

Cofnod y Trafodion

The Record of Proceedings

26/06/2013

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Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 1.30 p.m.gyda'r Llywydd
(Rosemary Butler) yn y Gadair.

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

13:30 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

The National Assembly for Wales is now in session.

Dyma ddechrau trafodion Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru.

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13:30 **Datganiad Personol gan Antoinette Sandbach**

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

I have agreed that Antoinette Sandbach may make a personal statement.

Personal Statement by Antoinette Sandbach

Rwyf wedi cytuno y gall Antoinette Sandbach wneud datganiad personol.

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13:30 **Antoinette Sandbach** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I am very grateful for this opportunity, Presiding Officer. Yesterday, I made some statements on Twitter that related to Assembly business and your role as Presiding Officer, which could have called into question that role, and the role of the Assembly. I apologise unreservedly if those comments did that—I did not intend them to do so. I wish to place that apology on the record. I should add that I have removed the comments, and I have echoed the apology on Twitter.

Rwy'n ddiolchgar iawn am y cyfle hwn, Lywydd. Ddoe, gwneuthum rai datganiadau ar Twitter a oedd yn ymwneud â busnes y Cynulliad a'ch rôl chi fel Llywydd, a allai fod wedi codi amheuan ynghylch y rôl honno, a rôl y Cynulliad. Ymddiheuraf yn ddiamod os gwnaeth fy sylwadau hynny—nid dyna oedd fy mwriad. Hoffwn ymddiheuro'n gyhoeddus. Dylwn ychwanegu fy mod wedi dileu'r sylwadau, ac wedi ymddiheuro ar Twitter hefyd.

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13:31 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Thank you very much.

Diolch yn fawr iawn.

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Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Cyllid

Darpariaeth Band Eang

13:31 **Janet Finch-Saunders** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

1. A oes gan y Gweinidog unrhyw gynlluniau i ddyrannu cyllid untro i'r portffolio Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth yn benodol mewn perthynas â darpariaeth band eang? OAQ(4)0290(FIN)

13:31 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Y Gweinidog Cyllid / The Minister for Finance

The Welsh Government is making a significant investment in broadband provision through the next generation broadband Wales programme.

13:32 **Janet Finch-Saunders** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Thank you, Minister. The reason I ask this question is because I am fighting for my constituency of Aberconwy, where we have a large number of notspots, as opposed to hotspots. Residents and businesses are very concerned as to where they are in the scale of things, and it is very difficult to obtain information from the maps as to when provision will be rolled out in Aberconwy. I am aware that there is a fund available, whereby those really poor areas can receive help of about £1,000, I believe, where people can get together to put some kind of provision in. What is your Government doing to raise awareness of this scheme, and do you envisage putting any extra funding towards this scheme to help in the short term?

13:32 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I know that the Member for Aberconwy will be aware of the investment that we have made in the next generation broadband Wales programme—there is an additional £10 million for both 2013-14 and 2014-15. There is also the £425 million invested to expand high-speed broadband throughout Wales. That roll-out will have a considerable impact in meeting 96% of homes and businesses in Wales, but an additional £2 million has also been allocated for approximately 2,000 individuals and businesses to have access to basic broadband, to address the very issue that you raise.

13:33 **Bethan Jenkins** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Weinidog, fe wnes i gyfarfod â chynrychiolwyr o gwmni Three y bore yma, sy'n rheoli'r rhwydwaith 3. Mae'n rhoi yr hyn sy'n cael ei alw yn ddyfeisiadau MiFi i bobl sy'n rheoli tai cymdeithasol, a phobl sy'n rheoli yn y sector twristiaeth, er mwyn hybu gallu twristiaid a phobl sy'n byw mewn tai cymdeithasol i gael mynediad cynhwysfawr i'r rhwydwaith benodol honno. A ydych wedi trafod hyn gyda'r rhwydwaith 3, neu gydag unrhyw rwydwaith arall, er mwyn ehangu'r cysyniad hwn o alluogi pobl nad ydynt yn cael mynediad i'r we neu i fand eang i gael mwy o fynediad yn y dyfodol?

Questions to the Minister for Finance

Broadband Provision

1. Does the Minister have any plans to allocate additional one-off funding to the Economy, Science and Transport portfolio specifically in relation to broadband provision? OAQ(4)0290(FIN)

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn buddsoddi'n sylweddol yn y ddarpariaeth band eang drwy raglen band eang y genhedlaeth nesaf Cymru.

Diolch, Weinidog. Gofynnaf y cwestiwn hwn gan fy mod yn brwydro ar ran fy etholaeth yn Aberconwy, lle mae gennym nifer fawr o fannau gwan, yn hytrach na mannau da. Mae trigolion a busnesau yn bryderus iawn ynglŷn â'u sefyllfa yn hyn o beth, ac mae'n anodd iawn cael gwybodaeth o'r mapiau ynglŷn â phryd y caiff y ddarpariaeth ei chyflwyno yn Aberconwy. Gwn fod cronfa ar gael, sy'n golygu y gall yr ardaloedd gwirioneddol wael hynny gael cymorth o tua £1,000, fe gredaf, lle gall pobl ddod at ei gilydd i sefydlu rhyw fath o ddarpariaeth. Beth mae eich Llywodraeth yn ei wneud i godi ymwybyddiaeth o'r cynllun hwn, ac a ydych yn rhagweld y byddwch yn rhoi unrhyw gyllid ychwanegol i'r cynllun hwn er mwyn helpu yn y tymor byr?

Gwn y bydd yr Aelod dros Aberconwy yn ymwybodol o'r buddsoddiad yr ydym wedi'i wneud yn rhaglen band eang y genhedlaeth nesaf Cymru—mae £10 miliwn ychwanegol ar gyfer 2013-14 a 2014-15. Ceir buddsoddiad o £425 miliwn i ehangu band eang cyflym ledled Cymru hefyd. Bydd y cam cyflwyno hwnnw'n cael effaith sylweddol ar gyrraedd 96% o gartrefi a busnesau yng Nghymru, ond mae £2 filiwn arall hefyd wedi cael ei ddyrannu i alluogi tua 2,000 o unigolion a busnesau i gael band eang sylfaenol, er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r union broblem yr ydych yn ei chodi.

Minister, I met representatives of Three, the company that manages the 3 network, this morning. It is providing what are called MiFi devices to people who manage social housing and managers in the tourism sector in order to promote the ability of tourists and those living in social housing to have comprehensive access to that particular network. Have you discussed this with the 3 network, or any other network, in order to expand this concept of enabling people who cannot access the internet or broadband to have greater access in the future?

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13:34	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography Ministers are tackling the issue of digital exclusion. We want to ensure that everyone enjoys the benefits of digital technologies. Pioneering work is being undertaken, particularly in social housing, but this is also important, as you are right to say, in terms of access for tourism. This is clearly a priority of this Government.	Mae gweinidogion yn mynd i'r afael â phroblem allgáu digidol. Rydym am sicrhau bod pawb yn cael budd o dechnolegau digidol. Mae gwaith arloesol yn cael ei wneud, yn enwedig o ran tai cymdeithasol, ond mae hyn hefyd yn bwysig, fel y dywedwch yn hollol bridol, o ran mynediad ar gyfer twristiaeth. Mae hyn yn amlwg yn flaenoriaeth i'r Llywodraeth hon.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
	Cyllid a Thollau ei Mawrhydi	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs	
13:34	Mike Hedges Bywgraffiad Biography <i>2. Pa ohebiaeth ddiweddar y mae'r Gweinidog wedi ei chael gyda Chyllid a Thollau Ei Mawrhydi?</i> OAQ(4)0273(FIN)	<i>2. What recent correspondence has the Minister had with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs?</i> OAQ(4)0273(FIN)	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:34	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography There has been no recent correspondence between myself and HMRC. However, as is usual with any large public organisation, representatives from the Welsh Government are in regular contact with HMRC over matters of routine business.	Ni fu unrhyw ohebiaeth ddiweddar rhyngof a CThEM. Fodd bynnag, fel sy'n arferol gydag unrhyw sefydliad cyhoeddus mawr, mae cynrychiolwyr o Lywodraeth Cymru mewn cysylltiad rheolaidd â CThEM ynghylch materion busnes arferol.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:34	Mike Hedges Bywgraffiad Biography Thank you for your reply, Minister. As HMRC is the organisation responsible for enforcing the national minimum wage—which was brought in by the last UK Labour Government—what work has the Welsh Government been undertaking, in partnership with HRMC, to ensure that Welsh businesses and employers comply with the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 and pay their staff and employees the wage to which they are entitled? I must admit, though, that I would prefer them to be paid a living wage.	Diolch ichi am eich ateb, Weinidog. Gan mai CThEM yw'r sefydliad sy'n gyfrifol am orfodi'r isafswm cyflog cenedlaethol—a gyflwynwyd gan Lywodraeth Lafur ddiwethaf y DU—pa waith y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi bod yn ei wneud, mewn partneriaeth â CThEM, i sicrhau bod busnesau a chyflogwyr Cymru yn cydymffurfio â Deddf Isafswm Cyflog Cenedlaethol 1998 ac yn rhoi'r cyflog i'w staff a'u cyflogeion y mae ganddynt hawl iddo? Rhaid imi gyfaddef, fodd bynnag, y byddai'n well gennyf pe baent yn cael cyflog byw.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:35	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography I thank Mike Hedges for that important question. I am very proud that it was the last UK Labour Government that brought in the minimum wage. It is important to note that the UK Government has accepted the recommendation of the Low Pay Commission to increase the rate for workers from October 2013. Clearly, that is important in terms of delivery, including the apprentice rate, which is updated each year in October.	Diolch i Mike Hedges am y cwestiwn pwysig hwnnw. Rwy'n falch iawn mai Llywodraeth Lafur ddiwethaf y DU a gyflwynodd yr isafswm cyflog. Mae'n bwysig nodi bod Llywodraeth y DU wedi derbyn argymhellid y Comisiwn Cyflogau Isel i gynyddu'r gyfradd ar gyfer gweithwyr o fis Hydref 2013. Yn amlwg, mae hynny'n bwysig o ran cyflawni, gan gynnwys y gyfradd ar gyfer prentisiaid, sy'n cael ei diweddarau bob blwyddyn ym mis Hydref.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:35	Russell George Bywgraffiad Biography What discussions have you had with HMRC regarding VAT, particularly in relation to the flexibility of the process within which Welsh businesses have to comply before sanctions are enforced?	Pa drafodaethau yr ydych wedi'u cael gyda CThEM ynghylch TAW, yn enwedig hyblygrwydd y broses y mae'n rhaid i fusnesau Cymru gydymffurfio â hi cyn bod sancsiynau'n cael eu gorfodi?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:36	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography This is a matter that we are addressing, and the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport is clearly aware of this in terms of the impact on businesses.	Mae hwn yn fater sy'n cael sylw, ac mae Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth yn amlwg yn ymwybodol o effaith hyn ar fusnesau.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:36

Simon Thomas [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Minister, will you join me in welcoming the Scottish Parliament's passing of the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Scotland) Bill yesterday? It is the first separate piece of taxation legislation passed within the United Kingdom for 308 years. It is, in effect, the stamp duty in Scotland. In order to work properly in Scotland, that piece of legislation requires close working with HMRC and those steps are now being put in place by the Scottish Government. What steps are you taking in advance of the implementation of the Silk commission recommendations on some limited tax-varying powers, and future recommendations possibly around income tax, to make sure that your Government and HMRC are closely aligned so that we can, in time, legislate on taxation here in this parliament?

Weinidog, a wnewch ymuno â mi i groesawu'r ffaith bod Senedd yr Alban wedi pasio Bil Treth Trafodion Tir ac Adeiladau (Yr Alban) ddoe? Dyma'r darn cyntaf o ddeddfwriaeth trethiant ar wahân a basiwyd yn y Deyrnas Unedig ers 308 o flynyddoedd. Yn ei hanfod, dyma dreth stamp yr Alban. Er mwyn gweithio'n iawn yn yr Alban, mae'r darn hwnnw o ddeddfwriaeth yn galw am gydweithio agos â CThEM ac mae Llywodraeth yr Alban wrthi'n cymryd y camau hynny. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd cyn gweithredu argymhellion comisiwn Silk ar rai pwerau amrywio trethi cyfyngedig, ac argymhellion yn y dyfodol o ran treth incwm o bosibl, er mwyn sicrhau bod cysylltiad agos rhwng eich Llywodraeth a CThEM fel y gallwn, ymhen amser, ddeddfu ar drethiant yma yn y Senedd hon?

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13:37

Jane Hutt [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I also welcome very much the news about the land and buildings transaction tax. I have spoken to the Minister for finance in the Scottish Government about this, seeing that there will be lessons to be learned when we take forward our new fiscal powers, which I believe we will be moving forward on. I am very pleased to say that, having just listened to the Chancellor, there are clear signs of progress on the Silk agenda, and I look forward to this being part of it, in terms of the importance of the need not only to devolve stamp duty, but to reform it. That is what I found when I met house builders only recently to discuss the issue with them.

Rwyf innau hefyd yn croesawu'n fawr y newyddion am y dreth trafodion tir ac adeiladau. Rwyf wedi siarad â Gweinidog cyllid Llywodraeth yr Alban am hyn, oherwydd bydd gwersi i'w dysgu pan fyddwn yn ymgymryd â'n pwerau cyllidol newydd, pwerau y credaf y byddwn yn ymgymryd â hwy. Rwy'n falch iawn o ddweud, ar ôl gwrandao ar y Canghellor gynnu, fod arwyddion clir o gynnydd o ran agenda Silk, ac edrychaf ymlaen at weld y mater hwn yn cael ei gynnwys fel rhan o hynny, o ran pwysigrwydd yr angen nid yn unig i ddatganoli treth stamp, ond i'w diwygio. Dyna a glywais pan gwrddais ag adeiladwyr tai yn ddiweddar i drafod y mater gyda hwy.

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Trafodaethau gyda Thrysorlys y DU

Discussions with the UK Treasury

13:37

David Rees [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

3. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am drafodaethau diweddar y mae wedi eu cael gyda Thrysorlys y DU?
OAQ(4)0283(FIN)

3. Will the Minister make a statement on recent discussions she has had with the UK Treasury?
OAQ(4)0283(FIN)

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13:37

Jane Hutt [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I am in regular contact with UK Treasury Ministers about a range of funding issues to secure the best possible settlement for Wales. I was pleased to announce yesterday, alongside the Minister for Housing and Regeneration and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the end of the housing revenue account subsidy scheme in Wales.

Rwyf mewn cysylltiad rheolaidd â Gweinidogion Trysorlys y DU ynghylch nifer o faterion ariannu er mwyn sicrhau'r setliad gorau posibl i Gymru. Roeddwn yn falch o gyhoeddi ddoe, ochr yn ochr â'r Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio a Phrif Ysgrifennydd y Trysorlys, ddiwedd cynllun cymhorthdal y cyfrif refeniw tai yng Nghymru.

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13:38

David Rees [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Thank you for that answer, Minister. This afternoon, the Chancellor has made a statement on the spending review, and we see, once again, that our vulnerable communities are facing more cuts. The Silk commission suggested the devolvement of some financial levers that the Welsh Government could use to develop our economy and help these communities. Will you outline what discussions you have had with the UK Treasury on the response to the Silk commission's first report?

Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Y prynhawn yma, mae'r Canghellor wedi gwneud datganiad ar yr adolygiad o wariant, a gwelwn, unwaith eto, fod ein cymunedau bregus yn wynebu mwy o doriadau. Awgrymodd comisiwn Silk y dylid datganoli rhai ysgogwyr ariannol y gallai Llywodraeth Cymru eu defnyddio i ddatblygu ein heconomi a helpu'r cymunedau hyn. A wnewch amlinellu pa drafodaethau yr ydych wedi'u cael gyda Thrysorlys y DU ar yr ymateb i adroddiad cyntaf comisiwn Silk?

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13:38	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography I have regular discussions, as Members, including the Member for Aberavon, will know, with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on those issues raised by the first Silk report, including recommendations for the devolution of tax and borrowing powers, which are crucial financial levers for us in terms of the protection of vulnerable communities that are facing more cuts. I am very encouraged by the Chancellor's statement, and I look forward to seeing a full response from the UK Government before the summer recess.	Rwy'n cael trafodaethau rheolaidd, fel y gŵyr Aelodau, gan gynnwys yr Aelod dros Aberafan, gyda Phrif Ysgrifennydd y Trysorlys ar y materion hynny a godwyd gan adroddiad cyntaf Silk, gan gynnwys argymhellion i ddatganoli pwerau trethu a benthycu, sy'n ysgogwyr ariannol hanfodol inni o ran amddiffyn cymunedau bregus sy'n wynebu mwy o doriadau. Mae datganiad y Canghellor yn galonogol iawn, ac edrychaf ymlaen at weld ymateb llawn gan Lywodraeth y DU cyn toriad yr haf.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:39	Antoinette Sandbach Bywgraffiad Biography You referred earlier to the end of the HRAS, which will mean that councils will save an estimated £33 million a year. Do you agree that this is an excellent example of the UK Government delivering on something that the previous Labour Government ignored during the 13 years it was in power?	Cyfeiriasoch yn gynharach at ddiwedd cymhorthdal y cyfrif referiw tai, a fydd yn golygu y bydd y cynghorau yn arbed tua £33 miliwn y flwyddyn. A ydych yn cytuno bod hon yn enghraifft ardderchog o Lywodraeth y DU yn cyflawni rhywbeth y gwnaeth y Llywodraeth Lafur flaenorol ei anwybyddu yn ystod ei 13 mlynedd mewn grym?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:39	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography I would say that it is the Welsh Government, as a result of our engagement with the UK Government, of course, that has delivered on this reform of the HRAS. That is something that the joint statement by the Chief Secretary, myself and, indeed, Carl Sargeant, the Minister for Housing and Regeneration, made clear. This is about Governments working together in order to deliver for the people of Wales and for the housing of Wales. Achieving that agreement is something that the Welsh Government can be proud of.	Byddwn yn dweud mai Llywodraeth Cymru, o ganlyniad i'n gwaith gyda Llywodraeth y DU, wrth gwrs, a gyflawnodd y diwygiad hwn i gymhorthdal y cyfrif referiw tai. Dangoswyd hynny'n glir yn y datganiad ar y cyd gan y Prif Ysgrifennydd, minnau ac, yn wir, Carl Sargeant, y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio. Mae a wnelo hyn â Llywodraethau'n cydweithio er mwyn cyflawni dros bobl Cymru a thai Cymru. Mae sicrhau'r cytundeb hwnnw yn rhywbeth y gall Llywodraeth Cymru fod yn falch ohono.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:40	Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography I call the Plaid Cymru spokesperson, Jocelyn Davies.	Galwaf ar lefarydd Plaid Cymru, Jocelyn Davies.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:40	Jocelyn Davies Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, it has been suggested that a loan guarantee from the UK Government could be on offer to fund the M4 relief road, a scheme that, as you know, is not in your Government's national transport plan. Should not your Government decide on which infrastructure projects are a priority for Wales? Did you indicate to the UK Government that the M4 relief road was a project that you would like to progress with, and, if you did, why is it not in your national transport plan?	Weinidog, awgrymwyd y gallai fod gwarant benthyciad ar gael gan Lywodraeth y DU i ariannu ffordd liniaru'r M4, cynllun nad yw wedi'i gynnwys yng nghynllun trafnidiaeth cenedlaethol eich Llywodraeth, fel y gwyddoch. Onid eich Llywodraeth chi a ddylai benderfynu pa brosiectau seilwaith sy'n flaenoriaeth i Gymru? A wnaethoch awgrymu i Lywodraeth y DU bod ffordd liniaru'r M4 yn brosiect yr hoffech ymgymryd ag ef, ac, os felly, pam nad yw wedi'i gynnwys yn eich cynllun trafnidiaeth cenedlaethol?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:40	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography It is very clear that we are making progress with the intergovernmental talks, which concluded in October, in terms of seeking early access to borrowing powers. Enhancement of the M4 and plans to improve the M4 were a key part of those discussions in terms of how we could take that forward through early access to borrowing powers. Today, we hear from the Chancellor that the UK Government recognises that there are impressive plans for the M4—those are our plans for the M4 relief road. I look forward to a conclusion on this in due course.	Mae'n amlwg iawn ein bod yn gwneud cynnydd gyda'r trafodaethau rhynglywodraethol, a ddaeth i ben ym mis Hydref, o ran ceisio cael mynediad cynnar at bwerau benthycu. Roedd gwella'r M4 a chynlluniau i wella'r M4 yn rhan allweddol o'r trafodaethau hynny o ran sut y gallem ymgymryd â hynny drwy gael mynediad cynnar at bwerau benthycu. Heddiw, clywn gan y Canghellor fod Llywodraeth y DU yn cydnabod bod cynlluniau trawiadol ar droed ar gyfer yr M4—sef ein cynlluniau ar gyfer ffordd liniaru'r M4. Edrychaf ymlaen at ddod i gasgliad ar y mater hwn maes o law.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:41	Jocelyn Davies Bywgraffiad Biography If loan guarantees for transport projects are in favour with the UK Government, as they seem to be, will you embark on discussions with the Treasury on the possibility of providing loan guarantees for the Valleys metro?	Os yw Llywodraeth y DU yn cefnogi gwarantau benthyciadau ar gyfer prosiectau trafnidiaeth, fel y mae'n ymddangos, a fyddwch yn dechrau trafodaethau gyda'r Trysorlys ynghylch y posibilrwydd o ddarparu gwarantau benthyciadau ar gyfer metro'r Cymoedd?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:41	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography This is something where we are not only talking to the Treasury; the opportunities for European structural funds also will help us to take this forward this project, led by the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport. Again, I would emphasise the importance of these being major infrastructure plans and projects for Wales.	Mae hyn yn rhywbeth yr ydym yn ei drafod ag eraill hefyd, nid dim ond y Trysorlys; bydd y cyfleoedd ar gyfer cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd hefyd yn ein helpu i fwrw ymlaen â'r prosiect hwn, a arweinir gan Weinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth. Unwaith eto, byddwn yn pwysleisio pwysigrwydd y ffaith bod y rhain yn gynlluniau ac yn brosiectau seilwaith mawr i Gymru.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:42	Mick Antoniw Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, there appear to be two particularly vindictive aspects to the spending review. One is an attack on public sector pay, with a potential freeze affecting the most low-paid within Wales. The other is a bizarre seven day waiting period, so that people who lose their jobs have to wait a full week before they receive any benefits. Have there been any representations made to you about the possibility of such changes? Will you be entering into any discussions on the implications of this for working people within Wales?	Weinidog, mae'n ymddangos bod dwy agwedd arbennig o ddialgar i'r adolygiad o wariant. Un yw'r ymosodiad ar gyflogau'r sector cyhoeddus, gyda chynnig rhewi posibl sy'n effeithio ar y rhai â'r cyflogau isaf yng Nghymru. Y llall yw cyfnod aros rhyfedd o saith niwrnod, fel bod yn rhaid i bobl sy'n colli eu swyddi aros am wythnos lawn cyn cael unrhyw fudd-daliadau. A ydych wedi cael unrhyw sylwadau am y posibilrwydd o gyflwyno newidiadau o'r fath? A fyddwch yn cymryd rhan mewn unrhyw drafodaethau ar oblygiadau hyn i bobl sy'n gweithio yng Nghymru?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:42	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography Of course, these are issues that are of major concern. We are seeing the impact already in terms of late payment of benefit, which leaves families in very difficult situations of hardship and poverty, leading to them having to rely on access to food banks. This is very clearly an issue where we need to intervene to help mitigate the impact, but also to raise our concerns and the evidence of the negative impacts of that move.	Wrth gwrs, mae'r rhain yn faterion sy'n peri pryder mawr. Rydym yn gweld yr effaith eisoes o ran taliadau budd-daliadau hwyr, sy'n gadael teuluoedd mewn sefyllfaoedd anodd iawn o galedi a thlodi, gan beri iddynt orfod dibynnu ar fanciau bwyd. Yn amlwg iawn mae hon yn broblem lle y mae angen inni ymyrryd er mwyn helpu i liniaru'r effaith, ond hefyd leisio ein pryderon a dangos tystiolaeth o effeithiau negyddol y cam hwnnw.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
Cynllun Buddsoddi yn Seilwaith Cymru		Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan	
13:43	Gwyn R. Price Bywgraffiad Biography 4. Sut y mae'r Gweinidog yn blaenoriaethu nodau Cynllun Buddsoddi yn Seilwaith Cymru? OAQ(4)0279(FIN)	4. How is the Minister prioritising the goals of the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan? OAQ(4)0279(FIN)	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:43	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography The Wales infrastructure investment plan sets out seven priority areas for investment and clear goals for improving our approach. I published a report on progress against these goals on 11 June.	Mae cynllun buddsoddi yn seilwaith Cymru yn nodi saith maes blaenoriaeth ar gyfer buddsoddi a nodau clir ar gyfer gwella ein dull o weithredu. Cyhoeddais adroddiad ar gynnydd yn erbyn y nodau hyn ar 11 Mehefin.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:43	Gwyn R. Price Bywgraffiad Biography Thank you for that answer. Minister, infrastructure investments can be the catalyst for stimulating growth as well as improving prospects for future growth. Do you agree that the true benefit of the infrastructure plan will be seen through projects such as the extension of the Ebbw Valley line?	Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw. Weinidog, gall buddsoddiadau seilwaith fod yn gatalydd i ysgogi twf yn ogystal â gwella rhagolygon ar gyfer twf yn y dyfodol. A ydych yn cytuno mai drwy brosiectau fel yr estyniad i linell Cwm Ebwy y gwelir gwir fuddiannau'r cynllun seilwaith?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:43	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography I thank Gwyn Price for that question, because the Wales infrastructure plan has helped to drive collaboration across Government and wider afield, in terms of our shared understanding of infrastructure needs. On 7 May, I announced an additional £76.5 million funding package of infrastructure investment, a Welsh Government investing infrastructure, and this included £11.5 million to extend the Ebbw Valley railway and open a new station in Ebbw Vale.	Diolch i Gwyn Price am y cwestiwn hwnnw, oherwydd mae cynllun seilwaith Cymru wedi helpu i lywio cydweithio ar draws y Llywodraeth a thu hwnt, o ran ein cyd-ddealltwriaeth o anghenion seilwaith. Ar 7 Mai, cyhoeddais becyn ariannu ychwanegol o £76.5 miliwn o fuddsoddiadau seilwaith, seilwaith buddsoddi Llywodraeth Cymru, ac roedd hwn yn cynnwys £11.5 miliwn i ymestyn rheilffordd Cwm Ebwy ac agor gorsaf newydd yng Nglynebwy.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:44	Darren Millar Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, one of the announcements that I welcomed as part of the Wales infrastructure investment plan was £5 million for sea defences in the Colwyn Bay area. However, I am still very concerned about the quality of the sea defences in the Old Colwyn part of the Bay of Colwyn. These are the defences that are closest to the road and rail infrastructure that is critical to the success of the economy in north Wales. What proposals might you bring forward in the next round of announcements to ensure that that part of the Old Colwyn flood defences is also improved?	Weinidog, un o'r cyhoeddiadau a groesewais fel rhan o gynllun buddsoddi yn seilwaith Cymru oedd y £5 miliwn ar gyfer amddiffynfeydd môr yn ardal Bae Colwyn. Fodd bynnag, rwy'n dal yn bryderus iawn am ansawdd yr amddiffynfeydd môr yn rhan Hen Golwyn o Fae Colwyn. Dyma'r amddiffynfeydd sydd agosaf i'r seilwaith ffyrdd a rheilffyrdd sy'n hanfodol i lwyddiant yr economi yn y gogledd. Pa gynigion y gallech eu cyflwyno yn y cylch nesaf o gyhoeddiadau er mwyn sicrhau bod y rhan honno o amddiffynfeydd llifogydd Hen Golwyn hefyd yn cael ei gwella?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:44	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography Clearly, investing in flood protection is not just for families and households, but for the business community and the economy as a whole. That is why it is a key priority of the Wales infrastructure investment plan.	Yn amlwg, mae buddsoddi mewn seilwaith amddiffyn rhag llifogydd yn berthnasol i fwy na dim ond teuluoedd ac aelwydydd, ond i'r gymuned fusnes a'r economi yn ei chyfanrwydd. Dyna pam ei fod yn un o flaenoriaethau allweddol y cynllun buddsoddi yn seilwaith Cymru.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:44	Llyr Huws Gruffydd Bywgraffiad Biography Un o flaenoriaethau lefel uchel y cynllun buddsoddi mewn seilwaith, wrth gwrs, yw gwella cysylltiadau trafnidiaeth, ac mae cyfeiriad at yr angen am drydedd bont ar draws y Fenai. Pa gynnydd sydd wedi bod yn y gwaith i sicrhau bod yr uchelgais hwnnw'n cael ei wireddu, ac a ydych yn rhagweld unrhyw ddatblygiadau arwyddocaol ar y ffyrnt hwnnw dros y blynyddoedd nesaf?	One of the high-level priorities of the infrastructure investment plan is to improve transport links, and there is reference to the need for a third bridge across the Menai straits. What progress has there been in the work of ensuring that that ambition is achieved? Do you anticipate that there will be any significant developments on that front over the next few years?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:45	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography The Minister for Economy, Science and Transport is looking closely at the strategic needs for national transport and that includes north Wales, particularly the links to energy island.	Mae Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth yn edrych yn ofalus ar yr anghenion strategol o ran trafnidiaeth genedlaethol ac mae hynny'n cynnwys y gogledd, yn enwedig y cysylltiadau â'r ynys ynni.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:45	Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography I call the Welsh Liberal Democrat spokesperson, Peter Black.	Galwaf ar lefarydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, Peter Black.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
13:45	Peter Black Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, may I start by welcoming the 0.3% increase in real terms in capital announced by the Chancellor this afternoon for the Welsh Government? I also note that, as part of your infrastructure investment plan, you have a goal to attract additional money into that to maximise the use of that resource. What is the Welsh Government's current position regarding the money that is tied up in the regional investment fund for Wales, which is earmarked for projects and has not yet been able to be spent?	Weinidog, a allaf ddechrau drwy groesawu'r cynnydd o 0.3% mewn termau real mewn cyfalaf a gyhoeddwyd gan y Canghellor y prynhawn yma i Lywodraeth Cymru? Nodaf hefyd, fel rhan o'ch cynllun buddsoddi mewn seilwaith, fod gennych nod i ddenu arian ychwanegol at hynny er mwyn sicrhau y caiff yr adnodd hwnnw ei ddefnyddio i'r eithaf. Beth yw safbwynt presennol Llywodraeth Cymru ynghylch yr arian sydd wedi'i glymu yng nghronfa buddsoddi rhanbarthol Cymru, sydd wedi'i neilltuo i brosiectau ond na fu modd ei wario hyd yma?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:46

Jane Hutt [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

This is something that we will have to consider as we assess the impact. I want to be clear about the announcements that were made in the spending review as I came into the Chamber. To be clear about what the Chancellor said, in terms of the budget for 2015-16, it will be £450 million lower in real terms than our current budget for 2014-15. Rather than an increase in capital, this settlement has a further cut; our capital budget for 2015-16 will be more than 40% lower in real terms than in 2009-10. So, it is a very challenging budget in terms of delivering our priorities.

Mae hyn yn rhywbeth y bydd yn rhaid inni ei ystyried wrth inni asesu'r effaith. Rwyf am fod yn glir ynghylch y cyhoeddiadau a wnaed yn yr adolygiad o wariant wrth imi ddod i mewn i'r Siambr. I fod yn glir ynghylch yr hyn a ddywedodd y Canghellor, o ran y gyllideb ar gyfer 2015-16, bydd honno £450 miliwn yn is mewn termau real na'n cyllideb bresennol ar gyfer 2014-15. Yn hytrach na chynnydd mewn cyfalaf, mae'r setliad hwn yn cynnwys toriad pellach; bydd ein cyllideb gyfalaf ar gyfer 2015-16 dros 40% yn is mewn termau real o gymharu â 2009-10. Felly, mae'n gyllideb heriol iawn o ran cyflawni ein blaenoriaethau.

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13:46

Peter Black [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I suppose it depends on where you start with the baseline, but, clearly, an increase has been announced for the final year of this Government. In relation to the regional investment fund for Wales, as I understand it, the top 10 projects that have been put in place amount to an investment of nearly £60 million into the Welsh economy, creating just under 3,000 jobs. Do you not think that it is time that the Welsh Government resolves the problems around RIFW to ensure that that money can be released, so that those projects can go ahead, including the three in my region?

Mae'n debyg ei fod yn dibynnu ar y llinell sylfaen rydych yn dechrau ohoni, ond, yn amlwg, cyhoeddwyd cynnydd ar gyfer blwyddyn olaf y Llywodraeth hon. O ran cronfa buddsoddi rhanbarthol Cymru, fel y deallaf, mae'r 10 prif brosiect a gyflwynwyd yn cyfateb i fuddsoddiad o bron £60 miliwn yn economi Cymru, gan greu ychydig llai na 3,000 o swyddi. Onid ydych yn meddwl ei bod yn bryd i Lywodraeth Cymru ddatrys y problemau o ran Cronfa Buddsoddi Rhanbarthol Cymru er mwyn sicrhau y gall yr arian hwnnw gael ei ryddhau, fel y gall y prosiectau hynny fynd rhagddynt, gan gynnwys y tri yn fy rhanbarth i?

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13:47

Jane Hutt [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

These issues are being dealt with. In terms of the important and robust scrutiny of the issues with RIFW, we have to ensure that we can get the projects, particularly those in your region, moving forward.

Mae'r materion hyn yn cael sylw. O ran y gwaith craffu pwysig a chadarn ar y materion sy'n ymwneud â Chronfa Buddsoddi Rhanbarthol Cymru, rhaid inni sicrhau y gallwn drefnu bod y prosiectau, yn enwedig y rhai yn eich rhanbarth chi, yn cael eu rhoi ar waith.

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Pwerau Cyllido a Benthycia

Funding and Borrowing Powers

13:47

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

5. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y trafodaethau presennol gyda Llywodraeth y DU ar bwerau cyllido a benthycia i Lywodraeth Cymru?
OAQ(4)0281(FIN)W

5. Will the Minister provide an update on the current negotiations with the UK Government on funding and borrowing powers for the Welsh Government?
OAQ(4)0281(FIN)W

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13:47

Jane Hutt [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Rwy'n parhau i roi'r achos gerbron Llywodraeth y DU i weithredu argymhellion comisiwn Silk ar gyfer diwygio cyllid, gan gynnwys pwerau benthycia i gefnogi buddsoddiadau seilwaith.

I am continuing to press the case with the UK Government for the implementation of the Silk commission's recommendations for funding reform, including borrowing powers to support infrastructure investment.

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13:48

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

Yn ystod yr oriau diwethaf, datganwyd adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant gan Ganghellor y Deyrnas Unedig. Dangoswyd ble, yn adrannau'r Deyrnas Unedig, bydd toriadau pellach yn digwydd. Yn barod, mae S4C wedi colli 36% mewn termau real ers 2010, ac mae ymrwymiad cyllidol yr Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon wedi lleihau 93% dros y tair blynedd diwethaf. Mae S4C wedi ceisio trafod â Maria Miller, ond, yn anffodus, mae wedi methu â chwrrd â hi. Dangosir ymchwil diweddar fod pob punt a wariwyd ar ddiwydiannau creadigol yng Nghymru yn creu £2 i'r economi. A ydych chi'n cytuno bod unrhyw leihad yn arian S4C yn mynd i gael effaith syfrdanol ar yr unig sianel iaith Gymraeg ac ar ddiwydiannau creadigol yng Nghymru?

Over the past few hours, a comprehensive spending review was announced by the UK Government Chancellor. It was demonstrated where, in UK Government departments, further cuts are to take place. S4C has already lost 36% of its income in real terms since 2010, and the financial commitment of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has reduced by 93% over the past three years. S4C has tried to discuss this with Maria Miller, but, unfortunately, it has not been able to meet with her. Recent research shows that every pound spent on creative industries in Wales creates £2 for the economy. Do you agree that any reduction in the funding for S4C will have a substantial impact on the only Welsh language channel and on creative industries in Wales?

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13:49

Jane Hutt [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I thank the Member for Llanelli for that question. S4C plays a crucial role in supporting the Welsh language, as well as the creative industries in Wales, and the financial contribution from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is vital for S4C. So, we are concerned that there have been no assurances yet in the spending review announcement in terms of the funding from DCMS.

Diolch i'r Aelod dros Lanelli am y cwestiwn hwnnw. Mae S4C yn chwarae rôl hollbwysig o ran cefnogi'r iaith Gymraeg, yn ogystal â'r diwydiannau creadigol yng Nghymru, ac mae cyfraniad ariannol yr Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon yn hanfodol i S4C. Felly, rydym yn pryderu na chafwyd unrhyw sicrwydd eto yng nghyhoeddiad yr adolygiad o wariant o ran y cyllid gan yr Adran.

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13:49

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

Minister, in October, you said that it was agreed that the UK Government and Welsh Government should continue to explore the options for financing specific infrastructure projects, including the case for early access to borrowing powers in anticipation of a future independent revenue stream. Could you therefore tell us, Minister, which specific infrastructure projects you have discussed in your recent discussions that would enable you to access borrowing powers as soon as possible?

Weinidog, ym mis Hydref, dywedasoch y cytunwyd y dylai Llywodraeth y DU a Llywodraeth Cymru barhau i ymchwilio i'r opsiynau ariannu ar gyfer prosiectau seilwaith penodol, gan gynnwys yr achos dros gael mynediad cynnar at bwerau benthyca gan ragweld ffrwd refeniw annibynnol yn y dyfodol. Felly, a allech ddweud wrthym, Weinidog, pa brosiectau seilwaith penodol yr ydych chi wedi'u trafod yn ystod eich trafodaethau diweddar a fyddai'n eich galluogi i gael mynediad at bwerau benthyca cyn gynted â phosibl?

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13:49

Jane Hutt [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I am very pleased to respond to that question from Paul Davies. It follows up a response to a question from Jocelyn Davies. The M4 has been a vital project for this economy, and across the Chamber, there has been support for the enhancement and improvement of the M4. That has been a key project that we have been discussing in terms of early access to borrowing powers.

Rwy'n falch iawn i ymateb i'r cwestiwn hwnnw gan Paul Davies. Mae'n ategu ymateb a roddwyd i gwestiwn gan Jocelyn Davies. Mae'r M4 wedi bod yn brosiect hanfodol i'r economi hon, ac ar draws y Siambr, bu cefnogaeth i waith i wella'r M4. Mae hwnnw wedi bod yn brosiect allweddol yr ydym wedi bod yn ei drafod o ran cael mynediad cynnar at bwerau benthyca.

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13:50

Lindsay Whittle [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Minister, we are all aware of the announcements today about substantial cuts affecting Wales, but are we aware of the recent u-turn by your Westminster Labour colleagues regarding spending post 2015? Owen Smith said on the BBC on Sunday that Labour

'can't commit right now to reversing the further cuts that we anticipate seeing from George Osborne'.

Weinidog, rydym i gyd yn ymwybodol o'r cyhoeddiadau heddiw am doriadau sylweddol sy'n effeithio ar Gymru, ond a ydym yn ymwybodol o'r tro pedol diweddar gan eich cyd-aelodau Llafur yn San Steffan ynghylch gwariant ar ôl 2015? Dywedodd Owen Smith ar y BBC ddydd Sul

ni all [y Blaid Lafur] ymrwymo ar hyn o bryd i wrthdroi'r toriadau pellach yr ydym yn disgwyl eu gweld gan George Osborne.

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Given that the current UK Government is clearly in no rush to give this Assembly full borrowing powers, can you confirm whether you have had discussions with your Westminster Labour colleagues, and whether it is a fact that they have ruled out any real changes to Tory spending plans, which will affect your Government's obtaining full borrowing powers?

O ystyried nad yw Llywodraeth bresennol y DU yn amlwg mewn unrhyw frys i roi pwerau benthyca llawn i'r Cynulliad hwn, a allwch gadarnhau pa un a ydych wedi cael trafodaethau gyda'ch cydaelodau Llafur yn San Steffan, ac a yw'n wir eu bod wedi diystyru gwneud unrhyw newidiadau gwirioneddol i gynlluniau gwariant y Torïaid, a fydd yn effeithio ar allu eich Llywodraeth i gael pwerau benthyca llawn?

13:51 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I know that the Senedd is aware that this is the toughest budget settlement imposed on Wales by the UK Government. The Welsh Government has been clear, as have I as your Minister for Finance, about our priorities to protect health, schools and the vulnerable and to boost growth and jobs. We will face tough challenges as a result of this spending review in Wales.

Gwn fod y Senedd yn ymwybodol mai dyma'r setliad cyllidebol mwyaf heriol a orfodwyd ar Gymru gan Lywodraeth y DU. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi bod yn glir, fel yr wyf finnau hefyd wedi bod fel eich Gweinidog Cyllid, ynglŷn â'n blaenoriaethau i amddiffyn iechyd, ysgolion a phobl agored i niwed a hybu twf a swyddi. Byddwn yn wynebu heriau anodd o ganlyniad i'r adolygiad hwn o wariant yng Nghymru.

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Cynllun Buddsoddi yn Seilwaith Cymru ar gyfer Bae Abertawe

Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan for Swansea Bay

13:51 **Julie James** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

6. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am bwysigrwydd Cynllun Buddsoddi yn Seilwaith Cymru ar gyfer Bae Abertawe? OAQ(4)0284(FIN)

6. Will the Minister make a statement on the importance of the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan for Swansea Bay? OAQ(4)0284(FIN)

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13:51 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Welsh Government and EU funds are contributing to key investments in the Swansea bay region, including the Boulevard scheme and a £32 million innovation hub at the new Swansea University science and innovation campus.

Mae cronfeydd Llywodraeth Cymru a'r UE yn cyfrannu at fuddsoddiadau allweddol yn rhanbarth bae Abertawe, gan gynnwys cynllun Boulevard a chanolfan arloesi £32 miliwn ar gampws gwyddoniaeth ac arloesi newydd Prifysgol Abertawe.

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13:51 **Julie James** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Thank you for that, Minister. I think that you would agree that collaboration between the Welsh Government and Swansea University has been crucial in the success of the Institute of Life Sciences. Do you agree that further investment is crucial to the continued success of such high-quality projects, which have, so far, created 273 very high-skilled jobs and world-class research at the university?

Diolch ichi am hynny, Weinidog. Credaf y byddech yn cytuno bod y cydweithio rhwng Llywodraeth Cymru a Phrifysgol Abertawe wedi bod yn hanfodol i lwyddiant yr Athrofa Gwyddor Bywyd. A ydych yn cytuno bod buddsoddiad pellach yn hanfodol i lwyddiant parhaus y fath brosiectau ansawdd uchel, sydd, hyd yma, wedi creu 273 o swyddi crefftus iawn ac ymchwil o'r radd flaenaf yn y brifysgol?

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13:52 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I certainly agree with Julie James about the impact that that investment has already made in terms of Swansea University being a flagship university for the growing life sciences sector in Wales. Through the academic expertise for business programme, we have also facilitated almost £900,000 to support research and development at the centre since 2012. Taking that forward is now the next step.

Rwy'n sicr yn cytuno â Julie James am yr effaith y mae'r buddsoddiad hwnnw eisoes wedi'i chael o ran statws Prifysgol Abertawe fel prifysgol flaenllaw ar gyfer y sector gwyddorau bywyd sy'n tyfu yng Nghymru. Trwy'r rhaglen arbenigedd academiaidd ar gyfer busnes, rydym hefyd wedi hwyluso bron £900,000 i gefnogi gwaith ymchwil a datblygu yn y ganolfan ers 2012. Bwrw ymlaen â hynny yw'r cam nesaf yn awr.

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13:52 **Byron Davies** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
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Minister, I particularly welcome infrastructure projects in the Swansea area, and we have had money spent on redoubling the line from Swansea down to Llanelli. Can you outline what discussions, if any, have taken place regarding the tidal lagoon project planned for Swansea bay? Do you think that this is a project that will feature in any future Wales infrastructure investment plan in the energy generation portfolio?

Weinidog, croesawaf yn benodol brosiectau seilwaith yn ardal Abertawe, ac mae arian wedi cael ei wario ar ailddyblu'r rheilffordd o Abertawe i lawr i Lanelli. A allwch amlinellu pa drafodaethau, os o gwbl, sydd wedi'u cynnal ynghylch y prosiect morlyn llanw arfaethedig ym mae Abertawe? A ydych yn credu y bydd y prosiect hwn yn rhan o unrhyw gynllun buddsoddi yn seilwaith Cymru yn y dyfodol o dan y portffolio cynhyrchu ynni?

13:53 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
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I have had no discussions on the project.

Nid wyf wedi cael unrhyw drafodaethau ar y prosiect.

13:53 **Bethan Jenkins** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
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Minister, when I met with representatives of Swansea University as part of Universities Week, they said that it was heartwarming that the new science and innovation campus was based in Swansea, but they said that there was still room for the Welsh Government to put more businesses and more investment in that particular area. I wonder, therefore, whether you or the Minister for economy, Edwina Hart, have had more talks with local businesses such as DTR Medical that may be able to utilise the resources on that particular campus?

Weinidog, pan gyfarfûm â chynrychiolwyr o Brifysgol Abertawe fel rhan o Wythnos y Prifysgolion, gwnaethant ddweud ei bod yn galonogol bod y campws gwyddoniaeth ac arloesi newydd wedi'i leoli yn Abertawe, ond gwnaethant ddweud bod lle o hyd i Lywodraeth Cymru roi mwy o fusnesau a mwy o fuddsoddiad yn yr ardal benodol honno. Tybed, felly, a ydych chi neu Weinidog yr economi, Edwina Hart, wedi cael rhagor o drafodaethau â busnesau lleol megis DTR Medical a all ddefnyddio'r adnoddau ar y campws penodol hwnnw o bosibl?

13:53 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
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We believe that Swansea University is in discussions about a potential Institute of Life Sciences 3 facility, and the Welsh Government is interested in the sight of any proposal if these discussions should develop.

Credwn fod Prifysgol Abertawe yn cymryd rhan mewn trafodaethau ynghylch cyfleuster Athrofa Gwyddor Bywyd 3 posibl, ac mae gan Lywodraeth Cymru ddiddordeb mewn gweld unrhyw gynnig os bydd y trafodaethau hyn yn datblygu.

Cyllid Canlyniadol

13:54 **Rhodri Glyn Thomas** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
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7. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei phroses ar gyfer dyrannu cyllid canlyniadol a gafwyd gan Lywodraeth y DU? OAQ(4)0278(FIN)

7. Will the Minister make a statement on her process for allocating consequential funding received from the UK Government? OAQ(4)0278(FIN)

13:54 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
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Mae'r cyllid sydd ar gael i Gymru yn cael ei ddyrannu i gefnogi ein blaenoriaethau, fel y nodir yn y rhaglen lywodraethu.

The funding available to Wales is allocated to support our priorities, as set out in the in programme for government.

13:54 **Rhodri Glyn Thomas** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
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Weinidog, mae gennyf ddau gwestiwn i chi ynglŷn â chysiau ymwybyddiaeth cyflymdra—nid wyf yn datgan buddiant yn hyn o beth o gwbl. [Chwerthin.] Fodd bynnag, mae'r arian sydd yn dod o'r cysiau hyn i fod i fynd i wella heolydd yng Nghymru. A yw hynny'n digwydd? Yr ail gwestiwn yw, pam y mae pobl yng Nghymru yn talu mwy am y cysiau hyn na phobl yn Lloegr? [Ymyriad.]

Minister, I have two questions for you on speed awareness courses—not that I am expressing an interest in that regard at all. [Laughter.] However, the funding generated by these courses is supposed to be used to improve roads in Wales. Is that the case? Secondly, why do people in Wales pay more for these courses than those in England? [Interruption.]

13:55 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
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I am not aware of any income coming from the speed awareness courses to improve roads. I am not sure what Members here would contribute to that in terms of the take-up of those courses. This is certainly a matter for the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport.

Nid wyf yn ymwybodol bod unrhyw incwm yn dod o'r cyrsiau ymwybyddiaeth cyflymdra i wella ffyrdd. Nid wyf yn siŵr beth fyddai Aelodau yma yn cyfrannu at hynny o ran y nifer sy'n dilyn y cyrsiau hynny. Mater i Weinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth yw hwn yn sicr.

13:55 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
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Only Rhodri Glyn could ask two questions in one question and do it to music. [Laughter.]

Dim ond Rhodri Glyn a allai ofyn dau gwestiwn mewn un cwestiwn a gwneud hynny i gyfeiliant cerddoriaeth. [Chwerthin.]

13:55 **Nick Ramsay** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
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It was coming from your direction, Minister. I think that the Chancellor was clearly trying to get in touch with you for some more discussions on the M4 relief road.

Roedd yn dod o'ch cyfeiriad chi, Weinidog. Rwy'n credu bod y Canghellor yn amlwg yn ceisio cysylltu â chi i gynnal rhagor o drafodaethau ar ffordd liniarur M4.

Today in the comprehensive spending review, Minister, the Chancellor has announced that funding will be provided in England to freeze council tax across the border for another two years. Your Government will receive a consequential to do the same here, if you so choose. If you do not have a great track record of actually passing that money on to councils, Minister, will you now undertake that you will revisit this policy, and along with the Minister for Local Government and Government Business, give local authorities in Wales that money to cut council tax to put money back into the pockets of some of the poorest people in Wales?

Heddiw, yn yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant, Weinidog, mae'r Canghellor wedi cyhoeddi y bydd cyllid yn cael ei ddarparu yn Lloegr i rewi'r dreth gyngor ar draws y ffin am ddwy flynedd arall. Bydd eich Llywodraeth yn cael cyllid canlyniadol i wneud yr un peth yma, os dewiswch wneud hynny. Os nad oes gennych hanes gwych o drosglwyddo'r arian hwnnw i gynghorau, Weinidog, a wnewch addo yn awr y byddwch yn edrych eto ar y polisi hwn ac y byddwch, ar y cyd â'r Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth, yn rhoi'r arian hwnnw i awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru er mwyn gostwng y dreth gyngor a rhoi arian yn ôl ym mhocedi rhai o'r bobl dlotaf yng Nghymru?

13:56 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
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I did manage to hear that part of the Chancellor's spending review announcement today. He did actually talk about a council tax freeze for the next two years through savings. We need to look at that very carefully because the communities budget is being cut by 10%. Of course, he is talking about it, thanks to the savings that we have made. We have been given our budget allocation, which is £450 million lower in real terms than our current budget in 2014-15. Therefore, I look for the detail in terms of that council tax freeze. However, I am very proud of the fact that three parties in the Senedd did agree that we should spend a council tax benefit freeze consequential on our infrastructure. Three parties in this Assembly did back that.

Llwyddais i glywed y rhan honno o gyhoeddiad y Canghellor am yr adolygiad o wariant heddiw. Siaradodd mewn gwirionedd am rewi'r dreth gyngor dros y ddwy flynedd nesaf drwy arbedion. Mae angen inni edrych ar hynny'n ofalus iawn oherwydd mae'r gyllideb cymunedau yn cael ei thorri 10%. Wrth gwrs, mae'n siarad am y peth, diolch i'r arbedion yr ydym wedi'u gwneud. Rydym wedi cael ein dyraniad cyllidebol, sydd £450 miliwn yn is mewn termau real na'n cyllideb bresennol yn 2014-15. Felly, rwy'n awyddus i weld manylion y cynnig hwnnw i rewi'r dreth gyngor. Fodd bynnag, rwy'n falch iawn o'r ffaith bod tair plaid yn y Senedd wedi cytuno y dylem wario cyllid canlyniadol rhewi budd-dal y dreth gyngor ar ein seilwaith. Cefnogwyd hyn gan dair plaid yn y Cynulliad hwn.

Meysydd Gwario

13:57 **Julie Morgan** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
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8. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am feysydd gwario Llywodraeth Cymru a fydd yn cael eu diogelu mewn cyllidebau sydd ar y gweill? OAQ(4)0288(FIN)

8. Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government spending areas which will be protected in forthcoming budgets? OAQ(4)0288(FIN)

13:57 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
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The Welsh Government is clear in its priorities for Wales. We are committed to doing all that we can to protect investment in the health service and front-line spending in schools, maintain universal benefits and support the Welsh economy.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n glir o ran ei blaenoriaethau ar gyfer Cymru. Rydym wedi ymrwymo i wneud popeth o fewn ein gallu i ddiogelu buddsoddiad yn y gwasanaeth iechyd a gwariant rheng flaen mewn ysgolion, cadw buddion cyffredinol a chefnogi economi Cymru.

13:57

Julie Morgan [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I thank the Minister for that reply. When the Minister prepares her budget, will she take into account that voluntary bodies that are funding directly or indirectly from the Welsh Government may turn out to be an easy target in times of austerity? These voluntary bodies often carry out vital public services. Does she agree?

Diolch i'r Gweinidog am yr ateb hwnnw. Pan fydd y Gweinidog yn paratoi ei chyllideb, a fydd yn cymryd i ystyriaeth y gall y cyrff gwirfoddol sy'n cael eu cyllido'n uniongyrchol neu'n anuniongyrchol gan Lywodraeth Cymru fod yn darged hawdd mewn cyfnod o gyni? Mae'r cyrff gwirfoddol hyn yn aml yn darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus hanfodol. A yw'n cytuno?

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13:57

Jane Hutt [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Clearly, we have always had a partnership with the third sector; we engage with them very closely. Nationally and locally, they play a huge part, not just in terms of our economy but also in supporting some of the most vulnerable people in Wales and providing services. It is clear that we have to look very carefully at the very difficult and challenging decisions that we will now have to make as a result of the cuts in our budgets, as announced today.

Yn amlwg, mae partneriaeth wedi bod rhyngom a'r trydydd sector drwy'r amser; rydym yn ymgysylltu â nhw'n agos iawn. Yn genedlaethol ac yn lleol, maent yn chwarae rhan enfawr, nid yn unig o ran ein heconomi ond hefyd o ran helpu rhai o'r bobl sydd fwyaf agored i niwed yng Nghymru a darparu gwasanaethau. Mae'n amlwg bod yn rhaid inni edrych yn ofalus iawn ar y penderfyniadau anodd a heriol iawn y bydd yn rhaid inni eu gwneud yn awr o ganlyniad i'r toriadau yn ein cyllidebau, fel y cyhoeddwyd heddiw.

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13:58

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

At a UK level, it has been suggested that around 40% of public spending is utilised in relation to late or acute interventions, with around 20% focused on early action. Similarly, the findings of the Christie commission suggested that 40% of Scottish public spending was on dealing with negative outcomes retrospectively. Can you state for the record, Minister, how much the Welsh Government actually spends on preventative measures from its budget, and what specific assessments have you carried out as a Government on the impact of spending on preventative measures?

Ar lefel y DU, awgrymwyd bod tua 40% o wariant cyhoeddus yn cael ei ddefnyddio mewn perthynas ag ymyriadau hwyr neu aciwt, gyda thua 20% yn canolbwyntio ar gamau cynnar. Yn yr un modd, awgrymodd canfyddiadau comisiwn Christie fod 40% o wariant cyhoeddus yn yr Alban yn delio â chanlyniadau negyddol yn ôl-weithredol. A allwch nodi ar gyfer y cofnod, Weinidog, faint o'i chyllideb y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wario mewn gwirionedd ar fesurau ataliol, a pha asesiadau penodol yr ydych wedi'u cynnal fel Llywodraeth o effaith gwariant ar fesurau ataliol?

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13:58

Jane Hutt [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I thank Paul Davies for that question. I know that the Finance Committee has looked carefully at this. Preventative expenditure is key to getting the best outcomes in terms of reducing a stretched budget. As we go into the draft budget phase, I would certainly want to account for how we are allocating our spend in terms of preventative measures. Also, of course, the quality impact assessments are equally important.

Diolch i Paul Davies am y cwestiwn hwnnw. Gwn fod y Pwyllgor Cyllid wedi edrych yn fanwl ar hyn. Mae gwariant ataliol yn allweddol er mwyn cael y canlyniadau gorau o ran lleihau cyllideb estynedig. Wrth inni fynd ymlaen i gyfnod y gyllideb ddrafft, byddwn yn sicr yn awyddus i roi cyfrif am sut yr ydym yn dyrannu ein gwariant o ran mesurau ataliol. Hefyd, wrth gwrs, mae'r asesiadau effaith ar ansawdd yr un mor bwysig.

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13:59

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

I am pleased that you accept that strategic preventative spend could actually reduce demand and pressure on our public services, and therefore, as a Government, it is important to ensure that all departments are working within that particular agenda. Will you therefore give a commitment this afternoon, Minister, that future budgets and documents, as far as future budgets are concerned, from your Government will include an assessment of the progress being made towards a more preventative approach?

Rwy'n falch eich bod yn derbyn y gallai gwariant ataliol strategol leihau'r galw a'r pwysau ar ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus mewn gwirionedd, ac felly, fel Llywodraeth, mae'n bwysig sicrhau bod pob adran yn gweithio yn unol â'r agenda benodol honno. Felly, a wnewch roi ymrwymiad y prynhawn yma, Weinidog, y bydd cyllidebau eich Llywodraeth yn y dyfodol a'i dogfennau, sy'n ymwneud â chyllidebau yn y dyfodol, yn cynnwys asesiad o'r cynnydd sy'n cael ei wneud tuag at ymagwedd fwy ataliol?

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13:59

Jane Hutt [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Certainly, this will be reflected in my draft budget as it comes before the Assembly for scrutiny.

Yn sicr, caiff hyn ei adlewyrchu yn fy nghyllideb ddrafft pan gaiff ei chyflwyno gerbron y Cynulliad at ddibenion craffu.

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14:00 **Simon Thomas** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) [Senedd.tv](#) [Fideo](#) [Video](#)

As Minister for Finance, could you give the Assembly a guarantee today that the new Minister for education, whoever he or she may be, will not have to introduce any in-year revenue cuts in this year's budget?

Fel y Gweinidog Cyllid, a allech roi gwarant heddiw i'r Cynulliad na fydd yn rhaid i'r Gweinidog addysg newydd, pwy bynnag y bydd ef neu hi, gyflwyno unrhyw doriadau refeniw canol blwyddyn yn y gyllideb eleni?

14:00 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) [Senedd.tv](#) [Fideo](#) [Video](#)

Ministers for finance never give guarantees, as you will be well aware, Simon Thomas. It is very difficult that we are faced with a challenging financial situation in this financial year, let alone in the next financial year. As you know, we have to find an additional £32 million in this financial year as a result of the autumn statement, as well as additional cuts next year. Of course, this is a challenge for the whole Welsh Government.

Nid yw gweinidogion cyllid byth yn rhoi gwarantau, fel y gwyddoch, Simon Thomas. Mae'n anodd iawn ein bod yn wynebu sefyllfa ariannol heriol yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol hon, heb sôn am y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf. Fel y gwyddoch, rhaid inni ddod o hyd i £32 miliwn yn ychwanegol y flwyddyn ariannol hon o ganlyniad i ddatganiad yr hydref, yn ogystal â thoriadau ychwanegol y flwyddyn nesaf. Wrth gwrs, mae hon yn her i bob rhan o Lywodraeth Cymru.

14:00 **Kirsty Williams** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) [Senedd.tv](#) [Fideo](#) [Video](#)

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

Before agreeing to safeguard any budget, Minister, could you outline the process that the Welsh Government undertakes to establish that moneys previously allocated and spent have achieved their policy outputs and outcomes, and that they represent value for money? If that analysis is carried out, will you also make a commitment to publish those data?

Cyn cytuno i ddiogelu unrhyw gyllideb, Weinidog, a allech amlinellu'r broses y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei dilyn i gadarnhau bod arian a ddyrannwyd ac a wariwyd yn flaenorol wedi cyflawni ei allbynnau a'i ganlyniadau polisi, a'i fod yn cynrychioli gwerth am arian? Os caiff y gwaith dadansoddi hwnnw ei wneud, a wnewch ymrwymo hefyd i gyhoeddi'r data hynny?

14:01 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) [Senedd.tv](#) [Fideo](#) [Video](#)

This is a key part of our budget planning and preparation. It is also reflected in the accounting for the programme for Government delivery in the annual plan. It is key to ensuring that we move forward with an outcome-based budget, which is crucial in terms of the challenges that we face with the reductions made by the UK Government.

Mae hyn yn rhan allweddol o'n gwaith cynllunio a pharatoi cyllidebau. Caiff ei adlewyrchu hefyd yn y ffaith bod y cynllun blynyddol yn rhoi cyfrif am gyflawni'r Rhaglen lywodraethu. Mae'n hanfodol er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn symud ymlaen gyda chyllideb sy'n seiliedig ar ganlyniadau, sy'n hollbwysig o ran yr heriau sy'n ein hwynebu yn sgil y gostyngiadau a wnaed gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Prosiectau Cyfalaf yng Ngheredigion

14:01 **Elin Jones** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

9. A wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau pa brosiectau cyfalaf yng Ngheredigion sydd wedi eu blaenoriaethu o dan Gynllun Buddsoddi yn Seilwaith Cymru? OAQ(4)0274(FIN)W

14:01 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

On 11 June, I published the most recent update of our infrastructure investment pipeline, which provides details of planned schemes across Wales.

14:01 **Elin Jones** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Weinidog, mae mawr angen buddsoddiad cyfalaf cyhoeddus yng Ngheredigion. Un o'r cynlluniau cyffrous sydd o dan ystyriaeth yw trac rhedeg a seiclo amldwydd yn Aberystwyth. Sut y gall gynlluniau newydd sydd yn datblygu ar hyn o bryd ddod yn rhan o gynllun buddsoddi'r Llywodraeth yn y dyfodol?

Capital Projects in Ceredigion

9. Will the Minister confirm what capital projects in Ceredigion have been prioritised under the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan? OAQ(4)0274(FIN)W

Ar 11 Mehefin, cyhoeddais y wybodaeth fwyaf diweddar am ein llif buddsoddi mewn seilwaith, sy'n rhoi manylion am gynlluniau arfaethedig ledled Cymru.

Minister, there is a huge need for public capital investment in Ceredigion. One the exciting schemes under consideration is an all-weather running and cycling track in Aberystwyth. How can new schemes that are under development become part of the Government's investment plan for the future?

14:02	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography Clearly, we are prioritising investment, particularly with our stretched and reducing capital budgets. Those priorities steer and gear the consideration that we give to the business plans that come before us. That would include business plans that come forward via local government, as well as through the Welsh Government departmental business plans.	Yn amlwg, rydym yn blaenoriaethu buddsoddiad, yn enwedig gyda'n cyllidebau cyfalaf estynedig sy'n lleihau. Mae'r blaenoriaethau hynny'n llywio ac yn ysgogi'r ystyriaeth a rown i'r cynlluniau busnes a ddaw ger ein bron. Byddai hynny'n cynnwys cynlluniau busnes a gyflwynir drwy lywodraeth leol, yn ogystal â thrwy gynlluniau busnes adrannol Llywodraeth Cymru.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:02	Nick Ramsay Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, we welcome the investment that has been brought into neighbouring Pembrokeshire through the enterprise zone policy that your Government is pursuing there. There will potentially be a natural knock-on effect for the economy surrounding the enterprise zone, in Ceredigion and further afield. Are you planning any specific financial packages to help spread out the economic potential of the enterprise zone into the neighbouring area and neighbouring businesses?	Weinidog, rydym yn croesawu'r buddsoddiad a wnaed gerllaw yn Sir Benfro drwy'r polisi ardaloedd menter y mae eich Llywodraeth yn ei roi ar waith yno. Bydd sgil-effaith naturiol o bosibl ar gyfer yr economi o amgylch yr ardal fenter, yng Ngheredigion a thu hwnt. A ydych yn cynllunio unrhyw becynnau ariannol penodol i helpu i ledaenu potensial economaidd yr ardal fenter i'r ardal gyfagos a busnesau cyfagos?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:03	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography Clearly, that is a matter for the enterprise zone partnership team and for the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, in order to steer business cases that fit with the Wales infrastructure investment plan. However, I would say that an important development for improving transport is the £2.35 million Aberystwyth gateway public transport interchange. That is key, and it is a single point for the recently relaunched Traws Cymru long-distance coach service, which will benefit west Wales and further afield.	Yn amlwg, mater i dîm partneriaeth yr ardal fenter a Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth yw hwnnw, er mwyn llywio achosion busnes sy'n cyd-fynd â chynllun buddsoddi yn seilwaith Cymru. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn dweud bod y gyfnewidfa porth cludiant cyhoeddus £2.35 miliwn yn Aberystwyth yn ddatblygiad pwysig i wella trafnidiaeth. Mae'n allweddol, ac mae'n un pwynt ar gyfer gwasanaeth bysiau pellter hir Traws Cymru a ail-lansiwyd yn ddiweddar, a fydd o fudd i'r gorllewin a thu hwnt.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:03	William Powell Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, will you please update the Chamber as to any discussions that you have had with ministerial colleagues regarding the proposed strengthening or replacement of the Dyfi bridge? Although it is not itself in Ceredigion, its delivery would be of enormous benefit to the future development of Ceredigion, Powys and Gwynedd.	Weinidog, a wnewch chi os gwelwch yn dda roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Siambr am unrhyw drafodaethau yr ydych wedi'u cael gyda chyd-Weinidogion ynghylch gwaith arfaethedig i gryfhau pont Ddyfi neu godi pont newydd? Er nad yw'r bont ei hun yng Ngheredigion, byddai'r gwaith hwnnw o fudd enfawr i ddatblygiad Ceredigion, Powys a Gwynedd yn y dyfodol.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:04	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography There are many questions today for the Minister for transport, and I am sure that you will put that question to her in due course.	Mae llawer o gwestiynau i'r Gweinidog trafnidiaeth heddiw, ac rwy'n siŵr y byddwch yn gofyn y cwestiwn hwnnw iddi maes o law.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
Polisi Caffael Moesegol		Ethical Procurement Policy	
14:04	Bethan Jenkins Bywgraffiad Biography <i>10. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am bolisi caffael moesegol Llywodraeth Cymru? OAQ(4)0275(FIN)</i>	<i>10. Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government's ethical procurement policy? OAQ(4)0275(FIN)</i>	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:04	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography The Welsh Government is committed to ethical sourcing, and our procurement policy reflects this. The Wales procurement policy statement that I announced in December 2012 supports the delivery of economic, environmental and social benefits.	Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymrwymo i gyrchu moesegol, ac mae ein polisi caffael yn adlewyrchu hyn. Mae datganiad polisi caffael Cymru a gyhoeddais ym mis Rhagfyr 2012 yn cefnogi camau i gyflawni manteision economaidd, amgylcheddol a chymdeithasol.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:04	Bethan Jenkins Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, I recently met with the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign in my capacity as chair of the peace and human rights cross-party group. It urged me to urge you to divest from companies such as G4S, Veolia and HP, which have significant gains in the Israeli-occupied territories in the software at checkpoints and the running of buses throughout the West Bank. I wonder whether you would take this up, Minister, because we have been told by the Petitions Committee that there is not any provision in the current procurement regulations to permit restrictions on the awarding of contracts, as has been suggested. Would you take this up as a matter of urgency?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:05	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography The Welsh Government's procurement activity is undertaken in an ethical, fair and transparent manner. Its procurement policies reflect this, and, of course, we are promoting ethical sourcing across the Welsh public sector.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:05	Andrew R.T. Davies Bywgraffiad Biography <i>Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid / The Leader of the Opposition</i> In response to the answer that you have just given to the Member for South Wales West, how do you define 'ethical purchasing', particularly across such a wide remit as the Welsh Government has? One person's ethical purchasing is another individual's burden. We can all sign up to ethical buying, but how does the Welsh Government actually put that into practice, given the whole array of purchasing powers that you have?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:06	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography Clearly, there is guidance in terms of the ethical procurement standards. Indeed, I responded only recently to, for example, the ethical procurement standards being called for by the GMB union, which commended our Value Wales division for the sustainability award criteria that we have to deal with this challenging issue. Nevertheless, it is about generating benefits not only for the organisation, but for society and the economy, while minimising damage to the environment.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:06	Eluned Parrott Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, in your statement in May on the national procurement service, you said that all local authorities and health boards in Wales had agreed to adopt your policies to do with things like community benefits and so on. However, I am wondering if you can tell us how the ethical aspects of purchasing are going to be enshrined in the procurement fitness check programme that is due to start this summer.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:07	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography Of course, sustainable and ethical procurement are at the heart of the new national procurement service. It is being launched in the autumn. Sustainability risk assessments are being completed for all contracts, and I look forward to coming back to the Assembly with details, including in response to the point that Eluned Parrott has raised.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Ymgynghoriad Swyddi a Thwff

Jobs and Growth Consultation

14:07 **Christine Chapman** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)
11. Pryd y bydd ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru i'r ymgynghoriad Cymru a'r UE: Partneriaeth ar gyfer Swyddi a Thwff yn cael ei gyhoeddi? OAQ(4)0291(FIN)

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

11. When will the Welsh Government's response to the Wales and the EU: Partnership for Jobs and Growth consultation be published? OAQ(4)0291(FIN)

14:07 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)
I will be making a statement on 16 July on the Welsh Government response to the public consultation.

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[Fideo](#) [Video](#)

Byddaf yn gwneud datganiad ar 16 Gorffennaf ar ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru i'r ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus.

14:07 **Christine Chapman** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)
Thank you, Minister. We know that issues around skills and inequalities regarding opportunity in employment, particularly for women, are key barriers to increased economic activity in the south Wales Valleys and other areas. How will the Welsh Government use European funding to overcome these challenges?

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Diolch, Weinidog. Gwyddom fod materion yn ymwneud â sgiliau ac anghydraddoldebau o ran cyfleoedd cyflogaeth, yn enwedig i ferched, yn rhwystrau allweddol i fwy o weithgarwch economaidd yng Nghymoedd y De ac ardaloedd eraill. Sut y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru'n defnyddio arian Ewropeaidd i oresgyn yr heriau hyn?

14:08 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)
It was very important that I had a meeting in Brussels recently with Commissioner Andor at which we discussed these particular issues. He is the commissioner, of course, who is responsible for the European social fund. We have supported 32 projects worth over £300 million to help economically inactive and unemployed people back into work, and, of course, that is also focusing very much on women and those who are underrepresented, along with ethnic minorities and disabled groups. However, I would welcome and acknowledge the important work of Chwarae Teg in its £12 million Agile Nation project, which has supported 2,500 women to achieve their full potential in the workplace.

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Roedd yn bwysig iawn imi gael cyfarfod ym Mrwsel yn ddiweddar gyda Chomisiynydd Andor lle gwnaethom drafod y materion penodol hyn. Ef, wrth gwrs, yw'r comisiynydd sy'n gyfrifol am gronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop. Rydym wedi cefnogi 32 o brosiectau gwerth dros £300 miliwn i helpu pobl economaidd anweithgar a di-waith yn ôl i'r gwaith, ac sydd hefyd, wrth gwrs, yn canolbwyntio i raddau helaeth ar ferched a'r rhai sy'n cael eu tangynrychioli, ynghyd â lleiafrifoedd ethnig a grwpiau anabl. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn croesawu ac yn cydnabod y gwaith pwysig y mae Chwarae Teg wedi'i wneud drwy ei brosiect Cenedl Hyblyg gwerth £12 miliwn, sydd wedi helpu 2,500 o ferched i gyflawni eu llawn botensial yn y gweithle.

14:08 **Byron Davies** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)
Minister, following this response, I look forward to seeing the outline of your next steps in terms of agreeing operational programmes. I hope that it is recognised within that response that sustainable and inclusive growth is only achievable with a strong private sector as a key partner. Specifically in your response, could you outline how it will tie in with the parallel consultation being undertaken into the proposed rural development plan for Wales?

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Weinidog, yn dilyn yr ymateb hwn, edrychaf ymlaen at weld amlinelliad o'ch camau nesaf o ran cytuno ar raglenni gweithredol. Gobeithio y bydd yr ymateb hwnnw'n cydnabod, er mwyn cael twf cynaliadwy a chynhwysol, bod yn rhaid cael sector preifat cryf fel partner allweddol. Yn benodol yn eich ymateb, a allech amlinellu sut y bydd yn cyd-fynd â'r ymgynghoriad cyfochrog a gynhelir ar gynllun datblygu gwledig arfaethedig Cymru?

14:09 **Jane Hutt** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)
It is important that we have an integrated approach. Alun Davies and I are working together on this, and I will be coming to the Chamber on 16 July to report on behalf of us both on the response to the consultation and the next stage forward. However, I was very pleased to attend the programme monitoring committee, chaired by Ken Skates, where the private sector was well represented as we looked to the future, as well as in considering the current programmes.

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Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn gweithio mewn ffordd integredig. Mae Alun Davies a minnau'n cydweithio ar hyn, a byddaf yn dod i'r Siambr ar 16 Gorffennaf i adrodd ar ran y ddau ohonom ar yr ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad a'r cam nesaf ymlaen. Fodd bynnag, roeddwn yn falch iawn i fod yn bresennol yn y pwyllgor monitro rhaglenni, o dan gadeiryddiaeth Ken Skates, a oedd yn cynnwys cynrychiolaeth dda o'r sector preifat, lle gwnaethom edrych i'r dyfodol, yn ogystal ag ystyried y rhaglenni presennol.

14:09	Rhodri Glyn Thomas Bywgraffiad Biography A ydych chi wedi edrych ar y posibiladau o ddefnyddio cyllid gan Fanc Buddsoddi Ewrop ar gyfer y cynlluniau hyn?	Have you looked at the possibilities of using finance from the European Investment Bank for these schemes?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:09	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography I was very grateful to have a full briefing from Rhodri Glyn Thomas about his work, and the work of the Committee of the Regions, as far as this is concerned. I know that he met the chiefs of the European Investment Bank, and I look forward to meeting them myself, particularly in relation to the opportunities for infrastructure investment. We know that they are playing their part in terms of the Swansea bay development, which is very important.	Roeddwn yn ddiolchgar iawn i gael briffiad llawn gan Rhodri Glyn Thomas am ei waith, a gwaith Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau, ar y mater hwn. Gwn ei fod wedi cyfarfod â phenaethiaid Banc Buddsoddi Ewrop, ac edrychaf ymlaen at gwrdd â nhw fy hun, yn enwedig o ran y cyfleoedd i fuddsoddi mewn seilwaith. Gwyddom eu bod yn chwarae eu rhan yn natblygiad bae Abertawe, sy'n bwysig iawn.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
	Cronfeydd Strwythurol	Structural Funds	
14:10	Rebecca Evans Bywgraffiad Biography 12. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am sut y mae cronfeydd strwythurol yn cael eu defnyddio yng Nghymru? OAQ(4)0276(FIN)	12. Will the Minister provide an update on how structural funds are being used in Wales? OAQ(4)0276(FIN)	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:10	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography European structural investment funds are making an important contribution to the Welsh economy and labour market, creating jobs and supporting business, helping people into work and improving their skills.	Mae cronfeydd buddsoddi strwythurol Ewropeaidd yn gwneud cyfraniad pwysig i economi Cymru a'r farchnad lafur, gan greu swyddi a chefnogi busnesau, helpu pobl i gael gwaith a gwella eu sgiliau.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:10	Rebecca Evans Bywgraffiad Biography Thank you for that answer, Minister. The investment that has gone into Aberystwyth University's Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences shows how structural funds can be used to break through into new areas of research and development, particularly with regard to protecting our environment. Do you agree that it is important that the next round of funding is also used to improve our research and development so that we can put Wales on the map in this regard?	Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Mae'r buddsoddiad a roddwyd i Athrofa'r Gwyddorau Biolegol, Amgylcheddol a Gwledig ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth yn dangos sut y gall cronfeydd strwythurol gael eu defnyddio i gychwyn arni mewn meysydd ymchwil a datblygu newydd, yn enwedig o ran gwarchod ein hamgylchedd. A ydych yn cytuno ei bod yn bwysig bod y cylch nesaf o arian hefyd yn cael ei ddefnyddio i wella ein gwaith ymchwil a datblygu fel y gallwn roi Cymru ar y map yn hyn o beth?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:11	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography As Rebecca Evans says, IBERS particularly puts Wales on the map in terms of the projects at Aberystwyth University, which I recently visited—particularly the £20 million BEACON project, which secured £10.2 million of ERDF money. That is helping universities to work with businesses to exploit new technologies, and, of course, it is now recognised as a world-wide leading project.	Fel y dywed Rebecca Evans, mae IBERS yn arbennig yn rhoi Cymru ar y map drwy'r prosiectau ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth, yr ymwelais â nhw'n ddiweddar—yn arbennig y prosiect BEACON £20 miliwn, a lwyddodd i sicrhau £10.2 miliwn o arian ERDF. Mae hwnnw'n helpu prifysgolion i weithio gyda busnesau i fanteisio ar dechnolegau newydd, ac, wrth gwrs, caiff ei gydnabod bellach fel prosiect blaenllaw ar draws y byd.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:11	Antoinette Sandbach Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, you will be aware that, in the past, there has been strong criticism of the Welsh Government's management of structural funds, and the most recent example is that the £36 million Genesis Cymru Wales 2 programme had to be scrapped earlier this year. I appreciate that you have accepted the recommendations of the Guilford report, but are you confident that the monitoring and implementation of structural funds is now robust, and do you believe that that will be reflected in the forthcoming report from the Wales Audit Office?	Weinidog, byddwch yn ymwybodol o feirniadaeth gref, yn y gorffennol, i ddull Llywodraeth Cymru o reoli cronfeydd strwythurol, a'r enghraifft fwyaf diweddar yw y bu'n rhaid rhoi'r gorau i raglen £36 miliwn Genesis Cymru 2 yn gynharach eleni. Rwy'n sylweddoli eich bod wedi derbyn argymhellion adroddiad Guilford, ond a ydych yn hyderus bod y systemau i fonitro a gweithredu'r cronfeydd strwythurol bellach yn gadarn, ac a ydych yn credu y caiff hynny ei adlewyrchu yn yr adroddiad sydd ar ddod gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:12	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography Antoinette Sandbach would recognise that the delivery of the 2007-13 programmes clearly justifies the management of the structural funds by Welsh European Funding Office as being exemplary. In fact, everywhere I went in Brussels, that is what I was told by commissioners and Commission staff. I recognise that those EU projects have assisted over 130,000 to gain qualifications and have supported 48,500 into work and 29,300 into further learning. However, the key point that Antoinette Sandbach makes is right: we now need to move forward and learn the lessons, delivering on the next round of the programme in line with Grahame Guilford's recommendations.	Byddai Antoinette Sandbach yn cydnabod bod y ffordd y cafodd rhaglenni 2007-13 eu cyflawni'n amlwg yn cyflawnhau dull rhagorol Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru o reoli'r cronfeydd strwythurol. Yn wir, ym mhob man ym Mrwsel, dyna a glywais gan gomisiynwyr a staff y Comisiwn. Nodaf fod y prosiectau hynny gan yr UE wedi helpu dros 130,000 i ennill cymwysterau ac wedi helpu 48,500 i gael gwaith a 29,300 i fynd ymlaen i ddysgu pellach. Fodd bynnag, mae'r pwynt allweddol y mae Antoinette Sandbach yn ei wneud yn iawn: mae angen inni nawr symud ymlaen a dysgu'r gwersi, gan gyflawni cylch nesaf y rhaglen yn unol ag argymhellion Grahame Guilford.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
	Cylch Cyllido 2014-20 yr UE	2014-20 EU Funding Round	
14:13	Kenneth Skates Bywgraffiad Biography <i>13. A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu pa baratodau sy'n cael eu gwneud gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer cylch cyllido 2014-2020 yr UE? OAQ(4)0277(FIN)</i>	<i>13. Will the Minister outline what preparations are being made by the Welsh Government for the 2014-2020 EU Funding round? OAQ(4)0277(FIN)</i>	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:13	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography Preparations are under way with partners for the submission of the operational programmes for future structural funds of the European Commission in October, in parallel with the UK partnership agreement.	Mae paratodau ar y gweill gyda phartneriaid i gyflwyno'r rhaglenni gweithredol ar gyfer cronfeydd strwythurol y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ar gyfer y dyfodol ym mis Hydref, ochr yn ochr â chytundeb partneriaeth y DU.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:13	Kenneth Skates Bywgraffiad Biography May I take this opportunity to thank you for attending the meeting of the PMC on Friday? At that meeting, we heard that unemployed participants involved in skills and employment training under the European social fund programmes are about 20% more likely to secure work as a consequence compared with those who do not participate in such schemes. Would you agree that, in Wales, we have a very good message to tell about this? We are creating quality, high-skilled jobs and assisting people back into work in some of the most deprived areas of Wales.	Hoffwn gymryd y cyfle hwn i ddiolch ichi am fynychu cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni ddydd Gwener. Yn y cyfarfod hwnnw, clywsom fod cyfranogwyr di-waith sy'n cael hyfforddiant sgiliau a chyflogaeth o dan raglenni cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop tua 20% yn fwy tebygol o gael gwaith o ganlyniad i hynny o gymharu â'r rhai nad ydynt yn cymryd rhan mewn cynlluniau o'r fath. A fydddech yn cytuno bod gennym, yng Nghymru, neges dda iawn i'w lledaenu am hyn? Rydym yn creu swyddi crefftus o ansawdd ac yn helpu pobl i ddychwelyd i'r gwaith mewn rhai o'r ardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:13	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography I was pleased to attend the PMC, as I have already said. I was delighted to be there, with Ken Skates chairing that important meeting. There is a very good message to tell not only about the delivery of our structural European investment funds, but about our membership of the European Union and the significant benefits of EU funds, particularly during difficult global economic times.	Roeddwn yn falch o fod yn bresennol yn y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni, fel yr wyf eisoes wedi dweud. Roeddwn wrth fy modd i fod yno, gyda Ken Skates yn cadeirio'r cyfarfod pwysig. Mae neges dda iawn i'w rhannu nid yn unig am y ffordd y caiff ein cronfeydd buddsoddi strwythurol Ewropeaidd eu defnyddio, ond am ein haelodaeth o'r Undeb Ewropeaidd a buddiannau sylweddol cronfeydd yr UE, yn enwedig yn ystod cyfnod economaidd anodd yn fyd-eang.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:14	William Graham Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, you will be well aware that, between 2007 and 2013, west Wales and the south Wales Valleys qualified for funding worth £1.69 billion. By October 2012, 220 out of 273 projects were public sector led, and accounted for £1.5 billion. What measures have you put in force to increase the percentage of EU funding for private sector led projects?	Weinidog, byddwch yn dra ymwybodol y bu'r gorllewin a Chymoedd y De, rhwng 2007 a 2013, yn gymwys i gael gwerth £1.69 biliwn o arian. Erbyn mis Hydref 2012, roedd 220 allan o 273 o brosiectau dan arweiniad y sector cyhoeddus, ac yn cyfrif am £1.5 biliwn. Pa fesurau ydych wedi'u rhoi ar waith i gynyddu canran cyllid yr UE ar gyfer prosiectau a arweinir gan y sector preifat?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:14	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography It is important to give the other side of the story in terms of the achievements of those funds. In addition, projects have assisted 11,150 enterprises, have helped to create 6,000 enterprises and have helped to create 19,500 gross jobs. However, I think that the economic prioritisation framework that we are taking forward as a result of Grahame Guilford's review will help us to steer the next phase most effectively.	Mae'n bwysig rhoi ochr arall y stori o safbwynt cyflawniadau'r cronfeydd hynny. Yn ogystal, mae prosiectau wedi cynorthwyo 11,150 o fentrau, wedi helpu i greu 6,000 o fentrau ac wedi helpu i greu 19,500 o swyddi gros. Fodd bynnag, credaf y bydd y fframwaith blaenoriaethu economaidd yr ydym yn ei ddatblygu o ganlyniad i adolygiad Grahame Guilford yn ein helpu i lywio'r cam nesaf yn y ffordd fwyaf effeithiol.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
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14:15	Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography Question 14, OAQ(4)0280(FIN), is withdrawn.	Tynnwyd cwestiwn 14, OAQ (4) 0280 (FIN), yn ôl.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
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Ffibrosis Systig

Cystic Fibrosis

14:15	Mark Isherwood Bywgraffiad Biography <i>15. A oes gan y Gweinidog unrhyw gynlluniau i ddyrannu cyllid untro ychwanegol i'r portffolio lechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol mewn perthynas â gwasanaethau ar gyfer ffibrosis systig yn benodol?</i> OAQ(4)0282(FIN)	<i>15. Does the Minister have any plans to allocate additional one-off funding to the Health and Social Services portfolio specifically in relation to services for cystic fibrosis? OAQ(4)0282(FIN)</i>	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
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14:15	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography I have regular discussions with the Minister for Health and Social Services, and we keep the financial settlement under review.	Rwy'n cael trafodaethau rheolaidd â'r Gweinidog lechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, ac rydym yn adolygu'r setliad ariannol yn gyson.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
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14:15	Mark Isherwood Bywgraffiad Biography Could you expand on that and give some indication of the timelines and what developments might result from that?	A allech ymhelaethu ar hynny a rhoi rhyw syniad o'r amserleni a pha ddatblygiadau a allai ddeillio o hynny?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
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14:15	Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography The question was about services for cystic fibrosis. All those services have been assessed by the Welsh health specialist services committee and it is preparing a review against Cystic Fibrosis Trust standards. A summary of that review will be presented to the management group for consideration in July.	Roedd y cwestiwn yn ymwneud â gwasanaethau ar gyfer ffibrosis systig. Mae'r holl wasanaethau hynny wedi cael eu hasesu gan bwyllgor gwasanaethau iechyd arbenigol Cymru ac mae'n paratoi adolygiad yn erbyn safonau'r Ymddiriedolaeth Ffibrosis Systig. Bydd crynodeb o'r adolygiad hwnnw'n cael ei gyflwyno er mwyn i'r grŵp rheoli ei ystyried ym mis Gorffennaf.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
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14:16	Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography Thank you, Minister.	Diolch, Weinidog.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
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Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth

Questions to the Minister for Local Government and Government Business

Integreiddio Gwasanaethau Cyngor Lleol

Integrating Local Council Services

14:16	Elin Jones Bywgraffiad Biography <i>1. Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cael parthed integreiddio gwasanaethau cyngor lleol?</i> OAQ(4)0291(LG)	<i>1. What discussions has the Minister had regarding integrating local council services? OAQ(4)0291(LG)</i>	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
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14:16

Lesley Griffiths [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth / The Minister for Local Government and Government Business

I have discussed opportunities for closer collaboration and service integration as part of my programme of meetings with the leaders and chief executives of all local authorities across Wales. I have also recently announced support for a number of projects through the regional collaboration fund, which will result in greater integration of services.

Rwyf wedi trafod cyfleoedd i gydweithredu'n agosach ac integreiddio gwasanaethau fel rhan o'm rhaglen o gyfarfodydd ag arweinwyr a phrif weithredwyr yr holl awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru. Cyhoeddais yn ddiweddar hefyd gymorth ar gyfer nifer o brosiectau drwy'r gronfa cydweithredu rhanbarthol, a fydd yn arwain at fwy o integreiddio gwasanaethau.

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[Fideo Video](#)

14:16

Elin Jones [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Yn ogystal â hynny, pa drafodaethau ydych chi wedi eu cael gyda'r Gweinidog iechyd ynglŷn â rhoi cynllun ar waith yng Nghymru lle mae pob awdurdod lleol a phob bwrdd iechyd yn gweithio i integreiddio gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a gofal yn llawn gyda gwasanaethau iechyd, er lles unigolion bregus ag arnynt angen y gwasanaeth integredig hwnnw?

In addition to that, what discussions have you had with the Minister for health about implementing a scheme in Wales for all local authorities and health boards to work to fully integrate social and care services with health services, for the benefit of vulnerable individuals who need that integrated service?

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14:17

Lesley Griffiths [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

That is a very important point that you raise. Just this week, with the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Deputy Minister for Social Services, we met one of the local health boards and the local authorities within that region. We plan to do that right around Wales with all health boards and the appropriate local authorities, to ensure that they look at this specific issue. It is important, particularly in the unprecedented financial climate that we face, that we ensure that health and social services work much closer together.

Mae hynny'n bwynt pwysig iawn. Dim ond yr wythnos hon, gyda'r Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a'r Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, y cyfarfom ag un o'r byrddau iechyd lleol ac awdurdodau lleol yn y rhanbarth hwnnw. Bwriadwn wneud hynny ledled Cymru gyda'r holl fyrddau iechyd a'r awdurdodau lleol priodol, er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn ystyried y mater penodol hwn. Mae'n bwysig, yn enwedig yn yr hinsawdd ariannol ddiglyffelyb sy'n ein hwynebu, ein bod yn sicrhau bod iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn gweithio'n llawer agosach gyda'i gilydd.

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

14:17

Vaughan Gething [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I understand that, of the range of collaboration projects approved for the collaboration fund, one includes partnership collaboration between the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff councils and the university local health board. That is a good example of what should be taking place. However, are you satisfied that the collaboration fund is delivering enough of the type of collaboration that we would wish to see, on a consistent basis, across Wales? If you are not, will you consider, in a future local government budget settlement, providing a greater element for collaboration projects?

Deallaf, o'r ystod o brosiectau cydweithredu a gymeradwywyd ar gyfer y gronfa cydweithredu, fod un yn cynnwys cydweithredu mewn partneriaeth rhwng cynghorau Bro Morgannwg a Chaerdydd a'r bwrdd iechyd lleol prifysgol. Mae hynny'n enghraifft dda o'r hyn a ddylai fod yn digwydd. Fodd bynnag, a ydych yn fodlon bod y gronfa cydweithredu yn cyflawni digon o gydweithredu o'r math rydym yn dymuno ei weld, yn gyson, ledled Cymru? Os nad ydych, a wnewch chi ystyried, mewn setliad cyllideb llywodraeth leol yn y dyfodol, ddarparu elfen fwy ar gyfer prosiectau cydweithredu?

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

14:18

Lesley Griffiths [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Yes, it is something that I am considering. Obviously, it is quite a new fund. It was launched at the end of last autumn by my predecessor, Carl Sargeant. I have been pleased with the projects that have been brought forward—I have just announced a second tranche of them—but they will need to be closely monitored to ensure that they are providing the collaboration that we want to see. I strongly believe that collaboration is not just about financial savings; it is about providing better services for the people of Wales. We need to make sure that those two things happen.

Yn sicr, mae'n rhywbeth rwyf yn ei ystyried. Yn amlwg, mae'n gronfa gymharol newydd. Fe'i lansiwyd ddiwedd yr hydref y llynedd gan fy rhagflaenydd, Carl Sargeant. Rwy'n fodlon ar y prosiectau a gynigiwyd—rwyf newydd gyhoeddi ail gyfran ohonynt—ond bydd angen eu monitro'n ofalus ofalus er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn darparu'r cydweithredu rydym am ei weld. Credaf yn gryf fod cydweithredu'n ymwneud â mwy nag arbedion ariannol; mae'n ymwneud â darparu gwasanaethau gwell i bobl Cymru. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod y ddau beth hynny'n digwydd.

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[Fideo Video](#)

14:19 **Janet Finch-Saunders** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
[Fideo](#) [Video](#)

A key aim and a primary component of any progressive local government collaboration agenda must be an outlook that brings improved integration of services and an overall reduction in the duplication of costly managerial posts. How many shared senior posts are currently in existence as a result of your, or your predecessor's, collaboration agenda?

Rhaid i agwedd sy'n arwain at integreiddio gwasanaethau'n well a lleihau nifer gyffredinol yr achosion o ddyblygu swyddi rheoli costus fod yn un o nodau allweddol ac elfennau sylfaenol unrhyw agenda gydweithredu llywodraeth lleol flaengar. Faint o swyddi uwch a rennir sy'n bodoli ar hyn o bryd o ganlyniad i'ch agenda gydweithredu chi neu'ch rhagflaenydd?

14:19 **Lesley Griffiths** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
[Fideo](#) [Video](#)

I cannot give you that figure—I do not have it to hand—but I will write to you with that figure.

Ni allaf roi'r ffigur hwnnw i chi—nid yw gennyf wrth law—ond ysgrifennaf atoch gyda'r ffigur hwnnw.

14:19 **Eluned Parrott** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
[Fideo](#) [Video](#)

A number of local authorities in Wales offer combined music services across local authority borders. You will be aware that when Cardiff Council cut funding to its music service earlier this year, it had a knock-on impact on pupils in the Vale, who then had to pay higher tuition fees across the area that was covered by that combined service. How are democratic protocols protected to ensure that decisions made by one authority in these integrated service areas are not adversely affecting constituents in another who, obviously, are not able to elect their representatives on the basis of decisions made by others?

Mae nifer o awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru yn cynnig gwasanaethau cerdd cyfunol ar draws ffiniau awdurdodau lleol. Byddwch yn ymwybodol pan dorrodd Cyngor Caerdydd arian ar gyfer ei wasanaeth cerdd yn gynharach eleni, y cafodd effaith gynyddol ar ddisgyblion yn y Fro, y bu'n rhaid iddynt wedyn dalu ffioedd dysgu uwch ar draws yr ardal a gwmpaswyd gan y gwasanaeth cyfunol hwnnw. Sut y caiff protocolau democrataidd eu diogelu i sicrhau nad yw penderfyniadau a wneir gan un awdurdod yn y meysydd gwasanaeth integredig hyn yn cael effaith andwyol ar etholwyr mewn awdurdod arall nad ydynt, yn amlwg, yn gallu ethol eu cynrychiolwyr ar sail penderfyniadau a wneir gan eraill?

14:20 **Lesley Griffiths** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
[Fideo](#) [Video](#)

It is very important, when a situation such as the example that you gave occurs, that elected representatives from both local authorities—or there might be more than two—have discussions at a high level to ensure that that does not have an impact on individual residents.

Mae'n bwysig iawn, pan fydd sefyllfa fel yr enghraifft a roesoch yn codi, fod cynrychiolwyr etholedig o'r ddau awdurdod lleol—neu gallai fod mwy na dau—yn cael trafodaethau lefel uchel i sicrhau nad yw hynny'n cael effaith ar drigolion unigol.

Gwerth Gorau mewn Llywodraeth Leol

Best Value in Local Government

14:20 **Kenneth Skates** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
[Fideo](#) [Video](#)

2. *A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu beth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud i hyrwyddo gwerth gorau mewn Llywodraeth Leol?* OAQ(4)0295(LG)

2. *Will the Minister outline what the Welsh Government is doing to promote best value in Local Government?* OAQ(4)0295(LG)

14:20 **Lesley Griffiths** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#) Senedd.tv
[Fideo](#) [Video](#)

There are clear duties upon local authorities to achieve best value for money. This is demonstrated in the collaborative approach taken by authorities across Wales. Examples include projects on waste management, telecare, a commissioning hub for social services, family service teams and youth justice.

Mae gan awdurdodau lleol ddyletswyddau clir i sicrhau'r gwerth gorau am arian. Dangosir hyn yn y dull cydweithredol a gymerir gan awdurdodau ledled Cymru. Mae enghreifftiau'n cynnwys prosiectau ar reoli gwastraff, teleofal, canolbwynt comisiynu ar gyfer gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, timau gwasanaeth teuluoedd a chyfiawnder ieuencid.

14:20	Kenneth Skates Bywgraffiad Biography Within best value, there is a need to secure economic, efficient and effective services at a local level. However, earlier this year, an investigation by GMB into the construction industry revealed that at least 111 workers from Wales are on illegal blacklists because they belong to trade unions. What work is the Welsh Government doing with local government to prevent any company known to have held such a list from securing public sector contracts?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:21	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography The Minister for Finance issued a written statement earlier this month with regard to this issue. She outlined that we will not tolerate this practice. One important tool that we can use in local government is procurement policy. That could help to eradicate blacklisting in Wales. The Minister for Finance will be issuing guidance on this matter shortly to all public bodies. The use of blacklists is wholly unacceptable. We fully sympathise with the individuals and their families who have suffered a terrible injustice. It is an issue that is of paramount importance both to me and the Minister for Finance.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:22	Mark Isherwood Bywgraffiad Biography What action is the Welsh Government taking to ensure best value when local government is commissioning services directly from its own elected members? I know that the core financial statement of one council—Flintshire—shows that £528,000 was spent in purchasing services from members. That was based on only 60 returns out of 70 members, as 10 did not respond. There is probably absolutely nothing wrong with what happened, but how do we ensure that best value does apply so that the requirements on transparency and accountability are fully met?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:22	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography Transparency and openness are very important. Each local authority is responsible for managing a range of services, and it is up to them to ensure that they deliver the best value for money for their local taxpayers and for the Welsh pound.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:22	Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography I call on the Plaid Cymru spokesperson, Rhodri Glyn Thomas.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:22	Rhodri Glyn Thomas Bywgraffiad Biography O ran budd-daliadau'r dreth gyngor, rwy'n falch i weld eich bod wedi dysgu gwersi oddi wrth brofiad eich rhagflaenydd yn hyn o beth, ac rwy'n ddiolchgar am y trafodaethau rydym wedi eu cael ar y mater hwn. Beth yw'r sefyllfa bellach ynglŷn â'r taliadau hyn ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf, oherwydd bydd yn rhaid i Lywodraeth Cymru a llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru ddod i gytundeb ar y mater hwn?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:23	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography You are right; we will have to come to some agreement. Obviously, I am having early discussions. I am committed to laying regulations. You will be aware of the legislation from last year; we have to lay new regulations. I intend to make sure that all relevant documents are laid by the end of November so that there is time for full scrutiny in the Chamber and also to ensure that local authorities have all the information to hand that they will need by the end of January.	Rydych yn iawn; bydd yn rhaid inni ddod i ryw gytundeb. Yn amlwg, rwyf yn cael trafodaethau cynnar. Rwy'n ymrwymedig i osod rheoliadau. Byddwch yn ymwybodol o'r ddeddfwriaeth ers y llynedd; rhaid inni osod rheoliadau newydd. Bwriadaf sicrhau bod yr holl ddogfennau perthnasol yn cael eu cyflwyno erbyn diwedd mis Tachwedd fel bod digon o amser ar gyfer craffu llawn yn y Siambr a hefyd sicrhau bod gan awdurdodau lleol yr holl wybodaeth wrth law y bydd ei hangen arnynt erbyn diwedd mis Ionawr.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:23	Rhodri Glyn Thomas Bywgraffiad Biography Rwy'n ddiolchgar, Weinidog, am eich ymrwymiad i graffu llawn ar y rheoliadau hyn. Mae hynny'n eithriadol o bwysig, a gobeithiaf fod pawb yn sylweddoli, gan gynnwys Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, ei bod yn gyfrifoldeb arnom yn y fan hon i graffu ar y rheoliadau hyn yn llawn. Fodd bynnag, mae toriadau llym yn wynebu llywodraeth leol. Rydych eisoes wedi rhybuddio llywodraeth leol o hyn. Dywedodd Dyfed Edwards, arweinydd Cyngor Gwynedd, yn y dyddiau diwethaf y byddai'n rhaid i bob gwasanaeth dewisol sydd gan lywodraeth leol gael ei gwestiynu bellach, oherwydd y toriadau hyn. Sut ydych yn disgwyl i lywodraeth leol gyfrannu at y taliadau hyn yn wyneb y ffaith y bydd ei gyllidebau'n cael eu torri yn sylweddol?	I am grateful, Minister, for your commitment to have full scrutiny of these regulations. That is extremely important, and I hope that everyone, including the Welsh Local Government Association, realises that we have a responsibility here to scrutinise these regulations comprehensively. However, local government is facing swingeing cuts. You have already warned local government about this. Dyfed Edwards, the leader of Gwynedd Council, has stated in the last few days that every discretionary service provided by local government will now be called into question, as a result of these cuts. How do you expect local government to contribute to these payments in light of the fact that its budgets will be cut substantially?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:24	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography I did take that message to all leaders and chief executives as I have gone around Wales to visit all 22 local authorities. It was also a very large focus of my speech at the WLGA conference last week. I expect them to look at the transformational change of all services across the board. I know that it is difficult. We are facing unprecedented financial times. We have heard today that our budget has been cut further and deeper, which will obviously have an impact on how we fund local government in future.	Rwyf wedi lledaenu'r neges honno i'r holl arweinwyr a phrif weithredwyr wrth imi deithio o amgylch Cymru i ymweld â phob un o'r 22 awdurdod lleol. Roedd hefyd yn rhan fawr iawn o'm haraith yng nghynhadledd CLILC yr wythnos diwethaf. Disgwyliaf iddynt ystyried y gwaith o drawsnewid yr holl wasanaethau. Gwn ei bod yn anodd. Rydym yn wynebu cyfnod ariannol nas gwelwyd ei fath erioed. Clywsom heddiw fod ein cyllideb wedi cael ei thorri ymhellach ac yn ddyfnach, a fydd yn amlwg yn cael effaith ar y ffordd y byddwn yn ariannu llywodraeth leol yn y dyfodol.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:25	Kirsty Williams Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, do you agree that the use of consultants to fill senior posts on an interim basis does not always provide best value for taxpayers' money, nor does it provide continuity for service development and change? What guidance do you give to local authorities, and what monitoring do you undertake, on the use of consultants to fill posts on an interim basis?	Weinidog, a gytunwch nad yw defnyddio ymgynghorwyr i lenwi swyddi uwch dros dro bob amser yn cynnig y gwerth gorau am arian i'r trethdalwyr, ac nid yw ychwaith yn darparu parhad o ran datblygu gwasanaethau a newid? Pa ganllawiau rydych yn eu rhoi i awdurdodau lleol, a pha waith monitro rydych yn ei wneud, o ran y defnydd o ymgynghorwyr i lenwi swyddi dros dro?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:25	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography Yes, I do, and it is something that we have discussed as I have gone round Wales. If you have a consultant in such a post, I do not feel that they have that connection with the local authority, so it is much better if the use of consultants can be avoided. That is the advice that I would give to local authorities.	Gwnaf, ac mae'n rhywbeth yr ydym wedi'i drafod wrth imi fynd o amgylch Cymru. Os oes gennych ymgynghorydd mewn swydd o'r fath, ni themlaf fod ganddo'r cyswllt hwnnw â'r awdurdod lleol, felly mae'n llawer gwell ceisio osgoi defnyddio ymgynghorwyr. Dyna'r cyngor y byddwn yn ei roi i awdurdodau lleol.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

**Mynediad i Gyfarfodydd Cyhoeddus
Cynghorau Lleol**

Access to Local Council Public Meetings

14:26	Peter Black Bywgraffiad Biography 3. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn gwella mynediad i gyfarfodydd cyhoeddus cynghorau lleol? OAQ(4)0292(LG)	3. Will the Minister make a statement on how the Welsh Government is improving access to local council public meetings? OAQ(4)0292(LG)	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:26	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography Local authorities are obliged to allow the public access to their meetings, except when confidential matters are under discussion. The Welsh Government has provided funding to all local authorities to assist with the broadcasting of council meetings.	Mae'n ddyletswydd ar awdurdodau lleol i ganiatáu mynediad i'r cyhoedd i'w cyfarfodydd, ac eithrio pan fydd materion cyfrinachol yn cael eu trafod. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi darparu cyllid i bob awdurdod lleol er mwyn helpu i ddarlledu cyfarfodydd y cyngor.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:26	Peter Black Bywgraffiad Biography Thank you for that reply, Minister. When we discussed the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill, which will hopefully soon be the local government Act, you rejected amendments that would allow councils to facilitate the public to record meetings that they attended. In England, the UK Government is issuing guidance to councils to allow the public to film meetings, if they wish to do so. Will you be following suit in Wales?	Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Pan drafodwyd Bil Mesur Llywodraeth Leol (Democratiaeth) (Cymru) a ddaw, gobeithio, yn Ddeddf llywodraeth leol yn fuan, gwnaethoch wrthod gwelliannau a fyddai'n caniatáu i gynghorau hwyluso'r cyhoedd i recordio cyfarfodydd a fynychwyd ganddynt. Yn Lloegr, mae Llywodraeth y DU yn cyhoeddi canllawiau i gynghorau er mwyn caniatáu i'r cyhoedd ffilmio cyfarfodydd, os ydynt yn dymuno gwneud hynny. A fyddwch yn gwneud yr un peth yng Nghymru?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:26	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography No.	Na fyddaf.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:27	Peter Black Bywgraffiad Biography I am sorry that you feel that way, given the way that some people have been treated by local councils around Wales. Will you undertake to have a look at best practice in Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland as to how the public are facilitated in this way, to see whether you can encourage councils to follow that best practice?	Mae'n ddrwg gennyf eich bod yn teimlo felly, o gofio'r ffordd y mae pobl wedi cael eu trin gan gynghorau lleol ledled Cymru. A wnewch chi ymrwymo i ystyried arfer gorau yng Nghymru, Lloegr, yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon o ran sut mae'r cyhoedd yn cael eu hwyluso yn y ffordd hon, er mwyn gweld a allwch annog cynghorau i ddilyn yr arfer gorau hwnnw?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:27	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography There are some really good examples of best practice in Wales. I do not think that we need to do what you want to do in relation to the recording of meetings, and you will know of the concerns that I had about facilitating that. Local authorities are now committed to broadcasting their meetings—Carmarthenshire, Cardiff and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority have done it, Swansea will probably be next to webcast and Torfaen is finalising its plans. So, there are really good examples. We do not need to legislate for it—it is already happening.	Mae rhai enghreifftiau da iawn o arfer gorau yng Nghymru. Ni chredaf fod angen inni wneud yr hyn rydych am ei wneud mewn perthynas â recordio cyfarfodydd, a byddwch yn ymwybodol o'm mhryderon ynghylch hwyluso hynny. Mae awdurdodau lleol bellach wedi ymrwymo i ddarlledu eu cyfarfodydd—mae Sir Gaerfyrddin, Caerdydd ac Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog wedi gwneud hynny, Abertawe fydd yr awdurdod lleol nesaf i ddarparu gweddarllediadau yn ôl pob tebyg ac mae Torfaen yn cadarnhau ei gynlluniau. Felly, mae enghreifftiau da iawn. Nid oes angen inni ddeddfu ar ei gyfer—mae'n digwydd yn barod.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:27	Janet Finch-Saunders Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, I was disappointed and saddened to learn that, on Thursday evening of last week, at a community scrutiny committee held by my local authority, several of my constituents—around 40, I believe—were ejected from the public gallery for voicing some concerns in relation to an important item on the agenda that they had gone along to observe. In addition, they were banned from filming in the chamber prior to the committee meeting. Minister, tensions are growing across Wales among our armchair auditors and our residents generally about the lack of community engagement, the lack of transparency, and the basic lack of democratic accountability. Minister, what guidance are you issuing to local authorities to ensure that freedom of speech in Wales is not being suppressed?	Weinidog, roeddwn yn siomedig ac yn drist iawn o glywed, nos lau diwethaf, mewn pwyllgor craffu cymunedol a gynhaliwyd gan fy awdurdod lleol, fod nifer o'm hetholwyr—tua 40, rwy'n credu—wedi cael eu taflu allan o'r oriel gyhoeddus am leisio rhai pryderon ynghylch eitem bwysig ar yr agenda yr oeddent wedi mynd i'w harsylwi. Cawsant hefyd eu gwahardd rhag ffilmio yn y siambr cyn cyfarfod y pwyllgor. Weinidog, mae tensiynau'n tyfu ledled Cymru ymysg ein harchwilwyr a'n preswylwyr yn gyffredinol am ddiffyg ymgysylltu â'r gymuned, diffyg tryloywder, a diffyg sylfaenol atebolrwydd democrataidd. Weinidog, pa ganllawiau rydych yn eu rhoi i awdurdodau lleol er mwyn sicrhau nad yw rhyddid barn yng Nghymru yn cael ei atal?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:29	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography I do not know of the specific incident to which you refer, but we passed the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill last week, which included provisions to deliver greater transparency in relation to websites. As I said, a lot of good practice is going on at present on council meetings being broadcast. A huge amount is going on. I do not know the specific incident to which you refer—I do not know whether it was a confidential issue—but I believe that the Bill that we passed last week, which will soon become an Act, will deliver greater transparency.	Ni wn am y digwyddiad penodol y cyfeiriwch ato, ond gwnaethom basio Bil Mesur Llywodraeth Leol (Democratiaeth) (Cymru) yr wythnos diwethaf, a oedd yn cynnwys darpariaethau i sicrhau mwy o dryloywder mewn perthynas â gwefannau. Fel y dywedais, mae llawer o enghreifftiau o arfer da i'w gweld ar hyn o bryd mewn perthynas â darlledu cyfarfodydd cyngorau. Mae llawer iawn yn digwydd. Ni wn am y digwyddiad penodol y cyfeiriwch ato—ni wn a oedd yn fater cyfrinachol—ond credaf fod y Mesur a basiwyd gennym yr wythnos diwethaf, a ddaw'n Ddeddf yn fuan, yn sicrhau mwy o dryloywder.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:29	Simon Thomas Bywgraffiad Biography Weinidog, mae dablygiad aps wedi bod yn ffordd i fwy o bobl ddeall beth sy'n digwydd mewn Llywodraeth genedlaethol—mae gen i'r 'modern.gov app' yn y fan hyn, sy'n galluogi pobl i rannu beth sy'n digwydd yn ein pwyllgorau, er enghraifft. A oes unrhyw ddatblygiad ar lefel genedlaethol gan Llywodraeth Cymru i wneud yn siŵr bod cysondeb wrth ddatblygu aps ar gyfer llywodraeth leol hefyd? Bydd hynny'n ychwanegu at allu pobl i deimlo eu bod yn rhan o'r broses leol.	Minister, the development of apps has been a way of allowing more people to understand what is happening in central Government—I have the 'modern.gov app' here, which allows people to share what happens in our committees, for example. Is the Welsh Government undertaking any national developments to ensure consistency in the development of apps for local government too? That would add to people's ability to feel that they could participate in that process locally.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:30	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography I am not aware of any work being carried out in relation to apps, but we certainly need to keep up with technology. I will certainly look into whether that is something that we could look at, and I will write to the Member.	Nid wyf yn ymwybodol o unrhyw waith sy'n cael ei wneud mewn perthynas ag apps, ond yn sicr mae angen inni gadw i fyny â thechnoleg. Byddaf yn sicr yn edrych i weld a yw hynny'n rhywbeth y gallem ei ystyried, a byddaf yn ysgrifennu at yr Aelod.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:30	Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography Question 4, OAQ(4)0297(LG), has been withdrawn.	Cwestiwn 4, OAQ (4) 0297 (LG), yn ôl.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Trais Domestig

Domestic Violence

14:30	Kenneth Skates Bywgraffiad Biography 5. A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu beth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud i fynd i'r afael â thrais domestig yng ngogledd Cymru? OAQ(4)0296(LG)	5. Will the Minister outline what the Welsh Government is doing to tackle domestic violence in north Wales? OAQ(4)0296(LG)	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
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14:30	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography We are committed to reducing rates of domestic violence across the whole of Wales. This is shown by our commitment to implement our Right to be Safe strategy and to progress our programme for government commitments to develop legislation and to implement the 10000 Safer Lives project.	Rydym yn ymrwymedig i ostwng cyfraddau trais domestig ledled Cymru gyfan. Dangosir hyn gan ein hymrwymiad i weithredu ein strategaeth Hawl i fod yn Ddiogel a gweithio tuag at gyflawni ymrwymadau ein rhaglen lywodraethau i ddatblygu deddfwriaeth a gweithredu prosiect 10,000 o Fwyddau Diogelach.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:30	Kenneth Skates Bywgraffiad Biography As you are aware, more than 50,000 women across Wales suffer from domestic abuse each year, and many of those are in north Wales. Around seven women each year die at the hands of their partner, or ex-partner. Soon, the National Assembly will be scrutinising vital legislation to help such vulnerable people. However, given that policing and criminal justice is not a devolved matter, what preparatory discussions is the Welsh Government having with our local police forces, and other non-devolved partners, to ensure that the legislation is as strong and effective as possible?	Fel y gwyddoch, mae mwy na 50,000 o fenywod ledled Cymru yn dioddef cam-drin domestig bob blwyddyn, ac mae llawer o'r rheini yn y gogledd. Mae tua saith o fenywod bob blwyddyn yn marw yn nwylo eu partner, neu gynbartner. Cyn bo hir, bydd y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn craffu ar ddeddfwriaeth hanfodol er mwyn helpu pobl agored i niwed o'r fath. Fodd bynnag, gan nad yw plismona a chyfiawnder troseddol yn fater datganoledig, pa drafodaethau paratoadol y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn eu cael gyda'n heddluoedd lleol, a phartneriaid eraill nad ydynt wedi'u datganoli, i sicrhau bod y ddeddfwriaeth mor gryf ac effeithiol â phosibl?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:31	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography It is not our intention that the proposed legislation will seek to address criminal justice issues; as you say, this is substantively a matter for the UK Government. We need to seek to complement those existing criminal law and justice arrangements, and focus on the social issues within the elements of prevention, protection and support. I recognise the important role of our non-devolved partners, including the police, the police and crime commissioners, the Probation Service, the Crown Prosecution Service, and the youth offending teams. It is important that they all work together to take action in this area. I have had discussions with most of these organisations, to that effect, and I am meeting the police and crime commissioners tomorrow, and I will raise this issue with them.	Nid ydym yn bwriadu i'r ddeddfwriaeth arfaethedig geisio mynd i'r afael â materion cyfiawnder troseddol; fel y dywedwch, mater i Lywodraeth y DU yw hynny yn ei hanfod. Mae angen inni geisio ategu'r trefniadau presennol hynny o ran cyfraith droseddol a chyfiawnder, a chanolbwyntio ar y materion cymdeithasol o fewn yr elfennau atal, diogelu a chefnogaeth. Cydnabyddaf rôl bwysig ein partneriaid nad ydynt wedi'u datganoli, gan gynnwys yr heddlu, y comisiynwyr heddlu a throseddu, y Gwasanaeth Prawf, Gwasanaeth Erlyn y Goron, a'r timau troseddau ieuenctid. Mae'n bwysig eu bod i gyd yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd i weithredu yn y maes hwn. Rwyf wedi cael trafodaethau gyda'r rhan fwyaf o'r sefydliadau hyn, i'r perwyl hwnnw, a byddaf yn cyfarfod â'r comisiynwyr heddlu a throseddau yfory, ac yn codi'r mater hwn gyda hwy.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:32	Darren Millar Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, you will know that the risk of domestic violence increases in homes where there are substance misuse problems, and, indeed, where there are post-traumatic stress disorder problems, which are, unfortunately, ever-increasing among the veteran population in Wales. Will you join me in congratulating the organisation, CAIS, for its work with veterans in north Wales? Furthermore, what action are you taking, as the Minister with responsibility for the armed forces, to expand the provision within the all-Wales veterans mental health and wellbeing service, to ensure that the capacity of that service is able to deal with the demands that are being placed on it?	Weinidog, gwyddoch fod mwy o risg o drais domestig mewn cartrefi lle mae problemau'n ymwneud â chamddefnyddio sylweddau, ac, yn wir, lle mae problemau'n ymwneud ag anhwylder straen ôl-drawmatig, sydd, yn anffodus, yn parhau i gynyddu ymhlith cyn-filwyr yng Nghymru. A wnewch chi ymuno â mi i longyfarch sefydliad CAIS am ei waith gyda chyn-filwyr yn y gogledd? At hynny, pa gamau rydych yn eu cymryd, fel y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am y lluoedd arfog, i ehangu darpariaeth gwasanaeth iechyd meddwl a lles cyn-filwyr Cymru gyfan, er mwyn sicrhau bod y gwasanaeth hwnnw'n gallu ateb y galw arno?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:32	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography I am very aware of the good work that CAIS does—I have a part of that organisation in my own constituency—and of the work that it does with veterans. This week is Armed Forces Week, and we have just announced a refreshed package of support for our armed forces personnel and their families, to whom we owe a great debt.	Rwy'n ymwybodol iawn o'r gwaith da y mae CAIS yn ei wneud—mae rhan o'r sefydliad hwnnw yn fy etholaeth—ac o'r gwaith y mae'n ei wneud gyda chyn-filwyr. Rydym yn dathlu Wythnos y Lluoedd Arfog yr wythnos hon, ac rydym newydd gyhoeddi pecyn newydd o gymorth ar gyfer ein personél lluoedd arfog a'u teuluoedd, y mae ein dyled yn fawr iddynt.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

- 14:33
Llyr Huws Gruffydd
[Bywgraffiad](#)
[Biography](#)

Weinidog, pa asesiad y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi ei wneud o'r effaith y bydd y toriadau mewn gwariant cyhoeddus yn eu cael ar ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau allweddol ym maes trais domestig yng ngogledd Cymru? A gaf i ofyn i chi fel Gweinidog, ac fel Llywodraeth, i gynorthwyo i hyrwyddo arolwg ar-lein CutsWatch gan Gymorth i Ferched Cymru, sy'n ymdrechu i fonitro ystod, natur ac impact y toriadau mewn gwariant cyhoeddus ar wasanaethau cefnogi sy'n ymwneud â thrais yn erbyn merched?

Minister, may I ask what assessment the Government has made of the impact that cuts in public expenditure will have on the provision of key services in the area of domestic violence in north Wales? May I ask you as Minister, and as a Government, to assist in promoting the online CutsWatch survey by Welsh Women's Aid, which attempts to monitor the range, nature and impact of the cuts in public expenditure on support services related to domestic violence against women?
- 14:33
Lesley Griffiths
[Bywgraffiad](#)
[Biography](#)

This is an area that we will have to look at closely. This year, we have provided over £3.9 million in funding to partner organisations to deliver effective services dealing with violence against women and domestic abuse to victims across the whole of Wales. I have had discussions with Welsh Women's Aid—specifically in north Wales—about this issue, but we are going to have to look at the impact of this in due course.

Mae hwn yn faes y bydd yn rhaid inni ei ystyried yn ofalus. Eleni, rydym wedi darparu dros £3.9 miliwn o gyllid i sefydliadau partner er mwyn darparu gwasanaethau effeithiol sy'n ymdrin â thrais yn erbyn menywod a cham-drin domestig i ddioddefwyr ledled Cymru gyfan. Rwyf wedi cael trafodaethau gyda Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru—yn benodol yn y gogledd—ynghylch y mater hwn, ond bydd yn rhaid inni ystyried effaith hyn maes o law.
- 14:34
Aled Roberts
[Bywgraffiad](#)
[Biography](#)

Weinidog, ym mis Chwefror, dywedodd eich rhagflaenydd ei fod yn mynd i gynnal adolygiad annibynnol o'r ffynonellau cyllido sydd yn effeithio ar y gwasanaethau hyn yn y gogledd. Fe ddywedodd fod yr adolygiad yn mynd i ddechrau ym mis Mawrth, gan obeithio y byddai adroddiad llawn erbyn yr hydref. A yw'r adolygiad hwnnw wedi cychwyn, ac a fydd yr amserlen wreiddiol yn cael ei hymestyn?

Minister, in February, your predecessor said that he was going to undertake an independent survey of the funding sources that impact on these services in north Wales. He said that the review would begin in March, in the hope that a full report would be available by the autumn. Has that review started and will the original timetable be extended?
- 14:34
Lesley Griffiths
[Bywgraffiad](#)
[Biography](#)

I am not sure whether the timetable is as you have just stated, but I will look into that, and I will write to the Member.

Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw'r amserlen fel yr ydych newydd ei ddweud, ond byddaf yn ymchwilio i hynny, a byddaf yn ysgrifennu at yr Aelod.

Trais Domestig

Domestic Violence

- 14:34
Rebecca Evans
[Bywgraffiad](#)
[Biography](#)

6. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gymorth Llywodraeth Cymru i ddioddefwyr trais domestig? OAQ(4)0300(LG)

6. Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Government support for the victims of domestic violence? OAQ(4)0300(LG)
- 14:35
Lesley Griffiths
[Bywgraffiad](#)
[Biography](#)

We are committed both to supporting victims and reducing rates of domestic abuse and violence. We are implementing our Right to be Safe strategy and progressing our programme for government commitments to bring forward legislation to end violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence, and implement the 10000 Safer Lives project.

Rydym yn ymrwymedig i gefnogi dioddefwyr a gostwng cyfraddau cam-drin domestig a thrais. Rydym yn gweithredu ein strategaeth Hawl i fod yn Ddiogel ac yn gweithio tuag at gyflawni ymrwymadau ein rhaglen lywodraethu i gyflwyno deddfwriaeth i roi terfyn ar drais yn erbyn menywod, cam-drin domestig a thrais rhywiol, a gweithredu prosiect 10,000 o Fywydau Diogelach.

14:35

Rebecca Evans [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Thank you for that answer, Minister. A recent survey by Refuge and Women's Aid found that many women are unsure as to what actually constitutes domestic violence and stay in relationships where they are living in fear. I also read this week that many young women stay in relationships where they are experiencing domestic violence because it is so endemic that they think it is normal. How is the Welsh Government promoting a national conversation on domestic abuse, so that we can raise public consciousness as to what it is?

Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Canfu arolwg diweddar gan Refuge a Cymorth i Fenywod fod llawer o fenywod yn ansicr ynghylch beth yn union yw trais domestig ac yn aros mewn cydberthnasau lle maent yn byw mewn ofn. Darllenais hefyd yr wythnos hon fod llawer o fenywod ifanc yn aros mewn cydberthnasau lle maent yn dioddef trais domestig am ei bod mor endemig nes eu bod yn credu ei bod yn normal. Sut mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn hyrwyddo sgwrs genedlaethol ar gam-drin domestig, fel y gallwn godi ymwybyddiaeth y cyhoedd ohono?

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14:35

Lesley Griffiths [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Obviously I recognise that central to tackling violence against women and domestic abuse is raising awareness and improving understanding. You will be aware of our proposed legislation and key aspects of that relate to improving education and awareness. You will also be aware of the White Paper, which finished in February of this year, which proposed ensuring that education on healthy relationships for instance is delivered to all schools. To me, that is an absolutely essential plank of the Bill. The White Paper also proposed introducing professional training for appropriate public sector professionals and placing a duty on public sector employers to have a workplace policy, which is another very important area. The 10000 Safer Lives project that I referred to in my original answer to you is paving the way for that legislation. Carl Sargeant, my predecessor, wrote to public service leaders in Wales earlier this year to seek their commitment to making sure that we implement that project in due course.

Yn amlwg, cydnabyddaf fod mynd i'r afael â thrais yn erbyn menywod a cham-drin domestig yn ganolog i godi ymwybyddiaeth a gwella dealltwriaeth. Byddwch yn ymwybodol o'n ddeddfwriaeth arfaethedig ac mae agweddau allweddol ar honno'n ymwneud â gwella addysg ac ymwybyddiaeth. Byddwch hefyd yn ymwybodol o'r Papur Gwyn, a ddaeth i ben ym mis Chwefror eleni, a oedd yn cynnig sicrhau bod addysg ar gydberthnasau iach, er enghraifft, yn cael ei chyflwyno ym mhob ysgol. Credaf fod hynny'n elfen gwbl hanfodol o'r Mesur. Mae'r Papur Gwyn hefyd yn cynnig cyflwyno hyfforddiant proffesiynol i weithwyr proffesiynol priodol yn y sector cyhoeddus ac yn rhoi dyletswydd ar gyflogwyr yn y sector cyhoeddus i gael polisi gweithle, sy'n faes pwysig iawn arall. Mae prosiect 10,000 o Fwydau Diogelach y cyfeiriais ato yn fy ateb gwreiddiol atoch yn paratōi'r ffordd ar gyfer y ddeddfwriaeth honno. Ysgrifennodd Carl Sargeant, fy rhagflaenydd, at arweinwyr gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru yn gynharach eleni i ofyn am eu hymrwymiad i sicrhau ein bod yn gweithredu'r prosiect hwnnw maes o law.

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14:36

Nick Ramsay [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Rebecca Evans mentioned Women's Aid; I am sure that you will agree with me that it does an invaluable amount of work in dealing with problems of domestic abuse. I recently visited Women's Aid in my constituency, in Abergavenny, and it struck me that it faces the same sorts of issues as other organisations in trying to deal with the issues that it deals with over a larger rural area compared with urban areas. With regard to the legislation that you have mentioned, is there anything in it that will help to support organisations like Women's Aid in terms of dealing with domestic abuse outside cities, in homes in rural areas?

Soniodd Rebecca Evans am Cymorth i Fenywod; rwy'n siŵr y byddwch yn cytuno â mi ei fod yn gwneud llawer o waith amhrisiadwy wrth ddelio â phroblemau'n ymwneud â cham-drin domestig. Yn ddiweddar, ymwelais â Cymorth i Fenywod yn fy etholaeth, yn y Fenni, a sylweddolais ei fod yn wynebu'r un math o faterion â sefydliadau eraill wrth geisio delio â'r materion y mae'n ymdrin â hwy dros ardal wledig fwy o gymharu ag ardaloedd trefol. O ran y ddeddfwriaeth y gwnaethoch sôn amdani, a oes unrhyw beth ynddi a fydd yn helpu i gefnogi sefydliadau fel Cymorth i Fenywod wrth ddelio â cham-drin domestig y tu allan i ddinasoedd, mewn cartrefi mewn ardaloedd gwledig?

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14:37

Lesley Griffiths [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I agree with you absolutely that the Women's Aid organisation does a fantastic job in delivering services and supporting victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. We are currently looking at what will be in the Bill, and the rural aspect is certainly something that I can have a look at.

Cytunaf â chi'n llwyr fod sefydliad Cymorth i Fenywod yn gwneud gwaith gwych wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau a chefnogi dioddefwyr cam-drin domestig a thrais rhywiol. Rydym wrthi'n ystyried beth fydd yn y Bil, ac mae'r agwedd wledig yn sicr yn rhywbeth y gallaf ei hystyried.

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13:37

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

We heard earlier from Rebecca Evans that some young women think that domestic abuse is normal. The degrading of women has been highlighted by recent high-profile news stories and the reactions to those stories demonstrated just how society views women. I am sure that you would not want to endorse the advice of Business Wales on how to become a stripper, but I would like you to tell us, Minister, who in the Welsh Government authorised Business Wales's promotion of the Welsh sex industry.

Clywsom yn gynharach gan Rebecca Evans fod rhai menywod ifanc yn meddwl bod cam-drin domestig yn normal. Amlygwyd diraddio menywod gan straeon proffil uchel yn y newyddion yn ddiweddar a dangosodd yr ymatebion i'r straeon hynny sut mae cymdeithas yn gweld menywod. Rwy'n siŵr na fydddech am gefnogi cyngor Busnes Cymru ynghylch sut i ddod yn striper, ond hoffwn ichi ddweud wrthym, Weinidog, pwy o fewn Llywodraeth Cymru a awdurdododd Busnes Cymru i hyrwyddo'r diwydiant rhyw yng Nghymru.

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13:38

Lesley Griffiths [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I cannot give you a specific answer to that, but you will be aware that, yesterday, the First Minister said in his questions session that he had just been made aware of that issue and had launched a full investigation. I am sure therefore that, in due course, Members will learn the answer to that question.

Ni allaf roi ateb penodol ichi o ran hynny, ond byddwch yn ymwybodol, ddoe, fod y Prif Weinidog wedi dweud yn ei sesiwn gwestiynau ei fod newydd gael gwybod am y mater hwnnw a'i fod wedi lansio ymchwiliad llawn. Rwy'n siŵr, felly, y caiff Aelodau'r ateb i'r cwestiwn hwnnw maes o law.

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13:38

Jenny Rathbone [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I am very disappointed to learn of the dismissal of Carmel Napier as the chief constable of Gwent Police, not only because she had transformed the Gwent Police force from being thirty-second in the UK to fourth in terms of clearing up crime, but she also led on domestic violence for the Association of Chief Police Officers. What conversations have you had with the Welsh police forces to ensure that domestic violence remains the priority that it became under Carmel Napier?

Rwy'n siomedig iawn o glywed am ddiswyddiad Carmel Napier fel prif gwnstabl Heddlu Gwent, nid yn unig am ei bod wedi trawsnewid Heddlu Gwent o fod yn y 32ain safle yn y DU i'r pedverydd safle o ran datrys troseddau, ond am ei bod hefyd wedi arwain ar drais domestig ar ran Cymdeithas Prif Swyddogion yr Heddlu. Pa sgysiau rydych wedi'u cael gyda heddluoedd yng Nghymru i sicrhau bod trais domestig yn parhau i gael yr un flaenoriaeth ag a gafodd o dan arweiniad Carmel Napier?

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14:39

Lesley Griffiths [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Firstly, we are very grateful for the contribution that Ms Napier made over the past few years in her role as ACPO lead for England and Wales on domestic abuse matters. It is a priority for the Welsh Government and it is something that I have discussed with the chief constables. I mentioned in an earlier answer that I am meeting the police and crime commissioners tomorrow and it is something that will be on the agenda in my discussions with them. Around Ms Napier's departure, this is obviously a matter for Gwent Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent, but I would like to place on record my thanks to her for the role that she took in relation to domestic abuse. It is very important that we have people like that who are leaders in our public services taking on these specific roles.

Yn gyntaf, rydym yn ddiolchgar iawn am gyfraniad Ms Napier dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf yn ei rôl fel arweinydd ACPO ar ran Cymru a Lloegr ar faterion yn ymwneud â cham-drin domestig. Mae'n flaenoriaeth i Lywodraeth Cymru ac yn rhywbeth yr wyf wedi'i drafod â'r prif gwnstabliaid. Soniais mewn ateb cynharach fy mod yn cyfarfod â'r heddlu a'r comisiynwyr heddlu a throseddu yfory ac mae'n rhywbeth a fydd ar yr agenda wrth drafod â hwy. O ran ymadawiad Ms Napier, mater i Heddlu Gwent a Heddlu a Chomisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddau Gwent yw hyn yn amlwg, ond hoffwn ddiolch iddi am y rôl a chwaraeodd mewn perthynas â cham-drin domestig. Mae'n bwysig iawn bod gennym bobl o'r fath sy'n arweinwyr yn ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus sy'n ymgymryd â'r rolau penodol hyn.

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Amrywiaeth ymhlith Aelodau Etholedig

Diversity amongst Elected Members

14:40

Sandy Mewies [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

7. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am gynlluniau Llywodraeth Cymru i annog rhagor o amrywiaeth ymhlith aelodau etholedig ar gynghorau cymuned a sir yng Nghymru? OAQ(4)0298(LG)

7. Will the Minister provide an update on Welsh Government plans to encourage greater diversity amongst elected members of community and county councils in Wales? OAQ(4)0298(LG)

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14:40	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography The Welsh Government is committed to promoting wider participation in local government. Provisions introduced in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 provide a framework to support greater diversity. I have recently announced my intention to establish an expert group to examine this issue and will shortly announce its membership.	Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymrwymedig i hyrwyddo cyfranogiad ehangach mewn llywodraeth leol. Mae darpariaethau a gyflwynwyd ym Mesur Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2011 yn darparu fframwaith i gefnogi mwy o amrywiaeth. Cyhoeddais yn ddiweddar fy mwriad i sefydlu grŵp arbenigol i ystyried y mater hwn a byddaf yn cyhoeddi ei aelodaeth yn fuan.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:40	Sandy Mewies Bywgraffiad Biography Years ago, almost all councillors were male and either near or past pensionable age. There has been some improvement, but there is very slow progress. Women councillors only number 32%, while more than 99% of councillors are white. Minister, is there anything more that you can continue to do to ensure that local authorities reflect the diversity, truly, of their communities?	Flynnyddoedd yn ôl, roedd bron pob cynghorydd yn ddyn a naill ai'n agosáu at oedran pensiwn neu dros oedran pensiwn. Bu rhywfaint o welliant, ond mae'r cynnydd yn araf iawn. Dim ond 32% o gynghorwyr sy'n fenywod, tra bod mwy na 99% o gynghorwyr yn wyn. Weinidog, a oes unrhyw beth arall y gallwch barhau i'w wneud i sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn wirioneddol yn adlewyrchu amrywiaeth eu cymunedau?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:43	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography There is a lot more that we can do. You are absolutely right that progress has been slow. However, diversity is the responsibility of us all; it is the responsibility of Government, the National Assembly for Wales and all elected representatives. The first thing that we can do is make sure that we have candidates coming forward who want to stand. We certainly saw that in Anglesey, where every seat was contested in the recent elections there. We have had the results of the first local elections survey, which was introduced by our Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. That indicated to me that some improvement has been made, particularly in the number of female councillors. Again, the rate of progress is too slow for my liking, but it will give me a benchmark to be able to track progress. I mentioned in my original answer to you that I am in the process of establishing an expert group. I want that to focus on how we make progress on diversity, particularly in local government.	Mae llawer mwy y gallwn ei wneud. Rydych yn llygad eich lle wrth ddweud bod cynnydd wedi bod yn araf. Fodd bynnag, rydym i gyd yn gyfrifol am amrywiaeth; y Llywodraeth, Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru a phob cynrychiolydd etholedig. Y peth cyntaf y gallwn ei wneud yw sicrhau bod ymgeiswyr am sefyll. Yn sicr gwelsom hynny yn Ynys Môn, lle ymladdwyd am bob sedd yn yr etholiadau diweddar yno. Rydym wedi cael canlyniadau'r arolwg etholiadau lleol cyntaf, a gyflwynwyd gan Fesur Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2011. Dangosodd rywfaint o welliant, yn enwedig o ran nifer y cynghorwyr benywaidd. Unwaith eto, nid yw'r cynnydd yn ddigon cyflym at fy nant i, ond bydd yn rhoi meincnod imi allu olrhain cynnydd. Soniais yn fy ateb gwreiddiol ichi fy mod wrthi'n sefydlu grŵp arbenigol. Rwyf am i hwnnw ganolbwyntio ar sut rydym yn gwneud cynnydd mewn perthynas ag amrywiaeth, yn enwedig mewn llywodraeth leol.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:41	Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography I call the opposition spokesperson, Janet Finch-Saunders.	Galwaf ar lefarydd yr wrthblaid, Janet Finch-Saunders.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:41	Janet Finch-Saunders Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, the turnout for local elections in 2012 was a dismal 39%. The number of county councillors who stood and were elected unopposed was 99, but community council records read far more seriously. In Conwy county alone, there were 283 community councillors who were elected unopposed. Where on earth is that democratic? Is it not the fact that it is not a lack of representation just for women that is the real problem, but the lack of engagement? What are you doing to encourage greater participation in local democracy at community council level or are you considering a review of this level of government?	Weinidog, roedd nifer y bobl a bleidleisiodd yn etholiadau lleol 2012, sef 39%, yn ddigalon. Gwelwyd 99 o gynghorwyr sir yn sefyll ac yn cael eu hethol yn ddiwrthwynebiad, ond mae cofnodion cynghorau cymuned yn dangos sefyllfa llawer mwy difrifol. Yn Sir Conwy yn unig, cafodd 283 o gynghorwyr cymunedol eu hethol yn ddiwrthwynebiad. Ble ar y ddaear y mae hynny'n ddemocrataidd? Nid y ffaith nad oes digon o gynrychiolaeth i fenywod yn unig yw'r broblem, ond y diffyg ymgysylltu? Beth rydych yn ei wneud i annog mwy o gyfranogiad mewn democratiaeth leol mewn cynghorau cymuned neu a ydych yn ystyried adolygiad o'r lefel hon o lywodraeth?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:42

Lesley Griffiths [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I have asked Sir Paul Williams, who, as you will be aware, is chairing the public service commission, to look specifically at town and community councils for me. You will be aware there are just under 800 of these right across Wales. I do not want to see any seat uncontested. That is what was so pleasing about the elections that were held in Ynys Môn last month, the fact that every single seat was contested. That was the first time that that had happened. That is something that, as I say, I have asked Sir Paul Williams to look at, and it is something that I can ask my expert group to have a look at as it goes forward.

Rwyf wedi gofyn i Syr Paul Williams, sydd, fel y gwyddoch, yn cadeirio'r comisiwn gwasanaeth cyhoeddus, i ystyried cynghorau tref a chymuned yn benodol. Byddwch yn ymwybodol mai dim ond tua 800 o'r rhain sy'n bodoli ledled Cymru. Nid wyf am weld unrhyw sedd heb ymgeisydd. Dyna beth oedd mor braf am yr etholiadau a gynhaliwyd yn Ynys Môn fis diwethaf, y ffaith bod cystadleuaeth am bob sedd. Dyna'r tro cyntaf i hynny ddigwydd. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth, fel y dywedais, yr wyf wedi gofyn i Syr Paul Williams ei ystyried, ac mae'n rhywbeth y gallaf ofyn i'm grŵp arbenigol ei ystyried wrth iddo fynd yn ei flaen.

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14:43

Janet Finch-Saunders [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Minister, the reason turnout is so low is because many people feel disenfranchised with their local democratic processes. We have had examples in Caerphilly and Carmarthen and I have given a classic one today about what has happened in Conwy County Borough Council. Accusations have been levelled, though, at the Welsh Labour Government's stewardship of local government and it has been said that Welsh town halls have been,

Weinidog, y rheswm pam bod cyn lleied o bobl wedi pleidleisio yw bod llawer o bobl yn teimlo nad ydynt yn rhan o brosesau democrataidd lleol. Gwelsom enghreifftiau yng Nghaerffili a Chaerfyrddin ac rwyf wedi rhoi enghraifft glasurol heddiw am yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd yng Nghyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy. Serch hynny, gwnaed cyhuddiadau o ran y modd y mae Llywodraeth Lafur Cymru yn gwarchod llywodraeth leol a dywedwyd bod neuaddau tref yng Nghymru wedi bod yn

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'conducting business like it was the last century.'

cynnal busnes fel pe bai yn y ganrif ddiwethaf.'

How do you respond to this? How will you address the gulf between what taxpayers, bloggers and journalists can do in England as opposed to Wales?

Beth yw eich ymateb i hyn? Sut y byddwch yn mynd i'r afael â'r bwlch rhwng yr hyn y gall trethdalwyr, blogwyr a newyddiadurwyr ei wneud yn Lloegr o gymharu â Chymru?

14:43

Lesley Griffiths [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I do not want to take any lessons from England, and certainly not from Eric Pickles. The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill, which was passed last week, will increase transparency right across Wales. I am very proud of that. Provisions were also introduced under the Local Government (Wales) Measure. I actually think that Wales is leading the way.

Nid wyf am ddysgu unrhyw wersi gan Loegr, nac ychwaith gan Eric Pickles. Bydd Bil Llywodraeth Leol (Democratiaeth) (Cymru), a basiwyd yr wythnos diwethaf, yn gwella tryloywder ledled Cymru. Rwy'n falch iawn o hynny. Cyflwynwyd hefyd ddarpariaethau o dan Fesur Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru). A dweud y gwir, credaf fod Cymru yn arwain y ffordd.

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14:44

Lindsay Whittle [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Minister, when I was the Welsh Local Government Association spokesperson on equalities, I instigated a mentoring scheme for people with special characteristics— young people, women and people from ethnic minorities—to shadow leaders of local authorities. Indeed, the person who shadowed me went on to win a council seat at the next election. Sadly, it was a Labour Party win, but you cannot have it all. However, it shows that the scheme was successful, because we need to encourage people to join local government. Minister, would you consider a similar scheme for Members in this Chamber to mentor people to stand for election to the National Assembly?

Weinidog, pan oeddwn yn llfarydd ar ran Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru ar gydraddoldeb, cychwynnais gynllun mentora ar gyfer pobl â rhinweddau arbennig—pobl ifanc, menywod a phobl o leiafrifoedd ethnig—i gysgodi arweinwyr awdurdodau lleol. Yn wir, aeth yr unigolyn a fu'n fy nghysgodi i ymlaen i ennill sedd yn y cyngor yn yr etholiad nesaf. Yn anffodus, y Blaid Lafur oedd yn fuddugol, ond ni allwch ei chael hi bob ffordd. Fodd bynnag, mae'n dangos bod y cynllun yn llwyddiannus, oherwydd mae angen inni annog pobl i ymuno â llywodraeth leol. Weinidog, a fydddech yn ystyried cynllun tebyg ar gyfer Aelodau yn y Siambr hon i fentora pobl i sefyll i gael eu hethol i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol?

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14:44

Lesley Griffiths [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I am delighted to hear about the Labour Party win in, I presume, Caerphilly. A mentoring scheme is a really good idea, but I do not think that it would be my role to do that in this place—it would be down to the Presiding Officer. However, I would be very happy to discuss it with the Presiding Officer in due course.

Rwy'n falch iawn o glywed am fuddugoliaeth y Blaid Lafur, am wn i, yng Nghaerffili. Mae cynllun mentora yn syniad da iawn, ond ni chredaf mai fy rôl i fyddai gwneud hynny yma—mater i'r Llywydd fyddai hynny. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn barod iawn i drafod gyda'r Llywydd maes o law.

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14:45	William Powell Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, on the commendable work that has just been flagged up by my colleague Lindsay Whittle, do you not agree that it would be useful to commit more resource to training for town and community councillors, particularly through minority community languages and also in terms of the materials available outlining what that role involves? Would you be prepared to consider working with One Voice Wales to promote this agenda?	Weinidog, o ran y gwaith gwych y mae fy nghyd-Aelod Lindsay Whittle newydd sôn amdano, oni chytunwch y byddai'n ddefnyddiol ymrwymo mwy o adnoddau i hyfforddi cynghorwyr tref a chymuned, yn enwedig drwy ieithoedd cymunedol lleiafrifol a hefyd o ran y deunyddiau sydd ar gael yn amlinellu beth mae'r rôl yn ei gynnwys? A fydddech yn barod i ystyried gweithio gydag Un Llais Cymru i hyrwyddo'r agenda hon?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:45	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography I met One Voice Wales last week and that was not something that was raised with me specifically. The trouble, Bill Powell, is that you want me to put more resources into town and community councils, but I do not know where you think I am going to get these additional resources from. We have just heard that our budget is again being cut significantly by the Tory-Liberal Democrat coalition Government, so I am not sure where you expect me to get all these resources from.	Cyfarfûm ag Un Llais Cymru yr wythnos diwethaf ac nid oedd hynny'n rhywbeth a godwyd â mi'n benodol. Y drafferth, Bill Powell, yw eich bod am imi roi mwy o adnoddau i gynghorau tref a chymuned, ond ni wn o ble rydych yn meddwl fy mod yn mynd i gael yr adnoddau ychwanegol hyn. Rydym newydd glywed bod ein cyllideb unwaith eto'n cael ei thorri'n sylweddol gan Lywodraeth glymblaid y Toriaid a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, felly nid wyf yn siŵr o ble rydych yn disgwyl imi gael yr holl adnoddau hyn.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
	Hyfforddi Cynghorwyr	Training for Councillors	
14:46	William Graham Bywgraffiad Biography <i>8. A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu'r canllawiau a roddir i awdurdodau lleol ar hyfforddi cynghorwyr?</i> OAQ(4)0301(LG)	<i>8. Will the Minister outline the guidance issued to local authorities on training for councillors?</i> OAQ(4)0301(LG)	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:46	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography Statutory guidance issued under the 2011 Measure sets out our expectations for the training and development of local authority members. To support this, we provide funding to, and work with, the Welsh Local Government Association to identify members' training needs and provide training.	Mae canllawiau statudol a gyhoeddwyd o dan Fesur 2011 yn nodi ein disgwyliadau o ran hyfforddi a datblygu aelodau awdurdodau lleol. Er mwyn cefnogi hyn, rydym yn darparu cyllid i Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, ac yn gweithio gyda hi, i nodi anghenion hyfforddiant aelodau a darparu hyfforddiant.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:46	William Graham Bywgraffiad Biography I am most grateful to the Minister for her answer. Will she outline any discussions that she may have held with the local government ombudsman to identify specific requirements, following his report on councillors' referrals, for further councillor training?	Rwy'n hynod ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am ei ateb. A wnaiff amlinellu unrhyw drafodaethau y gallai fod wedi'u cynnal gyda'r ombwdsmon llywodraeth leol er mwyn nodi gofynion penodol, yn dilyn ei adroddiad ar atgyfeiriadau cynghorwyr, o ran hyfforddiant pellach i gynghorwyr?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:46	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography Councillor training was raised with me several times when I first came into portfolio and went around all 22 local authorities. We always see a large number of new councillors coming in at each election time, but, last year, there was a very large number of new councillors, and that seemed to be the case in every local authority. Scrutiny work is absolutely vital to ensuring that we have open and transparent local government. I recently visited Bridgend County Borough Council to hear about its work on scrutiny and the way that it promotes the sharing of best practice. It was excellent, and I have asked all local authorities to have a look at that.	Codwyd hyfforddiant cynghorwyr gyda mi sawl gwaith pan ddeuthum yn rhan o'r portffolio yn gyntaf a phan euthum o amgylch pob un o'r 22 awdurdod lleol. Rydym bob amser yn gweld nifer fawr o gynghorwyr newydd adeg etholiad, ond, y llynedd, gwelwyd nifer fawr iawn o gynghorwyr newydd, ac ymddengys fod hynny'n wir ym mhob awdurdod lleol. Mae gwaith craffu yn gwbl hanfodol i sicrhau bod gennym lywodraeth leol agored a thryloyw. Ymwelais â Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-Bont ar Ogwr yn ddiweddar er mwyn clywed am ei waith ar graffu a'r ffordd y mae'n hyrwyddo rhannu arfer gorau. Roedd yn wych, ac rwyf wedi gofyn i bob awdurdod lleol fwrw golwg ar hynny.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:47	Mike Hedges Bywgraffiad Biography I am glad that the Minister mentioned scrutiny, because, in many respects, scrutiny tends to be an undervalued part of local government. Will the Minister consider making training mandatory for members who serve on scrutiny committees, as it is for those on planning committees? Also, will the Minister look at promoting the use of a research service, like that we have here, in local authorities, in order to give members on scrutiny committees a better chance of undertaking that role?	Rwy'n falch bod y Gweinidog wedi cyfeirio at graffu, oherwydd, mewn sawl ffordd, mae craffu'n tueddu i fod yn rhan o lywodraeth leol nad yw'n cael ei gwerthfawrogi ddigon. A fydd y Gweinidog yn ystyried gwneud hyfforddiant yn orfodol i aelodau sy'n gwasanaethu ar bwyllgorau craffu, fel y mae ar gyfer y rhai ar bwyllgorau cynllunio? Hefyd, a wnaiff y Gweinidog ystyried hyrwyddo'r defnydd o wasanaethau ymchwil, fel sydd gennym yma, mewn awdurdodau lleol, er mwyn rhoi cyfle gwell i aelodau ar bwyllgorau craffu ymgymryd â'r rôl honno?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:47	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography I certainly value scrutiny very highly, and that is the message that I have been giving to local authorities. We have just invested £660,000 in scrutiny support and development for 2012-13 up to 2014-15, and that will be used to provide scrutiny training and support for members and to facilitate the sharing of good practice between members and officers. I need to see how that progresses before I make any decision about any mandatory training.	Rwy'n sicr yn gwerthfawrogi craffu'n fawr iawn, a dyna yw'r neges yr wyf wedi bod yn ei chyfleu i awdurdodau lleol. Rydym newydd fuddsoddi £660,000 er mwyn cefnogi a datblygu gwaith craffu rhwng 2012-13 a 2014-15, a defnyddir yr arian hwnnw i ddarparu hyfforddiant a chymorth i aelodau craffu a hwyluso'r gwaith o rannu arfer da rhwng aelodau a swyddogion. Mae angen imi weld sut mae hynny'n datblygu cyn imi wneud unrhyw benderfyniad ynghylch unrhyw hyfforddiant gorfodol	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:48	Rhodri Glyn Thomas Bywgraffiad Biography Weinidog, rwy'n falch iawn eich bod wedi cynnwys gwelliant i'r Bil Llywodraeth Leol (Democratiaeth) (Cymru) ynglŷn â chyflogau prif weithredwyr. A ydych yn bwriadu sicrhau bod cynghorwyr yn cael hyfforddiant ynglŷn â'r tâl priodol i brif weithredwyr ac i uwch swyddogion llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru?	Minister, I am very pleased that you have included an amendment to the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill in relation to chief executives' pay. Do you intend to ensure that councillors receive training as to the appropriate remuneration for chief executives and senior officers in local authorities in Wales?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:48	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography As you said, it is part of the Bill that will become an Act. I will certainly be having discussions with leaders and chief executives to ensure that they are aware of what is expected of them, but, ultimately, it is a decision for each local authority. Authorities are answerable to their local electorates on these issues.	Fel y dywedaso, mae'n rhan o'r Bil a ddaw'n Ddeddf. Byddaf yn sicr yn cael trafodaethau gydag arweinwyr a phrif weithredwyr er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn ymwybodol o'r hyn a ddisgwylir ganddynt, ond, yn y pen draw, penderfyniad pob awdurdod lleol ydyw. Mae awdurdodau'n atebol i'w hetholwyr lleol o ran y materion hyn.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
Cynllun Heddlu a Throsedd Gogledd Cymru		North Wales Police and Crime Plan	
14:49	Ann Jones Bywgraffiad Biography 9. Pa asesiad y mae'r Gweinidog wedi ei wneud o Gynllun Heddlu a Throsedd Gogledd Cymru? OAQ(4)0289(LG)	9. What assessment has the Minister made of the North Wales Police and Crime Plan? OAQ(4)0289(LG)	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:49	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography My officials reviewed the Welsh draft police and crime plans and fed back comments to the commissioners. We welcomed the commitment of all four to tackle issues of anti-social behaviour, reduce levels of crime and ensure effective and cost-effective policing. I circulated the plans to my Cabinet colleagues in March.	Adolygodd fy swyddogion gynlluniau heddlu a throseddu drafft Cymru a chyflwynwyd sylwadau i'r comisiynwyr. Croesawom ymrwymiad y pedwar i fynd i'r afael â materion yn ymwneud ag ymddygiad gwrth-gymdeithasol, gostwng lefelau troseddu a sicrhau plismona effeithiol a chost-effeithiol. Dosbarthais fy ngynlluniau i'm cyd-Aelodau yn y Cabinet ym mis Mawrth.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:49	Ann Jones Bywgraffiad Biography One of the strategic priorities listed by the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales is to reduce domestic violence and to tackle how rape is handled as a crime. That is very laudable, yet his plan is extremely vague. It is ambiguous in some places and it does not actually set out how the commissioner intends to evaluate and monitor whether his strategic plans will be realised. How do you intend to ensure that his priorities do in fact realise the aims that he has set out? Also, how will you ensure that he works with the Welsh Government on the ending violence against women Bill to make sure that we do not have duplication or someone blaming someone else that they were the first in the queue?	Un o'r blaenoriaethau strategol a restrwyd gan Gomisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddau Gogledd Cymru yw lleihau nifer yr achosion o drais domestig a mynd i'r afael â'r modd yr ymdrinnir â thrais rhywiol fel trosedd. Mae hynny'n ganmoladwy iawn, ac eto mae ei gynllun yn hynod annelwig. Mae'n amwys mewn rhai mannau ac nid yw mewn gwirionedd yn nodi sut mae'r comisiynydd yn bwriadu gwerthuso a monitro a fydd ei gynlluniau strategol yn cael eu gwireddu. Sut rydych yn bwriadu sicrhau bod ei flaenoriaethau mewn gwirionedd yn cyflawni'r nodau a bennwyd ganddo? Hefyd, sut y byddwch yn sicrhau ei fod yn gweithio gyda Llywodraeth Cymru mewn perthynas â'r Bil i roi diwedd ar drais yn erbyn menywod er mwyn sicrhau nad oes dyblygu ac nad oes rhywun yn beio rhywun arall mai ef oedd ar flaen y rhes?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:50	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography You will have heard me say in response to earlier questions that it is a very important part of my portfolio. I am meeting the police and crime commissioners tomorrow and it will be on the agenda for discussion with them. I think it is understandable that their plans were not as detailed as perhaps we would have liked, because they were only elected in November and had to publish their plans by March. I will certainly be discussing that tomorrow, and I am sure that it will be a standing item on the agenda each time I meet them.	Byddwch wedi fy nghlywed yn dweud wrth ymateb i gwestiynau cynharach ei bod yn rhan bwysig iawn o'm portffolio. Byddaf yn cyfarfod â'r comisiynwyr heddlu a throseddau yfory a bydd ar yr agenda i'w drafod â hwy. Credaf ei bod yn ddealladwy nad oedd eu cynlluniau mor fanwl ag y byddem o bosibl wedi ei ddymuno, gan mai dim ond ym mis Tachwedd y cawsant eu hethol a bu'n rhaid iddynt gyhoeddi eu cynlluniau erbyn mis Mawrth. Byddaf yn sicr yn trafod hynny yfory, ac rwy'n siŵr y bydd yn eitem sefydlog ar yr agenda bob tro y byddaf yn cyfarfod â hwy.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:51	Antoinette Sandbach Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, I hope that, tomorrow, you will take the opportunity, when you meet the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales, to congratulate him on the fact that three new rural crime police officers have been recruited and interviewed last week. However, turning to something of more concern, could you perhaps raise with him the funding formula, which means that north Wales loses out by about £10 per head of population on funding for North Wales Police to see whether you can work with him to address that, because that equates to around £7 million a year?	Weinidog, gobeithiaf, yfory, y byddwch yn achub ar y cyfle, pan fyddwch yn cyfarfod â Chomisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddau Gogledd Cymru, i'w longyfarch ar y ffaith bod tri swyddog yr heddlu troseddau gwledig newydd wedi'u recriwtio a'u cyfweld yr wythnos diwethaf. Fodd bynnag, gan droi at rywbeth sy'n destun mwy o bryder, a allech efallai godi'r fformiwla ariannu gydag ef, sy'n golygu bod y gogledd yn colli allan ar tua £10 y pen o'r boblogaeth mewn perthynas â chyllid ar gyfer Heddlu Gogledd Cymru er mwyn gweld a oes modd ichi weithio gydag ef i fynd i'r afael â hynny, oherwydd mae hynny'n cyfateb i tua £7 miliwn y flwyddyn?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:51	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography Funding is certainly something that I will be discussing with the PCCs tomorrow.	Mae cyllid yn sicr yn rhywbeth y byddaf yn ei drafod gyda'r Comisiynwyr yfory.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:51	Alun Ffred Jones Bywgraffiad Biography Mae ffigurau troseddau yn y gogledd wedi gostwng ac yn dal i ostwng. A ydyw'r duedd hon yn gyson ar draws Cymru, a beth sydd yn gyfrifol am hynny?	Crime figures in north Wales have reduced and continue to reduce. Is this trend consistent across Wales, and what is responsible for that?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:52	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography I think that we have seen a reduction in crime. Certainly, I think that the fact that the Welsh Government has put in an extra 500 police community support officers to support police officers has helped in this respect.	Credaf ein bod wedi gweld gostyngiad mewn troseddau. Yn sicr, credaf fod y ffaith bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi darparu 500 o swyddogion cymorth cymunedol yr heddlu ychwanegol i gefnogi swyddogion yr heddlu wedi helpu yn hyn o beth.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Arfer Gorau

Best Practice

14:52

Julie James [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

10. Beth mae'r Gweinidog yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod Llywodraeth Leol yn Abertawe yn rhannu arfer gorau?
OAQ(4)0293(LG)

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[Fideo](#) [Video](#)

10. What is the Minister doing to ensure that Local Government in Swansea shares best practice?
OAQ(4)0293(LG)

14:52

Lesley Griffiths [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Sharing best practice is at the heart of our reform programme. This is supported through engagement nationally with leaders on the partnership council for Wales and public service leadership group, through regional leadership networks, and through local service boards, as well as through professional networks.

Mae rhannu arfer gorau wrth wraidd ein rhaglen ddiwygio. Cefnogir hyn drwy ymgysylltu'n genedlaethol ag arweinwyr ar gyngor partneriaeth Cymru a grŵp arwain y gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, drwy rwydweithiau arweinyddiaeth rhanbarthol, a thrwy fyrdau gwasanaethau lleol, yn ogystal â thrwy rwydweithiau proffesiynol.

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14:52

Julie James [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Thank you for that answer, Minister. I am sure that you will join me in congratulating the City and County of Swansea Council as the only Welsh local authority to win an Oscar or a 'Municipal Journal' award, which, I think, is the official title, for its innovative work with local schools, such as Casllwchwr Primary School, in sharing tablet computers between the children there. There has been an enormous and heartening step change in the performance of those schools as a result. Likewise, the ethnic youth support project, the Engage project, is also a shining example of best practice across Wales. What can we do, Minister, to ensure that these exceptional practices are shared across local government in Wales?

Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Rwy'n siŵr y byddwch yn ymuno â mi i longyfarch Cyngor Dinas a Sir Abertawe fel yr unig awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru i ennill gwobr 'Municipal Journal', sef y teitl swyddogol, rwy'n credu, am ei waith arloesol gydag ysgolion lleol, fel Ysgol Gynradd Casllwchwr, yn rhannu cyfrifiaduron tabled rhwng y plant yno. Gwelwyd newid enfawr a chalonogol ym mherfformiad yr ysgolion dan sylw o ganlyniad i hynny. Yn yr un modd, mae'r prosiect cymorth ieuencid ethnig, Engage, hefyd yn enghraifft wych o arfer gorau ledled Cymru. Beth y gallwn ei wneud, Weinidog, i sicrhau bod yr arferion eithriadol hyn yn cael eu rhannu ar draws llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru?

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14:53

Lesley Griffiths [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I was very pleased that it won the Oscar, as you say. Not only was it the only Welsh council to win, it was the only Welsh council to be nominated. Therefore, it was excellent that it won.

You mentioned two projects. I recently visited a team around the family initiative at the family centre in Penlan, which is certainly making a difference to the lives of many families in Swansea. It is absolutely vital that best practice is shared. I go around Wales and I see excellent examples, and you wonder why they are not being rolled out across Wales. It is an area that I have absolutely flagged up with leaders in local authorities as something that they must do. I think that you are very lucky in Swansea that you have Jack Straw as your chief executive. He sits on my reform delivery group. He has taken that role to heart and is certainly ensuring that best practice is shared among his colleagues.

Roeddwn yn falch iawn ei fod wedi ennill y wobwr, fel y dywedwch. Nid yn unig mai dyma'r unig gyngor yng Nghymru i'w ennill, ond dyma'r unig gyngor yng Nghymru i gael ei enwebu. Felly, roedd yn wych ei fod wedi ennill.

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Soniasoch am ddau brosiect. Yn ddiweddar ymwelais â thîm yn ymwneud â'r fenter i deuluoedd yng nghanolfan deuluoedd Penlan, sy'n sicrhau yn gwneud gwahaniaeth i fywydau llawer o deuluoedd yn Abertawe. Mae'n gwbl hanfodol bod arfer gorau yn cael ei rhannu. Rwy'n mynd o amgylch Cymru ac yn gweld enghreifftiau gwych, ac rydych yn meddwl tybed pam nad ydynt yn cael eu cyflwyno ledled Cymru. Mae'n faes yr wyf yn sicrhau wedi tynnu sylw arweinwyr mewn awdurdodau lleol ato fel rhywbeth y mae'n rhaid iddynt ei wneud. Credaf eich bod yn ffodus iawn yn Abertawe mai Jack Straw yw eich prif weithredwr. Mae'n aelod o'm grŵp cyflawni diwygio. Mae wedi cymryd y rôl honno o ddifrif ac yn sicrhau bod arfer gorau yn cael ei rhannu ymhlith ei gyd-Aelodau.

14:54

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

Minister, your Government's collaboration agenda goes beyond simply sharing best practice; it calls on local authorities to work with neighbours in delivering services. This collaboration is happening not only in Swansea but around Wales, of course. However, it has led to a lot of duplication in staffing arrangements. What is your Government's policy in relation to sharing staff at senior levels?

Weinidog, mae agenda gydweithredu eich Llywodraeth yn mynd y tu hwnt i rhannu arfer gorau; mae'n galw ar awdurdodau lleol i weithio gyda chymdugion wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau. Mae'r cydweithredu hwn nid yn unig yn digwydd yn Abertawe, ond ledled Cymru, wrth gwrs. Fodd bynnag, mae wedi arwain at lawer o ddyblygu mewn trefniadau staffio. Beth yw polisi eich Llywodraeth mewn perthynas â rhannu uwch aelodau o staff?

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14:54	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography Where that can be undertaken I certainly encourage it. Collaboration is very important. You will have heard me say in earlier answers that we have the regional collaboration fund, which has brought forward some really exciting projects in Swansea. There is the excellent western bay project, with health and social services integration. We are seeing excellent examples. If that is something that could be undertaken, I would do all I could to encourage it.	Lle y gellir gwneud hynny rwy'n sicr yn ei annog. Mae cydweithredu'n bwysig iawn. Byddwch wedi fy nghlywed yn dweud mewn atebion cynharach fod gennym y gronfa cydweithredu rhanbarthol, sydd wedi cyflwyno rhai prosiectau cyffrous iawn yn Abertawe. Er enghraifft, prosiect ardderchog y bae gorllewinol, sy'n integreiddio gwasanaethau iechyd a chymdeithasol. Rydym yn gweld enghreifftiau gwych. Os yw hynny'n rhywbeth y gellid ei wneud, byddwn yn gwneud popeth posibl i'w annog.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:55	Bethan Jenkins Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, we can talk about best practice and about what Swansea can offer. However, I think that Swansea council perhaps needs to look at the best practice of others with regard to the job evaluation process. I have been told by staff that they were not allowed to attend job evaluation panels when the employees knew their posts better than managers; that job descriptions were out of date, sometimes by 10 years, and that new ones were not allowed to be submitted; and that there seems to be little transparency for staff regarding the whole job evaluation process. What discussions have you had with the Welsh Local Government Association—we have had similar issues in Bridgend County Borough Council, by the way—as to how this job evaluation process can be best utilised so that everybody feels involved and feels as though they have been treated equally?	Weinidog, gallwn siarad am arfer gorau a'r hyn y gall Abertawe ei gynnig. Fodd bynnag, credaf efallai bod angen i gyngor Abertawe ystyried arfer gorau cynghorau eraill mewn perthynas â'r broses o werthuso swyddi. Mae staff wedi dweud wrthyf nad oeddent yn cael mynychu paneli gwerthuso swyddi pan oedd y cyflogaion yn deall eu swyddi'n well na rheolwyr; bod swydd-ddisgrifiadau'n hen, weithiau'n 10 oed, ac nad oedd modd cyflwyno rhai newydd; ac mai prin yw'r tryloywder i staff yn ôl pob golwg ynghylch y broses gwerthuso swyddi gyfan. Pa drafodaethau rydych wedi'u cael gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru—rydym wedi gweld problemau tebyg yng Nghyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-Bont ar Ogwr, gyda llaw—o ran y ffordd orau o ddefnyddio'r broses gwerthuso swyddi hon fel bod pawb yn teimlo eu bod yn cael eu cynnwys a'u bod wedi cael eu trin yn gyfartal?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:55	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography That is very important. Perhaps you would like to write to me about the specific issues you raised, and I will look into it for you.	Mae hynny'n bwysig iawn. Efallai yr hoffech ysgrifennu ataf am y materion penodol a godwyd gennych, a byddaf yn ymchwilio iddynt ar eich rhan.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
Comisiynwyr yr Heddlu a Throseddau		Police and Crime Commissioners	
14:56	Mohammad Asghar Bywgraffiad Biography <i>11. A oes gan y Gweinidog unrhyw gynlluniau i gwrdd â Chomisiynwyr yr Heddlu a Throseddau yn y tri mis nesaf? OAQ(4)0290(LG)</i>	<i>11. Does the Minister have any plans to meet with the Police and Crime Commissioners in the next three months? OAQ(4)0290(LG)</i>	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:56	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography I have regular meetings scheduled with the four Welsh police and crime commissioners and am due to meet them tomorrow.	Mae gennyf gyfarfodydd rheolaidd wedi'u trefnu gyda phedwar comisiynydd heddlu a throseddau Cymru a byddaf yn cyfarfod â hwy yfory,	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:56	Mohammad Asghar Bywgraffiad Biography Thank you very much, Minister. The horrific murder of Drummer Lee Rigby in Woolwich has resulted in an increase in attacks on Muslims and on mosques and other Islamic centres. As the Minister responsible for community safety, will you raise this matter the next time you meet with the police and crime commissioners, and will you stress the need for local police forces to liaise with communities to reduce racial tension and to reassure Muslims that such attacks will not be tolerated in Wales?	Diolch yn fawr iawn, Weinidog. Mae llofruddiaeth erchyll y drymiwr Lee Rigby yn Woolwich wedi arwain at gynnydd mewn ymosodiadau ar Fwslemiaid ac ar foscïau a chanolfannau Islamaidd eraill. Fel y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am ddiogelwch cymunedol, a fyddwch yn codi'r mater hwn y tro nesaf y byddwch yn cyfarfod â'r comisiynwyr heddlu a throseddau, ac a fyddwch yn pwysleisio'r angen i heddluoedd lleol gydweithio â chymunedau er mwyn lleihau tensiwn hiliol a rhoi sicrwydd i Fwslemiaid na chaiff ymosodiadau o'r fath eu goddef yng Nghymru?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:56	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography You raise a very important point. That is not something that I have waited until tomorrow to address. I have been having discussions since the tragic death of Drummer Lee Rigby. I attended the Wales resilience forum last week, and that issue was discussed there as well. I can offer you that assurance.	Rydych yn codi pwynt pwysig iawn. Nid yw hynny'n rhywbeth yr wyf wedi aros tan yfory i fynd i'r afael ag ef. Rwyf wedi bod yn cael trafodaethau ers marwolaeth drasig y drymiwr Lee Rigby. Euthum i fforwm Cymru Gydnerth yr wythnos diwethaf, a thrafodwyd y mater hwnnw yno hefyd. Gallaf roi'r sicrwydd hynny ichi.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:57	Vaughan Gething Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, when you meet the police and crime commissioners, will you be discussing the level of progress that each of the forces has made, in the 20 years since the Lawrence inquiry, in terms of providing a policing service that more accurately reflects the range of communities that police forces serve, not just in terms of the numbers of different people who are members of the police service, but in terms of their progression and rank within each of those forces?	Weinidog, pan fyddwch yn cyfarfod â'r comisiynwyr heddlu a throseddu, a fyddwch yn trafod lefel y cynnydd y mae pob heddlu wedi ei wneud yn ystod yr 20 mlynedd ers ymchwiliad Lawrence, o ran darparu gwasanaeth plismona sy'n adlewyrchu'n fwy cywir yr amrywiaeth o gymunedau a wasanaethir gan heddluoedd, nid yn unig o ran nifer y bobl wahanol sy'n aelodau o wasanaeth yr heddlu, ond o ran eu datblygiad a'u safle ym mhob un o'r heddluoedd hynny?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:57	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography That is primarily a matter for the Home Office, but I will certainly reiterate it to the PCCs. It is absolutely vital that we have a police force that is not only fit for the challenge that it faces, but one that fits with the needs of the communities that it serves. Ensuring that our officers and community support officers are approachable is absolutely fundamental to encouraging community cohesion. I like to see women and people from ethnic communities out on the streets with the police force and community support officers.	Mater i'r Swyddfa Gartref yw hynny'n bennaf, ond byddaf yn sicr yn ei ailadrodd i'r Comisiynwyr. Mae'n gwbl hanfodol bod gennym heddlu sydd nid yn unig yn addas ar gyfer yr her a wynebir, ond sy'n cyd-fynd ag anghenion y cymunedau a wasanaethir ganddo. Mae sicrhau bod ein swyddogion a swyddogion cymorth cymunedol yn hawdd siarad â hwy yn gwbl hanfodol i annog cydlyniant cymunedol. Rwy'n hoffi gweld menywod a phobl o gymunedau ethnig allan ar y strydoedd gyda'r heddlu a swyddogion cymorth cymunedol.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
Safonau a Pherfformiad Awdurdodau Lleol		Standards and Performance of Local Authorities	
14:58	Antoinette Sandbach Bywgraffiad Biography <i>12. Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn eu cymryd i wella safonau a pherfformiad awdurdodau lleol yng Ngogledd Cymru? OAQ(4)0305(LG)</i>	<i>12. What action is the Welsh Government taking to improve standards and performance of local authorities in North Wales? OAQ(4)0305(LG)</i>	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:58	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography Local government provides good services across north Wales. Four of the six authorities are in the top quartile for school attainment at age 16, and Gwynedd has the best performance at key stage 4. Anglesey's ministerial intervention ended on 31 May. However, there is no room for complacency, and I will continue to monitor performance.	Mae llywodraeth leol yn darparu gwasanaethau da ledled y gogledd. Mae pedwar o'r chwe awdurdod yn y chwarter uchaf ar gyfer cyrhaeddiad ysgol yn 16 oed, a Gwynedd sydd â'r cyfraddau perfformiad gorau yng nghyfnod allweddol 4. Daeth ymyrraeth Gweinidog Ynys Môn i ben ar 31 Mai. Fodd bynnag, nid oes lle i laesu dwylo, a byddaf yn parhau i fonitro perfformiad.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:58	Antoinette Sandbach Bywgraffiad Biography Minister, do you share my concern that local authorities are failing to implement your Government's technical advice note 6 policy for sustainable rural communities, and that, yet again, the figures for the rural enterprise dwelling monitoring exercise, which were due to be published in March, have still not been released because of delays from councils? Can you confirm what discussions you will be having with local authorities to ensure that they meet their obligations to support rural communities? TAN 6 is a key part of that, Minister.	Weinidog, a ydych yn rhannu fy mhryder nad yw awdurdodau lleol yn gweithredu polisi nodyn cyngor technegol 6 eich Llywodraeth ar gyfer cymunedau gwledig cynaliadwy, ac, unwaith eto, fod y ffigurau ar gyfer yr ymarfer monitro anheddau mentrau gwledig, a oedd i fod i gael eu cyhoeddi ym mis Mawrth, yn dal heb gael eu rhyddhau oherwydd oedi gan gynghorau? A allwch gadarnhau pa drafodaethau y byddwch yn eu cael gydag awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau eu bod yn cyflawni eu rhwymedigaethau i gefnogi cymunedau gwledig? Mae TAN 6 yn rhan allweddol o hynny, Weinidog.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:59	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography I will ensure that I write to local authorities in north Wales regarding the issue in relation to TAN 6.	Byddaf yn sicrhau fy mod yn ysgrifennu at awdurdodau lleol yn y gogledd ynghylch y mater yn ymwneud â TAN 6.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
	Awdurdodau Tân ac Achub	Fire and Rescue Authorities	
14:59	Llyr Huws Gruffydd Bywgraffiad Biography <i>13. Pa drafodaethau diweddar y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cael gydag awdurdodau tân ac achub Cymru?</i> OAQ(4)0303(LG)	<i>13. What recent discussions has the Minister had with the Welsh fire and rescue authorities? OAQ(4)0303(LG)</i>	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:59	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography I met the chairs of the three Welsh fire and rescue authorities and their chief fire officers last week, on 20 June.	Cyfarfûm â chadeiryddion tri awdurdod tân ac achub Cymru a'u prif swyddogion tân yr wythnos diwethaf, ar 20 Mehefin.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:59	Llyr Huws Gruffydd Bywgraffiad Biography Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw. Yn amlwg, yr ydym oll yn ingol ymwybodol o'r toriadau sy'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd a'r toriadau pellach y bydd yn ein hwynebu yng nghydestun gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Pan gawsoch chi y cyfarfod diweddar hwnnw, pa gyngor a roddwyd gennych o ran yr angen i amddiffyn gwasanaethau rheng-flaen?	Thank you for that response. Clearly, we are all very much aware of the cuts that are taking place at present and the further cuts that we will face in the context of public services. When you had that recent meeting, what advice did you give on the need to protect front-line services?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
14:59	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography It was, obviously, an issue that we discussed. We discussed budgets and finance, and making sure that services are protected. It is a very difficult time for all public services—that pot of public service funding is going to reduce, and they are very aware of that. However, it is not something that has just landed in their laps; I have to say that the fire and rescue authorities have been working to ensure that they meet the challenges that they are going to face, and they are doing that transformational change already.	Roedd, yn amlwg, yn fater a drafodwyd. Gwnaethom drafod cyllidebau a chyllid, a sicrhau bod gwasanaethau'n cael eu diogelu. Mae'n gyfnod anodd iawn i bob gwasanaeth cyhoeddus—bydd y gronfa o arian cyhoeddus yn lleihau, ac maent yn ymwybodol iawn o hynny. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n rhywbeth newydd; rhaid imi ddweud bod yr awdurdodau tân ac achub wedi bod yn gweithio i sicrhau eu bod yn ateb yr heriau a wynebir ganddynt, ac maent eisoes yn trawsnewid.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
15:00	Mark Isherwood Bywgraffiad Biography In my discussions with North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, it said that despite cuts of £2.8 million over three years, it is maintaining the service. It also highlighted the fact that the current system was designed for a different era, when the retained stations were staffed by people who worked locally. In many cases, that is no longer the case. Therefore, what oversight or overview are you keeping of trials for new shift systems, particularly paying full-time firefighters to fill gaps in retained stations, and to the different models and contracts that are being considered, so that we can ensure that what works is embraced and good practice shared.	Yn ystod fy nhrafodaethau ag Awdurdod Tân ac Achub Gogledd Cymru, dywedodd, er gwaethaf toriadau o £2.8 miliwn dros dair blynedd, ei fod yn cynnal y gwasanaeth. Nododd hefyd y ffaith bod y system bresennol wedi'i chynllunio ar gyfer oes wahanol, pan oedd y gorsafoedd wrth gefn yn cael eu staffio gan bobl a oedd yn gweithio'n lleol. Mewn llawer o achosion, nid yw hynny'n wir mwyach. Felly, sut rydych yn goruchwyllo treialon ar gyfer systemau sifftiau newydd, yn enwedig talu diffoddwyr tân llawn amser i lenwi bylchau mewn gorsafoedd wrth gefn, a'r modelau a chontractau gwahanol sy'n cael eu hystyried, fel y gallwn sicrhau bod yr hyn sy'n gweithio yn cael ei groesawu a bod arfer da yn cael ei rannu.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
15:01	Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography I am keeping a very close watch on the new shift systems. I think that you are right about the retained firefighters, although I think that mid and west Wales probably relies on them more than the other two authorities. This is certainly something that we discussed in great detail last week.	Rwy'n cadw llygad barcud ar y systemau sifftiau newydd. Credaf eich bod yn iawn o ran y diffoddwyr tân wrth gefn, ond credaf fod y canolbarth a'r gorllewin yn ôl pob tebyg yn dibynnu'n fwy arnynt na'r ddau awdurdod arall. Mae hyn yn sicr yn rhywbeth a drafodwyd gennym yn fanwl iawn yr wythnos diwethaf.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video

15:01	Cwestiynau i Gomisiwn y Cynulliad Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography No questions have been tabled. However, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the staff who work for the National Assembly on being awarded Investors in People Gold status for the second time. [Assembly Members: 'Hear, hear.'] This is a fantastic achievement and I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment to the Assembly.	Questions to the Assembly Commission Ni chyflwynwyd cwestiynau. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn achub ar y cyfle hwn i longyfarch y staff sy'n gweithio i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ar ennill statws Aur Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl am yr eildro. [Aelodau'r Cynulliad: 'Clywch, clywch'] Mae hwn yn gyflawniad gwych a hoffwn ddiolch i bawb am eu gwaith caled a'u hymrwymiad i'r Cynulliad.	Y Senedd.tv Fideo Video
15:01	Cynnig i Ddiwygio Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 26.89 mewn cysylltiad â Biliau Arfaethedig Aelodau Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography I call on a Member of the Business Committee to move the motion. Cynnig NDM5275 Rosemary Butler Cynnig bod y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 33.2: 1. Yn ystyried Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Busnes 'Diwygiadau arfaethedig i Reol Sefydlog 26.89: Balotau ar gyfer Biliau arfaethedig Aelod' a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 19 Mehefin 2013; a 2. Yn cymeradwyo'r cynnig i adolygu Rheol Sefydlog 26.89, fel y nodir yn Atodiad B i Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Busnes.	Motion to Amend Standing Order No. 26.89 in relation to Member-proposed Bills Galwaf ar Aelod o'r Pwyllgor Busnes i gyflwyno'r cynnig. Motion NDM5275 Rosemary Butler To propose that the National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order 33.2: 1. Considers the Report of the Business Committee 'Proposed amendments to Standing Order 26.89: Ballots for Member proposed Bills' laid in the Table Office on 19 June 2013; and 2. Approves the proposal to revise Standing Order 26.89, as set out in Annex B of the Report of the Business Committee.	Y Senedd.tv Fideo Video
15:01	Elin Jones Bywgraffiad Biography Cynigaf y cynnig.	I move the motion.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
15:02	Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography The proposal is to agree the motion. Does any Member object? There are no objections. The motion is therefore agreed in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.36. <i>Derbyniwyd y cynnig.</i>	Y cynnig yw derbyn y cynnig. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Nid oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad. Derbynnir y cynnig felly yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 12.36. <i>Motion agreed.</i>	Senedd.tv Fideo Video
	Dadl gan Aelodau Unigol o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 11.21(iv): Model Pwerau a Gedwir yn ôl Cynnig NDM5262 Mike Hedges, Peter Black, Jocelyn Davies Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru: Yn credu y dylai'r setliad datganoli fod yn seiliedig ar fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl.	Debate by Individual Members under Standing Order No. 11.21(iv): A Reserved Powers Model Motion NDM5262 Mike Hedges, Peter Black, Jocelyn Davies To propose that the National Assembly for Wales: Believes that the devolution settlement should be based on a reserved powers model.	

I move the motion in my name and the names of Peter Black and Jocelyn Davies, and with the names of Julie James, Mick Antoniw, Keith Davies, Bethan Jenkins, Simon Thomas, Lindsay Whittle, Llyr Huws Gruffydd, Alun Ffred Jones, Julie Morgan, David Rees and Paul Davies in support.

I first of all thank my co-sponsors and those who have supported this debate today. I am very pleased that Peter Black is responding to the debate to illustrate its cross-party support. Initially, Ieuan Wyn Jones was to respond to the debate, but, as you are well aware, he is now no longer available to do so.

Let me say what this is not: it is not asking for the Assembly to have more powers outside 20 devolved areas. It is not asking for more powers. While there are a lot of different views in here on what should and should not be devolved, such a debate is for another time. What this seeks to do is to bring clarity to the devolution settlement. In evidence to Silk part 2, the Welsh Government, the Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru all supported the reserved-powers model in their submissions. The Welsh Government supported the reservation model of devolution. Plaid Cymru supported a reserved-powers model, and its submission states:

‘Whilst Schedule 7 of GOWA 2006 could be amended to transfer responsibilities to the National Assembly for Wales, a new act is needed to establish reserved powers. This should be enacted as a priority, incorporating the proposals contained in this submission.’

The Welsh Liberal Democrats also support the reserved-powers model, favouring the Scottish settlement. The Law Society commented:

‘The overriding principle should be that the law is clear and accessible’—

I think that that is something that everybody can perhaps agree with—

‘which law is applicable to those residing in the border areas should be no less clear than that for a person residing in Cardiff. It is difficult to defend the current situation when its present effects are the confusion of powers rather than clarity of where power lies—whether for the legal practitioner or for the individual citizen simply seeking to understand and enforce their legal rights in twenty-first century Wales.’

Cynigiau y cynnig yn fy enw i ac enwau Peter Black a Jocelyn Davies, a chyda chefnogaeth Julie James, Mick Antoniw, Keith Davies, Bethan Jenkins, Simon Thomas, Lindsay Whittle, Llyr Huws Gruffydd, Alun Ffred Jones, Julie Morgan, David Rees a Paul Davies.

Yn gyntaf, hoffwn ddiolch i'm cyd-noddwyr a'r rhai sydd wedi cefnogi'r ddadl hon heddiw. Rwy'n falch iawn mai Peter Black fydd yn ymateb i'r ddadl er mwyn dangos y gefnogaeth drawsbleidiol iddi. Yn wreiddiol, Ieuan Wyn Jones oedd yn bwriadu ymateb i'r ddadl, ond, fel y gwyrddoch, nid yw ar gael mwyach i wneud hynny.

Gadewch imi nodi'r hyn nad yw'n ei wneud: nid yw'n gofyn i'r Cynulliad gael mwy o bwerau y tu hwnt i'r 20 maes datganoledig. Nid yw'n gofyn am fwy o bwerau. Er y ceir llawer o safbwyntiau gwahanol yma ynglŷn â'r hyn y dylid ac na ddylid ei ddatganoli, dadl y dylid ei chynnal rywbryd arall yw honno. Yr hyn y mae'r ddadl hon yn ceisio ei wneud yw cael eglurder yn y setliad datganoli. Mewn tystiolaeth i Silk rhan 2, cefnogodd Llywodraeth Cymru, y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol a Phlaid Cymru i gyd fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl yn eu cyflwyniadau. Cefnogodd Llywodraeth Cymru fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl o ddatganoli. Cefnogodd Plaid Cymru fodel o bwerau a gedwir yn ôl a noda ei chyflwyniad:

Er y gellid diwygio Atodlen 7 i Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006 er mwyn trosglwyddo cyfrifoldebau i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, mae angen deddf newydd i sefydlu pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. Dylid deddfu ar hyn fel blaenoriaeth, gan ymgorffori'r cynigion a geir yn y cyflwyniad hwn.

Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru hefyd yn cefnogi model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl, gan ffafrio setliad yr Alban. Dywedodd Cymdeithas y Cyfreithwyr:

Yr egwyddor bwysicaf y dylid ei harddel yw bod y gyfraith yn glir ac yn ddealladwy—

Credaf fod hynny'n rhywbeth y gall pawb gytuno ag ef o bosibl —

Dylai'r gyfraith sy'n berthnasol i'r rhai sy'n byw yn y gororau fod yr un mor glir ag ydyw i rywun sy'n byw yng Nghaerdydd. Mae'n anodd amddiffyn y sefyllfa bresennol gan ei bod yn arwain ar hyn o bryd at ddrysych ynglŷn â phwerau yn hytrach nag eglurder ynglŷn â phwerau—boed hynny i'r ymarferydd cyfreithiol neu'r dinesydd unigol sydd ond yn ceisio deall ac arfer eu hawliau cyfreithiol yng Nghymru yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain.

Lots of organisations have supported the reserved-powers model. I will name a few: Citizens Advice, Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg, the Bevan Foundation, the Electoral Reform Society, Public Affairs Cymru, Positif, BMA Cymru, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, Unite Wales, and Community Housing Cymru. Cymru Yfory has created a website saying that it believes that the Silk commission should recommend the reserved-powers model for the National Assembly to provide clarity and constitutional stability. Supporters have been invited to a campaign event on 17 July.

The current system lacks the clarity of the reserved-powers model. This is exemplified by the first piece of legislation—the hardly contentious Local Authorities Byelaws (Wales) Bill, which was passed unanimously here—being called before the courts. Nothing in Scotland or Northern Ireland has ever been called before the courts, yet our first item was. I believe that the same clarity that Scotland and Northern Ireland have should be extended to Wales, where we have a conferred-powers model of devolution. The Welsh settlement is not only different to Scotland and Northern Ireland but to other major European countries that enjoy the reserved-powers model. Welsh devolution urgently needs changing to the reserved-powers model, which gives the clarity that is needed. It is a telling point that this model is not just used in Northern Ireland and mainland Europe, but throughout most of the rest of the world.

One of the weaknesses of devolution for those of us who support it, but do not support complete separatism, is the failure to identify those areas that should not be devolved, but continue to be held at Westminster, such as foreign affairs, defence, currency and money. While this is neither an exhaustive or definitive list, it indicates the areas best dealt with at Westminster, but we do not have that list because we do not have the reserved-powers model. Everything is up for grabs. For those people who support the union, the reserved-powers model in many ways gives you that clarity and makes life a lot easier. Every time we come to something people say, 'Oh, we can have that devolved, and we can have that devolved', because everything is up for grabs.

However, the main lesson from continental devolution is that, while there are many ways of creating a devolved structure, all have reserved-powers models in common. Does anyone think that the Democratic Unionist Party in Northern Ireland would support a type of devolution that threatened the union? Is there any party that is more pro-union than the Democratic Unionist Party? Yet it is happy to have the reserved-powers model in Northern Ireland.

Mae llawer o sefydliadau wedi cefnogi model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. Enwaf ychydig: Cyngor ar Bopeth, Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg, Sefydliad Bevan, y Gymdeithas Diwygio Etholiadol, Pubic Affairs Cymru, Positif, Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain Cymru, Cymdeithas Siartredig Ffisiotherapi, Unite Cymru, a Chartrefi Cymunedol Cymru. Mae Cymru Yfory wedi creu gwefan yn dweud ei fod yn credu y dylai comisiwn Silk argymhell model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol er mwyn rhoi eglurder a sefydlogrwydd cyfansoddiadol. Gwahoddwyd cefnogwyr i ddigwyddiad ymgyrchu ar 17 Gorffennaf.

Nid yw'r system gyfredol mor eglur â model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. Dangosir hyn gan y ffaith i'r darn cyntaf o ddeddfwriaeth—Bil Is-ddeddfau Awdurdodau Lleol (Cymru) a phrin y gellir dweud ei fod yn ddadleuol) a basiwyd yn unfrydol yma—gael ei alw gerbron y llysoedd. Nid oes dim yn yr Alban na Gogledd Iwerddon erioed wedi cael ei alw gerbron y llysoedd, ond eto galwyd ein heitem gyntaf ni. Credaf y dylid ymestyn yr un eglurder ag a geir yn yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon i Gymru, lle mae gennym fodel pwerau a roddir o ddatganoli. Mae setliad Cymru nid yn unig yn wahanol i rai'r Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon, ond i wledydd Ewropeaidd mawr eraill lle y ceir model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. Mae angen newid setliad datganoli Cymru ar fyrder i fodwl pwerau a gedwir yn ôl, sy'n rhoi'r eglurder angenrheidiol. Mae'n bwynt gwerth ei nodi, nid yn unig y mae'r model hwn yn cael ei ddefnyddio yng Ngogledd Iwerddon ac ar dir mawr Ewrop, ond drwy'r rhan fwyaf o'r byd.

Un o wendidau datganoli i'r rhai ohonom sy'n ei gefnogi, ond nad ydym yn cefnogi ymwahanu llwyr, yw'r methiant i nodi'r meysydd hynny na ddylid eu datganoli, ond a ddylai barhau i gael eu cadw yn San Steffan, megis materion tramor, amddiffyn, arian cyfred ac arian. Er nad yw hon yn rhestr gyflawn na therfynol, mae'n nodi'r meysydd y dylid ymdrin â hwy yn San Steffan, ond nid yw'r rhestr honno gennym am nad oes gennym fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. Mae popeth yn y fantol. I'r bobl hynny sy'n cefnogi'r undeb, mae model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl mewn sawl ffordd yn rhoi'r eglurder hwnnw ichi ac yn gwneud bywyd yn llawer haws. Bob tro y bydd rhywbeth yn codi mae pobl yn dweud, 'O, gallwn ddatganoli hwn, a gallwn ddatganol hwn', am fod popeth yn y fantol.

Fodd bynnag, y brif wers o ddatganoli ar y cyfandir yw, er bod llawer o ffyrdd o greu strwythur datganoledig, fod gan bob un ohonynt fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. A oes unrhyw un yn credu y byddai Plaid yr Unoliaethwyr Democraidd yng Ngogledd Iwerddon yn cefnogi'r math o ddatganoli a fyddai'n peryglu'r undeb? A oes unrhyw blaid sy'n fwy cefnogol i'r undeb na Phlaid yr Unoliaethwyr Democraidd? Eto i gyd, mae'n fodlon cael model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl yng Ngogledd Iwerddon.

Wales's legislative framework should be the same as in Northern Ireland and Scotland, with the reserved-powers model preferred to our current conferred-powers system. All matters devolved to Wales are set out in specific detail in statute. This has led to enormous confusion and difficulty about the precise powers of the National Assembly. In the past, when I was involved in local government, I served on the Local Government Association on health and social care. We used to meet in London and I would have to decide what I was involved in and what I was not. Initially they would say that about 20% was devolved to Wales, and the other 80% to England, but after we looked at it in detail, it was the other way round. Eighty per cent of it had some relevance to Wales—perhaps one sentence, one paragraph, or one clause. That is no way to run things, when you have bits coming in from different places.

A reserved-powers model would simplify and enhance Welsh devolution. Under this model, everything is devolved except powers specifically reserved to Westminster. It means that there should be no problem as to whether an issue is wholly in the power of the National Assembly for Wales and would provide greater clarity for both legislatures—not just the National Assembly for Wales, but also Westminster. Unlike the Government of Wales Act 2006, which lists specific areas that are within the Assembly's legislative competence, the Scotland Act 1998 enables the Scottish Parliament to legislate on any issue so long as it is not listed as a reserved matter. Matters not explicitly listed are available. Legislative powers in Northern Ireland are similar. If it is good enough for Scotland and Northern Ireland, why is it not good enough for Wales?

The reserved-powers model is similar in other states with regional government, such as Spain, which has the asymmetrical devolution that we have in Britain, but still uses the reserved-powers model. Germany has 16 regions called Länder, and the legislative competence regulated by the German constitution is reserved powers. Italy has 20 regions, with five having a special, autonomous status. The regions have rejected a federal system, which I know some people here would support, but nevertheless it has the reserved-powers model. Austria has nine provinces and, you guessed it, the reserved-powers model.

This does not need a further referendum. What we are looking for is clarity. What is fully devolved, and what is non-devolved? Otherwise, every piece of legislation will be in danger of being referred to court. That is something that everybody must be concerned about. We voted last year in favour of having a system—

I will take your intervention.

Dylai fframwaith deddfwriaethol Cymru fod yr un fath ag un Gogledd Iwerddon a'r Alban, gyda model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl yn lle ein system bresennol o bwerau a roddir. Nodir pob mater sydd wedi'i ddatganoli i Gymru yn fanwl benodol mewn statud. Mae hyn wedi arwain at gryn ddryswch ac anhawster ynglŷn ag union bwerau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Yn y gorffennol, pan oeddwn yn ymwneud â llywodraeth leol, roeddwn yn gwasanaethu ar bwyllgor iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol y Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol. Roeddem yn arfer cyfarfod yn Llundain a byddai'n rhaid imi benderfynu pa bethau a oedd yn berthnasol imi a pha rai nad oeddent yn berthnasol. I ddechrau byddent yn dweud bod tua 20% wedi ei ddatganoli i Gymru, a'r 80% arall i Loegr, ond ar ôl inni edrych arno'n fanwl, fel arall yr oedd. Roedd 80 y cant yn berthnasol mewn rhyw ffordd neu'i gilydd i Gymru—efallai un frawddeg, un paragraff, neu un cymal. Nid felly y dylid trefnu pethau, pan ddaw darnau o wahanol leoedd.

Byddai model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl yn symleiddio ac yn gwella setliad datganoli Cymru. O dan y model hwn, mae popeth wedi ei ddatganoli ac eithrio pwerau a gedwir yn benodol i San Steffan. Mae'n golygu na ddylai fod unrhyw broblem o ran a yw mater yn dod yn gyfan gwbl o dan bwerau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru a byddai'n rhoi mwy o eglurder i'r ddwy ddeddfwrfa—nid dim ond Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, ond hefyd San Steffan. Yn wahanol i Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006, sy'n rhestru meysydd penodol sydd o fewn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol y Cynulliad, mae Deddf yr Alban 1998 yn galluogi Senedd yr Alban i ddeddfu ar unrhyw fater ar yr amod nad yw wedi'i restru fel mater a gedwir yn ôl. Mae materion nad ydynt wedi'u restru'n benodol ar gael. Mae pwerau deddfu yng Ngogledd Iwerddon yn debyg. Os yw'n ddigon da i'r Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon, pam nad yw'n ddigon da i Gymru?

Mae model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl yn debyg mewn gwladwriaethau eraill sydd â llywodraeth ranbarthol, megis Sbaen, lle ceir trefn datganoli anghymesur fel sydd gennym ym Mhrydain, ond mae'n dal i ddefnyddio model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. Mae gan yr Almaen 16 o ranbarthau a elwir yn Länder, a'r cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol a reoleiddir gan gyfansoddiad yr Almaen yw model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. Mae gan yr Eidal 20 rhanbarth, ac mae gan bump ohonynt statws arbennig, ymreolaethol. Mae'r rhanbarthau wedi gwrthod system ffederal, y gwn y byddai rhai pobl yma yn ei chefnogi, ond serch hynny mae'n gweithredu model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. Mae gan Awstria naw talaith ac, ni fydddech yn synnu clywed, fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl.

Nid oes angen refferendwm arall am hyn. Yr hyn yr ydym yn ei geisio yw eglurder. Beth sydd wedi'i ddatganoli'n llwyr, a beth nad yw wedi'i ddatganoli? Fel arall, mae perygl y caiff pob darn o ddeddfwriaeth ei gyfeirio at y llys. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth y mae'n rhaid i bawb fod yn bryderus yn ei gylch. Y llynedd pleidleisiwyd o blaid cael system—

Derbyniaf eich ymyriad.

15:09

Alun Ffred Jones [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I welcome what you are saying today, but if this is such a wonderful model—and I think it is obviously preferable—why did the Labour Party not go for this at the beginning?

Croesawaf yr hyn yr ydych yn ei ddweud heddiw, ond os yw'n fodel mor wych—a chredaf ei fod yn amlwg yn well na'r model cyfredol—pam na phenderfynodd y Blaid Lafur ei gyflwyno ar y dechrau?

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Mike Hedges [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

That is absolutely right, and why did not any other political party call for it at the time? Every party called for devolution, and every party supported it back in the 1970s, and now, in the last referendum. This is something that we have all learned. I do not think that the Labour Party was any more wrong than any other party. We have learned the lesson as an institution, and as a Labour Party, as have other political parties, that the reserved-powers model is the best method to use to go forward. Remember, in Scotland, the referendum in the 1970s had a different threshold to ours—the 40% number—and it actually had the model that we have here. Scotland put it right in its convention between then and when it had the next devolution referendum. They put it right; we in Wales did not, and I think that that is a problem for all of us, not just one political party.

I will end with some questions. Why has no other region or country in Britain or Europe asked for the Welsh model? Why are they all happy with the reserved-powers model? Why should Wales be treated differently?

Mae hynny'n hollol gywir, a pham na alwodd unrhyw blaid wleidyddol arall amdano ar y pryd? Galwodd pob plaid am ddatganoli, a bu pob plaid yn ei gefnogi yn ôl yn y 1970au, ac yn awr, yn y refferendwm diwethaf. Mae hyn yn rhywbeth yr ydym i gyd wedi'i ddysgu. Ni chredaf fod mwy o fai ar y Blaid Lafur nag unrhyw blaid arall. Rydym wedi dysgu'r wers fel sefydliad, ac fel Plaid Lafur, fel y mae'r pleidiau gwleidyddol eraill wedi'i wneud, mai model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl yw'r dull gorau i'w ddefnyddio yn y dyfodol. Cofiwch, yn yr Alban, fod gan y refferendwm yn y 1970au drothwy gwahanol i'n refferendwm ni—40%—ac roedd ganddi'r model sydd gennym yma mewn gwirionedd. Gwnaeth yr Alban unioni hynny yn ei chonfensiwn rhwng hynny a phryd y cynhaliwyd y refferendwm nesaf ar ddatganoli. Unionwyd hynny yn yr Alban; ni wnaethom hynny yng Nghymru, a chredaf fod hynny'n broblem inni i gyd, nid dim ond un blaid wleidyddol.

Rwyf am gloi drwy ofyn rhai cwestiynau. Pam nad oes unrhyw ranbarth na gwlad arall ym Mhrydain neu Ewrop wedi gofyn am y model Cymreig? Pam maent i gyd yn fodlon ar fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl? Pam y dylai Cymru gael ei thrin yn wahanol?

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

It may not surprise Members that I rise to support this individual Member's motion led by Mike Hedges, Peter Black and Jocelyn Davies. This debate, for me, as the Member for Swansea East said, is not about individual powers or giving the Assembly more powers, even though it is well known that I want to see a more balanced constitutional settlement throughout the United Kingdom. However, I appreciate that there are different views on this subject. It has been suggested by others, in other places, that people such as me, who argue for a more balanced and consistent constitutional settlement, are naïve, but, hey, I have been called worse things.

However, today's debate is about ensuring that the powers available to the Assembly are absolutely clear and transparent and that there is no confusion when it comes to the Assembly's competence. I believe that Wales's devolution settlement should be based on a reserved-powers model, such as in other places in the UK, to ensure greater consistency and transparency in the constitutional settlement. I am proud that this UK Government, in its coalition agreement, committed to a commission to review the constitutional settlement for Wales. The debate around devolving greater powers from Westminster will continue, and people have the opportunity to feed their views into part 2 of the Silk commission's work.

However, I believe that the Welsh people deserve a clearer definition of the National Assembly's powers. While the National Assembly does now have substantial legislative powers, the statutory provisions providing for this differ significantly from those of the Scottish Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly. I am not arguing that Wales should adopt the reserved-powers model just because Scotland and Northern Ireland have it—although it would achieve greater consistency around the UK—but I argue for it because it is the best model for reasons of clarity and stable government.

Efallai na fydd yn syndod i Aelodau fy mod yn codi i gefnogi'r cynnig hwn gan Aelod unigol a arweinir gan Mike Hedges, Peter Black a Jocelyn Davies. Nid yw'r ddadl hon, i mi, fel y dywedodd yr Aelod dros Ddwyrain Abertawe, yn ymwneud â phwerau unigol na rhoi mwy o bwerau i'r Cynulliad, er ei bod yn ddigon hysbys fy mod am weld setliad cyfansoddiadol mwy cytbwys ar draws y Deyrnas Unedig. Fodd bynnag, sylweddolaf fod safbwyntiau gwahanol ar y pwnc hwn. Awgrymwyd gan eraill, mewn mannau eraill, fod pobl fel minnau, sy'n dadlau dros setliad cyfansoddiadol mwy cytbwys a chyson, yn naif, ond, dyna ni, rwyf wedi cael fy ngalw'n bethau gwaeth.

Fodd bynnag, diben y ddadl heddiw yw sicrhau bod y pwerau sydd ar gael i'r Cynulliad yn gwbl glir a thryloyw ac nad oes unrhyw ddrysych o ran cymhwysedd y Cynulliad. Credaf y dylai setliad datganoli Cymru fod yn seiliedig ar fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl, fel sy'n digwydd mewn mannau eraill yn y DU, er mwyn sicrhau mwy o gysondeb a thryloywder yn y setliad cyfansoddiadol. Rwy'n falch i Lywodraeth bresennol y DU, yng nghytundeb y glymblaid, ymrwymo i sefydlu comisiwn i adolygu setliad cyfansoddiadol Cymru. Bydd y ddadl ynghylch datganoli mwy o bwerau o San Steffan yn parhau, ac mae pobl yn cael cyfle i gyfrannu eu barn i ran 2 o waith Comisiwn Silk.

Fodd bynnag, credaf fod pobl Cymru yn haeddu diffiniad cliriach o bwerau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Er bod gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol bwerau deddfu sylweddol erbyn hyn, mae'r darpariaethau statudol sy'n darparu ar gyfer hyn yn wahanol iawn i rai Senedd yr Alban a Chynulliad Gogledd Iwerddon. Nid wyf yn dadlau y dylai Cymru fabwysiadu model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl dim ond am mai dyna'r hyn sydd gan yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon—er y byddai'n sicrhau mwy o gysondeb ledled y DU—ond rwy'n dadlau o'i blaid am mai dyna'r model gorau o ran eglurder a llywodraeth sefydlog.

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The key issue is the choice for Wales between two devolution models: the existing conferred-powers model or the reserved-powers model that is seen elsewhere in the United Kingdom. I cannot see any reason why Wales should be inconsistent, in this regard, among the devolved administrations. Adopting a reserved-powers model would, simply, provide more clarity, predictability and transparency. It would enable the National Assembly for Wales to clearly use the powers it has to achieve its objectives and to remove any uncertainty about what is, and what is not, devolved. Quite simply, a reserved-powers model would also ensure full accountability and clarity over who is responsible for what.

BMA Cymru has highlighted the need to move to a reserved-powers model, calling the current devolution settlement 'overly complicated'. The Welsh chair, Philip Banfield, and the Welsh secretary, Richard Lewis, gave evidence to the Silk commission recently, highlighting the Human Transplantation (Wales) Bill as an example of the jagged-edge model of devolution here in Wales. They argue that there was initial ambiguity over whether Wales had the necessary powers to develop policy around organ donation in Wales. We have already seen how the current conferred-powers model has created confusion. As has already been said, there was confusion over the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Bill, which was referred to the Supreme Court for a ruling. It is, therefore, essential that confusions such as those are avoided in the future. It does not reflect well on our institutions and democratic accountability. Therefore, moving to a reserved-powers model would result in greater clarity over these issues. It would also remove any potential tensions in the future between the Assembly and Westminster, which, surely, must be good for our democracy.

The FSB have, too, called for a move to a reserved-powers model, arguing that

'The inability to modify powers in devolved areas under part 2 of schedule 7 creates a situation that lacks clarity and disincentivises action. Furthermore, members were of the opinion that the associated costs of Supreme Court action was unnecessary for all parties involved.'

The FSB goes on to say that businesses prize clarity in their working environment and as a result, a stable and functional working devolution settlement is needed to enable Wales to benefit most effectively from all tiers of Government. I very much agree with this view, and I am disappointed to hear that businesses in Wales feel that they are being served less well by the system than, possibly, their counterparts elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

It should also be remembered that moving to a reserved-powers model would not, in my opinion, require a referendum. Changing from a conferred-powers model to a reserved-powers model should not need a further referendum because it would not be changing the current devolution settlement. Instead, it would be just clarifying what is devolved and what is not.

Y mater allweddol yw'r dewis i Gymru rhwng dau fodel o ddatganoli: y model presennol o roi pwerau neu'r model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl a welir mewn manau eraill yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Ni allaf weld unrhyw reswm pam y dylai Cymru fod yn anghyson, yn y cyswllt hwn, ymhlith y gweinyddiaethau datganoledig. Byddai mabwysiadu model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl, yn syml, yn rhoi mwy o eglurder, rhagweladwyedd a thryloywder. Byddai'n galluogi Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i ddefnyddio'n glir y pwerau sydd ganddo i gyflawni ei amcanion, ac i gael gwared ar unrhyw ansicrwydd ynghylch yr hyn sydd, a'r hyn nad yw wedi'i ddatganoli. Yn syml, byddai model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl hefyd yn sicrhau atebolrwydd llawn ac eglurder ynghylch pwy sy'n gyfrifol am beth.

Mae Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain Cymru wedi tynnu sylw at yr angen i symud i fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl, gan ddweud bod y setliad datganoli presennol yn 'rhy gymhleth'. Rhoddodd cadeirydd Cymru, Philip Banfield, ac ysgrifennydd Cymru, Richard Lewis, dystiolaeth i gomisiwn Silk yn ddiweddar, gan dynnu sylw at y Bil Trawsblannu Dynol (Cymru) fel enghraifft o ffiniau anniben y model ddatganoli sydd gennym yng Nghymru. Maent yn dadlau bod amwysedd ar y cychwyn ynghylch a oedd gan Gymru y pwerau angenrheidiol i ddatblygu polisi ynglŷn â rhoi organau yng Nghymru. Rydym eisoes wedi gweld sut mae'r model presennol o bwerau a roddir wedi creu dryswch. Fel y dywedwyd eisoes, bu dryswch ynghylch y Bil Is-ddeddfau Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru), a gyfeiriwyd at y Goruchaf Lys am ddyfarniad. Felly, mae'n hanfodol bod dryswch o'r fath yn cael ei osgoi yn y dyfodol. Nid yw'n adlewyrchu'n dda ar ein sefydliadau nac ar atebolrwydd democrataidd. Felly, byddai symud i fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl yn arwain at fwy o eglurder o ran y materion hyn. Byddai hefyd yn cael gwared ar unrhyw densiynau posibl yn y dyfodol rhwng y Cynulliad a San Steffan, sydd, yn sicr, yn beth da i'n democratiaeth, mae'n rhaid.

Mae'r Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach, hefyd, wedi yn galw am symud i fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl, gan ddadlau

Mae'r anallu i newid pwerau mewn meysydd datganoledig o dan ran 2 o Atodlen 7 yn creu sefyllfa lle mae diffyg eglurder a gwrthanogaeth i weithredu. At hynny, roedd yr aelodau o'r farn bod y costau a oedd yn gysylltiedig â'r achos cyfreithiol gerbron y Goruchaf Lys yn ddiangen i'r holl bartion dan sylw.

Mae'r Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach yn mynd yn ei flaen i ddweud bod ei fusnesau yn gwerthfawrogi eglurder yn eu hamgwychedd gwaith ac o ganlyniad, fod angen setliad datganoli sefydlog a gweithredol a fydd yn galluogi Cymru i gael y budd mwyaf o bob haen o Lywodraeth. Cytunaf yn llwyr â'r farn hon, ac rwy'n siomedig o glywed bod busnesau yng Nghymru yn teimlo nad yw'r system yn eu gwasanaethu cystal, o bosibl, â'u cymheiriaid mewn manau eraill yn y Deyrnas Unedig.

Dylid cofio hefyd na fyddai symud i fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl, yn fy marn i, yn gofyn am refferendwm. Ni ddylai fod angen refferendwm pellach i newid o fodel pwerau a roddir i fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl am na fyddai'n newid y setliad datganoli presennol. Yn hytrach, y cyfan y byddai'n ei wneud yw rhoi eglurder ynglŷn â'r hyn sydd wedi'i ddatganoli a'r hyn nad yw wedi'i ddatganoli.

I want to see a strong Wales as part of a strong United Kingdom, and I believe that Wales should be a part of a balanced constitutional settlement across the United Kingdom, and I urge Members to support this motion.

Rwyf am weld Cymru gref fel rhan o Deyrnas Unedig gref, a chredaf y dylai Cymru fod yn rhan o setliad cyfansoddiadol cytbwys ledled y Deyrnas Unedig, ac anogaf yr Aelodau i gefnogi'r cynnig hwn.

15:15

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

I would like to thank Mike Hedges for proposing this topic today. I was very pleased to put my name to the motion, because the debate surrounding our country's constitution is one that is never off the political agenda, nor should it be. Some argue that we should not be obsessed with the constitution, but there are two factors that make it of indirect importance to people. First, the constitution is the basis of what we can deliver in terms of public services and economic growth. Secondly, the constitution is always on the agenda because, as a mature country, we are on a journey. As our collective self-confidence grows as a nation, we seek further self-empowerment in order to realise our aspirations. Therefore, the debate is a reflection not of obsession, but of our maturity.

Added to that is the fact that the ambitions of the people are not reflected in the current constitutional framework. The repeated disputes with the Wales Office over competence also build the case for a reserved-powers model. Paul Davies mentioned the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012 and, of course, settling the dispute over that Act came at a considerable cost, and not only to reputations—it took five Supreme Court judges and the law offices of England, Wales and Northern Ireland; the UK's leading constitutional lawyers were engaged; and, of course, there was an army of officials from all three Governments. All of this for minor changes to the way in which councils make bye-laws in Wales. That, of course, is because of the model we have and the blanket restriction of protecting the powers of UK Ministers in this defined powers model. We should hang our heads in shame.

I also welcome the debate today on the reserved-powers model—or, the glass-half-full model, as I like to call it—because, if we have a constitution with a starting point of what you cannot do, then it does not provide a context for positive change. A model that starts with what you can do provides an entirely different context from the outset. I am aware that the constitutional debate has included calls by the First Minister for a constitutional convention that recognises that each nation in the UK may have its own constitutional arrangements and aspirations, and that these run concurrently and, due to our shared politics, require an overarching context. I agree with that sentiment, but I suggest a British Isles convention rather than a UK convention, and doing so within the framework of the British-Irish Council might be more productive. In such a context, not only would the UK Government and the three devolved administrations come together, but we would have the Irish Republic and the Crown dependencies. Their involvement would be crucial, because the relationship between nations on these islands as a whole is important to the constitution of each individual country. I am glad to get that off my chest. [Laughter.]

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Hoffwn ddiolch i Mike Hedges am gynnig y pwnc hwn heddiw. Roeddwn yn falch iawn o roi fy enw i gefnogi'r cynnig, am fod y ddadl ynghylch cyfansoddiad ein gwlad nad yw byth oddi ar yr agenda wleidyddol, ac yn un a ddylai fod ar yr agenda. Mae rhai yn dadlau na ddylai fod gennym obsesiwn ynglŷn â'r cyfansoddiad, ond mae dau ffactor sy'n ei wneud o bwys anuniongyrchol i bobl. Yn gyntaf, y cyfansoddiad yw sail yr hyn y gallwn ei gyflawni o ran gwasanaethau cyhoeddus a thwf economaidd. Yn ail, mae'r cyfansoddiad bob amser ar yr agenda oherwydd, fel gwlad aeddfed, rydym ar daith. Wrth i'n hunanhyder ar y cyd dyfu fel cenedl, rydym yn ceisio rhagor o hunanrymuso er mwyn gwireddu ein dyheadau. Felly, mae'r ddadl yn adlewyrchu nid obsesiwn, ond ein haeddfedrwydd.

Yn ychwanegol at hynny mae'r ffaith nad yw uchelgais y bobl wedi'i hadlewyrchu yn y fframwaith cyfansoddiadol presennol. Mae'r anghydfod mynych gyda Swyddfa Cymru ynglŷn â chymhwysedd hefyd yn atgyfnerthu'r achos dros fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. Soniodd Paul Davies am Ddeddf Is-ddeddfau Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2012, ac, wrth gwrs, bu setlo'r anghydfod dros y Ddeddf honno yn gostus iawn ac nid yn unig i enw da—bu angen pum barnwr y Goruchaf Lys a swyddfeydd cyfraith Chymru, Lloegr a Gogledd Iwerddon; cyflogwyd cyfreithwyr cyfansoddiadol mwyaf blaenllaw y DU, ac, wrth gwrs, lluo o swyddogion o bob un o'r tair Llywodraeth. Bu angen hyn i gyd er mwyn gwneud mân newidiadau i'r ffordd y mae cynghorau yn gwneud is-ddeddfau yng Nghymru. Mae hynny, wrth gwrs, oherwydd y model sydd gennym a'r cyfyngiad cyffredinol i ddiogelu pwerau Gweinidogion y DU yn y model hwn o bwerau diffiniedig. Dylai fod cywilydd arnom.

Rwyf innau hefyd yn croesawu'r ddadl heddiw ar fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl—neu fodel gwydr hanner llawn, fel rwy'n hoffi ei alw—oherwydd, os oes gennym gyfansoddiad sy'n dechrau gyda'r hyn na allwch ei wneud, yna nid yw'n rhoi cyd-destun ar gyfer newid cadarnhaol. Mae model sy'n dechrau gyda'r hyn y gallwch ei wneud yn rhoi cyd-destun hollol wahanol o'r cychwyn cyntaf. Rwy'n ymwybodol bod y ddadl gyfansoddiadol wedi cynnwys galwadau gan y Prif Weinidog am gonfensiwn cyfansoddiadol sy'n cydnabod y gall pob gwlad yn y DU gael ei threfniadau a'i dyheadau cyfansoddiadol ei hun, a bod y rhain yn cyd-redeg â'i gilydd ac, oherwydd ein gwleidyddiaeth a rennir, yn gofyn am dyd-destun cyffredinol. Cytunaf â hynny, ond awgrymaf gonfensiwn i Ynysoedd Prydain yn hytrach na chonfensiwn i'r DU, a byddai gwneud hynny o fewn fframwaith y Cyngor Prydeinig-Gwyddelig yn fwy cynhyrchiol o bosibl. Mewn cyd-destun o'r fath, nid yn unig y byddai Llywodraeth y DU a'r tair gweinyddiaeth ddatganoledig yn dod at ei gilydd, ond hefyd Weriniaeth Iwerddon a thiriogaethau dibynnol ar y Goron. Byddai eu cyfranogiad yn hanfodol, am fod y berthynas rhwng cenhedloedd yr ynysoedd hyn yn gyffredinol yn bwysig i gyfansoddiad pob gwlad unigol. Rwy'n falch o gael bwrw fy mol ynglŷn â hynny. [Chwerthin.]

In that context, on the British Isles level, we could establish that the peoples of each nation are sovereign. It is they who determine the country's future and the powers-reserved and the powers-shared models could be the basis of that principle. However, even if you agree with that concept, as Mike said earlier, the parties in this Chamber would disagree about what powers should be reserved, and I would like to touch on an issue that highlights the very good reason why the glass-half-full model makes sense. That is to do with the electoral arrangements of the National Assembly. Surely, we can all agree that legislation relating to the elections to this Assembly should be made by this Assembly. The absurdity of having a UK Government committed to removing the bar on dual candidacy only for the official UK opposition at Westminster to commit to emergency legislation to reverse it should they win the next election shows us how mature they are. Of all of the things that the current UK Government will have done by the time of the next elections, the top issue for Labour is to reverse that. I just cannot believe it.

At this point, I would like us to remind ourselves of the sheer hypocrisy of how the ban came about first in the first place. The D'Hondt system was introduced by the Labour Party in the first Act and was maintained in the Government of Wales Act 2006. It was embraced by the Labour Party, and the ban on dual candidacy was just a petty small-minded act of spite. It was Labour's invention, and many who sit in this Chamber used it in 2003. The current First Minister and the previous First Minister were dual candidates, and every single Cabinet member—except for Alun Davies, I think—have been dual candidates in the past. I have a list, but we have heard enough lists today, and I am running out of time.

I look forward to the London parties finally catching up with the new glass-half-full model of our country, so that we have the tools to deliver a transparent democracy, and a system that delivers on the important challenges facing the people of Wales.

Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, ar lefel Ynysoedd Prydain, gallem gadarnhau bod pobloedd pob gwlad yn sofran. Hwy sy'n penderfynu ar ddyfodol y wlad a gallai'r model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl a'r model pwerau a roddir fod yn sail i'r egwyddor honno. Fodd bynnag, hyd yn oed os ydych yn cytuno â'r cysyniad hwnnw, fel y dywedodd Mike yn gynharach, byddai'r pleidiau yn y Siambr hon yn anghytuno ynghylch pa bwerau y dylid eu cadw, a hoffwn sôn am fater sy'n tynnu sylw at y rheswm da iawn pam bod model gwydr hanner llawn yn gwneud synnwyr. Mae hynny'n ymwneud â threfniadau etholiadol y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Yn sicr, gallwn i gyd gytuno y dylai deddfwriaeth sy'n ymwneud ag etholiadau'r Cynulliad hwn gael ei llunio gan y Cynulliad hwn. Mae'r sefyllfa hurt lle mae Llywodraeth y DU yn ymrwmo i gael gwared ar y gwaharddiad ar ymgeisyddiaeth ddeuol ac wedyn mae gwrthblaid swyddogol y DU yn San Steffan yn ymrwmo i basio deddfwriaeth frys i'w wrthdroi pe bai'n ennill yr etholiad nesaf yn dangos inni pa mor aeddfed ydynt. O'r holl bethau y bydd Llywodraeth bresennol y DU wedi'u gwneud erbyn yr etholiadau nesaf, y mater pwysicaf i Lafur yw gwrthdroi hynny. Ni allaf gredu'r peth.

Ar y pwynt hwn, hoffwn ein hatgoffa ein hunain o'r rhagrith pur a fu'n gysylltiedig â chyflwyno'r gwaharddiad yn y lle cyntaf. Cyflwynwyd system D'Hondt gan y Blaid Lafur yn y Ddeddf gyntaf a chafodd ei chadw yn Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006. Cafodd ei chroesawu gan y Blaid Lafur, ac nid oedd y gwaharddiad ar ymgeisyddiaeth ddeuol ond yn weithred fach sbectol. Dyfais Lafur ydoedd, a gwnaeth llawer sy'n eistedd yn y Siambr hon ei defnyddio yn 2003. Roedd y Prif Weinidog presennol a'r Prif Weinidog blaenorol yn ymgeiswyr deuol, ac mae pob aelod o'r Cabinet-ac eithrio Alun Davies, fe gredaf—wedi bod yn ymgeiswyr deuol yn y gorffennol. Mae gennyf restr, ond rydym wedi clywed digon am restrau heddiw, ac mae amser yn brin.

Edrychaf ymlaen at weld pleidiau Llundain yn ymgyfarwyddo â model gwydr hanner llawn newydd ein gwlad, fel bod gennym yr adnoddau i sicrhau democratiaeth dryloyw, a system sy'n ymateb i'r heriau pwysig wynebir gan bobl Cymru.

15:21

Julie James [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I want to add my voice to the call for transparency and clarity in the devolution settlement by giving you what I hope will be a simple salutary tale—I will try my best to make it so—from local government lore.

In 1970, the seemingly innocuous Local Government (Goods and Services) Act 1970 was passed. Section 1 of the Act enabled local authorities to deliver services and goods to one another; very straightforward, you may think. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 allowed local authorities to do things incidental to their other functions. The Local Government Act 1986 introduced compulsory competitive tendering to the local government scene. Local authorities do not have a power of general competence; they have a permissive set of powers and duties, not a reserved set of powers and duties, so you begin to see the relevance of some of these rather more obscure points of view.

Hoffwn innau hefyd gefnogi'r galw am dryloywder ac eglurder yn y setliad datganoli drwy roi ichi yr hyn a fydd, gobeithio, yn stori fach lesol—gwnaf fy ngorau i'w gwneud felly—o chwedloniaeth llywodraeth leol.

Yn 1970, pasiwyd Deddf Llywodraeth Leol (Nwyddau a Gwasanaethau) 1990 a oedd yn ymddangos yn hollol ddiniwed. Mae Adran 1 o'r Ddeddf yn galluogi awdurdodau lleol i ddarparu gwasanaethau a nwyddau i'w gilydd; syml iawn, byddech yn meddwl. Roedd Adran 111 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 yn caniatáu i awdurdodau lleol wneud pethau atodol i'w swyddogaethau eraill. Cyflwynodd Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1986 dendro cystadleuol gorfodol i fyd llywodraeth leol. Nid oes gan awdurdodau lleol bŵer cymhwysedd cyffredinol, mae ganddynt set ganiataol o bwerau a dyletswyddau, nid cyfres o bwerau a dyletswyddau a gedwir yn ôl, felly byddwch yn dechrau gweld perthnasedd rhai o'r pwyntiau ychydig mwy astrus hyn.

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Eventually, a number of authorities got together to produce a number of schemes that they all agreed were splendid. They were authorities of all sorts of hues and colours, of no colour and combinations of colours, across most of London. They produced a scheme that allowed them to self-insure and to insure some of their houses together against a number of normal insurance provisions. This was challenged by the insurance companies. A long and complicated court case costing many millions of pounds followed, in which one judge opined that the local authorities were doing something incidental to the incidental powers that they had achieved through section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, for those of you who are old enough to remember such things, as I clearly am.

A lot of lawyers made a lot of money out of that. A lot of publications made a lot of money out of it, a lot of commentators got a lot of fun out of it, and I have spoken about it in a number of conferences, although only for glory and never for pay, tragically. However, it is a good illustration of what is wrong with our current model of devolution, because we have already learned how much it has cost us to get the Local Government (Byelaws) (Wales) Act 2012 stuff sorted out in the courts. Lawyers will argue about the exact wording of the devolution settlement that we have because it is not a reserved-powers model. That, I am afraid, is an inevitable consequence of where we are today.

So, I simply want to add my voice to those who are saying, 'Let us have transparency and clarity; let us understand that when we say that health is devolved, health is devolved; we do not have to go to a set of Acts or Schedules to find out the exact nature of the devolution settlement; we do not have to argue about it in the courts; we do not have to have clarity about who made the decision to do what in health—we know who made that decision and we know how we should vote on it; and we have simplicity, clarity and democratic accountability'. That is the only thing that I wanted to say in this debate today.

Yn y pen draw, daeth nifer o awdurdodau at ei gilydd i lunio nifer o gynlluniau yr oeddent i gyd wedi cytuno eu bod yn wych. Roeddent yn awdurdodau o bob math a llun, rhai nad oeddent yn nwylo un blaid a rhai lle roedd cyfuniad o bleidiau mewn grym, ar draws y rhan fwyaf o Lundain. Lluniwyd cynllun a oedd yn caniatáu iddynt hunanyswrio ac yswirio rhai o'u tai gyda'i gilydd rhag nifer o ddarpariaethau yswiriant arferol. Cafodd hyn ei herio gan y cwmnïau yswiriant. Cafwyd achos llys hir a chymhleth a gostiodd filiynau lawer o bunnoedd, lle roedd un barnwr o'r farn bod yr awdurdodau lleol yn gwneud rhywbeth a oedd yn atodol i'r pwerau atodol a gawsant drwy adran 111 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972, i'r rhai ohonoch sy'n ddigon hen i gofio pethau o'r fath, fel minnau, yn amlwg.

Gwnaeth llawer o gyfreithwyr lawer o arian o'r achos hwnnw. Gwnaeth llawer o gyhoeddiadau lawer o arian, a chafodd llawer o sylwebyddion lawer o hwyl am ben y cyfan, ac rwyf wedi siarad am y peth mewn nifer o gynadleddau, er dim ond er clod a byth am arian, gwaetha'r modd. Fodd bynnag, mae'n enghraifft dda o'r hyn sydd o'i le ar ein model presennol o ddatganoli, oherwydd rydym eisoes wedi dysgu faint y mae wedi'i gostio inni fynd i'r llys i gael dyfarniad ar Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (Is-ddeddfau) (Cymru) 2012. Bydd cyfreithwyr yn dadlau am union eiriad y setliad datganoli sydd gennym oherwydd nid yw'n fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. Mae hynny, mae arnaf ofn, yn ganlyniad anochel o'r sefyllfa gyfredol heddiw.

Felly, hoffwn, yn syml, ychwanegu fy llais at y rhai sy'n dweud, 'Gadewch inni gael tryloywder ac eglurder; gadewch inni ddeall pan ddywedwn fod iechyd wedi'i ddatganoli, fod iechyd wedi'i ddatganoli; nid oes rhaid inni droi at gyfres o Ddeddfau neu Atodlenni i ganfod union natur y setliad datganoli; nid oes rhaid inni ddadlau yn ei gylch yn y llysoedd; nid oes rhaid inni fod yn glir ynghylch pwy a wnaeth y penderfyniad i wneud beth ym maes iechyd—gwyddom pwy wnaeth y penderfyniad hwnnw a gwyddom sut y dylem bleidleisio arno; a bydd gennym symrlwydd, eglurder ac atebolrwydd democrataidd. Dyna'r unig beth yr oeddwn am ei ddweud yn y ddadl hon heddiw.

15:24 **Bethan Jenkins** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

It is sometimes alleged that politics in Wales is too obsessed with the constitution at the expense of delivering policy. The Secretary of State for Wales made such an allegation when he was on the Assembly estate on Monday evening. He also took the opportunity in that speech to rule out moving to a reserved-powers model for the Assembly, and ruled out changes to broadcasting and legal jurisdiction in the same speech. It seems that the only thing that he really wants to hear from the Silk commission about is major road projects—a missed opportunity for such a comprehensive piece of work. The Silk commission might as well drop 70% of its work programme on part 2, and wind up its meetings this side of recess.

Honnir weithiau fod gwleidyddiaeth yng Nghymru yn poeni gormod am y cyfansoddiad ar draul cyflawni polisi. Gwnaeth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru honiad felly pan oedd ar ystad y Cynulliad nos Lun. Achubodd ar y cyfle hefyd yn yr araith honno i ddiystyru symud i fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl i'r Cynulliad, a diystyriwyd newidiadau ym maes darlledu ac awdurdodaeth gyfreithiol yn yr un araith. Ymddengys mai'r unig beth y mae'n wir yn awyddus i'w glywed gan gomisiwn Silk yn ei gylch yw prosiectau ffyrdd mawr—sy'n gyfle a gollwyd ar gyfer darn mor gynhwysfawr o waith. Cystal i gomisiwn Silk ollwng 70% o'i raglen waith ar ran 2, a dirwyn ei gyfarfodydd i ben cyn y toriad hwn.

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The Silk commission was set up by a department of which he is a member. He was the deputy Secretary of State that set the remit, and now he is basically instructing the commission on what not to say. He is not interested in the views of the commission, this Assembly or any one of the vast range of organisations supporting the reserved-powers model mentioned by Mike Hedges earlier.

In some ways, the attitude of the Secretary of State to Silk sums up exactly what is wrong with the current conferred-powers system—a lack of clarity, too much ambiguity and the tendency of Whitehall and Westminster to re-interpret the constitutional settlement to their own agendas. We have seen this when we have carried out legislative scrutiny, effectively here I might say, only to be challenged for our decisions or recommendations by London, the eternal masters.

This is one central thrust of Emyr Lewis's excellent piece of work on 'Click on Wales' this morning. He says,

'Wales has spent too much time in constitutional navel-gazing. That, however, is a product of the inadequate settlements it has been given. Years of valuable time have been lost in ultimately pointless arguments between politicians in Cardiff and London about the minutiae of the devolution settlement in Wales.'

He also makes the significant point that the UK Government has never seen fit to spend time and money challenging Scottish or Northern Irish legislation of any kind. Staying with Scotland and Northern Ireland, let me make another point: the Acts that established devolution there in the late 1990s have never been repealed and replaced. The second-rate constitutional fix here in Wales has needed constant tinkering with the engine. We needed another Government of Wales Act in 2006, a referendum in 2011 and now a Silk commission to look at the failings of the political fix that Labour's Government of Wales Act was in 1998. That fix has since been fixed in so many ways that the main remnant of the 1998 Act is the continuation of the conferred-powers model.

I hope this Chamber will today vote to reject that model. Not even Welsh Labour supports it any more. The Welsh Government's submission to Silk calls for a reserved-powers model. In fact, the only person who will still publicly support Labour's 1998 devolution settlement is the Conservative Secretary of State, who never wanted devolution and does not even mention his time as an Assembly Member in his official biography. He describes himself as a 'critical friend' of this place. With friends like that, you do not really need enemies. This week, sadly, David Jones has shown himself to be what he really is—an enemy of devolution.

Sefydlwyd comisiwn Silk gan adran y mae'n aelod ohoni. Ef oedd y dirprwy Ysgrifennydd Gwladol a bennodd y cylch gwaith, ac erbyn hyn mae'n cyfarwyddo'r comisiwn ar yr hyn na ddylai ei ddweud yn y bôn. Nid oes ganddo ddiddordeb ym marn y comisiwn, y Cynulliad hwn nac unrhyw un o'r amrywiaeth mawr o sefydliadau sy'n cefnogi'r model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl a grybwyllwyd gan Mike Hedges yn gynharach.

Ar sawl cyfrif, mae agwedd yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol tuag at Silk yn crisialu'n union beth sydd o'i le ar y system bresennol o bwerau a roddir—diffyg eglurder, gormod o amwysedd a thuedd Whitehall a San Steffan i aildehongli'r setliad cyfansoddiadol yn unol â'u hagendâu eu hunain. Rydym wedi gweld hyn wrth ymgymryd â gwaith craffu deddfwriaethol, yn effeithiol yma os caf ddweud, dim ond inni gael ein herio ar ein penderfyniadau neu ein hargymhellion gan Lundain, y meistri tragwyddol.

Dyna fyrddwn darn rhagorol o waith gan Emyr Lewis ar 'Click on Wales' y bore yma. Mae'n dweud,

Mae Cymru wedi treulio gormod o amser ar fogaisyllu cyfansoddiadol. Fodd bynnag, mae hynny'n deillio o'r setliadau annigonol a roddwyd iddi. Mae blynyddoedd o amser gwerthfawr wedi cael ei golli mewn dadleuon dibwynt yn y pen draw rhwng gwleidyddion yng Nghaerdydd a Llundain am fanylion pitw'r setliad datganoli yng Nghymru.

Mae hefyd yn gwneud y pwynt pwysig nad yw Llywodraeth y DU erioed wedi ystyried treulio ei hamser na gwario ei harian ar herio deddfwriaeth o unrhyw fath gan yr Alban neu Ogledd Iwerddon. Gan aros gyda'r Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon, gadewch imi wneud pwynt arall: nid yw'r Deddfau a sefydlodd ddatganoli yno ar ddiwedd y 1990au erioed wedi cael eu diddymu na'u disodli. Bu angen tincran o hyd â'r cyfaddawd cyfansoddiadol eilradd yma yng Nghymru. Roedd angen Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru arall yn 2006, refferendwm yn 2011 ac erbyn hyn comisiwn Silk arnom i edrych ar ddiffygion yr hyn a fu'n gyfaddawd gwleidyddol gan y Llywodraeth Llafur yn 1998 sef Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae'r cyfaddawd hwnnw wedi cael ei fireinio mewn cynifer o ffyrdd fel mai'r prif ran sy'n weddill o Ddeddf 1998 yw parhad y model pwerau a roddir.

Gobeithiaf heddiw y bydd y Siambr hon yn pleidleisio i wrthod y model hwnnw. Nid yw hyd yn oed Llafur Cymru yn ei gefnogi bellach. Mae cyflwyniad Llywodraeth Cymru i Silk yn galw am fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. Yn wir, yr unig un sy'n dal i gefnogi'n gyhoeddus setliad datganoli Llafur 1998 yw'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Ceidwadol, nad oedd byth am weld datganoli ac nad yw hyd yn oed yn sôn am ei amser fel Aelod Cynulliad yn ei fywgraffiad swyddogol. Mae'n disgrifio ei hun fel 'cyfaill beirniadol' i'r lle hwn. Gyda ffrindiau fel yntau, nid oes gwir angen gelynnion arnoch. Yr wythnos hon, yn anffodus, mae David Jones wedi dangos beth ydyw mewn gwirionedd—gelyn datganoli.

On the 'Politics Show Wales', I said that we must have a wider debate across the UK about its future. I concur, therefore with what my colleague Jocelyn Davies has said about that debate. We are standing here having a debate about the reserved-powers model—some might say that that is not radical enough—while Scotland pushes ahead with an independence referendum.

While we stay still, the situation pertaining to the future of the UK moves on regardless. It is time that David Jones and his like grew up to that reality and engaged positively in the future debate of this country.

Ar 'Politics Show Wales', dywedais fod yn rhaid inni gael dadl ehangach ledled y DU am ei dyfodol. Cytunaf, felly, â'r hyn a ddywedodd fy nghyd-Aelod Jocelyn Davies am y ddadl honno. Rydym yn sefyll yma yn cael dadl am fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl—

Tra arhoswn yn ein hunman, mae'r sefyllfa o ran dyfodol y DU yn symud yn ei flaen beth bynnag. Mae'n bryd i David Jones a'i debyg dderbyn y realiti hwnnw a dechrau ymwneud yn gadarnhaol yn y ddadl ynglŷn â'r wlad hon yn y dyfodol.

15:28

Julie Morgan [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Congratulations to Mike Hedges on having this debate on this very important topic. I thank him for bringing it to the Assembly. The present devolution settlement is confused and complicated, but I do want to say, right at the beginning of my contribution, that we were very glad to get devolution at all in 1997, if you can remember that wafer-thin majority. Perhaps some of these stages that have happened are partly to do with that ambiguity in the feelings of the public right at the beginning. I think it is very important to remember that.

The conferred-powers model, where all of the competencies that have been devolved are listed, is complex. The reserved-powers model would mean that all the powers are deemed to be devolved, unless otherwise specified. The Scotland Act 1998 is simple, and, in fact, the conferred model was actually rejected for Scotland. So, it is based on the reserved model. The Government of Wales Act 2006, as in 1998 when devolution started, was complicated and confusing.

I feel very strongly that this Assembly should have all the levers it needs to bring about change for the good of the lives of children and young people, and indeed the lives of all our constituents. Will the adding of subject areas as the need apparently arises on an ad-hoc basis, which has happened all along, enable us to meet this challenge? Even now, without any additions to Schedule 7 to the 2006 Act, the 20 subject areas are a source of confusion and contention. Time and energy which should be spent on solving Welsh problems is being consumed by arguments on whether the Assembly has legislative competence. I have found that I have been in endless discussions about whether we have the competence to do things that many of us would like to do.

Llongyfarchiadau i Mike Hedges am gael y ddadl hon ar y pwnc pwysig iawn hwn. Hoffwn ddiolch iddo am ei chyflwyno gerbron y Cynulliad. Mae'r setliad datganoli presennol yn ddryslyd ac yn gymhleth, ond hoffwn ddweud, ar ddechrau fy nghyfraniad, ein bod yn falch iawn o gael datganoli o gwbl yn 1997, os gallwch gofio pa mor denau oedd y mwyafrif. Efallai fod rhai o'r camau hyn sydd wedi digwydd yn rhannol o ganlyniad i'r amwysedd a deimlwyd ymhlith y cyhoedd o'r cychwyn cyntaf. Credaf ei bod yn bwysig iawn cofio hynny.

Mae'r model pwerau a roddir, lle mae pob cymhwysedd sydd wedi'i ddatganoli yn cael ei restru, yn gymhleth. Byddai'r model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl yn golygu y tybir bod pob pŵer wedi'i ddatganoli, oni nodir fel arall. Mae Deddf yr Alban 1998 yn syml, ac, yn wir, gwrthodwyd model pwerau a roddir i'r Alban. Felly, mae'n seiliedig ar y model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. Roedd Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006, fel yn 1998 pan ddechreuodd datganoli, yn gymhleth ac yn ddryslyd.

Teimlaf yn gryf iawn y dylai'r Cynulliad hwn gael pob dull sydd ei angen i sicrhau newid er lles bywydau plant a phobl ifanc, ac yn wir fywydau ein holl etholwyr. A fydd ychwanegu meysydd pwnc wrth i'r angen godi i bob golwg ar sail ad-hoc, sydd wedi digwydd ar hyd yr amser, yn ein galluogi i ateb yr her hon? Hyd yn oed yn awr, heb unrhyw ychwanegiadau i Atodlen 7 i Ddeddf 2006, mae'r 20 maes pwnc yn peri dryswch a chynnen. Mae'r dadleuon ynghylch a oes gan y Cynulliad gymhwysedd deddfwriaethol yn mynd â'r amser a'r egni a ddylai gael eu defnyddio yn datrys problemau Cymru. Cefais fy hun mewn trafodaethau diddiwedd ynghylch a oes gennym y cymhwysedd i wneud pethau yr hoffai llawer ohonom eu gwneud.

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I will cite as an example the control of dogs (Wales) Bill, which is an attempt to legislate to curb injury to human beings, especially children, caused by dangerous and menacing dogs—dangerous and menacing because of irresponsible and often cruel treatment by their owners. Given that prevention of injury and disability appears under the health and health services subject area, and that animal health and welfare appears under the agriculture, forestry, animals, plants and rural development subject area, one could be forgiven for believing that the Bill's purposes fell within the legislative competence of the Assembly. However, the Home Office takes a different view—the Bill is apparently not about the prevention of injury, coupled with the proper care of animals, but about controlling anti-social behaviour, which is not a devolved subject area. Therefore, Welsh Ministers are trying to obtain what they want via the UK Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill, even though this particular bit of Westminster-proposed legislation does not deliver the dedicated tool—the dog control notice—that all experts in this field agree is needed. The best that we can hope for is that there will be an enabling clause, so that the Welsh Minister can bring in what he wants.

I understand that the above experience over dog control is not an exception, but that it occurs in other subject areas. How can we legislate in what we believe is in our constituents' best interests in the face of these constitutional hurdles? A reserved-powers model would help to sort these issues out. It is not in the interests of the people of Wales for the scarce resources of the Welsh Government to be consumed in debating these arid, legal points, with the possibility of having to expend precious public funds defending its stance in the Supreme Court, which, as we know, has already happened once.

I have always supported devolution. In 1993, I welcomed the late John Smith's commitment to devolution for Wales. I was disappointed when the policy of equality with Scotland was later abandoned, and I believe that this decision deprived the Welsh Government in 1999 of the necessary tools to hit the ground running on all those issues that had been neglected for more than a decade. Yesterday, as Bethan Jenkins has said, the Secretary of State for Wales announced that he is against a reserved powers devolution settlement for Wales. No-one is suggesting that we can rewrite 800 years of Welsh history, but we can learn from 800 years of Welsh history, and we can set out on a new path. One gets the impression that the Secretary of State would prefer to do everything from Westminster, if he could. Nothing he said yesterday will help Wales. It is obvious that we can expect nothing from his coalition Government, and that we must look to the next UK Labour Government, in 2015, for the necessary tools to tackle Wales's problems in a thorough way, because Labour has always been the party of devolution.

Fel enghraifft cyfeiriaf at Fil rheoli cŵn (Cymru), sy'n ymgais i ddeddfu i atal niwed i fodau dynol, yn enwedig plant, a achosir gan gŵn peryglus a bygythiol—peryglus a bygythiol oherwydd triniaeth anghyfrifol a chreulon yn aml gan eu perchenogion. O ystyried bod atal anafiadau ac anabledd yn ymddangos o dan faes pwnc iechyd a gwasanaethau iechyd, a bod iechyd a lles anifeiliaid yn ymddangos o dan faes pwnc amaethyddiaeth, coedwigaeth, anifeiliaid, planhigion a datblygu gwledig, byddai rhywun yn tybio y byddai dibenion y Bil yn dod o dan gymhwysedd deddfwriaethol y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Swyddfa Gartref yn tybio fel arall—nid yw'r Bil yn ymwneud ag anafiadau, na gofalu'n briodol am anifeiliaid, mae'n debyg, ond â rheoli ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, nad yw'n faes pwnc datganoledig. Felly, mae Gweinidogion Cymru yn ceisio cael yr hyn y maent yn dymuno ei gael drwy gyfrwng Bil Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol, Troseddau a Phlisma, er nad yw'r darn penodol hwn o ddeddfwriaeth arfaethedig San Steffan yn cyflwyno'r dull gweithredu penodol—yr hysbysiad i reoli ci—y mae pob arbenigwr yn y maes yn cytuno ei fod yn angenrheidiol. Y gorau y gallwn obeithio amdano yw y bydd cymal galluogi, fel y gall Gweinidog Cymru gyflwyno'r hyn y mae am ei gyflwyno.

Caf ar ddeall nad yw'r profiad uchod ynglŷn â rheoli cŵn yn eithriad, ond mae'n digwydd mewn meysydd pwnc eraill. Sut y gallwn ddeddfu er budd un o'n hetholwyr yn ein tyb ni yn wyneb y rhwystrau cyfansoddiadol hyn? Byddai model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl yn helpu i ddatrys y materion hyn. Nid yw er budd pobl Cymru fod adnoddau prin Llywodraeth Cymru yn cael eu defnyddio i drafod y pwyntiau cyfreithiol astrus hyn, gyda'r posibilrwydd o orfod gwario arian cyhoeddus gwerthfawr yn amddiffyn ei safbwynt yn y Goruchaf Lys, sydd, fel y gwyddom, eisoes wedi digwydd.

Rwyf bob amser wedi cefnogi datganoli. Yn 1993, croesawais ymrwymiad y diweddar John Smith i ddatganoli i Gymru. Roeddwn yn siomedig pan roddwyd y gorau i'r polisi o gydraddoldeb â'r Alban yn ddiweddarach, a chredaf i'r penderfyniad hwn amddifadu Llywodraeth Cymru yn 1999 o'r adnoddau angenrheidiol i fynd ati i ymdrin â'r holl faterion hynny a oedd wedi cael eu hesgeuluso ers dros ddegawd. Ddoe, fel y dywedodd Bethan Jenkins, cyhoeddodd Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ei fod yn gwrthwynebu setliad datganoli o bwerau a gedwir yn ôl i Gymru. Nid oes neb yn awgrymu y gallwn ailysgrifennu 800 mlynedd o hanes Cymru, ond gallwn ddysgu o 800 mlynedd o hanes Cymru, a gallwn gychwyn ar lwybr newydd. Mae rhywun yn cael yr argraff y byddai'n well gan yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol wneud popeth o San Steffan, pe gallai wneud hynny. Ni fydd dim a ddywedodd ddoe yn helpu Cymru. Mae'n amlwg na allwn ddisgwyl dim byd gan ei Lywodraeth glymblaid, a bod yn rhaid inni edrych i Lywodraeth Lafur nesaf y DU, yn 2015, i gael yr adnoddau angenrheidiol i fynd i'r afael â phroblemau Cymru mewn ffordd drylwyr, gan mai Llafur bob amser fu plaid datganoli.

Rwyf innau'n falch o gael siarad yn y ddadl hon, sydd ag effeithiau eang ar Gymru a sut y caiff ei llywodraethu. Daw gwreiddiau'r ddadl yn bennaf o sefydlu comisiwn Silk, a grëwyd gan Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig i edrych ar bwerau cyllidol a'r setliad cyfansoddiadol. Eisoes, mae Prif Weinidog Cymru wedi gwneud ei farn yn glir, ac mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymateb yn swyddogol. Mae hwn yn ymateb cynhwysfawr, sy'n gosod y seiliau ar gyfer ein cyfeiriad yn y dyfodol agos. Mae'n dangos bod Cymru yn cymryd y blaen ar ein materion ein hunain.

Rwy'n croesawu'r ddadl hon, yn ogystal â galwad Prif Weinidog Cymru am fodel pwerau wrth gefn. Yn dod gan arweinydd ein Llywodraeth ddatganoledig, mae cryn dipyn o brofiad y tu ôl i'r alwad. Oherwydd prinder cymhariaeth gyfan i'n system wleidyddol ledled y byd, yr hyn sydd ei angen arnom yw ystyried yn fanwl beth sydd ei angen ar bobl Cymru. Rwy'n falch bod hyn wedi dod i Siambr y Cynulliad. Efallai mai cael a chael oedd canlyniad y refferendwm cyntaf, ond, erbyn heddiw, mae'r Cynulliad wedi hen ennill ei blwyf yn y Gymru gyfoes. Diolch i refferendwm 2011, mae ymwybyddiaeth ei bod yn bosibl deddfwriaethu ar faterion sy'n ymwneud ag 20 pwnc. Fodd bynnag, dyna un gwahaniaeth mawr a sylfaenol rhwng yr Alban a Chymru. Mae hyn yn amlwg i rywun sy'n astudio'r cyfansoddiad mewn prifysgol, ond nid o reidrwydd i rywun sy'n bwrw pleidlais mewn gorsaf bleidleisio.

Yn Saesneg, rydym heddiw yn trafod yr hyn a elwir yn 'reserved powers'. Os edrychwch am y fersiwn Gymraeg, cewch yr ymadrodd 'pwerau wrth gefn'. Yn awr, ar y gorau, mae'r ymadrodd Saesneg yn awgrymu rhywbeth i leddfu rhyw ychydig ar y cyffyrddiad anochel, ac, ar y gwaethaf, yn awgrymu swildod neu anfonlonrwydd. Mae 'wrth gefn', ar y llaw arall, yn awgrymu atgyfnerthu; rhywbeth sy'n cryfhau nid rhywbeth sy'n gwanhau. Dyna pam mae'n well gan lawer ohonom bwysleisio'r pethau sydd o fewn ein gallu yn hytrach na'r pethau sydd y tu hwnt i'n cyfrifoldeb. Cytunaf gyda Llywodraeth Cymru mai'r model hwn fydd yn darparu'r eglurder orau. Dyna'r hyn mae'n rhaid i ni ei newid. Dylai grym dros bopeth sy'n ymwneud â'r 20 pwnc orwedd yn nwylo'r Cynulliad, nid yn San Steffan. Fel y dywed Prif Weinidog Cymru, dylai'r ddau fodel o bwerau drosglwyddo'r un gallu. Fodd bynnag, mewn gwirionedd, nid yw'n digwydd. Rhestrir eithriadau yn Atodiad 7, sy'n gwneud pethau'n fwy cymhleth ac yn cyfrannu at y cymysgwch. Nid oes amheuaeth mai datganoli yw dymuniad sefydlog pobl Cymru. Fel y dywed Cwnsler Cyffredinol Cymru, wrth i anghenion democrataidd pobl Cymru newid, rhaid hefyd i'r setliad sydd i fod i gwrdd â'r anghenion hynny newid.

Fel rwyf wedi dweud, daw gwreiddiau'r ddadl o'r comisiwn Silk a'r angen am ystyriaeth. Fodd bynnag, cefndir penodol hefyd yw gweld dyfodol tymor hir i Gymru yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Rwy'n cytuno bod aelodaeth o'r Deyrnas Unedig yn beth da i Gymru, yn enwedig yn ddiwydiannol. Gobeithiaf y bydd pobl yr Alban yn cytuno pan ddaw eu refferendwm nhw. Gyda hyn ar y gweill, mae'n hen bryd ystyried ein hanghenion ni fel gwlad—dylid newid y model pwerau.

I, too, am pleased to contribute to today's debate, which will have wide-ranging impacts on Wales and how it is governed. The debate mainly stems from the establishment of the Silk commission, which was created by the UK Government to look at fiscal powers and the constitutional settlement. The First Minister has already made his views clear, and the Welsh Government has responded officially. That was a comprehensive response, laying the foundation for our direction in the short term. It demonstrates that Wales will lead on its own matters.

I welcome this debate, as well as the First Minister's call for a reserved-powers model. Coming from the leader of our devolved Government, that call is backed up by quite a bit of experience. Given the lack of relevant comparators, on a global scale, to our political system, what we need is to consider in detail what the people of Wales require. I am pleased that this is being discussed in the Assembly Chamber. The result of the first referendum might have been close, but the Assembly has now more than earned its place in modern Wales. As a result of the 2011 referendum, there is now awareness that this place can legislate in 20 subject areas. However, that is one major and fundamental difference between Scotland and Wales. It is clear to those studying the constitution in university, but not necessarily to those casting a vote in a polling station.

We are today discussing what are described as 'reserve powers'. If you look at the Welsh translation of that, the term used is 'pwerau wrth gefn'. At best, the English version suggests something that will do a little to deal with the inevitable overlap, and, at worst, suggests some timidity or reticence. However, the Welsh term—'wrth gefn'—suggests reinforcement; something that strengthens rather than weakens. That is why many of us prefer to emphasise those things that are within our competence, rather than those that are without. I agree with the Welsh Government on the point that this model would provide the greatest clarity. That is what we must change. Powers for everything related to those 20 fields should be in the hands of the Assembly, and not in Westminster. As the First Minister has said, the two models should transfer the same competence. However, that is not what actually happens. There are exceptions listed in Schedule 7, which make things more complex and contribute to the confusion. There is no doubt that devolution is the established will of the people of Wales. To paraphrase the Counsel General for Wales, as the democratic needs of the people of Wales change, so should the constitutional settlement, in order to meet those needs.

As I have said, this debate stems from the Silk commission and the need for consideration. However, a specific reason is Wales's long-term place in the United Kingdom. I agree that membership of the United Kingdom is positive for Wales, particularly on an industrial level. I hope that the people of Scotland agree when the time comes for their referendum. With this in the pipeline, it is high time for us to consider our needs as a nation—we should change the powers model.

Mae o ddiddordeb ystyried geiriau ein Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, David Jones, fel y mae sawl un wedi sôn. Mae'n credu bod y setliad cyfredol yn ddigonol. Y gwir amdani yw ei fod yn cyfaddef mai 2014 fydd y flwyddyn bwysicaf i'r Deyrnas Unedig mewn 300 mlynedd. Pam felly nad yw hefyd yn ystyried y testun ehangach? Dyma eironi Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru. Yn rhy aml, rhoddir yr argraff gan y wasg ein bod yn dilyn arweiniad yr Alban. Nid dyma yw'r gwir, a rhaid dileu'r syniad. Mae llawer yn debyg rhyngom—yn wleidyddol ac yn gymdeithasol—ac, yn aml, ceir cymariaethau oherwydd hyn. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i'r model datganoli sydd mewn bodolaeth yng Nghymru gael ei lunio er budd pobl Cymru ac nid am unrhyw reswm arall. Rwy'n falch bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi amlinellu hyn yn ei hymateb—ni fyddwn yn copio model yr Alban. Bydd yr hyn y penderfynir arno yn cael ei ddewis oherwydd ei addasrwydd i Gymru. Nid oes rhaid inni ddatgan dro ar ôl tro mai nid perthynas eilradd i'r Alban ydym. Mae'r ffaith syml fy mod yn annerch y Cynulliad mewn iaith wahanol i'r Saesneg yn profi un pwynt amlwg a phwysig.

Wrth edrych ar yr ymatebion i gomisiwn Silk, rwy'n sylwi bod sawl corff deallus a phroffesiynol o blaid y newid. Mae Cymdeithas y Cyfreithwyr o'r farn ei bod yn anodd amddiffyn y sefyllfa gyfredol oherwydd yr holl ansicrwydd, ac efallai mai dyma yw'r amser i symud o'r 'status quo'. O'r ddau brawf a osodwyd gan Brifysgol Caerdydd, eglurdeb yw'r cyntaf. Dywed prosiect y Deyrnas Gyfunol: Undeb sy'n Newid bod prinder eglurder ym mhwerau'r Cynulliad wedi arwain at wrthdaro cyfreithiol—mae sawl un wedi sôn am hynny y prynhawn yma—a hynny yn y darn cyntaf o ddeddfwriaeth rydym ni fel Cynulliad wedi ei basio ar ôl refferendwm 2011. Ni cheir gwrthdaro cyfreithiol hyd yn hyn o ganlyniad i bwerau wrth gefn yn yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon. I ddyfynnu ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru:

'From the Welsh Government's perspective—

It is interesting to consider the words of our Secretary of State, David Jones, as many people have mentioned. He believes that the current settlement is adequate. The truth is that he has admitted that 2014 will be the most important year for the United Kingdom in 300 years. Why does he not also look at the bigger picture? That is the irony of a Secretary of State for Wales. Too often, the media gives the perception that we are following the Scottish lead. That is not the truth, and we must change that perception. There is a great deal alike between us—politically and socially—and, as a result, comparisons are often made. However, the model for devolution in Wales must be drawn up for the benefit of the people of Wales, and not for any other reason. I am pleased that the Welsh Government has outlined this in its response—we will not copy the Scottish model. What is decided should be chosen because of its appropriateness for Wales. We do not need to keep reiterating that we are not a poor relation of Scotland. The simple fact that I am addressing the Assembly in a language other than English proves one very clear and important point.

As we look at responses to the Silk commission, I see that many knowledgeable and professional bodies are in favour of change. The Law Society is of the opinion that it is difficult to defend the current position, because of all the uncertainty, and this might be the time to move away from the status quo. Of the two tests set by Cardiff University, clarity is the first. The UK's Changing Union project said that the lack of clarity on the Assembly's powers led to legal conflict—many people have mentioned that this afternoon—on the first piece of legislation that we passed as an Assembly after the 2011 referendum. There has been no legal conflict as a result of reserved powers in Scotland and Northern Ireland. To quote the Welsh Government's response:

O safbwynt Llywodraeth Cymru—

15:38 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I am afraid, Keith, that your time is up; you are way over.

Mae eich amser ar ben, Keith, mae arnaf ofn; a hynny o bell ffordd.

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

15:38 **Darren Millar** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I want to make a brief contribution. I support this motion in front of us today. I am a huge believer in the need for clarity on the devolution settlement, and I believe that the reserve powers model is just as appropriate for Wales as it is for other parts of the United Kingdom. However, it is a little bit rich for people in the Labour Party to criticise the current UK Government in respect of the action that it has taken on devolution here in Wales. We have to remember that it was the current UK Government that delivered on the promise for a referendum to take place here in Wales, after Peter Hain, when he was Secretary of State, sat on it, while it was in the in-tray on his desk, for a very long period of time. Had it not been for a change of Government, frankly, we would not be sitting here today with the suite of powers that we currently have. Let us not forget that.

Let us also not forget that it is the current UK Government that established the Silk commission. The response to the Silk commission is yet to be published and we ought not to be premature in prejudging what that response might be.

Hoffwn wneud cyfraniad byr. Cefnogaf y cynnig hwn ger ein bron heddiw. Rwy'n gredwr mawr yn yr angen am eglurder ynglŷn â'r setliad datganoli, a chredaf fod y model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl yr un mor briodol i Gymru ag y mae i rannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig. Fodd bynnag, mae ychydig yn hurt i bobl yn y Blaid Lafur feirniadu Llywodraeth bresennol y DU o ran y camau y mae wedi eu cymryd ynghylch datganoli yma yng Nghymru. Rhaid inni gofio mai Llywodraeth bresennol y DU a gyflawnodd yr addewid i gynnal refferendwm yma yng Nghymru, ar ôl i Peter Hain, pan oedd yn Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, bwyso a mesur, ar ôl iddo gyrraedd ei ddesg, am gyfnod hir iawn o amser. Oni bai am newid Llywodraeth, a dweud y gwir, ni fyddem yn eistedd yma heddiw gyda'r gyfres o bwerau sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd. Gadewch inni beidio ag anghofio hynny.

Gadewch inni beidio ag anghofio ychwaith mai Llywodraeth bresennol y DU a sefydlodd gomisiwn Silk. Nid yw'r ymateb i gomisiwn Silk wedi'i gyhoeddi eto ac ni ddylem achub y blaen ar yr hyn a allai'r ymateb hwnnw ei gynnwys.

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15:40	Rhodri Glyn Thomas Bywgraffiad Biography Darren, thank you for that history lesson. Can you just remind us which political party in this place campaigned against devolution prior to the 1997 referendum?	Senedd.tv Fideo Video Darren, diolch ichi am y wers hanes. A allwch ein hatgoffa pa blaid wleidyddol yn y lle hwn a ymgrychodd yn erbyn datganoli cyn refferendwm 1997?
15:40	Darren Millar Bywgraffiad Biography We are talking here about the future of Wales, not the past. [Laughter.] You might harp on about the past, but I am more interested in the future of the devolution settlement. I am keen to see the clarity that this debate is calling for and I commend all those speakers who have spoken in support of the reserved-powers model. I would hope that the majority of Members are able to unite behind the need for clarity in the devolution settlement, for us to be able to move forward on a cross-party basis. However, I do not think that it helps when there are these constant criticisms of the current state of play, without recognising the big steps forward that have been taken as a result of the current UK Government's actions.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video Sôn am ddyfodol Cymru yr ydym, nid y gorffennol. [Chwerthin.] Gallech rygnu ymlaen am y gorffennol, ond mae gennyf fwy o ddiddordeb yn nyfodol y setliad datganoli. Rwy'n awyddus i weld yr eglurder y mae'r ddadl hon yn galw amdano a chymeradwyaf yr holl siaradwyr hynny sydd wedi siarad o blaid y model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. Gobeithiwn y bydd y rhan fwyaf o Aelodau yn gallu dod ynghyd i gefnogi'r angen am eglurder yn y setliad datganoli, er mwyn inni allu symud ymlaen ar sail drawsbleidiol. Fodd bynnag, ni chredaf ei fod o fudd pan gawn y feiriadaeth gyson o'r sefyllfa bresennol, heb gydnabod y camau breision a gymerwyd o ganlyniad i gamau gweithredu Llywodraeth bresennol y DU.
15:41	Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography I call on the First Minister to speak on behalf of the Government.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video Galwaf ar y Prif Weinidog i siarad ar ran y Llywodraeth.
15:41	Carwyn Jones Bywgraffiad Biography <i>Y Prif Weinidog / The First Minister</i> It is not often that I stand up in the Chamber with a view to agreeing with almost everything that has been said by every speaker. At the beginning, I will deal with a few issues on which I could not agree with some of the speakers. I listened carefully to what Bethan Jenkins said. I would remind her that the constitutional convention was first mentioned by me. I can tell you where it was: it was in Dublin castle, at a meeting of the British-Irish Council. I heard what Jocelyn Davies said. One thing I would say is that I do not think that the Republic of Ireland would want to be part of a constitutional convention that included the UK or crown dependencies any more than the Republic of France would. That is the way that they would see it. Nevertheless, I take the point that a constitutional convention that is as broad as possible is very much in the interests of all who live in the UK.	Senedd.tv Fideo Video Nid yn aml yr wyf yn sefyll i fyny yn y Siambr gyda'r bwriad o gytuno â bron popeth sydd wedi cael ei ddweud gan bob siaradwr. Ar y dechrau, ymdriniaf â rhai materion lle na allwn gytuno â rhai o'r siaradwyr. Gwrandewais yn ofalus ar yr hyn a ddywedodd Bethan Jenkins. Hoffwn ei hatgoffa mai fi a grybwyllwyd y confensiwn cyfansoddiadol gyntaf. Gallaf ddweud wrthyhch ble y digwyddodd hynny: yng nghastell Dulyn, mewn cyfarfod o'r Cyngor Prydeinig-Gwyddelig. Clywais yr hyn a ddywedodd Jocelyn Davies. Un peth y byddwn yn ei ddweud yw na chredaf y byddai Gweriniaeth Iwerddon am fod yn rhan o gonfensiwn cyfansoddiadol a oedd yn cynnwys y DU neu diriogaethau dibynnol ar y goron mwy nag yr hoffai Gweriniaeth Ffrainc. Dyna'r ffordd y byddent yn ei weld. Serch hynny, derbyniaf y pwynt bod confensiwn cyfansoddiadol sydd mor eang â phosibl er budd pawb sy'n byw yn y DU.

I listened to what Darren Millar said; there was a certain irony there. He said that he did not want to harp on about the past, but the first person he mentioned was Peter Hain. [Laughter.] He talked about the previous Government. So, in reality, his position is slightly undermined as that is where he began his argument and then said he did not want to harp on about the past. He made a very good point in saying that we should not prejudge the Silk commission's findings. Unfortunately, that is exactly what the Secretary of State has done. He has attempted to prejudge those findings. I read carefully what he said on Monday evening. Bethan Jenkins made the point that, sometimes, an allegation is thrown our way that we are obsessed with the constitution on all these benches in the Chamber. I think that it is the Secretary of State who is obsessed, not just with the constitution, but with his own status in terms of what being Secretary of State means in this day and age. He talked about not ignoring 800 years of history. I agree with that; you cannot ignore history. Unfortunately, he is trying to ignore the last 14 years of history, during which devolution has taken place.

The reserved-powers model is, without doubt, to my mind, the best model for Wales. I will start by explaining the principle behind it. It is right that the reserved-powers model should come to Wales in the same way as it has come to Scotland and Northern Ireland. It is surely right that a model that provides clarity is right for Wales, as it is for Scotland and Northern Ireland. There is no logic that suggests that the conferred-powers model should remain, there is no sense to suggest that the current model should remain and there is no equity in the suggestion that the current model should remain. In my view, those who argue that the current model should remain base their arguments on a prejudice: that Wales is not the equal of Scotland and Northern Ireland. That is an argument that I wholeheartedly reject.

The point has been raised in the Chamber about why it was that the Government of Wales Act 2006 introduced the conferred-powers model. The point was made by the Member for Arfon. My view has always been that the conferred powers model is a transitional arrangement, in the same way as the legislative competence Order model was a transitional arrangement. We must remember that, when the Government of Wales Act 2006 was passed, we were still in a situation where the last vote on devolution had resulted in a wafer-thin majority in favour of devolution. We are now in a position where the last vote on a significant aspect of devolution resulted in a resounding majority for further powers for this institution. So, the context of the Government of Wales Act in 2006 was different to the context in which we find ourselves now.

Gwrandewais ar yr hyn a ddywedodd Darren Millar; cafwyd rhywfaint o eironi yn sicr. Dywedodd nad oedd am rygnu ymlaen am y gorffennol, ond y person cyntaf a grybwyllodd oedd Peter Hain. [Chwerthin.] Soniodd am y Llywodraeth flaenorol. Felly, mewn gwirionedd, mae ei sylwadau wedi'u tanseilio ychydig gan mai dyna ble y dechreuodd ei ddadl, ac yna dywedodd nad oedd am rygnu ymlaen am y gorffennol. Gwnaeth bwynt da iawn wrth ddweud na ddylem ragfarnu canfyddiadau comisiwn Silk. Yn anffodus, dyna'n union beth mae'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol wedi'i wneud. Mae wedi ceisio rhagfarnu'r canfyddiadau hynny. Darllenais yn ofalus yr hyn a ddywedodd nos Lun. Gwnaeth Bethan Jenkins y pwynt bod honiad, weithiau, yn cael ei wneud yn ein herbyn fod gennym obsesiwn gyda'r cyfansoddiad ar yr holl feinciau hyn yn y Siambr. Credaf mai'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol sydd ag obsesiwn, nid yn unig gyda'r cyfansoddiad, ond gyda'i statws ei hun o ran yr hyn y mae swydd Ysgrifennydd Gwladol yn ei olygu yn yr oes sydd ohoni. Soniodd am beidio ag anwybyddu 800 mlynedd o hanes. Cytunaf â hynny; ni allwch anwybyddu hanes. Yn anffodus, mae'n ceisio anwybyddu'r 14 mlynedd diwethaf o hanes, pan ddigwyddodd datganoli.

Y model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl, heb os, yn fy marn i, yw'r model gorau i Gymru. Dechreuaf drwy egluro'r egwyddor sy'n sail iddo. Mae'n briodol mai'r model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl a geir yng Nghymru yn yr un modd ag y'i cyflwynwyd yn yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon. Mae'n briodol, mae'n rhaid, mai model sy'n rhoi eglurder yw'r model priodol i Gymru, fel y mae i'r Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon. Nid oes unrhyw resymeg sy'n awgrymu y dylai model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl barhau, nid yw'n synhwyrol o gwbl awgrymu y dylai'r model presennol barhau ac nid oes unrhyw werth yn yr awgrym y dylai'r model presennol barhau. Yn fy marn i, mae'r rhai sy'n dadlau y dylai'r model presennol barhau yn seilio eu dadleuon ar ragfarn: nid yw Cymru yn gydradd â'r Alban na Gogledd Iwerddon. Mae honno'n ddadl yr wyf yn ei gwrthod yn llwyr.

Codwyd y pwynt yn y Siambr ynglŷn â pham y cyflwynodd Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006 y model pwerau a roddir. Gwnaed y pwynt hwn gan yr Aelod dros Arfon. Yn fy marn i, trefniant trosiannol fu'r model pwerau a roddir o'r cychwyn, yn yr un modd ag y bu'r model Gorchmynion cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol yn drefniant trosiannol. Rhaid inni gofio, pan basiwyd Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006, ein bod yn dal mewn sefyllfa lle roedd y bleidlais ddiwethaf ar ddatganoli wedi arwain at fwyafrif bach iawn o blaid datganoli. Rydym bellach mewn sefyllfa lle yr arweiniodd y bleidlais olaf ar agwedd sylweddol ar ddatganoli at fwyafrif ysgubol o blaid pwerau pellach i'r sefydliad hwn. Felly, roedd cyd-destun Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru yn 2006 yn wahanol i'r cyd-destun yr ydym ynddo yn awr.

The other point is to do with the practical implications of the reserved-powers model. The conferred-powers model is inadequate in my view. There is no greater evidence of this—this has been referred to in the Chamber—than the fact that the very first Government Bill ended up in the Supreme Court. Any model that causes that to happen is, of itself, inadequate, and there will be others—I have no doubt about that. Some of them will be there because of a fundamental disagreement between the UK Government and Welsh Government, and some will be there because of a flaw in the settlement, without there being a particular desire on the part of either Government to see cases end up there. It is a recipe for conflict that we do not have clarity. There is, surely, no greater argument for the need for clarity than to see what has happened with regard to the previous Bill and also to see the current debates that are taking place between us and the UK Government with regard to competence in different areas.

It has been suggested, as in March 2011, although not in the Chamber today, that if you gave Wales primary powers, you would jeopardise the UK and cause its break-up. Scotland has a reserved-powers model and primary powers, we now have primary powers, and Northern Ireland has the same, and yet we do not see an inevitable move towards the break-up of the UK. There is a referendum in Scotland next year, but I do not believe that there will be a 'yes' vote. We do not see a desire on the part of Northern Ireland to break away from the UK. We do not see the DUP suddenly transforming itself into a party that believes in an independent Northern Ireland. What they see is a devolution settlement that delivers clarity and stability. Is Wales so incendiary that, if it was given a reserved-powers model, it would jeopardise the UK? Of course not. We know that that is not the case. Unfortunately, those who argue that the reserved-powers model is not adequate are those who take the view, quite frankly, that the Welsh people cannot be trusted to trust themselves. That, of course, brings us back to the argument that I had previously advanced, that this is nothing more than an attempt to suggest that Wales is, as Keith Davies put it, a second-class nation compared with Scotland and Northern Ireland—a suggestion that I wholeheartedly reject.

As far as we are concerned, Members will be aware of the evidence that we have submitted to the Silk commission. I know that the Members on the Conservative benches have said that there has been delivery on the part of the current Government. We shall see as far as Silk is concerned. We still await a comprehensive response to Silk part 1. We look forward to that response, because we know that its discussions have been particularly fruitful with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury—there is no question about that, and I thank him for that. There will need to be a comprehensive response by the UK Government with regard to Silk part 2.

Mae'r pwynt arall yn ymwneud â goblygiadau ymarferol model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl. Mae'r model pwerau a roddir yn annigonol yn fy marn i. Ni ellir cael gwell tystiolaeth o hyn—cyfeiriwyd at hyn yn y Siambr—na'r ffaith i Fil cyntaf un y Llywodraeth gael ei gyfeirio at y Goruchaf Lys. Mae unrhyw fodel sy'n achosi i hynny ddigwydd, ynddo'i hun, yn annigonol, a bydd eraill—nid oes gennyf unrhyw amheuaeth am hynny. Bydd rhai ohonynt yn cael eu cyfeirio oherwydd anghytundeb sylfaenol rhwng Llywodraeth y DU a Llywodraeth Cymru, a bydd rhai yn cael eu cyfeirio oherwydd nam yn y setliad, heb fod awydd penodol ar ran y naill Lywodraeth na'r llall i weld achosion yn cael eu cyfeirio at y llys. Mae'n asgwrn cynnen nad oes gennym eglurder. Yn sicr, nid oes gwell dadl dros yr angen am eglurder na gweld yr hyn a ddigwyddodd o ran y Bil blaenorol a hefyd weld y trafodaethau cyfredol sy'n digwydd rhyngom ni a Llywodraeth y DU mewn perthynas â chymhwysedd mewn gwahanol feysydd.

Awgrymwyd, fel ym mis Mawrth 2011, ond nid yn y Siambr heddiw, os rhowch bwerau sylfaenol i Gymru, byddech yn peryglu'r DU ac yn achosi iddi chwalu. Mae gan yr Alban fodel pwerau a gedwir yn ôl a phwerau sylfaenol, mae gennym ninnau bwerau sylfaenol bellach, ac mae gan Ogledd Iwerddon yr un fath, ac eto ni welwn symud anochel tuag at chwalu'r DU. Bydd refferendwm yn yr Alban y flwyddyn nesaf, ond ni chredaf y bydd pleidlais 'ie'. Ni welwn awydd ar ran Gogledd Iwerddon i ddatgysylltu oddi wrth y DU. Ni welwn y DUP yn trawsnewid yn sydyn yn blaid sy'n credu mewn annibyniaeth i Ogledd Iwerddon. Yr hyn a ddymunant yw setliad datganoli sy'n rhoi eglurder a sefydlogrwydd. A yw Cymru mor danllyd, pe bai'n cael model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl, y byddai'n peryglu'r DU? Wrth gwrs na fyddai. Gwyddom nad yw hynny'n wir. Yn anffodus, y rhai sy'n dadlau nad oedd model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl yn ddigonol yw'r rhai sy'n arddel y farn, a dweud y gwir, na ellir ymddiried ym mhobl Cymru i ymddiried ynddynt eu hunain. Mae hynny, wrth gwrs, yn dod â ni yn ôl at y ddadl a gyflwynais o'r blaen, sef nad yw hyn yn ddim byd mwy nag ymgais i awgrymu bod Cymru, fel y dywedodd Keith Davies, yn genedl eilradd o'i chymharu â'r Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon—awgrym a wrthodaf yn llwyr.

O'n rhan ni, bydd yr Aelodau yn ymwybodol o'r dystiolaeth a gyflwynwyd gennym i gomisiwn Silk. Gwn fod yr Aelodau ar feinciau'r Ceidwadwyr wedi dweud bod y Llywodraeth bresennol wedi cyflawni pethau. Cawn weld o ran Silk. Rydym yn dal i aros am ymateb cynhwysfawr i Silk rhan 1. Edrychwn ymlaen at yr ymateb hwnnw, oherwydd gwyddom fod ei thrafodaethau wedi bod yn ffrwythlon iawn gyda Phrif Ysgrifennydd y Trysorlys—nid oes unrhyw amheuaeth am hynny, a hoffwn ddiolch iddo am hynny. Bydd angen ymateb cynhwysfawr gan Lywodraeth y DU o ran Silk rhan 2.

Those of us who believe in the union of the United Kingdom also believe that any potential for conflict should be removed from the constitution of the United Kingdom, and that means a reserved-powers model for Wales. I do not follow the argument advanced by the Secretary of State that, somehow, the conferred-powers model is good for Wales. I believe that, instead, it leads to a situation in which conflict that is unnecessary is built into the system and, surely, nobody who believes in the union of the UK could possibly see that as the correct way forward as far as Wales is concerned.

In summary, I urge Members to support the motion that has been put before us. The reserved-powers model puts Wales in a position that is the same as those of Scotland and Northern Ireland and, from a practical viewpoint, it makes it easier in terms of understanding who does what. There is another important point as well: in Scotland, because of the reserved-powers model, whenever there is a dispute about competence, the burden of proof lies with UK Government to show that something is not within the competence of the Scottish Parliament. It is the opposite in Wales, where it is for the Welsh Government to show that something is within competence. It may be a subtle legal distinction, but it has an enormous practical effect, and that is something that must change in the future for the good of the United Kingdom and for the good of Wales. For the ability of any Welsh Government, regardless of party, to be able to deliver properly for the people of Wales, a reserved-powers model is absolutely essential.

Mae'r rhai ohonom sy'n credu yn undeb y Deyrnas Unedig hefyd yn credu y dylid dileu unrhyw botensial am wrthdaro yng nghyfansoddiad y Deyrnas Unedig, ac mae hynny'n golygu model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl i Gymru. Nid wyf yn derbyn y ddadl a gyflwynwyd gan yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol bod model pwerau a roddir, rywsut, yn beth da i Gymru. Yn hytrach, yn fy marn i, mae'n arwain at sefyllfa lle mae gwrthdaro diangen yn rhan o'r system ac, yn sicr, ni allai neb sy'n credu yn undeb y DU gredu mai dyna'r ffordd gywir ymlaen o ran Cymru.

I grynhoi, anogaf yr Aelodau i gefnogi'r cynnig a roddwyd ger ein bron. Mae model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl yn rhoi Cymru yn yr un sefyllfa â'r Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon ac, o safbwynt ymarferol, mae'n ei gwneud yn haws o ran deall pwy sy'n gwneud beth. Cyfyd pwynt pwysig arall hefyd: yn yr Alban, oherwydd y model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl, pryd bynnag y bo anghydfod ynghylch cymhwysedd, mae baich y prawf ar Lywodraeth y DU i ddangos nad oes rhywbeth o fewn cymhwysedd Senedd yr Alban. I'r gwrthwyneb y mae yng Nghymru, oherwydd Llywodraeth Cymru sy'n gorfod dangos bod rhywbeth o fewn ei chymhwysedd. Mae'n wahaniaeth cyfreithiol cynnil o bosibl, ond mae'r effaith ymarferol yn enfawr, ac mae hynny'n rhywbeth y mae'n rhaid iddo newid yn y dyfodol er lles y Deyrnas Unedig ac er lles Cymru. Er mwyn i unrhyw Lywodraeth yng Nghymru, beth bynnag fo'r blaid mewn grym, allu cyflawni o ddifrif dros bobl Cymru, mae model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl yn gwbl hanfodol.

15:49

Peter Black [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I start by thanking all the Members who sponsored this debate and Mike Hedges for tabling it in the first place. If it has demonstrated anything, it is that there is a consensus across the Chamber in favour of a reserved-powers model, irrespective of the differences over history, which have emerged during the debate. I speak from the perspective of a member of a party that, in its various incarnations, has supported the devolution of powers to Wales for over 100 years. Therefore, I am very happy to support, as we have done for some considerable time, the reserved-powers model that is in this motion.

Hoffwn ddechrau drwy ddiolch i'r holl Aelodau a noddodd y ddadl hon ac i Mike Hedges am ei chyflwyno yn y lle cyntaf. Os yw wedi dangos unrhyw beth, mae wedi dangos bod consensws ym mhob rhan o'r Siambr o blaid model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl, waeth beth fo'r gwahaniaethau hanesyddol, sydd wedi dod i'r amlwg yn ystod y ddadl. Rwy'n siarad o safbwynt aelod o blaid, sydd yn ei hamrywiol ymgawdoliadau, wedi cefnogi datganoli pwerau i Gymru ers dros 100 mlynedd. Felly, rwy'n barod iawn i gefnogi, fel yr ydym wedi ei wneud ers cryn amser, y model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl sydd yn y cynnig hwn.

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Although we are having this debate today, it was kicked off on Monday by the Secretary of State for Wales, as has been referred to by Bethan Jenkins and Julie Morgan, and by the First Minister just now. I believe that the claims made by the Secretary of State for Wales that the current devolution settlement does not need major changes are misguided and could help to entrench an unsatisfactory system in place where the courts become the final arbiters of law rather than the electorate. I think that a number of Members have also expressed that view during this debate. The Secretary of State said that he was speaking personally. What I do know is that he was not speaking for the Liberal Democrats, who will have strong views in Government on the outcome of the Silk process and the response of the UK Government to the Silk process. Obviously, being in a coalition, we have to work with our partners on that. I also know that the Deputy Prime Minister and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury came to Wales earlier this year—in February and March, I think—and said that they were fully committed to further devolution, to the Silk process and to the outcome of Silk. So, there was a clear statement from UK Government Ministers in terms of how we should be going forward on Silk and the response that should be given to Silk. So, although the Secretary of State for Wales has given a view, it is a view that is not unanimous within Government, and it is certainly contradictory of other views expressed by Ministers in that Government. I think that we all have to wait and see now what exactly the UK Government says in response to the Silk commission.

It is my view—and, again, it is a view that has been expressed during this debate—that the different treatment given to Scotland and Wales by successive Westminster Governments has led to uncertainty and practical and legal difficulties that have prevented Assembly Members from properly fulfilling their democratic mandate. Every system of devolution that is in place will create grey areas; however, there is no doubt in my mind that the Scottish system is more stable, has fewer challenges to legislation from the UK Government—and, as the First Minister has just pointed out, it puts the onus on the UK Government to prove its challenge, not on the Scottish Government—and provides greater clarity for everyone as to whom can do what and why.

The Secretary of State for Wales's argument that because England and Wales are one entity, legally and politically, that no further reform is necessary is disingenuous in my view. It is an argument that was used to oppose devolution in the first place, and it ignores the way that the two countries have evolved over the last 14 years. The fact is that England and Wales are politically and legally distinct and will continue to grow more so as devolution gathers pace. If David Jones is concerned about the implications of a reserved-powers model, as we have in Scotland, he should be arguing for the appropriate powers to be reserved to Westminster, not seeking to freeze progress at a point where demarcation is still unclear and Assembly Members are having to constantly push at the boundaries to see how far they will stretch. As a number of Members have said, that is a lawyers' paradise and it should not be the role of a legislature to act in a way that unnecessarily enriches lawyers any more than they are enriched at present—with present company excepted, of course, for all of you over there.

Er ein bod yn cynnal y ddadl hon heddiw, cychwynnwyd arni ddydd Llun gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, fel y soniodd Bethan Jenkins a Julie Morgan, a'r Prif Weinidog ychydig yn ôl. Credaf fod haeriadau Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru nad oes angen newidiadau mawr i'r setliad datganoli presennol yn gyfeiliornus ac y gallent helpu i atgyfnerthu system anfodddhaol lle mai'r llysoedd sy'n pennu'r gyfraith yn y pen draw yn hytrach na'r etholwyr. Credaf fod nifer o Aelodau hefyd wedi mynegi'r farn honno yn ystod y ddadl hon. Dywedodd yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol ei fod yn siarad yn bersonol. Yr hyn yr wyf yn ei wybod yw nad oedd yn siarad ar ran y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, a fydd â barn gref yn y Llywodraeth ynglŷn â charlyniad proses Silk ac ymateb Llywodraeth y DU i broses Silk. Yn amlwg, a ninnau mewn clymblaid, rhaid inni gydweithio â'n partneriaid ar hynny. Gwn hefyd i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a Phrif Ysgrifennydd y Trysorlys ddod i Gymru yn gynharach eleni—ym mis Chwefror a mis Mawrth, fe gredaf—gan ddweud eu bod wedi ymrwymo'n llwyr i ddatganoli pellach, i broses Silk ac i ganlyniad Silk. Felly, cafwyd datganiad clir gan Weinidogion Llywodraeth y DU o ran sut y dylem weithredu ar Silk a'r ymateb y dylid ei roi i Silk. Felly, er bod Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru wedi mynegi barn, nid oes barn unfrydol yn y Llywodraeth, ac mae'n sicr mae'n gwrthddweud safbwyntiau eraill a fynegwyd gan Weinidogion yn y Llywodraeth honno. Credaf fod yn rhaid inni i gyd aros i weld yn awr beth yn union y dywed Llywodraeth y DU mewn ymateb i gomisiwn Silk.

Yn fy marn i—ac, unwaith eto, mae'n farn a fynegwyd yn ystod y ddadl hon—mae'r ffordd y mae Cymru a'r Alban wedi cael eu trin yn wahanol gan Lywodraethau olynol yn San Steffan wedi arwain at ansicrwydd ac anawsterau ymarferol a chyfreithiol sydd wedi atal Aelodau'r Cynulliad rhag cyflawni eu mandad democrataidd yn briodol. Bydd pob system o ddatganoli sydd ar waith yn creu mannau llwyd; fodd bynnag, nid oes amheuaeth yn fy marn i fod system yr Alban yn fwy sefydlog a bod llai o heriau i'w deddfwriaeth gan Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig—ac, fel y mae'r Prif Weinidog newydd ei nodi, mae'n rhoi cyfrifoldeb ar Lywodraeth y DU i brofi ei her, nid ar Lywodraeth yr Alban—ei bod yn rhoi mwy o eglurder ynghylch pwy sy'n gallu gwneud beth a pham.

Mae dadl Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, sef oherwydd bod Cymru a Lloegr yn un endid, yn gyfreithiol ac yn wleidyddol, nad oes angen diwygio pellach yn ffuantus yn fy marn i. Mae'n ddadl a ddefnyddiwyd i wrthwynebu datganoli yn y lle cyntaf, ac mae'n anwybyddu'r ffordd y mae'r ddwy wlad wedi datblygu dros y 14 mlynedd diwethaf. Y ffaith amdani yw bod Cymru a Lloegr yn wahanol yn wleidyddol ac yn gyfreithiol a bydd hynny yn parhau i ddatblygu felly wrth i'r broses ddatganoli gyflymu. Os yw David Jones yn pryderu am oblygiadau model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl, fel sydd gennym yn yr Alban, dylai fod yn dadlau dros gadw'r pwerau priodol yn San Steffan, yn hytrach na cheisio atal y cynnydd mewn man lle erys y ffiniau yn aneglur a lle mae Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn gorfod herio'r ffiniau drwy'r amser i weld pa mor bell y byddant yn ymestyn. Fel y dywedodd sawl Aelod, mae hynny'n baradwys i gyfreithwyr ac nid rôl deddfwrfia yw gweithredu mewn ffordd sy'n cyfoethogi cyfreithwyr yn ddiangen ac yn fwy nag y maent yn cael eu cyfoethogi ar hyn o bryd—ac eithrio'r rhai sy'n bresennol, wrth gwrs, i'r rhai ohonoch draw acw.

A reserved-powers model as in Scotland will provide greater clarity about the powers that we have and what we cannot do. It will help to establish a more stable relationship between Cardiff bay and Whitehall, reduce the number of disputes and enable Assembly Members to be more creative and responsive to the demands put upon us by voters. It will put us on a level playing field with Northern Ireland and Scotland and make it more likely that we can develop mature inter-government relationships. I am sure that I will not get agreement on this, but it will also form the basis for a properly federal United Kingdom in which power is exercised at the appropriate level and people have greater ownership of their Governments. I think that the consensus that has been expressed today has done this Assembly proud and shown to the Secretary of State for Wales what we at least think of his speech on Monday. However, more importantly, I think that it has sent a signal to the UK Government that we are ready for a properly reserved model of governance in Wales and that we are prepared to deliver it as Members in this Chamber. I hope that it is able to listen to that and deliver accordingly, once the Silk process is complete.

Bydd model pwerau a gedwir yn ôl fel sydd ar waith yn yr Alban yn rhoi mwy o eglurder ynghylch y pwerau sydd gennym a'r hyn na allwn ei wneud. Bydd yn helpu i sefydlu perthynas fwy sefydlog rhwng bae Caerdydd a Whitehall, yn lleihau nifer yr anghydfodau ac yn galluogi Aelodau'r Cynulliad i fod yn fwy creadigol ac ymatebol i'r galwadau a roddir arnom gan bleidleiswyr. Bydd yn rhoi inni yr un setliad ag sydd gan Ogledd Iwerddon a'r Alban a'i gwneud yn fwy tebygol y gallwn ddatblygu cydberthnasau aeddfed rhyng-lywodraeth. Rwy'n siŵr na chaf gytundeb ar hyn, ond bydd hefyd yn sail i Deyrnas Unedig sy'n gwbl ffederal lle y caiff pŵer ei arfer ar y lefel briodol a lle mae gan bobl fwy o berchenogaeth dros eu Llywodraethau. Credaf fod y consensws a fynegwyd heddiw wedi bod yn destun balchder i'r Cynulliad hwn ac wedi dangos i Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru yr hyn yr ydym ni o leiaf yn ei feddwl o'i araith ddydd Llun. Fodd bynnag, yn bwysicach na hynny, credaf ei bod wedi dangos i Lywodraeth y DU ein bod yn barod ar gyfer trefn lywodraethu pwerau a gedwir yn ôl yn briodol yng Nghymru a'n bod yn barod i'w rhoi ar waith fel Aelodau yn y Siambr hon. Gobeithiaf ei bod yn gallu gwrando ar hynny a gweithredu yn unol â hynny, unwaith y bydd proses Silk wedi dod i ben.

15:54 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

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The proposal is to agree the motion. Does any Member object? There is objection. Therefore, I defer all voting on this item until voting time.

Y cwestiwn yw y dylid derbyn y cynnig. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Mae gwrthwynebiad. Felly, gohiriaf bob pleidlais ar yr eitem hon tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Gohiriwyd y pleidleisio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Voting deferred until voting time.

Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (David Melding) i'r Gadair am 3.54 p.m.

The Deputy Presiding Officer (David Melding) took the Chair at 3.54 p.m.

15:54 **Dadl ar Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Safonau 03-13 i'r Cynulliad ar Lobïo a Grwpiau Trawsbleidiol**

Debate on the Standards Committee's Report 03-13 to the Assembly on Lobbying and Cross-Party Groups

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

I call on the Chair of the Standards of Conduct Committee to move the motion.

Galwaf ar Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad i gynnig y cynnig.

Cynnig NDM5274 Mick Antoniŵ

Motion NDM5274 Mick Antoniŵ

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Yn ystyried Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad – Adroddiad 03-13 i'r Cynulliad ar Lobïo a Grwpiau Trawsbleidiol – a osodwyd gerbron y Cynulliad ar 2 Mai 2013 yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 17.56;

1. Considers the Report of the Standards of Conduct Committee - Report 03-13 to the Assembly on Lobbying and Cross-Party Groups - laid before the Assembly on 2 May 2013 in accordance with Standing Order 17.56;

2. Yn cymeradwyo Canllawiau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru ar Lobïo a Mynediad at Aelodau'r Cynulliad a nodir yn Atodiad C i'r Adroddiad; a

2. Endorses the National Assembly for Wales' Guidance on Lobbying and Access to Assembly Members set out in Annex C of the Report; and

3. Yn cymeradwyo Rheolau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru ar y Ffordd mae Grwpiau Trawsbleidiol yn Gweithredu a nodir yn Atodiad D i'r Adroddiad ac sydd i ddod i rym ar 23 Medi 2013.

3. Endorses the National Assembly for Wales' Rules for the Operation of Cross-Party Groups set out in Annex D of the Report to come into effect on 23 September 2013.

I move the motion in my name.

Cynigiau y cynnig yn fy enw i.

I am pleased to open this timely debate, as Chair of the Standards of Conduct Committee. When the Presiding Officer invited the committee to undertake its inquiry into the Assembly's arrangements in relation to lobbying last year, it was in the context of the coalition Government's proposal to introduce a UK-wide statutory register of lobbyists. The response in Wales to that proposal was unequivocal: Wales is not Westminster, and the Assembly should be free to decide its own governance arrangements. The Presiding Officer made that point in a letter to the Secretary of State for Wales in March 2012, pointing out that the Assembly already had its own robust systems in place in relation to lobbying. The most recent revelations about relationships between purported lobbyists and some MPs and peers emerged well after the standards committee published its report into the arrangements in Wales. However, clearly lobbying is an issue that will not go away, and there can be absolutely no room for complacency.

The committee asked the National Assembly for Wales Commissioner for Standards to advise us on whether the Assembly's arrangements were fit for purpose, and whether we needed to strengthen them in any way. His assessment of the Welsh position was reassuring. His view is that arrangements in relation to Assembly Members here are sufficiently robust and fit for purpose, and that assessment is very welcome. However, the commissioner's assessment came with some caveats. He received some representations from Members about cross-party groups, for example, and the committee is also mindful that practice here must continue to serve the Assembly well as its legislative powers increase.

The challenge for us as Members, and for the institution, is how we retain openness and transparency, and how we ensure that the electorate can come to us with its issues, and yet ensure that there is no room for undue influence or any corruption of the democratic process. The public must have confidence that the democratic process is open to scrutiny. Our arrangements must be as transparent as possible, and they must also be fit for purpose. We must be careful not to create a system that is so rigid and bureaucratic that it ends up restricting us in our work. The committee concluded that it would not be appropriate to simply accept the status quo of the current arrangements, but equally we did not see evidence of the need to move towards legislating for a system of the statutory registration of lobbyists. It is true that the Assembly does not currently have legislative competence in this area, but these powers could be sought if it was felt to be necessary. We concluded that it was not necessary at this time. We need a Welsh solution to deal with the current realities of lobbying practice here in Wales. I would argue that the most important recommendation in our report is the final one: that we need to continue to keep our arrangements under proactive review as the powers of the Assembly evolve.

Mae'n bleser gennyf agor y ddadl amserol hon, fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad. Pan wahoddodd y Llywydd y pwyllgor i ymgymryd â'i ymchwiliad i drefniadau'r Cynulliad mewn perthynas â lobïo y llynedd, roedd o fewn cyd-destun cynnig y Llywodraeth glymblaid i gyflwyno cofrestr statudol o lobïwyr ledled y DU. Roedd yr ymateb yng Nghymru i'r cynnig hwnnw yn ddiamwys: nid San Steffan yw Cymru, a dylai'r Cynulliad fod yn rhydd i benderfynu ar ei drefniadau llywodraethu ei hun. Gwnaeth y Llywydd y pwynt hwnnw mewn llythyr at Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ym mis Mawrth 2012, gan nodi bod gan y Cynulliad ei systemau cadarn ei hun ar waith eisoes mewn perthynas â lobïo. Daeth y datgeliadau mwyaf diweddar am y berthynas rhwng lobïwyr honedig a rhai Aelodau Seneddol ac arglwyddi i'r amlwg ymhell ar ôl i'r pwyllgor safonau gyhoeddi ei adroddiad ar y trefniadau yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, mae'n amlwg bod lobïo yn fater na fydd yn mynd i ffwrdd, ac nid oes unrhyw le i fod yn hunanfodlon.

Gofynnodd y pwyllgor i Gomisiynydd Safonau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru ein cynghori ynghylch a oedd trefniadau'r Cynulliad yn addas at y diben, ac a oedd angen inni eu hatgyfnerthu mewn unrhyw ffordd. Roedd ei asesiad o'r sefyllfa yng Nghymru yn galonogol. Yn ei farn ef, mae'r trefniadau mewn perthynas ag Aelodau'r Cynulliad yma yn ddigon cadarn ac yn addas at y diben, ac mae'r asesiad hwnnw'n galonogol iawn. Fodd bynnag, roedd rhai cafeatau yn asesiad y comisiynydd. Cafodd rai sylwadau gan Aelodau am grwpiau trawsbleidiol, er enghraifft, ac mae'r pwyllgor hefyd yn ymwybodol bod yn rhaid i arfer yma barhau i wasanaethu'r Cynulliad yn ogystal â'i gynnydd mewn pwerau deddfwriaethol.

Yr her inni fel Aelodau, ac i'r sefydliad, yw cynnal dull o fod yn agored a thryloyw, a sicrhau y gall yr etholwyr ddod atom gyda'u problemau, tra'n sicrhau nad yw'r broses ddemocrataidd yn agored i ddylanwad gormodol na llygredd. Rhaid i'r cyhoedd fod yn hyderus bod y broses ddemocrataidd yn agored i graffu. Rhaid i'n trefniadau fod mor dryloyw ag y bo modd, a rhaid iddynt hefyd fod yn addas at y diben. Rhaid inni ofalu nad ydym yn creu system sydd mor anhyblyg a biwrocataidd ei bod yn cyfyngu ar y gwaith y gallwn ei wneud yn y pen draw. Daeth y pwyllgor i'r casgliad na fyddai'n briodol derbyn y y trefniadau presennol fel y maent, ond yn yr un modd ni welsom dystiolaeth o'r angen i symud tuag at ddeddfu ar gyfer system i gofrestru lobïwyr yn statudol. Mae'n wir nad oes gan y Cynulliad ar hyn o bryd gymhwysedd deddfwriaethol yn y maes hwn, ond gellid ceisio'r pwerau hyn os teimlwyd eu bod yn angenrheidiol. Daethom i'r casgliad nad oedd angen ar hyn o bryd. Mae angen ateb Cymreig i ddelio â realiti'r sefyllfa bresennol o arfer lobïo yma yng Nghymru. Byddwn yn dadlau mai'r argymhelliad pwysicaf yn ein hadroddiad yw'r un terfynol: bod angen inni barhau i adolygu ein trefniadau mewn modd rhagweithiol wrth i bwerau'r Cynulliad esblygu.

The committee spent some considerable time and effort in exploring the possible options available to us in relation to registering the activities of lobbyists. As the commissioner pointed out when he reported to us, a major sticking point—and this is one that Westminster has floundered on to some extent as well—is how you define a lobbyist. As I said, we grappled with this as much as the Westminster select committee had during its own scrutiny of the Government's proposals and, I believe, continues to do so. I do not think that this question has yet been satisfactorily resolved, but, as a committee, we have tried to focus on protecting the fundamental principle, as set out in the Members' code of conduct, that those being lobbied are not placing themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their duties.

The rules against paid advocacy are already very clear, as are the punishments for breaching them. As Members, we should have those rules continually in mind as we go about our daily business. Outside bodies that want to engage with us must also abide by those rules. Having consulted with Assembly Members, spoken with representatives of the public affairs industry in Wales, and considered arrangements elsewhere, the committee has brought forward a report with eight recommendations designed to further strengthen the arrangements that we already have in place.

Our first recommendation is that the Assembly adopts new guidance on lobbying and access to Assembly Members. This is designed to be a code of practice for Members to follow, and it is closely based on guidance already in place in the Scottish Parliament. As the report notes, the Council of Europe recently reviewed the UK's arrangements to tackle corruption, and it recommended that guidance like this should be adopted across all the legislatures of the UK.

The guidance complements the standards of behaviour already set out in the code of conduct for Assembly Members. It reminds elected Members of our responsibility to always act with integrity in our dealings with outside bodies, and it emphasises the importance of ensuring that records are kept of meetings with people who are undertaking lobbying activity. The standards commissioner has said that he has never referred a complaint concerning a breach of the rules in relation to lobbying to the Standards of Conduct Committee since the Assembly came into being. However, he has also said that he must be able to investigate fully and effectively any concerns about lobbying that might be raised with him in the future. In doing so, he may need to call on records of meetings between Members and those undertaking lobbying activity.

Treuliodd y pwyllgor gryn amser ac ymdrech yn archwilio'r opsiynau posibl sydd ar gael inni mewn perthynas â chofrestru gweithgareddau lobiwyr. Fel y nododd y comisiynydd yn ei adroddiad inni, un o'r prif feini tramgwydd—ac mae hyn wedi llorio San Steffan i ryw raddau hefyd—yw sut i ddiffinio lobiwr. Fel y dywedais, buom yn ymrafael â hyn gymaint â phwyllgor dethol San Steffan yn ystod ei waith craffu ei hun o gynigion y Llywodraeth, a chredaf ei fod yn parhau i wneud hynny. Nid yw'r cwestiwn hwn wedi ei ddatrys yn foddhaol eto yn fy marn i, ond, fel pwyllgor, rydym wedi ceisio canolbwyntio ar ddiogelu'r egwyddor sylfaenol, fel y nodir yng nghod ymddygiad yr Aelodau, nad yw'r rhai sy'n cael eu lobio yn rhoi eu hunain o dan unrhyw rwymedigaeth ariannol neu rwymedigaeth arall i unigolion neu sefydliadau allanol a allai geisio dylanwadu arnynt wrth iddynt gyflawni eu dyletswyddau.

Mae'r rheolau yn erbyn eiriolaeth â thâl eisoes yn glir iawn, yn ogystal â'r cosbau am eu torri. Fel Aelodau, dylai'r rheolau hynny fod mewn cof yn barhaus wrth inni fynd o gwmpas ein busnes bob dydd. Rhaid i gyrrff allanol sydd am gysylltu â ni hefyd gadw at y rheolau hynny. Ar ôl ymgynghori ag Aelodau'r Cynulliad, siarad â chynrychiolwyr y diwydiant materion cyhoeddus yng Nghymru, ac ystyried trefniadau mewn mannau eraill, mae'r pwyllgor wedi cyflwyno adroddiad ag wyth o argymhellion a gynlluniwyd i atgyfnerthu'r trefniadau sydd eisoes ar waith.

Ein hargymhelliad cyntaf yw bod y Cynulliad yn mabwysiadu canllawiau newydd ar lobio a mynediad at Aelodau'r Cynulliad. Mae'r rhain wedi'u cynllunio i fod yn god ymarfer i'w ddilyn gan Aelodau, ac mae wedi'i seilio'n agos ar ganllawiau sydd eisoes ar waith yn Senedd yr Alban. Fel y noda'r adroddiad, yn ddiweddar, adolygodd Cyngor Ewrop drefniadau'r DU i fynd i'r afael â llygredd, ac argymhellodd y dylai canllawiau fel hyn yn cael eu mabwysiadu ar draws holl ddeddfwrfeydd y DU.

Mae'r canllawiau yn ategu'r safonau ymddygiad a nodwyd eisoes yn y cod ymddygiad ar gyfer Aelodau'r Cynulliad. Mae'n atgoffa Aelodau etholedig o'n cyfrifoldeb i weithredu gydag uniondeb bob amser wrth ymdrin â chyrff allanol, ac mae'n pwysleisio pwysigrwydd sicrhau bod cofnodion yn cael eu cadw o gyfarfodydd gyda phobl sy'n ymgymryd â gweithgarwch lobio. Mae'r comisiynydd safonau wedi dweud nad yw erioed wedi cyfeirio cwyn yn ymwneud â thorri'r rheolau mewn perthynas â lobio i'r Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad ers i'r Cynulliad ddod i fodolaeth. Fodd bynnag, mae hefyd wedi dweud bod yn rhaid iddo allu ymchwilio'n llawn ac yn effeithiol i unrhyw bryderon am lobio a godir gydag ef yn y dyfodol. Wrth wneud hynny, efallai y bydd angen iddo alw ar gofnodion cyfarfodydd rhwng Aelodau a'r rheini sy'n gwneud gweithgarwch lobio.

Our second recommendation highlights the fact that the standards commissioner and the standards committee can only investigate allegations made against individual Assembly Members and that the conduct of Welsh Ministers is governed separately by the ministerial code. The committee could not consider the issue of lobbying activity without recognising that the lobbying of Ministers, rather than of individual Members, represents the greatest potential reputational risk to the Assembly going forward. For this reason, the report sets out the issues that could arise concerning the lobbying of Welsh Ministers and has invited the First Minister to consider these.

Recommendations 3 to 7 concern bringing in new rules for the operation of cross-party groups to replace Presiding Officer guidelines that have been in place since 2004. The new rules are designed to give greater transparency to and accountability for the activities of cross-party groups, without placing an unnecessarily onerous burden on the chairs of groups or their members. We recognise the value of these groups; they are an important way for Members to discuss matters of common interest to them and their constituents, and they inform effective policy making and scrutiny. However, they are not formal Assembly business, and so we recommend that they remain outside the purview of Standing Orders.

I have written to all Members to draw your attention to the proposed cross-party group rules, and to reassure group chairs that Assembly Commission staff will be on hand to assist with implementation. It is proposed, if the Assembly endorses the rules today, that they will come into effect at the start of the next Assembly term, in September, to allow some time to prepare for implementation. For the first time, this will create an environment in which the public can see not only which groups are operating, but who is on them, what they are discussing, and how they are supported, in the same way that information about all-party groups in other UK legislatures is published.

The report recognises that Members have raised concerns about the resources and support available to cross-party groups. This support may come from a range of sources, and we have attempted to give greater clarity on this in the rules, including the availability of the Commission's access fund. The independent remuneration panel points to the fact that Members will continue to be expected to exercise their judgment in how they use the allowances available to them. In reality, the 60 Members of this Assembly each make their own choices about how much time to devote to cross-party group activity. Now, the remuneration panel considered the report last Friday, and the chair has written to me to say that it agrees with the thrust of the committee's position on the use of allowances for participation in cross-party groups. Sir George Reid said that the board will ensure that there is clarity on this matter and issue guidance if necessary. I understand that that letter has now been circulated.

Mae ein hail argymhelliad yn amlygu'r ffaith mai dim ond ymchwilio i honiadau a wneir yn erbyn Aelodau Cynulliad unigol y gall y comisiynydd safonau a'r pwyllgor safonau ei wneud a bod ymddygiad Gweinidogion Cymru yn cael ei reoli ar wahân gan y cod gweinidogol. Ni allai'r pwyllgor ystyried gweithgarwch lobïo heb gydnabod mai lobïo Gweinidogion, yn hytrach nag Aelodau unigol, sy'n cynrychioli'r risg bosibl fwyaf i enw da'r Cynulliad yn y dyfodol. Am y rheswm hwn, mae'r adroddiad yn nodi'r materion a allai godi ynghylch lobïo Gweinidogion Cymru, ac mae wedi gwahodd y Prif Weinidog i ystyried y rhain.

Mae argymhellion 3 i 7 yn ymwneud â chyflwyno rheolau newydd ar y ffordd y mae grwpiau trawsbleidiol yn gweithredu yn lle canllawiau presennol y Llywydd sydd wedi bod ar waith ers 2004. Mae'r rheolau newydd yn cael eu cynllunio i roi mwy o dryloywder ac atebolrwydd ar gyfer gweithgareddau grwpiau trawsbleidiol, heb roi baich beichus diangen ar gadeiryddion grwpiau neu eu haelodau. Rydym yn cydnabod gwerth y grwpiau hyn; maent yn llwyfan pwysig i Aelodau drafod materion o ddiddordeb cyffredin iddynt hwy a'u hetholwyr, ac maent yn llywio dulliau effeithiol o lunio polisiau a chraffu. Fodd bynnag, nid ydynt yn rhan o fusnes ffurfiol y Cynulliad, ac felly argymhellwn eu bod yn aros y tu allan i gylch gorchwyl y Rheolau Sefydlog.

Ysgrifennais at yr holl Aelodau i dynnu eich sylw at reolau arfaethedig y grŵp trawsbleidiol, ac i roi sicrwydd i gadeiryddion grwpiau y bydd staff Comisiwn y Cynulliad wrth law i helpu i'w rhoi ar waith. Cynigir, os bydd y Cynulliad yn cymeradwyo'r rheolau heddiw, y byddant yn dod i rym ar ddechrau tymor nesaf y Cynulliad, ym mis Medi, er mwyn caniatáu rhywfaint o amser i baratoi ar eu cyfer. Am y tro cyntaf, bydd hyn yn creu amgylchedd lle gall y cyhoedd, nid yn unig weld pa grwpiau sy'n gweithredu, ond hefyd pwy sydd arnynt, yr hyn y maent yn ei drafod, a sut y maent yn cael eu cefnogi, yn yr un ffordd ag y caiff gwybodaeth am grwpiau hollbleidiol mewn deddfwrfeydd eraill yn y DU ei chyhoeddi.

Mae'r adroddiad yn cydnabod bod Aelodau wedi mynegi pryderon am yr adnoddau a'r cymorth sydd ar gael i grwpiau trawsbleidiol. Gall y gefnogaeth hon ddod o amrywiaeth o ffynonellau, ac rydym wedi ceisio rhoi mwy o eglurder ar hyn yn y rheolau, gan gynnwys argaeledd cronfa fynediad y Comisiwn. Mae'r panel cydnabyddiaeth annibynnol yn nodi'r ffaith y disgwyli'r Aelodau barhau i arfer eu barn o ran sut maent yn defnyddio'r lwfansau sydd ar gael iddynt. Mewn gwirionedd, mae pob un o'r 60 o Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn gwneud eu dewisiadau eu hunain ynglŷn â faint o amser i'w neilltuo ar gyfer gweithgaredd grŵp trawsbleidiol. Ystyriodd y panel cydnabyddiaeth yr adroddiad ddydd Gwener diwethaf, ac mae'r cadeirydd wedi ysgrifennu ataf i ddweud ei fod yn cytuno â byrdwn sefyllfa'r pwyllgor ar y defnydd o lwfansau ar gyfer cymryd rhan mewn grwpiau trawsbleidiol. Dywedodd Syr George Reid y bydd y bwrdd yn sicrhau bod eglurder ar y mater hwn ac yn cyhoeddi canllawiau os bydd angen. Deallaf fod y llythyr wedi'i ddosbarthu bellach.

Similar rules exist for groups in other legislatures, but we have invited the Assembly Commission to note the implications of these new rules for central Assembly Commission funds. I have no doubt that cross-party groups will continue to thrive and provide a useful contribution to the decision-making process in the Assembly. The important thing is that the public will be informed, through the annual statements that groups submit, about any significant levels of support coming from outside interests.

Our final and, as I mentioned right at the beginning, most crucial recommendation is that we maintain a watching brief on these arrangements to ensure that they remain fit for purpose. I have stressed that it is important to continue to review governance arrangements as the devolution process evolves over time. For now, however, we believe that the measures that we are recommending are both proportionate and appropriate, and I commend them to the Assembly.

Mae rheolau tebyg yn bodoli ar gyfer grwpiau mewn deddfwrfeydd eraill, ond rydym wedi gwahodd Comisiwn y Cynulliad i nodi goblygiadau'r rheolau newydd hyn ar gyfer cronfeydd canolog Comisiwn y Cynulliad. Nid oes gennyf unrhyw amheuaeth y bydd y grwpiau trawsbleidiol yn parhau i ffynnu ac yn gwneud cyfraniad defnyddiol at y broses o wneud penderfyniadau yn y Cynulliad. Y peth pwysig yw y bydd y cyhoedd yn cael gwybod, drwy'r datganiadau blyneddol a gyflwynir gan grwpiau, am unrhyw lefelau sylweddol o gefnogaeth a ddaw gan bobl allanol.

Ein hargymhelliad olaf ac, fel y soniais ar y dechrau, yr un pwysigaf yw ein bod yn cadw llygad ar y trefniadau hyn i sicrhau eu bod yn parhau i fod yn addas at y diben. Rwyf wedi pwysleisio ei bod yn bwysig parhau i adolygu trefniadau llywodraethu wrth i'r broses ddatganoli esblygu dros amser. Am y tro, fodd bynnag, rydym yn credu bod y mesurau rydym yn eu argymhell yn gymesur ac yn briodol, ac rwy'n eu cymeradwyo i'r Cynulliad.

16:04

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

As a member of the Standards of Conduct Committee, I consider our report on lobbying cross-party groups to be proportionate and fit for purpose in the context of the Assembly's increased legislative powers. It must be re-emphasised that no complaint against a Member relating to lobbying has been made, so far as the commissioner could ascertain, since the setting up of the National Assembly, that the criminal law already provides for dealing with the improper receipt or giving of gifts or bribes from or to those in public office, and that it was the unanimous view of all consultees that lobbying practices are essentially transparent and adequately policed and regulated here.

Events in Westminster led the UK Government to announce that it is bringing forward legislation to introduce a statutory register of lobbyists before the summer recess as part of a broad package of measures to ensure that the activities of outside organisations that seek to influence the political process are transparent, accountable and properly regulated.

Assembly Standing Orders already specifically prohibit lobbying for reward or consideration, and already provide for the:

'Declaration of any gifts, hospitality, material benefits or advantage'

to the Member, a Member's partner or dependent child, and at a substantially lower level than is the case in the UK and Scottish Parliaments.

Fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad, rwyf o'r farn bod ein hadroddiad ar lobïo grwpiau trawsbleidiol yn gymesur ac yn addas at y diben yng nghyd-destun y cynnydd ym mhwerau deddfwriaethol y Cynulliad. Rhaid imi ail-bwysleisio na wnaed unrhyw gŵyn yn erbyn Aelod mewn perthynas â lobïo, cyn belled ag y gallai'r comisiynydd ganfod, ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, bod y gyfraith droseddol eisoes yn darparu ar gyfer delio â derbyn neu roi rhoddion neu lwgrwobrwyon yn amhriodol gan neu i'r rhai sydd mewn swyddi cyhoeddus, a bod yr holl ymgylgoreion o'r farn bod arferion lobïo yn eu hanfod yn dryloyw ac yn cael eu plismona a'u rheoleiddio yn ddigonol yma.

Yn sgil digwyddiadau yn San Steffan cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth y DU ei fod yn cyflwyno deddfwriaeth i gyflwyno cofrestr statudol o lobïwyr cyn toriad yr haf fel rhan o becyn eang o fesurau i sicrhau bod gweithgareddau sefydliadau allanol sy'n ceisio dylanwadu ar y broses wleidyddol yn dryloyw, yn atebol ac wedi'u rheoli'n briodol.

Mae Rheolau Sefydlog y Cynulliad eisoes yn gwahardd yn benodol lobïo ar gyfer gwobr neu ystyriaeth, ac maent eisoes yn darparu ar gyfer:

Datganiad o unrhyw roddion, lletygarwch, buddion materol neu fantais

i'r Aelod, partner Aelod neu blentyn dibynnol, ac ar lefel sylweddol is nag sy'n wir yn Senedd y DU a Senedd yr Alban.

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The UK Government commenced a consultation process in January 2012 on a proposed statutory register of lobbyists after indicating that it could cover lobbying in the devolved UK Parliaments as well as Westminster. The Assembly's Presiding Officer expressed her view that the Assembly should be responsible for making any decisions on further governance arrangements, and, in May 2012, she asked the Standards of Conduct Committee to consider additional arrangements that might be needed to strengthen the regime relating to Members.

After consulting, our commissioner for standards found that the arrangements currently in place for regulating lobbying of Assembly Members are, essentially, sufficiently robust and fit for purpose. However, he highlighted a number of considerations on which the committee might wish to make recommendations. The actions proposed by the committee, outlined by our Chair, can help to provide reassurance to the Welsh public about levels of openness and transparency and the ability to investigate any future concerns with regard to lobbying. We therefore recommend that the Assembly adopts via resolution the guidance on lobbying and access to Assembly Members annexed to our report.

Public Affairs Cymru, the membership organisation for public affairs professionals in Wales, has developed a voluntary code of conduct that its Members must abide by. As it says,

'the best way to make access to politics truly transparent is to publish external organisations' meetings with elected representatives'.

In its view, elected representatives are best placed to make judgments on what constitutes a meeting with lobbyists, or being lobbied, and should be accountable to voters for that judgment. The committee and the commissioner favour a system that does not impose an unnecessary burden on Assembly Members, and the commissioner himself noted

'the almost impossible task of recording every informal meeting or of having to determine who is a lobbyist'.

I chair five cross-party groups and co-chair a sixth. Properly constituted and managed cross-party groups have a vital role to play in engaging with those who by profession or personal experience have relevant expertise and in holding the Welsh Government to account.

However, mild concerns were expressed in relation to the operation of cross-party groups. Far stronger concerns have been expressed concerning groups in Westminster, and I note that the chair of a cross-party group there felt the need to emphasise to me this week that none of the politicians involved in the group receive any payment and no-one connected to the secretariat holds a parliamentary pass.

Dechreuodd Llywodraeth y DU broses ymgynghori ym mis Ionawr 2012 ar gofrestr statudol arfaethedig o lobiwyr ar ôl nodi y gallai gwmpasu lobio yn Seneddau datganoledig y DU yn ogystal â San Steffan. Mynegodd Llywydd y Cynulliad ei barn y dylai'r Cynulliad fod yn gyfrifol am wneud unrhyw benderfyniadau ar drefniadau llywodraethu pellach, ac, ym mis Mai 2012, gofynnodd i'r Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad ystyried trefniadau ychwanegol a allai fod eu hangen i atgyfnerthu'r drefn sy'n ymwneud ag Aelodau.

Ar ôl ymgynghori, canfu ein comisiynydd ar gyfer safonau fod y trefniadau presennol ar gyfer rheoleiddio lobio Aelodau'r Cynulliad, yn y bôn, yn ddigon cadarn ac yn addas at y diben. Fodd bynnag, tynnodd sylw at nifer o ystyriaethau y gallai'r pwyllgor fod am wneud argymhellion arnynt. Gall y camau gweithredu a gynigir gan y pwyllgor, a amlinellwyd gan ein Cadeirydd, helpu i roi sicrwydd i'r cyhoedd yng Nghymru am lefelau bod yn agored ac yn dryloyw a'r gallu i ymchwilio i unrhyw bryderon yn y dyfodol mewn perthynas â lobio. Felly, argymhellwn fod y Cynulliad yn mabwysiadu, drwy benderfyniad, y canllawiau ar lobio a mynediad i Aelodau'r Cynulliad sy'n atodiad i'n hadroddiad.

Mae Materion Cyhoeddus Cymru, y corff aelodaeth ar gyfer gweithwyr proffesiynol materion cyhoeddus yng Nghymru, wedi datblygu cod ymddygiad gwirfoddol y mae'n rhaid i'w Aelodau gydymffurfio ag ef. Fel y mae'n dweud,

y ffordd orau o sicrhau bod mynediad i wleidyddiaeth yn wirioneddol dryloyw yw cyhoeddi cyfarfodydd sefydliadau allanol gyda chynrychiolwyr etholedig.

Yn ei farn ef, cynrychiolwyr etholedig sydd yn y sefyllfa orau i wneud penderfyniadau am sut y dylid dehongli cyfarfod gyda lobiwyr, neu achos o lobio, a dylai fod yn atebol i bleidleiswyr am y farn honno. Mae'r pwyllgor a'r comisiynydd yn ffafrio system nad yw'n gosod baich diangen ar Aelodau'r Cynulliad, a nododd y comisiynydd ei hun

y dasg amhosibl bron o gofnodi pob cyfarfod anffurfiol neu o orfod penderfynu pwy sy'n lobiwr.

Rwy'n cadeirio pum grŵp trawsbleidiol ac yn cyd-gadeirio un arall. Mae gan grwpiau trawsbleidiol â chyfansoddiad priodol ac a reolir yn briodol rôl hanfodol i'w chwarae wrth ymgysylltu â'r rheini â chanddynt, yn sgil eu galwedigaeth neu brofiad personol, arbenigedd perthnasol ac wrth ddwyn Llywodraeth Cymru i gyfrif.

Fodd bynnag, lleisiwyd mân bryderon mewn perthynas â gweithrediad grwpiau trawsbleidiol. Lleisiwyd pryderon llawer cryfach ynghylch grwpiau yn San Steffan, a nodaf fod cadeirydd grŵp trawsbleidiol yno wedi teimlo'r angen i bwysleisio wrthyf yr wythnos hon nad oes yr un o'r gwleidyddion sy'n rhan o'r grŵp yn cael unrhyw daliad ac nad oes gan neb sy'n gysylltiedig â'r ysgrifenyddiaeth bás seneddol.

The recommendations in our report should be easily accommodated by all effective cross-party groups. I am surprised that some groups do not already publish minutes of all meetings. An annual general meeting can easily be incorporated into a normal meeting and publication of an annual financial statement can only enhance transparency.

As recommendation 6 states:

'it is vital that the venues and resources provided to cross-party groups take account of the Assembly's equality duties'.

Personally, I am thinking of issues such as loop systems and broader disability access. As recommendation 2 states, the First Minister should consider our report's findings in relation to Welsh Government Ministers, where

'the lobbying of Ministers...represents the greatest potential reputational risk to the Assembly going forward'.

This should be addressed in the ministerial code of conduct and records of meetings with Ministers should be made publicly available, as they are for the UK Government.

Dylai'r argymhellion yn ein hadroddiad gael eu mabwysiadu'n hawdd gan bob grŵp trawsbleidiol effeithiol. Synnaf nad yw rhai grwpiau eisoes yn cyhoeddi cofnodion pob cyfarfod. Gellir ymgorffori cyfarfod cyffredinol blynyddol yn hawdd o fewn cyfarfod arferol a bydd cyhoeddi datganiad ariannol blynyddol yn sicr o wella tryloywder.

Fel y noda argymhelliad 6:

mae'n hanfodol bod y lleoliadau a'r adnoddau a ddarperir i grwpiau trawsbleidiol yn ystyried dyletswyddau cydraddoldeb y Cynulliad.

Yn bersonol, rwy'n meddwl am faterion megis systemau dolen a mynediad ehangach i bobl anabl. Fel y noda argymhelliad 2, dylai'r Prif Weinidog ystyried canfyddiadau ein hadroddiad mewn perthynas â Gweinidogion Llywodraeth Cymru, lle

lobio Gweinidogion ... sy'n cynrychioli'r risg fwyaf bosibl i enw da'r Cynulliad yn y dyfodol.

Dylid mynd i'r afael â hyn yn y cod ymddygiad i weinidogion a dylid sicrhau bod cofnodion cyfarfodydd gyda Gweinidogion ar gael i'r cyhoedd, fel y maent ar gael i Lywodraeth y DU.

16:09

Llyr Huws Gruffydd [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Y man cychwyn i mi fel aelod o Bwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad y Cynulliad hwn oedd asesiad y comisiynydd safonau annibynnol sydd gennym, yn dilyn ymgynghoriad cynhwysfawr, fod y trefniadau presennol, fel y mae ef yn ei ddweud, yn eu hanfod yn ddigonol ac yn gadarn ar gyfer y diben. Felly, yn eu hanfod, mae arferion lobio presennol y lle hwn yn dryloyw ac mae rheolau addas yn eu lle i'w plismona. Er enghraifft, mae'r Rheolau Sefydlog eisoes yn darparu ar gyfer cofrestru rhoddion, lletygarwch, buddion materol neu fantais materol. Maent hefyd, fel rydym yn gwybod, yn gwahardd lobio am dâl neu gydnabyddiaeth ac yn darparu ar gyfer gwahardd Aelodau'r Cynulliad sy'n torri'r rheol honno. Ymhellach, mae cyfraith trosedd hefyd yn darparu ar gyfer derbyn neu roi rhoddion amhriodol a llwgrwobrwyo pobl mewn swyddi cyhoeddus. Mae'n werth nodi hefyd nad oes cwyn yn ymwneud â lobio wedi ei gwneud yn erbyn Aelod ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad, hyd y gwyddai'r comisiynydd safonau. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hynny'n rheswm i laesu dwylo.

Mae angen i'n hymateb i ddatblygiadau a digwyddiadau mewn seneddau eraill yn y Deyrnas Unedig fod yn gymesur ac yn seiliedig ar y cyd-destun a'r amgylchiadau fan hyn. Nid yw hynny'n dweud na fydd yr amgylchiadau hynny yn newid gydag amser. Yn amlwg, mae nifer ohonom yn gobeithio gweld rhagor o bwerau yn cael eu datganoli i'r Cynulliad, yn enwedig pwerau cyllidol, ac mae ymrwymiad clir yn yr adroddiad i adolygu'r sefyllfa eto cyn diwedd y pedwerydd Cynulliad.

The starting point for me as a member of the Standards of Conduct Committee of this Assembly was the assessment of the independent standards commissioner, following comprehensive consultation, that the current arrangements are, as he said, sufficiently robust and fit for purpose. Therefore, essentially, the current lobbying practices in this place are transparent and appropriate rules are in place to police them. For example, Standing Orders already provide for the registering of gifts, hospitality, material benefits or advantage. They also, as we know, ban lobbying for reward or consideration and provide for excluding Assembly Members who break those rules. Furthermore, criminal law also covers receiving or offering inappropriate gifts and bribing those in public office. It is also worth noting that no complaint in relation to lobbying has been made against a Member since the establishment of the Assembly, to the knowledge of the standards commissioner. However, that is no reason to rest on our laurels.

Our response to developments and events in other parliaments in the United Kingdom must be proportionate and based on the context and circumstances here. That is not to say that those circumstances will not change over time. Clearly, many of us hope to see more powers devolved to the Assembly, particularly fiscal powers, and there is a clear commitment in the report to review the situation again before the end of the fourth Assembly.

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Fodd bynnag, yn y cyfamser, mae'n deg dweud bod lle i gryfhau ambell agwedd. Bydd y cod ymarfer sy'n ymwneud â lobio a chael mynediad at Aelodau'r Cynulliad, fel sydd wedi ei gynnwys yn yr adroddiad, yn arweiniad a fydd o gymorth ymarferol iawn i bob un ohonom, gobeithio. Fel rydym wedi clywed eisoes, mae canllawiau cryfach ynghylch y grwpiau trawsbleidiol yn gwbl resymol, oherwydd mae'r grwpiau hyn yn cael mynediad i ystâd y Cynulliad, ac rwy'n meddwl ei fod yn gwbl deg disgwyl bod gofynion penodol o safbwynt cofnodion, manylion ariannol ac yn y blaen, fel ryw fath o linell waelod o'r hyn y byddwn yn ei ddisgwyl fel mater o gwrs.

Os oes un gwendid yn nhryloywder y drefn lobio yn y lle hwn, fel sydd eisoes wedi ei grybwyll, yr angen i edrych ar y cod gweinidogol yw hynny, yn enwedig yr angen i gyhoeddi gwybodaeth mewn un lle am y cyfarfodydd sy'n digwydd rhwng Gweinidogion a lobiwyr proffesiynol. Fe dynnwyd sylw'r pwyllgor at y ffaith nad oes gofyn cyhoeddi manylion y cyfarfodydd hyn ar hyn o bryd—sy'n groes i'r arferion mewn lleoedd eraill yn y Deyrnas Unedig—ac at yr angen i gryfhau'r broses o ymchwilio i gwynion yn erbyn Gweinidogion. Ni ddylai hynny fod yn nwylo'r Prif Weinidog a'r Prif Weinidog yn unig, yn fy marn i. Efallai bod hynny, i raddau, y tu hwnt i gylch gorchwyl gwreiddiol y pwyllgor, ond mae'n fater a gododd drosodd a thro ac yn rhywbeth na allwn ei anwybyddu.

Fodd bynnag, mae'r adroddiad yn ymateb cymesur. Mae'n cynyddu lefel tryloywder o safbwynt gweithgarwch lobio yma yn y Cynulliad, ac mae'n tynhau'r rheolau sy'n ymwneud â lobio. Yn ogystal, yn bwysig iawn yn yr hinsawdd sydd ohoni, mae'n cyflawni hynny heb unrhyw fwrn diangen ar y pwr cyhoeddus.

However, in the meantime, it is fair to say that there is scope to strengthen certain aspects. The code of practice on lobbying and access to Assembly Members, as included in the report, will provide guidance and be of practical assistance to each and every one of us, hopefully. As we have heard already, stronger guidelines on cross-party groups are entirely reasonable, because these groups have access to the Assembly estate, and I think it is only right and proper to expect there to be specific requirements in terms of minutes, financial details and so on, as some sort of baseline for what we would expect as a matter of course.

If there is one weakness in the transparency of the lobbying system in this place, as has already been mentioned, it is the need to look at the ministerial code, particularly the need to publish in one place information about meetings between Ministers and professional lobbyists. The committee's attention was drawn to the fact that there is no requirement to publish details of these meetings at the moment—which is contrary to practices elsewhere in the United Kingdom—and to the need to strengthen the process of inquiring into complaints against Ministers. That should not sit with the First Minister and the First Minister alone, in my opinion. Perhaps that is, to an extent, beyond the original remit of the committee, but it is an issue that came up time and again and it is something that we cannot ignore.

However, the report is a commensurate response. It increases transparency in relation to lobbying activity here in the Assembly, and it tightens up the rules relating to lobbying. Also, very importantly in the current climate, it achieves that without any unnecessary burden on the public purse.

16:13 **Kirsty Williams** [Bywgraffiad Biography](#)

I thank the chair, Mick Antoniw, for opening the debate this afternoon, for his leadership on these issues and his chairing of the committee. I also thank the commissioner for standards for his assistance and guidance in the completion of this report. The Welsh Liberal Democrat group supports the findings of the report and the principles of openness and transparency that run through it. The report acknowledges, and seeks to build upon, the great effort made by all Members in this National Assembly for Wales to make this institution as accessible as possible, to be an institution that actively seeks the views of constituents and organisations that work within Wales and to try to use that information and knowledge to make our policies and legislation the best they can be. Also, the report reminds us that we have to guard against any perception that any of us are under any undue influence. It is good to look proactively at these issues and the appropriateness of our rules and guidance before reacting in blind panic to a scandal—as we often see happening at Westminster. It is a credit to the Assembly that we constantly look at these rules and keep them under review to try to avoid that situation. I hope that our proactive approach here will be mirrored by the Westminster Government and that we will see some movement, at a Westminster level, on these issues.

Diolch i'r cadeirydd, Mick Antoniw, am agor y ddadl y prynhawn yma, am ei arweiniad ar y materion hyn ac am gadeirio'r pwyllgor. Diolch hefyd i'r comisiynydd safonau am ei gymorth ac arweiniad wrth gwblhau'r adroddiad hwn. Mae grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn cefnogi canfyddiadau'r adroddiad a'r egwyddorion o ran bod yn agored a thryloyw sy'n rhedeg drwyddo. Mae'r adroddiad yn cydnabod yr ymdrech fawr a wnaed gan yr holl Aelodau yn y Cynulliad hwn i wneud y sefydliad hwn mor hygyrch ag y bo modd, i fod yn sefydliad sy'n mynd ati i geisio barn etholwyr a sefydliadau sy'n gweithio yng Nghymru ac i geisio defnyddio'r wybodaeth honno i sicrhau bod gennym y polisiau a'r ddeddfwriaeth gorau posibl. Hefyd, mae'r adroddiad yn ein hatgoffa bod yn rhaid inni warchod yn erbyn unrhyw ganfyddiad bod unrhyw un ohonom yn cael ein dylanwadu'n ormodol. Mae'n dda edrych yn rhagweithiol ar y materion hyn a phriodoldeb ein rheolau a'n canllawiau cyn ymateb mewn panig llwyr i sgandal—fel y gwelwn yn digwydd yn San Steffan yn aml. Mae'n glod i'r Cynulliad ein bod yn edrych yn gyson ar y rheolau hyn ac yn eu hadolygu'n rheolaidd er mwyn ceisio osgoi'r sefyllfa honno. Gobeithio y bydd ein dull rhagweithiol yma yn cael ei adlewyrchu gan y Llywodraeth yn San Steffan ac y byddwn yn gweld rhywfaint o symudiad, ar lefel San Steffan, ar y materion hyn.

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The new guidance and advice on the recording of meetings by Assembly Members with lobbyists is one that I support, and I do not believe that it will be too onerous on individual Members. I am sure that the vast majority of Members already keep detailed diaries and notes of such meetings and it should not, as we have said, incur a cost to the public purse. However, I would like to refer to paragraphs 45, 46 and 47 with regard to the ministerial code. Paragraph 45 says that Ministers, rather than individual AMs, represent the greatest potential reputational risk. I think that is being a little harsh, to be honest, on Ministers. Obviously, they have the greatest levels of power and levers available to them, but in an institution that is finely politically balanced, there are other political parties, individual Members and party groupings that can have an influence. For instance, on budget-setting proposals and on legislation. It is incumbent upon all of us to work for a level playing field, both at the ministerial level and Assembly level.

I hope that the First Minister will take the opportunity today to respond to paragraphs 46 and 47 and state whether it is his intention to publish details of meetings that Ministers have with lobbyists, as they do at a UK level. I hope that he will also reflect on his stance to date on the appropriateness of the First Minister being the person who polices the ministerial code. The 2009 Measure, which established Wales's commissioner for standards, specifically precluded that commissioner from taking a role on the ministerial code. However, the report draws the First Minister's attention to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's latest report, 'Standards Matter', which calls for the independent regulation of these mechanisms. I asked the First Minister about it during questions to the First Minister yesterday and he promised that, today, he would be in a position to respond to that question, and I look forward to hearing from him.

As I said, there is nothing to suggest that the way in which these matters have been dealt with before has been inappropriate, nor would I suggest that there is a particular issue that we need to look at with regard to the individual behaviour of Ministers. However, I am sure that the First Minister would agree that, for the sake of the principles of openness and transparency, the ability of the First Minister to refer these matters to an independent person would be of assistance to him and would be of assistance to ministerial colleagues who, once cleared by such a commissioner, would be able to claim that their cases had been looked into by an independent person. I do not think that we have anything to fear from it, but much to gain.

Mae'r canllawiau newydd a'r cyngor ar gofnodi cyfarfodydd gan Aelodau'r Cynulliad gyda lobiwyr yn un rwyf yn ei gefnogi, ac ni chredaf y bydd yn rhy feichus ar Aelodau unigol. Rwy'n siŵr bod y mwyafrif helaeth o Aelodau eisoes yn cadw dyddiaduron a nodiadau manwl o gyfarfodydd o'r fath, ac fel y nodwyd gennym, ni ddylai olygu cost i'r pwrs cyhoeddus. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn gyfeirio at baragraffau 45, 46 a 47 o ran y cod gweinidogol. Noda paragraff 45 mai Gweinidogion, yn hytrach nag Aelodau Cynulliad unigol, sy'n creu'r risg fwyaf bosibl i enw da. Credaf fod hynny'n rhy llym ar Weinidogion, a dweud y gwir. Yn amlwg, mae'r lefelau uchaf o bŵer a dylanwad ar gael iddynt, ond mewn sefydliad lle ceir cydbwysedd gwleidyddol, ceir pleidiau gwleidyddol eraill, Aelodau unigol a grwpiau plaid a all gael dylanwad. Er enghraifft, ar gynigion ynghylch pennu cyllidebau ac ar ddeddfwriaeth. Mae'n ddyletswydd ar bob un ohonom i weithio er mwyn sicrhau tegwch, ar lefel weinidogol a lefel y Cynulliad.

Gobeithio y bydd y Prif Weinidog yn manteisio ar y cyfle heddiw i ymateb i baragraffau 46 a 47 a datgan a yw'n bwriadu cyhoeddi manylion cyfarfodydd a gaiff Gweinidogion gyda lobiwyr, fel y gwneir ar lefel y DU. Gobeithio y bydd hefyd yn myfyrio ar ei safiad hyd yma ar briodoldeb y ffaith mai'r Prif Weinidog sy'n plismona'r cod gweinidogol. Mae Mesur 2009, a sefydlodd gomisiynydd safonau Cymru, yn rhwystro'r comisiynydd hwnnw yn benodol rhag cymryd rôl ar y cod gweinidogol. Fodd bynnag, mae'r adroddiad yn tynnu sylw'r Prif Weinidog at adroddiad diweddaraf y Pwyllgor Safonau mewn Bywyd Cyhoeddus, sef 'Standards Matter', sy'n galw am reoleiddio'r dulliau hyn yn annibynnol. Holais y Prif Weinidog am hynny yn ystod y cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog ddoe ac addawodd y byddai heddiw mewn sefyllfa i ymateb i'r cwestiwn hwnnw, ac edrychaf ymlaen at glywed ganddo.

Fel y dywedais, nid oes dim i awgrymu bod y ffordd yr ymdrinnwyd â'r materion hyn yn amhriodol, ac ni fyddwn yn awgrymu bod mater penodol y mae angen inni edrych arno o ran ymddygiad Gweinidogion unigol. Fodd bynnag, rwy'n siŵr y byddai'r Prif Weinidog yn cytuno, er mwyn egwyddorion bod yn agored ac yn dryloyw, y byddai sicrhau y gall y Prif Weinidog gyfeirio'r materion hyn i unigolyn annibynnol o gymorth iddo ef ac o gymorth i gyd-Aelodau a fyddai, wedi iddynt gael eu clirio gan gomisiynydd o'r fath, yn gallu honni bod unigolyn annibynnol wedi edrych ar eu hachos. Nid wyf yn meddwl bod gennym unrhyw beth i'w ofni mewn cysylltiad â hyn, ond mae gennym lawer i'w ennill.

16:18

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

I call on Rhodri Glyn Thomas to speak on behalf of the Assembly Commission.

Galwaf ar Rhodri Glyn Thomas i siarad ar ran Comisiwn y Cynulliad.

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Hoffwn ddweud, yn y lle cyntaf, ein bod yn werthfawrogl iawn o'r gwaith sydd wedi cael ei wneud gan y Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad dan gadeiryddiaeth Mick Antoniw a gan y comisiynydd safonau. Rydym yn gwerthfawrogi'r adroddiad hwn yn fawr iawn ac yn derbyn canfyddiadau ac argymhellion yr adroddiad. Dylem ddweud, ac ymhyfrydu yn y ffaith, nad yw'r sefydliad hwn erioed wedi cael ei hun yn brin o'r safonau hyn. Yn 2012, bu i'r Llywydd ofyn i'r Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad edrych ar lobio a'r grwpiau trawsbleidiol, ac nid oes un achos wedi dod ger eich bron o unrhyw un sydd wedi tramgwyddo yn y mater hwn. Mae'n drosedd yn y lle hwn os oes unrhyw Aelod yn cael unrhyw fath o fantais neu fudd o ganlyniad i lobio neu o fod yn rhan o grŵp trawsbleidiol. Felly, dylem longyfarch y sefydliad hwn ar yr ymddygiad yn y fan hon ers y 14 mlynedd diwethaf. Yn anffodus, rydym wedi cael ein cosbi oherwydd pethau sydd wedi digwydd mewn sefydliadau eraill, ac mae cysgod wedi ei fwrw dros y sefydliad hwn oherwydd ymddygiad Aelodau mewn sefydliadau eraill. Fodd bynnag, mae Aelodau yn y lle hwn wedi cyflawni eu tasgau mewn ffordd gwbl dryloyw a derbyniol.

Os oes pobl wedi cael eu cosbi o dan y drefn safonau yn y fan hon, dylai Aelodau gydymdeimlo, oherwydd rwy'n credu bod Aelodau unigol yn cael eu cosbi'n llym iawn ac yn dioddef yn bersonol oherwydd ein bod yn ceisio sicrhau integriti'r sefydliad hwn. O ganlyniad i hynny, mae Aelodau unigol sy'n cael eu dal mewn sefyllfaoedd anffodus yn dioddef. Ein cyfrifoldeb fel cyd-Aelodau yn y sefydliad hwn, er ein bod yn gweld yr angen i ddiogelu integriti'r sefydliad, yw cydymdeimlo ag Aelodau sy'n cael eu dal mewn sefyllfaoedd felly.

Ar ran y Comisiwn, hoffwn ddiolch yn fawr i'r pwyllgor a'r Cadeirydd am eu gwaith. Mae bod yn agored a thryloyw yn ystyriaethau eithriadol o bwysig i ni fel Aelodau, i enw da'r Cynulliad, ac o ran meithrin ymddiriedaeth y cyhoedd yng Nghymru. Ni allwn fyth fod yn hunanfodlon ynglŷn â hyn, ac mae'n bwysig ein bod yn meithrin hyder y cyhoedd yn y trefniadau sydd gennym i reoli'r materion hyn. Mae Comisiwn y Cynulliad yn falch o nodi canfyddiadau'r adroddiad hwn, ac yn derbyn yr holl argymhellion sy'n berthnasol i'r Cynulliad.

Nid wyf yn siŵr a ddylwn ddweud hyn, ond yn bersonol rwy'n cytuno gyda Kirsty Williams y dylai bod dyfarniad annibynnol ar god gweinidogol y lle hwn. Nid wyf yn credu ei bod yn dderbyniol fod y penderfyniad hwnnw yn cael ei wneud gan y Prif Weinidog, ond rwy'n nodi mai fy marn i yw hynny, ac nid barn y Comisiwn o reidrwydd.

Gan fod y trefniadau presennol wedi cael eu hadolygu'n drwyadl, credwn fod y cynigion sydd ger ein bron heddiw yn cryfhau ymhellach ein trefniadau o ran lobio, a'r ffordd y mae grwpiau trawsbleidiol yn gweithredu. Gobeithio, felly, y bydd pob plaid yn cefnogi'r cynnig sydd ger ein bron heddiw.

I would like to say, first of all, that we are very appreciative of the work that has been done by the Standards of Conduct Committee under the chairmanship of Mick Antoniw and the commissioner for standards. We appreciate this report very much and accept its findings and recommendations. We should say, and delight in the fact, that this institution has never found itself falling foul of these standards. In 2012, the Presiding Officer asked the Standards of Conduct Committee to look at lobbying and the cross-party groups and no cases were brought before you of anyone having breached the rules in this matter. It is an offence in this place for any Member to receive any kind of advantage or benefit as a result of lobbying or being part of a cross-party group. Therefore, we should congratulate this institution on the behaviour that has been seen in this place over the last 14 years. Unfortunately, we have been punished as a result of things that have happened in other institutions, and a shadow has been cast over this institution because of the behaviour of Members in those other institutions. However, Members in this place have fulfilled their tasks in an entirely transparent and acceptable manner.

If there are people who have been punished under the standards procedure here, Members should sympathise, because I believe that individual Members are punished very severely and suffer personally because of our efforts to safeguard the integrity of this institution. As a result, individual Members who are caught up in unfortunate situations do suffer. It is our responsibility as fellow Members in this institution, even though we see the need to safeguard the integrity of the institution, to sympathise with Members who are caught in such situations.

On behalf of the Commission, I would very much like to thank the committee and the Chair for their work. Openness and transparency are extremely important for us as Members, for the reputation of the Assembly, and in terms of maintaining the confidence of the Welsh public. We can never be complacent about this, and it is important that we maintain that public confidence in the arrangements that we put in place to regulate these matters. The Assembly Commission is pleased to note the findings of this report, and accepts all the recommendations relating to the Assembly.

I am not sure whether I should say this, but on a personal level, I agree with Kirsty Williams that there should be an independent judgment on the ministerial code of this place. I do not think that it is acceptable that that decision is made by the First Minister, but I note that that is my personal opinion, not the opinion of the Commission necessarily.

Given that the existing arrangements have been thoroughly reviewed, we believe that the proposals before us today serve to further strengthen our arrangements on both lobbying and the operation of cross-party groups. We hope, therefore, that all parties will support the motion before us today.

I will deal with the two points raised by Members. The first point is over the lobbying of Welsh Ministers. References have been made to professional lobbyists. It is not clear what a professional lobbyist is. In its widest interpretation, a professional lobbyist is someone who advocates a particular cause of any kind. That would draw in not just those who represent third parties, but also those who work for charities, professional organisations and those whose job it is to look to influence policy and who are working full-time for those organisations. I am not sure that that is the thrust of what the Commission's report is meant to be, but I will deal with the issue of Ministers meeting commercial lobbyists who offer their services to third parties.

It is not the policy of Welsh Government Ministers to meet with such lobbyists. It is true that Ministers will meet with charities and professional organisations from time to time when those meetings are requested—I do not think that Ministers can be criticised for doing that. However, it is not the case that those who are 'commercial lobbyists' are granted meetings; that is not our policy. So, I can put Members' minds at rest with regard to that.

All meetings are minuted in any event. Any meeting that I have with any organisation will be minuted by a member of my staff, and such minutes are usually available unless they contain information that is exempt, such as commercially confidential information. So, I can give Members that reassurance on the issue of lobbying.

More generally with regard to lobbying, it is my firm view that any issues regarding a register of lobbyists or control of lobbying activities should be vested entirely in this place and not decided in London. It is part of the same argument, in my view, that says that the electoral arrangements and the organisational arrangements of the Chamber and of this institution should rest here and not elsewhere. So, we could not be supportive, certainly at the moment, of any system that would involve Wales being swept up in changes that have happened because of events elsewhere.

I thank those behind the report for the report and I think that we have a good story to tell in Wales. That is not a recipe for complacency in the future, and I accept that. By and large, we avoided the difficulties that happened at Westminster over the expenses claims made by Members there, largely because of the work of the previous Presiding Officer in ensuring that there was greater transparency with regard to expenses claims. I think that we should be careful not to be too hair-shirted in the way that we are seen by members of the public and by ourselves, although it is important to have reports such as this in order to make sure that there is no room for complacency.

Byddaf yn ymdrin â'r ddau bwynt a godwyd gan yr Aelodau. Mae'r pwynt cyntaf yn ymwneud â lobio Gweinidogion Cymru. Cyfeiriwyd at lobiwyr proffesiynol. Nid yw'n glir beth yw lobiwr proffesiynol. Yn ei ddehongliad ehangaf, mae lobiwr proffesiynol yn rhywun sy'n dadlau o blaid achos penodol o unrhyw fath. Byddai hynny'n cwmparu, nid yn unig y rhai sy'n cynrychioli trydydd partion, ond hefyd y rhai sy'n gweithio ar gyfer elusennau, sefydliadau proffesiynol a'r rhai sy'n gyfrifol am geisio dylanwadu ar bolisiau ac sy'n gweithio'n llawn amser ar gyfer y sefydliadau hynny. Nid wyf yn siŵr mai dyna yw byrdwn yr hyn y dylai adroddiad y Comisiwn fod, ond byddaf yn ymdrin â Gweinidogion sy'n cwrdd â lobiwyr masnachol sy'n cynnig eu gwasanaethau i drydydd partion.

Nid yw'n bolisi gan Weinidogion Llywodraeth Cymru i gyfarfod â lobiwyr o'r fath. Mae'n wir y bydd Gweinidogion yn cwrdd ag elusennau a sefydliadau proffesiynol o bryd i'w gilydd pan wneir cais am y cyfarfodydd hynny—nid wyf yn meddwl y gellir beirniadu Gweinidogion am wneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n wir y gwarentir cyfarfodydd i'r rheini sy'n lobiwyr masnachol, nid dyna yw ein polisi. Felly, gallaf dawelu meddyliau Aelodau mewn perthynas â hynny.

Mae pob cyfarfod yn cael ei gofnodi beth bynnag. Bydd unrhyw gyfarfod a gaf gydag unrhyw sefydliad yn cael ei gofnodi gan aelod o'm staff, ac fel arfer bydd cofnodion o'r fath ar gael oni bai eu bod yn cynnwys gwybodaeth sy'n eithriadig, fel gwybodaeth sy'n fasnachol gyfrinachol. Felly, gallaf roi'r sicrwydd hwnnw ar lobio i Aelodau.

Yn fwy cyffredinol o ran lobio, credaf yn gryf y dylai unrhyw faterion sy'n ymwneud â chofrestr o lobiwyr neu reoli gweithgareddau lobio gael eu breinio yma'n gyfan gwbl yn hytrach na chael eu penderfynu yn Llundain. Mae'n rhan o'r un ddadl, yn fy marn i, sy'n nodi y dylai trefniadau etholiadol a threfniadau sefydliadol y Siambr a'r sefydliad hwn orffwys yma ac nid yn rhywle arall. Felly, ni allem fod yn gefnogol, yn sicr ar hyn o bryd, o unrhyw system a fyddai'n golygu bod Cymru'n cael ei chynnwys mewn newidiadau a ddaeth yn sgil digwyddiadau mewn manau eraill.

Diolch i'r rheini y tu ôl i'r adroddiad ar gyfer yr adroddiad a chredaf fod gennym stori dda i'w hadrodd yng Nghymru. Nid yw hynny'n rheswm i fod yn hunanfodlon yn y dyfodol, a derbynïaf hynny. Ar y cyfan, gwnaethom osgoi'r anawsterau a ddigwyddodd yn San Steffan dros y ceisiadau am dreulïau a wnaed gan yr Aelodau yno, yn bennaf oherwydd gwaith y Llywydd blaenorol i sicrhau bod mwy o dryloywder o ran ceisiadau am dreulïau. Credaf y dylem fod yn ofalus i beidio â bod yn rhy hunanaberthol yn y ffordd y cawn ein gweld gan aelodau o'r cyhoedd a gennym ein hunain, er ei bod yn bwysig cael adroddiadau fel hyn er mwyn gwneud yn siŵr nad oes lle i fod yn hunanfodlon.

I will now deal with the issue of the ministerial code. It is true to say that the Prime Minister has an independent adviser, but in reality, the role of the independent adviser is pretty ineffective. The independent adviser has no powers over who the Prime Minister appoints to his Cabinet and the independent adviser cannot intervene or investigate unless asked to do so by the Prime Minister himself. There have been two occasions when the Prime Minister has been asked to refer Ministers to his independent adviser. That was done in the case of Liam Fox and his relationship to Adam Werritty, but the Prime Minister refused to make that referral. The same thing happened when there were demands for a referral to the adviser on the matter of Jeremy Hunt and his relationship with BSkyB. Once again, the Prime Minister refused to make that referral. So, the system that has been put in place in Westminster is, to my mind, fairly useless, because it has not led to anything happening in terms of greater transparency as far as Ministers are concerned.

I could not support any system that would lead to somebody independent being able, in effect, to decide who sits in the Cabinet. Members would expect me to say that. However, I would go further than that. I would argue that putting in place an independent adviser may actually make things less transparent. Why do I say that? First, if an independent adviser was put in place and a decision was taken not to refer a Minister to that independent adviser, the matter is closed and no further advice is taken. At the moment, if there is a complaint made under the ministerial code, I will ask a senior civil servant to investigate that complaint. Upon receipt of that investigation, I then make a decision. So, no decision is made without there being a full investigation and no decision is made by me without seeking the advice of an independent person, namely that civil servant. That would be lost, of course, if there were to be an independent adviser, and if there were to be a system where I could refer to an independent adviser, I may decide not to do that.

The second question I pose is this: is there a need to change the current system? It has been acknowledged in the Chamber that there has not been an occasion in the past 14 years where a complaint has not been dealt with properly or has been disposed of inappropriately. In fact, there have been five complaints under the ministerial code in the past 13 years. So, I would ask what the need is for an independent system. Why create another level—perhaps ‘bureaucracy’ is too strong a word to use in this context—of accountability, using pretty much a sledgehammer to crack a nut. Members will be aware that, as First Minister, I appoint my Cabinet Ministers. I am responsible for ensuring that they keep to the ministerial code. I am, in turn, responsible to the Assembly and to the people of Wales in the way that that ministerial code is interpreted and for my decisions under that ministerial code. I think that that is the right system, I think that it is a system that has served us well for the past 14 years and I do not see the need for change.

Ymdrinniaf yn awr â mater y cod gweinidogol. Mae'n wir dweud bod y Prif Weinidog yn gynghorydd annibynnol, ond mewn gwirionedd, mae rôl y cynghorydd annibynnol yn eithaf aneffeithiol. Nid oes gan y cynghorydd annibynnol unrhyw bwerau dros bwy y mae'r Prif Weinidog yn ei benodi i'w Cabinet ac ni all y cynghorydd annibynnol ymyrryd nac ymchwilio oni bai bod y Prif Weinidog ei hun yn gofyn iddo wneud hynny. Bu dau achlysur pan ofynnwyd i'r Prif Weinidog atgyfeirio Gweinidogion at ei gynghorydd annibynnol. Gwnaed hynny yn achos Liam Fox a'i berthynas ag Adam Werritty, ond gwrthododd y Prif Weinidog wneud yr atgyfeiriad hwnnw. Digwyddodd yr un peth pan alwyd am atgyfeirio at y cynghorydd mewn perthynas â Jeremy Hunt a'i berthynas â BSkyB. Unwaith eto, gwrthododd y Prif Weinidog wneud yr atgyfeiriad. Felly, yn fy marn i, mae'r system a roddwyd ar waith yn San Steffan yn eithaf diwerth, oherwydd nid yw wedi golygu mwy o dryloywder mewn perthynas â Gweinidogion.

Ni allwn gefnogi unrhyw system a fyddai'n golygu y gallai rhywun annibynnol i bob pwrpas benderfynu pwy sy'n eistedd yn y Cabinet. Byddai'r Aelodau yn disgwyl imi ddweud hynny. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn mynd ymhellach na hynny. Byddwn yn dadlau y gallai sefydlu cynghorydd annibynnol wneud pethau'n llai tryloyw mewn gwirionedd. Pam y dywedaf hynny? Yn gyntaf, pe byddai cynghorydd annibynnol yn cael ei sefydlu a phe gwneid penderfyniad i beidio ag atgyfeirio Gweinidog i'r cynghorydd annibynnol hwnnw, byddai'r mater yn cau ac ni chymerid unrhyw gyngor pellach. Ar hyn o bryd, os gwneir cwyn o dan y cod gweinidogol, byddaf yn gofyn i uwch was sifil ymchwilio i'r gwyn honno. Ar ôl cael yr ymchwiliad hwnnw, byddaf wedyn yn gwneud penderfyniad. Felly, ni wneir penderfyniad heb gynnal ymchwiliad llawn ac ni fyddaf i'n gwneud unrhyw benderfyniad heb geisio cyngor gan unigolyn annibynnol, sef y gwas sifil hwnnw. Byddai hynny'n cael ei golli, wrth gwrs, pe byddai gennym gynghorydd annibynnol, ac os byddai system lle gallwn atgyfeirio at cynghorydd annibynnol, mai'n bosibl y byddwn yn penderfynu peidio â gwneud hynny.

Yr ail gwestiwn a ofynnaf yw hwn: a oes angen newid y system bresennol? Cafodd ei gydnabod yn y Siambr na fu achlysur yn ystod y 14 mlynedd diwethaf lle nad ymdrinnwyd â chwyn yn briodol lle y gwaredwyd cwyn yn amhriodol. Yn wir, bu pum cwyn o dan y cod gweinidogol yn y 13 mlynedd diwethaf. Felly, byddwn yn gofyn pam bod angen system annibynnol. Pam creu lefel arall—efallai bod biwrocratiaeth yn air rhy gryf i'w ddefnyddio yn y cyddestun hwn—o atebolrwydd, sydd bron fel defnyddio gordd i dorri cneuen. Bydd yr Aelodau yn ymwybodol mai fi, fel Prif Weinidog, sy'n penodi Gweinidogion fy Nghabinet. Fi sy'n gyfrifol am sicrhau eu bod yn cadw at y cod gweinidogol. Rwyf innau, yn fy nhro, yn atebol i'r Cynulliad ac i bobl Cymru yn y modd y caiff y cod gweinidogol hwnnw ei ddehongli ac am fy mhenderfyniadau o dan y cod gweinidogol hwnnw. Dyna'r system gywir yn fy marn i, a chredaf ei bod yn system sydd wedi ein gwasanaethu'n dda dros y 14 mlynedd diwethaf ac ni welaf fod angen ei newid.

First, I thank all the committee Members for the work that they have put into this, the commissioner for standards, fellow Assembly Members and Members of the Public Accounts Committee, who also contributed. May I also say that what has struck me very much in terms of the work that has been carried out is that there was one sole unifying purpose, namely to ensure transparency and the highest standards in the Assembly? As representatives of the people of Wales, it seems to me that that has been a point that underlined everything that we have done and considered.

A number of important points were made, and one is that we should not forget that, in addition to this code, there is the criminal law, and that no matter how robust and transparent a code you have, as the recent Westminster examples have shown, if there are those who will engage in what might appear to be corrupt practices, there is the criminal law ultimately to fall back on. There is a limit to all regulations and codes and what they can achieve.

I very much take on board the points that Kirsty made about the changing environment. That is why, whereas we consider the code and the recommendations that we have made appropriate at the current time, there may well be circumstances that we need to keep under review as devolution changes in Wales and as the powers and responsibilities of this place change.

In respect of the ministerial code issue that has been raised, we make a recommendation for there to be a review on that matter. We accept that it is a matter that lies in the hands of the First Minister, but I believe that it was perfectly correct and appropriate to make reference specifically to the Committee on Standards in Public Life in this report. We have relied on that in respect of the conclusions and recommendations that we have ultimately come to.

Overall, I believe that there has been a constructive engagement with the committee and the commissioner at all stages of this inquiry. The resulting report demonstrates the shared desire of everyone here to give the people of Wales confidence in the integrity of the Assembly and in its openness and accessibility, which I believe is justified.

Yn gyntaf, hoffwn ddiolch i holl Aelodau'r pwyllgor am y gwaith y maent wedi'i wneud mewn perthynas â hyn, y comisiynydd safonau, cyd-Aelodau Cynulliad ac Aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus, sydd hefyd wedi cyfrannu. Hoffwn hefyd ddweud mai'r hyn sydd wedi fy nharo o ran y gwaith a wnaed yw bod un diben unol iddo, sef sicrhau tryloywder a'r safonau uchaf yn y Cynulliad. Fel cynrychiolwyr pobl Cymru, mae'n ymddangos imi bod hynny wedi bod yn sail i bopeth rydym wedi'i wneud a'i ystyried.

Gwnaed nifer o bwyntiau pwysig, yn cynnwys na ddylem anghofio, yn ogystal â'r cod hwn, bod cyfraith droseddol, ac ni waeth pa mor gadarn a thryloyw yw'r cod sydd gennych, fel y dangosodd yr enghreifftiau diweddar yn San Steffan, os oes rhai a fydd yn ymgymryd â'r hyn a allai ymddangos yn arferion llwgr, y gellir dibynnu ar gyfraith droseddol yn y pen draw. Mae terfyn i'r holl reoliadau a chodau a'r hyn y gallant ei gyflawni.

Derbyniad y pwyntiau a wnaeth Kirsty am yr amgylchedd sy'n newid. Dyna pam, er ein bod yn ystyried bod y cod a'r argymhellion a wnaed gennym yn briodol ar hyn o bryd, mae'n bosibl bod amgylchiadau y mae angen inni eu hadolygu'n barhaus wrth i ddatganoli newid yng Nghymru ac wrth i bwerau a chyfrifoldebau'r lle hwn newid.

O ran y mater a godwyd mewn perthynas â'r cod gweinidogol, argymhellwn y dylid cynnal adolygiad ar y mater hwnnw. Derbyniwn mai mater i'r Prif Weinidog ydyw, ond credaf ei fod yn berffaith gywir ac yn briodol cyfeirio'n benodol at y Pwyllgor Safonau mewn Bywyd Cyhoeddus yn yr adroddiad hwn. Rydym wedi dibynnu ar hynny o ran y casgliadau a'r argymhellion y daethpwyd iddynt yn y pen draw.

Ar y cyfan, credaf yr ymgysylltwyd mewn modd adeiladol gyda'r pwyllgor a'r comisiynydd ar bob cam o'r ymchwiliad hwn. Mae'r adroddiad dilynol yn dangos yr awydd a rennir gan bawb yma i roi hyder i bobl Cymru yn uniondeb y Cynulliad ac yn ei natur agored a'i hygyrchedd, a chredaf y gellir cyfiawnhau hynny.

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

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Y cwestiwn yw ein bod yn cytuno ar y cynnig. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf nad oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad. Felly, datganaf y caiff y cynnig ei dderbyn yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 12.36.

Motion agreed.

Pwynt o Drefn

Andrew R.T. Davies [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I would be grateful if you could give an interpretation. I always thought that it was customary that the responding Minister from the Government stayed until the conclusion of a debate, so that they could take in all the points. I note that the First Minister left early from the debate, which is surely against Standing Orders. It would have been customary and courteous of the First Minister to remain in the Chamber.

Point of Order

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Byddwn yn ddiolchgar os gallech roi dehongliad. Roeddwn o'r farn ei bod yn arferol i'r Gweinidog sy'n ymateb o'r Llywodraeth aros hyd nes y cwblheir dadl, fel y gall glywed yr holl bwyntiau. Nodaf i'r Prif Weinidog adael yn gynnar o'r ddadl, sydd yn erbyn y Rheolau Sefydlog does bosibl. Byddai wedi bod yn briodol a chwrtais i'r Prif Weinidog aros yn y Siambr.

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

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It is not against Standing Orders, as far as I know. The convention is that when Members take part in a debate, they stay until the end, unless there is an overwhelming reason not to and we are informed of it. We expect that courtesy to be extended to us by all Members, including members of the Government, over whom the chair has somewhat less flexibility in calling than over any other Members in general, and I am sure that that will be noted by the Chief Whip and the other Ministers who are here.

Nid yw yn erbyn Rheolau Sefydlog, hyd y gwn i. Y confensiwn yw pan fydd Aelodau'n cymryd rhan mewn dadl, eu bod yn aros tan y diwedd, oni bai bod rheswm llethol dros beidio â gwneud hynny a'n bod yn cael gwybod amdano. Rydym yn disgwyl y cwrtaisi hwnnw gan bob Aelod, gan gynnwys aelodau'r Llywodraeth, y mae gan y cadeirydd ychydig yn llai o hyblygrwydd drostynt wrth alw o gymharu ag unrhyw Aelodau eraill yn gyffredinol, ac rwy'n siŵr y caiff hynny ei nodi gan y Prif Chwip a'r Gweinidogion eraill sydd yma.

Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig: Strydoedd Mawr Cymru

Detholwyd y gwelliannau canlynol: gwelliannau 1, 2, 3 a 5 yn enw Aled Roberts, a gwelliannau 4, 6 a 7 yn enw Elin Jones.

Cynnig NDM5276 William Graham

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. Yn credu bod angen cymorth brys ar fusnesau bach ledled Cymru ac yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i amlinellu ei chynigion am ymgyrch stryd fawr cyn toriad yr haf;
2. Yn gresynu mai'r gyfradd siopau gwag ar y stryd fawr yng Nghymru yw'r uchaf ar dir mawr Prydain;
3. Yn cydnabod y cynnydd mewn benthyca gan Gyllid Cymru. Fodd bynnag, yn credu bod angen dull mwy lleol o ran cael gafael ar gyllid, ac felly'n galw ar Weinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth i weithio gyda Chyllid Cymru i asesu a yw'r pecyn ariannol a gynigir i fusnesau yn gystadleuol yn y tymor hir;
4. Yn nodi'r cynigion a amlinellwyd yn nogfennau Ceidwadwyr Cymru 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street' ac 'Invest Wales' a'u cefnogaeth i fusnesau bach ledled Cymru; a
5. Yn nodi ymhellach bwysigrwydd seilwaith trafndiaeth i gynorthwyo'r economi genedlaethol a lleol.

Welsh Conservatives Debate: Welsh High Streets

The following amendments have been selected: amendments 1, 2, 3 and 5 in the name of Aled Roberts, and amendments 4, 6 and 7 in the name of Elin Jones.

Motion NDM5276 William Graham

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Believes that small businesses throughout Wales need urgent support and calls on the Welsh Government to outline their proposals for a high street campaign before the summer recess;
2. Regrets that the high street shop vacancy rate in Wales is the highest in mainland Britain;
3. Acknowledges the increase in lending from Finance Wales, however, believes a more localised approach in accessing finance is necessary, and therefore calls on the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport to work with Finance Wales to assess if the financial package offered to businesses is competitive in the long term;
4. Notes the proposals outlined in the Welsh Conservative documents 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street' and 'Invest Wales' and their support for small businesses throughout Wales; and
5. Further notes the importance of transport infrastructure to supporting the national and local economy.

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

I move the motion.

Cynigiau y cynnig.

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I am pleased to bring forward a debate on support for small businesses and our high streets. At the heart of this debate is the Welsh Conservatives' absolute desire to support small and medium-sized enterprises and to stimulate the local economy. It will not surprise Members that this is a matter that we, on this side of the Chamber, have been focusing on for some time, as demonstrated in our policy documents 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street' and 'Invest Wales', which we launched in the last 12 months. We believe that support for SMEs and the regeneration of our high streets must be a top priority, and we have, therefore, developed these two policies based on evidence. Our plans are ambitious proposals for high street regeneration and for access to finance in Wales. I believe that our proposals could be introduced today and have a meaningful impact on the local economy and national economy of Wales.

As we are all aware, high street shop vacancy rates are still among the highest in mainland Britain, with the latest data from the British Retail Consortium showing that the shop vacancy rate in Wales increased to 17.9% from 17% in January 2013. Unfortunately, this is the highest figure since the survey began in July 2011. A recent Federation of Small Businesses and Cardiff University Business School report concluded that small businesses are potentially being overlooked by the Welsh Government's economic strategy. The report found that the vast majority of SMEs are unaware that their firm fits into a priority sector, and that there is significant evidence to suggest that the needs of small firms are considerably different than larger firms regardless of sector. The report argues that a sector approach needs to be balanced with an understanding of how intra-sectoral needs vary by firm size.

The Welsh Government's 'Vibrant and Viable Places' framework was launched three months ago, but there is evidence that this is not being made widely available, because it was only yesterday that I received an e-mail from a trader in my constituency telling me that he had attended a recent local chamber of trade meeting and they were not aware of it.

As Janet Jones from the FSB stated in the 'Daily Post' on 27 February this year,

'the Welsh Government is still failing to deliver support to small businesses.'

Rwy'n falch o gyflwyno dadl ynglŷn â chymorth i fusnesau bach a'r stryd fawr. Wrth wraidd y ddadl hon y mae awydd brwd y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig i gefnogi busnesau bach a chanolig ac i ysgogi'r economi leol. Ni fydd yn syndod i Aelodau fod hwn yn fater yr ydym ni, ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr, wedi bod yn canolbwyntio arno ers peth amser, fel y dengys ein dogfennau polisi 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street' ac 'Invest Wales' a lansiwyd gennym yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf. Credwn fod yn rhaid i gymorth i fusnesau bach a chanolig ac adfywio'r stryd fawr fod yn brif flaenoriaeth, ac, felly, rydym wedi datblygu'r ddau bolisi hyn yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth. Mae ein cynlluniau yn gynigion uchelgeisiol ar gyfer adfywio'r stryd fawr a mynediad at gyllid yng Nghymru. Credaf y gallai ein cynigion gael eu cyflwyno heddiw a chael effaith ystyrlon ar yr economi leol ac economi genedlaethol Cymru.

Fel y gwyddom oll, mae cyfraddau siopau gwag ar y stryd fawr yn dal i fod ymhlith yr uchaf ar dir mawr Prydain, ac mae'r data diweddaraf gan Gonsortium Manwerthu Prydain yn dangos bod y gyfradd siopau gwag yng Nghymru wedi cynyddu i 17.9% o 17% ym mis Ionawr 2013. Yn anffodus, dyma'r ffigur uchaf ers dechrau'r arolwg ym mis Gorffennaf 2011. Daeth adroddiad diweddar gan y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach ac Ysgol Fusnes Prifysgol Caerdydd i'r casgliad bod busnesau bach yn cael eu hanwybyddu o bosibl gan strategaeth economaidd Llywodraeth Cymru. Canfu'r adroddiad nad yw'r mwyafrif helaeth o fusnesau bach a chanolig yn ymwybodol bod eu cwmni yn rhan o sector â blaenoriaeth, a bod cryn dystiolaeth sy'n awgrymu bod anghenion cwmnïau bach dipyn yn wahanol i gwmnïau mwy o faint waeth beth fo'r sector. Mae'r adroddiad yn dadlau bod angen cydbwysio dull gweithredu yn seiliedig ar sector â dealltwriaeth o'r ffordd y mae anghenion rhwng sectorau yn amrywio yn ôl maint y cwmni.

Lansiwyd fframwaith Llywodraeth Cymru 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid' dri mis yn ôl, ond mae tystiolaeth nad yw ar gael yn eang, oherwydd dim ond ddoe cefais e-bost gan fasnachwr yn fy etholaeth yn dweud wrthyf ei fod wedi mynd i gyfarfod siambr fasnach leol yn ddiweddar ac nad oeddent yn ymwybodol ohono.

Fel y nododd Janet Jones o'r Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach yn y 'Daily Post' ar 27 Chwefror eleni,

mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn dal i fethu â darparu cymorth i fusnesau bach.

Quite simply, the point of this debate this afternoon is to discuss the various ways that we can support SMEs in Wales, which are, after all, the lifeblood of the Welsh economy, accounting for 99.2% of the Welsh business stock. Sadly, SMEs are facing tough economic conditions, and many are struggling to survive. Therefore, we must be creative in Wales. We cannot simply rely on inward investment. We must support our existing local businesses and build on the entrepreneurial spirit, the hard work and the resources already available in Wales. That is why we on this side of the Chamber have launched specific policies focusing on Welsh high streets and access to finance for small businesses. It is quite clear that one of the main obstacles facing businesses—and small businesses in particular—is their inability to access finance. Small businesses raise this with me on a regular basis, and I am sure that others in the Chamber will identify with that.

I will focus most of my remaining comments largely on the third point of our motion, which discusses the work of Finance Wales and looks at other methods of financing businesses in Wales. Clearly, from the conversations that we are having with our constituents, access to finance is a huge obstacle for SMEs, which largely only require small-scale loans to support their businesses. However, as we recognise in our motion, I am pleased to see that investment in small and medium-sized businesses has risen by 20% to £31 million in the last year through Finance Wales. The Minister is well aware that we share the Federation of Small Businesses' concerns, which show that 64% of its members have never heard of Finance Wales. Finance Wales and other Government investment schemes are sometimes seen as distant, complex and unattainable. The Minister herself, of course, has admitted that Finance Wales does have awareness issues, stating that its profile is perhaps not as high as it should be.

I accept that Professor Dylan Jones-Evans's work on behalf of the Welsh Government into bank lending and other forms of finance is ongoing—and we saw yesterday some of the results of that review, and we look forward to hearing more about the review as it develops further—but let us look at what has already been said by Professor Jones-Evans. He has already recommended in his stage 1 report summary:

'Welsh Government needs to determine the future strategic direction of Finance Wales and, more importantly, the role it should play in the future financial landscape for Welsh business alongside other providers.'

Yn syml, diben y ddadl hon y prynhawn yma yw trafod y gwahanol ffyrdd y gallwn gefnogi busnesau bach a chanolig yng Nghymru, sydd, wedi'r cyfan, yn asgwrn cefn economi Cymru, gan gyfrif am 99.2% o fusnesau Cymru. Yn anffodus, mae busnesau bach a chanolig yn wynebu amodau economaidd anodd, ac mae llawer yn ei chael hi'n anodd goroesi. Felly, rhaid inni fod yn greadigol yng Nghymru. Ni allwn ddibynnu ar fewnfuddsoddiad yn unig. Rhaid inni gefnogi ein busnesau lleol presennol ac adeiladu ar yr ysbryd entrepreneuriaid, y gwaith caled a'r adnoddau sydd eisoes ar gael yng Nghymru. Dyna pam rydym ni ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr wedi lansio polisiâu penodol sy'n canolbwyntio ar y stryd fawr yng Nghymru a mynediad at gyllid i fusnesau bach. Mae'n eithaf amlwg mai un o'r prif rwystrau sy'n wynebu busnesau— a busnesau bach yn benodol—yw eu hanallu i gael mynediad at gyllid. Mae busnesau bach yn codi hyn gyda mi yn rheolaidd, ac rwy'n siŵr y bydd pobl eraill yn y Siambr yn uniaethu â hynny.

Yng ngweddill fy sylwadau hoffwn ganolbwyntio i raddau helaeth ar y trydydd pwynt yn ein cynnig, sy'n trafod gwaith Cyllid Cymru ac sy'n edrych ar ddulliau eraill o ariannu busnesau yng Nghymru. Yn amlwg, o'r sgrysiâu yr ydym yn eu cael â'n hetholwyr, mae mynediad at gyllid yn rhwystr enfawr i fusnesau bach a chanolig, sydd ond, i raddau helaeth, yn ceisio benthyciadau bach i gefnogi eu busnesau. Fodd bynnag, fel y cydnabyddwn yn ein cynnig, rwy'n falch o weld bod buddsoddiadau mewn busnesau bach a chanolig wedi cynyddu 20% i £31 miliwn yn ystod y flwyddyn diwethaf drwy Cyllid Cymru. Mae'r Gweinidog yn ymwybodol iawn ein bod yn rhannu pryderon y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach, sy'n dangos nad yw 64% o'i aelodau erioed wedi clywed am Cyllid Cymru. Weithiau ystyrir Cyllid Cymru a chynlluniau buddsoddi eraill y Llywodraeth yn rhywbeth pell, cymhleth, nad oes modd cael gafael arno. Mae'r Gweinidog ei hun, wrth gwrs, wedi cyfaddef bod gan Cyllid Cymru broblemau o ran ymwybyddiaeth, gan ddatgan nad yw ei broffil o bosibl mor uchel ag y dylai fod.

Derbyniad fod gwaith yr Athro Dylan Jones-Evans ar ran Llywodraeth Cymru ar fenthycia gan fanciau a mathau eraill o gyllid yn mynd rhagddo—a gwelsom ddoe rai o ganlyniadau'r adolygiad hwnnw, ac edrychwn ymlaen at glywed rhagor am yr adolygiad wrth iddo ddatblygu mhellach—ond gadewch inni edrych ar yr hyn sydd eisoes wedi cael ei ddweud gan yr Athro Jones-Evans. Mae eisoes wedi argymhell yn ei adroddiad cryno cam 1:

Mae angen i Lywodraeth Cymru benderfynu ar gyfeiriad strategol Cyllid Cymru yn y dyfodol ac, yn bwysicach na dim, y rôl y dylai ei chwarae yn y dirwedd ariannol i fusnesau Cymru yn y dyfodol ochr yn ochr â darparwyr eraill.

This is exactly what we are saying in point 3 of our motion today. This is why it is therefore crucial that the Government works with Finance Wales to ensure that the financial package that it offers businesses in the future is competitive in the long term. I was pleased to hear the Minister confirm only yesterday in this Chamber that she is committed to reviewing Finance Wales so that its financial products are as attractive as possible to businesses. I hope very much that the Minister will then consider our 'Invest Wales' policy alongside the Government's ongoing review. Perhaps she would be kind enough to confirm that in response to this debate. I know that the Minister is a pragmatic politician who is not afraid of taking decisions for the right reasons regardless of where the ideas have come from. Of course, our 'Invest Wales' policy looks not to end Finance Wales but to build on it and to utilise its existing funding flow and create a system of six Welsh regional branches in partnership with high street banks. The regional branches of 'Invest Wales' would have an understanding of the investment needs of the local economy and provide the appropriate business counselling and support. Our policy, if implemented by the Welsh Government, I believe, would help our striving small business owners to access finance, which is imperative for the growth, maintenance and success of any business. Even more importantly, they will be able to do it in a way that would be straightforward and local. Indeed, Professor Jones-Evans's report acknowledges that local decision making by banks is seen by many small businesses as critical in ensuring that their business case is considered fairly.

Members will also be aware that the Institute for the Study of Civil Society has also called for improved access to finance, building on the German model of local community-based banks, which echoes our proposals. I am pleased that even the Labour Party leader himself, Ed Miliband, has recognised these challenges and has said that Labour in England would seek to establish a network of regional banks, if elected, to help small businesses to get access to finance. He has called for a network of lenders in every major region of England, based on the 'Sparkassen' model in Germany, similar to our proposals. These banks would of course have a civic duty to promote local growth and lend to firms operating in their local areas. We believe that when a high street bank cannot provide support, the various levers that the state has at its disposal must be used to their best advantage. Ultimately, this is about forging a strong and healthy relationship between small businesses, banks and the local community.

I note that the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty has recently held a summit on credit unions, which also play a part in strengthening our economy at a local level. It is not just individuals who can be supported by credit unions; they also have the opportunity to lend to businesses, as seen in countries like the Republic of Ireland. This is another example of where the Welsh Government can work to adopt localised approaches to finance for small businesses.

Dyma'n union yr hyn yr ydym yn ei ddweud ym mhwynt 3 o'n cynnig heddiw. Dyma pam mae'n hanfodol felly bod y Llywodraeth yn gweithio gyda Cyllid Cymru i sicrhau bod y pecyn ariannol a gynigir ganddo i fusnesau yn y dyfodol yn gystadleuol yn yr hirdymor. Roeddwn yn falch o glywed y Gweinidog yn cadarnhau yn y Siambr hon ddoe ei bod wedi ymrwymo i adolygu Cyllid Cymru er mwyn sicrhau bod ei gynnyrch ariannol mor ddeniadol â phosibl i fusnesau. Gobeithio'n fawr y bydd y Gweinidog wedyn yn ystyried ein polisi 'Invest Wales' ochr yn ochr ag adolygiad y Llywodraeth sy'n mynd rhagddo. Efallai y byddai'n ddigon caredig â chadarnhau hynny mewn ymateb i'r ddadl hon. Gwn fod y Gweinidog yn wleidydd pragmatig nad yw'n ofni gwneud penderfyniadau am y rhesymau cywir, ni waeth beth fo tarddiad y syniadau. Wrth gwrs, nid yw ein polisi 'Invest Wales' yn ystyried dirwyn Cyllid Cymru i ben, ond yn hytrach, adeiladu arno a defnyddio ei lif ariannu presennol a chreu system o chwe changen ranbarthol yng Nghymru mewn partneriaeth â banciau'r stryd fawr. Byddai canghennau rhanbarthol o 'Invest Wales' yn deall anghenion buddsoddi'r economi leol ac yn rhoi cyngor a chymorth busnes priodol. Byddai ein polisi, yn fy marn i, os caiff ei weithredu gan Lywodraeth Cymru, yn helpu ein perchenogion busnesau bach diwyd i gael gafael ar gyllid, sy'n hanfodol ar gyfer twf, parhad a llwyddiant unrhyw fusnes. Yn bwysicach fyth, byddant yn gallu gwneud hynny mewn ffordd syml a lleol. Yn wir, mae adroddiad yr Athro Jones-Evans yn cydnabod bod llawer o fusnesau bach yn ystyried prosesau penderfyniadau lleol gan fanciau yn hollbwysig i sicrhau bod eu hachos busnes yn cael ei ystyried yn deg.

Bydd yr Aelodau hefyd yn ymwybodol bod y Sefydliad er Astudio Cymdeithas Sifil hefyd wedi galw am well mynediad at gyllid, gan adeiladu ar fodel yr Almaen o fanciau lleol yn y gymuned, sy'n adleisio ein cynigion. Rwy'n falch bod hyd yn oed arweinydd y Blaid Lafur ei hun, Ed Miliband, wedi cydnabod yr heriau hyn ac wedi dweud y byddai Lafur yn Lloegr yn ceisio sefydlu rhwydwaith o fanciau rhanbarthol, os caiff ei hethol, er mwyn helpu busnesau bach i gael mynediad at gyllid. Mae wedi galw am rwydwaith o fenthycwyr ym mhob rhanbarth mawr yn Lloegr, yn seiliedig ar fodel 'Sparkassen' yn yr Almaen, yn debyg i'n cynigion ni. Wrth gwrs, byddai dyletswydd ddinesig ar y banciau hyn i hyrwyddo twf lleol a benthyca i gwmnïau sy'n gweithredu yn eu hardaloedd lleol. Credwn, os na all un o fanciau'r stryd fawr roi cymorth, fod yn rhaid i'r gwahanol ddulliau sydd ar gael i'r wladwriaeth gael eu defnyddio er mwyn sicrhau'r fantais fwyaf. Yn y pen draw, mae a wnelo hyn â meithrin perthynas gref ac iach rhwng busnesau bach, banciau a'r gymuned leol.

Sylwaf fod y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Thlodi wedi cynnal uwchgynhadledd ar undebau credyd yn ddiweddar, sydd hefyd yn chwarae rhan i gryfhau ein heconomi yn lleol. Nid dim ond unigolion a all gael eu cefnogi gan yr undebau credyd; maent hefyd yn cael cyfle i fenthycu i fusnesau, fel y gwelir mewn gwledydd fel Gweriniaeth Iwerddon. Mae hon yn enghraifft arall o ble y gall Llywodraeth Cymru fynd ati i fabwysiadu dulliau ariannu lleol ar gyfer busnesau bach.

We believe that we have been constructive in our proposals to boost high streets and to support small businesses. Welsh Conservatives are ambitious for Wales, and we believe in the Welsh people and in Welsh businesses. We want them to succeed, and we believe that the Government could be doing more to ensure that small local businesses are not turned down outright when they try to access finance. The Welsh Government could be doing more to regenerate our high streets, and I therefore urge Members to support this motion this afternoon.

Credwn ein bod wedi bod yn adeiladol yn ein cynigion i roi hwb i'r stryd fawr a chefnogi busnesau bach. Mae'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn uchelgeisiol dros Gymru, a chredwn ym mhobl Cymru ac ym musnesau Cymru. Rydym am iddynt lwyddo, a chredwn y gallai'r Llywodraeth wneud mwy i sicrhau nad yw busnesau bach lleol yn cael eu gwrthod yn gyfan gwbl pan fyddant yn ceisio cael gafael ar gyllid. Gallai Llywodraeth Cymru wneud mwy i adfywio'r stryd fawr, ac felly anogaf Aelodau i gefnogi'r cynnig hwn y prynhawn yma.

16:42

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

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I have selected the seven amendments to the motion and I call on Eluned Parrott to move amendments 1, 2, 3 and 5, tabled in the name of Aled Roberts.

Rwyf wedi dethol y saith gwelliant i'r cynnig a galwaf ar Eluned Parrott i gynnig gwelliannau 1, 2, 3 a 5, a gyflwynwyd yn enw Aled Roberts.

Gwelliant 1—Aled Roberts

Amendment 1—Aled Roberts

Cynnwys ar ddiwedd pwynt 2:

Insert at the end of point 2:

'ac yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i leihau ardrethi busnes ar gyfer tenantiaid sy'n cymryd les eiddo sydd wedi bod yn wag am o leiaf 12 mis, er mwyn annog adleoli ac adfywio canol trefi'

'and calls on the Welsh Government to work with local authorities to reduce business rates for tenants taking over the lease of a property that has been empty for at least 12 months, to encourage re-location and revitalise town centres'.

Gwelliant 2—Aled Roberts

Amendment 2—Aled Roberts

Cynnwys pwynt 3 newydd ac ailrifo yn unol â hynny:

Insert as new point 3 and renumber accordingly:

Yn cydnabod y potensial i brentisiaethau gynyddu elw a chynhyrchiant busnesau bach, ac felly'n galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i archwilio ffyrdd o wella mynediad at brentisiaethau ar gyfer busnesau bach.

Recognises the potential for apprenticeships to improve the profit and productivity of small businesses and therefore calls on the Welsh Government to explore ways to improve access to apprenticeships for small businesses.

Gwelliant 3—Aled Roberts

Amendment 3—Aled Roberts

Cynnwys pwynt 3 newydd ac ailrifo yn unol â hynny:

Insert as new point 3 and renumber accordingly:

Yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd bancio lleol i dwf economaidd llwyddiannus a chynaliadwy busnesau mewn ardaloedd gwledig, ac yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i archwilio ffyrdd o ehangu'r ddarpariaeth bancio cymunedol ac undebau credyd mewn cymunedau gwledig.

Recognises the importance of local banking to the successful and sustainable economic growth of businesses in rural areas and calls on the Welsh Government to explore ways to expand the provision of community banking and credit unions in rural communities.

Gwelliant 5—Aled Roberts

Amendment 5—Aled Roberts

Dileu pwynt 4.

Delete point 4.

16:42

Eluned Parrott [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

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I move amendments 1, 2, 3 and 5 in the name of Aled Roberts.

Cynigiai welliannau 1, 2, 3 a 5 yn enw Aled Roberts.

I thank the Welsh Conservatives for bringing forward this debate today, and for again highlighting the difficulties facing our high streets in these very difficult economic times. However, it is frustrating to me that we have had many reports and many debates on the same subject, yet our high streets are still apparently struggling and the vacancy rates on our high street are still growing.

The statistics have already been introduced, and they are grim: 18.5% of retail units on our high streets are currently vacant, which is higher than the UK average. Many of those vacancies are long-term vacancies. That is something that we really need to start measuring because the length of time that a property is empty has an impact on what kind of condition it is in and on whether it can be brought quickly back into the retail market.

The impact of that vacancy rate on the perception of our high streets is really crucial. Dereliction is contagious. It depresses property values in the area, making it less likely that property owners will want to invest in the local area. It discourages footfall, and it encourages a kind of spiral of decline. The perception of our high streets is crucial to their success and to their ability to survive in the future.

It is also fair to say that the reports and the debates that we have had in this Chamber have identified successes and, critically, some factors that are common to successful high streets in Wales. I am sure that every one of us can think of a high street in our region that seems to have defied the odds and that seems to be doing much better than would perhaps be expected. In my own region, Cowbridge is often cited as an example. However, the critical question there is: what can we learn from those successful high streets? We have learned about active town centre management and the important role that there is for leadership of our high streets, and the importance of not letting these streets try and fend for themselves. Whether it is the local authority, the local chamber of trade, a looser collection of retailers or a business improvement district, that kind of leadership, in providing events, improving the environment and providing the promotion and marketing that high streets need, obviously has an impact.

Second is access by public and private transport, making sure that people can get to our high streets—by bus and by train, certainly, but also by making sure that, if they choose to drive, they can park when they get there. From where I live in the Vale of Glamorgan, it is easier for me to get to Cardiff than it is to get to either of my county towns of Cowbridge or Barry, and that is just crazy. I cannot get to Cowbridge without going to Cardiff first.

The third thing that we need to think about is that, if we are going to invest in our high streets, we need to make sure that the investment is sensitively managed, so that we minimise disruption to retailers. I have seen several high streets that have lost many retailers during a period of regeneration, and that is just a crying shame. It was because, generally speaking, the regeneration took a period of years rather than months to complete, and the impact on footfall on the high street over that period was very damaging.

Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig am gyflwyno'r ddatl hon heddiw, ac am dynnu sylw unwaith eto at yr anawsterau sy'n wynebu'r stryd fawr yn y cyfnod economaidd anodd iawn hwn. Fodd bynnag, mae'n achos rhwystredigaeth imi ein bod wedi cael llawer o adroddiadau a llawer o ddadleuon ar yr un pwnc, ond eto mae'r stryd fawr yn dal i wynebu anawsterau i bob golwg ac mae'r cyfraddau siopau gwag ar y stryd fawr yn dal i gynyddu.

Mae'r ystadegau eisoes wedi cael eu cyflwyno, ac maent yn wael: mae 18.5% o unedau manwerthu ar y stryd fawr yn wag ar hyn o bryd, sy'n uwch na chyfartaledd y DU. Mae llawer o'r siopau gwag hynny wedi bod yn wag ers amser maith. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth y mae gwir angen inni ddechrau ei fesur oherwydd mae faint o amser y mae adeilad yn wag yn effeithio ar ei gyflwr a pha un a ellir ei ddychwelyd i'r farchnad fanwerthu yn gyflym.

Mae effaith y gyfradd siopau gwag ar y canfyddiad o'r stryd fawr yn wirioneddol hanfodol. Mae diffeithder yn heintus. Mae'n peri i werth eiddo yn yr ardal ostwng, gan ei gwneud yn llai tebygol y bydd perchenogion eiddo am fuddsoddi yn yr ardal leol. Mae'n arwain at lai o ymwelwyr, ac at ryw fath o ddirywiad graddol. Mae'r canfyddiad o'r stryd fawr yn hanfodol i'w llwyddiant ac i'w gallu i oroesi yn y dyfodol.

Mae'n deg dweud hefyd bod yr adroddiadau a'r dadleuon a gawsom yn y Siambr hon wedi nodi llwyddiannau ac, yn bwysig ddigon, rai ffactorau sy'n gyffredin i stryd fawr lwyddiannus yng Nghymru. Rwy'n siŵr y gall pob un ohonom feddwl am stryd fawr yn ein rhanbarth sydd wedi llwyddo i bob golwg er gwaethaf yr holl anawsterau ac sy'n gwneud yn llawer gwell nag y byddai rhywun o bosibl yn ei ddisgwyl. Yn fy rhanbarth i, y Bont-faen yw'r enghraifft a nodir fel arfer. Fodd bynnag, y cwestiwn hollbwysig yw: beth y gallwn ei ddysgu oddi wrth yr enghreifftiau hynny o stryd fawr lwyddiannus? Rydym wedi dysgu am reoli canol y dref yn weithredol a rôl bwysig arweinyddiaeth o ran y stryd fawr, a phwysigrwydd peidio â gadael stryd fawr yn ddiymgeledd. Pa un a ydych yn sôn am yr awdurdod lleol, y siambr fasnach leol, casgliad mwy llac o fanwerthwyr neu ardal gwella busnes, mae'r math hwnnw o arweinyddiaeth, o ran trefnu digwyddiadau, gwella'r amgylchedd a chynnal yr ymgyrchoedd hyrwyddo a marchnata sydd eu hangen ar stryd fawr, yn amlwg yn cael effaith.

Yr ail beth yw mynediad ar drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus a phreifat, gan sicrhau y gall pobl gyrraedd y stryd fawr—ar y bws ac ar y trên, yn sicr, ond hefyd drwy sicrhau, os byddant yn dewis gyrru, y gallant barcio pan gyrraeddant yno. O'm cartref ym Mro Morgannwg, mae'n haws imi gyrraedd Caerdydd nag ydyw i gyrraedd un o'm trefi sirol, sef y Bont-faen neu'r Barri, ac mae hynny'n hurt. Ni allaf gyrraedd y Bont-faen heb fynd i Gaerdydd gyntaf.

Y trydydd peth y mae angen inni ei ystyried, os ydym am fuddsoddi yn y stryd fawr, yw bod angen inni sicrhau bod y buddsoddiad yn cael ei reoli mewn modd sensitif, er mwyn aflonyddu cyn lleied â phosibl ar fanwerthwyr. Rwyf wedi gweld sawl stryd fawr sydd wedi colli llawer o fanwerthwyr yn ystod cyfnod o adfywio, ac mae hynny'n drueni mawr. Y rheswm dros hynny oedd bod y gwaith adfywio, yn gyffredinol, wedi cymryd blynyddoedd yn hytrach na misoedd i'w gwblhau, a bu'r effaith ar nifer yr ymwelwyr ar y stryd fawr yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw yn niweidiol iawn.

Finally on this, having a unique selling point, along with understanding what your market is and which shoppers you are trying to attract to your particular high street, is also really important. Is it somewhere people go for their routine shopping, or is it an area for social shoppers? In which case, have we got the mixture of the day and night economies right, and are we marketing it and promoting it in the right ways? Minister, I wonder whether you can give us an update on what the Welsh Government is doing now to share these examples of best practice with high streets in Wales, because I do believe that, over the last two years, we have learned a lot and we have discussed this a lot. I would like to know where we are now.

There are some barriers that I just quickly want to mention that I think remain. First is that the planning and tax regime seems to favour out-of-town developments and supermarkets, and that really must be tackled. The presumption in favour of town-centre development just does not seem to be working in practice on the ground. Secondly, there is making sure that we have access to training that matches employers' needs, rather than focusing on what providers can most easily deliver, and making sure that our workforce planning is adequate. We have to make sure that we have motivated and skilled people working in our high streets, who can deliver the customer service that is going to make the difference and make those businesses really attractive to customers. Our high streets are not just buildings; they are the people as well. They are a community, and we need to understand that it is not just about facades and floors here.

Finally is a point that has already been mentioned by Paul in his introduction: access to finance. The fact that, according to one recent study, 27% of those who responded were using credit cards or overdrafts to finance their businesses through rough patches is something that we really must not tolerate, and I welcome yesterday's statement on looking at the role of local banking and community banking in addressing these issues.

Yn olaf, mae sicrhau pwynt gwerthu unigryw, ynghyd â deall beth yw eich marchnad a pha siopwyr yr ydych yn ceisio eu denu i'ch stryd fawr benodol, hefyd yn bwysig iawn. A yw'n rhywle y mae pobl yn mynd yno am eu siopa bob dydd, neu a yw'n ardal i siopwyr cymdeithasol? Os felly, a ydym wedi cael y cymysgedd o economi'r dydd ac economi'r nos yn iawn, a ydym yn ei marchnata ac yn ei hyrwyddo yn y ffyrdd cywir? Weinidog, tybed a allwch roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni am yr hyn y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud yn awr i rannu'r enghreifftiau hyn o arfer gorau â phob stryd fawr yng Nghymru, oherwydd credaf, dros y ddwy flynedd diwethaf, ein bod wedi dysgu llawer a'n bod wedi trafod hyn cryn dipyn. Hoffwn wybod ble rydym arni erbyn hyn.

Hoffwn sôn yn gyflym am rai rhwystrau sy'n dal i fodoli yn fy marn i. Yn gyntaf, ymddengys fod y drefn gynllunio a'r system dreth yn ffafrio datblygiadau ac archfarchnadoedd ar gyrion trefi, a bod yn rhaid mynd i'r afael â hynny o ddifrif. Nid ymddengys fod y rhagdybiaeth o blaid datblygu canol y dref yn gweithio'n ymarferol ar lawr gwlad. Yn ail, mae angen sicrhau bod hyfforddiant ar gael sy'n diwallu anghenion cyflogwyr, yn hytrach na chanolbwyntio ar yr hyfforddiant sydd hawsaf i ddarparwyr ei gyflwyno, a sicrhau bod gwaith cynllunio'r gweithlu gennym yn ddigonol. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod gennym bobl frwdfrydig a medrus yn gweithio yn y stryd fawr, a all ddarparu'r gwasanaeth cwsmeriaid a fydd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth ac yn gwneud y busnesau hynny'n wirioneddol ddeniadol i gwsmeriaid. Nid adeiladau yn unig yw'r stryd fawr; mae'r bobl yn bwysig hefyd. Mae'n gymuned, ac mae angen inni ddeall nad oes a wnelo hyn â ffasadau a lloriau yn unig.

Mae'r pwynt olaf yn un sydd eisoes wedi ei grybwyll gan Paul yn ei gyflwyniad: mynediad at gyllid. Mae'r ffaith, yn ôl astudiaeth ddiweddar, fod 27% o'r rhai a ymatebodd yn defnyddio cardiau credyd neu orddrafftiau i ariannu eu busnesau trwy gyfnodau anodd yn rhywbeth na ddylem ei oddef o gwbl, a chroesawaf y datganiad ddod am ystyried rôl bancio lleol a bancio cymunedol i fynd i'r afael â'r materion hyn.

16:47

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

I call on Alun Ffred Jones to move amendments 4, 6 and 7 tabled in the name of Elin Jones.

Gwelliant 4—Elin Jones

Cynnwys pwynt 4 newydd ac ailrifo yn unol â hynny:

Yn nodi bod Cyllid Cymru wedi'i gyfyngu yn ei allu i gynnig cyllid am gyfraddau cystadleuol, ac felly yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i edrych ar ddulliau amgen o gyllido busnesau.

Gwelliant 6—Elin Jones

Cynnwys pwynt 5 newydd ac ailrifo yn unol â hynny:

Yn nodi'r cynigion a amlinellir yn 'Cynllun C: Cynllun i Symud yr Economi Cymreig Ymlaen' gan Blaid Cymru i gefnogi busnesau bach a chanolig a chanol trefi.

Galwaf ar Alun Ffred Jones i gynnig gwelliannau 4, 6 a 7 a gyflwynwyd yn enw Elin Jones.

Amendment 4—Elin Jones

Insert as new point 4 and renumber accordingly:

Notes that Finance Wales is restricted in its ability to offer finance at competitive rates, and therefore calls on the Welsh Government to explore alternative methods of financing businesses.

Amendment 6—Elin Jones

Insert as new point 5 and renumber accordingly:

Notes the proposals outlined in Plaid Cymru's 'Plan C: A Plan to Move the Welsh Economy Forward' to support SMEs and town centres.

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Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ymestyn y cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi busnesau bach i gynnwys mwy o fusnesau ar y stryd fawr.

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to extend the small business rate relief scheme to cover more high street businesses.

16:47

Alun Ffred Jones [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

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Cynigiau weilliannau 4, 6 a 7 yn enw Elin Jones.

I move amendments 4, 6 and 7 in the name of Elin Jones.

Rwy'n falch iawn o gael siarad i welliannau 4, 6 a 7, a gyflwynwyd yn enw Elin Jones. Rwyf hefyd yn falch o gael nodi, yn gyntaf, y rhannau hynny o'r cynnig rydym yn cytuno â nhw. Rydym ni hefyd yn awyddus i weld Llywodraeth Cymru yn amlinellu ei chynigion i gefnogi'r stryd fawr cyn gynted ag y bo modd. Mae'r ddau siaradwr blaenorol wedi nodi bod argyfwng ar y stryd fawr—nid oes angen dewin i weld hynny; nid oes ond angen teithio o gwmpas ein trefi. Yn sicr, mae hynny o ganlyniad i ddau beth: polisi cynllunio archfarchnadoedd, a dylanwad siopa ar-lein, sy'n newid ein ffordd o fasnachu yn sylweddol.

I am very pleased to be able to speak to amendments 4, 6 and 7, tabled in the name of Elin Jones. I am also pleased to be able to note, in the first place, those parts of the motion with which we agree. We are also eager to see the Welsh Government outline its proposals to support the high street as soon as possible. The two previous speakers have noted that there is a crisis on the high street—you do not need to be a genius to see that; you only need to travel around our towns. That is the clear result of two things: planning policy in relation to supermarkets, and the influence of online shopping, which is significantly changing our way of buying and selling.

Mae Eluned Parrott yn iawn wrth ddweud bod gweld strydoedd â siopau gwag arnynt yn tansellio hyder pobl i fuddsoddi, a hefyd yn tansellio hyder trigolion yn eu cymunedau eu hunain. Mae hwn yn fater pwysig y mae angen rhoi sylw iddo.

Eluned Parrott is right to say that empty shops on high streets undermine people's confidence in investing, and also undermine the confidence of residents in their own communities. This is an important issue that needs to be considered.

Rydym hefyd, wrth gwrs, yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd seilwaith trafnidiaeth i gynorthwyo'r economi. Ar y pwynt hwn, rydym ni ym Mhlaid Cymru wedi bod yn dadlau yn gyson ers i'r cwtogi ddechrau ar y gyllideb gyfalaf fod yn rhaid i ni gynnal y buddsoddiad hwnnw, nid yn unig er mwyn gwella ein seilwaith adeiladu, ond hefyd o ran cefnogi a hyrwyddo ein cwmnïau a chyflogaeth yng Nghymru. Mae adeiladu tai, ysgolion a chanolfannau iechyd, ynghyd â datblygu'n rheilffyrdd, ein ffyrdd, a'n llwybrau beicio, yn hanfodol os ydym am sicrhau bod yr economi yn dal ei thir yn ystod y cyfnod anodd hwn.

We also, of course, acknowledge the importance of transport infrastructure to support the economy. On this point, we in Plaid Cymru have been arguing consistently, since the cuts were first made in the capital budget, that we should maintain that investment, not only to improve our construction infrastructure but also to support and promote our companies and employment in Wales. The building of houses, schools and health centres, along with developing our railways, roads and cycle paths, is crucial if we are to ensure that the economy stands its ground during this difficult time.

Hoffwn atgoffa'r Cynulliad unwaith eto, fel rwyf wedi ei wneud o'r blaen, fod Gerry Holtham yn credu, pan ddechreuodd y Llywodraeth yn San Steffan gwtogi yn fawr ar ein cyllideb gyfalaf, fod angen £3 biliwn yn ychwanegol i'r hyn oedd yn dod drwy'r grant bloc i gynnal cwmnïau ymaes adeiladu ac yn y meysydd cysylltiol. Rwy'n credu ei bod yn bwysig, os ydym yn cydnabod hynny—ac rwy'n credu bod George Osborne ei hun erbyn hyn yn sylweddoli ei fod wedi gwneud camgymeriad wrth dorri yn ôl ar y gyllideb gyfalaf mor eithafol—ein bod yn sicrhau bod gweithgarwch o'r fath yn digwydd ledled Cymru. Ni fyddai cael un cynllun mawr mewn un cornel o Gymru o fudd i fusnesau ar hyd ac ar led y wlad. Nid oes angen i bob cynllun fod o'r un raddfa, wrth gwrs, ond yn sicr mae'n rhaid inni weld bod cynlluniau o'r fath wedi eu gwsgaru'n deg i bob rhan o Gymru.

I would like to remind the Assembly once again, as I have done before, that Gerry Holtham believed, as the Westminster Government embarked upon its swingeing cuts in our capital budget, that £3 billion was needed in addition to the block grant in order to support companies in construction and related industries. I believe that it is important that, if we acknowledge that—I think that George Osborne himself is realising now that he was mistaken in cutting the capital budget so heavily—we need to ensure that there is activity in this field across Wales. Having one scheme in one corner of Wales is not going to be of benefit to businesses across the whole country. Not all schemes have to be of the same scale, of course, but we definitely need to ensure that such schemes are spread fairly across all parts of Wales.

Dyna pam, rwy'n credu, bod cynlluniau fel trydanu rheilffyrdd y Cymoedd a rheilffyrdd y gogledd mor apelgar ac mor hanfodol: er mwyn inni greu rhwydwaith drafndiaeth sy'n addas i economi yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain. Hefyd, rwy'n credu y byddai hynny'n dod â hyder yn ôl i'n trefi—rhai trefi glan môr, a threfi yng Nghymoedd y de sydd wirioneddol angen y buddsoddiad hwnnw.

O ran rhai sylwadau eraill y byddwn yn eu gwneud, mae Cyllid Cymru wedi bod yn llwyddiant mawr—nid oes dwywaith am hynny—er bod hynny o fewn sector cyfyngedig. Mae'r gyfradd llog yn rhy uchel, yn aml iawn, i gwmnïau llai, a dyna pam rydym wedi dadlau yn gyson ym Mhlaid Cymru bod angen banc buddsoddi busnes i Gymru. Mae modelau ar hyd a lled Ewrop ac yn America o fanciau o'r fath sydd yno'n benodol i gefnogi busnesau bach a chanolig.

Rydym hefyd yn nodi ein cynllun C ni, yn yr un modd ag y mae'r Toriaid yn nodi eu cynllun nhw. Mae nifer o bwytiau i'w nodi: banc busnes, prosiectau seilwaith, wrth gwrs, gweithredu ar argymhellion Silk, cynyddu canran y tendrau cyhoeddus sy'n mynd i gwmnïau o Gymru, cynyddu nifer a safon prentisiaethau a hyfforddiant, a hefyd hyrwyddo mentrau cymdeithasol a chydweithredol mewn ffordd llawer mwy egniol na'r hyn sydd wedi digwydd yn y gorffennol. Yn olaf, byddwn yn nodi un o bolisiau sylfaenol Plaid Cymru o ran cwmnïau bach, sef ehangu'r cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi busnes i gynnwys busnesau sydd â gwerth hyd at £15,000.

This is why I think that schemes such as the electrification of the Valleys lines and the north Wales railway are so appealing and so crucial: so that we create a transport network that is appropriate for the twenty-first century. I also believe that that would bring confidence back to our towns—to our seaside towns and towns in the south Wales Valleys that genuinely need that investment.

Turning to some other comments that I would make, Finance Wales has been a significant success—there are no two ways about it—although that was within a restricted sector. The interest rate is often too high for smaller companies, which is why we have consistently argued that we need a business investment bank for Wales. There are models across Europe and America of banks of this kind, specifically to support small and medium-sized businesses.

We also note our plan C, as the Tories have noted their scheme. There are a number of points to make: a business bank, infrastructure projects, of course, implementing the Silk recommendations, increasing the number of public tenders that go to Welsh companies, increasing the number and quality of apprenticeships and training, and also promoting social and co-operative enterprises in a much more energetic way than has been the case to date. Finally, I would note one of Plaid Cymru's fundamental policies for small businesses, which is to expand the small business rate relief scheme to include businesses with a rateable value of up to £15,000.

16:52

Janet Finch-Saunders [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Our high street shops and, indeed, our high streets are the lifeblood of our local economies and of our local communities. The Welsh retail consortium estimates that around 131,000 people in Wales work within the retail industry: 10% of all Welsh businesses, higher than the figure for the United Kingdom as a whole. However, we convene today to acknowledge that this vital component of our nation's prosperity is in trouble, and needs our help. Our high streets are at a crossroads, with the number of empty shops now approaching one in five. Walk down any high street and you see the small businesses, once the lynchpin of local economies, and of many family livelihoods, fast becoming mere husks of formerly thriving town centres.

The speed of internet shopping and the convenience of out-of-town shopping centres only provides further disincentive for entrepreneurs to take that first step and start their own business. A total of £29.6 million was estimated to have been paid on empty properties in business rates on our high streets last year. This presents an enormous burden on those already badly affected by the current economic climate, and leads to prospective investors being discouraged by the local climate for start-ups, penalising the wider local economy. We call on the Welsh Government to work with our local authorities to reduce business rates so that tenants take over the lease of properties that have been empty for a year. Therefore, we will be supporting amendment 1.

Siopau'r stryd fawr ac, yn wir, y stryd fawr ei hun, yw asgwrn cefn ein heconomiâu lleol a'n cymunedau lleol. Mae consortïwm manwerthu Cymru yn amcangyfrif bod tua 131,000 o bobl yng Nghymru yn gweithio yn y diwydiant manwerthu: 10% o holl fusnesau Cymru, sy'n uwch na'r ffigur ar gyfer y Deyrnas Unedig gyfan. Fodd bynnag, rydym yn ymgynnull heddiw i gydnabod bod yr elfen hanfodol hon o ffyniant ein gwlad mewn trafferthion, a bod angen ein cymorth arni. Mae'r stryd fawr yn wynebu croesffordd, gyda nifer y siopau gwag bellach yn agosáu at un o bob pump. Cerddwch i lawr unrhyw stryd fawr ac fe welwch y busnesau bach, a fu gynt yn hoelen wyth economïau lleol, a bywoliaeth sawl teulu, yn prysur ddiflannu o ganol trefi a fu gynt yn ffyniannus.

Mae cyflymder siopa ar y rhyngwrwyd a hwylustod canolfannau siopa ar gyrion trefi ond yn anghymhelliad pellach i entrepreneuriaid gymryd y cam cyntaf a dechrau eu busnes eu hunain. Amcangyfrifwyd i gyfanswm o £29.6 miliwn gael ei dalu mewn ardrethi busnes ar eiddo gwag ar y stryd fawr y llynedd. Mae'n gosod baich enfawr ar y rhai y mae'r hinsawdd economaidd presennol eisoes effeithio'n fawr arnynt, gan beri i ddarpar fuddsoddwyr wangelonni oherwydd yr hinsawdd leol ar gyfer busnesau newydd, gan gosbi'r economi leol ehangach. Rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i weithio gyda'n hawdurdodau lleol i leihau ardrethi busnes fel y bydd tenantiaid yn meddiannu prydles eiddo sydd wedi bod yn wag am flwyddyn. Felly, byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant 1.

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Business rates present a huge problem for small businesses. The Welsh Conservatives have pledged to maintain our 2011 manifesto promise to abolish business rates for those small businesses with a rateable value of up to £12,000. This would stimulate private sector growth and allow businesses to focus on expansion and recruitment. Lord Young highlighted in his report on microbusinesses that recent growth has been in the number of sole traders with no additional employees. The ability for each SME to take on additional staff would both grow our economy and cut the chronic unemployment levels in Wales—in fact, it would eradicate them. We urge the Welsh Government to extend small business rate relief schemes to cover more of our high street businesses. Therefore, we will be supporting amendment 7.

The challenges facing our high streets are not immaterial or insurmountable. We acknowledge the much needed increases in lending from Finance Wales during this difficult time for SMEs, but more can and must be done. We need to open support channels. The Welsh Conservatives propose a localised model of business finance that draws on local knowledge of local problems. Through this method, we recognise that borrowing, lending and credit requirements differ from Llandudno to Carmarthen. We need to target localised areas, and in the interim, the Welsh Government must work to ensure that small businesses are aware of the support that they can receive to take the next step in growing their business.

A recent innovation that I am interested in has been the increase in pop-up shops. These are otherwise empty shops that are released by landlords who are prepared to allow the showcasing of smaller businesses. These provide temporary relief for local economies, they help landlords, because there are insurance consequences for empty properties, and they ensure that money that would otherwise have gone elsewhere is kept on the high streets and within the local economy. In some instances, it has succeeded in allowing the landlord to then rent the property to a more permanent business. Support has been forthcoming from the Communities and Local Government for these essential stop gaps on the high street, and the Welsh Government should be doing the same to retain this money in our town centres. However, let there be no mistake: permanent is preferable to pop-up.

In this vein, there should be a greater effort to publicise the support available to new starters. Guidance should not only outline how you start a business, but the practicalities of long term planning, such as how long to lease a property. I know from experience that property owners need advice and support to facilitate longer leases in their properties to allow for sustainable businesses to take shape and flourish.

Mae ardrethi busnes yn broblem enfawr i fusnesau bach. Mae'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig wedi ymrwymo i barhau â'n haddewid maniffesto yn 2011 i ddileu ardrethi busnes i'r busnesau bach hynny sydd â gwerth ardrethol o hyd at £12,000. Byddai hyn yn ysgogi twf y sector preifat ac yn galluogi busnesau i ganolbwyntio ar ehangu a recriwtio. Nododd yr Arglwydd Young yn ei adroddiad ar ficrofusnesau mai yn nifer yr unig fasnachwyr heb weithwyr ychwanegol y gwelwyd twf yn ddiweddar. Pe bai pob busnes bach a chanolig yn gallu cyflogi staff ychwanegol byddai hynny'n tyfu ein heconomi ac yn lleihau'r lefelau o ddiweithdra cronig yng Nghymru—yn wir, byddai'n eu dileu. Rydym yn annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ymestyn y cynlluniau rhyddhad ardrethi i fusnesau bach i gwmpasu mwy o fusnesau ar y stryd fawr. Felly, byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant 7.

Nid yw'r heriau sy'n wynebu'r stryd fawr yn ansylweddol nac yn anorchfygol. Rydym yn cydnabod y cynnydd mawr ei angen mewn benthyciadau gan Cyllid Cymru yn ystod y cyfnod anodd hwn i fusnesau bach a chanolig, ond gellir gwneud mwy a rhaid gwneud mwy. Mae angen inni agor sianeli cymorth. Mae'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn cynnig model lleol o gyllid busnes sy'n defnyddio gwybodaeth leol am broblemau lleol. Drwy'r dull hwn, rydym yn cydnabod bod gofynion benthycia, rhoi benthycy a chredyd yn wahanol o Landudno i Gaerfyrddin. Mae angen inni dargedu ardaloedd lleol, ac yn y cyfamser, rhaid i Lywodraeth Cymru weithio i sicrhau bod busnesau bach yn ymwybodol o'r cymorth y gallant ei gael i gymryd y cam nesaf i ddatblygu eu busnes.

Un datblygiad diweddar y mae gennyf ddi-ddordeb ynddo yw'r cynnydd mewn siopau dros dro, sef siopau a fyddai fel arall yn wag sy'n cael eu rhyddhau gan landlordiaid sy'n barod i roi cyfle i fusnesau bach i'w harddangos eu hunain. Mae'r rhain yn rhoi rhyddhad dros dro i economïau lleol, yn helpu landlordiaid, am fod goblygiadau yswiriant pan fo eiddo'n wag, ac yn sicrhau bod yr arian a fyddai fel arall wedi mynd i rywle arall yn cael ei gadw ar y stryd fawr ac o fewn yr economi leol. Mewn rhai achosion, mae wedi arwain at y landlord wedyn yn gosod yr eiddo i fusnes mwy parhaol. Mae'r adran Cymunedau a Llywodraeth Leol wedi rhoi cymorth i'r atebion dros dro hanfodol hyn ar y stryd fawr, a dylai Llywodraeth Cymru wneud yr un peth er mwyn cadw'r arian hwn yng nghanol ein trefi. Fodd bynnag, peidied neb â chamsynied: mae parhaol yn well na dros dro.

Yn yr un modd, dylai fod mwy o ymdrech i roi cyhoeddusrwydd i'r cymorth sydd ar gael i fusnesau newydd. Dylai canllawiau, nid yn unig amlinellu sut y byddwch yn dechrau busnes, ond y materion ymarferol sy'n ymwneud â chynllunio yn yr hirdymor, megis sut i brydlesu eiddo. Gwn o brofiad fod angen cyngor a chefnogaeth ar berchenogion eiddo i hwyluso prydlesu hwy yn eu heiddo er mwyn rhoi cyfle i fusnesau cynaliadwy ddatblygu a ffynnu.

The Welsh Conservatives refuse to concede the loss of our once vibrant town centres and the small businesses that nurture them. We want to ensure that businesses are provided with the right support through the right channels. To reiterate, we are at a crossroads in Wales. We have the option of allowing our high streets to experience a managed decline or the opportunity to breathe new life into our communities and the small businesses that are integral to them. I endorse 'A Vision for Welsh Investment' and 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street'.

Mae'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn gwrthod derbyn colli canol ein trefi a fu'n fywiog gynt na'r busnesau bach sy'n eu meithrin. Rydym am sicrhau bod busnesau yn cael y cymorth cywir drwy'r sianelau cywir. Nodaf eto ein bod wedi cyrraedd croesffordd yng Nghymru. Gallwn ddewis gadael i'r stryd fawr ddirywio mewn ffordd reoledig neu gallwn ddewis y cyfle i adfer ein cymunedau a'r busnesau bach sy'n hanfodol iddynt. Cymeradwyaf 'A Vision for Welsh Investment' ac 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street'.

16:58

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

Fel Aelod cydwybodol o'r Cynulliad, roeddwn yn awyddus i ddarllen pob gair o weledigaeth y Ceidwadwyr ar gyfer y stryd fawr. Yn Saesneg, yr is-bennawd oedd 'Ambition, Action, Achievement'. Troais y llyfryn er mwyn darllen y fersiwn Gymraeg. Beth oeddwn yn ei ddisgwyl? 'Annibendod, Anobeithiol, Anystywallt' efallai, ond, na, er mawr siom i mi, nid oedd fersiwn Gymraeg. Nid oedd yno hyd yn oed 'Cystadlu, Cawl, Cwmpo', oherwydd dyna fyddai canlyniad traddodiadol llwybr y Ceidwadwyr o ddilyn y farchnad rydd yn ei holl noethni.

Wrth gwrs, mae eisiau amrywiaeth yng nghanol ein trefi. Rwy'n aelod o'r Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes, a gwnaethom ymchwiliad i ganol trefi, a pharatowyd adroddiad y llynedd. Ymysg yr argymhellion oedd amddiffyn canol trefi rhag datblygiadau tu fas i'r dref, ymchwilio i effaith marchnadoedd a sefydlu trafnidiaeth integredig. Yn anffodus, yng nghanol tref Llanelli ceir rhagor o gystadleuaeth o siopau mewn datblygiadau tu fas i'r dref. Fodd bynnag, ymysg sawl peth arall, rydym yn lwcus bod marchnad dda gennym, sy'n denu pobl i ganol y dref. Yn ddiweddar, mae'r cyngor lleol, dan arweiniad Llafur, wedi cwblhau adran canol tref, sy'n brosiect mawr sydd wedi gweld buddsoddiad o £60 miliwn i ganol y dref. Bydd darn olaf y buddsoddiad, sef Tŷ Llanelli, yn cael ei orffen ddiwedd y flwyddyn.

Mae gweithrediadau Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd wedi bod yn bositif, gyda sefydlu siopau un stop, fel sydd gennym yn Nafen. Yn y maes SMEs, gweithredwyd i sicrhau y gallant gael mynediad at y cyllid sydd ei angen arnynt trwy gomisiynu adolygiad annibynnol, yn ogystal â'r gronfa buddsoddi SME, cronfa twf economaidd Cymru a'r gronfa fenthgy busnesau micro.

Nid yw Llywodraeth yn gallu dweud yn union beth fydd yn digwydd yn y dyfodol. Ar y llaw arall, dyletswydd y Llywodraeth yw creu'r seilwaith fel bod entrepreneurs y dyfodol yn ffynnu, a dyna a wnaed yng Nghymru. Dadl gan y Ceidwadwyr yw hyn heddiw, ond eu Llywodraeth nhw yn y Deyrnas Unedig sydd â'r ysgogiadau macroeconiadd. Rydym ni yng Nghymru a'n busnesau yn dal yn aros iddi eu defnyddio ac i roi hwb i'r economi a dychwelyd pobl i'r gwaith. Nid yw hynny wedi digwydd heddiw.

As a conscientious Assembly Member, I was eager to read every word of the Conservatives' vision for our high streets. The sub-heading in English was 'Ambition, Action, Achievement'. I turned the booklet over to read the Welsh version, expecting to read the Welsh for 'Hopelessness, Incoherence, Mess' perhaps, but, no; much to my disappointment, there was no Welsh version. There were not even the Welsh words for 'Competition, Confusion, Collapse', which would be the inevitable outcome of the Conservative pursuit of naked capitalism.

Of course, we need variety in our town centres. I am a member of the Enterprise and Business Committee, and we carried out an inquiry into town centres and prepared a report last year. Among the recommendations was to safeguard town centres from out-of-town developments, to look at the impact of markets and to establish integrated transport. Unfortunately, in Llanelli town centre, there is greater competition from out-of-town shopping developments. However, among many other things, we are lucky to have a good market, which attracts people to the town centre. Recently, the Labour-led local council has completed its town centre project, which has seen investment of £60 million in the town centre. The final phase of the investment, in Llanelli House, will be completed at the end of the year.

Welsh Government action has also been positive, with the establishment of one-stop shops, such as in Dafen. In terms of SMEs, action was taken to ensure that they could access the funding that they need by commissioning an independent review, as well as the SME investment fund, the Welsh economic growth fund and the microbusiness loan fund.

Governments cannot anticipate exactly what will happen in the future. On the other hand, it is the Government's duty to create the infrastructure so that future entrepreneurs can prosper, and that is what has been done in Wales. This is a Conservative debate today, but it is their UK Government that has the macro-economic levers. We in Wales and our businesses are still waiting for them to use them and to give the economy a boost and return people to work. That has not happened today.

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I orffen, hoffwn wneud sylwadau ar siopau elusen, sy'n rhan o weledigaeth y Ceidwadwyr. Beth bynnag yw eich barn amdanynt, erbyn heddiw rydym yn gyfarwydd â'u cael yng nghanol ein trefi. Mae sawl siop yng nghanol stryd fawr Llanelli. Yn 2011, sefydlwyd grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen gan y Gweinidog busnes er mwyn ystyried y polisi ardrethi busnes ac asesu pa mor berthnasol ydynt i anghenion busnes Cymru. Lluniwyd adroddiad mis Mai y llynedd a awgrymodd y posibilrwydd o newid graddau ardrethi busnes ar siopau mewn adeiladau gyda gwerthoedd uwch.

Gwn fod ymgynghoriad y Llywodraeth, 'Business Rate Relief for Charities, Social Enterprises and Credit Unions—Recommendations from an independent report to the Welsh Government' yn parhau tan ddiwedd y mis, a bod y Gweinidog wedi annog pawb i ymateb i ddweud eu dweud. Hoffwn gael y cyfle i graffu ymhellach ar hyn, ac efallai y bydd cyfle iddo ddod gerbron y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes i ni gael ymchwilio i'w effaith.

Mae dau bryder gennyf. Ceir sawl siop elusen yn Llanelli, a'r pryder cyntaf yw y byddai'r siopau hynny'n cael eu gadael yn wag petai'r elusennau'n gorfod symud ohonynt oherwydd prisiau. Byddai hynny'n golygu y byddai gan ganol y dref mwy o leoedd gwag. Yn ail, ddoe mi wnes i gyfarfod â Cancer Research UK, sy'n gwario £330 miliwn y flwyddyn ar ymchwil a hynny heb gyllid gan Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig. Yn lle, mae'r elusen yn codi ei arian ei hun, megis drwy siopau. Gyda chanran mawr o'r elusennau hyn yn cefnogi'r maes iechyd, mae'n bwysig cadw mewn golwg y cyfraniad a wnaed ganddynt—boed hynny'n gymorth i gleifion a'u teuluoedd neu ymchwil. Rwy'n derbyn bod yn rhaid edrych ar bob agwedd o'r stryd fawr a'r ffordd orau o ddarparu cymorth wedi ei dargedu at fusnesau. Yr hyn rwyf yn ei gynnig yw cyfle pellach i gael edrych ar hwn.

Y gwir yw bod yn rhaid casglu'r dystiolaeth a gwneud ymchwil. Dyna y mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n ei wneud wrth gyhoeddi'r papur ymgynghorol hwn. Edrychaf ymlaen at ganlyniadau ac argymhellion y Gweinidog, ac rwy'n hyderus y bydd yn dod gerbron y Cynulliad i adrodd unrhyw ddatblygiadau pan eu bod yn digwydd.

To conclude, I would like to make some comments on charity shops, which are part of the Conservatives' vision. Whatever your view on these shops, by today we are used to seeing them in our town centres. There are several shops on the high street in Llanelli. In 2011, a task and finish group was established by the Minister for business to consider the business rate policy and assess how relevant they are to the needs of business in Wales. A report was drawn up in May last year, which suggested the possibility of changing the rate of business rates for shops in buildings with higher rateable values.

I know that the Government's consultation 'Business Rate Relief for Charities, Social Enterprises and Credit Unions—Recommendations from an independent report to the Welsh Government' will continue until the end of the month, and the Minister has encouraged everyone to respond and to have their say. I would like to have the opportunity to scrutinise this further, and perhaps there will be an opportunity for this to come before the Enterprise and Business Committee so that we can look into its impact.

I have two concerns. There are a number of charity shops in Llanelli, and my first concern is whether these shops will be left vacant should the charities have to leave the premises because of rates. That would mean that there would be a greater number of vacancies in the town centre. Secondly, yesterday, I met Cancer Research UK, which spends £330 million per annum on research without funding from the UK Government. Instead, the charity raises its own funding, through shops, for example. With a large percentage of these charities supporting health, it is important to bear in mind the contribution that they make—whether by assisting patients and their families or investing in research. I accept that we have to look at all aspects of the high street and the best way to provide targeted help for businesses. What I am proposing is a further opportunity to look at this.

The truth is that we must gather the evidence and undertake research. That is what the Welsh Government is doing in publishing this consultation paper. I look forward to the outcomes and the recommendations of the Minister, and I am confident that she will come before the Assembly to report on any developments when these take place.

17:03

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

I am, once again, delighted to take part in this debate, and I want to concentrate on the transport infrastructure element of our debate and highlight the importance of this economic lever. We need significant infrastructure investment in Wales—this is an undeniable point—and this requires a mature and co-operative approach between the UK and Welsh Governments.

Rwyf, unwaith eto, yn falch o gael cymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon, a hoffwn ganolbwyntio ar yr elfen o'n dadl sy'n ymwneud â seilwaith trafnidiaeth a thynnu sylw at bwysigrwydd yr ysgogydd economaidd hwn. Mae angen buddsoddiad sylweddol mewn seilwaith yng Nghymru—ni all neb wadu hynny—ac mae hyn yn gofyn am agwedd aeddfed a chydweithredol rhwng y DU a Llywodraeth Cymru.

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Effective transport infrastructure ensures efficient connectivity and is vital for the success of the Welsh economy. Since the Conservative-led UK Government took charge of capital spending, we have invested an enormous amount of finance into direct and indirect infrastructure in Wales. Some £2 billion has been invested in the Great Western main line, which has been hailed as the biggest investment in trains for more than a century. This is alongside investment in all other passenger lines in south Wales, and we should not forget the £500 million for the rail link to Heathrow. Further benefits of electrification include the reduced running costs, faster and higher capacity services and a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

Electrification investment has further raised the potential for improved integrated transport, including a metro system for south Wales. The metro system concept proposes that an integrated metro system throughout the city region could greatly boost the economy while increasing the travel to work area.

The M4 relief road seems to be at the top of the political agenda. We all anticipate that the UK Treasury will guarantee borrowing for the project, which could play a central role in easing congestion around Newport. The scheme is reportedly budgeted at some £830 million over 15 years. The Secretary of State for Wales, David Jones, has been pressing the Treasury very hard to help with this and has responded positively to the pressure from the Welsh Conservatives in the Assembly.

We have also heard from the Chancellor more broadly that the UK Government is looking to invest over £300 billion, guaranteed to the end of this decade. This is a terrific boost for infrastructure, and I am delighted that Wales is at last starting to see its fair share.

Returning to the motion, we have heard from other Members in previous debates about our vision for the Welsh high street and 'Invest Wales'. These policy papers are ready to be implemented and include practical measures to tackle funding for SMEs and to protect our high streets. Let no Member be unclear about the dangers and challenges ahead for our high streets; they are at tipping point and urgent action is needed.

This is the view of the industry; you do not have to take my word for it. Retail expert, Chris Parry of Cardiff Metropolitan University, has recently stated that the situation was at tipping point, that our high streets cannot survive unaided, and that if we do nothing, they will die. John Munro, director of the Welsh Retail Consortium, said that a new high in empty shops makes for grim reading, that the Welsh vacancy rate comes a close second to Northern Ireland, and that almost one in five shops now stand empty. Our proposals in point 4 of the motion would go a long way to address these challenges, and would give our high streets and small businesses a fighting chance.

Mae seilwaith trafnidiaeth effeithiol yn sicrhau cysylltedd effeithlon ac mae'n hanfodol i lwyddiant economi Cymru. Ers i Lywodraeth y DU o dan arweiniad y Ceidwadwyr ddod yn gyfrifol am wariant cyfalaf, rydym wedi buddsoddi swm enfawr o gyllid mewn seilwaith uniongyrchol ac anuniongyrchol yng Nghymru. Mae tua £2 biliwn wedi'i fuddsoddi ym mhrif linell reilffordd y Great Western, sydd wedi cael ei ddisgrifio fel y buddsoddiad mwyaf mewn trenau ers dros ganrif. Digwydd hyn ochr yn ochr â buddsoddiad ym mhob llinell arall i deithwyr yn y de, ac ni ddylem anghofio'r £500 miliwn ar gyfer y cyswllt rheilffordd i Heathrow. Mae manteision pellach trydaneiddio yn cynnwys costau rhedeg is, gwasanaethau cyflymach â mwy o ddarpariaeth a gostyngiad mewn allyriadau carbon deuocsid.

Mae'r buddsoddiad mewn trydaneiddio wedi codi'r posibilrwydd pellach am fwy o dtrafnidiaeth integredig, gan gynnwys system fetro yn y de. Mae cysyniad y system fetro yn cynnig system fetro integredig ledled y ddinas-ranbarth a allai fod yn hwb mawr i'r economi gan gynyddu'r ardal teithio i'r gwaith.

Ymddengys fod ffordd liniaru'r M4 ar frig yr agenda wleidyddol. Rydym i gyd yn rhagweld y bydd Trysorlys y DU yn gwarantu benthyddiad ar gyfer y prosiect, a allai chwarae rhan ganolog i leddfu tagfeydd yn ardal Casnewydd. Yn ôl y sôn, bydd gan y cynllun gyllideb o tua £830 miliwn dros 15 mlynedd. Mae Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, David Jones, wedi bod yn pwysu'n fawr iawn ar y Trysorlys i helpu o ran hyn ac mae wedi ymateb yn gadarnhaol i'r pwysau gan y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn y Cynulliad.

Rydym hefyd wedi clywed gan y Canghellor yn fwy cyffredinol bod Llywodraeth y DU yn bwriadu buddsoddi dros £300 biliwn, wedi'i warantu hyd at ddiwedd y degawd hwn. Mae hyn yn hwb enfawr o ran seilwaith, ac rwyf wrth fy modd bod Cymru o'r diwedd yn dechrau gweld ei chyfran deg.

Gan ddychwelyd at y cynnig, rydym wedi clywed gan Aelodau eraill mewn dadleuon blaenorol am ein gweledigaeth ar gyfer y stryd fawr yng Nghymru ac 'Invest Wales'. Mae'r papurau polisi hyn yn barod i'w rhoi ar waith ac maent yn cynnwys mesurau ymarferol i fynd i'r afael â chyllid ar gyfer busnesau bach a chanolig ac i ddiogelu'r stryd fawr. Ni ddylai'r un Aelod gamsynied ynghylch y peryglon a'r heriau sydd o'n blaenau o ran y stryd fawr; maent yn y fantol ac mae angen gweithredu ar fyrder.

Dyna farn y diwydiant; nid oes rhaid ichi dderbyn fy ngair i am hynny. Mae'r arbenigwr ar fanwerthu, Chris Parry o Brifysgol Fetropolitan Caerdydd, wedi datgan yn ddiweddar bod y sefyllfa yn y fantol, na all y stryd fawr oroesi heb gymorth, ac os na wnawn rywbeth, y byddant yn marw. Dywedodd John Munro, cyfarwyddwr Consortiwm Manwerthu Cymru, fod y lefel uchaf erioed o siopau gwag yn ddarlun du, bod y gyfradd siopau gwag yng Nghymru yn ail agos i Ogledd Iwerddon, a bod bron un o bob pum siop bellach yn wag. Byddai ein cynigion ym mhwynt 4 o'r cynnig yn gwneud tipyn i ymateb i'r heriau hyn, a byddai'n rhoi cyfle gwirioneddol i'r stryd fawr a busnesau bach.

I commend our motion to this Chamber, and I endorse the action of the UK Government on capital spending and infrastructure investment in Wales. I call on the Welsh Government to join the Conservatives in rejuvenating our economy and delivering for Wales.

Cymeradwyaf ein cynnig i'r Siambr hon, a chymeradwyaf gamau gweithredu Llywodraeth y DU ar wariant cyfalaf a buddsoddi mewn seilwaith yng Nghymru. Galwaf ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ymuno â'r Ceidwadwyr i adnewyddu ein heconomi a chyflawni dros Gymru.

17:06

Mohammad Asghar [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

In November last year, the Assembly debated Welsh Conservative proposals contained in our policy document, 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street'. These proposals were designed to revitalise and regenerate our high streets by a combination of measures. In my speech in that debate, I warned that our traditional high streets are under threat from changes in the nation's shopping habits. The growth of out-of-town shopping and shopping on the internet has added to the pressure on our high street retailers.

Since that debate, the problem has got worse. Newport has the highest vacancy rate in Wales at nearly 28%. If our high streets continue to decline in this way, they will leave a huge vacuum at the heart of our communities, instead of the thriving centres of activity that we all wish to see.

The Government cannot turn back the clock and dis-invent the internet or out-of-town shopping. It can, however, help the high street to adapt, to compete and to thrive by introducing policies to make our town centres attractive places for people to visit.

Lord Wolfson, head of the fashion chain Next, said recently that there is a big opportunity to grow retail in the UK by providing people with better shops, and that there are many towns and cities where the stock of shops is inadequate. This is certainly true in Wales.

The Welsh Government promised to establish a support high streets campaign, due to be launched this month. No information about this campaign has been forthcoming, and our high streets continue to decline while the Welsh Government dithers. Welsh Conservatives believe that support for SMEs and the regeneration of our high streets must be a top priority.

Business rates, rent and wages are the three highest outgoings for small businesses. Under our proposals, 73% of business premises in Wales would be taken out of rates altogether. Abolishing rates for businesses with a rateable value below £12,000, and providing tapered relief for those up to £15,000, would provide timely help to allow companies to focus on expanding their business and to take on new staff.

A clear management strategy for our town centres is vital at this particular time, because high streets are declining. Town centre managers would engage with community groups and local businesses through town teams to propose and develop strategies to make town centre shopping more convenient and attractive.

Fis Tachwedd diwethaf, trafododd y Cynulliad gynigion y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn ein dogfen bolisi, 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street'. Nod y cynigion hyn oedd adfywio ac adnewyddu'r stryd fawr drwy gyfuniad o fesurau. Yn fy araith yn y ddadl honno, rhybuddiais fod y stryd fawr draddodiadol o dan fygythiad yn sgil newidiadau yn arferion siopa'r wlad. Mae twf siopa ar gyrion trefi a siopa ar y rhyngwrwyd wedi ychwanegu at y pwysau ar ein manwerthwyr ar y stryd fawr.

Ers y ddadl honno, mae'r broblem wedi gwaethygu. Casnewydd sydd â'r gyfradd siopau gwag uchaf yng Nghymru, sef bron 28%. Os bydd y stryd fawr yn parhau i ddirywio yn y modd hwn, bydd gwagle enfawr yng nghanol ein cymunedau, yn hytrach na'r canolfannau prysur a ffyniannus yr ydym i gyd am eu gweld.

Ni all y Llywodraeth droi'r cloc yn ôl na dad-ddyfeisio'r rhyngwrwyd na siopa ar gyrion trefi. Fodd bynnag, gall helpu'r stryd fawr i ymaddasu, cystadlu a ffynnu drwy gyflwyno polisiau i wneud canol ein trefi yn lleoedd deniadol i bobl ymweld â hwy.

Dywedodd yr Arglwydd Wolfson, pennaeth y gadwyn ffasiwn Next, yn ddiweddar fod cyfle mawr i ddatblygu manwerthu yn y DU drwy gynnig siopau gwell i bobl, a bod llawer o drefi a dinasoedd lle mae'r cyflenwad o siopau yn annigonol. Mae hyn yn sicr yn wir yng Nghymru.

Addawodd Llywodraeth Cymru i sefydlu ymgrych cefnogi'r stryd fawr, i'w lansio y mis hwn. Nid oes unrhyw wybodaeth am yr ymgrych hon wedi cael ei chyhoeddi, ac mae'r stryd fawr yn parhau i ddirywio tra bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn llaeu dwylo. Cred y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig fod yn rhaid i gymorth i fusnesau bach a chanolig ac adfywio'r stryd fawr fod yn brif flaenoriaeth.

Ardrethi busnes, rhent a chyflogau yw'r tair cost fwyaf i fusnesau bach. O dan ein cynigion ni, ni fyddai 73% o safleoedd busnes yng Nghymru yn talu unrhyw ardrethi o gwbl. Byddai diddymu ardrethi ar gyfer busnesau sydd â gwerth ardrethol o lai na £12,000, a rhoi rhyddhad sy'n lleihau'n raddol ar gyfer y rhai hyd at £15,000, yn rhoi cymorth amserol i alluogi cwmnïau i ganolbwyntio ar ehangu eu busnes a chyflogi staff newydd.

Mae strategaeth reoli glir ar gyfer canol ein trefi yn hanfodol ar hyn o bryd, am fod y stryd fawr yn dirywio. Byddai rheolwyr canol trefi yn ymgysylltu â grwpiau cymunedol a busnesau lleol drwy dimau tref i gynnig a datblygu strategaethau i wneud siopa yng nghanol y dref yn fwy cyfleus a deniadol.

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Poor parking facilities, high parking charges, traffic congestion and the lack of public transport all serve to deter consumers from shopping in town centres. We need to promote free parking schemes, convenient public transport and park-and-ride schemes, with the aim of making town centres pedestrian and cycle friendly. The planning system must be used to protect high streets by addressing their needs in local development plans. Plans should encourage a genuine mix of shops and offices in town centres as well as housing.

To quote Lord Wolfson once again,

‘Some high streets have been neglected for 20 or 30 years and those are the ones that will die.’

If the Welsh Government takes urgent action and follows our proposals, no high street in Wales need die.

Minister, the one point that is very important for small businesses and high streets is that the producers, importers, manufacturers, wholesalers and all those people who give commodities and goods to the big supermarkets should make the price equal for those people who run the local shops. At the moment, they are bulk buying and getting the prices so cheap that small shops cannot be sustained with their high street pricing. I know that our Government has no power over these manufacturers and retailers, but there should be a level playing field for small businesses to go and compete with the big businesses in the country. That will help our nation to improve our small traders and small town businesses in Wales.

Mae cyfleusterau parcio gwael, taliadau parcio uchel, tagfeydd traffig a diffyg trafnidiaeth gyhoeddus oll yn atal defnyddwyr rhag siopa yng nghanol trefi. Mae angen inni hyrwyddo cynlluniau parcio am ddim, trafnidiaeth gyhoeddus gyfleus a chynlluniau parcio a theithio, gyda'r nod o wneud canol trefi yn gyfleus i gerddwyr a beicwyr. Rhaid i'r system gynllunio gael ei defnyddio i warchod y stryd fawr drwy ddiwallu eu hanghenion mewn cynlluniau datblygu lleol. Dylai cynlluniau annog cymysgedd gwirioneddol o siopau a swyddfeydd yng nghanol trefi yn ogystal â thai.

Os caf ddyfynnu'r Arglwydd Wolfson unwaith eto,

Mae'r stryd fawr mewn rhai mannau wedi cael ei hesgeuluso ers 20 neu 30 mlynedd a dyna'r rhai a fydd yn marw.

Os bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn cymryd camau brys ac yn dilyn ein cynigion, nid oes angen i'r un stryd fawr yng Nghymru farw.

Weinidog, un pwynt sy'n bwysig iawn i fusnesau bach a'r stryd fawr yw y dylai'r cynhyrchwyr, y mewnforyn, y gwneuthurwyr, y cyfanwerthwyr a'r holl bobl hynny sy'n rhoi nwyddau i'r archfarchnadoedd mawr roi'r un pris i'r bobl hynny sy'n rhedeg y siopau lleol. Ar hyn o bryd, maent yn swmp-brynu ac mae'r prisiau mor rhad fel na all siopau bach barhau oherwydd y prisiau a gynigir ganddynt ar y stryd fawr. Gwn nad oes gan ein Llywodraeth unrhyw bŵer dros y gweithgynhyrchwyr a'r manwerthwyr hyn, ond dylai fod chwarae teg i fusnesau bach gystadlu â'r busnesau mawr yn y wlad. Bydd hynny'n helpu ein cenedl i wella ein masnachwyr bach a busnesau yn ein trefi bach yng Nghymru.

17:11

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

I call on the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, Edwina Hart, to speak.

Galwaf ar Weinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth, Edwina Hart, i siarad.

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17:11

Edwina Hart [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth / The Minister for Economy, Science and Transport

It is always a pleasure to discuss issues surrounding the economy. I am particularly grateful for Members' interest in this because issues around the economy affect all of us in society, including our constituents. So, it is important for us to try to find, between us, areas that we can agree on and support in terms of the development and the protection of the economy. We all agree that growth and sustainable jobs are at the heart of the programme for government. We have made it clear that our absolute focus remains on supporting and boosting our economy and identifying every opportunity to help businesses in Wales.

Mae bob amser yn bleser trafod materion sy'n ymwneud â'r economi. Rwy'n arbennig o ddiolchgar am ddiddordeb yr Aelodau yn hyn o beth am fod materion sy'n ymwneud â'r economi yn effeithio ar bob un ohonom mewn cymdeithas, gan gynnwys ein hetholwyr. Felly, mae'n bwysig inni, gyda'n gilydd, geisio dod o hyd i feysydd y gallwn gytuno arnynt a'u chefnogi o ran datblygiad a gwarchod yr economi. Rydym oll yn cytuno bod twf a swyddi cynaliadwy wrth wraidd y rhaglen lywodraethu. Rydym wedi ei gwneud yn glir ein bod yn canolbwyntio'n llwyr o hyd ar gefnogi a hybu ein heconomi a nodi pob cyfle i helpu busnesau yng Nghymru.

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I acknowledge all the contributions, starting with Paul Davies, that noted that these are challenging times for town centres. Recent figures for high street vacancy rates are evidence of the growing cultural shifts in the way that people shop, as well as the challenging economic environment facing us all. Mohammad Asghar was quite right; we have changed our habits significantly. There has been a trend to use our cars to go to out-of-town retail parks.

The comments that Eluned Parrott made about how a town should look at itself, what its market is, what it requires and what it needs to do and the type of shops that it needs are also relevant to this discussion. That requires leadership. That is why we have been so supportive of them when organisations in towns, particularly with business improvement districts and so on, have taken the lead in raising money and looking at what they really want.

So, they are difficult times. Obviously, the main economic levers rest with the UK Government. I was very pleased to hear the party political broadcast from Byron Davies today about infrastructure and investment. However, on this side of the Chamber, we have concerns that there is not enough money going in in terms of what investment we need in capital projects. We are obviously delighted about all the investment that has gone in to rail and other things, but it is important to recognise that Jane Hutt could do with substantially more money to kick-start the economy in terms of what is available in capital budgets.

I think that we all agree and we all say that we see town centres as the heart of local communities, providing places to shop, to do business and socialise. However, sometimes the public does not agree with us because the public does none of these things within the town centres. There has to be recognition of this, about the focus. We have a range of grants to support the redevelopment of town centres, to boost local trade and encourage visitors to return. It was one of the key issues in 'Vibrant and Viable Places' and this work included helping towns to respond to those changing shopping habits that Mohammad Asghar identified and to diversify their offers for residents and visitors. Diversification might also mean more housing in town centres and a slightly different way of dealing with things.

Rwy'n cydnabod pob un o'r cyfraniadau, gan ddechrau gyda Paul Davies, a nododd ei fod yn gyfnod heriol i ganol trefi. Mae'r ffigurau diweddar ar gyfer cyfraddau siopau gwag ar y stryd fawr yn dyst i newidiadau diwylliannol cynyddol yn y ffordd y mae pobl yn siopa, yn ogystal â'r amgylchedd economaidd heriol sy'n wynebu pob un ohonom. Roedd Mohammad Asghar yn llygad ei le; rydym wedi newid ein harferion yn sylweddol. Bu tuedd i ddefnyddio ein ceir i fynd i barciau manwerthu ar gyrion trefi.

Mae sylwadau Eluned Parrott ynghylch sut y dylai tref edrych arni ei hun, beth yw ei marchnad, yr hyn sydd ei hangen arni, yr hyn y mae angen iddi ei wneud a'r math o siopau sydd eu hangen hefyd yn berthnasol i'r drafodaeth hon. Mae hynny'n gofyn am arweinyddiaeth. Dyna pam rydym wedi bod mor gefnogol pan fydd sefydliadau mewn trefi, yn enwedig ardaloedd gwella busnes ac yn y blaen, wedi cymryd yr awenau o ran codi arian ac ystyried yr hyn sydd ei eisiau arnynt mewn gwirionedd.

Felly, mae'n gyfnod anodd. Yn amlwg, yn nwylo Llywodraeth y DU y mae'r prif ysgogwyr economaidd. Roeddwn yn falch iawn o glywed y darllediad gwleidyddol plaid gan Byron Davies heddiw ynglŷn â seilwaith a buddsoddi. Fodd bynnag, ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr, mae gennym bryderon na fydd digon o arian o ran y buddsoddi sydd ei angen arnom mewn prosiectau cyfalaf. Yn amlwg, rydym wrth ein bodd gyda'r holl fuddsoddiad yn y rheilffyrdd a phethau eraill, ond mae'n bwysig cydnabod bod angen llawer mwy o arian ar Jane Hutt i roi hwb i'r economi o ran yr hyn sydd ar gael mewn cyllidebau cyfalaf.

Credaf ein bod i gyd yn cytuno ac rydym i gyd yn dweud ein bod yn credu mai canol trefi yw calon cymunedau lleol, gan roi lleoedd i siopa, cynnal busnes a chymdeithasu. Fodd bynnag, weithiau nid yw'r cyhoedd yn cytuno â ni gan nad yw'r cyhoedd yn gwneud yr un o'r pethau hyn yng nghanol trefi. Rhaid cydnabod hyn, cydnabod y ffocws. Mae gennym ystod o grantiau i gefnogi ailddatblygu canol trefi, i roi hwb i fasnach leol ac annog ymwelwyr i ddychwelyd. Roedd yn un o'r materion allweddol yn 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid' ac roedd y gwaith hwn yn cynnwys helpu trefi i ymateb i'r arferion siopa newydd hynny a nodwyd gan Mohammad Asghar ac i arallgyfeirio'r hyn a gynnigiant i drigolion ac ymwelwyr. Gallai arallgyfeirio hefyd olygu mwy o dai yng nghanol trefi a ffordd ychydig yn wahanol o ymdrin â phethau.

I have alluded to business improvement districts and I think that these initiatives can empower businesses. We are also looking at costing three proposals that could have a positive impact on town centres, through improving the business rates regime. One scheme is to encourage long-term empty properties to be brought back into use by offering occupiers business rate relief over a fixed period. I am also costing an approach to extend the grace period for empty property rates for new developments, and I am costing a targeted fund from 2015 to support some businesses negatively affected by the postponement of the business rates revaluation. We have also acted on the task and finish group's advice and successfully lobbied the UK Government to extend the small business rate relief until March 2014, which is very important for many businesses in Wales. I very much hope that the UK Government will continue in that policy direction and perhaps look itself to extend it until March 2015, which would be enormously helpful for us.

We also have initiatives, such as the Newport business development project, local growth zones and city regions, which will also, I believe, contribute to this agenda. Sadly, recently, a number of major retailers have closed as a result of failing to respond quickly enough to social trends in the way that people shop. We go back once again to the issue of out-of-town shops and online shopping. People are changing fundamentally the way that they shop. Therefore, it is very important that we play our part in supporting our town centres, and for us and the public it is a matter of 'use them or lose them', in some cases. If you really want them and believe in them, you have to start to use them.

I think that we all agree that we must use all the tools available to us to provide support to town centres and high streets across Wales to stimulate the local economy. One is the big issue of access to finance, and I think that we had a good discussion on that in terms of the report and the statement yesterday, and we will have further statements on that in the future. We have various funds available. Some are specific and very tailored, and what Professor Dylan Jones-Evans's review targeted was some of the areas that we are looking at.

Everybody always refers in such debates—with the exception of the Liberal Democrats on this occasion—to what plans they have as political parties to help to kick-start businesses. As I have already indicated, any plans are welcome in the discussion about issues that we need to look at, because it is important that we look at the performance and the ability of high street banks and others. The points about Finance Wales have been well made and I have indicated that I will look at its role and how it could be more helpful, particularly with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises.

It is also very important that we look at some of the other issues that arise. One key issue is the transport system. The transport system improves the economic competitiveness of Wales, provides good access to jobs and services and reduces poverty for the people of Wales. It is also very important that we look at integrated transport and transport infrastructure for customers, the staff and suppliers, and for access to a wider market.

Rwyf wedi cyfeirio at ardaloedd gwella busnes a chredaf y gall y mentrau hyn rymuso busnesau. Rydym hefyd yn edrych ar gostau tri chynnis a allai gael effaith gadarnhaol ar ganol trefi, drwy wella'r drefn ardrethi busnes. Un cynllun yw annog adfer eiddo sydd wedi bod yn wag ers amser maith i'w ddefnyddio unwaith eto drwy gynnig rhyddhad ardrethi busnes i ddeiliaid dros gyfnod penodol. Rwyf hefyd yn costio dull o ymestyn y cyfnod gras ar gyfer ardrethi eiddo gwag i ddatblygiadau newydd, ac rwy'n costio cronfa wedi'i thargedu o 2015 i gefnogi rhai busnesau y bydd gohirio'r ymarfer ailbrizio ardrethi busnes yn effeithio arnynt yn negyddol. Rydym hefyd wedi gweithredu ar gyngor y grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen ac wedi lobio Llywodraeth y DU yn llwyddiannus i ymestyn y rhyddhad ardrethi i fusnesau bach tan fis Mawrth 2014, sy'n bwysig iawn i lawer o fusnesau yng Nghymru. Gobeithio'n fawr y bydd Llywodraeth y DU yn parhau â'r cyfeiriad polisi hwnnw ac o bosibl ystyried ymestyn y cyfnod tan fis Mawrth 2015, a fyddai'n gymorth mawr inni.

Ceir mentrau hefyd, megis prosiect datblygu busnes Casnewydd, parthau twf lleol a dinas-ranbarthau, a fydd hefyd, fe gredaf, yn cyfrannu at yr agenda hon. Yn anffodus, yn ddiweddar, mae nifer o fanwerthwyr mawr wedi cau o ganlyniad i fethu ag ymateb yn ddigon cyflym i dueddiadau cymdeithasol yn y ffordd y mae pobl yn siopa. Rydym yn mynd yn ôl unwaith eto at siopau ar gyrion trefi a siopa ar-lein. Mae pobl yn newid y ffordd y maent yn siopa'n sylfaenol. Felly, mae'n bwysig iawn ein bod yn chwarae ein rhan i gefnogi canol ein trefi, ac i ni a'r cyhoedd mater o'u defnyddio neu eu colli ydyw, mewn rhai achosion. Os ydych wir eu heisiau ac os ydych yn credu ynddynt, rhaid ichi ddechrau eu defnyddio.

Credaf ein bod i gyd yn cytuno bod yn rhaid inni ddefnyddio'r holl adnoddau sydd ar gael inni er mwyn cefnogi canol trefi a'r stryd fawr ledled Cymru er mwyn ysgogi'r economi leol. Un o'r adnoddau yw mater pwysig mynediad at gyllid, a chredaf inni gael trafodaeth dda ar hynny o ran yr adroddiad a'r datganiad ddoe, a bydd datganiadau pellach am hynny yn y dyfodol. Mae nifer o gronfeydd ariannol ar gael. Mae rhai yn benodol ac wedi'u teilwra'n fanwl, a chafodd rhai o'r meysydd yr ydym yn eu hystyried eu targedu yn adolygiad yr Athro Dylan Jones-Evans.

Mae pawb bob amser yn cyfeirio mewn dadleuon o'r fath—ac eithrio'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar yr achlysur hwn—at y cynlluniau sydd ganddynt fel pleidiau gwleidyddol i helpu i roi hwb i fusnesau. Fel y dywedais eisoes, bydd croeso i unrhyw gynlluniau yn y drafodaeth ar faterion y mae angen inni eu hystyried, oherwydd mae'n bwysig ein bod yn edrych ar berfformiad a gallu banciau'r stryd fawr ac eraill. Gwnaed pwyntiau da ynglŷn â Cyllid Cymru ac rwyf wedi nodi y byddaf yn ystyried ei rôl a'r ffordd y gallai fod yn fwy defnyddiol, yn enwedig gyda ffocws ar fusnesau bach a chanolig.

Mae'n bwysig iawn hefyd ein bod yn edrych ar rai o'r materion eraill sy'n codi. Un mater allweddol yw'r system drafnidiaeth. Mae'r system drafnidiaeth yn gwella cystadleurwydd economaidd Cymru, yn rhoi mynediad da at swyddi a gwasanaethau ac yn lleihau tlodi i bobl Cymru. Mae'n bwysig iawn hefyd ein bod yn edrych ar drafnidiaeth integredig a seilwaith trafnidiaeth ar gyfer cwsmeriaid, staff a chyflenwyr, ac ar gyfer mynediad at farchnad ehangach.

I will now turn specifically to the amendments to the motion. On amendment 1 in the name of Aled Roberts, Northern Ireland and Scotland have recently introduced fresh start schemes to bring long-term empty properties back into use by offering 50% business rate relief. We are currently looking at these issues, and, as soon as I have a scheme that I am able to share with Members, I will do so, so we will support that amendment.

In terms of amendment 2, I think that the point is very well made, because we are currently working on ways to improve access to apprenticeships for small businesses, which include financial support and work with partners such as the Federation of Small Businesses. It is a really proactive approach about getting people into employment and allowing small businesses to access the type of support that others do.

We will also support amendment 3, which recognises the importance of local banking. I think that we are all well versed in the arguments about why we should support this. This is why I have asked Professor Colyn Gardner to provide me with advice on this. He previously established and ran one of the world's leading banking training companies, DC Gardner Group plc, and was at Bangor University's management centre. Hopefully, he will have a report that will be available shortly that I will be able to share with Members on this issue.

We will certainly support amendment 4, and I am aware of the comments that Alun Ffred Jones made, particularly with regard to Finance Wales, because it is very important that we continue to look at the issues surrounding access to business finance. Likewise, we will support amendment 5 and amendment 6.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to support amendment 7. I have announced an extension to March 2014, and there are financial issues that we have to give further consideration to.

I think that this has been a useful discussion, which has focused attention on an agenda that we all need to take very seriously. We need to support town centres, we need to recognise the change in people's habitual shopping patterns, and it is a matter of 'use them or lose them'.

Trof yn awr yn benodol at y gwelliannau i'r cynnig. O ran gwelliant 1 yn enw Aled Roberts, mae Gogledd Iwerddon a'r Alban wedi cyflwyno cynlluniau busnesau newydd yn ddiweddar er mwyn adfer eiddo sydd wedi bod yn wag ers amser maith i'w ddefnydd drwy gynnig rhyddhad ardrethi busnes o 50%. Rydym wrthi'n edrych ar y materion hyn, a chyn gynted ag y bydd gennyf gynllun y gallaf ei rannu gyda'r Aelodau, gwnaf hynny, felly byddwn yn cefnogi'r gwelliant hwnnw.

O ran gwelliant 2, credaf ei fod yn bwynt da iawn, gan ein bod yn gweithio ar ffyrdd o wella mynediad at brentisiaethau ar gyfer busnesau bach ar hyn o bryd, sy'n cynnwys cymorth ariannol a gweithio gyda phartneriaid megis y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach. Mae'n ddull gwirioneddol ragweithiol o roi pobl mewn gwaith a galluogi busnesau bach i gael mynediad at y math o gymorth y mae eraill yn ei gael.

Byddwn hefyd yn cefnogi gwelliant 3, sy'n cydnabod pwysigrwydd bancio lleol. Credaf ein bod i gyd yn gyfarwydd iawn â'r dadleuon ynghylch pam y dylem gefnogi hyn. Dyma pam rwyf wedi gofyn i'r Athro Colyn Gardner roi cyngor imi ar hyn. Cyn hynny gwnaeth sefydlu a rhedeg un o'r cwmnïau hyfforddiant bancio mwyaf blaenllaw yn y byd, DC Gardner Group plc, a bu'n gweithio yng nghanolfan reoli Prifysgol Bangor. Gobeithio y bydd yn paratoi adroddiad a fydd ar gael cyn hir y byddaf yn gallu ei rannu gyda'r Aelodau ar y mater hwn.

Byddwn yn sicr yn cefnogi gwelliant 4, ac rwy'n ymwybodol o'r sylwadau a wnaeth Alun Ffred Jones, yn enwedig o ran Cyllid Cymru, oherwydd mae'n bwysig iawn ein bod yn parhau i edrych ar y materion sy'n ymwneud â mynediad at gyllid busnes. Yn yr un modd, byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant 5 a gwelliant 6.

Yn anffodus, ni allwn gefnogi gwelliant 7. Rwyf wedi cyhoeddi estyniad hyd at fis Mawrth 2014, a chyfyd materion ariannol y mae'n rhaid inni eu hystyried ymhellach.

Credaf fod hon wedi bod yn drafodaeth ddefnyddiol, sydd wedi rhoi sylw i agenda y mae angen inni i gyd ei chymryd o ddifrif. Mae angen inni gefnogi canol trefi, mae angen inni gydnabod y newid ym mhatrymau siopa arferol pobl, a mater o'u defnyddio neu eu colli ydyw.

17:19

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

I call on Nick Ramsay to reply to the debate.

Galwaf ar Nick Ramsay i ymateb i'r ddadl.

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17:19

Nick Ramsay [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I am pleased to respond to this debate. I can honestly say that we have, without doubt, had many positive contributions today. I did not hear many negative comments at all. The Minister's comments in closing, I thought, were particularly positive in taking up the strands of what many of the different parties here are trying to achieve.

Rwy'n falch o gael ymateb i'r ddadl hon. Gallaf ddweud yn berffaith onest ein bod, yn ddi-os, wedi cael llawer o gyfraniadau cadarnhaol heddiw. Ni chlywais lawer o sylwadau negyddol o gwbl. Roedd sylwadau'r Gweinidog wrth gloi, yn arbennig o gadarnhaol, yn fy marn i, o ran cyd-weu llinynnau yr hyn y mae llawer o'r pleidiau gwahanol yma yn ceisio ei wneud.

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This is a very straightforward motion. We are calling for urgent support for our businesses and for our high streets. That is surely an uncontroversial demand. I will turn briefly to some of the contributions that have been made. First, Paul Davies in opening mentioned his conversations with constituents and local businesses and the need to localise finance. Paul, you mentioned many of the things that were mentioned in the Minister's statement yesterday, and quoted Professor Dylan Jones-Evans, who has said that the Welsh Government needs to decide the strategic future of organisations such as Finance Wales. I agree with that. You also bigged up the Welsh Conservative policy document, 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street'. Regardless of your party, I think that there is a lot of stuff in it on which there is crossover and which I am sure that many Assembly Members can agree with.

Eluned Parrott spoke of not leaving our high streets to fend for themselves, the need to deal with parking issues, and the need for investment to be managed sensitively. Eluned, you made a very interesting point about how regeneration can, in the short term at least, sometimes have a negative effect. There is a need for project management there to make sure that we do not throw the baby out with the bathwater, and that regeneration does not do the exact opposite of what you want it to do in the short and medium term. You also talked about high streets being a bit like churches: they are not just buildings; it is the people, and the businesses, in them that make them what they are. I thought that that was a very good point.

Alun Ffred Jones identified supermarkets and out-of-town shopping as issues that need to be dealt with. Clearly, there are key problems there. You also spoke, Alun Ffred, about the need to maintain investment in our construction infrastructure, and you said that there is no one-size-fits-all solution across Wales. I agree with those comments.

Janet Finch-Saunders spoke about the challenges facing high streets, and said very positively that they are not insurmountable, but we have to start somewhere and we have to start now to make sure that we deal with those issues before they become so ingrained that it is difficult to reverse the situation. Janet, you also mentioned the localised approach, which Paul Davies had spoken about. Time and again in all of the contributions today that idea of localising support and providing local finance and local solutions to local problems has come across.

Keith Davies attacked naked capitalism—I am fully clothed most of the time; I hope that you were not including me in that, Keith. [Laughter.] However, you did make some comments about charity shops, which I hope that the Minister heard. She just touched on it briefly at the end. I know that we have all been lobbied very hard by the charity shop sector. There is clearly a need for further discussions with the charity sector. I do not think that things are ideal at the moment, but, at the same time, we do not want to lose that important contribution that charity shops have made, and do make, to our high streets. Therefore, I hope that we can have a further discussion with that sector before any decisions might be rushed into.

Mae hwn yn gynnig syml iawn. Rydym yn galw am gymorth brys i'n busnesau ac i'r stryd fawr. Does bosib nad yw hynny'n annadleuol. Trof yn fyr at rai o'r cyfraniadau a wnaed. Yn gyntaf, wrth agor, soniodd Paul Davies am ei sgysiau gydag etholwyr a busnesau lleol a'r angen i leoleiddio cyllid. Paul, soniasoch am lawer o'r pethau y soniwyd amdanynt yn natganiad y Gweinidog ddoe, gan ddyfynnu'r Athro Dylan Jones-Evans, sydd wedi dweud bod angen i Lywodraeth Cymru benderfynu ar ddyfodol strategol sefydliadau megis Cyllid Cymru. Cytunaf â hynny. Buoch hefyd yn hyrwyddo dogfen bolisi'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig, 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street'. Waeth beth yw eich plaid, credaf fod llawer o bethau ynddo lle mae gorgyffwrdd ac rwy'n sicr y gall llawer o Aelodau'r Cynulliad gytuno â hwy.

Soniodd Eluned Parrott am beidio â gadael y stryd fawr yn ddiymgeledd, am yr angen i ymdrin â materion parcio, a'r angen am reoli buddsoddiad mewn modd sensitif. Eluned, gwnaethoch bwynt diddorol iawn ynghylch sut y gall adfywio, yn y byrdymor o leiaf, gael effaith negyddol weithiau. Mae angen sgiliau rheoli prosiectau yn hynny o beth er mwyn sicrhau nad ydym yn cadw'r brych a thafu'r llo, ac nad yw adfywio yn gwneud yn union i'r gwrthwyneb i'r hyn yr ydych am iddo ei wneud yn y byrdymor a'r tymor canolig. Soniasoch hefyd fod y stryd fawr ychydig fel eglwys: nid adeiladau yn unig mohoni; y bobl, a'r busnesau, yn y stryd fawr sy'n ei chreu. Roeddwn yn meddwl fod hynny'n bwynt da iawn.

Nododd Alun Ffred Jones fod archfarchnadoedd a siopa ar gyrion trefi yn faterion y mae angen ymdrin â hwy. Yn amlwg, cyfyd problemau allweddol o ran hynny. Gwnaethoch hefyd sôn, Alun Ffred, am yr angen i gynnal buddsoddiad yn ein seilwaith adeiladu, a dywedasoch nad oes un ateb i bawb ledled Cymru. Cytunaf â'r sylwadau hynny.

Soniodd Janet Finch-Saunders am yr heriau sy'n wynebu'r stryd fawr, a dywedodd yn gadarnhaol iawn nad ydynt yn anorchfygol, ond rhaid inni ddechrau yn rhywle a rhaid inni ddechrau yn awr i sicrhau ein bod yn ymdrin â'r materion hynny cyn iddynt ymwreiddio mor ddwfn fel y bydd yn anodd gwrthdroi'r sefyllfa. Janet, soniasoch hefyd am y dull gweithredu lleol, a grybwyllwyd gan Paul Davies. Dro ar ôl tro ym mhob un o'r cyfraniadau heddiw cyflëwyd y syniad hwnnw o leoleiddio cymorth a darparu cyllid lleol ac atebion lleol i broblemau lleol.

Bu Keith Davies yn feirniadol o gyfalafiaeth noeth—rwy'n gwisgo dillad y rhan fwyaf o'r amser; gobeithio nad oeddech yn fy nghynnwys yn hynny o beth, Keith. [Chwerthin.] Fodd bynnag, gwnaethoch rai sylwadau am siopau elusen, a gobeithiaf fod y Gweinidog wedi clywed. Soniodd ychydig am hynny ar y diwedd. Gwn ein bod i gyd wedi cael ein lobio'n galed iawn gan y sector siopau elusen. Mae'n amlwg bod angen cynnal trafodaethau pellach gyda'r sector elusennol. Ni chredaf fod pethau yn ddelfrydol ar hyn o bryd, ond, ar yr un pryd, nid ydym am golli'r cyfraniad pwysig y mae siopau elusen wedi'i wneud, ac yn dal i'w wneud, at y stryd fawr. Felly, gobeithio y gallwn gael trafodaeth bellach gyda'r sector hwnnw cyn rhuthro i wneud unrhyw benderfyniadau.

Byron Davies focused on the transport issues, including the all-important M4 situation and the possibility of an M4 relief road. We know that the Government is currently in discussions with the UK Government about delivering improvements. Clearly, we support that. The sooner that something is done to try to improve congestion on that stretch of road, the better for all of us. The M4 corridor has been key to helping to generate wealth in Wales over many years, and it would be tragic if it now started to become a stranglehold on future economic growth in Wales.

Mohammad Asghar said that we cannot turn back the clock. Time only goes one way, unless you are the Doctor in 'Doctor Who'. You did not say that, Oscar; I added that. [Interruption.] No, no history lessons; I will not go down that route. Business rates are a hugely important part of the solution. You made that point, Mohammad, and many Members also touched on that point, and I think that we would all agree.

I think that there was an awful amount of agreement in this debate today. [Interruption.] I always like to get the First Minister laughing at this time of the afternoon. There is a real determination here to try to change things. Business rates are a key part of that solution and finance is a key part of that solution, but there is far more to it than that, and that is this issue of a strategic direction for our high streets. The Welsh Government has a very important role to play, but it cannot do it all. I mentioned to the Minister yesterday in the statement how I think that Finance Wales is key—we would obviously restructure it into a body called 'Invest Wales'—but it cannot be the whole solution. The banks have to play a role here, and I really hope that you can get a forum going with the banks, Minister. Let us face it: they have been given a lot of support themselves over the last few years, and, if they are not willing to put money back into the economy at a crucial time, that needs to be dealt with.

We need to have a cradle of support for our businesses, and a cradle or web of support for our high streets, and a strategic direction. We are, in many ways, all singing from the same hymn sheet, Minister. You will certainly have our support in trying to implement policies that will assist our high streets. I very much hope that you will take on board our 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street', which I keep under my pillow and take wherever I go. There are some good ideas in there, but we look forward to you bringing forward your own suggestions on the back of the many task and finish groups that you have going at the moment. I urge everyone to support our motion.

Canolbwyntiodd Byron Davies ar drafnidiaeth, gan gynnwys sefyllfa holl bwysig yr M4 a'r posibilrwydd o ffordd liniaru i'r M4. Gwyddom fod y Llywodraeth mewn trafodaethau gyda Llywodraeth y DU ar hyn o bryd ynghylch cyflwyno gwelliannau. Yn amlwg, rydym yn cefnogi hynny. Gorau po gyntaf y caiff rhywbeth ei wneud i geisio gwella tagfeydd ar y darn hwnnw o'r ffordd, a hynny i bob un ohonom. Mae coridor yr M4 wedi bod yn allweddol er mwyn helpu i greu cyfoeth yng Nghymru dros nifer o flynyddoedd, a byddai'n drist iawn pe bai'n dechrau dod yn rhwystr i dwf economaidd yn y dyfodol yng Nghymru.

Dywedodd Mohammad Asghar na allwn droi'r cloc yn ôl. Dim ond i un cyfeiriad y mae amser yn mynd, ac eithrio i'r Doctor yn 'Doctor Who'. Ni ddywedasoch hynny, Oscar; fi a ychwanegodd hynny [Torri ar draws.] Na, dim gwersi hanes; nid af i lawr y llwybr hwnnw. Mae ardrethi busnes yn rhan bwysig iawn o'r ateb. Gwnaethoch y pwynt hwnnw, Mohammad, a chyfeiriodd sawl Aelod arall at y pwynt hwnnw hefyd, a chredwn y byddem oll yn cytuno.

Credaf fod cryn gytundeb yn y ddadl hon heddiw. [Torri ar draws.] Rwyf bob amser yn hoffi gwneud i'r Prif Weinidog chwerthin ar yr adeg hon o'r prynhawn. Mae penderfyniad gwirioneddol yma i geisio newid pethau. Mae ardrethi busnes yn rhan allweddol o'r ateb hwnnw ac mae cyllid yn rhan allweddol o'r ateb hwnnw, ond mae llawer mwy i'r mater na hynny, sef cyfeiriad strategol ar gyfer y stryd fawr. Mae gan Lywodraeth Cymru rôl bwysig iawn i'w chwarae, ond ni all wneud y cyfan. Soniais wrth y Gweinidog ddoe yn y datganiad fy mod o'r farn bod Cyllid Cymru yn allweddol—yn amlwg byddem yn ei ailstrwythuro'n gorff o'r enw 'Invest Wales'—ond ni all gynnig yr ateb cyfan. Rhaid i'r banciau chwarae rôl yn hyn o beth, a gobeithio'n fawr y gallwch sefydlu fforwm gyda'r banciau, Weinidog. Gadewch inni wynebu'r gwir: maent wedi cael llawer o gymorth eu hunain yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, ac, os nad ydynt yn barod i roi arian yn ôl i mewn i'r economi ar adeg dyngedfennol, mae angen ymdrin â hynny.

Mae angen inni gynnig rhwydwaith o gymorth i'r busnesau, a rhwydwaith o gymorth i'r stryd fawr, ynghyd â chyfeiriad strategol. Mae pob un ohonom, ar sawl cyfrif, yn canu o'r un llyfr emynau, Weinidog. Byddwch yn sicr yn cael cefnogaeth gennym wrth ichi geisio gweithredu polisiau a fydd yn cynorthwyo'r stryd fawr. Gobeithio'n fawr y byddwch yn derbyn ein dogfen 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street', yr wyf yn cadw copi ohoni o dan fy ngobennydd ac yn mynd â hii bobman. Mae'n cynnwys rhai syniadau da, ond edrychwn ymlaen at glywed eich awgrymiadau eich hun ar sail y llu o grwpiau gorchwyl a gorffen sydd ar waith gennych ar hyn o bryd. Rwy'n annog pawb i gefnogi ein gwelliannau.

17:26

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

The proposal is to agree the motion without amendment. Does any Member object? There is objection. I therefore defer all voting on this item until voting time.

Voting time now follows. Before I proceed with the first vote, are there three Members who wish for the bell to be rung? There are not.

Y cynnig yw y dylid derbyn y cynnig heb ei ddiwygio. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Mae gwrthwynebiad. Felly, gohiriaf yr holl bleidleisio ar yr eitem hon tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Bydd y cyfnod pleidleisio yn dilyn yn awr. Cyn imi fynd ymlaen gyda'r bleidlais gyntaf, a oes tri Aelod sy'n dymuno i'r gloch gael ei chanu? Nad oes.

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Gohiriwyd y pleidleisio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Voting deferred until voting time.

Cyfnod Pleidleisio

[Canlyniad y bleidlais ar gynnig NDM5262.](#)

Derbyniwyd y cynnig: O blaid 43, Yn erbyn 6, Ymatal 2.

[Canlyniad y bleidlais ar gynnig NDM5276.](#)

Gwrthodwyd y cynnig: O blaid 11, Yn erbyn 41, Ymatal 0.

[Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 1 i gynnig NDM5276.](#)

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 44, Yn erbyn 0, Ymatal 8.

[Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 2 i gynnig NDM5276.](#)

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 52, Yn erbyn 0, Ymatal 8.

[Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 3 i gynnig NDM5276.](#)

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 52, Yn erbyn 0, Ymatal 0.

[Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 4 i gynnig NDM5276.](#)

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 52, Yn erbyn 0, Ymatal 0.

[Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 5 i gynnig NDM5276.](#)

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 41, Yn erbyn 11, Ymatal 0.

[Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 6 i gynnig NDM5276.](#)

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 36, Yn erbyn 11, Ymatal 5.

[Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 7 i gynnig NDM5276.](#)

Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 24, Yn erbyn 28, Ymatal 0.

Cynnig NDM5276 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. Yn credu bod angen cymorth brys ar fusnesau bach ledled Cymru ac yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i amlinellu ei chynigion am ymgyrch stryd fawr cyn toriad yr haf;

Voting Time

[Result of the vote on motion NDM5262.](#)

Motion agreed: For 43, Against 6, Abstain 2.

[Result of the vote on motion NDM5276.](#)

Motion not agreed: For 11, Against 41, Abstain 0.

[Result of the vote on amendment 1 to motion NDM5276.](#)

Amendment agreed: For 44, Against 0, Abstain 8.

[Result of the vote on amendment 2 to motion NDM5276.](#)

Amendment agreed: For 52, Against 0, Abstain 0.

[Result of the vote on amendment 3 to motion NDM5276.](#)

Amendment agreed: For 52, Against 0, Abstain 0.

[Result of the vote on amendment 4 to motion NDM5276.](#)

Amendment agreed: For 52, Against 0, Abstain 0.

[Result of the vote on amendment 5 to motion NDM5276.](#)

Amendment agreed: For 41, Against 11, Abstain 0.

[Result of the vote on amendment 6 to motion NDM5276.](#)

Amendment agreed: For 36, Against 11, Abstain 5.

[Result of the vote on amendment 7 to motion NDM5276.](#)

Amendment not agreed: For 24, Against 28, Abstain 0.

Motion NDM5256 as amended:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Believes that small businesses throughout Wales need urgent support and calls on the Welsh Government to outline their proposals for a high street campaign before the summer recess;

2. Yn gresynu mai'r gyfradd siopau gwag ar y stryd fawr yng Nghymru yw'r uchaf ar dir mawr Prydain, ac yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i leihau ardrethi busnes ar gyfer tenantiaid sy'n cymryd les eiddo sydd wedi bod yn wag am o leiaf 12 mis, er mwyn annog adleoli ac adfywio canol trefi;

3. Yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd bancio lleol i dwf economaidd llwyddiannus a chynaliadwy busnesau mewn ardaloedd gwledig, ac yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i archwilio ffyrdd o ehangu'r ddarpariaeth bancio cymunedol ac undebau credyd mewn cymunedau gwledig;

4. Yn nodi bod Cyllid Cymru wedi'i gyfyngu yn ei allu i gynnig cyllid am gyfraddau cystadleuol, ac felly yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i edrych ar ddulliau amgen o gyllido busnesau;

5. Yn nodi'r cynigion a amlinellir yn 'Cynllun C: Cynllun i Symud yr Economi Cymreig Ymlaen' gan Blaid Cymru i gefnogi busnesau bach a chanolig a chanol trefi.

6. Yn cydnabod y potensial i brentisiaethau gynyddu elw a chynhyrchiant busnesau bach, ac felly'n galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i archwilio ffyrdd o wella mynediad at brentisiaethau ar gyfer busnesau bach;

7. Yn cydnabod y cynnydd mewn benthyca gan Gyllid Cymru. Fodd bynnag, yn credu bod angen dull mwy lleol o ran cael gafael ar gyllid, ac felly'n galw ar Weinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth i weithio gyda Chyllid Cymru i asesu a yw'r pecyn ariannol a gynigir i fusnesau yn gystadleuol yn y tymor hir;

8. Yn nodi ymhellach bwysigrwydd seilwaith trafndiaeth i gynorthwyo'r economi genedlaethol a lleol.

2. Regrets that the high street shop vacancy rate in Wales is the highest in mainland Britain, and calls on the Welsh Government to work with local authorities to reduce business rates for tenants taking over the lease of a property that has been empty for at least 12 months, to encourage re-location and revitalise town centres;

3. Recognises the importance of local banking to the successful and sustainable economic growth of businesses in rural areas and calls on the Welsh Government to explore ways to expand the provision of community banking and credit unions in rural communities;

4. Notes that Finance Wales is restricted in its ability to offer finance at competitive rates, and therefore calls on the Welsh Government to explore alternative methods of financing businesses;

5. Notes the proposals outlined in Plaid Cymru's 'Plan C: A Plan to Move the Welsh Economy Forward' to support SMEs and town centres.

6. Recognises the potential for apprenticeships to improve the profit and productivity of small businesses and therefore calls on the Welsh Government to explore ways to improve access to apprenticeships for small businesses;

7. Acknowledges the increase in lending from Finance Wales, however, believes a more localised approach in accessing finance is necessary, and therefore calls on the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport to work with Finance Wales to assess if the financial package offered to businesses is competitive in the long term;

8. Further notes the importance of transport infrastructure to supporting the national and local economy.

[Canlyniad y bleidlais ar gynnig NDM5276 fel y'i diwygiwyd.](#)

[Result of the vote on motion NDM5276 as amended.](#)

Gwrthodwyd cynnig NDM5276 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 14, Yn erbyn 38, Ymatal 0.

Motion NDM5276 as amended not agreed: For 14, Against 38, Abstain 0.

17:30

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

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Would those Members leaving the Chamber please do so quickly and quietly?

A fydd yr Aelodau hynny sy'n gadael y Siambr yn gwneud hynny'n gyflym ac yn dawel os gwelwch yn dda?

17:31

Dadl Fer: Y Fagl i Rieni: Mae Gofal Plant Rhy Ddrud yn Atal Teuluoedd Rhag Gweithio

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

I call on Jenny Rathbone to speak to the subject that she has chosen.

Short Debate: The Parent Trap: Unaffordable Childcare Prevents Families from Working

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

Galwaf ar Jenny Rathbone i siarad ar y pwnc y mae wedi'i ddewis.

17:31

Jenny Rathbone [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I am delighted to be speaking on the issue of childcare, even if it is to a reduced number of us. Nevertheless, it gets the subject on the agenda. I am pleased to give Julie James and Aled Roberts a minute each before the Minister replies.

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Rwy'n falch iawn o siarad ynglŷn â'r mater o ofal plant, hyd yn oed os oes llai ohonom yma. Serch hynny, mae'n rhoi'r pwnc ar yr agenda. Mae'n bleser gennyf roi munud yr un i Julie James ac Aled Roberts cyn i'r Gweinidog ateb.

The quickest route out of poverty is to get a job, and that is difficult for anyone in the current economic situation. If you have pre-school children, however, the obstacles to getting a job can be insurmountable. In Cardiff, the cost of quality, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. childcare is £180 a week, and those 10 hours are what you need to hold down a nine-to-five job. That is a lot, but it is not the expensive end of the market; some private nurseries in Cardiff charge as much as £265 a week. The average cost of childcare in Wales is £91 a week for 25 hours for a child under two, or £89 for a three or four-year-old, according to the annual survey of childcare costs done by the Daycare Trust. So, the £180 a week for 40 hours in Cardiff is not so out of kilter with the rest of Wales. It is a truism that quality childcare costs.

All parents want quality childcare, but most people do not earn enough to be able to pay for it. Most parents juggle with a combination of voluntary support and organised childcare. Seventy per cent of parents in Cardiff rely on family and friends to enable them to work. People are endlessly ingenious in making work and children possible. I have one mother who uses her lunch hour to pick up her three-year-old from the grandparents and take him, sandwich in hand, to the free two hours of nursery provision at a school that also provides wraparound care until 6 p.m. That is made possible by the fact that she has a car and a flexible employer, and that she works close enough to the grandparents and the nursery to make that possible in her lunch hour. I have another family where the parents hardly ever see each other, because they take it in turns to look after their two children, both of whom are under four. One of the parents works shifts at the Heath hospital, and the other in the restaurant trade. As soon as one parent comes back from work, the other one goes out. That sort of juggling is not uncommon, but it is impossible if you are single parent, particularly if you do not have willing and able grandparents or other relatives living nearby.

Of course, the inverse care law applies absolutely in relation to childcare. In better-off areas, there are day-care nurseries that have waiting lists. In poorer areas, nurseries are now suffering from a reduction in occupancy levels, from 80% to now 60% or 70% in the last two years as a result of the recession. Unless they have reserves to draw down to cover those costs, they are unlikely to survive until the economy improves, when, once again, demand will exceed supply.

Y llwybr cyflymaf allan o dlodi yw cael swydd, ac mae hynny'n anodd i unrhyw un yn y sefyllfa economaidd bresennol. Os oes gennych blant cyn-ysgol, fodd bynnag, gall y rhwystrau i gael swydd fod yn anorchfygol. Yng Nghaerdydd, mae gofal plant o ansawdd, o 8 a.m. i 6 p.m., yn costio £180 yr wythnos, a'r 10 awr hynny sydd eu hangen arnoch i ddal gafael ar swydd naw tan bump. Mae hynny'n llawer o arian, ond nid dyma'r rhan ddrud o'r farchnad; mae rhai meithrinfeydd preifat yng Nghaerdydd yn codi cymaint â £265 yr wythnos. Cost gyfartalog gofal plant yng Nghymru yw £91 yr wythnos am 25 awr ar gyfer plentyn dan ddwy oed, neu £89 ar gyfer plentyn tair neu bedair oed, yn ôl yr arolwg blyneddol o gostau gofal plant a gynhaliwyd gan yr Ymddiriedolaeth Gofal Dydd. Felly, nid yw'r £180 yr wythnos am 40 awr yng Nghaerdydd mor anghyson â gweddill Cymru. Mae'n wireb bod gofal plant o ansawdd yn costio arian.

Mae pob rhiant eisiau gofal plant o ansawdd, ond nid yw'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn ennill digon i allu talu amdano. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o rieni'n jyglo gyda chyfuniad o gymorth gwirfoddol a gofal plant wedi'i drefnu. Mae 70 y cant o rieni yng Nghaerdydd yn dibynnu ar deulu a ffrindiau i'w galluogi i weithio. Mae pobl wastad yn ddwyfeisgar wrth geisio sicrhau bod gweithio a chael plant yn bosibl. Mae gennyf un fam sy'n defnyddio ei hawr ginio i gasglu ei phlentyn tair oed wrth ei nain a'i daid a mynd ag ef, gyda brechdan yn ei llaw, i sesiwn feithrin dwy awr am ddim mewn ysgol sydd hefyd yn darparu gofal cofleidol tan 6 p.m. Mae'n gallu gwneud hynny am fod ganddi gar a chyflogwr hyblyg, ac am ei bod yn gweithio'n ddigon agos at y nain a'r taid a'r feithrinfa i allu gwneud hynny yn ystod ei hawr ginio. Mae gennyf deulu arall lle mae'r rhieni bron byth yn gweld ei gilydd, am eu bod yn cymryd eu tro i ofalu am eu dau blentyn, sydd ill dau o dan bedair oed. Mae un o'r rhieni'n gweithio sifftiau yn ysbyty'r Waun, a'r llall yn y busnes bwyta. Cyn gynted ag y bydd un rhiant yn dod yn ôl o'r gwaith, mae'r llall yn gadael. Nid yw'r math hwnnw o jyglo yn anghyffredin, ond mae'n amhosibl os ydych yn rhiant sengl, yn enwedig os nad oes gennych nain a thaid parod ac abl neu berthnasau eraill sy'n byw gerllaw.

Wrth gwrs, mae'r gyfraith gofal gwrthgyfartal yn gwbl berthnasol i ofal plant. Mewn ardaloedd mwy cefnog, mae meithrinfeydd gofal dydd sydd â rhestrau aros. Mewn ardaloedd tlotach, mae meithrinfeydd nawr yn dioddef yn sgil gostyngiad mewn lefelau defnydd, o 80% i 60% neu 70% erbyn hyn yn ystod y ddwy flynedd diwethaf o ganlyniad i'r dirwasgiad. Oni bai fod ganddynt gronfeydd wrth gefn y gallant eu defnyddio i dalu am y costau hynny, maent yn annhebygol o oroesi hyd nes y bydd yr economi'n gwella, pan fydd y galw yn fwy na'r cyflenwad unwaith eto.

Registered childminders are a valuable alternative for some parents, and they are also a way in which some parents of young children continue to work by caring for other children along with their own. In Whitchurch and Tongwynlais—one of the better-off areas of Cardiff—there are 105 registered childminders. In contrast, in Adamsdown, a Flying Start area, there are three. So, in Adamsdown, families must rely, as their best bet, on the free nursery places for two-year-olds as part of the Flying Start programme: a Welsh Government initiative that is being extended to a quarter of all 0 to 4-year-olds across Wales. The two hours of quality nursery education is great for the child, but of little use for a parent wanting to work.

In sum, the UK has some of the most expensive childcare in the world, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has analysed the barriers or incentives open to Government that determine whether mothers go back to work after the birth of their child or not. If parental leave is too short, mothers may not return to work—and may not be ready to return to work—and they would drop out of the labour force. If it is too long, skills deteriorate, making a return to work difficult. These are huge macro-economic issues that affect every aspect of our economy.

During the second world war, there was absolutely no problem getting childcare. The Government wanted mothers to work, and, of course, that is exactly what they did. After the war, all the workplace nurseries were closed and working women were forced to give up their jobs in droves to make way for the returning soldiers, who were almost exclusively men. This was a deliberate Government policy.

The last Labour Government made huge efforts to crack this essential element of women's equality. Labour's 2004 childcare strategy provided up to £300 a week for two or more children or £175 for one child in childcare tax credits. It increased the percentage of childcare costs that parents could claim for from 70% to 80% for anybody working 16 hours or more. That was a hugely popular and important contribution to the way in which women could or could not enter the workforce and stay there.

In April 2011, the UK coalition Government reduced the amount that parents could claim to 70% as a maximum of their childcare costs. There were howls of anguish from struggling working parents, who are almost exclusively putting two thirds of the second person's income into childcare. That is what they are mainly working for. There was one welcome concession from the current Government, which is to allow people working fewer than 16 hours to also get help with childcare. That is good; a mini-job is better than no job at all to enable people to retain their workplace skills until their child is in school. However, it is unclear whether Nick Clegg has been successful in getting the additional £300 million to pay for that concession, or whether those who are working longer hours at higher wages will have to scale back their childcare support in order to pay for that.

Mae gwarchodwyr plant cofrestredig yn ddewis amgen gwerthfawr i rai rhieni, ac maent hefyd yn ffordd i rai rhieni sydd â phlant ifanc barhau i weithio drwy ofalu am blant eraill ynghyd â'u plant eu hunain. Yn yr Eglwys Newydd a Thongwynlais—un o ardaloedd mwy cefnog Caerdydd—mae 105 o warchodwyr plant cofrestredig. Mewn cyferbyniad, yn Adamsdown, sy'n ardal Dechrau'n Deg, mae tri. Felly, yn Adamsdown, y dewis gorau i deuluoedd yw gorfod dibynnu ar y lleoedd meithrin am ddim i blant dwy oed sy'n rhan o'r rhaglen Dechrau'n Deg: menter gan Lywodraeth Cymru sy'n cael ei hymestyn i chwarter o'r holl blant 0 i 4 oed ledled Cymru. Mae'r ddwy awr o addysg feithrin o ansawdd yn wych i'r plentyn, ond nid yw o fawr ddim defnydd i riant sy'n dymuno gweithio.

I grynhoi, mae gan y DU rywfaint o'r ddarpariaeth gofal plant ddrutaf yn y byd, ac mae'r Sefydliad ar gyfer Cydweithrediad a Datblygiad Economaidd wedi dadansoddi'r rhwystrau neu'r cymhellion sydd ar gael i'r Llywodraeth sy'n pennu a yw mamau'n dychwelyd i'r gwaith ar ôl cael eu plentyn ai peidio. Os yw'r cyfnod absenoldeb rhiant yn rhy fyr, efallai na fydd mamau'n dychwelyd i'r gwaith—ac efallai na fyddant yn barod i ddychwelyd i'r gwaith—ac y byddent yn gadael y gweithlu. Os yw'n rhy hir, bydd sgiliau'n dirywio, sy'n golygu y bydd yn anodd iddynt ddychwelyd i'r gwaith. Mae'r rhain yn faterion macro-economaidd enfawr sy'n effeithio ar bob agwedd ar ein heconomi.

Yn ystod yr ail ryfel byd, nid oedd cael gofal plant yn broblem o gwbl. Roedd y Llywodraeth yn awyddus i famau weithio, ac, wrth gwrs, dyna'n union a wnaethant. Ar ôl y rhyfel, caewyd yr holl feithrinfeydd mewn gweithleoedd a bu'n rhaid i'r merched a oedd yn gweithio roi'r gorau i'w swyddi yn eu mintai i wneud lle i'r milwyr a oedd yn dychwelyd, a oedd bron i gyd yn ddynion. Roedd hwn yn bolisi bwriadol gan y Llywodraeth.

Gwnaeth y Llywodraeth Lafur ddiwethaf ymdrechion mawr i fynd i'r afael â'r elfen hanfodol hon o gydraddoldeb i ferched. Darparodd strategaeth gofal plant y blaid Lafur yn 2004 hyd at £300 yr wythnos ar gyfer dau neu fwy o blant neu £175 ar gyfer un plentyn ar ffurf credydau treth gofal plant. Cynyddodd y ganran o gostau gofal plant y gallai rhieni ei hawlio o 70% i 80% ar gyfer unrhyw a oedd yn gweithio 16 awr neu fwy. Roedd hwnnw'n gyfraniad hynod boblogaidd a phwysig a bennai a allai merched ymuno â'r gweithlu ac aros ynddo ai peidio.

Ym mis Ebrill 2011, gostyngodd Llywodraeth glymblaid y DU y swm y gallai rhieni ei hawlio i uchafswm o 70% o'u costau gofal plant. Cafwyd bonllfau o ofid gan rieni sy'n gweithio ac sy'n cael trafferth ymdopi, sydd bron yn neilltuo dwy ran o dair o incwm yr ail berson yn gyfan gwbl i ofal plant. Dyna beth y maent yn gweithio amdano yn bennaf. Cafwyd un consesiwn i'w groesawu gan y Llywodraeth bresennol, sef caniatáu i bobl sy'n gweithio llai nag 16 awr i gael cymorth gyda gofal plant hefyd. Mae hynny'n dda; mae swydd fach yn well na dim swydd o gwbl i alluogi pobl i gadw eu sgiliau gwaith hyd nes y bydd eu plentyn yn yr ysgol. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n glir a yw Nick Clegg wedi llwyddo i gael y £300 miliwn ychwanegol i dalu am y consesiwn hwnnw, neu a fydd yn rhaid i'r rhai sy'n gweithio oriau hirach ar gyflogau uwch gael llai o gymorth gofal plant er mwyn talu am hynny.

Getting back to the level of support provided by Labour would cost an additional £348 million, in addition to the £300 million that Nick Clegg had hoped to get from the Osborne spending review, which may or may not be achieved. In addition, universal credit will now withdraw financial support from the second earner in a household, making life even more difficult for families with small children who wish to work.

So, what can we do in Wales? The Government is not exactly awash with money. We have just heard about the tight settlement that we have had for next year, but some of the things that I think we should look at include how we could use our public estate better. We need to make so-called community-focused schools actually be more community focused. Why is it that some primary schools are still not offering free breakfast schemes? These are intended to enable children to settle and get ready for education, but, at the same time, it is a free form of childcare. Why do schools not offer wraparound care to complement the free two hours of nursery education, or, indeed, after-school care, to accommodate working parents? I would like to point out that Severn Primary School in Canton here in Cardiff as a shining example of what can be done—a 16-place scheme to enable 3 and 4-year-olds to stay in school till 3 p.m., and even 6 p.m. if their parents need it. In contrast, another school, St Monica's Primary School, with Gladstone Primary School, has announced that it will abolish its after-school provision, which means that one of my constituents, who is a teacher at a nearby secondary school, may not be able to continue in their job.

I wondered whether Pentre Primary School in the Rhondda, with its 60% vacant places, ever considered eliminating some of them by creating wraparound childcare. Those are the sorts of things that we have to look at very seriously in the difficult financial situation in which we find ourselves, and I particularly look forward to hearing how the Minister plans to uptake the childcare policy, as outlined in the 'Nurturing Children, Supporting Families' policy document.

Byddai dychwelyd i lefel y cymorth a ddarparwyd gan y blaid Lafur yn costio £348 miliwn arall, yn ychwanegol at y £300 miliwn yr oedd Nick Clegg wedi gobeithio ei gael o adolygiad o wariant Osborne, a all gael ei gyflawni neu beidio. Yn ogystal, bydd credyd cynhwysol nawr yn tynnu cymorth ariannol oddi wrth yr ail enillydd mewn cartref, gan wneud bywyd hyd yn oed yn fwy anodd i deuluoedd â phlant bach sy'n dymuno gweithio.

Felly, beth allwn ni ei wneud yng Nghymru? Nid yw'r Llywodraeth yn fôr o arian a dweud y lleiaf. Rydym newydd glywed am y setliad tynn yr ydym wedi'i gael ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf, ond mae rhai o'r pethau y credaf y dylem edrych arnynt yn cynnwys sut y gallem ddefnyddio ein hystad gyhoeddus yn well. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod ysgolion bro, fel y'u gelwir, yn ysgolion bro yng ngwir ystyr y gair. Pam bod rhai ysgolion cynradd yn dal i beidio â chynnig cynlluniau brecwast am ddim? Bwriad y rhain yw galluogi plant i setlo a pharatoi ar gyfer addysg, ond, ar yr un pryd, mae'n fath o ofal plant am ddim. Pam nad yw ysgolion yn cynnig gofal cofleidiol i gyd-fynd â'r ddwy awr o addysg feithrin am ddim, neu, yn wir, ofal ar ôl ysgol, i helpu rhieni sy'n gweithio? Hoffwn nodi bod Ysgol Gynradd Severn yn Nhreganna yma yng Nghaerdydd yn enghraifft wych o'r hyn y gellir ei wneud—cynllun ag 16 o leoedd sy'n galluogi plant 3 a 4 oed i aros yn yr ysgol tan 3 p.m., a hyd yn oed 6 p.m. os oes angen hynny ar eu rhieni. Mewn cyferbyniad, mae ysgol arall, Ysgol Gynradd Santes Monica, ynghyd ag Ysgol Gynradd Gladstone, wedi cyhoeddi y bydd yn diddymu ei darpariaeth ar ôl ysgol, sy'n golygu efallai na fydd un o'm hetholwyr, sy'n athrawes mewn ysgol uwchradd gyfagos, yn gallu parhau yn ei swydd.

Rwy'n dyfalu tybed a wnaeth Ysgol Gynradd Pentre yn y Rhondda, gyda'i 60% o leoedd gwag, erioed ystyried dileu rhai ohonynt trwy greu gofal plant cofleidiol. Dyna'r mathau o bethau y mae'n rhaid inni edrych arnynt o ddifrif yn y sefyllfa ariannol anodd yr ydym ynddi, ac edrychaf ymlaen yn arbennig at glywed sut y mae'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu datblygu'r polisi gofal plant, fel yr amlinellir yn y ddogfen bolisi 'Magu Plant, Cefnogi Teuluoedd'.

17:40

Julie James [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I am delighted to take part in this debate, and I entirely concur with everything that Jenny Rathbone has just said, but I also want to look at the other end of the scale. In today's society, we think that we have learnt about equality, but we do not have equality in employment for women, because most women have to flexibly work because they have to have flexible childcare. I say 'women' advisedly, because although there are some good examples of men doing it, it is almost always the woman who ends up with childcare responsibility, and that is regardless of the earning capacity of the woman in question. The Welsh Government rightly sponsors equal numbers of women and men through university and apprenticeship courses, through workplace training and so on, but it then fails them at the last hurdle, because they cannot progress. They cannot have aspirations because they cannot get their children cared for in order to dedicate their lives to that work.

Rwy'n falch o gymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon, a chytunaf yn llwyr â phopeth y mae Jenny Rathbone newydd ei ddweud, ond ryf hefyd am edrych ar ben arall y raddfa. Yn y gymdeithas gyfoes, rydym yn meddwl ein bod wedi dysgu am gydraddoldeb, ond nid oes gennym gydraddoldeb mewn cyflogaeth i ferched, gan fod yn rhaid i'r rhan fwyaf o ferched weithio'n hyblyg am fod yn rhaid iddynt gael gofal plant hyblyg. Rwy'n dweud 'merched' yn ofalus, oherwydd er bod rhai enghreifftiau da o ddynion yn gwneud hynny, y ferch sy'n ysgwyddo'r cyfrifoldeb gofal plant bron bob amser, waeth beth fo gallu ennill y ferch dan sylw. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru, yn briodol ddigon, yn noddi nifer gyfartal o ferched a dynion drwy gyrsiau prifysgol a phrentisiaethau, drwy hyfforddiant yn y gweithle ac yn y blaen, ond yna mae'n eu siomi ar y cam olaf, oherwydd ni allant symud ymlaen. Ni allant gael dyheadau am allant gael gfael ar ofal i'w plant er mwyn iddynt ymroi eu bywydau i'r gwaith hwnnw.

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I have a little ancient history for you. My aunt and uncle met because they had the same job, as nurses. When they married, my aunt was demoted. You would think that that was ancient history now, but these days, she may well still be demoted, because she would not be able to work the hours necessary to get promoted or to do the training or the after-hours work that you have to do to progress in any profession. Therefore, my plea to the Minister is this: if we think that women are worth training, and we do, and if we think that they are worth educating, which we do, and if we think that the road out of poverty is education and aspiration, which, again, we do, then let us allow people to get those aspirations in place by providing them with the quality childcare that they need to progress in their professions.

Mae gen i ryw faint o hen hanes ichi. Cyfarfu fy modryb ac ewythr â'i gilydd am fod ganddynt yr un swydd, fel nyrsys. Pan wnaethant briodi, cafodd fy modryb ei diraddio. Byddech yn meddwl bod hynny'n hen hanes erbyn hyn, ond y dyddiau hyn, mae'n bosibl iawn y byddai'n cael ei diraddio o hyd, am na fyddai'n gallu gweithio'r oriau sydd eu hangen i gael dyrchafiad neu i wneud yr hyfforddiant neu'r gwaith ar ôl oriau y mae'n rhaid ichi ei wneud er mwyn symud ymlaen mewn unrhyw broffesiwn. Felly, fy mhle i'r Gweinidog yw hyn: os ydym yn credu ei bod yn werth hyfforddi merched, ac rydym yn credu hynny, ac os ydym yn credu eu bod werth eu haddysgu, ac rydym yn credu hynny, ac os ydym yn credu mai'r ffordd allan o dlodi yw drwy addysg a dyhead, ac, unwaith eto, rydym yn credu hynny, yna gadewch inni alluogi pobl i gael y dyheadau hynny drwy ddarparu'r gofal plant o ansawdd sydd ei angen arnynt i symud ymlaen yn eu proffesiynau.

17:42 **Aled Roberts** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I also acknowledge that this is a real issue, particularly for one-parent families. However, it is not just an issue for one-parent families, because my experience—and I would not pretend for one moment that we were at the lower end of the pay scales—is that we had grandparents who could help us, and yet my wife still had to go into part-time employment because of her childcare responsibilities. She probably lost some 10 years, as far as her progression in her chosen career is concerned. However, certainly, I acknowledge that times are difficult for the Welsh Government in debating how we proceed. I also acknowledge that times are hard for the UK Government, and it is a matter on which there has to be debate. I am pleased that there will be a £1 billion scheme by 2015, which will provide for tax-free childcare. I accept that it is perhaps not as generous a scheme as that from the previous Government, but I think that we need to acknowledge that there is to be shared parental leave provisions, which might mean, in more enlightened households, that fathers will assume more responsibility for rearing their children.

Rwyf innau hefyd yn cydnabod bod hon yn broblem wirioneddol, yn enwedig i deuluoedd un rhiant. Fodd bynnag, nid dim ond problem i deuluoedd un rhiant ydyw, oherwydd fy mhrofiad i yw—ac ni fyddwn yn esgus am funud ein bod ar ben isaf y graddfeydd cyflog—fod gennym neiniau a theidiau a allai ein helpu, ac eto i gyd bu dal rhaid i'm gwraig weithio'n rhan-amser oherwydd ei chyfrifoldebau gofal plant. Mae'n debyg iddi golli tua 10 mlynedd, o ran ei gallu i symud ymlaen yn ei dewis yrfa. Fodd bynnag, yn sicr, rwy'n cydnabod bod pethau'n anodd i Lywodraeth Cymru wrth drafod sut y dylem symud ymlaen. Rwyf hefyd yn cydnabod bod pethau'n anodd i Lywodraeth y DU, ac mae'n fater y mae'n rhaid ei drafod. Rwy'n falch y bydd cynllun £1 biliwn ar waith erbyn 2015, a fydd yn darparu ar gyfer gofal plant di-dreth. Derbyniaf efallai nad yw'n gynllun mor hael â'r un a gyflwynwyd gan y Llywodraeth flaenorol, ond credaf fod angen inni gydnabod y bydd darpariaethau i rannu absenoldeb rhiant, a allai olygu, mewn cartrefi mwy goleuedig, y bydd tadau'n derbyn mwy o gyfrifoldeb am fagu eu plant.

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17:43 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I call on the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty to reply to the debate.

Galwaf ar y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi i ymateb i'r ddadl.

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17:43 **Huw Lewis** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi / The Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

I am grateful for the opportunity to respond on behalf of the Welsh Government regarding the important issue of affordable childcare. Tackling poverty is at the heart of all our policies. We need to ensure that our programmes and services are better targeted at supporting children, families, individuals and communities in Wales. Good quality, accessible and affordable childcare enables parents to work or undertake training. Childcare provision needs to be flexible and responsive to working patterns. Helping parents to access appropriate childcare has the potential to support them and boost the economy.

Rwy'n ddiolchgar am y cyfle i ymateb ar ran Llywodraeth Cymru ynglŷn â'r mater pwysig o ofal plant fforddiadwy. Mae trechu tlodi wrth wraidd ein holl bolisiau. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod ein rhaglenni a'n gwasanaethau yn cael eu targedu'n well i gefnogi plant, teuluoedd, unigolion a chymunedau yng Nghymru. Mae gofal plant hygyrch a fforddiadwy o ansawdd da yn galluogi rhieni i weithio neu gael hyfforddiant. Mae angen i'r ddarpariaeth gofal plant fod yn hyblyg ac yn ymatebol i batrymau gweithio. Gall helpu rhieni i gael gafael ar ofal plant priodol fod o gymorth iddynt hwy a rhoi hwb i'r economi.

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Parents are facing a number of childcare challenges in Wales. They tell us that childcare is too expensive, that there is not enough wraparound or holiday childcare and that there is a lack of childcare available for parents who work beyond office hours to use. That is why we are prioritising childcare in the tackling poverty action plan and committing to key targets and milestones. This plan will be launched in July.

We recognise that there are tensions between the provision of affordable, flexible childcare that supports parents' ability to work and high quality childcare, which ensures the best development outcome for the child. The challenge for us will be to strike the right balance and ensure that there is a diverse and vibrant childcare sector. There are many initiatives that we will be driving forward in Wales. However, as the UK system for tax credits and universal credit is not devolved, we are bound by UK legislation and Department for Work and Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs guidelines, to some degree. Currently in Wales, we invest £150 million per year in the childcare and early years package through a number of key initiatives.

Local authorities have a duty to provide sufficient childcare and we provide funding within the revenue support grant to enable them to do it. We also fund, through the RSG, a minimum 10 hours' free foundation phase early education for three and four-year-olds, 39 weeks per year. In addition, funding is provided to support the roll-out of the foundation phase, including support for improved adult-to-pupil ratios. The foundation phase is delivered through both maintained schools and non-maintained settings in both the private and voluntary sectors. These settings are registered and enable parents to gain access to UK tax credits. Many of the non-maintained settings offer full-day care, enabling parents to pay for childcare around the free foundation phase offer. Local authorities also receive funding for free primary school breakfasts, and we know that many parents use the scheme as part—as Jenny has mentioned—of their overall childcare package, enabling them to leave their children at school a little earlier in the day. We are currently considering how we can make the foundation phase more flexible to meet parental need.

We are committed to expanding our Flying Start programme, which supports some of our most disadvantaged families. We will, during this Assembly, double the number of children benefitting from Flying Start from 18,000 to 36,000. The first year of the expansion is now complete, with over 23,500 children benefitting in 2012-13. We also have anecdotal evidence that some parents are able to work, undertake training or further education while their child is participating in Flying Start childcare. We are aware that a number of local authorities purchase Flying Start childcare sessions from private childcare providers, and, in many cases, parents can purchase wraparound childcare for the full day if the childcare setting has the capacity to offer this.

Mae rhieni'n wynebu nifer o heriau gofal plant yng Nghymru. Maent yn dweud wrthym fod gofal plant yn rhy ddud, nad oes digon o ofal plant cofleidiol neu ofal plant yn ystod y gwyliu ar gael ac nad oes digon o ofal plant ar gael i rieni sy'n gweithio y tu allan i oriau swyddfa. Dyna pam ein bod yn blaenoriaethu gofal plant yn y cynllun gweithredu ar gyfer trechu tlodi ac yn ymrwmo i dargedau a cherrig milltir allweddol. Caiff y cynllun hwn ei lansio ym mis Gorffennaf.

Rydym yn cydnabod bod tensiynau rhwng darparu gofal plant fforddiadwy, hyblyg sy'n helpu rhieni i allu gweithio a gofal plant o ansawdd uchel, sy'n sicrhau'r canlyniadau gorau o ran datblygiad y plentyn. Yr her inni fydd taro'r cydbwysedd cywir a sicrhau bod gennym sector gofal plant amrywiol a bywiog. Mae llawer o fentrau y byddwn yn ymgymryd â nhw yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, gan nad yw system y DU ar gyfer credydau treth a chredyd cynhwysol wedi'i datganoli, rydym wedi ein rhwymo gan ddeddfwriaeth y DU a chanllawiau'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau a Chyllid a Thollau EM, i ryw raddau. Ar hyn o bryd yng Nghymru, rydym yn buddsoddi £150 miliwn y flwyddyn yn y pecyn gofal plant a'r blynyddoedd cynnar trwy nifer o fentrau allweddol.

Mae gan awdurdodau lleol ddyletswydd i ddarparu gofal plant digonol ac rydym yn darparu cyllid o fewn y grant cynnal referniw i'w galluogi i wneud hynny. Rydym hefyd yn ariannu, drwy gyfrwng y grant cynnal referniw, o leiaf 10 awr o addysg gynnar y cyfnod sylfaen am ddim i blant tair a phedair oed, 39 o wythnosau'r flwyddyn. Yn ogystal, darperir arian i helpu i gyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen, gan gynnwys cymorth i wella cymarebau oedolion-i-ddisgyblion. Caiff y cyfnod sylfaen ei ddarparu trwy ysgolion a gynhelir a lleoliadau nas cynhelir yn y sectorau preifat a gwirfoddol. Mae'r rhain yn lleoliadau cofrestredig sy'n golygu y gall rhieni gael credydau treth y DU. Mae llawer o'r lleoliadau nas cynhelir yn cynnig gofal dydd llawn, sy'n golygu y gall rhieni dalu am ofal plant o gwmpas y cynnig cyfnod sylfaen sydd am ddim. Mae awdurdodau lleol hefyd yn derbyn cyllid ar gyfer brecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion cynradd, a gwyddom fod llawer o rieni'n defnyddio'r cynllun—fel y crybwyllodd Jenny—fel rhan o'u pecyn gofal plant cyffredinol, gan eu galluogi i adael eu plant yn yr ysgol ychydig yn gynharach yn y dydd. Ar hyn o bryd rydym yn ystyried sut y gallwn wneud y cyfnod sylfaen yn fwy hyblyg i ddiwallu anghenion rhieni.

Rydym wedi ymrwmo i ehangu ein rhaglen Dechrau'n Deg, sy'n helpu rhai o'n teuluoedd mwyaf difreintiedig. Byddwn, yn ystod y Cynulliad hwn, yn dyblu nifer y plant sy'n elwa o Dechrau'n Deg o 18,000 i 36,000. Mae blwyddyn gyntaf yr estyniad bellach wedi'i chwblhau, gyda thros 23,500 o blant yn elwa yn 2012-13. Mae gennym hefyd dystiolaeth anecdotaidd fod rhai rhieni'n gallu gweithio, ymgymryd â hyfforddiant neu addysg bellach tra bod eu plentyn yn cael gofal plant Dechrau'n Deg. Rydym yn ymwybodol bod nifer o awdurdodau lleol yn prynu sesiynau gofal plant Dechrau'n Deg gan ddarparu gofal plant preifat, ac, mewn llawer o achosion, gall rhieni brynu gofal plant cofleidiol ar gyfer y diwrnod llawn os yw'r lleoliad gofal plant yn gallu cynnig hynny.

Child development is at the heart of our Flying Start offer, but we are also looking for ways to make it more flexible, to support parents who need help in order to work or to acquire skills to enable them to get back to work. This year, I have allocated £2.3 million for the out-of-school childcare grant scheme. This supports local authorities to provide quality wraparound and holiday childcare to support working parents. I am also aware that a number of local authorities are prioritising financial support for childcare for families wishing to work or enter training through assisted places schemes. We are committed to exploring different models for wraparound care for children and we will make recommendations for further development.

We know that some parents do not understand the complexities of the UK tax credit system, so we will be working with Jobcentre Plus and the family information service to provide information to parents that will help them to access the appropriate support through the benefits system. The current rules stipulate in Wales that only registered childcare providers qualify for tax credits. This means, unfortunately, that grandparents or other family members would not be able to access this kind of support. We are in the process of finalising a comprehensive plan for the early years, including cross-portfolio commitment for delivery; affordable and quality childcare are both prioritised within the plan. Key themes are: children's health and wellbeing, supporting families and parents, high-quality early education and childcare, effective primary education and raising standards. This early years and childcare plan is fully supported by the Cabinet, and I will be launching this also in July.

In these times of financial constraint and reducing budgets from the UK Government, we need to work smarter and make our resources work harder for us. This was a strong point made by Jenny Rathbone in terms of the role of schools in this regard.

We are looking for ways in which we could access European funding to support our childcare ambitions. I am also committed to working with other Welsh Ministers to target our efforts across Government to tackle poverty, and to deliver quality, accessible and affordable childcare.

I thank Jenny Rathbone for choosing the vital topic of childcare this afternoon, thus keeping this on the agenda in Welsh political life.

Mae datblygiad plant wrth wraidd ein cynnig Dechrau'n Deg, ond rydym hefyd yn chwilio am ffyrdd o'i wneud yn fwy hyblyg, er mwyn cefnogi rhieni y mae angen cymorth arnynt i weithio neu ddysgu sgiliau i'w galluogi i ddychwelyd i'r gwaith. Eleni, rwyf wedi dyrannu £2.3 miliwn i'r cynllun grant gofal plant y tu allan i oriau ysgol. Mae hyn yn helpu awdurdodau lleol i ddarparu gofal plant cofleidol o ansawdd a gofal plant o ansawdd yn ystod y gwyliau i helpu rhieni sy'n gweithio. Rwyf hefyd yn ymwybodol bod nifer o awdurdodau lleol yn blaenoriaethu cymorth ariannol ar gyfer gofal plant i deuluoedd sydd am weithio neu gael hyfforddiant drwy gynlluniau lleoedd a gynorthwyr. Rydym wedi ymrwymo i ystyried modelau gwahanol o ofal cofleidol i blant a byddwn yn gwneud argymhellion ar gyfer datblygiadau pellach.

Gwyddom nad yw rhai rhieni'n deall cymhlethdodau system credydau treth y DU, felly byddwn yn gweithio gyda'r Ganolfan Byd Gwaith a'r gwasanaeth gwybodaeth i deuluoedd i roi gwybodaeth i rieni a fydd yn eu helpu i gael y cymorth priodol drwy'r system budd-daliadau. Mae'r rheolau presennol yn mynnu yng Nghymru mai dim ond darparwyr gofal plant cofrestredig sy'n gymwys i gael credydau treth. Mae hyn yn golygu, yn anffodus, na fyddai teidiau a neiniau neu aelodau eraill o'r teulu yn gallu cael y math hwn o gymorth. Rydym wrthi'n cwblhau cynllun cynhwysfawr ar gyfer y blynyddoedd cynnar, sy'n cynnwys ymrwymiad trawsbortffolio ar gyfer cyflawni; caiff gofal plant fforddiadwy o ansawdd ei flaenoriaethu yn y cynllun. Y themâu allweddol yw: iechyd a lles plant, cefnogi teuluoedd a rhieni, addysg a gofal plant cynnar o ansawdd uchel, addysg gynradd effeithiol a chodi safonau. Caiff y cynllun hwn ar gyfer y blynyddoedd cynnar a gofal plant ei gefnogi'n llawn gan y Cabinet, a byddaf yn lansio hwn hefyd ym mis Gorffennaf.

Yn y cyfnod hwn o gyfyngiadau ariannol a chyllidebau is gan Lywodraeth y DU, mae angen inni weithio'n ddoethach a gwneud i'n hadnoddau weithio'n galetach inni. Roedd hwn yn bwynt cryf a wnaeth Jenny Rathbone o ran rôl ysgolion yn hyn o beth.

Rydym yn chwilio am ffyrdd y gallem gael gafael ar gyllid Ewropeaidd i gefnogi ein huchelgeisiau gofal plant. Rwyf hefyd wedi ymrwymo i weithio gyda Gweinidogion eraill Cymru i dargedu ein hymdrechion ar draws y Llywodraeth i drechu tlodi, a darparu gofal plant hygyrch a fforddiadwy o ansawdd.

Diolchaf i Jenny Rathbone am ddewis y pwnc hanfodol o ofal plant y prynhawn yma, gan gadw'r pwnc hwn ar yr agenda ym mywyd gwleidyddol Cymru.

17:50

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

Thank you, Minister. That brings today's proceedings to a close.

Diolch, Weinidog. Daw hynny â thrafodion heddiw i ben.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.50 p.m.

The meeting ended at 5.50 p.m.

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