Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings
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Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 1.30 p.m. gyda'r Llywydd (Rosemary Butler) yn y Gadair.

The Assembly met at 1.30 p.m. with the Presiding Officer (Rosemary Butler) in the Chair.

13:30

Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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The National Assembly for Wales is now in session.

Dyma ddechrau trafodion Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru.

Cwestiynau i Weinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy

Questions to the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru

Natural Resources Wales

13:30

Keith Davies Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

1. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru. OAQ(4)0218(ESD)

1. Will the Minister give an update on Natural Resources Wales. OAQ(4)0218(ESD)

13:30

John Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy / The Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Bydd y rhaglen a grëwyd i sefydlu cyfoeth naturiol Cymru yn creu corff gweithredol ar 1 Ebrill 2013. Mae'r gwaith i sicrhau parodrwydd gweithredol o'r cychwyn cyntaf yn parhau, a hynny i sicrhau safon gwasanaethau hanfodol.

The programme intended to create natural resources Wales will deliver the functioning body on 1 April 2013. The work to ensure operational readiness from the outset will continue, and that is to ensure the standard of essential services.

13:31 **Keith Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Gwasanaethir Cymru a Lloegr gan y Ganolfan Darogan Llifogydd—gweithred ar y cyd rhwng Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd a'r Swyddfa Dywydd—a reolir o Gaerwysg. Fodd bynnag, mae gan yr Alban ei swyddfa ei hunan. Yn ddiweddar, cafodd Llanelli gyfres o rybuddion tywydd a oedd yn amrywio yn eu cywirdeb, ac yr wyf wedi ysgrifennu at y Swyddfa Dywydd. Cafwyd tywydd drwg ledled Cymru dros y 12 mis diwethaf, sydd wedi'i gwneud yn fwy hanfodol i gael rhybuddion cywir a manwl gan arbenigwyr sy'n gyfarwydd â'r tirwedd. Gyda lansiad cyfoeth naturiol Cymru eleni, a gan mai Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yw un o'r cyrff sy'n cael ei uno, a wnewch chi ystyried galw am drosglwyddo rhai o swyddogaethau'r Swyddfa Dywydd i'r corff newydd?

England and Wales are served by the Flood Forecasting Centre—a joint initiative between the Environment Agency and the Met Office—based in Exeter. However, Scotland has its own office. Recently, Llanelli had a series of weather warnings that varied in their accuracy, and I have written to the Met Office about this. There has been bad weather across Wales over the past 12 months, making it even more crucial that we have detailed and accurate forecasts from experts who know the landscape. With the launch of natural resources Wales this year, and with the Environment Agency being one of the bodies included therein, will the Minister consider calling for some of the Met Office's functions to be transferred to the new body?

13:32 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I thank Keith Davies for that supplementary question. The Welsh Government recognises the importance of having the best possible flood forecasts. There will be a continuity of service from the Met Office and the Environment Agency to provide the forecasting service for Wales. Natural resources Wales will have the opportunity to review the flood forecasting service arrangements in moving forward.

Diolch i Keith Davies am y cwestiwn atodol hwnnw. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cydnabod pa mor bwysig yw cael y rhagolygon llifogydd gorau posibl. Bydd gwasanaeth di-dor gan y Swyddfa Dywydd ac Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd i ddarparu'r gwasanaeth rhagolygon ar gyfer Cymru. Bydd Adnoddau Naturiol Cymru yn cael y cyfle i adolygu trefniadau'r gwasanaeth rhagweld llifogydd wrth symud ymlaen.

In addition to that, we have been in discussion with the Met Office on having an extreme- weather-event modelling centre or service for Wales based in Wales. Discussions on that are ongoing.

Yn ogystal â hynny, rydym wedi bod yn trafod â'r Swyddfa Dywydd ynghylch cael canolfan neu wasanaeth modelu digwyddiadau tywydd eithafol ar gyfer Cymru a leolir yng Nghymru. Mae trafodaethau'n mynd rhagddynt ar hynny.

If you were to provide me with details of the inaccurate weather warnings, I would be very happy to investigate the circumstances.

Pe baech yn rhoi manylion imi am y rhybuddion tywydd anghywir, byddwn yn fwy na pharod i ymchwilio i'r amgylchiadau.

13:33 **Russell George** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you for your answers, Minister. A number of environmental bodies have raised with me their concerns that the proposed duties are weaker than those currently required of the Countryside Council for Wales and therefore remove the necessary protection of the natural environment. Have you met with these groups and what are you doing to alleviate their concerns and to strengthen the drafting of the second Order?

Diolch am eich atebion, Weinidog. Mae nifer o gyrff amgylcheddol wedi codi eu pryderon gyda mi fod y dyletswyddau arfaethedig yn wannach na'r rhai sy'n ofynnol ar hyn o bryd gan Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru a'u bod felly'n dileu'r camau diogelu angenrheidiol o ran yr amgylchedd naturiol. A ydych wedi cyfarfod â'r grwpiau hyn a beth rydych yn ei wneud i leddfu eu pryderon ac atgyfnerthu'r gwaith o ddrafftio'r ail Orchymyn?

13:33 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Through consultations and general engagement, these matters have been addressed. The Public Bodies Act 2011 allows for more or less a straight transfer of duties, although it is possible to finesse those duties to some extent. However, we are mindful of the points that have been raised throughout the consultation process and we will endeavour to ensure that there is no weakening of the duties through the Order and the transition to the new body.

Drwy ymgynghori ac ymgysylltu yn gyffredinol, aed i'r afael â'r materion hyn. Mae Deddf Cyrff Cyhoeddus 2011 yn galluogi dyletswyddau i gael eu trosglwyddo'n uniongyrchol fwy neu lai, er ei bod yn bosibl mireinio'r dyletswyddau hynny i ryw raddau. Fodd bynnag, rydym yn ymwybodol o'r pwyntiau a godwyd gennym drwy gydol yr ymgynghoriad a byddwn yn ymdrechu i sicrhau na chaiff y dyletswyddau eu gwanhau drwy gyfrwng y Gorchymyn a throsglwyddo i'r corff newydd.

13:34 **Llyr Huws Gruffydd** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

One of the big drivers for the change that we are seeing through natural resources Wales was to realise savings. We have always known that there would be a transitional period, but given that this has become even more of an issue than was originally expected, that transition will be longer than the Welsh Government initially forecast. The additional transition costs, therefore, will extend to the midterm, meaning that your break-even point, namely the point when you start achieving and realising those savings, is moving further and further away into the future. Therefore, what reassessment have you made on when natural resources Wales will start to achieve the anticipated savings?

Un o'r ffactorau mawr ar gyfer y newid a welir drwy adnoddau naturiol Cymru oedd cyflawni arbedion. Gwyddom erioed y byddai cyfnod trosiannol, ond o ystyried bod hyn wedi dod hyd yn oed yn fwy o broblem na'r disgwyl, bydd y cyfnod pontio hwnnw yn hwy na'r hyn a ragwelwyd i ddechrau gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Bydd y costau pontio ychwanegol, felly, yn ymestyn i'r tymor canolig, sy'n golygu bod eich trothwy elw, sef y pwynt pan fyddwch yn dechrau cyflawni a gwireddu'r arbedion hynny, yn symud ymhellach ac ymhellach i ffwrdd yn y dyfodol. Felly, pa waith ailasesu rydych wedi'i wneud o ran pryd y bydd adnoddau naturiol Cymru yn dechrau cyflawni'r arbedion a ragwelwyd?

13:35 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I can assure Members, including Llyr, that we are still within the business case parameters and contingencies with regard to the changes in cost. It is true that there has been some reprofiling, and, yes, some of the information communications technology costs, for example, will involve earlier expenditure. However, we have always looked at it over a 10-year period and, within that period, we are content that what we set out hitherto remains achievable.

Gallaf sicrhau Aelodau, gan gynnwys Llŷr, ein bod yn dal o fewn paramedrau'r achos busnes a'r cynlluniau wrth gefn o ran y newidiadau mewn cost. Mae'n wir y bu rhywfaint o ailbroffilio, ac y bydd rhai o'r costau technoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu, er enghraifft, yn gofyn am wariant cynharach. Fodd bynnag, rydym bob amser wedi ei ystyried dros gyfnod o 10 mlynedd ac, o fewn y cyfnod hwnnw, rydym yn fodlon bod yr hyn a nodwyd hyd yn hyn yn parhau i fod yn gyflawnadwy.

Casgliadau Gwastraff Cartrefi

Household Waste Collections

13:35 **Eluned Parrott** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

2. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gasgliadau gwastraff cartrefi yng Nghanol De Cymru. OAQ(4)0221(ESD)

2. Will the Minister make a statement on household waste collections in South Wales Central. OAQ(4)0221(ESD)

13:35 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I congratulate local authorities in South Wales Central on continuing to increase recycling and decrease residual waste to meet Welsh Government targets, as shown in the quarter 2 figures released last week. The councils all provide a weekly collection service for dry recyclables and food waste.

Hoffwn longyfarch awdurdodau lleol yng Nghanol De Cymru ar barhau i gynyddu cyfraddau ailgylchu a lleihau gwastraff gweddilliol i gyflawni targedau Llywodraeth Cymru, fel y dangosir yn ffigurau chwarter 2 a gyhoeddwyd yr wythnos ddiwethaf. Mae'r cynghorau i gyd yn darparu gwasanaeth casglu wythnosol ar gyfer deunydd sych i'w ailgylchu a gwastraff bwyd.

13:36 **Eluned Parrott** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you, Minister. I am sure you will be aware that in the last month or so, both Cardiff and Rhondda Cynon Taf councils have announced their intention to start charging householders for bulky waste collections. Many constituents have got in touch with me concerned about the potential for this to drive up illegal fly-tipping. What guidance has the Welsh Government given local authorities in terms of controlling fly-tipping and on the link between fly-tipping and bulky household waste collections? If you do not have the data, will you provide some?

Diolch, Weinidog. Rwy'n siŵr y byddwch yn ymwybodol yn ystod y mis neu ddau diwethaf, fod cynghorau Caerdydd a Rhondda Cynon Taf wedi cyhoeddi eu bwriad i ddechrau codi tâl ar ddeiliaid tai am gasglu gwastraff swmpus. Mae llawer o etholwyr wedi cysylltu â mi yn pryderu am y posibilrwydd y bydd hyn yn cynyddu nifer yr achosion o dipio anghyfreithlon. Pa ganllawiau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'u rhoi i awdurdodau lleol o ran rheoli tipio anghyfreithlon a'r cyswllt rhwng tipio anghyfreithlon a chasglu gwastraff cartref swmpus? Os nad oes gennych y data, a wnewch chi ddarparu rhywfaint?

13:36 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank Eluned Parrott for that supplementary question. We have a very good system in place through Fly-tipping Action Wales, and there are statistics that show that we have driven down the incidence of fly-tipping through that programme in recent times; that is welcome for us all. When it comes to new developments, such as charging for bulky waste, as with many other matters, it is variable across local authorities in Wales. Local authorities have their own democratic mandate and autonomy. We do liaise with them in terms of meeting the requirements of 'Towards Zero Waste' but, inevitably, local authorities have their own measures in place.

Diolch i Eluned Parrott am y cwestiwn atodol hwnnw. Mae gennym system dda iawn ar waith drwy Taclo Tipio Cymru, ac mae ystadegau sy'n dangos ein bod wedi lleihau nifer yr achosion o dipio anghyfreithlon drwy'r rhaglen honno yn ddiweddar; mae hynny'n rhywbeth i ni i gyd ei groesawu. O ran datblygiadau newydd, fel codi tâl am wastraff swmpus, fel gyda llawer o faterion eraill, mae'n amrywio ar draws awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru. Mae gan awdurdodau lleol eu mandad democrataidd a'u hymreolaeth eu hunain. Byddwn yn ymgysylltu â hwy o ran bodloni gofynion 'Tuag at Ddyfodol Diwastraff', ond, yn anochel, mae gan awdurdodau lleol eu mesurau eu hunain ar waith.

13:37 **Andrew R.T. Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid / The Leader of the Opposition

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, some years ago, several local authorities in South Wales Central moved to two-weekly collections of general household waste. That was sold on the premise that it would encourage recycling. What analysis has the Welsh Government done, along with local authorities, to see how successful that has been in making households move to greater recycling of household waste? We are all conscious of the targets that we have to meet.

Weinidog, rai blynyddoedd yn ôl, newidiodd nifer o awdurdodau lleol yng Nghanol De Cymru i gasgliadau gwastraff cartref cyffredinol bob pythefnos. Cafodd hynny ei werthu ar y gynsail y byddai'n annog ailgylchu. Pa ddadansoddiad y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'i wneud, ynghyd ag awdurdodau lleol, i weld pa mor llwyddiannus y mae hynny wedi bod o ran annog cartrefi i ailgylchu mwy o wastraff cartref? Rydym i gyd yn ymwybodol o'r targedau y mae'n rhaid inni eu cyflawni.

13:37 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

We have certainly seen a marked increase in recycling rates in those local authorities that have moved to fortnightly collections of waste for landfill and provided weekly collection of recyclable goods. I would be very happy to write to the Member with those details.

Rydym yn sicr wedi gweld cynnydd sylweddol mewn cyfraddau ailgylchu yn yr awdurdodau lleol hynny sydd wedi newid i gasgliadau bob pythefnos o wastraff i safleoedd tirlenwi ac sy'n casglu nwyddau ailgylchadwy yn wythnosol. Byddwn yn fwy na pharod i ysgrifennu at yr Aelod gyda'r manylion hynny.

13:38 **Leanne Wood** Bywgraffiad Biography

Arweinydd Plaid Cymru / The Leader of Plaid Cymru

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, the record levels of recycling in Wales are to be commended, but not all local authorities are doing as well as some are doing. My local authority, Rhondda Cynon Taf, is not doing as well as perhaps it should be. Given that your Government has issued a warning to fine those councils that do not reach the 52% target when the next set of targets are released, I have to question how this will impact on staff, particularly refuse workers, many of whom have already borne the brunt of budgetary cuts in recent months and years, particularly in my local authority of Rhondda Cynon Taf. As you know, those workers are not the highest paid workers in local authorities. How can you ensure that those fines that are issued to local authorities for failing to reach recycling levels will not impact on the very staff charged with collecting the recycling?

Weinidog, rhaid canmol y lefelau uchaf erioed o ailgylchu yng Nghymru, ond nid yw pob awdurdod lleol yn gwneud cystal ag eraill. Nid yw fy awdurdod lleol i, Rhondda Cynon Taf, yn gwneud cystal ag y dylai efallai. O gofio bod eich Llywodraeth wedi cyhoeddi rhybudd i ddirwyo'r cynghorau hynny nad ydynt yn cyrraedd y targed o 52% pan fydd y set nesaf o dargedau yn cael eu cyhoeddi, rhaid imi gwestiynu sut y bydd hyn yn effeithio ar staff, yn enwedig gweithwyr sbwriel, y mae llawer ohonynt eisoes wedi profi effeithiau'r toriadau cyllidebol yn ystod y misoedd a'r blynyddoedd diwethaf, yn enwedig yn fy awdurdod lleol Rhondda Cynon Taf. Fel y gwyddoch, nid y gweithwyr hynny yw'r gweithwyr sy'n cael y cyflog uchaf mewn awdurdodau lleol. Sut y gallwch sicrhau na fydd y dirwyon sy'n cael eu rhoi i awdurdodau lleol am fethu â chyrraedd lefelau ailgylchu yn effeithio ar yr union staff sy'n gyfrifol am gasglu'r ailgylchu?

13:39 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

It is very clear that there will still be a job to be done, in fact, arguably a greater job, in those local authorities that fail to meet the statutory targets. Obviously, they are going to need staff to make the improvements necessary, as well as better systems and better ways of working. It is in April of this year that we reach the stage where we assess whether local authorities have met the 52% requirement. It will probably take a couple of months for figures to be validated in terms of performance, and it will be at that stage that we will consider all the factors involved in determining whether any fines are imposed.

Mae'n glir iawn y bydd gwaith i'w wneud o hyd, mewn gwirionedd, gellir dadlau y bydd mwy o waith, yn yr awdurdodau lleol sy'n methu â chyflawni'r targedau statudol. Yn amlwg, bydd angen iddynt gael staff i wneud y gwelliannau angenrheidiol, yn ogystal â gwella systemau a ffyrdd gwell o weithio. Ym mis Ebrill eleni byddwn yn cyrraedd y cam lle byddwn yn asesu a yw awdurdodau lleol wedi bodloni'r gofyniad o 52%. Mae'n debygol y bydd yn cymryd ychydig o fisoedd i ddilysu ffigurau o ran perfformiad, a dyna pryd y byddwn yn ystyried yr holl ffactorau sy'n gysylltiedig â phenderfynu a fydd unrhyw ddirwyon yn cael eu pennu.

Llifogydd

Flooding

13:39 **Kenneth Skates** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

3. A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu cynlluniau Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â'r perygl o lifogydd. OAQ(4)0220(ESD)

3. Will the Minister outline the Welsh Government's plans to tackle the risk of flooding. OAQ(4)0220(ESD)

13:39 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The Welsh Government is committed to managing the risks of flooding in line with the objectives that are set out in my national strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales, for which I have a £37 million budget for 2013-14, and which is supplemented by £4 million from the Wales infrastructure investment plan.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymrwymo i reoli'r risgiau o lifogydd yn unol â'r amcanion a nodir yn fy strategaeth genedlaethol ar gyfer rheoli perygl o lifogydd ac erydu arfordirol yng Nghymru, y mae gennyf gyllideb o £37 miliwn ar ei chyfer rhwng 2013 a 2014, ac sy'n cael ei hategu gan £4 miliwn o gynllun buddsoddi mewn seilwaith Cymru.

13:40 **Kenneth Skates** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you, Minister. Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council is leading a consortia of six voluntary organisations in Denbighshire in a Big Lottery bid to support the victims of the recent floods in the county, alongside Denbighshire Care and Repair, Citizens Advice, Mind, the Benefit Advice Shop and Age Concern. The consortia is bidding for £142,000. Will you consider offering a message of support for the bid, and will you work with officials to ensure that the terrible impact of flooding is mitigated in future years?

Diolch, Weinidog. Mae Cyngor Gwasanaethau Gwirfoddol Sir Ddinbych yn arwain consortia o chwe sefydliad gwirfoddol yn Sir Ddinbych mewn ymgais gan y Loteri Fawr i gefnogi dioddefwyr y llifogydd diweddar yn y sir, ochr yn ochr â Gofal a Thrwsio Sir Ddinbych, Cyngor ar Bopeth, Mind, y Siop Cyngor Budd-daliadau ac Age Concern. Mae'r consortia yn gwneud cais am £142,000. A wnewch chi ystyried cynnig neges o gefnogaeth ar gyfer y cais, ac a wnewch chi weithio gyda swyddogion i sicrhau y caiff effaith ofnadwy llifogydd ei lliniaru yn y dyfodol?

13:40 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank Ken Skates for that supplementary question. The first thing to recognise is that the impact of flooding is great, and it causes misery to the victims. Therefore, I very much commend individuals, organisations and community groups that come forward with initiatives and ideas to help the victims of flooding. That is very much to be commended, and I join Ken Skates in recognising that. Furthermore, I will be hosting a flood summit shortly, at the beginning of March, to pull all relevant stakeholders together, including Denbighshire County Council. That will provide an opportunity to consider the full breadth of issues that are involved with effective flood risk management.

Diolch i Ken Skates am y cwestiwn atodol hwnnw. Y peth cyntaf i'w gydnabod yw bod effaith llifogydd yn fawr, a'i fod yn peri gofid i'r dioddefwyr. Felly, rwy'n sicr yn cymeradwyo unigolion, sefydliadau a grwpiau cymunedol sy'n cynnig mentrau a syniadau i helpu dioddefwyr llifogydd. Rhaid canmol hynny'n fawr, ac ymunaf â Ken Skates i gydnabod hynny. At hynny, byddaf yn cynnal uwchgynhadledd llifogydd yn fuan, ar ddechrau mis Mawrth, i dynnu'r holl randdeiliaid perthnasol ynghyd, gan gynnwys Cyngor Sir Ddinbych. Bydd hynny'n gyfle i ystyried yr ystod eang o faterion sy'n ymwneud â rheoli'r perygl o lifogydd yn effeithiol.

13:41 **Russell George** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, I am sure that you are still digesting the second annual report of the Climate Change Commission for Wales. One priority area that it suggests that the Government needs to work on is building resilience to mitigate the impact of climate change. I hope that this will be on your agenda in the summit in a fortnight's time. A key issue that the commission highlighted is the need to ensure the robust implementation of planning policy, especially in the context of development on flood plains. I agree with that point. As we said in our debate on flooding last month, we need to ensure that current guidance is robust and fit for purpose, we need a review of TAN 15, and a policy of C2 zone designation within it also requires fresh examination.

Weinidog, rwy'n siŵr eich bod yn dal i ystyried ail adroddiad blynyddol Comisiwn Cymru ar y Newid yn yr Hinsawdd. Un maes blaenoriaeth y mae'n awgrymu bod angen i'r Llywodraeth fynd i'r afael ag ef yw adeiladu gwytnwch er mwyn lliniaru effaith y newid yn yr hinsawdd. Gobeithio y bydd hyn ar eich agenda yn yr uwchgynhadledd ymhen pythefnos. Un o'r materion allweddol a amlygodd y comisiwn yw'r angen i sicrhau bod polisi cynllunio yn cael ei weithredu'n gadarn, yn enwedig yng nghyd-destun datblygu ar orlifdiroedd. Cytunaf â'r pwynt hwnnw. Fel y dywedasom yn ein dadl ar lifogydd y mis diwethaf, mae angen inni sicrhau bod canllawiau presennol yn gadarn ac yn addas at y diben, mae angen cynnal adolygiad o TAN 15, ac mae angen ystyried polisi o ddynodiad parth C2 o fewn hwnnw o'r newydd hefyd.

13:42 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Order. Are you coming to the question, Russell George?

Trefn. A ydych yn dod i'r cwestiwn, Russell George?

13:42 **Russell George** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

My short question is this: in light of the commission's recommendation, will you now seek a review of TAN 15?

Dyma fy nghwestiwn byr: yng ngoleuni argymhelliad y comisiwn, a fyddwch yn awr yn ceisio adolygiad o TAN 15?

13:42 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I have said before—and I am happy to reassure Russell George on this front—that we keep 'Planning Policy Wales' under continual revision; that is, generally. However, we have recently tightened up planning control and constraints in terms of building on unprotected flood plains. We believe that that policy, as it currently exists, is effective.

Rwyf wedi dweud o'r blaen—ac rwy'n fwy na pharod i roi sicrwydd i Russell George yn hyn o beth—ein bod yn adolygu 'Polisi Cynllunio Cymru' yn barhaus; hynny yw, yn gyffredinol. Fodd bynnag, rydym wedi tynhau yn ddiweddar reolaethau cynllunio a chyfyngiadau o ran adeiladu ar orlifdiroedd heb eu diogelu. Credwn fod y polisi hwnnw, fel y mae'n bodoli ar hyn o bryd, yn effeithiol.

13:42 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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We will now have another short question from Russell George. [Laughter.]

Byddwn yn awr yn cael cwestiwn byr arall gan Russell George. [Chwerthin.]

13:43 **Russell George** Bywgraffiad Biography

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There seems to be a relaxed approach when it comes to building on flood plains, and a resistance to reviewing TAN 15. Furthermore, development creep on flood ground is a big issue for many communities, across Wales. One of the fundamental problems is that the public is not fully aware of the risk that the current Government policy is storing up for future generations. Public awareness and engagement are something that all Government departments should be working towards and sharing—and I know that you will agree with that point. However, as the lead Government department, what internal mechanisms have you established with your ministerial colleagues to take the awareness agenda forward, so that the shared policy decision on mitigating flood risk goes across Welsh Government?

Ymddengys fod dull hamddenol o weithredu mewn perthynas ag adeiladu ar orlifdiroedd, ac amharodrwydd i adolygu TAN 15. Ar ben hynny, mae cynnydd mewn gwaith datblygu ar dir llifogydd yn broblem fawr i lawer o gymunedau, ledled Cymru. Un o'r problemau sylfaenol yw nad yw'r cyhoedd yn hollol ymwybodol o'r risg y mae polisi presennol y Llywodraeth yn ei chronni ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol. Mae ymwybyddiaeth y cyhoedd ac ymgysylltu â'r cyhoedd yn rhywbeth y dylai holl adrannau'r Llywodraeth anelu ato a'i rannu—a gwn y byddwch yn cytuno â'r pwynt hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, fel prif adran y Llywodraeth, pa systemau mewnol rydych wedi'u sefydlu gyda'ch cyd-Weinidogion i ddatblygu'r agenda ymwybyddiaeth, fel bod y penderfyniad polisi a rennir ar liniaru'r perygl o lifogydd yn cyrraedd pob rhan o Lywodraeth Cymru?

13:43 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

I can assure Russell George, and all Members, that we take flood risk with the utmost of seriousness. Last year's events very much focused minds anew on the risks that are involved. There are risks to life and limb as well as to property. Therefore, we have a new ministerial group that is looking at all issues around flooding. Flood Awareness Wales has been effectively run by the Environment Agency, in terms of working with communities and raising awareness of risk. In terms of flood plains and development, we believe that we have a restrictive approach in place, and rightly so.

Gallaf sicrhau Russell George, a'r holl Aelodau, ein bod yn ystyried y perygl o lifogydd yn ddifrifol tu hwnt. Hoeliodd digwyddiadau y llynedd ein sylw o'r newydd o ran y risgiau cysylltiedig. Mae risgiau i fywyd yn ogystal ag eiddo. Felly, mae gennym grŵp newydd o weinidogion sy'n edrych ar yr holl faterion sy'n ymwneud â llifogydd. Mae Ymwybyddiaeth Llifogydd Cymru wedi cael ei redeg yn effeithiol gan Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, o ran gweithio gyda chymunedau a chodi ymwybyddiaeth o risg. O ran gorlifdiroedd a datblygu, credwn fod gennym ddull cyfyngol ar waith, a hynny'n gywir ddigon.

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13:44 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Weinidog, un agwedd ar lifogydd sy'n creu llawer o lanast a gofid i drigolion, megis yng nghanol Llanelli—er nad yw'n cael llawer o sylw—yw gorlifiad o ddraeniau oherwydd glaw a dŵr nad yw'n draenio i ffwrdd o'r ffordd. A ydych wedi cael cyfle i edrych ar gynlluniau buddsoddi Dŵr Cymru, o dan gynlluniau newydd Ofwat, i sicrhau bod digon o ddarpariaeth ar gyfer y dyfodol i'r mathau hynny o lifogydd sy'n dipyn o berygl mewn sawl dref, gan gynnwys yma yng Nghaerdydd ac yn Llanelli?

Minister, one of the aspects of flooding that causes a great deal of damage and concern among residents, as was the case in Llanelli town centre—even though this is not given a great deal of attention—is overflowing drains as a result of rain and surface water not draining away properly from roads. Have you had an opportunity to look at the Dŵr Cymru investment plans, under the new Ofwat schemes, to ensure that there is sufficient provision for the future for that type of flooding, which is quite a concern in many towns, including here in Cardiff and in Llanelli?

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13:45 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

I thank Simon Thomas for that important question. There is a balance to be struck—we discuss these matters when meeting Welsh Water, the regulator and others—between affordability for people in terms of their water bills and allowing the water companies sufficient income for necessary investment. So, there is a balance to be struck.

Diolch i Simon Thomas am y cwestiwn pwysig hwnnw. Mae cydbwysedd i'w daro—byddwn yn trafod y materion hyn pan fyddwn yn cwrdd â Dwr Cymru, y rheoleiddiwr ac eraill—rhwng fforddiadwyedd i bobl o ran eu biliau dŵr a rhoi digon o incwm i'r cwmnïau dŵr allu gwneud y buddsoddiad angenrheidiol. Felly, mae cydbwysedd i'w daro.

Welsh Water has, I think, a significant £1 billion investment programme over the next three years. Some of that money will address these surface water issues and Llanelli and the surrounding area will be given foremost consideration in that regard. A lot of important work will be undertaken and much of it will be on good environmental enhancement, which will also be very valuable.

Mae gan Dŵr Cymru, rwy'n meddwl, raglen fuddsoddi sylweddol o £1 biliwn dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Bydd rhywfaint o'r arian hwnnw'n mynd i'r afael â'r materion dŵr wyneb hyn a rhoddir yr ystyriaeth fwyaf blaenllaw i Lanelli a'r ardal gyfagos yn hynny o beth. Bydd llawer o waith pwysig yn cael ei wneud a bydd llawer ohono'n ymwneud â gwelliannau amgylcheddol da, a fydd hefyd yn werthfawr iawn.

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13:45 **Aled Roberts** Bywgraffiad Biography

In light of recent experiences, do you intend to undertake a review of the Environment Agency's policies? I visited an area in the constituency of the Minister for Local Government and Communities a fortnight ago where 1,000 acres of farmland has been flooded for many months now. The farm now has 800 fewer tonnes of silage than it has had in previous years, which is due to silt not being cleared from the river, whereas in England, the same river is cleared.

Yng ngoleuni profiadau diweddar, a ydych yn bwriadu cynnal adolygiad o bolisïau Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd? Ymwelais ag ardal yn etholaeth y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau bythefnos yn ôl lle mae 1,000 o erwau o dir fferm wedi cael llifogydd am fisoedd lawer bellach. Mae gan y fferm bellach 800 tunnell yn llai o silwair nag a fu ganddi mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol, a hynny oherwydd methiant i glirio silt o'r afon, ond yn Lloegr, mae'r un afon wedi cael ei chlirio.

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13:46 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

If Aled Roberts was to write to me with details of that matter, I would be happy to take it up with the Environment Agency.

Pe bai Aled Roberts yn ysgrifennu ataf gyda manylion y mater hwnnw, byddwn yn fwy na pharod i drafod y peth gydag Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd.

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Parthau Cadwraeth Morol

Marine Conservation Zones

13:46 **Paul Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

4. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am Barthau Cadwraeth Morol Gwarchodedig Iawn yng Nghymru. OAQ(4)0214(ESD)

4. Will the Minister make a statement on Highly Protected Marine Conservation Zones in Wales. OAQ(4)0214(ESD)

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:46 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Mae fy swyddogion wrthi'n edrych ar sefyllfa'r parthau cadwraeth morol yng Nghymru yng ngoleuni'r ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad a gynhaliwyd llynedd. Rwy'n disgwyl adroddiad ganddynt gydag argymhellion ym mis Ebrill.

My officials are currently looking into the approach to marine conservation zones in Wales in light of the feedback from last year's consultation. I expect to receive a report from them, with recommendations, in April.

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13:47 **Paul Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Minister, I am sure that you are aware that this issue is of serious importance to my constituents, given that the implementation of highly protected marine conservation zones could affect tourist operators, local fishermen and, indeed, the local economy as a whole. There is a feeling, especially among fishermen in my constituency, that their interests have not been fully represented. Given the circumstances and the seriousness of the impact that these potential zones might have on the local fishing industry, can you guarantee that no areas will be designated as highly protected marine conservation zones unless there is solid, scientific evidence to prove that the existing activities that are undertaken in these areas are actually damaging to the environment?

Weinidog, rwy'n siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol bod y mater hwn o bwys difrifol i'm hetholwyr, o gofio y gallai gweithredu parthau cadwraeth morol gwarchodedig iawn effeithio ar weithredwyr twristiaeth, pysgotwyr lleol ac, yn wir, yr economi leol yn ei chyfanrwydd. Mae teimlad, yn enwedig ymysg pysgotwyr yn fy etholaeth, nad yw eu buddiannau wedi cael eu cynrychioli'n llawn. O ystyried yr amgylchiadau a difrifoldeb yr effaith y gallai'r parthau posibl hyn ei chael ar y diwydiant pysgota lleol, a allwch warantu na fydd unrhyw ardaloedd yn cael eu dynodi fel parthau cadwraeth morol gwarchodedig iawn oni bai bod tystiolaeth wyddonol gadarn i brofi bod y gweithgareddau presennol sy'n cael eu cynnal yn yr ardaloedd hyn mewn gwirionedd yn cael effaith andwyol ar yr amgylchedd?

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:47 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

I thank Paul Davies for his supplementary question. It is a constant priority for the Welsh Government to have a sound evidence base for all of the decisions that it takes, so I recognise the need for us to demonstrate the evidence for decisions taken regarding any highly protected status. I have had some very good meetings—most recently in St David's—with the Welsh Fisherman's Association that have been very constructive. The association has brought forward its own proposals, which are worthy of serious consideration.

Diolch i Paul Davies am ei gwestiwn atodol. Mae'n flaenoriaeth gyson i Lywodraeth Cymru gael sail dystiolaeth gadarn ar gyfer pob un o'r penderfyniadau a wneir ganddi, felly rwy'n cydnabod bod angen inni ddangos y dystiolaeth ar gyfer penderfyniadau a wneir ynghylch unrhyw statws gwarchodedig iawn. Rwyf wedi cael rhai cyfarfodydd da iawn—yn fwyaf diweddar yn Nhŷ Ddewi —â Chymdeithas Pysgotwyr Cymru sydd wedi bod yn adeiladol iawn. Mae'r gymdeithas wedi cyflwyno ei chynigion ei hun, sy'n deilwng o ystyriaeth ddifrifol.

We have an external stakeholder group and a task and finish group in place to take these matters forward and there will be further consultation, in addition to what has already taken place, recognising those impacts on fishing, leisure and tourism.

Mae gennym grŵp rhanddeiliaid allanol a grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen ar waith i weithredu ar y materion hyn a bydd rhagor o ymgynghori, yn ychwanegol at yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd yn barod, gan gydnabod yr effeithiau hynny ar bysgota, hamdden a thwristiaeth.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:48 **Yr Arglwydd / Lord Elis-Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Rwy'n siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog wedi cael cyfle i ddarllen, yn ei wely, yr adroddiad ar yr ymchwiliad i bolisi morol gan y Pwyllgor Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd, sydd yn adlewyrchu'r union beth a ddywedwyd gan Paul Davies, sef y daeth tystiolaeth gref i'n pwyllgor ni o'r anfodlonrwydd sydd wedi cael ei greu ymhlith rhanddeiliaid—pysgotwyr, ymwelwyr, busnesau arfordirol ac yn y blaen—ynglŷn â'r modd y cynhaliwyd yr ymgynghoriad. Rwy'n ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am ysbryd ei ymateb ef a'i swyddogion yn eu tystiolaeth i'r pwyllgor. A all y Gweinidog fy sicrhau i ac etholwyr Dwyfor Meirionydd y bydd ymateb y Llywodraeth y tro hwn yn rhesymol ac yn gynhwysol?

I am sure that the Minister will have had an opportunity to read, in bed, the report into marine policy by the Environment and Sustainability Committee, which reflects exactly what was said by Paul Davies, that strong evidence was provided to our committee on the dissatisfaction that has been created among stakeholders—fishermen, tourists, coastal businesses and so on—regarding the way in which the consultation was conducted. I am grateful to the Minister for the spirit of his response and that of his officials in evidence to committee. Can the Minister assure me and my constituents in Dwyfor Meirionydd that the Government's on this occasion will be rational and comprehensive?

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13:49 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Yes. I am happy to give Dafydd Elis-Thomas and his constituents the assurance that the Welsh Government's final response, in terms of marine conservation zones and how they are taken forward will be rational and based on sound evidence. Also, it will follow further consultation and the further process that I think we have outlined. That is absolutely the correct way to proceed. The initial consultation was designed to bring forward the issues that were in fact brought forward, and we now need to move on from that stage.

Gallaf. Rwy'n fwy na pharod i roi sicrwydd i Dafydd Elis-Thomas a'i etholwyr y bydd ymateb terfynol Llywodraeth Cymru, o ran parthau cadwraeth morol a sut y cânt eu datblygu, yn rhesymegol ac yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth gadarn. Hefyd, bydd yn dilyn ymgynghoriad pellach a'r broses bellach y credaf inni ei hamlinellu. Dyna'r ffordd gywir i fynd ymlaen. Cynlluniwyd yr ymgynghoriad cychwynnol i drafod y materion a gyflwynwyd mewn gwirionedd, ac mae angen inni symud ymlaen o'r cam hwnnw bellach.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Yr Ardoll ar Fagiau Siopa Untro

The Carrier Bag Levy

13:50 **Julie Morgan** Bywgraffiad Biography

5. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am effaith yr ardoll ar fagiau siopa untro. OAQ(4)0224(ESD)

5. Will the Minister provide an update on the impact of the carrier bag levy. OAQ(4)0224(ESD)

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:50 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

There has been a dramatic decrease in the supply of single-use carrier bags since the charge was introduced. Research shows that the charge is supported by the public, that bag reuse has increased and that the proceeds are going to good causes in Wales. We are continuing to monitor the impact and I will provide a further update in the summer.

Bu gostyngiad dramatig yn nifer y bagiau siopa untro a gyflenwir ers cyflwyno'r tâl. Dengys ymchwil fod y cyhoedd yn cefnogi'r tâl, bod nifer y bobl sy'n ailddefnyddio bagiau wedi cynyddu a bod yr elw yn mynd i achosion da yng Nghymru. Rydym yn parhau i fonitro effaith a byddaf yn darparu diweddariad pellach yn yr haf.

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13:50 **Julie Morgan** Bywgraffiad Biography

I thank the Minister for that response. It is obvious that this has been a very successful Welsh Government policy. It has certainly changed people's behaviour, and I understand that it is being introduced in Northern Ireland and that consultation is going on in Scotland. Does the Minister therefore find it regrettable that, at Westminster, Ministers appear to be reluctant to go down this particular road?

Diolch i'r Gweinidog am yr ymateb hwnnw. Mae'n amlwg bod hwn wedi bod yn bolisi llwyddiannus iawn i Lywodraeth Cymru. Mae'n sicr wedi newid ymddygiad pobl, ac rwyf ar ddeall ei fod yn cael ei gyflwyno yng Ngogledd Iwerddon a bod ymgynghoriad yn mynd rhagddo yn yr Alban. A yw'r Gweinidog felly yn flin bod y Gweinidogion, yn San Steffan, yn ymddangos yn amharod i ddilyn yr un trywydd?

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:51 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

I thank Julie Morgan very much for her supplementary question. Obviously, it is a matter for the UK Government as to what it thinks is the best policy for England. However, as my initial answer made clear, I think that we have seen very real and important benefits to Wales in behavioural change and with regard to the environment and resources for good causes. That is why Northern Ireland is following Wales's lead, and Scotland is thinking about it very seriously. In fact, our officials and Scottish Government officials are working together on joint research. So, I think that the benefits are quite clear, and I would urge all Governments to consider very seriously following Wales's example.

Diolch yn fawr iawn i Julie Morgan am ei chwestiwn atodol. Yn amlwg, mater i Lywodraeth y DU yw penderfynu beth yw'r polisi gorau ar gyfer Lloegr. Fodd bynnag, fel yr eglurodd fy ateb cychwynnol, credaf inni weld manteision go iawn a phwysig i Gymru o ran newid ymddygiadol ac o ran yr amgylchedd ac adnoddau ar gyfer achosion da. Dyna pam bod Gogledd Iwerddon yn dilyn arweiniad Cymru, a bod yr Alban yn ystyried y peth o ddifrif. Yn wir, mae ein swyddogion ni a swyddogion Llywodraeth yr Alban yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd ar ymchwil ar y cyd. Felly, credaf fod y manteision yn eithaf clir, a byddwn yn annog pob Llywodraeth i ystyried dilyn esiampl Cymru o ddifrif.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:52 **Darren Millar** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I am pleased to hear your continued support for the carrier bag levy; it is something that my party originally put forward, as you will know, in the Senedd prior to the Government bringing legislation forward. One of the other blights on our streets, of course, is chewing gum litter, Minister, and in response to the debate on this matter, you said that you would take some determined action to address this problem when you rejected my proposal for a chewing gum levy. What progress have you made to date?

Rwy'n falch o glywed am eich cefnogaeth barhaus i'r ardoll bagiau plastig; mae'n rhywbeth a gyflwynwyd yn wreiddiol gan fy mhlaid, fel y gwyddoch, yn y Senedd cyn i'r Llywodraeth gyflwyno deddfwriaeth. Un o'r pethau eraill sy'n difetha ein strydoedd, wrth gwrs, yw sbwriel gwm cnoi, Weinidog, ac mewn ymateb i'r ddadl ar y mater hwn, dywedasoch y byddech yn cymryd camau pendant i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon pan wnaethoch wrthod fy nghynnig am ardoll gwm cnoi. Pa gynnydd rydych wedi'i wneud hyd yma?

13:52 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

We have had meetings and we are in continuing discussions with the chewing gum companies over what further investment and work they will provide here in Wales. Those discussions are ongoing, and I would be very pleased to keep the Member, and Members generally, updated.

Rydym wedi cael cyfarfodydd ac rydym yn parhau i drafod â'r cwmnïau gwm cnoi pa fuddsoddiad a gwaith pellach y byddant yn eu darparu yma yng Nghymru. Mae'r trafodaethau hynny'n parhau, a byddwn yn falch iawn o ddiweddaru'r Aelod, ac Aelodau yn gyffredinol, yn barhaus.

13:53 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Alun Ffred Jones, on carrier bags. [Laughter.]

Alun Ffred Jones, ar fagiau siopa. [Chwerthin.]

13:53 **Alun Ffred Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Yn wir, y mae ar fagiau. A yw'r Llywodraeth yn casglu gwybodaeth am y defnydd a wneir o'r ardoll hon ar fagiau untro? Pa dystiolaeth sydd gennych fod elusennau a chymdeithasau lleol yn elwa o'r ardoll hon? A ydych yn barod i ryddhau'r wybodaeth honno, os ydyw gennych chi?

Yes, it is on carrier bags. Is the Government collating information on the uses made of the levy on single-use carrier bags? What evidence do you have that charities and local societies are benefitting from this levy? Are you prepared to release that information, if you have it?

13:53 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

We do have information for the larger retailers. I am sure that Members will be familiar with the scheme with regard to the smaller retailers—those with 10 employees or fewer—not being required to report the use of proceeds or, indeed, the proceeds themselves. That was to do with issues of regulatory burden and capacity. Certainly, we have some very good examples of the larger retailers providing something like £600,000 per annum to RSPB and Keep Wales Tidy, with that money being used in Wales for very good local projects. I would be very happy to provide further details to the Member.

Mae gennym wybodaeth ar gyfer y manwerthwyr mwy o faint. Rwy'n siŵr y bydd yr Aelodau'n gyfarwydd â'r cynllun o ran y manwerthwyr llai o faint—y rheini â 10 o gyflogeion neu lai—nad yw'n ofynnol iddynt adrodd ar y defnydd a wneir o elw nac, yn wir, yr elw ei hun. Roedd a wnelo hynny â materion baich rheoleiddio a gallu. Yn sicr, mae gennym rai enghreifftiau da iawn o'r manwerthwyr mwy o faint yn rhoi tua £600,000 y flwyddyn i RSPB a Cadwch Gymru'n Daclus, gyda'r arian hwnnw'n cael ei ddefnyddio yng Nghymru ar gyfer prosiectau lleol da iawn. Byddwn yn fwy na pharod i roi manylion pellach i'r Aelod.

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru

Natural Resources Wales

13:54 **Ieuan Wyn Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

6. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am oblygiadau ariannol yr achos busnes sy'n ymwneud â'r corff newydd, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru. OAQ(4)0226(ESD)

6. Will the Minister make a statement on the financial implications of the business case relating to the new body, Natural Resources Wales. OAQ(4)0226(ESD)

13:54 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Mae fy natganiad ar 17 Ionawr 2013 yn disgrifio'r sefyllfa ariannol ddiweddaraf ynghylch yr achos busnes.

My statement of 17 January 2013 set out the current financial position on the business case.

13:54 **Ieuan Wyn Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Gwrandawais yn astud ar ateb y Gweinidog i gwestiwn a ofynnwyd gan Llyr Huws Gruffydd yn gynharach, a rhaid i mi gyfaddef nad oedd yn rhoi lot o hyder i mi fod y Llywodraeth wedi ystyried holl gostau posibl yr uniad rhwng y tri chorff. A yw'r Gweinidog yn ymwybodol bod pryder sylweddol ynglŷn â'r ffaith y bydd costau technoleg gwybodaeth llawer iawn yn uwch yn y blynyddoedd cynnar nag yr oedd wedi rhagweld? A yw hefyd yn derbyn y ffaith bod diffyg eglurder ynglŷn â beth yn union fydd y costau pensiwn o ganlyniad i'r trefniadau newydd, gan fod tri chorff yn dod at ei gilydd, ac mae posibiliadau o systemau pensiynau gwahanol? A yw'n derbyn bod pryder yn y maes hwn a bod angen i'r Llywodraeth fod yn llawer mwy agored ynglŷn â'r gost debygol?

I listened carefully to the Minister's response to a question asked by Llyr Huws Gruffydd a little earlier, and I have to admit that it did not give me much confidence that the Government had considered all possible costs of the merger of these three bodies. Is the Minister aware that there is significant concern about the fact that the information technology costs will be far higher in the early years than he has anticipated? Does he also accept that there is a lack of clarity in terms of what exactly the pension costs will be as a result of the new arrangements, as three bodies will be merging and it is possible that there will be different pensions systems? Does he accept that there is concern in this area and that the Government has to be far more open about the likely costs?

13:55 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank Ieuan Wyn Jones for his supplementary question. Inevitably, with business cases, there is movement over time, because nothing stands still in this world. That is true of ICT and pension arrangements. I am very happy to be as open and transparent as possible with Members, and obviously Dafydd Elis-Thomas's committee as well—a committee to which I will be giving evidence tomorrow morning. We have seen a reprofiling, as I said earlier, in terms of ICT cost, and frontloading to some extent, but as I also said earlier, it does not change the overall picture within the parameters set out in the business case over the 10-year period for which we have set out these matters. The same considerations apply to pensions. We have discussed the issue with the trade unions and I have attended meetings on a number of occasions. I believe that we have we have been very open with the unions and with staff, and we will continue to be so.

Diolch i Ieuan Wyn Jones am ei gwestiwn atodol. Yn anochel, gydag achosion busnes, ceir symudiad dros amser, gan nad oes dim byd yn sefyll yn llonydd yn y byd hwn. Mae hynny'n wir am TGCh a threfniadau pensiwn. Rwy'n barod iawn i for agored a thryloyw â phosibl gydag Aelodau, a phwyllgor Dafydd Elis-Thomas hefyd yn amlwg—pwyllgor y byddaf yn rhoi tystiolaeth iddo bore fory. Rydym wedi gweld ailbroffilio, fel y dywedais yn gynharach, o ran costau TGCh, a chanolbwyntio costau cychwynnol i ryw raddau, ond fel y dywedais hefyd yn gynharach, nid yw'n newid y darlun cyffredinol o fewn y paramedrau a nodir yn yr achos busnes dros y cyfnod o 10 mlynedd yr ydym wedi nodi'r materion hyn ar ei gyfer. Mae'r un ystyriaethau yn berthnasol i bensiynau. Rydym wedi trafod y mater gyda'r undebau llafur ac rwyf wedi mynychu cyfarfodydd ar sawl achlysur. Credaf inni fod yn agored iawn gyda'r undebau a staff, a byddwn yn parhau i wneud hynny.

13:56 **Paul Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Minister, given this so-called reprofiling, and given that some of the finances have now clearly changed, will you now be publishing a revised version of the costs and benefits associated with establishing this particular body?

Weinidog, o ystyried yr ailbroffilio hyn fel y'i gelwir, ac o ystyried bod rhywfaint o'r cyllid yn amlwg wedi newid bellach, a fyddwch yn awr yn cyhoeddi fersiwn ddiwygiedig o'r costau a'r buddiannau sy'n gysylltiedig â sefydlu'r corff penodol hwn?

13:57 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I did of course provide a written statement a few weeks ago setting out the up-to-date position, and as of today that position still applies.

Darperais wrth gwrs ddatganiad ysgrifenedig ychydig wythnosau yn ôl yn nodi'r sefyllfa ddiweddaraf, ac o heddiw ymlaen mae'r sefyllfa honno yn dal yn berthnasol.

Ynni Solar

Solar Powered Energy

13:57 **Jenny Rathbone** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

7. Beth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud i hybu ynni solar yng Nghymru. OAQ(4)0217(ESD)

7. What is the Welsh Government doing to promote solar powered energy in Wales. OAQ(4)0217(ESD)

13:57 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The Welsh Government is committed to the transition to a low-carbon energy system. Within our areas of competence, we are facilitating the appropriate deployment and best use of commercially proven renewable energy sources, including solar, to deliver against our low-carbon objectives and to realise the significant associated economic opportunities.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymrwymo i newid i system ynni carbon isel. O fewn ein meysydd cymhwysedd, rydym yn hwyluso'r broses o leoli yn briodol a gwneud y defnydd gorau o ffynonellau ynni adnewyddadwy a brofwyd yn fasnachol, gan gynnwys ynni solar, er mwyn cyflawni yn erbyn ein hamcanion carbon isel a gwireddu'r cyfleoedd economaidd cysylltiedig sylweddol.

13:57 **Jenny Rathbone** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The figures from the Department of Energy and Climate Change relate to 2011 and show that there is a total of 46.3 MW of installed capacity of solar photovoltaics in Wales, which generates 8.5 GWh. Although that compares well with the north-east of England, which we are often compared to, and to Northern Ireland and Scotland, it is still a very low figure in terms of overall renewable energy. It is only 0.39% of all renewable energy, whereas for the UK as a whole it is 0.73%. I feel that there is an awful lot more that we could be doing, particularly at a time when those—

Mae'r ffigurau gan yr Adran Ynni a Newid yn yr Hinsawdd yn ymwneud â 2011 ac yn dangos bod cyfanswm o 46.3 MW o gynhwysedd gosodedig o systemau ffotofoltaig solar yng Nghymru, sy'n cynhyrchu 8.5 GWh. Er bod hynny'n cymharu'n dda â gogledd-ddwyrain Lloegr, y cawn ein cymharu'n aml â hi, ac â Gogledd Iwerddon a'r Alban, mae'n dal i fod yn ffigur isel iawn o ran ynni adnewyddadwy cyffredinol. Dim ond 0.39% o'r holl ynni adnewyddadwy ydyw, tra mai 0.73% yw'r ganran ar gyfer y DU gyfan. Teimlaf fod llawer iawn mwy y gallem fod yn ei wneud, yn enwedig ar adeg pan fo'r rheini—

13:58 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Order. Are you coming to the question?

Trefn. A ydych yn dod at y cwestiwn?

13:58 **Jenny Rathbone** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

We could be doing more at a time when those who installed solar panels before the curtain came down on the subsidies are now struggling. I just wondered if the Government had any initiatives in mind to stimulate solar panel generation.

Gallem fod yn gwneud mwy ar adeg pan fo'r rheini a osododd y paneli solar cyn i'r is-gwmnïau fynd i'r wal bellach yn ei chael hi'n anodd. Tybed a oedd gan y Llywodraeth unrhyw gynlluniau mewn golwg i ysgogi proses gynhyrchu paneli solar.

13:58 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank Jenny Rathbone for her supplementary question. It is a matter of our working together with the UK Government, because, as you say, the feed-in tariff scheme, the Green Deal and other initiatives from the UK Government are matters that need to complement what we are doing in Wales. We have taken steps such as greater permitted development rights to make it easier for the installation of both domestic and non-domestic solar panels and heating schemes with regard to the planning system. I believe that there is much else that we are doing that encourages solar development, whether it is solar fields or individual businesses. We are always looking to do more, and we will continue to approach these matters in that spirit.

Diolch i Jenny Rathbone am ei chwestiwn atodol. Mae angen inni weithio gyda'n gilydd gyda Llywodraeth y DU, oherwydd, fel y dywedwch, mae'r cynllun tariff cyflenwi trydan, y Fargen Werdd a mentrau eraill gan Lywodraeth y DU yn faterion y mae angen iddynt ategu'r hyn rydym yn ei wneud yng Nghymru. Rydym wedi cymryd camau fel mwy o hawliau datblygu a ganiateir i'w gwneud yn haws i osod paneli solar domestig ac annomestig fel ei gilydd a chynlluniau gwresogi o ran y system gynllunio. Credaf fod llawer o bethau eraill rydym yn eu gwneud sy'n annog datblygiad solar, boed yn gaeau solar neu'n fusnesau unigol. Rydym bob amser yn chwilio am gyfleoedd i wneud mwy, a byddwn yn parhau i ymdrin â'r materion hyn yn yr ysbryd hwnnw.

13:59 **Suzy Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, what consideration has your Government given to the example set by China, France and Belgium regarding the installation of solar panels between railway tracks, to help solar panels contribute more widely to the targets that Jenny Rathbone referred to earlier?

Weinidog, pa ystyriaeth y mae eich Llywodraeth wedi'i rhoi i'r esiampl a osodwyd gan Tsieina, Ffrainc a Gwlad Belg o ran gosod paneli solar rhwng traciau rheilffordd, er mwyn helpu paneli solar i gyfrannu'n ehangach at y targedau y cyfeiriodd Jenny Rathbone atynt yn gynharach?

14:00 **John Griffiths** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

The Welsh Government is always very keen to learn from other countries, no matter where they are on the planet. We need to cast our eyes far and wide. I am happy to look at such possibilities. Perhaps I will write to the Member with details of Welsh Government thinking along those lines.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru bob amser yn awyddus iawn i ddysgu gan wledydd eraill, ni waeth ble y maent ar y blaned. Mae angen inni edrych yn bell ac agos. Rwy'n fwy na pharod i edrych ar bosibiliadau o'r fath. Efallai y byddaf yn ysgrifennu at yr Aelod gyda manylion Llywodraeth Cymru i'r perwyl hwnnw.

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

14:00 **Lindsay Whittle** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

Minister, it is interesting to hear your views on renewable energy and solar power. However, would you care to comment on your statement that you are minded to approve the opencast development at Varteg, ignoring the principles set out in 'Minerals Technical Advice Note 2: Coal', and putting nursery and primary school children in danger? The public is entitled to know what type of energy you prefer: renewable and solar or coal?

Weinidog, mae'n ddiddorol clywed eich barn ar ynni adnewyddadwy ac ynni solar. Fodd bynnag, a hoffech wneud sylwadau ar eich datganiad eich bod yn bwriadu cymeradwyo'r datblygiad glo brig yn y Farteg, gan anwybyddu'r egwyddorion a nodir yn 'Nodyn Cyngor Technegol Mwynau 2: Glo', a rhoi plant ysgol feithrin a phlant ysgol gynradd yn y fantol? Mae hawl gan y cyhoedd wybod pa fath o ynni sydd orau gennych: adnewyddadwy a solar neu lo?

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

14:00 **John Griffiths** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

I am not sure what relation this question has to solar energy, Llywydd. In any event, I am not able to comment on individual planning matters, and I think that that is well known to Members.

Nid wyf yn siŵr beth y mae a wnelo'r cwestiwn hwn ag ynni solar, Lywydd. Beth bynnag, ni allaf wneud sylwadau ar faterion cynllunio unigol, a chredaf fod Aelodau'n ymwybodol iawn o hynny.

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

Mannau Agored

Open Spaces

14:01 **Julie Morgan** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

8. Pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Gweinidog i wella'r ddarpariaeth o fannau agored o ansawdd uchel gan ddatblygwyr tai drwy'r system gynllunio. OAQ(4)0223(ESD)

8. What plans does the Minister have to improve the provision of high quality open space by housing developers through the planning system. OAQ(4)0223(ESD)

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

14:01 **John Griffiths** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

'Planning Policy Wales' provides a robust framework for the provision of new open space as an integral part of new developments. Local planning authorities are responsible for ensuring that this is reflected in their development plans and decisions on planning applications.

Rhydd 'Polisi Cynllunio Cymru' fframwaith cadarn ar gyfer darparu mannau agored newydd fel rhan annatod o ddatblygiadau newydd. Mae awdurdodau cynllunio lleol yn gyfrifol am sicrhau bod hyn yn cael ei adlewyrchu yn eu cynlluniau datblygu a phenderfyniadau ar geisiadau cynllunio.

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

14:01 **Julie Morgan** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

I thank the Minister for that reply. In my constituency, there are a number of examples where there have been new developments and the open space that has gone along with those new developments has been of poor quality, and the developers have not responded to being urged to improve it. Is there any mechanism that could be put in the planning Bill to ensure that developers ensure that there is high-quality environmental space with housing developments?

Diolch i'r Gweinidog am yr ateb hwnnw. Yn fy etholaeth, mae nifer o enghreifftiau lle cafwyd datblygiadau newydd lle'r oedd y man agored a ddaeth gyda'r datblygiadau newydd hynny o ansawdd gwael, ac nid yw'r datblygwyr wedi ymateb i gael eu hannog i'w wella. A oes unrhyw system y gellid ei rhoi ar waith yn y Bil cynllunio i sicrhau bod datblygwyr yn sicrhau bod mannau amgylcheddol o safon yn mynd law yn llaw â datblygiadau tai?

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

14:02 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

I thank Julie Morgan for her supplementary question. Design Commission for Wales has done some very important work in terms of looking at all factors involved in development and what a good development constitutes in terms of wider wellbeing and community enhancement. I think that what the Member mentions is an important part of that. The independent advisory group was concerned with adopted development plans and conditions to make sure that any requirements around open spaces were realised by the eventual development. There are issues around the enforcement of conditions and ensuring that what has been promised has been delivered. We will look at that very carefully when considering what should be in our planning Bill.

Diolch i Julie Morgan am ei chwestiwn atodol. Mae Comisiwn Dylunio Cymru wedi gwneud rhywfaint o waith pwysig iawn o ran ystyried yr holl ffactorau sy'n ymwneud â datblygu a'r hyn y mae datblygiad da yn ei olygu o ran lles ehangach a gwella cymuned. Credaf fod yr hyn y mae'r Aelod yn ei grybwyll yn rhan bwysig o hynny. Roedd y grŵp cynghori annibynnol yn ymwneud â chynlluniau datblygu a fabwysiadwyd ac amodau i wneud yn siŵr bod unrhyw ofynion yn ymwneud â mannau agored yn cael eu bodloni gan y datblygiad yn y pen draw. Mae materion yn ymwneud â gorfodi amodau a sicrhau bod yr hyn a addawyd wedi cael ei gyflwyno. Byddwn yn edrych ar hynny'n ofalus iawn wrth ystyried beth ddylai ein Bil cynllunio ei gynnwys.

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Fideo Video

14:03 **Janet Finch-Saunders** Bywgraffiad Biography

Minister, community groups and residents are feeling powerless and quite disenfranchised from planning decisions and policy in Wales—the LDP is a recent example. Only recently in my constituency of Aberconwy, the village of Glanconwy saw its local public house demolished with only four weeks' notice and no right to appeal or influence the decision. The neighbourhood planning and community right to build policy hands planning decisions back to these communities, allowing them, for the first time ever, to have their opinions, objections and surrogate plans seriously considered. Will the Minister consider a made-in-Wales approach that builds upon the framework of Part 5 of the Localism Act 2011, 'Community empowerment', which would grant statutory rights to communities and residents in order to influence the planning decisions where they live?

Weinidog, mae grwpiau cymunedol a thrigolion yn teimlo'n ddi-rym ac wedi'u difreinio i raddau o benderfyniadau cynllunio a pholisi yng Nghymru—mae'r CDLl yn enghraifft ddiweddar. Dim ond yn ddiweddar yn fy etholaeth, Aberconwy, y gwelodd pentref Glanconwy dafarn leol yn cael ei dymchwel gyda dim ond pedair wythnos o rybudd heb unrhyw hawl i apelio na dylanwadu ar y penderfyniad. Mae'r polisi cynllunio cymdogaeth a hawl i adeiladu'r gymuned yn trosglwyddo penderfyniadau cynllunio yn ôl i'r cymunedau hyn, gan olygu bod eu barn, eu gwrthwynebiadau a'u cynlluniau dirprwy, am y tro cyntaf erioed, yn cael eu hystyried o ddifrif. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ystyried dull sy' seiliedig yng Nghymru sy'n adeiladu ar fframwaith Rhan 5 o Ddeddf Lleoliaeth 2011, 'Grymuso cymunedau', a fyddai'n rhoi hawliau statudol i gymunedau a thrigolion er mwyn dylanwadu ar y penderfyniadau cynllunio lle maent yn byw?

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Fideo Video

14:04 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

As ever, I am not able to comment on individual planning matters. However, I can say in general that the independent advisory group has produced a very comprehensive report that addresses the matters that the Member mentioned and puts them in the context of what is appropriate for Wales. We have that report to draw on in working up our planning Bill.

Fel bob amser, ni allaf wneud sylwadau ar faterion cynllunio unigol. Fodd bynnag, gallaf ddweud yn gyffredinol fod y grŵp cynghori annibynnol wedi paratoi adroddiad cynhwysfawr iawn sy'n mynd i'r afael â'r materion y soniodd yr Aelod amdanynt ac yn eu rhoi yng nghyd-destun yr hyn sy'n briodol i Gymru. Mae gennym yr adroddiad hwnnw i'w ddefnyddio wrth lunio ein Bil cynllunio.

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Fideo Video

14:04 **Rhodri Glyn Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Weinidog, byddwch yn ymwybodol bod llawer o gonsyrn wedi'i fynegi ynglŷn â'r ffaith bod parciau cyhoeddus a meysydd chwarae wedi cael eu colli dros y degawdau diwethaf i ddatblygiadau. A ydych yn bwriadu defnyddio amod adran 106 gyda cheisiadau cynllunio er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn ceisio adfer tir ar gyfer parciau cyhoeddus a meysydd chwarae yn y dyfodol?

Minister, you will be aware that a lot of concerns have been expressed regarding the fact that public parks and playing fields have been lost to developments in recent decades. Do you intend to use section 106 conditions with planning applications in order to ensure that we try to reclaim land for public parks and playing fields in the future?

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Fideo Video

14:05 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

'Planning Policy Wales' and our general planning system in Wales are protective of those green fields, the green belt, public amenities and public land. We can look at enhancing that approach through the planning Bill and the work that will go on around that Bill. I am sure that this will be a prominent part of that work.

Mae 'Polisi Cynllunio Cymru' a'n system gynllunio gyffredinol yng Nghymru yn amddiffynnol o'r caeau gwyrdd hynny, y llain las, amwynderau cyhoeddus a thir cyhoeddus. Gallwn edrych ar wella'r dull hwnnw drwy'r Bil cynllunio a'r gwaith a fydd yn mynd rhagddo ynghylch y Bil hwnnw. Rwy'n siŵr y bydd hyn yn rhan amlwg o'r gwaith hwnnw.

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Fideo Video

Ceisiadau Cynllunio Ôl-weithredol

Retrospective Planning Applications

14:05

Elin Jones Bywgraffiad Biography

9. A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu polisi Llywodraeth Cymru ar geisiadau cynllunio ôl-weithredol. OAQ(4)0216(ESD)

9. Will the Minister outline the Welsh Government's policy on retrospective planning applications. OAQ(4)0216(ESD)

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:05

John Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography

Amlinellir polisi gorfodi Llywodraeth Cymru ym mhennod tri 'Polisi Cynllunio Cymru', a rhoddir arweiniad ar y mater yn 'Nodyn Cyngor Technegol 9: Gorfodi Rheolaeth Gynllunio'.

The Welsh Government's policy on enforcement is set out in chapter three of 'Planning Policy Wales', with guidance provided in 'Technical Advice Note 9: Enforcement of Planning Controls'.

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14:06

Elin Jones Bywgraffiad Biography

Mae achosion o geisiadau ôl-weithredol yn gallu creu anniddigrwydd yn lleol ymysg cymdogion, ac yn gallu bod yn drwm iawn ar waith swyddogion cynllunio a gorfodi yn yr awdurdod lleol. A ydych yn cytuno y dylid edrych ar gynyddu'r gost am geisiadau ôl-gynllunio i adlewyrchu yn well y gost i awdurdodau lleol o orfod gweinyddu ceisiadau o'r fath?

Cases of retrospective applications can create serious concerns locally among neighbours, and can be very burdensome for planning and enforcement officials within local authorities. Would you agree that we should look at increasing the cost for retrospective applications to better reflect the cost to local authorities of having to administer such applications?

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14:06

John Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography

It is entirely appropriate to consider how we can best deal with these matters through the planning system, and through requirements around the system that include the costs that are applicable. The independent advisory group does address the matters around enforcement and retrospective planning permission, and we are doing some research on enforcement so that we have as strong an evidence base as possible in moving forward with the planning Bill and the work around it.

Mae'n gwbl briodol ystyried sut y gallwn orau ymdrin â'r materion hyn orau drwy'r system gynllunio, a thrwy ofynion yn ymwneud â'r system sy'n cynnwys y costau sy'n berthnasol. Mae'r grŵp cynghori annibynnol yn mynd i'r afael â'r materion yn ymwneud â gorfodi a chaniatâd cynllunio ôl-weithredol, ac rydym yn gwneud rhywfaint o ymchwil ar orfodi fel bod gennym sylfaen dystiolaeth mor gadarn â phosibl wrth fynd ar drywydd y Bil cynllunio a'r gwaith sy'n ymwneud ag ef.

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14:07

Nick Ramsay Bywgraffiad Biography

Minister, let us be clear that what we often mean by retrospective planning applications is applications for building work that should not have happened without permission in the first place. I think that we can all cite examples of some organisations—particularly supermarkets—that have built things like car parks and have then sought permission for them afterwards, putting undue pressure on local planning authorities. What are you going to do to make sure that the new planning Bill really makes clear to people and companies that if they want to build something, they should do everything that they can to get that permission before they start?

Weinidog, gadewch inni fod yn glir mai'r hyn a olygwn yn aml wrth geisiadau cynllunio ôl-weithredol yw ceisiadau ar gyfer gwaith adeiladu na ddylai fod wedi digwydd heb ganiatâd yn y lle cyntaf. Credaf y gallwn oll ddyfynnu enghreifftiau o rai sefydliadau—yn enwedig archfarchnadoedd—sydd wedi adeiladu pethau fel meysydd parcio ac yna wedi ceisio caniatâd ar eu cyfer ar ôl hynny, gan roi gormod o bwysau ar awdurdodau cynllunio lleol. Beth rydych yn bwriadu ei wneud i sicrhau bod y Bil cynllunio newydd wir yn egluro i bobl a chwmnïau, os byddant yn awyddus i adeiladu rhywbeth, y dylent wneud popeth o fewn eu gallu i gael y caniatâd hwnnw cyn iddynt ddechrau?

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14:07

John Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography

I think that that is quite self-evidently the case. I would imagine that any large organisations would want to have the best possible public image and would certainly want to abide by our planning system. It is clear, in general, that retrospective planning applications should be dealt with as if they were new planning applications, and that they should be dealt with entirely on their merits regardless of whether the development is in place or not.

Credaf fod hynny'n eithaf hunanamlwg. Byddwn yn dychmygu y byddai unrhyw sefydliadau mawr am gael y ddelwedd gyhoeddus orau posibl ac y byddent yn sicr am gadw at ein system gynllunio. Mae'n amlwg, yn gyffredinol, y dylid ymdrin â cheisiadau cynllunio ôl-weithredol fel pe baent yn geisiadau cynllunio newydd, ac y dylid ymdrin â hwy yn gyfan gwbl yn ôl eu teilyngdod waeth p'un a yw'r datblygiad wedi'i gyflawni ai peidio.

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Technolegau ar gyfer Gwaredu Gwastraff | **Technologies for the Disposal of Waste**

14:08 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

10. Pa waith y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'i wneud yn ddiweddar ar ymchwilio i dechnolegau amgen ar gyfer gwaredu gwastraff. OAQ(4)0215(ESD)

10. What recent work has the Minister undertaken on investigating alternative technologies for the disposal of waste. OAQ(4)0215(ESD)

14:08 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The Welsh Government keeps alternative waste treatment technologies under continual review. The regional waste plans assessed the known existing and emerging technologies, and the Welsh Government has carried out a further detailed assessment of options, in preparing the 2010 Wales waste strategy, 'Towards Zero Waste'.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn adolygu technolegau trin gwastraff amgen yn barhaus. Asesodd y cynlluniau gwastraff rhanbarthol y technolegau presennol ac sy'n dod i'r amlwg hysbys, ac mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cynnal asesiad manwl pellach o opsiynau, wrth baratoi strategaeth wastraff Cymru 2010, 'Tuag at Ddyfodol Diwastraff'.

14:09 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you for that answer, Minister. You will know that a number of people are concerned about the huge subsidy that the Welsh Government is putting into incineration as a means of disposing of waste. If alternative technologies come online that are equally as effective, will you be putting a similar amount of subsidy into those as well?

Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Gwyddoch fod nifer o bobl yn pryderu am y cymhorthdal anferth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei fuddsoddi mewn llosgi fel ffordd o gael gwared ar wastraff. Os daw technolegau amgen ar gael sydd yr un mor effeithiol, a fyddwch yn rhoi swm tebyg o gymhorthdal i'r rheini hefyd?

14:09 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I am happy to assure Peter Black and Members in general that the Welsh Government's technology-neutral stance on these matters remains, and will remain, our approach. When we have a tendering exercise—and we will have more tendering exercises in terms of regional collaboration in Wales—it will be entirely technology neutral. Any representatives of new and emerging technologies who wish to put proposals forward would be very welcome to do so.

Rwy'n fwy na pharod i roi sicrwydd i Peter Black ac Aelodau yn gyffredinol mai safiad technoleg-niwtral Llywodraeth Cymru ar y materion hyn yw ein dull gweithredu o hyd, ac erys felly. Pan fydd gennym ymarfer tendro—a bydd gennym ragor o ymarferion tendro o ran cydweithio rhanbarthol yng Nghymru—bydd yn gyfan gwbl niwtral o ran technoleg. Byddai croeso i unrhyw gynrychiolwyr technolegau newydd a thechnolegau sy'n dod i'r amlwg sydd am gyflwyno cynigion wneud hynny.

14:09 **William Graham** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Minister, will you look again at mechanical biological treatment? There seems to be a very worthwhile facility at Avonmouth. It diverts an impressive figure of more than 95% of the incoming waste from going to landfill. There is also a small by-product in terms of the pellets, which can also be sold. It is a worthwhile project that goes towards your own aims.

Weinidog, a wnewch chi edrych eto ar driniaeth fiolegol fecanyddol? Yn ôl pob golwg ceir cyfleuster gwerth chweil yn Avonmouth. Mae'n dargyfeirio ffigur trawiadol o fwy na 95% o'r gwastraff sy'n dod i mewn rhag mynd i safleoedd tirlenwi. Ceir hefyd sgil-gynnyrch bach o ran y pelenni, y gellir hefyd ei werthu. Mae'n brosiect gwerth chweil sy'n cyfrannu at ein nodau ein hunain.

14:10 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

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We are entirely open to MBT in terms of our tendering exercises and the applicable criteria. As I said in answering Peter Black's supplementary question, we would welcome interest from representatives of a variety of technologies and companies in putting forward bids into the process.

Rydym yn gwbl agored i MBT o ran ein hymarferion tendro a'r meini prawf perthnasol. Fel y dywedais wrth ateb cwestiwn atodol Peter Black, byddem yn croesawu diddordeb gan gynrychiolwyr o amrywiaeth o dechnolegau a chwmnïau o ran cyflwyno ceisiadau i'r broses.

Lles Anifeiliad | **Animal Welfare**

14:10 **Andrew R.T. Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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11. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ei weithgareddau diweddar yn ymwneud â lles anifeiliaid. OAQ(4)0225(ESD)

11. Will the Minister provide an update on his recent activities related to animal welfare. OAQ(4)0225(ESD)

14:10 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

In addition to the work that we are progressing on matters such as dog welfare with the control of dogs Bill, puppy breeding and microchipping, I have undertaken several engagements on animal welfare, including visits to the Dogs Trust, the RSPCA and Dunbia slaughterhouse in Llanybydder.

Yn ogystal â'r gwaith yr ydym yn mynd ar ei drywydd o ran materion fel lles cŵn gyda'r Bil rheoli cŵn, bridio cŵn bach a microsglodynnu, rwyf wedi cynnal nifer o ymrwymiadau ar les anifeiliaid, gan gynnwys ymweliadau â'r Dogs Trust, RSPCA a lladd-dy Dunbia yn Llanybydder.

14:11 **Andrew R.T. Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

In light of recent press reports and what we all understand about the horsemeat debacle, what actions has your department undertaken in liaising with trading standards departments to check on the microchipping of horses across Wales and compliance with the rules and regulations around that microchipping? Are there any serious concerns about what such investigations have turned up?

Yng ngoleuni adroddiadau diweddar yn y wasg a'r hyn a wyddom am yr helynt cig ceffyl, pa gamau y mae eich adran wedi'u cymryd i ymgysylltu ag adrannau safonau masnach i gadarnhau'r gwaith o ficrosglodynnu ceffylau ledled Cymru a chydymffurfiaeth â'r rheolau a'r rheoliadau o ran y gwaith hwnnw? A oes unrhyw bryderon difrifol ynghylch yr hyn y mae ymchwiliadau o'r fath wedi'i ganfod?

14:11 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I can tell Andrew R.T. Davies that there are no slaughterhouses in Wales contracted to slaughter horses. The microchipping of horses is a matter for my ministerial colleague, Alun Davies.

Gallaf ddweud wrth Andrew R.T. Davies nad oes unrhyw ladd-dy yng Nghymru wedi'i gontractio i ladd ceffylau. Mae microsglodynnu ceffylau yn fater ar gyfer fy nghyd-aelod gweinidogol, Alun Davies.

14:11 **Kirsty Williams** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Arweinydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru / The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats

Minister, given the increase in wet soil conditions over the last 12 months, what analysis have you carried out of the impact of Johne's disease on Welsh agriculture, and what steps are you taking to assist farmers in tackling this disease?

Weinidog, o gofio'r cynnydd mewn amodau pridd gwlyb dros y 12 mis diwethaf, pa ddadansoddiad a wnaed gennych o effaith clefyd Johne ar amaethyddiaeth yng Nghymru, a pha gamau rydych yn eu cymryd i helpu ffermwyr i fynd i'r afael â'r clefyd hwn?

14:12 **John Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I know that this is a priority for our animal welfare group in Wales, and I am happy to assure Kirsty Williams that it is currently looking at the disease picture and what the most effective steps might be in helping farmers in Wales to deal with this condition. It is not notifiable, so it is a matter for the industry and private vets to work with the animal welfare group and decide the best way forward.

Gwn fod hyn yn flaenoriaeth i'n grŵp lles anifeiliaid yng Nghymru, ac rwy'n fwy na pharod i roi sicrwydd i Kirsty Williams ei fod ar hyn o bryd wrthi'n edrych ar y sefyllfa o ran clefyd a pha gamau fyddai'r rhai mwyaf effeithiol i helpu ffermwyr yng Nghymru i ddelio â'r cyflwr hwn. Nid yw'n hysbysadwy, felly mae'n fater i'r diwydiant a milfeddygon preifat weithio gyda'r grŵp lles anifeiliaid a phenderfynu ar y ffordd orau ymlaen.

14:12 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Question 12, OAQ(4)0222(ESD), has been withdrawn, and question 13, OAQ(4)0219(ESD), has been transferred for written answer. Thank you, Minister.

Tynnwyd cwestiwn 12, OAQ (4)0222(ADC), yn ôl, a throglwyddwyd cwestiwn 13, OAQ(4)0219(ADC), i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig. Diolch, Weinidog.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth

Questions to the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

Diwygiadau Lles

Welfare Reforms

14:12 **Lynne Neagle** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

1. A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu'r camau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn eu cymryd i liniaru effaith diwygiadau lles Llywodraeth y DU ar y rheini sydd ag anghenion o ran tai yng Nghymru. OAQ(4)0224(HRH)

1. Will the Minister outline what steps the Welsh Government is taking to mitigate the impact of the UK Government's welfare reforms on those in need of housing in Wales. OAQ(4)0224(HRH)

14:12 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth / The Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

In the last two years, we have provided £1.5 million to local authorities to take action alongside third sector organisations in this regard. This has included raising awareness of changes, work to study the potential impacts, and practical action to help people to cope. I am currently considering a programme of support for 2013-14.

Yn ystod y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf, rydym wedi darparu £1.5 miliwn i awdurdodau lleol er mwyn iddynt weithredu ochr yn ochr â mudiadau trydydd sector yn hyn o beth. Mae hyn wedi cynnwys codi ymwybyddiaeth o newidiadau, gweithio i astudio effeithiau posibl, a gweithredu ymarferol er mwyn helpu pobl i ymdopi. Rwyf wrthi'n ystyried rhaglen o gymorth ar gyfer 2013-14 ar hyn o bryd.

14:13 **Lynne Neagle** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, as you are aware, Bron Afon Community Housing has been taking part in a Department for Work and Pensions pilot scheme to impact-test its plans to pay the housing element of universal credit directly to tenants. I am aware that there are worrying trends emerging from that pilot, and it is clear that any nationwide roll-out would have serious implications for both tenants and social landlords. What steps is the Welsh Government taking to work with Bron Afon to learn lessons from its experience so that we can do everything that we can to mitigate the impact of direct payments in Wales, should the UK Government, as I fear, proceed with these dangerous plans?

Weinidog, fel y gwyddoch, mae Tai Cymunedol Bron Afon wedi bod yn cymryd rhan yng nghynllun peilot yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau i brofi effeithiau ei chynlluniau i dalu elfen dai y credyd cynhwysol yn uniongyrchol i denantiaid. Rwy'n ymwybodol bod tueddiadau yn dod i'r amlwg o'r cynllun peilot hwnnw sy'n peri pryder, ac mae'n amlwg y byddai goblygiadau difrifol i denantiaid a landlordiaid cymdeithasol pe bai'n cael ei gyflwyno ledled y wlad. Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n eu cymryd i weithio gyda Bron Afon i ddysgu gwersi o'i phrofiad fel y gallwn wneud popeth y gallwn i liniaru effaith taliadau uniongyrchol yng Nghymru, pe bai Llywodraeth y DU, fel yr ofnaf, yn bwrw ymlaen â'r cynlluniau peryglus hyn?

14:13 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank the Member for those points. Scaling up the pilot projects, such as the project that Bron Afon has experienced, really does give us cause for concern. Indeed, I do not think that it is overstating the case to say that the universal credit swap, which is due to happen in October, is potentially a disaster waiting to happen. Moving to digital by default and to monthly payments instead of weekly payments, and removing direct payments to landlords from the system, thereby running a real danger of—apart from anything else—arrears building up within the system, will destabilise housing providers and cause misery to tenants.

Diolchaf i'r Aelod am y pwyntiau hynny. Mae cynyddu'r prosiectau peilot, megis y prosiect a brofwyd gan Bron Afon, yn peri pryder gwirioneddol inni. Yn wir, nid wyf yn gorddweud pan ddywedaf fod y cyfnewid credyd cynhwysol, sydd i fod i ddigwydd ym mis Hydref, o bosibl yn drychineb sy'n aros i ddigwydd. Bydd symud i ddigidol yn awtomatig ac i daliadau misol yn hytrach na thaliadau wythnosol, a chael gwared ar daliadau uniongyrchol i landlordiaid o'r system, a thrwy hynny greu'r perygl gwirioneddol—ar wahân i unrhyw beth arall—o ôl-ddyledion yn cronni o fewn y system, yn ansefydlogi darparwyr tai ac yn achosi diflastod i denantiaid.

14:14 **Mark Isherwood** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

As I am sure that the Minister is aware, only last week the DWP published the universal credit local support services framework ahead of phase 2 of the universal credit programme going ahead in October 2013, if the pilots permit that. The DWP says that it prepared that document working with, among others, the Welsh Local Government Association. It includes alternative payment arrangements for tenants needing additional support for paying rent directly to landlords, making more frequent than monthly payments, or splitting payments of an award between partners. How will the Minister ensure, alone or with colleagues, that all 22 local authorities in Wales, as well as the Welsh Government itself, are working in accordance with the document prepared with the WLGA to ensure that the full range of options detailed within it are put into place many months in advance?

Fel y gŵyr y Gweinidog mae'n siŵr, dim ond yr wythnos diwethaf cyhoeddodd yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau fframwaith gwasanaethau cymorth lleol y credyd cynhwysol cyn cam 2 o'r rhaglen credyd cynhwysol a gyflwynir ym mis Hydref 2013, os bydd y rhaglenni peilot yn caniatáu hynny. Dywed yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau iddi baratoi'r ddogfen honno drwy weithio gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, ymhlith eraill. Mae'n cynnwys trefniadau talu amgen i denantiaid y mae angen cymorth ychwanegol arnynt i dalu rhent yn uniongyrchol i landlordiaid, gan wneud taliadau amlach na phob mis, neu rannu taliadau dyfarndal rhwng partneriaid. Sut y bydd y Gweinidog yn sicrhau, ar ei ben ei hun neu gyda chyd-Aelodau, fod y 22 awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru, yn ogystal â Llywodraeth Cymru ei hun, yn gweithio'n unol â'r ddogfen a baratowyd gyda CLILC i sicrhau y rhoddir yr ystod lawn o opsiynau a nodir ynddi ar waith sawl mis ymlaen llaw?

14:15 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I will ensure that the Welsh Government explores every avenue that we have available to us, alongside our partners in Wales, to support people and protect them from the worst aspects of the benefit changes that we are facing at the moment. However, the fact of the matter is that despite the ameliorating policies—under-resourced policies, of course—that the UK Government has set in place, I do not think that it takes a clairvoyant to predict that there will be damage to tenants and damage to social landlords in particular as a result of this switchover. I can only hope that the UK Government will see sense before October this year and put off this change until we can fully understand the impact on communities at least.

Byddaf yn sicrhau bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn ystyried pob dull sydd ar gael inni, ochr yn ochr â'n partneriaid yng Nghymru, i gefnogi pobl a'u diogelu rhag agweddau gwaethaf y newidiadau i fudd-daliadau sy'n ein hwynebu ar hyn o bryd. Fodd bynnag, y ffaith amdani yw, er gwaethaf y polisïau lleddfu—polisïau heb ddigon o adnoddau, wrth gwrs—y mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi'u rhoi ar waith, ni chredaf fod angen clirweledydd i ragweld y bydd hyn yn niweidiol i denantiaid ac i landlordiaid cymdeithasol yn arbennig o ganlyniad i'r newid hwn. Gallaf ond gobeithio y bydd Llywodraeth y DU yn gweld synnwyr cyn mis Hydref eleni ac yn gohirio'r newid hwn nes y gallwn ddeall yn llawn yr effaith ar gymunedau o leiaf.

14:16 **Leanne Wood** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, on Monday I hosted a round-table event on social security reform. It was attended by many representatives from various voluntary groups. It is clear that these benefit changes are going to have a seismic effect, not only on the individuals and families directly affected, but also on the wider economy. I would like to declare an interest at this point due to my involvement on the board of trustees of Rhondda Cynon Taf Women's Aid. It was clear from the meeting on Monday that Women's Aid refuges could well be hit hard over the coming months because of changes to housing benefit. What preparatory work are you undertaking to ensure that the blow to Women's Aid refuges is softened?

Weinidog, ddydd Llun cynheliais ddigwyddiad bord gron ar ddiwygio nawdd cymdeithasol. Fe'i mynychwyd gan lawer o gynrychiolwyr o grwpiau gwirfoddol amrywiol. Mae'n amlwg bod y newidiadau hyn i fudd-daliadau yn mynd i gael effaith seismig, nid yn unig ar yr unigolion a'r teuluoedd yr effeithir arnynt yn uniongyrchol, ond hefyd ar yr economi ehangach. Hoffwn ddatgan buddiant yn y fan hon oherwydd y rhan a chwaraeaf ar fwrdd ymddiriedolwyr Cymorth i Fenywod Rhondda Cynon Taf. Roedd yn amlwg o'r cyfarfod ddydd Llun y gallai newidiadau i fudd-dal tai gael effaith andwyol ar lochesi Cymorth i Fenywod dros y misoedd nesaf. Pa waith paratoadol yr ydych yn ei wneud i sicrhau y lleddfir yr ergyd i lochesi Cymorth i Fenywod?

14:17 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The Member is quite right to describe these changes as 'seismic'. These are the biggest changes, without doubt, to the welfare benefit system in the last 60 years. One has to ask, when you consider the effects, for instance, of issues such as direct payment to a named person in a household, without any guarantee that that money will find its way safely to the best possible destination within that household, whether it will be women who would be disproportionately negatively affected by these changes. I am ensuring that, working alongside the WLGA and the voluntary sector, we are exploiting every pathway we can to ensure that the communities around these households are active and informed and that there is signposting to reliable housing and personal financial advice available to people. We have a very short time to ensure that that kind of support system exists everywhere across Wales and is of a reasonable quality.

Mae'r Aelod yn hollol iawn i ddisgrifio'r newidiadau hyn fel rhai 'seismig'. Dyma'r newidiadau mwyaf, yn ddiau, i'r system budd-daliadau lles dros y 60 mlynedd diwethaf. Rhaid i rywun ofyn, pan ystyriwch effeithiau, er enghraifft, materion fel taliad uniongyrchol i unigolyn a enwir mewn cartref, heb unrhyw sicrwydd y bydd yr arian hwnnw yn mynd yn ddiogel i'r lle gorau posibl o fewn y cartref hwnnw, ai ar menywod y bydd y newidiadau hyn yn effeithio'n anghymesur o negyddol. Rwy'n sicrhau, drwy weithio ochr yn ochr â CLILC a'r sector gwirfoddol, ein bod yn ystyried pob llwybr a allwn i sicrhau bod y cymunedau o amgylch y cartrefi hyn yn weithredol ac yn hyddysg a bod cyfeiriadau at gyngor ar dai a chyngor ariannol personol dibynadwy ar gael i bobl. Cyfnod byr iawn o amser sydd gennym i sicrhau bod y math hwnnw o system cymorth yn bodoli ymhob man a'i fod o ansawdd rhesymol.

Cwmnïau Drama Amatur

Amateur Dramatic Companies

14:18 **Llyr Huws Gruffydd** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

2. Pa gymorth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei roi i gynorthwyo cwmnïau drama amatur yng Nghymru. OAQ(4)0221(HRH)

2. What support is the Welsh Government giving to help amateur dramatic companies in Wales. OAQ(4)0221(HRH)

14:18 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank the Member for North Wales for his question. Welsh Government support for the arts is primarily channelled through the Arts Council of Wales. Groups such as amateur dramatic companies have also been able to apply for financial support to Welsh Government initiatives such as the community facilities and activities programme, which I understand is to reopen shortly.

Diolchaf i'r Aelod dros Ogledd Cymru am ei gwestiwn. Caiff cefnogaeth Llywodraeth Cymru i'r celfyddydau ei sianelu yn bennaf drwy Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Mae grwpiau megis cwmnïau drama amatur hefyd wedi gallu gwneud cais am gymorth ariannol i fentrau Llywodraeth Cymru fel y rhaglen cyfleusterau a gweithgareddau cymunedol, a fydd yn ailagor yn fuan, yn ôl a ddeallaf.

14:19 **Llyr Huws Gruffydd** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw. A wnewch chi ymuno â mi wrth longyfarch gŵyl ddramâu capel Bethania yn Rhuthun ar ŵyl lwyddiannus yr wythnos diwethaf? Gŵyl yw hon sydd wedi'i chynnal yn ddi-dor ers 66 o flynyddoedd. Mae gofid, serch hynny, bod prinder o ddramâu byrion Cymraeg newydd. Gofynnaf i chi ystyried, felly, cefnogi creu cronfa ddata gynhwysfawr o ddramâu a dramodwyr Cymraeg fel bod cwmnïau drama amatur, fel yng nghapel Bethania, yn gallu annog ac adnabod deunydd newydd er mwyn eu cadw i fynd am 66 o flynyddoedd pellach.

Thank you for that response. Will you join me in congratulating the Bethania chapel drama festival in Rhuthin on a successful festival last week? This festival has been held without fail for the last 66 years. There is, however, concern about a lack of new Welsh-language short dramas. I ask you, therefore, to consider supporting the creation of a comprehensive database of Welsh-language dramas and dramatists so that amateur dramatic companies, such as in Bethania chapel, can identify and encourage new material in order to keep them going for another 66 years.

14:19 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I am happy to join the Member in congratulating the Bethania chapel community on the work that it has been engaged with. It is an interesting idea; I have not heard it put before that we should develop a database for Welsh-language dramatists and resources. That is something that I will take away and consider, and perhaps the Member and I could meet, or exchange ideas through correspondence about the possibilities of that being looked at.

Rwy'n hapus i ymuno â'r Aelod i longyfarch cymuned capel Bethania ar y gwaith y mae wedi bod yn ei wneud. Mae'n syniad diddorol; nid wyf wedi clywed yr awgrym o'r blaen y dylem ddatblygu cronfa ddata ar gyfer dramodwyr ac adnoddau Cymraeg. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth y byddaf yn ei ystyried, ac efallai y gallai'r Aelod a minnau gwrdd, neu gyfnewid syniadau drwy ohebiaeth am y posibiliadau o ystyried hynny.

14:20 **Keith Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Amser cinio heddiw bu grŵp yn perfformio yn y Senedd, sef Cwmni Llwyfan Llanelli. Mae'r cwmni hwn yn galluogi aelodau theatr ieuenctid i barhau i berfformio tra'n oedolion, gyda sawl un wedi llwyddo i ddod yn berfformwyr proffesiynol. Roedd perfformiad heddiw am streic y rheilffyrdd yn 1911. Hoffai'r cwmni gael y cyfle i berfformio drama gerdd lawn ar y digwyddiad. Gan fod y cwmni hwn yn darparu llwyfan ac yn perfformio dramâu sydd mor gysylltiedig â'n treftadaeth, pa gefnogaeth mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei roi i grwpiau o'r fath?

At lunch time today a group was performing in the Senedd, namely the Llanelli Stage Company. This company enables members of youth theatre to continue to perform into adulthood, with a number having succeeded in becoming professional performers. Today's performance dealt with the railway strike of 1911, and the company would like an opportunity to perform a full musical drama on the incident. Given that this company provides a platform and performs dramas that are so relevant to our heritage, what support is the Welsh Government giving to such groups?

14:21 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I can only repeat that section of my previous answer that related to the arm's-length relationship between Welsh Ministers and the Arts Council of Wales, although there are grant funding mechanisms that could be available by other means. I join Keith Davies in applauding and congratulating the young people of Llanelli, and wish them well in their endeavours and successes, particularly in relation to their work connected to the very proud social history of the great town of Llanelli.

Ni allaf ond ailadrodd yr adran honno o'm hateb blaenorol a oedd yn ymwneud â'r berthynas hyd braich rhwng Gweinidogion Cymru a Chyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, er bod dulliau ariannu grant a allai fod ar gael trwy ddulliau eraill. Ymunaf â Keith Davies i ganmol a llongyfarch pobl ifanc Llanelli, a dymuno'n dda iddynt yn eu hymdrechion a'u llwyddiannau, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â'u gwaith sy'n gysylltiedig â hanes cymdeithasol balch iawn tref ardderchog Llanelli.

14:21 **Suzy Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, my region has a particularly rich am-dram culture that has been improving access to the arts for decades, with companies that still look to their communities for their success, rather than being directed by a dependance on the central public purse. However, local authorities do support such companies, often through providing venues on a split box-office basis. With strains on council budgets, what advice can you give to local authorities to avoid decisions that might disproportionately affect the ability of communities to improve access to the arts?

Weinidog, mae fy rhanbarth yn arbennig o gyfoethog o ran diwylliant y theatr amatur sydd wedi bod yn gwella mynediad i'r celfyddydau ers degawdau, gyda chwmnïau sy'n dal i ddibynnu ar eu cymunedau am eu llwyddiant, yn hytrach na chael eu cyfarwyddo gan ddibyniaeth ar bwrs canolog y wlad. Fodd bynnag, mae awdurdodau lleol yn cefnogi cwmnïau o'r fath, yn aml drwy ddarparu lleoliadau ar sail swyddfa docynnau a rennir yn aml. Gyda phwysau ar gyllidebau cynghorau, pa gyngor y gallwch ei roi i awdurdodau lleol i osgoi penderfyniadau a allai effeithio'n anghymesur ar allu cymunedau i wella mynediad i'r celfyddydau?

14:22 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I am in constant dialogue with local authorities up and down Wales as regards the importance that the Welsh Government continues to place on cultural-heritage-based services and, indeed, library services. In our view, they are central to the purpose of local authority provision, and we hope that that view is shared by local authorities. These are very difficult times. I am not aware as yet, however—it is in real contrast, and I am glad of it, to developments across the border in England—of any local authority in Wales singling out artistic and cultural provision as an easy target during these very tough financial times.

Rwy'n cynnal deialog cyson ag awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru o ran y pwysigrwydd y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn parhau i'w roi ar wasanaethau sy'n seiliedig ar dreftadaeth ddiwylliannol ac, yn wir, wasanaethau llyfrgell. Yn ein barn ni, maent yn ganolog i ddiben darpariaeth awdurdodau lleol, a gobeithiwn y caiff y farn honno ei rhannu gan awdurdodau lleol. Mae'r rhain yn amseroedd anodd iawn. Nid wyf yn ymwybodol hyd yn hyn, fodd bynnag—mae mewn cyferbyniad llwyr, ac rwy'n falch o hynny, â datblygiadau ar draws y ffin yn Lloegr—o unrhyw awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru sy'n rhoi sylw penodol i ddarpariaeth gelfyddydol a diwylliannol fel targed hawdd yn ystod y cyfnod ariannol anodd iawn hwn.

14:23 **Kirsty Williams** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Perhaps I could give the Minister an example. Powys County Council is proposing to cut community grants by 75% in its budget discussions. Many of the groups affected are arts organisations that not only provide artistic opportunities for those who live within Powys, but also bring people into Powys, such as the Presteigne Festival of Music and the Arts and Brecon Jazz Festival. The Minister for education has taken decisive action to ensure that grants that have been cut by Cardiff Council to a Welsh-language festival will be paid for by the Welsh Government. Will you take similar decisive action to assist groups in my constituency?

Efallai y gallwn roi enghraifft i'r Gweinidog. Mae Cyngor Sir Powys yn bwriadu torri grantiau cymunedol 75% yn ei drafodaethau ar y gyllideb. Mae llawer o'r grwpiau yr effeithir arnynt yn sefydliadau celfyddydol sydd nid yn unig yn darparu cyfleoedd celfyddydol i'r rheini sy'n byw ym Mhowys, ond hefyd yn dod â phobl i mewn i Bowys, fel Gŵyl Gerdd Llanandras a Gŵyl Gelfyddydol a Jazz Aberhonddu. Mae'r Gweinidog addysg wedi cymryd camau pendant i sicrhau y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn talu am y grantiau sydd wedi cael eu torri gan Gyngor Caerdydd i ŵyl Gymraeg. A gymerwch gamau pendant tebyg i gynorthwyo grwpiau yn fy etholaeth i?

14:23 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank the Member for the update on the situation in Powys, which I will take into consideration and look carefully at. However, there is no political legitimacy behind a question coming from the Welsh Liberal Democrats in this regard; it is simply not good enough to be a fully paid-up supporter of the cuts flowing down to us from the UK Government and then to turn around and expect the Welsh Government to plug every single gap and to cover every pressure faced by local government or other partners. There is no political or, indeed, moral legitimacy behind her question.

Diolchaf i'r Aelod am y newyddion diweddaraf ar y sefyllfa ym Mhowys, a byddaf yn ystyried hynny yn ofalus. Fodd bynnag, nid oes cyfreithlondeb gwleidyddol y tu ôl i gwestiwn gan Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn hyn o beth; nid yw'n ddigon da i gefnogi'n llawn y toriadau sy'n llifo atom o gyfeiriad Llywodraeth y DU ac yna ddisgwyl i Lywodraeth Cymru gau pob bwlch ac ymdrin â phob sefyllfa anodd a wynebir gan lywodraeth leol neu bartneriaid eraill. Nid oes unrhyw gyfreithlondeb gwleidyddol nac, yn wir, gyfreithlondeb moesol yn sail i'w chwestiwn.

Rhaglen Ardal Adfywio Cymoedd y Gorllewin

Western Valleys Regeneration Area Programme

14:24 **Rebecca Evans** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

3. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am Rhaglen Ardal Adfywio Cymoedd y Gorllewin. OAQ(4)0216(HRH)

3. Will the Minister provide an update on the Western Valleys Regeneration Area Programme. OAQ(4)0216(HRH)

14:24 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The western Valleys regeneration area has committed, thus far, up to £24 million in strategic and local regeneration activity, delivering over 220 projects and levering in over £41 million of other public, European Union, third sector and private sector funding. I will publish the new regeneration framework, 'Vibrant and Viable Places', in March.

Mae ardal adfywio Cymoedd y Gorllewin wedi ymrwymo, hyd yma, hyd at £24 miliwn mewn gweithgarwch adfywio strategol a lleol, gan ddarparu dros 220 o brosiectau a denu dros £41 miliwn o arian cyhoeddus, Undeb Ewropeaidd, trydydd sector a sector preifat arall. Byddaf yn cyhoeddi'r fframwaith adfywio newydd, 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid', ym mis Mawrth.

14:25 **Rebecca Evans** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you for that update, Minister. I also take this opportunity to welcome the £1 million in funding that you announced last week, including funding for regeneration projects in the Amman and Gwendraeth valleys. Will you work with colleagues in the business and skills portfolios to ensure that local people are best placed to take advantage of the economic opportunities that this funding will present, including opportunities in construction as well as the development of tourism?

Diolch ichi am y diweddariad hwnnw, Weinidog. Rwyf hefyd yn achub ar y cyfle hwn i groesawu'r £1 filiwn o gyllid a gyhoeddwyd gennych yr wythnos diwethaf, gan gynnwys cyllid ar gyfer prosiectau adfywio yn Nyffryn Aman a Chwm Gwendraeth. A wnewch chi weithio gyda chyd-Aelodau yn y portffolios busnes a sgiliau i sicrhau bod pobl leol yn y sefyllfa orau i fanteisio ar y cyfleoedd economaidd a grëir gan y cyllid hwn, gan gynnwys cyfleoedd yn y diwydiant adeiladu, yn ogystal â datblygu twristiaeth?

14:25 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Yes, of course. I join the Member in being very pleased with the announcement that I was able to make regarding the Amman and Gwendraeth valleys. It is good news all round. That work to ensure that the best possible value is extracted from investments such as this by local people is central to these sorts of investments, and it should be a part of the consideration from the very beginning. I will write to the Member with details of how we are ensuring that that will happen.

Gwnaf, wrth gwrs. Ymunaf â'r Aelod i nodi fy mod yn falch iawn o'r cyhoeddiad yr oeddwn yn gallu ei wneud o ran cymoedd Aman a Gwendraeth. Mae'n newyddion da i bawb. Mae'r gwaith hwnnw, sef sicrhau y ceir y gwerth gorau posibl o fuddsoddiadau megis hwn gan bobl leol, yn ganolog i'r mathau hyn o fuddsoddiadau, a dylai fod yn rhan o'r ystyriaeth o'r dechrau'n deg. Ysgrifennaf at yr Aelod gyda manylion am sut yr ydym yn sicrhau y bydd hynny'n digwydd.

14:26 **Byron Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, I welcome this investment in the western Valleys, and I look forward to the detailed work. I understand that Powell Dobson Urbanists has been commissioned by the council to prepare a regeneration master plan for Glynneath. I very much hope that this master plan, underpinned by your Government, will be successful. However, what will you do to incorporate the views and wishes of the third and private sectors to ensure that the town-centre regeneration project is sustainable in the long term and meets the requirements of local people?

Weinidog, croesawaf y buddsoddiad hwn yng Nghymoedd y Gorllewin, ac edrychaf ymlaen at y gwaith manwl. Deallaf fod Powell Dobson Urbanists wedi cael ei gomisiynu gan y cyngor i baratoi cynllun meistr adfywio ar gyfer Glyn-nedd. Gobeithiaf yn fawr y bydd y cynllun meistr hwn, a ategir gan eich Llywodraeth, yn llwyddiannus. Fodd bynnag, beth a wnewch i ymgorffori safbwyntiau a dymuniadau'r trydydd sector a'r sector preifat i sicrhau bod prosiect adfywio canol y dref yn gynaliadwy yn yr hirdymor ac yn bodloni gofynion pobl leol?

14:26 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The mechanisms and lines of communication for that sort of dialogue to happen are well established and are a part of the warp and weft of how the western Valleys regeneration area works day to day. I will gladly keep the Member up to date with regard to the relevant professionals and officials that will be able to signpost people in Glynneath towards the right destination.

Mae'r mecanweithiau a'r llinellau cyfathrebu er mwyn i'r math hwnnw o ddeialog ddigwydd wedi eu sefydlu'n dda ac maent yn rhan o gyfansoddiad ardal adfywio Cymoedd y Gorllewin o ddydd i ddydd. Byddaf yn falch o roi'r newyddion diweddaraf i'r Aelod o ran y bobl broffesiynol a'r swyddogion perthnasol a fydd yn gallu cyfeirio pobl yng Nglyn-nedd i'r cyfeiriad cywir.

14:27 **Rhodri Glyn Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Weinidog, hoffwn fynd â chi'n ôl at y cwestiwn gwreiddiol ynglŷn â sicrhau'r budd cymunedol ac economaidd mwyaf posibl o'r buddsoddiadau hyn. Rwy'n falch o weld y buddsoddiadau yng nghwm Gwendraeth a dyffryn Aman, yn arbennig y buddsoddiad yn Ngarnant yn nyffryn Aman yn fy etholaeth i. Fodd bynnag, ar yr un pryd, mae toriadau'n digwydd mewn trafnidiaeth gyhoeddus, yn enwedig gwasanaeth bysiau. Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud, gyda Gweinidogion eraill yn y Llywodraeth, i sicrhau bod pobl leol yn gallu manteision ar y cyfleoedd a fydd yn deillio o'r buddsoddiadau hyn?

Minister, I would like to take you back to the original question on ensuring that communities can make most of these investments. I am pleased to see the investments in the Gwendraeth and Amman valleys, particularly the investment in the site in Garnant in the Amman valley in my constituency. However, at the same time, there are cuts in public transport, particularly bus services. What are you doing, with other Ministers within the Government, to ensure that local people can take advantage of the opportunities that will emanate from these investments?

14:27 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank the Member for that point. Cuts or investments in bus services are not a matter for me or my ministerial portfolio. However, I underscore that cross-working between Ministers in the Welsh Government is central to what we all wish to achieve, and that dialogue continues day to day. If the Member wishes to write to me with particular concerns about investments in the western Valleys and how they may be affected by pressures upon bus services, I would be happy to look more particularly at those local issues.

Diolchaf i'r Aelod am y cwestiwn hwnnw. Nid mater i mi na'm portffolio gweinidogol yw toriadau na buddsoddiadau mewn gwasanaethau bysiau. Fodd bynnag, pwysleisiaf fod y cydweithio rhwng Gweinidogion yn Llywodraeth Cymru yn ganolog i'r hyn yr ydym i gyd yn dymuno ei gyflawni, ac mae'r deialog hwnnw yn parhau o ddydd i ddydd. Os yw'r Aelod yn dymuno ysgrifennu ataf gyda phryderon penodol ynghylch buddsoddiadau yng Nghymoedd y Gorllewin a sut y gallai pwysau ar wasanaethau bysiau effeithio arnynt, byddaf yn fwy na bodlon i edrych yn fwy penodol ar y materion lleol hynny.

14:28 **Keith Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Rwyf i hefyd yn croesawu'r cyllid a gyhoeddwyd yr wythnos diwethaf ar gyfer ardaloedd adfywio Cymoedd y gorllewin, yn enwedig y grantiau ar gyfer Cei Cydweli a'r Gwendraeth a'u defnydd i hyrwyddo twristiaeth ymhellach. A gytunwch fod cyllid sydd â chanolbwynt lleol fel hyn yn bwysicach o ystyried y toriadau tebygol yng Nghymoedd y gorllewin oherwydd penderfyniad Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig i dorri'r gyllideb Ewropeaidd?

I, too, welcome the funding announced last week for the regeneration areas in the western Valleys, particularly the grants for Kidwelly Quay and Gwendraeth and their use to promote tourism further. Would you agree that funding that is locally focused in this way is more important given the likely cuts for the western Valleys because of the UK Government's agreement to cut the European budget?

14:28 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I agree with the Member wholeheartedly that, in these pressured times, when it comes to capital investment in particular, it remains a great advantage to be able to follow through all our regeneration area activity. The western Valleys regeneration area, in particular, has proven to everyone that it has found its feet and made a difference.

Cytunaf â'r Aelod yn llwyr ei bod yn parhau i fod, ar yr adeg anodd hon, wrth sôn am fuddsoddiad cyfalaf yn arbennig, yn fantais fawr gallu cyflawni ein holl weithgarwch o ran ardal adfywio. Mae ardal adfywio Cymoedd y Gorllewin, yn arbennig, wedi profi i bawb ei fod wedi ymsefydlu a gwneud gwahaniaeth.

Treftadaeth Cristnogol Cymru

Welsh Christian Heritage

14:29 **Darren Millar** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

4. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am hybu treftadaeth Gristnogol Cymru. OAQ(4)0213(HRH)

4. Will the Minister make a statement on the promotion of Welsh Christian heritage. OAQ(4)0213(HRH)

14:29 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I want to ensure that the history and stories of Wales's unique religious past are valued through all available avenues. This is particularly important as so much of Wales's religious built heritage is either redundant or under threat of closure at the moment.

Rwyf am sicrhau bod hanes a straeon o orffennol crefyddol unigryw Cymru yn cael eu gwerthfawrogi drwy bob dull sydd ar gael. Mae hyn yn arbennig o bwysig gan fod cymaint o dreftadaeth adeiledig Cymru naill ai'n segur neu'n wynebu'r bygythiad o gau ar hyn o bryd.

14:29 **Darren Millar** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you for that response, Minister. You will be aware that Wales has a terrific history of nonconformity, and, unfortunately, many of our nonconformist chapels were built around the turn of the last century, and most of them are not afforded the protection that listed building status can give them. What reflection have you had upon that particular situation and will you look to develop a list of the top 100 chapels in Wales that require protection, in accordance with the previous request by members of your own party, as well as by me?

Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Byddwch yn ymwybodol bod gan Gymru hanes gwych o anghydffurfiaeth, ac, yn anffodus, adeiladwyd llawer o'n capeli anghydffurfiol o gwmpas troad y ganrif ddiwethaf, ac nid yw'r rhan fwyaf ohonynt yn cael y diogelwch y gellir ei roi i statws adeiladau rhestredig. Pa fyfyrio a wnaethoch ar y sefyllfa benodol honno ac a fyddwch yn ystyried datblygu rhestr o'r 100 o brif gapeli yng Nghymru sydd angen eu diogelu, yn unol â'r cais blaenorol gan aelodau eich plaid eich hun, yn ogystal â minnau?

14:30 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

These are areas under active consideration at the moment. I am not dismissing the idea of drawing up a list, if you like, of buildings for special consideration when it comes to the religious built heritage of particular communities. However, this is not just a question of listing or a question of protection; it is also a question of discovering the best and most useful way forward for some buildings—some buildings that would never hope to be listed, but that could still be valued and used by their local communities in some way or another.

Mae'r rhain yn ardaloedd sy'n cael eu hystyried ar hyn o bryd. Nid wyf yn diystyru'r syniad o lunio rhestr, os mynnwch chi, o adeiladau ar gyfer ystyriaeth arbennig pan ddaw at dreftadaeth adeiledig grefyddol cymunedau penodol. Fodd bynnag, nid mater o restru neu ddiogelu yw hyn yn unig; mae a wnelo hefyd â darganfod y ffordd orau a mwyaf defnyddiol ymlaen ar gyfer rhai adeiladau—rhai adeiladau na fyddai byth yn gobeithio cael eu rhestru, ond a allai gael eu gwerthfawrogi o hyd a'u defnyddio gan eu cymunedau lleol mewn rhyw ffordd neu'i gilydd.

There are a series of connected conversations going on between my officials and religious groups, including the nonconformist churches, about how we can best construct a way forward. Times are tight, and, as I have mentioned several times already this afternoon, capital in particular is very hard to come by at the moment. However, I am convinced that if a good working relationship can be established between the Welsh Government and the various denominations, we could at least begin to tackle some of the problems that are being faced by congregations, and indeed by those buildings that have long since been left by their congregations, but are still a matter of concern for their communities.

Mae cyfres o sgyrsiau cysylltiedig yn mynd rhagddi rhwng fy swyddogion a grwpiau crefyddol, gan gynnwys yr eglwysi anghydffurfiol, ynglŷn â'r ffordd orau o lunio ffordd ymlaen. Mae'n gynnil arnom ar hyn o bryd, ac fel yr wyf eisoes wedi ei grybwyll sawl gwaith y prynhawn yma, mae cyfalaf yn arbennig yn anodd iawn i'w gael ar hyn o bryd. Fodd bynnag, rwy'n argyhoeddedig, os gall perthynas waith dda gael ei sefydlu rhwng Llywodraeth Cymru a'r gwahanol enwadau, gallem o leiaf ddechrau mynd i'r afael â rhai o'r problemau a wynebir gan gynulleidfaoedd, ac yn wir gan yr adeiladau hynny y mae eu cynulleidfaoedd wedi hen droi eu cefnau arnynt, ond sydd yn peri pryder o hyd i'w cymunedau.

14:31 **Mike Hedges** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Does the Minister see any merit in producing a religious building heritage trail across Wales, colour co-ordinated by denomination?

A yw'r Gweinidog yn gweld unrhyw werth mewn cynhyrchu llwybr treftadaeth adeiladau crefyddol ledled Cymru, wedi'u cydgysylltu yn ôl enwad ar sail lliwiau?

14:32 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I am not sure whether I would be empowered to choose which colour would suit which denomination. I think I better keep out of that debate and leave it to others. [Laughter.] I do see merit in it, and Cadw, among others, is engaged at the moment, in the development of a pilgrimage-type heritage tourism trail. We are convinced that there is merit in this and that it is worthwhile for the communities concerned, and for the potential tourist element involved. I would gladly be willing to further discuss the idea of the co-ordinated map or trail with the Member; I think that we could feed that into the debate.

Nid wyf yn siŵr a fyddai'r pŵer gennyf i ddewis pa liw a fyddai'n gweddu i ba enwad. Credaf ei bod yn well imi beidio â bod yn rhan o'r ddadl honno a'i gadael i eraill. [Chwerthin.] Gwelaf werth mewn gwneud hynny, ac mae Cadw, ymysg eraill, yn gweithio ar hyn o bryd ar ddatblygu llwybr twristiaeth treftadaeth ar ffurf pererindod. Rydym yn argyhoeddedig ei bod yn werth chweil i'r cymunedau dan sylw, ac i'r elfen dwristaidd bosibl sy'n gysylltiedig â hyn. Byddwn yn fodlon trafod y syniad o fap neu lwybr cydgysylltiedig â'r Aelod ymhellach; credaf y gallem fwydo hynny i mewn i'r ddadl.

14:32 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, my region includes two very important ancient pilgrims' trails; one to Bardsey Island, or Ynys Enlli, and one to Tŷ Ddewi, or St David's. Increasingly, these are, as you have just referred, the focus of modern pilgrimages, but they are also a focus for tourists who want to see what it was like to have a pilgrimage in medieval times and experience some of our heritage on the coast of Wales; it is a marvellous way to experience those wonderful coasts as well. What is your Government doing to support and encourage that kind of tourism? Remembering that three pilgrimages to Bardsey was equal to one to Rome, would the Welsh Government consider inviting the new Pope to visit some of these areas?

Weinidog, mae fy rhanbarth yn cynnwys dau lwybr pwysig iawn ar gyfer pererindodau hynafol; un i Ynys Enlli, ac un i Dyddewi. Yn gynyddol, y rhain yw ffocws pererindodau modern, fel yr ydych newydd sôn, ond maent yn ffocws hefyd i dwristiaid sydd am weld sut brofiad oedd mynd ar bererindod yn yr Oesoedd Canol a phrofi rhywfaint o'n treftadaeth ar arfordir Cymru; mae'n ffordd wych o brofi'r arfordiroedd gwych hynny hefyd. Beth mae eich Llywodraeth yn ei wneud i gefnogi ac annog y math hwnnw o dwristiaeth? Gan gofio bod tair pererindod i Ynys Enlli yn cyfateb i un i Rufain, a fyddai Llywodraeth Cymru yn ystyried gwahodd y Pab newydd i ymweld â rhai o'r ardaloedd hyn?

14:33 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The Member is quite right to point out that pilgrimage is very much alive and well, whether that is for wholly spiritual reasons, for reasons of interest as regards tourism, or even for those people who are just interested in the historical heritage of such things. I am pleased to say that funding of £1 million has been given towards a project led by Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council to support a number of collaborative schemes, including that pilgrimage trail in north Wales. The aim of the scheme is to develop an interpretation of a pilgrim's trail linking Denbighshire through to Bardsey Island. I am sure that we can build upon that experience in other parts of Wales too.

Mae'r Aelod yn hollol iawn i nodi bod pererindodau yn boblogaidd y dyddiau hyn, p'un a ydynt am resymau hollol ysbrydol, am eu bod o ddiddordeb o ran twristiaeth, neu hyd yn oed i'r bobl hynny sy'n ymddiddori yn nhreftadaeth hanesyddol pethau o'r fath. Rwy'n falch o ddweud bod £1 filiwn wedi cael ei roi tuag at brosiect dan arweiniad Cyngor Gwynedd a Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy i gefnogi nifer o gynlluniau cydweithredol, gan gynnwys y llwybr pererindod hwnnw yn y gogledd. Nod y cynllun yw datblygu dehongliad o lwybr pererindod sy'n cysylltu sir Ddinbych ag Ynys Enlli. Rwy'n siŵr y gallwn adeiladu ar y profiad hwnnw mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru hefyd.

Adfywio'r Stryd Mawr yng Nghymru

Regenerate the Welsh High Street

14:34 **Nick Ramsay** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

5. A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei gynlluniau i adfywio'r stryd fawr yng Nghymru. OAQ(4)0225(HRH)

5. Will the Minister outline his plans to regenerate the Welsh high street. OAQ(4)0225(HRH)

14:34 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Our continued commitment to support town centre regeneration will be a key part of our new regeneration framework 'Vibrant and Viable Places'. The document has recently been subject to consultation and will be formally launched next month.

Bydd ein hymrwymiad parhaus i gefnogi adfywiad canol trefi yn rhan allweddol o'n fframwaith adfywio newydd 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid'. Yn ddiweddar, mae'r ddogfen wedi bod yn destun ymgynghoriad a bydd yn cael ei lansio'n ffurfiol y mis nesaf.

14:34 **Nick Ramsay** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I am pleased to hear that, Minister. I am sure that you are aware of the invaluable work of the Abergavenny Civic Society. I recently attended a packed meeting of the society, which looked at the problems of the decline of the Welsh high street in recent years. As is the way of these things, I had to report back to it with what your Government is proposing to do. In advance of the proposals that you intend to make, can you give us one concrete proposal, or area, where you believe that your Government will help to regenerate the Welsh high street, and reverse its declining fortunes?

Rwy'n falch o glywed hynny, Weinidog. Rwy'n siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol o waith amhrisiadwy Cymdeithas Ddinesig y Fenni. Yn ddiweddar bûm mewn cyfarfod llawn o'r gymdeithas, a oedd yn edrych ar broblemau yn ymwneud â dirywiad y stryd fawr yng Nghymru yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Fel sy'n digwydd gyda phethau o'r fath, bu'n rhaid imi gyflwyno adroddiad iddi ar yr hyn y mae eich Llywodraeth yn bwriadu ei wneud. Cyn cyhoeddi'r cynigion y bwriadwch eu gwneud, a allwch roi un cynnig cadarn inni, neu ardal bendant, lle y credwch y bydd eich Llywodraeth yn helpu i adfywio'r stryd fawr yng Nghymru, a gwyrdroi'r sefyllfa sy'n dirywio?

14:35 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I am sure that the Member will suffer from a glut of concrete proposals when I shortly announce the new regeneration framework 'Vibrant and Viable Places'.

Rwy'n siŵr y caiff yr Aelod ormodedd o gynigion cadarn pan gyhoeddaf yn fuan y fframwaith adfywio newydd 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid'.

14:35 **Alun Ffred Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Mae'r sefyllfa ar ein strydoedd mawr yn argyfyngus—rwy'n siŵr y byddech yn cytuno â hynny—gyda chyfartaledd y siopau gwag yn uwch yng Nghymru nag ydyw yng ngweddill Prydain. A ydyw'n amser i ymgynnull cynhadledd genedlaethol i chwilio am atebion i'r sefyllfa hon, sy'n tanseilio ein cymunedau, yn ogystal â hyder pobl fusnes yn ein trefi?

The situation on our high streets is difficult—I am sure that you would agree with that—with the average number of empty businesses higher in Wales than in the rest of Britain. Is it time to hold a national conference to look for solutions to this problem, which undermines our communities, and the confidence of businesspeople within our towns?

14:36 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I am not sure about assembling a national conference. I believe that the conversation around the future of the high street is lively and well developed. We have had contributions from all quarters of the political community in Wales to that debate. The Welsh Government also has a manifesto commitment to regenerate our town centres and seaside towns, which we will abide by and honour. As I say, the new regeneration framework, which I will be launching shortly, will have much to say about these issues. However, suffice it to say this afternoon that we have no shortage of ideas. We also need to recognise that not all high streets are the same, and that each town and each community presents its own challenges and opportunities. Therefore, bespoke solutions are probably best, although there will be common themes. The new strategy that I will launch will attempt to square that circle, and ensure that we have a system that is flexible enough and rigorous enough to make a real difference in those communities where we are able—resources allowing—to engage in the regeneration of the high street.

Nid wyf yn siŵr ynglŷn â threfnu cynhadledd genedlaethol. Credaf fod y drafodaeth am ddyfodol y stryd fawr yn fywiog ac wedi'i datblygu'n dda. Cawsom gyfraniadau gan bob rhan o'r gymuned wleidyddol yng Nghymru at y ddadl honno. Mae gan Lywodraeth Cymru ymrwymiad maniffesto hefyd i adfywio canol ein trefi a'n trefi glan y môr, y byddwn yn cadw ato ac yn ei anrhydeddu. Fel y dywedais, bydd gan y fframwaith adfywio newydd, y byddaf yn ei lansio cyn bo hir, lawer i'w ddweud am y materion hyn. Fodd bynnag, digon yw dweud y prynhawn yma nad oes prinder syniadau gennym. Mae angen inni hefyd gydnabod nad yw pob stryd fawr yr un fath, a bod pob tref a phob cymuned yn cyflwyno eu heriau a'u cyfleoedd eu hunain. Felly, datrysiadau pwrpasol yn ôl pob tebyg yw'r rhai gorau, er y bydd themâu cyffredin. Bydd y strategaeth newydd y byddaf yn ei lansio yn ceisio sgwario'r cylch hwnnw, a sicrhau bod gennym system sy'n ddigon hyblyg ac yn ddigon trylwyr i wneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol yn y cymunedau hynny lle y gallwn—os oes adnoddau ar gael—gymryd rhan yn y gwaith o adfywio'r stryd fawr.

14:37 **Eluned Parrott** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

There have been many reports, and many debates in the Chamber, about the potentially damaging impact on the high street of out-of-town developments. Despite this, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's local development plan includes plans to create a brand-new out-of-town centre between Llantrisant and Pontypridd. Do you agree that that could be incredibly damaging to town centres such as Pontypridd, Llantrisant, Porth, and several other smaller high streets? Will your new framework include guidance for local authorities to avoid this situation?

Bu sawl adroddiad, a sawl trafodaeth yn y Siambr, ynghylch effaith niweidiol bosibl datblygiadau y tu allan i'r dref ar y stryd fawr. Er gwaethaf hyn, mae cynllun datblygu lleol Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf yn cynnwys cynlluniau i greu canolfan newydd sbon y tu allan i'r dref rhwng Llantrisant a Phontypridd. A gytunwch y gallai hynny fod yn eithriadol o niweidiol i ganolfannau trefi fel Pontypridd, Llantrisant, Porth a sawl stryd fawr lai o faint arall? A fydd eich fframwaith newydd yn cynnwys canllawiau i awdurdodau lleol er mwyn osgoi'r sefyllfa hon?

14:37 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Rhondda Cynon Taf council's LDP is a matter for that council, and not for me. I know that all LDPs throw up a lively local debate, which is a good thing. However, it is not my place to comment specifically on Rhondda Cynon Taf council's LDP.

Mater i gyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf yw'r CDLl, ac nid i mi. Gwn fod CDLlau yn creu dadl leol fywiog, sy'n beth da. Fodd bynnag, nid fy lle i yw rhoi sylwadau'n benodol ar CDLl cyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Safon Ansawdd Tai Cymru

Welsh Housing Quality Standard

14:38 **Aled Roberts** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

6. A yw'r Gweinidog wedi cael cynllun busnes derbyniol gan bob awdurdod lleol sy'n dangos sut y byddant yn cyrraedd Safon Ansawdd Tai Cymru. OAQ(4)0214(HRH)

6. Has the Minister received an acceptable business plan from each local authority that shows how they will meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. OAQ(4)0214(HRH)

14:38 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank the Member for North Wales for that question. Eleven local authorities still have housing stock in Wales; eight authorities have acceptable plans and three do not, namely Flintshire, Swansea and Wrexham. My ministerial taskforce is working with those three authorities to resolve that situation. It is also examining the business plans of authorities that are predicted to achieve the Welsh housing quality standard close to 2020 in the context of welfare reform, which may have an impact on previous plans.

Diolchaf i'r Aelod dros Ogledd Cymru am y cwestiwn hwnnw. Mae gan un ar ddeg o awdurdodau lleol stoc tai o hyd yng Nghymru; mae gan wyth awdurdod gynlluniau derbyniol ond nid oes gan dri ohonynt gynlluniau, sef Sir y Fflint, Abertawe a Wrecsam. Mae fy nhasglu gweinidogol yn gweithio gyda'r tri awdurdod hynny i ddatrys y sefyllfa honno. Mae hefyd yn archwilio cynlluniau busnes awdurdodau y rhagwelir y byddant yn cyflawni safon ansawdd tai Cymru yn agos at 2020 yng nghyd-destun diwygio lles, a all gael effaith ar gynlluniau blaenorol.

14:38 **Aled Roberts** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw. A oes gennych chi unrhyw amserlen o ran pryd fydd yn rhaid i'r awdurdodau hyn gael cynllun busnes? Hefyd, a allwch chi roi diweddariad i ni ynglŷn â sefyllfa'r cyfrif refeniw tai gyda Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig?

Thank you for that response. Do you have any timetable as to when these authorities will have to have a business plan in place? Also, are you willing to give us an update on the situation on the housing revenue account with the UK Government?

14:39 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I continue to apply pressure on all landlords to achieve the quality standard. We are not letting go of our agenda on quality housing in Wales. That includes the need for a submission of acceptable business plans before grant assistance will be provided, for instance. We would have annual monitoring of their level and rate of achievement as we progress. As I say, a ministerial taskforce has been set up, which is working with those landlords. That work has been constructive and co-operative, to ensure that landlords are capable and able of achieving the standard by the 2020 date, which has not shifted.

Rwy'n parhau i roi pwysau ar bob landlord i gyrraedd y safon ansawdd. Nid ydym yn colli ein gafael ar ein hagenda ar dai o ansawdd yng Nghymru. Mae hynny'n cynnwys yr angen i gyflwyno cynlluniau busnes derbyniol cyn i gymorth grant gael ei roi, er enghraifft. Byddem yn monitro eu lefel a'u cyfradd gyflawni bob blwyddyn wrth inni fynd yn ein blaen. Fel y dywedaf, mae tasglu gweinidogol wedi ei sefydlu, sy'n gweithio gyda'r landlordiaid hynny. Bu'r gwaith hwnnw yn adeiladol ac yn gydweithredol, er mwyn sicrhau bod landlordiaid yn gallu cyflawni'r safon erbyn 2020, sef dyddiad nad yw wedi newid.

In terms of the housing revenue account, discussions continue between us and the Treasury, and I very much hope that we will see a resolution to this long-running saga this spring.

O ran y cyfrif refeniw tai, mae trafodaethau yn parhau rhyngom ni a'r Trysorlys, ac rwy'n mawr obeithio y byddwn yn gweld ateb i'r hen saga hon y gwanwyn hwn.

14:40 **William Graham** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, in terms of regeneration, how do you think that the Welsh housing quality standard can be effective in relieving fuel poverty, particularly given that poor-quality housing is such a factor in deprivation?

Weinidog, o ran adfywio, sut ydych yn credu y gall safon ansawdd tai Cymru fod yn effeithiol wrth leddfu tlodi tanwydd, yn enwedig o gofio bod tai o ansawdd gwael yn gymaint o ffactor mewn amddifadedd?

14:40 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

William is quite right to point to the quality of housing as having an impact in all sorts of regards. Fuel poverty is very much in the news at the moment. It is imperative, and has been from the beginning, that the pursuit of the Welsh housing quality standard is not some kind of added extra in terms of what landlords ought to be achieving and doing. It is central, in our view, to their purpose. If they are to be good landlords, this kind of quality standard has to be hit.

Mae William yn hollol iawn i dynnu sylw at y ffaith bod ansawdd tai yn cael effaith mewn sawl ffordd. Mae tlodi tanwydd yn y newyddion yn aml ar hyn o bryd. Mae'n hollbwysig, ac mae wedi bod ers y dechrau, nad yw anelu at gyflawni safon ansawdd tai Cymru yn rhywbeth ychwanegol o ran yr hyn y dylai landlordiaid fod yn ceisio ei gyflawni ac yn ei wneud. Mae'n ganolog, yn ein barn ni, i'w diben. Er mwyn iddynt fod yn landlordiaid da, mae'n rhaid cyflawni'r math hwn o safon ansawdd.

14:40 **Rhodri Glyn Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Weinidog, cyhoeddodd y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus adroddiad y llynedd ar y safon ansawdd, ac un o'r cwestiynau a godwyd yn yr adroddiad hwnnw oedd pa wersi yr ydych wedi eu dysgu oddi wrth adroddiad yr archwilydd cyffredinol y llynedd. Nid wyf yn ymwybodol eich bod wedi ymateb i'r cwestiwn hwnnw hyd yn hyn. A allwch chi ein goleuo'r prynhawn yma ynglŷn â'ch ymateb?

Minister, the Public Accounts Committee published a report last year on the quality standard, and one of the questions that were raised in that report was what lessons have you learnt from the auditor general's report last year. I am not aware that you have responded to that question as yet. Can you enlighten us on your response this afternoon?

14:41 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Not this afternoon, but I will write to the Member immediately with the specific answer that he requires.

Nid y prynhawn yma, ond byddaf yn ysgrifennu at yr Aelod ar unwaith gyda'r ateb penodol sydd ei angen arno.

Cynllun Gwarant Morgais

Mortgage Guarantee Scheme

14:41 **Ieuan Wyn Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

7. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gynnydd y cynllun gwarant morgais newydd. OAQ(4)0226(HRH)

7. Will the Minister make a statement on the progress of the new mortgage guarantee scheme. OAQ(4)0226(HRH)

14:41 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I met with a number of key lenders and builders on 4 February at the NewBuy Cymru event, which we held in the Millennium Stadium. They expressed—unanimously, as far as I could see—a real interest in becoming part of the scheme and, as a result, in the next two weeks I will announce a launch date for NewBuy Cymru.

Cyfarfûm â nifer o fenthycwyr ac adeiladwyr allweddol ar 4 Chwefror yn nigwyddiad NewBuy Cymru, a gynhaliwyd yn Stadiwm y Mileniwm. Mynegwyd—yn unfrydol, cyn belled ag y gallwn i ei weld—gwir ddiddordeb mewn bod yn rhan o'r cynllun ac, o ganlyniad, yn ystod y pythefnos nesaf byddaf yn cyhoeddi dyddiad lansio ar gyfer NewBuy Cymru.

14:42 **Ieuan Wyn Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Diolch am y diweddariad hwnnw, Weinidog. Byddwch yn ymwybodol fod pobl ifanc yn fy etholaeth wedi bod yn bryderus am eu methiant i brynu tŷ oherwydd nad oedd ganddynt ddigon o flaendal i'w roi i lawr. A wnewch chi roi ychydig yn fwy o fanylion am y cynllun posibl i ni? Yn gyntaf, a fydd y cynllun ond yn bodoli ar gyfer tai newydd neu a fydd ef ar gyfer tai sydd wedi cael eu hadeiladu yn barod, neu a fydd yn cael ei gyfyngu i rai adeiladwyr yn unig? Yn ail, a fydd yn cael ei gyfyngu i rai benthycwyr morgais yn unig, boed yn gymdeithasau adeiladu neu yn fanciau? Os yw hynny'n wir, pryd fyddwch mewn sefyllfa i ryddhau rhestr o'r cyrff sydd yn rhan o'r cynllun?

Thank you for that update, Minister. You will be aware that there are young people in my constituency who have been concerned about their failure to purchase a house because they did not have enough of a deposit to put down. Will you give us a little more detail about the proposed scheme? First, will it only exist for new-build homes or for homes that have already been built, or will it be limited to only certain builders? Secondly, will it be limited to only some mortgage lenders, be they building societies or banks? If that is the case, when will you be in a situation to release a list of the organisations that are part of the scheme?

14:42

Huw Lewis Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The list will come soon. As I said, in the next two weeks, we will be in a position to answer many of the points that the Member raised in terms of who the partners are. On the nature of the scheme, we are looking at new-build homes in this regard, because of the multiplier effect, apart from anything else, upon housebuilding and the construction jobs that that kind of investment draws along with it. It will reduce the substantial upfront deposit required at the moment of anything up to 25% on the part of a homebuyer down to just 5%. Effectively, the Welsh Government will act as a guarantor for a 95% mortgage. We would expect it to help 3,000 households across Wales, and I can reassure the Member that builders and lenders of all sizes and builders and lenders based on this side of the Welsh border, as well as larger concerns from across the rest of the UK, are engaged. I am optimistic that we will see Welsh builders and lenders as part of this scheme, making it distinct from the operation that is now running across the border in England.

Daw'r rhestr yn fuan. Fel y dywedais, yn ystod y pythefnos nesaf, byddwn mewn sefyllfa i ateb llawer o'r pwyntiau a gododd yr Aelod o ran pwy yw'r partneriaid. O ran natur y cynllun, rydym yn edrych ar gartrefi sy'n cael eu hadeiladu o'r newydd yn hyn o beth, oherwydd yr effaith lluosydd, ar wahân i unrhyw beth arall, ar adeiladu tai a'r swyddi adeiladu y mae'r math hwnnw o fuddsoddiad yn ei dynnu gydag ef. Bydd yn lleihau'r blaendal ymlaen llaw sylweddol sydd ei angen ar hyn o bryd o unrhyw beth hyd at 25% ar ran pobl sy'n prynu tai i ddim ond 5%. I bob pwrpas, bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithredu fel gwarantwr ar gyfer morgais o 95%. Byddem yn disgwyl iddo helpu 3,000 o gartrefi ar draws Cymru, a gallaf sicrhau'r Aelod fod adeiladwyr a benthycwyr o bob maint ac adeiladwyr a benthycwyr ar yr ochr hon o'r ffin yng Nghymru, yn ogystal â busnesau mwy o weddill y DU, yn cymryd rhan. Rwy'n hyderus y gwelwn adeiladwyr a benthycwyr o Gymru fel rhan o'r cynllun hwn, gan ei wneud yn wahanol i'r gweithrediad sydd ar waith bellach ar draws y ffin yn Lloegr.

14:44

Mark Isherwood Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Housebuilders also tell me that they fully support the scheme. Their only concern is over the timing of its launch. They are conscious that, across the border, it has been running since last spring and that your original target date was to launch this in March. They are concerned not to miss the spring housebuying boom period. They feel that if it is not to be launched until the summer, they will miss much of that key market. Can you provide any assurance that the launch date will not be later than the summer and that you are sensitive to the construction sector in Wales's need for this not to miss the spring market?

Mae adeiladwyr tai hefyd yn dweud wrthyf eu bod yn llwyr gefnogi'r cynllun. Eu hunig bryder yw amseriad ei lansio. Maent yn ymwybodol ei fod wedi bod ar waith, ar draws y ffin, ers y gwanwyn diwethaf ac mai eich dyddiad targed gwreiddiol oedd lansio hyn ym mis Mawrth. Nid ydynt am golli'r cyfnod prysur o ran prynu tai yn y gwanwyn. Teimlant, os na chaiff ei lansio tan yr haf, y byddant yn colli llawer o'r farchnad allweddol honno. A allwch roi unrhyw sicrwydd na fydd y dyddiad lansio yn hwyrach na'r haf a'ch bod yn sensitif i'r ffaith bod angen i'r sector adeiladu sicrhau nad yw hyn yn colli marchnad y gwanwyn?

14:44

Huw Lewis Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

This is not a concern after I have spoken to a number of builders and heard very positive feedback about the way in which we are handling things in Wales, as compared with the way that things are being handled over the border in England. Of course, the NewBuy scheme in England may have been launched some time ago, but it did not really begin to deliver until quite recently. I have not heard the same kinds of problems being voiced by builders myself. However, I am always sensitive and willing to listen to the concerns of builders. We want this to get up and running and off the ground as soon as is humanly possible. As I say, it was worth the extra time taken—minimal though it was—to ensure that Welsh builders and lenders were as much a part of this as they could be. That makes us very different. We could just have become part of an England-and-Wales scheme, and perhaps Mark Isherwood's prayers would have been answered in their entirety. I think that we will end up with something better. I think that we will end up with something that is distinctively Welsh and responds better to Welsh communities, particularly smaller communities, where developments, by necessity, will not be on the same kind of scale that builders would expect over the border in England.

Nid yw hyn yn peri pryder ar ôl imi siarad â nifer o adeiladwyr a chlywed adborth cadarnhaol iawn am y ffordd yr ydym yn ymdrin â phethau yng Nghymru, o gymharu â'r ffordd yr ymdrinnir â phethau dros y ffin yn Lloegr. Wrth gwrs, efallai fod y cynllun NewBuy yn Lloegr wedi cael ei lansio beth amser yn ôl, ond ni ddechreuodd gyflawni tan yn weddol ddiweddar. Nid wyf wedi clywed y math o broblemau sy'n cael eu lleisio gan adeiladwyr fy hun. Fodd bynnag, rwyf bob amser yn sensitif ac yn barod i wrando ar bryderon adeiladwyr. Rydym am i hyn gael ei roi ar waith cyn gynted ag sy'n ddynol bosibl. Fel y dywedais, roedd yn werth yr amser ychwanegol a gymerodd—er mor fach ydoedd—i sicrhau bod adeiladwyr a benthycwyr yng Nghymru yn gymaint rhan o hyn ag y gallent fod. Mae hynny'n ein gwneud ni yn wahanol iawn. Gallem fod wedi dod yn rhan o gynllun ar gyfer Lloegr a Chymru, ac efallai y byddai gweddïau Mark Isherwood wedi cael eu hateb yn llwyr. Credaf y bydd gennym rywbeth gwell yn y pen draw. Credaf y bydd gennym rywbeth yn y pen draw sy'n nodweddiadol Gymreig ac sy'n ymateb yn well i gymunedau Cymreig, yn enwedig cymunedau llai, lle na fydd datblygiadau, o reidrwydd, ar yr un raddfa â'r un y byddai adeiladwyr yn ei disgwyl dros y ffin yn Lloegr.

14:46

Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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I call on the Welsh Liberal Democrat spokesperson, Peter Black.

Galwaf ar lefarydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, Peter Black.

14:46

Peter Black Bywgraffiad Biography

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Minister, I note and very much welcome the fact that you have said that a launch date will be announced within two weeks. However, I note that you did not say that the launch date will be within two weeks. In a letter that I received from the First Minister three weeks ago, he said that the launch of the scheme would now not take place until the summer. Could you reassure me that you will be able to confound Carwyn Jones's expectations and launch it before that time?

Weinidog, nodaf a chroesawaf yn fawr y ffaith ichi ddweud y caiff dyddiad lansio ei gyhoeddi ymhen pythefnos. Fodd bynnag, nodaf nad oeddech yn dweud y bydd y dyddiad lansio o fewn pythefnos. Mewn llythyr a gefais gan y Prif Weinidog dair wythnos yn ôl, dywedodd na fyddai'r cynllun yn cael ei lansio yn awr tan yr haf. A allwch fy sicrhau y byddwch yn gallu gwrth-ddweud disgwyliadau Carwyn Jones a'i lansio cyn hynny?

14:46

Huw Lewis Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv
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I am sure that I have always exceeded Carwyn Jones's expectations in all things. As I say, we will announce a launch date within two weeks. I hope that Members will understand—and I know that they do understand—that the most important thing here is to ensure a robust partnership of Government, lenders and builders in a relationship of trust that goes forward together. Once this scheme is up and running, it will make rapid progress. However, I will not launch the scheme prematurely and run the risk of jettisoning a good potential partner as a builder or lender, and thereby sell the people of Wales short. We are going to do it right.

Rwy'n siŵr fy mod wedi rhagori bob amser ar ddisgwyliadau Carwyn Jones ym mhob peth. Fel y dywedaf, byddwn yn cyhoeddi dyddiad lansio o fewn pythefnos. Gobeithiaf y bydd yr Aelodau yn deall—a gwn eu bod yn deall—mai'r peth pwysicaf yma yw sicrhau partneriaeth gadarn rhwng y Llywodraeth, benthycwyr ac adeiladwyr mewn cyd-berthynas o ymddiriedaeth sy'n datblygu. Pan fydd y cynllun hwn ar waith, bydd yn gwneud cynnydd cyflym. Fodd bynnag, ni wnaf lansio'r cynllun cyn pryd a wynebu'r risg o gael gwared ar ddarpar bartner neu adeiladwr neu fenthyciwr da, a thrwy hynny wneud cam â phobl Cymru. Rydym yn mynd i wneud hyn yn iawn.

14:47

Peter Black Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you for that answer, Minister. I am sure that you will forgive my impatience, especially as you are not really reinventing the wheel, given that there are a number of schemes already in place elsewhere, including in local authorities in Wales. As you will not give us a date for when this scheme is to be launched, I will turn to the details of the scheme. Can you give us an indication of how people will be able to apply for this assistance? Will they need to go to their local council or directly to the Welsh Government? What mechanisms do you envisage being put in place to enable applications to be considered?

Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Rwy'n siŵr y gwnewch chi faddau fy niffyg amynedd, yn enwedig gan nad ydych yn dechrau o'r dechrau mewn gwirionedd, o gofio bod yna nifer o gynlluniau sydd eisoes ar waith mewn mannau eraill, gan gynnwys mewn awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru. Gan nad ydych yn rhoi dyddiad inni ar gyfer lansio'r cynllun hwn, trof at fanylion y cynllun. A allwch chi roi awgrym inni o sut y bydd pobl yn gallu gwneud cais am y cymorth hwn? A fydd angen iddynt fynd i'w cyngor lleol neu'n uniongyrchol i Lywodraeth Cymru? Pa fecanweithiau a ragwelwch a gaiff eu rhoi ar waith fel y gellir ystyried ceisiadau?

14:48

Huw Lewis Bywgraffiad Biography

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Those details are part of the partnership agreement that has to be hammered out here. Peter says that we do not need to reinvent the wheel, but whenever you construct a new partnership, you do have to reinvent the wheel. There are new people around the table who have to be brought together in that relationship of trust. It is very important that the lenders and builders, for instance, understand the seriousness of the Welsh Government, in terms of making a difference in this regard. Our standing as a guarantor for this scheme is not just about making that statement, but about convincing everyone of the seriousness of the public policy that lies behind it. In terms of the portals that people will be able to access, we want to keep those as simple as possible, obviously. A single portal would be best. However, that will form part of the announcements that will come very soon.

Mae'r manylion hynny yn rhan o'r cytundeb partneriaeth y mae'n rhaid ei drafod yma. Dywed Peter nad oes angen dechrau o'r dechrau, ond pan fyddwch yn llunio partneriaeth newydd, mae'n rhaid ichi ddechrau o'r dechrau. Mae pobl newydd o amgylch y bwrdd y mae'n rhaid eu dwyn ynghyd yn y gyd-berthynas honno o ymddiriedaeth. Mae'n bwysig iawn bod y benthycwyr a'r adeiladwyr, er enghraifft, yn deall difrifoldeb Llywodraeth Cymru, o ran gwneud gwahaniaeth yn hyn o beth. Mae ein statws fel gwarantwr ar gyfer y cynllun hwn yn golygu mwy na gwneud y datganiad hwnnw yn unig. Mae a wnelo ag argyhoeddi pawb o ddifrifoldeb y polisi cyhoeddus sy'n sail iddo. O ran y pyrth y bydd pobl yn gallu cael mynediad iddynt, rydym am gadw'r rheini mor syml ag y bo modd, yn amlwg. Un porth fyddai orau. Fodd bynnag, bydd hynny'n rhan o'r cyhoeddiadau a wneir yn fuan iawn.

Treftadaeth Cymunedau

Community Heritage

14:49 **Christine Chapman** Bywgraffiad Biography

8. Beth yw dull gweithredu Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer annog cymunedau i ddatblygu dealltwriaeth well o'u treftadaeth eu hunain. OAQ(4)0212(HRH)

8. What is the Welsh Government's approach to encouraging communities to develop a greater understanding of their own heritage. OAQ(4)0212(HRH)

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14:49 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you, Christine. Of course, we are strongly supportive of initiatives aimed at deepening the understanding that communities have of their heritage. Public libraries and local archives continue to provide essential services that support this work. The People's Collection has highlighted the role of digital media—something that I want to see strengthened over the coming period.

Diolch ichi, Christine. Wrth gwrs, rydym yn gadarn o blaid mentrau sy'n anelu at ddyfnhau'r ddealltwriaeth sydd gan gymunedau o'u treftadaeth. Mae llyfrgelloedd cyhoeddus ac archifau lleol yn parhau i ddarparu gwasanaethau hanfodol sy'n ategu'r gwaith hwn. Mae Casgliad y Bobl wedi tynnu sylw at rôl y cyfryngau digidol—rhywbeth yr wyf am ei weld yn cryfhau dros y cyfnod i ddod.

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14:49 **Christine Chapman** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you, Minister. Primary school pupils in Aberdare recently researched and produced a piece of artwork based on the town's nineteenth century reputation as the Athens of Wales, for its role in the printing trade. Projects such as this and such as Heritage Cottage, which I know you have visited, teach our communities to cherish their past, which is something that you mentioned before recess. We can also use the distinctiveness of our past as a hook to draw in tourists. What discussions are you having with the First Minister about using our heritage to create a much more dynamic and defined image of Wales abroad, which would be of economic interest, particularly in the light of the First Minister's recent visit to San Francisco?

Diolch, Weinidog. Yn ddiweddar gwnaeth disgyblion ysgol gynradd yn Aberdâr ymchwilio i ddarn o gelf yn seiliedig ar enw da y dref yn y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg fel Athen Cymru, am ei rôl yn y fasnach argraffu a gwnaethant gynhyrchu'r darn o gelf hwnnw hefyd. Mae prosiectau fel hyn a rhai fel y Bwthyn Treftadaeth, y gwn ichi ymweld ag ef, yn addysgu ein cymunedau i goleddu eu gorffennol, sy'n rhywbeth a grybwyllwyd gennych cyn y toriad. Gallwn hefyd ddefnyddio nodweddion unigryw ein gorffennol fel bachyn i ddenu twristiaid. Pa drafodaethau a gewch gyda'r Prif Weinidog ynglyn â defnyddio ein treftadaeth i greu delwedd fwy deinamig a diffiniedig o lawer o Gymru dramor, a fyddai o fudd economaidd, yn enwedig yng ngoleuni ymweliad y Prif Weinidog yn ddiweddar â San Francisco?

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14:50 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

I welcome the Member's comments. Specifically on the issue of Heritage Cottage, that provides us with a great opportunity to present a typical Valleys working-person's house in context, and to show how houses such as this can have a sustainable future as well as a very proud past. It is extraordinarily important that young people in the Cynon Valley and Aberdare area will be able to experience their own very direct heritage and inheritance from the past, and learn that it was their ancestors, and no-one else's, that lived in such a home. I think that it will be an asset that we need to cherish. This is also part and parcel of how we interpret Wales to visitors. Those conversations around making sure that the link between heritage and tourism are real and are exploited to the full are ongoing, and there will be further announcements this spring and summer in that regard.

Croesawaf sylwadau'r Aelod. Yn benodol ar fater y Bwthyn Treftadaeth, sy'n rhoi cyfle gwych inni roi cartref gweithiwr nodweddiadol o'r Cymoedd yn ei gyd-ddestun, a dangos sut y gall y cyfryw dai gael dyfodol cynaliadwy yn osgystal â gorffennol balch iawn. Mae'n eithriadol o bwysig y bydd pobl ifanc yn ardal Cwm Cynon ac Aberdâr yn gallu profi eu treftadaeth a'u hetifeddiaeth uniongyrchol iawn o'r gorffennol, a dysgu mai eu hynafiaid hwy ac nid rhai neb arall a oedd yn byw mewn cartref o'r fath. Credaf y bydd yn ased y bydd angen inni ei goleddu. Mae hyn hefyd yn rhan annatod o'r modd yr ydym yn dehongli Cymru i ymwelwyr. Mae'r trafodaethau hynny ynghylch sicrhau bod y cyswllt rhwng treftadaeth a thwristiaeth yn real ac y manteisir i'r eithaf arno yn mynd rhagddynt, a gwneir cyhoeddiadau pellach y gwanwyn a'r haf hwn yn hynny o beth.

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14:51 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

I call on the opposition spokesperson, Suzy Davies.

Galwaf ar lefarydd yr wrthblaid, Suzy Davies.

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14:51 **Suzy Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

We welcome the contribution of your Changing Cultures initiative and the change that that will make to encouraging children and young people to develop a greater understanding of their heritage. Much as I am pleased to see so many events in north Wales, will you be rolling out a fuller programme of events that will help young people in my region to benefit?

Croesawn gyfraniad eich menter Newid Pethe a'r newid y bydd hynny'n ei wneud i annog plant a phobl ifanc i ddatblygu gwell dealltwriaeth o'u treftadaeth. Er mor falch yr wyf o weld cymaint o ddigwyddiadau yn y gogledd, a fyddwch yn cyflwyno rhaglen lawnach o ddigwyddiadau a fydd o fudd i bobl ifanc yn fy rhanbarth i?

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14:51 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

I will write to the Member, because I do not have the geographical spread of each individual event listed before me at the moment. I had thought that there was a good geographical spread across Wales as a whole. If the Member feels that there is a gap, I would be concerned about it. Perhaps I could write to the Member, reassuring her that we will address that if we are able.

Byddaf yn ysgrifennu at yr Aelod, gan nad yw dosbarthiad daearyddol pob digwyddiad unigol a restrir o'm blaen i ar hyn o bryd. Roeddwn wedi meddwl bod dosbarthiad daearyddol da ledled Cymru ar y cyfan. Os yw'r Aelod yn teimlo bod bwlch, byddwn yn bryderus am y peth. Efallai y gallwn ysgrifennu at yr Aelod, a'i sicrhau y byddwn yn mynd i'r afael â hynny os gallwn.

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14:52 **Suzy Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you for that answer. I would be grateful if you would write to me, Minister. Thank you.

Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe byddech yn ysgrifennu ataf, Weinidog. Diolch.

Obviously, understanding our heritage not only improves our sense of place, but can help young people see the economic potential of our unique heritage offer. Its cultural value is priceless, of course, but Wales needs to work harder on maximising its economic value. How are you working with the Ministers for education and enterprise, as well as the First Minister, to encourage young people in education to look at our heritage with an entrepreneurial eye?

Yn amlwg, mae deall ein treftadaeth nid yn unig yn gwella ein hymdeimlad o le, ond gall helpu pobl ifanc i weld potensial economaidd ein cynnig treftadaeth unigryw. Mae ei werth diwylliannol yn amhrisiadwy, wrth gwrs, ond rhaid i Gymru weithio'n galetach ar wneud y gorau o'i gwerth economaidd. Sut ydych yn gweithio gyda'r Gweinidogion dros addysg a menter, yn ogystal â'r Prif Weinidog, i annog pobl ifanc mewn addysg i edrych ar ein treftadaeth o safbwynt entrepreneuraidd?

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14:52 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Very closely. The Member raises a very important point. As we move towards a more concrete idea of where exactly our new regeneration policy will become active across Wales, I think that it will be important, wherever we engage in regeneration activity, but perhaps most particularly in one or two pilot areas, if you like, to take the economic potential of heritage tourism as the driver for that regeneration work, and to educate ourselves as to the full potential, which I am sure is enormous and largely untapped in many parts of Wales, to ensure that we really get the best possible deal out of heritage. It sounds crass, but I think that it is legitimate to say that communities in Wales, particularly those with iconic heritage assets, should do well by the heritage into which they were born and grew up with. I do not think that there is anything wrong with that. We need to make sure that the interpretation, the skills and the opportunities are there.

Yn agos iawn. Cyfyd yr Aelod bwynt pwysig iawn. Wrth inni symud tuag at syniad mwy pendant o ble yn union y daw ein polisi adfywio newydd yn weithredol ar draws Cymru, credaf y bydd yn bwysig, lle bynnag y byddwn yn cymryd rhan mewn gweithgarwch adfywio, ond efallai yn fwyaf arbennig mewn un neu ddwy o ardaloedd peilot, os mynnwch, ein bod yn cymryd potensial economaidd twristiaeth treftadaeth fel y ffactor a fydd yn ysgogi'r gwaith adfywio hwnnw, ac addysgu ein hunain am y potensial llawn, sydd, mae'n siŵr gennyf, yn enfawr a heb ei ddefnyddio i raddau helaeth mewn sawl rhan o Gymru, er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn cael y fargen orau bosibl o dreftadaeth. Mae'n swnio'n eithafol, ond credaf ei bod yn iawn dweud y dylai cymunedau yng Nghymru, yn arbennig y rhai ag asedau treftadaeth eiconig, elwa ar y dreftadaeth y cawsant eu geni a'u magu ynddi. Ni chredaf fod unrhyw beth o'i le ar hynny. Mae angen inni wneud yn siŵr bod y dehongliad, y sgiliau a'r cyfleoedd ar gael.

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14:54 **Lindsay Whittle** Bywgraffiad Biography

One way of increasing understanding of our local history and heritage is via our schools, with a much greater focus on Welsh history and local history in the curriculum. I am pleased that the Government's historic environment strategy recognises that engaging young people is important. Can you outline any discussions that you have had with the Minister for education and the children's commissioner regarding this?

Un ffordd o gynyddu dealltwriaeth o'n hanes lleol a'n treftadaeth yw drwy ein hysgolion, gyda llawer mwy o ffocws ar hanes Cymru a hanes lleol yn y cwricwlwm. Rwy'n falch bod strategaeth amgylcheddol hanesyddol y Llywodraeth yn cydnabod bod ymgysylltu â phobl ifanc yn bwysig. A allwch amlinellu unrhyw drafodaethau a gawsoch gyda'r Gweinidog addysg a'r comisiynydd plant ynglŷn â hyn?

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14:54 **Huw Lewis** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

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Discussions along these lines have taken place. They have been quite wide-ranging, and there will be several projects arising from such discussions, and I will be making announcements very soon. The central thrust behind all of these conversations is greater and closer co-working between various arms of government and ensuring that, for instance, a piece of built heritage in a particular community is there not just for visitors, but for local people, too, particularly the young. It should be understood, valued and used as part not only of the school curriculum, but of the year-round activity of the community in that place. I do not think that there is any community in Wales that does not have an aspect of its built heritage that could not be successfully used and interpreted in that way.

Eisoes cynhaliwyd trafodaethau ar fater tebyg. Maent wedi bod yn eithaf eang eu cwmpas a bydd nifer o brosiectau'n deillio o drafodaethau o'r fath, a gwnaf gyhoeddiadau yn fuan iawn. Y pwyslais canolog y tu ôl i bob un o'r sgyrsiau hyn yw mwy o gydweithio a chydweithio agosach rhwng canghennau amrywiol o lywodraeth a sicrhau, er enghraifft, fod darn o dreftadaeth adeiledig mewn cymuned benodol yno nid yn unig i ymwelwyr, ond i'r bobl leol hefyd, yn enwedig y rhai ifanc. Dylid ei deall, ei gwerthfawrogi a'i defnyddio nid yn unig fel rhan o gwricwlwm yr ysgol, ond o weithgaredd y gymuned drwy gydol y flwyddyn yn y lle hwnnw. Ni chredaf fod unrhyw gymuned yn bodoli yng Nghymru nad oes ganddi agwedd ar ei threftadaeth adeiledig na ellid ei defnyddio a'i dehongli yn llwyddiannus yn y ffordd honno.

14:55 **Lindsay Whittle** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

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Minister, thank you for your response. I would be interested in a follow-up on that. There are, of course, some very simple and effective ways of engaging communities in general with their local heritage, one of which would be the expansion of the use of the blue plaque scheme to mark historic buildings and events that have occurred, such as the Llanelli riots, which we heard about today. In fact, I am very keen to keep the traditional names of communities and buildings. When I was a young man, I used to watch the rugby at Cardiff Arms Park and come down to Tiger bay to celebrate the victory. [Assembly Members: 'Oh.'] It was a long time ago. That seems to have changed now. By the way, I am available and can get to Italy. [Laughter.]

Weinidog, diolch ichi am eich ateb. Byddai gennyf ddiddordeb mewn gwaith dilynol ar hynny. Wrth gwrs, mae rhai ffyrdd syml ac effeithiol iawn o ymgysylltu cymunedau yn gyffredinol â'u treftadaeth leol, ac un ohonynt fyddai ehangu'r defnydd o'r cynllun plac glas i nodi adeiladau hanesyddol a digwyddiadau sydd wedi digwydd, fel terfysgoedd Llanelli, y clywsom amdanynt heddiw. Yn wir, rwy'n awyddus iawn i gadw enwau traddodiadol cymunedau ac adeiladau. Pan oeddwn yn ddyn ifanc, arferwn wylio'r rygbi ym Mharc yr Arfau Caerdydd a dod i lawr i Tiger Bay i ddathlu'r fuddugoliaeth. [Aelodau'r Cynulliad: 'O'.] Roedd yn amser maith yn ôl. Mae hynny wedi newid nawr yn ôl pob tebyg. Gyda llaw, rwyf ar gael ac yn gallu mynd i'r Eidal. [Chwerthin.]

Minister, will you look into ways in which your department can work with local authorities to increase support for that approach. It is a simple step, but it is something that makes people more aware on a daily basis of the heritage that is all around them. When I drive here, I do not drive down Lloyd George Avenue, but I drive through Tiger bay.

Weinidog, a wnewch chi edrych ar ffyrdd y gall eich adran weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i gynyddu cefnogaeth i'r dull hwnnw. Mae'n gam syml, ond mae'n rhywbeth sy'n gwneud pobl yn fwy ymwybodol o ddydd i ddydd o'r dreftadaeth sydd o'u cwmpas. Pan fyddaf yn gyrru yma, nid wyf yn gyrru i lawr Rhodfa Lloyd George, ond yn hytrach drwy Tiger Bay.

14:56 **Huw Lewis** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

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I am not sure whether the Member is telling us that it is Tiger bay and the Arms Park that have changed over time or whether it is he who has changed markedly over that period, but I think that I get the point. I, too, am a supporter, and I will commit this heresy here and now and say that we should have stuck with the name of Tiger bay for where we are and where the Assembly is, as I think that it has resonance across the world. Unfortunately, however, it was jettisoned when the name change occurred.

Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw'r Aelod yn dweud wrthym mai Tiger Bay a Pharc yr Arfau sydd wedi newid dros amser neu ai efe sydd wedi newid llawer dros y cyfnod hwnnw, ond credaf fy mod yn deall y pwynt. Yr wyf i, hefyd, yn gefnogwr, a chyflawnaf yr heresi hon yn y fan hon yn awr a dweud y dylem fod wedi cadw enw Tiger Bay ar gyfer ble rydym ni a ble mae'r Cynulliad, gan fod arwyddocâd i'r enw ledled y byd. Yn anffodus, fodd bynnag, cafwyd gwared ag ef pan newidiodd yr enw.

There are simple and effective ways in which local authorities can continue to invest at low cost in local heritage, in the understanding of it and in what the community payback in so many ways can be. I can only say that I will remain supportive of ideas as they come forward and as resources allow.

Mae yna ffyrdd syml ac effeithiol y gall awdurdodau lleol barhau i fuddsoddi am gost isel mewn treftadaeth leol, yn y ddealltwriaeth ohoni ac yn yr hyn y gall y cynllun gwneud iawn â'r gymuned ei wneud mewn cymaint o ffyrdd. Ni allaf ond dweud y byddaf yn parhau'n gefnogol i syniadau wrth iddynt gael eu cyflwyno ac yn ôl yr adnoddau sydd ar gael.

Adfywio wedi'i Arwain gan Treftadaeth

Heritage-led Regeneration

14:57

Kenneth Skates Bywgraffiad Biography

9. A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei gynlluniau ar gyfer adfywio wedi'i arwain gan dreftadaeth yn 2013. OAQ(4)0217(HRH)

9. Will the Minister outline his plans for heritage-led regeneration in 2013. OAQ(4)0217(HRH)

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14:57

Huw Lewis Bywgraffiad Biography

My thanks to the Member for Clwyd South. The Welsh Government recognises the importance of heritage in regeneration in delivering tangible social, economic and environmental benefits for communities. Regeneration activity helps to sustain and make the best use of heritage assets, and the role of heritage will be fully reflected in my new regeneration framework, 'Vibrant and Viable Places'.

Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Aelod dros Dde Clwyd. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd treftadaeth o ran adfywio wrth ddarparu manteision cymdeithasol, economaidd ac amgylcheddol pendant i gymunedau. Mae gweithgarwch adfywio yn helpu i gynnal a gwneud y defnydd gorau o asedau treftadaeth, a chaiff rôl treftadaeth ei hadlewyrchu'n llawn yn fy fframwaith adfywio newydd, 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid'.

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14:58

Kenneth Skates Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you, Minister. Last year, the Brymbo Heritage Group commissioned a feasibility study into the viability of developing a heritage area at the old steel and iron works site in the village—it is a site that you kindly visited with me. The subsequent report highlighted that the fossilised forest, the former ironworks building and the surrounding area could be developed as a viable attraction. Minister, will you consider the detailed report and work with the community to explore every possibility for the future of this important and valuable site?

Diolch, Weinidog. Y llynedd, comisiynodd Grŵp Treftadaeth Brymbo astudiaeth ddichonoldeb ar y posibilrwydd o ddatblygu ardal dreftadaeth ar yr hen safle gwaith dur a haearn yn y pentref—mae'n safle y buoch mor garedig ag ymweld ag ef gyda mi. Tynnodd yr adroddiad dilynol sylw at y ffaith y gallai'r goedwig ffosiledig, yr hen adeilad gwaith haearn a'r ardal o amgylch gael eu defnyddio fel atyniad hyfyw. Weinidog, a wnewch hi ystyried yr adroddiad manwl a gweithio gyda'r gymuned i ystyried pob posibilrwydd ar gyfer dyfodol y safle pwysig a gwerthfawr hwn?

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14:50

Huw Lewis Bywgraffiad Biography

Of course I will, and I thank Ken Skates once again for hosting my visit. It is yet another corner of Wales that, when a considered visit is paid, really is an eye-opener in terms of the potential of the heritage lying all around that needs care, attention and investment, if we can possibly get that kind of investment together. I can tell the Member that Cadw has recently received a copy of the report and is considering all of its findings. One of the report's recommendations is that an updated condition survey of the scheduled buildings in Brymbo be undertaken. That needs to be done urgently, and it will inform further decisions about how we move forward. I am pleased to say that Cadw has already agreed to fund the survey and is working with Wrexham County Borough Council to have that carried out this spring.

Wrth gwrs y gwnaf, a diolchaf i Ken Skates unwaith eto am drefnu fy ymweliad. Mae'n gornel arall o Gymru sydd, pan wneir ymweliad ystyriol, yn agoriad llygad gwirioneddol o ran potensial y dreftadaeth sydd o amgylch y lle y mae angen gofal, sylw a buddsoddiad arno, os gallwn, o bosibl, gael y math hwnnw o fuddsoddiad at ei gilydd. Gallaf ddweud wrth yr Aelod fod Cadw yn ddiweddar wedi cael copi o'r adroddiad a'i fod yn ystyried ei ganfyddiadau. Un o argymhellion yr adroddiad yw y dylid cynnal arolwg cyflwr wedi'i ddiweddaru o'r adeiladau rhestredig ym Mrymbo. Mae angen ei wneud ar frys, a bydd yn llywio penderfyniadau pellach ynghylch sut i symud ymlaen. Rwy'n falch o ddweud bod Cadw eisoes wedi cytuno i ariannu'r arolwg a'i fod yn gweithio gyda Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam i sicrhau y'i cynhelir y gwanwyn hwn.

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14:59

Byron Davies Bywgraffiad Biography

Minister, I am sure that you are well aware of the benefits that centres such as the Gower Heritage Centre can bring to the regeneration of our local communities. This particular establishment, at Parkmill on the Gower, took centre stage on the Gower peninsula following the restoration of the twelfth-century water-powered corn and saw mill. Today, the centre is recognised as a vibrant craft and rural life museum. Will you commit to looking at how we can use this centre as an exemplar, and look to create like-minded heritage-led regeneration projects across Wales?

Weinidog, rwy'n siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol iawn o'r manteision y gall canolfannau fel Canolfan Treftadaeth Gŵyr eu rhoi i'r gwaith o adfywio ein cymunedau lleol. Roedd y sefydliad penodol hwn, yn Parkmill ar Benrhyn Gŵyr, yn atyniad o bwys ar Benrhyn Gŵyr yn dilyn adfer y felin lifio a grawn ŷd wedi'i phweru gan ddŵr o'r ddeuddegfed ganrif. Heddiw, cydnabyddir y ganolfan fel amgueddfa crefftau a bywyd gwledig fywiog. A wnewch chi ymrwymo i edrych ar sut y gallwn ddefnyddio'r ganolfan hon fel enghraifft, a mynd ati i greu prosiectau adfywio tebyg wedi'u harwain gan dreftadaeth ledled Cymru?

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15:00 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Yes, I will, of course. It is not a centre I have visited, recently at least, and certainly not with a ministerial hat on. I will undertake the Member's request to pay a visit to the centre and talk through the options with the relevant partners when I get there.

Gwnaf, wrth gwrs. Nid yw'n ganolfan yr wyf wedi ymweld â hi, yn ddiweddar o leiaf, ac yn sicr nid yn rhinwedd fy swydd fel Gweinidog. Ar gais yr Aelod af ar ymweliad â'r ganolfan a thrafod yr opsiynau â'r partneriaid perthnasol pan gyrhaeddaf yno.

Ymchwiliad y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol i Ofal Preswyl i Bobl Hŷn yng Nghymru

The Health and Social Care Committee's Inquiry into Residential Care for Older People in Wales

Cynnig NDM5165 Mark Drakeford

Motion NDM5165 Mark Drakeford

Mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

The National Assembly for Wales:

Yn nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol ar ei ymchwiliad i ofal preswyl i bobl hŷn yng Nghymru, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 13 Rhagfyr 2012.

Notes the report of the Health and Social Care Committee on its inquiry into residential care for older people in Wales, which was laid in the Table Office on 13 December 2012.

15:00 **Mark Drakeford** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Cynigiaf y cynnig.

I move the motion.

Yr ymchwiliad hwn yw'r darn mwyaf helaeth o waith y mae'r pwyllgor wedi ymgymryd ag ef hyd yma yn ystod y pedwerydd Cynulliad. Wrth wneud hynny, ein man cychwyn oedd ceisio gweld y system o safbwynt y defnyddiwr. Gwnaethom ganolbwyntio ar y penderfyniad hanfodol cyntaf i fynd i ofal preswyl, gan edrych ar y dewisiadau sydd ar gael i bobl hŷn, a'r cyngor y gallant hwy a'u teuluoedd ei gael. Wedyn, bu inni ystyried gallu'r sector i gwrdd â'r gofyn; ansawdd gwasanaethau gofal preswyl a phrofiadau defnyddwyr gwasanaethau a'u teuluoedd wrth ddefnyddio'r gwasanaethau hyn.

This inquiry has been the most extensive piece of work undertaken by the committee to date during the fourth Assembly. In doing so, our starting point was to try to see the system from the point of view of the user. We focused on the first crucial decision to enter residential care, looking at the choices available to older people, and the advice that they and their families can draw upon. Thereafter, we considered the capacity of the sector to meet demand; the quality of residential care services and the experiences of service users and their families in using these services.

Caiff ansawdd gofal preswyl ei benderfynu, yn fwy nag unrhyw beth arall, gan y rheini sy'n darparu'r gwasanaethau hanfodol hyn. Canolbwyntiodd ein hymchwiliad ar sut beth ydyw i weithio yn y sector ac effeithiolrwydd y trefniadau rheoleiddio ac archwilio o ran datblygu gweithlu uchel ei barch sydd â chymwysterau da, a rhoi arwyddion clir am ansawdd i ddefnyddwyr a darparwyr. Fodd bynnag, nid oedd y pwyllgor yn dymuno edrych ar y sefyllfa bresennol yn unig. Roeddem am edrych ymlaen, i weld beth yw'r ffordd orau o lunio gwasanaethau gofal preswyl ar gyfer y dyfodol, gan edrych ar fodelau gofal newydd sy'n dod i'r amlwg, gan gynnwys cydbwysedd darpariaeth y sector cyhoeddus a'r sector annibynnol.

The quality of residential care is determined, more than anything else, by those who provide these essential services. Our inquiry focused on what it is like to work in the sector and the effectiveness of the regulation and inspection arrangements in developing a well-regarded and well-qualified workforce, and sending out clear signals about quality to users and providers. However, the committee did not wish to look at the present situation alone. We wanted to look ahead, to see how residential care services can be best shaped for the future, looking at new emerging models of care, including the balance of public and independent sector provision.

Cyn troi at fanylion yr adroddiad, hoffwn gymryd y cyfle hwn i ddiolch i fy nghyd-aelodau ar y pwyllgor am eu hymrwymiad i'r ymchwiliad hwn, ac i bawb a gyfrannodd dystiolaeth ysgrifenedig a llafar i'n harwain ar ein taith. Hoffwn ddiolch yn arbennig hefyd i'r Dirprwy Weinidog. Mae'n bleser mawr inni gyd i'w gweld hi yn ôl yn ei sedd yn y Cynulliad y prynhawn yma. Nododd yn fuan yn ystod ein gwaith yr hoffai gadw mewn cysylltiad agos â'r ymchwiliad, a gwyddom o'r dystiolaeth a ddarparodd i ni, ei bod wedi gwneud yn union hynny.

Before turning to the detail of the report, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members for their commitment to this inquiry, and to all of those who contributed both written and oral evidence to guide us on our journey. Let me also say a particular word of thanks to the Deputy Minister. It is a great pleasure for us all to see her back in her seat in the Assembly this afternoon. She indicated early in our work that she would like to keep in close touch with the inquiry and we know, from the evidence she provided to us, that she did just that.

Roedd casglu barn a phrofiadau'r teuluoedd hynny sydd â phrofiad uniongyrchol a diweddar o wasanaethau gofal preswyl yn brif flaenoriaeth i ni yn ystod yr ymchwiliad hwn. Bu inni sefydlu grŵp cyfeirio allanol a oedd yn cynnwys pobl a oedd ag aelodau o'r teulu naill ai'n parhau i fod mewn gofal preswyl neu wedi bod mewn gofal preswyl yn ddiweddar. Cysgododd y grŵp hwn waith y pwyllgor ac ystyriodd yr un dystiolaeth yng ngoleuni eu profiadau eu hunain. Bu inni ystyried barn y grŵp drwy gydol ein hymchwiliad, a hoffem gofnodi ein diolch cywiraf i'r aelodau a'r hwyluswyr am y gwaith sylweddol a wnaethant.

Capturing the views and experiences of those families who have direct and recent experience of residential care services was a key priority for us during this inquiry. As such, we established an external reference group made up of people with family members who were either still, or had recently been, in residential care. This group shadowed the work of the committee and considered the same evidence in light of their own experiences. We drew on the views of the group throughout our inquiry, and would like to put on record our sincere thanks to the members and facilitators for the substantial work that they undertook.

Turning to the detail of the Government's response, as a committee, we were very pleased that the Minister has accepted all the recommendations we made, at least in principle. This is an area in which we know that the Government is investing a great deal of time and energy, not least via the recently introduced Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill. A number of our recommendations are closely linked to the Bill. Indeed, part of our reason for choosing to undertake this as our policy inquiry was our awareness that the Bill was in preparation. We now look forward to undertaking Stage 1 scrutiny of the Bill over coming weeks.

Gan droi at fanylion ymateb y Llywodraeth, fel pwyllgor, roeddem yn falch iawn bod y Gweinidog wedi derbyn yr holl argymhellion a wnaed gennym, o leiaf mewn egwyddor. Mae hwn yn faes lle y gwyddom fod y Llywodraeth yn buddsoddi llawer o amser ac egni, yn enwedig drwy'r Bill Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles (Cymru). Mae gan nifer o'n hargymhellion gysylltiad agos â'r Bil. Yn wir, rhan o'n rheswm dros ddewis ymgymryd â hyn fel ein hymchwiliad polisi yw'r ffaith ein bod yn ymwybodol bod y Bil yn cael ei baratoi. Rydym bellach yn edrych ymlaen at gynnal proses graffu Cyfnod 1 ar y Bil dros yr wythnosau nesaf.

During the course of our inquiry, the Deputy Minister announced that issues of regulation and inspection of services were to be moved to a new White Paper. The crucial role of regulation and inspection was a clear theme throughout our inquiry, not least among the members of our reference group. Reference to the White Paper is frequent in the Government's response to our report, and we will certainly, as a committee, want to return to these matters when it is published.

Yn ystod ein hymchwiliad, cyhoeddodd y Dirprwy Weinidog y dylid symud materion rheoleiddio ac arolygu gwasanaethau i Bapur Gwyn newydd. Roedd rôl hanfodol rheoleiddio ac arolygu yn thema glir drwy gydol ein hymchwiliad, yn enwedig ymhlith aelodau ein grŵp cyfeirio. Cyfeirir at y Papur Gwyn yn aml yn ymateb y Llywodraeth i'n hadroddiad, a byddwn, fel pwyllgor, yn sicr am ddychwelyd at y materion hyn pan gaiff ei gyhoeddi.

Against this broad welcome of the Government's response to our report, I would like to concentrate on a small number of recommendations where the Government has indicated acceptance in principle rather than in full, and I am sure that other members of the committee will want to draw attention to other aspects of our report.

O ystyried y croeso cyffredinol hwn i ymateb y Llywodraeth i'n hadroddiad, hoffwn ganolbwyntio ar nifer fach o argymhellion lle mae'r Llywodraeth wedi nodi ei bod yn derbyn argymhellion mewn egwyddor yn hytrach nag yn llawn, ac rwy'n siŵr y bydd aelodau eraill y pwyllgor am dynnu sylw at agweddau eraill ar ein hadroddiad.

We recommended that the Government works with partners to develop initiatives that give residents, their families, and their carers a greater voice and control in residential care—a theme at the heart of the social services Bill. We put forward some practical proposals as to how that might be achieved. We have compulsory school councils in our schools and we have retained community health councils in Wales, so we suggested that a residential care home, once it reaches a certain size, should be under an obligation to have a forum in which residents, family and carers can get together to make their voices heard collectively. In accepting this recommendation in principle, I look forward to hearing what the Minister has to say about ways in which practical action on the ground will provide residents and their families with real confidence that their voice is to be strengthened throughout the system.

Gwnaethom argymell fod y Llywodraeth yn gweithio gyda phartneriaid i ddatblygu mentrau sy'n rhoi mwy o lais a rheolaeth i drigolion, eu teuluoedd, a'u gofalwyr o ran gofal preswyl—thema sydd wrth wraidd y Bil gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Rydym yn cyflwyno rhai cynigion ymarferol o ran sut y gellid cyflawni hynny. Mae gennym gynghorau ysgol gorfodol yn ein hysgolion, ac rydym wedi cadw cynghorau iechyd cymuned yng Nghymru, felly awgrymwn y dylai fod rhwymedigaeth ar gartref gofal preswyl, unwaith y bydd yn cyrraedd maint arbennig, i gael fforwm lle y gall trigolion, teuluoedd a gofalwyr ddod at ei gilydd i fynegi eu barn ar y cyd. Wrth dderbyn yr argymhelliad hwn mewn egwyddor, edrychaf ymlaen at glywed beth sydd gan y Gweinidog i'w ddweud am ffyrdd y bydd camau gweithredu ymarferol ar lawr gwlad yn rhoi hyder gwirioneddol i breswylwyr a'u teuluoedd bod eu llais yn cael ei gryfhau trwy'r holl system.

In a second recommendation, we set out the background of the Southern Cross collapse and other enduring concerns in the sector to call on the Government to improve the financial scrutiny of independent providers and re-visit arrangements for a fit-and-proper-person test for those acquiring care homes. That recommendation was accepted in principle. The recently published Francis report underlines our concerns with a new urgency. It concluded that there is a need for those holding positions of responsibility within the health service to meet fit-and-proper-person criteria. If holders of significant responsibility within direct public services are expected to meet such a test, is it not true that we should expect those whose accountability is far weaker to meet a similar standard?

Mewn ail argymhelliad, gwnaethom nodi cefndir cwymp Southern Cross a phryderon parhaus eraill yn y sector i alw ar y Llywodraeth i wella'r broses o graffu'n ariannol ar ddarparwyr annibynnol a threfniadau i ailystyried trefniadau ar gyfer profi bod y rheini sy'n caffael cartrefi gofal yn addas ac yn briodol. Derbyniwyd yr argymhelliad hwnnw mewn egwyddor. Mae adroddiad Francis a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar yn golygu bod ein pryderon yn fwy dybryd. Daeth i'r casgliad bod angen i'r rheini sydd mewn swyddi cyfrifol yn y gwasanaeth iechyd fodloni meini prawf sy'n profi eu bod yn addas ac yn briodol. Os disgwylir i unigolion sydd â chyfrifoldeb sylweddol mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus uniongyrchol basio prawf o'r fath, oni ddylem ddisgwyl i'r rheini ag atebolrwydd llawer gwannach gyrraedd safon debyg?

Finally, looking ahead, we provided a set of recommendations aimed at securing a greater diversity of provision in the residential care sector in Wales. Our endorsement of innovative services being developed in the not-for-profit sector has been accepted in principle by the Government. Our conclusion, however, was that while the Welsh Government's encouragement of this sector has long been evident, there is now an urgent need to move from being simply an enabler in this field to taking a more active role in shaping and delivering a model that is fit for the future. There are important commitments in the social services Bill that will make a real difference. However, we say that there is more that could, and should, be done.

Yn olaf, wrth edrych ymlaen, gwnaethom gyflwyno cyfres o argymhellion gyda'r nod o sicrhau darpariaeth fwy amrywiol yn y sector gofal preswyl yng Nghymru. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi derbyn ein cymeradwyaeth o wasanaethau arloesol sy'n cael eu datblygu yn y sector nid-er-elw mewn egwyddor. Fodd bynnag, ein casgliad oedd, er y bu'n amlwg ers tro bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn cefnogi'r sector hwn, mae angen dybryd erbyn hyn iddi newid o fod yn gorff sy'n galluogi yn y maes hwn i gymryd rôl fwy gweithredol o ran llunio a darparu model sy'n addas ar gyfer y dyfodol. Ceir ymrwymiadau pwysig yn y Bil gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a fydd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer mwy y gellid, ac y dylid ei wneud, yn ein barn ni.

It is the Health and Social Care Committee's intention routinely to revisit the inquiries we have undertaken before the end of this Assembly term. This inquiry will be no exception. The Government has accepted, in full, an important set of our recommendations, which we will all want to see being delivered on the ground. By the end of the fourth Assembly, we will want to see, for example, that no older person routinely enters residential care directly from a hospital bed. We will want to know that all older people are offered an assessment of need, whether they are funded by the state or are paying for care themselves. We will also be checking that a simple but effective information service has been established in Wales.

Mae'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol yn bwriadu ailystyried yr ymholiadau a wnaethom fel mater o drefn cyn diwedd tymor presennol y Cynulliad. Ni fydd yr ymchwiliad hwn yn eithriad. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi derbyn yn llawn gyfres bwysig o'n hargymhellion, a bydd pob un ohonom am ei gweld yn cael ei gweithredu ar lawr gwlad. Erbyn diwedd y pedwerydd Cynulliad, byddwn yn awyddus i weld, er enghraifft, nad oes unrhyw berson hŷn yn mynd i ofal preswyl yn uniongyrchol o wely mewn ysbyty fel mater o drefn. Byddwn yn awyddus i wybod bod pob person hŷn yn cael cynnig asesiad o angen, p'un a ydynt yn cael eu hariannu gan y wladwriaeth neu'n talu am ofal eu hunain. Byddwn hefyd yn sicrhau bod gwasanaeth gwybodaeth syml ond effeithiol wedi ei sefydlu yng Nghymru.

The way in which a society looks after its older people is a measure of its civility. One day, we will all reach old age, we hope, and may need the help of others to live a meaningful and fulfilling life. For those who end their days in residential care, we, as a committee, hope that our report will contribute to that measure of civility in Wales. I look forward to hearing the contributions of others to this important debate.

Mae'r ffordd y mae cymdeithas yn gofalu am ei phobl hŷn yn fesur o'i gwarineb. Un diwrnod, bydd pob un ohonom yn hen, gobeithio, ac efallai y bydd angen cymorth pobl eraill arnom i fyw bywyd ystyrlon a boddhaus. I'r rheini sydd mewn gofal preswyl erbyn diwedd eu hoes, rydym ni, fel pwyllgor, yn gobeithio y bydd ein hadroddiad yn cyfrannu at y mesur hwnnw o warineb yng Nghymru. Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed cyfraniadau eraill i'r ddadl bwysig hon.

15:10

Darren Millar Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I, too, welcome the Deputy Minister back to the Senedd and offer the deep condolences of my party for her loss—it is great to see her here.

Rwyf innau, hefyd, yn croesawu'r Dirprwy Weinidog yn ôl i'r Senedd ac yn cydymdeimlo'n ddwys â hi am ei cholled ar ran fy mhlaid—mae'n wych ei gweld yma.

I thank the Chair of the committee for steering this particular inquiry. We embarked upon a sizeable inquiry and a decent piece of work. The recommendations that we have arrived at will, if implemented, make a real difference to residential care for older people in Wales. We know that we have an ageing population. We know that dementia is becoming a feature that is more prevalent in our society. These issues, of course, present challenges for the way that we provide care to older people in future.

Diolchaf i Gadeirydd y pwyllgor am lywio'r ymchwiliad penodol hwn. Gwnaethom gynnal ymchwiliad sylweddol a darn o waith rhesymol. Bydd yr argymhellion a wnaethom, os cânt eu gweithredu, yn gwneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol i ofal preswyl ar gyfer pobl hŷn yng Nghymru. Gwyddom fod gennym boblogaeth sy'n heneiddio. Gwyddom fod dementia yn dod yn nodwedd sy'n fwy cyffredin yn ein cymdeithas. Mae'r materion hyn, wrth gwrs, yn cyflwyno heriau mewn perthynas â'r modd rydym yn darparu gofal i bobl hŷn yn y dyfodol.

We also know that many more people are able to live at home independently. We need to continue to look at that as the best option for people. However, at times, residential care may be the most appropriate place for someone. It is important that if that is the case, people are given proper information, advice and support before they enter into that particular situation.

Rydym hefyd yn gwybod bod llawer mwy o bobl yn gallu byw gartref yn annibynnol. Mae angen inni barhau i ystyried mai dyna yw'r opsiwn gorau i bobl. Fodd bynnag, ar adegau, mae'n bosibl mai gofal preswyl fydd y lle mwyaf priodol i rywun. Mae'n bwysig, os yw hynny'n wir, bod pobl yn cael gwybodaeth, cyngor a chefnogaeth briodol cyn iddynt fynd i mewn i sefyllfa benodol.

As has already been said by the Chair of the committee, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill goes some way to addressing some of the issues that have been raised in the committee's report. However, it does not go all of the way with regard to addressing our concerns. If I can touch on a few of those things in the time that I have, I think that that would be a good thing.

Fel y dywedwyd eisoes gan Gadeirydd y pwyllgor, mae'r Bil Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles (Cymru) yn cyfrannu rywfaint at fynd i'r afael â rhai o'r materion a godwyd yn adroddiad y pwyllgor. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n mynd yr holl ffordd o ran mynd i'r afael â'n pryderon. Os gallaf gyfeirio at rai o'r rheini yn yr amser sydd gennyf, credaf y byddai hynny'n beth da.

First, in terms of advocacy, we heard powerful evidence from individuals who said that they would have appreciated advocacy prior to decisions being made about older people going into care. We know that the Commissioner for Older People in Wales in particular was keen to ensure that independent advocacy was available to people and their families when a decision was in the process of being made about the future of care being provided to an older person.

Yn gyntaf, o ran eiriolaeth, clywsom dystiolaeth rymus gan unigolion a ddywedodd y byddent wedi gwerthfawrogi eiriolaeth cyn i benderfyniadau gael eu gwneud am bobl hŷn yn mynd i mewn i ofal. Gwyddom fod y Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn yng Nghymru yn arbennig yn awyddus i sicrhau bod eiriolaeth annibynnol ar gael i bobl a'u teuluoedd pan fydd penderfyniad wrthi'n cael ei wneud am ddyfodol y gofal a ddarperir i berson hŷn.

Recently, I visited an Age UK branch in my constituency that was being funded by the Big Lottery Fund's AdvantAGE programme, which is helping to give independent advocacy, support and advice to older people. This is making a real difference to people's ability to articulate their concerns and express their own views about things such as the type of care that they receive. It is a really good example of the role that the third sector in particular can play in helping to achieve this independent advocacy that I think everybody would want to see in an ideal world. I recognise that it might pose financial challenges, but I do not think that they are insurmountable with regard to being able to get the best advice to people. This is not something that has been fully dealt with on the face of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill.

Yn ddiweddar, ymwelais â changen Age UK yn fy etholaeth a oedd yn cael ei hariannu gan raglen AdvantAGE y Gronfa Loteri Fawr, sy'n helpu i roi eiriolaeth, cymorth a chyngor annibynnol i bobl hŷn. Mae hyn yn gwneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol i allu pobl i fynegi eu pryderon a'u barn eu hunain am bethau megis y math o ofal a gânt. Mae'n enghraifft dda iawn o'r rôl y gall y trydydd sector yn arbennig ei chwarae wrth helpu i gyflawni'r eiriolaeth annibynnol hon y credaf y byddai pawb am ei gweld mewn byd delfrydol. Rwy'n cydnabod y gallai achosi heriau ariannol, ond ni chredaf eu bod yn anorchfygol o ran sicrhau bod pobl yn cael y cyngor gorau. Nid yw hyn yn rhywbeth sydd wedi cael sylw llawn yn y Bil Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles (Cymru).

With regard to reablement, we heard how important it is to ensure that everybody is offered the opportunity to have some reablement support, and the importance of not making a rash decision in sending someone straight from hospital into residential care. However, we do not have baseline data that monitors the number of people who go straight into residential care from a hospital setting. It is important that those sorts of things are monitored in future so that we can monitor progress to ensure that people receive some reablement support when they are in a situation where they at risk of going into residential care. It would be interesting to hear in your response, Deputy Minister, how you might look to achieve some of those things.

O ran ailalluogi, clywsom pa mor bwysig yw sicrhau bod pawb yn cael cynnig y cyfle i gael rhywfaint o gefnogaeth ailalluogi, a phwysigrwydd peidio â gwneud penderfyniad byrbwyll wrth anfon rhywun yn syth o'r ysbyty i ofal preswyl. Fodd bynnag, nid oes gennym ddata sylfaenol sy'n monitro nifer y bobl sy'n mynd yn syth i ofal preswyl o leoliad ysbyty. Mae'n bwysig bod y mathau hyn o bethau yn cael eu monitro yn y dyfodol fel y gallwn fonitro cynnydd i sicrhau bod pobl yn cael rhywfaint o gymorth ailalluogi pan fyddant mewn sefyllfa lle maent mewn perygl o fynd i ofal preswyl. Byddai'n ddiddorol clywed yn eich ymateb, Ddirprwy Weinidog, sut y gallech geisio cyflawni rhai o'r pethau hynny.

A care home is more than a place simply to receive nursing care or enter a spiral of decline. It is also a home for elderly residents and it is important that people have meaningful activities in which to participate. I was particularly struck by some of the evidence that we received from Home Care Cymru about the best practice that is being implemented in some homes. I would like to see many more homes engaging with organisations like that in being able to roll out that best practice.

Mae cartref gofal yn fwy na dim ond lle i dderbyn gofal nyrsio neu lle bydd iechyd yn dirywio. Mae hefyd yn gartref i drigolion oedrannus ac mae'n bwysig bod pobl yn cael gweithgareddau ystyrlon i gymryd rhan ynddynt. Fe'm trawyd yn arbennig gan rywfaint o'r dystiolaeth a gawsom gan Home Care Cymru ar yr arfer gorau sy'n cael ei weithredu mewn rhai cartrefi. Hoffwn weld llawer mwy o gartrefi'n ymgysylltu â sefydliadau fel hyn er mwyn gallu lledaenu'r arfer gorau hwnnw.

Some of the interesting evidence that we received was also around spiritual care and the need to provide that within a care home setting. Some care homes are very good at that; others are not quite so good. We know that we have NHS spiritual care guidance, but I would like to see that rolled out into social care settings as well.

Roedd rhywfaint o'r dystiolaeth ddiddorol a gawsom hefyd yn ymwneud â gofal ysbrydol a'r angen i ddarparu hynny mewn lleoliad cartref gofal. Mae rhai cartrefi gofal yn dda iawn yn gwneud hynny; nid yw eraill cystal. Gwyddom fod gennym ganllawiau gofal ysbrydol y GIG, ond hoffwn weld hynny'n cael ei gyflwyno mewn lleoliadau gofal cymdeithasol yn ogystal.

I do not have a lot of time here, but I want to touch on care home closures. The issue of independent advocacy at a time when a home is at risk of closing is critically important. I wonder, Deputy Minister, if independent advocacy is not always going to be available before someone goes into a care home, whether, at least in those sorts of situations, you are able to give us a commitment about that being available at that time.

Nid oes gennyf lawer o amser yma, ond rwyf am grybwyll cau cartrefi gofal. Mae eiriolaeth annibynnol yn hollbwysig ar adeg pan fo cartref mewn perygl o gau. Tybed, Ddirprwy Weinidog, os na fydd eiriolaeth annibynnol bob amser ar gael cyn i rywun fynd i gartref gofal, p'un a allech roi ymrwymiad inni y bydd ar gael bryd hynny, o leiaf yn y mathau hyn o sefyllfaoedd.

15:16

Lindsay Whittle Bywgraffiad Biography

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I would like to thank the Chair for all his hard work and the Deputy Minister for her hard work, as well as the consultative groups and all the people whom we met at the establishments. It was quite exciting to undertake this inquiry. I would like to focus on three key issues. The first is the provision of the quality of care within residential settings. This involves a number of factors. I am pleased that the quality of inspection is being seriously addressed. This can draw upon lay people to contribute to inspections, both announced and, most importantly, unannounced. What we do not mention in the report is the potential improvements that genuine whistleblowers can bring about in exposing bad practices that have existed in some residential homes. I do not have time to go into the bad practices now. However, what cannot be tolerated is a huge gap in the quality of care in residential settings for older people. In some homes, residents sit around the walls, nodding off, while the television drones away in the background, while another place down the road is buzzing, with people coming in to help residents with hobbies, and where trips are arranged and where residents do the gardening. Care managers must be made aware of best practice.

Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Cadeirydd am ei holl waith caled ac i'r Dirprwy Weinidog am ei gwaith caled hithau, yn ogystal â'r grwpiau ymgynghorol a'r holl bobl y gwnaethom eu cyfarfod yn y sefydliadau. Roedd yn eithaf cyffrous ymgymryd â'r ymchwiliad hwn. Hoffwn ganolbwyntio ar dri mater allweddol. Y cyntaf yw darparu gofal o ansawdd mewn lleoliadau preswyl. Mae hyn yn cynnwys nifer o ffactorau. Rwy'n falch bod ansawdd arolygu yn cael sylw o ddifrif. Gall hyn olygu galw ar bobl leyg i gyfrannu at arolygiadau, gyda rhybudd ac, yn bwysicaf oll, yn ddirybudd. Yr hyn nad ydym yn sôn amdano yn yr adroddiad yw'r gwelliannau posibl y gall pobl sy'n ddiffuant yn eu hymdrech i amlygu arferion drwg sydd wedi bodoli mewn rhai cartrefi preswyl eu cyflwyno. Nid oes gennyf amser i drafod arferion drwg yn awr. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn na ellir ei oddef yw bwlch mawr yn ansawdd y gofal mewn lleoliadau preswyl i bobl hŷn. Mewn rhai cartrefi, mae trigolion yn eistedd o amgylch y waliau, yn pendwmpian, tra bod y teledu yn gwneud sŵn yn y cefndir, a bydd lle arall i lawr y ffordd yn brysur, gyda phobl yn dod i mewn i helpu preswylwyr gyda hobïau, a lle y caiff teithiau eu trefnu a lle mae'r trigolion yn garddio. Rhaid i reolwyr gofal fod yn ymwybodol o arfer gorau.

My second point is about information. The report makes it clear that older people and their families should have access to more information about inspection reports and their rights to an assessment of their needs and the options available within the community to cater for those needs without necessarily having to go into a care home. Another important point that is mentioned only too briefly in the report is conclusion 9, which is information about best practice. This needs to be formalised and not left to individuals having to search for information about residential homes that can offer a stimulating, as well as a caring, environment. Physical care is not enough. A bad home can provide you with reasonably good physical support, such as decent food and toileting, while at the same time ignoring the social, mental and, some would add, spiritual needs of older people. We certainly need to take account of the cultural and linguistic needs of all groups as well. We need to consider a grading system for residential homes so that comparisons can be made between them for the benefit of residents and their families. Enough has been written in the report about the essential need for care staff to receive appropriate training so that they can provide a level of care that ensures that the dignity of older people is their top priority. I strongly support that recommendation. Care staff throughout Wales are the unsung heroes; they are the jewels in our crown.

Mae fy ail bwynt yn ymwneud â gwybodaeth. Mae'r adroddiad yn nodi'n glir y dylai pobl hŷn a'u teuluoedd allu cael gafael ar fwy o wybodaeth am adroddiadau arolygu a'u hawliau i gael asesiad o'u hanghenion a'r opsiynau sydd ar gael o fewn y gymuned i ddiwallu'r anghenion hynny heb orfod mynd i gartref gofal o reidrwydd. Pwynt arall pwysig na chaiff ddigon o sylw yn yr adroddiad yw casgliad 9, sef gwybodaeth am arfer gorau. Mae angen ffurfioli hyn yn hytrach na bod rhaid i unigolion chwilio am wybodaeth am gartrefi preswyl a all gynnig amgylchedd ysgogol, yn ogystal â gofalgar. Nid yw gofal corfforol yn ddigon. Gall cartref gwael roi cymorth corfforol cymharol dda, megis bwyd a chyfleusterau toiled, tra ar yr un pryd anwybyddu anghenion cymdeithasol, meddyliol, a byddai rhai yn ychwanegu, anghenion ysbrydol pobl hŷn. Yn sicr, mae angen inni ystyried anghenion diwylliannol ac ieithyddol pob grŵp hefyd. Mae angen inni ystyried system raddio ar gyfer cartrefi preswyl fel y gellir gwneud cymariaethau rhyngddynt er budd preswylwyr a'u teuluoedd. Ysgrifennwyd digon yn yr adroddiad am yr angen hanfodol i staff gofal gael hyfforddiant priodol fel y gallant ddarparu lefel o ofal sy'n sicrhau mai urddas pobl hŷn yw eu prif flaenoriaeth. Cefnogaf yr argymhelliad hwnnw'n gryf. Mae staff gofal ledled Cymru yn arwyr di-glod; nhw yw ein trysor pennaf.

My final point is to do with the idea of care in the community. When we talk about care in the community, we are talking about care and support provided for older people in their homes. This occupies a good deal of discussion in the report, but we should be emphasising the importance of maintaining older people within their own homes for as long as possible. However, what I do not want to see is residential care being viewed as the last resort. My old grandmother used to call it the workhouse; 'I am not going in the workhouse,' she used to say. Well, we would not have put her in anything like that. Those phrases should be avoided at all costs. Examples from other European countries, and from the best in Wales and the United Kingdom, make it clear that residential care does not mean isolation. It can mean care in the community: care as part of the locality, with older people continuing to take part in activities outside the home and people in the community coming into the home. That is care in the community. That is residential care at its best. Best practice does exist here in Wales. We should follow that at every opportunity.

Mae fy mhwynt olaf yn ymwneud â'r syniad o ofal yn y gymuned. Pan fyddwn yn sôn am ofal yn y gymuned, rydym yn sôn am ofal a chymorth a roddir i bobl hŷn yn eu cartrefi. Trafodir hyn yn helaeth yn yr adroddiad, ond dylem fod yn pwysleisio pwysigrwydd cynnal pobl hŷn yn eu cartrefi eu hunain am gyhyd ag y bo modd. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn nad wyf am ei weld yw gofal preswyl yn cael ei ystyried yn ddewis olaf. Roedd fy hen fam-gu yn arfer ei alw'n dloty; byddai'n dweud 'Dydw i ddim yn mynd i'r tloty'. Wel, ni fyddem wedi ei rhoi yn y fath le. Dylid osgoi'r ymadroddion hynny ar bob cyfrif. Mae enghreifftiau o wledydd eraill Ewrop, ac o'r gorau yng Nghymru a'r Deyrnas Unedig, yn ei gwneud yn glir nad yw gofal preswyl yn golygu bod ar ben eich hun. Gall olygu gofal yn y gymuned: gofal fel rhan o'r ardal leol, gyda phobl hŷn yn parhau i gymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau y tu allan i'r cartref a phobl yn y gymuned yn dod i mewn i'r cartref. Dyna yw gofal yn y gymuned. Dyna ofal preswyl ar ei orau. Mae arfer gorau yn bodoli yma yng Nghymru. Dylem fanteisio ar bob cyfle i'w arddel.

15:20 **Kirsty Williams** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I will begin by thanking the Chair for his leadership in producing this report and all those who contributed to it. I would like to touch on just three issues out of this substantial body of work. The first is key recommendation 5, which stressed the importance of reablement and its role in ensuring that people are kept as active, fit, well and independent as possible. Reablement is particularly important after a person has had a stay in hospital. Hospitals can be incredibly debilitating places, in the sense that people can lose their independence very quickly following a stay in hospital. The Government goes on to say that it accepts this particular recommendation from the committee and that it recognises the importance of reablement and will use the new legislation to ensure that reablement is available to all and that there is a greater level of consistency in what each individual local authority means by reablement. The Government also goes on to say that it has already issued supplementary guidance in this area with regard to discharge planning to ensure that this reablement step is not left out. I would ask the Government what review has been undertaken of the effectiveness and implementation of that discharge planning and supplementary guidance, because we heard a great deal of evidence in the committee that this was not routinely available, relatives were not often told about the availability of the service, and there was a great deal of inconsistency.

Dechreuaf drwy ddiolch i'r Cadeirydd am ei arweiniad wrth gynhyrchu'r adroddiad hwn ac i bawb a gyfrannodd ato. Hoffwn sôn am dri mater allan o'r corff sylweddol hwn o waith. Y cyntaf yw argymhelliad allweddol 5, a bwysleisiodd bwysigrwydd ailalluogi a'i rôl o ran sicrhau bod pobl yn cael eu cadw yn actif, yn heini, yn iach ac yn annibynnol gyhyd â phosibl. Mae ailalluogi yn arbennig o bwysig ar ôl i rywun orfod aros yn yr ysbyty. Gall ysbytai fod yn llefydd gwanychol iawn, yn yr ystyr y gall pobl golli eu hannibyniaeth yn gyflym iawn ar ôl bod yn yr ysbyty. Â'r Llywodraeth ymlaen i ddweud ei bod yn derbyn yr argymhelliad penodol hwn gan y pwyllgor a'i bod yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd ailalluogi ac y bydd yn defnyddio'r ddeddfwriaeth newydd i sicrhau bod pawb yn cael cyfle i ailalluogi a bod mwy o gysondeb yn yr hyn y mae pob awdurdod lleol yn ei olygu wrth ailalluogi. Â'r Llywodraeth ymlaen hefyd i ddweud ei bod eisoes wedi cyhoeddi canllawiau atodol yn y maes hwn o ran cynllunio i ryddhau cleifion er mwyn sicrhau nad yw'r cam ailalluogi hwn yn cael ei adael allan. Hoffwn ofyn i'r Llywodraeth pa adolygiad a gynhaliwyd o effeithiolrwydd a gweithrediad y broses honno o gynllunio i ryddhau cleifion a chanllawiau atodol, oherwydd clywsom lawer o dystiolaeth yn y pwyllgor nad oedd hyn ar gael fel mater o drefn, nad oedd perthnasau yn aml yn cael gwybod am argaeledd y gwasanaeth, a bod cryn dipyn o anghysondeb.

Even more worryingly, from my perspective, the Government feels that there is no financial implication to ensuring that there is consistent access to consistent reablement across Wales. We found no evidence of that at all. In fact, there was evidence contrary to the idea that reablement in the end saves you money. I am worried that the Government seems to think that there is no financial implication to making this a reality for every citizen in Wales. I have yet to see any evidence on a Welsh basis to say that reablement allows you to release money from the higher end spectrum into the lower end spectrum. I anticipate that the Deputy Minister will use the much vaunted Gwent frailty project as an example. We all love the Gwent frailty project, but the clue is in the title: it is a Gwent frailty project. If the evidence is so compelling that this works, why is it only still in Gwent? Why have we not had the ability to roll it out across Wales? It is an excellent service, but it is highly resource intensive and that is why I am extremely concerned that the Government thinks it can roll this out without any financial implications.

O'm safbwynt i, mae'n peri hyd yn oed mwy o bryder bod y Llywodraeth o'r farn nad oes unrhyw oblygiadau ariannol i sicrhau bod mynediad cyson at ailalluogi cyson ledled Cymru. Ni chanfuwyd unrhyw dystiolaeth o hynny o gwbl. Yn wir, roedd tystiolaeth yn groes i'r syniad bod ailalluogi yn y pen draw yn arbed arian ichi. Rwy'n poeni yr ymddengys bod y Llywodraeth o'r farn nad oes goblygiadau ariannol ynghlwm wrth wneud hyn yn realiti i bob dinesydd yng Nghymru. Nid wyf wedi gweld unrhyw dystiolaeth hyd yma ar sail Cymru sy'n nodi bod ailalluogi yn eich galluogi i ryddhau arian o'r sbectrwm uchaf i'r sbectrwm isaf. Rhagwelaf y bydd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn defnyddio prosiect eiddilwch Gwent, y bu cymaint o sôn amdano, fel enghraifft. Rydym i gyd yn hoff iawn o brosiect eiddilwch Gwent, ond mae'r cliw yn y teitl: prosiect eiddilwch Gwent ydyw. Os yw'r dystiolaeth mor gryf bod hyn yn gweithio, pam mai dim ond yng Ngwent y mae'n bodoli o hyd? Pam nad ydym wedi gallu ei gyflwyno ledled Cymru? Mae'n wasanaeth rhagorol, ond mae'n galw am adnoddau sylweddol a dyna pam rwy'n pryderu'n fawr fod y Llywodraeth yn credu y gall gyflwyno hyn heb unrhyw oblygiadau ariannol.

Key recommendation 12 talks about extra-care schemes. I am a huge fan of extra-care schemes. I am particularly impressed by the work of Linc, but other good social landlords are available. Clwyd-Alyn Housing Association, which is part of the Pennaf group, has a new scheme that is a wonderful example. It is a much more enlightened way of providing care and support for older people than more traditional models of care. The Government says in its response to the report that it is going to evaluate the contribution of extra-care housing in 2013. I would be grateful to hear from the Deputy Minister what that evaluation will entail, what it will look at and when we will see the Government's report on that evaluation. It also says that it is looking at new ways of funding such extra care and housing. I would ask the Deputy Minister for greater detail. What other mechanisms of funding is she looking at and when will we see the Government coming forward with hard and fast proposals that will see extra-care housing as an option for constituents across Wales?

Mae argymhelliad allweddol 12 yn sôn am gynlluniau gofal ychwanegol. Rwy'n gefnogwr mawr o gynlluniau gofal ychwanegol. Mae'r gwaith a wnaed gan Linc yn benodol wedi creu argraff arnaf, ond mae landlordiaid cymdeithasol eraill da ar gael. Mae gan Gymdeithas Tai Clwyd-Alyn, sy'n rhan o grŵp Pennaf, gynllun newydd sy'n enghraifft wych. Mae'n ffordd llawer mwy goleuedig o ddarparu gofal a chymorth i bobl hŷn o gymharu â'r modelau gofal mwy traddodiadol. Dywed y Llywodraeth yn ei ymateb i'r adroddiad ei fod am werthuso cyfraniad tai gofal ychwanegol yn 2013. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar o glywed gan y Dirprwy Weinidog beth fydd y gwerthusiad yn ei olygu, beth y bydd yn ei ystyried a phryd y byddwn yn gweld adroddiad y Llywodraeth ar y gwerthusiad hwnnw. Mae hefyd yn dweud ei bod yn edrych ar ffyrdd newydd o ariannu gofal ychwanegol o'r fath a thai. Hoffwn ofyn i'r Dirprwy Weinidog am fwy o fanylion. Pa ddulliau ariannu eraill y mae'n edrych arnynt a phryd y byddwn yn gweld y Llywodraeth yn cyflwyno cynigion pendant a fydd yn ystyried tai gofal ychwanegol fel opsiwn ar gyfer etholwyr ledled Cymru?

Finally, Presiding Officer, to conclusion 6, on paying for care. Paying for care is crucial to its quality. In the Government's response to the committee report, it says that is cannot do or say anything about paying for care until we have movement from the Government in Westminster. Of course, that movement has now happened. Westminster has made its decision about how it is going to respond to the Dilnot inquiry. Welsh constituents are asking me already whether it is the Welsh Government's intention to cap the amount of care costs that Welsh families will have to pay in the future. I would welcome an indication from the Deputy Minister as to when she feels she will be in a position to give further clarity on the Welsh Government's position on this issue.

Yn olaf, Lywydd, hoffwn sôn am gasgliad 6, ar dalu am ofal. Mae talu am ofal yn hanfodol i'w ansawdd. Yn ymateb y Llywodraeth i adroddiad y pwyllgor, dywed na all wneud na dweud unrhyw beth am dalu am ofal nes i'r Llywodraeth yn San Steffan weithredu. Wrth gwrs, mae'r gweithredu hwnnw wedi digwydd yn awr. Mae San Steffan wedi gwneud ei phenderfyniad ynghylch sut y bydd yn ymateb i ymchwiliad Dilnot. Mae etholwyr Cymru eisoes yn gofyn imi a yw'n fwriad gan Lywodraeth Cymru i gapio swm y costau gofal y bydd rhaid i deuluoedd yng Nghymru eu talu yn y dyfodol. Byddwn yn croesawu awgrym gan y Dirprwy Weinidog ynghylch pa bryd y cred y bydd mewn sefyllfa i roi mwy o eglurder ynghylch safbwynt Llywodraeth Cymru ar y mater hwn.

15:25 **Janet Finch-Saunders** Bywgraffiad Biography

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We, as Members in this Chamber, are aware, when we talk about residential care in Wales, just how complex and sensitive, but dynamic the subject is. I certainly welcome the introduction given by the AM for Cardiff West, Mark Drakeford, and the empathy that he showed in the way that he spoke about this.

Rydym ni, fel Aelodau yn y Siambr hon, yn ymwybodol, pan fyddwn yn sôn am ofal preswyl yng Nghymru, pa mor gymhleth a sensitif, ond deinamig yw'r pwnc. Yn sicr, croesawaf y cyflwyniad a roddwyd gan yr AC dros Orllewin Caerdydd, Mark Drakeford, a'r empathi a ddangosodd yn y modd y soniodd am hyn.

We know that over the next three decades, the number of people in Wales aged 65 and over is set to rise by 55%, meaning that by 2035 the over-65s will account for more than 20% of the population. Over the past 12 months, the Health and Social Care Committee has worked really hard to produce a report on the state of residential care for older people in Wales. The report, which details 13 key recommendations, is something that I would urge every Member in the Chamber to support.

Gwyddom dros y tri degawd nesaf, y bydd nifer y bobl yng Nghymru sy'n 65 oed a throsodd yn codi 55%, sy'n golygu erbyn 2035 y bydd y rhai dros 65 oed yn cyfrif am fwy na 20% o'r boblogaeth. Dros y 12 mis diwethaf, mae'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol wedi gweithio'n galed iawn i lunio adroddiad ar gyflwr gofal preswyl ar gyfer pobl hŷn yng Nghymru. Mae'r adroddiad, sy'n rhoi manylion 13 o argymhellion allweddol, yn rhywbeth y byddwn yn annog pob Aelod yn y Siambr i'w gefnogi.

I particularly welcome the committee's focus on the importance of early dementia diagnosis. This is an issue that we must take hold of in Wales, as 42,000 people in this country are estimated to be living with dementia. That figure is set to rise by 30% in less than 10 years. However, more worrying are the diagnosis statistics: just 37% of people living with dementia in Wales have received a formal diagnosis.

Croesawaf yn arbennig ffocws y pwyllgor ar bwysigrwydd rhoi diagnosis cynnar o ddementia. Mae hwn yn fater y mae'n rhaid inni fynd i'r afael ag ef yng Nghymru, oherwydd amcangyfrifir bod 42,000 o bobl yn y wlad hon yn byw gyda dementia. Bydd y ffigur hwnnw yn codi 30% mewn llai na 10 mlynedd. Fodd bynnag, mae'r ystadegau ar ddiagnosis yn peri mwy o bryder: dim ond 37% o bobl sy'n byw gyda dementia yng Nghymru sydd wedi cael diagnosis ffurfiol.

I especially welcome the Deputy Minister's acceptance of recommendation 4 of the committee's report. It is fair to say that the NHS in Wales must and should do more to ensure that common disabling conditions experienced by our older generation, such as stroke, recovery, falls and dementia are managed and treated in the community, and also, as we have said previously, in hospitals when that is necessary.

Croesawaf yn arbennig y ffaith i'r Dirprwy Weinidog dderbyn argymhelliad 4 yn adroddiad y pwyllgor. Mae'n deg dweud bod yn rhaid ac y dylai'r GIG yng Nghymru wneud mwy i sicrhau bod cyflyrau anablu cyffredin sy'n wynebu ein cenhedlaeth hŷn, megis strôc, adfer, cwympiadau a dementia yn cael eu rheoli a'u trin yn y gymuned, a hefyd, fel yr ydym wedi dweud o'r blaen, mewn ysbytai pan fo hynny'n angenrheidiol.

However, I seek greater clarity on how the local integrated care plan will work in the community, and maybe under what framework and whose assentation. The number of residential care homes in Wales is decreasing, and so too is the duration of care, with the average stay at a care home being less than two years. Today, we have an opportunity to reform the current system and to give the voice of care back to its recipients. In this, I eagerly await the Government's strategy on reablement, which will place a duty on local authorities to provide clear and accessible information to communities on the most common disabling conditions, which invariably lead to the prevention of long-term care for our elderly.

Fodd bynnag, hoffwn gael mwy o eglurder ynghylch sut y bydd y cynllun gofal integredig lleol yn gweithio yn y gymuned, ac efallai o dan ba fframwaith a thrwy gydsyniad pwy. Mae nifer y cartrefi gofal preswyl yng Nghymru yn gostwng, ynghyd â hyd y gofal, gyda'r arhosiad ar gyfartaledd mewn cartref gofal yn llai na dwy flynedd. Heddiw, mae gennym gyfle i ddiwygio'r system gyfredol ac i roi llais gofal yn ôl i'r rhai sy'n ei dderbyn. Mewn perthynas â hyn, arhosaf yn eiddgar am strategaeth y Llywodraeth ar ailalluogi, a fydd yn gosod dyletswydd ar awdurdodau lleol i ddarparu gwybodaeth glir a hygyrch i gymunedau ar y cyflyrau anablu mwyaf cyffredin, sy'n arwain yn anochel at atal gofal tymor hir i'n henoed.

Despite some of the negative media coverage today, I am pleased that we are going to be moving forward with 4G, which will be a real enabler when it comes to the reablement agenda. Especially in rural communities, this will be a huge bonus, so that we can have real engagement and real processing of data. I think that that is going to be really essential. Finally, I would like to thank Members for their contributions to the debate. It is heart-warming to see such an outstanding commitment to the care of our older people, and I for one look forward to further constructive debate on the Bill.

Er gwaethaf rhai o'r sylwadau negyddol a wneir yn y cyfryngau heddiw, rwy'n falch y byddwn yn symud ymlaen gyda 4G, a fydd yn alluogwr go iawn pan ddaw at yr agenda ailalluogi. Bydd hyn yn fonws enfawr, yn enwedig mewn cymunedau gwledig, fel y gallwn gael ymgysylltiad go iawn a dulliau prosesu data go iawn. Credaf y bydd hynny'n wirioneddol hanfodol. Yn olaf, hoffwn ddiolch i'r Aelodau am eu cyfraniadau i'r ddadl. Mae'n galonogol gweld y fath ymrwymiad eithriadol i ofal ein pobl hŷn, ac edrychaf ymlaen at fwy o drafod adeiladol ar y Bil.

15:28 **Alun Ffred Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Hoffwn wneud cyfraniad byr a diolch i'r pwyllgor a phawb sydd wedi helpu i ddod â'r adroddiad hwn gerbron. Bydd fy nghyfraniad ynglŷn â darparu gofal yn eu dewis iaith i drigolion y cartrefi hyn. Mae cyfeiriad byr yng nghorff yr adroddiad at bwysigrwydd hyn, ac mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog wedi cyfeirio at y ffaith bod ganddi grŵp sydd yn edrych ar hyn, ond nid oes dim byd am hyn yn yr argymhellion hyd y gwelaf i, oni bai y bydd y Cadeirydd yn fy nghywiro yn nes ymlaen. Mae hynny yn resyn o beth, achos mae'n golygu bod mater y Gymraeg neu, yn yr achos hwn, mater iaith yn gyffredinol wedi cael ei osod o'r neilltu. Nid yw hynny'n deilwng iawn o'r sefyllfa. I rywun sydd yn hen, yn ansicr, yn ddryslyd ac efallai yn dangos arwyddion o ddementia, mae cyfathrebu'n hanfodol i'w gofal. Os nad ydych yn gallu cyfathrebu yn y famiaith, gall droi yn greulondeb seicolegol.

I would like to make a brief contribution and thank the committee and everyone who has participated in bringing this report before us. My contribution will be on care in the language of choice of the residents of these homes. There is a brief reference in the text of the report to the importance of this issue and the Deputy Minister has referred to the fact that she has a group looking at this, but there is nothing on this in the recommendations as far as I can see, unless the Chair can correct me later. That is regrettable because it means that the issue of the Welsh language or, in this case, the issue of language in general has been put to one side. That does not address the situation as it should be addressed. For those who are elderly, confused and perhaps showing the first signs of dementia, communication is crucially important to their care. If you cannot communicate in the individual's mother tongue then it can become psychological cruelty.

Rwyf yn dweud hyn oherwydd i mi gael tystiolaeth yn ddiweddar gan rywun a oedd yn gweithio mewn cartref henoed yn y gorllewin. Roedd hi yn siaradwraig Cymraeg. Roedd y cartref, wrth gwrs, fel y mwyafrif o'r cartrefi hyn, yn gartref preifat. Roedd canran uchel o'r bobl yno yn derbyn gofal yn Gymry Cymraeg. Fodd bynnag, roedd llawer iawn o'r staff—efallai'r mwyafrif ohonynt—yn dod o ganolbarth Ewrop. Nid oes dim o'i le ar hynny nac ar eu sgiliau, ond roedd eu Saesneg yn wan ac roeddent yn cael gwersi Saesneg, a dim ond un person yn y cartref hwnnw oedd yn gallu cyfathrebu â'r bobl yno yn Gymraeg. Roedd hi o'r farn, oherwydd hynny, bod y gofal yn ddiffygiol, yn ansensitif ac yn arwain at sefyllfaoedd o greulondeb pur. Ni chredaf y byddem yn derbyn y fath sefyllfa pe bai'r trigolion hynny'n siaradwyr Saesneg a ddim yn derbyn gofal yn eu mamiaith.

I say this because I received evidence recently from someone who worked in an old people's home in west Wales. She was a Welsh speaker. The care home, of course, like most of these homes, was a private home. A high percentage of the residents were Welsh speakers. However, many of the staff—perhaps the majority—came from central Europe. There is nothing wrong with that or with their skills, but their English was weak and they were having English lessons, and only one person in that home could communicate with the residents in Welsh. She was of the opinion that, because of that, the care was deficient, insensitive, and led to situations of pure cruelty. I do not think that we would accept such a situation if those residents were English speakers and were not receiving care in their mother tongue.

Hoffwn bwysleisio felly bod hwn yn fater pwysig, a, chan fod y pwyllgor wedi derbyn tystiolaeth ar hyn, efallai y gall y Cadeirydd gyfeirio ato wrth gloi. Hefyd, byddwn yn gwerthfawrogi sylwadau'r Dirprwy Weinidog ar beth yn union mae hi'n credu ei bod yn bosibl i'w wneud i sicrhau bod y mater hwn yn cael ei ymdrin ag ef mewn ffordd ymarferol, weithredol ac effeithiol. O fy mhrofiad i yng Ngwynedd, lle mae llawer o'r cartrefi dal yn nwylo'r awdurdod lleol—ac rwyf yn siŵr bod gwendidau yn y cartrefi hynny hefyd—yr hyn rydych yn eu cael yw bod cefnogaeth i'r staff a'r trigolion yn y gymuned ac y mae ethos yno sy'n sicrhau bod sensitifrwydd i'r materion hyn.

I would like to emphasise therefore that this is an important issue, and, as the committee received evidence on this, perhaps the Chair could refer to that in closing. Also, I would appreciate the Deputy Minister's comments as to what exactly she thinks could be done to ensure that this issue is dealt with in a practical, effective and efficient manner. From my experience in Gwynedd, where many of the homes remain in the hands of the local authority—and I am sure that there are weaknesses in those homes too—what you find is that there is support for the staff and the residents in the community and there is an ethos that ensures that there is sensitivity to these issues.

Rwyf wedi gweld cartrefi preifat yn fy ardal i le nad yw hynny mor wir. Credaf fod hwn yn fater y dylem boeni yn ei gylch a dylem edrych ar ffyrdd o sicrhau bod perchnogion y cartrefi hyn yn ymwybodol o'r angen i drin pobl yn eu mamiaith, yn enwedig yn y sefyllfaoedd anodd hynny sy'n gallu datblygu gyda'r henoed.

I have seen private homes in my area where that is not so much the case. I think that this is an issue that we should be concerned about and we should be looking at ways of ensuring that the owners of these homes are aware of the need to treat people in their mother tongue, particularly in those difficult situations that can develop with elderly people.

15:32

Gwenda Thomas Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv
Fideo Video

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol / The Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services

I would like to start by saying how grateful I am for the kindness and support that I have received in recent weeks; it has been so very much appreciated.

Hoffwn ddechrau drwy ddweud pa mor ddiolchgar ydwyf am y caredigrwydd a'r gefnogaeth a gefais yn yr wythnosau diwethaf; rwy'n ei werthfawrogi'n fawr iawn.

Diolchaf yn gynnes i chi i gyd.

I thank you all very much.

Carwn ddiolch hefyd i'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol am ei ymchwil eang i ofal preswyl ar gyfer bobl hŷn.

I would also like to thank the Health and Social Care Committee for its extensive inquiry into residential care for older people.

Its important findings, recommendations and conclusions reveal the impressive range of issues that the committee considered and the careful thought it applied to these. The committee considered an older person's care journey, at what can be a very stressful time in their lives, right through to how this can be improved to meet future demands. I congratulate the committee on the comprehensive way in which it conducted this work.

Mae ei ganfyddiadau, ei argymhellion a'i gasgliadau pwysig yn dangos yr ystod drawiadol o faterion a ystyriwyd gan y pwyllgor a'r ystyriaeth ofalus a roddodd iddynt. Bu'r pwyllgor yn ystyried taith gofal person hŷn, ar adeg a all fod yn llawn straen yn eu bywydau, hyd at sut y gellir gwella hyn er mwyn bodloni gofynion y dyfodol. Llongyfarchaf y pwyllgor ar y ffordd gynhwysfawr y gwnaeth y gwaith hwn.

Older people must be at the very heart of Welsh public policy. Demographic changes mean an increase in our older population, while care needs and expectations of how those are met are also changing. Our clear and determined commitment is to help older people remain independent in their own community for as long as possible and to remove, or at least delay, their need for residential care. Lindsay Whittle made that point.

Rhaid i bobl hŷn fod yn ganolog i bolisi cyhoeddus Cymru. Mae newidiadau demograffig yn golygu cynnydd yn ein poblogaeth hŷn, tra bod anghenion gofal a disgwyliadau o ran sut y cânt eu diwallu hefyd yn newid. Ein hymrwymiad clir a phendant yw helpu pobl hŷn i aros yn annibynnol yn eu cymuned eu hunain am gyhyd â phosibl ac i ddileu, neu o leiaf oedi, eu hangen am ofal preswyl. Gwnaeth Lindsay Whittle y pwynt hwnnw.

I was pleased that the committee endorsed that ethos. We have in recent years introduced a number of successful strategic developments to support that. Those include reablement, telecare and community services and equipment—initiatives that we, of course, need to build on. Darren Millar and Kirsty Williams have spoken quite strongly on reablement and I take that on board. I refer the point on extra-care housing to the Minister for housing. Janet Finch-Saunders also mentioned that.

Roeddwn yn falch bod y pwyllgor wedi cymeradwyo'r ethos hwnnw. Dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, rydym wedi cyflwyno nifer o ddatblygiadau strategol llwyddiannus i gefnogi hynny. Mae'r rheini'n cynnwys gwasanaethau a chyfarpar ailalluogi, teleofal a chymunedol—mentrau y mae angen inni adeiladu arnynt wrth gwrs. Mae Darren Millar a Kirsty Williams wedi siarad yn eithaf cryf ar ailalluogi ac rwy'n ystyried hynny. Cyfeiriaf y pwynt ar dai gofal ychwanegol at y Gweinidog tai. Soniodd Janet Finch-Saunders am hynny hefyd.

Part of this relates to the point that Alun Ffred Jones made about the need to focus on language. I will remind you that we have now launched a strategy to develop the provision of Welsh-medium services in health and social care.

Mae rhan o hyn yn ymwneud â'r pwynt a wnaeth Alun Ffred Jones am yr angen i ganolbwyntio ar iaith. Hoffwn eich atgoffa ein bod bellach wedi lansio strategaeth i ddatblygu darpariaeth gwasanaethau cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn gofal iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol.

Due to changing needs and expectations, the nature of residential care today is far removed from that which existed a decade ago or which will need to exist in 10 years' time. We must keep pace with changing needs and increasing demand for alternative types of care and accommodation that are fit for purpose, flexible and responsive in meeting older people's needs. We are already seeing new and more novel forms of residential accommodation and home support emerging. I know the committee took time to see at first hand some of the many innovations that exist, and, as a result, endorsed the need for these to develop further.

Oherwydd anghenion a disgwyliadau newidiol, mae natur gofal preswyl heddiw yn wahanol iawn i'r gofal a oedd yn bodoli ddegawd yn ôl, neu y bydd angen iddo fodoli ymhen 10 mlynedd. Rhaid inni gadw i fyny ag anghenion sy'n newid a galw cynyddol am fathau amgen o ofal a llety sy'n addas at y diben, yn hyblyg ac yn ymatebol i ddiwallu anghenion pobl hŷn. Rydym eisoes yn gweld ffurfiau newydd a gwahanol ar lety preswyl a chymorth yn y cartref yn dod i'r amlwg. Gwn i'r pwyllgor gymryd amser i weld drosto'i hun rai o'r ffurfiau newydd sy'n bodoli, ac, o ganlyniad, gymeradwyo'r angen i'r rhain ddatblygu ymhellach.

In doing so, the committee would have witnessed the dedication and skills of those delivering care to older people. Developing and enhancing the social care workforce is critical in raising the quality of services. Initiatives to raise the profile of and support the professionalism of the sector, such as the Academy of Care Practitioners, which I assisted in launching, are to be encouraged.

Wrth wneud hynny, byddai'r pwyllgor wedi gweld ymroddiad a sgiliau'r rhai hynny sy'n darparu gofal i bobl hŷn. Mae datblygu a gwella'r gweithlu gofal cymdeithasol yn hanfodol wrth godi ansawdd y gwasanaethau. Dylid annog mentrau i godi proffil y sector a chefnogi ei broffesiynoldeb, megis yr Academi Ymarferwyr Gofal, y gwneuthum helpu i'w lansio.

A large number of the committee's recommendations align with our view of future residential care for older people. They are therefore being addressed through work streams associated with our White Paper agenda for change, 'Sustainable Social Services'. Initiatives and programmes are in place that not only recognise and help to respond to the needs of older people in care, but address issues such as advice and accessing care, together with addressing the needs of carers. The point made on paying for care is very important. I am not as clear as I would like to be on what the statement by the coalition Government means, but I will have a teleconference with Norman Lamb next week, and I am looking for consequentials. I will make a full written statement to Members as soon as I receive that clarity.

Mae nifer fawr o argymhellion y pwyllgor yn cyd-fynd â'n barn ynghylch gofal preswyl i bobl hŷn yn y dyfodol. Eir i'r afael â hwy felly drwy ffrydiau gwaith sy'n gysylltiedig â'n hagenda Papur Gwyn ar gyfer newid, 'Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cynaliadwy'. Mae mentrau a rhaglenni yn bodoli sydd nid yn unig yn cydnabod ac yn helpu i ymateb i anghenion pobl hŷn mewn gofal, ond hefyd yn ymdrin â materion fel cyngor a chael gofal, ynghyd â mynd i'r afael ag anghenion gofalwyr. Mae'r pwynt a wnaed ynghylch talu am ofal yn bwysig iawn. Nid wyf mor glir ag yr hoffwn fod ar yr hyn y mae'r datganiad gan y Llywodraeth glymblaid yn ei olygu, ond byddaf yn cael telegynhadledd gyda Norman Lamb yr wythnos nesaf, a byddaf yn awyddus i gael symiau pendant. Byddaf yn gwneud datganiad ysgrifenedig llawn i'r Aelodau cyn gynted ag y caf yr eglurhad hwnnw.

We have also introduced the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Bill to the National Assembly for scrutiny. The Bill's overriding focus is to improve the wellbeing of people who need care and support, and of their carers, together with an extensive reform of the current social services legislative framework. The Bill and White Paper form the platform upon which many of the recommendations and conclusions the committee made can be achieved in full.

Rydym hefyd wedi cyflwyno'r Bil Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles (Cymru) i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol graffu arno. Prif ffocws y Bil yw gwella lles pobl y mae angen gofal a chymorth arnynt, a'u gofalwyr, ynghyd â diwygiad helaeth o'r fframwaith deddfwriaethol presennol ar gyfer gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Y Bil a'r Papur Gwyn yw'r llwyfan ar gyfer cyflawni llawer o argymhellion a chasgliadau'r pwyllgor yn llawn.

Members will have seen the Government's response, setting out in detail the action we are taking in relation to each recommendation that the committee makes. Members will note this is not too dissimilar to that which the committee proposes. The report will, therefore, give us focus and direction in addressing the key issues and concerns faced by older people living, or considering living, in residential care.

Bydd Aelodau wedi gweld ymateb y Llywodraeth, sy'n nodi'n fanwl y camau rydym yn eu cymryd mewn perthynas â phob argymhelliad a wna'r pwyllgor. Bydd Aelodau'n nodi nad yw hyn yn rhy annhebyg i'r hyn y mae'r pwyllgor yn ei gynnig. Bydd yr adroddiad, felly, yn rhoi ffocws a chyfeiriad inni i fynd i'r afael â'r materion a'r pryderon allweddol a wynebir gan bobl hŷn sy'n byw, neu'n ystyried byw, mewn gofal preswyl.

In his address, Mark Drakeford commented on our response and made some observations to which I would like to respond. On a voice and control for older people and their families, our Bill will provide an environment to accelerate improvements to ensure individuals have a stronger voice and real control over their lives. Although it is too early to confirm the exact detail of this, we have already required local government to develop a national contract framework for residential care as part of its implementation plan.

Yn ei anerchiad, soniodd Mark Drakeford am ein hymateb a gwnaeth rai sylwadau yr hoffwn ymateb iddynt. Mewn perthynas â rhoi llais a rheolaeth i bobl hŷn a'u teuluoedd, bydd ein Bil yn darparu amgylchedd i gyflymu gwelliannau i sicrhau bod unigolion yn cael llais cryfach a rheolaeth go iawn dros eu bywydau. Er ei bod yn rhy gynnar i gadarnhau'r union fanylion, rydym eisoes wedi galw ar lywodraeth leol i ddatblygu fframwaith contract cenedlaethol ar gyfer gofal preswyl fel rhan o'i chynllun gweithredu.

The financial scrutiny of independent providers needs addressing. We already have regulations under the Care Standards Act 2000 that apply fit-and-proper tests to registered providers, but the lesson of Southern Cross is that these need to be further examined and strengthened. Our forthcoming regulation and inspection White Paper and Bill provide the opportunity to do this to ensure future arrangements will cater for the changes in care provision we have seen over recent years.

Mae angen mynd i'r afael â phrosesau craffu ariannol ar ddarparwyr annibynnol. Mae gennym reoliadau eisoes o dan Ddeddf Safonau Gofal 2000 sy'n ei gwneud yn ofynnol i gynnal profion sy'n sicrhau bod darparwyr cofrestredig yn unigolion addas a phriodol, ond y wers a ddysgwyd gan Southern Cross yw bod angen i'r rhain gael eu harchwilio a'u hatgyfnerthu ymhellach. Mae ein Bil a'n Papur Gwyn sydd ar droed ar reoleiddio ac archwilio yn rhoi cyfle inni wneud hyn er mwyn sicrhau y bydd trefniadau yn y dyfodol yn darparu ar gyfer y newidiadau yn y ddarpariaeth gofal yr ydym wedi eu gweld dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf.

I agree with Mark Drakeford that the sector is ripe for the development of innovative models of provision, including residential care. The Bill we have introduced will place a duty on local authorities to promote the development of social enterprises and co-operatives in their areas. In the meantime, we are engaging with stakeholders to raise awareness of social enterprises and their benefits as a viable addition to the range of social care services.

Cytunaf â Mark Drakeford bod angen i'r sector ddatblygu modelau arloesol o ddarpariaeth, gan gynnwys gofal preswyl. Bydd y Bil rydym wedi'i gyflwyno yn gosod dyletswydd ar awdurdodau lleol i hyrwyddo'r broses o ddatblygu mentrau cymdeithasol a chwmnïau cydweithredol yn eu hardaloedd. Yn y cyfamser, rydym yn ymgysylltu â rhanddeiliaid i godi ymwybyddiaeth o fentrau cymdeithasol a'u buddiannau fel ychwanegiad hyfyw i'r ystod o wasanaethau gofal cymdeithasol.

Of course, achieving our aims will not be possible without our partners: local government, the NHS and those in the private and the third sectors. Specifically, I am very pleased to report that the Older People's Commissioner for Wales is assisting us in the development of a number of key policies around advocacy. That point was made by Darren Millar. I embrace the point on home closure, because I am asking the older person's commissioner to look at updating advocacy provision there. We are keen to draw on the expertise of the older people's commission in tackling the challenges that face us all in providing the quality of care that older people in Wales deserve. Lindsay Whittle also made that point.

Wrth gwrs, ni fydd yn bosibl inni gyflawni ein hamcanion heb ein partneriaid: llywodraeth leol, y GIG a'r rheini yn y sector preifat a'r trydydd sector. Yn benodol, mae'n bleser mawr gennyf adrodd bod Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru yn ein cynorthwyo i ddatblygu nifer o bolisïau allweddol ynghylch eiriolaeth. Gwnaed y pwynt hwnnw gan Darren Millar. Rwy'n croesawu'r pwynt ar gau cartrefi, oherwydd gofynnaf i'r comisiynydd pobl hŷn ystyried diweddaru darpariaeth eiriolaeth yno. Rydym yn awyddus i fanteisio ar arbenigedd y comisiwn pobl hŷn wrth fynd i'r afael â'r heriau sy'n wynebu pob un ohonom wrth ddarparu ansawdd y gofal y mae pobl hŷn yng Nghymru yn ei haeddu. Gwnaeth Lindsay Whittle y pwynt hwnnw hefyd.

Like so many in the social care sector, I am passionately committed to generating high-quality, consistent residential care tailored to the needs of the person. Despite the challenging financial climate, we must all strive for this goal with continued vigour and determination, so that people get the residential services that we would want for ourselves in Wales.

Fel cynifer yn y sector gofal cymdeithasol, rwyf wedi ymrwymo'n angerddol i sicrhau gofal preswyl cyson, o ansawdd uchel, wedi'i deilwra i anghenion y person. Er gwaethaf yr hinsawdd ariannol heriol, mae'n rhaid i bob un ohonom geisio am y nod hwn gydag egni a phenderfyniad parhaus, fel bod pobl yn cael y gwasanaethau preswyl y byddem yn eu dymuno i ni ein hunain yng Nghymru.

15:40

Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Senedd.tv [Fideo](#) [Video](#)

Thank you, Minister. I call on the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee to reply to the debate.

Diolch, Weinidog. Galwaf ar Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol i ymateb i'r ddadl.

15:41

Mark Drakeford [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Senedd.tv [Fideo](#) [Video](#)

Darren Millar got our debate off to an excellent start when he reminded us that the number of people going into residential care in Wales, despite the fact that the number of older people is rising—as a number and as a proportion of the population—has fallen year on year for the last 10 years, and is due to continue falling for the next five years at least. That is a trend that we as a committee endorse. Kirsty Williams referred to the importance of reablement; the evidence that we took about the contribution that reablement can make to pressing that agenda further was powerful.

Dechreuodd Darren Millar ein dadl yn ardderchog drwy ein hatgoffa bod nifer y bobl sy'n mynd i ofal preswyl yng Nghymru, er gwaethaf y ffaith bod nifer y bobl hŷn yn codi —fel nifer ac fel cyfran o'r boblogaeth—wedi gostwng flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, a disgwylir iddo barhau i ostwng am y pum mlynedd nesaf o leiaf. Mae honno'n duedd rydym ni fel pwyllgor yn ei chefnogi. Cyfeiriodd Kirsty Williams at bwysigrwydd ailalluogi; roedd y dystiolaeth a gawsom am y cyfraniad y gall ailalluogi ei wneud i hyrwyddo'r agenda honno ymhellach yn bwerus.

Janet Finch-Saunders referred to the importance of common disabling conditions. We took really important evidence about the small things that the health service can do to help people to stay in their own homes, healthier and for longer. That is a really important thrust of our report. However, as Lindsay Whittle said, there will always be a need for residential care, and it is vital that we do not fall into the trap of believing that residential care will always be a last resort, where people are driven to it because there is nothing else for them. On every single visit that we as a committee made to residential care homes in Wales, we met people who said to us, 'I'm here because I want to be here, and because I have chosen to be here. That means that this place needs to be as good as it possibly can be for me.' As we have heard, that means that it should attend to people's spiritual, physical, cultural and social needs.

Cyfeiriodd Janet Finch-Saunders at bwysigrwydd cyflyrau anablu cyffredin. Cawsom dystiolaeth wirioneddol bwysig am y pethau bach y gall y gwasanaeth iechyd eu gwneud i helpu pobl i aros yn eu cartrefi eu hunain, yn iachach ac yn hirach. Rhoddir ffocws pwysig iawn i hyn yn ein hadroddiad. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedodd Lindsay Whittle, bydd angen gofal preswyl o hyd, ac mae'n hanfodol nad ydym yn disgyn i'r fagl o gredu mai dewis olaf fydd gofal preswyl bob amser, lle mae pobl yn cael eu gyrru ato gan nad oes dim byd arall ar eu cyfer. Ar bob un ymweliad a wnaethom fel pwyllgor i gartrefi gofal preswyl yng Nghymru, gwnaethom gwrdd â phobl a ddywedodd wrthym, 'Rwyf yma oherwydd fy mod am fod yma, ac oherwydd fy mod wedi dewis bod yma. Mae hynny'n golygu bod angen i'r lle hwn fod cystal â phosibl i mi'. Fel y clywsom, mae hynny'n golygu y dylai ddiwallu anghenion ysbrydol, corfforol, diwylliannol a chymdeithasol pobl.

Fel y dywedodd Alun Ffred, mae'n bwysig hefyd meddwl am anghenion ieithyddol. Nid oes argymhelliad ar iaith yn ein hadroddiad, ond mae'r adroddiad yn cynnwys nifer o gasgliadau. Mae casgliad 8 yn nodi'n glir bod angen sicrhau bod recriwtio a hyfforddi staff yn helpu sicrhau bod cyfathrebu da rhwng staff gofal a'r bobl sy'n byw mewn cartrefi gofal yn cael ei hwyluso. Bu i ni godi'r cwestiwn hwnnw gyda nifer fawr o dystion a ddaeth i'r pwyllgor: gofynnais i, a gofynodd Elin Jones ac aelodau eraill y pwyllgor, y cwestiwn hwnnw. Pan oeddem yn Sir Gâr, clywsom fod yr awdurdod lleol wedi cadw nifer o gartrefi preswyl yn ei ddwylo ei hunan oherwydd ei bod yn haws iddo felly sicrhau bod gwasanaethau ar gael yn yr iaith Gymraeg, ac mae hynny'n hynod o bwysig i'r bobl sy'n byw yn y cartrefi hynny.

As Alun Ffred said, it is also important to consider linguistic needs. There is no recommendation on language in our report, but the report includes a number of conclusions. Conclusion 8 states clearly that we need to ensure that the recruitment and training of staff helps to ensure that good communication between care staff and care home residents is facilitated. We raised that question with many witnesses who appeared before the committee: I, Elin Jones, and other members of the committee, asked that question. When we were in Carmarthenshire, we heard that the local authority has kept a number of residential homes in its ownership because that makes it is easier for it to ensure that services are available in Welsh, which is very important to those living in those homes.

Therefore, we absolutely recognise that. To take up a point that Janet raised, that is particularly important in the case of dementia, when people will be struggling with communication in any case, and where acquired language may become particularly problematic and people will wish to return to the language in which they are most comfortable in communicating. Therefore, it was very encouraging to hear what the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services had to say about the steps that the Welsh Government intends to take in response to the report, both through the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill, the White Paper, and other actions that are in the hands of the Government.

Felly, rydym yn cydnabod hynny'n llwyr. Hoffwn sôn am bwynt a gododd Janet, sy'n arbennig o bwysig yn achos dementia, pan fydd pobl yn cael trafferth i gyfathrebu mewn unrhyw achos, a lle y gall iaith ddod yn arbennig o anodd a bydd pobl yn dymuno dychwelyd i'r iaith y maent fwyaf cyfforddus â hi wrth gyfathrebu. Felly, roedd yn galonogol clywed yr hyn yr oedd gan y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Blant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i'w ddweud am y camau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn bwriadu eu cymryd mewn ymateb i'r adroddiad, drwy Fil Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles (Cymru), y Papur Gwyn, a chamau eraill sydd yn nwylo'r Llywodraeth.

When I look back at our inquiry, if I think of the one thing that remains with me most clearly, it is the message that we heard from so many people that the decision that you make for someone to go into residential care is a lonely, difficult and often guilt-ridden one. When we make other life-changing decisions, such as those related to sending our children to school, choosing jobs and going into hospital, we are generally able to draw on our own experience or the experience of our neighbours, friends or other family members. However, making the decision about residential care is a once-in-a-lifetime decision. Knowing where to go for help, knowing how you can get reliable guidance and finding ways to make the right decision for you or for family members are things that, time and again, members of the reference group and witnesses who came before us emphasised as things that we need to improve in Wales.

Pan edrychaf yn ôl ar ein hymchwiliad, yr un peth sydd wedi aros gyda mi fwyaf eglur yw'r neges a glywsom gan gymaint o bobl bod y penderfyniad a wnewch i rywun fynd i ofal preswyl yn benderfyniad unig, anodd ac yn aml yn llawn euogrwydd. Pan wnawn benderfyniadau eraill sy'n newid bywydau, megis y rhai sy'n ymwneud ag anfon ein plant i'r ysgol, dewis swyddi a mynd i'r ysbyty, yn gyffredinol, gallwn ddefnyddio ein profiad ein hunain, neu brofiad ein cymdogion, ffrindiau neu aelodau eraill o'r teulu. Fodd bynnag, mae gwneud y penderfyniad am ofal preswyl yn benderfyniad unwaith mewn oes. Mae gwybod ble i fynd am help, gwybod sut y gallwch gael arweiniad dibynadwy a dod o hyd i ffyrdd o wneud y penderfyniad cywir i chi neu aelodau o'ch teulu yn bethau y gwnaeth aelodau o'r grŵp cyfeirio a thystion a ddaeth atom bwysleisio dro ar ôl tro eu bod yn bethau y mae angen inni eu gwella yng Nghymru.

This is an agenda that cuts right across politics, the committee and the Chamber. I am sure that we are all united in wanting to do the very best for older people who live in Wales. The White Paper and the Bill will be important opportunities to make sure that we get that right. We look forward to working with the Deputy Minister on this agenda to ensure that we secure in practice those improvements that we are all signed up to in principle.

Mae hon yn agenda sy'n torri ar draws gwleidyddiaeth, y pwyllgor a'r Siambr. Rwy'n siŵr bod pob un ohonom am wneud ein gorau glas dros bobl hŷn sy'n byw yng Nghymru. Bydd y Papur Gwyn a'r Bil yn gyfleoedd pwysig i wneud yn siŵr ein bod yn cael yr hawl honno. Edrychwn ymlaen at weithio gyda'r Dirprwy Weinidog ar yr agenda hwn er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn diogelu'r gwelliannau hynny rydym oll wedi ymrwymo iddynt mewn egwyddor.

15:46

Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

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The proposal is to note the Health and Social Care Committee's report. Does any Member object? I see that there are no objections. Therefore the motion is unanimously agreed in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.36.

Y cynnig yw nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf nad oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad. Mae'r cynnig, felly, wedi'i dderbyn, yn unfrydol, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 12.36.

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion agreed.

Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 3.46 p.m.

The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 3.46 p.m.

Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cyllid, 'Effeithiolrwydd Cyllid Strwythurol Ewropeaidd yng Nghymru'

Cynnig NDM5166 Jocelyn Davies

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

Yn nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cyllid ar Effeithiolrwydd Cyllid Strwythurol Ewropeaidd yng Nghymru a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Rhagfyr 2012.

The Finance Committee's Report 'The Effectiveness of European Structural Funds in Wales'

Motion NDM5166 Jocelyn Davies

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Notes the Finance Committee's report on Effectiveness of European Structural Funds in Wales which was laid in the Table Office on 17 December 2012.

15:46 **Jocelyn Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I move the motion.

Cynigiaf y cynnig.

I will begin by setting the scene for Members. During this debate, it is worth reminding ourselves that, across the two rounds of European structural funds, Wales has received just short of €2 billion. In our inquiry, we wanted to examine how effectively it was being utilised to create sustainable jobs and growth and how clearly the Welsh Government was leading and guiding the use of such funds.

Dechreuaf drwy roi'r cyd-destun i'r Aelodau. Yn ystod y ddadl hon, mae'n werth atgoffa ein hunain, yn ystod y ddau gylch o gronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd, fod Cymru wedi cael bron €2 biliwn. Yn ein hymchwiliad, roeddem yn awyddus i archwilio i ba raddau yr oedd yn cael ei ddefnyddio'n effeithiol i greu swyddi cynaliadwy a thwf ac i ba raddau yr oedd Llywodraeth Cymru yn rhoi arweiniad clir ar y defnydd o gronfeydd o'r fath.

The evidence that we received suggests that Wales is meeting the targets and requirements determined by the European Union for the use of the funds and has put in place effective systems for monitoring and distributing funds received from Europe. However, our inquiry also suggested that there is considerable room for the Welsh Government, and specifically the Welsh European Funding Office, to improve the co-ordinating and monitoring of the outcomes being delivered by such projects.

Mae'r dystiolaeth a gawsom yn awgrymu bod Cymru yn cyflawni'r targedau a'r gofynion a bennwyd gan yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ar gyfer y defnydd o'r arian ac mae wedi rhoi systemau effeithiol ar waith i fonitro a dosbarthu arian a roddwyd gan Ewrop. Fodd bynnag, awgrymodd ein hymchwiliad hefyd fod cryn le i Lywodraeth Cymru, ac yn benodol Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru, i wella'r broses o gydgysylltu a monitro'r canlyniadau sy'n deillio o brosiectau o'r fath.

Our main finding, which is our primary recommendation, is clear. We believe that a wholesale review of WEFO's strategic role and function is required to address these concerns, and a review is under way. Our report called for the Welsh Government's review to give independent, unfettered and imaginative consideration to the future role, responsibilities and structure of WEFO. I am pleased that the Deputy Minister has accepted this recommendation, and that he thinks our report, and the year of evidence gathering that went into it, has been a valuable exercise. We look forward with anticipation to the publication of Dr Guilford's independent evaluation of the implementation arrangements for the next round of structural funds next month.

Mae ein prif ganfyddiad, sef ein prif argymhelliad, yn glir. Credwn fod angen adolygiad cyffredinol o rôl a swyddogaeth strategol WEFO er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r pryderon hyn, ac mae adolygiad yn mynd rhagddo. Galwodd ein hadroddiad am i adolygiad Llywodraeth Cymru roi ystyriaeth annibynnol, ddilyffethair a dychmygus i rôl, cyfrifoldebau a strwythur WEFO yn y dyfodol. Rwy'n falch bod y Dirprwy Weinidog wedi derbyn yr argymhelliad hwn, a'i fod o'r farn bod ein hadroddiad, a'r flwyddyn o gasglu tystiolaeth a fu ynghlwm wrth hynny, wedi bod yn ymarfer gwerthfawr. Edrychwn ymlaen yn eiddgar at werthusiad annibynnol Dr Guilford o'r trefniadau gweithredu ar gyfer y cylch nesaf o gronfeydd strwythurol pan gaiff ei gyhoeddi y mis nesaf.

Our report details 16 further recommendations, and I am pleased that the Government has accepted the vast majority. Even where the Deputy Minister says that he rejects our recommendations, he has outlined work that has been or is being done to meet the underlying purpose of those recommendations.

Mae ein hadroddiad yn nodi 16 o argymhellion eraill, ac rwy'n falch bod y Llywodraeth wedi derbyn y mwyafrif llethol. Hyd yn oed lle mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog yn dweud ei fod yn gwrthod ein hargymhellion, mae wedi amlinellu'r gwaith sydd wedi'i wneud neu sy'n cael ei wneud i ateb pwrpas sylfaenol yr argymhellion hynny.

This report is the fruit of a year's work of the committee, and the recommendations are intended to improve the impact of the Welsh Government's work. There is total agreement that Wales has done well with regard to meeting the rules of spending money. In the next phase, which is the final phase, of European funding, we need to ensure that the money has the maximum impact.

Ffrwyth llafur blwyddyn y pwyllgor yw'r adroddiad hwn, a bwriedir i'r argymhellion wella effaith gwaith Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae cytundeb llwyr bod Cymru wedi gwneud yn dda o ran cydymffurfio â'r rheolau ynglŷn â gwario arian. Yn y cam nesaf, sef y cam olaf, o arian Ewropeaidd, mae angen inni sicrhau bod yr arian yn cael yr effaith fwyaf bosibl.

I will keep my opening remarks brief. I would like to thank all the witnesses who gave evidence to the inquiry. Their experience and intelligence were vital ingredients in producing the report. I look forward to hearing Members' comments throughout the debate.

Byddaf yn cadw fy sylwadau agoriadol yn fyr. Hoffwn ddiolch i'r holl dystion a roddodd dystiolaeth i'r ymchwiliad. Roedd eu profiad a'u gwybodaeth yn elfennau hanfodol wrth inni lunio'r adroddiad. Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed sylwadau Aelodau drwy gydol y ddadl.

15:49 **Paul Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I am pleased to take part in this debate this afternoon. I start by thanking the Chair of the committee for her leadership on this issue, and I also thank the clerk and his team for their efforts throughout this inquiry. I am pleased that the Deputy Minister has accepted in principle the majority of the committee's recommendations, although I am disappointed to read that recommendations 7, 8 and 15 have been rejected.

Rwy'n falch o gymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon y prynhawn yma. Hoffwn ddechrau drwy ddiolch i Gadeirydd y pwyllgor am ei harweinyddiaeth ar y mater hwn, a hoffwn hefyd diolch i'r clerc a'i dîm am eu hymdrechion drwy gydol yr ymchwiliad hwn. Rwy'n falch bod y Dirprwy Weinidog wedi derbyn mewn egwyddor y rhan fwyaf o argymhellion y pwyllgor, er fy mod yn siomedig i ddarllen bod argymhellion 7, 8 a 15 wedi cael eu gwrthod.

I will focus my comments on a few of the committee's recommendations. First, I would like to touch on the primary recommendation, which focuses on the need for radical reform at the Welsh European Funding Office and the need for the Welsh Government's review to give fresh and independent consideration to WEFO's role in the implementation of European structural funds programmes post 2013. I think that we would all agree that the key underlying concern that has arisen from this particular inquiry is the need to give consideration to the future role, responsibilities and structure of WEFO, as outlined in Jocelyn Davies's opening remarks. The committee heard evidence that was critical of WEFO's evaluation and monitoring systems and specifically about whether the monitoring processes of the current round of structural funds were overly excessive compared with other funding streams. In the written evidence prepared by the Welsh Social Enterprise Coalition, it suggested that the level of bureaucracy is 'excessive' and stated that it was

Yn fy sylwadau byddaf yn canolbwyntio ar ychydig o argymhellion y pwyllgor. Yn gyntaf, hoffwn grybwyll y prif argymhelliad, sy'n canolbwyntio ar yr angen am ddiwygio radical yn Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru a'r angen am i adolygiad Llywodraeth Cymru ystyried o'r newydd ac yn annibynnol rôl WEFO o ran gweithredu rhaglenni cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd ar ôl 2013. Credaf y byddem oll yn cytuno mai'r pryder sylfaenol allweddol sydd wedi codi o'r ymchwiliad penodol hwn yw'r angen i ystyried rôl, cyfrifoldebau a strwythur WEFO yn y dyfodol, fel yr amlinellwyd yn sylwadau agoriadol Jocelyn Davies. Clywodd y pwyllgor dystiolaeth a oedd yn feirniadol o systemau gwerthuso a monitro WEFO ac yn benodol ynghylch a oedd prosesau monitro'r cylch cyfredol o gronfeydd strwythurol yn ormodol o gymharu â ffrydiau ariannu eraill. Yn y dystiolaeth ysgrifenedig a baratowyd gan Gynghrair Mentrau Cymdeithasol Cymru, awgrymodd fod lefel y fiwrocratiaeth yn 'ormodol' a dywedodd ei bod

'worried about the layers of bureaucracy that seem to be put into place.'

yn poeni am yr haenau o fiwrocratiaeth yr ymddengys eu bod yn cael eu rhoi ar waith.

Therefore, it is clear that WEFO must have a stronger dialogue with project sponsors to ensure that its systems become more appropriate.

Felly, mae'n amlwg bod yn rhaid i WEFO gael deialog cadarnach â noddwyr prosiectau er mwyn sicrhau bod ei systemau yn fwy priodol.

I am sure that we would all agree that it is crucial for the Welsh Government to check public expenditure routinely. However, it is important that the monitoring of any expenditure should be proportionate to the levels of finance involved, so that smaller projects are not unnecessarily being bothered by bureaucracy, for example the half-hourly checks as was suggested by a witness. As a result, the committee has recommended that, ahead of the next European funding round, the Welsh Government reviews its processes for applicants for funding from WEFO with a view to ensuring that they are appropriately robust and that any unnecessary bureaucracy is eliminated.

Byddem oll yn cytuno, mae'n siŵr gennyf, ei bod yn hanfodol bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn gwirio gwariant cyhoeddus fel mater o drefn. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig bod y broses o fonitro unrhyw wariant yn gymesur â lefel y cyllid dan sylw, fel na chaiff prosiectau llai eu trafferthu'n ddiangen gan fiwrocratiaeth, er enghraifft y gwiriadau bob hanner awr fel yr awgrymwyd gan un tyst. O ganlyniad, mae'r pwyllgor wedi argymell, cyn y cylch cyllido Ewropeaidd nesaf, y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru adolygu ei phrosesau ar gyfer ymgeiswyr am gyllid gan WEFO gyda'r nod o sicrhau eu bod yn ddigon cadarn a bod unrhyw fiwrocratiaeth ddiangen yn cael ei dileu.

Secondly, I would also like to mention the committee's concerns regarding the engagement with the private sector. According to the WEFO database of approved projects, only 10 out of the 260 projects approved to date are led by the private sector, and those 10 projects are supported by £20 million of EU funding out of the £1.6 billion committed in total to date. During the inquiry, we received a paper from the Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy that suggested that, in Wales, the private sector has historically been closely associated with the development and delivery of European programmes. However, both the DG Regional and Urban Policy paper and the paper from the Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion pointed to the fact that there are few private sector-led projects in Wales during the current round of funding. In giving evidence to the committee, the Welsh Local Government Association told us that

'The major challenge is that it is not attractive for the private sector either. So, we are a bit concerned about the progress of the fund.'

This inquiry has highlighted how private sector involvement is limited with regards to projects, and that is why it has been recommended that the Welsh Government clarifies Wales's position in relation to other regions of Europe in terms of its success in engaging the private sector in the use of structural funds.

Prior to the inquiry, the Deputy Minister had stated on record his belief that Wales is second from top in terms of European countries in working with the private sector. However, since then, he has also advised the Enterprise and Business Committee that it is difficult to provide the committee with the evidence to support and underpin the remark that Wales is second from top of European countries in working with the private sector. Under the circumstances, it is time for the Welsh Government to explain Wales's position once and for all, and perhaps the Deputy Minister will be kind enough to take the opportunity provided by his response.

It is clear that WEFO must become more proactive in targeting private sector bodies to engage in utilising structural funds. Perhaps by making oral advice on procurement and wider project management more readily available to private sector bodies, the Welsh Government can start to tackle the issue of limited engagement with the private sector in strategically leading projects.

I would like to briefly touch on the issue of targeted match funding. The witnesses throughout this inquiry were largely supportive of the existence of the TMF fund, but concerns were still expressed that applications for TMF were not sufficiently joined up with applications for European structural funds. The WLGA described the experience as being characterised by unnecessary duplication and bureaucracy with a lack of openness and transparency in the process. Indeed the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action echoed this concern when we heard evidence that there were delays in receiving the TMF money once it had been approved, causing major cash-flow problems for the organisation. However, I am pleased that the Deputy Minister has said that he hopes that

Yn ail, hoffwn hefyd sôn am bryderon y pwyllgor ynghylch ymgysylltu â'r sector preifat. Yn ôl cronfa ddata WEFO o brosiectau cymeradwy, dim ond 10 allan o'r 260 o brosiectau a gymeradwywyd hyd yma a arweinir gan y sector preifat, ac mae'r 10 prosiect hynny yn cael eu cefnogi gan £20 miliwn o gyllid yr UE allan o'r £1.6 biliwn a neilltuwyd hyd yma. Yn ystod yr ymchwiliad, derbyniwyd papur oddi wrth y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gyffredinol Polisi Rhanbarthol a Threfol a awgrymodd fod cyswllt agos rhwng y sector preifat a datblygu a chyflwyno rhaglenni Ewropeaidd yn hanesyddol yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, nododd y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gyffredinol Polisi Rhanbarthol a Threfol a phapur y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gyffredinol Cyflogaeth, Materion Cymdeithasol a Chynhwysiant mai ychydig o brosiectau a arweinir gan y sector preifat yng Nghymru sydd yn y cylch ariannu presennol. Wrth roi tystiolaeth i'r pwyllgor, dywedodd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru wrthym

Yr her fawr yw nad yw'n ddeniadol i'r sector preifat ychwaith. Felly, rydym braidd yn bryderus am yr hyn sy'n digwydd gyda'r gronfa.

Mae'r ymchwiliad hwn wedi tynnu sylw at y ffaith mai cyfyngedig yw ymwneud y sector preifat o ran prosiectau, a dyna pam y mae wedi bod yn argymell bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn egluro sefyllfa Cymru mewn perthynas â rhanbarthau eraill yn Ewrop o ran ei llwyddiant i gael y sector preifat i ddefnyddio'r cronfeydd strwythurol.

Cyn yr ymchwiliad, roedd y Dirprwy Weinidog wedi nodi'n gyhoeddus ei fod yn credu bod Cymru yn ail o'r brig ymhlith gwledydd Ewropeaidd o ran gweithio gyda'r sector preifat. Fodd bynnag, ers hynny, mae hefyd wedi dweud wrth y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes ei bod yn anodd rhoi'r dystiolaeth i'r pwyllgor i gefnogi ac ategu'r sylw bod Cymru yn ail o'r brig ymhlith gwledydd Ewropeaidd o ran gweithio gyda'r sector preifat. O dan yr amgylchiadau, mae'n bryd i Lywodraeth Cymru egluro sefyllfa Cymru unwaith ac am byth, ac efallai y bydd y Dirprwy Weinidog cyn garediced ag achub ar y cyfle a roddir yn ei ymateb.

Mae'n amlwg bod yn rhaid i WEFO fod yn fwy rhagweithiol o ran cael cyrff yn y sector preifat i ddefnyddio cronfeydd strwythurol. Efallai drwy sicrhau bod cyngor ar lafar ar gaffael a'r broses ehangach o reoli prosiectau ar gael yn haws i gyrff yn y sector preifat, gall Llywodraeth Cymru ddechrau mynd i'r afael ag ymwneud cyfyngedig y sector preifat ag arwain prosiectau yn strategol.

Hoffwn yn gyflym grybwyll mater arian cyfatebol a dargedir. Roedd y tystion drwy gydol yr ymchwiliad hwn yn gefnogol i fodolaeth y gronfa arian cyfatebol a dargedir i raddau helaeth, ond mynegwyd pryderon o hyd nad oedd ceisiadau am arian cyfatebol a dargedir yn cael eu cydgysylltu'n ddigonol â cheisiadau am gronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd. Disgrifiodd CLlLC y profiad fel un a nodweddir gan ddyblygu diangen a biwrocratiaeth a phroses nad yw'n agored nac yn dryloyw. Yn wir, ategwyd y pryder hwn gan Gyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru pan glywsom dystiolaeth bod oedi cyn derbyn yr arian cyfatebol a dargedir ar ôl iddo gael ei gymeradwyo, gan achosi problemau mawr o ran llif arian i'r sefydliad. Fodd bynnag, rwy'n falch bod y Dirprwy Weinidog wedi dweud ei fod yn gobeithio

'we will see a coming together and integration of different funding streams.'

y gwelwn wahanol ffrydiau ariannu yn dod at ei gilydd ac yn integreiddio â'i gilydd.

This, I am sure, is what all parties in the Chamber would like to see to ensure that there is minimal duplication for applicants to both funds. Therefore, finally, I look forward to seeing the recommendations being implemented in the near future following our committee report and this afternoon's debate.

Dyna'r hyn y byddai pob plaid yn y Siambr yn hoffi ei weld mae'n siŵr gennyf, er mwyn sicrhau bod cyn lleied o ddyblygu â phosibl i ymgeiswyr i'r ddwy gronfa. Felly, yn olaf, edrychaf ymlaen at weld yr argymhellion yn cael eu gweithredu yn y dyfodol agos yn dilyn adroddiad y pwyllgor a'r ddadl y prynhawn yma.

15:55

Mike Hedges Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I was the chair of Swansea's Objective 1 committee during its early years. At that time, we had difficulty in getting project approval, especially for the voluntary sector and for small and medium-sized private companies. Not a lot seems to have changed. Over a decade later at our committee meetings, we had a large number of representatives from the public and private sectors relating their experiences. One of those that stuck in my mind, as Paul Davies mentioned, was the issue of half-hourly time recordings. We could not find anyone to accept responsibility for demanding it, but the organisation concerned was adamant that that was what it believed it had to provide. While the private sector organisations that had successfully gained funding were loath to be critical, there still appear to be—to me, at least—a lack of support and help for them. Colleges are reducing their funding from European sources from the amounts that they had bid for during a period when we used to receive Objective 2 funding. There is difficulty in bidding for capital money, and the length of time that it takes to be awarded and then to be received. There is difficulty in showing outputs from the provision of basic skills, which are needed to advance to higher skills and employment.

Fi oedd cadeirydd pwyllgor Amcan 1 Abertawe yn ystod ei flynyddoedd cynnar. Ar y pryd, cawsom anhawster i sicrhau bod prosiectau yn cael eu cymeradwyo, yn enwedig rhai'r sector gwirfoddol a chwmnïau preifat bach a chanolig. Ymddengys nad oes fawr ddim wedi newid. Dros ddegawd yn ddiweddarach yn ein cyfarfodydd pwyllgor, mae nifer fawr o gynrychiolwyr o'r sector cyhoeddus a'r sector preifat wedi bod yn sôn am eu profiadau. Un o'r rheini a'm trawodd, fel y soniodd Paul Davies, oedd cofnodi amser bob hanner awr. Ni allem ddod o hyd i neb a oedd yn fodlon derbyn cyfrifoldeb am fynnu hynny, ond roedd y sefydliad dan sylw yn bendant mai dyna'r hyn yr oedd yn credu bod yn rhaid iddo ei wneud. Er bod y sefydliadau yn y sector preifat a oedd wedi llwyddo i gael cyllid yn amharod i fod yn feirniadol, ymddengys—i mi, o leiaf—fod diffyg cefnogaeth a chymorth iddynt. Mae colegau yn lleihau eu cyllid o ffynonellau Ewropeaidd o'r symiau y bu'n rhaid iddynt wneud cais amdanynt yn ystod cyfnod pan arferwn gael arian Amcan 2. Mae anhawster o ran gwneud cais am arian cyfalaf, a faint o amser y mae'n ei gymryd i gael ei ddyfarnu ac yna'i dderbyn. Mae anhawster o ran dangos allbynnau o ddarparu sgiliau sylfaenol, sydd eu hangen i symud ymlaen i sgiliau uwch a chyflogaeth.

One of the committee's key recommendations is that the Welsh Government should review the arrangements for implementing ESF funding post 2013, to ensure that independent, unfettered and imaginative consideration is given to the future roles and responsibilities of the Welsh European Funding Office. I would like to pose a few questions. Should the role of managing and certifying be split? Should there be a support function in WEFO, especially for smaller organisations? Should there be a small organisation division to help small private and voluntary organisations that do not have the capacity that the larger organisations have? Should it be able to promote and facilitate access to other European funding sources, and should it signpost to other funding sources that are not European but may be more relevant to an organisation's needs?

Un o argymhellion allweddol y pwyllgor yw y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru adolygu'r trefniadau ar gyfer gweithredu cyllid Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop ar ôl 2013, er mwyn sicrhau bod ystyriaeth annibynnol, ddilyffethair a dychmygus yn cael ei rhoi i rolau a chyfrifoldebau Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru yn y dyfodol. Hoffwn ofyn ychydig o gwestiynau. A ddylid rhannu'r rôl o reoli ac ardystio? A ddylid cael swyddogaeth cymorth yn WEFO, yn enwedig i sefydliadau bach? A ddylai fod adran i sefydliadau bach i helpu sefydliadau bach yn y sector preifat a'r sector gwirfoddol nad oes ganddynt yr adnoddau sydd gan sefydliadau mwy o faint? A ddylai fod yn gallu hyrwyddo a hwyluso mynediad at ffynonellau ariannu Ewropeaidd eraill, a ddylai fod yn cyfeirio at ffynonellau ariannu eraill nad ydynt yn rhai Ewropeaidd ond a all fod yn fwy perthnasol i anghenion y sefydliad?

The second recommendation that I wish to discuss is that the Government should define its strategic priorities for the next funding round in a clear and accessible format at the earliest available opportunity. Key aims have to be increasing employment levels and improving qualifications. There is graduate unemployment and underemployment. Unemployment is generally structural, and skills and qualifications help people into employment and mean that people have higher paid employment than they would otherwise. We need upskilling and reskilling. I refer to the skills that people learned 30 years ago. For example, draughtsmen used to use boards and pencils; now they use AutoCAD. This is the sort of upskilling that is necessary. We need to generate employment in fields like information and communications technology and life sciences—things where we are not in competition on wages but on skills and abilities. This is about Gordon Brown's endogenous growth theory, in that you need to get people skilled and capable. One classic example is the steel industry, which had lots of problems. One part of the industry that has always done well has been electrical steel in the Orb in Newport, because it is a highly skilled and highly technical form of steel manufacturing and rolling, which is not easily duplicated in other places.

Yr ail argymhelliad yr hoffwn ei drafod yw y dylai'r Llywodraeth bennu ei blaenoriaethau strategol ar gyfer y cylch ariannu nesaf mewn fformat clir a hygyrch ar y cyfle cyntaf posibl. Rhaid mai'r nodau allweddol yw cynyddu lefelau cyflogaeth a gwella cymwysterau. Ceir diweithdra a thangyflogaeth ymhlith graddedigion. Mae diweithdra yn strwythurol fel arfer, ac mae sgiliau a chymwysterau yn helpu pobl i gael gwaith ac yn golygu bod pobl yn cael cyflogaeth â thâl uwch nag y byddent fel arall. Mae angen uwchsgilio ac ailsgilio. Cyfeiriaf at y sgiliau y byddai pobl yn eu dysgu 30 mlynedd yn ôl. Er enghraifft, roedd drafftsmyn yn arfer defnyddio byrddau a phensiliau; erbyn hyn maent yn defnyddio Cynllunio Awtomatig â Chymorth Cyfrifiadur. Dyma'r math o uwchsgilio sydd ei angen. Mae angen inni greu cyflogaeth mewn meysydd fel technoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu a gwyddorau bywyd—pethau lle nad ydym yn cystadlu o ran cyflogau ond o ran sgiliau a galluoedd. Mae a wnelo hyn â damcaniaeth dwf cynhenid Gordon Brown, yn yr ystyr bod angen ichi gael pobl i fod fedrus a galluog. Un enghraifft glasurol yw'r diwydiant dur, a oedd â llawer o broblemau. Un rhan o'r diwydiant sydd bob amser wedi gwneud yn dda yw dur trydanol yng ngwaith yr Orb yng Nghasnewydd, gan ei fod yn ffurf hynod fedrus a thechnegol iawn ar weithgynhyrchu a rholio dur, nad yw'n cael ei hefelychu'n hawdd mewn mannau eraill.

One of our great weaknesses is being afraid of risk and failure. This obviously takes place against a backdrop of any failure being followed by a call for an order to report, for the loss of public money to be investigated and highlighted, and people being identified. This is a problem. Sometimes, we need to be prepared to take risks and we need to allow some things to fail, without having a knee-jerk reaction where people say, 'Oh, we have wasted public money'. Sometimes, we might have 10 successes and one failure, and far too often we concentrate on the one thing that fails. Really, we need to work towards taking risks. If we do not take risks, all that we are going to do is give money to local authorities and big companies because we know that we are safe with them. We need to stop taking soft options and we need to do what we can to increase the wealth of people in west Wales and the Valleys. We need it. I speak as someone who lives there. We need to increase our wealth, and I believe that the recommendations in this report, and the replies from the Deputy Minister, give us the means of going forward.

Un o'n gwendidau mawr yw ofn mentro a methiant. Mae hyn yn amlwg yn digwydd yn erbyn cefndir lle mae unrhyw fethiant yn arwain at alwad am orchymyn i roi adroddiad, i ymchwilio i'r arian cyhoeddus a gollwyd a'i nodi ac i enwi pobl. Mae hon yn broblem. Weithiau, mae angen inni fod yn barod i fentro ac mae angen inni ganiatáu i rai pethau fethu, heb adweithio'n ddifeddwl lle mae pobl yn dweud, 'O, rydym wedi gwastraffu arian cyhoeddus'. Weithiau, efallai y bydd 10 llwyddiant ac un methiant, ac yn llawer rhy aml rydym yn canolbwyntio ar yr un peth sy'n methu. Mewn gwirionedd, mae angen inni weithio tuag at fentro. Os na wnawn fentro, y cyfan y byddwn yn ei wneud yw rhoi arian i awdurdodau lleol a chwmnïau mawr oherwydd gwyddom ein bod yn ddiogel gyda hwy. Mae angen inni roi'r gorau i wneud dewisiadau hawdd ac mae angen inni wneud yr hyn a allwn i gynyddu cyfoeth pobl yn y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd. Mae angen hynny arnom. Siaradaf fel rhywun sy'n byw yno. Mae angen inni gynyddu ein cyfoeth, a chredaf fod yr argymhellion yn yr adroddiad hwn, a'r ymatebion gan y Dirprwy Weinidog, yn rhoi modd inni symud ymlaen.

15:59 **Rhodri Glyn Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography — Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Hoffwn ddechrau drwy longyfarch y pwyllgor yn fawr iawn ar yr adroddiad hwn. Mae'n amlwg bod llawer iawn o dystiolaeth wedi'i derbyn. Credaf fod yr adroddiad hwn yn un cytbwys iawn ac yn un sy'n mynd i'r afael â llawer o bwyntiau sy'n eithriadol o bwysig o ran y cronfeydd strwythurol hyn. Mae'n hawdd rhuthro i'r canfyddiad bod y buddsoddiad o'r cronfeydd hyn wedi bod yn fethiant ac wedi cael ei wastraffu. Hwyrach bod angen edrych yn llawer manylach ar y cynlluniau hyn a bod yn fwy parod i edrych ar y llwyddiannau yn hytrach na rhai o'r methiannau.

I would like to begin my congratulating the committee on this report. It is clear that it took a great deal of evidence. I think that it is a very balanced report and one that gets to grips with many of the most important points in terms of these structural funds. It is easy to rush to the conclusion that the investment of these funds have been wasted and have failed. There is a need to look in far more detail at these plans and schemes, perhaps, and be more willing to look at the successes rather than some of the failures.

Gyda llaw, fe wnaeth Mike Hedges bwynt eithriadol o bwysig wrth nodi'r angen inni gymryd rhyw gymaint o risg gyda'r cronfeydd hyn. Os ewch chi am y posibiliadau diogel bob tro, ni fyddwch yn cyflawni rhyw lawer. Mae angen yr elfen honno o risg er mwyn cyflawni'r hyn y mae'r cronfeydd fod i'w wneud, sef trawsffurfio cymunedau yn gymdeithasol ac yn economaidd.

By the way, Mike Hedges made an exceptionally important point when he referred to the need for us to take some risk with these funds. If you always take the safe option, you will not achieve a great deal. You need that risk element in order to achieve what these funds are supposed to achieve, which is the transformation of communities both socially and economically.

Rwy'n meddwl bod prif argymhelliad yr adroddiad, sy'n sôn am yr angen i gynnal yr arolwg sy'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd o Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru, a rôl y swyddfa honno, yn eithriadol o bwysig. Hoffwn argymell tri pheth i'r Gweinidog ar sail hynny. Yn gyntaf, mae system gyfrifo ar waith yng nghyswllt y cronfeydd strwythurol hyn a'r gwariant mewn rhaglenni a phrosiectau ar lawr gwlad, yng Nghymru ac mewn mannau eraill, ond nid oes asesiad yn cael ei wneud o'r gwahaniaeth a wnânt i gymunedau. A yw'r gwahaniaeth hwnnw mewn gwirionedd yn trawsffurfio cymunedau ac yn creu potensial a chyfleoedd newydd?

I think that the primary recommendation of the report, which refers to the need for a review that is currently ongoing of the Welsh European Funding Office and the role of that organisation, is incredibly important. I make three suggestions to the Minister on that basis. First, there is an accounting system in place in terms of the structural funds and their expenditure in programmes and projects at grass-roots level, in Wales and elsewhere, but no assessment is made of the difference that they actually make to communities. Does that difference truly transform those communities and create new potential and opportunities?

Yn y datganiad o farn a gyflwynais—yn Gymraeg, gyda llaw—i Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau fis diwethaf ar y synergedd rhwng y gyllideb Ewropeaidd, yr aelod wladwriaeth a'r lefel is-genedlaethol, un o'r argymhellion oedd y dylai prifysgol yn Ewrop—buaswn i am weld prifysgol yng Nghymru yn ymgymryd â'r gwaith hwn—wneud asesiad o ba wahaniaeth sylfaenol y mae'r cronfeydd hyn wedi'i wneud ledled Ewrop. Yn sicr, buaswn i'r falch iawn o weld y dystiolaeth am y gwahaniaeth sylfaenol y maent wedi'i wneud yng Nghymru. Efallai y gallai WEFO edrych ar y posibiliadau yn hynny o beth.

In the statement of opinion that I tabled—in Welsh, by the way—to the Committee of the Regions last month on the synergy between the European budget, the member-state level, and the sub-national level, one of the recommendations was that a university in Europe—I would want to see a Welsh university undertaking this work—should carry out the assessment of the fundamental differences that these funds have made throughout Europe. I would certainly be grateful to see the evidence about the fundamental difference that they have made in Wales. Perhaps WEFO could look at the possibilities in that regard.

Gallai WEFO hefyd edrych y sefyllfaoedd a'r cyfleoedd sy'n bodoli i Gymru nad ydynt hwyrach yn cael eu derbyn gan fod penderfyniad yn gorfod cael ei wneud ar lefel aelod wladwriaeth. Er enghraifft, buom yn trafod yn y grŵp trawsbleidiol ar reilffyrdd yr wythnos diwethaf y cysylltiadau traws-Ewropeaidd. Wrth gwrs, pe bai cais yn cael ei wneud am arian ar gyfer y rheilffyrdd hynny, oherwydd eu bod yn drawsffiniol ac yn cynnwys Cymru a Lloegr, byddai'n rhaid i'r cais ddod oddi wrth yr aelod wladwriaeth. Ni fyddai Cymru yn gallu gwneud y cais yn uniongyrchol. Felly, a ydy WEFO yn gwneud digon i edrych ar y posibiliadau hynny ac i sicrhau bod Cymru yn manteisio ar bob cyfle sydd ar gael o fewn y cronfeydd strwythurol?

WEFO could also look at the situations and opportunities that exist for Wales that perhaps are not taken up because the decision has to be taken at a member-state level. For example, last week, the cross-party group on railways discussed trans-European links. Of course, if a bid were made for funds for those routes, because they cross borders and include England and Wales, that bid would have to be made by a member state. Wales itself could not make that application directly. So, is WEFO doing enough to look at those possibilities, and to ensure that Wales takes advantage of every opportunity available within these structural funds?

Yr wyf ar hyn o bryd yn paratoi datganiad o farn a fydd yn mynd i'r comisiwn ad hoc ar y gyllideb ym Mhwyllgor y Rhanbarthau ddechrau mis nesaf, yn ymwneud â phartneriaethau cyhoeddus-preifat. Yng Nghymru, rydym wedi ymwrthod â model y fenter cyllid preifat—a rwy'n meddwl bod y penderfyniad wedi bod yn un iawn—ac wedi sylweddoli ei fod yn fodel eithriadol o ddrud nad yw'n cynnig rhyw lawer ac eithrio cynnig isadeiledd yn y lle cyntaf, gyda chostau mawr yn dilyn hynny. Serch hynny, mae rôl yn y fan hon i Fanc Buddsoddi Ewrop. Nid wyf yn siŵr ein bod ni yng Nghymru wedi manteisio'n llawn ar hyn. Cefais gyfarfod gydag uwch-swyddogion y banc yn Lwcsembwrg a dywedwyd wrthyf fod Cymru, yn gyntaf oll, wedi bod ar flaen y gad, ond ein bod ni wedi tueddu i ymbellhau oddi wrth y banc. Eto, rwy'n credu y gallai WEFO gynnal cyfarfodydd gyda Banc Buddsoddi Ewrop er mwyn gweld lle y gallem fanteisio ar fuddsoddiad a fyddai'n mynd law yn llaw gydag arian strwythurol, a hynny er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn cael buddsoddiad sylweddol yng Nghymru. Wrth gwrs, mae gennym fodel yn awr. Y model clasurol yw campws newydd Prifysgol Abertawe, a adeiladwyd gydag arian o Fanc Buddsoddi Ewrop. Felly, rwy'n gobeithio y bydd y Gweinidog a'r pwyllgor yn gweld yr awgrymiadau hynny fel rhai buddiol

I am currently preparing a statement of opinion that will go to the Committee of the Regions' ad hoc commission on the budget at the beginning of next month, which will deal with public-private partnerships. In Wales, we have rejected the private finance initiative model—and I believe that the decision was the right one—and have realised that it is an exceptionally expensive model that does not achieve much apart from providing infrastructure in the first place, with subsequent significant costs. However, I believe that there is a role here for the European Investment Bank. I am not sure whether we in Wales have taken full advantage of this. I had a meeting with the bank's senior officials in Luxembourg. They said that, initially, Wales had been ahead of the game but that we had tended to stray away from the bank. Again, I think that WEFO could be holding meetings with the European Investment Bank to see where we could take advantage of investment that would go hand-in-hand with some of the structural funds to ensure that we get significant investment in Wales. Of course, there is now a model. The classic model is the new Swansea University campus, which was built with funds from the European Investment Bank. So, I hope that the Minister and the committee find those suggestions beneficial.

16:04

David Rees Bywgraffiad Biography

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I thank the committee for the report and for the effort taken to look at the effective management—and perhaps not the effectiveness—of structural funds within Wales. The committee's report highlights many issues that relate to the functions of the Welsh European Funding Office. I note that the Welsh Government has already initiated a review of WEFO and I look forward to seeing the outcome of Dr Guilford's work, which the Chair has already highlighted. We must acknowledge the points raised in chapters 2, 3 and 4 relating to the operation and advice of WEFO in project development, but I believe that the Government's response has reflected this and addressed the recommendations within the committee's report.

Hoffwn ddiolch i'r pwyllgor am yr adroddiad ac am yr ymdrech a wnaed i edrych ar reolaeth effeithiol—ac efallai nid effeithiolrwydd— cronfeydd strwythurol yng Nghymru. Mae adroddiad y pwyllgor yn tynnu sylw at nifer o faterion sy'n ymwneud â swyddogaethau Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru. Nodaf fod Llywodraeth Cymru eisoes wedi dechrau ar adolygiad o WEFO ac edrychaf ymlaen at weld canlyniad gwaith Dr Guilford, y mae'r Cadeirydd eisoes wedi'i grybwyll. Rhaid inni gydnabod y pwyntiau a godwyd ym mhenodau 2, 3 a 4 ynglŷn â gweithrediad a chyngor WEFO yn y broses o ddatblygu prosiectau, ond credaf fod ymateb y Llywodraeth wedi adlewyrchu hyn ac wedi mynd i'r afael â'r argymhellion yn adroddiad y pwyllgor.

The report also indicates that lessons can be learnt from experiences gained in delivering Objective 1 and convergence funding—I do not believe that anybody would ever doubt that we can always learn from our endeavours. Mind you, how many times have we heard coaches and football managers saying, 'We can learn from this', never to see it happen? I am sure that the Welsh Government will change that. [Laughter.]

Mae'r adroddiad hefyd yn nodi y gellir dysgu gwersi o brofiadau a gafwyd wrth gyflawni Amcan 1 ac arian cydgyfeirio—ni chredaf y byddai unrhyw un yn amau byth na allwn bob amser ddysgu o'n hymdrechion. Cofiwch chi, sawl gwaith rydym wedi clywed hyfforddwyr a rheolwyr pêl-droed yn dweud, 'Gallwn ddysgu o hyn', a byth yn ei weld yn digwydd? Rwy'n siŵr y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn newid hynny. [Chwerthin.]

No doubt there will be mention of the first round of funding under Objective 1 as a period that did not make full use of the funding—Nick Ramsay has often quoted Vaughan on that one. However, he has also quoted the fact that better use was made of the second round of convergence funding than the first round, and that it was applied and targeted more effectively. The Chair's introduction to the report reflects this and states that the key targets and requirements are being met.

Nid oes amheuaeth y bydd sôn am y cylch cyntaf o gyllid o dan Amcan 1 fel cyfnod pan na wnaeth ddefnydd llawn o'r cyllid—mae Nick Ramsay yn aml wedi dyfynnu geiriau Vaughan ar hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae hefyd wedi cyfeirio at y ffaith i'r ail gylch o gyllid cydgyfeirio gael ei ddefnyddio'n well na'r cylch cyntaf, ac iddo gael ei ddefnyddio a'i dargedu'n fwy effeithiol. Mae cyflwyniad y Cadeirydd i'r adroddiad yn adlewyrchu hyn ac yn datgan bod y targedau a'r gofynion allweddol yn cael eu bodloni.

I like the way the report's title—I think Rhodri Glyn Thomas mentioned this—refers to the effectiveness of structural funds in Wales. It must be stressed that EU structural funds are an effective tool in developing communities, promoting business competitiveness, creating skills and knowledge in the workforce, and developing a strategic infrastructure that is fitting of a modern economy. I have seen at first hand the benefits to individuals that have resulted from our participation in these EU programmes—I will talk about that a little later. However, paragraph 19 of the report states that the programmes in Wales enabled by this funding are focused on

'creating sustainable jobs and growth in line with European Union's Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas, and the policies and strategies of the Welsh Government.'

Between 2007 and 2013, our economy and the people of Wales have benefited from an estimated £3.3 billion of investment, with £1.9 billion having come from the EU, giving Wales real-term benefits in job creation and in boosting our economic growth. Living in the west Wales and the Valleys convergence area, I, like many others, can highlight how effectively these funds are making a difference to people's lives. Is that not what it is truly about, making a difference for people? We can all cite many examples, but I shall pick on one, and you will see why in a minute. It is the joint funding of Harbour Way, creating a 4.8 km link road between Port Talbot town centre and the M4. Not only will it relieve bottlenecks on the M4, which will open up west Wales to better opportunities, it will also open up brownfield sites to future development, with a future potential for jobs. Some 600 jobs have been directly created in one project, including apprenticeships, with the prospect of even more long-term employment opportunities in the future, and all being done through a good procurement contract that included appropriate social clauses. Now, I did not see that specific issue in any of the recommendations in the report, and I hope that the Welsh Government will look not just at the evaluation of social impact, which is recommendation 12, but at the inclusion of social clauses in procurement contracts to provide even greater benefits to our regions.

The committee's report spends much time on looking into processes and procedures at WEFO. If you want to talk about effectiveness, please look at the success of programmes for individuals. ESF has also supported the delivery of many different levels of qualifications, and work-based learning in a variety of subjects. It has provided opportunities to many people of all ages, not just young people, to develop themselves and move into employment as a result of the skills and knowledge gained. I have seen individuals come into programmes who would not have considered it possible without the funding. I have seen them succeed, move into employment, and even become entrepreneurial and set up their own businesses. They became economically active. That is what I consider effective.

In summing up, I would be grateful if clarification can be given by the Chair, in her summing up, of the very limited discussion of outcomes and whether the lack of data gathering in past programmes is a major factor in this.

Rwy'n hoffi'r ffordd y mae teitl yr adroddiad— soniodd Rhodri Glyn Thomas am hyn, fe gredaf—yn cyfeirio at effeithiolrwydd y cronfeydd strwythurol yng Nghymru. Rhaid pwysleisio bod cronfeydd strwythurol yr UE yn ffordd effeithiol o ddatblygu cymunedau, hyrwyddo cystadleurwydd busnes, creu sgiliau a gwybodaeth yn y gweithlu, a datblygu seilwaith strategol sy'n addas ar gyfer economi fodern. Rwyf wedi gweld drosof fy hun y manteision i unigolion sydd wedi deillio o'n cyfranogiad yn y rhaglenni hyn o'r UE—soniaf am hynny toc. Fodd bynnag, mae paragraff 19 o'r adroddiad yn datgan bod y rhaglenni yng Nghymru a alluogwyd gan y cyllid hwn yn canolbwyntio ar

'creu swyddi cynaliadwy a thwf a hynny'n unol ag agendau Lisbon a Gothenburg yr Undeb Ewropeaidd, a pholisïau a strategaethau Llywodraeth Cymru.'

Rhwng 2007 a 2013, mae ein heconomi a phobl Cymru wedi elwa o £3.3 biliwn o fuddsoddiad yn ôl yr amcangyfrif, gyda £1.9 biliwn yn dod o'r Undeb Ewropeaidd, gan roi manteision gwirioneddol i Gymru o ran creu swyddi a hybu ein twf economaidd. A minnau'n byw yn ardal gydgyfeirio'r gorllewin a'r Cymoedd, gallaf fi, fel llawer o bobl eraill, nodi pa mor effeithiol yw'r cronfeydd hyn o ran gwneud gwahaniaeth i fywydau pobl. Onid dyna'r nod mewn gwirionedd, gwneud gwahaniaeth i bobl? Gallwn oll gyfeirio at enghreifftiau lawer, ond dewisaf un, a gwelwch pam yn y man. Cyd-ariannu Ffordd yr Harbwr ydyw, sy'n creu ffordd gyswllt 4.8 km o hyd rhwng canol tref Port Talbot a'r M4. Bydd nid yn unig yn lleddfu tagfeydd ar yr M4, a fydd yn agor gorllewin Cymru i gyfleoedd gwell, bydd hefyd yn rhoi cyfle i ddatblygu safleoedd tir llwyd yn y dyfodol, gyda photensial o greu swyddi yn y dyfodol. Crëwyd tua 600 o swyddi yn uniongyrchol mewn un prosiect, gan gynnwys prentisiaethau, gyda'r posibilrwydd o greu cyfleoedd cyflogaeth am gyfnodau hyd yn oed yn fwy yn y dyfodol, a'r cyfan yn cael ei wneud drwy gontract caffael da a oedd yn cynnwys cymalau cymdeithasol priodol. Nawr, ni welais y mater penodol hwnnw yn unrhyw un o'r argymhellion yn yr adroddiad, a gobeithiaf y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru nid yn unig yn ystyried y gwerthusiad o effaith gymdeithasol, sef argymhelliad 12, ond cynnwys cymalau cymdeithasol mewn contractau caffael er mwyn cynnig buddiannau hyd yn oed yn fwy i'n rhanbarthau.

Mae adroddiad y pwyllgor yn treulio llawer o amser yn ystyried prosesau a gweithdrefnau yn WEFO. Os ydych am siarad am effeithiolrwydd, edrychwch ar lwyddiant y rhaglenni i unigolion. Mae Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop hefyd wedi cefnogi'r broses o gyflwyno lefelau gwahanol o gymwysterau, a dysgu seiliedig ar waith mewn amrywiaeth o bynciau. Mae wedi rhoi cyfleoedd i lawer o bobl o bob oedran, nid dim ond pobl ifanc, i ddatblygu eu hunain a dechrau gweithio o ganlyniad i'r sgiliau a'r wybodaeth a gafwyd. Rwyf wedi gweld unigolion yn ymuno â rhaglenni na fyddent wedi eu hystyried yn bosibl heb y cyllid. Rwyf wedi eu gweld yn llwyddo, a chael cyflogaeth, a hyd yn oed wedi mynd yn entrepreneuraidd a sefydlu eu busnesau eu hunain. Daethant yn economaidd weithgar. Dyna'r hyn sy'n effeithiol, yn fy marn i.

Wrth grynhoi, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe medrai'r Cadeirydd roi eglurhad wrth iddi grynhoi'r ddadl, ynghylch y drafodaeth gyfyngedig iawn am ganlyniadau ac a yw'r diffyg casglu data mewn rhaglenni yn y gorffennol yn ffactor pwysig yn hyn o beth.

Finally, it is important to remember that the rewards of investment may not be seen for long periods—perhaps even several years—but the effects of long-term improvements for our communities, our infrastructure and the people they serve will last for decades.

Yn olaf, mae’n bwysig cofio na fydd yr hyn sy’n deillio o’r buddsoddiad yn cael ei weld am gyfnodau hir—efallai hyd yn oed nifer o flynyddoedd—ond bydd effeithiau gwelliannau hirdymor ar gyfer ein cymunedau, ein seilwaith a’r bobl y maent yn eu gwasanaethu yn para am ddegawdau.

16:09

Eluned Parrott Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I, too, thank the committee for this substantial and informative piece of work on the debate of EU funds and how they are used here in Wales. We have discussed the relative success—or perhaps other perspectives—of the use of EU funds many times in this Chamber, and we have focused very much on the outcomes and what we see as results. David Rees spoke very movingly about the outcomes for individuals, but of course, when it comes to applying for new rounds of funding, the outcome on which we are judged is Wales's GDP and GVA as a whole. Unfortunately, we have generally accepted that this outcome has not yet been what we would have wished for in the Assembly.

Hoffwn innau hefyd ddiolch i’r pwyllgor am y darn sylweddol a llawn gwybodaeth hwn o waith ar y ddadl am gronfeydd yr UE a sut maent yn cael eu defnyddio yma yng Nghymru. Rydym wedi trafod llwyddiant cymharol—neu safbwyntiau eraill o bosibl—y defnydd o gronfeydd yr UE sawl gwaith yn y Siambr hon, ac rydym wedi canolbwyntio i raddau helaeth ar y canlyniadau a’r hyn a ystyriwn yn ganlyniadau. Siaradodd David Rees yn deimladwy iawn am y canlyniadau i unigolion, ond wrth gwrs, o ran gwneud cais am gylchoedd ariannu newydd, y canlyniad y cawn ein barnu yn ei erbyn yw CMC a GYC Cymru yn gyffredinol. Yn anffodus, rydym wedi derbyn yn gyffredinol nad ydym eto wedi llwyddo i gael y canlyniad y byddem wedi’i ddymuno yn y Cynulliad.

The narrative in this Chamber has been very much based on the idea that, okay, the outcomes were not great, but the processes are rock solid. However, what we have here, sadly, is a report that is highly critical of some of the processes, and one of the worrying things in this is that there is a perception among some in higher education, for example—my own background—and business as well that accessing European funding will be bureaucratic and difficult. That perception itself becomes a problem if it prevents people from proactively engaging with the programmes that they might be able to make real use of. That is something that we have to understand and accept.

Mae’r naratif yn y Siambr hon wedi bod yn seiliedig i raddau helaeth ar y syniad, iawn, nid oedd y canlyniadau yn wych, ond mae’r prosesau yn gadarn iawn. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn sydd gennym yma, yn anffodus, yw adroddiad sy’n feirniadol iawn o rai o’r prosesau, ac un o’r pethau sy’n peri pryder o ran hyn yw bod canfyddiad ymysg rhai mewn addysg uwch, er enghraifft—fy nghefndir fy hun—a busnes hefyd bod ceisio cael gafael ar arian Ewropeaidd yn fiwrocrataidd ac yn anodd. Mae’r canfyddiad hwnnw ei hun yn mynd yn broblem os yw’n atal pobl rhag mynd ati i ddod yn rhan o’r rhaglenni y gallent fod yn gallu gwneud defnydd gwirioneddol ohonynt. Mae hynny’n rhywbeth y mae’n rhaid inni ei ddeall a’i dderbyn.

Reading the report as someone who was not a member of the committee or part of the inquiry, for me it paints a picture of an organisation that is struggling. It is struggling with the work that it has to do, which has of course evolved over a period of time since it was first established. It paints a picture of an organisation that lacks direction. There are fundamental questions to be asked about its role, and whether that role is to be proactive and seek out projects to encourage, or whether it is to be responsive and will look for people to come to it. These are questions that we have to tackle.

O ddarllen yr adroddiad fel rhywun nad oedd yn aelod o’r pwyllgor nac yn rhan o’r ymchwiliad, i mi, mae’n rhoi darlun o sefydliad sy’n cael trafferthion. Mae’n cael trafferth i ymdopi â’r gwaith y mae’n rhaid iddo ei wneud, sydd, wrth gwrs, wedi datblygu dros gyfnod o amser ers iddo gael ei sefydlu gyntaf. Mae’n rhoi darlun o sefydliad heb gyfeiriad. Mae cwestiynau sylfaenol i’w gofyn am ei rôl, ac ai bod yn rhagweithiol a chwilio am brosiectau i’w hannog yw’r rôl honno, neu a ddylai fod yn ymatebol a disgwyl i bobl droi ato. Mae’r rhain yn gwestiynau y mae’n rhaid inni fynd i’r afael â hwy.

It also paints a picture of an organisation that sometimes lacks consistency in the support that it is offering to organisations. There was evidence of high staff turnover, for example, which meant that when people were approaching WEFO for assistance, they were given different advice on different occasions because staff had moved on. There is an impact on services there, but also it paints a picture of an unhappy ship, and that is something that we have to be concerned about—if there is potential for a lack of direction to impact on the morale of the staff and the likelihood of their wishing to stay working for the organisation. I see the Minister shaking his head, so perhaps he would like to comment on that.

Mae hefyd yn rhoi darlun o sefydliad nad yw bob amser yn gweithredu’n gyson o ran y cymorth y mae’n ei gynnig i sefydliadau. Roedd tystiolaeth o drosiant uchel ymhlith y staff, er enghraifft, a oedd yn golygu, pan oedd pobl yn mynd at WEFO am gymorth, eu bod yn cael cyngor gwahanol ar adegau gwahanol am fod staff wedi symud ymlaen. Mae effaith ar wasanaethau yn hyn o beth, ond mae hefyd yn rhoi darlun o weithle anhapus, ac mae hynny’n rhywbeth y mae’n rhaid inni fod yn bryderus yn ei gylch—os oes potensial y bydd diffyg cyfeiriad yn cael effaith ar forâl y staff a’r tebygolrwydd y byddant yn dymuno parhau i weithio i’r sefydliad. Gwelaf fod y Gweinidog yn ysgwyd ei ben, felly efallai y hoffai wneud sylwadau ar hynny.

It also paints a picture of an organisation that lacks confidence. It lacks the confidence to lead the agenda, and it seems to lack the confidence to engage with the outside world in that proactive way. It lacks the confidence, as Mike Hedges has said, to take the kind of risks that we might ask it to if we want it to do things differently in the future. I recognise that the Deputy Minister has launched the Guilford review to look at arrangements post 2013, and this is welcome; I look forward to the report, which I believe is due next month. One question I would like the Deputy Minister to respond to is this: with regard to the findings of this report, is the review going to be radical enough in its remit? Will it address the questions around the purpose, direction, leadership and ambition of WEFO as an organisation? If these are fundamentally not quite right, then none of the other processes will be effective, either. There is a question there, and I hope the questions are being asked at the right time: now.

Mae hefyd yn rhoi darlun o sefydliad sy'n brin o hyder. Nid oes ganddo ddigon o hyder i arwain yr agenda, ac ymddengys nad oes ganddo'r hyder i ymgysylltu â'r byd allanol yn y modd rhagweithiol hwnnw. Nid yw'n ddigon hyderus, fel y dywedodd Mike Hedges, i gymryd y math o risgiau y gallem ofyn iddo ei gymryd os ydym am iddo wneud pethau'n wahanol yn y dyfodol. Cydnabyddaf fod y Dirprwy Weinidog wedi lansio adolygiad Guilford i edrych ar drefniadau ar ôl 2013, ac mae hyn i'w groesawu; edrychaf ymlaen at yr adroddiad, a gaiff ei gyhoeddi y mis nesaf, fe gredaf. Un cwestiwn yr hoffwn weld y Dirprwy Weinidog yn ymateb iddo yw hwn: o ran canfyddiadau'r adroddiad hwn, a fydd yr adolygiad yn ddigon radical o ran ei gylch gwaith? A fydd yn mynd i'r afael â'r cwestiynau ynghylch diben, cyfeiriad, arweinyddiaeth ac uchelgais WEFO fel sefydliad? Os nad yw'r rhain yn iawn yn eu hanfod, yna ni fydd yr un o'r prosesau eraill yn effeithiol ychwaith. Cyfyd cwestiwn o ran hynny, a gobeithiaf y bydd cwestiynau yn cael eu gofyn ar yr adeg gywir: sef nawr.

I will point out a couple of recommendations. Recommendation 2 is important in terms of direction, because nothing focuses the mind like accountability and having to answer for the results of what you are doing. There are questions there that I hope will addressed by Dr Guilford's review.

Hoffwn dynnu sylw at un neu ddau o argymhellion. Mae argymhelliad 2 yn bwysig o ran cyfeiriad, gan nad oes dim byd yn hoelio'r sylw yn well nag atebolrwydd a'r ffaith eich bod yn gorfod bod yn atebol am ganlyniadau'r hyn yr ydych yn ei wneud. Cyfyd cwestiynau yn hynny o beth a gobeithiaf y bydd adolygiad Dr Guildford yn mynd i'r afael â hwy.

David Rees mentioned recommendation 3 on data collection, and concerns over monitoring are very pertinent, particularly as the EU is moving from its stated intention of collecting data on the outputs of the programmes to collecting data on the outcomes of the programmes. That is to be welcomed, but is very much more difficult to measure. We need sophisticated monitoring tools in place and I hope that that is something that you will take seriously. I note that that is a recommendation that is accepted in principle; I hope, Deputy Minister, that it is not a recommendation that will be rejected in practice.

Cyfeiriodd David Rees at argymhelliad 3 at gasglu data, ac mae pryderon ynghylch monitro yn berthnasol iawn, yn enwedig wrth i'r UE symud o'i fwriad datganedig o gasglu data ar allbynnau'r rhaglenni i gasglu data ar ganlyniadau'r rhaglenni. Mae hynny i'w groesawu, ond mae'n llawer mwy anodd eu mesur. Mae angen inni roi dulliau monitro soffistigedig ar waith a gobeithiaf fod hynny'n rhywbeth y byddwch yn ei gymryd o ddifrif. Nodaf fod hynny'n argymhelliad sy'n cael ei dderbyn mewn egwyddor; gobeithiaf, Ddirprwy Weinidog, nad yw'n argymhelliad a fydd yn cael ei wrthod yn ymarferol.

16:13 **Byron Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography — Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important debate. We have of course examined this area within the Enterprise and Business Committee, and I have had the opportunity in previous debates in this Chamber to speak on it. Many of my points have been raised by my colleague Paul Davies, a member of this committee, and I do not wish to unnecessarily reiterate what has been said by him and by others today. I will therefore keep my contribution brief.

Diolch yn fawr iawn am y cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl bwysig hon. Wrth gwrs, rydym wedi edrych ar y maes hwn yn y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes, a chefais gyfle mewn dadleuon blaenorol yn y Siambr hon i'w drafod. Cafodd llawer o'm pwyntiau eu codi gan fy nghyd-Aelod Paul Davies, sy'n aelod o'r pwyllgor hwn, ac nid wyf am ailadrodd yn ddiangen yr hyn a ddywedwyd ganddo ef ac eraill heddiw. Felly, bydd fy nghyfraniad yn un byr.

I commend the members of the Finance Committee who took part in this report. It is a far-reaching and useful document. I am a little disappointed that the Government has not taken all of the recommendations on board. Recommendations 7, 8 and 15 make perfect sense to me, and I would have liked to have seen them accepted. Taking them in order, I will comment briefly on them. Recommendation 7 highlighted what we all commonly know: that procurement is not fully supporting our domestic industries as well as it could. There are difficulties surrounding European rules, and we accept that. The McClelland review was delivered last August, but I am still concerned about the effect, if any, of that report.

Cymeradwyaf aelodau'r Pwyllgor Cyllid a gymerodd ran yn yr adroddiad hwn. Mae'n ddogfen bellgyrhaeddol a defnyddiol. Rwyf ychydig yn siomedig nad yw'r Llywodraeth wedi derbyn yr holl argymhellion. Mae argymhellion 7, 8 a 15 yn gwneud synnwyr perffaith i mi, a byddai wedi bod yn dda gennyf pe baent wedi cael eu derbyn. Gan eu trafod yn eu trefn, gwnaf sylwadau byr amdanynt. Tynnodd argymhelliad 7 sylw at yr hyn sy'n hysbys inni i gyd: sef nad yw caffael mor gefnogol i'n diwydiannau domestig ag y gallai fod. Cyfyd anawsterau ynghylch rheolau Ewropeaidd, a derbyniwn hynny. Cyflwynwyd adolygiad McClelland fis Awst diwethaf, ond rwy'n dal i bryderu am effaith, os o gwbl, yr adroddiad hwnnw.

One big concern I have in procurement, especially in these austere times, is grouping—the method of lumping together sector contracts to maximise, in theory, although not normally in practice, value for money. This often prices out our own small and medium-sized enterprise markets. I would like this to be explored as it is becoming much more prevalent.

Un pryder mawr sydd gennyf ym maes caffael, yn enwedig yn y cyfnod anodd hwn, yw grwpio—y dull o gyfuno contractau sector i sicrhau'r gwerth gorau am arian, mewn theori, ond nid yn ymarferol fel arfer. Mae hyn yn aml y tu hwnt i'n marchnadoedd ein hunan o fusnesau bach a chanolig. Hoffwn pe bai hyn yn cael ei archwilio gan ei fod yn dod yn llawer mwy cyffredin.

Recommendation 8 is key if we are to succeed and this flexibility can be seen across the continent in other countries. The Government's response represents a systematic failure to be accountable and to provide leadership. Surely, just because you have created WEFO, it does not mean that you can wash your hands of managerial accountability. The Government must ensure that it keeps its hand on the tiller and that there is enough flexibility in the system to allow European projects to succeed.

Mae argymhelliad 8 yn allweddol os ydym am lwyddo a gellir gweld yr hyblygrwydd hwn ledled y cyfandir mewn gwledydd eraill. Mae ymateb y Llywodraeth yn fethiant systematig i fod yn atebol ac i roi arweinyddiaeth. Does bosibl nad yw'r ffaith ichi greu WEFO yn golygu eich bod yn gallu ymwrthod ag atebolrwydd rheolaethol. Rhaid i'r Llywodraeth sicrhau ei bod yn cadw ei llaw ar y llyw a bod digon o hyblygrwydd yn y system i alluogi prosiectau Ewropeaidd i lwyddo.

Lastly, on recommendation 15, perhaps the Deputy Minister could tell us why he rejected this recommendation, given that in his answer he acknowledged that article 55 guidance will need to change following the new rules for 2014-2020.

Yn olaf, o ran argymhelliad 15, efallai y gallai'r Dirprwy Weinidog ddweud wrthym pam y gwrthododd yr argymhelliad hwn, o gofio, yn ei ateb, iddo gydnabod y bydd angen i ganllawiau ar erthygl 55 newid yn sgil y rheolau newydd ar gyfer 2014-2020.

To close, I want to dwell on the Government's opening remark in response to the report, where it states that maximising European structural funds to benefit businesses and people in the communities of Wales is a key priority for the Welsh Government, both in the implementation of the current programmes for 2007-13 and in developing the next round of programmes. That is a statement that no-one in Wales can disagree with and it is a statement that probably belongs at the beginning of every other tranche of European structural funds. My point, Deputy Minister, is that a lot of the Assembly's time, as it should be, is given to the effective use of structural funds. It is about time that we start to use them effectively in those areas of need, rather than just talking about it.

I gloi, hoffwn ddychwelyd at sylw agoriadol y Llywodraeth wrth ymateb i'r adroddiad, lle y noda fod gwneud y defnydd gorau o gronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd er budd busnesau a phobl yng nghymunedau Cymru yn flaenoriaeth allweddol i Lywodraeth Cymru, o ran gweithredu'r rhaglenni presennol ar gyfer 2007-13 ac wrth ddatblygu'r cylch nesaf o raglenni. Mae hwnnw'n ddatganiad na all neb yng Nghymru anghytuno ag ef, ac mae'n ddatganiad yn ôl pob tebyg a ddylai ymddangos ar ddechrau pob cyfran arall o gronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd. Fy mhwynt, Ddirprwy Weinidog, yw bod llawer o amser y Cynulliad, fel y dylai fod, yn cael ei dreulio ar ystyried y defnydd effeithiol o gronfeydd strwythurol. Mae'n hen bryd inni ddechrau eu defnyddio'n effeithiol yn y meysydd hynny o angen, yn hytrach na dim ond siarad am y peth.

16:16 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Amaethyddiaeth, Bwyd, Pysgodfeydd a Rhaglenni Ewropeaidd / The Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes

I thank the committee for its report and the time it has taken to consider its recommendations. I have sought to respond to those recommendations in as positive a manner as is possible and realistic.

Hoffwn ddiolch i'r pwyllgor am ei adroddiad a'r amser a gymerodd i ystyried ei argymhellion. Rwyf wedi ceisio ymateb i'r argymhellion hynny mewn ffordd mor gadarnhaol ag y bo modd ac sy'n realistig.

Structural fund investments have made an important contribution to economic and labour market development in Wales over a number of years. The next round of structural fund programmes is being developed in very different and challenging economic circumstances compared to any previous rounds. Despite all our efforts to secure a fair deal for Wales, the recent European Council budget agreement is likely to see vulnerable EU regions, including west Wales and the Valleys, losing out to wealthier regions. East Wales is also likely to see a sharp reduction in its funding. That will mean tougher choices about investment priorities for jobs and growth. It is a matter of great regret that the United Kingdom Government, in seeking to achieve its objectives in the EU budget negotiations, was not prepared to make any real effort to ensure that Wales and some of our most vulnerable communities were protected as part of those negotiations.

Mae buddsoddiadau'r cronfeydd strwythurol wedi gwneud cyfraniad pwysig i ddatblygiad economaidd a datblygiad y farchnad lafur yng Nghymru dros nifer o flynyddoedd. Mae'r cylch nesaf o raglenni cronfeydd strwythurol yn cael ei ddatblygu o dan amgylchiadau economaidd gwahanol iawn ac amgylchiadau heriol o gymharu ag unrhyw gylchoedd blaenorol. Er gwaethaf ein holl ymdrechion i sicrhau bargen deg i Gymru, mae cytundeb diweddar y Cyngor Ewropeaidd ar y gyllideb yn debygol o weld rhanbarthau bregus o'r UE, gan gynnwys gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, ar eu colled o'u cymharu â rhanbarthau cyfoethocach. Mae Dwyrain Cymru hefyd yn debygol o weld gostyngiad sydyn yn ei gyllid. Bydd hynny'n golygu dewisiadau llymach ynghylch blaenoriaethau buddsoddi ar gyfer swyddi a thwf. Gresynaf yn fawr at y ffaith nad oedd Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig, wrth geisio cyflawni ei hamcanion yn ystod trafodaethau'r UE ar y gyllideb, yn barod i wneud ymdrech wirioneddol i sicrhau bod Cymru a rhai o'n cymunedau mwyaf bregus yn cael eu diogelu fel rhan o'r trafodaethau hynny.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd a gododd—

Llyr Huws Gruffydd rose—

16:18

Alun Davies Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

No, I am not taking interventions, I am afraid. [Interruption.]

Na, nid wyf yn derbyn ymyriadau, mae arnaf ofn. [Torri ar draws.]

16:18

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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Order. He is not taking any interventions. [Interruption.] Order. The Deputy Minister is speaking.

Trefn. Nid yw'n derbyn unrhyw ymyriadau. [Torri ar draws.] Trefn. Mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog yn siarad.

16:18

Alun Davies Bywgraffiad Biography

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I am not taking any interventions, I am afraid, because there are points I want to make here, rather than—[Interruption.] Frankly, I have no interest in those games. My concern is to ensure that we have resources available to invest in the poorest and most vulnerable communities in Wales.

Nid wyf yn derbyn unrhyw ymyriadau, mae arnaf ofn, gan fod pwyntiau yr hoffwn eu gwneud yma, yn hytrach na—[Torri ar draws.] A dweud y gwir, nid oes gennyf ddiddordeb yn y castiau hynny. Yr hyn sy'n bwysig imi yw sicrhau bod adnoddau ar gael gennym i'w buddsoddi yn y cymunedau tlotaf a mwyaf bregus yng Nghymru.

Leanne Wood a gododd—

Leanne Wood rose—

16:18

Alun Davies Bywgraffiad Biography

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You can try if you like, but I will not give way.

Gallwch roi cynnig os mynnwch, ond nid wyf am ildio.

If we are going to make those investments, we have to have the funds and the budgets available to us. It is a matter of disappointment that the UK Government was alone among all member states in that negotiation not to seek compensatory payments for its most poor and vulnerable regions.

Os ydym am wneud y buddsoddiadau hynny, rhaid inni gael yr arian a'r cyllidebau sydd ar gael inni. Mae'n fater o siom mai Llywodraeth y DU oedd yr unig aelod-wladwriaeth yn y cyd-drafodaethau i beidio â cheisio taliadau digolledu ar gyfer ei rhanbarthau tlotaf a mwyaf bregus.

On the report itself, I gave evidence on two occasions to the Finance Committee during this inquiry; I was pleased to be invited to do so. I said to the Finance Committee on both occasions that I was taking steps to ensure that the next round of European funding programmes is both planned well and established on very firm foundations. Some of the recommendations made by the Finance Committee seem rooted in several months past and do not seem to take full account of decisions taken by Government since then. Certainly, some of the committee's recommendations regarding reviews of the role of the Welsh European Funding Office have already been superseded by the Guilford review and what we expect it to recommend when published next month.

O ran yr adroddiad ei hun, rhoddais dystiolaeth ar ddau achlysur i'r Pwyllgor Cyllid yn ystod yr ymchwiliad hwn, roeddwn yn falch o gael gwahoddiad i wneud hynny. Dywedais wrth y Pwyllgor Cyllid ar y ddau achlysur fy mod yn cymryd camau i sicrhau bod y cylch nesaf o raglenni ariannu Ewropeaidd yn cael ei gynllunio'n dda a'i sefydlu ar seiliau cadarn iawn. Ymddengys bod rhai o'r argymhellion a wnaed gan y Pwyllgor Cyllid wedi'u gwreiddio rai misoedd yn y gorffennol ac ymddengys nad ydynt yn ystyried yn llawn benderfyniadau a wnaed gan y Llywodraeth ers hynny. Yn sicr, mae rhai o argymhellion y pwyllgor o ran adolygiadau o rôl Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru eisoes wedi cael eu disodli gan adolygiad Guilford a'r hyn yr ydym yn disgwyl iddo ei argymell pan gaiff ei gyhoeddi fis nesaf.

I am certain that, with regard to where we are at the moment, we will be able to deliver the ambitions and visions that have been outlined in the Chamber and that have been debated and shared frankly between different parts of it. I look forward to receiving Dr Guilford's recommendations in the next few weeks, and I will bring his report to the National Assembly before the Easter recess.

Rwy'n sicr, o ran ble rydym arni ar hyn o bryd, y byddwn yn gallu cyflawni'r uchelgeisiau a'r gweledigaethau a amlinellwyd yn y Siambr ac sydd wedi cael eu trafod a'u rhannu'n blaen rhwng gwahanol rannau ohoni. Edrychaf ymlaen at gael argymhellion Dr Guilford yn yr wythnosau nesaf, a byddaf yn cyflwyno ei adroddiad i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol cyn toriad y Pasg.

Having said that, I believe that there is much in the report that I can welcome and support. I have sought to accept all of the recommendations that I was able to accept. The committee talks about better co-ordination across funds to ensure more effective delivery at a local level. We are not only saying this but arguing for it in European Council meetings, as well as for the legal framework that will enable us to do it. We are not simply saying that we want to do this as an ambition; we, as a Government, are involved in the negotiations that will deliver the legal basis on which we will be able to do it. We go much further than the committee's recommendation.

Wedi dweud hynny, credaf fod llawer yn yr adroddiad y gallaf ei groesawu a'i gefnogi. Rwyf wedi ceisio derbyn pob un o'r argymhellion yr oeddwn yn gallu eu derbyn. Mae'r pwyllgor yn sôn am well cydgysylltu rhwng cronfeydd i sicrhau darpariaeth fwy effeithiol ar lefel leol. Rydym nid yn unig yn dweud hyn, ond rydym yn dadlau dros hynny yng nghyfarfodydd y Cyngor Ewropeaidd, yn ogystal â thros y fframwaith cyfreithiol a fydd yn ein galluogi i wneud hynny. Rydym nid yn unig yn dweud ein bod am wneud hyn fel uchelgais; yr ydym ni, fel Llywodraeth, yn cymryd rhan yn y trafodaethau a fydd yn darparu sail gyfreithiol a fydd yn ein galluogi i wneud hynny. Rydym yn mynd dipyn ymhellach nag argymhelliad y pwyllgor.

The committee also says that it wishes to review the current application and appraisal processes. I have already stated that I am determined that we should streamline our processes wherever possible, with a view to streamlining the administration for ourselves and all of our partners.

Mae'r pwyllgor hefyd yn dweud ei fod yn dymuno adolygu'r prosesau ymgeisio a gwerthuso presennol. Rwyf wedi dweud eisoes fy mod yn benderfynol y dylem symleiddio ein prosesau lle bynnag y bo modd, gyda golwg ar symleiddio'r drefn weinyddol i ni ein hunain a phob un o'n partneriaid.

I find it difficult to accept the committee's overall conclusion that there is considerable room for the Welsh Government, and WEFO in particular, to improve, let alone the committee's call for a wholesale review of WEFO's strategic role and function. That is not sustained by the evidence received by the committee. It is also disappointing that the committee seems to have given relatively little weight to the views of the European Commission, and to the role of the Commission in setting the overall framework within which structural funds operate. Reading the report, I believe that the committee assumes a far greater degree of flexibility for WEFO as a managing authority than exists in reality. I suggest that there is a need to strike a more considered and appropriate balance between compliance with European Commission requirements and operational efficiency. We are determined to do this.

Rwy'n ei chael hi'n anodd derbyn casgliad cyffredinol y pwyllgor fod cryn le i Lywodraeth Cymru, a WEFO yn arbennig, wella, heb sôn am alwad y pwyllgor am adolygiad cyffredinol o rôl a swyddogaeth strategol WEFO. Nid yw hynny wedi'i ategu gan y dystiolaeth a roddwyd i'r pwyllgor. Mae hefyd yn siomedig nad yw'r pwyllgor, i bob golwg, wedi rhoi fawr ddim pwysau ar farn y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, nac ar rôl y Comisiwn wrth bennu'r fframwaith cyffredinol y mae cronfeydd strwythurol yn gweithredu oddi mewn iddo. O ddarllen yr adroddiad, credaf fod y pwyllgor yn cymryd yn ganiataol bod llawer mwy o hyblygrwydd i WEFO fel awdurdod rheoli na'r hyn sy'n bodoli mewn gwirionedd. Awgrymaf fod angen taro cydbwysedd mwy ystyriol a phriodol rhwng cydymffurfio â gofynion y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ac effeithlonrwydd gweithredol. Rydym yn benderfynol o wneud hyn.

The report's evidence is all the more unsettling given that we are highly regarded as a territory by the European Commission for the way in which we manage and deliver our programmes. Wales is often held up as an exemplar to other EU regions. At the time that the committee's report was being prepared, I joined Commissioner Hahn on a visit to the life sciences facility at Swansea University. As Members on all sides of the Chamber will be aware, he was very complimentary about the approach adopted by the Welsh Government and our partners. He was not simply saying that we were good managers of a programme but that we were good leaders of a programme. You should listen to what the commissioner said, and to what some of the more senior Commission officials are saying. None of these officials is there to support some Government line, but to look at the EU programmes that are delivered by different Governments up and down the European Union. In that context, they believe that the programmes that are being delivered in Wales are being delivered well, and that the leadership that is being shown in Wales is good. It is for that reason that I was so disappointed by the remarks of the Liberal Democrat Member this afternoon. I assume that she has read the report, but she certainly does not understand the context in which it was written, and she clearly does not understand the context within which WEFO operates and in which programmes are delivered.

Mae tystiolaeth yr adroddiad yn achosi tipyn o bryder o gofio ein bod yn uchel ein parch fel tiriogaeth gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd o ran y ffordd yr ydym yn rheoli ac yn cyflwyno ein rhaglenni. Cymru yn aml sy'n cael ei chynnig fel esiampl i ranbarthau eraill yr UE. Ar adeg paratoi adroddiad y pwyllgor, ymunais â'r Comisiynydd Hahn ar ymweliad â'r cyfleuster gwyddorau bywyd ym Mhrifysgol Abertawe. Fel y gŵyr Aelodau ar bob ochr i'r Siambr, roedd yn canmol yn fawr ddull gweithredu Llywodraeth Cymru a'n partneriaid. Dywedodd nid yn unig ein bod yn rheoli rhaglen yn dda ond ein bod hefyd yn arwain rhaglen yn dda. Dylech wrando ar yr hyn a ddywedodd y comisiynydd, ar yr hyn y mae rhai o uwch swyddogion y Comisiwn yn ei ddweud. Nid gwaith y swyddogion hyn yw cefnogi polisi rhyw Lywodraeth, eu gwaith yw edrych ar raglenni'r UE sy'n cael eu darparu gan Lywodraethau gwahanol ledled yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, credant fod y rhaglenni sy'n cael eu darparu yng Nghymru yn cael eu cyflwyno'n dda, a bod yr arweinyddiaeth a welir yng Nghymru yn dda. Am y rheswm hwnnw yr oeddwn mor siomedig gyda sylwadau'r Aelod o'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol y prynhawn yma. Rwy'n cymryd ei bod wedi darllen yr adroddiad, ond yn sicr nid yw'n deall y cyd-destun y cafodd ei ysgrifennu ynddo, ac yn amlwg nid yw'n deall y cyd-destun y mae WEFO yn gweithredu ynddo ac mae rhaglenni yn cael eu cyflwyno ynddo.

Over the last 18 months, we have been working with our partners on the development of new programmes. I will be speaking in Llanelli tomorrow to launch a consultation on the new programmes. Two weeks ago, I spoke in Llandudno; in a week's time, I will be speaking in Newtown and elsewhere. We are engaging in an active conversation with our partners up and down Wales to deliver the sort of ambition and vision that is shared across the whole of the Chamber.

Dros y 18 mis diwethaf, rydym wedi bod yn gweithio gyda'n partneriaid ar ddatblygu rhaglenni newydd. Byddaf yn siarad yn Llanelli yfory i lansio ymgynghoriad ar y rhaglenni newydd. Bythefnos yn ôl, roeddwn yn siarad yn Llandudno; ymhen wythnos, byddaf yn siarad yn y Drenewydd ac mewn mannau eraill. Rydym wedi mynd ati i gynnal sgwrs â'n partneriaid ar hyd a lled Cymru er mwyn cyflawni'r math o uchelgais a gweledigaeth a rennir gan y Siambr gyfan.

I welcome the Finance Committee's report. The report could have been more balanced, and the committee could have ensured that it had the evidence to sustain some of its more dramatic recommendations. That said, I will ensure that the report forms a part of the evidence base that is being developed by Dr Grahame Guilford in his report, which will be published next month, and I will ensure that this report plays a proper part in the development of policy that this Government will be taking forward over the next few years.

Croesawaf adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cyllid. Gallai'r adroddiad fod wedi bod yn fwy cytbwys, a gallai'r pwyllgor fod wedi sicrhau ei fod wedi cael y dystiolaeth i ategu rhai o'i argymhellion mwy dramatig. Wedi dweud hynny, byddaf yn sicrhau bod yr adroddiad yn rhan o'r sylfaen dystiolaeth sy'n cael ei ddatblygu gan Dr Grahame Guilford yn ei adroddiad yntau, a fydd yn cael ei gyhoeddi y mis nesaf, a byddaf yn sicrhau bod yr adroddiad hwn yn chwarae rhan briodol yn y gwaith o ddatblygu polisi y bydd y Llywodraeth hon yn ei weithredu dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf.

16:25

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

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I call on the Chair of the Finance Committee to reply to the debate.

Galwaf ar Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid i ymateb i'r ddadl.

16:25

Jocelyn Davies [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

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Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer. Members have made interesting and valuable points on the use of structural funding and the delivery of projects. It is pleasing that there is support right across the Chamber for this policy area. I share Paul Davies's disappointment at the rejection of three of the recommendations, but I feel that they have probably been taken on board even though they have been rejected on paper.

Diolch ichi, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Mae Aelodau wedi gwneud pwyntiau diddorol a gwerthfawr ar y defnydd o arian strwythurol a chyflawni prosiectau. Mae'n braf bod cefnogaeth drwy'r Siambr gyfan i'r maes polisi hwn. Rhannaf siom Paul Davies bod tri o'r argymhellion wedi cael eu gwrthod, ond teimlaf fod sylwedd yr argymhellion wedi cael ei dderbyn yn ôl pob tebyg er iddynt gael eu gwrthod ar bapur.

We heard stories of the overly burdensome red tape that did not seem entirely necessary, and I hope that that will be vastly reduced in the future. Small organisations and the private sector said that this bureaucracy deters them. Engagement with the private sector is vitally important, and that has not scored well, certainly not in the evidence that we took.

Clywsom hanesion am y fiwrocratiaeth feichus iawn nad oedd yn ymddangos yn gwbl angenrheidiol, a gobeithiaf y caiff honno ei gostwng yn sylweddol yn y dyfodol. Dywedodd sefydliadau bach a'r sector preifat fod y fiwrocratiaeth hon yn eu rhwystro. Mae ymgysylltu â'r sector preifat yn hanfodol bwysig, ac nid yw wedi cael ei ganmol, yn sicr nid yn y dystiolaeth a gawsom.

We noticed that Mike Hedges very cleverly managed to mention Swansea in his very first sentence. However, I agree with him about the paperwork that is attached to drawing down EU funds and the bad reputation that that gives around even applying for European funds. The Welsh Government's review may very well get to the bottom of who demands it, because Mike was quite right to say that we were not able to get to the bottom of that. Of course, you are spending public money and you have to account for it properly, but there needs to be a balance between that and being able to deliver. It did seem that there is an industry in itself about monitoring the spending of money rather than the delivery of the life-changing transformations that we want to see.

Sylwyd bod Mike Hedges, yn fedrus iawn, wedi llwyddo i grybwyll Abertawe yn ei frawddeg gyntaf un. Fodd bynnag, cytunaf ag ef am y gwaith papur sydd ynghlwm wrth hawlio arian yr UE a'r enw drwg y mae hynny wedi'i greu hyd yn oed o ran gwneud cais am arian Ewropeaidd. Mae'n ddigon posibl y bydd adolygiad Llywodraeth Cymru yn datgelu pwy sy'n mynnu hynny, gan fod Mike yn llygad ei le i ddweud nad oeddem yn gallu mynd at wraidd hynny. Wrth gwrs, rydych yn gwario arian cyhoeddus a rhaid ichi gyfrif amdano'n briodol, ond mae angen cael cydbwysedd rhwng hynny a'r gallu i gyflawni. Yn wir, ymddangosai i ddiwydiant ei hun gael ei greu i fonitro'r ffordd y mae arian yn cael ei wario yn hytrach na sicrhau'r gweddnewidiadau yr ydym am eu gweld.

Capacity is an issue. The private sector told us that it did not have or could not afford the capacity to deal with the bureaucracy in the same way that, perhaps, a university could. Monitoring is important, but outcomes are vital and the ability to be free to take risks, as Mike Hedges and Rhodri Glyn said, is also very important. I thank Rhodri Glyn for his comments on the report. He said that it was very balanced. He made the point that we can focus too much on failures and the fear of failure and that risk-taking must be involved. You will have failures from time to time and we have to accept that. Rhodri Glyn has a role on the Committee of the Regions, which has led to him, as he mentioned earlier, producing an opinion. The Finance Committee wishes him well with that and we would welcome an update on his activities with regard to the European Investment Bank when there are future developments.

Mae adnoddau yn broblem. Dywedodd y sector preifat wrthym nad oedd ganddo, neu na allai fforddio, yr adnoddau i ddelio â'r fiwrocratiaeth yn yr un modd ag y gallai prifysgol o bosibl. Mae gwaith monitro yn bwysig, ond mae canlyniadau yn hanfodol ac mae'r rhyddid i fentro, fel y dywedodd Mike Hedges a Rhodri Glyn, hefyd yn bwysig iawn. Diolch i Rhodri Glyn am ei sylwadau ar yr adroddiad. Dywedodd ei fod yn gytbwys iawn. Gwnaeth y pwynt y gallwn ganolbwyntio gormod ar fethiannau ac ofn methu a bod yn rhaid i sefydliadau fentro. Bydd methiannau o bryd i'w gilydd a rhaid inni dderbyn hynny. Mae gan Rhodri Glyn rôl ar Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau, ac o ganlyniad i hynny, fel y crybwyllodd yn gynharach, mae wedi llunio barn. Mae'r Pwyllgor Cyllid yn dymuno'n dda iddo o ran hynny, a byddem yn croesawu clywed y diweddaraf am ei weithgareddau o ran y Banc Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd pan fo datblygiadau yn y dyfodol.

David Rees made a good point about learning from past experiences. The committee knows from work that it has done that best practice is not the best traveller in Wales, for some reason; I do not know why. We do not take enough notice of the reasons why things go wrong in order to learn from them.

Gwnaeth David Rees bwynt da am ddysgu o brofiadau'r gorffennol. Mae'r pwyllgor yn ymwybodol o waith a wnaeth nad yw arfer gorau yn lledaenu'n dda yng Nghymru, am ryw reswm, ni wn pam. Nid ydym yn rhoi digon o sylw i'r rhesymau pam mae pethau'n mynd o chwith er mwyn dysgu oddi wrthynt.

We should be pleased with the advantages that we have had from structural funds and proud of the changes that have been made. They are making a difference to people's lives. There is no doubt about that. Transformational change, I think, is what you said, David. You mentioned those people who pour cold water on what we have done with structural funds. We did not and would not want to do that, because I wonder where we would be without them. We would be in an extremely poor state indeed because, without a doubt, the recession has had an effect. You also mentioned data gathering and outcomes, where there seems to be a focus on accounting for spend rather than on the qualitative data regarding what is being achieved. Several other people who gave evidence also mentioned that.

Dylem fod yn falch o'r manteision sydd wedi deillio o'r cronfeydd strwythurol ac yn falch o'r newidiadau a wnaed. Maent yn gwneud gwahaniaeth i fywydau pobl. Nid oes amheuaeth am hynny. Gweddnewid, fe gredaf, yw'r hyn a ddywedasoch, David. Bu Gwnaethoch sôn am y bobl hynny sy'n lladd ar yr hyn rydym wedi'i wneud gyda chronfeydd strwythurol. Nid ydym yn gwneud hynny ac ni fyddem am wneud hynny, oherwydd tybed beth fyddai'r sefyllfa hebddynt. Byddem mewn cyflwr hynod wael oherwydd, heb os nac oni bai, mae'r dirwasgiad wedi cael effaith. Gwnaethoch sôn hefyd am gasglu data a chanlyniadau, lle yr ymddengys fod ffocws ar gyfrif am wariant yn hytrach nag ar y data ansoddol ar yr hyn sy'n cael ei gyflawni. Soniodd sawl un arall a roddodd dystiolaeth am hynny hefyd.

Eluned Parrott mentioned GVA, GDP and the outcomes. It is not what we would have liked, ideally, but the Commission said that Wales had performed well and was not out of step with the rest of the EU, especially considering the economic downturn in 2008. Organisations such as WEFO do not really expect to be the best loved, and it is easy to blame WEFO for everything that has not been wonderful. That is not what we set out to do. An awful lot is expected of WEFO and the Deputy Minister's review will be important. Of course, the Deputy Minister's review would not have been necessary if he had been entirely happy with things as they were. That is all I would say to him. I know that the WEFO staff are highly skilled professionals and I am sure that they would also want what we want and that is the best, most effective use of European funds.

Cyfeiriodd Eluned Parrott at GYC, CMC a'r canlyniadau. Nid yw'r rhain fel y byddem wedi dymuno, yn ddelfrydol, ond dywedodd y Comisiwn fod Cymru wedi perfformio'n dda ac nad oedd yn anghyson â gweddill yr UE, yn enwedig o ystyried y dirywiad economaidd yn 2008. Nid yw sefydliadau fel WEFO yn wir yn disgwyl bod yn boblogaidd, ac mae'n hawdd rhoi'r bai ar WEFO am bopeth nad yw wedi bod yn wych. Nid dyna'r hyn yr oeddem yn bwriadu ei wneud. Rydym yn disgwyl pethau mawr gan WEFO ac mae adolygiad y Dirprwy Weinidog yn bwysig. Wrth gwrs, ni fyddai adroddiad y Dirprwy Weinidog wedi bod yn angenrheidiol pe bai wedi bod yn gwbl fodlon ar bethau fel yr oeddent. Dyna'r cyfan a ddywedwn wrtho. Gwn fod staff WEFO yn weithwyr proffesiynol medrus iawn ac rwy'n siŵr y byddent hwythau hefyd yn dymuno'r hyn a ddymunir gennym ni, sef y defnydd gorau a mwyaf effeithiol o gronfeydd Ewropeaidd.

Turing to Byron Davies's comments and it is very nice when Members who are not members of the committee make contributions to these debates. I have to agree with your analysis of the rejected recommendations, especially on procurement. I suppose that will lead me on in a minute to the defence of our recommendations. In response to the Deputy Minister, I am grateful for his evidence, and fully support the setting up of his review. It is, of course, the nature of committee reports that events can overtake them. That often happens. I am sure that you remember that from your time on committees. Events can often overtake you— we acknowledge that—but our report is based on the evidence that we received and it was the unanimous view of us all. I will remind you of that. I am surprised at your rejection and response because it flies in the face of some of the things that you have said and done. In your written response, you say that the committee's report was a valuable exercise, you agree with our desire that the processes should be streamlined and simplified where possible, and you believe that we should squeeze every last drop of value out of the funding we receive.

Gan droi at sylwadau Byron Davies ac mae'n braf iawn clywed Aelodau nad ydynt yn aelodau o'r pwyllgor yn cyfrannu i'r dadleuon hyn. Rhaid imi gytuno â'ch dadansoddiad o'r argymhellion a wrthodwyd, yn enwedig ar gaffael. Mae'n debyg y bydd hyn yn fy arwain yn y man i amddiffyn ein hargymhellion. Mewn ymateb i'r Dirprwy Weinidog, rwy'n ddiolchgar am ei dystiolaeth, a llwyr gefnogaf y penderfyniad i sefydlu ei adolygiad. Wrth gwrs, oherwydd natur adroddiadau pwyllgor gall digwyddiadau eu goddiweddyd. Mae hynny'n digwydd yn aml. Rwy'n siŵr eich bod yn cofio hynny o'ch amser fel aelod o bwyllgorau. Gall digwyddiadau yn aml eich goddiweddyd—rydym yn cydnabod hynny—ond mae ein hadroddiad yn seiliedig ar y dystiolaeth a gawsom, ac roedd yn cynrychioli barn unfrydol pob un ohonom. Byddaf yn eich atgoffa o hynny. Synnaf at eich penderfyniad i wrthod argymhellion ac at eich ymateb oherwydd mae hynny'n mynd yn groes i rai o'r pethau yr ydych wedi eu dweud a'u gwneud. Yn eich ymateb ysgrifenedig, yr ydych yn dweud bod adroddiad y pwyllgor yn ymarfer gwerthfawr, rydych yn cytuno â'n dymuniad y dylai'r prosesau gael eu symleiddio lle y bo modd, a'ch bod yn credu y dylem wasgu pob diferyn olaf o werth o'r arian a gawn.

I turn now to look at the three rejected recommendations. First, in relation to recommendation 7, the committee received some strongly negative evidence with respect to procurement, namely the delays, the inflexibility and the bureaucracy. The committee appreciates the Commission's intention to encourage the use of procurement because, of course, is mitigates state aid concerns. However, we were not convinced that the impact of this policy on the effective and efficient use of structural funds had been fully considered. That is why we made the recommendation that the Welsh Government should conduct its own analysis to add to the evidence base. Your terms of reference for the Guilford review are that you will look at WEFO's application and management processes and suitability for the next round, including the use of procurement in project delivery. Therefore, I am surprised that you have rejected a recommendation that is fully in line with the terms of reference of your review.

Trof yn awr at y tri argymhelliad a wrthodwyd. Yn gyntaf, mewn perthynas ag argymhelliad 7, cafodd y pwyllgor dystiolaeth negyddol gref iawn mewn perthynas â chaffael, sef yr oedi, yr anhyblygrwydd a'r fiwrocratiaeth. Mae'r pwyllgor yn deall bwriad y Comisiwn i annog y defnydd o gaffael oherwydd, wrth gwrs, mae'n lliniaru pryderon ynghylch cymorth gwladwriaethol. Fodd bynnag, ni chawsom ein hargyhoeddi fod effaith y polisi hwn ar y defnydd effeithiol ac effeithlon o gronfeydd strwythurol wedi cael ei hystyried yn llawn. Dyna pam y gwnaethom yr argymhelliad y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru gynnal ei dadansoddiad ei hun i ychwanegu at y sylfaen dystiolaeth. Eich cylch gorchwyl ar gyfer adolygiad Guilford yw y byddwch yn edrych ar brosesau ymgeisio a rheoli WEFO a'u haddasrwydd ar gyfer y cylch nesaf, gan gynnwys y defnydd o gaffael wrth gyflawni prosiectau. Felly, synnaf eich bod wedi gwrthod argymhelliad sy'n hollol unol â chylch gorchwyl eich adolygiad.

16:32 **Mike Hedges** Bywgraffiad Biography

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One of the items that we had on procurement was an organisation in the private sector that had worked with another organisation, but when it came to procuring what that organisation provided, it had to go out to tender, having worked with the organisation in the run up to it. That is where our recommendation comes from.

Un o'r eitemau a gawsom ar gaffael oedd sefydliad yn y sector preifat a oedd wedi gweithio gyda sefydliad arall, ond pan ddaeth yn amser i gaffael yr hyn yr oedd y sefydliad hwnnw yn ei ddarparu, bu'n rhaid iddo gynnal proses dendro, ar ôl gweithio gyda'r sefydliad yn y cyfnod yn union cyn hynny. Dyna darddiad ein hargymhelliad.

16:33 **Jocelyn Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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There is plenty of evidence that it was not always appropriate in every single case. In fact, it did not make for the most efficient way of delivering projects. As I say, it is in the terms of reference for your own review, so there must have been a question in your mind at the time of putting together the terms of reference whether procurement was suitable. At the time, we were taking evidence on that. I know that you were following things closely because you said so in your evidence to us at committee.

Mae digon o dystiolaeth nad oedd bob amser yn briodol ym mhob achos unigol. Yn wir, nid oedd yn cynnig y ffordd fwyaf effeithlon o gyflawni prosiectau. Fel y dywedais, y mae'n rhan o'r cylch gorchwyl ar gyfer eich adolygiad eich hun, felly rhaid bod cwestiwn yn eich meddwl ar adeg llunio'r cylch gorchwyl a oedd y broses gaffael yn addas. Ar y pryd, roeddem yn cymryd tystiolaeth ar hynny. Gwn eich bod yn cadw llygad barcud ar bethau oherwydd ichi ddweud hynny yn eich tystiolaeth inni yn y pwyllgor.

In rejecting recommendation 8, I think that you are being wilfully mischievous—to be perfectly blunt—because how could you think for a minute that we were suggesting that WEFO should use non-compliant delivery models? To be honest, your response is silly. No committee here would make that recommendation. I have a very strong committee of experienced people. We would not have made a recommendation that suggested that WEFO should use non-compliant models. What we suggested was that project sponsors should be made fully aware of all the options for delivery available to them. Your own written response says that WEFO is already working on this in time for 2014. Therefore, the rejection is petty, to say the least.

Wrth wrthod argymhelliad 8, credaf eich bod yn fwriadol ddireidus—a dweud y gwir—oherwydd sut yn y byd y gallwch gredu am funud ein bod yn awgrymu y dylai WEFO ddefnyddio modelau cyflawni nad ydynt yn cydymffurfio â'r rheolau? I fod yn onest, mae eich ymateb yn wirion. Ni fyddai unrhyw bwyllgor yma yn gwneud yr argymhelliad hwnnw. Mae gennyf bwyllgor cryf iawn o bobl brofiadol. Ni fyddem wedi gwneud argymhelliad a oedd yn awgrymu y dylai WEFO ddefnyddio modelau nad oeddent yn cydymffurfio â'r rheolau. Yr hyn a awgrymwyd gennym oedd y dylai noddwyr prosiectau fod yn gwbl ymwybodol o'r holl opsiynau ar gyfer cyflawni sydd ar gael iddynt. Noda eich ymateb ysgrifenedig ei hun fod WEFO eisoes yn gweithio ar hyn ar gyfer 2014. Felly, mae'r penderfyniad i'w wrthod yn dangos meddwl bach a dweud y lleiaf.

On recommendation 15, we accept that the rules for projects are set by people in Brussels, but it is their interpretation and the guidance that surrounds them that is crucial. That is what people told us. It was the guidance and not the rules that we wanted to see reviewed. You say that WEFO will revisit its guidance for very good reasons. So, I think that the rejection of the recommendations is splitting hairs to say the least. However, we look forward to the publication of the Guilford report which is on the horizon, and I hope that the lessons that we have highlighted from the first two rounds can be absorbed.

O ran argymhelliad 15, rydym yn derbyn bod y rheolau ar gyfer prosiectau yn cael eu gosod gan bobl ym Mrwsel, ond y ffordd y cânt eu dehongli a'u canllawiau cysylltiedig sy'n hanfodol. Dyna'r hyn a ddywedodd pobl wrthym. Y canllawiau ac nid y rheolau yr oeddem yn awyddus i weld yn cael eu hadolygu. Rydych yn dweud y bydd WEFO yn ailedrych ar ei chanllawiau am resymau da iawn. Felly, credaf fod y penderfyniad i wrthod yr argymhellion yn hollti blew a dweud y lleiaf. Fodd bynnag, edrychwn ymlaen at ddarllen adroddiad Guilford sydd ar fin cael ei gyhoeddi, a gobeithiaf y gall y gwersi yr ydym wedi tynnu sylw atynt o'r ddau gylch cyntaf yn cael eu hystyried.

To finish, as I say, I am sorry that those recommendations have been rejected although I will not lose any sleep over it, because I think that they are being acted on by the Welsh Government. Perhaps, in reality, 'reject' is the same as 'accept in principle', but they are semantic points. The most important thing for us as a committee is that our report assists in enhancing our use of the next round of European funding.

I orffen, fel y dywedais, mae'n ddrwg gennyf fod yr argymhellion hynny wedi cael eu gwrthod er na fyddaf yn colli unrhyw gwsg am y peth, oherwydd credaf eu bod yn cael eu gweithredu gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Efallai, mewn gwirionedd, mae 'gwrthod' yn golygu 'derbyn mewn egwyddor', ond pwyntiau semantig ydynt. Y peth pwysicaf i ni fel pwyllgor yw bod ein hadroddiad yn helpu i wella ein defnydd o'r cylch nesaf o gyllid Ewropeaidd.

16:36 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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The proposal is to note the Finance Committee's report. Does any Member object? I see that there is no objection. The motion is therefore agreed in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.36.

Y cynnig yw y dylid nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cyllid. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf nad oes gwrthwynebiad. Mae'r cynnig, felly, wedi'i dderbyn, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 12.36.

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion agreed.

Dadl Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru: Tai Gwag

Detholwyd y gwelliannau canlynol: gwelliannau 1, 2 a 5 yn enw Jocelyn Davies, a gwelliannau 3, 4, 6 a 7 yn enw William Graham.

Cynnig NDM5167 Aled Roberts

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. Yn nodi bod Stats Cymru yn amcangyfrif bod 31,644 o gartrefi gwag yng Nghymru, gyda 23,287 wedi'u dosbarthu fel anheddau gwag tymor hir.

2. Yn croesawu bwriad cynllun 'Troi Tai'n Gartrefi' Llywodraeth Cymru, gan gynnwys y £5 miliwn ychwanegol a fuddsoddir yn y cynllun o ganlyniad i'r fargen ar y gyllideb gyda Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn 2012-13.

3. Yn croesawu'r cynnydd o ran lleihau nifer y cartrefi gwag yng Nghymru 2,000, ond yn credu bod angen gwneud rhagor i ddatblygu strategaeth tai gwag gydlynol, sy'n cynnwys:

a) creu gwefan Cartrefi Gwag Cymru i rannu cyngor a chyfarwyddyd ac i godi proffil y cynllun cartrefi gwag;

b) Swyddog Cartrefi Gwag cyfwerth ag amser llawn ym mhob awdurdod lleol i fynd â'r cynllun rhagddo;

c) symleiddio'r ddeddfwriaeth a'r gweithdrefnau sy'n ymwneud â Gorchmynion Rheoli Anheddau Gwag a Gorchmynion Prynu Gorfodol;

d) diweddaru canllawiau arfer da cartrefi gwag i awdurdodau lleol;

e) rhoi rhagor o hyblygrwydd i gynghorau osod cyfraddau'r dreth gyngor cosbol ar gartrefi gwag tymor hir;

f) hybu rhannu enghreifftiau o'r arfer gorau a hwyluso gwaith partneriaeth rhwng awdurdodau lleol; ac

g) edrych ar gynllun cymhellion i gynghorau lleol ar gyfer pob cartref sector preifat tymor hir sy'n cael ei ddefnyddio unwaith eto, yn debyg i gynllun 'New Homes Bonus Scheme' Llywodraeth y DU.

Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate: Empty Homes

The following amendments have been selected: amendments 1, 2 and 5 in the name of Jocelyn Davies, and amendments 3, 4, 6 and 7 in the name of William Graham.

Motion NDM5167 Aled Roberts

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes that, according to Stats Wales, there are an estimated 31,644 empty homes in Wales, with 23,287 classed as long-term empty dwellings.

2. Welcomes the intention of the Welsh Government's 'Houses into Homes' initiative, including the additional £5million invested into the scheme as a result of the budget deal with the Welsh Liberal Democrats in 2012-13.

3. Welcomes the progress in reducing the number of empty homes in Wales by 2,000, but believes that more must be done to develop a cohesive empty homes strategy which includes:

a) establishing a Welsh Empty Homes website to share advice and guidance and raise the profile of the empty homes initiative;

b) a full time equivalent Empty Homes Officer in each local authority to drive forward the initiative;

c) simplifying the legislation and procedures surrounding Empty Dwelling Management Orders and Compulsory Purchase Orders;

d) updating empty homes good practice guidance to local authorities';

e) allowing councils greater flexibility to impose punitive council tax rates on long term empty homes;

f) encouraging the sharing of best practice examples and facilitating partnership working between local authorities; and

g) looking at an incentive scheme for local councils for every long term private sector home brought back into use, similar to the UK Government's 'New Homes Bonus Scheme'.

16:36

Peter Black Bywgraffiad Biography

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I move the motion.

Cynigiaf y cynnig.

As is stated in the motion, the latest figures for 2011-12 indicate that there are an estimated 31,644 empty homes in Wales, of which 23,287 are long-term empty homes. That is a rise of 6% on the previous year.

Fel y nodir yn y cynnig, mae'r ffigurau diweddaraf ar gyfer 2011-12 yn dangos bod 31,644 o gartrefi gwag yng Nghymru yn ôl amcangyfrif, y mae 23,287 ohonynt yn gartrefi a fu'n wag ers cyfnod hir. Mae hynny'n gynnydd o 6% ers y flwyddyn flaenorol.

Empty homes are a blight on our community. Dereliction discourages investment, and empty homes are a focal point for anti-social behaviour, arson and petty crime. They can become a danger to public health and damage the local environment. No-one wants to live next to an empty home, as I have done for some time in the past, because your home can be damaged through damp problems, as well as the blight it brings on the home and the street's appearance. It is an anti-social issue that needs to be tackled, as well as being a practical issue in terms of trying to bring viable homes back into use.

Mae cartrefi gwag yn bla ar ein cymuned. Mae diffeithdra yn rhwystr i ddenu buddsoddiad, ac mae cartrefi gwag yn ganolbwynt ar gyfer ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, llosgi bwriadol a mân droseddau. Gallant achosi perygl i iechyd y cyhoedd a difrodi'r amgylchedd lleol. Nid oes neb am fyw drws nesaf i gartref gwag, fel y gwneuthum am beth amser yn y gorffennol, oherwydd gall eich cartref ddioddef problemau lleithder, yn ogystal â'r malltod a gaiff ar y cartref a golwg y stryd. Mae'n fater gwrthgymdeithasol y mae angen ymdrin ag ef, a hefyd yn fater ymarferol o ran ceisio sicrhau y caiff cartrefi dichonol eu defnyddio unwaith eto.

Regenerating empty homes offers significant benefits to our economy. It provides jobs, it stimulates investment, it ends the social impact of empty properties and it helps to meet the demand for accommodation. It helps young people and others to get on the housing ladder, or it provides a much-needed roof for someone who has been homeless.

Gall adnewyddu cartrefi gwag fod o fudd sylweddol i'n heconomi. Mae'n darparu swyddi, mae'n ysgogi buddsoddiad, mae'n dod ag effaith gymdeithasol anheddau gwag i ben ac mae'n helpu i ateb y galw am lety. Mae'n helpu pobl ifanc ac eraill i ddringo'r ysgol dai, neu mae'n rhoi to uwchben rhywun sydd wedi bod yn ddigartref ac y mae ei angen yn fawr.

Positive steps are being taken on empty homes, and I acknowledge the work that the Welsh Government has done to date in that regard. However, we still need a co-ordinated strategy on empty homes to bring together the disparate elements around Wales, to understand the priorities and to share best practice.

Mae camau cadarnhaol ar waith mewn perthynas â chartrefi gwag, ac rwy'n cydnabod y gwaith a wnaed gan Lywodraeth Cymru hyd yma yn hynny o beth. Fodd bynnag, mae angen strategaeth gydlynol arnom o hyd mewn perthynas â chartrefi gwag er mwyn dod â'r elfennau gwahanol ledled Cymru ynghyd, er mwyn deall y blaenoriaethau ac er mwyn rhannu arfer gorau.

In 2011, the Welsh Liberal Democrats held a debate calling for an empty homes strategy for Wales, which received cross-party support. In response to that debate, the Minister—the same Minister that we have now—stated,

Yn 2011, cynhaliodd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru ddadl yn galw am strategaeth cartrefi gwag i Gymru, a gafodd gefnogaeth drawsbleidiol. Mewn ymateb i'r ddadl honno, datganodd y Gweinidog—yr un Gweinidog ag sydd gennym yn awr—

'we are committed to the introduction of an initiative on empty homes, and whether you call it a strategy or an initiative is largely a question of semantics.'

ein bod yn ymrwymedig i gyflwyno menter ar gartrefi gwag, ac mai mater o semanteg i raddau helaeth yw pa un a gaiff ei galw'n strategaeth neu'n fenter.

I think that there is a big difference. We welcome the intention of the Houses into Homes initiative as a first step forward, but if you do not have a co-ordinated strategy, it just becomes a single policy that is not driving forward the whole host of other initiatives that need to be implemented as part of this drive to bring homes back into use. If we are to understand the priorities for action, we need to have a strategy. If we are to address the growing problem of empty homes, we need a strategy. Above all, we need a strategy because large elements of the responsibility for dealing with this issue lie with local authorities. As is evident from what I will say later on in this speech, and also evident from what the Minister has said in his various statements on this issue, not all local authorities are dealing with this in the way that they should be. In some cases, local authorities are neglecting their duties altogether.

Credaf fod gwahaniaeth mawr. Rydym yn croesawu bwriad y fenter Troi Tai'n Gartrefi fel cam cyntaf ymlaen, ond os na fydd strategaeth wedi'i chydgysylltu ar waith, daw'n bolisi unigol nad yw'n llywio'r llu o fentrau eraill y mae angen eu rhoi ar waith fel rhan o'r ymgyrch hon i ddefnyddio cartrefi eto. Er mwyn deall y blaenoriaethau ar gyfer gweithredu, mae angen strategaeth arnom. Er mwyn ymdrin â phroblem gynyddol cartrefi gwag, mae angen strategaeth arnom. Yn anad dim, mae angen strategaeth arnom gan mai'r awdurdodau lleol sy'n gyfrifol am ymdrin â'r mater hwn i raddau helaeth. Fel sy'n amlwg o'r hyn a ddywedaf yn ddiweddarach yn yr araith hon, ac sydd hefyd yn amlwg o'r hyn a ddywedodd y Gweinidog yn ei amrywiol ddatganiadau ar y mater hwn, nid yw pob awdurdod lleol yn ymdrin â'r mater hwn yn briodol. Mewn rhai achosion, mae awdurdodau lleol yn esgeuluso eu dyletswyddau yn llwyr.

The Houses into Homes initiative is a good start, helped by the fact that the initial £5 million identified for the scheme was doubled to £10 million following the budget deal between the Welsh Liberal Democrats and the Welsh Government last year. We also welcome last year's consultation on council tax on long-term empty homes in Wales, as not only do we support this proposal in principle, but it is one that I have been advocating for a number of years. We believe that the levy should be on a sliding scale, depending on the length of time that a property has stood vacant. There should also be some discretion for local authorities so that this charge does not penalise those who are, for example, renovating their property or negotiating their way through a particularly complicated settlement of a deceased person's estate. I am sure that when the Bill is published, the matter will be dealt with accordingly.

Mae'r fenter Troi Tai'n Gartrefi yn ddechrau da, wedi'i ategu gan y penderfyniad i ddyblu'r £5 miliwn cychwynnol a nodwyd ar gyfer y cynllun i £10 miliwn yn dilyn cytundeb y gyllideb rhwng Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru a Llywodraeth Cymru y llynedd. Rydym hefyd yn croesawu'r ymgynghoriad a gynhaliwyd y llynedd ar y dreth gyngor ar gartrefi sydd wedi bod yn wag am gyfnod hir yng Nghymru, gan ein bod nid yn unig yn cefnogi'r cynnig hwn mewn egwyddor, ond ei fod yn gynnig y bûm yn dadlau o'i blaid ers sawl blwyddyn. Credwn y dylid gosod yr ardoll ar raddfa symudol, gan ddibynnu am ba hyd y bu annedd yn wag. Dylid rhoi rhywfaint o ddisgresiwn hefyd i awdurdodau lleol fel na fydd y tâl hwn yn cosbi'r rheini sydd, er enghraifft, yn adnewyddu eu heiddo neu'n destun proses arbennig o gymhleth i setlo ystad person ymadawedig. Rwy'n siŵr pan gaiff y Bil ei gyhoeddi, yr ymdrinnir â'r mater yn unol â hynny.

'Homes for Wales: A White Paper for Better Lives and Communities' gives a welcome outline of the Welsh Government's plan for housing, but gives little clarity on the strategic direction for empty homes. It reaffirms the target of 5,000 empty homes to be brought back into use through Houses into Homes, the proposal for a higher rate of council tax, and it outlines a duty for local authorities to identify empty homes in their areas. There is very little new here, largely because we have been discussing this for so long, but we need more ambition and measures on top of that. In particular, in terms of the target of bringing empty homes back into use, we need more clarity as to how those homes are to be brought back into use. I understand that the Houses into Homes initiative provides an easier rate of repayment if those homes are brought back into use for social housing, which is welcome, but I do not think that that is clear to many other people. We need to look at that to see what incentives are there to ensure that, when those homes are brought back, they are brought back as social housing, if that is possible and desirable. Given the length of waiting lists around Wales, it is certainly desirable.

Rhydd 'Cartrefi i Gymru: Papur Gwyn ar gyfer Bywydau Gwell a Chymunedau Gwell' amlinelliad calonogol o gynllun Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer tai, ond nid oes llawer o eglurder o ran y cyfeiriad strategol ar gyfer cartrefi gwag. Mae'n ailddatgan y targed o ddefnyddio 5,000 o gartrefi gwag eto drwy Troi Tai'n Gartrefi, y cynnig ar gyfer cyfradd uwch o ran y dreth gyngor, ac mae'n amlinellu dyletswydd i awdurdodau lleol nodi cartrefi gwag yn eu hardal. Prin iawn yw'r newydd, yn bennaf am ein bod wedi bod yn trafod y mater hwn cyhyd, ond mae angen mwy o uchelgais arnom a mesurau i ategu hynny. Yn arbennig, o ran y targed o ddefnyddio cartrefi gwag eto, mae angen mwy o eglurder arnom o ran sut y caiff y cartrefi hynny eu defnyddio unwaith eto. Deallaf fod y fenter Troi Tai'n Gartrefi yn darparu cyfradd ad-dalu haws os caiff y cartrefi hynny eu defnyddio unwaith eto ar gyfer tai cymdeithasol, sydd i'w groesawu, ond ni chredaf fod hynny'n glir i lawer o bobl eraill. Mae angen inni ystyried hynny er mwyn gweld pa gymhellion a gynigir er mwyn sicrhau, pan gaiff y cartrefi hynny eu defnyddio unwaith eto, y cânt eu defnyddio fel tai cymdeithasol, os yw hynny'n bosibl ac yn ddymunol. O ystyried hyd rhestrau aros ledled Cymru, mae'n sicr yn ddymunol.

In 2011-12, 1,076 empty homes were brought back into use by direct local authority action. If we continue at that pace, it would take over 20 years before we finally eliminated this problem. Over 2,000 empty homes have been brought back into use since May 2011, but the Minister classes many of these as low-hanging fruits, and I cannot disagree with that analysis. He has indicated that the next 2,000 homes will be more difficult. We need to equip local authorities with more effective tools, as well as some sticks, if we are to make real progress.

Yn 2011-12, dechreuwyd defnyddio 1,076 o gartrefi gwag unwaith eto o ganlyniad i gamau uniongyrchol gan awdurdodau lleol. Gan barhau ar y cyflymder hwnnw, byddai'n cymryd dros ugain mlynedd cyn cael gwared ar y broblem hon. Dechreuwyd defnyddio dros 2,000 o gartrefi gwag unwaith eto ers mis Mai 2011, ond mae'r Gweinidog o'r farn mai'r cartrefi hawsaf yr ymdriniwyd â hwy yn gyntaf, ac ni allaf anghytuno â'r dadansoddiad hwnnw. Nododd y bydd y 2,000 nesaf o gartrefi yn anos. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod dulliau gweithredu mwy effeithiol ar gael i awdurdodau lleol, a rhoi pwerau mwy effeithiol iddynt, er mwyn gwneud cynnydd gwirioneddol.

The Welsh Liberal Democrats' motion today is suggesting a number of other positive ways to help rid Wales of empty homes and to increase the level of affordable and social housing within the country. In making a statement on the Houses into Homes initiative in January of this year, the Minister stated that we need to supplement this initiative with other imaginative ways of thinking as we progress. We agree, and these more innovative ways need to be collated and focused in a national strategy on empty homes.

Mae cynnig Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru heddiw yn awgrymu nifer o ffyrdd cadarnhaol eraill i helpu i gael gwared ar gartrefi gwag yng Nghymru ac i gynyddu lefel y tai fforddiadwy a'r tai cymdeithasol yn y wlad. Wrth wneud datganiad ar y fenter Troi Tai'n Gartrefi ym mis Ionawr eleni, datganodd y Gweinidog fod angen inni ategu'r fenter hon â ffyrdd eraill o feddwl sy'n llawn dychymyg wrth inni fwrw ati. Cytunwn, ac mae angen coladu'r ffyrdd mwy arloesol hyn a'u defnyddio i greu strategaeth genedlaethol ar gartrefi gwag.

In the 2012 study by Lavender & Wilson, evaluating the Houses into Homes initiatives, local authorities were asked whether a Welsh empty property initiative should have a website for the scheme. All 22 local authorities felt that a website was essential to raise the profile of the scheme, provide advice and guidance to owners of empty homes, advertise the loan scheme, enable the sharing of best practice, be a one-stop shop for reporting empty homes, provide a list of developers or landlords who are interested in buying empty homes and allow owners to advertise their properties for sale. That is why we have called for that in this motion. Twenty local authorities felt that having a strong national branding was important for any national scheme, and a website could help to establish that.

Yn yr astudiaeth yn 2012 gan Lavender a Wilson, yn gwerthuso mentrau Troi Tai'n Gartrefi, gofynnwyd i awdurdodau lleol pa un a ddylai menter eiddo gwag i Gymru greu gwefan ar gyfer y cynllun. Roedd pob un o'r 22 awdurdod lleol o'r farn bod gwefan yn hanfodol er mwyn codi proffil y cynllun, rhoi cyngor ac arweiniad i berchenogion cartrefi gwag, hysbysebu'r cynllun benthyciadau, hwyluso trefniadau ar gyfer rhannu arfer gorau, gweithredu fel siop un stop ar gyfer rhoi gwybod am gartrefi gwag, darparu rhestr o ddatblygwyr neu landlordiaid â diddordeb mewn prynu cartrefi gwag a rhoi cyfle i berchenogion hysbysebu eiddo sydd ar werth. Dyna pam ein bod wedi galw am hynny yn y cynnig hwn. Roedd 20 o awdurdodau lleol o'r farn ei bod yn bwysig i unrhyw gynllun cenedlaethol feddu ar frand cenedlaethol cryf, a gallai gwefan helpu i sefydlu hynny.

In my survey of local councils around Wales, 10 of them responded that they do not have an empty property officer to drive forward this initiative, while four of them do not have an action plan. A dedicated officer and action plan helps councils to focus on dealing with this problem. Each local authority should have an empty homes strategy backed up by the national strategy, and it is essential to have an officer to drive this forward. That is highlighted in one of the amendments to the motion, which is important.

Yn fy arolwg o gynghorau lleol ledled Cymru, nododd 10 ohonynt nad oes ganddynt swyddog eiddo gwag i fwrw ymlaen â'r fenter hon, ac nid oes gan bedwar ohonynt gynllun gweithredu. Mae swyddog penodedig a chynllun gweithredu yn helpu cynghorau i ganolbwyntio ar ymdrin â'r broblem hon. Dylai fod gan bob awdurdod lleol strategaeth cartrefi gwag wedi'i hategu gan y strategaeth genedlaethol, ac mae'n hanfodol bod ganddynt swyddog i fwrw ati â'r gwaith. Caiff hynny ei amlygu yn un o'r gwelliannau i'r cynnig, sy'n bwysig.

Tools such as empty dwelling management orders and compulsory purchase orders are important, but they are complex and can be time consuming and expensive. They do not apply to every empty property, particularly the empty dwelling management orders. I had a piece of casework on this issue in my region where someone tried to utilise an empty dwelling management order for an empty property, but the local authority said that it was not economic to use it on the property, because the cost of bringing it back into use, effectively, was too great. Clearly, more tools need to be thought of, and these tools need to be less complex, more effective and local authorities need to be given resources to utilise them. I am aware of only two empty dwelling management orders that have been implemented in Wales since they were introduced, both of which were in Swansea—I think that Mike Hedges has left now. Swansea, of course, delivered both of those.

Mae dulliau gweithredu fel gorchmynion rheoli anheddau gwag a gorchmynion prynu gorfodol yn bwysig, ond maent yn gymhleth a gallant fod yn llafurus ac yn ddrud. Nid ydynt yn berthnasol i bob eiddo gwag, yn enwedig y gorchmynion rheoli anheddau gwag. Ymdriniais â gwaith achos ar y mater hwn yn fy rhanbarth lle ceisiodd rhywun ddefnyddio gorchymyn rheoli anheddau gwag ar gyfer eiddo gwag, ond dywedodd yr awdurdod lleol nad oedd yn ddarbodus ei ddefnyddio ar yr eiddo, oherwydd bod cost dechrau ei ddefnyddio unwaith eto, i bob pwrpas, yn rhy uchel. Yn amlwg, mae angen meddwl am fwy o ddulliau gweithredu, ac mae angen i'r dulliau hyn fod yn llai cymhleth, yn fwy effeithiol ac mae angen rhoi mwy o adnoddau i awdurdodau lleol eu defnyddio. Dim ond dau orchymyn rheoli anheddau gwag a roddwyd ar waith yng Nghymru, hyd y gwn i, ers eu cyflwyno, gyda'r ddau ohonynt yn Abertawe—credaf fod Mike Hedges wedi gadael yn awr. Abertawe, wrth gwrs, a gyflwynodd y ddau ohonynt.

According to the Lavender & Wilson study, 55%, which is 12 local authorities, stated that they would benefit from some form of technical or professional support in relation to their empty homes work. Again, it is important to have that strategy and support in place. We need to streamline this process for compelling homes to be brought back into use, simplifying the legislation, creating a pool of legal expertise to assist local authorities with technical complexities, and looking at alternative options, such as a compulsory lease or taking on the management of a property as social housing.

Yn ôl astudiaeth Lavender a Wilson, nododd 55% o awdurdodau lleol, sef 12 ohonynt, y byddai rhyw fath o gymorth technegol neu broffesiynol mewn perthynas â'u gwaith ar gartrefi gwag o fudd iddynt. Unwaith eto, mae'n bwysig sicrhau bod y strategaeth a'r cymorth hwnnw ar waith. Mae angen inni symleiddio'r broses hon i gymell dechrau defnyddio cartrefi unwaith eto, gan symleiddio'r ddeddfwriaeth, creu cronfa o arbenigedd cyfreithiol i helpu awdurdodau lleol â chymhlethdodau technegol, ac ystyried opsiynau amgen, megis prydlesau gorfodol neu fynd ati i reoli eiddo fel tai cymdeithasol.

Finally, I would urge the Minister to look at the UK Government's new homes bonus scheme, which offers a financial incentive for local authorities by match funding the council tax for six years for every empty home brought back into use. That is an important carrot for local councils that may kick-start them into doing something, and, although the Minister may not want to embrace that immediately, it is worth investigating and looking at. It is a very important and key tool for local authorities in England and all 22 local authorities in Wales, rather unsurprisingly, are in favour of that financial reward linked to performance.

Yn olaf, byddwn yn erfyn ar y Gweinidog i edrych ar gynllun bonws cartrefi newydd Llywodraeth y DU, sy'n cynnig cymhelliant ariannol i awdurdodau lleol drwy ddarparu swm o arian sy'n cyfateb i'r dreth gyngor am chwe blynedd ar gyfer pob cartref gwag a gaiff ei ddefnyddio unwaith eto. Mae hynny'n gymhelliant pwysig i gynghorau lleol a allai eu sbarduno i weithredu, ac, er na fydd y Gweinidog o bosibl am roi cynllun o'r fath ar waith ar unwaith, mae'n werth ymchwilio iddo a'i ystyried. Mae'n ddull gweithredu allweddol a phwysig iawn i awdurdodau lleol yn Lloegr ac mae pob un o'r 22 o awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru, heb fawr syndod, o blaid y wobr ariannol honno sy'n gysylltiedig â pherfformiad.

This motion has been tabled because, although we think that a lot of very valuable work has been undertaken by the Welsh Government, more needs to be done. I have been urging a strategy for a number of years—in fact, I did so to the Deputy Minister who had responsibility for housing previously. Without such a strategy pulling together all the various elements that need to be brought together as part of an empty homes initiative, we are not being as effective as we could be in tackling this issue and bringing those homes back into use. We have a duty as an Assembly, and I think that the Welsh Government also has a duty, to do everything that we can to reduce this blight on local communities and to help people into homes by removing this blight of empty homes. A strategy and the additional suggestions that we have put forward in this motion would be a major contribution towards reaching that goal.

Cyflwynwyd y cynnig hwn oherwydd, er ein bod o'r farn bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gwneud llawer o waith gwerthfawr, mae angen gwneud mwy. Bûm yn galw am strategaeth ers sawl blwyddyn—yn wir, gofynnais i'r Dirprwy Weinidog a oedd yn gyfrifol am dai gynt. Heb strategaeth o'r fath yn tynnu ynghyd yr holl elfennau amrywiol y mae angen eu dwyn ynghyd fel rhan o fenter cartrefi gwag, ni fyddwn mor effeithiol ag y gallem wrth ymdrin â'r mater hwn ac wrth ddechrau defnyddio'r cartrefi hynny unwaith eto. Mae dyletswydd arnom fel Cynulliad, a chredaf fod dyletswydd ar Lywodraeth Cymru hefyd, i wneud popeth y gallwn i leihau'r malltod hwn ar gymunedau lleol ac i helpu pobl i gael cartrefi drwy gael gwared ar y malltod hwn sy'n gysylltiedig â chartrefi gwag. Byddai strategaeth a'r awgrymiadau ychwanegol a gyflwynwyd gennym yn y cynnig hwn yn cyfrannu'n sylweddol at gyrraedd y nod hwnnw.

16:46

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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I have selected the seven amendments to the motion and I call on Rhodri Glyn Thomas to move amendments 1, 2 and 5 tabled in the name of Jocelyn Davies.

Rwyf wedi dethol y saith gwelliant i'r cynnig a galwaf ar Rhodri Glyn Thomas i gynnig gwelliannau 1, 2 a 5 a gyflwynwyd yn enw Jocelyn Davies.

Gwelliant 1—Jocelyn Davies

Amendment 1—Jocelyn Davies

Cynnwys pwynt 1 newydd ac ailrifo yn unol â hynny:

Insert as new point 1 and renumber accordingly:

Yn nodi bod cartrefi gwag yn cynnig cyfle i adfywio tai sy'n rhoi hwb bwysig i'r economi.

Notes that empty homes present an opportunity for housing regeneration which provides an important stimulus to the economy.

Gwelliant 2—Jocelyn Davies

Amendment 2—Jocelyn Davies

Ychwanegu ar ddiwedd pwynt 1:

Add at the end of point 1:

'ac y gellid defnyddio eiddo o'r fath i liniaru ar yr angen nas diwallwyd am dai cymdeithasol'

'and that these properties could be used to alleviate the unmet need for social housing'

Gwelliant 5—Jocelyn Davies

Amendment 5—Jocelyn Davies

Ychwanegu fel is-bwynt newydd ar ddiwedd pwynt 3:

Add as new sub point at end of point 3:

'lobïo Llywodraeth y DU i ostwng TAW ar atgyweirio a gwneud gwelliannau i gartrefi i 5%.'

'lobbying the UK Government to reduce VAT to 5% on home repairs and improvements.'

16:47 **Rhodri Glyn Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Cynigiaf welliannau 1, 2 a 5 yn enw Jocelyn Davies.

I move amendments 1, 2 and 5 in the name of Jocelyn Davies.

Rydym yn gobeithio y bydd y gwelliannau hyn yn cryfhau'r cynnig sydd wedi cael ei osod gerbron gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Rwy'n credu y bydd cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol i'r cynnig hwn ac rydym yn teimlo y gallwn gefnogi'r rhan fwyaf o'r gwelliannau, ond nid pob un ohonynt, oherwydd y geiriad yn aml a bod rhywfaint o amwysedd ynglŷn â chynnwys rhai o'r gwelliannau.

We hope that these amendments will strengthen the motion that has been tabled by the Liberal Democrats. I think that there will be cross-party support for this motion and we feel that we can support the majority of the amendments, but not every amendment, because of the wording in a number of cases and the fact that there is some ambiguity about the content of some of the amendments.

Yng nghyd-destun yr angen i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon, rwy'n gobeithio y bydd pawb o bob plaid yn cytuno ei fod yn angenrheidiol a bod angen i ni ddwysáu ein hymdrechion i wneud hyn. Mae Peter Black eisioes wedi amlinellu'r math o broblemau sydd yn codi pan fydd tai yn cael eu gadael yn wag ac y mae hefyd wedi pwysleisio'r angen i sicrhau bod y tai hyn ar gael yng nghyd-destun y math o broblemau sydd yn datblygu ar hyn o bryd gyda digartrefedd, a fydd yn dwysáu oherwydd polisïau'r glymblaid yn San Steffan a fydd yn golygu y bydd mwy a mwy o bobl yn canfod eu hunain mewn sefyllfaoedd lle mae'n anodd iddynt gynnal eu cartrefi a chanfod cartrefi o'r newydd.

In the context of the need to address this problem, I hope that everyone from every party would agree that this is truly necessary and that we need to intensify our efforts in doing this. Peter Black has already outlined the kinds of problems that arise when houses are left vacant and has emphasised the need to ensure that these houses are made available in the context of the kinds of problems that are developing in terms of homelessness, and which will intensify because of the policies of the coalition in Westminster, which will mean that more and more people will find themselves in situations where they find it difficult to maintain their homes and to find new homes.

O ran yr hyn mae Plaid Cymru yn awyddus i weld yn datblygu yn y maes hwn, mae arfer da, yn sicr. Yn 2010, er enghraifft, llwyddodd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam a Chyngor Sir Ddinbych i ddod ag 20% o'r tai oedd yn wag o fewn y siroedd hynny yn ôl i ddefnydd. Y cyfartaledd yng Nghymru oedd tua 2% neu 3%, sydd yn wahaniaeth sylfaenol. Rydym yn gorfod gofyn pam nad yw'r arfer da hwnnw a oedd yn bodoli yn Wrecsam a sir Ddinbych wedi cael ei ledaenu drwy Gymru gyfan.

In terms of what Plaid Cymru is eager to see developing in this area, there is certainly good practice. In 2010, for example, Wrexham County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council succeeded in bringing 20% of the vacant properties that existed in those counties back into use. The average across Wales was something like 2% or 3%, and there is a fundamental difference there. We have to ask why that good practice that existed in Wrexham and Denbighshire has not been rolled out across Wales.

Mae problemau; rydym yn derbyn hynny. Yn aml, mae tai gwag i'w gweld mewn ardaloedd sydd yn ddifreintiedig ac yn dioddef o dlodi. Hwyrach fod y methiant i ddod â'r tai hynny yn ôl i ddefnyddioldeb yn adlewyrchiad o'r ffaith bod yr ardaloedd hynny yn tueddu i gael eu hanwybyddu yn eu cyfanrwydd, oherwydd eu natur. Rydym yn deall hefyd fod awdurdodau lleol weithiau yn ofnus o ran y math o fuddsoddiad sydd ei angen o'u rhan. Hwyrach fod yn rhaid i ni edrych ar y ffaith bod y cwmnïau morgeisi a'r banciau yn cael blaenoriaeth ar awdurdodau lleol pan fydd angen am ad-daliad. Hwyrach fod eisiau edrych ar y sefyllfa honno i weld a oes modd gosod mwy o flaenoriaeth ar awdurdodau lleol, fel eu bod yn fwy hyderus y byddant yn cael eu harian yn ôl, yn sicr pe bai'r perchnogion yn mynd yn fethdalwyr ac yn methu ag ad-dalu eu morgais.

There are problems; we accept that. Very often, empty homes are to be found in disadvantaged areas and areas experiencing poverty. Perhaps the failure to bring those homes back into use is a reflection of the fact that those areas tend to be ignored in their entirety, because of their nature. We also understand that local authorities are sometimes nervous in terms of the kind of investment that would be required on their part. We may need to look at the fact that the mortgage companies and banks are given priority over local authorities when there is a need for repayment. Perhaps we need to review that situation to see whether more priority could be place on the local authorities, so that they could be more confident that they would be repaid, certainly if the owners went bankrupt and were unable to repay their mortgage.

Hoffwn wneud un neu ddau o argymhellion a fydd, rwy'n gobeithio, yn cryfhau'r ddadl. Yn ein maniffesto ar gyfer 2011, er enghraifft, rydym yn sôn am ganiatáu awdurdodau lleol i osod y dreth gyngor ar lefel o 200% ar dai gwag ac ar ail gartrefi. Credaf fod y pwynt hwnnw'n bwysig, ac mae arweinyddion cynghorau yn y gogledd-orllewin, yn arbennig, wedi bod yn cysylltu â mi ar y mater hwn. Maent yn gweld hon yn broblem fawr, ac maent yn credu y byddai gosod y dreth gyngor ar y lefel honno ar ail gartrefi yn fodd o sicrhau bod pobl leol yn cael mynediad gwell at y farchnad dai. Pe bai modd i ddatblygu grantiau a fyddai'n cael eu had-dalu ar gyfer ailddatblygu'r tai hyn, byddai hynny hefyd yn hwyluso'r gwaith hwn yn fawr iawn. O ran treth ar werth, rydym yn awgrymu y dylid ei thorri i 5% o ran gwaith cynnal a chadw a gwella tai yn y sector hwn.

I would like to make a few recommendations that, I hope, will strengthen the argument. In our manifesto for 2011, for example, we mentioned allowing local authorities to set council tax at 200% on vacant properties and second homes. I think that that point is important, and there are council leaders in north-west Wales in particular who have been contacting me on this issue. They see this as a very serious problem, and they see imposing council tax at that level on second homes as a means of ensuring that local people have more access to the local housing market. If it were possible to develop grants that could be repaid to redevelop these homes, that would also facilitate this work. In terms of value added tax, we are suggesting that that should be cut to 5% for maintenance and improvements to houses in this sector.

Rydym yn llwyr gytuno â'r hyn y mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi ei gynnig. Diolchwn iddynt am gynnal y ddadl hon, a gobeithiwn ein bod yn gallu cyfrannu'n greadigol tuag ati. Rydym yn mawr obeithio y bydd cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol i hyn. Ym mhob un o'n cymunedau, mae'n siŵr ein bod yn gweld yr angen i sicrhau bod mwy o gyfleoedd yn y farchnad dai i bobl leol. Mae tai gwag yn cynnig cyfle gwych yn y cyd-destun hwnnw.

We fully agree with what the Liberal Democrats have proposed. We thank them for bringing this debate forward and hope that we can make a creative contribution to it. I very much hope that there will be cross-party support for this. I am sure that, in all of our communities, we see the need to ensure that there are greater opportunities for local people in the housing market. Vacant properties offer an excellent opportunity in that regard.

16:52

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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I call on Mark Isherwood to move amendments 3, 4, 6 and 7, tabled in the name of William Graham.

Galwaf ar Mark Isherwood i gynnig gwelliannau 3, 4, 6 a 7, a gyflwynwyd yn enw William Graham.

Gwelliant 3—William Graham

Amendment 3—William Graham

Cynnwys ar ddiwedd is-bwynt 3b:

Insert at the end of sub point 3b:

'gan gydnabod bod gan bob cartref gwag ei stori ei hun ac mai'r hyn sy'n bwysig yw bod Swyddogion Cartrefi Gwag yn deall pam ei fod yn wag, ac yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r perchennog i ddechrau ei ddefnyddio eto'

'recognising that that every empty home has its own story and that the key is for Empty Homes Officers to understand why it is empty, and to work closely with the owner to bring it back into use'

Gwelliant 4—William Graham

Amendment 4—William Graham

Cynnwys ar ddiwedd is-bwynt 3e:

Insert at the end of sub point 3e:

'drwy greu premiwm treth gyngor cartrefi gwag ar gyfer eiddo sy'n cael ei adael yn wag am dros ddwy flynedd, er mwyn bod yn sensitif i amgylchiadau unigol – fel perchnogion sydd wedi cael profedigaeth neu berchnogion â phroblemau cymhleth y byddai modd, gyda chefnogaeth, ceisio'u datrys'

'through the creation of an empty homes council tax premium for properties left vacant for more than two years, to ensure sensitivity to individual circumstances – such as bereaved owners or owners with complex issues that, with support, could be addressed'

Gwelliant 6—William Graham

Amendment 6—William Graham

Ychwanegu is-bwynt newydd ar ddiwedd pwynt 3:

Add as new sub point at end of point 3:

'sicrhau bod cyllid ar gael i grwpiau cymunedol a gwirfoddol fel rhan o raglen i ddechrau defnyddio eiddo gwag eto fel tai fforddiadwy;'

'making funding available to community and voluntary groups as part of a programme to bring empty properties back in to use as affordable housing;'

Gwelliant 7—William Graham

Amendment 7—William Graham

Ychwanegu is-bwynt newydd ar ddiwedd pwynt 3:

Add as new sub point at end of point 3:

'caniatáu mwy o hyblygrwydd wrth ddefnyddio eiddo sy'n cael ei ariannu o dan y fenter 'Troi Tai'n Gartrefi', er mwyn sicrhau cymaint o fudd â phosibl i'r rheini sydd mewn angen o ran tai;'

'allowing greater flexibility in the use of properties funded under the 'Houses into Homes' initiative so that maximum benefit may be delivered to those in housing need;'

16:52

Mark Isherwood Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I move amendments 3, 4, 6 and 7 in the name of William Graham.

Cynigiaf welliannau 3, 4, 6 a 7 yn enw William Graham.

A 2004 Welsh Consumer Council report stated:

Nododd adroddiad yn 2004 gan Gyngor Defnyddwyr Cymru:

'Unless house-building and renovation of existing homes is stepped up, Wales could face a housing crisis in coming years.'

Oni roddir mwy o bwyslais ar y gwaith o adeiladu tai ac adnewyddu cartrefi sy'n bodoli eisoes, gallai Cymru wynebu argyfwng tai yn y dyfodol.

Eight years later, witnesses to the 2012 inquiry by the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee into the provision of affordable housing in Wales stated that 'the housing crisis is with us now'. The Community Housing Cymru group manifesto for the 2012 local government elections began by stating that there were an estimated 91,000 households on social housing waiting lists, and a further 284,000 additional homes required in Wales between 2006 and 2026. Therefore, turning empty buildings into homes must be part of the answer.

Wyth mlynedd yn ddiweddarach, nododd tystion i'r ymchwiliad a gynhaliwyd yn 2012 gan y Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol i'r ddarpariaeth o dai fforddiadwy yng Nghymru bod yr argyfwng tai ar ein gwarthaf. Dechreuodd maniffesto grŵp Tai Cymunedol Cymru ar gyfer etholiadau llywodraeth leol yn 2012 drwy ddatgan bod amcangyfrif o 91,000 o deuluoedd ar restrau aros am dai cymdeithasol, a bod angen 284,000 o gartrefi ychwanegol yng Nghymru rhwng 2006 a 2026. Felly, rhaid bod troi adeiladau gwag yn gartrefi yn rhan o'r ateb.

The Minister has previously referred to there being 23,000 empty homes across Wales. That represents long-term empty dwellings, and it is estimated, as we have heard, that there are nearly 32,000 empty homes in Wales. A recent BBC Wales survey found that the 17 local authorities that replied had identified almost 34,000 empty properties in their areas alone, up 10% on 2010. The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors in Wales said that many owners are put off renovating derelict houses by red tape, and called for an approach that incentivised investment. Although the Welsh Government's £10 million Houses into Homes scheme is therefore welcome, it is not a stand-alone solution.

Cyfeiriodd y Gweinidog yn flaenorol at y ffaith bod 23,000 o gartrefi gwag ledled Cymru. Mae hynny'n cynrychioli anheddau a fu'n wag ers cyfnod hir, ac amcangyfrifir, fel y clywsom, fod bron i 32,000 o gartrefi gwag yng Nghymru. Canfu arolwg diweddar gan BBC Cymru fod yr 17 o awdurdodau lleol a ymatebodd wedi nodi bron i 34,000 eiddo gwag yn eu hardaloedd hwy yn unig, cynnydd o 10% o gymharu â 2010. Dywedodd Sefydliad Brenhinol y Syrfewyr Siartredig yng Nghymru mai biwrocratiaeth sy'n atal llawer o berchenogion rhag adnewyddu tai adfeiliedig, gan alw am ddull gweithredu sy'n cymell buddsoddi. Er y dylid felly groesawu cynllun £10 miliwn Llywodraeth Cymru, Troi Tai'n Gartrefi, nid yw'n ateb ynddo'i hun.

Amendment 3 proposes that the Assembly recognise that every empty home has its own story and that the key is for empty homes officers to understand why it is empty, and to work closely with the owner to bring it back into use. That was said to me by Denbighshire's empty homes officer. Denbighshire has been recognised as the top performer in England and Wales for bringing empty properties back into use, having recognised that it costs an owner money to leave a home empty and that effective empty homes strategies seek to identify and work with owners, developing services to help them overcome the hurdles they face. Of the 954 properties brought back into use in Wales in 2010-11, 154 were in Denbighshire alone, even before the Welsh Government's Houses into Homes initiative was launched.

Mae gwelliant 3 yn cynnig y dylai'r Cynulliad gydnabod bod gan bob cartref gwag ei stori ei hun a'i fod yn allweddol bod swyddogion cartrefi gwag yn deall pam ei fod yn wag, ac yn gweithio'n agos â'r perchennog i ddechrau ei ddefnyddio unwaith eto. Dywedodd swyddog cartrefi gwag Sir Ddinbych hynny wrthyf. Cafodd Sir Ddinbych ei chydnabod fel y perfformiwr gorau yng Nghymru a Lloegr o ran dechrau defnyddio eiddo gwag unwaith eto, ar ôl cydnabod ei fod yn costio arian i'r perchennog adael cartref yn wag a bod strategaethau cartrefi gwag effeithiol yn ceisio nodi perchenogion a gweithio gyda hwy, gan ddatblygu gwasanaethau i'w helpu i oresgyn y rhwystrau a wynebir ganddynt. O'r 954 eiddo y dechreuwyd eu defnyddio unwaith eto yng Nghymru yn 2010-11, roedd 154 ohonynt yn Sir Ddinbych, hyd yn oed cyn lansio menter Troi Tai'n Gartrefi Llywodraeth Cymru.

Amendment 4 proposes that the Assembly call for the creation of an empty homes council tax premium for properties left vacant for more than two years, to ensure sensitivity to individual circumstances, such as bereaved owners or owners with complex issues that, with support, could be addressed. Proposed legislation in the Welsh Government's housing White Paper includes providing local authorities with a discretionary power to levy a higher rate of council tax on properties that have been empty for more than a year.

Mae gwelliant 4 yn cynnig y dylai'r Cynulliad alw am greu premiwm treth gyngor cartrefi gwag ar gyfer eiddo sy'n cael ei adael yn wag am dros ddwy flynedd, er mwyn bod yn sensitif i amgylchiadau unigol, fel perchnogion sydd wedi cael profedigaeth neu berchnogion â phroblemau cymhleth y byddai modd, gyda chefnogaeth, geisio'u datrys. Mae deddfwriaeth arfaethedig ym Mhapur Gwyn Llywodraeth Cymru ar dai yn cynnwys rhoi pŵer disgresiwn i awdurdodau lleol godi cyfradd uwch o dreth gyngor ar eiddo a fu'n wag ers dros flwyddyn.

Contrast that with the UK Government housing strategy for England, published in November 2011, when it launched its consultation six months before the Welsh Government, calling for the creation of an empty homes council tax premium for properties left vacant for more than two years. Rather than it being one year in order to be 'distinctively Welsh', we need two years in order to be distinctively sensitive to individual circumstances.

Cymharwch hynny â strategaeth dai Llywodraeth y DU i Loegr, a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Tachwedd 2011, pan lansiodd ei hymgynghoriad chwe mis cyn Llywodraeth Cymru, gan alw am greu premiwm treth gyngor cartrefi gwag ar gyfer eiddo sy'n cael ei adael yn wag am dros ddwy flynedd. Yn hytrach na phennu cyfnod o flwyddyn er mwyn bod yn 'benodol Gymreig', mae angen dwy flynedd arnom er mwyn bod yn benodol sensitif i amgylchiadau unigol.

Amendment 6 proposes that the Assembly recognise that a cohesive empty homes strategy must make funding available to community and voluntary groups as part of a programme to bring empty properties back in to use as affordable housing. While most of the UK Government's empty homes funding for England was assigned to the Homes and Communities Agency, £30 million was made available to community and voluntary organisations via a separate funding programme. We need a split model similar to that, recognising that community action and mutual aid are part of the social and cultural history of Wales.

Mae gwelliant 6 yn cynnig y dylai'r Cynulliad gydnabod bod yn rhaid i strategaeth cartrefi gwag gydlynus sicrhau bod cyllid ar gael i grwpiau cymunedol a gwirfoddol fel rhan o raglen i ddechrau defnyddio eiddo gwag eto fel tai fforddiadwy. Er bod y rhan fwyaf o gyllid Llywodraeth y DU ar gyfer cartrefi gwag i Loegr wedi'i neilltuo i'r Asiantaeth Cartrefi a Chymunedau, roedd £30 miliwn ar gael i sefydliadau cymunedol a gwirfoddol drwy raglen gyllido ar wahân. Mae angen model deuran tebyg arnom, sy'n cydnabod bod camau gweithredu cymunedol a chymorth cydweithredol yn rhan o hanes cymdeithasol a diwylliannol Cymru.

Amendment 7 proposes that the Assembly recognise the need for greater flexibility in the use of properties funded under the Houses into Homes initiative so that maximum benefit may be delivered to those in housing need. Although Houses into Homes loans are available to bring empty properties back into use for sale or rent, we note the recommendation by PricewaterhouseCoopers that housing associations should be allowed to use empty properties to generate additional capital by making them available, among other things, for intermediate rent. We will withdraw this amendment if the Minister confirms that this already applies.

Mae gwelliant 7 yn cynnig y dylai'r Cynulliad gydnabod yr angen am fwy o hyblygrwydd wrth ddefnyddio eiddo a ariennir o dan y fenter Troi Tai'n Gartrefi er mwyn sicrhau cymaint o fudd â phosibl i'r rheini sydd mewn angen o ran tai. Er bod benthyciadau Troi Tai'n Gartrefi ar gael i ddechrau defnyddio eiddo gwag unwaith eto drwy eu gwerthu neu eu rhentu, nodwn argymhelliad PricewaterhouseCoopers y dylid caniatáu i gymdeithasau tai ddefnyddio eiddo gwag i gynhyrchu cyfalaf ychwanegol drwy sicrhau eu bod ar gael, ymhlith pethau eraill, i'w rhentu fel eiddo canolraddol. Tynnwn y gwelliant hwn yn ôl os ceir cadarnhad gan y Gweinidog bod hyn eisoes yn berthnasol.

The UK Government's empty homes strategy pre-dates the Welsh Government's strategy, and £160 million has been invested in bringing empty homes back into use in England. Additionally, as we heard, the new homes bonus operating there, but not in Wales, incentivises local authorities to bring long-term empty homes back into use. We must turn as many empty dwellings into homes as possible as part of the solution to tackling the housing supply crisis in Wales.

Cyflwynwyd strategaeth cartrefi gwag Llywodraeth y DU cyn strategaeth Llywodraeth Cymru, a buddsoddwyd £160 miliwn i ddechrau defnyddio cartrefi gwag unwaith eto yn Lloegr. Yn ogystal, fel y clywsom, mae'r bonws cartrefi newydd sydd ar waith yno, ond nid yng Nghymru, yn cymell awdurdodau lleol i ddechrau defnyddio cartrefi sydd wedi bod yn wag ers cyfnod hir unwaith eto. Rhaid inni droi cymaint o anheddau gwag yn gartrefi â phosibl fel rhan o'r broses o fynd i'r afael â'r argyfwng o ran y cyflenwad tai yng Nghymru.

16:57 **William Powell** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Housing, as we know, is getting more and more out of the reach of the average worker, and this problem is even more acute in areas of rural Wales where the gap between wages and house prices is often the widest. The development of new affordable housing is most challenging due to the nature of planning policy as it applies to rural areas, particularly to areas of protected landscape. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation report of 2010 underscored the dilemma that applies to rural dwellers in particular in this respect.

Fel y gwyddom, mae tai yn mynd ymhellach ac ymhellach y tu hwnt i gyrraedd y gweithiwr cyffredin, ac mae'r broblem hon yn fwy difrifol byth mewn ardaloedd cefn gwlad lle mae'r bwlch rhwng cyflogau a phrisiau tai yn aml ar ei fwyaf. Mae'r broses o ddatblygu tai newydd fforddiadwy fwyaf heriol oherwydd natur polisi cynllunio fel y mae'n berthnasol i ardaloedd gwledig, yn arbennig i ardaloedd lle ceir tirwedd warchodedig. Pwysleisiodd adroddiad Sefydliad Joseph Rowntree yn 2010 y cyfyng-gyngor sy'n wynebu trigolion gwledig yn arbennig yn hyn o beth.

The average house price in Wales in December 2012 was £153,299, whereas the average salary is around £27,000, making the cost of an average home around 5.7 times the average salary. This huge disparity between wages and house prices, and the unaffordability of mortgages, is often more prevalent, as it will be appreciated, in rural areas. This forces people, particularly young people, to relocate to other areas, which can have a detrimental impact on the rural communities and their economy, with less demand for businesses, shops and school places.

Ym mis Rhagfyr 2012, pris cyfartalog tŷ yng Nghymru oedd £153,299, ac mae'r cyflog cyfartalog ar lefel o tua £27,000, sy'n golygu bod cost gyfartalog cartref tua 5.7 gwaith y cyflog cyfartalog. Mae'r gwahaniaeth sylweddol hwn rhwng cyflogau a phrisiau tai, a diffyg fforddiadwyedd morgeisi, yn aml yn fwy cyffredin, fel y gwerthfawrogir, mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Mae hyn yn gorfodi llawer o bobl, yn arbennig pobl ifanc, i symud i ardaloedd eraill, a all gael effaith andwyol ar gymunedau gwledig a'u heconomi, gyda llai o alw am fusnesau, siopau a lleoedd mewn ysgolion.

Furthermore, there are particular planning constraints on developments in rural areas that make the development of new affordable housing more challenging. In Mid and West Wales, for example, we are in the unique situation of encompassing all three of Wales's national parks, which have authority over planning policy, while the responsibility for regeneration and housing sits with the respective principal local authorities. In some cases, this causes a degree of tension and makes it difficult for these areas to build a cohesive planning and regeneration policy.

At hynny, mae cyfyngiadau cynllunio penodol ar ddatblygiadau mewn ardaloedd gwledig sy'n ei gwneud hi'n fwy heriol datblygu tai newydd fforddiadwy. Er enghraifft, yn y canolbarth a'r gorllewin, mae'r sefyllfa yn unigryw gan fod yr ardaloedd hynny yn cwmpasu tri pharc cenedlaethol Cymru, sydd ag awdurdod dros bolisi cynllunio, ond y prif awdurdodau lleol perthnasol sy'n gyfrifol am adfywio a thai. Mewn rhai achosion, mae hyn yn achosi rhywfaint o densiwn ac yn ei gwneud hi'n anodd i'r ardaloedd hyn lunio polisi cynllunio ac adfywio cydlynus.

For these reasons, refurbishing and renovating empty properties offers a particular benefit for our rural heartlands, as building significant numbers of new social and affordable housing is fraught with difficulty. It is particularly crucial if we are to encourage young people to live and work in our rural areas and to ensure the sustainability and the future economic vibrancy of our rural communities.

Am y rhesymau hyn, mae adnewyddu ac ailwampio anheddau gwag o fudd penodol i'n bröydd gwledig, gan fod cymaint o anawsterau o ran adeiladu niferoedd sylweddol o dai cymdeithasol a thai fforddiadwy newydd. Mae'n arbennig o bwysig er mwyn annog pobl ifanc i fyw a gweithio yn ein hardaloedd gwledig ac er mwyn sicrhau cynaliadwyedd a ffyniant economaidd ein cymunedau gwledig yn y dyfodol.

In Scotland, the Government has invested £4.5 million in its empty homes local fund, which was launched in July 2012. Of this, £2 million has been specifically targeted at renovating and reinstating empty homes in rural areas in recognition of the particular challenges that are faced there. I would encourage the Minister to consider whether rural areas in Wales should benefit from similar targeted assistance.

Yn yr Alban, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi buddsoddi £4.5 miliwn yn ei chronfa cartrefi gwag leol, a lansiwyd ym mis Gorffennaf 2012. O'r swm hwn, targedwyd £2 filiwn yn benodol at adnewyddu ac adfer cartrefi gwag mewn ardaloedd gwledig er mwyn cydnabod yr heriau penodol a wynebir yno. Byddwn yn annog y Gweinidog i ystyried a ddylid cynnig cymorth tebyg wedi'i dargedu i ardaloedd gwledig yng Nghymru.

Turning to the amendments, we support the three amendments proposed by Plaid Cymru. The regeneration of empty homes offers clear benefits to our economy, and it can also help us to meet the demand for social housing. The provision of social housing in rural areas is a huge concern, with all nine rural authorities—with the exception of Gwynedd—having rates below the Welsh average. Bringing empty homes back into use can go a long way to addressing this deficit.

Gan droi at y gwelliannau, rydym yn cefnogi'r tri gwelliant a gynigiwyd gan Blaid Cymru. Mae adfywio cartrefi gwag yn amlwg o fudd i'n heconomi, a gall hefyd ein helpu i ateb y galw am dai cymdeithasol. Mae'r ddarpariaeth tai cymdeithasol mewn ardaloedd gwledig yn bryder enfawr, ac mae cyfraddau pob un o'r naw awdurdod gwledig—ac eithrio Gwynedd—yn is na chyfartaledd Cymru. Gall dechrau defnyddio cartrefi gwag unwaith eto fod o gymorth sylweddol wrth ymdrin â'r diffyg hwn.

Cutting the VAT on building materials and building work would make renovations cheaper and easier. It would also serve to stimulate the economy by getting people to buy once again. Not only would it benefit empty homes, it would also help those who want to build new homes. We would encourage the Welsh Government to continue its constructive dialogue with the UK Government on this particular issue.

Byddai lleihau'r TAW ar ddeunyddiau adeiladu a gwaith adeiladu yn gwneud gwaith adnewyddu yn rhatach ac yn haws. Byddai hefyd yn ffordd o roi hwb i'r economi drwy annog pobl i brynu unwaith eto. Byddai o fudd o ran cartrefi gwag, ond byddai hefyd o fudd i'r rheini sy'n awyddus i adeiladu cartrefi newydd. Byddem yn annog Llywodraeth Cymru i barhau â'i thrafodaethau adeiladol â Llywodraeth y DU ar y mater penodol hwn.

We are also happy to support the four amendments proposed by the Conservative group. The process for bringing an empty home back into use will often differ, depending on the reason for its standing empty. Understanding these reasons is the key to success, and it will enable resources and actions to be targeted more effectively.

Rydym hefyd yn fodlon cefnogi'r pedwar gwelliant a gynigiwyd gan y grŵp Ceidwadol. Bydd y broses ar gyfer dechrau defnyddio cartrefi gwag unwaith eto yn aml yn wahanol, gan ddibynnu pam bod y cartref yn wag. Mae deall y rhesymau hyn yn allweddol i lwyddiant, a bydd yn golygu y gellir targedu adnoddau a chamau gweithredu yn fwy effeithiol.

We also support the proposal for a council tax premium. We welcomed this in a consultation last year. However, we believe that the levy should be on a sliding scale, depending on the length of time the property has stood empty, and there should also be a degree of discretion for local authorities to consider exemptions based on particular circumstances, notably to do with bereavement, probate difficulties et cetera.

Rydym hefyd yn cefnogi'r cynnig ar gyfer premiwm treth gyngor. Croesawyd hyn gennym mewn ymgynghoriad y llynedd. Fodd bynnag, credwn y dylid cyflwyno'r ardoll ar raddfa symudol, yn dibynnu ar ba hyd y mae'r eiddo wedi bod yn wag, ac y dylid caniatáu rhywfaint o ddisgresiwn hefyd i awdurdodau lleol ystyried eithriadau yn seiliedig ar amgylchiadau penodol, yn arbennig o ran profedigaeth, anawsterau profiant ac ati.

At this point, I would like to acknowledge the time that the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage spent in Powys last autumn to view some examples of best practice in my home local authority, particularly in the once blighted areas of Regent Street and Bell Street in Talgarth. That was a particularly helpful visit in encouraging the empty homes officers of Powys County Council in the important work that they are undertaking. The theme that came up during that visit ties in with the need for some greater flexibility in the Government's Houses into Homes scheme, as well as making funding available to voluntary and community groups. In England, £25 million of the empty homes fund has been allocated to voluntary and community groups. This would also be a major step forward here in Wales.

Yn hyn o beth, hoffwn gydnabod y cyfnod a dreuliodd y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth ym Mhowys hydref diwethaf yn edrych ar enghreifftiau o arfer gorau yn fy awdurdod lleol i, yn enwedig yn ardaloedd Regent Street a Bell Street yn Nhalgarth a fu'n falltod gynt. Roedd yr ymweliad hwnnw yn arbennig o ddefnyddiol o ran annog y gwaith pwysig a wneir gan swyddogion cartrefi gwag Cyngor Sir Powys. Mae'r thema a gododd yn ystod yr ymweliad hwnnw yn ategu'r angen am fwy o hyblygrwydd o fewn cynllun Troi Tai'n Gartrefi'r Llywodraeth, yn ogystal â sicrhau bod arian ar gael i grwpiau gwirfoddol a chymunedol. Yn Lloegr, dyrannwyd £25 miliwn o'r gronfa cartrefi gwag i grwpiau gwirfoddol a chymunedol. Byddai hyn hefyd yn gam pwysig ymlaen yma yng Nghymru.

17:02

Sandy Mewies [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

As chair of the cross-party group on housing, I am pleased that the broad consensus and support that we have when we discuss issues like this is being repeated here in the Chamber. Housing professionals have welcomed the Houses into Homes initiative. People like Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru representatives have said that Wales is leading the way in bringing empty properties back into use, and I think that this is true. The initiative is one that has many benefits, as we try to provide sustainable communities, because many of these empty properties are an eyesore. They are blots on the landscape, targets for vandals, and wasted resource. I think that William Powell spoke quite eloquently about the need for provision of homes, and how desperate people are now, whether they are young people or not, and not just in rural areas, I have to say, but in urban areas too. So, we must work on the scheme, which is a winner on a number of counts.

Fel cadeirydd y grŵp trawsbleidiol ar dai, rwy'n falch bod y consensws a'r gefnogaeth eang a gawn wrth drafod materion o'r fath i'w gweld hefyd yn y Siambr. Mae gweithwyr proffesiynol ym maes tai wedi croesawu'r fenter Troi Tai'n Gartrefi. Mae pobl fel cynrychiolwyr Sefydliad Tai Siartredig Cymru wedi dweud bod Cymru ar flaen y gad wrth ddechrau defnyddio eiddo gwag unwaith eto, a chredaf fod hyn yn wir. Mae'r fenter o fudd mewn sawl ffordd, wrth inni geisio darparu cymunedau cynaliadwy, gan fod llawer o'r anheddau gwag hyn yn ddolur llygad. Maent yn bla ar y dirwedd, yn dargedau ar gyfer fandaliaid, ac yn adnoddau gwastraff. Siaradodd William Powell yn eithaf huawdl am yr angen i ddarparu cartrefi, ac anobaith pobl yn awr, boed yn bobl ifanc neu beidio, ac nid dim ond mewn ardaloedd gwledig, rhaid imi ddweud, ond mewn ardaloedd trefol hefyd. Felly, rhaid inni weithio ar y cynllun, sy'n bwysig mewn sawl ffordd.

17:03 **Nick Ramsay** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I am grateful to you for giving way. On the point that you just made, about how this is about urban and rural areas, bearing in mind our discussions earlier about regenerating town centre areas, there is also an issue there with providing affordable housing in regenerated town centre areas that I am sure you would take on board.

Rwy'n ddiolchgar ichi am ildio. O ran y pwynt rydych newydd ei wneud, sef bod a wnelo hyn ag ardaloedd trefol a gwledig, o ystyried ein trafodaethau yn gynharach am adfywio ardaloedd canol trefi, mae problem hefyd o ran darparu tai fforddiadwy mewn ardaloedd a gaiff eu hadfywio yng nghanol trefi, rwy'n siŵr y byddech yn barod i'w hystyried.

17:03 **Sandy Mewies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I can show you quite clearly why I would support that. As I said, the scheme is a winner on many counts, providing homes, regenerating communities and acting as a stimulus to the local economy. I recently saw in my constituency the value of a scheme, in Flint town centre. So, yes, it ticks all the boxes for regeneration. Not only that, it has brought a vital half dozen houses back into use in an area where, believe me, we really need them, and it has acted as a stimulus to the local economy, because, of course, now, we have in the middle of the town centre six more families—or we will have—who will spend their money in the town centre of Flint. It really has been welcomed.

Gallaf dangos ichi yn eithaf clir pam y byddwn yn cefnogi hynny. Fel y dywedais, mae'r cynllun yn bwysig mewn sawl ffordd, gan ddarparu cartrefi, adfywio cymunedau a rhoi hwb i'r economi leol. Yn ddiweddar, gwelais werth cynllun yn fy etholaeth, yng nghanol tref y Fflint. Felly, ydy, mae'n bwysig iawn o ran adfywio. At hynny, o ganlyniad, llwyddwyd i droi hanner dwsin o dai gwag yn gartrefi unwaith eto mewn ardal lle, credwch chi fi, mae dirfawr eu hangen, ac mae hynny wedi rhoi hwb i'r economi leol gan fod chwe theulu arall yng nghanol y dref—neu fe fydd chwe theulu arall yno—a fydd yn gwario eu harian yng nghanol tref y Fflint. Fe'i croesawyd yn fawr.

In Wales, we look to tackle homelessness and protect the health and wellbeing of our most vulnerable people, improve standards and tenants' rights. I have to say that we must contrast that, as Rhodri Glyn Thomas did, against what is happening at the UK Government level. Forty-eight thousand housing benefit recipients are losing out because of welfare reforms, and thousands more will be affected by the bedroom tax. I would think that everyone here must have people coming to them with grave worries about what is happening, particularly regarding the bedroom tax.

Yng Nghymru, rydym yn anelu at fynd i'r afael â digartrefedd a diogelu iechyd a lles ein pobl fwyaf agored i niwed, gwella safonau a hawliau tenantiaid. Rhaid imi ddweud bod yn rhaid inni gymharu hynny, fel y gwnaeth Rhodri Glyn Thomas, â'r hyn sy'n digwydd ar lefel Llywodraeth y DU. Mae 48,000 o unigolion sy'n cael budd-dal tai ar eu colled oherwydd y diwygiadau lles, a bydd y dreth ystafell wely yn effeithio ar filoedd yn rhagor. Mae'n rhaid, tybiaf, bod pobl yn dod at bawb yma â phryderon difrifol o ran yr hyn sy'n digwydd, yn enwedig o ran y dreth ystafell wely.

Leighton Andrews published a devastating critique of what is happening and what will happen in the future. Nearly £600 million of benefit is being lost to people in Wales because of the weasel words of the Welfare Reform Act 2012. Even the Department for Communities and Local Government warns that, as a result of welfare reform and the household benefit cap, homelessness will increase. Council tax has been mentioned, but it has to be clear that it should neither be punitive or a money-making exercise. Any scheme that local authorities come up with has to be based on what is happening locally. William Powell mentioned that bereavement is sometimes a reason; there has to be a degree of understanding of why this arises.

Cyhoeddodd Leighton Andrews feirniadaeth ddinistriol ar yr hyn sy'n digwydd a beth fydd yn digwydd yn y dyfodol. Mae pobl yng Nghymru yn colli gwerth bron i £600 miliwn mewn budd-daliadau o ganlyniad i eiriau gwag Deddf Diwygio Lles 2012. Mae hyd yn oed yr Adran Cymunedau a Llywodraeth Leol yn rhybuddio, o ganlyniad i'r diwygiadau lles a'r cap ar fudd-daliadau cartrefi, y bydd lefelau digartrefedd yn cynyddu. Soniwyd am y dreth gyngor, ond mae'n rhaid bod yn glir na ddylid ei gyflwyno fel ymarfer cosbol nac ymarfer gwneud arian. Rhaid i unrhyw gynllun a gyflwynir gan awdurdodau lleol fod yn seiliedig ar amgylchiadau lleol. Soniodd William Powell fod profedigaeth weithiau yn rheswm; rhaid ceisio deall i ryw raddau pam bod y sefyllfa wedi codi.

It is also important that everybody works together. I had a meeting today with Derek Walker from the Wales Co-operative Centre, and talked about its financial inclusion project to tackle homelessness. What it does is support financially excluded people to prioritise rent payments and develop sustainable tenancies. It is no good bringing tenancies into being if people then get into difficulty when they try to pay the rent. It promotes the use of credit union rent accounts for private landlords. It works to persuade local authorities to pay the local housing allowance directly into those accounts. It encourages private landlords to support those people, and work with them to get credit union rent accounts. It supports credit unions to develop and promote the rent account. Since the start of the project there has been an increase from four to 14 credit unions offering rent accounts. It is preparing residents for the transition to universal credit—when it comes in, everyone in receipt will need to have a bank account. By promoting this credit union rent account now, tenants are being prepared for when the universal credit is introduced.

Mae hefyd yn bwysig bod pawb yn cydweithio. Cefais gyfarfod heddiw gyda Derek Walker o Ganolfan Cydweithredol Cymru, a thrafodwyd ei phrosiect cynhwysiant ariannol i fynd i'r afael â digartrefedd. Mae'n helpu pobl sydd wedi'u hallgáu'n ariannol i flaenoriaethu taliadau rhent a datblygu tenantiaethau cynaliadwy. Nid oes unrhyw ddiben cyflwyno tenantiaethau os bydd pobl wedyn yn mynd i drafferthion wrth geisio talu'r rhent. Mae'n annog pobl i ddefnyddio cyfrifon rhent undebau credyd ar gyfer landlordiaid preifat. Mae'n anelu at ddarbwyllo awdurdodau lleol i dalu'r lwfans tai lleol yn uniongyrchol i'r cyfrifon hynny. Mae'n annog landlordiaid preifat i helpu'r bobl hynny, ac i weithio gyda hwy i gael cyfrifon rhent undebau credyd. Mae'n helpu undebau credyd i ddatblygu a hyrwyddo'r cyfrif rhent. Ers dechrau'r prosiect, bu cynnydd o bedwar i 14 undeb credyd sy'n cynnig cyfrifon rhent. Mae'n paratoi preswylwyr ar gyfer y newid i gredyd cynhwysol—pan gaiff ei gyflwyno, bydd angen cyfrif banc ar bawb a fydd yn ei gael. Drwy hyrwyddo'r cyfrif rhent undebau credyd hwn yn awr, caiff tenantiaid eu paratoi ar gyfer yr adeg pan gyflwynir y credyd cynhwysol.

To draw this to a conclusion, we in Wales are making a good noise about housing. We are supporting provision and making things happen, and we have been joined by partners from the local authorities and people representing partners such as the Wales Co-operative Centre. Let us not get derailed by nit-picking. Minister, let us go forward in the same spirit, because I think that most of us here know what we want. Let us go forward to achieve it.

Gan dynnu at y terfyn, rydym ni yng Nghymru yn weithgar iawn ym maes tai. Rydym yn cefnogi darpariaeth ac yn sicrhau bod camau yn cael eu rhoi ar waith, ac mae partneriaid o'r awdurdodau lleol a phobl sy'n cynrychioli partneriaid fel Canolfan Cydweithredol Cymru wedi ymuno â ni yn hyn o beth. Gadewch inni beidio â cholli ein ffordd drwy bigo beiau. Weinidog, gadewch inni gamu ymlaen yn yr un ysbryd, oherwydd credaf fod y rhan fwyaf ohonom yma yn ymwybodol o'r nod a geisir. Gadewch inni fwrw ati i'w gyflawni.

17:07 **Aled Roberts** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Rwy'n awyddus i ganolbwyntio ar y rhannau hynny o'r cynnig sy'n cyfeirio at waith yr awdurdodau lleol, sy'n ceisio mynd i'r afael â'r broblem o dai gwag. Mae cynghorau Cymru ar hyd a lled Cymru felly yn paratoi strategaethau tai ar hyn o bryd, a fydd, gobeithio, yn mynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon. Fel y dywedodd Sandy Mewies, mae tystiolaeth bod rhai awdurdodau lleol yn llwyddo, ond mae'r sefyllfa braidd yn anghyson ar draws Cymru. Mae'r ffigyrau mwyaf diweddar ar gyfer niferoedd tai gweigion yn dangos bod nifer o'n cynghorau wedi llwyddo, er bod y ffigyrau hynny yn mynd yn ôl i fis Ebrill 2011.

I am eager to concentrate on those parts of the motion that refer to the work of the local authorities, which endeavour to address the problem of vacant properties. Welsh councils across the country are preparing housing strategies at present, which, I hope, will tackle this problem. As Sandy Mewies said, there is evidence that some local authorities are successful, but the situation is inconsistent across Wales. The most recent figures for the number of vacant houses demonstrates that many of our councils have succeeded, although those figures go back to April 2011.

Fel y cyfeiriodd Rhodri Glyn Thomas, mae sir Ddinbych wedi llwyddo i gael 18.5% o'i thai yn ôl; 24.5% yn Wrecsam; 18% yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot; a 47% yn Nhorfaen Mae'n rhaid i'r cynghorau hynny gydweithio gydag asiantaethau eraill i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem. Er, hyd yn oed yn yr ardaloedd hynny sy'n llwyddo, mae tai gwag—yn fy ward fy hun yn Rhos mae tai sydd wedi bod yn wag am bron 15 mlynedd. Mae yna sefyllfa lle mae teuluoedd ifainc o fewn y pentref yn aros am dai ac eto yn mynd heibio'r union dai hynny blwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn.

As Rhodri Glyn Thomas mentioned, Denbighshire has succeeded in bringing 18.5% of its homes back into use; 24.5% in Wrexham; 18% in Neath Port Talbot; and 47% in Torfaen. Those councils have to collaborate with other agencies in tackling the problem. Although, even in those areas that are successful, there are empty homes—in my own ward in Rhos there are homes that have been empty for almost 15 years. There is a situation where young families within the village area awaiting housing and yet they pass these very same homes year after year.

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam wedi gweithio gyda Chymdeithas Tai Clwyd Alyn i gynnig benthyciad i fyny at £5,000 ar gyfer adnewyddu'r tai hynny o dan gynllun rheolaeth, lle bydd y gymdeithas dai yn rheoli'r brydles am dair blynedd er mwyn adennill costau adnewyddu, gyda'r tai yn cael eu rhentu trwy gwmni Offa, sy'n rhan o Gymdeithas Tai Clwyd Alyn. Yn sir Ddinbych, mae Cymdeithas Tai Gogledd Cymru wedi cyflogi swyddog tai gwag ers 2008, tra bo'r cyngor yn darparu'r arian cyfalaf. Mae'r llwyddiant yn glir: dros y tair blynedd rhwng 2008 ac 2011, mae dros 500 o dai gwag wedi'u hadennill i'r farchnad yn sir Ddinbych. Cafodd y cynllun ei gydnabod yng ngwobrwyau Sefydliad Tai Siartredig Cymru yn 2010.

Wrexham County Borough Council has been working with Clwyd Alyn Housing Association to offer a loan of up to £5,000 for the refurbishment of those homes under a managed scheme, where the housing association manages the lease for three years in order to re-claw the renewal cost, with the homes being rented through the Offa company, which is part of Clwyd Alyn Housing Association. In Denbighshire, the North Wales Housing Association has employed a vacant-property official since 2008, while the council provides the capital funds. The success is clear: over the three years between 2008 and 2011, almost 500 vacant homes have been made available to the market in Denbighshire. This scheme was acknowledged in the Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru awards in 2010.

In the same year, in 2010, Conwy County Borough Council brought 182 properties back into use—the highest number of any authority that year. That was achieved through the Conwy empty homes partnership, again, as in Denbighshire's case, with the North Wales Housing Association. Through that partnership, a range of options were offered to owners, including sale on the open market, letting, leasing, improvement or conversion. In Conwy's case, grants were set at a maximum of £7,500, unless the property was of particular interest to the partnership or in dire need of repair. They worked positively with owners to achieve a good outcome but were willing to take enforcement activity. Conwy, Denbighshire and Wrexham are good examples of what can be achieved with cross-party political support and very effective officers ready to lead the strategy.

Yn yr un flwyddyn, yn 2010, dechreuodd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy ddefnyddio 182 o anheddau unwaith eto—y nifer uchaf o blith unrhyw awdurdod y flwyddyn honno. Cyflawnwyd hynny drwy bartneriaeth cartrefi gwag Conwy, unwaith eto, fel yn achos sir Ddinbych, gyda Chymdeithas Tai Gogledd Cymru. Drwy'r bartneriaeth honno, cynigiwyd amrywiaeth o opsiynau i berchenogion, gan gynnwys gwerthu ar y farchnad agored, gosod, prydlesu, gwella neu addasu. Yn achos Conwy, pennwyd uchafswm o £7,500 ar gyfer grantiau, onid oedd yr eiddo o ddiddordeb penodol i'r bartneriaeth neu fod angen taer am waith atgyweirio. Gweithiodd mewn ffordd gadarnhaol gyda pherchenogion er mwyn sicrhau canlyniad da ond roedd yn barod i gymryd camau gorfodi. Mae Conwy, Sir Ddinbych a Wrecsam yn enghreifftiau da o'r hyn y gellir ei gyflawni â chefnogaeth wleidyddol drawsbleidiol a swyddogion hynod effeithiol sy'n barod i fod wrth y llyw o ran rhoi'r strategaeth ar waith.

We all accept that empty shops and commercial properties, as Nick Ramsay has outlined, are also a huge issue. Renovating those in our town centres would regenerate town centres and attract new investment to our tired high streets. We heard in another meeting at lunchtime that landlords are currently having difficulty obtaining insurance for residential properties above many of these empty shops. Research published jointly this week by the British Retail Consortium and Springboard shows that high street shop vacancy rates in Wales currently stand at 17%. While we welcome the action taken by the Welsh Government to date, as others have already done, and the fact that the £10 million Houses into Homes initiative is to be welcomed, there is more that we need to do. The Government also needs to outline what it thinks it can provide as far as further resources are concerned, given that the housing White Paper refers in particular to the regeneration investment fund for Wales and its reliance on that scheme, which is currently suspended.

Mae pob un ohonom yn derbyn bod siopau ac eiddo masnachol gwag, fel y nodwyd gan Nick Ramsay, hefyd yn broblem enfawr. Byddai adnewyddu eiddo o'r fath yng nghanol ein trefi yn adfywio canol trefi ac yn denu buddsoddiad newydd i roi hwb i'n strydoedd mawr di-raen. Clywsom mewn cyfarfod arall amser cinio bod landlordiaid yn ei chael hi'n anodd cael yswiriant ar gyfer eiddo preswyl uwchben llawer o'r siopau gwag hyn ar hyn o bryd. Dengys gwaith ymchwil a gyhoeddwyd ar y cyd yr wythnos hon gan Gonsortiwm Manwerthu Prydain a Springboard fod 17% o siopau ar strydoedd mawr Cymru yn wag ar hyn o bryd. Er ein bod yn croesawu'r camau a gymerwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru hyd yma, fel y mae eraill eisoes wedi gwneud, ac y dylid croesawu'r fenter £10 miliwn Troi Tai'n Gartrefi, mae angen inni wneud mwy. Mae angen i'r Llywodraeth hefyd amlinellu'r hyn y cred y gall ei ddarparu o ran adnoddau pellach, o ystyried bod y Papur Gwyn ar dai yn cyfeirio'n benodol at gronfa buddsoddi Cymru mewn adfywio a'r ffaith ei bod yn dibynnu ar y cynllun hwnnw, sydd wedi'i atal ar hyn o bryd.

Our motion makes it clear that we would like to see some legislation in respect of commercial premises being brought into use. Those discussions, in the case of Gwynedd and Ynys Môn in the preparation of their LDPs, are currently taking place. We need action. Together, we can provide that action as an Assembly is partnership with local authorities.

Mae ein cynnig yn amlygu'r ffaith yr hoffem weld deddfwriaeth o ran dechrau defnyddio eiddo masnachol unwaith eto. Mae'r trafodaethau hynny, yn achos Gwynedd ac Ynys Môn wrth baratoi eu CDLlau, yn mynd rhagddynt ar hyn o bryd. Mae angen gweithredu. Gyda'n gilydd, gallwn weithredu felly fel Cynulliad mewn partneriaeth ag awdurdodau lleol.

17:13 **Joyce Watson** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Every empty property is a waste. Never has that been truer than today with a malfunctioning market and a malfunctioning Government in London making it harder than ever for people to get on the housing ladder. Thousands of single, working people under 35 have had their housing benefit cut. Nowadays, young people cannot afford to buy until well into their 30s, and the Tories expect them to rent single rooms in shared houses until then.

Mae pob eiddo gwag yn wastraff. Mae hynny'n arbennig o wir ar hyn o bryd o ystyried y ffaith bod marchnad ddiffygiol a Llywodraeth ddiffygiol yn Llundain yn ei gwneud hi'n anos nag erioed i bobl ddringo ar yr ysgol dai. Gostyngwyd budd-dal tai miloedd o bobl sengl o dan 35 oed sy'n gweithio. Yn yr oes sydd ohoni, ni all pobl ifanc fforddio prynu tan y byddant ymhell yn eu 30au, ac mae'r Torïaid yn disgwyl iddynt rentu ystafelloedd sengl mewn tai a rennir tan hynny.

My first thought when I heard the news this morning that George Osborne was out by more than £1 billion in calculating the 4G sale was, 'What are they going to cut now?' Who will be forced to pick up the bill for the latest economic failure? Changes in the social security system to housing benefit, as well as the bedroom tax, have made a bad situation worse; there is no doubt about that. At least in Wales we are on track with getting more empty homes back into use. There have been plenty of announcements over the border, but our Houses into Homes scheme puts us way ahead in terms of actually having a policy up and running and delivering results. It is worth noting that, in proportion to population, Wales is investing double what the UK Government has promised in England. As the Minister has always made clear, Houses into Homes, by offering interest-free loans is all carrot. I am encouraged that, less than a year into the scheme, 150 loans have already been approved. I believe that that is the figure and that 80% of those homes will be used as rented accommodation.

Fy ymateb cyntaf pan glywais y newyddion y bore yma bod George Osborne wedi methu o fwy na £1 biliwn wrth gyfrifo gwerthiant 4G oedd, 'Beth a gaiff ei dorri nawr?' Pwy gaiff ei orfodi i dalu'r bil am y methiant economaidd diweddaraf? Mae newidiadau yn y system nawdd cymdeithasol i fudd-dal tai, yn ogystal â'r dreth ystafell wely, wedi gwneud sefyllfa wael yn waeth; nid oes dim amheuaeth am hynny. O leiaf, yng Nghymru, rydym ar y trywydd cywir o ran dechrau defnyddio mwy o gartrefi gwag unwaith eto. Bu digon o gyhoeddiadau dros y ffin, ond mae ein cynllun Troi Tai'n Gartrefi yn golygu ein bod ar flaen y gad o ran rhoi polisi ar waith a sicrhau canlyniadau. Mae'n werth nodi, o gymharu â'r boblogaeth, bod Cymru yn buddsoddi ddwywaith cymaint â'r hyn y mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi'i addo yn Lloegr. Fel yr eglurodd y Gweinidog o'r cychwyn cyntaf, drwy gynnig benthyciadau di-log, mae'r cynllun Troi Tai'n Gartrefi yn gymhelliant mawr. Mae'n galonogol, lai na blwyddyn ers lansio'r cynllun, fod 150 o fenthyciadau eisoes wedi'u cymeradwyo. Credaf mai dyna'r ffigur ac y caiff 80% o'r cartrefi hynny eu defnyddio fel llety ar rent.

Can the Minister tell us, with the first round of applications now in, whether he has an idea about what other measures might be needed to reach those less engaged vacant-property owners? I would guess that we have, so far, picked the low-hanging fruit. That is why I look forward to the announcement on council tax variation. On this, I urge the Minister to stick to one year as the measure of a vacant property. I see that the Tories are still pushing for two years as a measure, but this is a serious and pressing issue for our country; we have to be proactive if we are to get enough houses back online to meet the huge demand.

A all y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym, gan fod y cylch ceisiadau cyntaf bellach wedi'i gwblhau, pa un a oes ganddo syniad o ran pa fesurau eraill y gallai fod eu hangen i gyrraedd perchenogion y cartrefi gwag hynny nad ydynt wedi dangos cymaint o ddiddordeb hyd yma? Byddwn yn tybio, hyd yn hyn, ein bod wedi dewis y targedau hawsaf. Dyna pam fy mod yn edrych ymlaen at y cyhoeddiad ar amrywiadau'r dreth gyngor. Yn hyn o beth, anogaf y Gweinidog i gadw at un flwyddyn fel y ffordd o fesur eiddo gwag. Gwelaf fod y Torïaid yn parhau i wthio am ddwy flynedd fel mesur, ond mae hwn yn fater difrifol ac enbyd i'n gwlad; rhaid inni fod yn rhagweithiol er mwyn dechrau defnyddio digon o dai unwaith eto i ateb y galw aruthrol.

Finally, much has been said about the historical disparity between local authorities in terms of how seriously they have taken empty homes as an issue and how hard they have worked to get houses back into use; we have heard that here today. When the Minister made his statement on Houses into Homes at the beginning of January, he singled out Pembrokeshire County Council as the only authority in Wales to have failed to deliver any loans in phase 1 of the scheme. Are you in a position now, Minister, to provide an update on whether Pembrokeshire County Council has engaged meaningfully with the scheme through the regional group?

Yn olaf, bu cryn drafod am y gwahaniaeth hanesyddol rhwng awdurdodau lleol o ran yr ystyriaeth a roddwyd ganddynt o ddifrif i gartrefi gwag a pha mor galed y maent wedi gweithio i ddechrau defnyddio tai unwaith eto; clywsom hynny heddiw. Pan wnaeth y Gweinidog ei ddatganiad ar Troi Tai'n Gartrefi ddechrau mis Ionawr, nododd mai Cyngor Sir Penfro oedd yr unig awdurdod yng Nghymru a oedd wedi methu â chynnig unrhyw fenthyciadau yn ystod cam 1 y cynllun. A ydych bellach mewn sefyllfa, Weinidog, i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni o ran pa un a yw Cyngor Sir Penfro wedi llwyddo i roi'r cynllun ar waith mewn ffordd ystyrlon drwy'r grŵp rhanbarthol?

My hope is that the regional approach will have levelled the playing field and spread good practice, so that an effective empty homes officer in one council can get things done over a wider area. My worry is that councils like Pembrokeshire County Council, which have not taken empty homes seriously enough in the past, might drag the others down. Minister, are you satisfied with the progress being made across the six regions?

Fy ngobaith yw y bydd y dull rhanbarthol wedi cynnig mwy o chwarae teg ac wedi lledaenu arfer da, fel y gall swyddog cartrefi gwag effeithiol mewn un cyngor weithredu dros ardal ehangach. Fy mhryder yw y gallai cynghorau fel Cyngor Sir Penfro, na wnaethant roi ystyriaeth ddigon difrifol i gartrefi gwag yn y gorffennol, gael effaith andwyol ar y gweddill. Weinidog, a ydych yn fodlon ar y cynnydd sy'n cael ei wneud ledled y chwe rhanbarth?

17:16

Janet Finch-Saunders Bywgraffiad Biography

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I know that we are pushed for time, so I will not hang about on this—I have written loads, but I will get to the point. I thank Peter Black for introducing this debate and highlighting once again the amount of empty properties in Wales at present. I also thank him for bringing forward some good and reasonable suggestions for tackling the problem. I am excited to speak in this debate, because I believe that the Welsh Government is sitting on a goldmine of an opportunity.

Gwn fod amser yn brin, felly byddaf yn gryno—rwyf wedi ysgrifennu llwythi, ond dof at y pwynt. Diolch i Peter Black am gyflwyno'r ddadl hon ac amlygu unwaith eto faint o eiddo gwag sydd yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd. Diolch iddo hefyd am gyflwyno rhai awgrymiadau da a rhesymol ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â'r broblem. Rwy'n awyddus i gyfrannu at y ddadl hon, gan fy mod o'r farn bod cyfoeth o gyfleoedd ar gael i Lywodraeth Cymru.

We heard from Aled Roberts how local authorities, by working in partnership with other organisations and the private sector, can make a difference in this regard. We are all aware of the problems that long-term empty properties create. They are a blight on the community, attracting anti-social behaviour and vandalism. In some circumstances, there are rather sad and devastating consequences when fire crews are called out to these properties—empty properties attract these kinds of problems.

Clywsom gan Aled Roberts sut y gall awdurdodau lleol, drwy weithio mewn partneriaeth â sefydliadau eraill a'r sector preifat, wneud gwahaniaeth yn hyn o beth. Rydym oll yn ymwybodol o'r problemau y mae eiddo a fu'n wag ers cyfnod hir yn eu creu. Maent yn falltod ar y gymuned, gan ddenu ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a fandaliaeth. Mewn rhai amgylchiadau, ceir canlyniadau trist a dinistriol pan gaiff criwiau tân eu galw i'r anheddau hyn—mae eiddo gwag yn denu'r mathau hyn o broblemau.

Peter Black spoke well about the need to bring back vital and good reusable housing stock. In some areas, in some of the industrial towns across the country where, once upon a time, they cast off rows of terraced properties, they are now looking to bring that good-quality property back into stock. In Conwy, 1,540 properties were classed as empty. However, this was for a range of reasons; 220 were classed as being empty because the owners were in hospital or a care home; 277 were empty because of bereavement; 33 were empty because the owners were receiving care; and a further seven were empty because the owners were providing care support elsewhere. It is vital, therefore, that cases are taken on individual merit when we start to talk about the amount of council tax that people have to pay on empty properties.

Siaradodd Peter Black yn huawdl am yr angen i ddechrau defnyddio stoc tai hanfodol o safon dda unwaith eto. Mewn rhai ardaloedd, yn rhai o'r trefi diwydiannol ledled y wlad lle cafodd rhesi o dai teras eu rhoi i'r neilltu yn y gorffennol, maent bellach yn ystyried dechrau defnyddio'r anheddau hynny o ansawdd da unwaith eto. Yng Nghonwy, dosbarthwyd 1,540 o anheddau fel eiddo gwag. Fodd bynnag, roedd amrywiaeth o resymau am hyn; dosbarthwyd 220 ohonynt fel eiddo gwag am fod y perchenogion yn yr ysbyty neu mewn cartref gofal; roedd 277 ohonynt yn wag o ganlyniad i brofedigaeth; roedd 33 ohonynt yn wag am fod y perchenogion yn cael gofal; ac roedd saith arall yn wag am fod y perchenogion yn rhoi cymorth gofal rywle arall. Felly, mae'n hanfodol ystyried pob achos yn unigol wrth ddechrau trafod faint o dreth gyngor y dylai pobl ei thalu ar eiddo gwag.

I am pleased to note from the Houses into Homes initiative that, as Aled has already mentioned, of 1,056 empty properties, we returned 182 to use in Conwy; much credit to Denbighshire and Wrexham for their efforts, too. This is in stark contrast to areas such as Rhondda Cynon Taf, which returned to use only 16 properties out of 2,967. To say that there is consistency across Wales is untrue. I have pressed the Minister on this previously. He has set a target of 5,000 properties. He needs to look at those local authorities that are not sitting up and taking notice, and set some tangible and individual targets for them.

Mae'n bleser gennyf nodi o'r fenter Troi Tai'n Gartrefi, fel y nododd Aled eisoes, o blith y 1,056 o anheddau gwag, ein bod wedi dechrau defnyddio 182 ohonynt unwaith eto yng Nghonwy; a dylid canmol Sir Ddinbych a Wrecsam am eu hymdrechion hefyd. Mae hyn yn wrthgyferbyniad llwyr i ardaloedd fel Rhondda Cynon Taf sydd ond wedi dechrau defnyddio 16 o anheddau allan o 2,967 unwaith eto. Anwir fyddai dweud bod cysondeb ledled Cymru. Rwyf wedi pwyso ar y Gweinidog yn hyn o beth o'r blaen. Pennodd darged o 5,000 o anheddau. Mae angen iddo ystyried yr awdurdodau lleol hynny nad ydynt yn cymryd sylw, a phennu targedau pendant ac unigol ar eu cyfer hwy.

For me, bringing back empty properties into the housing stock is about helping the construction industry; it is about building on the economic prospects of Wales and its communities; it is about assisting those who want to get onto the property ladder; and it is about helping the homeless and those who are on those long waiting lists for homes. It is also about assisting local authorities with what we see across Wales as being a huge overburdening cost of bed-and-breakfast accommodation and temporary accommodation, which is not right for the people of Wales. [Interruption].

I mi, mae a wnelo'r ymdrech i adfer eiddo gwag i'r stoc dai â helpu'r diwydiant adeiladu; mae a wnelo â gwella rhagolygon economaidd Cymru a'i chymunedau; mae a wnelo â helpu'r rheini sy'n awyddus i ddringo ar yr ysgol dai; ac mae a wnelo â helpu pobl ddigartref a'r rheini sydd ar y rhestrau aros hir hynny am gartrefi. Mae a wnelo hefyd â helpu awdurdodau lleol â'r gost feichus aruthrol sy'n gysylltiedig â llety gwely a brecwast a llety dros dro ledled Cymru, nad yw'n addas i bobl Cymru. [Torri ar draws.]

17:20 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Order.

Trefn.

17:20 **Janet Finch-Saunders** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

This will also help to sustain our tourism economy. Visitors do not want to come to towns where empty properties, be they commercial or residential, are blighting the area. The point that Aled made reverts back to what Nick Ramsay said. We must now be brave and take some bold moves in large town centres, where there was a larger spread but which are more condensed now. Rather than having many empty properties, it is better to turn some of that stock back into good, useable residential property. There is a need to renew our town centres, and not just the retail units, but the units above them. We are already doing that in Conwy by working in partnership with social landlords and bringing back a whole range of property that has been a storage area for as long as 30 years. In England, the Department for Communities and Local Government is enabling community and voluntary groups to apply for funding through the empty homes community grants fund.

Bydd hyn hefyd yn helpu i gynnal ein heconomi dwristiaeth. Nid yw ymwelwyr am ddod i drefi lle mae eiddo gwag, boed hynny'n fasnachol neu'n breswyl, yn difetha'r ardal. Mae'r pwynt a wnaed gan Aled yn adleisio'r hyn a ddywedodd Nick Ramsay. Rhaid inni bellach fod yn ddewr a chymryd camau beiddgar yng nghanol trefi mawr, a oedd yn fwy gwasgaredig gynt ond sydd bellach yn fwy cywasgedig. Yn hytrach na chael sawl eiddo gwag, mae'n well troi rhywfaint o'r stoc honno yn eiddo preswyl o safon dda y gellid ei ddefnyddio. Mae angen adnewyddu canol ein trefi, ac nid dim ond yr unedau manwerthu, ond yr unedau uwch eu pennau. Rydym eisoes yn gwneud hynny yng Nghonwy drwy weithio mewn partneriaeth â landlordiaid cymdeithasol i ddechrau defnyddio ystod eang o anheddau a ddefnyddiwyd fel ardal storio ers cyfnod cyhyd â 30 mlynedd. Yn Lloegr, mae'r Adran Cymunedau a Llywodraeth Leol yn galluogi grwpiau cymunedol a gwirfoddol i wneud cais am arian drwy'r gronfa grantiau cymunedol ar gyfer cartrefi gwag.

The problem of empty properties in Wales must be tackled head on. We have a real chance to lead in this area. Although the Welsh Government in 2010 announced its intention to reduce the amount of empty properties in Wales, the amount of long-term empty properties brought back into use by local authorities went up in 2011 by 359. As a matter of fact, when I asked the question in June of last year, the Welsh Government said that it owns either 32 or 36 properties. I would like to ask the Minister what he is doing to set an example in that regard.

Rhaid bwrw ati o ddifrif i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem o ran anheddau gwag yng Nghymru. Mae gennym gyfle gwirioneddol i arwain yn y maes hwn. Er bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cyhoeddi ei bwriad i leihau nifer yr anheddau gwag yng Nghymru yn 2010, cynyddodd nifer yr anheddau a fu'n wag ers cyfnod hir ac y dechreuwyd eu defnyddio unwaith eto gan awdurdodau lleol 359 yn 2011. Yn wir, pan ofynnais y cwestiwn ym mis Mehefin y llynedd, dywedodd Llywodraeth Cymru ei bod yn berchen ar naill ai 32 neu 36 eiddo. Hoffwn ofyn i'r Gweinidog beth y mae'n ei wneud i osod esiampl yn hynny o beth.

17:21 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Order. Conclude with this, please.

Trefn. Dewch i ben yn awr, os gwelwch yn dda.

17:21 **Janet Finch-Saunders** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

We have to stop the noise and the talk and really start to take some action.

Rhaid inni roi'r gorau i drin a thrafod a dechrau gweithredu o ddifrif.

17:21 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I call Huw Lewis, the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage, to reply.

Galwaf ar Huw Lewis, y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth, i ymateb.

17:22 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth / The Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

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Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer. As all Members will know by now, I am deeply concerned with the issue of empty homes, and I consider that reducing their number is a priority for Government. So, I welcome Aled's positive words about the intention of Houses into Homes and the progress that has been made to bring more empty properties back into use. I am sure that everyone by now is familiar with the Houses into Homes programme which, following my oral statement in Plenary on 8 January of this year, has been working hard out there in Welsh communities.

Diolch, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Fel y gŵyr pob Aelod erbyn hyn, rwy'n poeni'n arw am y problemau sy'n gysylltiedig â chartrefi gwag, a chredaf fod lleihau eu nifer yn flaenoriaeth i'r Llywodraeth. Felly, croesawaf eiriau cadarnhaol Aled am fwriad Troi Tai'n Gartrefi a'r cynnydd a wnaed i ddechrau defnyddio mwy o anheddau gwag unwaith eto. Rwy'n siŵr bod pawb erbyn hyn yn gyfarwydd â'r rhaglen Troi Tai'n Gartrefi a fu'n gweithio'n galed o fewn cymunedau Cymru yn dilyn fy natganiad llafar yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar 8 Ionawr eleni.

Regarding the numbers of empty properties, I recognise the figure of just over 23,000 that has been quoted, and I am committed to reducing this. However, I am not clear, as the motion states, where the figure of 31,000 empty homes comes from. I have checked this with my officials, and the figure may be arrived at by including council tax exemptions. I am not clear on that. It may include properties that are empty because their owners are in hospital or even properties that are discounted altogether. Perhaps the Welsh Liberal Democrats can enlighten us on that.

O ran nifer yr eiddo gwag, rwy'n cydnabod y ffigur o ychydig dros 23,000 a ddyfynnwyd, ac rwy'n ymrwymedig i'w leihau. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf yn glir, fel y noda'r cynnig, sut y daethpwyd i'r ffigur o 31,000 o gartrefi gwag. Rwyf wedi trafod y mater hwn gyda'm swyddogion, ac mae'n bosibl mai drwy gynnwys eithriadau'r dreth gyngor y daethpwyd i'r ffigur hwn. Nid wyf yn glir yn hynny o beth. Gall gynnwys anheddau sy'n wag am fod eu perchenogion yn yr ysbyty neu hyd yn oed anheddau a gaiff eu diystyru'n llwyr. Efallai y gall Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru fwrw goleuni ar y mater hwnnw.

17:23 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

May I help you with that?

A gaf eich helpu â hynny?

17:23 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

No. You will have time to respond; you will have the last word.

Na chewch. Cewch amser i ymateb; chi gaiff y gair olaf.

My concern lies with properties that have been empty for some time. Houses into Homes is helping local authorities to work with owners to bring such properties back into use. The Welsh Government has committed a total of £10 million to the Houses into Homes programme. Joyce Watson's arithmetic is quite right; that is double the resource per capita that the coalition Government in Westminster has committed in England. We are confident that all of that £10 million will be out there working in Welsh communities by the end of March. This has been achieved as a result of hard work on the part of officials at the Welsh Government and on the part of local authorities. As I said in my statement on 8 January, I am very grateful to them for that. The programme involves loans, so the money will be paid back and used again to bring more empty properties back into use.

Rwy'n pryderu am yr eiddo sydd wedi bod yn wag ers cyfnod hir. Mae Troi Tai'n Gartrefi yn helpu awdurdodau lleol i weithio gyda pherchenogion i ddechrau defnyddio eiddo o'r fath unwaith eto. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi neilltuo cyfanswm o £10 miliwn i'r rhaglen Troi Tai'n Gartrefi. Mae symiau Joyce Watson yn hollol iawn; mae hynny ddwywaith yr adnoddau y pen y mae'r Llywodraeth glymblaid yn San Steffan wedi'u neilltuo yn Lloegr. Rydym yn hyderus y bydd y cyfanswm o £10 miliwn ar waith o fewn cymunedau yng Nghymru erbyn diwedd mis Mawrth. Cyflawnwyd hynny o ganlyniad i waith caled ar ran swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru ac ar ran awdurdodau lleol. Fel y dywedais yn fy natganiad ar 8 Ionawr, rwy'n ddiolchgar iawn iddynt am hynny. Mae'r rhaglen yn cynnig benthyciadau, felly caiff yr arian ei ad-dalu a'i ailddefnyddio i ddechrau defnyddio mwy o anheddau gwag unwaith eto.

On the issue of an empty homes strategy, in my view, we already take a strategic approach to empty homes with a comprehensive programme of action that covers all aspects of empty homes policy in practice. I want to avoid strategy overload. I would prefer to concentrate on action and outcomes in a concrete fashion. I want to make clear that I do not rule out the development and evolution of Houses into Homes. In fact, I would see that as a necessary thing. However, I want to learn all the lessons that I can from the initial tranche of loan-making before we make assumptions about how people are going to behave, most particularly about how owners are going to behave. The development of an empty homes website is already being taken forward in partnership with the Welsh Local Government Association as part of the work surrounding the Houses into Homes scheme. In addition, as some Members will know, Shelter Cymru has its own 'report an empty home' website, which has been in place for a number of years.

O ran strategaeth cartrefi gwag, yn fy marn i, rydym eisoes yn gweithredu mewn ffordd strategol mewn perthynas â chartrefi gwag ac mae gennym raglen gynhwysfawr o gamau gweithredu sy'n cwmpasu pob agwedd ar bolisi cartrefi gwag ar waith. Nid wyf am lunio gormod o strategaethau. Byddai'n well gennyf ganolbwyntio ar gamau gweithredu a chanlyniadau pendant. Hoffwn nodi'n glir nad wyf yn diystyru cynigion i ddatblygu ac esblygu Troi Tai'n Gartrefi. Yn wir, credaf y byddai angen gwneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, rwyf am ddysgu'r holl wersi ag y gallaf o'r haen gyntaf o fenthyciadau cyn inni lunio rhagdybiaethau o ran ymddygiad pobl, yn arbennig ymddygiad perchenogion. Mae'r broses o ddatblygu gwefan cartrefi gwag eisoes yn mynd rhagddi mewn partneriaeth â Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru fel rhan o'r gwaith sy'n gysylltiedig â'r cynllun Troi Tai'n Gartrefi. Yn ogystal, fel y gŵyr rhai Aelodau, mae gan Shelter Cymru ei wefan ei hun ar gyfer rhoi gwybod am gartrefi gwag, a fu'n weithredol ers sawl blwyddyn.

Aled also raised the point about dedicated empty homes officers in each local authority area. We are currently focusing, through Houses into Homes, on collaborative working between local authorities based on the six-region model. This is working well as it enables local authorities to pool resources, share expertise and exchange good practice, with a local authority with established good practice in the lead in that regional group. In that context, the proposal to have an empty homes officer in each local authority could be counter-productive.

Cyfeiriodd Aled hefyd at gael swyddogion cartrefi gwag penodedig yn ardal pob awdurdod lleol. Drwy Troi Tai'n Gartrefi, rydym yn canolbwyntio ar hyn o bryd ar gydweithredu rhwng awdurdodau lleol yn seiliedig ar y model chwe rhanbarth. Mae'r model hwn yn gweithio'n dda gan ei fod yn galluogi awdurdodau lleol i gyfuno adnoddau, rhannu arbenigedd a chyfnewid arfer da, gydag awdurdod lleol sydd eisoes yn dilyn arfer da wrth y llyw yn y grŵp rhanbarthol hwnnw. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, gallai'r cynnig i gael swyddog cartrefi gwag ymhob awdurdod lleol fod yn wrthgynhyrchiol.

Joyce Watson has already illustrated to us the example of Pembrokeshire, where the established expertise of other authorities within Pembrokeshire's group would be a quicker route to good practice than reinventing the wheel from scratch in that county itself. I will write to you, Joyce, in terms of a snapshot of the current situation.

Defnyddiodd Joyce Watson Sir Benfro eisoes fel enghraifft, lle y byddai arbenigedd sefydledig awdurdodau eraill o fewn grŵp Sir Benfro yn ffordd gyflymach o sicrhau arfer da na dechrau o'r dechrau'n deg yn y sir honno ei hun. Ysgrifennaf atoch, Joyce, i roi gwybodaeth ichi am y sefyllfa bresennol.

There is also the issue of how these extra officers could be funded in the current financial climate in which the coalition Government in Westminster has placed us. It is also important to recognise that local authorities are going to have to consider carefully this priority, among other very pressing priorities. In terms of simplifying legislation, such as empty dwelling management orders and compulsory purchase orders, these legislative measures are used as a last resort. As such, they need to be carefully considered because they ultimately result in people losing their property. Appropriate safeguards need to be in place and there has to be time for people to lodge an appeal and engage with an enforcing authority. The Welsh Government, at present, has no plans to remove these important safeguards. Local authorities report that, quite often, the threat of an EDMO or a CPO is enough to spur the owner of an empty property to bring it back into use. The goal, as others have said, is to engage primarily with owners and enter into dialogue, and Houses into Homes illustrates, I hope, the success of that approach.

Rhaid ystyried hefyd sut y gellid ariannu'r swyddogion ychwanegol hyn yn yr hinsawdd ariannol sydd ohoni a grëwyd gan y Llywodraeth glymblaid yn San Steffan. Mae'n bwysig hefyd cydnabod y bydd yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol roi ystyriaeth ofalus i'r flaenoriaeth hon, ymhlith blaenoriaethau eraill hynod bwysig. O ran symleiddio deddfwriaeth, megis gorchmynion rheoli anheddau gwag a gorchmynion prynu gorfodol, dim ond pan fetho popeth arall y defnyddir y mesurau deddfwriaethol hyn. Fel y cyfryw, mae angen eu hystyried yn ofalus gan eu bod, yn y pen draw, yn golygu bod pobl yn colli eu heiddo. Mae angen rhoi camau diogelu priodol ar waith ac mae angen sicrhau bod amser i bobl gyflwyno apêl ac ymgysylltu ag awdurdod gorfodi. Nid oes gan Lywodraeth Cymru, ar hyn o bryd, unrhyw gynlluniau i ddiddymu'r camau diogelu pwysig hyn. Noda awdurdodau lleol, yn eithaf aml, bod bygwth gorchymyn o'r fath yn ddigon i annog perchennog eiddo gwag i ddechrau ei ddefnyddio unwaith eto. Fel y dywedodd eraill, y nod yw ymgysylltu â pherchenogion yn bennaf a chynnal trafodaethau â hwy, ac mae Troi Tai'n Gartrefi, gobeithio, yn dangos llwyddiant y dull gweithredu hwnnw.

On using council tax to incentivise bringing empty properties back into use, the forthcoming housing Bill contains a proposal that will give local authorities the power to increase the charge on an empty property to 200% of the annual bill. I would like to emphasise that that potential tool is not a money-making exercise with which to punish empty home owners, and there will be scope for exemptions to be made to reflect the wide range of circumstances that can result in a property becoming empty in the first place. The primary objective of our proposals is to bring empty properties back into use, so that both families and local communities can benefit from that.

O ran defnyddio'r dreth gyngor i gymell pobl i ddechrau defnyddio eiddo gwag unwaith eto, mae'r Bil tai arfaethedig yn cynnwys cynnig a fydd yn rhoi'r pŵer i awdurdodau lleol gynyddu'r tâl ar eiddo gwag i 200% o'r bil blynyddol. Hoffwn bwysleisio nad ymarfer gwneud arian i gosbi perchenogion cartrefi gwag yw'r dull posibl hwnnw, ac y bydd cyfleoedd i bennu eithriadau i adlewyrchu'r amrywiaeth eang o amgylchiadau a all arwain at sefyllfa lle y daw eiddo'n wag. Prif nod ein cynigion yw sicrhau y caiff eiddo gwag eu defnyddio unwaith eto, er budd teuluoedd a chymunedau lleol.

In terms of our guidance on empty homes, this was last updated in September 2010 in partnership with Shelter Cymru. The guidance includes detailed case studies and a large amount of good practice. Since introducing the revised guidance, the Welsh Government has introduced the Houses into Homes programme. The evaluation of the programme, which is taking place over its first three years, will provide us with information that will inform future revisions of the existing guidance as well as the programme itself.

O ran ein canllawiau ar gartrefi gwag, fe'u diweddarwyd ddiwethaf ym mis Medi 2010 mewn partneriaeth â Shelter Cymru. Mae'r canllawiau yn cynnwys astudiaethau achos manwl a chryn dipyn o arfer da. Ers cyflwyno'r canllawiau diwygiedig, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cyflwyno'r rhaglen Troi Tai'n Gartrefi. Bydd y gwerthusiad o'r rhaglen, a gynhelir yn ystod ei thair blynedd gyntaf, yn rhoi gwybodaeth inni a fydd yn llywio unrhyw ddiwygiadau a wneir i'r canllawiau presennol yn ogystal â'r rhaglen ei hun yn y dyfodol.

Where the UK Government's new homes bonus scheme is concerned, I am not really sure how successful this is going to be. I do not think that any of us can claim to be sure. It is based on giving additional grants to local authorities if they build new properties or return properties into use and then start realising additional council tax receipts on those properties. However, it appears that the pot of funding is allocated on the basis of additional revenue generated. We have all seen the recent criticism suggesting that the policy will result in grant funding being taken away from poorer authorities in the north of England and given to richer authorities in the south, because property values, and therefore council tax receipts, are higher in the south. Not here in Wales—no, thank you very much.

O ran cynllun bonws cartrefi newydd Llywodraeth y DU, nid wyf yn siŵr iawn pa mor llwyddiannus fydd. Ni chredaf y gall unrhyw un ohonom honni ein bod yn siŵr o hynny. Mae'n seiliedig ar roi grantiau ychwanegol i awdurdodau lleol os byddant yn adeiladu eiddo newydd neu'n dechrau defnyddio eiddo gwag unwaith eto ac wedyn yn dechrau derbyn treth gyngor ychwanegol ar yr anheddau hynny. Fodd bynnag, ymddengys y caiff yr arian ei ddyrannu ar sail y refeniw ychwanegol a grëir. Mae pob un ohonom wedi gweld y feirniadaeth ddiweddar yn awgrymu y bydd y polisi yn arwain at sefyllfa lle y bydd awdurdodau tlotach yng ngogledd Lloegr yn colli arian grant ac y caiff ei roi i awdurdodau mwy cyfoethog yn ne Lloegr, oherwydd bod gwerthoedd eiddo, ac felly derbyniadau treth gyngor, yn uwch yn y de. Nid felly yma yng Nghymru—na, dim diolch.

In terms of your amendments, Jocelyn, I totally agree that empty properties present an opportunity for housing regeneration. I hope that the schemes that I have visited which have benefited from the Houses into Homes scheme are indicative of that. I also agree that bringing empty properties in the private sector back into use helps to alleviate the need for social housing. This is about addressing housing shortage of all kinds.

O ran eich gwelliannau, Jocelyn, cytunaf yn llwyr fod eiddo gwag yn rhoi cyfle i adnewyddu tai. Gobeithio bod y cynlluniau yr ymwelais â hwy sy'n rhan o'r cynllun Troi Tai'n Gartrefi yn arwydd o hynny. Cytunaf hefyd fod dechrau defnyddio eiddo gwag yn y sector preifat unwaith eto yn helpu i leihau'r angen am dai cymdeithasol. Mater o ymdrin â phrinder tai o bob math ydyw.

In the current financial climate, the private rented sector is becoming increasingly important. Some 80% of the loans that have been issued so far under Houses into Homes are funding improvements to properties that are being made available for rent.

Yn yr hinsawdd ariannol bresennol, mae'r sector rhentu preifat yn dod yn fwyfwy pwysig. Mae tua 80% o'r benthyciadau a wnaed hyd yma o dan Troi Tai'n Gartrefi yn ariannu gwelliannau i eiddo a gaiff eu gosod ar rent.

On the VAT issue, during a similar Welsh Liberal Democrat debate in November 2011, I pointed out that Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs guidance states that VAT can be charged at a reduced rate of 5% if you are renovating or altering an eligible dwelling that has not been inhabited during the two years before the work starts.

O ran TAW, yn ystod dadl debyg gan Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru ym mis Tachwedd 2011, nodais fod canllawiau Cyllid a Thollau Ei Mawrhydi yn datgan y gellir codi TAW ar gyfradd is o 5% os ydych yn adnewyddu neu'n newid annedd cymwys na fu unrhyw un yn byw ynddo am gyfnod o ddwy flynedd cyn i'r gwaith ddechrau.

17:31 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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You are going to have to finish now, Minister.

Bydd yn rhaid ichi dynnu at eich terfyn yn awr, Weinidog.

17:31 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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In some respects, this point is already covered. However, I will support the amendment on the basis that more could be done by Westminster in that regard.

I raddau, trafodwyd y pwynt hwn eisoes. Fodd bynnag, cefnogaf y gwelliant ar y sail y gallai San Steffan wneud mwy yn hynny o beth.

In terms of William Graham's amendments, I have already addressed the issue of empty homes officers and council tax. On funding for voluntary and community groups to bring empty properties back into use, I am not sure how achievable this suggestion might be at this stage. This work would be all very well, but currently it is not clear where the funding would come from.

O ran gwelliannau William Graham, rwyf eisoes wedi ymdrin â swyddogion cartrefi gwag a'r dreth gyngor. O ran darparu arian i grwpiau gwirfoddol a chymunedol ddechrau defnyddio eiddo gwag unwaith eto, nid wyf yn siŵr i ba raddau y gellid rhoi'r awgrym hwn ar waith ar hyn o bryd. Byddai'r gwaith hwn o fudd, ond ar hyn o bryd, nid yw'n glir sut y câi ei ariannu.

I believe that Houses into Homes is effective and I believe that it is flexible.

Credaf fod Troi Tai'n Gartrefi yn effeithiol a chredaf ei fod yn hyblyg.

17:32 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Finish with this, Minister.

Gorffennwch yn awr, Weinidog.

17:32 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I will. The Welsh Government is committed to continuing action on empty properties, to hitting our target of bringing 5,000 properties back into use and to learning as we travel along this journey.

Gwnaf. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymrwymedig i barhau i weithredu mewn perthynas ag eiddo gwag, i gyrraedd ein targed o ddechrau defnyddio 5,000 o eiddo unwaith eto ac i ddysgu ar hyd y daith.

17:32 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I call on Kirsty Williams to reply to the debate.

Galwaf ar Kirsty Williams i ymateb i'r ddadl.

17:32 **Kirsty Williams** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I begin by thanking colleagues for their contributions this afternoon, and for the support that they have offered to the Liberal Democrats' calls for a co-ordinated empty homes strategy, a strategy that would look to turn a resource that, as has been described this afternoon, is often a cause of problem and blight in communities into one that is much needed and desired.

Dechreuaf drwy ddiolch i'm cyd-Aelodau am eu cyfraniadau y prynhawn yma, ac am y gefnogaeth y maent wedi'i chynnig i geisiadau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am strategaeth gydgysylltiedig ar gyfer cartrefi gwag, strategaeth a fyddai'n anelu at droi adnodd sy'n aml yn achosi problem a malltod mewn cymunedau, fel y disgrifiwyd y prynhawn yma, yn adnodd angenrheidiol a dymunol.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas, in moving the amendments on behalf of Plaid Cymru, amendments that we are happy to support, talked about the good performance of some local authorities in this area. Rhodri Glyn, I am always very happy to talk about the past good performance of Wrexham Borough County Council, as a leader in this particular area. [Laughter.] Seriously, the point that you made about variable performance brings home the need for a national strategy to ensure that lessons are learnt in those authorities that are doing well, so that all authorities can make progress. You also acknowledged in your contribution that a number of actions need to be taken, and that one particular initiative will not have the desired effect. These issues are often complex, and we need a range of tools at our disposal to bring those empty homes back into use.

Wrth gynnig y gwelliannau ar ran Plaid Cymru, gwelliannau rydym yn fodlon eu cefnogi, soniodd Rhodri Glyn Thomas am berfformiad da rhai awdurdodau lleol yn y maes hwn. Rhodri Glyn, rwyf bob amser yn fwy na pharod i drafod perfformiad da Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam yn y gorffennol, fel arweinydd yn y maes arbennig hwn. [Chwerthin.] O ddifrif, mae'r pwynt a wnaethoch am berfformiad amrywiol yn pwysleisio'r angen am strategaeth genedlaethol er mwyn sicrhau y caiff gwersi eu dysgu yn yr awdurdodau hynny sy'n gwneud yn dda, fel y gall pob awdurdod wneud cynnydd. Gwnaethoch gydnabod hefyd yn eich cyfraniad fod angen cymryd nifer o gamau, ac na chaiff un fenter benodol yr effaith a ddymunir. Mae'r materion hyn yn aml yn gymhleth, ac mae angen amrywiaeth o ddulliau gweithredu arnom er mwyn dechrau defnyddio'r cartrefi gwag hynny unwaith eto.

We are very happy to support the Conservative amendments. Mark, you talked about the importance of dedicated officer support and time to make progress in this area. It is important, because these cases are sometimes complex, to have that resource within the local authority to work hand in hand with empty property owners, which is often the best way of achieving results.

Rydym yn fwy na pharod i gefnogi gwelliannau'r Ceidwadwyr. Mark, gwnaethoch sôn am bwysigrwydd cymorth swyddogion penodedig ac amser i wneud cynnydd yn y maes hwn. Gan fod yr achosion hyn weithiau'n gymhleth, mae'n bwysig sicrhau bod yr adnodd hwnnw ar gael o fewn yr awdurdod lleol i weithio law yn llaw â pherchenogion eiddo gwag, gan mai dyma, yn aml, yw'r ffordd orau o sicrhau canlyniadau.

I note what the Minister said about not wanting to duplicate resources across the 22 local authorities, but we come back to this proposition once again: if the Government is convinced that 22 local authorities are too many, and if you cannot have a good service across each individual local authority, the Government should be open and upfront about that, and put its cards on the table with regard to local government reorganisation.

Nodaf yr hyn a ddywedodd y Gweinidog am osgoi dyblygu adnoddau ar draws y 22 awdurdod lleol, ond rydym yn dychwelyd at y cynnig hwn unwaith eto: os yw'r Llywodraeth o'r farn bod 22 o awdurdodau lleol yn ormod, ac os na ellir darparu gwasanaeth da ar draws pob awdurdod lleol unigol, dylai'r Llywodraeth fod yn onest ac yn agored am hynny, a dechrau trafodaeth agored o ran ad-drefnu llywodraeth leol.

William Powell stressed some of the difficulties faced in rural areas, which can often have more stringent and more difficult planning regimes, especially if you find yourself living within a national park where proposals for new housing developments are often controversial. Therefore, being able to use resources that are already there is often a quicker and less controversial way of providing new homes.

Pwysleisiodd William Powell rai o'r anawsterau a wynebir mewn ardaloedd gwledig, sy'n aml yn destun cyfundrefnau cynllunio mwy caeth ac anos, yn enwedig os ydych yn byw o fewn ardal parc cenedlaethol lle mae cynigion ar gyfer datblygiadau tai newydd yn aml yn ddadleuol. Felly, mae gallu defnyddio adnoddau sydd eisoes ar gael yn aml yn ffordd gyflymach a llai dadleuol o ddarparu cartrefi newydd.

Sandy was able to draw on her personal experience in Flint. She gave an example of not only being able to provide new homes for people, but those homes having a knock-on effect into the wider economy. It is particularly important that we look at bringing homes into city and town centres. We have seen that here in the Cardiff area. Bringing homes and people into the city centres makes them feel a safer place to be and can have a positive effect on those city centres.

Cyfeiriodd Sandy at ei phrofiad personol yn y Fflint. Rhoddodd enghraifft nid yn unig o allu darparu cartrefi newydd i bobl, ond hefyd o sgil-effaith y cartrefi hynny ar yr economi ehangach. Mae'n bwysig iawn inni ystyried sut y gellir darparu cartrefi yng nghanol dinasoedd a threfi. Rydym wedi gweld hynny yma yn ardal Caerdydd. Mae dod â chartrefi a phobl i ganol dinasoedd yn gwneud iddynt deimlo'n fwy diogel a gall gael effaith gadarnhaol ar ganol y dinasoedd hynny.

Aled Roberts and Janet Finch-Saunders broadened the discussion and discussed the need to include retail properties in some of these areas. I can think of one example in my constituency where an empty retail property is causing particular consternation and difficulties.

Ehangodd Aled Roberts a Janet Finch-Saunders y drafodaeth gan drafod yr angen i gynnwys eiddo masnachol yn rhai o'r ardaloedd hyn. Gallaf feddwl am un enghraifft yn fy etholaeth lle mae eiddo manwerthu gwag yn achosi pryder ac anawsterau penodol.

Joyce welcomed the Houses into Homes initiative, as does our motion today. We welcome very much the Government's adoption of that policy, and we welcome the additional funds that have gone into delivering that policy because of the Liberal Democrats' negotiations over a budget. There is much to recommend it. However, there is greater flexibility that we could look to introduce within that scheme to make it even more successful and to allow more homes to be brought back into use.

Croesawodd Joyce y fenter Troi Tai'n Gartrefi, fel y gwna ein cynnig heddiw. Rydym yn croesawu penderfyniad y Llywodraeth i fabwysiadu'r polisi hwnnw yn fawr iawn, ac yn croesawu'r arian ychwanegol a fuddsoddwyd i roi'r polisi hwnnw ar waith diolch i gyd-drafodaethau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol dros gyllideb. Mae cryn dipyn i'w argymell. Fodd bynnag, gallem ystyried cyflwyno mwy o hyblygrwydd o fewn y cynllun hwnnw er mwyn sicrhau ei fod yn fwy llwyddiannus byth ac er mwyn gallu dechrau defnyddio mwy o gartrefi unwaith eto.

Finally, I will turn to the Minister. The Minister questioned the figure of 31,644 empty properties. I am surprised that the Minister and his officials do not recognise their own statistics, because they are indeed Welsh Government's statistics, taken from its statistics site, and it relates to the total number of private-sector dwellings that have been vacant for more than six months as of April 2011. Six months do not mean a long-term empty property, but each one of those 31,644 houses has the potential to become one of the types of properties that have concerned us all this afternoon. I hope that that has clarified that for the Minister. I am grateful for the change in support this afternoon.

Yn olaf, trof at y Gweinidog. Bwriodd y Gweinidog amheuon dros y ffigur o 31,644 o anheddau gwag. Synnaf nad yw'r Gweinidog na'i swyddogion yn cydnabod eu hystadegau eu hunain, gan mai ystadegau Llywodraeth Cymru yw'r ystadegau hynny, o'i gwefan ystadegau, a'u bod yn cyfeirio at gyfanswm nifer yr anheddau sector preifat a fu'n wag am fwy na chwe mis ym mis Ebrill 2011. Nid yw chwe mis yn enghraifft o eiddo a fu'n wag am gyfnod hir, ond gallai pob un o'r 31,644 o dai hynny ddod yn un o'r mathau hynny o eiddo a fu'n peri pryder i bob un ohonom y prynhawn yma. Gobeithio bod hynny wedi egluro'r sefyllfa i'r Gweinidog. Rwy'n ddiolchgar am y newid o ran cefnogaeth y prynhawn yma.

17:37

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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The proposal is to agree the motion without amendment. Does any Member object? I see that there are objections. Therefore, I will defer voting until voting time, which follows this item.

Y cynnig yw y dylid derbyn y cynnig heb unrhyw welliannau. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf fod gwrthwynebiadau. Felly, gohiriaf y pleidleisio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio, sy'n dilyn yr eitem hon.

Gohiriwyd y pleidleisio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Voting deferred until voting time.

17:37

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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Before we commence voting, are there three Members who wish for the bell to be rung? I see that there are not.

Cyn inni ddechrau pleidleisio, a oes tri Aelod sydd am i'r gloch gael ei chanu? Gwelaf nad oes.

Cyfnod Pleidleisio

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar gynnig NDM5167

Derbyniwyd y cynnig: O blaid 29, Yn erbyn 17, Ymatal 0.

Voting Time

Result of the vote on motion NDM5167

Motion agreed: For 29, Against 17, Abstain 0.

17:38

Dadl Fer: Lleddfu'r Ergyd

Short Debate: Softening the Blow

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Lynne Neagle Bywgraffiad Biography

I have agreed to give a minute to Peter Black and Ken Skates, subject to time.

This is the second time that I have used a short debate to raise housing-related welfare reform. In fact, it is a subject that I have raised consistently throughout this fourth Assembly, not because I take any tribal pleasure from attacking the UK Government's approach, but because I see these changes as representing the greatest social and economic challenge currently threatening Welsh communities. Yet, this debate need not be a re-run of lengthy conversations that we have already had in the Chamber. Thanks to an increasing focus from representatives at Westminster, the growing media interest and the consistent chorus of concern and opposition from the housing sector, as well as the stark warnings of a decade of destitution in Wales that we have heard just this week from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, there is finally far greater public and political awareness of the impact that welfare reform will have.

Rwyf wedi cytuno i roi munud i Peter Black a Ken Skates, yn dibynnu ar amser.

Dyma'r ail dro imi ddefnyddio dadl fer i godi mater diwygio lles sy'n gysylltiedig â thai. Yn wir, mae'n bwnc yr wyf wedi'i godi'n gyson drwy gydol y pedwerydd Cynulliad hwn, nid am fy mod yn cymryd unrhyw bleser llwythol o ymosod ar ddull gweithredu Llywodraeth y DU, ond am fy mod yn ystyried mai'r newidiadau hyn yw'r her gymdeithasol ac economaidd fwyaf sy'n bygwth cymunedau Cymru ar hyn o bryd. Eto, nid oes angen i'r ddadl hon ddyblygu'r trafodaethau hirfaith yr ydym eisoes wedi'u cael yn y Siambr. Diolch i ffocws cynyddol gan gynrychiolwyr yn San Steffan, y diddordeb cynyddol yn y cyfryngau a'r corws cyson o bryder a gwrthwynebiad gan y sector tai, yn ogystal â'r rhybuddion amlwg o ddegawd o amddifadrwydd yng Nghymru yr ydym newydd glywed amdanynt yr wythnos hon gan Sefydliad Joseph Rowntree, mae llawer mwy o ymwybyddiaeth gyhoeddus a gwleidyddol o'r diwedd o'r effaith a gaiff diwygio lles.

We know that this will hit many thousands of households up and down Wales—more than 40,000, in fact. We have heard the countless predictions that the triple housing evils of rent arrears, debt and homelessness will sky-rocket. We are aware that more and more families will be forced to turn to Wales's rapidly expanding network of food banks because they have hit rock bottom. We recognise that this will disproportionately hit disabled people, families with disabled children, carers, foster carers and separated parents with joint custody of their children. Worst of all, we know that there simply are not even the smaller properties available for people to downsize to, even if they wanted to leave their homes.

Gwyddom y bydd hyn yn effeithio ar filoedd o aelwydydd ar hyd a lled Cymru—mwy na 40,000, mewn gwirionedd. Rydym wedi clywed y rhagfynegiadau di-rif y bydd y triawd dieflyg o ran tai, sef ôl-ddyledion rhent, dyledion a digartrefedd, yn cynyddu'n aruthrol. Rydym yn ymwybodol y bydd mwy a mwy o deuluoedd yn cael eu gorfodi i droi at rwydwaith o fanciau bwyd Cymru sy'n ehangu'n gyflym, oherwydd eu bod wedi taro'r gwaelod. Rydym yn cydnabod y bydd hyn yn effeithio'n anghymesur ar bobl anabl, teuluoedd â phlant anabl, gofalwyr, gofalwyr maeth a rhieni sydd wedi gwahanu sydd â chyd-gadwraeth o'u plant. Gwaethaf oll, gwyddom nad yw'r eiddo llai o faint hyd yn oed ar gael fel y gall pobl symud i gartref llai o faint, hyd yn oed pe byddent am adael eu cartrefi.

The Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage has called this a social atrocity, Plaid Cymru has labelled the plans a catastrophe and housing professionals have used phrases like 'hurricane' and 'tsunami' to describe the impact on their tenants. Of course, it is right that we voice our opposition to the bedroom tax in the strongest possible terms. However, truly standing up for Wales must also mean that the Welsh Government and the Assembly take a clear national lead, fully engaging with partners in the housing sector and across local government on a practical level, driving and co-ordinating efforts to mitigate and manage some of the pain that will be felt in our communities.

Mae'r Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth wedi galw hyn yn erchyllter cymdeithasol, mae Plaid Cymru wedi datgan bod y cynlluniau yn drychinebus ac mae gweithwyr tai proffesiynol wedi defnyddio ymadroddion fel 'corwynt' a 'tswnami' i ddisgrifio'r effaith ar eu tenantiaid. Wrth gwrs, mae'n briodol ein bod yn lleisio ein gwrthwynebiad i'r dreth ystafell wely yn y termau cryfaf posibl. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i sefyll o blaid Cymru yn wirioneddol hefyd olygu bod Llywodraeth Cymru a'r Cynulliad yn arwain y blaen yn genedlaethol, gan ymgysylltu'n llawn â phartneriaid yn y sector tai ac ar draws llywodraeth leol ar lefel ymarferol, gan lywio a chydgysylltu ymdrechion i liniaru a rheoli rhywfaint o'r boen a deimlir yn ein cymunedau.

Making certain that high-quality information, advice and support are being delivered is clearly fundamental to that. Publicity drives like Your Benefits are Changing and the ongoing campaign work of organisations like Shelter and the Welsh Tenants Federation have been successful in getting the message out there. Locally, I have been impressed by the approach adopted by Bron Afon Community Housing, which has been proactive in communicating with its tenants in my constituency and in providing them with practical support. Working closely with the revenue and benefits team at Torfaen County Borough Council, it has done valuable work, modelling in detail the impact of the change, identifying those households particularly at risk because of the cumulative impact of multiple benefit cuts or because they have a history of arrears and financial difficulties.

Mae sicrhau bod gwybodaeth, cyngor a chymorth o ansawdd uchel yn cael eu darparu yn amlwg yn sylfaenol i hynny. Bu ymgyrchoedd cyhoeddusrwydd fel Mae Budd-daliadau yn Newid a gwaith ymgyrchu parhaus sefydliadau fel Shelter a Ffederasiwn Tenantiaid Cymru yn llwyddiannus wrth gyfleu'r neges. Yn lleol, mae'r dull a fabwysiadwyd gan Dai Cymunedol Bron Afon wedi creu argraff arnaf, gan ei fod wedi cymryd camau rhagweithiol i gyfathrebu â'i denantiaid yn fy etholaeth i a rhoi cymorth ymarferol iddynt. Gan weithio'n agos gyda'r tîm refeniw a budd-daliadau yng Nghyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Torfaen, mae wedi gwneud gwaith gwerthfawr, gan fodelu'n fanwl effaith y newid, nodi'r aelwydydd hynny sy'n wynebu risg benodol oherwydd effaith gronnol toriadau lluosog i fudd-daliadau neu am fod ganddynt hanes o ôl-ddyledion ac anawsterau ariannol.

This has not only allowed social housing providers and other agencies in Torfaen to better target their support, it has helped to shape and inform the wider national debate on the issue of welfare reform in Wales. I am sure that some of you will remember the truly harrowing case studies collected by front-line Bron Afon staff that I circulated to members of all parties earlier this year—case studies that received coverage in the national media. They included the couple with a pregnant daughter, already planning to eat two fewer meals a week to make up the shortfall in rent that they will face come April; the single dad who has joint custody of his two children, hit by the bedroom tax even though they spend half the week with him; and the blind woman, terrified at the prospect of moving from her home of 20 years and being uprooted from the community where she feels safe and secure. These are tales of human tragedy that expose the blatant falsehood behind the Lib Dem Minister for Pensions, Steve Webb's assertion that people hit by the bedroom tax should just work a few hours more each week to pay the shortfall.

Mae hyn nid yn unig wedi caniatáu i ddarparwyr tai cymdeithasol ac asiantaethau eraill yn Nhorfaen dargedu eu cymorth yn well, mae hefyd wedi helpu i lunio a llywio'r ddadl genedlaethol ehangach ar fater diwygio lles yng Nghymru. Rwy'n siŵr y bydd rhai ohonoch yn cofio'r astudiaethau achos gwirioneddol ddirdynnol a gasglwyd gan staff rheng flaen Bron Afon a ddosbarthais i aelodau o bob plaid yn gynharach eleni—astudiaethau achos a gafodd sylw yn y cyfryngau cenedlaethol. Roeddent yn cynnwys y pâr â merch feichiog, a oedd eisoes yn bwriadu bwyta dau bryd yn llai bob wythnos er mwyn gwneud iawn am y diffyg mewn rhent y byddant yn ei wynebu ym mis Ebrill; y tad sengl sydd â chyd-gadwraeth o'i ddau blentyn, y mae'r dreth ystafell wely wedi effeithio arno er bod y plant yn treulio hanner yr wythnos gydag ef; a'r fenyw ddall, sy'n dychryn wrth feddwl am y posibilrwydd y bydd yn rhaid iddi symud o'i chartref lle mae wedi byw ers 20 mlynedd a chael ei dadwreiddio o'r gymuned lle mae'n teimlo'n ddiogel. Straeon am drychineb ddynol yw'r rhain sy'n datgelu'r anwiredd amlwg y tu ôl i honiad Steve Webb, sef Gweinidog Pensiynau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, y dylai pobl y mae'r dreth ystafell wely yn effeithio arnynt weithio ychydig yn fwy o oriau bob wythnos i dalu'r diffyg.

They also serve to underline the importance of getting that support right. These are individuals in complex situations and, despite the good work that I have highlighted, I have come across several examples through my casework where tenants have been provided with information and advice that was not as good from landlords, leaving them confused and frightened. I have heard worrying reports of very questionable practice going on in other parts of Wales, with landlords reallocating as bedrooms rooms designated as parlour rooms within tenancy agreements, for example. Therefore, it is vital that we work towards genuine consistency of both message and approach, and we should build on the collaborative approach pioneered in the Bedroom Tax project where three regional groups of local authorities worked with housing consultant Simon Inkson to develop a range of innovative ideas and common approaches to mitigating the bedroom tax in their areas. Part of this involved nine social landlords in the Swansea bay area producing generic information for a range of circumstances, leaflets to go with letters to potentially affected tenants, as well as information for landlords' websites and tenants' newsletters, and more detailed information to be left with householders following face-to-face visits from front-line housing officers.

Maent hefyd yn fodd i danlinellu pa mor bwysig yw cael y cymorth cywir. Mae'r rhain yn unigolion mewn sefyllfaoedd cymhleth ac, er gwaethaf y gwaith da yr wyf wedi tynnu sylw ato, rwyf wedi dod ar draws sawl enghraifft drwy fy ngwaith achos lle mae tenantiaid wedi cael gwybodaeth a chyngor nad oedd cystal gan landlordiaid, gan eu gadael yn ddryslyd ac yn ofnus. Rwyf wedi clywed adroddiadau sy'n peri pryder am arfer amheus iawn mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru, gyda landlordiaid yn ailddyrannu ystafelloedd a ddynodwyd yn barlyrau o fewn cytundebau tenantiaeth yn ystafelloedd gwely, er enghraifft. Felly, mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn gweithio tuag at gysondeb gwirioneddol o ran y neges a'r dull, a dylem adeiladu ar y dull cydweithredol a arloeswyd yn y prosiect Treth Ystafell Wely lle y gweithiodd tri grŵp rhanbarthol o awdurdodau lleol gyda'r ymgynghorydd tai Simon Inkson i ddatblygu ystod o syniadau arloesol a dulliau cyffredin o liniaru'r dreth ystafell wely yn eu hardaloedd. Fel rhan o'r gwaith hwn, aeth naw landlord cymdeithasol yn ardal bae Abertawe ati i gynhyrchu gwybodaeth gyffredinol ar gyfer ystod o amgylchiadau, taflenni i gyd-fynd â llythyrau at denantiaid y gallai hyn o bosibl effeithio arnynt, yn ogystal â gwybodaeth ar gyfer gwefannau landlordiaid a chylchlythyrau tenantiaid, a gwybodaeth fanylach i'w gadael gyda deiliaid tai yn dilyn ymweliadau wyneb yn wyneb gan swyddogion tai rheng flaen.

In another initiative, a consortium of social landlords and local authorities in north-east Wales produced a handbook for tenants looking at taking on a lodger, providing basic practical information as well as more detailed advice on preparing the home and the financial side of any lodging arrangement, including the impact on benefits.

Mewn menter arall, cynhyrchodd consortiwm o landlordiaid cymdeithasol ac awdurdodau lleol yn y gogledd-ddwyrain lawlyfr i denantiaid a oedd yn ystyried cael lletywr, a oedd yn rhoi gwybodaeth ymarferol sylfaenol yn ogystal â chyngor manylach ar baratoi'r cartref ac ochr ariannol unrhyw drefniant lletya, gan gynnwys yr effaith ar fudd-daliadau.

Despite being much trumpeted by the coalition, when I met recently with Steve Clarke of the Welsh Tenants Federation, he was really fearful of people taking in lodgers without fully understanding the potential pitfalls—not least, fundamentals like the increased fire-risk in dwellings not designated for multiple occupancy of this kind. Therefore, this is very valuable work. This is the kind of area where I believe that the Welsh Government could and should be doing more, in terms of taking a more pro-active national lead. We should be encouraging collaboration that goes beyond the sharing of best practice, looking seriously at common allocation schemes, for instance, or ring-fencing an agreed proportion of lettings for tenants affected by the bedroom tax and seeking to downsize. It is also vital that we do not lose sight of the role of the independent advice sector in all of this, particularly with a wide-ranging review under way at Welsh Government level.

Er iddo gael ei ganmol yn fawr gan y glymblaid, pan gyfarfûm yn ddiweddar â Steve Clarke o Ffederasiwn Tenantiaid Cymru, roedd yn wirioneddol bryderus y byddai pobl yn cael lletywyr heb ddeall y peryglon posibl yn llawn—yn bennaf, hanfodion fel y risg gynyddol o dân mewn anheddau na fwriadwyd iddynt fod yn dai amlfeddiannaeth o'r math hwn. Felly, mae hwn yn waith gwerthfawr iawn. Dyma'r math o faes lle y credaf y dylai ac y gallai Llywodraeth Cymru fod yn gwneud mwy, o ran cymryd yr awenau mewn ffordd fwy rhagweithiol yn genedlaethol. Dylem fod yn annog cydweithio sy'n mynd y tu hwnt i rannu arfer gorau, gan edrych o ddifrif ar gynlluniau dyrannu cyffredin, er enghraifft, neu neilltuo cyfran gytûn o osodiadau ar gyfer tenantiaid yr effeithir arnynt gan y dreth ystafell wely ac sy'n ceisio symud i gartref llai o faint. Mae hefyd yn hanfodol nad ydym yn colli golwg ar rôl y sector cyngor annibynnol yn hyn i gyd, yn enwedig gydag adolygiad eang ei gwmpas yn mynd rhagddo ar lefel Llywodraeth Cymru.

While I have touched on some fantastic examples of social landlords engaging well with their tenants, and I welcome the fact that many RSLs have taken on full-time benefits advisers, I know that this cannot be a replacement for the kind of expert, truly impartial advice that organisations like Shelter, Citizens Advice and the Welsh Tenants Federation can offer. We have to recognise that, at times, there will be an inherent conflict between the interests of landlord and tenant, and I know from my own experience that there can be deep-rooted mistrust within that relationship. We should also learn from another bedroom tax project initiative, where social landlords in north-east Wales sought agreement from advice providers to act as independent verifiers of information relayed to tenants, ensuring that written materials left with tenants always contained contact details of independent advice providers.

Er fy mod wedi cyffwrdd ar rai enghreifftiau gwych o landlordiaid cymdeithasol yn ymgysylltu'n dda â'u tenantiaid, a chroesawaf y ffaith bod llawer o landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig wedi penodi cynghorwyr budd-daliadau llawn amser, gwn na all hyn ddisodli'r math o gyngor arbenigol, gwirioneddol diduedd y gall sefydliadau fel Shelter, Cyngor ar Bopeth a Ffederasiwn Tenantiaid Cymru ei gynnig. Mae'n rhaid inni gydnabod, ar adegau, y bydd gwrthdaro cynhenid rhwng buddiannau landlord a thenant, a gwn o'm profiad i fy hun y gall diffyg ymddiriedaeth fod yn ddwfn wrth wraidd y gydberthynas honno. Dylem hefyd ddysgu gan fenter prosiect treth ystafell wely arall, lle aeth landlordiaid cymdeithasol yn y gogledd-ddwyrain ati i geisio cytundeb gan ddarparwyr cyngor i weithredu fel dilyswyr annibynnol ar gyfer gwybodaeth a drosglwyddir i denantiaid, gan sicrhau bod deunydd ysgrifenedig a adewir gyda thenantiaid bob amser yn cynnwys manylion cyswllt darparwyr cyngor annibynnol.

However, while getting the right support, information, and advice to tenants is absolutely crucial, ultimately, this is only one piece of a much wider puzzle. One long-held concern of mine is the wide disparity in the use of discretionary housing payments in Wales. While clearly woefully inadequate in comparison to the amount of cuts that households will be facing because of the bedroom tax, these payments could nevertheless be the only lifeline available. Shelter Cymru authored a report last year that exposed the really wide variation in the use of these payments, and this is an issue that I have raised concerns about previously in this Chamber. While I understand the arguments for local discretion and priority setting, it is easy to see how a postcode lottery could quickly develop, with households in one area of the country receiving support, with others elsewhere in Wales receiving none. Again, I feel that the Welsh Government must take a lead, learning lessons from the RSLs and local authorities in mid and west Wales, which have developed common criteria for landlords submitting cases for DHP from under-occupying tenants. I am more convinced than ever that we need to drive a clear national policy when it comes to making the most of these payments in Wales.

Fodd bynnag, er bod rhoi'r cymorth, y wybodaeth a'r cyngor cywir i denantiaid yn hollbwysig, yn y pen draw, dim ond un rhan o ddarlun mwy o lawer yw hyn. Un pryder a fu gennyf ers amser yw'r gwahaniaeth mawr yn y defnydd o daliadau tai yn ôl disgresiwn yng Nghymru. Er eu bod yn amlwg yn druenus o annigonol o gymharu â'r toriadau y bydd aelwydydd yn eu hwynebu oherwydd y dreth ystafell wely, efallai mai'r taliadau hyn, serch hynny, fydd yr unig achubiaeth i bobl. Ysgrifennodd Shelter Cymru adroddiad y llynedd a ddatgelodd yr amrywiad eang iawn yn y defnydd o'r taliadau hyn, ac mae hwn yn fater yr wyf wedi codi pryderon yn ei gylch o'r blaen yn y Siambr hon. Er y deallaf y dadleuon dros ddisgresiwn lleol a gosod blaenoriaethau, mae'n hawdd gweld sut y gallai loteri cod post ddatblygu'n gyflym, gyda chartrefi yn un rhan o'r wlad yn cael cymorth, tra bod eraill mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru yn cael dim. Unwaith eto, teimlaf fod rhaid i Lywodraeth Cymru gymryd yr awenau, gan ddysgu gwersi gan y landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig ac awdurdodau lleol yn y canolbarth a'r gorllewin, sydd wedi datblygu meini prawf cyffredin ar gyfer landlordiaid sy'n cyflwyno achosion dros daliadau tai yn ôl disgresiwn gan denantiaid sy'n tanfeddiannu. Rwy'n fwy argyhoeddedig nag erioed bod angen inni lywio polisi cenedlaethol clir o ran gwneud y mwyaf o'r taliadau hyn yng Nghymru.

I also think that we need to be thinking very carefully about eviction, which, at times, feels rather like the elephant in the room when it comes to these discussions. In Scotland, there is a vigorous debate already under way over whether existing housing law should be amended to make it impossible for landlords to evict tenants who are in difficulty because of the bedroom tax. I am aware from recent conversations with the Welsh Tenants Federation that there are fears that landlords anticipating a leap in arrears may, for the first time, start using mandatory grounds for possession—ground 8, as this is known within the housing sector—to mitigate their risk. With the court unable to exercise discretion in these kinds of cases, I agree with the Welsh Tenants Federation that wider use of ground 8 could have a potentially disastrous impact on homelessness. In fact, I would argue that the Welsh Government should strengthen the guidance that it provides to landlords in relation to eviction, given that many social landlords have indicated that their use of mandatory powers are under review because of welfare reform and its impact on arrears. It is not the Welsh Labour way to see people put out onto the streets because of the punitive and divisive policies of this pernicious right-wing administration in Westminster, and it is how we rise to these kinds of practical challenges that will be the true test of our response to the bedroom tax in Wales.

Rwyf hefyd yn meddwl bod angen inni feddwl yn ofalus am fater troi allan, sydd, ar adegau, yn teimlo fel problem sy'n cael ei hanwybyddu yng nghyd-destun y trafodaethau hyn. Yn yr Alban, mae dadl fywiog eisoes ar y gweill ynghylch a ddylai'r gyfraith tai bresennol gael ei diwygio i'w gwneud yn amhosibl i landlordiaid droi allan denantiaid sydd mewn trafferthion oherwydd y dreth ystafell wely. Yn sgîl trafodaethau diweddar â Ffederasiwn Tenantiaid Cymru rwy'n ymwybodol bod pryderon y gall landlordiaid, sy'n rhagweld cynnydd mewn ôl-ddyledion, am y tro cyntaf, ddechrau defnyddio seiliau gorfodol dros feddiannu—sail 8, fel y'i gelwir yn y sector tai—i liniaru eu risg. Gan nad yw'r llys yn gallu arfer disgresiwn yn y mathau hyn o achosion, cytunaf â Ffederasiwn Tenantiaid Cymru y gallai defnydd ehangach o sail 8 gael effaith drychinebus o bosibl ar ddigartrefedd. Yn wir, byddwn yn dadlau y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru gryfhau'r canllawiau y mae'n eu darparu i landlordiaid mewn perthynas â throi allan, o gofio bod llawer o landlordiaid cymdeithasol wedi nodi bod eu defnydd o bwerau gorfodol yn cael eu hadolygu oherwydd y broses diwygio lles a'i heffaith ar ôl-ddyledion. Nid ffordd arferol Llafur Cymru yw troi pobl allan oherwydd polisïau cosbedigol ac ymrannol y weinyddiaeth adain dde niweidiol hon yn San Steffan, a'r modd yr ydym yn ceisio ateb y mathau hyn o heriau ymarferol fydd gwir brawf ein hymateb i'r dreth ystafell wely yng Nghymru.

For me, this means clearly establishing the Welsh Government as the national lead on mitigating welfare reform in Wales, co-ordinating the work of local authorities and social landlords and ensuring that they are collaborating effectively to deliver for people hit by welfare reform. It means getting that message and ongoing support to affected tenants right, ensuring that the best practice that already exists becomes standard practice across Wales. It also means that we should ensure that organisations providing independent advice are properly promoted by landlords, and are given all the support that they need to carry out their vital work in the face of the unprecedented pressure on their resources. Furthermore, it means urgently developing a consistent national approach to the use of discretionary housing payments and issuing clear guidance to local authorities, if necessary. Above all, we should be doing absolutely everything that we can to avoid the eviction of tenants hit by this wicked reform, driving a lenient approach to bedroom tax arrears and ruling out the use of ground 8 possessions completely.

I mi, mae hyn yn golygu sefydlu Llywodraeth Cymru fel yr arweinydd cenedlaethol clir ar liniaru'r broses diwygio lles yng Nghymru, cydgysylltu gwaith awdurdodau lleol a landlordiaid cymdeithasol a sicrhau eu bod yn cydweithio'n effeithiol i ddarparu ar gyfer pobl y mae'r broses diwygio lles yn effeithio arnynt. Mae'n golygu sicrhau bod y neges a'r cymorth parhaus hwnnw i denantiaid yr effeithir arnynt yn gywir, gan sicrhau bod yr arfer gorau sydd eisoes yn bodoli yn dod yn arfer safonol ar draws Cymru. Mae hefyd yn golygu y dylem sicrhau bod sefydliadau sy'n darparu cyngor annibynnol yn cael eu hyrwyddo'n gywir gan landlordiaid, ac yn cael yr holl gymorth sydd ei angen arnynt i wneud eu gwaith hanfodol yn wyneb y pwysau digyffelyb ar eu hadnoddau. Ar ben hynny, mae'n golygu datblygu dull cenedlaethol cyson o ddefnyddio taliadau tai yn ôl disgresiwn a rhoi canllawiau clir i awdurdodau lleol, os oes angen. Yn anad dim, dylem fod yn gwneud popeth a allwn i osgoi troi allan denantiaid y mae'r broses diwygio lles ddychrynllyd hon yn effeithio arnynt, gan lywio ymagwedd drugarog tuag at ôl-ddyledion treth ystafell wely a diystyru'r defnydd o gamau meddiannu sail 8 yn llwyr.

Do all of this and, more widely, tap into that innate sense of fairness and that spirit of co-operation that has served Welsh communities through periods of incredible adversity in the past, and I believe we really can offer some hope, even if we can only mitigate some of the worst effects of this punitive, spiteful and disastrous reform.

Os gwneir hyn oll ac, yn fwy cyffredinol, os manteisir ar yr ymdeimlad cynhenid hwnnw o degwch a'r ysbryd hwnnw o gydweithredu sydd wedi gwasanaethu cymunedau Cymru drwy gyfnodau o adfyd anhygoel yn y gorffennol, credaf y gallwn yn wir gynnig rhywfaint o obaith, hyd yn oed os gallwn ond liniaru rhai o effeithiau gwaethaf y broses ddiwygio gosbedigol, sbeitlyd a thrychinebus hon.

17:51 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

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It is impossible within the space of one minute to respond to everything that Lynne Neagle has said, but the one thing that I want to say is that this is not actually a tax. We need to be clear about this. This is about changes to benefits that are available to tenants and ensuring that where tenants have a spare bedroom, the state does not have to pay for it. That is the reality of what is being proposed. I personally feel that some changes need to be made to the proposals that are being put forward, and I would support changes to them and have made representations along those lines. However, the changes that are being brought forward are based on the changes that were introduced for private sector tenants in the Welfare Reform Act 2007, which was brought forward by the Labour Government at that time, and, in that sense, the details are not very different.

Mae'n amhosibl ymateb i bopeth a ddywedodd Lynne Neagle o fewn munud, ond yr unig beth yr wyf am ei ddweud yw nad yw treth yw hon mewn gwirionedd. Mae angen inni fod yn glir ynglŷn â hyn. Mae a wnelo hyn â newidiadau i fudd-daliadau sydd ar gael i denantiaid a sicrhau, os oes gan denantiaid ystafell wely sbâr, nad oes yn rhaid i'r wladwriaeth dalu amdani. Dyna realiti'r hyn sy'n cael ei gynnig. Yn bersonol, teimlaf fod angen gwneud rhai newidiadau i'r cynigion a gyflwynir, a byddwn yn cefnogi newidiadau iddynt ac rwyf wedi gwneud sylwadau i'r perwyl hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, mae'r newidiadau a gyflwynir yn seiliedig ar y newidiadau a gyflwynwyd ar gyfer tenantiaid y sector preifat yn Neddf Diwygio Lles 2007, a gyflwynwyd gan y Llywodraeth Lafur ar y pryd, ac, yn yr ystyr honno, nid yw'r manylion yn wahanol iawn.

The other point that I want to make is that this recession is not of this coalition's making, nor is the financial crisis. Lynne Neagle talked about the pernicious nature of the cuts that have to be brought in, but I have not heard a single alternative proposal as to where she would find the money to reduce the deficit when welfare spending is the highest amount that is actually spent by this Government. Clearly, if you are going to have to make cuts to reduce the deficit, that will have to be targeted.

Y pwynt arall yr wyf am ei wneud yw nad y glymblaid hon sy'n gyfrifol am y dirwasgiad hwn, na'r argyfwng ariannol. Siaradodd Lynne Neagle am natur niweidiol y toriadau y mae'n rhaid eu cyflwyno, ond nid wyf wedi clywed un cynnig amgen o ran ble y byddai'n dod o hyd i'r arian i leihau'r diffyg, o gofio mai gwariant ar les yw'r swm mwyaf a gaiff ei wario mewn gwirionedd gan y Llywodraeth hon. Yn amlwg, os oes rhaid gwneud toriadau i leihau'r diffyg, bydd yn rhaid targedu hynny.

17:52 **Kenneth Skates** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I thank Lynne Neagle for bringing this debate to the Assembly today. One suggestion for how we recover the money is a mansion tax. It is very simple. Some constituents came to see me on Friday who have a disabled child and three bedrooms, and they will be hit by it. They have always worked and have always paid their rent. This is an injustice on a scale not seen since the poll tax, and there is no wonder that a majority of people, according to ComRes, right now, want to see it either abandoned or delayed. The perversity is that the bedroom tax is being forced through against public opinion and against the advice of a plethora of services, at the same time that the owners of mansions are having tax freezes.

Diolch i Lynne Neagle am gyflwyno'r ddadl hon yn y Cynulliad heddiw. Un awgrym ar gyfer sut y gallwn adennill yr arian yw treth plasty. Mae'n syml iawn. Daeth rhai etholwyr i'm gweld ddydd Gwener sydd â phlentyn anabl a thair ystafell wely, a bydd hyn yn effeithio arnynt hwy. Maent bob amser wedi gweithio ac wedi talu eu rhent. Mae hwn yn anghyfiawnder ar raddfa nas gwelwyd ers treth y pen, ac nid yw'n syndod bod y rhan fwyaf o bobl, yn ôl ComRes, ar hyn o bryd, am inni roi'r gorau iddi neu ei gohirio. Y gwarth yw bod y dreth ystafell wely yn cael ei gorfodi'n groes i farn y cyhoedd ac yn groes i gyngor llu o wasanaethau, ar yr un pryd ag y mae perchenogion plastai yn wynebu sefyllfa lle mae'r dreth yn cael ei rhewi.

I will just quickly raise the important issue of foster carers and the need to ensure that they are protected as the bedroom tax hits. I worry that the uncertainty may further exacerbate the already difficult job that we have in recruiting people to become foster carers. I know that a small amount of money has been set aside, but it has not been ring-fenced. Now that the UK Government has created has created this mess, Minister, I urge you to do what you can to protect foster carers in Wales, who may be impacted by this devastating new tax.

Codaf bwynt pwysig yn gyflym ynghylch gofalwyr maeth a'r angen i sicrhau y cânt eu diogelu wrth i'r dreth ystafell wely gael ei chyflwyno. Rwy'n poeni y gall yr ansicrwydd waethygu ymhellach y problemau yr ydym eisoes yn eu hwynebu wrth recriwtio pobl i ddod yn ofalwyr maeth. Gwn fod swm bach o arian wedi ei nodi, ond nid yw wedi cael ei neilltuo. Nawr bod Llywodraeth y DU wedi creu'r llanastr hwn, Weinidog, fe'ch anogaf i wneud yr hyn y gallwch i amddiffyn gofalwyr maeth yng Nghymru, y gall y dreth newydd ddinistriol hon effeithio arnynt.

17:53 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth / The Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

Senedd.tv
Fideo Video

In relation to these benefit changes, Iain Duncan Smith said that he was delighted by this Bill, which will fundamentally change people's lives. He was absolutely right about that. Already, we know, as a result of the reforms that have taken effect this year, an additional 600,000 children will be taken into relative poverty. That is not my assessment: the Department for Work and Pensions has produced impact assessments at each and every stage of this process. Its facts are clear about the cumulative effect of welfare reform between April 2011 and April 2013. Consider this: it is possible for a family in the private rented sector to have been caught by three areas of reform, namely the changes made in April 2011, the local housing allowance changes and the benefit cap. Based upon DWP figures, the cumulative effect of those changes would amount to a benefit reduction of £97.50 a week, or £5,000 a year.

Mewn perthynas â'r newidiadau hyn i fudd-daliadau, dywedodd Iain Duncan Smith ei fod wrth ei fodd gyda'r Bil hwn, a fydd yn newid bywydau pobl yn sylfaenol. Roedd yn hollol iawn am hynny. Eisoes, gwyddom, o ganlyniad i'r diwygiadau a roddwyd ar waith eleni, y bydd 600,000 o blant ychwanegol yn mynd i dlodi cymharol. Nid fy asesiad i yw hynny: mae'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau wedi cynhyrchu asesiadau o effaith ar bob cam o'r broses hon. Mae ei ffeithiau yn glir ynghylch effaith gronnol y broses diwygio lles rhwng mis Ebrill 2011 a mis Ebrill 2013. Ystyriwch hyn: mae'n bosibl bod tri maes diwygio wedi effeithio ar deulu yn y sector rhentu preifat, sef y newidiadau a wnaed ym mis Ebrill 2011, y newidiadau i'r lwfans tai lleol a'r cap ar fudd-daliadau. Yn seiliedig ar ffigurau'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau, byddai effaith gronnol y newidiadau hynny yn gyfystyr â gostyngiad mewn budd-daliadau o £97.50 yr wythnos, neu £ 5,000 y flwyddyn.

I have reported back to the ministerial task and finish group about the work undertaken by local authorities to identify the potential impacts of welfare reform on their communities. The information that we have received from Cardiff and Flintshire, which have done the most extensive work, is extremely worrying. In respect of the benefit cap, which will kick in sometime before September, in Cardiff alone, 400 households will be affected, with 100 families losing over £100 per week—95% of these families have children. Some 570 single people will lose £42 per week, as they will only qualify for a room in a shared house. It is not going to stop there. As we have heard, the welfare budget will take a further hit, as George Osborne's plans for growth have failed to materialise. So, he will once again come after the poor to make up the difference.

Rwyf wedi adrodd yn ôl i'r grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen gweinidogol ynglŷn â'r gwaith a wneir gan awdurdodau lleol i nodi effeithiau posibl y broses diwygio lles ar eu cymunedau. Mae'r wybodaeth a gawsom gan Gaerdydd a Sir y Fflint, sydd wedi gwneud y gwaith mwyaf helaeth, yn peri gofid mawr. O ran capio budd-daliadau, a fydd yn cychwyn rywbryd cyn mis Medi, bydd hyn yn effeithio ar 400 o aelwydydd yng Nghaerdydd yn unig, gyda 100 o deuluoedd yn colli dros £100 yr wythnos—mae gan 95% o'r teuluoedd hyn blant. Bydd tua 570 o bobl sengl yn colli £42 y wythnos, gan y byddant ond yn gymwys i gael ystafell mewn tŷ a rennir. Nid dyna'r diwedd. Fel y clywsom, bydd effaith bellach ar y gyllideb les, gan nad yw cynlluniau George Osborne ar gyfer twf wedi eu gwireddu. Felly, unwaith eto daw ar ôl y tlawd i wneud iawn am y gwahaniaeth.

As Members will be only too aware, given the amount of media coverage of the issue, in April, the bedroom tax will be introduced for those people of working age, living in council and housing association houses, who are deemed to have too many bedrooms for their use. If someone is assessed under these rules, their benefit will be reduced by 14% for under-occupancy by one bedroom, and 25% for under-occupancy by two bedrooms or more. The impact of this one change on its own is that 40,000 households in Wales will see an average reduction in their housing benefit payments of £12.00 a week. What is the UK Government's answer to this matter? It is to allocate a small amount of additional money to local authorities to provide some more discretionary housing payments, which are time limited. Its advice to tenants is simple: downsize to a property that fits, take in a lodger or work additional hours, and that will make up the shortfall. Meanwhile, back in the real world, extra hours in work may be impossible for people to find. Families can be dependent on spare rooms to accommodate carers. Uprooting families will cut them off from support networks and disrupt settled communities and, in most parts of Wales, there is a chronic shortage of smaller properties in any case. Perversely, having people transferring and downsizing into the private sector, which might be the only realistic option for thousands of families, may well cost the Government more in housing benefit.

Fel y gŵyr yr Aelodau ond yn rhy dda, o ystyried faint o sylw sydd yn y cyfryngau i'r mater, ym mis Ebrill, bydd y dreth ystafell wely yn cael ei chyflwyno ar gyfer y bobl hynny o oedran gweithio, sy'n byw mewn tai cyngor a thai cymdeithasau tai, y tybir bod gormod o ystafelloedd gwely ganddynt at eu defnydd. Os asesir rhywun o dan y rheolau hyn, caiff eu budd-dal ei ostwng 14% os oes un ystafell wely yn wag, a 25% os oes dwy ystafell wely neu fwy yn wag. Effaith yr un newid hwn ar ei ben ei hun yw y bydd 40,000 o aelwydydd yng Nghymru yn gweld gostyngiad cyfartalog o £12 yr wythnos yn eu taliadau budd-dal tai. Beth yw ateb Llywodraeth y DU i'r mater hwn? Dyrannu swm bach o arian ychwanegol i awdurdodau lleol er mwyn darparu mwy o daliadau tai yn ôl disgresiwn, sy'n gyfyngedig o ran amser. Mae ei chyngor i denantiaid yn syml: symudwch i eiddo llai o faint sy'n addas, derbyniwch letywr neu gweithiwch oriau ychwanegol, a bydd hynny'n gwneud iawn am y diffyg. Yn y cyfamser, yn ôl yn y byd go iawn, gall fod yn amhosibl i bobl ddod o hyd i oriau ychwanegol o waith. Gall teuluoedd fod yn ddibynnol ar ystafelloedd sbâr i roi llety i ofalwyr. Bydd dadwreiddio teuluoedd yn eu datgysylltu oddi wrth rwydweithiau cymorth ac yn tarfu ar gymunedau sefydlog ac, yn y rhan fwyaf o ardaloedd yng Nghymru, mae prinder affwysol o eiddo llai o faint beth bynnag. Yn groes i bob rheswm, gall sefyllfa lle mae pobl yn trosglwyddo ac yn symud i gartref llai o faint yn y sector preifat, sef yr unig opsiwn realistig i filoedd o deuluoedd o bosibl, gostio mwy i'r Llywodraeth mewn budd-daliadau tai.

In October 2013, universal credit will be introduced. It will be digital by default, meaning that there will be no paper claim forms, with all having to claim universal credit electronically—which, of course, is fine, because everyone is IT literate, aren't they? Everyone has access to a computer, don't they? No-one has trouble with reading and writing—there are no difficulties in that regard in Wales, of course, are there? No-one is vulnerable and no-one has health issues; everyone can approach this equally. It is a level playing field. Of course it is.

Ym mis Hydref 2013, cyflwynir credyd cynhwysol. Bydd yn ddigidol yn ddiofyn, sy'n golygu na fydd unrhyw ffurflenni hawlio papur, a bydd pawb yn gorfod hawlio credyd cynhwysol yn electronig—sydd, wrth gwrs, yn iawn, gan fod pawb yn hyddysg mewn TG, onid ydynt? Mae gan bawb fynediad i gyfrifiadur, onid oes? Nid oes neb yn cael trafferth i ddarllen ac ysgrifennu—nid oes unrhyw anawsterau yn hynny o beth yng Nghymru, wrth gwrs? Nid oes neb yn agored i niwed ac nid oes gan neb broblemau iechyd; mae pawb yn gyfartal yn hyn o beth. Gall pawb gael ei drin yn yr un modd. Mae hynny'n wir wrth gwrs.

Universal credit will be paid per calendar month in arrears directly to a named person in a household. How does that work then, where the payee has problems with drink or drugs, or in situations where one partner is fleeing abuse? Is the money going to find its way to the right places, to cover rent, food and fuel, or to the right person in those circumstances? We simply do not know. Westminster does not know; that is clear. What we do know, however, is that it is the intention of the UK Government that either we, the Welsh Government, or the local authorities in Wales should pick up the pieces and attend to the car crash that it has caused, with little or no extra money from the UK Government available to do it.

Telir credyd cynhwysol bob mis calendr mewn ôl-ddyledion yn uniongyrchol i berson a enwir mewn cartref. Sut mae hynny'n gweithio felly, os oes gan y talai broblemau alcohol neu gyffuriau, neu mewn sefyllfaoedd lle mae un partner yn ffoi rhag camdriniaeth? A fydd yr arian yn mynd i'r lleoedd iawn, i dalu rhent, bwyd a thanwydd, neu i'r person iawn o dan yr amgylchiadau hynny? Yn syml, nid ydym yn gwybod. Nid yw San Steffan yn gwybod; mae hynny'n glir. Yr hyn a wyddom, fodd bynnag, yw mai bwriad Llywodraeth y DU yw y dylem ni, Lywodraeth Cymru, neu'r awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru, gamu i'r adwy a dadwneud y difrod y mae wedi'i achosi, heb fawr ddim arian ychwanegol ar gael gan Lywodraeth y DU i wneud hyn.

These are just the obvious costs. What is difficult to quantify are the community and social costs to public services. The ministerial task and finish group on welfare reform has commissioned further research into the impact on our public services and on the Welsh economy. Implications that are already being discussed are: increased demand on health and social care services due to increased stress and family breakdown; local authorities anticipating a greater reliance on temporary accommodation and increased cases of homelessness; and increased crime as police numbers are cut, while at the same time, a small minority—but important nonetheless—may well make up short falls in their household income through crime or the black economy.

Y costau amlwg yn unig yw'r rhain. Yr hyn sy'n anodd i'w fesur yw'r costau cymunedol a chymdeithasol i wasanaethau cyhoeddus. Mae'r grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen gweinidogol ar ddiwygio lles wedi comisiynu ymchwil bellach i'r effaith ar ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ac ar economi Cymru. Y goblygiadau sydd eisoes yn cael eu trafod yw: y galw cynyddol ar wasanaethau iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol oherwydd straen cynyddol a chwalfa deuluol; awdurdodau lleol yn rhagweld mwy o ddibyniaeth ar lety dros dro ac achosion cynyddol o ddigartrefedd; a mwy o droseddau wrth i niferoedd yr heddlu gael eu torri, tra ar yr un pryd, gall lleiafrif bach—ond pwysig serch hynny—wneud iawn am y diffygion yn incwm eu haelwyd drwy droseddau neu'r economi ddu.

In terms of housing, I am extremely concerned about the implications of the reduced collection of rent, as that will have implications for our entire housing sector and its ability to build more social and affordable housing and for meeting the Welsh housing quality standard.

O ran tai, rwy'n pryderu'n ofnadwy am oblygiadau'r gostyngiad yn y rhent a gesglir, gan y bydd hynny'n arwain at oblygiadau i'n sector tai cyfan a'i allu i adeiladu mwy o dai cymdeithasol a fforddiadwy ac i gyrraedd safon ansawdd tai Cymru.

18:00

Nick Ramsay [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

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I hear what you are saying about the problems that the Welsh Government has at the moment in tough times, but you must accept that the current UK Government has only been in power for a quarter of the time of the previous 13-year Government. So, perhaps the legacy that has been left to the Welsh Government is not entirely down to my party. Perhaps your own party has had a big part to play in the problems that we have.

Clywaf yr hyn rydych yn ei ddweud am y problemau sydd gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar hyn o bryd mewn cyfnod anodd, ond rhaid ichi dderbyn mai dim ond am chwarter yr amser y bu'r Llywodraeth flaenorol mewn grym, sef 13 blynedd, y mae Llywodraeth bresennol y DU wedi bod mewn grym. Felly, efallai nad fy mhlaid i sy'n llwyr gyfrifol am y gwaddol a adawyd i Lywodraeth Cymru. Efallai fod eich plaid eich hun wedi chwarae rhan fawr yn y problemau sydd gennym.

18:00 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Of course, in the inverted world of coalition politics it was the Labour Government's spending too much money on public services, nurses, teachers, hospitals and schools that led to a worldwide crisis that has to be tackled, and can only be tackled, by attacking the poor. Let us be clear as to what these reforms are all about. They are the biggest reforms to the welfare state in 60 years. They are not about saving money necessarily, although that matters very much, given the pernicious nature of the UK Government; what matters more fundamentally is that they are ideologically driven. The ideology behind all this is to remould the relationship between the state and the citizen, and the smokescreen, the nonsense, the great lie is that the last Labour Government was somehow responsible for this global recession. So great was Gordon Brown's reach across the globe that he destroyed three quarters of the world's economies just like that. That pernicious lie—

Wrth gwrs, ym myd tu chwith gwleidyddiaeth glymblaid, gwariant gormodol y Llywodraeth Lafur ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus, nyrsys, athrawon, ysbytai ac ysgolion a arweiniodd at argyfwng byd-eang y mae'n rhaid mynd i'r afael ag ef, ac na ellir ond mynd i'r afael ag ef, drwy ymosod ar y tlawd. Gadewch inni fod yn glir ynghylch y diwygiadau hyn. Dyma'r diwygiadau mwyaf i'r wladwriaeth les mewn 60 o flynyddoedd. Nid eu diben yw arbed arian o reidrwydd, er bod hynny'n bwysig iawn, o gofio natur ddinistriol Llywodraeth y DU; yr hyn sy'n bwysicach yn y bôn yw eu bod yn cael eu llywio gan ideoleg. Yr ideoleg y tu ôl i hyn oll yw ail-lunio'r gydberthynas rhwng y wladwriaeth a'r dinesydd, a'r llen fwg, y nonsens, y celwydd mawr yw bod y Llywodraeth Lafur ddiwethaf rywsut yn gyfrifol am y dirwasgiad byd-eang hwn. Gymaint oedd cyrhaeddiad Gordon Brown ledled y byd fel iddo ddinistrio tri chwarter o economïau'r byd mewn fawr ddim amser. Roedd y celwydd dinistriol hwnnw—

18:01 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Order. I let you get away with it first time, Minister, because it was heavily rhetorical, but we do not like the word 'lie' even when it is not directed at someone individually.

Trefn. Cawsoch faddeuant y tro cyntaf, Weinidog, gan ei fod yn rhethregol iawn, ond nid ydym yn hoffi'r gair 'celwydd', hyd yn oed pan na chaiff ei gyfeirio at rywun yn unigol.

18:01 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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It was not directed at anyone in this Chamber, Deputy Presiding Officer. This so-called explanation for the economic situation that our country is in has been peddled across the airwaves for months and years now. It is used as a smokescreen and a cover for what is a remoulding of the welfare state. That is what these reforms are, essentially, all about.

Nid oedd wedi'i gyfeirio at unrhyw un yn y Siambr hon, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Mae'r esboniad hwn fel y'i gelwir am y sefyllfa economaidd y mae ein gwlad ynddi wedi ei bedlera yn y cyfryngau ers misoedd a blynyddoedd bellach. Fe'i defnyddir fel llen fwg i guddio'r hyn sy'n achos o ail-lunio'r wladwriaeth les. Dyna beth yw'r diwygiadau hyn, yn y bôn.

These reforms will cause enormous social damage. They are going to damage communities and they are going to destabilise communities. They are going to damage families and they are going to destabilise families. They are going to damage individuals. I predict that that damage will cost us all far more than the Government would ever save by what are ideologically driven attacks on the poorest in our society.

Bydd y diwygiadau hyn yn achosi niwed cymdeithasol enfawr. Maent yn mynd i niweidio cymunedau a'u hansefydlogi. Maent yn mynd i niweidio teuluoedd a'u hansefydlogi. Maent yn mynd i niweidio unigolion. Rhagwelaf y bydd y niwed hwnnw yn costio llawer mwy inni i gyd na'r hyn y byddai'r Llywodraeth byth yn ei arbed drwy'r hyn sydd yn ymosodiadau wedi eu llywio gan ideoleg ar y bobl dlotaf yn ein cymdeithas.

I would be very happy to consider Lynne's suggestions as part of the Welsh Government's response to these very dangerous initiatives.

Byddwn yn hapus iawn i ystyried awgrymiadau Lynne fel rhan o ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru i'r mentrau peryglus iawn hyn.

18:02 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you, Minister. That brings today's proceedings to a close.

Diolch, Weinidog. Daw hynny â thrafodion heddiw i ben.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.02 p.m.

The meeting ended at 6.02 p.m.