



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

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

Dydd Mawrth 22 Ionawr 2002

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Cynnwys
Contents

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 | Datganiad gan y Llywydd
<i>Statement by the Presiding Officer</i> |
| 3 | Cwestiynau i Brif Weinidog Cymru
<i>Questions to the First Minister</i> |
| 22 | Cwestiwn Brys: Damwain Rheilffordd ger Y Fenni
<i>Urgent Question: Rail Accident near Abergavenny</i> |
| 26 | Datganiad Busnes
<i>Business Statement</i> |
| 27 | Pwyntiau o Drefn
<i>Points of Order</i> |
| 30 | Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Addysg (Diwrnod Ysgol a Blwyddyn Ysgol) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2002
<i>Approval of the Education (School Day and School Year) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002</i> |
| 32 | Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ar Addysg Uwch
<i>The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee's Report on Higher Education</i> |
| 69 | Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru
<i>Wales Millennium Centre</i> |

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

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

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

Datganiad gan y Llywydd
Statement by the Presiding Officer

Y Llywydd: Mae gennym wasanaeth cyfieithu ar y pryd mewn tair iaith yn y Siambr heddiw: yr ydym yn awr yn darparu cyfieithiad mewn iaith arwyddion ar gyfer y trwm eu clyw.

The Presiding Officer: The simultaneous translation facility is available in three languages in the Chamber today: we are now providing translation into sign language for the hard of hearing.

Cwestiynau i Brif Weinidog Cymru
Questions to the First Minister

Llywodraeth Agored
Open Government

Q1 Helen Mary Jones: Will the First Minister comment on the progress made by him and his Cabinet on the commitment in the 'Plan for Wales 2001' strategic document to have a more open and responsive government? (OAQ15059)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): I am confident that we are already one of the most open administrations in Europe. We publish Cabinet minutes and papers and have set out in our recent Code of Practice on Public Access to Information our commitment to make public the basis on which decisions on access are taken. My aim is that we should continue to move faster and further than is currently planned under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Helen Mary Jones: Given that open and responsive government has not always been the hallmark of all local authorities in Wales, will you join me in congratulating Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's ruling Plaid Cymru group for achieving what the Audit Commission has described as a remarkable transformation in the governance of the authority?

The First Minister: I am not sure that I caught all of that—the microphone mysteriously switched off during the last part of your question. However, I am happy to agree with anything that the Audit Commission has said about the council.

C1 Helen Mary Jones: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru adrodd ar y camau y mae ef a'i Gabinet wedi'u cymryd i gwrdd â'r addewid yn y ddogfen strategol, 'Cynllun i Gymru 2001', i gael llywodraeth mwy agored ac ymatebol? (OAQ15059)

Prif Weinidog Cymru (Rhodri Morgan): Yr wyf yn hyderus ein bod eisoes yn un o'r gweinyddiaethau mwyaf agored yn Ewrop. Cyhoeddwn gofnodion a phapurau'r Cabinet ac yr ydym wedi nodi yn ein Cod Ymarfer ar Fynediad y Cyhoedd i Wybodaeth ein hymrwymiad i roi gwybod i'r cyhoedd ar ba sail y cymerir penderfyniadau ar fynediad. Fy nod yw y dylem barhau i symud yn gyflymach ac ymhellach na'r hyn a gynlluniwyd ar hyn o bryd o dan y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000.

Helen Mary Jones: O ystyried nad yw llywodraeth agored ac ymatebol bob tro wedi bod yn nodwedd o bob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru, a ymunwch â mi wrth longyfarch grŵp rheoli Plaid Cymru Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf am gyflawni'r hyn y mae'r Comisiwn Archwilio wedi'i ddisgrifio fel trawsnewid hynod o ran llywodraeth yr awdurdod?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid wyf yn siŵr a glywais eich cwestiwn i gyd—diffoddwyd y meicroffon yn anesboniadwy yn ystod rhan olaf eich cwestiwn. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i gytuno ag unrhyw beth y mae'r Comisiwn Archwilio wedi'i ddweud

am y cyngor.

Mick Bates: In your answer to Helen Mary's question, you stated that we are as open and responsive as any Government in Europe. Will you comment further on that? Would you say that our openness and responsiveness places us at the top of the league in Europe and that this Government is doing an excellent job in delivering the 'Plan for Wales 2001'?

The First Minister: We can only be reasonably confident about such matters because we would normally compare ourselves with the Scandinavian countries as they have always set out their stall. Going back to the 1750s, and using Sweden as an example, open government and freedom of information became enshrined in Swedish government practice. Therefore, if you are as good as, or better than, the Scandinavian countries, you can be sure that you are leading in Europe. We would like to think that the Scandinavian countries compare well with us, and that we compare well with them. As far as openness is concerned, we would reckon to be in the lead, as indeed we are in terms of the proportion of women in the Cabinet. Only the Scandinavian countries come anywhere near Wales in terms of having equality or, in our case, a majority of women in the Cabinet.

Glyn Davies: I have been reading press reports stating that you want to control everything said by those who are appointed to public bodies. That is surprising bearing in mind your record. Will you confirm that all those appointed to public bodies by your Government have the freedom to state their professional opinions?

The First Minister: Reading press reports is not the same as having the truth brought to your attention, Glyn. I read the same story in *The Western Mail* on Friday. It was one of those stories that makes you exclaim 'What?' when you read the headline, but when you read the story, you realise that there is nothing in it. If you were to read the actual words from the Cabinet meeting minutes in the story, you would see that there was little in it. The headline was absurdly overwritten. Asking or instructing the quangos that we

Mick Bates: Yn eich ateb i gwestiwn Helen Mary, dywedoch ein bod mor agored ac ymatebol ag unrhyw Lywodraeth yn Ewrop. A rowch sylwadau pellach ar hynny? A fyddch yn dweud bod ein gallu i fod yn agored ac ymatebol yn ein rhoi ar frig y gynghrair yn Ewrop a bod y Llywodraeth hon yn gwneud gwaith ardderchog wrth gyflwyno 'Cynllun i Gymru 2001'?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Dim ond yn weddol hyderus y gallwn fod am faterion o'r fath am y byddem fel arfer yn cymharu ein hunain â'r gwledydd Sgandinafaidd gan eu bod hwy wedi bod mor agored erioed. Gan fynd yn ôl i'r 1750au, a defnyddio Sweden fel enghraifft, daeth llywodraeth agored a rhyddid gwybodaeth yn arfer llywodraeth yn Sweden. Felly, os ydych cystal â'r gwledydd Sgandinafaidd, neu yn well na hwy, gallwch fod yn siŵr eich bod yn arwain yn Ewrop. Hoffem feddwl fod y gwledydd Sgandinafaidd yn cymharu'n dda â ni, a'n bod ninnau yn cymharu'n dda â hwy. O ran bod yn agored, byddem yn credu ein bod ar y blaen, fel yr ydym o ran y gyfran o ferched yn y Cabinet. Dim ond y gwledydd Sgandinafaidd sy'n dod yn agos at Gymru yn nhermau cael cydraddoldeb neu, yn ein hachos ni, fwyafrif o ferched yn y Cabinet.

Glyn Davies: Bûm yn darllen adroddiadau yn y wasg sy'n nodi eich bod am reoli popeth a ddywedir gan y rheini a benodir ar gyrrff cyhoeddus. Mae hyn yn syndod o gofio eich hanes. A gadarnhewch fod gan bawb a benodir i gyrrff cyhoeddus gan eich Llywodraeth y rhyddid i ddatgan eu safbwytiau proffesiynol?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid yw darllen adroddiadau yn y wasg yr un peth â chael y gwirionedd o'ch blaen, Glyn. Darllenais yr un stori yn *The Western Mail* ddydd Gwener. Yr oedd yn un o'r straeon hynny sy'n gwneud i chi floeddio 'Beth?' pan ddarllenwch y pennawd, ond pan ddarllenwch y stori, sylweddolwch nad oes dim byd ynddi. Pe byddech yn darllen yr union eiriau o gofnodion cyfarfod y Cabinet yn y stori, byddech yn gweld nad oedd llawer ynddi. Yr oedd gor-ddweud hynod yn y

sponsor not to contradict the policies of the Government that funds them hardly seems Stalinist to me, Glyn.

pennawd. I mi, nid yw gofyn neu roi cyfarwyddiadau i'r cwangos a noddir gennym beidio â gwrthddweud polisiau'r Llywodraeth sy'n eu hariannu yn ymddangos yn Stalinaidd, Glyn.

Adolygiad Cynhwysfawr o Wariant Comprehensive Spending Review

C2 Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Pa drafodaethau y mae Prif Weinidog Cymru wedi'u cael gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ynghylch y blaenoriaethau o ran gwariant yn adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant Canghellor y DU, a gyhoeddir yn ddiweddarach eleni? (OAQ15061)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Pwynt datganoli yw nad ydym yn gorfol trafod ein blaenoriaethau gyda'r Llywodraeth yn Llundain. Mae ein blaenoriaethau yn cynnwys yr holl wasanaethau ar draws ein cyfrifoldebau yng Nghymru. Y Cynulliad, nid y Canghellor, sydd yn gwneud y dewis hwnnw. Felly, mae'r mater yn codi yn anuniongyrchol yn unig drwy adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant 2002.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr wyf yn synnu nad ydych wedi trafod y posiblwydd o faint o arian fydd ar gael a pha wasanaethau a fyddai'n elwa gyda'r Canghellor drwy Paul Murphy.

Gan roi hynny i'r naill ochr am funud, byddwch yn ymwybodol o effaith Barnett ar y bloc Cymreig yn ogystal ag effaith gwasgfa Barnett, yn enwedig ar wariant ar iechyd ac addysg. Os bydd y Canghellor yn rhoi arian sylweddol i iechyd yn Lloegr—a dyna fydd yn digwydd yn ôl yr adroddiadau—bydd yn creu mwy o wasgfa ar floc y Cynulliad. Tybed a yw'n bryd i chi benderfynu pa ochr i'r ddadl yr ydych yn ei chefnogi a dweud nad yw Barnett, fel y mae'n sefyll ar hyn o bryd, o fudd i bobl Cymru? Yr ydym eisiau gweld bloc Barnett yn cael ei ddiwygio er mwyn rhoi ystyriaeth i anghenion Cymru.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Fel y bydd pawb yn gwybod, rhoddodd y Canghellor arwydd cryf yn ei ddatganiad rhag-gyllidebol ei fod yn bwriadu adolygu a chodi'r canran o wariant cyhoeddus ar iechyd yn dilyn egwyddorion

Q2 The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): What discussions has the First Minister had with the Secretary of State for Wales on the priorities for spending to be included in the UK Chancellor's comprehensive spending review, which is due for publication later this year? (OAQ15061)

The First Minister: The point of devolution is that we do not have to discuss our priorities with the Government in London. Our priorities include all the services which we are responsible for in Wales. The Assembly, and not the Chancellor, makes that choice. Therefore, the matter only comes up indirectly through the 2002 comprehensive spending review.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I am surprised that you have not discussed the possibility of how much money will be available and which services would benefit with the Chancellor through Paul Murphy.

Leaving that aside for a moment, you will be aware of the effect of Barnett on the Welsh block as well as the effect of the Barnett squeeze particularly in terms of expenditure on health and education. If the Chancellor gives substantial funding to health in England—and that is what will happen according to reports—it will create a much greater squeeze on the Assembly's block. Is it not time for you to get off the fence and say that Barnett, as it currently stands, does not benefit the people of Wales? We want to see the Barnett block being revised in order to take the needs of Wales into consideration.

The First Minister: As everyone will know, the Chancellor gave a strong indication in his pre-budget statement that he intends to review and increase the percentage of public expenditure on health according to the

adroddiad Wanless. Yr ydym wedi cael trafodaethau gyda Wanless fel rhan o'r adolygiad hwnnw ac y mae'r broses yn parhau.

Byddai cynnal adolygiad o'r budd a dderbyniwn o fformiwla Barnett yn ymarfer academaidd a mathemategol. Os oes ymchwil ar gael gan Blaid Cymru yn arwain at gasgliadau eraill, byddai gennyf ddiddordeb i'w darllen. Hyd y gallwn ragweld, pe byddai'r Canghellor yn codi'r canran o wariant cyhoeddus ar iechyd hyd at y lefel Ewropeaidd, byddai'n cael effaith fathemategol yn hytrach nag ymarferol.

2:10 p.m.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Dyna ffordd arbennig o osgoi'r cwestiwn. Nid Plaid Cymru yw'r unig blaid na mudiad sydd yn dweud nad yw Barnett yn cyflawni i Gymru. Mae Joel Barnett ei hun yn dweud hynny ac fel y gwyddoch, mae Pwyllgor Dethol yn Nhŷ'r Arglwyddi yn ystyried y mater ar hyn o bryd. Bydd yn ddiddorol gweld a fydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn rhoi dystiolaeth i'r Pwyllgor hwnnw.

Yr ydym yn dychwelyd at yr un hen broblem. Nid oedd Paul Murphy yn gallu dweud wrth y Pwyllgor Dethol yma yng Nghymru ddoe a fyddwn yn cael yr holl arian sydd yn ddyledus inni rhwng 2004 a 2007. Dyna'r un dadleuon a gafwyd dair blynedd yn ôl. Pryd ydych am ddweud wrth Paul Murphy a'r Llywodraeth yn Llundain ein bod am weld diwygiad o Barnett a'r holl arian sydd yn ddyledus o Ewrop yn dod i Gymru?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr ydych yn newid y cwestiwn bob tro. Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw hynny'n golygu eich bod yn derbyn yr atebion a roddais i'r cwestiynau eraill, ond sylwaf bod y cwestiwn yn newid yn awr. Nid ydych yn dychwelyd at yr un cwestiwn, ond yn ei newid yn gyfan gwbl. Yr ydych yn sôn am Amcan 1 yn awr ac a fydd yr arian tuag ato y tu allan i floc Barnett. Yr ydym wedi ennill hyn am y tro cyntaf erioed—nid yw'r Alban na Gogledd Iwerddon erioed wedi llwyddo i wneud hyn.

Y cwestiwn yw a allwn ddweud cyn bod

principles of the Wanless report. We have had discussions with Wanless as part of that review, and that process is ongoing.

Conducting a review of the benefits that we receive from the Barnett formula would be an academic and mathematical exercise. If Plaid Cymru has research that leads to other conclusions, I would be interested to read it. As far as we can foresee, if the Chancellor were to increase the percentage of public expenditure on health up to the European level, it would have a mathematical rather than a practical effect.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: That is a wonderful way of avoiding the question. Plaid Cymru is not the only party or organisation that says that Barnett does not deliver for Wales. Joel Barnett himself says it and, as you know, a Select Committee of the House of Lords is considering this issue at present. It will be interesting to see whether the Government of Wales gives evidence to that Committee.

We are returning to the same old problem. Paul Murphy could not tell the Select Committee here in Wales yesterday whether we will receive all the money that is owing to us between 2004 and 2007. Those are the same arguments that we had three years ago. When will you tell Paul Murphy and the Government in London that we want to see a revision of Barnett and all the money that is due from Europe coming to Wales?

The First Minister: You are changing the question every time. I am not sure if that means that you accept the answers I gave to the other questions, but I notice that the question is changing now. You are not returning to the same question, but are changing it completely. You are talking about Objective 1 and whether the funding towards it will be outside the Barnett block. We have secured that for the first time—Scotland and Northern Ireland have never succeeded in doing so.

The question is whether we are able to say

adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant 2002 yn cael ei gwblhau ein bod yn mynd i gael yr ail gyfnod o dair blynedd cyn diweddu'r adolygiad hwnnw. Na, ni allwn wybod cyn bod yr adolygiad wedi ei gwblhau. Mae'n afresymol i ddisgwyl hynny, ac ni wn pam y mae pobl yn gofyn. Proses yw hon sydd yn cynnwys pob adran o Lywodraeth ganolog a'r Cynulliad. Nid adran ydym ni, ond yr ydym yn rhan o'r broses ac yn rhydd i bennu ein blaenoriaethau ein hunain. Mae'n hollbwysig bod hyn yn cael ei ystyried yn ychwanegol at floc Barnett, neu mae'r cwestiwn a allwn fforddio i fwrw ymlaen yn codi eto fel ag y gwnaeth yn 2000. Ni allwch ddisgwyl cael canlyniad cyn bod adrannau o Lywodraeth ganolog yn cael eu gwybodaeth ar sut y bydd adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant 2002 yn mynd yn ei flaen. Mae'n afresymol i ofyn hynny. Gwneud pwyt y mae Plaid Cymru, ond nid yw'n bwynt ymarferol mewn gwleidyddiaeth real.

Kirsty Williams: Do you agree that when discussing spending priorities with the Secretary of State for Wales or Cabinet colleagues in the National Assembly for Wales, great importance should be placed on putting the NHS on a secure financial footing to coincide with the reorganisation?

The First Minister: There is a strong argument for doing that, but it is a matter on which I do not wish to make any firm statement today. However, I agree with the sentiments behind that question, Kirsty.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): One way of saving public money in Wales would be the promised bonfire of the quangos, which never happened. In 1999, when Labour set out its ambitions for this Assembly, we were promised that within three years, over half the quangos in Wales would be abolished and the money put into education, health and transport. You used to be the poacher on this and the scourge of the quangos, but that has all changed. Why?

The First Minister: That is a curious non-question on which to end, Nick. There is an issue here, but I do not understand why you throw it all away with that non-question. The issue about rationalising the quangos is

before the 2002 comprehensive spending review is completed that we will get the second three-year phase before that review concludes. No, we will not know until the conclusion of that review. It is unreasonable to expect that and I do not know why people are asking. This is a process that includes every department of central Government and the Assembly. We are not a department, but we are a part of the process and are free to set our own priorities. It is vital that this is considered in addition to the Barnett block, or the whole question of whether we can afford to proceed arises again as it arose in 2000. You cannot expect to get a result before the departments of central Government receive their information on how the 2002 comprehensive spending review will proceed. It is unreasonable to ask that. Plaid Cymru is making a point, but it is not a practical point in real politics.

Kirsty Williams: A gytunwch wrth drafod blaenoriaethau gwario ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru neu gyd-Aelodau yn y Cabinet yng Nghynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, y dylid rhoi pwys mawr ar roi'r GIG ar sail ariannol diogel i gyd-fynd â'r ad-drefnu?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae dadl gref dros wneud hynny, ond mae'n fater nad wyf am wneud unrhyw ddatganiad pendant arno heddiw. Fodd bynnag, cytunaf â'r teimladau y tu ôl i'r cwestiwn hwnnw, Kirsty.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Un ffordd o arbed arian cyhoeddus yng Nghymru fyddai llosgi'r cwangos mewn coelcerth fel yr addawyd, na ddigwyddodd fyth. Yn 1999, pan nododd Llafur ei dyheadau ar gyfer y Cynulliad hwn, cawsom addewid o fewn tair blynedd, y byddai hanner y cwangos yng Nghymru yn cael eu diddymu gan roi'r arian i mewn i addysg, iechyd a thrafnidiaeth. Chi oedd y potsiwr ar hyn a'r pla ar y cwangos, ond mae hynny i gyd wedi newid. Pam?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae hynny'n gwestiwn rhyfedd i orffen arno, Nick, cwestiwn nad yw'n gwestiwn. Mae mater yma, ond nid wyf yn deall pam eich bod yn ei daflu i ffwrdd â'r cwestiwn hwnnw nad yw'n

genuine, and a great deal of rationalisation has taken place. The Welsh Development Agency now carries out eight functions that are additional to those that it had in 1999. I cannot list all of them, but the better known ones are the Land Authority for Wales, the Development Board for Rural Wales, Welsh Food Promotions Limited and part of the functions of the old Cardiff Bay Development Corporation. It is now also involved in film, in running Objective 1 and in the technology programmes that will be transferred to it in a couple of months time—the SMART Wales programmes currently run from within our civil service. This rationalisation of quangos is going ahead apace. The same has happened in the education field. We are pleased with the rate of progress across the board with regard to rationalising the quangos or the bonfire of the quangos, as you call it, which I understand you and your party opposed as regards the abolition of the health authorities.

Nick Bourne: It used to be called the bonfire of the quangos. I notice that you now refer to it as rationalisation. The truth is that no money has been saved, few jobs have gone and it is not the case that massive funding has gone into education, transport and health as a result of what you now call rationalisation—which was what was promised. We did not oppose the abolition of the health authorities; we welcomed that. We were against all these new super-quangos designed by the Minister for Health and Social Services, which will just lead to more bureaucracy. The truth is that you were highly critical of quangos when you were in opposition. You, personally, were their scourge. You used to be a proud, fierce lion for Wales; now, you are nothing more than an ornamental hearthrug for New Labour to walk over.

The First Minister: Your addiction to what you would call ‘the personal touch’ in your questions is a matter for you to discuss with your professional advisors, Nick, and perhaps your medical advisors too. I do not understand how you think that it contributes to the debate. Do try to raise the tone next

gwestiwn. Mae'r mater o resymoli'r cwangos yn un diffuant, ac mae llawer iawn o resymoli wedi digwydd. Mae Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru bellach yn cyflawni wyth swyddogaeth sy'n ychwanegol at y rhai a oedd ganddo yn 1999. Ni allaf eu rhestru i gyd, ond y rhai mwyaf adnabyddus yw Awdurdod Tir Cymru, Bwrdd Datblygu Cymru Wledig, Hybu Bwyd Cymru Cyfyngedig a rhan o swyddogaethau hen Gorfforaeth Datblygu Bae Caerdydd. Yn ogystal, mae'n ymwneud â ffilm, yn rhedeg Amcan 1 ac yn ymwneud â'r rhaglenni technoleg a gaiff eu trosglwyddo iddo mewn rhai misoedd—mae rhaglenni SMART Cymru ar hyn o bryd yn rhedeg o fewn ein gwasanaeth sifil. Mae'r dasg o resymoli'r cwangos yn mynd yn ei blaen yn gyflym. Mae'r un peth wedi digwydd ym maes addysg. Yr ydym yn fodlon â'r cynnydd a wneir yn gyffredinol o ran rhesymoli'r cwangos neu goelcerth y cwangos, fel yr ydych yn ei alw, rhywbeth yr ydych chi a'ch plaid wedi ei wrthwynebu o ran diddymu'r awdurdodau iechyd, yn ôl a ddeallaf.

Nick Bourne: Arferid ei alw'n goelcerth y cwangos. Sylwaf eich bod bellach yn cyfeirio ato fel rhesymoli. Y gwir yw nad oes unrhyw arian wedi'i arbed, prin yw'r swyddi sydd wedi mynd ac nid yw'n wir bod arian mawr wedi mynd i mewn i addysg, trafenidiaeth a iechyd o ganlyniad i'r hyn a alwch bellach yn resymoli—sef yr hyn a addawyd. Ni wnaethom wrthwynebu cael gwared ar yr awdurdod iechyd; croesawom hynny. Yr oeddem yn erbyn yr holl uwch-gwangos newydd hyn a gynlluniwyd gan y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, a fydd ond yn arwain at fwy o fiwrocratiaeth. Y gwir yw eich bod yn arfer bod yn feirniadol iawn o gwangos pan oeddech yn wrthblaid. Y chi, yn bersonol, oedd y pla arnynt. Yr oeddech yn arfer bod yn llew balch, ffyrnig dros Gymru; bellach, nid ydych yn ddim mwy na rýg aelwyd addurnol i Lafur Newydd gerdded drosto.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae eich dibyniaeth ar yr hyn y byddech yn ei alw yn ‘gyffyrddiad personol’ yn eich cwestiynau yn fater ichi ei drafod â'ch ymgynghorwyr proffesiynol, Nick, ac efallai â'ch ymgynghorwyr meddygol hefyd. Nid wyf yn deall sut y credwch ei fod yn cyfrannu at y

time.

It is difficult to answer non-questions. If you want answers, you must ask questions that elicit information. If you want to trade in abuse—if you think it is coats-off time—that is fine. However, there are ways to do so over the coming four weeks, of which you and your colleagues will no doubt avail yourselves. I never used the phrase ‘bonfire of the quangos’. I am proud of this administration’s record in rationalising the quango state so that we reduce the number of quangos and reduce the number of government tiers to get closer to the people.

ddadl. Ceisiwch godi’r safon y tro nesaf.

Mae’n anodd ateb cwestiynau nad ydynt yn gwestiynau. Os ydych am gael atebion, rhaid ichi ofyn cwestiynau sy’n ennyn gwybodaeth. Os ydych am fod yn sarhaus—os credwch ei bod yn bryd inni anelu dyrnau—mae hynny’n iawn. Fodd bynnag, mae ffyrdd o wneud hynny dros y pedair wythnos nesaf, ac nid oes dim amheuaeth y byddwch chi a’ch cyd-Aelodau yn achub ar y cyfle hwn. Ni ddefnyddiais erioed yr ymadrodd ‘coelcerth y cwangos’. Yr wyf yn falch o record y weinyddiaeth hon wrth resymoli’r cwangos fel ein bod yn gostwng nifer y cwangos a lleihau’r nifer o haenau llywodraeth er mwyn cael cysylltiad agosach â’r bobl.

Adleoli Swyddi Sector Cyhoeddus Relocation of Public Sector Jobs

C3 Elin Jones: Pa gamau y mae Prif Weinidog Cymru a’i Gabinet yn eu cymryd i hwyluso adleoliad swyddi yn y sector cyhoeddus y tu allan i Gaerdydd? (OAQ15077)

Q3 Elin Jones: What steps are the First Minister and his Cabinet taking to facilitate the relocation of jobs in the public sector outside Cardiff? (OAQ15077)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Gwnaeth y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau ddatganiad ysgrifenedig i Aelodau’r Cynulliad ar 19 Hydref 2001 yn cyhoeddi bwriad y Cabinet i gynnal adolygiad hirdymor o leoliad swyddfeydd y Cynulliad. Mae’n bleser gennyf ddweud bod llawer o gamau wedi’u cymryd a bod y gwaith yn mynd rhagddo. Nid ydym yn gwbl barod i ddatgan y canlyniadau, ond disgwyliaf y gallwn ddweud cyn hir y caiff cannoedd o swyddi eu hadleoli o Gaerdydd. Efallai y gellir adleoli cymaint â’r 400 o swyddi y mae’r Llywodraeth ganolog wedi’u hadleoli o Lundain i Abertawe. Mae’r swyddi hynny yn cael eu llenwi yr wythnos hon. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod Elin Jones wedi darllen am hynny â phleser yn y wasg.

Elin Jones: Wrth ateb cwestiwn gennyf bythefnos yn ôl, soniodd y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau ei bod yn cynnal trafodaethau gyda’r awdurdodau lleol ar adleoli swyddi. Serch hynny, o siarad â Chyngor Sir Ceredigion, nid yw’r awdurdod yn ymwybodol o drafodaethau o’r fath. Fe’ch sicrhaf fod gan Gyngor Sir Ceredigion ddiddordeb mawr

The First Minister: The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities made a written statement to Assembly Members on 19 October 2001 announcing the Cabinet’s intention to undertake a long-term review of the location of Assembly offices. It is my pleasure to say that many steps have been taken and that work is progressing. We are not quite ready to announce the outcomes, but I expect that we will be able to say before long that hundreds of jobs will be relocated from Cardiff. It may be possible, perhaps, to relocate as many as the 400 jobs that central Government has relocated from London to Swansea. Those posts are being filled this week. Elin Jones has no doubt read with some pleasure about that in the press.

Elin Jones: In answer to a question from me a fortnight ago, the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities mentioned that she was in discussion with the local authorities on the relocation of jobs. However, having spoken with Ceredigion County Council, the authority is not aware of such discussions. I assure you that Ceredigion County Council has a great

mewn bod o gymorth i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn y maes hwn. A dderbyniwch ddogfen gennyf gan y cyngor sy'n amlinellu'r ystod o swyddfeydd sydd ar gael yng Ngheredigion ar gyfer adleoli swyddi? Gobeithiaf y cynhelir trafodaethau llawn gyda phob rhan o Gymru cyn gwneud penderfyniadau ar y pwnc pwysig hwn.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Gwn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud ar ran Aberystwyth. Nid wyf yn siŵr ai Cyngor Sir Ceredigion wnaeth y ceisiadau hynny, ond deallaf i Edwina ysgrifennu at bob un o awdurdodau lleol Cymru, gan gynnwys Ceredigion. Efallai i'r llythyr at Geredigion fynd ar goll. Fodd bynnag, y cyngor a gefais yw iddi ysgrifennu at bob awdurdod lleol. Yr ydym hefyd yn defnyddio Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru fel asiantaeth i'n helpu gyda'r penderfyniadau hyn oherwydd, ambell dro, mae ganddo wybodaeth fanwl nad oes gennym yn y Cynulliad ynglŷn ag ailwampio eiddo ac ati.

Richard Edwards: In view of the paramount objective of spreading prosperity throughout Wales, do you agree that it is imperative that more public bodies are located in areas where they will have maximum impact on economic activity—not just Swansea, but peripheral areas such as my constituency? Some of us accept that what is good for Cardiff may be good for Wales some of the time, possibly even most of the time, but not all of the time.

The First Minister: This is a win-win situation. The only reason that I mentioned Swansea is that the Pension Service started recruiting for its new 400-job office—and that is a minimum figure—in Swansea this week following the original announcement in July 2001. That point was relevant because the question was on public sector jobs generally, not just Assembly jobs. We hope to equal what the Pension Service has done in Wales. We almost see it as challenge; if it can create 400 jobs here, then we should be able to do the same in locations outside Cardiff.

interest in assisting the National Assembly in this area. Will you accept from me a document by the council that outlines the range of offices available in Ceredigion for job relocations? I hope that full discussions will be held with all parts of Wales before decisions are made on this important subject.

The First Minister: I know that bids have been made on behalf of Aberystwyth. I am not sure whether they were made by Ceredigion County Council, but I understand that Edwina has written to every local authority in Wales, including Ceredigion. Perhaps the letter to Ceredigion went astray. However, the advice that I have received is that she wrote to every local authority. We are also using the Welsh Development Agency as an agency to assist us with these decisions since, on occasions, it has more detailed information than we have in the Assembly in terms of adapting property and so on.

Richard Edwards: O safbwynt y prif amcan o rannu ffyniant ledled Cymru, a gytunwch ei bod yn hanfodol y caiff mwy o gyrrf cyhoeddus eu lleoli mewn ardaloedd lle y cānt yr effaith fwyaf ar weithgaredd economaidd—nid dim ond Abertawe, ond ardaloedd ar y cyffiniau megis fy etholaeth i? Mae rhai ohonom yn derbyn y gallai yr hyn sydd yn dda i Gaerdydd fod yn dda i Gymru ar adegau, o bosibl hyd yn oed y rhan fwyaf o'r amser, ond nid bob tro.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae hon yn sefyllfa ennill-ennill. Yr unig reswm y crybwylais Abertawe yw bod y Gwasanaeth Pensiwn wedi dechrau recriwtio ar gyfer ei swyddfa newydd a fydd yn cyflogi 400 o bobl—ac isafswm ffigur yw hynny—yn Abertawe yr wythnos hon yn dilyn y cyhoeddiad gwreiddiol ym mis Gorffennaf 2001. Yr oedd y pwnt hwnnw yn berthnasol oherwydd bod y cwestiwn ar swyddi'r sector cyhoeddus yn gyffredinol, nid swyddi'r Cynulliad yn unig. Gobeithiwn ddod yn gyfartal â'r hyn y mae'r Gwasanaeth Pensiwn wedi'i wneud yng Nghymru. Yr ydym bron yn ei weld fel her; os gall hwnnw greu 400 o swyddi yma, yna dylem ninnau fod yn gallu gwneud yr un peth mewn lleoliadau y tu allan i Gaerdydd.

2:20 p.m.

This is a win-win situation, because Cathays Park is overcrowded, so it assists us with our accommodation problems in Cardiff. Our staff in Cardiff benefit from less congestion, and the communities where those jobs are eventually located benefit from the assurance that they have a public sector base to their employment patterns.

Mae hon yn sefyllfa ennill-ennill, oherwydd fod Parc Cathays yn orlawn, felly mae'n ein cynorthwyo â'n problemau lle yng Nghaerdydd. Mae ein staff yng Nghaerdydd yn elwa o lai o orboblogi, ac mae'r cymunedau lle y caiff y swyddi hynnu eu lleoli yn y pen draw yn elwa o'r sicrwydd bod ganddynt sail sector cyhoeddus i'w patrymau cyflogaeth.

Effaith yr Ewro ar Gymru Impact of the Euro on Wales

Q4 John Griffiths: What are the early indications on the impact of the euro on Wales? (OAQ15075)

The First Minister: It is too early, in the first month of the launch of euro notes and coins, to make a realistic assessment of the impact of the euro on Wales. However, the possible implications of the euro have been debated widely since its introduction on 1 January 2002, including in the Assembly a couple of weeks ago. I maintain my pride and confidence in the superb nature of the preparatory work accomplished by John Casterton and Peter Graham-Woollard—the manager and chair of the euro taskforce respectively. They have done superb work in preparing Welsh small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as the SME community in other parts of the United Kingdom, for the impact of the euro, regardless of the wider political issue of Britain's membership of the euro.

John Griffiths: A recent poll in Wales showed a majority favouring entry into the euro and, in my experience, people already appreciate the advantages of entry following past travel experiences and in arranging future summer holidays. They appreciate, for example, the fact that they will avoid the costly currency exchange charges that would have previously applied when holidaying in the eurozone. Do you agree that, for these and many other reasons, we are likely to see a growing appreciation of the advantages of early entry?

The First Minister: I do. There are euro

C4 John Griffiths: Beth yw'r arwyddion cynnar o ran effaith yr ewro ar Gymru? (OAQ 15075)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'n rhy gynnar, ym mis cyntaf lansiad arian papur a darnau arian yr ewro, i wneud asesiad realistig o effaith yr ewro ar Gymru. Fodd bynnag, mae goblygiadau possibl yr ewro wedi'u trafod yn eang ers ei gyflwyno ar 1 Ionawr 2002, yn cynnwys yn y Cynulliad rai wythnosau yn ôl. Parhaf i fod yn falch a hyderus yn natur arbennig y gwaith paratoi a gyflawnwyd gan John Casterton a Peter Graham-Woollard—rheolwr a chadeirydd tasglu'r ewro. Maent wedi gwneud gwaith arbennig wrth baratoi busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint yng Nghymru, yn ogystal â'r gymuned busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint mewn rhannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig, ar gyfer effaith yr ewro, er gwaethaf y mater gwleidyddol ehangu o aelodaeth Prydain o'r ewro.

John Griffiths: Dangosodd arolwg barn diweddar yng Nghymru bod mwyafrif o blaidd ymuno â'r ewro ac, yn fy mhrofiad i, mae pobl eisoes yn gwerthfawrogi manteision mynediad yn dilyn profiadau teithio yn y gorffennol a threfnu gwyliau haf ar gyfer y dyfodol. Maent yn gwerthfawrogi, er enghraift, y ffaith y byddant yn osgoi'r taliadau cyfnewid arian costus y byddent fel arfer wedi'u talu wrth fynd ar wyliau yn ardal yr ewro. A gytunwch, am y rhesymau hyn a nifer o resymau eraill, ein bod yn debygol o weld gwerthfawrogiad cynyddol o fanteision mynediad cynnar?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cytunaf. Mae

idealists, who would be in favour of the euro in any circumstances, and there are euro realists, who, once they see the coins and notes, stop thinking of the issue as theoretical. It is then much easier to think about the possible advantages for you as a businessperson or potential tourist crossing three or four European borders. As I have mentioned previously, there is potential trade for small businesses in Wales from Irish tourists or truckers travelling to Germany, or German tourists travelling to Ireland, via the five ferry ports that connect us with Ireland.

Jonathan Morgan: The debate on the euro is seen largely in the context of economics. However, do you agree with the views of the Treasury official, Gus O'Donnell, who said that whether we enter into the European single currency will be a matter of politics, not economics?

The First Minister: I understand that Mr O'Donnell is sure that his remark was misreported. It is a political issue because certain parties want to ensure that it is so, and you are a member of one of them. It is a theological issue for some people and parties, who believe that you cannot have a currency that is not exclusive to your member state, otherwise you lose all political control of the economy. That is a respectable view, although I do not share it, and it will be presented in the referendum campaign. Some people will accept, reluctantly perhaps and regardless of whether they think that it would be nice to keep the pound—and maybe it would be nice to keep the pound—now that the euro exists in 12 countries and is used by 310 million people, you lose more by staying outside the euro. It is like the argument about entry into the European Community during the late 1950s and 1960s. The argument, before it was formed, was whether there should be a European Community but, once it was formed, we were on the outside. The only issue was whether or not to enter.

delfrydwyr yr ewro, y byddent o blaid yr ewro o dan unrhyw amgylchiadau, ac mae rhai sy'n realistic am yr ewro, sydd, ar ôl iddynt weld y darnau arian a'r arian papur, yn rhoi'r gorau i feddwl am y mater fel rhywbeth damcaniaethol. Yna mae'n llawer haws meddwl am y manteision possibl i chi fel person busnes neu deithiwr possibl yn croesi tair neu bedair ffin yn Ewrop. Fel y dywedais cyn hyn, mae masnach bosibl i fusnesau bach yng Nghymru o dwristiaid Gwyddelig neu yrwyr lorïau yn teithio i'r Almaen, neu dwristiaid o'r Almaen yn teithio i Iwerddon, drwy'r pum porthladd fferi sy'n ein cysylltu ag Iwerddon.

Jonathan Morgan: I raddau helaeth gwelir y ddadl ar yr ewro yng nghyd-destun economeg. Fodd bynnag, a gytnwch â safbwytiau swyddog y Trysorlys, Gus O'Donnell, a ddywedodd y bydd pa un a fyddwn yn mynd i mewn i'r arian sengl Ewropeidd yn fater o wleidyddiaeth, nid economeg?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Deallaf fod Mr O'Donnell yn siŵr y cafodd ei sylw ei gam adrodd yn y wasg. Mae'n fater gwleidyddol am fod rhai pleidiau am sicrhau ei fod felly, ac yr ydych chi yn aelod o un ohonynt. Mae'n fater diwinyddol i rai pobl a phleidiau, sy'n credu na allwch gael arian sy'n arbennig i'ch aelod wladwriaeth chi, neu fel arall yr ydych yn colli rheolaeth wleidyddol yr economi yn llwyr. Mae hynny'n safbwyt parchus, er nad wyf yn ei rannu, a chaiff ei gyflwyno yn ymgyrch y refferendwm. Bydd rhai pobl yn derbyn, yn gyndyn efallai a waeth pa un a ydynt yn credu y byddai'n braf cadw'r bunt—ac efallai y byddai'n braf cadw'r bunt—gan fod yr ewro bellach yn bodoli mewn 12 gwlod ac yn cael ei ddefnyddio gan 310 miliwn o bobl, eich bod yn colli mwy drwy aros y tu allan i'r ewro. Y mae fel y ddadl am fynd i mewn i'r Gymuned Ewropeidd ar ddiwedd y 1950au a'r 1960au. Y ddadl, cyn iddi gael ei ffurfio, oedd pa un a ddylai fod yna Gymuned Ewropeidd ond, ar ôl iddi gael ei ffurfio, yr oeddem ar y tu allan. Yr unig fater oedd pa un a ddylem ymuno ai peidio.

Dod â'r Llywodraeth yn Agosach at y Bobl Bringing Government Closer to the People

Q5 Richard Edwards: What steps is the First Minister taking to promote the administration's policy of bringing government closer to the people? (OAQ15069)

The First Minister: Our approach as a Government is to ensure that decisions are taken as close as possible to the people who are affected by them.

Richard Edwards: Do you agree that bringing government closer to the people means, in particular, paying attention to matters that make a difference in everyday life? Is not the announcement this week of more funding for community food initiative projects, such as the Help Yourself project in Milford Haven, the sort of measure that we need to strengthen local community capacity, which we are all keen to promote?

The First Minister: Yes, I accept that. Issuing a top-down edict on what food people should buy and eat will almost certainly result in an adverse reaction. People will eat chips or other high cholesterol foods all day to spite you for giving them orders. Facilitating a community initiative on a bottom-up basis is much more likely to have a beneficial effect on people's behaviour, as they can choose what they want to do to improve their health and that of their families. Letting the people take the initiative is the right way to do it. They will learn that taking more control over their destiny is good for their health and that of their families. It can also lead to the creation of jobs in their area.

David Davies: Assembly sponsored public bodies should be impartial and independent. Yet, in an answer to a previous question, you admitted that these once independently-minded bodies will be prevented from speaking out against Government policy in future. How will politicising these bodies and turning them into branch offices of Labour's propaganda machine bring government closer to the people of Wales?

C5 Richard Edwards: Pa gamau y mae Prif Weinidog Cymru yn eu cymryd i hyrwyddo polisi'r weinyddiaeth o ddod â'r Llywodraeth yn agosach at y bobl? (OAQ15069)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ein hymagwedd fel Llywodraeth yw i sicrhau y caiff penderfyniadau eu cymryd mor agos â phosibl at y bobl sy'n cael eu heffeithio ganddynt.

Richard Edwards: A gytunwch fod dod â llywodraeth yn agosach at y bobl yn golygu, yn benodol, rhoi sylw i faterion sy'n gwneud gwahaniaeth mewn bywyd bob dydd? Onid yw'r cyhoeddiad yr wythnos hon o roi mwy o arian i brosiectau mentrau bwyd cymunedol, megis y prosiect Helpwch eich Hunain yn Aberdaugleddau, yn fath o fesur sydd ei angen arnom i atgyfnerthu capaciti cymuned leol, yr ydym oll yn awyddus i'w hyrwyddo?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ydyw, derbyniad hynny. Bydd cyhoeddi gorchymyn o'r brig i'r bôn ar ba fwyd y dylai pobl ei brynu a'i fwyta bron yn sicr yn arwain at adwaith andwyol. Bydd pobl yn fwyta sglodion neu fwydydd colestorol uchel drwy'r dydd i'ch sbeitio am roi gorchymynion iddynt. Mae hwyluso menter gymunedol o'r bôn i'r brig yn llawer mwy tebygol o gael effaith lesol ar ymddygiad pobl, gan y gallant ddewis beth y maent am ei wneud i wella eu hiechyd a iechyd eu teuluoedd. Gadael i'r bobl gymryd yr awenau yw'r ffordd gywir i wneud hyn. Byddant yn dysgu bod cymryd mwy o reolaeth dros eu tynged yn dda i'w hiechyd a iechyd eu teuluoedd. Gall hefyd arwain at greu swyddi yn eu hardal.

David Davies: Dylai cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad fod yn dddiduedd ac yn annibynnol. Eto, mewn ateb i gwestiwn blaenorol, cyfaddefoch fod y cyrff hyn a arferai fod yn gyrff annibynnol yn cael eu hatal rhag siarad allan yn erbyn polisiau'r Llywodraeth yn y dyfodol. Sut y bydd gwleidyddio'r cyrff hyn a'u troi yn swyddfeydd cangen o beiriant propaganda Llafur yn dwyn y llywodraeth yn agosach at bobl Cymru?

The First Minister: It is a matter of alignment, David. ASPBs are free to advise us and they can voice their opinions forcibly during consultation periods. However, they are expected to assist in a general brand image to raise Wales's image abroad. That was the context of the comments in the Cabinet minute, to which I think you are referring and which has made you synthetically indignant. It makes no sense for a Government to fund a public body that publicly contradicts it. It is not a Stalinist policy. The Government and the quangos that it funds must attempt to create a 'team Wales' approach, so that we get the most bang for the buck and create the greatest benefit for the people of Wales.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: How is the coalition bringing government closer to the people? You must have had second thoughts about continuing with the coalition following Charles Kennedy's remarks yesterday, when he said

'I don't see a future in cooperating with Labour if all we achieve is the perception that the Liberal Democrats are bit-part players in someone else's show.'

He has also said that he is prepared to do deals with the Conservatives as well as Labour. How can you tolerate coalition partners who say one thing in London and another in Wales?

The First Minister: Now that Charles Kennedy is engaged, I hope that he does not apply that principle in his forthcoming marriage. Whatever he says in London relates to matters in Parliament where, as far as I know, the Liberal Democrats are not part of a coalition.

Ymwybyddiaeth y Cyhoedd o Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru Public Image of the National Assembly for Wales

Q6 Nick Bourne: What discussions has the First Minister had with the Secretary of State for Wales about raising the public image of the National Assembly for Wales? (OAQ15066)

The First Minister: I have not discussed this with the Secretary of State for Wales. The

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mater o gyflunio ydyw, David. Mae gan gyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad ryddid i'n cynghori a gallant leisio'u barn yn gadarn yn ystod cyfnodau ymgynghori. Fodd bynnag, mae disgwyl iddynt gynorthwyo mewn delwedd frand gyffredinol i godi delwedd Cymru dramor. Dyna gyd-destun y sylwadau yng nghofnod y Cabinet, y cyfeiriwch ato, fe gredaf, ac sydd wedi arwain at eich dicter ffug. Nid yw'n gwneud synnwyr i Lywodraeth ariannu corff cyhoeddus sy'n ei wrth-ddweud yn gyhoeddus. Nid yw'n bolisi Stalinaidd. Rhaid i'r Llywodraeth a'r cwangos y mae'n eu hariannu geisio creu ymagwedd 'tîm Cymru', inni gael y gwerth gorau am arian a chreu'r budd mwyaf i bobl Cymru.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Sut y mae'r glymbiaid yn dod â'r Llywodraeth yn agosach at y bobl? Rhaid eich bod wedi ailfoddwl am barhau â'r glymbiaid yn dilyn sylwadau Charles Kennedy ddoe, pan ddywedodd

Mae hefyd wedi dweud ei fod yn barod i wneud cytundebau â'r Ceidwadwyr yn ogystal â Llafur. Sut y gallwch ddioddef partneriaid clymbiaid sy'n dweud un peth yn Llundain a pheth arall yng Nghymru?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Gan fod Charles Kennedy wedi dyweddio, gobeithiaf na fydd yn defnyddio'r egwyddor honno pan fydd yn priodi. Mae'r hyn a ddywed yn Llundain yn berthnasol i faterion yn y Senedd lle nad yw'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, hyd y gwn, yn rhan o glymbiaid.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid wyf wedi trafod hyn gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ynghylch codi ymwybyddiaeth o Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru ymysg y cyhoedd? (OAQ15066)

National Assembly's public image is a matter for us. The Welsh Assembly Government is playing its part by ensuring that its policies and achievements are presented to the public as effectively as possible, as any other Government would do. It is on the success of these policies that the people of Wales will judge the Government. Likewise, the Presiding Officer takes a close interest in the Pierhead exhibition centre, which promotes the Assembly's image. I was pleased to read that coffee mugs and other souvenirs on sale in the Pierhead exhibition centre are selling well.

Nick Bourne: I am also delighted about that. You rightly said that the National Assembly will be judged according to your administration's record at the next election. We all hope that there will be a high turnout at that election. Your record on health will influence people in that regard. Will you make a pledge that, by the next Assembly election, waiting lists and waiting times will at least be no worse than they were when Labour came to power in 1997?

The First Minister: You will have to make pledges for your party when you write your manifesto. We will make pledges for our party.

Eleanor Burnham: Do you agree that we should consider raising the Assembly's profile further in north Wales by supporting the location of a business, education and visitor exhibition, similar to that in the Pierhead, there?

The First Minister: That is a matter for the Presiding Office, not for the Assembly Government.

2:30 p.m.

Geraint Davies: Yr ydym i gyd yn deall bod bod gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ddelwedd wael, a dweud y lleiaf, yng nghyd-destun Amcan 1. A wnewch gydnabod bod gorfod cyflogi tîm o arbenigwyr i geisio rhoi sbin cadarnhaol ar y fflasgo yn gyfaddefiad o aneffeithiolrwydd Llafur wrth ddelio â'r

Mater i ni yw delwedd gyhoeddus y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn chwarae ei rhan drwy sicrhau y caiff ei pholisiau a'i chyflawniadau eu cyflwyno i'r cyhoedd mor effeithiol â phosibl, fel y byddai unrhyw Lywodraeth arall yn ei wneud. Ar lwyddiant y polisiau hyn y bydd pobl Cymru yn barnu'r Llywodraeth. Yn yr un modd, mae'r Llywydd yn cymryd diddordeb agos yng nghanol fan arddangos Pierhad, sy'n hyrwyddo delwedd y Cynulliad. Yr oedd yn bleser gennyl ddarllen bod y mygiau coffi a'r cofroddion eraill sydd ar werth yng nghanol fan arddangos Pierhead yn gwerthu'n dda.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf hefyd wrth fy modd â hynny. Dywedoch yn gywir y caiff y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ei farnu yn ôl record eich gweinyddiaeth yn yr etholiad nesaf. Yr ydym i gyd yn gobeithio y bydd nifer uchel o bleidleisiau yn troi allan yn yr etholiad hwnnw. Bydd eich record ar iechyd yn dylanwadu pobl yn hynny o beth. A wnewch addewid, erbyn etholiad nesaf y Cynulliad, y bydd rhestrau aros ac amserau aros o leiaf ddim gwaeth nag yr oeddent pan ddaeth Llafur i rym ym 1997?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Bydd yn rhaid ichi wneud addewidion dros eich plaid chi pan fyddwch yn ysgrifennu eich maniffesto. Gwnawn ni addewidion dros ein plaid ninnau.

Eleanor Burnham: A gytunwch y dylem ystyried codi proffil y Cynulliad ymhellach yn y gogledd drwy gefnogi lleoliad arddangosfa busnes, addysg ac ymwelwyr, fel yr un sydd yn Pierhead, yno?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mater i'r Llywydd, nid Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yw hwnnw.

Geraint Davies: We all understand that the National Assembly's image, in the context of Objective 1, has been poor, to say the least. Will you acknowledge that having to employ a team of experts to try to put a positive spin on the fiasco is a confession of Labour's ineffectiveness in dealing with this matter?

mater? A ydych yn fodlon datgelu yn gyhoeddus faint yn union a wariwyd ar yr arbenigwyr hyn?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid yw ailddweud y gair ‘ffiasgo’ yn golygu eich bod yn gallu creu rhyw wirionedd gwrrhrychol o rywbeth nad oedd yn wir yn y lle cyntaf. Felly, nid wyf yn derbyn bod sail i’ch cwestiwn. Dim ond ailddweud y gair ‘ffiasgo’ yr ydych, fel pe bai hynny’n rhyw fath o ddadl resymegol. Nid ydyw. Dim ond Plaid Cymru sy’n dweud y gair ‘ffiasgo’ drwy’r amser, oherwydd ei bod mor bwysig i Blaid Cymru greu’r argraff mai ffiasgo yw hi. Ond nid ydyw. Pan fo ymrwymiadau wedi’u gwneud hyd yn hyn werth £300 miliwn, sut y gallai fod yn ffiasgo? A yw hynny’n ffiasgo mewn unrhyw ffordd wrthrychol? Nac ydyw, wrth gwrs. Gan eich bod ond yn ailddweud y gair ‘ffiasgo’ oherwydd na allwch ddod â’r un ddadl resymegol, Geraint, yr wyf yn teimlo yn flin drosoch.

Are you willing to make public exactly how much was spent on these experts?

The First Minister: Repeating the word ‘fiasco’ does not mean that you can create some sort of objective truth from something that was not true in the first place. I do not, therefore, accept that there is any basis for your question. You are just repeating the word ‘fiasco’ as if that were some sort of rational argument. It is not. It is only Plaid Cymru that continuously uses the word ‘fiasco’ because it is so important for Plaid Cymru to create the impression that it is a fiasco. But it is not. When £300 million has been committed so far, how can it be a fiasco? Is that a fiasco in any objective way? No, of course it is not. As you are just repeating the word ‘fiasco’ because you cannot come up with any rational argument, Geraint, I feel sorry for you.

Adolygu Fformiwla Barnett Reviewing the Barnett Formula

Q7 Peter Black: What discussions has the First Minister had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer with regard to the need to review the Barnett formula in light of the potential pressures on the Welsh block posed by meeting the economic criteria for membership of the euro and the Wanless report? (OAQ15072)

The First Minister: The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities and I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales about all manner of issues, including financial matters. It is for him to take the lead in the process on behalf of Wales within the Cabinet of the UK Government, and in preparing the final details of Wales’s bid and the outcome for Wales of the 2002 spending review process, including the consequences of the Wanless report. We are currently in discussion about that report with the UK Government.

Peter Black: If the Chancellor’s review of the national health service and the Wanless report leads to an additional tax being levied specifically for the national health service,

C7 Peter Black: Pa drafodaethau y mae Prif Weinidog Cymru wedi’u cael gyda Changhellor y Trysorlys ynghylch yr angen am adolygu fformiwla Barnett yng ngoleuni’r pwysau posibl ar y bloc Cymreig o ganlyniad i gwrrdd â’r meini prawf economaidd ar gyfer ymuno â’r ewro ac adroddiad Wanless? (OAQ15072)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae’r Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau a minnau yn cael trafodaethau rheolaidd gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ar bob math o faterion, yn cynnwys materion ariannol. Ef sydd â’r cyfrifoldeb i gymryd yr awenau yn y broses ar ran Cymru o fewn Cabinet Llywodraeth y DU, ac wrth baratoi manylion terfynol cais Cymru a’r canlyniad i Gymru o broses adolygu gwariant 2002, yn cynnwys goblygiadau adroddiad Wanless. Yr ydym ar hyn o bryd yn cynnal trafodaethau ar yr adroddiad hwnnw gyda Llywodraeth y DU.

Peter Black: Os yw adolygiad y Canghellor o’r gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol ac adroddiad Wanless yn arwain at dreth ychwanegol yn cael ei chodi’n benodol ar gyfer y

will Wales receive a share of that tax according to the Barnett formula? If not, what discussions are we having with the Chancellor on that issue?

The First Minister: That is a \$64,000 question, if ever I heard one. We are not aware of any such proposal as yet but it must, at least, be an academic possibility that a hypothecated NHS tax might be introduced. It has been spoken about for a long time. If it were to be introduced it would revolutionise British taxation policy which has been on a consolidated-fund basis since the eighteenth century. It would also raise the question of whether it would be ring-fenced or whether Wales would just get the amount raised by the tax in Wales. We would lose out if that were the case; we would much prefer that it were done via the Barnett formula. There is no indication that a hypothecated NHS tax is on the cards, but it could happen. That is part of the discussions we are having at the moment. We are participating in the second phase of the Wanless report.

Phil Williams: The case for a fairer allocation of resources to Wales is overwhelming. However, I am sure that you would agree that the large, and growing underspend in the existing budget, plus the failure to allocate the full Objective 1 budget in the first two years, seriously weakens our case to the Treasury. What steps has the Government taken to ensure a substantial drop in the underspend in the Assembly budget during the current financial year?

The First Minister: I am not sure what figures you are using. The league table where the Welsh Government is compared to all the central Government departments, and with the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Scottish Executive, indicates that we are comfortably in the top half, with a 3 per cent underspend in the year to 1 April 2001. Many Government departments, which are big spenders, undertaking similar programmes to us, had 7 to 8 per cent underspends. You are right to point this up as a problem: if we were in the lower half of the table, or at the mid point, the Treasury would point fingers. That is its job. I would do the same if I were a

gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol, a fydd Cymru yn cael cyfran o'r dreth honno yn ôl fformiwla Barnett? Os na fydd, pa drafodaethau a gawn gyda'r Canghellor ar y mater hwnnw?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae hwnnw'n gwestiwn anodd heb os. Nid ydym yn ymwybodol o unrhyw gynnig o'r fath hyd yn hyn, ond rhaid ei fod, o leiaf, yn bosiblwydd mewn egwyddor y caiff treth GIG wedi'i phridiannu ei chyflwyno. Bu sôn am hyn ers amser maith. Pe byddai'n cael ei chyflwyno byddai'n gwyrdroi polisi treth Prydain sydd wedi bod ar sail cronfa gyfunol ers y ddeunawfed ganrif. Byddai hefyd yn codi'r cwestiwn pa un a fyddai'n cael ei neilltuo neu a fyddai Cymru ond yn cael y swm a godir gan y dreth yng Nghymru. Byddem ar ein colled pe bai hynny'n digwydd, byddai llawer gwell gennym iddo gael ei wneud trwy'r fformiwla Barnett. Nid oes awgrym fod treth GIG wedi'i phridiannu ar y gweill, ond gallai ddigwydd. Mae hynny'n rhan o'r trafodaethau yr ydym yn eu cael ar hyn o bryd. Yr ydym yn cymryd rhan yn ail gam adroddiad Wanless.

Phil Williams: Mae'r ddadl dros ddyraniad tecach o adnoddau i Gymru yn anorchfygol. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cytuno bod y tanwariant mawr, cynyddol yn y gyllideb bresennol, yn ogystal â'r methiant i ddyrannu'r gyllideb Amcan 1 yn llawn yn ystod y ddwy flynedd gyntaf, yn gwanhau ein dadl i'r Trysorlys yn sylweddol. Pa gamau y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi'u cymryd i sicrhau gostyngiad sylweddol yn y tanwariant yng nghyllideb y Cynulliad yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol bresennol?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid wyf yn siŵr pa ffigurau yr ydych yn eu defnyddio. Mae'r tablau perfformiad lle caiff Llywodraeth Cymru ei chymharu â holl adrannau'r Llywodraeth ganolog, a chyda'r Cynulliad yng Ngogledd Iwerddon, a Gweithrediaeth yr Alban, yn nodi ein bod yn yr hanner uchaf yn hawdd, gyda thanwariant o 3 y cant yn y flwyddyn hyd at 1 Ebrill 2001. Mae llawer o adrannau'r Llywodraeth, sy'n gwario llawer o arian, sy'n cynnal rhagleni tebyg inni, â 7 neu 8 y cant o danwariant. Yr ydych yn iawn i nodi hyn fel problem: pe byddem yn y rhan isaf o'r tabl, neu ar y pwyt canol, byddai'r Trysorlys yn pwytio bys. Dyna yw ei waith.

Treasury Minister. However, without being complacent, we were comfortably in the top half—probably in the top third—of the table, with a 3 per cent underspend. Therefore I do not think that there will be a problem.

Byddwn innau yn gwneud yr un peth pe byddem yn Weinidog yn y Trysorlys. Fodd bynnag, heb fod yn hunanfodlon, yr oeddem yn sicr yn yr hanner uchaf—yn nhraean uchaf yn ôl pob tebyg—y tabl, â thanwariant o 3 y cant. Felly ni chredaf y bydd problem.

Refferendwm ar yr Ewro A Referendum on the Euro

C8 Dafydd Wigley: Pa drafodaethau a gafodd Prif Weinidog Cymru hyd yn hyn gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ynglŷn â dyddiadau posibl ar gyfer refferendwm ar yr ewro, a'r posibilrwydd y gallai hyn arwain at newid dyddiad etholiad 2003 i'r Cynulliad yn unol â darpariaethau Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998? (OAQ15078)

Q8 Dafydd Wigley: What discussions has the First Minister had so far with the Secretary of State for Wales regarding possible dates for a referendum on the euro, and the possibility that this could lead to changing the date of the 2003 Assembly election in accordance with the provisions of the Government of Wales Act 1998? (OAQ15078)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr wyf yn cwrdd ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru yn rheolaidd, ac yn trafod amryw o faterion, gan gynnwys yr ewro, a dyddiadau ar gyfer y refferendwm. Mae'n rhy gynnar, ac mae'n fater rhy fanwl, i'w drafod yn awr. Fodd bynnag, mae fy safiad ar y mater yn holol hysbys. Er mwyn rhoi mwy o gig ar esgyrn, dywedaf y byddai perygl o ddrysusrwlwyr pe byddwn yn cynnal y refferendwm ar yr ewro ar yr un diwrnod ag etholiadau'r Cynulliad, oherwydd y byddai'r etholfraint yn wahanol. Mae etholfraint etholiadau'r Cynulliad yr un peth ag etholfraint etholiadau'r llywodraeth leol, sef, y gall pobl nad ydynt yn ddinasyddion y wlad hon, ond sydd yn ddinasyddion o wledydd eraill Ewrop, bleidleisio. Fodd bynnag, ni allant bleidleisio mewn etholiad cyffredinol. Byddai etholfraint y refferendwm ar yr ewro yr un peth ag etholfraint etholiad cyffredinol, hynny yw, ni all dinasyddion gwledydd eraill Ewrop, sydd yn digwydd byw yn y wlad hon, bleidleisio. Gallwch weld faint o ddryswn fyddai, pe byddai'r ddau etholiad yn digwydd ar yr un diwrnod.

Dafydd Wigley: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Prif Weinidog am danlinellu'r broblem honno, yn ogystal â sawl problem arall y mae wedi'u cydnabod yn y gorffennol. A fydd yn awr yn agored ac yn onest gyda'r Cynulliad? A yw wedi gofyn i'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol i newid dyddiad y refferendwm os yw'n digwydd bod ar 3 Mai? Os nad yw wedi

The First Minister: I meet with the Secretary of State for Wales regularly and discuss a number of issues, including the euro and dates for the referendum. It is too early, and too detailed a matter, to discuss now. However, my position on this matter is well-known. In order to put more flesh on the bones, I say that there would be a danger of confusing the electorate if we were to hold the euro referendum on the same day as the Assembly elections, because the franchise would be different. The franchise for Assembly elections is the same as that for local government elections; namely that those who are not citizens of this country, but who are citizens of other European countries, can vote. They cannot, however, vote in a general election. The franchise of the referendum on the euro would be the same as that of a general election; namely that citizens of other European countries who happen to live in this country, cannot vote. You can see how much confusion there would be if both were to be held on the same day.

Dafydd Wigley: I am grateful to the First Minister for underlining that problem, in addition to several other problems he has acknowledged in the past. Will he now be open and honest with the Assembly? Has he asked the Secretary of State to change the referendum date if it happens to fall on 3 May? If he has not asked, will he ask? If he

gofyn, a wnaiff ofyn? Os yw wedi gofyn, pa ymateb a gafodd gan Paul Murphy?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr wyf wedi mynogi'r farn i'r Llywodraeth—nid drwy'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, ond mewn man mwy penodol—na ddylai'r ddau etholiad ddigwydd ar yr un diwrnod. Ni chredaf y bydd y cwestiwn yn codi, ond, pe byddai'n codi, byddwn yn ailgor y mater, efallai drwy'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, neu drwy rywun arall.

Alun Cairns: A dderbyniwch fod diffyg penderfyniad Llywodraeth San Steffan ar amseru'r refferendwm yn dangos y penbleth yn ei pholisiau, ac yn tanlinellu'r gwahaniaethau rhwng Prif Weinidog y Deyrnas Unedig a'r Canghellor?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni chredaf fod hynny'n wir. Mae rhoi'r gair 'diffyg' yn y cwestiwn yn ei wneud yn gwestiwn gwan. Mae ond yn ddiffyg os oes dyddiad mewn golwg ac ni all y Llywodraeth benderfynu ar y dyddiad hwnnw. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r Llywodraeth yn mynd drwy'r broses o gynnal y pum prawf economaidd, a bydd eisiau cyhoeddi'r profion hynny. Mae'n siŵr fod y Canghellor yn dechrau ar y profion ar hyn o bryd. Ar ôl hynny, gallwn siarad am ddyddiad. Ni chredaf, felly, fod diffyg penderfyniad, ond y bydd proses o brofi yn digwydd rhwng yr etholiad nesaf a'r etholiad wedyn, ac mae'r Canghellor a'r Llywodraeth yng nghanol y broses honno yn awr.

has asked, what was Paul Murphy's response?

The First Minister: I have expressed the opinion to central Government—not via the Secretary of State, but via a more specific quarter—that the two elections should not be held on the same day. I do not believe that the question will arise, but if it does, I will reopen the matter, perhaps with the Secretary of State, or via another channel.

Alun Cairns: Do you accept that the failure on the part of the Westminster Government to come to a decision on the timing of the referendum reflects the confusion in its policies, and underlines the differences between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor?

The First Minister: I do not believe that that is so. Including the word 'failure' in the question turns it into a weak question. There is only a failure if there is a date in mind, and the Government cannot decide on that date. The Government is currently going through the process of conducting the five economic tests, the results of which will then need to be published. The Chancellor is probably starting work on the tests at present. After that, we can talk about a date. I do not believe, therefore, that there is a failure to come to a decision, but there is a testing process that will take place between the next election and the election after that, and the Chancellor and the Government are in the middle of that process now.

Lleihau Amddifadedd yng Nghymoedd Pen-y-bont Reducing Deprivation in the Bridgend Valleys

Q9 Janet Davies: Has the First Minister visited the Bridgend County Borough Council area recently to discuss the achievements of Assembly policy in reducing deprivation in the Bridgend valleys? (OAQ15063)

The First Minister: That is a well-timed question, Janet. I am sure that we will be seeing much of each other on the highways and byways of the Bridgend area over the next four weeks, due to a political festival or event of some kind, the exact details of which

C9 Janet Davies: A yw Prif Weinidog Cymru wedi ymweld ag ardal Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn ddiweddar i drafod llwyddiannau polisi'r Cynulliad o ran lleihau amddifadedd yng nghymoedd Pen-y-bont? (OAQ15063)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae hwnnw'n gwestiwn sydd wedi'i amseru'n dda, Janet. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwn yn gweld llawer o'n gilydd ar briffyrdd a chaeau ardal Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr dros y pedair wythnos nesaf, o ganlyniad i wyl neu ddigwyddiad

I have forgotten for the moment.

Just before Christmas I was pleased to visit Maesteg to help rededicate the Creative Outsourcing Solutions International Ltd factory—formally Revlon—in Bridgend, because a large grant from the Assembly had secured the retention of all those jobs, along with the likelihood of more than 100 jobs coming to Maesteg over the next couple of years in the usual post-grant period.

Janet Davies: I would not be surprised if I saw you somewhere around there in the next few weeks. While there, will you be visiting the old coalfield villages of Ogmore Vale and Nant-y-Moel to try to understand why communities with such strong indications of deprivation are only at number 340 in the list of deprived communities and therefore do not qualify for Communities First? I cannot understand that.

2:40 p.m.

The First Minister: I am not sure to which communities you are referring. Many excellent projects are taking place in the Bridgend county borough area, north of Bridgend town. We are looking to correct the deprivation that inevitably exists in isolated Valleys communities that depended on coal mining but which have now lost that staple form of employment. Demolishing the Lewiston estate, which was extremely unpopular with its residents, has been a notable project. It was a fanciful 1960s housing project, which probably won several architectural awards but it was hell to live there. Luckily, it has now been demolished and is currently being reconstructed.

Alun Cairns: Does the First Minister accept that Objective 1 offered hope to some of these communities? Does he accept that there are major infrastructure needs and demands in the area surrounding Bridgend? Does he also accept that the massive lack of priority and underspend in budget in that area is a grave insult to the people of those communities?

gwleidyddol o ryw fath, na allaf gofio'r union fanylion ar hyn o bryd.

Ychydig cyn y Nadolig yr oedd yn bleser gennyl ymweld â Maesteg i helpu ailgysegru ffatri Creative Outsourcing Solutions Ltd—Revlon gynt—ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr, oherwydd bod grant mawr gan y Cynulliad wedi sicrhau y gellid cadw'r holl swyddi hynny, gyda'r tebygolrwydd o fwy na 100 o swyddi yn dod i Faesteg dros y blynnyddoedd nesaf yn y cyfnod ôl-grant arferol.

Janet Davies: Ni fyddwn yn synnu pe bawn yn eich gweld rywle yn yr ardal yn ystod yr wythnosau nesaf. Tra byddwch yno, a fyddwch yn ymweld â hen bentrefi glofaol Cwm Ogwr a Nant-y-Moel i geisio deall pam fod cymunedau ag arwyddion mor gryf o amddifadedd ond ar rif 340 yn y rhestr o gymunedau difreintiedig ac felly heb fod yn gymwys ar gyfer Cymunedau'n Gyntaf? Ni allaf ddeall hynny.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid wyf yn siŵr at ba gymunedau yr ydych yn cyfeirio. Mae llawer o brosiectau ardderchog yn cael eu cynnal yn ardal bwrdeistref sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, i'r gogledd o dref Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Yr ydym yn ceisio unioni'r amddifadedd sy'n anochel yn bodoli mewn Cymoedd ar wahân a oedd yn dibynnu ar y diwydiant glo ond sydd bellach wedi colli'r prif ffurf honno ar gyflogaeth. Bu dymchwel ystâd Lewiston, a oedd yn amhoblogaidd iawn gyda'i thrigolion, yn brosiect pwysig. Yr oedd yn brosiect tai addurnedig yn yr 1960au, a enillodd sawl gwobr bensaernïol fwy na thebyg ond yr oedd yn uffern i fyw yno. Yn ffodus, mae wedi'i dymchwel bellach ac yn cael ei hailadeiladu ar hyn o bryd.

Alun Cairns: A dderbynia Prif Weinidog Cymru fod Amcan 1 wedi cynnig gobaith i rai o'r cymunedau hyn? A dderbynia fod anghenion a gofynion seilwaith sylweddol yn yr ardal o gwmpas Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr? A yw hefyd yn derbyn bod diffyg blaenoriaeth enfawr a thanwario cyllideb yn yr ardal honno yn sarhad mawr i bobl y cymunedau hynny?

The First Minister: Yes. However, Objective 1 is not a big fund, unfortunately, and is massively oversubscribed. An oversubscribed fund tends to cause strong infighting in any partnership as to who will receive the funding. That is what is happening now. There is no danger of Objective 1 underspending. It is currently underspent because it is oversubscribed. When a fund is oversubscribed, paradoxically, it is inevitably that a big decision must be taken as to who will receive the money because three-quarters of the applicants will not. We expect that underspending position to resolve itself quickly through discussions taking place at present.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ydwyt. Fodd bynnag, nid yw Amcan 1 yn gronfa fawr, yn anffodus, ac mae wedi ei gor-dansysgrifio yn fawr iawn. Mae cronfa sydd wedi ei gordansysgrifio yn tueddu i achosi brwydro mewnol cryf mewn unrhyw bartneriaeth o ran pwy fydd yn cael yr arian. Dyna beth sy'n digwydd yn awr. Nid oes perygl o danwario Amcan 1. Mae'r rhaglen wedi ei thanwario ar hyn o bryd oherwydd ei fod wedi ei gordansysgrifio. Pan gaiff cronfa ei gordansysgrifio, yn baradocsaid, mae'n anochel y bydd yn rhaid gwneud penderfyniad mawr o ran pwy fydd yn derbyn yr arian oherwydd ni fydd tri chwarter o'r ymgeiswyr yn ei dderbyn. Disgwyluni i'r safle tanwario hwnnw ddatrys ei hun yn gyflym drwy'r trafodaethau sy'n mynd rhagddynt ar hyn o bryd.

'Cynllun i Gymru 2001' 'Plan for Wales 2001'

Q10 Christine Chapman: Will the First Minister report on progress with fulfilling commitments in the 'Plan for Wales 2001' strategic document? (OAQ15064)

The First Minister: Yes. I will mention a few of our achievements. Reducing class sizes for four to six-year-olds to no more than 30 is going extremely well. The introduction of free entry to Wales's eight museums and galleries has gone phenomenally well with increases of up to 90 per cent in their entry rates. Free local bus travel will also be introduced on 1 April.

Christine Chapman: Given that 40 per cent of the Welsh population now lives in the south Wales valleys—the areas with the highest level of deprivation in Wales—what milestones have we reached, and what assurances can you give that the Assembly is trying to bring prosperity, particularly to these areas?

The First Minister: A milestone that arises from a happy level of co-operation between Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and the Assembly is the authorisation of funding for over £1 million in this financial year, with much follow-on

C10 Christine Chapman: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru adrodd ar gynnydd wrth wireddu ymrwymiadau yn y ddogfen strategol 'Cynllun i Gymru 2001'? (OAQ15064)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Gwnaf. Soniaf am rai o'n cyflawniadau. Mae lleihau maint dosbarthiadau i blant pedair i chwe mlwydd oed i ddim mwy na 30 yn mynd yn dda iawn. Mae cyflwyno mynediad am ddim i wyth amgueddfa ac oriel Cymru wedi mynd yn aruthrol o dda gyda chynnydd o hyd at 90 y cant yn eu cyfraddau mynediad. Caiff teithio bws lleol am ddim hefyd ei gyflwyno ar 1 Ebrill.

Christine Chapman: O ystyried bod 40 y cant o'r boblogaeth yng Nghymru bellach yn byw yng nghymoedd y de—yr ardaloedd â'r lefel uchaf o amddifadedd yng Nghymru—pa gerrig milltir yr ydym wedi eu cyrraedd, a pha sicrwydd y gallwch ei roi fod y Cynulliad yn ceisio dod â ffyniant, yn enwedig i'r ardaloedd hyn?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Carreg filltir sy'n codi o lefel o gydweithredu da rhwng Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf a'r Cynulliad yw awdurdodi dros £1 filiwn yn y flwyddyn ariannol hon, gyda mwy o arian yn dilyn o Ebrill, ar gyfer adeiladu capasiti o

funding from April, for capacity building in the Communities First area. That is for running the Communities First programme in the 17 communities in the Rhondda Cynon Taff area that qualified for the programme. We want to ensure that there is no shortage of applications, expertise, or ability to bring forward well-founded, well-written applications for funding in order to take full advantage of Communities First in the Rhondda Cynon Taff area. The Assembly Government's funding to Rhondda Cynon Taff will ensure that.

Pauline Jarman: Are there any functions enshrined in legislation, guidance or regulations that the Government of Wales could apply to the Assembly sponsored public bodies, or their members, if they were not on-message politically in so far as strategic issues are concerned?

The First Minister: The issue of being on-message politically does not come into it at all. This issue is not about the bodies contradicting the policy of the Government that funds them. Anyone who reads the record of the appointments that we have made in the two and three-quarter years or so that the Assembly has existed would not be able to find any pattern of on-message politics regarding who we appoint or how they conduct themselves.

fewn ardal Cymunedau'n Gyntaf. Mae hynny ar gyfer cynnal rhaglen Cymunedau'n Gyntaf yn yr 17 o gymunedau yn ardal Rhondda Cynon Taf a gymhwysodd ar gyfer y rhaglen. Yr ydym eisai sicrhau nad oes prinder ceisiadau, arbenigedd, neu'r gallu i ddatblygu ceisiadau sydd â sail dda ac sydd wedi eu hysgrifennu'n dda ar gyfer ariannu er mwyn cymryd mantais lawn o Gymunedau'n yn Gyntaf yn ardal Rhondda Cynon Taf. Bydd arian Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i Rondda Cynon Taf yn sicrhau hynny.

Pauline Jarman: A oes unrhyw swyddogaethau wedi'u hymgorffori mewn arweiniad deddfwriaeth neu reoliadau y gallai Llywodraeth Cymru eu cymhwys i gyrrf cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad, neu eu haelodau, os nad oeddent yn cytuno â'r neges yn wleidyddol o ran materion strategol?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid yw'r mater o fod yn cytuno â neges yn wleidyddol yn berthnasol o gwbl. Nid yw'r mater hwn yn ymwneud â'r cyrff sy'n gwrthddweud polisi'r Llywodraeth sy'n eu hariannu. Ni fyddai unrhyw sy'n darllen y cofnod o'r penodiadau yr ydym wedi'u gwneud yn ystod y ddwy flynedd a thri chwarter mae'r Cynulliad wedi bodoli yn gallu dod o hyd i unrhyw batrwm o wleidyddiaeth dilyn-y-drefn o ran pwy yr ydym yn eu penodi neu sut y maent yn ymddwyn.

Cwestiwn Brys Urgent Question

Damwain Rheilffordd ger y Fenni Rail Accident near Abergavenny

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi caniatáu cwestiwn brys yn enw David Davies i'r Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.31.

David Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on the rail accident that happened at noon on Friday near Abergavenny? (EAQ15427)

The Minister for Environment (Sue Essex): The accident occurred on the westbound carriageway of the A40, 2 km east

The Presiding Officer: I have allowed an urgent question in the name of David Davies to the Minister for Environment under Standing Order No. 6.31.

David Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar y ddamwain a ddigwyddodd ganol dydd ddydd Gwener ar reilffordd ger y Fenni? (EAQ15427)

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd (Sue Essex): Digwyddodd y ddamwain ar lôn orllewinol yr A40, 2 km i'r dwyrain o

of Hardwick roundabout, Abergavenny, where the Newport to Hereford railway line runs parallel to the trunk road. Available information indicates that a heavy goods vehicle collided with a broken-down Land Rover, and crossed the nearside verge, over a 1m high embankment, before coming to rest against the railway line. There was only one slight injury, but it could have been more serious. Initial inspections indicate that the trunk road was in good condition, and had no defects. Gwent Police, in conjunction with the British Transport Police, are investigating the circumstances of the road vehicle incident, and a railway inspector from the Health and Safety Executive is considering the circumstances by which the road vehicle ended up on the railway line. I emphasise that it would be wrong to comment on the circumstances until these inquiries are complete.

Following the incident in February 2001 at Great Heck, near Selby, two studies were set up. First, the Health and Safety Commission set up a working group to look into the circumstances of incidents where road vehicles have blocked railway lines, and whether there were common features that might have been preventable. The HSC will consider a report from that group at a meeting to be held next month. The report will be published as soon as possible thereafter. Secondly, the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, put in process a review of standards for the provision of nearside safety fences on major roads. The National Assembly's Transport Directorate has already been involved, with the Highways Agency, in this review. It is intended that this report will be published concurrently with the HSC report. We will consider these reports as soon as they are available.

David Davies: Thank you, Minister, for that reply. Do you agree that there are several points that need to be answered urgently? First, how was the lorry able to end up on one of the railway tracks, and how can we ensure that that never happens again? Secondly, shortly after the incident, and before the lorry had been removed, a freight train went past—

gylchfan Hardwick, Y Fenni, lle mae'r llinell rheilffordd rhwng Casnewydd a Henffordd yn rhedeg gyfochr â'r gefnffordd. Dynoda'r wybodaeth sydd ar gael fod cerbyd nwyddau trwm wedi taro yn erbyn Land Rover a oedd wedi torri lawr, ac wedi croesi ymyl yr ochr agos, dros arglawdd metr o uchder, cyn glanio yn erbyn y llinell rheilffordd. Dim ond un mân anaf a gafwyd, ond gallai fod wedi bod yn fwy difrifol. Dynoda'r ymchwiliadau cychwynnol fod y gefnffordd mewn cyflwr da, heb unrhyw ddiffygion. Mae Heddlu Gwent, ar y cyd â Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain, yn ymchwilio i amgylchiadau'r digwyddiad cerbyd ffordd, ac mae arolygydd rheilffyrrd o'r Awdurdod Gweithredol Iechyd a Diogelwch yn ystyried yr amgylchiadau a arweiniodd at y cerbyd ffordd yn glanio ar y llinell rheilffordd. Pwysleisiaf na fyddai'n briodol i mi wneud sylwadau ar yr amgylchiadau hyd nes y cwblheir yr ymchwiliadau hyn.

Yn dilyn y digwyddiad ym mis Chwefror 2001 yn Great Heck, ger Selby, sefydlwyd dwy astudiaeth. Yn gyntaf, sefydlodd y Comisiwn Iechyd a Diogelwch weithgor i ymchwilio i amgylchiadau digwyddiadau lle mae cerbydau ffordd wedi blocio llinellau rheilffyrrd, ac a oedd nodweddion cyffredin y gellid bod wedi eu hosgoi. Bydd y comisiwn yn ystyried adroddiad gan y grŵp hwnnw mewn cyfarfod a gynhelir y mis nesaf. Cyhoeddir yr adroddiad cyn gynted â phosibl wedi hynny. Yn ail, rhoddodd John Prescott, y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, broses ar waith i adolygu safonau ar gyfer darparu ffensys diogelwch ochr agos ar briffyrrd. Mae Cyfarwyddiaeth Trafnidiaeth y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol eisoes wedi cymryd rhan, gyda'r Asiantaeth Priffyrrd, yn yr adolygiad hwn. Bwriedir cyhoeddi'r adroddiad hwn ar yr un pryd ag adroddiad y Comisiwn. Byddwn yn ystyried yr adroddiadau hyn cyn gynted ag y byddant ar gael.

David Davies: Diolch, Weinidog, am yr ateb hwnnw. A gytunwch fod angen ymdrin â nifer o bwyntiau ar frys? Yn gyntaf, sut y llwyddodd y lori i lanio ar un o gledrau'r rheilffordd, a sut y gallwn sicrhau na fydd hyn yn digwydd fyfth eto? Yn ail, ychydig ar ôl y digwyddiad, a chyn i'r lori gael ei symud, aeth trêu cludo nwyddau heibio—ar y

fortunately on the other line. It passed within inches of the scene of the accident. If that train had been travelling in the opposite direction, there would have been a serious incident. If a passenger train had been travelling in that direction—and one had gone through only minutes before the incident—there would have been a catastrophe. We have been lucky this time. However, do you agree that we cannot afford to forget about this and hope that a similar incident does not happen in future?

Would you be willing to visit the scene of the accident with me? I raised this matter with the police at Abergavenny on Saturday, and they would be willing to arrange a visit. If it would be useful, I will contact your office this afternoon. I also ask that you, and/or the Environment, Planning and Transport Committee, oversee the investigations into this incident to ensure that we get satisfactory answers to the points that I have raised. We need appropriate barriers to stop vehicles going onto tracks, and to ensure that adequate warnings are given to train drivers when accidents occur.

Sue Essex: I cannot comment on specific points about the accident, as the investigation is ongoing. It would not be right and proper for me to do that. However, I will ensure that your points are forwarded, and I am sure that they are being taken into account.

Regarding your second point, this will certainly not be forgotten. As I said, there are two important pieces of work underway. It is likely that we will receive those reports in February or March—I do not know the exact date. However, what we expect as a result of that work is that the Government will issue guidelines for us in Wales, and for others, to assess the areas of safety fencing likely to be needed. As you rightly say, this is relevant to this section of road, and others in Wales. It is anticipated that it will require between three and six months' work on site to carry out a risk assessment. Considerable areas of Wales will need to be considered in detail. When that is done, we will follow that up with what needs to be done. Safety fencing will be our responsibility.

Ilinell arall yn ffodus. Aeth heibio o fewn modfeddi i leoliad y ddamwain. Pe byddai'r trêñ hwnnw wedi bod yn teithio i'r cyfeiriad arall, byddai digwyddiad difrifol wedi bod. Pe byddai trêñ teithwyr wedi bod yn mynd i'r cyfeiriad hwnnw—ac yr oedd un wedi mynd heibio funudau cyn y digwyddiad—byddai trychineb wedi digwydd. Buom yn ffodus y tro hwn. Fodd bynnag, a gytunwch na allwn fforddio anghofio am hyn gan obeithio na fydd digwyddiad tebyg yn y dyfodol?

A fydddech yn fodlon ymweld â lleoliad y ddamwain gyda mi? Codais y mater hwn gyda'r heddlu yn y Fenni ddydd Sadwrn, a byddent yn fodlon trefnu ymweliad. Pe byddai o werth, cysylltaf â'ch swyddfa y prynhawn yma. Gofynnaf i chi ac/neu Bwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Thrafnidiaeth hefyd i oruchwylion'r ymchwiliadau i'r digwyddiad hwn er mwyn sicrhau y cawn atebion boddhaol i'r pwyntiau a godais. Mae angen rhwystrau priodol i atal cerbydau rhag mynd ar gledrau, a sicrhau y rhoddir rhybuddion digonol i yrwyr trêñ pan fo damweiniau'n digwydd.

Sue Essex: Ni allaf wneud sylwadau ar bwyntiau penodol am y ddamwain, gan bod yr ymchwiliad yn parhau. Ni fyddai'n gywir na phriodol i mi wneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, sicrhaf fod eich pwyntiau yn cael eu trosglwyddo, ac yr wyf yn sicr eu bod yn cael eu hystyried.

O ran eich ail bwynt, nid anghofir hyn yn sicr. Fel y dywedais, mae dau ddarn o waith pwysig yn mynd rhagddo. Mae'n debyg y byddwn yn derbyn yr adroddiadau hynny ym mis Chwefror neu fis Mawrth—ni wn yr union ddyddiad. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn a ddisgwylwn o ganlyniad i'r gwaith hwnnw yw y bydd y Llywodraeth yn cyhoeddi canllawiau ar ein cyfer yng Nghymru, ac ar gyfer eraill, er mwyn asesu'r mannau lle mae'n debyg y bydd angen ffensys diogelwch. Fel y dywedasoch yn gywir, mae hyn yn berthnasol i'r rhan hon o'r ffordd, ac i rannau eraill yng Nghymru. Rhagwelir y bydd angen rhwng tri a chwe mis o waith ar y safle er mwyn cynnal asesiad risg. Bydd angen ystyried rhannau helaeth o Gymru yn fanwl. Pan gwblheir hynny, byddwn yn dilyn hynny gyda'r hyn sydd angen ei wneud. Ein

cyfrifoldeb ni fydd ffensys diogelwch.

Regarding a visit to the site, I know the stretch of road, but if you think it would help, I would be happy to visit.

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

Thank you, Sue, for that answer. Like all of us, I know that you feel that rail passenger safety is paramount. Given the tragic accidents elsewhere in the UK, this is of major concern, and we would wish to reassure rail passengers in Wales of the safety of their journeys alongside trunk roads and near railway crossings. Do you think that it is now appropriate to ask for an investigation into all crossings and high-speed roads for which the Assembly is responsible that either cross or are alongside railway lines? That would ensure adequate safety provisions and a record of the areas. Then, when the recommendations are published, we can act swiftly.

Finally, will you comment on the stretch of road involved, which has been a source of anxiety in the past because of its lack of nearside safety fencing? Has the Government ever received a recommendation to put nearside fencing on that road?

2:50 p.m.

Sue Essex: On that last point, I do not know—I will look it up. My notes show that there has only been one personal injury on the westbound carriageway of the A40 at that site. However, I will carry out an investigation into whether concerns have been raised in the past.

Statutory agencies oversee railway safety. John Prescott's working group is identifying the stretches of our trunk roads that lie alongside railway lines. The Selby incident was terrible and revealed that we must all pursue safety issues. You have my commitment that once we have the guidelines—because we need to have them—a programme will be put in place to deal with them.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Minister, one difficulty in

O ran ymweliad â'r safle, gwn am y darn hwnnw o'r ffordd, ond os credwch y byddai o gymorth, byddwn yn fodlon ymweld â'r fan.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German):

Diolch, Sue, am yr ateb hwnnw. Fel pob un ohonom, gwn y teimlwch fod diogelwch teithwyr rheilffordd yn hollbwysig. O gofio'r damweiniau trasig mewn rhannau eraill o'r DU, mae hyn yn bryder mawr, a hoffem dawelu meddyliau teithwyr rheilffyrdd Cymru ynghylch diogelwch eu siwrneiau gyfochr â chefnffyrdd a gerllaw croesfannau rheilffyrdd. A gredwch ei bod yn awr yn briodol gofyn am ymchwiliad i bob croesfan a ffyrdd cyflymder uchel y mae'r Cynulliad yn gyfrifol amdanyst sydd naill ai'n croesi neu sydd gyfochr â llinell rheilffordd? Byddai hynny'n sicrhau darpariaethau diogelwch digonol a chofnod o'r mannau. Yna, pan gyhoeddir yr argymhellion, gallwn weithredu'n gyflym.

Yn olaf, a wnewch chi wneud sylw ar y darn o ffordd dan sylw, a fu'n achos pryder yn y gorffennol oherwydd absenoldeb ffensys diogelwch ochr agos? A dderbyniodd y Llywodraeth erioed argymhelliaid i osod ffens ochr agos ar y ffordd honno?

Sue Essex: O ran y pwyt olaf hwnnw, ni wn—ymchwiliad ymhellach i'r mater. Dengys fy nodiadau mai dim ond un anaf personol a fu ar lôn orllewinol yr A40 ar y safle hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, cynhaliaf ymchwiliad i weld a fynegwyd pryderon yn y gorffennol.

Asiantaethau statudol sy'n goruchwyllo diogelwch rheilffyrdd. Mae gweithgor John Prescott yn nodi'r darnau o'n cefnffyrdd sydd gyfochr â llinellau rheilffordd. Yr oedd digwyddiad Selby yn ofnadwy a datgelodd fod yn rhaid inni i gyd fynd ar drywydd materion diogelwch. Cewch fy ymrwymiad unwaith y bydd gennym y canllawiau—gan bod eu hangen arnom—y bydd rhaglen yn cael ei rhoi ar waith i ymdrin â hwy.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Weinidog, un anhawster

ensuring that the boundaries between railways and roads are safe is the massive disputes that often arise over who is responsible for the fencing, boundary walls and even hedges. Sometimes, the former British Rail or Railtrack claim that somebody else—local authorities or private individuals—is responsible. That should be taken into account when you take this matter forward.

Sue Essex: That is an important point, and I am sure that the working party is addressing it. In terms of trunk roads, there has always been a take of land that is clearly owned by the Transport Directorate. I hope that the solution will be simpler than you suggest. However, if it is difficult, I will report back to the Assembly.

o ran sicrhau bod y ffiniau rhwng rheilffyrdd a ffyrdd yn ddiogel yw'r anghytundebau enfawr sy'n deillio'n aml ynghylch y sawl sy'n gyfrifol am ffensys, muriau ffin a gwrychoedd hyd yn oed. Weithiau, bydd yr hen British Rail neu Railtrack yn honni mai rhywun arall—awdurdodau lleol neu unigolion preifat—sy'n gyfrifol. Dylid ystyried hynny pan fyddwch yn datblygu'r mater hwn.

Sue Essex: Mae hwnnw'n bwynt pwysig, ac yr wyf yn siŵr bod y gweithgor yn ymdrin ag ef. O ran cefnffyrdd, o'r cychwyn y mae cyfran o dir y mae'r Gyfarwyddiaeth Trafnidiaeth yn amlwg yn berchen arno. Gobeithiaf y bydd yr ateb yn symlach na'r hyn a awgrymwch. Fodd bynnag, os yw'n anodd, byddaf yn adrodd yn ôl i'r Cynulliad.

Datganiad Busnes Business Statement

The Minister for Assembly Business (Andrew Davies): The business for the next three weeks, which was agreed by the Business Committee this morning, is as shown on the Chamberweb under supporting papers. In addition, following discussion in the Business Committee, I will soon schedule a debate on postal services in Wales. I will inform the Business Committee of the date shortly, as is my usual practice.

I have also discussed with my ministerial colleague, Jane Davidson, the proposals for a debate on the Education Bill at the earliest opportunity. However, I reiterate what my colleague said on 10 January, that the Bill vests a great deal of power in the Assembly, and secondary legislation and regulations will be the means of delivering most of its provisions.

Jane Davidson has already said that, when we are at the stage of determining what we will take forward from the Bill, in terms of regulations and legislation, we will schedule a debate. At this stage, we do not see what can be gained by detailed debate before the Bill has completed its parliamentary process, or before we are in a position to consider what we will take forward from it. [CONSERVATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Do

Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Mae'r busnes am y tair wythnos nesaf, y cytunwyd arno gan y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma, fel a ddangosir ar we'r Siambrau dan y papurau ategol. Yn ogystal, yn dilyn trafodaeth yn y Pwyllgor Busnes, cyn bo hir byddaf yn pennu amser ar gyfer dadl ar y gwasanaethau post yng Nghymru. Byddaf yn hysbysu'r Pwyllgor Busnes o'r dyddiad yn fuan, yn ôl fy arfer.

Trafodais hefyd â'm cyd-Weinidog, Jane Davidson, y cynigion ar gyfer dadl ar y Mesur Addysg cyn gynted ag y bo modd. Fodd bynnag, ailddatganaf yr hyn a ddywedodd fy nghyd-Aelod ar 10 Ionawr, sef bod y Mesur yn rhoi cryn bŵer i'r Cynulliad, ac mai is-ddeddfwriaeth a rheoliadau fydd y dull o gyflwyno'r rhan fwyaf o'i ddarpariaethau.

Dyweddodd Jane Davidson eisoes, pan fyddwn wedi penderfynu ar yr hyn y byddwn yn ei ddatblygu o'r Mesur, o ran rheoliadau a deddfwriaeth, y byddwn yn trefnu amser ar gyfer dadl. Ar hyn o bryd, ni welwn fantais cynnal dadl fanwl cyn i'r Mesur gwblhau ei broses seneddol, neu cyn i ni fod mewn sefyllfa i ystyried yr hyn a ddatblygwn ohono [AELODAU CEIDWADOL Y CYNULLIAD: 'A ydych yn deall y ddeddfwriaeth?'] Fodd

you understand the legislation?'] However, I give an undertaking that, as soon as is appropriate, I will schedule a debate to discuss this important matter. A copy of this statement will be posted on the intranet and the internet.

The Presiding Officer: Order. Do I detect an objection to the business statement? No? Then I ask for a comment on the business statement.

Jonathan Morgan: Minister, I e-mailed your official after the meeting and suggested that if the Government was content, my group was willing for our minority party debate next Tuesday to be rescheduled to make room for a debate on the Education Bill. I am astonished that we are unable to debate this important piece of legislation before it becomes law. We should debate the provisions in the Bill, and the powers to be given to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning to exercise on the Assembly's behalf. The Assembly has the right, as a devolved institution, to consider matters of relevance to Wales. There are Wales-specific clauses in the Bill and we should have the opportunity to debate them.

Andrew Davies: I do not want to repeat what I said in the business statement. We have promised a debate in due course, when we think it appropriate. Obviously you are, as a minority party, well within your rights to use your time to debate matters as you see fit. We have made our position clear; it is the best use of Government time and that is why we are proceeding in this way.

bynag, rhoddaf ymrwymiad y byddaf yn trefnu amser ar gyfer dadl er mwyn trafod y mater pwysig hwn cyn gynted ag y bo'n briodol. Cyhoeddir copi o'r datganiad hwn ar y fewnrwyd a'r rhyngrwyd.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. A wyf yn synhwyro gwrthwynebiad i'r datganiad busnes? Na? Gofynnaf felly am sylwadau ar y datganiad busnes.

Jonathan Morgan: Weinidog, anfonais e-bost i'ch swyddfa ar ôl y cyfarfod ac awgrymais, os byddai'r Llywodraeth yn fodlon, y byddai fy ngrŵp yn fodlon ad-drefnu ein dadl plaid leiafrifol ddydd Mawrth nesaf er mwyn gwneud lle i'r ddadl ar y Mesur Addysg. Yr wyf wedi fy syfrdanu na allwn gynnal dadl ar y darn pwysig hwn o ddeddfwriaeth cyn iddo ddod yn ddeddf. Dylem gynnal dadl ar y darpariaethau yn y Mesur, a'r pwerau a roddir i'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes i'w harfer ar ran y Cynulliad. Mae gan y Cynulliad yr hawl, fel sefydliad datganoledig, i ystyried materion sy'n berthnasol i Gymru. Ceir cymalau yn y Mesur sy'n benodol i Gymru a dylem gael y cyfre i gynnal dadl arnynt.

Andrew Davies: Nid wyf am ailadrodd yr hyn a ddywedais yn y datganiad busnes. Yr ydym wedi addo cynnal dadl cyn bo hir, pan gredwn y bydd yn briodol. Yn amlwg yr ydych, fel plaid leiafrifol, o fewn eich hawliau i ddefnyddio'ch amser i gynnal dadl ar faterion fel y gwelwch yn dda. Yr ydym wedi egluro ein safbwyt; dyma'r ffordd orau i ddefnyddio amser y Llywodraeth a dyna pam ein bod yn bwrw ati fel hyn.

Pwyntiau o Drefn Points of Order

Karen Sinclair: Point of order. As chair of the cross-party group on deaf issues, which has lobbied hard for the British sign language facilities being launched today, I would like to say that the group is delighted that this facility has finally been made available. This is a landmark day in terms of inclusivity and an example of Wales showing the way, which is important. BSL interpretation is not a matter of choice, but is essential for people

Karen Sinclair: Pwynt o drefn. Fel cadeirydd y grŵp trawsbleidiol ar faterion byddar, a lobiodd yn galed am y cyfleusterau ar gyfer yr iaith arwyddion Brydeinig a lansir heddiw, hoffwn ddweud fod y grŵp yn hynod falch fod y cyfleuster hwn ar gael o'r diwedd. Mae hon yn garreg filltir o ran cynhwysiant ac yn engraifft o Gymru yn arwain y ffordd, sy'n bwysig. Nid yw dehongli'r iaith arwyddion Brydeinig yn fater o ddewis, ond

whose first language is BSL. It is the only way for them to take part in proceedings, and the service will allow profoundly deaf people who use BSL unique access to our democratic process. It is a shining example and should be held up as such to the rest of Britain.

mae'n hanfodol i bobl y mae'r iaith arwyddion Brydeinig yn iaith gyntaf iddynt. Hon yw'r unig ffordd iddynt gymryd rhan yn y trafodion, a bydd y gwasanaeth yn galluogi pobl holol fyddar sy'n defnyddio'r iaith arwyddion Brydeinig i gael mynediad unigryw i'n proses ddemocrataidd. Mae'n enghraifft wych a dylai gweddill Prydain ei hystyried felly hefyd.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you for making that point, Karen, which is definitely a point of order. The service means that everyone can now follow our proceedings. I thank the House Committee for its deliberation on this matter, the cross-party group on deaf issues for raising it, and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, with which we have been co-operating. I hope that the six-month pilot scheme will prove to be successful, as I am sure it will. I hope that people will take advantage of this service by ensuring that they give us advance notice of their intention to use it, so that they can join us in our proceedings. I hope that it becomes a continuing part of the Assembly's interpretation. It is now the third language used to simultaneously translate and interpret proceedings in the Chamber.

Y Llywydd: Diolch am wneud y pwynt hwnnw, Karen, sy'n sicr yn bwynt o drefn. Golyga'r gwasanaeth y gall pawb yn awr ddilyn ein trafodion. Diolchaf i Bwyllgor y Tŷ am ei ystyriaeth ar y mater hwn, y grŵp trawsbleidiol ar faterion y byddar am ei godi, a Sefydliad Cenedlaethol Brenhinol y Byddar, y buom yn cydweithredu ag ef. Gobeithio y bydd y cynllun peilot chwe mis yn llwyddiant, fel yr wyf yn sicr y bydd. Gobeithiaf y bydd pobl yn manteisio ar y gwasanaeth hwn drwy sicrhau eu bod yn rhoi rhybudd ymlaen llaw i ni eu bod yn bwriadu ei ddefnyddio, fel y gallant ymuno â ni yn ein trafodion. Gobeithio y daw yn rhan barhaus o wasanaeth cyfieithu'r Cynulliad. Hon bellach yw'r drydedd iaith a ddefnyddir er mwyn cyfieithu ar y pryd a dehongli trafodion yn y Siambr.

Owen John Thomas: Ymhellach i bwynt o drefn a godais ddydd Iau diwethaf gyda'r Dirprwy Lywydd, hoffwn eich dyfarniad ar fy nghais i Dr Brian Gibbons ymddiheuro a thynnw yn ôl y geiriau sarhaus, anwireddus ac anghyflawn a ddefnyddiodd yn fy erbyn yn ystod dadl Plaid Cymru ar gyfiawnder i gymunedau'r meysydd glo. Mae Cofnod y Trafodion yn dangos yn glir fod sylwadau Dr Gibbons yn ffug a sarhaus, ac yn awgrymu'n gryf iddynt gael eu gwneud â bwriad maleisus. Ailadroddodd ei sylwadau byrbwyll y tu allan i'r Siambr o flaen tystion, ond gwerthfawrogaf nad mater ichi yw hynny. Os yw'n fodlon tynnu ei eiriau yn ôl yn ddiamond, ni fyddaf yn dwyn achos yn ei erbyn.

Owen John Thomas: Further to a point of order that I raised with the Deputy Presiding Officer last Thursday, I would like your ruling on my request that Dr Brian Gibbons apologise and withdraw the insulting, untrue and unjust remarks he made about me during Plaid Cymru's debate on justice for coalfield communities. The Record of Proceedings clearly shows that Dr Gibbons's comments were false and insulting, and strongly suggests that they were made with malicious intent. He repeated his rash comments outside the Chamber in the presence of witnesses, but I appreciate that that is not a matter for you. If he agrees to withdraw his remarks unconditionally, I will not bring a case against him.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi cael cyfle i astudio'r cofnod, a sylweddolaf y cynhaliwyd dadl fywiog ddydd Iau diwethaf. Serch hynny, yr oeddwn yn siomedig i weld bod Aelod wedi cyhuddo Aelod arall o hiliaeth senoffobig. Nid yw'r rheini yn eiriau sydd yn cyd-fynd â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.2 na'r

The Presiding Officer: I have had an opportunity to study the record, and I realise that a lively debate occurred last Thursday. However, I was disappointed to see that a Member accused another Member of xenophobic racism. Those words are not consistent with Standing Order No. 7.2 or the

Protocol ar Ymddygiad yn y Siambwr. Nid yw'n briodol defnyddio'r fath eiriau i ddisgrifio Aelodau. Egwyddor sylfaenol y protocol yw y disgwylir i Aelodau bob amser hyrwyddo parch tuag at y Cynulliad, a pharch a chwrteisi tuag at Aelodau eraill. Yr ydwyf o'r farn, ac felly yn dyfarnu, fod y geiriau dan sylw yn tynnau oddi wrth urddas y Cynulliad. Felly, gofynnaf i bob Aelod ystyried yn ofalus o hyn ymlaen sut y maent yn cydymffurfio â geiriau'r protocol, i drin ei gilydd yn gwrtais, ac i ddefnyddio iaith nad yw'n cael ei hystyried yn dramgyddol.

3:00 p.m.

Brian Gibbons: Further to that point of order, from your comments, you have read the exchanges that took place last week. You will be aware that, effectively, 20 minutes were spent on an attack, which, in substance, claimed that the coalfield communities in Wales were being placed at a serious disadvantage and discriminated against by the UK Labour Government. In concluding this 20 minute contribution, Owen John Thomas said:

'I conclude by calling on the Government to start representing Wales. If it does not ask for fair play for the miners, who will do so? The English are laughing at you, Rhodri.'

I took objection to that statement because I do not accept that a significant number of English people would take any satisfaction whatsoever from a policy that discriminated against Welsh coal mining communities. Equally, I do not accept, that even while there may be a small minority that may take perverse satisfaction in discrimination against Welsh mining communities, that that minority would be confined to England. Such minorities are likely to exist in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. I made my comments in that context.

I accept that the comments I heard were in translation. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Oh.'] I have been told by people who heard the comments in Welsh, without translation, that the meaning that they inferred from the

Protocol on Conduct in the Chamber. It is inappropriate to use such words to describe Members. The fundamental principle of the protocol is that Members are expected to promote respect towards the Assembly, and respect and courtesy towards other Members at all times. I am of the view, and therefore rule, that these remarks detract from the Assembly's dignity. Therefore, I ask every Member to carefully consider from now on how they comply with the wording of the protocol, to treat each other courteously and to use language that is not considered offensive.

Brian Gibbons: Ymhellach i'r pwynt o drefn hwnnw, yn dilyn eich sylwadau, yr ydych wedi darllen yr hyn a ddywedwyd yr wythnos diwethaf. Byddwch yn ymwybodol y treuliwyd 20 munud, i bob pwrpas, ar ymosodiad, a oedd, yn ei hanfod, yn honni bod Llywodraeth Lafur y DU yn rhoi cymunedau glofaol yng Nghymru o dan anfantais ddifrifol ac yn camwahaniaethu yn eu herbry. Wrth ddirwyn y cyfraniad 20 munud hwn i ben, dywedodd Owen John Thomas:

'Dof i ben drwy alw ar y Llywodraeth i ddechrau cynrychioli Cymru. Os nad y hi sy'n mynd i ofyn am chwarae teg i'r glowyr, pwy wnaiff hynny? Mae'r Saeson yn chwerthin am eich pen chi, Rhodri.'

Gwrthwynebais y datganiad hwnnw gan na dderbyniaf y byddai nifer sylweddol o Saeson yn cael unrhyw fodhad yn y byd o bolisi a gamwahaniaethai yn erbyn cymunedau glofaol Cymru. Yn yr un modd, er efallai fod lleiafrif bach yn cael boddhad gwirion o ran camwahaniaethu yn erbyn cymunedau glofaol Cymru, ni dderbyniaf mai yn Lloegr yn unig y byddai'r lleiafrif hwnnw. Mae lleiafrifoedd o'r fath yn debygol o fodoli yng Nghymru, yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon. Gwneuthum fy sylwadau yn y cyd-destun hwnnw.

Derbyniaf mai cyfieithiad oedd y sylwadau a glywais. [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'O.] Dywedwyd wrthyf gan bobl a glywodd y sylwadau yn Gymraeg, heb gyfieithiad, na ellid bod wedi dehongli yr hyn a ddeallais i

original Welsh could not be construed as having the same meaning that I took from the translation. In those circumstances, I have no hesitation in withdrawing my comments. However, I hope that you agree, Presiding Officer, that if my original interpretation was correct, such comments are entirely inappropriate in the National Assembly.

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful to you, Brian.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Ymhellach i'r pwynt o drefn hwnnw—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni chredaf fod unrhywbeth pellach i'w ddweud ar y pwynt o drefn hwn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Codaf bwynt o drefn arall yn deillio o'r hyn a ddywedodd Brian Gibbons.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid oes dim yn codi o hynny.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Mae'n ymwneud â chyfieithu, nid â'r pwynt o drefn blaenorol. Yr ydym yn ddibynnol yn y Cynulliad ar gyfieithu ar y pryd, ac mae o'r safon uchaf. Nid yw'n iawn i Aelodau geisio eu hesgusodi eu hunain drwy daflu bai ar y cyfieithu, sydd o'r safon uchaf. Yr oedd yr hyn a ddywedwyd yn y Gymraeg, ac yn y cyfieithiad, yn gwbl glir.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw hynny'n bwynt o drefn.

Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Addysg (Diwrnod Ysgol a Blwyddyn Ysgol) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2002
Approval of the Education (School Day and School Year)(Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002

Y Llywydd: O dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.25, ni chynhelir dadl ar y cynnig hwn.

The Minister for Assembly Business (Andrew Davies): I propose that

the National Assembly, acting under Standing Order No. 22.25,

o'r cyfieithiad yn y Gymraeg wreiddiol. O dan yr amgylchiadau hynny, tynnaf fy sylwadau'n ôl yn ddiymdroi. Fodd bynnag, gobeithio y cytunwch, Lywydd, pe bai fy nehongliad gwreiddiol yn gywir, y byddai sylwadau o'r fath yn gwbl amhriodol yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi, Brian.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Further to that point of order—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I do not think that there is anything more to say on this point of order.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I raise another point of order arising from what Brian Gibbons has said.

The Presiding Officer: Order. Nothing arises from that.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: It concerns translation, not with the previous point of order. We are dependent in the Assembly on simultaneous translation, and it is of the highest standard. It is not right for Members to try to excuse themselves by blaming the translation, which is of the highest standard. What was said in Welsh, and in translation, was perfectly clear.

The Presiding Officer: Order. That is not a point of order.

Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Addysg (Diwrnod Ysgol a Blwyddyn Ysgol) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2002
Approval of the Education (School Day and School Year)(Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002

The Presiding Officer: Under Standing Order No. 22.25, this motion is not subject to debate.

Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Cynigiaf fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan weithredu o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.25,

1. approves the Education (School Day and School Year) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002 laid in the Table Office on 11 December 2001; and
1. yn cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Addysg (y Diwrnod Ysgol a'r Flwyddyn Ysgol) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2002 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 11 Rhagfyr 2001; ac
2. considers the report of the Legislation Committee which has not identified any matters for concern in the draft Order, the Education (School Day and School Year) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002, laid in the Table Office on 8 January 2002. (NDM921)
2. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau nad yw'n nodi unrhyw fater sy'n destun pryder yn y Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Addysg (y Diwrnod Ysgol a'r Flwyddyn Ysgol) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2002, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 8 Ionawr 2002. (NDM921)

Cynnig: O blaid 52, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion: For 52, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter

Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 3.02 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 3.02 p.m.*

Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ar Addysg Uwch The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee's Review of Higher Education

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have a list of 20 speakers for this debate. Following the opening speeches, there will be a three-minute limit on all speakers and I will be strict in enforcing that.

Cynog Dafis: Cynigiaf fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes o'r enw 'Adolygiad Polisi o Addysg Uwch', a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Ionawr 2002. (NDM922)

Dyma un o'r adroddiadau pwysicaf i'w cyflwyno i'r Cynulliad. Yn groes i'r arfer, fe ddechreuauf gyda'r diolchiadau. Diolchaf i'r canlynol: aelodau'r Pwyllgor; y clerc a'i dim am eu hymroddiad a'u gwaith caled; y tystion arbenigol a ddaeth gerbron y Pwyllgor; yr ymgynghorydd arbenigol, Les Hobson, a weithiodd yn eithriadol o galed; a'r llu o bobl a sefydliadau a gyflwynodd dystiolaeth. Diolchaf yn arbennig i'r sector addysg uwch ac i Addysg Uwch Cymru, a ffurfiodd weithgorau i gyflwyno dystiolaeth ar y themâu allweddol. Fe gyflwynodd un gweithgor syniad a ddaeth yn un o argymhellion allweddol yr adroddiad. Gwerthfawrogwn yn fawr gyfraniad AUC i'r broses.

Beth bynnag a ddywedir am yr adroddiad, bu proses yr adolygiad polisi yn dra gwerthfawr. Byddai wedi bod yn amhosibl heb ddatganoli ac heb fodolaeth y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Ni fu'r adolygiad yn gwbl esmwyth, a chafwyd rhai anghytundebau. Cofnodir y

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae gennyf restr o 20 o siaradwyr ar gyfer y ddadl hon. Yn dilyn yr areithiau agoriadol, bydd cyfyngiad o dri munud ar bob siaradwr a byddaf yn gorfodi hynny'n llym.

Cynog Dafis: I propose that

the National Assembly notes the report of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee entitled, 'Policy Review of Higher Education', which was laid in the Table Office on 14 January 2002. (NDM922)

This is one of the most important reports to be presented to the Assembly. Contrary to the usual custom, I will start with thanks. I thank the Committee members; the clerk and his team for their commitment and hard work; the expert witnesses who appeared before the Committee; the expert adviser, Les Hobson, who worked extremely hard; and the many people and organisations that submitted evidence. I thank in particular the higher education sector and Higher Education Wales, which established working groups to submit evidence on the key themes. One working group presented an idea that became one of the report's key recommendations. We greatly appreciate HEW's contribution to the process.

Whatever is said about the report, the policy review process was extremely valuable. It would have been impossible without devolution and the existence of the National Assembly. The review did not go entirely smoothly, and there were some

rheini yn atodiad 8 i'r adroddiad. Cafwyd ambell storm ar hyd y daith, ond daethom drwyddyt yn ddianaf.

Fy ngwaith y prynhawn yma yw pwysleisio gymaint o gonsensws a gafwyd a rhoi blas i chi o'r hyn yr oedd unfrydedd yn ei gylch. Un mater o'r fath oedd pwysigrwydd y pwnc. Yn wir, penderfynodd y Pwyllgor ystyried dyfodol addysg uwch oherwydd ein bod yn sylweddoli ei arwyddocâd i ddyfodol y genedl. Hefyd, mae'r sector yn wynebu nifer o heriau yn yr oes hon o newid carlamus. Mae'r rheini'n cynnwys globaleiddio, datblygiad technoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu a, thrwy hynny, dwf dysgu o bell. Erbyn hyn, mae corfforaethau, cwmnïau a phrifysgolion mawr rhyngwladol yn darparu addysg uwch drwy ddysgu o bell. Bu twf mawr yn y galw, ac mae hefyd ddisgwyliadau newydd. Dywedodd AUC wrthym mai nod addysg uwch ddylai fod i helpu pobl i ddysgu'r hyn y maent eisiau, ble y maent eisiau, pryd y maent eisiau, gan ddefnyddio amrywiaeth o ddulliau a thechnolegau a chan ddefnyddio system hyblyg o astudio. Yn ogystal, rhaid i'r sector ffynnu mewn cyd-destun mwyfwy cystadleuol a byd-eang.

Cyflawnodd sector addysg uwch Cymru lawer, gan gynnwys dysgu o safon uchel, llwyddiant gwell na'r rhelyw i ddenu myfyrwyr o gefndiroedd difreintiedig, a chynnydd sylweddol yn safon a swmp ymchwil, fel y dengys yr asesiad ymchwil diweddaraf. Mae'n sector mawr, sy'n addysgu 6 y cant o fyfyrwyr y Deyrnas Gyfunol. Mae hanner y myfyrwyr yn dod o Loegr a thu hwnt, tra bo hanner myfyrwyr Cymru yn mynd i Loegr a thu hwnt.

Fodd bynnag, mae'r sector yn wynebu sawl her hefyd. Dim ond 3 y cant o gyllid y cynghorau ymchwil a gaiff Cymru, tra bo'r Alban, lle mae 9 y cant o boblogaeth y Deyrnas Gyfunol yn byw, yn cael 12.4 y cant. Mae hefyd ddifffyg cysylltiad ag anghenion Cymru. Er bod y sector yn fawr, mae Cymru ar ei hôl hi o ran dangosyddion sylfaenol economi gwybodaeth, sef ymchwil a datblygu. Mae pryder hefyd ynghylch cadernid ariannol a chystadleurwydd nifer

disagreements. They are noted in annex 8 to the report. There were one or two storms along the way, but we came through them unscathed.

My task this afternoon is to stress how much consensus was achieved and give you an idea of the issues on which we there was unanimity. One such issue was the importance of the subject. Indeed, the Committee decided to consider the future of higher education because we realised its significance to the future of the nation. Also, the sector is facing several challenges in this age of rapid change. These include globalisation, developments in information and communications technology and, as a result, the growth of distance learning. Large international corporations, companies and universities now provide higher education through distance learning. There has been a large increase in demand, and there are also new expectations. HEW told us that the aim of higher education should be to help people to learn what they want, where they want, when they want, using a variety of methods and technologies and a flexible system of learning. The sector must also prosper in an increasingly competitive and global context.

Wales's higher education sector has achieved much, including high quality teaching, more success than most in attracting students from disadvantaged backgrounds and a substantial increase in the quality and amount of research, as the latest research assessment shows. It is a large sector, which educates 6 per cent of UK students. Half the students come from England and beyond, while half of Wales's students go to England and beyond.

However, the sector also faces several challenges. Wales only receives 3 per cent of the funding from research councils, while Scotland, which has 9 per cent of the UK's population, receives 12.4 per cent. There is also a failure to connect with Wales's needs. Even though it is a large sector, Wales is lagging behind in terms of the basic indicators of the knowledge economy, namely research and development. There is also concern about the financial stability and

o'n sefydliadau. I ryw raddau, mae hynny'n gysylltiedig â chostau uchel sefydliadau bach. Dychwelaf at fater arian cyn cloi, gan ei fod yn fater tyngedfennol a godwyd dro ar ôl tro yn ystod yr adolygiad.

3:10 p.m.

Yn ôl cylch gorchwyl yr adolygiad, ei bwrrpas yw:

'Nodi gweledigaeth ar gyfer addysg uwch yng Nghymru a sut y dylai wasanaethu anghenion y wlad, a datblygu strategaeth dymor hir i wneud y gorau o gyfraniad y sector.'

I grynhoi, y pwrrpas oedd nodi gweledigaeth, gwasanaethu anghenion a datblygu strategaeth tymor hir, ac yr oedd teimlad bod gan y Cynulliad rôl gyfreithlon yn y materion hynny.

Pa fath o strategaeth, felly? Trof at rai o'r elfennau a'r blaenoraiethau. Mae angen mwy o gydweithio a rhwydweithio rhwng ein sefydliadau er mwyn cynyddu effeithlonrwydd a goresgyn annarbodion maint bychan; darparu helaethach dewis; codi safonau dysgu ac ymchwil; creu'r hyder i gystadlu yn y farchnad fydd-eang; ac i sefydlu partneriaethau ar draws y byd, fel sydd yn digwydd yn gynyddol y dyddiau hyn.

Hwylusir rhwydweithio a chydweithio gan y chwyldro technoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathebru. Mae angen cydlynú a chydweithio er mwyn datblygu'r rhwydwaith dechnoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu ar raddfa genedlaethol, a fydd, yn ei dro, yn hwyluso mwy o gydweithio a rhwydweithio.

Sut, felly, ym marn y Pwyllgor, y mae hyrwyddo'r cydweithio? Yn gyntaf, gallwn wneud hynny drwy weithredu ar un o argymhellion AUC ei hun, a ddatblygwyd ymhellach, fel y deallwn, mewn trafodaethau â Chyngor Cyllido Addysg Bellach Cymru, sef creu clystyrau o sefydliadau. Byddai clystyrau rhanbarthol a fyddai'n cydweithio'n agos â sefydliadau addysg bellach, a chlystyrau swyddogaethol, yn aml ar draws y wlad.

competitiveness of several of our institutions. To some extent, that is associated with the high costs of small institutions. I will return to the issue of money before closing, as it is a crucial issue that was often raised during the review.

According to the review's terms of reference, its purpose is:

'To identify a vision for higher education in Wales and how it should serve the country's needs, and to develop a long-term strategy for optimising the sector's contribution.'

In short, the purpose was to identify a vision, to serve needs and develop a long-term strategy, and there was a feeling that the Assembly has a legitimate role in these matters.

What kind of strategy, therefore? I turn to some of the elements and priorities. There is a need for more collaboration and networking between our institutions in order to increase effectiveness and overcome the diseconomies of small scale; to provide a wider choice; to raise standards in teaching and research; to create the confidence to compete in the global market; and to establish partnerships across the world, as is happening increasingly these days.

Networking and collaboration are facilitated by the revolution in information and communications technology. We need to co-ordinate and collaborate in order to develop an ICT network on a national scale, which will, in turn, facilitate more collaboration and networking.

How, therefore, in the Committee's opinion, should we promote this collaboration? First, we can do that by acting upon one of Higher Education Wales's own recommendations, which was further developed, we understand, in discussions with the Further Education Funding Council for Wales, namely to create clusters of institutions. There would be regional clusters that would work closely with further education institutions, and functional clusters, often across the country.

Ym marn y Pwyllgor, mae cydweithio felly yn arwain at bosibiliadau cyffrous, ar gyfer cyfuno dysgu wyneb yn wyneb â dysgu o bell, er enghraift. Gall fod rhwystrau lu i gydweithio, ac yr ydym wedi clywed am y rheini, ond ym marn y Pwyllgor, rhwystrau i'w goresgyn ydynt a phroblemau i'w datrys. Nid oes neb gwell, wedi'r cyfan, i ddatrys problemau na rhai o'n datryswyr problemau mwyaf disgrair: staff ein sefydliadau addysg uwch.

Yr ail ffordd o hyrwyddo cydweithio yw drwy gael corff i arwain y ffordd ac i gydlyn. Ystyriodd y Pwyllgor ddau bosiblwydd ar gyfer hyn: Prifysgol Cymru a Chyngor Cyllido Addysg Bellach Cymru. Daethom yn fuan i'r casgliad mai dim ond y cyngor cyllido, am resymau amlwg, a allai wneud hynny. Gallai wneud hyn, nid drwy dra awdurdodi, a dweud y drefn—dyna un ffordd sicr o fethu—ond drwy arwain, annog, a hwyluso gyda deialog a chyd-drafod, a chan ddefnyddio cymhellianau priodol. Yr ydym o'r farn y dylai'r cyngor cyllido gael rôl strategol, ac y dylid sicrhau deddfwriaeth i'r pwrpas hwnnw.

Yng nghylch dyfodol Prifysgol Cymru, mae'r Pwyllgor yn argymhell—ac yr wyf yn dyfynnu,

‘Y dylai Gweinidog y Cynulliad...CCAUC ac AUC gychwyn deialog gyda Phrifysgol Cymru er mwyn adolygu'n feirniadol briodoldeb strwythur presennol Prifysgol Cymru.’

Defnyddir y gair ‘beirniadol’, nid yn yr ystyr o golffarn, ond fel yn yr ymadrodd ‘beirniadaeth lenyddol’, hynny yw, darganfod y cryfderau a gwendidau, a dadansoddi er mwyn ystyried y materion hyn.

Nid wyf am siarad am y dadleuon sydd wedi bod yn cyniwar ac yn cylchdroi ers cyhoeddi'r adroddiad wythnos yn ôl, dros gadw gradd Prifysgol Cymru, a'r egwyddor ffederal. Digon yw dweud fod y ddeialog y mae'r Pwyllgor yn galw amdani yn rhoi cyfle i wyntyllu'r dadleuon hynny yn llawn, a'u profi, ac i'r partneriaid i gyd gymryd rhan yn y ddeialog honno.

In the Committee's opinion, such co-operation offers exciting possibilities for combining face-to-face learning with distance learning, for example. There may be numerous obstacles to co-operation, and we have heard about those, but the Committee believes that these are obstacles to be overcome and problems to be solved. There is no-one better, after all, at solving problems than some of our brightest problem solvers: the staff of our higher education institutions.

The second way to promote collaboration is to have a body to lead the way and co-ordinate. The Committee considered two possibilities for this: the University of Wales and the Further Education Funding Council for Wales. We quickly concluded that only the funding council, for obvious reasons, could do this. It could do this, not by being over-authoritative, and laying down the law—that is one sure way to fail—but by leading, encouraging and facilitating through dialogue and discussion, and using appropriate incentives. We believe that the funding council should have a strategic role and that legislation should be introduced for that purpose.

On the future of the University of Wales, the Committee recommends—and I quote,

‘That the Assembly Minister...HEFCW and HEW should enter into dialogue with the University of Wales to critically review the appropriateness of the present University of Wales structure.’

The word ‘critically’ is used, not in condemnation, but as in the phrase ‘literary criticism’, namely, to discover the strengths and weaknesses, and to analyse in order to consider these issues.

I do not want to comment on the arguments that have been rumbling on since the publication of the review a week ago, about retaining the University of Wales degree, and the federal principle. Suffice to say that the dialogue for which the Committee calls provides the opportunity for these arguments to be fully aired, and for all partners to take part in that dialogue.

Yr wyf am gyfeirio'n fyr at un pryder a fynegwyd dros y dyddiau diwethaf, sef bod yr adroddiad yn ffafrio Caerdydd a'r Deddwyrain, yn enwedig ym maes ymchwil. Nid oedd dim ymhellach o fwriad y Pwyllgor. Gwneir ymchwil disgrair, crystal â'r gorau yn y byd, ym mhob rhan o Gymru, ac mae'n rhaid i hynny barhau a datblygu ymhellach. Mae model y clystyrau, ac yn enwedig yr argymhelliaid i sefydlu canolfannau rhagoriaeth ac unedau ymchwil embryonig, yn fod o hwyluso a sierhau hynny.

Trof at rai o'r prif themâu eraill. Ynghylch ehangu mynediad, cafwyd unfrydedd yn y Pwyllgor fod angen ymgyrch gref a strategaeth i sierhau mynediad i addysg uwch i grwpiau sydd wedi'u tangynrychioli yn y gorffennol, o ran dosbarth cymdeithasol, difreintedd, hil a methedigedd. Ni wnaiff y tro os bydd y math o ehangu y mae Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Gyfunol am ei weld—hyd at 50 y cant o bobl ifanc yn derbyn addysg uwch erbyn 2010—yn atgynhyrchu'r gwahaniaethau cymdeithasol sy'n nodweddu'r sector ar hyn o bryd. Mae'r Pwyllgor am i'r cyngor cyllido arwain ar hyn drwy gydlynu strategaethau ehangu mynediad ar draws y sector.

Mae'r adroddiad yn datgan cefnogaeth gref y Pwyllgor i argymhellion y grŵp cyni ymysg myfyrwyr a gadeiriwyd gan Teresa Rees ac a sefydlwyd gan y Gweinidog. Mae'r Pwyllgor yn cytuno bod patrwm presennol y ddarpariaeth ariannol i fyfyrwyr yn tueddu i allgáu myfyrwyr sydd dan anfantais a bod angen gweithredu ar hynny.

Ym mhennod gyntaf yr adroddiad, mae'r Pwyllgor yn datgan ei gefnogaeth i ddiffiniad yr Arglwydd Dearing o'r hyn y dylai addysg uwch geisio ei gyflawni. Mae'n ddiffiniad gwaraiidd ac eang, sy'n rhoi'r lle cyntaf i ddysg fel modd o ryddhau potensial yr unigolyn ac fel rhywbeth sy'n werthfawr ynddo'i hun. Fodd bynnag, mae hefyd yn cyfeirio at feithrin diwylliant unigryw a'i werthoedd. Yr wyf yn cymryd bod yr iaith Gymraeg yn gynwysedig yn hynny.

Ynghylch yr iaith, cafwyd ymrafael, fel y gwyddoch, ond mae'r Pwyllgor yn gytûn

I want to refer briefly to one concern that has been expressed over the past few days, namely that the report favours Cardiff and the South-east, especially in terms of research. Nothing was further from the Committee's intent. Excellent, world-class research is carried out in all parts of Wales, and that must continue and develop further. The cluster model, and especially the recommendation to establish centres of excellence and embryonic research units, is a way of facilitating and ensuring that.

I turn to some of the other main themes. On widening access, there was unanimity within the Committee that we need a strong campaign and strategy to provide access to higher education for groups that have been under-represented in the past, with regard to social class, disadvantage, race and disability. It will not do if the kind of expansion that the United Kingdom Government wishes to see—up to 50 per cent of young people receiving higher education by 2010—reproduces the social differences that are a feature of the sector at present. The Committee wants the funding council to take a lead on this by co-ordinating strategies for widening access across the sector.

The report states the Committee's strong support for the recommendations of the student hardship group chaired by Teresa Rees and established by the Minister. The Committee agrees that the present pattern of financial provision for students tends to exclude disadvantaged students and that we must act on that.

In the first chapter of the report, the Committee expresses its support for Lord Dearing's definition of what higher education should seek to accomplish. It is a civilised and broad definition, which states that education should be, above all else, a means of releasing the individual's potential and should be something that is valuable in itself. However, he also refers to nurturing a distinctive culture and its values. I assume that the Welsh language is included in that.

On the language, there was some disagreement, as you know, but the

ynglŷn â'r angen i gynyddu a datblygu defnydd o'r Gymraeg fel cyfrwng dysgu, yng ngoleuni argymhellion bwrdd cyfrwng Cymraeg Prifysgol Cymru. Lleiafrif o'r Pwyllgor yn unig oedd am weld astudiaeth bellach o argymhelliad Dafydd Glyn Jones ar goleg ffederal Cymraeg.

Mae Dearing hefyd yn cyfeirio at gyfraniad addysg uwch i ddatblygu'r economi. Mae'r Pwyllgor o'r farn bod hyn yn elfen allweddol o'r rôl y sector. Mae'n cefnogi galwad David Rowe-Beddoe, ar ran Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, am gynyddu'r drydedd genhadaeth hon, a'i alwad am strategaeth genedlaethol yn y maes yn lle'r hyn yr oedd yn ei alw'n gyfraniad tameidiol ar hyn o bryd. Yr oedd y Pwyllgor hefyd yn cefnogi'r alwad am ddull cylrido mwy cyson a dibynadwy a lleihad mewn cylrido pot jam—ac nid ym maes datblygu economaidd yn unig.

Trof at gyllid. Dro ar ôl tro, mynegwyd pryder am y ffaith fod bwlch wedi agor o ran cyllid y pen—yr uned adnoddau, fel y'i gelwir—rhwng Cymru a Lloegr, ac yn enwedig rhwng Cymru a'r Alban. Mae'r bwlch rhwng Cymru a'r Alban gymaint â 22 y cant. Cyflwynodd y Gweinidog a'r cyngor cylrido ffigurau inni sy'n dangos bod y bwlch cylrido rhwng Cymru a Lloegr wedi cau erbyn 2001-02. Dadleuodd eraill fod y bwlch yn arbennig o arwyddocaol mewn rhai disgylachaethau, yn enwedig y gwyddorau, technoleg a pherianeg, sy'n allweddol er mwyn sefydlu economi gwybodaeth.

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn datgan yn ddiamwys fod yn rhaid i'r uned adnoddau yng Nghymru fod o leiaf gyfwch ag y mae yn Lloegr, ac y dylai'r bwlch rhwng Cymru a'r Alban gael ei leihau dros amser. Heb hynny, ni fydd yn bosibl rhoi sylwedd i weledigaeth y Pwyllgor am sector addysg uwch sy'n cyfrannu'n llawn i fywyd Cymru ac yn cymryd ei le ar y llwyfan rhwngwladol gyda'r gorau yn y byd.

I gloi ar nodyn mwy cadarnhaol, mae argymhellion y Pwyllgor yn cyflwyno'r posibilrwydd o strategaeth genedlaethol i addysg uwch am y tro cyntaf yn hanes

Committee is agreed on the need to increase and develop use of the Welsh language as a medium of teaching, in the light of the recommendations made by the University of Wales's board of Welsh-medium teaching. Only a minority of the Committee wanted a further study of Dafydd Glyn Jones's recommendations on a Welsh language federal college.

Dearing also refers to higher education's contribution to developing the economy. The Committee believes that this is a key element of the sector's role. It supports David Rowe-Beddoe's call, on behalf of the Welsh Development Agency, that this third mission be increased, and his call for a national strategy in the field rather than what he called a fragmentary contribution at present. The Committee also supported the call for a more consistent and reliable funding method and a reduction in jam pot funding—and not only in the field of economic development.

I turn to funding. Time after time, concern was expressed about the fact that a gap had appeared in per capita funding—the unit of resource, as it is called—between Wales and England, and in particular between Wales and Scotland. The gap between Wales and Scotland is as much as 22 per cent. The Minister and the funding council provided us with figures to show that the funding gap between Wales and England had closed by 2001-02. Others argued that the gap was especially significant in some disciplines, particularly the sciences, technology and engineering, which are fundamental to establishing the knowledge economy.

The Committee states unequivocally that the unit of resource in Wales should be at least as high as it is in England, and that the gap between Wales and Scotland should be reduced over time. Without that, it will not be possible to give substance to the Committee's vision of a higher education sector that makes a full contribution to Welsh life and takes its place on the international stage with the best in the world.

To close on a more positive note, the Committee's recommendations present the possibility of a national strategy for higher education for the first time in the history of

Cymru. Gall y strategaeth honno wneud addysg uwch yn elfen allweddol yn yr anturiaeth genedlaethol, sef y rheswm dros sefydlu'r Cynulliad. Gwaith yr holl bartneriaid—Llywodraeth Cymru, y cyngor cyllico, a'r sefydliadau addysg uwch, yn anad neb—yw rhoi'r strategaeth at ei gilydd a'i gweithredu â gweledigaeth ac ymroddiad.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): I welcome the Committee's review before us today. I am grateful for the hard work of Cynog, as Chair, and of members of the Committee in taking forward such a daunting task.

This is a wide-ranging review that deals specifically and comprehensively with the underlying shortcomings and opportunities for higher education in Wales. I have been impressed by the degree of consultation undertaken by the Committee. The Committee has sought informed opinion from the sector and from other interested bodies. I am pleased that the Committee has actively sought examples of best practice from elsewhere in the UK as well as in Wales. We must ensure that our higher education systems are among the best in the world.

3:20 p.m.

This is an ideal time for a review of higher education in Wales. The sector is faced with many new challenges: huge advances in technology; extending participation; and the need to exploit the sector's potential contribution to the wider economy. These will lead to our working methods for teaching, learning and researching being reshaped. We must strive for excellence in them all.

I have repeatedly expressed this Government's commitment to higher education; that commitment that is also stressed in the partnership agreement. Our commitment is evident in our investment in higher education since 1999. The unit of resource in Wales is now almost equal to that of England, although I acknowledge that we still have a mountain to climb in relation with Scotland.

Wales. That strategy can make higher education a key feature in the national adventure, the very reason for establishing the Assembly. The task of all the partners—the Government of Wales, the funding council, and the higher education institutions, more than anybody else—is to draw the strategy together and implement it with vision and commitment.

Y Gweinidog Dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Croesawaf adolygiad y Pwyllgor sydd o'n blaen heddiw. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Cynog, fel Cadeirydd, am ei waith caled ac i aelodau'r Pwyllgor am ddatblygu tasg mor frawychus.

Mae hwn yn adolygiad eang ei gwmpas sy'n ymdrin yn benodol ac yn gynhwysfawr â diffygion a chyfleoedd sylfaenol addysg uwch yng Nghymru. Y mae graddau'r ymgynghori yr ymgymerwyd ag ef gan y Pwyllgor wedi creu argraff arnaf. Ceisiodd y Pwyllgor farn hyddysg y sector a chyrff eraill sydd â diddordeb. Mae'n dda gennyf fod y Pwyllgor wedi bod wrthi'n chwilio am enghreifftiau o arfer gorau o fannau eraill yn y DU yn ogystal ag yng Nghymru. Rhaid i ni sierhau bod ein systemau addysg uwch ymhlihyd y gorau yn y byd.

Mae hon yn adeg ddelfrydol i gynnal adolygiad o addysg uwch yng Nghymru. Wyneba'r sector lawer o heriau newydd: datblygiadau enfawr mewn technoleg, ymestyn cyfranogiad; a'r angen i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar gyfraniad posibl y sector i'r economi ehangach. Bydd y rhain yn arwain at ail-lunio ein dulliau o weithio ar gyfer addysgu, dysgu ac ymchwilio. Rhaid i ni ymgynraedd at ragoriaeth ynddynt i gyd.

Yr wyf wedi mynegi drosodd a thro ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth hon i addysg uwch; pwysleisir yr ymrwymiad hwnnw hefyd yn y cytundeb partneriaeth. Gwelir ein hymrwymiad yn amlwg yn ein buddsoddiad mewn addysg uwch ers 1999. Mae'r uned adnodd yng Nghymru erbyn hyn bron yn gyfartal â'r hyn ydyw yn Lloegr, er fy mod yn cydnabod bod gennym fynydd i'w ddringo o hyd o'i gymharu â'r Alban.

This review provides a solid platform that will inform the Welsh Assembly Government's higher education strategy, which will shape the sector's future. I have been part of the Committee and have listened to all the views expressed during the review. We face a challenging time and will only succeed if we proceed in the spirit of true partnership with the sector. I look to the close involvement of the sector in the eventual implementation of the strategy.

Dafydd Wigley: Will you give way?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. The Minister is not giving way.

Jane Davidson: Education is key to Wales's success and higher education must be in tune with the evolving needs of employers as well as those of students. The higher education sector, and the institutions within it, must be as dynamic and attractive as possible in order to compete successfully for students and resources. The sector needs to tailor learning to meet the needs of business and the community. This review provides a foundation upon which to build our blueprint.

The review proposed a set of recommendations. I do not propose to respond to those recommendations today—they will be addressed when I announce my strategy for higher education shortly. However, I acknowledge the improvements that have already taken place in the sector—

Dafydd Wigley: Is the Minister answerable to the Chamber?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Jane is not giving way. She has every right not to give way and she must be heard.

Dafydd Wigley: Point of order. As the Minister is answerable to the Chamber, would it not be at least courteous for her to give way to some questions when she opens a debate?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: It is within the Minister's rights to read her speech and not give way. It is my duty to ensure that she is heard.

Mae'r adolygiad hwn yn darparu llwyfan cadarn a fydd yn llywio strategaeth addysg uwch Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, a fydd yn llunio dyfodol y sector. Yr wyf wedi bod yn rhan o'r Pwyllgor a gwrandewais ar yr holl farnau a fynegwyd yn ystod yr adolygiad. Wynebwn amser heriol a byddwn ond yn llwyddo osawn ymlaen mewn ysbryd o wir bartneriaeth gyda'r sector. Disgwyliaf weld ymwneud agos y sector yn ngweithrediad y strategaeth yn y pen draw.

Dafydd Wigley: A ildiwrch?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid yw'r Gweinidog yn ildio.

Jane Davidson: Mae addysg yn allweddol i lwyddiant Cymru a rhaid i addysg uwch fod mewn cytgord ag anghenion newydd cyflogwyr yn ogystal ag anghenion myfyrwyr. Rhaid i'r sector addysg uwch, a'r sefydliadau ynddo, fod mor ddeinamig ac atyniadol â phosibl er mwyn cystadlu'n llwyddiannus am fyfyrwyr ac adnoddau. Mae angen i'r sector deilwra'r dysgu i ddiwallu anghenion busnes a'r gymuned. Rhydd yr adolygiad hwn sylfaen y gallwn adeiladu ein glasbrint arno.

Cynigiodd yr adolygiad set o argymhellion. Nid wyf yn bwriadu ymateb i'r argymhellion hynny heddiw—af i'r afael â hwy pan gyhoeddaf fy strategaeth ar gyfer addysg uwch yn fuan. Fodd bynnag, cydnabyddaf y gwelliannau sydd eisoes wedi digwydd yn y sector—

Dafydd Wigley: A yw'r Gweinidog yn atebol i'r Siambwr?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid yw Jane yn ildio. Mae ganddi bob hawl i beidio ag ildio a rhaid iddi gael gwrandawriad.

Dafydd Wigley: Pwynt o drefn. Gan fod y Gweinidog yn atebol i'r Siambwr, oni fyddai o leiaf yn gwreisi ar ei rhan i ildio i rai cwestiynau wrth iddi agor dadl?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae gan y Gweinidog yr hawl i ddarllen ei haraith ac i beidio ag ildio. Fy nyletswydd innau yw sicrhau ei bod yn cael gwrandawriad.

Jane Davidson: Our institutions have made great strides. The recently announced results of the research assessment exercise 2001 revealed a magnitude of overall improvement that far exceeded what was forecast even a year ago. Who could have predicted the fourfold increase in the number of 5* grades, from 3 in 1996 to 12 in 2001; the near doubling, from 18 to 34, in the number of 5 grades and the increase in the number of departments rated 4, 5 or 5* by more than one third, from 60 to 84? These achievements are shared across Wales.

These are no mean achievements, and I am sure you will agree that all those who were instrumental in achieving them deserve our congratulations and thanks. With that in mind, I am delighted to announce that we will make an extra £6 million available as a one-off sum this academic year to enable the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales to fully reward the sector's outstanding achievement in the research assessment exercise 2001. By working increasingly closer together, I hope that the Welsh Assembly Government, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and the sector will be better able to achieve our shared ambition of earning Wales an international reputation for the excellence of its academic research base.

Advances have also been made in attracting those who have no history of higher education into our institutions. I was heartened, as I am sure was every Assembly Member, to see this success acknowledged in *The Times Higher Education Supplement's* access elite table, published last week. It placed six of our institutions in the top 18, out of around 170 in the UK. They were ranked for simultaneously widening access, achieving low dropout rates and excellence in research and teaching. It is only right that this success should be praised. We are among the best in the UK in terms of access and excellence and we must build on our excellent track record. The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to ensuring that everyone who has the ability to benefit from higher education has the opportunity to do so, whether they choose to study in Wales, the

Jane Davidson: Mae ein sefydliadau wedi gwneud camau breision. Datgelodd canlyniadau ymarferiad asesu ymchwil 2001 a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar gymaint o welliant cyffredinol a wnaed a oedd yn llawer iawn mwy na'r hyn a broffwydwyd hyd yn oed flwyddyn yn ôl. Pwy fyddai wedi gallu rhagweld y cynnydd bedair gwaith drosodd yn nifer y graddau 5*, o 3 yn 1996 i 12 yn 2001; y dyblu bron, o 18 i 34, yn nifer y graddau 5 a'r cynnydd o ragor na thraean yn nifer yr adrannau a gafodd eu graddio'n 4, 5 neu 5*, o 60 i 84? Rhennir y cyflawniadau hyn ar draws Cymru.

Nid yw'r rhain yn gyflawniadau dibwys, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch fod pawb a chwaraeodd ran yn eu cyflawni yn haeddu ein llongyfarchion a'n diolch. O gofio hynny, mae'n dda iawn gennyf gyhoeddi y byddwn yn rhoi £6 miliwn ychwanegol fel swm, unwaith ac am byth, yn y flwyddyn academaidd hon i Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru i wobrwyd y sector yn llawn am gyflawniad ardderchog yn yr ymarferiad asesu ymchwil 2001. Drwy weithio'n gynyddol agosach gyda'i gilydd, gobeithiaf y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, Cyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru a'r sector yn gallu cyflawni'n well ein gobaith cyffredin o ennill enw rhwngwladol i Gymru am ragoriaeth ei sylfaen ymchwil academaidd.

Gwnaed cynnydd hefyd yn y gwaith o ddenu'r rhai hynny sydd heb hanes o addysg uwch i mewn i'n sefydliadau. Fe'm calonogwyd, fel y calonogwyd pob Aelod Cynulliad mae'n siŵr, i weld y llwyddiant hwn yn cael ei gydnabod yn nhabl y goreoun ar gyfer mynediad *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, a gyhoeddwyd yr wythnos diwethaf. Gosododd chwech o'n sefydliadau yn yr 18 uchaf, allan o tua 170 yn y DU. Fe'u rhestrwyd yn ôl y modd y llwyddwyd ar yr un pryd i ehangu mynediad, i gyflawni ffigurau gadael cyrsiau isel ac am ragoriaeth mewn ymchwil ac addysg. Mae ond yn deg y caiff y llwyddiant hwn ei ganmol. Yr ydym ymhli y gorau yn y DU o ran mynediad a rhagoriaeth a rhaid i ni adeiladau ar ein record ardderchog yn y maes. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi ymrwymo i sicrhau y caiff pawb sydd

UK or elsewhere.

I also mention our comparative success in commercialising the knowledge in our institutions. The United Kingdom is second only to the United States in maximising commercial gain from higher education.

We must sing the praises of these developments, but we must not rest on our laurels. We need a more strategic and structured approach to higher education in Wales. Higher education institutions are improving, and we must ensure that Welsh higher education institutions are up with the best. Our task is to build on the successes so far and ensure that our actions lead to a process of continuous improvement for all our higher education institutions, wherever they are in Wales. I will present my strategy for higher education in Wales to the Chamber in the near future.

Dafydd Wigley: I am grateful to the Minister for giving way. Representatives from the University of Wales, Bangor raised concerns with several Members last week about two statements. The first referred to a research-led cluster being based at Cardiff University and the University of Wales College of Medicine, with the implication that research at other centres will possibly be excluded. You will understand the concern about that. The other point concerns the facilitation of a teaching-led cluster based at the University of Glamorgan, University of Wales Institute, Cardiff and the University of Wales College Newport to promote widening access to e-learning and the provision of all disciplines across Wales through a network of further education franchise colleges. There is concern that that will centralise these facilities at the University of Glamorgan and the other two institutions to the exclusion of Bangor and other places. Will you give assurance on those issues?

Jane Davidson: I am grateful for your patience, which ensured that I did what I needed to do in my time, before I took your intervention.

â'r gallu i elwa o addysg uwch y cyfle i wneud hynny, pa un a fyddant yn dewis astudio yng Nghymru, y DU neu rywle arall.

Soniaf hefyd am ein llwyddiant cymharol wrth fasnacheiddio ein gwybodaeth yn ein sefydliadau. Mae'r Deyrnas Gyfunol yn ail i'r Unol Daleithiau yn unig wrth fanteisio i'r graddau eithaf ar elwa'n fasnachol o addysg uwch.

Rhaid inni ganu clodydd y datblygiadau hyn, ond ni ddylem orffwys ar ein rhwyfau. Y mae angen ymagwedd fwy strategol a strwythurol arnom tuag at addysg uwch yng Nghymru. Mae sefydliadau addysg uwch yn gwella, a rhaid i ni sicrhau bod sefydliadau addysg uwch Cymru ogyfuwch â'r gorau. Ein tasg yw adeiladau y llwyddiannau hyd yn hyn a sicrhau bod ein gweithrediadau yn arwain at broses o welliant parhaus i bob un o'n sefydliadau addysg uwch, lle bynnag y bônt yng Nghymru. Cyflwynaf fy strategaeth ar gyfer addysg uwch yng Nghymru i'r Siambra yn y dyfodol agos.

Dafydd Wigley: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am ildio. Cododd cynrychiolwyr o Goleg Prifysgol Cymru, Bangor bryderon gyda llawer o Aelodau yr wythnos diwethaf ynglŷn â dau ddatganiad. Cyfeiriodd y cyntaf at glwstwr a gaiff ei arwain gan ymchwil yn cael ei leoli ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd a Choleg Meddygaeth Prifysgol Cymru, gyda'r goblygiad y byddai ymchwil mewn canolfannau eraill o bosibl yn cael ei gau allan. Byddwch yn deall y pryder ynglŷn â hynny. Mae'r pwynt arall yn ymwneud â hwyluso sefydlu clwstwr a gaiff ei arwain gan addysg ym Mhrifysgol Morgannwg, Athrofa Prifysgol Cymru, Caerdydd a Choleg Prifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd i hyrwyddo ehangu mynediad i e-ddysgu a darparu'r holl ddisgyblaethau ar draws Cymru drwy rwydwaith o golegau masnachfraint addysg bellach. Mae pryder y bydd hynny'n canoli'r cyfleusterau hyn ym Mhrifysgol Morgannwg a'r ddau sefydliad arall ar draul Bangor a lleoedd eraill. A wnewch chi roi sicrwydd ar y materion hynny?

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich amynedd, a sicrhodd fy mod yn gwneud yr hyn oedd angen i mi ei wneud o fewn fy amser, cyn i mi dderbyn eich

ymyriad.

This is the Committee's report and I am looking forward to seeing what comes out of today's debate. As the Committee Chair stated in his initial contribution, the Committee is looking to build on excellence across the whole of Wales in terms of research and teaching. I seek Members' views on how to drive the strategy forward in a way that aims to deliver the best kind of sector in Wales and achieves the most effective collaboration.

I conclude by thanking everyone involved in the Committee's report; Les Hobson, the expert advisor to the Committee; the staff who supported the Committee; and everyone who presented evidence. I look forward to hearing Members' contributions.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I will allow five minutes to the main speakers of each party; other speakers will have three minutes.

Brian Gibbons: Point of order.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I do not like points of order in the middle of debates. I will take it if it urgent and refers to this debate.

Brian Gibbons: I raise this under Standing Order No. 7.3 on the length of contributions. Rather than curtailing Member's contributions on this important matter to three minutes, are you willing, if circumstances permit, to allow people to speak for five minutes, and then adjourn the debate should the Chamber wish to do so?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That is not a matter for me. You need to discuss the matter with the Minister of Assembly Business, who has the power to propose procedural motions; I do not. I rule that the next three speakers are allowed five minutes and everyone else three minutes.

3:30 p.m.

Gareth Jones: Y mae'n arwyddocaol mai'r sail resymegol a ddefnyddiwyd i bwys o a mesur system addysg uwch Cymru oedd

Adroddiad y Pwyllgor yw hwn ac edrychaf ymlaen at weld beth a ddaw allan o ddadl heddiw. Fel y dywedodd Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor yn ei gyfraniad agoriadol, mae'r Pwyllgor yn gobeithio adeiladau ar ragoriaeth ar draws Cymru gyfan o ran ymchwil ac addysgu. Gofynnaf am farn yr Aelodau ar y ffordd orau i fynd â'r strategaeth ymlaen mewn modd sy'n anelu at gyflwyno'r math gorau o sector yng Nghymru a'r un fydd yn llwyddo i gael y cydweithrediad mwyaf effeithiol.

Gorffennaf drwy ddiolch i bawb a fu'n ymwneud ag adroddiad y Pwyllgor; Les Hobson, yr ymgynghorydd arbenigol i'r Pwyllgor; y staff a gefnogodd y Pwyllgor; a phawb a gyflwynodd dystiolaeth. Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed cyfraniadau'r Aelodau.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Caniatâf bum munud i brif siaradwyr pob plaid; bydd siaradwyr eraill yn cael tair munud.

Brian Gibbons: Pwynt o drefn.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Nid wyf yn hoffi cael pwyntiau o drefn yng nghanol dadleuon. Derbyniad ef os yw'n fater o frys ac yn cyfeirio at y ddadl hon.

Brian Gibbons: Codaf hwn o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif. 7.3 ar hyd cyfraniadau. Yn hytrach na chwtogi ar gyfraniadau'r Aelodau ar y mater pwysig hwn i dair munud, a ydych yn barod, os bydd amgylchiadau'n caniatâu, i adael i bobl siarad am bum munud, ac yna ohirio'r ddadl pe bai'r Siambra yn dymuno hynny?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Nid mater i mi mo hynny. Bydd angen i chi drafod y mater gyda'r Trefnydd, sydd â'r pŵer i gynnig cynigion trefniadol; nid yw gennyf i. Dyfarnaf y caiff y tri siaradwr nesaf bum munud a phawb arall dri munud.

Gareth Jones: It is significant that the rationale used for evaluating the higher education system in Wales was to

‘nodi argymhellion allweddol a fyddai’n hyrwyddo ein gweledigaeth ar gyfer gwelliant pellach’.

Hynny yw, gallwn ymfalchö yn yr hyn sydd gennym, a’i werthfawrogi. Fodd bynnag, sylweddolir bod y sector yn wynebu heriau a allant fod yn fygythiol oni ddyfeisir strategaeth effeithiol i ymateb iddynt. Mae angen strategaeth a fydd nid yn unig yn diogelu bodolaeth sefydliadau, ond hefyd, yn diogelu diwylliant ac economi Cymru, dyfodol ein pobl ifanc a’r iaith Gymraeg—hanfodion cenedlaethol. Dyna pa mor bwysig yw addysg uwch yn y byd sydd ohoni.

Ers ei sefydlu yn 1893, gwnaeth Prifysgol Cymru gyfraniad arbennig yn y meysydd hanfodol hynny. Yn sicr, ni ddylem chwalu’r hyn sydd yn werthfawr inni fel cenedl. Yn hytrach, dylem adeiladu ar seiliau cadarn Prifysgol Cymru, a manteisio ar y cyfle i osod cyfeiriad effeithiol ac effeithlon i’r dyfodol, yn arbennig yn dilyn datganoli a dyfodiad y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Efallai y bydd yn haws dweud na gwneud; cawn weld.

Ar ran Plaid Cymru, dywedaf yn glir a chroyw ein bod am weld strategaeth wirioneddol genedlaethol yn deillio o’r trafodaethau, yn unol â nodau ac amcanion y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, ac felly’n seiliedig ar werthoedd ac anghenion Cymru. Nid ydym am weld strategaeth a fydd yn gysgod gwan o addysg uwch yn Lloegr. Yr ydym am weld Cymru yn arwain ac nid yn dilyn. Dyna’r nod, a dylai’r drafodaeth ganolbwytio ar greu strategaeth a all gyflawni a gweithredu ar weledigaeth genedlaethol Gymreig, ac nid ar warchod buddiannau sefydliadau dim ond er mwyn eu gwarchod. Mawr obeithiwn y gwelwn strategaeth o’r fath—un genedl, un brifysgol—yn deillio o’r ymgynghoriad a’r cyd-ddealltwriaeth rhwng Cyngor Cyllico Addysg Uwch Cymru, ELWa, Prifysgol Cymru, Addysg Uwch Cymru, a’r Gweinidog a Llywodraeth Cymru.

Un ffordd amlwg ymlaen fyddai i bob sefydliad addysg uwch yn ein gwlad

‘identify key recommendations that would promote our vision for further improvement’.

That is, we can be proud of what we have, and appreciate it. However, it is realised that the sector faces potentially threatening challenges, unless an effective strategy is devised to respond to them. A strategy is needed that will not only safeguard the existence of institutions, but also the culture and economy of Wales, the future of our young people and the Welsh language—all of crucial national importance. That is how important higher education is in today’s world.

Since its inception in 1893, the University of Wales has made an important contribution to those essential fields. We should certainly not destroy what is valuable to us as a nation. Rather, we should build on the strong foundations of the University of Wales, and take advantage of the opportunity to forge an effective and efficient future direction, especially following devolution and the establishment of the National Assembly. Perhaps it is easier said than done; we shall see.

On behalf of Plaid Cymru, I state categorically that we want to see a truly national strategy resulting from the discussions, in accordance with the aims and objectives of the National Assembly, and therefore, based on the needs and values of Wales. We do not want to see a strategy that is a poor reflection of higher education in England. We want to see Wales leading, not following. That is our goal, and discussions should centre on creating a strategy that can implement and act upon a national Welsh vision, not one that protects the interests of institutions just for the sake of it. We greatly hope that we shall see such a strategy—one nation, one university—resulting from the consultation and the understanding between the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, ELWa, the University of Wales, Higher Education Wales, and the Minister and the Government of Wales.

One obvious way forward would be for each higher education institution in our country to

ddyfarnu graddau yn enw Prifysgol Cymru. Byddai hynny'n fod i uno sefydliadau a hyrwyddo cydweithio effeithiol ac effeithlon.

Adroddiad ymgynghorol yw hwn, sy'n cyfleo negeseuon clir i'r Gweinidog ac i Lywodraeth Cymru. Mae rhai negeseuon yn seiliedig ar gonsensws barn, ond mae eraill yn datgan y pryder mawr sydd gennym fel plaid—ac eraill yn y maes—ynghylch cyfeiriad rhai agweddau.

Dyma rai pwyntiau a gredaf sy'n ddadleuol ac y bydd angen sylw pellach iddynt. Bydd yn rhaid i'r Gweinidog a'r Llywodraeth ddatrys y gŵyn gyson ynghylch diffyg ariannu digonol yn y sector addysg uwch. Nid oes rhaid ymhelaethu—mae'n bryder difrifol ac ni wireddir unrhyw weledigaeth heb arian ychwanegol a chystadlu teg rhwng Cymru, Lloegr a'r Alban.

Ategaf bryder Dafydd Wigley ac erfyniaf ar y Gweinidog i liniaru'r ofnau sy'n deillio o amwysedd yr adroddiad ar arbenigedd. Hoffwn glywed y Gweinidog yn datgan yn glir na fydd cylstyru arbenigedd ymchwil a dysgu yng Nghaerdydd a'r De-ddwyrain yn amddifadu sefydliadau eraill nac yn cyfyngu ar arbenigedd sefydliadau, nac yn bygwth swyddi y tu allan i'r rhanbarth. Camddealltwriaeth yw dehongliad o'r fath. Afraid dweud bod rhaid gwarchod a chadw canolfannau ymchwil o safon byd-eang yn y Gogledd—a rhannau eraill o Gymru.

Erfyniaf hefyd ar y Gweinidog i sicrhau ei fod yn ofynnol ar bob sefydliad addysg uwch yng Nghymru—yn ddieithriad—i oleddu gweledigaeth ac egwyddorion y Cynulliad, sef cyfle cyfartal, datblygu cynaliadwy, diddymu tlodi ac allgáu cymdeithasol, a hybu Cymreictod.

Y mae atodiad yr adroddiad yn cyfeirio at y gwahaniaeth barn amlwg ynghylch sefydly coleg ffederal yng nghyd-destun addysg Gymraeg. O'r herwydd, nid yw'r adroddiad yn llwyddo i argyhoeddi yn y maes hwn. Mae perygl i'r argymhellion, fel ag y maent, barhau i ymylu addysg Gymraeg. Ni fyddant, ychwaith, yn cynorthwyo'r niferoedd bach sy'n gweithio yn y maes. Os rhywbeth, byddant yn gosod mwy o straen arnynt.

award degrees in the name of the University of Wales. That would be a means of unifying institutions and promoting effective and efficient collaboration.

This is a consultative report, which conveys clear messages to the Minister and to the Government of Wales. Some messages are based on consensus, but others reveal our great anxiety as a party—as well as others in the field—about the direction of some aspects.

Here are some points that I believe are controversial and need further attention. The Minister and the Government must resolve the common complaint about lack of adequate funding in the higher education sector. I need not elaborate—it is of serious concern, and no vision will be realised without additional funds and fair competition between England, Wales and Scotland.

I reiterate Dafydd Wigley's concern, and urge the Minister to allay the fears that arise from the report's ambiguity on specialist areas. I want to hear the Minister stating clearly that specialist research and teaching clusters in Cardiff and the South-east will not deprive nor restrict the expertise of other institutions, nor threaten jobs outside the region. Such an interpretation would be a misunderstanding. I need not say that world-class research centres must be protected and kept in north Wales—and other parts of Wales.

I also urge the Minister to require every higher education institution in Wales—without exception—to reflect the Assembly's vision and principles, namely equal opportunities, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and social exclusion, and the promotion of Welshness.

The annex to the report refers to the clear difference of opinion on establishing a federal college in the context of Welsh-medium education. As a result, the report is unconvincing in this matter. There is a danger that the recommendations, as they stand, will continue to marginalise Welsh-medium education. Nor will they assist the small numbers of people working in the field. If anything, they will place additional strain on

them.

Mae'r Gymraeg yn haeddu gwell, a dylai'r strategaeth barchu hawliau dinesig myfyrwyr sy'n dymuno dilyn eu cyrsiau drwy'r Gymraeg. Yr unig ateb yn y pen draw fydd coleg ffederal cyfrwng-Cymraeg, yn cael ei ariannu'n uniongyrchol gan Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You will have to wind up now.

Gareth Jones: Y mae'n drist na chafwyd cyfle i drafod manteision coleg ffederal mewn awyrgylch creadigol ac adeiladol. Hyderaf y daw'r un goleuni Damascaidd i'r Gweinidog ac a ddaeth i'w dirprwy yr wythnos diwethaf.

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

Gareth Jones: Bydd Pauline Jarman yn ymhelaethu ar y pwynt hwnnw. Yr wyf yn cloi gan ddweud bod y Pwyllgor wedi gwneud ei waith dan arweiniad rhagorol Cynog Dafis. Cyfrifoldeb y Gweinidog a Llywodraeth Cymru yw hi yn awr i wneud yr hyn sydd yn iawn ym myd addysg uwch. Byddwn ni fel Plaid yn monitro'r cynnydd hwnnw'n ofalus, a gobeithiwn yn y pen draw y cawn strategaeth a fydd yn gwneud cyflawnder â gofynion a dyheadau ein cenedl.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. We must keep to time otherwise other speakers will not be called.

Mick Bates: The Liberal Democrats broadly welcome this report. Our three guiding principles apply here as a measure against which we set all our work: sustainable development, equal opportunities and social inclusion. We all share one aim set against those three parameters to create a world-class education system in Wales. This extends all those aims embodied in 'The Learning Country.' As the Chair hinted in his remarks, debate in the Committee has been exciting at times, although much against my wishes, a great deal of it was held in camera. The Liberal Democrats believe that the prime

The Welsh language deserves better, and the strategy should respect the civic rights of students who wish to study their courses through the medium of Welsh. Ultimately, the only answer will be a federal Welsh-medium college, funded directly by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Bydd rhaid i chi ddirwyn i ben yn awr.

Gareth Jones: It is sad that we did not have the opportunity to discuss the advantages of a federal college in a creative and constructive environment. I hope that the same Damascene revelation will come to the Minister as came to her deputy last week.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn, rhaid i chi ddirwyn i ben.

Gareth Jones: Pauline Jarman will expand on that point. I conclude by saying that the Committee has conducted its work under the excellent leadership of Cynog Dafis. It is now the responsibility of the Minister and the Government of Wales to do what is right in the world of higher education. We as a party will monitor that progress carefully, and we hope that ultimately we will have a strategy that will do justice to the needs and aspirations of our nation.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Rhaid inni gadw at yr amser neu fel arall ni fydd siaradwyr eraill yn cael eu galw.

Mick Bates: Croesawa'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yr adroddiad hwn ar y cyfan. Mae ein tair prif egwyddor yn berthnasol yma fel ffon fesur y gallwn osod ein gwaith i gyd wrthi: datblygu cynaliadwy, cyfle cyfartal a chynhwysiant cymdeithasol. Yr ydym i gyd yn rhannu'r un amcan a osodwyd yn erbyn y tri pharamedr hynny i greu cyfundrefn addysg o'r radd flaenaf yng Nghymru. Mae hyn yn estyn yr holl nodau a ymgorfforir yn 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu'. Fel y lled awgrymodd y Cadeirydd yn ei sylwadau, bu'r dadlau yn y Pwyllgor yn gyffrous ar brydiau, er i lawer ohono, yn groes i'm

objective of this report must be to increase investment in colleges and universities to allow more students to be taught to a higher standard and to undertake research at an international level. That is why the Liberal Democrats have led the way with the Rees report to ensure that students have greater access to funding. Scotland has gone a great deal further already and we hope that tuition fees will soon disappear here. However, there are many challenges. I make one plea to the Minister to ensure that she does not delay in making her strategy announcements. The longer that goes on, the greater the uncertainty for the sector.

We need some time to ensure that everyone understands the full implications of the report and its recommendations. For example, the current discussion concerning the restructuring of the University of Wales is a matter of great significance. As one of our oldest and most cherished institutions, we must think carefully about the direct and indirect results of restructuring. We have not yet given due consideration to these effects, and until we have allowed time for people to fully reflect on those recommendations and views, it would be inappropriate and foolish to decide on a final policy. While the direct effects of higher education deserve the lion's share of our attention, we need also to consider the effect of higher education on the wider society, especially in terms of spin off to other businesses. You only need to travel through Aberystwyth to realise the huge influence that the university has on the town in social and economic terms. As has already been said, we must focus on the unit of resource and work towards parity with Scotland. That must be one of our goals, Minister. We have already seen that we are 21 per cent behind, but it must be remembered that overall the UK has a lower unit resource level than most of our major competitors throughout the world. The Bett report stated that some of our higher education institutions cannot meet their full obligations with regard to equal opportunities with their current funding.

On access, I draw Members' attention to page

dymuniadau, gael ei gynnal y tu ôl i ddrysau caeëdig. Cred y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol mai prif amcan yr adroddiad hwn yw cynyddu buddsoddiad mewn colegau a phrifysgolion er mwyn caniatáu i fwy o fyfyrwyr gael eu dysgu i safon uwch ac i ymgymryd ag ymchwil ar lefel ryngwladol. Dyna pam y mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi arwain y ffordd gydag adroddiad Rees i sicrhau bod myfyrwyr yn cael mwy o fynediad at arian. Aeth yr Alban gryn dipyn ymhellach yn barod a gobeithiwn weld ffioedd dysgu yn diflannu yma yn fuan. Fodd bynnag, mae sawl her yn ein hwynebu. Gwnaf un apêl i'r Gweinidog sicrhau na fydd yn oedi cyn gwneud ei chyhoeddiadau ar y strategaeth. Po fwyaf fydd hynny'n gymryd, mwyaf i gyd fydd yr ansicrwydd i'r sector.

Y mae angen amser arnom i sicrhau bod pawb yn deall goblygiadau llawn yr adroddiad a'i argymhellion. Er enghraifft, mae'r drafodaeth gyfredol ynglŷn ag ailstrwythuro Prifysgol Cymru yn fater o arwyddocâd mawr. Fel un o'n sefydliadau hynaf ac anwylaf, rhaid inni feddwl yn ofalus am ganlyniadau uniongyrchol ac anuniongyrchol ailstrwythuro. Nid ydym eto wedi rhoi ystyriaeth haeddiannol i'r effeithiau hynny, a hyd nes y byddwn wedi rhoi amser i bobl fyfyrion llawn ar yr argymhellion a'r barnau hynny, byddai'n amhriodol a ffôl i benderfynu ar bolisi terfynol. Er bod effeithiau uniongyrchol addysg uwch yn haeddu'r rhan helaethaf o'n sylw, mae angen inni hefyd ystyried effaith addysg uwch ar y gymdeithas ehangach, yn enwedig o ran budd i fusnesau eraill. Nid oes raid i chi ond gyrru drwy dref Aberystwyth i sylweddoli'r dylanwad enfawr gaiff y brifysgol ar y dref yn economaidd ac yn gymdeithasol. Fel y dywedwyd yn barod, rhaid inni ganolbwytio ar yr uned adnodd a gweithio tuag at gydraddoldeb â'r Alban. Dylai hynny fod yn un o'n nodau, Weinidog. Yr ydym eisoes wedi gweld ein bod 21 y cant ar ei hôl hi, ond rhaid cofio yn gyffredinol fod gan y DU lefel uned adnodd is na'r rhan fwyaf o'n cystadleuwr ar draws y byd. Dengys adroddiad Bett fod rhai o'n sefydliadau addysg uwch yn methu â diwallu eu dyletswyddau llawn o ran cyfle cyfartal gyda'u hariannu cyfredol.

Ar fynediad, tynnaf sylw'r Aelodau at

39 and endorse all of the recommendations, particularly the ones about access for people with disabilities. I emphasise the third mission funding that was mentioned by the Minister for Economic Development in the context of community regeneration. That is a fundamentally important fund to ensure that we drive forward the connection between our higher education institutions and the communities that they serve. In particular, there is an opportunity to encourage enterprise and entrepreneurial activity by creating clusters that are associated with the business community surrounding these universities.

3:40 p.m.

Whatever strategy is announced, the restructuring fund will be of particular importance. It is paramount that the fund—and I am pleased to hear today of the Minister's further commitment of £6 million—enables all institutions to restructure in line with the strategy announced. I look forward to the strategy recommended for Welsh-medium education. This is unique, and something that we wish to develop.

Finally, I would like to reflect on a view expressed at the launch last week, when the Open University felt that its distance learning had been a little neglected in the report. We must take that forward.

I look forward to the challenge and the strategy announced by the Minister. We will create a higher education system in Wales that is truly world class.

Jonathan Morgan: I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this debate as a member of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee. The report focuses on two basic principles: first, that we wish to see a world-class higher education system in Wales that excels in teaching and research; and, secondly, we want to enable more young people from Wales to enter higher education, in Wales or elsewhere, as the Minister outlined in her introductory remarks. Those are the basic principles from which we started.

dudalen 39 a chytunaf â phob un o'r argymhellion, yn enwedig y rhai am fynediad i bobl ag anableddau. Pwysleisiaf yr ariannu trydedd genhadaeth y cyfeiriwyd ato gan y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd yng nghyd-destun adfywio cymunedol. Mae hon yn gronfa sylfaenol bwysig i sicrhau ein bod yn rhoi hwb i'r cysylltiad rhwng ein sefydliadau addysg uwch a'r cymunedau a wasanaethant. Yn arbennig, mae cyfreith i annog menter a gweithgaredd entrepeneuraidd drwy greu clystyrau sydd â chysylltiad â'r gymuned fusnes o amgylch y prifysgolion hyn.

Pa bynnag strategaeth a gyhoeddir, bydd y gronfa ailstrwythuro o bwys arbennig. Mae'n hollbwysig bod y gronfa—ac mae'n dda gennyf glywed heddiw am ymrwymiad pellach y Gweinidog o £6 miliwn—yn galluogi pob sefydliad i ailstrwythuro yn unol â'r strategaeth a gyhoeddwyd. Edrychaf ymlaen at y strategaeth a argymhellwyd ar gyfer addysg drwy gyfrwng y Cymraeg. Mae hyn yn unigryw, ac yn rhywbeth y dymunwn ei ddatblygu.

Yn olaf, carwn wneud sylw ar farn a fynegwyd yn y lansiad yr wythnos diwethaf, pan deimlai'r Brifysgol Agored fod ei dysgu o bell wedi'i hanwybyddu i raddau yn yr adroddiad. Rhaid i ni ddatblygu hyn.

Edrychaf ymlaen at yr her a'r strategaeth a gyhoeddwyd gan y Gweinidog. Byddwn yn creu cyfundrefn addysg uwch yng Nghymru a fydd gyda'r gorau yn y byd.

Jonathan Morgan: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y cyfreith hwn i gyfrannu at y ddadl hon fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes. Canolbwytia'r adroddiad ar ddwy egwyddor sylfaenol: yn gyntaf ein bod am weld cyfundrefn addysg uwch gyda'r gorau yn y byd yng Nghymru sy'n rhagori mewn addysgu ac ymchwil; ac, yn ail, yr ydym am alluogi mwy o bobl ifanc o Gymru i fanteisio ar addysg uwch yng Nghymru neu fannau eraill, fel yr amlinelloedd y Gweinidog yn ei sylwadau agoriadol. Dyna'r egwyddorion sylfaenol oedd yn fan cychwyn i ni.

There is no doubt about the huge contribution of higher education in Wales, in terms of economic development, research excellence, academic achievement and, most importantly, equipping young people for the future. There are a number of ways in which we will be able to achieve the aims and principles outlined in the report. First, I will focus on structures. The University of Wales has been referred to already this afternoon. I agree with the recommendation, in chapter 1 of the report, that a dialogue should occur with the University of Wales in order to review the appropriateness of its structure. If the review recommends the continuance of the University of Wales, in whatever form, it is something that the Government and the Assembly would have to consider. We should be careful, particularly in light of the comments made by a number of institutions and individuals about the threat to the University of Wales in the future, to take everything into consideration when these recommendations are taken forward. The University of Wales has contributed greatly to our national life. The views of the sector should be listened to when we consider the future of the institution.

On the recommendations regarding clustering, comments have already been made in respect of the University of Wales, Bangor, and other institutions, about the nature of clustering, particularly around Cardiff University as a centre of research excellence and the University of Glamorgan as a centre for teaching. We must not prohibit the excellent work undertaken by other institutions throughout Wales that have wonderful records in teaching and research. The university colleges of Bangor, Aberystwyth and Lampeter improved their research rate at a higher rate than was achieved elsewhere in the United Kingdom between 1996 and 2001. This was picked up in the research assessment exercise last year. Excellent work is being carried out elsewhere; we cannot assume that all of the good work is done in south Wales and that no other institution achieves very much at all. We know that other institutions achieve a great deal. With hindsight, perhaps the emphasis was slightly misguided.

In recent years, our nation has done

Nid oes amheuaeth ynglŷn â chyfraniad anferth addysg uwch yng Nghymru, o ran datblygu economaidd, rhagoriaeth ymchwil, cyflawniad academaidd ac, yn bwysicaf, paratoi pobl ifanc ar gyfer y dyfodol. Y mae sawl ffordd y gallwn gyrraedd y nodau a'r egwyddorion a amlinellir yn yr adroddiad. Yn gyntaf, canolbwytiaf ar strwythurau. Cyfeiriwyd at Brifysgol Cymru'n barod y prynhawn yma. Cytunaf â'r argymhellion, ym mhennod 1 yr adroddiad, y dylid cael deialog â Phrifysgol Cymru er mwyn adolygu priodoldeb ei strwythur. Os bydd yr adolygiad yn argymhellion parhau â Phrifysgol Cymru, ym mha ffurf bynnag, mae'n rhywbeth y bydd yn rhaid i'r Llywodraeth a'r Cynulliad ei ystyried. Dylem fod yn ofalus, yn arbennig yng ngoleuni'r sylwadau a wnaed gan nifer o sefydliadau ac unigolion am y bygythiad i Brifysgol Cymru yn y dyfodol, i gymryd popeth i ystyriaeth pan fydd yr argymhellion hyn yn cael eu datblygu. Mae Prifysgol Cymru wedi gwneud cyfraniad mawr i'n bywyd cenedlaethol. Dylid gwrando ar farn y sector wrth inni ystyried dyfodol y sefydliad.

Ar yr argymhellion ynglŷn â chlystyru, gwnaed sylwadau'n barod o safbwyt Prifysgol Cymru Bangor, a sefydliadau eraill, ynglŷn â natur clystyru, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â Phrifysgol Caerdydd fel canolfan rhagoriaeth ymchwil a Phrifysgol Morganwg fel canolfan ar gyfer addysgu. Ni ddylem gyfyngu ar y gwaith ardderchog a wneir gan sefydliadau eraill ar draws Cymru sydd ag enw da mewn addysgu ac ymchwil. Cryfhaodd colegau prifysgol Bangor, Aberystwyth a Llanbedr Pont Steffan swm eu gwaith ymchwil ar raddfa uwch nag â wnaed yn unrhyw le arall yn y Deyrnas Unedig rhwng 1996 a 2001. Gwelwyd hyn yn yr ymarferiad asesu ymchwil y llynedd. Gwneir gwaith ardderchog mewn mannau eraill; ni allwn dybio fod yr holl waith da yn cael ei wneud yn y De ac nad oes unrhyw sefydliad arall yn cyflawni fawr ddim o gwbl. Yr ydym yn gwybod bod sefydliadau eraill yn cyflawni llawer. O ystyried, efallai fod y pwyslais wedi bod braidd yn annoeth.

Yn y blynnyddoedd diweddar, gwnaeth ein

particularly well in terms of research. Cardiff University has excelled, and eight of our higher education institutions improved their research between 1996 and 2001, at a higher rate than was achieved in the rest of the UK. This is the result of an analysis, undertaken by Professor Stuart McLeay of Bangor university college, of the statistics and information provided by the research assessment exercise. Research plays a huge part in academic life; it is enormous in terms of achieving financial assistance, academic support, and the promotion of our nation as a country that has institutions that promote research and ensure research excellence throughout the nation and its institutions. It does a huge amount of work in promoting Wales as an area of brilliant academic achievement. It will do more and more to raise our profile. I look forward to the implementation of the recommendations on research, and I am sure that we will see those institutions doing better and better in the future.

There were considerable disagreements in the report in terms of student support. I do not agree with all the recommendations in the Rees report. The Committee was ill-advised to give its blanket agreement to all the recommendations, although there is a dissenting opinion in annex 8 of the report. I say to Mick Bates that, in terms of having open sessions for considering the report, if I had known in advance that he would support the Labour Party in maintaining tuition fees by imposing them at the end of a degree and not upfront, then I would have been happy for those sessions to have been in public.

Mick Bates: You are a member of the Conservative Party. That party abolished grants. In 1986, for example, students lost their entitlement to supplementary benefit. In 1990 funding to alleviate student vacation hardship was abolished. Your party did that. Student loans were introduced and entitlement to state benefits was withdrawn. How can you criticise anybody, when your party caused the terrible debt that so many students now have?

Jonathan Morgan: I will happily answer

cenedl yn arbennig o dda o ran ymchwil. Mae Prifysgol Caerdydd wedi rhagori, a chryfhaodd wyt h o'n sefydliadau addysg uwch eu hymchwil rhwng 1996 a 2001, ar raddfa uwch nag a gyflawnwyd yng ngweddill y DU. Dyna ganlyniad dadansoddiad gan yr Athro Stuart McLeay o goleg prifysgol Bangor, o'r ystadegau a'r wybodaeth a ddarparwyd yn yr ymarferiad asesiad ymchwil. Mae gan ymchwil ran hollbwysig i'w chwarae yn y byd academaidd; mae ei gyfraniad yn helaeth o ran ennill cymorth ariannol, cefnogaeth academaidd, a hyrwyddo'n cenedl fel gwlaid sydd â sefydliadau sy'n hyrwyddo ymchwil ac yn sicrhau rhagoriaeth ymchwil ar draws y genedl a'i sefydliadau. Gwna swmp anferth o waith i hyrwyddo Cymru fel man o gyrhaeddiad academaidd aruthrol. Bydd yn gwneud mwy a mwy i godi ein proffil. Edrychaf ymlaen at weld yr argymhellion ar ymchwil yn cael eu gweithredu, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y gwelwn y sefydliadau hynny yn gwneud yn well fyfth yn y dyfodol.

Cafwyd anghytundebau mawr yn yr adroddiad o ran cefnogaeth myfyrwyr. Nid wyf yn cytuno gyda phob un o'r argymhellion yn adroddiad Rees. Nid oedd yn ddoeth i'r Pwyllgor gytuno'n llwyr â'r holl argymhellion, er bod barn sy'n gwrthwnebu wedi ei chynnwys yn atodiad 8 yr adroddiad. Dywedaf wrth Mick Bates, o ran cael sesiynau agored i ystyried yr adroddiad, pe bawn yn gwybod ymlaen llaw y byddai'n cefnogi'r Blaid Lafur i gadw ffioedd dysgu drwy eu gosod ar ddiwedd gradd ac nid ar y dechrau, yna byddai wedi bod yn dda gennyf pe bai'r sesiynau hynny wedi bod yn rhai agored i'r cyhoedd.

Mick Bates: Yr ydych ynaelod o'r Blaid Geidwadol. Diddymodd y blaid honno grantiau. Yn 1986, er enghraifft, collodd myfyrwyr eu hawl i fudd-dâl atodol. Yn 1990, diddymwyd cyllid i liniaru caledi gwyliau myfyrwyr. Eich plaid chi wnaeth hynny. Cyflwynwyd benthyciadau myfyrwyr a dilėwyd yr hawl i fudd-daliadau'r wladwriaeth. Sut allwch chi feirniadu unrhyw un, pan mai eich plaid chi achosodd y ddyled erchyll sydd gan gynifer o fyfyrwyr erbyn hyn?

Jonathan Morgan: Atebaf hynny'n llawen.

that. It is amazing that a party that is so concerned to oppose tuition fees would then support keeping them in the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee, by imposing them at the end of the degree. You then stand in the Chamber and say that Liberal Democrat policy is against tuition fees: you cannot have it one way in Committee and the other in Chamber.

Mick Bates *rose—*

Jonathan Morgan: No, I will not give way again. We know the position of the current Government: it abolished maintenance grants completely in 1997, and the introduction of tuition fees has caused huge debt and hardship.

The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee would have shown huge strength if it had stated that it did not believe in tuition fees because they cause a great deal of debt, and we do not believe in taxing the future talent of our country. There is huge hypocrisy in the Liberal Democrat's route.

In conclusion, this is a worthwhile report that has a number of recommendations that will develop our higher education system to be fit for the future. There is widespread agreement in the sector on the report's recommendations, but there are a few minor items that we need to iron out.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I remind all Members that they have three minutes in which to speak.

Janice Gregory: I will not take interventions, Deputy Presiding Officer.

As a member of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee, I must start by saying what a privilege it has been for me to work with so many dedicated higher education stakeholders, from all parts of Wales in this review. The vast majority engaged with the Committee extremely productively and professionally. The review would not have been possible without their involvement and I am sure that other members of the Committee will join me in thanking them for their hard work.

Mae'n anhygoel bod plaid sydd mor awyddus i wrthwynebu ffioedd dysgu mor barod i gefnogi eu cadw wedyn yn y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, drwy eu gosod ar ddiwedd y radd. Yna safwch yn y Siambr yn dweud mai polisi'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yw gwrrthwynebu ffioedd dysgu; ni allwch ei chael hi un ffordd yn y Pwyllgor ac yna'r ffordd arall yn y Siambr.

Mick Bates *a gododd—*

Jonathan Morgan: Na, nid ildiaf. Gwyddom beth yw sefyllfa'r Llywodraeth bresennol: dileodd y grantiau cynnal yn llwyr yn 1997, ac mae cyflwyno ffioedd dysgu wedi achosi dyledion a chaledi enfawr.

Byddai'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes wedi dangos nerth anhygoel pe bai wedi datgan nad oedd yn credu mewn ffioedd dysgu am eu bod yn creu cymaint o ddyled, ac nad ydym yn credu mewn trethu talent ein gwlad yn y dyfodol. Mae rhagrith enfawr yn llwybr y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol.

I gloi, mae'n adroddiad gwerthfawr sy'n cynnwys nifer o argymhellion a fydd yn datblygu ein cyfundrefn addysg uwch i fod yn addas i'r dyfodol. Ceir cytundeb cyffredinol yn y sector ar argymhellion yr adroddiad, ond y mae ynddo rai mân eitemau y mae'n rhaid mynd i'r afael â hwy.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Atgoffaf bob Aelod mai tair munud sydd ganddynt i siarad.

Janice Gregory: Ni dderbyniaf ymyriadau, Ddirprwy Lywydd.

Fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, rhaid i mi ddechrau drwy ddweud gymaint o anrhyydedd fu gweithio gyda chynifer o fudd-ddalwyr addysg uwch ymroddedig, o bob rhan o Gymru yn yr adolygiad hwn. Gweithiodd y mwyafrif llethol â'r Pwyllgor mewn modd eithriadol o gynhyrchiol a phroffesiynol. Ni fyddai'r adolygiad wedi bod yn bosibl heb eu mewnbwn hwy ac yr wyf yn siŵr bod aelodau eraill o'r Pwyllgor am ymuno â mi i ddiolch iddynt am eu gwaith caled.

As a socialist, promoting access to higher education for those who have traditionally been excluded was my top priority throughout the review. Last week we were reminded that the proportion of the working classes attending university is abysmally low. In Wales, we have made huge inroads. I was delighted to read in last Friday's *The Times Higher Education Supplement* that six of the 18 best performing institutions in terms of access were institutions in Wales. I am also delighted that the Assembly Government has committed extra cash to access and hardship funds for the poorest students. However, many of my constituents are still excluded from the HE debate. Our deliberations will be meaningless unless we deliver for them and give them the chances they deserve.

Throughout the review, true socialists—those who really believe in opportunity for all—have taken the view that we should aim to get more people into higher education, whoever they are, wherever they come from, and wherever they wish to study. As a Labour member of the Committee I could not support the culturist straitjacketing proposed by Plaid Cymru. The Chair of the Committee mentioned stormy moments, and I remain repelled by Plaid Cymru's suggestions in annex 8 of the report that we should try to engineer a situation whereby a higher proportion of those in higher education in Wales are Welsh domiciled students, restricting the choice of university for the people of Wales and putting up Simon Glyn-style blockades against anyone outside of Wales. If we are to make higher education truly accessible and inclusive, then we need to break down the barriers—not erect more of them. We must create opportunities for learners wherever they come from, and wherever they wish to study. Equality of opportunity can only be achieved if we look forwards and reach outwards, and not look backwards and collapse inwards.

3:50 p.m.

This report presents the way forward. It offers opportunities for everyone in Wales, not just the privileged few. I urge the

Fel sosiolydd, fy mhrif flaenoriaeth drwy'r adolygiad oedd hyrwyddo mynediad i addysg uwch i'r rheini a allgaewyd yn draddodiadol. Yr wythnos diwethaf fe'n hatgoffwyd fod y ganran o blith y dosbarthiadau gweithiol sy'n mynchyru prifysgol yn ddifrifol isel. Yng Nghymru, yr ydym wedi gwneud gwaith da. Yr oedd yn dda iawn gennyl ddarllen yn *The Times Higher Education Supplement* ddydd Gwener diwethaf mai sefydliadau yng Nghymru oedd chwech o'r 18 sefydliad sy'n perfformio orau o ran mynediad. Yr wyf hefyd yn falch iawn bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi rhoi arian ychwanegol i gronfeydd mynediad a chaledi ar gyfer y myfyrwyr tlotaf. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer o'm hetholwyr yn cael eu hallgau o hyd o'r drafodaeth ar AU. Bydd ein trafodaethau yn ddiystyr oni wnawn ddarparu iddynt hwy a rhoi iddynt y cyfleoedd y maent yn eu haeddu.

Drwy gydol yr adolygiad, mae'r gwir sosiawlwr—y rheini sy'n credu'n wirioneddol mewn cyfle i bawb—wedi cymryd yr agwedd y dylem anelu at gael mwy o bobl i faterion ar addysg uwch, pwy bynnag ydynt, o ba le bynnag y dônt, a pha le bynnag y dymunant astudio. Fel aelod Llafur o'r Pwyllgor nid allwn gefnogi'r agwedd ddiwylliannol gul a gynigir gan Blaid Cymru. Cyfeiriodd Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor at yr adegau stormus, ac yr wyf yn dal i gael fy nghythrundo gan awgrymiadau Plaid Cymru yn atodiad 8 yr adroddiad y dylem geisio saernio sefyllfa lle y byddai cyfran uwch o'r rheini sydd mewn addysg uwch yng Nghymru yn fyfyrwyr o Gymru, gan gyfyngu'r dewis o brifysgol i bobl Cymru a gosod rhwystrau ar batrwm Simon Glyn yn erbyn unrhyw un o'r tu allan i Gymru. Os ydym i wneud addysg uwch yn wirioneddol hygyrch a chynhwysol, yna rhaid inni ddileu'r rhwystrau—nid codi rhagor ohonynt. Rhaid i ni greu cyfleoedd ar gyfer dysgwyr o ba le bynnag y dônt, a pha le bynnag y dymunant astudio. Drwy edrych ymlaen ac ymestyn allan y ceir cyfle cyfartal, ac nid drwy edrych yn ôl a syrthio tuag i mewn.

Cyflwyna'r adroddiad hwn y ffordd ymlaen. Cynigia gyfleoedd i bawb yng Nghymru, nid yr ychydig breintiedig yn unig. Anogaf y

Minister to reject the Nationalist dogma, embrace the innovation in this report and put social inclusion at the top of the agenda. Only then will we deliver a truly world-class higher education sector that is confident on the world stage and accessible to all.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I hope that other Members will note that Janice finished in three minutes precisely, and I hope that that will be repeated.

Pauline Jarman: That was a re-nomination speech if ever I heard one.

I welcome the report, which is the result of many months of work by the Committee under the able guidance of the Chair, Cynog Dafis. The Minister indicated that the desire to establish a higher education system which makes a real and sustained contribution to the economic, social and cultural regeneration of our nation is at the heart of this review. I am sure that she would be among the first to recognise that essentially this is all about people, and above all, nurturing and exploiting the talents of the people of Wales.

The Assembly's first strategic plan stated that it aimed to make Wales a place where young people would want to live, work and enjoy a high quality of life. There is an implicit admission here that the current level of outflow of our most talented people has been and continues to be detrimental to the cultural and economic life of Wales. Indeed, in the early stages of the review, there seemed to be consensus on the need to encourage more of our young people to remain in Wales for their higher education. Few supported the principle, and an early draft of the report included a section on retaining students, which was then omitted. Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales tabled, in my name, a moderate amendment to the report calling on HEFCW to analyse the situation and prepare a strategy with a view to ensuring that a higher proportion of Welsh domiciled students would be enabled to pursue their higher education in Wales. Labour and Liberal Democrat members voted against that amendment, which contradicts the spirit of

Gweinidog i wrthod dogma'r Cenedlaetholwyr, cofleidio'r blaengaredd sydd yn yr adroddiad hwn a rhoi cynhwysiant cymdeithasol ar frig yr agenda. Dim ond bryd hynny y cyflwynwn sector addysg uwch fydd yn wirioneddol ymhli th y gorau yn y byd sy'n hyderus ar y llwyfan byd-eang ac yn hygyrch i bawb.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Gobeithiaf y bydd yr Aelodau eraill yn nodi i Janice ddiweddu wedi tri munud yn union, a gobeithiaf y bydd hynny'n cael ei ailadrodd.

Pauline Jarman: Dyna beth oedd arraith ailienwebu os y clywais un erioed.

Croesawaf yr adroddiad, sy'n ganlyniad misoedd o waith gan y Pwyllgor o dan arweiniad abl y Cadeirydd, Cynog Dafis. Nododd y Gweinidog mai'r dyhead i sefydlu cyfundrefn addysg uwch sy'n gwneud cyfraniad real a pharhaus i adfywiad economaidd, cymdeithasol a diwylliannol ein cenedl sydd wrth wraidd yr adolygiad hwn. Yr wyl yn siŵr y byddai gyda'r cyntaf i gydnabod fod hyn yn ymwneud yn ei hanfod â phobl, ac yn fwy na dim, yn ymwneud â meithrin a manteisio ar dalentau pobl Cymru i'r eithaf.

Datganodd cynllun strategol cyntaf y Cynulliad ei fod yn anelu at wneud Cymru yn lle y byddai pobl ifanc yn dymuno byw, gweithio a mwynhau ansawdd bywyd uchel ynddo. Mae cyfaddefiad ymhlyg yn hyn fod lefel dylifiad ein pobl fwyaf talentog ar hyn o bryd wedi bod yn andwyol i fywyd diwylliannol ac economaidd Cymru, a'i fod yn parhau felly. Yn wir, yng nghyfnodau cynnar yr adolygiad, ymddangosai fod consensws ar yr angen i annog rhagor o'n pobl ifanc i aros yng Nghymru ar gyfer eu haddysg uwch. Ychydig a gefnogodd yr egwyddor, ac yr oedd drafft cynnar o'r adroddiad yn cynnwys adran ar gadw myfyrwyr, a gafodd ei gadael allan wedyn. Cyflwynodd Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales welliant cymedrol, yn fy enw i, i'r adroddiad yn galw ar Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru i ddadansoddi'r sefyllfa a pharatoi strategaeth gyda'r bwriad o sicrhau bod cyfran uwch o fyfyrwyr sydd â'u cartref yng Nghymru yn cael eu galluogi i dderbyn addysg uwch yng Nghymru. Pleidleisiodd yr

the values put forward in the Assembly's strategic plan.

Furthermore, in a recent article in the *Daily Post*, Alun Pugh was quoted as saying:

'We want to see more Welsh students in higher education in Wales and see more graduates retained in Wales.'

It is clear that the Deputy Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning votes one way, only to contradict himself in interviews with the press.

Jane Davidson's statement last week referred to the importance of HE to the Welsh economy and society—that is what our amendment was about. Hopefully, the Minister will reconsider her response to our amendment, since ultimately the responsibility is on her shoulders. Who knows, perhaps she will even do so in consultation with her Deputy.

Finally, on funding, figures produced by the administration in the report claim that the funding gap between England and Wales has closed. Given the different figures that have circulated in the past year, I wonder whether that is plausible. However, the recommendation in the report that the unit of resource for HE in Wales is at least equivalent to that in England and that the funding gap with Scotland will be significantly reduced over the next few years is a positive one.

Christine Chapman: Education is potentially the greatest field of investment in Wales's future. This Assembly will be judged on whether it provides opportunities for all its citizens in terms of learning and development and whether it provides a framework for economic confidence.

As such, I welcome this review; it is long overdue and I will raise two issues relating to it. On access, for too long, going on to higher education has been the prerogative of the elite. Most of our young people do not go to university and that is not because they do not

aelodau Llafur a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn erbyn y gwelliant hwnnw, sy'n croesddweud ysbryd y gwerthoedd sy'n cael eu cyflwyno yng nghynllun strategol y Cynulliad.

At hynny, mewn ethygl ddiweddar yn y *Daily Post*, dyfynwyd Alun Pugh yn dweud:

'We want to see more Welsh students in higher education in Wales and see more graduates retained in Wales.'

Mae'n glir bod y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes yn pleidleisio un ffordd, gan fynd yn groes i hynny mewn cyfweliadau gyda'r wasg.

Cyfeiriodd datganiad Jane Davidson yr wythnos diwethaf at bwysigrwydd AU i economi a chymdeithas Cymru—dyna beth oedd hanfod ein gwelliant. Gobeithio y bydd y Gweinidog yn ailystyried ei hymateb i'n gwelliant, oherwydd yn y pen draw ar ei hysgwyddau hi y mae'r cyfrifoldeb. Pwy a wyr, efallai y gwnaiff hynny hyd yn oed mewn trafodaeth â'i Dirprwy.

Yn olaf, ar ariannu, mae'r ffigurau a gynhyrchwyd gan y weinyddiaeth yn yr adroddiad yn honni bod y bwlch ariannu rhwng Cymru a Lloegr wedi cau. O gofio'r gwahanol ffigurau a gafodd eu dosbarthu yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, tybed a yw hynny'n gredadwy. Fodd bynnag, mae'r argymhelliaid yn yr adroddiad i'r uned adnodd i AU yng Nghymru fod o leiaf yn gyfartal â'r un i Loegr ac i'r bwlch ariannu â'r Alban gael ei ostwng yn sylweddol dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf yn un cadarnhaol.

Christine Chapman: Addysg yw'r maes buddsoddi mwyaf yn nyfodol Cymru. Caiff y Cynulliad hwn ei farnu yn ôl a yw'n darparu cyfleoedd i'w ddinas yddion i gyd o ran dysgu a datblygu ac a yw'n darparu fframwaith ar gyfer hyder economaidd.

Felly, croesawaf yr adolygiad hwn; mae'n hen bryd ei gael a chodaf ddau fater yn ymwneud ag ef. Ar fynediad, ers gormod o amser, bu mynd ymlaen i addysg uwch yn hawl i'r elît. Nid yw'r rhan fwyaf o'n pobl ifanc yn mynd i brifysgol ac nid am nad oes

have the talent but because there are barriers of culture and attitude.

I welcome initiatives to encourage young and older people in Wales to attend higher education courses. These include Compact Plus, and initiatives that prepare people for college education and mentoring. The universities that have been proactive in this quarter deserve tribute. We must also ensure that others follow suit and that best practice is shared. I am pleased that this review reinforces that.

Helen Mary Jones rose—

Christine Chapman: I will not give way because of the lack of time.

I also want to mention research and links with industry. I welcome the WDA's reference that higher education must be

'a primary ingredient in the generation, transfer, application and commercialisation of knowledge'.

However, from my experience, the links between higher education and industry have not been as frequent as they could, and Wales has been poorer for it.

Wales has many small and medium-sized enterprises. Many small businesses do not trust higher education or cannot understand its relevance. That is also to the detriment of Wales. Larger companies too face barriers. Hitachi's recent closure announcement could have been avoided, perhaps, if there had been much earlier, stronger collaboration with higher education, through early work to develop new products, for example. There are still too many barriers between those working in industry and those in higher education. This review puts greater emphasis on collaboration. This will benefit Wales economically. There are some excellent examples of strong links between higher education and industry. The Wales spin-out programme encourages new companies to thrive and, more recently, the Help 2 Wales project—the four hundredth Objective 1 project—initiated by the University of Glamorgan, is helping new companies to

ganddynt y dalent ond oherwydd rhwystrau diwylliant ac agwedd.

Croesawaf fentrau i annog pobl ifanc a phobl hŷn yng Nghymru i fynychu cyrsiau addysg uwch. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys Compact a Mwy, a mentrau sy'n paratoi pobl ar gyfer addysg golegol a mentora. Haedda'r prifysgolion a fu fwyaf rhagweithiol yn hynny o beth bob clod. Rhaid inni hefyd sicrhau bod eraill yn dilyn y trywydd hwn a bod arfer gorau yn cael ei rannu. Yr wyf yn falch fod yr adolygiad hwn yn cadarnhau hynny.

Helen Mary Jones a gododd

Christine Chapman: Nid ildiaf oherwydd prinder amser.

Hoffwn hefyd gyfeirio at ymchwil a'r cysylltiadau â diwydiant. Croesawaf gyfeiriad y WDA fod yn rhaid i addysg uwch fod yn

Fodd bynnag, o'm profiad i, nid yw'r cysylltiadau rhwng addysg uwch a diwydiant wedi bod mor fynych ag y gallent fod, a bu Cymru'n dlotach o ganlyniad.

Mae gan Gymru lawer o fentrau bach a chanolig eu maint. Nid oes ffydd gan lawer o fusnesau bach mewn addysg uwch ac nid ydynt yn deall ei pherthnasedd. Mae hyn hefyd yn anfantais i Gymru. Bydd cwmnïau mawr hefyd yn wynebu rhwystrau. Gellid, efallai, fod wedi osgoi cyhoeddiad cwmni Hitachi yn ddiweddar ei fod yn cau, pe bai cydweithredu cryfach gydag addysg uwch wedi digwydd yn llawer cynt, drwy waith cynnar i ddatblygu cynhyrchion newydd er enghraift. Mae llawer gormod o rwystrau o hyd rhwng y rhai sy'n gweithio mewn diwydiant a'r rhai mewn addysg uwch. Rhydd yr adolygiad hwn fwy o bwyslais ar gydweithredu. Bydd hyn o fudd i Gymru yn economaidd. Ceir engrifftiau ardderchog o gysylltiadau cryf rhwng diwydiant ac addysg uwch. Mae cynllun ymestyn Cymru yn annog cwmnïau newydd i ffynnu ac, yn fwy diweddar, mae'r prosiect Cymorth 2 Cymru—y pedwar canfed prosiect Amcan

develop new products and to explore new markets. Such collaborations are excellent, but we need many more. Wales cannot afford to waste its talent. If it is to become more entrepreneurial and a stronger player on the world stage, then higher education and economic development must work hand in hand. This review will contribute to that.

Nick Bourne: I note the hard work put into the review by the Committee for Education and Lifelong Education and I welcome much of the report. I also declare an interest as a University of Wales graduate—the only party leader who attended the university. I also served on the University of Wales Validation Board.

I have several concerns that arise from the report. I note that the Minister admits that we do not yet have funding parity with England. There is a strong belief in the sector that we are a long way behind England in terms of funding. However, I welcome the target in the report that we should achieve parity with Scotland, which is a desirable target.

We need to recognise the benefit of the University of Wales's federal structure. We are the only nation in Europe with a national university. It was founded in 1872, became federal in the 1890s and has delivered massively for Wales. If we were to unscramble the University of Wales, we would lose not only the economic advantage, but also the advantage that we have from its role as an overseas ambassador. In economic terms, the validation of degrees overseas—promoted by Huw Hughes and the Validation Board—gains £2 million a year in revenue for Wales. If the university were unscrambled, that money, or a significant part of it, would not come back to Wales. It would go to England, Canada or the USA. A proliferation of degree-awarding bodies in Wales is not desirable. We should say, although it is a cliché, that if it is not broke let us not fix it. We need a clear indication that the University of Wales will continue, as the university that most of the people in Wales expect. That is in Wales's interest.

1—a ddechreuwyd gan Brifysgol Morgannwg, yn helpu cwmnïau newydd i ddatblygu cynhychion newydd ac i ymchwilio i farchnadoedd newydd. Mae cydweithio o'r fath yn ardderchog, ond mae angen llawer mwy arnom. Ni all Cymru fforddio gwastraffu ei thalent. Os yw i ddod yn fwy entrepreneuriaidd ac yn gryfach ar lwyfan y byd, yna bydd yn rhaid i addysg uwch a datblygu economaidd weithio law yn llaw. Bydd yr adolygiad hwn yn cyfrannu at hynny.

Nick Bourne: Nodaf y gwaith caled a wnaed gan y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes a chroesawaf lawer o'r adroddiad. Hefyd datganaf fuddiant fel un a raddiodd o Brifysgol Cymru—yr unig arweinydd plaid a fynychodd y brifysgol. Hefyd gwasanaethais ar Fwrdd Dilysu Prifysgol Cymru.

Mae gennyf lawer o bryderon sy'n codi o'r adroddiad. Nodaf fod y Gweinidog yn cyfaddef nad oes gennym eto gydraddoldeb ariannu gyda Lloegr. Mae cred gref yn y sector ein bod ymhell ar ôl Lloegr o ran ariannu. Fodd bynnag, croesawaf y targed yn yr adroddiad y dylem gael cydraddoldeb â'r Alban, sy'n darged dymunol.

Mae angen inni gydnabod y manteision a ddaw i'n rhan yn sgîl strwythur ffederal Prifysgol Cymru. Cymru yw'r unig genedl yn Ewrop â phrifysgol genedlaethol. Fe'i sefydlwyd yn 1872, daeth yn ffederal yn yr 1890au a chyflawnodd gryn dipyn dros Gymru. Pe baem yn datgymalu Prifysgol Cymru, byddem yn colli nid yn unig y fantais economaidd, ond hefyd y fantais sy'n deillio o'i rôl fel llysgennad dramor. O safbwyt economaidd, mae dilysu graddau dramor—rhywbeth a hyrwyddwyd gan Huw Hughes a'r Bwrdd Dilysu—yn sicrhau £2 filiwn o refeniw bob blwyddyn i Gymru. Pe bai'r Brifysgol yn cael ei datgymalu, ni fyddai'r arian hwnnw, neu ran sylweddol ohono, yn dod i Gymru. Byddai'n mynd i Loegr, Canada neu UDA. Nid yw cael gormodedd o gyrrff â'r gallu i roi graddau yng Nghymru yn sefyllfa ddymunol. Dylem ddweud, er ei fod yn ddywediat cyfarwydd, os nad yw wedi torri yna peidiwch â'i atgyweirio. Mae angen arwydd clir y bydd Prifysgol Cymru yn parhau, fel y brifysgol y mae'r rhan fwyaf o

bobl Cymru yn ei disgwyl. Bydd hynny er lles Cymru.

The report is also ambiguous on promoting Welsh language courses. It suggests that this should be the preserve of Aberystwyth, Lampeter, Bangor and Carmarthen. We should note that there are more Welsh students in Cardiff and Swansea than there are in those locations. Admittedly, they are not Welsh speaking in many cases, but there is a Welsh-speaking element. I hope that the Minister can address that issue in her response and in any consultation as the result of this debate.

Clusters have been mentioned briefly and concern has been expressed to me regarding that. I was with Jonathan Morgan in Bangor discussing this issue and it is vital that we underline that the report is ambiguous on the subject of clusters. You cannot have many centres. The report mentions centering research in Cardiff, and centering teaching in Pontypridd. It might not mean that, but we must underline that that misapprehension exists.

4:00 p.m.

In conclusion, there are many good things in the report. We want clusters throughout Wales. People in west Wales, north Wales, and so on, are concerned about these. However, subject to those concerns, it is a good report, and there is much to be welcomed in it.

Karen Sinclair: I particularly welcome the emphasis on broadening access to higher education in this policy review. We must all agree that, in striving to attain the Labour Party's aim of getting 50 per cent of people under 30 into higher education, things will have to change. The North East Wales Institute of Higher Education has much to be proud of. I would like to take the opportunity to flag up what it is doing to widen access. It can serve as a shining example to many other traditional institutions. Currently, 57 per cent of the total student population at NEWI are mature students. This rises to 78 per cent of part-time students. Those figures are quite remarkable. It also recruits a higher

Mae'r adroddiad hefyd yn amwys ar fater hyrwyddo cyrsiau Cymraeg. Awgryma y dylid gwneud hynny yn Aberystwyth, Llanbedr Pont Steffan, Bangor a Chaerfyrddin yn unig. Dylem nodi fod mwy o fyfyrwyr Cymraeg yng Nghaerdydd ac Abertawe na sydd yn y lleoliadau hynny. Rhaid cyfaddef nad ydynt yn siaradwyr Cymraeg yn y rhan fwyaf o achosion, ond y mae elfen sy'n siarad Cymraeg. Gobeithiaf y gall y Gweinidog fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwnnw yn ei hymateb ac mewn unrhyw ymgynghoriad o ganlyniad i'r ddadl hon.

Soniwyd yn fyr am glystyrau a mynegwyd pryder i mi ynglŷn â hynny. Yr oeddwn gyda Jonathan Morgan ym Mangor yn trafod y mater hwn ac mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn tanlinellu bod yr adroddiad yn amwys ar fater clystyrau. Ni allwch gael nifer o ganolfannau. Sonia'r adroddiad am ganoli ymchwil yng Nghaerdydd a chanoli addysgu ym Mhontypridd. Mae'n bosibl na olyga hynny, ond rhaid i ni danlinellu bod y camddealltwriaeth hwnnw yn bodoli.

I gloi, mae llawer o bethau da yn yr adroddiad. Yr ydym am gael clystyrau ar draws Cymru. Mae pobl yn y Gorllewin, yn y Gogledd, ac yn y blaen, yn bryderus ynglŷn â hyn. Fodd bynnag, yn amodol ar y pryderon hynny, mae'n adroddiad da, ac mae llawer ynddo i'w groesawu.

Karen Sinclair: Croesawaf yn arbennig y pwyslais ar ehangu mynediad i addysg uwch yn yr adolygiad hwn o bolisi. Rhaid inni gyd gytuno, wrth geisio cyflawni nod y Blaid Lafur o gael 50 y cant o bobl o dan 30 mlwydd oed i mewn i addysg uwch, y bydd yn rhaid i bethau newid. Mae gan Athrofa Addysg Uwch Gogledd Ddwyrain Cymru lawer i ymfalchiō ynddi. Hoffwn fanteisio ar y cyfre hwn i bwysleisio'r hyn a wna i ehangu mynediad. Gall weithredu fel enghraifft wych i lawer o sefydliadau traddodiadol eraill. Ar hyn o bryd, mae 57 y cant o gyfanswm y myfyrwyr yn NEWI yn fyfyrwyr hŷn. Mae hyn yn codi i 78 y cant o fyfyrwyr rhan amser. Mae'r ffigurau hynny

proportion of full-time students from less privileged backgrounds—44 per cent compared to the average 32 per cent. Virtually 50 per cent enter with qualifications other than formal A-levels. To those who scoff at any deviation from the traditional higher education model, NEWI's success is illustrated by the fact that 89 per cent of its students enter either employment or further study after finishing their courses. This figure goes up to an impressive 98 per cent for those studying health care and business studies. The staff at NEWI are committed to taking away the fear of higher education and replacing it with a confidence to attain. They are committed to reaching out into the community and helping people on to pathways of study to progressively attain qualifications. NEWI describes itself as a post-modern university, meaning a university that is created by putting together all that is best in the traditional and modern universities and dropping all that inhibits people from either entering university or succeeding there. This philosophy fits perfectly into the National Assembly's aims, and I look forward to NEWI achieving this vision and spreading its expertise across the UK, hopefully aided by being awarded full university status.

Elin Jones: Datganaf fuddiant fel aelod o gyrrf llywodraethol Prifysgol Cymru, Llanbedr Pont Steffan, a Phrifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth. Wrth wneud hynny, tynnaf sylw at bwysigrwydd y sector addysg uwch yn fy etholaeth i yng Ngheredigion, sydd â thua 10,000 o fyfyrwyr, sydd yn gyfraniad economaidd a diwylliannol sylwedol i'r sir. Un o gryfderau cynhenid y sector addysg uwch yng Nghymru yw'r ffaith ei bod yn cyffwrdd â phob rhan o'r wlad, yn ail yn unig yn hyn o beth i glybiau pêl-droed Cynghrair Cymru.

Ers cyhoeddi'r adroddiad, er hynny, mae nifer o academyddion wedi ei feirniadu am roi gormod o bwyslais ar Gaerdydd a Morgannwg. Cyfeiriwyd at hyn eisoes. Yr oeddwn yn falch i glywed sylwadau Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ar hyn yn gynharach. Gobeithiaf

yn eithaf rhyfeddol. Mae hefyd yn reciwtio cyfran uwch o fyfyrwyr llawn amser o gefndiroedd llai breintiedig—44 y cant o'u cymharu â'r 32 y cant ar gyfartaledd. Mae bron 50 y cant yn ymuno gyda chymwysterau heblaw rhai safon uwch ffurfiol. I'r rheini sy'n wfftio unrhyw wyriad oddi wrth y model addysg uwch traddodiadol, mae'r ffaith bod 89 y cant o'i myfyrwyr yn sierhau cyflogaeth neu'n astudio ymhellach ar ôl gorffen eu cyrsiau yn arwydd o lwyddiant NEWI. Mae'r ffigur hwn yn codi i'r ffigur aruthrol o 98 y cant ar gyfer y rheini sy'n astudio gofal iechyd ac astudiaethau busnes. Mae'r staff yn NEWI yn ymrwymedig i ddileu'r teimlad o fod ag ofn addysg uwch a rhoi'r hyder i'w chyflawni yn ei le. Maent yn ymrwymedig i gyrraedd y gymuned a helpu pobl i ddod o hyd i ffyrdd o astudio er mwyn ennill cymwysterau fesul tipyn. Mae NEWI yn disgrifio ei hun fel prifysgol ôl-fodernaidd, sy'n golygu prifysgol a grëir drwy grynhau popeth sy'n wych am brifysgolion traddodiadol a modern a dileu popeth sy'n atal pobl rhag ymuno â phrifysgol neu lwyddo ynddi. Mae'r athroniaeth hon yn cydweddu'n berffaith â nodau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, ac edrychaf ymlaen at weld NEWI yn gwireddu'r weledigaeth hon ac yn lledaenu ei harbenigedd ledled y DU, a hynny, gobeithio gyda statws llawn prifysgol wedi ei ddyrrannu iddi.

Elin Jones: I declare an interest as a member of the governing bodies of the University of Wales, Lampeter, and the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. In doing so, I draw attention to the importance of the higher education sector in my constituency in Ceredigion, which has approximately 10,000 students, which is a substantial economic and cultural contribution to the county. One of the inherent strengths of the higher education sector in Wales is the fact that it touches all parts of the country, second only in this respect to the football clubs of the League of Wales.

Since publishing the report, however, several academics have criticised it for placing too great an emphasis on Cardiff and Glamorgan. References have already been made to this. I was pleased to hear the Chair of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee's earlier comments on this. I very

yn fawr felly y bydd y Gweinidog yn ei hymateb i'r adroddiad yn chwalu'r canfyddiad sydd mewn rhai mannau—yn Aberystwyth a Bangor yn benodol—o or ganolbwytio yn Nyffryn Taf, a chadarnhau'r sector addysg uwch fel sector â phresenoldeb a phwysigrwydd dros Gymru gyfan.

Canolbwytiaf weddill fy nghyfraniad ar addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Tua 2 y cant yn unig o addysg uwch a gyflwynir drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, ac o'r 6,000 o academyddion yng Nghymru, tua 100 ohonynt yn unig sy'n dysgu unrhyw beth drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Nid yw'r Gymraeg yn cyrraedd y faint o fod yn eilradd hyd yn oed mewn addysg uwch. Mae'n lwcus i gasglu'r briwsion dan draed. Dyna pam fod cyhuddiadau rhai o aelodau'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes o elitiaeth tuag at y syniadaeth o goleg ffederal Cymraeg mor bathetig o drist a sarhaus. Pwy sy'n cael eu hamddifadu o'u hawliau—y rhai sydd eisiau addysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, neu'r rhai sydd eisiau eu haddysg drwy gyfrwng y Saesneg? Mae'r addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd ar gael ar hyn o bryd yn y sector addysg uwch yn gwbl ddibynnol ar ambell ddarlithydd Cymraeg brwd yn cynnig opsiwn Cymraeg, yn aml yn ychwanegol i'w cytundeb. Os symuda'r darlithydd hwnnw o'r coleg—a gwn am sawl enghraifft o hyn—mae'r ddarpariaeth Gymraeg yn diflannu hefyd. Yn aml, mae hynny'n digwydd ar ganol cwrs myfyriwr.

Felly, creu elitiaeth, yn ôl rhai, yw rhoi'r cyfle i fwy o Gymry Cymraeg gael y dewis o addysg uwch yn y Gymraeg. Byddai creu cyfartaledd a thegwch yn rhagorach ddisgrifiad. Mae gwerth mawr i'r adroddiad hwn, ond o ran mynd i'r afael â'r diffyg dybryd mewn darpariaeth Gymraeg mewn addysg uwch, mae'r adroddiad yn gymharol ddiwerth. Cefnoga'r argymhelliaid Bwrdd y Brifysgol ar gyfer Dysgu Drwy Gyfrwng y Gymraeg i sefydlu canolfan genedlaethol rithiol, ond ar gyfer canolfan gefnogi, mae'n rhaid wrth rywbedd i'w gefnogi. Ar hyn o bryd, mae gennym ddiffyg mas critigol o ddarlithwyr ar draws ystod eang o bynciau sydd â chyfrifoldeb arbennig dros ddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae gwerth mawr i'r cysyniad o goleg ffederal Cymraeg er mwyn sierhau i addysg drwy gyfrwng y

much hope therefore that the Minister in her response to the report will dispel the perception in some places—in Aberystwyth and Bangor in particular—of an overemphasis on the Taff Valley, and affirm the higher education sector as a sector with a presence and importance throughout Wales.

I will focus the rest of my contribution on Welsh medium education. Only about 2 per cent of higher education is delivered through the medium of Welsh, and of the 6,000 academics in Wales, only about 100 of them teach anything through the medium of Welsh. The Welsh language does not even have the honour of being secondary in higher education. It is lucky to gather up the crumbs under the table. That is why the allegations by some members of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee of elitism toward the concept of a Welsh federal college is so pathetically sad and insulting. Who is being deprived of their rights—those who wish to receive Welsh-medium education, or those who wish to receive their education through the medium of English? The Welsh-medium education that is currently available in the higher education sector is totally dependent on a few enthusiastic Welsh lecturers offering a Welsh option, often in addition to their contract. If that lecturer moves from the college—and I know of several examples of this—the Welsh-medium provision also disappears. Often, that happens in the middle of a student's course.

So, according to some, providing the opportunity for more Welsh speakers to have the choice of higher education through the medium of Welsh would create elitism. Creating equality and fairness would be a better description. This report contains much that is of value, but in terms of tackling the dire lack of Welsh language provision in higher education, the report is relatively worthless. I support the University Board for Welsh Medium Teaching's recommendation of establishing a virtual national centre, but for a support centre, there must be something for it to support. At present, we lack a critical mass of lecturers with special responsibility for Welsh-medium teaching across a wide range of subjects. There is great value in the concept of a federal Welsh-language college to ensure that Welsh-medium education

Gymraeg gyd-ffynnu ag addyssg drwy gyfrwng y Saesneg.

Eleanor Burnham: The Liberal Democrats welcome this report as part of the partnership agreement to establish a strong future for Welsh universities while producing a 10-year strategy for adequately funded HE development and expansion. We will continue to press for an increase in urgently needed funding for colleges and universities in Wales to, at least, be on a par with England, and aspire to Scottish funding levels as soon as possible. NEWI, as has already been forcibly mentioned by Karen Sinclair, is fully deserving of total support in acquiring university status as soon as possible; it is a real model of widening participation within its community, as I and others heard last week. However, unless the Rees commission's recommendations are considered as soon as possible, students in Wales will still face huge financial problems and restricted access to any HE institution. Research has shown that 25 per cent of students work 40 hours per week and that 18 per cent work more than 30 hours per week. On average, students leave HE institutions with debts of over £5,000.

We are the only party in the UK that stands for true abolition of tuition fees, and student support through maintenance grants. We will continue to call for parity with Scotland and press for the abolition of tuition fees. However, HE is being protected and enhanced by this partnership Government in Wales and the reputation for academic excellence will be maintained and developed to its full potential.

Rosemary Butler: The report is an exciting document and I compliment the committee on the hard work it has done. Members have covered many aspects, but I will concentrate on access, which is vital. We have already heard what is happening in north-east Wales. What is happening in south-east Wales at the University of Wales College, Newport is incredibly innovative and exciting, and there is excellent work on access there. It is

flourishes alongside English-medium education.

Eleanor Burnham: Croesawa'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yr adroddiad hwn fel rhan o'r cytundeb partneriaeth i sefydlu dyfodol cryf i brifysgolion Cymru tra'n cynhyrchu strategaeth 10 mlynedd i ddatblygu ac ehangu addysg uwch wedi ei hariannu'n ddigonol. Byddwn yn parhau i bwys o fwy o arian sydd ei angen yn ddirfawr ar golegau a phrifysgolion yng Nghymru fel ein bod ar yr un lefel, o leiaf, â Lloegr, ac i anelu at fod ar yr un lefel ariannu â'r Alban cyn gynted â phosibl. Mae NEWI, fel y crybwylwyd yn rymus eisoes gan Karen Sinclair, yn llawn haeddu cefnogaeth lwyf i gael statws prifysgol cyn gynted â phosibl; mae'n fodel gwirioneddol o ehangu cyfranogiad o fewn ei chymuned, fel y clywais i ac eraill yr wythnos diwethaf. Fodd bynnag, onid ystyrir argymhellion comisiwn Rees cyn gynted â phosibl, bydd myfyrwyr yng Nghymru yn wynebu problemau ariannol enfawr o hyd a mynediad cyfyngedig i unrhyw sefydliad addysg uwch. Dangosodd ymchwil fod 25 y cant o fyfyrwyr yn gweithio 40 awr yr wythnos a bod 18 y cant yn gweithio mwy na 30 awr yr wythnos. Ar gyfartaledd, mae myfyrwyr sefydliadau addysg uwch yn gadael gyda dyledion o fwy na £5,000.

Ni yw'r unig blaid yn y DU sydd o blaid diddymu ffioedd dysgu yn wirioneddol, a rhoi cymorth i fyfyrwyr drwy grantiau cynhaliaeth. Byddwn yn parhau i alw am gydraddoldeb â'r Alban a phwyswn am ddiddymu ffioedd dysgu. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Llywodraeth bartneriaeth hon yng Nghymru yn diogelu ac yn gwella addysg uwch a chaiff yr enw da am ragoriaeth academaidd ei gynnal a'i ddatblygu i'w llawn botensial.

Rosemary Butler: Mae'r adroddiad yn ddogfen gyffrous a hoffwn ganmol y pwylgor am y gwaith caled a wnaeth. Cwmpaswyd sawl agwedd gan yr aelodau, ond hoffwn ganolbwytio ar fynediad, sy'n holl bwysig. Eisoes clywsom am yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn y Gogledd-ddwyrain. Mae'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn y De-ddwyrain yng Ngholeg Prifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd yn eithriadol o arloesol a chyffrous, ac mae

particularly reaching out to areas where people have not gone before. It is truly a community university. The work being undertaken in the Valleys, in Blaenau Gwent, is much appreciated by the people there, and by Peter Law, who represents that area. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Professor Ken Overshott, who turned the university from a college of higher education into a thriving, successful university. I also welcome Professor James Lusty, who has recently taken up his appointment as Principal.

In chapter 10 of the report, funding and access are discussed. We must have a formula for them. I wonder if the Minister, when she returns with the report to Plenary, can examine the possibility of a formula that will encourage people from families from which no-one has attended university before, and ensure that people in the Valleys and the more deprived parts of Wales have more opportunities to access what will be a hugely successful University of Wales—hopefully—for the twenty-first and twenty-second centuries.

Lorraine Barrett: The Committee heard the evidence and was charged with producing this report, and we, the members, can feel proud in presenting it to the Assembly today. It is not only that the report sets out a dynamic and radical vision for the sector in the coming years, but that it reflects well the evidence that we took from a wide and varied group of witnesses.

For me, like others, the most important part of this review concerns access. For too long, higher education has been something that people from disadvantaged backgrounds have not only not entered, but have not even considered it as an option. Progress has been made, and there has been an increase in the take-up of places by those from less advantaged backgrounds, but much more needs to be done. I am keen to emphasise the need to widen that access.

4:10 p.m.

Like the Minister and others today, I was greatly heartened by the news that six out of

gwaith rhagorol yn mynd rhagddo ar fynediad yno. Yn benodol, mae'n cyrraedd ardaloedd lle nad yw pobl wedi bod iddynt o'r blaen. Mae'n brifysgol gymunedol wirioneddol. Gwerthfawrogir yn fawr y gwaith a gyflawnir yn y Cymoedd, ym Mlaenau Gwent, gan y bobl yno, a chan Peter Law, sy'n cynrychioli'r ardal honno. Hoffwn fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn i dalu teyrnged i'r Athro Ken Overshott, a drodd y brifysgol o goleg addysg uwch yn brifysgol ffyniannus, lwyddiannus. Croesawaf hefyd yr Athro James Lusty, a ddechreuodd ar ei swydd yn ddiweddar fel y Prifathro.

Ym mhennod 10 o'r adroddiad, trafodir ariannu a mynediad. Rhaid inni gael fformiwla ar eu cyfer. Tybiaf a all y Gweinidog, pan ddychwel gyda'r adroddiad i'r Cyfarfod Llawn, archwilio'r posiblwydd o gael fformiwla a fydd yn annog pobl o deuluoedd lle nad oes neb wedi mynychu prifysgol o'r blaen, a sicrhau y caiff pobl yn y Cymoedd a'r rhannau mwy difreintiedig o Gymru fwy o gyfleoedd i fanteisio ar yr hyn a fydd yn Brifysgol aruthrol o lwyddiannus i Gymru—gobeithio—ar gyfer yr unfed ganrif ar hugain a'r ail ganrif ar hugain.

Lorraine Barrett: Clywodd y Pwyllgor y dystiolaeth a rhoddwyd y cyfrifoldeb iddo o gynhyrchu'r adroddiad hwn, a gallwn ni, yr aelodau, ymfalchö ynddo wrth ei gyflwyno i'r Cynulliad heddiw. Noda'r adroddiad nid yn unig weledigaeth ddeinamig a radical i'r sector yn y blynnyddoedd i ddod, ond adlewyrcha'n dda y dystiolaeth a gymerasom oddi wrth grŵp eang ac amrywiol o dystion.

I mi, fel eraill, rhan bwysicaf yr adolygiad hwn yw'r rhan sy'n ymneud â mynediad. Ers gormod o amser, bu addysg uwch yn rhywbeth nad yw pobl o gefndiroedd difreintiedig wedi manteisio arni, na hyd yn oed wedi ei hystyried yn opsiwn. Gwnaed cynydd, a bu cynydd yn nifer y lleoedd a gymerir gan y rheini o gefndiroedd llai breintiedig ond mae angen gwneud llawer mwy. Yr wyf yn awyddus i bwysleisio'r angen i ehangu'r mynediad hwnnw.

Fel y Gweinidog ac eraill heddiw, fe'm calonogwyd yn fawr gan y newyddion bod

the best 18 universities in Britain for widening access are in Wales. I hope that some of the measures set out in this report will be implemented so that more youngsters from deprived areas, such as Splott and Butetown in my constituency, are able to rise to the highest reaches of our higher education system. E-learning, for instance, offers endless opportunities to open higher education to more people, but even that option can seem out of reach to some. The HE institutions must work with our schools, in our communities, with business, and with the voluntary sector, to really open their doors to a wider section of our communities.

There is much good news today for the higher education sector in Wales. Our Labour Minister for Education today announced £6 million for research. She has also bridged the HE funding gap between England and Wales. The message from here must be that Wales is the place to be for higher education, and that more young people in Wales can and should aspire to higher education.

John Griffiths: I will also discuss access. My own experience highlights the great importance of this issue. Having gone from unemployment to further, and higher education as a mature student, I know that many of the people that I grew up with could have done so had they been in the position that I was placed in and—crucially—had they the same opportunity. I would therefore like to see us widen access further, and I congratulate the six universities that have been recognised in the access elite table. However, as Rosemary said, universities such as that at Newport have achieved much, but it was not in that table because it considered factors other than widening access. Newport has done a huge amount on widening access and that should be recognised.

I want to see us address the tremendous waste of human potential that has blighted our society for too long. All those who could have contributed much more to the economy and society in general is a waste for Wales as a whole as well as often being a personal

chwech allan o'r 18 o brifysgolion gorau ym Mhrydain o ran ehangu mynediad wedi eu lleoli yng Nghymru. Gobeithiaf y caiff rhai o'r mesurau a nodir yn yr adroddiad hwn eu gweithredu fel bod mwy o bobl ifanc o ardal oedd difreintiedig, fel y Sblob a Butetown yn fy etholaeth, yn gallu codi i uchelfannau ein system addysg uwch. Cynigia e-ddysgu, er enghraifft, gyfleoedd diddiwedd i gynnig addysg uwch i fwy o bobl, ond gall hyd yn oed yr opsiwn hwnnw ymddangos y tu hwnt i gyrraedd rhai pobl. Rhaid i'r sefydliadau addysg uwch weithio gyda'n hysgolion, yn ein cymunedau, gyda busnes, a chyda'r sector gwirfoddol, i agron eu drysau'n wirioneddol i sector ehangu o'n cymunedau.

Mae llawer o newyddion da heddiw i'r sector addysg uwch yng Nghymru. Cyhoeddodd ein Gweinidog Llafur dros Addysg heddiw £6 miliwn ar gyfer ymchwil. Pontiodd hefyd y bwlch ariannu o ran addysg uwch rhwng Lloegr a Chymru. Y neges yma yw mai Cymru yw'r lle i fod ar gyfer addysg uwch, ac y gall, a dylai, mwy o bobl ifanc yng Nghymru anelu at gael addysg uwch.

John Griffiths: Trafodaf innau fynediad hefyd. Mae fy mhrofiad i fy hun yn pwysleisio pwysigrwydd mawr y mater hwn. Ar ôl mynd o ddiweithdra i addysg bellach ac addysg uwch fel myfyriwr hŷn, gwn y gallai llawer o'r bobl y tyfais i fyny gyda hwy fod wedi gwneud hynny pe baent wedi bod yn y sefyllfa y cefais i fy rhoi ynddi ac—yn holl bwysig—pe baent wedi cael yr un cyfle. Hoffwn felly ein gweld yn ehangu'r mynediad ymhellach, a llonyfarchaf y chwe phrifysgol a gydnabuwyd yn nhabl y goreuon ar gyfer mynediad. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedodd Rosemary, mae prifysgolion fel yr un yng Ngasnewydd wedi cyflawni llawer, ond nid oedd yn y tabl hwnnw oherwydd iddo ystyried ffactorau heblaw ehangu mynediad. Gwnaeth Casnewydd lawer iawn o ran ehangu mynediad a dylid cydnabod hynny.

Yr wyf am ein gweld yn mynd i'r afael â'r gwastraff aruthrol o ran potensial pobl, sydd wedi difwyno ein cymdeithas ers gormod o amser. Mae'r holl bobl hynny a allai fod wedi cyfrannu llawer mwy at economi a chymdeithas yn gyffredinol yn wastraff i

tragedy for the individuals concerned. It is time that we addressed that tremendous waste of human potential. There has been expansion, which I welcome, and I recognise what is happening in Wales and congratulate the universities that have contributed towards that widening of access.

However, we should do much more. We must ensure that our higher education funding recognises and rewards institutions that achieve wider access. We should make changes there, and I would like to see that happen quickly. Also, student hardship is a vital factor in this matter. We must ensure that disadvantaged and under-represented sections are recruited and, obviously, retained. We must use the talents and abilities of all our people and end the tremendous waste of human potential that has blighted our society for too long.

Helen Mary Jones: We have heard much today about access, and it seems almost too obvious to state that the future of higher education in Wales, as anywhere, is entirely dependent on students. No institution has a future unless it has students who are willing and able to take advantage of the opportunities that that institution offers. There are institutions here that are among the best in the UK in terms of attracting students from those groups in society that have, in the past, found it harder to gain access to higher education, including students from poor families. They are, of course, to be congratulated. However, Members will be aware—from constituency surgeries, if nothing else—of the growing number of young people who are fearful of embarking on higher education courses, or who fear that they are unable to complete such studies due to the fear of debt in the future and the current reality of poverty.

Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales welcomed the commissioning of the Rees report and its findings. The report before us recommends the full implementation of that report and in particular, the suggestion of learner maintenance bursaries. The Minister has said that she will not respond to the report today.

Gymru yn gyffredinol yn ogystal â bod yn drasiedi bersonol yn aml i'r unigolion dan sylw. Mae'n bryd i ni fynd i'r afael â'r gwastraff aruthrol hwnnw o botensial pobl. Bu ehangu, a chroesawaf hynny, a chydubyddaf yr hyn sy'n digwydd yng Nghymru gan longyfarch y prifysgolion a gyfrannodd at ehangu'r mynediad hwnnw.

Fodd bynnag, dylem wneud llawer mwy. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod ein harian ar gyfer addysg uwch yn cydnabod ac yn gwobrwyd sefydliadau sy'n sicrhau mwy o fynediad. Dylem wneud newidiadau yno, a hoffwn weld hynny'n digwydd yn gyflym. Hefyd, mae caledi myfyrwyr yn ffactor hollbwysig yn y mater hwn. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod carfannau sydd o dan anfantais a heb gynrychiolaeth ddigonol yn cael eu reciwtio ac, yn amlwg, yn cael eu cadw. Rhaid inni ddefnyddio talentau a galluoedd ein pobl a rhoi diwedd ar y gwastraff aruthrol o botensial pobl sydd wedi difwyno ein cymdeithas ers gormod o amser.

Helen Mary Jones: Clywsom lawer heddiw am fynediad, ac ymddengys ei fod braidd yn rhy amlwg i nodi bod dyfodol addysg uwch yng Nghymru, fel unrhyw le, yn llwyr ddibynnol ar fyfyrwyr. Nid oes gan unrhyw sefydliad ddyfodol onid oes ganddo fyfyrwyr sy'n barod ac yn abl i fanteisio ar y cyfleoedd a gynigir gan y sefydliad hwnnw. Mae sefydliadau yma sydd ymhli y gorau yn y DU o ran denu myfyrwyr o'r grwpiau hynny mewn cymdeithas sydd, yn y gorffennol, wedi cael anhawster i gael mynediad i addysg uwch, gan gynnwys myfyrwyr o deuluoedd tlawd. Wrth gwrs, rhaid eu llonyfarch. Fodd bynnag, bydd Aelodau'n gwybod am—o gyngorfeidd etholaethau, os nad o unrhyw le arall—y nifer gynyddol o bobl ifanc sy'n ofni cychwyn ar gyrsiau addysg uwch, neu sy'n ofni na allant gwblhau astudiaethau o'r fath oherwydd ofn dyledion yn y dyfodol a realiti presennol tlodi.

Croesawodd Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales gomisiynu adroddiad Rees a'i gasgliadau. Mae'r adroddiad ger ein bron yn argymhell gweithredu'r adroddiad hwnnw yn llawn ac, yn benodol, yr awgrym o ddarparu bwrsariaethau cynnal dysgwyr. Dywedodd y Gweinidog na fydd yn ymateb i'r adroddiad

Why she cannot is a mystery to me because, as a member of the Committee, she must have been aware of its contents for some time. Be that as it may, I urge her to respond, as a matter of urgency, to the Rees report, which she has had for some months, and give a commitment as soon as possible to implement the vital recommendation of learner maintenance bursaries and give a timescale for that recommendation. The Government of Wales is often accused of commissioning reports, consulting with everyone about everything, and doing nothing. I understand that there is £20 million in the budget for access funds from next year and those funds have been recommended for abolition by the Rees report. Minister, will you act on the Rees report, replace access funds with maintenance bursaries, and do it now? You have the money, you have the policy directions from the Rees report so what is stopping you? Surely, it is not a fear of upsetting your Thatcherite friends in London New Labour? The Rees report has provided you with a Welsh solution to a Welsh problem, namely, student poverty: act on it—now.

Huw Lewis: Our reaction to this review is our reaction to issues of social justice. That is because I do not regard the defining characteristic of HE in Wales as being anything to do with institutions, their size, their shape, or how they are organised, or anything to do with the future of the University of Wales as an institution. The defining characteristic of HE as regards my constituents in Wales is that they do not experience it. That is what it is all about. This is a test of how serious we are about tackling those problems. All parties, bar one, tackled that problem seriously in this review and talked about it sensibly. However, it took a long time to talk Plaid Cymru around to taking this issue seriously. It believed that where people studied was more important than whether or not people deserve the opportunity to study at all. It even suggests that the ethnic and national identity of students in Wales should somehow be manipulated—

Janet Ryder rose—

heddiw. Mae'n ddirlgwch imi na all wneud hynny, oherwydd, fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor, rhaid ei bod yn gwybod ei gynnwys ers peth amser. Boed hynny fel y bo, fe'i hanogaf i ymateb, fel mater o frys, i adroddiad Rees, sydd wedi bod yn ei meddiant ers rhai misoedd, a gwneud ymrwymiad cyn gynted â phosibl i weithredu argymhelliaid holl bwysig yr bwrsariaethau cynnal dysgwyr a rhoi amserlen ar gyfer yr argymhelliaid hwnnw. Yn aml, cyhuddir Llywodraeth Cymru o gomisiynu adroddiadau, ymgynghori â phawb ynglŷn â phopeth, a gwneud dim. Deallaf fod £20 miliwn yn y gyllideb ar gyfer cronfeydd mynediad o'r flwyddyn nesaf ac argymhellodd adroddiad Rees y dylid diddymu'r arian hwnnw. Weinidog, a weithredwch ar adroddiad Rees, gan ddarparu bwrsariaethau cynnal yn lle cronfeydd mynediad, a gwneud hynny yn awr? Mae'r arian gennych, mae'r cyfarwyddiadau polisi gennych o adroddiad Rees felly beth sy'n eich rhwystro? Peidiwch â dweud eich bod yn ofni cynhyrfu eich ffrindiau Thatcheriaid o fewn Llafur Newydd Llundain? Darparodd adroddiad Rees ateb Cymreig i broblem Gymreig, sef, tlodi myfyrwyr: gweithredwch ar hyn—yn awr.

Huw Lewis: Ein hymateb i'r adolygiad hwn yw ein hymateb i faterion am gyflawnder cymdeithasol. Mae hynny am nad wyf yn ystyried nodwedd ddiffiniol addysg uwch yng Nghymru fel unrhyw beth sydd a wnelo â sefydliadau, eu maint, eu siâp, neu'r modd y cânt eu trefnu, neu unrhyw beth i'w wneud â dyfodol Prifysgol Cymru fel sefydliad. Nodwedd ddiffiniol addysg uwch o ran fy etholwyr yng Nghymru yw na chânt brofiad ohoni. Dyna beth yw ystyr hyn i gyd. Mae hwn yn brawf o ba mor ddifrifol yr ydym ynglŷn â mynd i'r afael â'r problemau hynny. Aeth pob plaid, namyn un, i'r afael â'r broblem honno o ddifrif yn yr adolygiad hwn a siaradwyd amdani yn synhwyrol. Fodd bynnag, cymerodd lawer o amser i ddarbwyllo Plaid Cymru i gymryd y mater hwn o ddifrif. Credodd fod y man lle yr oedd pobl yn astudio yn bwysicach na pha un a oedd pobl yn haeddu'r cyfle i astudio o gwbl. Mae hyd yn oed yn awgrymu y dylai hunaniaeth ethnig a chenedlaethol myfyrwyr yng Nghymru gael ei ffugio rywsut—

Janet Ryder a gododd—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. There is no time.

Huw Lewis: So that we could put even more Welsh middle-class kids into Welsh universities as opposed to those people who are excluded from HE opportunities at present. If nothing else, this review was a lesson in the dark side of Plaid Cymru politics—

Several Assembly Members rose—

Huw Lewis: I only have two minutes.

Eventually, even the Nationalists managed to drop this nonsensical flag waving and engage in the serious access issues before us. I am glad to see that at the top of the agenda, and I know that Jane will take those issues seriously. A waste of human potential, as John Griffiths mentioned, is criminal. To be effective, our access strategy must be more than grandstanding. It must be about tuition fees as election time approaches, because long before tuition fees were introduced, previous generations in my constituency were still excluded from HE. Getting the right financial supports in place, as the Minister has pledged, is only part of the story. It is also about expectation and aspiration in the communities that for far too long have been excluded from HE. The institutions themselves must do much more. They must do more to attract students from underrepresented communities, through compacts with schools, starting at an early age. They must also do more to retain these students. That will mean a greater commitment to pastoral care. Greater access does not mean—and I do not want to hear this excuse from the sector—that we will dilute standards or dumb down HE. It is an offensive response and I say to the Minister, as I have said before, that there are as many potential firsts in mathematics—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid oes amser.

Huw Lewis: Fel y gallem roi hyd yn oed mwy o blant dosbarth canol Cymru mewn prifysgolion Cymreig o'u cyferbynny â'r bobl hynny a gaiff eu hallgáu o gyfleoedd addysg uwch ar hyn o bryd. Os nad dim arall, yr oedd yr adolygiad hwn yn wers yn ochr dywyll gwleidyddiaeth Plaid Cymru—

Sawl Aelod Cynulliad a gododd—

Huw Lewis: Dim ond dwy funud sydd gennylf.

Yn y pen draw, llwyddodd hyd yn oed y Cenedlaetholwyr i roi'r gorau i'r nonsens hyn o chwifio baner ac ymroi i drafod y materion mynediad difrifol sydd ger ein bron. Yr wyf yn falch o weld hynny ar frig yr agenda, a gwn y bydd Jane yn cymryd y materion hynny o ddifrif. Mae gwastraffu potensial pobl, fel y soniodd John Griffiths, yn gywilyddus. I fod yn fwy effeithiol, rhaid i'n strategaeth mynediad fod yn fwy nag edrych o bell. Rhaid iddi ymwneud â ffioedd dysgu wrth i adeg etholiad agosáu, oherwydd ymhell cyn i ffioedd dysgu gael eu cyflwyno, yr oedd cenedlaethau blaenorol yn fy etholaeth yn dal i gael eu hallgáu o addysg uwch. Dim ond rhan o'r stori yw cael y seiliau ariannol yn eu lle, fel yr addawodd y Gweinidog. Mae a wnelo hefyd â disgwyliad a dyhead yn y cymunedau a gafodd eu hallgáu o addysg uwch ers gormod o amser. Rhaid i'r sefydliadau eu hunain wneud llawer mwy. Rhaid iddynt wneud mwy i ddenu myfyrwyr o gymunedau nas cynrychiolir yn ddigonol, drwy gytundebau ag ysgolion, gan ddechrau gyda phlant ifanc. Rhaid iddynt wneud llawer mwy hefyd i gadw'r myfyrwyr hyn. Bydd hynny'n golygu mwy o ymrwymiad i ofal bugeiliol. Nid yw mwy o fynediad yn golygu—ac nid wyf am glywed yr esgus hwn gan y sector—y byddwn yn glastwreiddio safonau neu addysg uwch. Mae'n ymateb tramgyddus a dywedaf wrth y Gweinidog, fel y dywedais o'r blaen, caiff yr un nifer o bobl a allai gael gradd dosbarth cyntaf mewn mathemateg—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Rhaid ichi

must finish now.

Huw Lewis: As many potential firsts in mathematics are born in Merthyr as in Monmouth, and it is our duty to realise that potential.

Alun Pugh: Fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, yr wyf yn falch o'r cyfle i gyfrannu i'r ddadl hon y prynhawn yma. Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn bwysig oherwydd ei fod yn gosod agenda i addysg uwch ar gyfer y 10 mlynedd nesaf. Fel arfer, nid oes digon o amser i ddatblygu dadl lawn ar y pwnc yn awr. Felly, canolbwytiaf ar ddau fater. Yn gyntaf, addysg uwch i bawb. Cytunaf â John Griffiths ei bod hi'n anoddach i fyfyrwyr dosbarth gweithiol i fynd i addysg uwch. Mae hyn yn annerbyniol i mi a gobeithiaf ei fod yn annerbyniol i'r Cynulliad. Rhaid i bethau newid. Yr wyf am weld dull cylldio blynnyddol newydd er mwyn sicrhau'r amcan hon. Mae'n rhaid i blant o gefndir tlawd gael chwarae teg.

4:20 p.m.

Yn ail, mae gennym dair prif ganolfan addysg uwch yng ngogledd Cymru, ym Mangor, yn Wrecsam ac ym Mae Colwyn. Yr wyf am longyfarch Bangor am fod ymhliith y goreuon o ran sicrhau mynediad. Mae'n glir y dylai NEWI yn Wrecsam gael statws prifysgol yn fuan. Mae hyn yn hollbwysig i ogledd-ddwyrain Cymru. Hefyd, mae gan fy hen goleg, Coleg Llandrillo, record dda mewn addysg uwch.

Hoffwn weld pob sefydliad yn cydweithio er mwyn hybu datblygu economaidd ac i ddarparu addysg uwch i bawb. Dywedaf wrth Pauline Jarman fy mod am weld mwy o fyfyrwyr Cymraeg yn ymgymryd ag addysg uwch a mwy o fyfyrwyr yn derbyn addysg uwch yng Nghymru.

Phil Williams: I declare an interest as a professor in the University of Wales, whose research is supported by a Research Council grant. I had to do that because the report emphasises the importance of university research in a knowledge-driven economy, and points to inadequate funding for research in Wales. I give it full marks for that. Read

orffen yn awr.

Huw Lewis: Caiff yr un nifer o bobl a allai gael gradd dosbarth cyntaf mewn mathemateg eu geni ym Merthyr ag y caiff eu geni yn Nhrefdynwy, a'n dyletswydd ni yw gwireddu'r potensial hwnnw.

Alun Pugh: As a member of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee, I am pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to this debate this afternoon. This report is important because it sets an agenda for HE for the next 10 years. As usual, there is insufficient time for me to develop a full debate on the subject now. Therefore, I will focus on two issues. Firstly, HE for all. I agree with John Griffiths that it is more difficult for working class students to enter HE. That is unacceptable to me, and I hope, that it is unacceptable to the Assembly. Things must change. I wish to see a new annual funding system in order to secure this objective. Children from poor backgrounds must be given fair play.

Secondly, in north Wales we have three main higher education centres, in Bangor, Wrexham and Colwyn Bay. I congratulate Bangor for being among the best in terms of ensuring access. It is evident that NEWI in Wrexham should attain university status soon. This is very important for north-east Wales. Also, my former college, Coleg Llandrillo, has a good record in higher education.

I wish to see every institution co-operating in order to promote economic development and provide higher education for all. I say to Pauline Jarman that I want to see more Welsh students entering higher education and more students receiving higher education in Wales.

Phil Williams: Datganaf fuddiant fel athro ym Mhrifysgol Cymru, yr ategir fy ymchwil gan grant gan y Cyngor Ymchwil. Bu'n rhaid imi wneud hynny gan fod yr adroddiad yn pwysleisio pwysigrwydd ymchwil prifysgol mewn economi a hybir gan wybodaeth, a phwysleisia nad ariennir ymchwil yn ddigonol yng Nghymru. Rhoddaf farciau

carefully, the report also rejects the division between teaching and research universities. However, unfortunately, a quick reading gives the impression that all research will be concentrated in Cardiff. That must be rejected. Every true university should have some world-class research, to ensure that the institution knows what world-class research is like. That is why the recommendation for centres of excellence is vital and why each cluster of institutions should have a share of such centres.

However, world-class research, wherever it is located, requires adequate funds. The report points out that our universities, with 6 per cent of UK students, get only 3 per cent of research funds. The overall level of research funding is worse than these figures suggest. If we add the cost of government laboratories and research institutes, Wales gets only 2 per cent of the research budget—a shortfall of £60 million a year. If we are serious about research, that is the budget we will need, with half going to universities. We will also need a Welsh research council to distribute this budget, as Mike German suggested in some of his evidence to the Committee.

This leads me to my main point—the distribution of resources and the effect of the present research assessment exercise. Many problems started with the widely discredited 1992 assessment, which was based not on the average output of each member of staff, but on the total output of each department. It was impossible for small departments to receive high ratings. There has been a long-term effect in Wales. Under the present formula, a department's budget increases dramatically with research ratings—a 5* department gets between three and four times the research funding of a 3b department. Once a department has been given a low rating, it has to reduce staff, teaching loads increase and, without extra funds, it is almost impossible for it to carry out research in order to win a higher grade. That, of course, was the intention of the Russell group, and parts of Wales have suffered disproportionately. To

llawn i hynny. Darllenwch yn ofalus, mae'r adroddiad hefyd yn gwrthod y rhaniad rhwng prifysgolion addysgu ac ymchwil. Fodd bynnag, yn anffodus, mae ei ddarllen yn gyflym yn rhoi'r argraff y bydd yr ymchwil i gyd yng Nghaerdydd. Rhaid gwrthod hynny. Dylai pob prifysgol feddu ar rywfaint o ymchwil o'r radd flaenaf, er mwyn sicrhau bod y sefydliad yn gwybod beth yw ymchwil o'r radd flaenaf. Dyna pam mae'r argymhelliaid ar gyfer canolfannau rhagoriaeth yn holl bwysig a dyna pam y dylai pob clwstwr o sefydliadau gael cyfran o ganolfannau o'r fath.

Fodd bynnag, mae ymchwil o'r radd flaenaf, lle bynnag y'i lleolir, yn galw am ddigon o arian. Noda'r adroddiad mai dim ond 3 y cant o'r arian ymchwil a gaiff ein prifysgolion, sydd â 6 y cant o fyfyrwyr y DU. Mae lefel gyffredinol yr arian ar gyfer ymchwil yn waeth nag y mae'r ffigurau hyn yn ei awgrymu. Pe ychwanegem gost labordai'r llywodraeth a sefydliadau ymchwil, dim ond 2 y cant o'r gyllideb ymchwil a gaiff Cymru—diffyg o £60 miliwn y flwyddyn. Os ydym o ddifrif yngylch ymchwil, dyna'r gyllideb y bydd ei hangen arnom, gyda hanner ohoni'n mynd i brifysgolion. Bydd angen cyngor ymchwil i Gymru arnom hefyd i ddosbarthu'r gyllideb hon, fel yr awgrymodd Mike German mewn rhan o'i dystiolaeth i'r Pwyllgor.

Mae hyn yn fy arwain at fy mhrif bwynt—dosbarthu adnoddau ac effaith yr ymarfer asesu ymchwil presennol. Dechreuodd llawer o broblemau gydag asesiad 1992 y bwriwyd amheuaeth arno yn gyffredinol, a oedd yn seiliedig nid ar gynnrych pob aelod o staff ar gyfartaledd, ond ar gyfanswm cynrych pob adran. Yr oedd yn amhosibl i adrannau bach gael gradd uchel. Bu'r effaith yn hirdymor yng Nghymru. O dan y fformiwl a bresennol, mae cyllideb adran yn cynyddu'n ddramatig gyda graddfeydd ymchwil—mae adran 5* yn cael rhwng tair a phedair gwaith yr arian ymchwil a gaiff adran 3b. Pan fydd adran yn isel ar y raddfa, rhaid iddi leihau nifer y staff, mae'r baich addysgu yn cynyddu a heb arian ychwanegol, mae bron yn amhosibl iddi wneud gwaith ymchwil er mwyn cyrraedd graddfa uwch. Dyna, wrth gwrs, oedd bwriad grŵp Russell, ac mae rhannau o Gymru wedi dioddef yn anghyfartal. I fod yn deg, mae

be fair, HEFCW has always modified the formula used in England to make it less punitive on lower-rated departments in Wales. Now that we intend to introduce the third mission funding, we need to look again at that formula, and ask whether it is appropriate for our objectives in using universities to drive economic development in all parts of Wales. If we are serious about research throughout Wales through centres of excellence, we will need an extra budget, and, while retaining selectivity in funding, we must find our way of doing that to serve Wales best.

Cynog Dafis: Yr ydych wedi profi, yn ystod y drafodaeth hon, rywfaint o'r ysbryd a deimlwyd yn y Pwyllgor, o'r cyfeillgar a'r cadarnhaol i'r anghyfeillgar a'r gwirthdrawiadol. Ond felly y mae ym myd gwleidyddiaeth wrth gwrs. Pwysleisiaf i bob Aelod a gyfrannodd fod holl argymhellion yr adroddiad, ac eithrio'r rhai a nodir yn Atodiad 8, wedi eu cytuno gan bob aelod o'r Pwyllgor. Ceir unfrydedd ar bob argymhelliad. Ni chaf yr argraff yn y drafodaeth hon fod pawb yn derbyn hynny.

Yr oedd unfrydedd yn arbennig ar ehangu mynediad. Mae'n thema gref yn yr adroddiad ac nid wyf yn cofio i'r un blaidd orfod cael ei pherswadio i dderbyn egwyddor bwysig cyfartaledd cymdeithasol. Mae'n dda gennyf ddweud y ceid unfrydedd ar hynny.

Credaf y byddai'r Pwyllgor yn derbyn y materion ynglŷn â chanoli a'r ymagwedd i Gymru gyfan yn llawen. Os edrychwch yn ofalus ar y testun, nid oes neb yn awgrymu y dylid canoli ymchwil yng Nghaerdydd. Mae'n cydnabod bod clwstwr ymchwil yng Nghaerdydd ar hyn o bryd, ac gellid cryfhau hynny drwy gydweithio agosach rhwng y brifysgol a'r coleg meddygol. Nid oes neb yn awgrymu, ac nid yw'r adroddiad yn awgrymu, na ddylai fod gweithgarwch ymchwil ar draws Cymru. Yn wir, byddai pawb yn cytuno bod hynny'n gwbl allweddol ac y byddai creu canolfannau rhagoriaeth a chreu clystyrau yn galluogi hynny i ddigwydd.

Dywedaf air am gyllid i gloi. Yr wyf yn siŵr

CCAUC wedi addasu'r fformiwl a ddefnyddir yn Lloegr bob tro fel nad yw'n cosbi adrannau ar raddfa is yng Nghymru i'r un graddau. Gan ein bod yn bwriadu cyflwyno arian y drydedd genhadaeth yn awr, rhaid inni edrych eto ar y fformiwl honno, a gofyn a yw'n briodol i'n hamcanion wrth ddefnyddio prifysgolion i hybu datblygiad economaidd ym mhob rhan o Gymru. Os ydym o ddifrif ynglŷn ag ymchwil ledled Cymru drwy ganolfannau rhagoriaeth, bydd angen cyllideb ychwanegol arnom, a thrâ'n parhau i arddel detholgarwch o ran arian, rhaid inni ddod o hyd i'n ffordd ni o wneud hynny i wasanaethu Cymru orau.

Cynog Dafis: You have experienced, during this debate, some of the spirit seen in Committee, from the amicable and positive to the unfriendly and antagonistic. But that is how it is in politics of course. I emphasise to all Members who participated that all of the report's recommendations, with the exception of those noted in Annex 8, were agreed by every member of the Committee. There is unanimity on each recommendation. I do not get the impression from this discussion that everyone accepts that.

In particular, there was unanimity on extending access. It is a strong theme in the report and I do not remember any political party having to be persuaded to accept the important principle of social equality. I am pleased to say that there was unanimity on that.

I believe that the Committee would happily accept the matters concerning centralisation and the all-Wales approach. If you look carefully at the text, nobody is suggesting that research should be centralised in Cardiff. It recognises that there is currently a research cluster in Cardiff, and that it could be strengthened by closer co-operation between the university and the medical college. Nobody is suggesting, and the report does not suggest, that there should not be research activity across Wales. Indeed, everyone would agree that that is completely essential and that creating centres of excellence and creating clusters would enable that to happen.

Finally, I will mention funding briefly. I am

y bydd y sector yn croesawu cyhoedd iad y Gweinidog ynglŷn â'r £6 miliwn. Fodd bynnag, mae'r sector hefyd yn edrych am gyllido cadarn a sefydlog ar lefel ddigonol dros y blynnyddoedd.

Croesawaf y ddadl ac edrychaf ymlaen at weld gweithredu llawer o argymhellion yr adroddiad hwn. Edrychaf ymlaen hefyd i weld y sector addysg uwch, o ganlyniad, yn ffynnu.

sure that the sector will welcome the Minister's announcement about the £6 million. However, the sector is also looking for robust and stable funding on an adequate level over the years.

I welcome the debate and I look forward to seeing action on many of the report's recommendations. I also look forward to seeing the higher education sector prosper as a result.

*Cynnig: O blaid 52, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 52, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen

Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru The Wales Millennium Centre

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Jonathan Morgan.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Jonathan Morgan.

The Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language (Jenny Randerson): I propose that

Y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg (Jenny Randerson): Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly welcomes the imminent signature of the contract for the construction of the Wales Millennium Centre, which is being made possible by a grant from the Assembly of up to £37 million. (NDM923)

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn croesawu llofnodi buan y contract ar gyfer adeiladu Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru sy'n cael ei alluogi gan grant oddi wrth y Cynulliad o hyd at £37 miliwn. (NDM923)

I propose that

Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales notes the intention of the Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language to authorise a notifiable transaction under Standing Order No. 19.13 (as described in the statement laid in the Table Office on 14 January) for the disposal of land at Pierhead Street, Cardiff bay, to the Wales Millennium Centre Company for a nominal consideration. (NDM924)

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn nodi bwriad y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg i awdurdodi trafodiad hysbysadwy o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 19.13 (fel a ddisgrifir yn y datganiad a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Ionawr) ar gyfer gwaredu tir yn Pierhead Street, bae Caerdydd, i Ganolfan Mileniwm Cymru am enw o gydnabyddiaeth (NDM924)

I am pleased to propose these motions on the Wales Millennium Centre, and to report on the considerable and positive progress made since the statement by the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities on 5 April 2001.

Mae'n bleser gennyf gynnig y cynigion hyn ar Ganolfan Mileniwm Cymru a rhoi adroddiad ichi ar y cynnydd sylweddol a chadarnhaol a wnaed ers datganiad y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau ar 5 Ebrill 2001.

There are two motions before you: one welcomes the imminent signing of the contract for the construction of the centre and sets an Assembly Government funding limit of £37 million, while the second motion is technical and concerns the disposal of the land by the Assembly to the WMC company. I will say more on that later.

Mae dau gynnig ger eich bron. Mae un yn croesawu llofnodi buan y contract ar gyfer adeiladu'r ganolfan ac yn nodi terfyn ariannu Llywodraeth y Cynulliad sef £37 miliwn. Mae'r ail gynnig yn un technegol sy'n ymwneud â'r Cynulliad yn gwaredu'r tir i gwmni Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru. Dywedaf ragor am hynny eto.

First, I acknowledge the support of the First Minister and the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities, with whom I have worked closely on this during the last year. I also commend Sir David Rowe-Beddoe. His clear mind and resolute grip have instilled the project with a determined sense of purpose that is appropriate to direct the procurement process and the construction phase. The WMC board and staff now have the right specialist knowledge and skills for effective management of a major capital project.

I believe that the project is well equipped to successfully manage the challenges facing it. This is a landmark project that helps to define Wales nationally and internationally. It will provide a unique environment in which the seven resident organisations, including Welsh National Opera, Diversions dance company, Hijinx theatre, and the Touch Trust, can grow and flourish.

4:30 p.m.

It will be a premier venue to showcase existing and emerging Welsh talent to the world. Against any standards, this will be an expensive project. By the end of the current phase, the Assembly will have provided the company with £5 million to support the development work that has produced buildable plans, and to enable the technical work required to support the procurement of a contract at a fixed price.

The April statement sought to describe the parameters of the Assembly's financial exposure to the project. Those were established as somewhere between £25 million and £37 million, in addition to our existing commitment of £8 million. If the implied Assembly contribution were to fall outside those limits, we could not support the project. It was with those parameters in mind that the First Minister, the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities and I met Sir David Rowe-Beddoe last summer. He required assurances in order to negotiate effectively with his construction partner, Sir Robert McAlpine. In turn, the McAlpine construction company has

Yn gyntaf, cydnabyddaf gefnogaeth Prif Weinidog Cymru a'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau, y bûm yn gweithio'n agos gyda hwy ar hyn yn ystod y flwyddyn diwethaf. Cymeradwyaf hefyd Syr David Rowe-Beddoe. Mae ei feddwl clir a'i afael cadarn wedi rhoi cyfeiriad pendant i'r prosiect sy'n addas i lywio'r broses caffaol a'r gwaith adeiladu. Erbyn hyn mae bwrdd y ganolfan a'i staff yn meddu ar y wybodaeth arbenigol a'r sgiliau cywir i reoli prosiect cyfalafl mawr yn effeithiol.

Credaf fod y prosiect yn gymwys iawn ymdopi'n llwyddiannus â'r heriau a wyneba. Mae'r prosiect hwn yn garreg filltir sy'n helpu i ddiffinio Cymru yn genedlaethol ac yn rhwngwladol. Bydd yn safle unigryw lle y gall y saith mudiad preswyl, gan gynnwys Cwmni Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru, cwmni dawns Diversions, theatr Hijinx a'r Touch Trust, dyfu a ffynnu.

Bydd yn lleoliad o'r radd flaenaf ac yn llwyfan i ddangos talentau presennol Cymru i'r byd, ynghyd â'r dalent sy'n datblygu. Ni fydd hwn yn brosiect rad ar unrhyw gyfrif. Erbyn diwedd y cam presennol, bydd y Cynulliad wedi rhoi £5 miliwn i'r cwmni tuag at y gwaith datblygu sydd wedi arwain at gynlluniau adeiladwy, ac i'w alluogi i wneud y gwaith technegol sydd ei angen i gefnogi'r broses o gaffael contract am bris sefydlog.

Ceisiodd datganiad mis Ebrill ddisgrifio hyd a lled ymrwymiad ariannol y Cynulliad i'r prosiect. Cadarnhawyd y byddai'r Cynulliad yn ymrwymo rhwng tua £25 miliwn a £37 miliwn, yn ychwanegol at ein hymrwymiad presennol o £8 miliwn. Pe bai cyfraniad goblygedig y Cynulliad yn mynd y tu hwnt i'r terfynau hynny, ni allem gefnogi'r prosiect. Gan gadw'r terfynau hynny mewn cof cynhaliwyd cyfarfod rhwng y Prif Weinidog, y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau a minnau a Syr David Rowe-Beddoe yr haf diwethaf. Gofynnodd am sicrwydd er mwyn negodi gyda'i bartner adeiladu, Syr Robert McAlpine, yn effeithiol. Mae cwmni adeiladu

made a significant investment in terms of its own time and expertise to bring the project to a level of development where a fixed price has been produced. We agreed that the Assembly would set aside up to £29 million for the project and that we would be willing to make the full amount available should it be required. That sum and the previous commitment of £8 million brings the total Assembly commitment to £37 million. Five million pounds of that has already been expended on development and technical work. We have also made clear that that represented the absolute maximum of Assembly support.

I am pleased to say that the issue of land ownership is now resolved. On 14 January, I tabled a statement in which I proposed to authorise a notifiable transaction to which Standing Order No. 19.13 applies. Cardiff City and County Council bought the site for the WMC from Grosvenor Waterside last year for less than Grosvenor Waterside considered to be full market value. Grosvenor Waterside saw the WMC as a prestige project that would enhance the value of its other land holdings in the vicinity. However, it required undertakings from Cardiff that it would be compensated if the WMC project did not start on site by March 2002. Cardiff—

Janet Davies rose—

Jenny Randerson: I will not take any interventions at this stage. I have a tight timetable and this is highly technical information.

Having paid £2.5 million for the site, Cardiff council has now offered to contribute it to the project for a nominal sum. However, it is only prepared to do so if it is relieved of any ongoing contingent liability to Grosvenor Waterside and if the Assembly will enter into undertakings to compensate it if the WMC project does not proceed as planned. I have agreed with the council that it will transfer ownership of the site to the Assembly in the first instance; the Assembly will in turn lease the site to the WMC for a peppercorn rent and will effectively assume the council's contingent liability towards Grosvenor Waterside. The terms are currently under

McAlpine, yn ei dro, wedi gwneud buddsoddiad sylweddol o ran ei amser a'i arbenigedd ei hun i ddatblygu'r prosiect i'r fath raddau fel y bu modd gosod pris. Cytunwyd y byddai'r Cynulliad yn neilltuo hyd at £29 miliwn ar gyfer y prosiect ac y byddem yn fodlon rhyddhau'r holl arian pe bai angen hynny. Mae'r swm hwnnw a'r ymrwymiad blaenorol o £8 miliwn yn golygu bod y Cynulliad wedi ymrwymo £37 miliwn. Gwariwyd £5 miliwn o'r arian hwnnw eisoes ar waith datblygu a thechnegol. Yr ydym hefyd wedi egluro mai hwnnw fydd uchafswm cefnogaeth ariannol y Cynulliad.

Mae'n dda gennyl nodi ein bod bellach wedi datrys mater perchenogaeth y tir. Ar 14 Ionawr, cyflwynais ddatganiad lle y cynigiais awdurdodi trafodiad hysbysadwy sy'n berthnasol i Reol Sefydlog Rhif 19.13. Prynodd Cyngor Dinas a Sir Caerdydd y safle ar gyfer y ganolfan oddi wrth Grosvenor Waterside y llynedd am lai na'i werth llawn ar y farchnad yn nhyb Grosvenor Waterside. Ym marn Grosvenor Waterside yr oedd y ganolfan yn brosiect pwysig a fyddai'n cynyddu gwerth ei ddaliadau eraill yn y cyffiniau. Fodd bynnag, gofynnodd i gyngor Caerdydd addo y byddai'n cael ei ddigolledi pe na bai prosiect y ganolfan yn dechrau ar y safle erbyn Mawrth 2002. Mae Caerdydd—

Janet Davies a gododd—

Jenny Randerson: Ni dderbyniaf unrhyw ymyriadau ar hyn o bryd. Mae gennyl amserlen dynn ac mae hon yn wybodaeth dechnegol iawn.

Ar ôl talu £2.5 miliwn am y safle, mae cyngor Caerdydd bellach wedi cynnig rhoi'r safle i'r prosiect am swm bach. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n barod i wneud hynny oni chaiff ei ryddhau o unrhyw atebolwydd amodol i Grosvenor Waterside ac oni fydd y Cynulliad yn ymrwymo i'w ddigolledu os na fydd prosiect y ganolfan yn mynd rhagddo yn ôl y bwriad. Cytunais â'r cyngor y bydd yn trosglwyddo perchenogaeth y safle i'r Cynulliad yn y lle cyntaf, bydd y Cynulliad, yn ei dro, yn prydlesu'r safle i'r ganolfan am rent bach ac yn ymgymryd ag atebolwydd amodol y cyngor i Grosvenor Waterside i bob diben. Mae'r telerau yn cael eu negodi ar hyn

negotiation, therefore such details have to remain commercially confidential. I envisage that I will need to authorise the terms of these agreements on contingent liability under the urgency procedure provided by Standing Order No. 19. I will then promptly provide you with full details.

Car parking still needs to be resolved. The WMC board has given considerable thought to the matter and is in negotiation with the private sector. It is also possible that the space currently indicated as a car park might be used for other arts-related activities. None of these issues are likely to be resolved in the short term. We need to be mindful of the requirement to finance the cost of car parking. The board is working on ways to include the funding for car parking in the business plan without compromising the quality of the development. The car parking may be resolved off-site commercially, and it will not affect the Assembly's £37 million input.

It is important that the funding package for the project as a whole is now in place and covers the current project price. After this debate, I will circulate the details to all Members. The Millennium Commission has recently awarded the project a significant amount of additional funds—another £3.7 million. The target to raise private and commercial funding is now £9.6 million, and the income from the capital allowance scheme is set at £7 million.

You are aware of the recent criticism of the Centre for Visual Arts project. I was determined not to repeat that. In relation to the Wales Millennium Centre, the business plan, including the visitor numbers, was the subject of scrutiny by two independent consultants and the Culture Committee. The Committee Chair confirmed that members were reassured of the soundness of the business plan, and could see no reason for the Assembly to refuse the project the go-ahead.

I now turn to the project price. In April, the best estimate at the time, based on a design at Royal Institute of British Architects stage D, was £92 million. It was likely that further

o bryd, felly rhaid cadw'r manylion hynny yn fasnachol gyfrinachol. Rhagwelaf y bydd angen imi awdurdodi telerau'r cytundebau hyn ar yr atebolrwydd amodol o dan y weithdrefn frys a ddarperir o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 19. Yna rhoddaf y manylion llawn ichi yn ddi-oed.

Mae angen datrys mater y maes parcio o hyd. Mae bwrdd y ganolfan wedi ystyried y mater hwn yn ddwys ac mae'n negodi gyda'r sector preifat ar hyn o bryd. Mae'n bosibl hefyd y caiff y lle a glustnodir ar hyn o bryd ar gyfer maes parcio ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer gweithgareddau celfyddydol eraill. Nid yw'n debygol y caiff unrhyw un o'r materion hyn ei ddatrys yn y tymor byr. Mae angen inni gofio'r gofyniad i ariannu cost y maes parcio. Mae'r bwrdd yn gweithio ar ffordd arall o gynnwys cost y maes parcio yn y cynllun busnes heb amharu ar ansawdd y datblygiad. Mae'n bosibl y caiff problem y maes parcio ei datrys drwy faes parcio masnachol nad yw'n rhan o'r ganolfan, ac ni fydd yn effeithio ar £37 miliwn y Cynulliad.

Mae'n bwysig bod y pecyn ariannol ar gyfer y prosiect cyfan ar waith a'i fod yn talu am bris cyfredol y prosiect. Ar ôl y ddadl hon, dosbarthaf fanylion i'r holl Aelodau. Mae Comisiwn y Mileniwm wedi dyfarnu swm sylweddol o arian ychwanegol i'r prosiect yn ddiweddar, sef £3.7 miliwn arall. Y targed ar gyfer codi arian preifat a masnachol erbyn hyn yw £9.6 miliwn, a chafodd yr incwm o'r cynllun lwfans cyfalaf bellach ei bennu yn £7 miliwn.

Fe wyddoch am y feirniadaeth yn ddiweddar o brosiect Canolfan y Celfyddydau Gweledol. Yr oeddwn yn benderfynol na fyddai hynny yn digwydd eto. O ran Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru, craffwyd ar y cynllun busnes, gan gynnwys nifer yr ymwelwyr, gan ddau ymgynghorydd annibynnol a'r Pwyllgor Diwylliant. Cadarnhaodd Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor fod yr aelodau wedi'u sikhau bod y cynllun busnes yn un cadarn, ac na allai weld unrhyw reswm pam na ddylai'r Cynulliad gefnogi'r prosiect.

Trof yn awr at bris y prosiect. Ym mis Ebrill, yr amcangyfrif gorau ar y pryd, yn seiliedig ar gynllun cam D Sefydliad Brenhinol Penseiri Prydain, oedd £92 miliwn. Yr oedd

work would have some impact on that cost. The return to a fixed-price procurement methodology has helped to refine the plans further, to the price before us today. The WMC and Sir Robert McAlpine have worked closely to complete that work and to deliver an agreed fixed price for the construction element. Significant amounts of the construction cost have been tested on the open market. Only in this way has it been possible to determine, with a high degree of accuracy, keen prices for the work in a genuinely competitive environment.

We now have the clearest and firmest view yet of what the project cost will be. The WMC chairman has written to me, seeking approval to proceed on the basis of a fixed-price cost for construction and a total project cost of £104.2 million. That figure is above that set out in the April statement. The project proposes to meet the increase partly by increased capital allowances—that package is much more certain than it was last year—partly from the additional Millennium Commission award, the increased target for private and commercial fundraising and through the acquisition of the land for, effectively, no fee.

I am content that the capital allowance finance will be in place subject to final approval by the Inland Revenue, and that the commission funds will be released. I also consider the project to be well placed to meet the challenging but realistic target for private financing.

I have been impressed by the project's performance over the last six months. It has achieved a great deal in turning away from construction management procurement, and reaching this point in a fixed-price approach. I believe that we now have a project that is well equipped at board and executive level to proceed to the build stage. While some risks remain, we have a fixed price for the construction of the building, and an overall project price of £104.2 million.

In April, the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities set out clearly

yn debygol y byddai gwaith pellach yn effeithio ar y gost honno i ryw raddau. Mae'r penderfyniad i ddychwelyd at fethodoleg caffael pris sefydlog wedi helpu i fireinio'r cynlluniau ymhellach, gan roi'r pris sydd ger ein bron heddiw. Mae'r ganolfan a Syr Robert MacAlpine wedi cydweithio'n agos i gwblhau'r gwaith hwnnw ac i gyflwyno pris sefydlog cytûn ar gyfer y gwaith adeiladu. Profwyd nifer o elfennau'r gost adeiladu ar y farchnad agored. Dim ond fel hyn y bu modd pennu, yn fanwl gywir, brisiau isel am y gwaith mewn amgylchedd sy'n wirioneddol gystadleuol.

Erbyn hyn mae gennym y darlun cliriaf, mwyaf pendant hyd yma o gost y prosiect. Ysgrifennodd cadeirydd y ganolfan ataf i ofyn am ganiatâd i fwrw ymlaen â'r cynllun ar sail cost pris sefydlog ar gyfer codi'r adeilad a chyfanswm o £104.2 miliwn ar gyfer y prosiect cyfan. Mae'r ffigur hwnnw yn uwch na'r ffigur a nodwyd yn natganiad mis Ebrill. Bwriad a'r prosiect dalu am y swm ychwanegol yn rhannol drwy lwfansau cyfalaf uwch—mae'r pecyn hwnnw yn llawer mwy sicr nag yr oedd y llynedd—ac yn rhannol drwy grant ychwanegol Comisiwn y Mileniwm, drwy'r targed uwch ar gyfer codi arian preifat a masnachol a thrwy gaffael y tir am ddim, i bob diben.

Yr wyf yn fodlon y bydd cyllid y lwfans cyfalaf ar gael, yn amodol ar ganiatâd terfynol Cyllid y Wlad, ac y caiff arian y comisiwn ei ryddhau. Yr wyf hefyd o'r farn fod y prosiect mewn sefyllfa dda i gyrraedd y targed heriol ond realistig ar gyfer arian preifat.

Mae perfformiad y prosiect dros y chwe mis diwethaf wedi creu argraff arnaf. Mae wedi cyflawni cryn dipyn wrth gefnu ar gaffael rheoli adeiladu, a chyrraedd y cam hwn o broses sy'n seiliedig ar bennu pris sefydlog. Credaf fod gennym brosiect sydd bellach yn gymwys iawn o ran y bwrrd a'r swyddogion gweithredol i fynd ymlaen i'r cam adeiladu. Er bod rhai risgiau o hyd, mae gennym bris sefydlog ar gyfer codi'r adeilad, a chyfanswm o £104.2 miliwn ar gyfer y prosiect cyfan.

Ym mis Ebrill, nododd y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau yn

that for the project to proceed, it must meet financial tests. It has met the set targets and remains well within the parameters of risk that were outlined then.

It needs political support from all parties and from all parts of Wales. Indeed, I have endeavoured to move forward on an all-party basis at all times. It is clear that the project has considerable support, but not without conditions. Should there be any question over the effective operation of the project, or should some of the risks that I have outlined begin to materialise with consequent issues affecting the Assembly, I shall ensure that they are brought back to Plenary.

This is a unique project. It will promote and define the achievement and potential of our culture across the UK and the world. While projecting outwards, it will also provide a home in Wales to nurture, develop and showcase our talent.

Before I close, I welcome Jonathan Morgan's amendment 1 to the first motion. I cannot overemphasise the importance of the Wales Millennium Centre to Wales. Companies across Wales will come to perform at the centre, and shows that originate there will tour Wales. The tourism potential for Wales is enormous. The centre will have a major impact in helping to put Wales on the map, in the UK and internationally. We have also announced a further £2 million to support the arts outside Cardiff when the Wales Millennium Centre comes on stream. In addition, there is a huge increase in the Arts Council of Wales's overall budget.

4:40 p.m.

All this promises a rosy future for the arts across Wales and significant additional development outside Cardiff. My culture strategy, 'Creative Future:Cymru Greadigol', takes forward many actions that promote access and participation across Wales. We need a clear and unequivocal statement today of the Assembly's position. Endorsing the first motion will provide a firm statement of our support without losing sight of the

glir fod yn rhaid i'r prosiect gwrrdd â meini prawf ariannol er mwyn iddo fynd rhagddo. Mae wedi cyrraedd y targedau a bennwyd ac mae'r prosiect yn parhau o fewn y terfynau risg a nodwyd bryd hynny.

Mae angen cefnogaeth wleidyddol arno gan bob plaid ac o bob rhan o Gymru. Yn wir, yr wyf bob amser wedi ceisio gweithredu ar sail drawsbleidiol. Mae'n amlwg bod cryn gefnogaeth i'r prosiect, ond nid cefnogaeth ddiamod ydyw. Os cyfyd unrhyw amheuon ynglŷn â gweithredu effeithiol y prosiect, neu os daw rhai o'r risgiau a nodwyd gennyf i'r golwg, a fydd, o ganlyniad, yn effeithio ar y Cynulliad, byddaf yn sicrhau y cânt eu dwyn gerbron y Cyfarfod Llawn.

Mae hwn yn brosiect unigryw. Bydd yn hyrwyddo ac yn diffinio cyflawniad a photensial ein diwylliant ar draws y DU a'r byd. Tra'n edrych y tu hwnt i ffiniau ein gwlad, bydd hefyd yn gartref i feithrin, datblygu ac arddangos ein talent yng Nghymru.

Cyn cloi, croesawaf welliant i Jonathan Morgan i'r cynnig cyntaf. Ni allaf bwysleisio gormod pa mor bwysig yw Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru i Gymru. Bydd cwmniau o bob rhan o Gymru yn dod i berfformio yn y ganolfan, a bydd sioeau a gaiff eu cyflwyno yno yn mynd ar daith drwy Gymru. Mae'r potensial o ran twristiaeth yng Nghymru yn enfawr. Bydd y ganolfan yn bwysig iawn i helpu i dynnu sylw at Gymru, yn y DU ac yn rhyngwladol. Yr ydym hefyd wedi cyhoeddi £2 filiwn arall i gefnogi'r celfyddydau y tu allan i Gaerdydd pan ddaw Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru yn weithredol. Yn ogystal, mae cynnydd enfawr yng nghyfanswm cylideb Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru.

Mae hyn oll yn argoeli'n dda ar gyfer dyfodol y celfyddydau ym mhob rhan o Gymru ac ar gyfer datblygiadau sylweddol ychwanegol y tu allan i Gaerdydd. Mae fy strategaeth ddiwylliant, 'Creative Future:Cymru Greadigol' yn datblygu llawer o weithrediadau a fydd yn annog pobl i gymryd rhan yn y celfyddydau ar draws Cymru ac yn ei gwneud yn haws iddynt wneud hynny. Mae angen gwneud datganiad clir, diamwys

difficulties of large-scale projects. We have set out our position clearly today. I am not prepared to equivocate on these terms. If the first motion is approved, it will clear the way for the project to proceed. I believe that we can agree that the benefits of the WMC will be considerable. It will help to shape Wales's modern profile, demonstrate our confident cultural identity and provide a remarkable future for some of our premier national cultural and artistic bodies. I beg you to support the motion.

heddiw o safbwyt y Cynulliad. Bydd cymeradwyo'r cynnig cyntaf yn ddatganiad cadarn o'n cefnogaeth heb golli golwg ar yr anawsterau a geir mewn prosiectau mawr. Yr ydym wedi nodi ein safbwyt yn glir heddiw. Yr wyf yn bendant ynglŷn â'r amodau hyn Os cymeradwyir y cynnig cyntaf, bydd yn paratoi'r ffordd i fwrr ymlaen â'r prosiect. Credaf y gallwn gytuno y daw manteision sylwedol i Gymru yn sgil y ganolfan. Bydd yn helpu i lunio proffil cyfoes Cymru, yn dangos ein hunaniaeth ddiwylliannol hyderus ac yn sicrhau dyfodol disglair i rai o'n prif gyrrff diwylliannol a chelfyddyadol. Apelias arnoch i gefnogi'r cynnig.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I appeal for brief speeches. There will be time for everyone to contribute, but the session will overrun by a few minutes.

Glyn Davies: I propose amendment 1 in the name of Jonathan Morgan. Add at the end of the motion:

and acknowledges the importance of also making substantial investment in the arts in other parts of Wales.

The sheer scale of the investment of public money required to enable the Wales Millennium Centre to proceed forces all of us to consider carefully our approach to this motion. There are many good reasons why we should give financial support to this project. However, there are also good reasons why we should be concerned about the scale of the investment. After due consideration, the Welsh Conservatives have decided to support the motion.

There is no doubt that the Wales Millennium Centre will be a magnificent building. It will have the potential to put Wales on the arts map of the world and add to Wales's attraction as a tourist destination. It will help Cardiff to become a truly cultural capital, suitable to be declared Cultural Capital of Europe. It will also give a major boost to the development of Cardiff bay.

However, I will address the concerns, particularly on the scale of public sector investment in Cardiff. There is concern in

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Apelias arnoch i siarad yn fyr. Bydd amser i bawb gyfrannu, ond bydd y cyfarfod ychydig funudau dros amser.

Glyn Davies: Cynigiaf welliant 1 yn enw Jonathan Morgan. Ar ddiwedd y cynnig ychwanegu:

ac yn cydnabod y pwysigrwydd o fuddsoddi'n sylwedol hefyd yn y celfyddydau mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru.

Mae swm enfawr yr arian cyhoeddus y mae angen ei fuddsoddi i sicrhau bod Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru yn mynd rhagddi yn peri inni oll ystyried yn ddwys ein hymagwedd tuag at y cynnig hwn. Mae sawl rheswm da pam y dylem gefnogi'r prosiect hwn yn ariannol. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer o resymau da hefyd pam y dylem boeni ynglŷn â maint y buddsoddiad. Ar ôl ystyriaeth briodol, mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru wedi penderfynu cefnogi'r cynnig.

Nid oes amheuaeth y bydd Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru yn adeilad godidog. Bydd ganddo'r potensial i anfarwoli Cymru yn gelfyddyadol ar draws y byd a gwneud Cymru yn lle mwy atyniadol i dwristiaid. Bydd yn helpu Caerdydd i ddod yn brifddinas diwylliant wirioneddol, yn addas i gael ei phenodi'n Brifddinas Diwylliant Ewrop. Bydd hefyd yn rhoi hwb mawr i ddatblygiad bae Caerdydd.

Fodd bynnag, ymdriniaf â'r pryderon, yn enwedig o ran maint buddsoddiad y sector cyhoeddus yng Nghaerdydd. Mae pryder

other parts of Wales that Cardiff is already getting more than its share. I share that concern. It is an inevitable consequence of devolution. The presence of the National Assembly in Cardiff inevitably imposes a gravitational pull towards south-east Wales. I also believe—this is the only negative tone to my contribution—that we have a highly Cardiff-centric Government in the Assembly. It should be acknowledged that this investment in the Wales Millennium Centre is another major investment in Cardiff. We must reassure the rest of Wales that we are aware of that. I am pleased that the Minister will support the amendment.

My second concern is more personal and relates to the need for a national art gallery in Wales. I share the view expressed eloquently by Phil Williams in his recent short debate and even more eloquently and frequently by another great icon of Welsh culture, Sir Kyffin Williams, as well as by others, that we should have a national art gallery in Wales. My concern is that this investment, which involves so much money, could make a public sector contribution to a national art gallery less likely. I hope that it will not. Were I faced with a well developed proposal for a national art gallery, I would be torn in deciding on the first arts priority.

However, we are not faced by such a choice today. We are considering a well researched and well developed project that has a great prospect of proceeding in the near future. We have heard the Minister's assurance about visitor numbers. We have heard that she has satisfied herself about the robustness of these figures and the soundness of the business plan. The case for the Wales Millennium Centre is as strong from an economic development perspective as it is from an arts perspective. It will also play a major part in completing the Cardiff bay project, which has completely lost momentum. I am disappointed by the attitude of some Members towards this problem. I believe that the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation was wound up at least a year too soon, for political reasons. There is a danger that the £0.5 billion of public money invested in the

mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru bod Caerdydd eisoes yn cael mwy na digon. Rhannaf y pryder hwnnw. Canlyniad anochel datganoli yw hyn. Mae presenoldeb y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yng Nghaerdydd yn anochel yn denu pethau i dde-ddwyrain Cymru. Credaf hefyd—dyma'r unig nodyn negyddol yn fy nghyfraniad—fod gennym Lywodraeth yn y Cynulliad sy'n Gaerdydd-ganolog. Dylid cydnabod bod y buddsoddiad hwn yng Nghanolfan Mileniwm Cymru yn fuddsoddiad mawr arall yng Nghaerdydd. Rhaid inni dawelu meddyliau pobl yng ngweddill Cymru ein bod yn ymwybodol o hynny. Yr wyf yn falch o nodi y bydd y Gweinidog yn cefnogi'r gwelliant.

Mae fy ail bryder yn un mwy personol ac yn ymwneud â'r angen am oriel gelf genedlaethol yng Nghymru. Yr wyf yn cydfynd â'r farn a fynegwyd yn huawdl gan Phil Williams yn ei ddadl fer yn ddiweddar ac yn fwy huawdl ac amlach byth gan gawr arall yn niwylliant Cymru, Syr Kyffin Williams, yn ogystal â phobl eraill, y dylem gael oriel gelf genedlaethol yng Nghymru. Fy mhryder i yw y gallai'r buddsoddiad hwn, sy'n swm mor fawr, ei gwneud yn llai tebygol y bydd y sector cyhoeddus yn cyfrannu'n ariannol at oriel gelf genedlaethol. Gobeithiaf nad yw hynny yn wir. Pe bai cynnig tra datblygedig ar gyfer oriel gelf genedlaethol ger fy mron, byddwn mewn cyfyng-gyngor ynglŷn â'r flaenoriaeth gelfyddydol bennaf.

Fodd bynnag, ni wynebwn ddewis o'r fath heddiw. Yr ydym yn ystyried prosiect tra datblygedig sy'n ffrwyth ymchwil dda y rhagwelir y bydd yn mynd rhagddo yn y dyfodol agos. Clywsom sicrwydd y Gweinidog ynglŷn â nifer yr ymwelwyr. Clywsom ei bod yn fodlon ei hun bod y ffigurau hyn a'r cynllun busnes yn gadarn. Mae'r ddadl o blaid Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru yr un mor gryf o safbwyt datblygu economaidd ag y mae o safbwyt celfyddydol. Bydd hefyd yn chwarae rhan bwysig wrth gwblhau prosiect bae Caerdydd, sydd wedi colli ei holl fomentwm. Mae agwedd rhai Aelodau tuag at y broblem hon yn siomedig. Yn fy marn i, cafodd Corfforaeth Datblygu Bae Caerdydd ei dirwyn i ben o leiaf flwyddyn yn rhy gynnar, am resymau gwleidyddol. Mae perygl na chaiff y £0.5 biliwn o arian cyhoeddus a

regeneration of Cardiff bay over recent years will not be used for its intended purpose. A sum of £37 million is a huge amount of public money, but the strongest argument for investing so much in the Wales Millennium Centre is to regard that sum as necessary to complete the £500 million project. It is much better to invest £37 million in this landmark building to complete the Cardiff bay regeneration project for the people of Wales than to invest £40 million in a building for the convenience of Assembly Members. We have talked enough about the Wales Millennium Centre: it is now time to get on with building it.

Peter Law: I wonder how much more money we are going to pour into this latest Cardiff-based national institution at the expense of poor people, who are particularly excluded throughout communities in Wales. In April, when it was first discussed, there was going to be a ceiling of £92 million. I prophesised then—and I get no pleasure from being right today—that it would go past £100 million. It is now £104 million and rising, and we are in the blank cheque mentality, as hostages to fortune, by agreeing to this proposition today. The contribution of £53 million in public funding from the Assembly block for this project is obscene, bearing in mind the problems throughout the communities of Wales, of which everybody in this Chamber knows. The National Assembly is investing £37 million, but £10 million from the Arts Council of Wales is being siphoned away from those hard-pressed communities. My community received £200,000 from the arts council last year. I have waited four months for a letter telling me what else it has sent there, and it cannot tell me. The sum of £6 million from the Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board is being siphoned away from the budget of hard-pressed communities to make this project possible.

Phil Williams: Peter, how do you assess the evidence from Sydney and Bilbao that when a prestigious arts building is built in a city, the resulting economic benefits are felt strongly and widely in the surrounding region?

fuddsoddwyd i adfer bae Caerdydd yn ystod y blynnyddoedd diwethaf ei ddefnyddio at y diben a fwriadwyd. Mae £37 miliwn yn swm enfawr o arian cyhoeddus, ond y ddadl gryfaf dros fuddsoddi cymaint yng Nganholfan Mileniwm Cymru yw ystyried y swm hwnnw yn rhan hanfodol o gwblhau prosiect gwerth £500 miliwn. Llawer gwell fyddai buddsoddi £37 miliwn yn yr adeilad pwysig hwn i gwblhau prosiect adfywio bae Caerdydd i bobl Cymru na buddsoddi £40 miliwn mewn adeilad er cyfleustra Aelodau'r Cynulliad. Bu digon o sôn am Ganolfan Mileniwm Cymru: mae'n bryd mynd ati i'w hadeiladu yn awr.

Peter Law: Tybed faint yn fwy o arian a roddwn i'r sefydliad cenedlaethol diweddaraf hwn i'w leoli yng Nghaerdydd ar draul pobl dlawd, sydd wedi'u hallgáu'n arbennig mewn cymunedau ledled Cymru. Ym mis Ebrill, pan drafodwyd hyn am y tro cyntaf, y bwriad oedd gosod uchafbris o £92 miliwn. Proffwydais bryd hynny—ac nid wyf yn ymbleseru yn yffaith bod yr hyn a broffwydais wedi dod yn wir heddiw—y byddai'n costio dros £100 miliwn. Y gost erbyn hyn yw £104 miliwn ac mae'n cynyddu, ac yr ydym fel pe baem â siec wag, yn wastl ffawd, drwy gytuno â'r cynnig hwn heddiw. Mae cyfraniad o £53 miliwn o arian cyhoeddus o floc y Cynulliad i'r prosiect hwn yn warthus, o gofio'r problemau sydd gan gymunedau ledled Cymru, problemau y mae pawb yn y Siambra hon yn ymwybodol ohonynt. Mae'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn buddsoddi £37 miliwn, ond mae £10 miliwn o arian Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru yn cael ei dynnu o'r cymunedau hynny sy'n dioddef cyni. Cafodd fy nghymuned £200,000 o gyngor y celfyddydau y llynedd. Bu'n rhaid imi aros pedwar mis am lythyr i ddweud wrthyf am unrhyw symiau eraill a roddwyd ganddo, ac ni all roi'r wybodaeth honno imi. Mae'r swm o £6 miliwn o Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a Bwrdd Croeso Cymru yn cael ei dynnu o gyllideb y cymunedau sy'n dioddef cyni i wireddu'r prosiect hwn.

Phil Williams: Peter, sut yr aseswch y dystiolaeth o Sydney a Bilbao bod y manteision economaidd a ddaw yn sgîl codi adeilad pwysig i'r celfyddydau mewn dinas, hefyd yn amlwg yn y rhanbarth eang o'i hamgylch?

Peter Law: I am sure that there may be evidence to uphold that, but how do you assess the economic benefits to places such as Tredegar, in Blaenau Gwent, where you have the nerve to have your office? How do you justify what you support today to people in a depressed community who will not thank you for your comments? The reality is that when you stand in Tredegar, Abertillery, Merthyr or Brynmawr and see how little people have, you begin to wonder how this could happen. I am not just talking about those communities; I will mention a few more in a moment. That is what we are talking about—the haves and have nots. When you know that the Corus package was £50 million and is dwarfed by £53 million for this project, you start to question the priorities. That is a stark contrast—

Peter Law: Yr wyf yn siŵr bod tystiolaeth i ategu hynny, ond sut yr aseswch y manteision economaidd mewn lleoedd megis Tredegar, ym Mlaenau Gwent, y buoch yn ddigon digwylydd i agr eich swyddfa yno? Sut yr ydych yn cyflawnhau'r hyn a gefnogwch heddiw i bobl mewn cymuned ddirwasgedig na fyddant yn ddiolchgar ichi am eich sylwadau? Y gwir yw pan ydych yn sefyll yn Nhredegar, Abertyleri, Merthyr neu Ffrynmawr a gweld cyn lleied sydd gan bobl, yr ydych yn dechrau meddwl sut yn y byd y gallai hyn ddigwydd. Nid dim ond y cymunedau hynny sydd gennyl mewn golwg; soniaf am eraill yn y man. Dyna beth sydd dan sylw—y rhai sydd â digon a'r rhai sydd heb ddim. O wybod bod pecyn Corus gwerth £50 miliwn a'i fod wedi ei fwrw i'r cysgod gan y £53 miliwn ar gyfer y prosiect hwn, mae dyn yn dechrau amau'r blaenoriaethau. Mae hynny yn gwbl groes—

Brian Hancock: The Corus package was poor and insignificant and the people of the Valleys have suffered. However, do you not agree that if we had a passenger railway coming from Ebbw Vale into Cardiff and Newport, all our communities would be able to gain momentum from economic development happening anywhere in south Wales?

Peter Law: Fifty seven million pounds would pay for that railway. I have great confidence in the First Minister and the Minister for Environment who are pursuing that objective with great vigour and I look forward to it happening in the future. However, £50 million for Corus—which I was delighted with—is small compared to £53 million going into a concert hall across the road. That is how people start to look at these issues, particularly as the Corus package was to deal with thousands of redundant steelworkers all over Wales. What are the priorities? With £220 million invested in this Cardiff bay development to date and £12 million a year used to clear the algae from the lake, people wonder what is going on. Twelve million pounds pays for a community hospital. I remind the Tories of that—they like to talk about hospitals. Half a million pounds has been spent on the Oval Basin tower fountain that does not and never

Brian Hancock: Yr oedd pecyn Corus yn annheilwng ac yn dila ac mae pobl y Cymoedd wedi dioddef. Fodd bynnag, oni chytunwch y byddai ein holl cymunedau'n gallu manteisio ar ddatblygiadau economaidd sy'n digwydd unrhyw le yn y de pe bai rheilffyrrd i deithwyr o Lynebwy i Gaerdydd a Chasnewydd?

Peter Law: Byddai £57 miliwn yn talu am y rheilffordd honno. Yr wyf yn ymddiried yn fawr yn y Prif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd sy'n mynd ar drywydd hynny yn egniol iawn ac edrychaf ymlaen at weld hynny yn digwydd yn y dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, mae'r £50 miliwn i Corus—yr oeddwn yn fodlon iawn arno—yn swm bach o'i gymharu â'r £53 miliwn a gaiff ei wario ar neuadd gyngerdd gyferbyn. Dyna sut y mae pobl yn dechrau edrych ar y materion hyn, yn enwedig am mai diben pecyn Corus oedd darparu ar gyfer miloedd o weithwyr dur a ddiswyddwyd ar draws Cymru. Beth yw'r blaenoriaethau? Ar ôl y £220 miliwn a fuododdwyd hyd yma i ddatblygu bae Caerdydd yn y modd hwn a'r £12 miliwn y flwyddyn a ddefnyddir i waredu algâu o'r llyn, mae pobl yn dechrau gofyn beth sy'n digwydd. Mae £12 miliwn yn ddigon i dalu am ysbtyt cymuned. Hoffwn atgoffa'r Torfaid o hynny—maent yn

has worked. That does not help the situation. We are in a virtual reality where private investment is available to build buildings such as this in Cardiff bay, but does not exist in other parts of Wales, such as my constituency, where there are no private developers. What does this mean to people in Blaenau Gwent, Rhondda, Llanelli, the Gwendraeth valley and Carmarthen?

4:50 p.m.

There are excluded and socially deprived people in north Wales. How do they see the future? Many of them will never see the centre, let alone sit in it. That is the reality of this development and what it will be like for Wales. In a city that has the excellent facilities of the New Theatre, the Cardiff International Arena, St David's Hall, the Sherman Theatre, and the Millennium Stadium—which has been so successfully used—we now see another development. Something else is being developed here in the south-east corner of Wales. Yet, there are people sleeping rough on the streets half a mile away, even in this city.

Who listens to the voices of the poor and the excluded? Who wants to change their lives? If we are unable to change the lives of deprived and excluded people, we have failed to achieve what the Assembly is about. If the first motion is carried today, the rich will have stolen from the poor. This development is decadent, and demonstrates a powerful minority being allowed to penalise the silent majority in Wales. We must have fair and equitable distribution of projects like this, and public sector funding for all the people of Wales. That is why, reluctantly, I am unable to support the motion. It is an excessive burden on the public purse. The money should be spent on far more deserving causes for the good of all the people of Wales.

Owen John Thomas: I welcome the proposal to authorise a transaction for the disposal of the land at Pierhead Street to the Wales Millennium Centre for a nominal

hoff o sôn am ysbtyai. Gwariwyd hanner miliwn o bunnau ar y tŵr dŵr yn y Basn Hirgrwn nad yw'n gweithio ac na fydd yn gweithio byth. Nid yw hynny o fudd. Yr ydym mewn byd rhithwir lle mae buddsoddi preifat ar gael i godi adeiladau megis hwn ym mae Caerdydd, ond nid yw ar gael mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru, fel fy etholaeth i, lle nad oes unrhyw ddatblygwyr preifat. Beth mae hynny yn ei olygu i bobl ym Mlaenau Gwent, Rhondda, Llanelli, cwm Gwendraeth a Chaerfyddin?

Mae pobl sydd wedi'u hallgáu ac sy'n ddifreintiedig yn y Gogledd. Pa fath o ddyfodol a welant hwy? Ni fydd llawer ohonynt byth yn gweld y ganolfan heb sôn am eistedd ynddi. Dyna'r gwirionedd am y datblygiad hwn a'r hyn a fydd yn digwydd yng Nghymru. Mewn dinas sydd â chyfleusterau ardderchog y Theatr Newydd, Arena Ryngwladol Caerdydd, Neuadd Dewi Sant, Theatr Sherman a Stadiwm y Mileniwm—a ddefnyddiwyd mor llwyddiannus—cawn ddatblygiad arall. Mae rhywbeth arall yn cael ei ddatblygu yma yn ne-ddwyrain Cymru. Ac eto, mae pobl yn cysgu ar y stryd hanner milltir i ffwrdd, hyd yn oed yn ddinas hon.

Pwy sy'n gwrando ar lais y tlodion a'r rhai wedi'u hallgáu? Pwy sydd am newid eu bywydau hwy? Os na allwn newid bywydau pobl ddifreintiedig, wedi'u hallgáu, yr ydym wedi methu â chyflawni nod y Cynulliad. Os derbynir y cynnig cyntaf heddiw, bydd y cyfoethogion wedi dwyn oddi wrth y tlodion. Mae'r datblygiad hwn yn afradlon, ac yn dangos bod lleiafrif pwerus yn cael cosbi'r mwyafrif mud yng Nghymru. Rhaid sicrhau bod prosiectau o'r fath yn cael eu dosbarthu'n gyfartal ac yn deg, a bod arian y sector cyhoeddus yn cael ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer holl bobl Cymru. Dyna pam, o'm hanfodd, na allaf gefnogi'r cynnig. Mae'n faich ormodol ar bwrs y wlad. Dylid gwario'r arian ar achosion llawer mwy haeddiannol er lles holl bobl Cymru.

Owen John Thomas: Croesawaf y cynnig i awdurdodi trafodiad ar gyfer gwaredu'r tir yn Pierhead Street a'i drosglwyddo i Ganolfan Mileniwm Cymru am dâl bychan. Mae hyn,

consideration. This, I am given to understand, involves the sale of the freehold by the city council to the National Assembly on a 999-year lease for £1, at a peppercorn rent of £30 per annum.

Last April, when we debated this matter, there was strong feeling among some Members that Cardiff, as the greatest beneficiary of the Wales Millennium Centre, should contribute more toward its implementation. I suggested then that the city would enhance its standing throughout Wales and its prospects of becoming the Cultural Capital of Europe by arranging the leasing of the site at a peppercorn rent to the Wales Millennium Centre Company. Cardiff City and County Council, having enabled this to happen, deserves praise—praise that it rarely receives in this Chamber, or anywhere else for that matter. *Da iawn*, Russell—well done, Russell.

Let us face this fact: if the Wales Millennium Centre is not built in Cardiff, it will be lost to Wales altogether. Bear that in mind—especially you, Peter.

Bydd y prosiect yn costio £104 milwn—£12 miliwn yn uwch na brasamcan mis Gorffennaf. Yn bennaf, mae'r cynnydd hwn yn deillio o'r angen i bennu pris mwy ymarferol. Er mwyn gwneud hyn, yr oedd yn rhaid gweithredu contract pris sefydlog â chwmni o statws byd-eang, sef Sir Robert McAlpine. Fodd bynnag, bydd cyfraniad y Cynulliad yn aros yn £37 miliwn. Hynny yw, bydd ein cyfraniad o £37 miliwn, ar y mwyaf, yn denu cyfraniad o gyfeiriadau eraill gwerth £67 miliwn, sef cyfanswm o £104 miliwn. Ymddengys hyn yn ddêl arbennig o dda.

Bydd y ganolfan yn llwyfan i ddoniau Cymru gyfan i'w datblygu a'u magu a'u dangos i'r byd. Yn yr un modd â Stadiwm y Mileniwm, bydd Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru yn fynegiant o fenter a hyder cenedlaethol. Gall hyn newid delwedd y Cynulliad o fod yn sefydliad sydd yn methu â chyflawni. Dyma gyfle, felly, i ni ddangos ein potensial drwy hyrwyddo prosiect o statws byd-eang.

Fodd bynnag, a ydym yn gwneud digon i

fe ddeallaf, yn golygu y bydd cyngor y ddinas yn gwerthu'r rhyddfraint i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol am brydles o 999 o flynyddoedd am £1, ar rent isel o £30 y flwyddyn.

Fis Ebrill diwethaf, pan drafodwyd y mater hwn, yr oedd rhai o'r Aelodau yn teimlo'n gryf y dylai Caerdydd, a oedd yn mynd i elwa fwyaf ar Ganolfan Mileniwm Cymru, gyfrannu mwy tuag at weithredu'r ganolfan. Awgrymais bryd hynny y byddai'r ddinas yn uwch ei pharch yng Nghymru ac yn cael gwell cyfle i fod yn Brifddinas Diwylliant Ewrop drwy drefnu i brydlesu'r safle am rent isel i Gwmni Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru. Mae Dinas a Sir Caerdydd, ar ôl sicrhau bod hyn yn bosibl, yn haeddu canmoliaeth—canmoliaeth a ddaw i'w rhan yn go anfynych yn y Siambra hon, neu unrhyw le arall o ran hynny. Da iawn, Russell.

Gadewch inni gofio'r ffaith hon: os nad adeiledir Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru yng Nghaerdydd, caiff ei cholli yn gyfan gwbl. Cofiwch hynny—yn enwedig chi, Peter.

The project will cost £104 million—£12 million more than the July estimate. Primarily, this increase arises from the need to set a more realistic price. In order to do this, a fixed-price contract had to be drawn up with a company of world renown, namely Sir Robert McAlpine. However, the Assembly's contribution will remain at £37 million. That is, our contribution of a maximum of £37 million will attract a contribution from other directions worth £67 million, which is a total of £104 million. That appears to be an exceptionally good deal.

The centre will be a stage for the talents of the whole of Wales to be developed and nurtured and shown to the world. As with the Millennium Stadium, the Wales Millennium Centre will be an expression of national enterprise and confidence. This can change the Assembly's image from being an institution that fails to deliver. This is an opportunity for us, therefore, to show our potential by promoting a project of world-class status.

However, are we doing enough to bring

ddod â Chaerdydd, a sefydliadau cenedlaethol fel Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru, o fewn cyrraedd rhesymol i bobl yn hen siroedd Clwyd a Gwynedd? Dyma gyfle i ddatrys y broblem hon—problem sydd yn ein hwynebu ddydd ar ôl dydd.

Mae angen inni gydio yn natblygiad y ganolfan er lles pobl Cymru. Mae dyletswydd arnom i'w gwneud yn haws o lawer i bobl o ogledd Cymru ymweld â'r brifddinas. Wrth roi ein cefnogaeth heddiw, felly, i'r cynigion gerbron, a gawn ni i gyd addo i berswadio Llywodraeth San Steffan i ildio'r £3.5 biliwn o'r cyllid ar gyfer rheilffyrdd i Gymru, sef ein siâr teg, fel y gallwn wireddu potensial llawn Canolfan y Mileniwm i bawb. Mae'n hen bryd i Peter Law, os yw wir am wneud rhywbeth yng Nglyn Ebwy a Blaenau Gwent, i fynnu bod Llywodraeth Llundain yn rhoi digon o arian ar gyfer rheilffyrdd i ddatblygu'r lein o Lyn Ebwy i Gaerdydd. Nid oes pwyt beio Caerdydd am bob dim. Mae digon o arian yn Llundain i wella'r rheilffyrdd, ond beth mae pobl fel Peter yn ei wneud i sicrhau y bydd hyn yn digwydd yng Nglyn Ebwy?

Peter Law: Will you give way?

Owen John Thomas: Nid oes gennyf ddigon o amser. Mae gennyf hanner munud ar ôl.

Wrth gloi, pwysleisiaf unwaith eto nad rhywbeth i Gaerdydd yn unig yw'r ganolfan hon. Carwn weld yr arian yn cael ei glustnod i hybu gwaith theatrau ledled y wlad, a sicrwydd bod rhai sioeau a gaiff eu cyflwyno yng Nghaerdydd yn mynd ar daith drwy Gymru hefyd. Dylai ein canolfan genedlaethol fod yn llwyfan ac yn ysbrydoliaeth i'r genedl gyfan—ac fe fydd.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Not taking interventions stifles debate. If anyone takes an intervention, they are automatically given an extra minute of time. However, it is a matter for the speaker concerned whether they wish to take an intervention.

Michael German: The Liberal Democrats also congratulate Sir David Rowe-Beddoe on his work in bringing this project together, and the Minister for ensuring that this motion is now before us and that the centre will be

Cardiff, and national institutions such as the Wales Millennium Centre, within reasonable reach of people in the former counties of Clwyd and Gwynedd? Here is an opportunity for us to resolve this problem—a problem that faces us day after day.

We need to grasp the centre's development for the benefit of the people of Wales. It is our duty to make it much easier for people from north Wales to visit the capital. In giving our support today, therefore, to the motions before us, let us all pledge to persuade the Westminster Government to yield the £3.5 billion of the funding for the railways to Wales, which is our fair share, so that we can realise the Millennium Centre's full potential for everyone. It is high time that Peter Law, if he truly wants to do something in Ebbw Vale and Blaenau Gwent, insisted that the London Government gave sufficient funding for railways to develop the line from Ebbw Vale to Cardiff. There is no point blaming Cardiff for everything. There is adequate funding in London to improve the railway, but what are people like Peter doing to ensure that this happens in Ebbw Vale?

Peter Law: A ildiwrch?

Owen John Thomas: I do not have enough time. I have half a minute left.

To close, I emphasise once again that this centre is not just for Cardiff alone. I wish to see the funding being allocated to promoting the work of theatres throughout the country, and an assurance that some of the shows presented in Cardiff will also tour Wales. Our national centre should be a platform and an inspiration for the whole nation—and it will be.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Caiff dadl ei mygu os na dderbynir ymyriadau. Os bydd unrhyw un yn derbyn ymyriad, caiff funud ychwanegol bob tro. Fodd bynnag, y siaradwr dan sylw sy'n penderfynu a yw am dderbyn ymyriad ai peidio.

Michael German: Mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol hefyd yn llonygarch Syr David Rowe-Beddoe ar ei waith wrth ddwyn y prosiect hwn ynghyd, a'r Gweinidog am sicrhau bod y cynnig hwn ger ein bron yn

built. The partnership has delivered the impact.

It is right that a robust debate should be held. I listened to Peter Law with interest. It is right that he should hold his views. However, I am sure that the majority of the Members here today do not hold those views. If they did, they would not be supporting this venture. I am certain that Peter is wrong because he has not seen that the project's economic impact will spread and develop throughout Wales. How long the economic impact will last depends on the length of the view that you take.

First, 8 per cent of Wales's wealth is generated from tourism. There is no doubt that this project will be great and will impact on tourism in general. We have suffered as a result of our tourism projects in Wales because of the impression that we give of our country. You do not need to go far to see the old stereotypes of the mines, the slag heaps, and people in pointy hats. That is still people's vision of Wales and they are surprised when they see that that is not the case when they arrive here. The Millennium Centre will be a symbol of the new Wales. It will be modern, enterprising, and respectful of Wales's culture. It will show our people's confidence in future to express themselves on a world cultural stage. This building, and the activity in it, will place Wales firmly at the heart of the cultural life of Europe, in the same way that the Millennium Stadium put Wales on the sporting map of Europe. It will have a profound economic impact on Wales because it will promote development, investment, and tourism throughout the country. That will have a beneficial impact on jobs, which, in turn, will have a beneficial impact on communities. That is the golden key that we have, not only for employment in Cardiff, but for employment throughout Wales.

It is easy to see why people find this issue difficult, and I appreciate their feelings. However, we need to take a step beyond these immediate reactions and take a longer, wider, and broader view of our country and the economic impact that we want for it. It is difficult to quantify the impact, and that is

awr ac y caiff y ganolfan ei hadeiladu. Mae'r bartneriaeth wedi cael effaith.

Mae'n briodol inni gynnal dadl gref ar hyn. Yr oedd yn ddiddorol gwrandol ar Peter Law. Mae'n iawn iddo gredu'r hyn y mae'n ei gredu. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn siŵr nad yw'r rhan fwyaf o'r Aelodau yma heddiw yn cyd-fynd ag ef. Pe baent yn cyd-fynd, ni fyddent yn cefnogi'r fenter hon. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod Peter yn camsynied am nad yw wedi gweld y bydd effaith economaidd y prosiect yn lledu ac yn datblygu drwy Gymru gyfan. Bydd hyd yr effaith economaidd yn dibynnu ar ba mor hirdymor yw'ch rhagolwg.

Yn gyntaf, mae twristiaeth yn creu 8 y cant o gyfoeth Cymru. Nid oes amheuaeth y bydd y prosiect hwn yn wych ac yn dylanwadu ar dwristiaeth yn gyffredinol. Yr ydym wedi dioddef o ganlyniad i'n prosiectau i dwristiaid yng Nghymru oherwydd yr argraff a roddwn o'n gwlaid. Nid oes angen ichi fentro'n bell cyn gweld yr hen ystrydebau, y pyllau glo, y tomenni glo, a phobl mewn hetiau Cymreig. Dyna ddelwedd pobl o Gymru o hyd ac maent yn synnu pan welant nad yw hynny'n wir ar ôl dod yma. Bydd Canolfan y Mileniwm yn symbol o'r Gymru newydd. Bydd yn fodern, yn fentrus ac yn anrhydeddu diwylliant Cymru. Bydd yn dangos hyder ein pobl i fynegi eu hunain ar lwyfan diwylliannol byd-eang yn y dyfodol. Bydd yr adeilad hwn, a'r gweithgareddau ynddo, yn sierhau bod Cymru yng nghanol bywyd diwylliannol Ewrop, yn yr un modd ag y bu Stadiwm y Mileniwm yn tynnu sylw at Gymru o ran chwaraeon yn Ewrop. Caiff effaith economaidd bellgyrhaeddol ar Gymru gan y bydd yn hyrwyddo datblygiad, buddsoddiad a thwristiaeth drwy Gymru gyfan. Caiff hynny effaith gadarnhaol ar swyddi, a fydd yn ei dro yn cael effaith gadarnhaol ar gymunedau. Dyna'r allwedd euraid sydd gennym, nid yn unig o ran cyflogaeth yng Nghaerdydd, ond o ran cyflogaeth drwy Gymru gyfan.

Mae'n hawdd gweld pam mae'r mater hwn yn anodd i bobl, a chydymdeimlaf â hwy. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni fynd ymhellach na'r adweithiau sydyn hyn ac edrych ar yr effeithiau tymor hwy, ehangach a mwy cyffredinol ar ein gwlaid a'r effaith economaidd a ddymunwn ar ei chyfer. Mae'n

why it is difficult for us to say with certainty how that impact will spread throughout Wales. However, it is clear that there will be economic benefit, and all the economic impact studies on tourism will show that that is true.

The situation in Spain regarding Barcelona's role in the development of Catalunya is similar to the situation in Wales. A similar argument took place there along the lines that strengthening Barcelona would not have an impact on Catalunya and the country around it. It was not until Catalunya focused on Barcelona's potential impact through the Olympic games, sport and its cultural enterprises that the city then had a wider and broader impact on the country as a whole. Barcelona had to engage itself in a dramatic building and regeneration programme, and now it is one of the top five visitor attractions in Europe. Visitors have also poured into Catalunya, not just Barcelona. The renewed transport and infrastructure stretches to the farthest corners of the country. It now has high quality, knowledge economy jobs throughout its region. Professional services have burgeoned and, as a result, more money has been invested into public services, health and education in the poorest parts of the country. That is the message for Wales, and the type of development on which we will vote today. It is good for tourism, business, and for the image that we present of our country. Let us take a leaf out of the book of Europe's fastest growing economy. Let us plan and build for the future with confidence and give our people a more prosperous future. No part of Wales should shun this issue.

5:00 p.m.

Jonathan Morgan: This is a momentous day because the Assembly will give its formal approval for this terrific project. I accept Peter Law's points and the spirit in which they were made, but we cannot doubt the huge contribution that this project will make to our national life in Wales. If we, as a nation, are expected to produce world-class artists, then we should expect them to be able to perform in a world-class venue at home. Per head of population, I suspect that we

anodd meintioli'r effaith a dyna pam mae'n anodd inni ddweud yn sicr sut y bydd yr effaith yn lledu drwy Gymru gyfan. Fodd bynnag, mae'n amlwg y daw buddiannau economaidd yn sgil y ganolfan, a bydd pob astudiaeth o effaith economaidd twristiaeth yn dangos bod hynny'n wir.

Mae'r sefyllfa yn Sbaen o ran rôl Barcelona wrth ddatblygu Catalunya yn debyg i'r sefyllfa yng Nghymru. Cafwyd dadl debyg yno na fyddai ymgais i atgyfnerthu Barcelona yn cael effaith ar Catalunya a'r ardal o'i hamgylch. Dim ond ar ôl i Catalunya ganolbwytio ar effaith bosibl Barcelona drwy'r gemau Olympaidd, chwaraeon a'i mentrau diwylliannol y cafodd y ddinas effaith ehangach ar y wlad gyfan. Bu'n rhaid i Barcelona ymrwymo i raglen adeiladu ac adfywio enfawr, ac erbyn hyn mae'n un o'r pum prif atyniad i ymwelwyr yn Ewrop. Mae ymwelwyr hefyd wedi heidio i Catalunya, nid Barcelona yn unig. Mae'r rhwydwaith trafnidiaeth a'r seilwaith wedi'u hadnewyddu yn ymestyn i bob cwr o'r wlad. Bellach mae ganddi swyddi o safon yn yr economi wybodaeth drwy'r rhanbarth cyfan. Mae gwasanaethau proffesiynol wedi datblygu'n sylweddol ac, o ganlyniad, buddsoddwyd mwy o arian yn y gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, iechyd ac addysg yn ardaloedd tloaf y wlad. Dyna'r neges i Gymru, a'r math o ddatblygiad y byddwn yn pleidleisio arno heddiw. Bydd o fudd o ran twristiaeth, busnes a'r ddelwedd o'n gwlad. Gadewch inni ddilyn esiampl yr economi yn Ewrop sy'n tyfu'n fwyaf cyflym. Gadewch inni gynllunio ac adeiladu ar gyfer y dyfodol gyda hyder a rhoi dyfodol mwy llewyrchus i bobl Cymru. Ni ddylai unrhyw ran o Gymru anwybyddu'r mater hwn.

Jonathan Morgan: Mae hwn yn ddiwrnod mawr oherwydd bydd y Cynulliad yn cymeradwyo'r prosiect gwych hwn yn ffurfiol. Derbyniaf y pwytiau a wnaeth Peter Law a'r ysbryd y'u gwnaethpwyd, ond ni allwn amau'r cyfraniad enfawr a wna'r prosiect hwn i'n bywyd fel cenedl yng Nghymru. Os disgwyli inni, fel cenedl, feithrin artistiaid o'r radd flaenaf, yna dylem ddisgwyl iddynt gael cyfle i berfformio mewn lleoliad o'r radd flaenaf gartref. Yn ôl

produce more than our fair share of world-class performers and artists. It is right and proper that this nation's capital city should be able to house them when they return home to perform. Why should people from Wales have to trundle all the way to Bristol or beyond to watch shows when such brilliant shows could be staged in this venue? It will make a huge contribution to Wales and to Cardiff.

It will also assist our bid for the Cultural Capital of Europe 2008, which would have been completely dead in the water had such a project not been given the go-ahead. It is an integral part of that bid and is a huge supporting part of what the project aims to achieve. Our vote of confidence in the project today will help Cardiff to achieve that status and will ultimately help Wales to achieve the recognition that it deserves. I also put on record our congratulations to Sir David Rowe-Beddoe and his team. The appointment of Sir David and the team inspired confidence in the project and without their work and involvement, I suspect that this project could not have proceeded. This provides a huge boost, not only for the artistic community and for putting Wales firmly on the map, but because it is one of the final pieces on the Cardiff bay development jigsaw. Today, Deputy Presiding Officer, is indeed a day for celebration.

Alison Halford: As a member of the Culture Committee, it is pleasing to learn, belatedly, what we are all being committed to. I cannot support this project. Using £37 million of taxpayers' money from a finite budget for this cannot be justified. I know that all the £37 million may not be used, but what kind of signal are we sending to the people in north and west Wales? Wales needs to build on existing successes, such as Theatre Clwyd Cymru, rather than gambling £100 million on a sixth theatre for Cardiff. How exactly would my constituents benefit from it? How do they get to Cardiff? The train fare costs around £50, and the price of the tickets and a hotel bill would be on top of that. To get here by road takes four hours. It is unrealistic.

y pen o'r boblogaeth, credaf ein bod yn cynhyrchu mwy na'n dogn o berfformwyr ac artistiaid o'r radd flaenaf. Mae'n gwbl briodol y dylai prifddinas y genedl hon fod mewn sefyllfa i ddarparu lleoliad iddynt pan fyddant yn dychwelyd adref i berfformio. Pam y dylai pobl Cymru orfod teithio'r holl ffordd i Fryste neu ymhellach i weld sioeau a ninnau mewn sefyllfa i lwyfannau'r sioeau gwych hyn yn y lleoliad hwn? Bydd yn gwneud cyfraniad enfawr i Gymru ac i Gaerdydd.

Bydd hefyd yn helpu ein cais i fod yn Brifddinas Diwylliant Ewrop 2008, a fyddai ar ben pe na bai'r prosiect wedi cael caniatâd i fynd yn ei flaen. Mae'n rhan annatod o'r cais hwnnw ac mae'n ategu amcanion y prosiect yn sylweddol. Bydd ein pleidlais o hyder yn y prosiect heddiw yn helpu Caerdydd i ennill y statws hwnnw ac yn helpu Cymru yn y pen draws i gael y gydnabyddiaeth y mae'n ei haeddu. Hoffwn hefyd gofnodi ein llongyfarchiadau i Syr David Rowe-Beddoe a'i dim. Enillwyd hyder yn y prosiect drwy benodiad Syr David a'r tîm a heb eu gwaith a'u hymwneud hwy, ni chredaf y byddai'n prosiect hwn wedi mynd rhagddo. Mae hyn yn hwb mawr nid yn unig i'r gymuned artistig ac i dynnu sylw at Gymru, ond am ei fod yn cwblhau datblygiad bae Caerdydd. Mae heddiw, Ddirprwy Lywydd, yn wir, yn ddiwrnod ar gyfer dathlu.

Alison Halford: Fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor Diwylliant, mae'n bleser gennyf gael gwybod, yn rhy hwyr, beth yr ydym i gyd wedi ymrwymo iddo. Ni allaf gefnogi'r prosiect hwn. Ni ellir cyflawnhau defnyddio £37 miliwn o arian trethdalwyr o gyllideb benodol ar gyfer hyn. Gwn na chaiff yr holl swm ei ddefnyddio, ond pa fath o neges a roddwn i bobl yn y gogledd a'r gorllewin? Mae angen i Gymru adeiladu ar ei llwyddiannau presennol, megis Clwyd Theatr Cymru, yn hytrach na mentro £100 miliwn ar chweched theatr ar gyfer Caerdydd. Sut yn union y byddai fy etholwyr yn elwa arni? Sut y gallant gyrraedd Caerdydd? Mae'n costio tua £50 ar y trê, a byddai pris y tocynnau a bil gwesty ar ben hynny. Mae'n cymryd pedair awr i yrru yma. Mae'n afrealistig.

Once the centre is built, it will require a public subsidy of £800,000, in addition to another £500,000 in maintenance costs, every year. The figure may rise to £6 million a year, if things go wrong. Once the building is up, there is pressure to improve public transport links to the bay and public facilities here and in the surrounding areas. We do not have the money to satisfy such expectations.

Financial safeguards are vital, and I know that the Minister for Culture and the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities have worked exceptionally hard to ensure that they are in place. However, I remain unconvinced that we have the expertise to successfully manage the Wales Millennium Centre, nor do I believe that Cardiff needs yet another theatre. Building and maintenance costs are key areas where, eventually, the Assembly will be forced to bail out the centre if the targets are too optimistic. Half a million paying customers a year will be needed to break even, otherwise the Assembly will have to pick up the tab.

The Auditor General's reports on Crickhowell House and the Cardiff Bay Barrage—Peter mentioned the £12 million a year in maintenance costs—show that we do not have the expertise to build, furnish and run such enterprises. The hole in the ground still has to be sorted out. A total of £8 million was lost on the now empty Centre for Visual Arts. All of this leaves a sour taste. It is also reported that the Welsh National Opera will have to make redundancies. If that is so, it is shocking. Why are we looking for a home for the Welsh National Opera if we cannot fully subsidise it? The company will have to stop a major production due to the loss of staff.

The main north Wales theatre is crumbling and needs a cash injection. There is not a substantial area to display art in north Wales. Regrettably, £2 million will not go far. The Government's move today will, sadly, rekindle the north-south divide. Are we to behave like some backwater council,

Ar ôl i'r ganolfan gael ei hadeiladu, bydd angen cymhorthdal cyhoeddus o £800,000 arni, yn ogystal â £500,000 ar gyfer costau cynnal a chadw, bob blwyddyn. Mae'n bosibl y bydd y ffigur yn cynyddu i £6 miliwn y flwyddyn, os aeth pethau o chwith. Ar ôl codi'r adeilad, bydd pwysau i wella cysylltiadau cludiant cyhoeddus i'r bae a chyfleusterau cyhoeddus yma ac yn y cyffiniau. Nid oes gennym ddigon o arian i fodloni disgwyliadau o'r fath.

Mae camau diogelu ariannol yn hanfodol, a gwn fod y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant a'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau wedi gweithio'n hynod o galed i sicrhau eu bod ar waith. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf yn argyhoedddegig o hyd fod gennym yr arbenigedd i reoli Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru yn llwyddiannus ac ni chredaf fod angen theatr arall ar Gaerdydd. Mae costau adeiladu a chynnal a chadw yn feisydd allweddol lle bydd yn rhaid i'r Cynulliad, yn y pen draw, achub y ganolfan os bydd y targedau yn rhy optimistaidd. Bydd angen hanner miliwn o gwsmeriaid sy'n talu bob blwyddyn i adennill costau, neu fel arall bydd yn rhaid i'r Cynulliad dalu'r costau hyn.

Dengys adroddiadau'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol ar Dŷ Crucywel a Morglawdd Bae Caerdydd—soniodd Peter am £12 miliwn y flwyddyn ar gyfer costau cynnal a chadw—nad oes gennym yr arbenigedd i adeiladu, cyfarparu a chynnal mentrau o'r fath. Mae angen datrys problem y twll yn y ddaear o hyd. Collwyd £8 miliwn ar Ganolfan y Celfyddydau Gweledol sydd bellach yn wag. Mae hyn oll yn gadael blas cas. Mae sôn hefyd y bydd yn rhaid i Gwmni Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru ddiswyddo staff. Os yw hynny'n wir, mae'n warthus. Pam yr ydym yn chwilio am gartref i Gwmni Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru os na allwn roi'r cymhorthdal sydd ei angen arno? Bydd yn rhaid i'r cwmni ohirio cynhyrchiad pwysig oherwydd y diswyddiadau.

Mae cyflwr prif theatr gogledd Cymru yn dirywio ac mae angen arian arno. Nid oes lleoliad mawr i arddangos celf yn y gogledd. Gwaetha'r modd, ni fydd £2 filiwn yn mynd ymhell. Bydd cynnig y Llywodraeth heddiw, gwaetha'r modd, yn ailgynnau'r cynnen rhwng y gogledd a'r de. A ydym am

pandering to the wishes of certain south-based Members, or are we going to set proper priorities for the benefit of Wales as a whole? We are moving too fast for a fledgling Assembly with a finite budget. I do not have anything against culture or Cardiff, but I regret that I find this to be an unnecessary cultural flight of fancy. The money would be better spent on more deserving causes.

ymddwyn fel rhyw gyngor ar ôl yr oes, yn ildio i ddymuniadau Aelodau'r De neu a wnaeon ni osod blaenoriaethau priodol a fydd o fudd i Gymru gyfan? Yr ydym yn symud yn rhy gyflym am egin-Gynulliad gyda chyllideb benodol. Nid wyf yn wrthwynebus i ddiwylliant na Chaerdydd, ond mae'n ddrwg gennyf ddweud fod hon, yn fy marn i, yn fympwyd ddiwylliannol ddiangen. Gellid gwario'r arian hwnnw yn well ar achosion llawer mwy haeddiannol.

Tom Middlehurst: Peter Law and Alison Halford reflect, properly and rightly, the concerns and reservations of many people in Wales. However, I take issue with their analysis. I have long supported the vision and concept of an arts house, commensurate with the rich and diverse artistic and cultural talent that exists in Wales. The building, with its existing design features, is worthy of the traditions of those who will take up residency. We must have the courage of our forebears, who had the vision, commitment and foresight to create some of the most magnificent buildings on these islands.

This is a worthy project. We would do well to remind ourselves that this is not an Assembly project. It is a project that has gained support from the Assembly, the Arts Council of Wales, the lottery and the private sector. As I well know, the project has had its problems, and the issue of cost has been the stumbling block to progress. However, that was not of the Assembly's making. I am glad to say that the commitment and dedication of the trustees have brought us to a position where we can have some confidence in the projected costs. I have always held the view that there must be a high degree of cost certainty before the Assembly further commits its resources. It appears that we have that now.

I am also concerned about the business plan and the ongoing revenue consequences. The business plan must be robust and deliverable. It cannot be allowed to be a rising call on the Assembly's public finances. I want to see the project proceed. I also want it to be a springboard for ongoing investment in other parts of Wales. The WMC will provide a home for some, but not all, of our flagship

Tom Middlehurst: Mae Peter Law ac Alison Halford yn adlewyrchu pryderon ac amheuon llawer o bobl yng Nghymru a hynny'n gwbl briodol. Fodd bynnag, ni chytunaf â'u dadansoddiad. Yr wyf wedi cefnogi gweledigaeth a chysyniad o ganolfan gelfyddydol, sy'n briodol i'r dalent artistig a diwylliannol amrywiol a chyfoethog sydd yng Nghymru. Mae'r adeilad, gyda'i nodweddion dylunio presennol, yn deilwng o draddodiadau'r rhai y bydd yn gartref iddynt. Rhaid inni efelychu dewrder ein cyndeidiau, yr oedd ganddynt weledigaeth ac ymrwymiad i greu rhai o'r adeiladau godidocaf ar yr ynysoedd hyn.

Mae hwn yn brosiect teilwng. Byddai'n fuddiol pe baem yn atgoffa ein hunain nad prosiect y Cynulliad ydyw. Mae'n brosiect a gafodd gefnogaeth y Cynulliad, Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, y loteri a'r sector preifat. Gwn fod y prosiect wedi wynebu problemau, ac y bu costau yn faen tramgywyd. Fodd bynnag, nid y Cynulliad fu'n gyfrifol am hynny. Yr wyf yn falch o nodi bod ymrwymiad ac ymroddiad yr ymddiriedolwyr wedi sicrhau ein bod mewn sefyllfa lle y gallwn ymddiried yn y costau amcanol. Yr wyf erioed wedi credu bod angen cryn sicrwydd ynglŷn a'r costau cyn i'r Cynulliad ymrwymo rhagor o'i adnoddau. Ymddengys bod y sicrwydd hwnnw gennym bellach.

Yr wyf hefyd yn pryeru ynglŷn â'r cynllun busnes a'r goblygiadau parhaus o ran refeniw. Rhaid i'r cynllun busnes fod yn gadarn ac yn gyflawnadwy. Rhaid iddo beidio â bod yn alw cynyddol ar gyllid cyhoeddus y Cynulliad. Yr wyf am weld y prosiect yn llwyddo. Yr wyf am iddo fod yn sbardun hefyd i fuddsoddiad parhaus mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru. Bydd y ganolfan yn

arts and cultural organisations. I want this initiative to provide the impetus for wider investment in the arts in other parts of Wales. I note the Minister's announcement today of an additional £2 million. That will not be enough.

5:10 p.m.

In the same way that we recognise the needs and the worth of the Welsh National Opera, Diversions dance company, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Hijinx and others, other flagship organisations such as Clwyd Theatr Cymru should attract the same commitment and financial support in recognition of ambitious plans on behalf of the people of Wales. The millennium centre will provide an international focus for our artistic and cultural talents. The contribution of others located in other parts of Wales must be seen as part of the compendium, in which the WMC will play a significant part.

There has already been significant investment in existing and new cultural institutions in Wales: the National Museums and Galleries of Wales has benefited from important decisions by the Assembly; the maritime museum in Swansea, and the National Library of Wales's visitor centre, have also benefited. They are evidence of the Labour Party's commitment to artistic and cultural life in Wales. We must apply that commitment to other visionary projects. Clwyd Theatr Cymru will play its part in raising Wales's profile, but it needs the resources to do so.

Dafydd Wigley: Datganaf fuddiant, gan fod fy ngwraig yn weithgar ym myd y celfyddydau. Nodais â diddordeb i Alison ddweud nad oedd ganddi ddim yn erbyn diwylliant. Mae hynny'n gysur, gan ei bod yn aelod blaenllaw o'r Pwyllgor Diwylliant.

Croesawaf y cynigion hyn am dri rheswm. Yn gyntaf, mae angen canolfan o'r fath ar gyfer y celfyddydau cerddorol a pherfformio yng Nghymru ac, yn arbennig, i greu cartref o safon i Gwmni Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru. Ar un adeg, gallem fod wedi colli pencadlys y cwmni hwnnw i leoliad y tu allan i Gymru. Mae angen llwyfan teilwng ar gyfer cantorion

gartref i rai o'n prif fudiadau celfyddydol a diwylliannol ond nid pob un. Yr wyf am i'r fenter hon symblyu buddsoddiad ehangach yn y celfyddydau mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru. Nodaf gyhoeddiad y Gweinidog heddiw o £2 filiwn arall. Ni fydd hynny'n ddigon.

Yn yr un modd ag yr ydym yn cydnabod anghenion a gwerth Cwmni Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru, cwmni dawns Diversions, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Hijinx ac eraill, dylid rhoi'r un ymrwymiad a chymorth ariannol i brif sefydliadau eraill megis Clwyd Theatr Cymru yn gydnabyddiaeth o'u cynlluniau uchelgeisiol ar ran pobl Cymru. Bydd canolfan y mileniwm yn llwyfan rhyngwladol i'n doniau artistig a diwylliannol. Rhaid i gyfraniad y sefydliadau eraill mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru gael eu hystyried fel rhan o'r casgliad, y bydd y ganolfan yn chwarae rhan sylweddol ynddo.

Bu cryn fuddsoddiad eisoes yn y sefydliadau diwylliannol presennol a'r rhai newydd yng Nghymru: mae Amgueddfeydd ac Orielau Cenedlaethol Cymru wedi elwa ar benderfyniadau pwysig gan y Cynulliad; mae amgueddfa'r môr yn Abertawe a chanolfan ymwelwyr Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru hefyd ar eu hennill. Mae tystiolaeth o ymrwymiad y Blaid Lafur i fywyd artistig a diwylliannol Cymru. Rhaid inni roi'r un ymrwymiad i brosiectau eraill â gweledigaeth. Bydd Clwyd Theatr Cymru yn chwarae ei rhan i godi proffil Cymru, ond mae angen yr adnoddau i wneud hynny.

Dafydd Wigley: I declare an interest, as my wife is active in the arts world. I noted with interest Alison's comment that she has nothing against culture. That is comforting, given that she is a prominent member of the Culture Committee.

I welcome these motions for three reasons. First, such a centre is needed for the music and performing arts in Wales and, particularly, to create a quality home for Welsh National Opera. At one time, we could have lost that company's headquarters to a location outside Wales. We need a worthy stage for singers such as Bryn Terfel, a

megis Bryn Terfel, cymydog i mi yn y Bontnewydd. Ar hyn o bryd, nid oes neuadd ddigonol lle gall Cymry ei glywed yn ei lawn ogoiant.

Yn ail, rhaid inni fanteisio ar yr arian sydd ar gael o Gomisiwn y Mileniwm. Byddwn yn colli tua £31 miliwn os na chefnogwn y cais hwn. Yr ydym yn cael gwerth da iawn am arian, gan mai dim ond hanner y gost o £104 miliwn y mae'n rhaid i'r Cynulliad ei dalu am yr adeilad hwn.

Yn drydydd, rhaid inni ddangos y gallwn fwrw ymlaen â chynlluniau ar gyfer adeiladau cyhoeddus i roi hyder i'n penseiri. Rhaid inni ddangos hefyd y gallwn arddel digon o hunan barch fel cenedl i godi canolfan fel hon.

Fodd bynnag, rhaid nodi fod pryderon mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru fod popeth yn cael ei sugno i Gaerdydd. Soniodd rhai Aelodau am hyn eisoes. Oherwydd hyn, byddaf yn cefnogi gwelliant y Torïaid. Rhaid datblygu trefn lle mae cynhyrchiadau a berfformir yng Nghaerdydd yn teithio i ganolfannau eraill yng Nghymru. Clywais sylwadau Jenny a gobeithiaf y bydd ymrwymiad cadarn i hyn. Dylid arddangos y cynhyrchiadau mewn canolfannau megis Caernarfon a Bangor yn y gogledd-orllewin, yr Wyddgrug a Wrecsam yn y gogledd-ddwyrain, ac Aberystwyth, Caerfyrddin ac Abertawe, fel y gall pawb ym mhob rhan o Gymru fanteisio ar y datblygiad hwn a mwynhau diwylliant sydd o fewn eu cyrraedd.

Mae gennyf ddau bryder. Y cyntaf yw'r costau cyfredol. Mae hynny'n allweddol, a gobeithiaf y bydd sicrwydd ar hyn. Yr ydym yn ymddiried yng ngwaith Syr David Rowe-Beddoe. Fy ail bryder yw sut yr ydym yn ymdrin â'r tir. Gwrandewais yn ofalus ar araith agoriadol Jenny. Mae cwestiynau'n dal i fodoli ynglŷn â'r *contingent liability*. Byddwn yn pleidleisio ar y cynnig heddiw heb wybod yr holl ffeithiau. Codwyd y mater hwn yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Diwylliant yr wythnos diwethaf, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd ei aelodau'n dychwelyd ato.

Fodd bynnag, cefnogaf y cynnig hwn. Dymunaf bob llwyddiant i Syr David Rowe-Beddoe a'i dîm, ac i'r fenter yn ei

neighbour of mine in Bontnewydd. At present, there is no adequate hall where the people of Wales can hear him in his full glory.

Secondly, we must take advantage of the money that is available from the Millennium Commission. We will lose about £31 million if we do not support this bid. We are getting very good value for money, as the Assembly only has to pay half the cost of £104 million for this building.

Thirdly, we must prove that we can proceed with plans for public buildings, in order to instil confidence in our architects. We must also prove that we have sufficient self-esteem as a nation to build a centre such as this.

However, I must note that there are concerns in other parts of Wales that everything is being sucked into Cardiff. Some Members have already mentioned this. Given that, I will support the Tories' amendment. A system must be developed whereby productions staged in Cardiff tour to other venues in Wales. I heard Jenny's comments and I hope that there will be a strong commitment to this. The productions should be staged in centres such as Caernarfon and Bangor in north-west Wales, Mold and Wrexham in north-east Wales, and Aberystwyth, Carmarthen and Swansea, so that everyone in all parts of Wales can benefit from this development and enjoy culture that is accessible to them.

I have two concerns. The first is the current costs. That is crucial, and I hope that we will have an assurance on this. We are placing our trust in Sir David Rowe-Beddoe's work. My second concern is how we deal with the land. I listened carefully to Jenny's opening speech. Questions still remain regarding the contingent liability. We will vote on the motion today without knowing all the facts. This matter was raised in the Culture Committee meeting last week, and I am sure that its members will return to it.

However, I support this motion. I wish Sir David Rowe-Beddoe and his team, and the scheme as a whole, every success.

chyfanrwydd.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: If Members continue to make succinct speeches, we may not have to extend the session. The session may overrun by about 10 minutes, but at this rate, we may be able to avoid that.

Lorraine Barrett: It is essential for Wales's credibility that we support the Wales Millennium Centre project today. We all know that it will house some of Wales's best performing artists. It will also provide a centre for the Urdd movement, enabling children from all over Wales to have a city cultural experience.

It is not just a theatre, Alison. It will provide a home for our world-renowned Welsh National Opera, as well as the other excellent companies, such as Diversions dance company, Hijinx Theatre, and Academi, which promotes literature and provides residencies for writers. Academi also supports 3,000 events each year, with 250,000 people attending, and 90 per cent of its activity takes place outside Cardiff.

The WNO produces hundreds of community and education projects, reaching over 40,000 people each year. It deserves a proper base from which to continue to develop as a world-class opera company, and to expand its work outside Cardiff. Other Assembly Members and I went to a leisure centre in Merthyr Tydfil where a school was participating in a wonderful production.

Diversions dance company tours for 20 weeks a year throughout the UK, and is known in countries such as Spain and Australia. We saw young people from the Valleys dancing at lunchtime in the Assembly. They deserve the opportunity to experience performing in a world-class centre.

I turn to the building, and why it needs to be in Cardiff, on this site. The site has been earmarked for an arts and cultural centre for over a decade. Both that and the site of the

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Os bydd yr Aelodau'n parhau i wneud areithiau cryno, efallai na fydd angen inni ymestyn y sesiwn. Gallai'r sesiwn barhau am 10 munud ychwanegol, ond os awn ymlaen fel hyn, efallai y gallwn osgoi hynny.

Lorraine Barrett: Mae'n hanfodol i hygrededd Cymru ein bod yn cefnogi prosiect Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru heddiw. Gŵyr pob un ohonom y bydd yn gartref i rai o artistiaid perfformio gorau Cymru. Bydd hefyd yn darparu canolfan i Fudiad yr Urdd, gan alluogi plant o bob cwr o Gymru i gael profiad diwylliedig dinesig.

Nid dim ond theatr ydyw, Alison. Bydd yn darparu cartref i Opera Cenedlaethol bydenwog Cymru, yn ogystal â chwmniâu gwych eraill, fel cwmni dawns Diversions, Theatr Hijinx, ac Academi, sy'n hyrwyddo llenyddiaeth ac sy'n darparu cyfnodau hyfforddi i lenorion. Mae Academi hefyd yn cefnogi 3,000 o ddigwyddiadau bob blwyddyn, gyda 250,000 o bobl yn eu mynychu a chynhelir 90 y cant o'i weithgaredd y tu allan i Gaerdydd.

Mae cwmni Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru yn cynhyrchu cannoedd o brosiectau addysg a phrosiectau cymunedol, sy'n cyrraedd dros 40,000 o bobl y flwyddyn. Mae'n haeddu canolfan briodol er mwyn iddo allu parhau i ddatblygu fel cwmni opera o'r radd flaenaf, ac ehangu ei waith y tu allan i Gaerdydd. Aeth Aelodau eraill o'r Cynulliad a minnau i ganolfan hamdden ym Merthyr Tudful lle yr oedd ysgol yn cymryd rhan mewn cynhyrchiad gwych.

Mae cwmni dawns Diversions yn teithio am 20 wythnos y flwyddyn drwy'r DU gyfan, ac mae'n enwog mewn gwledydd fel Sbaen ac Awstralia. Gwelsom bobl ifanc o'r Cymoedd yn dawsio amser cinio yn y Cynulliad. Maent yn haeddu'r cyfle i gael profiad o berfformio mewn canolfan o'r radd flaenaf.

Trof at yr adeilad, a pham fod angen iddo fod yng Nghaerdydd, ar y safle hwn. Clustnodwyd y safle ar gyfer canolfan gelfyddydol a diwylliannol ers degawd a

new debating Chamber, as Jonathan said, are the last two pieces of the jigsaw ensuring the viability of the redevelopment of Cardiff bay. We have not been sharing notes, nor have I been cribbing off Jonathan.

If the development of Cardiff bay fails, the repercussions will be felt across Wales, culturally and economically. For the centre to succeed, it needs the critical mass that a capital city can attract. If we fail to support this project today, £31 million will go back to London. The private money that has been promised will disappear, and we will be left with an empty site. What will be put there? IKEA? A supermarket? An office block? Who knows? Something exciting, I am sure. If we do not commit ourselves and support this motion today, we can say goodbye to the vision of a confident and aspiring Wales.

Peter, you are a good friend of mine, and I am still a Rhondda girl at heart. My family still live in the Rhondda, and I sympathise with your stand. I understand why you say what you do. However, I believe that the people of the Valleys deserve and can expect to experience the arts. Some of our best visual and performing artists come from the Valleys. The arts is not some airy-fairy hobby. It is a driver for economic growth. If we do not go ahead with the building it will be to the detriment of the whole of Wales.

Delyth Evans: Hoffwn danlinellu pwysigrwydd celfyddyd mewn adfywiad economaidd. Nid rhethreg mohono. Ceir engrai ffisiau niferus i brofi sut y mae cynllun a gweledigaeth gelfyddydol wedi sbarduno twf economaidd mewn dinas neu ranbarth a oedd gynt yn brwydro i ddenu buddsoddiad ac ymwelwyr.

Yr ydym yn gyfarwydd â hanes amgueedfa'r Guggenheim yn Bilbao, sydd wedi trawsnewid delwedd a rhagolygon yr hen borthladd diwydiannol. Hefyd, mae Glasgow bellach yn un o ddinasoedd mwyaf cyffrous Prydain diolch i strategaeth bwrpasol i ddatblygu celfyddyd y ddinas a'i marchnata fel dinas diwylliant.

Mae dinasoedd a threfi gogledd Lloegr yn

mwy. Hwn a safle newydd y Siambra dadlau newydd, fel y dywedodd Jonathan, yw'r ddau ddarn olaf o'r jig-so a fydd yn sicrhau hyfywedd ailddatblygu bae Caerdydd. Nid ydym wedi bod yn rhannu nodiadau ac nid wyf wedi bod yn copio Jonathan chwaith.

Os bydd datblygiad bae Caerdydd yn methu, bydd Cymru gyfan yn teimlo'r effeithiau, yn ddiwylliannol ac yn economaidd. Er mwyn i'r ganolfan lwyddo, mae angen y mas critigol arni y gall prifddinas ei ddenu. Os na lwyddwn i gefnogi'r prosiect hwn heddiw, bydd £31 miliwn yn mynd yn ôl i Lundain. Bydd yr arian preifat a addawyd yn diflannu, a chawn ein gadael gyda safle gwag. Beth gaiff ei roi yno? IKEA? Archfarchnad? Bloc o swyddfeydd? Pwy a wyr? Rhywbeth cyffrous, yr wyf yn siŵr. Os na wnawn ymrwymiad a chefnogi'r cynnig hwn heddiw, gallwn ffarwelio â gweledigaeth o Gymru hyderus ac uchelgeisiol.

Peter, yr ydych yn gyfaill da imi, a merch o'r Rhondda ydwyt o hyd yn y bôn. Mae fy nheulu yn dal i fyw yn y Rhondda, a chydymdeimlaf â'ch safbwyt. Deallaf pam y dywedwch yr hyn a ddywedwch. Fodd bynnag, credaf fod pobl y Cymoedd yn haeddu ac yn disgwyl cael profiad o'r celfyddydau. Daw rhai o'n artistiaid gweledol a pherfformio gorau o'r Cymoedd. Nid yw'r celfyddydau yn hobi ddisylwedd. Dyma sy'n ysgogi twf economaidd. Os nad awn ymlaen â'r adeilad, bydd Cymru gyfan yn dioddef.

Delyth Evans: I want to emphasise the importance of the arts in economic regeneration. That is not rhetoric. Numerous examples show how artistic schemes and visions have stimulated economic growth in a city or region that, formerly, was struggling to attract investment and visitors.

We are familiar with the history of the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao, which has transformed the image and prospects of the old industrial harbour. Also, Glasgow is now one of the most exciting cities in Britain, thanks to a purposeful strategy to develop the city's arts, and market it as a city of culture.

Cities and towns in the north of England are

awr yn defnyddio'r un weledigaeth i adfywio eu cymunedau, gyda phensaerniaeth gyffrous a phrosiectau celfyddydol mentrus ym Manceinion, Hull, Gateshead a Newcastle. Bydd y cynlluniau yn trawsnewid y tirlun dinesig ac, yn allweddol, yn trawsnewid delwedd y rhanbarth o fod yn ardal ôl-ddiwydiannol, tlawd a llwm, i fod yn ardal sy'n byrlymu â chyffro, hyder a dychymyg.

5:20 p.m.

Wrth sôn am yr holl gynlluniau mentrus hynny ar y gweill yng ngogledd Lloegr, dywedodd Stuart Cameron, penneth yr ysgol pensaerniaeth, cynllunio a thirlunio ym Mhrifysgol Newcastle upon Tyne, fod ganddynt strategaeth fwriadol i ddefnyddio'r gorau mewn celfyddyd a diwylliant i yrру adfywiad economaidd, gan gymryd lle'r hen ddull o adeiladu ffatrioedd a thraffyrdd. Dyma'r wers y mae'n rhaid inni ei dysgu yng Nghymru: bod celfyddyd yn werthfawr ynddi ei hun, ond bod iddi werth llawer ehangach hefyd, sef y gallu i greu hyder economaidd a chyfleu naws o greadigrwydd, uchelgais a llwyddiant. Onid oes angen hynny arnom yng Nghymru? Mae'r sector busnes yn deall hynny yn iawn—dyna pam mae mor awyddus i weld pethau'n symud ymlaen ym mae Caerdydd.

Nid adeilad i Gaerdydd yn unig fydd hwn, ond canolfan gelfyddydol genedlaethol; cartref teilwng o'r diwedd i'r cwmni opera a llwyfan cenedlaethol i'r gorau o'n hartistiaid, boed yn ddawnswyr, yn actorion, yn bobl ifanc, yn gantorion neu'n gerddorion. Bydd y gweithgarwch a fydd yn digwydd yma yn pelydru i weddill Cymru, gan greu troellen bositif o weithgarwch creadigol ar hyd a lled ein cymunedau. Felly, gadewch inni gefnogi'r uchelgais a'r weledigaeth hon, oherwydd drwy gelfyddyd, gallwn ddod â chyfoeth newydd—yn ysbrydol ac yn economaidd—i'n cymdeithas.

Richard Edwards: I welcome the prospect of finally pressing ahead with the Wales Millennium Centre and creating a great national cultural institution and an economic driver for all of Wales. I accept that and the other reasons that have already been mentioned. I also accept, though I represent a constituency some distance from Cardiff, that

now using the same vision to regenerate their communities, with exciting architecture and adventurous arts projects in Manchester, Hull, Gateshead and Newcastle. Those schemes will transform the civic landscape and, crucially, will transform the image of the region from being a poor, bleak, post-industrial area into an area brimming with excitement, confidence and imagination.

In referring to all these proposed schemes in the north of England, Stuart Cameron, head of the school of architecture, planning and landscape at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne said that they had a deliberate strategy to use the best in arts and culture to drive economic regeneration, replacing the old method of building factories and motorways. This is the lesson we must learn in Wales: the arts have value in and of themselves, but that they have a much wider value too, namely the ability to create economic confidence and convey a sense of creativity, aspiration and success. Is that not what is needed in Wales? The business sector understands that well—that is why it is so eager to see matters progress in Cardiff bay.

This will not only be a building for Cardiff, but a national arts centre; a worthy home at last for the opera company and a national stage for the best of our artists, be they dancers, actors, young people, singers or musicians. The activity that will take place here will radiate outwards to the rest of Wales, creating a positive spiral of creative activity the length and breadth of our communities. Therefore, let us support this aspiration and this vision, because through the arts, we can bring new wealth—both spiritual and economic—to our communities.

Richard Edwards: Croesawaf y gobaith y gallwn fwrw ymlaen â Chanolfan Mileniwm Cymru o'r diwedd a chreu sefydliad diwylliannol cenedlaethol ac ysbardun economaidd i Gymru gyfan. Derbyniaf hynny a'r rhesymau eraill a grybwyllywyd eisoes. Derbyniaf hefyd, er fy mod yn cynrychioli etholaeth sydd gryn bellter o Gaerdydd, fod

the centre must be located in the capital. However, there are legitimate concerns, including those of cost certainty and revenue implications. I will concentrate on one area of concern, which I do not think has been mentioned so far and which leads me to have some sympathy for the viewpoints of those in areas of concentrated deprivation who feel that they will not benefit from this massive public investment. The perception will be that this is yet another example of the public purse being raided for the benefit of a privileged elite. I do not accept that, though I understand it. That perception cannot simply be attributed to philistinism; there is a kernel of truth. Arguments of economic impact aside, I want to focus on the high-culture aspects of this institution. High culture, for want of a better phrase—opera and great music in particular—should not be the preserve of a privileged few. This centre may physically be in Cardiff, but it must be linked to an extensive outreach network that guarantees access and participation throughout the whole of Wales. In fairness, the Welsh National Opera has an excellent, and probably incomparable, record of outreach and inclusivity in what is perceived to be the most elitist of arts. However, it cannot be a matter just for the WNO; I want us to explore every possibility, mindful of our equal opportunity and social inclusion remits, to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to access to great music and can therefore have their lives enriched by music and opera in the way that my life is enriched by it.

We must do all that we can to break down this perception, which is fostered by the snob value that some so-called followers of opera and other forms of high art attach to it and often glory in. As someone who has been to the opera several times, I have witnessed countless examples of this. That angers me and I see how alienating it is. There should be nothing intrinsically elitist about high culture.

The First Minister: You have perhaps identified one of the great paradoxes of this matter. With few exceptions, almost all the outstanding opera singers produced by Wales have not come from Cardiff; they have come

yn rhaid lleoli'r ganolfan yn y brifddinas. Fodd bynnag, mae pryderon dilys, yn cynnwys y rhai sy'n gysylltiedig â sicrwydd cost a goblygiadau refeniw. Canolbwytiaf ar un maes sy'n peri pryder, nas crybwyllyd hyn yn hyn, fe gredaf, ac sy'n gwneud imi gydymdeimlo â safbwytiau'r rhai mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig iawn sydd o'r farn na fyddant yn elwa ar y buddsoddiad cyhoeddus enfawr hwn. Y farn fydd bod hyn yn enghraift arall o bwrs y wlad yn cael ei wagio er budd yr elît breintiedig. Ni dderbyniad hynny, er fy mod yn ei ddeall. Ni ellir priodoli'r farn honno i philistaniaeth yn unig; mae rhywfaint o wirionedd yn hyn. Ar wahân i'r dadleuon am yr effaith economaidd, yr wyf am ganolbwytio ar agweddau diwylliant mawr y sefydliad hwn. Ni ddylai diwylliant mawr, yn niffyg gwell ymadrodd—opera a cherddoriaeth wych yn arbennig—gael ei neilltu i'r breintiedig rai yn unig. Efallai y bydd y ganolfan wedi'i lleoli yng Nghaerdydd, ond rhaid ei chysylltu â rhwydwaith allgyrch helaeth sy'n gwarantu mynediad a chyfranogiad drwy Gymru gyfan. A bod yn deg, mae gan gwmni Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru record gwych, heb ei ail siŵr o fod, o ymestyn allan at bobl a'u cynnwys yn yr hyn a ystyrir fel y mwyaf elitaidd o'r celfyddydau. Fodd bynnag, ni ddylid gadael hynny i'r cwmni opera yn unig; yr wyf am inni archwilio pob posibilrwydd, gan gofio ein cyfrifoldebau dros gyfle cyfartal a chynhwysedd cymdeithasol, i sicrhau y caiff pawb gyfle i fanteisio ar gerddoriaeth wych a chyfoethogi eu bywydau drwy gerddoriaeth ac opera yn y ffordd y mae'n cyfoethogi fy mywyd i.

Rhaid inni wneud popeth y gallwn i chwalu'r farn hon, sy'n cael ei meithrin gan yr elfen snobyyddlyd y mae rhai o ddilynwyr honedig opera a mathau eraill o gelfyddyd mawr yn ei chysylltu â hi ac yn aml yn ymhyfrydu ynddi. A minnau wedi mynchu'r opera sawl gwaith, yr wyf wedi gweld enghreifftiau dirif o hyn. Mae hynny'n fy ngwylltio a gwelaf sut y mae hyn yn allgáu pobl. Ni ddylai fod dim byd elitaidd yngylch diwylliant mawr.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Hwyrach eich bod wedi nodi un o baradocsau mwyaf y mater hwn. Gyda rhai eithriadau, mae bron pob un o gantorian opera gwych Cymru yn hanu o ardaloedd y tu allan i Gaerdydd, maent yn

from the Valleys and the Gwent valleys, for example, Dame Gwyneth Jones from Pontnewydd and Dame Margaret Price from Blackwood, Sir Geraint Evans from Cilfynydd—who was a miner's son—and Jason Howard from Merthyr Tydfil. Apart from Dennis O'Neill, who was a doctor's son from Pontarddulais, almost all these people were working-class kids who became world famous opera singers. None of them came from Cardiff. We must put that together—the talent of north Wales, such as Bryn Terfel, a farmer's son—with a building that is worthy of them. They are not snobbish kids from a middle-class background. That is what you must provide for by having this opera house and then you—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Rhodri, this is supposed to be an intervention, not a speech.

Richard Edwards: I accept that insightful intervention. I wanted to make the point that there is no good reason why so-called 'high art' should not be popular, and that any vested interest opposing this should be challenged head on, given the level of public investment involved.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Croesawaf y drafodaeth hon. Gwnaed nifer o bwyntiau pwysig. Ar ran y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, diolchaf yn fawr i'r ddau Weinidog a lwyddodd i ddod â'r cynllun hwn gerbron y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, ac estyn ein gwerthfawrogiad o waith Syr David Rowe-Beddoe a'i bwyllgor wrth sicrhau bod gennym gynllun credadwy a hyfyw i'w ystyried y prynhawn yma. Talaf deyrnged hefyd i Syr Alan Cox. Heb ei waith ef yn y lle cyntaf, ni fyddem yma heddiw yn trafod y cynllun hwn. Fe wnaeth ei ddyfalbarhad lawer i ddod â'r cynllun hwn ger ein bron ni.

Nodwyd nifer o wirioneddau sylfaenol y prynhawn yma. Dim ond yng Nghaerdydd y gallem gael yr adeilad hwn. Breuddwyd gwrach yw meddwl y gellid ei sefydlu yn yr un man arall. Os edrychwch ar y cynllun refeniw a'r cynllun busnes, dim ond yng Nghaerdydd, yn gredadwy, y gellid codi'r adeilad pwysig hwn. Mae'n ganolog i'n diwylliant ni—nid i Gaerdydd, ond i Gymru

hanu o'r Cymoedd a chymoedd Gwent, er enghraift, y Fonesig Gwyneth Jones o Bontnewydd a'r Fonesig Margaret Price o'r Coed Duon, Syr Geraint Evans o Gilfynydd—a oedd yn fab i lowr—a Jason Howard o Ferthyr Tudful. Ar wahân i Dennis O'Neill, a oedd yn fab i feddyg o Bontarddulais, yr oedd bron pob un o'r bobl hyn yn blant dosbarth gweithiol a ddaeth yn gantorion opera byd-enwog. Nid oedd yr un ohonynt yn hanu o Gaerdydd. Rhaid inni gydblethu hynny—dawn y Gogledd, fel Bryn Terfel, mab ffermwyr—gydag adeilad sy'n deilwng ohonynt. Nid ydynt yn blant snoyddlyd o gefndir dosbarth canol. Dyna y dylech ei ddarparu ar ei gyfer drwy gael y yty opera hwn ac yna byddwch yn—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Rhodri, ymyriad oedd hyn i fod ac nid arraith.

Rhodri Edwards: Derbyniad yr ymyriad craff hwn. Yr oeddwn am bwysleisio'r ffaith nad oes rheswm da pam na ddylai'r 'diwylliant mawr', fel y'i gelwir, fod yn boblogaidd, ac y dylid herio unrhyw un sy'n gwrtwynebu hynny yn uniongyrchol, o ystyried lefel y buddsoddiad cyhoeddus sy'n gysylltiedig â hyn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I welcome this debate. Several important points have been made. On behalf of the Culture Committee, I thank the two Ministers who have succeeded in bringing this project before the National Assembly, and extend our appreciation of the work of Sir David Rowe-Beddoe and his committee in ensuring that we have a credible and viable scheme to consider this afternoon. I also pay tribute to Sir Alan Cox. Without his work in the first instance, we would not be here today discussing this scheme. His perseverance did a great deal to bring this scheme before us.

Several fundamental truths have been noted this afternoon. It is only in Cardiff that we could have this building. It is a pipe dream to think that it could be established anywhere else. If you look at the revenue scheme and the business plan, it is only in Cardiff, credibly, that this important building could be built. It is central to our culture—not to Cardiff, but to the whole of Wales, because

gyfan, gan mai Caerdydd yw prifddinas Cymru gyfan. Bydd cynllun o weithgareddau yn tyfu o Ganolfan Mileniwm Cymru, ac mae'n bwysig ei bod yn cydgysylltu â'r gwaith gwych sydd yn digwydd yn Clwyd Theatr Cymru ac yn hybu gweithgaredd diwylliannol drwy Gymru gyfan. Mae'n ganolog ac yn bwysig i gais dinas Caerdydd i fod yn Brifddinas Diwylliant Ewrop 2008. Datganaf fuddiant fel aelod o fwrdd cyfarwyddwyr y cais hwnnw. Mae'n gais, nid yn unig ar gyfer dinas Caerdydd, ond ar gyfer Caerdydd a Chymru.

Yr ydym wedi clywed beth y gall diwylliant ei wneud i adfywio a chreu twf yn yr economi. Yr oeddwn yn gwerthfawrogi cyfraniad y Prif Weinidog. Mae'n drueni na wnaeth arraith a chyfrannu'n uniongyrchol i'r drafodaeth, ond gwerthfawrogaf ei ymyriad—yr oedd yn bwysig. Soniodd am gefndir rhai o'n perfformwyr gorau ni yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, mae eisiau inni hefyd fod yn ymwybodol o'n hanes. Pobl gyffredin—pobl dlawd—Cymru sydd wedi sicrhau bod gennym sefydliadau addysgiadol a diwylliannol yng Nghymru, nid y crachach a'r cyfoethogion. Pobl gyffredin Cymru sydd wedi bod ar y blaen.

Janet Davies: You talk about the poor people in Wales, Rhodri. I fully recognise and support this project, but when the Minister was talking about the details of the negotiations, she described them as highly technical. I am afraid that alarm bells rang in my head at that point, particularly in reference to the complex details of the land transfer. Will you, as Chair of the Culture Committee, obtain complete assurance from the Minister that she will ensure that the principles of robustness, transparency and soundness apply to the detail of the negotiations?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yes, certainly. I can give you that commitment. We have already looked at the detail of the revenue business plan for the Millennium Centre. My colleague, Dafydd Wigley, raised this matter with the Minister in Committee. We have asked for greater detail on the transfer and we will keep our eye on that situation. If any worrying aspects develop, we will look at them critically.

Cardiff is the capital of the whole of Wales. A schedule of activities will grow out of the Wales Millennium Centre, and it is important that it links with the excellent work that takes place at Clwyd Theatr Cymru and promotes cultural activities throughout Wales. It is central and important to Cardiff city's bid to be the Cultural Capital of Europe 2008. I declare an interest as a member of the board of directors of that bid. It is a bid, not only for the city of Cardiff, but for Cardiff and Wales.

We have heard what culture can do to regenerate and create growth in the economy. I appreciated the First Minister's contribution. It is a shame that he did not make a speech and contribute directly to the debate, but I appreciate his intervention—it was important. He talked about the background of some of our best performers in Wales. However, we must also be aware of our history. It is the ordinary people—the poor people—of Wales who have ensured that we have cultural and educational institutions in Wales, not the crachach and the rich. It is the ordinary people of Wales who have been in the vanguard.

Janet Davies: Yr ydych yn sôn am y bobl dlawd yng Nghymru, Rhodri. Cydnabyddaf a chefnogaf y prosiect hwn yn llawn, ond pan oedd y Gweinidog yn siarad am fanylion y negodiadau, fe'u disgrifiodd fel rhai technegol iawn. Dechreuodd hynny beri pryder mawr imi, yn arbennig pan soniwyd am fanylion cymhleth y broses o drosglwyddo tir. A wnewch chi, fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, ofyn am sicrwydd llwyr gan y Gweinidog y bydd yn sicrhau y caiff egwyddorion cadarnrwydd, tryloywder a chywirdeb eu cymhwysyo i fanylion y negodiadau?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Gwnaf, yn sicr. Gallaf roi'r ymrwymiad hwnnw i chi. Yr ydym eisoes wedi edrych ar fanylion y cynllun busnes refeniw ar gyfer Canolfan y Mileniwm. Cododd fy nghyd-Aelod, Dafydd Wigley, y mater hwn gyda'r Gweinidog yn y Pwyllgor. Gofynasom am fwy o fanylion am y broses drosglwyddo a byddwn yn cadw llygad ar y sefyllfa honno. Os bydd unrhyw agweddau amheus yn datblygu byddwn yn eu

hystyried yn ddifrifol.

I have tremendous respect for Peter Law's commitment to his constituency, and certainly to the deprived areas of his constituency and the poor people who live there. I share that commitment to social justice. However, we are in danger sometimes of stating that poor people who live in deprived areas have no interest in culture. They have a tremendous interest in culture and have a right to enjoy culture of the highest quality. Let us be quite clear about this. The way to serve our poorer communities and our deprived areas is not to take money away from cultural ventures or stop a debating Chamber for the Assembly, which we badly need; it is by getting a fair taxation system, where those of us who are fortunate enough to work contribute what we can to the economy, and those who need those services get what they deserve out of the economy. While we try to fool ourselves about social justice by saying, 'let us not have culture', these people have—

Mae gennyd barch mawr at ymrwymiad Peter Law i'w etholaeth, ac yn arbennig i ardaloedd difreintiedig ei etholaeth a'r bobl dlawd sy'n byw yno. Rhannaf yr ymrwymiad hwnnw i degwch cymdeithasol. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym mewn perygl weithiau o ddweud nad oes gan bobl dlawd sy'n byw mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig ddiddordeb mewn diwylliant. Mae ganddynt ddiddordeb mawr mewn diwylliant ac mae ganddynt hawl i fwynhau diwylliant o'r radd flaenaf. Gadewch inni fod yn glir ynglŷn â hyn. Nid cymryd arian oddi ar fentrau diwylliannol neu anghofio am Siambwr ddadlau ar gyfer y Cynulliad, y mae angen dybryd amdani, yw'r ffordd i wasanaethu ein cymunedau tloaf a'n hardaloedd difreintiedig; y ffordd i wneud hyn yw drwy sefydlu system drethiant deg, lle bydd y rhai ohonom sy'n ddigon ffodus i gael gwaith yn cyfrannu'r hyn a allwn i'r economi, a bod y rhai y mae angen y gwasanaethu hynny arnynt yn cael yr hyn y maent yn ei haeddu o'r economi. Tra ein bod yn ceisio twyllo ein hunain ynglŷn â chyflawnder cymdeithasol drwy ddweud, 'gadewch inni beidio â chael diwylliant', mae'r bobl hyn—

5:30 p.m.

Peter Law: Do you accept that, if you cannot get to the millennium centre to enjoy the culture and cannot afford to enter the building, and if you do not have a quality of life that includes essentials such as heat and light because you live in poverty and are socially deprived, you cannot enjoy the cultural opportunities to which you referred? My constituents want such opportunities and I commend them, but there is a limit to how much public finance you can put into them.

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

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I take Peter's comments on board. Such people will find it more difficult than people who are more affluent but, historically, those people have made an effort because they appreciate culture. Do not let us give the impression that they are not interested. Historically, those

Peter Law: A dderbyniwch, os na allwch gyrraedd canolfan y mileniwm i fwynhau'r diwylliant ac os na allwch fforddio mynd i mewn i'r adeilad, ac os nad oes gennych ansawdd bywyd sy'n cynnwys hanfodolion fel gwres a golau am eich bod yn byw mewn tlodi a'ch bod yn gymdeithasol-ddifreintiedig, ni allwch fwynhau'r cyfleoedd diwylliannol y cyfeiriasoch atynt? Mae fy etholwyr am gael cyfleoedd o'r fath ac fe'u cymeradwyaf, ond mae terfyn ar faint o arian cyhoeddus y gallwch ei wario arnynt.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae angen ichi ddirwyn i ben yn awr, Rhodri.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Byddaf yn ystyried sylwadau Peter. Bydd pobl o'r fath yn cael mwy o anhawster na phobl fwy cyfoethog ond, yn hanesyddol, mae'r bobl hynny wedi gwneud ymdrech am eu bod yn gwerthfawrogi diwylliant. Peidiwch â gadael inni roi'r argraff nad oes ganddynt

people have contributed to the best things in our society.

Mae hynny'n bwysig. Croesawaf y drafodaeth hon. Gobeithiaf y gallwn symud ymlaen yn awr i adeiladu'r ganolfan hon, sy'n hollbwysig i ddatblygiad diwylliannol y genedl.

The Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language (Jenny Randerson):

Many of this afternoon's comments have related to Cardiff. Like all capital cities, it probably has a love-hate relationship with the rest of its hinterland. However, in the last year, there have been several proposals that will benefit other parts of Wales, for example, the Swansea maritime museum and a new theatre in Wrexham. Other developments in west Wales and Caernarfon are also proposed.

We have given a commitment that £2 million will be available to the rest of Wales, so that money is not seen to be being siphoned into the Wales Millennium Centre. That commitment is in addition to an increase of almost 30 per cent in the Arts Council of Wales's grant by 2003, the vast majority of which will go to the rest of Wales.

Peter is wrong not to see the economic development potential for his constituents. Three years ago, the arts in Wales employed 29,000 people and had a turnover of over £1 billion a year. Since then, the arts have grown over a two-year period, and employment in that sector has grown by more than 15 per cent, faster than any other sector of the economy. We must see the economic development and tourism potential, and the significance of this development for Wales as a whole.

I will make one correction, Peter. This Arts Council of Wales money is not public money from the Assembly; it is lottery money. It is important to bear in mind that, if we say 'no' to this—and I am confident from the tone of today's contributions that we will not—we

ddiddordeb. Yn hanesyddol, mae'r bobl hynny wedi cyfrannu at y pethau gorau yn ein cymdeithas.

That is important. I welcome this discussion. I hope that we can now move forward to build this centre, which is vital to the nation's cultural development.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg (Jenny Randerson):

Mae llawer o'r sylwadau a wnaed y prynhawn yma wedi bod yn gysylltiedig â Chaerdydd. Fel pob prifddinas, mae'n debyg bod ganddi berthynas o gariad a chasineb â gweddill ei gwlad. Fodd bynnag, yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, cyflwynwyd llawer o gynigion a fydd yn sicrhau bod rhannau eraill o Gymru yn elwa, er enghraifft, amguedfa'r môr yn Abertawe a'r theatr newydd yn Wrecsam. Cynigiwyd datblygiadau eraill yng ngorllewin Cymru a Chaernarfon.

Rhoddasom ymrwymiad y byddai £2 miliwn ar gael ar gyfer gweddill Cymru, fel na fydd yn rhoi'r argraff bod yr holl arian yn cael ei sianelu i Ganolfan Mileniwm Cymru. Mae'r ymrwymiad hwn yn ychwanegol at gynnydd o bron 30 y cant yng ngrant Cyngor Celfyddyddau Cymru erbyn 2003, y bydd y mwyafrif helaeth ohono'n mynd i weddill Cymru.

Mae Peter yn anghywir am na wêl y cyfle o ran datblygu economaidd i'w etholwyr. Dair blynedd yn ôl, yr oedd y celfyddyddau yn cyflogi 29,000 o bobl yng Nghymru ac yr oedd ganddo drosiant o dros £1 biliwn y flwyddyn. Ers hynny, mae'r celfyddyddau wedi tyfu dros gyfnod o ddwy flynedd, ac mae cyflogaeth yn y sector hwnnw wedi cynyddu mwy na 15 y cant, yn gyflymach nag mewn unrhyw sector arall o'r economi. Rhaid inni weld y cyfle o ran datblygu economaidd a thwristiaeth, ac arwyddocâd y datblygiad hwn i Gymru gyfan.

Hoffwn gywiro un peth, Peter. Nid arian cyhoeddus gan y Cynulliad yw arian Cyngor Celfyddyddau Cymru; arian y loteri ydyw. Mae'n bwysig cadw mewn cof, os dywedwn 'na' i hyn—ac yr wyf yn hyderus o naws y cyfraniadau a wnaed heddiw na wnawn

would be turning away £31 million worth of investment that, otherwise, would not come to Wales. It is important that, like Tom Middlehurst, who represents a constituency that is far from the Assembly, you see the vision and the significance and value of this development to Wales as a whole. I have received widespread support for this proposal from the arts community in north and west Wales. They see the benefits for the arts in Wales as a whole, even if not all Assembly Members do.

Finally, as Glyn said, it is time to stop talking about this centre; it is time to build it. This is the moment of truth. We are determined to move forward with sound decisions on projects and policies that are good for the whole of Wales. I have spent the last year ensuring that this is a realistic proposal with realistic costings. I will come back to the Committee and to Plenary with the details of the land proposal once it is no longer commercially confidential.

hynny—y byddem yn gwrrhod £31 miliwn o fuddsoddiad na fyddai, fel arall, yn dod i Gymru. Mae'n bwysig eich bod chi, a Tom Middlehurst, sy'n cynrychioli etholaeth sy'n bell i ffwrdd o'r Cynulliad, yn gweld y weledigaeth ac arwyddocâd a gwerth y datblygiad hwn i Gymru gyfan. Cefais gefnogaeth eang i'r cynnig hwn gan y gymuned gelfyddydol yn y Gogledd a'r Gorllewin. Gwelant fanteision i'r celfyddydau yng Nghymru gyfan, hyd yn oed os na wêl bob Aelod o'r Cynulliad hynny.

Yn olaf, fel y dywedodd Glyn, mae'n hen bryd rhoi'r gorau i siarad am y ganolfan hon; mae'n bryd ei hadeiladu. Hon yw'r awr dyngedfennol. Yr ydym yn benderfynol o symud ymlaen gyda phenderfyniadau cadarn am brosiectau a pholisiau a fydd o fudd i Gymru gyfan. Treuliais y flwyddyn ddiwethaf yn sicrhau bod hwn yn gynnig realistig gyda chostau realistig. Dychwelaf i'r Pwyllgor ac i'r Cyfarfod Llawn gyda manylion y cynnig am y tir ar ôl iddo beidio â bod yn fasnachol.

Gwelliant 1: O blaid 47, Ymatal 2, Yn erbyn 1.

Amendment 1: For 47, Abstain 2, Against 1.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hancock, Brian
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelod canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Member voted against:

Evans, Delyth

Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Law, Peter
Halford, Alison

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.

Amended motion:

the National Assembly welcomes the imminent signature of the contract for the construction of the Wales Millennium Centre, which is being made possible by a grant from the Assembly of up to £37 million and acknowledges the importance of also making substantial investment in the arts in other parts of Wales.

Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio:

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn croesawu llofnodi buan y contract ar gyfer adeiladu Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru sy'n cael ei alluogi gan grant oddi wrth y Cynulliad o hyd at £37 miliwn ac yn cydnabod y pwysigrwydd o fuddsoddi'n sylweddol hefyd yn y celfyddydau mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru.

Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio: O blaid 47, Ymatal 1, Yn erbyn 2.
Amended motion: For 47, Abstain 1, Against 2.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael

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

Halford, Alison
Law, Peter

Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hancock, Brian
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

Ymataliodd yr Aelod canlynol:
The following Member abstained:

Davies, Jocelyn

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio.
Amended motion carried.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: We will now vote on the second motion.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar yr ail gynnig.

*Cynnig: O blaid 48, Ymatal 2, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 48, Abstain 2, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth

German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hancock, Brian
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Law, Peter
Halford, Alison

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5:35 p.m.
The session ended at 5:35 p.m.*