



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales**

**Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings**

**Dydd Mercher, 16 Ionawr 2013
Wednesday, 16 January 2013**

Cynnwys
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Yn y golofn chwith, cofnodwyd y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynnddi yn y Siambr.
Yn y golofn dde, cynhwyswyd cyfieithiad.

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

*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.*

The Presiding Officer: The National Assembly for Wales is now in session. **Y Llywydd:** Mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn eistedd yn awr.

Cwestiynau i Weinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy Questions to the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Technoleg Addasu Genetig

1. William Graham: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y mae datblygiadau mewn technoleg Addasu Genetig yn cael eu hasesu yng Nghymru. OAQ(4)0209(ESD)*

The Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development (John Griffiths): The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment is a statutory advisory committee that has been appointed under section 124 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to advise Welsh Ministers, Scottish Ministers and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on science-based GM matters.

William Graham: Thank you for that answer, Minister. The United States Drug and Food Administration has generally now accepted that genetically modified salmon may be sold for human consumption. Not only would these fish be released in US rivers and, from them, into the ocean, they are likely to cross-breed with other salmon, which has implications for salmon fisheries throughout Wales. It is unlikely that they will require a label to inform consumers that the salmon was genetically modified at one stage in the process. Your portfolio currently refers to GM crops. Can you outline how regulations that relate to GM animals will be administered by the Welsh Government?

John Griffiths: As you rightly say, William, our policy takes an approach that is now familiar to most parties, and that is an approach of precaution in relation to the necessary restriction regarding GM crop cultivation. That is consistent with UK and European Union law. There are other issues

Genetic Modification Technology

1. William Graham: *Will the Minister make a statement on how advances in GM technology are assessed in Wales. OAQ(4)0209(ESD)*

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy (John Griffiths): Mae'r Pwyllgor Cyngori ar Ollyngiadau i'r Amgylchedd yn bwyllgor cyngori statudol a benodwyd o dan adran 124 o Ddeddf Diogelu'r Amgylchedd 1990 i roi cyngor i Weinidogion Cymru, Gweinidogion yr Alban ac Ysgrifennydd Gwladol yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig ar faterion Addasu Genetig sy'n seiliedig ar wyddoniaeth.

William Graham: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Mae Gweinyddiaeth Gweinyddu Cyffuriau a Bwyd yr Unol Daleithiau bellach wedi derbyn yn gyffredinol y gellir gwerthu eog wedi'i addasu'n enetig i'w fwyta gan bobl. Nid yn unig y câi'r pysgod hyn eu rhyddhau i afonydd yr UD ac, o'r afonydd hynny, i'r môr, ond maent hefyd yn debygol o groesfridio gydag eogiaid eraill, a fydd yn effeithio ar bysgodfeydd eog ledled Cymru. Nid yw'n debygol y bydd angen rhoi label arnynt yn hysbysu defnyddwyr bod yr eog wedi cael ei addasu'n enetig ar ryw gam o'r broses. Mae eich portffolio ar hyn o bryd yn cyfeirio at gnydau GM. A wnewch amlinellu sut y caiff rheoliadau sy'n ymwneud ag anifeiliaid GM eu gweinyddu gan Lywodraeth Cymru?

John Griffiths: Fel y dywedwch, yn llygad eich lle, William, mae ein polisi yn seiliedig ar ymagwedd sydd bellach yn gyfarwydd i'r rhan fwyaf o bleidiau, sef ymagwedd ragofalus mewn perthynas â'r cyfyngiadau angenrheidiol o ran tyfu cnydau GM. Mae hynny'n gyson â chyfraith y DU a'r Undeb

beyond that and, again, we work closely with the UK Government in keeping abreast of the latest developments and in ensuring that, wherever possible, we have a consistent approach.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: A gytunwch fod enw da Cymru fel gwlad werdd a glân sy'n cynhyrchu bwyd o safon uchel mewn modd cynaliadwy o fudd sylweddol i economi Cymru, a bod y ffaith bod Cymru yn wlad ddi-GM yn elfen bwysig yn hynny o beth?

John Griffiths: I very much agree with those comments. As I said in my initial answer, we have an approach that we have established over a period of time that is about necessary caution and restriction. It is very much about preserving our advantages in terms of our rural economy, our food, and our drink, which markets Wales as a top-quality country that produces top-quality food in which consumers can have the highest degree of confidence.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw. Yr wythnos diwethaf, fe gredaf, gwnaeth Paul Wheelhouse, Gweinidog yr Alban dros yr amgylchedd a newid yn yr hinsawdd, ddatganiad clir yn Senedd yr Alban bod Llywodraeth yr Alban am amddiffyn integriti sector bwyd a diod yr Alban drwy barhau i wrthwynebu tyfu cynyddau GM yno. Dywedodd nad oedd tystiolaeth o ymdrech gan fân-werthwyr, na galw gan gwsmeriaid, am gynnyrch o'r fath. A fydech yn fodlon gwneud datganiad tebyg yn y Siambr y prynhawn yma?

John Griffiths: I would be willing to assure Members, and those outside the Chamber, that the Welsh Government's policy on GM crops remains unchanged. It is the precautionary and restrictive approach that we have set out over a period of time.

Polisi Ynni ar gyfer y Canolbarth

2. Russell George: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am flaenoriaethau polisi ynni Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer y Canolbarth. OAQ(4)0201(ESD)*

Ewropeaidd. Mae materion eraill yn ychwanegol at hynny ac, unwaith eto, rydym yn gweithio'n agos â Llywodraeth y DU i sicrhau ein bod yn ymwybodol o'r datblygiadau diweddaraf ac i sicrhau, ble bynnag y bo'n bosibl, ein bod yn gweithredu mewn ffordd gyson.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: Would you agree that the reputation of Wales as a green, clean country that produces high-quality food in a sustainable way is of great benefit to the Welsh economy, and that the fact that Wales is a GM-free country is an important element of that image?

John Griffiths: Rwy'n cytuno â'r sylwadau hynny. Fel y dywedais yn fy ateb gwreiddiol, sefydlwyd ein hymagwedd dros gyfnod o amser ac mae'n ymwneud â'r rhagofalon a'r cyfyngiadau angenrheidiol. Mae a wnelo i raddau helaeth â gwarchod ein buddiannau o ran ein heconomi wledig, ein bwyd a'n diod, sy'n marchnata Cymru fel gwlad o'r radd flaenaf sy'n cynhyrchu bwyd o'r radd flaenaf y gall defnyddwyr fod yn gwbl hyderus ynddo.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: Thank you for that response. I think it was last week that Paul Wheelhouse, the Minister for Environment and Climate Change in Scotland, made a clear statement in the Scottish Parliament that the Scottish Government is intent on safeguarding the integrity of the food and drink sector in Scotland by continuing to reject the production of GM crops there. He said that there was no evidence of an effort by retailers, or demand from customers, for such produce. Would you be willing to make a similar statement in the Chamber today?

John Griffiths: Byddwn yn barod i roi sicrwydd i'r Aelodau, a'r rheini y tu allan i'r Siambr, nad yw polisi Llywodraeth Cymru ar gnyddau GM wedi newid. Mae'r dull rhagofalus a chyfyngol rydym wedi'i nodi dros gyfnod o amser yn parhau i fod ar waith.

Energy Policy for Mid Wales

2. Russell George: *Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government's energy policy priorities for mid Wales. OAQ(4)0201(ESD)*

John Griffiths: We are committed to the development of energy projects in mid Wales in ways that deliver sustainable economic growth, job creation and maximum community benefit. Our planning policies support the modern, reliable energy infrastructure that is required for the businesses and communities of mid Wales.

Russell George: Thank you for your answer, Minister. You will be aware of the public inquiry that has been triggered by the fact that Powys County Council has refused to grant planning permission for five large-scale windfarm developments in mid Wales. While it is the Welsh Government's policy, through technical advice note 8, that has drawn these developers to mid Wales, it is Powys that has been adversely affected by having three of the seven strategic search areas within its boundaries, and it is now expected to foot the considerable bill for legal costs so that it can continue with part of the democratic planning process. Council officials have made quite reasonable representations to the Welsh Government and to the UK Government for additional assistance to meet the financial costs of defending this inquiry, which could be the first of many. Do you not think that it is simply a matter of fairness that additional support should be provided to Powys, because the position it has been placed in has incurred costs that are far in excess of those associated with the processing of applications prior to the decision?

John Griffiths: The Welsh Government has provided substantial additional resource to Powys County Council to enable it to discharge its responsibilities with regard to renewable energy work and applications. The Member mentions the UK Government in terms of possible additional assistance, and the applications to which the Member refers are those taking place under the auspices of the UK Government.

Kenneth Skates: Jobs in insulation firms in mid, north and south Wales are being lost as a consequence of British Gas, on guidance from Ofgem, deciding to use carbon emissions reduction target funding to participate in carbon trading because it missed its targets on energy emissions cuts,

John Griffiths: Rydym yn ymrwymedig i ddatblygu prosiectau ynni yn y Canolbarth mewn ffyrdd sy'n sicrhau twf economaidd cynaliadwy, yn creu swyddi ac yn rhoi'r budd gorau posibl i'r gymuned. Mae ein polisiau cynllunio yn ategu'r seilwaith ynni modern, dibynadwy sydd ei angen ar gyfer busnesau a chymunedau yn y Canolbarth.

Russell George: Diolch am eich ateb, Weinidog. Byddwch yn ymwybodol o'r ymchwiliad cyhoeddus a ddeilliodd o'r ffaith bod Cyngor Sir Powys wedi gwrthod rhoi caniatâd cynllunio ar gyfer pum datblygiad fferm wynt fawr yn y Canolbarth. Er mai polisi Llywodraeth Cymru, drwy nodyn cyngor technegol 8, sydd wedi denu'r datblygwyr hyn i'r Canolbarth, cafwyd effaith andwyol ar Bowys, gan fod tair o'r saith ardal chwilio strategol o fewn ei ffiniau, a bod disgwyl iddi bellach dalu'r bil sylweddol am gostau cyfreithiol er mwyn iddi allu parhau â rhan o'r broses gynllunio ddemocrataidd. Mae swyddogion y Cyngor wedi cyflwyno sylwadau eithaf rhesymol i Lywodraeth Cymru ac i Lywodraeth y DU am gymorth ychwanegol i dalu costau ariannol amddiffyn yr ymchwiliad hwn, yr ymchwiliad cyntaf o lawer o bosibl. Oni chredwch, er tegwch, y dylid rhoi cymorth ychwanegol i Bowys, gan ei bod wedi'i rhoi mewn sefyllfa sydd wedi esgor ar gostau sydd ymhell uwchlaw'r rheini sy'n gysylltiedig â phrosesu ceisiadau cyn gwneud penderfyniad?

John Griffiths: Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi rhoi cryn adnoddau ychwanegol i Gyngor Sir Powys er mwyn galluogi iddo gyflawni ei gyfrifoldebau mewn perthynas â gwaith ynni adnewyddadwy a cheisiadau cysylltiedig. Cyfeiria'r Aelod at Lywodraeth y DU o ran cymorth ychwanegol posibl, ac mae'r ceisiadau y mae'r Aelod yn cyfeirio atynt yn geisiadau sy'n digwydd o dan nawdd Llywodraeth y DU.

Kenneth Skates: Mae swyddi mewn cwmnïau inswleiddio yng nghanolbarth, gogledd a de Cymru yn cael eu colli o ganlyniad i'r ffaith bod Nwy Prydain, yn ôl canllawiau Ofgem, wedi penderfynu defnyddio arian y targed lleihau allyriadau carbon i gymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau

rather than using the money to insulate homes. What work is the Welsh Government doing to ensure insulation programmes continue and to save jobs in spite of those actions?

John Griffiths: We have a considerable funding programme around our Nest and Arbed schemes and we will continue with those in the coming years. It is substantial investment of tens of millions of pounds, and I have been very pleased to be able to obtain additional funding for those schemes from central Government reserves here in Wales. We will continue, therefore, with those programmes and we will also continue to work with the UK Government around the new energy company obligation and Green Deal because we have, in the past, made representations with regard to the difficulties of transition and ensuring that companies active in this field are not disadvantaged during that transition phase.

Simon Thomas: Weinidog, bŷm ar ymweliad cyn y Nadolig i Rosan ar Wy, sydd y tu allan i ganolbarth Cymru, er mwyn gweld y cynllun yno i roi ceblau trydan newydd o dan y ddaear yn hytrach na thrwy beilonau. Gan fod defnyddio potensial enfawr ynni gwynt, yn enwedig yng nghanolbarth Cymru, yn rhywbeth yr wyf i eisiau ei weld yn digwydd, ond yn y ffordd fwyaf sensitif i'r tirwedd yno, pa gamau yr ydych chi fel Llywodraeth yn eu cymryd i annog y Grid Cenedlaethol i sicrhau bod ceblau trydan newydd yn cael eu claddu yn nghanolbarth Cymru lle bo hynny'n bosibl a lle bo hynny'n amddiffyn y tirwedd?

John Griffiths: These are important issues and they have been raised by me, the First Minister and Welsh Government officials on a regular basis. We want to see undergrounding where it is appropriate, and we want to see the most sensitive solutions possible to those issues of landscape.

Safonau Ansawdd Aer

3. Mark Drakeford: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am safonau ansawdd aer mewn*

masnachu carbon oherwydd ei fod wedi methu â chyrraedd ei dargedau i leihau allyriadau ynni, yn hytrach na defnyddio'r arian i inswleiddio cartrefi. Pa waith y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod rhaglenni inswleiddio yn parhau ac i achub swyddi er gwaethaf y camau hynny?

John Griffiths: Mae gennym raglen ariannu sylweddol yn gysylltiedig â'n rhaglenni Nyth ac Arbed a byddant yn parhau yn ystod y blynyddoedd nesaf. Mae'n fuddsoddiad helaeth o ddegau o filiynau o bunnoedd, ac rwy'n falch iawn ein bod wedi llwyddo i gael arian ychwanegol ar gyfer y cynlluniau hynny gan gronfeydd wrth gefn y Llywodraeth ganolog yma yng Nghymru. Felly, byddwn yn parhau â'r rhaglenni hynny a byddwn hefyd yn parhau i weithio gyda Llywodraeth y DU o ran y rhwymedigaeth cwmnïau ynni newydd a'r Fargen Werdd, gan ein bod, yn y gorffennol, wedi gwneud sylwadau am yr anawsterau sy'n gysylltiedig â newid a sicrhau na fydd cwmnïau sy'n weithgar yn y maes hwn dan anfantais yn ystod y cyfnod newid hwnnw.

Simon Thomas: Minister, just before Christmas I visited Ross on Wye, which is just outside mid Wales, to look at a scheme that involves placing new electrical cables underground rather than through pylons. Using the huge potential of wind energy, particularly in mid Wales, is something that I want to see happening, but in the most sensitive way possible to the landscape. Therefore, what steps are you taking as a Government to encourage the National Grid to ensure that new electrical cables are undergrounded in mid Wales where possible and where that protects the landscape?

John Griffiths: Mae'r rhain yn faterion pwysig ac rwyf i, y Prif Weinidog a swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'u codi'n rheolaidd. Rydym am weld ceblau yn cael eu claddu lle y bo'n briodol, ac rydym am weld yr atebion mwyaf sensitif posibl o ran y dirwedd.

Air Quality Standards

3. Mark Drakeford: *Will the Minister make a statement on air quality standards in inner*

ardaloedd canol dinas yng Nghymru. OAQ(4)0199(ESD)

city areas in Wales. OAQ(4)0199(ESD)

John Griffiths: Controlling air pollution in Wales is a key objective for the Welsh Government. We are committed to tackling the sources of pollution and ensuring people's right to clean air. Overall, our air is cleaner than at any time since the industrial revolution and we continue to work towards further improvement.

John Griffiths: Mae rheoli llygredd aer yng Nghymru yn un o amcanion allweddol Llywodraeth Cymru. Rydym yn ymrwymedig i fynd i'r afael â ffynonellau llygredd a sicrhau hawl pobl i aer glân. Yn gyffredinol, mae ein haer yn lanach nag y bu ar unrhyw adeg ers y chwyldro diwydiannol, ac rydym yn parhau i weithio tuag at welliannau pellach.

Mark Drakeford: Will you tell me how, in pursuing that ambition, the Welsh Government factors air quality issues into its assessment of local authority proposals for local development plans, particularly where those plans envisage large-scale housing creation with transport routes required to take people from where they live to where they work?

Mark Drakeford: A ddywedwch wrthyf sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru, wrth anelu at yr uchelgais hwnnw, yn rhoi ystyriaeth i ansawdd aer wrth asesu cynigion awdurdodau lleol ar gyfer cynlluniau datblygu lleol, yn arbennig lle mae'r cynlluniau hynny yn rhagweld y caiff tai newydd eu hadeiladu ar raddfa helaeth ac y bydd angen llwybrau trafndiaeth i gludo pobl o'u cartrefi i'w gweithleoedd?

John Griffiths: Local planning authorities have to consider a range of issues when preparing their statutory land use plans. Planning Policy Wales states that when preparing those strategies, and indeed looking at future growth and allocating land accordingly, issues around environmental factors such as air quality should be considered. Air quality is a very important matter for quality of life. It can have health impacts and can affect acceptable future use of land. So, we expect local planning authorities to take such matters into account when working up local development plans. Wider than that, the air quality management plans are very important in terms of air quality issues.

John Griffiths: Mae'n rhaid i awdurdodau cynllunio lleol ystyried amrywiaeth o faterion wrth baratoi eu cynlluniau defnydd tir statudol. Mae Polisi Cynllunio Cymru yn datgan, wrth baratoi'r strategaethau hynny, ac yn wir, wrth ystyried twf yn y dyfodol a dyrannu tir yn unol â hynny, y dylid ystyried materion sy'n ymwneud â ffactorau amgylcheddol fel ansawdd aer. Mae ansawdd aer yn fater pwysig iawn o ran ansawdd bywyd. Gall effeithio ar iechyd a gall effeithio ar y defnydd derbyniol o dir yn y dyfodol. Felly, rydym yn disgwyl i awdurdodau cynllunio lleol ystyried materion o'r fath wrth lunio cynlluniau datblygu lleol. Yn ehangach na hynny, mae'r cynlluniau rheoli ansawdd aer yn bwysig iawn o ran materion ansawdd aer.

The Leader of the Opposition (Andrew R.T. Davies): In 2009, the then Welsh Government allocated around £14.5 million to Cardiff City Council to create a sustainable towns initiative. That was a two-year programme. We are aware that air quality is affected by congestion and a build-up of traffic. Has the Welsh Government undertaken any surveying work to see how effective that £14.5 million has been in reducing the amount of car journeys into Cardiff and creating alternative modes of

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Andrew R.T. Davies): Yn 2009, dyrannodd Llywodraeth Cymru ar y pryd oddeutu £14.5 miliwn i Gyngor Dinas Caerdydd i greu menter trefi cynaliadwy. Rhaglen dwy flynedd ydoedd. Rydym yn ymwybodol bod tagfeydd a chynnydd mewn traffig yn effeithio ar ansawdd aer. A yw Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cynnal unrhyw waith arolygu i weld pa mor effeithiol y bu'r £14.5 miliwn hwnnw wrth leihau nifer y teithiau car i Gaerdydd a chreu dulliau trafndiaeth amgen er mwyn gallu

transport so that air quality can be improved in Cardiff? If you do have that information, when will you make it public?

John Griffiths: As I mentioned in response to Mark Drakeford, air quality management areas are essential tools for local authorities to address issues around air pollution. As the Member rightly mentions, road traffic emissions are a very important part of that air quality. So, we expect effective monitoring and, when any new major initiative takes place in a local authority area, that monitoring should take place and should identify any unacceptable impacts. I will write to the Member with details of anything that has taken place outside of the usual air quality monitoring.

Bethan Jenkins: Yn anffodus, mae data o gyfrifiad 2011 yn dangos bod gan ardal Castell-nedd Port Talbot y nifer fwyaf o bobl—sef 16.1% o'i gymharu gydag 8.3% ar lefel Cymru gyfan—sy'n dioddef o salwch o ddydd i ddydd, ac mae hynny'n effeithio ar eu gweithgareddau—

John Griffiths: I apologise, but there has been a blip with the translation equipment.

Gofyn y cwestiwn unwaith eto yn Gymraeg, Bethan.

Bethan Jenkins: Mae data o gyfrifiad 2011 yn dangos bod gan ardal Castell-nedd Port Talbot y nifer fwyaf o bobl—sef 16.1% o'i gymharu gydag 8.3% ar lefel Cymru gyfan—sy'n dioddef o salwch o ddydd i ddydd, a bod hyn yn effeithio ar eu gweithgareddau dyddiol. A yw eich Llywodraeth chi wedi gwneud unrhyw asesiad diweddar er mwyn gweld ai ansawdd yr aer sy'n effeithio ar bobl leol neu ba un a oes rhesymau eraill y tu ôl i hyn?

John Griffiths: A great deal of work has taken place in that part of Wales on air quality issues. Those studies and that research have looked at health impact because that is a central part of concerns about air quality. Quite an extensive amount of work has taken place but, having said that, further work is necessary and we hope to take

gwella ansawdd aer yng Nghaerdydd? Os yw'r wybodaeth honno gennych, pryd y caiff ei chyhoeddi gennych?

John Griffiths: Fel y soniais wrth ymateb i Mark Drakeford, mae ardaloedd rheoli ansawdd aer yn arfau hanfodol i awdurdodau lleol o ran ymdrin â llygredd aer. Fel y sonia'r Aelod, yn llygad ei le, mae allyriadau traffig ffordd yn rhan bwysig iawn o'r ansawdd aer hwnnw. Felly, rydym yn disgwyl trefniadau monitro effeithiol a, phan fydd unrhyw fenter newydd o bwys yn cael ei rhoi ar waith mewn ardal awdurdod lleol, dylid rhoi'r trefniadau monitro hynny ar waith a dylent nodi unrhyw effeithiau annerbyniol. Ysgrifennaf at yr Aelod gan nodi manylion unrhyw beth a wnaed yn ychwanegol at y gwaith monitro ansawdd aer arferol.

Bethan Jenkins: Unfortunately, data from the 2011 census show that the area of Neath Port Talbot has the highest number—16.1% compared with the all-Wales figure of 8.3%—of people who suffer illnesses from day to day, and how this impacts on their activities—

John Griffiths: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, mae yna broblem gyda'r offer cyfieithu.

Ask the question in Welsh again, Bethan.

Bethan Jenkins: Data from the 2011 census demonstrate that the area of Neath Port Talbot has the highest number—16.1% compared with the all-Wales figure of 8.3%—of people who suffer illnesses from day to day, and that this impacts on their daily activities. Has your Government undertaken any assessment recently to determine whether air quality has an impact on people in this locality or whether there could be other reasons for the problem?

John Griffiths: Gwnaed cryn dipyn o waith yn y rhan honno o Gymru ar faterion yn ymwneud ag ansawdd aer. Mae'r astudiaethau hynny a'r gwaith ymchwil hwnnw wedi ystyried yr effaith ar iechyd gan fod hynny yn rhan ganolog o'r pryderon ynghylch ansawdd aer. Gwnaed cryn dipyn o waith ond, wedi dweud hynny, mae angen

that forward, working with the local authorities and other agencies. I would be very pleased to keep the Member informed on progress with that.

Lles Anifeiliaid

4. Christine Chapman: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am hybu lles anifeiliaid. OAQ(4)0205(ESD)*

John Griffiths: In line with our commitment under the animal health and welfare strategy, the promotion of animal welfare is a priority for the Welsh Government for all protected animals.

Christine Chapman: I welcomed your commitment in October to raise with the Home Office the increase in the number of live animals used in experimentation. I would be keen to know when we could expect an update on this. An additional matter that will affect animal welfare in Wales is the hesitancy of the Home Office to agree its a share of funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit beyond the current financial year. That unit plays a crucial role in tackling wildlife crime around the UK. Will you also pursue this matter with the Home Secretary?

John Griffiths: Yes, I would be pleased to pursue that matter with the Home Secretary. The National Wildlife Crime Unit is an organisation that the Welsh Government is pleased to work with and with which it has a good working relationship. That body does some important and valuable work, so I would be pleased to raise those matters, as the Member suggests, and to keep the Member updated with regard to further information on live animal experimentation in Wales.

1.45 p.m.

Antoinette Sandbach: Minister, you will be aware of the concerns of dog owners and the Kennel Club about the draft control of dogs Bill, on which your Government is currently

rhagor o waith ac rydym yn gobeithio bwrw ati â hynny, gan weithio gyda'r awdurdodau lleol ac asiantaethau eraill. Byddwn yn fwy na pharod i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ein cynnydd yn hynny o beth i'r Aelod.

Animal Welfare

4. Christine Chapman: *Will the Minister make a statement on the promotion of animal welfare. OAQ(4)0205(ESD)*

John Griffiths: Yn unol â'n hymrwymiad o dan y strategaeth iechyd a lles anifeiliaid, mae hybu lles anifeiliaid mewn perthynas â phob anifail a warchodir yn flaenoriaeth i Llywodraeth Cymru.

Christine Chapman: Croesewais eich ymrwymiad ym mis Hydref i godi'r cynnydd yn nifer yr anifeiliaid byw a ddefnyddir mewn arbrofion gyda'r Swyddfa Gartref. Byddwn yn awyddus i wybod pryd y gallem ddisgwyl cael y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am hyn. Bydd amharodrwydd y Swyddfa Gartref i gytuno ar y gyfran o arian a roddir i'r Uned Troseddau Bywyd Gwyllt Genedlaethol y tu hwnt i'r flwyddyn ariannol gyfredol hefyd yn effeithio ar les anifeiliaid yng Nghymru. Mae gan yr uned honno ran hanfodol i'w chwarae wrth fynd i'r afael â throseddau bywyd gwyllt ledled y DU. A wnewch chi hefyd drafod y mater hwn gyda'r Ysgrifennydd Cartref?

John Griffiths: Gwnaf, byddai'n bleser gennyf drafod y mater hwnnw gyda'r Ysgrifennydd Cartref. Mae'r Uned Troseddau Bywyd Gwyllt Genedlaethol yn sefydliad y mae'n bleser gan Lywodraeth Cymru weithio ag ef ac y mae ganddi gydberthynas waith dda ag ef. Mae'r corff hwnnw yn gwneud gwaith pwysig a gwerthfawr, felly byddai'n bleser gennyf godi'r materion hynny, fel yr awgryma'r Aelod, a rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Aelod am arbrofion ar anifeiliaid byw yng Nghymru.

1.45 p.m.

Antoinette Sandbach: Weinidog, byddwch yn ymwybodol o bryderon perchnogion cŵn a'r Kennel Club am y Bil drafft ar reoli cŵn, y mae eich Llywodraeth yn ymgynghori arno

consulting. For example, the way in which the regulations are drafted could leave home owners and landowners liable if their dogs attack burglars or other trespassers, or if their dogs cause someone to feel apprehensive about their safety. Will you give a commitment that ordinary and responsible dog owners will be protected from the unintended consequences of this draft regulation, and that enforcement will be targeted where it is genuinely needed?

John Griffiths: I assure the Member that the target of this legislation is very much irresponsible dog ownership and irresponsible dog owners. However, I bear in mind what the Member says with regard to unintended consequences, which is always an important factor with legislation. I am sure that many of these matters will be explored during the consultation, but I can offer assurance that we do not want to create any additional problems for responsible dog owners or, indeed, home owners.

Jocelyn Davies: Minister, you will recall that I recently raised with you the issue of wild animals being used in circuses. Are you able to assure us that if any circus containing wild animals enters Wales, it will be subject to the most stringent animal welfare checks and inspection?

John Griffiths: I thank Jocelyn Davies for that question. These are matters that have been raised with me previously, in terms of the use of wild animals in circuses in Wales. We do not have circuses based in Wales that present those issues, but I am happy to reassure the Member on two fronts. First, if such a circus were to visit Wales, I would be happy to liaise with the local authority involved to ensure that adequate scrutiny took place, as that is a local authority responsibility. Secondly, I would also inform the Member that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is considering legislation that would ban the use of wild animals in circuses. I have been liaising with the UK Government to make it clear that were that legislation to proceed, the Welsh Government would be interested in being a part of it, perhaps through a

ar hyn o bryd. Er enghraifft, gallai'r ffordd y drafftwyd y rheoliadau olygu y byddai perchnogion tai a thirfeddianwyr yn atebol pe byddai eu cŵn yn ymosod ar ladron neu dresmaswyr eraill, neu pe byddai eu cŵn yn peri i rywun deimlo'n bryderus am eu diogelwch. A wnewch ymrwymiad y caiff perchnogion cŵn cyffredin a chyfrifol eu diogelu rhag canlyniadau anfwriadedig y rheoliad drafft hwn, ac y caiff y camau gorfodi eu targedu lle mae eu gwirioneddol angen?

John Griffiths: Gallaf sicrhau'r Aelod yn gadarn mai perchnogaeth cŵn anghyfrifol a pherchnogion cŵn anghyfrifol yw targed y ddeddfwriaeth hon. Fodd bynnag, cofiaf yr hyn a ddywed yr Aelod o ran canlyniadau anfwriadedig, sydd bob amser yn ffactor pwysig o ran deddfwriaeth. Rwy'n siŵr y caiff llawer o'r materion hyn eu hystyried yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad, ond gallaf eich sicrhau nad ydym am greu unrhyw broblemau ychwanegol i berchnogion cŵn cyfrifol nac, yn wir, i berchnogion tai.

Jocelyn Davies: Weinidog, byddwch yn cofio yn ddiweddar imi godi'r ffaith bod anifeiliaid gwyllt yn cael eu defnyddio mewn syrcau gyda chi. A allwch ein sicrhau, os bydd unrhyw syrcau sy'n defnyddio anifeiliaid gwyllt yn dod i Gymru, y bydd yn ddarostyngedig i'r gwiriadau lles anifeiliaid a'r arolygiadau mwyaf caeth?

John Griffiths: Diolch i Jocelyn Davies am y cwestiwn hwnnw. Mae'r rhain yn faterion a godwyd gyda mi o'r blaen, o ran y defnydd o anifeiliaid gwyllt mewn syrcau yng Nghymru. Nid oes syrcau wedi'u lleoli yng Nghymru lle mae'r materion hynny yn berthnasol, ond gallaf roi sicrwydd i'r Aelod o ddau du. Yn gyntaf, pe deuai syrcau o'r fath i Gymru, byddwn yn fwy na pharod i gysylltu â'r awdurdod lleol perthnasol er mwyn sicrhau bod trefniadau craffu digonol ar waith, gan mai cyfrifoldeb awdurdodau lleol yw hynny. Yn ail, hoffwn hefyd hysbysu'r Aelod bod Adran yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig wrthi'n ystyried deddfwriaeth a fyddai'n gwahardd defnyddio anifeiliaid gwyllt mewn syrcau. Rwyf wedi bod yn trafod â Llywodraeth y DU er mwyn egluro pe câi'r ddeddfwriaeth honno ei rhoi ar waith, yr hoffai Llywodraeth Cymru fod

legislative consent motion, for example.

Rebecca Evans: Minister, you have received a report from the Animal Welfare Network for Wales, which makes a strong case for the regulation of animal welfare establishments, such as sanctuaries. I am aware of the huge range and volume of work in the animal welfare field that is taking place in your department, and I am grateful for it, but I would also welcome your commitment to schedule a response to that report. I would be grateful if you could give some kind of indication if you are minded to legislate in this area, as the report suggests.

John Griffiths: I thank Rebecca Evans for that question. It is entirely right to say that there is a substantial amount of work ongoing with regard to animal welfare, including legislation. We always have to bear in mind the resources that are available, of course. I have looked at that report and I think that it is welcome. I am sure that, in due course, we can address these matters and I will keep the Member updated.

Datganoli Polisi Ynni

5. Rhodri Glyn Thomas: *A wnaiiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau safbwynt Llywodraeth Cymru o ran datganoli polisi ynni. OAQ(4)0206(ESD)*

John Griffiths: Bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn parhau i bwysu am ddatganoli pwerau caniatâd am brosiectau cynhyrchu ynni a'r isadeiledd ynni perthnasol yng Nghymru.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolch am yr ateb, Weinidog. Mae'r ateb yn awgrymu eich bod am weld datganoli'r pwerau dros gynlluniau ynni yn gyfan gwbl. Fodd bynnag, yn eich manifesto, yr oeddech yn sôn am gynlluniau hyd at 100 MW. Dyna a ddywedwyd gan Weinidogion Cymru ar y dechrau, a dyna'r hyn mae Aelodau Seneddol Llafur yn San Steffan yn ei ddadlau. Yn wir, mae rhai ohonynt yn dadlau dros beidio â datganoli'r cynlluniau hyn o gwbl. A ydych yn sôn am ddatganoli'r pwerau dros gynlluniau hyd at 100 MW, neu a ydych yn sôn am gynlluniau y tu hwnt i 100 MW?

yn rhan o'r broses, efallai drwy gynnig cydsyniad deddfwriaethol, er enghraifft.

Rebecca Evans: Weinidog, rydych wedi cael adroddiad gan Rwydwaith Lles Anifeiliaid Cymru, sy'n cyflwyno achos cryf o blaid rheoleiddio sefydliadau lles anifeiliaid, megis llochesi. Rwy'n ymwybodol o amrediad a maint aruthrol y gwaith sy'n mynd rhagddo ym maes lles anifeiliaid yn eich adran, ac yn ddiolchgar am hynny, ond byddwn hefyd yn croesawu eich ymrwymiad i drefnu ymateb i'r adroddiad hwnnw. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech roi rhyw fath o syniad pa un a ydych yn bwriadu deddfu yn y maes hwn, fel yr awgryma'r adroddiad.

John Griffiths: Diolch i Rebecca Evans am y cwestiwn hwnnw. Mae'n gwbl briodol dweud bod gwaith sylweddol yn mynd rhagddo o ran lles anifeiliaid, gan gynnwys deddfwriaeth. Rhaid inni bob amser fod yn ymwybodol o'r adnoddau sydd ar gael, wrth gwrs. Rwyf wedi edrych ar yr adroddiad hwnnw ac yn credu y dylid ei groesawu. Rwy'n siŵr, maes o law, y gallwn ymdrin â'r materion hyn a chaiff yr Aelod y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf gennyf.

The Devolution of Energy Policy

5. Rhodri Glyn Thomas: *Will the Minister confirm the Welsh Government's position on the devolution of energy policy. OAQ(4)0206(ESD)*

John Griffiths: The Welsh Government will continue to press for devolution of consenting powers for energy-generation projects and related energy infrastructure in Wales.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Thank you for that reply, Minister. The reply suggests that you want to see powers over energy schemes devolved in full. However, in your manifesto, you talked about schemes up to 100 MW. That is what was said by the Welsh Ministers at the outset, and that is what the Labour Members of Parliament in Westminster argue. Indeed, some of them argue for not devolving these schemes at all. Are you talking about devolving powers over schemes up to 100 MW, or are you talking about schemes in excess of 100 MW?

John Griffiths: I do not believe that we should limit our ambitions in this regard to the 100 MW figure. I think that we should have the sort of consenting powers in Wales that will enable us to make the offer that we would want to make to potential developers: joining things up and pulling down further powers to Wales. Therefore, I am happy to state that we do not limit ourselves to a 100 MW figure.

Russell George: Thank you, Minister, for your earlier answers. In the Environment and Sustainability Committee report on energy and planning policy in Wales, recommendation 8 was that,

‘The Welsh Government should publish its case for further devolution of energy consenting and financial incentive powers.’

You accepted that recommendation and said that you intended to provide information about the case for devolution of energy consenting powers on the Welsh Government’s website. Minister, when do you intend to do that?

John Griffiths: I intend to do that as quickly as possible following your supplementary question today, Russell, and I will ask officials to make sure that it is done.

Yr Iaith Gymraeg a Chynllunio

6. Simon Thomas: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am rôl yr iaith Gymraeg yn y broses gynllunio. OAQ(4)0204(ESD)*

John Griffiths: Mae polisi iaith Llywodraeth Cymru ar y Gymraeg a chynllunio i’w weld yn ‘Polisi Cynllunio Cymru’, argraffiad 5, 2012, sydd wedi ei ategu gan nodyn cyngor technegol 20 ar gynllunio a’r iaith Gymraeg.

Simon Thomas: Diolch i’r Gweinidog am ei ateb. A wnewch chi gadarnhau, Weinidog, bod y gwaith sydd wedi ei osod allan ar gyfer eich adran yng nghynllun gweithredu ‘Iaith fyw: iaith byw’, strategaeth iaith Gymraeg y Llywodraeth, o gwblhau’r adolygiad hwnnw o’r broses gynllunio a’r cyngor technegol

John Griffiths: Ni chredaf y dylem gyfyngu ein huchelgeisiau yn hyn o beth i’r ffigur o 100 MW. Credaf y dylai fod gennym yng Nghymru y math o bwerau i roi caniatâd a fydd yn ein galluogi i wneud cynigion priodol i ddarpar ddatblygwyr gan ddod â gwahanol elfennau ynghyd a rhoi mwy o bwerau i Gymru. Felly, mae’n bleser gennyf ddatgan nad ydym yn cyfyngu ein hunain i ffigur o 100 MW.

Russell George: Diolch, Weinidog, am eich atebion cynharach. Yn adroddiad Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd ar ynni a pholisi cynllunio yng Nghymru, nododd argymhelliad 8 y canlynol,

‘Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru gyhoeddi ei hachos dros ddatganoli ymhellach bwerau cydsynio ynni a rhoi cymhellion ariannol.’

Derbyniwyd yr argymhelliad hwnnw gennych a dywedasoch eich bod yn bwriadu rhoi gwybodaeth am yr achos o blaid datganoli pwerau cydsynio ynni ar wefan Llywodraeth Cymru. Weinidog, pryd rydych yn bwriadu gwneud hynny?

John Griffiths: Rwy’n bwriadu gwneud hynny cyn gynted â phosibl yn dilyn eich cwestiwn atodol heddiw, Russell, a gofynnaf i swyddogion sicrhau y gwneir hynny.

The Welsh Language and Planning

6. Simon Thomas: *Will the Minister make a statement about the role of the Welsh language within the planning process. OAQ(4)0204(ESD)*

John Griffiths: The Welsh Government’s policy on the Welsh language and planning is contained within ‘Planning Policy Wales’, edition 5, 2012, supplemented by technical advice note 20 on planning and the Welsh language.

Simon Thomas: I thank the Minister for that response. Will you confirm, Minister, that the work that has been set out for your department in the action plan for ‘A living language: a language for living’, the Government’s Welsh-language strategy, of completing that review of the planning

cysylltiedig wedi'i gyflawni a'i fod yn ei le? A fedrwch gadarnhau, felly, a ydych yn disgwyl i fwy o geisiadau cynllunio yn y dyfodol ymwneud â'r iaith Gymraeg, ac ystyried eu heffaith ar yr iaith Gymraeg, nag a gafwyd yn y gorffennol? Fel yr ydych yn gwybod, dim ond tri chais cynllunio diweddar sydd wedi ymdrin â'r iaith Gymraeg o gwbl. Os ydym am barhau i gynllunio â'r iaith Gymraeg yn flaenoriaeth, mae'n rhaid gwella'r system, onid oes?

John Griffiths: We have consulted on revisions to the TAN, as the Member is well aware. We have had just fewer than 50 consultation responses and we are grateful to those who have responded. Revisions to the TAN are nearing completion. I hope that, very soon, we will be able to proceed to completion. We are familiar with the issues around where the policy most appropriately bites, as it were: whether it is the local development plans or individual planning applications. However, very soon now, I hope that we will have clarity in that regard.

Suzy Davies: Cwestiwn tebyg sydd gennyf i, Weinidog. Mae'n siŵr y byddwch wedi nodi pryderon Aelodau ynglŷn â gweithredu nodyn cyngor technegol 20 yn y ddadl ar yr iaith Gymraeg yr wythnos diwethaf. A yw Llywodraeth Cymru yn bwriadu adrodd ar y lefel o barch y mae pob cyngor unigol yn ei roi, ar hyn o bryd, i dwf a chynaliadwyedd y defnydd o'r iaith Gymraeg wrth wneud penderfyniadau cynllunio yn eu hardal?

John Griffiths: I think that local authorities have their own statutory responsibilities and democratic mandates. Therefore, I think that it would be entirely appropriate for local authorities to be scrutinised on these matters and I would expect that to take place.

Aled Roberts: Fel y gwyddoch, Weinidog, yn ystod y ddadl ar y cyfrifiad wythnos diwethaf, dywedwyd bod TAN 20 yn 12 mlwydd oed, ac rydym wedi bod yn aros am 18 mis rŵan am y polisi newydd. A oes gennych amserlen benodol ynglŷn â phryd bydd y nodyn cyngor technegol ar gael?

process and the related technical advice note has been concluded and is in place? Can you confirm, therefore, whether you expect more planning applications in the future to take account of the Welsh language, and consider their impact on the Welsh language, than has been the case in the past? As you will know, only three recent planning applications have dealt with the Welsh language in any way whatsoever. If we are to proceed with the Welsh language as a planning priority, we need to improve the system, do we not?

John Griffiths: Rydym wedi ymgynghori ar ddiwygiadau i'r Nodyn Cyngor Technegol, fel y gŵyr yr Aelod. Cawsom bron i 50 o ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad ac rydym yn ddiolchgar i'r rheini a ymatebodd. Mae'r broses o ddiwygio'r Nodyn yn agos at ei chwblhau. Gobeithiaf, yn fuan iawn, y byddwn yn gallu ei chwblhau. Rydym yn ymwybodol o'r drafodaeth o ran lle y caiff y polisi yr effaith fwyaf priodol, fel petai: pa un ai'r cynlluniau datblygu lleol neu'r ceisiadau cynllunio unigol. Fodd bynnag, yn fuan iawn yn awr, gobeithio y ceir eglurder yn hynny o beth.

Suzy Davies: I have a similar question, Minister. I am sure that you will have noted Members' concerns about the implementation of technical advice note 20 in the debate on the Welsh language last week. Does the Welsh Government intend to report on the level of respect that every individual council is giving at present to the growth and sustainability of the use of the Welsh language in making planning decisions in their area?

John Griffiths: Credaf fod gan awdurdodau lleol eu cyfrifoldebau statudol a'u mandadau democrataidd eu hunain. Felly, credaf y byddai'n gwbl briodol craffu ar awdurdodau lleol mewn perthynas â'r materion hyn a byddwn yn disgwyl i hynny ddigwydd.

Aled Roberts: As you will know, Minister, during the debate on the census last week, it was stated that TAN 20 was 12 years old, and that we have been waiting around 18 months now for a new policy. Do you have a specific timetable as to when this technical advice note will be available?

John Griffiths: I can only say, as I did in answering Simon Thomas, that it should be complete soon. Obviously, officials are working to completion to ensure that that happens as quickly as possible. Members may well be aware that there have been considerable legal issues involved in these matters. It continues to be a matter of bottoming-out those legal issues. I hope that is done very quickly now.

Prosiectau Amgylcheddol yn Islwyn

7. Gwyn R. Price: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gymorth Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer prosiectau amgylcheddol yn Islwyn. OAQ(4)0200(ESD)*

John Griffiths: Projects at Cefn Fforest and Pengam Ecopark and at Aberbargoed grasslands national nature reserve are recent examples of recipients of Welsh Government support via our separate Environment Wales, Tidy Towns, and tranquil places funds.

Gwyn R. Price: Thank you for that answer. Not long before Christmas I attended the Keep Wales Tidy green flag awards at which you presented Cefn Fforest and Pengam Ecopark with its green flag. Will you join me now in thanking Keep Wales Tidy for recognising the excellent work done at that eco park?

John Griffiths: I thank Gwyn Price for that supplementary question. I would, indeed, very much like to join him in thanking Keep Wales Tidy for its recognition of those community efforts. I would also like to thank the community itself, because it has done the hard work, and that voluntary effort up and down Wales deserves recognition. Having gone along and seen the results of that commitment, it is very impressive indeed, and will help quality of life for many local people.

Mohammad Asghar: Minister, dog fouling remains an issue of concern for residents of Islwyn and elsewhere in South Wales East, with Caerphilly County Borough Council issuing 59 fixed-penalty notices in 2011-12—the third-highest number in Wales. What is

John Griffiths: Gallaf ond dweud, fel y gwneuthum wrth ateb Simon Thomas, y dylid ei gwblhau'n fuan. Yn amlwg, mae swyddogion yn anelu at ei gwblhau cyn gynted â phosibl. Mae'n bosibl y bydd yr Aelodau yn ymwybodol y bu problemau cyfreithiol sylweddol wrth ymdrin â'r materion hyn. Mater o ddatrys y problemau cyfreithiol hyn ydyw. Gobeithio y caiff hynny ei wneud yn gyflym iawn yn awr.

Environmental Projects in Islwyn

7. Gwyn R. Price: *Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Government support for environmental projects in Islwyn. OAQ(4)0200(ESD)*

John Griffiths: Mae prosiectau yng Nghefn Fforest ac Ecobarc Pengam ac yng ngwarchodfa natur genedlaethol glaswelltiroedd Aberbargod yn enghreifftiau diweddar o brosiectau a gafodd gymorth Llywodraeth Cymru drwy ein cronfeydd gwahanol sef Amgylchedd Cymru, Trefi Taclus a lleoedd tawel.

Gwyn R. Price: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw. Ychydig cyn y Nadolig, euthum i wobrau baner werdd Cadwch Gymru'n Daclus lle y rhoesoch faner werdd i Ecobarc Cefn Fforest a Phengam. A wnewch chi ymuno â mi yn awr i ddiolch i Cadwch Gymru'n Daclus am gydnabod y gwaith ardderchog sy'n mynd rhagddo yn yr ecobarc hwnnw?

John Griffiths: Diolch i Gwyn Price am y cwestiwn atodol hwnnw. Hoffwn, yn wir, ymuno ag ef wrth ddiolch i Cadwch Gymru'n Daclus am gydnabod yr ymdrechion cymunedol hynny. Hoffwn hefyd ddiolch i'r gymuned ei hun, gan mai'r gymuned a wnaeth y gwaith caled, ac mae'r ymdrech wirfoddol honno ar hyd a lled Cymru yn haeddu cydnabyddiaeth. Ar ôl gweld canlyniadau'r ymrwymiad hwnnw, gwnaeth gryn argraff arnaf, a bydd yn gwella ansawdd bywyd llawer o'r bobl leol.

Mohammad Asghar: Weinidog, mae baw cŵn yn parhau i beri pryder i drigolion Islwyn ac mewn mannau eraill yn Nwyrain De Cymru, gyda Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili yn cyflwyno 59 o hysbysiadau cosb sefydlog yn 2011-12—y nifer uchaf ond dau

the Welsh Government doing to support and encourage projects that tackle this nuisance?

John Griffiths: I thank Mohammad Asghar for that question. I very much agree that dog fouling is a serious issue. It can of course cause blindness, and it causes a great deal of inconvenience, mess and nuisance to communities up and down Wales. It is a serious issue that needs to be grappled with. There is considerable variance among local authorities in terms of the work done to recognise the extent of the problem and to deal with it. All local authorities in Wales will look with interest at what is happening in those areas that are proving to be particularly successful in dealing with these matters.

The Presiding Officer: Question 8, OAQ(4)0202(ESD), has been withdrawn.

Morglawdd Hafren

9. Mick Antoniw: *Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael gyda Hafren Power ynghylch effeithiau amgylcheddol posibl y Morglawdd Hafren arfaethedig.* OAQ(4)0210(ESD)

John Griffiths: Ministers and officials have had a number of discussions with the consortium behind the current proposal to harness the potential of the Severn estuary.

Mick Antoniw: Minister, this is obviously a matter of some importance, or it may become so, and there is clearly a lot of publicity about it. I was wondering whether at some stage you would be making a statement as to how you intend to approach the balance between the economic, social and environmental objectives.

John Griffiths: I thank Mick Antoniw for that supplementary question. What I can say is that Welsh Government policy has been and is quite clear, and it applies to any proposals to harness that amazing potential in the Severn estuary in terms of generating energy. That is, we approach such proposals with regard to our sustainable development principles as our central organising principle, so it is about looking at the energy that would

yng Nghymru. Beth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud i gefnogi ac annog prosiectau sy'n mynd i'r afael â'r niwsans hwn?

John Griffiths: Diolch i Mohammad Asghar am y cwestiwn hwnnw. Rwy'n cytuno'n llwyr bod baw cŵn yn fater difrifol. Gall, wrth gwrs, achosi dallineb, ac mae'n achosi cryn dipyn o anghyfleustra, annibendod a niwsans i gymunedau ar hyd a lled Cymru. Mae'n fater difrifol y mae angen mynd i'r afael ag ef. Ceir amrywiadau sylweddol rhwng awdurdodau lleol o ran y gwaith a wneir i gydnabod maint y broblem ac i ymdrin â hi. Bydd gan bob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru ddiddordeb yn yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn yr ardaloedd hynny sy'n llwyddo i ymdrin â'r materion hyn.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 8, OAQ(4)0202(ESD), yn ôl.

Severn Barrage

9. Mick Antoniw: *What discussions has the Minister had with Hafren Power regarding the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Severn Barrage.* OAQ(4)0210(ESD)

John Griffiths: Mae Gweinidogion a swyddogion wedi cael nifer o drafodaethau gyda'r consortiwm a gyflwynodd y cynnig presennol i fanteisio ar botensial aber Hafren.

Mick Antoniw: Weinidog, mae'r mater hwn yn bwysig iawn yn amlwg, neu gallai fod, ac mae'n amlwg wedi cael cryn gyhoeddusrwydd. Tybed a fyddwch, ar ryw gam o'r broses, yn gwneud datganiad o ran sut rydych yn bwriadu ymdrin â'r cydbwysedd rhwng yr amcanion economaidd, cymdeithasol ac amgylcheddol.

John Griffiths: Diolch i Mick Antoniw am y cwestiwn atodol hwnnw. Yr hyn y gallaf ei ddweud yw bod polisi Llywodraeth Cymru wedi bod yn glir, a'i fod yn glir o hyd, a'i fod yn berthnasol i unrhyw gynigion i fanteisio ar botensial aruthrol aber Hafren o ran cynhyrchu ynni. Hynny yw, rydym yn ystyried cynigion o'r fath gan ddefnyddio ein hegwyddorion datblygu cynaliadwy fel ein prif egwyddor drefniadol, felly rydym yn

be generated, the environmental impacts, the economic advantages, and indeed social factors. For any particular proposal, that is our approach, and we will apply that in an even-handed way.

Byron Davies: Picking up on that, Minister, given the huge scale of the development associated with the Hafren Severn barrage, and the fact that the idea has been mooted now for several decades, I am particularly concerned what work has been done to map the sand movements in the whole of the channel, and how the impact of this will affect beaches across South Wales West. Will you give this Chamber a commitment that you will look at the sand movement before and after any barrage development, and outline any potential impact, so that it does not result in beaches in, perhaps, Gower being denuded of sand?

John Griffiths: The Member raises some interesting and important issues. We have said that any proposal to harness the marine energy in the Severn estuary would have to deal with all potential environmental impacts. We would expect any proposal to do extensive work to assess those environmental impacts and make them clear. I am sure that applies to the matters that the Member mentions.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: Os bydd morglawdd yn digwydd, fe fyddai'n rhaid i aber yr afon Hafren gael ei ddad-ddynodi fel safle Natura 2000. A fydddech, fel Gweinidog yr amgylchedd, yn gwrthwynebu dileu unrhyw statws gwarchodaeth Ewropeaidd ym moroedd Cymru felly?

2.00 p.m.

John Griffiths: I thank Llyr Huws Gruffydd for that question. I reiterate that any proposals to harness the energy of the Severn estuary would have to deal with potential environmental impacts and environmental factors. That would be a crucial part of any decision that would be made.

William Powell: Minister, in addition to

ystyried yr ynni a gâi ei gynhyrchu, yr effeithiau amgylcheddol, y buddiannau economaidd, ac yn wir, ffactorau cymdeithasol. Ar gyfer unrhyw gynnig penodol, dyna ein dull gweithredu, a byddwn yn ei roi ar waith mewn ffordd gyson.

Byron Davies: Gan ymhelaethu ar hynny, Weinidog, o ystyried maint aruthrol y datblygiad sy'n gysylltiedig â morglawdd Hafren, a'r ffaith bod y syniad wedi cael ei drin a'i drafod ers sawl degawd bellach, rwy'n awyddus iawn i wybod pa waith a wnaed i nodi symudiadau tywod drwy'r sianel gyfan, a sut y bydd hyn yn effeithio ar draethau ledled Gorllewin De Cymru. A wnewch ymrwymiad i'r Siambr hon y byddwch yn ystyried symudiadau tywod cyn datblygu unrhyw forglawdd ac ar ôl gwneud hynny, gan amlinellu unrhyw effaith bosibl, fel na fydd yn arwain at sefyllfa lle y caiff traethau yn ardal y Gŵyr, efallai, eu dinoethi o dywod?

John Griffiths: Mae'r Aelod yn codi rhai materion diddorol a phwysig. Rydym wedi dweud y byddai'n rhaid i unrhyw gynnig i fanteisio ar ynni'r môr yn aber Hafren ymdrin â'r holl effeithiau amgylcheddol posibl. Byddem yn disgwyl i unrhyw gynnig wneud gwaith helaeth i asesu'r effeithiau amgylcheddol hynny a'u hegluro. Rwy'n siŵr bod hynny'n berthnasol i'r materion a grybwyllir gan yr Aelod.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: If a barrage is built, the Severn estuary would have to be undesignated as a Natura 2000 site. Would you, as Minister for environment, therefore oppose deleting any European conservation status in Welsh seas?

2.00 p.m.

John Griffiths: Diolch i Llyr Huws Gruffydd am y cwestiwn hwnnw. Hoffwn ail-bwysleisio y byddai'n rhaid i unrhyw gynigion i fanteisio ar ynni aber Hafren ymdrin ag effeithiau amgylcheddol posibl a ffactorau amgylcheddol. Byddai hynny'n rhan hanfodol o unrhyw benderfyniad a wneid.

William Powell: Weinidog, yn ogystal â

declaring my membership of the new cross-party group on the Severn barrage and tidal energy, I also declare an interest in relation to the Severn tidal forum, which aims to investigate both the environmental and cross-border implications of this potential development. With that in mind, and given the warm tone of your recent written submissions to the Energy and Climate Change Committee and yesterday's references to meetings in Doha, would you please detail what specific discussions you, or Welsh Government officials, have had so far with councils such as Bristol City Council and Somerset County Council with regard to a potential barrage development and tell us the outcome of any such discussions?

John Griffiths: Those authorities have made their views quite clear during recent discussions on these matters with the UK select committee, for example. We are well aware of their concerns. Again, any process and decision would take account of such representations.

William Powell: I thank the Minister for that response. A great deal of the environmental projection data that has been used by Hafren Power appears to depend on the invention of a very-low-head dual-generation turbine, with a large and specific focus given to the concept that is, so far, being designed by Rolls Royce. Given that such turbines do not exist at present and Rolls Royce's confirmation to me this morning that this form of technology is no longer one of the company's core activities, what confidence does the Welsh Government have in the viability of this proposed development?

John Griffiths: A number of matters have been raised here today around a possible Severn barrage. What many of them illustrate is the need for extensive further work to be done with regard to any particular proposal, because each new proposal has its own unique and novel features. So, although considerable work has already taken place around the recent UK Government study, of which the Welsh Government was part, any new proposal would raise new factors and they would have to be addressed. So, that is

datgan fy mod yn aelod o'r grŵp trawsbleidiol ar forglawdd Hafren ac ynni'r llanw, hoffwn ddatgan hefyd fuddiant mewn perthynas â fforwm llanw Hafren, sy'n anelu at ymchwilio i oblygiadau amgylcheddol a thrawsffiniol y datblygiad arfaethedig hwn. Gan gofio hynny, ac o ystyried naws gynnes eich cyflwyniadau ysgrifenedig diweddar i'r Pwyllgor Ynni a Newid yn yr Hinsawdd a'ch cyfeiriadau ddoe at gyfarfodydd yn Doha, a fydddech cystal â nodi pa drafodaethau penodol rydych chi, neu swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru, wedi eu cael hyd yn hyn gyda chynghorau megis Cyngor Dinas Bryste a Chyngor Sir Gwlad yr Haf o ran y posibilrwydd o ddatblygu morglawdd a rhoi gwybod inni am ganlyniad unrhyw drafodaethau o'r fath?

John Griffiths: Mae'r awdurdodau hynny wedi egluro eu safbwyntiau yn ystod trafodaethau diweddar ar y materion hyn gyda phwyllgor dethol y DU, er enghraifft. Rydym yn ymwybodol iawn o'u pryderon. Unwaith eto, byddai unrhyw broses a phenderfyniad yn ystyried sylwadau o'r fath.

William Powell: Diolch i'r Gweinidog am yr ymateb hwnnw. Ymddengys fod cryn dipyn o'r data rhagamcanu amgylcheddol a ddefnyddiwyd gan Hafren Power yn dibynnu ar ddyfeisio tyrbîn cynhyrchu deul â phen isel iawn, gan roi ffocws sylweddol a phenodol ar y cysyniad sydd, hyd yma, yn cael ei ddylunio gan Rolls Royce. O gofio nad oes tyrbînau o'r fath yn bodoli ar hyn o bryd a bod Rolls Royce wedi cadarnhau imi y bore yma nad yw'r math hwn o dechnoleg bellach yn un o weithgareddau craidd y cwmni, pa hyder sydd gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn hyfywedd y datblygiad arfaethedig hwn?

John Griffiths: Codwyd nifer o faterion yma heddiw o ran morglawdd posibl yn aber Hafren. Yr hyn y mae llawer ohonynt yn ei ddangos yw bod angen gwneud cryn dipyn o waith pellach mewn perthynas ag unrhyw gynnig penodol, gan fod gan bob cynnig newydd ei nodweddion unigryw a newydd ei hun. Felly, er bod cryn dipyn o waith eisoes wedi'i wneud mewn perthynas ag astudiaeth ddiweddar Llywodraeth y DU, yr oedd Llywodraeth Cymru yn rhan ohoni, byddai unrhyw gynnig newydd yn codi ffactorau

very much our approach as a Welsh Government: any proposal would require fairly extensive work to deal with the energy that might be generated, the environmental impacts, and economic and social factors.

newydd a byddai'n rhaid ymdrin â hwy. Felly, dyna ein dull gweithredu fel Llywodraeth Cymru: byddai angen gwneud cryn dipyn o waith mewn perthynas ag unrhyw gynnig er mwyn ymdrin â'r ynni y gellid ei gynhyrchu, yr effeithiau amgylcheddol, a'r ffactorau economaidd a chymdeithasol.

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru

10. Kirsty Williams: *Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'u cymryd i sicrhau y bydd ymgeiswyr cynllunio yn cael ymateb i ymholiadau gan Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru cyn pen cyfnod penodol. OAQ(4)0211(ESD)*

John Griffiths: The Living Wales programme is currently designing a one-stop shop to deal with applicants, their agents, local planning authorities, and the Planning Inspectorate's national infrastructure directorate in respect of applications, examinations, and inquiries. Responses will need to be provided to local authorities within the required time frames.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats (Kirsty Williams): Minister, at present Environment Agency Wales operates a strict internal response system that ensures that applicants get answers to their enquiries as quickly as possible. Given that the system operated by the Countryside Council for Wales has demonstrated itself to be far more lax and less satisfying to developers, will you confirm that you intend to require the NRW to enforce strict internal deadlines? If so, will you outline what those timescales would be and how you envisage that they would be different to the protocols currently engaged by the existing organisations?

John Griffiths: First, in response to Kirsty Williams's supplementary question, I must say that one of the central arguments for creating the new body was to ensure that best practice from the existing three bodies would become the norm for the single body. So, wherever one of the existing three bodies has good practice, that should be the standard that the new body achieves.

Natural Resources Wales

10. Kirsty Williams: *What steps has the Welsh Government taken to ensure that planning applicants will get a response to inquiries from Natural Resources Wales within a set time frame. OAQ(4)0211(ESD)*

John Griffiths: Mae rhaglen Cymru Fyw wrthi ar hyn o bryd yn cynllunio siop-un-stop i ymdrin ag ymgeiswyr, eu hasiantau, awdurdodau cynllunio lleol, a chyfarwyddiaeth seilwaith genedlaethol yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio o ran ceisiadau, archwiliadau ac ymchwiliadau. Bydd angen rhoi ymatebion i awdurdodau lleol o fewn y terfynau amser gofynnol.

Arweinydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Kirsty Williams): Weinidog, ar hyn o bryd, mae Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru yn gweithredu system ymateb fewnol gaeth sy'n sicrhau bod ymgeiswyr yn cael atebion i'w hymholiadau cyn gynted â phosibl. O gofio ein bod wedi gweld nad yw system Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru mor gaeth o bell ffordd ac nad yw'n llwyddo i fodloni datblygwyr cystal, a gadarnhewch eich bod yn bwriadu ei gwneud yn ofynnol i Gyfoeth Naturiol Cymru orfodi terfynau amser mewnol caeth? Os felly, a amlinellwch y terfynau amser hynny a sut rydych yn rhagweld y byddent yn wahanol i'r protocolau a ddefnyddir ar hyn o bryd gan y sefydliadau presennol?

John Griffiths: Yn gyntaf, mewn ymateb i gwestiwn atodol Kirsty Williams, rhaid imi ddweud mai un o'r dadleuon canolog o blaid creu'r corff newydd oedd sicrhau mai arfer gorau'r tri chorff presennol fyddai'r norm ar gyfer y corff unigol. Felly, pa un bynnag o'r tri chorff presennol sy'n dangos arfer da, dylai'r corff newydd gyrraedd y safon honno.

The independent advisory group recommended a statutory time frame in terms of statutory consultee responses, and we will be taking forward planning legislation that could incorporate that requirement. However, I know that natural resources Wales is committed to the one-stop-shop approach and to ensuring that its decisions are made in a timely fashion. I will be discussing these matters with the chief executive, chair and board as we move forward.

Antoinette Sandbach: Minister, the agricultural industry has been encouraged time and again to diversify, yet, despite its enthusiasm for doing so, many farm businesses are blocked by the planning system. Many farm businesses find that success in the planning system is more dependent on personal relationships than merit, and your Government's own policies, such as technical advice note 6, are not being implemented on the ground. Can you confirm what interim steps your Government and natural resources Wales will take to give farms and other businesses the freedom to adapt and to create the jobs that are so badly needed in rural Wales, in advance of the introduction of the planning Bill?

John Griffiths: We have planning policy in place that addresses those issues around necessary diversification and freedom and flexibility for our rural communities and, indeed, farm businesses. If there are any further improvements to be made, we will, of course, seek to make them. If the Member has any information about improper practices, she should take it to the appropriate bodies.

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas: Yn dilyn ei ymateb clir i Kirsty Williams, a fyddai'r Gweinidog yn cytuno bod dyfodiad cyfoeth naturiol Cymru yn gyfnod newydd ym myd cynllunio, gan osod safonau uwch i'r hyn oedd yn perthyn i'r cyrff blaenorol, yn enwedig o safbwynt amseriad caniatadau a'r pwysau gormodol ar ddatblygwyr—yn enwedig ym maes ynni adnewyddol—o orfod paratoi astudiaethau amgylcheddol? A yw'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu rhoi'r materion hyn mewn unrhyw lythyr cylch gorchwyl i'r corff newydd?

Argymhellodd y grŵp cynghori annibynnol amserlen statudol o ran ymatebion statudol i ymgynghoreion, a byddwn yn datblygu deddfwriaeth cynllunio a allai gynnwys y gofyniad hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, gwn fod Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yn ymrwymedig i'r dull siop-un-stop ac i sicrhau ei fod yn gwneud penderfyniadau amserol. Byddaf yn trafod y materion hyn gyda'r prif weithredwr, y cadeirydd a'r bwrdd wrth inni symud ymlaen.

Antoinette Sandbach: Weinidog, anogwyd y diwydiant amaethyddol dro ar ôl tro i arallgyfeirio, ac eto, er gwaethaf ei frwdfrydedd i wneud hynny, caiff llawer o fusnesau fferm eu rhwystro gan y system gynllunio. Mae llawer o fusnesau fferm o'r farn bod llwyddiant yn y system gynllunio yn dibynnu'n fwy ar gydberthnasau personol na haeddiant, ac nid yw polisiau eich Llywodraeth eich hun, megis nodyn cyngor technegol 6, yn cael eu gweithredu ar lawr gwlad. A allwch gadarnhau pa gamau interim y bydd eich Llywodraeth a Chyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yn eu cymryd i roi'r rhyddid i ffermydd a busnesau eraill addasu ac i greu swyddi y mae eu dirfawr angen yng Nghymru wledig, cyn cyflwyno'r Bil cynllunio?

John Griffiths: Mae polisi cynllunio gennym ar waith sy'n ymdrin â'r materion hynny sy'n ymwneud â'r angen i arallgyfeirio a rhyddid a hyblygrwydd i'n cymunedau gwledig ac, yn wir, fusnesau fferm. Os oes angen gwelliannau pellach, byddwn, wrth gwrs, yn ceisio eu gwneud. Os oes gan yr Aelod unrhyw wybodaeth am arferion amhriodol, dylai ei chyflwyno i'r cyrff priodol.

Lord Elis-Thomas: Given his clear response to the question posed by Kirsty Williams, would the Minister agree that the establishment of natural resources Wales is a new era in planning, setting higher standards than those that existed under the previous bodies, particularly in terms of the timing of consents and the excessive pressure on developers—especially in terms of renewable energy—of having to prepare environmental studies? Does the Minister intend to place these issues in any remit letter for the new body?

John Griffiths: These are very important matters. We will soon, I think, be publishing research by Hyder Consulting looking at experience around renewable energy applications, the planning process and the role of statutory consultees. Many of us will expect that research to show a lack of timeliness, to put it mildly, and then, obviously, there is considerable progress and improvement to be made. I will indeed discuss with natural resources Wales how that new organisation, with a new culture, can very much improve existing practice. That will be very important with regard to our renewable energy policy and planning matters in general.

Cost Cludo Ynni i Gymru

11. Vaughan Gething: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gostau cludo ynni i Gymru i'r defnyddiwr. OAQ(4)0203(ESD)*

John Griffiths: The cost of electricity distribution represents approximately 16% of average UK domestic electricity bills, or about £76 a year. Consumers in Wales pay above the UK average because the Wales electricity distribution area includes very sparsely populated areas such as the mountainous areas in mid Wales, which increases electricity distribution costs.

Vaughan Gething: Thank you for that response, Minister. You will be aware that, within the United Kingdom, Wales pays the second highest cost for transporting energy, both for electricity and gas. No English region pays a comparable cost; that was confirmed again in a recent Department of Energy and Climate Change report. Also, that applies not only to domestic users, such as a pensioner in Splott struggling to pay the bills, but to high-energy business users, such as Celsa Steel UK in my constituency. Can you confirm what representations the Welsh Government is making to DECC and the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets about the continuing high cost of energy use in Wales?

John Griffiths: Mae'r rhain yn faterion pwysig iawn. Byddwn yn fuan, credaf, yn cyhoeddi ymchwil gan Hyder Consulting yn edrych ar brofiad mewn perthynas â cheisiadau ynni adnewyddadwy, y broses gynllunio a rôl ymgyngoreion statudol. Bydd llawer ohonom yn disgwyl i'r gwaith ymchwil hwnnw ddangos diffyg prydlondeb, a dweud y lleiaf, ac yna, yn amlwg, bydd cryn gynnydd a gwelliannau i'w gwneud. Yn sicr, byddaf yn trafod gyda Chyfoeth Naturiol Cymru sut y gall y sefydliad newydd hwnnw, gyda diwylliant newydd, wella'n sylweddol ar yr arfer sy'n bodoli eisoes. Bydd hynny'n bwysig iawn o ran ein polisi ynni adnewyddadwy a materion cynllunio yn gyffredinol.

The Cost of Transporting Energy to Wales

11. Vaughan Gething: *Will the Minister make a statement on the costs to the consumer of transporting energy to Wales. OAQ(4)0203(ESD)*

John Griffiths: Gellir priodoli tua 16% o filiau trydan domestig cyfartalog yn y DU, neu tua £76 y flwyddyn, i gost dosbarthu trydan. Mae defnyddwyr yng Nghymru yn talu'n uwch na chyfartaledd y DU am fod ardal dosbarthu trydan Cymru yn cynnwys ardaloedd â phoblogaethau gwasgareddig iawn megis ardaloedd mynyddig y Canolbarth, sy'n cynyddu costau dosbarthu trydan.

Vaughan Gething: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Byddwch yn ymwybodol, yn y Deyrnas Unedig, mai Cymru sy'n talu'r gost uchaf ond un am gludo ynni, a hynny ar gyfer trydan a nwy. Nid oes unrhyw ranbarth yn Lloegr yn talu cost debyg; cadarnhawyd hynny eto yn un o adroddiadau diweddar yr Adran Ynni a Newid Hinsawdd. Hefyd, yn ogystal â defnyddwyr domestig, megis pensïynwr yn Sblot sy'n ei chael hi'n anodd talu'r biliau, mae hynny hefyd yn berthnasol i ddefnyddwyr busnes ynni uchel, megis Celsa Steel UK yn fy etholaeth. A allwch gadarnhau pa sylwadau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn eu gwneud i'r Adran Ynni a Newid Hinsawdd a'r Swyddfa Marchnadoedd Nwy a Thrydan am gost uchel barhaus defnyddio ynni yng Nghymru?

John Griffiths: I thank Vaughan Gething for that supplementary question. Over a number of years, Ministers have raised the cost of Welsh electricity, as it were, with Ofgem, DECC and the local distribution companies. It is an issue that we constantly return to and keep under review. I am happy to assure the Member that I will raise these matters again at my next meeting with Ofgem. In addition, the First Minister has stated on a number of occasions recently that he has raised issues around the cost to energy-intensive industries in Wales of electricity, and that he believes that it creates considerable competitive disadvantages for Wales. So, these matters have been addressed, but I am sure that we as a Welsh Government will, collectively, continue to do so.

Russell George: Is the Minister aware that, of all renewable energy technologies, it is hydroelectric energy generation that provides the best energy return to the consumer for energy invested? Back in November, I, along with other colleagues, raised with you the issue of when the good practice guidance for hydroelectric schemes would be published and asked whether you would have further discussions with the Environment Agency on licensing arrangements, which is making the delivery of some hydro schemes in my constituency very difficult. Are you in a position to update us further on this?

John Griffiths: I have discussed these matters on a number of occasions with the Environment Agency and the industry. The Environment Agency at a UK level is looking at new guidance, and that work is continuing. I am not in a position to tell the Member when that work will be completed, but I will undertake to make fresh enquiries of the Environment Agency and return to the Member in due course.

Alun Ffred Jones: Os bydd Wylfa B a fferm wynt Rhiannon yng ngogledd Ynys Môn yn digwydd, bydd y llwyth trydan a fydd yn dod oddi yno i'r grid cenedlaethol yn dyblu a bydd angen llinellau peilon newydd. Bydd

John Griffiths: Diolch i Vaughan Gething am y cwestiwn atodol hwnnw. Dros nifer o flynyddoedd, mae Gweinidogion wedi codi cost trydan Cymru, fel petai, gydag Ofgem, yr Adran Ynni a Newid Hinsawdd a'r cwmnïau dosbarthu lleol. Mae'n fater y dychwelir ato'n gyson ac a gaiff ei adolygu'n rheolaidd. Gallaf sicrhau'r Aelod y byddaf yn codi'r materion hyn unwaith eto yn fy nghyfarfod nesaf gydag Ofgem. Yn ogystal, mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi datgan sawl gwaith yn ddiweddar ei fod wedi codi materion sy'n ymwneud â chost trydan i ddiwydiannau ynni-ddwys yng Nghymru, a'i fod o'r farn ei fod yn creu anfantais gystadleuol sylweddol i Gymru. Felly, ymdriniwyd â'r materion hyn, ond rwy'n siŵr y byddwn, gyda'n gilydd, fel Llywodraeth Cymru, yn parhau i wneud hynny.

Russell George: A yw'r Gweinidog yn ymwybodol, o'r holl dechnolegau ynni adnewyddadwy, mai cynhyrchu ynni hydro-drydanol sy'n darparu'r gwerth gorau o ran ynni i'r defnyddiwr o ran yr ynni a fuddsoddir? Yn ôl ym mis Tachwedd, codais innau, ar y cyd â chyd-Aelodau eraill, y mater ynghylch pa un a fyddai'r canllawiau arfer da ar gyfer cynlluniau hydro-drydanol yn cael eu cyhoeddi a gofynnwyd pa un a fydddech yn cael trafodaethau pellach gydag Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd am drefniadau trwyddedu, sy'n ei gwneud hi'n anodd iawn cyflwyno rhai o'r cynlluniau hydro yn fy etholaeth. A ydych mewn sefyllfa i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni am hyn?

John Griffiths: Rwyf wedi trafod y materion hyn sawl gwaith gydag Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd a'r diwydiant. Mae Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd ar lefel y DU yn ystyried canllawiau newydd, ac mae'r gwaith hwnnw yn mynd rhagddo. Nid wyf mewn sefyllfa i ddweud wrth yr Aelod pryd y caiff y gwaith hwnnw ei gwblhau, ond af ati i gyflwyno ymholiadau newydd i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd a dychwelaf at yr Aelod maes o law.

Alun Ffred Jones: If Wylfa B and the Rhiannon windfarm in northern Anglesey happen, then the electricity load coming from Anglesey into the national grid will double and new pylon lines will be required. These

rhain yn croesi ynys Môn, ac afon Menai o bosibl. Mae ymgyrch wedi bod i roi'r llinellau hyn o dan wely'r môr a'u cysylltu â'r is-orsaf uwchlaw Bangor. Mae'r Grid Cenedlaethol wedi bod yn ymgynghori ar hyn. Pa dystiolaeth, felly, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi'i chyflwyno i'r ymgynghoriad hwnnw a'r dylanwad pwysig y bydd yn ei gael ar y diwydiant twristiaeth?

John Griffiths: I thank Alun Ffred for that question. We have engaged on these matters and we have a well-established Welsh Government position that we expect issues around landscape sensitivity and general environmental concerns to be factored into any decision made. We expect Welsh Government concerns, which reflect those of the local community, to be taken seriously and we will continue to raise these issues.

Blaenoriaethau Cyllidebol

12. Nick Ramsay: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei flaenoriaethau cyllidebol ar gyfer y 12 mis nesaf. OAQ(4)0198(ESD)*

John Griffiths: I remain committed to fulfilling across Wales the commitments that are set out for my portfolio in the programme for government.

Nick Ramsay: Thank you for that answer, Minister. You will be aware that the Welsh Conservatives are bringing forward a debate later today on flooding. I would like to ask you a question about your Government's approach to the issue of flooding. I am sure that you are aware that work was started on a flood alleviation scheme in Wyesham in my constituency earlier this week, which should help alleviate flood risk in around 80 properties. The scheme is a partnership between the Welsh Government and Monmouthshire County Council. However, I am sure that you will agree that there remain many other parts of Wales that are not being protected from flood risk in the same way. It was not so long ago, in 2009, that the Welsh Government was criticised by the Wales Audit Office for showing a lack of strategic leadership in the area of flooding. What changes are you making to make sure that the

will cross Anglesey, and possibly the Menai Straits. There has been a campaign to place these cables under the seabed and run them up to the substation above Bangor. The National Grid has been consulting on this. What evidence, therefore, has the Government presented to this consultation and the very important influence it will have on the tourism industry?

John Griffiths: Diolch i Alun Ffred am y cwestiwn hwnnw. Rydym wedi trafod y materion hyn ac mae safbwynt Llywodraeth Cymru yn glir, sef ein bod yn disgwyl y caiff materion sy'n ymwneud â sensitifrwydd i'r dirwedd a phryderon amgylcheddol cyffredinol eu hystyried wrth wneud unrhyw benderfyniad. Rydym yn disgwyl i bryderon Llywodraeth Cymru, sy'n adlewyrchu pryderon y gymuned leol, gael eu cymryd o ddifrif a byddwn yn parhau i godi'r materion hyn.

Budget Priorities

12. Nick Ramsay: *Will the Minister outline his budget priorities for the next 12 months. OAQ(4)0198(ESD)*

John Griffiths: Rwy'n parhau'n ymrwymedig i gyflawni'r ymrwymadau a nodir yn fy mhortffolio yn y rhaglen lywodraethu ledled Cymru.

Nick Ramsay: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Byddwch yn ymwybodol fod y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn cyflwyno dadl yn ddiweddarach heddiw ar lifogydd. Hoffwn ofyn cwestiwn ichi am sut y mae eich Llywodraeth yn ymdrin â llifogydd. Rwy'n siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol bod gwaith wedi dechrau ar gynllun lliniaru llifogydd yn Wyesham yn fy etholaeth yn gynharach yr wythnos hon, a ddylai helpu i liniaru'r perygl o lifogydd ar gyfer tua 80 eiddo. Partneriaeth rhwng Llywodraeth Cymru a Chyngor Sir Fynwy yw'r cynllun. Fodd bynnag, rwy'n siŵr y byddwch yn cytuno bod sawl rhan arall o Gymru nad ydynt yn cael eu diogelu rhag perygl llifogydd yn yr un modd o hyd. Yn gymharol ddiweddar, yn 2009, beirniadwyd Llywodraeth Cymru gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru am ddangos diffyg arweinyddiaeth strategol ym maes llifogydd. Pa newidiadau rydych yn eu

Welsh Government provides that kind of strategic leadership, which, with climate change becoming an increasing threat, is increasingly needed?

John Griffiths: I thank Nick Ramsay for that supplementary question. Issues around flooding are very important to us, as events last year clearly showed. We launched our national strategy in November 2011, and that makes it quite clear that the Welsh Government will show and is showing leadership on these matters, working with the local flood risk authorities and other key partners. We want to get a clear prioritisation working with partners across Wales so that we identify areas of the greatest risk and vulnerability and then prioritise funding towards those schemes. That is not to say that other activity will not take place, because there are other stakeholders with their own, more local issues, as it were. However, we will certainly show that national leadership and work with local partners.

2.15 p.m.

Question 13, OAQ(4)0212(ESD), not asked.

Cysyniad Dinas-Ranbarth

14. Julie Morgan: *Pa fath o ymgynghoriad y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'i gael gyda chyd-Weinidogion yn y Cabinet am ddefnyddio'r cysyniad Dinas-ranbarth mewn perthynas â'r broses gynllunio. OAQ(4)0207(ESD)*

John Griffiths: I have held discussions with Cabinet colleagues on potential regional approaches to planning, including aspects relating to the city region concept.

Julie Morgan: I thank the Minister for that response. As the city region concept is gathering pace and being considered very favourably, what can the Minister do to enable individual local authorities to start planning regionally now before we reach a

gwneud er mwyn sicrhau bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn darparu'r math hwnnw o arweinyddiaeth strategol, y mae ei hangen fwy byth o ystyried y bygythiad cynyddol sy'n gysylltiedig â newid yn yr hinsawdd?

John Griffiths: Diolch i Nick Ramsay am y cwestiwn atodol hwnnw. Mae materion sy'n ymwneud â llyfogydd yn bwysig iawn inni, fel y dangosodd digwyddiadau'r llynedd yn glir. Lanswyd ein strategaeth genedlaethol ym mis Tachwedd 2011, ac mae'n nodi'n glir y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn dangos arweinyddiaeth mewn perthynas â'r materion hyn, a'i bod yn gwneud hynny, gan weithio gydag awdurdodau risg llyfogydd lleol a phartneriaid allweddol eraill. Rydym am roi system flaenoriaethu glir ar waith gan weithio gyda phartneriaid ledled Cymru er mwyn nodi'r ardaloedd lle ceir y perygl mwyaf ac sydd fwyaf agored i niwed ac yna flaenoriaethu arian tuag at y cynlluniau hynny. Nid yw hynny'n gyfystyr â dweud na fydd gweithgareddau eraill yn mynd rhagddynt, gan fod yna randdeiliaid eraill sydd â phroblemau mwy lleol, fel petai. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn sicr yn dangos yr arweinyddiaeth genedlaethol honno ac yn gweithio gyda phartneriaid lleol.

2.15 p.m.

Ni ofynnwyd cwestiwn 13, OAQ(4)0212(ESD).

City Region Concept

14. Julie Morgan: *What consultation has the Minister had with Cabinet colleagues about the application of the City Region concept to the planning process. OAQ(4)0207(ESD)*

John Griffiths: Cefais drafodaethau gyda chyd-Weinidogion yn y Cabinet am ddulliau rhanbarthol posibl o ran cynllunio, gan gynnwys agweddau yn ymwneud â'r cysyniad o ddinas-ranbarthau.

Julie Morgan: Diolch i'r Gweinidog am yr ymateb hwnnw. Gan fod y cysyniad o ddinas-ranbarthau yn dod yn amlycach a bod pobl yn gadarn iawn o'i blaid, beth y gall y Gweinidog ei wneud i alluogi awdurdodau lleol unigol i ddechrau cynllunio mewn

stage where there are firmer proposals?

John Griffiths: I thank Julie Morgan for that supplementary question. There is very considerable scope for local authorities to look outwith their own boundaries in terms of their local development plans and their general policies. The Welsh Government very much encourages that approach. In fact, it is a requirement of local development plans to look at adjoining authorities and to take that regional view. Therefore, we very much expect that to happen. As the Member rightly said, as we go forward with the city region work and, indeed, with our planning policy and legislation, increasingly we will be moving to that regional approach, so it makes very good sense for local authorities to consider the direction of travel and to take action accordingly.

Ailgylchu Gwastraff Cartref

15. Eluned Parrott: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am dargedau Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer ailgylchu gwastraff cartrefi yng Nghymru. OAQ(4)0208(ESD)*

John Griffiths: Wales is on course to meet the first statutory recycling target of 52% in 2012-13. Some individual authorities are not currently on target and the Welsh Government is working with them through the collaborative change programme to provide support.

Eluned Parrott: Thank you, Minister; I am glad to hear of the progress that is being made. However, does the Government have any plans to issue any advice to councils about the effectiveness of different recycling strategies, for example kerbside sorting as opposed to the co-mingling of recycling?

John Griffiths: We are in constant contact with local authorities. I meet the lead members on a regular basis and these matters are very regularly discussed. The Welsh Government has a clear preference for kerbside separation and sorting as it produces

ffordd ranbarthol yn awr cyn inni gyrraedd cam lle y ceir cynigion mwy cadarn?

John Griffiths: Diolch i Julie Morgan am y cwestiwn atodol hwnnw. Mae cyfleoedd sylweddol i awdurdodau lleol edrych y tu allan i'w ffiniau eu hunain o ran eu cynlluniau datblygu lleol a'u polisiau cyffredinol. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn annog y dull gweithredu hwnnw yn fawr. Yn wir, mae'n ofynnol i gynlluniau datblygu lleol ystyried awdurdodau cyfagos a gweithredu mewn ffordd ranbarthol. Felly, rydym yn disgwyl i raddau helaeth y bydd hynny'n digwydd. Fel y dywedodd yr Aelod, yn llygad ei lle, wrth inni ddatblygu'r gwaith ar ddinas-ranbarthau ac, yn wir, ein polisi a'n deddfwriaeth cynllunio, byddwn yn symud yn gynyddol tuag at y dull gweithredu rhanbarthol hwnnw, felly mae'n gwneud synnwyr da iawn i awdurdodau lleol ystyried y cyfeiriad hwnnw a gweithredu yn unol â hynny.

Household Recycling

15. Eluned Parrott: *Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government's targets for household recycling in Wales. OAQ(4)0208(ESD)*

John Griffiths: Mae Cymru ar y trywydd cywir i gyrraedd y targed ailgylchu statudol cyntaf, sef 52% yn 2012-13. Nid yw rhai awdurdodau unigol ar hyn o bryd yn gweithredu'n unol â'r targed hwnnw ac mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithio gyda hwy drwy'r rhaglen newid gydweithredol i roi cymorth iddynt.

Eluned Parrott: Diolch, Weiniidog; rwy'n falch o glywed am y cynnydd sy'n cael ei wneud. Fodd bynnag, a oes gan y Llywodraeth unrhyw gynlluniau i roi unrhyw gyngor i gynghorau ynghylch effeithiolrwydd strategaethau ailgylchu gwahanol, er enghraifft didoli ar garreg y drws yn hytrach na chyd-gymysgu deunydd i'w ailgylchu?

John Griffiths: Rydym mewn cysylltiad cyson ag awdurdodau lleol. Rwy'n cyfarfod â'r aelodau arweiniol yn rheolaidd a chaiff y materion hyn eu trafod yn rheolaidd iawn. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn amlwg o blaid gwahanu a didoli ar garreg y drws gan ei fod

a better quality of recycle that can then lend itself to the closed loop, where that material is used as a raw material for companies in Wales. Therefore, we have a clear preference, but we also understand that different authorities are in different places and have invested in their own particular systems. Therefore, we seek to work with local authorities to change practice over a period of time, if that is what they wish to do. I will add one further point, namely that an outstanding judicial review might affect these matters, depending on the decision of the court.

yn cynhyrchu deunydd o ansawdd gwell i'w ailgylchu sy'n addas ar gyfer y ddolen gaeedig, lle y caiff y deunydd hwnnw ei ddefnyddio fel deunydd crai ar gyfer cwmnïau yng Nghymru. Felly, rydym yn amlwg o blaid y dewis hwnnw, ond rydym hefyd yn deall fod gwahanol awdurdodau mewn gwahanol sefyllfaoedd a'u bod wedi buddsoddi yn eu systemau penodol eu hunain. Felly, rydym yn ceisio gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i newid arfer dros gyfnod o amser, os mai dyna y maent am ei wneud. Hoffwn ychwanegu un pwynt arall, sef y gallai adolygiad barnwrol sy'n mynd rhagddo ar hyn o bryd effeithio ar y materion hyn, gan ddibynnu ar benderfyniad y llys.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth **Questions to the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage**

Digartrefedd

1. Janet Finch-Saunders: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei flaenoriaethau ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â digartrefedd dros y chwe mis nesaf. OAQ(4)0199(HRH)

The Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage (Huw Lewis): Our overall priority for tackling homelessness is prevention. We will be paying particular attention to mitigating the impact of welfare reform on our citizens and also reforming homelessness legislation. We will continue to invest in homelessness services, with £7.2 million supporting front-line services through our homelessness grant programme.

Janet Finch-Saunders: Thank you, Minister; I was rather hoping that you might mention empty properties, because, as you are no doubt aware, there are currently 23,000 of those in Wales. I note that you have mentioned 5,000 as your target figure, but could you tell me please how many you are allocating to each local authority as a target and what plans you have in place in case those targets are not met?

Huw Lewis: I am confident that we are well on track. The early indications are that our target of 5,000 empty properties being brought back into use for sale or rent will be

Homelessness

1. Janet Finch-Saunders: Will the Minister outline his priorities for tackling homelessness over the next six months. OAQ(4)0199(HRH)

Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth (Huw Lewis): Ein prif flaenoriaeth ar gyfer delio â digartrefedd yw cymryd camau ataliol. Byddwn yn talu sylw arbennig i liniaru effaith diwygio lles ar ein dinasyddion yn ogystal â diwygio deddfwriaeth digartrefedd. Byddwn yn parhau i fuddsoddi mewn gwasanaethau digartrefedd, gyda £7.2 miliwn yn cefnogi gwasanaethau rheng flaen drwy ein rhaglen grantiau digartrefedd.

Janet Finch-Saunders: Diolch, Weinidog; roeddwn yn gobeithio y byddech yn sôn am eiddo gwag, oherwydd, fel y gwyddoch mae'n siŵr, ceir 23,000 o'r rheini yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd. Nodaf i chi grybwyll 5,000 fel eich ffigur targed, ond a allech ddweud wrthyf faint rydych yn ei ddyrannu i bob awdurdod lleol fel targed a pha gynlluniau sydd gennych ar waith rhag ofn na chaiff y targedau hynny eu cyflawni?

Huw Lewis: Rwyf yn hyderus ein bod ar y trywydd iawn. Yr arwyddion cynnar yw y caiff ein targed i adfer 5,000 o eiddo gwag i'w gwerthu neu eu rhentu ei gyflawni o fewn

met within this Assembly. There are no allocations as yet for each individual local authority. However, I will monitor the progress of the Houses into Homes programme, obviously, and if we are reaching a point where some local authorities are evidently falling behind, let us say, then action will need to be taken.

The Leader of Plaid Cymru (Leanne Wood): Minister, this week you described the benefit changes that are being pushed through by the Westminster coalition Government as a 'social atrocity', and your description of the planned changes to those entitlements is, in my view, entirely justifiable; it is a shame that all bar 10 of your party colleagues in Westminster do not share your views, otherwise they would have turned up and not abstained from the vote on the Welfare Reform Bill at its Second Reading. What practical steps for housing do you intend to take in response to these benefit changes? One thing that you could do is to look at advice services; you mentioned the amount of money that you have put into those but, in reality, many voluntary organisations are under-staffed and under-resourced. What can you do as a matter of urgency to strengthen advice services to people in Wales who are homeless or under threat of homelessness?

Huw Lewis: It is a simple truth to say that the sheer amount of resource that will be removed from some of our most vulnerable communities by the reforms of the UK Government cannot be made up by the Welsh Government simply stepping in and making up the cash difference. What will make the different, to my mind, is the Welsh Government acting as a catalyst and leader for active communities that defend their citizens against changes such as this. I have asked officials to work urgently on provisions for bringing together local authorities, registered social landlords, advice agencies and credit unions to consider how best they can work together to ensure that as few people as possible slip over the edge in terms of household financial management into a situation of not being able to afford to pay their bills.

y Cynulliad hwn. Nid oes unrhyw ddyraniadau hyd yn hyn ar gyfer pob awdurdod lleol unigol. Fodd bynnag, byddaf yn monitro hynt y rhaglen Tai yn Gartrefi, yn amlwg, ac os ydym yn cyrraedd pwynt lle mae rhai awdurdodau lleol yn amlwg ar ei hôl hi, dywedwn, yna bydd angen gweithredu.

Arweinydd Plaid Cymru (Leanne Wood): Weinidog, yr wythnos hon gwnaethoch ddisgrifio'r newidiadau i fudd-daliadau sy'n cael eu gwthio drwodd gan y Llywodraeth glymblaid yn San Steffan fel 'erchylltra gymdeithasol', ac mae eich disgrifiad o'r newidiadau arfaethedig i'r hawliadau hynny yn gwbl gyfiawn yn fy marn i; mae'n drueni nad yw pob un o'ch cyd-Lafurwyr yn San Steffan, namyn 10, o'r un farn, fel arall byddent wedi dod a heb ymatal rhag pleidleisio ar y Bil Diwygio Lles ar ei Ail Ddarlleniad. Pa gamau ymarferol ar gyfer tai rydych yn bwriadu eu cymryd mewn ymateb i'r newidiadau hyn i fudd-daliadau? Un peth y gallech ei wneud yw edrych ar wasanaethau cynghori; soniasoch am y swm o arian yr ydych wedi'i fuddsoddi yn y rheini, ond, mewn gwirionedd, nid oes gan lawer o fudiadau gwirfoddol ddigon o staff nac adnoddau. Beth allwch chi ei wneud ar frys er mwyn atgyfnerthu gwasanaethau cynghori i bobl yng Nghymru sy'n ddigartref neu sydd mewn perygl o ddod yn ddigartrefedd?

Huw Lewis: Y gwir amdani yw na all y swm enfawr o adnoddau a fydd yn diflannu o rai o'n cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig yn sgil diwygiadau Llywodraeth y DU gael eu hailgyflenwi gan Lywodraeth Cymru wrth iddi gamu i'r adwy ac ariannu'r gwahaniaeth. Yr hyn a fydd yn gwneud y gwahaniaeth, yn fy marn i, yw Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithredu fel catalydd ac arweinydd ar gyfer cymunedau gweithredol sy'n amddiffyn eu trigolion rhag y fath newidiadau. Rwyf wedi gofyn i swyddogion gymryd camau breision mewn perthynas â darparu ar gyfer dwyn ynghyd awdurdodau lleol, landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig, asiantaethau cyngor ac undebau credyd er mwyn ystyried y ffordd orau o gydweithio i sicrhau bod cyn lleied o bobl â phosibl yn mynd dros y dibyn o ran rheoli cyllid y cartref a bod methu â fforddio talu eu biliau.

Cyfranogiad mewn Chwaraeon

2. Christine Chapman: *Beth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud i hybu cyfranogiad mewn chwaraeon yng Nghymru. OAQ(4)0207(HRH)*

Huw Lewis: The Welsh Government remains committed to providing more and better quality opportunities to participate in sport, especially for young people. We will continue to drive forward the actions in the 'Creating an Active Wales' action plan to increase participation rates, building on the momentum gained from the inspirational Olympic Games of last summer.

Christine Chapman: Thank you, Minister. Will you join me in congratulating the organisers of the Nos Galan 2012 event in my constituency, which was the most popular since the race's establishment 46 years ago? The races were an enormous success in terms of popular participation, with all races being full to capacity and thousands of spectators. We know that policies such as free swimming play an important role in encouraging participation, but what lessons can we draw from the Nos Galan races and last year's Olympics and Paralympics about encouraging more of us to take part in sporting activities?

Huw Lewis: I will join you in congratulating all involved in Nos Galan 2012. I was very pleased to learn that the event attracted such enthusiasm from all ages and abilities. Events such as this active community event can help to stimulate interest in sport and promote participation for all age groups in our communities. Nos Galan is a unique and special example of sport's power to inspire, with over 800 participants, I understand, at the 2012 event. Sport Wales's community sport strategy is working hard to promote similar enthusiasm across the country.

Mohammad Asghar: Minister, one of the highlights of last year's Olympic Games was the tremendous success of British cycling, with Geraint Thomas winning a gold medal. Given that the Welsh Government has set a

Participation in Sport

2. Christine Chapman: *What is the Welsh Government doing to promote participation in sport in Wales. OAQ(4)0207(HRH)*

Huw Lewis: Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn parhau'n ymrwymedig i ddarparu mwy o gyfleoedd a chyfleoedd o ansawdd gwell i gymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon, yn enwedig ar gyfer pobl ifanc. Byddwn yn parhau i fwrw ymlaen â'r camau gweithredu yn 'Creu Cymru Egniol' er mwyn cynyddu cyfraddau cyfranogi, gan adeiladu ar y momentwm a ddeilliodd o'r Gemau Olympaidd ysbrydoledig yr haf diwethaf.

Christine Chapman: Diolch ichi, Weinidog. A wnewch chi ymuno â mi i longyfarch trefnwyr digwyddiad Nos Galan 2012 yn fy etholaeth, sef y mwyaf poblogaidd ers sefydlu'r ras 46 mlynedd yn ôl? Bu'r rasys yn llwyddiant ysgubol o ran nifer y bobl gyffredin a gymerodd ran, gyda phob ras yn llawn a miloedd yn gwyllo. Gwyddom fod polisïau fel nofio am ddim yn chwarae rhan bwysig yn y gwaith o annog cyfranogiad, ond pa wersi all ddeillio o'r rasys Nos Galan ynghyd â Gemau Olympaidd a Pharalympaidd y llynedd o ran annog mwy ohonom i gymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau chwaraeon?

Huw Lewis: Ymunaf â chi i longyfarch pawb a fu'n ymwneud â Nos Galan 2012. Roeddwn yn falch iawn o glywed bod y digwyddiad wedi cael ymateb mor frwdfrydig gan bobl o bob oed a gallu. Gall digwyddiadau fel y digwyddiad cymuned weithredol hwn helpu i ennyn diddordeb mewn chwaraeon a hyrwyddo cyfranogiad ar gyfer pob grŵp oedran yn ein cymunedau. Mae Nos Galan yn enghraifft unigryw ac arbennig o allu chwaraeon i ysbrydoli, gyda thros 800 o bobl hyd y deallaf, yn nigwyddiad 2012. Mae strategaeth chwaraeon cymunedol Chwaraeon Cymru yn gweithio'n galed i hyrwyddo brwdfrydedd tebyg ledled y wlad.

Mohammad Asghar: Weinidog, un o uchafbwyntiau'r Gemau Olympaidd y llynedd oedd llwyddiant penigamp tîm beicio Prydain, gyda Geraint Thomas yn ennill medal aur. O gofio bod Llywodraeth Cymru

target to double the percentage of adults cycling for recreation, what steps have you taken to build on this renewed interest in the sport to promote cycling in Wales?

Huw Lewis: One of the great success stories of the Olympics was Wales and the world of cycling. I will write to the Member with the exact figures, but one of Sport Wales and Sustrans Cymru's latest initiatives to encourage schoolchildren in particular to cycle to and from school is showing remarkable results in the constituency areas where it is active. I cannot recall the percentage figures just now, but I will write to you with those. As pilot schemes, they show very interesting ways forward for increasing participation in cycling in communities.

Simon Thomas: Minister, I have asked you in the past whether any money or capital resources will come back from the underspend on the Olympics. This week, the Minister for Sports and Tourism in London, Hugh Robertson, confirmed that something in the range of £100 million to £150 million could come back from the Olympic Games. That sum of money should surely go back into Sportlot so that, for example, the wonderful sports scheme in Aberystwyth would be able to make a good application for capital funding for a running track. Will you fight to ensure that when this money becomes available in 2014, as is proposed, that Wales will get its fair share through Sportlot of this capital funding?

Huw Lewis: That goes without saying. We will be there, making sure that Wales gets its fair share of that potential capital spend. However, I would caution that my understanding is that there will not suddenly be £100 million available in 2014 as a result of these undertakings from the UK Government and that some of the cash anticipated from, for instance, the sale of assets at the Olympic park may take considerably longer to reach us. It is already the case, however, that lottery funding should be perceived by all of us, as representatives of our communities, as something that we can now take advantage of to a greater proportion in Wales as part of a post-Olympic bonus for

wedi pennu targed i ddyblu canran yr oedolion sy'n beicio er mwynhad, pa gamau rydych wedi eu cymryd i adeiladu ar y diddordeb o'r newydd hwn yn y gamp i hyrwyddo beicio yng Nghymru?

Huw Lewis: Un o lwyddiannau mawr y Gemau Olympaidd oedd Cymru a'r byd beicio. Byddaf yn ysgrifennu at yr Aelod gyda'r union ffigurau, ond mae un o fentrau diweddaraf Chwaraeon Cymru a Sustrans Cymru i annog plant ysgol yn arbennig i feicio i'r ysgol ac oddi yno yn dangos canlyniadau rhyfeddol yn yr ardaloedd etholaethol lle mae ar waith. Ni allaf gofio'r ffigurau canran ar hyn o bryd, ond byddaf yn ysgrifennu atoch gyda'r rheini. Fel cynlluniau peilot, maent yn dangos ffyrdd diddorol iawn ymlaen ar gyfer cynyddu nifer y bobl sy'n beicio yn ein cymunedau.

Simon Thomas: Weinidog, yn y gorffennol rwyf wedi gofyn ichi a fydd unrhyw arian neu adnoddau cyfalaf yn dod yn ôl yn sgil y tanwariant ar y Gemau Olympaidd. Yr wythnos hon, cadarnhaodd y Gweinidog Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth yn Llundain, Hugh Robertson, y gallai rhwng £100 miliwn a £150 miliwn ddod yn ôl o'r Gemau Olympaidd. Oni ddylai'r arian hwnnw fynd yn ôl i mewn i Sportlot er mwyn, er enghraifft, i'r cynllun chwaraeon gwych yn Aberystwyth allu gwneud cais da am arian cyfalaf ar gyfer trac rhedeg. A fyddwch yn brwydro i sicrhau, pan fydd yr arian hwn ar gael yn 2014, fel y cynigir, y bydd Cymru yn cael ei chyfran deg drwy Sportlot o'r cyllid cyfalaf hwn?

Huw Lewis: Mae hynny heb os nac oni bai. Byddwn yno, yn sicrhau bod Cymru yn cael ei chyfran deg o'r gwariant cyfalaf posibl hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, hyd y deallaf, byddwn yn rhybuddio na fydd £100 miliwn yn ymddangos yn sydyn yn 2014 o ganlyniad i'r ymrwymadau hyn gan Lywodraeth y DU ac y gall rhywfaint o'r arian a ragwelir drwy, er enghraifft, werthu asedau yn y parc Olympaidd gymryd llawer mwy o amser i'n cyrraedd. Mae eisoes yn wir, fodd bynnag, y dylai arian y loteri gael ei weld gan bob un ohonom, fel cynrychiolwyr ein cymunedau, fel rhywbeth y gallwn yn awr fanteisio arno i raddau mwy yng Nghymru fel rhan o fonws ôl-Olympaidd ar gyfer ein cymunedau.

our communities.

William Powell: Will the Minister please join me in congratulating Josie Pearson of Hay-on-Wye on securing an MBE following her gold medal for discus in the Paralympics, while setting a world record in her event? In doing so, can you please outline what steps you are willing to take to ensure that Wales has a fully inclusive sports participation programme, particularly in rural areas such as her native Hay-on-Wye, where access to additional equipment and support can sometimes be difficult?

William Powell: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ymuno â mi i longyfarch Josie Pearson o'r Gelli Gandryll ar sicrhau MBE yn dilyn ei medal aur am y ddisgen yn y Gemau Paralympaidd, tra'n torri record y byd yn ei champ? Wrth wneud hynny, a allech amlinellu pa gamau rydych yn fodlon eu cymryd er mwyn sicrhau bod gan Gymru raglen gwbl gynhwysol ar gyfer cymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd gwledig fel y Gelli Gandryll, lle mae'n gallu bod yn anodd weithiau cael gafael ar gyfarpar a chymorth ychwanegol?

Huw Lewis: I am happy to add my congratulations to Josie Pearson on her double honour, first in the sporting arena and then through her MBE. Sport Wales, working alongside the Welsh Government, has long since had in place a plan to take us through that Olympic period, through this hiatus period and on to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014. That plan is being implemented vigorously, and we expect successes like Josie's in the London Olympics to be replicated in Glasgow in just over a year's time.

Huw Lewis: Rwyf yn hapus i ychwanegu fy llongyfarchiadau i Josie Pearson ar ei hanrhydedd dwbl, ym maes chwaraeon yn gyntaf ac yna drwy ei MBE. Mae Chwaraeon Cymru, gan weithio ochr yn ochr â Llywodraeth Cymru, wedi hen feddu ar gynllun i'n tywys drwy'r cyfnod Olympaidd hwnnw, y bwlch hwn ac ymlaen i Gemau'r Gymanwlad yn Glasgow yn 2014. Mae'r cynllun hwnnw yn cael ei weithredu'n rymus, ac rydym yn disgwyl gweld llwyddiannau fel Josie yn y Gemau Olympaidd yn Llundain yn Glasgow mewn ychydig dros flwyddyn.

Cynllun Gwarant Morgais mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig

3. Kirsty Williams: *Sut y mae'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu hybu nifer y bobl sy'n defnyddio'r Cynllun Gwarant Morgais mewn ardaloedd gwledig. OAQ(4)0210(HRH)*

Huw Lewis: Promotion of the scheme will be led by the lenders and the builders, and we are impressing upon their representative organisations the need for coverage across the whole of Wales. The scheme is designed to be open to builders of any size, so smaller rural housing developments should be included.

Kirsty Williams: Thank you for that, Minister. Can you confirm when constituents such as mine in Brecon and Radnorshire might be able to avail themselves of such a scheme? There are many people in my constituency who could afford the monthly repayment of a mortgage, but are struggling to gather the resources for a down payment

Mortgage Guarantee Scheme in Rural Areas

3. Kirsty Williams: *How does the Minister plan to promote take up of the Mortgage Guarantee Scheme in Rural Areas. OAQ(4)0210(HRH)*

Huw Lewis: Bydd y gwaith o hyrwyddo'r cynllun yn cael ei arwain gan y benthycwyr a'r adeiladwyr, ac rydym yn pwysu ar y sefydliadau sy'n eu cynrychioli yr angen i gwmpasu Cymru gyfan. Mae'r cynllun wedi'i gynllunio i fod yn agored i adeiladwyr o unrhyw faint, felly dylai datblygiadau tai gwledig llai o faint gael eu cynnwys.

Kirsty Williams: Diolch am hynny, Weinidog. A allwch gadarnhau pryd y gallai etholwyr fel fy rhai i yn Aberhonddu a Sir Faesyfed fanteisio ar gynllun o'r fath? Mae llawer o bobl yn fy etholaeth a allai fforddio ad-daliad misol morgais, ond sy'n ei chael hi'n anodd dwyn ynghyd flaen-daliad ar gyfer tŷ. Gellid gwireddu eu dyhead i fod yn

for a house. They could be realising their aspirations of home ownership while freeing up much-needed rented accommodation, which is also scarce in my part of rural Wales. When will my constituents be able to apply for support under this scheme?

Huw Lewis: We are all anxious to see this scheme up and running, although I will reiterate that this is a market-led product and the Welsh Government's input is the financial guarantee that stands behind it. Builders and lenders will be responsible for its promotion. I will speak at a new-buy development event for those lenders and builders on 4 February, and I will give a number of key messages, the first and most important of which is that the Welsh Government wants to see the scheme launched as soon as possible.

Mark Isherwood: For the first two decades of my building society career, in fact until the madness of the early part of the last decade, mortgage guarantees were routinely offered, as you said, by mortgage lenders and housebuilders, but also by estate agents and authorised mortgage intermediaries, to any person expressing an interest in buying a house or applying for a mortgage who wished to borrow more than 70% or 75% of the loan-to-value ratio. I welcome your statement that you are engaging or have engaged with lenders over this. What actions have you taken to engage with the wider industry, so that all those who advise potential home purchasers through this process are able, as they were hitherto, to offer them advice on mortgage guarantee availability?

2.30 p.m.

Huw Lewis: All potential active partners have been a part of the conversation around the development of this scheme. It has not been a secretive process by any means. I would expect that conversation of partnership to continue through the launch and then the provision of the scheme.

Prynwyr Tro Cyntaf

berchen ar gartref tra'n rhyddhau llety rhent y mae ei ddirfawr angen, sydd hefyd yn brin yn fy rhan i o Gymru wledig. Pryd y bydd fy etholwyr yn gallu gwneud cais am gymorth o dan y cynllun hwn?

Huw Lewis: Rydym i gyd yn awyddus i weld y cynllun hwn ar waith, er y gwnaf ailadrodd mai cynnyrch a arweinir gan y farchnad yw hwn a mewnbwn Llywodraeth Cymru yw'r gwarant ariannol sy'n sail iddo. Adeiladwyr a benthycwyr a fydd yn gyfrifol am ei hyrwyddo. Byddaf yn siarad mewn digwyddiad datblygiadau newydd i'w prynu ar gyfer y benthycwyr a'r adeiladwyr hynny ar 4 Chwefror, gan gyflwyno nifer o negeseuon allweddol, a'r cyntaf a'r pwysicaf o'r rhain yw bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn awyddus i weld y cynllun yn cael ei lansio cyn gynted â phosibl.

Mark Isherwood: Yn ystod dau ddegawd cyntaf fy ngyrfa cymdeithas adeiladu, yn wir hyd nes gwallgofrwydd rhan gyntaf y degawd diwethaf, roedd gwarantau morgeisi yn cael eu cynnig fel mater o drefn, fel y dywedaso, gan fenthycwyr morgeisi ac adeiladwyr tai, ond hefyd gan werthwyr tai a chyfryngwyr morgeisi awdurdodedig, i unrhyw un a fynegai diddordeb mewn prynu tŷ neu wneud cais am forgais a oedd yn dymuno benthycu mwy na 70% neu 75% o'r gymhareb benthyciad-i-werth. Croesawaf eich datganiad eich bod yn ymgysylltu neu wedi ymgysylltu â benthycwyr ynghylch hyn. Pa gamau rydych wedi'u cymryd i ymgysylltu â'r diwydiant yn ehangach, fel bod pawb sy'n cynghori darpar brynwyr tai drwy'r broses hon yn gallu, fel o'r blaen, gynnig cyngor iddynt ar argaeledd gwarant morgais?

2.30 p.m.

Huw Lewis: Mae'r holl bartneriaid gweithredol posibl wedi bod yn rhan o'r sgwrs ynghylch datblygu'r cynllun hwn. Nid yw wedi bod yn broses gyfrinachgar mewn unrhyw fodd. Byddwn yn disgwyl i'r sgwrs honno o bartneriaeth barhau wrth lansio ac yna ddarparu'r cynllun.

First-time Buyers

4. Peter Black: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn helpu prynwyr tro cyntaf i brynu ty. OAQ(4)0205(HRH)*

Huw Lewis: The Welsh Government continues to support the shared equity homebuy scheme that is aimed at first-time buyers. Our intermediate rent scheme, Rent First, also allows for a home-ownership option. We are committed to introducing a mortgage guarantee scheme, as we have heard, which will reduce the requirement of a substantial upfront deposit for around 3,000 Welsh households.

Peter Black: Thank you for that answer, Minister. You gave the impression in your response to Kirsty Williams that the mortgage guarantee scheme is all but ready to go. You said that the scheme had been designed to be market-led, and that you were hoping to give more details on 4 February. Could you let us have those details, so that we can assess the quality of the scheme, as well as giving us an indication as to when you are likely to launch it?

Huw Lewis: I can only reiterate my answer to Kirsty Williams. We have always indicated that the scheme would be up, running and active in the spring of this year. There is no reason to suppose that there will be any need to modify that commitment.

Peter Black: Thank you for that answer, Minister. However, you have not answered my question. Will you give us details of that scheme, which you tell us has now been fully designed? Will you be more concrete in terms of when in the spring you plan to launch it? Are you talking about the beginning of spring, or are you talking about nearer to the start of the summer?

Huw Lewis: No, and as soon as possible.

Mark Isherwood: The Council of Mortgage Lenders' report, which was published last June, found that 81% of adults hope to be home owners, with aspirations much higher than the current home ownership levels

4. Peter Black: *Will the Minister make a statement on how the Welsh Government is helping first-time buyers get on the housing ladder. OAQ(4)0205(HRH)*

Huw Lewis: Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn parhau i gefnogi'r cynllun cymorth prynu ecwiti a rennir sy'n cael ei anelu at brynwyr tro cyntaf. Mae ein cynllun rhent canolradd, Rhent Gyntaf, hefyd yn caniatáu opsiwn perchentyaeth. Rydym yn ymrwymedig i gyflwyno cynllun gwarant morgais, fel y clywsom, a fydd yn lleihau'r gofyniad am flaendal sylweddol ar gyfer tua 3,000 o gartrefi yng Nghymru.

Peter Black: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Yn eich ymateb i Kirsty Williams rhoesoch yr argraff bod y cynllun gwarant morgais yn barod i'w roi ar waith fwy neu lai. Dywedasoch fod y cynllun wedi cael ei gynllunio i gael ei arwain gan y farchnad, a'ch bod yn gobeithio rhoi mwy o fanylion ar 4 Chwefror. A allech roi'r manylion hynny i ni, fel y gallwn asesu ansawdd y cynllun, yn ogystal â rhoi syniad i ni o ran pryd rydych yn debygol o'i lansio?

Huw Lewis: Ni allaf ond ailadrodd fy ateb i Kirsty Williams. Rydym bob amser wedi dynodi y byddai'r cynllun ar waith yn ystod gwanwyn eleni. Nid oes unrhyw reswm i dybio y bydd angen addasu'r ymrwymiad hwnnw.

Peter Black: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Fodd bynnag, nid ydych wedi ateb fy nghwestiwn. A wnewch chi roi manylion y cynllun hwnnw, yr ydych yn dweud wrthym ei fod bellach wedi cael ei gynllunio'n llawn? A wnewch chi fod yn fwy pendant o ran pryd yn y gwanwyn yr ydych yn bwriadu ei lansio? A ydych yn siarad am ddechrau'r gwanwyn, neu a ydych yn siarad am yn nes at ddechrau'r haf?

Huw Lewis: Na, a chyn gynted ag y bo modd.

Mark Isherwood: Nododd adroddiad Cyngor y Benthycwyr Morgeisi, a gyhoeddwyd fis Mehefin diwethaf, fod 81% o oedolion yn gobeithio bod yn berchen ar gartref, gyda dyheadau'n llawer uwch na'r

among the under-35s. The UK Government has made funding available for 26,500 first-time purchasers under its First Buy scheme, in addition to a mortgage guarantee scheme that reaches proportionally more people in Wales, alongside its separate intermediate rent scheme. Last year, only 33 people in Wales were able to purchase a property with support from the Welsh Government homebuy scheme. What, if any, role do you see for an equivalent scheme to be rolled out in Wales, hopefully to reach proportionally as many people?

Huw Lewis: The Member is right to say that we are still in a situation where many people aspire to own their own home. However, those aspirations are being put further and further out of reach as a result of the UK Government's policies and the mortgage lenders'—namely the banks—refusal to bring down the level of deposits that people now have to face, which may be as much as 25%. It is true to say that the UK Government has schemes that are similar, or parallel, to the ones that we are either running or hope to launch soon. However, it is extraordinarily difficult to get any kind of concrete figures from across the border about exactly how well they are doing. When it comes to the UK Government's scheme for mortgage guarantees, for instance, we were unable, at this point in time, to get any kind of concrete figure about the number of purchases that this scheme has enabled from the UK Government. It seems at present to be somewhat shrouded in mystery. Given that situation, we will carry on in Wales to do the best that we can in terms of tailor-made support for home purchase in Wales.

Mark Isherwood: The First Buy scheme in England directly addresses that loan-to-value issue that you highlight. The Council of Mortgage Lenders might be the people to ask for those figures, to which it regularly refers in the bulletins that I am copied in on, and, I would like to think, that you are. However, moving on, the European Commission has identified that the main driver for affordability is house prices, which is a matter of supply and demand. In that context, housebuilding in Wales is at its lowest levels

lefelau presennol o berchentyaeth ymysg pobl dan 35 oed. Mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi darparu cyllid ar gyfer 26,500 o brynwyr tro cyntaf o dan ei gynllun Prynu Gyntaf, yn ogystal â chynllun gwarant morgais sy'n cyrraedd mwy o bobl yng Nghymru ar gyfartaledd, ochr yn ochr â'i chynllun rhent canolradd ar wahân. Y llynedd, dim ond 33 o bobl yng Nghymru a lwyddodd i brynu eiddo gyda chymorth cynllun cymorth prynu Llywodraeth Cymru. Pa fath o rôl, os o gwbl, a welwch i gyflwyno cynllun cyfatebol yng Nghymru, gan obeithio cyrraedd cynifer o bobl ar gyfartaledd?

Huw Lewis: Mae'r Aelod yn iawn i ddweud ein bod yn dal mewn sefyllfa lle mae llawer o bobl yn dyheu i fod yn berchen ar eu cartref eu hunain. Fodd bynnag, mae'r dyheadau hynny yn mynd fwyfwy allan o gyrraedd o ganlyniad i bolisiâu Llywodraeth y DU a'r benthycwyr morgeisi—sef y banciau—yn gwrthod gostwng lefel y blaendal y mae pobl yn awr yn ei hwynebu, a all fod mor uchel â 25%. Mae'n wir dweud bod gan Lywodraeth y DU gynlluniau sy'n debyg, neu'n gyfochrog, i'r rhai yr ydym ninnau naill ai'n eu rhedeg neu'n gobeithio eu lansio cyn bo hir. Fodd bynnag, mae'n anodd tu hwnt cael unrhyw fath o ffigurau pendant ar draws y ffin ynghylch pa mor dda y maent yn ei wneud mewn gwirionedd. O ran cynllun Llywodraeth y DU ar gyfer gwarantau morgeisi, er enghraifft, ni allem, ar hyn o bryd, gael unrhyw fath o ffigur pendant ynghylch sawl cartref y bu modd eu prynu o dan gynllun Llywodraeth y DU. Mae'n ymddangos yn ddirgelwch ar hyn o bryd. O ystyried y sefyllfa honno, byddwn yn parhau yng Nghymru i wneud ein gorau glas o ran teilwra cymorth i brynu cartref yng Nghymru.

Mark Isherwood: Mae'r cynllun First Buy yn Lloegr yn ymwneud yn uniongyrchol â'r mater benthyciad-i-werth hwnnw yr ydych yn ei amlygu. Efallai mai Cyngor y Benthycwyr Morgeisi a allai roi'r ffigurau hynny, y mae'n cyfeirio atynt yn gyson yn y bwletinâu yr wyf yn cael fy nghopio i mewn iddynt, a chithau hefyd, gobeithio. Fodd bynnag, gan symud ymlaen, mae'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd wedi nodi mai'r prif ffactor o ran fforddiadwyedd yw prisiau tai, sy'n fater o gyflenwad a galw. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, mae adeiladu tai

since the 1920s. What dialogue are you therefore having with the construction sector to address the barriers to development that it is identifying, and also regarding the provision by the UK Government of guarantees for £10 billion of loans for developers and the extent to which that may apply to developers working in Wales?

Huw Lewis: The Welsh Government, as the Member well knows, cannot control the mortgage finance market; it is not something that is within our devolved competence. I disagree with him on one of the fundamentals: one of the greatest barriers to forward movement in this area is the refusal of banks, which have, in large part, been bailed out by taxpayers, to lend to taxpayers so that they can aspire to owning their own home under any kind of reasonable terms and conditions. It is that deposit barrier in particular that aspiring home owners face that is the critical problem, and it is stifling the market and imposing a downward pressure on house building.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Rwy'n cael tipyn bach o drafferth i ddeall yn union beth yw rôl y Llywodraeth bellach yn y cynllun yr oedd Kirsty Williams a Peter Black yn cyfeirio ato o ran y warrant morgais. Yn eich datganiad ym mis Tachwedd, fe ddwedoch chi eich bod yn neilltuo £27 miliwn i gefnogi'r cynllun, sy'n awgrymu bod gennych chi rôl eithaf allweddol ynddo. Fe ddywedoch chi hefyd yn eich datganiad ym mis Tachwedd fod y cynllun hwn yn bodoli mewn ardaloedd lle mae pwysau oherwydd prinder tai. Pryd fyddwch yn rhyddhau gwybodaeth ynglŷn â lle yn union y bydd yr ardaloedd hyn, ac a allwch chi gadarnhau y bydd Ynys Môn yn un ohonyn nhw?

Huw Lewis: Yes, of course, Anglesey will be one of them. No part of Wales will be excluded from the coverage of the scheme. The Welsh Government's role here, let us be clear, is as a financial guarantor. That is our role. The scheme itself will be promoted, run and led by the market—the lenders and the housebuilders. I cannot be clearer than that.

yng Nghymru ar ei lefel isaf ers y 1920au. Pa ddeialog rydych yn ei gael felly gyda'r sector adeiladu i fynd i'r afael â'r rhwystrau i ddatblygu y mae'n eu nodi, a hefyd ynghylch y ddarpariaeth gan Lywodraeth y DU o warantau am £10 biliwn o fenthyciadau ar gyfer datblygwyr ac i ba raddau y gall hynny fod yn gymwys i ddatblygwyr sy'n gweithio yng Nghymru?

Huw Lewis: Ni all Llywodraeth Cymru, fel y mae'r Aelod yn gwybod yn iawn, reoli'r farchnad cyllid morgais; nid yw'n rhywbeth sydd o fewn ein cymhwysedd datganoledig. Anghytunaf ag ef ynghylch un o'r materion sylfaenol: un o'r rhwystrau mwyaf i symud ymlaen yn y maes hwn yw'r ffaith bod banciau, sydd wedi cael eu hachub gan drethdalwyr i raddau helaeth, yn gwrthod benthycu arian i drethdalwyr fel y gallant anelu at berchen eu cartrefi eu hunain o dan unrhyw fath o delerau ac amodau rhesymol. Y rhwystr hwnnw o ran blaendal yn arbennig a wynebir gan ddarpar berchenogion tai yw'r broblem allweddol, ac mae'n llesteirio'r farchnad ac yn rhoi pwysau am i lawr ar adeiladu tai.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I am having some difficulty in understanding the role of the Government in the scheme that Kirsty Williams and Peter Black alluded to with the mortgage guarantee. In your statement in November, you said that you are allocating £27 million to support this scheme, which suggests that you have quite a key role in that scheme. You have also stated in your statement of November that this scheme exists in areas where there is pressure due to housing shortages. When will you release information about exactly where those areas are, and can you confirm that Anglesey will be one of them?

Huw Lewis: Gallaf, wrth gwrs, bydd Ynys Môn yn un ohonynt. Bydd pob rhan o Gymru yn cael ei chwmpasu gan y cynllun. Rôl Llywodraeth Cymru yma, gadewch inni fod yn glir, yw gwarantwr ariannol. Dyna yw ein rôl. Bydd y cynllun ei hun yn cael ei hyrwyddo, ei redeg a'i arwain gan y farchnad—y benthycwyr a'r adeiladwyr tai. Ni allaf fod yn gliriach na hynny.

Pobl Ifanc a Chwaraeon**Young People and Sport**

5. Vaughan Gething: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am nifer y bobl ifanc o dan 16 oed yng Nghymru sy'n cymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon. OAQ(4)0206(HRH)*

5. Vaughan Gething: *Will the Minister make a statement on the take up of sport amongst people under the age of 16 in Wales. OAQ(4)0206(HRH)*

Huw Lewis: The Welsh Government supports a range of programmes that aim to encourage young people to participate in sport. For example, Sport Wales reports that, in 2011-12, more than 400,000 young people took part in its Dragon Sport and 5x60 programmes.

Huw Lewis: Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cefnogi amrywiaeth o raglenni sydd â'r nod o annog pobl ifanc i gymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon. Er enghraifft, yn ôl Chwaraeon Cymru, yn 2011-12, cymerodd dros 400,000 o bobl ifanc ran yn rhaglenni Campau'r Ddraig a 5x60.

Vaughan Gething: Thank you for that response, Minister. You have already referred to the great summer of sport, which of course took in more than just the Olympics and rekindled the interest of many people in sporting opportunities across Wales. However, we know that those opportunities are not evenly or fairly spread across Wales. Cardiff Council has recently taken steps to help lessen the cost of sport for younger people by scrapping pitch fees for under-12 sporting teams. However, there still appears to be a lack of a determined, joined-up approach to improve that access. What discussions have you had with sporting bodies across Wales on their work to make access to sporting opportunities a reality, especially in our less wealthy communities?

Vaughan Gething: Diolch am yr ymateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Rydych eisoes wedi cyfeirio at yr haf arbennig o chwaraeon, a oedd, wrth gwrs, yn cynnwys mwy na dim ond y Gemau Olympaidd ac ailennyn diddordeb llawer o bobl mewn cyfleoedd chwaraeon ledled Cymru. Fodd bynnag, gwyddom nad yw'r cyfleoedd hynny yn cael eu rhannu'n gyfartal nac yn deg ledled Cymru. Yn ddiweddar, mae Cyngor Caerdydd wedi cymryd camau i helpu i leihau cost chwaraeon i bobl iau drwy gael gwared ar ffioedd lleiniau ar gyfer timau chwaraeon plant dan 12. Fodd bynnag, ymddengys o hyd nad oes ffordd bendant, gydgysylltiedig o weithredu er mwyn gwella mynediad. Pa drafodaethau rydych wedi'u cynnal gyda chyrff chwaraeon ledled Cymru ar eu gwaith i sicrhau bod pawb yn gallu cymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon, yn enwedig yn ein cymunedau llai cyfoethog?

Huw Lewis: Local authorities and other bodies have a key role here. I have had discussions with Sport Wales and highlighted that making sport accessible to those living in our less wealthy communities is critically important. I want every young person, irrespective of their personal circumstances, to have opportunities to participate in sport. Last year, I launched the Sport Wales community sport strategy, which is supported by funding of £9 million over three years. This will be complemented by Sport Wales's child poverty strategy, which I signed off not so long ago. Sport Wales has been running a targeted campaign in seven local authorities across Wales, which include some with high deprivation levels, including Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Merthyr, and that has proved

Huw Lewis: Mae gan awdurdodau lleol a chyrff eraill rôl allweddol i'w chwarae yma. Rwyf wedi cynnal trafodaethau â Chwaraeon Cymru a thanlinellu'r ffaith bod gwneud chwaraeon yn hygyrch i'r rhai sy'n byw yn ein cymunedau llai cefnog yn hanfodol bwysig. Rwyf am i bob person ifanc, ni waeth beth fo'i amgylchiadau personol, gael y cyfle i gymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon. Y llynedd, lansiâs strategaeth chwaraeon cymunedol Chwaraeon Cymru, a gefnogir gan £9 miliwn dros dair blynedd. Fe'i hategir gan strategaeth tlodi plant Chwaraeon Cymru, a gymeradwywyd gennyf yn ddiweddar. Mae Chwaraeon Cymru wedi bod yn rhedeg ymgyrch wedi'i thargedu mewn saith awdurdod lleol ledled Cymru, sy'n cynnwys rhai â lefelau uchel o amddifadedd,

successful, with an increase in the number of grant applications received and awards being offered to local sporting groups. As you say, we must maintain the momentum that we have inherited as a result of London 2012. Now the hard graft happens, and I believe that we are maintaining that momentum here in Wales through a self-evidently successful elite sport strategy at one end and a very active community sports strategy at the other.

Mohammad Asghar: Last year's Olympic Games in London were hugely successful, with Welsh athletes winning a record number of medals. To build on that legacy, the chair of Sport Wales has called for an increase in the number of hours in which children take part in sports in schools. What discussions has the Welsh Government held with schools and other organisations on increasing the participation of children in sports in Wales?

Huw Lewis: Our statistical measures of physical activity among children are continuing to show good improvement, but more work needs to be undertaken, which is why I have set up the school and physical activity task and finish group under the chairmanship of Tanni Grey-Thompson, which we are highlighting jointly with the Minister for Education and Skills. I hope that that highlights our commitment to making physical literacy in schools as important as reading and writing. We are looking forward to receiving the group's recommendations later on this year, in the summer period.

Bethan Jenkins: Mae'r ffaith nad yw merched ifanc mewn ysgolion yn cymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon yn parhau i fod yn broblem. Mae hynny'n digwydd am nifer fawr o resymau sy'n cynnwys diffyg hyder a'r ffaith nad ydynt o bosibl am gymryd rhan yn y math o chwaraeon sydd ar gael iddynt yn yr ysgol. Pa fath o waith y bydd y grŵp gorchwyl hwn yn ei wneud yng nghyd-destun edrych ar ferched ifanc a menywod yn benodol wrth geisio annog mwy ohonynt i

gan gynnwys Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen a Merthyr, ac sydd wedi bod yn llwyddiannus, gyda chynnydd yn nifer y ceisiadau grant a gafwyd a dyfarniadau a gynigiwyd i grwpiau chwaraeon lleol. Fel y dywedwch, mae'n rhaid i ni gynnal y momentwm yr ydym wedi'i etifeddu o ganlyniad i Lundain 2012. Nawr mae'r gwaith caled yn digwydd, a chredaf ein bod yn cynnal y momentwm hwnnw yma yng Nghymru ar ffurf strategaeth chwaraeon elit sy'n amlwg yn llwyddiannus ar un pen a strategaeth chwaraeon cymunedol weithredol iawn ar y pen arall.

Mohammad Asghar: Roedd Gemau Olympaidd y llynedd yn Llundain yn hynod lwyddiannus, gydag athletwyr o Gymru yn ennill y nifer fwyaf erioed o fedalau. Er mwyn adeiladu ar yr etifeddiaeth honno, mae cadeirydd Chwaraeon Cymru wedi galw am gynyddu nifer yr oriau y mae plant yn cymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon mewn ysgolion. Pa drafodaethau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi eu cynnal gydag ysgolion a sefydliadau eraill ar gynyddu cyfranogiad plant mewn chwaraeon yng Nghymru?

Huw Lewis: Mae ein mesurau ystadegol o weithgarwch corfforol ymhlith plant yn parhau i ddangos gwelliant da, ond mae angen gwneud mwy o waith, a dyna pam rwyf wedi sefydlu'r grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen ysgolion a gweithgarwch corfforol o dan gadeiryddiaeth Tanni Grey-Thompson, yr ydym yn tynnu sylw ato ar y cyd â'r Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau. Gobeithio bod hynny'n tanlinellu ein hymrwymiad i wneud llythrennedd corfforol mewn ysgolion mor bwysig â darllen ac ysgrifennu. Rydym yn edrych ymlaen at weld argymhellion y grŵp yn ddiweddarach eleni, yn ystod yr haf.

Bethan Jenkins: The fact that young girls in schools do not participate in sport is still a great problem. That happens for a number of reasons, perhaps because of issues of confidence or because they do not want to participate in the types of sports that are available to them at school. What sort of work will this task and finish group be doing in the context of looking specifically at women in order to encourage more participation in sport?

gymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon?

Huw Lewis: I am absolutely confident that under the chairmanship of Tanni Grey-Thompson, the issue of women's and girls' participation in sport will be near the top of the agenda when it comes to the recommendations and insights that we will benefit from as a result of the task and finish group's work.

We have travelled a long road when it comes to the participation levels of women and girls in many sports. It was revelatory for me this week to read Nicole Cooke's retirement statement at the end of an extraordinarily successful career for that Welsh cyclist. Within that period of 10 to 15 years, when she matured as an athlete, the change in attitudes in cycling towards the participation of women and girls was rapid and marked. I know that that has not been the case in other sports. I know that we still have a great deal of ground to cover, but this remains a very high priority for me, for the Welsh Government and for Sport Wales.

Eluned Parrott: I am so pleased to hear you agree that we need to capture the enthusiasm of young people when they are still children if we want to encourage them to have a lifelong interest in sport and a healthy lifestyle. So, will you join me in regretting the potential loss of the paddling pool in Ynysangharad park in Pontypridd, where generations of local people have learnt to swim for free as children, in the development of a paid-for facility, despite 93% of local residents voting against the proposal in a community referendum?

Huw Lewis: I can recall spending many hours as a very young child paddling in the paddling pool in Ynysangharad park while simultaneously being half drowned by my older sister and simultaneously trying to drown my younger brother. The paddling pool at Ynysangharad park is a matter for the local authority, which has resolved several difficulties in terms of questions over listed status and so on with Cadw. This is a well-loved and extraordinarily well-used facility that the people of the southern Valleys, and

Huw Lewis: Rwy'n gwbl hyderus, o dan gadeiryddiaeth Tanni Grey-Thompson, y bydd y mater o gyfranogiad menywod a merched mewn chwaraeon yn agos at frig yr agenda o ran yr argymhellion a'r ddealltwriaeth y byddwn yn elwa arnynt o ganlyniad i waith y grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen.

Rydym wedi gwneud cryn gynnydd mewn perthynas â lefelau cyfranogi menywod a merched mewn chwaraeon. Roedd yn agoriad llygad i mi yr wythnos hon ddarllen datganiad ymddeol Nicole Cooke ar ddiwedd gyrfya hynod lwyddiannus i'r beiciwr o Gymru. O fewn y cyfnod hwnnw o 10 i 15 mlynedd, pan aeddfedodd fel athletwr, bu'r newid agwedd mewn beicio tuag at gyfranogiad menywod a merched yn gyflym ac yn amlwg. Gwn nad dyna fu'r achos mewn chwaraeon eraill. Gwn fod gennym lawer iawn o waith i'w wneud o hyd, ond mae hyn yn parhau i fod yn flaenoriaeth uchel iawn i mi, i Lywodraeth Cymru ac i Chwaraeon Cymru.

Eluned Parrott: Rwyf mor falch eich clywed yn cytuno bod angen i ni hoelio brwdfrydedd pobl ifanc pan maent yn dal yn blant os ydym am eu hannog i ymddiddori mewn chwaraeon a ffordd o fyw iach gydol eu hoes. Felly, a wnewch chi ymuno â mi ac edifarhau'r posibilrwydd o golli'r pwll padlo ym Mharc Ynysangharad ym Mhontypridd, lle mae cenedlaethau o bobl leol wedi dysgu nofio am ddim fel plant, wrth ddatblygu cyfleuster y telir amdano, er gwaethaf y ffaith bod 93% o drigolion lleol wedi pleidleisio yn erbyn y cynnig mewn refferendwm cymunedol?

Huw Lewis: Gallaf gofio treulio oriau lawer fel plentyn bach iawn yn padlo yn y pwll padlo ym Mharc Ynysangharad tra'n cael fy hanner boddi gan fy chwaer hŷn ac ar yr un pryd yn ceisio boddi fy mrawd iau. Mae'r pwll padlo ym Mharc Ynysangharad yn fater i'r awdurdod lleol, sydd wedi datrys sawl anhawster o ran cwestiynau ynghylch statws rhestredig ac ati gyda Cadw. Mae hwn yn gyfleuster hynod boblogaidd, uchel ei fri y mae pobl Cymoedd y de, ac nid dim ond o Rionda Cynon Taf, wedi ei fwynhau am

not just of Rhondda Cynon Taf, have enjoyed for a very long time. I hope that all of those involved will show goodwill, and remember that when it comes to the decision making on the future of the paddling pool.

The Presiding Officer: Question 6, OAQ(4)0200(HRH), has been withdrawn.

Adeiladau Rhestredig

7. Rhodri Glyn Thomas: *A wnaiiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am weithdrefnau newid defnydd Cadw ar gyfer Adeiladau Rhestredig. OAQ(4)0208(HRH)*

Huw Lewis: Local planning authorities are responsible for the regulatory controls to change the use of a building. Where any such change involves alterations that affect the character of a listed building, those works will, firstly, require listed building consent from the local planning authority.

2.45 p.m.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Weinidog, bu newid agwedd gan Cadw tuag at newid defnydd ac addasu adeiladau sydd wedi'u rhestru. Yn aml, fel yr ydych yn awgrymu yn eich ateb, mae'r broblem yn codi yn y broses o gael y caniatâd gan lywodraeth leol. Rydym yn wynebu sefyllfa gyda chapeli o bob enwad yng Nghymru, lle mae lluh ohonynt yn llawer rhy fawr, nid ydynt at ddefnydd cynulleidfaoedd, mae'r cynulleidfaoedd wedi lleihau, ac mae angen eu gwerthu. A wnewch chi ymdrech gyda chynrychiolwyr yr enwadau i sicrhau bod y broses hon yn cael ei symleiddio a'i hwyluso ac nad yw'n cymryd, nid misoedd, ond blynnyddoedd i'w chwblhau, er mwyn sicrhau bod yr adeiladau hyn, sy'n aml yn beryglus, yn gallu cael eu gwerthu a bod y defnydd ohonynt yn gallu cael ei newid?

Huw Lewis: The Member is correct to highlight this as a matter that is pressing and very important. I hope that by 'changing attitudes within Cadw', Rhodri Glyn is referring to a positive change in attitude within Cadw, which is what I took him to mean. I think the word 'pragmatism' is at the centre of everything that we need to consider

amser hir iawn. Gobeithiaf y bydd pawb dan sylw yn dangos ewylllys da, ac yn cofio hynny wrth wneud penderfyniadau ar ddyfodol y pwll padlo.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 6, OAQ(4)0200(HRH), yn ôl.

Listed Buildings

7. Rhodri Glyn Thomas: *Will the Minister make a statement on Cadw's change of use procedures for Listed Buildings. OAQ(4)0208(HRH)*

Huw Lewis: Awdurdodau cynllunio lleol sy'n gyfrifol am y rheolaethau rheoliadol i newid defnydd adeilad. Pan fydd unrhyw newid o'r fath yn cynnwys addasiadau sy'n effeithio ar gymeriad adeilad rhestredig, bydd y gwaith hwnnw yn gofyn yn gyntaf am ganiatâd adeilad rhestredig gan yr awdurdod cynllunio lleol.

2.45 p.m.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Minister, there has been a change of attitude in Cadw towards the change of use procedures and the adaptation of listed buildings. Very often, as you suggested in your response, the problem arises in the process of seeking consent from local government. We are facing a situation with chapels of all denominations in Wales, where there are many of them that are far too large, they are not being used by audiences, the congregations have reduced in size, and they need to be sold. Will you make an effort with representatives of the denominations to ensure that this process is simplified and facilitated and that it does not take, not months, but years to complete this process, to ensure that these buildings, which are often dangerous, can be sold and that their use can be changed?

Huw Lewis: Mae'r Aelod yn gywir i dynnu sylw at hyn fel mater sy'n pwyso ac yn bwysig iawn. Rwy'n gobeithio bod Rhodri Glyn, wrth sôn am 'newid agwedd gan Cadw', yn cyfeirio at newid cadarnhaol mewn agwedd gan Cadw, sef yr hyn yr oeddwn yn credu ei fod yn ei olygu. Credaf fod y gair 'pragmatiaeth' wrth wraidd popeth

when it comes to change of use. The very best examples of best practice, such as the Baptist chapel at Hanbury Road in Bargoed, show an enormous amount of imagination combined with a pragmatic attitude towards changes of use. In that instance, it means a shared use with a congregation that continues to use the building.

I can tell the Member that a meeting took place with the umbrella group Faith in Affordable Housing on 4 October last year to explore joint working options between the Welsh Government and the faith communities. Opportunities were identified to work together, particularly in relation to a conference that Faith in Affordable Housing wishes to host in Cardiff. It will be the first one in Wales and will take place on 26 April this year. I will be attending. For all of us who see this as a priority, this could be a very important gathering. It aims to bring together some of the key players in this area. We need to explore those potential barriers that the Member has mentioned, work towards identifying solutions and ensure that there is an ongoing structure for discussion between the Welsh Government, the church communities and other partners to remove obstacles from the way of ensuring that we can retain these fantastic buildings with quite often a change of use, but with a sense of pragmatic practicality, also.

Suzy Davies: Thank you for that answer, Minister. It goes some way towards answering my question. As you know, I am pleased that you envisaged the building of an alliance of voluntary and community organisations to take a role in promoting and protecting local heritage. With their focus on buildings of local importance, change of use is something they will inevitably have to consider. Have you had any discussion with the Minister for the environment on whether the change of use rules need further modernisation, so that it will be easier for such groups to secure permission and ensure that the heritage integrity of any such buildings are preserved?

Huw Lewis: The Member will be aware that we have undertaken a large consultation

y mae angen i ni ei ystyried mewn perthynas â newid defnydd. Mae'r enghreifftiau gorau o arfer gorau, fel capel y Bedyddwyr yn Hanbury Road ym Margoed, yn dangos llawer iawn o ddychymyg ynghyd ag agwedd bragmatig tuag at newid defnydd. Yn yr achos hwnnw, mae'n golygu rhannu defnydd â chynulleidfa sy'n parhau i ddefnyddio'r adeilad.

Gallaf hysbysu'r Aelod y cynhaliwyd cyfarfod gyda'r grŵp mantell Ffydd mewn Tai Fforddiadwy ar 4 Hydref y llynedd i ystyried opsiynau cydweithio rhwng Llywodraeth Cymru a'r cymunedau ffydd. Nodwyd cyfleoedd i gydweithio, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â chynhadledd y mae Ffydd mewn Tai Fforddiadwy am ei chynnal yng Nghaerdydd. Hon fydd y cyntaf yng Nghymru a bydd yn digwydd ar 26 Ebrill eleni. Byddaf yno. I bob un ohonom sy'n ystyried hyn yn flaenoriaeth, gallai fod yn ddigwyddiad pwysig iawn. Ei nod yw dwyn ynghyd rai o'r chwaraewyr allweddol yn y maes hwn. Mae angen i ni edrych ar y rhwystrau posibl hynny y mae'r Aelod wedi'u crybwyll, gweithio tuag at nodi atebion a sicrhau bod strwythur parhaus ar gyfer cynnal trafodaeth rhwng Llywodraeth Cymru, y cymunedau eglwysig a phartneriaid eraill er mwyn dileu rhwystrau o ran sicrhau y gallwn gadw'r adeiladau gwych hyn drwy newid defnydd yn aml ddigon, ond gydag ymdeimlad o ymarferoldeb pragmatig, hefyd.

Suzy Davies: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Mae'n llwyddo i ateb fy nghwestiwn i ryw raddau. Fel y gwyrddoch, rwy'n falch eich bod wedi rhagweld creu cynghrair o fudiadau gwirfoddol a chymunedol i chwarae rhan yn y gwaith o hyrwyddo a diogelu treftadaeth leol. Gyda'u ffocws ar adeiladau o bwysigrwydd lleol, mae newid defnydd yn rhywbeth y bydd yn rhaid iddynt ei ystyried yn anochel. A ydych wedi cynnal unrhyw drafodaeth â'r Gweinidog Amgylchedd ynghylch a oes angen i'r rheolau newid gael eu moderneiddio ymhellach, fel y bydd yn haws i grwpiau o'r fath gael caniatâd a sicrhau bod cyfanrwydd treftadaeth unrhyw adeiladau o'r fath yn parhau?

Huw Lewis: Bydd yr Aelod yn ymwybodol inni gynnal ymgynghoriad mawr yn y cyfnod

exercise in the run-up to the White Paper for the heritage Bill, which will be published this spring. I am not aware—although I have not had a detailed look at the consultation responses to that process—of a demand for a root-and-branch change of regulations as regards change of use. I will stand corrected if, when I go through the responses, there are reams of such requests. I will write to the Member as soon as we have an analysis of the White Paper consultation responses. I would welcome your input on whether you still think those regulatory changes are a live issue.

Blaenoriaethau

8. *Mohammad Asghar:* *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei flaenoriaethau portffolio ar gyfer 2013. OAQ(4)0197(HRH)*

Huw Lewis: I remain committed to delivering the elements of the programme for government set out in my portfolio. These include: ensuring that people of all ages have opportunities to participate in sport; encouraging wider access to high-quality arts for all; and the introduction of housing and heritage Bills, and the implementation of a new regeneration framework.

Mohammad Asghar: Thank you very much for the reply, Minister. Wales has a rich religious heritage, with many historic churches and chapels dating back centuries. Will the Minister commit to protecting and preserving these sites, and does he agree that our historic churches and chapels could become as big a tourist attraction to Wales as our castles, if given proper marketing? What is his department doing to improve Wales's image abroad, with these historical sites?

Huw Lewis: I will commit to a great deal of energetic, hard work in terms of making sure that partners are brought together. As I mentioned, the Faith in Affordable Housing conference is coming to Wales for the first time, due in large part to the work of the Welsh Government, which has made it clear that we regard the future of our churches and chapels to be of key importance as a Government priority. We now need to engage with this agenda and work together with

yn arwain at y Papur Gwyn ar gyfer y Bil treftadaeth, a gyhoeddir yn y gwanwyn. Nid wyf yn ymwybodol—er nad wyf wedi edrych yn fanwl ar yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad ar y broses honno—o alw am newid gwraidd a bôn i reoliadau o ran newid defnydd. Byddaf yn syrthio ar fy mai os gwelaf, wrth fynd drwy'r ymatebion, sawl cais o'r fath. Byddaf yn ysgrifennu at yr Aelod cyn gynted ag y byddwn wedi dadansoddi'r ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad ar y Papur Gwyn. Byddwn yn croesawu eich mewnbwn ynghylch a ydych yn dal o'r farn bod y newidiadau rheoleiddiol yn fater cyfredol.

Priorities

8. *Mohammad Asghar:* *Will the Minister make a statement on his portfolio priorities for 2013. OAQ(4)0197(HRH)*

Huw Lewis: Rwy'n parhau'n ymrwymedig i gyflawni'r elfennau o'r rhaglen lywodraethu a nodir yn fy mhortffolio. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys: sicrhau bod pobl o bob oedran yn cael cyfle i gymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon; annog mynediad ehangach i gelfyddydau o ansawdd uchel i bawb; a chyflwyno Biliau tai a threftadaeth, a gweithredu fframwaith adfywio newydd.

Mohammad Asghar: Diolch yn fawr iawn am yr ateb, Weinidog. Mae gan Gymru dreftadaeth grefyddol gyfoethog, gyda llawer o eglwysi a chapeli hanesyddol sy'n dyddio'n ôl ganrifoedd. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ymrwymo i ddiogelu a gwarchod y safleoedd hyn, ac a yw'n cytuno y gallai ein heglwysi a'n capeli hanesyddol fod yn atyniad ymwelwyr mor bwysig â chestyll i Gymru, os caiff hynny ei farchnata'n briodol? Beth mae ei adran yn ei wneud i wella delwedd Cymru dramor, gyda'r safleoedd hanesyddol hyn?

Huw Lewis: Ymrwymaf i lawer iawn o waith caled, egnïol o ran sicrhau bod partneriaid yn cael eu dwyn ynghyd. Fel y soniais, mae cynhadledd Ffydd mewn Tai Fforddiadwy yn dod i Gymru am y tro cyntaf, oherwydd gwaith Llywodraeth Cymru i raddau helaeth, sydd wedi ei gwneud yn glir ein bod o'r farn bod dyfodol ein heglwysi a'n capeli yn allweddol bwysig fel un o flaenoriaethau'r Llywodraeth. Nawr mae angen inni fynd i'r afael â'r agenda hon a

partners. No one agency can sort this out on its own: not the Welsh Government or any other single group. We need some imagination applied to future uses, in particular, whether those are shared uses, housing options, or more imaginative uses, as might relate to tourism.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Weinidog, hoffwn ofyn cwestiwn ichi ynglŷn ag adfywio canol trefi. Roedd y rhaglen ar gyfer adfywio canol tref Rhydaman, a gyflwynwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru'n Un, wedi'i chwblhau ychydig cyn y Nadolig. Mae'r rhaglen honno wedi gwella canol tref Rhydaman, yn sicr. Beth yw eich gweledigaeth ar gyfer dyfodol canol trefi yng Nghymru, o ystyried y ffaith bod cynifer o siopau bellach yn ei chael yn anodd parhau i fasnachu? Mae 10 siop yn Rhydaman wedi cau yn ystod y tri mis diwethaf.

Huw Lewis: I am pleased that the Member is impressed by the work of the western valleys regeneration area team in Ammanford. I have not been lucky enough to get along to Ammanford for some months now, but I am looking forward to doing so. Rhodri Glyn Thomas will be aware that, as part of our review of regeneration, we are looking at all aspects of how partners might come together to best serve the interests of communities, particularly in relation to the health and wellbeing of town centres. The parameters that I have laid down are that we need to be thinking more holistically, and we need to be thinking about more intensive interventions than those that have happened in the past, but that there may be a quid pro quo for that intensity of effort in terms of the numbers of places in which we could be active at any given time. I am looking forward to the analysis of those consultation responses, and the new regeneration programme for the Welsh Government is due to be rolled out in 2014.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolch yn fawr iawn am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Rwyf yn falch iawn i glywed am yr ymgynghoriad, ac yn falch iawn i glywed eich bod yn meddwl yn nhermau ymateb holistaidd. Yn amlwg, dim ond rhan o'r ateb yw gwella golwg canol

chydweithio â phartneriaid. Ni all un asiantaeth fynd i'r afael â hyn ar ei phen ei hun: nid Llywodraeth Cymru nac unrhyw grŵp unigol arall. Mae angen defnyddio rhywfaint o ddychymyg wrth feddwl am ddefnydd yn y dyfodol, yn arbennig, boed yn ddefnydd a rennir, opsiynau tai, neu ddefnyddiau mwy dychmygus, fel y gallai ymwneud â thwristiaeth.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Minister, I would like to ask you a question on the regeneration of town centres. The programme of regenerating Ammanford, which was brought forward by the One Wales Government, was completed a little before Christmas. That programme has improved the town centre there without doubt. What is your vision for the future of town centres in Wales, bearing in mind that so many shops now are having difficulty in continuing to trade? There are 10 shops in Ammanford that have closed over the last three months.

Huw Lewis: Rwy'n falch bod gwaith tîm ardal adfywio cymoedd y gorllewin yn Rhydaman wedi creu argraff ar yr Aelod. Nid wyf wedi bod yn ddigon ffodus i fynd i Rydaman ers rhai misoedd bellach, ond rwy'n edrych ymlaen at wneud hynny. Bydd Rhodri Glyn Thomas yn ymwybodol, fel rhan o'n hadolygiad o adfywio, ein bod yn edrych ar bob agwedd ar sut y gallai partneriaid ddod ynghyd i wasanaethu buddiannau cymunedau orau, yn enwedig mewn perthynas ag iechyd a lles canol trefi. Yn unol â'r paramedrau yr wyf wedi'u gosod mae angen i ni feddwl yn fwy cyfannol, ac mae angen i ni feddwl am ymyriadau mwy dwys na'r rheini a welwyd yn y gorffennol, ond gallai fod quid pro quo ar gyfer y fath ymdrech o ran nifer y lleoedd lle y gallem fod yn weithredol ar unrhyw adeg benodol. Edrychaf ymlaen at y dadansoddiad o'r ymatebion hynny i'r ymgynghoriad, a disgwylir i'r rhaglen adfywio newydd i Lywodraeth Cymru gael ei chyflwyno yn 2014.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Thank you very much for that response, Minister. I am very pleased to hear of the consultation, and I am also pleased to hear that you are thinking in terms of a holistic response. Clearly, improving how town centres look is only part

trefi; mae'n rhaid hefyd denu pobl yno a sicrhau eu bod yn siopa yno. Mae pob math o gystadleuaeth yn bodoli i'r siopau sydd yng nghanol trefi erbyn hyn. Mae problemau sy'n ymwneud â pharcio ac mae problemau sy'n ymwneud â gwasanaethau bysiau. Rwyf yn mawr obeithio, Weinidog, y byddwch yn sicrhau y bydd yr ymgynghoriad hwn yn edrych ar yr elfennau hyn i gyd, ac y byddwch chi, fel Gweinidog, yn rhoi ymrwymiad i weithredu ar sail canlyniadau'r ymgynghoriad.

Huw Lewis: Yes, of course. I believe that the 'Vibrant and Viable Places' consultation closed earlier this week, on 14 January. The indications that I have been given by officials are that we have almost had a record number of responses from partners up and down Wales, and from beyond Wales's borders too, engaging with those issues, particularly as they relate to town centres and high streets. There will be a great deal of information to work our way through. These are complex issues. I also recognise that no two towns are exactly the same in terms of their needs and strengths, and that bespoke solutions will be necessary as we move forward. I look forward to the analysis of the consultation responses that we have received.

Aled Roberts: Weinidog, yr ydych wedi cydnabod bod diogeli hen gapeli yn un o'ch blaenoriaethau. Mae llawer o bryder yn ardal Wrecsam ynglŷn â dyfodol Capel Salem Coedpoeth. Yr ydych wedi dweud, wrth ymateb i gwestiwn ysgrifenedig, y byddai gweithgor o swyddogion yn cael ei sefydlu yn y flwyddyn newydd, i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon. A oes gennych unrhyw gynlluniau? A allwch ddweud a ydyw'r gweithgor hwnnw wedi cael ei sefydlu ac, os ydyw, pryd y bydd yn cyfarfod?

of the solution; you have to attract people there and ensure that people shop there. There are all sorts of competition for town centre shops now. There are problems with parking and there are problems with bus services. I very much hope, Minister, that you will ensure that the consultation looks at all of these elements, and that you, as a Minister, will give a commitment to take action on the basis of that consultation.

Huw Lewis: Ie, wrth gwrs. Credaf fod ymgynghoriad 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid' wedi dod i ben yn gynharach yr wythnos hon, ar 14 Ionawr. Yr arwyddion yr wyf wedi eu cael gan swyddogion yw ein bod bron wedi cael y nifer mwyaf erioed o ymatebion gan bartneriaid ledled Cymru, a thu hwnt hefyd, sydd ynghlwm wrth y materion hynny, yn enwedig gan eu bod yn ymwneud â chanol trefi a strydoedd mawr. Bydd llawer iawn o wybodaeth i'w hystyried. Mae'r rhain yn faterion cymhleth. Cydnabyddaf hefyd nad oes unrhyw ddwy dref yn union yr un fath o ran eu hanghenion na'u cryfderau, ac y bydd atebion pwrpasol yn angenrheidiol wrth i ni symud ymlaen. Edrychaf ymlaen at y dadansoddiad o'r ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad sydd wedi dod i law.

Aled Roberts: Minister, you have acknowledged that protecting old chapels is one of your priorities. There is a great deal of concern in the Wrexham area about the future of Salem chapel in Coedpoeth. You have said, in response to a written question, that a working party of officials would be established in the new year to address this problem. Do you have any plans? Can you tell us whether that working party has been established and, if it has, when it will meet?

Huw Lewis: All that I can do at this stage is to reiterate the response that I gave earlier, that we are working closely with the faith communities to ensure that we can get some kind of forum for dialogue up and running in Wales as soon as is humanly possible. The conference in April, I think, will serve as a launch pad, I hope, for a new way of working in Wales. It will be a new forum for dialogue, and there will be a renewed sense of urgency among all partners, I hope, to deal with some of the most pressing issues that our churches and chapels present us with.

Digartrefedd

9. Jocelyn Davies: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am bolisiau Llywodraeth Cymru i fynd i'r afael â digartrefedd. OAQ(4)0202(HRH)*

Huw Lewis: Preventing homelessness continues to be my top priority. We will be paying particular attention to mitigating the impact of welfare reform on our citizens and also reforming homelessness legislation. We will continue to invest in homelessness services, with £7.2 million supporting front-line services through our homelessness grant programme.

Jocelyn Davies: The welfare changes will introduce a so-called bedroom tax, which could result in rent arrears, possible eviction and homelessness. As you said, prevention is best, but that definitely takes practical steps. Minister, who decided that just because a room is upstairs it is a bedroom? Will you endeavour to use your powers to ensure that, where you can, upstairs rooms used for other purposes are no longer designated as bedrooms, thus saving thousands of people from falling into poverty and possible homelessness?

Huw Lewis: The Member refers to the issue of designation, I think, as it is referred to by the UK Government. This is a very difficult area. I do not know whether my powers as a Minister have any bearing upon whether an upstairs or downstairs room is designated as

Huw Lewis: Y cyfan y gallaf ei wneud ar hyn o bryd yw ailadrodd yr ymateb a roddais yn gynharach, sef ein bod yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r cymunedau ffydd er mwyn sicrhau y gallwn sefydlu rhyw fath o fforwm ar gyfer cynnal deialog yng Nghymru cyn gynted ag y bo'n ddynol bosibl. Yn fy marn i, bydd y gynhadledd ym mis Ebrill yn sbardun, gobeithio, ar gyfer ffordd newydd o weithio yng Nghymru. Bydd yn fforwm newydd ar gyfer cynnal deialog, a bydd ymdeimlad newydd o fyrder ymhlith yr holl bartneriaid, gobeithio, i ymdrin â rhai o'r materion mwyaf taer y mae ein heglwysi a'n capeli yn eu cyflwyno i ni.

Homelessness

9. Jocelyn Davies: *Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government's policies to tackle homelessness. OAQ(4)0202(HRH)*

Huw Lewis: Mae'r gwaith o atal digartrefedd yn parhau i fod ar frig fy agenda. Byddwn yn rhoi sylw arbennig i liniaru effaith diwygio lles ar ein dinasyddion a hefyd ddiwygio deddfwriaeth digartrefedd. Byddwn yn parhau i fuddsoddi mewn gwasanaethau digartrefedd, gyda £7.2 miliwn yn cefnogi gwasanaethau rheng flaen drwy ein rhaglen grantiau digartrefedd.

Jocelyn Davies: Bydd y newidiadau lles yn cyflwyno treth ystafell wely fel y'i gelwir, a allai arwain at ôl-ddyledion rhent, troi allan a digartrefedd posibl. Fel y dywedasoch, atal y sefyllfa sydd orau, ond mae hynny'n sicr yn cymryd camau ymarferol. Weinidog, pw y benderfynodd dim ond am fod ystafell i fyny'r grisiau, ei bod yn ystafell wely? A wnewch chi ymdrechu i ddefnyddio eich pwerau er mwyn sicrhau, lle y gallwch, na chaiff ystafelloedd i fyny'r grisiau a ddefnyddir at ddibenion eraill eu dynodi'n ystafelloedd gwely bellach, gan atal miloedd o bobl rhag mynd i dlodi a wynebu digartrefedd posibl?

Huw Lewis: Mae'r Aelod yn cyfeirio at ddynodi, rwy'n credu, fel y cyfeirir ato gan Lywodraeth y DU. Mae hwn yn faes anodd iawn. Ni wn a yw fy mhwerau fel Gweinidog yn cael unrhyw effaith o ran a yw ystafell i fyny'r grisiau neu i lawr y grisiau wedi ei

having such a use or another use. However, it is an area that I would caution is fraught with difficulty. The UK Government may be mendacious, but it is not necessarily stupid, particularly when it relates to issues like this as they may affect social landlords in particular. The rent for a three-bedroomed home is not the same as the rent for a two-bedroomed home. There will be fall-out and consequences from any kind of rash attempt to sidestep new welfare regulations.

Mark Isherwood: There are some exemptions to the bedroom tax, such as tenants born before October 1951 and tenants requiring an overnight carer. The Department for Work and Pensions has advised me that it could not design exemptions for every possible eventuality centrally, which is why it has increased the funding to local authorities through discretionary housing payments by £30 million in 2013-14. There was an increase in the current year, which saw funding in Wales increase from under £1 million to over £1.4 million. How would you respond to the concern that I have that a number of local authorities left it very late to advise tenants of the options available to them and that, in giving them that advice, I have seen many incidences of people not being told about the age or care exemptions, or of their right to apply to the increased discretionary housing payment budget, which is ring-fenced and paid directly to local authorities by the Treasury?

3.00 p.m.

Huw Lewis: It is difficult sometimes to listen to the apologists for the design of exemptions around things like the bedroom tax and how that might affect various people. It is as if a bunch of Westminster philanthropists had descended upon the Welsh housing scene and attempted to do their very best to help us out with our over-occupancy problems. Let me tell you this: the bedroom tax is not designed to help people. There are not teams of people running around looking for exemptions to the bedroom tax. The bedroom tax is part of a deliberate, ideological drive. For the first time since the 1930s, a UK Government is using such measures to depress the living standards of the least well-off in society, and

dynodi ag un defnydd neu'r llall. Fodd bynnag, mae'n faes y byddwn yn rhybuddio sy'n llawn anawsterau. Efallai bod Llywodraeth y DU yn gelwyddog, ond nid yw o reidrwydd yn dwp, yn enwedig pan mae'n ymwneud â materion fel hyn gan y gallant effeithio ar landlordiaid cymdeithasol yn arbennig. Nid yw'r rhent am gartref tair ystafell wely yr un fath â'r rhent ar gyfer tŷ dwy ystafell wely. Bydd anghydfod a chanlyniadau'n deillio o unrhyw ymgais byrbwyll i ochrgamu rheoliadau lles newydd.

Mark Isherwood: Mae rhai eithriadau i'r dreth ystafell wely, megis tenantiaid a anwyd cyn mis Hydref 1951 a thenantiaid y mae angen gofalwr dros nos arnynt. Mae'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau wedi fy hysbysu na allai ddylunio eithriadau ar gyfer pob sefyllfa bosibl yn ganolog, a dyna pam y mae wedi cynyddu'r swm o arian sydd ar gael i awdurdodau lleol drwy daliadau tai dewisol £30 miliwn yn 2013-14. Bu cynnydd yn y flwyddyn gyfredol, gyda chyllid yng Nghymru yn cynyddu o lai na £1 filiwn i dros £1.4 miliwn. Sut y byddech yn ymateb i'r pryder sydd gennyf fod nifer o awdurdodau lleol wedi ei gadael yn hwyr iawn i gynghori tenantiaid ar yr opsiynau sydd ar gael iddynt ac, wrth roi'r cyngor hwnnw iddynt, rwyf wedi gweld sawl achos o bobl nad ydynt wedi cael gwybod am yr eithriadau o ran oedran neu ofal, na'u hawl i wneud cais i'r gyllideb taliadau tai dewisol uwch, sydd wedi'i neilltuo ac a delir yn uniongyrchol i awdurdodau lleol gan y Trysorlys?

3.00 p.m.

Huw Lewis: Mae'n anodd weithiau wrando ar yr ymddiheurwyr ynghylch dyluniad eithriadau mewn perthynas â phethau fel y dreth ystafell wely a sut y gallai hynny effeithio ar wahanol bobl. Mae fel petai grŵp o ddyngarwyr o San Steffan wedi disgyn ar y maes tai yng Nghymru ac wedi ceisio gwneud eu gorau glas i'n helpu gyda'n problemau gorlenwi. Gadewch i mi ddweud hyn wrthyf: nid yw'r dreth ystafell wely wedi'i dylunio i helpu pobl. Nid oes timau o bobl yn rhedeg o gwmpas yn chwilio am eithriadau i'r dreth ystafell wely. Mae'r dreth ystafell wely yn rhan o ymgyrch ideolegol, fwriadol. Am y tro cyntaf ers y 1930au, mae Llywodraeth y DU yn defnyddio mesurau o'r

that is running alongside the biggest economic recession since the 1930s. People will remember them for it.

The Presiding Officer: Question 10, OAQ(4)0196(HRH), has been withdrawn.

Cyfranogiad mewn Chwaraeon a Gweithgareddau Corfforol

11. Alun Ffred Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y ffigurau diweddaraf ynglyn â chyfranogiad pobl mewn chwaraeon a gweithgareddau corfforol.
OAQ(4)0211(HRH)

Huw Lewis: The latest Sport Wales school sport survey, in 2011—those are the latest figures—reveal that 65% of secondary school pupils and 78% of primary school pupils participated in extra-curricular sport, and 85% of primary school pupils took part in sport with a club. The Welsh health survey of 2011 showed that 29% of adults participated in 30 minutes of physical activity on five or more days in the previous week.

Alun Ffred Jones: Diolch yn fawr am y ffigurau hynny. A yw'r ffigurau hynny'n dangos cynnydd? Nid yw'r ffigurau ar gyfer 2012 wedi'r Gemau Olympaidd gennych chi eto, ond gofynnaf i chi a fydddech yn barod i'w rhyddhau pan ddônt. Er hynny, a yw'r ffigurau ar gyfer 2011 yn dangos cynnydd ar y blynyddoedd blaenorol?

Huw Lewis: It is not clear as yet. What we can be clear about is that there has been a continual and solid increase among children of both primary and secondary school age—most particularly among primary-school-age pupils. The post-14 age group is a little bit more problematic, but it is heading in the right direction in terms of participation figures. That has been a consistent finding throughout.

What the surveys show up to 2011, and what I very much hope has shifted—although I am a little pessimistic about it—is that the figure

fath i ostwng safonau byw y lleiaf cefnog mewn cymdeithas, ac mae hynny'n digwydd ochr yn ochr â'r dirwasgiad economaidd mwyaf ers y 1930au. Bydd pobl yn ei chofio am hynny.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 10, OAQ(4)0196(HRH), yn ôl.

Participation in Sport and Physical Activities

11. Alun Ffred Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the latest figures regarding participation in sport and physical activities. OAQ(4)0211(HRH)

Huw Lewis: Mae arolwg diweddaraf Chwaraeon Cymru o chwaraeon mewn ysgolion yn datgelu, yn 2011—dyna'r ffigurau diweddaraf—fod 65% o ddisgyblion ysgol uwchradd a 78% o ddisgyblion ysgol gynradd yn cymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon allgyrsiol, a bod 85% o ddisgyblion ysgolion cynradd yn cymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon gyda chlwb. Dangosodd arolwg iechyd Cymru yn 2011 fod 29% o oedolion wedi cymryd rhan mewn 30 munud o weithgarwch corfforol bum diwrnod neu fwy yn yr wythnos flaenorol.

Alun Ffred Jones: Thank you for those figures. Do those figures show an increase? You do not have the figures for 2012 following the Olympics as yet, but I ask whether you would be willing to release those when they become available. However, do the figures for 2011 show an increase on previous years?

Huw Lewis: Nid yw'n glir eto. Yr hyn y gallwn fod yn glir yn ei gylch yw y bu cynnydd parhaus a chadarn ymhlith plant ysgol gynradd ac ysgol uwchradd—yn enwedig ymhlith plant ysgol gynradd. Mae'r grŵp oedran ôl-14 ychydig yn fwy o broblem, ond mae'n symud i'r cyfeiriad cywir o ran ffigurau cyfranogi. Mae hynny wedi bod yn ganfyddiad cyson drwyddi draw.

Yr hyn y mae'r arolygon yn ei ddangos hyd at 2011, a'r hyn yr wyf yn mawr obeithio sydd wedi newid—er fy mod ychydig yn

for adult participation in 30 minutes of physical activity on five or more days in the week is low. It is only 29% of adults in the figures for 2011. I hope very much that what we are hearing from sports clubs throughout the country about more and more people stepping up to participate as a result of enthusiasm generated by the Olympics will have an effect on that figure. That figure is the one I have my eye on; it is particularly stubborn, and I have challenged the physical activity ministerial advisory group members to bring to me, from each of their individual organisations, suggestions as to how they in particular can step up to challenge that activity figure.

besimistaidd am hynny—yw bod y ffigur ar gyfer cyfranogiad oedolion mewn 30 munud o weithgarwch corfforol bum diwrnod neu fwy yr wythnos yn isel. Dim ond 29% o oedolion ydyw yn y ffigurau ar gyfer 2011. Gobeithiaf yn fawr iawn y bydd yr hyn yr ydym yn ei glywed gan glybiau chwaraeon ledled y wlad am fwy a mwy o bobl yn ymuno o ganlyniad i'r brwdfrydedd a grëwyd gan y Gemau Olympaidd yn cael effaith ar y ffigur hwnnw. Y ffigur hwnnw yw'r un yr wyf yn cadw fy llygad arno; mae'n arbennig o styfnig, ac rwyf wedi herio aelodau grŵp cynghori'r gweinidog ar weithgarwch corfforol i gyflwyno i mi, o bob un o'u sefydliadau unigol, awgrymiadau ynglŷn â sut y gallant hwy yn arbennig fynd ati i herio'r ffigur hwnnw o ran lefelau gweithgarwch.

Cwestiwn Brys Urgent Question

Welsh Country Foods

The Presiding Officer: I have accepted an urgent question under Standing Order No. 12.66. I call on Ieuan Wyn Jones to ask the urgent question.

Y Llywydd: Rwyf wedi derbyn cwestiwn brys o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 12.66. Galwaf ar Ieuan Wyn Jones i ofyn y cwestiwn brys.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: *A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ddyfodol Welsh Country Foods yn Gaerwen, a'r 350 o swyddi yno. EAQ(4)0216(BET)*

Ieuan Wyn Jones: *Will the Minister make a statement on the future of Welsh Country Foods in Gaerwen, and the 350 jobs at the plant. EAQ(4)0216(BET)*

The Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science (Edwina Hart): Thank you very much indeed for that question. We share the company's disappointment at the loss of the Asda contract and the implications for the business. I and my officials have been maintaining a dialogue with the company—in fact, we met the company again only yesterday—and have had very useful discussions. My officials continue to work with the company to investigate any opportunities for maintaining a viable operation at these facilities that will ensure a long-term sustainable future for the plant.

Y Gweinidog Busnes, Menter, Technoleg a Gwyddoniaeth (Edwina Hart): Diolch yn fawr iawn am y cwestiwn hwnnw. Rhannwn siom y cwmni ynghylch colli contract Asda a'r goblygiadau i'r busnes. Rwyf fi a'm swyddogion wedi bod yn trafod â'r cwmni—a dweud y gwir, cyfarfuom â'r cwmni unwaith eto ddoe—ac rydym wedi cael trafodaethau buddiol iawn. Mae fy swyddogion yn parhau i weithio gyda'r cwmni i ymchwilio i unrhyw gyfleoedd i gynnal busnes hyfyw yn y cyfleusterau hyn a fydd yn sicrhau dyfodol cynaliadwy hirdymor i'r ffatri.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Diolch yn fawr iawn i'r Gweinidog am yr ateb cadarnhaol hwnnw o'i

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I thank the Minister very much for that positive response from her

safbwynt hi. Rwy'n rhannu'r pryder a fynegwyd ynglŷn â'r cyhoeddiad gan Vion am gynnal cyfnod ymgynghori o 90 diwrnod ar ddyfodol y safle, sydd o bosibl yn newyddion drwg i'r 350 o bobl sy'n gweithio yno, a'u teuluoedd a'r gymuned leol, gan gofio bod sefyllfa economaidd yr ynys ar hyn o bryd yn ddigon bregus fel y mae. Mae'r Gweinidog yn ymwybodol iawn o'r effaith, nid yn unig a'r bobl sy'n gweithio yno a'u teuluoedd, ond ar y diwydiant amaethyddol—nid yn unig yn Ynys Môn, ond yng ngogledd Cymru. Dyma'r unig safle lladd-dŷ sydd ar gael ar gyfer ardal hynod o eang. Felly, ni allem fforddio colli'r gwasanaeth sy'n cael ei roi yno o ran y swyddi a'i bwysigrwydd i'r diwydiant.

I thank the Minister and the Deputy Minister for their full engagement on this issue since the announcement was made. They have been ready to discuss this with me, with the company, and, I understand, with Asda. Can the Minister give us an update on whether Vion understands fully the seriousness of the decision that it might be about to take? Can she also confirm that Asda, as a major supermarket, understands the impact of the decision that it has made to withdraw the contract from Welsh Country Foods and to go to another supplier, and the immediate impact that that will possibly have on these jobs? Will the Minister update us on the discussions that she has had with Vion about any proposals that can be put forward for the sustainability of that plant? Will she update us on any discussions that the Deputy Minister has had with Asda, as the main supermarket involved in the contract at Gaerwen, and on whether there is any way at all that it can be persuaded to change its mind about that contract?

The Minister will also be aware that the long-term sustainability of the plant at Gaerwen depends on the processing not only of lambs, but, potentially, of cattle as well. If we are to see a sustainable future for the plant, then we need to widen the facilities at Gaerwen. Will the Minister stand ready to discuss, either with Vion or any other potential purchaser, Government support for investment in the plant to ensure its sustainable future and to

point of view. I share the concern expressed about the announcement by Vion of a 90-day consultation period on the future of the site, which is possibly very bad news for the 350 people who work there, their families and the local community, bearing in mind that the economic position of the island is vulnerable as it is. The Minister is very aware of the impact, not only on the people working there and their families, but also on the agricultural industry—not just in Anglesey, but in north Wales. This is the only abattoir site available for an exceptionally large area. Therefore, we cannot afford to lose the service provided there in terms of the jobs and its importance to the industry.

Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Gweinidog a'r Dirprwy Weinidog am eu hymwneud llawn ar y mater hwn ers i'r cyhoeddiad gael ei wneud. Maent wedi bod yn barod i drafod hyn gyda mi, gyda'r cwmni, ac, fe ddeallaf, gydag Asda. A all y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni ynghylch a yw Vion yn deall yn llawn pa mor ddifrifol yw'r penderfyniad y gallai fod ar fin ei wneud? A all hefyd gadarnhau bod Asda, fel un o'r prif archfarchnadoedd, yn deall effaith y penderfyniad y mae wedi'i wneud i dynnu'r contract yn ôl oddi wrth Welsh Country Foods ac i fynd at gyflenwr arall, a'r effaith uniongyrchol y bydd hynny o bosibl yn ei chael ar y swyddi hyn? A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni am y trafodaethau y mae wedi'u cael gyda Vion am unrhyw gynigion y gellir eu cyflwyno ar gyfer cynaliadwyedd y ffatri honno? A fydd yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni am unrhyw drafodaethau y mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog wedi'u cael gydag Asda, fel y brif uwchfarchnad sy'n rhan o'r contract yn y Gaerwen, ac a oes unrhyw ffordd o gwbl y gellir dwyn perswâd ar Asda i newid ei meddwl am y contract?

Bydd y Gweinidog hefyd yn ymwybodol bod cynaliadwyedd hirdymor y ffatri yn y Gaerwen yn dibynnu ar y gwaith o brosesu nid yn unig wŷn, ond, o bosibl, wartheg hefyd. Er mwyn sicrhau dyfodol cynaliadwy i'r ffatri, mae angen inni ehangu'r cyfleusterau yn y Gaerwen. A fydd y Gweinidog yn barod i drafod, naill ai gyda Vion neu unrhyw brynwr posibl arall, gymorth y Llywodraeth i fuddsoddi yn y

give some good news to those workers who are now desperately worried about their jobs?

Edwina Hart: The decision by Vion UK Limited to enter into a 90-day consultation with its staff in Welsh Country Foods was disappointing, bearing in mind that the Welsh Government had already made a substantial offer of support to develop the site, which would include the diversification issues that the Member raised. The offer of support remains on the table and may be extended to any potential new owner. We had discussions with Vion yesterday, as I indicated, and that was made quite clear to the company. We also intend to give our full support in any other way that we can to the company, in terms of whether it requires us to attend meetings in any of its discussions. The Deputy Minister has had the opportunity to raise directly with Asda the concerns of the Welsh Government. We are proceeding with further discussions on that particular issue. We have an excellent relationship with Asda as a supermarket in terms of the work that it has done with us on Welsh food in its stores. That is a relationship that we value, but, more importantly, we value the continuation of the plant in Gaerwen.

Also, looking at the long-term future of the industry as a whole, there are other plants within Wales, particularly in Anglesey, for processing chickens and so on. We have made it quite clear to Vion UK Limited that we want to ensure that these facilities are maintained within Wales. We have to consider the implications for the farming community, not just in terms of the slaughter of animals, but also in terms of feed for chickens, et cetera, and all the staff that are involved. You have my assurance that I and/or the Deputy Minister will report to Plenary with any further updates to make sure that Members are fully informed about the action that we are taking as a Government.

Antoinette Sandbach: Minister, I echo the concerns raised by the Member for Anglesey, particularly around the 350 jobs at risk and

ffatri i sicrhau dyfodol cynaliadwy iddi a rhoi rhywfaint o newyddion da i'r gweithwyr hynny sydd bellach yn poeni'n ddirfawr am eu swyddi?

Edwina Hart: Roedd penderfyniad Vion UK Limited i ddechrau ymgynghoriad 90 diwrnod gyda'i staff yn Welsh Country Foods yn siomedig, o gofio bod Llywodraeth Cymru eisoes wedi cynnig cymorth sylweddol i ddatblygu'r safle, a fyddai'n cynnwys y materion arallgyfeirio a godwyd gan yr Aelod. Mae'r cymorth a gynigiwyd yn parhau i fod ar gael a gellir ei ymestyn i unrhyw ddarpar berchennog newydd. Cawsom drafodaethau gyda Vion ddoe, fel y nodais, ac fe'i gwnaed hynny'n hollol glir i'r cwmni. Rydym hefyd yn bwriadu rhoi ein cefnogaeth lawn ym mhob ffordd bosibl arall i'r cwmni, o ran a yw am inni fod yn bresennol mewn cyfarfodydd yn ystod unrhyw un o'i drafodaethau. Mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog wedi cael cyfle i godi pryderon Llywodraeth Cymru yn uniongyrchol gydag Asda. Rydym yn bwrw ymlaen gyda thrafodaethau pellach ar y mater penodol hwnnw. Mae gennym berthynas ardderchog ag Asda fel archfarchnad o ran y gwaith y mae wedi'i wneud gyda ni ar fwyd Cymreig yn ei siopau. Mae honno'n berthynas yr ydym yn ei gwerthfawrogi, ond, yn bwysicach byth, gwerthfawrogwn barhad y ffatri yn y Gaerwen.

Hefyd, gan edrych ar ddyfodol hirdymor y diwydiant yn ei gyfanrwydd, mae ffatrioedd eraill yng Nghymru, yn enwedig ar Ynys Môn, ar gyfer prosesu cywion ieir ac ati. Rydym wedi egluro i Vion UK Limited ein bod am sicrhau bod y cyfleusterau hyn yn cael eu cynnal yng Nghymru. Rhaid inni ystyried y goblygiadau i'r gymuned ffermio, nid yn unig o ran lladd anifeiliaid, ond hefyd o ran porthiant ar gyfer cywion ieir, ac ati, a'r holl staff sy'n gysylltiedig â hynny. Hoffwn eich sicrhau y byddaf fi a/neu'r Dirprwy Weinidog yn rhoi gwybod am unrhyw ddatblygiadau pellach i'r Cyfarfod Llawn i sicrhau bod yr Aelodau yn llwyr ymwybodol o'r camau yr ydym yn eu cymryd fel Llywodraeth.

Antoinette Sandbach: Weinidog, hoffwn adleisio'r pryderon a godwyd gan yr Aelod dros Ynys Môn, yn enwedig ynghylch y 350

the impact that that will have both on the families involved and on the local community. Can you confirm whether Vion approached you before announcing its consultation on redundancies? Did it ask the Welsh Government for help in approaching other supermarkets about contracts that could perhaps have secured the operation and the jobs of workers at the site? Was there contact with the Deputy Minister prior to this consultation being announced? I heard your answer to the Member for Anglesey about the ongoing discussions with Asda and Vion, but can you confirm what support the Welsh Government will put in place if these redundancies go ahead? Clearly, that is something that nobody would wish to happen, given the strategic importance of that abattoir in north Wales. There is a very small abattoir in Llanrwst, but it would not be able to deal with the volume of animals currently processed at the Vion site. It is vital for the food supply chain that that facility continues to be available, both in terms of local jobs and for food producers in the area.

Edwina Hart: The 90-day consultation period is there for a reason. It allows discussions to take place between workers and employers about possible outcomes. It is regrettable, of course, that 90-day consultation periods will no longer be the norm in the UK. It is very important indeed that we recognise the importance of this period and do not start to talk about issues that might not materialise. We must keep this in a positive vein. We have a well-established relationship with Vion UK Ltd. I will continue to discuss these sensitive commercial matters with the company for the foreseeable future, and only when I am able to do so will I discuss these matters in public.

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas: Fel un sy'n cynrychioli rhan fawr o ddiadell defaid mynydd Cymru yn ogystal â llywyddion y ddwy undeb amaethyddol, bydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol o'r cyfarfodydd a fu'r wythnos hon rhwng y Dirprwy Weinidog amaeth a'r undebau. Rwy'n sicr y bydd y Gweinidog yn sylweddoli bod y digwyddiad hwn o ran peryglon i swyddi yn y Gaerwen—

o swyddi sydd mewn perygl a'r effaith y bydd hynny'n ei chael ar y teuluoedd dan sylw ac ar y gymuned leol. A allwch gadarnhau a gysylltodd Vion â chi cyn cyhoeddi ei ymgynghoriad ar ddileu swyddi? A ofynnodd i Lywodraeth Cymru am gymorth i gysylltu ag archfarchnadoedd eraill am gontractau a allai o bosibl fod wedi sicrhau'r busnes a swyddi'r gweithwyr ar y safle? A gysylltwyd â'r Dirprwy Weinidog cyn i'r ymgynghoriad hwn gael ei gyhoeddi? Clywais eich ateb i'r Aelod dros Ynys Môn am y trafodaethau sy'n mynd rhagddynt gydag Asda a Vion, ond a allwch gadarnhau pa gymorth y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei roi os caiff y swyddi hyn eu dileu? Yn amlwg, mae hynny'n rhywbeth na fyddai neb am iddo ddigwydd, o gofio pwysigrwydd strategol y lladd-dy hwnnw yn y gogledd. Mae lladd-dy bach iawn yn Llanrwst, ond ni fyddai'n gallu ymdrin â nifer yr anifeiliaid a gaiff eu prosesu ar hyn o bryd ar safle Vion. Mae'n hanfodol i'r gadwyn cyflenwi bwyd bod y cyfleuster hwnnw'n parhau i fod ar gael, o ran swyddi lleol ac i gynhyrchwyr bwyd yn yr ardal.

Edwina Hart: Sefydlwyd cyfnodau ymgynghori 90 diwrnod am reswm. Mae'n rhio cyfle i drafodaethau fynd rhagddynt rhwng gweithwyr a chyflogwyr am yr hyn a all ddigwydd. Mae'n anffodus, wrth gwrs, na fydd cyfnodau ymgynghori 90 diwrnod yn arferol mwyach yn y DU. Mae'n bwysig iawn yn wir ein bod yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd y cyfnod hwn ac nad ydym yn dechrau sôn am faterion na fyddant yn codi wedi'r cyfan. Rhaid inni fod yn gadarnhaol yn hyn o beth. Mae gennym berthynas sefydledig â Vion UK Ltd. Byddaf yn parhau i drafod y materion masnachol sensitif hyn gyda'r cwmni yn y dyfodol rhagweladwy, a dim ond pan fyddaf yn gallu gwneud hynny y byddaf yn trafod y materion hyn yn gyhoeddus.

Lord Elis-Thomas: As someone who represents a large part of the Welsh mountain sheep flock, as well as the presidents of the two agricultural unions, the Minister will be aware of the meetings that have taken place this week between the Deputy Minister for agriculture and the unions. I am sure that the Minister will realise that this event in terms of the threat to jobs in Gaerwen—and I

ac rwy'n cefnogi fy nghyd-Aelod yn hynny o beth, wrth gwrs—yn digwydd ar adeg enbyd iawn yn nhermau safle'r farchnad amaethyddol, a'r farchnad cig oen yn arbennig. Mae'r undeb NFU Cymru wedi dweud wrth y Dirprwy Weinidog yr wythnos hon bod gostyngiad posibl o 56% mewn incwm ac elw i gynhyrchwyr defaid o'i gymharu â'r llynedd. Gobeithiaf fod Llywodraeth Cymru yn sylweddoli difrifoldeb y sefyllfa hon, felly, ac y bydd y Gweinidogion amaeth gweithgar sydd gennym yn ymateb.

Edwina Hart: Thank you for those comments. I am well aware of the discussions that the Deputy Minister has had with the farming unions. I have also had the opportunity to discuss this with trade union representatives. They are very concerned, obviously, about what will happen with regard to jobs and about the wider issues for the rural community in north Wales. There are also animal welfare issues associated with where the animals will travel to. Those issues are key for us in our discussions. I assure the Member that I and the Deputy Minister will be on the case with regard to this matter. I understand that further discussions have already taken place today between officials and the company. We will continue with that on a daily basis until we can see some light at the end of the tunnel that will, hopefully, secure a future for the plant, because, once the plant goes, there will be nothing that we can do. We must ensure that we maximise every effort to ensure that things could, perhaps, be reversed on the Asda contract, and that other business can be sought. Most importantly, we must keep the site working and come up with plans to help make the site successful and profitable.

Aled Roberts: Weinidog, mae'n siŵr bod ein meddyliau gyda'r gweithwyr a'u teuluoedd yn ystod yr adeg o ansicrwydd hon. Ein cyfrifoldeb ni fel Aelodau yma heddiw yw dangos ein cefnogaeth i chi, i'r Dirprwy Weinidog, ac i Aelod lleol Ynys Môn am eich ymdrechion. Rwyf hefyd yn cydnabod yr holl ansicrwydd yn y farchnad y soniodd Dafydd Elis-Thomas amdano.

Os bydd y safle hwn yn cau, mae cwestiwn arall yn codi ynglŷn â'r *levy* ar gig. Ar hyn o

support my fellow Member in this regard, of course—occurs at a terrible time in terms of the situation of the agricultural market, particularly the market for lamb. NFU Cymru told the Deputy Minister this week that there was a possible reduction of 56% in the incomes and profit for sheep producers compared to last year. I hope that the Welsh Government realises the gravity of the situation, therefore, and that the hardworking agriculture Ministers that we have will respond.

Edwina Hart: Diolch ichi am y sylwadau hynny. Rwy'n ymwybodol o'r trafodaethau y mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog wedi eu cael gyda'r undebau ffermio. Rwyf hefyd wedi cael cyfle i drafod hyn gyda chynrychiolwyr undebol. Maent yn bryderus iawn, yn amlwg, ynghylch beth fydd yn digwydd o ran swyddi ac am y materion ehangach ar gyfer y gymuned wledig yn y gogledd. Cyfyd hefyd faterion lles anifeiliaid o ran i ble y bydd yr anifeiliaid yn teithio. Mae'r materion hynny yn allweddol inni yn ein trafodaethau. Gallaf sicrhau'r Aelod y byddaf fi a'r Dirprwy Weinidog yn gweithredu ar y mater hwn. Deallaf fod trafodaethau pellach eisoes wedi'u cynnal heddiw rhwng swyddogion a'r cwmni. Byddwn yn parhau â hynny bob dydd hyd nes y gallwn weld rhywfaint o oleuni a fydd, gobeithio, yn sicrhau dyfodol i'r ffatri, oherwydd, unwaith y bydd y ffatri'n cau, ni fydd dim byd y gallwn ei wneud. Rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn gwneud pob ymdrech i sicrhau y gallai pethau, efallai, gael eu gwrthdroi ar gontract Asda, ac y gellir mynd ar drywydd busnes arall. Yn bwysicaf oll, rhaid inni gadw'r safle'n weithredol a meddwl am gynlluniau i helpu i wneud y safle yn llwyddiannus a phroffidiol.

Aled Roberts: Minister, I am sure that our thoughts are with the workers and their families during this time of uncertainty. It is our responsibility as Members here today to show our support for you, the Deputy Minister, and the local Member for Anglesey for your efforts. I also acknowledge all the uncertainty within the market that Dafydd Elis-Thomas mentioned.

If this site closes, another question arises about the levy on meat. At present, the levy

bryd, mae'r *levy* yn dibynnu ar le caiff yr ŵyn eu lladd. Os aiff y gwaith dros Glawdd Offa, a fydd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn trafod y mater gyda Gweinidogion y Deyrnas Gyfunol? Ni fyddai'n dderbyniol i 650,000 o ŵyn fynd dros Glawdd Offa a'r *levy* yn eu dilyn.

Edwina Hart: The levy is a live issue that the Deputy Minister has already had discussions about and he will continue to do, because that is an important point that you raise.

3.15 p.m.

Simon Thomas: Minister, as has already been pointed out, this is an important regional facility for many farmers north of Aberystwyth, if the truth be told. This is a vital contract that underpins the red meat sector in Wales. In the last 24 hours, we have seen what happens when supermarkets chase the cheapest red meat—you end up with beef burgers with horse meat in them. That is what happens, and you lose consumer confidence as a result. Pinning together Welsh red meat, consumer confidence, high welfare standards, confidence in that system, as well as the levy, is all part of the package that we have in Wales that builds our sector. What are you doing more widely, Minister, together with the rest of the Government, to ensure that supermarkets understand this, and to ensure that they keep the Welsh public on board in supporting and buying at supermarkets through having good traceability in the system? That is what places like Gaerwen can deliver.

Edwina Hart: I think that you can be assured that supermarkets understand the position of the Welsh Government, in light of some of the discussions that the Deputy Minister has had with them. I will be meeting one of the leading supermarkets in the UK in London when I use our office there next week; this will be one of the issues on the agenda.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Thank you for taking the urgent question, Minister. There is obviously great concern on Anglesey and

depends upon where the lambs are slaughtered. If the work goes across Offa's Dyke, will the Deputy Minister discuss the matter with UK Ministers? It would not be acceptable for 650,000 lambs to go across Offa's Dyke and for the levy to go with them.

Edwina Hart: Mae'r ardoll yn fater byw y mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog eisoes wedi cael trafodaethau yn ei gylch a bydd yn parhau i wneud hynny, oherwydd bod y pwynt a godwch yn un pwysig.

3.15 p.m.

Simon Thomas: Weinidog, fel y nodwyd eisoes, mae hwn yn gyfleuster rhanbarthol pwysig i lawer o ffermwyr i'r gogledd o Aberystwyth, mewn gwirionedd. Mae hwn yn gontract hanfodol sy'n sail i'r sector cig coch yng Nghymru. Yn ystod y 24 awr ddiwethaf, rydym wedi gweld yr hyn sy'n digwydd pan fydd archfarchnadoedd yn mynd ar drywydd y cig coch rhataf—byddwch yn y pen draw yn cael byrgyrs cig eidion gyda chig ceffyl ynddynt. Dyna beth sy'n digwydd, a byddwch yn colli hyder defnyddwyr o ganlyniad. Mae cyfuno cig coch Cymru, hyder defnyddwyr, safonau lles uchel, hyder yn y system, yn ogystal â'r ardoll, oll yn rhan o'r pecyn sydd gennym yng Nghymru sy'n datblygu ein sector. Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud yn fwy cyffredinol, Weinidog, gyda gweddill y Llywodraeth, i sicrhau bod archfarchnadoedd yn deall hyn, ac i sicrhau eu bod yn annog y cyhoedd i gefnogi a phrynu mewn archfarchnadoedd drwy sicrhau bod modd olrhain bwydydd yn dda yn y system? Dyna beth y gall manau fel y Gaerwen ei gynnig.

Edwina Hart: Credaf y gallwch fod yn sicr bod archfarchnadoedd yn deall safbwynt Llywodraeth Cymru, yng ngoleuni rhai o'r trafodaethau y mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog wedi'u cael gyda hwy. Byddaf yn cwrdd ag un o archfarchnadoedd blaenllaw y DU yn Llundain pan fyddaf yn defnyddio ein swyddfa yno yr wythnos nesaf; bydd hyn yn un o'r materion ar yr agenda.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Diolch ichi am dderbyn y cwestiwn brys, Weinidog. Mae'n amlwg bod pryder mawr yn Ynys Môn ac

among the workers at the plant. With my farming hat on, I note that this is a massive issue in relation to further processing to add value to the agricultural industry here and in sourcing Welsh stock. However, Vion as a company has considerable interests across the whole of Wales. In your discussions, is Vion actively continuing to try to secure a purchaser for this site, or is it resigned to the 90-day consultation? Can you assure us that from your discussions with Vion it is actively promoting the sale of the site, rather than being resigned to its closure? It is important that we know the mindset of the owners, given the financial position in which the factory currently finds itself.

Edwina Hart: I think that we have to put this in context. The 90-day consultation period would not have been launched if Vion had not lost the Asda contract, because it was actively marketing all of its sites in Wales. We have made it clear that we want to keep production in Wales, and, through our relationship with the company, we expect that it will continue production. It is important that we see what emerges from Vion; I will keep Members updated as best I can.

ymhlith y gweithwyr yn y ffatri. O safbwynt ffermwr, nodaf fod hwn yn broblem enfawr mewn perthynas â phrosesu pellach i ychwanegu gwerth at y diwydiant amaethyddol yma ac o ran dod o hyd i stoc a fagwyd yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, mae gan Vion fel cwmni fuddiannau sylweddol drwy Gymru gyfan. Yn eich trafodaethau, a yw Vion yn parhau i geisio sicrhau prynwr ar gyfer y safle hwn, neu a yw'n fodlon ar yr ymgynghoriad 90 diwrnod? Allwch chi ein sicrhau o'ch trafodaethau â Vion ei fod yn mynd ati i geisio gwerthu'r safle, yn hytrach na bod yn fodlon ei fod yn mynd i gau? Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn gwybod beth yw meddylfryd y perchnogion, o ystyried sefyllfa ariannol y ffatri ar hyn o bryd.

Edwina Hart: Credaf fod yn rhaid inni roi hyn yn ei gyd-destun. Ni fyddai'r cyfnod ymgynghori 90 diwrnod wedi cael ei lansio pe na bai Vion wedi colli contract Asda, am ei fod wrthi'n marchnata pob un o'i safleoedd yng Nghymru. Rydym wedi egluro ein bod am gadw'r broses gynhyrchu yng Nghymru, a, thrwy ein perthynas â'r cwmni, disgwyliwn y bydd yn parhau i gynhyrchu. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn gweld beth a ddaw o Vion; byddaf yn hysbysu'r Aelodau o'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf hyd y gellir.

Cynnig i Ethol Aelod i Bwyllgor Motion to Elect a Member to a Committee

Cynnig NDM5140 Rosemary Butler

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 17.14, yn ethol Bethan Jenkins (Plaid Cymru) yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc yn lle Jocelyn Davies (Plaid Cymru).

Jocelyn Davies: I move the motion.

The Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree the motion. Does any Member object? I see that there are no objections. Therefore, the motion is agreed in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.36.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion agreed.*

Motion NDM5140 Rosemary Butler

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Bethan Jenkins (Plaid Cymru) as a member of the Children and Young People Committee in place of Jocelyn Davies (Plaid Cymru).

Jocelyn Davies: Cynigiau y cynnig.

Y Llywydd: Y cynnig yw y dylid derbyn y cynnig. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf nad oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad. Mae'r cynnig, felly, wedi'i dderbyn, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 12.36.

**Adroddiad Byr y Pwyllgor Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd ar Ddiogelu'r
Arfordir yng Nghymru
The Environment and Sustainability Committee's Short Report on Coastal
Protection in Wales**

Cynnig NDM5136 Dafydd Elis-Thomas

Motion NDM5136 Dafydd Elis-Thomas

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

*To propose that the National Assembly for
Wales:*

Yn nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd ar ei ymchwiliad i ddiogelu'r arfordir yng Nghymru a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 22 Hydref 2012.

Notes the report of the Environment and Sustainability Committee on its inquiry into coastal protection in Wales which was laid in the Table Office on 22 October 2012.

William Powell: I move the motion.

William Powell: Cynigiau y cynnig.

Having served as chair of the committee for the purposes of evidence gathering for this inquiry, it is a matter of particular pleasure to be able to open this Plenary debate. This is a report on an issue of real importance to thousands of people the length and breadth of the coast of Wales.

Ar ôl gwasanaethu fel cadeirydd y pwyllgor at ddibenion casglu tystiolaeth ar gyfer yr ymchwiliad hwn, mae'n bleser arbennig imi gael agor y ddadl hon yn y Cyfarfod Llawn. Mae hwn yn adroddiad ar fater o bwys gwirioneddol i filoedd o bobl ar hyd a lled arfordir Cymru.

Rwy'n siŵr yr hoffai'r Aelodau ymuno â mi i ddiolch i'r sefydliadau ac unigolion a fu'n helpu gyda'r ymchwiliad.

I am certain that the Members would wish to join me in thanking the individuals and the organisations that have assisted with the inquiry.

I am sure that Members will appreciate the importance of this significant report. Back in 2011, the Environment and Sustainability Committee noted that the handling of coastal erosion would become increasingly important as the full effects of climate change on sea levels and extreme weather events became clearer. It also noted that deciding on the most appropriate response in different areas—whether that is allowing the coast to evolve naturally, a managed retreat or improved defences—required long-term strategic planning.

Rwy'n siŵr y bydd yr Aelodau'n gwerthfawrogi pwysigrwydd yr adroddiad arwyddocaol hwn. Yn ôl yn 2011, nododd Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd y byddai trin erydu arfordirol yn dod yn fwyfwy pwysig wrth i effeithiau llawn newid yn yr hinsawdd ar lefel y môr a digwyddiadau tywydd eithafol ddod yn gliriach. Nododd hefyd fod penderfynu ar yr ymateb mwyaf priodol mewn ardaloedd gwahanol—boed hynny drwy ganiatáu i'r arfordir esblygu'n naturiol, cilio rheoledig neu well amddiffynfeydd—yn gofyn am gynllunio strategol hirdymor.

The previous committee did not, however, consider tidal floods and coastal defences in any detail, as the Public Accounts Committee at that time was separately following up a critical report by the Wales Audit Office, entitled 'Coastal Erosion and Tidal Flooding Risks in Wales'. The committee's inquiry found a lack of clarity in the Welsh

Fodd bynnag, ni wnaeth y pwyllgor blaenorol ystyried llifogydd llanw ac amddiffynfeydd arfordirol yn fanwl, gan fod Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus ar y pryd yn gwneud gwaith dilynol ar wahân ar adroddiad beirniadol gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru, o'r enw 'Risgiau o Erydu Arfordirol a Llifogydd Llanw yng Nghymru'. Canfu

Government's approach at the time. In the words of its report, the Welsh Government needed

'to start communicating the difficult realities, as well as the opportunities, of adopting a risk-based approach to managing coastal erosion and tidal flooding risks to the communities that will be affected'.

It was recommended that the Environment and Sustainability Committee of this Assembly should look at these issues in more detail, so as to make recommendations to feed in to the Welsh Government's development of a realistic and achievable long-term strategy. The Welsh Government went on to publish its first national strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in November 2011, and our inquiry into its implementation to date has resulted in 11 recommendations. I am pleased that nine of these have been accepted, and two accepted in principle, with the Minister noting that the recommendations

'fit closely with our current policy direction'.

In recommendation 1, we called for the Welsh Government to provide assurances as soon as possible of its long-term commitment to a strategic regional coastal monitoring programme for Wales, and how it intends that programme to develop. This recommendation has only been accepted in principle, with the response indicating that a decision will be taken on this issue in early 2013. The Committee therefore looks forward to hearing more on this once the decision has been taken.

Recommendation 2 called for more integration of the individual shoreline management plans with the Welsh Government's national strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management and its other natural resources management policies, and we welcome the Government's acknowledgement of the importance of a consistent approach going forward. However, little reference is made in the response to how

ymchwiliad y pwyllgor fod diffyg eglurder yn null gweithredu Llywodraeth Cymru ar y pryd. Yng ngeiriau ei adroddiad, roedd angen i Lywodraeth Cymru

'ddechrau dweud wrth y cymunedau yr effeithir arnynt am y gwirionedd anodd ynglŷn â mabwysiadu dull o reoli erydu arfordirol a llifogydd llanw sy'n seiliedig ar risg, ynghyd â'r cyfleodd a ddaw wrth wneud hynny'.

Argymhellwyd y dylai Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd y Cynulliad hwn ystyried y materion hyn yn fanylach, er mwyn gwneud argymhellion i fwydo i mewn i'r broses o ddatblygu strategaeth hirdymor realistig a chyflawnadwy Llywodraeth Cymru. Aeth Llywodraeth Cymru ymlaen i gyhoeddi ei strategaeth genedlaethol gyntaf ar gyfer rheoli perygl llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol ym mis Tachwedd 2011, ac mae ein hymchwiliad i'r broses o'i rhoi ar waith hyd yma wedi arwain at 11 o argymhellion. Rwy'n falch bod naw o'r rhain wedi cael eu derbyn, a dau wedi'u derbyn mewn egwyddor, gyda'r Gweinidog yn nodi bod yr argymhellion

Yn cydweddu'n dda â'n cyfeiriad polisi cyfredol.

Yn argymhelliad 1, galwyd ar Lywodraeth Cymru i roi sicrwydd cyn gynted ag y bo modd o'i hymrwymiad hirdymor i raglen monitro arfordirol ranbarthol strategol i Gymru, a sut y mae'n bwriadu i'r rhaglen honno ddatblygu. Dim ond mewn egwyddor y mae'r argymhelliad hwn wedi ei dderbyn, gyda'r ymateb yn nodi y bydd penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud ar y mater hwn ddechrau 2013. Felly, mae'r Pwyllgor yn edrych ymlaen at glywed mwy am hyn unwaith y bydd y penderfyniad wedi ei wneud.

Galwodd argymhelliad 2 am fwy o integreiddio o ran cynlluniau rheoli traethlinau unigol â strategaeth genedlaethol Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer rheoli perygl llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol a'i pholisïau rheoli adnoddau naturiol eraill, a chroesawn y ffaith bod y Llywodraeth yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd dull gweithredu cyson yn y dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, prin yw'r cyfeiriadau yn yr ymateb at y ffordd y bydd gwaith

the Government's ongoing work on a new natural resources management plan for Wales and the Wales infrastructure investment plan will align with its work on flooding and coastal erosion, and I and my committee colleagues would welcome further clarification from the Minister on this point.

Mae ymateb y Llywodraeth i argymhelliad 3 yn cadarnhau y bydd cyfoeth naturiol Cymru yn gyfrifol am y gwaith o ddiogelu'r arfordir, ac mae'n galonogol bod cydnabyddiaeth o'r angen i'r gwaith hwnnw dderbyn adnoddau digonol.

Likewise, our next recommendation also points to the need to adequately resource the process for monitoring and reporting on progress with flooding and coastal risk protection, and we look forward to the report due in early 2014.

Communication and public engagement was a key theme of the inquiry and recommendation 5 highlighted the need for more work to be done to improve general awareness of coastal protection as a priority issue for everyone in Wales. The Government's response recognises that its community engagement toolkit has primarily focused on the risks of flooding, and needs to expand to include coastal erosion risks. Inland flooding risk is in many ways easier for residents to understand and engage with; even those unaffected by recent flooding events could not fail to be aware of the impact on certain communities. Communicating the longer-term risks of coastal erosion is a bigger challenge, and greater efforts are needed to increase general awareness and to ensure that coastal communities are fully engaged in decision-making, and that this happens sooner rather than later.

Another key aspect of our inquiry was to examine the complex funding arrangements for coastal protection work. Witnesses told us about the constraints of the existing funding regime and that current arrangements were unsustainable in the long term. Coastal protection is not an isolated issue: the benefits of coastal erosion risk management

parhaus y Llywodraeth ar gynllun newydd i reoli adnoddau naturiol Cymru a chynllun buddsoddi yn seilwaith Cymru yn gyson â'i gwaith ar lifogydd ac erydu arfordirol, a byddwn innau a'm cyd-aelodau o'r pwyllgor yn croesawu mwy o eglurhad gan y Gweinidog ar y pwynt hwn.

The Government's response to recommendation 3 confirms that the new natural resources body will be responsible for the work of safeguarding the coast, and it is encouraging that there will be acknowledgement of the need for that work to be given adequate resources.

Yn yr un modd, mae ein hargymhelliad nesaf hefyd yn cyfeirio at yr angen i sicrhau adnoddau digonol ar gyfer y broses o fonitro ac adrodd ar gynnydd o ran amddiffyn rhag llifogydd a risgiau arfordirol, ac edrychwn ymlaen at yr adroddiad sydd i'w gyhoeddi ddechrau 2014.

Roedd cyfathrebu ac ymgysylltu â'r cyhoedd yn un o themâu allweddol yr ymchwiliad ac amlygodd argymhelliad 5 yr angen am fwy o waith i wella ymwybyddiaeth gyffredinol o ddiogelu'r arfordir fel mater o flaenoriaeth i bawb yng Nghymru. Mae ymateb y Llywodraeth yn cydnabod bod ei phhecyn cymorth ymgysylltu â'r gymuned wedi canolbwyntio'n bennaf ar berygl llifogydd, a bod angen ei ehangu i gynnwys perygl erydu arfordirol. Mae perygl llifogydd mewndirol mewn sawl ffordd yn haws i drigolion ei ddeall ac ymddiddori ynddo; byddai hyd yn oed y rhai nad effeithiodd y llifogydd diweddar arnynt yn ymwybodol o'r effaith ar rai cymunedau. Mae cyfleu perygl erydu arfordirol yn y tymor hwy yn fwy o her, ac mae angen mwy o ymdrech i godi ymwybyddiaeth yn gyffredinol a sicrhau bod cymunedau arfordirol yn chwarae rhan lawn mewn penderfyniadau, ac mai gorau po gyntaf y bydd hyn yn digwydd.

Agwedd allweddol arall ar ein hymchwiliad oedd archwilio'r trefniadau ariannu cymhleth ar gyfer gwaith amddiffyn arfordirol. Dywedodd tystion wrthym am gyfyngiadau'r drefn ariannu bresennol a bod y trefniadau presennol yn anghynaliadwy yn yr hirdymor. Nid yw diogelu'r arfordir yn fater ar wahân: mae manteision rheoli perygl erydu arfordirol

go beyond flood and coastal protection and have major impacts on other areas, such as tourism, environmental protection, recreation and the wider economic development agenda. All these are vital to the Welsh economy and society as a whole. Therefore, there is a case for a wider strategic basis for funding coastal protection. The single investment programme is an important step towards prioritising investment and should also help to communicate the Welsh Government's strategic priorities to the people of Wales. The committee looks forward to a report in the autumn on progress with this, as well as with assessing what lessons can be learnt from the pathfinder projects in England.

We looked at the adequacy of planning provisions relevant to coastal protection, and received compelling evidence about the urgent need to review technical advice notes 14 and 15. We raised this point directly with the Minister during the inquiry, but our recommendation to review the technical advice notes has only been accepted in principle. The Government's response argues that the time is not right for formal review and that it could

'become a focus for delaying production of other plans and strategies that rely on national planning policy.'

The response does not give any further indication of how the concerns expressed by stakeholders and residents will be addressed, and so it would be helpful for the committee to receive a further update on this aspect of coastal protection as soon as possible.

Likewise, with our final recommendation, we note that the Government has committed to developing a programme of compensatory habitat creation, but further assurances about the progress of this work, the level of priority that it enjoys and, indeed, the timetable for its conclusion would be welcomed by the committee.

I welcome the Welsh Government's response

yn ymestyn y tu hwnt i lifogydd a diogelu'r arfordir a chânt effaith fawr ar feysydd eraill, fel twristiaeth, gwarchod yr amgylchedd, hamdden a'r agenda datblygu economaidd ehangach. Mae'r rhain i gyd yn hollbwysig i economi Cymru a chymdeithas yn ei chyfanrwydd. Felly, mae dadl o blaid cael sylfaen strategol ehangach ar gyfer ariannu trefniadau diogelu'r arfordir. Mae'r rhaglen fuddsoddi sengl yn gam pwysig tuag at flaenoriaethu buddsoddiad a dylai hefyd helpu i gyfleu blaenoriaethau strategol Llywodraeth Cymru i bobl Cymru. Mae'r pwyllgor yn edrych ymlaen at adroddiad yn yr hydref ar hynt y gwaith hwn, yn ogystal ag asesu pa wersi sydd i'w dysgu o'r prosiectau braenaru yn Lloegr.

Ystyriwyd digonolrwydd y darpariaethau cynllunio sy'n berthnasol i ddiogelu'r arfordir, a chawsom dystiolaeth gymhellol am yr angen brys i adolygu nodiadau cyngor technegol 14 a 15. Codwyd y pwynt hwn yn uniongyrchol gyda'r Gweinidog yn ystod yr ymchwiliad, ond dim ond mewn egwyddor y mae ein hargymhelliad i adolygu'r nodiadau cyngor technegol wedi ei dderbyn. Mae ymateb y Llywodraeth yn dadlau nad yw'r amser yn iawn ar gyfer adolygiad ffurfiol ac y gallai

ddod yn ganolbwynt ar gyfer oedi'r broses o gynhyrchu cynlluniau a strategaethau eraill sy'n dibynnu ar y polisi cynllunio cenedlaethol.

Nid yw'r ymateb yn rhoi unrhyw arwydd pellach o'r ffordd y bydd yn mynd i'r afael â'r pryderon a fynegwyd gan randdeiliaid a thrigolion, ac felly byddai'n ddefnyddiol i'r pwyllgor gael diweddariad pellach ar yr agwedd hon ar ddiogelu'r arfordir cyn gynted â phosibl.

Yn yr un modd, gyda'n hargymhelliad olaf, nodwn fod y Llywodraeth wedi ymrwymo i ddatblygu rhaglen i greu cynefinoedd cydadferol, ond byddai sicrwydd pellach am hynt y gwaith hwn, faint o flaenoriaeth a roddir iddo ac, yn wir, yr amserlen ar gyfer ei gwblhau yn cael eu croesawu gan y pwyllgor.

Croesawaf ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru yn

overall and note the support for the intent behind the actions that we proposed in our recommendations. I would like to close by once again thanking all of those who assisted us in this inquiry and hope that our recommendations have been a valuable contribution to making further progress on an issue of real importance to many Welsh coastal communities and an issue that should be important and of concern to us all.

Russell George: I am very pleased to have the opportunity to take part in this debate this afternoon and I hope that, with a large part of this afternoon's business dedicated to the discussion of the future of coastal and flood-risk management in Wales, we can strike a chord of genuine cross-party consensus on this incredibly important issue.

In terms of this debate, I would like to start by echoing the thanks of my colleague William Powell to all of those who took part in this inquiry, to the witnesses for their insight and expertise, and, of course, to the committee team involved in the production of this report for their hard work and diligence. William Powell has already indicated the origins of this inquiry. It was very much a piece of focused legacy work that emanated from earlier inquiries that took place during the previous Assembly—first, the report by the Wales Audit Office and then that of the Public Accounts Committee back in 2009-10. A number of key issues were pinpointed in those reports for the Welsh Government to take forward, namely that the previous approaches to flooding and coastal erosion management were simply insufficient to meet the severe risks and challenges that climate change would bring to our shorelines and that throwing more money at the defence-orientated approach by building higher and wider man-made defences was simply unsustainable.

The Wales Audit Office conveyed the scale of the challenge that the Welsh Government and its main stakeholders faced in delivering comprehensive change with very limited resources and to a demanding timetable. It was clear that the Government needs to become more strategic, more integrated,

gyffredinol a nodaf y gefnogaeth i'r bwriad sy'n sail i'r camau gweithredu a gynigiwyd gennym yn ein hargymhellion. Hoffwn gloi drwy ddiolch unwaith eto i bawb a fu'n ein cynorthwyo yn yr ymchwiliad hwn a gobeithiaf y bydd ein hargymhellion wedi bod yn gyfraniad gwerthfawr i wneud cynnydd pellach ar fater o bwys gwirioneddol i lawer o gymunedau arfordirol yng Nghymru a mater a ddylai fod yn bwysig ac yn achos pryder i ni i gyd.

Russell George: Rwy'n falch iawn o gael y cyfle i gymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon y prynhawn yma, a gobeithiaf, gyda chyfran fawr o fusnes y prynhawn yma wedi'i neilltuo i drafod dyfodol rheoli arfordirol a pherygl llifogydd yng Nghymru, y gallwn ddod i gonsensws trawsbleidiol gwirioneddol ar y mater hynod bwysig hwn.

O ran y ddadl hon, hoffwn ddechrau drwy ategu diolch fy nghyd-aelod William Powell i bawb a gymerodd ran yn yr ymchwiliad hwn, i'r tystion am eu sylwadau a'u harbenigedd, ac, wrth gwrs, i dîm y pwyllgor a oedd yn gysylltiedig â'r gwaith o gynhyrchu'r adroddiad hwn am eu gwaith caled a'u diwydrwydd. Mae William Powell eisoes wedi nodi tarddiad yr ymchwiliad hwn sef darn o waith ac iddo ffocws pendant a ddeilliodd o ymchwiliadau cynharach a gynhaliwyd yn ystod y Cynulliad blaenorol—yn gyntaf, yr adroddiad gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru ac yna'r adroddiad gan y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus yn ôl yn 2009-10. Tynnwyd sylw at nifer o faterion allweddol yn yr adroddiadau hynny i Lywodraeth Cymru weithredu arnynt, sef bod y dulliau blaenorol o reoli llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol yn annigonol i ateb y risgiau a'r heriau difrifol i'n traethlinau yn sgil newid yn yr hinsawdd a bod neilltuo rhagor o arian i ddull gweithredu sy'n canolbwyntio ar amddiffyn drwy adeiladu amddiffynfeydd uwch ac ehangach o waith dyn yn anghynaliadwy.

Cyfleodd Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru faint yr her a wynebodd Llywodraeth Cymru a'i phrif randdeiliaid wrth gyflwyno newid cynhwysfawr gydag adnoddau cyfyngedig iawn ac o fewn amserlen dynn. Roedd yn amlwg bod angen i'r Llywodraeth fod yn fwy strategol, yn fwy integredig, yn fwy trefnus

more organised and more focused on long-term sustainable outcomes and also to accelerate the pace of change. In addition to this, it also has to increase the rate of public engagement and awareness of the challenges that lie ahead as well as ensuring that all stakeholders are clear about the Government's direction of travel so that there is universal buy-in. This is not easy, but both reports indicated that the Government was on the right track and knew what it needed to do in order to deliver more innovative risk-based approaches to flooding and coastal erosion, but it was too slow in implementing that change.

Finally, in 2011, the Government published its first national flood and coastal erosion risk-management strategy. While it is still too early in the cycle of the strategy to draw any clear conclusions, as the committee indicated in its report, there is a general positivity among stakeholders that the Government is getting its approach right. However, as this report highlights, there are potential barriers to future success that need to be addressed.

Vaughan Gething: Thank you for taking an intervention. I do not intend to speak in the main debate, but, to go back to some of the evidence that we heard, is it not fair to say that much of the difficulty in making progress is not just budgetary or about will, but the reality is that many of the messages could be unpalatable to coastal communities that could be affected by future coastal erosion and whether or not the flood defences are, in fact, recoverable or sustainable in the future? That is a very unpalatable message that people do not really want to hear.

Russell George: I thank my colleague on the committee for his intervention. I agree with the points that he made, which were good points.

I do not really want to use all of my script because there are some issues that I can raise in our debate later. However, I would like to focus briefly on the potential resource

gan ganolbwyntio mwy ar ganlyniadau hirdymor cynaliadwy a hefyd gyflwyno newidiadau yn gynt. Yn ogystal â hyn, mae angen iddi hefyd gael mwy o ymgysylltu â'r cyhoedd a chodi ymwybyddiaeth y cyhoedd o'r heriau sydd ar y gorwel yn ogystal â sicrhau bod yr holl randdeiliaid yn deall cyfeiriad y Llywodraeth fel bod cefnogaeth gyffredinol. Nid yw hyn yn hawdd, ond nododd y ddau adroddiad fod y Llywodraeth ar y trywydd iawn a'i bod yn gwybod beth oedd angen iddi ei wneud er mwyn gweithredu mewn modd mwy arloesol seiliedig ar risg o ran llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol, ond ei bod yn rhy araf yn gweithredu'r newid hwnnw.

Yn olaf, yn 2011, cyhoeddodd y Llywodraeth ei strategaeth genedlaethol gyntaf ar reoli perygl llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol. Er ei bod yn rhy gynnar eto yng nghylch y strategaeth i lunio unrhyw gasgliadau clir, fel y nododd y pwyllgor yn ei adroddiad, mae agwedd gadarnhaol gyffredinol ymysg rhanddeiliaid bod y Llywodraeth wedi taro'r hoelen ar ei phen o ran ei hymagwedd. Fodd bynnag, fel yr amlyga'r adroddiad hwn, mae rhwystrau posibl i lwyddiant yn y dyfodol y mae angen mynd i'r afael â hwy.

Vaughan Gething: Diolch am dderbyn ymyriad. Nid wyf yn bwriadu siarad yn y brif ddadl, ond, i ddychwelyd at rywfaent o'r dystiolaeth a glywsom, onid yw'n deg dweud bod a wnelo llawer o'r anhawster i wneud cynnydd nid yn unig â chyllid neu ewyllys, ond y gwir yw y gallai llawer o'r negeseuon fod yn annymunol i gymunedau arfordirol y gallai erydu arfordirol yn y dyfodol effeithio arnynt ac a yw'r amddiffynfeydd rhag llifogydd, mewn gwirionedd, yn adferadwy neu'n gynaliadwy yn y dyfodol? Dyna neges annymunol iawn nad yw pobl yn wir eisiau ei chlywed.

Russell George: Diolch i'm cyd-aelod ar y pwyllgor am ei ymyriad. Cytunaf â'r pwyntiau a wnaeth, a oedd yn bwyntiau da.

Nid wyf yn wir am ddefnyddio fy holl sgript oherwydd bod rhai materion y gallaf eu codi yn ein dadl yn nes ymlaen. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn ganolbwyntio'n fras ar y goblygiadau

implications in the time that I have left to make my contribution.

3.30 p.m.

There are several issues. First, reservations were expressed by, I believe, all the witnesses who gave evidence about the way that coastal works are currently funded in Wales. It was the Environment Agency that was the most stark in saying that, just to stand still, there needs to be a threefold increase in money over the next 25 years. However, I believe that the Minister alluded to a potential solution in his evidence to us, which would be the production of a comprehensive package of investment comprising of several streams of funding, including public and private funding. This would include securing funds from the businesses that will benefit from future defences, as well as securing funds from the insurance industry. We must all face the fact that it will be the insurance industry that benefits from mitigating these risks. It also requires some European Union funding.

It is also worth noting that investment in flood and coastal risk management schemes has added value beyond flood and erosion protection. There are potential tourism, environmental, recreational and economic development benefits, and these should not be lost when those tough decisions about priorities are to be taken. The second aspect of this—

The Presiding Officer: Order. Will you wind up please?

Russell George: Yes. I was going to mention one of the issues that our committee Chair continues to question the Government on, but I hope that one of my colleagues will now make the point that I wish to make. Perhaps I will get an opportunity in the later debate on flooding to expand on what I wanted to say. To conclude, I welcome the Government's formal response to this report, and I am pleased that it has accepted the recommendations.

Janet Finch-Saunders: Thank you for calling this debate today. This is a topical

o ran adnoddau posibl yn yr amser sydd gennyf yn weddill i wneud fy nghyfraniad.

3.30 p.m.

Cyfyd nifer o faterion. Yn gyntaf, mynegwyd amheuon gan, fe gredaf, yr holl dystion a roddodd dystiolaeth am y ffordd y caiff gwaith arfordirol ei gyllido ar hyn o bryd yng Nghymru. Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd a oedd yn fwyaf diflewyn ar dafod yn dweud, bod angen deirgwaith yn fwy o arian dros y 25 mlynedd nesaf dim ond er mwyn aros yn yr unman. Fodd bynnag, credaf fod y Gweinidog wedi cyfeirio at ateb posibl yn ei dystiolaeth i ni, sef cynhyrchu pecyn cynhwysfawr o fuddsoddiad yn cynnwys nifer o ffrydiau ariannu, gan gynnwys cyllid cyhoeddus a phreifat. Byddai hyn yn cynnwys sicrhau cyllid gan y busnesau a fydd yn elwa o'r amddiffynfeydd yn y dyfodol, yn ogystal â sicrhau cyllid gan y diwydiant yswiriant. Rhaid inni i gyd wynebu'r ffaith mai'r diwydiant yswiriant fydd yn elwa o liniaru'r risgiau hyn. Mae angen rhywfaint o arian gan yr Undeb Ewropeaidd hefyd.

Mae hefyd yn werth nodi bod buddsoddi mewn cynlluniau rheoli perygl llifogydd ac arfordirol wedi ychwanegu gwerth y tu hwnt i amddiffyn rhag llifogydd ac erydu. Mae manteision posibl o ran twristiaeth, yr amgylchedd, hamdden a datblygu economaidd, ac ni ddylid colli'r rhain pan fydd yn rhaid gwneud y penderfyniadau anodd hynny ynghylch blaenoriaethau. Yr ail gwedd ar hyn—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. A wnewch chi ddirwyn i ben, os gwelwch yn dda?

Russell George: Gwnaf. Roeddwn yn mynd i sôn am un o'r materion y mae Cadeirydd ein pwyllgor yn parhau i holi'r Llywodraeth yn ei gylch, ond gobeithiaf y bydd un o'm cyd-aelodau bellach yn gwneud y pwynt yr wyf am ei wneud. Efallai y caf gyfle yn y ddadl yn nes ymlaen ar lifogydd i ymhelaethu ar yr hyn yr oeddwn am ei ddweud. I gloi, croesawaf ymateb ffurfiol y Llywodraeth i'r adroddiad hwn, ac rwy'n falch ei bod wedi derbyn yr argymhellion.

Janet Finch-Saunders: Diolch ichi am alw'r ddadl hon heddiw. Mae hwn yn bwnc llosg,

issue, and one of which I have had first-hand experience in my constituency of Aberconwy. I am also pleased that the committee has decided to adopt many of the recommendations. However, I would like to see more integration with the planning Bill that is coming forward, to ensure that communities are fully protected in a more strategic and localised plan. It is responsible planning and a more cohesive, strategic direction from the Welsh Government that will enable our communities to become more informed, more resilient and more prepared to face coastal erosion, as we certainly now experience extraordinary climatic weather conditions and higher tides.

As will be discussed in further depth in the Conservative debate on flooding later today, sustainable coastal defences are also a fundamental part of ensuring that our communities, and Welsh home owners, feel protected in the strongest terms. However, there are major concerns around funding, as well as major concerns about how joined-up the partnership agencies are in their working. Furthermore, there are major concerns that, when you have a cluster of properties that are identified as being in need of some coastal protection works, not only do you need people's co-operation, but, in some cases, you need them to make sizeable contributions towards those works. I can tell you that it is no mean feat trying to get residents who own the frontages of properties to come together in some consensus in order to move the process forward. I know that the Minister is fully aware of the particular case that I have in mind.

I welcome the fact that the committee focuses on information gathering and accessibility, as well as communication between the Welsh Government and associated stakeholders. Recommendation 6 highlights the need for a cohesive strategy towards coastal protection. However, one thing that concerned me, as noted in the recommendation, is that a key responsibility of natural resources Wales is to ensure the co-ordination of expertise and the sharing of best practice across Wales. I agree with this statement, as different skill sets and experiences are essential. However, they must be managed properly by the Welsh

ac yn un yr wyf wedi cael profiad uniongyrchol ohono yn fy etholaeth, Aberconwy. Rwyf hefyd yn falch bod y pwyllgor wedi penderfynu mabwysiadu llawer o'r argymhellion. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn weld mwy o integreiddio â'r Bil cynllunio sydd yn yr arfaeth, er mwyn sicrhau bod cymunedau yn cael eu gwarchod yn llawn mewn cynllun mwy strategol a lleol. Cynllunio cyfrifol a chyfeiriad mwy cydlynol, strategol gan Lywodraeth Cymru fydd yn galluogi ein cymunedau i ddod yn fwy gwybodus, yn fwy cydnerth ac yn fwy parod i wynebu erydu arfordirol, gan ein bod yn sicr yn awr yn profi tywydd hinsoddol anghyffredin a llanwau uwch.

Fel y trafodir yn fanylach yn nadl y Ceidwadwyr ar lifogydd yn ddiweddarach heddiw, mae amddiffynfeydd arfordirol cynaliadwy hefyd yn rhan hanfodol o sicrhau bod ein cymunedau, a pherchnogion cartrefi yng Nghymru, yn teimlo eu bod yn cael eu diogelu i'r carn. Fodd bynnag, mae pryderon mawr ynghylch cyllid, yn ogystal â phryderon mawr ynghylch pa mor gydgyssylltiedig yw'r asiantaethau partneriaeth yn eu gwaith. At hyn, mae pryderon mawr, pan fo clwstwr o eiddo y nodir bod angen rhywfaint o waith amddiffyn arfordirol arno, fod angen nid yn unig cydweithrediad gan bobl, ond, mewn rhai achosion, y bydd angen iddynt wneud cyfraniadau sylweddol tuag at y gwaith hwnnw. Gallaf ddweud wrthy ch ei bod yn dipyn o gamp ceisio cael trigolion sy'n berchen ar flaen eu heiddo i ddod i ryw gonsensws er mwyn symud y broses ymlaen. Gwn fod y Gweinidog yn gwbl ymwybodol o'r achos penodol dan sylw.

Croesawaf y ffaith bod y pwyllgor yn canolbwyntio ar gasglu gwybodaeth a hygyrchedd, yn ogystal â chyfathrebu rhwng Llywodraeth Cymru a rhanddeiliaid cysylltiedig. Mae argymhelliad 6 yn tynnu sylw at yr angen am strategaeth gydlynol tuag at ddiogelu'r arfordir. Fodd bynnag, un peth sy'n peri pryder imi, fel y nodwyd yn yr argymhelliad, yw mai un o gyfrifoldebau allweddol cyfoeth naturiol Cymru yw sicrhau bod arbenigedd yn cael ei gydgyssylltu a bod arferion gorau yn cael eu rhannu ledled Cymru. Cytunaf â'r datganiad hwn, gan fod setiau sgiliau a phrofiadau gwahanol yn

Government in order to ensure that they are applied effectively and to the advantage of local communities.

I note, too, that concerns have been raised that several of the non-executive directors that have been appointed by the Welsh Government to natural resources Wales have little or no experience of engineering in flood or coastal erosion risk management. That is according to the Association of Drainage Authorities' press release on 19 November. Therefore, assurances must be made by the Welsh Government that natural resources Wales will be qualified in its knowledge, experienced in its field, and effective at dealing with complexities, while being able enough to truly support our communities and while looking to deal with coastal erosion as soon as is possible and as a priority. I endorse recommendation 7, outlining more funding from external bodies, such as, in some cases, private businesses and commercial enterprises, to widen the sources of potential financing of coastal protection.

I am pleased that the Welsh Government has accepted all but two of the recommendations outright and that it accepts recommendations 1 and 10 in principle. However, recommendation 10 is to ensure that coastal communities in Wales are able to plan around eventualities of coastal erosion. Both TAN 14 and TAN 15 need to be updated as soon as possible so that they can incorporate more recent legislation such as the Flooding and Water Management Act 2010. Although the Minister has accepted the review and reform of TAN 14 and 15 in principle, he explains that this cannot happen until the objectives of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, marine spatial planning, the national coastal erosion risk mapping project and the revisions to shoreline management plans have been established. I would like some clarification around that.

I note from the committee's report that the Minister outlined that a review would be more appropriate after the shoreline management's plans were in place and when these views are sought on the planning Bill. I therefore would like to know the timetable on

hanfodol. Fodd bynnag, rhaid iddynt gael eu rheoli'n gywir gan Lywodraeth Cymru er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn cael eu cymhwysu'n effeithiol ac er budd cymunedau lleol.

Sylwaf hefyd, fod pryderon wedi eu codi nad oes gan nifer o'r cyfarwyddwyr anweithredol sydd wedi eu penodi gan Lywodraeth Cymru i cyfoeth naturiol Cymru fawr ddim profiad o beirianeg ym maes rheoli perygl llifogydd neu erydu arfordirol, a hynny yn ôl datganiad i'r wasg gan Gymdeithas yr Awdurdodau Draenio ar 19 Tachwedd. Felly, rhaid i Lywodraeth Cymru sicrhau y bydd cyfoeth naturiol Cymru yn gymwys o ran ei wybodaeth, yn brofiadol yn ei faes, ac yn effeithiol o ran ymdrin â chymhlethodau, a'i fod yn ddigon galluog i wir gefnogi ein cymunedau tra bydd yn ceisio ymdrin ag erydu arfordirol cyn gynted â phosibl ac fel mater o flaenoriaeth. Cefnogaf argymhelliad 7, sy'n amlinellu rhagor o gyllid gan gyrff allanol, fel, mewn rhai achosion, busnesau preifat a mentrau masnachol, er mwyn ehangu ffynonellau ariannu posibl i ddiogelu'r arfordir.

Rwy'n falch bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi derbyn pob un ond dau o'r argymhellion yn llawn a'i bod yn derbyn argymhellion 1 a 10 mewn egwyddor. Fodd bynnag, nod argymhelliad 10 yw sicrhau bod cymunedau arfordirol yng Nghymru yn gallu cynllunio gan gadw erydu arfordirol mewn golwg. Mae angen diweddarau TAN 14 a TAN 15 cyn gynted â phosibl fel bod modd iddynt ymgorffori deddfwriaeth fwy diweddar fel Deddf Rheoli Llifogydd a Dŵr 2010. Er bod y Gweinidog wedi derbyn yr adolygiad a'r ffaith bod angen diwygio TAN 14 a 15 mewn egwyddor, mae'n egluro na all hyn ddigwydd hyd nes cyflawnir amcanion Deddf Rheoli Llifogydd a Dŵr 2010, a hyd nes y bydd cynllunio gofodol morol, y prosiect cenedlaethol ar gyfer mapio risgiau erydu arfordirol a'r diwygiadau i gynlluniau rheoli traethlinau wedi eu cyflawni. Hoffwn gael rhyw fath o eglurhad ynghylch hynny.

Nodaf o adroddiad y pwyllgor i'r Gweinidog amlinellu y byddai adolygiad yn fwy priodol ar ôl rhoi'r cynlluniau rheoli traethlinau ar waith a phan geisir y safbwyntiau hyn ar y Bil cynllunio. Hoffwn wybod felly beth yw amserlen Papur Gwyn y Bil, er mwyn i

the planning Bill's White Paper, so that communities such as those in my constituency have an opportunity to feed into the process and send in their views to the Welsh Government.

Finally, I am pleased that moves have been made towards forward planning and resilience when dealing with coastal protection. I welcome the fact that the committee has been thorough and has suggested some worthwhile recommendations for the Welsh Government to take on board. However, as we will be debating later today, we still need a cohesive and consistent strategy.

Byron Davies: Thank you for the opportunity to make a couple of points in this debate. I am delighted to have that opportunity as I have a very strong interest in coastal protection as anyone, I suppose, who was raised in a Gower seaside village would have. I open by thanking the committee and the witnesses very much and echo much of what has already been said. The report and the Government's response in accepting all recommendations are extremely welcome and I do not intend to repeat the points made by Members so far. I do, however, want to emphasise the importance of adaptive approaches to coastal protection, involving working with existing natural processes or engineering with nature. This is extremely important in South Wales West and along the Welsh coastline, and approaches should include holding the line with hard and soft defences or measures such as beach nourishment this—roll back, manage realignment or remove failed sea defences to allow natural processes to take over again. This must be a co-ordinated approach over the whole frontage of our coastal areas. This has been strangely lacking and I welcome the fact that the report touches on it.

I want to especially mention the National Trust's evidence in moving away from a purely reactive approach to coastal erosion. The importance of embedding an adaptive response to coastal change management into land use and marine planning is essential. This brings me on to a particular bugbear of

gymunedau fel y rhai yn fy etholaeth gael cyfle i gyfrannu at y broses ac anfon eu barn at Lywodraeth Cymru.

Yn olaf, rwy'n falch bod camau wedi cael eu cymryd tuag at gynllunio ar gyfer y dyfodol a chydnerthedd wrth ymdrin â diogelu'r arfordir. Croesawaf y ffaith bod y pwyllgor wedi bod yn drylwyr ac wedi awgrymu rhai argymhellion buddiol i Lywodraeth Cymru weithredu arnynt. Fodd bynnag, fel y byddwn yn trafod yn ddiweddarach heddiw, bydd angen strategaeth gydlynol a chyson o hyd.

Byron Davies: Diolch am y cyfle i wneud ychydig o bwyntiau yn y ddafl hon. Mae'n bleser gennyf gael y cyfle hwnnw gan fod gennyf ddiddordeb mawr iawn ym maes diogelu'r arfordir fel y byddai gan unrhyw un, am wn i, a fagwyd mewn pentref glan môr yng Ngŵyr. Dechreuaf drwy ddiolch i'r pwyllgor a'r tystion yn fawr iawn ac ategaf lawer o'r hyn a ddywedwyd eisoes. Mae croeso mawr i'r adroddiad ac ymateb y Llywodraeth o ran derbyn yr holl argymhellion ac nid wyf yn bwriadu ailadrodd y pwyntiau a wnaed gan Aelodau hyd yma. Fodd bynnag, rwyf am bwysleisio pwysigrwydd dulliau ymaddasol o ddiogelu'r arfordir, gan gynnwys gweithio gyda'r prosesau naturiol presennol neu beriannu â natur. Mae hyn yn hynod bwysig yn y de-orllewin ac ar hyd arfordir Cymru, a dylai'r dulliau gynnwys cynnal y forlin gydag amddiffynfeydd caled a meddal neu fesurau fel maeth i'r traeth—rholio'n ôl, rheoli adliniad neu ddymchwel amddiffynfeydd môr sydd wedi methu er mwyn adfer prosesau naturiol unwaith eto. Rhaid i hwn fod yn ddull cydgysylltiedig dros ffryntiad cyfan ein hardaloedd arfordirol. Yn rhyfedd ddigon, mae hyn wedi bod yn eisiau a chroesawaf y ffaith bod yr adroddiad yn ei grybwyll.

Rwyf am sôn yn benodol am dystiolaeth yr Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol ar symud oddi wrth ymagwedd hollol adweithiol tuag at erydu arfordirol. Mae ymgorffori ymateb ymaddasol i reoli newid arfordirol mewn defnydd tir a chynllunio morol yn hollbwysig. Mae hyn yn arwain at rywbeth

mine, which is dredging. I am extremely concerned, and have been for a number of years, that this undermines the soft defences of our coastline, and it is especially true when you talk about soft defences such as beach nourishment. Gower's coastline and beaches have seen erosion for many years. We need to look at options that protect our natural defences. It makes little sense to invest heavily in artificial defences that will constantly need renewal while, at the same time, undermining our natural protection.

I know that the issues of governance are key issues for many Members, and others have touched on it. However, it would be remiss not to add my own concerns. I am very keen, as are other Members, to see the detail of the new body, especially in terms of funding and internal governance arrangements, so that it is equipped to meet future challenges effectively and quickly. Alongside this, we need to ensure that we have the strongest human resources. We need to retain the expertise and knowledge capital across all the work streams to ensure continuity. I would appreciate it, as would other Members, if the Minister could focus on answering these two issues and allaying some of our fears.

In closing my contribution, I want to reiterate the need for a holistic approach to coastal protection. The emphasis and priority must be on the retention and creation of natural defences. We must ensure that any investment is not undermined unnecessarily by the exploitation of our natural resources around our coastal areas so that we do not end up—as I addressed in my supplementary question to the Minister earlier—with beaches in areas of outstanding natural beauty denuded of sand.

The Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development (John Griffiths): Managing the risks presented by flooding and coastal erosion is a high priority for the Welsh Government and all of the Welsh flood and coastal erosion risk management

sy'n gasbeth gennyf, sef carthu. Rwy'n bryderus iawn, ac wedi bod ers nifer o flynyddoedd, fod hyn yn tanseilio amddiffynfeydd meddal ein morlin, ac mae'n arbennig o wir pan soniwch am amddiffynfeydd meddal fel maeth traeth. Mae morlin a thraethau Gŵyr wedi erydu ers blynyddoedd lawer. Mae angen inni edrych ar opsiynau sy'n amddiffyn ein hamddiffynfeydd naturiol. Nid yw'n gwneud llawer o synnwyr buddsoddi'n drwm mewn amddiffynfeydd artiffisial y bydd yn angen iddynt gael eu hadnewyddu'n gyson ac, ar yr un pryd, yn tanseilio ein hamddiffyniad naturiol.

Gwn fod y materion llywodraethu yn faterion allweddol i lawer o Aelodau, ac mae eraill wedi eu crybwyll. Fodd bynnag, byddwn ar fai pe na bawn yn ychwanegu fy mhryderon fy hun. Rwy'n awyddus iawn, fel y mae Aelodau eraill, i weld manylion y corff newydd, yn enwedig o ran cyllid a threfniadau llywodraethu mewnol, fel ei fod yn barod i ateb heriau yn y dyfodol yn effeithiol ac yn gyflym. Ochr yn ochr â hyn, mae angen inni sicrhau bod gennym yr adnoddau dynol cryfaf. Mae angen inni gadw'r arbenigedd a chyfalaf gwybodaeth ym mhob un o'r ffrydiau gwaith i sicrhau parhad. Byddwn yn gwerthfawrogi, fel y byddai Aelodau eraill, pe gallai'r Gweinidog ganolbwyntio ar ateb y ddau fater hyn a lleddfu rhai o'n pryderon.

Wrth gloi fy nghyfraniad, hoffwn ailadrodd yr angen am ymagwedd gyfannol at ddiogelu'r arfordir. Rhaid i'r pwyslais a'r flaenoriaeth fod ar gadw a chreu amddiffynfeydd naturiol. Rhaid inni sicrhau nad yw unrhyw fuddsoddiad yn cael ei danseilio'n ddiangen drwy ymelwa ar ein hadnoddau naturiol o amgylch ein hardaloedd arfordirol fel nad ydym yn y pen draw—fel y nodais yn fy nghwestiwn atodol i'r Gweinidog yn gynharach—gyda thraethau mewn ardaloedd o harddwch naturiol eithriadol wedi'u dinoethi o dywod.

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy (John Griffiths): Mae rheoli perygl llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol yn flaenoriaeth uchel i Lywodraeth Cymru a phob un o'r awdurdodau rheoli perygl llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol yng Nghymru.

authorities involved. This is something that we are committed to delivering, so I very much thank the committee for collecting evidence and presenting its findings. I welcome this report and the opportunity it provides to reflect upon what we are doing in respect of coastal protection in Wales.

The 11 recommendations fit closely with our current policy direction and I am pleased to be able to accept them. I am pleased to report that work to implement many of them is already in progress. For instance, a clear message throughout the report is the importance of raising awareness and considering the best methods to communicate the risks and actions that we can all take to manage them. In responding to recommendation 5, I have confirmed our commitment to achieving this through the development of a single point of contact for flood inquiries and the establishment of a flood advisory service for Wales.

Members have mentioned funding and the Welsh Government is investing more than £150 million in flood and coastal erosion risk management over the life of this Assembly, in addition to more than £70 million from the European regional development fund programme and other sources. Part of this funding is provided to the Environment Agency and, in accepting recommendation 3, I have set out that this same level of funding will be transferred to natural resources Wales to support its flood and coastal erosion risk management functions.

Members rightly highlighted the cross-portfolio nature of these issues and I can assure them that I have been, and will be, in discussion with colleagues to ensure that we make the necessary connections to realise those cross-portfolio impacts. On the natural environment, which a number of Members have again highlighted, we look to new ways of considering these issues and responding to the challenges in terms of using the natural environment to a greater extent than has happened hitherto. I know that natural resources Wales is carefully considering those aspects, along with a number of other key stakeholders.

I was grateful for the support for our national

Mae hyn yn rhywbeth yr ydym wedi ymrwmo i'w gyflawni, felly hoffwn ddiolch yn fawr iawn i'r pwyllgor am gasglu tystiolaeth a chyflwyno ei ganfyddiadau. Croesawaf yr adroddiad hwn a'r cyfle a rydd i fyfyrion ar yr hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud o ran diogelu'r arfordir yng Nghymru.

Mae'r 11 o argymhellion yn cydweddu'n dda â'n cyfeiriad polisi cyfredol ac rwy'n falch o allu eu derbyn. Rwy'n falch o nodi bod y gwaith ar weithredu llawer ohonynt eisoes yn mynd rhagddo. Er enghraifft, mae pwysigrwydd codi ymwybyddiaeth ac ystyried y dulliau gorau o gyfleu'r risgiau a'r camau y gall pob un ohonom eu cymryd i'w rheoli yn neges glir drwy gydol yr adroddiad. Wrth ymateb i argymhelliad 5, rwyf wedi cadarnhau ein hymrwymiad i gyflawni hyn drwy ddatblygu un pwynt cyswllt ar gyfer ymholiadau llifogydd a sefydlu gwasanaeth ymgynghori ar lifogydd i Gymru.

Mae aelodau wedi sôn am gyllid ac mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn buddsoddi mwy na £150 miliwn yn y gwaith o reoli perygl llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol yn ystod oes y Cynulliad hwn, yn ogystal â mwy na £70 miliwn o raglen cronfa datblygu rhanbarthol Ewrop a ffynonellau eraill. Rhoddir rhan o'r cyllid hwn i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd ac, wrth dderbyn argymhelliad 3, rwyf wedi nodi y bydd y lefel hon o arian yn cael ei drosglwyddo i cyfoeth naturiol Cymru i gefnogi ei swyddogaethau rheoli perygl llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol.

Amlygodd aelodau yn gywir ddigon natur drawsbotffolio'r materion hyn a gallaf eu sicrhau fy mod wedi bod, ac y byddaf, yn trafod â chyd-aelodau i sicrhau ein bod yn gwneud y cysylltiadau angenrheidiol i wireddu'r effeithiau trawsbotffolio hynny. O ran yr amgylchedd naturiol, y mae nifer o Aelodau wedi tynnu sylw ato unwaith eto, rydym yn chwilio am ffyrdd newydd o ystyried y materion hyn ac ymateb i'r heriau o ran defnyddio'r amgylchedd naturiol i raddau mwy nag sydd wedi digwydd hyd yn hyn. Gwn fod adnoddau naturiol Cymru yn ystyried yr agweddau hynny yn ofalus, ynghyd â nifer o randdeiliaid allweddol eraill.

Roeddwn yn ddiolchgar am y gefnogaeth i'n

strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management. This demonstrates leadership by the Welsh Government and includes a commitment to develop a national funding policy and prioritisation methodology. Once completed, this national programme of investment will focus investment on our most at-risk communities and, in response to recommendation 8, I am happy to provide the committee with an update on its implementation in the autumn.

Planning matters have also been mentioned and, as referenced by recommendation 10 on planning provisions relevant to the coast, we continue to ensure that coastal erosion and flood risk are appropriately considered in managing the use of land. Our suite of planning policy and technical advice means that only appropriate development is permitted in coastal locations, where the risks to people and property can be managed effectively. Of course, the need to update policy is kept under constant review and we are now considering these matters in the context of recent events.

3.45 p.m.

Work is important to embrace and adopt a risk-management approach, which is central to these issues. We also strive to continually improve our understanding of those risks. The work of the Welsh Government-funded Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre and the Environment Agency is integral to this, through ongoing monitoring and the national coastal erosion risk map. Therefore, we will continue to fund coastal monitoring to better understand coastal erosion and review shoreline management plan policies, as appropriate, in line with recommendation 2.

Nick Ramsay: This is all wonderful stuff I am sure, but will you accept that although management is a great part of the problem and has to be done effectively, in those areas of Wales where we need to have solid man-made defences for coastal erosion, your Government will need to seek to ensure that those resources are there, so that we do not see communities suffering because they are

strategaeth genedlaethol ar gyfer rheoli perygl llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol. Mae hyn yn dangos arweiniad gan Lywodraeth Cymru ac mae'n cynnwys ymrwymiad i ddatblygu polisi ariannu cenedlaethol a methodoleg blaenoriaethu. Ar ôl iddi gael ei chwblhau, bydd y rhaglen fuddsoddi genedlaethol hon yn canolbwyntio buddsoddiad ar ein cymunedau sydd fwyaf agored i risg ac, mewn ymateb i argymhelliad 8, rwy'n fwy na pharod i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r pwyllgor ar y broses o'i gweithredu yn yr hydref.

Mae materion cynllunio hefyd wedi eu crybwyll ac, fel y cyfeiriwyd drwy argymhelliad 10 ar ddarpariaethau cynllunio sy'n berthnasol i'r arfordir, rydym yn parhau i sicrhau bod erydu arfordirol a pherygl llifogydd yn cael eu hystyried yn briodol wrth reoli'r defnydd o dir. Mae ein cyfres o bolisiau cynllunio a chyingor technegol yn golygu mai dim ond datblygiadau priodol a ganiateir mewn lleoliadau arfordirol, lle y gall y peryglon i bobl ac eiddo gael eu rheoli'n effeithiol. Wrth gwrs, caiff yr angen i ddiweddarau'r polisi ei adolygu'n gyson ac rydym bellach yn ystyried y materion hyn yng nghyd-destun digwyddiadau diweddar.

3.45 p.m.

Mae gwaith yn bwysig er mwyn derbyn a mabwysiadu dull o reoli risg, sy'n ganolog i'r materion hyn. Rydym hefyd yn ymdrechu o hyd i wella ein dealltwriaeth o'r risgiau hynny. Mae gwaith Canolfan Monitro Arfordirol Cymru a ariennir gan Lywodraeth Cymru ac Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn rhan annatod o hyn, drwy fonitro parhaus a'r map cenedlaethol o risgiau erydu arfordirol. Felly, byddwn yn parhau i ariannu gwaith monitro arfordirol i ddeall yn well erydu arfordirol ac adolygu polisiau'r cynllun rheoli traethlinau, fel y bo'n briodol, yn unol ag argymhelliad 2.

Nick Ramsay: Mae hyn i gyd yn wych rwy'n siŵr, ond oni fyddwch yn derbyn er bod rheoli yn rhan fawr o'r broblem a bod yn rhaid gwneud hynny'n effeithiol, yn yr ardaloedd hynny o Gymru lle mae angen inni gael amddiffynfeydd cadarn o waith dyn ar gyfer erydu arfordirol, y bydd angen i'ch Llywodraeth geisio sicrhau bod yr adnoddau hynny ar gael, fel nad ydym yn gweld

not put in?

John Griffiths: What I am stating is centred around a consensus that exists across this Chamber and among key stakeholders outside. These are very important matters that build on that consensus and take it forward. Of course, what people might see as hard flood defences is still very much a central part of our approach and will continue to be so. We look at these matters in the round and we will continue to take that approach.

Regarding recommendation 7 on new sources of funding for coastal protection, my officials have set up a task group of key stakeholders to progress policy and funding issues in the light of findings from the shoreline management plans and the national coastal erosion risk map. Long-term decisions will be required and I understand the difficulties that Members have mentioned. They will consider coastal erosion and its implications, with the aim of informing policy and funding direction, in line with the risk management approach. The first meeting and workshop is scheduled for next week. As part of the work, related to recommendation 9, they will reflect on the results of the UK Government pathfinder project to see what findings might be applicable to Wales. I will be reporting on the implementation of my national strategy in 2014, as required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and in line with recommendation 4 from the committee. This will include information on coastal policy and the rates and risks of erosion.

In conclusion, while we cannot eradicate the risks of flooding or coastal erosion in Wales, we can, by working together, reduce them and improve the way we prepare for, respond to and recover from flooding and coastal erosion events. I continue to look forward to working with other Members to take forward what I think is an emerging and strengthening consensus on these issues.

cymunedau yn dioddef am nad ydynt wedi'u neilltuo?

John Griffiths: Mae'r hyn a nodaf yn canolbwyntio ar gonsensws sy'n bodoli ar draws y Siambr hon ac ymhlith rhanddeiliaid allweddol y tu allan. Mae'r rhain yn faterion pwysig iawn sy'n adeiladu ar y consensws hwnnw ac yn gweithredu arno. Wrth gwrs, mae'r hyn y gallai pobl ei ystyried yn amddiffynfeydd caled rhag llifogydd yn dal i fod yn rhan ganolog o'n dull o weithredu a bydd yn parhau i fod felly. Edrychwn ar y materion hyn yn gyffredinol a byddwn yn parhau i weithredu yn y modd hwnnw.

O ran argymhelliad 7 ar ffynonellau newydd o gyllid ar gyfer amddiffyn arfordirol, mae fy swyddogion wedi sefydlu tasglu o randdeiliaid allweddol i ddatblygu materion polisi a chyllid yng ngoleuni canfyddiadau'r cynlluniau rheoli traethlinau a'r map cenedlaethol o berygl erydu arfordirol. Bydd angen penderfyniadau hirdymor a deallaf yr anawsterau y mae Aelodau wedi sôn amdanynt. Byddant yn ystyried erydu arfordirol a'i oblygiadau, gyda'r nod o lywio cyfeiriad polisi a chyllid, yn unol â'r dull o reoli risg. Mae'r cyfarfod cyntaf a'r gweithdy wedi'u trefnu ar gyfer yr wythnos nesaf. Fel rhan o'r gwaith, yn gysylltiedig ag argymhelliad 9, byddant yn myfyrio ar ganlyniadau prosiect braenaru Llywodraeth y DU i weld pa ganfyddiadau allai fod yn berthnasol i Gymru. Byddaf yn cyflwyno adroddiad ar y broses o weithredu fy strategaeth genedlaethol yn 2014, fel sy'n ofynnol o dan Ddeddf Rheoli Llifogydd a Dŵr 2010 ac yn unol ag argymhelliad 4 o'r pwyllgor. Bydd hyn yn cynnwys gwybodaeth am bolisi arfordirol a chyfraddau a pherygl erydu.

I gloi, er na allwn ddileu perygl llifogydd nac erydu arfordirol yng Nghymru, drwy weithio gyda'n gilydd, gallwn eu lleihau a gwella'r ffordd yr ydym yn paratoi ar gyfer llifogydd ac achosion o erydu arfordirol, yn ymateb iddynt ac yn adfer yn eu sgil. Edrychaf ymlaen o hyd at weithio gyda'r Aelodau eraill i fwrw ymlaen â'r hyn sydd, yn fy marn i, yn gonsensws sy'n datblygu ac yn dwysáu ynglŷn â'r materion hyn.

William Powell: I am grateful to all Members who have been able to participate in this debate today: both Members of the committee and those others who, particularly through their constituency and regional responsibilities, have experience to draw on, which they have shared with us today. I would like to comment on some of the contributions.

I am grateful to Russell George for his contribution emphasising the importance of a cross-party approach to managing these vital issues. Although he is one of the Members who has contributed and who comes from a broadly landlocked constituency, with the exception of the Dyfi estuary, he has shown that he very much has a grip on these issues. I was also particularly impressed by the detail into which he entered on the WAO report, which predated our own work on this issue. I think that is really important. He also emphasised, and this is important, the significance that not only Welsh Government, but European-funded projects could have in addressing some of the solutions to mitigating and combating the risk of erosion.

Vaughan Gething, in his intervention, rightly pointed out the difficulty, sometimes, in going to communities that will be affected, and particularly the danger of individual householders and estates being blighted with the risk that comes with that kind of designation. That hard message was something that I think was important to add to today's debate.

Janet Finch-Saunders drew on her personal experience of floods in recent years in Aberconwy, and stressed the need for communities to work together. It is also evident that it is sometimes very difficult for communities and individual householders to put aside their differences to collaborate over a funding approach. Janet was also right to emphasise the importance of joined-up working between agencies. It is very important that bureaucracy and procedure do not get in the way of delivering solutions. She also emphasised the issues around TAN 14 and TAN 15, which I also mentioned in my opening address.

William Powell: Rwy'n ddiolchgar i'r holl Aelodau sydd wedi gallu cymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon heddiw: Aelodau'r pwyllgor a'r rhai sydd, yn enwedig drwy eu cyfrifoldebau etholaethol a rhanbarthol, yn meddu ar brofiad, y maent wedi ei rannu â ni heddiw. Hoffwn wneud sylwadau ar rai o'r cyfraniadau.

Rwy'n ddiolchgar i Russell George am ei gyfraniad a oedd yn pwysleisio pwysigrwydd dull trawsbleidiol o reoli'r materion hollbwysig hyn. Er ei fod yn un o'r Aelodau sydd wedi cyfrannu ac sy'n dod o etholaeth sydd wedi'i hamgylchynu gan dir fwy neu lai, ac eithrio aber Dyfi, mae wedi dangos ei fod yn deall y materion hyn i'r dim. Crëwyd argraff dda arnaf hefyd gan y sylw a roddodd i fanylion adroddiad SAC a ragflaenodd ein gwaith ninnau ar y mater hwn. Credaf fod hynny'n wirioneddol bwysig. Pwysleisiodd hefyd, ac mae hyn yn bwysig, arwyddocâd posibl nid yn unig prosiectau Llywodraeth Cymru, ond prosiectau a ariennir gan Ewrop o ran mynd i'r afael â rhai o'r atebion i liniaru perygl erydu a'i oresgyn.

Nododd Vaughan Gething, yn ei ymyriad, yn gywir ddigon yr anhawster, weithiau, i fynd i gymunedau yr effeithir arnynt, ac yn arbennig y perygl y bydd deiliaid tai unigol ac ystadau yn wynebu'r risg sy'n dod law yn llaw â'r math hwnnw o ddynodiad. Roedd y neges anodd honno yn rhywbeth a oedd yn bwysig, yn fy marn i, er mwyn ychwanegu at y ddadl heddiw.

Soniodd Janet Finch-Saunders am ei phrofiad personol o lifogydd yn ystod y blynyddoedd diweddar yn Aberconwy, a phwysleisiodd yr angen i gymunedau weithio gyda'i gilydd. Mae hefyd yn amlwg ei bod weithiau'n anodd iawn i gymunedau a deiliaid tai unigol roi gwahaniaeth barn o'r neilltu er mwyn cydweithio ar ddull cyllido. Roedd Janet yn llygad ei lle hefyd i bwysleisio pa mor bwysig yw gweithio cydgysylltiedig rhwng asiantaethau. Mae'n bwysig iawn nad yw biwrocratiaeth na gweithdrefn yn ein rhwystro rhag cynnig atebion. Pwysleisiodd hefyd y materion sy'n ymwneud â TAN 14 a TAN 15, y soniais i amdanynt hefyd yn fy

araith agoriadol.

Byron Davies drew on his particular experience and his aversion to the overuse of dredging as a technique, and the dangers that can run against nature's ability to act to alleviate some of these problems. He also emphasised the importance of taking a holistic approach to these matters, which, again, is a message that we need to hear.

I am very grateful to the Minister for a very full response, not just in terms of the recommendations that the Welsh Government has accepted, but also for showing that, in some key areas, there has been some real pace in the way in which this is being approached, and the urgency of this issue. I am particularly pleased that the group that will review the pathfinder project will meet imminently.

To emphasise again the scale of the investment that we have: there can never be enough, but we have heard references to the £150 million of Welsh Government funding and the £70 million of European Union-sourced funding during the life of this Assembly, and that funding will at least give us a solid start. We need to build on that and to find ways of increasing that investment.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all Members who have contributed today. I also thank members of the previous Sustainability Committee, chaired in 2011 by Kirsty Williams, for including this as a legacy item for us to take forward. It is a really important issue that we need to take seriously. I hope that today's debate has played some part in taking this issue forward.

The Presiding Officer: The proposal is to note the committee's report. Does any Member object? There are no objections. The motion is therefore agreed in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.36.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion agreed.*

Soniodd Byron Davies am ei brofiad arbennig a'i atgasedd at y gorddefnydd o garthu fel techneg, a'r peryglon a all fynd yn groes i allu natur i weithredu i liniaru rhai o'r problemau hyn. Pwysleisiodd hefyd bwysigrwydd gweithredu ar y materion hyn mewn modd cyfannol, sydd, unwaith eto, yn neges y mae angen inni ei chlywed.

Rwy'n ddiolchgar iawn i'r Gweinidog am ymateb llawn iawn, nid yn unig o ran yr argymhellion y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi eu derbyn, ond hefyd am ddangos, mewn rhai meysydd allweddol, fod y ffordd y gweithredir ar hyn yn wir wedi newid yn gyflym, ynghyd â natur frys y mater hwn. Rwy'n arbennig o falch y bydd y grŵp a fydd yn adolygu'r prosiect braenaru yn cyfarfod yn fuan.

Er mwyn pwysleisio unwaith eto maint y buddsoddiad sydd gennym: ni ellir byth cael digon, ond rydym wedi clywed cyfeiriadau at y £150 miliwn o gyllid Llywodraeth Cymru a'r £70 miliwn o gyllid yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yn ystod oes y Cynulliad hwn, a bydd y cyllid hwnnw'n rhoi dechrau cadarn inni o leiaf. Mae angen inni adeiladu ar hynny a dod o hyd i ffyrdd o gynyddu'r buddsoddiad hwnnw.

I gloi, hoffwn ddiolch i'r holl Aelodau sydd wedi cyfrannu heddiw. Diolch hefyd i aelodau'r Pwyllgor Cynaliadwyedd blaenorol, a gadeiriwyd yn 2011 gan Kirsty Williams, am gynnwys hyn fel eitem a drosglwyddwyd inni er mwyn gweithredu arni. Mae'n fater pwysig iawn y mae angen inni ei ystyried o ddifrif. Gobeithio y bydd dadl heddiw wedi cyfrannu rhywfaint at y broses o weithredu ar y mater hwn.

Y Llywydd: Y cynnig yw nodi adroddiad y pwyllgor. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Nid oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad. Mae'r cynnig felly wedi'i dderbyn, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 12.36.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (David Melding) i'r Gadair am 3.52 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer (David Melding) took the Chair at 3.52 p.m.*

Ymchwiliad y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc i Fabwysiadu The Children and Young People Committee's Inquiry into Adoption

Cynnig NDM5133 Christine Chapman

Motion NDM5133 Christine Chapman

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Yn nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc ar yr ymchwiliad i Fabwysiadu, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 8 Tachwedd 2012.

Notes the report of the Children and Young People Committee on the inquiry into Adoption, which was laid in the Table Office on 8 November 2012.

Christine Chapman: I move the motion.

Christine Chapman: Cynigiau y cynnig.

I am delighted to present this report today and to open the debate. Adoption plays an important role in offering a permanent family environment to some of the most vulnerable children in Wales, and the committee's report highlights the strengths as well as some important shortcomings within aspects of adoption services in Wales.

Mae'n bleser gennyf gyflwyno'r adroddiad hwn heddiw ac agor y ddadl. Mae mabwysiadu'n chwarae rôl bwysig o ran cynnig amgylchedd teuluol parhaol i rai o'r plant mwyaf agored i niwed yng Nghymru, ac mae adroddiad y pwyllgor yn tynnu sylw at y cryfderau yn ogystal â rhai diffygion pwysig mewn agweddau ar wasanaethau mabwysiadu yng Nghymru.

I would like to put on record the committee's gratitude to the adopter parents and the young people from across Wales who gave their time to help us with this important inquiry. Their willingness to openly share their experiences gave the committee a unique and important insight into adoption in Wales. I also thank Dr Sally Holland, whose wide experience and network of contacts were invaluable in helping to put the committee in touch with parents and families. I would also like to thank the clerking team and the researchers who helped us as Members to produce this report.

Hoffwn gofnodi bod y pwyllgor yn diolch i'r rhieni sy'n mabwysiadu a'r bobl ifanc o bob cwr o Gymru a roddodd o'u hamser i'n helpu ni gyda'r ymchwiliad pwysig hwn. Rhoddodd eu parodrwydd i rannu eu profiadau yn agored olwg unigryw a phwysig ar fabwysiadu yng Nghymru. Hoffwn ddiolch hefyd i Dr Sally Holland, yr oedd ei phrofiad helaeth a'i rhwydwaith o gysylltiadau yn amhrisiadwy wrth helpu'r pwyllgor i ddod i gysylltiad â rhieni a theuluoedd. Hoffwn hefyd ddiolch i'r tîm clericio a'r ymchwilyr a'n helpodd fel Aelodau i gynhyrchu'r adroddiad hwn.

The overwhelming message from adopter parents was of the positive life-changing experience of adopting their children. For the vast majority, these positive experiences by far outweighed the many challenges that they may have faced along their adoption journey. As a committee, we were very clear that these positive messages should be reflected within our report.

Y neges hollbwysig a gafwyd gan rieni sy'n mabwysiadu oedd y profiad cadarnhaol sy'n newid bywyd o ganlyniad i fabwysiadu eu plant. I'r mwyafrif helaeth, roedd y profiadau cadarnhaol hyn yn drech o lawer na'r heriau niferus yr oeddent wedi eu hwynebu o bosibl ar hyd eu taith mabwysiadu. Fel pwyllgor, roedd yn amlwg iawn i ni y dylai'r negeseuon cadarnhaol hyn gael eu hadlewyrchu yn ein hadroddiad.

I welcome the Welsh Government's positive response to our report and its acceptance, or acceptance in principle, of all but one of our recommendations. I also welcome the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services' acceptance of the need for radical reform of adoption services, and her commitment to deliver improvements for some of our most vulnerable children.

The committee's first recommendation relates to the proposals in the social services (Wales) Bill consultation document for the establishment of a national adoption service. The evidence that we received suggested overall support for the concept of a national adoption service, from agencies and parents alike. As a result, the committee was unanimous in its view that the direct service delivery role of the national adoption service should be significantly strengthened from that currently set out in the social services (Wales) Bill consultation document. We believe that a national adoption service should have a central delivery role for a range of adoption services, including the recruitment and assessment of prospective adopters, and should employ staff at a central and regional level. It should also have a role in facilitating the matching of adopters and children at a national level, including hosting a national adoption register for Wales. We also felt strongly that the national adoption service should not be owned by local authorities, as set out by the Deputy Minister for children in current proposals. I am, therefore, disappointed that the Deputy Minister has not accepted this recommendation in its entirety.

Throughout the inquiry, the evidence taken highlighted an apparent inconsistency in the provision of adoption services across Wales. Many adopters informed us of the poor response that they received when first inquiring about adoption, which discouraged them from taking their interest further. However, we also heard some good stories of excellent and positive services.

Croesawaf ymateb cadarnhaol Llywodraeth Cymru i'n hadroddiad a'r ffaith ei bod yn derbyn, neu'n derbyn mewn egwyddor, bob argymhelliad namyn un. Croesawaf hefyd y ffaith bod y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn derbyn bod angen diwygio gwasanaethau mabwysiadu yn radical, a'i hymrwymiad i gyflwyno gwelliannau i rai o'n plant mwyaf agored i niwed.

Mae argymhelliad cyntaf y pwyllgor yn ymwneud â'r cynigion yn nogfen ymgynghori Bil gwasanaethau cymdeithasol (Cymru) ar gyfer sefydlu gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol. Mae'r dystiolaeth a gawsom yn awgrymu cefnogaeth gyffredinol i'r cysyniad o wasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol, gan asiantaethau a rhieni fel ei gilydd. O ganlyniad, roedd y pwyllgor yn unfrydol ei farn y dylai rôl darparu gwasanaethau uniongyrchol y gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol gael ei chryfhau'n sylweddol o'r hyn a nodir ar hyn o bryd yn nogfen ymgynghori Bil gwasanaethau cymdeithasol (Cymru). Credwn y dylai gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol gael rôl ddarparu ganolog ar gyfer ystod o wasanaethau mabwysiadu, gan gynnwys recriwtio ac asesu darpar fabwysiadwyr, a dylai gyflogi staff yn ganolog a rhanbarthol. Dylai hefyd gael rôl yn hwyluso'r gwaith o ddod o hyd i fabwysiadwyr ar gyfer plant ar lefel genedlaethol, gan gynnwys cadw cofrestr fabwysiadu genedlaethol i Gymru. Teimlwn yn gryf hefyd na ddylai'r gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol fod yn eiddo i awdurdodau lleol, fel y nododd y Dirprwy Weinidog dros blant yn y cynigion presennol. Rwyf, felly, yn siomedig nad yw'r Dirprwy Weinidog wedi derbyn yr argymhelliad hwn yn ei gyfanrwydd.

Drwy gydol yr ymchwiliad, roedd y dystiolaeth a gymerwyd yn tynnu sylw at anghysondeb amlwg o ran y gwasanaethau mabwysiadu a oedd yn cael eu darparu ledled Cymru. Dywedodd llawer o fabwysiadwyr wrthym am yr ymateb gwael a gawsant pan wnaethant ymholi am y tro cyntaf am fabwysiadu, a bod hyn wedi'u hannog i beidio â datblygu eu diddordeb ymhellach. Fodd bynnag, clywsom hefyd rai hanesion da

am wasanaethau rhagorol a chadarnhaol.

We know that adoption is only one way of securing permanence for children, and the committee accepts the evidence that a wide range of options can deliver high-quality outcomes for individual children. The committee heard of the importance of robust permanency planning to avoid children drifting within the care system. Many witnesses told us of the damaging effect that spending too long in the care system can have on a child at a critical stage of their development, and of the distress experienced by adoptive families at the length of time that their children had spent in foster care before coming to live with them. Several parents felt that decisions about adoption could have been made earlier and that birth parents were given too many opportunities to the detriment of the child's need for a permanent placement. The committee was particularly concerned, for example, at figures for between 2008 and 2011 that showed that 13 local authorities in Wales failed to meet the requirement to have a permanency plan in place at the required time. We accept the Deputy Minister's commitment to taking forward the recommendations of the family justice review, but it is important to highlight the need for improvement in the responsibilities that lie with local government, as well as the work undertaken by the courts.

I will speak briefly about post-adoption support, particularly around education and health. Recommendations 9 and 10 refer to the need for families to be assured that they will get the support that they need, both immediately after their child has been placed with them, and in the longer term. One of the clearest messages arising from the evidence relating to post-adoption support was of a significant problem in accessing child and adolescent mental health services, which, again, is reflected in recommendation 11. Several witnesses told us of the significance of attachment issues—it is no exaggeration to say that committee members were shocked at what we heard in our evidence sessions—and the neurobiological development of infants in the early years. We heard about the battle for services—the word 'battle' was used frequently—especially expensive therapeutic

Gwyddom mai dim ond un ffordd o sicrhau sefydlogrwydd i blant yw mabwysiadu, ac mae'r pwyllgor yn derbyn y dystiolaeth y gall amrywiaeth eang o opsiynau sicrhau canlyniadau o ansawdd uchel i blant unigol. Mae'r pwyllgor wedi clywed am bwysigrwydd cynlluniau sefydlogrwydd cadarn er mwyn osgoi sefyllfa lle mae plant yn llithro o fewn y system gofal. Dywedodd llawer o dystion wrthym am yr effaith niweidiol y gall treulio gormod o amser yn y system gofal ei chael ar blentyn ar adeg dyngedfennol yn ei ddatblygiad, ac o'r gofid a brofir gan deuluoedd sy'n mabwysiadu ynglŷn â faint o amser y mae eu plant wedi ei dreulio mewn gofal maeth cyn dod i fyw gyda hwy. Roedd nifer o rieni yn teimlo y gallai penderfyniadau am fabwysiadu fod wedi cael eu gwneud yn gynt a bod y rhieni biolegol yn cael gormod o gyfleoedd ar draul angen y plentyn am leoliad parhaol. Roedd y pwyllgor yn arbennig o bryderus, er enghraifft, ynglŷn â'r ffigurau rhwng 2008 a 2011 a ddangosai fod 13 awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru wedi methu â bodloni'r gofyniad i gael cynllun parhaol ar waith ar yr adeg ofynnol. Derbyniwn ymrwymiad y Dirprwy Weinidog i weithredu ar yr argymhellion o'r adolygiad cyfiawnder teuluol, ond mae'n bwysig tynnu sylw at yr angen am welliant yn y cyfrifoldebau sydd gan lywodraeth leol, yn ogystal â'r gwaith a wneir gan y llysoedd.

Siaradaf am ychydig am gymorth ôl-fabwysiadu, yn enwedig o ran addysg ac iechyd. Mae argymhellion 9 a 10 yn cyfeirio at yr angen i deuluoedd fod yn sicr y cânt y cymorth sydd ei angen, yn syth ar ôl i'w plentyn gael ei leoli gyda hwy, ac yn y tymor hwy. Un o'r negeseuon clirïaf a ddeilliodd o'r dystiolaeth yn ymwneud â chymorth ôl-fabwysiadu oedd bod problem fawr o ran cael gafael ar wasanaethau iechyd meddwl plant a'r glasoed, sydd, unwaith eto, yn cael ei adlewyrchu yn argymhelliad 11. Dywedodd sawl tystion wrthym am bwysigrwydd materion ymlyniad—nid yw'n ormod i ddweud bod aelodau'r pwyllgor wedi synnu at yr hyn a glywsom yn ein sesiynau tystiolaeth—a datblygiad niwrofiologol babanod yn y blynyddoedd cynnar. Clywsom am y frwydr am wasanaethau—defnyddiwyd

services. The committee has recommended that this issue be looked at as a matter of urgency, and I am grateful for the Deputy Minister's acceptance, in principle, of this recommendation.

4.00 p.m.

A key part of post-adoption support is the role of schools and the education system, which is reflected in recommendations 8, 12 and 13. Unfortunately, it appears that some adopted children are losing out on the right support at school, in particular relating to teaching focused on families and family trees. This needs to be dealt with in a much more consistent and sensitive manner. Otherwise, as we were told, this can be hugely traumatic for an adopted child. Our recommendations relating to schools and education were welcomed by adoptive parents and children alike. However, I am disappointed that recommendation 13, to extend the remit of looked-after children's education co-ordinators to include adopted children, has been rejected. I note the Deputy Minister's view that adopted children have the stability of adoptive parents and may not want to continue to be considered as looked-after children, and I accept that that may be true in some cases. However, the evidence that we received from parents was, overwhelmingly, that this is not the case. As one parent told us, children's problems do not disappear overnight once they have been adopted. That was backed up by an educational psychologist, who told us that, if children have been in the care system and have then been adopted, some teachers will forget that these children will have experienced a lot of trauma, neglect and other major issues. So, it is not straightforward; it is quite complex. This adds to the complexity of the needs that many adopted children have.

I would like to conclude by saying that children's rights should be central to the provision of adoption services. Adoption, do not forget, is a service for children. While the committee is clear that adoption services need to work towards building sustainable

y gair 'brwydr' yn aml—yn enwedig gwasanaethau therapiwtig drud. Mae'r pwyllgor wedi argymhell y dylid ystyried y mater hwn ar frys, ac rwy'n ddiolchgar i'r Dirprwy Weinidog am dderbyn, mewn egwyddor, yr argymhelliad hwn.

4.00 p.m.

Rhan allweddol o gymorth ôl-fabwysiadu yw rôl ysgolion a'r system addysg, a adlewyrchir yn argymhellion 8, 12 a 13. Yn anffodus, mae'n ymddangos bod rhai plant a fabwysiadwyd yn colli allan ar y gefnogaeth iawn yn yr ysgol, yn arbennig mewn perthynas ag addysgu sy'n canolbwyntio ar deuluoedd a choed teuluol. Mae angen ymdrin â hyn mewn modd llawer mwy cyson a sensitif. Fel arall, fel y dywedwyd wrthym, gall hyn fod yn hynod drawmatig i blentyn a fabwysiadwyd. Cafodd ein hargymhellion yn ymwneud ag ysgolion ac addysg eu croesawu gan rieni sy'n mabwysiadu a phlant fel ei gilydd. Fodd bynnag, rwy'n siomedig bod argymhelliad 13, i ymestyn cylch gwaith cydgysylltwyr addysg plant y gofelir amdanynt i gynnwys plant mabwysiedig, wedi cael ei wrthod. Nodaf farn y Dirprwy Weinidog fod gan blant mabwysiedig sefydlogrwydd rhieni sy'n mabwysiadu ac efallai na fyddant am barhau i gael eu hystyried yn blant sy'n derbyn gofal, a derbyniaf y gall hynny fod yn wir mewn rhai achosion. Fodd bynnag, roedd y dystiolaeth a gawsom gan rieni, i raddau helaeth iawn, yn dangos nad yw hyn yn wir. Fel y dywedodd un rhiant wrthym, nid yw problemau plant yn diflannu dros nos ar ôl iddynt gael eu mabwysiadu. Ategwyd hynny gan seicolegydd addysgol, a ddywedodd wrthym, os bydd plant wedi bod yn y system ofal ac yna'n cael eu mabwysiadu, y bydd rhai athrawon yn anghofio bod y plant hyn wedi wynebu llawer o drawma, esgeulustod a phroblemau mawr eraill. Felly, nid yw'n syml; mae'n eithaf cymhleth. Mae hyn yn ychwanegu at gymhlethdod yr anghenion sydd gan lawer o blant mabwysiedig.

Hoffwn gloi drwy ddweud y dylai hawliau plant fod yn ganolog i ddarparu gwasanaethau mabwysiadu. Mae mabwysiadu, peidied neb ag anghofio, yn wasanaeth i blant. Er bod y pwyllgor yn deall bod angen i wasanaethau mabwysiadu

families, we are also clear that, with all aspects of the adoption process, primary consideration should be given to the best interests of the child. I look forward to contributions from other Members.

Julie Morgan: I am very pleased to speak in this debate, and I am pleased to follow the committee Chair, who has laid out the basis of the report. I declare an interest as an adoptive parent. As the Chair has said, this was a very detailed inquiry, in which one of the greatest pleasures was speaking to many adoptive parents throughout Wales, from whom we heard about the highs and lows of adoption. Some of the evidence that we had was very moving indeed.

There are very clear messages in this report. There are not enough adopters out there. We need a big push in Wales to encourage more people to come forward, and to be welcomed and encouraged. We all know that there are people out there who are willing to adopt. So, we have to give them a welcoming message. In order to do that, we have to have a real drive and impetus. Another point is that there are too many children in Wales waiting for adoption, and the Welsh Government has a duty to respond to their needs. Looking at the adoption statistics for the south Wales area, on 31 March 2012, the number of children on referral for adoption was 231. The number of adopters available was 27. Some of these children had been waiting for adoption for two to three years. That is a situation that is mirrored throughout Wales.

Another point is that this is getting worse. We know that the number of adopters is getting lower and that the number of children needing adoption is getting higher. These are children for whom every effort has been made for them to go back to their own families. Obviously, the first option is always for them to go back to the birth family. However, this option will have been tried or abandoned, and so these children will have been declared as needing adoption. We are failing them, because we are not offering them the stability of a home.

weithio tuag at adeiladu teuluoedd cynaliadwy, rydym hefyd yn deall, gyda phob agwedd ar y broses fabwysiadu, y dylid rhoi'r ystyriaeth bennaf i sicrhau budd gorau'r plentyn. Edrychaf ymlaen at gyfraniadau gan Aelodau eraill.

Julie Morgan: Rwy'n falch iawn o gael siarad yn y ddadl hon, ac yn falch o ddilyn Cadeirydd y pwyllgor, sydd wedi nodi sail yr adroddiad. Datganaf fuddiant fel rhiant sydd wedi mabwysiadu. Fel y dywedodd y Cadeirydd, roedd hwn yn ymchwiliad manwl iawn, ac un o'r pleserau mwyaf oedd siarad â llawer o rieni sy'n mabwysiadu ledled Cymru, y clywsom ganddynt am uchafbwyntiau ac isafbwyntiau mabwysiadu. Roedd rhywfaint o'r dystiolaeth a gawsom yn emosïynol iawn.

Mae negeseuon clir iawn yn yr adroddiad hwn. Nid oes digon o fabwysiadwyr ar gael. Mae angen ymgyrch fawr yng Nghymru i annog mwy o bobl i fabwysiadu, ac mae angen croesawu ac annog hyn. Gwyddom fod pobl ar gael sy'n fodlon mabwysiadu. Felly, rhaid inni roi neges groesawgar iddynt. Er mwyn gwneud hynny, mae'n rhaid inni gael ymgyrch ac ysgogiad go iawn. Pwynt arall yw bod gormod o blant yng Nghymru yn aros i gael eu mabwysiadu, ac mae gan Lywodraeth Cymru ddyletswydd i ymateb i'w hanghenion. Wrth edrych ar yr ystadegau mabwysiadu ar gyfer ardal de Cymru, ar 31 Mawrth 2012, roedd 231 o blant wedi'u hatgyfeirio i gael eu mabwysiadu. Nifer y mabwysiadwyr a oedd ar gael oedd 27. Roedd rhai o'r plant hyn wedi bod yn aros i gael eu mabwysiadu ers dwy neu dair blynedd. Mae honno'n sefyllfa a adlewyrchir ledled Cymru.

Pwynt arall yw bod hyn yn mynd yn waeth. Gwyddom fod nifer y mabwysiadwyr yn mynd yn llai a bod nifer y plant sydd eisiau cael eu mabwysiadu yn mynd yn fwy. Plant ydynt y gwnaed pob ymdrech i'w dychwelyd at eu teuluoedd eu hunain. Yn amlwg, y dewis cyntaf bob amser yw eu bod yn dychwelyd at y teulu biolegol. Fodd bynnag, bydd cynnig wedi cael ei roi ar y dewis hwn neu byddant wedi rhoi'r gorau iddo ac felly bydd y plant hyn yn gorfod cael eu mabwysiadu. Rydym yn gwneud cam â hwy, gan nad ydym yn cynnig sefydlogrwydd

cartref iddynt.

Just imagine the feelings of those children as they are being prepared for a new family. You can imagine the knots in their stomachs as they wait to see if anyone will come and choose them, because they need someone to come and say that they want to take them. It takes me back to my time as a social worker, years ago, when we took into care a severely disabled child with hydrocephalus, whose mother could not cope and left—she abandoned him and had no further contact, which is very rare. That child literally sat at a window for years waiting for his mother to come back. We must remember that there are children all over Wales who have that need to be nurtured and cared for, and we must do what we can to ensure that we get adoptive families to come forward and to help and nurture those families to look after these children.

As the Chair said, the children's needs are the prime reason why we have done this report and made the recommendations that we have made. I believe that, because of this, it is urgent. In order to bring a new impetus to this, we need a radical solution. As the Chair said in her contribution, we saw a huge variety in practice across Wales, some of which was excellent and some of which was poor. Our feelings within the committee were that, in order to provide that extra impetus, we needed an independent body to lead this forward. We felt that the leader should not be someone based in the local authorities but someone who would have the expertise, the power and the independence to drive things forward in a situation that will not be easy to change. Therefore, it is the urgency of the needs of these children that I think that we must respond to today. I hope that the Minister will consider this as these plans develop.

I also wish to make the point that it is vital that we have a key role for the voluntary sector. Many of the people who run the voluntary sector and work in it are adopters or have been adopted, and they have an understanding of what people go through

Dychmygwch deimladau'r plant hynny wrth iddynt gael eu paratoi ar gyfer teulu newydd. Gallwch ddychmygu y clymau yn eu stumogau wrth iddynt aros i weld a fydd unrhyw un yn dod ac yn eu dewis hwy, gan eu bod angen i rywun ddod a dweud eu bod am eu cymryd. Mae'n fy atgoffa i o'm cyfnod fel gweithiwr cymdeithasol, flynyddoedd yn ôl, pan wnaethom ofalu am blentyn ag anabledd difrifol a oedd yn dioddef o hydroceffalws, yr oedd ei fam wedi gadael gan nad oedd yn gallu ymdopi ag ef—gwnaeth ei adael ac ni fu unrhyw gyswllt pellach rhyngddynt, sy'n rhywbeth prin iawn. Gwnaeth y plentyn hwnnw yn llythrennol eistedd wrth ffenestr am flynyddoedd yn aros i'w fam ddychwelyd. Rhaid inni gofio bod yna blant ledled Cymru sydd â'r angen hwnnw am gael eu meithrin a chael gofal, a rhaid inni wneud yr hyn a allwn i sicrhau bod teuluoedd sy'n mabwysiadu ar gael a'n bod yn helpu i feithrin y teuluoedd hynny i ofalu am y plant hyn.

Fel y dywedodd y Cadeirydd, anghenion y plant yw'r prif reswm pam y lluniwyd yr adroddiad hwn ac y gwnaed yr argymhellion a wnaed gennym. Credaf, oherwydd hyn, ei fod yn fater brys. Er mwyn rhoi hwb newydd i hyn, mae angen ateb radical. Fel y dywedodd y Cadeirydd yn ei chyfraniad, gwelsom amrywiaeth enfawr mewn arferion ledled Cymru, yr oedd rhai ohonynt yn wych a rhai yn wael. Ein teimladau ni o fewn y pwyllgor oedd, er mwyn darparu'r hwb ychwanegol hwnnw, fod angen corff annibynnol i weithredu ar hyn. Teimlem na ddylai'r arweinydd fod yn rhywun yn yr awdurdodau lleol ond yn rhywun a fyddai'n meddu ar yr arbenigedd, y grym a'r annibyniaeth i ddatblygu pethau mewn sefyllfa na fydd yn hawdd ei newid. Felly anghenion brys y plant hyn yw'r hyn y mae'n rhaid inni ymateb iddo heddiw yn fy marn i. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn ystyried hyn wrth i'r cynlluniau hyn ddatblygu.

Dymunaf hefyd bwysleisio ei bod yn hanfodol bod gennym rôl allweddol ar gyfer y sector gwirfoddol. Mae llawer o'r bobl sy'n rhedeg y sector gwirfoddol ac yn gweithio ynddo yn fabwysiadwyr neu wedi cael eu mabwysiadu, ac mae ganddynt ddealltwriaeth

when they adopt and understand the feelings of adopted children. They must be given an absolutely key role in the development of a national adoption service. Creating a national adoption service is a huge opportunity for us, and I just want us to seize it and make sure that we respond to the needs of all those children in Wales.

Suzy Davies: I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to today's debate, and I wish to express my thanks to all those involved, particularly my fellow committee members. We have been united in our determination that this will be a piece of work of significant influence on the Welsh Government. This report is not to sit on a shelf gathering dust; it is a powerful document built on the foundation of powerful evidence about meeting children's needs.

That evidence came from representative bodies, who gave us useful and sometimes challenging testimony, but it was the intimacy of the life stories of the adoptive parents and prospective adoptive parents—I endorse the remarks made by Christine Chapman and Julie Morgan in that regard—that reminded us in a very direct and unavoidable way that Government decisions can reach far into the lives of individuals. Deputy Minister, this is such a decision and you cannot afford to get it wrong.

We all agree that a radical reform of adoption services is needed. When the Government raised the notion of a national adoption service, as a Welsh Conservative it was not my first instinct to love the idea of this Government advocating a centralised body. However, from the very early days of our inquiry, it was apparent that many witnesses agreed that current provision was worryingly inconsistent and that a national, stand-alone body could provide a coherent, consistent and quality service for adopters before, during and after the adoption process. Wherever we started from, that is where our committee members arrived. In short, we were all looking at what an independent national adoption service, distinct from local

o'r hyn y mae pobl yn ei deimlo pan fyddant yn mabwysiadu ac yn deall teimladau plant mabwysiedig. Rhaid rhoi rôl gwbl allweddol iddynt yn y gwaith o ddatblygu gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol. Mae creu gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol yn gyfle enfawr inni ac, yn syml, rwyf am achub ar y cyfle hwnnw a sicrhau ein bod yn ymateb i anghenion pob un o'r plant hynny yng Nghymru.

Suzy Davies: Rwy'n ddiolchgar am y cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl heddiw, a hoffwn fynegi fy niolch i bawb dan sylw, yn enwedig fy nghyd-aelodau ar y pwyllgor. Rydym wedi bod yn unedig yn ein penderfyniad y bydd hwn yn ddarn o waith a gaiff ddylanwad sylweddol ar Lywodraeth Cymru. Ni chaiff yr adroddiad hwn eistedd ar silff yn hel llwch; mae'n ddogfen bwerus a luniwyd ar sail tystiolaeth bwerus ynglŷn â diwallu anghenion plant.

Daeth y dystiolaeth honno gan gyrrff cynrychioliadol, a roddodd dystiolaeth ddefnyddiol a heriol ambell dro i ni, ond hanesion bywyd personol iawn y rhieni sy'n mabwysiadu a darpar rieni sy'n mabwysiadu—cymeradwyaf y sylwadau a wnaethpwyd gan Christine Chapman a Julie Morgan yn hynny o beth—a'n hatgoffodd mewn ffordd uniongyrchol na ellir ei hosgoi fod penderfyniadau'r Llywodraeth yn gallu effeithio i raddau helaeth ar fywydau unigolion. Ddirprwy Weinidog, mae hwn yn benderfyniad o'r fath ac ni allwch fforddio gwneud yr un anghywir.

Rydym i gyd yn cytuno bod angen diwygio gwasanaethau mabwysiadu mewn ffordd radical. Pan grybwyllodd y Llywodraeth y syniad o wasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol, fel Ceidwadwr Cymreig, nid fy ngreddf gyntaf oedd cefnogi syniad y Llywodraeth hon o ddadlau dros gorff canolog. Fodd bynnag, o ddyddiau cynnar iawn ein hymchwiliad, roedd yn amlwg bod nifer o dystion yn cytuno bod y ddarpariaeth bresennol yn anghyson a bod hynny'n peri pryder ac y gallai corff cenedlaethol, yn sefyll ar ei ben ei hun, ddarparu gwasanaeth cydlynol, cyson ac o ansawdd ar gyfer mabwysiadwyr cyn, yn ystod ac ar ôl y broses fabwysiadu. Ble bynnag y gwnaethom ddechrau ohono, dyma'r hyn y penderfynodd

authorities and voluntary agencies, could and should do.

Therefore, it is a cause for sadness that perhaps our most significant recommendation, recommendation 1, has been accepted in principle only. I say 'sadness' rather than one of the more conventional words that we use in debate, because my abiding memory from this inquiry is how much personal hope our adoptive parent witnesses were vesting in the notion of a national adoption service: hope for themselves about what a national adoption service might provide by way of consistent post-adoptive support, but, very strikingly, that a national adoption service would replicate the best of their experiences and eliminate the worst of them for all future adopters.

Deputy Minister, I seriously doubt that your plans for making local authorities responsible for pulling together a coalition of the talented and calling it a national adoption service will go any way towards delivering the coherent, consistent and quality service that our witnesses say is needed. The Welsh Conservatives support collaboration and partnership working, but the radical reform that the Government and witnesses are looking for cannot be planned or overseen by local authorities. The evidence against their being able to work with their current responsibilities was too great.

The committee was disheartened to hear the variety of complaints about the service that some local authorities provided to prospective adopters. I want to be clear that some adoptive parents had nothing but praise for the local authority and that the voluntary agencies did not escape criticism entirely either. However, the defects of some local authorities ranged from indifference and inexperience right through to ever-changing, overworked, unmotivated staff and a resistance to welcoming matches outside authority boundaries.

aelodau ein pwyllgor arno. Yn fyr, roeddem i gyd yn edrych ar yr hyn y gallai gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol annibynnol, a oedd ar wahân i awdurdodau lleol ac asiantaethau gwirfoddol, ei wneud ac y dylai ei wneud.

Felly, mae'n peri tristwch mai dim ond mewn egwyddor y mae ein hargymhelliad mwyaf arwyddocaol, sef argymhelliad 1, wedi cael ei dderbyn. Rwy'n dweud 'tristwch' yn hytrach nag un o'r geiriau mwy confensiynol a ddefnyddir gennym mewn dadl, oherwydd yr hyn sy'n aros yn y cof o'r ymchwiliad hwn yw faint o obaith personol yr oedd ein tystion fel rhieni sy'n mabwysiadu yn ei ymddiried yn y syniad o wasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol: gobaith iddynt hwy eu hunain ynglŷn â'r hyn y gallai gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol ei ddarparu drwy gyfrwng cymorth ôl-fabwysiadu cyson, ond, yn drawiadol iawn, y byddai gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol yn ailadrodd y gorau o'u profiadau ac yn dileu'r gwaethaf ohonynt er budd pob mabwysiadwr yn y dyfodol.

Ddirprwy Weinidog, rwy'n amau'n fawr a wnaiff eich cynlluniau ar gyfer gwneud awdurdodau lleol yn gyfrifol am ddwyn ynghyd glymblaid o bobl dalentog a'i galw yn wasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol unrhyw beth o ran darparu'r gwasanaeth cydlynol, cyson ac o ansawdd sydd ei angen yn ôl ein tystion. Mae'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn cefnogi cydweithio a gwaith partneriaeth, ond ni all awdurdodau lleol gynllunio ar gyfer y gwaith diwygio radical sydd ei angen ar y Llywodraeth a thystion na'i oruchwylio. Roedd y dystiolaeth yn erbyn eu gallu i weithio gyda'u cyfrifoldebau presennol yn rhy fawr.

Roedd y pwyllgor yn siomedig i glywed yr amrywiaeth o gwynion am y gwasanaeth a ddarparwyd ar gyfer rhai darpar fabwysiadwyr gan awdurdodau lleol. Rwyf am nodi'n glir nad oedd gan rai rhieni sy'n mabwysiadu ddim ond canmoliaeth i'r awdurdod lleol ac nad oedd yr asiantaethau gwirfoddol yn dianc rhag beirniadaeth yn gyfan gwbl chwaith. Fodd bynnag, mae diffygion rhai awdurdodau lleol yn amrywio o ddifaterwch a diffyg profiad hyd at staff sy'n newid drwy'r amser, yn gorweithio, ac yn ddigymhelliant a gwrthwynebiad i

groesawu paru rhieni a phlant y tu allan i ffiniau awdurdod.

Deputy Minister, social services departments—senior officers or no—are in no shape to take on this responsibility, especially as there is no new money for your plan. My guess is that there will be some exhausted social workers out there who will be only too pleased to see responsibility for adopters going elsewhere so that they can concentrate on the authority's corporate parenting role. I think I see the fingerprints of the WLGA all over this.

Ddirprwy Weinidog, nid yw adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol—uwch swyddogion ai peidio—mewn unrhyw gyflwr i ymgymryd â'r cyfrifoldeb hwn, yn enwedig gan nad oes arian newydd ar gyfer eich cynllun. Dyfalaf y bydd rhai gweithwyr cymdeithasol wedi blino'n lân ac ond yn rhy falch i weld y cyfrifoldeb dros fabwysiadwyr yn cael ei drosglwyddo i rywle arall fel y gallant ganolbwyntio ar rôl rhianta corfforaethol yr awdurdod. Credaf fy mod yn gweld olion bysedd CLILC dros hyn i gyd.

In your reply to the debate, Deputy Minister, will you confirm that your officials are speaking about this model to those who represent the interests of local authorities, and yet there have been no discussions with the adoption expert advisory groups since October? Did your officials even take the views of that expert group before you responded to our report? What can you tell us about the voluntary agencies' views on your delivery model?

Yn eich ymateb i'r ddadl, Ddirprwy Weinidog, a wnewch chi gadarnhau bod eich swyddogion yn siarad am y model hwn â'r rhai sy'n cynrychioli buddiannau awdurdodau lleol, ac eto ni fu unrhyw drafodaethau gyda'r grwpiau mabwysiadu ymgynghorol arbenigol ers mis Hydref? A wnaeth eich swyddogion hyd yn oed ystyried barn y grŵp arbenigol hwnnw cyn i chi ymateb i'n hadroddiad? Beth y gallwch ei ddweud wrthym am farn yr asiantaethau gwirfoddol ar eich model cyflwyno?

A national adoption service needs to be a permanently constituted body led by a person independent of local authorities and voluntary agencies. So, while I am delighted, Deputy Minister, that you have accepted other recommendations, have you done that with a view to their being delivered through your preferred model of a national adoption service? If so, I confess to being less delighted with what looks to be a lost opportunity.

Mae angen i wasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol fod yn gorff wedi ei gyfansoddi'n barhaol dan arweiniad unigolyn sy'n annibynnol ar awdurdodau lleol ac asiantaethau gwirfoddol. Felly, er fy mod wrth fy modd, Ddirprwy Weinidog, eich bod wedi derbyn argymhellion eraill, a ydych wedi gwneud hynny gyda'r bwriad o'u cyflwyno drwy eich dewis fodel o wasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol? Os felly, rhaid imi gyfaddef nad wyf yn hapus iawn gyda'r hyn sy'n ymddangos yn gyfle a gollwyd.

Jenny Rathbone: Like previous speakers, I reiterate that it was a real privilege to be involved in this inquiry. It has made me feel that this is an area where the Assembly can really make a difference to the lives of children.

Jenny Rathbone: Fel y siaradwyr blaenorol, ategaf innau mai braint wirioneddol oedd bod yn rhan o'r ymchwiliad hwn. Mae wedi gwneud imi deimlo bod hwn yn faes lle y gall y Cynulliad wneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol i fywydau plant.

I particularly want to address recommendation 2, which is in relation to permanency planning for children, because we heard some pretty compelling evidence about the effectiveness of having what is called concurrent planning for some children.

Rwyf yn arbennig o awyddus i ymdrin ag argymhelliad 2, sydd mewn perthynas â chynllunio sefydlogrwydd i blant, oherwydd clywsom rywfaint o dystiolaeth eithaf cymhellol ynglŷn ag effeithiolrwydd cael yr hyn a elwir yn gynllunio cydamserol ar gyfer

It is of particular benefit to very small children—children who come into the care system as babies because of the complicated situations in their families. We had some very powerful evidence about the importance of attachment between a baby and the adults caring for it—normally the mother and the father. That starts at birth. It is particularly traumatic for a baby to be separated from the person who has cared for them from birth, because it is impossible to put into words what is happening to them—obviously, that is not the form of communication used by babies.

We heard some pretty compelling evidence about the long-term psychological and developmental impacts of an interruption to the attachment process. You can see the benefits of having a dual-track planning process while social services and the courts decide whether a child can stay with its natural parents or needs to be adopted by another family. If a baby can be introduced to both the birth parents and the putative adoptive family from birth, it does not then have that absolute wrench that is so difficult for a baby to be able to process in its mind.

We heard about some pretty shocking disregard for the attachment process on the part of some professionals who ought to know about attachment: for example, a judge who chose not to place a child with its eventual adoptive parent while the case went through the courts, even though the family concerned had already adopted the baby's elder sibling and had been approached by social services to consider adopting the baby as well. It was a truly astonishing case of failing to give priority to the best interests of the child.

4.15 p.m.

It has been found elsewhere, particularly in the collaboration between Harrow Council in north London and Coram, which is the oldest children's charity in the UK, that collaboration between these two organisations significantly shortens the period of uncertainty for the child, and all its children are permanently placed within six months of coming into the care system. That

rhai plant. Mae o fudd arbennig i blant bach iawn—plant sy'n dod i mewn i'r system ofal fel babanod oherwydd y sefyllfaoedd cymhleth yn eu teuluoedd. Cawsom rywfaint o dystiolaeth bwerus iawn am bwysigrwydd ymlyniad rhwng babi a'r oedolion sy'n gofalu amdano—fel arfer y fam a'r tad. Mae hynny'n dechrau ar ei enedigaeth. Mae'n arbennig o drawmatig i fabi gael ei wahanu oddi wrth y person sydd wedi bod yn gofalu amdano ers ei enedigaeth, oherwydd mae'n amhosibl esbonio mewn geiriau yr hyn sy'n digwydd iddo—yn amlwg, nid dyna'r ffurf ar gyfathrebu a ddefnyddir gan fabanod.

Clywsom dystiolaeth eithaf cymhellol ynglŷn ag effeithiau seicolegol a datblygiadol hirdymor yn sgil ymyrryd â'r broses ymlyniad. Gallwch weld manteision cael proses gynllunio ddeuol tra bod gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a'r llysoedd yn penderfynu a all plentyn aros gyda'i rieni naturiol neu a oes angen iddo gael ei fabwysiadu gan deulu arall. Os gall babi gael ei gyflwyno i'r rhieni biolegol a'r darpar deulu tybiedig sy'n mabwysiadu o adeg ei eni, yna nid yw'r babi yn profi ergyd lwyr y gwahanu hwnnw sydd mor anodd iddo ei brosesu yn ei feddwl.

Clywsom am y difaterwch go arswydus ynglŷn â'r broses ymlyniad ar ran rhai gweithwyr proffesiynol a ddylai wybod am ymlyniad: er enghraifft, barnwr a ddewisodd beidio â lleoli plentyn gyda'r rhiant a'i fabwysiadodd yn y pen draw wrth i'r achos fynd drwy'r llysoedd, er bod y teulu dan sylw eisoes wedi mabwysiadu brawd neu chwaer hynaf y babi ac wedi cael cais gan y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol i ystyried mabwysiadu'r babi hefyd. Roedd yn achos gwirioneddol syfrdanol o fethu â rhoi blaenoriaeth i fuddiannau gorau'r plentyn.

4.15 p.m.

Gwelwyd mewn mannau eraill, yn arbennig y cydweithio rhwng Cyngor Harrow yng ngogledd Llundain a Coram, sef yr elusen plant hynaf yn y DU, fod cydweithio rhwng y ddau sefydliad hyn yn byrhau'r cyfnod o ansicrwydd i'r plentyn yn sylweddol, a bod y plant i gyd yn cael eu lleoli'n barhaol o fewn chwe mis i ddod i mewn i'r system ofal. Mae hynny'n cymharu â dwy flynedd a saith mis

compares with two years and seven months as the average across the UK. This approach of focusing on early intervention and swift matching of children to families has made a huge difference, and has also saved £0.5 million a year in children-in-care costs for that local authority.

I am not suggesting that this would be suitable for all putative adoptive parents, because obviously there are risks for the adults involved, but it places the risks on the adults rather than on the child, as usual, who does not know what decisions will be made on their behalf. I urge the Deputy Minister to look carefully at this, and not simply to agree it in principle and say that he would be happy to see the voluntary sector looking at this, but really to promote it, and to make sure that we have at least one local authority working with one of the voluntary agencies in Wales that is very interested in trialling this concurrent planning idea, so that we have a good idea of what the complexities are and the things that we would have to do in terms of training up social workers to work in this slightly different model.

I would like to hear a much more robust response from the Deputy Minister, as well as the expert group that she has set up on this. I would like to find out why it is not possible for the Government to take the initiative to encourage this to happen. I am sure that this partnership approach ought to be made to work, because it has worked in the Blaenau Gwent social care partnership, for example on emergency planning. Why could it not therefore be made to work with adoption?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The Member's remarks were couched generally enough not to break the Standing Orders, but in this Chamber we do not refer to particular judgments that the courts have made in a critical fashion. We need to be careful about what we say when we refer to what has been before the courts.

Jocelyn Davies: I am pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to this debate on adoption. I feel that this report makes an

fel y cyfartaledd ar draws y DU. Mae'r dull hwn o ganolbwyntio ar ymyrraeth gynnar a pharu plant â theuluoedd yn gyflym wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth enfawr, ac mae hefyd wedi arbed £0.5 miliwn y flwyddyn mewn costau plant mewn gofal i'r awdurdod lleol hwnnw.

Nid wyf yn awgrymu y byddai hyn yn addas i bob rhiant tybiedig sy'n mabwysiadu, oherwydd mae'n amlwg bod risgiau i'r oedolion dan sylw, ond mae'r risgiau ar yr oedolion yn hytrach nag ar y plentyn, fel arfer, nad yw'n gwybod pa benderfyniadau a wneir ar ei ran. Anogaf y Dirprwy Weinidog i edrych yn ofalus ar hyn, ac nid dim ond i gytuno â hyn mewn egwyddor a dweud y byddai'n hapus i weld y sector gwirfoddol yn edrych ar hyn, ond ei hyrwyddo yn wirioneddol, a sicrhau bod gennym o leiaf un awdurdod lleol yn gweithio gydag un o'r asiantaethau gwirfoddol yng Nghymru sydd â diddordeb mawr mewn treialu'r syniad cynllunio cydamserol hwn, fel bod gennym syniad da o'r cymhlethdodau a'r pethau y byddai'n rhaid inni ei wneud o ran hyfforddi gweithwyr cymdeithasol i weithio yn unol â'r model hwn sydd ychydig yn wahanol.

Hoffwn glywed ymateb llawer mwy cadarn gan y Dirprwy Weinidog, yn ogystal â'r grŵp arbenigol a sefydlwyd ganddi i weithio ar hyn. Hoffwn wybod pam nad yw'n bosibl i'r Llywodraeth achub y blaen i annog hyn i ddigwydd. Rwy'n siŵr y dylid gwneud i'r dull partneriaeth hwn weithio, oherwydd mae wedi gweithio ym mhartneriaeth gofal cymdeithasol Blaenau Gwent, er enghraifft, ar gynllunio at argyfwng. Pam na ellid sicrhau, felly, ei fod yn gweithio ym maes mabwysiadu?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Cafodd sylwadau'r Aelod eu geirio yn ddigon cyffredinol fel nad ydynt yn torri'r Rheolau Sefydlog, ond yn y Siambr hon, ni chyfeiriwn yn feiriadol at ddyfarniadau penodol y mae'r llysoedd wedi eu gwneud. Mae angen inni fod yn ofalus ynghylch yr hyn a ddywedwn pan fyddwn yn cyfeirio at yr hyn sydd wedi bod gerbron y llysoedd.

Jocelyn Davies: Rwy'n falch o gael y cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl hon ar fabwysiadu. Teimlaf fod yr adroddiad hwn yn gwneud

invaluable contribution to this specific policy area. We were very fortunate as a committee to be able, through our expert adviser, to have the benefit of input from families and individuals who had been directly affected by adoption and adoption services. This added an extra dimension to our work and the resulting report. I would like to place my thanks on the record to those who contributed in such a candid way to our inquiry, and the quality of this report demonstrates the value of their input.

I would like to highlight just a few points from the report, as the Chair, Christine Chapman, has already given a very comprehensive view of our inquiry. I am particularly pleased that the issues around securing permanence for children without delay is recognised as being vital, and we set out a range of suitable options, including permanent placements with foster parents. That might sound a little odd, especially as this was an inquiry into adoption, but we would all agree that finding the most appropriate permanent placement was the most important thing. That prevented drifting and having to move children around, and of course fostering is sometimes the best solution. I think we were all surprised to learn of the extent of the damage that can result by not establishing healthy, nurturing relationships in very early life, and the neglect of babies can, as we heard, result in long-term damage. I think that Chris Chapman set that out very well earlier.

Recruitment and training of suitable adopters is therefore vital. After all, they are often not experienced parents themselves, and are sometimes taking on very difficult children. We have found that, sometimes, there was a poor initial response to potential adopters and only the very determined got past that barrier in some local authority areas. That is just not acceptable. I thought that Julie Morgan described that situation very well. Many of these problems could be addressed by having an all-Wales adoption service. In our inquiry, we found widespread support for an all-Wales service. However, the model that the Deputy Minister described to us was not the same as the one we thought she was

cyfraniad amhrisiadwy i'r maes polisi penodol hwn. Roeddem yn ffodus iawn fel pwyllgor, drwy ein cynghorydd arbenigol, o allu manteisio ar gyfraniadau teuluoedd ac unigolion y mae mabwysiadu a'r gwasanaethau mabwysiadu wedi effeithio'n uniongyrchol arnynt. Mae hyn yn ychwanegu dimensiwn ychwanegol i'n gwaith a'r adroddiad sy'n deillio ohono. Hoffwn gofnodi fy niolch i'r rhai a gyfrannodd mewn ffordd mor onest at ein hymchwiliad, ac mae ansawdd yr adroddiad hwn yn dangos gwerth eu cyfraniadau.

Hoffwn dynnu sylw at ychydig bwyntiau yn unig yn yr adroddiad, gan fod y Cadeirydd, Christine Chapman, eisoes wedi rhoi darlun cynhwysfawr iawn o'n hymchwiliad. Rwy'n arbennig o falch y cydnabyddir bod y materion sy'n ymwneud â sicrhau sefydlogrwydd ar gyfer plant yn ddi-oed yn hollbwysig, a nodwn ystod o opsiynau addas, gan gynnwys lleoliadau parhaol gyda rhieni maeth. Efallai fod hynny'n swnio ychydig yn rhyfedd, yn enwedig gan mai ymchwiliad i fabwysiadu oedd hwn, ond byddem oll yn cytuno mai dod o hyd i'r lleoliad parhaol mwyaf priodol oedd y peth pwysicaf. Gwnaeth hynny atal unrhyw lithro a gorfod symud plant o gwmpas, ac wrth gwrs maethu weithiau yw'r ateb gorau. Credaf i bob un ohonom gael ein synnu wrth glywed am faint o niwed a all ddigwydd os na sefydlir cydberthnasau iach, cefnogol yn gynnar iawn mewn bywyd, ac y gall esgeuluso babanod, fel y clywsom, arwain at niwed hirdymor. Credaf i Chris Chapman nodi hynny'n dda iawn yn gynharach.

Mae recriwtio a hyfforddi mabwysiadwyr addas yn hanfodol felly. Wedi'r cyfan, yn aml nid ydynt yn rhieni profiadol eu hunain, ac weithiau maent yn derbyn plant anodd iawn. Cafwyd, weithiau, bod yr ymateb cychwynnol i ddarpar fabwysiadwyr yn wael a dim ond y rhai penderfynol iawn a oedd yn goresgyn y rhwystr hwnnw mewn rhai awdurdodau lleol. Nid yw hynny'n dderbyniol o gwbl. Disgrifiodd Julie Morgan y sefyllfa yn dda iawn yn fy marn i. Gellid ymdrin â llawer o'r problemau hyn drwy gael gwasanaeth mabwysiadu ar gyfer Cymru gyfan. Yn ein hymchwiliad, cafwyd cefnogaeth gyffredinol i wasanaeth Cymru gyfan. Fodd bynnag, nid oedd y model a

planning. She seemed just as surprised as us when we discovered that we were talking about different things. That was mentioned by Suzy Davies. We were all as one on this matter because the evidence was so compelling. I would like the Deputy Minister to rethink her plans, as she has already been urged to do by others this afternoon, and please take on board our recommendation on this matter.

There is, as we have already heard, much to be admired about adoption in Wales. However, there is also much that cannot be admired about adoption in some areas of Wales; it needs improvement and a radical rethink. This opportunity is presenting itself to us, and I hope that the Deputy Minister takes this opportunity. If the state steps in in place of your parents, I feel that the state then must do its best by you. We must do the best by these children.

I conclude with a word of warning for the Government. I understand that there may be legislation on this matter soon, but, without a suitable model on the face of that legislation, I doubt that it will be supported across the Chamber.

Lynne Neagle: I have contributed to many committee inquiries and reports in the time I have been an Assembly Member, but this adoption inquiry stands out as one of the most important and rewarding with which I have been involved. Our committee has produced a heavyweight report, full of insight and detail, yet underpinned by a set of concrete and cogent recommendations that truly have the potential to make a positive difference to the lives of adopted children and their families.

Like other Assembly Members, I found the private sessions when we took evidence from parents particularly powerful. I am very grateful to those parents who shared their personal and often painful experiences with committee members. Other Members have touched on difficulties with post-adoption

ddisgrifiwyd i ni gan y Dirprwy Weinidog yn debyg i'r un yr oeddem yn meddwl ei bod yn ei gynllunio. Roedd hi fel petai wedi synnu gymaint â ni pan wnaethom ddarganfod ein bod yn siarad am bethau gwahanol. Soniodd Suzy Davies am hynny. Roeddem i gyd yn unfrydol ar y mater hwn gan fod y dystiolaeth mor gymhellol. Hoffwn i'r Dirprwy Weinidog ailystyried ei chynlluniau, fel y cafodd ei hannog i'w wneud gan eraill y prynhawn yma, ac ystyried ein hargymhelliad ar y mater hwn.

Fel yr ydym eisoes wedi clywed, mae llawer i'w edmygu am fabwysiadu yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer hefyd na ellir ei edmygu am fabwysiadu mewn rhai ardaloedd o Gymru; mae angen gwella ac ailfeddwl yn radical. Mae'r cyfle hwn yn cyflwyno ei hun i ni, ac rwy'n gobeithio bod y Dirprwy Weinidog yn manteisio ar y cyfle hwn. Os yw'r wladwriaeth yn cymryd y cyfrifoldeb yn lle eich rhieni, teimlaf fod yn rhaid i'r wladwriaeth wedyn wneud ei gorau i chi. Mae'n rhaid inni wneud y gorau i'r plant hyn.

Dof i'r casgliad gyda gair o rybudd i'r Llywodraeth. Rwy'n deall y deddfir ar y mater hwn yn fuan o bosibl, ond, heb fodel addas ar gyfer y ddeddfwriaeth honno, rwy'n amau y caiff ei chefnogi ar draws y Siambr.

Lynne Neagle: Rwyf wedi cyfrannu at sawl ymchwiliad pwyllgor ac adroddiad ers imi ddod yn Aelod o'r Cynulliad, ond mae'r ymchwiliad mabwysiadu hwn yn un o'r rhai pwysicaf a mwyaf gwerth chweil yr wyf wedi bod yn gysylltiedig ag ef. Mae ein pwyllgor wedi cynhyrchu adroddiad swmpus, yn llawn gweledigaeth a manylion, ac eto wedi'i ategu gan gyfres o argymhellion cadarn ac argyhoeddiadol sydd â'r potensial gwirioneddol i wneud gwahaniaeth cadarnhaol i fywydau plant mabwysiedig a'u teuluoedd.

Fel Aelodau eraill o'r Cynulliad, roeddwn o'r farn bod y sesiynau preifat pan gawsom dystiolaeth gan rieni yn arbennig o bwerus. Rwy'n ddiolchgar iawn i'r rhieni hynny a rannodd eu profiadau personol a phoenus yn aml ag aelodau'r pwyllgor. Mae Aelodau eraill wedi cyffwrdd ar anawsterau o ran

support. It is apparent that there are serious gaps in support that we must address as we move forward. While it has been tough singling out individual areas to focus on today, such was the scope and breadth of this inquiry, for me, the evidence we heard from those adoptive parents in relation to the education system really hit home.

The increased focus on looked-after children in Wales since devolution has genuinely delivered real progress on meeting their educational needs. However, reading this report, I cannot help but come away with the impression that adopted children have been somewhat left behind. The evidence from Erica Beddoe, senior educational psychologist at Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, was compelling in that regard. She was right to say that there is a job of work to be done: we must tackle the deep-rooted societal attitude that adopted children are thought of as 'lucky', because, unlike children who are being fostered or brought up in the care system, they benefit from the stability and support of their adoptive family.

That is not the case in every educational setting. As the report states, there are positive examples of schools and individual teachers showing incredible sensitivity and responsiveness, and we should try to learn from that best practice. However, as a parent of two school-aged children myself, it struck me just how much of their work in school is centred on family life. As Adoption UK Cymru said in its evidence, work on family trees and timelines, or asking children to bring baby pictures to school, are potentially fraught with difficulties for adoptive children and their families. I do not for one moment suggest that those are not valuable tools for helping children to understand themselves and their place in the world, but we have to ensure that we are always sensitive to the feelings of an adopted child who may not even know their family history, let alone possess photos of themselves as a baby.

More widely, we need to address the unfairness within the school admission system, which is dealt with in

cymorth ôl-fabwysiadu. Mae'n amlwg bod bylchau difrifol mewn cymorth y mae'n rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â hwy wrth inni symud ymlaen. Er iddi fod yn anodd dethol rhai ardaloedd unigol i ganolbwyntio arnynt heddiw, cymaint oedd hyd a lled yr ymchwiliad hwn, fel y gwnaeth y dystiolaeth a glywsom gan y rhieni hynny sy'n mabwysiadu mewn perthynas â'r system addysg daro tant â mi.

Mae'r ffocws cynyddol ar blant sy'n derbyn gofal yng Nghymru ers datganoli wedi sicrhau cynnydd gwirioneddol o ran diwallu eu hanghenion addysgol. Fodd bynnag, wrth ddarllen yr adroddiad hwn, caf yr argraff fod plant mabwysiedig wedi cael eu gadael ar ôl braidd. Mae'r dystiolaeth gan Erica Beddoe, uwch seicolegydd addysgol ym Mwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf, yn gadarn yn hynny o beth. Roedd yn iawn i ddweud bod gwaith i'w wneud: rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â'r agwedd gymdeithasol ddofn fod plant mabwysiedig yn blant 'ffodus', oherwydd, yn wahanol i blant sy'n cael eu maethu neu eu magu yn y system ofal, maent yn cael budd o sefydlogrwydd a chefnogaeth y teulu sy'n eu mabwysiadu.

Nid yw hynny'n wir ym mhob lleoliad addysgol. Fel y dywed yr adroddiad, ceir enghreifftiau cadarnhaol o ysgolion ac athrawon unigol yn dangos sensitifrwydd anhygoel ac ymatebolrwydd, a dylem geisio dysgu o'r arferion gorau. Fodd bynnag, fel rhiant i ddau blentyn oedran ysgol fy hun, gwnaeth fy nharo cymaint y mae eu gwaith yn yr ysgol yn canolbwyntio ar fywyd teuluol. Fel y dywedodd Adoption UK Cymru yn ei thystiolaeth, mae gweithio ar goed teuluol a llinellau amser, neu ofyn i blant ddod â lluniau babi i'r ysgol, o bosibl yn llawn anawsterau i blant mabwysiedig a'u teuluoedd. Nid wyf am un eiliad yn awgrymu nad yw'r pethau hynny yn arfau gwerthfawr er mwyn helpu plant i ddeall eu hunain a'u lle yn y byd, ond rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod bob amser yn sensitif i deimladau plentyn mabwysiedig nad yw'n gwybod hanes ei deulu hyd yn oed, heb sôn am feddu ar luniau ohono ei hun yn fabi.

Yn fwy cyffredinol, mae angen inni fynd i'r afael â'r annhegwch yn y system derbyn i ysgolion, yr ymdrinnir ag ef yn argymhellad

recommendation 12 of this report. Adopted children should be given the same priority as looked-after children within the school admission code.

Before I draw my contribution to a close, I want to briefly touch on probably the most controversial aspect of this whole inquiry: the nature and structure of the proposed national adoption service. While I think that the Deputy Minister has approached this with the very best of intentions and deserves fulsome praise for grasping the nettle and trying to do something about the clear inequalities that exist in Wales when it comes to adoption, I remain unconvinced that the model for a national adoption service on the table will deliver on her aims.

Local authorities must of course remain key partners as we seek to improve the lot of adopted children and their families. I welcome the fact that the Deputy Minister has agreed to look at this issue again if what she is proposing does not deliver the goods. However, if we are to end, once and for all, the postcode lottery that clearly exists in Wales when it comes to adoption, I agree with my fellow committee members that we need a national adoption service worthy of the name. We need a national service that is not owned or led by local government—one that is accountable to the Welsh Government and able to deliver the step change in adoption services that Wales clearly so badly needs.

Aled Roberts: Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn un swmpus, sy'n ymestyn i 139 o dudalennau ac yn cynnwys 16 o argymhellion. Mae pump o'r rhain wedi'u derbyn ac mae 10 wedi'u derbyn mewn egwyddor, ond mae un wedi'i wrthod. Fel y dywedwyd eisoes, mae'r adroddiad yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth byw plant a'u rhieni sydd wedi ymwneud â mabwysiadu.

Mae'r ymchwiliad hwn wedi dysgu llawer i mi yn bersonol, er i mi weithio ym maes gofal plant am nifer o flynyddoedd fel cyfreithiwr ac er i mi fod yn aelod o bwyllgor gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn Wrecsam a

12 o'r adroddiad hwn. Dylai plant mabwysiedig gael yr un flaenoriaeth â phlant sy'n derbyn gofal o fewn cod derbyn yr ysgol.

Cyn imi ddod â'm cyfraniad i ben, hoffwn gyffwrdd yn fras â'r agwedd fwyaf dadleuol ar yr ymchwiliad hwn: natur a strwythur y gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol arfaethedig. Er y credaf fod y Dirprwy Weinidog wedi ymdrin â hyn gyda'r bwriadau gorau posibl ac yn haeddu canmoliaeth hael am fanteisio ar y cyfle a cheisio gwneud rhywbeth am yr anghydraddoldebau amlwg sy'n bodoli yng Nghymru o ran mabwysiadu, nid wyf yn argyhoeddedig bod y model ar gyfer gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol a gyflwynwyd yn cyflawni ei nodau.

Rhaid i awdurdodau lleol, wrth gwrs, barhau i fod yn bartneriaid allweddol wrth inni geisio gwella bywydau plant mabwysiedig a'u teuluoedd. Croesawaf y ffaith bod y Dirprwy Weinidog wedi cytuno i edrych ar y mater hwn eto os nad yw'r hyn y mae'n ei gynnig yn cyflawni'r addewid. Fodd bynnag, er mwyn rhoi terfyn ar y loteri cod post sy'n amlwg yn bodoli yng Nghymru o ran mabwysiadu, unwaith ac am byth, cytunaf â'm cyd-aelodau ar y pwyllgor fod angen gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol arnom sy'n deilwng o'r enw. Mae angen gwasanaeth cenedlaethol arnom nad yw'n eiddo i lywodraeth leol nac wedi ei arwain ganddi—un sy'n atebol i Lywodraeth Cymru ac sy'n gallu cyflawni'r newid sylweddol mewn gwasanaethau mabwysiadu sydd ei angen yn ddybryd ar Gymru.

Aled Roberts: This is a substantial report that stretches to 139 pages and contains 16 recommendations. Five of these have been accepted and 10 have been accepted in principle, but one has been rejected. As has already been said, the report is based on the evidence given by children and parents who have been involved with adoption.

This inquiry has taught me a lot, although I have worked in the field of child care for many years as a lawyer and even though I was a member of the social services committee in Wrexham and was also a

hefyd yn rhiant corfforaethol o fewn y cyngor am nifer o flynyddoedd.

As other Members have said, this inquiry was exhaustive, and we all owe a debt of gratitude to those parents who took the time to give evidence, both here in the Assembly and in various other centres across Wales. I have to say that some of those parents have contacted me to express their disappointment with regard to the Government's response to the inquiry. Some of them are probably listening to this debate in the hope that some light would be shed on what is, in all sincerity, a rather disappointing response as far as some of the recommendations are concerned, in that some have been accepted only in principle.

I believe that our committee has produced a robust report that highlights a number of serious failings. However, as other Members have said, we also have to acknowledge the good work that is done in some authorities. Much of the evidence that we heard was upsetting on a personal level. What is really galling is that many of the situations described were also avoidable. We have to take note today of the unity of purpose among committee members. Many of us started at a different point before accumulating the evidence, but we all reached the same conclusions at the end.

Running through the response is a theme that implies that current arrangements are either effective but are in need of a bit of a tweak, or that plans for change are already in place. I ask the Deputy Minister to stand back and consider whether the response that we have received to date will bring about the step change that other Members have referred to as far as recommendation 1 in particular is concerned. The response to recommendation 1 suggests that the Welsh Local Government Association and the Association of Directors for Social Services Cymru were working on an operational model to put before the Deputy Minister. If it is necessary, as has been outlined, to direct local authorities to do things in a different way, is asking those same authorities to come up with a new

corporate parent within the council for many years.

Fel y dywedodd Aelodau eraill, roedd yr ymchwiliad hwn yn gynhwysfawr, ac rydym i gyd yn ddiolchgar i'r rhieni hynny a gymerodd yr amser i roi tystiolaeth, yma yn y Cynulliad ac mewn canolfannau amrywiol eraill ledled Cymru. Rhaid imi ddweud bod rhai o'r rhieni hynny wedi cysylltu â mi i fynegi eu siom o ran ymateb y Llywodraeth i'r ymchwiliad. Mae rhai ohonynt, fwy na thebyg, yn gwrando ar y ddadl hon gan obeithio y caiff rhywfaint o oleuni ei daflu ar yr hyn sydd, yn gwbl ddiwyll, yn ymateb braidd yn siomedig o ran rhai o'r argymhellion, yn yr ystyr mai dim ond mewn egwyddor y mae rhai ohonynt wedi cael eu derbyn.

Credaf fod ein pwyllgor wedi cynhyrchu adroddiad cadarn sy'n tynnu sylw at nifer o fethiannau difrifol. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedodd Aelodau eraill, rhaid inni hefyd gydnabod y gwaith da sy'n cael ei wneud mewn rhai awdurdodau. Roedd llawer o'r dystiolaeth a glywsom yn peri gofid ar lefel bersonol. Yr hyn sy'n gwylltio rhywun mewn gwirionedd oedd bod llawer o'r sefyllfaoedd a ddisgrifiwyd yn rhai y gellid bod wedi eu hosgoi. Mae'n rhaid inni dalu sylw heddiw i'r undod pwrpas ymhlith aelodau'r pwyllgor. Dechreuodd llawer ohonom ar bwynt gwahanol cyn casglu'r dystiolaeth, ond rydym i gyd wedi dod i'r un casgliadau yn y diwedd.

Mae'r thema sy'n rhedeg drwy'r ymateb yn awgrymu bod y trefniadau presennol naill ai'n effeithiol ond bod angen eu newid ychydig, neu fod cynlluniau ar gyfer newid eisoes ar waith. Gofynnaf i'r Dirprwy Weinidog sefyll yn ôl ac ystyried a fydd yr ymateb a gawsom hyd yn hyn yn esgor ar y newid sylweddol y mae Aelodau eraill wedi cyfeirio ato o ran argymhelliad 1 yn enwedig. Roedd yr ymateb i argymhelliad 1 yn awgrymu bod Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a Chymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru yn gweithio ar fodel gweithredol i'w roi gerbron y Dirprwy Weinidog. Os oes angen, fel y nodwyd, gyfarwyddo awdurdodau lleol i wneud pethau mewn ffordd wahanol, ai gofyn i'r awdurdodau hynny feddwl am fodel

model the best way forward? I ask this as someone who is, in all sincerity, committed to the concept of local government. It is clear that the year-long inquiry that we undertook, as a committee, shows that that might not be the way forward; we need a new model.

The response to recommendation 8 is also disappointing. We presented a recommendation that shows clear evidence of gaps in provision, and the Deputy Minister acknowledges that there is a need for a strategy as a matter of urgency. However, yet again, the response indicated that all is well, because life-story work is already underpinned within the legislative framework. That might be the framework, but the practical realities are very different, as we heard on more than one occasion.

4.30 p.m.

With respect to CAMHS, although we acknowledge that there have been improvements in the service, there are still deficiencies with regard to the availability of services, and I would hope that the Deputy Minister can tell us when she hopes to receive the report and recommendations from the NHS delivery support unit, which we understood would be available early in 2013.

In closing, we all acknowledge the Deputy Minister's commitment to improve the situation. None of us question that, but, in all sincerity, we have to step back and ask whether the Government's response to date is sufficient and, more importantly, whether it is sufficient to ensure cross-party support for any steps that come forward.

Janet Finch-Saunders: I would like to pay my tribute to the committee for the immense work in turning out such an amazing report. I urge all Assembly Members to read it. It is quite clear, and rather sad, that today's lower adoption rates could have the potential to see more children destined to a lifetime in care. I am sure that all sides of the Chamber would agree that this is not what we would wish to see. I am saddened that only 246 children were adopted in Wales out of a potential

newydd yw'r ffordd orau ymlaen? Gofynnaf hyn fel rhywun sydd, yn gwbl ddiwyll, wedi ymrwymo i'r cysyniad o lywodraeth leol. Mae'n amlwg bod yr ymchwiliad blwyddyn o hyd y gwnaethom ymgymryd ag ef, fel pwyllgor, yn dangos nad hynny o bosibl yw'r ffordd ymlaen; mae angen model newydd arnom.

Mae'r ymateb i argymhelliad 8 hefyd yn siomedig. Cyflwynwyd argymhelliad sy'n dangos tystiolaeth glir o fylchau yn y ddarpariaeth, ac mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog yn cydnabod bod angen strategaeth fel mater o frys. Fodd bynnag, unwaith eto, awgrymodd yr ymateb fod popeth yn iawn, gan fod gwaith hanes bywyd eisoes wedi'i ategu yn y fframwaith deddfwriaethol. Efallai mai dyna'r fframwaith, ond mae'r realiti ymarferol yn wahanol iawn, fel y clywsom ar fwy nag un achlysur.

4.30 p.m.

O ran CAMHS, er ein bod yn cydnabod y bu gwelliannau yn y gwasanaeth, mae diffygion o hyd o ran y gwasanaethau sydd ar gael, a byddwn yn gobeithio y gall y Dirprwy Weinidog ddweud wrthym pryd y mae'n gobeithio derbyn yr adroddiad a'r argymhellion gan uned cyflenwi a chymorth y GIG, a fyddai ar gael, fel y deallwn, ddechrau 2013.

Wrth gloi, rydym i gyd yn cydnabod ymrwymiad y Dirprwy Weinidog i wella'r sefyllfa. Nid oes yr un ohonom yn cwestiynu hynny, ond, yn ddigon didwyll, mae'n rhaid i ni gymryd cam yn ôl a gofyn a yw ymateb y Llywodraeth hyd yn hyn yn ddigonol ac, yn bwysicach, a yw'n ddigonol i sicrhau cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol ar gyfer unrhyw gamau a gyflwynir.

Janet Finch-Saunders: Hoffwn dalu fy nheyrnged i'r pwyllgor am y gwaith anhygoel a wnaed i lunio adroddiad mor wych. Anogaf bob Aelod o'r Cynulliad i'w ddarllen. Mae'n eithaf clir, a braidd yn drist, y gallai cyfraddau mabwysiadu is heddiw olygu bod mwy o blant yn wynebu oes mewn gofal. Rwy'n siŵr y byddai pob ochr yn y Siambr yn cytuno nad dyna'r hyn y byddem yn dymuno ei weld. Mae'n drist clywed mai dim ond 246 o blant a fabwysiadwyd yng

5,726 in local authority care between 2011 and 2012.

A secondary concern, but one that I do not take lightly, is the current post-adoption services and support in place. Before moving on to talk about that in detail, I listened to the case being made for a national adoption service, but my experiences in Aberconwy mean that I have seen adoption services taken out to a more centralised field, namely the north Wales regional consortia. That has taken over two years, caused massive upheaval, and it has been mentioned to me that that has prolonged the time it has taken to find sustainable family homes for some of the children.

Our future adoption policies must take into account the complexities that children and parents face and the continuing support that they need and deserve. Additionally, parents, when confronted with issues that arise as a result of the past experiences of other children, should be able to seek a joined-up network of support that should be early identifiable. Probably the most complex and emotive casework that I have dealt with in my constituency thus far has been around post-adoption support. I have listened to harrowing accounts from parents who are raising children with many challenging and behavioural issues. Through their experiences, I have seen a lack of acknowledgment of their own particular needs and the needs of their children. This impacts upon the children's health, their interaction with peer groups, their educational attainment and their future long-term prospects.

As the committee has heard in evidence, many adoptive parents are finding gaps in post-adoption support. I would like to thank the Deputy Minister for her concern when I brought this particular case to her. I have been approached about the lack of post-adoption support, especially with regard to the immense network of support needed when things go wrong in sibling adoptions. This case has more than highlighted the question of whether taking decisions away from a local authority and the locality, and

Nghymru allan o 5,726 posibl a oedd yng ngofal awdurdodau lleol rhwng 2011 a 2012.

Pryder arall, ond un nad wyf yn ei gymryd yn ysgafn, yw'r gwasanaethau ôl-fabwysiadu a'r cymorth presennol sydd ar waith. Cyn symud ymlaen i sôn am hynny yn fanwl, gwrandewais ar y ddadl dros wasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol, ond mae fy mhrofiadau yn Aberconwy yn golygu fy mod wedi gweld gwasanaethau mabwysiadu yn cael eu cyflwyno mewn maes mwy canolog, sef consortia rhanbarthol y gogledd. Mae hynny wedi cymryd dros ddwy flynedd, wedi achosi newid aruthrol, a soniwyd wrthyf fod hynny wedi ymestyn yr amser y mae wedi'i gymryd i ddod o hyd i gartrefi teuluol cynaliadwy i rai o'r plant.

Rhaid i'n polisïau mabwysiadu yn y dyfodol ystyried y cymhlethdodau y mae plant a rhieni yn eu hwynebu a'r gefnogaeth barhaus sydd ei hangen arnynt ac y maent yn eu haeddu. Yn ogystal, dylai rhieni, pan fyddant yn wynebu problemau sy'n codi o ganlyniad i brofiadau plant eraill yn y gorffennol, fod yn gallu cysylltu â rhwydwaith cydgyssylltiedig o gymorth y dylai fod yn bosibl ei nodi ar gam cynnar. Mae'n debyg mai'r gwaith achos mwyaf cymhleth ac emosiynol yr wyf wedi gorfod delio ag ef yn fy etholaeth hyd yn hyn oedd y gwaith achos yn ymwneud â chymorth ôl-fabwysiadu. Rwyf wedi gwrandeo ar hanesion dirdynol gan rieni sy'n magu plant sydd â phroblemau heriol ac ymddygiadol niferus. Drwy eu profiadau, gwelais ddiffyg cydnabyddiaeth o'u hanghenion penodol eu hunain ac anghenion eu plant. Mae hyn yn effeithio ar iechyd y plant, eu rhyngweithio â grwpiau o gyfoedion, eu cyrhaeddiad addysgol a'u rhagolygon hirdymor ar gyfer dyfodol.

Fel y mae'r pwyllgor wedi ei glywed mewn tystiolaeth, mae llawer o rieni sy'n mabwysiadu yn canfod bylchau yn y cymorth ôl-fabwysiadu. Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Dirprwy Weinidog am ei phryder pan gyflwynais yr achos penodol hwn iddi. Mae pobl wedi cysylltu â mi ynglŷn â'r diffyg cymorth ôl-fabwysiadu, yn enwedig o ran y rhwydwaith enfawr o gymorth sydd ei angen pan fydd rhywbeth yn mynd o'i le mewn achosion o fabwysiadu brodyr a chwiorydd. Mae'r achos hwn wedi mwy na thynnu sylw at b'un ai

removing the scrutiny of policy from local panels—whether it be a national adoption service or a regional consortium—is the most pragmatic way forward.

Although I am pleased to see that matching sibling groups has been afforded a distinct strategy under the committee's discussion of recommendation 6, more must be done to help those sibling groups and their parents. This is no better summed up than by my own constituent:

'Six years ago, my husband and I adopted a sibling group. The children had suffered severe neglect, abuse, trauma, starvation and abandonment. We were not prepared by social services for the behaviour of these children. The children were never offered support with understanding of their own thoughts and feelings and we were left isolated.'

Today, those parents are still feeling isolated. I have been working on this case for a number of months, and, if collaboration is not working in regional terms, how will diluting this process improve things? Furthermore, there seem to be some inconsistencies in that foster parents are given financial and practical assistance throughout the process, which I support wholeheartedly, but this support seems to be withdrawn once a child is adopted. That cannot be fair or right.

With regard to therapeutic support, namely recommendation 11, my experience is that there is a need for specific therapeutic support, such as with cases of attachment disorder, which has been touched on brilliantly here today. I understand that, detrimentally, this is not currently available in all local authorities. The Welsh Government really needs to consider the potential for services that this recommendation endorses. I fully agree with the committee having the ability to scrutinise the Government's progress on this.

Finally, I note recommendation 2 and its

cymryd penderfyniadau oddi ar awdurdod lleol a'r ardal leol, a dileu'r gwaith craffu ar bolisi a wneir gan baneli lleol—boed yn wasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol neu'n gonsortiw m rhanbarthol—yw'r ffordd fwyaf ymarferol ymlaen.

Er fy mod yn falch o weld bod paru grwpiau o frodyr a chwiorydd wedi cael strategaeth benodol o dan drafodaeth y pwyllgor o argymhelliad 6, rhaid gwneud mwy i helpu'r grwpiau hynny o frodyr a chwiorydd a'u rhieni. Gan un o'm hetholwyr y cafodd hyn ei grynhoi yn well na neb:

Chwe blynedd yn ôl, gwnaeth fy ngŵr a minnau fabwysiadu grŵp o frodyr a chwiorydd. Roedd y plant wedi dioddef esgeulustod difrifol, cam-drin, trawma, newyn ac wedi cael eu gadael ar eu pen eu hunain. Ni chawsom ein paratoi gan y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol ar gyfer ymddygiad y plant hyn. Ni chynigiwyd cymorth erioed i'r plant er mwyn iddynt ddeall eu teimladau a'u meddyliau eu hunain ac roeddem yn teimlo'n ynysig iawn.

Heddiw, mae'r rhieni hynny yn dal i deimlo'n ynysig. Rwyf wedi bod yn gweithio ar yr achos hwn ers sawl mis ac, os nad yw cydweithredu yn gweithio mewn termau rhanbarthol, sut y bydd gwanhau'r broses hon yn gwella pethau? Ar ben hynny, ymddengys bod rhai anghysondebau yn yr ystyr bod cymorth ariannol ac ymarferol yn cael ei roi i rieni maeth, sef rhywbeth a gefnogaf yn gyfan gwbl, ond caiff y cymorth hwn ei ddileu unwaith y caiff plentyn ei fabwysiadu. Ni all hynny fod yn deg nac yn gyfiawn.

O ran cymorth therapiwtig, sef argymhelliad 11, fy mhrofiad i yw bod angen cymorth therapiwtig penodol, megis cymorth gydag achosion o anhwylder ymlyniad a grybwyllwyd yn wych yma heddiw. Rwy'n deall, yn anffodus, nad yw hyn ar gael ar hyn o bryd ym mhob awdurdod lleol. Mae angen i Lywodraeth Cymru ystyried o ddifrif y potensial ar gyfer gwasanaethau y mae'r argymhelliad hwn yn ei gymeradwyo. Cytunaf yn llwyr â rhoi'r gallu i'r pwyllgor graffu ar gynnydd y Llywodraeth yn hyn o beth.

Yn olaf, nodaf argymhelliad 2 a'i gyflwyniad

detailed submission that asks for more robust policies on permanency planning. I believe that this is beyond important for a child that is about to be adopted. I understand, too, that, in 2010, only 36% of looked-after children in Conwy had permanency planning included in their second reviews. This is below the Wales average of 94%. I welcome the work of this committee. I understand that there may be further reports and I would be more than happy to feed into that report in terms of giving evidence.

The Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services (Gwenda Thomas): I am grateful to the Children and Young People Committee for its conscientious scrutiny of the arrangements for adoption, sharing with me its findings and advising me about the experience of those directly affected by the adoption process. The breadth of the inquiry and contributions from the wide range of participants has ensured that the committee's work has been truly inclusive. The evidence collected by the inquiry substantiates and supports my view that radical reform is needed and that the establishment of a national adoption service as identified in 'Sustainable Social Services for Wales: A Framework for Action' will provide the mechanism for the step change required.

The committee's report supports my view that there is a need for a major shift in the way that adoption services are organised and delivered, which will re-invigorate the momentum and aims of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and our strategies for placement choice and stability. There is unanimous agreement that we need to deliver improvements to prevent unnecessary delay and duplication, an area we know has a negative impact on children. Acting sooner to find permanency, instilling robust recruitment campaigns to increase the pool of adopters, ensuring good-quality assessments, assuring prospective adopters that they will receive the level of adoption support they require, when they require it, are among just a few of the areas identified within the report. I am proud that, in Wales, we have the same shared values and aspirations on this very important agenda.

manwl sy'n gofyn am bolisiâu mwy cadarn ar gynlluniau parhad. Credaf fod hyn y tu hwnt o bwysig i blentyn sydd ar fin cael ei fabwysiadu. Deallaf, hefyd, yn 2010, mai dim ond 36% o blant sy'n derbyn gofal yng Nghonwy a gafodd gynllun parhad yn eu hail adolygiadau. Mae hyn yn is na chyfartaledd Cymru o 94%. Croesawaf waith y pwyllgor hwn. Deallaf y bydd adroddiadau pellach o bosibl a byddwn yn fwy na pharod i gyfrannu at yr adroddiad hwnnw o ran rhoi tystiolaeth.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Gwenda Thomas): Rwy'n ddiolchgar i'r Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc am ei waith craffu cydwybodol ar y trefniadau ar gyfer mabwysiadu, am rannu ei ganfyddiadau â mi ac am ddweud wrthyf am brofiad y rhai y mae'r broses fabwysiadu yn effeithio'n uniongyrchol arnynt. Mae ehangder yr ymchwiliad a chyfraniadau gan yr ystod eang o gyfranogwyr wedi sicrhau bod gwaith y pwyllgor wedi bod yn wirioneddol gynhwysol. Mae'r dystiolaeth a gasglwyd gan yr ymchwiliad yn ategu ac yn cefnogi fy marn bod angen diwygio radical ac y bydd sefydlu gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol fel y nodir yn 'Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cynaliadwy i Gymru: Fframwaith ar gyfer Gweithredu' yn fodd o sicrhau'r newid sylweddol sydd ei angen.

Mae adroddiad y pwyllgor yn ategu fy marn bod angen newid mawr yn y ffordd y caiff gwasanaethau mabwysiadu eu trefnu a'u darparu, a fydd yn adfywio momentwm ac amcanion Deddf Mabwysiadu a Phlant 2002 a'n strategaethau ar gyfer dewis sefydlogrwydd lleoliadau. Ceir cytundeb unfrydol bod angen inni sicrhau gwelliannau er mwyn atal unrhyw oedi a dyblygu diangen, maes y gwyddom sy'n cael effaith negyddol ar blant. Mae gweithredu'n gynt i sicrhau parhad, rhoi ymgyrchoedd recriwtio cadarn ar waith er mwyn cynyddu nifer y mabwysiadwyr, sicrhau asesiadau o ansawdd da, rhoi sicrwydd i ddarpar fabwysiadwyr y cânt y lefel o gymorth mabwysiadu sydd ei hangen arnynt, ar yr adeg y bydd ei hangen arnynt, ymhlith rhai o'r meysydd a nodwyd yn yr adroddiad. Rwy'n falch bod gennym, yng Nghymru, yr un gwerthoedd a dyheadau a rennir ar yr agenda hollbwysig hon.

The inquiry has given us a clearer insight into the systems and processes that operate across local authorities, voluntary adoption agencies, fostering agencies, education and other services in providing care for children who are looked after, and the enormity of the challenge and disruption that the child in care, prospective adopters and practitioners face daily.

As we have heard, the committee highlighted anomalies in the current system and has made 16 recommendations and noted 25 detailed actions to improve practice. In December, I published the Welsh Government's response, accepting or accepting in principle 15 of the recommendations. I also welcome the committee's recognition of the value, expertise and gravitas of the social work profession and would concur that there is clear demonstration of excellence within some areas, but that these pockets must expand so that we have equity of service across Wales.

Disparity within the service is not acceptable and will no longer be tolerated. The establishment of a national adoption service delivered through collaboration will help to prevent the entrenched and rigid views that some local authorities hold about the perfect adopter. It will also encourage more prospective adopters to come forward, tackling the perceptions that some were discouraged because their profiles did not fit, or that the authority was experiencing under-resourcing of senior practitioners to carry out the appropriate assessments and checks.

The committee recognised and accepted that some services are best delivered regionally. I totally support this statement and believe that the key to change is not the location of the service, but the delivery. The national adoption service will be underpinned by a national standardised performance framework for the recruitment, training and approval of prospective adopters. It will have a focus on identifying, reviewing and highlighting key performance measures to measure the timeliness in which a child is

Mae'r ymchwiliad yn golygu ein bod yn deall yn well y systemau a'r prosesau sy'n gweithredu ar draws awdurdodau lleol, asiantaethau mabwysiadu gwirfoddol, asiantaethau maethu, gwasanaethau addysg a gwasanaethau eraill o ran darparu gofal i blant sy'n derbyn gofal, ac anferthedd yr her a'r tarfu y mae'r plentyn mewn gofal, darpar fabwysiadwyr ac ymarferwyr yn eu hwynebu bob dydd.

Fel y clywsom, tynnodd y pwyllgor sylw at anghysondebau yn y system gyfredol ac mae wedi gwneud 16 o argymhellion ac wedi nodi 25 cam manwl i wella arferion. Ym mis Rhagfyr, cyhoeddais ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru, a oedd yn derbyn neu'n derbyn mewn egwyddor 15 o'r argymhellion. Croesawaf hefyd gydnabyddiaeth y pwyllgor o werth, arbenigedd a dwyster y proffesiwn gwaith cymdeithasol a byddwn yn cytuno bod arwydd clar o ragoriaeth mewn rhai meysydd, ond rhaid i'r pocedi hyn ehangu fel bod gennym wasanaeth teg ledled Cymru.

Nid yw anghyfartaledd o fewn y gwasanaeth yn dderbyniol ac ni chaiff ei oddef mwyach. Bydd sefydlu gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol wedi ei gyflwyno drwy gydweithrediad yn helpu i atal y safbwyntiau sefydledig a llym hyn y mae rhai awdurdodau lleol yn eu harddel ynghylch y mabwysiadwr perffaith. Bydd hefyd yn annog mwy o ddarpar fabwysiadwyr i ddod ymlaen, gan fynd i'r afael â'r canfyddiadau bod rhai yn cael eu hannog i beidio â gwneud gan nad oedd eu proffiliau yn addas, neu nad oedd gan yr awdurdod ddigon o uwch ymarferwyr i gyflawni'r asesiadau a'r gwiriadau priodol.

Mae'r pwyllgor yn cydnabod ac yn derbyn mai yn rhanbarthol y caiff rhai gwasanaethau eu darparu orau. Cefnogaf yn llwyr y datganiad hwn a chredaf nad lleoliad y gwasanaeth yw'r allwedd i newid, ond y modd y caiff ei ddarparu. Ategir y gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol gan fframwaith perfformiad safonedig cenedlaethol ar gyfer recriwtio, hyfforddi a chymeradwyo darpar fabwysiadwyr. Bydd yn canolbwyntio ar nodi, adolygu ac amlygu mesurau perfformiad allweddol i fesur yr

placed for adoption and a timeline for the adopters' journey.

The framework will set performance thresholds and make clear the Welsh Government's minimum expectations for timeliness in the adoption system, for the child and the prospective adopter, providing a tool that measures and compares performance rates. In support of the framework, research has been commissioned in line with Department for Education guidance on adoption disruption, and an investigation into adoption breakdown post adoption order. The evidence gained will help inform the management team of the national service to identify specific characteristics that result in breakdown.

I expect the national adoption service to be headed by a senior person who has the autonomy to make decisions. This would include taking decisions on the delivery of the national service's function and ensuring that opportunities for collaboration are maximised while maintaining the necessary local links and knowledge. This is a crucial aspect of adoption services. This appointment will be a critical part of the new service, and it will be important that the individual is empowered and enabled to lead and drive the service improvements that we all want to see. Have no doubt that I will use my powers to hold local government to account if it fails to deliver the radical improvements in the performance of the adoption service that we all expect.

The new service will address current concerns without losing the undeniable strengths of the existing system, thereby achieving change without detriment. The committee is already aware that I am looking forward to receiving the operational model being developed jointly by the Welsh Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Social Services. I expect that the model presented will achieve the step change that we have all identified as necessary, and one we can develop further through a strategic group. Within their model,

amser y mae'n ei gymryd i ddod o hyd i leoliad mabwysiadu ar gyfer plentyn a llinell amser ar gyfer taith y mabwysiadwyr.

Bydd y fframwaith yn gosod trothwyon perfformiad ac yn egluro disgwyliadau gofynnol Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer amseroldeb yn y system fabwysiadu, i'r plentyn a'r darpar fabwysiadydd, gan ddarparu dull o fesur a chymharu cyfraddau perfformiad. I ategu'r fframwaith, comisiynwyd ymchwil yn unol â chanllawiau'r Adran Addysg ar arweiniad ar achosion o darfu ar y broses fabwysiadu, ac ymchwiliad i fethiant yn y broses fabwysiadu yn dilyn y gorchymyn mabwysiadu. Bydd y dystiolaeth a gesglir yn helpu i hysbysu'r tîm rheoli am y gwasanaeth cenedlaethol i nodi nodweddion penodol sy'n arwain at fethiant.

Rwy'n disgwyl i'r gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol gael ei arwain gan berson ar lefel uwch sydd â'r ymreolaeth i wneud penderfyniadau. Byddai hyn yn cynnwys gwneud penderfyniadau ar ddarparu swyddogaeth y gwasanaeth cenedlaethol a sicrhau y manteisir i'r eithaf ar gyfleoedd ar gyfer cydweithredu tra'n cynnal y cysylltiadau lleol a'r wybodaeth angenrheidiol. Mae hyn yn agwedd hanfodol ar wasanaethau mabwysiadu. Bydd y penodiad hwn yn rhan hanfodol o'r gwasanaeth newydd, a bydd yn bwysig grymuso'r unigolyn a'i alluogi i arwain a llywio'r gwelliannau mewn gwasanaeth y mae pob un ohonom am eu gweld. Heb unrhyw amheuaeth, byddaf yn defnyddio fy mhwerau i ddwyn llywodraeth leol i gyfrif os bydd yn methu â chyflawni'r gwelliannau radical ym mherfformiad y gwasanaeth mabwysiadu yr ydym i gyd yn eu disgwyl.

Bydd y gwasanaeth newydd yn mynd i'r afael â phryderon cyfredol heb golli cryfderau diamheuol y system bresennol, a thrwy hynny gyflawni newid heb amharu ar y broses. Mae'r pwyllgor eisoes yn ymwybodol fy mod yn edrych ymlaen at dderbyn y model gweithredol sy'n cael ei ddatblygu ar y cyd gan Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a Chymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Rwy'n disgwyl i'r model a gyflwynir gyflawni'r newid sylweddol a nodwyd gan bob un ohonom fel un angenrheidiol, ac un y gallwn ei ddatblygu

I expect to see a strong emphasis upon partnership with the voluntary and independent sectors, and to see the benefits that these sectors can bring to adoption more generally.

I shall consider and reflect on the viability of this model. If I am not sufficiently satisfied that the proposed model will enable the national adoption service to tackle current inconsistencies in service delivery, I will then consider directing local authorities to discharge the service in a different way, in accordance with the new powers in the social services and wellbeing (Wales) Bill.

I believe that the Government's commitment to each of the recommendations will provide the necessary levers to enhance the placement stability of children, and I will, of course, take account of Members' comments this afternoon. However, it is the front-line practitioners and the people who care for children who can make the difference to these children. I refuse to accept that children can be left to drift in the care system, and I expect to see an upward trend over the next few years as the national adoption service drives up standards and performance.

4.45 p.m.

I conclude by thanking the committee, on behalf of the Welsh Government, for its excellent inquiry: one that cements our findings and will help us to focus on the major challenges required to prevent children languishing in care. Every child needs and deserves that special family. We must all work together to make it happen.

Christine Chapman: First of all, I thank all the Members who have contributed to this excellent debate today. In closing, I would like to return to the overwhelming message from adopter parents of the positive life-changing experience of adopting their children, which far outweighs any challenges that they may have faced along their adoption

ymhellach drwy grŵp strategol. O fewn ei fodel, rwy'n disgwyl gweld pwyslais cryf ar bartneriaeth gyda'r sectorau gwirfoddol ac annibynnol, a gweld y buddiannau y gall y sectorau hyn eu rhoi i fabwysiadu yn fwy cyffredinol.

Byddaf yn ystyried ac yn myfyrio ar hyfywedd y model hwn. Os nad wyf yn ddigon bodlon y bydd y model arfaethedig yn galluogi'r gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol i fynd i'r afael ag anghysondebau cyfredol yn y gwasanaethau a ddarperir, byddaf wedyn yn ystyried cyfarwyddo awdurdodau lleol i gyflawni'r gwasanaeth mewn ffordd wahanol, yn unol â'r pwerau newydd yn y Bil gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a lles (Cymru).

Credaf y bydd ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth i bob un o'r argymhellion yn darparu'r mesurau sy'n angenrheidiol i wella sefydlogrwydd lleoliadau plant, a byddaf, wrth gwrs, yn ystyried sylwadau'r Aelodau y prynhawn yma. Fodd bynnag, yr ymarferwyr rheng flaen a'r bobl sy'n gofalu am blant yw'r rhai a all wneud y gwahaniaeth i'r plant hyn. Rwy'n gwrthod derbyn y gall plant gael eu gadael i lithro yn y system ofal, ac rwy'n disgwyl gweld tuedd ar i fyny dros y blynyddoedd nesaf wrth i'r gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol wella safonau a pherfformiad.

4.45 p.m.

Hoffwn gloi drwy ddiolch i'r pwyllgor, ar ran Llywodraeth Cymru, am ei ymchwiliad ardderchog: un sy'n cadarnhau ein canfyddiadau ac a fydd yn ein helpu i ganolbwyntio ar yr heriau mawr sydd eu hangen i atal plant rhag byw'n barhaol mewn gofal. Mae angen y teulu arbennig hwnnw ar bob plentyn ac mae'n haeddu hynny. Rhaid inni i gyd weithio gyda'n gilydd i wneud iddo ddigwydd.

Christine Chapman: Yn gyntaf oll, hoffwn ddiolch i'r holl Aelodau sydd wedi cyfrannu at y ddadl ardderchog hon heddiw. Wrth gloi, hoffwn ddychwelyd at y neges amlwg a fynegwyd gan rieni sy'n mabwysiadu am brofiad cadarnhaol mabwysiadu eu plant, a newidiodd eu bywydau, sef profiad sy'n drech o lawer nag unrhyw heriau y maent

journey, and share some of their comments with you. A parent said:

‘Of course, he is the best little boy in the world. It has been fantastic! My husband and I have a wonderful little boy who does have some challenging behaviour but we have come through it and we love him very much and feel truly blessed.’

We wanted this report to be very balanced.

I will turn to brief highlights from Members’ contributions—obviously, I cannot respond to every Member. It would be fair to say that, although as Members we take on board that we need to work with local authorities, all of us felt that it is important to draw on expertise wherever that may be, including the voluntary sector. That was a strong point that came out of this debate today.

Julie Morgan spoke powerfully—drawing on her own professional experience—of the need for radical reform to meet the needs of those children. The issue is about welcoming adopters. We know that we do not have enough parents who want to adopt and we have a growing list of children who desperately need that support. Suzy Davies and Aled Roberts reminded us of the experience of some who we felt were being let down by the present system, and what high hopes and aspirations those people at the sharp end had for a new radical system. Jenny Rathbone and Jocelyn Davies talked about the severe problems that may arise if we do not get permanency planning right. This can be to the huge long-term detriment of children. They reiterated that we need a much improved system.

Lynne Neagle, Janet Finch-Saunders and Aled Roberts reminded us of the need for much better post-adoption support in education. We talked about those children who have been left behind in education. The lack of understanding sometimes by professionals of the needs of those children was raised. We heard about CAMHS and support for parents themselves. That is very important.

wedi gorfod eu hwynebeu ar hyd eu taith fabwysiadu, a rhannu rhai o’u sylwadau gyda chi. Dywedodd rhiant:

Wrth gwrs, ef yw’r bachgen bach gorau yn y byd. Mae wedi bod yn ffantastig! Mae gennyf i a’r gwŷr fachgen bach hyfryd y mae ei ymddygiad ychydig yn heriol ond rydym yn ymdopi â hynny ac yn ei garu’n fawr iawn ac yn teimlo’n hynod ffodus.

Roeddem am i’r adroddiad hwn fod yn gytbwys iawn.

Trof at rai uchafbwyntiau o gyfraniadau’r Aelodau—yn amlwg, ni allaf ymateb i bob Aelod. Byddai’n deg dweud, er ein bod fel Aelodau yn derbyn bod angen inni weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol, fod pob un ohonom yn teimlo ei fod yn bwysig manteisio ar arbenigedd ble bynnag y bo, gan gynnwys y sector gwirfoddol. Roedd hynny’n bwynt cryf a ddeilliodd o’r ddadl hon heddiw.

Siaradodd Julie Morgan yn rymus—gan gyfeirio at ei phrofiad proffesiynol ei hun—am yr angen am ddiwygio radical i ddiwallu anghenion y plant hynny. Mae’r mater yn ymwneud â chroesawu mabwysiadwyr. Gwyddom nad oes gennym ddigon o rieni sydd am fabwysiadu ac mae gennym restr gynyddol o blant y mae gwir angen y cymorth hwnnw arnynt. Fe’n hatgoffwyd gan Suzy Davies ac Aled Roberts o brofiad rhai yr oedd y system bresennol yn eu methu yn ein barn ni, a’r gobeithion a’r dyheadau mawr a oedd gan y bobl hynny yn y rheng flaen ar gyfer system radical newydd. Soniodd Jenny Rathbone a Jocelyn Davies am y problemau difrifol a all godi os nad ydym yn sicrhau y bydd cynlluniau parhad yn iawn. Gall hyn fod yn niweidiol iawn i blant yn y tymor hir. Gwnaethant ategu bod angen system well o lawer arnom.

Fe’n hatgoffwyd gan Lynne Neagle, Janet Finch-Saunders ac Aled Roberts o’r angen am gymorth ôl-fabwysiadu gwell o lawer ym maes addysg. Siaradwyd am y plant hynny sydd wedi cael eu gadael ar ôl mewn addysg. Codwyd diffyg dealltwriaeth gweithwyr proffesiynol weithiau o anghenion y plant hynny. Clywsom am CAMHS a chymorth ar gyfer rhieni eu hunain. Mae hynny’n bwysig iawn.

Deputy Minister, thank you for your comments. I particularly thank you for acknowledging the powerful evidence that we have heard in this inquiry. We hope that this will give further insight to your officials and the Cabinet on the need to get this right. All of us felt that we need to be assured that the changes proposed by the Welsh Government will deliver the necessary outcomes for these adopted children and their families. The committee was unanimous in its view that the national adoption service should not be owned by local authorities. This will not deliver the changes that are needed. Members talked about a new model. We think that it is not enough just to tweak things; we need a new model that is going to deliver for those children.

You have outlined some proposals. We understand that detail must follow on this, but if we do not get this right, a significant opportunity will have been missed to make greatly needed improvements to services that affect the lives of some of the most vulnerable children in Wales. Deputy Minister, we have heard your comments and we are now keen to see more detail.

Nick Ramsay: Thank you for giving way. I did not follow your committee proceedings when you were taking evidence, but you clearly had some real and concerning evidence about local authorities and their role in the adoption process, leading you to want this separate body. Did you also develop concerns about the corporate parenting role of local authorities overall, in terms of fostered children as well?

Christine Chapman: A lot of the detail will be in the report, but the biggest finding for us was the inconsistency. Again, there is some really good practice around Wales, but, equally, depending on the local authority, and sometimes even the personalities involved, the system was not always as good. Therefore, we felt that this was a disincentive for the children and adopter parents. You mentioned the role of corporate parenting;

Ddirprwy Weinidog, diolch i chi am eich sylwadau. Yn arbennig diolch i chi am gydnabod y dystiolaeth rymus a glywsom yn yr ymchwiliad hwn. Gobeithiwn y bydd hyn yn rhoi dealltwriaeth bellach i'ch swyddogion a'r Cabinet o'r angen i sicrhau bod hyn yn iawn. Roedd pob un ohonom yn teimlo bod angen i ni fod yn sicr y bydd y newidiadau a gynigiwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn cyflawni'r canlyniadau sydd eu hangen ar gyfer y plant hyn sydd wedi'u mabwysiadu a'u teuluoedd. Roedd y pwyllgor yn unfrydol yn ei farn na ddylai'r gwasanaeth mabwysiadu cenedlaethol fod yn eiddo i awdurdodau lleol. Ni fydd hyn yn cyflawni'r newidiadau sydd eu hangen. Soniodd Aelodau am fodel newydd. Credwn nad yw'n ddigon i addasu pethau yn unig; mae angen model newydd arnom sy'n mynd i gyflawni ar gyfer y plant hynny.

Amlinellwyd rhai cynigion gennych. Deallwn fod yn rhaid i fanylion ddilyn ar hyn, ond os na lwyddwn i wneud hyn yn iawn, bydd cyfle mawr wedi'i golli i wneud gwelliannau sydd eu hangen yn ddirfawr i wasanaethau sy'n effeithio ar fywydau rhai o'r plant mwyaf agored i niwed yng Nghymru. Ddirprwy Weinidog, yr ydym wedi clywed eich sylwadau, ac rydym bellach yn awyddus i weld rhagor o fanylion.

Nick Ramsay: Diolch ichi am ildio. Ni ddilynais drafodion eich pwyllgor pan oeddech yn cymryd tystiolaeth, ond yn amlwg roedd gennych rywffaint o dystiolaeth go iawn a oedd yn peri pryder am awdurdodau lleol a'u rôl yn y broses fabwysiadu, a'ch arweiniodd at eich awydd i sefydlu'r corff ar wahân hwn. A wnaethoch hefyd ddatblygu pryderon am rôl rhianta corfforaethol awdurdodau lleol yn gyffredinol, o ran plant maeth hefyd?

Christine Chapman: Bydd llawer o'r manylion yn yr adroddiad, ond y canfyddiad mwyaf i ni oedd yr anghysondeb. Unwaith eto, mae rhywfaint o arfer da iawn ledled Cymru, ond, yn yr un modd, yn dibynnu ar yr awdurdod lleol, ac weithiau hyd yn oed y personoliaethau dan sylw, nid oedd y system honno bob amser cystal. Felly, roeddem yn teimlo bod hyn yn anghymhelliad i'r plant a'r rhieni sy'n mabwysiadu. Soniwyd am rôl

again, it is about whether individual authorities are taking that role as seriously as they might. There were a lot of inconsistencies.

I hope, Deputy Minister, in concluding, that the door is open now, you can look at our report, and we look forward to further updates.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cwestiwn yw a ddylid nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc. A oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad? Gwelaf nad oes. Felly, derbynir y cynnig, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 12.36.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion agreed.*

rhianta corfforaethol gennych; unwaith eto, mae'n ymwneud a ph'un a yw awdurdodau unigol yn cymryd y rôl honno mor ddifrifol ag y gallent. Roedd llawer o anghysondebau.

Rwy'n gobeithio, Ddirprwy Weinidog, wrth gloi, fod y drws ar agor yn awr, y gallwch edrych ar ein hadroddiad ac edrychwn ymlaen at ddiweddariadau pellach.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The question is that the Children and Young People Committee's report be noted. Are there any objections? I see that there are none. The motion is therefore agreed, in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.36.

Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives Debate

Llifogydd Flooding

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 in the name of Aled Roberts, amendments 3 and 6 in the name of Jocelyn Davies, and amendment 4 in the name of Jane Hutt.

Cynnig NDM5134 William Graham

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. Yn nodi'r llifogydd difrifol a effeithiodd ar Gymru gyfan yn 2012 a'r distryw a achoswyd mewn cymunedau ledled Cymru.

2. Yn cydnabod gwaith ardderchog y gwasanaethau brys a chryfder yr ysbryd cymunedol wrth fynd i'r afael ag effeithiau llifogydd difrifol.

3. Yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd dull gweithredu ar draws portffolios i reoli llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol yng Nghymru.

4. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau bod datblygu ar orlifdiroedd yn cael ei adolygu fel elfen ganolog o'r Bil Cynllunio.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Rwyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1, 2, 5, 7 ac 8 yn enw Aled Roberts, gwelliannau 3 a 6 yn enw Jocelyn Davies, a gwelliant 4 yn enw Jane Hutt.

Motion NDM5134 William Graham

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the severe flooding which affected the whole of Wales in 2012 causing devastation to communities throughout Wales.

2. Recognises the excellent work of the emergency services and the strength of community spirit in tackling the effects of severe flooding.

3. Recognises the importance of a cross-portfolio approach to flood and coastal erosion management in Wales.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that development on floodplains is reviewed as a central element of the Planning Bill.

5. Yn galw ymhellach ar Lywodraeth Cymru i roi sicrwydd y bydd y corff newydd, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru, yn cefnogi ac yn rheoli'n effeithiol bob ymdrech i fynd i'r afael â llifogydd yng Nghymru.

Russell George: I move the motion.

I will also say from the outset, in the spirit of consensus, that we will support all the amendments proposed this afternoon. It is important that the Government does everything that it possibly can to explore all potential measures to find innovative and long-term solutions to an issue that will clearly be part and parcel of our daily lives for some years to come. It is incredible to think that, just over a year ago, the main environmental topic of discussion was the potential drought conditions that the UK was about to face in 2012 and the impact that that would have on a year of national celebration.

We never envisaged the devastating impact that unprecedented floodwater would have on our lives, not just on a handful of occasions in the usual hotspots during the year, but in every month throughout 2012, damaging homes, crippling transport networks and overwhelming communities. According to the Met Office, 2012 was the third wettest year in Wales and the second wettest across the UK as a whole since records began 100 years ago.

It started last January, with the terrible conditions forcing the Environment Agency to issue 30 flood alerts for Welsh rivers as a month's worth of rainfall fell within a couple of days. As we moved throughout the year, the picture became more and more bleak. At the end of April, we saw a month's worth of rainfall in 24 hours, with flooding occurring in several parts of mid and west Wales. June was officially the wettest June on record, with 186.3 mm of rainfall throughout the month. Over 1,500 people were forced to evacuate areas of Ceredigion, Powys and Gwynedd. Tal-y-bont near Aberystwyth was one of the worst affected villages, as up to 1.5m of water engulfed it on 9 June. In July and August, there was severe flooding in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, and the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service

5. Further calls on the Welsh Government to provide assurances that the new Natural Resources Wales body will effectively manage and support all efforts to tackle flooding in Wales.

Russell George: Cynigiaf y cynnig.

Hoffwn ddweud hefyd o'r cychwyn cyntaf, yn ysbryd consensws, y byddwn yn cefnogi'r holl welliannau a gynigiwyd y prynhawn yma. Mae'n bwysig bod y Llywodraeth yn gwneud popeth o fewn ei gallu i ystyried pob mesur posibl i ddod o hyd i atebion arloesol a hirdymor i broblem a fydd yn amlwg yn rhan annatod o'n bywydau bob dydd am rai blynyddoedd i ddod. Mae'n anhygoel meddwl, ychydig dros flwyddyn yn ôl, mai'r prif bwnc trafod amgylcheddol oedd y sychder posibl yr oedd y DU ar fin ei wynebu yn 2012 a'r effaith y byddai hynny'n ei chael ar flwyddyn o ddathlu cenedlaethol.

Ni ragwelwyd erioed yr effaith ddinistriol y byddai llifogydd na welwyd eu tebyg o'r blaen yn ei chael ar ein bywydau, nid dim ond ar lond dwrn o weithiau yn y manau arferol yn ystod y flwyddyn, ond ym mhob mis drwy gydol 2012, gan ddifrodi cartrefi, rhwydweithiau trafndiaeth a llethu cymunedau. Yn ôl y Swyddfa Dywydd, 2012 oedd y drydedd flwyddyn wlypaf yng Nghymru a'r ail flwyddyn wlypaf yn y DU ers i gofnodion ddechrau 100 mlynedd yn ôl.

Dechreuodd fis Ionawr diwethaf, gyda'r amodau ofnadwy a orfododd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd i gyhoeddi 30 o rybuddion llifogydd ar gyfer afonydd yng Nghymru wrth i fis o law ddisgyn o fewn ychydig ddiwrnodau. Wrth i'r flwyddyn fynd yn ei blaen, aeth y darlun yn fwyfwy llwm. Ar ddiwedd mis Ebrill, disgynnodd mis o law mewn 24 awr, gan achosi llifogydd mewn sawl rhan o'r canolbarth a'r gorllewin. Mis Mehefin oedd y mis Mehefin gwlypaf erioed yn swyddogol, gyda 186.3 mm o law yn disgyn yn ystod y mis. Gorfu i fwy na 1,500 o bobl adael eu cartrefi yng Ngheredigion, Powys a Gwynedd. Tal-y-bont ger Aberystwyth oedd un o'r pentrefi yr effeithiwyd arno fwyaf, wrth i'r pentref fynd o dan hyd at 1.5m o ddŵr ar 9 Mehefin. Ym mis Gorffennaf a mis Awst, roedd llifogydd

reported 70 incidents within a few hours. In September and October, flooding had a huge impact on transport, with particular disruption to the Arriva Trains service in north Wales and floodwater closing lanes on the M4 in south and west Wales. Some of the worst flooding occurred during November, particularly in north Wales, which saw flooding in parts of Denbighshire, which was severely affected. In December, landslides caused by flooding affected roads and rail travel in the lead up to Christmas.

My constituency mailbag has been full, just in the last few days, of correspondence from people concerned about flooding in the Dovey bridge area causing inconvenience and potentially life-threatening situations. As one e-mail to me from a constituent last week said, the increased amount of flooding in recent years is causing the road to close, and it will only get worse. In my response, I could only agree.

That brief synopsis of the year's event shows that there is no particular pattern to our weather system. Climate scientists believe that extreme weather conditions, like the frequent, heavy, sustained downpours that we experienced last year, are going to be with us for years to come, as global temperatures continue to rise.

However, what was consistent was the vigilance and dedication of our emergency services. I think that all of us in the Chamber would like us to put on record our sincere thanks and gratitude for how they responded to each individual situation, at times under extreme pressure and in challenging circumstances, as the cumulative impact of weather-created incidents scattered right across the entire region. The bravery and dedication shown by both professional and volunteer crews was a testament to their professionalism, and they, quite rightly, should be commended. However, we should not underestimate the position that many of

mawr yn sir Gaerfyrddin a sir Benfro, a chofnododd Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru 70 o ddigwyddiadau o fewn ychydig oriau. Ym mis Medi a mis Hydref, cafodd llifogydd effaith fawr ar drafnidiaeth, gan amharu'n arbennig ar wasanaeth Trenau Arriva yn y gogledd, a lonydd ar yr M4 yn y de a'r gorllewin yn cau oherwydd llifogydd. Gwelwyd rhai o'r llifogydd gwaethaf yn ystod mis Tachwedd, yn enwedig yn y gogledd, pan gafwyd llifogydd mewn rhannau o sir Ddinbych, yr effeithiwyd arni'n ddifrifol. Ym mis Rhagfyr, amharwyd ar ffyrdd a gwasanaethau rheilffyrdd yn y cyfnod cyn y Nadolig gan dirlithriadau a achoswyd gan lifogydd.

Mae fy mag post wedi bod yn llawn, nid dim ond yn ystod yr ychydig ddiwrnodau diwethaf, o ohebiaeth gan etholwyr sy'n pryderu y gallai llifogydd yn ardal Pontarddyfi achosi anghyfleustra a sefyllfaoedd lle mae bywyd mewn perygl. Fel y dywedodd etholwr mewn un neges e-bost ataf yr wythnos diwethaf, mae'r llifogydd cynyddol yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf wedi peri i'r ffordd gau, a bydd y sefyllfa ond yn mynd yn waeth. Yn fy ymateb, ni allwn ond cytuno.

Dengys y crynodeb byr hwnnw o ddigwyddiadau'r flwyddyn nad oes unrhyw batrwm penodol i'n system dywydd. Cred gwyddonwyr hinsawdd fod y tywydd eithafol, megis y cawodydd glaw mynych a thrwm a gawsom y llynedd, yn mynd i bara am flynyddoedd i ddod, wrth i'r tymereddau byd-eang barhau i godi.

Fodd bynnag, yr hyn a fu'n gyson oedd gwyliadwriaeth ac ymroddiad ein gwasanaethau brys. Credaf yr hoffai pob un ohonom yn y Siambr ddiolch o galon iddynt am y ffordd yr ymatebwyd i bob sefyllfa unigol, a hynny o dan bwysau eithafol ar adegau ac mewn amgylchiadau heriol, wrth i effaith gronnu digwyddiadau a achoswyd gan y tywydd ledur drwy'r rhanbarth cyfan. Bu dewrder ac ymroddiad criwiau proffesiynol a gwirfoddol fel ei gilydd yn dyst i'w proffesiynoldeb, a dylent gael eu canmol, a hynny'n gwbl deg. Fodd bynnag, ni ddylem ddiystyru'r sefyllfa yr oedd llawer o'n hymatebwyr cyntaf yn ei hwynebu

our first responders have been put in due to previous planning decisions. You would be surprised at how many fire and police stations across Wales are built on floodplains. We are creating unnecessary risks for these men and women, who are expected to respond with urgency to our needs. What about their needs?

Of course, we should not forget the courage, determination and spirit shown by the many communities affected over the year. Incidents of flooding caused considerable personal grief and trauma to thousands of residents and businesses. The immediate effects of severe flooding are clearly identifiable and are easy media opportunities to grab headlines. However, as Prince Charles rightly pointed out when he visited north Wales, it is the long-term effects that are underestimated and underreported. I know that it will take a long time for people in the communities affected to come to terms with what has happened, and it is imperative that we, as community leaders, do everything that we can to help people to come to terms with their situation and to get people back on their feet as quickly as possible.

As we discussed in the previous debate, managing the full spectrum of flood risk efficiently is something that cannot be left to one Minister in one department. It requires strategic leadership and co-ordination by all Ministers, across all departments and across all governments. As the Wales Audit Office report on civil emergencies showed, the Welsh Government's role in civil contingencies has been described as 'complicated', due to the nature of the devolution settlement. The Welsh Government's position needs to be made clear, so that there is no confusion. It is up to the UK Government to address that situation, and we will do all that we can to actively help in that. The degree of leadership required from the Welsh Government to effectively deal with the challenges of flood risk has been raised in previous reports, both by the Wales Audit Office and various committees of this Assembly. I am confident that the Welsh Government is heading in the right direction, but this requires a commitment and buy-in across Government, so that all programmes

oherwydd penderfyniadau cynllunio yn y gorffennol. Byddech yn synnu faint o orsafoedd tân a'r heddlu ledled Cymru sydd wedi'u hadeiladu ar orlifdiroedd. Rydym yn creu risgiau diangen i'r dynion a'r menywod hyn, y disgwylir iddynt ymateb ar fyrder i'n hanghenion. Beth am eu hanghenion hwythau?

Wrth gwrs, ni ddylem anghofio am ddewrder, penderfyniad nac ysbryd y cymunedau lawer yr effeithiwyd arnynt yn ystod y flwyddyn. Achosodd llifogydd gryn ofid personol a thrawma i filoedd o drigolion a busnesau. Mae'n ddigon hawdd gweld effeithiau uniongyrchol llifogydd mawr ac maent yn creu penawdau hawdd i'r cyfryngau. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedodd y Tywysog Charles, a hynny'n gwbl gywir, pan ymwelodd â'r gogledd, nid yw'r effeithiau hirdymor yn cael eu llawn werthfawrogi nac yn cael sylw digonol. Gwn y bydd yn cymryd amser hir i bobl yn y cymunedau yr effeithiwyd arnynt ddod i delerau â'r hyn a ddigwyddodd, ac mae'n hanfodol ein bod ni, fel arweinwyr cymunedol, yn gwneud popeth o fewn ein gallu i helpu pobl i ddod i delerau â'u sefyllfa a chael pobl ar ben ffordd cyn gynted ag y bo modd.

Fel y trafodwyd yn y ddadl flaenorol, nid yw'r gwaith o reoli'r holl beryglon llifogydd yn effeithlon yn rhywbeth y gellir ei adael i un Gweinidog mewn un adran. Mae'n gofyn am arweiniad strategol a chydgyssylltu gan bob Gweinidog, ym mhob adran ac ym mhob llywodraeth. Fel y dangosodd adroddiad Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru ar argyfyngau sifil, mae rôl Llywodraeth Cymru o ran argyfyngau sifil posibl wedi cael ei disgrifio fel un 'gymhleth', oherwydd natur y setliad datganoli. Mae angen gwneud sefyllfa Llywodraeth Cymru yn glir, fel nad oes unrhyw ddryswch. Llywodraeth y DU sy'n gorfod mynd i'r afael â'r sefyllfa honno, a byddwn yn gwneud popeth o fewn ein gallu i helpu yn hynny o beth. Mae'r arweiniad y mae angen i Lywodraeth Cymru ei roi er mwyn ymdrin â heriau perygl llifogydd yn effeithiol wedi ei godi mewn adroddiadau blaenorol, gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru a chan wahanol bwyllgorau yn y Cynulliad hwn. Rwy'n hyderus bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn mynd i'r cyfeiriad cywir, ond mae hyn yn gofyn am ymrwymiad a chefnogaeth

and initiatives are properly funded, monitored and managed.

The issue of public awareness and engagement is something that all departments should be looking at, to share and have a stake in, because it is an all-Wales priority issue. Businesses are affected. The Environment Agency Wales has already confirmed that six of the seven identified Welsh enterprise zones are at risk of flooding, particularly Cardiff and Deeside. Education is affected, as we continue to build nurseries and schools in flood-risk areas. Transport is affected—we saw the major disruption last year on the rail networks. Health services are affected, as we again continue to build residential homes and health centres on areas of flood risk. Without establishing mechanisms to take this agenda forward collaboratively, it falls on the shoulders of one department, and that message loses its strength and resonance. There has to be a shared vision of mitigating risk across Government for this to succeed.

In terms of point 4 and the Government's response, I accept in principle what you are trying to convey here. The planning system must be more robust, and that should not wait until the planning Bill is delivered. However, we feel that the C2 zones system is not as effective as it could be, and we feel that more must be done to tackle inappropriate developments, particularly in terms of updating current technical guidance and re-examining the LDP process. Building on green belt areas, for example, as is proposed in Cardiff—a city that is already at great risk of flooding—is just going to reduce the natural defences available to absorb water. The planning Bill is the most important piece of legislation to address those issues as a whole.

5.00 p.m.

In the meantime, I would recommend that the Minister examine our blue belt policy, which was in our manifesto. It has been supported by the Chartered Institute for Water and

ym mhob rhan o'r Llywodraeth, er mwyn sicrhau bod pob rhaglen a menter yn cael eu hariannu, eu monitro a'u rheoli'n briodol.

Mae ymwybyddiaeth y cyhoedd ac ymgysylltu â'r cyhoedd yn fater y dylai pob adran fod yn edrych arno, ei rannu a bod yn rhan ohono, oherwydd mater â blaenoriaeth i Gymru gyfan ydyw. Effeithir ar fusnesau. Mae Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru eisoes wedi cadarnhau bod chwech o'r saith ardal fenter yng Nghymru yn wynebu perygl llifogydd, yn enwedig Caerdydd a Glannau Dyfrdwy. Effeithir ar addysg, wrth inni barhau i adeiladu meithrinfeydd ac ysgolion mewn ardaloedd lle ceir perygl llifogydd. Effeithir ar drafnidiaeth—gwelsom y tarfu mawr ar y rhwydweithiau rheilffyrdd y llynedd. Effeithir ar wasanaethau iechyd, wrth inni unwaith eto barhau i adeiladu cartrefi preswyl a chanolfannau iechyd mewn ardaloedd lle ceir perygl llifogydd. Oni sefydlir systemau i fynd i'r afael â'r agenda hon ar y cyd, un adran yn unig sy'n gyfrifol, ac mae'r neges honno'n colli ei grym. Rhaid wrth weledigaeth a rennir i leihau risg ym mhob rhan o'r Llywodraeth er mwyn i hyn lwyddo.

O ran pwynt 4 ac ymateb y Llywodraeth, derbyniaf mewn egwyddor yr hyn yr ydych yn ceisio ei gyfleu yma. Rhaid i'r system gynllunio fod yn gadarnach, ac ni ddylai hynny aros hyd nes y cyflwynir y Bil cynllunio. Fodd bynnag, teimlwn nad yw'r system parthau C2 mor effeithiol ag y gallai fod, a theimlwn fod yn rhaid gwneud mwy i fynd i'r afael â datblygiadau amhriodol, yn enwedig o ran diweddarau'r canllawiau technegol cyfredol ac ailedrych ar broses y Cynlluniau Datblygu Lleol. Ni fydd adeiladu ar leiniau glas, er enghraifft, fel y cynigir yng Nghaerdydd—dinas sydd eisoes yn wynebu perygl llifogydd mawr—ond yn lleihau'r amddiffynfeydd naturiol sydd ar gael i amsugno dŵr. Y Bil cynllunio yw'r darn pwysicaf o ddeddfwriaeth i fynd i'r afael â'r materion hynny yn eu cyfanrwydd.

5.00 p.m.

Yn y cyfamser, byddwn yn argymhell bod y Gweinidog yn edrych ar ein polisi ar gyfer lleiniau glas, a oedd yn ein maniffesto. Cafodd ei gefnogi gan y Sefydliad Siartredig

Environmental Management. The concept is simple: a presumption against development in blue zone areas would prevent inappropriate development and help to reduce the impact of severe flooding. Your predecessor dismissed it out of hand, but I know that you are a better judge of character. [Laughter.] I hope that you take the opportunity, in the spirit of consensus, to look at it in detail.

Finally, I turn to the scope of the new natural resources Wales body to meet the demands of flood-risk management in the future. It is important that the various work streams that all three bodies undertake to mitigate the risk of flooding are carried on by the new body and enhanced. Some concerns have been raised with me by a couple of my constituents regarding the expertise of the board, both at director and non-director level, in engineering and flood-risk management. I welcome Graham Hillier's appointment last December as one of the new directors, but additional measures should be taken so that the decisions taken at the top of the organisation are based on knowledge and evidence.

The Environment and Sustainability Committee raised this issue when it took evidence from Professor Matthews at the end of last year. I think that it was my colleague, Antoinette Sandbach, who asked whether he would consider creating a consultative committee of stakeholders at quite a high level that would be able to advise the board and the chief executive on complex, technical issues. I was pleased that Professor Matthews said that he would give serious consideration to that point, and I hope that the Minister will take this up with him. I feel that it could be an incredibly informative tool that would help to ensure that the best decisions are made to deliver the best outcomes.

I hope that this will prove to be a thoughtful debate, conducted in a spirit of consensus. I believe that 2012 was an exemplar of the weather conditions that Wales and the UK will experience in the future. It is therefore vital that we proceed to do everything possible to protect the lives and livelihoods

Rheoli Dŵr a'r Amgylchedd. Mae'r cysyniad yn un syml: byddai rhagdybiaeth yn erbyn datblygu mewn ardaloedd parth glas yn atal datblygiadau anaddas ac yn helpu i leihau effaith llifogydd difrifol. Gwnaeth eich rhagflaenydd ei wfftio'n llwyr, ond gwn eich bod yn ddoethach. [Chwerthin.] Gobeithiaf y byddwch yn achub ar y cyfle, yn ysbryd consensws, i edrych arno'n fanwl.

Yn olaf, trof at gwmpas corff newydd cyfoeth naturiol Cymru i fodloni gofynion rheoli perygl llifogydd yn y dyfodol. Mae'n bwysig bod y corff newydd yn parhau â'r ffrydiau gwaith amrywiol y mae'r tri chorff yn ymgymryd â hwy i liniaru perygl llifogydd ac yn ychwanegu atynt. Codwyd rhai pryderon gyda mi gan un neu ddau o'm hetholwyr ynghylch arbenigedd y bwrdd, ar lefel y cyfarwyddwyr a'r rhai nad ydynt yn gyfarwyddwyr, ym maes peirianeg a rheoli perygl llifogydd. Croesawaf benodiad Graham Hillier fis Rhagfyr diwethaf fel un o'r cyfarwyddwyr newydd, ond dylid cymryd camau ychwanegol er mwyn sicrhau bod y penderfyniadau a wneir ar frig y sefydliad yn seiliedig ar wybodaeth a thystiolaeth.

Cododd Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd y mater hwn pan gymerodd dystiolaeth gan yr Athro Matthews ddiwedd y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Credaf mai fy nghyd-Aelod, Antoinette Sandbach, a ofynnodd a fyddai'n ystyried creu pwyllgor ymgynghorol o randdeiliaid ar lefel eithaf uchel a fyddai'n gallu rhoi cyngor i'r bwrdd a'r prif weithredwr ar faterion technegol, cymhleth. Roeddwn yn falch i'r Athro Matthews ddweud y byddai'n rhoi ystyriaeth ddifrifol i'r pwynt hwnnw, a gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn codi hyn gydag ef. Teimlaf y gallai fod yn ffordd hynod ddefnyddiol o gael gwybodaeth a fyddai'n helpu i sicrhau bod y penderfyniadau gorau yn cael eu gwneud i sicrhau'r canlyniadau gorau.

Gobeithiaf y bydd hon yn ddadl ystyriol, sy'n mynd rhagddi yn ysbryd consensws. Credaf fod 2012 yn enghraifft o'r amodau tywydd y bydd Cymru a'r DU yn eu profi yn y dyfodol. Felly, mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn bwrw ati i wneud popeth o fewn ein gallu i ddiogelu bywydau a bywoliaethau ein holl

of all of our citizens.

ddinasyddion.

Gwelliant 1—Aled Roberts

Amendment 1—Aled Roberts

Cynnwys ar ddiwedd pwynt 1:

Insert at the end of point 1:

‘ac yn mynegi gofid y bydd graddfa ac amllder digwyddiadau o’r fath yn siŵr o gynyddu wrth i’n hinsawdd newid ac wrth i lefelau’r môr godi’

‘and expresses regret that as our climate changes and sea levels rise, the scale and frequency of such events will inevitably increase’

Gwelliant 2—Aled Roberts

Amendment 2—Aled Roberts

Cynnwys ar ddiwedd pwynt 3:

Insert at the end of point 3:

‘a manteision gwybodaeth leol wrth lunio arferion rheoli tir effeithiol, i leihau nifer yr achosion o lifogydd’

‘and the benefit of local knowledge in devising effective land management practices, to reduce the incidence of flooding’

Gwelliant 5—Aled Roberts

Amendment 5—Aled Roberts

Cynnwys ar ddiwedd pwynt 4:

Insert at the end of point 4:

‘a bod Nodyn Cyngor Technegol (TAN) 15 yn cael ei ddiwygio ar frys er mwyn sicrhau ei fod yn cyd-fynd â pholisi a deddfwriaeth gyfredol’

‘and that Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15 is urgently revised to bring it in line with current policy and legislation’

Gwelliant 7—Aled Roberts

Amendment 7—Aled Roberts

Ychwanegu fel pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Add as new point at the end of the motion:

Yn gresynu wrth benderfyniad Llywodraeth Cymru i ddiystyru cynnal ymchwiliad cyhoeddus i’r llifogydd diweddar yn Sir Ddinbych.

Regrets the decision by the Welsh Government to rule out a public inquiry into the recent flooding in Denbighshire.

Gwelliant 8—Aled Roberts

Amendment 8—Aled Roberts

Ychwanegu fel pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Add as new point at the end of the motion:

Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ymgysylltu â’r ymchwiliad annibynnol sy’n cael ei gomisiynu gan Gyngor Sir Ddinbych i’r llifogydd diweddar a chyflwyno tystiolaeth iddo.

Calls on the Welsh Government to actively engage with and submit evidence to the independent investigation being commissioned by Denbighshire Council into the recent flooding.

William Powell: I move amendments 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 in the name of Aled Roberts.

William Powell: Cynigiau welliannau 1, 2, 5, 7 ac 8 yn enw Aled Roberts.

Aled Roberts will focus on amendments 7 and 8 in his later contribution in this debate.

Bydd Aled Roberts yn canolbwyntio ar welliannau 7 ac 8 yn ei gyfraniad yn

First, I thank the Conservative group for bringing this debate before the Assembly today. Over the past year, as we have already heard, we have witnessed the devastating effects of extreme flood events across Wales. Therefore, it is only right and proper that the Assembly should respond to them and accord them the priority that they deserve. It is our responsibility to do our utmost to protect Welsh families and their homes from future threats.

I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the quick and life-saving response of our emergency services. When the floods hit Ceredigion in the early hours last summer, and then more recently in north Wales a few months ago, they were there, prepared to respond and to put their lives on the line. The professionalism with which they did so certainly saved lives, and their dedication has proven invaluable time and again.

In the days following the disaster in Ceredigion I, like several other Members, was able to visit some of the worst affected areas to see with my own eyes what had occurred. The ways in which so many of those communities came together to help was truly remarkable. It was commented upon at the time in this Assembly, and we should not forget it.

As our climate continues to change, and the pressures placed on our landscape from development intensify, it is clear that the threat from an increased frequency of extreme flood events, such as those experienced in 2012, will inevitably become a greater focus in future decades. It is for this reason that we must have an effective and up-to-date set of guidance notes in place that will enable individuals, developers and local authorities to make safe, prudent decisions on future development. By doing so, they can only enhance the economic sustainability of their area and they will avoid exposing themselves to unnecessary risks that would dent investor confidence and end up costing us all far more in the long run.

At present, we simply do not have this

ddiweddarach yn y ddadl hon. Yn gyntaf, hoffwn ddiolch i'r grŵp Ceidwadol am gyflwyno'r ddadl hon gerbron y Cynulliad heddiw. Dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, fel yr ydym wedi clywed eisoes, rydym wedi gweld effeithiau dinistriol achosion o lifogydd eithafol ledled Cymru. Felly, mae'n gwbl briodol bod y Cynulliad yn ymateb iddynt a rhoi iddynt y flaenoriaeth y maent yn ei haeddu. Ein cyfrifoldeb ni yw gwneud ein gorau glas i ddiogelu teuluoedd Cymru a'u cartrefi rhag bygythiadau yn y dyfodol.

Hoffwn hefyd achub ar y cyfle hwn i dalu teyrnged i ymateb cyflym ein gwasanaethau brys, a achubodd fywydau. Pan gafwyd llifogydd yng Ngheredigion yn oriau mân y bore yr haf diwethaf, ac yna'n fwy diweddar yn y gogledd ychydig fisoedd yn ôl, roeddent ar gael, yn barod i ymateb ac i roi eu bywydau yn y fantol. Roedd eu proffesiynoldeb yn sicr wedi achub bywydau, a bu eu hymrwymiad yn amhrisiadwy dro ar ôl tro.

Yn ystod y dyddiau ar ôl y drychineb yng Ngheredigion roeddwn innau, fel sawl Aelod arall, yn gallu ymweld â rhai o'r ardaloedd yr effeithiwyd arnynt fwyaf i weld â'm llygaid fy hun yr hyn a oedd wedi digwydd. Roedd y ffordd y daeth cynifer o'r cymunedau hynny at ei gilydd i helpu yn wirioneddol hynod. Nodwyd hynny ar y pryd yn y Cynulliad hwn, ac ni ddylem anghofio hynny.

Wrth i'n hinsawdd barhau i newid, ac wrth i'r pwysau a roddir ar ein tirwedd oherwydd datblygiadau ddwysáu, mae'n amlwg y bydd perygl llifogydd eithafol sy'n digwydd yn amlach, megis y rhai a gafwyd yn 2012, yn anochel yn cael mwy o ffocws yn y degawdau sydd i ddod. Am y rheswm hwn y mae'n rhaid inni gael canllawiau effeithiol a chyfredol ar waith a fydd yn galluogi unigolion, datblygwyr ac awdurdodau lleol i wneud penderfyniadau diogel a doeth ynghylch datblygiadau yn y dyfodol. Drwy wneud hynny, gallant ond wella cynaliadwyedd economaidd eu hardal a byddant yn osgoi amlygu eu hunain i risgiau diangen a fyddai'n effeithio ar hyder buddsoddwyr ac yn costio llawer mwy i bawb yn y pen draw.

Ar hyn o bryd, nid oes canllawiau o'r fath ar

guidance in place. While I am sure that some will point to more recent and less comprehensive guidance, TAN 15—or, to give it its full title, ‘Technical Advice Note 15: Development and Flood Risk’—is now almost nine years old and is based on data and legislation that are far older. Although the basic science underpinning it is reliable, it is obvious that our knowledge, our spatial planning and the standard of our engineering have vastly improved in the intervening years. While I appreciate the desire to update only at the end of the legislative session, after the Bills on the environment, sustainable development and planning have been fully developed, we must face up to the reality that this guidance still has its roots in the first Assembly and is now severely out of date and in urgent need of review. I would also note that it is not the only TAN that this point applies to, as those of us from mid and west Wales will be all too aware.

It is also essential that our planning strategies and guidance are fully integrated into our coastal erosion and management policies, to reference the debate that took place earlier today. I do not wish to repeat the sentiments expressed in the Environment and Sustainable Development Committee debate on coastal management, but it remains clear that there is still a great need to work on ensuring that Wales gets a cross-portfolio ecosystems approach in place. I again welcome the Welsh Government’s commitment to accept the vast majority of the recommendations put forward, as we discussed earlier.

Finally, I will touch on the important role of the new natural resources Wales body. It must play its role to the full in mitigating and reducing future flood risk across our country. As we get ever closer to the merger, there seems to be more and more apprehension in some quarters as to how the new body will function in practice, given the breakaway of the Environment Agency Wales from its larger, English sister. The previously unaccounted-for cost of software licences is

waith gennym. Er y bydd rhai yn cyfeirio at ganllawiau mwy diweddar a llai cynhwysfawr mae’n siŵr gennyf, mae bron naw mlynedd wedi mynd heibio ers llunio TAN 15—neu, ‘Nodyn Cyngor Technegol 15: Datblygu a Pherygl o Lifogydd’ a rhoi ei deitl llawn iddo—ac mae’n seiliedig ar ddata a deddfwriaeth sy’n llawer hŷn. Er bod y wyddoniaeth sylfaenol sy’n sail iddo yn ddibynadwy, mae’n amlwg bod ein gwybodaeth, ein gwaith cynllunio gofodol a safon ein gwaith peirianeg wedi gwella’n aruthrol yn y blynyddoedd ers hynny. Er fy mod yn deall yr awydd i roi canllawiau wedi’u diweddarau ar ddiwedd y sesiwn ddeddfwriaethol, ar ôl i’r Mesurau ar yr amgylchedd, datblygu cynaliadwy a chynllunio gael eu datblygu’n llawn, rhaid inni wynebu’r gwir bod y canllaw hwn wedi’i wreiddio yn y Cynulliad cyntaf a bod angen ei ddiweddarau a’i adolygu yn ddybryd bellach. Hoffwn nodi hefyd nad hwn yw’r unig TAN y mae’r pwynt hwn yn berthnasol iddo, rhywbeth y mae rhai ohonom o’r canolbarth a’r gorllewin yn ymwybodol iawn ohono.

Mae hefyd yn hanfodol bod ein strategaethau a’n canllawiau cynllunio yn cael eu hintegreiddio’n llawn â’n polisïau erydu arfordirol a rheoli’r arfordir, os caf gyfeirio at y ddadl a gynhaliwyd yn gynharach heddiw. Nid wyf am ailadrodd yr hyn a fynegwyd yn nadl Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy am reoli’r arfordir, ond mae’n amlwg o hyd bod angen gwneud gwaith mawr o hyd i sicrhau bod dull gweithredu trawsbortffolio o ymdrin ag ecosystemau yn cael ei roi ar waith yng Nghymru. Unwaith eto, croesawaf ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru i dderbyn y rhan helaeth o’r argymhellion a gyflwynwyd, fel y trafodwyd yn gynharach.

Yn olaf, soniaf yn fyr am rôl bwysig corff newydd cyfoeth naturiol Cymru. Rhaid iddo chwarae ei rôl yn llawn i liniaru a lleihau perygl llifogydd yn y dyfodol ym mhob rhan o’n gwlad. Wrth inni brysur nesáu at yr uno, ymddengys bod pryder cynyddol gan rai ynghylch sut y bydd y corff newydd yn gweithredu’n ymarferol, o ystyried y bydd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru yn gwahanu oddi wrth ei chwaer-asiantaeth, fwy o faint, yn Lloegr. Mae cost trwyddedau

placing increased pressure on the new organisation's ability to respond quickly and effectively to events and planning issues. The Welsh Government must ensure that we do not face months of technical paralysis while these programmes are negotiated and appropriate support systems are put in place.'

Gwelliant 3—Jocelyn Davies

Cynnwys pwynt 4 newydd ac ailrifo yn unol â hynny:

Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i gefnogi'r gwaith o sefydlu Fforwm Llifogydd ar gyfer Cymru.

Gwelliant 6—Jocelyn Davies

Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i bwysu ar Lywodraeth y DU i drafod telerau Datganiad Egwyddorion diwygiedig ar lifogydd gyda chwmnïau yswiriant, gan fod y Datganiad Egwyddorion presennol yn dod i ben ar 30 Mehefin 2013.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: Mae'n bleser gennyf gynnig gwelliannau 3 a 6 yn enw Jocelyn Davies.

Mae pawb wedi'i frawychu gan yr achosion diweddar o lifogydd, ond mae rhaglen *impacts* hinsawdd y Swyddfa Meteoroleg yn dangos mai 22% yn fwy o law a fydd yn disgyn yn ddyddiol erbyn 2050 o'i gymharu â'r hyn a ddisgynnodd yng nogledd Cymru adeg y llifogydd yn Llanelwy a Rhuthun yn ddiweddar. Felly, y realiti yw bod mwy o achosion o lifogydd i ddod, ac mae'n debygol y bydd rhai ohonynt hyd yn oed yn waeth.

I would like to make particular reference to amendments 7 and 8 and state my support for them. The residents of Denbighshire deserve a thorough inquiry that will look not only at the flooding on the day, but at the history of the site, the planning approval given, the original flood alleviation scheme, what agreements were made and with whom, and anything else that is relevant, as well as at

meddalwedd na roddwyd cyfrif amdani'n flaenorol yn rhoi pwysau cynyddol ar allu'r sefydliad newydd i ymateb yn gyflym ac yn effeithiol i ddigwyddiadau a materion cynllunio. Rhaid i Lywodraeth Cymru sicrhau nad ydym yn wynebu misoedd o barlysu technegol tra bod y rhaglenni hyn yn cael eu negodi a thra bod systemau cymorth priodol yn cael eu rhoi ar waith.

Amendment 3—Jocelyn Davies

Insert as new point 4 and re-number accordingly:

Calls on the Welsh Government to support the setting up of a Flood Forum for Wales.

Amendment 6—Jocelyn Davies

Add new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to press the UK Government to negotiate a revised Statement of Principles on flooding with insurance companies as the current Statement of Principles expires on 30 June 2013.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: It is a pleasure to move amendments 3 and 6 in the name of Jocelyn Davies.

Everyone has been shocked by the recent flooding events, but the climate impacts programme carried out by the Met Office shows that 22% more rain will fall everyday by 2050 compared to what fell in north Wales at the time of the flooding in St Asaph and Ruthin recently. Therefore, the reality is that there are more flooding events to come, and it is likely that some of those will be even worse.

Hoffwn gyfeirio'n benodol at welliannau 7 ac 8 a datgan fy nghefnogaeth iddynt. Mae trigolion sir Ddinbych yn haeddu ymchwiliad trylwyr a fydd yn ystyried nid yn unig y llifogydd ar y diwrnod, ond hanes y safle, y caniatâd cynllunio a roddwyd, y cynllun lliniaru llifogydd gwreiddiol, pa gytundebau a luniwyd a chyda phwy, ac unrhyw beth arall sy'n berthnasol, a hefyd yr hyn a aeth

what went wrong with the early warning system. A whole host of questions remain around that particular episode, and I believe that the residents of Denbighshire deserve thorough answers.

The Party of Wales also wants to see a national flood forum for Wales that would specifically address the issues faced by the increasing number of people who are now at risk from flooding in Wales. The national flood forum empowers communities that are at risk of flooding to take action to prepare for flooding, in order to prevent it or to mitigate its impact, as well as helping people to recover after they have experienced flooding. It can take up to two years, as we know, for homes to dry out and to be restored following a flood, with many families having to live in temporary accommodation. This help can therefore make a big difference to people affected by flooding by helping them to come up with action plans as well as setting up flood support centres and surgeries.

The forum works in targeted areas and brings community members together to form a core group in order to empower communities to help themselves. Other work carried out by the forum includes campaigning against inappropriate development in high-risk areas, sharing best practice and mitigation measures, and providing emergency packs and somewhere for those who are affected to go. The national forum, which currently covers both Wales and England, has, I understand, been discussing with the Welsh Government the possibility of developing a flood forum for Wales, and a Cardiff University-led programme has been evaluating the options. I understand that the programme is due to report on its findings and I would ask the Minister, in his reply, to clarify whether the Welsh Government has had that evaluation of flood support services carried out. If it has, when does he intend to publish it?

Scotland has developed its own national flood forum, funded by the Scottish Government, and it is in the process of being

o'i le gyda'r system rhybudd cynnar. Mae llu o gwestiynau heb eu hateb ynghylch hynny, a chredaf fod trigolion sir Ddinbych yn haeddu atebion trylwyr.

Mae Plaid Cymru hefyd yn awyddus i weld fforwm llifogydd cenedlaethol i Gymru a fyddai'n ymdrin yn benodol â'r materion a wynebir gan niferoedd cynyddol o bobl sydd bellach yn wynebu perygl llifogydd yng Nghymru. Mae'r fforwm llifogydd cenedlaethol yn grymuso'r cymunedau sy'n wynebu perygl llifogydd i gymryd camau i baratoi ar gyfer llifogydd, er mwyn hatal neu liniaru eu heffaith, yn ogystal â helpu pobl i adfer ar ôl iddynt fod drwy brofiad o lifogydd. Fel y gwyddom, gall gymryd hyd at ddwy flynedd i gartrefi sychu a chael eu hadfer ar ôl llifogydd, gyda llawer o deuluoedd yn gorfod byw mewn llety dros dro. Gall y cymorth hwn, felly, wneud gwahaniaeth mawr i bobl yr effeithir arnynt gan lifogydd drwy eu helpu i lunio cynlluniau gweithredu yn ogystal â sefydlu canolfannau a chymorthfeydd llifogydd.

Mae'r fforwm yn gweithio mewn ardaloedd wedi'u targedu ac yn dod ag aelodau o'r gymuned at ei gilydd i ffurfio grŵp craidd er mwyn grymuso cymunedau i helpu eu hunain. Mae'r gwaith arall a wneir gan y fforwm yn cynnwys ymgyrchu yn erbyn datblygiadau amhriodol mewn ardaloedd risg uchel, rhannu arfer gorau a mesurau lliniaru, a darparu pecynnau brys a rhywle i'r rhai yr effeithir arnynt i aros. Mae'r fforwm cenedlaethol, sydd ar hyn o bryd yn cwmpasu Cymru a Lloegr, wedi bod yn trafod, yn ôl yr hyn a ddeallaf, y posibilrwydd o ddatblygu fforwm llifogydd i Gymru gyda Llywodraeth Cymru, ac mae rhaglen o dan arweiniad Prifysgol Caerdydd wedi bod yn gwerthuso'r opsiynau. Caf ar ddeall y bydd y rhaglen yn cyflwyno adroddiad ar ei chanfyddiadau a gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog, yn ei ateb, egluro a yw Llywodraeth Cymru wedi derbyn y gwerthusiad hwnnw o'r gwasanaethau cymorth llifogydd a gynhaliwyd. Os yw wedi'i dderbyn, pryd y mae'n bwriadu ei gyhoeddi?

Mae'r Alban wedi datblygu ei fforwm llifogydd cenedlaethol ei hun, a ariennir gan Lywodraeth yr Alban, ac mae wrthi'n cael ei

turned into a charity, which should be up and running by Easter.

The other amendment that we have is about the statement of principles that exists between the UK Government and the Association of British Insurers, which protects people living in properties at high risk of flooding by ensuring that they are eligible for flooding insurance. The statement of principles, as we know, expires at the end of June this year, meaning that, unless the UK Government comes to an agreement with insurance companies, around 42,000 households in Wales could be left without insurance cover for flooding.

Climate change, as I mentioned earlier, means that there will be an increased risk of flooding, and flood defences may well not protect all homes and businesses from flooding in future. For this reason, it is crucial that people can protect themselves when it comes to home insurance. The national flood forum is calling for a new framework, following the expiration of the existing statement of principles, that meets three key criteria: availability, in that the flood risk insurance should be widely available; affordability, of course; and, thirdly, that it is socially just, so that we can protect the most vulnerable in society. If no agreement is reached, then flood risk insurance will be left to the free market. The ABI has calculated that premiums would increase significantly, meaning that several households would be facing premiums vastly higher than currently is the case. The cost could rise for 250,000 homes, rather than the 35,000 homes that currently could face premiums of more than £750 per annum. It is imperative, therefore, as we ask for in the amendment, that the Welsh Government should press the UK Government to agree a new statement of principles, and I trust that Members will support our amendments.

Gwelliant 4—Jane Hutt

Ym mhwynt 4, dileu popeth ar ôl 'yn cael ei adolygu' a rhoi yn ei le 'fel rhan o'i pholisi cynllunio'

droi'n elusen, a ddylai fod yn weithredol erbyn y Pasg.

Mae'r gwelliant arall sydd gennym yn ymwneud â'r datganiad o egwyddorion sy'n bodoli rhwng Llywodraeth y DU a Chymdeithas Yswirwyr Prydain, sy'n diogelu pobl sy'n byw mewn eiddo sy'n wynebu perygl llifogydd mawr drwy sicrhau eu bod yn gymwys i gael yswiriant rhag llifogydd. Daw'r datganiad o egwyddorion i ben ddiwedd mis Mehefin eleni, fel y gwyddom, sy'n golygu, oni ddaw Llywodraeth y DU i gytundeb â chwmnïau yswiriant, y gallai tua 42,000 o gartrefi yng Nghymru fod heb yswiriant rhag llifogydd.

Mae newid yn yr hinsawdd, fel y soniais yn gynharach, yn golygu y bydd mwy o berygl o lifogydd, ac mae'n ddigon posibl na fydd amddiffynfeydd rhag llifogydd yn diogelu pob cartref a busnes rhag llifogydd yn y dyfodol. Am y rheswm hwn, mae'n hanfodol bod pobl yn gallu diogelu eu hunain o ran yswiriant cartref. Mae'r fforwm llifogydd cenedlaethol yn galw am fframwaith newydd, pan ddaw'r datganiad presennol o egwyddorion i ben, sy'n bodloni tri maen prawf allweddol: argaeledd, yn yr ystyr y dylai'r yswiriant rhag llifogydd fod ar gael yn gyffredinol, fforddiadwyedd, wrth gwrs, ac, yn drydydd, ei fod yn gymdeithasol gyfiawn, fel y gallwn ddiogelu'r rhai mwyaf agored i niwed mewn cymdeithas. Os na cheir cytundeb, yna bydd yswiriant rhag llifogydd yn ddarostyngedig i'r farchnad rydd. Mae Cymdeithas Yswirwyr Prydain wedi cyfrifo y byddai premiymau'n cynyddu'n sylweddol, sy'n golygu y byddai nifer o gartrefi yn wynebu premiymau uwch o lawer nag a godir ar hyn o bryd. Gallai'r gost godi i 250,000 o gartrefi, yn hytrach na'r 35,000 o gartrefi a allai ar hyn o bryd wynebu premiymau o fwy na £750 y flwyddyn o bosibl. Mae'n hanfodol, felly, fel y ceisiwn yn y gwelliant, fod Llywodraeth Cymru yn pwysu ar Lywodraeth y DU i gytuno ar ddatganiad newydd o egwyddorion, a hyderaf y bydd yr Aelodau yn cefnogi ein gwelliannau.

Amendment 4—Jane Hutt

In point 4, delete all after 'reviewed as' and insert 'part of its planning policy'

The Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development (John Griffiths):

I move amendment 4 in the name of Jane Hutt.

William Graham: We all acknowledge that flooding can have a significant impact on a regional economy, affecting the viability of local businesses, transport, tourism and agriculture. The average annual estimated cost to properties is around £200 million in flood damage, not to mention the almost incalculable human cost. The UK climate change risk assessment for Wales highlighted the fact that businesses in Wales are at relatively high risk from tidal flooding, because most of the population and associated businesses are near the coast. It is clear that effective flood management would not only protect people and the environment, but is essential to safeguard jobs, promote growth and inspire investor confidence. Effective flood management requires strategic leadership and efficient communication and co-ordination. Many different organisations and levels of government are involved in flood management, and strategic direction from the Welsh Government is clearly essential. Many are concerned about the Government's capacity to monitor and deliver all areas of this strategy. In England, the UK Government has delegated monitoring and delivery to the Environment Agency, and this body has the sole overview. In Wales, in one way or another, there are 31 agencies involved in this process, and while all are duty bound to work together, it remains to be seen whether there will be a coherent and seamless delivery mechanism when flooding actually occurs. Some in the industry remain concerned that there will be a danger of loss of expertise with the involvement of multiple agencies, with some with 30 years' experience of flooding and drainage management being disengaged.

I have read, and note with interest, the report of the Environment and Sustainability Committee that was discussed earlier this afternoon. I will raise some examples from my region of how flood management can be

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy (John Griffiths):

Cynigiad welliant 4 yn enw Jane Hutt.

William Graham: Rydym oll yn cydnabod y gall llifogydd gael effaith sylweddol ar economi ranbarthol, gan effeithio ar hyfywedd busnesau lleol, trafniadaeth, twristiaeth ac amaethyddiaeth. Amcangyfrifir bod difrod i eiddo oherwydd llifogydd yn costio tua £200 miliwn y flwyddyn ar gyfartaledd, heb sôn am y gost ddynol sydd bron yn anfesuradwy. Tynnodd asesiad risg y DU o newid yn yr hinsawdd i Gymru sylw at y ffaith bod busnesau yng Nghymru yn wynebu risg gymharol uchel o lifogydd llanw, gan fod y rhan fwyaf o'r boblogaeth a busnesau cysylltiedig yn byw'n agos i'r arfordir. Mae'n amlwg y byddai rheoli llifogydd yn effeithiol nid yn unig yn diogelu pobl a'r amgylchedd, ond mae'n hanfodol er mwyn diogelu swyddi, hybu twf ac ennyn hyder buddsoddwyr. Mae rheoli llifogydd yn effeithiol yn gofyn am arweiniad strategol a chyfathrebu a chydgyssylltu effeithiol. Mae llawer o wahanol sefydliadau a lefelau o'r llywodraeth yn ymwneud â'r gwaith o reoli llifogydd, ac mae'n amlwg bod cyfeiriad strategol gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn hanfodol. Mae llawer yn pryderu am allu'r Llywodraeth i fonitro a chyflawni pob rhan o'r strategaeth hon. Yn Lloegr, mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi dirprwyo'r gwaith o fonitro a chyflawni i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, a'r corff hwnnw sydd â throsolwg dros y cyfan. Yng Nghymru, rywsut neu'i gilydd, mae 31 o asiantaethau yn rhan o'r broses hon, ac er bod dyletswydd ar bob un ohonynt i weithio gyda'i gilydd, amser a ddengys a fydd system gyflawni ddi-dor a chydlynol pan fo llifogydd. Mae rhai yn y diwydiant yn pryderu o hyd y bydd perygl o gollu arbenigedd os bydd nifer o asiantaethau yn ymwneud â'r broses, gyda rhai sy'n meddu ar 30 mlynedd o brofiad o reoli llifogydd a draenio yn cael eu tynnu oddi ar y gwaith.

Rwyf wedi darllen, gyda diddordeb, adroddiad Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd a drafodwyd yn gynharach y prynhawn yma. Byddaf yn nodi rhai enghreifftiau o'm rhanbarth o'r ffordd y gall

effective, and praise the work of the Caldicot and Wentlooge Levels Internal Drainage Board. That body, despite a critical report with regard to the financial and administrative side of the organisation, provides a yardstick for the type of pragmatic and practical solution that organisations should implement.

5.15 p.m.

Flooding problems on the Gwent levels increase if periods of prolonged rain combined with saturated ground conditions continue. Prompt action on 10 November last year by the Caldicot and Wentlooge Levels Internal Drainage Board ensured that the ring system did not overflow completely. However, there was a major blockage at a culvert near Peterstone Lakes Golf Club, which caused the ring system to back up and caused incidents of localised flooding in the gardens of some lower-lying properties and sections of road. The blockage was cleared by drainage board employees, working out of hours and in difficult conditions. I would hope that the Welsh Government's new agency would or could be capable of providing the same service.

The drainage board has teams on 24-hour standby to cover any emergency, whereas the Environment Agency does not appear to have the same capabilities in this area. Further concerns have been raised by the Gwent levels flood defence alliance. It argues that more work needs to be done to preserve some of Wales's most vital infrastructure and comments that Gwent could lose billions if the sea wall between Newport and Chepstow is not reinforced.

Previous reports on flood management in Wales have highlighted the Welsh Government's lack of strategic leadership with regard to land management, a lack of clear policy and guidance for local authorities to follow, and complacency with regard to maintaining flood defences. The issue of strategic leadership is addressed in the Wales Audit Office report on civil emergencies, which comments that the role of the Welsh Government is unclear.

gwaith rheoli llifogydd fod yn effeithiol, ac yn canmol gwaith Bwrdd Draenio Mewnol Gwastadeddau Cil-y-coed a Gwynllŵg. Mae'r corff hwnnw, er gwaethaf adroddiad beirniadol o ran ochr ariannol a gweinyddol y sefydliad, yn cynnig ffon fesur ar gyfer y math o ateb pragmatig ac ymarferol y dylai sefydliadau ei roi ar waith.

5.15 p.m.

Bydd problemau o ran llifogydd ar wastadeddau Gwent yn cynyddu os bydd cyfnodau estynedig o law ynghyd â daear ddirlawn yn parhau. Drwy weithredu'n ddi-oed ar 10 Tachwedd y llynedd sicrhodd Bwrdd Draenio Mewnol Gwastadeddau Cil-y-coed a Gwynllŵg na orlifodd y system gylch yn gyfan gwbl. Fodd bynnag, roedd rhwystr mawr mewn cwlfer ger Clwb Golf Peterstone Lakes, a barodd i'r system gylch orlifo gan achosi llifogydd lleol yng ngerddi rhai cartrefi ar dir isel a rhannau o'r ffordd. Cafodd y rhwystr ei glirio gan weithwyr y bwrdd draenio, a hynny y tu allan i oriau gwaith ac o dan amodau anodd. Gobeithiaf y byddai asiantaeth newydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn darparu'r un gwasanaeth neu'n gallu gwneud hynny.

Mae gan y bwrdd draenio dimau wrth gefn ddydd a nos i ymdrin ag unrhyw argyfwng, ond ymddengys nad oes gan Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yr un gallu ac adnoddau yn yr ardal hon. Codwyd pryderon pellach gan gynghrair amddiffynfeydd llifogydd gwastadeddau Gwent. Mae'n dadlau bod angen gwneud mwy o waith i ddiogelu rhai o elfennau pwysicaf seilwaith Cymru gan nodi y gallai Gwent golli biliynau os na fydd y morglawdd rhwng Casnewydd a Chas-gwent yn cael ei atgyfnerthu.

Mae adroddiadau blaenorol ar reoli llifogydd yng Nghymru wedi tynnu sylw at ddiffyg arweiniad strategol Llywodraeth Cymru o ran rheoli tir, diffyg polisi a chanllawiau clir i awdurdodau lleol eu dilyn, ac agwedd hunanfodlon o ran cynnal a chadw amddiffynfeydd rhag llifogydd. Mae mater arweiniad strategol yn cael sylw yn adroddiad Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru ar argyfyngau sifil, sy'n nodi bod rôl Llywodraeth Cymru yn aneglur.

In South Wales East, we cannot afford to adopt Environment Agency proposals for managed retreat, which would control flooding for the major motorway, the two Severn bridge crossings and the Severn tunnel. We need to protect life and industry, which are seriously at risk if a co-ordinated and proactive approach to flood management is not maintained.

The need to maintain that land is historical. The Romans drained those marshes first of all some 2,000 years ago and in the Middle Ages the monks also drained. They did so because snow is almost unknown on the levels and frost is rare and so grass grows virtually the whole year round, which, in medieval times, meant that cattle could be preserved for the whole year. Therefore, draining was a vital element to that industry. The Minister will know, given that we are talking about his own constituency, that if that land is not retained and if flooding is allowed, salt will destroy that very valuable and highly graded land, which has forever been a tremendous source of importance maintenance to the local economy.

Joyce Watson: I am pleased to talk on this subject. Mid and West Wales was severely affected by winter flooding, as Members know. I would again like to pay tribute to the tremendous effort of the emergency services and the strength of community spirit in coping with the effects of the severe flooding.

Flooding is not a problem that can be dealt with in a little pigeonhole of its own. Its causes are varied and its effects pervasive. The motion recognises the importance of a cross-portfolio approach to flood and coastal erosion management. That is absolutely right. Let us consider for a moment, for example, how flood management dovetails with our target for building new affordable homes. We desperately need more homes in Wales, but how do we square that with rising floodwaters? We have already seen some of the potential trouble waiting for us down the road.

Yn y de-ddwyrain, ni allwn fforddio mabwysiadu cynigion Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd ynglŷn â chilio rheoledig, a fyddai'n rheoli llifogydd ar gyfer y brif draffordd, y ddwy bont dros afon Hafren a thwnnel Hafren. Mae angen inni ddiogelu bywyd a diwydiant, a fydd mewn perygl mawr os na pharheir â dull cydgyssylltiedig a rhagweithiol o reoli llifogydd.

Mae'r angen am gadw'r tir hwnnw yn un hanesyddol. Cafodd y corsydd hynny eu draenio gyntaf gan y Rhufeiniaid tua 2,000 o flynyddoedd yn ôl, ac yn yr Oesoedd Canol aeth y mynachod ati i'w draenio hefyd. Gwnaethont hynny am nad yw bron byth yn bwrw eira ar y gwastadeddau ac mae barrug yn beth prin ac felly mae'r gwair yn tyfu gydol y flwyddyn gyfan bron, a olygai, yn yr Oesoedd Canol, y gallai gwartheg gael eu cadw drwy'r flwyddyn. Felly, bu draenio yn elfen hanfodol i'r diwydiant hwnnw. Gŵyr y Gweinidog, o ystyried ein bod yn sôn am ei etholaeth ei hun, os nad yw'r tir hwnnw yn cael ei gadw ac os caniateir llifogydd, y bydd halen yn dinistrio'r tir gwerthfawr iawn hwnnw o radd uchel, sydd bob amser wedi bod yn ffynhonnell aruthrol o bwysig i'r economi leol.

Joyce Watson: Rwy'n falch o gael siarad am y pwnc hwn. Effeithiwyd yn ddifrifol ar y canolbarth a'r gorllewin gan lifogydd y gaeaf, fel y gŵyr yr Aelodau. Hoffwn unwaith eto dalu teyrnged i ymdrech aruthrol y gwasanaethau brys a chryfder yr ysbryd cymunedol i ymdopi ag effeithiau'r llifogydd mawr.

Nid yw llifogydd yn broblem y gellir ymdrin â hi ar ei phen ei hun. Mae eu hachosion yn amrywio ac mae eu heffeithiau'n dreiddiol. Mae'r cynnig yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd dull gweithredu trawsbortffolio o reoli llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol. Mae hynny'n gwbl gywir. Gadewch inni ystyried am eiliad, er enghraifft, sut y mae'r gwaith o reoli llifogydd yn cydweddu â'n targed i adeiladu cartrefi fforddiadwy newydd. Mae angen mwy o gartrefi yng Nghymru yn ddybryd, ond sut rydym yn cysoni hynny â'r llifogydd cynyddol? Rydym eisoes wedi gweld ychydig o'r drafferth sy'n ein hwynebu o bosibl.

Before Christmas, talks between the UK Government and the Association of British Insurers about cover for people living in flood-risk areas ran into serious difficulty. We must heed the climatic warning and plan ahead, be creative, and come up with smart solutions so that we can respond to the twin pressures of housing and flooding.

I read a fascinating piece in *The Guardian* newspaper on Monday about housing development plans in Norwich, where planners are proposing to work in flood-risk areas and build homes around squares that would become ponds and parks that would become lakes. We all say that we believe that prevention is better than cure, and that is what underpinned my proposal for a legislative competence Order a few years ago. It proposed to mitigate surface water by slowing down the process that planners call 'urban creep'. I am old enough to bore young people by saying, 'I remember when this or that housing estate was fields as far as the eye could see'. However, closer to home, in our estates, we all notice that many houses have had that bit of lawn at the front tarmacked over. Where does the water go when the garden is concreted over? It does not soak into the soil below and does not feed plants, grass or flowers.

The Environment Agency estimates that two-thirds of houses are affected by sudden heavy rainfall and are flooded from surface water run-off, not river flooding. I understand that the UK Government chose to delay the introduction of critical anti-flood measures until 2014 after lobbying by the big housebuilders. As chair of the cross-party group on construction I am sympathetic to concerns about extra costs, but it is no good kicking the can down the road. Regulations to make sustainable urban drainage systems compulsory for new developments are essential. I look to this Government to take a lead and plan for the long term. In that regard, will the Minister provide an update on the regulations in Wales? Are we doing what we must to mitigate future surface water flooding?

Cyn y Nadolig, aeth trafodaethau rhwng Llywodraeth y DU a Chymdeithas Yswirwyr Prydain ynglŷn ag yswiriant i bobl sy'n byw mewn ardaloedd lle ceir perygl llifogydd i drafferthion mawr. Rhaid inni wrando ar y rhybudd o ran yr hinsawdd a chynllunio ymlaen llaw, bod yn greadigol, a dod o hyd i atebion deallus fel y gallwn ymateb i bwysau deuol tai a llifogydd.

Darllenais erthygl hynod ddiddorol ym mhapur newydd *The Guardian* ddydd Llun am gynlluniau datblygu tai yn Norwich, lle mae cynllunwyr yn bwriadu gweithio mewn ardaloedd lle ceir perygl llifogydd ac adeiladu cartrefi o amgylch sgwariau a fyddai'n mynd yn byllau a pharciau a fyddai'n mynd yn llynnoedd. Rydym bob amser yn dweud ein bod yn credu bod atal yn well na gwella, a dyna oedd sail fy nghynnig am Orchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl. Roedd yn cynnig lliniaru dŵr wyneb drwy arafu'r hyn a elwir yn 'ymgripio trefol' gan gynllunwyr. Rwy'n ddigon hen i ddiflasu pobl ifanc drwy ddweud, 'Rwy'n cofio pan oedd yr ystad dai hon neu'r ystad dai honno yn gaeau hyd y gellir gweld'. Fodd bynnag, yn nes at adref, ar ein hystadau, rydym i gyd yn sylwi bod sawl perchennog tŷ wedi rhoi tarmac dros y tipyn o lawnt yn y blaen. I ble yr aiff y dŵr pan fo'r ardd i gyd o dan goncrid? Nid yw'n ymsuddo i'r pridd islaw ac nid yw'n bwydo planhigion, glaswellt na blodau.

Mae Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn amcangyfrif bod glaw trwm sydyn yn effeithio ar ddwy ran o dair o dai, sy'n mynd dan ddŵr o ganlyniad i ddŵr wyneb ffo, yn hytrach na llifogydd afon. Caf ar ddeall bod Llywodraeth y DU wedi dewis oedi cyn cyflwyno mesurau gwrth-lifogydd hollbwysig tan 2014 ar ôl lobiö gan y cwmnïau adeiladu tai mawr. Fel cadeirydd y grŵp trawsbleidiol ar adeiladu deallaf bryderon ynghylch costau ychwanegol, ond nid oes diben gohirio'r broblem. Mae rheoliadau a fydd yn gwneud systemau draenio trefol cynaliadwy yn orfodol ar gyfer datblygiadau newydd yn hanfodol. Disgwyliaf i'r Llywodraeth hon gymryd yr awenau a chynllunio ar gyfer yr hirdymor. Yn hynny o beth, a wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r diweddaraf am y rheoliadau yng Nghymru?

A ydym yn gwneud yr hyn y mae'n rhaid ei wneud i liniaru llifogydd oherwydd dŵr wyneb yn y dyfodol?

Preparation and innovation are the watchwords. There seems to be a big gap between tarmacking front lawns and biotechnology, yet the Powys *County Times* describes that under an UNESCO scheme in the Dyfi biosphere, Ecodyfi staff will be exploring how new technology can predict where flooding is most likely to happen. In Kidwelly, during a torrential downpour of rain, tonnes of rubble and earth fell onto a section of the A484. We have reason to thank Carmarthenshire County Council for taking prompt action in closing that particular part of the road, setting up traffic lights and arranging for remedial work to be carried out. In the prevention of flooding individual responsibility is important, but so is collective action. Ultimately, political leadership is necessary. That is why the Government of Wales has a key role to play.

Mark Isherwood: In terms of flooding, 2012 was a devastating year for Wales. Sadly, this is nothing new. I remember having to evacuate my Mold office in November 2000, when north-east Wales was hit by exceptional rainfall. This caused the surcharge of local drainage systems, and properties in Mold were flooded when the River Alyn broke its banks and overtopped the Environment Agency's defences. Today, the false economy of cuts in routine drain clearance continues to cause surcharge whenever rainfall is high, generating expensive emergency call-outs and remedial action.

A flood evaluation scheme for Rhydymwyn was completed in 2003—the year that I held discussions with the Environment Agency concerning its proposals for flood control measures in Mold. I was informed that its original proposals had been ruled out as being too expensive, but that a cheaper proposal was being submitted to the then Minister for Environment, Planning and the Countryside, Carwyn Jones. A decade on, there is still concern about the lack of progress on the proposed Mold flood

Paratoi ac arloesi yw'r geiriau allweddol. Ymddengys bod bwllch mawr rhwng gosod tarmac ar lawntiau blaen a biotechnoleg, ac eto mae'r *County Times* ym Mhowys yn disgrifio o dan gynllun UNESCO ym miosffer Dyfi, y bydd staff Ecodyfi yn archwilio sut y gall technoleg newydd ragweld lle y bydd llifogydd yn fwyaf tebygol o ddigwydd. Yng Nghydweli, yn ystod glaw trwm o law, disgynnodd tunelli o rwbel a phridd ar ddarn o ffordd yr A484. Mae gennym reswm i ddiolch i Gyngor Sir Caerfyrddin am gymryd camau yn ddi-oed i gau'r darn hwnnw o'r ffordd, gosod goleuadau traffig a threfnu i waith adfer gael ei wneud. Wrth atal llifogydd mae cyfrifoldeb unigolion yn bwysig, ond felly hefyd weithredu ar y cyd. Yn y pen draw, arweiniad gwleidyddol sydd ei angen. Dyna pam y mae gan Lywodraeth Cymru rôl allweddol i'w chwarae.

Mark Isherwood: O ran llifogydd, bu 2012 yn flwyddyn drychinebus i Gymru. Yn anffodus, nid yw hyn yn ddim byd newydd. Cofiaf imi orfod gadael fy swyddfa yn yr Wyddgrug ym mis Tachwedd 2000, pan ddisgynnodd glaw trwm iawn yn y gogledd-ddwyrain. Achosodd hyn i'r systemau draenio lleol orlifo, ac aeth eiddo yn yr Wyddgrug dan ddŵr pan lifodd Afon Alun dros ei glannau a gorlifo amddiffynfeydd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd. Heddiw, mae'r ymgais ofer i arbed arian drwy doriadau mewn gwaith clirio draeniau rheolaidd yn parhau i achosi i systemau orlenwi pryd bynnag y bo glaw mawr, gan arwain at alwadau brys a chamau adferol costus.

Cwblhawyd cynllun gwerthuso llifogydd Rhyd-y-mwyn yn 2003—y flwyddyn y cynhaliais drafodaethau gydag Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd ynghylch ei chynigion ar gyfer mesurau rheoli llifogydd yn yr Wyddgrug. Cefais wybod bod ei chynigion gwreiddiol wedi cael eu gwrthod am eu bod yn rhy ddud, ond bod cynnig rhatach yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad ar y pryd, Carwyn Jones. Ddegawd yn ddiweddarach, mae pryder o hyd am y diffyg

alleviation scheme to protect the Cae Bracty housing estate.

Following the June 2008 flooding in Prestatyn, I wrote to the then Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, Jane Davidson, after attending a public meeting there. Although the rainfall, lasting six hours, had been neither excessive nor torrential, concerns were raised by the speed of flooding, which had again resulted in damage to residential properties. Denbighshire County Council had confirmed that the draft report on its flood grant study was pending consultation. Welsh Water confirmed that the works detailed in the Minister's 12 January letter had been completed. The Environment Agency had introduced a more regular rota for weeding out the waterways and outfalls. However, the flooding had still re-occurred on 26 June.

Last September, I called for a Welsh Government statement after flooding hit several villages in north-east Wales. Last November, flooding forced 500 families to flee their homes, caused one death in St Asaph and affected almost all 118 homes on the Glasdir estate in Ruthin, which were inundated with up to 3 ft of water. Residents stated that they had been assured that the estate would not flood. The land was bought from the Welsh Government by the developer, Taylor Wimpey, which said that it, too, had been reassured that the flood defences—designed and implemented prior to its ownership of the site—would serve their purpose.

The Welsh Government commissioned the Environment Agency to carry out an investigation. According to its report, the causes were a combination of partially blocked culverts and the lack of a clear channel for the floodwaters to reach the Mwrog flood alleviation channel and the northern flood plain. However, Denbighshire County Council's chief executive responded that the council officers' view was that these conclusions were a partial explanation for

cynnydd ar gynllun lliniaru llifogydd arfaethedig yr Wyddgrug i amddiffyn stad dai Cae Bracty.

Yn dilyn y llifogydd ym Mhrestatyn ym mis Mehefin 2008, ysgrifennais at y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai ar y pryd, Jane Davidson, ar ôl mynd i gyfarfod cyhoeddus yno. Er nad oedd y glaw, a oedd wedi para chwe awr, wedi bod yn ormodol nac yn drwm iawn, mynegwyd pryderon ynghylch pa mor gyflym yr achoswyd llifogydd, a oedd unwaith eto wedi arwain at ddifrod i eiddo preswyl. Roedd Cyngor Sir Ddinbych wedi cadarnhau bod yr ymgynghoriad ar yr adroddiad drafft ar ei astudiaeth grant llifogydd yn yr arfaeth. Cadarnhaodd Dŵr Cymru fod y gwaith a nodwyd yn llythyr y Gweinidog dyddiedig 12 Ionawr wedi ei gwblhau. Roedd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd wedi cyflwyno rota fwy cyson i chwynnu'r dyfrffyrdd a'r arllwysfeydd. Fodd bynnag, cafwyd llifogydd unwaith eto ar 26 Mehefin.

Fis Medi diwethaf, galwais am ddatganiad gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar ôl llifogydd mewn sawl pentref yn y gogledd-ddwyrain. Fis Tachwedd diwethaf, gorfodwyd i 500 o deuluoedd ffoi o'u cartrefi oherwydd llifogydd, a achosodd un farwolaeth yn Llanelwy ac a effeithiodd ar bron pob un o'r 118 o gartrefi ar stad Glasdir yn Rhuthun, a aeth o dan hyd at 3 troedfedd o ddŵr. Nododd trigolion eu bod wedi cael sicrwydd na fyddai'r ystad yn mynd o dan ddŵr. Prynwyd y tir oddi wrth Lywodraeth Cymru gan y datblygwr, Taylor Wimpey, a ddywedodd fod y cwmni, hefyd, wedi cael sicrwydd y byddai'r amddiffynfeydd rhag llifogydd—wedi'u cynllunio a'u gweithredu cyn iddo fod yn berchen ar y safle—yn addas at y diben.

Comisiynwyd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd gan Lywodraeth Cymru i gynnal ymchwiliad. Yn ôl ei hadroddiad, roedd yr achosion yn gyfuniad o gwlfertau wedi'u blocio'n rhannol a diffyg sianel glir i'r llifogydd gyrraedd sianel lliniaru llifogydd Mwrog a'r gorlifdir gogleddol. Fodd bynnag, ymatebodd prif weithredwr Cyngor Sir Ddinbych mai esboniad rhannol, ym marn swyddogion y cyngor, oedd y casgliadau hyn ynghylch pam y cafwyd llifogydd ar stad Glasdir gan nodi

why the flood on the Glasdir estate happened, stating that a thorough and independent investigation was needed to provide full answers. Constituents raised concerns that it was inevitable from the very start that these properties would, sooner or later, be flooded. It is wrong that these properties received planning permission. We all know that over many years the particular part of Ruthin is prone to flooding. There is no excuse for this mistake, they said. They have asked for a full investigation to be insisted upon to help to name and shame those responsible in Government and elsewhere to try to ensure that this scale of, and I quote, 'screw-up' never happens again. However, the First Minister has characteristically rejected calls for a public inquiry, which has led Denbighshire council's leader to state that questions about what caused this new-build estate to flood remain unanswered.

Another constituent contacted me to state that the flooding in Roe Park in St Asaph, where the bridge crossing the River Elwy caused the obstruction that led to the flooding, was preventable. He also sent me a copy of an e-mail that he sent to the director of Environment Agency Wales two years earlier that stated that the bridge was situated between 4 and 5 ft lower than the height of the flood banks. The e-mail stated that that was why they had experienced flooding over recent years, the latest occasion being in November 2009. All these instances have been recorded by the Environment Agency.

Yesterday, the Welsh Government announced £5 million for flood and coastal erosion risk management schemes in Conwy and Denbighshire, 11 months after it announced £4.9 million for schemes that included Mold and Wrexham. We welcome this, of course. However the Welsh Government must also provide clear strategic leadership, transparency and accountability if we are truly to prevent our communities from a high risk of further flooding devastation in the future.

Aled Roberts: I will limit my remarks to amendments 6, 7 and 8. It is clear that, this

bod angen ymchwiliad trylwyr ac annibynnol i roi atebion llawn. Cododd etholwyr bryderon ei bod yn anochel o'r cychwyn cyntaf y byddai'r tai hyn, yn hwyr neu'n hwyrach, yn mynd dan ddŵr. Nid yw'n iawn i'r eiddo dan sylw gael caniatâd cynllunio. Rydym i gyd yn gwybod dros flynyddoedd lawer fod y rhan benodol honno o Ruthun yn dueddol o fynd dan ddŵr. Nid oes unrhyw esgus dros y camgymeriad hwn, meddent. Maent wedi gofyn inni fynnu bod ymchwiliad llawn yn cael ei gynnal er mwyn helpu i enwi a chodi cywilydd ar y rhai sy'n gyfrifol yn y Llywodraeth ac mewn manau eraill er mwyn ceisio sicrhau na fydd cawlio ar y fath raddfa yn digwydd byth eto. Fodd bynnag, yn nodweddiadol, mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi gwrthod galwadau am ymchwiliad cyhoeddus ac, o ganlyniad, mae arweinydd Cyngor Sir Ddinbych wedi datgan bod cwestiynau ynglŷn â'r hyn a barodd i'r ystâd hon o dai newydd fynd dan ddŵr yn parhau heb eu hateb.

Cysylltodd etholwr arall â mi yn dweud bod y llifogydd yn Roe Park yn Llanellwyr, lle yr achosodd pont dros Afon Elwy rwystr a arweiniodd at y llifogydd, yn rhai y gellid bod wedi'u hatal. Anfonodd hefyd gopi o e-bost a anfonodd at gyfarwyddwr Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru ddwy flynedd yn gynharach yn dweud bod y bont wedi ei gosod rhwng 4 a 5 troedfedd yn is nag uchder y cloddiau llifogydd. Nododd yr e-bost mai dyma'r rheswm pam y cafwyd llifogydd dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, gyda'r llifogydd diweddaraf ym mis Tachwedd 2009. Mae'r holl achosion hyn wedi cael eu cofnodi gan Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd.

Ddoe, cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru swm o £5 miliwn ar gyfer cynlluniau rheoli perygl llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol yng Nghonwy a sir Ddinbych, 11 mis ar ôl iddi gyhoeddi £4.9 miliwn ar gyfer cynlluniau a oedd yn cynnwys yr Wyddgrug a Wrecsam. Croesawn hyn, wrth gwrs. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i Lywodraeth Cymru hefyd gynnig arweiniad strategol clir, tryloywder ac atebolrwydd os ydym am sicrhau, yn wir, na fydd ein cymunedau yn wynbu risg fawr o ddinistr llifogydd unwaith eto yn y dyfodol.

Aled Roberts: Cyfyngaf fy sylwadau i welliannau 6, 7 ac 8. Mae'n amlwg ein bod

year, we have experienced much worse conditions due to rainfall than most years. That indicates that the level of difficulty that faces us, and that faces the Minister particularly, is much greater than we may have imagined. This week, Wrexham County Borough Council is discussing a report from its officers indicating that, within that authority, more than 20,000 homes and businesses are at risk of flooding. As Llyr indicated in asking for support for amendment 6, the scale of the problem is much greater than has previously been the case. As he indicated, 250,000 homes are in danger of being subject to the statement of principles, compared with the 35,000 that have been subject to them to date. In Wrexham, the local authority indicates that the new Wrexham industrial estate link road, the main A483, the Wrexham Maelor Hospital and Wrexham technology park are now coming into consideration, where that had not been the case previously.

In Ruthin, people bought properties on the Glasdir estate having received assurances from the developer that there was no risk of flooding. That assurance was based on assessments undertaken by Environment Agency Wales that did not place Glasdir or Ruthin at no higher risk than low risk in any of their assessments. The regional assessment undertaken in north Wales in 2010 confirms that there is no need for alleviating measures in the Ruthin area, because it was believed that the flood alleviation scheme completed around the Mwrog Street and Clwyd Street area was sufficient to deal with any problems. However, residents who bought in good faith are now experiencing months of disruption to their lives and, more importantly, real concern regarding future insurance and the residual value of their properties.

5.30 p.m.

That is why we have put forward amendments 7 and 8; not on the basis that we need to play a blame game, but because we need to understand the basis on which the Environment Agency report was completed. In discussions with the regional manager in north Wales, he has made it clear that the Environment Agency report deals with

wedi profi amodau llawer gwaeth eleni o ganlyniad i law nag arfer. Dengys hynny fod yr anhawster sy'n ein hwynebu, ac yn wynebu'r Gweinidog yn arbennig, yn llawer mwy na'r hyn y byddwn wedi'i ddychmygu. Yr wythnos hon, mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam yn trafod adroddiad gan ei swyddogion yn nodi bod mwy na 20,000 o gartrefi a busnesau yn wynebu perygl llifogydd o fewn yr awdurdod hwnnw. Fel y nododd Llyr wrth ofyn am gefnogaeth i welliant 6, mae maint y broblem yn llawer mwy na chynt. Fel y dywedodd, mae 250,000 o gartrefi mewn perygl o fod yn ddarostyngedig i'r datganiad o egwyddorion, o gymharu â'r 35,000 a fu'n ddarostyngedig i'r datganiad hyd yn hyn. Yn Wrecsam, nodar awdurdod lleol fod y ffordd gswllt newydd i ystad ddiwydiannol Wrecsam, prif ffordd yr A483, Ysbyty Maelor Wrecsam a pharc technoleg Wrecsam bellach yn cael eu hystyried, er nad oeddent wedi'u hystyried o'r blaen.

Yn Rhuthun, prynodd pobl eiddo ar ystad Glasdir ar ôl cael sicrwydd gan y datblygwr nad oedd unrhyw berygl o lifogydd. Roedd y sicrwydd hwnnw yn seiliedig ar asesiadau a gynhaliwyd gan Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru a nododd nad oedd risg Glasdir na Rhuthun yn uwch na risg isel yn unrhyw un ei hasesiadau. Mae'r asesiad rhanbarthol a gynhaliwyd yn y gogledd yn 2010 yn cadarnhau nad oes angen mesurau lliniaru yn ardal Rhuthun, oherwydd credid bod y cynllun lliniaru llifogydd a gwblhawyd o amgylch Stryd Mwrog a Stryd Clwyd yn ddigonol i ymdrin ag unrhyw broblemau. Fodd bynnag, mae trigolion a brynodd eu heiddo, gyda phob ewyllys da, bellach yn wynebu misoedd o darfu ar eu bywydau ac, yn bwysicach na dim, bryder gwirioneddol ynglŷn ag yswiriant yn y dyfodol a gwerth gweddilliol eu heiddo.

5.30 p.m.

Dyna pam yr ydym wedi cyflwyno gwelliannau 7 ac 8; nid ar y sail bod angen inni godi bai ar neb, ond oherwydd bod angen inni ddeall ar ba sail y cwblhawyd adroddiad Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd. Mewn trafodaethau gyda'r rheolwr rhanbarthol yn y gogledd, eglurodd fod adroddiad Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn ymdrin â cheisiadau

specific requests made by the First Minister after visiting Ruthin following the floods, and that it does not deal with issues other than those within the specific terms of reference given by the First Minister. I think, therefore, that it was premature to rule out the possible need for a public inquiry once the full information comes to hand. That is why, while I accept and acknowledge the First Minister's original stance, I think that the Government needs to ensure that departments not under the control of the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development—and I am thinking specifically of transportation—such as the highways department, ensure that they co-operate fully with the independent investigation that is being completed by Denbighshire County Council, because many of the problems with regard to transport and other issues in Ruthin fall within the remit of the Welsh Government.

It may be that, when full consideration has been given to planning issues, to design issues regarding the current flood-alleviation scheme and, yes, to the operation and circumstances on the day in question, there will be a need for a public inquiry. However, at the moment, the main issue that residents in Ruthin have is that they would have little or no confidence in this because the authorities that have been responsible for the design of flood-alleviation schemes or for the operation of flood relief during the period in question are the very authorities that would conduct those inquiries. They do not want to apportion blame, but they want to know what steps need to be taken and they need to be reassured that the Welsh Government will give a commitment that if lessons are to be learned, they will be learned. Minister, one lesson that needs to be learned is that, going forward as far as LDPs are concerned, if local authorities come forward with proposals to build on floodplains, you and the inspectorate do not accept those proposals.

Darren Millar: I am very pleased to be able to take part in this debate. Flooding is an issue that is very dear to my heart, having lived through the devastating floods in Towyn in 1990 and, of course, seeing at first-hand the problems in Ruthin in the wake of

penodol a wnaed gan y Prif Weinidog ar ôl ymweld â Rhuthun yn dilyn y llifogydd, ac nad yw'n ymdrin â materion ar wahân i'r rhai sy'n rhan o'r cylch gorchwyl penodol a roddwyd gan y Prif Weinidog. Credaf, felly, ei bod yn gynamserol diystyru'r angen posibl am ymchwiliad cyhoeddus unwaith y bydd y wybodaeth lawn yn dod i law. Dyna pam, er fy mod yn derbyn ac yn cydnabod safbwynt gwreiddiol y Prif Weinidog, y credaf fod angen i'r Llywodraeth sicrhau bod adrannau nad ydynt o dan reolaeth Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy—ac rwy'n meddwl yn arbennig am gludiant—megis yr adran briffyrdd, yn sicrhau eu bod yn cydweithredu'n llawn â'r ymchwiliad annibynnol sy'n cael ei gwblhau gan Gyngor Sir Ddinbych, gan fod llawer o'r problemau o ran trafndiaeth a materion eraill yn Rhuthun yn dod o dan gylch gwaith Llywodraeth Cymru.

Ar ôl i ystyriaeth lawn gael ei rhoi i faterion cynllunio, materion dylunio ynghylch y cynllun llifogydd lliniaru cyfredol ac, ie, y ffordd y gweithredodd a'r amgylchiadau ar y diwrnod dan sylw, efallai y bydd angen ymchwiliad cyhoeddus. Fodd bynnag, ar hyn o bryd, y prif fater i drigolion yn Rhuthun yw na fyddai ganddynt fawr ddim ffydd yn hyn oherwydd yr awdurdodau hynny sydd wedi bod yn gyfrifol am ddylunio'r cynlluniau lliniaru llifogydd neu weithredu i atal llifogydd yn ystod y cyfnod dan sylw yw'r un awdurdodau a fyddai'n cynnal yr ymchwiliadau hynny. Nid ydynt am roi'r bai ar neb, ond maent am wybod pa gamau sydd angen eu cymryd ac mae angen iddynt gael sicrwydd y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn rhoi ymrwymiad y bydd yn dysgu unrhyw wersi y mae angen eu dysgu. Weinidog, un wers y mae angen ei dysgu yw, o ran CDLlau yn y dyfodol, os bydd awdurdodau lleol yn cyflwyno cynigion i adeiladu ar orlifdiroedd, na fyddwch chi na'r arolygiaeth yn derbyn y cynigion hynny.

Darren Millar: Rwy'n falch iawn o gael cymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon. Mae llifogydd yn fater sy'n agos iawn at fy nghalon, ar ôl byw drwy lifogydd dinistriol yn Nhywyn yn 1990 ac, wrth gwrs, weld dros fy hun y problemau yn Rhuthun yn sgil y llifogydd

the recent floods in November. Many speakers have already referred to the situation in Ruthin. It is important that we learn lessons when flooding events occur so that we can prevent them from taking place again in the future.

It is not about a blame game, but members of the public who were affected by flooding on the Glasdir estate deserve answers to the very pressing questions about the roles of each of the organisations involved in delivering the planning on that estate and planning to address the flood-risk management. Those questions have not yet been answered by the Environment Agency report and it is important that an independent person is able to assess the role of each of the organisations that has a hand in managing flood risk on that estate. That is why I believe that the First Minister was quite wrong to dismiss the prospect of a public inquiry and I hope that he will reconsider his response in light of today's debate.

Of course, Ruthin was not the only area affected by flooding in my constituency. Llanfair Talhaearn and some of the other small villages in the constituency were also affected. It is important that we do not lose sight, when there is a widespread flooding incident across a region, of some of those smaller communities that have been hit just as hard but are very often completely forgotten because the limelight is taken by the bigger population centres, quite rightly. In Llanfair Talhaearn in particular, which has been affected by flooding three times in the past five years, people deserve a longer term solution to the flood-risk problems in the village. Once again, I hope that the Minister will give us assurances today that the Environment Agency Wales will look at some of those solutions.

We have been calling for many years for a review of the technical advice note 15 planning guidance on flood-risk management. We have been calling for the designation of blue-belt land across the country as well. This is because the flooding problem is getting worse. We know that, with every good intention, the Government produced TAN 15 and it was quite right to do

diweddar ym mis Tachwedd. Mae llawer o siaradwyr eisoes wedi cyfeirio at y sefyllfa yn Rhuthun. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn dysgu gwersi pan fydd llifogydd fel y gallwn eu hatal rhag digwydd eto yn y dyfodol.

Nid mater o roi'r bai ar rywun ydyw, ond mae aelodau o'r cyhoedd yr effeithiwyd arnynt gan lifogydd ar ystad Glasdir yn haeddu atebion i'r cwestiynau difrifol iawn am rolau pob un o'r sefydliadau a fu'n ymwneud â'r gwaith cynllunio ar yr ystad honno a'r gwaith cynllunio i fynd i'r afael â rheoli perygl llifogydd. Nid yw'r cwestiynau hynny wedi cael eu hateb eto yn adroddiad Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd ac mae'n bwysig bod person annibynnol yn gallu asesu rôl pob un o'r sefydliadau a fu'n rhan o'r gwaith rheoli perygl llifogydd ar yr ystad honno. Dyna pam yr oedd yn gwbl amhriodol, yn fy marn i, i'r Prif Weinidog wrthod y posibilrwydd o ymchwiliad cyhoeddus a gobeithiaf y bydd yn ailystyried ei ymateb yng ngoleuni'r ddadl heddiw.

Wrth gwrs, nid Rhuthun oedd yr unig ardal yr effeithiwyd arni gan lifogydd yn fy etholaeth. Effeithiwyd ar Lanfair Talhaearn a rhai o'r pentrefi bychain eraill yn yr etholaeth hefyd. Pan fo llifogydd helaeth ledled rhanbarth, mae'n bwysig nad ydym yn colli golwg ar rai o'r cymunedau llai yr effeithiwyd arnynt yr un mor ddifrifol, ond sydd yn aml iawn yn cael eu hanghofio'n llwyr am fod yr aneddiadau mwy o faint yn cael y sylw, a hynny'n ddigon teg. Yn Llanfair Talhaearn yn arbennig, lle cafwyd llifogydd dair gwaith yn y pum mlynedd diwethaf, mae pobl yn haeddu ateb yn y tymor hwy i broblemau perygl llifogydd yn y pentref. Unwaith eto, gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn rhoi sicrwydd inni heddiw y bydd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru yn edrych ar rai o'r atebion hynny.

Rydym wedi bod yn galw ers blynyddoedd lawer am adolygiad o ganllawiau cynllunio nodyn cyngor technegol 15 ar reoli perygl llifogydd. Rydym wedi bod yn galw am ddynodi tir na ellir datblygu arno wrth ymyl dŵr dros y wlad hefyd, a hynny am fod problem llifogydd yn gwaethygu. Gwyddom i'r Llywodraeth, gyda phob bwriad da, baratoi TAN 15 a'i bod yn hollol briodol

so. However, you cannot rely on that guidance for ever and a day, Minister. What you must do is review it in the light of the growing evidence that it is insufficient to deal with and prevent the flooding that we are seeing even on brand-new housing estates across the country. Little measures such as making sure that Welsh Water is a statutory consultee in the planning process would ensure that we have more sustainable drainage on our estates. We know that, increasingly, one of the things that we are seeing is simple flooding as a result of water run-off that cannot go down the drain. I hope, Minister, that you will look at that.

I also want to raise concerns about the licensing regime, which does not seem to feature properly in terms of flood risk. In Towyn and Kinmel Bay in my constituency, there are large numbers of caravans in caravan parks, and even in those flood risk areas where there is a moratorium on any new housing development, hundreds of new caravans are being placed across the piece in Towyn and Kinmel Bay. There is something wrong with our licensing system that allows that to happen, and I hope that the Minister will look with your Cabinet colleagues at how that can be addressed in a more joined-up way.

Reference has also been made to critical infrastructure. I have some really critical infrastructure in my constituency in terms of transport. The A55 and the north Wales railway join the sea defences for part of their journey through my constituency in Old Colwyn and Llanddulas. Insufficient attention appears to have been given by the Welsh Government to ensuring that the sea defences in that area are properly maintained so that those vital parts of our infrastructure are properly protected. In particular, Minister, you must address the situation in Old Colwyn, which has been going on for far too long, where the sea has eroded underneath the road, causing major problems on a regular basis. I would like to see you come up with a longer term solution to that.

I will make a final reference to the insurance industry. In response to today's debate, will

gwneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, ni allwch ddibynnu ar y canllawiau hynny am byth, Weinidog. Yr hyn y mae'n rhaid ichi ei wneud yw eu hadolygu yng ngoleuni'r dystiolaeth gynyddol eu bod yn annigonol i ymdrin â'r llifogydd yr ydym yn eu gweld hyd yn oed ar ystadau tai newydd bron ledled y wlad, a'u hatal. Byddai mesurau bach megis gwneud yn siŵr bod Dŵr Cymru yn ymgynghorai statudol yn y broses gynllunio yn sicrhau y bydd systemau draenio mwy cynaliadwy ar ein hystadau. Gwyddom mai un o'r pethau yr ydym yn ei weld yn fwyfwy yw llifogydd o ganlyniad i ddŵr ffo na all fynd i lawr y draen. Gobeithiaf, Weinidog, y byddwch yn edrych ar hynny.

Rwyf hefyd am godi pryderon am y gyfundrefn drwyddedu, nad oes iddi le priodol yn ôl pob golwg o ran perygl llifogydd. Yn Nhywyn a Bae Cinmel yn fy etholaeth i, mae niferoedd mawr o garafannau mewn parciau carafannau, a hyd yn oed yn yr ardaloedd hynny lle ceir perygl llifogydd a lle mae moratoriwm ar unrhyw ddatblygiad tai newydd, mae cannoedd o garafannau newydd yn cael eu lleoli ar dir yn Nhywyn a Bae Cinmel. Mae rhywbeth o'i le ar ein system drwyddedu sy'n caniatáu i hynny ddigwydd, a gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn ystyried ar y cyd â'ch cyd-Weinidogion yn y Cabinet sut y gellir mynd i'r afael mewn ffordd fwy cydgyssylltiedig.

Cyfeiriwyd hefyd at seilwaith hanfodol. Mae enghreifftiau o seilwaith hanfodol iawn yn fy etholaeth o ran trafndiaeth. Mae'r A55 a rheilffordd gogledd Cymru yn ymuno â'r amddiffynfeydd môr am ran o'u taith drwy fy etholaeth yn Hen Golwyn a Llanddulas. Ymddengys nad yw Llywodraeth Cymru wedi rhoi digon o sylw i sicrhau bod yr amddiffynfeydd môr yn yr ardal honno yn cael eu cynnal a'u cadw'n briodol er mwyn sicrhau bod rhannau hanfodol o'n seilwaith yn cael eu diogelu'n briodol. Yn benodol, Weinidog, rhaid ichi fynd i'r afael â'r sefyllfa yn Hen Golwyn, sydd wedi parhau am ormod o amser o lawer, lle mae'r môr wedi erydu tir o dan y ffordd, gan achosi problemau mawr yn rheolaidd. Hoffwn eich gweld yn dod o hyd i ateb hirdymor i hynny.

Gwnaf gyfeiriad olaf at y diwydiant yswiriant. Mewn ymateb i'r ddadl heddiw, a

the Minister tell us whether it might be possible for the Welsh Government to have an agreement with the Association of British Insurers, rather than having to have one on a UK basis?

Antoinette Sandbach: This is an extremely timely debate, and I welcome the opportunity to make a contribution. As many Members have done, I pay tribute to the emergency services and third sector organisations such as the British Red Cross that played such an important role in the floods that affected many communities during the last year.

The flooding in St Asaph and the surrounding area has provided a stark warning about the extent of the damage and disruption that flooding can cause to communities. Over 500 families were forced to flee their homes, and this event also led to the tragic death of an elderly resident. Most worrying are the 118 properties that were flooded in the Glasdir estate in Ruthin. I will not dwell on the points made by other speakers about the clear lessons to be learned, but I would adopt those points and emphasise that the First Minister has made his decision far too early on whether or not there should be a public inquiry.

The scale of the damage could well mean that it will be six months or more before residents are able to return to their homes. The flooding raises a number of serious questions for communities where permission for housing was conditional on the presence of flood defences. Darren has rightly mentioned the community of Llanfair Talhaearn, which has suffered from flooding for many years. The community in Llangernyw has also been affected. Local businesses continue to be affected by the landslip that has closed the main road to Llanrwst, and it is anticipated that it will be months before repairs will be completed on that road.

Management of flooding risk will be one of the key responsibilities of the new natural resources body, and it is vital that the expertise of the Environment Agency is not lost when staff are transferred. Wales seems to be at a higher risk of flooding than any

wnaiff y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym a allai fod yn bosibl i Lywodraeth Cymru lunio cytundeb â Chymdeithas Yswirwyr Prydain, yn hytrach na gorfod cael un ar sail y DU?

Antoinette Sandbach: Mae hon yn ddadl hynod amserol, a chroesawaf y cyfle i gyfrannu. Fel y gwnaeth llawer o Aelodau, talaf deyrnged i'r gwasanaethau brys a mudiadau'r trydydd sector megis y Groes Goch Brydeinig a chwaraeodd ran mor bwysig yn y llifogydd a effeithiodd ar lawer o gymunedau yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf.

Mae'r llifogydd yn Llanelwy a'r ardal o'i hamgylch wedi rhoi rhybudd clir ynglŷn â faint o ddifrod ac aflonyddwch y gall llifogydd eu hachosi i gymunedau. Bu'n rhaid i fwy na 500 o deuluoedd ffoi o'u cartrefi, ac arweiniodd y llifogydd hynny hefyd at farwolaeth drasig trigolyn oedrannus. Yr hyn sy'n achosi'r pryder mwyaf yw'r 118 eiddo a aeth dan ddŵr ar ystad Glasdir yn Rhuthun. Nid wyf am ailadrodd y pwyntiau a wnaed gan siaradwyr eraill am y gwersi clir i'w dysgu, ond byddwn yn mabwysiadu'r pwyntiau hynny ac yn pwysleisio'r ffaith bod y Prif Weinidog wedi gwneud ei benderfyniad yn llawer rhy gynnar ynghylch a ddylai fod ymchwiliad cyhoeddus ai peidio.

Oherwydd maint y difrod mae'n ddigon posibl na fydd trigolion yn gallu dychwelyd i'w cartrefi am chwe mis neu fwy. Mae'r llifogydd yn codi nifer o gwestiynau difrifol i gymunedau lle roedd caniatâd ar gyfer tai yn amodol ar bresenoldeb amddiffynfeydd rhag llifogydd. Cyfeiriodd Darren yn gwbl briodol at gymuned Llanfair Talhaearn, lle ceid llifogydd ers blynnyddoedd lawer. Effeithiwyd hefyd ar y gymuned yn Llangernyw. Mae'r tirlithriad sydd wedi cau'r brif ffordd i Lanrwst yn effeithio o hyd ar fusnesau lleol, a rhagwelir na fydd y gwaith atgyweirio ar y ffordd honno yn cael ei gwblhau am fisoedd.

Bydd rheoli perygl llifogydd yn un o gyfrifoldebau allweddol y corff adnoddau naturiol newydd, ac mae'n hanfodol na chollir arbenigedd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd pan drosglwyddir staff. Ymddengys bod mwy o berygl o lifogydd yng Nghymru nag

other region of the UK, and this risk does not show any sign of reducing in the years ahead. Indeed, Llyr Huws Gruffydd highlighted why that risk may increase. Given the scale of this risk and the limited budget available, Ministers and the new natural resources body will need to use these resources in the most cost-effective way possible.

The agricultural industry can potentially play a very significant role in reducing the volume of water through tree planting in the uplands, tree planting along river banks and in the sacrificial flooding of fields in the lowland areas. What is the Minister's latest view on financially recognising that these environmental services could be provided and is he seeking to recognise that through financial compensation as part of the ecosystems approach.

I, too, would like to mention the importance of the UK Government reaching an agreement with the insurance industry on flood-risk management. As has been stated by other contributors, the voluntary statement of principles is due to run out on 30 June 2013. Under this agreement, insurers provide cover to almost all properties other than where the risk is significant and there are no plans in place to manage that risk within five years. While the UK Government is involved in ongoing negotiations with the insurance industry regarding this agreement and while it is determined to ensure that affordable insurance for those at risk of floods is available, can the Minister say what steps he has taken to support the UK Government in its negotiations with the insurance industry, in particular highlighting the importance of that to homes and families in Wales?

Finally, I note that the enterprise zones, including Deeside industrial zone, have been identified as being in a flood-risk area. I invite the Minister in his response to say how the Welsh Government proposes to deal with that, given the large number of enterprise zones that have been announced and identified as being in areas at risk of flooding.

unrhyw ranbarth arall o'r DU, ac nid oes unrhyw arwydd y bydd y perygl hwn yn lleihau yn y blynyddoedd sydd i ddod. Yn wir, tynnodd Llyr Huws Gruffydd sylw at y rheswm pam y gallai'r perygl hwnnw fynd yn fwy. O gofio maint y perygl hwn a'r gyllideb gyfyngedig sydd ar gael, bydd angen i Weinidogion a'r corff cyfoeth naturiol newydd ddefnyddio'r adnoddau hyn yn y ffordd fwyaf costeffeithiol posibl.

Gall y diwydiant amaethyddol o bosibl chwarae rôl bwysig iawn o ran lleihau'r llif o ddŵr drwy blannu coed yn yr ucheldir, plannu coed ar hyd glannau'r afon a thrwy adael i gaeau yn yr ardaloedd tir isel fynd dan ddŵr. Beth yw barn ddiweddaraf y Gweinidog ar gydnabod yn ariannol y gallai'r gwasanaethau amgylcheddol hyn gael eu darparu, ac a yw'n ystyried cydnabod hynny drwy ddigolledu ariannol fel rhan o'r dull ecosystemau.

Hoffwn innau hefyd sôn am ba mor bwysig ydyw bod Llywodraeth y DU yn dod i gytundeb â'r diwydiant yswiriant ynglŷn â rheoli perygl llifogydd. Fel y dywedodd cyfranwyr eraill, daw'r datganiad gwirfoddol o egwyddorion i ben ar 30 Mehefin 2013. O dan y cytundeb hwn, mae yswirwyr yn yswirio bron pob eiddo oni fydd y risg yn sylweddol ac nad oes unrhyw gynlluniau ar waith i reoli'r risg honno o fewn pum mlynedd. Tra bod trafodaethau rhwng Llywodraeth y DU a'r diwydiant yswiriant ynglŷn â'r cytundeb hwn yn mynd rhagddynt a thra ei bod yn benderfynol o sicrhau bod yswiriant fforddiadwy ar gael i'r rhai sy'n wynebu perygl llifogydd, a all y Gweinidog ddweud pa gamau y mae wedi eu cymryd i gefnogi Llywodraeth y DU yn ei thrafodaethau gyda'r diwydiant yswiriant, yn enwedig o ran tynnu sylw at bwysigrwydd hynny i gartrefi a theuluoedd yng Nghymru?

Yn olaf, sylwaf i'r ardaloedd menter, gan gynnwys ardal ddiwydiannol Glannau Dyfrdwy, gael eu nodi'n ardaloedd lle ceir perygl llifogydd. Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog ddweud yn ei ymateb sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn bwriadu ymdrin â hynny, o ystyried y nifer fawr o ardaloedd menter sydd wedi cael eu cyhoeddi ac y nodwyd eu bod mewn ardaloedd lle ceir perygl llifogydd.

The Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development (John Griffiths):

May I begin by welcoming the opportunity for debate on these important issues around flooding, which Members rightly prioritise? The strength of feeling from Members has come across clearly and strongly, and rightly so, during this debate. We have experienced some very unsettled weather, to put it mildly, throughout 2012, with episodes of heavy and persistent rainfall, which led to significant flooding throughout Wales. In June, Wales experienced the worst flooding event for a number of years, with a total of 127 properties and 248 caravans flooded by river and surface water flooding. As we all know only too well, the weather did not improve going into the winter. In November, we experienced a flooding event that was even worse than that of June, when over 400 properties were flooded in Wales, with significant disruptions to our transport network, particularly in north Wales. That event was the eleventh flooding incident in England and Wales since April 2012, so, as Members have rightly highlighted, our climate is changing, and we are likely to see an increase in rainfall and storms. Therefore, we need to respond to these growing challenges.

Members also rightly highlighted the commitment of the emergency services and other responders and the excellent work carried out by them to provide the effective multi-agency response that is so important. Those services are rightly commended. When communities in Wales experience the devastation that flooding can cause, it is vital that they come together and support each other. It is good to see the strong community spirit that is clearly still evident in our country. I heard of an example at the Glasdir estate in Ruthin shortly after the flooding. Some of the people affected told me of the support provided by local postal workers, who helped to alert residents and prevent even greater damage. That help was greatly appreciated.

Our experiences in 2012 highlighted the

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy (John Griffiths):

A gaf ddechrau drwy groesawu'r cyfle i drafod y materion pwysig hyn sy'n ymwneud â llifogydd, y mae Aelodau yn eu blaenoriaethu, a hynny'n gwbl briodol? Mae cryfder teimladau'r Aelodau wedi cael ei gyfleu'n glir ac yn gadarn, a hynny'n briodol, yn ystod y ddadl hon. Rydym wedi gweld rhai cyfnodau o dywydd ansefydlog iawn, a dweud y lleiaf, drwy gydol 2012, gyda chyfnodau o law trwm a chyson, a arweiniodd at lifogydd mawr ledled Cymru. Ym mis Mehefin, cafwyd y llifogydd gwaethaf yng Nghymru ers nifer o flynyddoedd, pan aeth 127 eiddo a 248 o garafannau dan ddŵr yn sgil llifogydd afon a dŵr wyneb. Fel y gwyddom yn iawn, ni fu unrhyw welliant yn y tywydd wrth i'r gaeaf nesáu. Ym mis Tachwedd, cafwyd llifogydd a oedd hyd yn oed yn waeth na'r rhai ym mis Mehefin, pan aeth dros 400 o eiddo dan ddŵr yng Nghymru, a tharfwyd yn sylweddol ar ein rhwydwaith trafniadaeth, yn enwedig yn y gogledd. Y digwyddiad hwnnw oedd yr unfed achos ar ddeg o lifogydd yng Nghymru a Lloegr ers mis Ebrill 2012, felly, fel y mae Aelodau wedi pwysleisio'n ddigon teg, mae ein hinsawdd yn newid, ac rydym yn debygol o weld cynnydd mewn glawiad a stormydd. Felly, mae angen inni ymateb i'r heriau cynyddol hyn.

Tynnodd Aelodau sylw hefyd, a hynny'n gwbl deg, at ymrwymiad y gwasanaethau brys ac ymatebwyr eraill a'r gwaith ardderchog a wnaed ganddynt i roi'r ymateb amlasiantaethol effeithiol sydd mor bwysig. Mae'r gwasanaethau hynny yn cael eu canmol, a hynny'n gwbl haeddiannol. Pan fydd cymunedau yng Nghymru yn dioddef y dinistr y gall llifogydd ei achosi, mae'n hanfodol eu bod yn dod at ei gilydd a chefnogi ei gilydd. Mae'n braf gweld yr ysbryd cymunedol cryf sydd i'w weld o hyd yn ein gwlad. Clywais am enghraifft ar ystad Glasdir yn Rhuthun yn fuan ar ôl y llifogydd. Soniodd rhai o'r bobl yr effeithiwyd arnynt wrthyf am y cymorth a roddwyd gan weithwyr post lleol, a helpodd i rybuddio trigolion ac atal hyd yn oed fwy o ddifrod. Cafodd y cymorth hwnnw ei werthfawrogi'n fawr.

Amlygodd ein profiadau yn 2012 pa mor

importance of a cross-portfolio approach, as Members have mentioned. We need that approach to enhance our resilience to flooding. Therefore, in December I met with the Minister for Local Government and Communities and agreed to establish a joint ministerial working group to consider the full breadth of issues associated with effective flood-risk management. I will also hold a flood summit shortly to bring all relevant stakeholders together to provide an opportunity to look at these issues in more detail. I will update Members on progress in due course. We will, of course, be talking about focus and commitment to get a new sense of urgency around responding to these matters.

5.45 p.m.

I understand the call for a flood forum. Earlier in 2012, I commissioned research to inform the development of support for communities. Ensuring that the right service is put in place is of the utmost importance, and I am considering the outcome of that research before making any formal commitments, and I hope to make my views on that known shortly.

Development on flood plains is reviewed as part of our planning policy, and I believe that that is the appropriate mechanism for those matters. TAN 15 reflects current policy, and Welsh Government policies are kept under constant review. I hear what Members say about that technical advice note being out of date, but the Environment Agency provides ongoing technical advice, almost on a daily basis.

When it comes to blue belt policies, as proposed from the Conservative benches, we are always open to ideas, of course. However, we think that the categorisation of zones that we have established through 'Planning Policy Wales' and our technical advice notes allows for very robust systems, in terms of C2 categorisation. That provides a more nuanced approach than the blue belt policy would, and we think that it is effective. Indeed, the Environment Agency also thinks that that

bwysig yw dull gweithredu trawsbortffolio, fel y mae Aelodau wedi crybwyll. Mae angen y dull gweithredu hwnnw er mwyn gwella ein gallu i wrthsefyll llifogydd. Felly, ym mis Rhagfyr cefais gyfarfod â'r Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau a chytunwyd i sefydlu gweithgor gweinidogol ar y cyd i ystyried hyd a lled y materion sy'n gysylltiedig â rheoli perygl llifogydd yn effeithiol. Byddaf hefyd yn cynnal uwchgynhadledd llifogydd cyn bo hir i ddod â'r holl randdeiliaid perthnasol at ei gilydd fel bod cyfle i edrych ar y materion hyn yn fanylach. Byddaf yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i Aelodau am y cynnydd maes o law. Byddwn, wrth gwrs, yn sôn am ffocws ac ymrwymiad i gael ymdeimlad newydd o frys ynghylch ymateb i'r materion hyn.

5.45 p.m.

Deallaf yr alwad am fforwm llifogydd. Yn gynharach yn 2012, comisiynwyd gwaith ymchwil gennyf i lywio'r broses o ddatblygu cymorth i gymunedau. Mae sicrhau bod y gwasanaeth cywir yn cael ei roi ar waith o'r pwys mwyaf, ac rwy'n ystyried canlyniad y gwaith ymchwil hwnnw cyn gwneud unrhyw ymrwymadau ffurfiol, a gobeithiaf gyhoeddi fy marn ar hynny cyn bo hir.

Adolygir datblygu ar orlifdiroedd fel rhan o'n polisi cynllunio, a chredaf mai dyna'r system briodol ar gyfer y materion hynny. Mae TAN 15 yn adlewyrchu'r polisi cyfredol, ac mae polisïau Llywodraeth Cymru yn cael eu hadolygu'n gyson. Deallaf yr hyn y mae Aelodau yn ei ddweud pan ddywedant nad yw'r nodyn cyngor technegol hwnnw yn gyfredol, ond mae Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn rhoi cyngor technegol drwy'r amser, bron yn ddyddiol.

O ran polisïau ynglŷn â pheidio â datblygu ar dir wrth ymyl dŵr, fel y cynigiwyd gan feinciau'r Ceidwadwyr, rydym bob amser yn agored i syniadau, wrth gwrs. Fodd bynnag, rydym o'r farn bod y dull o gatgoreiddio parthau a sefydlwyd gennym drwy 'Polisi Cynllunio Cymru' a'n nodiadau cyngor technegol yn caniatáu ar gyfer systemau cadarn iawn, o ran gatgoreiddio C2. Mae hynny'n cynnig dull mwy cynnil na'r polisi o beidio â datblygu ar dir wrth ymyl dŵr, a

technical advice note is effective.

Darren Millar *rose*—

John Griffiths: I will take an intervention, but I wish to reinforce the fact that we look at all these matters on an ongoing basis, in terms of reviews. I give way to Darren Millar.

Darren Millar: Thank you, Minister. I am very pleased to hear that you have a listening ear to any policies that come forward from any parties in this Chamber, particularly in relation to flood-risk management. In terms of the technical advice note, do you not agree—given that we are having increasing flooding on brand new housing estates, which have been approved under the guidance—that there are clearly some flaws in that guidance that need to be addressed?

John Griffiths: We will keep matters under constant review. However, it is important to note when tightening up has occurred with regard to flood policy. We have taken a more restrictive approach under the technical advice note in ‘Planning Policy Wales’ in recent times, including in the summer of last year. As far as local development plans, which were again mentioned by Members, are concerned, they are very closely scrutinised by Welsh Government officials in terms of flood risk. Flood-risk assessments are often required when there are particular issues.

I very much agree that natural resources Wales will have a central role to play in terms of flood and coastal erosion risk management. It is very important that we carry over expertise and experience, and I am sure that that will be the case. I have been very clear with the chief executive, chair and board of natural resources Wales that combating flood risk is at the very top of my ministerial priorities, and I will continue to emphasise those points as we move forward.

We can do more in terms of using the natural

chredwn ei fod yn effeithiol. Yn wir, mae Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd hefyd o’r farn bod y nodyn cyngor technegol yn effeithiol.

Darren Millar *a gododd*—

John Griffiths: Derbynïaf ymyriad, ond hoffwn bwysleisio unwaith eto ein bod yn edrych ar yr holl faterion hyn yn barhaus, o ran adolygiadau. Ildiaf i Darren Millar.

Darren Millar: Diolch ichi, Weinidog. Rwy’n falch iawn o glywed eich bod yn fodlon gwrandao ar unrhyw bolisiau a gynigir gan unrhyw blaid yn y Siambr hon, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â rheoli perygl llifogydd. O ran y nodyn cyngor technegol, oni chytunwch—o ystyried ein bod yn gweld llifogydd cynyddol ar ystadau tai newydd sbon, sydd wedi cael eu cymeradwyo o dan y canllawiau—ei bod yn amlwg bod rhai diffygion yn y canllawiau hynny y mae angen mynd i’r afael â hwy?

John Griffiths: Byddwn yn parhau i adolygu materion yn rheolaidd. Fodd bynnag, mae’n bwysig nodi achosion o dynhau mewn perthynas â pholisi llifogydd. Rydym wedi mabwysiadu ymagwedd fwy cyfyngol o dan y nodyn cyngor technegol yn ‘Polisi Cynllunio Cymru’ yn ddiweddar, gan gynnwys yn ystod yr haf y llynedd. O ran cynlluniau datblygu lleol, a gafodd eu crybwyll eto gan Aelodau, mae swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru yn craffu’n fanwl arnynt o ran perygl llifogydd. Gofynnir am asesiadau o berygl llifogydd yn aml pan fo problemau penodol yn codi.

Cytunaf yn llwyr y bydd cyfoeth naturiol Cymru yn chwarae rhan ganolog o ran rheoli perygl llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol. Mae’n bwysig iawn ein bod yn trosglwyddo arbenigedd a phrofiad, ac rwy’n siŵr y bydd hynny’n digwydd. Rwyf wedi dweud yn glir iawn wrth brif weithredwr, cadeirydd a bwrdd cyfoeth naturiol Cymru bod mynd i’r afael â pherygl llifogydd ar frig fy mlaenoriaethau gweinidogol, a byddaf yn parhau i bwysleisio’r pwyntiau hynny wrth inni symud ymlaen.

Gallwn wneud rhagor o ran defnyddio’r

environment and ecosystem services. I know that natural resources Wales is of a similar view. I know that Welsh Water is looking very closely at its own investment programme, which I think is worth £1 billion over the next three years, in terms of how the natural environment can be used. I am sure that those matters will come more to centre stage as we move forward.

Insurance is very important, of course. I want to see cover remaining available and accessible to everyone in Wales, after the statement of principles expires in June this year. Therefore, we are working with the insurance industry, and with Government colleagues in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, to reach a mutually agreeable solution.

When it comes to Denbighshire, the causes of the flooding must be established. The council has a statutory obligation and is investigating. This is in addition to the Environment Agency's work on the reasons and the post-incident report on events across north Wales in November. We must consider that work when it is completed.

On investment, we have a £150 million investment programme, and we will lever in over £70 million from the European regional development fund and other sources over the lifetime of this Assembly, protecting a large number of properties, businesses and infrastructures throughout Wales. We will prioritise, with our partners, in taking our national strategy forward.

In conclusion, last year's events have clearly demonstrated the need for all those with a role to play to re-examine our strategies and actions, to think again long and hard, and to do all that we can to safeguard our communities, businesses and infrastructures. I welcome this debate. It is an important opportunity to discuss these crucial issues, and I thank Members for their contributions.

Nick Ramsay: I am pleased to close this debate and to welcome the support for our motion from all quarters of the Chamber. It is a subject that we frequently return to in the

amgylchedd naturiol a gwasanaethau ecosystem. Gwn fod cyfoeth naturiol Cymru yn cytuno. Gwn fod Dŵr Cymru yn edrych yn ofalus iawn ar ei raglen fuddsoddi ei hun, sy'n werth £1 biliwn dros y tair blynedd nesaf, fe gredaf, o ran sut y gellir defnyddio'r amgylchedd naturiol. Rwy'n siŵr y bydd y materion hynny yn cael mwy o sylw wrth inni symud ymlaen.

Mae yswiriant yn bwysig iawn, wrth gwrs. Rwyf am weld sefyllfa lle mae yswiriant yn dal i fod ar gael ac yn fforddiadwy i bawb yng Nghymru, ar ôl i'r datganiad o egwyddorion ddod i ben ym mis Mehefin eleni. Felly, rydym yn gweithio gyda'r diwydiant yswiriant, a chyda chyd-Weinidogion yn Lloegr, Gogledd Iwerddon a'r Alban, i ddod o hyd i ateb boddhaol i bawb.

O ran sir Ddinbych, rhaid cadarnhau'r hyn a achosodd y llifogydd. Mae gan y cyngor rwymedigaeth statudol ac mae'n ymchwilio i'r mater. Mae hyn yn ychwanegol at waith yr Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd ar y rhesymau a'r adroddiad ôl-ddigwyddiad ar ddigwyddiadau yn y gogledd ym mis Tachwedd. Rhaid inni ystyried y gwaith pan fydd wedi'i gwblhau.

O ran buddsoddi, mae gennym raglen fuddsoddi gwerth £150 miliwn, a byddwn yn denu dros £70 miliwn o gronfa datblygu rhanbarthol Ewrop a ffynonellau eraill yn ystod oes y Cynulliad hwn, gan ddiogelu nifer fawr o eiddo, busnesau a seilweithiau ledled Cymru. Byddwn yn blaenoriaethu, gyda'n partneriaid, wrth ddatblygu ein strategaeth genedlaethol.

I gloi, mae digwyddiadau y llynedd wedi dangos yn glir fod angen i bawb sydd â rhan i'w chwarae ailedrych ar ein strategaethau a'n camau gweithredu, meddwl yn ddwys, a gwneud popeth o fewn ein gallu i ddiogelu ein cymunedau, ein busnesau a'n seilweithiau. Croesawaf y ddadl hon. Mae'n gyfle pwysig i drafod y materion hollbwysig hyn, a diolchaf i'r Aelodau am eu cyfraniadau.

Nick Ramsay: Rwy'n falch o gael cau'r ddadl hon a chroesawu'r gefnogaeth i'n cynnig o bob rhan o'r Siambr. Mae'n bwnc yr ydym yn dychwelyd ato'n aml yn y

Chamber, but I think that most Members would think that that is quite the right thing to do. This is an issue that constantly and increasingly affects constituents the length and breadth of Wales, and, as many Assembly Members have pointed out, it is an issue that threatens to grow with climate change.

I do not have time to refer to everyone who contributed, but I thank you for your contributions. I will touch on some points that have been made. Russ George, in opening the debate, spoke about the increasing problems due to climate change—an issue picked up by the Minister just a moment ago. Russ also spoke about the professionalism of the rescue services, and I know that a number of Assembly Members did that as well. Clearly, we all recognise the important role that they play. You also spoke about the fact that some fire stations and emergency service depots are actually on floodplains themselves; so, that is clearly an issue that we would hope that the Welsh Government would look at and try to address.

Bill Powell spoke about the urgent need to review the TAN, and also the need to keep technical advice notes up to date in general. There was a difference of opinion with the Minister on that. I agree with those Assembly Members who said that the TANs, too often, are not kept up to date in the way that they should. That is not entirely the fault of the Government, but the fact that the situation now, particularly in terms of flooding, is very fast-moving and changes day to day. However, there is a need—compared with even 10 years ago—for those technical advice notes to be kept up to date, for the situation to be kept monitored. As Darren Millar said, too often we see brand-new housing estates being flooded. Clearly, something is going wrong.

William Graham spoke about the incalculable cost of flooding and concerns about Government capacity. You mentioned a subject close to my heart, that is, the Caldicot and Wentflog land drainage board. I know that it has had issues recently, but over many hundreds of years it has done a great deal to

Siambwr, ond credaf y byddai'r rhan fwyaf o Aelodau yn credu mai dyna'r peth cywir i'w wneud. Mae hwn yn fater sydd, yn gyson ac yn gynyddol, yn effeithio ar etholwyr ar hyd a lled Cymru, ac, fel y nododd llawer o Aelodau Cynulliad, mae'n fater sy'n bygwth cynyddu gyda newid yn yr hinsawdd.

Nid oes gennyf amser i gyfeirio at bawb a gyfrannodd, ond hoffwn ddiolch ichi am eich cyfraniadau. Soniaf am rai pwyntiau a wnaed. Soniodd Russ George, wrth agor y ddadl hon, am y problemau cynyddol o ganlyniad i newid yn yr hinsawdd—mater a grybwillwyd gan y Gweinidog ychydig funudau'n ôl. Soniodd Russ hefyd am broffesiynoldeb y gwasanaethau achub, a gwn i nifer o Aelodau Cynulliad wneud hynny hefyd. Yn amlwg, rydym i gyd yn cydnabod y rôl bwysig y maent yn ei chwarae. Soniasoch hefyd am y ffaith bod rhai gorsafoddd tân a depos gwasanaethau brys wedi'u lleoli ar orlifdiroedd eu hunain, felly, mae hynny'n amlwg yn fater y byddem yn gobeithio y byddai Llywodraeth Cymru yn edrych arno ac yn ceisio mynd i'r afael ag ef.

Soniodd Bill Powell fod angen adolygu'r nodyn cyngor technegol fel mater o frys, a hefyd fod angen sicrhau bod nodiadau cyngor technegol yn gyfredol yn gyffredinol. Roedd barn y Gweinidog ar hynny yn wahanol. Cytunaf â'r Aelodau hynny a ddywedodd fod methiant, yn rhy aml, i ddiweddarau nodiadau cyngor technegol yn y ffordd y dylent gael eu diweddarau. Nid bai'r Llywodraeth yw hynny i gyd, ond mae'n ffaith bod y sefyllfa, yn enwedig o ran llifogydd, bellach yn newid yn gyflym ac o ddydd i ddydd. Fodd bynnag, mae angen—o gymharu â hyd yn oed 10 mlynedd yn ôl—sicrhau bod y nodiadau cyngor technegol yn gyfredol, ac angen i'r sefyllfa gael ei monitro drwy'r amser. Fel y dywedodd Darren Millar, yn rhy aml gwelwn lifogydd ar ystadau tai newydd sbon. Yn amlwg, mae rhywbeth yn mynd o'i le.

Soniodd William Graham am gost anfeisuradwy llifogydd a phryderon am allu'r Llywodraeth. Soniasoch am bwnc sy'n agos at fy nghalon, hynny yw, bwrdd draenio tir Cil-y-coed a Gwynllŵg. Gwn ei fod wedi cael problemau'n ddiweddar, ond dros gannoedd lawer o flynyddoedd, mae wedi

represent local people at risk of flooding. I have spoken to the Minister before about the need to preserve that expertise; I hope that he will have heard those calls again in this debate and will be doing what he can to make sure that that expertise is preserved. As I mentioned in the debate on the committee's report, if that sea wall, which is in your constituency, Minister, were not maintained, and if there were a coastal surge, you could see flooding right up to the centre of Newport, and the M4 could be affected. It would be absolutely catastrophic for the Welsh economy. We need to make sure that, where necessary, you do not have this managed retreat, which I am sure is an easy option in some areas of Wales. Perhaps if no-one lives there, and if there is no valuable farmland, that is fine. However, where we do need to maintain the sea walls, please ensure that that does actually happen.

Antoinette Sandbach spoke about the insurance issue, which is clearly a UK issue primarily. However, we would hope, Minister, that you and the Welsh Government have an input into that because when it comes down to it and these incidents happen insurance really is an important issue. We must get that right.

A couple of Assembly Members have mentioned the enterprise zone issue. Perhaps we could have some comments from the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science on that in due course. I will not ask you to comment today, Minister; I can see that you would rather not talk about it today.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. There is no time. It would not be in order.

Nick Ramsay: We do not have time. If six of those enterprise zones are actually built on floodplains, we certainly do not want them flooding straight away or we will all be here, jumping up and down, and causing you massive annoyance I am sure, as we are prone to doing sometimes. Please make sure that we do not have to do that to you, Minister.

gwneud llawer i gynrychioli pobl leol sy'n wynebu perygl llifogydd. Rwyf wedi siarad â'r Gweinidog o'r blaen ynghylch yr angen i gadw'r arbenigedd hwnnw; gobeithiaf y bydd wedi clywed y galwadau hynny eto yn y ddadl hon ac y bydd yn gwneud popeth o fewn ei allu i sicrhau bod arbenigedd yn cael ei gadw. Fel y soniais yn y ddadl ar adroddiad y pwyllgor, pe na bai'r morglawdd, sydd yn eich etholaeth chi, Weinidog, yn cael ei gynnal a'i gadw, a phe bai ymchwydd arfordirol, gallech weld llifogydd hyd at ganol Casnewydd, a allai effeithio ar yr M4. Byddai'n gwbl drychinebus i economi Cymru. Mae angen inni sicrhau, lle bo angen, na fydd cilio rheoledig, sy'n opsiwn hawdd mewn rhai ardaloedd o Gymru, mae'n siŵr gennyf. Efallai os nad oes neb yn byw yno, ac os nad oes tir ffermio gwerthfawr, mae hynny'n iawn. Fodd bynnag, lle mae angen inni gynnal y morgloddiau, a wnewch chi sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd mewn gwirionedd.

Soniodd Antoinette Sandbach am yswiriant, sy'n amlwg yn fater i'r DU yn bennaf. Fodd bynnag, byddem yn gobeithio, Weinidog, eich bod chi a Llywodraeth Cymru yn gwneud cyfraniad yn hynny o beth oherwydd yn y pen draw, pan fydd digwyddiadau, mae yswiriant yn bwysig iawn. Rhaid inni gael hynny'n iawn.

Mae un neu ddau Aelod Cynulliad wedi crybwyll ardaloedd menter. Efallai y bydd y Gweinidog Busnes, Menter, Technoleg a Gwyddoniaeth yn gwneud rhai sylwadau ar hynny maes o law. Ni ofynnaf ichi wneud sylwadau heddiw, Weinidog; gallaf weld y byddai'n well gennych beidio â siarad am y peth heddiw.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid oes amser. Ni fyddai mewn trefn.

Nick Ramsay: Nid oes gennym amser. Os yw chwech o'r ardaloedd menter hynny wedi'u lleoli ar orlifdiroedd mewn gwirionedd, yn sicr nid ydym am eu gweld yn mynd dan ddŵr ar unwaith neu byddwn i gyd yma, yn neidio i fyny ac i lawr, ac yn achosi poendod mawr ichi mae'n siŵr, fel yr ydym yn dueddol o wneud weithiau. A wnewch sicrhau na fydd yn rhaid inni wneud hynny ichi, Weinidog.

In conclusion, it has been a really good debate, and all parties share our concern. We are supporting all the amendments, and I urge Assembly Members from all parties to support the motion. Let us put in place the sort of protection that we need to see for the people of Wales against flooding, which will continue to be an increasing problem over the months and years ahead.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree the motion without amendment. Does any Member object? I see that there is an objection. I therefore defer voting until voting time, which now follows.

Before I proceed, are there three Members who wish the bell to be rung? I see that there are not.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.
Voting deferred until voting time.*

I gloi, bu'n ddadl dda iawn, ac mae pob plaid yn rhannu ein pryder. Rydym yn cefnogi pob gwelliant, ac anogaf Aelodau Cynulliad o bob plaid i gefnogi'r cynnig. Gadewch inni roi ar waith y math o amddiffyniad y mae angen inni ei weld ar gyfer pobl Cymru rhag llifogydd, a fydd yn parhau i fod yn broblem gynyddol dros y misoedd a'r blynnyddoedd i ddod.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw y dylid derbyn y cynnig heb ei ddiwygio. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf fod gwrthwynebiad. Felly gohiriaf y bleidlais tan y cyfnod pleidleisio sydd yn awr yn dilyn.

Cyn imi fynd ymlaen, a oes tri Aelod sy'n dymuno i'r gloch gael ei chanu? Gwelaf nad oes.

Cyfnod Pleidleisio Voting Time

*Cynnig NDM5134: O blaid 12, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 39.
Motion NDM5134: For 12, Abstain 0, Against 39.*

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Byron
Davies, Paul
Davies, Suzy
Finch-Saunders, Janet
George, Russell
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Millar, Darren
Ramsay, Nick
Sandbach, Antoinette

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

Andrews, Leighton
Antoniw, Mick
Black, Peter
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Keith
Drakeford, Mark
Evans, Rebecca
Gething, Vaughan
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
Hart, Edwina
Hedges, Mike
Hutt, Jane
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Julie
Neagle, Lynne
Parrott, Eluned
Powell, William

Price, Gwyn R.
Rathbone, Jenny
Rees, David
Roberts, Aled
Sargeant, Carl
Skates, Kenneth
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Thomas, Simon
Watson, Joyce
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
Motion not agreed.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM5134: O blaid 51, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 1 to NDM5134: For 51, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Antoniw, Mick
Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Byron
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Keith
Davies, Paul
Davies, Suzy
Drakeford, Mark
Evans, Rebecca
Finch-Saunders, Janet
George, Russell
Gething, Vaughan
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
Hart, Edwina
Hedges, Mike
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Mewies, Sandy
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Julie
Neagle, Lynne
Parrott, Eluned
Powell, William
Price, Gwyn R.
Ramsay, Nick
Rathbone, Jenny
Rees, David
Roberts, Aled
Sandbach, Antoinette

Sargeant, Carl
Skates, Kenneth
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Thomas, Simon
Watson, Joyce
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment agreed.*

*Gwelliant 2 i NDM5134: O blaid 50, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 2 to NDM5134: For 50, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Antoniw, Mick
Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Byron
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Keith
Davies, Paul
Davies, Suzy
Drakeford, Mark
Evans, Rebecca
Finch-Saunders, Janet
George, Russell
Gething, Vaughan
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
Hart, Edwina
Hedges, Mike
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Mewies, Sandy
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Julie
Neagle, Lynne
Parrott, Eluned
Powell, William
Price, Gwyn R.
Ramsay, Nick
Rathbone, Jenny
Rees, David
Roberts, Aled
Sandbach, Antoinette
Sargeant, Carl
Skates, Kenneth
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Thomas, Simon

Watson, Joyce
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment agreed.*

*Gwelliant 3 i NDM5134: O blaid 25, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 26.
Amendment 3 to NDM5134: For 25, Abstain 0, Against 26.*

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Byron
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Paul
Davies, Suzy
Finch-Saunders, Janet
George, Russell
Graham, William
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
Isherwood, Mark
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Millar, Darren
Parrott, Eluned
Powell, William
Ramsay, Nick
Roberts, Aled
Sandbach, Antoinette
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Thomas, Simon
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

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

Andrews, Leighton
Antoniw, Mick
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Keith
Drakeford, Mark
Evans, Rebecca
Gething, Vaughan
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hedges, Mike
Hutt, Jane
Lewis, Huw
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Julie
Neagle, Lynne
Price, Gwyn R.
Rathbone, Jenny
Rees, David
Sargeant, Carl
Skates, Kenneth
Thomas, Gwenda
Watson, Joyce

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment not agreed.*

*Gwelliant 4 i NDM5134: O blaid 46, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 5.
Amendment 4 to NDM5134: For 46, Abstain 0, Against 5.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Antoniw, Mick
Asghar, Mohammad
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Byron
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Keith
Davies, Paul
Davies, Suzy
Drakeford, Mark
Evans, Rebecca
Finch-Saunders, Janet

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

Black, Peter
Parrott, Eluned
Powell, William
Roberts, Aled
Williams, Kirsty

George, Russell
 Gething, Vaughan
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
 Hart, Edwina
 Hedges, Mike
 Hutt, Jane
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Mewies, Sandy
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Julie
 Neagle, Lynne
 Price, Gwyn R.
 Ramsay, Nick
 Rathbone, Jenny
 Rees, David
 Sandbach, Antoinette
 Sargeant, Carl
 Skates, Kenneth
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Thomas, Simon
 Watson, Joyce
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment agreed.*

*Gwelliant 5 i NDM5134: O blaid 25, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 26.
 Amendment 5 to NDM5134: For 25, Abstain 0, Against 26.*

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

Asghar, Mohammad
 Black, Peter
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Byron
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Paul
 Davies, Suzy
 Finch-Saunders, Janet
 George, Russell
 Graham, William
 Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Millar, Darren
 Parrott, Eluned
 Powell, William
 Ramsay, Nick
 Roberts, Aled
 Sandbach, Antoinette
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Thomas, Simon
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Antoniw, Mick
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Keith
 Drakeford, Mark
 Evans, Rebecca
 Gething, Vaughan
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hedges, Mike
 Hutt, Jane
 Lewis, Huw
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Julie
 Neagle, Lynne
 Price, Gwyn R.
 Rathbone, Jenny
 Rees, David
 Sargeant, Carl
 Skates, Kenneth
 Thomas, Gwenda

Watson, Joyce

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment not agreed.*

*Gwelliant 6 i NDM5134: O blaid 51, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 6 to NDM5134: For 51, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Antoniw, Mick
Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Byron
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Keith
Davies, Paul
Davies, Suzy
Drakeford, Mark
Evans, Rebecca
Finch-Saunders, Janet
George, Russell
Gething, Vaughan
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
Hart, Edwina
Hedges, Mike
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Mewies, Sandy
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Julie
Neagle, Lynne
Parrott, Eluned
Powell, William
Price, Gwyn R.
Ramsay, Nick
Rathbone, Jenny
Rees, David
Roberts, Aled
Sandbach, Antoinette
Sargeant, Carl
Skates, Kenneth
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Thomas, Simon
Watson, Joyce
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment agreed.*

*Gwelliant 7 i NDM5134: O blaid 25, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 26.
Amendment 7 to NDM5134: For 25, Abstain 0, Against 26.*

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Byron
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Paul
Davies, Suzy
Finch-Saunders, Janet
George, Russell
Graham, William
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
Isherwood, Mark
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Millar, Darren
Parrott, Eluned
Powell, William
Ramsay, Nick
Roberts, Aled
Sandbach, Antoinette
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Thomas, Simon
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

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

Andrews, Leighton
Antoniw, Mick
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Keith
Drakeford, Mark
Evans, Rebecca
Gething, Vaughan
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hedges, Mike
Hutt, Jane
Lewis, Huw
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Julie
Neagle, Lynne
Price, Gwyn R.
Rathbone, Jenny
Rees, David
Sargeant, Carl
Skates, Kenneth
Thomas, Gwenda
Watson, Joyce

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment not agreed.*

*Gwelliant 8 i NDM5134: O blaid 25, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 26.
Amendment 8 to NDM5134: For 25, Abstain 0, Against 26.*

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Byron
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Paul
Davies, Suzy
Finch-Saunders, Janet
George, Russell
Graham, William
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
Isherwood, Mark
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Millar, Darren
Parrott, Eluned
Powell, William
Ramsay, Nick
Roberts, Aled
Sandbach, Antoinette
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

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

Andrews, Leighton
Antoniw, Mick
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Keith
Drakeford, Mark
Evans, Rebecca
Gething, Vaughan
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hedges, Mike
Hutt, Jane
Lewis, Huw
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Julie
Neagle, Lynne
Price, Gwyn R.
Rathbone, Jenny
Rees, David

Thomas, Simon
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Sargeant, Carl
Skates, Kenneth
Thomas, Gwenda
Watson, Joyce

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment not agreed.*

Cynnig NDM5134 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

Motion NDM5134 as amended:

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Yn nodi'r llifogydd difrifol a effeithiodd ar Gymru gyfan yn 2012 a'r distryw a achoswyd mewn cymunedau ledled Cymru ac yn mynegi gofid y bydd graddfa ac amllder digwyddiadau o'r fath yn siŵr o gynyddu wrth i'n hinsawdd newid ac wrth i lefelau'r môr godi.

1. Notes the severe flooding which affected the whole of Wales in 2012 causing devastation to communities throughout Wales and expresses regret that as our climate changes and sea levels rise, the scale and frequency of such events will inevitably increase.

2. Yn cydnabod gwaith ardderchog y gwasanaethau brys a chryfder yr ysbryd cymunedol wrth fynd i'r afael ag effeithiau llifogydd difrifol.

2. Recognises the excellent work of the emergency services and the strength of community spirit in tackling the effects of severe flooding.

3. Yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd dull gweithredu ar draws portffolios i reoli llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol yng Nghymru a manteision gwybodaeth leol wrth lunio arferion rheoli tir effeithiol, i leihau nifer yr achosion o lifogydd.

3. Recognises the importance of a cross-portfolio approach to flood and coastal erosion management in Wales and the benefit of local knowledge in devising effective land management practices, to reduce the incidence of flooding.

4. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau bod datblygu ar orlifdiroedd yn cael ei adolygu fel rhan o'i pholisi cynllunio.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that development on floodplains is reviewed as part of its planning policy.

5. Yn galw ymhellach ar Lywodraeth Cymru i roi sicrwydd y bydd y corff newydd, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru, yn cefnogi ac yn rheoli'n effeithiol bob ymdrech i fynd i'r afael â llifogydd yng Nghymru.

5. Further calls on the Welsh Government to provide assurances that the new Natural Resources Wales body will effectively manage and support all efforts to tackle flooding in Wales.

6. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i bwysu ar Lywodraeth y DU i drafod telerau Datganiad Egwyddorion diwygiedig ar lifogydd gyda chwmnïau yswiriant, gan fod y Datganiad Egwyddorion presennol yn dod i ben ar 30 Mehefin 2013.

6. Calls on the Welsh Government to press the UK Government to negotiate a revised Statement of Principles on flooding with insurance companies as the current Statement of Principles expires on 30 June 2013.

*Cynnig NDM5134 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 51, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion NDM5134 as amended: For 51, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

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

Andrews, Leighton
Antoniw, Mick
Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Byron
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Keith
Davies, Paul
Davies, Suzy
Drakeford, Mark
Evans, Rebecca
Finch-Saunders, Janet
George, Russell
Gething, Vaughan
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Gruffydd, Llyr Huws
Hart, Edwina
Hedges, Mike
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Mewies, Sandy
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Julie
Neagle, Lynne
Parrott, Eluned
Powell, William
Price, Gwyn R.
Ramsay, Nick
Rathbone, Jenny
Rees, David
Roberts, Aled
Sandbach, Antoinette
Sargeant, Carl
Skates, Kenneth
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Thomas, Simon
Watson, Joyce
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM5134 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
Motion NDM5134 as amended agreed.*

6.00 p.m.

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Pwysigrwydd Cynnal Gofal Newyddenedigol Lefel 3 yng Ngogledd Cymru The Importance of Retaining Level 3 Neonatal Care in North Wales

Antoinette Sandbach: I have agreed that **Antoinette Sandbach:** Rwyf wedi cytuno y

Aled Roberts, Darren Millar and Llyr Huws Gruffydd can have a minute in which to speak during this debate.

In 2005 Health Commission Wales undertook a review of neonatal services in Wales—a review that was revisited by an expert group led by Dr Jean Matthes, consultant neonatologist at Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board. Dr Matthes's review resulted in all-Wales neonatal standards—I stress that these were all-Wales standards—being developed by a clinical advisory group into a business case that was accepted by the then Minister for Health and Social Services in December 2009, just three short years ago. The business case that she accepted specifically recommended that specialist neonatal services should be concentrated into four centres—three in the south, which already exist, and one in the north. However, I am here today, in spite of the accepted recommendations of a long and exhaustive reporting process, fighting for the rights of parents in north Wales to have access to level 3 neonatal care for their critically ill newborns: access these desperate parents will be denied if the Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board succeeds in downgrading the neonatal service for the whole of north Wales.

The single neonatal centre for north Wales has never been implemented and there has been no political pressure from successive Ministers for health to force the Betsi or its predecessor health boards to implement the 2005 or 2009 decisions. It is this clear failure of political leadership from the Welsh Government that has led to the situation in north Wales. The health board's proposals will leave the parents of the sickest, weakest babies hours away from the proposed level 3 neonatal unit based in England at Arrowe Park Hospital on the Wirral. For parents in Anglesey, this will mean a 280-mile round trip to a hospital whose neonatal unit is about to come under review, and, according to the north Wales advanced neonatal nurse practitioner team, the services provided by Arrowe Park will be no different from those

gall Aled Roberts, Darren Millar a Llyr Huws Gruffydd gael munud i siarad yn ystod y ddadl hon.

Yn 2005 cynhaliodd Comisiwn Iechyd Cymru adolygiad o wasanaethau newyddenedigol yng Nghymru—adolygiad a gafodd ei ailystyried gan grŵp arbenigol a arweinir gan Dr Jean Matthes, neonatolegydd ymgynghorol ym Mwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg. Arweiniodd adolygiad Dr Matthes at safonau newyddenedigol Cymru gyfan—rwy'n pwysleisio mai safonau ar gyfer Cymru gyfan yw'r rhain—a gaiff eu datblygu gan grŵp cynghori clinigol yn achos busnes a dderbyniwyd gan y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ar y pryd ym mis Rhagfyr 2009, dim ond tair blynedd yn ôl. Roedd yr achos busnes a dderbyniodd yn argymhell yn benodol y dylid crynhoi gwasanaethau arbenigol newyddenedigol mewn pedair canolfan—tair yn y de, sydd eisoes yn bodoli, ac un yn y gogledd. Fodd bynnag, rwyf yma heddiw, er gwaethaf argymhellion a dderbyniwyd o broses adrodd hir a thrwyadl, yn ymladd dros hawliau rhieni yng ngogledd Cymru i gael mynediad at ofal newyddenedigol lefel 3 ar gyfer eu babanod newydd-anedig sy'n ddifrifol wael: mynediad a gaiff ei wrthod i'r rhieni taer hyn os bydd Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr Lleol yn llwyddo i israddio'r gwasanaeth newyddenedigol gyfer y gogledd gyfan.

Nid yw'r ganolfan newyddenedigol sengl ar gyfer y gogledd wedi cael ei sefydlu ac ni fu unrhyw bwysau gwleidyddol gan y Gweinidogion iechyd olynol i orfodi bwrdd iechyd Betsi na'i ragflaenydd i weithredu ar benderfyniadau 2005 na 2009. Y methiant clir hwn gan Lywodraeth Cymru i roi arweiniad gwleidyddol a arweiniodd at y sefyllfa yn y gogledd. Bydd cynigion y bwrdd iechyd yn golygu y bydd rhieni'r babanod gwaelaf a gwannaf oriau i ffwrdd o'r uned newyddenedigol lefel 3 arfaethedig yn Lloegr yn Ysbyty Arrowe Park yng Nghilgwri. I rieni yn Ynys Môn, bydd hyn yn golygu taith 280 milltir yno ac yn ôl i ysbyty y mae ei uned newyddenedigol ar fin cael ei hadolygu, ac, yn ôl uwch dîm ymarferwyr nyrsio newyddenedigol y gogledd, ni fydd y gwasanaethau a ddarperir gan Arrowe Park

currently available in north Wales.

yn wahanol i'r rhai sydd ar gael ar hyn o bryd yn y gogledd.

The Royal College of Nursing in Wales states that it is:

Mae Coleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys yng Nghymru yn datgan ei fod:

'firmly opposed to this proposal, which we do not believe is the option that will provide the best care.'

yn gadarn yn erbyn y cynnig hwn, na chredwn yw'r opsiwn a fydd yn cynnig y gofal gorau.

That can only lead to this question: why is the Minister ignoring the clear clinical need for a neonatal intensive care unit in north Wales at Glan Clwyd Hospital? That need has been identified in committee and in expert review. The Minister has said that there will be no downgrading, but appears to accept the transfer of a service to a district general hospital whose neonatal department is facing the same challenges as those in north Wales, and over which we will have practically no influence on behalf of our constituents. Even more worrying is the recent letter from a lead nurse at the women and children's division that states that at Arrowe Park:

Ni all hynny ond arwain at y cwestiwn hwn: pam mae'r Gweinidog yn anwybyddu'r angen clinigol amlwg am uned gofal newyddenedigol dwys yn y gogledd yn Ysbyty Glan Clwyd? Nodwyd yr angen hwnnw mewn pwyllgor ac mewn adolygiad arbenigol. Dywedodd y Gweinidog na fydd unrhyw israddio, ond ymddengys ei fod yn derbyn cam i drosglwyddo gwasanaeth i ysbyty cyffredinol dosbarth y mae ei adran newyddenedigol yn wynebu'r un heriau â'r rhai yn y gogledd, ac na fydd gennym unrhyw ddylanwad arni bron ar ran ein hetholwyr. Yr hyn sy'n peri hyd yn oed mwy o bryder yw'r llythyr diweddar gan nyrs arweiniol yn yr is-adran merched a phlant sy'n datgan y canlynol am Arrowe Park:

'The standard of care that we are giving to our patients is not good enough and is deteriorating.'

Nid yw safon y gofal rydym yn ei roi i'n cleifion yn ddigon da ac mae'n dirywio.

The letter goes on to say:

Mae'r llythyr yn mynd yn ei flaen i ddweud:

'we are losing patients to other providers because we are rude to them, we are not giving them what they need, we are not providing good care for them and they are going away from us unhappy'.

rydym yn colli cleifion i ddarparwyr eraill oherwydd ein bod yn anghwrtais iddynt, nid ydym yn rhoi yr hyn sydd ei angen arnynt, nid ydym yn darparu gofal da iddynt ac maent yn ein gadael yn anhapus.

It is to this unit that the Betsi wants to send our sickest and most vulnerable babies. What about the clinical case? The document, 'Healthcare in North Wales is Changing', states that only 36 babies in north Wales will be affected by the changes to level 3 neonatal care. However, the Betsi, unfortunately, does not record the number of babies requiring intensive care, and instead founded its business case on the assumption that all babies under 27 weeks were those most likely to require complex care. In 2011 that were 34 such babies under 27 weeks, but the total number of babies admitted to all the Betsi's neonatal units in 2011 was 781. So, the needs

I'r uned hon y mae bwrdd iechyd Betsi am anfon ein babanod gwaelaf a mwyaf agored i niwed. Beth am yr achos clinigol? Mae'r ddogfen 'Mae Gofal Iechyd yng Ngogledd Cymru yn Newid' yn datgan mai dim ond 36 o fabanod yn y gogledd fydd yn cael eu heffeithio gan y newidiadau i ofal newyddenedigol lefel 3. Fodd bynnag, yn anffodus, nid yw bwrdd iechyd Betsi yn cofnodi nifer y babanod sydd ag angen gofal dwys, ac yn hytrach, seiliodd ei achos busnes ar y dybiaeth mai'r holl fabanod o dan 27 wythnos oedd y rhai mwyaf tebygol o fod angen gofal cymhleth. Yn 2011 roedd 34 o fabanod o'r fath o dan 27 wythnos, ond

of all those infants over 27 weeks who are critically ill have been disregarded in the case for change.

derbyniwyd cyfanswm o 781 o fabanod i holl unedau newyddenedigol Betsi yn 2011. Felly, mae anghenion yr holl fabanod dros 27 wythnos sy'n ddifrifol wael wedi cael eu diystyru yn yr achos dros newid.

*Daeth y Llywydd i'r Gadair am 6.03 p.m.
The Presiding Officer took the Chair at 6.03 p.m.*

Very premature babies are not the only infants requiring complex care. The north Wales advanced neonatal nurse practitioner team has stated that term babies who suffer perinatal hypoxia may go on to develop hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy. These babies are well prior to delivery, and therefore their need for neonatal intensive care cannot be predicted, nor antenatal transfer arranged. They are acutely unwell at delivery and will require extensive resuscitation, stabilisation and full intensive care. That was the experience of my sister with the birth of my niece.

Nid babanod cynamserol iawn yw'r unig fabanod y mae angen gofal cymhleth arnynt. Mae uwch dîm ymarferwyr nyrsio newyddenedigol y gogledd wedi datgan y gall babanod cyfnod llawn sydd â hypocsia amenedigol fynd ymlaen i ddatblygu enseffalopathi hypocsig-isgemig. Mae'r babanod hyn yn iach cyn cael eu geni, ac felly ni ellir rhagweld eu hangen am ofal dwys newyddenedigol, nac am gael eu trosglwyddo cyn cael eu geni. Maent yn sâl iawn pan gânt eu geni a bydd angen eu dadebru a'u sefydlogi yn helaeth a rhoi gofal dwys llawn iddynt. Dyna oedd profiad fy chwaer gyda genedigaeth fy nith.

The team goes on to say that, since 2007, therapeutic whole-body cooling has been advocated for these babies, and has been shown to improve outcomes. This controlled cooling must be instigated within six hours of birth. It would therefore be highly unlikely that therapeutic cooling could be commenced within the six-hour window for treatment if level 3 care is moved to Arrowe Park Hospital. I cannot tell you how many babies required vital therapeutic cooling in 2011, because the Betsi has not retained that information. It has, therefore, simply ignored infants with hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, and that is just one condition—one complication—applicable to infants born after 27 weeks' gestation.

Mae'r tîm yn mynd ymlaen i ddweud bod system oeri corff cyfan therapiwtig wedi cael ei argymhell ar gyfer y babanod hyn ers 2007, a dangoswyd ei fod yn gwella canlyniadau. Rhaid rhoi'r system oeri reoledig hon ar waith o fewn chwe awr i amser yr enedigaeth. Felly, byddai'n annhebygol iawn y gellid rhoi system oeri therapiwtig ar waith o fewn y ffenestr chwe awr ar gyfer triniaeth os caiff gofal lefel 3 ei symud i Ysbyty Arrowe Park. Ni allaf ddweud wrthyf faint o fabanod yr oedd angen system oeri therapiwtig hanfodol arnynt yn 2011, gan nad yw bwrdd iechyd Betsi wedi cadw'r wybodaeth honno. Felly, mae'n syml wedi anwybyddu babanod ag enseffalopathi hypocsig-isgemig, a dim ond un cyflwr yw hwn—un cymhlethdod—sy'n berthnasol i fabanod a anwyd ar ôl 27 wythnos o feichiogrwydd.

The transportation of very ill infants also has a significant impact on their health and survival, as does separation from their mothers. Postnatal transfers from Ysbyty Gwynedd to Arrowe Park Hospital would be 72 miles, taking 1 hour and 24 minutes, and from Glan Clwyd Hospital it would be 40 miles, taking 48 minutes. During that time, the transferring team does not have access to

Mae cludo babanod sâl iawn hefyd yn cael effaith sylweddol ar eu hiechyd a'u goroesiad, ynghyd â'u gwahanu oddi wrth eu mamau. Byddai trosglwyddiadau ôl-enedigol o Ysbyty Gwynedd i Ysbyty Arrowe Park yn 72 milltir, ac yn cymryd awr a 24 munud, ac o Ysbyty Glan Clwyd byddai'n 40 milltir, ac yn cymryd 48 munud. Yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw, nid oes unrhyw wasanaethau

clinical support services and is travelling at speed, which can cause cardiovascular instability in a sick neonate. Extremely premature infants are at risk of intraventricular haemorrhage, purely due to their gestation. In addition, postnatal transfer has been found to increase the incidence of IVH. Therefore, the Betsi is further endangering the lives of very sick babies by forcing them to travel considerable distances. Transport would also require highly trained staff to leave the neonatal unit, compromising the care of the remaining level 1 and 2 infants.

Will Arrowe Park have the capacity? Apparently, Arrowe Park offers fewer cots than are currently available in north Wales, meaning there may not be sufficient cots and further transfer may be required. Furthermore, clinicians have actively spoken out against the proposals. Mr Philip Banfield, the consultant who articulated the response on behalf of the British Medical Association, highlighted that there is no clinical evidence to support the move—quite the contrary. Despite a number of questions on outcomes related to care at Arrowe Park, that information is not in the public domain—unlike the information from north Wales, which shows that, despite north Wales not conforming with the British Association of Perinatal Medicine standards, the care given and outcomes for patients are consistent with those of the very best neonatal units.

Therefore, it is wholly wrong for the First Minister, the Minister for health and the Betsi to suggest that this is an unsafe service. The evidence shows otherwise. The question should be: what is it that Arrowe Park is hiding and why is it refusing to put its outcome information into the public domain? Furthermore, other care services in north Wales, such as some cancer care services, also do not conform to current service standards in the NHS. It is clear that this is not about the clinical case and is not based on evidence and outcomes.

cymorth clinigol ar gael i'r tîm trosglwyddo, ac mae'n teithio ar gyflymder, a all achosi ansefydlogrwydd cardiofasgwlaidd mewn newydd-anedig sâl. Mae babanod cynamserol iawn mewn perygl o gael gwaedlif mewnwythiennol, a hynny o ganlyniad i gyfnod y beichiogrwydd. Yn ogystal, canfuwyd bod trosglwyddo ôl-enedigol yn cynyddu nifer yr achosion o IVH. Felly, mae bwrdd iechyd Betsi yn peryglu bywydau babanod sâl iawn trwy eu gorfodi i deithio pellteroedd mawr. Byddai eu cludo hefyd yn gofyn am staff sydd wedi'u hyfforddi'n drwyadl i adael yr uned newyddenedigol, gan beryglu gofal y babanod lefel 1 a 2 sy'n weddill.

A fydd gan Arrowe Park y gallu a'r adnoddau? Yn ôl y sôn, mae Arrowe Park yn cynnig llai o gotiau na'r hyn sydd ar gael yn y gogledd ar hyn o bryd, sy'n golygu efallai na fydd digon o gotiau ar gael ac y byddai angen trosglwyddo'r babanod eto. Ar ben hynny, mae clinigwyr wedi siarad yn weithredol yn erbyn y cynigion. Tynnodd Mr Philip Banfield, yr ymgynghorydd a fynegodd yr ymateb ar ran Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain, sylw at y ffaith nad oes unrhyw dystiolaeth glinigol i gefnogi'r newid—i'r gwrthwyneb yn llwyr. Er gwaethaf nifer o gwestiynau ar ganlyniadau sy'n gysylltiedig â'r gofal yn Arrowe Park, nid yw'r wybodaeth honno wedi'i rhyddhau'n gyhoeddus—yn wahanol i'r wybodaeth o'r gogledd, sy'n dangos, er gwaethaf y ffaith nad yw'r gogledd yn cydymffurfio â Chymdeithas Meddygaeth Amenedigol Prydain, mae'r gofal a roddir a'r canlyniadau ar gyfer cleifion yn gyson â rhai'r unedau newyddenedigol gorau.

Felly, mae'n gwbl anghywir i'r Prif Weinidog, y Gweinidog iechyd a bwrdd iechyd Betsi awgrymu bod hwn yn wasanaeth anniogel. Mae'r dystiolaeth yn dangos fel arall. Y cwestiwn y dylid ei ofyn yw: beth y mae Arrowe Park yn ei guddio a pham ei fod yn gwrthod cyhoeddi ei wybodaeth am y canlyniadau? Ar ben hynny, mae gwasanaethau gofal eraill yn y gogledd, megis rhai gwasanaethau gofal canser, nad ydynt chwaith yn cydymffurfio â safonau gwasanaeth presennol yn y GIG. Mae'n amlwg nad oes a wnelo hyn â'r achos clinigol ac nad yw'n seiliedig ar dystiolaeth a

chanlyniadau.

What about the implications for training? The inquiry into neonatal care in Wales, published in July 2010, was specifically concerned about a lack of specialist staff providing neonatal care and problems with recruiting neonatal doctors and nurses. If we lose intensive neonatal care for the whole of north Wales, not only will we lose provision for babies who need that intensive care, but we will also lose the accumulated expertise of the specialist neonatal nurses and consultants. We will no longer be able to train and retain neonatal nurses in north Wales and those who wish to further their training would be required to travel to Liverpool. The whole quality of our neonatal care would suffer as a result.

Furthermore, during one of the consultations, a consultant paediatrician at Glan Clwyd Hospital suggested that we would also lose five senior house officer positions and that Glan Clwyd's status as a training hospital could be lost. The loss of neonatal nurses trained in Wales will, according to Bliss, affect the whole of Wales. It states that the shortfall of nurses in north Wales affects every health board and every unit. This critical-nursing shortfall is putting babies' lives at risk. This shortfall already exists and is threatening the lives of critically ill babies. By closing the level 3 neonatal intensive care unit in north Wales, the Minister will be making the situation even worse.

What about social need? The parents of very sick babies are extremely vulnerable. The mother is frequently traumatised, physically unwell herself and desperately worried for her child. That is the person whom we are asking to travel miles for extended periods of time for her baby's care. Who will look after her other children? Who will look after her? How will she reach the hospital if she has no car and very little money? How will she breastfeed her newborn? The Royal College of Nursing in Wales states that mothers in these situations are already at risk of postnatal depression and post-traumatic stress

Beth am y goblygiadau ar gyfer hyfforddiant? Roedd yr ymchwiliad i ofal newyddenedigol yng Nghymru, a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Gorffennaf 2010, yn ymwneud yn benodol â diffyg staff arbenigol sy'n darparu gofal newyddenedigol a phroblemau gyda recriwtio meddygon a nyrsys newyddenedigol. Os byddwn yn colli gofal newyddenedigol dwys i bob rhan o'r gogledd, byddwn nid yn unig yn colli darpariaeth ar gyfer babanod y mae angen gofal dwys arnynt, ond byddwn hefyd yn colli arbenigedd cronedig y nyrsys a'r ymgynghorwyr newyddenedigol arbenigol. Ni fyddwn bellach yn gallu hyfforddi a chadw nyrsys newyddenedigol yn y gogledd a byddai'n rhaid i'r rheini sydd am gael hyfforddiant pellach deithio i Lerpwl. Byddai holl ansawdd ein gofal newyddenedigol yn dioddef o ganlyniad.

Ar ben hynny, yn ystod un o'r ymgynghoriadau, awgrymodd paediatregydd ymgynghorol yn Ysbyty Glan Clwyd y byddem hefyd yn colli pum swydd uwch swyddog preswyl ac y gallai Glan Clwyd golli ei statws fel ysbyty hyfforddi. Yn ôl Bliss, bydd colli nyrsys newyddenedigol a hyfforddwyd yng Nghymru yn effeithio ar Gymru gyfan. Mae'n datgan bod y diffyg nyrsys yn y gogledd yn effeithio ar bob bwrdd iechyd a phob uned. Mae'r diffyg nyrsio critigol hwn yn rhoi bywydau babanod mewn perygl. Mae'r diffyg hwn eisoes yn bodoli ac yn bygwth bywydau babanod sy'n ddifrifol wael. Drwy gau'r uned gofal dwys newyddenedigol lefel 3 yn y gogledd, bydd y Gweinidog yn gwaethygu'r sefyllfa ymhellach.

Beth am angen cymdeithasol? Mae rhieni babanod sâl iawn yn agored iawn i niwed. Mae'r fam yn dioddef trawma yn aml, yn gorfforol sâl ei hun ac yn poeni'n daer am ei phlentyn. Y fam yw'r un rydym yn gofyn iddi deithio milltiroedd am gyfnodau estynedig o amser ar gyfer gofal ei babi. Pwy fydd yn gofalu am ei phlant eraill? Pwy fydd yn gofalu amdani hi? Sut y bydd yn cyrraedd yr ysbyty os nad oes ganddi gar ac os nad oes ganddi lawer o arian? Sut y bydd yn bwydo ei newydd-anedig ar y fron? Mae Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol Cymru yn datgan bod mamau yn y sefyllfaoedd hyn eisoes mewn

disorder. There are also practical difficulties with access, because taking the mother away from home means taking her away from any existing children. It can also severely impact on the necessary psychological bonding process between the family and the newborn.

The costs outlined in the business case have not taken into account the cost of Welsh-language provision at Arrowe Park. How will the family communicate if their first language is Welsh? The provision of a translator is not enough to compensate for the loss of a supportive local community.

A recent freedom of information request by Llyr Huws Gruffydd showed the cost of ambulance transfer to be £1,100 per journey. The business case did not include these costs and is deeply flawed. It is clear that the cost savings purportedly identified in the business case are also flawed and do not take into account additional costs identified by respondents as part of the consultation process. I believe that there has been a clear attempt to pull the wool over the eyes of the public in the Betsi's consultation paper. By forcing the most vulnerable babies to travel such distances for treatment, the Minister is ignoring the effects on the newborn's health, on the mother's health, on the ability of the family to cope financially and emotionally, and the impact on the quality of care of all neonatal services in north Wales.

This unwanted plan simply cannot happen. Today, I make a final plea for common sense from NHS bosses. The opposition, statistics and controversy speak for themselves. No patient should be forced to travel further for any treatment, but this proposal in particular has shaken north Wales's healthcare to its core. Having a newborn in intensive care is harrowing enough; driving such long distances to get them there is unthinkable. This must not be forced through, and an alternative has to be found. Labour's record-breaking budget cuts are the driving force behind this unwanted reform. The Minister must be held accountable for the health board's plans, and I implore her to ensure that neonatal care is not wrenched away from

perylg o gael iselder ôl-enedigol ac anhwylder straen ôl-drawmatig. Ceir anawsterau ymarferol hefyd o ran mynediad, oherwydd bydd cymryd y fam o'i chartref yn golygu ei chymryd oddi wrth unrhyw blant sydd ganddi eisoes. Gall hefyd effeithio'n ddifrifol ar y broses angenrheidiol o fondio seicolegol rhwng y teulu a'r newydd-anedig.

Nid yw'r costau a amlinellir yn yr achos busnes wedi ystyried cost darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg yn Arrowe Park. Sut y bydd y teulu yn cyfathrebu os mai Cymraeg yw eu hiaith gyntaf? Nid yw darparu cyfieithydd yn ddigon i wneud iawn am golli cymuned leol gefnogol.

Dangosodd cais rhyddid gwybodaeth diweddar gan Llyr Huws Gruffydd fod cost trosglwyddo claf mewn ambiwlans yn £1,100 fesul taith. Nid oedd yr achos busnes yn cynnwys y costau hyn ac mae'n wallus iawn. Mae'n amlwg bod yr arbedion costau a honnwyd yn yr achos busnes hefyd yn wallus ac nid ydynt yn ystyried y costau ychwanegol a nodwyd gan ymatebwyr fel rhan o'r broses ymgynghori. Credaf y bu ymgais glir i daflu llwch i lygaid y cyhoedd ym mhapur ymgynghori bwrdd iechyd Betsi. Drwy orfodi'r babanod mwyaf agored i niwed i deithio pellteroedd o'r fath ar gyfer triniaeth, mae'r Gweinidog yn anwybyddu'r effeithiau ar iechyd y newydd-anedig, ar iechyd y fam, ar allu'r teulu i ymdopi'n ariannol ac yn emosiynol, a'r effaith ar ansawdd gofal yr holl wasanaethau newyddenedigol yn y gogledd.

Ni all y cynllun diangen hwn fynd rhagddo. Heddiw, rwy'n pledio am y tro olaf i bennaethiaid y GIG ddefnyddio eu synnwyr cyffredin. Mae'r gwrthwynebiad, yr ystadegau a'r dadleuon yn siarad drostynt eu hunain. Ni ddylai unrhyw glaf gael ei orfodi i deithio ymhellach ar gyfer unrhyw driniaeth, ond mae'r cynnig hwn yn benodol wedi rhoi cryn ysgytwad i ofal iechyd yn y gogledd. Mae'n ddigon gofidus cael babi newydd-anedig mewn gofal dwys; mae gyrru pellteroedd mor hir i gyrraedd yno y tu hwnt i amgyffred. Ni ddylid gorfodi hyn, ac mae'n rhaid dod o hyd i ddewis amgen. Toriadau Llafur yn y gyllideb, y rhai mwyaf a welwyd erioed, yw'r grym y tu ôl i'r diwygiad diangen hwn. Rhaid i'r Gweinidog gael ei

north Wales.

Aled Roberts: This morning, I woke up to listen to a lady from Pembrokeshire expressing concern that she would be asked, in similar circumstances, to go to Carmarthen for treatment. What we are looking at here is a situation where somebody living in Holyhead or the Llŷn peninsula will have to travel to the Wirral. Within the next 24 hours, we, as Assembly Members, will know the nature of the recommendations that are to be made to the board on Friday, as far as Betsi LHB is concerned. Apart from the genuine concerns among the population of north Wales, given the deficiencies in the business case that Antoinette Sandbach has already outlined with regard to costings, and, more importantly, with regard to the implications of this decision—we attended public meetings where we were not given the full facts by Betsi LHB—I would hope that, regardless of the view taken by the community health council, the Minister will call this in and look at it properly before any decision is made.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: Ddoe, dywedodd y Prif Weinidog nad oes gwasanaethau nad ydynt yn ddiogel, a heb newid y byddant efallai'n dod yn anniogel. Rwy'n ofni bod y newid arfaethedig hwn yn mynd i'r cyfeiriad arall. Rwy'n rhagweld na fydd y gwasanaethau cystal, ac y byddant yn llai diogel.

Nid yw'r ddogfen ymgynghorol wedi dweud, fel y dylai fod, nad yw'r gwasanaethau yn Arrowe Park yn cwrdd â safonau cenedlaethol. Y gymhareb yn ysbytai Glan Clwyd a Maelor Wrecsam yw un nyrs i bob un cot gofâl dwys; yn Arrowe Park, y gymhareb yw un nyrs i bob dau got. Mae llai o gotiau yn Arrowe Park, fel yr ydym wedi clywed, felly mae cwestiwn ynghylch capasiti, ac mae rheolwyr Arrowe Park eu hunain, fel yr ydym wedi clywed hefyd, yn codi cwestiynau sylfaenol am ansawdd y ddarpariaeth yno.

Fodd bynnag, y ffon fesur bwysicaf i mi o ran diogelwch unrhyw wasanaeth yw barn y

ddwyn i gyfrif am gynlluniau'r bwrdd iechyd, ac rwy'n ymbil arni i sicrhau nad yw'r gogledd yn cael ei amddifadu o ofal newyddenedigol.

Aled Roberts: Y bore yma, deffrais i glywed gwraig o Sir Benfro yn mynegi pryder y byddai gofyn iddi hi, mewn amgylchiadau tebyg, fynd i Gaerfyrddin i gael triniaeth. Yr hyn sydd gennym yma yw sefyllfa lle y bydd yn rhaid i rywun sy'n byw yng Nghaerdybi neu ym Mhen Llŷn deithio i Gilgwri. O fewn y 24 awr nesaf, byddwn ni, fel Aelodau Cynulliad, yn gwybod natur yr argymhellion a wneir i'r bwrdd ddydd Gwener, mewn perthynas â BILl Betsi. Ar wahân i'r pryderon gwirioneddol ymhlith poblogaeth y gogledd, o ystyried y diffygion yn yr achos busnes a amlinellwyd eisoes gan Antoinette Sandbach mewn perthynas â chostau, ac, yn bwysicach, o ran goblygiadau'r penderfyniad hwn—gwnaethom fynychu cyfarfodydd cyhoeddus lle na chawsom y ffeithiau llawn gan BILl Betsi—byddwn yn gobeithio, er gwaethaf y farn a gymerwyd gan y cyngor iechyd cymuned, y bydd y Gweinidog yn tynnu sylw at hyn ac yn edrych ar y mater mewn modd priodol cyn i unrhyw benderfyniad gael ei wneud.

Llyr Huws Gruffydd: Yesterday, the First Minister said that there were no services that were not safe, and that without change they might become unsafe. I fear that this proposed change goes in the other direction. I anticipate that services will not be as good, and will be less safe.

The consultation has not stated, as it should, that the services in Arrowe Park do not meet national standards. The ratio in Glan Clwyd and Wrexham Maelor hospitals is one nurse to each intensive care cot; in Arrowe Park, the ratio is one nurse to every two cots. There are fewer cots in Arrowe Park, as we have heard, therefore there is a question about capacity, and the managers at Arrowe Park themselves, as we have also heard, are raising fundamental questions about the quality of the provision there.

However, the most important yardstick for me in terms of the safety of a service is the

clinigwyr. Mae'r clinigwyr yn gwrthwynebu'r argymhellion yn y cyd-destun hwn, ac felly mae'n ddyletswydd arnoch fel Llywodraeth i adlewyrchu hynny yn yr hyn sy'n digwydd ar ddiwedd y dydd.

Darren Millar: It is unusual to have such cross-party support in debates of this nature. However, Antoinette is absolutely right that these proposals cannot go ahead. We have to use this debate as an opportunity to make a last-minute plea to decision makers in the health board to scupper these proposals and to row back from them, in the face of not only overwhelming public opposition but overwhelming evidence, on a clinical basis and with regard to transport and cost, that this is just a bad idea. No-one has made reference yet to the important issue of nationality, but I think that it is important that we put on record that we do not feel that it is appropriate that parents will be denied the opportunity to make the decision about the country of birth of their children. That important point will be taken on board, hopefully, as I am sure that the Minister is aware of this issue.

6.15 p.m.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Lesley Griffiths): The health and wellbeing of sick and premature babies is a priority of this Government. I am determined to achieve the best and most evidence-based outcomes possible for these babies. As Members are well aware, no final decision has been made by Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board on the location of neonatal services. A rigorous process of consultation and engagement on changes to healthcare services in north Wales took place recently. The proposals were drawn up after lengthy discussions with nurses, doctors, other clinical staff, partner agencies, the community health council and representatives of voluntary and community groups. The consultation gave everyone the chance to comment on the proposals. The health board is meeting this Friday to consider the responses to the consultation, and the implications for the proposals that were originally put forward. It will then publish its final plans accordingly.

view of clinicians. The clinicians oppose the recommendations in this context, and therefore you have a duty as a Government to reflect that in what happens at the end of the day.

Darren Millar: Mae'n anarferol cael y fath gefnogaeth drawsbleidiol mewn dadleuon o'r fath. Fodd bynnag, mae Antoinette yn berffaith iawn na all y cynigion fynd rhagddynt. Mae'n rhaid inni ddefnyddio'r ddaol hon fel cyfle i wneud ple munud olaf i'r rhai sy'n gwneud penderfyniadau yn y bwrdd iechyd i danseilio'r cynigion hyn ac i gefnu arnynt, nid yn unig yn wyneb gwrthwynebiad llethol ymhlith y cyhoedd ond hefyd yn wyneb tystiolaeth lethol, ar sail glinigol ac o ran trafndiaeth a chost, bod hyn yn syniad drwg. Nid oes neb wedi cyfeirio eto at fater pwysig cenedligrwydd, ond credaf ei bod yn bwysig ein bod yn cofnodi nad ydym yn teimlo ei bod yn briodol na chaiff rhieni gyfle i wneud y penderfyniad ynghylch ym mha wlad y caiff eu plant eu geni. Gobeithio y caiff y pwynt pwysig hwnnw ei ystyried, oherwydd rwy'n siŵr fod y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol o'r mater hwn.

6.15 p.m.

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Lesley Griffiths): Mae iechyd a lles babanod sâl a chynamserol yn flaenoriaeth i'r Llywodraeth hon. Rwy'n benderfynol o gyflawni'r canlyniadau gorau posibl sy'n seiliedig ar dystiolaeth ar gyfer y babanod hyn. Fel y gwyr yr Aelodau, nid yw Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr wedi gwneud penderfyniad terfynol ar leoliad gwasanaethau newyddenedigol. Cynhaliwyd proses drylwyr o ymgynghori ac ymgysylltu ar newidiadau i wasanaethau gofal iechyd yn y gogledd yn ddiweddar. Lluniwyd y cynigion ar ôl trafodaethau hir gyda nyrsys, meddygon, staff clinigol eraill, asiantaethau partner, y cyngor iechyd cymuned a chynrychiolwyr o grwpiau gwirfoddol a chymunedol. Rhoddodd yr ymgynghoriad gyfle i bawb roi sylwadau ar y cynigion. Mae'r bwrdd iechyd yn cyfarfod ddydd Gwener i ystyried yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad, a'r goblygiadau ar gyfer y cynigion a gyflwynwyd yn wreiddiol. Yna bydd yn cyhoeddi ei gynlluniau terfynol yn unol â hynny.

With no final decisions having yet been made, Members know it would not be appropriate for me, or any Welsh Government Minister, to comment on any specific options put forward by health boards, since to do so might compromise any quasi-judicial function that I may have to exercise should a community health council refer any proposals to me. Therefore, I cannot comment on the specifics of services in north Wales. However, I would like to take the opportunity to talk about the challenge and the actions that we are taking to improve the delivery of neonatal services across Wales.

The delivery of neonatal services requires the right mix of environment, transport and skilled staff to deliver high-quality services. The major scientific advances of the past decade in improving the survival rate of premature babies are reflected in the rigorous, evidence-based standard from the British Association of Perinatal Medicine, against which we monitor our services in Wales. I also expect health boards to comply with the requirements of the quality standard published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in 2010 on specialist neonatal care. This standard covers the care provided for babies in need of specialist neonatal services, including neonatal special, high-dependency, intensive or surgical care services, including transfer services.

NICE's quality standard provides clinicians, managers and parents with a description of what high-quality specialist neonatal care should look like. It requires the physical, psychological and social needs of babies and their families to be at the heart of all care given. Services should be co-ordinated and encompass the whole neonatal care pathway. An integrated approach to the provision of services is fundamental to the delivery of high-quality care to babies in need of specialist neonatal services. It is important to remember that, along with medical advances,

Gan na wnaed unrhyw benderfyniadau terfynol eto, gŵyr yr Aelodau na fyddai'n briodol i mi, nac unrhyw un o Weinidogion Llywodraeth Cymru, roi sylwadau ar unrhyw opsiynau penodol a gyflwynir gan fyrddau iechyd, oherwydd y gallai gwneud hynny gyfaddawdu unrhyw swyddogaeth led-farnwrol y gallai fod angen imi ei chyflawni pe byddai cyngor iechyd cymuned yn cyfeirio unrhyw gynigion ataf. Felly, ni allaf wneud sylw am fanylion y gwasanaethau yn y gogledd. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn fanteisio ar y cyfle i siarad am yr her a'r camau rydym yn eu cymryd i wella'r modd y darperir gwasanaethau newyddenedigol ledled Cymru.

Er mwyn darparu gwasanaethau newyddenedigol, mae angen sicrhau'r cymysgedd cywir o amgylchedd, cludiant a staff medrus i ddarparu gwasanaethau o ansawdd uchel. Adlewyrchir datblygiadau gwyddonol pwysig y degawd diwethaf o ran gwella cyfradd goroesiad babanod cynamserol yn y safon drwyadl sy'n seiliedig ar dystiolaeth gan Gymdeithas Meddygaeth Amenedigol Prydain, a ddefnyddir gennym i fonitro ein gwasanaethau yng Nghymru. Rwyf hefyd yn disgwyl i fyrddau iechyd gydymffurfio â gofynion y safon ansawdd a gyhoeddwyd gan y Sefydliad Cenedlaethol dros Iechyd a Rhagoriaeth Glinigol yn 2010 ar ofal newyddenedigol arbenigol. Mae'r safon hon yn ymdrin â'r gofal a ddarperir ar gyfer babanod y mae angen gwasanaethau newyddenedigol arbenigol arnynt, gan gynnwys gwasanaethau gofal arbennig newyddenedigol, dibyniaeth uchel, dwys neu lawfeddygol, gan gynnwys gwasanaethau trosglwyddo.

Mae safon ansawdd NICE yn rhoi disgrifiad i glinigwyr, rheolwyr a rhieni o'r hyn y dylai gofal newyddenedigol arbenigol o ansawdd uchel ei gwmpasu. Mae'n sicrhau bod anghenion corfforol, seicolegol a chymdeithasol babanod a'u teuluoedd wrth wraidd yr holl ofal a roddir. Dylai gwasanaethau gael eu cydgysylltu a dylent gwmpasu'r llwybr gofal newyddenedigol cyfan. Mae dull integredig o ddarparu gwasanaethau yn hanfodol i ddarparu gofal o ansawdd uchel i fabanod y mae angen gwasanaethau newyddenedigol arbenigol

national standards change to reflect current expectations, and this often requires new terminology. When we talk about neonatal services we must be clear about what services we are discussing.

The British Association of Perinatal Medicine recommendations are for three types of unit within a neonatal network: the least intensive special care units, the mid-level local neonatal unit and the highest intensity neonatal intensive care unit, which must be staffed by specialist consultant neonatologists rather than general paediatric consultants. Special care units would be expected to initiate and provide short-term intensive care and, where agreed, some high-dependency services. Local neonatal units are expected to provide a high-dependency and restricted volume of intensive care and to only transfer those needing more complex care to a neonatal intensive care unit. NICUs provide very specialised services for babies needing ventilation to breathe, or those with severe lung disease, weighing less than 2.2 lb and for babies born under 28 weeks. When babies requiring NICU services have improved sufficiently, they can step down to high-dependency care provided in LNUs, then on to a special care unit and then home. This transition is important and frees up the most intensive cots for new babies being delivered. This improvement in step-down efficiency has been the focus of recent work.

The Wales neonatal network, established in the autumn of 2010, is facilitating and supporting health boards with improvements across all neonatal units in Wales to promote compliance with standards. The network published a capacity review in January 2011 and all health boards produced action plans to deliver against this review. The network has been undertaking six-monthly reviews on the

arnynt. Mae'n bwysig cofio, ynghyd â datblygiadau meddygol, bod safonau cenedlaethol yn newid i adlewyrchu disgwyliadau presennol, ac mae hyn yn aml yn galw am derminoleg newydd. Pan fyddwn yn sôn am wasanaethau newyddenedigol, mae'n rhaid inni fod yn glir ynghylch pa wasanaethau rydym yn eu trafod.

Mae argymhellion Cymdeithas Meddygaeth Amenedigol Prydain yn crybwyll tri math o uned o fewn rhwydwaith newyddenedigol: yr unedau gofal arbennig lleiaf dwys, yr uned newyddenedigol leol ar lefel ganolig a'r uned gofal dwys newyddenedigol fwyaf dwys, y mae'n rhaid ei staffio gan neonatolegwyr ymgynghorol arbenigol yn hytrach nag ymgynghorwyr pediatrig cyffredinol. Byddai disgwyl i unedau gofal arbennig sefydlu a darparu gofal dwys byrdymor a, lle y cytunwyd, rhai gwasanaethau dibyniaeth uchel. Disgwylir i unedau newyddenedigol lleol ddarparu gofal dwys dibyniaeth uchel a chyfyngedig, ac ond i drosglwyddo'r babanod hynny y mae angen gofal mwy cymhleth arnynt i uned gofal dwys newyddenedigol. Mae unedau gofal dwys newyddenedigol yn darparu gwasanaethau arbenigol iawn i fabanod y mae angen cymorth anadlu arnynt, neu'r rheini sydd â chlefyd difrifol ar yr ysgyfaint, sy'n pwysu llai na 2.2 pwys ac ar gyfer babanod a enir o dan 28 wythnos. Pan fydd babanod y mae angen gwasanaethau uned gofal dwys newyddenedigol arnynt wedi gwella'n ddigonol, gallant gamu i lawr i ofal dibyniaeth uchel a ddarperir mewn unedau newyddenedigol lleol, yna ymlaen i uned gofal arbennig ac yna gartref. Mae'r trosglwyddo hwn yn bwysig ac yn rhyddhau'r cotiau mwyaf dwys ar gyfer babanod newydd sy'n cael eu geni. Mae gwaith diweddar a wnaed wedi canolbwyntio ar y gwelliant hwn mewn effeithlonrwydd fesul cam-i-lawr.

Mae rhwydwaith newyddenedigol Cymru, a sefydlwyd yn ystod hydref 2010, yn hwyluso ac yn cefnogi byrddau iechyd gyda gwelliannau ar draws yr holl unedau newyddenedigol yng Nghymru i hyrwyddo cydymffurfiaid â'r safonau. Cyhoeddodd y rhwydwaith adolygiad gallu ym mis Ionawr 2011 a lluniodd pob bwrdd iechyd gynlluniau gweithredu gan ddilyn yr adolygiad hwn.

delivery of these action plans and the next report will be considered by the network next month.

This process has seen improvements in services, as recognised by the Children and Young People Committee's inquiry into neonatal care. The introduction of the BadgerNet cot-locator system is helping local health boards to identify and manage the availability of cots. There has also been a small increase in the nursing establishment to get closer to the required level. We have also seen a small increase in the number of cots across Wales. In north Wales, Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board has already made progress on improving acuity of cot usage and improving the local configuration of cots in order to maximise efficiency. The service has recruited 1.5 whole-time equivalent consultant neonatologists in north Wales.

We recognise that we must deliver a high-quality clinical service, but the wellbeing and the needs of the family must be taken into account. We accepted the recommendation of the Children and Young People Committee to work with Bliss and other parent groups to develop a programme to improve parent and community services.

Whatever any LHB decides about their local configuration of neonatal services, we expect them to work closely with local clinicians, the all-wales neonatal network and neighbouring UK neonatal networks to co-operate, provide surge capacity, share learning and drive up standards of care. I have acknowledged many times, and will do so again here, that further improvements are needed if we are to provide consistent high-quality care.

I believe that service change across the whole of the NHS in Wales will help to deliver those improvements and it is important to remember that any changes will be made only to improve the quality of care. The committee's inquiry highlighted issues already identified in the Government's plan 'Together for Health', such as the recruitment

Mae'r rhwydwaith wedi bod yn cynnal adolygiadau bob chwe mis ar gyflawni'r cynlluniau gweithredu hyn a chaiff yr adroddiad nesaf ei ystyried gan y rhwydwaith fis nesaf.

Mae'r broses hon wedi gweld gwelliannau mewn gwasanaethau, fel y cydnabyddir gan ymchwiliad y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc ar ofal newyddenedigol. Mae cyflwyno system lleoli cotiau BadgerNet yn helpu byrddau iechyd lleol i nodi a rheoli'r cotiau sydd ar gael. Cafwyd cynnydd bach hefyd yn nifer y nyrsys sydd ar gael er mwyn nesáu at y lefel ofynnol. Rydym hefyd wedi gweld cynnydd bach yn nifer y cotiau ar draws Cymru. Yn y gogledd, mae Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr eisoes wedi gwneud cynnydd ar wella craffter y defnydd a wneir o gotiau a gwella cyfluniad lleol y cotiau er mwyn sicrhau'r effeithlonrwydd mwyaf. Mae'r gwasanaeth wedi recriwtio 1.5 o neonatolegwyr ymgynghorol cyfwerth ag amser llawn yn y gogledd.

Rydym yn cydnabod bod yn rhaid inni ddarparu gwasanaeth clinigol o ansawdd uchel, ond mae'n rhaid ystyried lles ac anghenion y teulu. Gwnaethom dderbyn argymhelliad y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc i weithio gyda Bliss a grwpiau rhieni eraill i ddatblygu rhaglen i wella gwasanaethau rhieni a gwasanaethau cymunedol.

Beth bynnag fydd penderfyniad unrhyw BIL am eu cyfluniad lleol o wasanaethau newyddenedigol, rydym yn disgwyl iddynt weithio'n agos gyda chlinigwyr lleol, rhwydwaith newyddenedigol Cymru gyfan a rhwydweithiau newyddenedigol cyfagos yn y DU i gydweithredu, sicrhau gallu ymchwydd, rhannu dysgu a chodi safonau gofal. Rwyf wedi cydnabod sawl gwaith, a byddaf yn gwneud hynny eto yma, bod angen gwelliannau pellach os ydym am ddarparu gofal o ansawdd uchel yn gyson.

Credaf y bydd newid gwasanaethau ar draws y GIG cyfan yng Nghymru yn helpu i gyflawni'r gwelliannau hynny ac mae'n bwysig cofio mai dim ond i wella ansawdd y gofal y gwneir unrhyw newidiadau. Tynnodd ymchwiliad y pwyllgor sylw at faterion a nodwyd eisoes yng nghynllun y Llywodraeth 'Law yn Llaw at Iechyd', megis recriwtio a

and training of certain medical staff and some specialist services being spread too thinly.

I have retained a particular focus on neonatal services and the NHS chief executive has made clear to health board chief executives the requirement that they deliver in this area. My officials have visited each neonatal unit to report on the progress of the delivery of neonatal action plans. I can assure Members that I will continue to drive progress in this area and ensure that health boards are held to account for the delivery of high-quality, evidence-based services for sick and premature babies.

hyfforddi staff meddygol penodol a'r ffaith bod rhai gwasanaethau arbenigol yn cael eu gwasgaru'n rhy denau.

Rwyf wedi cadw ffocws penodol ar wasanaethau newyddenedigol ac mae prif weithredwr y GIG wedi egluro i brif weithredwyr byrddau iechyd bod yn rhaid iddynt gyflawni yn y maes hwn. Mae fy swyddogion wedi ymweld â phob uned newyddenedigol i adrodd ar gynnydd y gwaith o gyflawni cynlluniau gweithredu newyddenedigol. Gallaf sicrhau'r Aelodau y byddaf yn parhau i ysgogi cynnydd yn y maes hwn a sicrhau bod byrddau iechyd yn cael eu dwyn i gyfrif am ddarparu gwasanaethau o ansawdd uchel sy'n seiliedig ar dystiolaeth ar gyfer babanod sâl a chynamserol.

Dadl Fer a Ohiriwyd o 5 Rhagfyr Short Debate Postponed from 5 December

Y Dirwasgiad Maethol—Effaith Cynnydd mewn Prisiau Bwyd a Gostyngiad Mewn Cyllidebau ar Iechyd Maethol Cymru

The Nutritional Recession—The Impact of Rising Food Prices and Shrinking Budgets on the Nutritional Health of Wales

Kenneth Skates: I would like to start by apologising for the lateness of this debate. I will not keep you from your own nutritious dinners, I assure you; I will make sure that I speak as briefly as possible. I am pleased to allow Jenny Rathbone and William Powell a minute each to speak on my chosen topic, which is the worrying impact that rising food prices as well as shrinking household budgets and school food budgets are having on our nutritional health.

The inspiration for this debate came from discussions I had with schoolchildren in my constituency from Pen-y-Cae and Rhos. It was their specific concerns over the impact that caffeinated energy drinks have on behaviour and concentration that sparked my interest and made me realise that we may now be facing a perfect nutritional storm.

Within this storm we see the ferocious

Kenneth Skates: Hoffwn ddechrau drwy ymddiheuro am hwyrni'r ddadl hon. Gallaf eich sicrhau na fyddaf yn eich cadw rhag eich cinio maethlon eich hunain; gwnaf yn siŵr fy mod yn siarad mor gryno â phosibl. Rwy'n falch o ganiatáu munud yr un i Jenny Rathbone a William Powell siarad am fy mhwnc dewisol, sef yr effaith bryderus y mae cynnydd mewn prisiau bwyd yn ogystal â gostyngiad mewn cyllidebau cartrefi a chyllidebau bwyd ysgolion yn ei chael ar ein hiechyd maethol.

Daeth yr ysbrydoliaeth ar gyfer y ddadl hon o drafodaethau a gefais gyda phlant ysgol yn fy etholaeth o Ben-y-Cae a Rhos. Gwnaeth eu pryderon penodol ynghylch yr effaith y mae diodydd egni sy'n cynnwys caffein yn ei chael ar ymddygiad a'r gallu i ganolbwyntio danio fy niddordeb a gwneud imi sylweddoli y gallwn bellach fod yn wynebu argyfwng o ran maeth.

Yn yr argyfwng hwn, gwelwn fwyd afiach yn

advertising and aggressive pricing of unhealthy food, along with rapidly rising wholesale food prices and escalating weekly food bills. An unprecedented choice of processed products has fuelled the maelstrom, while lower fruit and vegetable consumption, shrinking household incomes, increased food and heating bills and even greater pressures on school food budgets have ensured that the storm is of an unprecedented magnitude. Consequently, people on the lowest incomes in the most deprived areas are facing increasingly difficult choices about their nutritional health.

The last annual family food publication highlighted that median income after household costs in the UK's lowest income groups has fallen by 12% in the last decade. Alongside this, food prices have increased by 12% since 2006, reducing food affordability by 20% for the poorest households in the last 10 years.

Fruit has seen the second highest price increase, and while there has been a downward trend in the percentage of people aged 16 and over reporting consumption of their five-a-day across all socioeconomic classifications, the largest decrease has been among adults that have never worked or who are long-term unemployed. Those who wrongly believe that the poor are somehow to blame for their own nutritional ill health will perhaps identify this as supporting evidence, yet crucial data illustrates that the poor are being priced out of choosing to purchase fresh, unprocessed food. This data comes from a study for the recent *Guardian* newspaper's 'Breadline Britain' series, which found that fruit and veg intake has decreased among consumers of all the leading supermarkets, except for two—the discount retailers Lidl and Netto. This clearly demonstrates that poor choice is not to blame for the nutritional recession experienced by those living in hardship.

As far as schools are concerned, it is not just about starting or ending the day with no food, but also about consuming the wrong type of food. Children who go hungry or fill up on

cael ei hysbysebu'n rymus a'i brisio'n gystadleuol, prisiau bwyd cyfanwerthu sy'n codi'n gyflym a biliau bwyd wythnosol cynyddol. Mae dewis digyffelyb o gynhyrchion wedi'u prosesu wedi ysgogi'r trobwl hwn, tra bod y ffaith bod llai o bobl yn bwyta ffrwythau a llysiau, incymau cartrefi yn gostwng, biliau bwyd a gwresogi cynyddol a hyd yn oed fwy o bwysau ar gyllidebau bwyd ysgolion wedi sicrhau bod maint yr argyfwng hwn yn ddigyffelyb. O ganlyniad, mae pobl ar yr incymau isaf yn yr ardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig yn wynebu dewisiadau cynyddol anodd o ran eu hiechyd maethol.

Nododd y cyhoeddiad blynyddol olaf ar fwyd y teulu fod incwm canolrifol ar ôl costau cartref yng ngrwpiau incwm isaf y DU wedi gostwng 12% yn ystod y degawd diwethaf. Ochr yn ochr â hyn, mae prisiau bwyd wedi cynyddu 12% ers 2006, gan olygu bod fforddiadwyedd bwyd wedi gostwng 20% ar gyfer y cartrefi tlotaf yn ystod y 10 mlynedd diwethaf.

Gwelwyd y cynnydd uchaf ond un mewn prisiau ffrwythau, ac er y bu tuedd tuag i lawr yng nghanran y bobl 16 oed a throsodd sy'n dweud eu bod yn bwyta eu 5 y dydd ym mhob un o'r dosbarthiadau economaidd-gymdeithasol, gwelwyd y gostyngiad mwyaf ymhlith oedolion nad ydynt erioed wedi gweithio neu sy'n ddi-waith yn yr hirdymor. Bydd y rheini sy'n credu'n anghywir fod y tlawd rywsut ar fai am eu hiechyd maethol gwael eu hunain o bosibl yn nodi hyn fel tystiolaeth ategol, ond dengys data allweddol fod prynu bwyd ffres, heb ei brosesu yn opsiwn rhy ddrud i bobl dlawd. Daw'r data hwn o astudiaeth ar gyfer cyfres ddiweddar y *Guardian*, 'Breadline Britain', a ganfu bod cyfraddau bwyta ffrwythau a llysiau wedi gostwng ymhlith defnyddwyr yr holl archfarchnadoedd blaenllaw namyn dwy—y manwerthwyr â phrisiau gostyngol, Lidl a Netto. Mae hyn yn dangos yn glir nad dewis gwael sydd ar fai am y dirwasgiad maethol y mae'r rheini sy'n byw mewn caledi yn ei brofi.

O safbwynt ysgolion, nid oes a wnelo hyn â dechrau neu orffen y diwrnod heb fwyd yn unig, ond â bwyta'r math anghywir o fwyd hefyd. Mae plant sy'n mynd yn llwglyd neu'n

highly processed carbohydrates, but no fruit or veg through choice or hardship, are likely to have much poorer long-term health than their peers and risk performing less well in class.

We know that school dinners, on average, are far healthier and more nutritious than packed lunches. However, Professor Kevin Morgan said last year that rising prices and severe public spending cuts were forcing local authorities to seriously consider their school food options. Tragically, his fears have been realised. Just last week, Wrexham County Borough Council reported income for school dinners had fallen by a staggering £170,000 due to rising prices and fewer working parents being able to afford to pay for their children to receive a hot meal.

This is a worrying trend across the UK, given that we already have the highest rate of childhood obesity in Europe, with a quarter of children being obese or overweight. It is the reason why Governments across the UK spend more on the combined impact of diabetes in three days than they spend on school dinners in an entire year. Furthermore, the British Heart Foundation has said that the culture of eating unhealthy food at home needs to be addressed after it calculated that a child's typical daily diet included a pack of crisps, a chocolate bar, a bag of sweets, a fizzy drink and an energy drink. The recent news that energy drinks may be linked to depression only adds to the concern in this area.

It all threatens to store up public health problems that could widen inequalities and increase the burden on our already stretched NHS. Minister, I would rather keep down taxes for hard-working people tomorrow by ensuring that all children eat healthily today.

Looking to the future, the Welsh Government's recent public health Green Paper has the potential to address many issues raised in this debate, and I very

bwyta carbohydradau wedi'u prosesu'n helaeth, ac nad ydynt yn bwyta unrhyw ffrwythau neu lysiau o ddewis neu oherwydd caledi, yn debygol o gael iechyd gwaeth o lawer yn yr hirdymor na'u cyfoedion ac yn wynebu risg o beidio â pherfformio cystal yn y dosbarth.

Gwyddom fod cinio ysgol, ar gyfartaledd, yn llawer iachach ac yn fwy maethlon na chinio pecyn. Fodd bynnag, dywedodd yr Athro Kevin Morgan y llynedd fod prisiau cynyddol a thoriadau difrifol mewn gwariant cyhoeddus yn gorfodi awdurdodau lleol i ystyried eu hopsiynau o ran bwyd ysgol o ddifrif. Yn anffodus, death ei bryderon yn wir. Dim ond yr wythnos diwethaf, adroddodd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam fod incwm ar gyfer cinio ysgol wedi gostwng £170,000, sy'n swm anhygoel, oherwydd prisiau cynyddol a'r ffaith bod llai o rieni sy'n gweithio yn gallu fforddio talu i'w plant gael pryd bwyd poeth.

Mae hon yn duedd sy'n peri pryder ledled y DU, o gofio bod gennym eisoes y gyfradd uchaf o ordewdra ymysg plant yn Ewrop, gyda chwarter y plant yn ordew neu dros bwysau. Dyma'r rheswm pam mae Llywodraethau ledled y DU yn gwario mwy ar effaith gyfunol diabetes mewn tri diwrnod nag y maent yn ei wario ar ginio ysgol mewn blwyddyn gyfan. At hynny, mae Sefydliad Prydeinig y Galon wedi dweud bod angen mynd i'r afael â'r diwylliant o fwyta bwyd afiach gartref ar ôl cyfrifo bod deiet dyddiol nodweddiadol plentyn yn cynnwys pecyn o greision, bar siocled, bag o losin, diod swigod a diod egni. Mae'r newyddion diweddar y gallai diodydd egni fod yn gysylltiedig ag iselder ond yn ychwanegu at y pryder yn y maes hwn.

Mae'r cyfan yn bygwth creu mwy o broblemau iechyd cyhoeddus a allai arwain at fwy o anghydraddoldebau a mwy o faich ar ein GIG sydd eisoes dan bwysau. Weinidog, byddai'n well gennyf gadw trethi'n isel i bobl sy'n gweithio'n galed yfory drwy sicrhau bod pob plentyn yn bwyta'n iach heddiw.

Gan edrych i'r dyfodol, mae gan Bapur Gwyrdd diweddar Llywodraeth Cymru ar iechyd y cyhoedd y potensial i fynd i'r afael â nifer o faterion a godwyd yn y ddaidl hon, ac

warmly welcome it. I hope that the Government will explore a range of policy options. We could look at the possibility of a yearly review of the nutritional value of the school menu; reverse the most damaging aspects of the Education Act 1980, and work with teachers to make food education a mandatory part of the early years curriculum.

Going further, we could look at compulsory, universal free school breakfasts and dinners, along with the removal of unhealthy and highly processed food from the school canteen. We may also need to look at legal limitations on the amount of sugar and caffeine in products sold to, marketed towards and consumed by children. We could look at banning vending machines in public buildings, which may well provide a small income for councils and sport centres, but in the long term contribute to a growing bill for the NHS.

We also need to do more to end what I believe is a pricing perversion, illustrated by the relative cost of quality Welsh milk and energy drinks. It is possible to pay four times more for an energy drink than it is to pay for quality, nutritious Welsh milk. Minimum pricing for alcohol could be mirrored by a tax on products that attain red in the forthcoming traffic-light system, and we certainly need to do more to link healthy eating to healthy lifestyles. In this regard, I suggest that services such as Communities First programmes could roll out crèche services that are co-ordinated with local fitness classes, so that parents, especially single parents, have opportunities to get fit.

6.30 p.m.

Furthermore, the recent story about horse meat in beefburgers highlights that we need a more sophisticated understanding of the difference between fresh, unprocessed food on the one hand and unhealthy, highly processed food on the other. We will soon see a clear, standardised traffic-light labelling system introduced by all the major supermarkets for their products. While such labels are helpful, they illustrate only the

rwyl'n ei groesawu'n fawr. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Llywodraeth yn archwilio ystod o opsiynau polisi. Gallem edrych ar y posibilrwydd o gynnal adolygiad blynyddol o werth maethol y fwydlen ysgol; gwrthdroi'r agweddau mwyaf niweidiol ar Ddeddf Addysg 1980, a gweithio gydag athrawon i sicrhau bod addysg bwyd yn rhan orfodol o gwricwlwm y blynyddoedd cynnar.

Gan fynd ymhellach, gallem edrych ar frechwast a chinio gorfodol, am ddim i bawb, a chael gwared ar fwyd afiach wedi'i brosesu'n helaeth o'r ffretur ysgol. Efallai y bydd angen inni hefyd edrych ar gyfyngiadau cyfreithiol o ran faint o siwgr a chaffein sydd mewn cynhyrchion a gaiff eu gwerthu a'u marchnata i blant a'u bwyta ganddynt. Gallem edrych ar wahardd peiriannau gwerthu mewn adeiladau cyhoeddus, a all ddarparu incwm bach ar gyfer cynghorau a chanolfannau chwaraeon, ond yn y tymor hir gyfrannu at fil cynyddol ar gyfer y GIG.

Mae angen inni hefyd wneud mwy i roi terfyn ar yr hyn sy'n gwyrddroi prisiau, yn fy marn i, a ddangosir gan gost gymharol llaeth Cymreig o safon a diodydd egni. Mae'n bosibl talu pedair gwaith yn fwy am ddiodydd egni nag am laeth Cymreig maethlon o safon. Gallai prisiau gofynnol am alcohol gael eu hefelychu gan dreth ar gynhyrchion a ddyfernir yn goch gan y system goleuadau traffig sydd ar y gweill, ac yn sicr mae angen inni wneud mwy i gysylltu bwyta'n iach â ffordd o fyw iach. Yn hyn o beth, awgrymaf y gallai gwasanaethau fel rhaglenni Cymunedau yn Gyntaf gyflwyno gwasanaethau meithrinfa a gaiff eu cydgysylltu â dosbarthiadau ffitrwydd lleol, fel bod rhieni, yn enwedig rhieni sengl, yn cael cyfleoedd i gadw'n heini.

6.30 p.m.

At hynny, mae'r stori ddiweddar am gig ceffyl mewn byrgyrs yn tynnu sylw at y ffaith bod angen inni gael dealltwriaeth fwy soffistigedig o'r gwahaniaeth rhwng bwyd ffres, heb ei brosesu ar y naill law a bwyd afiach, wedi'i brosesu'n helaeth ar y llaw arall. Yn fuan, gwelwn system labelu goleuadau traffig safonol a chlir yn cael ei chyflwyno gan yr holl archfarchnadoedd mawr ar gyfer eu cynhyrchion. Er bod labeli

level of unhealthy content, namely sugar, fat and calories, completely ignoring the positive nutritional value, the quality of the product, the sourcing and manufacturing process and the ethical standards attached to the product. For example, a weight-loss chicken ready-meal might get a green light, yet it could be packed with toxins and preservatives and it could have been produced using chickens from the far east that are often reared and slaughtered in appalling conditions by workers who are exploited. It would have an enormous carbon footprint, a completely unethical manufacturing process and little positive nutritional value, yet it would score a green light against a piece of Welsh cheese that, in spite of many positives, could only ever achieve amber at best because of the fat content.

This is an unsatisfactory measure of food nutrition and quality, but its shortcomings also present our greatest opportunity. We produce some of the finest food and ingredients in the world. We could have the most sustainable food system in the world, yet right now the tragedy is that we do not.

Therefore, as a final suggestion, I recommend that the Welsh Government looks to step ahead of the curve on nutrition labelling. I believe that it is inevitable that, in the next 10 years, food producers will ultimately adopt a traffic-light system that is more sophisticated than the one at present; one that considers not just how little of the bad elements are contained in products, but what positive nutritional elements are contained, along with how processed they are and how ethical their production is. This would enable, for example, a piece of Welsh cheese, high in calcium and low in artificial ingredients, produced locally in the best ethical conditions, where employees are well paid and unionised, to achieve a green light, whereas the aforementioned weight-loss ready meal would struggle to attain amber. The development of Welsh traffic lights for food products represents an unprecedented nutritional and economic opportunity that is worthy of consideration.

o'r fath yn ddefnyddiol, dim ond lefel y cynnwys afiach a ddangosir, sef siwgr, braster a cholorïau, gan anwybyddu'n gyfan gwbl y gwerth maethol cadarnhaol, ansawdd y cynnyrch, y broses gyrchu a gweithgynhyrchu a'r safonau moesegol sy'n gysylltiedig â'r cynnyrch. Er enghraifft, gallai pryd cyw iâr parod sy'n eich helpu i golli pwysau fod wedi'i labelu'n wyrdd, ond eto gallai fod yn llawn tocsinau a chadwolion a gallai fod wedi'i gynhyrchu gan ddefnyddio ieir o'r dwyrain pell sy'n aml yn cael eu magu a'u difa o dan amodau ofnadwy gan weithwyr sy'n cael eu camddefnyddio. Byddai ganddo ôl-troed carbon enfawr, proses weithgynhyrchu gwbl anfoesol a fawr ddim gwerth maethol cadarnhaol, ond byddai'n sgorio golau gwyrdd yn erbyn darn o gaws Cymreig na allai, er gwaethaf sawl peth cadarnhaol, fyth gyflawni mwy nag ambr oherwydd faint o fraster sydd ynddo.

Mae hon yn ffordd anfoddhaol o fesur maeth ac ansawdd bwyd, ond mae ei diffygion hefyd yn cynnig ein cyfle gorau. Rydym yn cynhyrchu rhai o'r bwydydd a'r cynhwysion gorau yn y byd. Gallem fod â'r system fwyd fwyaf cynaliadwy yn y byd, ond y drasiedi ar hyn o bryd yw nad yw hynny'n wir.

Felly, fel awgrym terfynol, argymhellaf y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru geisio bod ar flaen y gad o ran labelu maeth. Credaf ei bod yn anochel, yn ystod y 10 mlynedd nesaf, y bydd cynhyrchwyr bwyd yn y pen draw yn mabwysiadu system goleuadau traffig sy'n fwy soffistigedig na'r un sy'n bodoli ar hyn o bryd; un sy'n ystyried nid yn unig gyn lleied o'r elfennau gwael sydd mewn cynhyrchion, ond pa elfennau maethol cadarnhaol sydd ynddynt, ynghyd ag ystyried i ba raddau y maent wedi'u prosesu a pha mor foesegol yw'r broses o'u cynhyrchu. Byddai hyn yn galluogi, er enghraifft, darn o gaws Cymreig, sy'n cynnwys llawer o galsiwm a fawr ddim cynhwysion artiffisial, a gynhyrchwyd yn lleol o dan yr amodau moesegol gorau, lle mae gweithwyr yn cael eu talu'n dda ac yn perthyn i undeb, i gyflawni golau gwyrdd, tra byddai'r pryd sy'n eich helpu i golli pwysau y soniwyd amdano uchod yn ei chael hi'n anodd cyflawni ambr. Mae datblygu goleuadau traffig ar gyfer cynhyrchion bwyd yng Nghymru yn gyfle maethol ac economaidd digynsail sy'n werth ei ystyried.

Minister, we need to reconnect with food: how it is produced, how it is supplied and how it should be cooked. If we fail to fuse policy on health, economics and food production together, we risk not only leaving future generations economically worse off, but leaving them nutritionally deprived.

William Powell: I thank Ken Skates for bringing forward this important short debate today. As George Orwell wrote in *The Road to Wigan Pier*, the vicious reality of not having a great deal to spend means that nutritional value often loses out to foods of greater bulk and more intense taste. To address this, we need to work with local producers to make sure that their products are more affordable and also, therefore, more appealing. We need to address legislation towards technologies such as polytunnels so that we can improve productivity and support local allotment holders. We also need to encourage a return to a more seasonal diet, which makes the most of our climate and of the base produce that we are able to supply relatively cheaply, avoiding the dangers of the overprocessed food that Ken referenced earlier. Our nutritional health is about more than simply the efficient intake of the appropriate number of calories; it is vital that we undertake, as a nation, an overall reappraisal of where we are with food. Our society needs to address this as a matter of considerable urgency.

Jenny Rathbone: I would like to speak about the two Bs of bread and burgers. Bread is one of the staple foods of people who live in food poverty. It is cheap, versatile, requires a minimum knowledge of cooking and it can be eaten with just about anything. Bread is also the main source of salt in the British diet. Despite the reduction of salt in bread to one part per 100g, this unnecessary additive still makes up one fifth of our daily salt intake, with all the health implications that the Minister will be aware of. Industrial loaves are routinely adulterated with preservatives, emulsifiers and transglutaminase to preserve their shelf life and increase profit margins. Transglutaminase is linked to triggering coeliac disease in susceptible people and is

Weinidog, mae angen inni ailedrych ar fwyd: sut y caiff ei gynhyrchu, sut y caiff ei gyflenwi a sut y dylid ei goginio. Os na allwn gyfuno polisi ar iechyd, economeg a chynhyrchu bwyd, mae perygl nid yn unig y bydd cenedlaethau'r dyfodol yn waeth eu byd yn economaidd, ond y cânt eu hamddifadu'n faethol.

William Powell: Hoffwn ddiolch i Ken Skates am gyflwyno'r ddadl fer bwysig hon heddiw. Fel yr ysgrifennodd George Orwell yn *The Road to Wigan Pier*, y gwir amdani yw bod prinder arian i'w wario yn golygu bod bwydydd mwy swmpus â blas cryfach yn aml yn ennill y dydd dros werth maethol. Er mwyn mynd i'r afael â hyn, mae angen inni weithio gyda chynhyrchwyr lleol i wneud yn siŵr bod eu cynhyrchion yn fwy fforddiadwy a hefyd, felly, yn fwy deniadol. Mae angen inni gyfeirio deddfwriaeth tuag at dechnolegau fel twneli poli er mwyn inni allu gwella cynhyrchiant a chefnogi deiliaid rhandiroedd lleol. Mae angen inni hefyd annog pobl i ddychwelyd i ddeiet mwy tymhorol, sy'n gwneud y gorau o'n hinsawdd a'r cynnyrch sylfaenol y gallwn ei gyflenwi'n gymharol rhad, gan osgoi peryglon y bwydydd wedi'u gorbrosesu y cyfeiriodd Ken atynt yn flaenorol. Mae ein hiechyd maethol yn golygu mwy na dim ond sicrhau ein bod yn cael y nifer briodol o galoriau mewn modd effeithlon; mae'n hanfodol ein bod ni, fel cenedl, yn ail-werthuso'r sefyllfa bresennol o ran bwyd. Mae angen i'n cymdeithas ymdrin â hyn ar fyrder.

Jenny Rathbone: Hoffwn siarad am y ddau B; bara a byrgyrs. Bara yw un o'r prif bethau y mae pobl sy'n byw mewn tlodi bwyd yn ei fwyta. Mae'n rhad, yn amlbwrpas, yn hawdd ei goginio a gellir ei fwyta gyda bron unrhyw beth. Bara hefyd yw prif ffynhonnell halen yn y deiet Prydeinig. Er bod faint o halen a roddir mewn bara wedi'i leihau i un rhan fesul 100g, mae'r ychwanegyn diangen hwn yn dal i gyfrif am un rhan o bump o'r halen yn ein deiet dyddiol, gyda'r holl oblygiadau iechyd y bydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol ohonynt. Caiff torthau diwydiannol eu difwyno fel mater o drefn â chadwolion, emylsyddion a transglutaminase fel eu bod yn para'n hirach ac yn cynhyrchu mwy o elw. Mae transglutaminase yn gysylltiedig â

also used in imitation crab meat in fish balls. I have no doubt that it is also used in burgers.

Horse-burger-gate is a live example of the adulteration of food at the cheaper end of the market to enhance profit. Twenty-nine per cent of Tesco's everyday value burgers is horsemeat. The label says that there is 8% more beef, but, no, it is horsemeat. It is processed by Anglo Beef Processors, one of the largest beef-processing companies in Europe. ABP has admitted that the adulteration of its beef burgers with horsemeat must originate from one of its third-party suppliers in Europe. That is logical. Horsemeat is a delicacy in many parts of Europe. However, we can be certain that the horse in the burgers is not prime rump steak, but the bits of the animal that nobody likes to speak about. To me, it is not that crucial whether it is horse, cow, pig or whatever, but the issue is the adulteration of the food that is being done to ruthlessly seeking profit. It is simply not possible to leave this to the market, in my view. Government needs to step in to regulate what goes into food, to ensure much clearer labelling and to place restrictions on foods that are actively harmful, particularly to children.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Lesley Griffiths): I thank Ken Skates for bringing this debate forward. I was particularly interested, as someone from Penycae, in how you chose this very interesting topic. I also thank Bill and Jenny for their comments on the impact of rising food prices and shrinking budgets on the nutritional health of people in Wales.

The effects of the current recession are widespread, and I agree that inflated food prices and reduced household incomes are affecting families across Wales, particularly those on low incomes. Food prices have risen in real terms by 12% over the past five years, following a long period in which they fell, taking us back to 1997, in terms of the cost of food relative to other goods. Food price rises are more difficult for low-income households

sbarduno clefyd seliag mewn pobl sy'n agored iddo ac fe'i defnyddir hefyd mewn cig cranc ffug mewn peli pysgod. Nid oes gennyf unrhyw amheuaeth ei fod hefyd yn cael ei ddefnyddio mewn byrgyrs.

Mae helynt y byrgyrs cig ceffyl yn enghraifft fyw o ddifwyno bwyd ar ben rhataf y farchnad er mwyn cynyddu elw. Mae byrgyrs 'everyday value' Tesco yn cynnwys 29% o gig ceffyl. Noda'r label fod 8% yn fwy o gig eidion, ond, na, cig ceffyl ydyw. Caiff ei brosesu gan Anglo Beef Processors, un o gwmnïau prosesu cig eidion mwyaf Ewrop. Mae ABP yn cyfaddef bod yn rhaid bod ei fyrgyrs cig eidion wedi'u difwyno â chig ceffyl ar safle un o'i gyflenwyr trydydd parti yn Ewrop. Mae hynny'n rhesymegol. Mae cig ceffyl yn ddanteithfwyd mewn sawl rhan o Ewrop. Fodd bynnag, gallwn fod yn sicr nad stêc ffolen o safon yw'r cig ceffyl yn y byrgyrs, ond tameidiau'r anifail nad oes neb yn hoffi siarad amdanynt. I mi, nid yw mor bwysig â hynny p'un ai ceffyl, buwch, mochyn neu beth bynnag ydyw; yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw'r ffaith bod y bwyd yn cael ei ddifwyno er mwyn ceisio gwneud elw'n ddirugaredd. Nid yw'n bosibl gadael hyn i'r farchnad, yn fy marn i. Mae angen i'r Llywodraeth ymyrryd er mwyn rheoleiddio'r hyn sy'n mynd i mewn i fwyd, sicrhau labelu cliriach a gosod cyfyngiadau ar fwydydd sy'n niweidiol, yn enwedig i blant.

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Lesley Griffiths): Hoffwn ddiolch i Ken Skates am gyflwyno'r ddatl hon. Fel rhywun o Ben-y-cae, roedd gennyf ddiddordeb penodol yn y ffordd y gwnaethoch ddewis y pwnc hynod diddorol hwn. Hoffwn ddiolch hefyd i Bill a Jenny am eu sylwadau ar effaith cynnydd mewn prisiau bwyd a gostyngiad mewn cyllidebau ar iechyd maethol pobl yng Nghymru.

Mae effeithiau'r dirwasgiad presennol yn eang, a chytunaf fod prisiau bwyd uwch ac incwm cartrefi is yn effeithio ar deuluoedd ledled Cymru, yn enwedig y rheini ar incwm isel. Mae prisiau bwyd wedi cynyddu mewn termau real 12% dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf, yn dilyn cyfnod hir lle y'u gwelwyd yn gostwng, gan fynd â ni yn ôl i 1997, o ran cost bwyd o gymharu â nwyddau eraill. Mae cartrefi incwm isel yn ei chael

to cope with, as those on low incomes spend a greater proportion of their income on food. A rise in food prices therefore has a disproportionately large impact on households with the lowest incomes. While trading down to cheaper products has helped many people offset some of the food price rises, many low-income households have not managed to trade down, possibly because they were already buying cheaper products. The main response by low-income households to rising food prices has therefore been to buy less fresh, quality food. This is clear to see in the drop in fruit and vegetable purchases among low-income households, which have dropped 20% in the UK since 2007. More worryingly, consumption levels are likely to be much lower. We know that it is estimated that more than a fifth of fruit and vegetables are wasted.

In 2011, only 28% of those most deprived in Wales reported eating the recommended five or more portions of fruit and vegetables each day, compared with 36% of those least deprived. This is particularly important for children in our most deprived communities. Far too many children from such communities rely on cheap high-fat, high-sugar food—to which Ken referred—with little nutritional content, putting them at higher risk of obesity. The prevalence of those who are overweight and obese is 9% higher in the most deprived communities in Wales than in the least deprived. It is important that we do all that we can to address this unfair and unacceptable situation. Tackling health inequalities is at the core of ‘Our Healthy Future’, Wales’s strategic framework for public health. ‘Fairer Health Outcomes For All’ takes forward the key action of ‘Our Healthy Future’ to tackle avoidable and unfair differences in health, including diets. It recognises that gaps in health outcomes need to be addressed through the life course, across geographic boundaries, the socioeconomic spectrum and between differing social groups.

Ken referred to the Green Paper that we

hi’n anos ymdopi â chynnydd mewn prisiau bwyd, gan fod y rheini ar incwm isel yn gwario cyfran fwy o’u hincwm ar fwyd. Felly, mae cynnydd mewn prisiau bwyd yn cael effaith anghymesur o fawr ar deuluoedd â’r incwm isaf. Er bod prynu cynhyrchion rhatach wedi helpu llawer o bobl i wrthbwysio rhywfaint o’r cynnydd mewn prisiau bwyd, nid yw llawer o gartrefi incwm isel wedi llwyddo i wneud hyn, o bosibl am eu bod eisoes yn prynu cynhyrchion rhatach. Felly, prif ymateb cartrefi incwm isel i brisiau bwyd cynyddol fu prynu llai o fwyd ffres, o safon. Mae hyn i’w weld yn amlwg yn y lleihad yn nifer y cartrefi incwm isel sy’n prynu ffrwythau a llysiau, sydd wedi gostwng 20% yn y DU ers 2007. Mae’n debygol bod nifer sylweddol lai o bobl yn bwyta ffrwythau a llysiau, ac mae hynny’n peri mwy o ofid. Amcangyfrifir bod mwy nag un rhan o bump o ffrwythau a llysiau yn cael eu gwastraffu.

Yn 2011, dim ond 28% o’r rhai mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru oedd yn bwyta’r pum dogn neu fwy o ffrwythau a llysiau a argymhellir bob dydd, o gymharu â 36% o’r rhai lleiaf difreintiedig. Mae hyn yn arbennig o bwysig i blant yn ein cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig. Mae llawer gormod o blant o gymunedau o’r fath yn dibynnu ar fwyd sy’n cynnwys llawer o fraster a siwgr—y cyfeiriodd Ken atynt—heb fawr ddim maeth, sy’n golygu eu bod yn wynebu mwy o risg o fynd yn ordew. Mae nifer y bobl sydd dros bwysau ac yn ordew 9% yn uwch yn y cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru o gymharu â’r ardaloedd lleiaf difreintiedig. Mae’n bwysig ein bod yn gwneud popeth posibl i fynd i’r afael â’r sefyllfa annheg ac annerbyniol hon. Mae mynd i’r afael ag anghydraddoldebau iechyd wrth wraidd ‘Ein Dyfodol Iach’, fframwaith strategol Cymru ar gyfer iechyd y cyhoedd. Mae ‘Canlyniadau Iechyd Tecach i Bawb’ yn datblygu cam gweithredu allweddol ‘Ein Dyfodol Iach’ i fynd i’r afael â gwahaniaethau annheg, y gellir eu hosgoi mewn iechyd, gan gynnwys deiet. Mae’n cydnabod bod angen mynd i’r afael â bylchau mewn canlyniadau iechyd drwy gwrs bywyd, ar draws ffiniau daearyddol, y sbectrum economaidd-gymdeithasol a rhwng grwpiau cymdeithasol gwahanol.

Cyfeiriodd Ken at y Papur Gwyrdd sy’n

currently have out for consultation to discuss the need for a public health Bill in Wales to help us drive further improvements to overall health and wellbeing. This outlines some of our early ideas for how legislation could be used to tackle some of the main health challenges that we face. The Green Paper has triggered an important big health debate about what legislation we could potentially introduce, and what else we can do in Wales to improve public health. The consultation is open until late February, and I would urge you to take part if you have not done so already. I met with the chief medical officer today to see what responses are coming in. You all spoke about some ideas that I am sure we can also look at. Beyond this, with the help and support of key partners, the Welsh Government is committed to improving the diets of all and tackling the challenge of reducing health inequalities. To achieve this, we have invested in a range of initiatives to raise awareness, to highlight the benefits of, and to improve access to a healthy balanced diet. The majority of these are aimed at the whole population of Wales, but many target the most deprived communities.

Ken referred to the Communities First programme, which is one such initiative that concentrates on the 10% most deprived communities in Wales. Dedicated teams work in partnership with key service providers, including the voluntary and private sectors, to support the improvement of health outcomes in each area and ensure that the most vulnerable individuals, families and groups are supported. The community food co-operative programme aims to improve access to, and consumption of, fruit and vegetables across Wales. Around 350 food co-operatives provide a range of fresh produce at affordable prices, and the locations of the food co-operatives are prioritised to serve the most deprived areas of Wales, often working in partnership with Communities First areas.

In recent years, we have also done a lot to improve the food and drink provided in

destun ymgynghori ar hyn o bryd i drafod yr angen am Fil iechyd y cyhoedd yng Nghymru er mwyn helpu i sicrhau gwelliannau pellach mewn iechyd a lles cyffredinol. Mae'r papur hwn yn amlinellu rhai o'n syniadau cynnar o ran sut y gellid defnyddio deddfwriaeth i fynd i'r afael â rhai o'r prif heriau iechyd sy'n ein hwynebu. Mae'r Papur Gwyrdd wedi ysgogi dadl iechyd fawr bwysig ynghylch pa ddeddfwriaeth y gallem ei chyflwyno, a beth arall y gallwn ei wneud yng Nghymru i wella iechyd y cyhoedd. Mae'r ymgynghoriad ar agor tan ddiwedd mis Chwefror, a byddwn yn eich annog i gymryd rhan os nad ydych eisoes wedi gwneud hynny. Cyfarfûm â'r prif swyddog meddygol heddiw i weld pa ymatebion a gafwyd hyd yma. Siaradodd pob un ohonoch am rai syniadau yr wyf yn siŵr y gallwn hefyd eu hystyried. Y tu hwnt i hyn, gyda chymorth a chefnogaeth partneriaid allweddol, mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymrwymedig i wella deiet pawb a mynd i'r afael â'r her o leihau anghydraddoldebau iechyd. Er mwyn cyflawni hyn, rydym wedi buddsoddi mewn amrywiaeth o fentrau i godi ymwybyddiaeth, nodi'r manteision, a'i gwneud yn haws i bobl ddilyn deiet iach a chytbwys. Anelir y rhan fwyaf o'r rhain at boblogaeth gyfan Cymru, ond mae llawer yn targedu'r cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig.

Cyfeiriodd Ken at y rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, sef un fenter o'r fath sy'n canolbwyntio ar y 10% o gymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru. Mae timau ymroddedig yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth â darparwyr gwasanaethau allweddol, gan gynnwys y sectorau gwirfoddol a phreifat, er mwyn helpu i wella canlyniadau iechyd ym mhob ardal a sicrhau bod yr unigolion, y teuluoedd a'r grwpiau sydd fwyaf agored i niwed yn cael eu cefnogi. Nod y rhaglen cydweithfeydd bwyd cymunedol yw gwella'r gallu i gael gafael ar ffrwythau a llysiau a chynyddu nifer y bobl sy'n eu bwyta ledled Cymru. Mae tua 350 o gydweithfeydd bwyd yn darparu amrywiaeth o gynnyrch ffres am brisiau fforddiadwy, a blaenoriaethir lleoliadau'r cydweithfeydd bwyd er mwyn gwasanaethu ardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig Cymru, gan weithio mewn partneriaeth ag ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn aml.

Yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, rydym hefyd wedi gwneud llawer i wella'r bwyd a

schools and early-years settings, including offering free healthy breakfasts to all primary school children, and milk to under-sevens. The Appetite for Life nutritional standards for food and drink served in school will be made mandatory from 2013 and will provide a sound nutritional foundation for children, including those entitled to free school meals.

We have also worked closely with local health boards to improve access to dietetic advice and support in communities through the delivery of the community dietetic capacity scheme. This scheme includes the delivery of training on healthy eating for those working in the community, such as Flying Start workers.

The social marketing campaign Change4Life Wales supports these and other national and local initiatives. It aims to help people to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight, to eat well and to be more physically active. The campaign's main audience is families. To date, over 43,000 families have signed up to the programme. Last week, I was pleased to launch the new Change4Life Wales campaign, Food Smart, which aims to help and encourage families to make smart choices about what they eat and drink, in and out of the home. I do not know whether you have seen the Food Smart brochure, but it is full of tips on cheap and healthy recipes and it will be posted to all households that have signed up to Change4Life Wales.

There are also UK-wide initiatives available in Wales that aim specifically to improve the diets of those on lower incomes. Healthy Start provides a nutritional safety net to vulnerable pregnant women, new mothers and children in receipt of benefits, by providing vouchers that can be exchanged for fruit, vegetables, milk and formula. The scheme also provides free vitamins for population groups at risk of being deficient in certain vitamins, such as vitamin D. More than 23,000 people benefit from the scheme in Wales.

In summary I recognise that rising food

diod a ddarperir mewn ysgolion a lleoliadau blynyddoedd cynnar, gan gynnwys cynnig brecwast iach am ddim i bob plentyn ysgol gynradd, a llaeth i blant dan saith oed. Caiff safonau maeth Blas am Oes ar gyfer bwyd a diod a weinir yn yr ysgol eu gwneud yn orfodol o 2013 ymlaen a byddant yn darparu sylfaen faethol gadarn i blant, gan gynnwys y rheini sydd â hawl i gael prydau ysgol am ddim.

Rydym hefyd wedi gweithio'n agos gyda byrddau iechyd lleol er mwyn gwella'r gallu i gael gafael ar gyngor a chymorth deietegol mewn cymunedau drwy gyflwyno'r cynllun capasiti deietegol cymunedol. Mae'r cynllun hwn yn cynnwys cyflwyno hyfforddiant ar fwyta'n iach i'r rheini sy'n gweithio yn y gymuned, megis gweithwyr Dechrau'n Deg.

Mae ymgyrch farchnata gymdeithasol Newid am Oes Cymru yn cefnogi'r mentrau hyn a mentrau cenedlaethol a lleol eraill. Ei nod yw helpu pobl i gyflawni a chynnal pwysau corff iach, bwyta'n dda a bod yn fwy egniol yn gorfforol. Prif gynulleidfa'r ymgyrch yw teuluoedd. Hyd yma, mae dros 43,000 o deuluoedd wedi ymuno â'r rhaglen. Yr wythnos diwethaf, roeddwn yn falch o lansio ymgyrch Newid am Oes newydd Cymru, Bwyta'n Gall, sy'n ceisio helpu i annog teuluoedd i wneud dewisiadau doeth am yr hyn y maent yn ei fwyta a'i yfed, p'un a fyddant gartref ai peidio. Ni wn a ydych wedi gweld y llyfryn Bwyta'n Gall, ond mae'n llawn awgrymiadau ar gyfer ryseitiau rhad ac iach a chaiff ei hanfon i bob cartref sydd wedi cofrestru ar gyfer Newid am Oes Cymru.

Mae mentrau ar gyfer y DU gyfan hefyd ar gael yng Nghymru sydd â'r nod penodol o wella deiet pobl ar incwm is. Mae Cychwyn Iach yn darparu rhwyd ddiogelwch o ran maeth i ferched beichiog sy'n agored i niwed, mamau newydd a phlant sy'n cael budd-daliadau, drwy ddarparu talebau y gellir eu cyfnewid am ffrwythau, llysiau a llaeth fformiwla. Mae'r cynllun hefyd yn darparu fitaminau am ddim i grwpiau o'r boblogaeth sy'n wynebu risg o ddiffyg fitaminau penodol, fel fitamin D. Mae mwy na 23,000 o bobl yn cael budd o'r cynllun yng Nghymru.

I grynhoi, cydnabyddaf y gall cynnydd mewn

prices and pressures on household budgets can adversely affect people's diets. We will continue to drive forward initiatives to support people in Wales to eat balanced diets, particularly those on lower incomes.

prisiau bwyd a phwysau ar gyllidebau cartrefi gael effaith andwyol ar ddeiet pobl. Byddwn yn parhau i fynd ar drywydd mentrau i helpu pobl Cymru i fwyta deiet cytbwys, yn enwedig y rheini ar incwm is.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you, Minister. That brings today's proceedings to a close.

Y Llywydd: Diolch ichi, Weinidog. Daw hynny â thrafodion heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.43 p.m.
The meeting ended at 6.43 p.m.*

**Aelodau a'u Pleidiau
Members and their Parties**

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
 Antoniwi, Mick (Llafur – Labour)
 Asghar, Mohammad (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Burns, Angela (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
 Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Andrew R.T. (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Byron (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Davies, Keith (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Paul (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Suzy (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Drakeford, Mark (Llafur – Labour)
 Elis-Thomas, Yr Arglwydd/Lord (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Evans, Rebecca (Llafur – Labour)
 Finch-Saunders, Janet (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 George, Russell (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gething, Vaughan (Llafur – Labour)
 Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, Lesley (Llafur – Labour)
 Gruffydd, Llyr Huws (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
 Hedges, Mike (Llafur – Labour)
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 James, Julie (Llafur – Labour)
 Jenkins, Bethan (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
 Millar, Darren (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Julie (Llafur – Labour)
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
 Parrott, Eluned (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Powell, William (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Price, Gwyn R. (Llafur – Labour)
 Ramsay, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Rathbone, Jenny (Llafur – Labour)

Rees, David (Llafur – Labour)
Roberts, Aled (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Sandbach, Antoinette (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
Skates, Kenneth (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Thomas, Simon (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Watson, Joyce (Llafur – Labour)
Whittle, Lindsay (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)