John Griffiths: Returning to Techniums, you will be aware of the proposals made by the University of Wales College, Newport for a creative industry Technium and of the college's long-standing record of excellence in creative arts. Can you assure me that the Welsh Assembly Government will continue to look closely at the proposals made by the University of Wales College, Newport?

The First Minister: I can give you that assurance but, as the project has not reached full maturity, it is not yet an operational issue for the Welsh Development Agency to consider funding. The optic Technium in St Asaph is due for completion in the next few months, and the digital Technium on the University of Wales, Swansea campus has only recently been completed, but is now filling up with tenants. Construction has just begun on the centre for advanced software technology, CAST 1, at Parc Menai. Other Techniums are at various stages of

Q2 Elin Jones: Will the First Minister make a statement on the strategy for establishing Techniums in Wales? (OAQ29175)

The First Minister: The Technium programme will cost some £150 million. Technium 1 in Swansea has been extremely successful and is overflowing with tenants. The Assembly Government is committed to rolling out the Technium concept across Wales over the next five years.

Elin Jones: As you said, developing the Technia is one of the main action points of your Government's economic strategy. Is it true that your Government is about to drop its main economic target of achieving 90 per cent of the UK's gross domestic product per capita level, and will you publicly acknowledge that your economic development strategy is in tatters?

The First Minister: I do not recognise your description of our economic strategy.

John Griffiths: Gan droi'n ôl at ganolfannau Technium, gwyddoch am y cynigion gan Goleg Prifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd am Technium i'r diwydiannau creadigol ac am record hir-sefydlog y coleg o ran rhagoriaeth yn y celfyddydau creadigol. A allwch fy sicrhau y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn dal i ystyried yn fanwl y cynigion a wnaed gan Goleg Prifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Gallaf roi'r sicrwydd hwnnw i chi ond, gan nad yw'r prosiect wedi aeddfedu'n llawn, nid yw eto'n fater gweithredol i'w ystyried ar gyfer cyllido gan Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru. Mae'r Technium opteg yn Llanelwy i fod i gael ei gwblhau yn y misoedd nesaf, a dim ond yn ddiweddar y cwblhawyd y Technium digidol ar gampws Prifysgol Cymru, Abertawe, ond mae tenantiaid yn ei lenwi'n awr. Newydd ddechrau y mae'r gwaith adeiladu ar y ganolfan ar gyfer technoleg meddalwedd uwch, CAST 1, ym Mharc Menai. Mae

development. For example, there is the auto Technium at Dafen, the Technium in the Roath Basin, opposite this building on the other side of the small dock, and the sustainable development Technium at Baglan. I suppose that, if the University of Wales College, Newport submits an application, it will be in a queue behind most of the Techniums that I have listed.

Alun Cairns: You place a great deal of emphasis on the Technium projects in terms of economic regeneration. Given that the media Technium has overspent and that its largest partner has withdrawn from the project, and given that some of the key partners in the Swansea Technium, which you claim has been a success, have withdrawn from it, and that phase 2 of that project is probably over 12 months overdue, would you say that this is a successful policy?

The First Minister: My data state that Technium 2 in Swansea is nearing completion and is on schedule, so I do not know where your information on its being 12 months behind schedule has come from. On Technium 1, I assume that you are referring to the fact that the subsidiary—I have forgotten its name—which was created following Hewlett-Packard's splitting in two, left after 12 months. However, that did not cause a problem as the place is overflowing with tenants. I would have expected you to applaud that, instead of looking for bad news. That problem was overcome, as small and medium-sized enterprises from the greater Swansea area have more than filled the gap left by the withdrawal of the Hewlett-Packard subsidiary. I thought that you would welcome that, as you often say that you want more emphasis on indigenous enterprise. This is an example of a successful indigenous enterprise and, for some reason, you have decided that it is bad news rather than good news. You should not pick and choose your policies according to which gives you the best bad-news story to run during questions to the First Minister. We are aware of one teething problem, namely with the media technium at Gelli Aur. That is being dealt with; we will have to return to that at another time.

canolfannau Technium eraill ar wahanol gamau yn eu datblygiad. Er enghraifft, ceir y Technium moduron yn Nafen, y Technium yn Noc y Rhath, gyferbyn â'r adeilad hwn ar ochr draw'r doc bach, a'r Technium datblygu cynaliadwy ym Maglan. Tybiaf, os bydd Coleg Prifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd yn cyflwyno cais, y bydd yn aros ei dro y tu ôl i'r rhan fwyaf o'r canolfannau Technium yr wyf wedi'u rhestru.

Alun Cairns: Yr ydych yn rhoi llawer o bwys ar brosiectau Technium yng nghydestun adfywio economaidd. O wybod bod Technium y cyfryngau wedi gorwario a bod ei bartner mwyaf wedi tynnu'n ôl o'r prosiect, ac o wybod bod rhai o'r partneriaid allweddol yn Technium Abertawe, yr honnwyd ei fod yn llwyddiant, wedi tynnu'n ôl, a bod cam 2 y prosiect hwnnw'n fwy na 12 mis yn hwyr yn ôl pob tebyg, a ddywedech fod y polisi hwn yn llwyddo?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r data sydd gennyf yn dweud bod Technium 2 yn Abertawe bron â chael ei gwblhau a'i fod yn dilyn yr amserlen, felly ni wn o ble y daeth eich gwybodaeth i'r perwyl ei fod 12 mis ar ôl yr amserlen. Ynghylch Technium 1, cymeraf eich bod yn cyfeirio at y ffaith bod yr is-gwmni—yr wyf wedi anghofio ei enw—a grëwyd ar ôl rhannu Hewlett-Packard yn ddau, wedi gadael ar ôl 12 mis. Fodd bynnag, nid oedd hynny'n peri anhawster gan fod digonedd o denantiaid yno. Byddwn wedi disgwyl ichi ganmol hynny, yn hytrach na chwilio am newyddion drwg. Cafodd y broblem honno ei datrys, gan fod busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint o Abertawe a'r cylch wedi llenwi'r bwlch a adawyd pan dynnodd is-gwmni Hewlett-Packard yn ôl yn fwy na digon. Tybiais y byddech yn croesawu hynny, gan eich bod yn dweud yn aml eich bod am weld mwy o bwyslais ar fusnesau cynhenid. Dyma enghraifft o fenter gynhenid lwyddiannus ac, am ryw reswm, yr ydych wedi penderfynu mai newyddion drwg ydyw yn hytrach na newyddion da. Ni ddylech ddewis a dethol eich polisïau yn ôl y rhai sy'n rhoi'r stori newyddion drwg orau ichi sôn amdani yn ystod cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog. Yr ydym yn ymwybodol o un broblem ddechreuol, a honno'n ymwneud â Technium y cyfryngau yng Ngelli Aur.

Ymdrinnir â hynny; bydd yn rhaid inni drafod hynny ryw bryd eto.

2.20 p.m.

Helpu'r Sawl sy'n Gadael Gofal Helping Those Leaving Care

Q3 David Melding: Will the First Minister make a statement on measures to help care leavers in Wales? (OAQ29180)

The First Minister: The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, implemented from 1 October 2000 and backed by additional Children First grant funding, imposed new duties on local authorities. In addition, the Homeless Persons (Priority Need) (Wales) Order 2001, made in March 2001, extended statutory homelessness protection to care leavers up to the age of 21. Local authorities report that 95 per cent of children in care on their sixteenth birthday in the year ending 31 March 2003 had a suitable plan for their continuing care—an increase of 6 per cent on the previous year.

David Melding: Thank you for that response. There have been considerable advances in the legislation underpinning this issue. However, do you agree that we must now ensure that vital measures are in place to check that progress, for example on educational attainment, is being made effectively? I believe that care leavers still record the lowest educational attainment levels of any group in society. Furthermore, we must never forget that half of all prostitutes have been in care.

The First Minister: I do not dissent from any of those general propositions. However, in making them, it is important to avoid stigmatising children who have been in care. It is true that, if you look at the past of people who end up with problems in later life or who are in custody for whatever reason, there is frequently a failure to make the transition from the care system to independent adult life. For all the problems that you may have in a conventional nuclear family, the

C3 David Melding: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am fesurau i helpu pobl yng Nghymru sy'n gadael gofal? (OAQ29180)

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr oedd Deddf Plant (Ymadael â Gofal) 2000, a roddwyd ar waith o 1 Hydref 2000 a chyllid grant ychwanegol gan Rhoi Plant yn Gyntaf yn gefn iddi, yn rhoi awdurdodau lleol o dan ddyletswyddau newydd. Yn ogystal â hynny, yr oedd Gorchymyn Personau Digartref (Angen Blaenoriaethol) (Cymru) 2001, a wnaed ym Mawrth 2001, yn ymestyn yr amddiffyniad statudol i bobl ddigartref i gynnwys rhai sy'n gadael gofal hyd at 21 oed. Mae awdurdodau lleol yn adrodd bod cynllun addas ar gyfer gofal parhaus gan 95 y cant o'r plant a oedd mewn gofal ar eu hunfed pen blwydd ar bymtheg yn y flwyddyn a ddaeth i ben ar 31 Mawrth 2003—cynnydd o 6 y cant oddi ar y flwyddyn flaenorol.

David Melding: Diolch i chi am yr ymateb hwnnw. Cymerwyd camau mawr ymlaen yn y ddeddfwriaeth sy'n sail i'r mater hwn. Er hynny, a gytunwch bod rhaid inni ofalu'n awr y cymerir camau hanfodol i sicrhau cynnydd effeithiol, er enghraifft, ar gyraeddiad addysgol? Credaf mai ymysg y rhai sy'n gadael gofal y cofnodir y lefelau cyraeddiad addysgol isaf o hyd o'r holl grwpiau mewn cymdeithas. Yn ogystal, ni ddylem byth anghofio bod hanner y rhai sy'n buteiniaid wedi bod mewn gofal.

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn anghydweld â'r un o'r gosodiadau cyffredinol hynny. Fodd bynnag, wrth eu gwneud, mae'n bwysig peidio â gwarthnodi plant a fu mewn gofal. Mae'n wir, os ystyriwch hanes y rhai sydd â phroblemau yn ddiweddarach yn eu hoes neu'r rhai sydd yn y ddalfa am ba bynnag reswm, y bu methiant yn aml i newid o'r system gofal i fywyd annibynnol fel oedolyn. Yn achos yr holl broblemau y gellir eu cael mewn teulu cnewyllog confensiynol, bydd y

problems will sometimes be greater if you do not have a nuclear family behind you. Therefore, it is important that we concentrate on the transition phase of 16 to 21 years of age when people leave care and become independent and do not have parents in the background to help them. We must help them to mature in such a way that they do not suffer the problems to which you referred.

David Lloyd: Yn dilyn hynny, mae hyn yn adlewyrchu'r angen i gynyddu nifer y gweithwyr cymdeithasol yn ogystal â'u sgiliau a'u cymwysterau. Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud i hyrwyddo hyn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf wedi clywed am unrhyw broblem benodol o ran prinder gweithwyr cymdeithasol na'r math o addysg y maent wedi ei derbyn yn y brifysgol i'w helpu i helpu pobl yn y system ofal drosglwyddo i fyw fel oedolion annibynnol. Os hoffech i mi godi unrhyw bwynt arbennig gyda'r bobl sy'n gyfrifol am addysg gweithwyr cymdeithasol, buaswn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech roi'r manylion i mi.

Kirsty Williams: The Joseph Rowntree Foundation recently published a report highlighting the difficulties faced by many care leavers in rural areas. To take up opportunities, care leavers must often move away from traditional support networks, families and friends, which can be particularly difficult at the transition phase. What can your administration do to look after the needs of care leavers who perhaps have the added disadvantage of having to move away from their traditional areas?

The First Minister: That is a classic problem. Frequently, care leavers will see the bright lights of cities, probably London, as a solution to a row they have had with foster parents or whomever. They will sometimes move to Cardiff, Swansea or elsewhere. Schemes exist, and we must study them properly to see whether they are as successful as they appear to be on the surface. If they are as successful as they appear to be, they should be spread out as best practice in the big cities that receive these unhappy young

problemau hynny'n fwy weithiau os nad oes gennyh deulu cnewyllol yn gefn i chi. Gan hynny, mae'n bwysig inni ganolbwyntio ar y cyfnod o newid yn 16 i 21 mlwydd oed pan fo pobl yn gadael gofal ac yn dod yn annibynnol heb fod ganddynt rieni yn y cefndir i'w helpu. Rhaid inni eu helpu i aeddfedu yn y fath fodd fel nad ydynt yn profi'r problemau y cyfeiriasoch atynt.

David Lloyd: Following on from that, this reflects the need to increase the number of social workers as well as their skills and qualifications. What are you doing to promote this?

The First Minister: I have not heard of any particular problem with regard to a shortage of social workers or with regard to the type of education that they have received in universities to help them to help those who are in the care system to make the transition to living as independent adults. If you would like me to raise any specific point with the people responsible for social workers' education and training, I would be grateful to receive those details from you.

Kirsty Williams: Cyhoeddwyd adroddiad gan Sefydliad Joseph Rowntree yn ddiweddar sy'n tynnu sylw at yr anawsterau a wynebwr gan lawer sy'n gadael gofal mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Er mwyn cymryd cyfleoedd, mae rhai sy'n gadael gofal yn aml yn gorfod symud oddi wrth rwydweithiau cynnal traddodiadol, teuluoedd a ffrindiau, a gall hynny fod yn arbennig o anodd yn y cyfnod o newid. Beth y gall eich gweinyddiaeth ei wneud i ddiwallu anghenion rhai sy'n gadael gofal sydd efallai'n profi'r anfantais ychwanegol o orfod symud i ffwrdd o'u hardaloedd traddodiadol?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae honno'n hen broblem. Yn aml, bydd y rhai sy'n gadael gofal yn tybio bod goleuadau llachar y ddinas, Llundain yn ôl pob tebyg, yn fodd i ddatrys y ffrae a gawsant â'u rhieni maeth neu bwy bynnag. Weithiau byddant yn symud i Gaerdydd, Abertawe neu rywle arall. Mae cynlluniau ar gael, a rhaid inni eu hastudio'n iawn i weld a ydynt mor llwyddiannus ag y maent yn ymddangos ar yr olwg gyntaf. Os ydynt mor llwyddiannus ag y maent yn ymddangos, dylid eu lledaenu fel

people who have had some sort of explosion at home or in the care system, and land up in Picadilly, or in Cardiff or Swansea or wherever. We must ensure, through these schemes, that there are people in these cities to give care leavers good advice and to provide them with some sort of shelter and support to get them on their feet.

arfer da yn y dinasoedd mawr sy'n derbyn y bobl ifanc anhapus hynny a gafodd ryw fath o ysgytwad gartref neu yn y system ofal, ac yn cyrraedd Picadilly, Caerdydd neu Abertawe neu ble bynnag. Rhaid inni sicrhau, drwy'r cynlluniau hyn, fod rhai yn y dinasoedd hyn i roi cyngor da i rai sy'n gadael gofal ac i roi rhyw fath o gysgod a chymorth i'w rhoi ar ben ffordd.

Twristiaeth yng Ngorllewin Cymru Tourism in West Wales

Q4 Christine Gwyther: Will the First Minister make a statement on Assembly support for tourism in west Wales? (OAQ29191)

C4 Christine Gwyther: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am gymorth gan y Cynulliad i dwristiaeth yng ngorllewin Cymru? (OAQ29191)

The First Minister: I welcome, in general, the recently released figures that show that, in the first half of 2003, there was a 16 per cent increase in tourist spend in Wales, compared with a drop of 1 per cent in the United Kingdom as a whole. That shows that the tourism industry in Wales has experienced a sharp recovery this year up until the end of June. I believe that the figures for the second half of the year, which will probably not be available until the spring of next year, will reflect the good summer that we have had.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn croesawu, at ei gilydd, y ffigurau a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar sy'n dangos bod 16 y cant o gynnydd, yn hanner cyntaf 2003, yn y gwariant gan ymwelwyr yng Nghymru, o'i gymharu â gostyngiad o 1 y cant yn y Deyrnas Unedig gyfan. Dengys hynny fod y diwydiant ymwelwyr yng Nghymru wedi cael adferiad sydyn eleni hyd at ddiwedd Mehefin. Credaf y bydd y ffigurau ar gyfer ail hanner y flwyddyn, na fyddant ar gael tan y gwanwyn y flwyddyn nesaf yn ôl pob tebyg, yn adlewyrchu'r haf da a gawsom.

On west Wales in particular, the Wales Tourist Board has allocated £750,000 to the South West Wales Tourism Partnership for the current financial year to support the region's tourism industry. It has also designated four tourism growth areas in south-west Wales and earmarked more than £4.5 million over 2001 to 2008 to develop tourism in those areas.

Ynghylch y Gorllewin yn benodol, mae Bwrdd Croeso Cymru wedi dyrannu £750,000 i Bartneriaeth Twristiaeth De-orllewin Cymru ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol bresennol i hybu'r diwydiant ymwelwyr yn y rhanbarth. Mae hefyd wedi dynodi pedair ardal dwf ar gyfer twristiaeth yn y De-orllewin ac wedi clustnodi mwy na £4.5 miliwn dros 2001 i 2008 i ddatblygu twristiaeth yn yr ardaloedd hynny.

Christine Gwyther: The figure of 16 per cent is encouraging: I think that it could be even higher next year. In west Wales, we are waiting with bated breath to find out which developer or tourism operator will go into partnership with Middleton—The National Botanic Garden of Wales. Will your Government or agencies, where appropriate, advise on the type of tourism product that is likely to work in Carmarthenshire and which would not jeopardise the Millennium Commission funding already in place? Will

Christine Gwyther: Mae'r ffigur o 16 y cant yn galonogol: credaf y gallai fod yn uwch fyth y flwyddyn nesaf. Yn y Gorllewin, yr ydym yn dal ein hanadl wrth ddisgwyl i ddarganfod pa ddatblygwr neu weithredwr twristiaeth a aiff i bartneriaeth â Middleton—Gardd Fotaneg Genedlaethol Cymru. A wnaiff eich Llywodraeth neu'ch asiantaethau, lle y bo'n briodol, roi cyngor ynghylch y math o gynnyrch twristiaeth sy'n debygol o lwyddo yn Sir Gaerfyrddin ac na fyddai'n peryglu'r cyllid oddi wrth Gomisiwn y

you also pledge to work with the incumbents to give Middleton a healthier and happier future?

The First Minister: Yes, indeed. I am pleased to have been kept abreast of the private investors waiting in the wings to become involved in Middleton. I am looking forward to seeing what can be done to ensure that the best offer is accepted and taken forward to ensure that Middleton, in a future format, becomes the keystone of the development of sustainable tourism in Carmarthenshire, alongside other new developments in that county, such as the Llanelli millennium coastal path—they are all part of a strong tourism offer, which comprises the three counties of south-west Wales.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Y mae'n ddiddorol bod y Prif Weinidog yn sôn yn awr am strategaeth gynaliadwy ar gyfer twristiaeth yng ngorllewin Cymru a'i fod yn cynnwys yr ardd fotaneg genedlaethol yn y strategaeth honno. Y gwir yw y bu holl ymdrechion y Prif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg ar y mater hwn yn wrthgynhrychiol a'u bod wedi gorfodi'r ardd i fod mewn sefyllfa lle y gallai fod wedi gorfod cau. Mae'r newyddion bellach yn dda, nid oherwydd unrhyw ymdrechion ar ran y Llywodraeth, ond oherwydd ymdrechion yr ymddiriedolwyr a Chyngor Sir Caerfyrddin. Onid yw'n warth bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi golchi ei dwylo yn gyfan gwbl o'r sefyllfa hon ac wedi gosod trysor cenedlaethol mewn sefyllfa mor fregus a pheryglus?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni chredaf eich bod yn gwybod yr hyn y mae golchi dwylo yn ei olygu, Rhodri Glyn. Yr oeddwn yn meddwl eich bod yn deall yr iaith Gymraeg. Sut y gallwch ddisgrifio'r ffaith bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi cadw'r ardd fotaneg yn agored drwy roi cymhorthdal iddi am flwyddyn gyfan fel golchi dwylo o'r sefyllfa? Dim ond wedi i'r cymorthdal a'r 12 mis ddod i ben y cododd y broblem. Beth pe bai'r ardd, yn ystod y 12 mis hwnnw, wedi datblygu strategaeth i sicrhau ei bod yn gallu gweithredu wedi i'r cymhorthdal ddod i ben? Yr oedd yr ardd yn gwybod y byddai'r

Mileniwm a roddwyd eisoes? A wnewch hefyd addo gweithio gyda'r deiliaid i roi dyfodol mwy ffyniannus a dedwyddach i Middleton?

Y Prif Weinidog: Gwnaf, yn wir. Yr wyf yn falch fy mod wedi cael gwybod am y buddsoddwyr preifat sy'n disgwyl eu tro i ymwneud â Middleton. Edrychaf ymlaen at weld beth y gellir ei wneud i sicrhau y caiff y cynnig gorau ei dderbyn a'i hyrwyddo er mwyn sicrhau y bydd Middleton, ar y ffurf a fydd iddi yn y dyfodol, yn dod yn benconglfaen i ddatblygu twristiaeth gynaliadwy yn Sir Gaerfyrddin, ochr yn ochr â datblygiadau newydd eraill yn y sir honno, fel llwybr arfordirol y mileniwm yn Llanelli—maent i gyd yn rhan o rywbeth pendant a gynigir i ymwelwyr, sy'n cynnwys tair sir y De-orllewin.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: It is interesting that the First Minister is now talking about a sustainable strategy for tourism in west Wales and that he includes the national botanic garden in that strategy. In reality, all the efforts made by the First Minister and the Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language in relation to this issue have been counterproductive and have forced the garden into a situation whereby it could have had to close. The news is good by now, not because of any efforts made by the Government, but because of the efforts of the trustees and Carmarthenshire County Council. Is it not a disgrace that the Government of Wales has washed its hands of this situation and has placed a national treasure in such a vulnerable and dangerous position?

The First Minister: I do not believe that you understand what washing one's hands of something means, Rhodri Glyn. I thought that you understood the Welsh language. How can you describe the fact that the Government of Wales has kept the botanic garden open by giving it a subsidy for a whole year as washing our hands of the situation? It was only when the subsidy and the 12 months came to an end that the problem arose. What if the garden, during that 12 months, had developed a strategy to ensure that it could stay open when the subsidy ran out? The garden knew that the

cymhorthdal yn dod i ben ym mis Hydref. Yr ydych yn disgrifio hynny fel golchi dwylo. Mae'n warthus eich bod yn cam-drin yr iaith Gymraeg drwy ddefnyddio ymadrodd o'r fath i ddisgrifio'r Llywodraeth a'r hyn y mae wedi ei wneud drwy roi cymhorthdal am flwyddyn. Dim ond wedi i'r cymhorthdal hwnnw ddod i ben y cymerodd yr ymddiriedolwyr o ddifrif yr angen i ganfod strategaeth newydd i sicrhau dyfodol yr ardd fotaneg.

subsidy would come to an end in October. You describe that as washing one's hands of the situation. It is disgraceful that you misuse the Welsh language by using such a phrase to describe the Government and what it has done in providing a subsidy for a year. It was only when that subsidy ran out that the trustees took seriously the need to find a new strategy to ensure the future of the botanic garden.

Taith i Awstralia Trip to Australia

Q5 William Graham: Will the First Minister make a statement on his recent overseas trip to Australia? (OAQ29193)

C5 William Graham: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am ei daith ddiweddar i Awstralia? (OAQ29193)

The First Minister: I attended five Government meetings, seven company meetings or visits, six lunches and dinners, four official presentations, 14 interviews, four receptions, one industrial announcement and the launch of the Wales showcase. I spoke at the launch of the Australian technology showcase and witnessed the reaffirmation of the memorandum of understanding between the Government of New South Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government. There was also a trade mission involving representatives from 16 companies from Wales, who visited Australia for one week and left for New Zealand at 7 a.m. yesterday. Several of them have already clinched deals, which have the potential to place orders amounting to more than £4.5 million.

Y Prif Weinidog: Bûm mewn pum cyfarfod â'r Llywodraeth, gwneuthum gwrdd neu ymweld â saith cwmni, bûm mewn chwe chinio, pedwar cyflwyniad swyddogol, 14 o gyfweiliadau, pedwar derbyniad, un cyhoeddiad diwydiannol ac yng nghyfarfod lansio'r ffenestr siop i Gymru. Siaredais yng nghyfarfod lansio'r ffenestr siop i dechnoleg Awstralia a bûm yn dyst i ailddatganiad y memorandwm cyd-ddealltwriaeth rhwng Llywodraeth De Cymru Newydd a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Bu ymgyrch fasnachu hefyd a oedd yn cynnwys cynrychiolwyr 16 cwmni o Gymru, a ymwelodd ag Awstralia am un wythnos a gadael am Seland Newydd am 7 a.m. ddoe. Mae nifer ohonynt wedi selio bargeinion eisoes, a gallai'r rhain arwain at osod archebion gwerth mwy na £4.5 miliwn.

2.30 p.m.

William Graham: Congratulations on surviving koalas, kangaroos and Kylie, First Minister. It is a pity that your luck did not rub off on our rugby team. At a later date, will you give the Assembly some concrete evidence of your trade missions?

William Graham: Llongyfarchion ar ddygymod â choalas, cangarwod a Kylie, Brif Weinidog. Mae'n drueni na chafodd eich lwc ddylanwad ar ein tîm rygbi. Rywbryd yn y dyfodol, a wnewch roi rhywfaint o dystiolaeth gadarn i'r Cynulliad o'ch ymgyrchoedd masnachu?

The First Minister: Indeed, I just did. Orders are rarely signed during trade missions, but those companies already have the prospects of signing orders in excess of £4.5 million—before the New Zealand leg of the trade mission. I am proud of Team

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf newydd wneud, mewn gwirionedd. Anaml y llofnodir archebion yn ystod ymgyrchoedd masnachu, ond mae gan y cwmnïau hynny ragolygon eisoes o lofnodi archebion sy'n werth mwy na £4.5 miliwn—cyn mynd â'r ymgyrch i

Wales's efforts. No other country in the world attempted anything similar to what we were doing while we were there. The five-pronged mission involved inward investment, outward exports, tourism, Government-to-Government talks and the presentation of the best of modern Welsh culture, music and design on the Rocks, right in the heart of Sydney. That was combined with the efforts of a certain Mr Boyce from Glynneath, who sold out Sydney Opera House and had a phenomenal reception from 2,500 people on Monday. I cannot and will not claim responsibility for that, nor will I claim responsibility for the brilliant efforts of our rugby team. Our players earned the respect of the rugby world again, and I hope that they can raise their game by another 10 per cent in the important game to be held in Brisbane next Sunday.

Janet Davies: First Minister, in your talks with the Government, did any Ministers indicate their views on the possibility of the Conservative Party being led by a centrist politician, compared with the current right-wing UK Government?

The Presiding Officer: Order. I do not think that the First Minister, despite his wide-ranging responsibilities, is responsible for the Conservative Party.

Austin Taylor Communications, Bethesda

Q6 Mark Isherwood: Will the First Minister make a statement on any developments since 7 October 2003 regarding job losses at Austin Taylor Communications Ltd in Bethesda? (OAQ29169)

The First Minister: I understand that most of those who were made redundant by the company were re-employed on a temporary basis to fulfil a short-term contract, which is likely to last until mid December. In the meantime, work is continuing in that part of Wales with plans for the Centre for Advanced Software Technology, Technium, to which I referred earlier—the north-west Wales management development centre, which has been approved in principle by the

Seland Newydd. Yr wyf yn falch o ymdrechion Tîm Cymru. Ni roddodd yr un wlad arall yn y byd gynnig ar ddim byd tebyg i'r hyn a wnaethom pan oeddem yno. Yr oedd yr ymgyrch bum rhan yn cynnwys mewnfuddsoddi, allforion o Gymru, twristiaeth, trafodaethau rhwng Llywodraethau a'i gilydd a chyflwyno goreuon diwylliant, cerddoriaeth a dylunio cyfoes Cymru yn y Rocks, yn union yng nghanol Sydney. Cyfunwyd hynny ag ymdrechion rhyw Mr Boyce o Lyn-nedd, a lanwodd Dŷ Opera Sydney a chael derbyniad rhyfeddol gan 2,500 o bobl ddydd Llun. Ni allaf ac ni wnaf hawlio cyfrifoldeb am hynny, ac ni hawliaf gyfrifoldeb ychwaith am ymdrechion ardderchog ein tîm rygbi. Mae ein chwaraewyr wedi ennill parch gan y byd rygbi eto, a gobeithiaf y gallant wella eu gêm o 10 y cant arall yn y gêm bwysig sydd i'w chynnal yn Brisbane ddydd Sul nesaf.

Janet Davies: Brif Weinidog, yn eich trafodaethau â'r Llywodraeth, a wnaeth unrhyw Weinidogion ddatgan eu barn am y posibilrwydd y bydd y Blaid Geidwadol yn cael ei harwain gan wleidydd sydd yn y canol, o'i gymharu â Llywodraeth asgell dde bresennol y DU?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni chredaf fod y Prif Weinidog, er ei gyfrifoldebau eang, yn gyfrifol am y Blaid Geidwadol.

C6 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am unrhyw ddatblygiadau ers 7 Hydref 2003 ynghylch y swyddi a gollwyd yn Austin Taylor Communications Cyf. ym Methesda? (OAQ29169)

Y Prif Weinidog: Deallaf fod y rhan fwyaf o'r rhai a ddiswyddwyd gan y cwmni wedi'u hailgyflogi dros dro i gyflawni contract tymor byr, sy'n debygol o barhau tan ganol Rhagfyr. Yn y cyfamser, mae gwaith yn mynd rhagddo yn y rhan honno o Gymru gyda chynlluniau ar gyfer y Ganolfan Technoleg Meddalwedd Uwch, Technium, y cyfeiriais ati'n gynharach—canolfan datblygu rheolaeth y Gogledd-orllewin, a gymeradwywyd mewn egwyddor gan

Welsh Local Government Association and the north Wales business technology park.

Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a pharc technoleg busnes y Gogledd.

Mark Isherwood: On 7 October, during questions to the First Minister, you stated that

Mark Isherwood: Ar 7 Hydref, yn ystod cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog, dywedasochofod y

'The WDA is working with the company to explore options to sustain its remaining, quite small operations, including opportunities to develop research and development activities in Bethesda.'

'WDA yn gweithio gyda'r cwmni i ymchwilio i ddewisiadau i gynnal y gweithrediadau cymharol fach sy'n weddill ganddo, gan gynnwys y cyfleoedd i hybu gweithgareddau ymchwil a datblygu ym Methesda.'

I received an e-mail from the company on 10 October, which concluded by stating:

Cefais neges e-bost oddi wrth y cwmni ar 10 Hydref, a orffennodd â'r geiriau:

'We are not aware of such discussions here, perhaps the WDA will be contacting us soon?'

Ni wyddom am drafodaethau o'r fath yma, efallai y bydd y WDA yn cysylltu â ni cyn hir?

We checked again on 30 October, to be told that

Gwnaethom holi eto ar 30 Hydref, a chael gwybod

'we have heard nothing from the WDA'.

na chlywsom ddim oddi wrth y WDA.

Would the First Minister care to comment on that and please update us on progress?

A hoffai'r Prif Weinidog wneud sylw am hynny a rhoi gwybod inni am y cynnydd diweddaraf, os gwêl yn dda?

The First Minister: That is the position as I understand it, but I will make further inquiries in light of your allegation, which implies that the Welsh Development Agency is claiming contact that is not happening. As I have not had that allegation independently confirmed to me, I will make suitable enquiries.

Y Prif Weinidog: Dyna'r sefyllfa fel yr wyf fi'n ei deall, ond gwnaf ymholiadau pellach yng ngolwg eich honiad, sy'n awgrymu bod Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru yn honni ei fod wedi cysylltu er nad yw hynny wedi digwydd. Gan nad yw'r honiad hwnnw wedi'i gadarnhau i mi'n annibynnol, gwnaf ymholiadau priodol.

In your response, Mark, perhaps you could have welcomed the fact that the job losses have not yet occurred and that the work force is now employed on a temporary contract until mid December. You should listen to and take account of my replies to your original question before simply reading out your supplementary question.

Yn eich ymateb, Mark, gallech fod wedi croesawu'r ffaith na chollwyd y swyddi eto a bod y gweithlu wedi'i gyflogi bellach dan gontract dros dro tan ganol Rhagfyr. Dylech wrando a chymryd sylw o'm hatebion i'ch cwestiwn gwreiddiol hefyd cyn darllen eich cwestiwn atodol.

Alun Ffred Jones: Yn wyneb y colli swyddi tebygol yn Austin Taylor, sy'n dilyn colledion eraill yn y diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru, a all y Prif Weinidog ddweud sawl swydd a gollwyd yn y diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu dros y ddwy flynedd diwethaf?

Alun Ffred Jones: In light of the probable job losses at Austin Taylor, which follow other losses in the manufacturing industry in Wales, could the First Minister say how many jobs have been lost in the manufacturing industry over the past two years?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid oes gennyf ffigurau ar gyfer y sector hwnnw. Y sector gweithgynhyrchu sydd wedi bod o dan y pwysau mwyaf. Nid oes gwahaniaeth rhyngom ar y mater mawr hwnnw. Yn awr, mae'n bwysig inni ddeall cymaint o drawsnewid a fu yn rhagolygon y sector hwnnw ynghyd â sectorau eraill. Mae arolygon y misoedd diwethaf ac ystadegau swyddogol y Deyrnas Gyfunol, Ewrop, yn ffodus, a Gogledd America oll yn dangos gwelliant yn rhagolygon y sector gweithgynhyrchu ar gyfer gweddill y flwyddyn hon a 2004, ac yn dangos mai dyma'r rhagolygon gorau ers saith mlynedd.

Eleanor Burnham: I am pleased to hear about the temporary contract, but I sympathise greatly with those employees who face an uncertain future. Can you reassure us that Team Wales, which includes the Welsh Development Agency and Education and Learning Wales, is doing its best to safeguard the future of employees facing redundancy?

The First Minister: Yes, of course. The classic example to be quoted is that of Dolgarrog, which is in the Presiding Officer's constituency and on the edge of that of the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport, where the Team Wales effort was strongly backed by the local authority and by an incoming investor, as a result of which a turnaround could be effected. It is quite an isolated area where there were no other jobs in the same category, so it was important that the jobs were saved if possible—that is, if a private investor was willing to take on the work. We have not quite reached that stage with Austin Taylor Communications Ltd in Bethesda. However, if it were possible to form a partnership and find a private investor, we would do the same for Bethesda as we did for Dolgarrog, where we saved the jobs that were threatened because of the possible closure of the aluminium rolling mill.

The First Minister: I do not have the figures for that sector. The manufacturing sector has been under the greatest pressure. We do not disagree on that significant matter. It is now important for us to understand how much transformation there has been in the projections for that sector together with other sectors. The surveys of recent months, and the official statistics for the United Kingdom, Europe, fortunately, and North America all reveal the improvement in outlook for the manufacturing sector for the remainder of this year and for 2004, and show it to be the best outlook for seven years.

Eleanor Burnham: Yr wyf yn falch o glywed am y contract dros dro, ond cydymdeimlaff yn fawr â'r gweithwyr hynny sy'n wynebu dyfodol ansicr. A allwch ein sicrhau bod Tîm Cymru, sy'n cynnwys Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru, yn gwneud ei orau i ddiogelu dyfodol y gweithwyr sy'n wynebu eu diswyddo?

Y Prif Weinidog: Gallaf, wrth gwrs. Yr enghraifft glasurol y dylid cyfeirio ati yw Dolgarrog, sydd yn etholaeth y Llywydd ac yn ymyl un y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon, lle y rhoddwyd cefnogaeth gadarn i ymdrechion Tîm Cymru gan yr awdurdod lleol a buddsoddwr o'r tu allan, a bu hynny'n fodd i drawsnewid y sefyllfa. Mae'n ardal eithaf anghysbell lle nad oedd unrhyw swyddi eraill o'r un math, felly yr oedd yn bwysig achub y swyddi, os oedd modd—hynny yw, os oedd buddsoddwr preifat yn barod i ymgymryd â'r gwaith. Nid ydym wedi cyrraedd y fan honno'n union yn achos Austin Taylor Communications Cyf ym Methesda. Fodd bynnag, pe byddai modd ffurfio partneriaeth a dod o hyd i fuddsoddwr preifat, gwnaem yr un peth dros Bethesda ag a wnaethom dros Dolgarrog, lle y gwnaethom achub y swyddi a oedd dan fygythiad oherwydd y posibilrwydd o gau'r felin rollo alwminiwm.

Cyllido Ysgolion School Funding

Q7 Jenny Randerson: Will the First Minister make a statement on school

C7 Jenny Randerson: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am gyllid i ysgolion?

funding? (OAQ29181)

The First Minister: Funding of pre-16 education in maintained schools is a matter for local government to determine. For this financial year, local authorities in Wales increased schools' budgets by 9.9 per cent and education budgets by 9.7 per cent. ELWa funding for post-16 provision in schools amounted to £100.6 million—a 12 per cent increase—bringing the overall average increase in schools' budgets this financial year to 10 per cent.

Jenny Randerson: The allocation for capital funding for school buildings for the coming year was cut by £9 million in the draft budget compared with the previously agreed indicative budget. Bearing in mind the poor condition of school buildings in many parts of Wales, can you tell us how this cut will be applied? Do you intend to reduce the allocation to each local education authority pro rata, or will you take account of the condition of school buildings in individual LEA areas, as a result of which some areas will suffer more than others? Do you recognise that this is yet another spending area that will suffer as a result of the fact that you cannot fund promises made in the recent election without diverting resources from long-term improvements? Is it not true that you are scrabbling around for the money to fund your election gimmicks at the expense of a long-term vision for Wales?

The First Minister: Quite the contrary, Jenny. Overall capital investment in schools in the Assembly's first year was £66 million. It is currently £101 million—a 50 per cent increase, roughly—and will increase to £107 million, which is close to a 60 per cent increase on the amount invested in the Assembly's first year. That is a massive increase in the commitment to this sector. There is no change in our strategy to spend £560 million on modernising school buildings. In determining priority, we will always take into account local authorities' asset management plans, which, I believe, will have been completed by April 2004.

(OAQ29181)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae cyllido addysg cyn-16 mewn ysgolion a gynhelir yn fater i'w benderfynu gan lywodraeth leol. Ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol hon, mae awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru wedi cynyddu cyllidebau ysgolion o 9.9 y cant a chyllidebau addysg o 9.7 y cant. Yr oedd y cyllid oddi wrth ELWa ar gyfer darpariaeth ôl-16 mewn ysgolion yn gymaint â £100.6 miliwn—cynnydd o 12 y cant—fel bod y cynnydd cyfartalog cyffredinol yng nghyllidebau ysgolion yn y flwyddyn ariannol hon yn 10 y cant.

Jenny Randerson: Bu toriad o £9 miliwn yn y dyraniad o gyllid cyfalaf i adeiladau ysgol ar gyfer y flwyddyn i ddod yn y gyllideb ddrafft o'i gymharu â'r gyllideb ddynodol a gytunwyd o'r blaen. Gan gofio bod adeiladau ysgol mewn sawl rhan o Gymru mewn cyflwr gwael, a allwch ddweud wrthym sut y rhoddir y toriad hwn ar waith? A ydych yn bwriadu lleihau'r dyraniad i bob awdurdod addysg lleol ar yr un cyfartaledd, neu a wnewch ystyried cyflwr adeiladau ysgol yn ardaloedd AALl unigol? Canlyniad hynny yw y byddai rhai ardaloedd yn dioddef yn fwy na'i gilydd. A ydych yn cydnabod bod hyn yn un maes gwariant arall a fydd yn dioddef am na allwch gyflawni addewidion a wnaed yn yr etholiad diweddar heb droi adnoddau oddi wrth welliannau tymor hir? Onid yw'n wir eich bod yn crafu am yr arian i gyllido'ch gimigau etholiad ar draul gweledigaeth tymor hir i Gymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: I'r gwrthwyneb yn llwyr, Jenny. Y buddsoddiad cyfalaf cyffredinol mewn ysgolion ym mlwyddyn gyntaf y Cynulliad oedd £66 miliwn. Cant ac un o filiynau o bunnoedd ydyw ar hyn o bryd—cynnydd o 50 y cant, yn fras—a bydd yn codi i £107 miliwn, sef cynnydd o ymron i 60 y cant o'i gymharu â'r swm a fuddsoddwyd ym mlwyddyn gyntaf y Cynulliad. Mae hynny'n gynnnydd aruthrol yn yr ymrwymiad i'r sector hwn. Nid oes unrhyw newid yn ein strategaeth i wario £560 miliwn ar foderneiddio adeiladau ysgol. Wrth bennu blaenoriaeth, byddwn bob amser yn ystyried cynlluniau rheoli asedau awdurdodau lleol, a fydd wedi'u cwblhau, yr wyf yn credu, erbyn Ebrill 2004.

Glyn Davies: It was clear from a meeting that I had yesterday with representatives of Powys County Council that this year's local government settlement will lead to significant reductions in services and another huge hike in council tax. Have you made any calculations as to what effect this will have on the number of teaching jobs that will be lost next year? Will you take responsibility for the teaching jobs that will inevitably be lost?

The First Minister: This is the usual conspiracy of shroud wavers between opposition politicians, local authorities and, occasionally, a teachers' union or two. They talk of prospective job losses in teaching which, in Wales's case, virtually never occur, despite what we always hear at this time of year. Despite all the talk, teaching job losses are usually related to a fall in pupil numbers. Some local authorities face substantial falls in pupil numbers, and that is usually the explanation for the fall in teacher numbers. We do not have a high teacher vacancy rate in Wales, and occasional teacher job losses are usually related to falling pupil numbers. You will be glad to hear that Powys is one area where schoolchildren numbers are increasing rather than decreasing. However, there are parts of Wales where schoolchildren numbers are already decreasing.

Glyn Davies: Yr oedd yn amlwg o gyfarfod a gefais ddoe â chynrychiolwyr Cyngor Sir Powys y bydd y setliad ar gyfer llywodraeth leol eleni yn arwain at leihau gwasanaethau'n sylweddol ac at godiad enfawr arall yn y dreth gyngor. A wnaethoch unrhyw gyfrifiadau ynghylch yr effaith a gaiff hynny ar nifer y swyddi dysgu a gollir y flwyddyn nesaf? A wnewch dderbyn cyfrifoldeb am y swyddi dysgu sy'n sicr o gael eu colli?

Y Prif Weinidog: Dyma'r cynllwyn arferol o broffwydo gwae rhwng gwleidyddion yr wrthblaid, awdurdodau lleol ac, weithiau, ambell undeb athrawon. Soniant am y posibilrwydd o golli swyddi athrawon, nad yw'n digwydd byth bron, yn achos Cymru, er gwaethaf yr hyn a glywn bob tro yr adeg hon o'r flwyddyn. Er yr holl siarad, mae colli swyddi athrawon yn gysylltiedig fel arfer â gostyngiad yn nifer y disgyblion. Mae rhai awdurdodau lleol yn wynebu gostyngiadau sylweddol yn nifer y disgyblion, a hynny, fel arfer, yw'r rheswm dros y gostyngiad yn nifer athrawon. Nid yw'r gyfradd o swyddi athrawon gwag yn uwch yng Nghymru, ac mae'r swyddi athrawon a gollir o bryd i'w gilydd yn ymwneud fel arfer â gostyngiad yn nifer y disgyblion. Byddwch yn falch o glywed bod Powys yn un ardal lle y mae niferoedd y plant ysgol yn cynyddu yn hytrach na gostwng. Fodd bynnag, ceir rhannau o Gymru lle y mae niferoedd y plant ysgol yn gostwng eisoes.

2.40 p.m.

Lefelau'r Dreth Gyngor The Levels of Council Tax

Q8 Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on the levels of council tax in Wales? (OAQ29183)

C8 Peter Black: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am lefelau'r dreth gyngor yng Nghymru? (OAQ29183)

The First Minister: The levels of council tax in Wales are the responsibility of the 22 local authorities in Wales.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae lefelau'r dreth gyngor yng Nghymru yn gyfrifoldeb i'r 22 awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru.

Peter Black: While council tax levels in Wales are the responsibility of local councils, they are influenced significantly by the amount of money given to them by the Assembly. Do you feel that the 5 per cent increase given to councils by the Assembly is

Peter Black: Er mai cyfrifoldeb cynghorau lleol yw lefelau'r dreth gyngor yng Nghymru, mae'r swm o arian a roddir iddynt gan y Cynulliad yn dylanwadu'n helaeth arnynt. A ydych yn teimlo bod y 5 y cant o gynnydd a roddwyd i gynghorau gan y Cynulliad yn

sufficient to keep council tax levels low, particularly given that inflation pressures will eat up £149 million of the additional £151 million for councils? Where in the remaining £2 million is the £33 million to pay for the teachers' workload agreement? Will council tax levels increase significantly from next April because of this Government's inadequate settlement?

The First Minister: You will remember that the prospective budget for 2004-05 included an increase of 2.5 per cent for local government. That has since been doubled. You should welcome that, Peter. The consequences of this increase on council tax levels in Wales next year will depend on the democratic pressures on local authorities. They will be anxious to keep council tax increases down to levels that they regard as presentable, regardless of which party is in power. It is sometimes the case that Welsh rural local government is not led by a particular party, which means that this issue becomes a matter of good management. The level of rate support grant, which I mentioned earlier, is also relevant, as are the levels of local authority reserves, which, historically, tend to be run down in an election year. These are all factors that influence the way in which local authorities respond to the demands of citizens—the demand for services on one side and the demand for council tax to be cut to reasonable levels on the other.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): We have just witnessed the usual ducking and diving from the First Minister on this issue. It is evident that central Government and the Government in Cardiff are giving less to local authorities than was previously the case. The amount given to local authorities has declined by 3 per cent since 1997. Is it not the case that all councils in Wales, including those led by Labour, are being forced to push up council taxes as a result of stealth taxes imposed by central Government and because you are giving less money to local authorities in Wales?

The First Minister: No. You are doing the

ddigon i gadw lefelau'r dreth gyngor yn isel, yn enwedig o gofio y bydd pwysau gan chwyddiant yn llyncu £149 miliwn o'r £151 miliwn ychwanegol ar gyfer cynghorau? Ymhle yn y £2 filiwn sy'n weddill y mae'r £33 miliwn i dalu am gytundeb baich gwaith yr athrawon? A fydd cynnydd sylweddol yn lefelau'r dreth gyngor o fis Ebrill nesaf oherwydd setliad annigonol y Llywodraeth hon?

Y Prif Weinidog: Byddwch yn cofio bod y gyllideb arfaethedig ar gyfer 2004-05 yn cynnwys cynnydd o 2.5 y cant i lywodraeth leol. Mae hynny wedi'i ddyblu bellach. Dylech groesawu hynny, Peter. Bydd effeithiau'r cynnydd hwn ar lefelau'r dreth gyngor yng Nghymru y flwyddyn nesaf yn dibynnu ar y pwysau democrataidd ar awdurdodau lleol. Byddant yn awyddus i gadw unrhyw gynnydd yn y dreth gyngor ar lefelau a ystyriant yn rhai cymeradwy, ni waeth pa blaid sydd mewn grym. Mewn rhai achosion nid yw llywodraeth leol Cymru wledig yn cael ei harwain gan blaid benodol, a golyga hynny fod hyn yn dod yn fater o reoli da. Mae lefel grant cynnal y trethi, a grybwyllais yn gynharach, yn berthnasol hefyd, fel y mae lefelau cronfeydd wrth gefn awdurdodau lleol, y mae tuedd, yn hanesyddol, i'w lleihau mewn blwyddyn etholiad. Mae'r holl ffactorau hyn yn dylanwadu ar y modd y mae awdurdodau lleol yn ymateb i alwadau dinasyddion—yr alwad am wasanaethau ar y naill law a'r alwad am dorri'r dreth gyngor i lefelau rhesymol ar y llall.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Yr ydym newydd weld y Prif Weinidog yn osgoi'r mater hwn, fel arfer. Mae'n amlwg bod Llywodraeth ganolog a'r Llywodraeth yng Nghaerdydd yn rhoi llai i awdurdodau lleol nag yr oeddent o'r blaen. Bu gostyngiad o 3 y cant ers 1997 yn y swm a roddir i awdurdodau lleol. Onid yw'n wir bod yr holl gynghorau yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys y rhai a arweinir gan Lafur, yn cael eu gorfodi i gynyddu'r dreth gyngor o ganlyniad i'r trethi llechwraidd a orfodwyd gan Lywodraeth ganolog ac am eich bod yn rhoi llai o arian i awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nac ydyw. Yr ydych yn

same shroud waving again. In your mythical universe it is never the responsibility of local authorities to have in mind what the consequences of council tax increases would be. Unfortunately for you, we all live in the real world. The level of increase has been doubled from 2.5 to 5 per cent. There are pressures on local authorities to keep council tax levels down in an election year, and it is a historic fact that they tend to do this, frequently by drawing on reserves. No doubt the buck will be passed, with councils saying that it is our fault for not giving them the rate support grant. We could then pass the buck to central Government by saying that it is not giving us enough money under the Barnett formula. This silly blame game gets you nowhere. We know what has happened historically—local authorities accumulate reserves in the year before elections, which are then spent in order to keep council tax increases to modest levels during an election year. We hope that that will happen this year for the benefit of all council tax payers in Wales.

Nick Bourne: Let me bring you into the real world. It seems that you want to indulge in the blame game by blaming everyone except the person who is most responsible—you. Do you agree that you are giving local authorities less money than they need to fulfil the responsibilities that you are transferring to them? Your inaction is largely the reason why council tax bills are increasing. It is clear that if you did not spend money centrally on stupid schemes such as the golden goodbye, to which most of the Labour-led councils are giving the bird, you could provide councils with more money to enable them to keep council tax levels down. This is not shroud waving; it is decent advice that you should perhaps follow.

The First Minister: You should follow the advice given by Gareth Neale, a leading Conservative figure in local government, or by William Graham, who was your spokesman on the Committee and who had the opportunity to oppose the scheme but did not do so. We all thought that we were proceeding—

proffwydo gwae yn yr un modd eto. Yn eich byd ffantasi chi nid yw byth yn gyfrifoldeb ar awdurdodau lleol i ystyried beth fyddai canlyniad cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor. Yn anffodus i chi, yr ydym ni i gyd yn byw yn y byd go-iawn. Mae lefel y cynnydd wedi'i ddyblu o 2.5 i 5 y cant. Mae pwysau ar awdurdodau lleol i gadw lefelau'r dreth gyngor yn isel mewn blwyddyn etholiad, a ffaith hanesyddol yw eu bod yn tueddu i wneud hynny, gan wneud defnydd o gronfeydd wrth gefn yn aml. Mae'r cyfrifoldeb yn siŵr o gael ei fwrw ar eraill, a chynghorau'n dweud mai arnom ni y mae'r bai am beidio â rhoi digon o grant cynnal y trethi. Gallem ni wedyn fwrw'r cyfrifoldeb ar Lywodraeth ganolog drwy ddweud nad yw'n rhoi digon o arian i ni o dan fformiwla Barnett. Nid yw'r gêm wirion hon o fwrw bai yn tycio dim. Gwyddom beth a ddigwyddodd yn y gorffennol—mae awdurdodau lleol yn cronni arian wrth gefn yn y flwyddyn cyn etholiadau, a gaiff ei wario wedyn i gadw'r cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor ar lefel resymol yn ystod blwyddyn etholiad. Gobeithiwn y digwydd hynny eleni er mwyn pawb sy'n talu'r dreth gyngor yng Nghymru.

Nick Bourne: Gadewch imi ddod â chi i'r byd go-iawn. Ymddengys eich bod chi am ymroi i'r gêm bwrw bai gan roi'r bai ar bawb heblaw'r un sy'n bennaf cyfrifol—chi. A gytunwch eich bod yn rhoi llai o arian i awdurdodau lleol na'r hyn y mae arnynt ei angen i gyflawni'r cyfrifoldebau yr ydych yn eu trosglwyddo iddynt? Diffyg gweithredu ar eich rhan chi yw'r prif reswm dros y cynnydd mewn biliau treth gyngor. Mae'n amlwg, pe na fyddech yn gwario arian yn ganolog ar gynlluniau gwirion fel y tâl ffarwél euraid, y mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r cynghorau a arweinir gan Lafur yn ei wrthod, y gallech ddarparu mwy o arian i gynghorau i'w galluogi i gadw lefelau'r dreth gyngor yn is. Nid proffwydo gwae yw hyn; cyngor da ydyw y dylech ei ddilyn o bosibl.

Y Prif Weinidog: Dylech ddilyn y cyngor a roddwyd gan Gareth Neale, ffigwr amlwg o blith y Ceidwadwyr mewn llywodraeth leol, neu gan William Graham, a oedd yn llefarydd drosoch yn y Pwyllgor ac a gafodd gyfle i wrthwynebu'r cynllun ond na wnaeth hynny. Yr oeddem i gyd yn meddwl ein bod yn mynd ymlaen—

Nick Bourne: There was no vote on it.

Nick Bourne: Ni fu pleidlais arno.

The First Minister: Because he did not ask for a vote, Nick. He could have asked for a vote, but he chose not to ask for one and did not oppose the scheme, thereby fooling us all into thinking that the Conservatives were in favour of it. Next thing you know, when a whiff of a little political popularity comes along, you are trying to say that, if it were not for the golden goodbyes, council tax could be cut in half. Goodness me, we did not think that there would be a problem with councillors receiving the full 'Betsy-Duncan-Smith-secretarial-allowance' to go. Why are the Tories suddenly turning against this? We thought that the Conservatives were in favour of receiving handouts of £15,000 for this, that and the other.

Y Prif Weinidog: Am na ofynnodd am bleidlais, Nick. Gallai fod wedi gofyn am bleidlais, ond dewisodd beidio ac ni wrthwynebodd y cynllun, gan ein twyllo i gyd drwy hynny i gredu bod y Ceidwadwyr o'i blaid. Yn nesaf peth, pan gododd y posibilrwydd o ychydig boblogrwydd gwleidyddol, yr ydych yn ceisio dweud, oni bai am y taliadau ffarwél euraid, y gellid haneru'r dreth gyngor. Mawredd, ni chredem y byddai gwrthwynebiad i gynghorwyr dderbyn y lwfans ysgrifenyddol llawn yn null Betsy Duncan Smith i ymadael. Pam y mae'r Torïaid yn troi yn erbyn hyn yn sydyn? Credem fod y Ceidwadwyr o blaid derbyn rhoddion o £15,000 am y naill beth a'r llall.

We know what happens in the real world, Nick; we know that local government will ask opposition politicians to join it in blaming the Assembly Government for not giving it a bigger increase in the rate support grant. We have doubled that sum from 2.5 per cent, as set out in the previous indicative budget, to 5 per cent. We now expect democratic pressures and the drawing down of reserves in the historic way to keep local authority increases at reasonable levels.

Gwyddom beth sy'n digwydd yn y byd go-iawn, Nick; gwyddom y bydd llywodraeth leol yn gofyn i wleidyddion yr wrthblaid ymuno â hi i roi'r bai ar Lywodraeth y Cynulliad am beidio â rhoi mwy o gynnydd iddi yng ngrant cynnal y trethi. Yr ydym wedi dyblu'r swm hwnnw o 2.5 y cant, fel y'i nodwyd yn y gyllideb ddynodol flaenorol, i 5 y cant. Yn awr disgwyliwn y bydd pwysau democrataidd a'r defnydd o gronfeydd wrth gefn yn y modd arferol yn cadw'r codiadau gan awdurdodau lleol ar lefelau rhesymol.

Cefnogi Athrawon Supporting Teachers

Q9 Nick Bourne: What measures is the Government taking to support teachers in Wales? (OAQ29184)

C9 Nick Bourne: Pa gamau y mae'r Llywodraeth yn eu cymryd i gefnogi athrawon yng Nghymru? (OAQ29184)

The First Minister: Teachers in Wales are well supported. We have introduced induction for newly qualified teachers, and we plan to follow this by two years of early professional development. Continuing professional development for teachers in mid-career is well established, and recent changes in the teachers' contract will mean real reductions in workload of a kind not seen for generations.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae athrawon yng Nghymru yn cael cymorth da. Yr ydym wedi cyflwyno cwrs sefydlu ar gyfer athrawon sydd newydd ymgymhwyso, a bwriadwn ychwanegu dwy flynedd o ddatblygu proffesiynol cynnar at hynny. Mae datblygu proffesiynol parhaus ar gyfer athrawon sydd ar ganol eu gyrfa wedi'i hen sefydlu, a bydd newidiadau diweddar i gontract yr athrawon yn golygu y ceir gostyngiad gwirioneddol yn y baich gwaith o fath nas gwelwyd ers cenedlaethau.

Nick Bourne: Libanus primary school,

Nick Bourne: Cafodd ysgol gynradd

which was facing the threat of closure by Powys County Council, won a reprieve last night from the education committee. Angela Reed, the school's headteacher, stated:

'We have been battling to keep this school open for 9 years. All we want is for the local authority and others to leave us alone so that we can get on with the job of teaching children.'

Will you consider introducing a policy that will prevent schools from having to face the threat of closure year in, year out? Should there not be a moratorium for a period of time when a county council has decided that a school should not close? Otherwise, there is a blight over the school and the pupils, making it impossible for normal school life to continue; it also has a knock-on effect on the community.

The First Minister: I do not know the individual circumstances of Libanus primary school, but I have driven through the village many times, where I have occasionally stopped for coffee. I will be interested to read any reports on what happened at last night's education committee in Powys.

There is a longstanding problem in Wales, where single teacher and small schools struggle to deliver the national curriculum without some form of federation or rearrangement. Rural authorities, such as Powys, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire, north Pembrokeshire—parts of the old Dyfed—experience this problem more acutely than any other part of the UK apart from the highlands and islands of Scotland. How do you deliver the national curriculum with a single teacher or a head teacher—who must also teach—and one other classroom teacher when the number of pupils may be 10 or 15? I do not know what the situation is in Libanus.

Our proposals ban local authorities from closing small rural schools on financial grounds. However, if they follow the correct consultation procedures, they are entitled to close or federate those schools on the grounds of better delivery of the national curriculum.

Libanus, a oedd yn wynebu bygythiad i'w chau gan Gyngor Sir Powys, ei harbed neithiwr gan y pwyllgor addysg. Dywedodd Angela Reed, pennaeth yr ysgol:

Buom yn ymladd i gadw'r ysgol hon yn agored ers naw mlynedd. Y cwbl a ddymunwn yw i'r awdurdod lleol ac eraill adael llonydd inni fel y gallwn fynd ymlaen â'r gwaith o ddysgu plant.

A wnewch chi ystyried cyflwyno polisi a fydd yn peri na fydd ysgolion yn gorfod wynebu bygythiad i'w cau o'r naill flwyddyn i'r llall? Oni ddylid cael cyfnod o ohiriad pan fo cyngor sir wedi penderfynu na ddylai ysgol gau? Fel arall, bydd yr ysgol a'r disgyblion dan gwmwl, gan ei gwneud yn amhosibl i fywyd ysgol arferol barhau; caiff effaith ganlyniadol ar y gymuned hefyd.

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni wn am amgylchiadau arbennig ysgol gynradd Libanus, ond yr wyf wedi mynd drwy'r pentref yn fy nghar lawer gwaith, ac yr wyf wedi aros yno i gael cwpanaid o goffi o bryd i'w gilydd. Bydd o ddiddordeb imi ddarllen unrhyw adroddiadau am yr hyn a ddigwyddodd yng nghyfarfod y pwyllgor addysg ym Mhowys neithiwr.

Mae hen broblem yng Nghymru, lle y mae athro ar ei ben ei hun ac ysgolion bach yn ei chael yn anodd cyflwyno'r cwricwlwm cenedlaethol heb gael rhyw fath o ffederasiwn neu ad-drefniant. Mae awdurdodau gwledig, fel Powys, Ceredigion, Sir Gaerfyrddin, gogledd Sir Benfro—rhannau o'r hen Ddyfed—lle y mae'r broblem hon yn waeth nag mewn unrhyw ran arall o'r DU heblaw ucheldiroedd ac ynysoedd yr Alban. Sut y mae cyflwyno'r cwricwlwm cenedlaethol gydag un athro ar ei ben ei hun neu bennaeth—sydd hefyd yn gorfod dysgu—ac un athro dosbarth arall lle y mae 10 neu 15 o ddisgyblion? Ni wn beth yw'r sefyllfa yn Libanus.

Mae ein cynigion yn gwahardd awdurdodau lleol rhag cau ysgolion gwledig bach ar sail ariannol. Er hynny, os dilynant y gweithdrefnau ymgynghori cywir, mae ganddynt hawl i gau neu ffedereiddio'r ysgolion hynny ar y sail bod modd cyflwyno'r cwricwlwm cenedlaethol yn well

drwy wneud hynny.

Polisïau Adfywio Gwledig Rural Regeneration Policies

Q10 Mick Bates: Will the First Minister make a statement on his administration's rural regeneration policies? (OAQ29182)

The First Minister: We aim to promote sustainable rural communities, a broad-based rural economy, including the land-based sector, and to protect and conserve Wales's outstanding environment.

Mick Bates: Thank you for that evasive reply because within it, there may be—

The Presiding Officer: Order. We do not use words like 'evasive' in the Chamber.

Mick Bates: Thank you for your advice, as ever, Presiding Officer. I will retract evasive; effusive may be a better word.

Given that you are so positive about your policies, those who live in the Welsh countryside deserve an explanation as to why the recent budget contains cuts in almost everything that pertains to community regeneration, rural support services, rural development programmes and Tir Gofal. Why have you seen fit to present a budget that cuts rural Wales to shreds?

The First Minister: On your previous error of judgment, evasive is what Shane Williams was on Sunday—which is much to be complimented in his case—not what I am on Tuesday.

What is important is that we recognise that the environment, planning and conservation main expenditure group shows an overall uplift of 5.6 per cent on this year. That involves an 8 per cent uplift on previous years for waste. Continued funding for major schemes, such as the strategic recycling schemes, was also announced and will be available to all local authorities. We also announced funding for the Environment Agency; the Countryside Council for Wales will receive a 2 per cent increase in funding, and you will be aware that £2 million was

C10 Mick Bates: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am bolisïau ei weinyddiaeth ar adfywio gwledig? (OAQ29182)

Y Prif Weinidog: Bwriadwn hyrwyddo cymunedau gwledig cynaliadwy, economi wledig ac iddi sylfaen eang, gan gynnwys y sector sy'n seiliedig ar dir, a gwarchod a chadw'r amgylchedd eithriadol sydd gan Gymru.

Mick Bates: Diolch ichi am yr ateb osgoilyd hwnnw gan ei bod yn bosibl bod ynddo—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni ddefnyddiwn eiriau fel 'osgoilyd' yn y Siambr.

Mick Bates: Diolch ichi am eich cyngor, fel erioed, Lywydd. Tynnaf y gair osgoilyd yn ôl; efallai y byddai afieithus yn well gair.

Gan eich bod yn sôn mor gadarnhaol am eich polisïau, mae'r rhai sy'n byw yng nghefn gwlad Cymru yn haeddu eglurhad am y toriadau yn y gyllideb ddiweddar ym mron bob dim sy'n ymwneud ag adfywio cymunedol, gwasanaethau cymorth gwledig, rhaglenni datblygu gwledig a Tir Gofal. Pam y gwelsoch yn dda cyflwyno cyllideb sy'n rhwygo Cymru wledig yn ddarnau?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ynghylch eich camfarn flaenorol, osgoilyd yw'r hyn yr oedd Shane Williams ddydd Sul—sydd i'w ganmol yn fawr yn ei achos ef—nid yr hyn yr wyf fi ar ddydd Mawrth.

Mae'n bwysig inni gydnabod bod cynnydd cyffredinol o 5.6 y cant ym mhrif grŵp gwariant yr amgylchedd, cynllunio a chadwraeth o'i gymharu â'r flwyddyn hon. Mae hynny'n cynnwys 8 y cant o gynnydd o'i gymharu â blynyddoedd blaenorol ar gyfer gwastraff. Cyhoeddwyd hefyd y bydd y cyllid i gynlluniau mawr yn parhau, fel y cynlluniau ailgylchu strategol, a bydd ar gael i bob awdurdod lleol. Gwnaethom gyhoeddi cyllid hefyd ar gyfer Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd; bydd Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru yn cael cynnydd o 2 y cant yn ei

allocated to other agricultural services to implement the CAP reform changes, which were agreed in Luxembourg in June. These included the introduction of the single income payment scheme to replace individual schemes.

gyllid, a byddwch yn ymwybodol bod swm o £2 filiwn wedi'i ddyrannu i wasanaethau amgylcheddol eraill i roi ar waith y newidiadau yn sgîl diwygio'r PAC, a gytunwyd yn Lwcsembwrg ym Mehefin. Yr oedd rhain yn cynnwys cyflwyno'r cynllun taliad incwm sengl i gymryd lle cynlluniau unigol.

2.50 p.m.

Perhaps you should have added to your comments how much you welcomed the prompt payment of some of the CAP support payments this autumn.

Efallai y dylech fod wedi ychwanegu yn eich sylwadau gymaint yr oeddech yn croesawu'r ffaith y cafodd rhai o'r cymorthdaliadau PAC eu talu'n brydlon yr hydref hwn.

David Davies: Point of order. The First Minister repeatedly referred to what he described as the baseless allegations that I supposedly made about the chair of ELWa. I correctly pointed out that she was chair of a company that went into receivership, which meant that thousands of pounds were not paid out to businesses and to the Inland Revenue. I also raised a question about the sale of assets of that company to a parent company of which her husband was a director, which resulted in £50,000 being paid back to creditors. I was right to raise those questions—

David Davies: Pwynt o drefn. Cyfeiriodd y Prif Weinidog dro ar ôl tro at yr hyn a alwodd yn honiadau di-sail y tybir imi eu gwneud am gadeirydd ELWa. Nodais yn gywir iddi fod yn gadeirydd ar gwmni a aeth i ddwylo'r derbynydd, a olygodd fod miloedd o bunnoedd heb eu talu i fusnesau ac i Gyllid y Wlad. Codais gwestiwn hefyd ynghylch gwerthu asedau'r cwmni hwnnw i riant-gwmni yr oedd ei gŵr yn gyfarwyddwr arno, a arweiniodd at ad-dalu £50,000 i gredydwy'r. Yr oedd yn iawn imi godi'r cwestiynau hynny—

The Presiding Officer: Order. It would be helpful if you referred to a point of order. We have not heard one yet.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Byddai o gymorth pe cyfeiriech at bwynt o drefn. Ni chlywsom un eto.

David Davies: My point of order is that the First Minister appears to be silencing me or is simply jet-lagged following his long odyssey to the rugby fields of Australia.

David Davies: Y pwynt o drefn sydd gennyf yw ei bod yn ymddangos bod y Prif Weinidog yn rhoi taw arnaf neu ei fod yn profi jetludded ar ôl ei hirdaith i gaeau rygbi Awstralia.

The Presiding Officer: Order. There is only one way of silencing you, David, and that is by using the priority button, which is in front of me.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid oes ond un modd i roi taw arnoch, David, a gwneir hynny drwy ddefnyddio'r botwm blaenoriaeth, sydd o'm blaen i.

Datganiad Busnes Business Statement

The Business Minister (Karen Sinclair): There are two changes to this week's business. The motion scheduled for today to approve the regulations amending previous decisions to impose special conditions on the

Y Trefnydd (Karen Sinclair): Mae dau newid i fusnes yr wythnos hon. Mae'r cynnig a amserlennwyd ar gyfer heddiw i gymeradwyo'r rheoliadau sy'n newid penderfyniadau blaenorol i osod amodau

importation of peanuts and peanut products from Egypt has been deferred until 11 November. Tomorrow's motion to approve the national minimum standards for day care has also been deferred until 11 November. Business for the next three weeks is as set out in the draft statement, which can be found on the Chamberweb under supporting papers. Finally, the Deputy Presiding Officer determined this morning under Standing Order No. 22.5 that the following Orders need not be referred to a Subject Committee for extended consideration. They are: the Education Act 2002 (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) (No.2) (Wales) Regulations 2003, the Education (Admissions Forum) (Wales) Regulations 2003, the Cocoa and Chocolate Products (Wales) Regulations 2003, the Fruit Juice and Fruit Nectars (Wales) Regulations 2003, the Condensed Milk and Dried Milk (Wales) Regulations 2003, the Specified Sugar Products (Wales) Regulations 2003, the Honey (Wales) Regulations 2003, the Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (Amendment) Regulations 2003, and the South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee (Levies) Regulations 2003, the South Wales Sea Fisheries District (Variation) Order 2003, and the Shrimp Fishing Nets (Wales) Order 2003.

Y Llywydd: A oes gwrthwynebiad i'r datganiad busnes? Gwelaf nad oes. A oes sylwadau ar y datganiad busnes?

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf yn ymwybodol na chodwyd y pwnc hwn yn y cyfarfod y bore yma, ond yr wyf yn siŵr bod y Gweinidog, fel cyd-Aelod o'r Gogledd, yn ymwybodol o'r sefyllfa anffodus yn ffatri Friction Dynamics Cyf yng Nghaernarfon, lle bu gweithwyr ar streic arwrol ers dwy flynedd a hanner. Mae'r gweithwyr wedi ennill achos tribiwnlys, ond nid ydynt wedi derbyn unrhyw iawndal.

Mewn cyfarfod o ddyledwyr y cwmni ddydd Gwener diwethaf, adroddwyd bod gan y cwmni ddyledion o dros £8 miliwn. Mae mater o frys wedi codi. Gofynnais am ymchwiliad i'r grant cymorth rhanbartol dewisol o £1 filiwn a dalwyd i'r cwmni yn 1999. Ysgrifennodd y Gweinidog dros

arbennig ar fewnforio pysgnau a chynhyrchion pysgnau o'r Aifft wedi'i ohirio hyd 11 Tachwedd. Mae'r cynnig ar gyfer yfory i gymeradwyo'r safonau gofynnol cenedlaethol ar gyfer gofal dydd wedi'i ohirio tan 11 Tachwedd hefyd. Mae busnes y tair wythnos nesaf fel y'i nodir yn y datganiad drafft, y gellir ei weld ar we'r Siambr o dan bapurau ategol. Yn olaf, penderfynodd y Dirprwy Lywydd y bore yma o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.5 nad oes angen cyfeirio'r Gorchmynion a ganlyn i Bwyllgor Pwnc i'w hystyried yn helaethach. Y rhain yw: Rheoliadau Deddf Addysg 2002 (Darpariaethau Trosiannol a Diwygiadau Canlyniadol) (Rhif 2) (Cymru) 2003, Rheoliadau Addysg (Fforymau Derbyn) (Cymru) 2003, Rheoliadau Cynhyrchion Coco a Siocled (Cymru) 2003, Rheoliadau Suddoedd Ffrwythau a Neithdarau Ffrwythau (Cymru) 2003, Rheoliadau Llaeth Cyddwys a Llaeth Sych (Cymru) 2003, Rheoliadau Cynhyrchion Siwgr Penodedig (Cymru) 2003, Rheoliadau Mêl (Cymru) 2003, Rheoliadau Dŵr Mwynol Naturiol, Dŵr Ffynnon a Dŵr Yfed wedi'i Botelu (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2003, a Rheoliadau Pwyllgor Pysgodfeydd Môr De Cymru (Ardollau) 2003, Gorchymyn Ardal Pysgodfeydd Môr De Cymru (Amrywio) 2003, a Gorchymyn Rhwydi Pysgota Perdys (Cymru) 2003.

The Presiding Officer: Are there any objections to the business statement? I see that there are none. Are there any comments on the business statement?

Alun Ffred Jones: I am aware that this issue was not raised at this morning's meeting, but I am sure that the Minister, as a colleague from north Wales, is aware of the unfortunate situation at the Friction Dynamics Ltd factory in Caernarfon, where a heroic strike has been underway for two and a half years. The workers have won a tribunal case, but they have not received any compensation.

In a meeting of the company's creditors last Friday, it was reported that the company's debts amounted to more than £8 million. A matter of urgency has arisen. I asked for an inquiry into the regional selective assistance grant of £1 million that was paid to the company in 1999. The Minister for Economic

Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth ataf gan ddweud bod y grant hwnnw wedi ei dalu, ei gwblhau a'i wneud yn gymwys. Dywedodd gweinyddwyr y cwmni ddydd Gwener diwethaf fod anghysondebau yn y defnydd o'r arian a'u bod yn methu â chanfod sut y gwariwyd y £1 filiwn. Os yw hynny'n wir, mae'n sgandal difrifol ac yn gamddefnydd o arian cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol. Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth gynnal ymchwiliad brys i'r sefyllfa annerbyniol hon a gwneud datganiad yn y Siambr yn yr wythnosau nesaf.

Mark Isherwood: Can the Business Minister provide an assurance that there will be a debate in Government time on the way in which the Government audits its statistics? There appear to be some inconsistencies. For example, in Plenary on 12 February 2003 the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, in answering David Ian Jones, stated that:

'Last year, in Wales, only 1,000 16-year-olds left full-time education...or training...We have exceeded the targets set for 2002. We are in a different situation to England.'

I received an e-mail from the Welsh Assembly Government's school statistics unit that states that the Minister is not privy to any data on the destination of school leavers in 2002, and that the information should be available in April 2003. On her statement that the situation is different in Wales than it is in England, in 2001—the last year for which statistics are available—85.2 per cent of 16 year-olds went into continued education, Government-supplied training, or work with structured or planned training in England, compared with only 82 per cent in Wales. In 2001, 6,646 16-year-olds in Wales did not enter any one of those areas. That does not add up and, therefore, we urge you to allow us to debate the issue in Plenary.

Michael German: Minister, you will have

Development wrote to me and said that that grant had been paid, completed and executed appropriately. The company's administrators said last Friday that there are inconsistencies in the use of that money and that they could not account for how the £1 million had been spent. If that is true, it is a serious scandal and a misuse of RSA funds. I ask the Minister for Economic Development and Transport to conduct an urgent investigation into this unacceptable situation and to make a statement in the Chamber in the next few weeks.

Mark Isherwood: A all y Trefnydd roi sicrwydd y bydd dadl yn amser y Llywodraeth ar y modd y mae'r Llywodraeth yn archwilio ei hystadegau? Ymddengys bod rhai anghysondebau. Er enghraifft, wrth ateb David Ian Jones yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar 12 Chwefror 2003, dywedodd y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes:

'Y llynedd, yng Nghymru, dim ond 1,000 o ddisgyblion 16 mlwydd oed a adawodd addysg llawn amser...neu hyfforddiant...Yr ydym wedi rhagori ar y targedau a osodwyd ar gyfer 2002. Yr ydym mewn sefyllfa wahanol i Loegr.'

Derbyniais neges e-bost oddi wrth uned ystadegau ysgolion Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru sy'n datgan na wŷr y Gweinidog am unrhyw ddata sy'n dangos i ble'r aeth y rhai a adawodd yr ysgol yn 2002, ac y dylai'r wybodaeth honno fod ar gael yn Ebrill 2003. Ynghylch ei datganiad i'r perwyl bod y sefyllfa'n wahanol yng Nghymru i'r hyn ydyw yn Lloegr, yn 2001—y flwyddyn ddiwethaf y mae ystadegau ar gael ar ei chyfer—aeth 85.2 y cant o ddisgyblion 16 mlwydd oed ymlaen i dderbyn addysg barhaol, hyfforddiant a gyflenwid gan lywodraeth, neu waith gyda hyfforddiant trefnedig neu gynlluniedig yn Lloegr, o'i gymharu â dim ond 82 y cant yng Nghymru. Yn 2001, nid aeth 6,646 o ddisgyblion 16 mlwydd oed yng Nghymru i'r un o'r meysydd hynny. Nid yw hynny'n gwnued synnwyr ac, felly, fe'ch anogwn i adael inni gael dadl ar y mater mewn Cyfarfod Llawn.

Michael German: Weinidog, byddwch wedi

heard this morning about the UK Government's plans to localise the police force and to change the structure of policing in this country. That re-opens the issue concerning the Assembly's powers over the police forces in Wales and whether powers should be devolved. Will you ask the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration whether she is prepared to make a statement on this matter? There is widespread support for having these powers in the National Assembly and we would welcome clarification from the Welsh Assembly Government on this.

The Business Minister (Karen Sinclair): Alun, I understand that you have already raised this matter concerning Friction Dynamics Ltd with the Minister for Economic Development and Transport and that he has given you a full reply. However, I will ask him to reply to the questions that you have asked today, which I am sure that he heard.

Mark, you seem to have received full replies on statistics. If you write to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning with the specifics, I am sure that she will give you a full reply to your questions. Mike, I do not need to relay your question to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration because she is here and has heard it.

*Derbyniwyd y datganiad busnes.
Business statement adopted.*

**Datganiad ar Ymateb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i'r Adroddiad ar
Gynlluniau Amaeth-amgylchedd
Statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's Response to the Report
on Agri-Environment Schemes**

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): I welcome the former Agriculture and Rural Development Committee's report on the future of agri-environment schemes in Wales, and strongly support the Committee's view that developing a wide range of agri-environment schemes will help to ensure a bright future for agriculture, in economic and environmental terms. I am committed to the principles of sustainable development and

clywed y bore yma am fwriad Llywodraeth y DU i leoleiddio'r heddlu a newid fframwaith plismona yn y wlad hon. Mae hynny'n ailgodi pwnc y pwerau sydd gan y Cynulliad dros yr heddluoedd yng Nghymru ac a ddylid datganoli pwerau. A wnewch chi ofyn i'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio a yw'n barod i wneud datganiad ar y mater hwn? Mae cefnogaeth eang o blaid cael y pwerau hyn yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a byddem yn falch o gael eglurhad ar hyn gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

Y Trefnydd (Karen Sinclair): Alun, deallaf eich bod eisoes wedi codi'r mater sy'n ymwneud â Friction Dynamics Cyf gyda'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth a'i fod wedi rhoi ateb llawn i chi. Er hynny, gofynnaf iddo ateb y cwestiynau yr ydych wedi'u gofyn heddiw, yr wyf yn sicr ei fod wedi'u clywed.

Mark, ymddengys eich bod wedi cael atebion llawn ar ystadegau. Os ysgrifennwch at y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes gan nodi'r materion penodol, yr wyf yn sicr y gwnaiff roi ateb llawn i'ch cwestiynau. Mike, nid oes angen imi gyfleu'ch cwestiwn i'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio gan ei bod yma ac mae wedi'i glywed.

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Croesawaf adroddiad y cyn Bwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig ar ddyfodol cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd yng Nghymru, ac ategaf yn gryf farn y Pwyllgor y bydd datblygu dewis eang o gynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd yn gymorth i sicrhau dyfodol disglair i amaethyddiaeth, yn economaidd ac o ran yr amgylchedd. Yr wyf wedi ymrwymo i egwyddorion datblygu

strongly believe that further development of the agri-environment schemes will make a positive contribution to sustaining the future of the agriculture industry in Wales and the countryside environment. The Welsh Assembly Government's strategic position on future support for agriculture is set out in the 2001 publication, 'Farming for the Future'. We want to create the right framework to reconnect farmers to the reality of market demand and strengthen support for rural development measures such as Tir Gofal. Common agricultural policy reform will help in this regard. As my written statement says, the common agricultural policy reform framework gives us a starting point from which we can shape our support for the needs of Welsh agriculture. Results from the current consultation will help us to make informed decisions on future support, and will give farmers in Wales the opportunity to reduce their costs, improve the quality of production and meet the needs of the markets that they serve.

3.00 p.m.

Tir Gofal, the Welsh Assembly Government's flagship agri-environment scheme, is widely regarded as the best scheme of its type in Europe. The scheme takes forward the best practices identified in the current agri-environment schemes and protects important landscape features, improves wildlife habitats and provides opportunities for public access. Clearly, continuing and expanding the scheme is fundamental to developing a sustainable agriculture industry. The Committee's concerns about operational issues relating to Tir Gofal, including access evaluation, administration and coverage, have all been addressed by implementing the recommendations of the 2001 stocktake. My written statement has clarified what has been done on each of these. On the funding issue, the Welsh Assembly Government has made £14.4 million available in 2004-05. I have made it clear that the revised allocation, together with modulation receipts, will mean that we have sufficient funds to maintain existing agreements and allow continued expansion at the target rate of 60,000

cynaliadwy a chredaf yn gryf y bydd datblygu'r cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd ymhellach yn gyfraniad cadarnhaol at gynnal dyfodol y diwydiant amaeth yng Nghymru ac amgylchedd cefn gwlad. Mae safbwynt strategol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gymorth i amaethyddiaeth yn y dyfodol wedi'i nodi yn 'Ffermio i'r Dyfodol', a gyhoeddwyd yn 2001. Dymunwn greu fframwaith priodol i ailgysylltu ffermwyr â'r wir sefyllfa o ran galw'r farchnad a rhoi mwy o gymorth i fesurau datblygu gwledig fel Tir Gofal. Bydd diwygio'r polisi amaethyddol cyffredin o gymorth yn hyn o beth. Fel y nodir yn fy natganiad ysgrifenedig, mae fframwaith diwygio'r polisi amaethyddol cyffredin yn cynnig man cychwyn inni ddechrau addasu ein cymorth i ddiwallu anghenion amaethyddiaeth yng Nghymru. Bydd canlyniadau'r ymgynghori presennol yn ein helpu i wneud penderfyniadau gwybodus ar gymorth yn y dyfodol, ac yn rhoi cyfle i ffermwyr yng Nghymru leihau eu costau, gwella ansawdd eu cynnyrch a bodloni anghenion y marchnadoedd a wasanaethant.

Mae Tir Gofal, prif gynllun amaeth-amgylchedd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, yn cael ei ystyried gan lawer fel y gorau o'i fath yn Ewrop. Mae'r cynllun yn hyrwyddo'r arferion gorau a ganfuwyd yn y cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd presennol ac yn diogelu nodweddion tirlun pwysig, yn gwella cynefinoedd bywyd gwylt ac yn darparu cyfleodd ar gyfer mynediad i'r cyhoedd. Mae'n amlwg ei bod yn hollbwysig inni gynnal ac ehangu'r cynllun er mwyn datblygu diwydiant amaeth cynaliadwy. Ymatebwyd i holl bryderon y Pwyllgor am faterion gweithredol sy'n ymwneud â Tir Gofal, gan gynnwys gwerthuso mynediad, gweinyddu a chwmpas y cynllun, drwy weithredu argymhellion y cloriannu yn 2001. Eglurir beth a wnaed ynghylch pob un o'r rhain yn fy natganiad ysgrifenedig. Ynghylch mater cyllido, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi darparu £14.4 miliwn yn 2004-05. Eglurais y bydd y dyraniad diwygiedig, ynghyd â derbyniadau o fodiwleiddio, yn golygu y bydd gennym ddigon o gyllid i gynnal y cytundebau presennol ac i ganiatáu rhagor o ehangu yn ôl y gyfradd darged o

additional hectares in 2004-05. For 2005-06 and future years, this budget, like all other Assembly budgets, will be considered in the resource allocation review being undertaken by officials. The Welsh Assembly Government will, of course, continue to give high priority to supporting agri-environment schemes.

I should like to take this opportunity to emphasise the positive work that the Assembly Government has done to take forward the Committee's recommendation on introducing an integrated suite of agri-environment schemes. Importantly, the proposed entry-level scheme published in August will encourage many more farmers in Wales to bring their land into a basic level of environmental conservation. It will reward farmers for taking the first steps towards positive environmental action such as habitat protection and will therefore attune them to the more demanding requirements of Tir Gofal. The pilot scheme I have mentioned in my written statement will be important to help us tailor the scheme details before it starts in 2005-06. The target is to bring 60 per cent of agricultural land not already participating in an existing scheme into the new scheme. I am pleased to say that the Welsh Assembly Government supports all the key principles detailed in the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee report. Much work has already been done, as I have detailed in my written statement.

Finally, I thank the Committee for its comprehensive report. With 25 per cent of all farms in Wales now participating in an agri-environment scheme, farming in Wales is moving in a new direction whereby the richness of the Welsh countryside, its habitats and its wildlife will be enhanced and made more sustainable. I look forward to working with the industry to meet the challenges of the future and particularly to ensuring that we design and implement the new entry-level scheme to the advantage of farmers and the environment alike.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Mae'n dda clywed y Gweinidog yn clodfori Tir Gofal, gan

60,000 hectar ychwanegol yn 2004-5. Ar gyfer 2005-06 a blynyddoedd y dyfodol, ystyrir y gyllideb hon, yn yr un modd â holl gyllidebau eraill y Cynulliad, yn yr adolygiad o ddyraniad adnoddau a gyflawnir gan swyddogion. Wrth gwrs, bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn dal i roi blaenoriaeth uchel i gefnogi cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd.

Carwn achub ar y cyfle hwn i dynnu sylw at y gwaith cadarnhaol a wnaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i fwrw ymlaen ag argymhelliad y Pwyllgor ar gyflwyno set integredig o gynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd. Mae'n bwysig nodi y bydd y cynllun lefel mynediad arfaethedig a gyhoeddwyd yn Awst yn cymell llawer mwy o ffermwyr yng Nghymru i sicrhau bod ei tir yn bodloni gofynion sylfaenol cadwraeth amgylcheddol. Bydd yn gwobrwyo ffermwyr am gymryd y camau cyntaf tuag at weithredu amgylcheddol cadarnhaol fel diogelu cynefinoedd ac yn eu paratoi drwy hynny ar gyfer gofynion mwy ymestynnol Tir Gofal. Bydd y cynllun peilot a grybwyllais yn fy natganiad ysgrifenedig yn gymorth pwysig inni wrth addasu manylion y cynllun cyn iddo ddechrau yn 2005-06. Y targed yw cynnwys 60 y cant o'r tir amaethyddol nad yw'n rhan o unrhyw gynllun presennol yn y cynllun newydd. Yr wyf yn falch o ddweud bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cefnogi'r holl egwyddorion allweddol a nodir yn adroddiad y Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig. Gwnaed llawer o waith eisoes, fel y nodais yn fy natganiad ysgrifenedig.

Yn olaf, diolchaf i'r Pwyllgor am ei adroddiad cynhwysfawr. Gan fod 25 y cant o'r holl ffermydd yng Nghymru'n cymryd rhan bellach mewn cynllun amaeth-amgylchedd, mae ffermio yng Nghymru yn symud i gyfeiriad newydd lle y bydd cyfoeth cefn gwlad Cymru, ei gynefinoedd a'i fywyd gwyllt yn cael eu hyrwyddo a'u gwneud yn fwy cynaliadwy. Edrychaf ymlaen at weithio gyda'r diwydiant i ateb heriau'r dyfodol ac, yn enwedig, at sicrhau ein bod yn cynllunio ac yn gweithredu'r cynllun lefel mynediad newydd er budd ffermwyr a'r amgylchedd fel ei gilydd.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: It is good to hear the Minister singing the praises of Tir Gofal,

gyfeirio ato fel cynllun blaengar nid yn unig yng Nghymru, ond yn Ewrop, a chan fynegi ei gefnogaeth lwyr iddo. Anghofiodd ddweud wrthym, fodd bynnag, ei fod wedi torri cyllideb Tir Gofal. Efallai yr hoffai'r Gweinidog esbonio sut y mae'n hyrwyddo'r cynllun gwych hwn drwy dorri ei gyllideb. Fodd bynnag, nid torri'r gyllideb yn unig a wnaeth: torrodd y swm a ddisgrifiodd yn y Pwyllgor ar 25 Mehefin fel 'angenrheidiol'. Beth a ddigwyddodd ers hynny, Weinidog, a olyga fod rhaid ichi dorri cyllideb Tir Gofal—ar wahân i'r hyn a wyddom, sef bod y gyllideb dan wasgfa a bod y Gweinidog Cyllid yn credu y gellir gwneud arbedion sylweddol drwy dorri ar gyllideb cefn gwlad? Dengys hyn nad oes ac na fu erioed gan y Blaid Lafur fawr o ddi-ddordeb yng nghefn gwlad na chynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd.

Weinidog, soniasoch am y targed newydd o 60,000 hectar ar gyfer y cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd. Pryd yn union y penderfynwyd ar y targed hwnnw, oherwydd dyma'r tro cyntaf i'r rhan fwyaf ohonom glywed amdano? A grëwyd ef i gyfateb i'r gyllideb newydd a gafodd ei thorri?

Yr ydych hefyd wedi sôn am y cynllun peilot i ganiatáu i bobl i ddod mewn i gynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd fel cynllun newydd ac ychwanegol. Yr oedd gennych gynllun mynediad i Tir Gofal ar gyfer 2005, ond mae wedi diflannu o'r gyllideb. Onid y gwir yw, felly, eich bod wedi cyflwyno cynllun newydd yn lle cynllun tebyg a oedd eisoes yn bodoli?

Ar 25 Mehefin, Weinidog, soniasoch am eich blaenoriaethau yn y gyllideb ac am y cynllun ffermio organig. Mae'r gyllideb honno wedi aros yn yr unfan, heb unrhyw gynnydd. Sut yr ydych yn gobeithio cyflawni eich targedau ar gyfer ffermio organig heb gynyddu'r gyllideb? Mae'n siŵr y bydd y targed hwnnw hefyd yn cael ei newid. Onid y gwir yw eich bod wedi torri'r gyllideb a'ch addewidion, ac nad ydych yn barod i gydnabod hynny?

Carwyn Jones: Nid yw hynny'n wir. Fel y dywedais, mae digon o arian i sicrhau y gellir anelu at y targedau, ac mae'r targedau yn realistig. Gobeithiwn y gellir cyflawni'r targedau'n rhwydd. Mae'n bwysig cofio ei bod yn bosibl cynnal y cytundebau sydd

referring to it as an innovative scheme not just in Wales, but in Europe, and expressing his total support for it. He forgot to tell us, however, that he has cut Tir Gofal's budget. Perhaps the Minister would like to explain how he is promoting this excellent scheme by cutting its budget. However, he did more than cut the budget: he cut the sum that he described in Committee on 25 June as 'essential'. What has happened since then, Minister, that makes it necessary for you to cut Tir Gofal's budget—apart from what we all know, namely that the budget is under pressure and that the Finance Minister believes that she can make significant savings by cutting the countryside budget? This shows that the Labour Party does not have, nor did it ever have, hardly any interest in the countryside or in agri-environment schemes.

Minister, you mentioned the new target of 60,000 hectares for the agri-environment schemes. When exactly was this target decided upon, because this is the first time that most of us have heard of it? Was it created to correspond to the new and reduced budget?

You also mentioned the pilot scheme to allow people to enter agri-environment schemes as a new and additional scheme. You had a Tir Gofal entry-level scheme for 2005, but it has disappeared from the budget. Is it not therefore the case that you have introduced a new scheme in place of a similar scheme that already existed?

On 25 June, Minister, you spoke about your priorities in the budget and about the organic farming scheme. That budget is at a standstill, and has received no increase. How do you hope to achieve your targets for organic farming without increasing the budget? I am sure that that target will also be changed. Is it not the case that you have cut the budget and broken your promises, and that you are not willing to acknowledge that fact?

Carwyn Jones: That is not the case. As I have said, there is sufficient funding to ensure that the targets can be aimed for, and the targets are realistic. I would hope that these targets could be easily achieved. It is important to remember that it is possible to

gennym ar hyn o bryd ac ymestyn y cynllun i gynnwys 60,000 hectar yn y cynllun newydd erbyn 2004-05. Felly, mae'n bwysig pwysleisio bod y cynllun yn dal i ehangu a thyfu.

Mae Rhodri Glyn yn dweud nad oes diddordeb gan y Blaid Lafur yng nghefn gwlad, ond cynllun Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yw Tir Gofal, ac mae Lord Haskins wedi dweud mai gan Gymru y mae'r system orau yn Ewrop o gyflawni yng nghefn gwlad—nid un o'r systemau gorau ond y system orau.

Byddwn yn parhau gyda Tir Gofal, ac mae'n rhaid inni sylweddoli y bydd angen inni ystyried strwythur y cynllun eang a bas cyn bo hir, i sicrhau ei bod yn gweithio, bod digon o ffermwyr yn dod i mewn i'r cynllun, a bod arian ar gael i'w weithredu. Mae Tir Gofal yn tyfu ac yn cael ei gefnogi o hyd, a bydd yn ymestyn at y targedau a osodwyd. Mae'r ffaith y bydd Tir Gofal yn sicrhau bod mwy o ffermwyr yn ymuno â chynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd hefyd yn bwysig.

Brynle Williams: I read the document before us with interest. I was surprised and disappointed to see that many of the Assembly's 'priorities' are unlikely to be met due to the dramatic decreases in many areas of the rural and agriculture budget.

The foreword states:

'Agri-environment schemes pay farmers for managing their land in ways that benefit the environment'.

The environmental impact is extremely important. In light of the foreword, I hoped that adequate finances would have been allocated to boost the agri-environment schemes, which give so much to the community in terms of employment for local people, support for the environment, and wonderful facilities for the people who live there and visitors alike. The priorities for rural Wales are wrong, and moneys must be invested in these essential schemes before more damage is done.

maintain the agreements that we have at present and extend the scheme to include 60,000 hectares in the new scheme for 2004-05. Therefore, it is important to emphasise that the scheme continues to expand and grow.

Rhodri Glyn says that the Labour Party has no interest in the countryside, but Tir Gofal is a Welsh Assembly Government scheme, and Lord Haskins has said that Wales's system of delivery in the countryside is the best in Europe—not one of the best systems, but the best system.

We will continue with Tir Gofal, and we must bear in mind that we will have to consider the structure of the broad and shallow scheme before long, to ensure that it works, that enough farmers enter the scheme, and that funding is available to implement it. Tir Gofal continues to grow and to be supported, and it will strive to meet the targets that have been set. The fact that Tir Gofal will ensure that more farmers enter agri-environment schemes is also important.

Brynle Williams: Darllenais y ddogfen sydd ger ein bron gyda diddordeb. Syndod a siom i mi oedd canfod ei bod yn debygol na chaiff llawer o 'flaenoriaethau' y Cynulliad eu cyflawni oherwydd y gostyngiadau sylweddol mewn sawl maes yn y gyllideb wledig ac amaethyddol.

Yn y rhagair dywedir:

'Mae cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd yn talu ffermwyr am reoli eu tir mewn ffyrdd sydd o fudd i'r amgylchedd'.

Mae'r effaith amgylcheddol yn bwysig dros ben. Yng ngoleuni'r rhagair, yr oeddwn wedi gobeithio y byddai digon o gyllid wedi'i ddyrannu i hybu'r cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd, sy'n rhoi cymaint i'r gymuned o ran cyflogaeth i bobl leol, gwella'r amgylchedd, a chyfleusterau gwych i'r rhai sy'n byw yno ac i ymwelwyr. Mae'r blaenoriaethau ar gyfer Cymru wledig yn anghywir, a rhaid buddsoddi arian yn y cynlluniau hollbwysig hyn cyn y gwneir rhagor o niwed.

The document also states that Tir Gofal is the National Assembly's principal agri-environment scheme. The proposed budget drastically cuts this scheme's budget, which would lead to fewer people becoming involved in it. The Cabinet should rethink the budget, and provide the rural development sector with adequate resources to enable schemes such as Tir Gofal to function properly, offering opportunities for all those who wish to become involved. As this is one of the best agri-environment schemes in Europe, it is important that we support it as much as possible.

I am concerned that only 1,200 out of 3,400 agreements to join the scheme have been signed. The National Assembly for Wales must put in support mechanisms to assist everyone with their applications. Everyone involved in Tir Gofal must be listened to. The farming unions have expressed particular concern that the scheme is complex and restrictive and that it places an excessive administrative burden on applicants. This needs to be addressed to ensure equality of opportunity for all.

3.10 p.m.

I agree with the Committee's report that farmers should not be denied access to agri-environment schemes because of their geographical location and that the full suite of agri-environment schemes should be available across the principality. This is such a fundamental issue that I will raise it in Committee to ensure that the statements are being worked to and not just left on paper to be revisited in a couple of years.

I urge you, Minister, to listen to those who work and live in rural Wales. I also urge you to put pressure on your colleagues to increase the agriculture budget in the next financial year so that everyone has opportunities, which will bring benefits to many people living in, working in and visiting rural Wales.

Carwyn Jones: We cannot increase the amount of money available for agriculture as such through the subsidy scheme because it is paid via a set rate. You are right that we look to Tir Gofal to provide us with environmental

Dywed y ddogfen hefyd mai Tir Gofal yw prif gynllun amaeth-amgylchedd y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Mae'r gyllideb arfaethedig yn torri cyllideb y cynllun hwn yn sylweddol, a byddai hynny'n peri i lai o bobl gymryd rhan ynddo. Dylai'r Cabinet ailystyried y gyllideb, a rhoi digon o adnoddau i'r sector datblygu gwledig fel y gall cynlluniau fel Tir Gofal weithredu'n briodol, gan gynnig cyfleoedd i bawb sy'n dymuno cymryd rhan. Gan mai hwn yw un o'r cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd gorau yn Ewrop, mae'n bwysig inni ei gefnogi gymaint ag y bo modd.

Yr wyf yn bryderus am mai dim ond 1,200 o'r 3,400 o gytundebau i ymuno â'r cynllun sydd wedi'u llofnodi. Rhaid i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru rhoi mesurau ar waith i helpu pawb gyda'u ceisiadau. Rhaid gwranddo ar bawb sy'n cymryd rhan yn Tir Gofal. Mae'r undebau ffermio wedi mynegi pryder penodol i'r perwyl bod y cynllun yn gymhleth ac yn gyfyngiadol a'i fod yn rhoi gormod o faich gweinyddol ar ymgeiswyr. Rhaid ymdrin â hyn er mwyn sicrhau cyfle cyfartal i bawb.

Cytunaf ag adroddiad y Pwyllgor pan ddywed na ddylid gwrthod lle i ffermwyr mewn cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd oherwydd eu lleoliad daearyddol ac y dylai'r set lawn o gynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd fod ar gael ledled y dywysogaeth. Mae hyn yn fater mor sylfaenol fel y byddaf yn ei godi yn y Pwyllgor er mwyn sicrhau y cedwir at y datganiadau ac na chânt eu gadael ar bapur i'w hailystyried ymhen blwyddyn neu ddwy.

Fe'ch anogaf, Weinidog, i wrando ar y rhai sy'n byw ac yn gweithio yng Nghymru wledig. Fe'ch anogaf hefyd i bwysu ar eich cyd-Weinidogion i gynyddu cyllideb amaethyddiaeth yn y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf fel y caiff pawb gyfleoedd, a ddaw â buddion i lawer o bobl sy'n byw ac yn gweithio yng Nghymru wledig ac yn ymweld â hi.

Carwyn Jones: Ni allwn gynyddu'r swm o arian sydd ar gael i amaethyddiaeth fel y cyfryw drwy'r cynllun cymorthdaliadau gan ei fod yn cael ei dalu drwy gyfradd osod. Yr ydych yn iawn wrth ddweud ein bod yn

benefits in terms of farming. In reality, we must look to moving funds from pillar 1 to pillar 2 in future, which, translated into everyday language, means moving funds from production subsidies to subsidies that help people farm in a more environmentally friendly way. The trick will be to ensure that the money is moved from pillar 1 to pillar 2 and that people see a benefit from that reasonably quickly.

One difficulty with Tir Gofal, as you rightly point out, is that its scope is necessarily quite restrictive, and we will seek to change that in the long term. It is a successful scheme, yet many farmers will never be able to enter it, which is its weakness. That is why the broad and shallow scheme will be important. We must consult widely as to how that scheme will operate to ensure that we can get in as many farmers as possible so that everybody is able to benefit from a slice of the cake to help them farm in an environmentally friendly way. That will mean benefits not only for farming but also for tourism and the whole rural economy, which is an important point. However, in considering ways of funding this, we must consider carefully what level of modulation would be required to fund a broad and shallow scheme, because there would have to be modulation to fund it. That is where the debate will take us over the next few months.

Mick Bates: I wish to hear more about four areas, Minister. First, on the budget, we are all aware that there have been budget cuts, particularly in the Tir Gofal budget line. As yet, I have not heard an adequate answer as to why there was a cut and whether you intend to restore the money that was removed from that budget line. You cannot stand at the lectern and call this a flagship scheme and claim great credit for it if, when your budget is announced, you manifestly reduce the budget for that scheme.

Secondly, I question your commitment, Minister, to the validity of an important scheme for the Welsh rural economy and for the future of farming. I question its validity on the grounds that, as yet, you have not given us assurances that all these great agri-

disgwyl i Tir Gofal roi buddion amgylcheddol i ni yng nghyd-destun ffermio. Mewn gwirionedd, rhaid inni ystyried symud cyllid o biler 1 i biler 2 yn y dyfodol, sy'n golygu, o'i drosi i iaith bob dydd, symud cyllid oddi wrth gymorthdaliadau cynhyrchu at gymorthdaliadau sy'n helpu pobl i ffermio mewn modd sy'n fwy ystyriol o'r amgylchedd. Y gamp fydd sicrhau y caiff yr arian ei symud o biler 1 i biler 2 a bod pobl yn cael budd o hynny'n weddol gyflym.

Un anhawster ynghylch Tir Gofal, fel y nodasoch, yw bod ei gwmpas o reidrwydd yn eithaf cyfyngiadol, a cheisiwn newid hynny yn y tymor hir. Mae'n gynllun llwyddiannus, ac eto mae llawer o ffermwyr na fyddant byth yn gallu ymuno ag ef, a dyna'i wendid. Dyna pam y bydd y cynllun eang a bas yn bwysig. Rhaid inni ymgynghori'n eang ynghylch y dull o weithredu'r cynllun hwnnw er mwyn sicrhau y gallwn gynnwys cynifer o ffermwyr ag y bo modd fel bod pawb yn gallu cael darn o'r deisen i'w helpu i ffermio mewn modd sy'n ystyriol o'r amgylchedd. Daw hynny â buddion i ffermio a hefyd i dwristiaeth a'r economi wledig yn ei chyfanrwydd, ac mae hynny'n bwynt pwysig. Fodd bynnag, wrth ystyried dulliau o gyllido hyn, rhaid inni ystyried yn fanwl y lefel o fodiwleiddio a fyddai'n ofynnol i gyllido cynllun eang a bas, gan y byddai'n rhaid cael modiweiddio i'w gyllido. I'r cyfeiriad hwnnw y bydd y ddadl yn mynd dros y misoedd nesaf.

Mick Bates: Dymunaf glywed rhagor am bedwar maes, Weinidog. Yn gyntaf, ynghylch y gyllideb, yr ydym i gyd yn ymwybodol bod toriadau wedi bod yn y gyllideb, yn enwedig yn llinell gyllidebol Tir Gofal. Hyd yma, ni chlywais ateb digonol ynghylch pam y bu toriad ac a ydych yn bwriadu adfer yr arian a dynnwyd o'r llinell gyllidebol honno. Ni allwch sefyll wrth y ddarllenfa a galw hwn yn gynllun o bwys a hawlio clod amdano os yw'n amlwg eich bod yn lleihau'r gyllideb ar gyfer y cynllun hwnnw pan gyhoeddir eich cyllideb.

Yn ail, amheuf eich ymrwymiad, Weinidog, i ddilysrwydd cynllun sy'n bwysig i economi wledig Cymru ac i ddyfodol ffermio. Amheuf ei ddilysrwydd oherwydd, hyd yn hyn, ni roesoch sicrwydd inni na fydd bygythiad i'r holl gynlluniau amaeth-

environment schemes and organic farming will not be threatened by the spread of genetically modified crops into Wales. When you make commitments today in response to the Committee's report, we also need to hear a commitment to keeping Wales GM crop-free. Despite various protestations, we are yet to have the confidence that, if more and more people go into organic farming or chose agri-environment schemes, that will mean a more sustainable rural economy. At lunchtime today, Canadian farmers told a group of us that there is no way that GM crops, conventional crops, and organic crops can co-exist. We need confidence to go forward with this type of scheme, but we cannot have that confidence if you refuse to state that Wales will be GM crop-free.

Thirdly, the broad and shallow scheme is welcome. As every one in a farming business knows, these subsidies are top-sliced in order to fund agri-environment schemes. However, not every farmer can access such schemes—I have described Tir Gofal as being elitist in the past. I am pleased that you accept that we must make ground in making the scheme available to everyone. I welcome the fact that you announced, in your recent statement of 30 October, that two trials will be conducted, and I look forward to hearing how you will fund them and on what grounds. However, I urge you to ensure that those trials identify mechanisms that will make it easier for farmers to access agri-environment schemes. The Tir Gofal stocktake showed us that the administrative burden on farmers, as well as on the Countryside Council for Wales, was a disincentive. We must ensure that there is an incentive to take part in the broad and shallow scheme. I would like to know what plans you have to ensure that we return to using standard costs, which would mean that the cost of any work would be known before hand and that the farming business would simply apply for the funding needed for that work. That is a practical way of moving forward.

Finally, you referred to market forces. I am slightly dubious about re-establishing the link between farmers and market forces because I

amgylchedd gwych hyn ac i ffermio organig oherwydd ymlediad cynydau a addaswyd yn enetig i Gymru. Pan wnewch ymrwymadau heddiw mewn ymateb i adroddiad y Pwyllgor, rhaid inni hefyd glywed ymrwymiad i gadw Cymru'n rhydd oddi wrth gnydau GM. Er gwaethaf gwahanol ddatganiadau, ni allwn fod yn sicr eto, os bydd mwy a mwy o bobl yn ymgymryd â ffermio organig neu'n dewis cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd, y bydd hynny'n golygu y ceir economi wledig fwy cynaliadwy. Amser cinio heddiw, dywedodd ffermwyr o Ganada wrth grŵp ohonom nad oes modd i gnydau GM, cynydau confensiynol, a chnydau organig gydfodoli. Mae arnom angen hyder i fwrw ymlaen â chynllun o'r math hwn, ond ni allwn feddu ar hyder o'r fath os gwrthodwch ddatgan y bydd Cymru'n rhydd oddi wrth gnydau GM.

Yn drydydd, mae'r cynllun eang a bas i'w goesawu. Fel y gŵyr pawb sydd â busnes ffermio, mae'r cymorthdaliadau hyn yn cael eu brigdorri er mwyn cyllido cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd. Er hynny, nid yw pob ffermwr yn gallu ymuno â chynlluniau o'r fath—gelwais Tir Gofal yn gynllun elitaidd yn y gorffennol. Yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn derbyn bod rhaid inni ennill tir o ran sicrhau bod y cynllun ar gael i bawb. Croesawaf y ffaith eich bod wedi cyhoeddi, yn eich datganiad diweddar ar 30 Hydref, y bydd dau brawf yn cael eu cynnal, ac edrychaf ymlaen at glywed sut y byddwch yn eu cyllido ac ar ba sail. Er hynny, fe'ch anogaf i sicrhau y bydd y profion hynny'n canfod ffyrdd i'w gwneud yn haws i ffermwyr ymuno â chynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd. Gwelsom drwy'r cyfrif stoc ar Tir Gofal fod y baich gweinyddol ar ffermwyr, ac ar Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, yn wrthanogaeth. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod cymhelliad i gymryd rhan yn y cynllun eang a bas. Carwn gael gwybod pa gynlluniau sydd gennych i sicrhau y dychwelwn at ddefnyddio costau safonol, a olygai y byddai cost unrhyw waith yn hysbys ymlaen llaw ac na fyddai'r busnes ffermio ond yn ymgeisio am y cyllid sydd ei angen ar gyfer y gwaith hwnnw. Mae hynny'n ffordd ymarferol ymlaen.

Yn olaf, cyfeiriasoch at rymoedd y farchnad. Yr wyf braidd yn amheus ynghylch ailsefydlu'r cysylltiad rhwng ffermwyr a

do not understand exactly what that would entail. The philosophy of free market forces and removing all farming subsidies is one that the Conservative Party endorses. However, I do not believe that you are of that ilk. Therefore, will you explain that in more depth, particularly in the context of a higher rate of modulation? There has been some discussion regarding where the modulated money is and how quickly it gets into agri-environment schemes. In order to have confidence in the robustness of the broad and shallow scheme, we need to know how quickly that money will become available through that scheme or Tir Gofal.

Carwyn Jones: You have made several points. On the budget, the amount of money available is enough to process around 500 to 600 new applications per year—that remains the case. Experience has shown that much more resource is needed in order to process more applications. Given that we want to implement the broad and shallow scheme, it makes sense to ensure that we have the money to continue to expand it. However, we must reconsider how it will be financed. Let us make no bones about it: the only way it can be financed is via modulation. The rate at which that would be set is a moot point. I am fully aware of the point that you made about the money having to be recycled back to farmers as quickly as possible. I also understand that many farmers feel that the money from top-slicing and modulating subsidies, which they would otherwise receive, goes to what they perceive to be a smaller group of farmers via a scheme that they have no means of entering. The broad and shallow scheme must change the view of some farmers that the scheme is elitist.

The workings of the scheme are currently subject to consultation but we must accept that financing the scheme will require a higher rate of modulation. That said, it would be helpful if we received match funding from the Treasury—it has been provided in the past and, therefore, a precedent has been set—which would mean that double the money goes back into farming. Whatever your views on farming, the viewpoint of the majority of the public, namely that farming should be practised in harmony with the

grymoedd y farchnad gan na ddeallaf beth yn union a olygai hynny. Mae athroniaeth grymoedd y farchnad rydd a dileu pob cymhorthdal ar gyfer ffermio yn un a gefnogir gan y Blaid Geidwadol. Fodd bynnag, ni chredaf mai dyna'ch barn chi. Gan hynny, a wnewch egluro hynny'n fanylach, yn enwedig yng nghyd-destun cyfradd fodiwleiddio uwch? Bu peth trafod ynghylch pa le y mae'r arian modiweiddio a pha mor gyflym y mae'n cyrraedd cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd. Os ydym i dderbyn bod y cynllun eang a bas yn un dibynadwy, bydd yn rhaid inni gael gwybod pa mor gyflym y darperir yr arian hwnnw drwy'r cynllun hwnnw neu Tir Gofal.

Carwyn Jones: Gwnaethoch sawl pwynt. Ynghylch y gyllideb, mae'r swm o arian sydd ar gael yn ddigon i brosesu tua 500 i 600 o geisiadau newydd y flwyddyn—felly y mae o hyd. Gwelwyd drwy brofiad fod angen llawer mwy o adnoddau i brosesu mwy o geisiadau. Gan ein bod am roi'r cynllun eang a bas ar waith, peth synhwyrol yw sicrhau bod gennym ddigon o arian i barhau i'w ehangu. Er hynny, rhaid inni ystyried y modd y caiff ei gyllido. Gadewch inni beidio â hel dail: yr unig fodd i'w gyllido yw drwy fodiweiddio. Gellir dadlau ar ba gyfradd y byddid yn gosod hynny. Yr wyf yn llwyr ymwybodol o'r pwynt a wnaethoch am yr angen i ailgylchu'r arian fel ei fod yn cyrraedd ffermwyr mor fuan â phosibl. Deallaf hefyd fod llawer o ffermwyr yn teimlo bod yr arian oddi wrth frigdorri a modiweiddio cymorthdaliadau, a gaent fel arall, yn mynd at yr hyn a ystyriant yn grŵp llai o ffermwyr drwy gynllun nad oes modd iddynt ymuno ag ef. Rhaid i'r cynllun eang a bas newid barn rhai ffermwyr bod y cynllun yn un elitaid.

Ymgynghorir ar hyn o bryd ar weithrediad y cynllun ond rhaid inni dderbyn y bydd angen cyfradd fodiweiddio uwch i'w gyllido. Wedi dweud hynny, byddai o gymorth os caem gyllid cyfatebol oddi wrth y Trysorlys—fe'i darparwyd yn y gorffennol ac, felly, mae cynsail wedi'i gosod—a olygai y byddai dwywaith yr arian yn dychwelyd at ffermio. Beth bynnag yw'ch barn am ffermio, mae safbwynt mwyafrif y cyhoedd, sef y dylid ffermio mewn cytgordd â chefn gwlad ac y dylai fod yn alwedigaeth y gall pobl ennill

countryside and be a profession by which people can make a living, must be right.

On market forces, I was referring to the decoupling of subsidies from production, which means, for example, moving towards a single farm payment in 2005 and production no longer being linked to the amount of subsidies paid. Many farmers in Wales believe that production subsidies have distorted and depressed the price that they receive for their animals. Therefore, the Luxembourg agreement is, generally, receiving a favourable response on the ground.

3.20 p.m.

On genetic modification, as a corporate body, we seek the most restrictive policy possible. I reiterate that aim. We are still battling hard at a European level. In fact, my officials are in Brussels today talking to other regional Governments with a view to moving matters forward and signing a declaration on GM crops.

I also met Canadian farmers this morning and what mainly worried me was that they come from a large arable belt in Canada where several people have started to grow GM crops, and where the minimum separation distance is 3 metres. In Wales, it is 200m. Inevitably, that GM crop spread onto land where conventional crops were grown. The particular GM crop that those farmers were talking about is resistant to Roundup, that is glyphosphate. People are familiar with that in their gardens. That means that the GM crop has become a weed. It must be eradicated either with powerful pesticides, or by hand, which never eradicates weeds properly. I was concerned by what I heard and I intend to continue the battle at a European and UK level.

Glyn Davies: Tir Gofal is an outstanding scheme, fully supported by all parties, farmers and everyone who cares about the environment. Much, if not all, of your statement was made in a positive tone. I welcome your positive comments on the Committee's report and your response to it,

bywoliaeth drwyddi, yn sicr o fod yn gywir.

Ynghylch grymoedd y farchnad, yr oeddwn yn cyfeirio at ddatgysylltu cymorthdaliadau oddi wrth gynhyrchu, sy'n golygu, er enghraifft, y symudir tuag at daliad fferm sengl yn 2005 ac na fydd cysylltiad mwyach rhwng cynhyrchu a swm y cymorthdaliadau a delir. Mae llawer o ffermwyr yng Nghymru yn credu bod cymorthdaliadau cynhyrchu wedi camystumio a gostwng y pris a dderbyniant am eu hanifeiliaid. Gan hynny, ceir derbynriad ffafriol, at ei gilydd, i gytundeb Lwcsembwrg ar lawr gwlad.

Ynghylch addasu genetig, fel corff corfforaethol, ceisiwn y polisi mwyaf cyfyngiadol posibl. Ailddatganaf y nod honno. Yr ydym yn dal i frwydro'n galed ar lefel Ewropeaidd. A dweud y gwir, mae fy swyddogion ym Mrwsel heddiw yn siarad â Llywodraethau rhanbarthol eraill gyda golwg ar symud pethau yn eu blaen a llofnodi datganiad ar gnydau GM.

Cyfarfûm innau â ffermwyr o Ganada y bore yma a'r hyn a barai'r pryder mwyaf i mi oedd eu bod yn dod o ranbarth tir â'r mawr yng Nghanaada lle y mae nifer wedi dechrau tyfu cnydau GM, a lle y mae'r pellter gwahanu lleiaf yn 3 metr. Yng Nghymru, 200m ydyw. Yr oedd yn anorfod y byddai'r cnwd GM hwnnw yn ymledu i dir lle y tyfid cnydau confensiynol. Mae'r cnwd GM penodol hwnnw yr oedd y ffermwyr hynny'n sôn amdano yn gwrthsefyll Roundup, sef glyffoffosffad. Mae pobl yn gyfarwydd â hwnnw yn eu gerddi. Golyga hynny fod y cnwd GM wedi troi'n chwyn. Rhaid cael gwared arno, un ai â phlaladdwyr cryf, neu â llaw, ac nid yw hynny byth yn cael gwared ar chwyn yn iawn. Yr oedd yr hyn a glywais yn peri pryder i mi a bwriadaf barhau â'r frwydr ar lefel y DU ac Ewrop.

Glyn Davies: Mae Tir Gofal yn gynllun rhagorol, a lwyr gefnogir gan yr holl bleidiau, ffermwyr a phawb sy'n poeni am yr amgylchedd. Yr oedd goslef gadarnhaol i lawer, os nad y cwbl, o'ch datganiad. Croesawaf eich sylwadau cadarnhaol am adroddiad y Pwyllgor a'ch ymateb iddo, ond

but none of us are fooled by your comments on funding. You are probably as disappointed by this major funding cut as everyone else is. However, I want to repeat Rhodri Glyn Thomas's earlier question, as it mystifies me. When did you agree the target of 60,000 hectares? Who did you agree it with? For how many years has it been running? Had I heard you mention it, I am sure that that figure would have stuck in my mind. When did you announce it? Could you explain where this target came from, just to satisfy us that you have not invented it to fit the amount of money that the Finance Minister has allowed you?

Carwyn Jones: We have been working towards implementing 500 to 600 agreements for the past few years, representing a target area of around 60,000 additional hectares. It draws on our previous successes in terms of expanding Tir Gofal. Processing 500 to 600 new applications every year will equate to 60,000 additional hectares.

Alun Ffred Jones: Croesawaf sylwadau cadarnhaol y Gweinidog yn wyneb yr adroddiad hwn. Ategap yr hyn a ddywedodd Mick Bates am gnydau GM. Mae cadw Cymru yn rhydd o GM yn gyson â'r symudiad tuag at gynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd. Dylem weld yr amgylchedd ac amaeth yn un.

Deallaf y gallwch ariannu'r cynlluniau Tir Gofal presennol gyda'r gyllideb a nodwyd ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf, Weinidog, ond y gwir amdani yw mai'r rheswm y gallwch gynnal y lefelau hynny yw nad ydym yn gallu prosesu mwy, ac y mae'n amlwg nad ydych chiwaith yn dewis gwneud. Pe baem yn rhoi mwy o adnoddau i Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, byddem yn gallu cytuno ar fwy o gynlluniau. Mae'r ffaith bod 1,900 o bobl ar y rhestr aros a 2,000 o bobl eisoes yn rhan o'r cynllun yn awgrymu i mi bod pwysau mawr i ymuno.

Tynnaf eich sylw yn awr at eich ymateb ysgrifenedig. Mae 113,000 hectar yn y cynllun ar hyn o bryd, os y deallaf yn iawn. Soniwch am ychwanegu 60,000 hectar y flwyddyn at y cynllun. Tybiaf y bydd

ni thwyllir yr un ohonom gan eich sylwadau am gyllido. Mae'n debyg eich bod wedi'ch siomi gymaint ag y mae pawb arall gan y toriad mawr hwn mewn cyllid. Fodd bynnag, dymunaf ailadrodd y cwestiwn a ofynnodd Rhodri Glyn Thomas yn gynharach, gan ei fod yn ddirgelwch i mi. Pa bryd y cytunasoch ar y targed o 60,000 hectar? Â phwy y gwnaethoch gytuno arno? Ers sawl blwyddyn y mae ar waith? Pe byddwn wedi'ch clywed yn sôn amdano, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai'r ffigur hwnnw wedi aros yn fy nghof. Pa bryd y gwnaethoch ei gyhoeddi? A allech egluro o ble y daeth y targed hwn, dim ond i'n sicrhau na wnaethoch ei ddyfeisio i gyd-fynd â'r swm o arian y mae'r Gweinidog Cyllid wedi'i ganiatáu i chi?

Carwyn Jones: Buom yn ceisio cwblhau 500 i 600 o gytundebau yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf, sy'n golygu targed o tua 60,000 o hectarau ychwanegol o ran arwynebedd. Mae'n deillio o'n llwyddiannau blaenorol o ran ehangu Tir Gofal. Bydd prosesu 500 i 600 o geisiadau newydd bob blwyddyn yn gyfystyr â 60,000 o hectarau ychwanegol.

Alun Ffred Jones: I welcome the Minister's positive comments in response to this report. I endorse what Mick Bates said about GM crops. Keeping Wales GM-free is consistent with the movement towards agri-environment schemes. We should view the environment and agriculture as one.

I understand that you can finance the current Tir Gofal schemes with the budget allocated for next year, Minister, but the truth is that the reason that you can sustain those levels is because we cannot process more, and it is clear that you also choose not to. If we were to allocate more resources to the Countryside Council for Wales, we could agree more schemes. The fact that 1,900 people are on the waiting list and 2,000 people are already participating in the scheme suggests to me that there is great pressure to join it.

I now draw your attention to your written response. As I understand it, the scheme currently covers 113,000 hectares. You mention adding 60,000 hectares a year to the scheme. I suspect that that will substantially

hynny'n ychwanegu'n sylweddol at gost y cynllun, ond nid yw'r gyllideb fel pe bai'n caniatáu hynny. Mae'n siŵr y byddwch yn esbonio hynny i mi wedyn.

increase the cost of the scheme, but the budget does not seem to allow for that. I am sure that you will explain that to me later.

Tynnaf eich sylw at ddau osodiad yn eich ymateb ysgrifenedig. Mae'r cyntaf o dan y pennawd 'goblygiadau ariannol':

I draw your attention to two assertions made in your written statement. The first is under the heading 'financial implications':

'Mae'r dyraniad adolygedig hwn, ynghyd ag arian modiwlleiddio, yn golygu y bydd gennym ddigon i gynnal y cytundebau presennol a chynnal y targed o ddenu 60,000 ha. yn fwy o dir i'r cynllun bob blwyddyn.'

'This revised allocation, together with modulation receipts, will mean that we have sufficient funds to maintain existing agreements and allow continued expansion at the target rate of 60,000 additional hectares per year.'

Dyna sydd ar waelod tudalen 2. O dan 'argymhelliad 3', y gosodiad yw:

That is at the bottom of page 2. Under 'recommendation 3', you state:

'Fodd bynnag, ar sail y lefel yr ymaelodi a ddisgrifir uchod, bydd gofyn am ryw £20 miliwn y flwyddyn... i gynnal y Cynllun Lefel Mynediad. Mae hwnnw'n fwy nag sydd ar gael yng nghyllideb y Cynulliad ar hyn o bryd'.

'However, on the basis of the uptake levels described above the new Entry Level Scheme will... require around £20 million per year. These sums exceed the Assembly's ability to fund from its existing budget'.

Ai cyfeirio at yr un cynllun yr ydych neu a yw'r ddau osodiad yn gwrth-ddweud ei gilydd? A wnewch chi esbonio hynny?

Were you referring to the same scheme or do the two statements contradict each other? Will you explain that?

Carwyn Jones: Mae'r £20 miliwn yn cyfeirio at y cynllun eang a bas. Ar hyn o bryd, dyna faint y credwn fyddai cost flynyddol rhedeg y cynllun hwnnw. Dyna'r eglurhad o ran yr £20 miliwn. Mae'r ffigur yn fwy na'r hyn sy'n y gyllideb, ac yn fwy na'r hyn fyddai ar gael yn rhesymol i redeg y cynllun. Dyna pam y mae'n rhaid inni ystyried modiwlleiddio eto fel ffordd o gyllido'r cynllun newydd.

Carwyn Jones: The £20 million refers to the broad and shallow scheme. At present, that is how much we expect the annual running cost of that scheme to be. That is the explanation on the £20 million. The figure is higher than what is available in the budget, and is greater than would reasonably be available to run the scheme. That is why we must look again at modulation as a means of funding the new scheme.

Mae costau'r cynllun wedi lleihau dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Arferai cost cynnal cytundeb fod yn fwy nag ydyw yn awr. Yn ogystal, ni ddyrannwyd yr holl arian mewn rhai blynyddoedd. Credwn felly fod y ffigur hwn yn deg a rhesymol, ac y bydd yn ein galluogi i ychwanegu at y cynllun, gan ddenu mwy o bobl i gymryd rhan ynddo. Fodd bynnag, os ydym am ehangu'r cynllun, rhaid inni ystyried ei ailstrwythuro fel cynllun eang a bas a darganfod ffordd arall o'i gyllido. Ar hyn o bryd, yr ydym yn sefyll ar y groesffordd. Ni fydd Tir Gofal yn parhau am byth. Rhaid inni ystyried cynllun eang

The costs of the scheme have decreased over the past few years. The cost of sustaining an agreement used to be greater than it is at present. Also, not all the money has been allocated in some years. We therefore believe that this figure is fair and reasonable, and that it will enable us to build on the scheme, encouraging more people to participate in it. However, if we want to expand the scheme, we must consider restructuring it as a broad and shallow scheme and find other means of funding it. At present, we are at a turning point. Tir Gofal will not last forever. We must consider a new, broad scheme, and that

newydd, a dyna pryd y dylid ystyried o le y daw'r arian i gyllido'r cynllun hwnnw.

is when we must consider from where the money to fund that scheme will come.

**Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Diwygio Rheoleiddio (Tenantiaethau Busnes)
(Cymru a Lloegr) 2003**

**Approval of the Regulatory Reform Order (Business Tenancies)
(England and Wales) Order 2003**

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under Standing Order No. 24, and in exercise of its powers under section 1(5) of the Regulatory Reform Act 2001, agrees that the Secretary of State makes the Regulatory Reform (Business Tenancies) (England and Wales) Order 2003, in terms of the draft Order which was laid in Table Office on 27 October 2003. (NDM1672)

The Presiding Officer: I do not see any speakers on this, and I assume therefore that the Minister does not want to speak to the motion.

Sue Essex: I am not saying that it is overcomplicated, but it seems that way.

Y Llywydd: Symudwn ymlaen felly at y bleidlais.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24, ac wrth arfer ei bwerau o dan adran 1(5) Deddf Diwygio Rheoleiddio 2001, yn cytuno bod yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol yn gwneud Gorchymyn Diwygio Rheoleiddio (Tenantiaethau Busnes) (Cymru a Lloegr) 2003, o ran y Gorchymyn drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 27 Hydref 2003. (NDM1672)

Y Llywydd: Ni welaf unrhyw siaradwyr ar hyn, a chymeraf felly nad yw'r Gweinidog yn dymuno siarad am y cynnig.

Sue Essex: Nid wyf yn dweud ei fod yn orgymhleth, ond mae'n ymddangos felly.

The Presiding Officer: We will therefore move to a vote.

*Cynnig (NDM1672): O blaid 46, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM1672): For 46, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice

Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 3.28 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 3.28 p.m.*

Cymorth i Fusnesau Business Support

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1, 2, 4 and 5 in the name of Jocelyn Davies, amendment 3 in the name of Jonathan Morgan and amendment 6 in the name of Kirsty Williams.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1, 2, 4 a 5 yn enw Jocelyn Davies, gwelliant 3 yn enw Jonathan Morgan a gwelliant 6 yn enw Kirsty Williams.

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): I propose that

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Cynigïaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. welcomes the progress made in delivering the 'A Winning Wales' strategy in relation to supporting businesses, including the launch of the 'Business Eye', which improves access to business support services in Wales;

1. yn croesawu'r camau a gymerwyd i roi strategaeth 'Cymru'n Ennill' ar waith o ran cynorthwyo busnesau, gan gynnwys lansio 'Llygad Busnes', sy'n ei gwneud yn haws cael gwasanaethau cymorth busnes yng Nghymru;

2. welcomes the engagement of the many public and private sector partners in delivering a high quality service;

2. yn croesawu'r ffaith bod llawer o bartneriaid yn y sectorau cyhoeddus a phreifat yn cymryd rhan yn y gwaith o gynnig

gwasanaeth o ansawdd da;

3. encourages businesses in Wales to make full use of the services that exist and to suggest ways in which they can be further improved. (NDM1673)

The purpose of today's debate is to discuss the progress being made in delivering better co-ordinated and well-targeted business support pertinent to business needs. 'A Winning Wales' sets out our vision of a stronger, more sustainable and more competitive economy—an economy capable of winning for Wales high-quality jobs and business at home and abroad. Business support is central to that vision: support that is focused on the needs of businesses in the modern economy, that is trusted, flexible and concise, and that is grounded in the innovation and entrepreneurial culture that is the foundation of the dragon economy. Effective business support has a vital role to play in making Wales the best business environment in the world.

We and our Team Wales partners in the WDA have listened to what the business community in Wales has been telling us. It is because we have listened that we have instigated the considerable changes that are taking place in relation to business support. The aim is to make the services on offer not only more business-friendly, but also easier to access. The Welsh Assembly Government set the WDA the task of bringing greater clarity, coherence and quality to a whole range of business support schemes funded by the public sector, ensuring that, in future, they are responsive to business need, and that they complement private sector support activities as well as delivering for Wales.

3.30 p.m.

Many partners from within the public, private and voluntary sectors have been involved in the process with the WDA, and the agency's role is pivotal. In working with other key stakeholders, the agency has given priority to three areas: the management of the business support gateway; improved co-ordination of business support services; and understanding

3. yn annog busnesau yng Nghymru i ddefnyddio'n llawn y gwasanaethau sydd ar gael ac awgrymu ffyrdd o'u gwella eto. (NDM1673)

Pwrpas y ddadl heddiw yw trafod y cynnydd a wneir ar ddarparu cymorth busnes sydd wedi'i gydlynyn well a'i dargedu'n dda ac sy'n berthnasol i anghenion busnes. Mae 'Cymru'n Ennill' yn cyflwyno ein gweledigaeth o economi gryfach, mwy cynaliadwy a mwy cystadleuol—economy sy'n gallu denu swyddi o ansawdd da i Gymru ac ennill busnes gartref a thramor. Mae cymorth i fusnesau'n hanfodol i'r weledigaeth honno: cymorth sy'n canolbwyntio ar anghenion busnesau yn yr economi fodern, sy'n ddibynadwy, yn hyblyg ac yn gryno, ac sydd wedi'i seilio ar y diwylliant arloesol ac entrepreneuriaid sy'n sylfaen i economi'r ddraig. Mae rôl hollbwysig i gymorth busnes wrth sicrhau mai Cymru yw'r amgylchedd busnes gorau yn y byd.

Yr ydym ni a'n partneriaid yn Nhîm Cymru yn y WDA wedi gwrandao ar yr hyn y mae pobl busnes yng Nghymru wedi'i ddweud wrthym. Oherwydd ein bod wedi gwrandao yr ydym wedi cyflwyno'r newidiadau sylweddol sy'n digwydd mewn cysylltiad â chymorth i fusnesau. Y bwriad yw peri i'r gwasanaethau a gynigir fod yn fwy ystyriol o fusnesau, a hefyd yn haws eu cyrraedd. Gwnaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gyfarwyddo'r WDA i wella eglurder, cydlynadwy ac ansawdd amrywiaeth mawr o gynlluniau cymorth busnes a gyllidir gan y sector cyhoeddus, gan sicrhau y byddant yn y dyfodol yn ymateb i anghenion busnes ac y byddant yn ategu gweithgareddau cymorth y sector preifat yn ogystal â mynd â'r maen i'r wal dros Gymru.

Mae llawer o bartneriaid yn y sectorau cyhoeddus, preifat a gwirfoddol wedi cymryd rhan yn y broses gyda'r WDA, ac mae rôl ganolog i'r asiantaeth. Wrth weithio gyda rhanddeiliaid allweddol eraill, mae'r asiantaeth wedi rhoi blaenoriaeth i dri maes: rheoli'r fynedfa cymorth busnes; cydlynyn gwasanaethau cymorth busnes yn well; a

and meeting the needs of the customer. Real progress has been made in all three areas. In terms of the business support gateway, I was delighted to launch the Business Eye service in September. This aims to make life easier for businesses of all types and sizes in all parts of Wales. It provides the most easily accessible entry point for business and the most easily accessible and most easily understood advice service which is completely impartial. The service does not deliver products itself but rather signposts businesses to the most suitable organisation, whether they be in the public, private or voluntary sectors. It is crucial for the success of our businesses and for the economic prospects of Wales that they have access to the best available advice when they need it. It is a service that will go from strength to strength and deliver for Wales for many years to come.

The second priority is progressing and improving the co-ordination of business support services. The process of clarifying and streamlining Welsh business support services is well underway. An example of this is the launch of SMART Cymru. This enhances and simplifies our innovation support service, making it less bureaucratic and more accessible to businesses, and streamlines separate initiatives into a single enhanced innovation grant. It also delivers on our 'Wales for Innovation' strategy by supporting innovators. Agency support has been pulled into nine clearly defined categories in order to help business.

This brings me to the third priority area of understanding and meeting the needs of the customer. This really matters. The WDA has placed it at the very heart of its strategic plan, drawing on evidence from, for example, SME surveys that are being used to assess, without preconceptions, what customers are seeking from business support.

These changes to business support services complement other key policy instruments, including, for example, regional selective assistance, which continues to address regional economic and employment disparities through attracting inward and

deall a diwallu anghenion y cwsmer. Gwnaed gwir gynnydd ym mhob un o'r tri maes hyn. Yng nghyd-destun y fynedfa cymorth busnes, yr oeddwn yn falch iawn o lansio'r gwasanaeth Llygad Busnes ym mis Medi. Ei amcan yw gwneud bywyd yn haws i fusnesau o bob math a maint ym mhob rhan o Gymru. Hwn yw'r pwynt mynediad mwyaf hygyrch i fusnes a'r gwasanaeth cynghori cwbl ddiuedd hawsaf ei gyrraedd a'i ddeall. Nid yw'r gwasanaeth yn darparu cynhyrchion ei hun ond yn hytrach yn cyfeirio busnesau at y corff mwyaf addas, boed hwnnw yn y sector cyhoeddus, preifat neu wirfoddol. Mae'n hollbwysig er mwyn llwyddiant ein busnesau ac er mwyn rhagolygon economaidd Cymru eu bod yn gallu cael y cyngor gorau sydd ar gael pan fo arnynt ei angen. Mae'n wasanaeth a aiff o nerth i nerth ac a fydd yn mynd â'r maen i'r wal dros Gymru am flynyddoedd lawer.

Yr ail flaenoriaeth yw hyrwyddo a gwella'r cydlyn ar wasanaethau cymorth busnes. Mae'r broses o egluro a symleiddio gwasanaethau cymorth busnes Cymru yn mynd rhagddi'n dda. Enghraifft o hynny yw lansio SMART Cymru. Mae'n gwella ac yn symleiddio ein gwasanaeth cymorth ar gyfer arloesedd, gan ei wneud yn llai biwrocraataidd ac yn haws i fusnesau ei gyrraedd, ac mae'n symleiddio mentrau gwahanol gan greu un grant arloesedd gwell. Mae hefyd yn cyfrannu at ein strategaeth 'Cymru o Blaid Arloesi' drwy gynorthwyo arloeswyr. Mae cymorth yr asiantaethau wedi'i rannu'n naw categori pendant er mwyn helpu busnesau.

Mae hynny'n dod â mi at y trydydd maes blaenoriaeth, sef deall a diwallu anghenion y cwsmer. Mae hyn yn wirioneddol bwysig. Mae'r WDA wedi rhoi lle cwbl ganolog iddo yn ei strategaeth, gan wneud defnydd o dystiolaeth, er enghraifft, o arolygon o fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint a ddefnyddir i asesu, heb wneud rhagdybiaethau, yr hyn y mae cwsmeriaid yn ei geisio gan gymorth busnes.

Mae'r newidiadau hyn i wasanaethau cymorth busnes yn ategu offerynnau polisi allweddol eraill, gan gynnwys, er enghraifft, cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol, sy'n dal i fynd i'r afael â gwahaniaethau rhwng y rhanbarthau o ran yr economi a chyfylogaeth

indigenous investment. The Assembly investment grant is a policy instrument that supports SMEs investing in their business to increase competitiveness, and Finance Wales is another that bridges the funding gap and assists businesses in Wales that are unable to raise appropriate finance from commercial sources. This is complemented by access to commercial management expertise and networks for SMEs. All this helps entrepreneurs to start and develop businesses in Wales.

The business support mechanisms we are putting in place are contributing to developing a strong culture of enterprise and innovation that is making Wales the place to do business. We have achieved great success, not least in closing the gap on the UK average in terms of unemployment and employment, and in punching above our weight in attracting inward investment.

Elin Jones: A wneuch chi gymryd y cyfle hwn i ateb y cwestiwn nad atebodd y Prif Weinidog ynghynt y prynhawn yma, sef i gadarnhau a yw eich Llywodraeth yn bwriadu cael gwared ar y targed o gael cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth sydd yn 90 y cant o gyfartaledd CMC y pen y Deyrnas Gyfunol?

Andrew Davies: I am on record as saying that there is no intention to revise the 90 per cent figure. It is not a target, and it is erroneous to keep describing it as one. 'A Winning Wales' includes specific targets regarding, for example, job creation and increasing the amount spent on business research and development. If we reach those targets, all other things being equal, we will close the prosperity gap between Wales and the rest of the UK in terms of relative GDP or per capita gross value added figures. Perhaps I need to say to Plaid Cymru again that this is not a target and we have no intention of moving away from the 90 per cent figure.

There are major strengths in the Welsh economy. We are creating jobs at an unparalleled rate compared with the rest of the UK. We are attracting indigenous and inward investment. The fundamentals are in

drwy ddenu buddsoddiadau o'r tu allan yn ogystal â rhai cynhenid. Mae grant buddsoddi'r Cynulliad yn offeryn polisi sy'n helpu busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint i fuddsoddi yn eu busnes er mwyn dod yn fwy cystadleuol, ac mae Cyllid Cymru yn offeryn arall sy'n cau'r bwlch cyllido ac yn helpu busnesau yng Nghymru na allant godi cyllid priodol o ffynonellau masnachol. Ategir hynny gan y rhwydweithiau a'r arbenigedd rheoli masnachol sydd ar gael i fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint. Mae hyn oll yn helpu entrepreneuriaid i gychwyn a datblygu busnesau yng Nghymru.

Mae'r dulliau o gynorthwyo busnesau yr ydym yn eu sefydlu yn cyfrannu at ddatblygu diwylliant cadarn o fenter ac arloesi sy'n peri mai Cymru yw'r lle i wneud busnes. Cawsom lwyddiant mawr, yn anad dim drwy gau'r bwlch rhyngom a'r DU o ran cyfartaledd diweithdra a chyflogaeth, a rhagori wrth ddenu mewnfuddsoddiadau.

Elin Jones: Will you take this opportunity to answer the question the First Minister evaded earlier this afternoon, namely to confirm whether your Government intends to scrap the target of raising gross domestic product to 90 per cent of the average United Kingdom GDP per capita?

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf wedi dweud ar goedd nad oes bwriad i adolygu'r ffigur o 90 y cant. Nid targed ydyw, ac anghywir yw ei ddisgrifio felly o hyd. Mae 'Cymru'n Ennill' yn cynnwys targedau penodol ynghylch creu swyddi a chynyddu'r swm a gaiff ei wario ar ymchwil a datblygu ym myd busnes er enghraifft. Os cyrhaeddwn y targedau hynny, ac os bydd popeth arall yn gyfartal, byddwn yn cau'r bwlch ffyniant rhwng Cymru a gweddill y DU o ran cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth cymharol neu ffigurau am y gwerth ychwanegol crynswth y pen. Efallai fod rhaid imi ddweud eto wrth Blaid Cymru nad targed yw hwn ac nad oes bwriad gennym i symud oddi wrth y ffigur o 90 y cant.

Mae cryfderau mawr yn economi Cymru. Yr ydym yn creu swyddi'n gynt nag erioed o'i gymharu â gweddill y DU. Yr ydym yn denu buddsoddiadau o'r tu allan yn ogystal â rhai cynhenid. Mae'r sylfeini wedi'u gosod ar

place for a bright future; we are creating a true dragon economy, a dynamic economy that is a tribute to the efforts of all our partners in Team Wales. We will build on that success to further strengthen the economy of Wales, working with our partners and listening to the concerns of the business community. We will continue to deliver a business support infrastructure that creates the right environment for dynamic and innovative businesses to succeed and prosper.

I will now address the amendments. Jocelyn Davies has proposed two amendments, asking for a full review of business support and a targeted programme of support for businesses with great potential. I recommend that Members reject those amendments because that work is in hand and is progressing well. Jonathan Morgan's amendment 3 wishes to register that the Assembly regrets a lack of progress. That ignores the substantial progress made in delivering the strategy.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Leanne, you cannot stand around in the Chamber. Please sit down or leave the Chamber.

Andrew Davies: I recommend that Members reject amendment 3, therefore. Jocelyn Davies's two further amendments similarly fail to recognise the progress that we have made and supporting them would undermine that progress. Kirsty Williams's amendment 6 suggests that we remove unnecessary bureaucracy through the regulatory appraisal system. I agree, but we are already doing that and so I advise Members to reject amendment 6 because voting in favour of it would undermine confidence in our processes. I commend the motion to Members.

Elin Jones: Cynigiad y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Gwelliant 1: ychwanegu pwynt 1 newydd ac ail rifo'r pwyntiau sy'n weddill yn unol â hynny:

yn galw ar y Llywodraeth i gynnal adolygiad llawn o gyrff cyhoeddus sy'n cynnig cymorth i fusnesau er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn cynnig gwasanaeth cydlynol sy'n hawdd i fusnesau

gyfer dyfodol llewyrchus; yr ydym yn creu economi'r ddraig o ddifrif, economi ddeinamig sy'n deyrnged i ymdrechion ein holl bartneriaid yn Nhîm Cymru. Adeiladwn ar sail y llwyddiant hwnnw er mwyn cryfhau economi Cymru ymhellach, gan weithio gyda'n partneriaid a gwrando ar bryderon pobl busnes. Byddwn yn parhau i ddarparu seilwaith cymorth busnes sy'n creu amgylchedd addas fel y gall busnesau deinamig ac arloesol lwyddo a ffynnu.

Ymdriniaf â'r gwelliannau'n awr. Mae Jocelyn Davies wedi cynnig dau welliant, gan ofyn am adolygiad llawn o gymorth i fusnesau a rhaglen sy'n targedu cymorth ar gyrff sydd â photensial mawr. Argymhellaf y dylai Aelodau wrthod y gwelliannau hynny gan fod y gwaith hwnnw ar y gweill ac yn mynd rhagddo'n dda. Mae gwelliant 3 Jonathan Morgan yn dymuno nodi bod y Cynulliad yn gresynu at ddiffyg cynnydd. Mae hynny'n anwybyddu'r cynnydd mawr a wnaed wrth gyflawni'r strategaeth.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Leanne, ni chewch sefyllian yn y Siambr. Eisteddwch neu ewch o'r Siambr, os gwelwch yn dda.

Andrew Davies: Argymhellaf, felly, y dylai Aelodau wrthod gwelliant 3. Mae dau welliant pellach Jocelyn Davies yn yr un modd yn methu â chydabod y cynnydd a wnaethom a byddai eu cefnogi yn tansilio'r cynnydd hwnnw. Mae gwelliant 6 Kirsty Williams yn awgrymu y dylem ddileu biwrocratiaeth ddiangen drwy'r system gwerthuso rheoliadol. Yr wyf yn cytuno, ond yr ydym eisoes yn gwneud hynny ac felly cynghoraf Aelodau i wrthod gwelliant 6 gan y byddai pleidleisio o'i blaid yn tansilio hyder yn ein prosesau. Cymeradwyaf y cynnig i Aelodau.

Elin Jones: I propose the following amendments in the name of Jocelyn Davies. Amendment 1: add as new point 1 and renumber following points accordingly:

calls on the Government to undertake a full review of all public bodies that offer business support to ensure that there is a co-ordinated approach which is easily accessible and

fynd ato ac sy'n diwallu anghenion busnesau;

responsive to the needs of businesses;

Cynigiaf welliant 2. Ychwanegu pwynt 1 newydd ac ail rifo'r pwyntiau sy'n weddill yn unol â hynny:

I propose amendment 2. Add as a new point 1 and renumber following points accordingly:

yn galw ar y Llywodraeth i dargedu pob busnes yng Nghymru sydd â photensial arbennig i dyfu gyda rhaglen gymorth benodol;

calls on the Government to target a specific programme of support to all Welsh businesses with significant growth potential;

Cynigiaf welliant 4. Ym mhwynt 1 rhoi 'nodi' yn lle 'croesawu'.

I propose amendment 4. In point 1 replace 'welcomes' with 'notes'.

Cynigiaf welliant 5. Ym mhwynt 2 rhoi 'nodi' yn lle 'croesawu'.

I propose amendment 5. In point 2 replace 'welcomes' with 'notes'.

Drwy ganolbwyntio ar brif feysydd gwasanaethau a chefnogaeth i fusnes gall y Cynulliad, drwy ei bwerau cyfyngedig, lywio dyfodol economaidd Cymru. Trafnidiaeth ac is-adeiledd, yn fwy cyffredinol, yw rhai o'r prif feysydd eraill.

By concentrating on the main areas of services and support for business the Assembly, through its limited powers, can direct the economic future of Wales. Transport and infrastructure, more generally, are some of the other key areas.

Mae'n rhaid derbyn y bu cryn weithgaredd mewn gwasanaethau i fusnes yn ystod y pedair blynedd diwethaf. Canmolaf y Llywodraeth hon am funud—os nad yw hwnnw'n ormod o sioc i Brian Gibbons a'i fath—drwy ddweud fod rhywfaint o'r cynnydd yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw wedi bod yn bositif. Croesawaf yr effaith bositif a gafodd grant buddsoddi'r Cynulliad, sydd wedi bod o gymorth i nifer o fusnesau yng Nghymru. Yn ogystal, buddsoddir mwy o arian nag erioed mewn gwasanaethau a grantiau i fusnes, yn bennaf oherwydd Amcan 1.

It must be accepted that there has been substantial activity in business services over the past four years. I will praise this Government for a moment—if that is not too much of a shock for Brian Gibbons and his ilk—by saying that some of the progress during that time has been positive. I welcome the positive effect of the Assembly investment grant, which has benefited many businesses in Wales. In addition, more money than ever before has been invested in services and grants for businesses, mainly because of Objective 1.

Fodd bynnag, mae'n rhaid bod yn wylidwrus o un ffenomenon a ddatblygodd o ganlyniad i'r cynnydd mewn arian, sef y cynnydd dramatig mewn cynlluniau cymorth i fusnes yn y sector cyhoeddus a sectorau eraill, gydag ymgynghorwyr a swyddogion cyhoeddus yn baglu dros ei gilydd ar adegau i gynnig gwahanol raglenni cymorth a chynghor i fusnesau. Un o'r ychydig fesurau o dan Amcan 1 sy'n dangos lefel uchel o wariant yw'r mesur cefnogi busnes. Daeth yn wybyddus y llynedd fod gan y WDA dros 90 o gynlluniau cymorth i fusnes, er, yn ôl y wybodaeth a gawsom yng nghyfarfod diwethaf y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a

However, we must be vigilant of one phenomenon that developed as a result of the increased funding, namely the dramatic increase in business support schemes in the public and other sectors, with consultants and public officials falling over themselves at times to offer various services and programmes to businesses. One of the few measures under Objective 1 that demonstrates a high level of expenditure is the business support measure. It became known last year that the WDA had over 90 business support schemes, although, according to the information that we received at the last meeting of the Economic

Thrafnidiaeth, mae'n debyg ei fod yn ceisio eu rhesymoli ar hyn o bryd.

Lansiwyd Llygad Busnes yn ddiweddar. Gobeithiaf y bydd Llygad Busnes yn fwy effeithiol na'r cyflwyniad a gawsom arno yng nghyfarfod diwethaf y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth. Mae gwir angen i Lygad Busnes fod yn fwy nag ailfrandio ac ail-lansio ei ragflaenydd, Cyswllt Busnes.

Rhag ofn bod unrhyw gamddealltwriaeth, nid yw gwelliant 1 Plaid Cymru yn gofyn am adolygiad o wasanaethau busnes, ond, yn hytrach, adolygiad o rôl y cyrff cyhoeddus sy'n ymwneud â busnes. Llygad Busnes yw'r cyswllt cyntaf i fusnes, ond beth sy'n digwydd wedi'r cyswllt cyntaf hwnnw? Cyfeirir busnes at raglen neu swyddog arall mewn asiantaeth arall.

3.40 p.m.

Fodd bynnag, dylem ystyried busnesau a chanddynt gynllun datblygu ac sydd eisiau ehangu o ran gofod, cynnyrch a gweithlu. Rhaid iddynt drafod gofod gyda'r WDA neu'r awdurdod lleol. Rhaid iddynt drafod grant cefnogi i ehangu gyda'r Cynulliad, y WDA, neu'r awdurdod lleol, a rhaid iddynt drafod hyfforddi'r gweithlu gydag ELWa. Efallai nad yw hynny'n swnio'n ormodol, ond mae busnesau'n dweud wrthyf bod hyn yn gymhleth, aneffeithiol a rhwystredig ar adegau. Rhaid iddynt fynd o un swyddog neu asiantaeth i un arall. Rhaid iddynt aros am ymateb oddi wrth un asiantaeth er mwyn rhoi gwybodaeth i un arall, a dychwelyd at asiantaeth arall am ragor o wybodaeth ac yn y blaen.

Er bod yr holl swyddogion hyn yn gweithio yn y sector cyhoeddus, neu'r gwasanaeth sifil Cymreig, os hoffwch, nid yw o reidrwydd yn wir bod y cydweithrediad rhwng yr asiantaethau a'r swyddogion hyn yn gwbl llyfn. Mae'r busnes sy'n ysu i ddatblygu yn cael ei ddal mewn brwydr diriogaethol yn jwngl y sector cyhoeddus.

Cynigiaf ddau gam i wella'r gyfundrefn hon. Y cam cyntaf yw sicrhau bod pob busnes yn trafod ei gynllun datblygu gydag un swyddog o'r sector cyhoeddus, a bod y swyddog

Development and Transport Committee, it is currently trying to rationalise these.

Business Eye was recently launched. I hope that Business Eye will be more effective than the presentation that we received on it in the last Economic Development and Transport Committee meeting. Business Eye truly needs to be more than a rebranding and relaunching of its predecessor, Business Connect.

In case there should be any misunderstanding, Plaid Cymru's amendment 1 does not call for a review of business services, but rather of the role of the public bodies that deal with business. Business Eye is the first point of contact for business, but what happens after that initial contact? Businesses are referred to another programme or official in another agency.

However, we should consider businesses that have development schemes and which want to expand in terms of space, production and workforce. They have to discuss space with the WDA or the local authority. They have to discuss a support grant for expansion with the Assembly, the WDA or the local authority, and they have to discuss workforce training with ELWa. That might not sound excessive, but businesses tell me that this is complex, ineffective and frustrating at times. They have to go from one official or agency to another. They have to wait for a response from one agency in order to give information to another, and return to another agency for more information and so on.

Although all these officials work in the public sector, or the Welsh civil service, if you like, it is not necessarily true that co-operation between these agencies and officials is entirely smooth. Businesses that are desperate to develop are caught in a territorial battle in the public sector jungle.

I propose two steps to improve this system. The first step is to ensure that every business discusses its development scheme with one public sector official, and that that official is

hwnnw'n gyfrifol am gyflwyno'r cymorth o'r gwahanol asiantaethau i'r busnes. Yr ail gam yw ystyried rôl pob corff cyhoeddus mewn gwasanaethau busnes, yn enwedig adran economi'r Llywodraeth, y WDA, a llywodraeth leol.

Efallai y dylem ystyried uno adran economaidd y Llywodraeth â'r WDA, i ffurfio corff cyfatebol i'r Adran Masnach a Diwydiant, neu eu huno i ffurfio corff annibynnol a fyddai'n fwy grymus na'r WDA presennol. A ddylid trosglwyddo cyfrifoldebau llywodraeth leol dros gefnogi busnes i'r WDA, neu a ddylid diddymu'r WDA yn gyfan gwbl, a throsglwyddo ei gyfrifoldebau i lywodraeth leol a'r Cynulliad? Mae achos clir dros adolygu rôl a nifer y cyrff cyhoeddus sy'n cefnogi busnes, er mwyn hybu cydweithredu a chydlyn, ac i gefnogi busnes yn y modd mwyaf effeithiol.

Alun Cairns: I propose amendment 3 in the name of Jonathan Morgan. Delete point 1, and replace with:

1. regrets the lack of progress in delivering a coherent strategy in relation to supporting businesses, and notes the launch of the 'business eye', aimed at improving access to business support services in Wales;

The Welsh Conservative Party welcomes today's debate. Business support is important in contributing towards closing the ever-widening gap between GDP per capita in Wales and in the rest of the United Kingdom. To avoid any doubt, since records began, Wales has never been as poor compared with England as it is now. It would be useful if the Minister would at least recognise that, because the First Minister seemed to ignore it earlier. It is also worth noting the Minister's changing position and attitude in relation to this issue. In November 2002, the Office of National Statistics mistakenly published an improvement in the figures. The Minister claimed credit for that apparent improvement. In a press release on 21 November, he said:

responsible for presenting the support from the various agencies to the business. The second step is to consider the role of every public body in business services, particularly the Government's economic department, the WDA, and local government.

We should perhaps consider merging the Government's economic department and the WDA to form a body that would correspond to the Department of Trade and Industry, or merge them into an independent body that would be more powerful than the present WDA. Should local government's responsibilities for supporting business be transferred to the WDA, or should the WDA be abolished altogether and its responsibilities transferred to local government and the Assembly? There is a clear case for reviewing the role and number of public bodies that support business, to promote co-operation and co-ordination, and to support business in the most effective way.

Alun Cairns: Cynigiaf welliant 3 yn enw Jonathan Morgan. Dileu pwynt 1 a rhoi'r pwynt a ganlyn yn ei le:

1. yn gresynu at y diffyg cynnydd yn y broses o roi strategaeth gydlynol ar waith i gynorthwyo busnesau, ac yn nodi lansiad y 'llygad busnes', sy'n ceisio ei gwneud yn haws cael gafael ar wasanaethau cymorth busnes yng Nghymru.

Mae Plaid Geidwadol Cymru yn croesawu'r ddadl hon heddiw. Mae cymorth i fusnesau'n bwysig o ran cyfrannu at gau'r bwlch cynyddol rhwng y cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen yng Nghymru ac yng ngweddill y DU. Fel na fydd amheuaeth, ers dechrau cofnodi hynny, ni fu Cymru erioed cyn dlotod o'i chymharu â Lloegr ag y mae'n awr. Byddai'n fuddiol pe byddai'r Gweinidog yn cydnabod hynny o leiaf, gan ei bod yn ymddangos bod y Prif Weinidog wedi'i anwybyddu'n gynharach. Mae hefyd yn werth nodi'r newid yn safbwynt ac agwedd y Gweinidog mewn cysylltiad â'r mater hwn. Yn Nhachwedd 2002, cyhoeddodd y Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol ar gam fod y ffigurau wedi gwella. Hawliodd y Gweinidog glod am y gwelliant ymddangosiadol hwnnw. Mewn datganiad i'r

wasg ar 21 Tachwedd, dywedodd:

‘It is good news that the GDP gap between Wales and the rest of the United Kingdom is narrower. This confirms that our aim of Welsh GDP per person rising to 90 per cent of the UK average over the next 10 years or so, can be achieved.’

Newydd da yw bod y bwlch o ran cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth rhwng Cymru a gweddill y Deyrnas Unedig yn llai. Mae hyn yn cadarnhau bod modd cyrraedd ein nod o godi’r CMC y pen yng Nghymru i 90 y cant o gyfartaledd y DU dros y 10 mlynedd nesaf, fwy neu lai.

That is what he said when he thought that the figures had improved. However, a few months ago it became clear that there was, in fact, a decline. The Minister should therefore have stated—and I note the absence of a press release at that time—that it was sad news that the GDP gap between Wales and the rest of the United Kingdom was wider, and that it confirmed the Government’s view that its aim of Welsh GDP rising to 90 per cent would not be achieved. When the figures were good, he was ready to take the credit for them.

Dyna a ddywedodd pan gredai fod y ffigurau wedi gwella. Fodd bynnag, ychydig fisoedd yn ôl, daeth yn amlwg bod dirywiad, mewn gwirionedd. Dylai’r Gweinidog fod wedi dweud felly—a nodaf na fu datganiad i’r wasg bryd hynny—mai newydd drwg oedd bod y bwlch o ran CMC rhwng Cymru a gweddill y Deyrnas Unedig yn fwy, a bod hynny’n ategu barn y Llywodraeth na fyddid yn cyrraedd ei nod o godi’r CMC yng Nghymru i 90 y cant. Pan oedd y ffigurau’n dda, yr oedd yn barod i dderbyn y clod amdanynt.

Brian Gibbons: As you will know, the most rapid deterioration in the relative GDP per capita of Wales was in the early to mid-1990s. Will you condemn the Government that was responsible for that appalling economic management in Wales in the same terms that you castigate the present Government, although GDP is growing year on year?

Brian Gibbons: Fel y gwyddoch, rhwng dechrau a chanol y 1990au y cafwyd y dirywiad cyflymaf yn y CMC y pen cymharol yng Nghymru. A wnewch gondemnio’r Llywodraeth a oedd yn gyfrifol am y rheolaeth economaidd warthus honno yng Nghymru yn yr un modd ag y ceryddwch y Llywodraeth bresennol, er bod y CMC yn cynyddu o’r naill flwyddyn i’r llall?

Alun Cairns: In 1995 and 1996, GDP per capita was 83 per cent of the UK average but it is now just below 79 per cent of the UK average. That is the reality, and that is under a Labour administration.

Alun Cairns: Yn 1995 ac 1996, yr oedd y CMC y pen yn 83 y cant o gyfartaledd y DU ond bellach mae ychydig yn is na 79 y cant o gyfartaledd y DU. Dyna’r gwir, ac o dan weinyddiaeth Lafur y mae hynny.

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport stated that:

Dywedodd y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth fod:

‘These figures are an encouraging sign that we are on track to achieving our ambitious targets.’

y ffigurau hyn yn arwydd calonogol ein bod ar y trywydd iawn i gyrraedd ein targedau uchelgeisiol.

That was when he thought that the figures were good. As the figures are clearly disappointing, he should now release a corresponding statement, saying that ‘these figures are a sign that we are not on track to achieve our ambitious targets’.

Yr oedd hynny pan gredai fod y ffigurau’n dda. Gan ei bod yn amlwg bod y ffigurau’n siomedig, dylai gyhoeddi datganiad cyfatebol yn awr, gan ddweud bod ‘y ffigurau hyn yn arwydd nad ydym ar y trywydd iawn i gyrraedd ein targedau uchelgeisiol’.

The Minister confirmed the objective less than two months ago in response to a written Assembly question, when he continued to advocate the target of growth to 90 per cent of the UK average GDP per capita. The cat was let out of the bag last week, however, with the confession that that target was to be withdrawn. The Minister stated in the Economic Development and Transport Committee meeting last week that the targets were to be refreshed and I ask that he look closely at the minutes of that meeting, when they are published, and on the internet to see exactly what he said word for word, with a verbatim report. I was astonished when the Minister said a few moments ago that this was not a target, because he said on 11 September, in response to a written Assembly question, that

‘The long-term aspiration set out in ‘A Winning Wales’, the national economic development strategy of the Welsh Assembly Government, is to increase Welsh GVA per person to 90 per cent of the UK average over the next decade. The Welsh Assembly Government remains committed to this aim.’

The Minister is all over the place. He does not know where he stands. One minute he says that he is refreshing the target; the next he says that he is not. Then one of his ministerial colleagues releases a statement stating that they will drop the 90 per cent GVA target. That was done when political attention happened to be elsewhere, because they wanted to bury the bad news. Then again, it is clear in his response to a written Assembly question just over a month ago that the Minister is committed to the target. The Minister does not know what he is aiming to achieve; he does not know whether he is aiming for 90 per cent of UK GDP per capita or another target.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Do you agree that the Minister has a moving target and that it is far more difficult to hit such targets?

Gwnaeth y Gweinidog gadarnhau'r amcan hwnnw lai na deufis yn ôl mewn ymateb i gwestiwn Cynulliad ysgrifenedig, pan ddaliodd i ddadlau dros y targed o dyfu hyd at 90 y cant o'r CMC y pen cyfartalog yn y DU. Gollyngwyd y gath o'r cwd yr wythnos diwethaf, fodd bynnag, pan gyfaddefwyd bod y targed hwnnw i'w dynnu'n ôl. Dywedodd y Gweinidog yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth yr wythnos diwethaf y câi'r targedau eu diweddarau a gofynnaf iddo edrych yn fanwl ar gofnodion y cyfarfod hwnnw, pan gyhoeddir hwy, ac ar y rhyngwyd i weld beth yn union a ddywedodd, mewn adroddiad gair am air. Synnais pan ddywedodd y Gweinidog ychydig eiliadau'n ôl nad targed oedd hwn, oherwydd dywedodd ar 11 Medi, mewn ymateb i gwestiwn Cynulliad ysgrifenedig, mai

y dyhead tymor hir a nodir yn ‘Cymru'n Ennill’, strategaeth datblygu economaidd cenedlaethol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, yw cynyddu'r gwerth ychwanegol crynswth y pen yng Nghymru i 90 y cant o gyfartaledd y DU dros y degawd nesaf. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi ymrwymo i'r nod hon o hyd.

Mae meddwl y Gweinidog ar chwâl. Ni wŷr ym mhle y mae'n sefyll. Un funud y mae'n dweud ei fod yn diweddarau'r targed; y funud nesaf dywed nad ydyw. Wedyn dyma un o'i gyd-Weinidogion yn cyhoeddi datganiad i'r perwyl y byddant yn rhoi'r gorau i'r targed o 90 y cant o'r gwerth ychwanegol crynswth. Gwnaed hynny pan oedd y sylw gwleidyddol yn digwydd bod ar ryw beth arall, am eu bod yn dymuno celu'r newydd drwg. Ac wedyn, mae'n amlwg yn ei ymateb i gwestiwn Cynulliad ysgrifenedig ychydig dros fis yn ôl fod y Gweinidog wedi ymrwymo i'r targed. Ni wŷr y Gweinidog beth y mae'n ceisio ei gyflawni; ni wŷr a yw'n anelu at 90 y cant o CMC y pen y DU neu ryw darged arall.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A ydych yn cytuno mai targed symudol sydd gan y Gweinidog a'i bod yn llawer mwy anodd taro targedau o'r fath?

Alun Cairns: I welcome that intervention. Some might think that he is dynamic, others that he is pragmatic, but I just think that he does not have a clue.

The need for effective business support has never been as great as it is today. Some 12 months ago the Minister sought to avoid publishing the number of business support schemes and initiatives that were available—an answer to a written Assembly question referred me to the Business Connect directory because the information was not available centrally. He was, however, eventually asked to publish the details. There were 84 Welsh Development Agency schemes in total. That figure does not include Wales Tourist Board initiatives, European schemes or other Assembly initiatives that are organised centrally, such as regional selective assistance and the Assembly investment grant. This highlights the confusion that existed among the business community. How could businesses be expected to trawl through these schemes and to make sense of so many confusing priorities?

This debate provides the opportunity to measure progress. A response to a written Assembly question during the last week or so established the latest developments.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: You need to wind up now, Alun.

Alun Cairns: I will do so now. Forty-four schemes have been cut. That is good news, so why is the business sector complaining? The devil is in the detail: 15 new schemes have been added, which takes us to 57 schemes. Given that there were 84 schemes, that seems to be positive news, until, again, we consider the detail. We now have the silly situation whereby schemes such as the new business start programme—all divisions and the new business start programme for high-growth businesses have been merged under the title the new business start programme. The Minister is missing the point if he thinks that by removing titles and merging schemes under one sub-heading the business support programme has been streamlined. The number of staff at the WDA has increased from 575 to 850 and the budget for staff costs has increased from £21.8 million to £28.9

Alun Cairns: Croesawaf yr ymyriad hwnnw. Gallai rhai feddwl ei fod yn ddeinamig, ac eraill ei fod yn bragmatig, ond nid ydyw ond yn ddi-glem yn fy marn i.

Ni fu erioed fwy o angen am gymorth busnes effeithiol. Tua 12 mis yn ôl ceisiodd y Gweinidog osgoi cyhoeddi nifer y cynlluniau a mentrau cymorth busnes a oedd ar gael—mewn ateb i gwestiwn Cynulliad ysgrifenedig fe'm cyfeiriwyd at gyfarwyddiadur Cyswllt Busnes gan nad oedd y wybodaeth ar gael yn ganolog. Fodd bynnag, yn y diwedd gofynnwyd iddo gyhoeddi'r manylion. Yr oedd cyfanswm o 84 o gynlluniau gan Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru. Nid yw'r ffigur hwnnw'n cynnwys mentrau Bwrdd Croeso Cymru, cynlluniau Ewropeaidd neu fentrau eraill o eiddo'r Cynulliad a drefnir yn ganolog, fel cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol a grant buddsoddi'r Cynulliad. Mae hynny'n dangos y dryswch a geid ymysg pobl busnes. Sut y gellid disgwyl i fusnesau chwilota drwy'r cynlluniau hyn a gwneud synnwyr o gynifer o flaenoriaethau dryslyd?

Mae'r ddadl hon yn cynnig cyfle i fesur cynnydd. Mewn ymateb i gwestiwn Cynulliad ysgrifenedig yn ystod yr wythnos diwethaf nodwyd y datblygiadau diweddaraf.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Rhaid ichi orffen yn awr, Alun.

Alun Cairns: Gwnaf hynny'n awr. Torrwyd 44 o gynlluniau. Mae hynny'n newyddion da, felly pam y mae'r sector busnes yn cwyno? Gwelir y diffyg drwy graffu'n fanylach: ychwanegwyd 15 o gynlluniau newydd, sy'n codi'r nifer i 57 o gynlluniau. O ystyried bod 84 o gynlluniau, mae hynny'n ymddangos yn newyddion da, hyd nes yr ystyriwn y manylion eto. Mae gennym sefyllfa hurt bellach lle y mae cynlluniau fel y rhaglen cychwyn busnes newydd ar gyfer pob adran a'r rhaglen cychwyn busnes ar gyfer busnesau sy'n tyfu'n gyflym wedi'u cyfuno o dan enw'r rhaglen cychwyn busnes newydd. Mae'r Gweinidog yn camgymryd os yw'n credu bod y rhaglen cymorth busnes wedi'i symleiddio drwy ddileu enwau a chyfuno cynlluniau o dan un is-bennawd. Mae nifer y staff yn y WDA wedi codi o 575 i 850 ac

million. That demonstrates where the money is going. That is not good value for money, which is why business is complaining.

3.50 p.m.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Time is short, but we can just about include all speakers. I might now not get in the last Conservative speaker.

Jenny Randerson: I propose amendment 6 in the name of Kirsty Williams. Add as a new point at the end of the motion:

calls for the climate for enterprise to be improved by removing unnecessary bureaucracy through the regulatory appraisal system.

I am disappointed that the Minister will reject the amendment on the grounds that he agrees with it. That is rather a novel approach to debate in the Assembly.

The Government must take the opportunity to block burdensome and cumbersome Whitehall legislation that places too many unnecessary pressures on Welsh business. The Welsh Labour Government should not accept a measure without question just because it comes from the UK Labour Government. The most effective way to do the job is through the regulatory appraisal system when new legislation comes on stream. Under the partnership Government, a concordat was established between the Welsh Assembly Government and Whitehall—to my knowledge, the Minister is yet to take advantage of that tool. Minister, did you know that you had that at your disposal; have you examined all new legislation affecting business with this in mind and, if so, when did you act to ensure that Whitehall simplifies legislation to reduce the burden on Welsh businesses?

The Welsh Liberal Democrats propose amendment 6 to ensure that maximum use is made of regulatory appraisals to benefit Welsh business. Every piece of legislation

mae'r gyllideb ar gyfer costau staff wedi codi o £21.8 miliwn i £28.9 miliwn. Dengys hynny i ble y mae'r arian yn mynd. Nid yw hynny'n cynnig gwerth da am arian, a dyna pam y mae byd busnes yn cwyno.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae amser yn brin, ond bydd modd inni gynnwys yr holl siaradwyr o drwch blewyn. Mae'n bosibl yn awr na fyddaf yn cyrraedd siaradwr olaf y Ceidwadwyr.

Jenny Randerson: Cynigiau welliant 6 yn enw Kirsty Williams. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn galw am wella'r hinsawdd ar gyfer mentergarwch drwy gael gwared ar fiwrocratiaeth ddiangen drwy'r system arfarniad rheoliadol.

Yr wyf yn siomedig y bydd y Gweinidog yn gwrthod y gwelliant ar y sail ei fod yn cydweld ag ef. Mae hynny'n ymagwedd eithaf newydd at ddadlau yn y Cynulliad.

Rhaid i'r Llywodraeth achub ar y cyfle i atal deddfwriaeth feichus a thrafferthus o Whitehall sy'n rhoi gormod o bwysau diangen ar fusnes yng Nghymru. Ni ddylai Llywodraeth Lafur Cymru dderbyn mesur yn ddigwestiwn dim ond am iddo ddod oddi wrth Lywodraeth Lafur y DU. Y dull mwyaf effeithiol o wneud y gwaith yw drwy'r system gwerthuso rheoliadol pan yw deddfwriaeth newydd yn yr arfaeth. O dan y Llywodraeth bartneriaeth, sefydlwyd concordat rhwng Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a Whitehall—hyd y gwn i, nid yw'r Gweinidog wedi manteisio ar yr arf hwnnw eto. Weinidog, a wyddech fod hwnnw ar gael i chi; a ydych wedi archwilio'r holl ddeddfwriaeth newydd sy'n effeithio ar fusnes gan ddal hynny mewn cof ac, os gwnaethoch, pa bryd y cymerasoch gamau i sicrhau bod Whitehall yn symleiddio deddfwriaeth er mwyn ysgafnhau'r baich ar fusnesau yng Nghymru?

Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn cynnig gwelliant 6 er mwyn sicrhau y gwneir y defnydd mwyaf o werthusiadau rheoliadol er budd busnes yng Nghymru. Rhaid

must be considered in terms of whether we need it, whether the same job could be done more simply and what its impact will be on Welsh business. 'A Winning Wales' called for the simplification and streamlining of services to business, which was to be taken forward in the WDA's review of business support services. Business Eye provides a useful and helpful way to point businesses in the right direction, and we welcome that. The fact remains, however—as reported at the last Committee meeting—that there are still more than 50 support initiatives, each with its own brand. In addition, over 500 schemes and grants were available to businesses in Wales, which is a wealth that is confusing. If Business Eye is to be effective, it must be accompanied by a rigorous review of schemes. To date, the Welsh Assembly Government has not satisfactorily addressed this system, which is a bureaucratic nightmare, much to the detriment of Welsh businesses. It is imperative that we develop an integrated business support system, with a particular focus on growth sectors. It is crucial that we do that, because one piece of bad news is that the number of VAT-registered businesses is diminishing. More businesses are being created, but they are failing at a greater rate than they are being created. That is a clear indication that the Government is not living up to the commitments made in 'A Winning Wales'.

On the 90 per cent target—or, rather, non-target—I have some sympathy for the Minister, because we are not alone in lagging behind: the whole of the UK is lagging behind the south-east of England, which is growing fatter and fatter. We should be worried that the UK Government is running the economy for the benefit of the south-east of England to the detriment of the rest of the UK. Putting the 90 per cent target aside, what are you doing, Minister, to target business support at the group most seriously affected by economic inactivity? Activity rates have improved, but that masks real problems in areas such as the Valleys and among certain groups, such as middle-aged men. There are other problems: Assembly investment grants are successful, but figures suggest that the delivery of them is patchy, and some areas do not produce enough applicants. Also, there is

ystyried pob eitem o ddeddfwriaeth gan ofyn a oes arnom ei hangen, a ellid gwneud yr un gwaith yn symlach a beth fydd ei heffaith ar fusnes yng Nghymru. Galwodd 'Cymru'n Ennill' am symleiddio a chyflymu gwasanaethau i fusnesau, ac yr oedd hynny i'w gyflawni drwy adolygiad y WDA o wasanaethau cymorth busnes. Mae Llygad Busnes yn fodd buddiol a defnyddiol i roi busnesau ar ben ffordd, a chroesawn hynny. Er hynny—fel yr adroddwyd yng nghyfarfod diwethaf y Pwyllgor—mae mwy na 50 o fentrau cymorth o hyd, a phob un â'i frand ei hun. Yn ogystal â hynny, yr oedd mwy na 500 o gynlluniau a grantiau ar gael i fusnesau yng Nghymru, ac mae'r nifer hwnnw'n peri dryswch. Os yw Llygad Busnes i fod yn effeithiol, rhaid iddo fynd law yn llaw ag adolygiad trylwyr o gynlluniau. Hyd yma, nid yw Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi ymdrin yn foddhaol â'r system hon, sy'n hunllef fiwrocraataidd, er mawr anfantais i fusnesau yng Nghymru. Mae'n hollbwysig inni ddatblygu system cymorth busnes integredig, sy'n canolbwyntio'n benodol ar sectorau sy'n tyfu. Mae'n hanfodol inni wneud hynny, oherwydd un newydd drwg yw bod nifer y busnesau sydd wedi cofrestru ar gyfer TAW yn gostwng. Creir mwy o fusnesau, ond maent yn methu'n gynt nag y maent yn cael eu creu. Mae hynny'n arwydd pendant nad yw'r Llywodraeth yn cyflawni'r ymrwymadau a wnaed yn 'Cymru'n Ennill'.

Ynghylch y targed o 90 y cant—neu'n hytrach, yr hyn nad yw'n darged—cydymdeimlaf â'r Gweinidog i raddau, oherwydd nid ni'n unig sydd ar ei hôl hi: mae'r cyfan o'r DU ar ôl de-ddwyrain Lloegr, sy'n tyfu'n dewach ac yn dewach. Dylem bryderu bod Llywodraeth y DU yn rhedeg yr economi er budd de-ddwyrain Lloegr er anfantais i weddill y DU. Gan roi'r targed o 90 y cant o'r neilltu, beth yr ydych yn ei wneud, Weinidog, i dargedu cymorth busnes ar y grŵp sy'n cael ei effeithio'n fwyaf difrifol gan anweithgarwch economaidd? Mae cyfraddau gweithgarwch wedi gwella, ond mae hynny'n cuddio problemau gwirioneddol mewn ardaloedd fel y Cymoedd ac ymysg rhai grwpiau, fel dynion canol oed. Mae problemau eraill: mae grantiau buddsoddi'r Cynulliad yn llwyddo, ond mae ffigurau'n awgrymu bod

a worrying fall in applicants for regional selective assistance, which is a bad sign for the future. There is much still to do, and we must improve the quality of business support, which is still a product-driven instead of a client-centred process.

We must promote best practice with local authorities, and support new and existing growth sectors and clusters, such as the creative industry, cultural tourism, bio-sciences, renewable energy, green business, food processing and the social economy. We must also build on the success of industry-led fora, such as Accelerate Wales.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You must wind up now.

Jenny Randerson: Therefore, Business Eye and Assembly investment grants are a good start, and we welcome them. However, the momentum must be maintained. Business Eye is a positive step, but it is a start; it is not the finishing line.

Christine Gwyther: I will talk about the shake-up of Business Connect that led to Business Eye, which provides the portal into business support. The marketing so far is good, and the rebranding was important. The Welsh Development Agency is using a healthy mix of media, including local radio, which is a step forward, and there is a monthly magazine and constant, structured dialogue, which is perhaps the most important aspect for business representative bodies.

Members realised that work was needed on the business support structure. There had been a fragmented service for years, and I especially welcome the fact that the Welsh Development Agency has rationalised its products from around 90 to 50 as part of the shake-up. Other speakers have referred to that. The Economic Development and Transport Committee scrutinised WDA

bylchau yn y ddarpariaeth, ac mae rhai ardaloedd lle nad oes digon o ymgeiswyr. Hefyd, mae gostyngiad sy'n peri pryder yn y nifer sy'n ymgeisio am gymorth rhanbarthol dewisol, ac mae hynny'n argoeli'n ddrwg ar gyfer y dyfodol. Mae llawer i'w wneud o hyd, a rhaid inni wella ansawdd y cymorth i fusnesau, sy'n dal i fod yn broses a ysgogir gan gynhyrchion yn hytrach na bod yn un lle y mae'r client yn y canol.

Rhaid inni hyrwyddo'r arferion gorau gydag awdurdodau lleol, a chefnogi sectorau a chlystyrau sy'n tyfu, rhai newydd a rhai sy'n bod eisoes, fel y diwydiant creadigol, twristiaeth ddiwylliannol, y gwyddorau biolegol, ynni adnewyddadwy, busnesau gwyrdd, prosesu bwyd a'r economi gymdeithasol. Rhaid inni hefyd adeiladu ar sail llwyddiant fforymau sy'n cael eu harwain gan ddiwydiant, fel Accelerate Wales.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Rhaid ichi orffen yn awr.

Jenny Randerson: Felly, mae Llygad Busnes a grantiau buddsoddi'r Cynulliad yn ddechrau da, ac fe'u croesawn. Fodd bynnag, rhaid cynnal y momentwm. Mae Llygad Busnes yn gam cadarnhaol, ond dechrau ydyw, nid y llinell derfyn.

Christine Gwyther: Soniaf am yr ad-drefnu ar Cyswllt Busnes a arweiniodd at Llygad Busnes, sef y fynedfa at gymorth busnes. Bu'r marchnata'n dda hyd yma, ac yr oedd yn bwysig ailfrandio. Mae Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru yn defnyddio cymysgedd iach o gyfryngau, gan gynnwys radio lleol, sy'n gam ymlaen, ac mae cylchgrawn misol a deialog drefnus a chyson, sef yr agwedd bwysicaf o bosibl i gyrff sy'n cynrychioli busnes.

Yr oedd Aelodau'n sylweddoli bod angen gweithio ar seilwaith cymorth busnes. Bu'r gwasanaeth yn un gwasgarog ers blynyddoedd, ac yr wyf yn arbennig o falch bod Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru wedi rhesymoli ei gynhyrchion o tua 90 i 50 fel rhan o'r ad-drefnu. Mae siaradwyr eraill wedi cyfeirio at hynny. Gwnaeth y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth holi

officials, who explained that the streamlining would continue. I want the Minister to keep an especially close and personal eye on that.

Alun Cairns: What is your perception of streamlining? Do you mean merging two titles and keeping the same structure, or rationalisation, namely releasing money to support businesses?

Christine Gwyther: Rationalisation has happened, and the officials that came before the Committee a fortnight ago said exactly that. It is our job to keep a close eye on it. Do not try to pretend that it is not happening—it is.

The amendments are irrelevant and arrogant, and Plaid Cymru's amendment 5 particularly annoys me because it seeks to strike out the word 'welcomes' in relation to engaging the many public and private sector partners in developing a high-quality service. That is fundamental. If the Assembly's parties cannot welcome the partnership of the private and public sectors in delivering support for our new and growing businesses, we do not deserve to be charged with economic development.

This shake-up has been a long time coming. Before I became an Assembly Member, I worked in business support, in an environment where agencies protected their own budgets, and hung on to their best customers. Individuals were not to be blamed—especially not me—it was always down to the system. That bunker mentality has been smashed, but we must continue to work with the public and private sectors to ensure that we do not return to the bad old days. Most new businesses then were not only looking for money, but for sites and premises. They remain vital, Minister. They were also looking for sound advice on health and safety, technology transfer, and payroll. The Business Eye portal must be able to interpret and sign-post effectively to meet the needs of our customers and to deliver the appropriate advice as well as appropriate funding. That is probably the most important message. If the situation needs to be re-assessed, I am sure that our constituents will

swyddogion y WDA, a eglurodd y byddai'r symleiddio'n parhau. Dymunaf i'r Gweinidog gadw golwg manwl iawn ar hynny ei hun.

Alun Cairns: Beth a olygwch wrth symleiddio? A ydych yn golygu cyfuno dau enw a chadw'r un fframwaith, neu resymoli, sef rhyddhau arian i gynorthwyo busnesau?

Christine Gwyther: Mae rhesymoli wedi bod, a dywedodd y swyddogion a ddaeth gerbron y Pwyllgor bythefnos yn ôl yr union beth hwnnw. Ein gwaith ni yw cadw golwg barcud ar hyn. Peidiwch â chymryd arnoch nad yw'n digwydd—y mae.

Mae'r gwelliannau'n amherthnasol ac yn drahaus, ac mae gwelliant 5 Plaid Cymru'n codi fy ngwrychyn yn benodol gan ei fod yn ceisio dileu'r gair 'croesawu' mewn cysylltiad â chynnwys y nifer fawr o bartneriaid o'r sectorau cyhoeddus a phreifat wrth ddatblygu gwasanaeth o ansawdd da. Mae hynny'n hanfodol. Os na all pleidiau'r Cynulliad groesawu partneriaeth y sectorau preifat a chyhoeddus wrth ddarparu cymorth i'n busnesau newydd a'r rhai sy'n tyfu, nid ydym yn haeddu cael ein hymddiried â datblygu economaidd.

Mae'r ad-drefnu hwn yn hir-ddisgwyliedig. Cyn imi ddod yn Aelod o'r Cynulliad, bûm yn gweithio ym maes cymorth busnes, mewn amlgylchedd lle'r oedd asiantaethau'n gwarchod eu cyllidebau eu hunain, ac yn dal eu gafael yn eu cwsmeriaid gorau. Nid oedd unigolion i'w beio—yn enwedig myfi—y system a oedd ar fai bob tro. Mae'r meddylfryd cul hwnnw wedi'i chwalu, ond rhaid inni ddal i weithio gyda'r sectorau cyhoeddus a phreifat i sicrhau nad awn yn ôl i'r hen ddyddiau drwg. Nid am arian yn unig yr oedd y rhan fwyaf o fusnesau newydd yn chwilio bryd hynny, ond am safleoedd ac adeiladau. Maent yn dal i fod yn hollbwysig, Weinidog. Yr oeddent hefyd yn chwilio am gyngor dibynadwy ar iechyd a diogelwch, trosglwyddo technoleg, a chyflogresi. Rhaid i borth Llygad Busnes allu dehongli a chyfarwyddo'n effeithiol er mwyn bodloni anghenion ein cwsmeriaid a rhoi'r cyngor priodol yn ogystal â'r cyllid priodol. Dyna'r neges bwysicaf, mae'n debyg. Os oes angen

make us aware of the fact. Businesses will tell us if Business Eye is not working. However, the signs are extremely encouraging and, therefore, I give the scheme my wholehearted support.

4.00 p.m.

Lisa Francis: I will not go down the road of repetition. We note the launch of Business Eye, with its provision of a pan-Wales information service, or sign-posting, for small businesses. How can you guarantee that this will combat the failures of Business Connect, which had no accountability and whose position as an access point for, and provider of, business services was hugely inconsistent?

A previous speaker mentioned rigorous review. We must have accountability of performance. When policies are failing, they must be modified quickly. Regarding grant aid to businesses, the positive news is the success of the Wales Tourist Board's section 4 grant aid, which speaks for itself as a broad-based scheme. It was available to local authorities and specific businesses, and its aim was to develop services and improve the quality of the product. In turn, that has led to substantial reinvestment, and we need to see more of this type of grant aid being used. Currently, a variety of training in small businesses is widely available. However, if the control of this funding were to be placed in the hands of small businesses, such a demand-led structure would ensure that skills delivery met the demands of the market place rather than those of training suppliers.

Excessive regulation continues to strangle small business. One of the most important ways to prevent this would be for the Welsh Assembly Government to drop any notion that it may have of bringing in a compulsory registration scheme for bed and breakfast operators in Wales. Where is the sense in forcing statutory registration onto many of our tourism businesses, which are seasonal and part time? Most tourism operators in Wales do not want it. While there is a need to improve standards the real challenge that

ailasesu'r sefyllfa, yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd ein hetholwyr yn rhoi gwybod i ni. Bydd busnesau'n dweud wrthym os nad yw Llygad Busnes yn llwyddo. Serch hynny, mae'r arwyddion yn galonogol dros ben ac, felly, llwyr gefnogaf y cynllun hwn.

Lisa Francis: Ni ddechreuaf ailadrodd. Nodwn lansio Llygad Busnes, sy'n darparu gwasanaeth gwybodaeth, neu gyfarwyddo, i Gymru gyfan, ar gyfer busnesau bach. Sut y gallwch warantu y bydd yn datrys diffygion Cyswllt Busnes, nad oedd yn atebol ac yr oedd ei sefyllfa fel darparwr a phwynt mynediad ar gyfer gwasanaethau busnes yn anghyson dros ben?

Soniodd siaradwr blaenorol am adolygu trwyadl. Rhaid inni gael atebolrwydd am berfformiad. Os yw polisiau'n methu, rhaid eu newid yn gyflym. Gyda golwg ar gymorth grant i fusnesau, y newydd cadarnhaol yw llwyddiant cymorth grant adran 4 Bwrdd Croeso Cymru, sy'n llwyddo am ei fod yn gynllun sydd â sylfaen eang. Yr oedd ar gael i awdurdodau lleol a busnesau penodol, a'i nod oedd datblygu gwasanaethau a gwella ansawdd y cynnyrch. Mae hynny, yn ei dro, wedi arwain at ailfuddsoddi sylweddol, a rhaid inni weld mwy o ddefnydd o gymorth grant o'r fath. Ar hyn o bryd, mae amrywiaeth o hyfforddiant ar gael yn gyffredinol i fusnesau bach. Fodd bynnag, os rhoddid y rheolaeth ar y cyllid hwn yn nwylo busnesau bach, byddai fframwaith o'r fath a gâi ei arwain gan y galw yn sicrhau bod y sgiliau a ddysgid yn ateb gofynion y farchnad yn hytrach na'r rhai sy'n darparu'r hyfforddiant.

Mae rheoleiddio gormodol yn dal i dagu busnesau bach. Un o'r ffyrdd pwysicaf i atal hynny fyddai i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru roi'r gorau i unrhyw fwrriad a allai fod ganddi o gyflwyno cynllun cofrestru gorfodol ar gyfer y rhai sy'n rhedeg busnesau gwely a brecwast yng Nghymru. Pa synnwyr sydd mewn gorfodi cofrestru statudol ar lawer o'n busnesau twristiaeth, sy'n rhai tymhorol a rhan amser? Nid yw'r rhan fwyaf o weithredwyr twristiaeth yng Nghymru am ei gael. Er bod angen codi

should face us is to encourage operators to take part in a common grading scheme. Statutory registration will drive people out of business in the long term, never mind drive standards up. We need to consider that in order to help small businesses. Why should the Wales Tourist Board, an organisation that was set up to market Wales as a tourism destination, effectively be allowed the power to shut businesses down? A lighter regulation touch would bring major benefits to the Welsh economy.

Lorraine Barrett: I will raise two issues. First, on support and advice for people from black and minority ethnic communities, I had representation recently from a young man who wants to set up his own business, but feels that there are not the same opportunities for him and others from ethnic minorities. The second issue is promoting co-operatives, and I declare an interest as Chair of the Assembly's co-operative group. The Assembly's social enterprise action plan recognises the failure of traditional small and medium-sized enterprises support systems in identifying and promoting the co-operative options. I welcome the launch of Business Eye, which has been generally welcomed by a few business people to whom I have spoken over the last week or so. However, I would like reassurances on black and minority ethnic business support, and on promoting advice for co-operative business options, through Business Eye and by any other means.

Michael German: I will raise three issues, including the Assembly investment grant, which has already been mentioned, and regional selective assistance. First, on the Assembly investment grant, the figures that I have seen indicate that take up varies greatly from one local authority area to the next. That must be worrying, because the need to develop a grant scheme across Wales would indicate that perhaps insufficient support has been provided to either informing prospective businesses or allowing them to have complete access to funding. The initial application form for Assembly investment grants is simple and straightforward—a simple A4 sheet of paper—which means that

safonau, y wir her sy'n ein hwynebu yw annog gweithredwyr i gymryd rhan mewn cynllun graddio cyffredin. Bydd cofrestru gorfodol yn gyrru pobl allan o fusnes yn y tymor hir, felly ni waeth heb â sôn am godi safonau. Rhaid inni ystyried hynny er mwyn helpu busnesau bach. Pam y dylid rhoi pŵer i Fwrdd Croeso Cymru gau busnesau, i bob pwrpas, ac yntau'n gorff a sefydlwyd i farchnata Cymru fel cyrchfan i ymwelwyr? Byddai rheoleiddio ysgafnach yn dod â manteision mawr i economi Cymru.

Lorraine Barrett: Codaf ddau fater. Yn gyntaf, ynghylch cymorth a chngor i rai o gymunedau pobl dduon a lleiafrifoedd ethnig, derbyniais sylwadau'n ddiweddar gan ddyn ifanc sy'n dymuno sefydlu ei fusnes ei hun, ond sy'n teimlo nad yw'r un cyfleoedd ar gael iddo ef ac eraill o leiafrifoedd ethnig. Yr ail fater yw hyrwyddo mentrau cydweithredol, a datganaf fuddiant fel cadeirydd grŵp cydweithredol y Cynulliad. Mae cynllun gweithredu menter gymdeithasol y Cynulliad yn cydnabod bod systemau sy'n cynorthwyo busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint traddodiadol wedi methu â chanfod a hyrwyddo dewisiadau cydweithredol. Croesawaf lansio Llygad Busnes, a gafodd groeso cyffredinol gan ychydig o bobl busnes y bŵm yn siarad â hwy dros yr wythnos neu ddwy ddiwethaf. Er hynny, hoffwn gael sicrwydd ynghylch cymorth i fusnesau pobl dduon a lleiafrifoedd ethnig, ac ynghylch hyrwyddo cyngor ar ddewisiadau busnes cydweithredol, drwy Llygad Busnes ac unrhyw gyfrwng arall.

Michael German: Codaf dri mater, gan gynnwys grant buddsoddi'r Cynulliad, sydd wedi'i grybwyll eisoes, a chymorth rhanbarthol dewisol. Yn gyntaf, ynghylch grant buddsoddi'r Cynulliad, mae'r ffigurau a welais yn dangos bod y defnydd ohono'n amrywio'n fawr o'r naill ardal awdurdod lleol i'r llall. Mae hynny'n sicr o beri pryder oherwydd, gan fod angen datblygu cynllun grant ledled Cymru, mae hynny'n dangos o bosibl na roddwyd digon o gymorth i hysbysu busnesau dichonol neu adael iddynt gyrraedd y cyllid yn ddirwystr. Mae'r ffurflen gais gyntaf ar gyfer grantiau buddsoddi'r Cynulliad yn syml a phlaen—un ddalen o bapur A4 yn unig—sy'n golygu y

expressions of interest can be made by a prospective applicant. Once that has been received, it seems that the whole Assembly process can kick in. However, when you have such a variation in take up between one local authority area and another, information does not get across to prospective bidders. That is all that is required, and no-one can complain that there is over-arching bureaucracy behind that initial application form.

Secondly, on regional selective assistance, I am worried, as I suppose many Members are, at the lack of take up in recent months by prospective bidders. It could be that, because large-scale applications for large-scale inward investment projects are decreasing, there is no take up in that direction. I would like assurance from the Minister as to what investigations he has taken to understand the reasoning behind the fall off in the take up of RSA. It is our main tool and it is more available to businesses in Wales than it is anywhere else in the UK. We can offer assistance, as we can with the Assembly investment grant, in a way that other parts of the UK cannot. Therefore, it is crucial that we carefully consider the reason why take-up of RSA in Wales is not as strong as it used to be and I would like the Minister to indicate why that is the case.

I wish to comment on the boundary between local government assistance and that of the Assembly Government and its support agencies. Currently, any funding that is less than £5,000 is largely provided by local government. One can understand the reasoning behind that: the local council is probably best placed to represent people locally and to speak to people on the ground. However, will the Minister explain why that £5,000 is arbitrary? It is not a great deal of money for someone wanting to buy a new computer kit but it could be for someone seeking assistance to form a business plan for a business development project. Will you explain why there is an arbitrary level of assistance? Would it not be better for the assistance to be linked to the level of services to be provided so that we would know which services would be provided by local government and which would be provided

gall darpar ymgeisydd fynegi diddordeb. Ar ôl ei derbyn, ymddengys y gall holl broses y Cynulliad gychwyn arni. Fodd bynnag, gan fod cymaint o wahaniaeth yn y nifer sy'n ymgymryd ag ef rhwng y naill ardal awdurdod lleol a'r llall, nid yw gwybodaeth yn cyrraedd ymgeiswyr dichonol. Dyna'r cwbl sydd ei angen, ac ni all neb gwyno bod biwrocratiaeth ormodol y tu ôl i'r ffurflen gais gyntaf honno.

Yn ail, ynghylch cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol, yr wyf yn bryderus, fel y mae llawer o Aelodau, dybiwn i, ynghylch y prinder ymgeiswyr dichonol yn y misoedd diweddar. Mae'n bosibl, gan fod gostyngiad yn nifer y ceisiadau mawr ar gyfer prosiectau mewnfuddsoddi mawr, nad oes ymgeiswyr o'r fath. Hoffwn gael sicrwydd gan y Gweinidog ynghylch yr ymchwiliadau a wnaeth i ddeall y rheswm am y gostyngiad yn y nifer sy'n derbyn cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol. Hwn yw'n prif arf ac mae ar gael i fwy o raddau i fusnesau yng Nghymru nag mewn unman arall yn y DU. Gallwn gynnig cymorth, fel y gallwn yn achos grant buddsoddi'r Cynulliad, mewn modd nad yw ar gael i rannau eraill o'r DU. Gan hynny, mae'n hollbwysig inni ystyried yn ofalus pam nad yw'r nifer sy'n derbyn cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol yng Nghymru mor fawr ag y bu a charwn pe byddai'r Gweinidog yn nodi pam y mae felly.

Dymunaf wneud sylw am y ffin rhwng cymorth llywodraeth leol a chymorth llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'i hasiantaethau cymorth. Ar hyn o bryd, llywodraeth leol gan mwyaf sy'n darparu unrhyw gyllid sy'n llai na £5,000. Gall rhywun ddeall y rhesymu sy'n sail i hynny: mae'n debyg mai'r cyngor lleol sy'n fwyaf galluog i gynrychioli pobl yn lleol a siarad â phobl yn y fan a'r lle. Fodd bynnag, a wnaiff y Gweinidog egluro pam y mae'r terfyn o £5,000 yn orfodol? Nid yw'n swm mawr o arian i rywun sydd am brynu offer cyfrifiadurol newydd ond gallai fod i rywun sy'n ceisio cymorth i baratoi cynllun busnes ar gyfer prosiect datblygu busnes. A wnewch egluro pam y mae lefel cymorth orfodol? Oni fyddai'n well cysylltu'r cymorth â lefel y gwasanaethau sydd i'w darparu fel y gwyddem pa wasanaethau a ddarperid gan lywodraeth leol a pha rai a ddarperid drwy Llygad Busnes ac

through Business Eye and other agencies?

Christine Chapman: Unlocking the huge, untapped potential for job creation in many of our communities is a challenge for us. Meeting the needs of smaller firms is often key to that. While I welcome the Assembly's many successes in supporting small companies, there is still much to do and to understand. I am aware, after speaking with people who run small firms, that business support had a poor image. I acknowledge that that was not always justified because since the Assembly was established a concerted effort was made to understand business needs. However, perception is important. In order to survive and prosper, a small company may need to forge strategic alliances and to capitalise on the value of its intellectual property. It may also need help and advice on patents so that it is not vulnerable to unscrupulous traders and it may need to become involved in co-operative ventures so that it can punch its weight in new market sectors. It may have drive and innovation, but it may not necessarily have the networks and skills to seek out alliances with other interested parties. It is often quite difficult to gather small employers in one room so that they can offer such advice because their real priorities involve keeping their heads above water. Good business support must be proactive in helping to initiate and nurture those alliances.

Innovation is also crucial if we want small businesses to be able to contribute to the kind of high-value economy that we want. However, in reality, funding innovation is not easy for a small company. Banks tend to regard small firms in difficult market sectors as a bad risk; Finance Wales has helped in that regard. However, we need to ensure that all companies are aware of such programmes. Sometimes, small firms are convinced that Government departments cannot be trusted with confidential information early on in a product development cycle. The new Smart Cymru scheme, launched in September, is an improvement on the old scheme, as it has moved away from the twice-yearly competition. Firms can now apply at any time

asiantaethau eraill?

Christine Chapman: Mae datgloi'r potensial aruthrol i greu swyddi yn llawer o'n cymunedau yn her i ni. Mae diwallu anghenion busnesau llai yn aml yn allweddol yn hynny o beth. Er y croesawaf lwyddiannau lu'r Cynulliad wrth gynorthwyo cwmnïau bach, mae llawer i'w wneud a'i ddeall o hyd. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol, ar ôl siarad â rhai sy'n rhedeg busnesau bach, fod delwedd wael gan gymorth busnes. Derbyniaf nad oedd hynny'n deg ym mhob achos oherwydd ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad cafwyd cydymdrech i ddeall anghenion busnes. Er hynny, mae canfyddiad yn bwysig. Er mwyn parhau a ffynnu, mae'n bosibl y bydd cwmni bach yn gorfod ffurfio cysylltiadau strategol ac elwa ar werth ei eiddo deallusol. Gallai fod arno angen cymorth a chyngor ar batentau fel nad yw'n agored i'w niweidio gan fasnachwyr diegwyddor ac mae'n bosibl y bydd angen iddo gymryd rhan mewn mentrau cydweithredol fel y gall lwyddo mewn sectorau newydd yn y farchnad. Gallai feddu ar egni a'r gallu i arloesi, ond efallai na fydd ganddo'r rhwydweithiau a'r sgiliau sydd eu hangen i geisio cysylltiadau â phartïon eraill sydd â diddordeb. Mae'n aml yn eithaf anodd dod â chyflogwyr bach at ei gilydd mewn un ystafell fel y gallant gynnig cyngor o'r fath gan fod eu gwir flaenoriaethau'n ymwneud â chadw eu pennau uwch y dŵr. Mae cymorth busnes da yn cymryd camau i helpu i sefydlu a meithrin y cysylltiadau hynny.

Mae arloesi hefyd yn hollbwysig os ydym am i fusnesau bach allu cyfrannu at y math o economi werth uchel y dymunwn ei chael. Fodd bynnag, mewn gwirionedd, nid yw'n hawdd i gwmni bach gael cyllid ar gyfer arloesi. Mae banciau yn tueddu i ystyried busnesau bach mewn sectorau anodd yn y farchnad yn risg annerbyniol; mae Cyllid Cymru wedi helpu yn hynny o beth. Er hynny, rhaid inni sicrhau bod pob cwmni'n gwybod am raglenni o'r fath. Weithiau, mae busnesau bach yn argyhoeddedig na ellir ymddiried gwybodaeth gyfrinachol i adrannau Llywodraeth ar ddechrau cylch datblygu cynnyrch. Mae'r cynllun Smart Cymru newydd, a lanswyd ym Medi, yn well na'r hen un, gan ei fod wedi symud

for a grant in the product development cycle.

oddi wrth gystadlu dwywaith y flwyddyn. Bellach caiff busnesau ymgeisio am grant ar unrhyw adeg yn y cylch datblygu cynnyrch.

Smaller companies do not make the most of their potential for innovation by forging strong partnerships with universities. Good business support means ensuring that that information is readily available. People are vital assets in ensuring the future of a company. Therefore, we need to encourage good support networks, such as good childcare partners, which can support a growing company. We must ensure that all business providers are as au fait with these networks as they are with financial help.

Nid yw cwmnïau llai yn manteisio i'r eithaf ar eu potensial i arloesi drwy sefydlu partneriaethau cadarn â phrifysgolion. Mae cymorth busnes da yn sicrhau bod gwybodaeth o'r fath yn barod wrth law. Mae pobl yn ased hollbwysig wrth sicrhau dyfodol cwmni. Gan hynny, rhaid inni hybu rhwydweithiau cynnal da, fel partneriaid gofal plant da, sy'n gallu cynnal cwmni sy'n tyfu. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod yr holl ddarparwyr ar gyfer busnes yr un mor gyfarwydd â'r rhwydweithiau hyn ag y maent â chymorth ariannol.

4.10 p.m.

Mark Isherwood: What an unexpected treat. The Assembly Government's 10-year economic development strategy, 'A Winning Wales', was criticised by Professor Michael Porter of Harvard Business School for being short on realism and detail, and for setting ambitious targets without explaining how they were to be achieved. It is therefore no real surprise that the reality of the Welsh economy today is that business failures are on the increase, the number of businesses registered for VAT purposes are down, company profitability is down almost 90 per cent, recruitment outside the public sector has been frozen and there have been big cuts in investment. We hear that up to 85 per cent of business support funding has been going to the business support network rather than to business on the front line, where it is desperately needed. Perhaps that is partially explained by the Welsh Development Agency's annual reports, which lists the numbers of staff working on business support. In 2001, 575 staff were employed, costing £21.8 million. In 2002, 711 staff were employed, costing £23.3 million and, in 2003, 850 staff were employed, costing £28.9 million. We must question prioritisation.

Mark Isherwood: Am bleser annisgwyl. Beirniadwyd strategaeth datblygu economaidd 10 mlynedd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, 'Cymru'n Ennill', gan yr Athro Michael Porter o Ysgol Fusnes Harvard am ei bod yn brin o realaeth ac o fanylder, ac am ei bod yn gosod targedau uchelgeisiol heb egluro sut yr oeddent i'w cyrraedd. Felly nid yw'n syndod mewn gwirionedd mai'r gwir am economi Cymru heddiw yw bod nifer y busnesau sy'n methu ar gynydd, bod y nifer o fusnesau sydd wedi cofrestru ar gyfer TAW wedi gostwng, bod proffidioldeb cwmnïau wedi gostwng ymron 90 y cant, bod recriwtio y tu allan i'r sector cyhoeddus wedi'i rewi ac y bu toriadau mawr ar fuddsoddi. Clywn fod hyd at 85 y cant o gyllid cymorth busnes wedi bod yn mynd i'r rhwydwaith cymorth busnes yn hytrach nag i fusnesau yn y rheng flaen, lle y mae taer angen amdano. Efallai yr eglurir hynny'n rhannol yn adroddiadau blynyddol Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, sy'n rhestru niferoedd y staff sy'n gweithio ar gymorth busnes. Yn 2001, cyflogid 575 o staff, a gostiodd £21.8 miliwn. Yn 2002, cyflogid 711 o staff, a gostiodd £23.3 miliwn ac, yn 2003, cyflogid 850 o staff, a gostiodd £28.9 miliwn. Rhaid inni gwestiynu'r blaenoriaethu.

Rather than speaking only for my party and myself, I consulted the Federation of Small Businesses in north Wales this week to seek its comments, and some of the news is good

Yn hytrach na siarad ar fy rhan fy hun ac ar ran fy mhlaid yn unig, ymgynghorais â Ffederasiwn y Busnesau Bach yn y Gogledd yr wythnos hon i geisio ei sylwadau, ac mae

for the Government. Small businesses were not happy with the predecessors of Business Eye—we know that—and they now hope that Business Eye will work. Their concern is about helping small business at the outset, when failure rates are more than 45 per cent. They want a pro-active approach, where business support personnel visit the company to help to launch it and overcome up-front obstacles, to increase its chances of success. Currently, too many bodies still have £X million to spend but, in the experience of small businesses, no-one seems to have received any of it. They must also bid for smaller sums, soft loans with low interest rates, even when rates are high, so that money is recirculated back into the system more quickly.

I also consulted representatives of the Confederation of British Industry Wales. They had so much to say that I cannot read all of their comments, or we would be here all day. Here are some of them:

‘As a general point, CBI Wales would be the first to praise the Assembly at all levels for its accessibility and its willingness to meet with and talk to business. There is of course another debate, which is about the degree to which the WAG listens and implements... We are not at all sure that the new business support arrangements have been implemented yet’

—and this was today—

‘all the focus has been on the new Business Eye arrangements. It is probably too soon to make a judgement on the new service, given that it has only been operational for a month or so.’

CBI Wales is not clear that there has been any focus on what is actually delivered once you get through the gateway. For example, in Cornwall, a reference group of business people has been established under Objective 1 to consider all proposals for new business support projects—to see whether they really are what business needs—before they are

rhywfaint o'r newyddion yn dda i'r Llywodraeth. Nid oedd busnesau bach yn fodlon ar ragflaenwyr Llygad Busnes—gwyddom hynny—a gobeithiant yn awr y bydd Llygad Busnes yn llwyddo. Yr hyn sy'n bwysig ganddynt yw helpu busnesau bach ar y cychwyn, pan fo mwy na 45 y cant ohonynt yn methu. Maent am weld dull gweithredu rhagweithiol, lle y mae staff cymorth busnes yn dod i weld y cwmni i helpu i'w lansio a goresgyn rhwystrau dechreuol, fel y bydd ganddo fwy o obaith llwyddo. Ar hyn o bryd, mae gan ormod o gyrff rai miliynau i'w gwario ond, ym mhrofiad busnesau bach, nid ymddengys fod neb yn derbyn dim ohono. Rhaid iddynt ymgeisio hefyd am symiau llai, benthyciadau rhwydd â chyfraddau llog isel, hyd yn oed pan fo cyfraddau'n uchel, fel y caiff arian ei ailgylchu i'r system yn gynt.

Ymgynghorais hefyd â chynrychiolwyr Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain Cymru. Yr oedd ganddynt gymaint i'w ddweud fel na allaf ddarllen eu holl sylwadau, neu byddem yma drwy'r dydd. Dyma rai ohonynt:

Fel pwynt cyffredinol, Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain Cymru fyddai'r cyntaf i ganmol y Cynulliad ar bob lefel am fod mor hawdd mynd ato ac am ei barodrwydd i gwrdd â busnesau a siarad â hwy. Mae dadl arall, wrth gwrs, ynghylch y graddau y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn gwrandao ac yn gweithredu ... Nid ydym yn sicr o gwbl a yw'r trefniadau cymorth busnes newydd wedi'u rhoi ar waith eto

—a heddiw y dywedwyd hyn—

canolbwyntiwyd yn llwyr ar y trefniadau ar gyfer y Llygad Busnes newydd. Mae'n debyg ei bod yn rhy fuan i farnu ynghylch y gwasanaeth newydd, gan nad yw ond ar waith ers mis neu ddau.

Nid yw Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain Cymru yn sicr bod sylw wedi'i roi i'r hyn a ddarperir mewn gwirionedd ar ôl mynd drwy'r fynedfa. Er enghraifft, yng Nghernyw, sefydlwyd grŵp cyfeirio o bobl busnes o dan Amcan 1 i ystyried yr holl gynigion ar gyfer prosiectau cymorth busnes newydd—i weld a ydynt yn diwallu

submitted for evaluation and approval. When CBI Wales suggested the same thing to the WDA, they got a sub-group of one of the economic fora, dominated by deliverers, and with some reference to focus groups. The general view among business organisations is that the general advisory services add little value, and Objective 1 is making the situation worse and is wasting too much money.

CBI Wales asks what mechanisms exist for determining whether there is real demand for individual business support schemes among the assumed user groups. It says that it is generally accepted that the Assembly is now delivering grant assistance in a more efficient and user-friendly fashion, but how many business support schemes have ceased since the business support review? It is widely accepted that the proliferation of schemes detracts from their quality and take-up, but CBI Wales has not made any progress in rationalising them. What provisions are in place to monitor the effectiveness of Business Eye, now that it is up and running? Monitoring should be every six months, considering the service that it provides, the take-up by businesses and its effectiveness and success.

Some of the public-sector environmental agencies are making it hard for business to create jobs. The Environment Agency and the Countryside Council for Wales have been cited. They make it hard for businesses, not by sticking up for the environment—CBI Wales does not have a problem with that—but by the bureaucratic way in which they exercise their powers without regard to the possible effects on other parties, such as last-minute objections to permits, planning requests and so on, which could have been dealt with months earlier.

Will the Assembly finally sort out the planning system in Wales to allow business to invest? That will require it to get to grips

anghenion busnesau mewn gwirionedd—cyn eu cyflwyno i'w gwerthuso a'u cymeradwyo. Pan awgrymodd Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain Cymru i'r WDA y dylid gwneud yr un peth, yr hyn a gawsant oedd is-grŵp o un o'r fforymau economaidd, a'r rhan fwyaf o'r aelodau'n ddarparwyr, gyda rhywfaint o gyfeirio i grwpiau ffocws. Y farn gyffredinol ymysg cyrff busnes yw mai ychydig o werth a ychwanegir gan y gwasanaethau cynghori cyffredinol, ac mae Amcan 1 yn gwaethygu'r sefyllfa ac yn gwastraffu gormod o arian.

Mae Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain Cymru yn holi pa ddulliau gweithredu a geir i ganfod a oes gwir alw am gynlluniau cymorth busnes unigol ymysg y grwpiau o ddefnyddwyr tybiedig. Dywed fod y rhan fwyaf o bobl yn derbyn bod y Cynulliad yn darparu cymorth grant mewn modd mwy effeithlon ac ystyriol o ddefnyddwyr bellach, ond pa sawl cynllun cymorth busnes a ddaeth i ben ers yr adolygiad o gymorth i fusnesau? Mae llawer yn derbyn bod amllder y cynlluniau yn amharu ar eu hansawdd a'r defnydd ohonynt, ond ni wnaeth Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain Cymru unrhyw gynnydd o ran eu rhesymoli. Pa ddarpariaethau sydd ar waith i arolygu effeithiolrwydd Llygad Busnes, gan ei fod ar waith bellach? Dylid ei arolygu bob chwe mis, gan ystyried y gwasanaeth a ddarpara, faint o fusnesau sy'n ei ddefnyddio a'i effeithiolrwydd a'i lwyddiant.

Mae rhai o'r asiantaethau amgylcheddol yn y sector cyhoeddus yn ei gwneud yn anodd i fusnes greu swyddi. Mae Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd a Chyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru wedi'u henwi. Maent yn ei gwneud yn anodd i fusnesau, nid drwy godi llais dros yr amgylchedd—nid yw Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain Cymru'n gwrthwynebu hynny—ond drwy eu dull biwrocraidd o arfer eu pwerau heb ystyried yr effeithiau posibl ar bartïon eraill, megis gwrthwynebu trwyddedau a cheisiadau cynllunio ar y munud olaf ac yn y blaen, y buasai modd eu trafod fisoedd yn gynharach.

A wnaiff y Cynulliad roi trefn o'r diwedd ar y system gynllunio yng Nghymru fel y gall busnes fuddsoddi? Os yw i wneud hynny,

with local authorities. Will it deliver more of ELWa's budget via company learning accounts to put the power in the hands of the purchasers? The approach and tone of the Assembly, and other public-sector bodies, when referring to the interface between the public and private sectors, makes it difficult for business to get involved in helping to deliver public services in Wales, to the detriment of public-service delivery and business and job-creation opportunities.

Instead of providing a route map through the business support maze, the maze should be razed to the ground and replaced by a streamlined system led by business professionals using private sector expertise on a simple, accessible, bottom-up, needs-based and demand-led basis. While it is true that businesses must be competitive, the environment in which they work is crucial. Governments in London and Cardiff cannot fund improved public services if they kill the goose that lays the golden egg and kick the economy when it is down.

Janet Davies: I will speak mainly to amendment 2, although I also want to mention a few transport issues. No-one can tenably argue that we have seen no economic improvements. The question is whether they are sufficient to reach the targets set to reduce relative poverty—even if they are not targets; everyone else thought that they were. Absolute poverty can be seen to be decreasing, but the relative economic poverty in Wales compared with that of the rest of the UK must be worrying. It has a destabilising effect on society, as some people do not feel a part of society. Retired people in particular feel threatened—will their pensions keep their value as they get older? For the future, will average pensions even start off at a decent level?

Plaid Cymru has, as far back as I can remember, maintained that investment in small and medium-sized enterprises—in

bydd yn rhaid iddo fynd i'r afael ag awdurdodau lleol. A wnaiff wario mwy o gyllideb ELWa drwy gyfrifon dysgu i gwmmiau er mwyn rhoi'r awenau yn nwylo'r prynwyr? Mae tôn ac ymagwedd y Cynulliad, a chyrrff eraill yn y sector cyhoeddus, wrth gyfeirio at y cyswllt rhwng y sectorau cyhoeddus a phreifat, yn ei gwneud yn anodd i fusnes gymryd rhan yn y gwaith o ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru, er anfantais i'r gwaith o ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus a chyfleodd ar gyfer busnes a chreu swyddi.

Yn hytrach na chynnig map o'r llwybr drwy'r ddrysfa cymorth busnes, dylid dymchwel y ddrysfa a rhoi system symlach yn ei lle sydd dan arweiniad gweithwyr busnes proffesiynol sy'n defnyddio arbenigedd y sector preifat mewn modd syml, hygyrch sy'n gweithredu o'r gwaelod i fyny, gan ddiwallu anghenion ac ymateb i'r galw. Er ei bod yn wir bod rhaid i fusnesau fod yn gystadleuol, mae'r amgylchedd y maent yn gweithio ynddo yn hollbwysig. Ni fydd Llywodraethau yn Llundain a Chaerdydd yn gallu cyllido gwasanaethau cyhoeddus gwell os lladdant yr iâr a cholli'r cywion a gwneud drwg i'r economi pan ei fod mewn trafferthion.

Janet Davies: Siaradaf yn bennaf ar destun gwelliant 2, er fy mod hefyd yn dymuno sôn am rai materion trafniadaeth. Ni all neb ddadlau yn ddichonol na welsom unrhyw welliannau yn yr economi. Y cwestiwn yw a ydynt yn ddigon i gyrraedd y targedau a bennwyd i leihau tlodi cymharol—hyd yn oed os nad ydynt yn dargedau; yr oedd pawb arall yn credu eu bod. Gellir gweld bod tlodi llwyr yn lleihau, ond mae'r tlodi economaidd cymharol yng Nghymru o'i chymharu â gweddill y DU yn sicr o beri pryder. Mae'n dadsefydlogi cymdeithas, gan fod rhai nad ydynt yn teimlo eu bod yn rhan o gymdeithas. Mae pobl wedi ymddeol yn benodol yn teimlo eu bod dan fygythiad—a fydd eu pensiynau'n cadw eu gwerth wrth iddynt heneiddio? Yn y dyfodol, a fydd pensiynau arferol hyd yn oed yn dechrau ar lefel dderbyniol?

Mae Plaid Cymru wedi dal, hyd y gallaf gofio, ei bod yn hanfodol buddsoddi mewn busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint—mewn

indigenous businesses—is crucial for our economic success. We used to be viciously attacked for demanding support for Welsh business. However, political thinking has drawn a little closer on this since the Assembly was established. Plaid Cymru has also recognised that it is sometimes necessary to attract inward investment to keep the economy going. Amendment 2 relates to striking the balance between investment for home-grown businesses and attracting business from outside. So often, grants and other assistance are given to achieve inward investment and then failures occur either before anything is established or after a short period when the firm moves elsewhere. If a firm has its headquarters here, it is far less likely to pull out and leave hundreds or thousands of its workers jobless. That is why Plaid Cymru is convinced that the balance of investment and support has not yet gone far enough towards our own SMEs. Greater efforts must be made in terms of this important part of our economy and, in this, political direction for the WDA is crucial.

One problem facing SMEs in Wales is that too high a proportion of them stay small. The introduction to this annual report refers to the five themes of the ‘A Winning Wales’ strategy—all of them good themes. It then goes on to say,

‘As with all strategies, the key is implementation.’

These themes would be more achievable if a greater emphasis was placed on indigenous enterprises.

Clearly, home-grown SMEs will not always be successful, but they are more likely to stay here when they grow, jobs are more secure and there is likely to be better value for public money than with firms that decide to move elsewhere in the world. It is also likely to be easier to persuade them to move out of economic hotspots where major problems of overcrowding are building up and into Valley and rural areas. Indeed, they may even set up in those areas in the first place.

busnesau cynhenid—er mwyn ein llwyddiant economaidd. Arferid ymosod yn ffiائد arnom am fynnu cymorth i fusnes yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, mae'r farn wleidyddol wedi nesáu ychydig at y safbwynt hwnnw ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad. Mae Plaid Cymru wedi cydnabod hefyd fod rhaid denu mewnfuddsoddi weithiau er mwyn cadw'r economi ar ei thraed. Mae gwelliant 2 yn ymwneud â sicrhau cydbwysedd rhwng buddsoddi ar gyfer busnesau cynhenid a denu busnes o'r tu allan. Yn rhy aml, rhoddir grantiau a chymorth arall i sicrhau mewnfuddsoddi ac wedyn ceir methiannau naill ai cyn i unrhywbeth gael ei sefydlu neu'n fuan wedyn pan fo'r busnes yn symud i rywle arall. Os yw pencadlys y busnes yma, mae'n llawer llai tebygol o dynnu allan a gadael cannoedd neu filoedd o'i weithwyr yn ddi-waith. Dyna pam y mae Plaid Cymru'n argyhoeddedig nad yw'r cydbwysedd o ran buddsoddi a chymorth wedi mynd ddigon o blaid ein busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint eto. Rhaid gwneud mwy o ymdrech yn y rhan bwysig hon o'n heconomi ac, yn hyn o beth, mae'n hollbwysig rhoi cyfarwyddyd gwleidyddol i'r WDA.

Un broblem sy'n wynebu busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint yng Nghymru yw bod gormod ohonynt yn aros yn fach. Mae'r rhagymadrodd i'r adroddiad blynyddol hwn yn cyfeirio at bum thema strategaeth ‘Cymru'n Ennill’—themâu da bob un. Aiff ymlaen i ddweud,

‘Fel gyda phob strategaeth, gweithredu yw'r allwedd.’

Byddai'n haws cyflawni'r themâu hyn os rhoddid mwy o bwyslais ar fusnesau cynhenid.

Wrth gwrs, ni fydd busnesau cynhenid bach a chanolig eu maint yn llwyddo bob tro, ond maent yn fwy tebygol o aros yma pan eu bod yn tyfu, mae swyddi'n fwy diogel ac mae'n debygol y ceir gwell gwerth am arian cyhoeddus nag yn achos busnesau sy'n penderfynu symud i rywle arall yn y byd. Mae hefyd yn debygol o fod yn haws dwyn perswâd arnynt i symud o fannau poeth economaidd lle y mae problemau mawr o ran gorlenwi ac i ardaloedd yn y Cymoedd a

chefn gwlad. Yn wir, gallent hyd yn oed ymsefydlu yn yr ardaloedd hynny yn y lle cyntaf.

The report says that there was a 9 per cent rise in self-employment over the year from February 2002. There is clearly an entrepreneurial culture growing in Wales, and it is therefore important to nurture that culture.

Dywed yr adroddiad fod cynnydd o 9 y cant mewn hunangyflogaeth dros y flwyddyn er Chwefror 2002. Mae'n amlwg bod diwylliant entrepreneuriaidd yn datblygu yng Nghymru, ac felly mae'n bwysig meithrin y diwylliant hwnnw.

I will refer briefly to transport initiatives, as we all know that transport infrastructure and public transport matter to the economy. The report refers to such initiatives, but I am concerned that they do not seem to be progressing in any way that is proportionate to the number of words that we see in reports. Where are the new, integrated modes of public transport? We have all heard of the splendid work undertaken in Caerphilly in recent years, but is this happening anywhere else in Wales? We hear about the importance of good-quality signage. However, if you arrive in Cardiff central station as a stranger, you will have major problems. I could go on about town after town. Try driving a delivery truck to Maerdy or Blaengarw and see what happens if you meet a midi bus—absolute chaos. I know, because it has happened to me when I have been driving a big vehicle in those areas. The transport strategies we see on paper are comforting, but what we find on the ground is rather different.

Cyfeiriaf yn fyr at fentrau trafndiaeth, gan ein bod i gyd yn gwybod bod seilwaith trafndiaeth a thrafnidiaeth gyhoeddus yn bwysig i'r economi. Mae'r adroddiad yn cyfeirio at fentrau o'r fath, ond yr wyf yn bryderus ei bod yn ymddangos nad ydynt yn gwneud cynnydd sy'n gymesur â'r nifer o eiriau a welwn mewn adroddiadau. Ym mhle y mae'r moddau trafndiaeth gyhoeddus integredig a newydd? Yr ydym oll wedi clywed am y gwaith rhagorol a wnaed yng Nghaerffili mewn blynyddoedd diweddar, ond a yw'n digwydd yn unrhywle arall yng Nghymru? Clywn sôn am bwysigrwydd arwyddion o ansawdd da. Fodd bynnag, os cyrhaeddwch orsaf ganolog Caerdydd, a chithau'n ddieithryn, cewch broblemau mawr. Gallwn sôn am drefi di-rif. Ceisiwch fynd mewn lorri ddanfôn i Faerdy neu Flaengarw a gweld beth sy'n digwydd os ewch wyneb yn wyneb â bws midi—anhrefn llwyr. Yr wyf yn gwybod, gan fod hynny wedi digwydd imi wrth imi yrru cerbyd mawr yn yr ardaloedd hynny. Mae'r strategaethau trafndiaeth a welwn ar bapur yn cynnig cysur, ond mae'r hyn a welwn ar lawr gwlad braidd yn wahanol.

4.20 p.m.

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): In response to points raised, there are clearly great strides to be taken, particularly, as Elin Jones and other Members pointed out, in the public sector provision. The role of public sector bodies is important and, as a Government, we have always said that we will review the way we, and other public bodies, do business. However, we must agree with Christine Gwyther that there has been substantial progress. The launch of Business Eye is not a rebranding of business support structures. It may involve a big marketing

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Mewn ymateb i bwyntiau a godwyd, mae'n amlwg bod angen cymryd camau mawr, yn enwedig, fel y nododd Elin Jones ac Aelodau eraill, yn narpariaeth y sector cyhoeddus. Mae rôl cyrff y sector cyhoeddus yn bwysig ac, fel Llywodraeth, yr ydym wedi dweud erioed y byddwn yn adolygu'r modd yr ydym ni, a chyrrff cyhoeddus eraill, yn gwneud busnes. Er hynny, rhaid inni gytuno â Christine Gwyther y bu cynnydd sylweddol. Nid ailfrandio fframweithiau cymorth busnes a wneir wrth lansio Llygad

campaign, which is ongoing, but it also involves and signifies a tremendous rationalisation of the business support services currently provided by the public sector. To describe it as just a rebranding is a caricature. There has been substantial restructuring.

Alun Cairns: Why is it that Source Wales Six Sigma delivery and the Source Wales quality award have now been rebranded under Source Wales Sourcing? They are exactly the same schemes under a new title. This reflects the inconsistency in what you are saying, Minister.

Andrew Davies: Not at all. The services provided by the WDA are co-ordinated under nine major headings. That does not mean to say that the services or products under those nine headings are no longer needed. They have been rationalised in many cases. If they are sound services that provide added value for companies, they will remain in the portfolio provided. Listening to the contribution of some Plaid Cymru and Tory Members today made me think that we were debating something quite different. This debate is about business support services in Wales.

I turn to Members' questions about the business support system and the points raised in relation to the amendments. Jenny referred to adopting a specific approach to amendments. All I can say in terms of rejecting an amendment where we agree with its recommendation is that we are following the same process as we did when Jenny was a Minister. As regards the regulatory appraisal, we have established a website that draws businesses' attention to legislation from Whitehall or from the Assembly. It also invites feedback from businesses, which we will take on board, about the impact on them.

Jenny Randerson *rose*—

Andrew Davies: I am sorry, Jenny, I do not have time to take another intervention.

Busnes. Gallai olygu ymgyrch farchnata fawr, sy'n mynd rhagddo, ond mae hefyd yn golygu ac yn dangos rhesymoli mawr ar y gwasanaethau cymorth busnes a ddarperir ar hyn o bryd gan y sector cyhoeddus. Camliwio'r sefyllfa yw ei alw'n ailfrandio'n unig. Bu ad-drefnu sylweddol.

Alun Cairns: Pam y mae'r gwaith o ddarparu Chwe Sigma Ffynhonnell Cymru a dyfarniad ansawdd Ffynhonnell Cymru wedi'u hailfrandio o dan Source Wales Sourcing? Yr un cynlluniau ydynt yn union o dan deitl newydd. Mae hyn yn adlewyrchu'r anghysondeb yn yr hyn a ddywedwch, Weinidog.

Andrew Davies: Dim o gwbl. Cydlynir y gwasanaethau a ddarperir gan y WDA o dan naw prif bennawd. Nid yw hynny'n golygu nad oes angen bellach am y gwasanaethau neu gynhyrchion o dan y naw pennawd hynny. Maent wedi'u rhesymoli mewn sawl achos. Os ydynt yn wasanaethau dibynadwy sy'n rhoi gwerth ychwanegol i gwmnïau, byddant yn aros yn y portffolio a ddarparwyd. Wrth wrando ar gyfraniad rhai o Aelodau Plaid Cymru a'r Torïaid heddiw, tybiais ein bod yn cael dadl ar rywbeth cwbl wahanol. Mae'r ddadl hon yn ymwneud â gwasanaethau cymorth busnes yng Nghymru.

Trof at gwestiynau Aelodau am y system cymorth busnes a'r pwyntiau a godwyd mewn cysylltiad â'r gwelliannau. Cyfeiriodd Jenny at fabwysiadu ymagwedd benodol at welliannau. Y cwbl y gallaf ei ddweud ynghylch gwrthod gwelliant, a ninnau'n cytuno ar ei argymhelliad, yw ein bod yn dilyn yr un broses ag a wnaethom pan oedd Jenny yn Weinidog. Gyda golwg ar y gwerthuso rheoliadol, yr ydym wedi sefydlu gwefan sy'n tynnu sylw busnesau at ddeddfwriaeth o Whitehall ac o'r Cynulliad. Mae hefyd yn gwahodd busnesau i roi adborth, y byddwn yn ei ystyried, am yr effaith arnynt hwy.

Jenny Randerson *a gododd*—

Andrew Davies: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, Jenny, nid oes gennyf ddigon o amser i dderbyn ymyriad arall.

Substantial progress has been made in terms of the fall in economic inactivity. Wales has seen the largest fall in the UK. Business support for non-traditional businesses or groups that have been under-represented in business has been grouped under the Potentia programme. This includes programmes such as Prime Cymru, which targets the over-50s and which has been extremely successful in helping people in this category to establish companies that will, hopefully, become thriving businesses. Lorraine Barrett made a similar point in relation to ethnic minority groups. The ethnic business support programme, funded through Objective 1 and the WDA, has also been successful in encouraging individuals and communities to access support and set up their own companies.

Lisa Francis referred to section 4 grants, which have been successful. I was not present, but I think that the First Minister quoted from the latest tourism figures, which show that tourism spend in Wales increased by 16 per cent between January and July 2003, compared with a 1 per cent reduction in the UK as a whole. Similarly, the number of nights spent by tourists in Wales between January and July 2003 increased by 14 per cent and decreased by 7 per cent in the UK over the same period. That is mainly due to raising the standards and quality of the tourism product here, in which section 4 grants administered by the WTB have been a key factor.

On Christine Gwyther's point, we are currently considering the issue of sites and premises with the WDA. A major priority in the mid-term review of Objective 1 is to consider re-profiling spending in those areas. We may have overspent on business support proposals in relation to Objective 1, many of which have been brought forward by local authorities, but that is why we are looking to rationalise and reduce where necessary. Innovation and research and development support are addressed through the SMART Cymru innovation grant system.

Gwnaed cynnydd sylweddol o ran y gostyngiad mewn anweithgarwch economaidd. Cymru a welodd y gostyngiad mwyaf yn y DU. Mae cymorth busnes ar gyfer busnesau neu grwpiau annhraddodiadol sydd wedi'u tangynrychioli mewn busnes wedi'i gynnwys yn y rhaglen Potentia. Mae hyn yn cynnwys rhaglenni fel Prime Cymru, sy'n targedu'r rhai dros 50 oed ac a fu'n llwyddiannus dros ben wrth helpu pobl yn y categori hwn i sefydlu cwmnïau a fydd, yr wyf yn gobeithio, yn dod yn fusnesau ffyniannus. Gwnaeth Lorraine Barrett bwynt tebyg mewn cysylltiad â grwpiau ethnig lleiafrifol. Mae'r rhaglen cymorth busnes ethnig, a gyllidir drwy Amcan 1 a'r WDA, wedi bod yn llwyddiannus hefyd wrth gymell unigolion a chymunedau i gael cymorth a sefydlu eu cwmnïau eu hunain.

Cyfeiriodd Lisa Francis at grantiau adran 4, a fu'n llwyddiannus. Nid oeddwn yn bresennol, ond credaf fod y Prif Weinidog wedi dyfynnu o'r ffigurau diweddaraf am dwristiaeth, sy'n dangos bod y gwariant gan ymwelwyr yng Nghymru wedi cynyddu 16 y cant rhwng Ionawr a Gorffennaf 2003, o'i gymharu â gostyngiad o 1 y cant yn y DU gyfan. Yn yr un modd, bu cynnydd o 14 y cant yn nifer y nosweithiau a dreuliwyd gan ymwelwyr yng Nghymru rhwng Ionawr a Gorffennaf 2003 a gostyngiad o 7 y cant yn y DU dros yr un cyfnod. Mae hynny'n ganlyniad yn bennaf i godi safonau a gwella ansawdd y cynnyrch twristiaeth yma, a bu'r grantiau adran 4 a weinyddir gan Fwrdd Croeso Cymru yn ffactor allweddol wrth wneud hynny.

Ynghylch y pwynt a wnaeth Christine Gwyther, yr ydym yn ystyried mater safleoedd ac adeiladau gyda'r WDA ar hyn o bryd. Un o brif flaenoriaethau'r adolygiad canol tymor o Amcan 1 yw ystyried ailbroffilio'r gwariant yn y meysydd hynny. Efallai ein bod wedi gorwario ar gynigion cymorth busnes mewn cysylltiad ag Amcan 1, y cyflwynwyd llawer ohonynt gan awdurdodau lleol, ond dyna pam yr ydym yn bwriadu rhesymoli a lleihau lle y bo angen. Ymdrinnir â chymorth ar gyfer arloesi ac ymchwil a datblygu drwy system grant arloesedd SMART Cymru.

On Mike German's point, we are considering variations between local authorities, in terms of Assembly investment grants, and are trying to determine the most important contributing factors to the significant variation between local authorities. We are also considering the reduction in RSA applications, but feel that that is a reflection of the general business investment cycle and the fact that they are demand-led schemes. On the £5,000 limit for local authorities, clearly there must be a cut-off point in a streamlined grants system for local authorities, from Assembly investment grants to RSA. Following negotiations with local authorities, that sum was felt to be an appropriate limit. Needless to say, we will review that and we will hold constant discussions with local authorities on what we can do to improve the system and accessibility for business support.

Therefore, there has been substantial progress in rationalising, streamlining and improving access to business support systems. Clearly, there is more work to be done, as we have accepted in this debate. Nevertheless, I think that there has been sound progress.

Ynghylch y pwynt a wnaeth Mike German, yr ydym yn ystyried gwahaniaethau rhwng awdurdodau lleol, yng nghyd-destun grantiau buddsoddi'r Cynulliad, ac yn ceisio pennu'r ffactorau pwysicaf sy'n cyfrannu at y gwahaniaeth sylweddol rhwng awdurdodau lleol. Yr ydym hefyd yn ystyried y gostyngiad yn nifer y ceisiadau am gymorth rhanbarthol dewisol, ond teimlwn fod hynny'n adlewyrchu'r cylch buddsoddi cyffredinol mewn busnes a'r ffaith mai cynlluniau a arweinir gan y galw ydynt. Ynghylch y terfyn o £5,000 ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol, mae'n amlwg bod yn rhaid cael pwynt terfyn mewn system grantiau symlach ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol, o grantiau buddsoddi'r Cynulliad i gymorth rhanbarthol dewisol. Yn sgîl negodiadau ag awdurdodau lleol, teimlwyd bod y swm hwnnw'n derfyn priodol. Wrth gwrs, byddwn yn adolygu hynny ac yn cynnal trafodaethau cyson ag awdurdodau lleol ynghylch yr hyn y gallwn ei wneud i wella'r system a'r gallu i gael cymorth busnes.

Felly, bu cynnydd sylweddol o ran rhesymoli, symleiddio a gwella mynediad i systemau cymorth busnes. Mae'n amlwg bod mwy o waith i'w wneud, fel yr ydym wedi derbyn yn y ddadl. Er hynny, credaf fod cynnydd cadarn wedi bod.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 25, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 29.
Amendment 1: For 25, Abstain 0, Against 29.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Laura Anne
Isherwood, Mark
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet

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

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

Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

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

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment rejected.*

*Gwelliant 2: O blaid 8, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 47.
Amendment 2: For 8, Abstain 0, Against 47.*

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

Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Lloyd, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment rejected.*

*Gwelliant 3: O blaid 11, Ymatal 8, Yn erbyn 36.
Amendment 3: For 11, Abstain 8, Against 36.*

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

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Williams, Brynle

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Denise Idris
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Lloyd, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment rejected.*

*Gwelliant 4: O blaid 25, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 30.
Amendment 4: For 25, Abstain 0, Against 30.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Laura Anne
Isherwood, Mark
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment rejected.*

*Gwelliant 5: O blaid 25, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 30.
Amendment 5: For 25, Abstain 0, Against 30.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Laura Anne
Isherwood, Mark
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle

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

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

Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment rejected.*

*Gwelliant 6: O blaid 17, Ymatal 8, Yn erbyn 30.
Amendment 6: For 17, Abstain 8, Against 30.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Lloyd, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment rejected.*

Cynnig (NDM1673): O blaid 36, Ymatal 8, Yn erbyn 11.

Motion (NDM1673): For 36, Abstain 8, Against 11.

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Denise Idris
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Lloyd, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

4.30 p.m.

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

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Williams, Brynle

**Dadl Plaid Leiafrifol (Y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol)
Minority Party Debate (The Liberal Democrats)**

**Y Dreth Gyngor
Council Tax**

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Karen Sinclair, amendments 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the name of Jonathan Morgan, and amendments 7, 8 and 9 in the name of Jocelyn Davies.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Karen Sinclair, gwelliannau 2, 3, 4, 5 a 6 yn enw Jonathan Morgan a gwelliannau 7, 8 a 9 yn enw Jocelyn Davies.

Michael German: I propose that

Michael German: Cynigiau fod

1. the National Assembly believes that council tax, introduced by a Conservative Government in 1993, is unfair and:

1. y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol o'r farn bod y dreth gyngor, a gyflwynwyd gan y Llywodraeth Geidwadol yn 1993, yn annheg ac:

a) expresses its concern at the cumulative impact of successive above-inflation council tax increases;

a) yn mynegi ei bryder ynghylch effaith gyfansymiol y cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor sydd wedi bod yn gyson uwch na graddfa chwyddiant;

b) regrets that council tax does not take account of people's ability to pay and as a result any increase disproportionately burdens those on fixed and low incomes such as pensioners;

b) yn gresynu at y ffaith nad yw'r dreth gyngor yn ystyried gallu pobl i dalu a bod unrhyw gynnydd, o ganlyniad, yn rhoi mwy o faich ar y rheini sydd ag incwm sefydlog ac incwm isel megis pensïynwyr;

c) notes that since Labour came to power in 1997 the average band D council tax bill in Wales has risen from £416 to £837, an increase of £421 or 101 per cent.

c) yn nodi bod cyfartaledd biliau'r dreth gyngor ar gyfer band D yng Nghymru wedi codi o £416 i £837 ers i'r Blaid Lafur ddod i rym ym 1997, sef cynnydd o £421 neu 101 y cant.

2. the National Assembly therefore calls on the Labour Assembly Government to press the Westminster Government to replace council tax with a local income tax, which is a form of fairer progressive taxation founded on the principle that the more you earn, the more you pay. (NDM1670)

2. o ganlyniad, mae'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn galw ar Lywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i bwysu ar Lywodraeth San Steffan i gael gwared ar y dreth gyngor a sefydlu yn ei lle dreth incwm leol, sef system drethiannol decach a chynyddol sy'n seiliedig ar yr egwyddor bod y rheini sy'n ennill mwy yn talu mwy. (NDM1670)

Anyone from the planet Zog who had looked down on Wales during the last 30 years could not have failed to notice the increasing centralisation of budgetary controls on our local councils. Many local councillors now feel that they are agents of Cathays park, rather than democratically elected politicians. We have experienced the disaster of the poll tax and the hastily put in place council tax—both of which were designed to create a local

Byddai rhywun o'r blaned Zog a gadwodd olwg ar Gymru yn ystod y 30 mlynedd diwethaf yn sicr o fod wedi sylwi ar y canoli cynyddol ar y rheolaethau cyllidebol ar ein cynghorau lleol. Mae llawer o gynghorwyr lleol yn teimlo bellach mai asiantiaid i barc Cathays ydynt, yn hytrach na gwleidyddion a etholwyd yn ddemocrataidd. Profasom drychineb treth y pen a'r dreth gyngor a roddwyd yn frysiog yn ei lle—bwriad y

whiplash against local politicians if they did not stick to central spending limits—and we have experienced capping, ring-fencing and passporting, which were all designed to centralise control. It is right that a fundamental review of localism should take place to rectify the financial over-centralisation in Cardiff, which is the reality of the situation in Wales today. There must be a reform agenda, and we look forward to seeing how the Welsh Assembly Government will connect with the UK Government's review.

I understand that the Assembly Government has indicated that it intends to conduct a parallel review, but the key issue for Wales, as for England, is whether it will include a review of local income tax. Nick Raynsford said that local income tax would be one of the three front runners for discussion in the UK Government's review. Local democracy needs the power to innovate and improve, and to do that, it needs the power of the purse. Reforming the local government tax base, and replacing the unfair council tax, is the first step towards achieving those great goals. There are now the beginnings of a serious debate in the UK about these issues. That debate has not been helped by the Prime Minister stating his objections to a local income tax a day after his local government Minister confirmed that the UK review will actively study it. Downing Street has not yet got its head around the possibility that its own review could come with a radical solution. I hope that the Welsh Assembly Government will not spike the review here before it has even started.

Let us consider the history of the current council tax. It was introduced in a hurry by John Major's Conservative Government in 1993, to replace the hated poll tax. The poll tax backlash, which helped to sweep Maggie Thatcher aside, meant that the Tories had to do something quickly, and they did. Never mind the quality, feel the whip. The poll tax left local government in Britain with £1 billion of uncollected tax. The council tax was a quick-fix solution to a pressing problem that the Tories faced in the early 1990s. Michael Howard and David Davis surely cannot forget the stigma that this failed

ddwy ohonynt oedd creu adwaith lleol yn erbyn gwleidyddion lleol os na chadwent at gyfyngiadau gwario canolog—a phrofasom gapio, clustnodi a phasbortio, a oedd â'r bwriad o ganoli rheolaeth. Mae'n briodol cynnal adolygiad sylfaenol o leoldeb er mwyn cywiro'r gorganoli ariannol yng Nghaerdydd, sef yr hyn a geir yng Nghymru heddiw. Rhaid cael agenda ar gyfer diwygio, ac edrychwn ymlaen at weld sut y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ymwneud ag adolygiad Llywodraeth y DU.

Deallaf fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi nodi ei bod yn bwriadu cynnal adolygiad cyfochrog, ond y pwnc allweddol i Gymru, ac i Loegr hefyd, yw a fydd yn cynnwys adolygiad o dreth incwm leol. Dywedodd Nick Raynsford mai treth incwm leol fyddai un o'r tri thestun trafod pennaf yn adolygiad Llywodraeth y DU. Mae ar ddemocratiaeth leol angen y pŵer i arloesi a gwella, ac i gael gwneud hynny, mae arni angen pŵer y pwrs. Diwygio sylfaen trethiant llywodraeth leol, a disodli'r dreth gyngor annheg, yw'r cam cyntaf tuag at gyrraedd y nodau pwysig hynny. Mae dadl ddifrif yn dechrau yn y DU yn awr ynghylch y pynciau hyn. Ni wnaeth y Prif Weinidog ddim i hyrwyddo'r ddatl honno wrth ddatgan ei wrthwynebiadau i dreth incwm leol ddiwrnod yn dilyn y cadarnhad gan ei Weinidog dros lywodraeth leol y bydd adolygiad y DU yn ei hastudio'n weithredol. Hyd yma, nid yw Stryd Downing wedi canfod y posibilrwydd y gallai ei hadolygiad ei hun gynnig ateb radical. Gobeithiaf na fydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn rhwystro'r adolygiad yma cyn iddo ddechrau hyd yn oed.

Gadewch inni ystyried hanes y dreth gyngor bresennol. Fe'i cyflwynwyd ar frys gan Lywodraeth Geidwadol John Major yn 1993, i gymryd lle'r dreth y pen atgas. Oherwydd yr adwaith i dreth y pen, a fu o gymorth i ysgubo Maggie Thatcher o'r neilltu, yr oedd yn rhaid i'r Torïaid wneud rhywbeth ar frys, a gwnaethant hynny. Na hidiwch yr ansawdd, teimlwch y chwip. Gwnaeth treth y pen adael llywodraeth leol ym Mhrydain â £1 biliwn o dreth heb ei chasglu. Yr oedd y dreth gyngor yn ateb sydyn i broblem anodd a wynebai'r Torïaid ar ddechrau'r 1990au. Mae'n sicr nad yw Michael Howard a David

tax left—

David Davies: Do you agree that one of the reasons that the poll tax failed was that Liberal Democrat councils were unwilling to implement it?

Michael German: You could not break the law and have another system of local government finance at the time. You could take a position where you opposed the poll tax, but you could not break the law and I can assure you that we did not do so.

In the early 1990s, Labour offered a return to the rates system—a system that its own inquiry in the 1970s recommended should be made extinct. There is increasing evidence in Wales that council tax is nearing the limit of acceptability in many areas, and anybody who knocks on doors and talks to people in the street will know that to be true. Many council tax payers have had their patience tried and tried again.

Assembly funding will be inadequate next year to cover the services that local government is responsible for funding. A paper presented to the Assembly's consultative forum on finance on 16 July 2003 identified that local authorities will need an extra £149 million next year to meet the additional costs that will arise from pay increases and price inflation. The local government grant has been increased by £151 million in the latest budget, which, therefore, leaves £2 million to pay for the additional services that local government must provide. Funding the teachers' workload agreement is just one of the extra pressures that the Assembly and the UK Government have put on local government. The Welsh Local Government Association has estimated that the cost of additional administrative staff in schools will be £17 million in the current financial year and £44 million next year. The Labour Assembly Government has allocated £3 million this year and £33 million next year to cover these additional requirements. Other pressures will swallow up the inadequate money that the Labour Assembly Government has allocated, as that paper in July showed.

Davis yn gallu anghofio'r warthnod a adawyd gan y dreth ffaeledig hon—

David Davies: A ydych yn cytuno mai un o'r rhesymau y methodd treth y pen oedd bod cynghorau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn amharod i'w rhoi ar waith?

Michael German: Ni allech dorri'r gyfraith a chael system gyllid arall i lywodraeth leol ar y pryd. Gallech wrthwynebu treth y pen, ond ni allech dorri'r gyfraith a gallaf eich sicrhau na wnaethom hynny.

Ar ddechrau'r 1990au, cynigiodd Llafur y dylid mynd yn ôl at system y trethi—system yr oedd ei ymchwiliad ei hun yn y 1970au wedi argymhell ei dileu. Mae tystiolaeth gynyddol yng Nghymru fod y dreth gyngor yn agosáu at fod yn annerbyniol mewn sawl ardal, a bydd unrhyw un sy'n curo drysau ac yn siarad â phobl ar y stryd yn gwybod bod hynny'n wir. Trethwyd amynedd llawer o dalwyr y dreth gyngor dro ar ôl tro.

Y flwyddyn nesaf, ni fydd cyllid y Cynulliad yn ddigon i dalu am y gwasanaethau y mae llywodraeth leol yn gyfrifol am eu cyllido. Mewn papur a gyflwynwyd i fforwm ymgynghorol y Cynulliad ar gyllid ar 16 Gorffennaf 2003, nodwyd y bydd ar awdurdodau lleol angen £149 miliwn yn ychwanegol y flwyddyn nesaf i dalu'r costau ychwanegol a geir o godiadau cyflog a chwyddiant mewn prisiau. Bu cynnydd o £151 miliwn yn y grant i lywodraeth leol yn y gyllideb ddiweddaraf, sydd, felly, yn gadael £2 filiwn i dalu am y gwasanaethau ychwanegol y mae'n rhaid i lywodraeth leol eu darparu. Un o blith nifer o bwysau ychwanegol a roddodd y Cynulliad a Llywodraeth y DU ar lywodraeth leol yw'r angen i gyllido cytundeb baich gwaith yr athrawon. Mae Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru wedi amcangyfrif mai cost staff weinyddol ychwanegol mewn ysgolion fydd £17 miliwn yn y flwyddyn ariannol bresennol a £44 miliwn yn y nesaf. Mae'r Llywodraeth Cynulliad Lafur wedi dyrannu £3 miliwn eleni a £33 miliwn y flwyddyn nesaf i dalu am y gofynion ychwanegol hyn. Bydd pwysau eraill yn llyncu'r arian annigonol a ddyrannodd y Llywodraeth Cynulliad Lafur, fel y dangosodd y papur

hwnnw ym mis Gorffennaf.

A fairer system for funding local government must be found. The Labour-inspired 1976 royal commission on local government finance reported that:

‘A local income tax based on all personal incomes, the rate set by local authorities, is the only feasible major new source of income meriting consideration.’

Nothing that underpinned that analysis has changed in the intervening years, save that computerisation has made it easier to administer. The Inland Revenue—believe it or not—knows where you live and can easily accommodate the collection of a locally based tax.

The heart of the problem is that council tax takes no account of income and the ability to pay. A pensioner couple, living on very little, can pay as much as a high-earning professional couple. The poorest households spend a much bigger percentage of their disposable income on council tax than the richest households do. It is like Robin Hood in reverse—robbing the poor to help the rich. It is not right that a two-pensioner household pays the same amount in local tax as the three-earner household next door, and that a poorly paid worker pays the same as his two higher-earning neighbours. There is no point in tinkering with an unfair tax by handing out complicated and unclaimed discounts to try to make it fairer. It is estimated that almost 100,000 people in Wales who are eligible for council tax discounts and benefits do not claim them. Nowhere is this more acute than among pensioners, who suffer the most because their fixed incomes rise at a much slower rate than the council tax. The poorest pensioners pay nearly six times more for council tax than the richest non-pensioners.

Local income tax would be cheaper to collect—per pound collected, council tax costs four times as much as income tax; that is millions wasted on unnecessary

Rhaid canfod system decach i gyllido llywodraeth leol. Adroddodd y comisiwn brenhinol ar gyllid llywodraeth leol a symbylwyd gan Lafur yn 1976 mai:

treth incwm leol sy'n seiliedig ar bob incwm personol, a'r gyfradd wedi'i phennu gan awdurdodau lleol, yw'r unig ffynhonnell incwm newydd o bwys sy'n ddichonol ac yn haeddu ei hystyried.

Nid oes dim a fu'n sail i'r dadansoddiad hwnnw wedi newid yn y cyfamser, heblaw bod cyfrifiaduro wedi'i gwneud yn haws ei gweinyddu. Mae Cyllid y Wlad—credwch neu beidio—yn gwybod lle'r ydych yn byw a byddai'n hawdd iddo ddarparu ar gyfer casglu treth leol.

Hanfod y broblem yw nad yw'r dreth gyngor yn ystyried incwm a'r gallu i dalu. Mae'n bosibl y bydd pâr o bensiynwyr, a hwythau'n byw ar ychydig iawn, yn talu cymaint â pâr proffesiynol sy'n ennill cyflogau mawr. Mae'r teuluoedd tlotaf yn gwario cyfran fwy o lawer o'u hincwm gwariadwy ar y dreth gyngor nag y mae'r teuluoedd cyfoethocaf yn ei wneud. Mae fel Robin Hood o chwith—yn dwyn oddi ar y tlawd i helpu'r cyfoethog. Nid yw'n iawn bod teulu o ddau bensiynwr yn talu'r un swm mewn treth leol ag y mae'r teulu sydd â thri incwm y drws nesaf, a bod y gweithiwr ar gyflog sâl yn talu'r un swm â'i ddau gymydog sy'n ennill cyflogau mwy. Nid oes diben mewn ailwampio treth annheg drwy roi disgowntiau cymhleth, nas hawlir, i geisio ei gwneud yn decach. Amcangyfrifir bod ymron i 100,000 o bobl yng Nghymru sy'n gymwys i gael disgownt ar y dreth gyngor a budd-daliadau nad ydynt yn eu hawlio. Mae hynny ar ei waethaf ymysg pensiynwyr, sy'n dioddef fwyaf am fod eu hincymau sefydlog yn codi'n arafach o lawer na'r dreth gyngor. Mae'r pensiynwyr tlotaf yn talu bron chwe gwaith yn fwy am y dreth gyngor nag y mae'r rhai cyfoethocaf nad ydynt yn bensiynwyr.

Byddai'n rhatach casglu treth incwm leol—am bob punt a gesglir, mae'r dreth gyngor yn costio pedair gwaith gymaint â threth incwm; dyna wastraffu miliynau ar

bureaucracy. Local income tax would piggyback on national income tax, so we would not need a new separate system of expensive bureaucracy. Scrapping council tax would save tens of millions of pounds, which is money that could be released into front-line council services or returned to hard-pressed taxpayers.

The Conservative amendments show the party's real colours. The amendments are centralising and punitive and we oppose them as we did when the Conservatives initially proposed the council tax. All that we said that was wrong with the council tax at that time has come true. Amendment 4 is inconsistent: as it reads, the Assembly should pick up the tab for any decision taken, even if it were taken by the council itself. I do not think that that is what was intended.

Labour's amendment is a half-hearted defence of a system that its Members know in their hearts is seriously flawed. They opposed the council tax in the early 1990s, and they should not fear opposing it now. Plaid Cymru has been consistent in its support of a local income tax.

4.40 p.m.

Labour inherited the unfair council tax from the Conservatives; so what is stopping Ministers from addressing the council tax problem directly? Council tax is so unfair to pensioners and those on fixed incomes that it must be scrapped. Local income tax is about introducing a fairer tax, not more tax; it is fair; it respects people's ability to pay; it is easy to understand as income tax affects nearly everyone; and it is cheaper and easier to collect. Only when this fundamental change in local financing has occurred can the next task, of restoring local democracy and revitalising local government financing to balance equity and innovation, take place. In London, Labour knows that something is wrong, but it is not brave enough to face the issue. In Wales, Labour's half-hearted amendment shows that it knows that its case is weak but that, at best, it will only tinker with what exists. The Labour 'tinkermen' need a Roman Abramovich, Chelsea Football

fiwrocratiaeth ddiangen. Byddai treth incwm leol yn gweithio ar yr un sylfaen â'r dreth incwm wladol, fel na fyddai arnom angen system newydd o fiwrocratiaeth ddrud ar wahân. Byddai dileu'r dreth gyngor yn arbed degau o filynau o bunnoedd, a gellid rhyddhau'r arian hwnnw ar gyfer gwasanaethau rheng flaen cynghorau neu ei roi'n ôl i drethdalwyr sydd mewn cyni.

Mae gwelliannau'r Ceidwadwyr yn dangos gwir liwiau'r blaid honno. Mae'r gwelliannau'n ganolaidd ac yn gosbol ac fe'u gwrthwynebwn fel y gwnaethom pan gynigiodd y Ceidwadwyr y dreth gyngor yn y lle cyntaf. Mae holl ddiffygion y dreth gyngor y cyfeiriasom atynt bryd hynny wedi dod yn wir. Mae gwelliant 4 yn anghyson: fel y mae'n darllen, y Cynulliad a ddylai dalu am unrhyw benderfyniad a wneir, hyd yn oed os mai'r cyngor ei hun a'i gwnaeth. Ni chredaf mai hynny oedd y bwriad.

Mae gwelliant Llafur yn amddiffyniad llugoer i system y gŵyr ei Aelodau yn eu calonnau fod diffygion difrifol ynddi. Gwrthwynebasant y dreth gyngor ddechrau'r 1990au, ac ni ddylent ofni ei gwrthwynebu'n awr. Mae Plaid Cymru wedi bod yn gyson yn ei chefnogaeth i dreth incwm leol.

Etifeddodd Llafur y dreth gyngor annheg oddi wrth y Ceidwadwyr; felly beth sy'n rhwystro Gweinidogion rhag ymdrin â phroblem y dreth gyngor ar unwaith? Mae'r dreth gyngor mor annheg â phensiynwyr a'r rhai ar incwm sefydlog fel bod rhaid cael gwared arni. Mae treth incwm leol yn golygu cyflwyno treth decach, nid rhagor o drethi; mae'n deg, mae'n parchu gallu pobl i dalu; mae'n hawdd ei deall gan fod treth incwm yn effeithio ar bawb bron; ac mae'n rhatach ac yn haws ei chasglu. Dim ond ar ôl cael y newid sylfaenol hwn mewn cyllido lleol y gellir cychwyn ar y dasg nesaf o adfer democratiaeth leol ac adfywio cyllid llywodraeth leol er mwyn dal y ddysgl yn wastad rhwng tegwch ac arloesi. Yn Llundain, gŵyr Llafur fod rhywbeth o'i le, ond nid yw'n ddigon dewr i wynebu'r mater. Yng Nghymru, mae gwelliant llugoer Llafur yn dangos ei fod yn gwybod mai dadl wan sydd ganddo ond, ar y gorau, na wnaiff ond

Club's Russian billionaire owner, to buy them out of their problems. Unfortunately, there is no chance as Gordon 'Abramovich' Brown is running out of money, and he must choose between making cuts or raising taxes. Yet again, it will be the council tax payers—and the poorer people in our communities—who suffer. Council tax is, therefore, a deeply unfair and regressive tax.

Peter Law: I was waiting for the magic words 'poorer people' and 'communities', and I am glad that you mentioned them at last. I heard your remarks about the planet Zog and thought that never-neverland was more appropriate for your proposals; that is where most Liberal Democrat policies evolve. Cast your memory back to 2000, when Labour asked your party to support poor people in deprived communities by giving them a fairer deal on council tax—the Liberal Democrats voted against the people of Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Neath Port Talbot. Do you remember that? I am sure that you must still feel ashamed of what you did.

Michael German: I presume you refer to that year's inadequate budget for local authorities, including that in your own area. If it was inadequate, we would vote accordingly. I remind you that your own ark now has a rusty door. Labour's Minister for local government in London is going to examine this issue. A sensible debate is needed, rather than a debate based on the unnecessary partisanship that you have shown today.

Council tax is deeply unfair and regressive: it punishes the poor and lets off the wealthy, and I hope that you remember that, Peter, as it is difficult to understand and easy to get wrong.

David Davies: I have a simple question, Mike, as we seem to be a bit light on detail.

tincera â'r hyn sy'n bod eisoes. Mae ar 'dincrwyr' Llafur angen rhyw Roman Abramovich, y biliwnydd sy'n berchen ar Glwb Pêl-droed Chelsea, i'w prynu o'u problemau. Gwaetha'r modd, nid oes gobaith o hynny gan fod Gordon 'Abramovich' Brown yn mynd yn brin o arian, a rhaid iddo ddewis rhwng gwneud toriadau neu godi trethi uwch. Unwaith eto, talwyr y dreth gyngor—a'r pobl dlotach yn ein cymunedau—sy'n dioddef. Gan hynny, mae'r dreth gyngor yn dreth annheg ac atchweliadol iawn.

Peter Law: Yr oeddwn yn disgwyl am y geiriau hud 'pobl dlotach' a 'cymunedau', ac yr wyf yn falch eich bod wedi'u crybwyll o'r diwedd. Clywais eich sylwadau am y blaned Zog a thybiais y byddai gwlad byth bythoedd yn fwy priodol i'ch cynigion chi; dyna lle y mae'r rhan fwyaf o bolisiau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn datblygu. Edrychwch yn ôl i 2000, pan ofynnodd Llafur i'ch plaid gynorthwyo pobl dlawd mewn cymunedau difreintiedig drwy roi bagen decach iddynt ar y dreth gyngor—pleidleisiodd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn erbyn pobl Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tudful, Rhondda Cynon Taf a Chastell-nedd Port Talbot. A ydych yn cofio hynny? Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn dal i deimlo cywilydd am yr hyn a wnaethoch.

Michael German: Cymeraf eich bod yn cyfeirio at y gyllideb annigonol y flwyddyn honno ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol, gan gynnwys yr un yn eich ardal chi. Os oedd yn annigonol, byddem yn pleidleisio'n unol â hynny. Yr wyf yn eich atgoffa eich bod yn sefyll ar dir sigledig. Bydd y Gweinidog Llafur dros lywodraeth leol yn Llundain yn ymchwilio i'r mater hwn. Mae angen dadl synhwyrol, yn hytrach na dadl sy'n seiliedig ar y pleidgarwch diangen yr ydych wedi'i amlygu heddiw.

Mae'r dreth gyngor yn annheg ac atchweliadol dros ben: mae'n cosbi'r tlawd ac yn esgusodi'r cyfoethog, a gobeithiaf y cofiwch hynny, Peter, gan ei fod yn anodd ei ddeall ac yn hawdd bod yn anghywir yn ei gylch.

David Davies: Mae gennyf gwestiwn syml, Mike, gan ei bod yn ymddangos ein bod

You say that local income tax will piggyback on national income tax—I presume that it will be collected nationally and then given back to local authorities. Will it be distributed to local authorities via the National Assembly using some sort of formula, or will each penny from every local authority area be earmarked to return directly to the local authority area from which the money was collected? We are not hearing such details from you.

Michael German: The portion of taxation raised locally would be accounted for locally and distributed to the local councils that ask for it in the same way as council tax. The Assembly has no hand on the council tax lever: council tax is raised locally by local authorities and it goes directly to them. Nothing would change in that regard.

I asked the Labour party not to let the Conservatives off their hook. The local income tax proposed is fair, progressive, easy to understand, easy and cheap to administer and tried and tested across the world. I therefore ask Members to support this measure, thereby creating opportunity in the review that the Minister will undoubtedly announce later on—which has already been announced by press release—to include this proposal as a potential runner, thereby supporting the fairness inherent in a local income tax system.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Thirteen Members wish to speak, so not everybody will be able to contribute. I will limit speakers to five minutes, or six minutes if they allow an intervention.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I propose amendment 1 in the name of Karen Sinclair. Amendment 1: delete all and replace with:

the National Assembly believes that the council tax will have a continuing role in financing a proportion of local government expenditure and supports the Welsh Assembly Government in reviewing the balance of funding for local government.

braidd yn brin o fanylion. Dywedwch y bydd treth incwm leol yn gweithio ar yr un syflaen â'r dreth incwm wladol—cymeraf y caiff ei chasglu'n genedlaethol a'i rhoi'n ôl i awdurdodau lleol wedyn. A gaiff ei dosbarthu gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i awdurdodau lleol drwy ddefnyddio rhyw fath o fformiwla, neu a gaiff pob ceiniog o bob ardal awdurdod lleol ei chlustnodi i'w rhoi'n ôl yn uniongyrchol i'r ardal awdurdod lleol y casglwyd yr arian ynddi? Nid ydym yn cael manylion o'r fath gennych.

Michael German: Byddai'r gyfran o drethiant a godid yn lleol yn cael ei chyfrifo'n lleol a'i dosbarthu i'r cynghorau lleol sy'n gofyn amdani yn yr un modd â'r dreth gyngor. Nid oes gan y Cynulliad unrhyw reolaeth ar y dreth gyngor: codir y dreth gyngor yn lleol gan awdurdodau lleol ac aiff yn syth iddynt. Ni fyddai dim yn newid yn hynny o beth.

Gofynnais i'r Blaid Lafur beidio ag esgusodi'r Ceidwadwyr. Mae'r dreth incwm leol a gynigir yn deg, yn flaengar, yn hawdd ei deall, yn hawdd ac yn rhad i'w gweinyddu ac mae wedi profi'n llwyddiannus ledled y byd. Gan hynny, gofynnaf i Aelodau gefnogi'r mesur hwn, gan greu cyfle yn yr adolygiad y bydd y Gweinidog yn sicr o'i gyhoeddi'n ddiweddarach—sydd eisoes wedi'i gyhoeddi mewn datganiad i'r wasg—i gynnwys y cynnig hwn fel un dichonol, a thrwy hynny gefnogi'r tegwch sy'n rhan annatod o system treth incwm leol.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae 13 o Aelodau'n dymuno siarad, felly ni fydd pawb yn gallu cyfrannu. Cyfyngaf siaradwyr i bum munud, neu chwe munud os caniatânt ymyriad.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Cynigiau welliant 1 yn enw Karen Sinclair. Gwelliant 1: dileu'r cyfan a rhoi yn ei le:

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol o'r farn y bydd rôl y dreth gyngor o ran cyllido cyfran o wariant llywodraeth leol yn parhau ac mae'n cefnogi adolygiad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru o'r modd y cyllidir gweddill cyllideb llywodraeth leol.

Glyn Davies: I propose the following amendments in the name of Jonathan Morgan. Amendment 2: in point 1, delete 'is unfair', and replace with:

requires a responsible approach to public spending by the Assembly Government and local authorities if it is to operate fairly,

I propose amendment 3. Add at the end of sub-point c):

and notes that council tax increased by almost 20 per cent during the two years that the Liberal Democrats were in coalition with Labour.

I propose amendment 4. Add as a new sub-point to point 1:

calls on the Assembly Government to fully fund the financial consequences of any decision which impacts on council tax.

I propose amendment 5. Add as a new sub-point to point 1:

calls on local authorities to freeze council tax bills over the next five years limiting any increases to below the level of inflation.

I propose amendment 6. Delete point 2 in its entirety.

The council tax rate has gone through the roof as a particularly iniquitous consequence of Labour's attachment to high-tax, high-spend policies. In the four years of the National Assembly's existence, council tax has increased by a massive 40 per cent and has reached a level where it inflicts hardship and despair on people on low fixed incomes.

Janet Ryder: May I clarify that? The 40 per cent rise applies only to Labour-run councils; Plaid Cymru-run councils have only raised council tax by an average of 32 per cent.

Glyn Davies: Cynigiaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Jonathan Morgan. Gwelliant 2: dileu pwynt 1 hyd at a chan gynnwys 'yn annheg' a rhoi yn ei le:

Mae'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol o'r farn bod angen i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ac awdurdodau lleol feddu ar agwedd gyfrifol at wariant cyhoeddus os yw'r dreth gyngor, a gyflwynwyd gan Lywodraeth Geidwadol ym 1993, i weithredu'n deg,

Cynigiaf welliant 3. Ychwanegu at is-bwynt c):

ac yn nodi i'r dreth gyngor gynyddu bron 20 y cant yn ystod y ddwy flynedd pan fu'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol mewn clymblaid â'r Blaid Lafur.

Cynigiaf welliant 4. Ychwanegu fel is-bwynt newydd ym mhwynt 1:

yn galw ar Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i ariannu'n llawn ganlyniadau ariannol unrhyw benderfyniad sy'n effeithio ar y dreth gyngor.

Cynigiaf welliant 5. Ychwanegu fel is-bwynt newydd ym mhwynt 1:

yn galw ar awdurdodau lleol i rewi biliau'r dreth gyngor dros y bum mlynedd nesaf gan gadw unrhyw gynnydd o dan lefel chwyddiant.

Cynigiaf welliant 6. Dileu pwynt 2 yn ei gyfanrwydd.

Mae cyfradd y dreth gyngor wedi codi i'r entrychion ac mae hynny'n ganlyniad arbennig o ysgeler i ymlyniad Llafur wrth bolisiau sy'n golygu trethi uchel a gwario mawr. Yn y pedair blynedd y bu'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol mewn bodolaeth, mae'r dreth gyngor wedi cynyddu'n aruthrol o 40 y cant ac wedi cyrraedd lefel lle y mae'n peri caledi ac anobaith ymysg rhai sydd ar incwm sefydlog isel.

Janet Ryder: A gaf egluro hynny? Dim ond i gynghorau sy'n cael eu rhedeg gan Lafur y mae'r cynnydd o 40 y cant yn berthnasol; mae cynghorau sy'n cael eu rhedeg gan

Blaid Cymru wedi cynyddu'r dreth gyngor 32 y cant yn unig ar gyfartaledd.

Glyn Davies: That may well be true, but council tax has increased by roughly 40 per cent over four years, and our response is based on that.

Glyn Davies: Mae'n ddigon posibl bod hynny'n wir, ond mae'r dreth gyngor wedi cynyddu o tua 40 y cant dros bedair blynedd, ac mae ein hymateb yn seiliedig ar hynny.

This unprecedented attack on people's wallets must stop. The Government's target should be to freeze council tax, with no increases above the rate of inflation, for at least five years.

Rhaid rhoi'r gorau i'r ymosodiad digyffelyb hwn ar waledi pobl. Dylai'r Llywodraeth anelu at rewi'r dreth gyngor, heb unrhyw gynnydd uwchlaw cyfradd chwyddiant, am o leiaf bum mlynedd.

Mae'n amser i roi'r gorau i gosbi talwyr y dreth gyngor. Mae cynnydd o 40 y cant dros bedair blynedd yn ergyd i'r rhai sydd ar gyflog isel. Mae'n amser i rewi'r dreth gyngor a sicrhau nad yw'n cynyddu'n uwch na chwyddiant yn y blynyddoedd sydd i ddod.

It is time to stop penalising council tax payers. A 40 per cent increase over four years is hard on those on low incomes. It is time to freeze the council tax and to ensure that it does not rise above inflation in the ensuing years.

No-one likes taxes, but I approved of the council tax in principle when it was introduced in the early 1990s, and I continue to support it in principle.

Nid oes neb yn hoffi trethi, ond cymeradwyais y dreth gyngor mewn egwyddor pan gyflwynwyd hi ddechrau'r 1990au, ac yr wyf yn dal i'w chefnogi mewn egwyddor.

Council tax replaced the community charge, which was difficult to operate, and the single person's discount makes it more progressive than the old rates system. A property-based tax, set at affordable levels, has a place in the portfolio of taxes that every Government must levy. However, no-one could have anticipated the extent to which Labour and the Liberal Democrats, whenever they have managed to get a hand on the taxation lever, would rip off the council tax payer.

Cyflwynwyd y dreth gyngor yn lle'r tâl cymunedol, a oedd yn anodd ei weithredu, ac mae'r disgownt i bobl sengl yn peri ei bod yn fwy blaengar na'r hen system drethi. Mae lle i dreth sy'n seiliedig ar eiddo, a osodir ar lefelau fforddiadwy, ym mhorthfolio'r trethi y mae pob Llywodraeth yn gorfod eu codi. Fodd bynnag, ni allasai neb ragweld y graddau y byddai Llafur a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, pryd bynnag y llwyddasant i gael gafael ar y lifer trethu, yn twyllo talwyr y dreth gyngor.

Peter Law: I often refer to you affectionately as 'Farmer Poll Tax'. Did you support and take great pride in the poll tax, which your Government introduced? Furthermore, will you accept that the high bases of council tax that have existed throughout local authorities since 1995 are due to the botch that your Government made of local government reorganisation and the disaggregation that followed?

Peter Law: Yr wyf yn aml yn cyfeirio'n annwyl atoch fel 'Ffermwr Treth y Pen'. A wnaethoch gefnogi ac ymfalchïo'n fawr yn nhreth y pen, a gyflwynwyd gan eich Llywodraeth chi? At hynny, a wnewch dderbyn bod y sylfeini treth gyngor uchel a gafwyd ym mhob un o'r awdurdodau lleol er 1995 yn ganlyniad i'r llanastr a wnaeth eich Llywodraeth o ad-drefnu llywodraeth leol a'r chwalfa a ddilynodd hynny?

Glyn Davies: The only reason why we have high council taxes is that your Government spends money hand over fist, without any

Glyn Davies: Yr unig reswm y mae gennym drethi cyngor uchel yw bod eich Llywodraeth chi'n gwario arian yn

consideration of the consequences.

The Liberal Democrats, Labour and, probably, Plaid Cymru have an inherent predilection for taxing again and again. It is because of that that an entirely sensible mechanism for funding local government is being transformed into an unbearable financial burden on the people of Wales.

In advocating a freeze on council tax, I am making two statements about Conservative policy. First, the Assembly Government must fully fund the impact on council tax of its myriad of policy announcements, new regulations and other changes. Our message to the Government is: stop using councils as your tax collectors, and stop bringing in tax-raising powers by the back door. The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning announced the new teachers' workload agreement with great fanfare and then refused point blank to answer questions about the cost that would fall on councils, until somebody else worked it out and published the figures. Ministers must not do that. The second policy statement is that local authorities must be pressured into operating a proper level of financial discipline, whereby increases in spending are balanced by savings elsewhere in the budget. It is time to cull unnecessary partnership meetings, new information departments and glossy information brochures.

Peter Black *rose*—

Glyn Davies: I will not give way, I do not have much time.

My greatest fear is that, as levels of council tax rocket through the roof and into space, the siren voices that talk of a local income tax will become louder. We have heard them today. Where the Liberal Democrat answer is not to tax people more, that would not be problematic for the Government. With a silver tongue, the Liberal Democrats propose to abolish the nasty council tax and replace it with a new, harmless little tax, namely LIT, which is a cute little name. However, local income tax would not be a nice little tax, Mike German; it would be an evil tax. It would be a huge tax on incentive, entrepreneurship, productivity,

ddiddiwedd, heb ystyried y canlyniadau.

Mae hoffter cynhenid gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, Llafur a Phlaid Cymru, yn ôl pob tebyg, o drethu dro ar ôl tro. Oherwydd hynny y troir dull cwbl synhwyrol o gyllido llywodraeth leol yn faich ariannol annioddefol ar bobl Cymru.

Wrth argymell rhewi'r dreth gyngor, gwnaf ddau ddatganiad am bolisi Ceidwadol. Yn gyntaf, rhaid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad dalu'n llawn am effaith ei llu o gyhoeddiadau polisi, rheoliadau newydd a newidiadau eraill ar y dreth gyngor. Ein neges ni i'r Llywodraeth yw: rhowch y gorau i ddefnyddio cynghorau fel eich casglwyr trethi, a rhowch y gorau i gyflwyno pwerau trethu drwy'r drws cefn. Cyhoeddodd y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes gytundeb baich gwaith newydd yr athrawon ar gyrn a phibau ac wedyn gwrthod ateb cwestiynau am y gost i gynghorau, nes i rywun arall ei chyfrifo a chyhoeddi'r ffigurau. Ni ddylai Gweinidogion wneud hynny. Yr ail ddatganiad polisi yw bod rhaid pwysu ar awdurdodau lleol i arfer lefel briodol o ddisgyblaeth ariannol, lle y mantolir cynnydd mewn gwariant yn erbyn arbedion yn rhan arall o'r gyllideb. Mae'n bryd rhoi pen ar gyfarfodydd partneriaeth diangen, adrannau gwybodaeth newydd a llawlyfrau gwybodaeth sgleiniog.

Peter Black *a gododd*—

Glyn Davies: Nid ildiaf, nid oes gennyf lawer o amser.

Yr ofn mwyaf sydd gennyf yw, wrth i lefelau'r dreth gyngor godi i'r entrychion, y bydd y lleisiau pêr sy'n sôn am dreth incwm leol yn codi'n uwch. Fe'u clywsom heddiw. Er nad codi mwy o dreth ar bobl yw ateb y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, ni fyddai gan y Llywodraeth wrthwynebiad i hynny. Mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn cynnig yn huawdl y dylid dileu'r dreth gyngor gas a rhoi yn ei lle dreth fach newydd, ddiniwed, sef LIT, sy'n enw bach hoffus. Fodd bynnag, ni fyddai treth incwm leol yn dreth fach ddymunol, Mike German; byddai'n dreth ddieflig. Byddai'n dreth aruthrol ar gymhelliad, entrepreneuriaeth, cynhyrchiant,

competitiveness and, eventually, on jobs and services. There would be an irresistible incentive for people to arrange finances to minimise the liability to pay tax. It would be a tax on those who pay tax through the pay-as-you-earn system. There is only one way to stop council taxes from continuing to rise—the Government must stop placing unfunded burdens on local councils. It needs to stop all the spending and all the taxing, and it needs to spend less and spend it better. That is what you would get under a Conservative Government.

4.50 p.m.

Janet Ryder: I propose the following amendments in the name of Jocelyn Davies. Amendment 7: delete point 2 and replace with:

The National Assembly therefore calls on the Labour Assembly Government to demand that the Westminster Government replaces council tax with a local income tax, as part of a fairer progressive taxation system founded on the principle that the more you earn, the more you pay.

I propose amendment 8. Add as a new point at the end of the motion:

The National Assembly calls on the Labour Assembly Government to review the balance of funding for local government and its impact on local democracy.

I propose amendment 9. Add as a new point at the end of the motion:

The National Assembly calls on the Labour Assembly Government to bring forward a relief scheme in the meantime to aid those households severely affected by the rebanding of council tax, which will apply to all homes in Wales from 1 April 2005.

I cannot quite get over what I have just heard from Glyn about spending less and getting better services.

Plaid Cymru is pleased that the Liberal Democrats have proposed this debate.

y gallu i gystadlu ac, yn y diwedd, ar swyddi a gwasanaethau. Byddai'n gymhelliad anorchfygol i bobl drefnu eu materion ariannol i leihau eu hatebolrwydd i dalu treth. Byddai'n dreth ar y rhai sy'n talu treth drwy'r system talu wrth ennill. Nid oes ond un modd i atal y cynnydd parhaol mewn trethi cyngor—rhaid i'r Llywodraeth roi'r gorau i osod beichiau sydd heb eu cyllido ar gynghorau lleol. Rhaid iddi roi'r gorau i'r holl wario a'r holl drethu, a rhaid iddi wario llai a'i wario'n well. Dyna a gaech o dan Lywodraeth Geidwadol.

Janet Ryder: Cynigiau y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Gwelliant 7: dileu pwynt 2 a rhoi'r pwynt a ganlyn yn ei le:

Mae'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol felly yn galw ar Lywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i fynnu bod Llywodraeth San Steffan yn cyfnewid y dreth gyngor am dreth incwm leol, fel rhan o system drethu flaengar a thecach sy'n seiliedig ar egwyddor mai'r rheini sy'n ennill fwyaf sy'n talu fwyaf.

Cynigiau welliant 8. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Mae'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn galw ar Lywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i adolygu'r modd y cyllidir gweddill cyllideb llywodraeth leol ac effaith hynny ar ddemocratiaeth leol.

Cynigiau welliant 9. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Mae'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn galw ar Lywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i gyflwyno cynllun rhyddhau yn y cyfamser i helpu'r teuluoedd hynny sydd wedi dioddef yn drwm oherwydd ailfandio'r dreth gyngor, a fydd yn berthnasol i bob cartref yng Nghymru o 1 Ebrill 2005.

Bron na allaf goelio'r hyn yr wyf newydd ei glywed gan Glyn am wario llai a chael gwell gwasanaethau.

Mae Plaid Cymru yn falch bod y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi cynnig y

However, despite the Liberals' misconception that they are the sole developer of any new ideas, it is wrong for them to say that Plaid Cymru has been won over to this stance of late. Local income tax has been Plaid Cymru policy for many years. As Peter Law has often said, the Liberal Democrat Party is the scavenger party, bereft of original thought and surviving only by taking the policies of others and making them its own. I wonder if Peter would agree with Winnie Ewing's definition of a Liberal Democrat as someone who does not have the guts to join a real political party.

Plaid Cymru has always believed that a property-based council tax is unfair and should be replaced with a fairer system of local income tax. The system as it stands in no way reflects a person's ability to pay and, as a consequence, it penalises the most vulnerable in our communities, such as pensioners, whose income is linked to inflation and who find it increasingly difficult to meet their council tax bills. Those with the lowest incomes are protected from council tax rises by council tax benefit, but low-paid workers who fall into the benefit trap, with incomes just above the level of benefits, will be hit hard. Some would say that these are the very people that Labour is always calling for help for—rightly so. Labour claims to champion the best interests of these groups, yet it wants to see this unfair tax, which is totally unconnected to a person's ability to pay, continue. Does the Labour group support Nick Raynsford and have an open mind on replacing the council tax with a local income tax, or does it support Tony Blair, who opposes it? According to amendment 1, it supports Tony Blair—so much for there being clear red water between here and London. When Tony calls, the Government comes running.

The basic concept of relating tax to property value is unsupportable. We are all aware of the massive rise in the value of property, which is not connected to a commensurate rise in income. The consequences of this

ddadl hon. Fodd bynnag, er gwaethaf camsyniad y Rhyddfrydwyr mai hwy'n unig sy'n datblygu unrhyw syniadau newydd, maent yn camgymryd wrth ddweud bod Plaid Cymru wedi'i hennill drosodd i'r safbwynt hwn yn ddiweddar. Bu treth incwm leol yn bolisi gan Plaid Cymru ers blynyddoedd lawer. Fel y dywedodd Peter Law lawer gwaith, plaid y sborionwyr yw Plaid y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, nad oes ganddi'r un syniad gwreiddiol, ac nid yw ond yn goroesi drwy gymryd polisïau rhai eraill a'u mabwysiadu eu hunain. Tybed a gytunai Peter â diffiniad Winnie Ewing o Democrat Rhyddfrydol, sef rhywun nad yw'n ddigon dewr i ymuno â phlaidd wleidyddol go-iawn.

Mae Plaid Cymru yn credu erioed fod treth gyngor sy'n seiliedig ar eiddo yn annheg ac y dylid rhoi system decach o dreth incwm leol yn ei lle. Fel y mae, nid yw'r system yn adlewyrchu gallu rhywun i dalu o gwbl ac, o ganlyniad, mae'n cosbi'r rhai yn ein cymdeithas sy'n fwyaf agored i niwed, fel pensynwyr, y mae eu hincwm yn gysylltiedig â chwyddiant sy'n ei chael yn fwyfwy anodd talu eu biliau treth gyngor. Mae'r rhai ar yr incymau isaf yn cael eu gwarchod rhag cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor drwy fudd-dal y dreth gyngor, ond bydd gweithwyr sydd ar gyflog isel sy'n mynd i'r fagl budd-daliadau, sydd ag incwm ychydig yn uwch na lefel y budd-daliadau, yn cael eu taro'n galed. Dywedai rhai mai'r rhain yw'r union bobl y mae Llafur bob amser yn galw am roi cymorth iddynt—ac yn briodol felly. Mae Llafur yn honni sefyll dros fuddiannau gorau'r grwpiau hyn, ac eto mae am weld parhad y dreth annheg hon, sydd heb unrhyw gysylltiad â gallu rhywun i dalu. A yw'r grŵp Llafur yn cefnogi Nick Raynsford sydd â meddwl agored ynghylch rhoi treth incwm leol yn lle'r dreth gyngor, neu a yw'n cefnogi Tony Blair, sy'n ei gwrthwynebu? Yn ôl gwelliant 1, mae'n cefnogi Tony Blair—naw wfft i'r syniad bod dŵr coch clir rhwng y fan hon a Llundain. Pan eilw Tony, mae'r Llywodraeth yn ufuddhau.

Mae'r cysyniad sylfaenol o gysylltu treth a gwerth eiddo yn un annioddefol. Mae pob un ohonom yn ymwybodol o'r cynnydd aruthrol yng ngwerth eiddo, nad yw'n gysylltiedig â chynnydd cymesur mewn incwm. Bydd

present revaluation will hit asset-rich but income-poor residents. While councils have the ability to exempt the people who are most affected by this, they do not have the financial resources to do so. Those most affected by this revaluation should be helped, and councils should be financially enabled to do that. That is the basis of amendment 9.

Amendment 8 calls on the Government to instigate a review of the balance of funding for councils. Council tax is raised to pay for the level of local services that is judged by elected local authorities to be right for that area. Increasingly, however, demands made on local government by central Government are forcing authorities to move money away from delivering locally set priorities to pay for the delivery of national policies. This amounts to yet another stealth tax—money is raised locally for local needs, but it must be used to pay for central policies.

It is worth considering councils' performance since 1999. All Plaid Cymru-led councils have increased council tax over the past four years at rates well below the Welsh average, while most Labour-run councils have imposed council tax rises above the Welsh average. In fact, all but one Labour-controlled council has imposed higher percentage council tax increases than Plaid Cymru councils.

Carl Sargeant: You mentioned the three Plaid Cymru-run councils. Can you give me some background on Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, which has forced 500 elderly and infirm people to stop using homecare services because of the hiked-up charges for meals-on-wheels services? You go on about their council tax charges, but all three Plaid Cymru-run councils are failing quite dismally.

Janet Ryder: I am afraid that the District Auditor does not agree with you—he totally

canlyniadau'r ailbrizio presennol yn ergyd i breswylwyr sy'n gyfoethog o ran eu hasedau ond yn dlawd o ran eu hincwm. Er y gall cynghorau eithrio'r rhai y mae hyn yn effeithio arnynt fwyaf, nid oes ganddynt ddigon o adnoddau ariannol i wneud hynny. Dylid helpu'r rhai a effeithir fwyaf gan yr ailbrizio hwn, a dylid cyllido cynghorau i'w galluogi i wneud hynny. Dyna'r sail i welliant 9.

Mae gwelliant 8 yn galw ar y Llywodraeth i gychwyn adolygiad o weddill cyllid y cynghorau. Codir y dreth gyngor i dalu am y lefel o wasanaethau lleol y mae awdurdodau lleol etholedig yn barnu ei bod yn briodol i'r ardal honno. Yn fwyfwy, fodd bynnag, mae'r galwadau a wna Llywodraeth ganolog ar lywodraeth leol yn gorfodi awdurdodau i symud arian oddi wrth gyflawni blaenoriaethau a bennwyd yn lleol i dalu am gyflawni polisiau cenedlaethol. Mae hyn yn gyfystyr â threth lechwraidd arall—codir arian yn lleol i ddiwallu anghenion lleol, ond rhaid ei ddefnyddio i dalu am bolisiau canolog.

Mae'n werth ystyried perfformiad cynghorau er 1999. Mae'r holl gynghorau a arweinir gan Blaid Cymru wedi cynyddu'r dreth gyngor dros y pedair blynedd diwethaf ar gyfraddau sy'n is o lawer na'r cyfartaledd yng Nghymru, tra bo'r rhan fwyaf o gynghorau sy'n cael eu rhedeg gan Lafur wedi cynyddu'r dreth gyngor yn uwch na'r cyfartaledd yng Nghymru. Mewn gwirionedd, mae'r cwbl namyn un o'r cynghorau a reolir gan Lafur wedi pennu cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor ar ganran uwch na chynghorau Plaid Cymru.

Carl Sargeant: Soniasoch am y tri chynghor sy'n cael eu rhedeg gan Blaid Cymru. A allwch roi ychydig o gefndir imi am Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf, sydd wedi gorfodi 500 o bobl oedrannus ac eiddil i roi'r gorau i ddefnyddio gwasanaethau gofal cartref oherwydd y grocbris a godir am wasanaethau pryd ar glud? Yr ydych yn sôn am eu taliadau treth gyngor, ond mae pob un o'r tri chynghor sy'n cael eu rhedeg gan Blaid Cymru yn methu'n eithaf truenus.

Janet Ryder: Mae arnaf ofn nad yw'r Archwilydd Dosbarth yn cytuno â chi—

disagrees with you, and considers that Plaid Cymru-led councils are excellent at financial management. That is after many years of a Labour-run Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council that was unable to close its books. Now, under Plaid Cymru, the District Auditor has signed off the council's books.

In line with Labour's policy of defending a tax that hits the most vulnerable, most Labour-controlled authorities have hit the poorest areas hardest. Council tax has risen by 41 per cent in Merthyr Tydfil, 46 per cent in Torfaen and a huge 52 per cent in Blaenau Gwent. When Labour tries to tell communities that only it knows how to run local government, Plaid Cymru will tell them to consider the facts and judge for themselves. Over four years, all Labour-controlled authorities, with the exception of Newport, have imposed higher percentage council tax increases than Plaid Cymru-led authorities. The figures speak for themselves. Plaid Cymru knows how to govern well: let no-one tell you otherwise.

Jenny Randerson: The council tax is a hasty and ill-thought-out tax. It is time to put an end to a tax that is clearly associated with the Tories. It is easy for Glyn to say that when the Tories are in Government in Wales they will save money and spend less, as he knows that he will never have to implement his ideas. However, I regret that Janet Ryder clearly released a press release before she spoke and before she listened to Mike German, who made it clear that we know that Plaid Cymru have not come to this recently and have always supported having a local tax, as have the Liberal Democrats since the 1970s.

Janet Ryder: I refer you to Kirsty's article in *The Western Mail* yesterday, which undermines everything that you have just said.

Jenny Randerson: Mike German's comments this afternoon made it absolutely

mae'n anghytuno'n llwyr â chi, ac yn barnu bod cynghorau a arweinir gan Blaid Cymru yn rhagorol wrth reoli arian. Mae hynny ar ôl blynyddoedd lawer o redeg Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf gan Lafur pan na allai gau ei lyfrau. Bellach, o dan Blaid Cymru, mae'r Archwilydd Dosbarth wedi rhoi sêl bendith ar lyfrau'r cyngor

Yn unol â pholisi Llafur o amddiffyn treth sy'n taro'r rhai sy'n fwyaf agored i niwed, mae'r rhan fwyaf o awdurdodau a reolir gan Lafur wedi taro'r ardaloedd tlotaf yn fwyaf caled. Mae'r dreth gyngor wedi codi o 41 y cant ym Merthyr Tudful, o 46 y cant yn Nhor-faen a'r ffigur anferth o 52 y cant ym Mlaenau Gwent. Pan yw Llafur yn ceisio argyhoeddi cymunedau mai dim ond ef a wŷr sut i redeg llywodraeth leol, bydd Plaid Cymru yn dweud wrthynt am ystyried y ffeithiau a barnu drostynt eu hunain. Dros bedair blynedd, mae'r holl awdurdodau a reolir gan Lafur, heblaw Casnewydd, wedi cynyddu'r dreth gyngor yn ôl canran uwch nag awdurdodau a arweinir gan Blaid Cymru. Mae'r ffigurau'n siarad drostynt eu hunain. Gŵyr Plaid Cymru sut i reoli'n dda: peidiwch â gadael i neb ddweud wrthyf fel arall.

Jenny Randerson: Mae'r dreth gyngor yn dreth a gyflwynwyd yn frysio ac a ddyfeisiwyd yn wael. Mae'n bryd rhoi pen ar dreth sydd â chysylltiad amlwg â'r Torïaid. Mae'n hawdd i Glyn ddweud y bydd y Torïaid, pan fyddant mewn Llywodraeth yng Nghymru, yn arbed arian ac yn gwario llai, gan y gŵyr na fydd byth raid iddo roi ei syniadau ar waith. Fodd bynnag, mae'n ofid i mi fod Janet Ryder wedi cyhoeddi datganiad i'r wasg cyn iddi siarad a chyn iddi wrando ar Mike German, a eglurodd ein bod yn gwybod nad yn ddiweddar y daeth Plaid Cymru i gefnogi hyn a'i bod o blaid cael treth leol erioed, fel y mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ers y 1970au.

Janet Ryder: Fe'ch cyfeirïaf at erthygl Kirsty yn *The Western Mail* ddoe, sy'n tansilio popeth yr ydych newydd ei ddweud.

Jenny Randerson: Yr oedd y sylwadau gan Mike German y prynhawn yma yn ei

clear that Plaid Cymru have always supported that tax. There is no clearer case—

Janet Ryder *rose*—

Jenny Randerson: I am not giving way again. [*Interruption.*] Deputy Presiding Officer, is it normal for people to be allowed to stand up and shout in the Chamber?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Jenny is not giving way.

Jenny Randerson: There is no clearer case against the council tax than the situation that exists in my own constituency, and Cardiff as a whole. There are three issues on which I wish to comment. The first is highlighted by the forthcoming rebanding exercise. The council tax is based on house values. However, for those who have lived in a house for many years—those who do not play the market, which is the vast majority of people in most constituencies—house values are not significant. There has been a particularly high increase in the value of houses in Cardiff. In Cathays, the increase is even higher than the average for Cardiff because of the impact of student landlords buying properties. To an elderly woman living in a small terraced house in Cathays it is not relevant that her house is now worth well over £150,000, because she does not want to move. However, she would be moved from band C to band G for council tax. It is ridiculous that the only way that she can avoid paying much higher council tax is by moving out of Cardiff altogether. According to a report by Help the Aged, only 65 per cent of eligible pensioners claim council tax benefits and, of those who are house owners, only 45 per cent claim those benefits. Rebanding therefore hits poor pensioners hardest. They may not know about council tax benefits, they may be too proud to claim or the process may be too complex. Whatever the case may be, there is a basic problem there. The poorest 20 per cent of pensioners pay nearly six times more in council tax as a proportion of their income than the richest 20 per cent of non-pensioners. The older a pensioner is, the bigger a proportion of his or her income he or she is likely to have to pay in council tax. As a result of spiralling house prices, 46 per cent

gwneud yn gwbl glir bod Plaid Cymru yn cefnogi'r dreth honno erioed. Nid oes dadl fwy pendant—

Janet Ryder *a gododd*—

Jenny Randerson: Nid ildiaf eto. [*Torri ar draws.*] Ddirprwy Lywydd, a yw'n arferol caniatáu i bobl sefyll a gweddidi yn y Siambr?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid yw Jenny yn ildio.

Jenny Randerson: Nid oes dadl fwy pendant yn erbyn y dreth gyngor na'r sefyllfa a geir yn fy etholaeth i, ac yng Nghaerdydd drwyddi draw. Mae tri mater y dymunaf wneud sylw amdanynt. Amlygir y cyntaf drwy'r aifandio a gynhelir cyn hir. Mae'r dreth gyngor yn seiliedig ar werthoedd tai. Fodd bynnag, yn achos y rhai a fu'n byw mewn tŷ ers blynyddoedd lawer—y rhai nad ydynt yn ymhel â'r farchnad, sef y mwyafrif helaeth yn y rhan fwyaf o etholaethau—nid yw gwerthoedd tai'n bwysig. Bu cynnydd arbennig o fawr yng ngwerth tai yng Nghaerdydd. Yn Cathays, mae'r cynnydd yn fwy hyd yn oed na'r cyfartaledd yng Nghaerdydd oherwydd effaith prynu eiddo gan landlordiaid myfyrwyr. Nid yw'n berthnasol i fenyw oedranus sy'n byw mewn tŷ teras bach yn Cathays fod ei thŷ bellach yn werth mwy o lawer na £150,000, gan nad yw'n dymuno symud. Er hynny, câi ei symud o fand C i fand G ar gyfer y dreth gyngor. Mae'n hurt mai'r unig ffordd iddi allu osgoi talu treth gyngor uwch o lawer yw iddi symud allan o Gaerdydd yn gyfan gwbl. Yn ôl adroddiad gan Help the Aged, dim ond 65 y cant o'r pensïynwyr cymwys sy'n hawlio budd-daliadau'r dreth gyngor ac, o blith y rhai sy'n berchen ar dai, dim ond 45 y cant sy'n hawlio'r budd-daliadau hynny. Gan hynny, pensïynwyr tlawd sy'n cael eu taro galetaf gan aifandio. Efallai na wyddant am fudd-daliadau'r dreth gyngor, efallai eu bod yn rhy falch i'w hawlio neu efallai fod y broses yn rhy gymhleth. Beth bynnag yw'r achos, mae problem sylfaenol yn hyn o beth. Mae'r 20 y cant tlotaf o bensiynwyr yn talu bron chwe gwaith yn fwy ar ffurf treth gyngor fel cyfran o'u hincwm nag y mae'r 20 y cant cyfoethocaf o'r rhai nad ydynt yn

of people living in Cardiff will move up one band, 34 per cent will move up two or more bands, and only 17 per cent will remain in the same band. The people who will be paying more are not richer, but would theoretically be richer if they sold their houses.

bensiynwyr. Po hynaf y pensiyndwr, mwyaf fydd y gyfran o'i incwm y mae'n debygol o orfod ei thalu ar ffurf treth gyngor. O ganlyniad i'r cynnydd mawr ym mhrisiau tai, bydd 46 y cant o'r rhai sy'n byw yng Nghaerdydd yn symud un band yn uwch, bydd 34 y cant yn symud ddau neu ragor o fandiau'n uwch, a dim ond 17 y cant fydd yn aros yn yr un band. Nid yw'r rhai a fydd yn talu mwy yn gyfoethocach, ond byddent yn gyfoethocach, mewn theori, os gwerthent eu tai.

5.00 p.m.

Then there is the sheer scale of the increase in council tax in Cardiff that has already taken place. Since the old city council was abolished and the county council came into being, the council element has increased 146 per cent, excluding the police precept. That increase is over eight years, Glyn, so, in view of that record, a 20 per cent increase over a few years is not too bad.

Wedyn dyna'r cynnydd aruthrol yn y dreth gyngor yng Nghaerdydd a gafwyd eisoes. Ers diddymu hen gyngor y ddinas a sefydlu'r cyngor sir, mae elfen y cyngor wedi codi o 146 y cant, heb gynnwys praesept yr heddlu. Bu'r cynnydd hwnnw dros wyth mlynedd, Glyn, felly, yng ngolwg y record honno, nid yw cynnydd o 20 y cant dros ychydig o flynyddoedd yn rhy ddrwg.

Jonathan Morgan: Do you accept any share of the responsibility, given that you were part of the Assembly Government until May this year? Last year's Government provided Cardiff council with such a dreadful settlement that it had to increase its council tax. Money was not forthcoming from the Assembly to cover the additional burdens, and you were a Minister at the time.

Jonathan Morgan: A ydych yn derbyn unrhyw ran o'r cyfrifoldeb, gan ichi fod yn rhan o Lywodraeth y Cynulliad tan fis Mai eleni? Cafodd cyngor Caerdydd setliad mor wael gan y Llywodraeth y llynedd fel y bu'n rhaid iddo gynyddu ei dreth gyngor. Ni chafwyd arian oddi wrth y Cynulliad i dalu am feichiau ychwanegol, ac yr oeddech chi'n Weinidog ar y pryd.

Jenny Randerson: We both know, Jonathan, that council tax was increased disproportionately in Cardiff last year for many reasons. My point about the general increase in council tax is that it is a bad, regressive and unfair tax, which is why it must be increased by such large amounts. In addition, Gordon Brown is hiding tax increases by placing the burden on local government. As the council tax was so hastily conceived to patch up the post-poll tax mess, similar exemptions apply to it as applied to the poll tax. Students were exempt from the poll tax. After all, the Thatcher Government realised that it could not make students pay poll tax while simultaneously taking away student grants, which it was busily doing at the time. Students are also exempt from council tax, understandably. The problem lies with houses wholly occupied by students—

Jenny Randerson: Gwyddom ein dau, Jonathan, fod y cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor yn uwch na'r cyfartaledd yng Nghaerdydd y llynedd am sawl rheswm. Y pwynt a wnaif ynghylch y cynnydd cyffredinol yn y dreth gyngor yw ei bod yn dreth annheg, atchweliadol a drwg, a dyna pam y mae'n rhaid ei chynyddu o symiau mor fawr. Yn ogystal â hynny, mae Gordon Brown yn celu cynnydd mewn trethi drwy roi'r baich ar lywodraeth leol. Gan fod y dreth gyngor wedi'i dyfeisio mor frysiog i glirio'r llastr ar ôl treth y pen, mae eithriadau iddi sy'n debyg i'r rhai ar gyfer treth y pen. Yr oedd myfyrwyr wedi'u heithrio rhag talu treth y pen. Wedi'r cwbl, sylweddolai Llywodraeth Thatcher na allai orfodi myfyrwyr i dalu treth y pen gan ddiddymu grantiau myfyrwyr yr un pryd, fel yr oedd yn prysur wneud bryd hynny. Mae myfyrwyr wedi'u heithrio rhag

talur dreth gyngor hefyd, wrth gwrs. Mae'r broblem yn ymwneud â thai a feddiennir yn gyfan gwbl gan fyfyrwyr—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Sadly, your time has run out.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Gwaetha'r modd, mae'ch amser wedi dod i ben.

John Griffiths: I was interested to read recently of my supposed views on a local income tax and, indeed, I was flattered to learn that I am influential in these matters. However, I want to set the record straight. What I said, and what I believe, is that we should have an open mind on these matters, and I am open-minded to reform. Reform could take the form of a local income tax, some sort of property tax, or much-needed reform of the council tax, which is why I welcome the UK-wide review. I intend to approach all suggestions with an open mind. That is what I hope I have done today, and what I will continue to do in future.

John Griffiths: Yr oedd o ddiddordeb imi ddarllen yn ddiweddar am fy marn dybiedig am dreth incwm leol ac, yn wir, yr oeddwn wrth fy modd o glywed bod gennyf ddylanwad yn y materion hyn. Fodd bynnag, dymunaf egluro'r sefyllfa. Yr hyn a ddywedais, a'r hyn a gredaf, yw y dylem fod â meddwl agored ar y materion hyn, a bod fy meddwl yn agored ynghylch diwygio. Gallai'r diwygio fod ar ffurf treth incwm leol, rhyw fath o dreth ar eiddo, neu ddiwygiad y mae taer angen amdano ar y dreth gyngor, a dyna pam y croesawaf yr adolygiad ledled y DU. Bwriadaf ystyried yr holl awgrymiadau â meddwl agored. Dyna a wneuthum heddiw, yr wyf yn gobeithio, a dyna a wnaif o hyd yn y dyfodol.

David Lloyd: Given that you are influential and open-minded, do you agree that the present council tax is not based on a person's ability to pay?

David Lloyd: Gan eich bod yn ddylanwadol ac yn ddiuedd, a ydych yn cytuno nad yw'r dreth gyngor bresennol wedi'i seilio ar allu rhywun i dalu?

John Griffiths: There is a loose relationship between the ability to pay the council tax and the actual charges but, in considering reform—whatever the result of the review, and whatever the means of partly financing local government in future—I hope that that relationship is made stronger. I accept that reform is needed, and am conscious that, for example, pensioners on fixed and low incomes must often pay sums beyond their means. Much needs to be done to ensure that pensioners claim the benefits to which they are entitled. That is a huge task, which we must address more meaningfully. We must ensure that people in our most deprived communities are treated more fairly in terms of the part-financing of local government, because many people on fairly modest incomes do not qualify for council tax benefit and must pay the full amount. In reforming the council tax, we must ensure that those people, as well as those in our most deprived communities, get a better deal than they currently do. There are various options to consider, therefore, and I have an open mind.

John Griffiths: Mae cysylltiad llac rhwng y gallu i dalu'r dreth gyngor a'r taliadau eu hunain ond, wrth ystyried diwygio—beth bynnag fydd canlyniad yr adolygiad, a beth bynnag fydd y dull o rannol ariannu llywodraeth leol yn y dyfodol—gobeithiaf y cryfheir y cysylltiad. Yr wyf yn derbyn bod angen diwygio, ac yr wyf yn ymwybodol, er enghraifft, fod pensiynwyr ar incwm isel a sefydlog yn aml yn gorfod talu symiau sydd y tu hwnt i'w gallu. Mae llawer i'w wneud i sicrhau bod pensiynwyr yn hawlio'r budd-daliadau y mae ganddynt hawl i'w derbyn. Mae honno'n dasg enfawr, y mae'n rhaid inni ei thrafod yn fwy ystyrion. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod pobl yn ein cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig yn cael eu trin yn decach yng nghyd-destun rhan-ariannu llywodraeth leol, oherwydd ceir llawer o bobl sydd ag incwm eithaf bach nad ydynt yn gymwys i dderbyn y budd-dal treth gyngor a hwythau'n gorfod talu'r swm llawn. Wrth ddiwygio'r dreth gyngor, rhaid inni sicrhau bod y bobl hynny, yn ogystal â'r rhai yn ein cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig, yn cael gwell bargaen nag a gânt

ar hyn o bryd. Mae gwahanol ddewisiadau i'w hystyried, felly, ac mae gennyf feddwl agored.

All systems have advantages and disadvantages. However, what may appear attractive in theory may not deliver the goods in practice. We must therefore get down to the nitty-gritty of what will work in practice, and I hope that the review will do that.

Mae i bob system ei manteision a'i hanfanteision. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bosibl na fydd yr hyn sy'n ddeniadol mewn theori yn mynd â'r maen i'r wal yn ymarferol. Felly rhaid inni ystyried manylion yr hyn a fydd yn gweithio'n ymarferol, a gobeithiaf y bydd yr adolygiad yn gwneud hynny.

We will not take lectures from the Tories on this. The poll tax that they introduced was the most iniquitous, disastrous, indefensible and regressive system known to human kind. People will long remember the poll tax and its consequences. It is against that background and in that context that we listen to their contributions to this debate. I was interested to hear Glyn's comments about lower funding being the future under the Conservatives. We know that Glyn is a Michael Howard man while Nick Bourne is an I.D.S. man. Both Michael Howard and Iain Duncan Smith have one thing in common: they believe in tax cuts. They have this grand illusion that it is possible to cut public spending and deliver better services. Everyone else realises that that is absolute nonsense, but the Tories fail to see that. As Glyn is still jockeying with Nick for the future leadership of the Conservatives in Wales, we take all of this with a pinch of salt.

Nid lle'r Toriaid yw pregethu ar hyn. Y dreth y pen a gyflwynasant hwy oedd y system fwyaf ysgeler, trychinebus, anesgusodol ac atchweliadol y gwyddys amdani. Bydd pobl yn cofio'n hir am dreth y pen a'i chanlyniadau. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw y gwrandawn ar eu cyfraniadau i'r ddadl hon. Yr oedd o ddiddordeb imi glywed sylwadau Glyn i'r perwyl mai llai o gyllido a geir yn y dyfodol o dan y Ceidwadwyr. Gwyddom mai un o ddynion Michael Howard yw Glyn ac mai un o ddynion I.D.S. yw Nick Bourne. Mae un peth yn gyffredin i Michael Howard ac Iain Duncan Smith: credant mewn torri trethi. Maent o dan gamargraff fawr y gellir torri ar wariant cyhoeddus a darparu gwasanaethau gwell. Mae pawb arall yn sylweddoli mai nonsens pur yw hynny, ond mae'r Toriaid yn methu â gweld hynny. Gan fod Glyn yn dal i gystadlu gyda Nick i fod yn arweinydd y Ceidwadwyr yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol, cymerwn hyn oll gyda phiniaid o halen.

Mark Isherwood: You commented on the apparent inconsistency between controlling taxes and public spending. I spent over two decades in the real world of business before joining the Assembly. The two key riders in business in the mutual sector and the voluntary sector are driving down costs and maximising public service. That is how the most successful companies in Wales and the United Kingdom make the profits that pay for the public services that we enjoy. The only sector that seems to believe that those disciplines do not apply is Government, and the only reason for that is that it is not its money at stake.

Mark Isherwood: Gwnaethoch sôn am yr anghysondeb ymddangosiadol rhwng rheoli trethi a gwariant cyhoeddus. Treuliais fwy na dau ddegawd yn y byd busnes go-iawn cyn dod i'r Cynulliad. Y ddau brif gymhelliad yn y sector cydfuddiannol a'r sector gwirfoddol yw lleihau costau ac amlhau gwasanaeth cyhoeddus. Dyna sut y mae'r cwmnïau mwyaf llwyddiannus yng Nghymru a'r Deyrnas Unedig yn gwneud yr elw sy'n talu am y gwasanaethau cyhoeddus a fwynhawn. Yr unig sector yr ymddengys ei fod yn credu nad yw'r disgyblaethau hynny'n berthnasol iddo yw Llywodraeth, a'r unig reswm am hynny yw nad ei harian hi sydd yn y fantol.

John Griffiths: It is typical Conservative dogma to believe that only business people live in the real world. We all live in the real

John Griffiths: Dogma nodweddiadol o'r Ceidwadwyr yw credu mai dim ond pobl busnes sy'n byw yn y byd go-iawn. Yr ydym

world, Mark. What we want to see, and what the Labour administration in Wales has delivered, through the great stewardship of the economy by the UK Labour Government, is constantly increasing resources accompanied by reform. That is the way ahead: greater resources and reform. We are delivering better use of greater resources, and will continue to do so.

We need reform and a debate, and I want to see that address our social—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Your time has run out.

Peter Black: I will start by reiterating the case for a local income tax. Council tax takes no account of income or of the ability to pay. A pensioner couple living on little money can pay as much council tax as a high-earning professional couple. Compared with the richest households, the poorest households pay a greater percentage of their disposable income in council tax. The poorest 20 per cent of pensioners pay nearly six times more in council tax as a proportion of their income than the richest 20 per cent of non-pensioners.

However, the cost is not just to the poorest in our society. As Mike German said, it has been estimated that it costs almost four times as much to collect £1 in council tax as it does to collect £1 in income tax. The council tax fails to adhere to a principal rule of all taxation, in that it costs a large amount of money to collect. It has a complex and difficult-to-understand system of benefits to help the poorest in our society, and that benefit system is expensive to run. Council tax benefits cost over £200 million a year to administer, yet fail to reach as many as 2 million people.

In contrast, because local income tax would be levied solely on the basis of the amount of money that people earn, there would be no need for a benefit system or its associated bureaucracy and, because a collection system

i gyd yn byw yn y byd go-iawn, Mark. Yr hyn yr ydym am ei weld, a'r hyn y mae'r weinyddiaeth Lafur yng Nghymru wedi'i gyflawni, drwy'r gofal rhagorol am yr economi gan Lywodraeth Lafur y DU, yw cynyddu adnoddau'n barhaus ochr yn ochr â diwygio. Dyna'r ffordd ymlaen: mwy o adnoddau a diwygio. Yr ydym yn defnyddio adnoddau cynyddol yn well, a pharhawn i wneud hynny.

Mae arnom angen diwygio a thrafodaeth, ac yr wyf am weld honno'n ymddrin â'n—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae'ch amser wedi dod i ben.

Peter Black: Dechreuaf drwy ailddatgan yr achos dros dreth incwm leol. Nid yw'r dreth gyngor yn ystyried incwm neu'r gallu i dalu o gwbl. Mae'n bosibl y bydd pâr o bensiynwyr sy'n byw ar ychydig o arian yn talu cymaint o dreth gyngor â phâr proffesiynol sy'n ennill cyflogau mawr. O'u cymharu â'r cartrefi cyfoethocaf, mae'r cartrefi tlotaf yn talu canran fwy o'u hincwm gwariadwy ar ffurf treth gyngor. Mae'r 20 y cant tlotaf o bensiynwyr yn talu bron chwe gwaith yn fwy ar ffurf treth gyngor fel cyfran o'u hincwm na'r 20 y cant cyfoethocaf o'r rhai nad ydynt yn bensiynwyr.

Fodd bynnag, nid y rhai tlotaf yn ein cymdeithas yn unig sy'n talu'r gost. Fel y dywedodd Mike German, amcangyfrifwyd ei bod yn costio bron bedair gwaith gymaint i gasglu £1 o dreth gyngor ag i gasglu £1 o dreth incwm. Nid yw'r dreth gyngor yn dal at un o'r prif reolau ar gyfer pob math o drethiant, gan ei bod yn costio llawer iawn o arian i'w chasglu. Mae system gymhleth ac anodd ei deall o fudd-daliadau ar ei chyfer i helpu'r rhai tlotaf yn ein cymdeithas, ac mae'r system fudd-daliadau honno'n ddrud i'w rhedeg. Mae'n costio mwy na £200 miliwn y flwyddyn i weinyddu budd-daliadau treth gyngor, ac eto nid ydynt yn cyrraedd cynifer â 2 filiwn o bobl.

Mewn cyferbyniad â hynny, gan y byddid yn codi treth incwm leol ar sail y swm o arian y mae pobl yn ei ennill yn unig, ni fyddai angen system fudd-daliadau neu'r fiwrocratiaeth sydd ynglyn â hi ac, am fod

is already in place, there would be substantial savings.

David Davies: If you were able to implement this scheme, would there be a cap on the increase paid by the so-called high earners?

5.10 p.m.

Peter Black: That is a matter for councils, David. There would be a fixed rate set by councils. There would not be a cap, because local government would determine its own funding and how it raises its own money, as it does at present. The Conservatives are fond of capping and cutting the expenditure of local councils as well as reducing services. The short-term measures outlined by Glyn Davies are simply that—short-term measures. We would end up with massively reduced services and perhaps slightly lower, or frozen, council tax levels. In the end, council tax would have to increase and the unfairness would remain.

Glyn Davies *rose*—

Peter Black: I would like to continue, Glyn.

The fact is that local income tax is not only fairer but it will save millions of pounds of public money that could either be used to improve public services or to reduce bills. It also has the advantage of dealing with the gearing effect, whereby for every extra £1 that a local council spends, it needs to levy an additional £5 in council tax. This is because adjustments can be made between central government grant and locally raised income painlessly by adjusting the relative levels of local and central income tax. However, the Welsh Assembly Government has proposed rebanding, which tinkers with the system at a time of soaring property prices and with council tax levels that have increased 101 per cent since 1997. We have the prospect of more rises next year in the face of an inadequate local government settlement and additional pressures on Welsh councils.

People's tolerance of council tax is reaching breaking point. Many of the poorest and

system gasglu ar waith eisoes, ceid arbedion sylweddol.

David Davies: Os gallech roi'r cynllun hwn ar waith, a fyddai terfyn ar y cynnydd a delid gan y rhai sy'n ennill cyflogau mawr?

Peter Black: Mae hynny'n fater i gynghorau, David. Byddai cyfradd benodol a gâi ei gosod gan gynghorau. Ni fyddai terfyn, gan y byddai llywodraeth leol yn penderfynu ar ei chyllid ei hun a'r modd y mae'n codi ei harian ei hun, fel y gwnaiff ar hyn o bryd. Mae'r Ceidwadwyr yn hoff o gapio a thorri gwariant cynghorau lleol yn ogystal â lleihau gwasanaethau. Mesurau tymor byr yn unig yw'r rhai a ddisgrifiwyd gan Glyn Davies. Yn y diwedd, byddai gennym wasanaethau llai o lawer a lefelau treth gyngor a oedd ychydig yn is, efallai, neu wedi'u rhewi. Yn y pen draw, byddai'n rhaid cynyddu'r dreth gyngor a byddai'r annhegwch yn dal i fod.

Glyn Davies *a gododd*—

Peter Black: Hoffwn symud ymlaen, Glyn.

Y gwir amdani yw bod treth incwm leol yn decach ac y bydd hefyd yn arbed miliynau o bunnoedd o arian cyhoeddus y gellid ei ddefnyddio i wella gwasanaethau cyhoeddus neu ostwng biliau. Mae iddi'r fantais hefyd o ddelio â'r effaith gerio, lle y mae cyngor lleol yn gorfod codi £5 yn ychwanegol drwy'r dreth gyngor am bob £1 ychwanegol y mae'n ei gwario. Mae hynny am fod modd gwneud addasiadau rhwng grant llywodraeth ganolog a'r incwm a godir yn lleol yn ddiraffferth drwy newid y lefelau cymharol o dreth incwm leol a chanolog. Fodd bynnag, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn bwriadu ailfandio, a bydd hynny'n golygu tincran â'r system ar adeg y mae prisiau eiddo yn codi i'r entrychion a chyda lefelau treth gyngor sydd wedi cynyddu o 101 y cant er 1997. Mae gennym ragolygon o godiadau pellach y flwyddyn nesaf yn wyneb y setliad annigonol i lywodraeth leol a phwysau ychwanegol ar gynghorau yng Nghymru.

Mae pobl yn cyrraedd pen eu tennyn o ran y dreth gyngor. Mae llawer o'r bobl dlotaf a

oldest people in our society are seeing small rises in their income being eaten up by spiralling bills.

Peter Law *rose*—

Peter Black: I will take an intervention in a minute, Peter.

When rebanding was first proposed, it was possible that it might provide some short-term relief, given that the Assembly does not have the powers to make the more radical switch to a fairer tax, but instead it appears that the revised proposals will now have little impact.

Peter Law: Forgive me if I am wrong, Peter, but were you not the Deputy Minister with responsibility for local government who advocated the rebanding to the Local Government and Housing Committee prior to May 2003? Did you not fully support the proposals?

Peter Black: That is why I asked you to wait for me to finish my sentence before you made an intervention. Had you listened to what I said while you were waiting to intervene you would have heard that these proposals are substantially different to those presented to the Local Government and Housing Committee at that time. The rebanding proposal that the Committee and Assembly were asked to endorse was a short-term measure because we could not control the taxation that we wanted to control. During discussions on the local government White Paper, which the partnership Government put forward, you will recall that I pressed strongly for the Assembly to have powers to introduce important and necessary reform measures such as local income tax and land-value taxation.

It is not just Cardiff that suffers from soaring house prices, though this city's increases are higher than most. This effect is spreading along the M4. In my region, Bridgend has been identified as an area with severe house price inflation and where many people will be worse off as a result of the revaluation, even though the value of their home has increased, their income will not follow suit. A property-based tax is indefensible in these

hynaf yn ein cymdeithas yn gweld bod codiadau bach yn eu hincwm yn cael eu llyncu gan filiau cynyddol.

Peter Law *a gododd*—

Peter Black: Derbyniaf ymyriad mewn munud, Peter.

Pan gynigiwyd ailfandio am y tro cyntaf, yr oedd yn bosibl y gallai fod o gymorth yn y tymor byr, gan nad yw'r Cynulliad yn meddu ar bwerau i sicrhau newid mwy radical drwy dreth decach, ond mae'n ymddangos bellach mai ychydig o effaith a gaiff y cynigion diwygiedig.

Peter Law: Maddeuwch i mi os wyf yn camgymryd, Peter, ond onid chi oedd y Dirprwy Weinidog a chanddo gyfrifoldeb dros lywodraeth leol a ddadleuodd o blaid yr ailfandio gerbron y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai cyn Mai 2003? Onid oeddech yn llwyr gefnogi'r cynigion?

Peter Black: Dyna pam y gofynnais ichi aros imi orffen y frawddeg cyn ymyrryd. Pe baech wedi gwrandao ar yr hyn a ddywedais tra oeddech yn disgwyl i ymyrryd, byddech wedi clywed bod y cynigion hyn yn dra gwahanol i'r rhai a gyflwynwyd i'r Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai bryd hynny. Yr oedd y cynnig i ailfandio y gofynnwyd i'r Pwyllgor a'r Cynulliad ei gefnogi yn fesur tymor byr gan na allem reoli'r trethiant yr oeddem am ei reoli. Yn ystod trafodaethau ar y Papur Gwyn ar lywodraeth leol, a gyflwynwyd gan y Llywodraeth bartneriaeth, byddwch yn cofio fy mod wedi galw'n daer am roi pwerau i'r Cynulliad gyflwyno camau diwygio pwysig ac angenrheidiol fel treth incwm leol a threthu ar sail gwerth tir.

Nid Caerdydd yn unig sy'n dioddef oherwydd y cynnydd mawr ym mhrisiau tai, er bod y cynnydd yn y ddinas hon yn fwy nag yn y rhan fwyaf o leoedd. Mae'r effaith hon yn ymledu ar hyd yr M4. Yn fy rhanbarth i, canfuwyd bod Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn ardal lle y mae chwyddiant difrifol ym mhrisiau tai a lle y bydd llawer o bobl ar eu colled o ganlyniad i'r ailbrisiu; er bod gwerth eu cartref wedi cynyddu, ni fydd eu

circumstances.

It is time that the Assembly and the UK Governments grasped the real nettle in relation to modernising local councils. We need more open and accountable government, a fairer voting system so that people get the outcome for which they voted, and a system of finance based on ability to pay. Unless those fundamental reforms are addressed, we will all be the poorer.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae Janet Ryder a Jenny Randerson wedi cyflwyno'r achos dros ailedrych ar y ffordd y cyllidir llywodraeth leol. Diddorol oedd clywed Carl Sargeant yn siarad am Rhondda Cynon Taf. Fi oedd arweinydd Cyngor Gwynedd pan arweiniodd criw Llafur Rhondda Cynon Taf i fethdaliad. Dyma a arweiniodd at broblemau'r cyngor hwnnw mewn blynyddoedd diweddarach.

Leighton Andrews: Is it not the case that since Plaid Cymru came to power in RCT the council has received £82 million from the Labour Government and the Assembly, but yet it has closed day centres for the elderly, including some in my constituency, and forced up the prices of homecare and meals on wheels?

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae nifer o gynghorau eraill wedi gwneud yr un peth, ond yr unig beth a ddywedwn am sefyllfa Rhondda Cynon Taf yw nad yw'n fethdalwr ar hyn o bryd, yn wahanol i'w gyflwr dan reolaeth Llafur.

Hoffwn sôn am effeithiau ailfandio'r dreth gyngor ar fy ardal i, a Gwynedd yn benodol. Yn ôl y ffigurau ar gyfer Awst 2002, byddai ychydig dros chwarter cartrefi Gwynedd yn symud i fand uwch, sy'n fwy na chyfartaledd Cymru. Serch hynny, yn ôl y ffigurau ar gyfer dim ond naw mis yn ddiweddarach, bydd un o bob tri o gartrefi Gwynedd yn symud i fand uwch. Byddwn yn derbyn y rhesymeg honno pe bai'n golygu bod Gwynedd yn sydyn yn troi'n sir gyfoethog, ond y gwir yw, yn ôl y ffigurau diweddaraf, mae cyflogau yng Ngwynedd ymhlith yr isaf

hincwm yn codi yn yr un modd. Ni ellir amddiffyn treth sy'n seiliedig ar eiddo dan yr amgylchiadau hyn.

Mae'n bryd i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad a Llywodraeth y DU wasgu'r ddanhadlen mewn cysylltiad â moderneiddio cynghorau lleol. Mae arnom angen llywodraeth fwy agored ac atebol, system bleidleisio decach fel bod pobl yn cael y canlyniad y gwnaethant bleidleisio drosto, a system gyllid sy'n seiliedig ar y gallu i dalu. Os nad ymdrinnir â'r diwygiadau sylfaenol hynny, bydd yn dlotach arnom i gyd.

Alun Ffred Jones: Janet Ryder and Jenny Randerson have made the case for reviewing local government funding arrangements. It was interesting to hear Carl Sargeant's comments about Rhondda Cynon Taf. I was leader of Gwynedd Council at the time that Labour was leading Rhondda Cynon Taf to bankruptcy. This is what led to that council's problems in subsequent years.

Leighton Andrews: Onid yw'n wir, ers i Blaid Cymru ddod i rym yn Rhondda Cynon Taf, fod y cyngor wedi derbyn £82 miliwn oddi wrth y Llywodraeth Lafur a'r Cynulliad, a'i fod, er hynny, wedi cau canolfannau dydd ar gyfer yr henoed, gan gynnwys rhai yn fy etholaeth i, ac wedi codi prisiau gofal cartref a'r gwasanaeth pryd ar glud?

Alun Ffred Jones: Several other councils have done the same, but the only thing I would say about the situation in Rhondda Cynon Taf is that the council is not bankrupt at present, unlike its position under Labour control.

I wish to comment on the effects of council tax rebanding on my area, and upon Gwynedd in particular. According to figures for August 2002, just over a quarter of the homes in Gwynedd would move up a band, which is more than the average in Wales. Despite that, according to figures for just nine months later, one third of homes in Gwynedd will move up a band. I would accept that rationale, if it were the result of Gwynedd suddenly becoming a wealthy county, but according to recent figures, the truth is that salaries in Gwynedd are among

yng Nghymru. Felly, yr ydych yn gofyn i bobl Gwynedd dalu mwy er bod cyfartaledd eu cyflogau yn is na chyfartaledd Cymru.

Yn 2005, bydd bron i un o bob 10 o gartrefi Gwynedd yn symud i fyny dau fand. Bydd hynny'n golygu y bydd teuluoedd yn talu £250 i £400 yn fwy. Fel y dywedwyd eisoes, nid yw hynny'n gysylltiedig â'u gallu i dalu. Mae'n ymwneud â phrisiau tai; y mae'r farchnad dai yng Ngwynedd, fel mewn llawer rhan arall o Gymru, yn cael ei gyrru gan y farchnad allanol. Yn ôl y ffigurau presennol, prynir dau o bob tri thŷ yng Ngwynedd yn yr ardaloedd gwledig ac arfordirol, lle y mae'r broblem ar ei gwaethaf, gan rywun o'r tu allan i'r sir. Dyna beth sy'n gyrru'r farchnad a pham yr oedd tŷ teras yn Aberdaron, digon sâl yr olwg, yn cael ei werthu yn ddiweddar am £175,000. Y mae'r prisiau hyn yn uwch na rhai Caerdydd. Dyna beth sy'n tanlinellu annhegwch sylfaenol y drefn bresennol a pham y mae'n rhaid symud at drefn wahanol. Yr oeddwn yn falch bod John Griffiths wedi dweud fod ganddo feddwl agored ar hyn. Gobeithiaf fod gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad feddwl agored. Mae angen ystyried deddfwriaeth newydd ar gyfer cyflwyno dewisiadau eraill fel treth incwm. Bydd yr ailfandio sy'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd yn tynnu tua £4 miliwn o economi gogledd a chanolbarth Cymru.

Mae angen ystyried cynllun trosiannol hefyd a darparu cyllid ychwanegol i'r awdurdodau lleol mwyaf arfordirol a gwledig i dalu cost darparu disgownt lleol. Mae'r ddadl mai dim ond ailwampio system gwbl annheg yw ailfandio wedi ei gwneud yn ddigon clir heddiw.

Eleanor Burnham: Credaf, ynghyd â llawer o bensiynwyr tlotaf Cymru, fod y drefn drethu bresennol yn anfoesol ac yn anghynaliadwy gan fod 20 y cant o'r pensiynwyr tlotaf yn talu bron chwe gwaith mwy na'r 20 y cant o bensiynwyr mwyaf cyfoethog fel canran o'u hincwm. Ateb y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol dros yr 20 mlynedd diwethaf oedd cyflwyno treth incwm lleol. Y prif fantais yw tegwch, yn enwedig i bensiynwyr a phobl eraill ar incwm isel a sefydlog.

the lowest in Wales. Therefore, you are asking the people of Gwynedd to pay more despite the fact that their average salaries are lower than the Welsh average.

In 2005, almost one in every 10 homes in Gwynedd will move up two bands. That will mean that families will pay between £250 and £400 more. As has already been said, that has nothing to do with their ability to pay. It relates to house prices; the housing market in Gwynedd, as in many other parts of Wales, is driven by the external market. According to recent figures in relation to Gwynedd, two-thirds of all houses in rural and coastal areas, where the problems are worst, are bought by people from outside of the county. That is what drives the market and why a shabby looking terrace house in Aberdaron was sold the other day for £175,000. These prices are higher than those in Cardiff. That is what underlines the fundamental inequity of the current arrangement and why we must move to a different arrangement. I was glad that John Griffiths stated that he had an open mind on this. I hope that the Assembly Government has an open mind. We need to consider new legislation in order to introduce other choices such as income tax. The current rebanding will take around £4 million out of the economy of north and mid Wales.

We also need to consider a transitional scheme and the provision of additional funding for the more coastal and rural local authorities to meet the costs of providing a local discount. The argument that rebanding is nothing more than revamping a totally unfair system has been made sufficiently clear today.

Eleanor Burnham: I believe, along with many of Wales's poorest pensioners, that the current taxing system is immoral and unsustainable because 20 per cent of the poorest pensioners pay almost six times more than 20 per cent of the most wealthy pensioners as a percentage of their income. The Liberal Democrats' response for the past 20 years has been to introduce a local income tax, the main advantage of which is equity, particularly for pensioners and those on low and fixed wages.

It is significant that it costs almost four times as much to collect £1 in council tax as it does to collect £1 in income tax. Since local government reorganisation in 1996, in north Wales, for example—I am not being partisan—band D tax in Gwynedd has increased by 133 per cent, in Anglesey by 101 per cent and in Flintshire by 85 per cent; I am glossing over them. Pensioners, in particular, are reluctant to get involved in bureaucratic nightmares such as completing tax refund claims. The Welsh Liberal Democrats also know that local income tax strikes a chord because since the summer, including at the Royal Welsh Show and the National Eisteddfod, we have been asking people to sign a petition, that has attracted thousands of signatures. We have also started a referendum, and in numerous localities people overwhelmingly vote against the ever-increasing council tax in favour of local income tax.

Nick Bourne: I will only take two and a half minutes so that David Davies is also able to speak.

5.20 p.m.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. No-one else will be able to speak.

Nick Bourne: In that case, I hope that he will have time to intervene. This debate seems to be about the great pride that the other political parties take in taxing people. John Griffiths said that he had an open mind on taxation. Unfortunately, he is open-minded on the wrong issue, and he cannot understand when we say that we want good housekeeping. As he would not take an intervention, I will point out a statistic. There has been 40 per cent more spending on the NHS, but little increase in activity. There is no necessary corollary to spending a great deal of money and getting value for money. We want value for money.

It was interesting to hear how Plaid Cymru takes great pride in its housekeeping record in the local authorities it controls, and to see Janet Ryder popping up to tell us that it was much better in its local authorities because the council tax had only increased by 32 per

Mae'n werth nodi ei bod yn costio bron bedair gwaith gymaint i gasglu £1 o'r dreth gyngor ag i gasglu £1 o dreth incwm. Ers ad-drefnu llywodraeth leol yn 1996, yn y Gogledd, er enghraifft—ac nid wyf yn ddallbleidiol—mae treth band D wedi codi o 133 y cant yng Ngwynedd, o 101 y cant yn Ynys Môn ac o 85 y cant yn sir y Fflint; yr wyf yn mynd drwyddynt yn sydyn. Mae pensiynwyr, yn benodol, yn amharod i brofi hunllefau biwrocraidaidd fel y rhai a geir wrth lenwi hawliadau am ad-daliadau treth. Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn gwybod hefyd fod treth incwm leol yn taro tant oherwydd ers yr haf, yn y Sioe Frenhinol ac yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ymysg lleoedd eraill, buom yn gofyn i bobl lofnodi deiseb sydd wedi denu miloedd o gefnogwyr. Yr ydym hefyd wedi cychwyn refferendwm, ac mewn nifer fawr o leoedd yr oedd pleidlais lethol yn erbyn y dreth gyngor gynyddol ac o blaid treth incwm leol.

Nick Bourne: Ni wnaaf ond cymryd dau funud a hanner fel y bydd modd i David Davies siarad hefyd.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Ni all neb arall siarad.

Nick Bourne: Os felly, gobeithiaf y caiff amser i ymyrryd. Ymddengys fod y ddadl hon yn ymwneud â'r pleser mawr a gaiff pleidiau gwleidyddol eraill mewn trethu pobl. Dywedodd John Griffiths fod ganddo feddwl agored ar drethiant. Gwaetha'r modd, mae ganddo feddwl agored ar y pwnc anghywir, ac ni all ddeall pam y dywedwn ein bod am weld darbodaeth. Gan na dderbyniai ymyriad, cyfeiriaf at ystadegyn. Bu 40 y cant yn fwy o wario ar y GIG, ond fawr ddim cynnydd mewn gweithgarwch. Nid yw'n wir o reidrwydd fod gwerth da am arian i'w gael o wario llawer iawn o arian. Yr ydym ni am gael gwerth am arian.

Yr oedd yn ddiddorol clywed bod Plaid Cymru yn ymfalchïo'n fawr yn ei darbodaeth yn yr awdurdodau lleol y mae'n eu rheoli, a gweld Janet Ryder yn codi'i phen i ddweud wrthym ei bod yn well o lawer yn ei hawdurdodau lleol hi am nad

cent. I am relieved that your housekeeping is so good in those areas—

Janet Ryder: Thankfully, to date, Welsh citizens have had the presence of mind not to elect a council run by Tories, but unfortunately English residents have not been so forthright. Will you refer to the astronomically high levels of council tax in Tory authorities in England?

Nick Bourne: You chose the subject of your intervention wisely. You did not claim that you had not mentioned a 32 per cent increase in Plaid Cymru authority areas. That is nothing to be proud of; it is deeply shameful—

Jenny Randerson: Do you recall that the band D council tax bill increased by 51 per cent between 1993 and 1997 under the Conservatives? In other words, increases in council tax are not necessarily concerned with bad housekeeping, but with the structure of taxation—national versus local. We are arguing that local income tax has all the hallmarks of a fair, progressive and transparent tax system.

Nick Bourne: We know what you are arguing, but what you have not told us is that band D council tax has doubled in Cardiff since 1995. You were a Government Minister during some of that time, and you did not do much about it. Let us consider the Liberal record, since you are so keen to tell us about it. Charles Kennedy told us in January last year that his party might enter the next general election favouring lower taxes. That was interesting. Since then, we have heard that you support a 50 per cent top rate, a new local income tax, a new regional income tax, a new congestion tax, a workplace parking tax, an EU carbon tax, and that you would allow regional assemblies to increase national insurance. I would be happy to campaign in Brecon and Radnorshire and throughout Wales on that issue. Your record on tax is not something to be proud of.

oedd y dreth gyngor ond wedi codi o 32 y cant. Mae'n dda gennyf glywed eich bod mor ddarbodus yn yr ardaloedd hynny—

Janet Ryder: Diolch byth, hyd yma, bu dinasyddion Cymru'n ddigon doeth i beidio ag ethol cyngor sy'n cael ei redeg gan y Torïaid, ond ni fu preswylwyr yn Lloegr mor bendant, gwaetha'r modd. A wnewch gyfeirio at y lefelau arswydus o uchel o dreth gyngor mewn awdurdodau Torïaidd yn Lloegr?

Nick Bourne: Gwnaethoch ddewis pwnc eich ymyriad yn gall. Ni wnaethoch honni nad oeddech wedi sôn am gynnydd o 32 y cant yn ardaloedd awdurdodau Plaid Cymru. Nid yw hynny'n rhywbeth y dylid ymfalchïo ynddo; mae'n hynod gywilyddus—

Jenny Randerson: A ydych yn cofio bod y bil am dreth gyngor band D wedi codi o 51 y cant rhwng 1993 a 1997 o dan y Ceidwadwyr? Mewn geiriau eraill, nid oes a wnelo cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor â darbodaeth wael o reidrydd, ond â fframwaith trethiant—y cenedlaethol yn erbyn y lleol. Yr ydym ni'n dadlau ei bod yn gwbl amlwg bod treth incwm leol yn system dreth deg, gynyddol a thryloyw.

Nick Bourne: Gwyddom beth yw eich dadl, ond yr hyn yr ydych heb ei ddweud wrthym yw bod treth gyngor band D wedi dyblu yng Nghaerdydd er 1995. Yr oeddech yn Weinidog yn y Llywodraeth am ryw faint o'r cyfnod hwnnw, ac ni wnaethoch lawer yn ei glych. Gadewch inni ystyried record y Rhyddfrydwyr, gan eich bod mor awyddus i sôn amdani. Dywedodd Charles Kennedy wrthym fis Ionawr y llynedd y gallai ei blaid ymladd yr etholiad cyffredinol nesaf gan bleidio trethi is. Yr oedd hynny'n ddi-ddorol. Ers hynny, clywsom eich bod o blaid cyfradd uchaf o 50 y cant, treth incwm leol newydd, treth incwm ranbarthol newydd, treth newydd ar dagfeydd, treth am barcio mewn gweithleoedd, treth carbon yr UE, ac y byddech yn gadael i gynulladau rhanbarthol gynyddu yswiriant gwladol. Byddwn yn falch o ymgyrchu ym Mrycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed a ledled Cymru ar y mater hwnnw. Nid yw eich record ar dreth yn rhywbeth y dylech ymfalchïo ynddo.

David Davies: Do you not agree that the Liberal Democrats' proposal will change nothing? Its fundamental problem is that the amount of money that local authorities need is not matched by the amount of money given to them by the National Assembly. It is simply changing the mechanism. This is nothing more than a vote-catching chimera from the Liberal Democrats. It was happy to support the formula that penalised rural areas such as Monmouthshire and Brecon and Radnorshire. When Mike German had ministerial power, it supported that formula, and it supported budgets that hit us with one council tax rise after another. We are hearing nothing but cant and hypocrisy today.

Nick Bourne: This debate, like nothing else—and I welcome it for that reason alone—has shown the difference between the Welsh Conservatives and other parties. You are content with high taxation, and you do not care whether that delivers better public services. I look forward, John, to seeing Michael Howard tearing shreds off the Prime Minister, just as he tore shreds off the Chancellor, and just as we are tearing shreds off you today. This is all about higher taxation, with no commensurate increases in services. We know that all you do in the Assembly is load extra responsibilities on local authorities, but you do not provide the necessary money. That is the reason that council taxes have increased, and it is the reason that they have increased in Labour authorities, as much as in Welsh Conservative and Plaid Cymru authorities—

John Griffiths: Will you confirm then, Nick, that you support a 20 per cent cut in public spending?

Nick Bourne: You know that I was talking about a 20 per cent cut in administration. There is nothing wrong with that. Let it go on record that John Griffiths wants to see an increase in administration costs, not an increase in funding for the sharp end of

David Davies: Onid ydych yn cytuno na fydd cynnig y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn newid dim? Y broblem sylfaenol yn ei gylch yw nad yw'r swm o arian y mae ar awdurdodau lleol ei angen yn cyfateb i'r swm a roddir iddynt gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Nid yw ond yn newid y dull gweithredu. Nid yw hyn yn ddim amgen na breuddwyd gwrach ar ran y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol i ddenu pleidleisiau. Yr oeddent yn falch o gefnogi'r fformiwla a gosbai ardaloedd gwledig fel sir Fynwy a Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed. Pan oedd gan Mike German bŵer fel Gweinidog, yr oeddent o blaid y fformiwla honno, a chefnogent gyllidebau a oedd yn taflu codiadau yn y dreth gyngor atom dro ar ôl tro. Nid ydym yn clywed dim ond ffiloreg a rhagrith heddiw.

Nick Bourne: Mae'r ddadl hon, yn anad dim arall—ac fe'i croesawaf am y rheswm hwnnw'n unig—wedi dangos y gwahaniaeth rhwng Ceidwadwyr Cymru a phleidiau eraill. Yr ydych chi'n fodlon ar drethu uchel, ac nid yw o bwys gennych a yw hynny'n sicrhau gwell gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Edrychaf ymlaen, John, at weld Michael Howard yn tynnu'r Prif Weinidog yn gareiau, yn union fel y torrodd y Canghellor yn gareiau, ac yn union fel yr ydym ni'n eich tynnu chi'n gareiau heddiw. Mae hyn yn ymwneud â threthu uchel, heb unrhyw gynnydd cymesur mewn gwasanaethau. Gwyddom mai'r cwbl a wnewch yn y Cynulliad yw llwytho cyfrifoldebau ychwanegol ar awdurdodau lleol, ond ni ddarparwch yr arian sydd ei angen. Dyna pam y bu cynnydd mewn trethi cyngor, a dyna pam y maent wedi cynyddu mewn awdurdodau Llafur, yn gymaint ag yn awdurdodau Ceidwadwyr Cymru a Phlaid Cymru—

John Griffiths: A wnewch gadarnhau felly, Nick, eich bod o blaid toriad o 20 y cant mewn gwariant cyhoeddus?

Nick Bourne: Gwyddoch fy mod yn sôn am doriad o 20 y cant mewn gweinyddu. Nid oes dim o'i le ar hynny. Gadewch i bawb gael gwybod bod John Griffiths am weld cynnydd mewn costau gweinyddu, nid cynnydd mewn cyllid ar gyfer gwasanaethau

public services. He is not interested in more doctors, nurses or teachers: he wants more administrators. I am not—I want less administrators and more funding to go to the sharp end. There is clearly a division on this matter. We are content to rest our case: we do not want higher taxation unless we receive value for money.

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I have listened to all that has been said this afternoon and I have decided to put my prepared speech to one side because people outside the Assembly who have listened this afternoon must be wondering what on earth we are doing here. All we have heard are claims and counter claims, figures and counter figures on what is a serious issue. It is time to have a mature debate, without trying to score party points, about how we can deal with the difficult issue that all councils and governments must face, whatever political party controls them.

I will consider this matter in the spirit that Mike proposed it. The time has come for us to consider a fundamental issue: how to establish a fair local taxation system that will respond to the deservedly growing needs of the population. In the coming years, the population of Wales will include a higher proportion of elderly people and it will want greater fairness in terms of accessibility to services. I start from that point, which is difficult because there is no perfect system. There is not one system that you could say, with your hand on your heart, was so perfect that it would not cause any problems. Many people feel, for various reasons, that the present council tax system is becoming unsustainable, particularly in terms of the balance in the relationship between central and local government yet all of us here are wedded to proper local democracy and accountability, and to ensuring that services are delivered.

Mike German gave his views about local income tax and said that that was the route for us. There are many commendable aspects to local income tax and, like John Griffiths, I have looked at it for many years because

cyhoeddus yn y rheng flaen. Nid yw am weld rhagor o feddygon, nyrsys neu athrawon; mae am gael rhagor o weinyddwyr. Nid wyf fi am weld hynny—yr wyf fi am weld llai o weinyddwyr a mwy o gyllid ar gyfer y rheng flaen. Mae'n amlwg bod gwahaniaeth barn am y mater hwn. Yr ydym yn fodlon cloi ein dadl ar hynny: nid ydym am gael trethu uwch oni bai y cawn werth am arian.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Gwrandewais ar y cwbl a ddywedwyd y prynhawn yma a phenderfynais roi'r araith a baratois o'r neilltu gan fod y rhai y tu allan i'r Cynulliad a fu'n gwrando y prynhawn yma yn sicr o fod yn meddwl beth ar y ddaear yr ydym yn ei wneud yma. Y cwbl a glywsom yw honiadau a gwrth-honiadau, ffigurau a ffigurau croes ar rywbeth sy'n fater difrifol. Mae'n bryd cael dadl aeddfed, heb geisio sgorio pwyntiau pleidiol, am y modd y gallwn ddelio â'r mater anodd y mae pob cyngor a llywodraeth yn gorfod ei wynebu, pa bynnag blaid wleidyddol sy'n eu rheoli.

Ystyriaf y mater hwn yn yr un ysbryd ag y'i cynigiwyd gan Mike. Mae'n bryd inni ystyried mater sylfaenol: sut i sefydlu system drethu lleol deg a fydd yn diwallu anghenion cynyddol a haeddiannol y boblogaeth. Yn y blynyddoedd i ddod, bydd cyfran fwy o bobl oedrannus ym mhoblogaeth Cymru a bydd am gael mwy o degwch o ran y gallu i gael gwasanaethau. Dechreuaf yn y fan honno, ac mae hynny'n anodd gan nad oes system berffaith. Nid oes yr un system y gallech ddweud amdani, a'ch llaw ar eich calon, ei bod mor berffaith fel nad achosai unrhyw broblemau. Mae llawer yn teimlo, am wahanol resymau, fod y system dreth gyngor bresennol yn mynd yn anghynaliadwy, yn enwedig o ran y cydbwysedd yn y berthynas rhwng llywodraeth ganolog a llywodraeth leol ac eto mae pob un ohonom yma wedi ymrwymo i ddemocratiaeth ac atebolrwydd lleol priodol, ac i sicrhau bod gwasanaethau'n cael eu darparu.

Rhoddodd Mike German ei farn am dreth incwm leol a dweud mai honno oedd y ffordd ymlaen i ni. Mae sawl agwedd ganmoladwy ar dreth incwm leol ac, fel John Griffiths, yr wyf yn ei hystyried ers

many of the points that Mike raised are true. The reality, when you look at a range of countries, is that they have not gone for that system because there are also problems attached to it. What will happen is that the word 'local' will disappear, and the tax will merge with the overall income tax, which has its benefits, but we are wedded to local democracy and accountability and that tends to be lost. That is the downside of a local income tax.

As Mike rightly said, Nick Raynsford is leading a review that has been set up by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, involving local government and a Liberal spokesperson among others. The review is looking at what we must do in future and how we can strike a fair balance between central Government or, in our case, the Assembly, and local taxation and delivery. We need a system that is fair across a range of different circumstances, a range of income and wealth, and across Wales and the UK. That work is going on now and I am glad that Mike and others have mentioned it this afternoon. We are part of that work and it is our duty to add to that review and research. That is why I am announcing today—I have already alluded to it in Committee—that we will analyse the situation in Wales to assess our particular circumstances so that we can test them against any options that may be offered in the future. Before making any final decision we will ensure that we have a system that people understand, that is as fair as possible and that can be implemented.

5.30 p.m.

The problem as I see it, and I have looked far afield, is that it is hard to move away from a property-based system because it has many strengths. There are defects in that system, however, to which you rightly alluded, but property systems have benefits and systems to support those who are perhaps adversely affected. To be honest, our amendment reflects that, which is why we are going ahead with the revaluation of the problems that Alun Ffred and others mentioned. We

blynyddoedd lawer gan fod llawer o'r pwyntiau a gododd Mike yn wir. Y gwir amdani, pan edrychych ar amryw o wledydd, yw nad ydynt wedi dewis y system honno am fod problemau ynglŷn â hi hefyd. Yr hyn a ddigwydd yw y bydd y gair 'lleol' yn diflannu, a bydd y dreth yn ymglyfuno â'r dreth incwm gyffredinol, ac mae manteision i hynny, ond yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i ddemocratiaeth ac atebolrwydd lleol ac mae hynny'n tueddu i fynd ar goll. Dyna anfantais treth incwm leol.

Fel y dywedodd Mike, mae Nick Raynsford yn arwain adolygiad a sefydlwyd gan Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, sy'n cynnwys llywodraeth leol a llfarydd ar ran y Rhyddfrydwyr ymysg eraill. Mae'r adolygiad yn ystyried yr hyn y mae'n rhaid inni ei wneud yn y dyfodol a sut y gallwn ddal y ddysgl yn fwy gwastad rhwng Llywodraeth ganolog neu, yn ein hachos ni, y Cynulliad, a threthu a darparu lleol. Mae arnom angen system sy'n deg o dan amryw o amgylchiadau, amrediad o incwm a chyfoeth, a ledled Cymru a'r DU. Mae'r gwaith hwnnw'n mynd rhagddo'n awr ac yr wyf yn falch bod Mike ac eraill wedi'i grybwyll y prynhawn yma. Mae gennym ran yn y gwaith hwnnw ac mae'n ddyletswydd arnom gyfrannu at yr adolygiad a'r ymchwil honno. Dyna pam yr wyf yn cyhoeddi heddiw—cyfeiriais ato eisoes yn y Pwyllgor—y byddwn yn dadansoddi'r sefyllfa yng Nghymru er mwyn asesu ein hamgylchiadau penodol fel y gallwn eu profi yn ôl unrhyw ddewisiadau a gynigir yn y dyfodol. Cyn penderfynu'n derfynol, sicrhawn fod gennym system y mae pobl yn ei deall, sydd mor deg ag y bo modd ac un y gellir ei rhoi ar waith.

Y broblem fel yr wyf fi'n ei gweld, ac yr wyf wedi edrych ymhell, yw ei bod yn anodd symud oddi wrth system sy'n seiliedig ar eiddo gan fod iddi lawer o gryfderau. Mae diffygion yn y system honno, fodd bynnag, y cyfeiriasoch atynt, ond mae budd-daliadau ynglŷn â systemau sy'n seiliedig ar eiddo a systemau i helpu'r rhai a allai brofi drwg effaith. A dweud y gwir, mae ein gwelliant yn adlewyrchu hynny, a dyna pam yr ydym yn bwrw ymlaen i ailystyried y problemau y

will probably not move away from a property-based tax in the near future, but we could look at other issues through the review, which will consider whether the council tax system can be reformed and whether there are other systems of local taxation that people think are transparent and accountable. Everyone agrees, given the history of the council tax over the past 10 years, that the time has come to see whether there is a better alternative, or whether the current system can be amended, adjusted, added to or complemented to improve it so that it can overcome many of the points raised today.

That is my constructive conclusion. I have loads of figures on which council under which political regime does such and such, but I will not go into that as it will debase the seriousness of a subject that we all care about. Please support amendment 1.

Kirsty Williams: Because I heard no coherent argument to the contrary, the fact remains that council tax is inherently unfair—it takes no account of a person's ability to pay and the poor, who pay proportionately too much, support the well off. The Conservatives have shown their ability to gloss over the past, and Nick Bourne could not rebut the fact that, in the three years between 1994 and 1997, council tax in Wales increased by 51 per cent. The Conservatives showed that they do not 'do' fairness, and so they oppose local income tax—a tax that they introduced. It appears that the Conservatives will live and die by, among their other problems, council tax.

Brian Gibbons: Based on current spending levels, what is your best estimate of the amount by which income tax would have to increase in Wales to realise your ambition of a local income tax? Many pence in the pound would have to be added to deliver existing services.

Kirsty Williams: In accordance with our commitment to local decision-making, each council would decide the figure for itself. The average figure works out at 3.75 pence, which can be rounded up to 4 pence in the

cyfeiriodd Alun Ffred ac eraill atynt. Mae'n debyg na fyddwn yn symud oddi wrth dreth sy'n seiliedig ar eiddo yn y dyfodol agos, ond gallef fwrw golwg ar faterion eraill drwy'r adolygiad, a fydd yn ystyried a ellir diwygio system y dreth gyngor ac a oes systemau trethu lleol eraill y credir eu bod yn dryloyw ac yn atebol. Mae pawb yn cytuno, yng ngolwg hanes y dreth gyngor dros y deng mlynedd diwethaf, ei bod yn bryd ystyried a oes dewis gwell, neu a ellir gwella'r system bresennol drwy ei newid, ei haddasu, ei hategu neu ychwanegu ati fel y gellir datrys llawer o'r pwyntiau a godwyd heddiw.

Dyna fy nghasgliad adeiladol. Mae gennyf lwythi o ffigurau ynghylch pa gyngor o dan ba drefn wleidyddol sy'n gwneud y naill beth a'r llall, ond nid af i hynny gan y bydd yn tanseilio'r drafodaeth ddifrif ar bwnc sy'n bwysig inni i gyd. Cefnogwch welliant 1, os gwelwch yn dda.

Kirsty Williams: Gan na chlywais unrhyw ddatllyth resymegol i'r gwrthwyneb, mae'n dal i fod yn wir bod y dreth gyngor yn annheg o'i hanfod—nid yw'n ystyried gallu rhywun i dalu ac mae'r tlodion, sy'n talu gormod ar gyfartaledd, yn cefnogi'r rhai da eu byd. Mae'r Ceidwadwyr wedi amlygu eu gallu i anwybyddu'r gorffennol, ac ni allai Nick Bourne wrthbrofi'r ffaith bod y dreth gyngor yng Nghymru wedi codi o 51 y cant yn y tair blynedd rhwng 1994 a 1997. Dangosodd y Ceidwadwyr nad yw tegwch o bwys ganddynt, ac felly gwrthwynebant dreth incwm leol—treth a gyflwynasant hwy. Ymddengys y bydd y Ceidwadwyr yn byw ac yn marw oherwydd y dreth gyngor, ymysg eu problemau eraill.

Brian Gibbons: Ar sail y lefelau gwariant presennol, beth yw'r amcangyfrif gorau sydd gennych o'r cynnydd y byddai ei angen yn y dreth incwm yng Nghymru i gyflawni eich uchelgais o gael treth incwm leol? Byddai'n rhaid ychwanegu sawl ceiniog yn y bunt i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau presennol.

Kirsty Williams: Yn unol â'n hymrwymiad i benderfynu lleol, byddai pob cyngor yn pennu'r ffigur drosto'i hun. Y ffigur cyfartalog a gyfrifwyd yw 3.75 ceiniog, y gellir ei dalgrynnu i 4 ceiniog yn y bunt.

pound. People earning the average salary in Wales of £22,000 have a taxable income of about £17,000 after personal allowances, which means that, at 4 pence in the pound, they would pay 50 per cent less under local income tax than under the current average council tax rate for a band D property. That is what a 4 pence in the pound rate means to the average wage earner: a 50 per cent cut.

The Conservatives have shown their true colours: for all their talk of local power and decentralisation, they cannot live with a local council setting its own rate of tax. They have to intervene, cap and dictate.

David Davies *rose—*

Kirsty Williams: Sorry, David, I only have three and a half minutes.

Not only are the Conservatives content to play ‘Big Brother’ over local government, but they are incoherent when they do so. In the same amendment, amendment 5, they want to freeze council tax bills and yet limit increases in council tax. For the Conservatives, who face the prospect of a new leader back from the past, if not from the grave, council tax is a case of back to the future and defending problems that they created in the first place.

David Melding: Will you give way?

Kirsty Williams: No, David.

The Labour contribution was interesting: I welcome John Griffiths’s openness. It is interesting to note that no Labour Member spoke apart from John and the Minister. The Labour Party’s approach is typical of its division and timidity. Some Labour Members, here and at Westminster, acknowledge that there is a problem with council tax and some acknowledge the value and benefits of local income tax, but they shy away from it because change requires courage.

I welcome the Minister’s announcement, but

Incwm trethadwy’r rhai sy’n ennill y cyflog cyfartalog yng Nghymru o £22,000 yw tua £17,000 ar ôl darparu ar gyfer lwfansau personol, ac mae hynny’n golygu, ar 4 ceiniog yn y bunt, y talent 50 y cant yn llai o dan dreth incwm leol nag o dan y gyfradd treth gyngor gyfartalog a geir ar hyn o bryd ar gyfer eiddo ym mand D. Dyna beth y mae cyfradd o 4 ceiniog yn y bunt yn ei olygu i rywun sy’n ennill y cyflog cyfartalog: gostyngiad o 50 y cant.

Mae’r Ceidwadwyr wedi dangos eu lliwiau go-iawn: er cymaint y soniant am bŵer lleol a datganoli, ni allant ddygymod â chyngor lleol sy’n pennu ei gyfradd dreth ei hun. Rhaid iddynt ymyrryd, capio a gorchymyn.

David Davies *a gododd—*

Kirsty Williams: Mae’n ddrwg gennyf, David, dim ond tri munud a hanner sydd gennyf.

Nid yn unig y mae’r Ceidwadwyr yn fodlon chwarae rhan y ‘Brawd Mawr’ mewn cysylltiad â llywodraeth leol, ond maent yn ffwdro wrth wneud hynny. Yn yr un gwelliant, gwelliant 5, maent am rewi biliau treth gyngor ac eto am gyfyngu ar godiadau yn y dreth gyngor. I’r Ceidwadwyr, sy’n wynebu’r posibilrwydd o gael arweinydd newydd o’r gorffennol, os nad o’r bedd, mae’r dreth gyngor yn gam yn ôl i’r dyfodol ac at esgusodi problemau a grëwyd ganddynt hwy yn y lle cyntaf.

David Melding: A wnewch ildio?

Kirsty Williams: Na wnaif, David.

Yr oedd y cyfraniad gan Lafur yn ddiddorol: croesawaf ymagwedd agored John Griffiths. Diddorol yw nodi na siaradodd yr un Aelod Llafur heblaw am John a’r Gweinidog. Mae ymagwedd y Blaid Lafur yn nodweddiadol o’i hymrannu a’i hofnusrwydd. Mae rhai Aelodau Llafur, yma ac yn San Steffan, yn cydnabod bod problem ynglŷn â’r dreth gyngor ac mae rhai’n cydnabod gwerth a manteision treth incwm leol, ond maent yn gwingo rhagddi am fod newid yn gofyn dewrder.

Croesawaf gyhoeddiad y Gweinidog, ond

what was a situation of two officials attending meetings on 1 October has now turned into a full-blown review. I trust, Minister, that that full-blown review will give adequate attention to the opportunity to introduce a local income tax.

The facts remain as clear and open at the end of this debate as they were at the beginning: local income tax is the only truly fair tax, people will understand it, it is based on people's ability to pay, it will be cheaper to administer, and it gives us the opportunity to rebalance funding more easily.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I call for a vote on amendment 1. If amendment 1 is carried, amendments 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 will fall.

mae'r hyn a oedd gynt yn fater o ddau swyddog yn mynd i gyfarfodydd ar 1 Hydref wedi troi bellach yn adolygiad llawn. Hyderaf, Weinidog, y bydd yr adolygiad llawn yn rhoi sylw digonol i'r cyfle i gyflwyno treth incwm leol.

Mae'r ffeithiau mor amlwg a chlr ar ddiwedd y ddadl hon ag yr oeddent ar y dechrau: treth incwm leol yw'r unig dreth wirioneddol deg, bydd pobl yn ei deall, mae'n seiliedig ar allu rhywun i'w thalu, bydd yn rhatach i'w gweinyddu, ac mae'n rhoi cyfle inni ailfantoli cyllid yn haws.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Galwaf am bleidlais ar welliant 1. Os derbynnir gwelliant 1, bydd gwelliannau 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 a 7 yn methu.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 29, Ymatal 11, Yn erbyn 16.
Amendment 1: For 29, Abstain 11, Against 16.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Denise Idris
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
German, Michael
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Morgan, Rhodri
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment accepted.*

Methodd gwelliannau 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 a 7.
Amendments 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 fell.

*Gwelliant 8: O blaid 26, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 30.
Amendment 8: For 26, Abstain 0, Against 30.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Isherwood, Mark
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment rejected.*

*Gwelliant 9: O blaid 26, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 30.
Amendment 9: For 26, Abstain 0, Against 30.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary

Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Isherwood, Mark
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment rejected.*

Motion NDM1670 as amended:

the National Assembly believes that the council tax will have a continuing role in financing a proportion of local government expenditure and supports the Welsh Assembly Government in reviewing the balance of funding for local government.

Cynnig NDM1670 wedi'i ddiwygio:

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol o'r farn y bydd rôl y dreth gyngor o ran cyllido cyfran o wariant llywodraeth leol yn parhau ac mae'n cefnogi adolygiad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad o'r modd y cyllidir gweddill cyllideb llywodraeth leol.

*Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio: O blaid 41, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 14.
 Amended motion: For 41, Abstain 0, Against 14.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Bourne, Nick
 Butler, Rosemary
 Cairns, Alun
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Francis, Lisa
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 German, Michael
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Lloyd, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Denise Idris
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio.
Amended motion carried.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings today's proceedings to a close. **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.38 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.38 p.m.*

**Aelodau a'u Pleidiau
Members and their Parties**

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Davies, Glyn (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Davies, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin (Llafur - Labour)
Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Essex, Sue (Llafur – Labour)
Francis, Lisa (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
Gwyther, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)

Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
Idris Jones, Denise (Llafur – Labour)
Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Laura Anne (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Law, Peter (Llafur – Labour)
Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
Marek, John (Annibynnol – Independent)
Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
Pugh, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Catherine (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Owen John (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)