Cofnod y Trafodion
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Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 13:30 gyda'r Llywydd (Rosemary Butler) yn y Gadair.

The Assembly met at 13:30 with the Presiding Officer (Rosemary Butler) in the Chair.

13:30 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography — Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Prynhawn da. Galwaf Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i drefn.

Good afternoon. I call the National Assembly for Wales to order.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd

Questions to the Minister for Natural Resources and Food

Effeithlonrwydd Ynni

Energy Efficiency

13:30 **Jocelyn Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography — Senedd.tv Fideo Video

1. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am raglenni i hyrwyddo effeithlonrwydd ynni OAQ(4)0074(NRF)

1. Will the Minister make a statement on programmes to promote energy efficiency? OAQ(4)0074(NRF)

13:30 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography — Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd / The Minister for Natural Resources and Food

We are investing in programmes to promote greater energy efficiency to reduce costs, to tackle fuel poverty, to create jobs and to help us to meet our carbon reduction targets. In October, I announced a £70 million increase in our investment, from 2014, to our energy efficiency programmes.

Rydym yn buddsoddi mewn rhaglenni i hyrwyddo mwy o effeithlonrwydd ynni i leihau costau, i fynd i'r afael â thlodi tanwydd, i greu swyddi ac i'n helpu i gyrraedd ein targedau lleihau carbon. Ym mis Hydref, cyhoeddais gynnydd o £70 miliwn yn ein buddsoddiad, o 2014, i'n rhaglenni effeithlonrwydd ynni.

13:30 **Jocelyn Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography — Senedd.tv Fideo Video

With the news today that energy bills will probably rise above inflation for the next 17 years, I am sure that Members would be very grateful if their Minister could provide information about the progress of Nest, particularly how many individuals have been helped to switch tariffs and get grants for energy efficiency measures in their homes. Furthermore, do you anticipate greater demands for Nest, and how are you preparing to meet such demands?

Gyda'r newyddion heddiw y bydd biliau ynni yn codi yn ôl pob tebyg yn uwch na chwyddiant ar gyfer y 17 mlynedd nesaf, rwy'n siŵr y byddai'r Aelodau'n ddiolchgar iawn pe gallai eu Gweinidog roi gwybodaeth am hynt Nyth, yn enwedig faint o unigolion sydd wedi cael help i newid tariffau a chael grantiau ar gyfer mesurau effeithlonrwydd ynni yn eu cartrefi. At hynny, a ydych yn rhagweld mwy o alw am Nyth, a sut rydych yn paratoi i ateb galw o'r fath?

13:31 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Can I say, first of all, on the premise of your question about the energy prices, that, clearly, these are not devolved matters? However, I did take the opportunity on Monday, at an energy round table event, to talk directly to energy companies—the major energy providers in the United Kingdom—about the human impact of their price increases on consumers, and on people who we represent in the Chamber. I made it very clear that this Government finds it very difficult to understand and to accept the sorts of price rises that we are seeing. I also made it very clear to them that the reason that Ed Miliband's Freeze that Bill campaign has been so popular is because people regard the unfairness in energy prices at the moment to be unacceptable. I will provide information to all Members on the success of Nest.

A gaf ddweud, yn gyntaf oll, yn seiliedig ar eich cwestiwn am y prisiau ynni, ei bod yn amlwg nad yw'r rhain yn faterion datganoledig? Fodd bynnag, achubais ar y cyfle ddydd Llun, mewn digwyddiad bord gron ar ynni, i siarad yn uniongyrchol â chwmnïau ynni—y darparwyr ynni mawr yn y Deyrnas Unedig—am effaith ddynol eu cynnydd mewn prisiau ar ddefnyddwyr, ac ar bobl yr ydym yn eu cynrychioli yn y Siambr. Eglurais fod y Llywodraeth hon yn ei chael hi'n anodd iawn i ddeall a derbyn y mathau o gynnydd mewn prisiau yr ydym yn eu gweld. Eglurais iddynt hefyd mai'r rheswm pam bod ymgyrch Freeze that Bill Ed Miliband wedi bod mor boblogaidd yw bod pobl o'r farn bod prisiau ynni yn annerbyniol ar hyn o bryd. Byddaf yn rhoi gwybodaeth i'r holl Aelodau ar lwyddiant Nyth.

In terms of answering the question directly, advice has been provided to 36,000 households, and energy efficiency in 8,500 of those households has actually been improved. However, I will send that information, as well as more detailed information, to all Members.

O ran ateb y cwestiwn yn uniongyrchol, rhoddwyd cyngor i 36,000 o aelwydydd, ac mae effeithlonrwydd ynni mewn 8,500 o'r cartrefi hynny wedi gwella. Fodd bynnag, byddaf yn anfon y wybodaeth honno, yn ogystal â gwybodaeth fanylach, at bob Aelod.

13:32 **Antoinette Sandbach** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, one aspect of energy efficiency is, of course, the potential of community energy schemes—for example, combined heat and power, and schemes of that sort. The Ynni'r Fro scheme has received over £6 million of European funding, and £7 million of national funds, yet each of the project targets is currently under re-evaluation. I think that only 24 projects out of 114 expressions of interest are being taken forward. Could you tell us, in the last two years, how many Ynni'r Fro energy schemes have actually been completed, and how many megawatts of energy they are now generating?

Weinidog, un agwedd ar effeithlonrwydd ynni, wrth gwrs, yw potensial cynlluniau ynni cymunedol—er enghraifft, gwres a phŵer cyfunedig, a chynlluniau eraill tebyg. Mae cynllun Ynni'r Fro wedi cael dros £6 miliwn o arian Ewropeaidd, a £7 miliwn o gronfeydd cenedlaethol, ond mae pob un o dargedau'r prosiect yn cael ei ailwerthuso ar hyn o bryd. Credaf mai dim ond 24 o brosiectau o blith 114 o ddatganiadau o ddiddordeb sy'n cael eu datblygu. A allech ddweud wrthym, yn y ddwy flynedd diwethaf, faint o gynlluniau ynni Ynni'r Fro sydd wedi cael eu cwblhau mewn gwirionedd, a faint o fegawatiau o ynni y maent yn ei gynhyrchu yn awr?

13:33 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I think that Ynni'r Fro is actually a successful scheme, which I would like to see expanded and developed as part of future policy. I will be publishing the mid-term evaluation of Ynni'r Fro in the next few weeks, and certainly before Christmas. We will be stating very clearly there the lessons that we are learning from Ynni'r Fro, the way that we will apply those lessons, and the way that we will develop Ynni'r Fro in the future. However, I do see this as being a critical and central part of how we address the issues of the affordability of energy, as well as the generation of energy. In terms of some of the statistics that she has described, we would clearly anticipate a funnel approach, whereby a number of different communities would express an interest, and then they would be reduced—I think that it is 24 that we are taking forward into the next phase of the scheme at the moment.

Mae Ynni'r Fro yn gynllun llwyddiannus yn fy marn i, a hoffwn ei weld yn cael ei ehangu a'i ddatblygu fel rhan o bolisi yn y dyfodol. Byddaf yn cyhoeddi gwerthusiad canol tymor o Ynni'r Fro yn ystod yr ychydig wythnosau nesaf, ac yn sicr cyn y Nadolig. Ynddo, byddwn yn nodi'n glir iawn y gwersi yr ydym yn eu dysgu o Ynni'r Fro, y ffordd y byddwn yn defnyddio'r gwersi hynny, a'r ffordd y byddwn yn datblygu Ynni'r Fro yn y dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, rwy'n ystyried bod hyn yn rhan hanfodol a chanolog o'r ffordd yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael â fforddiadwyedd ynni, yn ogystal â chynhyrchu ynni. O ran rhai o'r ystadegau y mae wedi eu disgrifio, byddem yn rhagweld dull twndis, lle byddai nifer o wahanol gymunedau yn mynegi diddordeb, ac yna byddent yn cael eu lleihau—credaf mai 24 sy'n mynd ymlaen gennym i gam nesaf y cynllun ar hyn o bryd.

13:34 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Eluned Parrott has withdrawn her question 2, OAQ(4)0070(NRF).

Mae Eluned Parrott wedi tynnu ei chwestiwn 2, OAQ(4)0070(NRF), yn ôl.

Rôl Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru

The Role of Natural Resources Wales

13:34 **Leighton Andrews** Bywgraffiad Biography

3. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am rôl Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru? OAQ(4)0069(NRF)

3. Will the Minister make a statement on the role of Natural Resources Wales? OAQ(4)0069(NRF)

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:34 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

I am sure that my very good friend has seen article 4 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) Order 2012. The purpose of Natural Resources Wales is to ensure that the environment and the natural resources of Wales are sustainably managed, sustainably enhanced and sustainably used.

Rwy'n siŵr bod fy nghyfaill wedi gweld erthygl 4 o Orchymyn Corff Adnoddau Naturiol Cymru (Sefydlu) 2012. Pwrpas Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yw sicrhau bod amgylchedd ac adnoddau naturiol Cymru yn cael eu rheoli'n gynaliadwy, eu gwella'n gynaliadwy a'u defnyddio'n gynaliadwy.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:34 **Leighton Andrews** Bywgraffiad Biography

I am grateful to my friend the Minister for that answer. Can I say to him that I have had representations from groups in my constituency in connection with the hydropower flow standards that Natural Resources Wales is introducing, and the impact that they may have on community-based hydroelectric schemes? I welcome the fact that Natural Resources Wales has delayed the implementation of those standards. However, can he assure me that nothing will happen that will have an adverse impact on the ability of communities to create, run and manage new hydroelectric schemes?

Rwy'n ddiolchgar i'm cyfaill y Gweinidog am yr ateb hwnnw. A allaf ddweud wrtho fy mod wedi cael sylwadau gan grwpiau yn fy etholaeth mewn cysylltiad â'r safonau llif ynni dŵr y mae Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yn eu cyflwyno, a'r effaith y gallant ei chael ar gynlluniau trydan dŵr yn y gymuned? Croesawaf y ffaith fod Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru wedi gohirio'r broses o roi'r safonau hynny ar waith. Fodd bynnag, a all fy sicrhau na fydd dim yn digwydd a gaiff effaith andwyol ar allu cymunedau i greu, cynnal a rheoli cynlluniau trydan dŵr newydd?

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:35 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

The changes made to the NRW policy at its board meeting in September were made in order to enhance and develop the opportunities for those schemes to happen. We wanted to see, and it wanted to see, a more consistent approach across Wales and that is happening. That might have had a negative impact specifically in some places in south east Wales, and if there are specific schemes that the Member is concerned about, I would be grateful if he could write to me and I will answer those concerns. However, the key purpose of what we are trying to do here is to enhance the opportunities for renewable energy schemes, particularly, in this case, hydro schemes.

Gwnaed y newidiadau i bolisi Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yng nghyfarfod ei fwrdd ym mis Medi er mwyn gwella a datblygu'r cyfleoedd i'r cynlluniau hynny ddigwydd. Roeddem ni ac yntau am weld dull mwy cyson ledled Cymru ac mae hynny'n digwydd. Gallai hynny fod wedi cael effaith negyddol yn benodol mewn rhai mannau yn y de-ddwyrain, ac os oes cynlluniau penodol y mae'r Aelod yn pryderu amdanynt, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallai ysgrifennu ataf a byddaf yn ateb y pryderon hynny. Fodd bynnag, diben allweddol yr hyn yr ydym yn ceisio ei wneud yma yw gwella cyfleoedd ar gyfer cynlluniau ynni adnewyddadwy, yn arbennig, yn yr achos hwn, cynlluniau trydan dŵr.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:35 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

I have three spokespeople who want to ask questions on this, so I ask you to be fairly concise, please. I call on Antoinette Sandbach, the opposition spokesperson, first.

Mae tri llefarwr sydd am ofyn cwestiynau ar hyn, felly gofynnaf ichi fod yn weddol gryno, os gwelwch yn dda. Galwaf ar Antoinette Sandbach, llefarydd yr wrthblaid, yn gyntaf.

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13:36 **Antoinette Sandbach** Bywgraffiad Biography

Minister, in your evidence to the Environment and Sustainability Committee on 16 October regarding the budget for NRW, you stated that NRW would deliver £7.8 million in benefit, but you failed to mention that there was £16.2 million in costs, meaning that there was a net deficit rather than a net gain. Now, for the next budgetary year, there will be an £8 million cut in resources to Natural Resources Wales. Will you outline the likely service areas in your remit letter, or your future remit letter, that will indicate where those budget cuts are likely to be implemented?

Weinidog, yn eich tystiolaeth i'r Pwyllgor Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd ar 16 Hydref ynghylch y gyllideb ar gyfer Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru, nodwyd y byddai Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yn darparu £7.8 miliwn mewn budd, ond ni wnaethoch sôn bod £16.2 miliwn mewn costau, sy'n golygu bod diffyg net yn hytrach nag enillion net. Yn awr, ar gyfer y flwyddyn gyllidebol nesaf, bydd toriad o £8 miliwn mewn adnoddau i Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru. A wnewch chi amlinellu'r meysydd gwasanaeth tebygol yn eich llythyr cylch gwaith, neu eich llythyr cylch gwaith yn y dyfodol, a fydd yn dangos lle mae'r toriadau cyllidebol hynny yn debygol o gael eu rhoi ar waith?

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13:36 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I have just begun the work this week of debating and discussing the remit letter with the senior management of NRW and I will make further announcements on that when it is appropriate.

Yr wythnos hon, rwyf newydd ddechrau ar y gwaith o drafod y llythyr cylch gwaith gydag uwch reolwyr Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru a byddaf yn gwneud cyhoeddiadau pellach ar hynny pan fo hynny'n briodol.

13:36 **Antoinette Sandbach** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, it was obviously something that we raised at committee. Again, you are clearly not indicating to the Siambr today your priority areas, at least. Why, Minister, did you feel that it was necessary to implement that £8 million cut, given that you had £18 million of wriggle room, if I can put it that way, in your budget? You have just set up a £6 million biodiversity fund, which could perhaps have gone to NRW instead.

Weinidog, roedd yn amlwg yn rhywbeth a godwyd gennym yn y pwyllgor. Unwaith eto, mae'n amlwg nad ydych yn nodi eich meysydd blaenoriaeth i'r Siambr heddiw, o leiaf. Pam, Weinidog, yr oeddech yn teimlo bod angen gweithredu'r toriad o £8 miliwn, o gofio bod £18 miliwn o hyblygrwydd, os caf ei roi felly, yn eich cyllideb? Rydych newydd sefydlu cronfa bioamrywiaeth gwerth £6 miliwn, a allai fod wedi mynd i Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yn lle hynny.

13:37 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

We had a very clear business case for the establishment of NRW, which included a very clear financial profile for NRW over the coming years. The board and the management of NRW are very clear and very happy with the resources that they have available to them, and I am very happy that we will be able to deliver to the business plan that we established for the creation of NRW. It is not my role, as Minister, to micromanage the budget of NRW. We will set out very clearly what we see as the role and purpose of NRW and its priorities through the remit letter. That will be published and that will be subject to the sort of debate and discussion that we could perhaps have at the appropriate time.

Cawsom achos busnes clir iawn dros sefydlu Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru, a oedd yn cynnwys proffil ariannol clir iawn i Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru dros y blynyddoedd nesaf. Mae bwrdd a rheolwyr Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yn glir iawn ac yn fodlon iawn ar yr adnoddau sydd ar gael iddynt, ac rwy'n falch iawn y byddwn yn gallu cyflwyno'r cynllun busnes a sefydlwyd gennym ar gyfer creu Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru. Nid yw'n ddyletswydd arnaf i, fel Gweinidog, i ficroreoli cyllideb Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru. Byddwn yn nodi'n glir iawn yr hyn a ystyriwn yw rôl a phwrpas Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru a'i flaenoriaethau drwy'r llythyr cylch gwaith. Bydd hynny'n cael ei gyhoeddi a bydd yn agored i'r math o ddadl a thrafodaeth y gallem eu cael ar yr adeg briodol efallai.

13:38 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I call on the Plaid Cymru spokesperson, Llyr Gruffydd.

Galwaf ar lefarydd Plaid Cymru, Llyr Gruffydd.

13:38 **Llyr Gruffydd** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Weinidog, ydych chi'n rhannu yr ofnau sydd wedi cael eu mynegi bod canfyddiad yn barod o safbwynt Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru bod y llais mwy heriol, efallai, a oedd yn dod yn draddodiadol o Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru wedi cael ei dawelu oddi mewn i'r corff newydd, a bod y corff newydd yn sgîl hynny wedi colli nodwedd bwysig iawn?

Minister, do you share the fears that have been expressed that there is already a perception in terms of Natural Resources Wales that the more challenging voice that, perhaps, traditionally came from the Countryside Council for Wales has been partially silenced within the new body, and that the new body as a result has lost a very important characteristic?

13:38 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Nac ydwyf.

No, I do not.

13:38 **Llyr Gruffydd** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Efallai y byddech yn hoffi dweud hynny wrth eich cysgod-Weinidog dros Gymru, a'r Aelod Seneddol Llafur dros Lanelli, Nia Griffith, oherwydd ei geiriau hi oedd y rheini, ac rwy'n credu bod hynny, felly, yn codi cwestiynau ynglŷn â ble rydym yn mynd o ran gwaith Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru.

Perhaps you would like to tell that to your shadow Minister for Wales, and the Labour Member of Parliament for Llanelli, Nia Griffith, because those were her words, and I therefore think that that raises some questions as to where we are going in terms of the work of Natural Resources Wales.

Pa bwys ydych chi am ei roi ar faterion yn ymwneud â thirwedd—'landscape'—o safbwynt gwaith Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru, oherwydd ni chyfeirir at hynny yn benodol yn y llythyr gorchwyl, ond, yn amlwg, mae'n ffactor bwysig iawn o ran rheolaeth tir gynaliadwy?

What weight will you give to issues relating to landscape in terms of the work of Natural Resources Wales, because that is not referred to specifically in the remit letter, but, clearly, it is a very important factor when it comes to sustainable land management?

13:39 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Ydy, mae'n bwysig iawn; rwy'n cytuno ac yn cydnabod y pwynt rydych wedi'i wneud. Fodd bynnag, rwyf wedi gofyn i Gyfoeth Naturiol Cymru edrych ar benderfyniadau ac ar ei 'remit' mewn ffordd eang a chyfoethog, os hoffwch. Rydym yn sôn am dirwedd, am newid hinsawdd, am y gymuned, yr economi, ac am sut rydym yn rheoli ein hadnoddau naturiol mewn ffordd gynaliadwy yn yr ystyr ehangach.

Yes, it is very important; I agree and acknowledge the point that you have made. However, I have asked Natural Resources Wales to look at decisions and at its remit in a broader and, if you like, richer way. We are talking about landscape, climate change, communities, the economy, and at how we manage our natural resources in a sustainable way in the broader sense.

13:39 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I call on the Welsh Liberal Democrat spokesperson, William Powell.

Galwaf ar lefarydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, William Powell.

13:39 **William Powell** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, Turning now to forestry, last Sunday afternoon it was my pleasure, together with colleagues from the Petitions Committee, to visit an ancient tree site in Montgomeryshire, up at Gregynog. While we were there, the petitioners impressed upon us the particular importance that ancient trees have for our ecosystem and cultural heritage, but also called on the Welsh Government, as they do in the petition, to place a specific duty on Natural Resources Wales to

'promote the conservation of such trees by providing advice and support for their owners, including the grant aid where necessary'.

Given the positive work that I know NRW is already undertaking in this field, will you give some consideration, Minister, to including specific reference to the importance of ancient trees in the remit letter for the coming period?

Weinidog, gan droi yn awr at goedwigaeth, brynhawn dydd Sul diwethaf cefais i, ynghyd â chyd-Aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Deisebau, y pleser o ymweld â safle coeden hynafol yn Sir Drefaldwyn, i fyny yng Ngregynog. Tra roeddem yno, bu'r deisebwyr yn sôn wrthym am bwysigrwydd penodol coed hynafol ar gyfer ein hecosystem a'n treftadaeth ddiwylliannol, ond hefyd gwnaethant alw ar Lywodraeth Cymru, fel y maent yn ei wneud yn y ddeiseb, i roi dyletswydd benodol ar Gyfoeth Naturiol Cymru i

hyrwyddo'r gwaith o warchod coed o'r fath drwy roi cyngor a chymorth i'w perchenogion, gan gynnwys cymorth grant lle y bo angen.

O ystyried y gwaith cadarnhaol y gwn y mae Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru eisoes yn ei wneud yn y maes hwn, a wnewch roi rhywfaint o ystyriaeth, Weinidog, i gynnwys cyfeiriad penodol at bwysigrwydd coed hynafol yn y llythyr cylch gwaith ar gyfer y cyfnod sydd i ddod?

13:40 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Members across the Chamber will be delighted that you enjoyed your Sunday afternoon in Montgomeryshire. [Laughter.] I recognise the importance of the question and what lies behind it. This was a matter that we discussed at our last question session, and I gave an undertaking there that I would ensure that we would look at the place of veteran trees. Whether or not the remit letter is the place to do that, I am not sure, but, certainly, the point is well made.

Bydd Aelodau yn y Siambr yn falch iawn eich bod wedi mwynhau eich prynhawn Sul yn Sir Drefaldwyn. [Chwerthin.] Rwy'n cydnabod pwysigrwydd y cwestiwn a'r hyn sydd y tu ôl iddo. Roedd hwn yn fater a drafodwyd gennym yn ein sesiwn cwestiynau ddiwethaf, a rhoddais addewid yno y byddwn yn sicrhau y byddem yn edrych ar sefyllfa coed hynafol. Pa un ai yn y llythyr cylch gwaith yw'r lle i wneud hynny, nid wyf yn siŵr, ond, yn sicr, mae'r pwynt yn un da.

13:41 **William Powell** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you very much for that answer, Minister. I will now move to the related issue of shelter belts. I am sure that you are aware, Minister, how important shelter belts are in the context of increasing biodiversity, improving flood prevention and, indeed, on occasion, reducing levels of bovine mortality. Several farmers whom I have spoken to, while keen to expand their woodland, have raised concerns with me regarding the current prescriptions in terms of the minimum thickness of such shelter belts, particularly where that impacts adversely on their productive land.

Diolch yn fawr iawn am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Symudaf yn awr at fater cysylltiedig sef lleiniau cysgodi. Rwy'n siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol, Weinidog, o bwysigrwydd lleiniau cysgodi yng nghyd-destun gwella bioamrywiaeth, gwella'r gwaith o atal llifogydd ac, yn wir, ar adegau, lleihau lefelau marwolaethau gwartheg. Tra oedd nifer o ffermwyr yr wyf wedi siarad â hwy yn awyddus i ehangu eu coetiroedd, gwnaethant godi pryderon gyda mi ynglŷn â'r rhagofynion presennol o ran isafswm trwch lleiniau cysgodi o'r fath, yn enwedig lle mae hynny'n effeithio'n andwyol ar eu tir cynhyrchiol.

13:41 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Order. Are you coming to your question?

Trefn. A ydych ar fin gofyn eich cwestiwn?

13:41 **William Powell** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Indeed, I am just coming to my question.

Ydw, rwyf ar fin gofyn fy nghwestiwn.

Minister, will you please commit to exploring the possibility of introducing greater flexiblity in this area so as to incentivise farmers to develop such belts?

Weinidog, a wnewch chi ymrwymo i ymchwilio i'r posibilrwydd o gyflwyno mwy o hyblygrwydd yn y maes hwn er mwyn cymell ffermwyr i ddatblygu lleiniau o'r fath?

13:42 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

From the question, I assume that the Member's pleasurable Sunday afternoon also included a visit to Pontbren to see some of the shelter belts that have been established on farms in that area. I accept the point that you made. One of the reasons that I established a £6 million fund earlier this year to look at some of the issues relating to biodiversity is that we should trust farmers, landowners and land managers to understand what is best for their land, and shelter belts are an example of the ways in which we can develop sustainable woodland to support biodiversity and to provide the additional benefits to farmers that you outlined. I agree with the points that you made.

O'r cwestiwn, rwy'n tybio bod prynhawn Sul pleserus yr Aelod hefyd wedi cynnwys ymweliad â Phontbren i weld rhai o'r lleiniau cysgodi sydd wedi'u sefydlu ar ffermydd yn yr ardal honno. Derbyniaf y pwynt a wnaethoch. Un o'r rhesymau pam y sefydlais gronfa o £6 miliwn yn gynharach eleni i edrych ar rai o'r materion sy'n ymwneud â bioamrywiaeth yw y dylem ymddiried mewn ffermwyr, tirfeddianwyr a rheolwyr tir i ddeall yr hyn sydd orau i'w tir, ac mae lleiniau cysgodi yn enghraifft o'r ffyrdd y gallwn ddatblygu coetir cynaliadwy i gefnogi bioamrywiaeth ac i roi'r buddiannau a amlinellwyd gennych i ffermwyr. Cytunaf â'r pwyntiau a wnaethoch.

Cynllun y Taliad Sengl

Single Farm Payment Scheme

13:42 **Aled Roberts** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

4. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf yn dilyn y newyddion diweddar ynghylch taliadau cynnar o dan Gynllun y Taliad Sengl? OAQ(4)0071(NRF)

4. Will the Minister give an update following the recent news regarding early payments under the Single Farm Payment Scheme? OAQ(4)0071(NRF)

13:42 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Mae rhandaliadau, sy'n 94% o'r rhai a allai fod yn daladwy, ac sy'n werth cyfanswm o £28.7 miliwn, wedi'u gwneud i 3,100 o ffermwyr. Caiff taliadau llawn eu gwneud i'r holl ymgeiswyr o ddydd Llun, 2 Rhagfyr 2013 ymlaen, fel arfer.

Advance payments have been made to 3,100 farmers—94% of those that are potentially payable—totalling £28.7 million. Full payments will be made to all applicants from Monday, 2 December 2013, as usual.

13:43 **Aled Roberts** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Rwy'n siŵr, Weinidog, bod nifer o ffermwyr yn diolch i chi am y taliadau cynnar, ond mae nifer o achosion wedi codi wedi i ffermwyr gael problemau gyda'r tywydd garw. Yn ôl yr hyn a ddywedoch, rwyf wedi mynd ar ôl y cynghorau sir i ofyn a oedd y wybodaeth honno wedi cael ei chyflwyno i'ch adran. Maent hwy yn dweud ei bod, ond nid yw'r taliadau cynnar wedi cael eu gwneud o hyd. A fyddech yn fodlon cynnal arolwg o'r ffordd y mae'r taliadau wedi cael eu gwneud i weld a oes achosion lle mae ffermwyr wedi dioddef ond heb gael y fendith o'r taliadau cynnar hyn?

I am sure, Minister, that many farmers will be grateful to you for those advanced payments, but a number of cases have arisen where farmers have had difficulty as a result of adverse weather. According to your advice, I have followed up on that with the councils and asked whether that information was presented to your department. They say that it was, but the advance payments still have not been made. Would you be willing to carry out a review of the way in which these payments were made to see whether there are cases where farmers have suffered but have not had the blessing of these advanced payments?

13:44

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

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

Rwy'n ddiolchgar bod yr Aelod wedi codi'r mater hwn gyda mi o'r blaen. Rwy'n hapus iawn i wneud hynny, a gofynnaf i unrhyw Aelod sy'n ymwybodol o unrhyw sefyllfa fel yr un a ddisgrifiwyd, megis pobl sy'n disgwyl taliadau ond sydd heb eu cael, i gysylltu â mi. O'r hyn yr ydym yn ei ddeall, mae 94% o'r rheini yn yr ardal lle'r oedd y 'derogation' olaf wedi cael yr arian y bu i mi addo y byddwn yn ei dalu yn ôl ym mis Ebrill. Fodd bynnag, rwy'n cydnabod y pwynt yr ydych wedi ei wneud.

I am grateful to the Member for raising this with me previously. I am very happy to do that, and I ask any Member who is aware of any situation like the one that was described, such as where there are people who are expecting payments but have not received them, to contact me. From what I understand, 94% of those in the area covered by the last derogation have received the money that we promised last April that we would pay. However, I acknowledge the point that you have made.

13:44

Russell George [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

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

Thank you for your previous answer, Minister. You will be aware that I have raised concerns about early single farm payments in Montgomeryshire. As I understand it, cross-border farmers in the early SFP areas were not paid in October due to the fact that Rural Payments Wales could not get the necessary information from the Rural Payments Agency. Could the Minister confirm that these farmers will be paid on the opening of the payment window, on 2 December?

Diolch ichi am eich ateb cadarnhaol, Weinidog. Byddwch yn ymwybodol fy mod wedi codi pryderon am y taliadau sengl cynnar yn Sir Drefaldwyn. Yn ôl yr hyn a ddeallaf, ni chafodd ffermwyr trawsffiniol yn yr ardaloedd sy'n cael taliadau sengl cynnar eu talu ym mis Hydref oherwydd y ffaith na allai Taliadau Gwledig Cymru gael y wybodaeth angenrheidiol gan yr Asiantaeth Taliadau Gwledig. A allai'r Gweinidog gadarnhau y bydd y ffermwyr hyn yn cael eu talu ar ddechrau'r cyfnod talu, ar 2 Rhagfyr?

13:45

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

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

Assuming that the information has been received from the Rural Payments Agency in England, yes, I can confirm that.

Gan dybio bod y wybodaeth wedi dod i law gan yr Asiantaeth Taliadau Gwledig yn Lloegr, gallaf gadarnhau hynny.

13:45

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

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

Weinidog, mae nifer o ffermwyr rhostir neu 'moorland' yn fy etholaeth i yn wynebu colled ariannol sylweddol yn sgîl argymhellion sy'n destun ymgynghoriad ar hyn o bryd gyda chi ar ddyfodol y taliad sengl. Mae'r ffermwyr hyn yn methu gwella eu tir na chadw fwy o stoc oherwydd cynlluniau amaeth-amgylcheddol. Rwy'n ymwybodol eich bod yn ystyried diweddaru ffiniau'r rhostir hwn, ond pa gamau eraill y gallwch chi eu hystyried i sicrhau nad yw'r ffermwyr pwysig iawn hyn yng Nghymru yn colli allan mewn ffordd anghymesur yn sgîl y newidiadau i'r CAP?

Minister, a number of moorland farmers in my constituency face losing significant amounts of money in the light of recommendations that are being consulted on at present on the future of the single farm payment. These farmers cannot improve their land or keep more stock because of agri-environmental scheme. I am aware that you are considering updating the boundaries of these moorlands, but what other steps could you consider to ensure that these very important farmers in Wales do not lose out in an incommensurate way as a result of changes to the CAP?

13:45

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

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

Rwy'n cydnabod y pwynt y mae'r Aelod wedi'i godi. Credaf ei fod yn bwynt teg iawn. Pan wnaethom gyhoeddi'r modelau yn ôl ym mis Gorffennaf a thros yr haf, gwnaethom gyhoeddi ffigurau y cytunwyd arnynt gyda'r diwydiant. Er hynny, gwnaeth nifer o ffermwyr yr un pwynt imi, sef yr un pwynt a wnaethpwyd, yr wyf yn cymryd, i Aelod Ceredigion ac i Aelodau eraill. Ers hynny, rwyf wedi gofyn i swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru i fynd yn ôl at y wybodaeth ac i ailgyhoeddi rhagor o ffigurau a rhagor o fodelau sy'n dangos ein bod yn gallu gwneud taliadau tra gwahanol a fydd yn newid sefyllfa ariannol ffermwyr rhostir, ffermwyr LFA a ffermwyr eraill. Dywedaf hyn yn hollol glir: nid wyf yn gwybod pa benderfyniad y byddaf yn ei wneud eto, ond byddaf yn gwneud penderfyniad dros egwyl y Nadolig a byddaf yn dod yn ôl i'r fan hon i wneud cyhoeddiad ar ddechrau fis Ionawr. Pan fyddaf yn gwneud hynny, bydd ffermwyr yn ucheldiroedd Cymru, lle bynnag y maent, yn ganolog i'm meddyliau.

I recognise the point the Member has raised, and it is a very fair point. When we announced the models back in July and during the summer, we announced figures that had been agreed with the industry. Even so, several farmers raised the same point with me, which is the point, I assume, raised with the Member for Ceredigion and other Members. Since then, I have asked Welsh Government officials to go back to that information and to republish more figures and more models that show that we can make quite different payments that will change the financial situation of farmers on the moorlands, LFA farmers and others. I want to make this clear: I do not yet know what decision I will make, but I will be making that decision during the Christmas recess and I will return to this place to make the announcement in early January. When I do that, Wales's upland farmers, wherever they might be, will be central to my thoughts on the matter.

Y Diwydiant Cig Coch

Red Meat Industry

13:47 **Janet Finch-Saunders** Bywgraffiad Biography

5. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y diwydiant cig coch yng Nghymru? OAQ(4)0077(NRF)

5. Will the Minister make a statement on the red meat industry in Wales? OAQ(4)0077(NRF)

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:47 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

The Welsh red meat sector—sheep, cattle and pigs—is an important contributor to the economy and to the export market. Red meat production contributed 43% of the annual total value of agricultural output, worth £595 million in 2012.

Mae sector cig coch Cymru—defaid, gwartheg a moch—yn gwneud cyfraniad pwysig i'r economi ac i'r farchnad allforio. Cyfrannodd cynnyrch cig coch 43% at gyfanswm gwerth blynyddol cynnyrch amaethyddol, a oedd yn werth £595 miliwn yn 2012.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:47 **Janet Finch-Saunders** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you, Minister. As you will be aware, the United States of America has recently lifted the ban on the importing of beef from the EU, which has been in place since the 1990s. The Farmers Union of Wales has predicted that this could generate upwards of £60 million a year to the agricultural industry. What action are you taking to explore new markets in the US and beyond for the Welsh red meat industry?

Diolch ichi, Weinidog. Fel y gwyddoch, mae Unol Daleithiau America yn ddiweddar wedi codi'r gwaharddiad ar fewnforio cig eidion o'r UE, sydd wedi bodoli ers y 1990au. Mae Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru wedi rhagweld y gallai hyn greu mwy na £60 miliwn y flwyddyn i'r diwydiant amaethyddol. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i archwilio marchnadoedd newydd yn yr UD a thu hwnt ar gyfer y diwydiant cig coch yng Nghymru?

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:47 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

I very much join the Member in welcoming the news from the United States. This is something that many people have been working on for some years. We will all, on all sides of the Chamber, welcome the news. Hybu Cig Cymru will be visiting the United States and Canada in early January. I have already discussed with it how that visit can be supported by the Welsh Government and how the Welsh Government can continue to support the development of new markets, in the US and elsewhere. However, I very much welcome the news, and we are working with Hybu Cig Cymru to continue to develop those new markets and new markets elsewhere.

Ymunaf â'r Aelod i groesawu'r newyddion o'r Unol Daleithiau yn fawr iawn. Mae hyn yn rhywbeth y mae llawer o bobl wedi bod yn gweithio arno ers rhai blynyddoedd. Bydd pob un ohonom, ar bob ochr i'r Siambr, yn croesawu'r newyddion. Bydd Hybu Cig Cymru yn ymweld â'r Unol Daleithiau a Chanada ar ddechrau mis Ionawr. Rwyf eisoes wedi trafod ag ef sut y gall Llywodraeth Cymru gefnogi'r ymweliad hwnnw a sut y gall Llywodraeth Cymru barhau i gefnogi'r broses o ddatblygu marchnadoedd newydd, yn yr UD ac mewn mannau eraill. Fodd bynnag, croesawaf y newyddion yn fawr iawn, ac rydym yn gweithio gyda Hybu Cig Cymru i barhau i ddatblygu'r marchnadoedd newydd hynny a marchnadoedd newydd mewn mannau eraill.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:48 **Rhun ap Iorwerth** Bywgraffiad Biography

Mae ymchwil pwysig iawn yn digwydd ar hyn o bryd ar sut i ymestyn hyd oes cig oen, neu ei 'shelf life'—rhywbeth a fyddai o fudd mawr o ran dod o hyd i farchnadoedd allforio newydd. I ba raddau y mae'r Gweinidog yn meddwl y gallai ailagor lladd-dy yn y Gaerwen, efallai gydag arbenigedd yn y maes hwn, helpu i ddatblygu'r technegau pwysig hyn?

Very important research is ongoing at present as to how we can extend the shelf life of lamb, and this is something that would be very beneficial in terms of finding new export markets. To what extent does the Minister believe that reopening the abattoir in Gaerwen, perhaps with some expertise in this area, could assist in developing these important techniques?

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13:48 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Roeddwn yn falch iawn i ymuno â Hybu Cig Cymru yn y sioe ym mis Gorffennaf i lansio'r gwaith y mae'r Aelod wedi'i ddisgrifio. Credaf ei fod yn waith hynod o bwysig, ac yn ymchwil pwysig o ran datblygu brand ac ansawdd cig coch o Gymru, mewn cyfnod pan ydym am allforio yn bell.

I was very pleased to join Hybu Cig Cymru in the show in July to launch the work the Member has described. I believe that it is extremely important work and research, to develop a brand and the quality of red meat from Wales, at a time when we are looking to export over longer distances.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Hoffwn ddweud hyn wrthych: rwy'n ymwybodol eich bod wedi bod yn gweithio'n galed iawn i edrych ar opsiynau gwahanol ar gyfer y Gaerwen. Fel rydych yn ymwybodol, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi bod yn weithgar ers rhai blynyddoedd yn cefnogi'r gwaith a wnaethpwyd yn y Gaerwen. Buasem yn gefnogol o unrhyw gais newydd sy'n dod i law o ran ailagor neu ailddatblygu'r safle yn y Gaerwen.

I would say this to you: I am aware that you have been working very hard in looking at different options for Gaerwen. As you are aware, the Welsh Government has been active over a number of years in supporting the work carried out at Gaerwen. We would be supportive of any new application to reopen the facility or to redevelop the site at Gaerwen.

13:49 **Kirsty Williams** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

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

Minister, the survival of traditional marts are crucial in ensuring that farmers have a variety of ways in which they can sell their stock. The farmers who own the Talybont-on-Usk market are very keen to improve the facilities there for animal welfare purposes, and to provide a long-term future for the survival of the market. What assistance can you give to help traditional marts to survive and provide that vital outlet for farmers to market and sell their livestock?

Weinidog, mae goroesiad marchnadoedd traddodiadol yn hanfodol o ran sicrhau bod gan ffermwyr amryw o ffyrdd y gallant werthu eu stoc. Mae'r ffermwyr sy'n berchen ar farchnad Tal-y-bont ar Wysg yn awyddus iawn i wella'r cyfleusterau yno at ddibenion lles anifeiliaid, ac i sicrhau dyfodol hirdymor ar gyfer goroesiad y farchnad. Pa gymorth y gallwch ei roi er mwyn helpu marchnadoedd traddodiadol i oroesi a rhoi'r cyfrwng hanfodol hwnnw i ffermwyr farchnata a gwerthu eu da byw?

13:50 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I agree very much with the points that the Member has made about the importance of marts in the economy of rural Wales and in its social culture. If the Member wishes to write to me on the specific issue of Talybont, I would be more than happy to respond. I know that there has been some correspondence with my department already, and that has not reached a happy conclusion from the point of view of the Member for Brecon and Radnorshire, but I am more than happy to continue that conversation.

Cytunaf yn llwyr â'r pwyntiau y mae'r Aelod wedi'u gwneud am bwysigrwydd marchnadoedd yn economi cefn gwlad Cymru ac yn ei diwylliant cymdeithasol. Os dymuna'r Aelod ysgrifennu ataf ar fater penodol Tal-y-bont, byddwn yn fwy na pharod i ymateb. Gwn fod rhywfaint o ohebiaeth wedi bod gyda'm hadran eisoes, ac nid yw hynny wedi arwain at gasgliad boddhaol o safbwynt yr Aelod dros Frycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed, ond rwy'n fwy na pharod i barhau â'r sgwrs honno.

On the wider issues of marts, we are happy, and I will be launching a consultation on the new rural development plan after Christmas. Perhaps that is something that the Member would wish to contribute to.

O ran materion ehangach marchnadoedd, rydym yn fodlon, a byddaf yn lansio ymgynghoriad ar y cynllun datblygu gwledig newydd ar ôl y Nadolig. Efallai fod hynny'n rhywbeth y byddai'r Aelod am gyfrannu ato.

Coedwigoedd

Forests

13:50 **Leighton Andrews** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

6. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am reoli coedwigoedd yng nghymoedd y de? OAQ(4)0068(NRF)

6. Will the Minister make a statement on the management of forests in the south Wales valleys? OAQ(4)0068(NRF)

13:51 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Forestry has been an important part of the landscape of the south Wales Valleys for many decades, and I am committed to ensuring that it will continue to provide a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits to those of us who live in the Valleys into the future.

Mae coedwigaeth wedi bod yn rhan bwysig o dirwedd Cymoedd y de ers degawdau lawer, ac rwyf wedi ymrwymo i sicrhau y bydd yn parhau i ddarparu ystod eang o fanteision cymdeithasol, economaidd ac amgylcheddol i'r rhai ohonom sy'n byw yn y Cymoedd ar gyfer y dyfodol.

13:51 **Leighton Andrews** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Is the Minister aware that there are 7,700 ha of forest in the Rhondda constituency, over 900 ha of which is larch, much of it infected with Phytophthora ramorum, meaning that it will have to be felled over the next five years? I welcome NRW's restocking plans, which would result in 50% being broadleaf in future, but can I invite my colleague the Minister to come to the Rhondda and see the challenges facing Natural Resources Wales on the ground?

A yw'r Gweinidog yn ymwybodol bod 7,700 hectar o goedwig yn etholaeth y Rhondda, y mae dros 900 hectar ohoni'n llarwydd, gyda llawer ohoni wedi'i heintio â Phytophthora ramorum, sy'n golygu y bydd yn rhaid ei thorri dros y pum mlynedd nesaf? Croesawaf gynlluniau ailstocio Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru, a fyddai'n golygu y byddai 50% yn goed llydanddail yn y dyfodol, ond a allaf wahodd fy nghyd-Aelod y Gweinidog i ddod i'r Rhondda a gweld yr heriau sy'n wynebu Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru ar lawr gwlad?

13:51 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I would be more than happy to take up the invitation offered by the Member for the Rhondda. The Member will know, of course, that Natural Resources Wales was launched in the Rhondda, and we had the opportunity then to visit some of the woodland towards the top end of the Rhondda valley. I will be making a fuller statement—I made a statement last Tuesday on the overall strategy and the update of the strategy that we are taking to deal with some of these matters—and I will be providing more detail on our revised strategy to combat P. ramorum at the end of this month. In short, however, I will say that we will be dealing with the felling of a considerable amount of larch, if not all of it, in NRW-managed woodlands in south Wales over the next five years, and we will then be looking at how we continue to restock and reopen those woodlands.

Byddwn yn fwy na pharod i dderbyn y gwahoddiad a gynigir gan yr Aelod dros y Rhondda. Gŵyr yr Aelod, wrth gwrs, mai yn y Rhondda y lansiwyd Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru, ac inni gael cyfle bryd hynny i ymweld â rhywfaint o'r coetir ym mlaen cwm Rhondda. Byddaf yn gwneud datganiad llawnach—gwneuthum ddatganiad ddydd Mawrth diwethaf ar y strategaeth gyffredinol a'r broses o ddiweddaru'r strategaeth yr ydym yn ei chynnal er mwyn mynd i'r afael â rhai o'r materion hyn—a byddaf yn rhoi mwy o fanylion ar ein strategaeth ddiwygiedig i fynd i'r afael â P. ramorum ar ddiwedd y mis hwn. Yn gryno, fodd bynnag, dywedaf y byddwn yn torri cryn dipyn o larwydd, os nad y cyfan ohono, mewn coetiroedd a reolir gan Gyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yn y de dros y pum mlynedd nesaf, ac yna byddwn yn edrych ar sut y gallwn barhau i ailstocio ac ailagor y coetiroedd hynny.

13:52 **William Graham** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Wood Knowledge Wales is attempting to publicise the message that Welsh-grown softwoods cannot be dismissed as low-quality or simply low-density. Welsh Government figures show that Welsh forests sustainably produce around 25,000 cu m of hardwood. The hardwood cut is 2.5% of the softwood cut, yet broadleaf forestry continues to receive disproportionate attention, considering its extremely limited economic impact. Would the Minister pledge funds to improve these economic outputs?

Mae Wood Knowledge Wales yn ceisio rhoi cyhoeddusrwydd i'r neges na ddylid diystyru prennau meddal a dyfir yng Nghymru fel prennau o ansawdd isel neu ddwysedd isel. Mae ffigurau Llywodraeth Cymru yn dangos bod coedwigoedd Cymru'n cynhyrchu tua 25,000 metr ciwbig o bren caled mewn modd cynaliadwy. Mae'r hyn a dorrir o bren caled 2.5% o'r hyn a dorrir o bren meddal, ond mae coedwigaeth lydanddail yn cael gormod o sylw o hyd, o ystyried ei heffaith economaidd hynod o gyfyngedig. A fyddai'r Gweinidog yn addo arian i wella'r allbynnau economaidd hyn?

13:53 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I always hesitate to answer 'yes' when the pledge is to fund. However, we need to look hard at our woodland strategy, for the reasons outlined by the Member and by other Members, and we need to look at how we ensure that we maintain and stimulate a market for wood that is being felled at the moment. I said last week that we could see the end of all larch in Wales within a decade. If that is the case, we need to move to stimulate a market for that during this period, and we will need to invest in how we do that.

Rwyf bob amser yn oedi cyn cytuno os mai'r addewid yw ariannu. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni edrych yn ofalus ar ein strategaeth coetiroedd, am y rhesymau a amlinellwyd gan yr Aelod a chan Aelodau eraill, ac mae angen inni edrych ar sut rydym yn sicrhau ein bod yn cynnal ac yn ysgogi marchnad ar gyfer pren sy'n cael ei dorri ar hyn o bryd. Dywedais yr wythnos diwethaf y gallem weld diwedd ar larwydd yng Nghymru o fewn degawd. Os yw hynny'n wir, mae angen inni symud i ysgogi marchnad ar gyfer hynny yn ystod y cyfnod hwn, a bydd angen inni fuddsoddi yn y ffordd yr ydym yn gwneud hynny.

13:53 **Bethan Jenkins** Bywgraffiad Biography

Weinidog, mwynheais y daith i Gregynog hefyd, ac rwyf wedi treulio mwy o amser mewn fforest nag erioed o'r blaen. Roeddwn yn mo'yn siarad am goedwig yn Afan Argoed. Mae lot fawr o bethau yn digwydd yn ardal Port Talbot. A fyddech yn ymuno â mi heddiw i longyfarch trefnwyr y Richard Burton 10k? Roedd David Rees yno hefyd ar gyfer y ras honno, sy'n defnyddio rhan o'r goedwig. Sut y gallwn ni annog Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru i wneud defnydd gwahanol o'r coedwigoedd hyn er mwyn annog mwy o bobl i gymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon yn eu hardaloedd lleol?

Minister, I, too, enjoyed the visit to Gregynog, and I have spent more time in a forest recently than ever before. I wanted to mention a forest in Afan Argoed. There are a number of things happening in the Port Talbot area. Would you join with me today in congratulating the organisers of the Richard Burton 10k? David Rees was also there for the race, which goes through a section of that forest. How can we encourage Natural Resources Wales to make different use of our forestry in order to encourage more people to participate in sport in their local area?

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13:54 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Rwyf yn hapus iawn i longyfarch y trefnwyr, a dylwn eich llongyfarch hefyd ar wneud y peth. Un peth yw llongyfarch y bobl sy'n trefnu, ond dylid hefyd longyfarch y rhai sy'n cymryd rhan. Gwelais i'r Aelod dros Bort Talbot wneud yr un peth ar 'social media'—

I am very happy to congratulate the organisers, and I would like to congratulate you on completing the race. It is one thing to congratulate those who organise, but those who take part should also be congratulated. I saw that the Member for Port Talbot did the same on social media—

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13:54 **Bethan Jenkins** Bywgraffiad Biography

He did not run it, though.

Er, ni wnaeth redeg y ras ychwaith.

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13:54 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

ac rwy'n edrych ymlaen ato fe'n ymuno â Bethan Jenkins efallai'r flwyddyn nesaf ac yn gwneud hynny.

and I look forward to seeing him joining Bethan Jenkins, perhaps next year, by participating in the race.

Un o'r pethau yr ydym wedi bod yn trio ei wneud ers sefydlu NRW yw cynyddu a chryfhau 'access' i goedwigoedd Cymru. Un o'r pethau yr wyf am ei bwysleisio i NRW yw pwysigrwydd cynnal 'access' yn ystod y cyfnod presennol wrth inni drin yr afiechyd coedwigoedd yr ydym yn ei wynebu ar hyn o bryd. Felly, mae'n rhaid cynnal 'access' wrth fynd drwy'r rhaglen sydd o'n blaenau. Rwy'n ymwybodol o'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn Afan Argoed a buaswn yn hynod o gefnogol pe bai'r un fath o beth yn digwydd mewn mannau eraill hefyd.

One of the things that we have been trying to do since the establishment of NRW is to increase and strengthen access to forests in Wales. One of the things that I want to emphasise to NRW is the importance of maintaining access during this period of tackling the tree disease that we are facing in our forests. Therefore, we must maintain access as we work through this programme. I am aware of what is taking place in Afan Argoed and I would be especially supportive of similar things taking place in other areas.

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Costau Ynni

Energy Costs

13:55 **David Rees** Bywgraffiad Biography

7. Sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cynorthwyo aelwydydd incwm isel i ymdopi â baich costau ynni rhemp? OAQ(4)0078(NRF)

7. How is the Welsh Government supporting low-income households in coping with the burden of rampant energy costs? OAQ(4)0078(NRF)

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13:55 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

We are supporting low-income households through the provision of free impartial advice to help them reduce their fuel bills and maximise their income, and through installing free home energy efficiency improvements in the homes of those households most in need.

Rydym yn cefnogi aelwydydd incwm isel drwy roi cyngor diduedd am ddim er mwyn eu helpu i leihau eu biliau tanwydd a gwneud y mwyaf o'u hincwm, a thrwy osod gwelliannau effeithlonrwydd ynni yn y cartref am ddim yng nghartrefi'r aelwydydd hynny sydd â'r angen mwyaf.

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13:55 **David Rees** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you for that answer, Minister. With the energy firms announcing inflation-busting increases in the prices of gas and electricity and with the cuts in the winter fuel allowance for many households in Wales, which emanate from the Westminster Government, does the Minister agree with me that programmes such as Cyd Cymru could be of huge benefit for people by helping to reduce their bills? As we develop those programmes, should we also look at developing social clauses in agreements made with energy companies?

Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Gyda'r cwmnïau ynni yn cyhoeddi cynnydd uwch na chwyddiant ym mhrisiau nwy a thrydan a chyda'r toriadau yn y lwfans tanwydd gaeaf i nifer o aelwydydd yng Nghymru, sy'n deillio o Lywodraeth San Steffan, a yw'r Gweinidog yn cytuno â mi y gallai rhaglenni fel Cyd Cymru fod o fudd mawr i bobl drwy helpu i leihau eu biliau? Wrth inni ddatblygu'r rhaglenni hynny, dylem hefyd edrych ar ddatblygu cymalau cymdeithasol mewn cytundebau a wnaed gyda chwmnïau ynni?

13:56 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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'Yes' is the short answer to that. Many people have been extraordinarily frustrated by the way in which the Westminster has stood back and done virtually nothing while we have seen these extraordinary energy cost increases, which are having a significant impact on families across Wales and the rest of the United Kingdom. Members will be aware that the Cyd Cymru programme has received support from the Welsh Government. One of the issues that we need to address in the energy market in Wales is promoting the concept of being able to switch suppliers and to do so in a way that maximises the potential benefit for individual households and families. We know that the Cyd Cymru programme has the potential to do that and it is something that I very much support and endorse.

'Ydw' yw'r ateb syml i hynny. Mae llawer o bobl wedi teimlo'n eithriadol o rwystredig oherwydd y ffordd y mae San Steffan wedi sefyll yn ôl a gwneud bron ddim byd er ein bod wedi gweld y cynnydd rhyfeddol hwn mewn costau ynni, sy'n cael effaith sylweddol ar deuluoedd ledled Cymru a gweddill y Deyrnas Unedig. Bydd yr Aelodau'n ymwybodol bod rhaglen Cyd Cymru wedi cael cymorth gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Un o'r materion y mae angen inni roi sylw iddynt yn y farchnad ynni yng Nghymru yw hyrwyddo'r cysyniad o allu newid cyflenwyr a gwneud hynny mewn ffordd sy'n manteisio i'r eithaf ar y budd posibl i aelwydydd a theuluoedd unigol. Gwyddom fod gan raglen Cyd Cymru y potensial i wneud hynny, ac mae'n rhywbeth yr wyf yn ei gefnogi a'i gymeradwyo'n fawr.

13:57 **Andrew R.T. Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid / The Leader of the Opposition

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Minister, you just touched on some of the advice that the Welsh Government has been given over the last couple of years about energy efficiency and, in particular, people being able to lessen their bills by insulating their homes. There is no more pertinent example than some of the agricultural workers' cottages across Wales. What assessment has the Government made as to whether this information is having an impact and proving beneficial to people who are taking that advice on board to lower their energy bills?

Weinidog, rydych newydd grybwyll rhywfaint o'r cyngor y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ei gael dros y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf am effeithlonrwydd ynni ac, yn arbennig, y ffaith bod pobl yn gallu gostwng eu biliau drwy inswleiddio eu cartrefi. Ni cheir enghraifft fwy perthnasol na rhai o fythynnod gweithwyr amaethyddol ledled Cymru. Pa asesiad y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi'i wneud ynghylch a yw'r wybodaeth hon yn cael effaith ac yn profi'n fuddiol i bobl sy'n cymryd y cyngor er mwyn lleihau eu biliau ynni?

13:57 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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It might well be the Nest scheme that the Member is referring to in specific terms. We do have, and will be publishing, detailed assessments of the impact of that. We know that the Nest scheme is resulting in an average saving of up to £500 per household in terms of the interventions made—through the physical changes made to the home and in the provision of impartial energy advice. However, I have already given an undertaking, in reply to this session's first question, to write to Members to provide a greater and more detailed breakdown of the impact of our energy efficiency schemes. It might well be the case that the Member will wish to contact me on the basis of that information.

Mae'n bosibl mai at gynllun Nyth yn benodol y mae'r Aelod yn cyfeirio. Mae gennym asesiadau manwl o effaith hynny a byddwn yn eu cyhoeddi. Gwyddom fod cynllun Nyth yn arwain at arbediad cyfartalog o hyd at £500 fesul aelwyd o ran yr ymyriadau a wnaed—drwy'r newidiadau ffisegol a wneir i'r cartref a'r cyngor diduedd ar ynni a roddir. Fodd bynnag, rwyf eisoes wedi rhoi ymrwymiad, mewn ymateb i gwestiwn cyntaf y sesiwn hon, i ysgrifennu at yr Aelodau i roi dadansoddiad gwell a manylach o effaith ein cynlluniau effeithlonrwydd ynni. Efallai y bydd yr Aelod am gysylltu â mi ar sail y wybodaeth honno.

13:58 **Alun Ffred Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Mae cynllun Arbed yn ymwneud ag effeithlonrwydd ynni ac mae'n gweithredu yn Nantlle yn fy etholaeth i. Byddwch wedi clywed am anawsterau sydd wedi codi o ran y cynllun hwn yn y pentref hwnnw, sy'n bennaf yn ymwneud â chyfathrebu—cyfathrebu rhwng contractwyr a phreswylwyr a rhwng contractwyr a'r awdurdod cynllunio. Mater arall sydd wedi codi yn ddiweddar o ran y cynllun—ac mae hwn yn gwestiwn cyffredinol amdano—yw'r ffaith nad yw'n arferol, mae'n debyg, i breswylwyr annedd, pan fydd yr annedd yn cael ei asesu fel rhan o'r cynllun, gael copi o'r asesiad hwnnw cyn trafod â'r contractwyr pa fath o waith sy'n addas ar gyfer yr annedd. A gaf i ofyn ichi ei wneud yn bolisi bod preswylwyr yn cael copi o'r asesiad hwnnw er tegwch â hwy wrth i benderfyniad gael ei wneud ynglŷn â gweithredu'r mesurau?

The Arbed scheme is all about energy efficiency and it operates in Nantlle in my constituency. You will have heard of the difficulties that have arisen in this village as a result of the scheme, predominantly because of communication issues—communication between contractors and residents, and between contractors and the planning authority. Another matter that has come to the fore recently in relation to the scheme—and this is a general question—is that when a property is assessed as part of the scheme, it would seem that it is not common practice for the residents to have a copy of the assessment before discussing with the contractor the sort of work that would be appropriate for the property. May I ask you to make it the policy that residents receive a copy of the assessments in fairness to them as decisions are made regarding the action to be taken?

13:59 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Rwy'n hapus iawn i ystyried hynny. Rwy'n credu ei bod yn deg i sicrhau bod preswylwyr yn teimlo eu bod yn rhan o'r broses ac nad yw'n broses sy'n digwydd iddynt hwy, felly rwy'n hapus iawn i wneud hynny. Rwy'n mawr obeithio y bydd y problemau yr ydych chi wedi'u hwynebu yn nyffryn Nantlle yn rhai sy'n benodol i'r ardal honno ac yn rhai sydd wedi'u datrys erbyn hyn.

I am more than happy to consider that. I think it would be fair to ensure that residents or occupants feel that they are part of the process and do not feel that the process is happening to them, so I am happy to do that. I very much hope that the problems that you have faced in Nantlle are specific to that area and that they have now been resolved.

13:59 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Minister, you have already alluded to the savings that proper energy efficiency measures could make, particularly in terms of the Nest programme. As part of your review, have you looked at the way that programme is targeting those in fuel poverty? Are there any ways that you can refine the scheme to better reach that particular segment of the population?

Weinidog, rydych eisoes wedi cyfeirio at yr arbedion y gallai mesurau effeithlonrwydd ynni priodol eu gwneud, yn enwedig o ran rhaglen Nyth. Fel rhan o'ch adolygiad, a ydych wedi edrych ar y ffordd y mae'r rhaglen yn targedu'r rheini sydd mewn tlodi tanwydd? A oes unrhyw ffordd y gallwch fireinio'r cynllun i gyrraedd y gyfran benodol honno o'r boblogaeth yn well?

14:00 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Clearly, our intention is to reach as many people who will benefit from the scheme as possible. That targeting has been undertaken and has been assessed. We do evaluate the work of Nest and Arbed, and we will continue to do so. We will continue to learn the lessons from those evaluations.

Yn amlwg, ein bwriad yw cyrraedd cymaint o bobl â phosibl a fydd yn elwa ar y cynllun. Mae'r gwaith targedu hwnnw wedi'i wneud ac yn cael ei asesu. Rydym yn gwerthuso gwaith Nyth ac Arbed, a byddwn yn parhau i wneud hynny. Byddwn yn parhau i ddysgu gwersi o'r gwerthusiadau hynny.

Creulondeb i Anifeiliaid

Animal Cruelty

14:00 **Christine Chapman** Bywgraffiad Biography

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8. Pa fesurau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn eu cymryd i leihau creulondeb i anifeiliaid yng Nghymru? OAQ(4)0076(NRF)

8. What measures is the Welsh Government taking to reduce animal cruelty in Wales? OAQ(4)0076(NRF)

14:00 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Farm livestock and the most popular companion animals have specific codes of conduct. We are specifically working with the UK Government and enforcement authorities on the Anti-Social Behaviour (Crime and Policing) Bill, as well as drafting legislation on dog breeding and microchipping.

Ceir codau ymddygiad penodol mewn perthynas â da byw fferm a'r anifeiliaid anwes mwyaf poblogaidd. Rydym yn gweithio'n benodol gyda Llywodraeth y DU ac awdurdodau gorfodi ar y Bil Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol (Troseddau a Phlismona), yn ogystal â drafftio deddfwriaeth ar fridio cŵn a gosod microsglodion.

14:00 **Christine Chapman** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I have been disturbed by a number of incidents of animal cruelty taking place throughout some parts of the south Wales Valleys recently, including, for example, several cases of cats being poisoned with anti-freeze in my constituency. If the perpetrators were known, we know that this could often be dealt with through the Animal Welfare Act 2006, but there is still a need for the provision of appropriate education to make sure that people know how to care for animals, and also to prevent mistreatment. Minister, what plans do you have to advance these educational aspects, so that cruelty is less likely to happen?

Mae nifer o achosion o greulondeb i anifeiliaid mewn rhai rhannau o Gymoedd y de wedi peri pryder imi yn ddiweddar, gan gynnwys, er enghraifft, sawl achos o gathod yn cael eu gwenwyno gyda sylwedd gwrth-rewi yn fy etholaeth. Pe bai'r troseddwyr yn hysbys, gwyddom y gellid mynd i'r afael â hyn yn aml drwy Ddeddf Lles Anifeiliaid 2006, ond mae angen addysgu'n briodol o hyd er mwyn sicrhau bod pobl yn gwybod sut i ofalu am anifeiliaid, a hefyd i atal camdriniaeth. Weinidog, pa gynlluniau sydd gennych i ddatblygu'r agweddau addysgol hyn, fel ei bod yn llai tebygol y bydd creulondeb yn digwydd?

14:01 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I think that Members on all sides of the Chamber will be shocked to hear of any instances of cruelty such as those that you have described. I would say that, where there are specific and inexcusable acts of cruelty, we should ensure that the law enforcement agencies have knowledge of that, and that prosecutions are followed under the relevant legislation. I have no patience at all with that sort of behaviour. In terms of how we wish to take forward our approach in policy to animal welfare issues, it is based on education, and it is based on a wish to educate people, with prosecution as a last resort. The Member will be aware that, in the control of horses legislation, we are seeking to promote behavioural change with owners, as well as the work that we have already described and debated here on the Anti-Social Behaviour (Crime and Policing) Bill in terms of dealing with dogs. That has also had a focus on education, and we will be looking to see what we can do outside of the legislative process to promote the education of people on animal welfare issues.

Credaf y byddai Aelodau ar bob ochr i'r Siambr yn dychryn i glywed am unrhyw achosion o greulondeb fel y rhai yr ydych wedi'u disgrifio. Dywedwn, lle ceir creulondeb penodol ac anfaddeuol, y dylem sicrhau bod asiantaethau gorfodi'r gyfraith yn ymwybodol o hynny, a bod erlyniadau yn cael eu cynnal o dan y ddeddfwriaeth berthnasol. Nid oes gennyf unrhyw amynedd gyda'r math hwnnw o ymddygiad. O ran sut rydym am ddatblygu ein hymagwedd at bolisi mewn perthynas â materion lles anifeiliaid, mae'n seiliedig ar addysg, ac mae'n seiliedig ar ddymuniad i addysgu pobl, gydag erlyn pan fetho popeth arall. Bydd yr Aelod yn ymwybodol, yn y ddeddfwriaeth rheoli ceffylau, rydym yn ceisio hyrwyddo newid ymddygiad ymysg perchenogion, yn ogystal â'r gwaith yr ydym eisoes wedi ei ddisgrifio a'i drafod yma ar y Bil Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol (Troseddau a Phlismona) o ran ymdrin â chŵn. Mae hynny hefyd wedi canolbwyntio ar addysg, a byddwn yn edrych i weld beth y gallwn ei wneud y tu allan i'r broses ddeddfwriaethol i hybu'r broses o addysgu pobl ar faterion lles anifeiliaid.

14:02 **Angela Burns** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, the draft animal welfare consultation closed on 14 October. As you are aware, it is the second consultation that we have had on that set of principles. I wonder if you can tell us when you will be able to forward with a distinct proposal. The concern that I have, particularly representing the area that I do, is that there is an enormous trade in illegal puppy farming, and I fear that the draft animal welfare regulations, although very welcome, will penalise the licensed people more, without stopping the illegal trade. In the light of the settlements for local authorities, I fear that we will lose the animal health and welfare officers that we already have, and I wonder how you might be able to strengthen the guidance in that area.

Weinidog, daeth yr ymgynghoriad lles anifeiliaid drafft i ben ar 14 Hydref. Fel y gwyddoch, dyna'r ail ymgynghoriad yr ydym wedi'i gael ar y gyfres honno o egwyddorion. Tybed a allwch ddweud wrthym pryd y byddwch yn gallu cyflwyno cynnig penodol. Y pryder sydd gennyf, yn enwedig oherwydd yr ardal yr wyf yn ei chynrychioli, yw bod masnach enfawr mewn ffermio cŵn bach yn anghyfreithlon, ac mae arnaf ofn fod y rheoliadau lles anifeiliaid drafft, er fy mod yn eu croesawu'n fawr, yn cosbi'r bobl drwyddedig yn fwy, heb ddod â'r masnachu anghyfreithlon i ben. O ystyried y setliadau ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol, ofnaf y byddwn yn colli'r swyddogion iechyd a lles anifeiliaid sydd gennym eisoes, a thybed sut y gallech atgyfnerthu'r canllawiau yn y maes hwnnw.

14:03 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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It was, of course, to ensure that we do have absolute certainty on where we stand in the law that I reopened the consultation before the summer recess. I said at the time that I wanted to announce these decisions before the end of the year, and that remains my objective. I very much agree with the Member and her analysis of the situation that we are facing. We need to have workable law in place that deals with the heart of the problem, but in such a way as to resolve the problem and not simply force it underground.

Wrth gwrs, er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn cael sicrwydd llwyr ynghylch y sefyllfa gyfreithiol yr ailagorais yr ymgynghoriad cyn toriad yr haf. Dywedais ar y pryd fy mod yn awyddus i gyhoeddi'r penderfyniadau hyn cyn diwedd y flwyddyn, a dyna fy nod o hyd. Cytunaf yn llwyr â'r Aelod a'i dadansoddiad o'r sefyllfa yr ydym yn ei hwynebu. Mae angen inni gael cyfraith ymarferol ar waith sy'n myn at wraidd y broblem, ond sy'n datrys y broblem yn hytrach na'i gorfodi i'r cysgodion.

14:04 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Weinidog, un o'r camau a gymerwyd gan y Llywodraeth flaenorol i wahardd creulondeb yn erbyn anifeiliaid oedd atal y defnydd o goleri trydanol yng Nghymru. Tra'n bod yn cefnogi'r cam hwnnw, mae sgîl effaith, sef ei fod wedi'i gwneud yn anghyfreithlon defnyddio ffensys trydanol sy'n rhwystro anifeiliaid anwes—cathod a chwn, ac ati—rhag mynd ar y ffordd, lle gallant gael eu lladd, sy'n fath arall o greulondeb tuag at anifeiliaid, efallai. Gan eich bod wedi dweud eich bod yn adolygu'r rheoliadau hyn ymhen rhyw flwyddyn neu ddwy, a fyddwch mewn sefyllfa i edrych o'r newydd ar y dystiolaeth i weld a oes lle i wella'r ddeddfwriaeth hon?

Minister, one of the steps taken by the previous Government to prevent animal cruelty was to ban the use of electric shock collars in Wales. While we support that step, it does have a side effect, in that it has made it illegal to use electric fences that prevent pets—cats and dogs, et cetera—from straying onto roads, where they could be killed, which is, perhaps, another form of animal cruelty. You have said that you will be reviewing these regulations in a year or two, so will you be in a position to look anew at the evidence to see if the legislation can be improved?

14:04 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Rwy'n cytuno â chi. Rydych wedi gofyn cwestiwn ysgrifenedig ar hyn; nid wyf yn gwybod a ydych wedi cael yr ateb eto. Os nad ydych, gallaf ddweud ein bod yn mynd i adolygu hyn y flwyddyn nesaf.

I agree with you. You have asked a written question on this; I do not know whether you have received the answer yet. If not, I can tell you that we will be reviewing this next year.

Marchnadoedd Ffermwyr

Farmers' Markets

14:05 **Julie Morgan** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

9. Pa fesurau y gall Llywodraeth Cymru eu cymryd i wella'r cymorth sydd ar gael i farchnadoedd ffermwyr ymhellach? OAQ(4)0079(NRF)

9. What measures can the Welsh Government take to further improve the support available for farmers' markets? OAQ(4)0079(NRF)

14:05 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The Welsh Government is committed to supporting and promoting Welsh food and drink through a number of measures, including food tourism and festivals. However, state aid regulations prohibit support to be given directly to individual farmers' markets. We are anxious to support the direct link between producers and consumers.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymrwymo i gefnogi a hyrwyddo bwyd a diod o Gymru drwy nifer o fesurau, gan gynnwys twristiaeth a gwyliau bwyd. Fodd bynnag, mae rheoliadau cymorth gwladwriaethol yn golygu na ellir rhoi cefnogaeth yn uniongyrchol i farchnadoedd ffermwyr unigol. Rydym yn awyddus i gefnogi'r cyswllt uniongyrchol rhwng cynhyrchwyr a defnyddwyr.

14:05 **Julie Morgan** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I thank the Minister for his response. Does the Minister have any analysis or market research of the customers who use farmers' markets, such as the ones in Rhiwbina, Whitchurch, Riverside and Roath—which are the farmers' markets in Cardiff? Does he believe that there are any price barriers for some customers in accessing locally sourced organic food?

Diolch i'r Gweinidog am ei ateb. A oes gan y Gweinidog unrhyw ddadansoddiad neu ymchwil i'r farchnad ar y cwsmeriaid sy'n defnyddio marchnadoedd ffermwyr, fel y rhai yn Rhiwbeina, yr Eglwys Newydd, Glan yr Afon a'r Rhath—sef y marchnadoedd ffermwyr yng Nghaerdydd? A yw'n credu bod unrhyw rwystrau o ran prisiau sy'n atal rhai cwsmeriaid rhag gallu prynu bwyd organig lleol?

14:05 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I think that there are issues in some parts of Wales about accessing local fresh food. This may be the case for organic food as well, but it is certainly the case for local fresh food. The Government's renewed action plan for food will be launched at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair. There will be a section of that that addresses the issues that the Member has raised in terms of farmers' markets, as well as the connection between the consumer and the producers and processors of foods. That is a connection that is essential for us to make as a country, a society and a community. I would invite all Members, on all sides of the Chamber, to look at what the Government is proposing to do to strengthen those links and to join us in an active dialogue about how we can strengthen the food chains that currently exist in Wales and ensure that people—whatever their income bracket and wherever they live in Wales—have access to great, fresh food produced in Wales.

Credaf fod problemau mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru o ran cael gafael ar fwyd ffres lleol. Gall hyn fod yn wir ar gyfer bwyd organig hefyd, ond mae'n sicr yn wir ar gyfer bwyd ffres lleol. Caiff cynllun gweithredu newydd y Llywodraeth ar gyfer bwyd ei lansio yn Ffair Aeaf Frenhinol Cymru. Bydd adran ohono yn mynd i'r afael â'r materion y mae'r Aelod wedi'u codi o ran marchnadoedd ffermwyr, yn ogystal â'r cysylltiad rhwng y defnyddiwr a chynhyrchwyr a phroseswyr bwydydd. Mae hynny'n gysylltiad sy'n hanfodol i ni ei wneud fel gwlad, cymdeithas a chymuned. Byddwn yn gwahodd yr holl Aelodau, ar bob ochr i'r Siambr, i edrych ar yr hyn y mae'r Llywodraeth yn bwriadu ei wneud i atgyfnerthu'r cysylltiadau hynny ac ymuno â ni mewn deialog weithredol am sut y gallwn atgyfnerthu'r cadwyni bwyd sy'n bodoli ar hyn o bryd yng Nghymru a sicrhau bod pobl—beth bynnag fo'u hincwm a ble bynnag y maent yn byw yng Nghymru—yn gallu cael gafael ar fwyd ffres gwych a gynhyrchir yng Nghymru.

14:07 **Mohammad Asghar** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, in August of this year, it was reported that Chepstow town council was providing incentives for traders, in the hope of reviving the town's farmers' market. These incentives included no charge being made for trading licence fees, pitch fees and electricity. What further incentives is the Welsh Government considering to promote and extend farmers' markets in Wales?

Weinidog, ym mis Awst eleni, nodwyd bod cyngor tref Cas-gwent yn cynnig cymhellion i fasnachwyr, yn y gobaith o adfer marchnad ffermwyr y dref. Roedd y cymhellion hyn yn cynnwys peidio â chodi tâl am ffioedd trwyddedau masnachu, ffioedd stondin a thrydan. Pa gymhellion pellach y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn eu hystyried i hyrwyddo ac ehangu marchnadoedd ffermwyr yng Nghymru?

14:07 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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In terms of the promotion of farmers' markets, the movement is not something that has been the creature of Government—it is not something that is top down. I would like to see Government and local authorities promoting and supporting the ability of local producers and others to develop the farmers' market movement and the wider local marketing and purchase of food across the whole of Wales. I would welcome local authorities taking such steps and, certainly, if any barriers exist at Welsh Government level, I would be very happy to look at how we can remove those barriers.

O ran hyrwyddo marchnadoedd ffermwyr, nid rhywbeth a grëwyd gan y Llywodraeth ydyw—nid yw'n rhywbeth o'r brig i lawr. Hoffwn weld y Llywodraeth ac awdurdodau lleol yn hyrwyddo a chefnogi gallu cynhyrchwyr lleol ac eraill i ddatblygu'r mudiad marchnad ffermwyr a'r broses ehangach o farchnata a phrynu bwyd yn lleol ledled Cymru gyfan. Byddwn yn croesawu camau o'r fath gan awdurdodau lleol ac, yn sicr, os oes unrhyw rwystrau yn bodoli ar lefel Llywodraeth Cymru, byddwn yn barod iawn i edrych ar sut y gallwn ddileu'r rhwystrau hynny.

14:08 **Lindsay Whittle** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Minister, you have touched on some of what I was going to cover in my question. We talk about fuel poverty in this Chamber, but there is good-quality food poverty as well. You have rightly mentioned that the food in farmers' markets is organic, it is fresher, it has travelled less and the profits stay in Wales. There are many people on benefits, Minister, who cannot afford to buy it, because it is too expensive. You subsidise food festivals in Wales; why do you not subsidise farmers' markets?

Weinidog, rydych wedi crybwyll rhywfaint o'r hyn yr oeddwn am sôn amdano yn fy nghwestiwn. Rydym yn sôn am dlodi tanwydd yn y Siambr hon, ond mae tlodi bwyd o ansawdd da yn bodoli hefyd. Rydych wedi sôn, a hynny'n briodol, bod y bwyd mewn marchnadoedd ffermwyr yn organig, yn fwy ffres, ei fod wedi teithio llai ac mae'r elw yn aros yng Nghymru. Mae llawer o bobl ar fudd-daliadau, Weinidog, na allant fforddio ei brynu, am ei fod yn rhy ddrud. Rydych yn rhoi cymorthdaliadau i wyliau bwyd yng Nghymru; pam na roddwch gymorthdaliadau i farchnadoedd ffermwyr?

14:08 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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There are legal issues with some of those matters, but let us try to overcome issues where they exist and look at what we want to achieve. When you see the strategy that I am proposing for the development of the food programme from the Welsh Government, in all its different elements, you will see an action plan that addresses issues of production, of primary production, of processing, of promotion, of manufacture and of the links with the consumer—social as well as health and education. I hope that, in developing a holistic approach to food policy, what we will be doing is helping to create the links that you describe, with which I very much agree, and doing so in a way that strengthens the production of food and the access to consumption of food, which is of high quality, across the whole of Wales.

Mae problemau cyfreithiol yn gysylltiedig â rhai o'r materion hynny, ond gadewch inni geisio goresgyn problemau lle maent yn bodoli ac edrych ar yr hyn yr ydym am ei gyflawni. Pan welwch y strategaeth yr wyf yn ei chynnig ar gyfer datblygu'r rhaglen fwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru, gyda'i holl elfennau gwahanol, gwelwch gynllun gweithredu sy'n mynd i'r afael â materion cynhyrchu, cynhyrchu sylfaenol, prosesu, hyrwyddo, gweithgynhyrchu a chysylltiadau â'r defnyddiwr—rhai cymdeithasol yn ogystal ag iechyd ac addysg. Gobeithiaf, wrth ddatblygu dull cyfannol at bolisi bwyd, mai'r hyn y byddwn yn ei wneud yw helpu i greu'r cysylltiadau yr ydych yn eu disgrifio, yr wyf yn cytuno'n llwyr â hwy, a gwneud hynny mewn ffordd sy'n atgyfnerthu prosesau cynhyrchu bwyd a'r gallu i gael gafael ar fwyd, sydd o ansawdd uchel, ledled Cymru gyfan.

14:09 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Suzy Davies has withdrawn question 10, OAQ(4)0072(NRF).

Mae Suzy Davies wedi tynnu cwestiwn 10, OAQ(4)0072(NRF) yn ôl.

Cronfa Ecosystemau Gwydn

Resilient Ecosystems Fund

14:09 **Julie James** Bywgraffiad Biography

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11. Faint sydd wedi manteisio ar y Gronfa Ecosystemau Gwydn gwerth £1.5 miliwn ers iddi gael ei lansio yn y Gelli? OAQ(4)0067(NRF)

11. What has been the uptake of the £1.5 million Resilient Ecosystems Fund since it was launched at Hay? OAQ(4)0067(NRF)

14:09 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I was extremely pleased by the level of interest shown in this fund and the quality of applications received. The full £1.5 million has been allocated to 25 projects that will deliver real benefits for society by helping to enhance the quality of our natural environment.

Roeddwn yn falch iawn o weld y diddordeb a ddangoswyd yn y gronfa hon ac yn ansawdd y ceisiadau a dderbyniwyd. Dyrannwyd yr £1.5 miliwn yn llawn i 25 o brosiectau a fydd yn sicrhau buddiannau gwirioneddol i gymdeithas drwy helpu i wella ansawdd ein hamgylchedd naturiol.

14:10 **Julie James** Bywgraffiad Biography

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The Welsh Fisherman's Association, Wales Environment Link, Seafish and a number of other marine users on the Llŷn peninsula are currently working on the development of a project that has an ecosystems-based approach, which covers not only the marine environment but also the land-sea interface. So, it is a very innovative project. Minister, what consideration has the Welsh Government given to grant-funding such innovative projects, or supporting them in other ways?

Mae Cymdeithas Pysgotwyr Cymru, Cyswllt Amgylchedd Cymru, Seafish a nifer o ddefnyddwyr morol eraill ar Benrhyn Llŷn ar hyn o bryd yn gweithio ar ddatblygu prosiect sy'n seiliedig ar ecosystemau, sy'n cynnwys nid yn unig yr amgylchedd morol ond hefyd y rhyng-gysylltiad rhwng y tir a'r môr. Felly, mae'n brosiect arloesol iawn. Weinidog, pa ystyriaeth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'i rhoi i roi arian grant ar gyfer prosiectau arloesol o'r fath, neu eu cefnogi mewn ffyrdd eraill?

14:10 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I am aware of the project around Llŷn that the Member describes, and Welsh Government officials are working with the group to offer advice and support for that project. I was delighted to hear of this project, as it is the sort of project that many of us find almost exhilarating, with people working together to develop that marine interface, which has probably been somewhat neglected in terms of policy over recent years. Members will be aware that I will make an announcement on the future of marine policy in two weeks' time, and I will be addressing these issues at that time.

Rwy'n ymwybodol o'r prosiect o amgylch Llŷn y mae'r Aelod yn ei ddisgrifio, ac mae swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithio gyda'r grŵp i gynnig cyngor a chefnogaeth i'r prosiect hwnnw. Roeddwn yn falch iawn o glywed am y prosiect hwn, gan mai dyna'r math o brosiect sy'n cyffroi llawer ohonom, gyda phobl yn cydweithio i ddatblygu'r rhyng-gysylltiad morol hwnnw, sydd, mae'n debyg, wedi cael ei esgeuluso braidd o ran polisi dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Bydd yr Aelodau'n ymwybodol y byddaf yn gwneud cyhoeddiad ar ddyfodol polisi morol ymhen pythefnos, a byddaf yn mynd i'r afael â'r materion hyn bryd hynny.

14:11 **Russell George** Bywgraffiad Biography

In looking at the Wales biodiversity partnership evidence gaps register, a considerable amount of high and medium priority gaps have been identified by the partnership that are awaiting research proposals. How is the Government working with higher education institutions to market the fund and potential bids, and does the Minister feel that the one-month application window is a potential barrier to seeking a good research submission?

Wrth edrych ar y rhestr o fylchau mewn tystiolaeth partneriaeth bioamrywiaeth Cymru, mae llawer o fylchau blaenoriaeth uchel a chanolig wedi eu nodi gan y bartneriaeth sy'n aros am gynigion ymchwil. Sut y mae'r Llywodraeth yn gweithio gyda sefydliadau addysg uwch i farchnata'r gronfa a chynigion posibl, ac a yw'r Gweinidog yn teimlo bod y cyfnod gwneud cais o fis yn rhwystr posibl i geisio cyflwyniad ymchwil da?

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14:11 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

I hope that that window is sufficient in order to provide the time for people to deliver applications for the fund. The indications that I have is that it is sufficient. Fundamental to our approach to dealing with the loss of biodiversity that we are seeing at the moment is achieving an understanding, and having high-quality information available to us. We have moved a long way since I made some of these announcements back in July about how we will collect, analyse and use that information in a very proactive way. We will make further announcements on this. The £6 million biodiversity fund that the Member referred to is open for application at the moment, and we have issued a number of calls for people to submit applications to that. I have had some very interesting conversations with people who are very interested in how we approach these matters. The example that Bill Powell described earlier in Pontbren is a great example of this, and the Member from Montgomeryshire will be aware of how we can work with landowners to deliver much stronger biodiversity in the future.

Gobeithiaf fod y cyfnod yn ddigonol i roi amser i bobl gyflwyno ceisiadau ar gyfer y gronfa. Mae'r arwyddion yr wyf wedi'u cael yn awgrymu ei fod yn ddigonol. Mae sicrhau ein bod yn deall a bod gwybodaeth o ansawdd uchel ar gael inni yn hanfodol i'r ffordd y byddwn yn mynd i'r afael â'r fioamrywiaeth a gollir a welwn ar hyn o bryd. Rydym yn cymryd camau breision ers imi wneud rhai o'r cyhoeddiadau hyn yn ôl ym mis Gorffennaf ynghylch sut y byddwn yn casglu, yn dadansoddi ac yn defnyddio'r wybodaeth honno mewn ffordd ragweithiol iawn. Byddwn yn gwneud cyhoeddiadau pellach ar hyn. Mae'r gronfa bioamrywiaeth gwerth £6 miliwn y cyfeiriodd yr Aelod ati ar agor ar gyfer ceisiadau ar hyn o bryd, ac rydym wedi cyhoeddi nifer o alwadau i bobl gyflwyno ceisiadau ar ei chyfer. Rwyf wedi cael sgyrsiau diddorol iawn gyda phobl sydd â diddordeb mawr yn y ffordd yr ydym yn ymdrin â'r materion hyn. Mae'r enghraifft a ddisgrifiodd Bill Powell yn gynharach ym Mhontbren yn enghraifft wych o hyn, a bydd yr Aelod o Sir Drefaldwyn yn ymwybodol o'r ffordd y gallwn weithio gyda thirfeddianwyr i sicrhau bioamrywiaeth lawer cryfach yn y dyfodol.

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Tlodi Tanwydd

Fuel Poverty

14:13 **Jocelyn Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

12. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ymdrechion Llywodraeth Cymru i fynd i'r afael â thlodi tanwydd? OAQ(4)0073(NRF)

12. Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Government efforts to tackle fuel poverty? OAQ(4)0073(NRF)

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14:13 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

We are committed to tackling fuel poverty, and our energy efficiency and fuel poverty programmes are helping the most vulnerable households in deprived communities across Wales. We are also increasing our investment; last month, I announced an additional £70 million of investment from 2014 onwards.

Rydym wedi ymrwymo i fynd i'r afael â thlodi tanwydd, ac mae ein rhaglenni tlodi tanwydd ac effeithlonrwydd ynni yn helpu'r aelwydydd mwyaf agored i niwed mewn cymunedau difreintiedig ledled Cymru. Rydym hefyd yn cynyddu ein buddsoddiad; y mis diwethaf, cyhoeddais y byddem yn buddsoddi £70 miliwn ychwanegol o 2014 ymlaen.

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14:13 **Jocelyn Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

We now have a full house in terms of the big six energy companies raising prices for consumers, just as it is getting very cold. You have already mentioned your Government's support for a collective energy-buying scheme. Will you outline your longer term vision, such as the development of a new Glas Cymru-style energy provider?

Erbyn hyn mae'r chwe chwmni ynni mwyaf wedi codi prisiau i ddefnyddwyr, ar yr union adeg y mae'n mynd yn oer iawn. Rydych eisoes wedi sôn am gefnogaeth eich Llywodraeth i gynllun prynu ynni ar y cyd. A wnewch chi amlinellu eich gweledigaeth ar gyfer y tymor hwy, megis y gwaith o ddatblygu darparwr ynni newydd tebyg i Glas Cymru?

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14:13 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I recognise the points that the Member has made. When I spoke to the major energy suppliers on Monday, they were all pleading poverty and describing how hard they were working to keep down bills. That is not something that any of my constituents recognise.

Rwy'n cydnabod y pwyntiau y mae'r Aelod wedi eu gwneud. Pan siaradais â'r prif gyflenwyr ynni ddydd Llun, roeddent i gyd yn taeru bod arian yn brin ac yn disgrifio pa mor galed yr oeddent yn gweithio i beidio â chynyddu biliau. Nid yw hynny'n rhywbeth y mae unrhyw un o'm hetholwyr yn ei gydnabod.

In terms of the approach that we are taking, we are supporting the Cyd Cymru project that has already been described, and we will be supporting a number of community-led social enterprise programmes under the Ynni'r Fro project. I would invite Members to look at the mid-term evaluation of Ynni'r Fro when published. I hope that Members will see, when we come to launch the rural development plan, that we will be investing a great deal of resource to try to support locally based community generation and distributed generation initiatives.

O ran y dull yr ydym yn ei fabwysiadu, rydym yn cefnogi'r prosiect Cyd Cymru sydd eisoes wedi cael ei ddisgrifio, a byddwn yn cefnogi nifer o raglenni menter gymdeithasol a arweinir gan y gymuned o dan brosiect Ynni'r Fro. Byddwn yn gwahodd yr Aelodau i edrych ar y gwerthusiad canol tymor o Ynni'r Fro pan gaiff ei gyhoeddi. Gobeithiaf y bydd yr Aelodau'n gweld, pan fyddwn yn lansio'r cynllun datblygu gwledig, y byddwn yn buddsoddi llawer iawn o adnoddau i geisio cefnogi mentrau cynhyrchu cymunedol a chynhyrchu gwasgaredig lleol.

14:14 **Mark Isherwood** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Last Friday, I hosted a fuel poverty surgery in Flint with representatives of the Welsh Government's Nest scheme, Pennysmart, the north Wales financial capability forum and the North Wales Energy Advice Centre. How will you ensure that the Welsh Government's fuel poverty strategy incorporates these wider schemes, which are not delivered by the Welsh Government, but which can be delivered alongside its strategies, such as Health Through Warmth, providing energy efficiency for people with long-term illnesses who might not be eligible for the Welsh Government scheme, and the Energy Best Deal programme being delivered by Ofgem and Citizens Advice?

Ddydd Gwener diwethaf, cynhaliais gymhorthfa dlodi tanwydd yn y Fflint gyda chynrychiolwyr o gynllun Nyth Llywodraeth Cymru, Pennysmart, fforwm gallu ariannol gogledd Cymru a Chanolfan Cyngor Effeithlonrwydd Ynni Gogledd Cymru. Sut y byddwch yn sicrhau bod strategaeth tlodi tanwydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymgorffori'r cynlluniau ehangach hyn, na chânt eu cyflwyno gan Lywodraeth Cymru, ond y gellir eu cyflwyno ochr yn ochr â'i strategaethau, megis Iechyd trwy Gynhesrwydd, gan sicrhau effeithlonrwydd ynni ar gyfer pobl â salwch hirdymor y mae'n bosibl nad ydynt yn gymwys ar gyfer cynllun Llywodraeth Cymru, a rhaglen y Fargen Ynni Orau a ddarperir gan Ofgem a'r Ganolfan Cyngor ar Bopeth?

14:15 **Alun Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I have to congratulate the Member on the work that he does on combating fuel poverty. I think that he is alone on his benches in understanding the nature and impact of fuel poverty on people. In terms of how we ensure that there is a seamless approach to the delivery of all the energy efficiency and anti-fuel-poverty schemes that he has described, I have not had any problems reported to me yet. Certainly, the approach that I am taking is that we have to use all the tools at our disposal to address the issues of fuel poverty facing people this winter and in future years.

Rhaid imi longyfarch yr Aelod ar y gwaith a wna ar fynd i'r afael â thlodi tanwydd. Credaf mai ef yw'r unig un o'i blaid sy'n deall natur ac effaith tlodi tanwydd ar bobl. O ran sut rydym yn sicrhau bod dull di-dor o gyflwyno'r holl gynlluniau effeithlonrwydd ynni a gwrthdlodi tanwydd y mae wedi'u disgrifio, nid oes unrhyw broblemau wedi cael eu codi gyda mi eto. Yn sicr, y dull yr wyf yn ei fabwysiadu yw bod yn rhaid inni ddefnyddio'r holl adnoddau sydd ar gael inni i fynd i'r afael â phroblemau tlodi tanwydd sy'n wynebu pobl y gaeaf hwn ac yn y dyfodol.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio

Questions to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration

Gorchymyn Personau Digartref (Angen Blaenoriaethol) (Cymru) 2001

Homeless Persons (Priority Need) Order (Wales) 2001

14:16 **Janet Finch-Saunders** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

1. Pa ystyriaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu rhoi yn y Bil Tai sydd ar y gweill i ddiwygio Gorchymyn Personau Digartref (Angen Blaenoriaethol) (Cymru) 2001? OAQ(4)0325(HR)

1. What considerations has the Minister given in the forthcoming Housing Bill to amending the Homeless Persons (Priority Need) Order (Wales) 2001? OAQ(4)0325(HR)

14:16 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio / The Minister for Housing and Regeneration

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I thank the Member for Aberconwy for her question. I have given very careful consideration to this matter and, as the Member will know, I have also undertaken a public consultation.

Diolch i'r Aelod dros Aberconwy am ei chgwestiwn. Rwyf wedi ystyried y mater hwn yn ofalus iawn ac, fel y gŵyr yr Aelod, rwyf hefyd wedi cynnal ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus.

14:16 **Janet Finch-Saunders** Bywgraffiad Biography

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In its response to the recent consultation on the potential amendment, the Welsh Local Government Association cited its support to amend, but also cited a pressing need for improved access to adequate mental health services, tangible support for substance misuse, aiding access to employment and tenancy agreement support for our ex-offenders. What action can the Minister report in this regard?

Yn ei ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad diweddar ar y gwelliant posibl, nododd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru ei chefnogaeth i'r gwelliant, ond nododd hefyd angen dybryd i wella'r gallu i gael gafael ar wasanaethau iechyd meddwl digonol, darparu cymorth penodol ar gyfer camddefnyddio sylweddau, helpu pobl i gael swyddi a chynorthwyo cyn-droseddwyr i gael cytundebau tenantiaeth. Pa gamau y gall y Gweinidog roi gwybod amdanynt mewn perthynas â hyn?

14:17 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I will issue the consultation responses later this week in terms of the decision on the recent consultation, and I will outline that to Members publicly next week.

Byddaf yn cyhoeddi'r ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad yn ddiweddarach yr wythnos hon o ran y penderfyniad ar yr ymgynghoriad diweddar, a byddaf yn amlinellu hynny i Aelodau yn gyhoeddus yr wythnos nesaf.

14:17 **Lindsay Whittle** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Minister, you will be aware that the 2001 Order categorises people deemed to be in priority need, including young people aged 16 and 17, and 18 to 20-year-olds who are leaving care. Some areas of Wales, such as Swansea, have long been associated with relatively high numbers of those people sleeping rough. Minister, are you aware why this is and, if so, what is the Welsh Government doing to prevent this trend continuing? I am delighted that BBC Wales has highlighted its second series of a hard-hitting documentary called 'Swansea: Living on the Streets', which showed that there are way too many young people going particularly to Swansea and I wonder why that is.

Weinidog, byddwch yn ymwybodol bod Gorchymyn 2001 yn categoreiddio pobl yr ystyrir bod ganddynt angen blaenoriaethol, gan gynnwys pobl ifanc 16 a 17 oed, a phobl ifanc 18 i 20 oed sy'n gadael gofal. Mae rhai ardaloedd o Gymru, megis Abertawe, wedi bod yn gysylltiedig â niferoedd cymharol uchel o'r bobl hynny yn cysgu ar y stryd. Weinidog, a wyddoch y rheswm am hyn ac, os felly, beth mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud i atal y duedd hon rhag parhau? Rwy'n falch bod BBC Cymru wedi tynnu sylw at ail gyfres ei rhaglen ddogfen rymus o'r enw 'Swansea: Living on the Streets', a ddangosodd bod gormod o bobl ifanc o lawer yn mynd i Abertawe yn benodol a thybed pam bod hynny'n wir.

14:17 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I share the Member's concerns about rough sleepers, particularly when the temperatures start to plummet in our communities. It is something that concerns my team and me. There is some ongoing work with regard to rough sleepers. It is a complex issue to deal with in terms of not only providing facilities for rough sleepers, but also the need, based on whether some individuals actually want to be assisted in terms of getting permanent accommodation. Therefore, it is a balance and about trying to understand the individuals who are presenting in areas.

Rhannaf bryderon yr Aelod ynghylch pobl sy'n cysgu ar y stryd, yn enwedig pan fydd y tymheredd yn dechrau gostwng yn ein cymunedau. Mae'n rhywbeth sy'n poeni fy nhîm a minnau. Mae peth gwaith yn mynd rhagddo mewn perthynas â phobl sy'n cysgu ar y stryd. Mae'n fater cymhleth nid yn unig o ran darparu cyfleusterau i bobl sy'n cysgu ar y stryd, ond hefyd yr angen i wneud hynny, yn seiliedig ar b'un a yw rhai unigolion mewn gwirionedd am gael cymorth i gael llety parhaol. Felly, mae'n ymwneud â sicrhau cydbwysedd a cheisio deall yr unigolion sy'n cysgu ar y stryd mewn ardaloedd.

14:18 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I call the Welsh Liberal Democrats' spokesperson, Peter Black.

Galwaf ar lefarydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, Peter Black.

14:18 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Minister, you have indicated your intention to amend the 2001 Order to remove the priority need status for ex-prisoners. What evidence have you based that intention on?

Weinidog, rydych wedi dangos eich bwriad i ddiwygio Gorchymyn 2001 i gael gwared ar y statws angen blaenoriaethol i gyn-garcharorion. Ar ba dystiolaeth y mae'r bwriad hwnnw'n seiliedig?

14:18 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Through the consultation that I will publish later this week, the evidence from different areas, including the WLGA and local authorities, has clearly indicated to me that the priority given in the assessment of prisoners, based only on their being a prison leaver, has been disproportionate in terms of its effects and the intended consequences of the priority need. Let me reassure the Member, and other Members, that the categorisation of an ex-offender leaving prison would be based upon their vulnerability and their needs assessment as to whether they should be placed in a vulnerable category for prioritisation in housing.

Drwy'r ymgynghoriad y byddaf yn ei gyhoeddi yn ddiweddarach yr wythnos hon, mae'r dystiolaeth o ardaloedd gwahanol, gan gynnwys CLlLC ac awdurdodau lleol, wedi dangos yn glir bod y flaenoriaeth a roddir i asesu carcharorion, yn seiliedig yn unig ar y ffaith eu bod yn gadael y carchar, wedi bod yn anghymesur o ran ei heffeithiau a chanlyniadau bwriadedig yr angen blaenoriaethol. Gadewch imi roi sicrwydd i'r Aelod, ac Aelodau eraill, y byddai categoreiddio cyn-droseddwr sy'n gadael y carchar yn seiliedig ar y graddau y mae'n agored i niwed a'i asesiad o anghenion o ran p'un a ddylid ei roi mewn categori sy'n agored i niwed ar gyfer blaenoriaeth o ran tai.

14:19 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you for that answer, Minister. One of the reasons why the 2001 Order was introduced was because vulnerability proved to be not sufficient to ensure that a particularly vulnerable group was rehoused accordingly. Yet, the 2008 report, to which you have referred in your letter as providing some of the evidence for the removal of this category, and written by one of your officials, says and concludes that,

Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Un o'r rhesymau dros gyflwyno Gorchymyn 2001 oedd oherwydd gwelwyd nad oedd bod yn agored i niwed yn ddigon i sicrhau bod rhywun yn cael ei ailgartrefu'n briodol. Eto i gyd, daw adroddiad 2008, y cyfeiriasoch ato yn eich llythyr fel rhywbeth sy'n darparu rhywfaint o'r dystiolaeth ar gyfer cael gwared ar y categori hwn, ac a ysgrifennwyd gan un o'ch swyddogion, i'r casgliad

'There is a clear and evidenced link between accommodation and offending- accommodation being a necessary, but not sufficient condition, for the reduction of re-offending.'

'Mae dolen gyswllt glir â thystiolaeth i'w chefnogi rhwng llety a throseddu- mae llety yn amod angenrheidiol, ond nid digonol, ar gyfer lleihau ail-droseddu'.

Do you not think that there is a danger that if you remove the priority need, albeit that I accept that other measures are needed, that the rationale for local authorities making provision for ex-offenders will disappear, that most of them will not be rehoused and that, as a result, reoffending will rise even further, given that we are already higher than England in that regard?

Oni chredwch fod perygl, os byddwch yn cael gwared ar yr angen blaenoriaethol, er fy mod yn derbyn bod angen mesurau eraill, na fydd gan awdurdodau lleol reswm dros wneud darpariaeth ar gyfer cyn-droseddwyr, na fydd y rhan fwyaf ohonynt yn cael eu hailgartrefu ac, o ganlyniad, y bydd cyfraddau aildroseddu'n codi hyd yn oed yn uwch, o gofio bod gennym eisoes gyfraddau uwch na Lloegr yn hynny o beth?

14:20 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I am not convinced by the Member's argument that an individual should be prioritised on exiting prison on the basis of only being an ex-offender. I believe that the ability to test vulnerability is about the issue around making sure that we test the system to ensure that, if a person is vulnerable, whether they are an ex-offender or not, they will be prioritised in terms of housing need.

Nid wyf wedi fy argyhoeddi gan ddadl yr Aelod y dylid rhoi blaenoriaeth i unigolyn ar ôl iddo adael y carchar dim ond am ei fod yn gyn-droseddwr. Credaf fod y gallu i brofi p'un a yw unigolyn yn agored i niwed yn ymwneud â'r mater ynghylch sicrhau ein bod yn profi'r system er mwyn sicrhau, os yw person yn agored i niwed, p'un a yw'n gyn-droseddwr ai peidio, y rhoddir blaenoriaeth iddo o ran yr angen am dai.

Ailddatblygu Adeiladau

The Redevelopment of Buildings

14:21 **Angela Burns** Bywgraffiad Biography

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2. A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu pa ganllawiau statudol sydd yn eu lle i ailddatblygu adeiladau? OAQ(4)0316(HR)

2. Will the Minister outline what statutory guidance is in place for the redevelopment of buildings? OAQ(4)0316(HR)

14:21 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

If the redevelopment of a building constitutes development, then it will usually require planning permission. Our policies and guidance are contained in 'Planning Policy Wales' and technical advice notes.

Os ystyrir bod ailddatblygu adeilad yn ddatblygiad, yna fel arfer bydd angen caniatâd cynllunio. Mae ein polisïau a'n canllawiau wedi'u cynnwys yn 'Polisi Cynllunio Cymru' a nodiadau cyngor technegol.

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14:21 **Angela Burns** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you, Minister, and I am sure that you will be aware that I am going to talk to you about the Old Priory building in Carmarthen, and I do appreciate the efforts that you have made—

Diolch, Weinidog, ac rwy'n siŵr y byddwch yn ymwybodol fy mod yn bwriadu siarad â chi am adeilad yr Hen Briordy yng Nghaerfyrddin, ac rwy'n gwerthfawrogi eich ymdrechion—

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14:21 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

I hope that you are not just going to talk to him, but that you are going to ask a question.

Gobeithio nad ydych ond yn bwriadu siarad ag ef, ond eich bod yn bwriadu gofyn cwestiwn.

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14:21 **Angela Burns** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you, Presiding Officer, I most certainly will. Minister, I have a degree of concern that the council involved did not use the statutory powers that are in its remit to ensure that the owner of the building did not let it fall into disrepair, thereby requiring it to be re-consented for a more outrageous planning application than it already is. Minister, what guidance are you able to enforce upon councils so that they can use the powers that they have? I note that the section 215 power, which I understand is the correct one, is, in fact, a discretionary power and I fear that unscrupulous developers are getting away with it.

Diolch, Lywydd, byddaf yn sicr yn gwneud hynny. Weinidog, mae gennyf rywfaint o bryder na ddefnyddiodd y cyngor dan sylw y pwerau statudol sy'n rhan o'i gylch gwaith i sicrhau na adawodd perchennog yr adeilad iddo ddadfeilio, a thrwy hynny ei gwneud yn ofynnol iddo gael caniatâd o'r newydd am gais cynllunio mwy gwaradwyddus byth. Weinidog, pa ganllawiau y gallwch eu gorfodi ar gynghorau er mwyn iddynt allu defnyddio'r pwerau sydd ganddynt. Nodaf mai pŵer dewisol yw'r pŵer o dan adran 215, sef yr un cywir hyd y gwn i, mewn gwirionedd, ac mae arnaf ofn bod datblygwyr diegwyddor yn gwneud fel y mynnant.

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14:22 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

As the Member will appreciate, I will not make a comment on specific applications. However, in terms of the guidance, there are two elements to this process: there is a guidance process and there are statutory provisions within planning. I believe that all planning authorities should take that very seriously, and if the Member has evidence to support those claims, I would be interested to understand that—that is on all items; it is not project specific.

Fel y bydd yr Aelod yn gwerthfawrogi, ni fyddaf yn gwneud sylwadau ar geisiadau penodol. Fodd bynnag, o ran y canllawiau, mae dwy elfen i'r broses hon: mae proses arweiniad ac mae darpariaethau statudol ym maes cynllunio. Credaf y dylai pob awdurdod cynllunio ystyried hynny o ddifrif, ac os oes gan yr Aelod dystiolaeth i gefnogi'r honiadau hynny, byddwn yn falch o'i chlywed—mae hynny'n berthnasol i bob eitem; nid yw'n ymwneud â phrosiectau penodol.

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14:22 **Alun Ffred Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

Mae gan y Llywodraeth raglen fenthyca i ddod â thai gweigion yn ôl i ddefnydd, ac mae'r rhaglen yn rhannol lwyddiannus, ond mae tai sydd wedi eu gadael i ddirywio nid yn unig yn wastraff adnodd, ond hefyd yn gallu effeithio ar adeiladau eraill wrth eu hymyl, gan ostwng eu gwerth a hefyd amharu ar ansawdd bywyd y tenantiaid neu'r preswylwyr. A wnewch chi edrych am gyfleoedd o fewn rhaglen ddeddfwriaeth y Llywodraeth i roi rhagor o bwerau i lywodraeth leol i ddelio â'r broblem hon a'r gwastraff adnoddau hwn?

The Government has a borrowing programme to bring empty homes back into use, and the scheme is partially successful, but houses that have been left to deteriorate not only can be a waste of resources, but can have an impact on other buildings nearby, reducing their value and also diminishing the quality of life of tenants or residents. Will you look at opportunities within the Government's legislative programme to give local authorities more powers to deal with this problem and this waste of resources?

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14:23 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

The Member raises a really important point about the wasted asset that is in many of our communities in terms of empty homes or homes in disrepair that are not being used. There is a suite of legislation already in place to deal with these issues, but I will take the Member's question very seriously when seeing whether we can enhance that role in the future.

Mae'r Aelod yn codi pwynt pwysig iawn ynghylch yr asedau gwastraff sy'n bodoli mewn llawer o'n cymunedau o ran cartrefi gwag neu gartrefi mewn cyflwr gwael nad ydynt yn cael eu defnyddio. Mae cyfres o ddeddfwriaeth eisoes ar waith i ddelio â'r materion hyn, ond byddaf yn ystyried cwestiwn yr Aelod o ddifrif wrth edrych i weld a allwn wella'r rôl honno yn y dyfodol.

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14:23 **William Powell** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Minister, another category of buildings that are potentially a wasted asset is redundant farm buildings that are no longer in use for mechanised farming and given changes in husbandry practices. Given this fact and also the relatively low delivery that there has been so far under TAN 6 for dwellings in the countryside, what consideration are you prepared to give to potentially liberalising the regulations in this regard in the forthcoming planning Bill, to provide additional, much-needed accommodation for farm workers, rural apprentices and others in our countryside who are in housing need?

Weinidog, categori arall o adeiladau sy'n ased gwastraff o bosibl yw adeiladau fferm segur nad ydynt bellach yn cael eu defnyddio ar gyfer ffermio mecanyddol oherwydd newidiadau mewn arferion hwsmonaeth. O gofio hyn yn ogystal â'r ffaith mai nifer gymharol fach o anheddau a ddatblygwyd hyd yma yng nghefn gwlad o dan TAN 6, pa ystyriaeth rydych yn barod i'w rhoi i'r posibilrwydd o ryddfrydoli'r rheoliadau yn hyn o beth yn y Bil cynllunio arfaethedig, er mwyn darparu llety ychwanegol, y mae angen dybryd amdano, i weithwyr fferm, prentisiaid gwledig a phobl eraill yn ein cefn gwlad y mae angen tai arnynt?

14:24 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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The planning Bill will not contain any of the policy agenda. The policy will still be placed within 'Planning Policy Wales' and technical advice notes. The planning Bill will deliver a structured change to the way that planning is delivered. The Member raises an important point about rural accommodation, and that is something that is very clearly detailed in TAN 6. But, again, if the Member has any specific inquiries regarding the area that he represents, I would be interested to see how that could be enhanced, bearing in mind that the local planning authority would be the determining body on this.

Ni fydd y Bil cynllunio yn cynnwys unrhyw ran o'r agenda bolisi. Bydd y polisi yn rhan o Bolisi Cynllunio Cymru a nodiadau cyngor technegol o hyd. Bydd y Bil cynllunio yn sicrhau newid strwythuredig i'r broses gynllunio. Cyfyd yr Aelod bwynt pwysig am lety gwledig, ac mae hynny'n rhywbeth sydd wedi'i nodi'n glir iawn yn TAN 6. Ond, unwaith eto, os oes gan yr Aelod unrhyw ymholiadau penodol am yr ardal y mae'n ei chynrychioli, byddwn yn falch o weld sut y gellid gwella hynny, o gofio mai'r awdurdod cynllunio lleol fyddai'r corf penderfynu yn hyn o beth.

Landlordiaid Cymdeithasol Cofrestredig a Darparwyr Tai

Registered Social Landlords and Housing Providers

14:25 **Christine Chapman** Bywgraffiad Biography

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3. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am atebolrwydd landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig a darparwyr tai? OAQ(4)0315(HR)

3. Will the Minister make a statement on the accountability of registered social landlords and housing providers? OAQ(4)0315(HR)

14:25 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Registered social landlords are accountable to their tenants and to other users of their services. They are regulated by the Welsh Government. The 11 local authorities that still own their homes are also accountable to tenants and service users and to the Welsh Government on matters such as the Welsh housing quality standard.

Mae landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig yn atebol i'w tenantiaid ac i ddefnyddwyr eraill eu gwasanaethau. Cânt eu rheoleiddio gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Mae'r 11 o awdurdodau lleol sy'n berchen ar eu cartrefi o hyd hefyd yn atebol i denantiaid a defnyddwyr gwasanaethau ac i Lywodraeth Cymru am faterion megis safon ansawdd tai Cymru.

14:25 **Christine Chapman** Bywgraffiad Biography

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You will know that, since stock transfer, the ability for local councillors in some Welsh local authorities to scrutinise homes in the public sector has diminished. That said, as community leaders, they are still called upon by local residents with regard to their housing issues. What assurances can you give, Minister, that registered social landlords and housing providers are still held accountable and what training is being given to boards to assist them in this vital role?

Gwyddoch, ers trosglwyddo'r stoc, fod gan gynghorwyr lleol mewn rhai awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru lai o allu i graffu ar gartrefi yn y sector cyhoeddus. Serch hynny, fel arweinwyr cymunedol, mae trigolion lleol yn dal i alw arnynt mewn perthynas â'u materion tai. Pa sicrwydd y gallwch eu rhoi, Weinidog, bod landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig a darparwyr tai yn atebol o hyd a pha hyfforddiant sy'n cael ei roi i fyrddau i'w helpu i gyflawni'r rôl hollbwysig hon?

14:26 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Local authorities that transfer the housing stock still have a strategic housing function, which includes, for example, housing allocations and preventing homelessness. As part of the transfer process, I expect that registered social landlords are accountable to the tenants and the service users. Some are better than others. Indeed, I was in Caerphilly not so long ago, where the relationship between tenants and the RSL was fantastic. Again, I will give consideration to the value of all these organisations when they are under inspection from the Welsh Government inspectorate team.

Mae gan awdurdodau lleol sy'n trosglwyddo'r stoc tai swyddogaeth tai strategol o hyd, sy'n cynnwys, er enghraifft, dyrannu tai ac atal digartrefedd. Fel rhan o'r broses drosglwyddo, disgwyliaf y bydd landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig yn atebol i'r tenantiaid a'r defnyddwyr gwasanaethau. Mae rhai yn well na'i gilydd. Yn wir, roeddwn yng Nghaerffili beth amser yn ôl, lle roedd y gydberthynas rhwng tenantiaid a landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig yn wych. Unwaith eto, byddaf yn ystyried gwerth yr holl sefydliadau hyn pan fyddant yn cael eu harolygu gan dîm o arolygwyr Llywodraeth Cymru.

14:26 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I call the opposition spokesperson, Mark Isherwood.

Galwaf ar lefarydd yr wrthblaid, Mark Isherwood.

14:26 **Mark Isherwood** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Registered social landlords and housing associations, as you indicate, are already closely regulated by the Welsh Government. I also believe that they are the only independent not-for-profit organisations accountable to the Wales Audit Office. You mentioned being accountable to boards of volunteers, over a quarter of which are tenants. What action do you feel you could take, or are you taking, to identify the good practice that exists in some local authorities and transfer associations in order to encourage the others to adopt that? I am sure that, in all transfer associations, the intention is that they should work on the basis of goodwill and in the shared interest of their tenants.

Mae landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig a chymdeithasau tai, fel y dywedwch, eisoes yn cael eu rheoleiddio'n agos gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Credaf hefyd mai nhw yw'r unig sefydliadau di-elw annibynnol sy'n atebol i Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru. Soniasoch am fod yn atebol i fyrddau o wirfoddolwyr, y mae chwarter ohonynt yn denantiaid. Pa gamau y credwch y gallech eu cymryd, neu yr ydych yn eu cymryd, i nodi'r arfer da sy'n bodoli mewn rhai awdurdodau lleol a chymdeithasau trosglwyddo er mwyn annog eraill i'w fabwysiadu? Rwy'n siŵr mai bwriad pob cymdeithas trosglwyddo yw gweithio ar sail ewyllys da ac er budd eu tenantiaid.

14:27 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I have met with Community Housing Cymru and we had a discussion yesterday around the Inform to Involve programme, which is about sharing best practice across RSLs and authorities. It is something that I would seek to enhance in terms of sharing that best practice. It makes for a better situation for RSLs and ultimately for the tenants that they represent.

Cyfarfum â chartrefi Cymunedol Cymru a chawsom drafodaeth ddoe ynghylch y rhaglen Hysbysu i Ymrwymo, sy'n ymwneud â rhannu arfer gorau ymhlith landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig ac awdurdodau. Mae'n rhywbeth y byddwn yn ceisio ei wella o ran rhannu'r arfer gorau hwnnw. Mae'n arwain at sefyllfa well i landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig ac yn y pen draw i'r tenantiaid y maent yn eu cynrychioli.

14:27 **Mark Isherwood** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you, but the question went broader and looked at housing providers and, of course, the ultimate determination of affordability is the overall supply of housing against that demand. What impact assessments have you undertaken, or are you proposing to undertake, to establish the impact on the supply of housing for private rent, social private rent, or new build for purchase, of future Welsh Government regulation and legislation, given that both private landlords and house builders invest for the long term, and not simply for the next couple of years?

Diolch, ond aeth y cwestiwn y tu hwnt i hynny gan edrych ar ddarparwyr tai ac, wrth gwrs, mae'r penderfyniad ynghylch fforddiadwyedd yn y pen draw yn seiliedig ar y cyflenwad cyffredinol o dai yn erbyn y galw hwnnw. Pa asesiadau effaith rydych wedi'u cynnal, neu yr ydych yn bwriadu eu cynnal, er mwyn canfod effaith rheoliadau a deddfwriaeth Llywodraeth Cymru yn y dyfodol ar gyflenwadau tai rhent preifat, tai rhent preifat cymdeithasol, neu adeiladau newydd i'w prynu, o gofio bod landlordiaid preifat ac adeiladwyr tai fel ei gilydd yn buddsoddi ar gyfer yr hirdymor, ac nid yn unig ar gyfer yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf?

14:28 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I have a taskforce currently looking at barriers to building in Wales. That will be reporting to me towards the end of this year, and I will make a statement to the Chamber in the new year regarding positive action that we will be taking as a Government.

Mae gennyf dasglu sydd wrthi'n ystyried rhwystrau i adeiladu yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd. Bydd yn cyflwyno adroddiad imi tua diwedd y flwyddyn hon, a byddaf yn gwneud datganiad i'r Siambr yn y flwyddyn newydd mewn perthynas â'r camau gweithredu cadarnhaol y byddwn yn eu cymryd fel Llywodraeth.

14:28 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I call the Plaid Cymru spokesperson, Jocelyn Davies.

Galwaf ar lefarydd Plaid Cymru, Jocelyn Davies.

14:28 **Jocelyn Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, as you have just said, you are the regulator of social landlords, and I am sure that you will agree that the principles underpinning the regulatory framework are the right ones, and those are that tenants should be at the heart of regulation, that associations should be responsible for their actions, and that collaboration should underpin regulation. I am sure that you do agree with those things. Perhaps you can tell me what has gone wrong, as outlined in the interim evaluation that was recently published.

Weinidog, fel yr ydych newydd ei ddweud, chi sy'n gyfrifol am reoleiddio landlordiaid cymdeithasol, ac rwy'n siŵr y byddwch yn cytuno bod y fframwaith rheoleiddio yn seiliedig ar yr egwyddorion cywir, sef y dylai tenantiaid fod wrth wraidd rheoleiddio, y dylai cymdeithasau fod yn gyfrifol am eu gweithredoedd, ac y dylai cydweithio fod yn sail i reoleiddio. Rwy'n siŵr eich bod yn cytuno â'r pethau hynny. Efallai y gallwch ddweud wrthyf beth sydd wedi mynd o'i le, fel yr amlinellwyd yn y gwerthusiad dros dro a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar.

14:29 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Of course, we are talking about a very mixed bag of organisations here. They are all very different in terms of the way that they operate. As I referred to in response to other Members, it is about ensuring that we get best practice to deliver across Wales. There are some organisations that have very good, effective toolkits and delivery on working with tenants. I alluded to the one that I visited in Caerphilly recently.

Wrth gwrs, rydym yn sôn am ystod eang iawn o sefydliadau yma. Maent i gyd yn wahanol iawn o ran y ffordd y maent yn gweithredu. Fel y crybwyllais wrth ymateb i Aelodau eraill, mae'n ymwneud â sicrhau arfer gorau ledled Cymru. Mae rhai sefydliadau sydd â phecynnau cymorth a dulliau cyflawni da ac effeithiol iawn wrth weithio gyda thenantiaid. Cyfeiriais at yr un yr ymwelais ag ef yng Nghaerffili yn ddiweddar.

14:29 **Jocelyn Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Of course, I was talking about your role as regulator. Yes, I suppose the review did find that that was a mixed bag, as well as the landlords being a mixed bag, because the review said that there had been a significant move in the regulatory framework away from this concept of co-regulation, and away from the focus on outcomes. That was being lost, and the move was instead towards an inspection approach. Of course, this is not what tenants or associations expected or wanted, so I would like to ask you, Minister, what you intend to do to put it right.

Wrth gwrs, roeddwn yn sôn am eich rôl fel rheoleiddiwr. Do, mae'n debyg bod yr adolygiad wedi canfod sefyllfa gymysg, yn ogystal â chymysgedd o landlordiaid, oherwydd nododd yr adolygiad bod cam sylweddol wedi bod yn y fframwaith rheoleiddio i ffwrdd oddi wrth y cysyniad hwn o gydreoleiddio, ac i ffwrdd oddi wrth y ffocws ar ganlyniadau. Roedd hynny'n cael ei golli ac roedd y fframwaith yn hytrach yn symud tuag at ddull archwilio. Wrth gwrs, nid dyna oedd tenantiaid na chymdeithasau yn ei ddisgwyl nac ychwaith am ei gael, felly hoffwn ofyn ichi, Weinidog, beth rydych yn bwriadu ei wneud i unioni'r sefyllfa.

14:30 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I have met with a representative body of RSLs recently, and we are looking at risk-based regulation in terms of giving them flexibility and the ability to enhance opportunity in terms of delivery across the sector. I believe that this is a two-way exchange, understanding what the pressures are within the system, but also ensuring that we have the ability to regulate and manage progress through housing in Wales.

Cyfarfum â chorff cynrychioliadol o landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig yn ddiweddar, ac rydym yn edrych ar ddulliau rheoleiddio sy'n seiliedig ar risg er mwyn rhoi'r hyblygrwydd a'r gallu iddynt wella cyfleoedd o ran cyflawni ar draws y sector. Credaf fod hon yn broses ddwyffordd, gan ddeall y pwysau sy'n bodoli o fewn y system, ond hefyd sicrhau bod gennym y gallu i reoleiddio a rheoli cynnydd ym maes tai yng Nghymru.

Tai gydag Addasiadau a Chymhorthion

Housing with Adaptations and Aids

14:30 **Rebecca Evans** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

4. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am argaeledd tai gydag addasiadau a chymhorthion i bobl anabl yng ngorllewin Cymru? OAQ(4)0313(HR)

4. Will the Minister make a statement on the availability of housing with adaptations and aids for disabled people in west Wales? OAQ(4)0313(HR)

14:30 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you for the question. Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire local authorities all have accessible housing registers that match available adapted social rented properties with people with disabilities.

Diolch am eich cwestiwn. Mae gan awdurdodau lleol Ceredigion, Sir Benfro a Sir Gaerfyrddin i gyd gofrestrau tai hygyrch sy'n paru eiddo cymdeithasol ar rent wedi'i addasu sydd ar gael â phobl ag anableddau.

14:31 **Rebecca Evans** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you, Minister. I have been contacted by a constituent in Pembrokeshire who is a wheelchair user, and whose partner and carer is asthmatic. They are currently living in small, damp, private sector housing, and are classified as gold 1 priority for rehousing, following visits from environmental health and occupational therapy. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of housing to meet their needs. Therefore, do you agree that the provision of suitable bathroom facilities and dry accommodation for someone who cannot walk should be a priority, and how are you ensuring that local authorities such as Pembrokeshire deliver this?

Diolch ichi, Weinidog. Mae etholwr yn Sir Benfro sy'n defnyddio cadair olwyn ac y mae ei ofalwr yn asthmatig wedi cysylltu â mi. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'n byw mewn eiddo sector preifat bach a llaith, ac wedi'i ddosbarthu i gategori blaenoriaeth aur 1 ar gyfer ailgartrefu, yn dilyn ymweliadau gan weithwyr iechyd yr amgylchedd a therapi galwedigaethol. Yn anffodus, mae prinder tai i ddiwallu ei anghenion. Felly, a gytunwch y dylid rhoi blaenoriaeth i ddarparu cyfleusterau ymolchi addas a llety sych i rywun nad yw'n gallu cerdded, a sut rydych yn sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol megis Sir Benfro yn cyflawni hyn?

14:31 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I thank the Member for her very important question. Again, while I cannot comment on the specific individual, I do expect local authorities to keep a register of adapted properties in the public sector. This enables the flexibility for the enablement of an individual who needs supporting. There is no reason why a local authority cannot adapt its existing stock, in terms of the specific housing need of the constituents whom you represent.

Diolch i'r Aelod am ei chwestiwn pwysig iawn. Unwaith eto, er na allaf wneud sylwadau ar yr unigolyn penodol, disgwyliaf i awdurdodau lleol gadw cofrestr o eiddo a addaswyd yn y sector cyhoeddus. Mae hyn yn sicrhau hyblygrwydd i gynorthwyo unigolyn y mae angen cymorth arno. Nid oes unrhyw reswm pam na all awdurdod lleol addasu ei stoc bresennol, o ran anghenion tai penodol yr etholwyr a gynrychiolir gennych.

14:32 **Mohammad Asghar** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Minister, the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee recommended that local authorities working with registered social landlords should produce a customer charter, setting out commitments to residents in relation to adaptation services. This would ensure that the services are centred on the need of the customer, and it has the support of the Commissioner for Older People in Wales. Will the Minister reconsider his rejection of this recommendation, and would he kindly tell this Chamber the cause of his rejection?

Weinidog, argymhellodd y Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol y dylai awdurdodau lleol ar y cyd â landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig lunio siarter cwsmeriaid, yn nodi ymrwymiadau i breswylwyr mewn perthynas â gwasanaethau addasu. Byddai hyn yn sicrhau bod y gwasanaethau yn canolbwyntio ar anghenion y cwsmer, ac mae Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru yn ei gefnogi. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ailystyried ei benderfyniad i wrthod yr argymhelliad hwn, ac a fyddai cystal ag egluro wrth y Siambr hon ei reswm dros ei wrthod?

14:32 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I am not reconsidering that rejection of that specific element, as we discussed in this Chamber only three weeks ago. However, what I did commit to on that day was a review of the facilities grant. Once we have reviewed that process, and looked at, for the fourth report, where this is not an effective delivery mechanism, I am seeking to get a better process in order to get better delivery through local authorities and third sector providers in the future.

Nid wyf yn ailystyried y penderfyniad i wrthod yr elfen benodol honno, fel y trafodwyd yn y Siambr hon ddim ond tair wythnos yn ôl. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn yr ymrwymais i'w wneud y diwrnod hwnnw oedd adolygu'r grant cyfleusterau. Unwaith y byddwn wedi adolygu'r broses honno, ac wedi ystyried, ar gyfer y pedwerydd adroddiad, lle nad yw hyn yn ddull cyflawni effeithiol, byddaf yn ceisio rhoi proses well ar waith er mwyn sicrhau darpariaeth well drwy awdurdodau lleol a darparwyr trydydd sector yn y dyfodol.

Adeiladwyr Tai ym Mrycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed

House Builders in Brecon and Radnorshire

14:33 **Kirsty Williams** Bywgraffiad Biography

5. Beth y mae'r Gweinidog yn ei wneud i gynorthwyo adeiladwyr tai ym Mrycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed? OAQ(4)0320(HR)

5. What is the Minister doing to support house builders in Brecon and Radnorshire? OAQ(4)0320(HR)

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:33 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

There are a number of initiatives in place that are designed to support housing activity in the area. I will be introducing Help to Buy Wales later in the year, which will provide a further boost to the industry.

Mae nifer o fentrau ar waith a gynlluniwyd i gefnogi gweithgareddau tai yn yr ardal. Byddaf yn cyflwyno Help i Brynu Cymru yn ddiweddarach eleni, a fydd yn rhoi hwb pellach i'r diwydiant.

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14:33 **Kirsty Williams** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you, Minister. We have seen this week in the news how the Help to Buy scheme in England has had a strong start. I note that we will have to wait even longer here in Wales before an announcement. Can I ask you today when Help to Buy Cymru will actually be in operation to assist homebuyers in my own constituency, and to give a much-welcomed boost to house builders?

Diolch, Weinidog. Rydym wedi clywed yn y newyddion yr wythnos hon am gychwyn cadarn cynllun Help to Buy yn Lloegr. Nodaf y bydd yn rhaid inni aros hyd yn oed yn hwy yma yng Nghymru am gyhoeddiad. A allaf ofyn ichi heddiw pryd y bydd Help i Brynu Cymru yn cael ei roi ar waith mewn gwirionedd er mwyn helpu prynwyr tai yn fy etholaeth fy hun, ac i roi hwb allweddol i adeiladwyr tai?

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14:34 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

It is a very important part of the Government's initiative, and I will be making that announcement shortly.

Mae'n rhan bwysig iawn o fenter y Llywodraeth, a byddaf yn gwneud y cyhoeddiad yn fuan.

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14:34 **Mark Isherwood** Bywgraffiad Biography

In terms of supporting house builders, as you know, one concern has been that excessive demands for affordable housing within section 106 agreements have led to some builders choosing to disinvest and go away. So, what consideration are you giving to ensure that we deliver affordable housing through section 106, by adopting viability assessments as the guidance for this rather than setting high percentages that deliver absolutely nothing?

O ran cefnogi adeiladwyr tai, fel y gwyddoch, un pryder yw bod gormod o alw am dai fforddiadwy yng nghytundebau adran 106 a bod hynny wedi arwain at rai adeiladwyr yn dewis dadfuddsoddi a symud i ffwrdd. Felly, pa ystyriaeth rydych yn ei rhoi i sicrhau ein bod yn darparu tai fforddiadwy drwy adran 106, drwy fabwysiadu asesiadau hyfywedd fel y canllawiau ar gyfer hyn yn hytrach na phennu canrannau uchel nad ydynt yn cyflawni dim?

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14:34 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

The Member raises the important issue of the viability of land in Wales. This is a discussion that I have been having with the Home Builders Federation, which I met last night, as well as with the Council of Mortgage Lenders. The taskforce that will report to me at the end of the year will be looking at those barriers around section 106 and many other things that are considered to be disruptive to the progress of the economy in Wales.

Mae'r Aelod yn codi mater pwysig am hyfywedd tir yng Nghymru. Mae hon yn drafodaeth yr wyf wedi bod yn ei chael gyda'r Ffederasiwn Adeiladwyr Cartrefi, y cyfarfûm ag ef neithiwr, yn ogystal â Chyngor y Benthycwyr Morgeisi. Bydd y tasglu a fydd yn cyflwyno adroddiad imi ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn yn ystyried y rhwystrau hynny o ran adran 106 a llawer o bethau eraill yr ystyrir eu bod yn amharu ar gynnydd yr economi yng Nghymru.

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14:35 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Minister, now that the bedroom tax is here to stay, seeing as Labour MPs could not be bothered to turn out last night to vote for their own policy and against the bedroom tax—[Interruption.] All Plaid Cymru MPs were there—every single one of them. What steps are you taking, Minister, to ensure suitable alternative accommodation is now available and constructed to deal with the nasty side effects of the bedroom tax?

Weinidog, nawr bod y dreth ystafell wely yma i aros, gan na thrafferthodd ASau Llafur ddod i bleidleisio neithiwr dros eu polisi eu hunain ac yn erbyn y dreth ystafell wely—[Torri ar draws.] Roedd holl ASau Plaid Cymru yno—pob un ohonynt. Pa gamau rydych yn eu cymryd, Weinidog, i sicrhau bod llety amgen addas bellach ar gael ac wedi'i adeiladu i ddelio â sgîl-effeithiau andwyol y dreth ystafell wely?

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14:35 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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The Member raises an important issue with regard to the bedroom tax. We have invested some £20 million in one and two bed accommodation in conjunction with the Minister for Finance’s announcement only a few weeks back. We have done an assessment of need and I am also looking at new opportunities in terms of ensuring that we are able to target opportunities with local authorities and RSLs to mitigate, at best, what we can in terms of the displacement of individuals.

Mae’r Aelod yn codi mater pwysig o ran y dreth ystafell wely. Rydym wedi buddsoddi tua £20 miliwn mewn llety un a dwy ystafell wely ar y cyd â chyhoeddiad y Gweinidog Cyllid dim ond ychydig wythnosau yn ôl. Rydym wedi cynnal asesiad o angen ac rwyf hefyd yn ystyried cyfleoedd newydd i sicrhau y gallwn dargedu cyfleoedd gydag awdurdodau lleol a landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig i liniaru, ar y gorau, yr hyn a allwn o ran dadleoli unigolion.

With regard to the vote on the bedroom tax, it is ironic and a bit of an own goal, really, because the Member could also ask the question as to why his MPs did not turn up to the Freeze that Bill campaign last week.

O ran y bleidlais ar y dreth ystafell wely, mae’n eironig ac yn dipyn o gôl yn ei rwyd ei hun, mewn gwirionedd, oherwydd gallai’r Aelod hefyd ofyn pam na chefnogodd ei ASau yr ymgyrch i rewi’r bil hwnnw yr wythnos ddiwethaf.

14:36 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I remind Members that some of you have very loud stage whispers. I remind people who are on their feet not to respond to people who are sitting down, otherwise it is a rather disjointed conversation that we have here.

Atgoffaf Aelodau fod gan rai ohonoch sibrydion uchel iawn. Atgoffaf y bobl sydd ar eu traed i beidio ag ymateb i bobl sydd ar eu heistedd, fel arall, mae gennym sgwrs eithaf digyswllt yma.

Byron Davies has withdrawn question 6, OAQ(4)0319(HR), so we move to question 7 from Keith Davies.

Mae Byron Davies wedi tynnu cwestiwn 6, OAQ(4)0319(HR) yn ôl, felly trown at gwestiwn 7 gan Keith Davies.

Ceisiadau Cynllunio

Planning Applications

14:36 **Keith Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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7. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei ystyriaethau wrth ‘alw’ ceisiadau cynllunio i mewn? OAQ(4)0323(HR)

7. Will the Minister make a statement on his considerations when ‘calling in’ planning applications? OAQ(4)0323(HR)

14:36 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

My decision is based solely on whether I consider that the application raises planning issues of more than local importance. No consideration is given to the planning merits of the proposed development in reaching that decision.

Mae fy mhenderfyniad yn seiliedig ar b’un a wyf o’r farn bod y cais yn codi materion cynllunio sy’n fwy na materion lleol. Ni roddir ystyriaeth i rinweddau cynllunio’r datblygiad arfaethedig wrth wneud y penderfyniad hwnnw.

14:37 **Keith Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Ar 16 Hydref, defnyddioch eich pwerau gweinidogol o dan Ddeddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990 i alw mewn y cais cynllunio ar Barc y Strade yn Llanelli, gan nodi bod iddo fwy na phwysigrwydd lleol. Rwy’n deall bod pob cais yn cael ei ystyried yn wahanol, ac, fel Gweinidog, efallai eich bod yn gyfyngedig yn yr hyn allwch ei ddweud. Beth ydych yn rhagweld fel amserlen y camau nesaf, a pha ystyriaethau y byddech yn cymryd sylw ohonynt nawr bod y cais wedi’i alw i fewn?

On 16 October, you used your ministerial powers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to call-in the planning application on Stradey Park in Llanelli, noting that it was of more than local importance. I understand that all cases are considered differently, and, as Minister, you may be restricted in what you are able to say. What do you anticipate as a timetable for the next steps, and what considerations will you be taking account of, now that this has been called in?

14:37 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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That was an admirable attempt by the Member to raise this local issue that is of significant importance to him, but he well knows that I cannot comment on this specific item. In terms of a more general point on planning, the time frame will be determined by the procedures that are followed by the application.

Roedd hynny’n ymdrech clodwiw gan yr Aelod i godi’r mater lleol hwn sydd o bwys mawr iddo, ond gŵyr yn dda na allaf wneud sylwadau ar yr eitem benodol hon. O ran cynllunio yn fwy cyffredinol, pennir yr amserlen gan y gweithdrefnau a ddilynir gan y cais.

14:38 **Angela Burns** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Minister, I appreciate your endeavours to have fewer call-ins; I totally understand that. However, I wonder whether you might be able to review the whole appeals procedure with the planning inspectorate prior to a call-in. At present, it seems to advantage the proposer of a planning application and the objectors struggle to make the relevant appeals on time because they are not kept in the loop, as is currently not required by either statutory or advisory guidance.

Weinidog, gwerthfawrogaf eich ymdrechion i sicrhau bod llai o benderfyniadau yn cael eu galw i mewn; deallaf hynny'n llwyr. Fodd bynnag, tybed a allech adolygu'r weithdrefn apeliadau gyfan gyda'r gyfarwyddiaeth gynllunio cyn galw penderfyniadau i mewn. Ar hyn o bryd, ymddengys ei bod yn rhoi mantais i gynigydd cais cynllunio a bod y gwrthwynebwyr yn cael trafferth gwneud yr apeliadau perthnasol ar amser am nad ydynt yn cael eu cynnwys mewn trafodaethau, a hynny am nad yw'n ofynnol mewn canllawiau statudol na chynghori.

14:38 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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The issue in terms of the planning process is a really important one in trying to make Wales a place where people want to invest and for the growth of the economy. We believe that the planning Bill will enable opportunities for investment in Wales. It will mean the simplification of the system, and the opportunity for making sure that there is fairness, wherever you are in Wales. Whether you are a developer or a objector, it is appropriate that you should have a reasonable, fair opportunity to make your determination known, and that is something that we looking at through the planning Bill.

Mae'r mater yn ymwneud â'r broses gynllunio yn un pwysig iawn wrth geisio sicrhau bod Cymru yn wlad y mae pobl am fuddsoddi ynddi ac o ran twf yr economi. Credwn y bydd y Bil cynllunio yn creu cyfleoedd i fuddsoddi yng Nghymru. Bydd yn golygu y caiff y system ei symleiddio, a bod cyfle i sicrhau tegwch, pa le bynnag y boch yng Nghymru. P'un a ydych yn ddatblygwr neu'n wrthwynebydd, dylech gael cyfle rhesymol a theg i leisio eich barn, ac mae hynny'n rhywbeth rydym yn ei ystyried drwy'r Bil cynllunio.

14:39 **Llyr Gruffydd** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Rydych wedi gwneud cyhoeddiad yn ddiweddar ynglŷn â'r 'mega dairy' ym Mhowys ac fe benderfynoch fynd yn groes i argymhelliad yr arolygydd cynllunio annibynnol. Waeth beth mae rhywun yn feddwl am y penderfyniad terfynol hwnnw, onid yw eich penderfyniad efallai yn codi cwestiwn ynglŷn â'r modd y mae'r cysyniad o ddatblygu cynaliadwy oddi fewn i'r drefn gynllunio yn cael ei ddehongli, a sut y gallech chi a'r arolygydd fod wedi dod i gasgliadau mor wahanol?

You have made an announcement recently about the mega dairy in Powys, and you decided to go against the recommendation of the independent planning inspector. Whatever someone thinks of that final decision, does your decision not raise a question perhaps about how the concept of sustainable development is interpreted within the planning system, and how could you and the inspector have come to such different conclusions?

14:39 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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The planning application is still a live application. Presiding Officer, I am unable to comment on that particular question.

Mae'r cais cynllunio yn gais byw o hyd. Lywydd, ni allaf wneud sylwadau ar y cwestiwn penodol hwnnw.

Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid

Vibrant and Viable Places

14:40 **Russell George** Bywgraffiad Biography

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8. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am raglen adfywio wedi'i thargedu Llywodraeth Cymru, sef Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid? OAQ(4)0314(HR)

8. Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Government's targeted regeneration programme Vibrant and Viable Places? OAQ(4)0314(HR)

14:40 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Fideo Video

Eleven local authorities are proceeding to stage 2 of the 'Vibrant and Viable Places' process.

Mae 11 o awdurdodau lleol yn symud ymlaen i gam 2 o'r broses 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid'.

14:40 **Russell George** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you for your answer, Minister. There are a number of communities in Montgomeryshire, or in mid Wales, that feel snubbed because you have ruled out Powys County Council's application for 'Vibrant and Viable Places' funding. The scheme was to replace the previous regeneration areas policy, which saw mid Wales vastly underrepresented. A number of deprived communities across Montgomeryshire that are in real need of regeneration would really benefit significantly from this funding. I would be grateful if you could answer the question: what was the rationale for Powys council's bid being removed from the first stage? If you do not have that specific answer, Minister, I would be very grateful if you could write to me in more detail with an explanation.

Diolch am eich ateb, Weinidog. Mae nifer o gymunedau yn Sir Drefaldwyn, neu yn y canolbarth, sy'n teimlo eu bod wedi cael eu hanwybyddu am eich bod wedi diystyru cais Cyngor Sir Powys am arian 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid'. Y bwriad oedd i'r cynllun ddisodli'r polisi ardaloedd adfywio blaenorol, nad oedd yn cynrychioli'r canolbarth yn ddigonol o bell ffordd. Mae nifer o gymunedau difreintiedig ledled Sir Drefaldwyn y mae gwir angen eu hadfywio a fyddai'n cael budd sylweddol o'r arian hwn. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech ateb y cwestiwn: beth oedd y rhesymeg dros dynnu cynnig cyngor Powys yn ôl o'r cam cyntaf? Os nad oes gennych yr ateb penodol hwnnw, Weinidog, byddwn yn ddiolchgar iawn pe gallech ysgrifennu ataf gydag eglurhad manylach.

14:41 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I am grateful for the Member's question. The process was a competitive bidding round, with all 22 authorities taking part in that process. I cannot comment on specifics today as I do not have the detail in terms of the Powys bid. However, obviously, the capacity of Powys to deliver a successful bid was clearly flawed, and I would be happy to write to the Member with the detail surrounding that, if it is helpful for him.

Rwy'n ddiolchgar am gwestiwn yr Aelod. Roedd y broses yn gylch cynigion cystadleuol, gyda phob un o'r 22 o awdurdodau yn rhan o'r broses honno. Ni allaf wneud sylwadau ar bethau penodol heddiw am nad oes gennyf fanylion am gais Powys. Fodd bynnag, yn amlwg, roedd diffygion yng ngallu Powys i gyflwyno cais llwyddiannus, a byddwn yn fwy na pharod i ysgrifennu at yr Aelod gyda manylion am hynny, pe bai o gymorth iddo.

14:41 **Rhun ap Iorwerth** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Money has already been earmarked for the disadvantaged areas that fell at the first hurdle under the 'Vibrant and Viable Places' programme. I hope, clearly, that Holyhead will make it all the way, but will the Minister confirm whether he intends to do the same thing and allocate funding to those areas that are not successful at stage 2?

Mae arian eisoes wedi cael ei glustnodi ar gyfer yr ardal ddifreintiedig a fethodd ar y cam cyntaf o dan raglen 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid'. Gobeithiaf, yn amlwg, y bydd Caergybi yn mynd yr holl ffordd, ond a wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau a yw'n bwriadu gwneud yr un peth a dyrannu arian i'r ardaloedd hynny nad ydynt yn llwyddiannus ar gam 2?

14:41 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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The Member will be aware that the Anglesey is through to the second stage. With regard to the areas that fell at the first stage, I have ensured that there is a ring-fenced fund within the 'Vibrant and Viable Places' bidding process, and we will be allocating that funding on the basis of the index of multiple deprivation, tackling areas of poverty within the local authorities that have failed to get through to the next stage.

Bydd yr Aelod yn ymwybodol bod Ynys Môn wedi cyrraedd yr ail gam. O ran yr ardaloedd na fu'n llwyddiannus ar y cam cyntaf, rwyf wedi sicrhau bod arian wedi'i neilltuo o fewn proses ceisiadau 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid', a byddwn yn dyrannu'r arian hwnnw ar sail y mynegai amddifadedd lluosog, gan fynd i'r afael ag ardaloedd o dlodi o fewn yr awdurdodau lleol nad ydynt wedi llwyddo i gyrraedd y cam nesaf.

Ardal Adfywio Strategol Arfordir Gogledd Cymru

North Wales Coast Strategic Regeneration Area

14:42 **Darren Millar** Bywgraffiad Biography

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9. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddyfodol Ardal Adfywio Strategol Arfordir Gogledd Cymru? OAQ(4)0310(HR)

9. Will the Minister make a statement on the future of the North Wales Coast Strategic Regeneration Area? OAQ(4)0310(HR)

14:42 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The introduction of the 'Vibrant and Viable Places' programme will see the closure of all seven existing regeneration areas, which includes the north Wales coast.

Bydd cyflwyno rhaglen 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid' yn golygu y caiff pob un o'r saith ardal adfywio bresennol ei diddymu, sy'n cynnwys arfordir y gogledd.

14:43 **Darren Millar** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you for that answer, Minister. I have listened very carefully to the answers that you have given to other Assembly Members this afternoon. You will know that the strategic regeneration area status was a huge boost to Colwyn Bay and has really transformed the fortunes of that town in terms of the facilities that have been developed at Parc Eirias and the improvements that have been made on the promenade in the area as well. Would you please consider further investment in the town, in particular along the promenade in the Old Colwyn area, which is now looking rather old and tatty in contrast to the improvements made elsewhere? Will you give that some consideration in the future funding of the bids that you will be considering?

Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Rwyf wedi gwrando'n astud ar yr atebion a roesoch i Aelodau eraill o'r Cynulliad y prynhawn yma. Fel y gwyddoch, bu statws ardal adfywio strategol yn hwb enfawr i Fae Colwyn ac mae wedi gweddnewid y dref honno o ran y cyfleusterau a ddatblygwyd ym Mharc Eirias a'r gwelliannau a wnaed ar y promenâd yn yr ardal hefyd. A fyddech cystal ag ystyried buddsoddiad pellach yn y dref, yn arbennig ar hyd y promenâd yn ardal Hen Golwyn, sydd bellach yn edrych braidd yn hen ac aflêr o gymharu â'r gwelliannau a wnaed mewn mannau eraill? A fyddwch yn rhoi ystyriaeth i hynny wrth ariannu'r cynigion hynny y byddwch yn eu hystyried yn y dyfodol?

14:43 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Of course, the Member will be aware of the process of 'Vibrant and Viable Places'. All Members in the Chamber are keen to ensure that they get the appropriate level of funding into their communities. I have listened to the Member very carefully and will give that further consideration.

Wrth gwrs, bydd yr Aelod yn ymwybodol o broses 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid'. Mae pob Aelod yn y Siambr yn awyddus i sicrhau ei fod yn cael y lefel briodol o arian yn ei gymuned. Rwyf wedi gwrando'n astud ar yr Aelod a byddaf yn rhoi ystyriaeth bellach i hynny.

14:43 **Llyr Gruffydd** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Roedd y cynllun gweithredu yn ei wneud yn glir y byddai llwyddiant yn cael ei fesur drwy gyfuniad o ddangosyddion perfformiad meintiol ac ansoddol. Pa ddata ydy'r Llywodraeth wedi eu casglu wrth fynd ati i ystyried sut y bydd y gwaith yn cael ei werthuso a sut y bydd hynny, efallai, yn dylanwadu ar y gwaith yn y dyfodol?

The action plan made it clear that success would be assessed by a combination of quantitative and qualitative performance indicators. What data have the Government collected in considering how the work will be evaluated and how that will, perhaps, influence the work for the future?

14:44 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

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The current proposals in terms of the strategic regeneration areas are being assessed and, following the closure of that process, there will be a report indicating the success of that. With regard to 'Vibrant and Viable Places', the guidance was very clear about the expected outcomes of that, and we are not yet at stage 2 in terms of announcing the successful bids. Once we have established that, a business case will be running alongside that for us to fully understand what the implementation will be of that.

Mae'r cynigion presennol o ran yr ardaloedd adfywio strategol yn cael eu hasesu ac, ar ôl i'r broses honno ddod i ben, caiff adroddiad ei lunio ar lwyddiant hynny. O ran 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid', roedd y canllawiau'n glir iawn am y canlyniadau disgwyliedig, ac nid ydym wedi cyrraedd cam 2 eto o ran cyhoeddi'r cynigion llwyddiannus. Unwaith y byddwn wedi sefydlu hynny, caiff achos busnes ei redeg ochr yn ochr â hynny er mwyn inni ddeall y camau gweithredu yn llawn.

14:44 **Aled Roberts** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Minister, I am also concerned that, in relation to the reference in the original plan to there being performance indicators and qualitative business and community surveys to measure the success or otherwise of the scheme, the Government website was updated on 16 September, and yet there are no performance indicators despite there being three pages of indicators in the original plan some three years ago. I would have thought that it would be necessary for there to be ongoing monitoring to measure success, rather than at the end of the particular process, given that you are being pressed to extend the area, on the basis of success or otherwise.

Weinidog, pryderaf hefyd, o ran y cyfeiriad yn y cynllun gwreiddiol at ddangosyddion perfformiad ac arolygon busnes a chymunedol ansoddol i fesur llwyddiant neu fethiant y cynllun, cafodd gwefan y Llywodraeth ei diweddaru ar 16 Medi, ac eto nid oes unrhyw ddangosyddion perfformiad er bod tair tudalen o ddangosyddion yn y cynllun gwreiddiol rhyw dair blynedd yn ôl. Byddwn wedi disgwyl y byddai angen gwneud gwaith monitro parhaus er mwyn mesur llwyddiant, yn hytrach nag ar ddiwedd y broses benodol, o gofio eich bod yn wynebu pwysau i ymestyn yr ardal, ar sail llwyddiant neu fethiant.

14:45 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

It is pretty clear that we will not be extending the areas, in terms of the process, as I alluded to in response to Darren Millar. However, making the assessment is important. I take the Member's point, and I will look at the detail. While I have not been looking at the internet with regard to performance indicators, I will ask my team to make the response known to the Member.

Mae'n eithaf amlwg na fyddwn yn ymestyn yr ardaloedd, o ran y broses, fel y crybwyllais wrth ymateb i Darren Millar. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig cynnal yr asesiad. Derbyniaf bwynt yr Aelod, a byddaf yn ystyried y manylion. Er nad wyf wedi bod yn edrych ar y rhyngrwyd mewn perthynas â dangosyddion perfformiad, byddaf yn gofyn i'm tîm roi gwybod i'r Aelod am yr ymateb.

Lletya Cyn-garcharorion

Accommodating Former Prisoners

14:45 **Bethan Jenkins** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

10. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gynigion i ddiwygio dyletswyddau awdurdodau lleol ar letya cyn-garcharorion a chanddynt statws angen blaenoriaethol? OAQ(4)0312(HR)

10. Will the Minister make a statement on proposals to amend local authority duties on accommodating former prisoners with priority need status? OAQ(4)0312(HR)

14:45 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank the Member for her question. My public consultation on the proposals has ended, and I am considering the responses.

Diolchaf i'r Aelod am ei chwestiwn. Mae fy ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus ar y cynigion wedi dod i ben, ac rwy'n ystyried yr ymatebion.

14:45 **Bethan Jenkins** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I heard your response to Peter Black and others earlier. However, what I will say is that Shelter and Gofal, as organisations that deal on the front line with former prisoners, are very concerned about the fact that this is going to change. They believe that the vulnerability criteria are very subjective. When the Welsh Government's 2008 report states that 75% of offenders most likely to reoffend were found to have a housing need compared with 30% of the general offender population, surely this particular policy should remain because there is a clear need for it.

Clywais eich ymateb i Peter Black ac eraill yn gynharach. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn a ddywedaf yw bod Shelter a Gofal, fel sefydliadau sy'n delio â chyn-garcharorion ar y rheng flaen, yn bryderus iawn ynghylch y ffaith bod hyn yn mynd i newid. Credant fod y meini prawf agored i niwed yn oddrychol iawn. Pan fo adroddiad 2008 Llywodraeth Cymru yn nodi bod angen tai ar 75% o'r troseddwyr sydd fwyaf tebygol o aildroseddu o gymharu â 30% o droseddwyr yn gyffredinol, oni ddylai'r polisi penodol hwn barhau oherwydd mae'n amlwg bod angen amdano.

14:46 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The Member heard my comments earlier on with regard to this. I do not take the Member's comments lightly, in terms of the representations that she makes on behalf of Gofal and Shelter. What I intend to do, following the publication of the consultation responses, is to set up a working group. I would seek to include either Gofal or Shelter, or both, in terms of taking that forward and de-risking the issues that they are concerned about, in terms of measuring how we are going to assess the vulnerability of individuals who are exiting a prison setting.

Clywodd yr Aelod fy sylwadau yn gynharach mewn perthynas â hyn. Nid ar chwarae bach yr ystyriaf sylwadau'r Aelod ar ran Gofal a Shelter. Yr hyn y bwriadaf ei wneud, yn dilyn cyhoeddi'r ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad, yw sefydlu gweithgor. Byddwn yn ceisio cynnwys naill ai Gofal neu Shelter, neu'r ddau, wrth fwrw ymlaen â hynny a mynd i'r afael â'r materion sy'n peri pryder iddynt, o ran mesur sut y byddwn yn asesu pa mor agored i niwed yw unigolion sy'n gadael y carchar.

14:47 **Janet Finch-Saunders** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, I first raised the possible review of the Homeless Persons (Priority Need) (Wales) Order 2001 on 29 June, 2011, with your predecessor. The response was that this Order was to address reoffending. However, statistics from the Ministry of Justice show that reoffending rates in Wales have increased to 51.6% since 2005, and figures show that former prisoners comprise a larger proportion of priority lists, at 14%, than victims of domestic violence, people with mental illness, or our armed forces. Furthermore, the recent consultation response from Conwy County Borough Council highlighted the fact that the current system encourages tenancy applications from ex-offenders with tenuous local connections. Can I thank you, Minister, for taking what I consider to be a fair, balanced and common-sense approach in this regard?

Weinidog, codais y cynnig i adolygu Gorchymyn Personau Digartref (Angen Blaenoriaethol) (Cymru) 2011 gyntaf ar 29 Mehefin, 2011, gyda'ch rhagflaenydd. Yr ymateb oedd mai diben y Gorchymyn hwn oedd mynd i'r afael ag aildroseddu. Fodd bynnag, dengys ystadegau gan y Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder fod cyfraddau aildroseddu yng Nghymru wedi cynyddu i 51.6% ers 2005, ac mae'r ffigurau'n dangos bod cyn-garcharorion yn cyfrif am gyfran uwch o restrau blaenoriaeth, sef 14%, na dioddefwyr trais yn y cartref, pobl â salwch meddwl, neu ein lluoedd arfog. At hynny, nododd yr ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad diweddar gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy fod y system bresennol yn annog ceisiadau tenantiaeth gan gyn-droseddwyr heb fawr ddim cysylltiadau lleol. Hoffwn ddiolch ichi, Weinidog, am weithredu mewn modd teg, cytbwys a synhwyrol yn hyn o beth?

14:48 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank the Member for her comments. I am sure that my colleagues will welcome them, too. On a serious note, the issue for me is that we test the vulnerability of all individuals. For me, priority should not be given on the basis of whether someone is an ex-offender or not. There should not be that consideration. It should be based upon the vulnerability of an individual, whoever they are and wherever they are, and that is what the setting should be for the Bill moving forward. I am grateful for the Member's comments.

Diolch i'r Aelod am ei sylwadau. Rwy'n siŵr y bydd fy nghyd-Aelod yn eu croesawu, hefyd. Ar nodyn difrifol, y mater i mi yw ein bod yn profi pa mor agored i niwed yw pob unigolyn. Yn fy marn i, ni ddylid rhoi blaenoriaeth i rywun yn seiliedig ar b'un a yw'n gyn-droseddwr ai peidio. Ni ddylid ystyried hynny. Dylai fod yn seiliedig ar ba mor agored i niwed yw'r unigolyn, pwy bynnag ydyw a lle bynnag y mae, a dylai'r Bil fod yn seiliedig ar hynny yn y dyfodol. Rwy'n ddiolchgar am sylwadau'r Aelod.

Tai Gwag

Empty Houses

14:48 **Keith Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

11. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ei weithredoedd i ailddechrau defnyddio tai gwag? OAQ(4)0324(HR)

11. Will the Minister give an update on his action to bring empty houses back into use? OAQ(4)0324(HR)

Leighton Andrews Bywgraffiad Biography

12. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am fesurau Llywodraeth Cymru i ymdrin ag eiddo gwag yng Nghymru? OAQ(4)0311(HR)

12. Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Government measures to deal with empty properties in Wales? OAQ(4)0311(HR)

14:48 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

When elected, we promised to bring 5,000 empty homes back into use during this Government. Interventions by local authorities, including the introduction of the £20 million Houses into Homes scheme, means that we are well on the way to achieving that target.

Pan gawsom ein hethol, gwnaethom addo ailddefnyddio 5,000 o gartrefi gwag yn ystod cyfnod y Llywodraeth hon. Mae ymyriadau gan awdurdodau lleol, gan gynnwys cyflwyno'r cynllun Troi Tai'n Gartrefi gwerth £20 miliwn, yn golygu ein bod ar y trywydd iawn i gyflawni'r targed hwnnw.

14:49 **Keith Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Diolch am eich ateb. Y gwir amdani yw bod tai gwg yn wastraff llwyr o adnodd. Gallai defnyddio 2,000 o dai gwag yn sir Gâr fynd rhan o'r ffordd tuag at leihau'r galw am dai cymdeithasol, yn enwedig yn sgîl newidiadau i'r budd-dal dai a diwygiadau lles. Sut y byddech chi'n gweithredu ar y momentwm a grëwyd gan y cynllun Troi Tai'n Gartrefi, a pha weithrediadau pellach y byddwch yn eu cymryd, er enghraifft Bil tai, i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn?

Thank you for that response. The truth is that empty homes are a complete waste of resource. Using 2,000 empty homes in Carmarthenshire could go part of the way to reducing the demand for social housing, particularly in terms of changes to housing benefit and welfare reforms. How will you take advantage of the momentum created by the Houses into Homes scheme, and what further action will you take, for example a housing Bill, in order to tackle this issue?

14:49 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

This programme, and the funding for the Houses into Homes scheme, is really successful. The Welsh Local Government Association, working on a regional basis, is delivering on that. In fact, in this successful programme, the first investment was £5 million; we moved that up to £10 million; and we are now investing £20 million for delivery. We are seeing a change in our communities. There is much more work to be done, but this reinvested fund will go a long way towards delivering in your community.

Mae'r rhaglen hon, a'r arian ar gyfer y cynllun Troi Tai'n Gartrefi, yn llwyddiannus iawn. Mae Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yn gweithredu ar sail ranbarthol. Yn wir, fel rhan o'r rhaglen lwyddiannus hon, gwnaed buddsoddiad cychwynnol o £5 miliwn; gwnaethom gynyddu hwnnw i £10 miliwn; ac rydym bellach yn buddsoddi £20 miliwn er mwyn ei chyflawni. Rydym yn gweld newid yn ein cymunedau. Mae llawer mwy o waith i'w wneud, ond bydd y gronfa ail-fuddsoddi hon yn gwneud llawer i ddarparu tai yn eich cymuned.

14:50 **Leighton Andrews** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, I welcome the success of the fund that you have mentioned, but the issue of empty property, particularly in connection to absentee landlords, was raised with me just in the last few days by the Labour councillor for Maerdy, Keiron Montague, who has stressed the difficulties being faced in his own community in this regard. I wonder whether I can invite you to join me in the upper Rhondda Fach to look at some of the challenges still facing that community and to look at what other opportunities may be taken to address this issue.

Weinidog, croesawaf lwyddiant y gronfa a grybwyllwyd gennych, ond codwyd y mater yn ymwneud ag eiddo gwag, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â landlordiaid absennol, yn ystod y dyddiau diwethaf yn unig gan y cynghorydd Llafur dros Faerdy, Keiron Montague, a bwysleisiodd yr anawsterau a wynebir yn ei gymuned ei hun mewn perthynas â hyn. Tybed a allaf eich gwahodd i ymuno â mi yn Rhondda Fach uchaf i ystyried rhai o'r heriau y mae'r gymuned honno yn parhau i'w hwynebu ac ystyried y cyfleoedd eraill y gellir manteisio arnynt i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn.

14:50 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I would welcome the invitation from the Member and look forward to receiving that in the next couple of days. The issue that the Member raises is an important one. It is difficult for local authorities to find absentee landlords, and it is something that we are considering for the Bill and for opportunities in the future.

Byddwn yn croesawu'r gwahoddiad gan yr Aelod ac edrychaf ymlaen at ei dderbyn yn ystod yr ychydig ddyddiau nesaf. Mae'r mater a godir gan yr Aelod yn un pwysig. Mae'n anodd i awdurdodau lleol ddod o hyd i landlordiaid absennol, ac mae'n rhywbeth rydym yn ei ystyried ar gyfer y Bil ac ar gyfer cyfleoedd yn y dyfodol.

14:51 **William Graham** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Will the Minister publish a list of the number of empty properties that have been brought back into use and indicate how he his monitoring progress towards the Welsh Government's target of returning 5,000 empty homes back into use during this Assembly?

A wnaiff y Gweinidog gyhoeddi restr o nifer yr eiddo gwag a ailddefnyddir a dangos sut mae'n monitro cynnydd tuag at gyflawni targed Llywodraeth Cymru i ailddefnyddio 5,000 o gartrefi gwag yn ystod y Cynulliad hwn?

14:51 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

These data are held by local authorities that deal with the action of the scheme. I will see whether the data are easily available for publication. Where we have a successful scheme, we should publicise that.

Delir y data hyn gan awdurdodau lleol sy'n delio â chamau gweithredu'r cynllun. Ceisiaf ganfod a yw'r data ar gael yn hawdd i'w cyhoeddi. Lle mae gennym gynllun llwyddiannus ar waith, dylem gyhoeddi hynny.

14:51 **Rhodri Glyn Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Weinidog, roeddwn yn gwrando ar eich ateb i William Powell wrth sôn am adeiladau fferm yn cael eu trosglwyddo'n dai neu'n fusnesau. Sut ydych yn sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn cydymffurfio â rheolau adeiladu yn hyn o beth ac yn sicrhau bod gan waliau allanol sylfeini? Yn llawer iawn o'r hen adeiladau hyn, nid oes sylfeini i'r waliau allanol.

Minister, I listened to your response to William Powell in talking about farm buildings being turned into homes or businesses. How do you ensure that local authorities comply with building regulations in this regard and ensure that external walls have foundations? In very many of these older buildings, there are no foundations to the external walls.

14:52 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Local authorities are well placed to deliver and give views and a response in terms of managing building control and building regulations. The determination of a plan for farm buildings and others is made by the local authority, and the guidance for those particular rural settings is contained within technical advice note 6.

Mae awdurdodau lleol mewn sefyllfa dda i roi barn ac ymateb mewn perthynas â rheoli adeiladu a rheoliadau adeiladu. Awdurdodau lleol sy'n gyfrifol am benderfynu ar gynllun adeiladau fferm ac adeiladau eraill, a cheir canllawiau ar gyfer y lleoliadau gwledig penodol hynny yn nodyn cyngor technegol 6.

Blaenoriaethau ar Gyllid Adfywio

Priorities for Regeneration Funding

14:52 **David Rees** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

13. A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei flaenoriaethau ar gyllid adfywio ar gyfer 2014/15? OAQ(4)0318(HR)

13. Will the Minister outline his priorities for regeneration funding for 2014/15? OAQ(4)0318(HR)

14:52 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I will continue to meet the commitments made to the current strategic regeneration areas and will allocate up to £90 million to targeted regeneration programmes through 'Vibrant and Viable Places'.

Byddaf yn parhau i gyflawni'r ymrwymiadau a wnaed i'r ardaloedd adfywio strategol presennol a byddaf yn dyrannu hyd at £90 miliwn i raglenni adfywio a dargedwyd drwy 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid'.

14:52 **David Rees** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you for that answer, Minister. Since my colleagues across the Chamber have lobbied for their patches, I will do the same for Neath Port Talbot in the next round. However, with the regeneration fund in the Western Valleys ending in 2015, what plans is the Welsh Government putting in place to ensure that partnerships already built through the current programme are nurtured and supported to ensure that the excellent work that has already been achieved and completed continues to go on into the future?

Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Gan fod fy nghyd-Aelodau yn y Siambr wedi lobïo dros eu hardaloedd, gwnaf yr un peth dros Gastell-nedd Port Talbot yn y cylch nesaf. Fodd bynnag, gyda'r gronfa adfywio yng Nghymoedd y Gorllewin yn dod i ben yn 2015, pa gynlluniau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn eu rhoi ar waith i sicrhau bod partneriaethau a ddatblygwyd eisoes drwy'r rhaglen bresennol yn cael eu meithrin a'u cefnogi er mwyn sicrhau bod y gwaith ardderchog sydd eisoes wedi'i wneud a'i gwblhau yn parhau yn y dyfodol?

14:53 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Of course, the Member represents his constituency very well, and he always raises that in the Chamber. As I have been making very clear, 'Vibrant and Viable Places', moving forward, will be a scheme that will be based on partnership working with local authorities and third sector organisations, levering in other finances to ensure that we can get better value in our communities, including in areas such as Communities First clusters, in order to make sure that there is a joined-up approach to regeneration in the community.

Wrth gwrs, mae'r Aelod yn cynrychioli ei etholaeth yn dda iawn, ac mae bob amser yn codi hynny yn y Siambr. Fel y nodais yn glir iawn, bydd 'Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid' yn gynllun sy'n seiliedig ar weithio mewn partneriaeth ag awdurdodau lleol a sefydliadau trydydd sector, gan ddenu cyllid arall i sicrhau gwerth gwell yn ein cymunedau, gan gynnwys mewn ardaloedd fel clystyrau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, er mwyn sicrhau bod cymunedau'n cael eu hadfywio mewn modd cydgysylltiedig.

14:53 **Andrew R.T. Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, obviously, regeneration is very dependent on the money that the Welsh Government is able to put into many projects across the whole of Wales. Do you regret the way in which the regeneration investment fund for Wales project was handled? On the surface, it would seem that there has been a huge loss to the Welsh taxpayer, which has resulted in less money being made available for regeneration projects across the whole of Wales.

Weinidog, yn amlwg, mae adfywio yn ddibynnol iawn ar yr arian y gall Llywodraeth Cymru ei fuddsoddi mewn llawer o brosiectau ledled Cymru gyfan. A ydych yn gresynu at y ffordd y cafodd prosiect cronfa buddsoddi Cymru mewn adfywio ei drin? Ar yr wyneb, byddai'n ymddangos bod trethdalwyr Cymru wedi wynebu colled enfawr, sydd wedi golygu bod llai o arian ar gael ar gyfer prosiectau adfywio ledled Cymru gyfan.

14:54 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Well, we are not sure of the detail of that yet, because an investigation is under way. The Member has issued some numbers in press releases. I do not recognise the numbers that he has used to populate them—the Member is well known for inventing figures. The fact of the matter is that RIFW is under investigation by the Wales Audit Office, and when the report comes through, I will give a more detailed response to Members.

Ni wyddom union fanylion hynny eto, gan fod ymchwiliad yn mynd rhagddo. Mae'r Aelod wedi cyhoeddi rhai ffigurau mewn datganiadau i'r wasg. Nid oeddwn yn adnabod y ffigurau a ddefnyddiodd i'w creu—mae'r Aelod yn adnabyddus am ddyfeisio ffigurau. Y gwir amdani yw bod Cronfa Buddsoddi Cymru mewn Adfywio yn destun ymchwiliad gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru ar hyn o bryd, a phan ddaw'r adroddiad i law, rhoddaf ymateb manylach i'r Aelodau.

Tai Cymdeithasol yng Ngheredigion

Social Housing in Ceredigion

14:54 **Elin Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am argaeledd tai cymdeithasol yng Ngheredigion? OAQ(4)0317(HR)

14. Will the Minister make a statement on the availability of social housing in Ceredigion? OAQ(4)0317(HR)

14:54 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you for your question. Increasing the supply of housing across the whole of Wales is my top priority—103 affordable homes have been developed through our grant funding in the past two years.

Diolch am eich cwestiwn. Cynyddu'r cyflenwad o dai ledled Cymru gyfan yw fy mhrif flaenoriaeth—datblygwyd 103 o dai fforddiadwy drwy ein harian grant yn ystod y ddwy flynedd diwethaf.

14:54 **Elin Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Mae impact y dreth ystafell wely yn arbennig o acíwt mewn rhai ardaloedd gwledig fel Ceredigion, gan fod prinder y llety cymdeithasol amgen sydd ar gael, yn enwedig lleoedd ag un ystafell wely. A oes bwriad gennych i roi cefnogaeth benodol i gymdeithasau tai gwledig i gwrdd â'r angen newydd hwn am lety un ystafell wely?

The impact of the bedroom tax is particularly acute in some rural areas such as Ceredigion, because there is a shortage of available alternative social housing, particularly one-bedroomed accommodation. Do you have any intention to give specific support to rural housing associations to meet this new demand for one-bedroomed accommodation?

Carl Sargeant Bywgraffiad Biography

Of course. In 2013-14, £1.5 million has been made available, which includes grant funding for smaller properties, which is the issue that the Member raised with regard to the effects of the bedroom tax in Ceredigion.

Wrth gwrs. Mae £1.5 miliwn wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer 2013-14, sy'n cynnwys arian grant ar gyfer eiddo llai, sef y mater a godwyd gan yr Aelod mewn perthynas ag effeithiau'r dreth ystafell wely yng Ngheredigion.

14:55 **Mark Isherwood** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Based on evidence received in 2010, the Communities and Culture Committee produced a report early in 2011 on the private rented sector, recognising the shortages in social housing and the need to embrace the private rented sector as one of the providers on that spectrum. What dialogue did the Welsh Government have in 2011-12 and in 2013 to drive that agenda forward, given that we have hit the brick wall more recently?

Yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth a gafwyd yn 2010, lluniodd y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant adroddiad yn gynnar yn 2011 ar y sector rhentu preifat, gan gydnabod y prinder tai cymdeithasol a'r angen i groesawu'r sector rhentu preifat fel un o ddarparwyr y sbectrwm hwnnw. Pa ddeialog a gafodd Llywodraeth Cymru yn 2011-12 a 2013 i lywio'r agenda honno, o gofio ein bod wedi wynebu anawsterau yn fwy diweddar?

14:55 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I have had many meetings with the private sector and private sector developers regarding opportunities for building new affordable homes and new market homes. As I have said, I have a taskforce working for me to deliver a report towards the end of the year or early next year that will give us some opportunities for increased supply. Our manifesto commitment is 7,500 affordable homes and we are well on target to deliver that. However, we need to be more ambitious on top of that and deliver more homes. Community Housing Cymru and other organisations are there to assist us in doing so.

Rwyf wedi cael nifer o gyfarfodydd â'r sector preifat a datblygwyr yn y sector preifat ynghylch cyfleoedd i adeiladu tai fforddiadwy newydd a chartrefi marchnad newydd. Fel y dywedais, mae gennyf dasglu ar waith i gyflwyno adroddiad tua diwedd y flwyddyn neu'n gynnar y flwyddyn nesaf a fydd yn cynnig rhai cyfleoedd i gynyddu'r cyflenwad. Ymrwymiad ein maniffesto yw darparu 7,500 o gartrefi fforddiadwy, ac rydym ar y trywydd iawn i gyflawni hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni fod yn fwy uchelgeisiol a darparu mwy o gartrefi. Mae Cartrefi Cymunedol Cymru a sefydliadau eraill yno i'n helpu i wneud hynny.

Y Sector Tai Cydweithredol

The Co-operative Housing Sector

14:56 **Mike Hedges** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

15. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am gymorth Llywodraeth Cymru i'r sector tai cydweithredol yng Nghymru? OAQ(4)0308(HR)

15. Will the Minister provide an update on Welsh Government support for the co-operative housing sector in Wales? OAQ(4)0308(HR)

14:56 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I am very interested in the potential for co-operative housing to provide wider choice in Wales. To support this, I have made £1.9 million of capital funding available during 2013-14 for three co-operative housing pilot schemes in Wales.

Mae gennyf ddiddordeb mawr yn y potensial i dai cydweithredol ddarparu dewis ehangach yng Nghymru. Er mwyn cefnogi hyn, rwyf wedi neilltuo £1.9 miliwn o gyllid cyfalaf yn ystod 2013-14 ar gyfer tri chynllun peilot tai cydweithredol yng Nghymru.

14:56 **Mike Hedges** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank the Minister for his response. As the Minister knows, I am an enthusiast with regard to co-operative housing, as was his predecessor. It is an opportunity that we have not grasped in Wales up until now. When Vancouver has more co-operative houses than we have in the whole of Wales, I think that there is an opportunity there. How many co-operative houses are planned for Wales in the next three years?

Diolch i'r Gweinidog am ei ateb. Fel y gŵyr y Gweinidog, rwy'n frwdfrydig iawn dros dai cydweithredol, fel yr oedd ei ragflaenydd. Mae'n gyfle nad ydym wedi manteisio arno yng Nghymru hyd yma. Pan fo mwy o dai cydweithredol yn Vancouver nag sydd gennym yng Nghymru gyfan, credaf fod cyfle yma. Faint o dai cydweithredol y bwriedir eu hadeiladu yng Nghymru dros y tair blynedd nesaf?

14:57 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

As I mentioned earlier, the funding will deliver around 90 co-operative homes in the next two years, but we have a manifesto target that we are seeking to achieve.

Fel y soniais yn gynharach, bydd yr arian yn darparu tua 90 o gartrefi cydweithredol yn ystod y ddwy flynedd nesaf, ond mae gennym darged maniffesto yr ydym yn ceisio ei gyflawni.

14:57 **Nick Ramsay** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, as Mike Hedges has just pointed out, the Welsh Government has failed, in many respects, to grasp the nettle on co-operative housing in Wales over the last few years. I hear what you say about the number that you are planning to build over the next year. Are you absolutely confident that those numbers will be realised and that this area will be able to provide much-needed housing that has not been provided in the past?

Weinidog, fel y mae Mike Hedges newydd ei nodi, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi methu, mewn sawl ffordd, ag achub ar gyfleoedd mewn perthynas â thai cydweithredol yng Nghymru dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf. Deallaf yr hyn a ddywedwch am nifer y tai y bwriadwch eu hadeiladu dros y flwyddyn nesaf. A ydych yn gwbl hyderus y caiff y niferoedd hynny eu gwireddu ac y gall yr ardal hon ddarparu tai y mae angen dybryd amdanynt nas darparwyd yn y gorffennol?

14:57 **Carl Sargeant** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Well, you would not expect me to agree with you that we have not grasped the nettle on this. We are leading in trying to encourage the sector to deliver on co-operative housing. I am confident that £1.9 million allocated in the pilot scheme will deliver us the 90, or thereabouts, co-operative homes for which we have allocated the funding in the next two years.

Wel, ni fyddech yn disgwyl i mi gytuno â chi nad ydym wedi manteisio ar gyfleoedd yn hyn o beth. Rydym yn arwain y ffordd o ran ceisio annog y sector i ddarparu tai cydweithredol. Hyderaf y bydd yr £1.9 miliwn a ddyrannwyd yn y cynllun peilot yn darparu'r 90 o gartrefi cydweithredol, neu oddeutu hynny, yr ydym wedi dyrannu'r arian ar eu cyfer dros y ddwy flynedd nesaf.

Dadl ar Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc ar yr Ymchwiliad i Bresenoldeb ac Ymddygiad

Debate on the Children and Young People Committee's Report on the Inquiry into Attendance and Behaviour

Cynnig NDM5351 Ann Jones

Motion NDM5351 Ann Jones

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Yn nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc ar yr ymchwiliad i Bresenoldeb ac Ymddygiad, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 8 Awst 2013.

Notes the report of the Children and Young People Committee on the inquiry into Attendance and Behaviour, which was laid in the Table Office on 8 August 2013.

14:58 **Ann Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I move the motion.

Cynigiaf y cynnig.

I am pleased to be able to present the Children and Young People Committee's report on attendance and behaviour for debate this afternoon and, in doing so, I want to thank the previous Chair, Christine Chapman, and the clerking team—because we did have some changes—for their hard work in taking all the evidence that allowed this report to be written. As part of that evidence-taking, the Assembly's outreach team held several workshops for focus groups across Wales. Some 181 participants between the ages of nine and 23-years-old took part, and the committee heard the opinions of those children and young people who are directly affected by this issue. I am sure that the committee is very grateful to those children who gave us the evidence that allowed us to take forward this piece of work and have no doubt helped the committee to shape and move forward with recommendations.

Mae'n bleser gennyf allu cyflwyno adroddiad y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc ar bresenoldeb ac ymddygiad i'w drafod y prynhawn yma ac, wrth wneud hynny, hoffwn ddiolch i'r Cadeirydd blaenorol, Christine Chapman, a'r tîm clercio—oherwydd bu rhai newidiadau—am eu gwaith caled wrth ystyried yr holl dystiolaeth a ganiataodd i'r adroddiad hwn gael ei ysgrifennu. Fel rhan o'r broses honno o gymryd tystiolaeth, cynhaliodd tîm allgymorth y Cynulliad sawl gweithdy ar gyfer grwpiau ffocws ledled Cymru. Cymerodd tua 181 o gyfranogwyr rhwng naw a 23 oed ran, a chlywodd y pwyllgor safbwyntiau'r plant a'r bobl ifanc hynny y mae'r mater hwn yn effeithio'n uniongyrchol arnynt. Rwy'n siŵr bod y pwyllgor yn ddiolchgar iawn i'r plant hynny a roddodd y dystiolaeth inni a fu'n sail i'r darn hwn o waith gan helpu'r pwyllgor, yn ddiau, i lunio argymhellion a'u cyflwyno.

The committee made 12 recommendations in all and, broadly, the Government accepted them all bar two. I am sure that the Minister will tell us why when he speaks in this debate.

Gwnaeth y pwyllgor gyfanswm o 12 o argymhellion ac, yn gyffredinol, derbyniodd y Llywodraeth bob un ond dau ohonynt. Rwy'n siŵr y gwnaiff y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym pam wrth siarad yn y ddadl hon.

In general terms, we welcome the Government's focus on attendance and behaviour over recent years, particularly since the national attendance and behaviour review, which has resulted in a number of strategies, reviews and action plans. However, the evidence that we heard suggests that more needs to be done, particularly to address patchy performance and to share good practice.

Yn gyffredinol, croesawn ffocws y Llywodraeth ar bresenoldeb ac ymddygiad yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, yn enwedig ers yr adolygiad cenedlaethol o bresenoldeb ac ymddygiad, sydd wedi esgor ar nifer o strategaethau, adolygiadau a chynlluniau gweithredu. Fodd bynnag, mae'r dystiolaeth a glywsom yn awgrymu bod angen gwneud rhagor, yn enwedig i ymdrin ag achosion o berfformiad anghyson ac i rannu arfer da.

I intend to focus on three of the key areas highlighted in the committee's report. I am sure that other members of the committee will come in on other issues. I want to talk about teacher training and development. For a number of years, teacher training has been identified as a key tool in addressing attendance and behaviour. We heard first-hand from children and young people how problem behaviour impacts on all pupils if it is not dealt with correctly. Despite the Welsh Government's action plan and investment to date in this area, the evidence the committee received was that some teachers are still not sufficiently trained and supported to deal with problem behaviour. Estyn and the teaching unions highlighted this as an area of some concern.

Bwriadaf ganolbwyntio ar dri o'r meysydd allweddol a nodwyd yn adroddiad y pwyllgor. Rwy'n siŵr y bydd aelodau eraill y pwyllgor yn cyfrannu at faterion eraill. Hoffwn drafod hyfforddiant a datblygiad athrawon. Ers sawl blwyddyn, nodwyd bod hyfforddi athrawon yn arf allweddol wrth ymdrin â phresenoldeb ac ymddygiad. Clywsom yn uniongyrchol gan blant a phobl ifanc sut mae ymddygiad sy'n peri problemau yn effeithio ar bob disgybl onid ymdrinnir â'r ymddygiad hwnnw yn briodol. Er gwaethaf cynllun gweithredu Llywodraeth Cymru a'i buddsoddiad hyd yma yn y maes hwn, nododd y dystiolaeth a gafodd y pwyllgor nad yw rhai athrawon o hyd wedi'u hyfforddi'n ddigonol ac nad ydynt yn cael cymorth digonol i ymdrin ag ymddygiad sy'n peri problemau. Nododd Estyn a'r undebau athrawon ei fod yn faes sy'n peri cryn bryder.

The committee feels that there must be a clear systems approach in schools if problem behaviour is going to be addressed effectively. This is also about embedding a consistent approach across year groups, and ensuring that pupils and their parents or carers fully understand the consequences of problem behaviour. Teachers need the right support. Well-trained teachers supported by a systemic approach within schools have the potential to significantly improve the school experience for all pupils. The committee feels that this is vital if attendance and behaviour is to improve significantly.

Mae'r pwyllgor o'r farn bod yn rhaid cael dull systemau clir mewn ysgolion er mwyn ymdrin ag ymddygiad sy'n peri problemau yn effeithiol. Mae a wnelo hyn hefyd â rhoi dull gweithredu cyson ar waith ar draws grwpiau blwyddyn, a sicrhau bod disgyblion a'u rheini neu eu gofalwyr yn llawn ddeall canlyniadau ymddygiad sy'n peri problemau. Mae angen y cymorth priodol ar athrawon. Gall athrawon wedi'u hyfforddi'n briodol wedi'u cefnogi gan ddull systemig o fewn ysgolion wella profiad ysgol pob disgybl yn sylweddol. Cred y pwyllgor fod hyn yn hanfodol er mwyn gwella presenoldeb ac ymddygiad yn sylweddol.

We were concerned with the findings of the University of Edinburgh research, which found that training for teachers tended to focus primarily on legal requirements and not on, for example, ways to prevent exclusion. We have recommended that more emphasis be placed on evidence-based behaviour management training within initial teacher training. We also recommend that behaviour management modules should form a core element of continuous professional development. We feel that this would address a number of the concerns raised in evidence we received.

Roedd canfyddiadau gwaith ymchwil Prifysgol Caeredin yn destun pryder, a ganfu fod hyfforddiant i athrawon yn tueddu i ganolbwyntio'n bennaf ar ofynion cyfreithiol yn hytrach na ffyrdd i atal disgyblion rhag cael eu gwahardd, er enghraifft. Rydym wedi argymell y dylid rhoi mwy o bwyslais ar hyfforddiant rheoli ymddygiad yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth o fewn hyfforddiant cychwynnol i athrawon. Argymhellwn hefyd y dylai modiwlau rheoli ymddygiad fod yn elfen graidd o ddatblygiad proffesiynol parhaus. Credwn y byddai hyn yn ymdrin â nifer o'r pryderon a godwyd yn y dystiolaeth a gawsom.

I want to turn to pupils who are educated otherwise than at schools, which was another key issue in the inquiry, including those in pupil referral units. Children educated otherwise than at school are potentially some of the most vulnerable in Wales. We heard that there is an acute shortage of such provision, and it was suggested that the provision that does exist is both disparate and uneven. On this issue, the children's commissioner referred to a grim picture across Wales.

Hoffwn droi at ddisgyblion sy'n derbyn addysg heblaw yn yr ysgol, a oedd yn fater allweddol arall yn yr ymchwiliad, gan gynnwys y rhai mewn unedau cyfeirio disgyblion. Mae plant sy'n derbyn addysg heblaw yn yr ysgol, o bosibl, ymhlith y plant mwyaf agored i niwed yng Nghymru. Clywsom fod prinder dybryd o ran darpariaeth o'r fath, ac awgrymwyd bod y ddarpariaeth sy'n bodoli yn amrywio ac yn anghyson. Yn hyn o beth, cyfeiriodd y comisiynydd plant at ddarlun llwm ledled Cymru.

Again, from the same Edinburgh university research, we heard that, in respect of EOTAS provision, there were serious concerns about the provision of training and approaches to behaviour management for staff, that there is no shared or commonly agreed approach, and that there was no priority given to positive ethos or climate building. We were also concerned to see the high numbers of pupils with special educational needs educated in pupil referral units, and that the research highlights a lack of success in reintegrating pupils to mainstream schools from pupil referral units and EOTAS provision.

Unwaith eto, o'r un gwaith ymchwil hwn gan Brifysgol Caeredin, clywsom fod pryderon difrifol, o ran y ddarpariaeth i blant sy'n derbyn addysg heblaw yn yr ysgol, ynghylch darparu hyfforddiant a dulliau rheoli ymddygiad i staff, nad oes dull gweithredu a rennir neu y cytunwyd arno'n gyffredinol, ac nad oedd unrhyw flaenoriaeth yn cael ei rhoi i ethos cadarnhaol na meithrin hinsawdd. Roeddem yn pryderu hefyd o weld y nifer uchel o ddisgyblion ag anghenion addysgol arbennig a gaiff eu haddysgu mewn unedau cyfeirio disgyblion, a bod y gwaith ymchwil yn tynnu sylw at ddiffyg llwyddiant wrth ailintegreiddio disgyblion i ysgolion prif ffrwd o unedau cyfeirio disgyblion a darpariaeth addysg heblaw yn yr ysgol.

We want to be sure that vulnerable children and young people are getting high-quality education. We have recommended that Welsh Government should work with regional consortia and other key stakeholders to explore the feasibility and benefits of developing and commissioning provision on a regional basis—potentially on an all-Wales basis.

Rydym am fod yn siŵr bod plant a phobl ifanc agored i niwed yn cael addysg o ansawdd uchel. Rydym wedi argymell y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru weithio gyda'r consortia rhanbarthol a rhanddeiliaid allweddol eraill i ystyried ymarferoldeb a buddiannau datblygu a chomisiynu darpariaeth ar sail ranbarthol—o bosibl ar sail Cymru gyfan.

I now turn to the number of hours of education provided for excluded pupils. Again, this was another key point raised by witnesses—the number of hours of education excluded pupils are receiving each week. Welsh Government guidance is clear on this issue: the aim should be to provide full-time education to all excluded pupils after 15 days of their being excluded. However, witnesses told us that there was significant variation in this area. This was backed up by the University of Edinburgh research, which revealed that education provision ranged from two hours per day in some local authorities to the full 25 hours per week in others. We are concerned that children and young people are not receiving their full entitlement to education. Therefore I would be grateful for an update from the Minister on the steps he is taking to ensure that this issue is looked at urgently.

Trof yn awr at nifer yr oriau o addysg a gaiff disgyblion sydd wedi'u gwahardd. Unwaith eto, roedd hwn yn bwynt allweddol arall a godwyd gan dystion—nifer yr oriau o addysg a gaiff disgyblion sydd wedi'u gwahardd bob wythnos. Mae canllawiau Llywodraeth Cymru yn glir yn hyn o beth: dylid anelu at ddarparu addysg llawn amser i bob disgybl sydd wedi'i wahardd 15 diwrnod ar ôl iddynt gael eu gwahardd. Fodd bynnag, dywedodd tystion wrthym fod amrywiaeth sylweddol yn y maes hwn. Ategwyd hyn gan waith ymchwil Prifysgol Caeredin, a ddatgelodd fod y ddarpariaeth addysg yn amrywio o ddwy awr y dydd mewn rhai awdurdodau lleol i'r ddarpariaeth lawn o 25 awr yr wythnos mewn awdurdodau eraill. Rydym yn pryderu nad yw plant a phobl ifanc yn cael eu hawl lawn i addysg. Felly, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallai'r Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y camau y mae'n eu cymryd i sicrhau yr ymchwilir i'r mater hwn ar fyrder.

I will conclude with three remarks. Pupil attendance and behaviour has been an issue that the Welsh Government, and others, have been looking at for a number of years, particularly since the publication of the national attendance and behaviour review in 2008. However, overall, we are still concerned with the slow progress made on this issue. We are very grateful to the children and young people who gave their time to share their views and experiences with the committee. As a committee, we are committed to keeping this issue under review, to ensure that improvements are delivered.

I gloi, gwnaf dri sylw. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru, ac eraill, wedi bod yn ystyried presenoldeb ac ymddygiad disgyblion ers sawl blwyddyn, yn enwedig ers cyhoeddi'r adolygiad cenedlaethol o bresenoldeb ac ymddygiad yn 2008. Fodd bynnag, yn gyffredinol, rydym yn pryderu o hyd am y cynnydd araf yn y maes. Rydym yn ddiolchgar iawn i'r plant a'r bobl ifanc a roddodd o'u hamser i rannu eu safbwyntiau a'u profiadau gyda'r pwyllgor. Fel pwyllgor, rydym yn ymrwymedig i adolygu'r mater hwn yn barhaus, er mwyn sicrhau y cyflawnir gwelliannau.

Finally, I would like to thank the Welsh Government for accepting the 10 recommendations, to thank the previous members of the committee for hearing the evidence and shaping the inquiry, and again to thank Christine Chapman for chairing through that evidence session to allow us to have this report today, one which will not—as in one of my favourite sayings—propping up the piano leg. It will be something to which we will continue to return.

I gloi, hoffwn ddiolch i Lywodraeth Cymru am dderbyn y 10 argymhelliad, hoffwn ddiolch i aelodau blaenorol y pwyllgor am wrando ar y dystiolaeth a llywio'r ymchwiliad ac, unwaith eto, diolch i Christine Chapman am gadeirio drwy'r sesiwn dystiolaeth honno er mwyn inni allu cael yr adroddiad hwn heddiw, adroddiad nad aiff yn ofer. Bydd yn rhywbeth y byddwn yn ei drafod yn rheolaidd.

15:05

Angela Burns Bywgraffiad Biography

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Fideo Video

This was a very illuminating inquiry into attendance and behaviour. I would like to thank all the staff and all of the witnesses who came forward.

Roedd yr ymchwiliad hwn i bresenoldeb ac ymddygiad yn ddadlennol iawn. Hoffwn ddiolch i'r holl staff ac i'r holl dystion a fu'n rhan ohono.

The evidence, both written and oral, raised some very real concerns, Minister, about attendance and behaviour strategies and about trying to engage and keep young people within our education system. We all know that we lose a certain number—and sometimes a significant number—of children in transition between primary and secondary schools. We are also very aware that 90% of children who are educated other than in a school setting have special educational needs of some sort, and, of that figure, a very high percentage, especially in pupil referral units, have behavioural issues. This is why the attendance and behaviour inquiry focused on those kinds of areas.

Cododd y dystiolaeth, yn ysgrifenedig ac ar lafar, rai pryderon gwirioneddol, Weinidog, am strategaethau presenoldeb ac ymddygiad ac am geisio ymgysylltu â phobl ifanc a'u cadw yn ein system addysg. Fel y gŵyr pob un ohonom, rydym yn colli nifer benodol o blant—ac nifer sylweddol weithiau—wrth drosglwyddo rhwng yr ysgol gynradd a'r ysgol uwchradd. Rydym hefyd yn ymwybodol iawn bod gan 90% o'r plant sy'n derbyn addysg heblaw yn yr ysgol anghenion addysgol arbennig o ryw fath, a bod gan ganran uchel iawn o blith y ffigur hwnnw broblemau ymddygiadol, yn enwedig mewn unedau cyfeirio disgyblion. Dyma pam y canolbwyntiodd yr ymchwiliad i bresenoldeb ac ymddygiad ar y mathau hynny o feysydd.

I do not think that there is a single Assembly Member who would accept that staff should be subjected to violent behaviour. There will always be children who will need to be taken under a separate kind of wing, but excluding the mass of children simply because they have behavioural issues, which are severe at times but not at that tipping point where they are going to need severely specialised treatment, and just because we have inexperienced teachers, or teachers who have not received enough of that training, is not a good way forward.

Ni chredaf y byddai unrhyw un o Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn derbyn y dylai staff fod yn destun ymddygiad treisgar. Bydd yna blant bob amser y bydd angen ymdrin â hwy ar wahân, ond nid yw gwahardd nifer uchel o blant yn syml oherwydd bod ganddynt broblemau ymddygiadol, sy'n ddifrifol ar adegau, ond nid cynddrwg fel y bydd angen triniaeth arbenigol iawn arnynt, ac yn syml oherwydd bod gennym athrawon dibrofiad, neu athrawon nad ydynt wedi derbyn digon o'r hyfforddiant hwnnw, yn ffordd addas o weithredu.

I turn to the Government's responses to our various recommendations. I believe, and we believe, that it is very obvious that there is no overarching national attendance and behaviour strategy that is playing a strong part in stopping children from leaving school for those kinds of reasons. That makes your rejection of our recommendation 1 very disappointing. To be honest, the behaving and attending action plan of 2011, to which you referred in your response, is simply not working well enough. It just builds on a pattern of initiatives that have not done the job. We have had 'Making a Difference on Behaviour and Attendance', we have had a national implementation plan, we have the attendance toolkit, and yet we still have this problem. It is enough of a problem for a committee at the Assembly to deem to do an inquiry into it. It is now 2013, Minister, and I do not think that we can wait any longer, because our waiting is turning into wasted lives.

Trof at ymateb y Llywodraeth i'n hamrywiol argymhellion. Rwyf innau'n credu, ac rydym ninnau'n credu, ei bod yn amlwg iawn nad oes strategaeth presenoldeb ac ymddygiad genedlaethol gyffredinol ar waith sy'n chwarae rhan gadarn wrth atal plant rhag gadael yr ysgol am y mathau hynny o resymau. Felly mae'r ffaith eich bod wedi gwrthod argymhelliad 1 yn siomedig iawn. A siarad yn blwmp ac yn blaen, nid yw cynllun gweithredu ymddygiad a phresenoldeb 2011, y gwnaethoch gyfeirio ato yn eich ymateb, yn gweithio'n ddigon da. Mae'n seiliedig ar batrwm o fentrau aflwyddiannus. Cyflwynwyd 'Gwneud Gwahaniaeth ar Ymddygiad a Phresenoldeb', cyflwynwyd cynllun gweithredu cenedlaethol, cyflwynwyd yr arweinlyfr ar bresenoldeb, ac eto mae'r broblem yn bodoli o hyd. Mae'r broblem gynddrwg fel y penderfynodd un o bwyllgorau'r Cynulliad gynnal ymchwiliad iddi. Mae bellach yn 2013, Weinidog, ac ni chredaf y gallwn aros mwy, gan fod aros yn golygu bod bywydau yn cael eu gwastraffu.

There is an awful lot of frustration, and that was very evident from experts. These are experts that are constantly being consulted by the Welsh Government as to the best way to ensure that we keep children in the education system, and experts that produce reports, but their reports are not implemented.

Mae cryn dipyn o rwystredigaeth, ac roedd hynny'n amlwg iawn gan yr arbenigwyr. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymgynghori'n gyson â'r arbenigwyr hyn er mwyn canfod y ffordd orau o sicrhau ein bod yn cadw plant yn y system addysg, ac mae'r arbenigwyr hyn yn cyflwyno adroddiadau, ond ni chaiff eu hadroddiadau eu rhoi ar waith.

I would ask you to please look again at how we provide this overarching guidance to improve attendance throughout Wales, how we really drill down into best practice and how we can implement that and make it happen. A successful outcome would be to be able to repeat best practice again and again through all 22 local authorities, and to really make it happen.

Hoffwn ofyn ichi ailystyried sut rydym yn cyflwyno'r canllawiau cyffredinol hyn er mwyn gwella presenoldeb ledled Cymru, sut rydym yn bwrw ati o ddifrif i ddod o hyd i arfer gorau a sut y gallwn roi'r arfer hwnnw ar waith a'i droi'n realiti. Canlyniad llwyddiannus fyddai gallu ailadrodd arfer gorau dro ar ôl tro drwy'r 22 o awdurdodau lleol, a'i roi ar waith o ddifrif.

I was very pleased to see that you accepted recommendation 2. I am not convinced with the argument that came with it. You basically said that you accept it because, already, attendance or behaviour training is occurring in initial teacher training. I think that our view was that it simply was not robust enough, and it is certainly my view that a naughty child and a child with behavioural issues are simply not the same thing. We need to ensure that our teachers, especially our younger teachers, really have the persona, the power and the strategies at their fingertips to engage with some of these quite tough little kids who come across into school, and to ensure that they win their hearts, make them love learning and make them stay in school.

Roeddwn yn falch iawn o weld eich bod wedi derbyn argymhelliad 2. Ni lwyddodd y ddadl a'i ategodd i'm hargyhoeddi. Yn y bôn, gwnaethoch ddweud eich bod yn ei dderbyn gan fod hyfforddiant presenoldeb neu ymddygiad eisoes yn mynd rhagddo fel rhan o hyfforddiant cychwynnol i athrawon. Credaf mai ein barn ni oedd nad oedd yn ddigon cadarn, ac yn sicr fy marn i yw nad yw plentyn drwg a phlentyn sydd â phroblemau ymddygiadol yn gyfystyr. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod gan ein hathrawon, yn enwedig ein hathrawon ifancach, y bersonoliaeth, y pŵer a'r strategaethau ar flaenau eu bysedd i ymgysylltu â rhai o'r plant bach eithaf caled hyn a ddaw i'r ysgol, a sicrhau eu bod yn ennill eu calonnau, yn annog cariad at ddysgu ac yn gwneud iddynt aros yn yr ysgol.

I would like to see you toughen up that training regime. From what I have seen of the initial teacher training, it does some small strategies, but they are basically just slightly up from parenting strategies, rather than the strategies that you need to deal with some of the, to be frank, stroppy kids that come our way.

Hoffwn eich gweld yn caledu'r drefn hyfforddi honno. O'r hyn a wn am yr hyfforddiant cychwynnol i athrawon, mae'n cyflwyno rhai strategaethau bach, ond nid ydynt yn llawer mwy na strategaethau rhianta yn y bôn, yn hytrach na'r strategaethau sydd eu hangen arnoch, a siarad yn blwmp ac yn blaen, i ymdrin â rhai o'r plant anodd eu trin y down ar eu traws.

I would like to very briefly touch on recommendation 11 on alternatives to fixed-penalty notices. I note that you reject it and the reasons why you reject it, but I still ask that you look at putting alternatives into place first, because we heard overwhelming evidence from all of our witnesses that the stick works much less well than the carrot, and because we end up penalising the poorest and most disadvantaged again and again.

Hoffwn sôn yn gryno iawn am strategaethau amgen i hysbysiadau cosb benodedig. Nodaf eich bod wedi'i wrthod a'r rhesymau pam eich bod wedi'i wrthod, ond gofynnaf serch hynny ichi ystyried rhoi strategaethau amgen ar waith yn gyntaf, oherwydd clywsom dystiolaeth aruthrol gan bob un o'n tystion nad yw'r ffon yn gweithio cystal o bell ffordd â'r foronen, a'n bod yn y pen draw yn cosbi'r tlotaf a'r mwyaf difreintiedig dro ar ôl tro.

Finally, why does the Government not wish to make public the evidence base for the implementation of fixed-penalty notices? I ask you to do so in the name of transparency.

Yn olaf, pam nad yw'r Llywodraeth am gyhoeddi'r sail dystiolaeth ar gyfer gweithredu hysbysiadau cosb benodedig? Gofynnaf ichi wneud hynny er budd tryloywder.

15:10

Christine Chapman Bywgraffiad Biography

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Fideo Video

I welcome the report. We know that there is a long-term impact when pupils do not attend school. When pupils display poor behaviour, this can affect the individuals concerned and other pupils in the class.

Croesawaf yr adroddiad. Gwyddom fod effaith hirdymor yn gysylltiedig â disgyblion nad ydynt yn mynd i'r ysgol. Pan fydd disgyblion yn ymddwyn yn wael, gall hyn effeithio ar yr unigolion dan sylw ac ar ddisgyblion eraill yn y dosbarth.

The recommendations have come from a very good evidence base and I know, from the time I chaired the committee, that there was some excellent evidence from stakeholders about this. I want to speak particularly in support of two recommendations.

Mae'r argymhellion yn seiliedig ar sail dystiolaeth dda iawn, a gwn, o'r adeg y bûm yn gadeirydd ar y pwyllgor, y cafwyd tystiolaeth ardderchog gan randdeiliaid am hyn. Hoffwn siarad yn benodol o blaid dau argymhelliad.

On recommendation 6, namely that the Welsh Government should ensure that schools, local authorities and regional consortia place an emphasis on early intervention with individual children and families, it is a fact that young people spend only a small proportion of their time in school. The rest is spent being influenced by a range of external factors, which can include poverty or poor parental support. It is the case that schools can become a haven away from some of the stresses of a difficult home life. However, the reality is that young people may find it difficult to just switch off when they arrive at school, which can affect their attendance and behaviour. I am pleased that the Minister for education gave a commitment recently that cutting the link between deprivation and attainment is the Welsh Government's top priority, and I look forward to hearing of the specifics of his plans as to how we can achieve this. I believe that the most successful schools that offer the best opportunities for their pupils are those which engage in innovative programmes of work between communities and schools, and which engage with parents who themselves may not have had a good experience of education. However, with support, these parents can offer encouragement to their own children.

O ran argymhelliad 6, sef y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru sicrhau bod ysgolion, awdurdodau lleol a chonsortia rhanbarthol yn rhoi pwyslais ar ymyriadau cynnar gyda phlant a theuluoedd unigol, mae'n ffaith mai dim ond cyfran fach o'u hamser y mae pobl ifanc yn ei dreulio yn yr ysgol. Caiff y gweddill ei dreulio o dan ddylanwad amrywiaeth o ffactorau allanol, a all gynnwys tlodi neu gymorth gwael gan rieni. Gall ysgolion fod yn ddihangfa iddynt o straen bywyd anodd gartref. Fodd bynnag, y realiti yw y gall pobl ifanc ei chael hi'n anodd anghofio pan fyddant yn cyrraedd yr ysgol, a all effeithio ar eu presenoldeb a'u hymddygiad. Rwyf wrth fy modd bod y Gweinidog addysg wedi ymrwymo'n ddiweddar i sicrhau bod diddymu'r cyswllt rhwng amddifadedd a chyrhaeddiad yn un o brif flaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cymru, ac edrychaf ymlaen at glywed manylion ei gynlluniau o ran sut y gallwn gyflawni hyn. Credaf mai'r ysgolion mwyaf llwyddiannus sy'n cynnig y cyfleoedd gorau i'w disgyblion yw'r ysgolion hynny sy'n cymryd rhan mewn rhaglenni gwaith arloesol rhwng cymunedau ac ysgolion, ac sy'n ymgysylltu â rhieni na chawsant hwythau eu hunain, o bosibl, brofiad addysg da. Fodd bynnag, gyda chymorth, gall y rhieni hyn annog eu plant eu hunain.

I pay tribute to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for its very good county-wide approach to improving attendance in schools. This includes aspects such as signage at the school outlining that it is in children's interest to attend school regularly. There are also good examples in my constituency in Glyncoch, where the appointment of a designated officer to support parents in supporting their children to attend school saw absentee rates fall by a third in three months. There are a number of such good examples around my constituency.

Talaf deyrnged i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf am y dull gweithredu da iawn sydd ar waith ganddo ledled y sir i wella presenoldeb mewn ysgolion. Mae hyn yn cynnwys agweddau megis arwyddion yn yr ysgol yn nodi ei bod o fudd i'r plant ddod i'r ysgol yn rheolaidd. Ceir enghreifftiau da yn fy etholaeth i yng Nglyncoch hefyd, lle y gostyngodd cyfraddau absenoldeb draean o fewn tri mis yn sgil penodi swyddog dynodedig i helpu rhieni i helpu eu plant i fynd i'r ysgol. Mae nifer o enghreifftiau da o'r fath o amgylch fy etholaeth.

I want to speak in support of recommendation 8 on bullying, and I am pleased that the report pays particular attention to this. Bullying has been with us forever, but, as has always been the case, it can be traumatic and make a child's life hell. We have anti-bullying strategies, but I think that all of us would say that there is still much to do to improve on this. As the Children's Commissioner for Wales reminds us, cyber-bullying is even worse; that was not around when I was a child, but we must tackle this. There is a duty on schools to deal with the perpetrators, but also to build up the resilience of children, because it is always quite difficult to take the perpetrators out of this. It is also down to the resilience skills that children can gain from the school. In this context, I welcome the approach taken by Rhondda Cynon Taf's E3 project, which builds the confidence and self-esteem of young people, and gets them involved in out-of-school activities to get them involved in more mainstream schooling.

Hoffwn siarad o blaid argymhelliad 8 ar fwlio, ac rwy'n falch bod yr adroddiad yn rhoi sylw penodol i'r pwnc. Bu bwlio yn broblem erioed, ond, fel y bu'n wir erioed, gall fod yn drawmatig a gwneud bywyd plentyn yn uffern. Mae strategaethau gwrth-fwlio ar waith gennym, ond credaf y byddai pob un ohonom yn cytuno bod llawer i'w wneud o hyd i wella'r sefyllfa. Fel y'n hatgoffwyd gan Gomisiynydd Plant Cymru, mae seiber-fwlio yn waeth byth; nid oedd hynny'n bodoli pan oeddwn yn blentyn, ond rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â hyn. Mae dyletswydd ar ysgolion i ymdrin â'r troseddwyr, ond hefyd i ddatblygu gwydnwch plant, gan ei bod bob amser yn eithaf anodd cael gwared ar y troseddwyr. Mae'r sgiliau gwydnwch y gall plant eu meithrin yn yr ysgol hefyd yn bwysig. Yn y cyd-destun hwn, croesawaf ddull gweithredu prosiect E3 Rhondda Cynon Taf, sy'n meithrin hyder ac hunanbarch pobl ifanc, ac yn eu cynnwys mewn gweithgareddau y tu allan i'r ysgol i'w cynnwys o fewn trefniadau addysg mwy prif ffrwd.

We must see the trauma that bullying can cause through the eyes of those affected, and understanding the trauma and taking a child-centred perspective is crucial. As Professor Ken Reid told the Children and Young People Committee, evidence shows that absence from school is a plea for help. Absence indicates that there is something wrong in those pupils' lives. We must make sure that the mechanisms are in place, so that we can address these problems and answer those pleas for help.

Rhaid inni weld y trawma y gall bwlio ei achosi drwy lygaid y rhai yr effeithir arnynt, ac mae'n hanfodol deall y trawma ac ystyried safbwynt y plentyn. Fel y dywedodd yr Athro Ken Reid wrth y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, dengys tystiolaeth mai ple am gymorth yw absenoldeb o'r ysgol. Mae absenoldeb yn dangos bod rhywbeth o'i le ym mywyd y disgyblion hynny. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod y systemau ar waith er mwyn inni allu ymdrin â'r problemau hyn ac ateb y pledion hynny am gymorth.

15:15

Simon Thomas Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Mae'n dda gennyf groesawu'r cyfle i drafod adroddiad y pwyllgor heddiw, yn enwedig o gofio bod y pwyllgor wedi derbyn tystiolaeth eang a dwfn iawn ar y pwnc, gan blant a phobl ifanc hyd at athrawon prifysgol. Roedd rhychwant y dystiolaeth honno'n gynsail ac yn gefnogaeth i egwyddorion Plaid Cymru, sydd wastad wedi tanlinellu bod angen delio gyda phlant a phobl ifanc drwy'r sefyllfa deuluol, a sicrhau yr ymdrinnir â phlant a phobl ifanc sydd mewn perygl o gael eu heithrio neu eu tynnu o'r ysgol mewn rhyw ffordd neu'i gilydd fel achos cyfan, ac nid fel achos unigol.

I am pleased to welcome the opportunity to discuss the committee report this afternoon, particularly bearing in mind that the committee took wide-ranging evidence on this issue, from children and young people right through to university professors. The range of that evidence provided a firm foundation and support for Plaid Cymru principles, which have always underlined the need to deal with children and young people through a family scenario, ensuring that children and young people who are at risk of exclusion or being taken out of school in some way or another are dealt with comprehensively rather than as individual cases.

Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, roeddem yn gweld bod y dystiolaeth a gasglwyd gan y pwyllgor yn cefnogi'n safbwynt nad oedd angen cosbau penodol ar gyfer absenoldeb yng nghyd-destun Cymru. Rydym yn derbyn, wrth gwrs, fod y Llywodraeth wedi cael ei ffordd ar hynny, ond mae angen ychwanegu at y ddadl heddiw y ffaith bod y Llywodraeth, wrth alw i mewn ar gyfer craffu pellach, wedi dweud y bydd yn adolygu'r broses hon mewn dwy flynedd. Rwy'n edrych ymlaen at yr adolygiad hwnnw, gan nad wyf yn meddwl bod y dystiolaeth, hyd yn hyn, wedi bod yn gryf iawn o blaid y defnydd o gosbau o'r fath.

In that context, we saw that the evidence gathered in committee supported our stance that fixed-penalty notices were not required for absences in the Welsh context. We accept, of course, that the Government has had its way on that issue, but we need to add to today's debate the fact that the Government, in calling this in for further scrutiny, has said that it will review this process in two years' time. I look forward to that review, because I do not think that the evidence to date has been particularly robust in favour of the use of such fixed penalties.

Rydym ni o'r farn, ac mae'r dystiolaeth a'r adroddiad yn tanlinellu hyn, bod eithrio disgyblion o'r ysgol yn gam olaf, wastad. Golyga hynny bod yn rhaid ichi weithio'n ddwys iawn gyda phobl ifanc sy'n cael eu heithrio, neu sy'n teimlo nad ydynt yn gallu ymwneud â'r ysgol am resymau bwlian neu resymau teuluol, neu beth bynnag ydynt, trwy ymyrraeth gynnar a thrwyadl. Mae hynny'n gallu costio, yn sicr—mae'n costio amser ac mae amser yn costio arian, fel rydym i gyd yn gwybod. Fodd bynnag, mae enghreifftiau o arfer da dan y grant amddifadedd disgyblion presennol, o gyflogi swyddogion cyswllt mewn ysgolion lle mae hyn yn broblem. Yn sicr, rwy'n croesawu'r ffaith ein bod wedi dod i gytundeb gyda Llywodraeth Cymru i ddyblu'r grant amddifadedd hwnnw, fel bod modd datblygu ac ehangu rhaglenni o'r fath. Gobeithiwn, felly, rwystro mwy o blant a phobl ifanc rhag syrthio i mewn i ddiffyg presenoldeb a cholli ysgol, sydd, yn ei dro, yn un o'r rhesymau pam fod gennym safonau mor wael yma yng Nghymru. Mae cyswllt pendant rhwng cefndiroedd difreintiedig, absenoldeb o'r ysgol a chyrhaeddiad gwael gan y plant hynny o fewn ein cyfundrefn addysgol.

We are of the opinion, and the evidence and the report underlines this, that excluding children from school should always be a last resort. That means that you have to work very hard with young people who are excluded or who feel that they cannot relate to school because of bullying or because of family issues, or whatever reason, through early and thorough intervention. That certainly carries a cost—it costs time, and we know that time is money. However, there are examples of best practice using the current pupil deprivation grant, of employing liaison officers in schools where that emerges as a problem. I certainly welcome the fact that we reached an agreement with the Welsh Government to double the pupil deprivation grant, so that we can develop and enhance such programmes. We hope, therefore, to be able to prevent more children and young people from falling in to attendance and behaviour problems, which, in turn, is one of the reasons why we have such low standards of attainment here in Wales. There is a direct link between disadvantaged backgrounds, absenteeism and poor attainment by those pupils within our educational regime.

Os ydym am gau'r bwlch, ac mae'r Gweinidog wedi dweud mai dyna yw ei flaenoriaeth, ac rwy'n ei gefnogi yn hynny o beth, mae'n rhaid inni ddefnyddio pob arf sydd gennym i wneud hynny. Sicrhau presenoldeb yw un o'r arfau hynny ac mae unrhyw beth sy'n ychwanegu at hynny'n mynd i fod o werth i safonau addysgiadol Cymru yn fwy cyffredinol.

If we are to close the gap, and the Minister has said that that is his priority, and I support him in that, we have to use every tool available to us to do that. Ensuring attendance is one of those tools, and anything that can enhance that effort will be of value in terms of educational standards in Wales more generally.

Fel rhai sydd wedi siarad eisoes, rwy'n casglu o'r adroddiad nad oes dynesiad cenedlaethol cryf tuag at y problemau hyn. Cawsom dipyn o dystiolaeth nad oedd y strategaeth bresennol—yr NBAR y cyfeiriwyd ati—yn llwyr yn gweithio, bod anghysondebau rhwng gwahanol awdurdodau a rhanbarthau a diffyg arweiniad neu eglurdeb cenedlaethol. Yn hynny o beth, rwy'n siomedig bod y Llywodraeth wedi gwrthod yr argymhelliad—credaf mai argymhelliad 1 ydyw—bod angen edrych ar hwn fel mater cenedlaethol. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog, o leiaf, yn cadw'r mater hwn o dan arolygiaeth, gan y bydd angen edrych arno eto.

Like previous speakers, I conclude from the report that there is no strong national approach on these problems. We heard some evidence that the current strategy—the NBAR, as it was called—did not work entirely, that there were inconsistencies between different authorities and regions and a lack of leadership or clarity at a national level. In that regard, I am disappointed that the Government has rejected the recommendation—I think that it is recommendation 1—that this needs to be looked at at a national level. I hope that the Minister will, at least, keep this issue under review, as we will need to return to it.

Rwy'n gobeithio hefyd y bydd y pwyllgor yn dychwelyd cyn diwedd y Cynulliad hwn at y pwnc hwn, fel ein bod yn gallu gweld a yw argymhellion y pwyllgor wedi'u gweithredu'n iawn ac a ydynt wedi llwyddo i newid y drefn. Yn llawer rhy aml mewn gwleidyddiaeth, rydym yn dod i gasgliad—yn cymryd tystiolaeth ac yn penderfynu ar yr hyn y dylid ei wneud—ac yn symud ymlaen i'r pwnc nesaf. Dylem weithiau ddychwelyd i weld a oeddem yn iawn ac a oes angen gwneud mwy o waith. Mae hwn yn faes hollbwysig i nifer fawr o'n plant a'n pobl ifanc yng Nghymru.

I also hope that the committee will return to this issue before the end of this Assembly, so that we can see whether the committee's recommendations have been properly implemented and whether they have succeeded in changing the system. Far too often in politics, we come to a conclusion—we gather evidence and decide on what should be done—and then move on to the next issue. Sometimes, we should return to see whether we were right and whether more needs to be done. This is a crucially important issue for very many of our children and young people in Wales.

Fy mhwynt olaf yw fy mod i hefyd yn rhannu pryderon ynglŷn â safon dysgu yn y cyd-destun hwn. Rwy'n falch bod y Llywodraeth wedi derbyn yr argymhelliad ond nid wyf wedi fy llwyr argyhoeddi bod ymarfer dysgu yng Nghymru yn paratoi ein hathrawon yn llwyr ar gyfer peth o'r ymddygiad maen nhw'n ei weld a'r problemau absenoldeb maen nhw'n eu gweld.

The final point that I want to make is that I also share concerns about the quality of teaching in this context. I am pleased that the Government has accepted the recommendation but I have not been entirely convinced that teacher training in Wales prepares our teachers for some of the behaviour and attendance problems that they have to deal with.

15:20 **Aled Roberts** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Angela Burns referred to an illuminating inquiry; I have to say that I found it rather a frustrating one, because it underlined the fact that progress in addressing attendance and behaviour in Wales is slow and patchy. Despite a number of reviews and reports over the years, especially the 2008 review, there are certainly issues with regard to how those reviews have been taken forward. Therefore, I would support the comments made by our Chair, Ann Jones, and by the previous speakers, with regard to the issues that we, across the board, on the committee felt that the Government really needs to start addressing.

Cyfeiriodd Angela Burns at ymholiad dadlennol; rhaid dweud fy mod innau wedi'i gael yn un rhwystredig braidd, gan iddo bwysleisio'r ffaith bod cynnydd wrth ymdrin â phresenoldeb ac ymddygiad yng Nghymru yn araf ac yn dameidiog. Er gwaethaf nifer o adolygiadau ac adroddiadau dros y blynyddoedd, yn enwedig adolygiad 2008, yn sicr mae problemau o ran sut y gweithredwyd mewn perthynas â'r adolygiadau hynny. Felly, byddwn yn cefnogi sylwadau ein Cadeirydd, Ann Jones, a sylwadau'r siaradwyr blaenorol, o ran y materion yr oeddem ni ar y pwyllgor, yn gyffredinol, yn teimlo bod gwir angen i'r Llywodraeth ddechrau ymdrin â hwy.

I am going to limit my remarks to those aspects that the Government has decided to reject. I acknowledge that seven of the recommendations have been accepted and that three have been accepted in principle, but I have real concerns with regard to the national strategy, as Simon has already outlined, because we heard evidence that there is a need for a co-ordinated approach. Although the Welsh Government may point to improvement, when we look at its statistics, we see that overall absenteeism was stable between 2006-07 and 2010-11 and only dropped by 0.5% in 2011-12. Estyn's chief inspector, Ann Keane, told our committee that attendance figures were not adequate in many instances. I find it difficult to understand what the objection is to a national plan and strategy, because in my region, we are looking at a situation in which the regional consortium, which, hopefully, will ensure that issues of attendance and behaviour are addressed as far as the overall plan to improve attainment is concerned, will have to deal with six different attendance and behaviour strategies across the region, which are all implemented in a different way by the six local authorities. Therefore, the overall evidence given to the committee was that there was support for this overarching, co-ordinated plan to be delivered, yes, at a local level, subject to regional consortia, but that was the only way that the witnesses before the committee felt that practice across Wales, from school to school and from council to council, would be improved.

Cyfyngaf fy sylwadau i'r agweddau hynny y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi penderfynu eu gwrthod. Rwy'n cydnabod bod saith o'r argymhellion wedi'u derbyn a bod tri wedi'u derbyn mewn egwyddor, ond mae gennyf bryderon go iawn o ran y strategaeth genedlaethol, fel yr amlinellodd Simon eisoes, oherwydd clywsom dystiolaeth bod angen dull gweithredu cydgysylltiedig. Er bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn cyfeirio at welliant, pan edrychwn ar ei hystadegau, gwelwn fod lefelau absenoldeb cyffredinol yn sefydlog rhwng 2006-07 a 2010-11 ac mai dim ond gostyngiad o 0.5% a welwyd yn 2011-12. Dywedodd prif arolygydd Estyn, Ann Keane, wrth ein pwyllgor nad oedd ffigurau presenoldeb yn ddigonol mewn llawer o achosion. Rwy'n ei chael hi'n anodd deall pam eich bod yn gwrthwynebu cynllun a strategaeth genedlaethol, oherwydd yn fy rhanbarth i, mae gennym sefyllfa lle y bydd yn rhaid i'r consortiwm rhanbarthol, a fydd, gobeithio, yn sicrhau yr ymdrinnir â materion o ran presenoldeb ac ymddygiad mewn perthynas â'r cynllun cyffredinol i wella cyrhaeddiad, ymdrin â chwe strategaeth presenoldeb ac ymddygiad wahanol ar draws y rhanbarth, y caiff pob un ohonynt ei gweithredu mewn ffordd wahanol gan y chwe awdurdod lleol. Felly, y dystiolaeth gyffredinol a gyflwynwyd i'r pwyllgor oedd bod cefnogaeth o blaid rhoi'r cynllun cyffredinol cydgysylltiedig hwn ar waith, oedd, ar lefel leol, yn amodol ar gonsortia rhanbarthol, ond dyna'r unig ffordd yr oedd y tystion a ddaeth ger bron y pwyllgor yn teimlo y gellid gwella arfer ledled Cymru, o ysgol i ysgol ac o gyngor i gyngor.

I also hope, as did Simon, that the increase in the pupil deprivation grant will lead to schools asking themselves how they improve attainment and acknowledging that attendance and behaviour within schools have a part to play in that. However, there are issues because of the fact that education welfare services will remain at local authority level, rather than with the regional consortia. I would want to underline again that, despite the decision taken some two weeks ago, we as a group are not convinced with regard to the use of fixed-penalty notices as the panacea to all these ills.

Rwy'n gobeithio hefyd, fel yr oedd Simon, y bydd y cynnydd yn y grant amddifadedd disgyblion yn golygu y bydd ysgolion yn gofyn iddynt hwy eu hunain sut y maent yn gwella cyrhaeddiad ac yn cydnabod bod gan bresenoldeb ac ymddygiad mewn ysgolion ran i'w chwarae yn hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae problemau, oherwydd bydd gwasanaethau lles addysg yn parhau ar lefel awdurdod lleol, yn hytrach nag o fewn y consortia rhanbarthol. Hoffwn bwysleisio unwaith eto, er gwaethaf y penderfyniad a wnaed tua phythefnos yn ôl, nad ydym ni fel grŵp yn argyhoeddedig mai hysbysiadau cosb benodedig yw'r ateb cyffredinol i'r holl broblemau hyn.

Non-attendance and bad behaviour, however, are symptomatic of much deeper and wider issues within our society. You may recall that, last week, I identified that 81% of prolific offenders included in the Welsh Government's paper on youth justice had no qualifications whatsoever.

Fodd bynnag, mae diffyg presenoldeb ac ymddygiad gwael yn arwydd o faterion llawer dyfnach ac ehangach o fewn ein cymdeithas. Efallai y cofiwch imi nodi, yr wythnos diwethaf, nad oedd gan 81% o'r troseddwyr cyson a gynhwyswyd ym mhapur Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfiawnder ieuenctid unrhyw gymwysterau o gwbl.

15:24 **Nick Ramsay** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I am grateful to Aled Roberts for giving away. On that point of fixed-penalty notices, I have looked into this in more detail as well since we last spoke about it. Do you share my concerns that it is modelled very much on a parking ticket-type system, whereby if that notice is not paid within a certain amount of time, it will go up, which means that people who cannot afford it will end up having to pay more in the long run? That cannot be right; children are not cars.

Rwy'n ddiolchgar i Aled Roberts am ildio. O ran hysbysiadau cosb benodedig, rwyf hefyd wedi ystyried hyn yn fanylach ers inni drafod y mater ddiwethaf. A rannwch fy mhryderon eu bod wedi'u modelu i raddau helaeth ar system debyg i system tocynnau parcio, lle y bydd y swm i'w dalu yn cynyddu os na thelir yr hysbysiad o fewn cyfnod penodol o amser, sy'n golygu y bydd yn rhaid i bobl na allant ei fforddio dalu mwy yn y pen draw? Ni all hynny fod yn iawn; nid ceir yw plant.

15:24 **Aled Roberts** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Yes, I think that that is the evidence that we received as a committee: there were middle-class parents who might be willing to pay the ticket and take it on the chin, whereas those parents who might not be in a position to deal with the underlying issues that really need to be addressed might find difficulty in doing so.

Ie, credaf mai dyna'r dystiolaeth a gawsom fel pwyllgor: roedd rhieni dosbarth canol a fyddai o bosibl yn barod i dalu'r tocyn a derbyn y gosb, ond byddai'r rhieni hynny na fyddent o bosibl mewn sefyllfa i ymdrin â'r materion sylfaenol y mae angen ymdrin â hwy mewn gwirionedd, o bosibl yn ei chael hi'n anodd gwneud hynny.

I also think, in closing, that we really need to have a look at the pupil referral units in Wales. I have been going to the units within the authorities in north Wales. I have seen some good practice, but the reality is that we do not even know how many of these units there are. The Welsh Government would suggest that there are 40. Looking at the Estyn website, it suggests that the number is nearer 50. Only 29 of them have been inspected. More worryingly, only three of them have achieved at least one 'excellent' mark.

Credaf hefyd, i gloi, fod angen inni roi ystyriaeth o ddifrif i'r unedau cyfeirio disgyblion yng Nghymru. Bûm yn mynd i'r unedau o fewn awdurdodau'r gogledd. Rwyf wedi gweld peth arfer da, ond y gwir yw nad ydym hyd yn oed yn gwybod faint o'r unedau hyn sy'n bodoli. Byddai Llywodraeth Cymru yn awgrymu bod 40 ohonynt. Mae gwefan Estyn yn awgrymu bod yn agosach at 50 ohonynt. Dim ond 29 ohonynt a arolygwyd. Yn fwy pryderus fyth, dim ond tair ohonynt sydd wedi cyflawni o leiaf un marc 'ardderchog'.

In closing, I think that there is inconsistency in provision. I would hope that the Minister would show a willingness to accept that he needs to dig deeper in some of these areas, the fact that the committee as a whole is not convinced by the Government's reaction, and the fact that we will be revisiting this issue before the end of the current Assembly term.

I gloi, credaf fod anghysondeb yn y ddarpariaeth. Gobeithio y gwnaiff y Gweinidog ddangos parodrwydd i dderbyn bod angen iddo weithredu ymhellach mewn perthynas â rhai o'r meysydd hyn, y ffaith nad yw'r pwyllgor cyfan wedi'i argyhoeddi gan ymateb y Llywodraeth, a'r ffaith y byddwn yn ailystyried y mater hwn cyn diwedd tymor y Cynulliad presennol.

15:25 **Julie Morgan** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I am very pleased to speak in this debate today. I was a member of the Children and Young People Committee when the evidence was taken, and I think that this is a very important report. I was also very pleased to visit the pupil referral unit, along with Jenny Rathbone, the Assembly Member for Cardiff Central, who was also on the committee at that time. We were able to talk to the pupils there and find out their views. That referral unit had certainly been inspected, and I think that we saw some good practice.

Mae'n bleser mawr gennyf siarad yn y ddadl hon heddiw. Roeddwn yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc pan gymerwyd y dystiolaeth, a chredaf fod yr adroddiad hwn yn adroddiad pwysig iawn. Roedd yn bleser gennyf hefyd ymweld â'r uned cyfeirio disgyblion, gyda Jenny Rathbone, yr Aelod Cynulliad dros Ganol Caerdydd, a oedd hefyd ar y pwyllgor ar y pryd. Cawsom gyfle i siarad â'r disgyblion yno a chael eu barn. Yn sicr, roedd yr uned cyfeirio honno wedi'i harolygu, a chredaf ein bod wedi gweld rhywfaint o arfer da.

The recommendations have generally been covered. I wanted to make some remarks about how good it was to see, in taking evidence at the committee, that the contribution of the third sector was acknowledged in tackling these difficult issues. We heard of the valuable input of bodies like Barnardo's, YMCA Wales, Snap, Save the Children and many more, in particular schemes and projects aimed at addressing issues around attendance and behaviour, linking the family to the school and linking the school to the community. I thought that that was a very important aspect of the way that these issues can be tackled. I also think that it is very important to distinguish between deep and underlying problems, where non-attendance and poor behaviour can be—as Christine Chapman said—a cry for help. Ken Reid, when he gave evidence to the committee, was very powerful when he said that this was a cry for help. That is how we should look at it. This is about an improvement in the organisation of reporting absences, the first-day response, and a much greater effort on behalf of the schools. Certainly, headtechers in my own area have said that the fact that attendance is included in the banding criteria has made them concentrate more on attendance than they were doing before. All of those things are very valuable and will tackle the issue. However, some pupils will not respond to these because the root of the problem that is being made visible goes much deeper. Estyn gave us evidence that poverty and disadvantage were the main reasons for poor behaviour and attendance. It said how important it was that we must target difficult-to-reach families and try to draw them in as part of the school. I think that we have talked before in this Assembly about the learning school that includes the family—the parents as well as the children—and that that is the way to get to grips with some of these persistent problems.

Trafodwyd yr argymhellion i raddau helaeth. Roeddwn am gyfeirio at ba mor braf oedd gweld cyfraniad y trydydd sector wrth fynd i'r afael â'r materion anodd hyn yn cael ei gydnabod, wrth dderbyn tystiolaeth. Clywsom am gyfraniad gwerthfawr cyrff megis Barnardo's, YMCA Cymru, Snap, Achub y Plant a llawer mwy, yn arbennig cynlluniau a phrosiectau penodol sy'n anelu at ymdrin â'r materion sy'n gysylltiedig â phresenoldeb ac ymddygiad, gan gysylltu'r teulu â'r ysgol a chan gysylltu'r ysgol â'r gymuned. Roedd hynny, yn fy marn i, yn agwedd bwysig iawn ar y ffordd y gellir mynd i'r afael â'r materion hyn. Credaf hefyd ei bod yn bwysig iawn gwahaniaethu rhwng problemau dwfn a sylfaenol, lle y gall diffyg presenoldeb ac ymddygiad gwael—fel y dywedodd Christine Chapman—fod yn ble am gymorth. Wrth i Ken Reid gyflwyno ei dystiolaeth i'r pwyllgor, datganodd yn gadarn iawn mai ple am gymorth ydoedd. Dyna sut y dylem ei ystyried. Mae a wnelo hyn â gwella'r trefniadau ar gyfer cofnodi absenoldeb, yr ymateb ar y diwrnod cyntaf, ac ymdrech llawer gwell ar ran yr ysgolion. Yn sicr, mae penaethiaid yn fy ardal i wedi dweud bod y ffaith bod presenoldeb yn rhan o'r meini prawf bandio yn golygu eu bod yn canolbwyntio fwy ar bresenoldeb nag a wnaethant yn flaenorol. Mae'r holl bethau hynny yn werthfawr iawn a byddant yn mynd i'r afael â'r mater. Fodd bynnag, bydd rhai disgyblion na fyddant yn ymateb i'r rhain gan fod gwraidd y broblem sydd ar yr wyneb yn llawer dyfnach. Cyflwynodd Estyn dystiolaeth inni mai tlodi ac anfantais oedd y prif resymau dros ymddygiad a phresenoldeb gwael. Dywedodd ei bod yn bwysig inni dargedu teuluoedd anodd eu cyrraedd a cheisio eu cynnwys fel rhan o'r ysgol. Credaf ein bod eisoes wedi trafod yr ysgol sy'n dysgu sy'n cynnwys y teulu—y rhieni yn ogystal â'r plant—yn y Cynulliad hwn ac mai dyna'r ffordd o fynd i'r afael â rhai o'r problemau parhaus hyn.

Other members have mentioned bullying and how important it is that bullying is recognised and tackled. Obviously, the Welsh Government has had some very important initiatives on this. However, the report's recommendation is very important, namely that we should look at gathering accurate school data to look at the connection between bullying and non-attendance rates, so that we can address this particular problem, and so that pupils can be given targeted support. That is a very important recommendation.

Mae aelodau eraill wedi sôn am fwlio a phwysigrwydd cydnabod bwlio a mynd i'r afael ag ef. Yn amlwg, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cyflwyno rhai mentrau pwysig iawn yn hyn o beth. Fodd bynnag, mae argymhelliad yr adroddiad yn bwysig iawn, sef y dylem fwrw ati i gasglu data ysgolion cywir er mwyn ystyried y cysylltiad rhwng bwlio a chyfraddau absenoldeb, er mwyn inni allu ymdrin â'r broblem benodol hon, ac er mwyn gallu rhoi cymorth wedi'i dargedu i ddisgyblion. Mae hynny'n argymhelliad pwysig iawn.

I also think that it is very important that we recognise the link between non-attendance, poor behaviour and learning difficulties. Students who have particular learning difficulties, such as dyslexia, need to be given all of the support possible in school, so that it becomes a place that they want to attend, not a place associated with failure and frustration. Before students can become engaged in the curriculum, they need to be able to access it. It is very important that we have dedicated specialists in every school in Wales to work on helping young people to unlock learning. That is very important.

Credaf hefyd ei bod yn bwysig iawn inni gydnabod y cysylltiad rhwng absenoldeb, ymddygiad gwael ac anawsterau dysgu. Mae angen sicrhau y caiff myfyrwyr sydd ag anawsterau dysgu penodol, megis dyslecsia, yr holl gymorth posibl yn yr ysgol, er mwyn iddi ddod yn lle y maent am ddod iddo, yn hytrach na lle sy'n gysylltiedig â methiant a rhwystredigaeth. Cyn y gall myfyrwyr ymgysylltu â'r cwricwlwm, mae angen iddynt gael cynnig y cwricwlwm hwnnw. Mae'n bwysig iawn sicrhau bod gennym arbenigwyr penodedig ymhob ysgol yng Nghymru i weithio er mwyn helpu pobl ifanc i ddadgloi cyfleoedd i ddysgu. Mae hynny'n bwysig iawn.

The other point that I want to make briefly is on the key issue of the transition from primary school to secondary school. I can remember that Ken Reid told us, again, in his evidence that he had talked to primary school headteachers in Cardiff, who said that they had achieved a lot with children who were from families who were difficult to reach, but that they then despaired at what happened when they went to secondary school. I think that we need to work very hard on that transition—I know that schools are trying hard to do that, but that is an area where we have to be sure that we get that right. Thank you.

Mae a wnelo'r pwynt arall yr hoffwn ei wneud yn gryno â'r mater allweddol o bontio o'r ysgol gynradd i'r ysgol uwchradd. Cofiaf Ken Reid yn dweud wrthym, unwaith eto, yn ei dystiolaeth ei fod wedi siarad â phenaethiaid ysgolion cynradd yng Nghaerdydd, a ddywedodd eu bod wedi cyflawni cryn dipyn gyda phlant o deuluoedd a oedd yn anodd eu cyrraedd, ond eu bod wedyn yn digalonni am yr hyn a oedd yn digwydd pan aethant i'r ysgol uwchradd. Credaf fod angen inni weithio'n galed iawn ar y cyfnod pontio hwnnw—gwn fod ysgolion yn ymdrechu'n galed i wneud hynny, ond mae hynny'n faes lle y mae'n rhaid inni fod yn siŵr ein bod yn cael pethau'n iawn. Diolch.

15:30

Keith Davies Bywgraffiad Biography

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Mae nifer o'r pwyntiau rwyf eisiau eu gwneud wedi cael eu gwneud yn barod, ond gwnaf sôn am un neu ddau ohonynt.

Many of the points that I wanted to make have been made, but I will mention one or two of them.

Rwy'n falch o dderbyn yr adroddiad, ac rwy'n diolch i'r Gweinidog am ei ymateb ystyrlon a hynod dreiddgar i'r rhan fwyaf o argymhellion y pwyllgor. Fodd bynnag, os caf ddilyn yr hyn yr oedd Aled Roberts a Julie Morgan yn ei ddweud am y PRUs, fy marn bersonol i yw nad oes digon o adnoddau mewn PRUs i'r athrawon nag i'r plant. Mae nifer o PRUs, efallai, mewn dwy ystafell ddosbarth ar wahân i'r ysgol gyfan, ac rwy'n credu bod y plant a'r athrawon o dan anfantais yn y sefyllfa honno, os yw'r sefyllfa honno yn mynd i barhau.

I am pleased to accept the report, and I thank the Minister for his considered and far-sighted response to most of the committee's recommendations. However, if I could follow on from what Aled Roberts and Julie Morgan said about PRUs, my personal view is that there are not enough resources in the PRUs, not for the teacher or the children. A number of PRUs are in perhaps two classrooms that are separate from the rest of the school, and I think that the children and the teachers are at a disadvantage in that situation, if it is to continue.

Mae linc glir rhwng presenoldeb gwell a chyrhaeddiad. Yn syml iawn, mae dysgu'n llawer haws os ydych chi yn yr ystafell ddosbarth ac y mae'r plant yn aros gyda chi. Ond, y gwir amdani yw nad yw hon yn ardal syml iawn, o ran polisi nac o ran ymarferoldeb chwaith.

There is a clear link between improved attendance and attainment. Simply, learning is much easier if you are in the classroom and the children remain with you. However, the truth is that this is a complex area, in terms of policy and practical issues.

Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig nodi llwyddiant. Yn 2011-12, mae cyfradd presenoldeb mewn ysgolion uwchradd wedi cynyddu 0.8%. Ers datganoli, mae nifer y plant sy'n gadael ysgol heb unrhyw gymhwyster wedi gostwng, ac mae nawr ar y pwynt isaf erioed. Ond, mae yn wastad lle i weithredu ymhellach, gan ddefnyddio dull yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth, pan ddaw allan.

However, it is important to note success. In 2011-12, the attendance rate in secondary schools increased 0.8%. Since devolution, the number of children who leave school without any qualifications has fallen, and it is now at its lowest point. But, there is always room for further action, using an evidence-based approach, when it is published.

Rwy'n falch i sôn am sir Gâr, sydd ymysg y tri awdurdod lleol sydd â'r gyfradd isaf o absenoldeb anawdurdodedig o ysgolion uwchradd ac ysgolion arbennig a gynhelir yn 2012, sef 0.4%, ac mae 0.2% yn is na chyfartaledd Cymru mewn ysgolion cynradd.

I am pleased to mention Carmarthenshire, which is one of the three local authorities with the lowest rate of unauthorised absences in maintained secondary and special schools in 2012, at a rate of 0.4%, and 0.2% lower than the Welsh average in primary schools.

Ein dyletswydd ni, felly, yn y Gymru ddatganoledig, yw dod o hyd i'r ffyrdd mwyaf effeithiol o wasgaru arfer da—mewn geiriau eraill, i wneud arfer da yn arfer cyffredin. Mae mwy nag un ffordd o wneud hyn. Weithiau, gellir gwneud hyn drwy strategaethau gan y Llywodraeth, ac nid yw Llywodraeth Cymru'n ofni ymyrryd pan fo angen. Y ffordd orau mewn mwy nag un amgylchiad yw dosbarthu arfer da drwy gasgliadau rhanbarthol o ysgolion, ac yr ydym wedi sôn am hynny yn gynharach. Mewn achosion eraill, y peth gorau yw i un pennaeth ysgol godi'r ffôn er mwyn siarad â phennaeth ysgol gyfagos—cael ysgolion da yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd, ac wedyn yn rhannu'r arfer da.

Our duty, therefore, in devolved Wales, is to find the most effective ways of sharing good practice—in other words, making good practice normal practice. There is more than one way of doing this. Sometimes, it can be done through Government strategies, and the Welsh Government is not scared to intervene when necessary. The best way in many circumstances is to share good practice through regional clusters of schools, and we have mentioned that earlier. In other cases, the best thing to do is for one headteacher to pick up the phone to speak to the headteacher of a neighbouring school—getting good schools working together and then sharing the good practice.

Mae'n bleser dweud bod y mwyafrif o argymhellion y pwyllgor wedi eu derbyn, neu wedi eu derbyn mewn egwyddor. Rwy'n falch ein bod wedi gallu cydweithredu, a hynny ar ôl cymaint o ymgynghori â'r sector, gan y pwyllgor a'r Llywodraeth. Rwy'n edrych ymlaen at drafodaethau canlynol i weld lle yr ydym yn mynd.

I am pleased to say that most of the committee's recommendations have been accepted or have been accepted in principle. I am pleased that we have been able to collaborate, and we have done so after so much consultation with the sector, by the committee and the Government. I look forward to the follow-up discussions to see where we are going.

Cymerwch yr argymhelliad cyntaf y mae'r Gweinidog wedi ei wrthod. Mae hybu ymddygiad da a phresenoldeb cyson yn sylfaenol i lwyddiant unrhyw sefydliad addysgol. Mae arfer da i'w gael yng Nghymru. Mae'r rheswm a roddir gan y Gweinidog am ei benderfyniad, sef er mwyn hybu'r teimlad o berchnogaeth ar bolisi, yn un synhwyrol oherwydd, yn y pen draw, yn yr ysgol y mae pethau'n mynd i newid. Gwnaeth y Brifysgol Agored ymchwil rai blynyddoedd yn ôl ynglŷn â'r peth mwyaf pwysig yr oedd ysgolion yn ei wneud. Y peth mwyaf pwysig yr oeddent yn ei wneud oedd penodi penaethiaid da, oherwydd os oes penaethiaid da gennych chi, fe wneith pethau wella. Wedyn, mae'n rhaid i ni rannu'r arfer da hwnnw rhwng ysgolion.

Take the first recommendation that the Minister has rejected. Promoting good behaviour and regular attendance is fundamental the success of any educational establishment. There is good practice in Wales. The reason given by the Minister for his decision, that it is to promote the sense of ownership of the policy, is a sensible one because, ultimately, it is in the school that things will change. The Open University conducted research years ago about the most important thing that schools were doing. The most important thing that they were doing was appointing good heads, because if you have good heads, things will improve. Then, we need to share that good practice between schools.

Felly, hoffwn ddiolch i'r pwyllgor ac i'r Gweinidog am eu gwaith, ac edrychaf ymlaen at weld beth fydd yn digwydd yn y dyfodol agos.

So, I would like to thank the committee and the Minister for their work, and I look forward to seeing what will happen in the near future.

15:34

Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I call on the Minister, Huw Lewis, to speak on behalf of the Government.

Galwaf ar y Gweinidog, Huw Lewis, i siarad ar ran y Llywodraeth.

15:34

Huw Lewis Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau / The Minister for Education and Skills

I would like to begin by thanking the committee for its consideration of the behaviour and attendance agenda, as well as the contributors who provided evidence to the committee.

Hoffwn ddechrau drwy ddiolch i'r pwyllgor am ystyried yr agenda ymddygiad a phresenoldeb, yn ogystal â'r cyfranwyr a roddodd dystiolaeth i'r pwyllgor.

Ten out of 12 of the committee's recommendations have been accepted, as they directly reflect current, or proposed, Welsh Government policy. We already have a good deal of good policy and guidance in place, giving a clear strategic steer on attendance and behaviour. Attendance, of course, is a key contributor to attainment. If a child is not in school, then they are not learning. Take, for instance, a child with a 90% attendance record. On the face of it, that does not sound too bad, a 90% attendance record, but if you do the mathematics, that means that over an 11-year school career, that child will have missed a whole year of education by the time that they leave school and this can have a devastating impact on their attainment.

Derbyniwyd 10 allan o'r 12 o argymhellion a gyflwynwyd gan y pwyllgor, gan eu bod yn adlewyrchu polisi cyfredol, neu bolisi arfaethedig, Llywodraeth Cymru yn uniongyrchol. Mae gennym nifer helaeth o bolisïau a chanllawiau da ar waith eisoes, sy'n darparu cyfeiriad strategol clir ar bresenoldeb ac ymddygiad. Mae presenoldeb, wrth gwrs, yn ffactor allweddol sy'n cyfrannu at gyrhaeddiad. Os nad yw plentyn yn yr ysgol, yna nid yw'n dysgu. Ystyriwch, er enghraifft, blentyn â chofnod presenoldeb o 90%. Ar yr olwg gyntaf, nid yw hynny'n swnio'n rhy ddrwg, cofnod presenoldeb o 90%, ond os gwnewch y fathemateg, mae hynny'n golygu, dros gyfnod o 11 mlynedd yn yr ysgol, y bydd y plentyn hwnnw wedi colli blwyddyn gyfan o addysg erbyn iddo adael yr ysgol a gall hyn gael effaith ddinistriol ar ei gyrhaeddiad.

Our policies are having a positive impact. The latest statistical release on absenteeism from secondary schools shows a year-on-year improvement. The development of the attendance analysis framework, school banding and a hands-on, directive approach by the Welsh Government on attendance have all played an important role in helping to bring about that improvement. There are many reasons for poor attendance and this is why we need a range of approaches that can be tailored to local and even individual circumstances. I agree with the committee that the consortia have a key role in continuing to improve attendance and behaviour and with its points about the importance of early intervention and family and community involvement. We are investing in this agenda; for example, we are providing grant funding to help consortia to develop their approaches to attendance, we are increasing and extending the pupil deprivation grant, and offering match funding alongside Communities First.

Mae ein polisïau yn cael effaith gadarnhaol. Mae'r datganiad ystadegol diweddaraf ar absenoldeb o ysgolion uwchradd yn dangos gwelliant flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn. Mae'r broses o ddatblygu'r fframwaith dadansoddi presenoldeb, y trefniadau bandio ysgolion a dull gweithredu cyfarwyddol, ymarferol gan Lywodraeth Cymru oll wedi chwarae rhan bwysig wrth helpu i gyflawni'r gwelliant hwnnw. Mae sawl rheswm dros bresenoldeb gwael a dyma pam mae angen amrywiaeth o ddulliau arnom y gellir eu teilwra i amgylchiadau lleol ac hyd yn oed amgylchiadau unigol. Cytunaf â'r pwyllgor bod gan y consortia ran allweddol i'w chwarae wrth barhau i wella presenoldeb ac ymddygiad ac â'i bwyntiau am bwysigrwydd ymyriadau cynnar a chyfranogiad teuluoedd a chymunedau. Rydym yn buddsoddi yn yr agenda hon; er enghraifft, rydym yn darparu cyllid grant i helpu consortia i ddatblygu eu dulliau gweithredu mewn perthynas â phresenoldeb, rydym yn cynyddu ac yn ehangu'r grant amddifadedd disgyblion ac yn cynnig arian cyfatebol ochr yn ochr â Cymunedau yn Gyntaf.

Collaboration is particularly important, especially for children and young people from challenging backgrounds. The best way of supporting children, particularly those living in poverty, is by working with the whole family. Many Members here this afternoon have commented along those lines. I encourage schools and local authorities to target pupils for early intervention, to give them the extra support that they need to stay on track. I expect consortia to link with family support programmes like Flying Start, Families First, and Communities First.

Mae cydweithio yn arbennig o bwysig, yn enwedig o ran plant a phobl ifanc o gefndiroedd heriol. Y ffordd orau o helpu plant, yn enwedig y rheini sy'n byw mewn tlodi, yw drwy weithio gyda'r teulu cyfan. Mae llawer o Aelodau yma y prynhawn yma wedi cyfeirio at hynny. Anogaf ysgolion ac awdurdodau lleol i dargedu disgyblion ar gyfer ymyriadau cynnar, er mwyn rhoi'r cymorth ychwanegol sydd ei angen arnynt i barhau ar y trywydd cywir. Rwy'n disgwyl i gonsortia gysylltu â rhaglenni cymorth i deuluoedd fel Dechrau'n Deg, Teuluoedd yn Gyntaf, a Chymunedau yn Gyntaf.

Leadership at all levels is vital. We are encouraging stronger leadership at regional consortium level, with a particular focus on monitoring school performance, challenging and providing targeted support. I expect consortia to work with local authorities and schools to develop and embed effective practices, which can secure sustainable, long-term improvements in school attendance and behaviour. Leadership development is a key priority within improving schools. Our aim is to encourage a progressive, career-long development of leadership skills, which will include a more coherent and stretching programme of professional development for school leaders.

Mae arweinyddiaeth ar bob lefel yn hanfodol. Rydym yn annog arweinyddiaeth gryfach ar lefel consortia rhanbarthol, gyda ffocws penodol ar fonitro perfformiad ysgolion, herio a rhoi cymorth wedi'i dargedu. Disgwyliaf i'r consortia weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol ac ysgolion i ddatblygu arferion effeithiol, a all sicrhau gwelliannau cynaliadwy, hirdymor o ran presenoldeb ac ymddygiad yn yr ysgol, a'u rhoi ar waith. Mae datblygu arweinyddiaeth yn flaenoriaeth allweddol o ran gwella ysgolion. Ein nod yw annog proses flaengar o ddatblygu sgiliau arweinyddiaeth ar hyd gyrfaoedd, a fydd yn cynnwys rhaglen fwy cydlynol ac ymestynnol o ddatblygiad proffesiynol ar gyfer arweinwyr ysgol.

We have provided direct funding to train teachers and support staff in well-established behaviour management techniques. We are strengthening the induction of newly qualified teachers with the introduction of behaviour management modules in the Master's degree in educational practice. We have also introduced mandatory training for governors. We have published a Wales handbook, highlighting best practice approaches to managing pupils' behaviour in the classroom, for primary and secondary schools.

Rydym wedi darparu cyllid uniongyrchol i hyfforddi athrawon a staff cymorth mewn technegau rheoli ymddygiad sefydledig. Rydym yn atgyfnerthu'r broses o sefydlu athrawon newydd gymhwyso drwy gyflwyno modiwlau rheoli ymddygiad yn y radd Meistr mewn ymarfer addysgol. Rydym hefyd wedi cyflwyno hyfforddiant gorfodol i lywodraethwyr. Rydym wedi cyhoeddi llawlyfr Cymru, sy'n tynnu sylw at yr arfer gorau wrth reoli ymddygiad disgyblion yn yr ystafell ddosbarth, ar gyfer ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd.

To promote social and emotional wellbeing, we have published a detailed handbook on how to establish and run nurture groups. Nurture groups give children opportunities to revisit early missed nurturing experiences and, as well as developing curriculum-based skills, children are encouraged to acquire skills such as listening, sharing and turn-taking.

Er mwyn hyrwyddo lles cymdeithasol ac emosiynol, rydym wedi cyhoeddi llawlyfr manwl ar sut i sefydlu a rhedeg grwpiau anogaeth. Mae grwpiau anogaeth yn rhoi cyfleoedd i blant ailystyried profiadau anogaeth cynnar a gollwyd ganddynt ac, yn ogystal â meithrin sgiliau sy'n seiliedig ar y cwricwlwm, anogir y plant i feithrin sgiliau megis gwrando, rhannu a chymryd tro.

We are also continuing to develop the range of resources available on Learning Wales, including a behaviour management learning resource pack, which will be available shortly. The committee highlighted the importance of first-day responses and I confirm that we will review the evidence on the effectiveness of the use of first-day responses as part of the review of the 'Inclusion and Pupil Support Guidance' next year.

Rydym hefyd yn parhau i ddatblygu'r ystod o adnoddau sydd ar gael ar wefan Dysgu Cymru, gan gynnwys pecyn adnoddau dysgu rheoli ymddygiad, a fydd ar gael yn fuan. Amlygodd y pwyllgor bwysigrwydd ymatebion diwrnod cyntaf a gallaf gadarnhau y byddwn yn adolygu'r dystiolaeth ar effeithiolrwydd y defnydd o ymatebion diwrnod cyntaf fel rhan o'r adolygiad o'r 'Canllawiau Cynnwys a Chynorthwyo Disgyblion' y flwyddyn nesaf.

We debated the matter of fixed-penalty notices in detail last month. Fixed-penalty notices are an additional tool that can be used to help improve attendance. I took on board Assembly Members' concerns about their consistent and appropriate usage, and my officials have already written to directors of education requesting them to submit their draft codes of conduct for consideration before consultation. I have made a commitment to keep under review the need for a national code of conduct and we will be monitoring closely the use of those fixed-penalty notices.

Gwnaethom drafod hysbysiadau cosb benodedig yn fanwl fis diwethaf. Mae hysbysiadau cosb benodedig yn arf ychwanegol y gellir ei ddefnyddio er mwyn helpu i wella presenoldeb. Ystyriais bryderon Aelodau'r Cynulliad am eu defnyddio mewn modd cyson a phriodol, ac mae fy swyddogion eisoes wedi ysgrifennu at gyfarwyddwyr addysg yn gofyn iddynt gyflwyno eu codau ymddygiad drafft i'w ystyried cyn ymgynghori. Rwy'n ymrwymedig i barhau i adolygu'r angen am god ymddygiad cenedlaethol a byddwn yn monitro'r defnydd o'r hysbysiadau cosb benodedig hynny yn ofalus.

I agree with all Members here this afternoon, who have all said that there is more to do. For example, we do not currently have any evidence of a correlation between bullying and non-attendance, but that is not to say that one does not exist. We will therefore consider how we might establish whether there is a correlation.

Rwy'n cytuno â'r holl Aelodau yma y prynhawn yma, sydd oll wedi dweud bod rhagor i'w wneud. Er enghraifft, nid oes gennym unrhyw dystiolaeth ar hyn o bryd o gydberthynas rhwng bwlio a diffyg presenoldeb, ond nid yw hynny'n golygu nad oes cydberthynas o'r fath yn bodoli. Felly, byddwn yn ystyried sut y gallwn gadarnhau pa un a oes cydberthynas.

We are, I think—and I hope that you will agree—taking attendance and behaviour very seriously. The recent report from the University of Edinburgh on exclusion from school in Wales and the delivery, planning and commissioning of education provision for children and young people outside the school setting was commissioned to support our ongoing policy development. I have considered the recommendations in the Edinburgh report alongside the recommendations in the committee's report, and I have published our written responses to the report last month, further demonstrating our continued commitment to this agenda.

Rydym, fe gredaf—a gobeithio y byddwch yn cytuno—yn cymryd presenoldeb ac ymddygiad yn wirioneddol o ddifrif. Comisiynwyd yr adroddiad diweddar gan Brifysgol Caeredin ar wahardd o ysgolion yng Nghymru a'r trefniadau ar gyfer darparu, cynllunio a chomisiynu darpariaeth addysg i blant a phobl ifanc y tu allan i'r ysgol er mwyn ategu ein gwaith parhaus i ddatblygu polisïau. Rwyf wedi ystyried argymhellion adroddiad Caeredin ynghyd ag argymhellion adroddiad y pwyllgor, a chyhoeddais ein hymatebion ysgrifenedig i'r adroddiad fis diwethaf, gan ddangos unwaith eto ein hymrwymiad parhaus i'r agenda hon.

I will continue to prioritise attendance and behaviour. It is our moral duty to ensure that we deliver an education system that is flexible, to meet the needs of learners, especially those who are the most disadvantaged and vulnerable.

Byddaf yn parhau i roi blaenoriaeth i bresenoldeb ac ymddygiad. Mae dyletswydd foesol arnom i sicrhau ein bod yn darparu system addysg sy'n hyblyg, er mwyn diwallu anghenion dysgwyr, yn enwedig y rheini sydd fwyaf difreintiedig ac agored i niwed.

15:41

Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

I call on the Chair of the Children and Young People Committee, Ann Jones, to reply to the debate.

Galwaf ar Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, Ann Jones, i ymateb i'r ddadl.

15:41

Ann Jones [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

I thank those Members who have contributed to this debate, and I thank the Minister for summing up. From what Members were saying—those Members who are on the committee and those Members who were on it previously—the issues around the fixed-penalty notices are not going to go away. I know, Minister, that you have said that you will keep it under review—you have committed to keeping it under review—and the committee will keep it under review as well; we will want to return to the issue, I am sure.

Diolch i'r Aelodau hynny sydd wedi cyfrannu at y ddadl hon, a diolch i'r Gweinidog am grynhoi. O'r hyn a ddywedodd yr Aelodau—yr Aelodau hynny sydd ar y pwyllgor a'r Aelodau hynny a fu ar y pwyllgor yn y gorffennol—nid yw'r problemau sy'n gysylltiedig â'r hysbysiadau cosb benodedig yn mynd i ddiflannu. Gwn, Weinidog, eich bod wedi dweud y byddwch yn parhau i adolygu'r sefyllfa—rydych wedi ymrwymo i wneud hynny—a bydd y pwyllgor yn parhau i'w adolygu hefyd; byddwn am drafod y mater eto, rwy'n siŵr.

Christine Chapman, Julie and others have said quite clearly that it is the intervention of a whole-family approach, and non-attendance and poor behaviour can be for a variety of reasons that we often do not get down to. I was pleased that you acknowledged that you will look at ways in which we can address the bullying and the non-attendance to see whether there is some form correlation between those and to move on.

Dywedodd Christine Chapman, Julie ac eraill yn eithaf clir mai ymyriadau drwy ddull teulu cyfan ydynt, ac y gall diffyg presenoldeb ac ymddygiad gwael fod am amrywiaeth o resymau nad ydym yn aml yn eu hystyried. Roeddwn yn falch eich bod wedi cydnabod y byddwch yn ystyried ffyrdd o ymdrin â bwlio a diffyg presenoldeb er mwyn gweld a oes rhyw fath o gydberthynas rhwng y ddau a symud ymlaen.

Members mentioned the use of the pupil deprivation grant. Simon Thomas mentioned it, as did Aled, and Christine mentioned early intervention, deprivation and attainment. That is actually the topic for our next bit of a policy review that we have managed to sandwich in between all the legislation, so, we will be looking at how the pupil deprivation grant is working towards helping those very children that you have said you are keeping as a priority, to make sure that they receive that good education.

Soniodd Aelodau am y defnydd o'r grant amddifadedd disgyblion. Soniodd Simon Thomas amdano, felly hefyd Aled, a soniodd Christine am ymyriadau cynnar, amddifadedd a chyrhaeddiad. Dyna, fel y mae'n digwydd, yw'r testun ar gyfer ein hadolygiad polisi nesaf yr ydym wedi llwyddo i gael amser i'w gynnal rhwng yr holl ddeddfwriaeth, felly, byddwn yn ystyried sut mae'r grant amddifadedd disgyblion yn anelu at helpu'r union blant hynny y nodwyd gennych eu bod yn parhau'n flaenoriaeth gennych, er mwyn sicrhau y cânt yr addysg dda honno.

Angela Burns mentioned—quite rightly, I think—that a naughty child is not always a child who has behavioural problems. We have to recognise that a naughty child is a naughty child, but then there are those children who are constantly poorly behaved, and that is an issue that needs to be looked at and not often dealt with in pupil referral units, as it seems to be. Keith referred to pupil referral units, as did Julie Morgan, who visited one locally. They are often not the answer. They may be the answer for some, but they are not always the answer, and often it becomes the easiest solution for some teachers. Let us be honest, I have never wanted to be a teacher, but if I had two or three naughty children in my class and they did not turn up tomorrow, I do not think that I would sweat an awful lot about it; I would perhaps go and get a good night's sleep and then think that, next week, perhaps I ought to go and find out why those two or three children are not attending my classes. But, I can see that there are some issues around that.

Soniodd Angela Burns—yn llygad ei lle, fe gredaf—nad yw plentyn drwg bob amser yn gyfystyr â phlentyn â phroblemau ymddygiadol. Rhaid inni gydnabod bod plentyn drwg yn blentyn drwg, ond wedyn mae yna blant sy'n ymddwyn yn wael yn gyson, ac mae hynny'n fater y mae angen ei ystyried yn hytrach nag ymdrin ag ef mewn unedau cyfeirio disgyblion, fel yr ymddengys sy'n digwydd yn aml. Cyfeiriodd Keith at unedau cyfeirio disgyblion, felly hefyd Julie Morgan, a ymwelodd ag un yn lleol. Yn aml, nid dyma'r ateb. Efallai mai dyma'r ateb i rai, ond nid dyma'r ateb bob tro, ac yn aml dyma'r ateb hawsaf i rai athrawon. Gadewch inni fod yn onest, nid wyf erioed wedi dyheu am fod yn athrawes, ond petai gennyf ddau neu dri o blant drwg yn fy nosbarth a phe na fyddent yn dod i'r ysgol fory, ni chredaf y byddwn yn chwysu rhyw lawer am y peth; byddwn efallai yn mynd a chael noson dda o gwsg gan feddwl wedyn, yr wythnos nesaf, efallai y dylwn geisio canfod pam nad yw'r ddau neu dri phlentyn hwnnw wedi bod yn fy nosbarthiadau. Ond, gallaf weld bod problemau yn gysylltiedig â hynny.

All in all, the evidence that we received shows that there is still work to be done, and I am pleased, Minister, that you actually are keeping this under review. We as a committee will return to this matter; we will examine the recommendations from this report before the end of this Assembly term. It is something that I feel very strongly that the committee should do, in that, when we do inquiries, we should return, after a period of time, to hold the Government to account as to whether we have managed to move together, to see whether you have moved down a separate route, or to see whether we have actually made life better for those pupils. All in all, given that we will return, as I say, to fixed-penalty notices, and given that we will return to all 12 of the recommendations in this report, I am pleased that at least 10 of them have been agreed by you. I think that the committee will now be able to go away and revisit its evidence at a later date to see whether we can make that improvement and increase attendance, because that statistic that you cited, that a child with 90% attendance at school misses one year in the whole cycle is quite revealing. To miss a whole year's education is quite damaging to attainment, so we will return to that point. I thank Members for their contributions this afternoon, and I hope that the Assembly will accept the report.

Ar y cyfan, dengys y dystiolaeth a gawsom bod gwaith i'w wneud o hyd, ac rwy'n falch, Weinidog, eich bod mewn gwirionedd yn parhau i adolygu'r mater. Byddwn ni fel pwyllgor yn dychwelyd at y mater; byddwn yn ystyried argymhellion yr adroddiad hwn cyn diwedd cyfnod y Cynulliad hwn. Mae'n rhywbeth rwy'n teimlo'n gryf iawn y dylai'r pwyllgor ei wneud, sef pan fyddwn yn cynnal ymchwiliadau, y dylem ddychwelyd, ar ôl cyfnod, er mwyn dal y Llywodraeth i gyfrif o ran pa un a ydym wedi llwyddo i symud gyda'n gilydd, er mwyn gweld pa un a ydych yn dilyn llwybr gwahanol, neu er mwyn gweld pa un a ydym wedi llwyddo mewn gwirionedd i wella bywyd y disgyblion hynny. Ar y cyfan, o ystyried y byddwn yn dychwelyd, fel y dywedais, at hysbysiadau cosb benodedig, ac o ystyried y byddwn yn dychwelyd at bob un o'r 12 argymhelliad yn yr adroddiad hwn, rwy'n falch eich bod wedi cytuno ar 10 ohonynt o leiaf. Credaf y bydd y pwyllgor yn awr yn gallu mynd ati ac ailystyried ei dystiolaeth yn ddiweddarach er mwyn gweld pa un a allwn wneud y gwelliant hwnnw a chynyddu lefelau presenoldeb, gan fod yr ystadegyn a ddyfynnwyd gennych, sef bod plentyn â phresenoldeb o 90% yn yr ysgol yn colli blwyddyn yn ystod y cylch cyfan, yn ddadlennol iawn. Mae colli blwyddyn gyfan o addysg yn ddinistriol iawn o ran cyrhaeddiad, felly fe ailystyriwn y pwynt hwnnw. Diolch i'r Aelodau am eu cyfraniadau y prynhawn yma, a gobeithio y gwnaiff y Cynulliad dderbyn yr adroddiad.

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

The proposal is to note the Children and Young People Committee's report. Does any Member object? There is no objection. Therefore, the motion is agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Y cynnig yw nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Nid oes gwrthwynebiad. Felly, derbynnir y cynnig yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 12.36.

Derbyniwyd y cynnig yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 12.36.

Motion agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (David Melding) i'r Gadair am 15:45.

The Deputy Presiding Officer (David Melding) took the Chair at 15:45.

Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig: Datganiad LLywodraeth y DU ar Silk ac Uwchgynhadledd NATO

Welsh Conservatives Debate: The UK Government's Statement on Silk and the NATO Summit

Cynnig NDM5353 William Graham

Motion NDM5353 William Graham

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Yn croesawu cyhoeddiad diweddar Llywodraeth y DU ar yr argymhellion a geir yn Rhan 1 Silk 'Grymuso a Chyfrifoldeb: Pwerau Ariannol i Gryfhau Cymru';

1. Welcomes the UK Government's recent announcement on the recommendations contained within Silk Part 1 'Empowerment and Responsibility: Financial Powers to Strengthen Wales';

2. Yn nodi y dylai cyflwyno Pwerau Benthyca i Lywodraeth Cymru gynorthwyo yn y broses o ddarparu prosiectau seilwaith allweddol ledled Cymru;

2. Notes that the introduction of Borrowing Powers for the Welsh Government should assist in the delivery of key infrastructure projects across Wales;

3. Yn croesawu ymhellach y datganiad y bydd uwchgynhadledd NATO yn cael ei chynnal yng ngwesty'r Celtic Manor yn 2014 ac yn nodi'r manteision economaidd uchel a ddylai ddod i economi Cymru yn sgîl cynnal digwyddiad o'r fath;

3. Further welcomes the statement that the NATO summit will be held at the Celtic Manor in 2014 and recognises the high economic benefit that hosting such an event should have on the Welsh economy;

4. Yn edrych ymlaen at glywed sut y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn defnyddio'r cyfleoedd hyn yn y ffordd orau i Gymru.

4. Looks forward to hearing how the Welsh Government will use these opportunities to best effect for Wales.

15:45

Paul Davies Bywgraffiad Biography

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I am pleased to open the debate on behalf of the Welsh Conservatives and I move the motion tabled in the name of my colleague William Graham.

Rwy'n falch o gael agor y ddadl ar ran y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig a chynigiaf y cynnig a gyflwynwyd yn enw fy nghyd-Aelod William Graham.

Two weeks ago marked an important step forward for Wales and for the Welsh constitutional settlement. I would go so far as to say that this announcement by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister on new financial powers for the National Assembly for Wales was a very historic moment. Members will be fully aware that we, on this side of the Chamber, fully supported the Silk commission part 1 report and its recommendations. I am delighted that all parties in the Chamber have supported the proposals. As I have said before—but it is worth repeating—I am pleased that the Silk commission has largely supported the views of the Welsh Conservative Assembly group, as it reflects the paper that we submitted to the commission last year. I am also pleased that the UK Government has made it absolutely clear that a full response to all 33 recommendations will be made before the end of the year.

Bythefnos yn ôl gwelwyd cam pwysig ymlaen i Gymru ac i'r setliad cyfansoddiadol yng Nghymru. Awn mor bell â dweud bod y cyhoeddiad hwn gan Brif Weinidog a Dirprwy Brif Weinidog y DU ynglŷn â phwerau ariannol newydd i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn foment hanesyddol iawn. Bydd Aelodau yn gwbl ymwybodol inni, ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr, gefnogi adroddiad rhan 1 comisiwn Silk a'i argymhellion yn llawn. Rwy'n falch iawn bod pob plaid yn y Siambr wedi cefnogi'r cynigion. Fel yr wyf wedi dweud o'r blaen—ond mae'n werth ei ailadrodd—rwy'n falch bod comisiwn Silk wedi cefnogi barn grŵp y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn y Cynulliad i raddau helaeth, gan ei fod yn adlewyrchu'r papur a gyflwynwyd gennym i'r comisiwn y llynedd. Rwyf hefyd yn falch bod Llywodraeth y DU wedi ei gwneud yn gwbl glir y bydd ymateb llawn i bob un o'r 33 o argymhellion cyn diwedd y flwyddyn.

So, what does the announcement two weeks ago mean for us here in Wales? Landfill tax and stamp duty will be devolved, and the aggregates levy could be devolved in the future once state-aid-rules issues have been resolved in the European courts. The UK Government has also made it clear that there will be a new UK Bill that will give permission to hold a referendum on the devolution of income tax. Together, these taxes will raise billions of pounds every year and will give the Welsh Government major levers to promote growth and jobs in our economy. These taxes will make the Welsh Government fully accountable and responsible for the first time for raising a proportion of what it spends. Surely, it has to be right that the Welsh Government is more financially accountable to the people whom it serves.

Felly, beth mae'r cyhoeddiad bythefnos yn ôl yn ei olygu i ni yma yng Nghymru? Bydd y dreth tirlenwi a'r dreth stamp yn cael eu datganoli, a gallai'r ardoll agregau gael ei datganoli yn y dyfodol o bosibl pan fydd y materion o ran y rheolau cymorth gwladwriaethol wedi cael eu datrys yn y llysoedd Ewropeaidd. Mae Llywodraeth y DU hefyd wedi ei gwneud yn glir y bydd Bil newydd gan Lywodraeth y DU a fydd yn rhoi caniatâd i gynnal refferendwm ar ddatganoli treth incwm. Gyda'i gilydd, bydd y trethi hyn yn codi biliynau o bunnoedd bob blwyddyn a bydd yn rhoi ysgogwyr mawr i Lywodraeth Cymru i hyrwyddo twf a swyddi yn ein heconomi. Bydd y trethi hyn yn gwneud Llywodraeth Cymru yn llwyr atebol a chyfrifol am y tro cyntaf am godi cyfran o'r hyn y mae'n ei wario. Yn sicr, mae'n rhaid ei bod yn iawn bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn fwy atebol yn ariannol i'r bobl y mae'n eu gwasanaethu.

The Conservative-led coalition Government is clearly delivering for the people of Wales: it is only because of this Conservative-led coalition Government that we have had a referendum on full law-making powers; it is only because of this Conservative-led coalition Government that the Silk commission was established; and it is only because of this Conservative-led coalition Government that we now have an agreement on the devolution of taxation powers, along with income tax-varying powers, subject to the will of the people of Wales. That is this UK coalition Government delivering for the people of Wales.

Mae'r Llywodraeth glymblaid o dan arweiniad y Ceidwadwyr yn amlwg yn cyflawni dros bobl Cymru: dim ond oherwydd y Llywodraeth glymblaid hon o dan arweiniad y Ceidwadwyr y cawsom refferendwm ar bwerau deddfu llawn; dim ond oherwydd y Llywodraeth glymblaid o dan arweiniad y Ceidwadwyr y sefydlwyd comisiwn Silk, a dim ond oherwydd y Llywodraeth glymblaid o dan arweiniad y Ceidwadwyr y cawn gytundeb bellach ar ddatganoli pwerau trethi, ynghyd â phwerau amrywio trethi incwm, yn amodol ar ewyllys pobl Cymru. Dyma Lywodraeth glymblaid y DU yn cyflawni dros bobl Cymru.

15:48

Leighton Andrews Bywgraffiad Biography

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Would the Member like to tell us today whether he expects the Conservative-led Government to impose a sunset clause on any referendum on income tax powers?

A hoffai'r Aelod ddweud wrthym heddiw a yw'n disgwyl i'r Llywodraeth a arweinir gan y Ceidwadwyr osod cymal machlud ar unrhyw refferendwm ar bwerau treth incwm?

15:48

Paul Davies Bywgraffiad Biography

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The Member is fully aware that these issues will be dealt with in the very near future and it will become clearer, of course, when the UK Government announces its Bill.

Mae'r Aelod yn gwbl ymwybodol y bydd y materion hyn yn cael eu trin yn y dyfodol agos iawn, a daw yn gliriach, wrth gwrs, pan fydd Llywodraeth y DU yn cyhoeddi ei Bil.

In point 2 of our motion, we note that the introduction of borrowing powers for the Welsh Government should assist in the delivery of key infrastructure projects across Wales. The devolution of some taxation powers, together with the ability to borrow, will give the Welsh Government greater economic levers to make Wales a more attractive place in which to do business, and it will provide the Government with the ability to fund major infrastructure projects. Borrowing powers, in particular, are an important economic lever that can make a real difference to the Welsh economy. This is an essential financing tool that has the backing not only of the political parties and the Silk commission: 80% of Welsh people support the devolution of borrowing powers too.

Ym mhwynt 2 o'n cynnig, nodwn y dylai'r penderfyniad i gyflwyno pwerau benthyca i Lywodraeth Cymru helpu i gyflawni prosiectau seilwaith allweddol ledled Cymru. Bydd datganoli rhai pwerau trethu, ynghyd â'r gallu i fenthyca, yn rhoi mwy o ysgogwyr economaidd i Lywodraeth Cymru er mwyn gwneud Cymru yn lle mwy deniadol i gynnal busnes, a thrwy hynny bydd y Llywodraeth yn gallu ariannu prosiectau seilwaith mawr. Mae pwerau benthyca, yn arbennig, yn ysgogydd economaidd pwysig a all wneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol i economi Cymru. Mae hwn yn adnodd ariannu hanfodol a gefnogwyd nid yn unig gan y pleidiau gwleidyddol a chomisiwn Silk: mae 80% o bobl Cymru yn cefnogi datganoli pwerau benthyca hefyd.

As the First Minister noted last week,

Fel y nododd y Prif Weinidog yr wythnos diwethaf,

'it is especially welcome that the UK Government has now agreed to early borrowing powers in order to support an enhancement of the M4 in the south-east.'

rhaid croesawu'n arbennig y ffaith bod Llywodraeth y DU bellach wedi cytuno i bwerau benthyca cynnar er mwyn cefnogi gwelliant i'r M4 yn y de-ddwyrain.

As I understand it, a consultation on the M4 scheme is currently under way, but there is no doubt that borrowing powers will have a significant impact on the affordability of this scheme. I very much hope that, once the Welsh Government receives these substantive powers, it will use them effectively and will also ensure that it considers using them on other projects, as well as improvements to the M4, so that the Welsh economy as a whole will benefit. Indeed, yesterday in the Chamber the First Minister made this commitment—he confirmed that the Welsh Government will consider using borrowing powers to fund other strategic important projects across Wales. On a personal note, I look forward to the day when he announces that he will consider using borrowing powers to even dual the A40 in Pembrokeshire.

Yn ôl a ddeallaf, mae ymgynghoriad ar gynllun yr M4 yn mynd rhagddo ar hyn o bryd, ond nid oes amheuaeth na fydd pwerau benthyca yn cael effaith sylweddol ar fforddiadwyedd y cynllun hwn. Gobeithiaf yn fawr, unwaith y caiff Llywodraeth Cymru y pwerau sylweddol hyn, y bydd yn eu defnyddio'n effeithiol a bydd hefyd yn sicrhau ei bod yn ystyried eu defnyddio ar brosiectau eraill, yn ogystal â gwelliannau i'r M4, fel bod economi Cymru yn ei chyfanrwydd ar ei hennill. Yn wir, ddoe yn y Siambr gwnaeth y Prif Weinidog yr ymrwymiad hwn—cadarnhaodd y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn ystyried defnyddio pwerau benthyca i ariannu prosiectau strategol pwysig eraill ledled Cymru. Ar nodyn personol, edrychaf ymlaen at y dydd pan fydd yn cyhoeddi y bydd yn ystyried defnyddio pwerau benthyca hyd yn oed i ddeuoli'r A40 yn Sir Benfro.

Obviously, being given borrowing powers means that there needs to be a revenue stream in place to pay the money back, as many in this Chamber have understandably argued. Therefore I am pleased that the UK Government has committed to devolving some of the taxes that I have already talked about. I am sure we would all agree with the Silk Commission report when it states that:

Yn amlwg, o gael pwerau benthyca mae'n golygu bod angen ffrwd refeniw ar waith i ad-dalu'r arian, gan fod llawer yn y Siambr hon wedi dadlau o'i blaid a hynny'n ddealladwy. Felly, rwy'n falch bod Llywodraeth y DU wedi ymrwymo i ddatganoli rhai o'r trethi yr wyf eisoes wedi sôn amdanynt. Rwy'n siŵr y byddem oll yn cytuno ag adroddiad Comisiwn Silk pan noda:

'The autonomy to vary a particular tax can be an effective policy lever to achieve a defined devolved policy outcome.'

y gall yr ymreolaeth i amrywio treth benodol fod yn ysgogydd polisi effeithiol i gyflawni canlyniad polisi datganoledig diffiniedig.

Clearly the policy of devolving power over setting income tax to the National Assembly will ensure financial responsibility. I accept that some will have difficulty with this proposal, but, as I am a Conservative, it will come as no surprise to you that I believe in financial accountability and financial responsibility, and I therefore see huge benefits to such a proposal. Of course, the devolution of income tax will be subject to a referendum, and, given that this is a fundamental proposed change, I very much accept that the devolution of varying income tax should be subject to a referendum in Wales, as confirmed in the Silk report.

Yn amlwg, bydd y polisi o ddatganoli pŵer dros bennu treth incwm i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol sicrhau cyfrifoldeb ariannol. Derbyniaf y bydd rhai yn cael anhawster â'r cynnig hwn, ond, a minnau'n Geidwadol, ni fydd yn syndod ichi glywed fy mod yn credu mewn atebolrwydd ariannol a chyfrifoldeb ariannol, ac felly gwelaf fod i gynnig o'r fath fanteision enfawr. Wrth gwrs, bydd datganoli treth incwm yn amodol ar refferendwm, ac, o ystyried bod hwn yn newid arfaethedig sylfaenol, derbyniaf yn llwyr y dylai datganoli pwerau i amrywio treth incwm fod yn amodol ar refferendwm yng Nghymru, fel y'i cadarnhawyd yn adroddiad Silk.

However, I hope that the Welsh Government will not use the Barnett formula as an excuse not to hold this referendum, because it seems to me that the Welsh Government is already being negative about the possibility of being given responsibility over income tax-varying powers. The Welsh Government should be positive about this matter. It needs to be more ambitious, unless, of course, it is anxious about being financially responsible and accountable to the people of Wales.

Fodd bynnag, gobeithio na fydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn defnyddio fformiwla Barnett fel esgus i beidio â chynnal y refferendwm hwn, oherwydd ymddengys imi fod Llywodraeth Cymru eisoes wedi bod yn negyddol am y posibilrwydd o gael y cyfrifoldeb dros bwerau i amrywio trethi incwm. Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru fod yn gadarnhaol ynghylch y mater hwn. Mae angen iddi fod yn fwy uchelgeisiol, oni bai, wrth gwrs, ei bod yn bryderus ynglŷn â bod yn gyfrifol ac yn atebol yn ariannol i bobl Cymru.

We have made it absolutely clear on this side of the Chamber—indeed, David Cameron and George Osborne have made it absolutely clear—that the Barnett formula has come to the end of its life. The UK Government has said that it will look to reform the Barnett formula when the economy has fully recovered. This is a very sensible position, but there is no reason for the referendum not to be held; in fact, there is every reason why it should be held in accordance with the timetable set out in the Silk report. We on this side of the Chamber will certainly be campaigning for a 'yes' vote in that referendum to make sure that the Welsh Government is given that empowerment and responsibility. I hope that all other parties in this Chamber will campaign for that 'yes' vote.

Rydym wedi ei gwneud yn gwbl glir ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr—yn wir, mae David Cameron a George Osborne wedi ei gwneud yn gwbl glir—bod fformiwla Barnett wedi dod i ddiwedd ei oes. Mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi dweud y bydd yn ystyried diwygio fformiwla Barnett pan fydd yr economi wedi gwella'n llwyr. Mae hwn yn safbwynt synhwyrol iawn, ond nid oes unrhyw reswm dros beidio â chynnal refferendwm; yn wir, mae pob rheswm da pam y dylid ei gynnal yn unol â'r amserlen a nodwyd yn adroddiad Silk. Byddwn ni ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr yn sicr yn ymgyrchu dros bleidlais 'ie' yn y refferendwm hwnnw i wneud yn siŵr bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn cael y grym a'r cyfrifoldeb hwnnw. Gobeithio y bydd pob plaid arall yn y Siambr hon yn ymgyrchu dros y bleidlais 'ie'.

15:52

Simon Thomas Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank the Member for giving way. I will certainly join him in that campaign, but would he also agree with me that a positive side of the devolution of income tax to this Chamber and to the Welsh Government would be to actually make borrowing cheaper for the Welsh Government, as the markets would see that as a sign of fiscal accountability and of the ability to have an income stream?

Diolch i'r Aelod am ildio. Byddaf yn sicr yn ymuno ag ef yn yr ymgyrch honno, ond a fyddai hefyd yn cytuno â mi mai un ochr gadarnhaol i ddatganoli treth incwm i'r Siambr hon ac i Lywodraeth Cymru fyddai y byddai'n gwneud benthyca'n rhatach i Lywodraeth Cymru mewn gwirionedd, gan y byddai'r marchnadoedd yn gweld hynny fel arwydd o atebolrwydd ariannol a'r gallu i gael ffrwd incwm?

15:53

Paul Davies Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I very much understand the point that the Member is making.

Deallaf yn llwyr y pwynt y mae'r Aelod yn ei wneud.

The third point in our motion refers to the statement that the NATO summit will be held at the Celtic Manor Resort in 2014, and recognises the high economic benefit that hosting such an event should have for the Welsh economy. I understand that last year's summit in Chicago was expected to inject $123 million into the city's economy, and I hope that Wales can fully capitalise on next year's summit, given the clear benefits to a city like Chicago. Of course, there will be up to 60 world leaders in attendance, and I am sure that we all welcome the fact that Wales will once again be playing a prominent role on the world stage. The summit is also likely to see 1,500 journalists descend on Wales from around the world, which will be a huge boost to the economy. It is therefore important for the Welsh Government to now market Wales appropriately. It is absolutely crucial that Wales as a whole benefits from the staging of such a summit. We need to see all regions of Wales benefitting from such an important meeting. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase what Wales has to offer the international community. Therefore, it is essential that the Welsh Government is proactive in planning around the summit to ensure that the opportunity to promote Wales is maximised. It must capitalise on the extra numbers of people who will visit Wales, as well as the business opportunities that may arise from it.

Mae'r trydydd pwynt yn ein cynnig yn cyfeirio at y datganiad y bydd uwchgynhadledd NATO yn cael ei chynnal yng Ngwesty'r Celtic Manor yn 2014, ac yn cydnabod y manteision economaidd mawr i economi Cymru yn sgil cynnal digwyddiad o'r fath. Caf ar ddeall bod disgwyl i'r uwchgynhadledd y llynedd yn Chicago chwistrellu $123 miliwn i mewn i economi'r ddinas, a gobeithio y gall Cymru fanteisio'n llawn ar yr uwchgynhadledd y flwyddyn nesaf, o ystyried y manteision amlwg i ddinas fel Chicago. Wrth gwrs, bydd hyd at 60 o arweinwyr y byd yn bresennol, ac rwy'n siŵr ein bod i gyd yn croesawu'r ffaith y bydd Cymru unwaith eto yn chwarae rhan flaenllaw ar lwyfan y byd. Mae'r uwchgynhadledd yn debygol o weld 1,500 o newyddiadurwyr yn dod i Gymru o bob cwr o'r byd, a fydd yn hwb enfawr i'r economi hefyd. Mae'n bwysig, felly, i Lywodraeth Cymru yn awr farchnata Cymru yn briodol. Mae'n gwbl hanfodol bod Cymru gyfan yn cael budd o lwyfannu uwchgynhadledd o'r fath. Mae angen inni weld pob rhanbarth o Gymru yn cael budd o gyfarfod mor bwysig. Mae'n gyfle gwych i arddangos yr hyn sydd gan Gymru i'w gynnig i'r gymuned ryngwladol. Felly, mae'n hanfodol bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn mynd ati i gynllunio o amgylch yr uwchgynhadledd er mwyn sicrhau ei bod yn manteisio ar y cyfle i hyrwyddo Cymru i'r eithaf. Rhaid iddi fanteisio ar y nifer ychwanegol o bobl a fydd yn ymweld â Chymru, yn ogystal â'r cyfleoedd busnes a all ddeillio o'r uwchgynhadledd.

To close, our motion seeks to celebrate the recent historic UK Government announcement in relation to tax-varying and borrowing powers, and to welcome the news that the 2014 NATO summit will be held here in Wales. This is an exciting time for Wales, and I hope that the Welsh Government will continue to work constructively with the UK Government to implement the UK Government's recent announcement on the recommendations contained within the Silk part 1 report. I also hope that the Government will be taking advantage of next year's summit, and that plans are being put in place immediately to strategically market Wales on the international stage.

I gloi, mae ein cynnig yn ceisio dathlu'r cyhoeddiad hanesyddol diweddar gan Lywodraeth y DU mewn perthynas ag amrywio trethi a phwerau benthyca, ac i groesawu'r newyddion y bydd uwchgynhadledd 2014 NATO yn cael ei chynnal yma yng Nghymru. Mae hwn yn amser cyffrous i Gymru, a gobeithio y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn parhau i weithio'n adeiladol gyda Llywodraeth y DU i weithredu cyhoeddiad diweddar Llywodraeth y DU ar yr argymhellion a geir yn adroddiad rhan 1 Silk. Gobeithiaf hefyd y bydd y Llywodraeth yn manteisio ar uwchgynhadledd y flwyddyn nesaf, a bod y cynlluniau yn cael eu rhoi ar waith ar unwaith i farchnata Cymru yn strategol ar y llwyfan rhyngwladol.

I look forward to hearing contributions from Members of all parties on these announcements and I urge Members to support our motion this afternoon.

Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed cyfraniadau gan Aelodau o bob plaid ar y cyhoeddiadau hyn ac hoffwn annog yr Aelodau i gefnogi ein cynnig y prynhawn yma.

15:55

Leighton Andrews Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I will start by saying that I have no problem in supporting the motion today. I welcome the announcements that have been made. I certainly welcome the announcement, for example, that the NATO summit will be held in Newport, alongside those other announcements in relation to Silk that are mentioned in the motion.

Rwyf am ddechrau drwy ddweud nad oes gennyf unrhyw broblem o ran cefnogi'r cynnig heddiw. Croesawaf y cyhoeddiadau sydd wedi cael eu gwneud. Yn sicr, croesawaf y cyhoeddiad, er enghraifft, y bydd uwchgynhadledd NATO yn cael ei chynnal yng Nghasnewydd, ochr yn ochr â'r cyhoeddiadau eraill hynny mewn perthynas â Silk y cyfeirir atynt yn y cynnig.

However, I do think that there are some questions that we need to tease out—those of us who are committed to devolution, have campaigned for devolution in the past, and want to see devolution thrive. There has been a series of stories in the media over the last week or so—on ITV, on the BBC and in the 'Western Mail'—to suggest that any legislation that would convey the mechanism of calling a referendum on this National Assembly would be circumscribed by a sunset clause, meaning that that power to call a referendum would have to be used within a certain timescale. I have to say that I think it would be something of a constitutional outrage if that Westminster legislation determined that that referendum had to be executed by a certain date; I think that should be a matter for this National Assembly to determine.

Fodd bynnag, credaf fod rhai cwestiynau'n codi y mae angen inni roi sylw iddynt—y rhai ohonom sy'n ymrwymedig i ddatganoli, ar ôl ymgyrchu dros ddatganoli yn y gorffennol, ac sy'n awyddus i weld datganoli yn ffynnu. Bu cyfres o straeon yn y cyfryngau yn ystod yr wythnos ddiwethaf neu ddwy—ar ITV, ar y BBC ac yn y 'Western Mail'—yn awgrymu y byddai unrhyw ddeddfwriaeth a fyddai'n cyfleu'r ffordd y câi refferendwm ar y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol hwn ei alw yn cynnwys cymal machlud, sy'n golygu y byddai'n rhaid i'r pŵer hwnnw i alw refferendwm gael ei ddefnyddio o fewn terfyn amser penodol. Rhaid imi ddweud fy mod yn credu y byddai'n warth cyfansoddiadol pe ba'r ddeddfwriaeth honno gan San Steffan yn penderfynu bod yn rhaid i refferendwm gael ei gynnal erbyn dyddiad penodol; credaf mai'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ddylai benderfynu ar hynny.

Clearly, the opposition spokesperson does not know whether there is going to be a sunset clause. There did seem to be significant hints by a Liberal Democrat Minister in the coalition Government on ITV last week. It will be interesting to see whether anyone else can clarify that.

Yn amlwg, nid yw llefarydd yr wrthblaid yn gwybod a fydd cymal machlud. Ymddengys bod awgrymiadau cryf gan un o Weinidogion y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn y Llywodraeth glymblaid ar ITV yr wythnos diwethaf. Bydd yn ddiddorol gweld a all unrhyw un arall roi eglurhad ynglŷn â hynny.

There is also the question, it seems to me, of whether we are actually going to get, in respect of income tax, what Silk recommends in respect of the power to vary increases or decreases in rates between different rates, or only what Scotland currently has and has never used. I think, again, that is something else that we need to have answers on.

Cyfyd y cwestiwn hefyd, yr ymddengys imi, ynghylch a fyddwn yn cael yr hyn a argymhellwyd gan Silk mewn perthynas â threth incwm mewn gwirionedd o ran y pŵer i amrywio cynnydd neu ostyngiad mewn cyfraddau rhwng cyfraddau gwahanol, neu dim ond yr hyn sydd gan yr Alban ar hyn o bryd ac nad yw erioed wedi'i ddefnyddio. Credaf, unwaith eto, fod hynny'n rhywbeth arall y mae angen inni gael atebion iddo.

Silk does lay down the timetable, but it also says that the question of fair funding should be resolved in advance of tax-varying powers. We know that the Conservatives will campaign in the referendum for a 'yes' vote, and I think that they have been fairly clear that they would campaign for income tax powers in order to reduce the rates of income tax. I do not intend, in current circumstances, to take part in a referendum campaign, but I do have questions for those parties that do. I would like to know, for example, what the position of Plaid Cymru would be in that referendum campaign.

Mae Silk yn nodi'r amserlen, ond dywed hefyd y dylid ateb y cwestiwn o ran ariannu teg cyn datganoli pwerau i amrywio trethi. Gwyddom y bydd y Ceidwadwyr yn ymgyrchu dros bleidlais 'ie' yn y refferendwm, a chredaf eu bod wedi bod yn weddol glir y byddent yn ymgyrchu dros bwerau treth incwm er mwyn lleihau cyfraddau treth incwm. Ni fwriadaf, o dan yr amgylchiadau presennol, gymryd rhan mewn ymgyrch refferendwm, ond mae gennyf gwestiynau i'r pleidiau hynny sy'n gwneud hynny. Hoffwn wybod, er enghraifft, beth fyddai safbwynt Plaid Cymru yn yr ymgyrch refferendwm honno.

15:58 **Nick Ramsay** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Will you give way?

A wnewch chi ildio?

15:58 **Leighton Andrews** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

In a moment. The leader of Plaid Cymru, speaking on the BBC last week, said that, if you have income tax raising powers, there is a direct reason, a direct incentive, to create jobs, et cetera. Now, you have the Conservatives talking about campaigning in a referendum campaign to reduce income tax, and you have Plaid Cymru talking about campaigning in the referendum to increase income tax. [Interruption.] Well, the Leader of Plaid Cymru said 'tax raising powers'.

Mewn eiliad. Dywedodd arweinydd Plaid Cymru, yn siarad ar y BBC yr wythnos diwethaf, os oes gennych bwerau codi treth, fod rheswm uniongyrchol, cymhelliant uniongyrchol, i greu swyddi, ac ati. Bellach, mae'r Ceidwadwyr yn sôn am ymgyrchu mewn ymgyrch refferendwm i leihau'r dreth incwm, ac mae Plaid Cymru yn sôn am ymgyrchu yn y refferendwm i gynyddu treth incwm. [Torri ar draws.] Wel, dywedodd Arweinydd Plaid Cymru 'bwerau codi treth'.

I do not know how you run a united 'yes' campaign in a referendum like that. What I have to say to colleagues—particularly colleagues, let me say, who I know are genuinely committed to the advancement of devolution—is that I think that a defeat in a referendum on this issue would be the most serious setback for devolution since 1979. I will give way to Nick Ramsay.

Ni wn sut y byddwch yn cynnal ymgyrch 'ie' unedig mewn refferendwm felly. Yr hyn sy'n rhaid imi ei ddweud wrth gyd-Aelodau—yn enwedig cyd-Aelodau, gadewch imi ddweud, sydd, fe wn, yn wirioneddol ymrwymedig i ddatblygu datganoli—yw fy mod yn credu mai colli refferendwm ar y mater hwn fyddai'r ergyd fwyaf difrifol i ddatganoli ers 1979. Ildiaf i Nick Ramsay.

15:59

Nick Ramsay Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv
Fideo Video

Thank you very much for giving way. If it is such an impediment to tax-raising powers that the funding formula for Wales needs to be made fairer, then do you regret the fact that the Labour Party, in over a decade in power in Westminster, never gave Wales the sort of fairer funding formula that you now say is so essential?

Diolch yn fawr am ildio. Os yw'n gymaint o rwystr i bwerau codi trethi fel bod angen gwneud y fformiwla ariannu i Gymru yn decach, yna a ydych yn gresynu at y ffaith na wnaeth y Blaid Lafur, mewn dros ddegawd mewn grym yn San Steffan, roi i Gymru y fath fformiwla decach sydd mor hanfodol erbyn hyn, meddech chi?

15:59

Leighton Andrews Bywgraffiad Biography

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I think that devolution has developed over time. We are in an entirely different world. I would also remind the Member, of course, that the Scottish Government has had that power since 1999 and has never used it. I repeat my point that I do not believe that a divided 'yes' campaign could win that referendum. I will not be taking part in that referendum campaign in current circumstances. I would not endorse the call for that referendum in current circumstances, and I do not believe that our constituents would vote 'yes' in that referendum in current circumstances.

Credaf fod datganoli wedi datblygu dros amser. Rydym mewn sefyllfa hollol wahanol Hoffwn hefyd atgoffa'r Aelod, wrth gwrs, fod y pŵer hwnnw gan Lywodraeth yr Alban ers 1999 ac nad yw erioed wedi ei ddefnyddio. Dywedaf eto na chredaf y gallai ymgyrch 'ie' ranedig ennill y refferendwm hwnnw. Ni fyddaf yn cymryd rhan yn yr ymgyrch refferendwm honno o dan yr amgylchiadau presennol. Ni fyddwn yn cefnogi'r alwad am y refferendwm hwnnw o dan yr amgylchiadau presennol, ac ni chredaf y byddai ein hetholwyr yn pleidleisio 'ie' yn y refferendwm hwnnw o dan yr amgylchiadau presennol.

16:00

Mark Isherwood Bywgraffiad Biography

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While the Welsh Conservatives have campaigned for the implementation of the recommendations in part 1 of the Silk commission's report on empowerment and responsibility, and while we recognise and welcome the UK Government's announcement on these recommendations, it is vital that implementation is used to bridge rather than accentuate the perceived north-south divide.

Er bod y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig wedi ymgyrchu dros weithredu'r argymhellion yn rhan 1 o adroddiad comisiwn Silk ar rymuso a chyfrifoldeb, ac er ein bod yn cydnabod ac yn croesawu cyhoeddiad Llywodraeth y DU ar yr argymhellion hyn, mae'n hanfodol eu bod yn cael eu defnyddio i bontio'r rhaniad canfyddedig rhwng y gogledd a'r de yn hytrach na'i dwysáu.

Proposed income taxation-varying powers, subject to approval by the people in a referendum, have been perceived by many in north Wales to mean extra tax on top of the income tax that they already pay to the Treasury. I regret that the First Minister has done little to dispel this fear. The Welsh Government will determine any resulting tax increases or reductions, ending Labour's excuses culture.

Mae canfyddiad gan lawer yn y gogledd y bydd y pwerau arfaethedig i amrywio treth incwm, yn amodol ar gymeradwyaeth y bobl mewn refferendwm, yn golygu treth ychwanegol ar ben y dreth incwm y maent eisoes yn ei dalu i'r Trysorlys. Gresynaf nad yw'r Prif Weinidog wedi gwneud rhyw lawer i chwalu'r ofn hwn. Llywodraeth Cymru fydd yn penderfynu ar unrhyw godiadau neu ostyngiadau treth, gan ddod â diwylliant esgusodion Llafur i ben.

Since devolution, the Labour-led Welsh Government has blown billions of pounds, relegating Wales to the bottom of every league table that matters, showing how easy it is to spend other people's money without the responsibility of raising any of it, and how easy it is to then blame others when it runs out. This First Minister is responsible for the longest whinge in Welsh political history, and it is time to introduce some financial accountability to the people of Wales.

Ers datganoli, mae Llywodraeth Cymru o dan arweiniad Llafur wedi gwastraffu biliynau o bunnoedd, gan roi Cymru ar waelod pob tabl cynghrair sy'n bwysig, gan ddangos pa mor hawdd ydyw gwario arian pobl eraill heb y cyfrifoldeb o godi unrhyw ran ohono, a pha mor hawdd ydyw wedyn i feio eraill pan ddaw i ben. Mae'r Prif Weinidog hwn yn gyfrifol am y gŵyn hwyaf yn hanes gwleidyddol Cymru, ac mae'n bryd cyflwyno rhywfaint o atebolrwydd ariannol i bobl Cymru.

The Welsh Government will also be able to borrow to fund capital investment projects, providing that this is manageable within the UK's macro-economic framework. Again, this makes the Welsh Government financially accountable to the people of Wales, because it is not cost-free. The money must be repaid, and the Welsh Government must not expect the UK Treasury to underwrite it if it pursues the 'borrow, spend, bust and blown' trajectory so familiar elsewhere.

Bydd Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd yn gallu benthyca i ariannu prosiectau buddsoddi cyfalaf, ar yr amod bod hyn yn ymarferol o fewn fframwaith macro-economaidd y DU. Unwaith eto, mae hyn yn gwneud Llywodraeth Cymru yn atebol yn ariannol i bobl Cymru, oherwydd ni fydd am ddim. Rhaid i'r arian gael ei ad-dalu, ac ni ddylai Llywodraeth Cymru ddisgwyl i Drysorlys y DU ei warantu os bydd yn dilyn y llwybr 'benthyca, gwario, chwalu a gwastraffu' sydd mor gyfarwydd mewn mannau eraill.

Concern is being expressed in north Wales that a Cardiff-centric Welsh Government would use borrowing powers to the overwhelming benefit of south Wales, while expecting the whole of Wales to pay. I echo the call of my colleague the Liberal Democrat Aled Roberts from north Wales for politicians in north Wales to work together to ensure that our region does not lose out in new tax and borrowing powers, and to champion the investment needed in key infrastructure projects in north Wales.

Mynegir pryder yn y gogledd y byddai Llywodraeth Cymru sy'n canolbwyntio ar Gaerdydd yn defnyddio'r pwerau benthyca er budd y de i raddau helaeth, a disgwyl i Gymru gyfan dalu. Ategaf yr alwad gan fy nghyd-Aelod, y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Aled Roberts o'r gogledd i wleidyddion yn y gogledd gydweithio i sicrhau nad yw ein rhanbarth ar ei golled os bydd pwerau treth a benthyca newydd, ac i hyrwyddo'r buddsoddiad sydd ei angen mewn prosiectau seilwaith allweddol yn y gogledd.

Successive Welsh Government decisions over many years have made the north Wales public question whether it is receiving a fair share of funding. This has not been helped by recent announcements. Last month, the Minister for Finance, Jane Hutt, announced additional money for capital projects resulting from the UK Chancellor's budget, but just 11% of the money for improving transport networks went to north Wales. Although the Welsh Government eventually announced funding to redouble the rail line between Wrexham and Saltney, which is essential to the economy of north Wales, the region will have to wait until spring 2015 for this to go ahead, when Network Rail said that it was ready to go ahead last month following final approval from the Welsh Government, which never came. The Welsh Government decision to massively cut voluntary sector funding in north Wales, while increasing it in Cardiff, Swansea and Newport, has also reinforced a sense of regional injustice.

Mae penderfyniadau olynol Llywodraeth Cymru dros flynyddoedd lawer wedi peri i'r cyhoedd yn y gogledd amau a yw'n derbyn cyfran deg o'r cyllid. Nid yw cyhoeddiadau diweddar wedi helpu yn hyn o beth. Fis diwethaf, cyhoeddodd y Gweinidog Cyllid, Jane Hutt, arian ychwanegol ar gyfer prosiectau cyfalaf sy'n deillio o gyllideb Canghellor y DU, ond dim ond 11% o'r arian ar gyfer gwella rhwydweithiau trafnidiaeth a ddyrannwyd i'r gogledd. Er i Lywodraeth Cymru gyhoeddi cyllid yn y pen draw i ailddyblu'r rheilffordd rhwng Wrecsam a Saltney, sy'n hanfodol i economi'r gogledd, bydd yn rhaid i'r rhanbarth aros tan wanwyn 2015 cyn bod hyn yn mynd yn ei flaen, er i Network Rail ddweud ei fod yn barod i ddechrau fis diwethaf yn dilyn cymeradwyaeth derfynol Llywodraeth Cymru, nas rhoddwyd byth. Mae penderfyniad Llywodraeth Cymru i dorri cyllid y sector gwirfoddol yn y gogledd ar raddfa enfawr, ond ei gynyddu yng Nghaerdydd, Abertawe a Chasnewydd, hefyd wedi atgyfnerthu ymdeimlad o anghyfiawnder rhanbarthol.

The letter on 20 August from the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister to the First Minister stated that the committee recognises

Nododd y llythyr a anfonwyd at y Prif Weinidog gan y Pwyllgor Craffu ar Waith y Prif Weinidog ar 20 Awst fod y pwyllgor yn cydnabod

'the importance of strengthening the infrastructure of Wales as a cohesive unit to enhance its economic competitiveness. It is imperative that north Wales is a full participant in the country's economic growth'.

pwysigrwydd cryfhau seilwaith Cymru fel uned gydlynol i wella ei chystadleurwydd economaidd. Mae'n hanfodol bod gogledd Cymru yn cymryd rhan lawn yn nhwf economaidd y wlad.

What the north Wales economy urgently needs is delivery to help create the conditions in which businesses can prosper and create new jobs.

Yr hyn sydd ei angen ar fyrder ar economi'r gogledd yw cyflawni er mwyn helpu i greu'r amodau lle gall busnesau ffynnu a chreu swyddi newydd.

While this Labour Government is very good at spending other people's money, its record on successfully completing road and rail projects on time and on budget, and on upgrades to schools and hospitals, is hardly enviable. The Silk commission proposed that Welsh Government borrowing be capped at £1.3 billion, and if this was used to finance a £1 billion M4 relief road, it would be at a cost elsewhere. The A55 is the main route across north Wales, but it is only a dual carriageway without a hard shoulder, and there are almost daily issues with the road. Only last week, three separate collisions within minutes caused over three hours of delay on the A55 between St Asaph and Abergele, hitting business, tourism and domestic travellers. As my colleague Antoinette Sandbach said in the Environment and Sustainability Committee last week, there is very strong evidence that the current option being consulted on ignores the best value for money option, and that the current Welsh Government proposals will mean that infrastructure projects in north Wales will be adversely affected. Let us take note.

Er bod y Llywodraeth Lafur hon yn un dda iawn am wario arian pobl eraill, prin y gellir canmol ei record o ran cwblhau prosiectau ffyrdd a rheilffyrdd yn llwyddiannus ac ar amser ac o fewn y gyllideb, ac uwchraddio ysgolion ac ysbytai. Cynigiodd comisiwn Silk y dylid rhoi cap o £1.3 biliwn ar fenthyca Llywodraeth Cymru, a phe châi hyn ei ddefnyddio i ariannu ffordd liniaru i'r M4 sy'n costio £1 biliwn, byddai hynny ar draul rhywle arall. Yr A55 yw'r prif lwybr ar draws y gogledd, ond dim ond ffordd ddeuol heb lain galed ydyw, ac mae problemau ar y ffordd bron yn ddyddiol. Dim ond yr wythnos diwethaf, cafwyd tri gwrthdrawiad ar wahân o fewn munudau a arweiniodd at oedi o fwy na thair awr ar yr A55 rhwng Llanelwy ac Abergele, gan effeithio ar fusnesau, twristiaeth a theithwyr lleol. Fel y dywedodd fy nghyd-Aelod Antoinette Sandbach yn y Pwyllgor Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd yr wythnos diwethaf, ceir tystiolaeth gref iawn bod yr opsiwn presennol yr ymgynghorir yn ei gylch yn anwybyddu'r opsiwn gwerth am arian gorau, ac y bydd cynigion presennol Llywodraeth Cymru yn golygu y bydd effaith andwyol ar brosiectau seilwaith yn y gogledd. Gadewch inni nodi hynny.

16:05 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Plaid Cymru will also support the motion today. We support it in the spirit in which it has been moved and in taking forward some of the important debates that we need to have within Wales now.

Bydd Plaid Cymru hefyd yn cefnogi'r cynnig heddiw. Rydym yn ei gefnogi yn yr ysbryd y'i cyflwynwyd ac er mwyn bwrw ymlaen â rhai o'r dadleuon pwysig y mae angen inni eu cynnal yng Nghymru bellach.

May I say, first, that we will also support the part of the motion that particularly refers to the NATO summit? Plaid Cymru's policy views on NATO, I think, are well known. However, it is important that Wales shows itself and demonstrates that we can give a warm Welsh welcome to international summits of all kinds and that, in time, we show that we can do it in places other than just the Celtic Manor. There are other places in Wales that could be very good for international conferences as well. However, we will welcome that, and we will work with it. I am sure that there will be protests there as well—it is all part of the democratic system—but it is important that we demonstrate that Wales has a view and a voice in the world and that summits like this can come to Wales and can take place successfully in Wales.

A gaf ddweud, yn gyntaf, y byddwn hefyd yn cefnogi'r rhan o'r cynnig sy'n cyfeirio'n benodol at uwchgynhadledd NATO? Mae safbwyntiau polisi Plaid Cymru ar NATO, yn hysbys iawn, fe gredaf. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig bod Cymru yn dangos ei hun ac yn dangos ein bod yn gallu rhoi croeso cynnes i uwchgynadleddau rhyngwladol o bob math, a'n bod yn dangos, dros amser, y gallwn wneud hynny mewn mannau eraill heblaw am Westy'r Celtic Manor. Mae lleoedd eraill yng Nghymru a allai fod yn lleoliadau da iawn ar gyfer cynadleddau rhyngwladol hefyd. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn croesawu hynny, a byddwn yn gweithio gyda hi. Rwy'n siŵr y bydd protestiadau yno hefyd—mae hyn i gyd yn rhan o'r system ddemocrataidd—ond mae'n bwysig ein bod yn dangos bod gan Gymru farn a llais yn y byd, ac y gall uwchgynadleddau fel hon ddod i Gymru a chael ei chynnal yn llwyddiannus yng Nghymru.

The meat of the motion, however, revolves around Silk and how we now develop further. We welcome the UK Government's announcements to date. We think that there are interim announcements; we are still waiting for the full package, of course. However, we recognise that what Silk part 1 delivers is financial accountability and further responsibility in Wales. We want that to happen. That is part of growing up and maturing as a democracy.

Fodd bynnag, mae sylwedd y cynnig yn ymwneud â Silk a sut rydym yn awr yn datblygu ymhellach. Rydym yn croesawu cyhoeddiadau Llywodraeth y DU hyd yn hyn. Credwn mai cyhoeddiadau dros dro ydynt; rydym yn dal i aros am y pecyn llawn, wrth gwrs. Fodd bynnag, rydym yn cydnabod mai'r hyn y mae Silk rhan 1 yn ei ddarparu yw atebolrwydd ariannol a chyfrifoldeb pellach yng Nghymru. Rydym am i hynny ddigwydd. Mae hynny'n rhan o dyfu i fyny ac aeddfedu fel democratiaeth.

We also recognise that both consensus and coalition politics has got us to where we are today—coalition politics, as regards the Holtham commission, with my party and the Labour Party, and coalition politics in Westminster, as regards the implementation of some of those key recommendations and the referendum. So, we know and recognise that, and working together will be part of how we deliver this for the wider Welsh public.

Rydym hefyd yn cydnabod mai drwy gonsensws a gwleidyddiaeth glymblaid yr ydym wedi cyrraedd y man lle rydym heddiw—gwleidyddiaeth glymblaid, o ran comisiwn Holtham, gyda'r Blaid Lafur a'm plaid innau, a gwleidyddiaeth glymblaid yn San Steffan, o ran gweithredu rhai o'r argymhellion allweddol hynny a'r refferendwm. Felly, rydym yn sylweddoli ac yn cydnabod hynny, a bydd cydweithio yn rhan o'r ffordd y byddwn yn cyflawni hyn i'r cyhoedd yn fwy cyffredinol yng Nghymru.

We need to see the detail of what the UK Government wants to see. We particularly need to understand a little more around income tax. Regarding the Scottish 'lockstep', as it has been called, and the movement—if you move one income tax band, you must move all of them. I do not think that that is wise. It is what has tied Scottish Governments of both Labour and SNP colours over the last decade. We need to be clear, as an Assembly, that we do not see that as a useful mechanism as regards income tax.

Mae angen inni weld manylion yr hyn y mae Llywodraeth y DU am ei weld. Mae angen yn arbennig inni ddeall ychydig mwy ynghylch treth incwm. O ran system 'lockstep' fel y'i gelwir yr Alban, a'r symudiad—os symudwch un band treth incwm, rhaid ichi symud pob un ohonynt. Ni chredaf fod hynny'n ddoeth. Dyna'r hyn sydd wedi clymu Llywodraethau'r Alban, rhai Llafur ac SNP fel ei gilydd, dros y degawd diwethaf. Mae angen inni fod yn glir, fel Cynulliad, nad ydym yn ystyried hynny'n ddull gweithredu defnyddiol o ran treth incwm.

We also need to be clear that if income tax devolution is right in principle, then there is no reason to limit the timescale in which that can be delivered. That is something that we also need to have greater clarity on from the Westminster Government. We know that the use of sunset clauses can be useful, and they tend to be used in political circumstances in order to hold somebody to account. I am all in favour of holding some people to account on this issue. However, I wonder whether that is the best way, in principle, to do it.

Mae angen hefyd inni fod yn glir, os yw datganoli treth incwm yn iawn mewn egwyddor, yna nad oes rheswm i gyfyngu ar y terfyn amser dros ei gyflawni. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth y mae angen hefyd inni gael mwy o eglurder yn ei gylch gan Lywodraeth San Steffan. Gwyddom y gall y defnydd o gymalau machlud fod yn ddefnyddiol, ac maent yn tueddu i gael eu defnyddio mewn amgylchiadau gwleidyddol er mwyn dwyn rhywun i gyfrif. Rwy'n hollol o blaid dwyn rhai pobl i gyfrif ar y mater hwn. Fodd bynnag, tybed ai dyna'r ffordd orau, mewn egwyddor, o wneud hynny.

There are also issues around the other taxation that we are getting out of Silk. We have the nudge taxes; after all, the carrier bag levy, tobacco tax and alcohol tax are kinds of nudge taxes—change people's behaviour, but also raise important sources of money in order to deliver new policies. That is why we suggested the pop tax and the 1,000 extra doctors, but we need to understand a little more about business rates devolution, which will also be very important for developing our economy. We will also return to air passenger duty, I think, as the whole of the UK has to wake up to regional devolution and regional economic development.

Cyfyd materion hefyd ynglŷn â'r trethi eraill a gawn drwy Silk. Ceir y trethi hwb; wedi'r cyfan, mae'r ardoll ar fagiau siopa, y dreth ar dybaco a'r dreth ar alcohol yn fathau o drethi hwb—yn newid ymddygiad pobl, ond hefyd yn ffynonellau pwysig o arian er mwyn cyflwyno polisïau newydd. Dyna pam yr awgrymwyd y dreth ar bop a'r 1,000 o feddygon ychwanegol gennym, ond mae angen inni ddeall ychydig mwy am ddatganoli ardrethi busnes, a fydd hefyd yn bwysig iawn o ran datblygu ein heconomi. Byddwn hefyd yn dychwelyd i'r doll teithwyr awyr, fe gredaf, gan fod yn rhaid i'r DU gyfan fod yn effro i ddatganoli rhanbarthol a datblygu economaidd rhanbarthol.

I now want to focus a little more on income tax. Although we have supported all along, together with the Welsh Labour Party in the previous Government, the principles of fair funding, we do see a need now to be very forceful on fair funding and income tax together. Take the two forward together; do not see one as the barrier to the other. Our conviction in Plaid Cymru is that we can grow the Welsh economy, and, in turn, the Welsh income tax base could grow. If Wales has that potential, if we are fairly funded, and if the economy can be put right, we can then consider a range of tax cuts in Wales without cutting public services.

Hoffwn yn awr ganolbwyntio ychydig mwy ar dreth incwm. Er ein bod wedi cefnogi o'r cychwyn, ynghyd â Phlaid Llafur Cymru yn y Llywodraeth flaenorol, egwyddorion ariannu teg, gwelwn fod angen bellach i fod yn benderfynol iawn ynglŷn ag ariannu teg a threth incwm gyda'i gilydd. Cyflwynwch y ddau gyda'i gilydd; peidiwch ag ystyried bod y naill yn rhwystr i'r llall. Ein hargyhoeddiad ym Mhlaid Cymru yw y gallwn dyfu economi Cymru, ac, yn ei dro, y gallai sylfaen treth incwm Cymru dyfu. Os yw'r potensial hwnnw yng Nghymru, os ydym yn cael ein hariannu yn deg, ac os gellir unioni'r economi, gallwn wedyn ystyried ystod o doriadau treth yng Nghymru heb dorri gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Let us look at a scenario—a future Welsh Government, or even a future Plaid Cymru Welsh Government. If we look at what is being proposed under Silk, we will see that a 1p cut in the basic rate of income tax would cost around £180 million, but if we had fair funding under Holtham, that would already put us up by £300 million to £400 million. Therefore, we already have the opportunity to look at cuts in taxation rates if we think that they can boost the economy. If, in turn, we have the confidence and belief—and Plaid Cymru does—that we can grow the Welsh economy and bring greater prosperity to Wales, then, clearly, a future Welsh Government could cut income tax in Wales, grow the economy and deliver decent public services. That is the opportunity that excites me; that is the general election that I want to fight in Wales, together with and against other parties. However, the opportunity to have a debate in the Chamber and in a general election on tax and spend completely changes the Welsh political classes and the way that we are responsible—[interruption.]

Gadewch inni edrych ar sefyllfa— Llywodraeth Lafur Cymru yn y dyfodol, neu hyd yn oed Llywodraeth Plaid Cymru yn y dyfodol. Os edrychwn ar yr hyn a gynigir o dan Silk, gwelwn y byddai toriad o 1c yn y gyfradd sylfaenol o dreth incwm yn costio tua £180 miliwn, ond pe bai ariannu teg o dan Holtham gennym, byddwn eisoes yn cael £300 miliwn i £400 miliwn ychwanegol. Felly, rydym eisoes yn cael cyfle i edrych ar doriadau mewn cyfraddau trethi os credwn y gallant roi hwb i'r economi. Os oes gennym yr hyder a'r gred—fel sydd gan Blaid Cymru—y gallwn dyfu economi Cymru a dod â mwy o ffyniant i Gymru, yna, yn amlwg, gallai Llywodraeth Cymru yn y dyfodol dorri treth incwm yng Nghymru, tyfu'r economi a darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus o safon. Dyna'r cyfle sy'n fy nghyffroi; dyna'r etholiad cyffredinol yr wyf am ei ymladd yng Nghymru, ar y cyd â phleidiau eraill ac yn eu herbyn. Fodd bynnag, mae'r cyfle i gael dadl yn y Siambr ac mewn etholiad cyffredinol ar drethiant a gwariant yn newid dosbarthiadau gwleidyddol Cymru yn gyfan gwbl a'r ffordd yr ydym yn gyfrifol—[Torri ar draws.]

I have to finish, I am afraid; I have been told that I must finish. I will finish, therefore, on this point: the devolution of income tax is a vote of confidence in our belief that we can grow the Welsh economy. Any party that wants to oppose that is saying that it does not believe that it can bring prosperity to Wales.

Rhaid imi orffen, mae arnaf ofn, rwyf wedi cael gwybod bod yn rhaid imi orffen. Gorffennaf, felly, ar y pwynt hwn: mae datganoli treth incwm yn bleidlais o hyder yn ein cred y gallwn dyfu economi Cymru. Mae unrhyw blaid sydd am ei wrthwynebu yn dweud nad yw'n credu y gall ddod â ffyniant i Gymru.

16:10

William Graham Bywgraffiad Biography

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I will confine my remarks to part 3 of our motion today. The announcement that the 2014 NATO conference will be held at the Celtic Manor was clearly good news for Wales, and extremely good news for south-east Wales and the city of Newport in particular. A comprehensive economic impact study of the 2010 Ryder Cup for the Celtic Manor Resort found that the economic impact on Wales was some £82 million, more than £28 million alone for Newport's economy. Clearly, 8 and 9 September of next year is going to be a very busy time for the city.

Cyfyngaf fy sylwadau i ran 3 o'n cynnig heddiw. Mae'r cyhoeddiad y bydd cynhadledd 2014 NATO yn cael ei chynnal yng Ngwesty'r Celtic Manor yn amlwg yn newyddion da i Gymru, ac yn newyddion arbennig o dda i'r de-ddwyrain a dinas Casnewydd yn benodol. Canfu astudiaeth gynhwysfawr o effaith economaidd Cwpan Ryder 2010 ar gyfer Gwesty'r Celtic Manor mai'r effaith economaidd ar Gymru oedd tua £82 miliwn, dros £28 miliwn i economi Casnewydd yn unig. Yn amlwg, bydd 8 a 9 Medi y flwyddyn nesaf yn gyfnod prysur iawn i'r ddinas.

It is extremely rare for any city, anywhere in the world, to attract two such high-profile events in such a short space of time. No doubt one of the considerations was the availability of over 10,000 beds within reasonable distance of Newport. We must acknowledge that Newport attracted the Ryder Cup because of the imagination and determination of Sir Terry Matthews, and the NATO conference because of the ongoing commitment to supporting the regeneration of Wales by the United Kingdom Government. Newport and south-east Wales have been presented with a second opportunity to promote the region to a global market, but we must ensure that we realise the full potential offered by this conference, a fact recognised by the new United States ambassador to the United Kingdom when he visited the Senedd last week and remarked that this is a huge opportunity to market Wales to America and the wider world.

Anaml iawn y bydd unrhyw ddinas, unrhyw le yn y byd, yn denu dau ddigwyddiad mor uchel eu proffil mewn cyfnod mor fyr. Yn ddi-os, un o'r ystyriaethau oedd argaeledd dros 10,000 o welyau o fewn pellter rhesymol i Gasnewydd. Rhaid inni gydnabod i Gasnewydd ddenu Cwpan Ryder oherwydd dychymyg a phenderfyniad Syr Terry Matthews, a chynhadledd NATO oherwydd yr ymrwymiad parhaus i gefnogi'r gwaith o adfywio Cymru gan Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig. Mae Casnewydd a'r de-ddwyrain wedi cael ail gyfle i hyrwyddo'r rhanbarth i farchnad fyd-eang, ond rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn gwireddu'r potensial llawn a gynigir gan y gynhadledd hon, ffaith a gydnabuwyd gan lysgennad newydd yr Unol Daleithiau i'r Deyrnas Unedig pan ymwelodd â'r Senedd yr wythnos diwethaf a dweud bod hwn yn gyfle enfawr i farchnata Cymru yn America a'r byd ehangach.

Throughout my time in the Assembly, we have considered many options to improve poor social and economic conditions, notably those in west Wales and the Valleys, where differences in social and economic conditions, when measured in gross domestic product, still remain lower than 75% of the European average. Too often, opportunities to attract economic investment, to create business growth, to extend the global reach of our economy and to enhance the quality of life for the people of Wales have not been realised.

Drwy gydol fy amser yn y Cynulliad, rydym wedi ystyried llawer o opsiynau i wella amodau gwael cymdeithasol ac economaidd, yn enwedig yng ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, lle erys gwahaniaethau mewn amodau cymdeithasol ac economaidd, o'u mesur yn nhermau cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth, yn is na 75% o'r cyfartaledd Ewropeaidd. Yn rhy aml, bu methiant i wireddu cyfleoedd i ddenu buddsoddiad economaidd, creu twf busnes, ymestyn cyrhaeddiad byd-eang ein heconomi a gwella ansawdd bywyd pobl Cymru.

The continuing saga of the M4 relief road is a sad example of this. It has a long history of indecision from successive Welsh Governments. The present consultation presages well, and I pay tribute to the current Minister in her determination to see a fair result. The UK Government has directed action on this economic necessity and perhaps there are no better words than those of David Cameron, our United Kingdom Prime Minister, who described the Brynglas tunnels of the M4 motorway as a 'foot in the windpipe' of economic growth. Over 25 years, I have campaigned for this vital improvement in our motorway network. I look forward to the day when this barrier to growth across the whole of south Wales and the trans-European route connecting us to Ireland and continental Europe is finally eradicated.

Mae saga barhaus ffordd liniaru'r M4 yn enghraifft druenus o hyn. Mae iddi hanes hir o ddiffyg penderfyniad gan Lywodraethau olynol Cymru. Mae'r ymgynghoriad presennol yn argoeli'n dda, a thalaf deyrnged i'r Gweinidog presennol am ei phenderfyniad i weld canlyniad teg. Mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi cyfarwyddo camau gweithredu ar y rheidrwydd economaidd hwn ac efallai nad oes gwell geiriau na rhai David Cameron, Prif Weinidog y Deyrnas Unedig, a ddisgrifiodd dwneli Bryn-glas ar draffordd yr M4 fel 'troed ar bibell wynt' twf economaidd. Dros 25 mlynedd, rwyf wedi ymgyrchu dros y gwelliant hanfodol hwn yn ein rhwydwaith traffyrdd. Edrychaf ymlaen at y diwrnod pan fydd y rhwystr hwn i dwf ym mhob rhan o'r de a'r llwybr traws-Ewropeaidd sy'n ein cysylltu ag Iwerddon a chyfandir Ewrop yn cael ei ddileu'n llwyr.

The 2014 NATO conference is not a time for indecision. The Welsh Government and the city council have clearly demonstrated that they have learned from the Ryder Cup experience and that they are able to ensure that we realise the maximum opportunity for investment and growth arising from this summit. They need to demonstrate the same imagination and determination as Sir Terry Matthews who created such a successful team in delivering the Ryder Cup. The 2012 NATO conference in Chicago saw millions and millions of dollars spent in the local economy with the generation of over 2,000 jobs.

Nid yw cynhadledd 2014 NATO yn adeg am ddiffyg penderfyniad. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru a chyngor y ddinas wedi dangos yn glir eu bod wedi dysgu o brofiad Cwpan Ryder a'u bod yn gallu sicrhau ein bod yn manteisio i'r eithaf ar y cyfle ar gyfer buddsoddi a thwf sy'n deillio o'r uwchgynhadledd hon. Mae angen iddynt ddangos yr un dychymyg a phenderfyniad â Syr Terry Matthews a greodd dîm mor llwyddiannus wrth gynnal Cwpan Ryder. Gwariwyd miliynau ar filiynau o ddoleri yn yr economi leol yn ystod cynhadledd 2012 NATO yn Chicago a chrëwyd dros 2,000 o swyddi.

The visit of 68 heads of Government is an amazing opportunity to promote Wales. History will be made, as this will be the first visit of a serving United States President to Wales. I hope that history will record the period of the NATO conference as a catalyst for major investment and economic growth.

Mae ymweliad 68 o benaethiaid llywodraeth yn gyfle gwych i hyrwyddo Cymru. Bydd yn hanesyddol, gan mai hwn fydd yr ymweliad cyntaf gan Arlywydd presennol yr Unol Daleithiau â Chymru. Gobeithio y bydd hanes yn cofnodi i gyfnod cynhadledd NATO fod yn sbardun i fuddsoddiad mawr a thwf economaidd.

16:14 **Kirsty Williams** Bywgraffiad Biography

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May I begin by welcoming the debate this afternoon and say that the Welsh Liberal Democrat group will be supporting the motion? To pick up where William Graham left off, hosting the NATO summit at Newport will be a wonderful opportunity for both the UK Government and the Welsh Government to showcase what Wales has to offer the world. There is the potential to attract not only additional investment off the back of the NATO conference, but, hopefully, longer-term investment in our economy. It is an opportunity to show off our loyal and striving workforce in Wales - a place where international business can invest with confidence. It is an opportunity to showcase our fabulous natural resources and another opportunity to boost our tourism industry. I hope that, between now and that conference, the Welsh Government will work very closely to use every opportunity to exploit the presence of the NATO conference in Wales for the benefit of the economy, in the immediate term and in the medium to long term. Of course, much of this afternoon's debate has rightly revolved around the issue of Silk and the Westminster Government's response to it. As I said in response to the First Minister's statement last week, fiscal devolution has always been for the Liberal Democrats a key part of the kind of Wales, Welsh Government and National Assembly that we have always aspired to. It has not been easy to get us to this point. The reality is that everybody, in all parties, has had a part to play in getting us here. What is critical now is how we respond to what the Westminster Government has said.

A gaf ddechrau drwy groesawu'r ddadl y prynhawn yma a dweud y bydd grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn cefnogi'r cynnig? Os caf barhau â'r hyn yr oedd William Graham yn ei ddweud, bydd cynnal uwchgynhadledd NATO yng Nghasnewydd yn gyfle gwych i Lywodraeth y DU a Llywodraeth Cymru arddangos yr hyn sydd gan Gymru i'w gynnig i'r byd. Gellir denu nid yn unig buddsoddi ychwanegol yn sgil cynhadledd NATO, ond, gobeithio, fuddsoddi hirdymor yn ein heconomi. Mae'n gyfle i arddangos ein gweithlu ffyddlon a gweithgar yng Nghymru - lle y gall busnes rhyngwladol fuddsoddi'n hyderus. Mae'n gyfle i arddangos ein hadnoddau naturiol gwych a chyfle arall i roi hwb i'n diwydiant twristiaeth. Gobeithio y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru rhwng nawr a'r gynhadledd honno yn gweithio'n agos iawn i achub ar bob cyfle i fanteisio ar bresenoldeb cynhadledd NATO yng Nghymru er budd yr economi, yn y byrdymor ac yn y tymor canolig a'r hirdymor. Wrth gwrs, mae llawer o'r ddadl y prynhawn yma wedi ymwneud â Silk ac ymateb Llywodraeth San Steffan iddo, a hynny'n gwbl briodol. Fel y dywedais mewn ymateb i ddatganiad y Prif Weinidog yr wythnos diwethaf, mae datganoli cyllidol bob amser wedi bod yn rhan allweddol i Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol o'r math o Gymru, Llywodraeth Cymru a Chynulliad Cenedlaethol yr ydym bob amser wedi dyheu amdanynt. Nid hawdd oedd cyrraedd y lle hwn. Y gwir amdani yw bod pawb, ym mhob plaid, wedi chwarae rhan i gyrraedd y lle hwn. Yr hyn sy'n allweddol yn awr yw sut rydym yn ymateb i'r hyn y mae Llywodraeth San Steffan wedi'i ddweud.

Borrowing powers give us and the Welsh Government a wonderful opportunity to invest in vital infrastructure projects—not just the infamous M4 corridor. Dare I say, it may even be an opportunity to use those borrowing powers to fix the problems on the A40 at Glangrwyney. It is a wonderful opportunity to invest in vital infrastructure projects the length and breadth of Wales, which will boost the Welsh economy. The ability to reform stamp duty is, as was demonstrated by the very positive response from Welsh business to the consultation over the summer, a really valuable tool that could be really crucial in getting more houses built in Wales, and perhaps not in the housing hotspots of central Cardiff or Swansea. Perhaps it can be about making sure that we have development above the snow line and in other areas of Wales where it has perhaps been difficult to deliver housing. Also, surely the principle of devolving income tax is the right one. Simon Thomas is right: it certainly changes the game. Any subsequent elections will be about very real choices and very real consequences for whoever is in power if they choose to use income tax as a tool.

Mae pwerau benthyca yn rhoi cyfle gwych i ni a Llywodraeth Cymru i fuddsoddi mewn prosiectau seilwaith hanfodol—nid dim ond coridor drwgenwog yr M4. Os caf ddweud, gall hyd yn oed fod yn gyfle i ddefnyddio'r pwerau benthyca hynny i ddatrys y problemau ar yr A40 yng Nglangrwyne. Mae'n gyfle gwych i fuddsoddi mewn prosiectau seilwaith hanfodol ar hyd a lled Cymru, a fydd yn rhoi hwb i economi Cymru. Mae'r gallu i ddiwygio'r dreth stamp, fel y'i dangoswyd gan ymateb cadarnhaol iawn busnesau yng Nghymru i'r ymgynghoriad dros yr haf, yn adnodd gwerthfawr iawn a allai fod yn wirioneddol bwysig o ran sicrhau bod mwy o dai yn cael eu hadeiladu yng Nghymru, ac efallai nid yn y mannau poblogaidd yng nghanol Caerdydd neu Abertawe. Efallai y gall ymwneud â sicrhau y gwelwn ddatblygiad uwchben y llinell eira ac mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru lle y bu'n anodd darparu tai o bosibl. Hefyd, rhaid bod yr egwyddor o ddatganoli treth incwm yn un gywir. Mae Simon Thomas yn llygad ei le: yn sicr, mae'n trawsnewid pethau. Bydd unrhyw etholiadau dilynol yn canolbwyntio ar ddewisiadau go iawn a chanlyniadau go iawn i bwy bynnag a fo mewn grym os ydynt yn dewis defnyddio treth incwm fel arf.

It seems to us this afternoon that Leighton Andrews was determined to strike a divisive note. What is clear to me, Leighton, is that devolution has only ever moved forward —and can only ever move forward—when people come together and not when they are driven apart. That only plays into the hands of those who do not want devolution to succeed and who do not have a vision for this place and for this nation.

Ymddengys inni y prynhawn yma fod Leighton Andrews yn benderfynol o daro nodyn croes. Yr hyn sy'n amlwg i mi, Leighton, yw nad yw datganoli erioed wedi datblygu—ac ni all fyth ddatblygu— ond pan fo pobl yn dod at ei gilydd yn hytrach na thynnu'n groes. Dim ond rhoi mantais i'r rhai nad ydynt am i ddatganoli lwyddo a wna hynny, ac nad oes ganddynt weledigaeth ar gyfer y lle hwn ac i'r genedl hon.

16:18 **Leighton Andrews** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography] Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

I am very keen that you are very clear on this point: in a referendum campaign on tax-varying powers, will you say whether you want to use those powers to increase taxes or to reduce them?

Rwy'n awyddus iawn eich bod yn glir iawn ar y pwynt hwn: mewn ymgyrch refferendwm ar bwerau i amrywio trethi, a fyddwch yn dweud pa un a ydych am ddefnyddio'r pwerau hynny i gynyddu trethi ynteu i'w lleihau?

16:18 **Kirsty Williams** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography] Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

Leighton, in the first instance, I hope that we can create a 'yes' campaign that campaigns around the principle that having those powers here is the right thing to do. It will be for individual political parties and individual Governments, in their manifestos, to say how they will use them. However, the principle of them being here is the right one. Must I also say this also to you, Leighton? It seems to me, in your contribution today, that it is all Labour's way or it is no way. I have to accept that the stance that the Labour Party will take in any subsequent referendum will be crucial. However, I would urge you and those on the Labour benches not to pass up this opportunity. As you have acknowledged, Leighton, devolution has been a process. For some of us, we have had to compromise along the way. We have settled for less than what we believed in because we wanted that process to continue, and we did not want to kill it dead. I hope that those attitudes can exist across this Chamber and that we can continue to work together, not to divide us but to develop Wales and the institutions within it.

Leighton, yn y lle cyntaf, gobeithio y gallwn greu ymgyrch 'ie' sy'n ymgyrchu ar yr egwyddor mai cael y pwerau hynny yma yw'r peth iawn i'w wneud. Mater i bleidiau gwleidyddol unigol a Llywodraethau unigol, yn eu maniffestos, yw dweud sut y byddant yn eu defnyddio. Fodd bynnag, mae'r egwyddor o gael y pwerau yma yn un gywir. A oes rhaid imi ddweud hyn hefyd wrthych, Leighton? Ymddengys imi, yn eich cyfraniad heddiw, mai'r dewis yw ffordd Llafur neu ddim dewis arall. Rhaid imi dderbyn y bydd safiad y Blaid Lafur mewn unrhyw refferendwm dilynol yn hollbwysig. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn eich annog chi a'r rhai ar y meinciau Llafur i beidio â gwastraffu'r cyfle hwn. Fel y cydnabuwyd gennych, Leighton, proses fu datganoli. I rai ohonom, rydym wedi gorfod cyfaddawdu ar hyd y ffordd. Rydym wedi derbyn llai na'r hyn yr oeddem yn credu ynddo oherwydd ein bod am i'r broses honno barhau, ac nid oeddem am ei hatal yn ei hunfan. Gobeithio y gall yr agweddau hynny gael eu harddel ym mhob rhan o'r Siambr hon ac y gallwn barhau i weithio gyda'n gilydd, yn hytrach na thynnu'n groes, ond i ddatblygu Cymru a'i sefydliadau.

16:19 **Janet Finch-Saunders** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography] Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

The recent and exciting announcement by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister on 1 November marked a major milestone in the story of Welsh devolution. It was proof, once again, of the UK Government's commitment and support for us here in Wales. For too long, and despite the result of the primary law-making powers referendum in 2011, the Welsh Labour Government has consistently blamed the UK Government in all manner of ways on many funding matters that already fall within the remit and responsibilities of the Welsh Labour Government itself. Research polls by ICM and Beaufort have consistently demonstrated an overwhelming majority in support of greater powers for the Assembly, and this announcement by the UK Government, and its acknowledgement of the Silk part 1 recommendations, further endorses this support—the powers over stamp duty, land tax and landfill tax are now devolved to this institution, as well as substantive borrowing powers, and this is a major step forward.

Bu'r cyhoeddiad diweddar a chyffrous gan y Prif Weinidog a'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ar 1 Tachwedd yn garreg filltir bwysig yn hanes datganoli Cymru. Bu'n brawf, unwaith eto, o ymrwymiad a chefnogaeth Llywodraeth y DU inni yma yng Nghymru. Ers gormod o amser, ac er gwaethaf canlyniad y refferendwm ar bwerau deddfu sylfaenol yn 2011, mae Llywodraeth Lafur Cymru wedi beio Llywodraeth y DU drwy'r amser ym mhob math o ffyrdd am lawer o faterion cyllidol sydd eisoes yn dod o dan gylch gwaith a chyfrifoldebau Llywodraeth Lafur Cymru ei hun. Mae arolygon ymchwil gan ICM a Beaufort wedi dangos yn gyson fod mwyafrif llethol o blaid mwy o bwerau i'r Cynulliad, ac mae'r cyhoeddiad hwn gan Lywodraeth y DU, a'i chydnabyddiaeth o argymhelion Silk rhan 1, yn ategu'r gefnogaeth hon ymhellach—mae'r pwerau dros y dreth stamp, y dreth tir a'r dreth dirlenwi bellach yn cael eu datganoli i'r sefydliad hwn, ynghyd â phwerau benthyca sylweddol, ac mae hwn yn gam mawr ymlaen.

The reaction from businesses has been universal, with the Confederation of British Industry, the chamber of commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses welcoming the opportunity to capitalise on our porous border with England. By using these borrowing powers carefully, the vital infrastructure that we need here in Wales—and in north Wales—will certainly get the wheels of economic growth turning in order to renew our economy and encourage much-needed further investment and economic growth.

Mae'r ymateb gan fusnesau wedi bod yn unfrydol, gyda Chydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain, y siambr fasnach a'r Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach yn croesawu'r cyfle i fanteisio ar ein ffin fylchog â Lloegr. Drwy ddefnyddio'r pwerau benthyca hyn yn ofalus, bydd y seilwaith hanfodol y mae ei angen arnom yma yng Nghymru-ac yn y gogledd—yn sicr yn helpu i droi olwynion twf economaidd er mwyn adnewyddu ein heconomi ac annog buddsoddi pellach mawr ei angen a thwf economaidd.

The Prime Minister himself has said that the state of the M4 has been a foot on the windpipe of the Welsh economy. Rod Eddington predicted that the growth in congestion, if left unchecked, would cost the Welsh economy around £1.1 billion a year. To give credit where it is due, it was welcome to hear the First Minister acknowledged the need for investment in north Wales and in the A55. Although money was made available in the 2014-15 draft budget, these new powers will permit investments through the ability to raise our own capital. However, I remind the Government that with financial powers comes financial responsibility. These new powers will confer greater accountability here at the Senedd. As Harry Truman once said, the buck stops here, and, with these new powers, accountability will reside where it should, at the heart of Welsh democracy.

Mae Prif Weinidog y DU ei hun wedi dweud bod cyflwr yr M4 wedi bod yn droed ar bibell wynt economi Cymru. Rhagwelodd Rod Eddington y byddai'r twf mewn tagfeydd, pe na wneid dim yn ei gylch, yn costio oddeutu £1.1 biliwn y flwyddyn i economi Cymru. A bod yn deg â'r Prif Weinidog, roedd yn braf ei glywed yn cydnabod bod angen buddsoddi yn y gogledd ac yn yr A55. Er bod arian wedi'i neilltuo yng nghyllideb ddrafft 2014-15, bydd y pwerau newydd hyn yn caniatáu buddsoddiadau drwy'r gallu i godi ein cyfalaf eu hunain. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn atgoffa'r Llywodraeth fod pwerau ariannol yn dod law yn llaw â chyfrifoldeb ariannol. Bydd y pwerau newydd hyn yn rhoi mwy o atebolrwydd yma yn y Senedd. Fel y dywedodd Harry Truman unwaith, yma mae'r cyfrifoldeb, a chyda'r pwerau newydd hyn, bydd atebolrwydd lle y dylai fod, wrth wraidd democratiaeth Cymru.

The NATO summit to be held in Wales marks an opportunity—an opportunity to showcase Wales at an event where the world will be watching. As the United States ambassador said this week, the summit provides an opportunity to highlight the best of Welsh businesses and produce for delegates, and I hope that the Welsh Government will make the most of this magnificent opportunity to explore new markets for Welsh businesses, allowing us to compete in the global race. The 2012 summit in Chicago was expected to attract some $123 million to the local economy. Again, it can only be beneficial to us here in Wales. The chance to sell Wales to the US market, by far the biggest in the world, via links in trade cannot be underestimated, with its universal use for growth and development.

Mae uwchgynhadledd NATO sydd i'w chynnal yng Nghymru yn gyfle—cyfle i arddangos Cymru mewn digwyddiad pan fo'r byd yn gwylio. Fel y dywedodd llysgennad yr Unol Daleithiau yr wythnos hon, mae'r uwchgynhadledd yn gyfle i dynnu sylw'r cynadleddwyr at fusnesau a chynnyrch gorau Cymru, a gobeithio y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn manteisio i'r eithaf ar y cyfle gwych hwn i ystyried marchnadoedd newydd i fusnesau yng Nghymru, gan ein galluogi i gystadlu yn y ras fyd-eang. Roedd disgwyl i'r uwchgynhadledd yn Chicago yn 2012 ddenu tua $123 miliwn i'r economi leol. Unwaith eto, gall ond bod yn fanteisiol inni yma yng Nghymru. Ni ellir peidio â sylweddoli pa mor fawr yw'r cyfle i hyrwyddo Cymru i farchnad yr Unol Daleithiau, sef y farchnad fwyaf yn y byd o bell ffordd, drwy gysylltiadau mewn masnach, gyda'i defnydd cyffredinol ar gyfer twf a datblygiad.

A point I raised earlier with the Minister was that we must take advantage of every potential new market internationally, and the NATO summit presents just such an opportunity. In addition, visitors from the United States, Canada and Germany—all markets with which we need to develop links—can also be made aware of the idyllic nature of Wales as a holiday destination. The tourism industry is one of the future engines of economic prosperity in Wales, already accounting for 13.3% of Welsh GDP. With this predicted to grow in the future, I look forward to hearing, as the summit approaches, what plans the Welsh Government has to capitalise on these golden opportunities for Welsh tourism. We as Assembly Members are fortunate to be at this institution at an exciting time for its future. I look forward to working with the Welsh Government in the implementation of these new powers and will do my duty in holding it to account where this does not happen. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Un pwynt a godais yn gynharach â'r Gweinidog oedd bod yn rhaid inni fanteisio ar bob marchnad newydd bosibl yn rhyngwladol, a bod uwchgynhadledd NATO yn cynnig yr union gyfle hwnnw. Yn ogystal, gall ymwelwyr o'r Unol Daleithiau, Canada a'r Almaen—pob un yn farchnad y mae angen inni ei datblygu—gael gwybod am natur ddelfrydol Cymru fel cyrchfan gwyliau hefyd. Mae'r diwydiant twristiaeth yn un o'r ysgogwyr ffyniant economaidd yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol, ac mae eisoes yn cyfrif am 13.3% o CMC Cymru. Gan y rhagwelir y bydd hyn yn tyfu yn y dyfodol, edrychaf ymlaen at glywed, wrth i'r uwchgynhadledd nesáu, pa gynlluniau sydd gan Lywodraeth Cymru i fanteisio ar y cyfleoedd euraid hyn ar gyfer twristiaeth yng Nghymru. Rydym ni fel Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn ffodus i fod yn y sefydliad hwn ar adeg gyffrous ar gyfer ei ddyfodol. Edrychaf ymlaen at weithio gyda Llywodraeth Cymru i weithredu'r pwerau newydd hyn a byddaf yn gwneud fy nyletswydd i'w dwyn i gyfrif lle nad yw hyn yn digwydd. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

16:24 **Mohammad Asghar** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I very much welcome the announcement by the Prime Minister that the 2014 NATO summit is to be held in the United Kingdom for the first time since 1990. I am delighted that the Celtic Manor resort in Newport has been chosen as the venue for this summit. The NATO summit is the second largest gathering of world leaders after the United Nations General Assembly. The previous summit in Chicago two years ago was attended by 71 heads of state —more than seven times the number of world leaders that attended the G8 summit, and nearly three times the number that attended the G20 summit held the same year. The mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel, said in his report following the meeting,

Croesawaf yn fawr iawn y cyhoeddiad gan Brif Weinidog y DU y bydd uwchgynhadledd 2014 NATO yn cael ei chynnal yn y Deyrnas Unedig am y tro cyntaf ers 1990. Rwyf wrth fy modd bod Gwesty'r Celtic Manor yng Nghasnewydd wedi cael ei ddewis fel lleoliad ar gyfer yr uwchgynhadledd hon. Uwchgynhadledd NATO yw'r cyfarfod mwyaf o arweinwyr y byd heblaw am Gynulliad Cyffredinol y Cenhedloedd Unedig. Bu 71 o benaethiaid gwladwriaeth yn bresennol yn yr uwchgynhadledd flaenorol yn Chicago—saith gwaith yn fwy na nifer arweinwyr y byd a fu'n bresennol yn uwchgynhadledd y G8, a bron dair gwaith yn fwy na'r nifer a fu'n bresennol yn uwchgynhadledd y G20 a gynhaliwyd yr un flwyddyn. Dywedodd maer Chicago, Rahm Emanuel, yn ei adroddiad yn dilyn y cyfarfod,

'The summit provided an unprecedented opportunity to showcase Chicago as a world class city in terms of arts, culture, architecture, and economic vitality, as well as a city capable of providing a safe and secure international stage for dialogue on matters of global importance.'

Bu'r uwchgynhadledd yn gyfle heb ei ail i arddangos Chicago fel dinas o'r radd flaenaf o ran y celfyddydau, diwylliant, pensaernïaeth, a bywiogrwydd economaidd, yn ogystal â dinas sy'n gallu cynnig llwyfan rhyngwladol diogel a sicr ar gyfer deialog ar faterion o bwys byd-eang.

He continued:

Aeth yn ei flaen:

'The summit not only heightened Chicago's international profile by enhancing its long-term appeal as a travel destination and a host city for major events, it also generated significant economic benefits in the form of spending at local businesses...employment opportunities, booked hotels, and increased tourism.'

Gwnaeth yr uwchgynhadledd nid yn unig codi proffil rhyngwladol Chicago drwy wella ei hapêl hirdymor fel cyrchfan teithio a dinas i gynnal digwyddiadau mawr, gwnaeth hefyd arwain at fanteision economaidd sylweddol ar ffurf gwariant i fusnesau lleol...cyfleoedd cyflogaeth, gwestai llawn, a mwy o dwristiaeth.

Management consultancy Deloitte estimated that Chicago's economy benefited by around £113 million from hosting and planning the summit. My friends, you can imagine how much benefit Wales will achieve from this summit next year. Holding the NATO summit in Newport presents a huge opportunity to market the city and Wales to America and the world at large. The new United States ambassador to the United Kingdom, Matthew Barzun, highlighted this in his recent visit to Cardiff. In his words,

Amcangyfrifodd ymgynghoriaeth reoli Deloitte i economi Chicago gael tua £113 miliwn drwy gynnal a chynllunio'r uwchgynhadledd. Gyfeillion, gallwch ddychmygu faint o fudd y bydd Cymru yn ei gael yn sgil yr uwchgynhadledd hon y flwyddyn nesaf. Mae cynnal uwchgynhadledd NATO yng Nghasnewydd yn cynnig cyfle enfawr i farchnata'r ddinas a Chymru i America a'r byd yn gyffredinol. Tynnodd llysgennad newydd yr Unol Daleithiau i'r Deyrnas Unedig, Matthew Barzun, sylw at hyn yn ei ymweliad diweddar â Chaerdydd. Yn ei eiriau ef,

'I think this NATO summit next fall is going to be a major moment...because it just puts it in the international spotlight.'

Credaf y bydd uwchgynhadledd NATO yr hydref nesaf yn foment bwysig...oherwydd mae'n golygu ei bod yn cael sylw'r byd.

He continued:

Aeth yn ei flaen:

'It is just a wonderful opportunity to showcase what's happening here'.

Mae'n gyfle gwych i arddangos yr hyn sy'n digwydd yma.

There is no doubt in my mind that the decision to hold the NATO summit in Newport was influenced by the coverage of the Ryder Cup held at the Celtic Manor in 2010. I would like to pay tribute to Sir Terry Matthews. It is thanks to his drive and vision for the Celtic Manor that the huge potential benefits of holding the summit will be brought to Newport and Wales. Last year, Sir Terry Matthews announced that £160 million was planned for the Celtic Manor resort over the next 10 years, which will create more than 200 new permanent jobs in Newport. This announcement of plans for a major extension of the hotel will further enhance the Celtic Manor resort with its first-class facilities as a venue for major events worldwide. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Sir Terry Matthews.

Nid oes amheuaeth gennyf nad oedd y penderfyniad i gynnal uwchgynhadledd NATO yng Nghasnewydd wedi'i lywio gan y sylw a gafodd Cwpan Ryder a gynhaliwyd gan Westy'r Celtic Manor yn 2010. Hoffwn dalu teyrnged i Syr Terry Matthews. Diolch i'w egni a'i weledigaeth yntau ar gyfer Gwesty'r Celtic Manor y daw'r manteision enfawr posibl sy'n gysylltiedig â chynnal yr uwchgynhadledd i Gasnewydd a Chymru. Y llynedd, cyhoeddodd Syr Terry Matthews ei fod yn bwriadu gwario £160 miliwn ar Westy'r Celtic Manor yn ystod y 10 mlynedd nesaf, a fydd yn creu mwy na 200 o swyddi parhaol newydd yng Nghasnewydd. Bydd y cyhoeddiad hwn ynghylch estyniad sylweddol i'r gwesty yn ychwanegu eto at Westy'r Celtic Manor gyda'i gyfleusterau o'r radd flaenaf fel lleoliad ar gyfer digwyddiadau mawr byd-eang. Mae arnom ddyled fawr i Syr Terry Matthews.

Finally, there will be those who will take the opportunity presented by the NATO summit to protest and hold demonstrations. More than 90 people were arrested in Chicago in clashes between demonstrators and police, with many more being injured. People have a right to protest but I appeal to those who wish to protest to do so peacefully and to not resort to violence, which will only damage their cause. Holding the NATO summit in Newport is a sign of good thinking by David Cameron. It means that he is fully committed to Wales's development, progress and prosperity, better than those on the other side of the Chamber, who always talk but do nothing. It will provide a welcome boost for the economy and deliver lasting improvements to Wales's image for years to come. Thank you.

Yn olaf, bydd rhai yn manteisio ar y cyfle a roddwyd gan uwchgynhadledd NATO i brotestio a gwrthdystio. Cafodd mwy na 90 o bobl eu harestio yn Chicago yn y gwrthdaro rhwng protestwyr a'r heddlu, a chafodd llawer mwy eu hanafu. Mae gan bobl yr hawl i brotestio ond apeliaf ar y rhai sydd am brotestio i wneud hynny mewn ffordd heddychlon ac i beidio â throi at drais, a fydd ond yn niweidio eu hachos. Mae cynnal uwchgynhadledd NATO yng Nghasnewydd yn arwydd o feddwl da gan David Cameron. Mae'n golygu ei fod yn gwbl ymroddedig i ddatblygiad, cynnydd a ffyniant Cymru, yn well na'r rhai ar yr ochr arall i'r Siambr, sydd bob amser yn brolio, ond yn gwneud dim byd. Bydd yn rhoi hwb i'r economi ac yn sicrhau gwelliannau parhaol i ddelwedd Cymru am flynyddoedd i ddod. Diolch.

16:29

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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Galwaf ar y Gweinidog Cyllid, Jane Hutt.

I call on the Finance Minister, Jane Hutt.

16:29 **Jane Hutt** Bywgraffiad Biography

Y Gweinidog Cyllid / The Minister for Finance

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Thank you very much, Deputy Presiding Officer. In wholeheartedly supporting the motion, I warmly welcome the UK Government's announcement on the Silk part 1 report 'Empowerment and Responsibility: Financial Powers to Strengthen Wales.' It is something on which I have been working constructively over the past year on behalf of the Welsh Government and on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales. Yes, as Paul Davies has said, this is significant, historic news for Wales and it has been delivered with cross-party support, consensus and coalition politics, as Simon Thomas has described. There are 33 recommendations in Silk, but, in practice, at this point, there are three key areas in the headline announcements made by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister following a meeting with our Welsh Labour Government First Minister on 1 November. Those three important announcements, we have debated this afternoon—early access to borrowing to finance infrastructure, as agreed in the inter-governmental talks that I concluded with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury last October, prior to the publication of the Silk report; devolution of small taxes to act as policy levers; and granting the Assembly the power to call a referendum of the people of Wales on income tax rate varying powers. We now know that all of these are to be delivered to Wales. We can look to a future when we will have the ability to shape stamp duty and land tax to meet the needs of people and businesses in Wales. We are already talking to house builders about these prospects. We will also be able to borrow to invest in infrastructure, at long last having parity with Scotland and Northern Ireland.

While we await the full response of the UK Government to learn the details, the package promises to provide a step change in Welsh devolution. The granting of early access to borrowing to fund our enhancement of the M4 has been our No. 1 priority for boosting growth and jobs in Wales, supported by Welsh businesses and championed by CBI Wales. It is a major transport artery, the gateway to Wales, and the route used by Welsh and UK companies that operate in the west of England, Ireland and beyond. Of course we await the conclusion of the current consultation undertaken by my colleague the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, to find out what form that improvement would take, but it is clear that the early borrowing that we have been promised has the potential to help significantly with the affordability of the project. This is a huge achievement and, in the longer term, of course, we will naturally be looking to use the new borrowing powers to invest in infrastructure projects across Wales—mid, north and west. Once we know the scale of borrowing that will be available to us, and the timetable, we can shape our plans in line with our Wales infrastructure investment plan.

Diolch yn fawr iawn, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Wrth llwyr gefnogi'r cynnig, croesawaf yn gynnes gyhoeddiad Llywodraeth y DU ar adroddiad Silk rhan 1 'Grymuso a Chyfrifoldeb: Pwerau Ariannol i Gryfhau Cymru'. Mae'n rhywbeth yr wyf wedi bod yn gweithio'n adeiladol arno dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf ar ran Llywodraeth Cymru ac ar ran Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Fel y dywedodd Paul Davies, mae hyn yn newyddion pwysig a hanesyddol i Gymru ac fe'i cyflwynwyd gyda chefnogaeth drawsbleidiol, consensws a gwleidyddiaeth glymblaid, fel y'i disgrifiwyd gan Simon Thomas. Mae Silk yn cynnwys 33 o argymhellion, ond, yn ymarferol, ar hyn o bryd, ymdrinnir â thri maes allweddol yn y prif gyhoeddiadau a wnaed gan Brif Weinidog a Dirprwy Brif Weinidog y DU yn dilyn cyfarfod â Phrif Weinidog Llywodraeth Lafur Cymru ar 1 Tachwedd. Mae'r tri chyhoeddiad pwysig hynny, yr ydym wedi eu trafod y prynhawn yma—sef mynediad cynnar at fenthyca er mwyn ariannu seilwaith, fel y cytunwyd arno yn y trafodaethau rhynglywodraethol a gefais gyda Phrif Ysgrifennydd y Trysorlys fis Hydref diwethaf, cyn cyhoeddi adroddiad Silk; datganoli trethi bach i weithredu fel ysgogwyr polisi; a rhoi i'r Cynulliad y pŵer i alw refferendwm o bobl Cymru ar y pwerau i amrywio cyfraddau treth incwm. Gwyddom bellach y bydd pob un o'r rhain yn cael ei roi i Gymru. Gallwn edrych tuag at ddyfodol pryd y gallwn lunio'r dreth stamp a'r dreth tir i ddiwallu anghenion pobl a busnesau yng Nghymru. Rydym eisoes yn siarad ag adeiladwyr tai am y rhagolygon hyn. Byddwn hefyd yn gallu benthyca er mwyn buddsoddi mewn seilwaith, a ninnau'n gydradd â'r Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon o'r diwedd.

Tra byddwn yn aros am ymateb llawn Llywodraeth y DU er mwyn cael y manylion, mae'r pecyn yn addo bod yn newid sylweddol mewn datganoli yng Nghymru. Ein blaenoriaeth bennaf ar gyfer hybu twf a swyddi yng Nghymru fu mynediad cynnar at fenthyca er mwyn ariannu gwelliant i'r M4, sy'n cael ei gefnogi gan fusnesau Cymru a'i hyrwyddo gan CBI Cymru. Mae'n un o'r prif ffyrdd trafnidiaeth, yn borth i Gymru, ac yn llwybr a ddefnyddir gan gwmnïau o Gymru a'r DU sy'n gweithredu yn ngorllewin Lloegr, Iwerddon a thu hwnt. Wrth gwrs, rydym yn aros am gasgliad yr ymgynghoriad presennol a gynhaliwyd gan fy nghyd-Weinidog, Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth, er mwyn cael gwybod pa fath o welliant a gâi ei wneud, ond mae'n amlwg y gall y pwerau benthyca cynnar a addawyd inni fod o gymorth sylweddol o ran fforddiadwyedd y prosiect. Mae hwn yn gyflawniad aruthrol ac, yn y tymor hwy, wrth gwrs, byddwn wrth reswm yn ystyried defnyddio'r pwerau benthyca newydd i fuddsoddi mewn prosiectau seilwaith ledled Cymru—y canolbarth, y gogledd a'r gorllewin. Unwaith y byddwn yn gwybod faint o fenthyca a fydd ar gael inni, a'r amserlen, gallwn baratoi ein cynlluniau yn unol â'n cynllun buddsoddi yn seilwaith Cymru.

We must remember that borrowing powers are not a panacea. Whatever we borrow must be paid back, and while addressing the needs of today, those critical improvements will help boost growth and jobs in Wales over the coming decade as we use the new levers available to us. Borrowing powers provide a further tool to factor in to our long-term plans for infrastructure alongside the innovative finance measures that I have been introducing, such as the £4 million a year housing finance grant, enabling 20 registered social landlords to raise over £100 million in order to deliver more than 1,000 affordable homes over the next four years through a collective borrowing product, and the collaborative twenty-first century schools programme, worth £1.4 billion across Wales, being taken forward as part of the local government borrowing initiative. Of course, borrowing powers will not only allow us to tackle major projects that were previously beyond our reach, but will relieve the pressure on our capital departmental expenditure limit, which has been cut back in this spending review by a third. This can be used in association with financial initiatives to fund other improvements right across Wales, such as investment in the A55 in north Wales and including an additional £42 million over three years to ensure that this infrastructure asset remains fit for purpose.

Rhaid inni gofio nad yw pwerau benthyca yn ateb pob problem. Beth bynnag yr ydym yn ei fenthyg rhaid ei ad-dalu, ac er y byddant yn diwallu anghenion heddiw, bydd y gwelliannau hanfodol hynny yn helpu i hybu twf a swyddi yng Nghymru dros y degawd nesaf wrth inni ddefnyddio'r ysgogwyr newydd sydd ar gael inni. Mae pwerau benthyca yn adnodd arall i'w ystyried yn ein cynlluniau hirdymor ar gyfer seilwaith ochr yn ochr â'r mesurau cyllid arloesol yr wyf wedi bod yn eu cyflwyno, megis y grant cyllid tai sy'n werth £4 miliwn y flwyddyn, sy'n galluogi 20 o landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig i godi dros £100 miliwn er mwyn darparu mwy na 1,000 o gartrefi fforddiadwy dros y pedair blynedd nesaf drwy gynnyrch benthyca ar y cyd, a'r rhaglen gydweithredol ysgolion ar gyfer yr unfed ganrif ar hugain, sy'n werth £1.4 biliwn ledled Cymru, a gyflwynir fel rhan o fenter benthyca llywodraeth leol. Wrth gwrs, bydd pwerau benthyca nid yn unig yn ein galluogi i ystyried prosiectau mawr a oedd y tu hwnt i'n cyrraedd gynt, ond byddant yn lleddfu'r pwysau ar ein terfyn gwariant adrannol cyfalaf, a dorrwyd yn yr adolygiad hwn o wariant o draean. Gall hyn gael ei ddefnyddio ar y cyd â mentrau ariannol i ariannu gwelliannau eraill ledled Cymru, megis buddsoddi yn yr A55 yn y gogledd gan gynnwys swm ychwanegol o £42 miliwn dros dair blynedd er mwyn sicrhau bod yr ased seilwaith yn parhau i fod yn addas at y diben.

16:33

Nick Ramsay Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you for giving way, Minister. On that point, regarding the local government borrowing initiative, the recent budget of the Welsh Government actually slashed funding to local government in Wales, so you must admit that, while you welcome the initiative, you are giving with one hand but taking away with the other.

Diolch ichi am ildio, Weinidog. O ran y pwynt hwnnw, ynghylch menter benthyca llywodraeth leol, gwnaeth cyllideb ddiweddar Llywodraeth Cymru gwtogai'n fawr ar gyllid i lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru mewn gwirionedd, felly rhaid ichi gyfaddef, er eich bod yn croesawu'r fenter hon, eich bod yn rhoi gyda'r naill law ond yn tynnu gyda'r llall.

16:33

Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography

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If the Welsh Conservatives had been in charge of the budget for local government, we know that it would have been slashed even further. What local government has said to me is that it is pleased that we have used our initiative and powers to instigate a local government borrowing initiative, which has of course transformed our highways environment across Wales.

Pe bai'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig wedi bod yn gyfrifol am gyllideb llywodraeth leol, gwyddom y byddai wedi cael ei chwtogi hyd yn oed ymhellach. Yr hyn y mae llywodraeth leol wedi ei ddweud wrthyf yw ei bod yn falch ein bod wedi bod yn flaengar ac wedi defnyddio ein pwerau i sefydlu menter benthyca llywodraeth leol, sydd, wrth gwrs, wedi trawsnewid amgylchedd ein priffyrdd ledled Cymru.

The Welsh Government's response to this debate, I believe, demonstrates our commitment to using these new powers effectively for Wales: our economy, our communities, our citizens. Once we have received the UK Government's detailed response to Silk 1 and examined the implications, I will be steering a major programme of work to continue to develop a Welsh treasury and implement financial reforms. I remember that the leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats asked these questions to the First Minister after the statement that he made last week about the progress that we are making and the work that we are going to do. I will be consulting widely and I will be working with business. I am hugely grateful, as Kirsty Williams has said, to the influential business community that helped to take this forward and deliver that headline result on 1 November. That does mean that we can use its expertise to ensure that we reform stamp duty and land tax on the one hand, and look to the opportunities in terms of borrowing powers.

Mae ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru i'r ddadl hon yn dangos, fe gredaf, ein hymrwymiad i ddefnyddio'r pwerau newydd hyn yn effeithiol i Gymru: ein heconomi, ein cymunedau, ein dinasyddion. Unwaith y cawn ymateb manwl Llywodraeth y DU i Silk 1 ac ar ôl inni ystyried y goblygiadau, byddaf yn llywio rhaglen waith fawr er mwyn parhau i ddatblygu trysorlys i Gymru a rhoi diwygiadau ariannol ar waith. Cofiaf i arweinydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru ofyn y cwestiynau hyn i'r Prif Weinidog ar ôl y datganiad a wnaeth yr wythnos diwethaf am y cynnydd yr ydym yn ei wneud a'r gwaith y bwriadwn ei wneud. Byddaf yn ymgynghori'n eang, a byddaf yn gweithio gyda byd busnes. Rwy'n hynod ddiolchgar, fel y dywedodd Kirsty Williams, i'r gymuned fusnes ddylanwadol a helpodd i fwrw ymlaen â hyn a sicrhau'r prif ganlyniad hwnnw ar 1 Tachwedd. Mae hynny'n golygu y gallwn ddefnyddio ei harbenigedd er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn diwygio'r dreth stamp a'r dreth tir ar y naill law, ac edrych ar y cyfleoedd o ran pwerau benthyca.

We now await the detail. Of course, this has led to what I would say is some unhelpful speculation, as Leighton Andrews drew to our attention. Yes, we are aware of the speculation that the UK Government may offer Wales a different form of income tax devolution to that proposed by the Silk commission, but we need to await the full response to Silk on this and all other commission recommendations.

Rydym bellach yn aros am y manylion. Wrth gwrs, mae hyn wedi arwain at yr hyn sy'n ddyfalu di-fudd, yn fy marn i, fel y nododd Leighton Andrews. Ydym, rydym yn ymwybodol bod rhai yn dyfalu y gall Llywodraeth y DU gynnig i Gymru ffurf wahanol ar ddatganoli treth incwm i'r hyn a gynigiwyd gan gomisiwn Silk, ond mae angen inni aros am yr ymateb llawn i Silk ar hyn a holl argymhellion eraill y comisiwn.

16:35

Rhun ap Iorwerth Bywgraffiad Biography

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Very briefly, we really should not need to clarify terminology in this forum, but it seems that some people might be able to do with a little bit of help. Does the Minister agree that, in tax terms, 'to raise' means 'to bring in' or 'to gather'? It does not necessarily mean 'to increase'; Simon Thomas has put the case for decreasing taxes, of course. [Interruption.]

Yn gryno iawn, ni ddylai fod angen egluro terminoleg yn y fforwm hwn mewn gwirionedd, ond ymddengys bod angen ychydig o gymorth ar rai pobl. A yw'r Gweinidog yn cytuno, o ran treth, mai ystyr 'codi' yw 'casglu'? Nid yw o reidrwydd yn golygu 'cynyddu'; mae Simon Thomas, wedi cyflwyno'r achos dros ostwng trethi, wrth gwrs. [Torri ar draws.]

16:36

Jane Hutt Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

What is very clear—and I refer to the Silk recommendations—is that it is important that it is tax-varying powers that we are discussing. What is very important as well, in recognising that there has been some speculation, is that there is absolutely nothing in Silk about sunset clauses, for example.

Yr hyn sy'n glir iawn—a chyfeiriaf at argymhellion Silk—yw ei bod yn bwysig mai pwerau i amrywio trethi sydd dan sylw. Yr hyn sy'n bwysig iawn hefyd, wrth gydnabod bod rhywfaint o ddyfalu, yw nad oes dim byd yn Silk ynglŷn â chymalau machlud, er enghraifft.

I am pressing the case for—I am sure that the Welsh Conservatives will sum up in this spirit—the unanimity that we secured across this Chamber for the entirety of the Silk package. That is the message that we want to send to the UK Government as it comes to its final conclusions on this report. There is no reference to sunset clauses in Silk. I would see a sunset clause as very much against the spirit of Silk.

Rwy'n pwyso am—rwy'n siŵr y bydd y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn crynhoi'r ddadl yn yr ysbryd hwn—yr unfrydedd a gawsom yn y Siambr hon ynglŷn â chyfanrwydd pecyn Silk. Dyna'r neges yr ydym am ei hanfon i Lywodraeth y DU wrth iddi ddod i'w chasgliadau terfynol ar yr adroddiad hwn. Nid oes unrhyw gyfeiriad at gymalau machlud yn Silk. Yn fy marn i, byddai cymal machlud yn mynd yn hollol groes i ysbryd Silk.

Also, it is important that we have touched on fair funding. Leighton Andrews, Simon Thomas and, indeed, Paul Davies in his reference to the agreed importance of the long term reform of Barnett, recognised that recommendation from the Silk commission. I will repeat it, it says:

Hefyd, mae'n bwysig ein bod wedi crybwyll ariannu teg. Cydnabu Leighton Andrews, Simon Thomas ac, yn wir, Paul Davies yn ei gyfeiriad at bwysigrwydd cytûn diwygio Barnett yn yr hirdymor, yr argymhelliad hwnnw gan gomisiwn Silk. Fe'i nodaf eto, mae'n dweud:

'We recommend that the transfer of income tax powers to the Welsh Government should be conditional upon resolving the issue of fair funding in a way that is agreed by the Welsh and UK Governments.'

Rydym yn argymell y dylai trosglwyddo pwerau treth incwm i Lywodraeth Cymru fod yn amodol ar ddatrys mater ariannu teg mewn ffordd y cytunwyd arni gan Lywodraeth Cymru a Llywodraeth y DU.

That was a cross-party agreement in Silk, and a recommendation that I believe that we all support and embrace. It is important that we remember that we are dependent, and will be dependent, even with tax-varying powers, on our block grant; 75% to 80% of our budget will still come from the UK Government's block grant to Wales, even with tax-varying powers. We have taken a step, with that inter-governmental agreement, to assess convergence at each spending review. Let us be clear—and Silk is clear—that a responsible Welsh Government would have a duty to secure a fair funding base. I am sure that, across the Assembly Chamber, we would recognise that, as Silk did. These financial reforms are something that we all believe are right for Wales. It is a historic moment; let us move on from this debate in that spirit.

Cafwyd cytundeb trawsbleidiol yn Silk, ac argymhelliad yr ydym i gyd yn ei gefnogi ac yn ei dderbyn, fe gredaf. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cofio ein bod yn ddibynnol, ac y byddwn yn ddibynnol, hyd yn oed gyda phwerau i amrywio trethi, ar ein grant bloc; daw 75% i 80% o'n cyllideb o grant bloc Llywodraeth y DU i Gymru o hyd, hyd yn oed gyda phwerau i amrywio trethi. Rydym wedi cymryd cam, gyda'r cytundeb rhynglywodraethol hwnnw, i asesu cydgyfeirio ym mhob adolygiad o wariant. Gadewch inni fod yn glir—ac mae Silk yn glir—y byddai dyletswydd ar Lywodraeth Cymru gyfrifol i sicrhau sylfaen ariannu teg. Rwy'n siŵr y byddem, ym mhob rhan o Siambr y Cynulliad, yn cydnabod hynny, fel y gwnaeth Silk. Mae'r diwygiadau ariannol hyn yn rhywbeth yr ydym i gyd yn credu eu bod yn iawn i Gymru. Mae'n foment hanesyddol; gadewch inni symud ymlaen o'r ddadl hon yn yr ysbryd hwnnw.

Finally, I would like to say that there is no doubt that the Prime Minister's welcome announcement about the NATO summit in 2014 will provide a major boost to the Welsh economy and our global profile. I think that Mohammad Asghar mentioned the experience in Chicago. It will be important to use this event at the Celtic Manor—William Graham talked about it too—to promote Wales to the world. I believe that we will be confident at that time with our new powers, gained as a result of the Silk commission and the Holtham Independent Commission on Funding and Finance for Wales.

Yn olaf, hoffwn ddweud nad oes unrhyw amheuaeth y bydd cyhoeddiad Prif Weinidog y DU ynglŷn ag uwchgynhadledd NATO yn 2014, sydd i'w groesawu, yn rhoi hwb mawr i economi Cymru a'n proffil byd-eang. Credaf i Mohammad Asghar sôn am brofiad Chicago. Bydd yn bwysig defnyddio'r digwyddiad yng Ngwesty'r Celtic Manor—soniodd William Graham am hyn hefyd— i hyrwyddo Cymru i'r byd. Credaf y byddwn yn hyderus erbyn hynny gyda'n pwerau newydd, a gafwyd o ganlyniad i gomisiwn Silk a Chomisiwn Annibynnol Holtham ar Ariannu a Chyllid i Gymru.

16:39

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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Galwaf ar Andrew R.T. Davies i ymateb i'r ddadl.

I call Andrew R.T. Davies to respond to the debate.

16:39

Andrew R.T. Davies Bywgraffiad Biography

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I would like to thank everyone who has participated in the debate this afternoon. It is not very often that we have an opposition debate in which all parties agree to the sentiments of the motion. I think that I took from all of the participants that there was agreement. Looking at the agenda, one would probably find little to disagree with. I think that, from the perspective of the outside world, probably the first and most important part is the exciting news about the NATO summit, which has the potential to have a huge economic impact. Many colleagues, especially on this side of the house—William Graham and Oscar, for example—touched on the positive impact that that could have on south-east Wales. The Minister touched on it towards the end of her contribution, but the Government needs to be very imaginative in how it works, to get the best value for Wales, because let us be brutally honest, a lot of these big conferences and events are just part of a larger bandwagon—a lot of people just see the inside of a conference venue. However, when you look at the size of the NATO summit, it is truly one of the big world gatherings, and there is potential to extract huge economic advantage and profile for Wales. It poses a huge opportunity, and I look forward to the Government coming forward with proposals on how it will harness those opportunities for the benefit of Wales.

Hoffwn ddiolch i bawb sydd wedi cymryd rhan yn y ddadl y prynhawn yma. Nid yn aml y cawn ddadl gan yr wrthblaid lle mae pob plaid yn cytuno â sylwedd y cynnig. Credaf imi ddeall gan bob un o'r cyfranogwyr bod cytundeb. O edrych ar yr agenda, mae'n debyg na fyddai fawr ddim y gellid anghytuno ag ef. Credaf, o safbwynt y byd y tu allan, mai'r rhan gyntaf a phwysicaf yn ôl pob tebyg yw'r newyddion cyffrous am uwchgynhadledd NATO, sydd â'r potensial i gael effaith economaidd enfawr. Cyfeiriodd llawer o gyd-Aelodau, yn enwedig ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr—William Graham ac Oscar, er enghraifft, at yr effaith gadarnhaol y gallai hynny ei chael ar y de-ddwyrain. Cyfeiriodd y Gweinidog ato tua diwedd ei chyfraniad, ond mae angen i'r Llywodraeth fod yn greadigol iawn yn y ffordd y mae'n gweithio, er mwyn cael y gwerth gorau i Gymru, oherwydd gadewch inni fod yn hollol onest, mae llawer o'r cynadleddau a'r digwyddiadau mawr hyn yn rhan o garfan deithiol fwy—mae llawer o bobl ond yn gweld y tu mewn i leoliad y gynhadledd. Fodd bynnag, pan edrychwch ar faint uwchgynhadledd NATO, mae'n wir yn un o gynulliadau mawr y byd, ac mae potensial i sicrhau mantais economaidd a phroffil enfawr i Gymru. Mae'n cynnig cyfle enfawr, ac edrychaf ymlaen at weld y Llywodraeth yn cyflwyno cynigion ynglŷn â sut y bydd yn manteisio ar y cyfleoedd hynny er budd Cymru.

Other spokespeople who contributed to this debate touched on the importance of borrowing powers to increase the ability of the Welsh Government—whoever that Government is; some contributions gave the impression that Labour would be there forever and a day. I very much hope that that is not going to be the case. The contributions from the leader of the Liberal Democrats, Plaid Cymru, and my colleague and financial spokesperson Paul Davies touched on the game-changing nature of these proposals in the Welsh political context. That is really important for us to focus on, because we all go into elections promising better education, a sounder economy and a better health service, and legitimately there is a wide debate at election time on those issues. However, if you introduce the financial aspect—

Soniodd llefarwyr eraill a gyfrannodd at y ddadl hon am bwysigrwydd pwerau benthyca i ychwanegu at allu Llywodraeth Cymru—pwy bynnag a fo mewn grym: rhoddodd rhai cyfranwyr yr argraff y byddai Llafur mewn grym am oes oesoedd. Gobeithio'n fawr na fydd hynny'n wir. Cyfeiriodd cyfraniadau gan arweinydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, Plaid Cymru, a'm cyd-Aelod a'r llefarydd ariannol Paul Davies at natur drawsnewidiol y cynigion hyn yng nghyd-destun gwleidyddol Cymru. Mae hynny'n wirioneddol bwysig inni ganolbwyntio arno, oherwydd yn ystod etholiadau rydym i gyd yn addo gwell addysg, economi gadarnach a gwell gwasanaeth iechyd ac, yn hollol ddilys, mae dadl eang ar adeg etholiad ar y materion hynny. Fodd bynnag, os ydych yn cyflwyno'r agwedd ariannol—

16:41

Leighton Andrews Bywgraffiad Biography

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Just be clear on your position, because members of your party have said this: in a referendum campaign on tax-varying powers, would you campaign for those powers in order to reduce taxes?

Gadewch inni fod yn glir ynglŷn â'ch safbwynt, gan fod aelodau o'ch plaid wedi dweud hyn: mewn ymgyrch refferendwm ar bwerau i amrywio trethi, a fyddech yn ymgyrchu dros y pwerau hynny er mwyn gostwng trethi?

16:41 **Andrew R.T. Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I will come on to your contribution shortly, because it is worth focusing on, because there are two parts to the question that you have just asked. One part is about the referendum to devolve powers to this institution—the Assembly—and I think that there can be agreement across the parties that we campaign for a positive vote in that situation. You then move on to the implementation of those powers should you form the Government. There will be a divide between left and right. I believe passionately in a low-tax economy and leaving money in people's pockets. Others from other parts of the political spectrum would want to put taxation up and use that money in a different way to what we as Conservatives would look to do. However, that is the political debate—that is what politics is about. That is what we must be engaged with. The spokesperson from Plaid Cymru outlined how it is a game-changing situation. The Member for Anglesey clarified the terminology in his intervention. Listening to the Member for Rhondda clearly gives us an indication of the mischief that Labour wants to create around this argument. The Labour Party is running scared on this issue. You do not want the responsibility—that is the long and short of it—and you cannot convince your colleagues in Westminster to support your First Minister, front bench and group in this institution.

Dof at eich cyfraniad yn y man, gan ei fod yn werth rhoi sylw iddo, oherwydd mae dwy ran i'r cwestiwn yr ydych newydd ei ofyn. Mae un rhan yn ymwneud â'r refferendwm i ddatganoli pwerau i'r sefydliad hwn—y Cynulliad—a chredaf fod cytundeb ymhlith y pleidiau y byddwn yn ymgyrchu dros bleidlais gadarnhaol yn y sefyllfa honno. Yna rydych yn symud ymlaen at weithredu'r pwerau hynny pe baech mewn grym. Bydd rhaniad rhwng y chwith a'r de. Credaf yn gryf mewn economi trethi isel ac mewn gadael arian ym mhocedi pobl. Byddai eraill o rannau eraill o'r sbectrwm gwleidyddol am gynyddu trethi a defnyddio'r arian hwnnw mewn ffordd wahanol i'r hyn y byddem ni, y Ceidwadwyr, yn ystyried ei wneud. Fodd bynnag, dyna'r ddadl wleidyddol—dyna ddiben gwleidyddiaeth. Dyna'r hyn y mae'n rhaid inni ymdrin ag ef. Amlinellodd y llefarydd ar ran Plaid Cymru sut mae'n gweddnewid pethau. Eglurodd yr Aelod dros Ynys Môn y derminoleg yn ei ymyriad. O wrando ar yr Aelod dros y Rhondda cawn syniad clir o'r drygioni y mae Llafur am ei greu ynghylch y ddadl hon. Mae'r Blaid Lafur yn llawn ofn ynglŷn â'r mater hwn. Nid ydych am gael y cyfrifoldeb–dyna'r gwir amdani—ac nid ydych yn gallu argyhoeddi eich cyd-Aelodau yn San Steffan i gefnogi eich Prif Weinidog, eich mainc flaen a'ch grŵp yn y sefydliad hwn.

Let us not forget that it was this Labour group and Government that voted in its entirety for Silk part 1. Silk part 1 clearly has a timetable for the possibility of a referendum by 2017. What I would say back to you, if you talk about sunset clauses, is that if a sunset clause married into Silk part 1, would you support that and get behind a referendum? If you are going to move the goalposts, unfortunately you will find other people moving the goalposts. The road to the referendum is quite clear. We accept on this side of the house, because we voted for the Holtham recommendations, that there is an issue around fairer funding to be discussed. However, what we are trying to do with the coalition Government in Westminster and from a Conservative position is to clear up the mess that the Labour Party left after 14 years of Government. In the financial climate that we are in at the moment, it is a huge challenge. There is unanimity around this Chamber over the issue of whether the Barnett formula is suitable for this era or the era in which it was formed in the 1970s, and what we need to do to secure a rebalance. I suggest that you stop the mischief-making and get behind the positive news that was announced two weeks ago, which is transformational in its nature and will ultimately empower the people of Wales. The one thing that politicians need to stop using is this word 'power'—power for this place. It is about responsibility and accountability. Ultimately, it cannot be a contention that we are a fully-fledged legislature, but that we have no responsibility for the money that is spent by whoever forms the Government.

Ni ddylem anghofio i bob aelod o'r grŵp a'r Llywodraeth Lafur hon bleidleisio o blaid Silk rhan 1. Mae'n amlwg bod gan Silk rhan 1 amserlen ar gyfer y posibilrwydd o gynnal refferendwm erbyn 2017. Yr hyn y byddwn yn ei ddweud wrthych, os ydych yn sôn am gymalau machlud, yw, pe bai cymal machlud yn rhan o Silk rhan 1, a fyddech yn cefnogi hynny, a chefnogi refferendwm? Os ydych am newid yr amodau, yn anffodus, fe welwch y bydd pobl eraill yn newid yr amodau. Mae'r ffordd tuag at y refferendwm yn eithaf clir. Rydym yn derbyn ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr, oherwydd inni bleidleisio dros argymhellion Holtham, fod mater ynglŷn ag ariannu tecach i'w drafod. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn yr ydym yn ceisio ei wneud gyda'r Llywodraeth glymblaid yn San Steffan ac o safbwynt y Ceidwadwyr yw clirio'r llanastr a adawodd y Blaid Lafur ar ei hôl ar ôl 14 blynedd o fod mewn grym. Yn yr hinsawdd ariannol sydd ohoni, mae'n her enfawr. Ceir unfrydedd yn y Siambr hon ynghylch a yw fformiwla Barnett yn addas at yr oes hon neu'r oes pryd y cafodd ei ffurfio yn y 1970au, a'r hyn y mae angen inni ei wneud i sicrhau cydbwysedd. Awgrymaf eich bod yn rhoi'r gorau i wneud drygioni a chefnogi'r newyddion cadarnhaol a gyhoeddwyd bythefnos yn ôl, sy'n drawsffurfiol ei natur ac a fydd yn y pen draw yn grymuso pobl Cymru. Yr un peth y mae angen i wleidyddion roi'r gorau i'w ddefnyddio yw'r gair hwn 'pŵer'—pŵer i'r lle hwn. Mae'n ymwneud â chyfrifoldeb ac atebolrwydd. Yn y pen draw, ni ellir honni ein bod yn ddeddfwrfa lawn ddatblygedig, ond nad oes gennym unrhyw gyfrifoldeb am yr arian sy'n cael ei wario gan bwy bynnag sydd mewn grym.

The one thing that I would say is of concern—and I welcome the announcement on borrowing powers—is that, when you think about it, the Welsh Government, in various forms, for the last 10 years, has had a huge amount of European money channelled its way via Objective 1 and convergence funding, which, in effect, is an enormous grant that is supposed to be used to increase the economic vibrancy and wellbeing of the people of Wales, but those tools have not been used to best effect. Therefore, we will need a transformation in the outlook of this Government, or successive Governments, to use those powers proactively to empower the people of Wales.

Yn fy marn i, un peth sy'n peri pryder—a chroesawaf y cyhoeddiad ar bwerau benthyca yw—pan feddyliwch am y peth, bod Llywodraeth Cymru, ar wahanol ffurfiau, dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, wedi cael llawer iawn o arian Ewropeaidd drwy Amcan 1 ac arian cydgyfeirio, sydd, mewn gwirionedd, yn grant enfawr a ddylai gael ei ddefnyddio i wella bywiogrwydd economaidd a lles pobl Cymru, ond nid yw'r adnoddau hynny wedi eu defnyddio yn y ffordd orau. Felly, bydd angen inni drawsnewid agwedd y Llywodraeth hon, neu Lywodraethau olynol, er mwyn defnyddio'r pwerau hynny'n rhagweithiol i rymuso pobl Cymru.

As my colleagues—Mark Isherwood in particular—touched on, Wales is not just south-east Wales. We need to look at the whole of Wales and at projects that we can do, as my finance spokesperson, Paul Davies touched on, such as the A40, for example, and as Janet, the Member for Aberconwy, touched on, in her own patch. We need to look across Wales, strategically, at how we can improve the economic performance with these powers. I have to say, to date, this Government and its predecessors do not have a particularly successful track record on that account. For the motion today, it is a resounding 'yes' coming from this Chamber that we stand behind these landmark announcements. We desperately now want to get on with the job of getting the tools that will deliver fiscal responsibility and accountability to this institution. I commend this motion to the house.

Fel y crybwyllodd fy nghyd-Aelodau—Mark Isherwood yn benodol—mae mwy i Gymru na'r de-ddwyrain. Mae angen inni edrych ar Gymru gyfan ac ar brosiectau y gallwn eu cyflawni, fel y nododd fy llefarydd ar gyllid, Paul Davies, megis yr A40, er enghraifft, ac fel y nododd Janet, yr Aelod dros Aberconwy, yn ei hardal hi. Mae angen inni edrych ar draws Cymru, yn strategol, ar y ffordd y gallwn wella perfformiad economaidd gyda'r pwerau hyn. Rhaid imi ddweud, hyd yn hyn, nad oes gan y Llywodraeth hon na'i rhagflaenwyr record arbennig o lwyddiannus yn hynny o beth. O ran y cynnig heddiw, daw 'ie' ysgubol o'r Siambr hon ein bod yn cefnogi'r cyhoeddiadau pwysig hyn. Mae angen dybryd yn awr inni fwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith o gael yr adnoddau a fydd yn rhoi cyfrifoldeb ac atebolrwydd ariannol i'r sefydliad hwn. Cymeradwyaf y cynnig hwn i'r Siambr.

16:46 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Y cwestiwn yw a ddylid derbyn y cynnig. A oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad? Gwelaf nad oes, felly, derbyniwyd y cynnig yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 12.36.

The question is that the motion be agreed. Are there any objections? There are no objections, therefore, the motion is agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Derbyniwyd y cynnig yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 12.36.

Motion agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Dadl Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru: Busnesau Bach a Chanolig eu Maint

Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate: Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Detholwyd y gwelliannau canlynol: gwelliannau 1, 2, 3, 5 ac 8 yn enw Elin Jones, gwelliananu 4, 6, 7 a 10 yn enw William Graham, a gwelliant 9 yn enw Lesley Griffiths. Os derbynnir gwelliant 9, caiff gwelliant 10 ei ddad-dethol.

The following amendments have been selected: amendments 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8 in the name of Elin Jones, amendments 4, 6, 7 and 10 in the name of William Graham, and amendment 9 in the name of Lesley Griffiths. If amendment 9 is agreed, amendment 10 will be deselected.

Cynnig NDM5354 Aled Roberts

Motion NDM5354 Aled Roberts

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Yn cydnabod bod y sector busnesau bach a chanolig yn cyfrif am 73% o'r holl gyflogaeth mewn ardaloedd gwledig a bod mentrau bach a chanolig yn chwarae rhan hanfodol yn nhwf economaidd cynaliadwy ardaloedd gwledig, o ran ysgogi arloesi a datblygu a helpu i fynd i'r afael â heriau allweddol diweithdra, mudo o'r wlad i'r dref a thlodi.

1. Recognises that the SME sector accounts for 73% of all employment in rural areas and that small and medium sized enterprises play a vital role in the sustainable economic growth of rural areas, in stimulating innovation and advancement and helping to address the key challenges of unemployment, rural to urban migration and poverty.

2. Yn nodi bod diffyg mynediad i gyllid yn amharu ar rôl bosibl busnesau bach a chanolig mewn datblygu economaidd gwledig.

2. Notes that lack of access to finance impedes the potential role of SMEs in rural economic development.

3. Yn nodi'r heriau penodol o ran y nifer sy'n manteisio ar brentisiaethau mewn busnesau bach a chanolig.

3. Notes the particular challenges in the uptake of apprenticeships in SMEs.

4. Yn nodi bod y gagendor digidol o ran band-eang a signalau ffonau symudol yn rhwystro cystadleurwydd a hygyrchedd busnesau mewn ardaloedd gwledig.

4. Notes that the digital divide in broadband and mobile coverage hinders the competitiveness and accessibility of businesses in rural areas.

5. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i:

5. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) archwilio strwythur banc cymunedol i gynnal presenoldeb banciau lleol mewn cymunedau gwledig, ac i weithio gydag undeb credyd i gynyddu benthyca i fusnesau;

a) examine a community bank structure to sustain the presence of local banks in rural communities, and to work with credit unions to increase lending to businesses;

b) gweithio gyda busnesau yn y sectorau amaethyddol, ynni adnewyddadwy a thwristiaeth i nodi ffyrdd o oresgyn rhwystrau i gynyddu'r cyflenwad o brentisiaethau gwledig;

b) work with businesses in the agricultural, renewable energy and tourism sectors to identify ways to overcome barriers to increasing the supply of rural apprenticeships;

c) gwneud mynediad cyffredinol i fand-eang yn rhwymedigaeth i ddarparwyr a gweithio gydag Ofcom a gweithredwyr rhwydwaith i ymchwilio i rannu darpariaeth seilwaith mewn ardaloedd gwledig i sicrhau cymaint o ddarpariaeth â phosibl.

c) make universal access to broadband an obligation for providers and to work with Ofcom and network operators to investigate the shared provision of infrastructure in rural areas to maximise coverage.

16:47 **William Powell** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I move the motion.

Cynigiaf y cynnig.

In many ways, the rural economy forms the very backbone of Wales. This week’s developments in terms of the welcome review of Finance Wales by Professor Dylan Jones-Evans highlights just how much work there is to be done to ensure that we are all pulling in the same direction when it comes to defining the terms within which our rural economy can flourish in the time to come. To that end, we intend to use this debate to outline our three-point plan to stimulate the rural economy.

Ar sawl cyfrif, yr economi wledig yw asgwrn cefn Cymru. Mae’r datblygiadau a welwyd yr wythnos hon o ran yr adolygiad o Cyllid Cymru gan yr Athro Dylan Jones-Evans, sydd i’w groesawu, yn tynnu sylw at faint o waith sydd i’w wneud i sicrhau ein bod i gyd yn cyd-dynnu o ran pennu’r amodau lle y gall ein heconomi wledig ffynnu yn y cyfnod sydd o’n blaenau. I’r perwyl hwnnw, bwriadwn ddefnyddio’r ddadl hon i amlinellu ein cynllun tri phwynt i ysgogi’r economi wledig.

We call on the Welsh Government, first, to examine a community bank structure to sustain the presence of local banks in our rural communities and to work with existing credit unions to increase lending to business; secondly, to work with businesses in the agriculture, renewable energy and tourism sectors to identify ways to overcome barriers to increase the supply of rural apprenticeships; and, thirdly, to make universal access to broadband an obligation for providers and to work with Ofcom and network operators to investigate the shared provision of infrastructure in rural Wales, so as to maximise coverage, which, as we all know, is so important. With the grace of time and your indulgence, Dirprwy Lywydd, my colleagues will expand on the latter two, while I dedicate the remainder of my remarks to the theme of rural finance.

Rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru, yn gyntaf, i ystyried strwythur banc cymunedol er mwyn cadw banciau lleol yn ein cymunedau gwledig a gweithio gyda’r undebau credyd sy’n bodoli eisoes i gynyddu benthyca i fusnesau; yn ail, i weithio gyda busnesau yn y sector amaethyddiaeth, ynni adnewyddadwy a thwristiaeth i nodi ffyrdd o oresgyn rhwystrau er mwyn cynyddu’r cyflenwad o brentisiaethau gwledig; ac, yn drydydd, i wneud mynediad at fand eang i bawb yn rhwymedigaeth ar ddarparwyr ac i weithio gydag Ofcom a gweithredwyr rhwydwaith i ymchwilio i ddarparu seilwaith a rennir yng nghefn gwlad Cymru, er mwyn sicrhau’r ddarpariaeth fwyaf posibl, sydd mor bwysig, fel y gŵyr pob un ohonom. Gyda gras amser a’ch haelioni, Ddirprwy Lywydd, bydd fy nghyd-Aelodau yn ymhelaethu ar y ddau bwynt olaf, tra byddaf innau’n canolbwyntio ar thema cyllid gwledig yng ngweddill fy sylwadau.

I was pleased, back in March, to raise rural banking in a short debate. The key issues that I raised then have not gone away. In fact, it is more important than ever that we address them with urgency. To recap briefly, I highlighted the increasing number of bank branch closures across our rural communities. This week has seen another raft of closures in north Wales, which, I know, has been met with considerable dismay.

Roeddwn yn falch, yn ôl ym mis Mawrth, i godi pwnc bancio gwledig mewn dadl fer. Nid yw’r problemau allweddol a godais bryd hynny wedi diflannu. Yn wir, mae’n bwysicach nag erioed ein bod yn mynd i’r afael â hwy ar fyrder. I grynhoi, tynnais sylw at y nifer cynyddol o ganghennau banc a oedd yn cau yn ein cymunedau gwledig. Yr wythnos hon gwelwyd rhagor o ganghennau’n cau yn y gogledd, sydd, fe wn, wedi achosi cryn siom.

Across the UK as a whole, the figures show that there are now 900 communities that have only one bank branch and 1,200 communities with no branch access at all. This matters, because successful and sustainable economic growth in rural areas requires a local banking system. The closure of branches can significantly reduce footfall more generally on our high streets. This leads to reduced retail turnover, which then, of course, has added impact on the sustainability of our small rural towns. Regrettably, despite many promises and actions, some rural areas simply cannot get access to high-speed broadband. This means that some people no longer have effective banking access, except by telephone.

Dros y DU gyfan, dengys y ffigurau fod gan 900 o gymunedau un gangen banc yn unig ac nad oes gan 1,200 o gymunedau yr un gangen mwyach. Mae hyn yn bwysig, oherwydd mae twf economaidd llwyddiannus a chynaliadwy mewn ardaloedd gwledig yn gofyn am system fancio leol. Gall cau canghennau arwain at ostyngiad sylweddol yn nifer y bobl yn fwy cyffredinol ar y stryd fawr. Mae hyn yn arwain at lai o drosiant manwerthu, sydd wedyn, wrth gwrs, yn cael effaith ychwanegol ar gynaliadwyedd ein trefi gwledig bach. Yn anffodus, er gwaethaf llawer o addewidion a chamau gweithredu, ni all rhai ardaloedd gwledig gael mynediad at fand eang cyflym. Mae hyn yn golygu nad oes gan rai pobl fynediad effeithiol at wasanaethau bancio mwyach, ac eithrio dros y ffôn.

Rural businesses still need access to bank counter services, otherwise, they have to travel large distances, particularly to deposit cash, which, of course, you cannot do virtually. A banking service should provide not only counter services, but also access to credit based on local lending decisions and to decisions based on local knowledge. Many people have said to me, ‘There’s nothing you can do about it; the fact is that people want to use the internet and, these days, cash machines can be located anywhere. There’s no future for the old style of banks as represented by Captain Mainwaring—that blessed figure of the 1960s and 1970s.’ I am not advocating going back to a system of Captain Mainwaring banking in each branch. I am looking at the problems that we have in the here and now.

Mae angen mynediad at wasanaethau cownter banc ar fusnesau gwledig o hyd, fel arall, mae’n rhaid iddynt deithio pellteroedd mawr, yn enwedig i adneuo arian parod, nad yw, wrth gwrs, yn rhywbeth y gallwch ei wneud dros rwydwaith rhithwir. Dylai gwasanaeth bancio ddarparu nid yn unig wasanaethau cownter, ond hefyd fynediad at gredyd yn seiliedig ar benderfyniadau benthyca lleol ac at benderfyniadau sy’n seiliedig ar wybodaeth leol. Mae llawer o bobl wedi dweud wrthyf, ‘Nid oes dim byd y gallwch ei wneud am y peth; y ffaith amdani yw bod pobl am ddefnyddio’r rhyngrwyd, a’r dyddiau hyn, gall peiriannau codi arian gael eu lleoli yn unrhyw le. Nid oes dyfodol i’r hen ddull o fanciau a gynrychiolir gan Gapten Mainwaring —y ffigwr bendigedig hwnnw yn y 1960au a’r 1970au.’ Nid wyf yn argymell mynd yn ôl i system fancio Capten Mainwaring ym mhob cangen. Rwy’n edrych ar y problemau sydd gennym yn yr oes sydd ohoni.

Small businesses, especially in our rural areas, still find it difficult to obtain credit and to do so on reasonable terms. I see cases of this on a regular basis in my region of Mid and West Wales. This is preventing the growth of local businesses and slowing down the recovery of rural economies and the creation of further rural jobs. As we know, we are seeing an explosion of so-called pay-day lending or Wonga banking, as the mainstream banks pull out of local communities and a credit vacuum is created and is being filled by this kind of banking, with which we have had so much bad experience.

Mae’n anodd o hyd i fusnesau bach, yn enwedig yn ein hardaloedd gwledig, gael credyd ac i wneud hynny ar delerau rhesymol. Gwelaf achosion o hyn yn rheolaidd yn fy rhanbarth i, sef Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru. Mae hyn yn atal twf busnesau lleol ac yn arafu adferiad economïau gwledig a’r broses o greu swyddi gwledig pellach. Fel y gwyddom, rydym yn gweld cynnydd syfrdanol yn yr hyn a elwir yn fenthyca diwrnod cyflog neu fancio Wonga, wrth i’r banciau prif ffrwd gefnu ar ein cymunedau lleol a chreu gwactod credyd sy’n cael ei lenwi gan y math hwn o fancio, sydd wedi arwain at gymaint o brofiadau gwael.

The banking scandals, especially affecting small and medium-sized businesses, just go on with, seemingly, no end in sight and no effective and speedy redress. I pay tribute to Elin Jones for the meeting that she hosted last week in terms of Bully-Banks, and the experience that was gathered in that room was quite something to behold.

Mae’r sgandalau bancio, yn enwedig y rhai sy’n effeithio ar fusnesau bach a chanolig, yn parhau’n ddiderfyn, i bob golwg ac nid oes unrhyw system effeithiol a chyflym o wneud iawn. Talaf deyrnged i Elin Jones am y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ganddi yr wythnos diwethaf o ran Bully-Banks, ac roedd y profiad a gasglwyd yn yr ystafell honno yn agoriad llygad.

Banking reform at a UK level is taking much longer than most of us would have wished. The coalition Government is committed to achieving a more diversified banking sector, but clearing up the regulatory and systemic mess that has been left by previous Governments has been a bigger challenge than anyone had anticipated.

Mae diwygiadau i’r system fancio ar lefel y DU yn cymryd llawer mwy o amser nag y byddai’r rhan fwyaf ohonom wedi’i ddymuno. Mae Llywodraeth y glymblaid wedi ymrwymo i sicrhau sector bancio mwy amrywiol, ond mae clirio’r llanast rheoleiddio a systemig a adawyd gan Lywodraethau blaenorol wedi bod yn fwy o her nag yr oedd unrhyw un wedi’i rahgweld.

Therefore, are there things that we can do here in Cardiff bay? I would say 'yes', as long as we have the vision and political will to proceed. I argued in March that we need a wide-ranging revival in the rural economy, and I am convinced that this will start with a new community-based system of banking.

Felly, a oes pethau y gallwn eu gwneud yma ym mae Caerdydd? Byddwn yn dweud 'oes', cyhyd â bod gennym y weledigaeth a'r ewyllys wleidyddol i weithredu. Dadleuais ym mis Mawrth fod angen adfywiad eang yn yr economi wledig, ac rwy'n argyhoeddedig y bydd hyn yn dechrau gyda system fancio gymunedol newydd.

The key issue here is that we do not just need a more diversified banking sector, but we also need a more decentralised sector. We need lending decisions, as I said earlier, to be taken locally, based on local knowledge of local circumstances. First-hand knowledge is irreplaceable in this regard, and while we do not want to go back to Captain Mainwaring, we do need to move forward towards these local decisions instead of a centrally determined loan system. The UK's main clearing banks are not interested in providing these local community-based banking services. That is why the answer has to be to establish a network of community banks here in Wales.

Y mater allweddol yn hyn o beth yw nid yn unig bod angen inni gael sector bancio mwy amrywiol, ond bod angen sector mwy datganoledig. Mae angen i benderfyniadau benthyca, fel y dywedais yn gynharach, gael eu gwneud yn lleol, yn seiliedig ar wybodaeth leol o amgylchiadau lleol. Mae gwybodaeth bersonol yn anhepgor yn hyn o beth, ac er nad ydym am fynd yn ôl i oes Capten Mainwaring, mae angen inni symud ymlaen tuag at y penderfyniadau lleol hyn yn hytrach na system fenthyca a bennir yn ganolog. Nid oes gan brif fanciau clirio'r DU ddiddordeb mewn darparu'r gwasanaethau bancio hyn mewn cymunedau lleol. Dyna pam mae'n rhaid mai sefydlu rhwydwaith o fanciau cymunedol yma yng Nghymru yw'r ateb.

These have been hugely successful in Germany, which, of course, is Europe's leading economy, where the work of commercial banks is decentralised and operates extremely well. Each savings bank is independent, locally managed and concentrates its business activities on customers in its own region. In general, these savings banks are not profit orientated. The total assets of these Sparkassen in the whole of Germany amount to some €1 trillion. The 431 savings banks operate a network of over 15,600 branches and offices, and employ over 250,000 staff. They provide the full spectrum of banking services.

Bu'r rhain yn llwyddiant mawr yn yr Almaen, sef economi fwyaf blaenllaw Ewrop, wrth gwrs, lle mae gwaith banciau masnachol yn ddatganoledig ac yn gweithredu'n eithriadol o dda. Mae pob banc cynilion yn annibynnol, yn cael ei reoli'n lleol ac mae ei weithgareddau busnes yn canolbwyntio ar gwsmeriaid yn ei ranbarth ei hun. Fel arfer, nid yw'r banciau cynilion hyn yn canolbwyntio ar wneud elw. Mae asedau'r banciau Sparkassen hyn drwy'r Almaen gyfan yn werth tua €1 triliwn i gyd. Mae'r 431 o fanciau cynilion yn gweithredu rhwydwaith o fwy na 15,600 o ganghennau a swyddfeydd, ac yn cyflogi dros 250,000 o staff. Maent yn darparu'r ystod lawn o wasanaethau bancio.

Some of you may have seen the 'Bank of Dave' Channel 4 tv series, which highlights the efforts of small business owner Dave Fishwick in Burnley, Lancashire, where he set up a small community bank. It was set up in 2011, motivated by a strong view that the current banking system simply is not working for ordinary people and local businesses. Interest of 5% is paid on deposits and all profits, after overheads, are ploughed back into local charities. What that series confirmed was how out of touch the financial services establishment is with the banking needs of local communities, and that the truth is that UK banking has been driven by profit motives to provide large loans to financial institutions for a quick return, rather than putting that same money into smaller firms that are, as we know, the essence of economic revival.

Efallai y bydd rhai ohonoch wedi gweld cyfres deledu Channel 4, 'Bank of Dave', sy'n tynnu sylw at ymdrechion perchennog busnes bach Dave Fishwick yn Burnley, Swydd Gaerhirfryn, lle y sefydlodd fanc cymunedol bach. Cafodd ei sefydlu yn 2011, a'i ysgogi gan farn gref nad yw'r system fancio bresennol yn gweithio o blaid pobl gyffredin a busnesau lleol. Telir llog o 5% ar adneuon a chaiff yr holl elw, ar ôl gorbenion, ei ailfuddsoddi mewn elusennau lleol. Yr hyn a gadarnhawyd gan y gyfres honno oedd yr agendor rhwng y sefydliad gwasanaethau ariannol ac anghenion bancio cymunedau lleol, ac mai'r gwir amdani yw mai'r cymhelliad i wneud elw sydd wedi llywio gwasanaethau bancio'r DU a hynny er mwyn darparu benthyciadau mawr i sefydliadau ariannol am enillion cyflym, yn hytrach na rhoi'r un arian i gwmnïau llai o faint sydd, fel y gwyddom, yn hanfodol i adfywiad economaidd.

We need to change the banking system to ensure that we have many small, thriving local banks and banks that, which I will repeat, think locally. Professor Richard Werner, one of the UK's leading experts on reform of the banking system, has stated that there is a clear policy lesson to learn: a banking system with many small banks delivers higher and more stable economic growth. This will ensure that we have the diversified banking system that we need. I urge the Welsh Government to grasp this opportunity. Let us work on a cross-party basis to develop a community banking sector here in Wales. I further urge the Welsh Government, in concluding, to make a firm commitment to establish a community rural banking pilot project by the start of 2016. Let us have the vision to take this issue forward. It will make a real difference to the people of Wales and to our rural economies.

Mae angen inni newid y system fancio i sicrhau bod gennym lawer o fanciau lleol ffyniannus bach a banciau, ac ailadroddaf hyn, sy'n meddwl yn lleol. Mae'r Athro Richard Werner, un o brif arbenigwyr y DU ar ddiwygio'r system fancio, wedi datgan bod gwers polisi amlwg i'w dysgu: mae system fancio sy'n cynnwys llawer o fanciau bach yn sicrhau twf economaidd uwch a mwy sefydlog. Bydd hyn yn sicrhau ein bod yn cael y system fancio amrywiol sydd ei hangen arnom. Rwy'n annog Llywodraeth Cymru i achub ar y cyfle hwn. Gadewch inni weithio ar sail drawsbleidiol i ddatblygu sector bancio cymunedol yma yng Nghymru. Wrth gloi, rwy'n annog Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd i wneud ymrwymiad cadarn i sefydlu prosiect peilot bancio gwledig cymunedol erbyn dechrau 2016. Gadewch inni gael y weledigaeth i weithredu ar y mater hwn. Bydd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol i bobl Cymru ac i'n heconomïau gwledig.

16:55

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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Rwyf wedi dethol y 10 gwelliant i'r cynnig. Os derbynnir gwelliant 9, caiff gwelliant 10 ei ddad-ddethol. Galwaf ar Llyr Gruffydd i gynnig gwelliannau 1, 2, 3, 5 ac 8 a gyflwynwyd yn enw Elin Jones.

I have selected the 10 amendments to the motion. If amendment 9 is agreed, amendment 10 will be de-selected. I call on Llyr Gruffydd to move amendments 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8 tabled in the name of Elin Jones.

Gwelliant 1—Elin Jones

Amendment 1—Elin Jones

Cynnwys ar ddiwedd pwynt 2:

Insert at end of point 2:

'ac yn nodi anallu Cyllid Cymru i gynnig cyllid i fusnesau bach a chanolig ar gyfraddau cystadleuol'

'and notes the inability of Finance Wales to offer finance to SMEs at competitive rates'

Gwelliant 2—Elin Jones

Amendment 2—Elin Jones

Cynnwys ar ddiwedd pwynt 3:

Insert at end of point 3:

'ac yn cydnabod y camau cadarnhaol a gymerwyd drwy gytundeb cyllideb 2013/14 ar brentisiaethau rhwng Plaid Cymru a Llywodraeth Cymru.'

'and recognises the positive steps taken through the 2013/14 budget agreement on apprenticeships between Plaid Cymru and the Welsh Government.'

Gwelliant 3—Elin Jones

Amendment 3—Elin Jones

Ychwanegu pwynt 4 newydd ac ailrifo yn unol â hynny:

Add as new point 4 and renumber accordingly:

Yn gresynu at yr effaith negyddol y mae cam-werthu cynnyrch gwarchod rhag risgiau cyfraddau llog gan fanciau'r stryd fawr wedi'i chael ar yr economi wledig.

Regrets the negative impact on the rural economy of the mis-selling of interest rate hedging products by high street banks.

Gwelliant 5—Elin Jones

Amendment 5—Elin Jones

Ychwanegu pwynt 5 newydd ac ailrifo yn unol â hynny:

Add as new point 5 and renumber accordingly:

Yn credu bod cost tanwydd mewn ardaloedd gwledig yn cael effaith negyddol ar yr economi wledig, ac yn gresynu nad oedd cais Llywodraeth y DU i ehangu'r Ad-daliad Tanwydd Gwledig yn cynnwys unrhyw ardaloedd yng Nghymru.

Believes that the cost of fuel in rural areas has a negative impact on the rural economy, and regrets that the UK Government's application for an extension to the Rural Fuel Rebate did not include any Welsh areas.

Gwelliant 8—Elin Jones

Amendment 8—Elin Jones

Cynnwys is-bwynt 5b) newydd ac ailrifo yn unol â hynny:

Insert as new sub-point 5b) and renumber accordingly:

'edrych ar beth yw manteision sefydlu banc busnes hyd braich, di-ddifidend, sy'n eiddo cyhoeddus, i fusnesau bach a chanolig gwledig, i gynnig cyllid ar gyfraddau cystadleuol i fusnesau bach a chanolig Cymru.'

'examine the benefits to rural SMEs of establishing a publicly owned, arm's length, not-for dividend business bank, to offer finance at competitive rates to Welsh SMEs.'

16:56

Llyr Gruffydd Bywgraffiad Biography

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Cynigiaf welliannau 1, 2, 3, 5 ac 8.

I move amendments 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8.

Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am ddod â'r ddadl hon gerbron y prynhawn yma. Mae'n bleser gennyf gynnig gwelliannau 1, 2, 3, 5 ac 8 yn enw Elin Jones ar ran Plaid Cymru. Mae mynediad at fand eang yn ganolog i ddatblygiad economaidd cefn gwlad Cymru. Mynediad at fand llydan cyflym iawn yw'r hyn rydym am ei weld, gan ddefnyddio'r diffiniad Ewropeaidd o beth yw band llydan cyflym iawn hefyd. Byddai hynny o fudd sylweddol i'r boblogaeth, gyda'r potensial i greu swyddi ac i ddod â chyflogwyr i rai o ardaloedd mwy ymylol ein heconomi yma yng Nghymru. Mae consýrn wedi'i godi o'r blaen yn y fan hon, a byddaf yn ategu hynny heddiw. Rydym yn ymwybodol o Superfast Cymru a'r gwaith y mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei wneud i'r perwyl hwnnw i gyrraedd y targed o 96% o Gymru yn cael mynediad at y gwasanaeth hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, mae cwestiwn ynglŷn â'r 4% a fydd ar ôl—y 4% sydd eisoes efallai'n byw mewn rhai o'r cymunedau mwyaf ymylol sydd ar gyrion yr economi yng Nghymru, a 4% a fydd efallai yn disgyn ymhellach ar ei hôl hi yn sgîl rhai o'r datblygiadau yr ydym yn sôn amdanynt. Felly, byddem yn falch pe bai'r Gweinidog yn achub ar y cyfle, wrth ymateb i'r ddadl hon heddiw, i rannu rhai o'r syniadau sydd ganddi ynglŷn â sut y gallwn sicrhau nad yw'r bobl sy'n rhan o'r 4% hwnnw yn cael eu gadael ar ôl.

I would like to thank the Liberal Democrats for bringing this debate before us this afternoon. It is my pleasure to move amendments 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8 in the name of Elin Jones on behalf of Plaid Cymru. Access to broadband is central to the economic development of rural Wales. Access to superfast broadband is what we want to see, using the European definition of what is meant by superfast broadband. That would be of huge benefit to the population and would the potential to create jobs and to bring employers to some of our more peripheral areas in terms of the Welsh economy. Concern has been expressed in the past here, and I will endorse that today. We are aware of Superfast Cymru and the work of undertaken by the Government in that regard to reach that target of 96% of Wales having access to that service. However, there is then a question of the remaining 4%—the 4% of people who perhaps already live in some of our most peripheral communities on the margins of our economy in Wales, and the 4% who will, perhaps, fall even further behind as a result of some of the developments that we are talking about. So, I would be grateful if the Minister could take the opportunity, in responding to the debate today, to share some of the ideas that she may have on how we can ensure that that 4% is not left behind.

Mae Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig o'r farn bod cyflymder band eang y Deyrnas Unedig ymhlith y cyflymaf o unrhyw un o brif wledydd Ewrop. Os edrychwch chi ar y gynghrair, gwelwch mai'r realiti yw ein bod ni ym Mhrydain yn rhif 13 ar y rhestr, y tu ôl i wledydd fel Latfia, Rwmania a'r Weriniaeth Siec. Mae tystiolaeth gref a fyddai'n awgrymu bod Cymru, yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, hyd yn oed yn bellach i lawr y rhestr honno, heb sôn am ein hardaloedd gwledig. Mae band eang, y rhyngrwyd symudol a signal ffonau symudol—a byddwn yn hapus iawn i gefnogi'r gwelliant i'r perwyl hwnnw—hefyd yn profi i fod yn rhwystr sylweddol y mae angen mynd i'r afael ag ef.

The UK Government is of the opinion that broadband speeds in the UK are among the fastest in any of the main European nations. If you look at the league table, the reality is that we in Britain are thirteenth on the list, behind countries like Latvia, Romania and the Czech Republic. There is robust evidence that would suggest that Wales, in that context, is even further down the league table, never mind the rural areas of Wales. Broadband, the mobile internet and mobile phone signal—and I would be very happy to support the amendment that refers to those things—are also proving to be real barriers that need to be addressed.

We know that 99% of Wales's businesses are SMEs and that the vast majority of them are microbusinesses. Of course, the rural economy is no different in that respect. SMEs, as we see in the motion, account for about 73% of all employment in rural areas, so it is vital that we secure the future of these businesses and make sure that new businesses can enter the rural economy. We know that microbusinesses tend to find it difficult to access finance, and Plaid Cymru's position on this was made clear by my colleague Alun Ffred Jones yesterday, in response to Professor Dylan Jones-Evans's report. Finance Wales has been setting its lending rates far too high and alienating businesses as a result. For small businesses, particularly rural businesses, which often need cash flow for expensive equipment and so on, this has been a real stumbling block. This is why our amendments call on the Government to examine the benefits to rural businesses of Plaid Cymru's policy of establishing a publicly owned, not-for-profit business bank. We believe that it would not only ease access to finance for rural businesses, but that it should also offer services such as export finance, advocacy and entrepreneurship development services to help to guide those businesses. Rural businesses have a particular interest in exporting. Having an organisation, such as Plaid Cymru's proposed bank of Wales, to help them achieve their goals would be invaluable.

Gwyddom mai busnesau bach a chanolig yw 99% o fusnesau Cymru a bod y mwyafrif llethol ohonynt yn ficrofusnesau. Wrth gwrs, nid yw'r economi wledig yn wahanol yn hynny o beth. Mae busnesau bach a chanolig, fel y gwelwn yn y cynnig, yn cyfrif am tua 73% o'r holl gyflogaeth mewn ardaloedd gwledig, felly mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn sicrhau dyfodol y busnesau hyn ac yn gwneud yn siŵr y gall busnesau newydd ddod yn rhan o'r economi wledig. Gwyddom fod microfusnesau yn tueddu i gael anhawster i gael gafael ar gyllid, a nodwyd safbwynt Plaid Cymru ar hyn yn glir gan fy nghyd-Aelod Alun Ffred Jones ddoe, mewn ymateb i adroddiad yr Athro Dylan Jones-Evans. Mae Cyllid Cymru wedi bod yn gosod ei gyfraddau benthyca yn llawer rhy uchel ac wedi bod yn codi gwrychyn busnesau o ganlyniad. O ran busnesau bach, yn enwedig busnesau gwledig, y mae angen llif arian arnynt yn aml ar gyfer offer costus ac yn y blaen, mae hyn wedi bod yn faen tramgwydd gwririoneddol. Dyma pam mae ein gwelliannau yn galw ar y Llywodraeth i edrych ar fanteision polisi Plaid Cymru, sef sefydlu banc busnes nid er elw sy'n eiddo i'r cyhoedd, i fusnesau gwledig. Credwn y byddai hynny nid yn unig yn ei gwneud yn haws i fusnesau gwledig gael gafael ar gyllid, ond y dylai hefyd gynnig gwasanaethau fel cyllid allforio, gwasanaethau eiriolaeth a datblygu entrepreneuriaeth er mwyn helpu i arwain y busnesau hynny. Mae gan fusnesau gwledig ddiddordeb arbennig mewn allforio. Byddai cael sefydliad, megis banc Cymru arfaethedig Plaid Cymru, i'w helpu i gyflawni eu nodau yn amhrisiadwy.

There was reference to the plight of rural banks. Most recently, the experience of some of my electors in Llangollen, Conwy and Beaumaris, where HSBC has announced closures, is very disappointing. It is just about 12 months ago that HSBC closed its Corwen branch and told its members, 'The service in Llangollen is just down the road; you'll be able to access that—we'll move your accounts there'. Now it is closing the Llangollen branch. I think that that says it all, and it should be opposed, as I know many people here will do and are doing.

Cyfeiriwyd at sefyllfa anffodus banciau gwledig. Yn fwyaf diweddar, mae profiad rhai o'm hetholwyr yn Llangollen, Conwy a Biwmares, lle mae HSBC wedi cyhoeddi ei fod yn cau canghennau, yn siomedig iawn. Dim ond tua 12 mis yn ôl caeodd HSBC ei gangen yng Nghorwen gan ddweud wrth ei aelodau, 'Mae'r gwasanaeth yn Llangollen yn eithaf agos; byddwch yn gallu cael gwasanaethau yno—symudwn eich cyfrifon yno'. Erbyn hyn, mae'n cau cangen Llangollen. Credaf fod hynny'n dweud y cyfan, a dylid ei wrthwynebu, fel y mae llawer o bobl yma yn ei wneud, fe wn.

Plaid Cymru recognises that some of the Welsh Government's myriad schemes are successful, and some may be more successful than others, particularly with regard to helping small businesses take on apprentices. This is why Plaid Cymru not only wanted to extend the Young Recruits programme, offering microbusinesses a subsidy to take on apprentices, but also wanted to make it easier for these businesses by facilitating shared apprenticeships. Apprenticeship schemes are invaluable to small businesses and to young apprentices, and the benefits of facilitating such schemes to the rural economy are often underestimated.

Mae Plaid Cymru yn cydnabod bod rhai o gynlluniau lu Llywodraeth Cymru yn llwyddiannus, ac y gall rhai fod yn fwy llwyddiannus nag eraill, yn enwedig o ran helpu busnesau bach i gyflogi prentisiaid. Dyma pam roedd Plaid Cymru, nid yn unig yn awyddus i ymestyn y rhaglen Recriwtiaid Ifanc, sy'n cynnig cymhorthdal i ficrofusnesau gyflogi prentisiaid, ond hefyd i'w gwneud yn haws i'r busnesau hyn drwy hwyluso prentisiaethau a rennir. Mae cynlluniau prentisiaeth yn amhrisiadwy i fusnesau bach ac i brentisiaid ifanc, ac mae manteision hwyluso cynlluniau o'r fath i'r economi wledig yn aml yn cael eu tanbrisio.

We do have an amendment in relation to the fuel duty rebate. I think it is regrettable that Wales was not included in the proposals to take advantage of that, and it will have an impact on rural businesses, as it will on wider rural communities and some other areas that may have been able to take advantage of such a scheme. Also, in relation to transport infrastructure, we know that it is inextricably linked to the economy as a whole, and the rural economy in that respect is no exception. With that sentiment, we are happy to support amendment 6 as well.

Rydym wedi cyflwyno gwelliant mewn perthynas â'r ad-daliad treth tanwydd. Credaf ei bod yn anffodus nad oedd Cymru wedi'i chynnwys yn y cynigion i fanteisio ar hynny, a bydd hynny'n cael effaith ar fusnesau gwledig, a hefyd ar gymunedau gwledig ehangach a rhai ardaloedd eraill a allai fod wedi manteisio ar gynllun o'r fath o bosibl. Hefyd, o ran seilwaith trafnidiaeth, gwyddom ei fod yn rhan annatod o'r economi gyfan, ac nid yw'r economi wledig yn eithriad yn hynny o beth. Gan gofio hynny, rydym yn barod i gefnogi gwelliant 6 hefyd.

17:01 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Galwaf ar Weinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth i gynnig gwelliant 9 a gyflwynwyd yn enw Lesley Griffiths.

I call on the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport to move amendment 9 tabled in the name of Lesley Griffiths.

Gwelliant 9—Lesley Griffiths

Amendment 9— Lesley Griffiths

Dileu is-bwynt 5c.

Delete sub-point 5c.

17:01 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

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

I move amendment 9.

David Lloyd: Cynigiaf welliant 9.

17:01 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Galwaf ar Nick Ramsay i gynnig gwelliannau 4, 6, 7 a 10 a gyflwynwyd yn enw William Graham.

I call Nick Ramsay to move amendments 4, 6, 7 and 10 tabled in the name of William Graham.

Gwelliant 4—William Graham

Amendment 4—William Graham

Cynnwys pwynt 4 newydd ac ailrifo yn unol â hynny:

Insert as new point 4 and renumber accordingly:

Yn nodi ymhellach y pwyntiau a amlinellir yn adroddiad y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes ynghylch prentisiaethau mewn ardaloedd gwledig.

Further notes the points detailed in the Enterprise and Business Committee report on apprenticeships in rural areas.

Gwelliant 6—William Graham

Amendment 6—William Graham

Cynnwys pwynt 5 newydd ac ailrifo yn unol â hynny:

Insert as new point 5 and renumber accordingly:

Yn nodi bod seilwaith trafnidiaeth wledig effeithiol yn allweddol ar gyfer cymunedau gwledig ac yn hanfodol ar gyfer ysgogi datblygiadau economaidd a mynd i'r afael ag arwahanrwydd gwledig.

Notes that effective rural transport infrastructure is a lifeline for rural communities and essential for stimulating economic development and tackling rural isolation.

Gwelliant 7—William Graham

Amendment 7—William Graham

Cynnwys pwynt 5 newydd ac ailrifo yn unol â hynny:

Insert as new point 5 and renumber accordingly:

Yn cydnabod baich ardrethi busnes ar fusnesau bach a chanolig gwledig ac yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i gyflwyno mwy o ryddhad ardrethi busnes i fusnesau bach ledled Cymru.

Recognises the burden of business rates on rural SMEs and calls on the Welsh Government to introduce further business rate relief for small businesses across Wales.

Gwelliant 10—William Graham

Amendment 10—William Graham

Yn is-bwynt 5c, dileu popeth ar ôl 'ddarparwyr' a rhoi yn ei le, 'a sicrhau trawsrwydweithio gorfodol yn yr holl ardaloedd gwledig er mwyn i'r holl weithredwyr wella cystadleuaeth o ran prisiau a chynyddu'r ddarpariaeth'.

In sub-point 5c) delete all after 'providers' and replace with 'and ensure mandatory roaming in all rural areas for all operators to enhance price competition and increase coverage'.

17:01 **Nick Ramsay** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I am grateful to the Liberal Democrats for bringing forward today's timely debate, and I am happy to move amendments 4, 6, 7 and 10, tabled in the name of William Graham.

Rwy'n ddiolchgar i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am gyflwyno dadl amserol heddiw, ac mae'n bleser gennyf gynnig gwelliannau 4, 6, 7 a 10, a gyflwynwyd yn enw William Graham.

As Will Powell said in opening this debate, this comes a day after the statement concerning the access to finance for Welsh SMEs, and the publication of the report by Professor Dylan Jones-Evans. The findings of that report, as discussed yesterday, were deeply concerning, and we clearly need swift action from the Welsh Government to sort out Finance Wales and get a funding regime in place for businesses that fulfils the report's aims of providing tailored, affordable financial support. On that basis, we will certainly, as the Welsh Conservatives, support Plaid Cymru's amendment 1, which highlights the lack of affordability of Finance Wales interest rates, which are in some cases up to 12%—way above market rates. As I said yesterday, the First Minister has previously tried to defend these rates in this Chamber, and he in fact said that there was a danger that Finance Wales would collapse without them, but it is clear from yesterday's report that businesses have been right all along. They told us about these problems and that the rates were unjustifiably high and above what was needed to comply with state-aid rules. So, we do need to see swift action from the Welsh Government to bring those rates down.

Fel y dywedodd Will Powell wrth agor y ddadl hon, daw hyn ddiwrnod ar ôl y datganiad ynghylch mynediad at gyllid i fusnesau bach a chanolig Cymru, a chyhoeddi adroddiad yr Athro Dylan Jones-Evans. Bu canfyddiadau'r adroddiad hwnnw, fel y trafodwyd ddoe, yn destun pryder mawr, ac mae'n amlwg bod angen inni weld Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithredu'n ddi-oed i ddatrys problemau Cyllid Cymru a rhoi trefn ariannu i fusnesau ar waith sy'n cyflawni amcanion yr adroddiad, sef y dylid darparu cymorth ariannol, fforddiadwy wedi'i deilwra. Ar y sail honno, byddwn yn sicr, fel y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig, yn cefnogi gwelliant Plaid Cymru 1, sy'n tynnu sylw at ddiffyg fforddiadwyedd cyfraddau llog Cyllid Cymru, sy'n gyfuwch â 12% mewn rhai achosion—sy'n gryn dipyn yn uwch na chyfraddau'r farchnad. Fel y dywedais ddoe, mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi ceisio amddiffyn y cyfraddau hyn yn y Siambr hon yn y gorffennol, ac yn wir dywedodd fod perygl y byddai Cyllid Cymru yn methu hebddynt, ond mae'n amlwg o adroddiad ddoe mai byd busnes oedd yn iawn o'r cychwyn. Dywedodd wrthym am y problemau hyn a bod y cyfraddau ar lefel uchel na ellid ei chyfiawnhau ac yn uwch na'r hyn yr oedd ei angen i gydymffurfio â rheolau cymorth gwladwriaethol. Felly, mae angen inni weld Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithredu'n ddi-oed i ostwng y cyfraddau hynny.

We also need action to make sure that Finance Wales is fit for purpose. If it cannot be made fit for purpose, then alternative proposals, such as those of the Welsh Conservatives, should be brought forward, which would involve the creation of a more locally structured, high-street-based, business-facing bank that would be better suited to the needs of businesses and their growth across Wales.

Mae angen gweithredu hefyd i sicrhau bod Cyllid Cymru yn addas at y diben. Os nad oes modd ei wneud yn addas at y diben, yna dylid cyflwyno cynigion eraill, megis rhai'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig, a fyddai'n golygu creu banc â strwythur mwy lleol ar y stryd fawr sy'n canolbwyntio ar fusnesau a fyddai'n fwy addas at anghenion busnesau a'u twf ledled Cymru.

Finally on yesterday's report, it is unsustainable that the body charged with providing finance to Welsh business has no strategic interest for economic development. That makes no sense, and we believe that it should change.

Yn olaf, o ran yr adroddiad ddoe, mae'n anghynaliadwy nad oes gan y corff sy'n gyfrifol am ddarparu cyllid i fusnesau yng Nghymru unrhyw ddiddordeb strategol ym maes datblygu economaidd. Nid yw'n gwneud unrhyw synnwyr, a chredwn y dylai hynny newid.

As the motion rightly recognises, the SME sector accounts for 73% of all employment in rural areas. SMEs are the lifeblood of the rural economy and they play a vital role in the sustainable economic growth of rural areas in helping to address the key challenges of unemployment, rural-to-urban migration and poverty. I also strongly support the motion in calling for more work with businesses in the agriculture, renewable energy and tourism sectors to identify ways to overcome barriers to increasing the supply of rural apprenticeships.

Fel y mae'r cynnig yn ei gydnabod, a hynny'n hollol briodol, mae'r sector busnesau bach a chanolig yn cyfrif am 73% o holl gyflogaeth ardaloedd gwledig. Busnesau bach a chanolig yw asgwrn cefn yr economi wledig ac maent yn chwarae rhan hanfodol yn nhwf economaidd cynaliadwy ardaloedd gwledig o ran helpu i ymateb i'r heriau allweddol sy'n gysylltiedig â diweithdra, mudo o'r wlad i'r dref a thlodi. Rwyf hefyd yn cefnogi'n gryf y cynnig sy'n galw am wneud mwy o waith gyda busnesau yn y sectorau amaethyddiaeth, ynni adnewyddadwy a thwristiaeth er mwyn nodi ffyrdd o oresgyn rhwystrau i gynyddu'r cyflenwad o brentisiaethau gwledig.

On this issue, the Welsh Conservatives' amendment 4 highlights the recommendations made by the Enterprise and Business Committee's inquiry into apprenticeships. The committee believes, as do I, that apprenticeships have been underutilised for too long, and can be a great asset to the rural economy. Despite a greater focus on apprenticeship schemes in recent times, and, indeed, an increase in the number of companies expressing an interest in them, the number of apprenticeships in Wales has, as the committee found, declined in recent years. However, on the bright side, it was good that a greater proportion of people starting apprenticeships are now completing them. So, that really was positive news, but there is a disconnect with the number of apprenticeships that have been started.

O ran y mater hwn, mae gwelliant 4 y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn tynnu sylw at yr argymhellion a wnaed gan ymchwiliad y Pwyllgor Busnes a Menter i brentisiaethau. Cred y pwyllgor, fel minnau, fod prentisiaethau wedi cael eu tanddefnyddio ers gormod o amser, ac y gallant fod yn gaffaeliad mawr i'r economi wledig. Er gwaetha'r ffocws ychwanegol ar gynlluniau prentisiaeth yn ddiweddar, ac, yn wir, cynnydd yn nifer y cwmnïau sy'n mynegi diddordeb ynddynt, mae nifer y prentisiaethau yng Nghymru, fel y canfu'r pwyllgor, wedi lleihau yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Fodd bynnag, ar nodyn cadarnhaol, roedd yn braf nodi bod cyfran uwch o bobl sy'n dechrau prentisiaethau yn eu cwblhau bellach. Felly, roedd hynny'n newyddion gwirioneddol gadarnhaol, ond mae diffyg cyswllt o ran nifer y prentisiaethau sydd wedi cael eu dechrau.

It is not just about the completion of apprenticeships, of course; apprenticeships need to lead to worthwhile, full-time jobs, and SMEs need to be supported to take on apprentices and convert them into employees. That is particularly important in rural areas where SMEs are so important, as we heard from Plaid Cymru. I give way to Joyce Watson.

Nid oes a wnelo hyn â chwblhau prentisiaethau yn unig, wrth gwrs; mae angen i brentisiaethau arwain at swyddi llawn amser gwerth chweil, ac mae angen i fusnesau bach a chanolig gael eu helpu i gyflogi prentisiaid a'u troi'n gyflogeion. Mae hynny'n arbennig o bwysig mewn ardaloedd gwledig lle mae busnesau bach a chanolig mor bwysig, fel y clywsom gan Blaid Cymru. Ildiaf i Joyce Watson.

17:05 **Joyce Watson** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you for taking the intervention. Would you join me in commending Carmarthenshire County Council on using all the tools at its disposal to grow its apprenticeship scheme, which needs to happen in rural areas—as you quite rightly say—and is happening in Carmarthenshire?

Diolch ichi am dderbyn yr ymyriad. A fyddech yn ymuno â mi i ganmol Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin am ddefnyddio'r holl adnoddau sydd ar gael iddo er mwyn ehangu ei gynllun prentisiaeth, sef rhywbeth y mae angen iddo ddigwydd mewn ardaloedd gwledig—fel y dywedasoch a hynny'n gwbl gywir—ac sy'n digwydd yn Sir Gaerfyrddin?

17:05 **Nick Ramsay** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Yes, I agree with you on that, Joyce. As the committee found, there is good practice on apprenticeships across Wales. Too often, other areas that are not employing those practices do not know about it. However, as you know from your time working on that inquiry with me and with the Minister for skills, in his former capacity, there is good practice that needs to be extended across Wales.

Byddwn, cytunaf â chi ar hynny, Joyce. Fel y canfu'r pwyllgor, mae arfer da i'w gael ym maes prentisiaethau ledled Cymru. Yn rhy aml, nid oedd ardaloedd eraill nad oeddent yn dilyn yr arfer hwnnw yn ymwybodol ohono. Fodd bynnag, fel y gwyddoch o'ch amser yn gweithio ar yr ymchwiliad hwnnw gyda mi a chyda'r Gweinidog sgiliau, yn rhinwedd ei swydd flaenorol, ceir arfer da y mae angen ei ledaenu ledled Cymru.

The Federation of Small Businesses gave evidence to the committee that in 2010 only 10% of SME companies took on apprenticeships, with the main barriers to greater uptake being time and money. Therefore, the Enterprise and Business Committee recommended a scheme of mentoring and support between companies with a proven track record of apprenticeship programmes. That goes back to what Joyce Watson said about spreading good practice.

Rhoddodd y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach dystiolaeth i'r pwyllgor mai dim ond 10% o gwmnïau bach a chanolig yn 2010 a ymgymerodd â phrentisiaethau, gan nodi mai amser ac arian oedd y prif rwystrau a oedd yn atal rhagor rhag gwneud hynny. Felly, argymhellodd y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes gynllun mentora a chymorth rhwng cwmnïau sydd â hanes profedig o raglenni prentisiaeth. Mae hynny'n mynd yn ôl at yr hyn a ddywedodd Joyce Watson am ledaenu arfer da.

I know that I am coming to the end of my time, Deputy Presiding Officer, but I would like to raise the issue of cross-border problems. Rural areas do not always have suitable or accredited training provision close at hand. This surfaced in a recent constituent case of mine where a business faced barriers to funding because its apprentices were travelling to Hereford to undertake the academic part of their training because there was nowhere suitable nearby. These cross-border issues will happen and they must not be a barrier to employers who want to take on apprentices. Finally, I know that I am out of time, but, in conclusion, I urge Members to support our amendments. We broadly support the Lib Dem motion and we fully agree that the future of the Welsh economy is very much reliant on developing the small and medium-sized enterprise sector of the economy.

Gwn fod fy amser yn dod i ben, Ddirprwy Lywydd, ond hoffwn godi mater sy'n ymwneud â phroblemau trawsffiniol. Mewn ardaloedd gwledig nid oes darpariaeth hyfforddiant addas nac achrededig wrth law bob amser. Daeth y mater hwn i'r golwg mewn achos diweddar a oedd yn ymwneud ag un o'm hetholwyr lle roedd busnes yn wynebu rhwystr i gyllid am fod ei brentisiaid yn teithio i Henffordd i ymgymryd â'r rhan academaidd o'u hyfforddiant am nad oedd unrhyw le addas gerllaw. Bydd y problmeau trawsffiniol hyn yn codi a rhaid iddynt beidio â bod yn rhwystr i gyflogwyr sydd am gyflogi prentisiaid. Yn olaf, gwn fod fy amser wedi dod i ben, ond, i gloi, hoffwn annog yr Aelodau i gefnogi ein gwelliannau. Rydym yn cefnogi cynnig y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar y cyfan ac rydym yn cytuno'n llwyr bod dyfodol economi Cymru yn dibynnu'n fawr iawn ar ddatblygu'r sector cwmnïau bach a chanolig yn yr economi.

17:07 **Aled Roberts** Bywgraffiad Biography

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In bringing forward this debate, we wanted to stress the vital role that SMEs have in our economic recovery, but the fact is that they often struggle to access finance. Since the 2008 financial crisis, banks have reduced lending in a drive to reduce risk, which is stifling our ability to harness the innovative and entrepreneurial force that SMEs offer. Across Wales, it is estimated that there are over 200,000 enterprises, of which 99% are SMEs and, as Llyr mentioned, 95% of these are micro-enterprises. They employ around 1 million people, with an estimated combined turnover of over £100 billion.

Wrth gyflwyno'r ddadl hon, rydym yn awyddus i bwysleisio y rôl hanfodol y mae busnesau bach a chanolig yn ei chwarae yn ein hadferiad economaidd, ond y gwir amdani yw eu bod yn aml yn cael anhawster i gael gafael ar gyllid. Ers argyfwng ariannol 2008, mae banciau wedi lleihau faint o arian a fenthycir mewn ymgais i leihau risg, sy'n llesteirio ein gallu i harneisio'r grym arloesol ac entrepreneuraidd a gynigir gan fusnesau bach a chanolig. Ledled Cymru, amcangyfrifir bod dros 200,000 o fusnesau, y mae 99% ohonynt yn fusnesau bach a chanolig ac fel y soniodd Llyr, y mae 95% o'r rhain yn ficrofusnesau. Maent yn cyflogi tua miliwn o bobl, gyda throsiant cyfunol amcangyfrifedig o fwy na £100 biliwn.

The stage 1 report of the access to finance review by Professor Dylan Jones-Evans found that around 20,000 SMEs in Wales are struggling to get funding. According to the stage 2 report, this equates to a funding gap of around £500 million per annum for businesses that want to access funding but have been turned away by banks in Wales. SMEs in rural areas face increased challenges, given economies of scale, combined with higher overheads and a weaker transport and digital infrastructure. Alongside a community bank model, highlighted by Bill Powell, for a more diverse and decentralised banking sector, we need to make more effective use of the existing support structures and tools that are available to support businesses.

Canfu adroddiad cam 1 o adolygiad mynediad at gyllid yr Athro Dylan Jones-Evans fod tua 20,000 o fusnesau bach a chanolig yng Nghymru yn cael anhawster i gael cyllid. Yn ôl adroddiad cam 2, mae hyn yn cyfateb i fwlch ariannu o oddeutu £500 miliwn y flwyddyn ar gyfer busnesau sydd am gael mynediad at gyllid, ond sydd wedi cael eu gwrthod gan fanciau yng Nghymru. Mae busnesau bach a chanolig mewn ardaloedd gwledig yn wynebu heriau cynyddol, o ran arbedion maint, ynghyd â gorbenion uwch a seilwaith trafnidiaeth a digidol gwannach. Ochr yn ochr â model banc cymunedol, a grybwyllwyd gan Bill Powell, ar gyfer sector bancio mwy amrywiol a datganoledig, mae angen inni wneud defnydd mwy effeithiol o'r strwythurau a'r adnoddau presennol sydd ar gael i gefnogi busnesau.

We welcome the stage 2 report by Professor Dylan Jones-Evans and the commitment by the Minister yesterday to consider Professor Gardner's work on community banking, alongside the suggestion in the report for a development bank for Wales to bring together both financial and non-financial support. We do, of course, have an existing credit union structure that might well be strengthened. Changes to the Credit Unions Act 1979 that came into force last year mean that credit unions are no longer limited to providing services to individuals, so they can offer loans to support small businesses.

Rydym yn croesawu adroddiad cam 2 gan yr Athro Dylan Jones-Evans a'r ymrwymiad gan y Gweinidog ddoe i ystyried gwaith yr Athro Gardner ar fancio cymunedol, ochr yn ochr â'r awgrym yn yr adroddiad ar gyfer banc datblygu i Gymru er mwyn dwyn ynghyd gymorth ariannol ac anariannol. Mae strwythur undebau credyd yn bodoli eisoes, wrth gwrs, a gallai gael ei gryfhau. Mae newidiadau i Ddeddf Undebau Credyd 1979 a ddaeth i rym y llynedd yn golygu nad yw undebau credyd yn gyfyngedig i ddarparu gwasanaethau i unigolion mwyach, felly gallant gynnig benthyciadau i gefnogi busnesau bach.

As we have seen this week, decisions by banks such as HSBC in north Wales—and I reiterate the comments made by Llyr—mean that, in many instances, some of these SMEs will have no retail banks to turn to in their locality. We feel, however, that there has not been enough promotion of the new powers of credit unions and no data are collected on the amount that credit unions have loaned to businesses since the change. We believe that we need accurate data so that we can measure success and possibly identify improvements. We also think that we should look at excellent examples such as the Newtown-based Robert Owen Community Banking Fund, which recently received a £1 million grant from the Big Lottery Fund group, and has lent more than £2,500,000 to local businesses and renewable projects over the past three years. There are also mechanisms such as crowdfunding networks, or peer-to-peer lending, and more needs to be done to take advantage of these.

Fel y gwelsom yr wythnos hon, mae penderfyniadau gan fanciau fel HSBC yn y gogledd—ac ategaf y sylwadau a wnaed gan Llyr—yn golygu na fydd gan rai o'r busnesau bach a chanolig hyn mewn llawer o achosion fanciau manwerthu i droi atynt yn eu hardal. Fodd bynnag, teimlwn nad yw pwerau newydd undebau credyd wedi cael eu hyrwyddo ddigon ac ni chesglir unrhyw ddata ynglŷn â faint o arian y mae undebau credyd wedi'i fenthyca i fusnesau ers y newid. Credwn fod angen data cywir er mwyn inni allu mesur llwyddiant ac o bosibl nodi gwelliannau. Credwn hefyd y dylem edrych ar enghreifftiau rhagorol megis Cronfa Fancio Gymunedol Robert Owen yn y Drenewydd, a gafodd grant o £1 filiwn yn ddiweddar gan grŵp Cronfa'r Loteri Fawr, ac mae wedi rhoi benthyg mwy na £2,500,000 i fusnesau lleol a phrosiectau ynni adnewyddadwy dros y tair blynedd diwethaf. Ceir dulliau eraill hefyd megis rhwydweithiau ariannu torfol ar-lein, neu fenthyca rhwng cymheiriaid, ac mae angen gwneud rhagor i fanteisio ar y rhain.

We need clearer signposting to help SMEs identify the support that already exists so that they can access the full range of finance available. We also need to support businesses to take advantage of initiatives such as the National Insurance Contributions Bill, which is being introduced by the UK Government to reduce the cost of employment for small businesses. This will cut national insurance bills by £2,000 for all businesses and charities from April 2014.

Mae angen cyfeirio busnesau'n well er mwyn helpu busnesau bach a chanolig i ddod o hyd i'r cymorth sydd eisoes yn bodoli fel y gallant gael gafael ar yr holl gyllid sydd ar gael. Mae angen hefyd inni helpu busnesau i fanteisio ar fentrau megis y Bil Cyfraniadau Yswiriant Gwladol, sy'n cael ei gyflwyno gan Lywodraeth y DU i leihau costau cyflogaeth i fusnesau bach. Bydd hyn yn lleihau biliau yswiriant gwladol £2,000 ar gyfer pob busnes ac elusen o fis Ebrill 2014.

All of us believe that apprenticeships must play a key part in healing our economy, and while there has been an increase in businesses expressing an interest in apprenticeships, this trend has been, unfortunately, less apparent in rural areas. The number of apprenticeships in key rural sectors is actually declining. Statistics on apprenticeships by sector have not been available since 2011, so questions have to be asked as to how the Welsh Government monitors the availability of places in key sectors, such as agriculture, renewable energy and tourism, without this information being collated.

Mae pob un ohonom yn credu bod yn rhaid i brentisiaethau chwarae rhan allweddol i wella ein heconomi, ac er gwaethaf cynnydd yn nifer y busnesau sy'n mynegi diddordeb mewn prentisiaethau, mae'r duedd hon wedi bod yn llai amlwg mewn ardaloedd gwledig, gwaetha'r modd. Yn wir, mae nifer y prentisiaethau mewn sectorau gwledig allweddol yn lleihau. Nid yw ystadegau ar brentisiaethau yn ôl sector wedi bod ar gael ers 2011, felly rhaid gofyn cwestiynau ynghylch sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn monitro'r lleoedd sydd ar gael mewn sectorau allweddol, megis amaethyddiaeth, ynni adnewyddadwy a thwristiaeth, os na chesglir y wybodaeth hon.

The Enterprise and Business Committee's report noted that rural areas do not have the benefit of as many private sector employers with a positive approach to apprenticeships. Bill Powell spent a day as an apprentice with RWE Npower over the summer. Renewable energy is a key and growing sector in rural Wales that will help young people develop the skills they need for the future. We need more apprenticeships like this in rural areas, however, and we have to ask what action the Government has taken since the committee report, which recommended that the Government should encourage employers with well-established apprenticeship schemes to link up and mentor SMEs, to give advice and to share training provision.

Nododd adroddiad y Pwyllgor Busnes a Menter nad oes gan ardaloedd gwledig gymaint o gyflogwyr yn y sector preifat sydd ag agwedd gadarnhaol at brentisiaethau. Treuliodd Bill Powell ddiwrnod fel prentis gyda RWE Npower dros yr haf. Mae ynni adnewyddadwy yn sector allweddol ac yn un sy'n tyfu yng nghefn gwlad Cymru a fydd yn helpu pobl ifanc i ddatblygu'r sgiliau sydd eu hangen ar gyfer y dyfodol. Mae angen mwy o brentisiaethau o'r fath mewn ardaloedd gwledig, fodd bynnag, ac mae'n rhaid inni ofyn pa gamau y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi eu cymryd ers adroddiad y pwyllgor, a argymellodd y dylai'r Llywodraeth annog cyflogwyr sydd â chynlluniau prentisiaeth sefydledigi gysylltu â busnesau bach a chanolig a'u mentora a rhoi cyngor a rhannu hyfforddiant.

We will be supporting amendment 4, which highlights the committee's report, but we shall abstain on amendment 2. We need action to widen the uptake of apprenticeships. Our motion before the summer recess suggested some key ways to do this, such as improving the parity of approach between career routes and creating a single point of access.

Byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant 4, sy'n tynnu sylw at adroddiad y pwyllgor, ond byddwn yn ymatal ar welliant 2. Mae angen gweithredu i ehangu'r niferoedd sy'n cael prentisiaethau. Awgrymodd ein cynnig cyn toriad yr haf rai ffyrdd allweddol o wneud hyn, megis gwella cydraddoldeb rhwng llwybrau gyrfa a chreu un pwynt mynediad.

17:12 **Joyce Watson** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I want to start by saying that we do not need to be shy about our achievements. I have recently been reading the observations of Sir Stuart Rose, the former chief executive of Marks and Spencer, who said that, when Wales became the first part of the UK to introduce a 5p charge for carrier bags in October 2011, there was a backlash from some in the business world—and some here, actually—who instead pushed for a voluntary approach. Yet, less than two years down the road, Northern Ireland has followed suit and Scotland is planning a similar policy, with pressure growing on England to catch up. In other words, Wales is taking a lead, and it is a lead that others are following. They are following that lead not for reasons of high-mindedness, but because it is good for their economies.

Hoffwn ddechrau drwy ddweud nad oes angen inni fod yn swil ynglŷn â'n cyflawniadau. Rwyf wedi bod yn darllen sylwadau Syr Stuart Rose, cyn-brif weithredwr Marks and Spencer yn ddiweddar, a ddywedodd, pan gyflwynodd Cymru dâl o 5c am fagiau siopa ym mis Hydref 2011, sef y rhan gyntaf o'r DU i wneud hynny, fod adwaith ymhlith rhai ym myd busnes—a rhai yma, a dweud y gwir—a oedd yn dadlau o blaid gweithredu gwirfoddol. Eto i gyd, lai na dwy flynedd wedyn, mae Gogledd Iwerddon wedi gwneud yr un peth ac mae'r Alban yn bwriadu cyflwyno polisi tebyg, gyda phwysau cynyddol ar Loegr i ddilyn. Mewn geiriau eraill, mae Cymru yn dangos arweiniad, ac mae eraill yn ei dilyn. Nid am resymau aruchel y gwnânt hynny, ond am ei fod o fudd i'w heconomïau.

I want to be fair to Aled Roberts; his motion does celebrate the role of SMEs in rural Wales, and he correctly states that the SME sector accounts for 73% of all employment in rural areas. Nonetheless, what we need to do is not to look at the obstacles in the way, but to look at the opportunities that are there, where the challenges lie, and where we can put resources into solving that. I believe that we need fewer obstacles and more opportunities, and that is why we commend the positive amendments, and recommend that we delete the setting up of new obstacles.

Rwyf am fod yn deg ag Aled Roberts; mae ei gynnig yn dathlu rôl busnesau bach a chanolig yng nghefn gwlad Cymru, ac mae'n nodi'n gwbl gywir bod y sector busnesau bach a chanolig yn cyfrif am 73% o holl gyflogaeth ardaloedd gwledig. Serch hynny, nid edrych ar y rhwystrau sy'n ein hatal y mae angen inni ei wneud, ond edrych ar y cyfleoedd sydd ar gael, ble mae'r heriau, a lle y gallwn roi adnoddau i ymateb i hynny. Credaf fod angen llai o rwystrau a mwy o gyfleoedd, a dyna pam rydym yn cymeradwyo'r gwelliannau cadarnhaol, ac yn argymell nad ydym yn codi rhwystrau newydd.

A lot has been said about Finance Wales here today. It was set up by the Welsh Government in 2001 to provide commercial funding to small and medium-sized businesses. Since its formation, it has funded £268 million in 3,028 investments. In 2012-13, Finance Wales invested £31 million through 189 debt and equity investments. The Minister has set up a commission to look at the working of that body, the commission has reported and it has, in places, has been adversely critical. The Welsh Government will act on the commission's recommendations; that is, after all, what we expect of Government. Policy must be driven by evidence and not by dogma. I commend the Minister's establishment of Finance Wales, but I also commend the Minister for assessing the evidence to evaluate its operations. This week, the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, confirmed that the Welsh Government and Finance Wales would consider extending the cut in interest rates to all companies borrowing from Finance Wales, regardless of location, under the next JEREMIE fund. It was also confirmed that Finance Wales is lowering its interest rate on new loans to SMEs in all seven enterprise zones in Wales at 2% below current rates.

Bu tipyn o sôn am Cyllid Cymru yma heddiw. Fe'i sefydlwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn 2001 i ddarparu cyllid masnachol i fusnesau bach a chanolig. Ers ei sefydlu, mae wedi dosbarthu £268 miliwn mewn 3,028 o fuddsoddiadau. Yn 2012-13, buddsoddodd Cyllid Cymru £31 miliwn drwy 189 o fuddsoddiadau dyled ac ecwiti. Mae'r Gweinidog wedi sefydlu comisiwn i edrych ar weithrediad y corff hwnnw, mae'r comisiwn wedi cyflwyno adroddiad ac mae wedi bod yn feirniadol mewn mannau. Bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithredu ar argymhellion y comisiwn; hynny yw, wedi'r cyfan, yr hyn yr ydym yn ei ddisgwyl gan bolisïau'r Llywodraeth yw eu bod yn cael eu llywio gan dystiolaeth yn hytrach na dogma. Cymeradwyaf benderfyniad y Gweinidog i sefydlu Cyllid Cymru, ond rwyf hefyd yn cymeradwyo'r Gweinidog am asesu'r dystiolaeth i werthuso ei weithrediadau. Yr wythnos hon, cadarnhaodd y Prif Weinidog, Carwyn Jones, y byddai Llywodraeth Cymru a Cyllid Cymru yn ystyried ymestyn y toriad mewn cyfraddau llog i bob cwmni sy'n cael benthyciad gan Cyllid Cymru, waeth ble maent wedi'u lleoli, o dan y gronfa JEREMIE nesaf. Cadarnhawyd hefyd fod Cyllid Cymru yn gostwng ei gyfradd llog ar fenthyciadau newydd i fusnesau bach a chanolig ym mhob un o'r saith ardal fenter yng Nghymru, sef 2% yn is na'r gyfradd bresennol.

We have a Labour Government in Wales, but, sadly, that is not the case in Westminster. Fortunately, some of us can look to the future with justified hope. Chuka Umunna, Labour's Westminster spokesperson on business in reform, has pointed out that we are the only country in the G20 without state-backed investment institutions to help get credit to business that want to start up and grow. The coalition Government talks about its business bank, but unfortunately it will not be up and running until 2014 at the very earliest.

Ceir Llywodraeth Lafur yng Nghymru, ond, yn anffodus, nid yw hynny'n wir am San Steffan. Yn ffodus, gall rhai ohonom edrych at y dyfodol gyda gobaith a hynny'n gyfiawn. Mae Chuka Umunna, llefarydd Llafur San Steffan ar ddiwygio busnes, wedi nodi mai ni yw'r unig wlad yn y G20 nad oes ganddi sefydliadau buddsoddi a gefnogir gan y wladwriaeth i helpu i gael credyd i fusnesau sydd am ddechrau a thyfu. Mae Llywodraeth y glymblaid yn sôn am ei banc busnes, ond yn anffodus ni fydd yn weithredol tan 2014 ar y cynharaf.

17:16 **Antoinette Sandbach** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Will you take an intervention?

A wnewch chi dderbyn ymyriad?

17:16 **Joyce Watson** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

You never do, so why should I?

Nid ydych byth yn derbyn ymyriadau, felly pam y dylwn i?

What is more, it will not be a proper independent bank as we know it. What it will be is a fund run by civil servants behind desks in the department for business. I do not think that that is good enough. Chuka Umunna said that Labour will set up a proper British investment bank providing funding that is not reliant only on existing banking network, but flowing through a new network of geographically mandated regional banks. If we are to make sure that our economy is fit for the future, we need to be radical to transform support for our entrepreneurs and wealth creators. There are many in this room who have not mentioned the one thing that was said this morning when we were in Caerphilly at the launch of our inquiry into entrepreneurship—

Yn fwy na hynny, ni fydd yn fanc annibynnol go iawn yn yr ystyr arferol. Bydd yn gronfa sy'n cael ei rhedeg gan weision sifil y tu ôl i ddesgiau yn yr adran fusnes. Ni chredaf fod hynny'n ddigon da. Dywedodd Chuka Umunna y bydd Llafur yn sefydlu banc buddsoddi go iawn i Brydain sy'n darparu cyllid na fydd yn dibynnu ar rwydwaith bancio sy'n bodoli eisoes, ond a fydd yn llifo drwy rwydwaith newydd o fanciau rhanbarthol â mandad daearyddol. Os ydym am wneud yn siŵr bod ein heconomi yn addas ar gyfer y dyfodol, mae angen inni fod yn radical er mwyn trawsnewid y cymorth a roddir i'n hentrepreneuriaid a'r rhai sy'n creu cyfoeth. Mae llawer yn yr ystafell hon nad ydynt wedi crybwyll un peth a nodwyd y bore yma pan oeddem yng Nghaerffili i lansio ein hymchwiliad i entrepreneuriaeth—

17:17 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Finish now, please.

Gorffennwch yn awr, os gwelwch yn dda.

17:17 **Joyce Watson** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

That one thing was that, having come back hotfooted from a European seminar on that subject, Wales was the envy of Europe because what is on offer in Wales is not on offer anywhere else. That is radical thinking.

Y peth hwnnw oedd, ar ôl newydd ddychwelyd o seminar Ewropeaidd ar y pwnc hwnnw, fod Ewrop yn eiddigeddus o Gymru oherwydd nad yw'r hyn sydd ar gael yng Nghymru ar gael yn unman arall. Dyma feddwl yn radical.

17:17 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

A strong communications infrastructure is vital to support businesses in rural areas. It allows them to grow and compete in a global market, to access a wider customer base, adopt new and innovative marketing prices for promotion or access new services and information to help keep costs down. However, Wales has the largest proportion of premises in potential notspots, and the lowest availability of superfast broadband services in the UK. We believe that the Welsh Government could learn from the success of other schemes such as those in Northern Ireland, where in 2009 a target was set to provide broadband access to 85% of businesses. Within two years—[Interruption.] Can I just finish this bit? Within two years, this was complete, and Northern Ireland now has the highest level of superfast broadband availability in the UK at 95%, even with the highest proportion of premises in rural areas.

Mae seilwaith cyfathrebu cryf yn hanfodol i gefnogi busnesau mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Mae'n eu galluogi i dyfu a chystadlu mewn marchnad fyd-eang, cael mynediad at sylfaen cwsmeriaid ehangach, mabwysiadu prisiau marchnata newydd ac arloesol ar gyfer hyrwyddo neu gael mynediad at wasanaethau a gwybodaeth newydd er mwyn helpu i reoli costau. Fodd bynnag, Cymru sydd â'r gyfran fwyaf o safleoedd sy'n fannau gwan posibl, a'r ddarpariaeth wannaf o wasanaethau band eang cyflym iawn yn y DU. Credwn y gallai Llywodraeth Cymru ddysgu oddi wrth lwyddiant cynlluniau eraill megis y rhai yng Ngogledd Iwerddon, lle pennwyd targed yn 2009 i ddarparu mynediad band eang i 85% o fusnesau. O fewn dwy flynedd—[Torri ar draws.] A gaf orffen y darn hwn? O fewn dwy flynedd, cafodd hyn ei gyflawni, ac erbyn hyn Gogledd Iwerddon sydd â'r ddarpariaeth orau o fand eang cyflym iawn yn y DU, sef 95%, hyd yn oed gyda'r gyfran uchaf o safleoedd mewn ardaloedd gwledig.

17:18 **Antoinette Sandbach** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

You will see that the Welsh Conservatives have tabled an amendment to indicate compulsory roaming in order to get rid of mobile notspots. Is that an amendment that you support, because compulsory roaming would increase coverage, whereas combining the coverage requirement of the companies would potentially decrease it?

Fe welwch fod y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig wedi cyflwyno gwelliant i sicrhau trawsrwydweithio gorfodol er mwyn cael gwared ar fannau gwan yn y rhwydwaith ffonau symudol. A ydych yn cefnogi'r gwelliant hwnnw, oherwydd byddai trawsrwydweithio gorfodol yn cynyddu'r ddarpariaeth ond byddai cyfuno gofyniad ynglŷn â darpariaeth i'r cwmnïau o bosibl yn ei lleihau?

17:19 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

If you are patient, Antoinette, you will find out in due course. I will come to that.

Os byddwch yn amyneddgar, Antoinette, cewch wybod yn y man. Dof at hynny.

Furthermore, the lack of mobile coverage in large parts of Wales is still unacceptably high, which is a huge hindrance for businesses. According to a survey by the Federation of Small Businesses in 2012, almost nine in 10 of its members claimed that a mobile phone is important to their business operation, and over half of those surveyed encountered a lack of mobile phone signal very or quite often. Previous agreements with mobile operators required 90% of the UK population to be provided with 2G services, and that has left predominantly rural areas without any mobile coverage where provision would be more expensive for network operators, and where there is no commercial case for providing services. The Ofcom infrastructure report published in 2012 highlighted that the geographical coverage of mobile networks in Wales is weak, that 14.3% have no 2G signal from any operator and that 22.1% have no 3G signal from any operator. We welcome the investment being made by the Welsh Government, the UK Government and the EU to deliver next generation broadband for Wales. However, we need to look at innovative options if we are to succeed in delivering better communication infrastructure in rural Wales. I hope that the Minister will accept our motion as it stands, so that we can take that forward.

At hynny, mae'r diffyg derbyniad i ffonau symudol mewn rhannau helaeth o Gymru yn dal i fod yn annerbyniol o uchel, sy'n rhwystr enfawr i fusnesau. Yn ôl arolwg gan y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach yn 2012, roedd bron naw o bob 10 o'i aelodau yn dweud bod ffôn symudol yn bwysig i weithrediad eu busnes, a bod dros hanner y rhai a holwyd yn dod ar draws diffyg signal ffôn symudol yn aml iawn neu'n eithaf aml. Roedd cytundebau blaenorol â gweithredwyr ffonau symudol yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i 90% o boblogaeth y DU gael gwasanaethau 2G, ac mae hynny wedi gadael ardaloedd gwledig yn bennaf heb unrhyw dderbyniad i ffonau symudol lle y byddai darpariaeth yn fwy costus i weithredwyr rhwydweithiau, a lle nad oes achos masnachol dros ddarparu gwasanaethau. Tynnodd adroddiad seilwaith Ofcom a gyhoeddwyd yn 2012 sylw at y ffaith bod cwmpas daearyddol rhwydweithiau symudol yng Nghymru yn wan, nad oedd gan 14.3% unrhyw signal 2G gan unrhyw weithredwr ac nad oes gan 22.1% unrhyw signal 3G gan unrhyw weithredwr. Croesawn y buddsoddiad sy'n cael ei wneud gan Lywodraeth Cymru, Llywodraeth y DU a'r UE i gyflwyno band eang y genhedlaeth nesaf i Gymru. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni edrych ar ddewisiadau arloesol os ydym am lwyddo i sicrhau gwell seilwaith cyfathrebu yng nghefn gwlad Cymru. Gobeithio y bydd y Gweinidog yn derbyn ein cynnig fel y mae, fel y gallwn fwrw ymlaen â hynny.

Turning to the amendments, we will be supporting amendments 1, 3 and 7. On the Conservative amendment, in 2010 the Welsh Liberal Democrats passed a motion at our conference calling for additional reform of the business support system to see more emphasis placed on rate relief for SMEs. We recognise that securing the position of SMEs is essential to developing a Wales that is not reliant on foreign investment, and developing a sustainable economy.

Gan droi at y gwelliannau, byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliannau 1, 3 a 7. O ran gwelliant y Ceidwadwyr, yn 2010 derbyniodd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru gynnig yn ein cynhadledd yn galw am ddiwygio'r system cymorth i fusnesau ymhellach er mwyn gweld mwy o bwyslais ar ryddhad ardrethi i fusnesau bach a chanolig. Rydym yn cydnabod bod sicrhau sefyllfa busnesau bach a chanolig yn hanfodol i ddatblygu Cymru nad yw'n dibynnu ar fuddsoddiad tramor, a datblygu economi gynaliadwy.

We will abstain from Plaid Cymru's amendment 8. We are yet to be convinced by the case for a Welsh business bank, as outlined earlier. We believe that a community bank structure to serve individuals and businesses, and help preserve a banking presence in rural communities, combined with better use of existing structures, is the way forward. There are still unanswered questions about how much a Welsh business bank would cost and whether it would simply duplicate services available elsewhere and add to the existing complex and costly administrative structure of the finance sector. We will, of course, listen to arguments as they develop, on that particular issue.

Byddwn yn ymatal o ran gwelliant 8 Plaid Cymru. Nid ydym wedi ein hargyhoeddi eto o'r achos dros fanc busnes i Gymru, fel y'i hamlinellwyd yn gynharach. Credwn mai strwythur banc cymunedol i wasanaethu unigolion a busnesau, a helpu i gadw presenoldeb bancio mewn cymunedau gwledig, ynghyd â gwell defnydd o'r strwythurau presennol, yw'r ffordd ymlaen. Mae cwestiynau heb eu hateb o hyd ynghylch faint y byddai banc busnes i Gymru yn ei gostio ac a fyddai ond yn dyblygu gwasanaethau sydd ar gael mewn mannau eraill ac yn ychwanegu at strwythur gweinyddol cymhleth a chostus presennol y sector cyllid. Byddwn, wrth gwrs, yn gwrando ar ddadleuon wrth iddynt ddatblygu, yngŷn â'r mater penodol hwnnw.

On Plaid Cymru's amendment 5, we agree that it was deeply disappointing that no areas in Wales—

O ran gwelliant 5 Plaid Cymru, cytunwn ei bod yn siomedig iawn nad oes unrhyw ardaloedd yng Nghymru—

17:21 **Nick Ramsay** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Will you give way?

A wnewch ildio?

17:21 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

Yes.

Gwnaf.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

17:21 **Nick Ramsay** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you for giving way. Given your comments on community banking, it seems to me that you would also be supportive, in principle, of the Welsh Conservative's proposals to localise Finance Wales and make it more amenable to the needs of businesses.

Diolch am ildio. O ystyried eich sylwadau ar fancio cymunedol, ymddengys imi y byddech hefyd yn gefnogol, mewn egwyddor, i gynigion y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig i leoleiddio Cyllid Cymru a'i wneud yn fwy addas ar gyfer anghenion busnesau.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

17:21 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

I am sure that you will see that in due course, Nick.

Rwy'n siŵr y byddwch yn gweld hynny maes o law, Nick.

I want to refer to Plaid Cymru's amendment 5. We agree that it was deeply disappointing that no areas in Wales were included in the initial UK application to the EC to extend the fuel rebate scheme. Welsh Liberal Democrat MPs and AMs worked hard to collect data from all petrol stations in Ceredigion and Powys, in particular, and submit it in evidence to the Treasury. The key issue was that the pump price threshold set by the European Union was set too high, with most garages failing to reach the minimum threshold at all over the months examined.

Hoffwn gyfeirio at welliant 5 Plaid Cymru. Rydym yn cytuno ei bod yn siomedig iawn nad oedd unrhyw ardal yng Nghymru wedi cael ei chynnwys yng nghais cychwynnol y DU i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd i ymestyn y cynllun ad-daliad tanwydd. Gweithiodd ASau ac ACau Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn galed i gasglu data o'r holl orsafoedd petrol yng Ngheredigion a Phowys, yn arbennig, a'u cyflwyno'n dystiolaeth i'r Trysorlys. Y mater allweddol oedd bod y trothwy prisiau wrth y pwmp a bennwyd gan yr Undeb Ewropeaidd wedi'i bennu'n rhy uchel, gyda'r rhan fwyaf o garejys yn methu â chyrraedd yr isafswm trothwy yn ystod y misoedd a archwiliwyd.

On top of this, with a refinery in Pembroke and Milford Haven, and the requirement for areas to be over 100 miles by road from the nearest refinery meant that many areas of rural mid and west Wales were ruled out. It is an erroneous assumption to make that fuel will come directly from the nearest refinery, as, in Wales's case, many pumps are supplied from England, not from Pembrokeshire. Clearly, the criteria set out by the European Commission were too restrictive, virtually excluding the majority of rural areas in Wales.

Ar ben hyn, mae'r ffaith bod purfa ym Mhenfro ac Aberdaugleddau, a bod gofyniad bod yn rhaid i ardaloedd fod dros 100 milltir ar y ffordd o'r burfa agosaf yn golygu nad oedd llawer o ardaloedd gwledig y canolbarth a'r gorllewin yn gymwys. Mae'n dybiaeth anghywir y bydd tanwydd yn dod yn uniongyrchol o'r burfa agosaf, oherwydd, yn achos Cymru, mae llawer o bympiau yn cael eu cyflenwi o Loegr, nid o Sir Benfro. Yn amlwg, roedd y meini prawf a bennwyd gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn rhy gyfyngol, gan wneud y rhan fwyaf o'r ardaloedd gwledig yng Nghymru yn anghymwys.

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17:22 **Joyce Watson** Bywgraffiad Biography

Will you take an intervention?

A wnewch chi dderbyn ymyriad?

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

17:22 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

You will run out of time.

Byddwch yn mynd yn brin o amser.

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17:22 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

I do not have time, Joyce.

Nid oes gennyf amser, Joyce.

This amendment is therefore misleading and fails to recognise the limitations set by the European criteria. Instead of wringing our hands and attempting to blame Westminster, we need to be looking to extend those criteria. I hope that, as Plaid Cymru has tabled this amendment, its MEP, Jill Evans, is doing her best to bring about that change in the criteria and make sure that we have another chance.

Felly mae'r gwelliant hwn yn gamarweiniol ac yn methu â chydnabod y cyfyngiadau a bennwyd gan y meini prawf Ewropeaidd. Yn hytrach na chwyno a cheisio rhoi'r bai ar San Steffan, mae angen inni geisio ymestyn y meini prawf hynny. Gobeithio, gan mai Plaid Cymru sydd wedi cyflwyno'r gwelliant hwn, fod ei Haelod Seneddol Ewropeaidd, Jill Evans, yn gwneud ei gorau i sicrhau bod y meini prawf yn cael eu newid yn y ffordd honno a'n bod yn cael cyfle arall.

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It seems that the Treasury is now extending its call for evidence by an additional four weeks until 6 December. Therefore, independent fuel retailers can still make a submission to the rural rebate scheme. This would see some areas of Wales added to the scheme, and I hope that we will all work to try to make that happen.

Ymddengys bod y Trysorlys bellach yn ymestyn ei gais am dystiolaeth am bedair wythnos ychwanegol tan 6 Rhagfyr. Felly, gall manwerthwyr tanwydd annibynnol wneud cyflwyniad o hyd i'r cynllun ad-daliad gwledig. Byddai hyn yn gweld rhai ardaloedd yng Nghymru yn cael eu hychwanegu at y cynllun, a gobeithio y byddwn i gyd yn gweithio i geisio sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd.

17:23 **Janet Finch-Saunders** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The fallout of 13 years of debt-fuelled boom precipitated by the UK Labour Government has left a cloud over the heads of families and businesses in Wales. For so long, market conditions have been such that some of those with a solid business idea have been quite reticent in taking that leap forward in starting the next success story here in the Welsh economy.

Mae sgil-effeithiau 13 blynedd o ffyniant yn seiliedig ar ddyled a ysgogwyd gan Lywodraeth Lafur y DU wedi gadael cwmwl dros deuluoedd a busnesau yng Nghymru. Ers cymaint o amser, oherwydd amodau'r farchnad, mae rhai o'r bobl sydd â syniad busnes cadarn wedi petruso ychydig cyn cymryd y cam ymlaen i greu'r llwyddiant nesaf yma yn economi Cymru.

This lack of confidence ties in strongly with the inaccessibility of credit from banks, with figures from the second quarter of 2013 showing that net lending is still contracting, and that, as Professor Dylan Jones-Evans's report highlighted, there is a funding gap of around £500 million to SMEs in Wales.

Mae cysylltiad cryf rhwng y diffyg hyder hwn a'r diffyg credyd gan fanciau, gyda ffigurau o ail chwarter 2013 yn dangos bod benthyca net yn dal i grebachu, ac, fel yr amlygwyd yn adroddiad yr Athro Dylan Jones-Evans, mae bwlch ariannu o tua £500 miliwn i fusnesau bach a chanolig yng Nghymru.

However, there are some signs of optimism, as lending to small, micro and medium-sized businesses fell less sharply than lending to the larger firms. As a result of the Bank of England's funding for lending scheme, the participating banks have expended their loan books by £1.6 billion, but there is obviously still much to be done. Our small, micro and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of this Welsh economy, comprising 99% of its almost 220,000 businesses in rural areas. These, as the motion correctly identifies, employ 73% of the population compared with 53% in urbanised regions. Therefore, it is essential to discuss the fortunes of SMEs and microbusinesses and the ways in which their growth can be sparked.

Fodd bynnag, mae llygedyn o obaith, gan fod benthyca i ficrofusnesau a busnesau bach a chanolig wedi gostwng yn llai sylweddol na benthyca i'r cwmnïau mwy o faint. O ganlyniad i gyllid Banc Lloegr ar gyfer y cynllun benthyca, mae'r banciau sy'n cymryd rhan wedi ehangu eu llyfrau benthyca £1.6 biliwn, ond mae'n amlwg bod llawer o waith i'w wneud o hyd. Ein microfusnesau a busnesau bach a chanolig yw asgwrn cefn economi Cymru, gan gwmpasu 99% o'r 220,000 bron o fusnesau mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Mae'r rhain, fel y noda'r cynnig yn gywir, yn cyflogi 73% o'r boblogaeth o gymharu â 53% mewn ardaloedd trefol. Felly, mae'n hanfodol trafod hynt busnesau bach a chanolig a microfusnesau a sut y gellir sbarduno eu twf.

Our 'Invest Wales' policy, launched earlier this year, which I am really pleased that Joyce Watson has endorsed and Peter Black has hinted that he is endorsing, shows a common-sense approach by establishing local lenders with local knowledge based on local priorities. Support for SMEs must be readily available, and the Welsh Conservatives have long called for improvements in how this is delivered. Smaller businesses, as highlighted by the FSB, often lack sufficient acumen in applying for financing. These businesses need designated champions that work with them to understand the practicalities of business management and to provide support. SMEs and the owners of microbusinesses in my constituency speak of the difficulty of knowing who does what in terms of business support. This process needs streamlining to support our fledgling businesses.

Mae ein polisi 'Buddsoddi Cymru', a lansiwyd yn gynharach eleni, yr wyf yn falch iawn o nodi bod Joyce Watson wedi'i gymeradwyo a bod Peter Black wedi awgrymu y bydd yn ei gymeradwyo, yn dangos dull gweithredu synnwyr cyffredin drwy sefydlu benthycwyr lleol sydd â gwybodaeth leol yn seiliedig ar flaenoriaethau lleol. Rhaid i gymorth i fusnesau bach a chanolig fod ar gael yn rhwydd, ac mae'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig wedi galw ers amser am welliannau yn y ffordd y mae hyn yn cael ei gyflwyno. Nid yw busnesau llai o faint, fel yr amlygwyd gan y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach, yn aml yn ddigon craff i wneud cais am arian. Mae angen hyrwyddwyr dynodedig ar y busnesau hyn, sy'n gweithio gyda hwy i ddeall yr agweddau ymarferol ar reoli busnes a rhoi cymorth. Mae busnesau bach a chanolig a pherchenogion microfusnesau yn fy etholaeth yn sôn am ba mor anodd yw dod i wybod pwy sy'n gwneud beth o ran cymorth i fusnesau. Mae angen symleiddio'r broses hon i gefnogi ein busnesau newydd.

The news, as Llyr rightly pointed out earlier, about HSBC closing down local branches is another thorn in the side of our small businesses, endorsing the belief that big is not always best.

Mae'r newyddion, fel y nododd Llyr yn gwbl gywir yn gynharach, fod HSBC yn cau canghennau lleol yn creu anhawster arall i'n busnesau bach, gan ategu'r gred nad pethau mawr yw'r pethau gorau bob amser.

The 'Our Place in the Country' report by the FSB illustrates the lack of uniformity among local authorities in providing discretionary rate relief to SMEs. I think that it is fair to say that there are not many in my constituency who know that that is at the discretion of the local authority. They assume that it is a responsibility that falls to the Welsh Government, and so you need to get your message across there.

Mae adroddiad y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach 'Ein Lle Ni yn y Wlad' yn dangos nad oes unffurfiaeth ymhlith awdurdodau lleol o ran darparu rhyddhad ardrethi dewisol i fusnesau bach a chanolig. Credaf ei bod yn deg dweud nad oes llawer yn fy etholaeth yn sylweddoli mai yn ôl disgresiwn yr awdurdod lleol y caiff ei roi. Maent yn cymryd yn ganiataol mai cyfrifoldeb Llywodraeth Cymru ydyw, ac felly mae angen ichi gyfleu neges glir o ran hynny.

In 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street', the Welsh Conservatives pledge to abolish business rates for those with a rateable value of up to £12,000 and provide tapered relief up to £15,000. At a minimum, the Welsh Government should provide comprehensive guidance to local authorities about providing this much-needed relief to businesses, but I would urge further support in this area, and ask Members to support amendment 7.

Yn 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street'i H, mae'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn addo dileu ardrethi busnes i'r rhai sydd â gwerth ardrethol o hyd at £12,000 a darparu rhyddhad sy'n lleihau'n raddol hyd at £15,000. Ar y lleiaf, dylai Llywodraeth Cymru roi canllawiau cynhwysfawr i awdurdodau lleol ynghylch rhoi'r rhyddhad mawr ei angen hwn i fusnesau, ond hoffwn annog cymorth pellach yn y maes hwn, a gofyn i Aelodau gefnogi gwelliant 7.

An investigation by Wales Online reaffirmed the regional connectivity gulf, with just 3.3% of my constituency of Aberconwy having access to superfast broadband. Indeed, there are several counties outside of Cardiff with zero coverage. The regional gap further presents itself when looking at mobile phone coverage, with Gwynedd the second lowest in 2G service, only behind the Scilly Isles. How are rural businesses meant to compete when so much of today's business is conducted electronically? I am, of course, mindful of the work that is being done by BT to roll out superfast broadband to 96% of homes, but I am disappointed that, once again, it is north Wales that has had to wait for this long-awaited and crucial investment. To be honest, we almost still feel forgotten in this roll-out. I urge the Welsh Government to work with mobile phone operators to ensure that roaming is available in rural areas and, thereby, fully support amendment 10.

Ategodd ymchwiliad gan Wales Online y bwlch o ran cysylltedd rhanbarthol, a dim ond 3.3% o'm hetholwyr yn Aberconwy sydd â mynediad at fand eang cyflym iawn. Yn wir, mae nifer o siroedd y tu allan i Gaerdydd lle nad oes unrhyw dderbyniad. Mae'r bwlch rhanbarthol yn dod i'r amlwg eto wrth edrych ar dderbyniad ffôn symudol; Gwynedd yw'r isaf ond un o ran gwasanaeth 2G, dim ond y tu ôl i'r Ynysoedd Sili. Sut y gall busnesau gwledig gystadlu pan fo cymaint o fusnes heddiw yn cael ei gynnal yn electronig? Wrth gwrs, rwy'n ymwybodol o'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud gan BT i gyflwyno band eang cyflym iawn i 96% o gartrefi, ond rwy'n siomedig bod yn rhaid i'r gogledd, unwaith eto, aros am y buddsoddiad hanfodol a hirddisgwyliedig hwn. A dweud y gwir, rydym yn dal i deimlo ein bd wedi cael ein hanghofio bron o dan y rhaglen hon. Hoffwn annog Llywodraeth Cymru i weithio gyda gweithredwyr ffonau symudol er mwyn sicrhau bod trawsrwydweithio ar gael mewn ardaloedd gwledig ac, felly, gefnogi gwelliant 10 yn llawn.

Following my question to the First Minister on interest rate hedging products last week, I attended a superb meeting, which Elin Jones AM organised, with SMEs affected by the misselling of these products. The stories of businesses, livelihoods and homes lost were harrowing. Bully-Banks estimates that the misselling of these products has cost our SMEs over 400,000 jobs, impacting disproportionately on rural areas, which are more reliant on SMEs for employment.

Yn dilyn fy nghwestiwn i'r Prif Weinidog ar gynhyrchion rhagfantoli cyfraddau llog yr wythnos diwethaf, bûm mewn cyfarfod gwych, a drefnwyd gan Elin Jones AC, gyda busnesau bach a chanolig yr effeithiwyd arnynt o ganlyniad i gamwerthu'r cynhyrchion hyn. Roedd y straeon ynglŷn â cholli busnesau, bywoliaethau a chartrefi yn ddirdynnol. Mae Bully-Banks yn amcangyfrif bod camwerthu'r cynhyrchion hyn wedi costio dros 400,000 o swyddi i'n busnesau bach a chanolig, gan gael effaith anghymesur ar ardaloedd gwledig, sy'n fwy dibynnol ar fusnesau bach a chanolig o ran cyflogaeth.

17:28

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Conclude with this, please.

Gorffennwch yn awr, os gwelwch yn dda.

17:28

Janet Finch-Saunders Bywgraffiad Biography

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If we are to get a grip on this issue, the Welsh Government needs to pre-empt the economic recovery and put in place the right mechanisms for growth now. With the new opportunities for investment and trade announced by the UK Government, we must maximise every opportunity to support communities, businesses and Wales.

Os ydym am fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn, mae angen i Lywodraeth Cymru achub y blaen ar yr adferiad economaidd a rhoi ar waith y systemau cywir ar gyfer twf yn awr. Gyda'r cyfleoedd newydd ar gyfer buddsoddiad a masnach a gyhoeddwyd gan Lywodraeth y DU, rhaid inni wneud y gorau o bob cyfle i gefnogi cymunedau, busnesau a Chymru.

17:28 **Elin Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Rwyf eisiau siarad yn benodol am welliant 3 yn fy enw i. Fel y cyfeiriodd Janet Finch-Saunders, rwyf eisiau diolch i'r nifer o Aelodau Cynulliad a fynychodd gyfarfod yn y Cynulliad lle daeth busnesau o bob cwr o Gymru yr wythnos diwethaf i gyflwyno'u tystiolaeth i ni ar gamwerthu cynnyrch gwarchod rhag risgiau cyfraddau llog gan fanciau'r stryd fawr. Rwy'n credu y cawsom ni i gyd a oedd yn y cyfarfod fel Aelodau Cynulliad sioc am hyd a lled y cam-werthu hwn yng Nghymru. Rwy'n cydnabod y gwaith mae Bully-Banks yn ei wneud a'r gwaith y mae Guto Bebb yr Aelod Seneddol hefyd yn ei wneud i hyrwyddo'r achos hwn yn San Steffan achos yn y fan honno, wrth gwrs, mae'r cyfrifoldeb yn gorwedd i sicrhau bod y mater hwn yn dod i derfyn. Rwy'n diolch i'r Gweinidog Edwina Hart hefyd am gwrdd â busnesau amaeth, busnesau eiddo a thafarndai yn fy etholaeth i ddeall eu problemau penodol a'r effaith ddinistriol arnynt gan y benthyciadau hyn.

I want to speak specifically to amendment 3 in my name. As Janet Finch-Saunders mentioned, I want to thank the number of Assembly Members who attended the meeting at the Assembly where businesses from all parts of Wales came last week to put forward their evidence on the misselling of interest rate hedging products by high street banks. I think that all of us who were there as Assembly Members had a shock about the scale of this misselling in Wales. I acknowledge the work that Bully-Banks is doing and Guto Bebb MP as well in promoting this issue in Westminster, because that is, of course, where the responsibility lies to ensure that this matter comes to a close. I thank the Minister Edwina Hart also for meeting agricultural businesses, property businesses and taverns from my constituency to understand their specific problems and the detrimental effect on them of these loans.

The high-street banks have targeted particular sectors, it seems, for the misselling of interest rate swap loans, and all those sectors are important in Wales, particularly in rural Wales—the hotel and hospitality sector, the property sector, the care home sector and farming. The UK Government and the Financial Conduct Authority have acknowledged the problem of the misselling of interest rate hedging products, and a review and redress scheme is under way, which is, unfortunately, administered by the banks themselves. Ten months on from the start of this scheme, only 32 businesses out of a registered 30,000 have received any redress from this scheme. So, the UK Government does certainly need to put pressure on the FCA and the banks to speed up this redress. Some businesses are on the brink, and, as we heard last week, some have gone under already because of these loans.

Mae banciau'r stryd fawr wedi targedu sectorau penodol, fe ymddengys, wrth gamwerthu benthyciadau cyfnewid cyfraddau llog, ac mae pob un o'r sectorau hynny'n bwysig yng Nghymru, yn enwedig yng nghefn gwlad Cymru—y sector gwestai a lletygarwch, y sector eiddo, y sector cartrefi gofal a ffermio. Mae Llywodraeth y DU a'r Awdurdod Ymddygiad Ariannol wedi cydnabod problem camwerthu cynhyrchion rhagfantoli cyfraddau llog, ac mae adolygiad a chynllun gwneud iawn ar y gweill, sydd, yn anffodus, yn cael ei weinyddu gan y banciau eu hunain. Ddeg mis ar ôl dechrau'r cynllun hwn, dim ond 32 o fusnesau o blith 30,000 a gofrestrwyd sydd wedi cael unrhyw iawndal o dan y cynllun hwn. Felly, yn sicr mae angen i Lywodraeth y DU roi pwysau ar yr Awdurdod Ymddygiad Ariannol a'r banciau i gyflymu'r broses hon. Mae rhai busnesau ar fin mynd i'r wal, ac, fel y clywsom yr wythnos diwethaf, mae rhai eisoes wedi mynd i'r wal oherwydd y benthyciadau hyn.

One AM asked at our meeting last week why businesses had not taken legal and financial advice before taking on the loans. The reality is that the complexity of these loans means that only a handful of derivative experts would understand the product. I doubt if many, if any, of us as Assembly Members would understand them. Also, amazingly, a number of businesses agreed to the loans without even realising they had agreed to them. We heard of the Gower farmer whose brother agreed to their loan during a phone call with the bank adviser while in the car. The phone call had been taped and became, in itself, the loan contract agreement. That is truly scandalous. There are a large number of loans that were agreed by means of a phone call contract, and a number of businesses have still not received a recording of their phone conversation that became that contract.

Gofynnodd un AC yn ein cyfarfod yr wythnos diwethaf, pam nad oedd busnesau wedi derbyn cyngor cyfreithiol ac ariannol cyn trefnu'r benthyciadau. Y gwir amdani yw, oherwydd cymhlethdod y benthyciadau hyn, mai dim ond llond llaw o arbenigwyr ar offerynnau deilliadol a fyddai'n deall y cynnyrch. Rwy'n amau a fyddai llawer o Aelodau Cynulliad, os o gwbl, yn eu deall. Hefyd, yn rhyfeddol ddigon, cytunodd nifer o fusnesau i'r benthyciadau heb hyd yn oed sylweddoli eu bod wedi cytuno iddynt. Clywsom am ffermwr o Benrhyn Gŵyr yr oedd ei frawd wedi cytuno i'w benthyciad yn ystod galwad ffôn gyda chynghorydd banc tra oedd yn y car. Roedd yr alwad ffôn wedi cael ei recordio a daeth, ynddi'i hun, yn gytundeb benthyciad. Mae hynny'n wirioneddol warthus. Cytunwyd ar nifer fawr o fenthyciadau drwy gontract dros y ffôn, ac mae nifer o fusnesau yn dal i aros am recordiad o'u sgwrs dros y ffôn a ddaeth yn gontract.

So, the redress scheme must be speeded up, but a number of businesses have been excluded from the redress scheme itself because they were sold a different kind of loan—fixed-rate loans with hidden swaps—and currently, the UK Government and the FCA do not include these businesses in the redress scheme. It is essential that they are included because, at the moment, they have no hope of redress and, as well as being devastating to their individual businesses, these loans have a devastating impact on the wider economy because these businesses are putting their plans on hold and reducing their businesses, which is stifling the growth potential of the rural Wales economy and the wider Welsh economy.

Felly, rhaid i'r cynllun gwneud iawn gael ei gyflwyno'n gyflymach, ond mae nifer o fusnesau wedi cael eu heithrio o'r cynllun gwneud iawn ei hun oherwydd iddynt brynu gwahanol fath o fenthyciad—benthyciadau cyfradd sefydlog gyda chyfnewidiadau cudd—ac ar hyn o bryd, nid yw Llywodraeth y DU na'r Awdurdod Ymddygiad Ariannol yn cynnwys y busnesau hyn yn y cynllun gwneud iawn. Mae'n hanfodol eu bod yn cael eu cynnwys oherwydd, ar hyn o bryd, nid oes ganddynt unrhyw obaith o gael iawndal ac, yn ogystal â bod yn ddinistriol i'w busnesau unigol, mae'r benthyciadau hyn yn cael effaith andwyol ar yr economi ehangach gan fod y busnesau hyn yn atal eu cynlluniau am y tro ac yn cwtogi ar eu busnesau, sy'n atal potensial economi cefn gwlad Cymru ac economi ehangach Cymru rhag tyfu.

Finally, I will speak in support of amendment 7 and to support the extension of the rate relief scheme. Businesses on the high street in Ceredigion continually raise with me the impact of high business rates on their ability to retain their businesses and to develop them. We know now that Cardigan businesses have submitted a petition to the National Assembly calling for an extension of the rate relief scheme. Plaid Cymru would support the extension of the rate relief scheme to those businesses with a rateable value of up to £15,000. This would be a great boost at this time for those struggling independent traders on our high streets in rural Wales and in all of Wales.

Yn olaf, byddaf yn siarad o blaid gwelliant 7 ac yn cefnogi ymestyn y cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi. Mae busnesau ar y stryd fawr yng Ngheredigion yn codi effaith ardrethi busnes uchel ar eu gallu i gadw eu busnesau a'u datblygu gyda mi drwy'r amser. Gwyddom erbyn hyn fod busnesau Aberteifi wedi cyflwyno deiseb i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn galw am ymestyn y cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi. Byddai Plaid Cymru yn cefnogi ymestyn y cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi i'r busnesau hynny sydd â gwerth ardrethol o hyd at £15,000. Byddai hyn yn hwb mawr ar hyn o bryd i'r masnachwyr annibynnol hynny sy'n ei chael hi'n anodd ar y stryd fawr yng nghefn gwlad Chymru a thrwy Gymru gyfan.

17:33

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

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

17:34

Edwina Hart Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer. I am very pleased to welcome the debate today because, as a Government, we are committed to ensuring that the right kind of support is in place for SMEs and microbusinesses and that people have direct access to a range of advice and initiatives to encourage them to start and grow their businesses. I very much appreciate the way in which this motion was moved by William Powell. It was a very sensible and well thought introduction; I would not necessarily agree with every word, but, on the issues he raised, there is some commonality across the Chamber in how we might want to take these forward.

Diolch, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Rwy'n falch iawn o groesawu'r ddadl heddiw oherwydd, fel Llywodraeth, rydym yn ymrwymedig i sicrhau bod y math cywir o gymorth ar gael i fusnesau bach a chanolig a microfusnesau a bod pobl yn gallu cael gafael yn uniongyrchol ar amrywiaeth o gyngor a mentrau er mwyn eu hannog i ddechrau a thyfu eu busnesau. Gwerthfawrogaf yn fawr iawn y ffordd y cynigiwyd y cynnig hwn gan William Powell. Roedd yn gyflwyniad synhwyrol ac ystyriol iawn; ni fyddwn yn cytuno â phob gair o reidrwydd, ond, o ran y materion a godwyd, mae ychydig o gyd-weld yn y Siambr o ran sut y gallem weithredu ar y rhain.

Unfortunately, now I am going to indicate why we have tabled the Government amendment, which rather takes the edge off my remarks. The only reason we have tabled this is because telecommunication powers are not devolved to Wales. The regulation of the telecommunication industry is, in fact, a matter for Ofcom, and the mandating of broadband by means of universal service obligation could happen only with the permission of the European Union and the UK Government. The UK Government's current position is that the time is not right to introduce a broadband universal service obligation, as it may constrain private investment in networks. The current non-regulatory approach delivering universal broadband is considered the most effective means of stimulating commercial investment while minimising costs to the public purse. So, it is ironic that I am quoting the position of the UK Government today, because several of the opposition parties here probably support that particular amendment.

Yn anffodus, byddaf yn awr yn nodi pam rydym wedi cyflwyno gwelliant y Llywodraeth, sy'n gwanhau'r ganmoliaeth ryw ychydig. Yr unig reswm yr ydym wedi cyflwyno hyn yw oherwydd nad yw pwerau telathrebu wedi'u datganoli i Gymru. Mater i Ofcom yw rheoleiddio'r diwydiant telathrebu, mewn gwirionedd, a dim ond gyda chaniatâd yr Undeb Ewropeaidd a Llywodraeth y DU y gellid gwneud cyflwyno band eang yn orfodol drwy gyfrwng rhwymedigaeth gwasanaeth cyffredinol. Barn Llywodraeth y DU ar hyn o bryd yw nad yw'r amser yn iawn i gyflwyno rhwymedigaeth gwasanaeth band eang cyffredinol, gan y gallai gyfyngu ar fuddsoddiad preifat mewn rhwydweithiau. Tybir mai'r dull presennol heb ei reoleiddio o ddarparu band eang cyffredinol yw'r ffordd fwyaf effeithiol o ysgogi buddsoddiad masnachol tra'n lleihau'r costau i bwrs y wlad. Felly, mae'n eironig fy mod yn dyfynnu barn Llywodraeth y DU heddiw, oherwydd mae'n debyg bod nifer o'r gwrthbleidiau yma yn cefnogi'r gwelliant penodol.

I want to turn to some of the other amendments. We will be opposing amendment 1, not because we do not understand the issues that are being raised, but I have indicated that that will be part of the discussion on how we take forward Professor Dylan Jones-Evans's report.

Rwyf am droi at rai o'r gwelliannau eraill. Byddwn yn gwrthwynebu gwelliant 1, nid oherwydd nad ydym yn deall y materion sy'n cael eu codi, ond rwyf wedi dweud y bydd hynny'n rhan o'r drafodaeth ynglyn a sut y byddwn yn gweithredu ar adroddiad yr Athro Dylan Jones-Evans.

We will support amendment 2, because we are working to create additional apprenticeship places over the next three years, with a particular focus on higher apprenticeships and support for employers who wish to recruit young people into new apprenticeship opportunities.

Byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant 2, gan ein bod yn gweithio i greu lleoedd prentisiaeth ychwanegol dros y tair blynedd nesaf, gyda ffocws arbennig ar brentisiaethau uwch a chymorth i gyflogwyr sy'n dymuno recriwtio pobl ifanc a rhoi cyfleoedd prentisiaeth newydd iddynt.

The budget agreement, which has been alluded to by Plaid Cymru, and our subsequent announcement on spending plans, includes more support for apprenticeships, particularly higher apprenticeships. This will provide £40 million of extra support during the 2013-14, and 2014-15 financial years. We have also announced an additional £20 million for the 2015-16 financial year to continue the support.

Mae'r cytundeb cyllidebol, y cyfeiriwyd ato gan Blaid Cymru, a'n cyhoeddiadau dilynol ar gynlluniau gwariant, yn cynnwys rhagor o gymorth ar gyfer prentisiaethau, yn enwedig prentisiaethau uwch. Bydd hyn yn darparu £40 miliwn o gymorth ychwanegol yn ystod blynyddoedd ariannol 2013-14, a 2014-15. Rydym hefyd wedi cyhoeddi y bydd £20 miliwn ychwanegol ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol 2015-16 er mwyn parhau â'r cymorth.

To date, we have also introduced the enhanced wage subsidy of £3,900 over 52 weeks for employers taking on young apprentices aged 16 to 22 through the Young Recruits programme. This helps with the financial burden. We have also introduced a renewed focus on apprenticeships through the medium of Welsh and bilingual apprenticeships. We encourage science, technology, engineering and mathematics apprenticeships, looking at gender equality, and developing actions that address equality issues on apprenticeships.

Hyd yn hyn, rydym hefyd wedi cyflwyno'r cymhorthdal cyflog uwch o £3,900 dros 52 wythnos ar gyfer cyflogwyr sy'n derbyn prentisiaid ifanc 16-22 oed drwy'r rhaglen Recriwtiaid Ifanc. Mae hyn yn helpu gyda'r baich ariannol. Rydym hefyd wedi cyflwyno ffocws o'r newydd ar brentisiaethau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg a phrentisiaethau dwyieithog. Rydym yn annog prentisiaethau ym maes gwyddoniaeth, technoleg, peirianneg a mathemateg, gan edrych ar gydraddoldeb rhwng y rhywiau, a datblygu camau gweithredu sy'n mynd i'r afael â materion cydraddoldeb o ran prentisiaethau.

However, a number of speakers have raised the issue of apprenticeships, particularly the sharing of apprenticeships and how this can be done in rural areas. I am conscious that my Deputy Minister has responsibility in this area and I will ask him to review the Record for all the points made on apprenticeships to see what further work can be undertaken.

Fodd bynnag, mae nifer o siaradwyr wedi codi mater prentisiaethau, yn enwedig rhannu prentisiaethau a sut y gall hyn gael ei wneud mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Rwy'n ymwybodol mai fy Nirprwy Weinidog sy'n gyfrifol am y maes hwn a gofynnaf iddo adolygu'r Cofnod ar gyfer yr holl bwyntiau a wnaed ar brentisiaethau i weld pa waith pellach y gellir ei wneud.

We will be supporting amendment 3 in the name of Elin Jones, because I think that anyone who had contact last week with those people who have been missold loans, cannot help but support this resolution. I was absolutely disgusted at the way in which the selling took place and at the pressure that had been put on individuals. It was terribly sharp and bad practice. How anybody was supposed to understand what they were expected to agree on, I do not know. This is a very serious matter. I am pleased that there is a compensation scheme, but I am very concerned about the people who fall out of it. Therefore, we have made representations on this matter to the UK Government.

Byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant 3 yn enw Elin Jones, oherwydd credaf na allai neb a fu mewn cysylltiad â'r bobl hynny yr wythnos diwethaf y camwerthwyd benthyciadau iddynt, ond cefnogi'r cynnig hwn. Roeddwn yn ffieiddio'n llwyr at y ffordd y cafodd y cynnyrch ei werthu a'r pwysau a roddwyd ar unigolion. Roedd yn arfer amheus a gwael iawn. Ni wn sut ar y ddaear y gallai rhywun fod wedi deall yr hyn y disgwylid iddynt gytuno iddo. Mae hwn yn fater difrifol iawn. Rwy'n falch bod cynllun iawndal, ond rwy'n bryderus iawn am y bobl nad ydynt yn rhan ohono. Felly, rydym wedi cyflwyno sylwadau ar y mater i Lywodraeth y DU.

I will fully support amendment 4, which refers to the Enterprise and Business Committee report on apprenticeships in rural areas. We are strengthening working relationships with the Federation of Small Businesses and the Confederation of British Industry, with a desire to raise awareness of apprenticeships among their members and to gain access to their networks of small and microbusinesses. That is very important.

Cefnogaf welliant 4 yn llawn, sy'n cyfeirio at adroddiad y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes ar brentisiaethau mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Rydym yn cryfhau ein perthynas waith â'r Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach a Chydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain, gyda'r nod o godi ymwybyddiaeth o brentisiaethau ymhlith eu haelodau a chael mynediad at eu rhwydweithiau o fusnesau bach a microfusnesau. Mae hynny'n bwysig iawn.

We will also be supporting Elin Jones's amendment 5, because I have also made representations to the UK Government. I take on board the points made by Peter Black and I think that it is incumbent upon us all now to use this other opportunity to undertake further lobbying in this area. As he indicated, there is a role for all of our MEPs to be lobbying on that issue.

Byddwn hefyd yn cefnogi gwelliant 5 Elin Jones, gan fy mod innau hefyd wedi cyflwyno sylwadau i Lywodraeth y DU. Derbyniaf y pwyntiau a wnaed gan Peter Black a chredaf fod dyletswydd arnom i gyd bellach i fanteisio ar y cyfle arall hwn i lobïo ymhellach yn y maes hwn. Fel y dywedodd, mae rôl i'n holl ASEau i lobïo ar y mater hwnnw.

Turning to amendment 6, I am supportive of this. A high-quality, efficient and effective transport system is key to attracting investment and enabling businesses to grow, to providing employment opportunities to stimulate the economy.

Gan droi at welliant 6, rwy'n gefnogol i hyn. Mae system drafnidiaeth effeithlon ac effeithiol o safon uchel yn allweddol i ddenu buddsoddiad a galluogi busnesau i dyfu, a rhoi cyfleoedd cyflogaeth i ysgogi'r economi.

With regret, we will be opposing amendment 7. We are disappointed that the UK Government did not, in its recent announcement, accept the Silk recommendation and our call for the full devolution of business rates, which would have enabled us to act more positively to help small businesses across Wales. We recognise what has been done historically, and we are lobbying the UK Government again to see if it will extend anything in that regard.

Byddwn yn gwrthwynebu gwelliant 7 gwaetha'r modd. Rydym yn siomedig nad oedd Llywodraeth y DU, yn ei chyhoeddiad diweddar, wedi derbyn argymhelliad Silk a'n cais am ddatganoli ardrethi busnes yn llawn, a fyddai wedi ein galluogi i weithredu'n fwy cadarnhaol i helpu busnesau bach ledled Cymru. Rydym yn cydnabod yr hyn sydd wedi'i wneud yn y gorffennol, ac rydym yn lobïo Llywodraeth y DU unwaith eto i weld a fydd yn ymestyn unrhyw beth yn hynny o beth.

We support amendment 8. We will have a detailed examination of the findings of the review into Welsh SMEs and Colyn Gardner's report on community banking. A number of Members, including William Powell, have alluded to how we need to deal with some of these particular issues and I think that they naturally come together. I remind Members that I would like some comments from them on the Dylan Jones-Evans report by 2 December.

Rydym yn cefnogi gwelliant 8. Byddwn yn cynnal archwiliad manwl o ganfyddiadau'r adolygiad o fusnesau bach a chanolig yng Nghymru ac adroddiad Colyn Gardner ar fancio cymunedol. Mae nifer o Aelodau, gan gynnwys William Powell, wedi cyfeirio at y ffordd y mae angen inni ymdrin â rhai o'r materion penodol hyn a chredaf eu bod yn cyd-blethu'n naturiol. A gaf atgoffa Aelodau yr hoffwn gael rhai sylwadau ganddynt ar adroddiad Dylan Jones-Evans erbyn 2 Rhagfyr.

In terms of amendment 10, if amendment 9 is agreed, amendment 10 will be deselected, and we would wish to oppose it. When William made his introduction to this debate, he was quite wistful about Captain Mainwaring, but I was not quite sure who he envisaged as Sergeant Wilson in this particular area. He raised the issue that it is about having a more direct relationship with financial institutions and to understand that they focus on the customer in terms of what they are doing.

O ran gwelliant 10, os derbynnir gwelliant 9, bydd gwelliant 10 yn cael ei ddad-ddethol, a byddem am ei wrthwynebu. Pan roddodd William ei gyflwyniad i'r ddadl hon, roedd yn eithaf hiraethus am Gapten Mainwaring, ond nid oeddwn yn hollol siŵr pwy y rhagwelai fyddai'r Rhingyll Wilson yn hynny o beth. Cododd y mater bod angen cael perthynas fwy uniongyrchol â sefydliadau ariannol a deall eu bod yn canolbwyntio ar y cwsmer o ran yr hyn y maent yn ei wneud.

Llyr Gruffydd, Peter Black and other Members alluded to some of the broadband issues. We understand the importance of digital inclusion. Up to 4% of Wales, as was indicated, is not currently expected to be served directly by either the Superfast Cymru project or commercial roll-out. The premises not covered will be scattered all across Wales, and not necessarily in rural areas, but where the local situation presents engineering challenges. We are conducting a review to identify locations not covered by either commercial or superfast provision, and this should be completed by the end of the year. I am sure that my Deputy Minister will then have the opportunity to share this information with Members. That will be useful in terms of the broadband issues.

Cyfeiriodd Llyr Gruffydd, Peter Black ac Aelodau eraill at rai o'r problemau sy'n gysylltiedig â band eang. Rydym yn deall pwysigrwydd cynhwysiant digidol. Fel y nodwyd, ni ddisgwylir i hyd at 4% o Gymru ar hyn o bryd gael ei gwasanaethu'n uniongyrchol naill ai gan brosiect Superfast Cymru na chan ddarpariaeth fasnachol. Bydd y safleoedd nas cwmpesir wedi'u lleoli ym mhob rhan o Gymru, ac nid o reidrwydd mewn ardaloedd gwledig, ond yn hytrach lle mae'r sefyllfa leol yn creu heriau peirianneg. Rydym yn cynnal adolygiad i nodi lleoliadau nad ydynt wedi'u cwmpasu gan y ddarpariaeth fasnachol na band eang cyflym iawn, a dylai hyn gael ei gwblhau erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn. Rwy'n siŵr y bydd fy Nirprwy Weinidog yn cael cyfle wedyn i rannu'r wybodaeth hon gyda'r Aelodau. Bydd hynny'n ddefnyddiol o ran problemau band eang.

Also, it is important to recognise the role of the SME sector in Wales, as many have done, and how important it is to encourage SMEs. I was very much taken by the comments made by Members, including those made by Aled Roberts and Janet Finch-Saunders, about the need to signpost issues effectively. Are people certain about where they need to go—do they know where to go? There is a lot more work for us to undertake in that area.

Hefyd, mae'n bwysig cydnabod rôl y sector busnesau bach a chanolig yng Nghymru, fel y gwnaeth llawer, a pha mor bwysig ydyw i annog busnesau bach a chanolig. Roedd y sylwadau a wnaed gan yr Aelodau, gan gynnwys y rhai a wnaed gan Aled Roberts a Janet Finch-Saunders, am yr angen i gyfeirio at faterion yn effeithiol wedi ennyn fy niddordeb. A yw pobl yn sicr ynghylch ble mae angen iddynt fynd—a ydynt yn gwybod ble i fynd? Mae llawer mwy o waith inni ei wneud yn y maes hwnnw.

I am quite attracted to looking at the credit union issues raised by Aled Roberts, in the context of my wider reports on the back of Professor Dylan Jones-Evans's report. It is important for us to recognise that we were not going to have a rerun of the Finance Wales debate today, but it is important to note that that report was commissioned by the Government to look at its own bank. At the end of the day, I am delighted that a report has been produced and that light has been shone on the matter. It gives us the opportunity to move forward, and perhaps in the direction of travel that some Members have already mentioned here today, and to look at how we can effectively manage the money and resources that we have put into Finance Wales to help businesses. I acknowledge what Joyce said that it has done what it needed to do in some areas, and that it has been effective but that that there is still more to do.

Rwyf yn eithaf parod i edrych ar y materion a godwyd gan Aled Roberts ynglŷn ag undebau credyd, yng nghyd-destun fy adroddiadau ehangach yn sgil adroddiad yr Athro Dylan Jones-Evans. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cydnabod nad oeddem yn mynd i ailgynnal y ddadl ar Cyllid Cymru heddiw, ond mae'n bwysig nodi bod yr adroddiad hwnnw wedi'i gomisiynu gan y Llywodraeth i edrych ar ei banc ei hun. Rwy'n falch iawn bod adroddiad wedi cael ei baratoi yn y pen draw a bod golau wedi cael ei daflu ar y mater. Rhydd gyfle inni symud ymlaen, ac o bosibl i'r cyfeiriad y mae rhai Aelodau eisoes wedi'i grybwyll yma heddiw, ac i edrych ar y ffordd y gallwn reoli'n effeithiol yr arian a'r adnoddau yr ydym wedi'u neilltuo ar gyfer Cyllid Cymru er mwyn helpu busnesau. Rwy'n cydnabod yr hyn a ddywedodd Joyce ei fod wedi gwneud yr hyn yr oedd angen iddo ei wneud mewn rhai meysydd, a'i fod wedi bod yn effeithiol ond bod llawer mwy i'w wneud.

I thank Members very much for the opportunity for the debate on this issue today, Deputy Presiding Officer.

Diolch i'r Aelodau yn fawr iawn am y cyfle i drafod y mater hwn heddiw, Ddirprwy Lywydd.

17:42

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Diolch yn fawr. Galwaf ar Kirsty Williams i ymateb i'r ddadl.

Thank you very much. I call on Kirsty Williams to reply to the debate.

17:42 **Kirsty Williams** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you very much, Deputy Presiding Officer. I thank colleagues across the Chamber for their contribution to this afternoon's debate. SMEs account for 73% of all employment in rural areas and are therefore vital to the life of those communities. Unless we get the economy right for all of Wales, we are in danger of potentially losing unique communities that have played such an important role in Welsh life. These are unique communities that are predominantly responsible for keeping the Welsh language alive, unique communities that contribute so much to the environmental protection of our country, and a unique part of Welsh culture.

Diolch yn fawr iawn, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Aelodau o bob rhan o'r Siambr am eu cyfraniadau at y ddadl y prynhawn yma. Mae busnesau bach a chanolig yn cyfrif am 73% o'r holl gyflogaeth mewn ardaloedd gwledig ac felly maent yn hanfodol i fywyd y cymunedau hynny. Oni bai ein bod yn cael yr economi yn iawn i Gymru gyfan, rydym mewn perygl o bosibl o golli cymunedau unigryw sydd wedi chwarae rhan mor bwysig ym mywyd Cymru. Mae'r rhain yn gymunedau unigryw sy'n bennaf cyfrifol am gadw'r iaith Gymraeg yn fyw, cymunedau unigryw sy'n cyfrannu cymaint ar ddiogelu amgylchedd ein gwlad, ac yn rhan unigryw o ddiwylliant Cymru.

Sometimes, the headline figures do not tell the full story of some of the difficulties faced by the economy in rural areas. Many people would look with envy at the very low unemployment levels in my constituency of Brecon and Radnorshire. However, underneath that high level of unemployment are very low wages, much lower than the Welsh average. Sometimes, I think that there is a distorted view about how life is in rural areas.

Weithiau, nid yw'r prif ffigurau yn dweud y stori gyfan am rai o'r anawsterau a wynebir yn yr economi mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Byddai llawer o bobl yn edrych gyda chenfigen ar y lefelau diweithdra isel iawn yn fy etholaeth i, Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed. Fodd bynnag, o dan y lefel uchel o gyflogaeth mae cyflogau isel iawn, llawer is na chyfartaledd Cymru. Weithiau, rwy'n credu bod barn gyfeiliornus am sut mae bywyd mewn ardaloedd gwledig.

I thank everyone for their contributions, which were, in large part, in line with the spirit of this afternoon's debate, although I was curious about whether Joyce was in the Chamber yesterday to listen to the issues arising from the debate on Finance Wales. Just because it exists, Joyce, does not mean that it is doing a good job. The evidence reported to the committee by the person that the Government put in place to review it suggests that we could be doing an awful lot more with regard to Finance Wales, given the not inconsiderable amount of Welsh Government money that goes into that service, and given the question of whether it is truly delivering on the Welsh Government's objectives of growing the economy. So, just because it is there does not mean that it works.

Diolch i bawb am eu cyfraniadau, a oedd, i raddau helaeth, yn unol ag ysbryd y ddadl y prynhawn yma, er fy mod yn chwilfrydig ynghylch a oedd Joyce yn y Siambr ddoe i wrando ar y materion a gododd o'r drafodaeth ar Cyllid Cymru. Nid yw'r ffaith ei fod yn bodoli, Joyce, yn golygu ei fod yn gwneud gwaith da. Mae'r dystiolaeth a roddwyd i'r pwyllgor gan y sawl y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi'i benodi i'w adolygu yn awgrymu y gallem fod yn gwneud llawer iawn mwy o ran Cyllid Cymru, o ystyried y swm nid ansylweddol o arian Llywodraeth Cymru y mae'r gwasanaeth hwnnw yn ei gael, ac o ystyried y cwestiwn a yw'n cyflawni mewn gwirionedd amcanion Llywodraeth Cymru i dyfu'r economi. Felly, nid yw'r ffaith ei fod yn bodoli yn golygu ei fod yn llwyddo.

The points made by Elin about the scandal about some of the banks' behaviour is another reason why we need Finance Wales, whatever its future form, to work to ensure that there is an ethical way in which finance can be provided for businesses without people falling into the traps that they have previously fallen into with regard to some of the tactics of the banks.

Mae'r pwyntiau a wnaed gan Elin ynglŷn â'r sgandal am ymddygiad rhai o'r banciau yn rheswm arall pam mae angen Cyllid Cymru arnom, ar ba ffurf bynnag y bo yn y dyfodol, i weithio i sicrhau bod ffordd foesegol o ddarparu cyllid i fusnesau heb fod pobl yn syrthio i mewn i'r maglau fel y maent wedi ei wneud yn y gorffennol o ran rhai o dactegau'r banciau.

The Conservatives focused strongly again on business rates. I hope that we will get a fuller understanding of how the Westminster Government will respond to the calls from the Silk commission for the devolution of business rates. However, I hope that we can devolve it even further. I think that one of the problems that we have at present is that local government simply acts as a collection agent. If we could devolve some business rates to local government, it might give it more of an incentive to take issues around backing enterprise and town-centre and market-centre developments much more seriously for its bottom line. I hope that, when we get these powers, we can look to devolve them even further.

Canolbwyntiodd y Ceidwadwyr yn gryf unwaith eto ar ardrethi busnes. Gobeithio y byddwn yn cael dealltwriaeth lawnach o'r ffordd y bydd Llywodraeth San Steffan yn ymateb i alwadau gan gomisiwn Silk am ddatganoli ardrethi busnes. Fodd bynnag, gobeithio y gallwn ddatganoli hyd yn oed ymhellach. Credaf mai un o'r problemau sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd yw bod llywodraeth leol ond yn gweithredu fel asiant casglu. Pe gallem ddatganoli rhai ardrethi busnes i lywodraeth leol, efallai y byddai mwy o gymhelliant i lywodraeth leol ystyried materion sy'n ymwneud â chefnogi mentergarwch a datblygiadau yng nghanol y dref ac o amgylch marchnadoedd lawer mwy o ddifrif o ran ei enillion. Gobeithio, pan gawn y pwerau hyn, y gallwn ystyried eu datganoli hyd yn oed ymhellach.

I am glad that the Minister said that the Deputy Minister will review the record with regard to apprenticeships. Apprenticeships in rural trades are declining. Between 2006-07 and 2010-11, there was a 64% decrease in apprenticeships in the agriculture sector and a 58% decrease in apprenticeships in manufacturing. I recently spent a morning as an apprentice in the Welsh Royal Crystal factory in Rhayader—a wonderful establishment. We have been in correspondence with the Welsh Government about what we can do to help that business. The gentleman who cuts the glass there by hand is nearing retirement. He travels from the Gwent valleys to Rhayader every day—no mean feat, I am sure you would agree. The factory is desperate to take a young person on to train in that craft, but it is very difficult to find a scheme that can assist it in doing so. We are in danger of losing that business as well as that skill from Wales, unless we can be a bit more flexible about how we support small businesses and find more flexible forms of apprenticeship.

Rwy'n falch i'r Gweinidog ddweud y bydd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn adolygu'r cofnod mewn perthynas â phrentisiaethau. Mae prentisiaethau mewn crefftau gwledig yn lleihau. Rhwng 2006-07 a 2010-11, gwelwyd gostyngiad o 64% mewn prentisiaethau yn y sector amaethyddiaeth a gostyngiad o 58% mewn prentisiaethau yn y diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu. Yn ddiweddar, treuliais fore fel prentis yn ffatri Welsh Royal Crystal yn Rhaeadr Gwy—sefydliad gwych. Rydym wedi bod yn gohebu â Llywodraeth Cymru ynglŷn â'r hyn y gallwn ei wneud i helpu'r busnes hwnnw. Mae'r gŵr bonheddig sy'n torri'r gwydr yno â llaw ar fin ymddeol. Mae'n teithio o gymoedd Gwent i Raeadr Gwy bob dydd—sy'n dipyn o gamp, y cytunech, mae'n siŵr gennyf. Mae'r ffatri yn awyddus iawn i gyflogi person ifanc i'w hyfforddi yn y grefft, ond mae'n anodd iawn dod o hyd i gynllun a all ei helpu i wneud hynny. Rydym mewn perygl o golli'r busnes yn ogystal â'r sgil honno yng Nghymru, oni allwn fod ychydig yn fwy hyblyg ynghylch sut rydym yn cefnogi busnesau bach a dod o hyd i ffurfiau mwy hyblyg ar brentisiaeth.

The points raised around communications are well made. I shall resist the opportunity for my usual tirade against a well-known mobile phone company that continues to cause big problems in my constituency. Those are big problems not just in the sense of inconvenience because your phone call to your nearest and dearest drops out, but massive losses to rural businesses as a result of poor mobile telecommunications. We are talking about thousands of pounds off the bottom line of small rural businesses that simply cannot afford to lose that kind of business. We need to redouble our efforts here as a Government. We discuss non-devolved issues in the Chamber all the time, and the Government spends a lot of time trying to lobby on non-devolved issues. Simply to say that this is not a matter for us, but for Ofcom or for Westminster or Europe, is not good enough. We need to take the lead here in this Chamber, to say that it matters to the Welsh Government and to the National Assembly for Wales.

Mae'r pwyntiau a godwyd ynghylch cysylltiadau yn rhai da. Byddaf yn ymwrthod â'r cyfle i wneud fy ymosodiad arferol ar gwmni ffôn symudol adnabyddus sy'n parhau i achosi problemau mawr yn fy etholaeth. A phroblemau mawr ydynt nid yn unig o ran anghyfleustra oherwydd bod eich galwad ffôn at eich anwyliaid yn terfynu, ond oherwydd y colledion enfawr i fusnesau gwledig o ganlyniad i delathrebu ffôn symudol gwael. Rydym yn sôn am filoedd o bunnoedd o elw i fusnesau gwledig bach na allant fforddio colli'r math hwnnw o fusnes. Mae angen inni ymdrechu o'r newydd yma fel Llywodraeth. Rydym yn trafod materion nad ydynt wedi'u datganoli yn y Siambr drwy'r amser, ac mae'r Llywodraeth yn treulio llawer o amser yn ceisio lobïo ar faterion nad ydynt wedi'u datganoli. Yn syml, nid yw dweud nad yw hyn yn fater i ni, ond i Ofcom neu i San Steffan neu Ewrop, yn ddigon da. Mae angen inni gymryd yr awenau yma yn y Siambr hon, a dweud ei bod yn bwysig i Lywodraeth Cymru ac i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru.

I conclude by thanking the Minister in advance, in anticipation of her visit to Brecon and Radnorshire, where I am hoping to be able to show her some small manufacturing businesses in my constituency—the very businesses that we are talking about today. They are businesses that want to expand their workforces. They are businesses that want to offer opportunities to young people living in rural areas. To do that, they need the assistance of the Welsh Government. I hope today that we can develop consensus about the best way to do just that.

Hoffwn gloi drwy ddiolch i'r Gweinidog ymlaen llaw, cyn ei hymweliad â Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed, lle rwy'n gobeithio y gallaf ddangos rhai busnesau gweithgynhyrchu bach yn fy etholaeth iddi—yr union fusnesau yr ydym yn sôn amdanynt heddiw. Maent yn fusnesau sydd am ehangu eu gweithluoedd. Maent yn fusnesau sy'n awyddus i gynnig cyfleoedd i bobl ifanc sy'n byw mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Er mwyn gwneud hynny, mae angen cymorth Llywodraeth Cymru arnynt. Gobeithio heddiw y gallwn gael consensws ynglŷn â'r ffordd orau o wneud hynny.

17:48

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

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Y cwestiwn yw y dylid derbyn y cynnig heb ei ddiwygio. A oes gwrthwynebiad? Gan fod gwrthwynebiad, gohiriaf bob pleidlais ar yr eitem hon tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

The question is that the motion without amendment be agreed to. Is there any objection? There is objection, so I defer all voting on this item until voting time.

Gohiriwyd y pleidleisio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Voting deferred until voting time.

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Before we move to voting time, are there three Members who wish for the bell to be rung? There are not.

Cyn symud i'r cyfnod pleidleisio, a oes tri Aelod sy'n dymuno i'r gloch gael ei chanu? Nac oes.

Cyfnod Pleidleisio

Voting Time

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar gynnig NDM5354.

Result of the vote on motion NDM5354.

Gwrthodwyd y cynnig: O blaid 5, Yn erbyn 49, Ymatal 0.

Motion not agreed: For 5, Against 49, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 1 i gynnig NDM5354.

Result of the vote on amendment 1 to motion NDM5354.

Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 26, Yn erbyn 28, Ymatal 0.

Amendment not agreed: For 26, Against 28, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 2 i gynnig NDM5354.

Result of the vote on amendment 2 to motion NDM5354.

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 37, Yn erbyn 12, Ymatal 5.

Amendment agreed: For 37, Against 12, Abstain 5.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 3 i gynnig NDM5354.

Result of the vote on amendment 3 to motion NDM5354.

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 54, Yn erbyn 0, Ymatal 0.

Amendment agreed: For 54, Against 0, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 4 i gynnig NDM5354.

Result of the vote on amendment 4 to motion NDM5354.

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 54, Yn erbyn 0, Ymatal 0.

Amendment agreed: For 54, Against 0, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 5 i gynnig NDM5354.

Result of the vote on amendment 5 to motion NDM5354.

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 37, Yn erbyn 0, Ymatal 17.

Amendment agreed: For 37, Against 0, Abstain 17.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 6 i gynnig NDM5354.

Result of the vote on amendment 6 to motion NDM5354.

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 54, Yn erbyn 0, Ymatal 0.

Amendment agreed: For 54, Against 0, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 7 i gynnig NDM5354.

Result of the vote on amendment 7 to motion NDM5354.

Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 26, Yn erbyn 28, Ymatal 0.

Amendment not agreed: For 26, Against 28, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 8 i gynnig NDM5354.

Result of the vote on amendment 8 to motion NDM5354.

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 37, Yn erbyn 12, Ymatal 5.

Amendment agreed: For 37, Against 12, Abstain 5.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 9 i gynnig NDM5354.

Result of the vote on amendment 9 to motion NDM5354.

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 28, Yn erbyn 26, Ymatal 0.

Amendment agreed: For 28, Against 26, Abstain 0.

Cafodd gwelliant 10 ei ddad-ddethol.

Amendment 10 deselected.

Cynnig NDM5354 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

Motion NDM5354 as amended:

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Yn cydnabod bod y sector busnesau bach a chanolig yn cyfrif am 73% o'r holl gyflogaeth mewn ardaloedd gwledig a bod mentrau bach a chanolig yn chwarae rhan hanfodol yn nhwf economaidd cynaliadwy ardaloedd gwledig, o ran ysgogi arloesi a datblygu a helpu i fynd i'r afael â heriau allweddol diweithdra, mudo o'r wlad i'r dref a thlodi.

1. Recognises that the SME sector accounts for 73% of all employment in rural areas and that small and medium sized enterprises play a vital role in the sustainable economic growth of rural areas, in stimulating innovation and advancement and helping to address the key challenges of unemployment, rural to urban migration and poverty.

2. Yn nodi bod diffyg mynediad i gyllid yn amharu ar rôl bosibl busnesau bach a chanolig mewn datblygu economaidd gwledig.

2. Notes that lack of access to finance impedes the potential role of SMEs in rural economic development.

3. Yn nodi'r heriau penodol o ran y nifer sy'n manteisio ar brentisiaethau mewn busnesau bach a chanolig ac yn cydnabod y camau cadarnhaol a gymerwyd drwy gytundeb cyllideb 2013/14 ar brentisiaethau rhwng Plaid Cymru a Llywodraeth Cymru.

3. Notes the particular challenges in the uptake of apprenticeships in SMEs and recognises the positive steps taken through the 2013/14 budget agreement on apprenticeships between Plaid Cymru and the Welsh Government.

4. Yn gresynu at yr effaith negyddol y mae cam-werthu cynnyrch gwarchod rhag risgiau cyfraddau llog gan fanciau’r stryd fawr wedi’i chael ar yr economi wledig.

4. Regrets the negative impact on the rural economy of the mis-selling of interest rate hedging products by high street banks.

5. Yn nodi ymhellach y pwyntiau a amlinellir yn adroddiad y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes ynghylch prentisiaethau mewn ardaloedd gwledig.

5. Further notes the points detailed in the Enterprise and Business Committee report on apprenticeships in rural areas.

6. Yn credu bod cost tanwydd mewn ardaloedd gwledig yn cael effaith negyddol ar yr economi wledig, ac yn gresynu nad oedd cais Llywodraeth y DU i ehangu’r Ad-daliad Tanwydd Gwledig yn cynnwys unrhyw ardaloedd yng Nghymru.

6. Believes that the cost of fuel in rural areas has a negative impact on the rural economy, and regrets that the UK Government’s application for an extension to the Rural Fuel Rebate did not include any Welsh areas.

7. Yn nodi bod seilwaith trafnidiaeth wledig effeithiol yn allweddol ar gyfer cymunedau gwledig ac yn hanfodol ar gyfer ysgogi datblygiadau economaidd a mynd i’r afael ag arwahanrwydd gwledig.

7. Notes that effective rural transport infrastructure is a lifeline for rural communities and essential for stimulating economic development and tackling rural isolation.

8. Yn nodi bod y gagendor digidol o ran band-eang a signalau ffonau symudol yn rhwystro cystadleurwydd a hygyrchedd busnesau mewn ardaloedd gwledig.

8. Notes that the digital divide in broadband and mobile coverage hinders the competitiveness and accessibility of businesses in rural areas.

9. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i:

9. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) archwilio strwythur banc cymunedol i gynnal presenoldeb banciau lleol mewn cymunedau gwledig, ac i weithio gydag undeb credyd i gynyddu benthyca i fusnesau;

a) examine a community bank structure to sustain the presence of local banks in rural communities, and to work with credit unions to increase lending to businesses;

a) edrych ar beth yw manteision sefydlu banc busnes hyd braich, di-ddifidend, sy’n eiddo cyhoeddus, i fusnesau bach a chanolig gwledig, i gynnig cyllid ar gyfraddau cystadleuol i fusnesau bach a chanolig Cymru.

a) examine the benefits to rural SMEs of establishing a publicly owned, arm’s length, not-for dividend business bank, to offer finance at competitive rates to Welsh SMEs.

b) gweithio gyda busnesau yn y sectorau amaethyddol, ynni adnewyddadwy a thwristiaeth i nodi ffyrdd o oresgyn rhwystrau i gynyddu'r cyflenwad o brentisiaethau gwledig;

b) work with businesses in the agricultural, renewable energy and tourism sectors to identify ways to overcome barriers to increasing the supply of rural apprenticeships;

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar gynnig NDM5354 fel y’i diwygiwyd.

Result of the vote on motion NDM5354 as amended.

Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM5354 fel y’i diwygiwyd: O blaid 42, Yn erbyn 12, Ymatal 0.

Motion NDM5354 as amended agreed: For 42, Against 12, Abstain 0.

17:53 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Will those Members leaving the Chamber please do so quickly and quietly?

A wnaiff yr Aelodau hynny sy'n gadael y Siambr wneud hynny'n gyflym ac yn dawel os gwelwch yn dda?

17:54

Dadl Fer: Anghyfleusterau Cyhoeddus—Pam y mae Toiledau Cyhoeddus yn bwysig

Short Debate: A Public Inconvenience—Why Public Toilets are important

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Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

I call on Kirsty Williams to speak to the topic that she has chosen.

Galwaf ar Kirsty Williams i siarad am y pwnc y mae wedi'i ddewis.

17:54 **Kirsty Williams** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you very much, Deputy Presiding Officer. I will begin by stating at the outset that Mike Hedges and Mark Isherwood have asked for a minute of my time to speak in this debate, and I am happy for them to contribute.

Diolch yn fawr iawn, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Dechreuaf drwy ddweud ar y cychwyn bod Mike Hedges a Mark Isherwood wedi gofyn am funud o'm hamser i siarad yn y ddadl hon, ac rwy'n fodlon iddynt gyfrannu.

To some, a debate about public conveniences may seem like a trivial issue. There is certainly plenty of opportunity for schoolboy humour, but, believe me, this is no joking matter for those individuals and communities affected by a lack of public conveniences, or those communities currently threatened by a round of closures proposed by Powys County Council. Some public conveniences in Brecon and Radnorshire have already closed at the end of October and more are likely to close by the end of the year if town and community councils do not take up the offer of Powys County Council to take them over.

I rai, efallai bod dadl am gyfleusterau cyhoeddus yn ymddangos yn fater dibwys. Yn sicr mae digon o gyfle am hiwmor plentynnaidd, ond credwch fi, nid mater chwerthin mohono i'r unigolion a'r cymunedau hynny lle nad oes digon o gyfleusterau cyhoeddus, na'r cymunedau hynny sydd ar hyn o bryd yn wynebu'r bygythiad y caiff cyfleusterau eu cau yn sgil cynigion Cyngor Sir Powys. Mae rhai cyfleusterau cyhoeddus ym Mrycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed eisoes wedi cau ar ddiwedd mis Hydref ac mae rhagor yn debygol o gau erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn os na fydd cynghorau tref a chymuned yn manteisio ar gynnig Cyngor Sir Powys i'w cymryd drosodd.

A lack of facilities impacts upon very many people of all age groups and in all brackets. As a mother of three children, I know that, when they were toddlers, when they needed to go, they needed to go, and no amount of urging them to hold on would work. It impacts upon those whose patterns of work require them to travel around. Recently—actually, it was on the day after the closure of the Watergate toilets just around the corner from my office—I witnessed a police officer pull into the car park in his patrol car, jump out and walk to the toilets only to be faced by a boarded-up doorway.

Mae diffyg cyfleusterau yn effeithio ar lawer iawn o bobl o bob oedran ac ym mhob grŵp. Fel mam i dri o blant, rwy'n gwybod, pan oeddent yn blant bach, pan oedd angen iddynt fynd, roedd angen iddynt fynd, ac ni fyddai unrhyw anogaeth iddynt aros am ychydig yn gweithio. Mae'n effeithio ar y rhai y mae eu patrymau gwaith yn golygu bod yn rhaid iddynt deithio o amgylch. Yn ddiweddar—a dweud y gwir, y diwrnod ar ôl i doiledau Watergate, nid nepell o'm swyddfa, gael eu cau—gwelais swyddog yr heddlu yn gyrru i mewn i'r maes parcio yn ei gar patrol, neidio allan a cherdded i'r toiledau dim ond i wynebu drws caeedig.

It impacts upon the economy of an area. One correspondent, who has written to Hay-on-Wye Town Council in light of the proposals to close the toilets in Hay, stated that they had already stopped shopping in Hereford, because of the closures of public conveniences, and would have to stop shopping in Hay-and-Wye also if the public conveniences were to close there. Powys is an area that is heavily reliant on the tourism sector with outdoor-based activities, and the people who come to walk in our countryside and use the rivers in our area are highly reliant on public conveniences. I am sure that many people will have crossed the bridge at Glasbury-on-Wye and seen many people accessing the waterway there and using the nearby public conveniences to change as well as to use the toilet facilities.

Mae'n effeithio ar economi ardal. Dywedodd un gohebydd, sydd wedi ysgrifennu i Gyngor Tref y Gelli Gandryll yng ngoleuni'r cynigion i gau'r toiledau yn y Gelli, ei fod eisoes wedi rhoi'r gorau i siopa yn Henffordd, am fod cyfleusterau cyhoeddus wedi cau, ac y byddai'n rhaid iddo roi'r gorau i siopa yn y Gelli Gandryll hefyd pe bai'r cyfleusterau cyhoeddus yn cau yno. Mae Powys yn ardal sy'n dibynnu'n drwm ar y sector twristiaeth gyda gweithgareddau awyr agored, ac mae'r bobl sy'n dod i gerdded yn ein hardal wledig a defnyddio'r afonydd yn ein hardal yn ddibynnol iawn ar gyfleusterau cyhoeddus. Rwy'n siŵr y bydd llawer o bobl wedi croesi'r bont yn y Clas ar Wy ac wedi gweld llawer o bobl yn defnyddio'r ddyfrffordd yno ac yn defnyddio'r cyfleusterau cyhoeddus cyfagos er mwyn newid yn ogystal â defnyddio'r toiledau.

Of course, it will have a massive impact on older people. As people grow older, they are more likely to develop continence issues, including the need to use toilets more often and with a greater urgency. It is not just older people who are affected; childbirth does not just leave you with stretch marks. In the UK, one in three women and one in seven men over the age of 65 experience incontinence. Adequate provision of public toilets is vital to enable older people to maintain their dignity and their confidence to get out and about and live their lives to the full. The importance of public toilets to older people is reflected by the campaigning of the Welsh Senate of Older People, which has collected thousands upon thousands of signatures on its petition, and the strong interest that the older persons' commissioner has taken in this area.

Wrth gwrs, bydd yn cael effaith aruthrol ar bobl hŷn. Wrth i bobl heneiddio, maent yn fwy tebygol o ddatblygu problemau ymataliaeth, gan gynnwys yr angen i ddefnyddio toiledau yn fwy aml ac ar fwy o frys. Nid dim ond pobl hŷn y mae'r broblem hon yn effeithio arnynt; mae rhoi genedigaeth yn gadael mwy nag olion ymestyn ar y croen. Yn y DU, mae un o bob tair merch ac un o bob saith dyn dros 65 oed yn anymataliol. Mae digon o doiledau cyhoeddus yn hanfodol er mwyn galluogi pobl hŷn i gadw eu hurddas a'u hyder i fynd allan a byw eu bywydau i'r eithaf. Caiff pwysigrwydd toiledau cyhoeddus i bobl hŷn ei adlewyrchu yng ngwaith ymgyrchu Senedd Pobl Hŷn Cymru, sydd wedi casglu miloedd ar filoedd o lofnodion ar ei deiseb, a'r diddordeb brwd y mae'r comisiynydd pobl hŷn wedi dangos yn y maes hwn.

It is also illustrated by the strong reaction of local people. The council came to board up the facilities in Rhayader. It had to come back an hour later to unboard them, because of the civil disobedience that the action had incurred. We have to remember why public conveniences were built and provided in the first place. It happened because of a response to public health concerns. I have been struck in recent days, in anticipation of this debate, by an advert that is doing the rounds on Radio 4 to highlight one of its new programmes. It talks about the census taken in the late nineteenth century. Dundee had 90,000 residents at that time and five toilets, three of which were in hotels. Of course, it is not the same situation that we face today, but there are widespread concerns that these closures will lead to a return of some really serious public health issues, which led to the building of the toilets in the first place.

Fe'i hadlewyrchir hefyd yn ymateb cryf pobl leol. Daeth y cyngor i gau'r cyfleusterau yn Rhaeadr Gwy. Bu'n rhaid iddo ddychwelyd awr yn ddiweddarach i'w hailagor, oherwydd yr anufudd-dod sifil a ddigwyddodd yn sgil cau'r cyfleusterau. Mae'n rhaid inni gofio pam yr adeiladwyd ac y darparwyd cyfleusterau cyhoeddus yn y lle cyntaf. Digwyddodd mewn ymateb i bryderon iechyd y cyhoedd. Dros y diwrnodau diwethaf, yn arwain at y ddadl hon, rwyf wedi clywed hysbyseb sawl gwaith ar Radio 4 sy'n tynnu sylw at un o'i rhaglenni newydd. Mae'n sôn am y cyfrifiad a gynhaliwyd ar ddiwedd y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg. Roedd gan Dundee boblogaeth o 90,000 ar y pryd a phum toiled, tri ohonynt mewn gwestai. Wrth gwrs, nid ydym yn yr un sefyllfa heddiw, ond mae pryderon eang y bydd y cynlluniau cau hyn yn arwain at atgyfodi rhai problemau difrifol iawn o ran iechyd y cyhoedd, a arweiniodd at adeiladu'r toiledau yn y lle cyntaf.

I know that that is a particular concern at Glasbury-on-Wye. The experiences of the villages of Cwm-du and Llanfrynach would suggest that the people there are right to be worried. When Cwm-du and Llanfrynach lost their public toilets in the last round of closures a number of years ago, those communities were faced with many people having to relieve themselves in hedgerows and behind bushes because they were simply desperate.

Gwn fod hwn yn bryder arbennig yng Nghlas ar Wy. Byddai profiadau pentrefi Cwm-du a Llanfrynach yn awgrymu bod gan bobl reswm dros boeni. Pan gollodd Cwm-du a Llanfrynach eu toiledau cyhoeddus yn ystod y cylch cau diwethaf sawl blwyddyn nôl, gadawyd y cymunedau hynny mewn sefyllfa lle roedd pobl yn gorfod defnyddio gwrychoedd a mynd y tu ôl i lwyni am nad oedd ganddynt unrhyw ddewis arall.

In the end, we had to campaign to try to get the building physically removed from the village of Cwm-du to remind people not to stop there in the first place, and in Llanfrynach the community themselves stepped in and re-opened the toilet. That project has been a fantastic success, and it has worked very well, but one has to wonder about the feasibility of volunteers taking on the provision of market town facilities with much higher levels of footfall.

Yn y diwedd, bu'n rhaid inni ymgyrchu i geisio cael gwared ar yr adeilad yn llwyr o bentref Cwm-du er mwyn atgoffa pobl i beidio ag aros yno yn y lle cyntaf, ac yn Llanfrynach gweithredodd y gymuned ei hun gan ailagor y toiled. Mae'r prosiect hwnnw wedi bod yn llwyddiant ysgubol, ac mae wedi gweithio'n dda iawn, ond mae'n rhaid ystyried pa mor ymarferol yw hi i wirfoddolwyr gymryd cyfrifoldeb am ddarparu cyfleusterau mewn tref farchnad sy'n denu llawer mwy o ymwelwyr.

As I said, Powys County Council has offered the facilities to town and community councils, but it has been very difficult for the members of those bodies to make decisions because of a lack of certainty on the future availability of grants being offered by Powys County Council, and a big lack of clarity on the costs involved. I would urge the Welsh Government to intervene to ensure that Powys County Council has done all that it can to handle this process correctly and give community councils the information that they need to make a proper, informed decision on behalf of local people.

Fel y dywedais, mae Cyngor Sir Powys wedi cynnig y cyfleusterau i gynghorau tref a chymuned, ond mae wedi bod yn anodd iawn i aelodau'r cyrff hynny wneud penderfyniadau oherwydd ansicrwydd y bydd grantiau yn cael eu cynnig yn y dyfodol gan Gyngor Sir Powys, a diffyg eglurder ynghylch y costau dan sylw. Byddwn yn annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ymyrryd er mwyn sicrhau bod Cyngor Sir Powys wedi gwneud popeth o fewn ei allu i ddelio â'r broses hon yn gywir a rhoi'r wybodaeth sydd ei hangen ar gynghorau cymuned i wneud penderfyniad gwybodus, priodol ar ran pobl leol.

I want the Welsh Government itself to review the role that it has to play. It seems to me that both the council and the Welsh Government are relying on a change of culture, expecting people to use other establishments' facilities. How many of us have bought a packet of peanuts or a packet of crisps at the pub bar because we were so embarrassed to have taken a child or a relative into those facilities to use them, and felt that we could not simply leave the premises without contributing something? I know that on the continent the use of these facilities is commonplace, and that is part of their culture, but many people feel very reluctant to go into establishments and use their facilities.

Rwyf am i Lywodraeth Cymru ei hun adolygu'r rôl sydd ganddi i'w chwarae. Mae'n ymddangos imi bod y cyngor a Llywodraeth Cymru yn dibynnu ar newid diwylliant, gan ddisgwyl i bobl ddefnyddio cyfleusterau sefydliadau eraill. Faint ohonom sydd wedi prynu pecyn o gnau daear neu becyn o greision yn y dafarn am ein bod yn teimlo cymaint o gywilydd am fynd â phlentyn neu berthynas i'r cyfleusterau hynny i'w defnyddio, gan deimlo na allem adael y lle heb gyfrannu rhywbeth? Gwn ei bod yn gyffredin i bobl ddefnyddio'r cyfleusterau hyn ar y cyfandir, ac mae hynny'n rhan o'u diwylliant, ond mae llawer o bobl yn teimlo'n amharod iawn i fynd i mewn i sefydliadau a defnyddio eu cyfleusterau.

The Government's answer to this was to create the public facilities grant scheme. However, I wonder what evaluation the Government has made of this scheme and its effectiveness. The Welsh Senate of Older People is currently carrying out research into the effectiveness of the scheme, and its findings to date show low awareness among businesses, with uptake being patchy and not geographically spread. Awareness of the public is even lower. Many people are simply unaware of the scheme, and it is so poorly signposted and advertised that they simply do not know that those facilities are available for them to use.

Ateb y Llywodraeth oedd creu'r cynllun grant cyfleusterau cyhoeddus. Fodd bynnag, tybed pa fath o werthusiad y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi'i gynnal o'r cynllun hwn a'i effeithiolrwydd. Mae Senedd Pobl Hŷn Cymru wrthi'n gwneud ymchwil i effeithiolrwydd y cynllun, ac mae ei chanfyddiadau hyd yn hyn yn dangos lefel isel o ymwybyddiaeth ymhlith busnesau, gyda chyfranogaeth dameidiog ac anghyson yn ddaearyddol. Mae ymwybyddiaeth y cyhoedd hyd yn oed yn is. Nid oes llawer o bobl yn gwybod am y cynllun, ac mae wedi ei hysbysebu mor wael fel nad ydynt yn gwybod bod y cyfleusterau hynny ar gael iddynt eu defnyddio.

Support by the Welsh Government for public conveniences on trunk roads is welcome, but it is clear that the Government is not providing an oversight. In recent correspondence with Llanwrtyd Wells town council, which has urged the Government to ensure that its toilet on the A483 remains open, the Government said that it was not concerned about the future of Llanwrtyd because toilets would be available in Builth Wells and Llandovery, and therefore the expectation of facilities being available every 25 miles would be fulfilled. Of course, Powys is proposing to close the one at Builth Wells. So, the Welsh Government needs to ensure that it takes a strategic overview of the facilities that it is willing to support and fund on its trunk road. What about public facilities off trunk roads as well? I would ask the Government to look very carefully at that particular issue.

Mae cefnogaeth Llywodraeth Cymru i gyfleusterau cyhoeddus ar gefnffyrdd i'w chroesawu, ond mae'n amlwg nad yw'r Llywodraeth yn darparu trosolwg o'r sefyllfa. Mewn gohebiaeth ddiweddar â chyngor tref Llanwrtyd, sydd wedi annog y Llywodraeth i sicrhau bod ei thoiled ar yr A483 yn aros ar agor, dywedodd y Llywodraeth nad oedd yn poeni am ddyfodol Llanwrtyd oherwydd byddai toiledau ar gael yn Llanfair-ym-Muallt a Llanymddyfri, ac felly byddai'r disgwyliad bod cyfleusterau ar gael bob 25 milltir yn cael ei fodloni. Wrth gwrs, mae Powys yn bwriadu cau'r toiled yn Llanfair-ym-Muallt. Felly, mae angen i Lywodraeth Cymru sicrhau ei bod yn darparu trosolwg strategol o'r cyfleusterau y mae'n barod i'w cefnogi a'u hariannu ar ei chefnffordd. Beth am gyfleusterau cyhoeddus oddi ar gefnffyrdd hefyd? Byddwn yn gofyn i'r Llywodraeth edrych yn ofalus iawn ar y mater penodol hwnnw.

This morning, the Health and Social Services Committee began its marathon consideration of the Social Care and Well-being Bill. How ironic to have spent the morning perusing 499 amendments ensuring that we create wellbeing within our society to debate this here this afternoon. The Government is committed, and it is on record as saying that it wanted to bring forward a public health Bill. Could I suggest at this point that, in doing so, it may want to consult on the viability of ensuring that there is a statutory requirement to provide public toilets across Wales? I hope that in responding to this debate the Minister will be able to give some hope to my constituents that they will be able to get out and about, and enjoy everything that Brecon and Radnor has to offer, safe in the knowledge that, if they need to use a public convenience, there will be one available for them.

Y bore yma, dechreuodd y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ei ystyriaeth faith o'r Bil Gofal Cymdeithasol a Lles. Ar ôl treulio'r bore yn ystyried 499 o ddiwygiadau i sicrhau ein bod yn creu lles yn ein cymdeithas, mae'n eironig iawn ein bod yn trafod y mater hwn y prynhawn yma. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi ymrwymo, ac mae wedi dweud ar goedd ei bod am gyflwyno Bil iechyd y cyhoedd. A gaf awgrymu yn y fan hon, wrth wneud hynny, efallai yr hoffai ymgynghori ar ymarferoldeb sicrhau ei fod yn cynnwys gofyniad statudol i ddarparu toiledau cyhoeddus ledled Cymru? Wrth ymateb i'r ddadl hon, gobeithio y bydd y Gweinidog yn gallu rhoi rhywfaint o obaith i'm hetholwyr y byddant yn gallu mynd allan a mwynhau popeth sydd gan Frycheiniog a Maesyfed i'w gynnig, gan wybod, os bydd angen iddynt ddefnyddio cyfleuster cyhoeddus, y bydd un ar gael iddynt.

18:04 **Mike Hedges** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

First of all, I thank Kirsty Williams for giving me a minute in this debate. I think it is a very important subject for very many people, and not only for the young and old, although both can have the need to use a toilet more often and with greater urgency. The main point that I want to make is that it is not just the number of public toilets, it is the location. Far too often, they are not in the right location. They need to be near bus stops, and they need to be near the doctors or the chemists. I know of elderly people who live in my constituency who have to plan which chemist they go to, because that is the one where toilet facilities are nearby. Sometimes, you will have the toilet facility half a mile down the road. Now, to many of us, half a mile is the delivery of a couple of hundred leaflets, but to many elderly people, it is a fairly long way. So, location is key as well; it is not just about having the numbers and, as Kirsty Williams said, about pubs.

Yn gyntaf oll, diolch i Kirsty Williams am roi munud imi yn y ddadl hon. Credaf ei fod yn bwnc pwysig iawn i lawer iawn o bobl, ac nid yr hen a'r ifanc yn unig, er y gall fod angen i'r ddau grŵp hwn ddefnyddio toiled yn fwy aml ac ar fwy o frys. Y prif bwynt yr hoffwn ei wneud yw nad dim ond nifer y toiledau cyhoeddus sy'n bwysig, ond eu lleoliad. Yn rhy aml o lawer, nid ydynt yn y lleoliad cywir. Mae angen iddynt fod yn agos at arosfannau bws, ac mae angen iddynt fod yn agos at y feddygfa neu'r fferyllfa. Gwn am bobl oedrannus sy'n byw yn fy etholaeth sy'n gorfod cynllunio pa fferyllydd i'w ddefnyddio, am mai dyna'r un lle mae cyfleusterau toiledau gerllaw. Weithiau, bydd y toiledau hanner milltir i lawr y ffordd. Nawr, i lawer ohonom, mae hanner milltir yn golygu dosbarthu rhai cannoedd o daflenni, ond i lawer o bobl hŷn, mae'n gymharol bell. Felly, mae lleoliad yn allweddol hefyd; mae'n rhaid meddwl am fwy na niferoedd ac, fel y dywedodd Kirsty Williams, am dafarnau.

Of course, there is a cost to pubs from people using their toilets, as a friend of mine who is the landlady of a pub that I go to tells me continually. It is an ideally situated pub in the centre of Morriston that also acts as the local toilets, despite the fact that there is one in Morriston, because it is at the other end of the road. So, location is the point that I am trying to make—it is not just the number of them, but having them in the right place.

Wrth gwrs, mae pobl sy'n defnyddio toiledau tafarnau yn creu costau i'r tafarnau hynny, fel y mae ffrind imi sy'n dafarnwraig tafarn rwy'n mynd iddi yn dweud wrthyf yn barhaus. Mae'r dafarn mewn man delfrydol yng nghanol Treforys a chaiff ei defnyddio hefyd fel y toiledau lleol, er gwaethaf y ffaith bod cyfleuster yn Nhreforys, am fod hwnnw ar ben arall y ffordd. Felly, lleoliad yw'r pwynt rwyf yn ceisio ei wneud—nid dim ond y nifer sy'n bwysig, ond sicrhau eu bod yn y lle iawn.

18:06 **Mark Isherwood** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Speaking previously here on this issue, I referred to the Welsh Senate of Older People's P is for People campaign. Poor public toilet provision can lead to poor health, loneliness and isolation. The strategy for older people in Wales focuses on wellbeing and promoting independence, but without adequate access to public toilets, many older people are unable to take advantage of services, as they are not confident of being able to go out without being caught short.

Wrth siarad yn flaenorol ar y mater hwn, cyfeiriais at ymgyrch P am 'Pobl' Senedd Pobl Hŷn Cymru. Gall darpariaeth wael o ran toiledau cyhoeddus arwain at iechyd gwael, unigrwydd ac arwahanrwydd. Mae'r strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn yng Nghymru yn canolbwyntio ar les a hybu annibyniaeth, ond heb fynediad digonol i doiledau cyhoeddus, ni all llawer o bobl hŷn fanteisio ar wasanaethau, gan nad ydynt yn hyderus y gallant fynd allan heb orfod mynd i'r tŷ bach.

Age Cymru's community calculator questionnaire found that older people in Wales rated their access to public toilets at just 3.32 out of 10, because the number of public toilets in Wales has steeply declined over recent years. As Age Cymru states, the adequate provision of toilets is vital to enable older people to retain their dignity and their confidence to participate in community life.

Canfu holiadur cyfrifiannell cymunedol Age Cymru mai dim ond sgôr o 3.32 allan o 10 a roddodd pobl hŷn yng Nghymru i'w mynediad at doiledau cyhoeddus, gan fod nifer y toiledau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru wedi lleihau'n sylweddol dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Fel y dywed Age Cymru, mae darpariaeth ddigonol o doiledau yn hanfodol er mwyn galluogi pobl hŷn i gadw eu hurddas a'u hyder i gymryd rhan ym mywyd y gymuned.

Public toilets are a lifeline, not just for older people, but also for others, including pregnant mothers and parents with young children.

Mae toiledau cyhoeddus yn achubiaeth, nid yn unig i bobl hŷn, ond hefyd i eraill, gan gynnwys mamau beichiog a rhieni â phlant ifanc.

18:07 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I call on the Minister for Local Government and Government Business to reply to the debate—Lesley Griffiths.

Galwaf ar y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth i ymateb i'r ddadl—Lesley Griffiths.

18:07 **Lesley Griffiths** Bywgraffiad Biography

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

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I am very pleased to respond to today's short debate—brought forward by Kirsty Williams—on behalf of the Welsh Government. I think that I should say right at the outset that I absolutely agree with Kirsty that public toilets are a very important facility.

Rwy'n falch iawn i ymateb i'r ddadl fer heddiw—a gyflwynwyd gan Kirsty Williams—ar ran Llywodraeth Cymru. Credaf y dylwn ddweud ar y cychwyn fy mod yn cytuno'n llwyr â Kirsty bod toiledau cyhoeddus yn gyfleuster pwysig iawn.

The provision of public toilets is a very clear example, I believe, of where a relatively simple public service can make a significant difference to people as they go about their daily lives. Having sufficient public toilets that are accessible, safe, clean and usable impacts significantly on the health, dignity and quality of people's lives in our communities. Public toilets help older people, parents and people with health problems to maintain more active lives and to confidently enjoy their local environment. They also play an important supporting role in many parts of Wales that rely on the economic benefits of tourism and leisure activities. It is also important to remember that any decline in provision is likely to impact disproportionately on the most vulnerable in our society: the elderly, the disabled, those with medical problems and the parents and carers of young children.

Mae toiledau cyhoeddus yn enghraifft glir iawn, yn fy marn i, o ble y gall gwasanaeth cyhoeddus cymharol syml wneud gwahaniaeth mawr i bobl yn eu bywydau bob dydd. Mae cael digon o doiledau cyhoeddus sy'n hygyrch, yn ddiogel, yn lân ac yn gweithio yn cael effaith sylweddol ar iechyd, urddas ac ansawdd bywyd pobl yn ein cymunedau. Mae toiledau cyhoeddus yn helpu pobl hŷn, rhieni a phobl â phroblemau iechyd i fyw bywydau mwy gweithgar ac i fwynhau eu hamgylchedd lleol yn hyderus. Maent hefyd yn chwarae rôl gefnogol bwysig mewn llawer o rannau o Gymru sy'n dibynnu ar fanteision economaidd twristiaeth a gweithgareddau hamdden. Mae hefyd yn bwysig cofio bod unrhyw ddirywiad yn y ddarpariaeth yn debygol o gael effaith anghymesur ar y bobl fwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas: yr henoed, yr anabl, y rhai sydd â phroblemau meddygol a rhieni a gofalwyr plant ifanc.

I know that next year's local government revenue settlement is one of the most financially challenging in recent history; successive funding cuts announced by the UK Government mean shrinking budgets at a time when demand for services is rising. The cuts imposed by the UK Government are already impacting heavily on our communities and will continue to do so in the coming years, and they will inevitably mean a level of reduction in the local services that people receive. We are all struggling to do more with less, and there are no easy answers. However, I have made it clear time after time that I firmly believe that this challenge can be turned into an opportunity. We all know that difficult and searching choices need to be made. However, I believe that decisions should be constantly measured against the benchmark of the impact that those decisions will have on the most vulnerable in our society, and spending should be prioritised to support them.

Gwn fod setliad refeniw llywodraeth leol y flwyddyn nesaf yn un o'r rhai mwyaf heriol yn ariannol a welwyd yn ddiweddar; mae toriadau ariannol olynol a gyhoeddwyd gan Lywodraeth y DU yn golygu bod cyllidebau'n crebachu ar adeg pan fo'r galw am wasanaethau yn cynyddu. Mae'r toriadau a orfodwyd gan Lywodraeth y DU eisoes yn cael effaith fawr ar ein cymunedau a byddant yn parhau i wneud hynny dros y blynyddoedd i ddod, ac mae'n anochel y byddant yn arwain at ostyngiad yn y gwasanaethau lleol y mae pobl yn eu derbyn. Rydym i gyd yn ei chael hi'n anodd gwneud mwy gyda llai, ac nid oes unrhyw atebion hawdd. Fodd bynnag, rwyf wedi datgan yn glir dro ar ôl tro fy mod yn credu'n gryf y gellir troi'r her hon yn gyfle. Gŵyr pawb fod angen gwneud dewisiadau anodd a chraff. Fodd bynnag, credaf y dylai penderfyniadau gael eu mesur yn gyson yn erbyn meincnod effaith y penderfyniadau hynny ar y rhai mwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas, ac y dylid blaenoriaethu gwariant i'w cefnogi.

In October, I wrote to all local authority leaders to remind them of the need to ensure that their budget decisions over the coming months take account of the importance of providing the range of discretionary services, including public toilets, in order to continue to improve outcomes for our communities and the most vulnerable people within them. I have made it clear that they also need to balance financial savings against the benefits for future generations, and how the provision of discretionary services can support and manage the demand on statutory services.

Ym mis Hydref, ysgrifennais at arweinwyr yr holl awdurdodau lleol i'w hatgoffa o'r angen i sicrhau bod eu penderfyniadau cyllidebol dros y misoedd nesaf yn ystyried pwysigrwydd darparu'r ystod o wasanaethau dewisol, gan gynnwys toiledau cyhoeddus, er mwyn parhau i wella canlyniadau ar gyfer ein cymunedau a'r bobl fwyaf agored i niwed sy'n byw ynddynt. Rwyf wedi datgan yn glir bod angen iddynt hefyd gydbwyso arbedion ariannol yn erbyn y buddiannau i genedlaethau'r dyfodol, a sut y gall darparu gwasanaethau dewisol helpu i gefnogi a rheoli'r galw am wasanaethau statudol.

The vital importance of public toilets was demonstrated simply and clearly in a report published by the Commissioner for Older People in Wales in the summer. It emphasised the challenges faced by older people as they go about their daily lives, which Mark Isherwood referred to. For many, a simple trip to the shops needs to be planned around the availability of public toilets. As the report makes clear, inadequate or insufficient public toilet provision can lead to poor health, loneliness and isolation. Older people consistently argue for further improvements to the quality of public toilets, emphasising the importance with which they view this service.

Cafodd pwysigrwydd hanfodol toiledau cyhoeddus ei ddangos yn syml ac yn glir mewn adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd gan Gomisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru dros yr haf. Pwysleisiodd yr heriau a wynebir gan bobl hŷn yn eu bywydau bob dydd, y cyfeiriodd Mark Isherwood atynt. I lawer, rhaid i drip siopa syml gael ei gynllunio ar sail y toiledau cyhoeddus sydd ar gael. Fel y dengys yr adroddiad yn glir, gall darpariaeth annigonol o doiledau cyhoeddus arwain at iechyd gwael, unigrwydd ac arwahanrwydd. Mae pobl hŷn yn dadlau'n gyson dros welliannau pellach i ansawdd toiledau cyhoeddus, sy'n amlygu'r pwys a roddant ar y gwasanaeth hwn.

What is more, any reduction in public toilet provision will clearly have potentially wide-ranging equalities impacts. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently published a progress report on equality impact assessment in local government in Wales. While this is a developing area, the report provides some good examples of how taking a wider perspective on service provision creates a different context for decision making. My letter to local authority leaders in October reminded them of their obligation to undertake equality impact assessments on their budget proposals.

At hynny, bydd unrhyw ostyngiad yn narpariaeth toiledau cyhoeddus yn amlwg yn cael effaith bellgyrhaeddol ar gydraddoldeb o bosibl. Mae'r Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb a Hawliau Dynol wedi cyhoeddi adroddiad cynnydd yn ddiweddar ar brosesau asesu'r effaith ar gydraddoldeb o fewn llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru. Er bod hwn yn faes sy'n datblygu, mae'r adroddiad yn rhoi rhai enghreifftiau da o sut y gall mabwysiadu safbwynt ehangach o ran darparu gwasanaethau greu cyd-destun gwahanol ar gyfer gwneud penderfyniadau. Roedd fy llythyr at arweinwyr awdurdodau lleol ym mis Hydref yn eu hatgoffa o'u dyletswydd i gynnal asesiadau o effaith eu cynigion cyllidebol ar gydraddoldeb.

I think that it is worth noting that local authorities in Wales have championed the provision of good public toilets. In 2011, Ceredigion County Council won the UK overall winner's trophy in the British Toilet Association's Loo of the Year awards. It was only the fourth council to win the award in the twenty-fourth anniversary competition to find the very best away-from-home toilets in the UK.

Credaf ei bod yn werth nodi bod awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru wedi hyrwyddo camau i ddarparu toiledau cyhoeddus da. Yn 2011, enillodd Cyngor Sir Ceredigion brif wobr y DU yng ngwobrau Toiledau Gorau'r Flwyddyn a gynhaliwyd gan Gymdeithas Toiledau Prydain. Ceredigion oedd y pedwerydd cyngor yn unig i ennill y wobr ers i'r gystadleuaeth i ddod o hyd i'r toiledau gorau y tu allan i'r cartref yn y DU gael ei lansio bedair blynedd ar hugain yn ôl.

While public conveniences are, understandably, valued local community amenities, in many areas they are also important for leisure and tourism, and the economic benefits associated with these. I have seen from my own ministerial postbag that inadequate or inaccessible public toilets can act as a deterrent to day trippers and tourists, deterring them from visiting or returning to areas, meaning that local businesses miss out on the income that they bring to an area through their spending. Kirsty Williams referred to her own constituency from that perspective.

Er bod cyfleusterau cyhoeddus, yn ddealladwy, yn amwynderau cymunedol lleol gwerthfawr, mewn llawer o ardaloedd maent hefyd yn bwysig o ran hamdden a thwristiaeth, a'r manteision economaidd sy'n gysylltiedig â'r rhain. Rwyf wedi gweld o'm bag post gweinidogol fy hun y gall toiledau cyhoeddus annigonol neu anhygyrch fod yn rhwystr i ymwelwyr dydd a thwristiaid, gan eu rhwystro rhag ymweld ag ardaloedd neu ddychwelyd iddynt, sy'n golygu bod busnesau lleol yn colli allan ar yr incwm y maent yn ei greu mewn ardal drwy eu gwariant. Cyfeiriodd Kirsty Williams at y safbwynt hwn yn ei hetholaeth ei hun.

In recognition of the importance of adequate provision, the Welsh Government's public facilities grant has supported local authorities over the past four and a half years to facilitate greater public access to toilets. The scheme reimburses participating authorities to a maximum of £17,500 per authority per year, for payments of up to £500 to local businesses for allowing free public access to their toilet facilities. The facilities provided must have acceptable standards of safety, hygiene, accessibility for disabled people and provision for both sexes. I do hope that they take into account the point that you raised, Mike Hedges, about their location. In the four years to March of this year, over £450,000 has been provided to local authorities under the scheme, with a further £200,000 available in the current year. In 2012-13, the latest year for which figures are available, 327 businesses in Wales were making their toilet facilities available to the public under the scheme. This benefits both the public and the businesses themselves in terms of increased footfall.

Gan gydnabod pwysigrwydd cael darpariaeth ddigonol, mae grant cyfleusterau cyhoeddus Llywodraeth Cymru wedi helpu awdurdodau lleol dros y pedair blynedd a hanner diwethaf i hwyluso mwy o fynediad cyhoeddus i doiledau. Mae'r cynllun yn rhoi ad-daliad o hyd at £17,500 y flwyddyn i bob awdurdod sy'n cymryd rhan, am wneud taliadau o hyd at £500 i fusnesau lleol sy'n caniatáu i'r cyhoedd ddefnyddio eu toiledau am ddim. Mae'n rhaid i'r cyfleusterau a ddarperir gyrraedd safonau derbyniol o ran diogelwch, hylendid, hygyrchedd i bobl anabl a darpariaeth i ddynion a merched. Rwy'n mawr obeithio eu bod yn ystyried y pwynt a godwyd gennych, Mike Hedges, am eu lleoliad. Yn ystod y pedair blynedd hyd at fis Mawrth eleni, darparwyd dros £450,000 i awdurdodau lleol o dan y cynllun, ac mae £200,000 ychwanegol ar gael yn ystod y flwyddyn gyfredol. Yn 2012-13, y flwyddyn ddiweddaraf y mae gennym ffigurau ar ei chyfer, roedd 327 o fusnesau yng Nghymru yn agor eu toiledau i'r cyhoedd o dan y cynllun. Mae'r cynllun hwn o fudd i'r cyhoedd a'r busnesau eu hunain gan ei fod yn cynyddu nifer y bobl sy'n ymweld â hwy.

I am committed to working in partnership with local authorities to manage the challenges ahead. With the settlement, I have worked hard to increase flexibility, achieve fairness and provide additional support. As part of this approach, from 2014-15, the budget allocation of £200,000 will be distributed to each local authority via the revenue support grant. The transfer of the grant into the RSG is one of a number of decisions that I have made in my own portfolio to increase the flexibility for local authorities to manage their resources. However, I have also made it very clear that this cannot and should not be seen as an excuse to downgrade provision. I hope that the decision will prompt local authorities across Wales to carefully examine how to continue to provide these services as efficiently as possible, while building on the success of the scheme to date. I look to local authorities to maintain the level of provision, which the grant is designed to support.

Rwyf wedi ymrwymo i weithio mewn partneriaeth ag awdurdodau lleol i reoli'r heriau sydd o'n blaenau. Gyda'r setliad, rwyf wedi gweithio'n galed i roi mwy o hyblygrwydd, sicrhau tegwch a darparu cymorth ychwanegol. Yn unol â hyn, o 2014-15, caiff y dyraniad cyllidebol o £200,000 ei ddosbarthu i bob awdurdod lleol drwy'r grant cynnal refeniw. Mae'r penderfyniad i drosglwyddo'r grant i'r grant cynnal refeniw yn un o nifer o benderfyniadau a wneuthum yn fy mhortffolio fy hun er mwyn rhoi mwy o hyblygrwydd i awdurdodau lleol reoli eu hadnoddau. Fodd bynnag, rwyf hefyd wedi datgan yn glir iawn na ellir ac na ddylid ystyried hyn yn esgus i israddio darpariaeth. Gobeithio y bydd y penderfyniad yn ysgogi awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru i ystyried yn ofalus sut i barhau i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau hyn mor effeithlon ag y bo modd, gan adeiladu ar lwyddiant y cynllun hyd yma. Disgwyliaf i awdurdodau lleol gynnal y ddarpariaeth, fel y cynlluniwyd y grant i'w wneud.

The focus for local authorities now needs to be on intensifying efforts to continue to achieve transformational change, to sustain services and to deliver the best outcomes for individuals across Wales. It is entirely right and appropriate that decisions on how available settlement resources are spent rest with each local authority. Transparency and effective scrutiny are essential. The role of individual councillors is vital in shaping and testing budget proposals. There is also a clear need to balance the impact across all services. This should not mean salami slicing everything or, on the other hand, cutting whole service areas. We have already seen some sophisticated proposals, where councils are balancing the levels of their provision between services. Collaboration with community councils, local community groups and businesses are all viable alternative options for councils to consider as a means of maintaining public toilet provision locally. However, authorities need to consider all available options carefully, and avoid the temptation to offload facilities in order to make short-term savings.

Bellach mae angen i awdurdodau lleol ganolbwyntio ar ddwysáu ymdrechion i barhau i weddnewid, i gynnal gwasanaethau ac i sicrhau'r canlyniadau gorau i unigolion ledled Cymru. Mae'n gwbl gywir a phriodol mai'r awdurdodau lleol unigol sy'n gyfrifol am benderfynu sut y caiff yr adnoddau sydd ar gael iddynt o dan y setliad eu gwario. Mae tryloywder a chraffu effeithiol yn hanfodol. Mae gan gynghorwyr unigol rôl hanfodol i'w chwarae wrth lunio a phrofi cynigion cyllidebol. Mae'n amlwg hefyd bod angen cydbwyso'r effaith ar draws pob gwasanaeth. Ni ddylai hyn olygu rhoi cyfran i bopeth nac, ar y llaw arall, dorri meysydd gwasanaeth cyfan. Rydym eisoes wedi gweld rhai cynigion soffistigedig, lle mae cynghorau yn cydbwyso eu darpariaeth rhwng gwasanaethau. Mae cydweithio â chynghorau cymuned, grwpiau cymunedol lleol a busnesau i gyd yn ddewisiadau amgen ymarferol i gynghorau eu hystyried fel ffordd o gadw'r ddarpariaeth toiledau cyhoeddus yn lleol. Fodd bynnag, mae angen i awdurdodau ystyried yr holl opsiynau sydd ar gael yn ofalus, ac osgoi'r demtasiwn i gael gwared ar gyfleusterau er mwyn gwneud arbedion byrdymor.

When I visited local authority front-line services over the summer, I saw at first hand many innovative ways in which they are responding to the challenge, often in partnership with health, the third sector and other bodies, to deliver improved services and a better quality of life for people in Wales.

Pan ymwelais â gwasanaethau rheng flaen awdurdodau lleol dros yr haf, gwelais yn uniongyrchol eu bod yn ymateb i'r her mewn llawer o ffyrdd arloesol, yn aml mewn partneriaeth ag iechyd, y trydydd sector a chyrff eraill, er mwyn darparu gwell gwasanaethau a gwell ansawdd bywyd i bobl yng Nghymru.

During my visits, I was struck by the strategic vision behind the provision of many discretionary services, for example, the leisure services that I saw included many GP referral schemes and community groups and hubs for developing the talent of young people to be future leaders in sport. This showed what could be achieved through innovative and collaborative approaches.

Yn ystod fy ymweliadau, cefais fy nharo gan y weledigaeth strategol dros ddarparu nifer o wasanaethau dewisol, er enghraifft, roedd y gwasanaethau hamdden a welais yn cynnwys nifer o gynlluniau atgyfeirio meddygon teulu a grwpiau cymunedol a chanolfannau i ddatblygu talent pobl ifanc i fod yn arweinwyr y dyfodol ym maes chwaraeon. Dangosodd hyn beth y gellid ei gyflawni drwy weithio mewn ffordd arloesol a chydweithredol.

One potential approach to ensure that provision is protected would be to legislate to compel local authorities to provide public toilets in their areas; however, I believe that this would be the wrong way to go. It is a matter for local authorities to determine provision in accordance with local needs, priorities and available resources.

Un ffordd bosibl o sicrhau y caiff darpariaeth ei diogelu fyddai deddfu i orfodi awdurdodau lleol i ddarparu toiledau cyhoeddus yn eu hardaloedd; fodd bynnag, credaf mai anghywir fyddai gwneud hynny. Mater i awdurdodau lleol yw penderfynu ar y ddarpariaeth yn unol ag anghenion lleol, blaenoriaethau a'r adnoddau sydd ar gael.

This debate today brings into focus just how many local services are provided by local authorities, such as libraries, leisure centres and burial and cremation services, and the significant impact that they have on local communities. A debate over making services mandatory diverts us from the real question of how to develop innovative solutions to redesign services in order to sustain provision against this challenging financial climate.

Mae'r ddadl hon heddiw yn tynnu sylw at gynifer o wasanaethau lleol a gaiff eu darparu gan awdurdodau lleol, megis llyfrgelloedd, canolfannau hamdden a gwasanaethau claddu ac amlosgi, a'r effaith sylweddol a gânt ar gymunedau lleol. Mae dadlau dros wneud gwasanaethau yn orfodol yn ein dargyfeirio oddi wrth y cwestiwn gwirioneddol, sef sut i ddatblygu atebion arloesol i ailgynllunio gwasanaethau er mwyn cynnal y ddarpariaeth yn yr hinsawdd ariannol heriol sydd ohoni.

In conclusion, the impact on the more vulnerable members of our communities and the implications for public health—the Minister for Health and Social Services heard your remarks regarding the public health Bill and I am sure that that is something that he will consider—mean that the provision of public toilets should remain a priority and that all possible efforts should be made to sustain the provision of these types of services. The Welsh Government has worked closely with authorities to increase public access to toilets in local communities. It is now for local authorities to assess how they can utilise the resources that they have available to maintain provision and to continue to provide these valuable local services in our communities across Wales.

I gloi, mae'r effaith ar yr aelodau mwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymunedau a'r goblygiadau o ran iechyd y cyhoedd—clywodd y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol eich sylwadau ar y Bil iechyd y cyhoedd ac rwy'n siŵr bod hynny'n rhywbeth y bydd yn ei ystyried—yn golygu y dylai'r ddarpariaeth toiledau cyhoeddus barhau i fod yn flaenoriaeth ac y dylid gwneud pob ymdrech bosibl i gynnal y mathau hyn o wasanaethau. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gweithio'n agos gydag awdurdodau i gynyddu mynediad cyhoeddus i doiledau mewn cymunedau lleol. Nawr, mater i awdurdodau lleol yw asesu sut y gallant ddefnyddio'r adnoddau sydd ar gael iddynt er mwyn cynnal y ddarpariaeth a pharhau i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau lleol gwerthfawr hyn yn ein cymunedau ledled Cymru.

18:16

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer

Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you, Minister. That brings today's proceedings to a close.

Diolch ichi, Weinidog. Daw hynny â thrafodion heddiw i ben.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 18:17.

The meeting ended at 18:17.