Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings
11/02/2015

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

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

13:30

Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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Good afternoon. The National Assembly for Wales is now in session.

Prynhawn da. Mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn awr yn eistedd.

13:30

1. Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau

1. Questions to the Minister for Education and Skills

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Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

The first item this afternoon is questions to the Minister for Education and Skills, and question 1 is from Leanne Wood.

Yr eitem gyntaf y prynhawn yma yw'r cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau, a daw cwestiwn 1 gan Leanne Wood.

Sgiliau Technoleg Gwybodaeth

Information Technology Skills

13:30

Leanne Wood Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

1. Beth y mae'r Gweinidog yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod disgyblion yn gadael ysgolion gyda sgiliau TG rhagorol? OAQ(4)0531(ESK)

1. What is the Minister doing to ensure that pupils leave schools with excellent IT skills? OAQ(4)0531(ESK)

13:30

Huw Lewis Bywgraffiad Biography

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

I thank the Member for South Wales Central. The Welsh Government recognises the importance of IT skills. Professor Donaldson's report will be published at the end of this month, in which he has considered the recommendations of the ICT steering group. In the meantime, we are investing significantly in supporting the delivery of ICT in schools.

Diolch i'r Aelod dros Ganol De Cymru. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cydnabod pa mor bwysig yw sgiliau Technoleg Gwybodaeth. Bydd adroddiad yr Athro Donaldson yn cael ei gyhoeddi ddiwedd y mis hwn, ac ynddo mae wedi ystyried argymhellion y grŵp llywio Technoleg Gwybodaeth a Chyfathrebu. Yn y cyfamser, rydym yn buddsoddi'n sylweddol i gefnogi'r ddarpariaeth Technoleg Gwybodaeth a Chyfathrebu mewn ysgolion.

13:31 **Leanne Wood** Bywgraffiad Biography

Arweinydd Plaid Cymru / The Leader of Plaid Cymru

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Thank you, Minister. In a speech that I delivered last year to Federation of Small Businesses members, I laid out a vision for the development of Wales to become a creative country. Our vision is to work in collaboration with the teaching profession to examine how we can adapt current subject areas, like design and technology and ICT, to enhance skills in mechanical, technical, civil and digital engineering, which could involve the development of new teaching subjects. Minister, would you be prepared to be more open-minded than your predecessor and consider such innovative educational steps in order to develop the skills that Wales needs in order to be able to compete on a global stage?

Diolch i chi, Weinidog. Mewn araith a roddais y llynedd i aelodau Ffederasiwn y Busnesau Bach, gosodais weledigaeth ar gyfer datblygu Cymru i fod yn wlad greadigol. Ein gweledigaeth yw gweithio ar y cyd â'r proffesiwn addysgu i archwilio sut y gallwn addasu'r meysydd pwnc cyfredol, fel dylunio a thechnoleg a Thechnoleg Gwybodaeth a Chyfathrebu, i wella sgiliau mewn peirianneg fecanyddol, dechnegol, sifil a digidol, a allai gynnwys y gwaith o ddatblygu pynciau addysgu newydd . Weinidog, a fyddech yn barod i fod yn fwy agored eich meddwl na'ch rhagflaenydd ac ystyried camau addysgol arloesol o'r fath er mwyn datblygu'r sgiliau sydd eu hangen ar Gymru i allu cystadlu ar lwyfan byd-eang?

13:31 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I thank Leanne Wood for the back-handed compliment. I've always been mightily impressed at the open-mindedness of all my Cabinet colleagues. She will have to wait a little while yet to see the results of Professor Donaldson's very considered consultations up and down the country with those who are expert in the realm of IT and computing skills. On 25 February, he will unveil his fundamental proposals, and I am sure that she will be pleased with the prominence given to the issues that she's raised this afternoon.

Diolch i Leanne Wood am y ganmoliaeth ffuantus. Rwyf bob amser wedi edmygu pa mor feddwl agored yw fy holl gydweithwyr yn y Cabinet. Bydd yn rhaid iddi aros ychydig amser eto i weld canlyniadau ymgynghoriadau'r Athro Donaldson, sydd wedi cael eu hystyried yn fanwl ledled y wlad gan rai sy'n arbenigo ym maes sgiliau cyfrifiadurol a Thechnoleg Gwybodaeth. Ar 25 Chwefror, bydd yn datgelu ei gynigion sylfaenol, ac rwy'n siŵr y bydd hi'n falch o'r amlygrwydd a roddwyd i'r materion y mae hi wedi tynnu sylw atynt y prynhawn yma.

13:32 **Andrew R.T. Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid / The Leader of the Opposition

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Fideo Video

Minister, IT skills are a critical component in the workplace, especially as, obviously, IT becomes more readily available, but social responsibility in the use of IT is vitally important, and as well as developing an ability to use IT effectively, there is a need to make sure that the users know their social responsibility in using that equipment and, in particular, the aspects around cyber bullying. What confidence do you have that the education system does deliver that social responsibility message as well as developing the skills of pupils around IT usage?

Weinidog, mae sgiliau Technoleg Gwybodaeth yn elfen hanfodol yn y gweithle, yn enwedig wrth i Dechnoleg Gwybodaeth, yn amlwg, ddod ar gael yn fwy eang, ond mae cyfrifoldeb cymdeithasol o ran y defnydd o Dechnoleg Gwybodaeth yn hanfodol bwysig, ac yn ogystal â datblygu gallu i ddefnyddio Technoleg Gwybodaeth yn effeithiol, mae angen inni sicrhau bod y defnyddwyr yn gwybod beth yw eu cyfrifoldeb cymdeithasol wrth ddefnyddio'r offer hwnnw ac yn benodol, yn gwybod am agweddau sy'n ymwneud â seiberfwlio. Pa hyder sydd gennych fod y system addysg yn cyflwyno'r neges honno am gyfrifoldeb cymdeithasol yn ogystal â datblygu sgiliau disgyblion o ran defnyddio Technoleg Gwybodaeth?

13:33 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Fideo Video

There are comprehensive guidelines out there for schools and school leaders, to take account of these very important matters that the Member raises. He also, I think, will be pleased, come the unveiling of the curriculum for Wales and Professor Donaldson's report, at the recognition that these elements of good citizenship, which we need to get across to our young people, will also entail an overhaul of how the internet and digital technology impact on the personal and social education curriculum as well as ICT issues.

Mae canllawiau cynhwysfawr ar gael i ysgolion ac arweinwyr ysgolion ar gyfer ystyried y materion hynod o bwysig y mae'r Aelod yn eu crybwyll. Gyda datgelu'r cwricwlwm ar gyfer Cymru ac adroddiad yr Athro Donaldson, bydd yr Aelod yn falch hefyd, rwy'n credu, eu bod yn cydnabod y bydd yr elfennau hyn o ddinasyddiaeth dda, sydd angen i'n pobl ifanc eu deall, hefyd yn golygu ailwampio'r modd y mae'r rhyngrwyd a thechnoleg ddigidol yn effeithio ar y cwricwlwm addysg bersonol a chymdeithasol yn ogystal â materion Technoleg Gwybodaeth a Chyfathrebu.

Categoreiddio Ysgolion

School Categorisation

13:34 **Angela Burns** Bywgraffiad Biography

2. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am weithredu system gategoreiddio newydd ar gyfer ysgolion? OAQ(4)0532(ESK)

2. Will the Minister provide an update on the implementation of the new school categorisation system? OAQ(4)0532(ESK)

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13:34 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

I will. The outcomes of the national school categorisation system support categories for primary and secondary schools were announced on 29 January, with further details published on the My Local School website on 30 January.

Gwnaf. Cafodd canlyniadau cymorth categorïau y system genedlaethol ar gyfer categoreiddio ysgolion ar gyfer ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd eu cyhoeddi ar 29 Ionawr, a chyhoeddwyd manylion pellach ar wefan Fy Ysgol Leol ar 30 Ionawr.

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13:34 **Angela Burns** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you very much for that, Minister. Your implementation programme here very clearly says that each category is discussed with the school by the regional consortia, is then agreed with the local education authorities, is then overseen by a regional moderation board, and then is finally put through a quality and standardisation group. Are you convinced that this has happened in every instance, because I've had a number of headteachers raising concerns with me?

Diolch yn fawr iawn, Weinidog. Mae eich rhaglen weithredu yn dweud yma'n glir iawn fod y consortia rhanbarthol yn trafod pob categori gyda'r ysgol, yna'n cael eu cytuno gyda'r awdurdodau addysg lleol, a'u goruchwylio wedyn gan fwrdd cymedroli rhanbarthol, cyn cael eu rhoi drwy grŵp ansawdd a safoni. A ydych yn argyhoeddedig fod hyn wedi digwydd ym mhob achos, oherwydd mae nifer o benaethiaid wedi lleisio'u pryderon wrthyf?

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13:35 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Well, this is certainly the way that the categorisation was arrived at for each and every school. It is, essentially, in its early stages, and there is no secret around the moderation either, co-constructed with school leaders, with local authorities, and, of course, with our school improvement consortia, too. So, there should be no mystery for any headteacher, or chair of governors, in terms of how they landed up in a particular category. They should know fine well.

Wel, dyma'n sicr y ffordd y penderfynwyd ar y categori ar gyfer pob ysgol. Yn ei hanfod, mae'n ddyddiau cynnar arno ac nid oes unrhyw gyfrinach ynglŷn â'r cymedroli chwaith, sy'n cael ei lunio ar y cyd ag arweinwyr ysgolion, awdurdodau lleol, ac wrth gwrs, ein consortia gwella ysgolion hefyd. Felly, ni ddylai fod unrhyw ddirgelwch i unrhyw bennaeth neu gadeirydd llywodraethwyr, o ran sut y maent yn cael eu rhoi mewn categori penodol. Dylent wybod yn iawn.

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13:35 **Mike Hedges** Bywgraffiad Biography

I have looked at recent inspection results, and compared them with school categorisations. A double 'good' by Estyn can have an amber, yellow or green. A double 'satisfactory' can also return an amber. Should we expect a correlation between Estyn inspection grades and school categorisation?

Rwyf wedi edrych ar ganlyniadau arolwg diweddar, ac wedi eu cymharu â chategorïau ysgolion. Gall dau 'da' gan Estyn fod yn oren, melyn neu wyrdd. Gall dau 'boddhaol' hefyd fod yn oren. A ddylem ddisgwyl cydberthynas rhwng graddau arolygu Estyn a chategoreiddio ysgol?

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13:35 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Not entirely, no, I think. It should come as no surprise, really, to Members that there could be cause for further thought in terms of the categorisation, and how it relates to the last Estyn inspection. Inspections and categorisation are different individual judgments, made at different times, and they use different methodologies. They tell us different things about schools. However, I would expect a broad correlation, which we have seen, in terms of the overall Estyn judgment, and the final colour support category. There may well be exceptions to that, but the Member—or any Member here who wishes to query a particular colour categorisation is very welcome to do so, and a detailed explanation would be offered.

Nid yn llwyr, na, nid wyf yn meddwl hynny. Ni ddylai fod yn syndod, mewn gwirionedd, i Aelodau y gallai fod achos dros ystyried ymhellach o ran y categoreiddio, a sut y mae'n berthnasol i'r arolygiad diwethaf gan Estyn. Mae arolygiadau a chategoreiddio yn ddyfarniadau unigol gwahanol, a gafodd eu gwneud ar wahanol adegau, ac maent yn defnyddio gwahanol fethodolegau. Maent yn dweud pethau gwahanol wrthym am ysgolion. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn disgwyl cydberthynas gyffredinol, fel y gwelsom, o ran dyfarniad cyffredinol Estyn, a'r cymorth categorïau lliw terfynol. Mae'n bosibl y bydd eithriadau i hynny, ond mae croeso i'r Aelod—neu unrhyw Aelod yma sy'n dymuno cwestiynu categori lliw penodol i wneud hynny, a bydd esboniad manwl yn cael ei gynnig.

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13:36 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Er bod y system newydd dipyn yn well na'r hen fandio, nid oes dim pwrpas i gategoreiddio oni bai bod y gefnogaeth yn ei lle i helpu ysgol i symud oddi ar gategori coch neu gategori ambr i wella ei safonau a gwella ansawdd dysgu yn yr ysgol. Gan nad yw pob ysgol uwchradd sydd wedi derbyn categori coch neu ambr yn rhan o Her Ysgolion Cymru, beth yw'r gefnogaeth a fydd yn ei lle i sicrhau bod yna symudiad yn digwydd drwy liwiau'r categoreiddio?

Although the new system is a fair bit better than the old banding system, there is no purpose in categorisation unless the support is in place to assist a school to move from the red or amber category, to improve standards and improve the quality of teaching in school. As not all secondary schools that were placed in the red or amber category are a part of Schools Challenge Wales, what support will be in place to ensure that there is a shift through the categorisation colours?

13:37 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Well, of course, we have the critical work of our consortia, in each and every part of Wales, covering each and every school in Wales. Categorisation, therefore, is a useful tool for the consortia to understand which kind of support, and how intensive a level of support, is required in each case. The challenge advisers working through the consortia have the job, as I say, of making sure that no school slips through the net.

Wel, wrth gwrs, mae gennym waith beirniadol ein consortia, ym mhob rhan o Gymru, yn cwmpasu pob ysgol yng Nghymru. Mae categoreiddio, felly, yn offeryn defnyddiol i'r consortia ddeall pa fath o gefnogaeth, a pha mor ddwys yw'r lefel o gymorth sy'n ofynnol ym mhob achos. Gwaith y cynghorwyr her sy'n gweithio drwy'r consortia, fel y dywedais, yw gwneud yn siŵr nad oes unrhyw ysgol yn llithro drwy'r rhwyd.

13:38 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Like other Assembly Members, Minister, I've been talking to local headteachers about the impact of this categorisation system, and I have written to you on this. One headteacher in particular is concerned that his school, which has around about 30% free school meals, is being disadvantaged by the way some of the calculations have been carried out. In particular, he says the ability to improve is not linked to value added, but is instead capped at level 2+ for free school meal learners, whilst the weighting on the raw scores is so high, it actively demotivates schools.

Fel Aelodau eraill y Cynulliad, Weinidog, rwyf wedi bod yn siarad â phenaethiaid lleol am effaith y system gategoreiddio, ac rwyf wedi ysgrifennu atoch ynglŷn â hyn. Mae un pennaeth yn arbennig yn pryderu bod ei ysgol, sydd â thua 30% o brydau ysgol am ddim, yn cael ei rhoi dan anfantais oherwydd y ffordd y mae rhai o'r cyfrifiadau wedi cael eu cyflawni. Yn benodol, mae'n dweud nad yw'r gallu i wella yn gysylltiedig â gwerth ychwanegol, ond yn hytrach ei fod wedi cael ei gapio ar lefel 2+ ar gyfer dysgwyr sy'n cael prydau ysgol am ddim, a bod pwysoliad y sgoriau crai mor uchel nes ei fod yn anghymhelliad gwirioneddol i ysgolion.

Can you have a look again to see whether we are allowing schools with high numbers of free school meal pupils to compete on a level playing field?

A wnewch chi edrych eto i weld a ydym yn caniatáu i ysgolion â niferoedd uchel o ddisgyblion sy'n derbyn prydau ysgol i gael eu trin yn gyfartal?

13:38 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Well, there are two issues here. The first is that it matters not a jot what the level or proportion of children on free school meals there are attending a particular school, and the categorisation shows this very clearly. There can be up to 50%—even more—children on free school meals at a particular school; the green category is as open to them as much as it is to anybody else.

Wel, mae dau fater yma. Y cyntaf yw nad yw'n bwysig o gwbl pa lefel neu gyfran o'r plant sy'n derbyn prydau ysgol am ddim sy'n mynychu ysgol benodol, ac mae'r categoreiddio'n dangos hyn yn glir iawn. Gall ysgolion fod â hyd at 50%—hyd yn oed yn fwy—o blant sy'n derbyn prydau ysgol am ddim mewn ysgol benodol; mae'r categori gwyrdd mor agored iddynt hwy ag i unrhyw un arall.

Having said that, we undertook, prior to categorisation, always to listen to stakeholders in the process. He's right to say that the measure this year, in the first iteration, has been a threshold of the Welsh average, in terms of level 2+ for free school meal children. That may, to my mind, be improved upon in future years, but, in terms of a first iteration, I think it's sent an important message through the system, and it gives a very clear result in terms of those schools that need to raise their game for the least-well-off young people.

Wedi dweud hynny, fe ymrwymon ni, cyn categoreiddio, i wrando bob amser ar randdeiliaid yn y broses. Mae'n iawn i ddweud mai'r mesur eleni, yn yr iteriad cyntaf, oedd trothwy o gyfartaledd Cymru, o ran lefel 2+ ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn prydau ysgol am ddim. Yn fy marn i, gellid gwella hynny yn y dyfodol, ond o ran iteriad cyntaf, rwy'n meddwl ei fod wedi cyfleu neges bwysig drwy'r system, ac mae'n rhoi canlyniad clir iawn mewn perthynas ag ysgolion sydd angen gwella'u perfformiad ar gyfer y bobl ifanc tlotaf.

Cwestiynau Heb Rybudd gan Lefarwyr y Pleidiau

Questions Without Notice from Party Spokespeople

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

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We now move to questions from the party spokespeople, and first this afternoon we have Plaid Cymru spokesperson, Simon Thomas.

Symudwn yn awr at gwestiynau gan lefarwyr y pleidiau, ac yn gyntaf y prynhawn yma dyma lefarydd Plaid Cymru, Simon Thomas.

13:39 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you, Presiding Officer. Minister, the national support programme has been in place since 2013 to support the national literacy and numeracy framework. This programme has been withdrawn and the work is being given to the consortia to do. Isn't this admission that it never gained the trust of teachers and was more of a hindrance than a help?

Diolch i chi, Lywydd. Weinidog, mae'r rhaglen gymorth genedlaethol wedi bod ar waith ers 2013 i gefnogi'r fframwaith llythrennedd a rhifedd cenedlaethol. Mae'r rhaglen hon wedi cael ei thynnu'n ôl ac mae'r gwaith yn cael ei roi i'r consortia i'w wneud. Onid yw hyn yn brawf na lwyddodd i ennill ymddiriedaeth athrawon a'i fod yn fwy o rwystr nag o gymorth?

13:40 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

No, I don't accept what the Plaid Cymru spokesperson asserts. It was always the intention, of course, that the national support programme would eventually become mainstreamed, and, of course, since then, we've had our consortia finding their feet—quite rapidly, actually—in terms of the work programme that's in front of them, and so, it makes sense to mainstream the support programme into the system that really has the closest contact with each and every school.

Na, nid wyf yn derbyn yr hyn y mae llefarydd Plaid Cymru yn ei honni. Y bwriad bob amser, wrth gwrs, oedd y byddai'r rhaglen gymorth genedlaethol yn cael ei chynnwys yn y brif ffrwd yn y pen draw, ac wrth gwrs, ers hynny, mae ein consortia wedi bod yn dod o hyd i'w traed—yn eithaf cyflym, mewn gwirionedd—o ran y rhaglen waith sydd o'u blaenau, ac felly, mae'n gwneud synnwyr i gynnwys y rhaglen gymorth yn y brif ffrwd a'i hymgorffori yn system sydd â'r cysylltiad agosaf mewn gwirionedd â phob ysgol.

13:40 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Well, of course, the purpose of the support programme and other initiatives, continuously, are to raise standards in our schools. The most recent Estyn report for this year says that there's modest improvement ,and Ann Keane confirmed that to the committee this morning, but drilling down below that, there are some worrying trends: 80% of primary schools were judged by Estyn to be good or excellent in the previous year's report, but this year, the figures decreased to 62%; and in secondary schools, the gap between Wales and England and the rest of the UK on GCSEs A* to C remains. Why do you think this is?

Wel, wrth gwrs, diben y rhaglen gymorth a mentrau eraill yn barhaus yw codi safonau yn ein hysgolion. Mae adroddiad diweddaraf Estyn ar gyfer y flwyddyn hon yn dweud y cafwyd gwelliant cymedrol, a chadarnhaodd Ann Keane hynny i'r pwyllgor y bore yma, ond wrth edrych yn ddyfnach na hynny, mae rhai tueddiadau sy'n peri pryder: Barnodd Estyn fod 80% o ysgolion cynradd yn dda neu'n rhagorol yn adroddiad y flwyddyn flaenorol, ond eleni, roedd y ffigurau wedi gostwng i 62%; ac mewn ysgolion uwchradd, mae'r bwlch rhwng Cymru a Lloegr a gweddill y DU o ran canlyniadau TGAU A* i C yn parhau i fodoli. Beth yw'r rheswm am hyn yn eich barn chi?

13:41 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Well, of course, the Member chooses his points very carefully. It is also the case, of course, that—and this was reflected in Estyn's annual review—there is a new momentum—and I quote directly: a 'new momentum'—in the Welsh schools system. Never before, actually, in my memory, has Estyn passed such an optimistic verdict in terms of the school improvement agenda. The Member will be well aware also that, although there remains a small gap in terms of GCSE attainment between England and Wales, the gap is small and has been shrinking every year now for the last four years. I, for one, am looking forward very much to this summer's GCSE results.

Wel, wrth gwrs, mae'r Aelod yn dewis ei bwyntiau yn ofalus iawn. Mae hefyd yn wir, wrth gwrs—ac adlewyrchwyd hyn yn adolygiad blynyddol Estyn—fod yna fomentwm newydd —ac rwy'n dyfynnu'n uniongyrchol: 'momentwm newydd'—yn system ysgolion Cymru. Mewn gwirionedd, i mi gofio, nid yw Estyn erioed o'r blaen wedi pasio dedfryd mor optimistaidd o ran yr agenda gwella ysgolion. Bydd yr Aelod yn ymwybodol iawn hefyd, er bod bwlch bach yn parhau o ran cyrhaeddiad TGAU rhwng Cymru a Lloegr, mae'r bwlch yn fach ac mae wedi bod yn crebachu bob blwyddyn dros y pedair blynedd diwethaf. Yn bersonol, rwy'n edrych ymlaen yn fawr iawn at ganlyniadau TGAU yr haf hwn.

13:42 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I'm sure we're all delighted to see momentum after 15 years of flatlining, or even declining, standards, but momentum does not equal outcomes, and when we look at outcomes, the attainment gap between pupils who are entitled to free school meals and pupils who are not entitled to free school meals increased for the first time since 2010 at key stage 4. The gap is now 33%. Is narrowing that attainment gap still your top education priority, and where's the momentum on this?

Rwy'n siŵr ein bod i gyd yn falch iawn o weld momentwm ar ôl 15 mlynedd o safonau gwastad, neu safonau'n dirywio hyd yn oed, ond nid yw momentwm yn golygu canlyniadau, a phan edrychwn ar ganlyniadau, cynyddodd y bwlch cyrhaeddiad rhwng disgyblion â hawl i brydau ysgol am ddim a disgyblion heb hawl i brydau ysgol am ddim am y tro cyntaf ers 2010 yng nghyfnod allweddol 4. Mae'r bwlch ar hyn o bryd yn 33%. Ai lleihau'r bwlch cyrhaeddiad yw eich prif flaenoriaeth addysg o hyd, a ble mae'r momentwm ar hyn?

13:42 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Narrowing the gap, of course, remains one of our top three priorities: literacy, numeracy and narrowing the gap in attainment between those young people who are least well-off than the rest. That's a very clear set of priorities from the Welsh Government. There has been a dip in terms of key stage 4 attainment this last year, and that is cause for concern. It is also true to say, however, that there has been a leap forward in terms of closing the gap at foundation phase, key stage 2 and key stage 3. So, overall, the system seems to be responding to Welsh Government policy and to the extra resources, through means such as the pupil deprivation grant.

Mae cau'r bwlch, wrth gwrs, yn parhau i fod yn un o'n tair prif flaenoriaeth: llythrennedd, rhifedd a lleihau'r bwlch cyrhaeddiad rhwng pobl ifanc sy'n dlotach na'r gweddill. Dyna set glir iawn o flaenoriaethau gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Bu gostyngiad o ran cyrhaeddiad yng nghyfnod allweddol 4 y llynedd, ac mae hynny'n peri pryder. Mae hefyd yn wir i ddweud, fodd bynnag, y cafwyd naid ymlaen o ran cau'r bwlch yn y cyfnod sylfaen, cyfnod allweddol 2 a chyfnod allweddol 3. Felly, yn gyffredinol, mae'r system i'w gweld yn ymateb i bolisi Llywodraeth Cymru ac i'r adnoddau ychwanegol, drwy ddulliau megis y grant amddifadedd disgyblion.

13:43 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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We now move to the Welsh Conservatives' spokesperson, Angela Burns.

Symudwn yn awr at lefarydd y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig, Angela Burns.

13:43 **Angela Burns** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you very much, Presiding Officer. Minister, can you please tell me what outcome monitoring you are doing of the outcomes of regional consortia?

Diolch yn fawr iawn, Lywydd. Weinidog, a allwch ddweud wrthyf pa waith rydych yn ei wneud ar fonitro canlyniadau'r consortia rhanbarthol?

13:43 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Well, just a few weeks ago, I completed a round of challenge and review events, which I myself chair, with each and every one of the four consortia. Those are day-long events that involve interrogation, feedback and two-way conversation between my officials, me, the consortia and the local authorities that make them up. I found those challenge and review events to be very valuable. I hope everyone else in the room did likewise, and we will continue in that vein throughout the development of the consortia.

Wel, ychydig wythnosau yn ôl yn unig, cwblheais rownd o ddigwyddiadau herio ac adolygu, digwyddiadau rwy'n eu cadeirio, gyda phob un o'r pedwar consortiwm. Digwyddiadau undydd yw'r rhain sy'n cynnwys holi, adborth a sgwrs ddwyffordd rhwng fy swyddogion a minnau, y consortia, a'r awdurdodau lleol sy'n eu creu. Teimlwn fod y digwyddiadau herio ac adolygu hynny'n werthfawr iawn. Rwy'n gobeithio bod pawb arall yn yr ystafell yn teimlo hynny hefyd, a byddwn yn parhau yn yr un modd drwy gydol y broses o ddatblygu'r consortia.

13:44 **Angela Burns** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, challenging and reviewing them is not the same as monitoring their outcomes, and these consortia have been on the starting blocks now for some years. They are being used as a blanket to cover other initiatives within education, including, for example, the colour-coding system—they're a vital part of it—and yet I hear time and time again from headteachers of primary and secondary schools that they have had minimal interface with the consortia, and that the school improvement agenda appears to be stagnating. What are your views on that?

Weinidog, nid yw eu herio a'u hadolygu yr un peth â monitro eu canlyniadau, ac mae wedi bod yn ddyddiau cynnar ar y consortia hyn ers rhai blynyddoedd bellach. Cânt eu defnyddio fel blanced i gynnwys mentrau eraill o fewn addysg, gan gynnwys, er enghraifft, y system codau lliw—maent yn rhan hanfodol ohono—ac eto rwy'n clywed dro ar ôl tro gan benaethiaid ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd nad ydynt wedi cael fawr o ymwneud â'r consortia, a bod yr agenda gwella ysgolion i'w gweld yn aros yn ei hunfan. Beth yw eich barn am hynny?

13:44 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Well, it's a curious perspective, I must say. I've not come across a single headteacher—and I meet them, you know, in multiple numbers every single week—who has reflected that point of view to me. In fact, I can recall a headteacher of a school in north-east Wales relaying to me that the coming of the consortium had transformed his ability to get to grips with the school improvement agenda and he had never been in his career so excited about the prospects for his school.

Wel, mae'n safbwynt sy'n peri chwilfrydedd, rhaid imi ddweud. Nid wyf wedi dod ar draws unrhyw bennaeth—ac rwy'n cwrdd â nifer fawr ohonynt bob wythnos, wyddoch chi—sydd wedi mynegi'r safbwynt hwnnw. Yn wir, gallaf gofio pennaeth ysgol yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Cymru yn dweud wrthyf fod dyfodiad y consortiwm wedi trawsnewid ei allu i fynd i'r afael â'r agenda gwella ysgolion ac nad oedd erioed wedi bod mor gyffrous ynghylch y rhagolygon ar gyfer ei ysgol drwy gydol ei yrfa.

I would challenge the Welsh Conservatives to actually put some substance to these smears, really, in terms of the consortia's working, which, to my mind, has consolidated well and is making a difference.

Hoffwn herio'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig i roi rhyw sylwedd gwirioneddol i'r ymdrechion hyn i bardduo gwaith y consortia, sydd wedi ymgryfhau'n dda ac yn gwneud gwahaniaeth.

13:45 **Angela Burns** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I don't do smearing, Minister; others may do, but I don't. I'd be very happy to invite you to come with me to meet some of these schools, because they have said that they would be happy to talk directly to you about the concerns that they have.

Nid wyf yn un i bardduo, Weinidog; efallai bod eraill yn gwneud, ond nid wyf i. Byddwn yn hapus iawn i'ch gwahodd i ddod gyda mi i gwrdd â rhai o'r ysgolion hyn, oherwydd maent wedi dweud y byddent yn hapus i siarad yn uniongyrchol â chi ynglŷn â'u pryderon.

Now, you've just mentioned a consortium, I believe it was in north Wales, where you said it had gone extremely well. Does that, in and of itself, not point out some of the problems we have with the inconsistency and uniformity of delivery that these consortia are supposed to be delivering across the whole of Wales? Standards are their key, and one of their key measures, as Simon Thomas talked about earlier, was to help to close that attainment gap, and we're not going to be able to progress unless we get these layers of bureaucratic help sorted out and working well. Minister, I invite you to come with me and meet some of these headteachers. I know they would be happy to speak directly to you.

Nawr, rydych newydd grybwyll consortiwm. Rwy'n credu mai yng ngogledd Cymru y dywedoch ei fod wedi mynd yn arbennig o dda. Onid yw hynny, ynddo'i hun, yn tynnu sylw at rai o'r problemau sydd gennym gydag anghysondeb ac unffurfiaeth y ddarpariaeth y mae'r consortia hyn i fod i'w chyflwyno ledled Cymru? Safonau yw eu hallwedd, ac un o'u mesurau allweddol, fel y soniodd Simon Thomas yn gynharach, oedd helpu i gau'r bwlch cyrhaeddiad, ac nid ydym yn mynd i allu symud ymlaen oni bai ein bod yn rhoi trefn ar yr haenau hyn o gymorth biwrocrataidd a'u cael i weithio'n dda. Weinidog, rwy'n eich gwahodd i ddod gyda mi i gwrdd â rhai o'r penaethiaid hyn. Rwy'n gwybod y byddent yn hapus i siarad yn uniongyrchol â chi.

13:46 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

You know, Presiding Officer, I do worry that the tenuous grip on reality that the Welsh Conservatives seem to display when it comes to developments in Welsh education is growing more tenuous by the week. They do not smear anyone, but the Member is herself quoted this week as saying that the Welsh educational system is a national scandal—a national scandal, apparently. With friends like these, our professionals in the system hardly need enemies, when their good work is being undermined at every turn by the Welsh Conservatives. But, I will say this: they are simply reading out the script that was handed to them by their head office and are dutifully following the words.

Lywydd, rwy'n poeni fod y gafael gwan ar realiti y mae'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig i'w gweld yn ei arddangos ynghylch datblygiadau mewn addysg yng Nghymru yn gwanhau fwyfwy bob wythnos. Nid ydynt yn pardduo neb, ond dywedodd yr Aelod ei hun yr wythnos hon fod y system addysg yng Nghymru yn sgandal cenedlaethol—yn sgandal cenedlaethol, mae'n debyg. Gyda ffrindiau fel y rhain, prin fod angen gelynion ar ein gweithwyr proffesiynol yn y system, pan fo'u gwaith da yn cael ei danseilio o hyd gan y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig. Ond fe ddywedaf hyn: yn syml iawn, maent yn darllen y sgript a roddwyd iddynt gan eu prif swyddfa ac yn dilyn y geiriau'n ufudd.

13:47 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

We now move to the Welsh Liberal Democrat spokesperson, Aled Roberts.

Symudwn yn awr at lefarydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, Aled Roberts.

13:47 **Aled Roberts** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography] Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

Diolch, Lywydd. Weinidog, mae'n debyg eich bod chi'n ystyried ar hyn o bryd adroddiadau ar y cynnydd sydd wedi cael ei wneud yng nghynlluniau strategol Cymraeg mewn addysg. Fe ddywedodd y Prif Weinidog ddoe, pe bai yna ddiffyg cynnydd mewn rhai siroedd, y byddai'n rhaid i'r siroedd hynny fynd yn ôl i'r cychwyn. A ydy hynny'n dderbyniol a beth yn union y byddwch chi'n ei wneud, o ystyried bod rhai o'r cynlluniau yma wedi cael eu derbyn heb unrhyw fath o dargedau nag unrhyw fath o ganlyniadau?

Thank you, Presiding Officer. Minister, I suppose you are currently considering reports on the progress that's being made within the Welsh in education strategic plans. The First Minister said yesterday that, if there was a lack of progress in certain counties, then those counties would have to back to the beginning. Is that acceptable and what exactly will you be doing, given that some of these plans have been received without including any sort of targets or any sort of outcomes?

13:48 **Huw Lewis** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography] Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

Well, that is not the case. The Welsh in education strategic plans are taken very seriously by me, very seriously about the Welsh Government, and, in those instances where we have felt that a local authority has not risen to the challenge of being robust in terms of planning for the future, then those plans have been returned to those local authorities. Several of them have been modified as a result of being rejected by me for being insufficiently robust.

Wel, nid yw hynny'n wir. Rwyf fi a Llywodraeth Cymru o ddifrif ynglŷn â'r cynlluniau strategol Cymraeg mewn addysg, ac yn yr achosion hynny lle rydym wedi teimlo nad yw awdurdod lleol wedi ymateb i'r her o fod yn gadarn o ran cynllunio ar gyfer y dyfodol, yna mae'r cynlluniau hynny wedi cael eu dychwelyd i'r awdurdodau lleol dan sylw. Mae nifer ohonynt wedi cael eu haddasu yn sgil cael eu gwrthod gennyf am nad oeddent yn ddigon cadarn.

13:48 **Aled Roberts** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography] Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

Ond hyd yn oed ar ôl iddyn nhw gael eu gwirio, nid oes targed yn nifer fawr ohonyn nhw. Ond os ydych chi'n dweud mai un o'ch prif flaenoriaethau chi ydy cau y bwlch o ran canlyniadau, a allwch chi esbonio sut, o ran yr iaith Gymraeg fel pwnc, mae'r bwlch cyrhaeddiad fwyaf i'r rhai hynny sydd yn derbyn prydau ysgol am ddim?

But even after they've been checked, there are no targets in many of them. But, if you state that one of your main priorities is to close the gap in terms of attainment, can you explain how, in terms of the Welsh language as a subject, the attainment gap is widest in the case of those receiving free school meals?

13:49 **Huw Lewis** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography] Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

I take it that the Member means Welsh as a second language. Yes. Professor Graham Donaldson, in consultation with me, has taken a very long, hard look at the efficacy of our efforts and our very considerable investment as a nation, really, in terms of language acquisition through Welsh as a second language. He will have fundamental reform to propose towards the end of this month, and I do accept, actually, that this is an issue that we must all address. It is not just connected to those young people on free school meals, but is problematic right across the country. I think we need a new approach and new thinking and the fundamentals of that thinking will be, as I say, revealed to everyone on the twenty-fifth of this month.

Rwy'n cymryd fod yr Aelod yn golygu'r Gymraeg fel ail iaith. Gallaf. Mae'r Athro Graham Donaldson, mewn ymgynghoriad â mi, wedi edrych yn hir ac yn fanwl iawn ar effeithiolrwydd ein hymdrechion a'n buddsoddiad sylweddol fel cenedl, yn wir, o ran caffael iaith, yn y Gymraeg fel ail iaith. Bydd ganddo ddiwygiad hanfodol i'w gynnig tua diwedd y mis hwn, ac rwy'n derbyn, mewn gwirionedd, fod hwn yn fater y mae'n rhaid i ni gyd fynd i'r afael ag ef. Nid yw'n gysylltiedig â'r bobl ifanc hynny sy'n derbyn prydau ysgol am ddim yn unig, ond mae'n broblem ar hyd y wlad. Rwy'n credu bod angen ymagwedd newydd arnom a syniadau newydd a bydd hanfodion y ffordd honno o feddwl, fel y dywedais, yn cael eu datgelu i bawb ar y pumed ar hugain o'r mis hwn.

13:50 **Aled Roberts** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography] Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

A jest i barhau efo'r un pwnc, mae yna nifer o rieni yn poeni am gynigion gan y cynghorau sir i ddadwneud rhai o'r trefniadau addysg ar ôl 16 ar gyfer ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg. A ydych chi'n barod i drafod â Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth i roi datganiad gerbron pob cyngor sir fod ganddyn nhw gyfrifoldeb i ddarparu, ac i ehangu ar y ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg wrth iddyn nhw fynd i'r afael â thrafnidiaeth ôl-16?

And just to continue on the same theme, many parents are concerned about proposals by county councils to undo some of the arrangements for post-16 education in Welsh-medium schools. Would you be willing to discuss this with the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport and issue a statement to all councils that they have a responsibility to provide and to enhance Welsh-medium provision as they look at post-16 transport?

13:50 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Well, of course those conversations have already taken place given the pressures of austerity imposed upon the Welsh Government by the Member's party in London in coalition with the Conservatives. There are very challenging issues for local authorities in this regard and in others, but each and every local authority is well aware of their responsibilities with regard to school transport. I would also point out that, in terms of post-16, we still have the educational maintenance allowance in Wales, which was scrapped by the Member's party in England, and it is contributing mightily towards assisting families, particularly those on low income, to deal with issues like transport costs.

Wel, wrth gwrs mae'r sgyrsiau hynny eisoes wedi digwydd o ystyried y pwysau y mae mesurau caledi wedi'u gosod ar Lywodraeth Cymru gan blaid yr Aelod yn Llundain mewn clymblaid gyda'r Ceidwadwyr. Mae materion heriol iawn yn wynebu awdurdodau lleol yn hyn o beth ac mewn ffyrdd eraill, ond mae pob awdurdod lleol yn ymwybodol iawn o'u cyfrifoldebau o ran cludiant i'r ysgol. Hoffwn nodi hefyd, o ran addysg ôl-16, fod y lwfans cynhaliaeth addysg yn dal i fod gennym yng Nghymru, lwfans a gafodd ei dileu gan blaid yr Aelod yn Lloegr, ac mae'n cyfrannu'n gadarn tuag at gynorthwyo teuluoedd, yn enwedig rhai ar incwm isel, i ddelio â materion fel costau cludiant.

Cynlluniau i Foderneiddio Ysgolion

School Modernisation Plans

13:51 **Rhun ap Iorwerth** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

3. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gynlluniau i foderneiddio ysgolion? OAQ(4)0534(ESK)

3. Will the Minister make a statement on school modernisation plans? OAQ(4)0534(ESK)

13:51 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank the Member for Ynys Môn. We will be working with local authorities to deliver our £1.4 billion investment in those schools in poorest conditions with a high level of surplus places over the next five years. Any savings from this rationalisation will be redeployed into front-line teaching and learning to benefit learners across Wales.

Diolch i'r Aelod dros Ynys Môn. Byddwn yn gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i ddarparu ein buddsoddiad o £1.4 biliwn mewn ysgolion sydd yn y cyflwr gwaethaf gyda lefel uchel o leoedd gwag dros y pum mlynedd nesaf. Bydd unrhyw arbedion o'r rhesymoli hwn yn cael eu hailgyfeirio i addysg a dysgu rheng flaen er budd dysgwyr ledled Cymru.

13:52 **Rhun ap Iorwerth** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Diolch. Mae Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn yn parhau efo'u proses foderneiddio nhw, a dau o'r prif yrwyr am newid ydy'r gofyn i leihau gwariant y pen a lleihau llefydd gwag. Wel, mae'r ganran o lefydd gwag ym Môn yn is na'r cyfartaledd cenedlaethol, ond, tra bod gwariant y pen ym Môn yn uwch na'r cyfartaledd, mae'n amlwg bod cost darparu addysg mewn ardaloedd gwledig yn ddrutach yn gyffredinol. Mae yna ddadl gref hefyd, wrth gwrs, fod colli ysgol y pentref gwledig yn cael effaith gymunedol ddifrifol. Hefyd, mae denu arian i wella adeiladau ysgolion gwledig presennol yn anoddach na denu arian i adeiladu ysgolion newydd. A ydy'r Gweinidog, felly, yn rhannu pryderon rhai o'm hetholwyr i nad ydy ffactorau gwledig yn cael digon o ystyriaeth wrth i'r Llywodraeth yrru ei rhaglen foderneiddio?

Thank you. The Isle of Anglesey County Council continues with its modernisation process, and two of the main drivers for changes are the requirements to reduce per-capita expenditure and to reduce surplus places. Well, the percentage of surplus places in Anglesey is lower than the national average, but, while per-capita expenditure is higher than the national average, it is clear that the cost of providing education in rural areas is higher more generally. There is a very strong argument to be made, of course, that losing a school from a rural area has a serious impact in terms of the community. Also, attracting funding to improve the condition of rural school building is more difficult than attracting money to build new schools. Does the Minister therefore share the concerns of some of my constituents that rural factors are not given sufficient consideration as the Government drives its modernisation programme?

13:53 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Well, these issues are primarily, of course, for Anglesey as a local authority, with a local democratic mandate, to work through with the people of Anglesey. What I can say is that the plans for modernising Anglesey's school estate are well under way. An investment of nearly £33.5 million in education across the authority will roll out over the next five years, with the Welsh Government providing 50% grant assistance. All in all, it will be the biggest investment in schools' bricks and mortar on the island in living memory.

Wel, materion i Ynys Môn fel awdurdod lleol yw'r materion hyn yn bennaf, wrth gwrs, gyda mandad democrataidd lleol i weithio drwyddo gyda phobl Ynys Môn. Yr hyn y gallaf ei ddweud yw bod y cynlluniau i foderneiddio ystâd ysgolion Ynys Môn wedi hen ddechrau. Bydd buddsoddiad o bron i £33.5 miliwn i addysg ar draws yr awdurdod yn cael ei gyflwyno dros y pum mlynedd nesaf, gyda Llywodraeth Cymru yn darparu cymorth grant o 50%. Ar y cyfan, dyma fydd y buddsoddiad mwyaf mewn brics a mortar ysgolion ar yr ynys ers cyn cof.

13:53 **Russell George** Bywgraffiad Biography

Minister, last May you said that the twenty-first century schools programme is more than just a building programme; it's about creating the right environment for students regardless of their background and where they live. Given the fact that some local authorities are considering closing secondary schools, do you feel it is acceptable that students may spend a good proportion of their educational day on a bus rather than in the classroom?

Weinidog, fis Mai diwethaf fe ddywedoch fod y rhaglen ysgolion ar gyfer yr unfed ganrif ar hugain yn fwy na rhaglen adeiladu'n unig; mae'n ymwneud â chreu'r amgylchedd cywir ar gyfer myfyrwyr beth bynnag yw eu cefndir a ble y maent yn byw. O ystyried bod rhai awdurdodau lleol yn ystyried cau ysgolion uwchradd, a ydych chi'n teimlo ei bod yn dderbyniol fod myfyrwyr yn gallu treulio cyfran dda o'u diwrnod addysgol ar fws yn hytrach nag yn yr ystafell ddosbarth?

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13:54 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Well, the Member's question is somewhat vague. I'm not quite sure if he's referring to a specific instance, and, of course, if he is, I'd be more than happy to follow that through. Of course, there will be school closures up for consideration from time to time, but I would stress that school closures in Wales are not happening or would not happen because of budgetary pressure being exerted on local authorities, but would be part of our ongoing commitment to drive down the numbers of surplus places, and connecting that with the overall modernisation of the school estate through twenty-first century schools.

Wel, mae cwestiwn yr Aelod braidd yn amwys. Nid wyf yn hollol siŵr a yw'n cyfeirio at achos penodol, ac wrth gwrs, os yw, rwy'n fwy na pharod i edrych ar y mater. Wrth gwrs, bydd cau ysgolion dan ystyriaeth o bryd i'w gilydd, ond hoffwn bwysleisio nad yw ysgolion yn cael eu cau yng Nghymru neu ni fyddent yn cael eu cau oherwydd y pwysau cyllidebol ar awdurdodau lleol, ond am y byddai'n rhan o'n hymrwymiad parhaus i leihau nifer y lleoedd gwag, a chysylltu hynny â moderneiddio cyffredinol yr ystad ysgolion drwy'r rhaglen ysgolion ar gyfer yr unfed ganrif ar hugain.

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13:54 **William Powell** Bywgraffiad Biography

Minister, it's a matter of public record that the educational attainment gap between deaf and hearing children in Wales at every key stage is still far too wide. Improvement in acoustic environments as well as developing a better understanding of the needs of deaf children are critical in this particular respect. What measures are in place between the twenty-first century schools programme to ensure that the acoustic needs of deaf and hearing-impaired children are addressed and thus their educational prospects enhanced?

Weinidog, mae'n wybodaeth gyhoeddus fod y bwlch cyrhaeddiad addysgol rhwng plant byddar a phlant sy'n clywed yng Nghymru ym mhob cyfnod allweddol yn dal i fod yn llawer rhy eang. Mae gwelliannau mewn amgylcheddau acwstig yn ogystal â datblygu dealltwriaeth well o anghenion plant byddar yn hanfodol yn hyn o beth. Pa fesurau sydd ar waith rhwng rhaglen ysgolion yr unfed ganrif ar hugain i sicrhau bod anghenion acwstig plant byddar a phlant sydd â nam ar eu clyw yn cael sylw a thrwy hynny, i sicrhau bod eu rhagolygon addysgol yn gwella?

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13:55 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Well, it is my understanding that they are indeed considered in terms of the impact of classroom design, and so on, upon the learning experience of young people with a hearing impairment. There are some good examples that I have seen across Wales of this being taken into account in very thorough and imaginiative ways. This, of course, goes alongside the co-production of school design between the local authorities and the Welsh Government, which also takes into account, obviously, things like new technology, building that into the school design, as well as the ecology of the school.

Wel, yn ôl yr hyn a ddeallaf, maent yn cael eu hystyried o ran effaith cynllun ystafelloedd dosbarth, ac yn y blaen, ar brofiad dysgu pobl ifanc sydd â nam ar eu clyw. Gwelais rai enghreifftiau da ledled Cymru o hyn yn cael ei ystyried mewn ffyrdd trylwyr a chreadigol iawn. Mae hyn, wrth gwrs, yn cyd-fynd â'r broses o gydgynhyrchu cynlluniau ysgol rhwng yr awdurdodau lleol a Llywodraeth Cymru, sydd hefyd yn ystyried pethau fel technoleg newydd, wrth gwrs, gan adeiladu hynny'n rhan o gynllun yr ysgol, yn ogystal ag ecoleg yr ysgol.

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Gwariant ar Addysg

Education Spend

13:56 **Aled Roberts** Bywgraffiad Biography

4. Pa asesiad y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'i wneud o wahaniaethau mewn gwariant ar addysg rhwng Cymru a Lloegr? OAQ(4)0539(ESK)

4. What assessment has the Minister made of spending differences in education between England and Wales? OAQ(4)0539(ESK)

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13:56 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Figures published by the Treasury in November last year show that, per head of the population, education spending in Wales in 2013-14 was 8% higher than in England. These figures include schools, and further and higher education spending.

Mae ffigurau a gyhoeddwyd gan y Trysorlys ym mis Tachwedd y llynedd yn dangos, am bob pen o'r boblogaeth, fod y gwariant ar addysg yng Nghymru yn 2013-14 8% yn uwch na Lloegr. Mae'r ffigurau hyn yn cynnwys ysgolion, a gwariant ar addysg bellach ac addysg uwch.

13:56 **Aled Roberts** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Rwy'n falch ein bod ni wedi cael rhyw fath o esboniad. Fe wnaeth y Prif Weinidog drafod y ffigwr yna'r wythnos diwethaf, ond, wrth gwrs, ers mis Ionawr 2012, nid oes ystadegau wedi cael eu cyhoeddi. Rwy'n derbyn bod yna wahaniaethau o ran gwariant ar ysgolion rhwng Cymru a Lloegr a'i bod yn anoddach oherwydd ysgolion rhydd, ac ati, ond a oes unrhyw gynlluniau gan y Llywodraeth i gyhoeddi ystadegau i ddangos gwir wariant yn hytrach na gwariant y pen?

I'm pleased that we've been given some sort of explanation. The First Minister discussed that figure last week, but, of course, since January 2012, no statistics have been published. I accept that there are differences in terms of expenditure on schools between Wales and England and that it is more difficult because of free schools, and so on, to compare, but does the Government have any plans to publish statistics to show real expenditure rather than per-capita expenditure?

13:57 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Well, of course, expenditure in Wales is published and is absolutely transparent, including the spend per pupil, and it's available on an annual basis every year. The contrast and difficulty arise when you try to figure out exactly what the UK Government is spending in England. The National Audit Office has given up and has refused to sign off the Department for Education's accounts in England, a situation that, if it was transferred to Wales, the Member would be very, very concerned about indeed. It's actually quite scandalous that the people of England are not able to understand exactly how the UK Government is distributing money across the schools system.

Wel, wrth gwrs, mae gwariant yng Nghymru yn cael ei gyhoeddi ac mae'n gwbl dryloyw, gan gynnwys y gwariant fesul disgybl, ac mae ar gael yn flynyddol bob blwyddyn. Mae'r cyferbyniad a'r anhawster yn codi pan fyddwch yn ceisio datrys yn union beth y mae Llywodraeth y DU yn ei wario yn Lloegr. Mae'r Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol wedi rhoi'r ffidl yn y to ac wedi gwrthod cadarnhau cyfrifon yr Adran Addysg yn Lloegr, sefyllfa y byddai'r Aelod, pe bai'n digwydd yng Nghymru, yn hynod o bryderus yn ei chylch. Mewn gwirionedd, mae'n eithaf cywilyddus nad yw pobl Lloegr yn gallu deall yn union sut y mae Llywodraeth y DU yn dosbarthu arian ar draws y system ysgolion.

Statisticians in England themselves state that comparisons between academies and maintained schools are not possible, as you said. Now, this difficulty is in no part ours in Wales. It is not reluctance on our part. The Welsh Government is able to provide the data in the same format as we did when the last comparison was possible. The DfE, however, cannot, and the reason for this, of course, is the ideological experiment that the coalition Government is undertaking with the schools system in England.

Mae ystadegwyr yn Lloegr yn dweud eu hunain nad yw'n bosibl gwneud cymariaethau rhwng academïau ac ysgolion sy'n cael eu cynnal, fel y dywedoch. Yn awr, nid ein hanhawster ni yng Nghymru yw hyn mewn unrhyw fodd. Nid amharodrwydd ar ein rhan ni yw hyn. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn gallu darparu'r data yn yr un fformat fel y gwnaethom pan oedd y gymhariaeth ddiwethaf yn bosibl. Fodd bynnag, ni all yr Adran Addysg wneud hyn, a'r rheswm am hynny, wrth gwrs, yw'r arbrawf ideolegol sydd ar waith gan y Llywodraeth glymblaid ar y system ysgolion yn Lloegr.

One statistic I will give him, and he can compare this with the way we handle ourselves here in Wales: Brixton free school opened last September at a cost of £18 million with 17 pupils on the roll—over £1 million per pupil. If that had been the result of school development here in Wales, I would have been drummed out of office, and quite rightly so.

Rwyf am roi un ystadegyn iddo, a gall gymharu hyn â'r ffordd rydym yn gwneud pethau yma yng Nghymru: agorodd ysgol rydd Brixton fis Medi diwethaf ar gost o £18 miliwn gydag 17 o ddisgyblion ar y gofrestr—dros £1 miliwn i bob disgybl. Pe bai hynny wedi digwydd yn sgil datblygu ysgolion yma yng Nghymru, byddwn wedi cael fy hel o fy swydd, ac yn gwbl briodol hefyd.

13:59 **Mark Isherwood** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Although the Welsh Government stopped publishing comparable data on per-pupil funding between England and Wales after 2011, when the gap was £604, it has continued to publish data on per-pupil funding in Welsh schools, showing the gap between the best and worst-funded authorities in Wales. The worst-funded authority is getting £1,084 less per pupil than the best-funded authority. Of course, there needs to be some resource funding underachievement, but, sadly, underachievement remains in the same places. How can you justify a formula that leads to a funding gap such as that and, for example, in the county where I live, means that pupils receive £861 less each in their schools than in the highest funded council in Wales?

Er bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi rhoi'r gorau i gyhoeddi data cymharol ar gyllid fesul disgybl rhwng Cymru a Lloegr ar ôl 2011, pan oedd y bwlch yn £604, mae wedi parhau i gyhoeddi data ar gyllid fesul disgybl mewn ysgolion yng Nghymru, ac mae'n dangos y bwlch rhwng yr awdurdodau sy'n cael eu hariannu orau a'r rhai sy'n cael eu hariannu waethaf. Mae'r awdurdod sy'n cael ei ariannu waethaf yn cael £1,084 yn llai fesul disgybl na'r awdurdod sy'n cael ei ariannu orau. Wrth gwrs, mae angen rhywfaint o adnoddau i ariannu tangyflawniad, ond yn anffodus, mae lefelau tangyflawni yn parhau yn yr un mannau. Sut y gallwch chi gyfiawnhau fformiwla sy'n arwain at fwlch cyllido o'r fath ac er enghraifft, yn y sir lle rwy'n byw, mae'n golygu bod disgyblion yn cael £861 yn llai y pen yn eu hysgolion nag yn y cyngor sy'n cael ei ariannu orau yng Nghymru?

13:59 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Well, we really do, Presiding Officer, sometimes enter into an alternate reality when it comes to the view of the Welsh Conservatives. Their disconnection from the reality of what is happening on the ground in Welsh schools and Welsh education is frightening to behold. I have already explained to the Chamber that the Welsh Government is perfectly able to provide the straightforward data that everyone can understand in terms of where the money goes in our schools system. It is his party colleagues in Westminster—

Wel, Lywydd, weithiau rydym yn camu i mewn i realiti amgen pan ddaw i safbwyntiau'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig. Mae eu datgysylltiad oddi wrth yr hyn sy'n digwydd ar lawr gwlad yn ysgolion Cymru ac mewn addysg yng Nghymru yn frawychus. Rwyf eisoes wedi esbonio i'r Siambr fod Llywodraeth Cymru yn gallu darparu'r data syml y mae pawb yn gallu ei ddeall o ran i ble y mae'r arian yn mynd yn ein system ysgolion. Ei gydweithwyr yn ei blaid ei hun yn San Steffan—

14:00 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Mark Isherwood, we don't need any visuals, thank you.

Mark Isherwood, nid oes angen unrhyw gymorth gweledol arnom, diolch.

14:00 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

It is his party colleagues in Westminster that have obscured the flow of money within England, and they have done so, in my opinion, for very clear political reasons. That is why we're in the situation we are in; it is not of our making. We are facing chaos, frankly, in terms of England's accounting in relation to schools.

Ei gydweithwyr yn ei blaid ei hun yn San Steffan sydd wedi cuddio'r llif arian yn Lloegr, ac maent wedi gwneud hynny, yn fy marn i, am resymau gwleidyddol amlwg. Dyna pam ein bod yn y sefyllfa hon ar hyn o bryd; nid ni sydd wedi ei chreu. Rydym yn wynebu anhrefn, a dweud y gwir, o ran y modd y mae Lloegr yn cyfrifyddu mewn perthynas ag ysgolion.

14:00 **Alun Ffred Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Mae ysgol yn fy etholaeth â 40% o'r plant yn dod o gartrefi o amddifadedd uchel—hynny ydy, ymhlith yr 20% gwaethaf yng Nghymru—ond dim ond hanner y plant hynny sy'n derbyn cinio am ddim, er y gallent i gyd, wrth gwrs, dderbyn cinio am ddim, ac mae hynny, wrth gwrs, yn cael effaith sylweddol ar gyllideb yr ysgol. Gan fod yr ysgol a'r plant yn colli allan felly, beth yw eich cyngor chi i'r prifathro?

A school in my constituency has 40% of its children coming from highly deprived homes—that is, amongst the 20% worst in Wales—but only half of those pupils are in receipt of free school meals, although, of course, they're all eligible for free school meals, and that, of course, has a huge impact on the school budget. As both the school and the pupils are losing out, what is your advice for the headteacher?

14:01 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Well, it is, of course, open to the local authority and to the leadership in an individual school to set about trying to rectify a problem like that, with perhaps parents not being aware of what they might be entitled to, or having been reluctant to sign up. Persuasion could be targeted at those families. After all, this is something to which they are entitled. I am aware of local authorities that have set about trying to sign up all those that are eligible for free school meals, because he's quite right it has now an increasing impact on school budgets, but there's no need for the local authority or the school and its governing body to be passive in the face of that. They can set about trying to put it right.

Wel, wrth gwrs, mater i'r awdurdod lleol ac i arweinyddiaeth yr ysgol unigol yw mynd ati i geisio unioni problem o'r fath, ac mae'n bosibl nad yw rhieni'n ymwybodol o'r hyn y gallai fod ganddynt hawl iddo, neu eu bod yn amharod i'w hawlio. Gellid ceisio perswadio'r teuluoedd hynny. Wedi'r cyfan, dyma rywbeth y mae ganddynt hawl iddo. Rwy'n ymwybodol o awdurdodau lleol sydd wedi mynd ati i geisio cofrestru pawb sy'n gymwys i gael prydau ysgol am ddim, oherwydd mae'n llygad ei le fod ganddo effaith gynyddol ar gyllidebau ysgolion erbyn hyn, ond nid oes angen i'r awdurdod lleol neu'r ysgol a'i gorff llywodraethu fod yn oddefol yn ei gylch. Gallant fynd ati i geisio unioni'r sefyllfa.

14:02 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

We started off the questioning quite well this afternoon with short questions, but, with each question, the questions are getting longer and longer and longer. Please can you be concise, and the Minister, I'm sure, will reciprocate.

Fe ddechreuon ni'r cwestiynau'n eithaf da y prynhawn yma gyda chwestiynau byr, ond gyda phob cwestiwn, mae'r cwestiynau'n mynd yn hwy ac yn hwy. Os gwelwch yn dda, a wnewch chi fod yn gryno, ac rwy'n siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn ymateb yn yr un modd.

Llwybrau Dysgu 14-19

14-19 Learning Pathways

14:02 **Keith Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

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5. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am Lwybrau Dysgu 14-19? OAQ(4)0542(ESK)

5. Will the Minister make a statement on 14-19 Learning Pathways? OAQ(4)0542(ESK)

14:02 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank the Member for Llanelli. This academic year, all schools and FE colleges in Wales have either met or exceeded the local curriculum offer requirements of the 14-19 learning pathways. This demonstrates a commitment to ensuring their learners are offered a balanced curriculum that meets the wide range of interests and abilities of our young people.

Diolch i'r Aelod dros Lanelli. Yn ystod y flwyddyn academaidd hon, mae pob ysgol a choleg addysg bellach yng Nghymru naill ai wedi cyrraedd neu wedi rhagori ar ofynion llwybrau dysgu 14-19 y cwricwlwm lleol. Mae hyn yn dangos ymrwymiad i sicrhau eu bod yn cynnig cwricwlwm cytbwys i'w dysgwyr sy'n diwallu ystod eang o ddiddordebau a galluoedd ein pobl ifanc.

14:02 **Keith Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Diolch. Weinidog, rwy'n gwybod bod llwybrau dysgu 14-19 wedi arwain at ddewisiadau pynciau ehangach a mwy o gymorth dysgu yng nghyfnod allweddol 4, ond gwyddom hefyd fod rhai ysgolion yn dal i ddangos tuedd i gadw disgyblion yn eu chweched dosbarth eu hunain, ac nid yw disgyblion yn cael gwybodaeth gywir neu ddiduedd am ddewisiadau yn 14 ac 15 oed. A ydy'r Gweinidog yn cytuno gyda fi dylai bod mwy o gynllunio ar y cyd rhwng ysgolion a cholegau, er mwyn i'r plant a'u rhieni weld yr holl ddewisiadau sydd ar gael yn yr ardal?

Thank you. Minister, I know that 14-19 learning pathways have led to a wider choice of subjects and more assistance in key stage 4, but we also know that some schools are still showing a tendency to retain pupils in their own sixth forms, and pupils aren't given accurate or unbiased information about the choices available between 14 and 16. Does the Minister agree with me that there should be more joint planning between schools and FE colleges so that children and their parents are aware of all of the options available to them in their area?

14:03 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Absolutely; I agree with the Member for Llanelli. Information is key; information is people's right. It's the right of those young people and their parents to have all the information necessary in order to make choices at such a vital stage in their education, and I would expect local authorities and ColegauCymru to be working to ensure that the full panoply of information is available to local communities. Co-working now between colleges and schools is something the Welsh Government expects as matter of course. If the Member is concerned and wishes to point to an area of concern in his constituency, I would be more than happy to intervene and remind those responsible of their duties to their community.

Yn hollol; rwy'n cytuno â'r Aelod dros Lanelli. Mae gwybodaeth yn allweddol; mae hawl gan bobl i wybodaeth. Hawl y bobl ifanc hynny a'u rhieni yw cael yr holl wybodaeth angenrheidiol er mwyn gwneud dewisiadau ar adeg mor hanfodol yn eu haddysg, a byddwn yn disgwyl i awdurdodau lleol a ColegauCymru weithio i sicrhau bod y dewis llawn o wybodaeth ar gael i gymunedau lleol. Yn awr, mae cydweithio rhwng colegau ac ysgolion yn rhywbeth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei ddisgwyl fel mater o drefn. Os yw'r Aelod yn bryderus ac yn dymuno cyfeirio at faes sy'n peri pryder yn ei etholaeth, byddwn yn fwy na pharod i ymyrryd ac atgoffa'r rhai hynny sy'n gyfrifol am eu dyletswyddau i'w cymuned.

14:04 **William Graham** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Yesterday, I raised with the First Minister the shortage of skilled workers in the construction industry, particularly in relation to the 14-19 learning pathways. The Minister will be aware of some concerns regarding this policy of reducing the number of vocational courses that must be included in the local curriculum offer from five to three at key stage 4, and changes to the Welsh baccalaureate for learners to only be able to select two vocational courses towards the qualification. How will the Minister review the 14-19 learning pathways to make sure that there are more pupils who will follow construction skills to build the Wales of the future?

Ddoe, tynnais sylw'r Prif Weinidog at y prinder gweithwyr medrus yn y diwydiant adeiladu, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â llwybrau dysgu 14-19. Bydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol o'r pryderon ynghylch y polisi o leihau nifer y cyrsiau galwedigaethol sy'n rhaid eu cynnwys yn arlwy'r cwricwlwm lleol o bump i dri yng nghyfnod allweddol 4, a newidiadau i'r fagloriaeth Gymreig fel na all dysgwyr ddewis mwy na dau gwrs galwedigaethol tuag at y cymhwyster. Sut y bydd y Gweinidog yn adolygu'r llwybrau dysgu 14-19 er mwyn sicrhau bod mwy o ddisgyblion yn dilyn sgiliau adeiladu ar gyfer adeiladu Cymru'r dyfodol?

14:05 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Well, of course, the Member's quite right to point out that there has been rationalisation in terms of the course offer that we require as a minimum. We will monitor that very carefully, and take appropriate action if there are unforeseen consequences in that regard. Again, I haven't seen any evidence as yet to suggest that there is a problem emerging, but if the Member wishes to flag up local concerns with me, I'd be more than happy to take a closer look.

Wel, wrth gwrs, mae'r Aelod yn llygad ei le i dynnu sylw at y ffaith fod rhesymoli wedi bod o ran y lleiafswm sy'n ofynnol o ran arlwy'r cwrs. Byddwn yn monitro hynny'n ofalus iawn ac yn cymryd camau priodol os oes canlyniadau annisgwyl yn hynny o beth. Unwaith eto, nid wyf wedi gweld unrhyw dystiolaeth hyd yma sy'n awgrymu bod yna broblem yn datblygu, ond os yw'r Aelod yn dymuno tynnu fy sylw at bryderon lleol, byddwn yn fwy na pharod i edrych yn fanylach ar y mater.

14:05 **Bethan Jenkins** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Weinidog, yr wythnos diwethaf gwnes i gwrdd â'r undeb llafur, Undeb Prifysgolion a Cholegau, yn sgil y ffaith eu bod nhw'n credu y bydd yna ddiswyddiadau gorfodol yn digwydd yng Ngŵyr ac yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot, yn y colegau fanna, oherwydd y toriadau i addysg bellach. Nid yn unig hynny, ond mae'r cyrsiau yn mynd i gael eu torri hefyd. Beth ydych chi fel Gweinidog yn ei wneud i sicrhau, os ydy pobl eisiau gadael yr ysgol, eu bod nhw'n cael y gallu i fynd ymlaen i astudio ac i gael y cyrsiau y maen nhw'n haeddu eu hastudio hefyd?

Minister, last week I met with the University and College Union in light of the fact that they believe that there will be compulsory redundancies in Gower and Neath Port Talbot, in the colleges there, because of cuts to further education. Not only that, but courses are also going to be cut. What are you as Minister doing to ensure, if people want to leave school, that they do have that option to carry on with their studies and also to get the courses that they deserve to study?

14:06 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Well, of course, as a Minister, as a Welsh Government, we will work closely with ColegauCymru and individual colleges to attempt to mitigate as much as possible the very real financial pressures that the FE sector is facing at the present time. This is not something that the Welsh Government has set about as an instrument of policy, it has been forced upon us by the coalition Government in Westminster and their idealogical drive around austerity. I am keen to mitigate harm as much as is humanly possible, and have been working closely with ColegauCymru, as I say, to do just that.

Wel, wrth gwrs, fel Gweinidog, ac fel Llywodraeth Cymru, rydym yn gweithio'n agos gyda ColegauCymru a'r colegau unigol er mwyn ceisio lliniaru cymaint â phosibl y pwysau ariannol gwirioneddol y mae'r sector addysg bellach yn ei wynebu ar hyn o bryd. Nid yw'n rhywbeth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ei bennu'n offeryn polisi, mae wedi ei orfodi arnom gan y Llywodraeth glymblaid yn San Steffan a'u hymgyrch ideolegol ynghylch caledi. Rwy'n awyddus i liniaru niwed cymaint ag sy'n bosibl, ac rwyf wedi bod yn gweithio'n agos gyda ColegauCymru, fel y dywedais, i wneud yn union hynny.

Effaith Tlodi ar Gyrhaeddiad Addysgol

The Impact of Poverty on Educational Attainment

14:07 **Gwyn R. Price** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

6. Pa gynnydd y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'i gwneud mewn perthynas â lleihau effaith tlodi ar gyrhaeddiad addysgol? OAQ(4)0529(ESK)

6. What progress has the Welsh Government made to reduce the impact of poverty on educational attainment? OAQ(4)0529(ESK)

14:07 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank the Member for Islwyn. The latest statistics show that pupils eligible for free school meals are performing at historically high levels and that there was a 2 percentage point rise in the proportion of learners achieving the level 2 inclusive at the end of key stage 4 in 2014, compared to 2013.

Diolch i'r Aelod dros Islwyn. Mae'r ystadegau diweddaraf yn dangos bod disgyblion sy'n gymwys i gael prydau ysgol am ddim yn cyflawni ar lefelau uwch nag erioed a bod cynnydd o 2 bwynt canran yng nghyfran y dysgwyr sy'n cyrraedd trothwy cynwysedig lefel 2 ar ddiwedd cyfnod allweddol 4 yn 2014, o'i gymharu â 2013.

14:07 **Gwyn R. Price** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you for that answer. Minister, it's clear the Welsh Government reforms are working, which will make a real and lasting difference to children's lives as they develop. Despite this progress, we've still a long way to go to break the long-standing link between deprivation and poor attainment. Minister, how will the new school categorisation system revolutionise accountability and ensure that no child is left behind?

Diolch i chi am eich ateb. Weinidog, mae'n amlwg fod diwygiadau Llywodraeth Cymru'n gweithio, a bydd hynny'n gwneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol a pharhaol i fywydau plant wrth iddynt ddatblygu. Er gwaethaf y cynnydd hwn, mae gennym ffordd bell i fynd i dorri'r cysylltiad hirsefydlog rhwng amddifadedd a chyrhaeddiad gwael. Weinidog, sut y bydd y system gategoreiddio ysgol newydd yn chwyldroi atebolrwydd ac yn sicrhau nad oes unrhyw blentyn yn cael ei adael ar ôl?

14:07 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I thank the Member. Well, of course, it's about the national categorisation system offering more clarity. It allows a more holistic approach to school improvement, allows the regional consortia challenge advisers to take the context of the school into account when determining a judgment on the school's, first of all, self-evaluation, and, of course, in terms of its capacity to improve. As the Member will be aware, in terms of those young people in deprived circumstances, I've made it very clear that the highest categorisation of green will not be accessible to those schools that are failing to deliver for the least well-off young people.

Diolch i'r Aelod. Wel, wrth gwrs, mae'n ymwneud â'r system gategoreiddio genedlaethol yn cynnig mwy o eglurder. Mae'n caniatáu dull mwy cyfannol o wella ysgolion, yn caniatáu i gynghorwyr her y consortia rhanbarthol i ystyried cyd-destun yr ysgol wrth ffurfio barn ar, yn gyntaf oll, hunanarfarniad yr ysgol, ac wrth gwrs, ar ei gallu i wella. Fel y bydd yr Aelod yn gwybod, o ran pobl ifanc mewn amgylchiadau difreintiedig, rwyf wedi ei gwneud yn glir iawn na fydd modd i ysgolion sy'n methu â chyflawni ar gyfer y bobl ifanc tlotaf yn gallu cyrraedd y categori uchaf gwyrdd.

14:08 **Joyce Watson** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Minister, do you agree with me that one way to reduce the impact of poverty on educational attainment is to lift the family out of poverty itself? So, will you join me in welcoming Welsh Labour's commitment to double early years and childcare provision for working parents, including the extra 10 hours' free childcare that will support those parents back into work?

Weinidog, a ydych yn cytuno â mi mai un ffordd o leihau effaith tlodi ar gyrhaeddiad addysgol yw codi'r teulu allan o dlodi? Felly, a wnewch chi ymuno â mi i groesawu ymrwymiad Llafur Cymru i ddyblu'r ddarpariaeth blynyddoedd cynnar a gofal plant i rieni sy'n gweithio, gan gynnwys 10 awr ychwanegol o ofal plant am ddim a fydd yn cynorthwyo'r rhieni hynny i fynd yn ôl i'r gwaith?

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14:09 **Huw Lewis** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I will. This is set to be a transformative measure for families in Wales, which, of course, was announced earlier today. A doubling of childcare is, I think, nothing short of a heroic commitment in the atmosphere of austerity that we find ourselves in. We will work closely now with parents and with communities to work through the detail of how best to construct that offer to help hard-working families.

Gwnaf. Mae'r mesur hwn a gyhoeddwyd yn gynharach heddiw, wrth gwrs, yn mynd i fod yn fesur trawsffurfiol i deuluoedd yng Nghymru. Rwy'n meddwl bod dyblu'r ddarpariaeth gofal plant yn arwydd o ymrwymiad arwrol yn yr awyrgylch o galedi rydym ynddo ar hyn o bryd. Byddwn yn gweithio'n agos gyda rhieni a chymunedau yn awr i weithio ar fanylion y ffordd orau o lunio'r cynnig hwnnw i helpu teuluoedd gweithgar.

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14:09 **Mohammad Asghar** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Minister, a recent report by the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission revealed that the majority of five-year-olds eligible for free school meals are not ready for school. Since school-readiness has a strong impact on future educational attainment and life chances, what action is the Welsh Government taking to ensure children from the poorest backgrounds are school-ready by the age of five?

Weinidog, mewn adroddiad diweddar gan y Comisiwn Symudedd Cymdeithasol a Thlodi Plant, datgelwyd nad yw'r rhan fwyaf o blant pum mlwydd oed sy'n gymwys i gael prydau ysgol am ddim yn barod ar gyfer yr ysgol. Gan fod parodrwydd ar gyfer yr ysgol yn effeithio'n gryf ar gyrhaeddiad addysgol a chyfleoedd bywyd yn y dyfodol, pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn eu rhoi ar waith i sicrhau bod plant o'r cefndiroedd tlotaf yn barod ar gyfer yr ysgol yn bump oed?

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14:10 **Huw Lewis** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Well, in part, it's called Flying Start, of course, Presiding Officer. Sure Start, the equivalent in England, his party set about dismantling, aided and abetted by the Liberal Democrats, almost as soon as they were behind their desks in Whitehall. We are seeing, through the foundation phase assessments, a closing of the gap for our very youngest citizens in terms of their attainment. We have already breached our target of closing that gap by 10% by 2017: we're actually on 11.5% now in terms of the gap closure, two years in advance of that deadline.

Wel Lywydd, yn rhannol, ei enw yw Dechrau'n Deg, wrth gwrs. Sure Start yw'r rhaglen gyfatebol yn Lloegr, y rhaglen y ceisiodd ei blaid ei diddymu, drwy gymorth ac anogaeth y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, bron cyn gynted ag y cyrhaeddon nhw eu desgiau yn Whitehall. Rydym yn gweld, drwy asesiadau'r cyfnod sylfaen, y bwlch yn cau i'n dinasyddion ieuengaf o ran eu cyrhaeddiad. Rydym eisoes wedi pasio ein targed o gau'r bwlch hwnnw 10% erbyn 2017: rydym mewn gwirionedd ar 11.5% erbyn hyn o ran cau'r bwlch, ddwy flynedd cyn y terfyn amser hwnnw.

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Rhaglen Trawsnewid Ein Cymunedau

The Transforming Our Communities Programme

14:11 **Jeff Cuthbert** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

7. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gefnogaeth Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer rhaglen Trawsnewid Ein Cymunedau Prifysgol Caerdydd? OAQ(4)0538(ESK)

7. Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Government support for Cardiff University's Transforming Our Communities programme? OAQ(4)0538(ESK)

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

14:11 **Huw Lewis** [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I thank the Member for Caerphilly. The Welsh Government will continue to support the aims and objectives of schemes such as Cardiff University's Transforming our Communities programme. In this instance, the Welsh Government, through the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, provided some funding to pump-prime an initiative that has ultimately led to the establishment of five flagship community engagement projects.

Diolch i'r Aelod dros Gaerffili. Bydd Llywodraeth Cymru'n parhau i gefnogi nodau ac amcanion cynlluniau megis rhaglen Trawsnewid ein Cymunedau Prifysgol Caerdydd. Yn yr achos hwn, mae Llywodraeth Cymru, drwy Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru, wedi darparu cyllid i ysgogi menter sydd, yn y pen draw, wedi arwain at sefydlu pump o brosiectau blaengar ar gyfer ymgysylltu â'r gymuned.

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14:11 **Jeff Cuthbert** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I thank the Minister for that response. On 21 October, of course, Cardiff University launched that programme. I was present and I have since met the university to discuss it further, but what impresses me most is how the project provides opportunities to some of the most disadvantaged students, particularly in Communities First areas, such as in my constituency. Do you agree with me, Minister, in applauding the programme, aligning itself as it does with key Welsh Government priorities, such as tackling poverty, improving literacy and numeracy and promoting healthy lifestyles and especially for some of our most disadvantaged communities?

Diolch i'r Gweinidog am ei ymateb. Lansiodd Prifysgol Caerdydd y rhaglen honno ar 21 Hydref, wrth gwrs. Roeddwn yn bresennol ac ers hynny rwyf wedi cwrdd â'r brifysgol i drafod ymhellach, ond yr hyn sy'n creu'r argraff fwyaf arnaf yw'r modd y mae'r prosiect yn rhoi cyfleoedd i rai o'r myfyrwyr mwyaf difreintiedig, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, fel yn fy etholaeth i. A ydych yn cytuno â mi, Weinidog, y dylid cymeradwyo'r rhaglen am gydweddu â blaenoriaethau allweddol Llywodraeth Cymru, megis trechu tlodi, gwella llythrennedd a rhifedd a hyrwyddo ffyrdd iach o fyw, yn enwedig i rai o'n cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig?

14:12 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I do, and I will, Presiding Officer, endorse this kind of community engagement activity. I want to see our higher education institutions becoming more and more involved with initiatives like this one and also becoming committed to sustaining them over time. I'm very keen to see greater partnership working between universities and the communities that they serve, particularly in terms of their contact and awareness-raising in communities that may not have a strong tradition at all of accessing higher education.

Ydw, a gwnaf, Lywydd, fe wnaf gymeradwyo'r math hwn o weithgaredd sy'n ymgysylltu â'r gymuned. Rwyf eisiau gweld ein sefydliadau addysg uwch yn cymryd mwy a mwy o ran mewn mentrau fel hyn ac yn ymrwymo hefyd i'w cynnal dros amser. Rwy'n awyddus iawn i weld mwy o weithio mewn partneriaeth rhwng prifysgolion a'r cymunedau y maent yn eu gwasanaethu, yn enwedig o ran eu cysylltiad â chymunedau a'u dulliau o godi ymwybyddiaeth mewn cymunedau nad oes ganddynt, o bosibl, draddodiad cryf o gwbl o fynd ymlaen i addysg uwch.

14:12 **Andrew R.T. Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, I had the pleasure of visiting the Community Gateway project in Grangetown recently, which is hopeful of benefiting from this Cardiff University initiative. One of the things that the organisers of that campaign were very troubled by was the ability to actually get in to see some of the movers and shakers, shall we say, especially in local government, who very often end up being partners to some of these community projects. Can you give us an idea of what sort of discussions you have with your colleagues across the Cabinet and in particular in local government so that they understand the importance that you as a Minister attach to this type of initiative and in particular to helping community groups get to the people who are going to make the decisions to allow these projects to succeed once they've secured the financing?

Weinidog, cefais y pleser o ymweld â phrosiect Porth y Gymuned yn Grangetown yn ddiweddar, sy'n gobeithio elwa o fenter Prifysgol Caerdydd. Un o'r pethau a barodd bryder mawr i drefnwyr yr ymgyrch honno oedd y gallu mewn gwirionedd i fynd i mewn i weld rhai o'r bobl wrth y llyw, ddywedwn ni, yn enwedig mewn llywodraeth leol, sy'n aml iawn yn dod yn bartneriaid yn rhai o'r prosiectau cymunedol hyn yn y pen draw. A allwch roi syniad i ni o ba fath o drafodaethau rydych yn eu cael gyda'ch cydweithwyr ar draws y Cabinet ac yn enwedig mewn llywodraeth leol er mwyn iddynt ddeall y pwyslais rydych chi fel Gweinidog yn ei roi ar fentrau o'r fath ac yn benodol i helpu grwpiau cymunedol gyrraedd y bobl sy'n mynd i wneud y penderfyniadau i alluogi'r prosiectau hyn i lwyddo ar ôl iddynt ddod o hyd i'r cyllid?

14:13 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Yes, I was aware of the Grangetown Community Gateway project and the fact that it had been welcomed by residents in Grangetown. I would be concerned if they are finding difficulty in terms of accessing decision makers at a local government level, and if they were to contact me I'm sure I would be able to facilitate that as much as possible. It is open, of course, to every citizen to have access to those people in the higher echelons of their own local government set-up.

Ie, roeddwn yn ymwybodol o brosiect Porth y Gymuned Grangetown a'r ffaith ei fod wedi cael ei groesawu gan drigolion Grangetown. Byddwn yn pryderu pe baent yn ei chael hi'n anodd cael mynediad at y bobl sy'n gwneud penderfyniadau ar lefel llywodraeth leol, ac os dônt i gysylltiad â mi, rwy'n siŵr y byddwn yn gallu hwyluso hynny cymaint â phosibl. Wrth gwrs, mae'n agored i bob dinesydd gael mynediad at y bobl hynny ar haenau uwch eu trefn lywodraeth leol eu hunain.

Addysg Gynradd Cyfrwng Cymraeg

Welsh-medium Primary Education

14:14 **Llyr Gruffydd** Bywgraffiad Biography

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8. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am uchelgais Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer addysg gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg? OAQ(4)0533(ESK)

8. Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government's ambition for Welsh-medium primary education? OAQ(4)0533(ESK)

14:14 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank the Member for north Wales. Increasing access for children to Welsh-medium education is a priority for Welsh Government, and that's why we require local authorities to show in their Welsh in education strategic plans how they will improve planning and set ambitious targets to boost the percentage of seven-year-old children who experience Welsh-medium education.

Diolch i'r Aelod dros ogledd Cymru. Mae cynyddu cyfleoedd i blant fanteisio ar addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn flaenoriaeth i Lywodraeth Cymru, a dyna pam rydym yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i awdurdodau lleol ddangos yn eu cynlluniau strategol Cymraeg mewn addysg sut y byddant yn gwella cynlluniau a gosod targedau uchelgeisiol i hybu canran y plant saith mlwydd oed sy'n cael addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg.

14:14 **Llyr Gruffydd** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Wel, diolch i chi am eich ateb, ac rydych yn iawn i gyfeirio at y strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, wrth gwrs, oherwydd mae yna ddyletswydd yn fanna bod yn rhaid sicrhau cynaliadwyedd addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd eisoes yn bodoli, yn ogystal â diogelu ac atgyfnerthu darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg. Petai achos yn codi bod yna gynnig i gau ysgol categori 1 cyfrwng Cymraeg a gorfodi'r plant hynny i symud i ysgol categori 2 cyfrwng dwy ffrwd-Cymraeg a Saesneg yn yr un ystafell ddosbartha fyddech chi'n teimlo bod hynny'n gydnaws â'ch polisi chi?

Well, thank you for that answer, and you're right to refer to the Welsh-medium education strategy, of course, because there is a duty there to secure the sustainability of the Welsh-medium education that already exists, in addition to strengthening and reinforcing Welsh-medium education. But if a case were to arise where a category 1 Welsh-medium school were to be closed, forcing those children to move to a category 2 school with two streams—Welsh and English in the same classroom—would you feel that that conformed to your policy?

14:15 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Well, I am aware of just such a matter of local controversy not a million miles away from north Wales. Now, of course, I need to say that the linguistic provision that's offered within schools, whether it's Welsh medium, bilingual or dual stream—whatever it happens to be—is a matter for individual local authorities. However, in this particular instance, the local authority's revised Welsh in education strategic plan is currently being assessed by officials. As part of this process, we will assess any effect any proposals would have on the growth of Welsh-medium education in the area. The whole point of the WESP, of course, is to be strategic, to take the holistic view.

Wel, rwy'n ymwybodol o destun dadlau lleol o'r fath nad yw filiwn o filltiroedd i ffwrdd o ogledd Cymru. Nawr, mae angen i mi ddweud wrth gwrs mai mater i awdurdodau lleol unigol yw'r ddarpariaeth ieithyddol sy'n cael ei chynnig mewn ysgolion, boed yn ysgol Gymraeg, ysgol ddwyieithog neu ddwy ffrwd—beth bynnag y bo. Fodd bynnag, yn yr achos penodol hwn, mae cynllun strategol Cymraeg mewn addysg diwygiedig yr awdurdod lleol yn cael ei asesu ar hyn o bryd gan swyddogion. Yn rhan o'r broses hon, byddwn yn asesu'r effaith y byddai argymhellion yn eu cael ar dwf addysg Gymraeg yn yr ardal. Holl bwynt y Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg, wrth gwrs, yw bod yn strategol, a mabwysiadu safbwynt cyfannol.

14:16 **Paul Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Weinidog, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymrwymo i yrru gwelliannau mewn sgiliau iaith Gymraeg i bobl sy'n bwriadu gweithio mewn ysgolion cynradd yng Nghymru yn ystod eu hyfforddiant cychwynnol. Dan yr amgylchiadau, a allwch chi roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i ni ynghylch pa gamau penodol sydd wedi'u cymryd ar yr amcan hwn ers cyhoeddi'r strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg?

Minister, the Welsh Government is committed to driving improvements in Welsh-language skills for those people who wish to work in primary schools in Wales during their initial teacher training. Under those circumstances, can you give us an update on what specific steps have been taken on this objective since the Welsh-medium education strategy was published?

14:16 **Huw Lewis** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I can assure the Member that there have been massive strides in terms of thinking and policy. However, I am a little constrained, since Professor John Furlong's report into the reform of teacher training in Wales will be announced by him—it's an independent report; it's not my report—and he will be announcing that in the first week of March.

Gallaf sicrhau'r Aelod y bu camau enfawr o ran meddwl a pholisi. Fodd bynnag, rwyf wedi fy nghyfyngu ychydig, gan y bydd adroddiad yr Athro John Furlong ar ddiwygio hyfforddiant athrawon yng Nghymru yn cael ei gyhoeddi ganddo ef—mae'n adroddiad annibynnol; nid fy adroddiad i ydyw—a bydd yn ei gyhoeddi yn ystod wythnos gyntaf mis Mawrth.

However, he's quite right to say that this is cause for concern. John Furlong's report will reflect that, not only in terms of initial teacher training, but also in terms of how we address the issue of there being insufficient teachers with confident skills in the Welsh language within the existing workforce, particularly in primary schools.

Fodd bynnag, mae'n hollol iawn i ddweud bod hwn yn destun pryder. Bydd adroddiad John Furlong yn adlewyrchu hynny, nid yn unig o ran hyfforddiant cychwynnol athrawon, ond hefyd o ran sut rydym yn mynd i'r afael â'r broblem nad oes digon o athrawon â sgiliau hyderus yn y Gymraeg yn y gweithlu presennol, yn enwedig mewn ysgolion cynradd.

14:17

Kirsty Williams Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

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

Minister, Powys County Council's cabinet, on 27 January, announced a reconfiguration of Welsh-medium education within the county, with the aim of establishing a Welsh-medium secondary school, which was to be welcomed. But, in a county the size of Powys, one Welsh-medium secondary school doesn't work for all children. The council have also committed to consolidating other Welsh-medium streams into larger units, the result being there will be fewer secondary schools offering a Welsh-medium stream. What steps will you take, as Minister, to ensure any proposals arising out of this reconfiguration will actually increase access to Welsh-medium education and encourage parents to make that positive choice, rather than actually making parents wary of choosing that for their children, if they have to travel significant distances to access it at a secondary level?

Weinidog, cyhoeddodd cabinet Cyngor Sir Powys ar 27 Ionawr eu bod am ad-drefnu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y sir, gyda'r nod o sefydlu ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg, ac roedd hynny i'w groesawu. Ond mewn sir o faint Powys, nid yw un ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg yn gweithio i bob plentyn. Mae'r cyngor hefyd wedi ymrwymo i gyfuno ffrydiau eraill cyfrwng Cymraeg yn unedau mwy o faint, gan arwain at lai o ysgolion uwchradd yn cynnig ffrwd cyfrwng Cymraeg. Pa gamau a gymerwch, fel Gweinidog, i sicrhau bod unrhyw argymhellion sy'n deillio o'r ad-drefnu hwn yn cynyddu mynediad i addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ac yn annog rhieni i wneud y dewis cadarnhaol, yn hytrach na gwneud rhieni'n wyliadwrus rhag dewis o'r fath ar gyfer eu plant os oes yn rhaid iddynt deithio pellteroedd sylweddol i gael addysg Gymraeg ar lefel uwchradd?

14:18

Huw Lewis Bywgraffiad Biography

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I can understand the Member's concern over this. Of course, as I've already said, this is primarily an issue for the local authority. They have the responsibility and the democratic mandate to deliver on this issue, although, I would expect, in terms of their Welsh strategic plan, that the on-the-ground developments in terms of school reorganisation reflect the ambitions and targets within the plan.

Gallaf ddeall pryderon yr Aelod yn hyn o beth. Wrth gwrs, fel rwyf wedi dweud eisoes, mater i'r awdurdod lleol yw hyn yn bennaf. Mae ganddynt gyfrifoldeb a mandad democrataidd i gyflawni ar y mater hwn, er y byddwn yn disgwyl, o ran eu cynllun strategol Cymraeg mewn addysg, i'r datblygiadau ar lawr gwlad o ran ad-drefnu ysgolion adlewyrchu uchelgeisiau a thargedau'r cynllun.

14:18

Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you, Minister.

Diolch i chi, Weinidog.

14:18

2. Cwestiynau i Weinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth

2. Questions to the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport

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Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

We now move to item 2, which is questions to the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport. Question 1 is from Simon Thomas.

Symudwn yn awr at eitem 2, sef cwestiynau i Weinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth. Daw cwestiwn 1 gan Simon Thomas.

Gwasanaethau Trên rhwng Aberystwyth ac Amwythig

Rail Services between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury

14:18

Simon Thomas Bywgraffiad Biography

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1. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am wasanaethau trên rhwng Aberystwyth a'r Amwythig? OAQ(4)0517(EST)

1. Will the Minister make a statement on rail services between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury? OAQ(4)0517(EST)

14:18 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

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

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank the Member for the question. I know it's a service close to his heart, as he regularly uses the service. We obviously announced the additional services will commence in May. I'm very pleased to say that there will be four additional return services—between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury on Mondays to Saturdays—with hourly services at peak morning and afternoon times, and improvements in services on Sundays.

Diolch i'r Aelod am y cwestiwn. Rwy'n gwybod ei fod yn wasanaeth sy'n agos at ei galon, gan ei fod yn defnyddio'r gwasanaeth yn rheolaidd. Yn amlwg fe gyhoeddon ni y bydd y gwasanaethau ychwanegol yn dechrau ym mis Mai. Rwy'n falch iawn o ddweud y bydd pedwar gwasanaeth dwyffordd ychwanegol—rhwng Aberystwyth a'r Amwythig o ddydd Llun i ddydd Sadwrn—gyda gwasanaethau bob awr ar adegau brig y bore a'r prynhawn, a gwelliannau i'r gwasanaethau ar y Sul.

14:19 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Diolch i'r Gweinidog am yr ateb yna, ac ar ran pob defnyddiwr cyson o'r gwasanaeth yma, rydym yn edrych ymlaen yn fawr iawn at weld y gwasanaeth yn cychwyn. Rwy'n ddiolchgar i'r Llywodraeth am y gwaith maen nhw wedi'i wneud i sicrhau bod hyn yn digwydd. Pryd fydd yr amserlen derfynol ar gael ar gyfer y gwasanaeth yma, achos mae yna sawl amserlen ddrafft rwyf i wedi'u gweld dros yr wythnosau diwethaf? Mae'n bwysig o ran llefydd fel y brifysgol, wrth gynllunio recriwtio myfyrwyr, i gael dweud pryd mae'r gwasanaeth yn dechrau, ac, yn wir, ar gyfer busnesau twristiaeth, wrth iddynt drio marchnata'u hunain ar gyfer yr haf. Felly, pryd y cawn weld yr amserlen a dathlu gyda'r gwasanaeth newydd?

I thank the Minister for that response and, on behalf of all regular users of this service, we look forward to seeing that service commencing. I am grateful to the Government for what they have done to ensure that this happens. When will the final timetable be available for this service, because there are a number of draft timetables that I've seen over the past weeks? It is important in terms of places such as the university, in planning the recruitment of students, to say when the service will start and, indeed, for tourism businesses as they market themselves for the summer season. So, when will we see the final timetable and celebrate this new service?

14:20 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

We've obviously received the proposals from Arriva Trains, and they include significant changes and very considerable concerns from stakeholders. We are still working through this. I will advise the Members as soon as the timetables are available.

Yn amlwg mae'r argymhellion wedi dod i law gan Drenau Arriva, ac maent yn cynnwys cryn dipyn o newidiadau a phryderon sylweddol iawn gan randdeiliaid. Rydym yn dal i weithio drwy hyn. Byddaf yn rhoi gwybod i'r Aelodau cyn gynted ag y bydd yr amserlenni ar gael.

14:20 **Joyce Watson** Bywgraffiad Biography

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The extra service will be a boon for the region, as has already been said, for commuters, tourists, businesses, university students—everybody—but I expect, Minister, that you've read the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth rail liaison committee's proposed franchise document. One of the issues that it highlights is the need for good bus integration with the trains. Have you discussed this with bus operators along the route ahead of the introduction of the additional service in May?

Bydd y gwasanaeth ychwanegol yn hwb i'r ardal, fel y dywedwyd eisoes, i gymudwyr, twristiaid, busnesau, myfyrwyr prifysgolion—pawb—ond rwy'n cymryd, Weinidog, eich bod wedi darllen dogfen pwyllgor cyswllt rheilffordd yr Amwythig i Aberystwyth ar y fasnachfraint arfaethedig. Un o'r materion y mae'n tynnu sylw atynt yw'r angen i integreiddio bysiau a threnau'n effeithiol. A ydych wedi trafod hyn gyda chwmnïau bysiau ar hyd y llwybr cyn cyflwyno'r gwasanaeth ychwanegol ym mis Mai?

14:20 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Yes. I've asked officials to work with local authorities and bus operators to maximise the opportunities to better integrate local bus and longer-distance, Welsh Government-funded TrawsCymru bus services with the improved rail services.

Ydw. Rwyf wedi gofyn i swyddogion weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol a chwmnïau bysiau i wneud y gorau o'r cyfleoedd i wella'r broses o integreiddio bysiau lleol a gwasanaethau bws TrawsCymru a ariennir gan Lywodraeth Cymru a'r gwasanaethau rheilffyrdd gwell.

14:21 **Russell George** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I echo the views of Simon Thomas. I think an earliest possible timetable confirmation would be welcome, Minister. Can you also confirm that that timetable will allow people sufficient time to connect to the new Shrewsbury to Euston service? Are you also able to indicate how many of these services from Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury will then go through to Birmingham International?

Rwy'n ategu safbwyntiau Simon Thomas. Rwy'n credu y byddai cadarnhau amserlen cyn gynted â phosibl yn gam i'w groesawu, Weinidog. A allwch hefyd gadarnhau y bydd yr amserlen honno yn caniatáu digon o amser i bobl gysylltu â'r gwasanaeth newydd o'r Amwythig i Euston? A allwch chi hefyd nodi faint o'r gwasanaethau hyn o Aberystwyth i'r Amwythig a fydd wedyn yn mynd ymlaen i Birmingham International?

14:21 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Yes. I think you raise some very interesting points there with regard, particularly, to Birmingham International. I will check the information with my officials. In terms of the timetable, there are issues about what's going on, but I'll come back to Members as soon as those matters are resolved.

Gallaf. Rwy'n credu eich bod yn tynnu sylw at rai pwyntiau diddorol iawn gyda golwg, yn arbennig, ar Birmingham International. Byddaf yn edrych ar y wybodaeth gyda fy swyddogion. O ran yr amserlen, mae cwestiynau'n codi o ran beth sy'n digwydd, ond byddaf yn rhoi gwybod i'r Aelodau cyn gynted ag y caiff y materion hynny eu datrys.

14:21 **William Powell** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Minister, I know that you value greatly the work of the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth rail liaison committee in representing the interests of rail users, such as me. An extensive survey that they carried out in 2013 revealed that, amongst other issues, the rolling stock is, certainly to some degree, substandard, particularly in terms of Wi-Fi, the availability of onboard catering and power points to enable passengers to work as they travel. In this context, Minister, what influence can the Welsh Government bring to bear to bring improvement in this important area?

Weinidog, gwn eich bod yn hynod werthfawrogol o'r gwaith y mae pwyllgor cyswllt rheilffordd yr Amwythig i Aberystwyth yn ei wneud yn cynrychioli buddiannau defnyddwyr y rheilffyrdd fel fi. Datgelodd arolwg eang a gynhaliwyd yn 2013, ymhlith materion eraill, fod y cerbydau, i ryw raddau'n sicr, yn is na'r safon sy'n ofynnol, yn enwedig o ran Wi-Fi, arlwyo a socedi trydan ar drenau i alluogi teithwyr i weithio wrth deithio. Yn y cyd-destun hwn, Weinidog, pa ddylanwad y gall Llywodraeth Cymru ei arfer i sicrhau gwelliant yn y maes pwysig hwn?

14:22 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I do very much welcome the people and individuals who are involved in all these fora across Wales in terms of taking on passenger interests. I did have the opportunity of meeting the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth rail liaison committee and the Heart of Wales forum on 2 February, where the very issue of rolling stock was raised. We've had various discussions with them to see what we can do in the interim, but you'll appreciate that it's a difficult issue because of the shortage of rolling stock there is everywhere. But we'll continue to have dialogue with the rail companies and try to make as many improvements as we can.

Rwy'n croesawu'n fawr y bobl a'r unigolion sy'n rhan o'r holl fforymau hyn ledled Cymru o ran ymgyrchu dros fuddiannau teithwyr. Cefais gyfle i gyfarfod â phwyllgor cyswllt rheilffordd yr Amwythig i Aberystwyth a fforwm rheilffordd Calon Cymru ar 2 Chwefror, lle y soniwyd yn benodol am gerbydau. Rydym wedi cael nifer o drafodaethau gyda hwy i weld beth y gallwn ei wneud yn y cyfamser, ond byddwch yn sylweddoli ei fod yn fater anodd oherwydd y prinder cerbydau ym mhobman. Ond byddwn yn parhau i drafod gyda'r cwmnïau trenau a cheisio gwneud cymaint o welliannau ag y gallwn.

Y Diwydiant Twristiaeth

The Tourism Industry

14:22 **Janet Finch-Saunders** Bywgraffiad Biography

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2. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y camau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn eu cymryd i gefnogi'r diwydiant twristiaeth yng ngogledd Cymru dros y 12 mis nesaf? OAQ(4)0529(EST)

2. Will the Minister make a statement on what steps the Welsh Government is taking to support the tourism industry in north Wales over the next 12 months? OAQ(4)0529(EST)

14:23 **Kenneth Skates** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth / The Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

Yes. Our tourism strategy, 'Partnership for Growth: The Welsh Government Strategy for Tourism 2013-2020', sets out our priorities to support the tourism industry, which is done through a range of mechanisms. North Wales offers a range of heritage, landscapes, activities and tourism destinations, which are promoted and marketed through our Visit Wales website.

Gwnaf. Mae ein strategaeth dwristiaeth, 'Partneriaeth ar gyfer Twf: Strategaeth Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer Twristiaeth 2013-2020', yn nodi ein blaenoriaethau i gefnogi'r diwydiant twristiaeth, sy'n cael ei wneud drwy amrywiaeth o ddulliau. Mae Gogledd Cymru yn cynnig amrywiaeth o dreftadaeth, tirweddau, gweithgareddau a chyrchfannau twristiaeth, sy'n cael eu hyrwyddo a'u marchnata drwy ein gwefan Croeso Cymru.

14:23 **Janet Finch-Saunders** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you. Well, I'm really pleased to be able to welcome the new Surf Snowdonia that will be coming soon. This joins a list of new attractions. We've had Parc Eirias, Porth Eirias, Zip World, Plas y Brenin is there, the ski slope at Llandudno, and, of course, our fabulous Snowdonia National Park. But, all these do depend largely on some support and some marketing and a little bit of resource from the Welsh Government. I just wonder what action your department is taking to ensure that north Wales isn't left out in any shape or form and that we receive the adequate marketing support that we need over the next 12 months.

Diolch yn fawr. Wel, rwy'n falch iawn o allu croesawu menter newydd Syrffio Eryri a fydd ar gael yn fuan. Mae'n ymuno â rhestr o atyniadau newydd. Rydym wedi cael Parc Eirias, Porth Eirias, Zip World, Plas y Brenin, y llethr sgïo yn Llandudno, ac wrth gwrs, ein Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri gwych. Ond mae'r rhain i gyd yn dibynnu i raddau helaeth ar gefnogaeth a marchnata ac ychydig o adnoddau gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Tybed pa gamau y mae eich adran yn eu rhoi ar waith i sicrhau nad yw gogledd Cymru yn cael ei anghofio mewn unrhyw fodd a'n bod yn cael y cymorth marchnata digonol sydd ei angen arnom dros y 12 mis nesaf.

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14:24 **Kenneth Skates** Bywgraffiad Biography

Can I thank the Member for her identifying so many of the projects that the Welsh Government is pleased to have been able to support, including Surf Snowdonia—truly a world-class attraction, which has received a funding package totalling £4.15 million towards the creation of Europe's first inland surfing destination? Of course, later this year, we'll see the opening, as well, of Zip Below and the Junior Bounce facility. I truly believe that north Wales is becoming Britain's adventure land. On top of this, I'm pleased to be able to say that, with the regional tourism teams now in place, we're assisting all of the regions across Wales in utilising our marketing strategies.

A gaf fi ddiolch i'r Aelod am nodi cymaint o'r prosiectau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn falch o fod wedi gallu eu cefnogi, gan gynnwys Syrffio Eryri—atyniad o safon byd-eang yn wir, sydd wedi cael pecyn cyllid gwerth £4.15 miliwn i gyd tuag at greu cyrchfan syrffio mewndirol cyntaf Ewrop? Wrth gwrs, yn ddiweddarach eleni, byddwn yn gweld agoriad Zip Below a chyfleuster Junior Bounce hefyd. Rwy'n credu'n wirioneddol fod gogledd Cymru yn dod yn wlad antur i Brydain. Ar ben hyn, gyda'r timau twristiaeth rhanbarthol bellach yn eu lle, rwy'n falch o allu dweud ein bod yn cynorthwyo pob un o'r rhanbarthau ledled Cymru i ddefnyddio ein strategaethau marchnata.

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14:24 **Llyr Gruffydd** Bywgraffiad Biography

Last night, Minister, I attended the cross-party group on shooting and conservation and was struck by two of the presentations we had there about the potential of this particular sector to contribute to north Wales tourism and the wider economy, as well, across north Wales. Could you share with us what your aspiration is for the growth of this sector and what the Welsh Government is intending to do to realise that potential?

Neithiwr, Weinidog, mynychais gyfarfod y grŵp trawsbleidiol ar saethu a chadwraeth a chefais fy nharo gan ddau o'r cyflwyniadau a gawsom yno am botensial y sector arbennig hwn i gyfrannu at dwristiaeth gogledd Cymru yn ogystal â'r economi ehangach ar draws y gogledd. A wnewch chi rannu gyda ni beth yw eich dyhead ar gyfer twf y sector a'r hyn y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn bwriadu ei wneud i wireddu'r potensial hwnnw?

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14:25 **Kenneth Skates** Bywgraffiad Biography

Actually, I understand that the Tories recently had a fundraiser where they offered the shooting of 500 pheasants, which is no doubt promoting—

A dweud y gwir, rwy'n deall bod y Torïaid yn ddiweddar wedi cael digwyddiad codi arian lle roeddent yn cynnig saethu 500 o ffesantod, nad oes amheuaeth ei fod yn hyrwyddo—

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14:25 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

To the point, please. Can you stick to the point?

Cadwch at y pwynt, os gwelwch yn dda. A wnewch chi gadw at y pwynt?

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14:25 **Kenneth Skates** Bywgraffiad Biography

I'm very keen to see the likes of the North Wales Shooting School, for example, take advantage of the interest in this sport, and it's something that I'll give great consideration to.

Rwy'n awyddus iawn i weld pethau fel Ysgol Saethu Gogledd Cymru, er enghraifft, yn manteisio ar y diddordeb yn y gamp hon, ac mae'n rhywbeth y byddaf yn ei ystyried yn ofalus.

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Cwestiynau Heb Rybudd gan Lefarwyr y Pleidiau

Questions Without Notice from Party Spokespeople

14:25 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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We now move to questions from the party spokespeople. First, this afternoon, we have the Welsh Conservative spokesperson, William Graham.

Symudwn yn awr at gwestiynau gan lefarwyr y pleidiau. Yn gyntaf, y prynhawn yma, llefarydd y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig, William Graham.

14:25 **William Graham** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you very much, Presiding Officer. Minister, you will have seen the Public Policy Institute for Wales report 'Governing for Success: Reviewing the Evidence on Enterprise Zones', particularly in respect of the management body being responsible for developing and implementing a strategy for local economic development that includes, but is broader than, enterprise zones. The Minister will be well aware that, for the moment, the enterprise zones are little more, really, than ministerial advisory groups. Are you minded to make these a more concrete foundation, as it were, and hope that they will be able to attract even more sustainable employment opportunities?

Diolch yn fawr iawn, Lywydd. Weinidog, fe fyddwch wedi gweld adroddiad Sefydliad Polisi Cyhoeddus Cymru, 'Governing for Success: Reviewing the Evidence on Enterprise Zones', yn enwedig o ran y modd y mae'r corff rheoli'n gyfrifol am ddatblygu a gweithredu strategaeth ar gyfer datblygiadau economaidd lleol sy'n cynnwys ardaloedd menter, er ei fod yn ehangach na hynny. Fe fydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol iawn nad yw'r ardaloedd menter ar hyn o bryd yn fawr mwy na grwpiau cynghori'r Gweinidog mewn gwirionedd. A ydych yn bwriadu gwneud y rhain yn sylfaen fwy cadarn, fel petai, yn y gobaith y gallant ddenu rhagor eto o gyfleoedd gwaith cynaliadwy?

I thank the Chair of the committee, because it's quite an important report we've had—the publication of the report—which is one I commissioned, which I think puts them in a wider context. Yes, I am keen to see if I can make changes to make them slightly independent of me, and with budgets, which I shall be announcing in due course.

Diolch i Gadeirydd y pwyllgor, gan inni gael adroddiad go bwysig—cyhoeddi'r adroddiad—sef un a gomisiynais, a chredaf ei fod yn eu gosod mewn cyd-destun ehangach. Ydw, rwy'n awyddus i weld os gallaf wneud newidiadau i'w gwneud ychydig yn annibynnol oddi arnaf, a gyda chyllidebau y byddaf yn eu cyhoeddi maes o law.

I thank you for your answer, Minister. This week, I was delighted to co-host the launch of the Welsh Retail Consortium's report 'Welsh Retail: An Economic and Social Contribution'. It is probably worth reiterating that retail is the second-largest private sector employer in Wales, employing over 130,000 people, and one of the country's most technologically advanced, innovative sectors. You can imagine, Minister, one of the subjects of conversation was, of course, that of business rates. Many of the firms remarked that, of course, now, that's more of a worry to them than corporation tax. Minister, I'd ask you again when you hope to come forward with you full proposals for business rates.

Diolch i chi am eich ateb, Weinidog. Yr wythnos hon, cefais y pleser o gydgyflwyno lansiad adroddiad Consortiwm Manwerthu Cymru 'Welsh Retail: An Economic and Social Contribution'. Mae'n debyg ei bod yn werth ailadrodd mai manwerthu yw'r cyflogwr sector preifat mwyaf ond un yng Nghymru. Mae'n cyflogi dros 130,000 o bobl, ac yn un o sectorau mwyaf arloesol a mwyaf datblygedig yn dechnolegol yn y wlad. Fel y gallwch ddychmygu, Weinidog, un o'r pynciau trafod oedd ardrethi busnes, wrth gwrs. Soniodd llawer o'r cwmnïau fod hynny'n fwy o bryder iddynt yn awr, wrth gwrs, na'r dreth gorfforaeth. Weinidog, hoffwn ofyn i chi eto pa bryd rydych yn gobeithio cyflwyno cynigion llawn ar gyfer ardrethi busnes.

14:27 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Can I thank you? I do understand the concerns, because I do have the opportunity of meeting the retail industry myself. I very much hope that I will be able to make announcements in the future, but, as I indicated in my statement on business rates, this is a very difficult issue. Reviews are happening on the other side of the border, and we've got to be quite content when we have the full devolution package agreed—there are affordability issues there. But as soon as I am able to, I will.

Diolch i chi. Rwy'n deall y pryderon, gan fy mod yn cael cyfle i gwrdd â'r diwydiant manwerthu fy hun. Gobeithio'n fawr y byddaf yn gallu gwneud cyhoeddiadau yn y dyfodol, ond fel y dywedais yn fy natganiad ar ardrethi busnes, mae hwn yn fater anodd iawn. Mae adolygiadau ar y gweill dros y ffin, ac mae'n rhaid inni fod yn berffaith fodlon â'r pecyn datganoli llawn a gytunir—mae yna faterion yn codi ynghylch fforddiadwyedd. Ond fe wnaf hynny cyn gynted ag y gallaf.

14:27 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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We now move to the Welsh Liberal Democrats spokesperson, Eluned Parrott.

Symudwn yn awr at lefarydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, Eluned Parrott.

14:27 **Eluned Parrott** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Diolch, Lywydd. Yesterday, the First Minister said that he would be very supportive of a bid from the Cardiff city region for a city deal. What discussions have you had with the board of the city region about bidding for one?

Diolch, Lywydd. Ddoe, dywedodd y Prif Weinidog y byddai'n gefnogol iawn i gais gan ddinas-ranbarth Caerdydd am gytundeb dinas. Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch gyda bwrdd y ddinas-ranbarth ynghylch gwneud cais am un?

14:27 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Obviously, the city region board are about to announce their report tomorrow—a full report. Obviously, there have been informal discussions on this matter with my colleague Jane Hutt, because, of course, you will be aware that the Scottish Government did a deal with Glasgow—so, a deal between Glasgow city and the Scottish Government. My colleague Jane Hutt has been having initial discussions on this issue.

Yn amlwg, mae bwrdd y ddinas-ranbarth yn mynd i gyhoeddi eu hadroddiad yfory—adroddiad llawn. Yn amlwg, cafwyd trafodaethau anffurfiol ar y mater gyda fy nghyd-Aelod, Jane Hutt, oherwydd fe wyddoch, wrth gwrs, fod Llywodraeth yr Alban wedi cael cytundeb ar gyfer Glasgow—felly, cytundeb rhwng dinas Glasgow a Llywodraeth yr Alban. Mae fy nghyd-Aelod, Jane Hutt, wedi bod yn cynnal trafodaethau cychwynnol ar y mater.

14:28 **Eluned Parrott** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you, Minister. I am delighted to hear it. Obviously, the city deal agreed for Glasgow last year created a £1.1 billion infrastructure and investment fund, and there are ambitious plans to reinvigorate not only the city of Glasgow, but also some of the Clyde valley's most depressed communities. Now, clearly, the parallels between Glasgow and the Clyde valley and Cardiff and the south Wales Valleys are fairly obvious, so if we are to move forward with something like a city deal bid on this kind of scale, what kind of projects would you like to see delivered by such an agreement?

Diolch i chi, Weinidog. Rwy'n falch iawn o glywed. Yn amlwg, creodd cytundeb dinas Glasgow y llynedd gronfa seilwaith a buddsoddi gwerth £1.1 biliwn ac mae cynlluniau uchelgeisiol i adfywio nid yn unig dinas Glasgow, ond rhai o gymunedau mwyaf dirwasgedig dyffryn Clyde yn ogystal. Yn awr, yn amlwg, mae'r tebygrwydd rhwng Glasgow a dyffryn Clyde a Chaerdydd a Chymoedd y de yn weddol amlwg, felly os ydym i symud ymlaen gydag unrhyw beth tebyg i gais am gytundeb dinas ar raddfa o'r fath, pa fath o brosiectau y byddech yn awyddus i'w gweld yn cael eu cyflwyno drwy gytundeb o'r fath?

14:28 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I think I'd like to see the report published tomorrow from the city region board about how they intend to take matters forward. As a result of that, there will be further discussions held with all parties, because I, like you, see the opportunities that have emerged from Glasgow as being opportunities for Cardiff and the wider region. I thank the Member particularly for outlining that it's not just about the city; it's about the deprived areas around the city as well.

Rwy'n meddwl yr hoffwn weld yr adroddiad a gyhoeddir yfory gan fwrdd y ddinas-ranbarth ynglŷn â sut y maent yn bwriadu symud ymlaen. O ganlyniad i hynny, bydd trafodaethau pellach yn cael eu cynnal gyda phob parti, am fy mod, fel chithau, yn gweld y cyfleoedd sydd wedi codi i Glasgow fel cyfleoedd i Gaerdydd a'r rhanbarth ehangach. Diolch yn arbennig i'r Aelod am amlinellu nad ymwneud â'r ddinas yn unig y mae hyn; mae'n ymwneud â'r ardaloedd difreintiedig o amgylch y ddinas hefyd.

14:29 **Eluned Parrott** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Thank you, Minister. Yes, indeed, it is, and city deals are, obviously, not just about money, either; they're also about the devolution of powers to regional authorities. Some of the powers, as well as the funding, for the Glasgow region came from the Scottish Government. Here's the problem, though: the city region board currently has no basis in statute, no formal governance structure and no formal structure of accountability. An alternative route might be Cardiff council, but they've entered into a new city region partnership with Newport and Bristol, which puts into question, really, where those two city region structures lie. So, if there is to be a city deal for the Cardiff city region, not just the city of Cardiff, just who would you be devolving power and funding to?

Diolch i chi, Weinidog. Ydy, mae hynny'n wir, ac yn amlwg, nid ymwneud ag arian yn unig y mae cytundebau dinas chwaith; maent yn ymwneud â datganoli pwerau i awdurdodau rhanbarthol. Daeth rhai o'r pwerau, yn ogystal â'r cyllid, ar gyfer rhanbarth Glasgow gan Lywodraeth yr Alban. Dyma'r broblem, er hynny: ar hyn o bryd nid oes gan fwrdd y ddinas-ranbarth unrhyw sail mewn statud, na strwythur llywodraethu ffurfiol nac unrhyw strwythur atebolrwydd ffurfiol. Gallai cyngor Caerdydd gynnig llwybr amgen, ond maent wedi ymrwymo i bartneriaeth dinas-ranbarth newydd gyda Chasnewydd a Bryste, sy'n bwrw amheuaeth mewn gwirionedd ynghylch lleoliad y ddau strwythur dinas-ranbarth. Felly, os oes cytundeb dinas yn mynd i fod ar gyfer rhanbarth dinas Caerdydd, nid dinas Caerdydd yn unig, i bwy'n union y byddech chi'n datganoli pŵer a chyllid?

14:29 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Obviously, that'll be a subject of discussion with all the parties that are involved. Can I say I am very pleased about the arrangements between Newport, Cardiff and Bristol? I am very keen on the alignment and discussions with Bristol, as I believe that gives us good business opportunities for the future.

Yn amlwg, bydd hynny'n destun trafodaeth gyda'r holl bartïon sy'n gysylltiedig. A gaf fi ddweud fy mod yn falch iawn ynglŷn â'r trefniadau rhwng Casnewydd, Caerdydd a Bryste? Rwy'n fodlon iawn â'r cyd-drefniant a'r trafodaethau gyda Bryste, gan fy mod yn credu bod hynny'n cynnig cyfleoedd busnes da ar gyfer y dyfodol.

14:30 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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And now the Plaid Cymru spokesperson, Rhun ap Iorwerth.

Ac yn awr, llefarydd Plaid Cymru, Rhun ap Iorwerth.

14:30 **Rhun ap Iorwerth** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Diolch, Lywydd. Minister, your Government's Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 became law in November 2013 and came into effect in September last year, but figures that your department has provided showed that spending on walking and cycling has decreased since the Act was passed—down from £13.1 million to £11.79 million. In the final year of the One Wales Government, we were spending over £14 million. What's your explanation for active travel funding going down in the first year of the active travel Act being in force?

Diolch, Lywydd. Weinidog, daeth Deddf Teithio Llesol (Cymru) 2013 eich Llywodraeth yn gyfraith ym mis Tachwedd 2013 a daeth i rym ym mis Medi y llynedd, ond dengys ffigurau a ddarparwyd gan eich adran fod gwariant ar gerdded a beicio wedi gostwng ers pasio'r Ddeddf—i lawr o £13.1 miliwn i £11.79 miliwn. Ym mlwyddyn olaf Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un, roeddem yn gwario dros £14 miliwn. Beth yw eich esboniad dros y gostyngiad yng nghyllid teithio llesol yn y flwyddyn gyntaf ers i'r Ddeddf teithio llesol ddod i rym?

14:30 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I think the purpose of funding around the Act was to build a consideration of how we could support walking and cycling into our wider investment plans. I have actually been quite active, because I've seen the figures myself. I've commissioned a wide survey of existing walking and cycling infrastructure to cover over 200 areas with the mapping requirement that the Act applies to, and I'll be looking to see what work I can take forward once that mapping exercise is completed.

Rwy'n meddwl mai diben cyllid cysylltiedig â'r Ddeddf oedd cynnwys ystyriaeth o sut y gallem gefnogi cerdded a beicio yn ein cynlluniau buddsoddi ehangach. Mewn gwirionedd rwyf i wedi bod yn eithaf gweithredol, oherwydd rwyf wedi gweld y ffigurau fy hun. Rwyf wedi comisiynu arolwg eang o'r seilwaith cerdded a beicio presennol i gynnwys dros 200 o ardaloedd gyda'r gofyniad mapio sy'n gysylltiedig â'r Ddeddf, a byddaf yn edrych i weld pa waith y gallaf ei ddatblygu ar ôl cwblhau'r ymarfer mapio.

14:31 **Rhun ap Iorwerth** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Whilst surveys on future potential are welcome, you will recall that Plaid Cymru, of course, supported the active travel Act, but said at the time that its ambitions would not be achieved without increased funding. Will you respond to the clear implication from the spending figures that sustainable transport is still not a priority for this Government, despite Labour Ministers claiming when the legislation was passed that Wales would lead the way?

Er bod arolygon ar y potensial yn y dyfodol i'w croesawu, fe fyddwch yn cofio bod Plaid Cymru, wrth gwrs, wedi cefnogi'r Ddeddf teithio llesol, ond dywedodd ar y pryd na ellid cyflawni ei huchelgeisiau heb gynyddu'r cyllid. A wnewch chi ymateb i'r awgrym clir o'r ffigurau gwariant nad yw trafnidiaeth gynaliadwy yn flaenoriaeth o hyd i'r Llywodraeth hon, er gwaethaf honiadau Gweinidogion Llafur pan basiwyd y ddeddfwriaeth y byddai Cymru yn arwain y ffordd?

14:31 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Can I say, I'm actually spending some £3 million on active travel infrastructure from transport budgets this year? Other budgets are also involved—health and natural resources—and the education Minister stated that he expects investment in twenty-first century schools to also cover the issue around walking and cycling provision. I've also allocated dedicated amounts to each local authority to undertake mapping consultations, so there is money there, but I do appreciate that there is more work to be done on this agenda.

A gaf fi ddweud fy mod i mewn gwirionedd yn gwario tua £3 miliwn ar seilwaith teithio llesol o gyllidebau trafnidiaeth eleni? Mae cyllidebau eraill hefyd ynghlwm wrth hyn—iechyd a chyfoeth naturiol—a dywedodd y Gweinidog Addysg ei fod yn disgwyl i fuddsoddiadau ysgolion ar gyfer yr unfed ganrif ar hugain gynnwys darparu gogyfer â cherdded a beicio. Rwyf hefyd wedi dyrannu symiau penodedig i bob awdurdod lleol gynnal ymgynghoriadau mapio, felly mae arian yno, ond rwy'n sylweddoli bod mwy o waith i'w wneud ar yr agenda hon.

14:32 **Rhun ap Iorwerth** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Spend on infrastructure is important too and not just spend on particular projects. It's clear that Government is still prioritising roads over matters that we know are agreed should be priorities in Wales across this Chamber. Even at a time when money is tight, just refocusing priorities and focusing on changing short-journey habits for the benefit of our health should have seen the walking and cycling infrastructure budgets increase in the first year of the Act. Will your Government prove that it's serious about this so that Wales can actually lead the way in practice and not just in rhetoric?

Mae gwariant ar seilwaith yn bwysig hefyd ac nid gwariant ar brosiectau penodol yn unig. Mae'n glir fod y Llywodraeth yn dal i flaenoriaethu ffyrdd dros faterion y gwyddom fod cytundeb ar draws y Siambr y dylent fod yn flaenoriaethau yng Nghymru. Hyd yn oed ar adeg pan fo arian yn dynn, dylai newid ffocws y blaenoriaethau a chanolbwyntio ar newid arferion teithiau byr er lles ein hiechyd fod wedi arwain at gynnydd yng nghyllidebau seilwaith cerdded a beicio ym mlwyddyn gyntaf y Ddeddf. A fydd eich Llywodraeth yn profi ei bod o ddifrif ynglŷn â hyn er mwyn i Gymru arwain y ffordd yn ymarferol mewn gwirionedd, ac nid mewn rhethreg yn unig?

14:32

Edwina Hart Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I think we are serious about it and the work that we've undertaken indicates that we are serious about it, and I think it's important to recognise that we're very committed to this and we expect to see real change in people's habits during the next two years as a result of the actions that we are undertaking.

Rwy'n credu ein bod o ddifrif am y peth ac mae'r gwaith rydym wedi'i wneud yn dangos ein bod o ddifrif am y peth. Rwy'n meddwl ei bod yn bwysig cydnabod ein bod yn ymrwymedig iawn i hyn a'n bod yn disgwyl gweld newid gwirioneddol yn arferion pobl yn ystod y ddwy flynedd nesaf o ganlyniad i'r camau rydym yn eu rhoi ar waith.

14:32

Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

We now move back to questions on the paper and question 3 is from Kirsty Williams.

Symudwn yn ôl at y cwestiynau ar y papur yn awr a daw cwestiwn 3 gan Kirsty Williams.

Twristiaeth ym Mrycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed

Tourism in Brecon and Radnorshire

14:33

Kirsty Williams Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

3. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am dwristiaeth ym Mrycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed? OAQ(4)0530(EST)

3. Will the Minister make a statement on tourism in Brecon and Radnorshire? OAQ(4)0530(EST)

14:33

Kenneth Skates Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Tourism in Brecon and Radnorshire has a variety of tourism activities and attractions, which are promoted through the Visit Wales website.

Mae twristiaeth ym Mrycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed yn cynnwys amrywiaeth o weithgareddau ac atyniadau twristiaeth, sy'n cael eu hyrwyddo drwy wefan Croeso Cymru.

14:33

Kirsty Williams Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you for that answer, Minister, and could I thank you for your willingness to visit Brecon and Radnorshire to meet with some tourism operators in my constituency? Minister, are you aware of the Cut Tourism VAT campaign and, if you are, have your officials carried out any calculation as to how a cut in tourism value added tax, bringing us into line with many of our competitor destinations, would benefit the Welsh economy? If you do support that campaign, what correspondence have you had with Her Majesty's Treasury about introducing that VAT cut?

Diolch i chi am eich ateb, Weinidog, ac a gaf fi ddiolch i chi am eich parodrwydd i ymweld â Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed i gyfarfod â rhai o'r cwmnïau twristiaeth yn fy etholaeth? Weinidog, a ydych yn ymwybodol o'r ymgyrch Cut Tourism VAT ac os ydych, a yw eich swyddogion wedi cynnal unrhyw gyfrifiad i weld sut y byddai toriad yn y dreth ar werth ar dwristiaeth, i ddod â ni'n gyfartal â llawer o'r cyrchfannau sy'n cystadlu â ni o fudd i economi Cymru? Os ydych chi'n cefnogi'r ymgyrch honno, pa ohebiaeth a gawsoch â Thrysorlys Ei Mawrhydi ynghylch cyflwyno'r toriad TAW?

14:33

Kenneth Skates Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Can I thank the Member for her question and can I say how much I'm looking forward to being able to visit her constituency and, indeed, raise the profile of tourism right across Brecon and Radnorshire and the whole of mid Wales? I'll take this matter up with officials and come back to you, if I may, with a comprehensive update on where we currently stand.

A gaf fi ddiolch i'r Aelod am ei chwestiwn ac a gaf fi ddweud cymaint rwy'n edrych ymlaen at allu ymweld â'i hetholaeth ac yn wir, at godi proffil twristiaeth ledled Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed a chanolbarth Cymru i gyd? Byddaf yn dwyn y mater i sylw fy swyddogion ac yn dod yn ôl atoch, os caf, gyda diweddariad cynhwysfawr o ran ble rydym arni ar hyn o bryd.

14:34

John Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, the Monmouthshire to Brecon canal is very important to tourism in the Brecon area and indeed across the whole length of that canal, down to Newport and beyond. Would you agree with me that the existing partnerships and networks to support the restoration and the development of the canal deserve support from Welsh Government? Could you set out how you will work with the Glandŵr Cymru trust, local authorities and other key partners to make sure that the potential of the canal is realised along its entire length?

Weinidog, mae camlas Sir Fynwy i Aberhonddu yn bwysig iawn i dwristiaeth yn ardal Aberhonddu ac yn wir ar hyd y gamlas gyfan, i lawr i Gasnewydd a thu hwnt. A fyddech yn cytuno â mi fod y partneriaethau a'r rhwydweithiau sydd eisoes yn bodoli i gefnogi'r broses o adfer a datblygu'r gamlas yn haeddu cefnogaeth gan Lywodraeth Cymru? A wnewch chi nodi sut y byddwch yn gweithio gydag ymddiriedolaeth Glandŵr Cymru, awdurdodau lleol a phartneriaid allweddol eraill i sicrhau bod potensial y gamlas yn cael ei wireddu ar ei hyd?

14:34 **Kenneth Skates** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Can I thank the Member for his question and say that I appreciate how enthusiastic he is about utilising the canal networks for regeneration and employment purposes? My officials are working with the key stakeholders involved in the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal with the aim of being able to put together an application for EU funding to improve the quality of the offer, linked into the wider regeneration agenda. Discussions are also under way as to how the development of the Newport end of the canal can be taken forward.

A gaf fi ddiolch i'r Aelod am ei gwestiwn a dweud fy mod yn gwerthfawrogi ei frwdfrydedd ynghylch defnyddio rhwydweithiau'r gamlas at ddibenion adfywio a chyflogaeth? Mae fy swyddogion yn gweithio gyda'r rhanddeiliaid allweddol sy'n ymwneud â chamlas Sir Fynwy ac Aberhonddu gyda'r nod o allu llunio cais am gyllid yr UE i wella ansawdd y cynnig, yn gysylltiedig â'r agenda adfywio ehangach. Mae trafodaethau hefyd ar y gweill ynglŷn â sut y gellid bwrw ymlaen â gwaith ar ddatblygu pen Casnewydd i'r gamlas.

14:35 **Russell George** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Deputy Minister, you may be aware that a number of tourist information centres have closed across Powys in recent years. The provision of visitor information is a vital part of marketing in Wales—I'm sure you would agree with that. How do you believe that the gap left by the closure of tourist information centres in Powys can be addressed? I'd be grateful for your views on this.

Ddirprwy Weinidog, efallai y gwyddoch fod nifer o ganolfannau croeso wedi cau ar draws Powys yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae darparu gwybodaeth i ymwelwyr yn rhan hanfodol o farchnata yng Nghymru—rwy'n siwr y byddech yn cytuno â hynny. Sut ydych chi'n credu y gellid mynd i'r afael â'r bwlch a adawyd yn sgil cau canolfannau croeso ym Mhowys? Byddwn yn ddiolchgar am eich sylwadau ar hyn.

14:35 **Kenneth Skates** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Yes. Can I thank the Member for his question, which affects a number of communities across Wales—indeed, all four corners of the country? I'm particularly keen to see tourist information centres co-located where and when possible, rather than closed. We are going through a transition period at the moment, where a number of services are increasingly being driven by the digital agenda, and I expect, in the years to come, by far the most amount of information to be gathered via the internet and applications. Meanwhile, it's important that local authorities, where and whenever possible, can give consideration to co-locating tourism information centres in libraries, theatres, and so forth.

Ie. A gaf fi ddiolch i'r Aelod am ei gwestiwn, sy'n effeithio ar nifer o gymunedau ledled Cymru—yn wir, ar bob rhan o'r wlad? Rwy'n arbennig o awyddus i weld canolfannau croeso yn cael eu cyd-leoli lle bynnag y bo modd, yn hytrach na'u cau. Rydym yn mynd drwy gyfnod trawsnewidiol ar hyn o bryd, lle y mae nifer o wasanaethau yn cael eu gyrru fwyfwy gan yr agenda ddigidol, ac yn y blynyddoedd i ddod, rwy'n disgwyl mai drwy'r rhyngrwyd ac apps y bydd y rhan fwyaf o wybodaeth, o bell ffordd, yn cael ei chasglu. Yn y cyfamser, mae'n bwysig fod awdurdodau lleol, lle bynnag y bo modd, yn ystyried cyd-leoli canolfannau croeso mewn llyfrgelloedd, theatrau, ac yn y blaen.

14:36 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Ddirprwy Weinidog, mae'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn cael ei chynnal ym Meifod, ym Maldwyn, eleni, ac mae'n bwysig cofio taw Eisteddfod Maldwyn a'r Gororau yw hi, felly mae'n cynnwys holl ororau Cymru. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, pa waith mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei wneud i hybu, gyda'r Eisteddfod, yr atyniad hwn i dwristiaid, a pha waith fyddwch chi'n ei wneud hefyd i werthuso gwerth economaidd yr Eisteddfod, o gofio'r gwaith a wnaed yn dilyn Eisteddfod Llanelli y llynedd, a oedd yn dangos gymaint o gaffaeliad economaidd y mae'r Eisteddfod yn gallu bod i ardal hefyd?

Deputy Minister, the National Eisteddfod will be held in Meifod in Montgomeryshire this year, and it's important to note that it is the Montgomeryshire and the Marches Eisteddfod, so it includes all of the marches. So, in that context, what work is the Government doing to promote, with the Eisteddfod, this attraction for tourists, and what work will you also do to evaluate the economic value of the Eisteddfod, bearing in mind the work done following the Llanelli Eisteddfod of last year, which demonstrated how much of an economic boom the Eisteddfod can be to an area?

14:37 **Kenneth Skates** Bywgraffiad Biography

The Eisteddfod is one of our most valuable major events, not just in terms of the monetary value, and in terms of the number of jobs that it supports, but also in terms of the exposure that it gives Wales to the UK, and, indeed, the world, and in terms of boosting identity. So, my officials in Visit Wales are working closely with the Eisteddfod, in ensuring that it's marketed and promoted as best as possible, and this will include, of course, a return-on-investment analysis.

Mae'r Eisteddfod yn un o'n digwyddiadau mawr mwyaf gwerthfawr, nid yn unig o ran y gwerth ariannol, ac o ran nifer y swyddi y mae'n eu cefnogi, ond hefyd o ran y sylw y mae'n ei roi i Gymru yn y DU, ac yn wir, yn y byd, ac o ran hybu hunaniaeth. Felly, mae fy swyddogion yn Croeso Cymru yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r Eisteddfod, i sicrhau ei bod yn cael ei marchnata a'i hyrwyddo yn y modd gorau posibl, a bydd hyn yn cynnwys dadansoddiad o enillion ar fuddsoddiad wrth gwrs.

Merseyrail

Merseyrail

14:37

Sandy Mewies Bywgraffiad Biography

4. A yw'r Gweinidog wedi cael unrhyw drafodaethau gyda Mersey Rail am faterion sy'n ymwneud â theithwyr yn yr ardal o amgylch ffin gogledd Cymru? OAQ(4)0524(EST)

4. Has the Minister had any talks with Mersey Rail on issues relating to passenger travel in the north Wales border area? OAQ(4)0524(EST)

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:37

Edwina Hart Bywgraffiad Biography

Yes. I have commissioned work with Merseytravel to provide better connectivity between north Wales and the north-east of England. And I will be meeting the Chair of Merseytravel in April, to discuss issues further.

Ydw. Rwyf wedi comisiynu gwaith gyda Merseytravel i ddarparu cysylltedd gwell rhwng gogledd Cymru a gogledd-ddwyrain Lloegr. A byddaf yn cwrdd â Chadeirydd Merseytravel ym mis Ebrill i drafod materion ymhellach.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:37

Sandy Mewies Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you. It's interesting to note that, because of the nature of their franchise, Merseyrail operate a model that could be termed 'not-for-profit'. Reinvestment in the network is high on their agenda, and so is passenger satisfaction. Minister, are there any lessons that can be learned from the model they are using that would be useful to Wales, as we develop our future transport and economic policies?

Diolch yn fawr. Mae'n ddiddorol nodi, oherwydd natur eu masnachfraint, fod Merseyrail yn gweithredu model y gellid ei alw'n un dielw. Mae ailfuddsoddi yn y rhwydwaith yn uchel ar eu hagenda, a boddhad teithwyr hefyd. Weinidog, a oes unrhyw wersi y gellir eu dysgu o'r model y maent yn ei ddefnyddio a fyddai'n ddefnyddiol i Gymru, wrth i ni ddatblygu ein polisïau trafnidiaeth ac economaidd yn y dyfodol?

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:38

Edwina Hart Bywgraffiad Biography

Well, I think the straight answer is 'absolutely yes', hence the discussions. You're quite right: it's one of the best-performing train operators in terms of customer satisfaction, and punctuality of service, which is very important. It's quite smaller than what we might be looking at in terms of size, but I think it's very interesting, the model, and I need to understand the experiences they've gained from working within that model, as we go forward ourselves.

Wel, rwy'n meddwl mai'r ateb uniongyrchol yw 'oes, yn wir', a dyna'r rheswm dros y trafodaethau. Rydych yn llygad eich lle: mae'n un o'r cwmnïau trenau sy'n perfformio orau o ran boddhad cwsmeriaid, a phrydlondeb gwasanaeth, sy'n bwysig iawn. Mae gryn dipyn yn llai na'r hyn y gallem fod yn edrych arno o ran maint, ond rwy'n meddwl ei fod yn ddiddorol iawn, y model, ac mae angen i mi ddeall y profiadau y maent wedi'u cael o weithio o fewn y model hwnnw wrth inni symud ymlaen ein hunain.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:38

Antoinette Sandbach Bywgraffiad Biography

Minister, one of the key rail projects that I know Welsh Government have been working on is electrification of the north Wales railway line. As you're aware, that has cross-party support, and I know you're making the case for the UK Government to assist in that project. But, Renaissance Trains are working on a project to electrify the railway line between Hull and Selby, in the north of England, and I understand that there may be an opportunity for them to look at electrification in north Wales, and could potentially work with Welsh Government to deliver that, without the need for any UK Government support, or at least minimising the cost to the UK Government of that project. Have you had discussions with Renaissance Trains, and, if not, are you willing to ask your officials to get more information from them, and to look into whether or not that project could be delivered as soon as possible?

Weinidog, un o'r prosiectau rheilffordd allweddol y gwn fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi bod yn gweithio arnynt yw trydaneiddio rheilffordd gogledd Cymru. Fel rydych yn ymwybodol, mae wedi cael cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol ac rwy'n gwybod eich bod yn cyflwyno'r achos dros gael cymorth Llywodraeth y DU tuag at y prosiect. Ond mae Renaissance Trains yn gweithio ar brosiect i drydaneiddio'r rheilffordd rhwng Hull a Selby yng ngogledd Lloegr, a deallaf y gallai fod cyfle iddynt edrych ar drydaneiddio yn y gogledd. Gallai weithio gyda Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflawni hynny, o bosibl, heb fod angen cymorth gan Lywodraeth y DU, neu o leiaf leihau cost y prosiect i Lywodraeth y DU. A ydych wedi cael trafodaethau gyda Renaissance Trains, ac os nad ydych, a ydych yn barod i ofyn i'ch swyddogion gael rhagor o wybodaeth ganddynt, ac i edrych i weld a ellid cyflawni'r prosiect hwnnw cyn gynted â phosibl?

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:39

Edwina Hart Bywgraffiad Biography

Can I say, I was having a discussion on the whole electrification issue with Alun Cairns, the Wales Office Minister, yesterday, about the importance of us working together on the case for electrification, because the initial business case was not as good as we had wanted? I will certainly take up your suggestion, and ask my officials to contact Renaissance Trains.

A gaf fi ddweud, roeddwn yn cael trafodaeth ar fater trydaneiddio gydag Alun Cairns, Gweinidog Swyddfa Cymru, ddoe am bwysigrwydd gweithio gyda'n gilydd ar yr achos dros drydaneiddio, gan nad oedd yr achos busnes cychwynnol cystal ag yr oeddem wedi ei ddymuno? Byddaf yn sicr yn ystyried eich awgrym, ac yn gofyn i fy swyddogion gysylltu â Renaissance Trains.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:40 **Alun Ffred Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

O sôn am fuddsoddi, pryd fydd teithwyr rheilffyrdd gogledd Cymru yn cael trenau sydd yn perthyn i'r unfed ganrif ar hugain yn hytrach nag i 1970au'r ganrif ddiwethaf?

In talking about investment, when will north Wales train passengers get trains that belong to the twenty-first century rather than the 1970s of the last century?

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:40 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

As soon as we have the powers.

Cyn gynted ag y cawn y pwerau.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:40 **Aled Roberts** Bywgraffiad Biography

Obviously, one of the connections, as far as Merseyrail is concerned is on the Wrexham to Bidston line, where the connections to Liverpool are through Merseyrail. Can I ask whether any consideration has been given to actually including the Wrexham-Bidston line within the Merseyrail franchise at the time that the Welsh franchise is looked at, and whether you've had any discussions in that regard with the taskforce that will be reporting in the north-west of England in February?

Yn amlwg, o ran Merseyrail, mae un o'r cysylltiadau ar linell Wrecsam i Bidston, lle y mae'r cysylltiadau i Lerpwl yn cael eu darparu gan Merseyrail. A gaf fi ofyn a ydych chi wedi ystyried cynnwys llinell Wrecsam i Bidston ym masnachfraint Merseyrail pan edrychir ar fasnachfraint Cymru, ac a ydych wedi cael unrhyw drafodaethau i'r perwyl hwnnw â'r tasglu a fydd yn cyflwyno'i adroddiad yng ngogledd-orllewin Lloegr ym mis Chwefror?

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:40 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Yes, interestingly enough, we did two pieces of work, jointly commissioned last year, to consider the improvement of services in Merseyside and north Wales. One examined improvements to services on the Wrexham to Bidston Borderlands line and it's certainly an issue that I'll take up in my meeting.

Do, yn ddiddorol ddigon, fe gyflawnon ni ddwy astudiaeth a gomisiynwyd ar y cyd y llynedd, i ystyried gwella gwasanaethau yng Nglannau Merswy a gogledd Cymru. Archwiliodd un welliannau i wasanaethau ar linell y Gororau Wrecsam i Bidston ac mae'n sicr yn fater y byddaf yn ei godi yn fy nghyfarfod.

Cyfraniad Menywod i Economi Cymru

The Contribution of Women to the Welsh Economy

14:41 **Christine Chapman** Bywgraffiad Biography

5. Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n eu cymryd i sicrhau y gall menywod wneud y gorau o'u cyfraniad i economi Cymru? OAQ(4)0528(EST)

5. What action is the Welsh Government taking to ensure that women can maximise their contribution to the Welsh economy? OAQ(4)0528(EST)

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:41 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

We're working with key organisations to increase the number of women accessing business support and to encourage women to start up in business through Business Wales services. We've also arranged a women in business event for the later part of February as part of our work with anchor companies.

Rydym yn gweithio gyda sefydliadau allweddol i gynyddu nifer y menywod sy'n cael cymorth busnes ac i annog menywod i ddechrau busnesau drwy wasanaethau Busnes Cymru. Rydym hefyd wedi trefnu digwyddiad menywod mewn busnes ar gyfer diwedd Chwefror fel rhan o'n gwaith gyda chwmnïau angori.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:41 **Christine Chapman** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you, Minister. Well, the cross-party women in the economy group, which I chair, recently heard how public and private sector employers allow agile working so that all their employees are capable of unlocking their full potential. Now, this benefits employers: a survey found that 38% of those allowing agile working reported a more positive and motivated workforce, 26% better staff retention, 12% less stress, and so on. Minister, can the Welsh Government engage with employers to emphasise the benefits of agile working practices? These are important to women who still have the bulk of caring responsibilities, but also for men in allowing them to play a full role in the home.

Diolch i chi, Weinidog. Wel, yn ddiweddar clywodd y grŵp trawsbleidiol menywod yn yr economi a gadeirir gennyf sut y mae cyflogwyr yn y sector cyhoeddus a'r sector preifat yn caniatáu gweithio hyblyg er mwyn i'w holl weithwyr allu datgloi eu potensial llawn. Yn awr, mae hyn o fudd i gyflogwyr: canfu arolwg fod 38% o'r rhai sy'n caniatáu gweithio hyblyg yn dweud bod y gweithlu'n fwy cadarnhaol a brwdfrydig, lefelau cadw staff 26% yn well, 12% yn llai o straen, ac yn y blaen. Weinidog, a all Llywodraeth Cymru ymgysylltu â chyflogwyr i bwysleisio manteision arferion gweithio hyblyg? Mae'r rhain yn bwysig i fenywod sy'n dal i ysgwyddo'r rhan fwyaf o'r cyfrifoldebau gofalu, ond hefyd ar gyfer dynion drwy eu galluogi i chwarae rhan lawn yn y cartref.

14:42 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I concur absolutely with the comments that you've made. Our Business Wales advisers continue to advise business on the benefits and practicalities of flexible working practices, and Business Wales are currently compiling a suite of flexible working policy templates that employers can actually use. Also as well, on childcare provision in the economy, we try to work with the business sector and enable those with caring responsibilities to access work or self-employment, so we're certainly continuing that work to make sure that people understand the full benefits.

Cytunaf yn llwyr â'ch sylwadau. Mae ein cynghorwyr Busnes Cymru yn parhau i gynghori busnesau ar fanteision ac ymarferoldeb arferion gweithio hyblyg, ac ar hyn o bryd mae Busnes Cymru yn llunio cyfres o dempledi polisi gweithio hyblyg y gall cyflogwyr eu defnyddio. Yn ogystal, ar ddarpariaeth gofal plant yn yr economi, rydym yn ceisio gweithio gyda'r sector busnes a galluogi'r rhai sydd â chyfrifoldebau gofalu i gael gwaith neu i ddod yn hunangyflogedig, felly rydym yn sicr yn parhau'r gwaith i wneud yn siŵr bod pobl yn deall y manteision llawn .

14:42 **Mohammad Asghar** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, one of the main barriers to women going to work is the provision and cost of childcare. The UK Government has introduced the new childcare business grants scheme to boost the provision of childcare in England and to encourage entrepreneurship. Will the Minister agree to consider the introduction of a similar scheme in Wales to help women maximise their contribution to the Welsh economy?

Weinidog, un o'r prif rwystrau sy'n atal menywod rhag cael gwaith yw darpariaeth a chost gofal plant. Mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi cyflwyno cynllun grantiau busnes gofal plant newydd i roi hwb i'r ddarpariaeth gofal plant yn Lloegr ac i annog entrepreneuriaeth. A wnaiff y Gweinidog gytuno i ystyried cyflwyno cynllun tebyg yng Nghymru i gynorthwyo menywod i gyfrannu'n llawn i economi Cymru?

14:43 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Yes, I think we've taken a holistic approach to childcare in Wales across all sectors and all departments, and we'll be doing everything we can to ensure maximum access to childcare in the future.

Ie, rwy'n credu ein bod wedi coleddu ymagwedd gyfannol tuag at ofal plant yng Nghymru ar draws pob sector a phob adran, a byddwn yn gwneud popeth yn ein gallu i sicrhau bod gofal plant mor hygyrch â phosibl yn y dyfodol.

14:43 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, can I raise the case of a female constituent who has fibromyalgia and has had to be put on restricted duties in work because she cannot get a blue badge, so is not able to carry out her normal work of visiting clients? Have you looked at the consistency across Wales of decisions taken by local councils on blue badges and which, in some cases, are restricting the ability of women to work?

Weinidog, a gaf fi dynnu sylw at achos etholwraig â ffibromyalgia ac sydd wedi gorfod cyfyngu ar ei dyletswyddau yn ei gwaith am na all gael bathodyn glas, felly nid yw'n gallu gwneud ei gwaith arferol o ymweld â chleientiaid? A ydych wedi edrych ar gysondeb penderfyniadau cynghorau lleol ynghylch y bathodyn glas ar draws Cymru, penderfyniadau sy'n cyfyngu ar allu menywod i weithio mewn rhai achosion?

14:43 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

On what you indicate to me in terms of the casework, I'll be very interested in receiving further details on that. The answer is: yes, we are looking at some of the inconsistencies currently. I will be making a statement to the Chamber in due course, and I am exceptionally unhappy about some of the information that Members have given me about the way that this has been operated across Wales.

Ar yr hyn rydych yn ei nodi o ran y gwaith achos, byddai gennyf ddiddordeb mawr mewn derbyn rhagor o fanylion am hynny. Yr ateb yw: ydym, rydym yn edrych ar rai o'r anghysondebau ar hyn o bryd. Byddaf yn gwneud datganiad i'r Siambr maes o law, ac rwy'n eithriadol o anhapus ynghylch peth o'r wybodaeth y mae Aelodau wedi ei rhoi i mi ynglŷn â'r ffordd y cafodd hyn ei weithredu ar draws Cymru.

Canolfannau Ymchwil

Research Centres

14:44 **Jeff Cuthbert** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

6. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn bwriadu manteisio i'r eithaf ar gyfleoedd i ganolfannau ymchwil ychwanegu at dwf economaidd? OAQ(4)0525(EST)

6. Will the Minister make a statement on how the Welsh Government intends to maximise opportunities for research centres to increase economic growth? OAQ(4)0525(EST)

14:44 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

We consistently place a high priority on commercialisation and economic impacts when considering proposals from Welsh research centres. We also as well work closely with UK stakeholders to ensure that Welsh businesses engage fully with centres and commercial opportunities outside Wales.

Rydym yn rhoi blaenoriaeth uchel yn gyson i fasnacheiddio ac effeithiau economaidd wrth ystyried cynigion gan ganolfannau ymchwil yng Nghymru. Rydym hefyd yn gweithio'n agos gyda rhanddeiliaid yn y DU i sicrhau bod busnesau Cymru yn ymgysylltu'n llawn â chanolfannau a chyfleoedd masnachol y tu allan i Gymru.

14:44 **Jeff Cuthbert** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you for that response, Minister. Earlier, you would have heard me raise the question of Cardiff University's flagship engagement projects, part of the Transforming our Communities programme. As you know, Minister, Cardiff recently came second in the UK research excellence framework in terms of its research impact. Would you therefore agree with me, Minister, that this shows the importance of our university research centres, such as that operated by Cardiff University, by engaging with local communities and improving wellbeing and economic growth?

Diolch i chi am eich ateb, Weinidog. Yn gynharach, byddech wedi fy nghlywed yn holi cwestiwn am brosiectau ymgysylltu blaenllaw Prifysgol Caerdydd, sy'n rhan o'n rhaglen Trawsnewid ein Cymunedau. Fel y gwyddoch, Weinidog, yn ddiweddar daeth Caerdydd yn ail yn fframwaith rhagoriaeth ymchwil y DU o ran effaith ei hymchwil. A fyddech yn cytuno â mi felly, Weinidog, fod hyn yn dangos pa mor bwysig yw canolfannau ymchwil ein prifysgolion fel yr un a weithredir gan Brifysgol Caerdydd, o ran ymgysylltu â chymunedau lleol a gwella lles a thwf economaidd?

14:45 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Yes. Well, the answer is clearly 'yes'. We must congratulate Cardiff on their success with the project, and we must continue to ensure this best practice all across Wales, in terms of the linkages with higher education and communities.

Byddwn. Wel, mae'n amlwg mai'r ateb yw 'byddwn'. Mae'n rhaid i ni longyfarch Caerdydd ar eu llwyddiant gyda'r prosiect, ac mae'n rhaid inni barhau i sicrhau arfer gorau o'r fath ar draws Cymru, o ran y cysylltiadau ag addysg uwch a chymunedau.

14:45 **William Graham** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

All Members are very pleased that the life sciences hub has described that it is the single best time ever to be involved in the life sciences in Wales. Can you outline how you're going to engage with the pharmaceutical industry to build upon this innovation and retain employment and further investment opportunities in Wales?

Mae pob Aelod yn falch iawn fod y ganolfan gwyddorau bywyd wedi dweud mai dyma'r amser gorau erioed i fod yn rhan o wyddorau bywyd yng Nghymru. A wnewch chi amlinellu sut rydych yn mynd i ymgysylltu â'r diwydiant fferyllol i adeiladu ar yr arloesedd hwn a chadw cyfleoedd gwaith a buddsoddi pellach yng Nghymru?

14:45 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Well, I think the life sciences hub—and I thank you for that—is working extremely well, and so are the companies in it. In terms of the pharmaceutical companies, they're also engaged with discussions within the life sciences hub, as are all companies, and we'll continue to maximise the opportunities for businesses to be established in Wales and work well in Wales.

Wel, rwy'n meddwl bod y ganolfan gwyddorau bywyd—a diolch ichi am hynny—yn gweithio'n hynod o dda, ac felly hefyd y cwmnïau y mae'n eu cynnwys. O ran y cwmnïau fferyllol, maent hefyd yn rhan o drafodaethau yn y ganolfan gwyddorau bywyd, fel pob un o'r cwmnïau, a byddwn yn parhau i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar y cyfleoedd i sefydlu busnesau yng Nghymru ac i weithio'n dda yng Nghymru.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:46 **Lindsay Whittle** Bywgraffiad Biography

Minister, experience from around the world shows that linking research and education centres with the right firms and start-ups often requires monetary incentives. Whilst we have good examples of good practice in Cardiff, what lessons can be learned from the enterprise zones here in Wales, which have cost us substantial amounts of money for relatively little pay-off in terms of jobs?

Weinidog, mae profiad o bob cwr o'r byd yn dangos bod cysylltu canolfannau ymchwil ac addysg gyda'r cwmnïau a'r busnesau newydd cywir yn aml yn galw am gymhellion ariannol. Er bod gennym enghreifftiau da o arfer da yng Nghaerdydd, pa wersi y gellir eu dysgu o'r ardaloedd menter yma yng Nghymru, sydd wedi costio symiau sylweddol o arian i ni er mai cymharol ychydig o elw a gafwyd ar ffurf swyddi?

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:46 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Well, I don't agree with your analysis in terms of the wider issues around the enterprise zones, when you see the fact that Deeside is a very successful enterprise zone and that the enterprise zone board are looking, of course, at an advanced manufacturing centre within that area, which I think will be absolutely excellent. I do think that universities and higher education institutions recognise they've got to work collaboratively with companies, which they are doing all across Wales.

Wel, nid wyf yn cytuno â'ch dadansoddiad o'r materion ehangach sy'n ymwneud â'r ardaloedd menter, pan welwch fod Glannau Dyfrdwy yn ardal fenter lwyddiannus iawn a bod bwrdd yr ardal fenter yn ystyried canolfan weithgynhyrchu uwch yn yr ardal honno, wrth gwrs, a chredaf y bydd honno'n gwbl ragorol. Rwy'n credu bod prifysgolion a sefydliadau addysg uwch yn sylweddoli bod yn rhaid iddynt gydweithio â chwmnïau, ac maent yn gwneud hynny ledled Cymru.

Gwaith ar yr A55

Roadworks on the A55

14:46 **Antoinette Sandbach** Bywgraffiad Biography

7. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am yr amserlen waith ar gyfer y gwaith ffordd sy'n effeithio ar yr A55 yng Ngogledd Cymru? OAQ(4)0522(EST)

7. Will the Minister provide an update on the works schedule for the road works affecting the A55 in North Wales? OAQ(4)0522(EST)

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:47 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Yes. The resilience works on the A55 will be completed this month.

Gwnaf. Bydd y gwaith cydnerthu ar yr A55 yn cael ei gwblhau y mis hwn.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:47 **Antoinette Sandbach** Bywgraffiad Biography

Minister, I'm grateful to hear that. If you're saying that all works on the A55 will cease at the end of this month, that will be welcome news for my constituents. I've had one constituent who has highlighted issues over the A55 and the A483 Posthouse roundabout. Over the last two years, her delays have been so bad that she's now considering giving up her job in Chester, which is a highly paid, well-paid job. What co-ordination have you had with the UK Government Highways Agency to make sure that people in north Wales are aware of the delays that are going on there, because they are having considerable knock-on effects, both along the A55 and the A483?

Weinidog, rwy'n ddiolchgar i glywed hynny. Os ydych yn dweud y bydd yr holl waith ar yr A55 yn dod i ben ar ddiwedd y mis hwn, bydd hynny'n newydd da i fy etholwyr. Mae un o fy etholwyr wedi tynnu sylw at broblemau ynglŷn â'r A55 a chylchfan Posthouse yr A483. Dros y ddwy flynedd diwethaf, mae hi wedi wynebu oedi cynddrwg fel ei bod bellach yn ystyried rhoi'r gorau i'w swydd yng Nghaer, sy'n swydd ar gyflog uchel, swydd sy'n talu'n dda. Pa gysylltiad a gawsoch gydag Asiantaeth Priffyrdd Llywodraeth y DU i sicrhau bod pobl yng ngogledd Cymru yn ymwybodol o'r oedi sy'n digwydd yno gan eu bod yn cael cryn sgil-effeithiau ar hyd yr A55 a'r A483?

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:47 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Yes, well, obviously, the Highways Agency in England is carrying out a major improvement scheme at the roundabout. The scheme has an impact on all users, as you indicated, and we have installed variable message signs and CCTV to warn drivers of possible disruption.

Ie, wel, yn amlwg, mae'r Asiantaeth Priffyrdd yn Lloegr yn cyflawni cynllun gwella mawr ar y gylchfan. Mae'r cynllun yn cael effaith ar yr holl ddefnyddwyr, fel y dywedoch, ac rydym wedi gosod arwyddion yn cynnwys negeseuon amrywiol a theledu cylch cyfyng i rybuddio gyrwyr ynglŷn ag oedi posibl.

14:48 **Rhun ap Iorwerth** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Yr hyn sydd yn corddi llawer o bobl sy'n defnyddio'r ffordd yn aml ydy bod yna waith ffordd lluosog yn digwydd ar yr un pryd, a thra bod pobl yn gallu bod yn amyneddgar efo un set o waith ffordd, mae dod ar draws ail neu drydedd set sylweddol yn gallu cael effaith andwyol iawn ar amseroedd teithio. Pa ymdrech y mae adran y Gweinidog yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod yna ragor o gydweithio er mwyn lleihau faint o weithfeydd lluosog sy'n digwydd ar yr un pryd?

What upsets many of those people using that road regularly is that there are multiple roadworks happening simultaneously, and while people can be patient with one set of roadworks, coming across a second or even a third set can have a very detrimental impact on travel time. What efforts is the Minister's department taking to ensure that there's greater collaboration in order to reduce the number of multiple roadworks under way simultaneously?

14:48 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

I appreciate the comments you make, but the roadworks are, of course, absolutely essential on the A55. It's a very important artery across Wales in terms of business, travel to work et cetera, et cetera. I will ask my officials, once again, to look if there's anything further we can do in relation to the A55.

Rwy'n gwerthfawrogi eich sylwadau, ond mae'r gwaith ffordd, wrth gwrs, yn gwbl hanfodol ar yr A55. Mae'n wythïen bwysig iawn ar draws Cymru o ran busnes, teithio i'r gwaith ac yn y blaen ac yn y blaen. Byddaf yn gofyn i fy swyddogion, unwaith eto, i edrych a oes unrhyw beth pellach y gallwn ei wneud mewn perthynas â'r A55.

Allbwn Economaidd Sir Benfro

The Economic Output of Pembrokeshire

14:49 **Paul Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

8. Beth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud i gynyddu allbwn economaidd Sir Benfro? OAQ(4)0515(EST)

8. What is the Welsh Government doing to increase the economic output of Pembrokeshire? OAQ(4)0515(EST)

14:49 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

We are progressing a range of priorities to increase economic output, with the effort now focused around the Murco taskforce and the Haven enterprise zone. Actions include support to business to help access finance; reviewing business rates policy; supporting international trade and investment; and promoting Wales as a tourism destination.

Rydym yn bwrw ymlaen ag ystod o flaenoriaethau i gynyddu allbwn economaidd, gyda'r ymdrech bellach yn canolbwyntio ar dasglu Murco ac ardal fenter Dyfrffordd y Daugleddau. Mae'r camau'n cynnwys cymorth i fusnesau i'w cynorthwyo i ddod o hyd i gyllid; adolygu polisi ardrethi busnes; cefnogi masnach ryngwladol a buddsoddi; a hyrwyddo Cymru fel cyrchfan twristiaeth.

14:49 **Paul Davies** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Well, I'm grateful to the Minister for that response. I'm sure she will agree with me that we've heard this week of the disappointing news that Pembrokeshire Fish Week will not be going ahead this year. Now, given that Pembrokeshire Fish Week contributes almost £3 million to the local economy and that VisitBritain has listed it as the No. 1 food festival in the whole of the UK, what additional support can the Welsh Government offer to Pembrokeshire County Council to safeguard this important event for the future? Will she have discussions with her colleague, the Deputy Minister for Farming and Food, to ensure that this event is protected for the future?

Wel, diolch i'r Gweinidog am ei hymateb. Rwy'n siŵr y bydd yn cytuno â mi cymaint o siom oedd clywed y newyddion yr wythnos hon na fydd Wythnos Bysgod Sir Benfro yn digwydd eleni. Yn awr, o ystyried bod Wythnos Bysgod Sir Benfro yn cyfrannu bron i £3 miliwn i'r economi leol a bod VisitBritain wedi ei rhestru fel yr ŵyl fwyd orau yn y DU gyfan, pa gymorth ychwanegol y gall Llywodraeth Cymru ei gynnig i Gyngor Sir Penfro er mwyn diogelu'r digwyddiad pwysig hwn ar gyfer y dyfodol? A fydd hi'n cael trafodaethau gyda'i chydweithiwr, y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd, er mwyn sicrhau bod y digwyddiad hwn yn cael ei ddiogelu ar gyfer y dyfodol?

14:50 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Obviously, I understand the comments you make as the local Member, and your concern about this, and I will certainly have further discussions within Government.

Yn amlwg, rwy'n deall y sylwadau a wnewch fel yr Aelod lleol a'ch pryder ynglŷn â hyn, a byddaf yn sicr yn cael trafodaethau pellach yn y Llywodraeth.

Datblygu Economaidd yng Ngorllewin Cymru

Economic Development in West Wales

14:50 **Angela Burns** Bywgraffiad Biography

9. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ddatblygu economaidd yng ngorllewin Cymru? OAQ(4)0518(EST)

9. Will the Minister make a statement on economic development in west Wales? OAQ(4)0518(EST)

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:50 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Yes, we are progressing a range of priorities, and they include supporting businesses to start and grow; making it easier for finance; business rates; and international investment opportunities.

Gwnaf, rydym yn bwrw ymlaen ag ystod o flaenoriaethau ac maent yn cynnwys cynorthwyo busnesau i gychwyn a thyfu; ei gwneud yn haws i ddod o hyd i gyllid; ardrethi busnes; a chyfleoedd ar gyfer buddsoddi rhyngwladol.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:50 **Angela Burns** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you for that, Minister. I do welcome the expansion of the enterprise zone, and I note Sir Terry Matthews's comments that software development is a way forward for Pembrokeshire. We have a number of very smart, high-tech companies, some of which are collaborating with manufacturers elsewhere in Wales to bring their product to market, so that we have truly made-in-Wales products. Yet all their stories seem to have a similar theme in that they are finding it very difficult to access quite small grants from the Government because they don't quite fit the criteria. Perhaps they're wanting, say, to take a trade mission to another country where they know that they can get enormous sales, and they're finding it very difficult to engage with some of the business managers who don't seem to have an understanding or a comprehension of how the high-tech software market works. Minister, I wonder what you might be able to do to facilitate this, because being able to then take the product and have it made in Wales as well really does bring us a double benefit.

Diolch am hynny, Weinidog. Rwy'n croesawu ehangu'r ardal fenter, a nodaf sylwadau Syr Terry Matthews fod datblygu meddalwedd yn ffordd ymlaen ar gyfer Sir Benfro. Mae gennym nifer o gwmnïau uwch-dechnoleg deniadol iawn, gyda rhai ohonynt yn cydweithio â gweithgynhyrchwyr mewn mannau eraill yng Nghymru i ddod â'u cynnyrch i'r farchnad, fel bod gennym gynnyrch wedi ei wneud yn gyfan gwbl yng Nghymru. Eto i gyd mae thema debyg i'w gweld yn rhedeg drwy eu straeon i gyd yn yr ystyr eu bod yn ei chael hi'n anodd iawn cael gafael ar grantiau gweddol fach gan y Llywodraeth am nad ydynt yn bodloni'r meini prawf yn llwyr. Er enghraifft, efallai eu bod yn dymuno mynd ar daith fasnach i wlad arall lle y maent yn gwybod y gallant gael gwerthiant enfawr, ond eu bod yn ei chael hi'n anodd iawn ymgysylltu â rhai o'r rheolwyr busnes nad yw'n ymddangos fod ganddynt ddealltwriaeth o'r modd y mae'r farchnad feddalwedd uwch-dechnoleg yn gweithio. Weinidog, tybed beth allwch chi ei wneud i hwyluso hyn, gan fod y gallu i sicrhau bod y cynnyrch yn cael ei wneud yng Nghymru hefyd yn bendant yn sicrhau dwywaith y budd i ni.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:51 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Can I say that the Member's comments in that question I find quite worrying? I would be grateful if I could have details of some of the companies involved, and would be more than delighted to meet them with you to discuss some of the issues.

A gaf fi ddweud bod sylwadau'r Aelod yn y cwestiwn yn peri cryn ofid i mi? Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe bai modd i mi gael manylion rhai o'r cwmnïau dan sylw, a byddwn yn fwy na pharod i'w cyfarfod gyda chi i drafod rhai o'r problemau.

Cynllun Trafnidiaeth Cenedlaethol 2015

The National Transport Plan 2015

14:51 **Russell George** Bywgraffiad Biography

10. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am sut y bydd cynllun trafnidiaeth cenedlaethol 2015 yn cefnogi canolbarth Cymru? OAQ(4)0516(EST)

10. Will the Minister provide an update on how the national transport plan 2015 will support mid-Wales? OAQ(4)0516(EST)

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:51 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Well, of course it's a draft national transport plan, which sets out our objectives and priorities for transport across Wales in the short, medium and longer term.

Wel, cynllun trafnidiaeth cenedlaethol drafft yw hwn, wrth gwrs, sy'n nodi ein hamcanion a'n blaenoriaethau ar gyfer trafnidiaeth ledled Cymru yn y tymor byr, y tymor canolig a'r tymor hwy.

14:52 **Russell George** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you, Minister. I note two important schemes in my constituency are mentioned in the draft national transport plan—the Pant to Llanymynech road improvement scheme, and also an extremely poor stretch of road near Middletown, the Buttington Cross to Wollaston Cross scheme. Can you update me on how discussions have progressed between your officials and UK Government officials on both schemes? Also, do you expect to provide more detail on these schemes when the final national transport plan is published?

Diolch i chi, Weinidog. Nodaf fod dau gynllun pwysig yn fy etholaeth yn cael eu crybwyll yn y cynllun trafnidiaeth cenedlaethol drafft—cynllun gwella ffordd Pant i Lanymynech, a hefyd darn hynod o sâl o ffordd ger Middletown, cynllun Buttington Cross i Wollaston Cross. A allwch roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i mi ynglŷn â sut y mae'r trafodaethau wedi symud ymlaen rhwng eich swyddogion a swyddogion Llywodraeth y DU ar y ddau gynllun? Hefyd, a ydych chi'n disgwyl darparu mwy o fanylion am y cynlluniau hyn pan fydd y cynllun trafnidiaeth cenedlaethol terfynol yn cael ei gyhoeddi?

14:52 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Yes, I have not been apprised recently of any developments and discussions, so I will have to check that with officials. Certainly, once we've agreed the national transport plan, I will be happy to provide more details. I might be able to provide more details in the interim anyway.

Ie, nid wyf wedi cael gwybod am unrhyw ddatblygiadau a thrafodaethau yn ddiweddar, felly bydd yn rhaid imi gadarnhau hynny gyda swyddogion. Yn sicr, wedi i ni gytuno ar y cynllun trafnidiaeth cenedlaethol, byddaf yn hapus i roi rhagor o fanylion. Efallai y gallaf roi mwy o fanylion yn y cyfamser beth bynnag.

14:52 **Yr Arglwydd / Lord Elis-Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

A gaf i ddiolch i'r Gweinidog am y buddsoddiad y mae hi yn ei symud ymlaen yn Nyffryn Dyfi ar gyfer dinasyddion Dwyfor Meirionnydd, a Meirionnydd yn arbennig, ac wrth gwrs hefyd Maldwyn? Rwy'n cyfeirio at y buddsoddiad ym mynediad gorsaf Machynlleth—rwy'n gobeithio gweld rhagor o ddatblygiad trafnidiaeth integredig yn y fan honno—a hefyd y cyhoeddiad, i'w groesawu'n fawr, ynglŷn â phont Dyfi, sydd wedi achosi gofid mawr yn yr ardal yna dros y blynyddoedd. A gaf i ddiolch yn arbennig, tra wyf i wrthi hefyd, am yr arwydd newydd a fydd yn dweud y gwir wrth dafarn hyfryd y Cross Foxes? Bydd yn golygu y gallaf dreulio mwy o amser yno gan wybod sut mae'r ffordd yn gweithio wedyn.

May I thank the Minister for the investment that she is progressing in the Dyfi valley for the citizens of Dwyfor Meirionnydd, and Meirionnydd in particular, and of course also Montgomeryshire? I refer specifically to the investment in the access to Machynlleth station—I hope to see further development of integrated transport there—and also the announcement, which is to be warmly welcomed, regarding Dyfi bridge, which has caused serious concern in the area over a period of years. May I give thanks particularly, while I am at it, for the new sign that will tell the truth near the wonderful Cross Foxes pub? It will mean that I can spend more time there, knowing exactly how the road will work later on.

14:53 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I do think the improvements that we've undertaken—and I think we've done a lot of road improvements in recent years across rural Wales—are very important, but I also think, in terms of the future, we've got to recognise that we've got a responsibility outside the larger urban conurbations to ensure that people have access to good-quality roads and other forms of transport.

Rwy'n meddwl bod y gwelliannau rydym wedi'u cyflawni—ac rwy'n meddwl ein bod wedi gwneud llawer o welliannau i ffyrdd yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf ar draws cefn gwlad Cymru—yn bwysig iawn, ond rwyf hefyd yn meddwl, o ran y dyfodol, fod yn rhaid i ni gydnabod y cyfrifoldeb sydd gennym y tu allan i'r cytrefi trefol mwy o faint i sicrhau y gall pobl ddefnyddio ffyrdd o ansawdd da a mathau eraill o drafnidiaeth.

Gwario ar y Seilwaith Ffyrdd yn Sir Gaerfyrddin

Road Infrastructure Spending in Carmarthenshire

14:54 **Rhodri Glyn Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

11. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am wariant seilwaith ffyrdd arfaethedig Llywodraeth Cymru yn sir Gaerfyrddin? OAQ(4)0523(EST)

11. Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government's proposed road infrastructure expenditure in Carmarthenshire? OAQ(4)0523(EST)

14:54

Edwina Hart Bywgraffiad Biography

Yes, the draft national transport plan currently out for consultation sets out our objectives and priorities for improving transport infrastructure across Wales.

Gwnaf, mae'r cynllun trafnidiaeth cenedlaethol drafft sy'n destun ymgynghoriad ar hyn o bryd yn nodi ein hamcanion a'n blaenoriaethau ar gyfer gwella'r seilwaith trafnidiaeth ledled Cymru.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:54

Rhodri Glyn Thomas Bywgraffiad Biography

Weinidog, a oes modd ichi roi sicrwydd i fy etholwyr i sydd yn pryderu oherwydd y sôn am wariant mawr ar wella'r M4 y bydd hynny'n cael effaith ar eich buddsoddiad chi yn sir Gaerfyrddin? A allwch chi ein sicrhau ni y bydd y datblygiadau hynny yn mynd yn eu blaen, oherwydd mae mawr eu hangen nhw yn y sir?

Minister, can you give an assurance to my constituents who are very concerned about the talk of major expenditure on M4 improvements, which will have an impact on your investment in Carmarthenshire? Can you give us an assurance that those developments will go ahead, because they are very much needed in the county?

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:54

Edwina Hart Bywgraffiad Biography

Yes, I think the road schemes that we are looking at in Carmarthenshire will progress. We're currently looking at options for funding the Llandeilo bypass, so it's important to recognise that what we do on the M4 will not have an impact on the rest of the proposals across Wales, including the metro.

Gallaf, rwy'n meddwl bod y cynlluniau ffordd rydym yn edrych arnynt yn Sir Gaerfyrddin yn symud ymlaen. Ar hyn o bryd rydym yn edrych ar opsiynau ar gyfer ariannu ffordd osgoi Llandeilo, felly mae'n bwysig cydnabod na fydd yr hyn rydym yn ei wneud ar yr M4 yn cael effaith ar weddill y cynigion ar draws Cymru, gan gynnwys y metro.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:54

Angela Burns Bywgraffiad Biography

Minister, can you update us as to what guidance you have out for local authorities when they are putting together their local spend on highway and road improvements, because their direction of travel very seldom chimes with what the local population are seeking in their particular area.

Weinidog, a allwch roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni ynghylch pa ganllawiau sydd gennych ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol pan fyddant yn cynllunio eu gwariant lleol ar welliannau priffyrdd a ffyrdd, gan eu bod yn aml yn mynd i gyfeiriad gwahanol i'r hyn y mae'r boblogaeth leol ei eisiau yn eu hardal.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Yes, it's an interesting point you make, actually, about the spend that local authorities are making on transport. That is something we're trying to unravel currently, particularly in relation to cycling and Safe Routes to School. So, it is very important, I think, that they align with local needs and then align with us nationally in terms of the transport plan. I will be updating Members on some of the issues around local government expenditure in due course.

Ie, rydych yn gwneud pwynt diddorol, mewn gwirionedd, am y gwariant y mae awdurdodau lleol yn ei wneud ar drafnidiaeth. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth rydym yn ceisio'i ddatrys ar hyn o bryd, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â beicio a Llwybrau Diogel i'r Ysgol. Felly, rwy'n meddwl ei bod yn bwysig iawn eu bod yn cyd-fynd ag anghenion lleol ac yna'n cyd-fynd â ni yn genedlaethol o ran y cynllun trafnidiaeth. Byddaf yn rhoi'r newyddion diweddaraf i'r Aelodau am rai o'r materion sy'n ymwneud â gwariant llywodraeth leol maes o law.

Blaenoriaethau Trafnidiaeth ar gyfer y De-ddwyrain

Transport Priorities for South-East Wales

14:55

Nick Ramsay Bywgraffiad Biography

12. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am flaenoriaethau trafnidiaeth Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer de-ddwyrain Cymru? OAQ(4)0527(EST)

12. Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government's transport priorities for south-east Wales? OAQ(4)0527(EST)

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:55

Edwina Hart Bywgraffiad Biography

Our priorities are set out in the draft national transport plan.

Mae ein blaenoriaethau wedi'u nodi yn y cynllun trafnidiaeth cenedlaethol drafft.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14:55 **Nick Ramsay** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

Thank you for that succinct answer to that question, Minister; it's that time of the afternoon. Barely a day goes by, Minister, without constituent queries to me—and, I'm sure, to other Assembly Members within south-east Wales—regarding the tolling of the Severn bridge and the continuing effect of that, not just for passenger transport, but also for the freight industry as well. Could you update us on any discussions you've had with the freight industry about this, or, indeed, with the UK Government, as to the future of the bridges once the contractual obligations are met and we look at those bridges coming back, hopefully, into public ownership? The freight industry have indicated to me that they would be willing to pay a reduced toll that does cover the maintenance but which does not excessively harm the economic activity around the bridges.

Diolch i chi am yr ateb cryno i'r cwestiwn, Weinidog; mae'r amser hwnnw o'r prynhawn. Prin yr aiff diwrnod heibio, Weinidog, heb ymholiadau gan etholwyr—ac rwy'n siŵr bod Aelodau eraill o'r Cynulliad yn ne-ddwyrain Cymru yn eu cael hefyd—ynglŷn â chodi tollau ar bont Hafren ac effaith barhaus hynny, nid yn unig ar drafnidiaeth teithwyr, ond ar y diwydiant cludo nwyddau hefyd. A allwch roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni am unrhyw drafodaethau a gawsoch â'r diwydiant cludo nwyddau ynglŷn â hyn, neu'n wir, gyda Llywodraeth y DU, ynghylch dyfodol y pontydd wedi i'r ymrwymiadau cytundebol gael eu cyflawni ac wrth inni edrych ar ddychwelyd y pontydd, gobeithio, i berchnogaeth gyhoeddus? Mae'r diwydiant cludo nwyddau wedi dweud wrthyf y byddent yn barod i dalu toll is tuag at waith cynnal a chadw, ond nad yw'n niweidio'r gweithgaredd economaidd sy'n gysylltiedig â'r pontydd yn ormodol.

14:56 **Edwina Hart** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

I haven't had any recent discussions with the freight industry, and I assume that my officials have had discussions with the freight industry. I think it's important to recognise their concerns about goods coming into Wales and it's important for us to recognise what might happen in terms of the bridges. If I can, Presiding Officer, I will undertake to update Members formally after recess about what is going on in relation to the Severn bridge now, and also particularly what discussions we might have with freight operators.

Nid wyf wedi cael unrhyw drafodaethau diweddar gyda'r diwydiant cludo nwyddau, ac rwy'n rhagdybio bod fy swyddogion wedi cael trafodaethau gyda'r diwydiant cludo nwyddau. Rwy'n credu ei bod yn bwysig cydnabod eu pryderon ynghylch nwyddau sy'n dod i mewn i Gymru ac mae'n bwysig i ni gydnabod yr hyn a allai ddigwydd o ran y pontydd. Os caf, Lywydd, fe roddaf y newyddion diweddaraf i'r Aelodau yn ffurfiol ar ôl y toriad am yr hyn sy'n digwydd mewn perthynas â phont Hafren yn awr, ac yn arbennig hefyd ynglŷn â pha drafodaethau y gallem eu cael gyda chwmnïau cludo nwyddau.

14:57 **Eluned Parrott** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

Minister, obviously, the electrification of the Great Western main line is a major priority for all of us, but some of the additional works that are going on around that are causing some interim problems, notably still the Windsor road bridge in Cardiff, where, some six weeks after the bridge closed, there are still signs from some directions directing traffic over the closed and now completely missing bridge. Could you please use your significant influence over Cardiff Council to ask them to cover up the signs, which are directing people in all sorts of wrong directions?

Weinidog, yn amlwg, mae trydaneiddio prif linell y Great Western yn flaenoriaeth fawr i bob un ohonom, ond mae peth o'r gwaith ychwanegol sy'n digwydd yn achosi rhai problemau dros dro, yn enwedig pont ffordd Windsor yng Nghaerdydd, lle y mae arwyddion o hyd, tua chwe wythnos ar ôl i'r bont gau, yn cyfeirio traffig dros y bont sydd ar gau, a bellach heb fod yno o gwbl. A wnewch chi ddefnyddio eich dylanwad sylweddol dros Gyngor Caerdydd i ofyn iddynt orchuddio'r arwyddion, sy'n cyfeirio pobl i bob math o gyfeiriadau anghywir?

14:57 **Edwina Hart** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

I'm certainly happy to ask my officials to contact the local authority.

Rwy'n sicr yn hapus i ofyn i fy swyddogion gysylltu â'r awdurdod lleol.

Cynllun Gweithredu ar Dwristiaeth Cred

The Faith Tourism Action Plan

14:57 **Darren Millar** [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

13. A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am gynnydd tuag at weithredu'r cynllun gweithredu ar dwristiaeth cred? OAQ(4)0514(EST)

13. Will the Minister make a statement on progress towards the implementation of the faith tourism action plan? OAQ(4)0514(EST)

14:57 **Kenneth Skates** Bywgraffiad Biography

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth / The Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Yes. We're making good progress. We have created new promotional content on faith tourism for this year's marketing activities, including content on our website and new articles in our visitor brochures. We've also completed an audit of notable religious sites in Wales to inform future activity.

Gwnaf. Rydym yn gwneud cynnydd da. Rydym wedi creu cynnwys hyrwyddo newydd ar dwristiaeth ffydd ar gyfer gweithgareddau marchnata eleni, yn ogystal â chynnwys ar ein gwefan ac erthyglau newydd yn ein llyfrynnau i ymwelwyr. Rydym hefyd wedi cwblhau archwiliad o safleoedd crefyddol nodedig yng Nghymru i lywio gweithgaredd yn y dyfodol.

14:58 **Darren Millar** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Can I thank the Deputy Minister for the update? I'm very pleased that there is progress being made. One of the streams within the action plan, though, was that there needed to be a greater celebration of the nonconformist revival history of Wales. I wonder what action has been taken to support the development of additional faith trails—not just the Unitarian faith trail, which I learned of today, but some of the other trail opportunities that there are across Wales as a result of those nonconformist revivals.

A gaf fi ddiolch i'r Dirprwy Weinidog am y diweddariad? Rwy'n falch iawn bod cynnydd yn cael ei wneud. Un o elfennau'r cynllun gweithredu, fodd bynnag, oedd bod angen dathlu hanes diwygiad anghydffurfiol Cymru yn well. Tybed pa gamau a roddwyd ar waith i gefnogi datblygiad llwybrau ffydd ychwanegol—nid llwybr y ffydd Undodaidd yn unig, y dysgais amdano heddiw, ond rhai o'r cyfleoedd eraill ar gyfer llwybrau sydd i'w cael ledled Cymru o ganlyniad i'r diwygiadau anghydffurfiol hynny.

14:58 **Kenneth Skates** Bywgraffiad Biography

Can I first of all thank the Member for his enthusiasm in this area? There is indeed a great amount of activity around the development of trails around places of worship, and the pilgrimage trails, as well. I think one of the areas that we do need to look at in regard to the specific question he raises is the support and training material that are offered to nonconformist chapels. The audit of faith tourism products highlighted that there is a need to increase the availability and the numbers of information booklets in comparison to churches. So, tourism and marketing officials have recently commissioned work to develop training and guidance for congregations in nonconformist places of worship, to encourage them to open their doors to the public.

A gaf fi ddiolch yn gyntaf oll i'r Aelod am ei frwdfrydedd yn y maes hwn? Yn wir, mae yna lawer iawn o weithgaredd ynghlwm wrth ddatblygu llwybrau o amgylch mannau addoli, a llwybrau pererindodau hefyd. Rwy'n credu mai un o'r meysydd y mae angen inni edrych arno o ran y cwestiwn penodol y mae'n ei ofyn yw'r deunydd cymorth a hyfforddi sy'n cael eu cynnig i gapeli anghydffurfiol. Amlygodd yr archwiliad o gynnyrch twristiaeth ffydd fod angen cynyddu nifer y llyfrynnau gwybodaeth sydd ar gael o'i gymharu ag eglwysi. Felly, yn ddiweddar, mae swyddogion twristiaeth a marchnata wedi comisiynu gwaith i ddatblygu hyfforddiant a chanllawiau ar gyfer cynulleidfaoedd mewn mannau addoli anghydffurfiol, i'w hannog i agor eu drysau i'r cyhoedd.

Y Ddeddf Teithio Llesol

The Active Travel Act

14:59 **Jenny Rathbone** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

14. Beth yw'r canlyniadau sydd wedi deillio o Ddeddf Teithio Llesol (Cymru) 2013 hyd yma? OAQ(4)0520(EST)

14. What have been the outcomes so far from the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013? OAQ(4)0520(EST)

14:59 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The active travel Act came into force last September, and I intend to publish the first reports on levels of walking and cycling in the autumn of this year.

Daeth Deddf teithio llesol i rym fis Medi diwethaf, ac rwy'n bwriadu cyhoeddi'r adroddiadau cyntaf ar lefelau cerdded a beicio yn yr hydref eleni.

14:59 **Jenny Rathbone** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The Cardiff Cycling Campaign, which was launched with a lot of support on Roald Dahls Plass only a couple of weeks ago, aspires to make Cardiff the UK's best city for cycling. I wondered whether you could tell us how the Welsh Government is working with Cardiff Council to reap the greatest benefits from the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

Nod Ymgyrch Seiclo Caerdydd, a lansiwyd gyda llawer o gefnogaeth ar Roald Dahls Plass ychydig wythnosau'n ôl yn unig, yw gwneud dinas Caerdydd yr orau yn y DU ar gyfer beicio. Tybed a allech ddweud wrthym sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithio gyda Chyngor Caerdydd i sicrhau'r manteision gorau o Ddeddf Teithio Llesol (Cymru) 2013.

15:00 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

We've provided substantial levels of funding to Cardiff council to assist them in promoting active travel, and to reap the benefits of active travel for businesses and residents of Cardiff. I think they've had over £400,000 for safe routes in communities, over £1 million for active travel and multi-modal schemes, as well as £150,000 from the metro programme. Cardiff had money from Kerbcraft, and they're benefiting from funding a Bike It officer.

Rydym wedi darparu cryn dipyn o arian i gyngor Caerdydd i'w helpu i hyrwyddo teithio llesol, ac i sicrhau manteision teithio llesol ar gyfer busnesau a thrigolion Caerdydd. Rwy'n credu eu bod wedi cael dros £400,000 ar gyfer llwybrau diogel mewn cymunedau, dros £1 miliwn ar gyfer cynlluniau teithio llesol ac aml-foddol, yn ogystal â £150,000 gan y rhaglen metro. Cafodd Caerdydd arian gan Kerbcraft, ac maent yn cael budd o gyllido swyddog Beiciwch Hi.

Busnesau Newydd Bach

Small Business Start-ups

15:00 **Gwenda Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

15. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y gefnogaeth a ddarperir i fusnesau newydd bach yng Nghymru? OAQ(4)0531(EST)

15. Will the Minister make a statement on the support provided to small business start-ups in Wales? OAQ(4)0531(EST)

Senedd.tv
Fideo Video

15:00 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

We are committed to supporting existing and small business start-ups in Wales. Our Business Wales service provides access to a range of business support for new start-ups and existing small and medium-sized enterprises.

Rydym wedi ymrwymo i gefnogi busnesau sydd eisoes yn bodoli a busnesau bach newydd yng Nghymru. Mae ein gwasanaeth Busnes Cymru yn darparu mynediad at ystod o gymorth busnes ar gyfer busnesau newydd a busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint sydd eisoes yn bodoli.

Senedd.tv
Fideo Video

15:00 **Gwenda Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you for that, Minister. It's been estimated that, since the start of the financial crisis, over 1 million older people in the UK have involuntarily left the labour market through redundancy, ill health or forced early retirement. The chance of returning to work through job applications steeply declines with age. As an alternative route back into economic activity, an increasing number of our more senior citizens are turning to self-employment or setting up their own businesses. In the last five years, the number of people working for themselves after 65 has doubled. This comes with its own challenges. Many older entrepreneurs can struggle to secure loans, and, even when established, self-employed incomes have declined by more than 22%. I do believe, however—perhaps I'm slightly biased—that most of us of mature years have a wealth of experience, knowledge and ability to offer, and what we might call 'silver start-ups' could be a positive boon to the Welsh economy. Specifically on the subject of accessing start-up finance, what more can the Welsh Government do to help older people overcome the barriers?

Diolch am hynny, Weinidog. Ers dechrau'r argyfwng ariannol, amcangyfrifwyd bod dros 1 filiwn o bobl hŷn yn y DU wedi gadael y farchnad lafur yn anwirfoddol drwy ddiswyddo, salwch neu ymddeoliad cynnar gorfodol. Mae'r gobaith o ddychwelyd i'r gwaith drwy geisiadau am swyddi yn gostwng yn serth gydag oedran. Fel dewis arall yn ôl i weithgarwch economaidd, mae nifer cynyddol o'n dinasyddion mwy oedrannus yn troi at hunangyflogaeth neu sefydlu eu busnesau eu hunain. Yn y pum mlynedd diwethaf, mae nifer y bobl dros 65 oed sy'n gweithio ar eu liwt eu hunain wedi dyblu. Mae hyn yn creu ei heriau ei hun. Gall llawer o entrepreneuriaid hŷn ei chael hi'n anodd sicrhau benthyciadau, a hyd yn oed ar ôl sefydlu eu busnesau, mae incwm hunangyflogedig wedi gostwng mwy na 22%. Rwy'n credu, fodd bynnag—efallai fy mod ychydig yn rhagfarnllyd—fod gan y rhan fwyaf ohonom sydd ychydig yn hŷn gyfoeth o brofiad, gwybodaeth a gallu i'w gynnig, a gallai'r hyn y gallem eu galw'n 'fusnesau gwallt gwyn' fod yn hwb cadarnhaol i economi Cymru. O ran mynediad at gyllid cychwyn busnes yn benodol, beth arall y gall Llywodraeth Cymru ei wneud i helpu pobl hŷn i oresgyn y rhwystrau?

Senedd.tv
Fideo Video

15:02 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

I think that's a very nice marketing tool, isn't it, 'silver start-ups'? I'll have to pinch that now for Business Wales. Can I say that Business Wales does offer a lot of specialist advice, and I've asked Robert Lloyd Griffiths in his capacity as chair to look at how the group of Government's non-financial support can best align to help people? And, also as well, we've got a new business finance zone offer on Business Wales, with indicators about funding. We've got the microbusiness thing. And, of course, we're still taking through some of the work from Professor Dylan Jones-Evans in terms of lending for people to start up businesses.

Rwy'n credu bod hwnnw'n fachyn marchnata da iawn, onid yw—'busnesau gwallt gwyn'? Bydd yn rhaid i mi fachu hwnna ar gyfer Busnes Cymru. A gaf fi ddweud bod Busnes Cymru yn cynnig llawer o gyngor arbenigol, ac rwyf wedi gofyn i Robert Lloyd Griffiths yn rhinwedd ei swydd fel cadeirydd i edrych ar y ffordd orau i grŵp cymorth anariannol y Llywodraeth fynd ati i helpu pobl. Hefyd, mae gennym barth cyllid busnes newydd ar Busnes Cymru, gyda dangosyddion ynglŷn â chyllid. Mae gennym y peth microfusnesau. Ac wrth gwrs, rydym yn dal i ddatblygu peth o'r gwaith gan yr Athro Dylan Jones-Evans o ran benthyciadau i bobl gychwyn busnesau.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

15:02 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you, Minister.

Diolch i chi, Weinidog.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

15:02

Cwestiwn Brys: Dyfodol y Ward Obstetreg a Gynaecoleg yn Ysbyty Glan Clwyd

Urgent Question: The Future of the Y Obstetrics and Gynaecology Ward at Glan Clwyd Hospital

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

I have accepted an urgent question under Standing Order 12.66. I call on Antoinette Sandbach to ask that question.

Rwyf wedi derbyn cwestiwn brys o dan Reol Sefydlog 12.66. Galwaf ar Antoinette Sandbach i ofyn y cwestiwn hwnnw.

15:02 **Antoinette Sandbach** Bywgraffiad Biography

A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddyfodol y ward obstetreg a gynaecoleg yn Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, yn dilyn y cyhoeddiad ddoe bod gofal o dan arweiniad meddygon ymgynghorol yn yr ysbyty wedi'i atal am 18 mis? EAQ(4)0552(HSS)

Will the Minister make a statement on the future of the obstetrics and gynaecology ward at Glan Clwyd Hospital, following yesterday's announcement that consultant-led care at the hospital has been suspended for 18 months? EAQ(4)0552(HSS)

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

15:03 **Mark Drakeford** Bywgraffiad Biography

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol / The Minister for Health and Social Services

On the basis of clear clinical advice, Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board decided yesterday to make interim changes to obstetrics and gynaecology services in north Wales. In-patient consultant-led maternity services will be suspended temporarily at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd in the interests of patient safety.

Ar sail cyngor clinigol clir, penderfynodd Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr ddoe i wneud newidiadau dros dro i wasanaethau obstetreg a gynaecoleg yng ngogledd Cymru. Ar gyfer cleifion mewnol, bydd gwasanaethau mamolaeth dan arweiniad meddygon ymgynghorol yn cael eu hatal dros dro yn Ysbyty Glan Clwyd er budd diogelwch cleifion.

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

15:03 **Antoinette Sandbach** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, I'm interested in that answer because I understand that the board were given the reassurance yesterday that patient services were entirely safe at present. There is outrage and consternation at this decision, and I understand—certainly, it's been widely reported—that locum cover, for example, was cited as one of the reasons. Two of the locums that currently work in obs and gynae at Glan Clwyd have been doing so for the last two years but have not been approached to make their positions permanent. Given that this has been caused in large part by the Wales Deanery's decision to move to a one-in-11 rota, which no other deanery in the UK applies, and that a one-in-eight rota could mean that that vital service could remain open, at least for the next 18 months whilst the sub-regional neonatal care unit is established, will you have a look at the criteria applied by the Wales Deanery to see whether or not they are appropriate, and why they are insisting on a higher rotation level in Wales than in any other part of the UK?

Weinidog, mae'r ateb hwnnw'n ddiddorol, gan fy mod yn deall bod y bwrdd wedi cael sicrwydd ddoe fod gwasanaethau cleifion yn gwbl ddiogel ar hyn o bryd. Mae yna ddicter a syndod yn sgil y penderfyniad hwn, ac rwy'n deall—yn sicr, mae wedi cael ei adrodd yn eang—fod staff locwm, er enghraifft, yn cael ei nodi fel un o'r rhesymau. Mae dau o'r meddygon locwm sy'n gweithio ar hyn o bryd yn yr adran obstetreg a gynaecoleg yng Nglan Clwyd wedi bod yn gwneud hynny dros y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf ond nid ydynt wedi cael cynnig i wneud eu swyddi'n barhaol. O ystyried bod hyn wedi cael ei achosi yn bennaf gan benderfyniad Deoniaeth Cymru i symud i rota un i 11, nad oes unrhyw ddeoniaeth arall yn y DU yn ei defnyddio, ac y gallai rota un i wyth olygu y gallai'r gwasanaeth hanfodol barhau ar agor, ar gyfer y 18 mis nesaf fan lleiaf, tra bod yr uned gofal newyddenedigol isranbarthol yn cael ei sefydlu, a wnewch chi edrych ar y meini prawf a ddefnyddir gan Ddeoniaeth Cymru i weld a ydynt yn briodol, a pham eu bod yn mynnu defnyddio lefel gylchdroi uwch yng Nghymru nag yn unrhyw ran arall o'r DU?

15:04 **Mark Drakeford** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

In answer to the specific question, Llywydd, I will ask my officials to discuss that point with the Wales Deanery and to secure their response.

Yn ateb i'r cwestiwn penodol, Lywydd, byddaf yn gofyn i fy swyddogion drafod y pwynt gyda Deoniaeth Cymru ac i sicrhau eu hymateb.

15:04 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Can I remind Members this is an opportunity to ask questions, and not to make mini speeches? Ann Jones.

A gaf fi atgoffa'r Aelodau mai cyfle i ofyn cwestiynau yw hwn, nid i wneud areithiau byr? Ann Jones.

15:05 **Ann Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you, Presiding Officer. Minister, yesterday I asked for a statement, but today can I just say that I repeat the same things that I believe? I am struggling to find where the LHB has learnt any lessons from previous debacles that we've had. Staff were not told until 12 o'clock yesterday that these decisions would affect them, and you will know that it will affect many of my constituents should this be allowed to carry on. How confident are you—and I would seek your assurance on this—that, should the board not reverse this terrible decision, this temporary move will be, as stated by the board chairman, a 12-month period, and how will you monitor that it will not go past the 12-month period?

Diolch i chi, Lywydd. Weinidog, ddoe gofynnais am ddatganiad, ond heddiw a gaf fi ddweud fy mod yn ailadrodd yr un pethau rwy'n eu credu? Rwy'n ei chael hi'n anodd gweld lle y mae'r BILl wedi dysgu unrhyw wersi o drychinebau blaenorol a gawsom. Nid oedd y staff yn gwybod tan 12:00 ddoe y byddai'r penderfyniadau hyn yn effeithio arnynt, ac fe fyddwch yn gwybod y bydd yn effeithio ar lawer o fy etholwyr os caiff hyn ei ganiatáu. Pa mor hyderus ydych chi—a byddwn yn gofyn am eich sicrwydd ar hyn—os nad yw'r bwrdd yn gwrthdroi'r penderfyniad ofnadwy hwn, mai cyfnod o 12 mis fydd y newid dros dro fel y nodwyd gan gadeirydd y bwrdd, a sut y byddwch yn monitro na fydd yn mynd heibio i'r cyfnod o 12 mis?

15:06 **Mark Drakeford** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I thank Ann Jones for her question. She's quite right to say that the only time figure that appears in the board's report is the 12-month time frame. The board are clear that this is a temporary and interim change. I will expect them to work to restore the service at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd in as timely a way as they can, and the Member can be assured that this will be a regular matter of discussion between myself and the chair of the board, to ensure that they are doing just that.

Diolch i Ann Jones am ei chwestiwn. Mae hi'n hollol iawn i ddweud mai'r unig gyfnod o amser sy'n ymddangos yn adroddiad y bwrdd yw'r ffrâm amser o 12 mis. Mae'r bwrdd yn glir mai newid dros dro ac interim yw hwn. Byddaf yn disgwyl iddynt weithio i adfer y gwasanaeth yn Ysbyty Glan Clwyd mewn modd mor amserol ag y gallant, a gall yr Aelod fod yn sicr y bydd hwn yn destun trafodaeth reolaidd rhyngof a chadeirydd y bwrdd, er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn gwneud yn union hynny.

15:06 **Llyr Gruffydd** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Rydych chi eto wedi ategu, wrth gwrs, mai cael eu harwain gan ystyriaethau clinigol y mae'r newidiadau yma, ac rydym ni'n deall hynny wrth gwrs. Ond, a wnewch chi ymrwymo, petai 'consultants' ar draws y gogledd yn gallu dangos i chi fel Gweinidog fod modd cynnal y tri safle mewn modd diogel, i fod yn barod i gydweithio â nhw a'r bwrdd iechyd i sicrhau bod y ddarpariaeth ar draws y safleoedd presennol yn parhau?

You have again emphasised that it is clinical considerations that are driving these changes, and we understand that, of course. However, will you commit, if consultants across north Wales can demonstrate to you as Minister that three sites could be sustained in a safe manner, to being willing to collaborate with them and the health board in order to ensure that the provision across the current sites continues?

15:07 **Mark Drakeford** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Wel, nid yw e lan i mi i siarad gyda'r clinigwyr sy'n gweithio yn y maes yma; mae e lan iddyn nhw i siarad â'r bwrdd. Wrth gwrs, os ydyn nhw'n gallu dangos i'r bwrdd, trwy gydweithio gyda'i gilydd, ei bod hi'n bosibl iddyn nhw barhau gyda'r gwasanaethau sydd yno nawr, rwy'n siŵr y bydd y bwrdd eisiau clywed beth sydd gyda nhw i'w ddweud. Rwy'n cytuno gyda'r pwynt yr oedd Llyr Huws Gruffydd yn ei wneud i ddechrau-yn y diwedd, mae'r bwrdd, a fi fel Gweinidog, yn dibynnu ar y cyngor yr ydym ni'n ei gael. Os yw'r cyngor clinigol yn dweud bod yn rhaid gwneud rhywbeth, bydd yn rhaid i fi fynd ymlaen gyda'r cyngor fel yna. Os yw'r cyngor yn newid, rwy'n siŵr y bydd y bwrdd eisiau clywed y cyngor newydd.

Well, it's not up to me to speak to the clinicians working in this field; it is up to them to speak to the board. Of course, if they are able to demonstrate to the board, through joint working, that it's possible for them to carry on with the services that are provided currently, I am sure that the board will wish to hear what they have to say. I agree with the point that Llyr Huws Gruffydd made at the outset—ultimately, the board, and I as Minister, depend on the advice that we receive. If the clinical advice states that something must be done, then I have to proceed on the basis of that advice. If the advice changes, then I'm sure that the board will wish to hear the new advice.

15:07 **Aled Roberts** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Weinidog, rydych chi'n ymwybodol o'r feirniadaeth o'r bwrdd iechyd eto ddoe nad oedd yr adroddiad ar gael cyn i'r cyfarfod ddechrau. A gaf i hefyd ofyn a ydych chi'n barod i gyhoeddi amserlen benodol, achos mae yna lawer iawn o drafod yn y gogledd ynghylch pa un a oes unrhyw waith wedi'i wneud hyd yn hyn ar yr achos busnes ar gyfer y ganolfan ranbarthol? Mae yna bryder y bydd y bwrdd iechyd yn tynnu yn ôl ar yr ymrwymiad a wnaethpwyd gan y Prif Weinidog.

Minister, you are aware of the criticism of the health board repeated yesterday that the report was not available before the meeting started. May I also ask you whether you would be willing to publish a specific timetable, because there has been a great deal of debate in north Wales as to whether any work has been done to date on the business case for the regional centre? There is concern that the health board will withdraw from the commitment made by the First Minister.

15:08 **Mark Drakeford** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I understand the point that the Member makes about the need to ensure that there is proper trust between what the board says and what the board is committed to and the board delivering on that. I'm sure the board is well aware of that, and they, I'm sure, will consider whether publishing a timetable of the sort that he outlines will be helpful in securing that level of trust between the local population and the board that serves them.

Rwy'n deall y pwynt y mae'r Aelod yn ei wneud am yr angen i sicrhau bod ymddiriedaeth briodol rhwng yr hyn y mae'r bwrdd yn ei ddweud a'r hyn y mae'r bwrdd wedi ymrwymo iddo, a'r modd y mae'r bwrdd yn cyflawni hynny. Rwy'n siŵr fod y bwrdd yn ymwybodol iawn o hynny, ac y byddant, rwy'n siŵr, yn ystyried a yw cyhoeddi amserlen o'r math y mae'n ei amlinellu yn ddefnyddiol o ran sicrhau'r lefel honno o ymddiriedaeth rhwng y boblogaeth leol a'r bwrdd sy'n eu gwasanaethu.

15:09 **Darren Millar** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Minister, you'll be aware that the Wales Audit Office produced a joint report with Health Inspectorate Wales, which was highly critical of the way that the board was making decisions in north Wales. It suggested that there were delays in board papers being produced, as Aled Roberts has just quite rightly said. It also talked of the gap between the ward and the board, in terms of communication and the lack of engagement with key stakeholders. Isn't it a matter of concern to you that the community health council in north Wales was not notified of these changes, or engaged in discussions about potential solutions, up until Friday of last week, and that Assembly Members were only notified with less than 24 hours' notice, and that history seems to be repeating itself in terms of the mistakes that were identified and the issues that needed to be addressed in the June 2013 report by the Wales Audit Office and HIW, and which were also referred to, of course, in a piece of work that was conducted by the Public Accounts Committee? Given that those governance issues are still there, will you consider taking action, as the Minister, to intervene in the governance arrangements at the board to ensure that there can be sensible decision making, which is consultative with those people who the board ought to be consulting with, in order that these problems can be avoided in the future?

Weinidog, fe fyddwch yn ymwybodol fod Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru wedi cynhyrchu adroddiad ar y cyd ag Arolygiaeth Iechyd Cymru, a oedd yn feirniadol iawn o'r ffordd y mae'r bwrdd yn gwneud penderfyniadau yng ngogledd Cymru. Mae'n awgrymu y bu oedi cyn cynhyrchu papurau bwrdd, fel y mae Aled Roberts newydd ei ddweud yn gwbl briodol. Roedd hefyd yn sôn am y bwlch rhwng y ward a'r bwrdd, o ran cyfathrebu a diffyg ymgysylltiad â rhanddeiliaid allweddol. Onid yw'n fater o bryder i chi na chafodd y cyngor iechyd cymuned yng ngogledd Cymru ei hysbysu am y newidiadau hyn, na'u cynnwys mewn trafodaethau ynghylch atebion posibl tan ddydd Gwener yr wythnos diwethaf. Onid yw'n fater o bryder hefyd fod Aelodau'r Cynulliad wedi cael llai na 24 awr o rybudd yn unig, a bod hanes i'w weld yn ailadrodd ei hun o ran y camgymeriadau a nodwyd a'r materion roedd angen mynd i'r afael â hwy yn adroddiad Mehefin 2013 gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru ac Arolygiaeth Gofal Iechyd Cymru, ac y cyfeiriwyd atynt hefyd, wrth gwrs, mewn gwaith a gyflawnwyd gan y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus? O ystyried bod y problemau llywodraethu hynny'n dal i fod yno, a fyddwch yn ystyried rhoi camau ar waith, fel y Gweinidog, i ymyrryd yn nhrefniadau llywodraethu'r bwrdd er mwyn sicrhau y gellir gwneud penderfyniadau synhwyrol, drwy ymgynghori gyda'r bobl y dylai'r bwrdd fod yn ymgynghori â hwy, er mwyn osgoi'r problemau hyn yn y dyfodol?

15:10 **Mark Drakeford** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Llywydd, I believe the leadership of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board is very well aware of the scrutiny that their governance arrangements have attracted in recent times. I think they will have been very alert to the fact that this decision, which is inevitably controversial locally, would be subjected to that scrutiny. If that scrutiny does shine a light on flaws in the process, of course the board will be accountable for that, but I think they will have seen to it, that they will have proceeded as carefully as possible and with the full knowledge of governance requirements in making this difficult decision.

Lywydd, rwy'n credu bod arweinyddiaeth Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr yn ymwybodol iawn o lefel y craffu y mae eu trefniadau llywodraethu wedi ei denu yn ddiweddar. Rwy'n credu y byddant yn hynod o effro i'r ffaith fod y penderfyniad hwn, sy'n anochel yn ddadleuol yn lleol, yn dod yn destun craffu o'r fath. Os yw'r gwaith craffu yn taflu goleuni ar ddiffygion yn y broses, bydd y bwrdd yn atebol am hynny wrth gwrs, ond rwy'n meddwl y byddant wedi sicrhau eu bod yn camu ymlaen mor ofalus â phosibl a gyda gwybodaeth lawn ynghylch y gofynion llywodraethu wrth wneud y penderfyniad anodd hwn.

15:11 **Mark Isherwood** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Well, I dread to think what would happen if emergency caesarean procedures hadn't been immediately available at the birth of my last two children; I was told I could have lost my wife and my older son. How, therefore, do you respond to the grandmother who e-mailed me yesterday to tell me her daughter had an emergency caesarean very successfully at Glan Clwyd in April and asked, 'What will happen to patients at this hospital who find themselves in this situation in the future?'

Wel, mae'n gas gennyf feddwl beth fyddai'n digwydd pe na bai gweithdrefnau cesaraidd brys wedi bod ar gael ar unwaith ar enedigaeth fy nau blentyn diwethaf; dywedwyd wrthyf y gallwn fod wedi colli fy ngwraig a fy mab hynaf. Felly, sut rydych yn ymateb i'r nain a anfonodd e-bost ataf ddoe i ddweud wrthyf fod ei merch wedi cael llawdriniaeth gesaraidd frys yn llwyddiannus iawn yng Nglan Clwyd ym mis Ebrill ac a ofynnodd, 'Beth fydd yn digwydd i gleifion yn yr ysbyty hwn a fydd yn wynebu sefyllfa o'r fath yn y dyfodol? '

15:11 **Mark Drakeford** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I would say to her, as I would say to any patient, that, on the alternative arrangements which the board must put in place to care for mothers and babies who previously might have received the service at Glan Clwyd, who will certainly not be assisted by the sort of interventions that I hear being chanted behind me, I certainly would expect that the board would put in place proper arrangements to secure the safety of mothers and babies across the whole of north Wales.

Byddwn yn dweud wrthi, fel y byddwn yn dweud wrth unrhyw glaf, ynglŷn â'r trefniadau amgen y mae'n rhaid i'r bwrdd eu rhoi ar waith i ofalu am famau a babanod a fyddai wedi cael y gwasanaeth yng Nglan Clwyd yn flaenorol, ac yn sicr, na chânt eu cynorthwyo gan y math o ymyrryd rwy'n ei glywed yn cael ei siantio tu ôl i mi, byddwn yn bendant yn disgwyl y byddai'r bwrdd yn rhoi trefniadau priodol ar waith i sicrhau diogelwch mamau a babanod ar hyd a lled gogledd Cymru.

15:12 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you, Minister. I could hear some intervention; I couldn't see who was doing it.

Diolch i chi, Weinidog. Gallwn glywed rhywfaint o ymyrryd; ni allwn weld pwy oedd wrthi.

3. Dadl gan Aelodau Unigol o dan Reol Sefydlog 11.21(iv): Cofrestru Etholiadol

Detholwyd y gwelliant canlynol: gwelliant 1 yn enw Jane Hutt.

3. Debate by Individual Members under Standing Order 11.21(iv): Electoral Registration

The following amendment has been selected: amendment 1 in the name of Jane Hutt.

15:12 **Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Right, we now move on to item 3, which is a debate by individual Members under Standing Order 11.21, and I call on Simon Thomas to move the motion.

Iawn, symudwn yn awr at eitem 3, sef dadl gan Aelodau unigol o dan Reol Sefydlog 11.21, a galwaf ar Simon Thomas i gynnig y cynnig.

Cynnig NNDM5683 Simon Thomas

Cefnogwyd gan Ann Jones, Leanne Wood, Peter Black, Aled Roberts, Keith Davies, Jocelyn Davies, Mike Hedges

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. Yn nodi:

a) diwrnod cofrestru pleidleiswyr Bite the Ballot ar 5 Chwefror ac wythnos genedlaethol o weithgareddau rhwng 2 a 8 Chwefror;

b) adroddiad y Comisiwn Etholiadol, 'The quality of the 2014 electoral registers in Great Britain', a ganfu nad oedd 49% o bobl ifanc 16-17 oed wedi cofrestru i bleidleisio.

c) adroddiad cynnydd y Comisiwn Etholiadol, 'Dadansoddiad o'r Arbrawf Cadarnhau Byw yng Nghymru a Lloegr', a ganfu bod y gyfradd baru i bobl rhwng 16 a 17 oed sydd wedi cofrestru i bleidleisio'n unigol wedi gostwng o 86% i 52%; a

d) llwyddiant menter ysgolion Swyddfa Etholiadol Gogledd Iwerddon a wnaeth arwain at ychwanegu 57,000 o bobl ifanc (tua 50% o'r grŵp oedran) at y gofrestr.

2. Yn gresynu at y ffaith bod nifer y bobl sy'n pleidleisio yn etholiadau'r Cynulliad wedi bod yn gostwng ac yn cefnogi camau i annog pobl ifanc i gymryd rhan mewn democratiaeth;

3. Yn galw am gamau i rymuso swyddogion cofrestru i wella prosesau rhannu data, cynyddu nifer y bobl sydd wedi'u cofrestru o grwpiau sydd heb gynrychiolaeth ddigonol—yn enwedig etholwyr ifanc a myfyrwyr—a sicrhau lefelau uwch o gyfranogiad ymhlith pobl ifanc.

Cynigiwyd y cynnig.

Motion NNDM5683 Simon Thomas

Supported by Ann Jones, Leanne Wood, Peter Black, Aled Roberts, Keith Davies, Jocelyn Davies, Mike Hedges

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes:

a) Bite the Ballot's national voter registration day on 5 February and the nationwide week of action between 2 and 8 February;

b) 'The quality of the 2014 electoral registers in Great Britain' report by the Electoral Commission, which found that 49% of 16-17 year olds are not registered to vote;

c) the 'Analysis of the confirmation live run in England and Wales' Electoral Commission progress report, which found that the individual electoral registration match-rate for 16 to 17 year olds has declined from 86% to 52%; and

d) the success of the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland's 'Schools Initiative' in adding 57,000 young people (approximately 50% of the age group) to the register.

2. Regrets that turnout in Assembly elections has been decreasing and supports action to encourage active, engaged participation of young people in democracy.

3. Calls for steps to empower electoral registration officers to improve data-sharing, increase the number of people registered from under-represented groups—especially young and student electors—and ensure greater participation of young people.

Motion moved.

15:12 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Diolch, Lywydd. Hoffwn gymeradwyo'r cynnig hwn i'r Cynulliad, sy'n ymwneud â'r angen i gofrestru pobl ifanc i bleidleisio a'u hannog nhw i gofrestru, ac i wneud newidiadau yn ein cyfundrefn etholiadol ni i sicrhau bod cyfraniad pobl ifanc yr un mor gyflawn â hwnnw gan unrhyw grŵp oedran arall. Hoffwn i bwysleisio nad yw'r cynnig yn ymwneud â phleidleisio yn 16 neu'n 17, fel mae rhai efallai yn ofni; nid yw'n trafod y materion yma. Yng nghyd-destun y gwelliant sydd wedi cael ei roi gerbron gan y Llywodraeth, mae'n dda gennyf fod y Llywodraeth yn ymddiddori mewn cynigion gan Aelodau'r meinciau cefn. Yn bersonol, byddaf yn derbyn y gwelliant, gan weld ei fod yn estyn yr egwyddor sydd yn gymwys ar gyfer etholiad San Steffan i etholiad nesaf y Cynulliad hefyd. Ond, rhywbeth dros dro yn unig yw gwelliant o'r fath, ac mae'r cynnig ei hun yn trafod rhywbeth llawer yn fwy swmpus.

Thank you, Presiding Officer. I would like to commend this motion to the Assembly, which relates to the need to register young people to vote and to encourage them to do so, and to make changes in our electoral arrangements to ensure that young people's contribution is as comprehensive as that of any other age group. I would like to emphasise that the motion doesn't relate to voting at the ages of 16 or 17, as some may fear; it doesn't discuss those issues. In the context of the amendment tabled by the Government, I am pleased that the Government is taking an interest in backbenchers' motions. Personally, I would be happy to accept the amendment and would see that it actually extends what will apply to the Westminster elections to the next Assembly elections. But, such an amendment is temporary, and the motion itself discusses something far more substantial.

Nawr, rydym ni ar groesffordd hollbwysig i ddemocratiaeth yma yng Nghymru. Y flwyddyn nesaf, bydd y genhedlaeth lawn gyntaf sydd wedi'i magu, a'i chodi a'i haddysgu o dan y Cynulliad yn gallu pleidleisio am y tro cyntaf. Rwy'n cofio'r etholiad cyntaf lle roedd gennyf i ddiddordeb cymryd rhan ynddo, sef refferendwm 1979, sef yr un cyntaf ar gyfer cynulliad. Roedd y cyfraniad yn y refferendwm hwnnw yn 58%, ac mae'n sobor i feddwl mai dyma'r gyfran uchaf erioed mewn refferendwm Cymraeg neu etholiad i'r Cynulliad o hyd-etholiad a gynhaliwyd rhyw 40 mlynedd yn ôl. Allwn ni ddim breuddwydio yma yng Nghymru am y ganran o 85% a bleidleisiodd yn refferendwm yr Alban fis Medi diwethaf. Yn y refferendwm hwnnw, mae'n werth nodi bod y cyfraniad gan bobl ifanc yn anelu at 70% ymysg y rhai rhwng 16 a 24 oed.

Now, we're at a very important crossroads for democracy in Wales. Next year, the first full generation who have been brought up and educated under the Assembly will be eligible to vote for the very first time. Now, I remember the first election where I became interested in participating, namely the 1979 referendum for an assembly the first time around. The turnout in that referendum was 58%, and it is sobering to think that this is the highest turnout in a Welsh referendum or Assembly election even now, and that was an election held almost 40 years ago. We couldn't dream here in Wales of seeing the 85% turnout that voted in the Scottish referendum last September. In that referendum, it is worth noting that the contribution among young people was in the region of 70% for those aged between 16 and 24.

Felly, mae'n hynod bwysig ein bod ni'n gweld bod y ddemocratiaeth Gymraeg sydd yn cronni ac yn tyfu yma yn y Cynulliad, ac yn magu mwy o bwerau, yn mynd ochr yn ochr â magu mwy o etholwyr a chyfranogwyr, a phobl sy'n teimlo eu bod nhw'n rhan o'r ddemocratiaeth honno. Felly, mae'r newyddion, yn sgil y newid yn y drefn o gofrestru pleidleiswyr, fod tua hanner y bobl ifanc 16 ac 17 oed heb hyd yn oed gofrestru yn dipyn o her i'n cysyniad ni o ddemocratiaeth.

Therefore, it's extremely important that we see Welsh democracy, which is growing and developing here in the Assembly and garnering more powers, garnering a greater number of participants and electors and people who feel part of that democratic process. So, the news in light of changes to the registration process that around half of young people aged 16 and 17 aren't even registered to vote is something of a challenge to our concept of democracy.

Dros y blynyddoedd, rydym wedi gweld sawl menter a datblygiad i drio annog pobl i gymryd rhan mewn pleidleisio—cynghorau ysgol, mae pleidleisio electronig wedi cael ei chynnig, gostwng yr oedran pleidleisio—ond, yn y bôn, yr hyn sydd angen i ni sicrhau yw'r egwyddor sylfaenol bod gan bob cenhedlaeth lais cyfartal a phwysau cyfartal wrth wneud penderfyniad gwleidyddol. Rydym i gyd yn ymwybodol o'r dewisiadau sydd gan bleidiau gwleidyddol pan fyddant yn edrych ar bwy sy'n pleidleisio a pha fath o bolisïau, felly, sydd eu hangen er mwyn apelio iddyn nhw.

Over the years, we have seen a number of initiatives to try to encourage people to participate—school councils, electronic voting has been proposed, reducing the voting age—but, essentially, what we need to ensure is the fundamental principle that every generation should have an equal voice and an equal weight in making political decisions. We are all aware of the choices that political parties have when they look at who votes and what sort of policies, therefore, are needed to appeal to those people.

Mae'r Sefydliad Rhyngwladol dros Ddemocratiaeth a Chymorth Etholiadol, IDEA, sydd yn fudiad rhynglywodraethol sy'n hybu democratiaeth gynaliadwy, yn nodi os na fyddwch yn pleidleisio yn y tri etholiad cyntaf y cewch chi gyfle i bleidleisio ynddynt, wnewch chi byth. Felly, mae'r hen ddywediad, tri chynnig i Gymro, yn wir yn y cyd-destun yma hefyd.

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, IDEA, which is an international movement promoting sustainable democracy, notes that if you don't vote in the first three elections in which you are qualified to vote, then you are likely never to vote. So, that old saying, 'tri chynnig i Gymro'—three opportunities for a Welshman —is very relevant here.

Yn ddiamau, mae etholfraint sy'n gysylltiedig ag eiddo yn milwrio yn erbyn pobl ifanc, sydd yn bobl sy'n mudo llawer ac yn symud o gwmpas llawer, fel y gwna, wrth gwrs, yn erbyn grwpiau eraill y tu mewn i'n system. Atgof yw'r system gofrestru pleidleisio presennol o'r oes Edwardaidd cynt ac mae angen ei diwygio. Rydym wedi gweld bod tua 1 miliwn o bleidleiswyr wedi cael eu colli oddi ar y gofrestr etholiadol yn sgil cyflwyno cofrestru unigol. Gan fod y cofrestru, yn fy marn i, yn gywir, mae gweithredu'r gofrestr honno wedi bod yn drychineb os rydym wedi colli cynifer o bleidleiswyr. Rwyf wedi clywed am un ward mewn tref myfyrwyr yng Nghymru sydd wedi colli 1,000 o bleidleiswyr mewn un tro.

Without doubt, a franchise that relates to property militates against young people, who are very mobile and move around a great deal, as it does against other groups, of course, within our system. The current voting system is a throwback to the Edwardian age and it needs to be reformed. We have seen that around 1 million voters have been lost to the electoral register following the introduction of individual voter registration. As the registration, in my opinion, is correct, the implementation of that register has been a disaster if we have lost that many voters. I've heard of one ward in a student town in Wales that has lost 1,000 voters in one fell swoop.

Nid yw'r egwyddor o gofrestru unigol yn golygu na allwn wneud mwy i annog ymrestru. Beth am roi cerdyn pleidleisio i bawb fel anrheg pen-blwydd yn 16? Beth am sicrhau bod pobl yn cofrestru i bleidleisio wrth geisio am drwydded yrru? Beth am edrych, fel mae'r cynnig yn pwyntio allan, i'r arfer da o estyn allan drwy ysgolion a cholegau sydd wedi digwydd yng Ngogledd Iwerddon?

The principle of individual voter registration does not mean that we can't do more to encourage registration. Why not give a voting card to everyone as a birthday present at 16? Why not ensure that people register to vote when applying for a driver's licence? Why not look, as the motion does, to the good practice of reaching out through schools and colleges, as has happened in Northern Ireland?

Rydym yn y sefyllfa rydym ynddi, Lywydd, oherwydd ein bod yn gwario ceiniogau yn unig ar gofrestru etholiadol, ac, yn wir, ar system etholiadol. Dylai hyn fod yn destun pryder i ni i gyd. Mewn oes o gyfathrebu sydyn, rydym yn mynnu bod pobl yn cofrestru ymlaen llaw a throi i fyny ar ddydd Iau gwlyb i bleidleisio mewn neuadd ddrafftiog, heb unrhyw fath o groeso na chysur iddyn nhw, a phan fyddant wedi bwrw eu pleidlais, yr unig wobr yw'r ymdeimlad o ysbryd cymunedol. Pan ydych chi'n gallu siopa 24 awr y dydd y dyddiau hyn, a phan fod gennych gardiau teyrngarwch, arian electronig, a phan bod gan y bws sy'n eich cludo chi i'r gwaith fwy o dechnoleg na'n proses bleidleisio ni, mae'n amlwg bod angen cic nerthol i'r system.

We are in the situation we are in, Presiding Officer, because we spend very little money on electoral registration, and, indeed, on the electoral system. This should be a cause of concern for us all. In an age of swift communication, we insist that people register beforehand and turn up on a wet Thursday to vote in a draughty village hall, without any sort of welcome or comforts, and, when they have voted, the only reward is a feeling of community spirit. When you can shop 24 hours a day these days, and have loyalty cards, electronic funds, and when the bus taking you to work has more technology than our voting process, then, clearly, the system needs a good kick.

Fe ddylech chi, yn fy marn i, fod yn gallu pleidleisio unman yn y wlad ac fe ddylai technoleg fod yn gallu nodi pa etholaeth. Mae eisiau i ni annog pleidleisio electronig ac edrych i mewn i'r posibiliadau fanna. Mae eisiau cynyddu nifer y bobl sydd wedi cofrestru i bleidleisio a chynyddu adnoddau i swyddogion cofrestru etholiadol. Ac unwaith i chi bleidleisio, beth am i chi gael e-bost, neu drydariad, neu neges Facebook yn diolch i chi am fod yn rhan o'r ddinasyddiaeth sifil yn y wlad?

In my view, you should be able to vote anywhere in the country, and technology should be able to note what constituency you're voting in. We need to encourage electronic voting and look at the possibilities there. We need to increase the number of people who are registered to vote and increase resources for electoral registration officers. And, once you have voted, why not receive an e-mail, a tweet, or a Facebook message thanking you for participating in civil citizenship in the nation?

Rwyf hefyd o blaid pleidlais sengl drosglwyddadwy fy hunan, ac rwyf o blaid y bleidlais yn 16 oed, ond nid yw hynny'n rhan o'r cynnig.

I'm also in favour of a single transferrable vote myself, as well as the vote at 16, but that doesn't make up part of today's motion.

Now, there is a very interesting cultural subgroup called Steampunk, which is a creative imagining of, 'What if we lived our lives today with the technology of Edwardian or Victorian times?' It leads to some interesting dress sense, I can say, but it also leads us to some interesting remarks when we think of our electoral system, because we are living in a Steampunk electoral system world. We are using the technology of Edwardian and Victorian voting in order to attract a twenty-first century connected population of young people.

Nawr, mae is-grŵp diwylliannol diddorol iawn o'r enw Steampunk, sy'n delweddu'n greadigol y cwestiwn, 'Beth pe baem yn byw ein bywydau heddiw drwy ddefnyddio technoleg yr oes Edwardaidd neu oes Fictoria?' Mae'n arwain at chwaeth gwisgo ddiddorol, gallaf ddweud, ond mae hefyd yn ein harwain at rai sylwadau diddorol pan feddyliwn am ein system etholiadol, gan ein bod yn byw mewn byd sy'n seiliedig ar system etholiadol Steampunk. Rydym yn defnyddio technoleg bleidleisio Edwardaidd a Fictoraidd er mwyn denu poblogaeth o bobl ifanc yr unfed ganrif ar hugain.

We've seen what happened in Scotland when we were able to attract young people to take part in a real debate about their future, and the large numbers that registered and voted in that independence referendum. If we want a genuine revolution in our democracy, and not the sort of fake revolutionary nihilism of people like Russell Brand, then we have to reach out to young people and demonstrate that we are as up-to-date and connected in a modern twenty-first century world, and our electoral system is, as the world that they inhabit day to day. If we don't do that, then we don't deserve their support and, possibly, we don't deserve to be here.

Rydym wedi gweld yr hyn a ddigwyddodd yn yr Alban pan lwyddon ni i ddenu pobl ifanc i gymryd rhan mewn dadl go iawn am eu dyfodol, a'r niferoedd mawr a gofrestrodd ac a bleidleisiodd yn y refferendwm ar annibyniaeth. Os ydym am chwyldro gwirioneddol yn ein democratiaeth, yn hytrach na'r nihiliaeth chwyldroadol ffug o'r math a welir gan bobl fel Russell Brand, yna mae'n rhaid i ni estyn allan at bobl ifanc a dangos ein bod lawn mor gyfredol a chysylltiedig â hwythau yn y byd modern y maent yn byw ynddo yn yr ugeinfed ganrif ar hugain, a bod ein system etholiadol felly hefyd. Os na wnawn hynny, yna nid ydym yn haeddu eu cefnogaeth, ac mae'n bosibl nad ydym yn haeddu bod yma.

15:20

Y Llywydd / The Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

I have selected the amendment to the motion, and I call the Minister for Public Services to formally move amendment 1 tabled in the name of Jane Hutt.

Rwyf wedi dethol y gwelliant i'r cynnig, a galwaf ar y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus i gynnig yn ffurfiol gwelliant 1 a gyflwynwyd yn enw Jane Hutt.

Gwelliant 1—Jane Hutt

Amendment 1—Jane Hutt

Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Add as new point at end of motion:

Yn galw ar Lywodraeth y DU i gytuno y dylai'r broses o drosglwyddo enwau pobl gofrestredig a oedd wedi'u cynnwys yn y gofrestr flaenorol, nad oedd wedi cofrestru'n unigol, fod yn gymwys i gofrestr 2016 yn yr un modd ag yr oedd ar gyfer 2015.

Calls on the UK Government to agree that the carrying forward of registered persons included in the previous register, who had not registered individually, should apply to the 2016 register as it did for 2015.

Cynigiwyd gwelliant 1.

Amendment 1 moved.

15:20

Leighton Andrews Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv
Fideo Video

Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus / The Minister for Public Services

Formally.

Yn ffurfiol.

15:20

Aled Roberts Bywgraffiad Biography

A gaf i ddiolch i Simon Thomas am y cyfle yn y lle cyntaf i drafod y mater yma heddiw? Rwy'n meddwl ei bod yn bwysig ein bod yn sylweddoli beth yn union sydd wedi digwydd a'r camau y mae rhai mudiadau yn eu cymryd i wyrdroi'r sefyllfa. Fe wnes i ddatganiad yr wythnos diwethaf yn canmol Bite the Ballot am y ffaith eu bod nhw wedi llwyddo i gofrestru 50,000 o bobl mewn un diwrnod. Wrth gwrs, maen nhw'n canolbwyntio ar ieuenctid. Wythnos diwethaf, roedden nhw'n gobeithio cofrestru 0.25 miliwn mewn un diwrnod, ac eto, erbyn diwedd yr wythnos, roedden nhw wedi cofrestru 440,000. Felly, mae yna bosibilrwydd lle gofynnir i bobl wyneb yn wyneb i feddwl am y sefyllfa ac i gymryd rhan yn yr ymarfer democrataidd yma; mae yna bosibilrwydd iddyn nhw wneud hynny.

May I thank Simon Thomas for the opportunity in the first place to discuss this issue today? I think that it's important that we realise what exactly has happened and the steps that some organisations are taking to invert the situation. I made a statement last week praising Bite the Ballot for the fact that they'd succeeded in registering 50,000 people in one day. Of course, they are focusing on young people. Last week, they hoped to register 0.25 million in one day, and, again, by the end of the week they had registered 440,000. So, there is a possibility where people are asked face to face to think about the situation and to participate in this democratic exercise; it is possible for them to do that.

Wrth gwrs, nid wyf yn meddwl bod y rhan fwyaf ohonyn nhw'n credu nad yw'r hen drefn, sydd hwyrach wedi'i hamseru yn yr amser Fictorianaidd, angen newid. Mae yna, o fewn y Cynulliad yma, gefnogaeth drawsbleidiol i ni geisio gwella'r sefyllfa o ran pobl ifanc yn pleidleisio yn y lle cyntaf. Mae Simon Thomas, rwy'n meddwl, wedi tanlinellu'r ffaith bod llawer o waith yn y maes yma i'w wneud.

Of course, I don't think that most of us believe that the old system, which dates back to Victorian times, doesn't need to change. There is, within this Assembly, cross-party support for us to attempt to improve the situation as regards young people voting in the first place. Simon Thomas, I think, has underscored the fact that there is a great deal of work to be done in this area.

Wrth gwrs, mae'r newidiadau a gafodd eu cyflwyno gan Lywodraeth flaenorol Prydain ac sydd wedi cael eu gweithredu gan y Llywodraeth bresennol ar lefel Brydeinig yn creu mwy o gwestiynau. Rwy'n pryderu—os yw'r ffigur y mae Simon Thomas wedi'i grybwyll y prynhawn yma, bod 1,000 o etholwyr mewn un ward wedi diflannu, yn wir mae hynny'n destun pryder. Ond mae hefyd yn destun pryder mai ond 49% o blant a phobl ifanc 16 a 17 oed ar hyn o bryd sydd hyd yn oed yn cael eu cynnwys ar gofrestrau etholiadol. Yn ystod y mis olaf yma, mae'r sefyllfa wedi gwaethygu rywfaint, achos mae data wedi cael eu gwirio gan y Comisiwn Etholiadol sy'n dangos mai ond 52% o'r rhai hynny y mae disgwyl iddyn nhw gofrestru sy'n gwneud ar hyn o bryd. Mae'r ffigur yna yn gostwng yn yr Alban i 35%. Felly, rwy'n meddwl bod angen i swyddogion etholiadol, ac i'r Llywodraeth yma yng Nghaerdydd a hefyd yn Llundain, feddwl ynghylch a yw'r holl strategaethau yn gweithio yn ddigonol ar hyn o bryd.

Of course, the changes that were introduced by the previous UK Government and that have been implemented by the current UK Government raise more questions. I am concerned—if the figure that Simon Thomas has mentioned this afternoon, that 1,000 electors in one ward have disappeared, is right that is a cause for concern. But it is also a cause for concern that only 49% of children and young people aged 16 to 17 at present are even included on electoral registers. During this past month, things have deteriorated somewhat, because data has been verified by the Electoral Commission that demonstrates that only 52% of those that are expected to register do so at present. In Scotland, the figure falls to 35%. So, I think that there is a need for electoral officers, and the Government here in Cardiff and also in London, to consider whether all the strategies are working sufficiently at present.

Mae Simon wedi cynnig un mater ynglŷn â chyflwyno ffurflen gofrestru efo'ch cerdyn pen-blwydd, ond hefyd rwy'n siŵr bod yna gamau y gellir eu cymryd gan brifysgolion pan fo myfyrwyr yn cofrestru: eich bod yn cael cyflwyno ffurflen pan ydych yn cyrraedd y brifysgol ac, ar ôl hynny, bod yna nifer o gynigion yn cael eu gwneud tra yr ydych yn fyfyrwyr.

Simon has proposed one issue in relation to the presentation of a registration form with your birthday card, but I am sure also that there are steps that can be taken by universities when students are registering: that you can present a form when you arrive at university, and, subsequently, that there are a number of other opportunities afforded to you while you are a student.

Rwyf hefyd eisiau crybwyll y broblem bod yna nifer o'n hetholwyr ni ar hyn o bryd nad ydynt hyd yn oed yn deall bod angen iddyn nhw bleidleisio. Mae yna fyfyrwyr nad ydynt, hwyrach, yn deall beth yw eu hawliau nhw o ran cofrestru mewn mwy nag un lle. Mae rhai ohonyn nhw'n meddwl bod rhaid iddyn nhw gofrestru adref. Nid yw'r ffurflenni rydym ni'n eu derbyn fel Aelodau'r Cynulliad hyd yn oed yn syml iawn i chi ddeall beth yn union yw eich hawliau os oes gennych chi fflat i lawr yma yng Nghaerdydd a thai adref. Felly, rwy'n meddwl bod yna angen i brifysgolion annog myfyrwyr ac i ddweud wrthyn nhw yn union beth yw eu hawliau.

I also want to mention the problem that a number of our electors at present do not even understand that they need to vote. There are students who perhaps do not understand their rights as regards being registered in more than one place. Some of them think that they have to be registered at home. The forms that we receive as Assembly Members even are not very easy to understand in terms of what exactly what your rights are if you have a flat here in Cardiff and a home in your constituency. So, I think universities do need to encourage students and spell out to them exactly what their rights are.

Hefyd mae'r ffaith bod yna dipyn bach o ddryswch ymysg yr etholwyr—mae rhai yn credu os nad ydych chi'n derbyn cerdyn etholiadol cyn yr etholiad nad oes gennych chi hawl i bleidleisio. Rydym ni'n dal fel ein bod ni ar ei hôl hi o ran edrych ar y sefyllfa. I ddweud y gwir, er fy mod i rŵan yn cofrestru ar-lein, mae yna wir gwestiwn i'w ofyn ynghylch pam ydym ni'n dal yn credu bod yn rhaid i chi roi marc ar ryw ddarn o bapur ac unai ei bostio fo neu ei roi mewn blwch yn yr orsaf bleidleisio. Mae yna lawer iawn i'w wneud. Nid wyf yn meddwl bod unrhyw un o unrhyw blaid yma yn credu bod y sefyllfa yn dderbyniol, ac mae yna angen inni greu sefyllfa lle mae gwir farn ddemocrataidd y wlad yn cael ei dangos mewn etholiad.

Also, there is the fact that there is some confusion among electors—some believe that if you do not receive a registration card before the election you do not have a right to vote. We are still lagging behind as regards looking at the situation. To be honest, although I now register online, there is a real question to ask as to why we still believe that you have to put a mark on a piece of paper and either post it or put it into the ballot box at the polling station. There is a great deal to be done. I don't believe that anyone from any party here believes that the situation is acceptable, and there is a need for us to create a situation where the real democratic will of the country is actually demonstrated in an election.

15:25 **Jenny Rathbone** Bywgraffiad Biography

Yes, I agree with Simon Thomas that we need to reach out to young people, but they also need to reach out to us. Cardiff Central has the highest number of people falling off the register in the UK. We have lost over 23,000 voters. It is very disappointing, when I go around and talk to people who live in areas where there's a high student population, that they are simply unaware of what it is they need to do if they want to vote. It is extraordinary that we are talking about the elite, the people who have got to university. So, we have to hand out these little red cards, which indicate that it's the easiest thing in the world for somebody with a computer, which they all have, to register online with their national insurance number and with their date of birth.

Ie, rwy'n cytuno â Simon Thomas bod angen i ni estyn allan at bobl ifanc, ond mae angen hefyd iddynt hwy estyn allan atom ni. Canol Caerdydd sydd â'r nifer fwyaf o bobl yn disgyn oddi ar y gofrestr yn y DU. Rydym wedi colli dros 23,000 o bleidleiswyr. Pan fyddaf yn mynd o gwmpas yn siarad â phobl sy'n byw mewn ardaloedd lle y ceir poblogaeth uchel o fyfyrwyr, mae'n siomedig iawn eu bod yn hollol anymwybodol o'r hyn sydd angen iddynt ei wneud os ydynt am bleidleisio. Mae'n rhyfeddol ein bod yn sôn am yr elit, y bobl sydd yn y brifysgol. Felly, mae'n rhaid i ni ddosbarthu'r cardiau bach coch sy'n dangos ei fod y peth hawsaf yn y byd i rywun gyda chyfrifiadur, ac mae gan bawb gyfrifiadur, i gofrestru ar-lein gyda'u rhif yswiriant gwladol a'u dyddiad geni.

Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (David Melding) i'r Gadair am 15:26.

The Deputy Presiding Officer (David Melding) took the Chair at 15:26.

15:26 **Jenny Rathbone** Bywgraffiad Biography

But, nevertheless, I am very unhappy with the measures that have been taken to suppress, and, I think, deliberately suppress, the number of people who are on the electoral register. Through this measure, everybody who wants to be on the electoral register has to do so individually. About 25% of the population are challenged in their literacy, and find it very difficult to fill in forms. That is a fact. It is deplorable, but it is a fact, and, therefore, it is, in my view, a hugely regressive step that we have taken to insist on individual voter registration, because it means the poorest in our society are the least likely to be able to vote. Although we're already falling off in terms of both the numbers registering and the numbers actually participating in elections, which in itself is extremely worrying, this measure makes that problem even worse.

Serch hynny, rwy'n anhapus iawn â'r mesurau sydd wedi'u rhoi ar waith i gyfyngu ar, a chyfyngu'n fwriadol, fe gredaf, ar nifer y bobl sydd ar y gofrestr etholiadol. Drwy'r mesur hwn, mae pawb sydd am fod ar y gofrestr etholiadol yn gorfod gwneud hynny'n unigol. Mae tua 25% o'r boblogaeth yn cael trafferth gyda llythrennedd, ac yn ei chael hi'n anodd iawn i lenwi ffurflenni. Mae hynny'n ffaith. Mae'n warthus, ond mae'n ffaith, ac felly, yn fy marn i, rydym wedi cymryd cam hynod o anflaengar drwy fynnu bod pleidleiswyr yn cofrestru'n unigol, am ei fod yn golygu mai'r tlotaf yn ein cymdeithas yw'r rhai lleiaf tebygol o allu pleidleisio. Er ein bod eisoes yn gweld gostyngiad o ran y niferoedd sy'n cofrestru a'r niferoedd sy'n mynd ati i gymryd rhan mewn etholiadau, sy'n destun pryder eithriadol ynddo'i hun, mae'r mesur hwn yn gwneud y broblem honno hyd yn oed yn waeth.

I cannot understand why it is not permissible and perfectly in order for universities to register every single individual who is living in one of their student accommodations. There's no question that these people are not there, because they're having to pay the rent. This, obviously, makes it much more difficult for the local authority to plan services if they don't know where these people are, in addition to the fact it is their right as students to be able to register both in their home town and in the place where they are studying. So, this is a pretty disastrous measure and will have a very serious impact on people's ability to vote in the upcoming general election when they realise that they haven't been registered on the electoral system and, obviously, as a result of that will not be able to vote.

Ni allaf ddeall pam nad yw'n gwbl iawn a pham na ellir caniatáu i brifysgolion gofrestru pob unigolyn sy'n byw yn un o'u hadeiladau llety i fyfyrwyr. Nid oes amheuaeth nad yw'r bobl hyn yno, gan eu bod yn gorfod talu'r rhent. Yn amlwg, mae hyn yn ei gwneud yn llawer anos i'r awdurdod lleol gynllunio gwasanaethau os nad ydynt yn gwybod lle y mae'r bobl hyn, yn ogystal â'r ffaith mai eu hawl fel myfyrwyr yw cofrestru yn eu cartref ac yn eu man astudio. Felly, mae hwn yn fesur eithaf trychinebus a bydd yn cael effaith ddifrifol iawn ar allu pobl i bleidleisio yn yr etholiad cyffredinol sydd ar y gorwel pan sylweddolant nad ydynt wedi cael eu cofrestru ar y system etholiadol ac na fyddant yn gallu pleidleisio yn sgil hynny wrth gwrs.

Now, in order to address the ignorance and lack of engagement by these students who've yet to get around to registering to vote, we have to, in my view, reduce the voting age to 16 so that schools and colleges will then have a duty to ensure that every one of their students understands why elections are important and what it is they're being asked to decide on. If we had people voting at 16, all of them, or nearly all of them, would still be in formal education in some form or another, so we would capture the whole population of 16-year-olds. By the time they're 18, people are off in different directions, so that makes it much more difficult for those who don't have a permanent residence, don't have good family support, or don't have a family who find it important to ensure that their young people are registered to vote as they become of age.

Yn awr, er mwyn mynd i'r afael ag anwybodaeth a diffyg ymgysylltiad y myfyrwyr hyn nad ydynt wedi cofrestru i bleidleisio eto, yn fy marn i, mae'n rhaid i ni ostwng yr oedran pleidleisio i 16 oed fel y bydd dyletswydd ar ysgolion a cholegau wedyn i sicrhau bod pob un o'u myfyrwyr yn deall pam y mae etholiadau'n bwysig a beth y gofynnir iddynt benderfynu yn ei gylch. Pe bai gennym bobl yn pleidleisio yn 16 oed, byddai pob un ohonynt, neu bron bob un ohonynt, yn dal i fod mewn addysg ffurfiol ar ryw ffurf neu'i gilydd, felly byddem yn cofrestru'r boblogaeth gyfan o bobl ifanc 16 mlwydd oed. Erbyn yr adeg y byddant yn 18 oed, mae pobl yn mynd i gyfeiriadau gwahanol, felly mae hynny'n ei gwneud yn llawer anos ar gyfer rhai heb breswylfa barhaol, heb gefnogaeth deuluol dda, neu heb deulu sy'n ei hystyried hi'n bwysig i sicrhau bod eu pobl ifanc yn cofrestru i bleidleisio wrth iddynt ddod yn oedolion.

We need to ensure that all citizens realise it is both their right and their duty to vote, and that they are doing so. To not address this issue of the fall-off and the huge numbers who have fallen off the register as a result of this measure, as well as the decreasing number of people who take part in elections—it's something we really, really need to take very seriously, because, if we do not have enough people participating in elections, people will find other ways of expressing their views that are much less healthy.

Mae angen i ni sicrhau bod pob dinesydd yn sylweddoli mai eu hawl a'u dyletswydd yw pleidleisio, a'u bod yn gwneud hynny. Mae methu â mynd i'r afael â'r gostyngiad a'r niferoedd enfawr sydd wedi disgyn oddi ar y gofrestr o ganlyniad i'r mesur hwn, yn ogystal â'r gostyngiad yn nifer y bobl sy'n cymryd rhan mewn etholiadau—mae'n rhywbeth y mae gwir angen i ni ei gymryd o ddifrif, oherwydd, os nad oes gennym ddigon o bobl sy'n cymryd rhan mewn etholiadau, bydd pobl yn dod o hyd i ffyrdd eraill o fynegi eu barn sy'n llawer llai iach.

15:29

Keith Davies Bywgraffiad Biography

Rwyf i hefyd yn falch o gyfrannu ac i fod yn gyd-noddwr y prynhawn yma, ac yn cytuno gyda'r rhan fwyaf o'r pethau sydd wedi cael eu sôn amdanynt yn barod. Mae yna ddwy ran i'r ddadl-y rhan sydd wedi derbyn y cyhoeddusrwydd mwyaf yw'r syniad o roi pleidlais i bawb sy'n 16. Rwyf o blaid y cynnig, yn enwedig ar ôl bod mewn dadleuon ysgol a chweched dosbarth yn sir Gâr-yn sicr mae diddordeb ymysg y bobl ifanc. Y rhan a ddylai dderbyn y cyhoeddusrwydd heddiw yw'r ymdrech i gael y rhai â'r hawl i fwrw pleidlais i gofrestru, ac felly, i ddefnyddio'r hawl sy'n ganolog i ddemocratiaeth, fel y mae rhywun wedi'i ddweud yn barod ac rwy'n cytuno. Yn y dadleuon ysgol, mae amrywiaeth barn am bleidiau, a'u dewis nhw y dylai fod, ond wrth gwrs, i ryw raddau, mae hynny'n ddadl arall, a hoffwn gael mwy o amser i ehangu. Am nawr, croesawaf fod consensws yn y Siambr.

I'm also pleased to contribute and to be a co-sponsor to this afternoon's debate, and I agree with most of what has been said already. There are two parts to the debate—the one that has received most publicity is this concept of giving a vote to 16 year olds. I am in favour of this, particularly having attended school debates and sixth-form debates in Carmarthenshire—there is certainly an interest among young people. What we should be covering today is getting those who have the right to vote to actually register to do that and to use that right, which is at the heart of democracy, as has been said already, and I agree. In the school debates, there has been a variety of opinions about parties, and that is their choice, but, to a certain extent, that is another debate, and I would like more time to expand on that. For now I welcome the fact there is consensus in the Chamber.

Yn 2010, cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig gynlluniau i gyflymu'r broses o gofrestru etholwyr. Y cymhelliad oedd pryder ynglŷn â thwyll a'r awydd i wella ffydd yn y gyfundrefn ethol. Ond roedd pryder gan sawl un dros y cyflymder a'r seilwaith cefnogol i wireddu'r amcan. Er mwyn atal cwymp sylweddol mewn niferoedd, mae gan etholwyr tan ar ôl etholiad 2015 i gydymffurfio, ond dim hyd at etholiadau'r Cynulliad yn 2016, sydd yn siomedig yn fy marn i. Dyna pam rwy'n cefnogi gwelliant 1 y prynhawn yma.

In 2010, the UK Government published plans to hasten the process of voter registration. The motive was concern about fraud and the need to enhance confidence in the electoral system. But many were concerned about the haste and the support infrastructure in order to achieve this. In order to prevent a significant decline in numbers, electors have until after the 2015 election to comply, but not up to the Assembly elections in 2016, which is disappointing in my view. That is why I support amendment 1 today.

Ar y pryd, roedd y raddfa gofrestru rhyw 91%. Yn ôl y deallusion, roedd y nifer hwn yn cymharu'n ffafriol ag ystadegau rhyngwladol. Eto i gyd, yng ngolau dydd, mae'n golygu bod bron un ym mhob 10 â'r hawl i fwrw pleidlais heb gofrestru, ac felly heb y gallu ymarferol i fwrw pleidlais.

At the time, registration levels were at some 91%. According to those in the know, this number compared favourably with international statistics. However, in the cold light of day, it does mean that almost one in 10 of those who have the right to vote, remain unregistered, so they cannot practically cast a vote.

Mae David Cameron yn adnabyddus am annog pobl i ddeffro ac i wynto'r coffi. Yn ôl arweinydd Llafur, drewdod sinigaidd oedd yr arogl. Roedd addewidion gwag Nick Clegg wedi perswadio llawer o fyfyrwyr mewn trefi a dinasoedd gyda cholegau a phrifysgolion mawr i droi at y bobl a ffurfiodd, maes o law, Lywodraeth y glymblaid. Yn lle llaesu dwylo a chnoi cul yn unig, penderfynodd ymgyrchwyr i fynd i'r afael â'r pwnc gan annog pobl i gofrestru, fel y dywedodd Simon yn gynharach, gyda ffurfiad 'Bite the Ballot', i weithredu ar brinder ymwybyddiaeth ac addysg, achos dyma sydd wrth wraidd y pwnc—yr angen i ledaenu cysylltiad. Mae'n ymgyrch lwyddiannus gyda strategaeth lefel uwch a chwmpasog, sy'n defnyddio enwogion a chyfryngau cymdeithasol. Mae'n blatfform cyfredol a pherthnasol i'r oedran. Rwy'n croesawu gwaith mewn ysgolion, cyfryngau cymdeithasol ac ar y we. Os ydym yn wirioneddol am gysylltu â phobl ifanc, dyma'r sianeli effeithiol a phellgyrhaeddol.

David Cameron is known for encouraging people to wake up and smell the coffee. According to the Labour leader, it was a cynical stench. The empty promises of Nick Clegg had persuaded many students in towns where there were major universities and colleges to turn to the people who became, in due course, part of the coalition Government. Rather than resting on their laurels, campaigners decided to actually tackle this issue, encouraging people to register, as Simon said earlier, with the creation of Bite the Ballot, to take action on the issue of awareness and education. This is at the heart of the issue—the need to actually disseminate information. It's a successful campaign, which uses famous people and social media. It's a relevant platform for the age-group being targeted. I welcome work in schools, on social media and online. If we are truly to engage with young people, these are the effective channels to do so.

Braf oedd gweld, yn yr Alban, ddisgyblion ysgol yn pleidleisio cyn mynd i'r ysgol. Roedd yr egni a'r cyhoeddusrwydd yn amlwg wedi cysylltu a denu sylw fel mater sy'n effeithio ar eu dyfodol nhw. Onid yw'n wir fod pob etholiad yn effeithio ar y dyfodol-yn sicr yn y pum mlynedd nesaf, a fydd yn hollbwysig? Cael swyddi fydd yn bwysig iddyn nhw, efallai prynu tai a ffurfio barn ymhellach.

It was good to see, in Scotland, pupils voting before going to school. The energy and publicity had obviously garnered their interest, because it actually affected their future. But isn't it true to say that every election has an impact on the future—particularly over the next five years, when it will be crucial? Jobs will become important, perhaps buying homes and developing further opinions.

Rwy'n falch o weld y sawl fforwm gwleidyddol sydd ar gael i bobl ifanc sydd â diddordeb cynrychioli a thrafod ond ni fydd hyn yn ddewis i bawb. Un mater a gododd yw nad yw'r llenyddiaeth a'r iaith, fel y dywedodd Aled yn gynharach, yn ddigon hawdd i'w deall. Rwyf wedi gweld gwaith da timau'r Cynulliad yma, yn enwedig fersiwn pobl ifanc o ddeddfwriaeth—esiamplau ymarferol o ymgysylltu effeithiol.

I am pleased to see the many political forums available to young people who are interested in representation and debate, but this won't be a choice for everyone. One issue raised is that the literature and the language used, as Aled said earlier, are not accessible enough. I have seen excellent work done by the teams here at the Assembly, particularly the young people's version of legislation—practical examples of effective engagement.

I orffen, yn ôl un pôl piniwn, bydd cynifer ag 800,000 o bobl ifanc rhwng 18 ac 21 heb yr hawl i fwrw pleidlais yn yr etholiad cyffredinol am nad ydynt ar y gofrestr etholiadol. Mae tua 30% o'r rhai rhwng 18 a 24 heb gofrestru—chwe gwaith canran y rhai dros 65 oed. Mae'n ddadl holistaidd; heblaw bod pobl ifanc yn teimlo'n gysylltiedig, ni fyddant yn chwarae rhan—a'r cam cyntaf yw cofrestru. Mae Aelodau o bob plaid wedi rhybuddio bod gweithredu buan, pendant a diamwys yn hanfodol os ydym am weld, unwaith eto, 70% o etholwyr yn bwrw pleidlais—rhywbeth a welwyd ddiwethaf yn ôl yn 1992.

To conclude, according to one opinion poll, as many as 800,000 young people between 18 and 21 years of age won't have the right to vote in the general election because they aren't on the electoral register. Some 30% of those between 18 and 24 remain unregistered—six times the percentage of those aged over 65. It is a holistic argument; unless young people feel engaged, they will not participate—and the first step is registration. Members of all parties have warned that urgent action is crucial if we are to see, once again, 70% of electors actually voting—something that we last saw back in 1992.

15:34

Jeff Cuthbert Bywgraffiad Biography

I very much welcome the opportunity to contribute to this debate today—a very important one, given the impending UK general election, a wide-ranging constitutional debate about the future of our union and recent changes to voter registration in England, Scotland and Wales.

Rwy'n croesawu'r cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl hon heddiw—mae'n un bwysig iawn o ystyried yr etholiad cyffredinol sydd ar y gorwel yn y DU. Mae'n ddadl gyfansoddiadol eang am ddyfodol ein hundeb a newidiadau diweddar i'r drefn o gofrestru pleidleiswyr yng Nghymru, Lloegr a'r Alban.

Now, the rise in support, across Europe, over the last year for populist parties—of the right and left—along with last September's referendum on the issue of Scottish independence, show that we live in increasingly politicised times. It's during times like these that democratic engagement, particularly among young people, and others who have traditionally felt disenfranchised, becomes all the more important.

Yn awr, mae'r cynnydd yn y gefnogaeth i bleidiau poblyddol ledled Ewrop dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf—ar yr adain dde a'r adain chwith—ynghyd â refferendwm fis Medi diwethaf ar fater annibyniaeth yr Alban, yn dangos ein bod yn byw mewn cyfnod cynyddol wleidyddol. Ar adegau fel hyn y mae ymgysylltiad democrataidd, yn enwedig ymhlith pobl ifanc, ac eraill sydd wedi teimlo'n draddodiadol eu bod wedi'u difreinio, yn dod yn bwysicach fyth.

Llywydd, I often go to the Chamber gallery, or Tŷ Hywel, in order to meet school students visiting from my constituency. Whether they are of primary or secondary age, I always emphasise to them the importance of registering to vote when they are old enough to do so. I tell them that, even if they are dissatisfied with the way politics is done, and do not support any of the political parties or candidates standing in their constituency, they should still register to vote. If people become apathetic, and do not exercise their democratic right, history has shown us that this creates a vacuum—one which is usually exploited by populist demagogues, or, even worse, by tyrants.

Lywydd, rwy'n aml yn mynd i oriel y Siambr, neu i Dŷ Hywel er mwyn cwrdd â myfyrwyr ysgol sy'n ymweld â'r fan hon o fy etholaeth. Pa un a ydynt yn ddisgyblion cynradd neu uwchradd, rwyf bob amser yn pwysleisio pa mor bwysig yw cofrestru i bleidleisio pan fyddant yn ddigon hen i wneud hynny. Rwy'n dweud wrthynt, hyd yn oed os ydynt yn anfodlon â'r ffordd y caiff gwleidyddiaeth ei chyflawni, ac os nad ydynt yn cefnogi unrhyw un o'r pleidiau gwleidyddol neu'r ymgeiswyr sy'n sefyll yn eu hetholaeth, dylent ddal i gofrestru i bleidleisio. Os yw pobl yn mynd yn ddifater, ac yn rhoi'r gorau i arfer eu hawl ddemocrataidd, mae hanes wedi dangos i ni fod hynny'n creu gwactod—un sydd fel arfer yn cael ei ecsbloetio gan ddemagogiaid poblyddol neu'n waeth byth, gan ormeswyr.

Disappointing turnout figures amongst young people at the last UK general election supports the growing urgency of getting this particular cohort to register to vote. Now, while I am very much in favour of cracking down on electoral fraud, I do have concerns about the UK Government's recent move towards individual electoral registration. In particular, I'm concerned that many people, including those amongst whom voter registration and turnout levels are traditionally low, will now drop off the register altogether, often unknowingly. Ed Miliband recently highlighted the scandal of nearly 1 million voters falling off the register in 307 of the 373 local authorities that have been polled. Clearly, this is a worrying statistic, and we have to do everything that we can to encourage and boost voter registration.

Mae ffigurau siomedig y nifer o bobl ifanc a bleidleisiodd yn etholiad cyffredinol diwethaf y DU yn galw am frys cynyddol i gael y garfan benodol hon i gofrestru i bleidleisio. Nawr, er fy mod yn gryf o blaid cael gwared ar dwyll etholiadol, mae gennyf bryderon ynglŷn â'r ffordd y mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi symud yn ddiweddar tuag at gofrestru i bleidleisio'n unigol. Yn benodol, rwy'n pryderu y bydd llawer o bobl, gan gynnwys lle y mae lefelau cofrestru pleidleiswyr a lefelau pleidleisio yn isel yn draddodiadol, yn awr yn disgyn oddi ar y gofrestr yn gyfan gwbl, yn aml yn ddiarwybod. Yn ddiweddar, amlygodd Ed Miliband y sgandal fod bron i 1 filiwn o bleidleiswyr wedi disgyn oddi ar y gofrestr yn 307 o'r 373 o awdurdodau lleol a arolygwyd. Yn amlwg, mae'n ystadegyn sy'n peri pryder, ac mae'n rhaid i ni wneud popeth yn ein gallu i annog ac ysgogi pleidleiswyr i gofrestru.

Chris Ruane, the Labour MP for the Vale of Clwyd, has done a lot of good work on highlighting this issue, and I would also like to pay tribute to Labour-controlled Caerphilly County Borough Council for ensuring as smooth a transition as possible to the new system for my constituents.

Mae Chris Ruane, yr AS Llafur dros Ddyffryn Clwyd, wedi gwneud llawer o waith da ar dynnu sylw at y mater hwn, a hoffwn hefyd dalu teyrnged i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Llafur Caerffili—am sicrhau trosglwyddiad mor esmwyth â phosibl i'r system newydd ar gyfer fy etholwyr.

Now, point 2 of the motion refers to turnout. So, one issue that I believe is linked closely to voter registration is that of compulsory voting. I know that this is an issue that divides many people, but I think that the danger of permanent disengagement amongst certain groups of people is so great that it is at least an idea that needs considering. Most famously, of course, compulsory voting is enforced for federal and state elections in Australia, where voter turnout is usually very high. Indeed, some states also enforce compulsory voting in local government elections. Some other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries also enforce it, whilst a number of others, such as Belgium, have legislation in place, but do not use it yet. Clearly—

Yn awr, mae pwynt 2 y cynnig yn cyfeirio at y nifer a bleidleisiodd. Felly, un mater y credaf ei fod yn cysylltu'n agos â chofrestru pleidleiswyr yw pleidleisio gorfodol. Gwn fod hwn yn fater sy'n rhannu llawer o bobl, ond credaf fod y perygl o ymddieithrio parhaol ymysg grwpiau penodol o bobl mor fawr fel ei fod o leiaf yn syniad y mae angen ei ystyried. Yn fwyaf enwog, wrth gwrs, mae pleidleisio gorfodol yn cael ei arfer mewn etholiadau ffederal a thaleithiol yn Awstralia, lle y mae'r ganran sy'n pleidleisio fel arfer yn uchel iawn. Yn wir, mae rhai taleithiau hefyd yn arfer pleidleisio gorfodol mewn etholiadau llywodraeth leol. Mae rhai gwledydd eraill y Sefydliad ar gyfer Cydweithrediad a Datblygiad Economaidd hefyd yn ei orfodi, ac mae nifer o rai eraill, megis Gwlad Belg, â deddfwriaeth ar waith, ond nid ydynt yn ei ddefnyddio eto. Yn amlwg—

15:38 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Will you give way?

A wnewch chi ildio?

15:38 **Jeff Cuthbert** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Yes, certainly.

Gwnaf, yn sicr.

15:38 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

I'm grateful to Jeff Cuthbert for giving way on this point.

Diolch i Jeff Cuthbert am ildio ar y pwynt hwn.

I don't agree with compulsory voting, but I agree with him that it's worth discussing and having that debate. But, of course, compulsory voting can't work unless you do have individual voter registration, which was in the Labour Party manifesto in 2010. So, if we agree that we need individual registration, surely the first task must be to get everyone registered, otherwise we can't even move to compulsory voting.

Nid wyf yn cytuno â phleidleisio gorfodol, ond rwy'n cytuno ag ef ei bod yn werth trafod a chael y ddadl honno. Ond wrth gwrs, ni all pleidleisio gorfodol weithio heb i bobl gofrestru i bleidleisio'n unigol, a oedd ym maniffesto'r Blaid Lafur yn 2010. Felly, os ydym yn cytuno bod arnom angen cofrestru'n unigol, yn sicr y dasg gyntaf yw sicrhau bod pawb yn cael ei gofrestru, fel arall ni allwn ystyried newid i bleidleisio gorfodol hyd yn oed.

15:38 **Jeff Cuthbert** Bywgraffiad Biography

I do believe in having everyone registered, but I believe the current drive of the UK Government is not helpful, and I believe will result in large numbers being excluded. But I'm not against the principle of individual voter registration.

Rwyf o'r farn y dylai pawb gael ei gofrestru, ond rwy'n credu nad yw ymgyrch bresennol Llywodraeth y DU yn ddefnyddiol, ac rwy'n meddwl y bydd yn arwain at eithrio niferoedd mawr o bobl. Ond nid wyf yn erbyn yr egwyddor o gofrestru i bleidleisio'n unigol.

Now, clearly, such a radical measure could only be effective if it was enforced and there were clear sanctions to encourage democratic engagement, so it's very much a package of measures. It's timely, therefore, that we have had this debate today. Only last week, we had the national voter registration day here in the Senedd. The Scottish independence referendum, meanwhile, electrified the political climate in that country. Now, regardless of what side you supported, you cannot deny that it resulted in high voter turnout. Part of that, surely, was that a real effort was made, by both sides, to engage those who wouldn't normally vote. We need to do this across the UK, and particularly in Wales, to ensure that young people, in particular, don't become a lost cause to the democratic process.

Nawr, yn amlwg, ni all mesur mor radical fod yn effeithiol oni bai ei fod yn cael ei orfodi a bod sancsiynau clir i annog ymgysylltiad democrataidd, felly mae'n bendant yn becyn o fesurau. Mae'n amserol, felly, ein bod wedi cael y ddadl hon heddiw. Yr wythnos diwethaf, cawsom ddiwrnod cenedlaethol cofrestru pleidleiswyr yma yn y Senedd. Mae refferendwm annibyniaeth yr Alban, yn y cyfamser, wedi trydaneiddio'r hinsawdd wleidyddol yn y wlad honno. Nawr, ar ba ochr bynnag roeddech chi, ni allwch wadu ei fod wedi arwain at nifer uchel o bobl yn pleidleisio. Rhan o hynny, yn bendant, oedd yr ymdrech wirioneddol a wnaed gan y ddwy ochr i ymgysylltu â phobl na fyddent fel arfer yn pleidleisio. Mae angen i ni wneud hyn ar draws y DU, ac yn enwedig yng Nghymru, er mwyn sicrhau bod pobl ifanc, yn arbennig, yn cael eu cynnwys yn y broses ddemocrataidd.

15:39 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I call the Minister for Public Services, Leighton Andrews.

Galwaf ar y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, Leighton Andrews.

15:39 **Leighton Andrews** Bywgraffiad Biography

Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus / The Minister for Public Services

Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer. I would like to start by thanking Simon Thomas and the other sponsors of this motion for bringing it before us today. We are taking the unusual step of a Government amendment in respect of an individual Member's debate, simply because we believe that the amendment we've tabled is not likely to be controversial in this Chamber and we think it is capable of being supported by all Members.

Diolch i chi, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Hoffwn ddechrau drwy ddiolch i Simon Thomas a noddwyr eraill y cynnig hwn am ei gyflwyno heddiw. Rydym yn cymryd y cam anarferol o gynnig gwelliant gan y Llywodraeth mewn perthynas â dadl Aelod unigol yn syml am ein bod o'r farn nad yw'r gwelliant a gyflwynir gennym yn debygol o fod yn ddadleuol yn y Siambr hon, ac rydym yn credu y gall ennyn cefnogaeth yr holl Aelodau .

I'd like to welcome the work of organisations and campaigns like Bite the Ballot—they are to be congratulated, as are organisations such as NUS Wales and the Electoral Reform Society. We're working hard to make sure that young people know how to register and then to go on to vote, and the Welsh Government is working closely with the National Union of Students on this issue.

Hoffwn groesawu gwaith sefydliadau ac ymgyrchoedd fel Bite the Ballot—maent i'w llongyfarch, fel y mae sefydliadau fel Undeb Cenedlaethol Myfyrwyr Cymru a'r Gymdeithas Diwygio Etholiadol. Rydym yn gweithio'n galed i wneud yn siŵr fod pobl ifanc yn gwybod sut i gofrestru ac yna'n mynd ati i bleidleisio, ac mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithio'n agos gydag Undeb Cenedlaethol y Myfyrwyr ar y mater hwn.

There is always a need for a push to ensure that new potential voters are registered, but as many speakers in this Chamber have said, it is particularly acute this year because of the way in which individual electoral registration has been taken forward. There's nothing wrong in principle, let me say, with individual electoral registration, but I think the shifting of the implementation timescales and other changes have not helped in that process. We know that there have been criticisms of the way it's been implemented by electoral registration officers by the Electoral Commission and others.

Mae angen hwb bob amser i sicrhau bod pleidleiswyr posibl newydd yn cael eu cofrestru, ond fel y mae llawer o siaradwyr yn y Siambr hon wedi ei ddweud, mae'n arbennig o bwysig eleni oherwydd y ffordd y mae cofrestru i bleidleisio'n unigol wedi cael ei gyflwyno. Nid oes dim o'i le mewn egwyddor, gadewch i mi ddweud, ar gofrestru i bleidleisio'n unigol, ond rwy'n credu nad yw newid yr amserlenni gweithredu a newidiadau eraill wedi helpu yn y broses honno. Gwyddom fod sawl un wedi beirniadu'r ffordd y cafodd ei weithredu gan swyddogion cofrestru etholiadol y Comisiwn Etholiadol ac eraill.

As Members will be aware, we believe that the move to individual registration has not been fully thought through. Electoral registration officers, usually chief executives of local authorities, are being enabled under the Electoral Registration Administration Act 2013 to carry forward names on the 2013 register who were not picked up under the initial individual registration exercise of 2014 onto the register of electors for the general election. Although they have the power to do so, UK Ministers—despite pressure from us and from the Electoral Commission—have not yet agreed to allow the same process for the 2015 exercise, which updates the register for the Assembly and other devolved elections in 2016, to take place. This extra year would give more time for the system to bed in and avoid the risk of a further big drop in registration between the two sets of elections. That is why we have proposed the Government amendment today, which we hope the Assembly will support.

Fel y gŵyr yr Aelodau, credwn nad oedd y newid i gofrestru'n unigol wedi cael ei ystyried yn llawn. Mae swyddogion cofrestru etholiadol, sef prif weithredwyr awdurdodau lleol fel arfer, yn cael eu galluogi o dan Ddeddf Cofrestru a Gweinyddu Etholiadol 2013 i ddwyn enwau ymlaen oddi ar gofrestr 2013, na chawsant eu codi yn rhan o ymarfer cofrestru unigol cychwynnol 2014, i'r gofrestr etholwyr ar gyfer yr etholiad cyffredinol. Er bod ganddynt y pŵer i wneud hynny, nid yw Gweinidogion y DU wedi cytuno eto—er gwaethaf pwysau gennym ni a'r Comisiwn Etholiadol—i ganiatáu i'r un broses ddigwydd ar gyfer ymarfer 2015, sy'n diweddaru'r gofrestr er mwyn i etholiad y Cynulliad ac etholiadau datganoledig eraill yn 2016 allu digwydd. Byddai'r flwyddyn ychwanegol hon yn rhoi mwy o amser i'r system ymsefydlu ac yn osgoi'r perygl o ostyngiad mawr pellach yn y lefelau cofrestru rhwng y ddwy set o etholiadau. Dyna pam rydym wedi cynnig gwelliant y Llywodraeth heddiw, a gobeithiwn y bydd y Cynulliad yn ei gefnogi.

There is evidence to show that there has already been a large drop, as colleagues have said. My colleague the Member for Caerphilly referred to research by the Labour Party that has shown a drop of almost 1 million voters between the 2014 and 2015 registers, and as my colleague the Member for Cardiff Central said, the areas in which it appears the biggest falls have been seen are in student wards in university towns and cities, like Cardiff. It is now clear that, as responsibility for registering has been left to individuals, they are often not being registered at home or at university, and because many are first-time voters, they cannot be carried forward from a previous register. And, of course, landlords—often universities themselves—can no longer register students en bloc.

Mae yna dystiolaeth i ddangos bod gostyngiad mawr wedi bod eisoes, fel y dywedodd cyd-Aelodau. Mae fy nghyd-Aelod, yr Aelod dros Gaerffili, wedi cyfeirio at ymchwil gan y Blaid Lafur a ddangosodd ostyngiad o bron i 1 filiwn o bleidleiswyr rhwng y gofrestr ar gyfer 2014 a'r gofrestr ar gyfer 2015, ac fel y dywedodd fy nghyd-Aelod, yr Aelod dros Ganol Caerdydd, yr ardaloedd lle y gwelwyd y gostyngiadau mwyaf yw wardiau myfyrwyr mewn trefi a dinasoedd prifysgol fel Caerdydd. Mae bellach yn amlwg, wrth i'r cyfrifoldeb dros gofrestru gael ei adael i unigolion, yn aml ni chânt eu cofrestru yn eu cartrefi nac yn y brifysgol, ac oherwydd bod llawer ohonynt yn pleidleisio am y tro cyntaf, ni ellir eu dwyn ymlaen o gofrestr flaenorol. Ac wrth gwrs, ni all landlordiaid—y prifysgolion eu hunain yn aml—gofrestru myfyrwyr ên bloc mwyach.

I've written to all electoral registration officers to establish the state of the register in each area and, in university areas, what is being done to register students. There have been individual efforts to counter this. Ceredigion County Council, for example, has carried out a very good campaign to sign up students to the register, along with the local students union, using imaginative literature, including beer mats, to both entice them to vote and to warn of the potential penalty for not registering.

Rwyf wedi ysgrifennu at bob swyddog cofrestru etholiadol i bennu cyflwr y gofrestr ym mhob ardal a'r hyn sy'n cael ei wneud i gofrestru myfyrwyr mewn ardaloedd prifysgol. Cafwyd ymdrechion unigol i wrthsefyll hyn. Mae Cyngor Sir Ceredigion, er enghraifft, wedi cynnal ymgyrch dda iawn i gofrestru myfyrwyr gyda'r undeb myfyrwyr yn lleol, drwy ddefnyddio llenyddiaeth ddychmygus, gan gynnwys matiau cwrw, i'w denu i bleidleisio ac i rybuddio am y gosb bosibl am beidio â chofrestru.

We obviously want to encourage young people to register while they're in school, and encourage them to vote then, when they are eligible, because, as Members have said, getting into the habit of voting early is an important guarantee that people will carry on using that right during the rest of their lives.

Rydym yn amlwg yn awyddus i annog pobl ifanc i gofrestru tra'u bod yn yr ysgol, a'u hannog i bleidleisio pan fyddant yn gymwys, oherwydd, fel y mae Aelodau wedi dweud, mae mynd i'r arfer o bleidleisio'n gynnar yn rhoi sicrwydd pwysig y bydd pobl yn dal ati i ddefnyddio'r hawl weddill eu hoes.

I think it's fair to say that young people are actively engaged in political issues, and in political movements, let me say, but not necessarily in the political process, as we in this Chamber would always recognise it. Indeed, they may be more concerned about political issues in general than we were. Their concerns about social justice, equality, prejudice, the environment, peace and war are evidence of this, but this is often coupled with a cynicism towards politics, which is eagerly supported and fed by parts of the media, giving the impression that the process of politics cannot do much to challenge and change the problems that concern young people.

Rwy'n credu ei bod yn deg dweud bod pobl ifanc yn cymryd rhan weithredol mewn materion gwleidyddol, ac mewn mudiadau gwleidyddol, gadewch i mi ddweud, ond nid o reidrwydd yn y broses wleidyddol fel y byddem yn ei hadnabod yn y Siambr hon. Yn wir, efallai y byddant yn poeni mwy am faterion gwleidyddol yn gyffredinol na ninnau. Mae eu pryderon am gyfiawnder cymdeithasol, cydraddoldeb, rhagfarn, yr amgylchedd, heddwch a rhyfel yn dystiolaeth o hyn, ond yn aml mae hyn yn cael ei gyplysu â sinigiaeth tuag at wleidyddiaeth, sy'n cael ei gynnal a'i fwydo'n eiddgar gan rannau o'r cyfryngau, gan roi'r argraff na all y broses wleidyddol wneud llawer i herio a newid y problemau sydd o bwys i bobl ifanc.

I'm pleased that the National Assembly has its school scheme—bringing schools to this Assembly and the outreach scheme as well, which takes people to schools. We are committed, of course, to ensuring that we have a more diverse range of people involved in politics, and that's why we've been supporting moves, as the Welsh Government, just this last week at Coleg Gwent, talking to students about the mentoring scheme we're organising to engage people in local government and to consider becoming candidates in community or county councils in the future.

Rwy'n falch fod gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ei gynllun ysgolion—sy'n dod ag ysgolion i'r Cynulliad hwn, a'r cynllun allgymorth hefyd, sy'n mynd â phobl i ysgolion. Rydym wedi ymrwymo, wrth gwrs, i sicrhau bod gennym ystod fwy amrywiol o bobl yn ymwneud â gwleidyddiaeth, a dyna pam rydym ni, fel Llywodraeth Cymru, wedi bod yn cefnogi camau, fel y gwelwyd yn ystod yr wythnos diwethaf hon yng Ngholeg Gwent, i siarad â myfyrwyr am y cynllun mentora rydym yn ei drefnu i gynnwys pobl mewn llywodraeth leol ac i ystyried dod yn ymgeiswyr ar gyfer cynghorau cymuned neu gynghorau sir yn y dyfodol.

We know here that democracy can only be strong if people participate in it. We know that if they don't, other ways can be found for them to express themselves, and there are dangers always of social detachment and more extreme forms of political activity. We want our institutions to reflect society. We are committed in this place to seeing more women in politics, more young people and more people from minority ethnic groups. If people see our elected chambers as reflections of themselves, I think they are likely to value the process of politics more. I hope that Members will support the Government amendment.

Fe wyddom yma na all y broses ddemocrataidd fod yn gryf oni bai bod pobl yn cymryd rhan ynddi. Os na wnânt hynny, gwyddom y gellid dod o hyd i ffyrdd eraill iddynt fynegi eu hunain, ac mae perygl bob amser o ddatgysylltiad cymdeithasol a ffurfiau mwy eithafol o weithgaredd gwleidyddol. Rydym am i'n sefydliadau adlewyrchu cymdeithas. Rydym wedi ymrwymo yn y lle hwn i sicrhau bod rhagor o fenywod yn cymryd rhan mewn gwleidyddiaeth, ynghyd â rhagor o bobl ifanc a rhagor o bobl o grwpiau lleiafrifoedd ethnig. Os yw pobl yn gweld ein siambrau etholedig fel adlewyrchiadau ohonynt eu hunain, rwy'n meddwl eu bod yn debygol o werthfawrogi proses gwleidyddiaeth yn fwy. Rwy'n gobeithio y bydd yr Aelodau'n cefnogi gwelliant y Llywodraeth.

15:45

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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I call Ann Jones to reply to the debate.

Galwaf ar Ann Jones i ymateb i'r ddadl.

15:45

Ann Jones Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer. Can I thank those Members who signed the individual Members' debate, following Simon Thomas's statement of opinion around national voter registration and the week of action that Bite the Ballot has been hosting? Simon outlined in an exemplary manner, might I say, the ways in which we need good electoral registration. I think it's not just that we need to have those people there, but many of us, or all of us, will have come across streets whereby you look at numbers and you don't go to that one street, and when you go and ask, and you do knock the door, you find out they're not registered. I think that's always the worry and the difficulty and the disappointment. You know, I get to the stage sometimes when I think I don't really—well, I do care how they vote, but I don't really care, but I want them on the register in the first place to be able to exercise that democratic right that many have fought for and that we do cherish quite often.

Diolch i chi, Ddirprwy Lywydd. A gaf fi ddiolch i'r Aelodau a lofnododd ddadl yr Aelodau unigol, yn dilyn datganiad barn Simon Thomas ynghylch cofrestru pleidleiswyr yn genedlaethol a'r wythnos o weithredu a gynhaliwyd gan Bite the Ballot? Amlinellodd Simon mewn modd canmoladwy, os caf ddweud, y ffyrdd y mae angen trefn gofrestru etholiadol dda. Nid yn unig fod angen i ni gael y bobl ar y gofrestr, ond bydd llawer ohonom, neu bawb ohonom, wedi dod ar draws strydoedd lle rydych yn edrych ar y rhifau ac ni fyddwch yn mynd i lawr y stryd honno, a phan ewch i ofyn, a churo ar y drws, fe welwch nad ydynt wedi cofrestru. Credaf mai dyna'r pryder bob amser, a'r anhawster a'r siom. Wyddoch chi, rwy'n cyrraedd pwynt weithiau pan rwy'n credu nad wyf mewn gwirionedd—wel, rwy'n malio pa ffordd y byddant yn pleidleisio, ond nid wyf yn poeni mewn gwirionedd, ond rwyf am iddynt fod ar y gofrestr yn y lle cyntaf er mwyn arfer yr hawl ddemocrataidd y mae llawer wedi brwydro drosti ac y byddwn yn aml yn ei thrysori.

It is worrying that almost half of 16 and 17-year-olds are not registered, and I think Simon put some good examples there of ways in which we could get voters onto lists, such as the way in which we can do that, rather than just really, you know, through the form, because a lot of people don't want to just fill in forms. I think there are some very good points that Simon made around how electronic voting could be used. When you look at the 'The X Factor' or 'The Voice', or whatever reality TV programme it is, you've got thousands of people who vote—'Strictly Come Dancing' was the one I was thinking of—by texting. So, I suppose, if they vote in their thousands for these reality shows, then perhaps we should be saying to electoral registration officers, 'Come on, let's look at bringing us all into the twenty-first century.' Simon's right: you know, you put yourself on the register, you turn up on a Thursday, when it's wet and windy, in the depths of winter, in some disused church hall, and you're given a piece of paper, it's not explained to you, and, at the end of the day, you walk away and you think, 'Well, what's that done?' So, I think that it's incumbent on all of us.

Mae'n peri pryder nad yw bron i hanner y bobl ifanc 16 a 17 oed wedi cael eu cofrestru, ac rwy'n meddwl bod Simon wedi rhoi enghreifftiau da o ffyrdd y gallem gael pleidleiswyr ar restrau, er enghraifft sut y gallwn wneud hynny, yn hytrach na thrwy ffurflen yn unig, wyddoch chi, gan fod llawer o bobl nad ydynt yn awyddus i lenwi ffurflenni. Rwy'n meddwl bod Simon wedi gwneud rhai pwyntiau da iawn ynghylch sut y gellid defnyddio pleidleisio electronig. Pan edrychwch ar yr 'The X Factor' neu 'The Voice', neu ba raglen bynnag, mae gennych filoedd o bobl sy'n pleidleisio—'Strictly Come Dancing' oedd yr un roeddwn yn meddwl amdani—drwy anfon neges destun. Felly, mae'n debyg, os ydynt yn pleidleisio yn eu miloedd ar gyfer y sioeau realiti hyn, yna efallai y dylem fod yn dweud wrth swyddogion cofrestru etholiadol, 'Dewch ymlaen, gadewch i ni ystyried symud pawb i mewn i'r unfed ganrif ar hugain.' Mae Simon yn iawn: wyddoch chi, rydych yn rhoi eich hun ar y gofrestr, rydych yn troi allan ar ddydd Iau, pan mae'n wlyb a gwyntog, yng nghanol gaeaf, i fynd i festri segur, ac rydych yn cael darn o bapur, a dim yn cael ei egluro i chi, ac yn y pen draw, rydych chi'n cerdded oddi yno ac yn meddwl, 'Wel, beth y mae hynny wedi ei wneud?' Felly, rwy'n meddwl bod honno'n ddyletswydd i bob un ohonom.

Aled mentioned ways in which we can move forward with legislation. Jenny, I think, made the good point that it's a simple task, but many are frightened of it, and if they've never used it and they haven't done it, then they are frightened to do it. So, it is about saying to them, 'This is a simple task that you can do on a computer, once you're there'. But, it is about people being able to trust us, I think, as well. I think that we have to build on that.

Crybwyllodd Aled ffyrdd y gallwn symud ymlaen â deddfwriaeth. Rwy'n meddwl mai Jenny a wnaeth y pwynt da ei bod yn dasg syml, ond mae ar lawer ei hofn, ac os nad ydynt erioed wedi ei defnyddio na'i gwneud, yna mae arnynt ofn ei gwneud. Felly, mae'n ymwneud â dweud wrthynt, 'Mae hon yn dasg syml y gallwch ei gwneud ar gyfrifiadur, unwaith y byddwch chi yno'. Ond mae'n ymwneud hefyd â gallu pobl i ymddiried ynom, rwy'n meddwl. Credaf fod yn rhaid inni adeiladu ar hynny.

Keith, you were right to say, you know, that there are those who have the right and they should be there—it doesn't matter what age groups they are in. But, I think, like you as well, that the way that the Assembly produces some youth-centred literature, which allows them to understand the legislation process, or allows them to understand ways in which committees look at scrutinising, is another way of engaging.

Keith, roeddech yn iawn i ddweud, wyddoch chi, fod yna rai sydd â'r hawl ac y dylent fod yno—nid oes wahaniaeth pa grwpiau oedran y maent ynddynt. Ond rwy'n credu, fel chithau hefyd, fod y ffordd y mae'r Cynulliad yn cynhyrchu llenyddiaeth sy'n canolbwyntio ar ieuenctid, i'w galluogi i ddeall y broses ddeddfwriaethol, neu i'w galluogi i ddeall sut y mae pwyllgorau'n gwneud gwaith craffu, yn ffordd arall o ymgysylltu .

I'm glad Jeff mentioned my colleague Chris Ruane, the MP, because, rest assured, he's very, very keen to see everybody on the electoral register. He's done an awful lot of work about this and he's been saying for a long time that—and it is where the Government amendment comes in—people will drop off the end of the register because of the change to individual electoral registration. Now, I know it was a former Labour Government that brought that in, and, you know, I can't—. I mean, the Minister made a good point in saying the principle of it is sound. Perhaps. I don't know whether the principle is sound, but I think there are some unintentional consequences there that nobody had thought about, about how people would match up, or how people would fall off. Often, it is the hardest-to-reach groups as well that will fall off the register, because if you've had your letter to say you've been matched, then that's fine. If you've had one that says, 'We're not sure whether you are the person that appears on here', are you really, really going to start delving into that? Are you going to provide more information? For a lot of people, the answer is 'no'. They won't. They'll just go, 'Ok, okay', and they put it aside.

Rwy'n falch fod Jeff wedi crybwyll fy nghydweithiwr, Chris Ruane, yr AS, oherwydd, yn sicr, mae'n awyddus iawn iawn i weld pawb ar y gofrestr etholiadol. Mae wedi gwneud llawer iawn o waith ar hyn ac mae wedi bod yn dweud ers amser hir—a dyma lle y daw gwelliant y Llywodraeth i mewn—y bydd pobl yn disgyn oddi ar y gofrestr oherwydd y newid i gofrestru i bleidleisio'n unigol. Yn awr, rwy'n gwybod mai cyn Lywodraeth Lafur a gyflwynodd hynny, a wyddoch chi, ni allaf—. Hynny yw, gwnaeth y Gweinidog bwynt da wrth ddweud bod yr egwyddor yn gadarn. Efallai. Nid wyf yn gwybod a yw'r egwyddor yn gadarn, ond rwy'n credu bod rhai canlyniadau anfwriadol yno nad oedd neb wedi meddwl amdanynt, ynglŷn â sut y byddai pobl yn paru, neu sut y byddai pobl yn disgyn oddi ar y gofrestr. Yn aml, y grwpiau mwyaf anodd eu cyrraedd a fydd hefyd yn disgyn oddi ar y gofrestr, oherwydd os ydych wedi cael eich llythyr i ddweud eich bod wedi'ch paru, yna mae hynny'n iawn. Os ydych wedi cael un sy'n dweud, 'Nid ydym yn siŵr ai chi yw'r person sy'n ymddangos fan hyn', a ydych chi wir, wir yn mynd i ddechrau edrych i mewn i hynny? A ydych yn mynd i roi rhagor o wybodaeth? I lawer o bobl, yr ateb yw 'na'. Ni fyddant yn gwneud hynny. Byddant yn dweud, 'O, iawn', ac yn ei roi o'r neilltu.

15:50 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I just wanted to reiterate the point that she was making, really, that individual registration surely is the soundest way ahead in a modern society where we want everyone to be treated equally, and we don't have this 'head of the household' kind of concept. But, if you do that in a really creaking system that is underinvested in anyway, you're going to get these problems, and it is incumbent on us as politicians to reach out to people, not to expect people simply to register themselves or to make some kind of choice by omission.

Roeddwn am ailadrodd y pwynt roedd hi'n ei wneud, mewn gwirionedd, mai cofrestru'n unigol yn bendant yw'r ffordd gadarnaf ymlaen mewn cymdeithas fodern lle rydym am i bawb gael eu trin yn gyfartal, a lle nad oes gennym y cysyniad o 'benteulu'. Ond os gwnewch hynny mewn system sy'n gwegian mewn gwirionedd a heb ei chyllido'n ddigonol, rydych yn mynd i gael y problemau hyn, ac mae'n ddyletswydd arnom ni fel gwleidyddion i estyn allan at bobl, a pheidio â disgwyl i bobl fynd ati'n syml i gofrestru eu hunain neu wneud rhyw fath o ddewis drwy esgeulustod.

15:50 **Ann Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Yes; I think you're absolutely right there, and I think that that is the problem. I think the individual registration—. Although, I always said I was the head of the household; I always filled the form in, and I always put myself above my husband because I paid most of the bills. But, hey, that's just a bit of indulgence, there. I think you're right; I think it gets away from heads of households, it gets away from landlords, and it gets away from some of the problems of election fraud that we were seeing. But because there was election fraud in some areas, that's not to say it happens everywhere, and therefore we shouldn't just do a blanket introduction of individual electoral registration without some checks and some balances, because there are 1 million people, or more than that, who are off. It is 1 million that we know of that will go off, and then how many weren't on the register under the old system?

Ie; rwy'n credu eich bod yn hollol iawn, ac rwy'n meddwl mai dyna'r broblem. Rwy'n meddwl bod cofrestru'n unigol —. Er fy mod bob amser wedi dweud mai fi oedd y penteulu; fi oedd bob amser yn llenwi'r ffurflen, a byddwn bob amser yn gosod fy hun uwchlaw fy ngŵr am mai fi oedd yn talu'r rhan fwyaf o'r biliau. Ond, hei, ychydig o ymfoddhad oedd hynny. Rwy'n meddwl eich bod yn iawn; rwy'n credu ei fod yn gam i ffwrdd oddi wrth benteuluoedd, oddi wrth landlordiaid, ac oddi wrth rai o'r problemau rydym yn eu gweld gyda thwyll etholiadol. Ond am fod twyll etholiadol mewn rhai ardaloedd, nid yw hynny'n dweud ei fod yn digwydd ym mhob man, ac felly ni ddylem gyflwyno cofrestru i bleidleisio'n unigol ym mhob man heb wirio a phwyso a mesur, oherwydd mae 1 filiwn o bobl, neu fwy na hynny, a fydd yn disgyn oddi ar y gofrestr. Mae'n 1 filiwn y gwyddom y byddant yn disgyn oddi ar y gofrestr, a faint o bobl wedyn nad oeddent ar y gofrestr o dan yr hen system?

15:51 **Peter Black** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Actually, Ann, it isn't 1 million people; it's a million entries that have fallen off the register. There are 66 councils that were surveyed as part of this survey where the number of people on the register went up. I think, in the case of students, many of them will already be registered at their parents', but they might have come off in their university town. So, I think what it boils down to is that we don't really know how many people have fallen off the register.

Mewn gwirionedd, Ann, nid yw'n 1 filiwn o bobl; mae'n filiwn o enwau sydd wedi disgyn oddi ar y gofrestr. Mae 66 o'r cynghorau a arolygwyd yn rhan o'r arolwg wedi gweld cynnydd yn nifer y bobl ar y gofrestr. Yn achos myfyrwyr, rwy'n credu y bydd llawer ohonynt eisoes wedi eu cofrestru yng nghartrefi eu rhieni, ond gallent fod wedi dod oddi ar y gofrestr yn eu tref brifysgol. Felly, rwy'n meddwl mai'r hyn ydyw yn y bôn yw nad ydym mewn gwirionedd yn gwybod faint o bobl sydd wedi disgyn oddi ar y gofrestr.

15:52 **Ann Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

No, you're probably right, and I can tell you that, within my area, you know, I don't have a big student population, but I know that there are a lot of people in rented accommodation in some of my areas who I don't think have ever been on the register. I think somebody made the point that we should get on the register, because if you don't vote within three times, then you're more likely not to.

Na, mae'n debyg eich bod yn iawn, a gallaf ddweud wrthych, wyddoch chi, nad oes gennyf boblogaeth fawr o fyfyrwyr yn fy ardal i, ond gwn fod llawer o bobl mewn llety ar rent yn rhai o fy ardaloedd nad wyf yn credu eu bod wedi eu cynnwys ar y gofrestr erioed. Rwy'n credu bod rhywun wedi gwneud y pwynt y dylem eu cael ar y gofrestr, oherwydd os nad ydych yn pleidleisio o fewn tri etholiad, yna rydych chi'n fwy tebygol o beidio â gwneud hynny.

I'm pleased that the Government amendment seems to have got some support across the Chamber, but I'd like to say 'thank you' to Simon for raising this, and for using this opportunity to highlight the work of Bite the Ballot, because I think that's a really useful organisation. It is incumbent on all of us to make sure that people do have that democratic right to vote, and then it's up to them to choose whether to use that democratic right or not.

Rwy'n falch fod gwelliant y Llywodraeth i'w weld wedi cael rhywfaint o gefnogaeth ar draws y Siambr, ond hoffwn ddiolch i Simon am godi hyn, ac am ddefnyddio'r cyfle i dynnu sylw at waith Bite the Ballot, oherwydd rwy'n credu ei fod yn sefydliad wirioneddol ddefnyddiol. Mae'n ddyletswydd ar bob un ohonom i sicrhau bod pobl yn cael yr hawl ddemocrataidd i bleidleisio, a mater iddynt hwy wedyn yw dewis a ydynt am ddefnyddio'r hawl ddemocrataidd honno ai peidio.

15:52

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

The proposal is to agree the motion without amendment. Does any Member object? [Objection.] I defer voting under this item until voting time.

Y cynnig yw derbyn y cynnig heb ei ddiwygio. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? [Gwrthwynebiad.] Gohiriaf y bleidlais dan yr eitem hon tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Gohiriwyd y pleidleisio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Voting deferred until voting time.

4. Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig: Tai

4. Welsh Conservatives Debate: Housing

Detholwyd y gwelliannau canlynol: gwelliannau 1, 2, 3 a 4 yn enw Aled Roberts.

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

15:53

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

Eitem 4 yw dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig ar dai. Galwaf ar Mark Isherwood i wneud y cynnig.

Item 4 is the Welsh Conservatives debate on housing. I call on Mark Isherwood to move the motion.

Cynnig NDM5687 Paul Davies

Motion NDM5687 Paul Davies

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Yn nodi bod dros 138,000 o bobl yng Nghymru wedi elwa o'r cynlluniau Hawl i Brynu a Hawl i Gaffael.

1. Notes that, in Wales, over 138,000 people have benefitted from the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire.

2. Yn gresynu at:

2. Regrets:

a) bwriad Llywodraeth Cymru i roi terfyn ar y cynlluniau Hawl i Brynu a Hawl i Gaffael yng Nghymru;

a) the Welsh Government's intention to end the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire in Wales;

b) y ffaith bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi methu â chyflawni cyflenwad priodol o dai fforddiadwy newydd yng Nghymru; ac

b) that the Welsh Government has failed to deliver an appropriate supply of new affordable housing in Wales; and

c) y ffaith bod nifer yr unedau tai cymdeithasol wedi gostwng ers i Lywodraeth Cymru fod yn gyfrifol am dai.

c) that the number of social housing units has decreased since the Welsh Government has had responsibility for housing.

3. Yn galw am raglen ddiwygio tai gynhwysfawr i gynyddu'r cyflenwad tai a lleddfu problemau o ran fforddiadwyedd.

3. Calls for a comprehensive housing reform programme to increase housing supply and alleviate problems of affordability.

Cynigiwyd y cynnig.

Motion moved.

15:53 **Mark Isherwood** Bywgraffiad Biography

The tenant's right to buy their home from a council and right to acquire their home from a housing association, at a discount, has been the most effective low-cost home ownership scheme ever, enabling 138,000 households to meet their aspiration to become home owners in Wales. Those of us who've worked in housing finance, and who studied housing law during the 1980s and 1990s, also know that this was not an end to social housing supply, but a switch to not-for-profit housing associations as main providers, because they could access greater finance and build more homes focused on outcomes rather than governmental processes. There are of course restrictions on purchase. A tenant must have been a resident, and paying rent for a minimum of five years, and the size of discount is determined by the length of tenancy. Further, a housing association tenant can only purchase a property built or bought by a housing association, using public funds, from 1 April 1997.

Hawl tenant i brynu eu cartref gan gyngor a hawl i gaffael eu cartref gan gymdeithas tai, am bris gostyngol, yw'r cynllun perchentyaeth cost isel mwyaf effeithiol a fu erioed, ac mae wedi galluogi 138,000 o aelwydydd i wireddu eu huchelgais i ddod yn berchnogion cartrefi yng Nghymru. Mae'r rhai ohonom sydd wedi gweithio ym maes cyllid tai, ac a fu'n astudio cyfraith tai yn ystod y 1980au a'r 1990au, hefyd yn gwybod nad diwedd ar y cyflenwad tai cymdeithasol oedd hyn, ond newid i sicrhau mai cymdeithasau tai dielw oedd y prif ddarparwyr, am eu bod yn gallu dod o hyd i fwy o arian i adeiladu mwy o gartrefi drwy ganolbwyntio ar ganlyniadau yn hytrach na phrosesau llywodraethol. Mae yna gyfyngiadau ar brynu, wrth gwrs. Rhaid i denant fod wedi bod yn breswylydd, ac yn talu rhent ers o leiaf bum mlynedd, a phennir maint y gostyngiad yn ôl hyd y denantiaeth. Ymhellach, ni all tenant cymdeithas dai brynu eiddo oni bai ei fod wedi'i adeiladu neu ei brynu gan gymdeithas dai, gan ddefnyddio arian cyhoeddus o 1 Ebrill 1997.

Welsh Labour's announcement of its intention to abolish the right to buy in Wales if it's still in power after 2016 would deny the prospect of home ownership to tenants, and miss an opportunity to increase the supply of affordable housing. The take-up of right to buy is no longer significant enough for its suspension to reduce housing pressure. Further, current legislation only allows councils to suspend the right to buy for a limited time in a specified area, which would not contribute to improving the availability of affordable housing, given findings by leading expert Professor Wilcox that tenants remain in occupation not for a limited time, but for 15 years on average. As the Welsh Affairs Committee in fact found, the suspension of the right to buy would not in itself result in an increase in the supply of affordable housing. The proposed scrapping of right to buy is a smokescreen and would not do anything to create more homes or increase the numbers of households with their own front doors. Despite warnings, the Welsh Government created the housing supply crisis, and Wales needs a comprehensive programme to address this.

Byddai cyhoeddiad Llafur Cymru am ei bwriad i ddiddymu'r hawl i brynu yng Nghymru os yw'n dal i fod mewn grym ar ôl 2016 yn gwadu'r posibilrwydd o berchentyaeth i denantiaid, ac yn colli cyfle i gynyddu'r cyflenwad o dai fforddiadwy. Nid yw'r nifer sy'n manteisio ar yr hawl i brynu yn ddigon arwyddocaol bellach fel bod ei hatal yn lleihau'r pwysau oherwydd prinder tai. Ymhellach, nid yw'r ddeddfwriaeth gyfredol ond yn caniatáu i gynghorau atal yr hawl i brynu am gyfnod cyfyngedig mewn ardal benodol, ac ni fyddai'n cyfrannu at wella argaeledd tai fforddiadwy, o ystyried canfyddiadau'r arbenigwr blaenllaw, yr Athro Wilcox, fod tenantiaid yn parhau mewn meddiant nid am amser cyfyngedig, ond am 15 mlynedd ar gyfartaledd. Fel y canfu'r Pwyllgor Materion Cymreig mewn gwirionedd, ni fyddai atal yr hawl i brynu ynddo'i hun yn arwain at gynnydd yn y cyflenwad o dai fforddiadwy. Taflu llwch i'r llygaid yn unig yw'r bwriad i gael gwared ar yr hawl i brynu ac ni fyddai'n gwneud dim i greu mwy o gartrefi neu gynyddu nifer y cartrefi â'u drws blaen eu hunain. Er gwaethaf rhybuddion, creodd Llywodraeth Cymru argyfwng cyflenwad tai, ac mae ar Gymru angen rhaglen gynhwysfawr i fynd i'r afael â hyn.

During the last eight years of Conservative Government, up to 1997, 60% of right to buy sales in Wales were replaced by new social housing, with 21,000 new units built, and sales being replaced on an almost like-for-like basis by 1997, increasing housing supply. However, by 2009-10, the Welsh Government had by far the lowest proportional level of housing expenditure of any of the four UK countries, and the 2012 UK housing review stated that it was the Welsh Government itself that gave housing lower priority in its overall budgets.

Yn ystod wyth mlynedd olaf y Llywodraeth Geidwadol, hyd at 1997, cafodd tai cymdeithasol newydd eu hadeiladu yn lle 60% o'r gwerthiannau hawl i brynu yng Nghymru, gyda 21,000 o unedau newydd yn cael eu hadeiladu, a thai'n cael eu hadeiladu yn lle gwerthiannau ar sail debyg am debyg, bron iawn, erbyn 1997, gan gynyddu'r cyflenwad tai. Fodd bynnag, erbyn 2009-10, Llywodraeth Cymru oedd â'r lefel gyfrannol isaf o bell ffordd o wariant tai o bob un o bedair gwlad y DU, a dywedodd adolygiad tai y DU yn 2012 mai Llywodraeth Cymru ei hun a roddodd flaenoriaeth is i dai yn ei chyllidebau cyffredinol.

During the first three Assembly terms, the Labour Welsh Government cut the number of new social homes in Wales by 71% and the overall number of social homes in Wales by 29,000, as the number of households on waiting lists grew in excess of 90,000. National House Building Council figures show that the total number of new homes built in Wales in 2012 was more than 50% down on 2007 and that Wales was still lagging behind UK growth rates. NHBC figures show that, although new UK home registrations rose 28% in 2013, Wales was the only part of the UK to see a fall. Although new homes registered in Wales increased during 2014 to 4,740, fuelled largely by the belated Welsh Government adoption of the UK Government's Help to Buy scheme, this is lower than the lowest figure of the nine English regions—5,296 in north-east England—and far lower than the 11,003 in Scotland, certainly when you factor in relative population sizes.

Yn ystod tri thymor cyntaf y Cynulliad, torrodd Llywodraeth Lafur Cymru 71% oddi ar nifer y cartrefi cymdeithasol newydd yng Nghymru, a 29,000 oddi ar gyfanswm y cartrefi cymdeithasol yng Nghymru, wrth i nifer y teuluoedd ar restrau aros godi dros 90,000. Mae ffigurau'r Cyngor Cenedlaethol Adeiladu Tai yn dangos bod cyfanswm y tai newydd a adeiladwyd yng Nghymru yn 2012 dros 50% yn is na 2007 a bod Cymru yn dal i lusgo y tu ôl i gyfraddau twf y DU. Mae ffigurau'r Cyngor Cenedlaethol Adeiladu Tai yn dangos, er bod cofrestriadau cartrefi newydd y DU wedi codi 28% yn 2013, Cymru oedd yr unig ran o'r DU i weld cwymp. Er bod nifer y cartrefi newydd a gofrestrwyd yng Nghymru wedi cynyddu yn ystod 2014 i 4,740, yn bennaf o ganlyniad i'r ffaith fod Llywodraeth Cymru, yn hwyr yn y dydd, wedi mabwysiadu cynllun Cymorth i Brynu Llywodraeth y DU, mae'n is na'r ffigur isaf o naw rhanbarth Lloegr—5,296 yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Lloegr—a llawer is na'r 11,003 yn yr Alban, yn sicr o ystyried y gwahaniaeth cymharol ym maint y poblogaethau.

Even with its recent increase, the Welsh Government's social housing grant is barely half the size left by the Conservative Government in 1997 and represents a massive cut after allowing for the house price inflation in the intervening years. Since my arrival in the Assembly 12 years ago, straight from building society and housing association experience, I have warned that urgent action was required if Wales was to avoid a housing supply crisis. Although I was a politician by then, I was speaking as a professional, but was responded to politically. This was ignored and derided by the Minister responsible for housing then, who still sits in Cabinet today, and every successive housing Minister. Let them, therefore, consider the opening paragraph of the October 2014 Homes for All Cymru manifesto, which states:

Hyd yn oed gyda'r cynnydd diweddar, prin hanner maint y grant tai cymdeithasol a adawyd gan y Llywodraeth Geidwadol yn 1997 yw grant tai cymdeithasol Llywodraeth Cymru ac mae'n doriad anferth ar ôl caniatáu ar gyfer chwyddiant prisiau tai yn y blynyddoedd ers hynny. Ers i mi gyrraedd y Cynulliad 12 mlynedd yn ôl, yn syth o brofiad gyda chymdeithasau adeiladu a chymdeithasau tai, rwyf wedi rhybuddio bod angen gweithredu ar frys os yw Cymru i osgoi argyfwng cyflenwad tai. Er fy mod yn wleidydd erbyn hynny, roeddwn yn siarad fel gweithiwr proffesiynol, ond ymateb gwleidyddol a gefais. Cafodd hyn ei anwybyddu a'i watwar gan y Gweinidog a oedd yn gyfrifol am dai ar y pryd ac sy'n dal yn aelod o'r Cabinet heddiw, a phob Gweinidog tai a'i holynodd. Felly, gadewch iddynt ystyried paragraff agoriadol maniffesto Cartrefi i Bawb Cymru, Hydref 2014, sy'n datgan:

'There is a housing crisis with more than 90,000 households on waiting lists and at least 5,000 affordable homes needed in Wales each year to meet current demand. It is vital that we explore innovative ways to increase the supply of affordable homes and better utilise the existing stock for use....Providing more affordable homes not only meets need; it is a key lever for local economic regeneration and employment and job creation.'

'Mae yna argyfwng tai gyda mwy na 90,000 o deuluoedd ar restrau aros ac mae angen o leiaf 5,000 o gartrefi fforddiadwy yng Nghymru bob blwyddyn i ateb y galw cyfredol. Mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn archwilio ffyrdd arloesol o gynyddu'r cyflenwad o dai fforddiadwy a defnyddio'r stoc bresennol yn well... Mae darparu rhagor o dai fforddiadwy nid yn unig yn diwallu angen; mae hefyd yn ddull allweddol o adfywio'r economi lleol a chyflogaeth a chreu swyddi.'

So, it's Labour's failure to build new affordable homes that has caused a housing supply crisis, not the right to buy, which has been emasculated under Labour and seen sales dwindle from the thousands to just a few hundred each year. Labour's decision to axe the right to buy, no doubt supported by Plaid Cymru, shows the party is anti-aspiration and won't trust tenants to make their own decisions about property ownership. The Welsh Conservatives have set out proposals to reform the right to buy, investing the proceeds of sales in new social housing, thereby increasing affordable housing supply and helping to tackle Labour's housing supply crisis. This reflects the reinvigorated right to buy policy in England.

Felly, methiant Llafur i adeiladu cartrefi fforddiadwy newydd sydd wedi achosi'r argyfwng cyflenwad tai, nid yr hawl i brynu, sydd wedi'i gwanhau dan Lafur ac wedi arwain at werthiannau'n edwino o'r miloedd i ddim ond ychydig gannoedd bob blwyddyn. Mae penderfyniad Llafur i gael gwared ar yr hawl i brynu, wedi'i gefnogi, mae'n siŵr, gan Blaid Cymru, yn dangos ei bod yn blaid sy'n gwrthwynebu dyhead ac nad yw am ymddiried mewn tenantiaid i wneud eu penderfyniadau eu hunain ynghylch perchentyaeth. Mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru wedi nodi argymhellion i ddiwygio'r hawl i brynu, gan fuddsoddi elw o werthiannau mewn tai cymdeithasol newydd, a thrwy hynny gynyddu'r cyflenwad o dai fforddiadwy a helpu i fynd i'r afael ag argyfwng cyflenwad tai Llafur. Mae hyn yn adlewyrchu polisi hawl i brynu yn Lloegr sydd wedi'i ailrymuso.

This UK Government have committed to reinvest, for the first time ever, the additional receipts from right to buy sales in new affordable rented housing across England as a whole. The one-for-one replacement policy there applies to additional local authority sales, that is sales above the levels forecast before the reinvigoration of the policy in April 2012. Since that reinvigoration, local authorities have sold 14,700 additional homes, and over 4,795 new dwellings have already been started on site or acquired. There will, of course, be a time lag between the right to buy sale and the planning and construction of the new build home, but the replacement timetable is in the control of the local authority. If a council were to fail to spend the receipts within three years, it would be required to return the unspent money to Government, with interest. This provides a strong financial incentive for any slowcoach councils to use this new funding and get on with building more homes for local people.

Mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi ymrwymo i ailfuddsoddi, am y tro cyntaf erioed, y derbyniadau ychwanegol o werthiannau hawl i brynu mewn tai rhent fforddiadwy newydd ledled Lloegr yn gyffredinol. Mae'r polisi cyfnewid un am un yno yn berthnasol i werthiannau ychwanegol awdurdodau lleol, hynny yw gwerthiannau uwchlaw'r lefelau a ragwelwyd cyn ailrymuso'r polisi ym mis Ebrill 2012. Ers yr ailrymuso, mae awdurdodau lleol wedi gwerthu 14,700 o gartrefi ychwanegol, ac mae dros 4,795 o anheddau newydd eisoes wedi cael eu cychwyn ar y safle neu eu caffael. Wrth gwrs, bydd oedi rhwng gwerthu'r hawl i brynu a chynllunio ac adeiladu cartref o'r newydd, ond mae'r amserlen gyfnewid dan reolaeth yr awdurdod lleol. Pe bai cyngor yn methu â gwario'r derbyniadau o fewn tair blynedd, byddai'n ofynnol iddo ddychwelyd yr arian nas gwariwyd i'r Llywodraeth, gyda llog. Mae hyn yn rhoi cymhelliad ariannol cryf i gynghorau araf deg ddefnyddio'r cyllid newydd a bwrw ati i adeiladu mwy o dai i bobl leol.

Since 2010, in fact, a total of 217,000 new affordable homes have been delivered in England. Council housebuilding there is now at a 23-year high. Almost twice as much council housing has been built in England under this UK Government than in all of the 13 years combined of the last Labour Government, when English waiting lists nearly doubled as the number of social homes for rent there was cut by 421,000.

Mewn gwirionedd, ers 2010, mae cyfanswm o 217,000 o gartrefi fforddiadwy newydd wedi cael eu darparu yn Lloegr. Mae lefelau adeiladu tai cyngor yno bellach yn uwch nag y bu ers 23 mlynedd. Mae bron ddwywaith cymaint o dai cyngor wedi cael eu hadeiladu yn Lloegr o dan Lywodraeth bresennol y DU nag yn 13 mlynedd olaf y Llywodraeth Lafur ddiwethaf gyda'i gilydd, pan fu i'r rhestrau aros yn Lloegr chwyddo bron i ddwywaith eu maint yn sgil torri 421,000 oddi ar nifer y cartrefi cymdeithasol ar rent.

The only reason we're abstaining on amendment 4, calling on the Welsh Government to set targets for the number of affordable homes built in Wales and report on these to the National Assembly for Wales, is because the term 'affordable homes' is not defined here, and the Welsh Government tends to change its definitions to boost reported figures rather than allow comparison on a like-for-like basis.

Yr unig reswm ein bod yn ymatal ar welliant 4, yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i osod targedau ar gyfer nifer y tai fforddiadwy a adeiladir yng Nghymru ac adrodd ar y rhain i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yw oherwydd nad yw'r term 'tai fforddiadwy' yn cael ei ddiffinio yma, ac mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn tueddu i newid ei diffiniadau er mwyn rhoi hwb i ffigurau a gofnodir yn hytrach na chaniatáu cymhariaeth ar sail debyg am debyg.

Let me leave the last word to a constituent, who wrote to me as follows:

Gadewch i mi adael y gair olaf i etholwr a ysgrifennodd ataf fel a ganlyn:

'I was pleased to read your comments regarding the proposal to end the "Right to Buy" process in Wales. These proposals are likely to have a profound effect on me if they go through. At present, my partner and I live in a council house. I'm in full-time employment, whilst my partner is training to teach literacy and numeracy to adults, including those with learning difficulties. This means that although we're not currently able to afford a mortgage to buy the property we live in, it is an aspiration and one that we hope to be able to achieve once my partner's training is completed in a couple of years. However, in order to do so, we're relying on the right to buy discount to act as a deposit that will enable us to be offered an affordable mortgage. Without that scheme, we would face an additional 5-10 years of trying to save for a deposit whilst paying a rent only slightly lower than our mortgage repayments, and also watching house prices continue to grow faster than our ability to save. In short, the right to buy scheme offers us the opportunity to plan for a future without requiring state assistance. Removing that scheme will condemn us to a lifetime of renting. I urge you to do anything in your power to oppose this proposal.'

'Roeddwn yn falch o ddarllen eich sylwadau ynghylch y cynnig i roi diwedd ar y broses "Hawl i Brynu" yng Nghymru. Mae'r cynigion hyn yn debygol o gael effaith ddofn arnaf os cânt eu pasio. Ar hyn o bryd, mae fy mhartner a minnau yn byw mewn tŷ cyngor. Rwy'n gweithio amser llawn, ac mae fy mhartner yn hyfforddi i ddysgu llythrennedd a rhifedd i oedolion, gan gynnwys rhai ag anawsterau dysgu. Er nad ydym yn gallu fforddio morgais i brynu'r eiddo rydym yn byw ynddo ar hyn o bryd, mae hyn yn golygu ei fod yn ddyhead, ac yn un rydym yn gobeithio gallu ei wireddu pan ddaw hyfforddiant fy mhartner i ben ymhen ychydig o flynyddoedd. Fodd bynnag, er mwyn gwneud hynny, rydym yn dibynnu ar y gostyngiad hawl i brynu i weithredu fel blaendal a fydd yn ein galluogi i gael cynnig morgais fforddiadwy. Heb y cynllun hwnnw, byddem yn wynebu 5-10 mlynedd ychwanegol o geisio cynilo i gael blaendal gan dalu rhent nad yw ond ychydig yn is na'n had-daliadau morgais, a gwylio prisiau tai yn parhau i godi'n gyflymach na'n gallu i gynilo. Yn fyr, mae'r cynllun hawl i brynu yn cynnig cyfle i ni gynllunio ar gyfer dyfodol heb fod angen cymorth y wladwriaeth. Bydd cael gwared ar y cynllun yn ein condemnio i oes o rentu. Fe'ch anogaf i wneud unrhyw beth yn eich gallu i wrthwynebu'r cynnig hwn.'

Well, that is what I'm doing. Instead of traipsing out 30-year old dogma, Wales needs delivery, helping people like my constituent onto the property ladder and using every available tool to tackle Wales's housing supply crisis. After all, as the European Commission said, we

Wel, dyna rwy'n ei wneud. Yn hytrach na phregethu dogma 30 mlwydd oed, mae Cymru angen inni gyflawni, a helpu pobl fel fy etholwr i gamu ar yr ysgol eiddo gan ddefnyddio pob arf sydd ar gael i fynd i'r afael ag argyfwng cyflenwad tai Cymru. Wedi'r cyfan, fel y dywedodd y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, mae angen i ni:

'need to implement a comprehensive housing reform programme to increase supply and therefore make housing more affordable'.

'weithredu rhaglen ddiwygio tai gynhwysfawr i gynyddu'r cyflenwad, a thrwy hynny wneud tai yn fwy fforddiadwy'.

It's a matter of supply and demand, Minister: didn't you and your forebears understand that?

Mae'n fater o gyflenwad a galw, Weinidog: onid oeddech chi a'ch rhagflaenwyr yn deall hynny?

16:03

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

Rwyf wedi dethol y pedwar gwelliant i'r cynnig. Galwaf ar Peter Black i gynnig gwelliannau 1, 2, 3 a 4 a gyflwynwyd yn enw Aled Roberts.

I have selected the four amendments to the motion. I call on Peter Black to move amendments 1, 2, 3 and 4 tabled in the name of Aled Roberts.

Gwelliant 1—Aled Roberts

Amendment 1—Aled Roberts

Cynnwys pwynt 2 newydd ac ail-rifo yn unol â hynny:

Insert as new point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Yn nodi bod gan gynghorau lleol eisoes yr opsiwn o wneud cais i Lywodraeth Cymru atal yr hawl i brynu.

Notes that local councils already have an option to apply to the Welsh Government to suspend the right to buy.

Gwelliant 2—Aled Roberts

Amendment 2—Aled Roberts

Cynnwys pwynt 2a) newydd ac ail-rifo yn unol â hynny.

Delete point 2a) and renumber accordingly.

Gwelliant 3—Aled Roberts

Amendment 3—Aled Roberts

Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Add as new point at end of motion:

Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ystyried atal yr hawl i brynu ar gyfer tai cymdeithasol a adeiledir o'r newydd gan gadw hawliau ar gyfer tenantiaid presennol.

Calls on the Welsh Government to consider the suspension of the right to buy for new build social housing whilst retaining rights for existing tenants.

Gwelliant 4—Aled Roberts

Amendment 4—Aled Roberts

Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Add as new point at end of motion:

Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i osod targedau ar gyfer nifer y cartrefi fforddiadwy y dylid eu hadeiladu yng Nghymru yn ystod tymor Cynulliad o fewn chwe mis i etholiad Cynulliad a dylid cyflwyno adrodd arnynt i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru bob blwyddyn.

Calls on the Welsh Government to set targets for the number of affordable homes to be built in Wales during an Assembly term within six months of the Assembly election, and reported on annually to the National Assembly for Wales.

Cynigiwyd gwelliannau 1, 2, 3 a 4.

Amendments 1, 2, 3 and 4 moved.

16:03

Peter Black Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer. Can I move amendments 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the name of Aled Roberts?

Diolch i chi, Ddirprwy Lywydd. A gaf fi gynnig gwelliannau 1, 2, 3 a 4 yn enw Aled Roberts?

If I can start by just briefly recapping the history of the right to buy, which is nearly 35 years old this year, for much of that time I've been a councillor. I think the reaction to it initially, certainly amongst the controlling Labour group on Swansea council, was total opposition to it, because they were going to lose a large part of the stock, and, in fact, Swansea, I think, has lost about a third of its stock altogether. Then, after a bit, the Labour councillors then bought their own council houses, so I think clearly there is a need and a demand for home ownership, and I'm not against that—I happen to believe that people should have the right to own their own home, and the Welsh Liberal Democrats do not support the total abolition of the right to buy; I don't think it's necessary—I think it is a sledgehammer to crack a nut in terms of the reasons given for that particular policy if it comes to fruition after the next Assembly election.

Os caf ddechrau drwy ailadrodd yn fyr hanes yr hawl i brynu, sydd bron yn 35 mlwydd oed eleni, a thros y rhan fwyaf o'r amser hwnnw rwyf wedi bod yn gynghorydd. Rwy'n credu mai'r ymateb cyntaf iddo, yn sicr ymhlith y grŵp Llafur a oedd yn arwain cyngor Abertawe, oedd gwrthwynebiad llwyr, oherwydd eu bod yn mynd i golli rhan fawr o'r stoc, ac mewn gwirionedd, rwy'n meddwl bod Abertawe wedi colli tua thraean o'i stoc i gyd. Yna, ar ôl ychydig, prynodd y cynghorwyr Llafur eu tai cyngor eu hunain, felly rwy'n meddwl fod yna angen a galw amlwg am berchentyaeth ac nid wyf yn erbyn hynny—rwy'n digwydd credu y dylai pobl gael yr hawl i fod yn berchen ar eu cartref eu hunain, ac nid yw Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn cefnogi diddymu'r hawl i brynu yn gyfan gwbl; nid wyf yn credu fod hynny'n angenrheidiol—credaf mai defnyddio gordd i dorri cneuen fyddai hynny o ran y rhesymau a roddwyd dros y polisi penodol hwnnw os yw'n dwyn ffrwyth ar ôl etholiad nesaf y Cynulliad.

I think, though, there are a number of myths around the right to buy that do need to be dispelled. The first one is this idea of having one-for-one replacements. It's always been the case, since the right to buy came in, that the ability of local councils to utilise the capital receipts from the sale of houses has been restricted, and councils have not been able to build new council houses from the money that they've got; in fact, initially, they were told they had to repay debt and an amount of that money they had to put into reserves and were not able to use to actually spend more money on capital.

Rwy'n meddwl, fodd bynnag, fod nifer o fythau wedi tyfu o amgylch yr hawl i brynu sy'n galw am eu chwalu. Y cyntaf yw'r syniad o gyfnewid un am un. Ers cyflwyno'r hawl i brynu, mae'n wir fod gallu cynghorau lleol i ddefnyddio derbyniadau cyfalaf o werthu tai wedi cael ei gyfyngu, ac nid yw cynghorau wedi gallu adeiladu tai cyngor newydd gyda'r arian sydd ganddynt. Mewn gwirionedd, yn wreiddiol, dywedwyd wrthynt fod yn rhaid iddynt ad-dalu dyled ac roedd yn rhaid iddynt roi swm o'r arian mewn cronfeydd wrth gefn, ac ni allent ei ddefnyddio i wario mwy o arian ar gyfalaf.

Of course, if you actually look at the record, I absolutely agree with Mark in terms of the number of affordable homes that have been built, or new social housing that has been built, under the present Government. It has been a massive increase on the previous Government, and that is to be commended. I also agree with him as well in terms of the failure to build new affordable homes in Wales, and the fact that we're not meeting the demand for them here, and have not done so for some time, despite it picking up over the last few years. But, certainly, when you actually look at what has happened in the UK as a whole, and these are figures quoted by the 'Observer' on 25 January, only one affordable property has been built for every five sold in the social housing sector. I think that there are a number of reasons why that has happened, but certainly we're not achieving the one-for-one build that is necessary if we're going to recover and recoup the number of affordable homes that have been sold, and the number of social homes that have been sold and have been lost to the social housing sector.

Wrth gwrs, mewn gwirionedd os edrychwch ar y cofnodion, rwy'n cytuno'n llwyr â Mark o ran nifer y tai fforddiadwy a adeiladwyd, neu dai cymdeithasol newydd a adeiladwyd, o dan y Llywodraeth bresennol. Mae'n gynnydd enfawr ar y Llywodraeth flaenorol, ac mae hynny i'w ganmol. Rwy'n cytuno ag ef hefyd ynglŷn â'r methiant i adeiladu cartrefi newydd fforddiadwy yng Nghymru, a'r ffaith nad ydym yn cwrdd â'r galw amdanynt yma, a heb wneud hynny ers cryn amser, er bod hyn wedi gwella dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf. Ond yn sicr, pan edrychwch ar yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd yn y DU yn gyffredinol, ac mae'r rhain yn ffigurau a ddyfynnwyd gan yr 'Observer' ar 25 Ionawr, un eiddo fforddiadwy yn unig a adeiladir am bob pump a werthir yn y sector tai cymdeithasol. Credaf fod yna nifer o resymau pam y mae hynny wedi digwydd, ond yn sicr nid ydym yn cyflawni'r adeiladu un am un sy'n angenrheidiol os ydym yn mynd i adfer ac adennill y nifer o dai fforddiadwy a werthwyd, a nifer y cartrefi cymdeithasol a werthwyd ac sydd wedi cael eu colli i'r sector tai cymdeithasol.

So, in terms of the amendments that we've tabled today, the first one notes that

Felly, o ran y gwelliannau rydym wedi eu cyflwyno heddiw, mae'r cyntaf yn nodi bod

'local councils already have an option to apply to the Welsh Government to suspend the right to buy'.

'gan gynghorau lleol eisoes yr opsiwn o wneud cais i Lywodraeth Cymru atal yr hawl i brynu '.

In fact, Carmarthenshire has just done it; Swansea council is in the process of doing it. But that has to be in the context, as I understand it, of a proper strategy to increase the supply of affordable housing, and that is how it should be, because I don't think you should just suspend the right to buy just for the sake of it: you have to be able to say to the Minister, and demonstrate to the Minister, that, 'We want to suspend the right to buy because, during the period while the right to buy is suspended, we have a plan and a programme to increase the number of social housing units in our area, and that is going to have an impact'. I think that should be linked to any scheme that is going to suspend the right to buy, whether on a Wales basis or a local basis.

Yn wir, mae Sir Gaerfyrddin newydd ei wneud; mae Cyngor Abertawe yn y broses o'i wneud. Ond rhaid i hynny fod yng nghyd-destun strategaeth briodol, yn ôl a ddeallaf, i gynyddu'r cyflenwad o dai fforddiadwy, a dyna sut y dylai fod, gan nad wyf yn meddwl y dylech atal yr hawl i brynu er ei ddiben ei hun: rhaid i chi allu dweud wrth y Gweinidog, a dangos i'r Gweinidog, 'ein bod am atal yr hawl i brynu oherwydd, yn ystod y cyfnod tra bo'r hawl i brynu yn cael ei atal, mae gennym gynllun a rhaglen sy'n mynd i gynyddu nifer yr unedau tai cymdeithasol yn ein hardal, ac mae'n mynd i gael effaith'. Rwy'n credu y dylai hynny fod yn gysylltiedig ag unrhyw gynllun sy'n mynd i atal yr hawl i brynu, boed ar sail Cymru gyfan neu yn lleol.

We want to delete 2a),

Rydym am ddileu 2a),

'the Welsh Government's intention to end the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire in Wales',

'bwriad Llywodraeth Cymru i roi terfyn ar y cynlluniau Hawl i Brynu a Hawl i Gaffael yng Nghymru ',

not because I'm totally against that—I do support the right to buy and the right to acquire under certain circumstances—but I do think that, if you're going to do this, you should do it in a way that is intelligent and is going to have an impact. My view is that, if you're going to suspend the right to buy and the right to acquire, then you should do so only on new build, thus retaining the right of existing tenants to buy their own home if they wish, but also making it clear to local councils, 'Yes, you can build new homes, and they will not be subject to right to buy, so you do not need to worry about those homes being sold in a few years' time'. I think that is a more nuanced approach to this, without just suspending the right to buy full stop, and I think that has been covered in amendment 3.

nid am fy mod i'n hollol yn erbyn hynny—rwy'n cefnogi'r hawl i brynu a'r hawl i gaffael mewn rhai amgylchiadau—ond rwy'n meddwl, os ydych yn mynd i wneud hyn, y dylech ei wneud mewn ffordd sy'n ddeallus ac yn mynd i gael effaith. Yn fy marn i, os ydych yn mynd i atal yr hawl i brynu a'r hawl i gaffael, yna dylech wneud hynny yng nghyswllt adeiladau newydd yn unig, gan gadw hawl y tenantiaid presennol i brynu eu cartref eu hunain os ydynt yn dymuno, ond gan ei gwneud yn glir i gynghorau lleol hefyd, 'Cewch, fe gewch adeiladu cartrefi newydd, ac ni fyddant yn destun hawl i brynu, felly nid oes angen i chi boeni y bydd y cartrefi hynny'n cael eu gwerthu ymhen rhai blynyddoedd'. Credaf fod hwn yn ddull mwy cynnil o weithredu hyn, heb atal yr hawl i brynu'n derfynol, a chredaf fod hyn wedi ei gynnwys yng ngwelliant 3.

Finally, Deputy Presiding Officer, in terms of our amendment 4, this is an amendment we moved to the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 at the time. I very much welcome the fact that the present Government and the previous Government set targets for affordable homes and have largely met those targets; I think that's excellent. I think there's an issue to say those targets are not big enough, given the demand for affordable homes. But, clearly, there is a definition of affordable homes that is consistent, despite what Mark says, because that is set out by the national statistics and it is monitored by the national statistics, so there isn't a query around the definition of affordable homes, but I do think we should be saying, definitely, that that target should be set at every Assembly and monitored accordingly. I think that is a good way to scrutinise that ambition, and also to make sure that every Government, irrespective of who that Government is, is going to be delivering more affordable homes for the people of Wales.

Yn olaf, Ddirprwy Lywydd, o ran ein gwelliant 4, dyma welliant a gynigiwyd gennym i Ddeddf Tai (Cymru) 2014 ar y pryd. Rwy'n croesawu'n fawr iawn y ffaith fod y Llywodraeth bresennol a'r Llywodraeth flaenorol wedi gosod targedau ar gyfer cartrefi fforddiadwy a'u bod wedi cyrraedd y targedau hynny i raddau helaeth; rwy'n credu bod hynny'n rhagorol. Rwy'n credu bod yna broblem ynghylch dweud nad yw'r targedau hynny yn ddigon mawr, o ystyried y galw am dai fforddiadwy. Ond yn amlwg, mae yna ddiffiniad o dai fforddiadwy sy'n gyson, er gwaethaf yr hyn y mae Mark yn ei ddweud, oherwydd dyna a bennwyd gan yr ystadegau gwladol a chaiff ei fonitro gan yr ystadegau gwladol, felly nid oes amheuaeth ynghylch y diffiniad o gartrefi fforddiadwy ond rwy'n meddwl y dylem fod yn dweud, yn bendant, y dylai'r targed gael ei osod gan bob Cynulliad a'i fonitro yn unol â hynny. Credaf fod honno'n ffordd dda o graffu ar yr uchelgais hwnnw, a hefyd o sicrhau bod pob Llywodraeth, pwy bynnag fydd mewn grym, yn mynd i gyflwyno mwy o dai fforddiadwy ar gyfer pobl Cymru.

16:08 **Antoinette Sandbach** Bywgraffiad Biography

I'm pleased to have an opportunity to contribute in today's debate. When the right to buy scheme was introduced, it was there to help people realise a dream, and that dream was of owning their own home. For many years, those living in social housing could see no clear way of getting on to the housing ladder, and this scheme gave them that opportunity, and gave them the option to purchase a home that they might have lived in for many, many years. It has had an impact on communities; people have been much more rooted in their communities, they have bought homes that they've lived in for 30 or 40 years, and they've taken pride in their properties and turned them—you've seen that investment that individuals have put into their homes. Like Peter Black, I accept that this scheme isn't without its failings, and that largely the problem has been the failure to build the housing to replace what was sold. Some local authorities didn't invest the money that they'd raised from sales back into providing more social housing, and I think it should be ring-fenced and made sure that that happens.

Rwy'n falch o gael cyfle i gyfrannu yn y ddadl heddiw. Pan gyflwynwyd y cynllun hawl i brynu, roedd yno i helpu pobl i wireddu breuddwyd, a'r freuddwyd honno oedd bod yn berchen ar eu cartref eu hunain. Am flynyddoedd lawer, ni allai'r rhai a oedd yn byw mewn tai cymdeithasol weld unrhyw ffordd amlwg o fynd ar yr ysgol dai, a rhoddodd y cynllun hwn gyfle iddynt, a'r dewis i brynu cartref y gallent fod wedi byw ynddo am flynyddoedd lawer . Mae wedi cael effaith ar gymunedau; mae pobl wedi ymsefydlu'n well yn eu cymunedau, maent wedi prynu cartrefi y buont yn byw ynddynt ers 30 neu 40 mlynedd, ac maent wedi ymfalchïo yn eu heiddo a'u troi—rydych wedi gweld y buddsoddiad y mae unigolion wedi'i wneud yn eu cartrefi. Fel Peter Black, rwy'n derbyn nad yw'r cynllun hwn heb ei ffaeleddau, ac i raddau helaeth y broblem oedd methiant i adeiladu tai i gymryd lle'r hyn a werthwyd. Nid oedd rhai awdurdodau lleol yn buddsoddi'r arian a godwyd ganddynt o werthiannau yn ôl i mewn i ddarparu mwy o dai cymdeithasol, ac rwy'n meddwl y dylid clustnodi'r arian hwnnw a gwneud yn siŵr fod hynny'n digwydd.

As Peter Black has already said, Welsh Government have said they've used a sledgehammer to crack a nut, and I'm particularly concerned, Minister, about the impact of your decision in rural communities, because your help to buy scheme, which is another scheme that is designed to get people onto the housing ladder, does not apply in rural communities. It only applies to new homes. You can pull as many faces at me as you like, but you name to me—. I have put in written questions. You name to me the amount of properties that are in rural areas rather than in coastal towns. If you walk along the high street and you look at the list of places where that help is available you will find very few of north Wales's villages listed in that list, and that is because, in effect, it doesn't apply to what I call older housing stock. It only applies to new builds, and you are excluding—. It is a form of social engineering, Minister, where you say it's okay for one section of society that lives on the coast of north Wales to own their own homes, but it's not okay for a young couple in a village to try and get their foot on the rung of that housing ladder. It's something that I have been raising for a long time. Information that I received through a freedom of information request indicates that the major areas helped by help to buy in Wales were Caerphilly and Newport, with more than 20 in each, but Pembrokeshire, Gwynedd and Powys saw a tenth of the numbers of properties purchased through the scheme in those areas.

Fel y dywedodd Peter Black eisoes, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi dweud eu bod wedi defnyddio gordd i dorri cneuen, ac rwy'n arbennig o bryderus, Weinidog, am effaith eich penderfyniad mewn cymunedau gwledig, gan nad yw eich cynllun cymorth i brynu, sy'n gynllun arall a luniwyd i gael pobl ar yr ysgol dai, yn gymwys mewn cymunedau gwledig. Mae'n ymwneud yn unig â chartrefi newydd. Gallwch dynnu cymaint o wynebau ag y dymunwch arnaf, ond dywedwch—. Rwyf wedi cyflwyno cwestiynau ysgrifenedig. Dywedwch wrthyf faint o'r eiddo sydd mewn ardaloedd gwledig yn hytrach nag mewn trefi arfordirol. Os cerddwch ar hyd y stryd fawr ac edrych ar y rhestr o lefydd lle y mae cymorth ar gael fe welwch mai ychydig iawn o bentrefi gogledd Cymru a welir ar y rhestr honno, a'r rheswm am hynny, i bob pwrpas, yw nad yw'n gymwys ar gyfer yr hyn rwy'n ei alw'n stoc dai hŷn. Nid yw ond yn gymwys ar gyfer adeiladau newydd, ac rydych yn hepgor —. Mae'n ffurf ar beirianneg gymdeithasol, Weinidog, lle rydych yn dweud ei bod yn iawn i un rhan o gymdeithas sy'n byw ar arfordir gogledd Cymru i fod yn berchen ar eu cartrefi eu hunain, ond nid yw'n iawn i bâr ifanc mewn pentref geisio cael eu troed ar ris yr ysgol dai. Mae'n rhywbeth rwyf wedi bod yn ei godi ers amser hir. Mae gwybodaeth a gefais drwy gais rhyddid gwybodaeth yn dangos mai'r prif ardaloedd a gafodd eu helpu gan y cynllun cymorth i brynu yng Nghymru yw Caerffili a Chasnewydd, gyda thros 20 ym mhob un, ond degfed ran yn unig o'r eiddo a brynwyd drwy'r cynllun yn ardaloedd Sir Benfro, Gwynedd a Phowys.

Now, it's not just about buying homes. It's also about renting homes, and affordable housing and social housing need to be available to allow couples to get onto the housing ladder to allow them to take this important step. Quite simply, I saw the targets for Anglesey the other day that indicated that their hopes for affordable housing were going to be 15 social houses built a year, 15 a year, for 28 years, with an initial outlay—no surprise as there's an election coming maybe in a few months and then another one in a year—that there might initially be 30. But, after that, their ambition was 15 houses a year. I think that is appalling, and I think, Minister, you should do much more to encourage affordable housing. I think you should extend your help to buy scheme to all housing so that you are not discriminating between rural communities and urban communities and so you are not saying that new build properties are better than old ones. Why not give people that opportunity, if they can afford it? That is the key question. But the right to buy allowed people who did access social housing in rural communities to get onto the housing ladder, and, by removing it, once again, you're hammering rural communities to the benefit of our town communities.

Nawr, nid ymwneud â phrynu cartrefi yn unig y mae hyn. Mae'n ymwneud â rhentu cartrefi hefyd, a thai fforddiadwy a'r angen i dai cymdeithasol fod ar gael er mwyn caniatáu i gyplau cael troed ar yr ysgol dai i'w galluogi i gymryd y cam pwysig hwn. Yn syml, gwelais y targedau ar gyfer Ynys Môn y diwrnod o'r blaen a nodai mai eu gobaith o ran tai fforddiadwy oedd adeiladu 15 o dai cymdeithasol bob blwyddyn, 15 y flwyddyn, am 28 mlynedd, gyda gwariant cychwynnol ar gyfer 30 i gychwyn o bosibl—ac nid yw hynny'n syndod o gwbl gan fod etholiad mewn ychydig fisoedd ac un arall mewn blwyddyn. Ond ar ôl hynny, eu huchelgais oedd 15 o dai y flwyddyn. Credaf fod hynny'n warthus, ac rwy'n credu, Weinidog, y dylech wneud llawer mwy i annog tai fforddiadwy. Rwy'n meddwl y dylech ymestyn eich cynllun cymorth i brynu i gynnwys yr holl dai fel nad ydych yn gwahaniaethu rhwng cymunedau gwledig a chymunedau trefol ac felly nad ydych yn dweud bod adeiladau newydd yn well na'r hen rai. Beth am roi'r cyfle hwnnw i bobl, os ydynt yn gallu ei fforddio? Dyna'r cwestiwn allweddol. Ond roedd yr hawl i brynu yn caniatáu i bobl a oedd yn byw mewn tai cymdeithasol mewn cymunedau gwledig i gael troed ar yr ysgol dai, a thrwy gael gwared ar yr hawl, unwaith eto, rydych yn dyrchafu ein cymunedau trefol ar draul cymunedau gwledig.

16:13

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

The post-war period, in terms of housing, can be easily broken down into two periods: 1940 to 1980 and post-1980. We saw between 1945 and 1980 a huge growth in council housing, the building of a large number of new estates, especially in the larger urban areas, and a huge decline in privately rented accommodation, much of which was of a very poor standard. I speak as someone who actually lived in a house with an outdoor toilet. We also saw the growth of owner-occupation and the start of the building of large private estates, again predominantly in the urban areas. Since 1980, we've seen almost a complete end to the building of council houses, a growth in owner-occupation, which now appears to have stalled, and the growth of housing associations into major landlords and the return of a large-scale privately rented sector. During the whole of this period, we've seen a reduction in the average number of adults living in a property, due mainly to the growth of single-person households. The sale of council housing has had a major effect on the housing market. In simplistic terms, as raised by the political right, the number of properties available has not reduced, only the tenure has changed. In classical economic terms, what has happened is that the sale has taken demand out of the owner-occupation market, as potential owner-occupiers have bought their council houses, and it has reduced the supply of council housing so that there is increased demand for both housing association houses and privately rented properties, and we've seen a huge growth in privately rented property, some of very poor quality.

O ran tai, gellir rhannu'r cyfnod ar ôl y rhyfel yn ddau gyfnod: 1940 i 1980 ac ar ôl1980. Rhwng 1945 a 1980, gwelsom gynnydd enfawr yn niferoedd tai cyngor, gydag adeiladu nifer fawr o stadau newydd, yn enwedig yn yr ardaloedd trefol mwy o faint, a gostyngiad enfawr mewn eiddo rhent preifat, a llawer ohono o safon isel iawn. Rwy'n siarad mewn gwirionedd fel rhywun a oedd yn byw mewn tŷ gyda thoiled y tu allan. Hefyd, gwelsom dwf perchen-feddiannaeth a dechrau adeiladu ystadau preifat mawr, unwaith eto yn yr ardaloedd trefol yn bennaf. Ers 1980, rydym wedi gweld diwedd bron yn llwyr ar adeiladu tai cyngor, cynnydd mewn perchen-feddiannaeth, sydd i'w weld wedi arafu erbyn hyn, datblygiad cymdeithasau tai yn landlordiaid mawr a dychweliad sector rhentu preifat ar raddfa eang. Yn ystod y cyfnod hwn ar ei hyd, gwelsom ostyngiad yn nifer cyfartalog yr oedolion sy'n byw mewn eiddo, yn bennaf oherwydd y cynnydd mewn aelwydydd un person. Mae gwerthiant tai cyngor wedi cael effaith fawr ar y farchnad dai. Mewn termau syml, fel y'i mynegwyd gan yr adain dde wleidyddol, nid yw nifer yr eiddo sydd ar gael wedi lleihau; yn hytrach, y ddaliadaeth sydd wedi newid. Mewn termau economaidd clasurol, yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd yw bod y gwerthiant wedi tynnu'r galw allan o'r farchnad berchen-feddiannaeth, wrth i berchen-feddianwyr posibl brynu eu tai cyngor, ac mae wedi lleihau'r cyflenwad o dai cyngor fel bod mwy o alw am dai cymdeithasau tai ac eiddo rhent preifat, ac rydym wedi gweld twf aruthrol mewn eiddo rhent preifat, a pheth ohono o ansawdd gwael iawn.

Ending the right to buy and encouraging councils to build houses and flats would be the single most effective way of increasing affordable rented accommodation. Whilst the right to buy remains, the legitimate fear that new builds will be bought by their existing tenants or for them by members of their family remains a deterrent to building. A huge number of properties have been bought not by the tenants themselves, but by their families as investments.

Dileu'r hawl i brynu ac annog cynghorau i adeiladu tai a fflatiau fyddai'r ffordd fwyaf effeithiol o gynyddu'r ddarpariaeth o lety rhent fforddiadwy. Tra bo'r hawl i brynu yn parhau, mae'r ofn dilys y bydd adeiladau newydd yn cael eu prynu gan eu tenantiaid presennol neu ar eu cyfer gan aelodau o'u teuluoedd yn parhau i fod yn ataliad rhag adeiladu. Mae nifer fawr o eiddo wedi eu prynu nid gan y tenantiaid eu hunain, ond gan eu teuluoedd fel buddsoddiadau.

The right to buy and right to acquire allows eligible social housing tenants to buy their council or housing association home at a discount of up to £16,000. Over the last 30 years, the policy has resulted in a huge reduction in social housing stock. As Peter Black mentioned earlier, Swansea has lost approximately a third of its properties. Between 1981 and 2014, over 130,000 council homes were sold: a 45% reduction in the social housing available from when the policy was first introduced. Am I the only one who finds it strange, when I visit what used to be council-owned estates, to find large numbers of properties up for private rent, often at three times or more the rent charged by the local authority? More than anything else, this is having a huge effect on the Treasury, paying the housing benefit to pay for these former council houses that are being rented out at substantial sums. It also has a huge effect on the community: people are being evicted by the council and moving three doors down the road into privately rented accommodation.

Mae'r hawl i brynu a'r hawl i gaffael yn caniatáu i denantiaid tai cymdeithasol cymwys i brynu eu tŷ cyngor neu gartref cymdeithas dai ar ostyngiad o hyd at £16,000. Dros y 30 mlynedd diwethaf, mae'r polisi wedi arwain at ostyngiad enfawr yn y stoc dai cymdeithasol. Fel y crybwyllodd Peter Black yn gynharach, mae Abertawe wedi colli tua thraean o'i heiddo. Rhwng 1981 a 2014, gwerthwyd dros 130,000 o dai cyngor: gostyngiad o 45% yn y tai cymdeithasol a fu ar gael o'r adeg y cafodd y polisi ei gyflwyno gyntaf. Ai fi yw'r unig un sy'n ei gweld hi'n rhyfedd, pan ymwelaf â'r hyn a arferai fod yn ystadau ym mherchnogaeth y cyngor, fod nifer fawr o'r eiddo wedi ei osod ar rent yn breifat, yn aml am dair gwaith y rhent a godai'r awdurdod lleol neu fwy na hynny? Yn fwy na dim arall, mae hyn yn cael effaith enfawr ar y Trysorlys, sy'n talu'r budd-dal tai am y cyn-dai cyngor hyn y codir symiau sylweddol o rent amdanynt. Mae hefyd yn cael effaith enfawr ar y gymuned: mae pobl yn cael eu troi allan gan y cyngor ac yn symud dri drws i lawr i lety rhent preifat.

In terms of affordable homes, what has the Welsh Government done? The Welsh Labour Government has increased the supply of homes, increased its target for the number of affordable homes from 7,500 to 10,000 over the lifetime of this Assembly. Through the innovative Houses into Homes scheme, it's tackling the wasted resource that long-term empty properties represent. Many of us know, in our own communities, as you go down the road, there is perfectly good housing that has been left empty for anything up to 30 years.

O ran tai fforddiadwy, beth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ei wneud? Mae Llywodraeth Lafur Cymru wedi cynyddu'r cyflenwad o gartrefi, ac wedi cynyddu ei tharged ar gyfer nifer y cartrefi fforddiadwy o 7,500 i 10,000 dros oes y Cynulliad hwn. Drwy gynllun arloesol Troi Tai'n Gartrefi, mae'n mynd i'r afael ag eiddo gwag hirdymor sy'n adnodd a wastreffir. Mae llawer ohonom yn gwybod, yn ein cymunedau ein hunain, wrth i chi fynd ar hyd y ffordd, mae yna dai perffaith iawn sydd wedi cael eu gadael yn wag am hyd at 30 mlynedd.

The Welsh Labour Government is on course to meet its ambitious target of 10,000 homes by 2016, and statistics released in October show that 2,416 affordable homes were delivered during 2013-14—an 18% rise on the previous year. This brings the total number of additional affordable homes provided so far in this Assembly to 6,890. That's 6,890 people who've managed to move into quality affordable homes thanks to the actions of this Labour Government.

Mae Llywodraeth Lafur Cymru ar y trywydd iawn i gyrraedd ei tharged uchelgeisiol o 10,000 o gartrefi erbyn 2016, a dengys ystadegau a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Hydref fod 2,416 o dai fforddiadwy wedi cael eu darparu yn ystod 2013-14—cynnydd o 18% ar y flwyddyn flaenorol. Daw hyn â chyfanswm y tai fforddiadwy ychwanegol a ddarparwyd hyd yn hyn yn ystod y Cynulliad hwn i 6,890. Dyna 6,890 o bobl sydd wedi llwyddo i symud i gartrefi fforddiadwy o ansawdd da diolch i waith y Llywodraeth Lafur hon.

The Welsh Labour Government is also investing a further £20 million to improve the Welsh housing stock and bring thousands of derelict and uninhabitable properties back into use. The Tory-led and Lib Dem-supported UK Government has imposed housing benefit cuts that put young people and families' homes and jobs in jeopardy, illustrating time after time that getting people back to work and into housing or protecting vulnerable people certainly is not on their agenda.

Mae Llywodraeth Llafur Cymru hefyd yn buddsoddi £20 miliwn pellach ar gyfer gwella stoc dai Cymru a dod â miloedd o eiddo adfeiliedig ac anaddas ar gyfer byw ynddo yn ôl i ddefnydd. Mae Llywodraeth y DU dan arweiniad y Torïaid, gyda chefnogaeth y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, wedi torri budd-daliadau tai gan roi cartrefi a swyddi pobl ifanc a theuluoedd mewn perygl, a dangos yn bendant dro ar ôl tro nad yw cael pobl yn ôl i'r gwaith ac i mewn i dai neu amddiffyn pobl sy'n agored i niwed ar eu hagenda.

I think the key thing is: we've got a problem with housing. The only way it's going to be addressed is by getting more public sector housing, and I'm not convinced that housing associations are any better than councils in providing houses. I know they're more expensive, and I know their management costs are substantially higher. I believe that large-scale council house building is what we desperately need in Wales to get people into decent homes. The number of people who I visit in their own homes, which are certainly not waterproof, certainly not damp-proof, and certainly not the type of home I would like to live in, means that I honestly believe it is a key thing that needs to happen—more council houses.

Rwy'n meddwl mai'r peth allweddol yw hyn: mae gennym broblem gyda thai. Yr unig ffordd yr eir i'r afael â hi yw drwy gael mwy o dai sector cyhoeddus, ac nid wyf yn argyhoeddedig fod cymdeithasau tai'n well na chynghorau am ddarparu tai. Rwy'n gwybod eu bod yn ddrutach, ac rwy'n gwybod bod eu costau rheoli gryn dipyn yn uwch. Credaf mai adeiladu tai cyngor ar raddfa fawr yw'r hyn rydym ei wir angen yng Nghymru i gael pobl i mewn i gartrefi gweddus. Mae nifer y bobl rwy'n ymweld â hwy yn eu cartrefi eu hunain, cartrefi nad ydynt yn dal dŵr, yn sicr, na'n atal lleithder ac yn bendant, nid y math o gartrefi yr hoffwn i fyw ynddynt, yn golygu fy mod i'n credu'n onest ei bod yn hanfodol i hyn ddigwydd—rhagor o dai cyngor.

16:18 **Mohammad Asghar** Bywgraffiad Biography

I would like to say to the Minister that there is a globally recognised saying that home is the castle of a Brit, rather than ân Englishman, so we are British. It's a core principle of Conservatism that people should be helped to own their homes. Home ownership is about independence, self-reliance and aspiration. We, on this side of the Chamber, strongly believe in extending home ownership. That is why we give council tenants the right to buy their own homes.

Hoffwn ddweud wrth y Gweinidog fod yna ddywediad sy'n cael ei gydnabod yn fyd-eang mai ei gartref yw castell Prydeiniwr, yn hytrach na Sais, felly rydym yn Brydeinwyr. Un o egwyddorion craidd Ceidwadaeth yw y dylid helpu pobl i fod yn berchen ar eu cartrefi. Mae perchentyaeth yn ymwneud ag annibyniaeth, hunanddibyniaeth a dyhead. Rydym ni, ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr, yn credu'n gryf mewn ehangu perchentyaeth. Dyna pam rydym yn rhoi'r hawl i denantiaid cynghorau brynu eu cartrefi eu hunain.

Labour opposed our policy at every opportunity. Labour believes in dependence and state reliance. It has never been part of their philosophy that council tenants should acquire the right of home ownership. First, the Welsh Government cut the maximum discount available under the right to buy scheme, then, they suspended the scheme altogether for the next five years in Carmarthenshire. Now, having undermined the right to buy, they have decided to kick the ladder of opportunity away from the hard-working families in Wales who aspire to a place they can call their home.

Gwrthwynebodd Llafur ein polisi ar bob cyfle. Mae Llafur yn credu mewn dibyniaeth a dibyniaeth ar y wladwriaeth. Nid yw erioed wedi bod yn rhan o'u hathroniaeth y dylai tenantiaid y cyngor gaffael yr hawl i fod yn berchen ar eu cartref. Yn gyntaf, torrodd Llywodraeth Cymru y gostyngiad a oedd ar gael o dan y cynllun hawl i brynu. Yna, fe atalion nhw'r cynllun yn gyfan gwbl am y pum mlynedd nesaf yn Sir Gaerfyrddin. Yn awr, ar ôl tanseilio'r hawl i brynu, maent wedi penderfynu cael gwared ar yr ysgol o gyfle o dan draed teuluoedd gweithgar Cymru sy'n dyheu am le y gallant ei alw'n gartref.

Many of these tenants have spent years improving their homes, but could only afford to buy with the discount available under the scheme. Now, if Labour win the next Assembly election, the right to buy and the right to acquire will be abolished. This dogma-driven decision has nothing to do with increasing the supply of housing in Wales. It has everything to do with blaming the right to buy for Labour's abject failure to deal with the housing crisis. It has been clear, for some time, that we need positive action to support the Welsh housing market.

Mae llawer o'r tenantiaid hyn wedi treulio blynyddoedd yn gwella eu cartrefi, ond ni allant fforddio prynu heb y gostyngiad sy'n rhan o'r cynllun. Yn awr, os yw Llafur yn ennill etholiad nesaf y Cynulliad, bydd yr hawl i brynu a'r hawl i gaffael yn cael eu diddymu. Nid oes gan y penderfyniad hwn, sy'n cael ei yrru gan ddogma, ddim oll i'w wneud â chynyddu'r cyflenwad o dai yng Nghymru. Mae 'n ymwneud yn llwyr â beio'r hawl i brynu am fethiant truenus Llafur i ddelio â'r argyfwng tai. Mae wedi bod yn amlwg ers peth amser fod angen inni weithredu'n gadarnhaol er mwyn cefnogi'r farchnad dai yng Nghymru.

We need to increase the supply of houses and expand the number of housing schemes available to bring as many empty homes as possible back into use. First, to increase the supply of housing, we need to address the red tape that is causing construction firms to look to build outside Wales at present. According to property expert Knight Frank, Labour red tape had added £13,000 extra to the cost of a new home. That is not acceptable, Deputy Presiding Officer. They blame the overzealous interpretation of regulation for this problem. Redrow Homes said, in 2013, that Wales is the most difficult area in the United Kingdom in which to operate. How can builders come and build homes if they're having difficulties here?

Mae angen cynyddu'r cyflenwad tai ac ehangu nifer y cynlluniau tai sydd ar gael i ddod â chymaint o gartrefi gwag ag y bo modd yn ôl i ddefnydd. Yn gyntaf, er mwyn cynyddu'r cyflenwad tai, mae angen inni fynd i'r afael â'r fiwrocratiaeth sy'n peri i gwmnïau adeiladu fynd y tu allan i Gymru i adeiladu ar hyn o bryd. Yn ôl yr arbenigwr eiddo Knight Frank, mae biwrocratiaeth Lafur wedi ychwanegu £13,000 at gost cartref newydd. Nid yw hynny'n dderbyniol, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Maent yn rhoi'r bai ar ddehongliad gorfrwdfrydig o reoleiddio am y broblem hon. Dywedodd Redrow Homes, yn 2013, mai Cymru yw'r ardal anoddaf i weithredu ynddi yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Sut y gall adeiladwyr ddod i adeiladu cartrefi os ydynt yn cael anawsterau yma?

We have to ensure that regulations do not put a disproportionate burden on Welsh housing builders. Affordable schemes, which enable lenders to engage with potential buyers, have been a great success in England. The Help to Buy scheme has already helped over 73,000 families to buy their own home. Over 80% of sales under this scheme have gone to first-time buyers. Labour's equivalent scheme was only launched after months of dither and delay, following the postponement of NewBuy and FirstBuy.

Mae'n rhaid i ni sicrhau nad yw rheoliadau yn rhoi baich anghymesur ar adeiladwyr tai yng Nghymru. Mae cynlluniau fforddiadwy, sy'n galluogi benthycwyr i ymgysylltu â darpar brynwyr, wedi bod yn llwyddiant mawr yn Lloegr. Mae'r cynllun Cymorth i Brynu eisoes wedi helpu dros 73,000 o deuluoedd i brynu eu cartrefi eu hunain. Mae dros 80% o werthiannau dan y cynllun wedi mynd i brynwyr tro cyntaf. Cafodd cynllun cyfatebol Llafur ei lansio ar ôl misoedd o simsanu ac oedi, yn dilyn gohirio NewBuy a FirstBuy.

More action needs to be taken to reduce the number of empty homes in Wales. Current targets set to bring empty properties in Wales back into use are still too low. The aim is to bring 5,000 properties back into use by the end of next year. While we support this initiative, it is lacking in ambition. We need a new approach to understand why a property is empty and to take appropriate action, such as funding community groups and registered social landlords to take the required action.

Mae angen gwneud mwy i leihau nifer y cartrefi gwag yng Nghymru. Mae targedau cyfredol a osodwyd ar gyfer dod ag eiddo gwag yng Nghymru yn ôl i ddefnydd yn dal yn rhy isel. Y nod yw dod â 5,000 adeilad yn ôl i ddefnydd erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn nesaf. Er ein bod yn cefnogi'r fenter hon, mae'n brin o uchelgais. Mae arnom angen agwedd newydd ar gyfer deall pam y mae eiddo'n wag ac i roi camau priodol ar waith, megis ariannu grwpiau cymunedol a landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig i gymryd y camau angenrheidiol.

Deputy Presiding Officer, the Council of Mortgage Lenders, in a survey in 2013, found that 84% of adults in Wales hope to be home owners in 10 years' time. So, their ambition is not going to be fulfilled if the Labour Government comes in power. Abolishing the right to buy in Wales makes it more difficult for them to achieve their ambition. I call on the Welsh Government to reconsider this mean-spirited proposal, which will fail to deliver more and better housing in Wales. Thank you.

Ddirprwy Lywydd, mewn arolwg yn 2013 canfu'r Cyngor Benthycwyr Morgeisi fod 84% o oedolion Cymru yn gobeithio bod yn berchnogion cartrefi ymhen 10 mlynedd. Felly, nid yw eu huchelgais yn mynd i gael ei gwireddu os daw Llywodraeth Lafur i rym. Mae diddymu'r hawl i brynu yng Nghymru yn ei gwneud yn anos iddynt gyflawni eu huchelgais. Rwy'n galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ailystyried y cynnig crintachlyd hwn, a fydd yn methu â darparu mwy o dai a thai gwell yng Nghymru. Diolch yn fawr.

16:23

Jocelyn Davies Bywgraffiad Biography

For any housing policy to succeed, the financing must add up. Certainly, the finances around the right to buy didn't work in a sustainable way because the receipts didn't fund new properties. A number of people have already made that point. So, the social housing stock wasn't replenished at a rate to replace the homes that were being sold into owner-occupation.

Er mwyn i unrhyw bolisi tai lwyddo, mae'n rhaid i'r drefn gyllido weithio'n iawn. Yn sicr, nid oedd y drefn gyllido a oedd ynghlwm wrth yr hawl i brynu yn gweithio mewn ffordd gynaliadwy gan nad oedd y derbyniadau yn ariannu eiddo newydd. Mae nifer o bobl eisoes wedi gwneud y pwynt hwnnw. Felly, ni châi'r stoc dai cymdeithasol ei hadnewyddu i raddau a fyddai'n sicrhau bod cartrefi ar gael yn lle'r cartrefi a gâi eu gwerthu i berchen-feddianwyr.

It also had a chilling effect, I think, on the building of new social housing, as local authorities became reluctant to invest in new stock. This is evident because the construction of new council houses virtually ceased in the 1980s. I think Newport was one of the exceptions to that, but the figures do speak for themselves.

Mae hefyd wedi cael effaith niweidiol, rwy'n credu, ar adeiladu tai cymdeithasol newydd, wrth i awdurdodau lleol ddod yn amharod i fuddsoddi mewn stoc newydd. Mae hyn yn amlwg oherwydd bod y gwaith o adeiladu tai cyngor newydd wedi dod i ben fwy neu lai yn y 1980au. Rwy'n credu mai Casnewydd oedd un o'r eithriadau i hynny, ond mae'r ffigurau yn siarad drostynt eu hunain.

Local authorities, in fact, still carry large historic debts from social housing built many decades ago. The stock transfer process clearly demonstrated to me how complex these situations can be and how investing in new build and maintaining it in good order is not an easy task, especially at a very low rent. Also, to work for the people of Wales, the housing sector must balance meeting the needs of the individual against meeting the needs of the community. I believe that that means having mixed communities, where owner-occupiers, the social rented and the private rented live side by side.

Mae awdurdodau lleol, mewn gwirionedd, yn dal i gario dyledion hanesyddol mawr o dai cymdeithasol a adeiladwyd sawl degawd yn ôl. Dangosodd y broses o drosglwyddo stoc yn glir i mi pa mor gymhleth y gall y sefyllfaoedd hyn fod a sut nad yw buddsoddi mewn adeiladau newydd a'u cadw mewn cyflwr da yn dasg hawdd, yn enwedig am rent isel iawn. Hefyd, er mwyn iddi weithio dros bobl Cymru, rhaid i'r sector tai gydbwyso rhwng diwallu anghenion yr unigolyn ac anghenion y gymuned. Credaf fod hynny'n golygu cael cymunedau cymysg, lle y mae perchen-feddianwyr, y sector rhent cymdeithasol a rhent preifat yn byw ochr yn ochr â'i gilydd.

Under the right to buy, of course, previous large council estates did become mixed tenure, and I think this was one of the best aspects of the policy: more balanced, healthy communities of all types of housing, sharing the same space and the same facilities. But the inability to replace lost rented properties has led to long waiting lists, and I think everybody would like to see an end to that.

O dan yr hawl i brynu, wrth gwrs, daeth ystadau mawr o dai cyngor blaenorol yn ddaliadaeth gymysg, ac rwy'n credu mai dyma un o agweddau gorau'r polisi: cymunedau mwy cytbwys ac iach yn cynnwys pob math o dai, yn rhannu'r un gofod a'r un cyfleusterau. Ond mae'r anallu i sicrhau eiddo yn lle eiddo rhent a gollwyd wedi arwain at restrau aros hir, ac rwy'n meddwl y byddai pawb yn hoffi gweld diwedd ar hynny.

Now, as Deputy Minister for Housing, I had a hard fight to give local authorities the right to freeze the right to buy in their areas to respond to local housing shortages. I did face, I have to say, huge resistance, despite those powers being quite modest, when you think about it, and only granted in extreme cases. But it does provide an option for local authorities trying desperately to cope with our housing crisis.

Yn awr, fel y Dirprwy Weinidog Tai, roedd hi'n frwydr galed i roi'r hawl i awdurdodau lleol rewi'r hawl i brynu yn eu hardaloedd mewn ymateb i brinder tai yn lleol. Rhaid i mi ddweud fy mod wedi wynebu gwrthwynebiad enfawr, er gwaethaf y ffaith fod y pwerau hynny'n eithaf cymedrol, pan feddyliwch am y peth, ac mewn achosion eithafol yn unig y caent eu rhoi. Ond mae'n rhoi opsiwn i awdurdodau lleol sy'n ymdrechu'n daer i ymdopi gyda'n hargyfwng tai.

Housing finance is very complex, so before moving ahead with removing the right to buy entirely, we do need to look at the long-term financial implications. Housing associations and councils will be best placed, of course, to tell us how reliant they are on the money raised from current sales. Many social landlords have included the right to buy in their long-term business plans, looking ahead for 30 years, and they may very well be relying on revenue from the right to buy to fund new build and to improve existing stock. Some might find those plans askew in achieving the Welsh housing quality standard if there's a sudden change in policy.

Mae cyllid tai yn gymhleth iawn, felly cyn symud ymlaen i gael gwared ar yr hawl i brynu yn gyfan gwbl, mae angen i ni edrych ar y goblygiadau ariannol hirdymor. Y cymdeithasau tai a'r cynghorau sydd yn y sefyllfa orau, wrth gwrs, i ddweud wrthym pa mor ddibynnol ydynt ar yr arian a godir o werthiannau cyfredol. Mae llawer o landlordiaid cymdeithasol wedi cynnwys yr hawl i brynu yn eu cynlluniau busnes hirdymor, gan edrych ymlaen dros 30 mlynedd, ac efallai'n wir y byddant yn dibynnu ar refeniw o'r hawl i brynu i ariannu adeiladu o'r newydd ac i wella'r stoc bresennol. Efallai y bydd rhai'n teimlo bod y cynlluniau hynny'n anaddas ar gyfer cyflawni safon ansawdd tai Cymru os ceir newid sydyn o ran polisi.

We saw something similar during the recession, because sales plummeted through the lack of mortgage availability. So, sales simply stopped. Those business plans were suddenly put in danger. Now, it's not inevitable, of course, that removing the right to buy would undermine budgetary planning, but I'm just saying it needs to be taken into consideration, because there has to be a robust consultation to assess the impact of changes. Of course, the responses to the Minister's White Paper will throw a light on that, and we could look to Scotland, because, rather than scrapping the right to buy in one go, I think they gradually phased it out, stopping new tenants having the right to buy, rather than taking rights away from people who currently had them, even if they never intended to exercise them. People will get very excited about this.

Gwelsom rywbeth tebyg yn ystod y dirwasgiad, gan fod gwerthiant wedi plymio am nad oedd morgeisi ar gael. Felly, yn syml, daeth y gwerthiannau i ben. Yn sydyn, roedd y cynlluniau busnes hynny mewn perygl. Yn awr, nid yw'n anochel, wrth gwrs, y bydd cael gwared ar yr hawl i brynu yn tanseilio cynlluniau cyllidebol, ond dim ond dweud y dylid ei ystyried wyf fi, am fod rhaid cael ymgynghoriad cadarn er mwyn asesu effaith y newidiadau. Wrth gwrs, bydd yr ymatebion i Bapur Gwyn y Gweinidog yn taflu goleuni ar hynny, a gallem edrych ar yr Alban, oherwydd, yn hytrach na diddymu'r hawl i brynu ar unwaith, rwy'n meddwl eu bod wedi cael gwared arno'n raddol fesul cam, gan roi'r gorau i adael i denantiaid newydd gael yr hawl i brynu, yn hytrach na diddymu hawliau a oedd gan bobl yn flaenorol, hyd yn oed os nad oeddent yn bwriadu eu harfer. Bydd pobl yn cyffroi cryn dipyn ynglŷn â hyn.

Of course, we have had budget cuts here: we've got the bedroom tax; we've got other budget cuts—all these affect housing finance, and I doubt that there's going to be a vastly increased investment. I think that's unlikely in housing as we go forward, although I think the new freedoms with the flexibility now around the housing revenue account system may give flexibility to councils that want to restart building programmes, and I think we would all welcome that. So, I'm pleased that there's a consultation under way. The practical implications, intended and unintended, should be made clear in those responses, and I think then we'll be in a better position to judge what the best options would be in the future. We should work with the sector to find sustainable financial solutions. Thank you.

Wrth gwrs, rydym wedi cael toriadau yn y gyllideb yma: rydym wedi cael y dreth ystafell wely; mae gennym doriadau cyllidebol eraill—mae'r rhain oll yn effeithio ar gyllid tai, ac rwy'n amau y bydd yna gynnydd aruthrol mewn buddsoddiadau. Credaf fod hynny'n annhebygol ym maes tai wrth inni symud ymlaen, er fy mod yn meddwl y gallai'r rhyddid newydd yn sgil yr hyblygrwydd erbyn hyn yn y system cyfrif refeniw tai hwyluso pethau i gynghorau sy'n awyddus i ailgychwyn rhaglenni adeiladu, ac rwy'n meddwl y byddem i gyd yn croesawu hynny. Felly, rwy'n falch fod ymgynghoriad ar y gweill. Dylai'r goblygiadau ymarferol, bwriadol ac anfwriadol, gael eu gwneud yn glir yn yr ymatebion hynny, ac rwy'n meddwl wedyn y byddwn mewn sefyllfa well i farnu beth fyddai'r opsiynau gorau yn y dyfodol. Dylem weithio gyda'r sector i ddod o hyd i atebion ariannol cynaliadwy. Diolch yn fawr.

16:28 **Janet Finch-Saunders** Bywgraffiad Biography

The people of Wales have higher aspirations for home ownership than those in any other part of the UK—I happen to think that's a good thing—with 84% of adults in Wales hoping to be home owners within the next 10 years. Do you know, it's rather fitting we have this debate today, because it's 40 years today since Margaret Thatcher became the first female leader of the Conservative Party, and this, of course, was her flagship policy? This was a policy not just about right to buy, but about a right to aspire, a right to achieve and a right to acquire. Some of those things do not go down too well with the Labour Government.

Mae gan bobl Cymru ddyheadau uwch o ran perchentyaeth na phobl mewn unrhyw ran arall o'r DU—rwy'n digwydd credu bod hynny'n beth da—gyda 84% o oedolion Cymru yn gobeithio bod yn berchen ar eu cartrefi o fewn y 10 mlynedd nesaf. Wyddoch chi, mae'n eithaf addas ein bod yn cael y ddadl hon heddiw, oherwydd mae'n 40 mlynedd heddiw ers i Margaret Thatcher ddod yn arweinydd benywaidd cyntaf y Blaid Geidwadol, a dyma oedd ei pholisi blaenllaw hi wrth gwrs. Roedd hwn yn bolisi nid yn unig am yr hawl i brynu, ond am yr hawl i ddyheu, yr hawl i gyflawni a'r hawl i gaffael. Nid yw rhai o'r pethau hynny'n apelio llawer at y Llywodraeth Lafur.

This scheme has served people with these aspirations well, and it has provided 138,000 Welsh households with a home to call their own since 1980. Pauline Barnett from Swansea bought her own council house in 1982, and she summed up the importance of right to buy, saying:

Mae'r cynllun hwn wedi gwasanaethu pobl sydd â'r dyheadau hyn yn dda, ac mae wedi darparu 138,000 o gartrefi eu hunain i deuluoedd yng Nghymru ers 1980. Prynodd Pauline Barnett o Abertawe ei thŷ cyngor ei hun yn 1982, ac mae hi'n crynhoi pwysigrwydd yr hawl i brynu, drwy ddweud:

'It was something we owned and it was ours.'

'Roedd yn rhywbeth roeddem yn berchen arno, a'n heiddo ni ydoedd.'

This scheme has helped people get a foot on the housing ladder, giving them security for their retirement. The Welsh Labour Government propose to abolish the right to buy and the right to acquire in the next Assembly term. Well, I would ask you to think again. In Wales, yes, we have a Labour crisis—no—well, we have one of them. But we have a housing crisis. The Labour Government simply didn't build the houses when the sun was shining. It's obvious, you know, when I think of my constituents battling to get up the never-ending waiting lists for social housing, or struggling to find that affordable house to buy.

Mae'r cynllun hwn wedi helpu pobl i gael troed ar yr ysgol dai, gan roi sicrwydd iddynt ar gyfer eu hymddeoliad. Mae Llywodraeth Lafur Cymru yn bwriadu diddymu'r hawl i brynu a'r hawl i gaffael yn nhymor nesaf y Cynulliad. Wel, hoffwn ofyn i chi feddwl eto. Yng Nghymru, oes, mae gennym argyfwng Llafur—na—wel, dyma un ohonynt. Ond mae gennym argyfwng tai. Yn syml, nid adeiladodd y Llywodraeth Lafur y tai pan oedd yr haul yn gwenu. Mae'n amlwg, wyddoch chi, pan fyddaf yn meddwl am fy etholwyr yn brwydro i godi'n uwch ar y rhestrau aros diddiwedd am dai cymdeithasol, neu'n brwydro i ddod o hyd i dŷ fforddiadwy i'w brynu.

Now, I understand in order to continue these schemes, the housing sector needs serious stimulation but taking away this ambition, aspiration and achievement is not the way to go. In the 1990s, under a Conservative Government, the level of social housing increased. You sell one and you build three. That's pretty simple maths and it's a simple growth stimulus. Under the last UK Labour Government, local authority waiting lists nearly doubled, with social housing homes for rent reducing by 421,000 in England and 29,000 in Wales.

Nawr, er mwyn parhau'r cynlluniau hyn, rwy'n deall bod angen ysgogiad difrifol ar y sector tai ond nid drwy ddwyn yr uchelgais, y dyhead a'r cyflawniad y mae gwneud hynny. Yn y 1990au, dan Lywodraeth Geidwadol, cynyddodd y lefel o dai cymdeithasol. Roeddech yn gwerthu un ac yn adeiladu tri. Dyna fathemateg eithaf syml ac mae'n ysgogiad syml i dwf. O dan Lywodraeth Lafur ddiwethaf y DU, gwelwyd rhestrau aros awdurdodau lleol bron yn dyblu yn eu maint, gyda 421,000 yn llai o gartrefi tai cymdeithasol i'w rhentu yn Lloegr a 29,000 yn llai yng Nghymru.

House building capacity in Wales is still falling under this Welsh Labour Government. New-home registrations were down by 32% between July 2012 and 2013. Yet, they were up by 34% in England for the same period. Under Labour, we have seen the lowest level of house building since the second world war. An independent review of housing need revealed that 14,000 homes would have to be built in Wales every year between 2006 and 2026 to meet that demand. However, in 2013-14, only 5,843 were built, and of those, only 671 were registered as social landlord dwellings and only 12 were owned by local authorities. So, what you're saying is wrong. Simple.

Mae gallu adeiladu tai yng Nghymru yn dal i ddisgyn o dan Lywodraeth Lafur Cymru. Disgynnodd nifer y cofrestriadau cartrefi newydd 32% rhwng mis Gorffennaf 2012 a 2013. Eto i gyd, roeddent 34% yn uwch yn Lloegr dros yr un cyfnod. O dan Lafur, rydym wedi gweld y lefel isaf o adeiladu tai ers yr ail ryfel byd. Datgelodd adolygiad annibynnol o anghenion tai y byddai'n rhaid adeiladu 14,000 o gartrefi yng Nghymru bob blwyddyn rhwng 2006 a 2026 er mwyn ateb y galw hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, yn 2013-14, dim ond 5,843 a adeiladwyd, ac o'r rheini, 671 yn unig a gofrestrwyd fel anheddau landlordiaid cymdeithasol a 12 yn unig a oedd yn eiddo i awdurdodau lleol. Felly, mae'r hyn rydych yn ei ddweud yn anghywir. Syml.

All these facts are indicative of a wider issue. The lack of understanding of the housing sector and the lack of understanding of the people who want to own their own homes. Professor Steve Wilcox, at the Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York, attributes the shortfall in social housing supply to the Welsh Government's failure to reinvest the right to buy receipts. In other words, you sold them, but you didn't give the money back into the housing. There is no excuse for this whatsoever.

Mae'r holl ffeithiau hyn yn arwydd o broblem ehangach, sef diffyg dealltwriaeth o'r sector tai a diffyg dealltwriaeth o'r bobl sydd am fod yn berchnogion ar eu cartrefi eu hunain. Mae'r Athro Steve Wilcox, yn y Ganolfan Polisïau Tai ym Mhrifysgol Efrog yn priodoli'r diffyg yn y cyflenwad o dai cymdeithasol i fethiant Llywodraeth Cymru i ailfuddsoddi derbyniadau'r hawl i brynu. Mewn geiriau eraill, fe werthoch chi nhw, ond ni roesoch yr arian yn ôl i mewn i dai. Nid oes unrhyw esgus o gwbl dros hyn.

Now, Welsh Conservatives would ensure that all proceeds of right-to-buy sales are invested in new social housing, to increase affordable housing supply. It costs £16,000, they reckon, more in Wales. I'm glad the Member for the Vale of Clwyd is back. Sprinklers is one example of where I know it makes it quite difficult for builders now, and Redrow house builders have stated that Wales is the most difficult area in the UK in which to operate. It is estimated that, by 2016, it will cost £13,000 more per square foot to build in Wales than in England. Property experts Knight Frank blamed the Welsh Government's over-zealous interpretation of regulations. This burden is suffocating the building trade, smaller business and the economy. House builders blamed red tape for the 12% fall in house building in 2013. The Welsh Government should be supporting the construction and house building trade, not forcing it over the border. You need to get a real grip and understanding of the sector and its demand.

Yn awr, byddai Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn sicrhau bod holl elw gwerthiannau hawl i brynu yn cael ei fuddsoddi mewn tai cymdeithasol newydd, i gynyddu'r cyflenwad o dai fforddiadwy. Maent yn ystyried eu bod yn costio £16,000 yn fwy yng Nghymru. Rwy'n falch fod yr Aelod dros Ddyffryn Clwyd yn ei ôl. Rwy'n gwybod bod chwistrellwyr yn un enghraifft o sefyllfa sy'n ei gwneud hi'n eithaf anodd ar adeiladwyr yn awr, ac mae'r adeiladwyr tai Redrow wedi datgan mai Cymru yw'r ardal anoddaf yn y DU i weithredu ynddi. Erbyn 2016, amcangyfrifir y bydd yn costio £13,000 yn fwy y droedfedd sgwâr i adeiladu yng Nghymru nag yn Lloegr. Roedd yr arbenigwyr ar eiddo Knight Frank yn beio dadansoddiad gorfrwdfrydig Llywodraeth Cymru o'r rheoliadau. Mae'r baich hwn yn mygu'r fasnach adeiladu, busnesau bach a'r economi. Roedd adeiladwyr tai yn beio biwrocratiaeth am y gostyngiad o 12% mewn adeiladu tai yn 2013. Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru gefnogi'r fasnach adeiladu ac adeiladu tai, nid ei gorfodi i fynd dros y ffin. Mae angen i chi gael gafael ar y sefyllfa a dealltwriaeth go iawn o'r sector a'r galwadau arno.

In England, more council houses are being built now than at any time since 1991.

Yn Lloegr, mae mwy o dai cyngor yn cael eu hadeiladu erbyn hyn nag ar unrhyw adeg ers 1991.

16:33 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography — Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Finish quickly, please.

Gorffennwch yn gyflym, os gwelwch yn dda.

16:33 **Janet Finch-Saunders** Bywgraffiad Biography — Senedd.tv Fideo Video

The Conservative Party believes that hard-working people should be able to afford to buy their own home.

Mae'r Blaid Geidwadol yn credu y dylai pobl weithgar allu fforddio prynu eu cartrefi eu hunain.

16:33 **Julie Morgan** Bywgraffiad Biography

I'm very pleased to speak in this very important debate. I'm very pleased that the Welsh Government is taking decisive action to tackle the issue of the right to buy. I think there is absolutely no doubt that the right to buy has contributed to the huge housing waiting lists that exist and the lack of housing stock.

Rwy'n falch iawn o gael siarad yn y ddadl hynod o bwysig hon. Rwy'n falch iawn fod Llywodraeth Cymru yn cymryd camau pendant i fynd i'r afael â mater hawl i brynu. Rwy'n credu nad oes unrhyw amheuaeth fod yr hawl i brynu wedi cyfrannu at y rhestri aros enfawr am dai a'r diffyg stoc dai.

In Cardiff, there are 9,163 live applications on the Cardiff common housing waiting list. I see many of those people from Cardiff North in my constituency surgery, and I'm sure other Members do the same. One of the most common reasons people come to see me is because they're on a housing list and they're not getting a place. They're looking for help with housing in particular areas in Cardiff. The main areas are Whitchurch, Llanishen and Llandaff North, and they're wanting to go there because that's where they may have been brought up, those are their homes, they want to live near their parents, they want help from their parents with their children in going to school, they've got obligations to older people or to older disabled people, and all the natural reasons why people want to live in certain areas. But, the council housing stock has diminished quite dramatically. In Llandaff North, a quarter of the housing stock has been sold privately, and in Gabalfa, 32% of the housing stock has been sold privately. I believe, in Wales as a whole, there's been a 45% reduction since this policy was introduced. I absolutely understand people's desire to own their own home, because I think a lot of us own our own homes here, and want to own our own homes. But I think you have to measure that against the important fact that people actually have to have somewhere to live.

Yng Nghaerdydd, mae 9,163 o geisiadau yn fyw ar y rhestr aros gyffredin am dai yng Nghaerdydd. Rwy'n gweld llawer o'r bobl hyn o ogledd Caerdydd yn fy nghymhorthfa etholaethol, ac rwy'n siŵr bod Aelodau eraill yn gweld yr un peth. Un o'r rhesymau mwyaf cyffredin y daw pobl i fy ngweld yw oherwydd eu bod ar restr dai ac nid ydynt yn cael lle. Maent yn chwilio am gymorth gyda thai mewn ardaloedd penodol yng Nghaerdydd. Y prif ardaloedd yw Eglwys Newydd, Llanisien ac Ystum Taf, ac maent yn awyddus i fynd yno oherwydd mai dyna lle y cawsant eu magu, o bosibl, dyna lle y mae eu cartrefi, maent eisiau byw'n agos at eu rhieni, maent eisiau help gan eu rhieni i fynd â'u plant i'r ysgol, mae ganddynt ymrwymiadau tuag at bobl hŷn neu bobl hŷn anabl, a'r holl resymau naturiol pam y mae pobl eisiau byw mewn ardaloedd penodol. Ond mae'r stoc dai cyngor wedi lleihau yn go sylweddol. Yn Ystum Taf, mae chwarter y stoc dai wedi ei gwerthu'n breifat, ac yng Ngabalfa, mae 32% o'r stoc dai wedi cael ei gwerthu'n breifat. Drwy Gymru, rwy'n credu bod 45% o ostyngiad wedi bod ers cyflwyno'r polisi hwn. Rwy'n llwyr ddeall awydd pobl i fod yn berchen ar eu cartref eu hunain, gan fy mod yn credu bod llawer ohonom yn berchen ar ein cartrefi ein hunain yma, ac yn awyddus i fod yn berchen ar ein cartrefi eu hunain. Ond rwy'n credu bod yn rhaid i chi fesur hynny yn erbyn y ffaith bwysig fod yn rhaid i bobl gael rhywle i fyw.

I know that somebody earlier on mentioned the dream of having a home, and buying your own home. Well, I can just remember the huge relief, when I was a child, when my family was awarded a council flat, and it was well built, with a big garden—Parker Morris standards—and that was an absolute dream, to actually have a home. It was a rented home, but in this situation, for people to actually have homes, I think that has got to take priority. I know that one of the Members talked about the development of some homes being homes making a mixed community, and I do accept that that is a good thing, but I also remember the council estates where there was just renting going on, and I think many of those council estates were very rooted communities, and people lived there in a very positive way. So, I accept the point that people are making, but I do think that the estates were very cohesive before that.

Gwn fod rhywun wedi crybwyll yn gynharach y freuddwyd o gael cartref, a phrynu eich cartref eich hun. Wel, gallaf gofio'r rhyddhad enfawr, pan oeddwn yn blentyn, pan gafodd fy nheulu fflat cyngor, ac roedd wedi'i adeiladu'n dda gyda gardd fawr—safonau Parker Morris—ac roedd honno'n freuddwyd go iawn, cael cartref. Cartref ar rent ydoedd, ond yn y sefyllfa hon, i bobl gael cartrefi mewn gwirionedd, rwy'n credu bod yn rhaid i hynny gael blaenoriaeth. Gwn fod un o'r Aelodau wedi siarad am ddatblygiad rhai cartrefi yn creu cymuned gymysg, ac rwy'n derbyn bod hynny'n beth da, ond rwyf hefyd yn cofio'r ystadau tai cyngor lle nad oedd dim heblaw rhentu'n digwydd, ac rwy'n meddwl bod llawer o'r ystadau tai cyngor hynny'n gymunedau gwreiddiedig iawn, ac roedd pobl yn byw yno mewn ffordd gadarnhaol iawn. Felly, rwy'n derbyn y pwynt y mae pobl yn ei wneud, ond rwy'n credu bod yr ystadau yn gydlynus iawn cyn hynny.

It's no wonder that the council housing hasn't been replaced, because other Members have made the point that, obviously, there was a discount of £16,000 on the housing to begin with, and when the policy was introduced it was stipulated—I think Peter Black made this point—that only half the proceeds went to the local authority, and they had to put the rest towards paying off the debt before they were able to use it to build houses. But, obviously, the worst thing of all that has happened, as I think other Members have mentioned, is that many of the council houses that have been sold are now being rented out, often back to the local authorities themselves—people are paying much higher rents than the council house rents—and are often housing homeless people. I don't have the figures for Wales, but I know that, in London, an Assembly Member has discovered that 36% of the houses that were sold under the right to buy were being let out to councils by private landlords for astronomical prices that meant, in fact, that right to buy has lost money for councils rather than bringing money in.

Nid yw'n syndod nad yw'r stoc dai cyngor wedi cael ei hadnewyddu, gan fod Aelodau eraill wedi gwneud y pwynt fod gostyngiad o £16,000 ar y tai i ddechrau, a phan gyflwynwyd y polisi, pennwyd mai dim ond hanner yr elw—rwy'n meddwl bod Peter Black wedi gwneud y pwynt—a aeth i'r awdurdod lleol, ac roedd yn rhaid iddynt roi'r gweddill tuag at dalu'r ddyled cyn y gallent ei ddefnyddio i adeiladu tai. Ond yn amlwg, y peth gwaethaf oll a ddigwyddodd, fel y mae Aelodau eraill wedi sôn rwy'n credu, yw bod llawer o'r tai cyngor a werthwyd bellach yn cael eu rhentu allan, yn aml yn ôl i'r awdurdodau lleol eu hunain—mae pobl yn talu rhenti llawer uwch na rhenti tai cyngor—ac yn aml cânt eu darparu ar gyfer y digartref. Nid oes gennyf ffigurau ar gyfer Cymru, ond gwn fod Aelod o'r Cynulliad wedi canfod fod 36% o'r tai a werthwyd o dan yr hawl i brynu yn Llundain ar osod i gynghorau gan landlordiaid preifat am brisiau annaearol a olygai mewn gwirionedd bod hawl i brynu wedi colli arian i gynghorau yn hytrach na dod ag arian i mewn.

So, I think the Welsh Government is absolutely right to change this policy. The other issue of course is that homes are being let out at an unacceptable rent. There are poor conditions, often, and poor terms of tenancies—which I know the Welsh Government is addressing in other legislation. But certainly, if tenants are on periodical assured shorthold tenancies, they can be evicted with two months' notice and have very little power to complain about the poor conditions that many of these houses that have fallen into the private sector have fallen into. So, I support very strongly what the Welsh Government is doing, and I hope it will bring more housing stock into Wales.

Felly, rwy'n meddwl bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn llygad ei lle yn newid y polisi hwn. Y mater arall wrth gwrs yw bod cartrefi yn cael eu gosod ar rent annerbyniol. Mae'r eiddo mewn cyflwr gwael yn aml, a thelerau tenantiaeth yn wael a gwn fod Llywodraeth Cymru yn mynd i'r afael â hyn mewn deddfwriaeth arall. Ond yn sicr, os yw tenantiaid ar denantiaethau byrddaliol sicr cyfnodol, gellir eu troi allan gyda dau fis o rybudd ac ychydig iawn o bŵer sydd gan bobl i gwyno am gyflwr gwael llawer o'r tai hyn yn y sector preifat. Felly, rwy'n cefnogi'n gryf iawn yr hyn y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud, ac rwy'n gobeithio y bydd yn arwain at fwy o stoc dai i Gymru.

16:38

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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Galwaf ar y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi, Lesley Griffiths.

I call the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty, Lesley Griffiths.

16:38

Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography

Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi / The Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer. This Welsh Labour Government is committed to social housing. It is an important safety net for those who cannot buy or rent safe, secure homes through the market. Developing and maintaining our social housing stock is a key way of using housing policy to tackle poverty. The highly targeted nature of social housing makes it one of the most redistributed aspects of our entire welfare state.

Diolch i chi, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Mae'r Llywodraeth Lafur hon wedi ymrwymo i dai cymdeithasol. Mae'n rhwyd ddiogelwch bwysig i rai nad ydynt yn gallu prynu neu rentu cartrefi diogel drwy'r farchnad. Mae datblygu a chynnal ein stoc dai cymdeithasol yn ffordd allweddol o ddefnyddio polisi tai i fynd i'r afael â thlodi. Mae natur dargededig iawn tai cymdeithasol yn ei gwneud yn un o'r agweddau sydd wedi'u hailddosrannu fwyaf o'n holl wladwriaeth les.

As part of our work to meet housing needs and tackle poverty, we are consulting on our proposals to protect our social housing stock. The first proposal is to reduce the maximum discount on the sale price of a property from £16,000 to £8,000. This is a short-to-medium-term action that should help to reduce the number of sales. Our second proposal would result in the development of new primary legislation to end the right to buy and the right to acquire. Ultimately, this is the only way to protect social housing stock from continuing erosion. Draft legislation would be prepared for the Government to consider for inclusion in the legislative programme of the next Assembly.

Fel rhan o'n gwaith i ddiwallu anghenion tai a threchu tlodi, rydym yn ymgynghori ar ein cynigion i ddiogelu ein stoc dai cymdeithasol. Y cynnig cyntaf yw lleihau uchafswm y gostyngiad ar bris gwerthu eiddo o £16,000 i £8,000. Gweithred yn y tymor byr i'r tymor canolig yw hon, a dylai helpu i leihau nifer y gwerthiannau. Byddai ein hail cynnig yn arwain at ddatblygu deddfwriaeth sylfaenol newydd i roi terfyn ar yr hawl i brynu a'r hawl i gaffael. Yn y pen draw, dyma'r unig ffordd i ddiogelu stoc dai cymdeithasol rhag erydiad parhaus. Byddai deddfwriaeth ddrafft yn cael ei pharatoi i'r Llywodraeth ystyried ei chynnwys yn rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol y Cynulliad nesaf.

Since 1981, right to buy and right to acquire have resulted in the loss of more than 138,000 homes from the social housing sector in Wales. Although the number of sales has fallen in recent years, sales continue to be made. As a result, fewer homes are available for those on lower incomes to rent. Alongside the loss of existing stock, we have to consider the disincentive to councils. May have raised with me the risk of investing in new homes only to lose them after a relatively short period. They believe this is a barrier to embarking on a new-build council housing programme, and this is not the way to ensure we have social housing for future generations.

Ers 1981, mae'r hawl i brynu a'r hawl i gaffael wedi arwain at golli mwy na 138,000 o gartrefi o'r sector dai cymdeithasol yng Nghymru. Er bod nifer y gwerthiannau wedi gostwng yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf, maent yn parhau i ddigwydd. O ganlyniad, mae llai o dai ar gael i rai ar incwm is eu rhentu. Ochr yn ochr â cholli stoc bresennol, mae'n rhaid i ni ystyried yr anghymhelliad i gynghorau. Mae sawl un wedi tynnu fy sylw at y risg o fuddsoddi mewn cartrefi newydd a'u colli wedyn ar ôl cyfnod cymharol fyr. Maent yn credu bod hyn yn rhwystr i ddechrau ar raglen adeiladu tai cyngor newydd, ac nid dyma'r ffordd i sicrhau bod gennym dai cymdeithasol ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol.

We also have to take into account the evidence that large numbers of former right to buy properties, as Julie Morgan stated, have ended up in the private sector, where higher rents are charged. A study by the University of Glasgow suggests that in Renfrewshire alone, this is costing an extra £3 million a year in housing benefit payments compared with what would have been paid had those houses remained in council ownership.

Rhaid i ni hefyd ystyried y dystiolaeth fod llawer iawn o eiddo blaenorol hawl i brynu, fel y nododd Julie Morgan, bellach yn y sector preifat, lle y codir rhenti uwch. Mae astudiaeth gan Brifysgol Glasgow yn awgrymu bod hyn yn costio £3 miliwn yn ychwanegol y flwyddyn yn Renfrewshire yn unig mewn taliadau budd-dal tai o'i gymharu â'r hyn a fyddai wedi cael ei dalu pe bai'r tai hynny'n parhau i fod yn eiddo i'r cyngor.

The proposals on the right to buy and right to acquire are only a part of our work to tackle the housing crisis. We are working with partners to increase housing supply. During this Assembly, we are investing over £400 million in affordable homes through our social housing grant programme. The help to buy scheme, so derided by Mark Isherwood and Antoinette Sandbach in their remarks, is also supporting the construction and sale of properties in urban and rural areas. To date, there have been over 1,100 completions through this scheme. We've already achieved nearly 70% of our target of 10,000 affordable homes during this Assembly, and nearly 90% of our target of 5,000 empty homes being brought back into use as a result of our very successful Houses into Homes scheme.

Rhan o'n gwaith yn unig ar fynd i'r afael â'r argyfwng tai yw'r cynigion ar yr hawl i brynu a'r hawl i gaffael. Rydym yn gweithio gyda phartneriaid i gynyddu'r cyflenwad tai. Yn ystod y Cynulliad hwn, rydym yn buddsoddi dros £400 miliwn mewn tai fforddiadwy drwy ein rhaglen grant tai cymdeithasol. Mae'r cynllun cymorth i brynu, a wawdiwyd i'r fath raddau gan Mark Isherwood a Antoinette Sandbach yn eu sylwadau, hefyd yn cefnogi'r gwaith o adeiladu a gwerthu eiddo mewn ardaloedd trefol a gwledig. Hyd yma, mae dros 1,100 o werthiannau wedi'u cwblhau drwy'r cynllun hwn. Rydym eisoes wedi cyflawni bron i 70% o'n targed o 10,000 o gartrefi fforddiadwy yn ystod y Cynulliad hwn, a bron i 90% o'n targed i ddod â 5,000 o gartrefi gwag yn ôl i ddefnydd o ganlyniad i'n cynllun llwyddiannus iawn, Troi Tai'n Gartrefi.

16:41

Antoinette Sandbach Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Given that so little new house building is done in rural areas, why will you not extend the scheme, particularly in rural areas, out to housing that is not new-build housing, but that is just housing for sale that is affordable or within their budget?

O ystyried bod cyn lleied o adeiladu tai newydd yn digwydd mewn ardaloedd gwledig, pam na wnewch chi ymestyn y cynllun, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd gwledig, i gynnwys tai nad ydynt yn dai newydd, ond yn hytrach yn dai ar werth sy'n fforddiadwy neu o fewn eu cyllideb?

16:42

Lesley Griffiths Bywgraffiad Biography

I believe the help to buy scheme is helping families. I've met families who are very happy with the scheme. We are well on our target for the scheme, and we can look at what else we can do around that scheme in due course. We've already achieved nearly 70% of our target of 10,000 affordable homes during this Assembly, and I, too, want to help people who aspire to own their own home.

Rwy'n credu bod y cynllun cymorth i brynu yn helpu teuluoedd. Rwyf wedi cwrdd â theuluoedd sy'n hapus iawn gyda'r cynllun. Rydym ar y trywydd i gyrraedd ein targed ar gyfer y cynllun, a gallwn edrych i weld beth arall y gallwn ei wneud gyda'r cynllun hwnnw maes o law. Rydym eisoes wedi cyflawni bron i 70% o'n targed o 10,000 o gartrefi fforddiadwy yn ystod y Cynulliad hwn, ac rwy'n awyddus hefyd i helpu pobl sy'n dyheu i fod yn berchen ar eu cartref eu hunain.

This motion ignores the pressure on our housing system and the vital role social housing plays in meeting the housing needs of those who cannot buy or rent a home in the commercial market. Social housing is absolutely crucial in tackling poverty. Another aspect that I don't think is recognised is that this policy came in in the early 1980s. Many of the houses sold were one and two-bedroomed. This UK Government has pushed many people out of their own homes through the bedroom tax, and we now need to rehouse people in one and two-bedroomed houses. These people have been affected by that spiteful policy. The Welsh Conservatives talk about helping vulnerable and hardworking people; I can tell you, the bedroom tax does not do that. It also ignores the huge efforts we are making in partnership with local authorities, housing associations and house builders to increase housing supply.

Mae'r cynnig hwn yn anwybyddu'r pwysau ar ein system dai a rôl hanfodol tai cymdeithasol yn diwallu anghenion tai pobl nad ydynt yn gallu prynu na rhentu cartref yn y farchnad fasnachol. Mae tai cymdeithasol yn gwbl hanfodol ar gyfer trechu tlodi. Agwedd arall nad wyf yn credu ei bod yn cael ei chydnabod yw bod y polisi hwn wedi cael ei gyflwyno yn y 1980au cynnar. Tai un a dwy ystafell wely oedd llawer o'r tai a werthwyd. Mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi gwthio llawer o bobl allan o'u cartrefi eu hunain drwy'r dreth ystafell wely, ac mae angen i ni ailgartrefu pobl yn awr mewn tai un a dwy ystafell wely. Mae'r bobl hyn wedi cael eu heffeithio gan y polisi maleisus hwnnw. Mae'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn sôn am helpu pobl sy'n agored i niwed a phobl weithgar; gallaf ddweud wrthych nad yw'r dreth ystafell wely yn gwneud hynny. Mae hefyd yn anwybyddu'r ymdrechion enfawr rydym yn eu gwneud mewn partneriaeth ag awdurdodau lleol, cymdeithasau tai ac adeiladwyr tai i gynyddu'r cyflenwad tai.

Turning to the amendments, amendment 1 recognises local councils already have an option to apply to the Welsh Government to suspend the right to buy. This is a statement of fact. Last month, I approved Carmarthenshire County Council's application, and I am currently considering one from Swansea. More, however, needs to be done on an all-Wales basis. But, we will be supporting amendment 1 and amendment 2, which deletes point 2(a), which regrets the Welsh Government's intention to end the right to buy and right to acquire. We welcome that amendment and we support the removal of this part of the motion. We'll also be supporting amendment 3, which calls on the Welsh Government to consider the suspension of the right to buy for new-build social housing whilst retaining rights for existing tenants. We are out to consultation, as has been said, so we will of course consider all responses to the White Paper and can support the amendment on that basis. We can also support amendment 4. We would wish to set a target and include this in the First Minister's annual report on progress with the programme for government. And, as Peter Black stated, we have targets for this term and we will be meeting those targets.

Gan droi at y gwelliannau, mae gwelliant 1 yn cydnabod bod gan gynghorau lleol opsiwn eisoes i wneud cais i Lywodraeth Cymru atal yr hawl i brynu. Datganiad o ffaith yw hwn. Y mis diwethaf, cymeradwyais gais Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin, ac rwyf ar hyn o bryd yn ystyried cais o Abertawe. Fodd bynnag, mae angen gwneud mwy ar sail Cymru gyfan. Ond byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant 1 a gwelliant 2, sy'n dileu pwynt 2(a), sy'n gresynu bwriad Llywodraeth Cymru i roi terfyn ar yr hawl i brynu a'r hawl i gaffael. Rydym yn croesawu'r gwelliant hwnnw ac yn cefnogi cael gwared ar y rhan hon o'r cynnig. Byddwn hefyd yn cefnogi gwelliant 3, sy'n galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ystyried atal yr hawl i brynu ar gyfer tai cymdeithasol a adeiladwyd o'r newydd gan gadw hawliau ar gyfer tenantiaid presennol. Rydym wrthi'n cynnal ymgynghoriad, fel y dywedwyd, felly byddwn yn ystyried yr holl ymatebion i'r Papur Gwyn wrth gwrs a gallwn gefnogi'r gwelliant ar y sail honno. Gallwn hefyd gefnogi gwelliant 4. Byddem yn dymuno pennu targed a'i gynnwys yn adroddiad blynyddol y Prif Weinidog ar gynnydd y rhaglen lywodraethu. Ac fel y nododd Peter Black, mae gennym dargedau ar gyfer y tymor hwn a byddwn yn cyrraedd y targedau hynny.

So, whilst we support all the amendments, we will oppose the substantive motion because of the unjustified criticism of the Government's record in 2(b) and 2(c). We are proud of the work we've done already to increase the supply of affordable housing and to stem the loss of social housing, and we have shown we are determined to continue and develop those efforts.

Felly, er ein bod yn cefnogi'r holl welliannau, byddwn yn gwrthwynebu'r cynnig gwreiddiol oherwydd y feirniadaeth na ellir ei chyfiawnhau o record y Llywodraeth yn 2(b) a 2(c). Rydym yn falch o'r gwaith rydym wedi ei wneud eisoes i gynyddu'r cyflenwad o dai fforddiadwy ac i atal rhag colli tai cymdeithasol, ac rydym wedi dangos ein bod yn benderfynol o barhau a datblygu'r ymdrechion hynny.

16:44

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

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Galwaf ar Nick Ramsay i ymateb i'r ddadl.

I call on Nick Ramsay to reply to the debate.

16:44

Nick Ramsay Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer, and can I thank everyone from all parties who has contributed to this afternoon's debate: an important debate, as many Members have said. I suppose it was always going to be a long shot to expect the Welsh Government to accept this motion unamended, so I won't be too disappointed there, but I think a number of points have been made, and a number of confusions have been aired.

Diolch i chi, Ddirprwy Lywydd, a hoffwn ddiolch i bawb o bob plaid sydd wedi cyfrannu at y ddadl y prynhawn yma: dadl bwysig, fel y mae llawer o'r Aelodau wedi ei ddweud. Mae'n debyg y byddai bob amser wedi bod yn ormod i'w ddisgwyl i Lywodraeth Cymru dderbyn y cynnig heb ei ddiwygio, felly ni fyddaf yn rhy siomedig, ond rwy'n meddwl bod nifer o bwyntiau wedi'u gwneud, ac mae nifer o bethau sy'n peri dryswch wedi cael eu gwyntyllu.

The opening point of the Welsh Conservatives motion notes the large number of people who have benefitted from the right to buy and to acquire, and we regret the recent decision of the Welsh Government to revoke that right—a right that, let's face it, very many people have come to accept over many years. That is why it has been termed a right. That is not to say that Welsh Conservatives do not recognise that there is a lack of affordable housing in our country—a point many Members have made—because there clearly is, but the two issues have been confused and conjoined.

Mae pwynt agoriadol cynnig y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn nodi'r nifer fawr o bobl sydd wedi elwa ar yr hawl i brynu ac i gaffael, ac rydym yn gresynu at benderfyniad diweddar Llywodraeth Cymru i ddiddymu'r hawl honno—hawl y mae llawer o bobl, gadewch i ni wynebu'r peth, wedi dod i'w derbyn dros nifer o flynyddoedd. Dyna pam y cafodd ei galw'n hawl. Nid yw hynny'n golygu nad yw'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn cydnabod bod diffyg tai fforddiadwy yn ein gwlad—pwynt y mae llawer o Aelodau wedi ei wneud—oherwydd mae'n amlwg fod diffyg yn bodoli, ond mae'r ddau fater wedi cael eu drysu a'u cyfuno.

Yes, we need an appropriate supply of affordable housing; we're all agreed on that. As Mark Isherwood said in his opening contribution, the take-up of right to buy is actually no longer significant enough for its suspension to suddenly free up a huge number of houses. The Welsh Government has itself said that, so, this is a smokescreen, and you can't have it both ways. If the take-up is so low that it won't make that difference to suspend it, then it just won't, so let's get to the nub of the argument.

Oes, mae angen cyflenwad priodol o dai fforddiadwy; rydym i gyd yn gytûn ar hynny. Fel y dywedodd Mark Isherwood yn ei gyfraniad agoriadol, nid yw'r nifer sy'n defnyddio'r hawl i brynu yn ddigon arwyddocaol mewn gwirionedd i'w hataliad arwain at ryddhau nifer fawr o dai yn sydyn. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru ei hun wedi dweud hynny, felly, taflu llwch i lygaid yw hyn, ac ni allwch ei chael bob ffordd. Os yw'r nifer sy'n arfer yr hawl mor isel fel na fydd ei hatal yn gwneud gwahaniaeth, yna ni fydd yn gwneud hynny, felly gadewch i ni fynd at graidd y ddadl.

Mark Isherwood, you also quoted a number of statistics. I will not attempt to repeat them, as I could not do so as eloquently as you, but the problem is clear: falling supply unaddressed over very many years, particularly over the last 12 years, has caused this problem, and we could better utilise existing stock and, indeed, existing empty stock, but that doesn't mean denying aspiration, and that goes to the heart of our motion. In England, council house building is at an all-time high. Why is it not here? Right to buy has been a way to get people onto the property ladder since its inception in the 1980s. Why kick that ladder away now? Peter Black dismissed suspending the right to buy—

Mark Isherwood, fe ddyfynnoch chi nifer o ystadegau hefyd. Ni cheisiaf eu hailadrodd, gan na allwn wneud hynny mor huawdl â chi, ond mae'r broblem yn glir: y gostyngiad yn y cyflenwad, heb i neb wneud dim am y peth dros nifer fawr o flynyddoedd, yn enwedig dros y 12 mlynedd diwethaf, sydd wedi achosi'r broblem hon, a gallem wneud gwell defnydd o'r stoc bresennol ac yn wir, stoc wag sydd eisoes yn bodoli, ond nid yw hynny'n golygu gwarafun eu huchelgais i bobl, a hynny sy'n mynd at wraidd ein cynnig. Yn Lloegr, mae adeiladu tai cyngor ar ei lefel uchaf erioed. Pam nad yw hynny'n wir yma? Mae hawl i brynu wedi bod yn ffordd o gael pobl ar yr ysgol eiddo ers ei sefydlu yn y 1980au. Pam cicio'r ysgol i ffwrdd yn awr? Diystyrodd Peter Black atal yr hawl i brynu—

16:47

Mike Hedges Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Will you take an intervention?

A wnewch chi dderbyn ymyriad?

16:47

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Are you giving way?

A ydych yn ildio?

16:47

Nick Ramsay Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

In one moment. Peter Black dismissed suspending the right to buy for the sake of it, and I agreed with that. In a balanced contribution, Peter, you said that that, yes, we need to increase the supply of new build, and why actually extend this policy to new build, why not have a more progressive system, like in Scotland. Mike Hedges.

Mewn munud. Diystyrodd Peter Black atal yr hawl i brynu er ei ddiben ei hun, ac rwy'n cytuno gyda hynny. Mewn cyfraniad cytbwys, Peter, fe ddywedoch, oes, fod angen inni gynyddu'r cyflenwad o adeiladau newydd, a pham ymestyn y polisi hwn i gynnwys adeiladau newydd mewn gwirionedd, pam na allwn gael system fwy blaengar, fel yn yr Alban. Mike Hedges.

16:47

Mike Hedges Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

You said that council house building is at an all-time high. I don't think you meant that. I think you meant it is at a high since the 1980s, because the building in the 1950s and 1960s was substantial.

Fe ddywedoch fod codi tai cyngor ar ei lefel uchaf erioed. Nid wyf yn credu eich bod yn golygu hynny. Rwy'n credu eich bod yn golygu ei fod ar ei lefel uchaf ers y 1980au, gan fod yr adeiladu a wnaed yn y 1950au a'r 1960au yn sylweddol.

16:47 **Nick Ramsay** Bywgraffiad Biography

Yes, I meant a relative high, but certainly a high compared with the failure to build that has happened in Wales over that time. We should support standards. You made this point, Mike Hedges: you spoke about your visit to constituents' houses that were affected by structural problems, by damp. I've been to houses like that—many AMs have in the course of their jobs—and I agree with the basic nub of your point, which is: you would only expect other people to live with a standard that you would accept yourself, and if many people in this Chamber have had the right to buy and are lucky enough to live in houses that they own, and are able to own a home, why can we not extend that right, and protect that right, for other people across society? I think that's what we should be doing.

Ie, lefel uchel o gymharu oedd gennyf mewn golwg, ond yn sicr ar lefel uchel o gymharu â'r methiant i adeiladu sydd wedi digwydd yng Nghymru dros y cyfnod hwnnw. Dylem gynnal safonau. Fe wnaethoch y pwynt hwn, Mike Hedges: fe siaradoch am eich ymweliad â thai etholwyr sydd wedi cael eu heffeithio gan broblemau strwythurol, gan leithder. Rwyf i wedi bod mewn tai o'r fath—fel llawer o ACau yn rhinwedd eu swyddi—ac rwy'n cytuno â chraidd sylfaenol eich pwynt, sef y byddech ond yn disgwyl i bobl eraill fyw gyda safon a fyddai'n dderbyniol i chi eich hun, ac os yw llawer o bobl yn y Siambr hon wedi cael yr hawl i brynu ac yn ddigon ffodus i fyw mewn tai y maent yn berchen arnynt, ac yn gallu bod yn berchen ar gartref, pam na allwn ymestyn yr hawl honno, ac amddiffyn yr hawl honno, i bobl eraill ar draws y gymdeithas? Rwy'n credu mai dyna y dylem fod yn ei wneud.

As Jocelyn Davies said, there are more progressive ways to deal with this problem, as we saw in Scotland. Why remove the right from everyone in one go? In a way, Jocelyn, you were supporting, in the main, the Government's view, but you were doing it in a far more balanced way that recognised that, do we really want to say to people across Wales, 'No, we are going to remove an aspiration, we are going to remove a right that you have come to be used to'? I don't think Assembly Members really want to say that, and I think that is what our motion is all about.

Fel y dywedodd Jocelyn Davies, mae yna ffyrdd mwy blaengar o ddelio â'r broblem, fel y gwelsom yn yr Alban. Pam cael gwared ar yr hawl i bawb ar yr un pryd? Mewn ffordd, Jocelyn, roeddech yn cefnogi barn y Llywodraeth ar y cyfan, ond roeddech yn ei wneud mewn modd llawer mwy cytbwys a oedd yn cydnabod, a ydym eisiau dweud wrth bobl ledled Cymru mewn gwirionedd, 'Na, rydym yn mynd i gael gwared ar ddyhead, rydym yn mynd i gael gwared ar hawl rydych wedi arfer â hi'? Nid wyf yn credu bod Aelodau'r Cynulliad eisiau dweud hynny mewn gwirionedd, ac rwy'n meddwl mai ymwneud â hynny y mae ein cynnig.

Minister, the reduction of the right to buy discount, which you mentioned, from £16,000 to £8,000—. And, okay, there are financial issues at stake here, we're aware of that, but, actually, by talking about reducing that discount, are you not kicking away the ladder for those who can least afford it? It was the people who really needed the discount that would benefit from it, so I think that there is a basic disparity here in what the Labour Party are saying during this debate and what you actually believe in, and I think a lot of Labour Assembly Members didn't really want to go down that line. You chucked in the bedroom tax, of course you did; we expected that. Janet Finch-Saunders did retaliate with Margaret Thatcher, a very brave name, always, to chuck into an Assembly debate on the fortieth anniversary of her election to Parliament. In conclusion— [Interruption.] Election, sorry, to leader of the Conservative party.

Weinidog, mae'r lleihad yn y gostyngiad hawl i brynu, a grybwyllwyd gennych, o £16,000 i £8,000—. Iawn, mae yna faterion ariannol yn y fantol yma, rydym yn ymwybodol o hynny, ond mewn gwirionedd, drwy sôn am leihau'r gostyngiad, onid ydych yn cicio'r ysgol o dan draed y rhai sy'n lleiaf abl i'w fforddio? Y bobl a oedd wir angen y gostyngiad a fyddai'n elwa ohono, felly rwy'n credu bod gwahaniaeth sylfaenol yma rhwng yr hyn y mae'r Blaid Lafur yn ei ddweud yn ystod y ddadl hon a'r hyn rydych yn credu ynddo mewn gwirionedd, ac rwy'n meddwl nad oedd llawer o Aelodau Llafur y Cynulliad eisiau mynd i lawr y llwybr hwnnw mewn gwirionedd. Fe dafloch y dreth ystafell wely i mewn wrth gwrs; roeddem yn disgwyl hynny. Fe atebodd Janet Finch-Saunders gan gyfeirio at Margaret Thatcher, enw dewr iawn i'w daflu i mewn i ddadl yn y Cynulliad bob amser, a hithau'n ddeugain mlynedd ar ôl ei hethol i'r Senedd. I gloi— [Torri ar draws.] mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ar ôl ei hethol yn arweinydd y blaid Geidwadol.

In conclusion, there is a problem here, but the Welsh Government solution is not the right solution to that problem. This is a sledgehammer to crack a nut. Yes, deal with the housing problem, yes, deal with the limited supply, but don't kick away the ladder that people have benefited from. Don't kick away the ladder, and support this motion and make sure that people in Wales carry on having a right that has been very important to them, which was granted to them in the 1980s and which should not be removed now.

I gloi, mae yna broblem yn y fan hon, ond nid ateb Llywodraeth Cymru yw'r ateb cywir i'r broblem honno. Dyma ordd i dorri cneuen. Iawn, deliwch â'r broblem dai, ie, deliwch â'r cyflenwad cyfyngedig, ond peidiwch â chicio'r ysgol sydd wedi rhoi budd i bobl. Peidiwch â chicio'r ysgol i ffwrdd o dan eu traed, a chefnogwch y cynnig hwn i wneud yn siŵr fod pobl Cymru yn parhau i gael hawl sydd wedi bod yn bwysig iawn iddynt, hawl a roddwyd iddynt yn y 1980au ac na ddylid ei diddymu yn awr.

16:50 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Y cwestiwn yw a ddylid derbyn y cynnig heb ei ddiwygio. A oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad? [Gwrthwynebiad.] Gohiriaf y bleidlais ar yr eitem hon tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

The proposal is to agree the motion without amendment. Does any Member object? [Objection.] I defer voting until voting time.

Gohiriwyd y pleidleisio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Voting deferred until voting time.

5. Dadl Plaid Cymru: Gweithlu'r GIG

Detholwyd y gwelliannau canlynol: gwelliant 1 yn enw Paul Davies, a gwelliannau 2 a 3 yn enw Aled Roberts. Os derbynnir gwelliant 1, bydd gwelliant 2 yn cael ei ddad-ddethol.

5. Plaid Cymru Debate: NHS Workforce

The following amendments have been selected: amendment 1 in the name of Paul Davies, and amendments 2 and 3 in the name of Aled Roberts. If amendment 1 is agreed, amendment 2 will be deselected.

16:50

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

Item 5 is the Plaid Cymru debate on the NHS workforce, and I call on Elin Jones to move the motion.

Eitem 5 yw dadl Plaid Cymru ar weithlu'r GIG, a galwaf ar Elin Jones i gynnig y cynnig.

Cynnig NDM5695 Elin Jones

Motion NDM5695 Elin Jones

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i baratoi cynllun gweithlu cenedlaethol 10 mlynedd newydd ar gyfer y GIG, sy'n cynnwys camau i hyfforddi a recriwtio 1,000 o feddygon ychwanegol, er mwyn sicrhau bod y GIG yn gallu darparu gwasanaethau iechyd ym mhob rhan o Gymru.

Calls on Welsh Government to prepare a new 10 year national workforce plan for the NHS, which includes actions to train and recruit 1,000 additional doctors, to ensure the NHS is able to deliver health services in all parts of Wales.

Cynigiwyd y cynnig.

Motion moved.

16:50

Elin Jones Bywgraffiad Biography

Diolch, Ddirprwy Lywydd, and I move the motion.

Diolch, Ddirprwy Lywydd, a chynigiaf y cynnig.

It's not often that Plaid Cymru tables a motion for debate at the request of the First Minister, but, in responding to Leanne Wood last week on how and why Plaid Cymru believes that the NHS requires 1,000 additional doctors over the next 10 years, the First Minister did say that it would help him if we were to explain how the recruitment of 1,000 doctors is achievable and where they'd come from.

Nid yn aml y bydd Plaid Cymru yn cyflwyno cynnig ar gyfer dadl ar gais y Prif Weinidog, ond wrth ymateb i Leanne Wood yr wythnos diwethaf ar sut a pham y mae Plaid Cymru yn credu bod y GIG angen 1,000 o feddygon ychwanegol dros y 10 mlynedd nesaf, fe ddywedodd y Prif Weinidog y byddai'n ei helpu pe baem yn esbonio sut y mae modd recriwtio 1,000 o feddygon ac o ble y byddent yn dod.

We did hold a similar debate last year, when Plaid Cymru published our proposals on training and recruiting 1,000 extra doctors. Last week, the First Minister described this paper as 'mythical'. It's not, and if I was ân AM of a theatrical disposition, then I'd wave the paper around at this stage to disprove its mythicality, but I'm not that way inclined. So, suffice it to say that the paper exists: it's on my desk and it's on the website. Today Plaid Cymru will spend some time outlining some of our ideas in that paper and other ideas that could boost doctor numbers in Wales.

Cynhaliwyd dadl debyg gennym y llynedd pan gyhoeddodd Plaid Cymru ein cynigion ar hyfforddi a recriwtio 1,000 o feddygon ychwanegol. Yr wythnos diwethaf, disgrifiodd y Prif Weinidog y papur hwn fel un 'mytholegol'. Nid yw'n hynny, a phe bawn yn AC mwy theatrig fy natur, byddwn yn chwifio'r papur o gwmpas ar y cam hwn er mwyn gwrthbrofi ei fytholegrwydd, ond nid un felly ydw i. Felly, digon yw dweud fod y papur yn bodoli: mae ar fy nesg ac mae ar y wefan. Heddiw bydd Plaid Cymru yn treulio rhywfaint o amser yn amlinellu rhai o'n syniadau yn y papur a syniadau eraill a allai gynyddu nifer y meddygon yng Nghymru.

I hope to answer two questions at the start of this debate: 'Why doctors?' and 'Why 1,000?' Amendment 1 today seeks to refer to a wider range of NHS staff than just doctors. I agree in principle, but not for the purpose of this debate. Just as Kirsty Williams finds herself being questioned on why her legislation for safe staffing is for nurses only, then we are, of course, open to challenge on our focus on doctors in this debate today.

Rwy'n gobeithio ateb dau gwestiwn ar ddechrau'r ddadl hon: 'Pam meddygon?' a 'Pham 1,000?' Mae gwelliant 1 heddiw yn ceisio cyfeirio at ystod ehangach o staff y GIG na dim ond meddygon. Rwy'n cytuno mewn egwyddor, ond nid at ddibenion y ddadl hon. Yn union fel y gofynnir i Kirsty Williams pam y mae ei deddfwriaeth staffio diogel ar gyfer nyrsys yn unig, yna rydym ninnau, wrth gwrs, yn agored i her ar ein ffocws ar feddygon yn y ddadl hon heddiw.

I agree that the next 10 years of the NHS will require more staff in a variety of professions, nurses to paramedics, especially those that become specialist nurses and consultant paramedics. As we look to care for a more elderly population, then professions in reablement teams will become more necessary in our communities, as will care workers.

Rwy'n cytuno y bydd 10 mlynedd nesaf y GIG yn galw am fwy o staff mewn amrywiaeth o broffesiynau, o nyrsys i barafeddygon, yn enwedig y rhai sy'n dod yn nyrsys arbenigol a pharafeddygon ymgynghorol. Wrth i ni geisio gofalu am boblogaeth fwy oedrannus, yna bydd ar ein cymunedau fwy o angen proffesiynau mewn timau ailalluogi, yn ogystal â gweithwyr gofal.

The Minister's statement today to allocate £80 million to train more non-doctor NHS staff is good news, and it complements our debate this afternoon. I hope the debate will give the Minister an opportunity to clarify the Government's view on whether additional doctors are needed in Wales, as well as today's announcement of an £80 million training package.

Mae datganiad y Gweinidog heddiw i ddyrannu £80 miliwn i hyfforddi mwy o staff y GIG nad ydynt yn feddygon yn newyddion da, ac mae'n ategu ein dadl y prynhawn yma. Rwy'n gobeithio y bydd y ddadl yn rhoi cyfle i'r Gweinidog egluro safbwynt y Llywodraeth ynglŷn ag a oes angen meddygon ychwanegol yng Nghymru, yn ogystal â chyhoeddiad heddiw o becyn hyfforddi gwerth £80 miliwn.

There is also a most obvious reason to prioritise doctors in any ministerial NHS workforce plan. If you want to see an increase in doctors, then you have to start training doctors early. It's 10 years before they are fully up and running—longer in some specialist cases. We know that there are certain specialisms in Wales into which it is difficult to recruit, and we especially know of the shortage of GPs that is looming, especially in certain rural and Valleys areas. Twenty three per cent of GPs are over 55 years old in Wales; in Dwyfor, it's 47%, in Caerphilly, it's 31%, in north Rhondda, it's 50%, and, in south Rhondda, it's 41%. Over a 10-year period, these areas and practices are going to need an above-average stream of new doctors.

Mae yna reswm cwbl amlwg hefyd dros flaenoriaethu meddygon mewn unrhyw gynllun gweithlu gweinidogol ar gyfer y GIG. Os ydych am weld cynnydd yn niferoedd meddygon, yna rhaid i chi ddechrau hyfforddi meddygon yn gynnar. Mae'n 10 mlynedd cyn eu bod yn gwbl weithredola mwy na hynny mewn rhai meysydd arbenigol. Rydym yn gwybod ei bod yn anodd recriwtio i rai meysydd arbenigol yng Nghymru, ac rydym yn arbennig o ymwybodol o'r prinder meddygon teulu sy'n mynd i'n hwynebu, yn enwedig mewn rhai ardaloedd gwledig a'r Cymoedd. Mae 23% o'r meddygon teulu yng Nghymru dros 55 oed; yn Nwyfor, mae'n 47%, yng Nghaerffili, mae'n 31%, yng ngogledd y Rhondda, mae'n 50%, ac yn ne'r Rhondda, mae'n 41%. Dros gyfnod o 10 mlynedd, mae'r ardaloedd a'r practisau hyn yn mynd i alw am lif uwch na'r cyfartaledd o feddygon newydd.

If we factor in the health board spending on locum doctors—in Betsi Cadwladr University Health Board alone that was £13 million last year—then there is an urgent need to prioritise training and recruitment spend over locum spend.

Os ydym yn cynnwys gwariant bwrdd iechyd ar feddygon locwm—roedd yn £13 miliwn y llynedd ym Mwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr yn unig—yna mae angen brys i roi blaenoriaeth i wariant ar hyfforddi a recriwtio yn hytrach na meddygon locwm.

Why, then, 1,000 extra doctors over 10 years? Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development figures put the UK numbers of doctors per head of 1,000 population at 2.8. Wales is lower at 2.67 per 1,000, a rating that is only higher than three other EU countries—Slovenia, Romania and Poland. If Welsh Government were to seek to justify such a low ranking on the basis of a much higher priority given to specialist nurses or consultant paramedics, then there could, of course, be reasonable scenarios for low numbers of doctors per head, but we don't have comparatively higher numbers of specialist nurses or consultant paramedics. One thousand extra doctors would take us above the UK average; 1,000 additional doctors is ambitious, yes, but doable in 10 years. So, I'll now move on to explain how.

Pam y 1,000 o feddygon ychwanegol dros 10 mlynedd felly? Mae ffigurau'r Sefydliad ar gyfer Cydweithrediad a Datblygiad Economaidd yn nodi mai nifer meddygon y pen yn y DU i bob 1,000 o'r boblogaeth yw 2.8. Mae cyfradd Cymru yn is, sef 2.67 i bob 1,000, sgôr sy'n uwch na thair gwlad arall yn unig yn yr UE—Slofenia, Romania a Gwlad Pwyl. Os yw Llywodraeth Cymru yn ceisio cyfiawnhau safle mor isel ar sail y flaenoriaeth lawer uwch a roddir i nyrsys arbenigol neu barafeddygon ymgynghorol, yna gellid rhoi senarios rhesymol, wrth gwrs, dros y niferoedd isel o feddygon y pen, ond nid oes gennym niferoedd cymharol uwch o nyrsys arbenigol neu barafeddygon ymgynghorol. Byddai mil o feddygon ychwanegol yn mynd â ni'n uwch na chyfartaledd y DU; mae 1,000 o feddygon ychwanegol yn uchelgeisiol, ydy, ond mae'n bosibl mewn 10 mlynedd. Felly, symudaf ymlaen yn awr i egluro sut.

Overseas recruitment would play an early part in this initiative. Listening to the First Minister's ongoing commentary on Plaid Cymru's 1,000 doctor proposal, you'd think we intended to recruit 100% of them from overseas. We don't; we think the realistic figure is around 10%. We would target other EU countries, perhaps those with a high ratio of doctors per head, for recruitment campaigns. The traditional source of Indian sub-continent doctors, as we know, has been severely curtailed by new immigration hurdles, therefore EU recruitment becomes more necessary. I want to see Wales recruit overseas as one Welsh NHS, rather than initiatives by individual health boards, so that we sell the positives of a modern Welsh NHS, with a social conscience and accessible to all. We shouldn't be shy of overseas recruitment, because other countries come here to our medical schools and our NHS to recruit. I lost my local Welsh-speaking GP to New Zealand a few years ago, and now I have a very fine Polish GP in Aberystwyth. However, the vast majority of initiatives for extra doctors should be based around training and recruiting a home pool of doctors.

Byddai recriwtio tramor yn chwarae rhan yn gynnar yn y fenter hon. Wrth wrando ar sylwebaeth barhaus y Prif Weinidog ar gynnig Plaid Cymru o 1,000 o feddygon, fe fyddech yn meddwl ein bod yn bwriadu recriwtio 100% ohonynt o dramor. Nid ydym yn bwriadu gwneud hynny; rydym yn credu mai'r ffigur realistig yw tua 10%. Byddem yn targedu gwledydd eraill yr UE, efallai rhai â chymhareb uchel o feddygon y pen, ar gyfer ymgyrchoedd recriwtio. Mae'r ffynhonnell draddodiadol o feddygon o is-gyfandir India, fel y gwyddom, wedi cael ei chwtogi'n ddifrifol gan rwystrau mewnfudo newydd, felly mae mwyfwy o angen recriwtio o'r UE. Rwyf am weld Cymru yn recriwtio tramor fel GIG Cymru, yn hytrach na mentrau gan fyrddau iechyd unigol, er mwyn inni werthu agweddau cadarnhaol GIG Cymru modern â chydwybod gymdeithasol ac sy'n hygyrch i bawb. Ni ddylem ochel rhag recriwtio tramor, gan fod gwledydd eraill yn dod yma i'n hysgolion meddygol a'n GIG i recriwtio. Aeth fy meddyg teulu lleol sy'n siarad Cymraeg i Seland Newydd i weithio ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl, ac erbyn hyn mae gen i feddyg teulu gwych iawn o Wlad Pwyl yn Aberystwyth. Fodd bynnag, dylai'r mwyafrif helaeth o fentrau ar gyfer meddygon ychwanegol fod yn seiliedig ar hyfforddi a recriwtio cronfa o feddygon yn hanu o Gymru.

Let's start with medical education and our medical schools. We believe that our medical schools should be set a quota for Welsh-domiciled students, and our medical schools should aim for that quota. In 2013, 90% of English medical school places were filled by English-domiciled students, 60% of Scottish medical school places were filled by Scottish-domiciled students, and only 40% of Welsh medical school places were filled by Welsh-domiciled students, and it can be much lower—it has been much lower in other years. Evidence suggests that there is a very strong likelihood that students from and studying in an area or country will stay and work in those communities. The Wales Deanery recently advocated that medical schools in Wales should have a quota of Welsh-domiciled students. They cited the evidence from Australia, where certain medical schools have quota systems for rural students, so that they then go back and serve as doctors in their home rural areas. The University of Queensland's medical school runs the rural backgrounds scheme, where 25% of the places in each year's intake for medicine are designated to applicants who come from a rural background. It's proved very successful in generating a future pool of rural doctors. Now, we're not specifically advocating rural quotas here in Wales, because our problem is more than just rural. So, we'd want to start with an all-Wales quota for our medical schools. It's been suggested that it could be as high as 75%, although I'd probably see us starting nearer 40% to 50% and increasing it progressively, especially if it runs alongside a school programme to attract interest in a medical career in our schools, especially schools where, traditionally, not many have gone into medicine. It's important to recognise here the progress that has been made by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to introduce some Welsh-medium medical education, for the first time, in the last few years.

Gadewch i ni ddechrau gydag addysg feddygol a'n hysgolion meddygol. Credwn y dylid gosod cwota o fyfyrwyr sy'n hanu o Gymru ar gyfer ein hysgolion meddygol, a dylent anelu at y cwota hwnnw. Yn 2013, roedd 90% o leoedd mewn ysgolion meddygol yn Lloegr wedi eu llenwi gan fyfyrwyr yn hanu o Loegr, roedd 60% o leoedd mewn ysgolion meddygol yn yr Alban wedi eu llenwi gan fyfyrwyr yn hanu o'r Alban, a 40% yn unig o leoedd mewn ysgolion meddygol yng Nghymru a oedd wedi eu llenwi gan fyfyrwyr yn hanu o Gymru, a gallai fod yn llawer is—mae wedi bod yn is o lawer mewn blynyddoedd eraill. Mae tystiolaeth yn awgrymu bod tebygolrwydd cryf iawn y bydd myfyrwyr o ardal neu wlad, ac sy'n astudio mewn ardal neu wlad, yn aros ac yn gweithio yn y cymunedau hynny. Yn ddiweddar, argymhellodd Deoniaeth Cymru y dylai ysgolion meddygol yng Nghymru gael cwota o fyfyrwyr sy'n hanu o Gymru. Roeddent yn dyfynnu tystiolaeth o Awstralia, lle y mae gan ysgolion meddygol penodol systemau cwota ar gyfer myfyrwyr gwledig, er mwyn iddynt fynd yn ôl wedyn a gwasanaethu fel meddygon yn yr ardaloedd gwledig yr hanant ohonynt. Mae gan ysgol feddygol Prifysgol Queensland gynllun cefndiroedd gwledig, lle y caiff 25% o'r lleoedd i fyfyrwyr ar gwrs meddygaeth bob blwyddyn eu neilltuo ar gyfer ymgeiswyr o gefndir gwledig. Mae wedi bod yn llwyddiannus iawn ar gyfer creu cronfa o feddygon gwledig ar gyfer y dyfodol. Nawr, nid ydym yn argymell cwotâu gwledig yn benodol yma yng Nghymru, oherwydd mae ein problem yn fwy na phroblem wledig. Felly, byddem yn awyddus i ddechrau gyda chwota Cymru gyfan ar gyfer ein hysgolion meddygol. Awgrymwyd y gallai fod mor uchel â 75%, er y byddwn i'n ein gweld yn dechrau'n nes at 40% i 50% yn ôl pob tebyg ac yn ei godi'n raddol, yn enwedig os yw'n cydredeg â rhaglen ysgolion i ennyn diddordeb mewn gyrfa feddygol yn ein hysgolion, ac yn arbennig, ysgolion lle nad oes llawer wedi dewis astudio meddygaeth yn draddodiadol. Mae'n bwysig cydnabod y cynnydd a wnaed dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf gan y Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol o ran cyflwyno addysg feddygol cyfrwng Cymraeg am y tro cyntaf.

In terms of training, then there is a consensus, I think, that we need to increase the training places for GPs in Wales. It's currently around 136, and the deanery and royal college believe this needs to be increased and funded to a level of 200 places. In some areas in Wales, it's difficult to fill GP and other training places, so we need to incentivise postgraduate doctors to take up training places in these areas. More generally, we need a golden hello scheme to attract recruits to hard-to-recruit specialisms and hard-to-recruit geographic areas. In New Zealand, junior doctors have their student debt wiped out after practising in a hard-to-recruit location. To qualify, the doctor must have practised for at least three years, and then sees the student debt wiped out in stages, with a proportion wiped out for every additional year until the debt no longer remains. In fact, this has been so successful that the south island is now in danger of outnumbering the north island in doctor numbers. Closer to home in England, it has recently been announced by Government there that recently-qualified medical graduates who agree to work for three years as a trainee GP in places with too few family doctors, mainly in deprived areas, will receive additional financial support. In addition, we know that many young doctors want to be at the cutting edge of medical science. We need to strongly position the Welsh NHS and our universities at the vanguard of medical research, and we need to develop fellowships for some young doctors who want to combine research and practice. We have an excellent base for that in Cardiff to progress further as well as in other university towns.

O ran hyfforddiant, rwy'n meddwl bod yna gonsensws fod angen i ni gynyddu nifer y lleoedd hyfforddi ar gyfer meddygon teulu yng Nghymru. Ar hyn o bryd, ceir oddeutu 136 o leoedd, ac mae'r ddeoniaeth a'r coleg brenhinol yn credu bod angen ei gynyddu a'i ariannu i lefel o 200 o leoedd. Mewn rhai ardaloedd yng Nghymru, mae'n anodd llenwi lleoedd hyfforddi meddygon teulu a lleoedd hyfforddi eraill, felly mae angen inni gymell meddygon ôl-raddedig i fanteisio ar leoedd hyfforddi yn y meysydd hyn. Yn fwy cyffredinol, mae angen cynllun croeso euraid i ddenu recriwtiaid i arbenigeddau sy'n anodd recriwtio ar eu cyfer ac ardaloedd daearyddol sy'n anodd recriwtio pobl i weithio ynddynt. Yn Seland Newydd, caiff dyled myfyrwyr meddygon iau ei dileu ar ôl iddynt ymarfer mewn lleoliad sy'n anodd recriwtio pobl i weithio ynddo. I fod yn gymwys, rhaid i'r meddyg fod wedi ymarfer am o leiaf dair blynedd, cyn i'w ddyled myfyrwyr gael ei dileu fesul cam, gyda chyfran yn cael ei dileu am bob blwyddyn ychwanegol nes dileu'r ddyled yn llwyr. Mewn gwirionedd, mae hyn wedi bod mor llwyddiannus fel bod perygl fod gan ynys y de fwy o feddygon nag ynys y gogledd bellach. Yn nes at adref yn Lloegr, cyhoeddodd y Llywodraeth yno'n ddiweddar y bydd graddedigion meddygol sydd wedi cymhwyso'n ddiweddar ac sy'n cytuno i weithio am dair blynedd fel meddygon teulu dan hyfforddiant mewn mannau heb ddigon o feddygon teulu, yn bennaf mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig, yn cael cymorth ariannol ychwanegol. Yn ogystal, gwyddom fod llawer o feddygon ifanc yn awyddus i dorri tir newydd ym maes gwyddoniaeth feddygol. Mae angen i ni osod y GIG yng Nghymru a'n prifysgolion yn gadarn ar y blaen ym maes ymchwil feddygol, ac mae angen i ni ddatblygu cymrodoriaethau ar gyfer meddygon ifanc sydd am gyfuno ymchwil ac ymarfer. Mae gennym sylfaen ardderchog yng Nghaerdydd, a threfi prifysgol eraill, ar gyfer symud ymlaen ymhellach.

A laissez-faire approach to doctor training and doctor recruitment is no longer good enough to meet the future needs of the Welsh NHS. We now need Welsh Government to adopt a more proactive, targeted approach to medical education, training and recruitment. There are experiences from many places where this more interventionist approach has been successful, and we need now to do it here. We know the problems associated with a lack of doctors and an inability to recruit—we discuss them weekly in this place: difficulty in getting GP appointments, closure of practices, out-of-control locum bills, and centralisation of hospital services. Welsh Government can carry on firefighting these problems or it can start to take measures to increase our doctor population to meet the changing demands on the future of our NHS.

Nid yw agwedd laissez faire tuag at hyfforddi a recriwtio meddygon bellach yn ddigon da i ddiwallu anghenion y GIG yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol. Mae angen yn awr i Lywodraeth Cymru fabwysiadu ymagwedd fwy rhagweithiol wedi'i thargedu at addysg feddygol, hyfforddiant a recriwtio. Ceir profiadau o lawer o leoedd lle y mae'r dull mwy ymyrrol wedi bod yn llwyddiannus, ac mae angen i ni wneud hynny yma yn awr. Gwyddom am y problemau sy'n gysylltiedig â diffyg meddygon ac anallu i recriwtio—rydym yn eu trafod bob wythnos yn y lle hwn: anhawster i gael apwyntiadau meddyg teulu, cau practisau, biliau locwm y tu hwnt i reolaeth, a chanoli gwasanaethau ysbytai. Gall Llywodraeth Cymru barhau i ymladd y problemau hyn fesul un neu gall ddechrau cymryd camau i gynyddu ein poblogaeth o feddygon er mwyn ateb gofynion newidiol ein GIG yn y dyfodol.

17:01

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

I have selected the three amendments to the motion. If amendment 1 is agreed, amendment 2 will be deselected. I call on Kirsty Williams to move amendment 1 tabled in the name of Aled Roberts.

Rwyf wedi dethol y tri gwelliant i'r cynnig. Os derbynnir gwelliant 1, bydd gwelliant 2 yn cael ei ddad-ddethol. Galwaf ar Kirsty Williams i gynnig gwelliant 1 a gyflwynwyd yn enw Aled Roberts.

Gwelliant 1—Aled Roberts

Amendment 1—Aled Roberts

Dileu popeth ar ôl 'cynllun gweithlu cenedlaethol 10 mlynedd newydd ar gyfer y GIG,' a rhoi yn ei le 'sy'n sicrhau bod camau'n cael eu cymryd i hyfforddi a recriwtio digon o feddygon, nyrsys a gweithwyr gofal iechyd proffesiynol eraill i sicrhau bod iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol ledled Cymru yn barod ar gyfer y dyfodol'.

Delete all after 'a new 10 year national workforce plan for the NHS,' and replace with 'which ensures action is taken to train and recruit sufficient doctors, nurses and other health care professionals to ensure that health and social care across Wales is ready for the future'.

Cynigiwyd gwelliant 1.

Amendment 1 moved.

17:01

Kirsty Williams Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you very much, Deputy Presiding Officer, and I formally move amendment 1 in the name of Aled Roberts on behalf of the Welsh Liberal Democrat group. I do so because, whilst I would not argue with much of what Elin Jones has said in opening the debate on behalf of Plaid Cymru today with regard to the principle of the need to recruit to and retain more doctors in the Welsh NHS, I believe that doing so without addressing other aspects of workforce planning and recruitment would mean we would simply not realise the true potential of those increased numbers of medical staff. After all, medics are often only as effective in delivering care and improving and maintaining people's health and wellbeing as the nurses, the physios, the OTs, the podiatrists, the scientists, the psychologists—and the list could go on and on and on of all the other professionals—who work alongside them. And that's before we even move on to the growing necessity to address the social care workforce as well. As we move towards greater integration of health and social care and care within the community, it's that particular aspect of the workforce I think we're going to have to give a lot greater attention to. But, without doubt, let me be clear: the Welsh Liberal Democrats do believe we need to recruit more doctors to the Welsh NHS.

Diolch yn fawr iawn, Ddirprwy Lywydd, ac rwy'n cynnig gwelliant 1 yn ffurfiol yn enw Aled Roberts ar ran grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru. Rwy'n gwneud hynny oherwydd, er na fyddwn yn dadlau â llawer o'r hyn y mae Elin Jones wedi ei ddweud wrth agor y ddadl ar ran Plaid Cymru heddiw o ran egwyddor yr angen i recriwtio a chadw mwy o feddygon yn y GIG yng Nghymru, rwy'n credu bod gwneud hynny heb fynd i'r afael ag agweddau eraill ar gynllunio gweithlu a recriwtio yn golygu'n syml na fyddem yn gwireddu gwir botensial cynnydd o'r fath yn nifer y staff meddygol. Wedi'r cyfan, yn aml ni fydd meddygon yn fwy effeithiol am ddarparu gofal a gwella a chynnal iechyd a lles pobl na'r nyrsys, y ffisiotherapyddion, y therapyddion galwedigaethol, y podiatryddion, y gwyddonwyr, y seicolegwyr—a gallai'r rhestr o'r holl weithwyr proffesiynol eraill fynd ymlaen ac ymlaen ac ymlaen—sy'n gweithio ochr yn ochr â hwy. Ac mae hynny hyd yn oed cyn i ni yn symud ymlaen at yr angen cynyddol i fynd i'r afael â'r gweithlu gofal cymdeithasol hefyd. Wrth i ni symud tuag at fwy o integreiddio iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol a gofal yn y gymuned, rwy'n meddwl y bydd yn rhaid i ni roi llawer mwy o sylw i'r agwedd benodol honno o'r gweithlu. Ond heb os, gadewch i mi fod yn glir: mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn credu bod angen inni recriwtio mwy o feddygon i'r GIG yng Nghymru.

Only this very week, we can see the effects of a failure to recruit and retain medical staff on the decision to withdraw consultant-led obstetrics and gynaecology from Glan Clwyd. Across the board, local health boards are struggling to fill their rotas. I suspect the decision of the deanery to pull trainees out of this particular service is not the only one of those decisions that potentially we will see this year, and local health boards have to look at staffing services in new ways. For instance, in Powys, since the long-standing care of the elderly specialist retired from south and mid Powys, it's actually the local GPs who have had to step in and fill the breach, because the health board simply could not recruit another care of the elderly specialist. The beds at Bronllys Hospital are being kept open because of the work of local GPs in managing patients in them.

Yr wythnos hon mewn gwirionedd, gallwn weld effeithiau methiant i recriwtio a chadw staff meddygol yn y penderfyniad i dynnu gwasanaethau obstetreg a gynaecoleg dan arweiniad meddygon ymgynghorol yn ôl yng Nglan Clwyd. Ym mhob man, mae byrddau iechyd lleol yn cael trafferth i lenwi eu rotâu. Rwy'n amau nad penderfyniad y ddeoniaeth i dynnu hyfforddeion allan o'r gwasanaeth penodol hwn yw'r unig benderfyniad o'r fath a welwn eleni o bosibl, ac mae'n rhaid i fyrddau iechyd lleol edrych ar staffio gwasanaethau mewn ffyrdd newydd. Er enghraifft, ym Mhowys, ers i'r arbenigwr gofal henoed hirsefydlog ar gyfer de a chanolbarth Powys ymddeol, y meddygon teulu lleol sydd wedi gorfod camu i mewn a llenwi'r bwlch am na allai'r bwrdd iechyd recriwtio arbenigwr gofal henoed arall. Mae'r gwelyau yn Ysbyty Bronllys yn cael eu cadw ar agor oherwydd gwaith meddygon teulu lleol yn rheoli cleifion ynddynt.

GPs themselves are increasingly under pressure. The recruitment difficulties are especially acute in those areas we're talking about: deprived communities, where it can be difficult to recruit and retain staff, as well as in rural areas, which I am more familiar with. Of course, they're not just limited to Wales. The current debacle in Kington across the border in Herefordshire is putting in jeopardy the whole primary care service provided in that particular area, because of the resignation of GPs and the inability to recruit to that practice. The irony is, of course, that, in trying to improve the number of people who choose to go into general practice, as we heard last week in the health committee from the deanery, you need to give them greater exposure to that in their undergraduate and postgraduate training. Where they've done that in Liverpool, the number of people going on to train as GPs has increased dramatically. But, of course, if they're doing rotations in general practice, they can't do rotations in district general hospitals, and therefore there is actually a disincentive for the health board and indeed the Welsh Minister to make that switch, because to do so would make it harder to fill his rotas in district general hospital specialties.

Mae meddygon teulu eu hunain dan bwysau cynyddol. Mae'r anawsterau recriwtio yn arbennig o ddifrifol yn yr ardaloedd hynny rydym yn sôn amdanynt: cymunedau difreintiedig, lle y gall fod yn anodd recriwtio a chadw staff, yn ogystal â'r ardaloedd gwledig rwy'n fwy cyfarwydd â hwy. Wrth gwrs, nid ydynt yn gyfyngedig i Gymru yn unig. Mae'r llanast ar hyn o bryd yn Kington ar draws y ffin yn Swydd Henffordd yn peryglu'r holl wasanaeth gofal sylfaenol a ddarperir yn yr ardal benodol honno, oherwydd ymddiswyddiad meddygon teulu a'r analluu i recriwtio i'r practis. Wrth geisio cynyddu nifer y bobl sy'n dewis gyrfa fel meddygon teulu, yr eironi, wrth gwrs, fel y clywsom yr wythnos diwethaf yn y pwyllgor iechyd gan y ddeoniaeth, yw bod angen i chi roi mwy o sylw i hynny yn eu hyfforddiant israddedig ac ôl-raddedig. Lle y maent wedi gwneud hynny yn Lerpwl, mae nifer y bobl sy'n mynd ymlaen i hyfforddi fel meddygon teulu wedi cynyddu'n ddramatig. Ond wrth gwrs, os ydynt yn gweithio ar batrwm cylch mewn ymarfer cyffredinol, ni allant weithio ar batrwm cylch mewn ysbytai cyffredinol dosbarth, ac felly mae'n anghymhelliad i'r bwrdd iechyd ac yn wir i'r Gweinidog wneud y newid hwnnw mewn gwirionedd, gan y byddai'n ei gwneud hi'n anos iddo lenwi ei rotâu arbenigol mewn ysbytai cyffredinol dosbarth.

As I said earlier, if we're really going to get workforce planning right, we need to look beyond just the medics; they cannot be viewed alone. Of course, I have a particular interest in the nurses. I think nurses are different, because, unlike any other member of the healthcare team, nurses are responsible for patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks of the year, on hospital wards in a way that no other profession is, actually. But we know that we need to recruit more nurses if we are to fulfil the chief nursing officer's own standards for what safe staffing levels look like.

Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, os ydym yn mynd i gynllunio'r gweithlu'n iawn, mae angen i ni edrych y tu hwnt i'r meddygon yn unig; ni ellir edrych arnynt ar eu pen eu hunain. Wrth gwrs, mae gennyf ddiddordeb arbennig yn y nyrsys. Rwy'n credu bod nyrsys yn wahanol, oherwydd, yn wahanol i unrhyw aelod arall o'r tîm gofal iechyd, mae nyrsys yn gyfrifol am gleifion 24 awr y dydd, saith diwrnod yr wythnos, 52 wythnos y flwyddyn, ar wardiau ysbytai mewn modd nad yw'n wir am unrhyw broffesiwn arall mewn gwirionedd. Ond gwyddom fod angen i ni recriwtio mwy o nyrsys os ydym am gyflawni safonau'r prif swyddog nyrsio ei hun o ran yr hyn a ddylai fod yn lefelau staffio diogel.

In the health committee, we hear on a weekly basis, for instance, in terms of mental health, that access to psychologists is a big, big problem in Wales. It is difficult enough to get an appointment with a psychiatrist, but often, actually, what somebody needs is not a psychiatric appointment, but a psychology appointment, and they are incredibly difficult to get hold of, and it is incredibly difficult to recruit to that particular specialty.

Yn y pwyllgor iechyd, rydym yn clywed yn wythnosol, er enghraifft yng nghyswllt iechyd meddwl, fod mynediad at seicolegwyr yn broblem fawr, fawr yng Nghymru. Mae'n ddigon anodd cael apwyntiad gyda seiciatrydd, ond yn aml, mewn gwirionedd, nid apwyntiad seiciatrig sydd ei angen ar rywun, ond apwyntiad seicoleg. Maent yn hynod o anodd eu cael, ac mae'n anhygoel o anodd recriwtio i'r arbenigedd penodol hwnnw.

We know that, if we're to maintain the independence of elderly people, to avoid them entering into our health system, we need to look at issues such as podiatry, OT services, physio—those professions.

Os ydym yn mynd i gynnal annibyniaeth pobl hŷn, ac er mwyn osgoi eu derbyn i mewn i'n system iechyd, gwyddom fod angen inni edrych ar faterion megis podiatreg, gwasanaethau therapyddion galwedigaethol, ffisio—y proffesiynau hynny.

17:06

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Finish now, please.

Gorffennwch yn awr, os gwelwch yn dda.

17:06

Kirsty Williams Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

That's why, Deputy Presiding Officer, we've tabled the amendment today. We need to look at workforce planning in the round.

Dyna pam, Ddirprwy Lywydd, rydym wedi cyflwyno'r gwelliant heddiw. Mae angen i ni edrych ar gynllunio'r gweithlu yn ei gyfanrwydd.

17:06 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

I call on Darren Millar to move amendments 2 and 3 tabled in the name of Paul Davies.

Galwaf ar Darren Millar i gynnig gwelliannau 2 a 3 a gyflwynwyd yn enw Paul Davies.

Gwelliant 2—Paul Davies

Amendment 2—Paul Davies

Dileu '1,000 o feddygon' a rhoi yn ei le 'meddygon'.

Delete '1,000'.

Gwelliant 3—Paul Davies

Amendment 3—Paul Davies

Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

Adds as new point at end of motion:

Yn gresynu at y ffaith bod y naill Lywodraeth Cymru ar ôl y llall wedi methu â chynllunio'n effeithiol ar gyfer anghenion gweithlu'r GIG yng Nghymru.

Regrets that successive Welsh Governments have failed to plan effectively for the workforce needs of the Welsh NHS.

Cynigiwyd gwelliannau 2 a 3.

Amendments 2 and 3 moved.

17:06 **Darren Millar** Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer. I move the amendments on the order paper in the name of Paul Davies, and I welcome the opportunity to contribute to this very important debate. I'm afraid that we won't be supporting the motion as it's currently drafted this afternoon. I've no doubt that it's been tabled with every good intention, but I cannot see how the Plaid Cymru spokesperson can predict that we will need 1,000 extra recruits in terms of doctors for the Welsh NHS over a 10-year period. I just think it's very difficult, actually, to forecast patient need over that length of time. But I do agree with the sentiment and the principle behind the motion, which is that we need more effective workforce planning in our national health service, particularly given the recruitment crisis that we are now facing in terms of doctor recruitment—yes, in the GP workforce, but also, of course, as we've seen just this week with what has happened in north Wales at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, with large parts of the consultant workforce.

Diolch i chi, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Cynigiaf y gwelliannau ar y papur trefn yn enw Paul Davies, a chroesawaf y cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl bwysig hon. Rwy'n ofni na fyddwn yn cefnogi'r cynnig fel y mae wedi'i ddrafftio ar hyn o bryd y prynhawn yma. Nid oes gennyf amheuaeth nad yw wedi'i gyflwyno gyda phob bwriad da, ond ni allaf weld sut y gall llefarydd Plaid Cymru ragweld y bydd angen recriwtio 1,000 o feddygon ychwanegol i'r GIG yng Nghymru dros gyfnod o 10 mlynedd. Rwy'n meddwl ei bod yn anodd iawn rhagweld anghenion cleifion dros y cyfnod hwnnw o amser, mewn gwirionedd. Ond rwy'n cytuno â'r teimlad a'r egwyddor sy'n sail i'r cynnig, sef bod angen cynllunio'r gweithlu yn fwy effeithiol yn ein gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol, yn enwedig o ystyried yr argyfwng recriwtio rydym yn ei wynebu'n awr o ran recriwtio meddygon—ie, i'r gweithlu meddygon teulu, ond hefyd wrth gwrs, fel y gwelsom yr wythnos hon yn wir, gyda'r hyn a ddigwyddodd yng ngogledd Cymru yn Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, i rannau helaeth o'r gweithlu meddygon ymgynghorol.

Now, I hate to have to criticise both of the parties opposite, as well as the Government, but both of the parties opposite have had an influence on the Government through its budget processes. Indeed, one party was in coalition up until fairly recently with the Government and was jointly responsible for the NHS, with people in the Cabinet, and therefore for the workforce planning arrangements. So, it's all very well to cry crocodile tears about the poor workforce planning, but both of your parties have supported the cuts that this Labour Government has imposed upon our national health service—record-breaking cuts. Both of your parties have been jointly responsible for the decisions that have been made in terms of investment in the NHS, and that has constrained its ability to plan properly for the workforce.

Yn awr, mae'n gas gennyf orfod beirniadu'r ddwy blaid gyferbyn, yn ogystal â'r Llywodraeth, ond mae'r ddwy blaid gyferbyn wedi cael dylanwad ar y Llywodraeth drwy ei phrosesau cyllidebol. Yn wir, roedd un o'r pleidiau mewn clymblaid gyda'r Llywodraeth tan yn weddol ddiweddar, ac yn gydgyfrifol am y GIG, gyda phobl yn y Cabinet, ac felly'n gyfrifol am drefniadau cynllunio'r gweithlu. Felly, mae'n hawdd wylo dagrau crocodeil ynglŷn â diffygion cynllunio'r gweithlu, ond mae eich dwy blaid wedi cefnogi'r toriadau y mae'r Llywodraeth Lafur wedi eu gorfodi ar ein gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol—toriadau mwy nag erioed o'r blaen. Mae eich dwy blaid wedi bod yn gydgyfrifol am y penderfyniadau a wnaed o ran buddsoddi yn y GIG, ac mae hynny wedi cyfyngu ar ei allu i gynllunio'n briodol ar gyfer y gweithlu.

We saw just yesterday, in the Public Accounts Committee, a report by the Wales Audit Office, which made it clear that the national health service in Wales was shedding jobs over the past few years, largely as a result of the financial problems that they have been facing.

Ddoe ddiwethaf, yn y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus, gwelsom adroddiad gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru, a oedd yn ei gwneud hi'n glir fod y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol yng Nghymru wedi bod yn colli swyddi dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, yn bennaf o ganlyniad i'r problemau ariannol y maent wedi bod yn eu hwynebu.

Now, I want to just touch on some other issues, if I may, which I think are very, very important. We know that the uncertainty that is taking place across large parts of the NHS at the moment is also a contributory factor to the recruitment difficulties that are being faced in different parts of the country, particularly in our hospitals. The uncertainty still remains out there about some of the acute services. We've heard a firing gun started in terms of north Wales yet again this week—not just in terms of maternity services at Glan Clwyd Hospital, but we heard the medical director for the health board talking about other acute services perhaps needing to follow, as well. That sort of uncertainty, which seems to be, for some reason, constant in the Welsh national health service, is not helping the health boards to be able to recruit the staff that they need to fill vacant posts. I would call upon you, Minister, to accept some responsibility for that uncertainty that exists out there, because until that uncertainty comes to an end, we're going to continue to face these difficult places—

Nawr, rwyf am gyffwrdd ar rai materion eraill, os caf, ac rwy'n credu eu bod yn bwysig iawn. Gwyddom fod yr ansicrwydd sydd i'w deimlo ar draws rhannau helaeth o'r GIG ar hyn o bryd hefyd yn ffactor sy'n cyfrannu at yr anawsterau recriwtio a wynebir mewn gwahanol rannau o'r wlad, yn enwedig yn ein hysbytai. Mae'r ansicrwydd yn parhau i fodoli yn achos rhai o'r gwasanaethau acìwt. Rydym wedi clywed gwn yn tanio yng ngogledd Cymru unwaith eto yr wythnos hon—nid yn unig o ran y gwasanaethau mamolaeth yn Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, ond clywsom gyfarwyddwr meddygol y bwrdd iechyd yn siarad am yr angen i wasanaethau acìwt eraill ddilyn yr un llwybr o bosibl. Nid yw'r math hwn o ansicrwydd, sydd am ryw reswm i'w weld yn gyson yn y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol yng Nghymru, yn helpu'r byrddau iechyd i allu recriwtio'r staff sydd eu hangen arnynt i lenwi swyddi gwag. Hoffwn alw arnoch, Weinidog, i dderbyn peth o'r cyfrifoldeb am yr ansicrwydd sy'n bodoli, oherwydd hyd nes y daw'r ansicrwydd i ben, rydym yn mynd i barhau i wynebu'r mannau anodd hyn—

17:09 **Joyce Watson** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Will you take an intervention?

A wnewch chi dderbyn ymyriad?

17:09 **Darren Millar** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I will happily take an intervention.

Rwy'n hapus i dderbyn ymyriad.

17:09 **Joyce Watson** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Thank you. I am grateful that you have taken an intervention, but would you actually as a party, take some responsibility for the uncertainty? I happen to cover Hywel Dda area, and I've seen the headlines that have been created by members of your party, and I've seen the result of that, creating uncertainty.

Diolch yn fawr. Diolch i chi am gymryd ymyriad, ond a fyddech chi fel plaid mewn gwirionedd yn derbyn peth cyfrifoldeb am yr ansicrwydd? Mae Hywel Dda yn digwydd bod yn fy ardal i ac rwyf wedi gweld y penawdau a grëwyd gan aelodau o'ch plaid, ac rwyf wedi gweld canlyniad hynny, sef creu ansicrwydd.

17:10 **Darren Millar** Bywgraffiad Biography

I think, Joyce, that you ought to stand up for your constituents and campaign for some of those services that are being downgraded in your region. I think it's very disappointing, and your constituents will find it very disappointing, that you've been defending the downgrading of hospitals like Withybush in Haverfordwest.

Rwy'n meddwl, Joyce, y dylech sefyll dros eich etholwyr ac ymgyrchu dros rai o'r gwasanaethau sy'n cael eu hisraddio yn eich rhanbarth. Rwy'n credu ei fod yn siomedig iawn, a bydd eich etholwyr yn teimlo'n siomedig iawn eich bod wedi amddiffyn y broses o israddio ysbytai fel Llwynhelyg yn Hwlffordd.

If I can move on, just to touch on some of the other positive contributions that the spokesperson for Plaid Cymru made, I do agree that we need a more concerted, national effort in terms of overseas recruitment. I recognise also that there needs to be an expansion in the provision of training places. We did hear very clear evidence to the Health and Social Care Committee that there was a recommendation from the deanery—and there have been over a number of years— to the Welsh Government to increase the number of training places, and yet there's been absolutely no action from the Welsh Government to follow through by making a decision to increase those training places. Perhaps the Minister can comment on that. Those were direct representations that were made to you, according to the evidence that we received as a health committee.

Os caf symud ymlaen, a chyffwrdd ar rai o'r cyfraniadau cadarnhaol eraill a wnaeth y llefarydd ar ran Plaid Cymru, rwy'n cytuno bod arnom angen ymdrech fwy cydunol a chenedlaethol o ran recriwtio tramor. Rwy'n cydnabod hefyd bod angen ehangu'r ddarpariaeth o leoedd hyfforddi. Fe glywsom dystiolaeth glir iawn i'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol fod argymhelliad gan y ddeoniaeth—ac mae argymhellion wedi bod dros nifer o flynyddoedd—i Lywodraeth Cymru gynyddu nifer y lleoedd hyfforddi, ac eto ni chafwyd unrhyw weithredu o gwbl gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn sgil hynny o ran gwneud penderfyniad i gynyddu nifer y lleoedd hyfforddi. Efallai y gall y Gweinidog ymateb i hynny. Roedd y rheini'n sylwadau uniongyrchol a gyflwynwyd i chi yn ôl y dystiolaeth a gawsom fel pwyllgor iechyd.

Whether an all-Wales quota system might work for training places, I'm very happy to explore, and I think it may well be something that can help. There's certainly a relationship between where people train and where people end up working. That's something I would fully support in terms of exploring.

Rwy'n hapus iawn i ystyried a allai system gwota i Gymru gyfan weithio ar gyfer lleoedd hyfforddi, ac rwy'n meddwl y gallai'n sicr fod yn rhywbeth a all helpu. Yn bendant, mae yna berthynas rhwng lle y bydd pobl yn hyfforddi a lle y bydd pobl yn gweithio yn y pen draw. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth y byddwn yn ei gefnogi'n llawn o ran ei archwilio.

17:11 **Lindsay Whittle** Bywgraffiad Biography

I want to focus today on the need for a national workforce plan in relation to nurses and other health professionals, as well. We've been accused by some people of ignoring nurses and focusing exclusively on attracting more doctors. Well, that accusation just shows that many have not read the doctors paper we consulted on last year. I, too, am not going to wave a document around.

Rwyf am ganolbwyntio heddiw ar yr angen am gynllun gweithlu cenedlaethol mewn perthynas â nyrsys a gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol eraill yn ogystal. Rydym wedi cael ein cyhuddo gan rai o anwybyddu nyrsys a chanolbwyntio'n unig ar ddenu mwy o feddygon. Wel, nid yw'r cyhuddiad hwnnw ond yn dangos fod sawl un heb ddarllen y papur meddygon y buom yn ymgynghori arno y llynedd. Nid wyf innau chwaith yn mynd i chwifio dogfen o gwmpas.

The section on nurses spells out clearly how we intend to support nurses: how we would finance the creation and retention of specialist nurses posts that would help to reduce long-term admissions to hospitals; make greater use of specialist nurses in GP practices to reduce the pressure on GPs and take over the management of chronically ill patients; attract back experienced nurses who have left our workforce; to invest in continued professional development for nurses to improve skill levels; and to create more advanced nurse practitioner posts.

Mae'r adran ar nyrsys yn egluro'n glir sut y bwriadwn gefnogi nyrsys: sut y byddem yn ariannu'r gwaith o greu a chadw swyddi nyrsys arbenigol a fyddai'n helpu i leihau derbyniadau hirdymor i ysbytai; gwneud mwy o ddefnydd o nyrsys arbenigol mewn practisau meddygon teulu er mwyn lleihau'r pwysau ar feddygon teulu ac i ysgwyddo'r gwaith o reoli cleifion â salwch cronig; denu nyrsys profiadol sydd wedi gadael ein gweithlu yn ôl; buddsoddi mewn datblygiad proffesiynol parhaus ar gyfer nyrsys i wella lefelau sgiliau; a chreu swyddi uwch-ymarferwyr nyrsio.

Now, I've no doubt that the Welsh Government will say they're already doing this, but the record, Minister, doesn't quite bear this out. You have abolished the nursing bursary, which was something that helped support nurses financially through their training. The nurses pay grades have been lowered, and this has affected their morale. Sometimes, nurses have taken the blame for some poor-quality care and managers have been let off the hook. The money for professional development is just not there, despite approval being given by health boards to nurses who want to become advanced nurse practitioners.

Yn awr, nid oes gennyf amheuaeth y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn dweud eu bod eisoes yn gwneud hyn, ond nid yw'r dystiolaeth yn ategu hynny'n llwyr, Weinidog. Rydych wedi diddymu'r fwrsariaeth nyrsio, a oedd yn fodd o gefnogi nyrsys yn ariannol drwy eu hyfforddiant. Mae graddfeydd cyflog nyrsys wedi cael eu gostwng, ac mae hyn wedi effeithio ar eu hysbryd. Weithiau, mae nyrsys wedi cymryd y bai yn lle rheolwyr am ofal o ansawdd gwael. Nid oes arian ar gael ar gyfer datblygiad proffesiynol, er bod byrddau iechyd yn rhoi cymeradwyaeth i nyrsys sydd am ddod yn uwch-ymarferwyr nyrsio.

Perhaps the most obvious need for improved workforce planning is the point made by the Royal College of Nursing that the number of community district nurses has actually fallen over the past few years by 17%. We know that there is a crisis in paediatrics, maternity and psychiatry, as well.

Efallai mai'r angen mwyaf amlwg o ran gwella'r broses o gynllunio'r gweithlu yw'r pwynt a wnaed gan Goleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys fod nifer y nyrsys ardal cymunedol wedi gostwng 17% yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Gwyddom fod yna argyfwng ym maes pediatreg, mamolaeth a seiciatreg hefyd.

Despite the Minister's recent statement about moving more health services into the community, the numbers of those who are needed to deliver services in the community, such as district nurses, occupational therapists and many more, are actually reducing. So, we need a proper national workforce plan that recognises where the gaps are, where the gaps will be, and what we need to do to fill those gaps. We can welcome the increase in training budget allowed, but that mainly reverses the cuts in training places since 2011, so it's not that impressive.

Er gwaethaf datganiad diweddar y Gweinidog am symud mwy o wasanaethau iechyd i'r gymuned, mae nifer y bobl sydd eu hangen ar gyfer darparu gwasanaethau yn y gymuned, megis nyrsys ardal, therapyddion galwedigaethol a llawer mwy, yn gostwng mewn gwirionedd. Felly, mae angen cynllun cenedlaethol priodol ar gyfer y gweithlu sy'n cydnabod lle y ceir bylchau, lle y bydd bylchau, a'r hyn sydd angen inni ei wneud i lenwi'r bylchau hynny. Gallwn groesawu'r cynnydd a ganiateir yn y gyllideb hyfforddi, ond yn bennaf, gwrthdroi'r toriadau a wnaed i leoedd hyfforddi ers 2011 y bydd hynny'n ei wneud, felly nid yw mor drawiadol â hynny.

So, those are some of the ideas on top of the doctors ideas that Plaid Cymru intends to do, certainly, when Elin Jones is our new health Minister.

Felly, dyna rai o'r syniadau yn ychwanegol at y syniadau ynglŷn â meddygon y mae Plaid Cymru yn bwriadu eu gwneud, yn sicr, pan fydd Elin Jones yn weinidog iechyd newydd arnom.

17:14

Joyce Watson Bywgraffiad Biography

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The Minister has today announced £80 million for health training and education, and it's been mentioned this afternoon. I think that that is called putting your money where your mouth is. Llywydd, those who are enemies of the NHS in Wales, like David Cameron and his yahoo boot boys on the coalition's front and back benches, paint the health service in Wales in the blackest possible terms. It's a pity that Plaid Cymru makes friends of those. Even when we acknowledge—

Heddiw, mae'r Gweinidog wedi cyhoeddi £80 miliwn ar gyfer hyfforddiant ac addysg iechyd, ac mae wedi cael sylw y prynhawn yma. Credaf mai rhoi eich arian ar eich gair yw'r ymadrodd am hynny. Lywydd, mae'r rhai sy'n elynion i'r GIG yng Nghymru, fel David Cameron a'i giang o fwlis crachaidd ar feinciau blaen a chefn y glymblaid yn darlunio'r gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru yn y modd duaf posibl. Mae'n drueni fod Plaid Cymru yn ymgyfeillio â hwy. Hyd yn oed pan ydym yn cydnabod—

17:15

Darren Millar Bywgraffiad Biography

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Will you take an intervention? I gave you that courtesy earlier on.

A wnewch chi dderbyn ymyriad? Dangosais y cwrteisi hwnnw i chi yn gynharach.

17:15

Joyce Watson Bywgraffiad Biography

I've only just started. Even when we acknowledge the difficulties in training and recruitment across the service, I think it's worth remembering some fundamental and indisputable facts. The NHS in Wales is the largest employer. It employs more than 72,000 people and accounts for around 14% of Wales's gross weekly pay. In some rural areas, especially, the proportion employed by the NHS is higher still. Despite the regular efforts of the Tories and others to denigrate the incredible work and dedication of the NHS staff across Wales, the reality is that our health service is delivering quality care to hundreds of thousands of people across Wales each and every single day.

Newydd ddechrau ydw i. Hyd yn oed pan ydym yn cydnabod yr anawsterau gyda hyfforddi a recriwtio ar draws y gwasanaeth, rwy'n meddwl ei bod yn werth cofio rhai ffeithiau sylfaenol a digamsyniol. Y GIG yng Nghymru yw'r cyflogwr mwyaf. Mae'n cyflogi mwy na 72,000 o bobl a dyma'r cyflogwr sy'n talu oddeutu 14% o gyflog wythnosol gros Cymru. Mewn rhai ardaloedd gwledig yn arbennig, mae'r gyfran a gyflogir gan y GIG yn uwch eto. Er gwaethaf ymdrechion cyson y Torïaid ac eraill i fychanu gwaith anhygoel ac ymroddiad staff y GIG ledled Cymru, y gwirionedd yw bod ein gwasanaeth iechyd yn darparu gofal o ansawdd i gannoedd o filoedd o bobl ledled Cymru bob dydd.

I heard another story just this week. A constituent of mine was taken seriously ill before Christmas with a blood infection. After receiving 'exceptional critical care'—his words, not mine—he was soon out of hospital and recovering at home. For the past two months, each and every day, a specially trained nurse has been able to deliver intravenous care and monitor his recovery at home. He couldn't express enough, and he wanted me to say it today, how wonderful that treatment has been and, crucially, how much better it has been for him and his family to be at home. He knew that I was speaking in this debate and made a point of wanting me to say that.

Clywais stori arall yr wythnos hon. Cafodd un o fy etholwyr ei daro'n ddifrifol wael cyn y Nadolig gyda haint ar y gwaed. Ar ôl cael 'gofal critigol rhagorol'—ei eiriau ef, nid fy rhai i—roedd allan o'r ysbyty'n fuan ac yn gwella gartref. Dros y ddau fis diwethaf, bob dydd yn ddi-ffael, mae nyrs a hyfforddwyd yn arbennig wedi gallu darparu gofal mewnwythiennol a monitro'i adferiad yn ei gartref ei hun. Ni allai fynegi ddigon, ac roedd am i mi ddweud hyn heddiw, pa mor wych yw'r driniaeth wedi bod, ac yn hollbwysig, faint yn well y mae wedi bod iddo ef a'i deulu ei fod yn ei gartref ei hun. Gwyddai fy mod yn siarad yn y ddadl hon a gwnaeth bwynt o ddweud ei fod eisiau i mi ddweud hynny.

That is why, when we talk about training and recruitment, we shouldn't necessarily be fixated on doctors and new recruits, because it's also about upskilling existing front-line nursing staff—the people who deliver day-to-day care. That is hugely important.

Dyna pam na ddylem o reidrwydd fod yn obsesiynol ynghylch meddygon a recriwtiaid newydd wrth sôn am hyfforddi a recriwtio, am ei fod hefyd yn ymwneud â gwella sgiliau staff nyrsio rheng flaen presennol—y bobl sy'n darparu gofal o ddydd i ddydd. Mae hynny'n hynod o bwysig.

In direct contrast to the progress being made in Wales, thanks to Welsh Labour's leadership, the Tory and the Lib Dem UK Government has embarked on an ideologically driven attack on the founding principles of the NHS. It has wasted millions of pounds in a top-down reorganisation of the health service in England. Tory cuts in England mean there are now 4,500 fewer nurses in the health service than there were two years ago, according to official figures. In Wales—

Mewn cyferbyniad uniongyrchol â'r cynnydd sy'n cael ei wneud yng Nghymru diolch i arweinyddiaeth Llafur Cymru, mae'r Toriaid a Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Llywodraeth y DU wedi cychwyn ar ymosodiad wedi'i ysgogi'n ideolegol ar egwyddorion sylfaenol y GIG. Mae wedi gwastraffu miliynau o bunnoedd yn ad-drefnu'r gwasanaeth iechyd yn Lloegr o'r brig i lawr. Mae toriadau'r Toriaid yn Lloegr yn golygu bod 4,500 yn llai o nyrsys yn y gwasanaeth iechyd bellach nag a oedd ddwy flynedd yn ôl, yn ôl ffigurau swyddogol. Yng Nghymru—

17:17 **Darren Millar** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Will you take an intervention?

A wnewch chi dderbyn ymyriad?

17:17 **Joyce Watson** Bywgraffiad Biography

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I will, in a minute. Nursing numbers have remained relatively stable, but they will increase, following additional investment by the Welsh Labour Government.

Gwnaf, mewn munud. Mae niferoedd y nyrsys wedi aros yn gymharol sefydlog, ond byddant yn cynyddu yn dilyn buddsoddiad ychwanegol gan Lywodraeth Lafur Cymru.

17:17 **Darren Millar** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I'm grateful to you for taking the intervention. It is not correct to say that there have been cuts in national health service budgets in England; in fact, the budget there has increased over and above the rate of inflation in real terms, unlike your own party's commitment here.

Diolch i chi am dderbyn yr ymyriad. Nid yw'n gywir dweud y bu toriadau yng nghyllidebau'r gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol yn Lloegr; yn wir, mae'r gyllideb yno wedi cynyddu uwchlaw cyfradd chwyddiant mewn termau real, yn wahanol i ymrwymiad eich plaid eich hun yma.

17:18 **Joyce Watson** Bywgraffiad Biography

But you've now got 4,500 fewer nurses in the health service and an ideologically driven attack on the founding principles of the NHS, whichever way you dress it up.

Ond mae gennych 4,500 yn llai o nyrsys yn awr yn y gwasanaeth iechyd ac ymosodiad wedi'i ysgogi'n ideolegol ar egwyddorion sylfaenol y GIG, pa bynnag ffordd y caiff ei ddarlunio gennych.

So, this motion is little more than a cynically concealed attack on the staff of the NHS in Wales, and the Tories are trying to use the NHS in Wales to secure their seats in England. The truth is this: the number of staff employed by the NHS in Wales is continuing to rise. The extra £80 million announced today will support nearly 2,500 new students and continue the education of nearly 7,000 trainees. In the decade between 2003 and 2013, total staff numbers increased by 16%, including a 44% increase in medical and dental staff, and a 6% increase in nurses, midwives and health visitors—nursing staff in post have increased year on year in Wales since 1999. In addition, the Welsh Government has invested an extra £10 million to employ more nurses as part of a range of responses to the Francis report. Community nursing numbers are increasing in Wales, but falling in England, and the total number of community nurses in Wales has risen every year since September 2009, rising from 4,798 to 5,322.

Felly, nid yw'r cynnig hwn yn fawr mwy nag ymosodiad cudd sinigaidd ar staff y GIG yng Nghymru, ac mae'r Toriaid yn ceisio defnyddio'r GIG yng Nghymru i ddiogelu eu seddau yn Lloegr. Y gwir yw hyn: mae nifer y staff a gyflogir gan y GIG yng Nghymru yn parhau i godi. Mae'r £80 miliwn ychwanegol a gyhoeddwyd heddiw yn cefnogi bron i 2,500 o fyfyrwyr newydd ac yn parhau addysg bron i 7,000 o hyfforddeion. Yn y degawd rhwng 2003 a 2013, cafwyd cynnydd o 16% yng nghyfanswm y staff, gan gynnwys cynnydd o 44% yn nifer y staff meddygol a deintyddol, a chynnydd o 6% yn nifer y nyrsys, bydwragedd ac ymwelwyr iechyd—mae nifer y staff nyrsio yn eu swyddi wedi cynyddu flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn yng Nghymru ers 1999. Yn ogystal, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi buddsoddi £10 miliwn ychwanegol i gyflogi mwy o nyrsys fel rhan o ystod o ymatebion i adroddiad Francis. Mae niferoedd nyrsys cymunedol ar gynnydd yng Nghymru, ond yn gostwng yn Lloegr, ac mae cyfanswm y nyrsys cymunedol yng Nghymru wedi codi bob blwyddyn ers mis Medi 2009, o 4,798 i 5,322.

17:19 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Finish now, please.

Gorffennwch yn awr, os gwelwch yn dda.

17:19 **Joyce Watson** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

So, I think, as you can see, that the NHS in Wales—

Felly, rwy'n meddwl, fel y gwelwch, fod y GIG yng Nghymru—

17:19 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

You must finish now.

Mae'n rhaid i chi orffen yn awr.

17:19 **Joyce Watson** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

[Continues.]—is safe in our hands.

[Yn parhau.]—yn ddiogel yn ein dwylo ni.

17:19 **Rhun ap Iorwerth** Bywgraffiad Biography

Gwnaf i ddechrau drwy siarad am faes meddygon teulu. Mae yna nifer o ardaloedd lle rydym yn wynebu prinder mawr mewn meddygon teulu. Mae bron i chwarter y gweithlu dros 55 oed. Mae'r ffigwr yn agosach at 50% o'r gweithlu mewn rhai ardaloedd. Ond, tra bo Llywodraeth Cymru wedi delio â phrinder meddygon arbenigol mewn ysbytai drwy gynnig gwasanaethau mewn llai a llai o ganolfannau, nid yw hynny'n amlwg yn opsiwn yng nghyd-destun syrjeris meddygon teulu. Allwn ni ddim datrys problem prinder meddygon mewn ardaloedd gwledig neu berifferal drwy ganoli gwasanaethau mewn nifer llai o syrjeris, efo'r angen i bobl deithio ymhell iddyn nhw. Yn syml iawn, mae'n rhaid inni hyfforddi mwy ac mae'n rhaid inni recriwtio mwy o feddygon teulu.

I'll start by talking about GPs. There are a number of areas where we face a great shortage of GPs. Nearly a quarter of the workforce are over 55 years of age. The figure is closer to 50% in some areas. But, while the Welsh Government has tried to deal with the shortage of specialist doctors in hospitals by offering services in fewer and fewer centres, this is obviously not an option in the context of GP surgeries. We cannot solve the problem of a shortage of GPs in rural areas or peripheral areas by centralising services in a smaller number of surgeries, with the need for people to travel long distances to them. Very simply, we need to train more and we need to recruit more GPs.

Rŵan, yn ogystal â gwella hyfforddiant a gwella capasiti hyfforddi, mae Plaid Cymru wedi amlinellu nifer o bolisïau ar sut y gallwn ni ddenu meddygon sydd wedi cymhwyso'n barod: talu dyledion myfyrwyr, er enghraifft, ar gyfer y rheini sy'n cytuno i dreulio, o bosib, ddechrau eu gyrfa mewn ardal benodol, neu mewn maes penodol o arbenigedd; 'helos' euraidd neu gymhellion eraill i ddenu meddygon arbenigol, profiadol; a GPs wedi'u cyflogi'n uniongyrchol, o bosib, i lenwi lleoedd mewn ardaloedd sydd yn anodd cyflogi ynddyn nhw, neu'r rheini sydd ddim eisiau rhedeg eu busnes eu hunain—mae yna, wrth gwrs, rai sydd ddim eisiau'r fiwrocratiaeth sy'n dod efo'r drefn arferol o gynnig gwasanaeth meddyg teulu.

Now, as well improving training and training capacity, Plaid Cymru has outlined a number of policies on how we can attract doctors that are already qualified: paying student debt, for example, for those who agree to spend the outset of their careers in a specific area, or in a specific field of expertise; golden hellos or other incentives to attract specialist, experienced doctors; and employing GPs directly, possibly, to fill spaces in areas where it is difficult to recruit, or those who don't want to run their own businesses—of course, there are some who don't want the bureaucracy that comes with the usual way of offering a GP service.

Rŵan, rydym wedi edrych ar beth sydd wedi digwydd, neu beth sydd yn digwydd, mewn gwledydd eraill. Mae'r cynllun dyledion myfyrwyr, y soniais amdano fo, yn gweithredu'n dda, fel y clywsom, yn Seland Newydd. Mae ardaloedd yn Lloegr hefyd yn gwneud yr un fath, lle mae yna fwriad i gynnig cefnogaeth ariannol ychwanegol i raddedigion sy'n cytuno i weithio fel GPs o dan hyfforddiant mewn ardaloedd lle mae yna brinder meddygon teulu—yr un broblem ag sydd yma. Mae'r BMA yn sicr yn croesawu edrych ar wahanol opsiynau ar gyfer cynnig cymhellion, felly hefyd Goleg Brenhinol y Meddygon Teulu. Mae'r BMA hefyd ar y record yn dweud bod Cymru, yn syml iawn, ddim yn lle deniadol i feddygon ddod ar y cyfan. Un ffactor maen nhw'n ei enwi ydy diffyg polisïau—yn eu geiriau nhw—wedi'u gwneud yng Nghymru i wneud i Gymru sefyll allan fel lle deniadol i weithio. Mi fyddai rhai o'r cymhellion rwyf wedi'u crybwyll yn cynnig y pecyn yna y mae'r BMA eu hunain yn dweud y mae meddygon eu hangen.

Now, we've looked at what has happened, or what is happening, in other countries. The student debt scheme, which I mentioned, is working well, as we heard, in New Zealand. There are also areas of England where the same thing is being done, where there's an intention to offer additional financial support to graduates who agree to work as GPs in training in areas where there is a shortage of GPs—the same problem that we have. The BMA certainly welcomes looking at different options for offering incentives, as does the Royal College of General Practitioners. The BMA is also on the record as saying that Wales, simply, is not an attractive place for doctors to come on the whole. One factor that they identify is the lack of policies—in their words—that have been tailored in Wales to make Wales stand out as an attractive place to work. Some of the incentives that I've mentioned would offer that package that the BMA itself says that GPs need.

Felly, mae yna her o'n blaenau ni. Mae yna lawer iawn y gallwn ei wneud i wynebu'r her. Rydym yn gwybod beth ydyw. Mae'n rhaid inni sicrhau hefyd bod mwy o'n pobl ifanc ni yn gallu astudio yng Nghymru, er mwyn cryfhau eu bond nhw efo'u milltir sgwâr. Rwyf wedi colli cownt ar faint o bobl ifanc rwyf wedi clywed amdanyn nhw sydd wedi cael y graddau, ond yn methu cael lle i astudio yng Nghaerdydd, fe ddywedwn ni, ac felly mewn peryg o gael eu colli, nid yn unig fel israddedigion yng Nghymru, ond eu colli am eu gyrfa gyfan o'r system iechyd yng Nghymru. Mae'n rhaid inni gynyddu capasiti hyfforddi, ac mae'n rhaid inni gynnal safon ein hyfforddiant ni er mwyn denu'r myfyrwyr gorau hefyd o'r tu allan. Mae eisiau buddsoddi mewn sicrhau cyfleon ymchwil—'fellowships' ac ati—yng Nghymru. Mae o yn digwydd, ond mae eisiau strategaeth i gyflwyno rhagor o hynny, er mwyn denu, yn gyntaf, mwy o feddygon academaidd, ac, ar yr un pryd, i wneud gwaith ymchwil i sicrhau bod safonau gofal yn codi—lladd dau aderyn efo un garreg. Beth am chwilio am ffyrdd o benodi gŵr a gwraig i swyddi meddygol, o fewn un ardal, i'w hannog nhw i wreiddio yno? Oes, mae eisiau meddwl y tu allan i'r bocs weithiau.

So, there is a challenge before us. There is a lot that we can do to face up to that challenge. We know what it is. We need to ensure that more of our young people can study in Wales, in order to bolster their bond with their own patch. I've lost count of how many young people I've heard about who have had the grades, but cannot get a place to study in Cardiff, let us say, and who are therefore at risk of being lost to Wales not only as undergraduates, but for their entire career in the health service. We need to increase training capacity, and we need to sustain the quality of our training to attract the best students from outside. We need to invest in ensuring research opportunities—fellowships and so forth—in Wales. It is happening, but we need a strategy to introduce more of that in order to attract, first of all, more academic doctors and, at the same time, to do research to ensure that care standards rise—killing two birds with one stone. How about looking for ways to employ married couples in medical posts, in one area, to encourage them to settle there? Yes, we need to think outside the box sometimes.

Mae'r Llywodraeth yn dweud wrthym yn aml nad problem Gymreig ydy hon—mae'n broblem drwy'r gwledydd yma—ac mae ganddyn nhw bwynt, wrth gwrs. Mae yna rannau eraill o'r ynysoedd yma yn wynebu yn union yr un ffactorau. Ond, a ydych chi'n gwybod beth? Efallai bod y Llywodraeth yma yn barod i dderbyn hynny fel rheswm i beidio â cheisio arloesi, i beidio â mynd i'r afael â'r broblem, ond os nad ydy hi'n broblem unigryw Gymreig, mi ddylem fod yn datblygu atebion unigryw Cymreig, yn ogystal â dysgu, wrth gwrs, o arferion da mewn gwledydd eraill. Rwy'n edrych ymlaen at wneud hynny fel Aelod o Lywodraeth Plaid Cymru.

The Government often tells us that this is not just a Welsh problem—it's a problem throughout these countries—and, of course, they have a point. There are other parts of these islands facing exactly the same factors. But, do you know what? Maybe the Government here is ready to accept that as a reason for not innovating and not tackling the problem, but if it isn't a problem that is unique to Wales, then we should be developing solutions that are unique to Wales, as well as learning, of course, from good practice in other countries. I'm looking forward to doing that as a member of Plaid Cymru Government.

17:24 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

I approach this debate with a great deal of curiosity, but also confusion, I think. As somebody who represents an area where we have extreme problems in recruitment to the NHS in some aspects—a hospital like Withybush, for example, in particular—but as somebody who is not directly involved in health policy at the moment, I do find it strange that we have this rather strange debate about what number is right for recruitment and long-term workforce planning in Wales. I find it strange that the Welsh NHS Confederation produces briefings for us as Assembly Members that talk about the challenges—the demographic challenges—of the NHS in Wales, and how we need to prepare for those challenges, but never puts a figure on what kinds of jobs we need to be preparing for.

Rwy'n dod at y ddadl hon gyda llawer iawn o chwilfrydedd, a dryswch hefyd, rwy'n meddwl. Fel rhywun sy'n cynrychioli ardal lle y mae gennym broblemau eithafol o ran recriwtio i'r GIG mewn rhai agweddau—ysbyty fel Llwynhelyg, er enghraifft, yn benodol—ond fel rhywun nad yw'n ymwneud yn uniongyrchol â pholisi iechyd ar hyn o bryd, rwy'n ei gweld hi'n rhyfedd ein bod yn cael dadl braidd yn rhyfedd am ba rif sy'n iawn ar gyfer recriwtio a chynllunio'r gweithlu yn y tymor hir yng Nghymru. Rwy'n ei gweld hi'n rhyfedd fod Cydffederasiwn y GIG yng Nghymru yn ein briffio ni fel Aelodau'r Cynulliad gan sôn am heriau—heriau demograffig—y GIG yng Nghymru, a sut y mae angen i ni baratoi ar gyfer yr heriau hynny, ond nid yw byth yn rhoi ffigur ar ba fath o swyddi y mae angen i ni baratoi ar eu cyfer.

The fact is that, although it's a bit hit and miss, and although you can argue the toss about 1,000 doctors or, as the Labour Government prefers to say, 1,000 medical workers, the fact is we're having a try at planning for our needs for the future. I think we should all try and do that, and also encourage the professions in Wales to join us in doing that, and see the deanery working much more with the Welsh Government and with political parties in Wales to scope out what we should be doing.

Er ei fod yn fater o hap a damwain braidd, ac er y gallwch ddadlau y naill ffordd neu'r llall ynghylch y 1,000 o feddygon neu fel y mae'n well gan y Llywodraeth Lafur ei ddweud, y 1,000 o weithwyr meddygol, y ffaith yw ein bod yn ceisio cynllunio ar gyfer ein hanghenion yn y dyfodol. Rwy'n credu y dylem oll geisio gwneud hynny ac annog y proffesiynau yng Nghymru i ymuno â ni i wneud hynny, a gweld y ddeoniaeth yn gweithio llawer mwy gyda Llywodraeth Cymru a chyda phleidiau gwleidyddol yng Nghymru i bennu cwmpas yr hyn y dylem fod yn ei wneud.

The second aspect of that, having identified, hopefully, the global sums, if not the individual bits and pieces, in terms of how many GPs we need, what kinds of specialisms we need to be looking at, indeed what kind of nurse practitioners we need and paramedics—which has to be an area we need to see growth in—having scoped those out, is that we then need to examine what other training and educational provisions need to be put in place to support that over a 10 or 15-year period. We won't get everything right, because we cannot stop people leaving Wales if they've been trained in Wales. We can only use the sorts of incentives that Elin Jones set out, and Rhun ap Iorwerth referred to, in order to keep them, as much as we can, in Wales. But, again, we need to be planning along those lines and putting in place the support mechanisms and the training mechanisms for them.

Yr ail agwedd ar hynny, ar ôl nodi, gobeithio, y symiau cyffredinol os nad y manion unigol, o ran faint o feddygon teulu y bydd eu hangen arnom, pa fathau o arbenigeddau y mae angen inni eu hystyried, yn wir pa fath o ymarferwyr nyrsio rydym eu hangen, a pharafeddygon—sy'n gorfod bod yn faes y mae angen i ni weld twf ynddo—ar ôl cwmpasu'r rheini, wedyn bydd angen inni archwilio pa hyfforddiant a darpariaethau addysgol eraill y bydd angen eu rhoi ar waith i gefnogi hynny dros gyfnod o 10 neu 15 blynedd. Ni chawn bopeth yn iawn, oherwydd ni allwn atal pobl rhag gadael Cymru os ydynt wedi cael eu hyfforddi yng Nghymru. Ni allwn ond defnyddio'r mathau o gymhellion a nododd Elin Jones ac y cyfeiriodd Rhun ap Iorwerth atynt er mwyn eu cadw yng Nghymru i'r graddau y gallwn. Ond unwaith eto, mae angen i ni gynllunio ar hyd y llinellau hyn a sefydlu systemau cymorth a systemau hyfforddi ar eu cyfer.

The final part of the debate that we need to talk about is how we pay for that. How do we spend that money? Can we pay for it completely within the block grant in Wales, or does there have to be some kind of relationship with what happens in terms of tax-varying powers in the UK? Plaid Cymru, as you know, has talked about the potential for a tax on sugary drinks. The Labour Party itself has said that its 1,000 extra healthcare workers will come from a tobacco levy, so this argument that you can't have a tax on sugary drinks because that encourages people to drink more, but you can have a tax on tobacco, because that doesn't encourage people to smoke more, I mean, we need to get beyond this and talk seriously about the sort of resources we need to dedicate to training the hundreds—let's agree on hundreds—of doctors and other healthcare professionals that we'll need in Wales.

Rhan olaf y ddadl sydd angen i ni siarad amdani yw sut rydym yn talu am hynny. Sut rydym yn gwario'r arian hwnnw? A allwn ni dalu amdano yn gyfan gwbl o fewn y grant bloc yng Nghymru, neu a oes rhaid cael rhyw fath o gysylltiad â'r hyn sy'n digwydd o ran pwerau amrywio trethi yn y DU? Mae Plaid Cymru, fel y gwyddoch, wedi siarad am y potensial ar gyfer gosod treth ar ddiodydd llawn siwgr. Mae'r Blaid Lafur ei hun wedi dweud y bydd ei 1,000 o weithwyr gofal iechyd ychwanegol yn dod o ardoll ar dybaco, felly mae gennych y ddadl hon na allwch gael treth ar ddiodydd llawn siwgr oherwydd bod hynny'n annog pobl i yfed mwy, ond gallwch gael treth ar dybaco, gan nad yw hynny'n annog pobl i ysmygu mwy. Hynny yw, mae angen i ni symud y tu hwnt i hyn a siarad o ddifrif am y math o adnoddau sydd angen inni eu neilltuo ar gyfer hyfforddi'r cannoedd—gadewch i ni gytuno ar gannoedd—o feddygon a gweithwyr gofal iechyd proffesiynol eraill y byddwn eu hangen yng Nghymru.

So, let's just look a little bit more at the sort of training we could be doing. We've already acknowledged, I think—and it's been accepted—that we underprovide training places for the medical professions in Wales. We have 4.8% of the population of the UK, but we train 4.3% of the doctors, so we're already coming slightly under on a Barnett formula, if you like. But Scotland overprovides. It's had a long medical history tradition, of course, but Scotland provides something like 12% of doctors. But we know that, if they train here in Wales, 95% stay within the area that they've trained in. That is a huge advantage for the kind of workforce that we need to build up on.

Felly, gadewch i ni edrych ychydig bach mwy ar y math o hyfforddiant y gallem fod yn ei wneud. Rwy'n meddwl ein bod eisoes wedi cydnabod—ac mae wedi ei dderbyn—nad ydym yn darparu digon o leoedd hyfforddi ar gyfer y proffesiynau meddygol yng Nghymru. Mae gennym 4.8% o boblogaeth y DU, ond rydym yn hyfforddi 4.3% o'r meddygon, felly rydym eisoes ychydig oddi tani o ran fformiwla Barnett, os mynnwch. Ond mae'r Alban yn gorddarparu. Mae ganddi hanes meddygol hir yn draddodiadol, wrth gwrs, ond mae'r Alban yn darparu rhywbeth fel 12% o feddygon. Ond os ydynt yn hyfforddi yma yng Nghymru, gwyddom fod 95% yn aros yn yr ardal y maent wedi eu hyfforddi ynddi. Mae hynny'n fantais enfawr ar gyfer y math o weithlu sydd angen i ni adeiladu arni.

We also know that quotas linked to some kind of financial incentive can have a positive effect. We've heard about them in Australia, and the deanery itself has talked in a paper to the Health and Social Care Committee about how significant quotas for appointees to Welsh medical schools could work. Elin Jones has talked a little more about the sort of incentives we might build into the tuition fee system that might encourage that, and certainly over the weekend Plaid talked about how we might change the tuition fee system in Wales to, let's be frank, start to prioritise those students domiciled in Wales who study within Wales in those key subjects such as medicine and science that we need to see encouraged.

Rydym hefyd yn gwybod y gall cwotâu sy'n gysylltiedig â rhyw fath o gymhelliad ariannol gael effaith gadarnhaol. Rydym wedi clywed amdanynt yn Awstralia, ac mae'r ddeoniaeth ei hun wedi sôn mewn papur i'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol ynglŷn â pha mor arwyddocaol y gallai cwotâu fod ar gyfer rhai sy'n cael eu derbyn i ysgolion meddygol Cymru. Siaradodd Elin Jones ychydig mwy am y math o gymhellion y gallem eu cynnwys yn y system ffioedd dysgu a allai annog hynny, ac yn sicr dros y penwythnos, siaradodd Plaid Cymru ynglŷn â sut y gallem newid y system ffioedd dysgu yng Nghymru er mwyn i ni ddechrau, gadewch i ni fod yn onest, blaenoriaethu myfyrwyr sy'n hanu o Gymru, sy'n astudio yng Nghymru, yn y pynciau allweddol megis meddygaeth a gwyddoniaeth sydd angen inni eu hannog.

But there is a slightly wider context here, which is the quality and depth of science teaching in Wales. The fact that too few students from Welsh backgrounds are choosing medicine is actually a reflection on the lack of depth that we have in science teaching. We have too few subject-trained scientists teaching in our secondary schools. In our primary schools it's atrocious—only 5% of primary school teachers having anything like a science degree. We don't have enough of an approach that is also a gender-neutral approach to attracting a wide range of people to study sciences. If you don't study sciences—and the three sciences, particularly—you don't then get the opportunity to go into medicine. That's particularly a factor in some of those schools that might be serving areas of low income where there are high numbers of free school meals.

Ond mae cyd-destun ychydig yn ehangach yma, sef ansawdd a dyfnder addysgu gwyddonol yng Nghymru. Mae'r ffaith fod prinder myfyrwyr o gefndiroedd Cymreig yn dewis meddygaeth mewn gwirionedd yn adlewyrchiad o'r diffyg dyfnder sydd gennym ym maes addysgu gwyddoniaeth. Mae gennym ddigon o wyddonwyr a hyfforddwyd yn eu pynciau yn dysgu yn ein hysgolion uwchradd. Yn ein hysgolion cynradd, mae'n erchyll—dim ond 5% o athrawon cynradd sy'n cael unrhyw beth tebyg i radd mewn gwyddoniaeth. Mae ein hymagwedd yn annigonol, ac mae hefyd yn niwtral o ran rhywedd, tuag at ddenu amrywiaeth eang o bobl i astudio'r gwyddorau. Os nad ydych yn astudio'r gwyddorau—a'r tair gwyddor, yn benodol—ni chewch gyfle wedyn i ddilyn cwrs mewn meddygaeth. Mae honno'n ffactor yn enwedig mewn ysgolion a allai fod yn gwasanaethu ardaloedd incwm isel, lle y ceir nifer uchel o brydau ysgol am ddim.

So, if we take a step back and start to re-look at what we are planning here, if we work together better, and if we have a better understanding that we can actually put some figures on paper without putting the political context to it, we may get a better understanding and agreement on taking our NHS workforce forward.

Felly, os cymerwn gam yn ôl a dechrau ailedrych ar yr hyn rydym yn ei gynllunio yma, pe baem yn gweithio gyda'n gilydd yn well, a phe baem yn cael dealltwriaeth well y gallwn fynd ati i roi ffigurau ar bapur heb osod cyd-destun gwleidyddol i'r peth, efallai y cawn well dealltwriaeth a chytundeb ynglŷn â sut i ddatblygu ein gweithlu GIG.

17:30

Antoinette Sandbach Bywgraffiad Biography

Minister, you will know that many times in debates in this Assembly I have raised with you issues around the deanery and the problems that that causes in attracting doctors to Wales, specifically whether there should be, for example, a north Wales rotation that goes over the border with Manchester and Liverpool that allows doctors to build up experience in level 4 centres, which we do not have here, with a similar sort of rotation in the south. I know that those are issues that you have considered in the past, but it is quite clear that if you do not look at the barriers that are placed to entry to the professions in Wales, then we will not be able to recruit doctors. It is quite simply a foolish suggestion to think that a GP who has trained at a hospital in England and who has a full English qualification has to take a year to get that qualification translated or approved in Wales. I had a situation with a constituent of mine, whose husband was posted to RAF Valley to work there. She was a fully qualified GP and she could not get work here in Wales. That situation, it seems to me, is bonkers, to put it bluntly.

Weinidog, fe fyddwch yn gwybod fy mod ar sawl achlysur mewn dadleuon yn y Cynulliad hwn wedi dwyn materion i'ch sylw ynghylch y ddeoniaeth a'r problemau y mae'n eu hachosi o ran denu meddygon i Gymru, yn benodol a ddylid cael patrwm cylchdroi yn y gogledd sy'n mynd dros y ffin i Fanceinion a Lerpwl ac sy'n caniatáu i feddygon feithrin profiad mewn canolfannau lefel 4, nad ydynt i'w cael yma, a phatrwm cylchdroi tebyg yn y de. Gwn fod y rhain yn faterion a gafodd sylw gennych yn y gorffennol, ond mae'n eithaf amlwg, os nad edrychwch ar y rhwystrau sy'n atal mynediad i'r proffesiynau yng Nghymru, yna ni fyddwn yn gallu recriwtio meddygon. Awgrym cwbl ffôl yw meddwl bod yn rhaid i feddyg teulu sydd wedi hyfforddi mewn ysbyty yn Lloegr ac sydd â chymhwyster llawn yn Lloegr gymryd blwyddyn i gael y cymhwyster wedi'i dderbyn neu ei gymeradwyo yng Nghymru. Roedd gen i sefyllfa lle'r oedd gŵr un o fy etholwyr wedi symud i weithio yn RAF Fali. Roedd hi'n feddyg teulu wedi cymhwyso'n llawn ac ni allai gael gwaith yma yng Nghymru. Ymddengys i mi fod y sefyllfa honno'n wallgof, a dweud y gwir yn blaen.

In terms of workforce planning, there are some serious points that have been raised in the Plaid motion about workforce planning, and we are seeing in north Wales, in the Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board, the consequences of a failure to have workforce planning. Again, it's a matter I raised with you earlier, Minister, but why is it that the deanery is insisting on a one in 11 rotation in obstetrics and gynaecology in Wales when it doesn't apply to any other of the UK nations? It is not our services that are at risk, but a different standard of care that is being demanded here that is not required elsewhere, and that at a point where the board are apparently saying to independent board members that, on a one in eight rotation, maternity services in Glan Clwyd are currently safe. So, what has put Glan Clwyd into that position, into the danger zone has been a moving of the goalposts and the fact that the rotation requirements have been changed.

Mae rhai pwyntiau difrifol wedi'u codi yng nghynnig Plaid Cymru ynglŷn â chynllunio'r gweithlu, ac yn y gogledd, ym Mwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr, rydym yn gweld canlyniadau methiant i gynllunio'r gweithlu. Unwaith eto, mae'n fater rwyf wedi'i ddwyn i'ch sylw yn gynharach, Weinidog, ond pam y mae'r ddeoniaeth yn mynnu patrwm cylchdroi un i 11 mewn obstetreg a gynaecoleg yng Nghymru pan nad yw'n berthnasol yn unrhyw un o wledydd eraill y DU? Nid ein gwasanaethau sydd mewn perygl, ond safon wahanol o ofal sy'n cael ei mynnu yma nad yw'n ofynnol mewn mannau eraill, a hynny ar adeg pan fo'r bwrdd yn ôl pob golwg yn dweud wrth aelodau annibynnol y bwrdd fod gwasanaethau mamolaeth yng Nglan Clwyd yn ddiogel ar hyn o bryd ar batrwm cylchdroi un i wyth. Felly, yr hyn sydd wedi rhoi Glan Clwyd yn y sefyllfa honno, mewn perygl, yw symud y pyst gôl a'r ffaith fod y gofynion cylchdroi wedi cael eu newid.

Now, I know that Professor Gallen, heading the deanery, has identified and recently spoken out about other things that are disincentivising doctors from applying to work in the Welsh NHS. One is a perception that they may have to speak Welsh. Of course, some doctors will have to speak Welsh, and no doubt it'll be Welsh-speaking doctors who will be recruited, but it is not a requirement to come and work in Wales that you need to speak in Welsh.

Yn awr, gwn fod yr Athro Gallen, sy'n arwain y ddeoniaeth, wedi nodi ac wedi siarad yn ddiweddar am bethau eraill sy'n atal meddygon rhag gwneud cais i weithio yn y GIG yng Nghymru. Un ohonynt yw'r canfyddiad y gallai fod yn rhaid iddynt siarad Cymraeg. Wrth gwrs, bydd yn rhaid i rai meddygon siarad Cymraeg, ac nid oes amheuaeth mai meddygon sy'n siarad Cymraeg a gaiff eu recriwtio, ond nid yw'n ofyniad fod yn rhaid i chi siarad Cymraeg er mwyn dod i weithio yng Nghymru.

He identified that there are issues over the names of the health boards that are causing confusion and disincentivising people from applying into Wales. [Interruption.] Those comments are public and they are there and, quite frankly, they are recognised by people outside Wales, and you're sticking your head in the sand if you don't see that as a real problem.

Nododd fod problemau gydag enwau'r byrddau iechyd sy'n achosi dryswch ac yn atal pobl rhag ymgeisio am swyddi yng Nghymru. [Torri ar draws.] Mae'r sylwadau hynny'n gyhoeddus ac maent yno ac a dweud y gwir, maent yn cael eu cydnabod gan bobl tu allan i Gymru, ac rydych yn claddu eich pen yn y tywod os nad ydych yn gweld honno fel problem go iawn.

17:33 **Simon Thomas** Bywgraffiad Biography

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Fideo Video

Will you give way?

A wnewch chi ildio?

17:34 **Antoinette Sandbach** Bywgraffiad Biography

No, I just want to answer Joyce Watson. Joyce Watson, no doubt, talked about the care that her constituent received, but I've received an e-mail today from a constituent who has written to me, and I want to read that out because I think it's important.

Na, rwyf i eisiau ateb Joyce Watson. Siaradodd Joyce Watson, yn ddiau, am y gofal a gafodd ei hetholwr, ond rwyf wedi derbyn e-bost heddiw gan etholwr a ysgrifennodd ataf fi, ac rwyf am ei ddarllen am fy mod yn meddwl ei fod yn bwysig.

'I feel compelled to write to you with regards to the downgrading of maternity services at Glan Clwyd Hospital. I had a terrible pregnancy with my daughter I had severe pregnancy sickness, in November 2013 I went into labour at 34 weeks, I was cared for at the unit. Two days later on the 28th November 2013 our gorgeous & adorable daughter was born weighing only 5lb 1oz, there were complications…a surgeon was required to deliver her via forceps. She was transferred immediately to the special care baby unit. She then spend 20 days there and received the most professional and amazing care. Fast forward two years and I would have been travelling under blue light to either Bangor or Wrexham which is completely unacceptable. A 45 minute journey is a long time when a woman us having complications in delivery.'

'Rwy'n teimlo bod yn rhaid i mi ysgrifennu atoch mewn perthynas ag israddio gwasanaethau mamolaeth yn Ysbyty Glan Clwyd. Cefais feichiogrwydd ofnadwy gyda fy merch, am fy mod yn dioddef o salwch beichiogrwydd difrifol. Ym mis Tachwedd 2013 fe ddechreuais esgor ar ôl 34 wythnos, a chael gofal yn yr uned. Ddeuddydd yn ddiweddarach ar 28 Tachwedd, 2013 ganed ein merch hyfryd ac annwyl yn pwyso 5 pwys ac 1 owns yn unig. Roedd yna gymhlethdodau... roedd angen llawfeddyg i'w geni drwy ddefnyddio gefeiliau. Cafodd ei throsglwyddo ar unwaith i'r uned gofal arbennig i fabanod. Yna, treuliodd 20 diwrnod yno a chael y gofal mwyaf proffesiynol ac arbennig. Ddwy flynedd yn ddiweddarach a byddwn wedi bod yn teithio dan olau glas naill ai i Fangor neu i Wrecsam sy'n gwbl annerbyniol. Mae taith 45 munud yn amser hir pan fydd menyw yn cael cymhlethdodau wrth roi genedigaeth.'

Now, there is no doubt—

Yn awr, nid oes unrhyw amheuaeth—

17:35

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

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

Finish now, please.

Gorffennwch yn awr, os gwelwch yn dda.

17:35

Antoinette Sandbach [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

There is no doubt that a three-centre service could be delivered in north Wales, and it is workforce planning and rotation—

Nid oes amheuaeth y gellid darparu gwasanaeth tair canolfan yng ngogledd Cymru, a chynllunio'r gweithlu a gweithio ar batrwm cylchdroi—

17:35

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

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

Finish now.

Gorffennwch yn awr.

17:35

Antoinette Sandbach [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

[Continues.]—that has not been in place.

[Yn parhau.]—sydd heb fod ar waith.

17:35

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

Senedd.tv [Fideo] [Video]

I call the Minister for Health and Social Services, Mark Drakeford.

Galwaf ar y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, Mark Drakeford.

17:35

Mark Drakeford [Bywgraffiad] [Biography]

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol / The Minister for Health and Social Services

Diolch yn fawr, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Thank you for the opportunity to reply to the debate. Can I thank Elin Jones for the thoughtful and constructive way in which she opened the debate? There are some issues of detail on which we may not agree, but the spirit of the motion and much of the ambition that she set out is something that we would have no difficulty on this side in subscribing to, just as we did 12 months ago when Plaid Cymru moved a very similar motion.

Diolch yn fawr, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Diolch i chi am y cyfle i ymateb i'r ddadl. A gaf fi ddiolch i Elin Jones am y modd ystyriol ac adeiladol yr agorodd y ddadl? Mae yna rai problemau gyda manylion na fyddem yn cytuno arnynt efallai, ond mae ysbryd y cynnig a llawer o'r uchelgais a nododd yn rhywbeth na fyddem yn cael unrhyw anhawster yn ei gefnogi ar yr ochr hon, yn union fel y gwnaethom 12 mis yn ôl pan gyflwynodd Plaid Cymru gynnig tebyg iawn.

Dirprwy Lywydd, I'm going to very briefly just put a couple of facts and figures on the record, to add to those that were so ably put there by Joyce Watson. It's a strange old 'recruitment crisis', to use Darren Millar's hackneyed old phrase, if we look at a Welsh NHS that has more doctors working in it than ever before— 2,000 GPs for the first time ever through that barrier. In the decade between 2003 and 2013, the full-time equivalent numbers of medical and dental staff in the Welsh NHS rose by 1,865—not 1,000, as the Plaid Cymru motion suggests and as was described by themselves as 'ambitious'. In the last decade, that's 1,865 extra medical and dental staff, 897 of whom are extra consultants in the Welsh NHS. So, it's a strange old recruitment crisis when we have extra numbers of doctors in the Welsh NHS on that scale: a 2.3% increase in the last year alone.

Ddirprwy Lywydd, rwy'n mynd i gofnodi ychydig o ffeithiau a ffigurau yn gryno iawn, er mwyn ychwanegu at y rhai a gyflwynwyd mor fedrus gan Joyce Watson. Mae'n hen 'argyfwng recriwtio' digon rhyfedd, i ddefnyddio hen ymadrodd ystrydebol Darren Millar, os edrychwn ar y GIG yng Nghymru sydd â mwy o feddygon yn gweithio ynddo nag erioed o'r blaen—2,000 o feddygon teulu, am y tro cyntaf erioed dros y trothwy hwnnw. Yn y degawd rhwng 2003 a 2013, gwelwyd cynnydd o 1,865 yn nifer y staff meddygol a deintyddol cyfwerth ag amser llawn yn y GIG yng Nghymru—nid 1,000, fel y mae cynnig Plaid Cymru yn ei awgrymu ac fel y disgrifiwyd ganddynt hwy eu hunain fel 'uchelgeisiol'. Yn y degawd diwethaf, dyna 1,865 o staff meddygol a deintyddol ychwanegol, 897 ohonynt yn feddygon ymgynghorol ychwanegol yn y GIG yng Nghymru. Felly, mae'n hen argyfwng recriwtio digon rhyfedd pan fo gennym niferoedd ychwanegol o feddygon yn y GIG yng Nghymru ar y raddfa honno: cynnydd o 2.3% yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf yn unig.

Just as we did a year ago, we shall support an amendment that moves the debate on from an exclusive emphasis on less than 10% of the national health service workforce—because, vitally important as they are, doctors are only 8% of our workforce—to one which places equal value and pays equal respect to that far wider range of contributions identified by Kirsty Williams in moving her amendment.

Yn union fel y gwnaethom flwyddyn yn ôl, byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant sy'n symud y ddadl yn ei blaen o bwyslais yn unig ar lai na 10% o weithlu'r gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol—oherwydd, er mor hanfodol bwysig ydynt, dim ond 8% o'n gweithlu sy'n feddygon—i un sy'n gosod gwerth cyfartal ac yn rhoi parch cyfartal i'r ystod lawer ehangach o gyfraniadau a nodwyd gan Kirsty Williams wrth gynnig ei gwelliant.

The motion begins with an emphasis on workforce planning. I welcome that. I agree with what Lindsay Whittle said about the importance of it. In recent times, a series of steps have been taken to strengthen both workforce planning and the delivery of training in the Welsh NHS. As far as planning is concerned, we have the new three-year planning regime brought together in the National Health Service Finance (Wales) Act 2014. The second year of that regime is about to begin. We have the plans from all LHBs, and they will be interrogated this month by my officials to make sure that they really do help us to shape the workforce we will need to meet future needs here in Wales. The plans, we know, are significantly influenced by the national primary care plan for Wales and the primary care workforce plan, which is being created alongside it.

Mae'r cynnig yn dechrau gyda phwyslais ar gynllunio gweithlu. Rwy'n croesawu hynny. Rwy'n cytuno â'r hyn a ddywedodd Lindsay Whittle am bwysigrwydd hynny. Yn ddiweddar, rhoddwyd cyfres o gamau ar waith i gryfhau'r broses o gynllunio'r gweithlu a chyflwyno hyfforddiant yn y GIG yng Nghymru. O ran cynllunio, mae gennym y drefn gynllunio dair blynedd newydd a ddaeth ynghyd yn Neddf Cyllid y Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol (Cymru) 2014. Mae ail flwyddyn y drefn honno ar fin dechrau. Mae gennym gynlluniau gan bob BILl, a byddant dan y chwyddwydr y mis hwn gan fy swyddogion i wneud yn siŵr eu bod yn ein helpu mewn gwirionedd i lunio'r gweithlu y bydd ei angen arnom i ateb anghenion y dyfodol yma yng Nghymru. Fe wyddom fod y cynlluniau wedi cael eu dylanwadu'n sylweddol gan y cynllun cenedlaethol gofal sylfaenol ar gyfer Cymru a chynllun y gweithlu gofal sylfaenol, sy'n cael ei greu ochr yn ochr ag ef.

All that work will be material for the independent review of the workforce needs of the future, which we agreed with our trade union and other partners as a result of pay negotiations, which were successfully concluded here in Wales. I hope to announce the chair of that review at the all-Wales partnership forum meeting next week, and I'm grateful to all partners, including the British Medical Association, for their willingness to contribute to it. Its work will be set against the horizon contained in the Nuffield Trust review, published in June of last year. Nuffield set out both an immediate and a 10-year horizon for the Welsh NHS, and the independent review will provide workforce advice in both contexts.

Bydd yr holl waith hwn yn berthnasol ar gyfer yr adolygiad annibynnol o anghenion y gweithlu yn y dyfodol, fel y cytunwyd â'n partneriaid yn yr undebau llafur a phartneriaid eraill mewn trafodaethau cyflog, a ddaeth i ben yn llwyddiannus yma yng Nghymru. Rwy'n gobeithio cyhoeddi enw cadeirydd yr adolygiad hwnnw yng nghyfarfod fforwm partneriaeth Cymru yr wythnos nesaf, ac rwy'n ddiolchgar i'r holl bartneriaid, gan gynnwys Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain, am eu parodrwydd i gyfrannu ato. Bydd eu gwaith yn cael ei osod yng nghyd-destun adolygiad Ymddiriedolaeth Nuffield a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Mehefin y llynedd. Gosododd Nuffield gyd-destun uniongyrchol a chyd-destun 10 mlynedd ar gyfer y GIG yng Nghymru, a bydd yr adolygiad annibynnol yn rhoi cyngor ar y gweithlu yn y ddau gyd-destun.

Dirprwy Lywydd, as far as the issue of training is concerned, it's been one of the hallmarks of the post-devolution era that all administrations here at the National Assembly have invested very large sums of public money in creating the workforce of the future. In terms of GP trainees alone, the investment we make in medical education in Wales produces an average of 100 new GPs for the workforce in Wales every year over the last five years—but we're not standing still just with that. Twelve months ago, I said that we would have a review of the investment in the education of health professionals here in Wales, and it's just about to conclude its work. Led by Mel Evans, together with Professor Ceri Phillips and Professor Dick Roberts, it will present its findings to me at the end of this month. I will look to it to provide us with advice on how we can maximise the return on the £350 million pounds every year that we invest in medical education here in Wales.

Ddirprwy Lywydd, o ran hyfforddiant, mae wedi bod yn un o nodweddion y cyfnod ar ôl datganoli fod yr holl weinyddiaethau yma yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol wedi buddsoddi symiau mawr iawn o arian cyhoeddus ar gyfer creu gweithlu'r dyfodol. O ran meddygon teulu dan hyfforddiant yn unig, mae'r buddsoddiad a wnawn mewn addysg feddygol yng Nghymru wedi cynhyrchu cyfartaledd o 100 o feddygon teulu newydd ar gyfer y gweithlu yng Nghymru bob blwyddyn dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf—ond nid ydym yn sefyll yn ein hunfan ar hynny. Ddeuddeg mis yn ôl, dywedais y byddem yn cynnal adolygiad o'r buddsoddiad yn addysg gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol yma yng Nghymru, ac mae ar fin dod i ben â'i waith. Dan arweiniad Mel Evans, ynghyd â'r Athro Ceri Phillips a'r Athro Dick Roberts, bydd yn cyflwyno ei ganfyddiadau i mi ar ddiwedd y mis hwn. Byddaf yn ei ddefnyddio i ddarparu cyngor ar sut y gallwn fanteisio i'r eithaf ar yr elw o'r £350 miliwn a fuddsoddwn mewn addysg feddygol yma yng Nghymru bob blwyddyn.

We want to go on making that investment. There has been no 6% cut in intakes to medical education here in Wales, as there has been in Scotland over the last two years, for example. The advice from the panel will include advice on whether the incentives we currently provide for recruiting and training medical staff within the NHS in Wales can be better aligned to future needs. I very much want us to be sure, with the money that we provide to students as they're going through medical education in Wales, that we have a proper return on that investment for the Welsh taxpayer, and that where there are incentives in the system, we align them to those young people who are willing to commit themselves to the future of the NHS here in Wales. Are quotas the right way to do it? Well, I look at the deanery paper with interest. I look to see how they solve the legal problems that that immediately gives rise to in ân EU context. I'll certainly look at the fellowships idea that other Members have raised, and it's already on our list of things we are doing in Wales. An expansion of the academic fellows scheme, a streamlined GP returner scheme, a GP retainer scheme with a wider scope of eligibility, a reform of the NHS Wales performers list-I agree with what Antoinette Sandbach said about that, and we will tackle that-and the provision of occupational health services to make sure that our GPs and other workers in the field are properly looked after when they work here in Wales.

Rydym am barhau i wneud y buddsoddiad hwnnw. Ni fu 6% o doriad yn y derbyniadau i addysg feddygol yma yng Nghymru, fel y bu yn yr Alban dros y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf, er enghraifft. Bydd y cyngor gan y panel yn cynnwys cyngor ynglŷn ag a ellir gwneud y cymhellion a ddarparwn ar hyn o bryd i recriwtio a hyfforddi staff meddygol yn y GIG yng Nghymru yn fwy addas ar gyfer anghenion y dyfodol. Rwy'n awyddus iawn inni fod yn sicr, gyda'r arian a ddarparwn i fyfyrwyr wrth iddynt gael eu haddysg feddygol yng Nghymru, ein bod yn cael elw priodol ar y buddsoddiad hwnnw i drethdalwyr Cymru, a lle y ceir cymhellion yn y system, ein bod yn eu gwneud yn addas ar gyfer y bobl ifanc sy'n barod i ymrwymo eu hunain i ddyfodol y GIG yma yng Nghymru. Ai cwotâu yw'r ffordd iawn o wneud hynny? Wel, rwy'n edrych ar bapur y ddeoniaeth gyda diddordeb. Rwy'n edrych i weld sut y maent yn datrys y problemau cyfreithiol y mae hynny'n arwain atynt ar unwaith yng nghyd-destun yr UE. Byddaf yn bendant yn edrych ar y syniad o gymrodoriaethau y mae Aelodau eraill wedi tynnu sylw ato, ac mae'n barod ar ein rhestr o bethau rydym yn eu gwneud yng Nghymru. Ehangu'r cynllun cymrodyr academaidd, cynllun symlach ar gyfer meddygon teulu sy'n dychwelyd, cynllun cadw meddygon teulu gyda chwmpas o gymhwyster ehangach, diwygio rhestr cyflawnwyr GIG Cymru—rwy'n cytuno â'r hyn a ddywedodd Antoinette Sandbach am hynny, a byddwn yn mynd i'r afael â hynny—a darparu gwasanaethau iechyd galwedigaethol i wneud yn siŵr fod ein meddygon teulu a gweithwyr eraill yn y maes yn cael y gofal cywir pan fyddant yn gweithio yma yng Nghymru.

We know that there is more that can be done to draw those young people in training today into the workforce of the future. There's radical work being done here in Cardiff medical school to develop a new twenty-first century curriculum for medical education. You can see it bearing fruit already in the tremendous work being done at the new academic centre, the Keir Hardie University Health Park in Merthyr, which the education Minister, Huw Lewis, and I were able to help open last week. There, you see young people having their medical education from the very first term in which they arrive in Wales—seeing patients, seeing services on the ground—and doing it in a thoroughly multidisciplinary way, so that in the future we will be able to deploy the whole range of workers we have in the system to free up doctors to concentrate on those patients for whom only the skills of a doctor can provide a sufficient response. That's why I'm so pleased to have been able to announce today a major boost to the training numbers for nurses and other professions allied to medicine here in Wales.

Gwyddom fod mwy y gellir ei wneud i ddenu pobl ifanc sy'n hyfforddi heddiw i mewn i weithlu'r dyfodol. Mae gwaith radical yn cael ei wneud yma yn ysgol feddygol Caerdydd ar ddatblygu cwricwlwm addysg feddygol newydd ar gyfer yr unfed ganrif ar hugain. Gallwch weld ei fod yn dwyn ffrwyth eisoes yn y gwaith aruthrol a wneir yn y ganolfan academaidd newydd, Parc Iechyd Prifysgol Keir Hardie ym Merthyr Tudful, y bu'r Gweinidog Addysg, Huw Lewis, a minnau yn helpu i'w agor yr wythnos diwethaf. Yno, fe welwch bobl ifanc yn cael eu haddysg feddygol o'r tymor cyntaf un ar ôl iddynt gyrraedd Cymru—yn gweld cleifion, yn gweld gwasanaethau ar lawr gwlad—ac yn ei wneud mewn modd cwbl amlddisgyblaethol, fel y gallwn fynd ati yn y dyfodol i ddefnyddio'r ystod lawn o weithwyr sydd gennym yn y system i ryddhau meddygon i ganolbwyntio ar y cleifion na all ond sgiliau meddyg ddarparu ymateb digonol ar eu cyfer. Dyna pam rwyf mor falch heddiw o fod wedi gallu cyhoeddi'r hwb mawr i nifer y lleoedd hyfforddi ar gyfer nyrsys a phroffesiynau eraill sy'n gysylltiedig â meddygaeth yma yng Nghymru.

To answer Simon Thomas's point, the extra numbers that we are providing come through the workforce planning system. They're numbers that have been identified by local health boards, tested by our colleagues in education, approved through the panels that we set up for these purposes. There is a workforce planning regime in Wales that we can build on and do more on for the future. That way, in that broader way, we will achieve the ambition that many Members here have talked about this afternoon to make sure that the enormous investment we make on behalf of the Welsh taxpayer produces a dividend in training the workers that we will need to meet the needs of the future NHS here in Wales.

I ateb pwynt Simon Thomas, daw'r niferoedd ychwanegol a ddarparwn drwy'r system ar gyfer cynllunio'r gweithlu. Maent yn niferoedd a nodwyd gan fyrddau iechyd lleol, eu profi gan ein cydweithwyr ym maes addysg, a'u cymeradwyo drwy'r paneli a sefydlwyd gennym at y dibenion hyn. Ceir cyfundrefn gynllunio'r gweithlu yng Nghymru y gallwn adeiladu arni a gwneud mwy â hi gyfer y dyfodol. Felly, yn y ffordd ehangach honno, byddwn yn cyflawni'r uchelgais y mae llawer o Aelodau yma wedi siarad amdani y prynhawn yma i sicrhau bod y buddsoddiad enfawr a wnawn ar ran y trethdalwr yng Nghymru yn cynhyrchu difidend wrth hyfforddi'r gweithwyr y bydd eu hangen arnom er mwyn ateb anghenion y GIG yma yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol.

17:43 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Elin Jones to reply to the debate.

Elin Jones i ymateb i'r ddadl.

17:43 **Elin Jones** Bywgraffiad Biography

Diolch, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Fel y dywedais i wrth gyflwyno'r ddadl yma, rwyf yn deall, ac rwy'n cytuno â'r angen i gynyddu hyfforddiant ar gyfer proffesiynau iechyd eraill. Fe wnaeth Lindsay Whittle amlinellu'r angen i weld cynllun gweithlu cyfan ar gyfer y gwasanaeth iechyd, ac mae datganiad y Llywodraeth heddiw i'w groesawu yn hyn o beth: 380 o lefydd hyfforddiant i broffesiynau iechyd eraill yn cael eu cyhoeddi heddiw. Fe wnaeth y Gweinidog amlinellu i ni sut oedd y ffigwr yna o 380 wedi'i gyrraedd, ac efallai y byddai hwnnw wedi bod yn ddefnyddiol hefyd yn y datganiad heddiw.

Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer. As I said in opening this debate, I do understand, and I agree with the need to increase training for other professions allied to medicine. Lindsay Whittle outlined the need to see an entire workforce plan for the health service, and the Government's statement today is to be welcomed in that regard: 380 training places for other health professions announced today. The Minister outlined to us how that figure of 380 has been arrived at, and that might have been useful in today's statement also.

Rwy'n cytuno â Kirsty Williams bod anghenion y dyfodol a gweithlu iechyd y dyfodol yn mynd i droi o gwmpas, sut gymaint, y tîm iechyd yna yn y gymuned sydd yn mynd i gynnwys doctoriaid, ie, ond pob math o broffesiynau iechyd eraill, er mwyn sicrhau bod yr henoed yn ein plith, yn enwedig, yn cael y gofal yna sydd ei angen yn y gymuned.

I agree with Kirsty Williams that future needs and the future workforce of the NHS will depend so much on the turnaround of that health team in the community, which will include doctors, yes, but all sorts of other medical professions, too, to ensure that older people amongst us particularly get the care that they need in the community.

Mae'r tîm a'r gweithlu yn eu cyfanrwydd yn bwysig. Nawr, fe wnaeth nifer o siaradwyr gyfeirio at a chwestiynu'r ffigwr o 1,000 o ddoctoriaid. Efallai y dylwn i fod wedi dweud 'approximately' 1,000 o ddoctoriaid, ac efallai y byddwn i wedi cael mwy o gefnogaeth y prynhawn yma—'hundreds' o ddoctoriaid rwy'n credu y gwnaeth Simon Thomas ddweud. Mae 1,000 o ddoctoriaid ychwanegol yn ymarferol bosib dros ddegawd. Yn wir, mae'r Gweinidog wedi dweud eu bod nhw wedi cyflawni hynny a mwy dros y degawd diwethaf. Ond nid ydym ni yn y sefyllfa, nad ydym, i fod yn 'complacent' ac i feddwl bod gennym y niferoedd angenrheidiol ar gyfer heddiw ac yfory yn y gwasanaeth iechyd. Sawl gwaith rydym ni wedi clywed y rhesymau'n cael eu rhoi am ganoli gwasanaethau, oherwydd y diffyg o ran recriwtio doctoriaid mewn arbenigeddau penodol? Mae gennyf brofiad penodol yn fy etholaeth, lle caeodd syrjeri GP yn ddiweddar oherwydd yr anallu i recriwtio GP wedi'i gyflogi. Felly, mae gyda ni broblem nawr ac rydym ni'n rhagweld problem i'r dyfodol, gyda oedran ein GPs yn enwedig. Ond, os taw 699 neu 937 yn fwy o ddoctoriaid fydd e erbyn 2025, fe fydd pob un o'r rheini yn gyfraniad gwerthfawr i ddyfodol yr NHS. Nid y ffigwr o 1,000 sydd yn bwysig, ond yr uchelgais a'r weithred o gymryd camau bwriadol i hyfforddi a recriwtio mwy o ddoctoriaid na'r hyn y mae cynlluniau presennol yn ei gyflawni. Mae nifer o Aelodau wedi cyfeirio at rai o'r mesurau hynny y gellid eu cymryd yn rhagweithiol gan y Llywodraeth i gyflawni a chynyddu'r recriwtio a'r hyfforddi.

That team and that workforce as a whole are extremely important. Now, many contributors referred to and questioned the figure of 1,000 additional doctors, and had I said 'approximately 1,000' perhaps I would have garnered more support this afternoon. Or maybe I should have said 'hundreds of doctors', as Simon Thomas put it. But 1,000 additional doctors is practically possible over a period of a decade. Indeed, the Minister has said that they have achieved that and more over the past decade. But, we are not in a position to be complacent and to think that we have the necessary numbers in place for today or tomorrow in the health service. How often do we hear the reason for centralising services being recruitment problems in particular areas of expertise? I have personal experience in my own constituency where a GP surgery closed recently because of the inability to recruit a salaried GP. So, we do have a problem and we anticipate that that problem will be worse in future as our GPs grow older. But, whether it is 699 or 937 extra GPs by 2025—all of those will be a useful contribution to the future of the NHS. It is not the figure of 1,000 that is important but the ambition to take deliberate steps to train and recruit more doctors than current schemes are achieving. Many Members have referred to some of those proactive measures that the Government could implement in order to increase recruitment and training.

Mae'r uchelgais i hyfforddi a recriwtio 1,000 yn fwy o ddoctoriaid yn briodol ar gyfer anghenion degawd nesaf yr NHS. I gwrdd â'r anghenion yma, mae angen cychwyn addysgu a hyfforddi heddiw, a dyna pam mae Plaid Cymru yn gofyn i'r Cynulliad heddiw i ymrwymo i recriwtio a hyfforddi 1,000 yn fwy o ddoctoriaid-'approximately' 1,000, os ych chi'n moyn-dros y degawd nesaf.

Now, the ambition to recruit and train 1,000 additional doctors is appropriate to the needs of the next decade for the NHS, and to meet these needs we need to start to train and educate today, and that's why Plaid Cymru is asking the Assembly to commit to recruiting and training an additional 1,000 doctors—approximately 1,000, if you prefer—over the next decade.

17:47 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

The proposal is to agree the motion without amendment. Does any Member object? [Objection.] I defer voting until voting time.

Y cynnig yw derbyn y cynnig heb ei ddiwygio. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? [Gwrthwynebiad.] Rwy'n gohirio'r pleidleisio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Gohiriwyd y pleidleisio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Voting deferred until voting time.

17:47

6. Cyfnod Pleidleisio

6. Voting Time

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

Voting time now follows. Before I conduct the first vote, are there three Members who wish for the bell to be rung? There are not. So, we'll vote first on the debate by individual Members under Standing Order 11.21. I call for a vote on the motion tabled in the name of Simon Thomas. If the proposal is not agreed, we will vote on the amendment tabled to the motion. Open the vote. Close the vote. There voted in favour 15. There voted against 32. Therefore, the motion without amendment is not agreed.

Mae'r cyfnod pleidleisio yn awr yn dilyn. Cyn i mi gynnal y bleidlais gyntaf, a oes tri Aelod sy'n dymuno i'r gloch gael ei chanu? Nac oes. Felly, byddwn yn pleidleisio yn gyntaf ar y ddadl gan Aelodau unigol o dan Reol Sefydlog 11.21. Galwaf am bleidlais ar y cynnig a gyflwynwyd yn enw Simon Thomas. Os na fydd y cynnig yn cael ei dderbyn, byddwn yn pleidleisio ar y gwelliant a gyflwynwyd i'r cynnig. Agorwch y bleidlais. Caewch y bleidlais. Pleidleisiodd 15 o blaid. Pleidleisiodd 32 yn erbyn. Felly, nid yw'r cynnig heb ei ddiwygio yn cael ei dderbyn.

Gwrthodwyd y cynnig: O blaid 15, Yn erbyn 32, Ymatal 0.

Motion not agreed: For 15, Against 32, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar gynnig NNDM5683

Result of the vote on motion NNDM5683

17:48 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

We'll now vote on the amendment. I call for a vote on the amendment tabled in the name of Jane Hutt. Open the vote. Close the vote. There voted in favour 38. There voted against 10. Therefore, the amendment is agreed.

Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar y gwelliant. Galwaf am bleidlais ar y gwelliant a gyflwynwyd yn enw Jane Hutt. Agorwch y bleidlais. Caewch y bleidlais. Pleidleisiodd 38 o blaid. Pleidleisiodd 10 yn erbyn. Felly, mae'r gwelliant wedi ei dderbyn.

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 38, Yn erbyn 10, Ymatal 0.

Amendment agreed: For 38, Against 10, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 1 i gynnig NNDM5683

Result of the vote on amendment 1 to motion NNDM5683

Cynnig NNDM5683 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

Motion NNDM5683 as amended:

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Yn nodi:

1. Notes:

a) diwrnod cofrestru pleidleiswyr Bite the Ballot ar 5 Chwefror ac wythnos genedlaethol o weithgareddau rhwng 2 a 8 Chwefror;

a) Bite the Ballot's national voter registration day on 5 February and the nationwide week of action between 2 and 8 February;

b) adroddiad y Comisiwn Etholiadol, 'The quality of the 2014 electoral registers in Great Britain', a ganfu nad oedd 49% o bobl ifanc 16-17 oed wedi cofrestru i bleidleisio.

b) 'The quality of the 2014 electoral registers in Great Britain' report by the Electoral Commission, which found that 49% of 16-17 year olds are not registered to vote;

c) adroddiad cynnydd y Comisiwn Etholiadol, 'Dadansoddiad o'r Arbrawf Cadarnhau Byw yng Nghymru a Lloegr', a ganfu bod y gyfradd baru i bobl rhwng 16 a 17 oed sydd wedi cofrestru i bleidleisio'n unigol wedi gostwng o 86% i 52%; a

c) the 'Analysis of the confirmation live run in England and Wales' Electoral Commission progress report, which found that the individual electoral registration match-rate for 16 to 17 year olds has declined from 86% to 52%; and

d) llwyddiant menter ysgolion Swyddfa Etholiadol Gogledd Iwerddon a wnaeth arwain at ychwanegu 57,000 o bobl ifanc (tua 50% o'r grŵp oedran) at y gofrestr.

d) the success of the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland's 'Schools Initiative' in adding 57,000 young people (approximately 50% of the age group) to the register.

2. Yn gresynu at y ffaith bod nifer y bobl sy'n pleidleisio yn etholiadau'r Cynulliad wedi bod yn gostwng ac yn cefnogi camau i annog pobl ifanc i gymryd rhan mewn democratiaeth;

2. Regrets that turnout in Assembly elections has been decreasing and supports action to encourage active, engaged participation of young people in democracy.

3. Yn galw am gamau i rymuso swyddogion cofrestru i wella prosesau rhannu data, cynyddu nifer y bobl sydd wedi'u cofrestru o grwpiau sydd heb gynrychiolaeth ddigonol—yn enwedig etholwyr ifanc a myfyrwyr—a sicrhau lefelau uwch o gyfranogiad ymhlith pobl ifanc.

3. Calls for steps to empower electoral registration officers to improve data-sharing, increase the number of people registered from under-represented groups–especially young and student electors—and ensure greater participation of young people.

4. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth y DU i gytuno y dylai'r broses o drosglwyddo enwau pobl gofrestredig a oedd wedi'u cynnwys yn y gofrestr flaenorol, nad oedd wedi cofrestru'n unigol, fod yn gymwys i gofrestr 2016 yn yr un modd ag yr oedd ar gyfer 2015.

4. Calls on the UK Government to agree that the carrying forward of registered persons included in the previous register, who had not registered individually, should apply to the 2016 register as it did for 2015.

17:48

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

I now call for a vote on the motion as amended. Open the vote. Close the vote. There voted in favour 38. There voted against 9. Therefore, the motion as amended is agreed.

Galwaf yn awr am bleidlais ar y cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio. Agorwch y bleidlais. Caewch y bleidlais. Pleidleisiodd 38 o blaid. Pleidleisiodd 9 yn erbyn. Felly, mae'r cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio yn cael ei dderbyn.

Derbyniwyd cynnig NNDM5683 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 38, Yn erbyn 9, Ymatal 0.

Motion NNDM5683 as amended agreed: For 38, Against 9, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar gynnig NNDM5683 fel y'i diwygiwyd

Result of the vote on motion NNDM5683 as amended

17:49

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

We'll now vote on the Welsh Conservatives debate. I call for a vote on the motion tabled in the name of Paul Davies. If the proposal is not agreed, we will vote on the amendments tabled to the motion. Open the vote. Close the vote. There voted in favour 10. There voted against 38. Therefore, the motion without amendment is not agreed.

Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar ddadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig. Galwaf am bleidlais ar y cynnig a gyflwynwyd yn enw Paul Davies. Os na fydd y cynnig yn cael ei dderbyn, byddwn yn pleidleisio ar y gwelliannau a gyflwynwyd i'r cynnig. Agorwch y bleidlais. Caewch y bleidlais. Pleidleisiodd 10 o blaid. Pleidleisiodd 38 yn erbyn. Felly, nid yw'r cynnig heb ei ddiwygio yn cael ei dderbyn.

Gwrthodwyd y cynnig: O blaid 10, Yn erbyn 38, Ymatal 0.

Motion not agreed: For 10, Against 38, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar gynnig NDM5687

Result of the vote on motion NDM5687

17:49

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

We will now vote on the amendments. I call for a vote on amendment 1 tabled in the name of Aled Roberts. Open the vote. Close the vote. There voted in favour 47. There voted against 1. Therefore, the amendment is agreed.

Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar y gwelliannau. Galwaf am bleidlais ar welliant 1 a gyflwynwyd yn enw Aled Roberts. Agorwch y bleidlais. Caewch y bleidlais. Pleidleisiodd 47 o blaid. Pleidleisiodd 1 yn erbyn. Felly, mae'r gwelliant wedi ei dderbyn.

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 47, Yn erbyn 1, Ymatal 0.

Amendment agreed: For 47, Against 1, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 1 i gynnig NDM5687

Result of the vote on amendment 1 to motion NDM5687

17:50

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

I call for a vote on amendment 2 tabled in the name of Aled Roberts. Open the vote. Close the vote. There voted in favour 38. There voted against 10. Therefore, amendment 2 is agreed.

Galwaf am bleidlais ar welliant 2 a gyflwynwyd yn enw Aled Roberts. Agorwch y bleidlais. Caewch y bleidlais. Pleidleisiodd 38 o blaid. Pleidleisiodd 10 yn erbyn. Felly, mae gwelliant 2 wedi'i dderbyn.

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 38, Yn erbyn 10, Ymatal 0.

Amendment agreed: For 38, Against 10, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 2 i gynnig NDM5687

Result of the vote on amendment 2 to motion NDM5687

17:50

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

I call for a vote on amendment 3 tabled in the name of Aled Roberts. Open the vote. Close the vote. There voted in favour 28. There voted against 10 and there were 10 abstentions. Therefore, amendment 3 is agreed.

Galwaf am bleidlais ar welliant 3 a gyflwynwyd yn enw Aled Roberts. Agorwch y bleidlais. Caewch y bleidlais. Pleidleisiodd 28 o blaid. Pleidleisiodd 10 yn erbyn ac roedd 10 yn ymatal. Felly, derbynnir gwelliant 3.

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 28, Yn erbyn 10, Ymatal 10.

Amendment agreed: For 28, Against 10, Abstain 10.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 3 i gynnig NDM5687

Result of the vote on amendment 3 to motion NDM5687

17:50

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

I call for a vote on amendment 4 tabled in the name of Aled Roberts. Open the vote. Close the vote. There voted in favour 38. There were no votes against and there were 9 abstentions. Therefore, amendment 4 is agreed.

Galwaf am bleidlais ar welliant 4 a gyflwynwyd yn enw Aled Roberts. Agorwch y bleidlais. Caewch y bleidlais. Pleidleisiodd 38 o blaid. Nid oedd unrhyw bleidleisiau yn erbyn ac roedd 9 yn ymatal. Felly, derbynnir gwelliant 4.

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 38, Yn erbyn 0, Ymatal 9.

Amendment agreed: For 38, Against 0, Abstain 9.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 4 i gynnig NDM5687

Result of the vote on amendment 4 to motion NDM5687

Cynnig NDM5687 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

Motion NDM5687 as amended:

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Yn nodi bod dros 138,000 o bobl yng Nghymru wedi elwa o'r cynlluniau Hawl i Brynu a Hawl i Gaffael.

1. Notes that, in Wales, over 138,000 people have benefitted from the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire.

2. Yn nodi bod gan gynghorau lleol eisoes yr opsiwn o wneud cais i Lywodraeth Cymru atal yr hawl i brynu.

2. Notes that local councils already have an option to apply to the Welsh Government to suspend the right to buy.

3. Yn gresynu at:

3. Regrets:

a) y ffaith bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi methu â chyflawni cyflenwad priodol o dai fforddiadwy newydd yng Nghymru; a

a) that the Welsh Government has failed to deliver an appropriate supply of new affordable housing in Wales; and

b) y ffaith bod nifer yr unedau tai cymdeithasol wedi gostwng ers i Lywodraeth Cymru fod yn gyfrifol am dai.

b) that the number of social housing units has decreased since the Welsh Government has had responsibility for housing.

4. Yn galw am raglen ddiwygio tai gynhwysfawr i gynyddu'r cyflenwad tai a lleddfu problemau o ran fforddiadwyedd.

4. Calls for a comprehensive housing reform programme to increase housing supply and alleviate problems of affordability.

5. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ystyried atal yr hawl i brynu ar gyfer tai cymdeithasol a adeiledir o'r newydd gan gadw hawliau ar gyfer tenantiaid presennol.

5. Calls on the Welsh Government to consider the suspension of the right to buy for new build social housing whilst retaining rights for existing tenants.

6. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i osod targedau ar gyfer nifer y cartrefi fforddiadwy y dylid eu hadeiladu yng Nghymru yn ystod tymor Cynulliad o fewn chwe mis i etholiad Cynulliad a dylid adrodd arnynt i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru bob blwyddyn.

6. Calls on the Welsh Government to set targets for the number of affordable homes to be built in Wales during an Assembly term within six months of the Assembly election, and reported on annually to the National Assembly for Wales.

17:51

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

I now call for a vote on the motion, as amended. Open the vote. Close the vote. There voted in favour 4. There voted against 34 and there were 10 abstentions. Therefore, the motion as amended is not agreed.

Galwaf yn awr am bleidlais ar y cynnig, fel y'i diwygiwyd. Agorwch y bleidlais. Caewch y bleidlais. Pleidleisiodd 4 o blaid. Pleidleisiodd 34 yn erbyn ac roedd 10 yn ymatal. Felly, nid yw'r cynnig fel y'i diwygiwyd yn cael ei dderbyn.

Gwrthodwyd cynnig NDM5687 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 4, Yn erbyn 34, Ymatal 10.

Motion NDM5687 as amended not agreed: For 4, Against 34, Abstain 10.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar gynnig NDM5687 fel y'i diwygiwyd

Result of the vote on motion NDM5687 as amended

17:51

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

We will now vote on the Plaid Cymru debate. I call for a vote on the motion tabled in the name of Elin Jones. If the proposal is not agreed, we will vote on the amendments tabled to the motion. Open the vote. Close the vote. There voted in favour 10. There voted against 38. Therefore, the motion without amendment is not agreed.

Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar ddadl Plaid Cymru. Galwaf am bleidlais ar y cynnig a gyflwynwyd yn enw Elin Jones. Os na fydd y cynnig yn cael ei dderbyn, byddwn yn pleidleisio ar y gwelliannau a gyflwynwyd i'r cynnig. Agorwch y bleidlais. Caewch y bleidlais. Pleidleisiodd 10 o blaid. Pleidleisiodd 38 yn erbyn. Felly, nid yw'r cynnig heb ei ddiwygio yn cael ei dderbyn.

Gwrthodwyd cynnig NDM5695: O blaid 10, Yn erbyn 38, Ymatal 0.

Motion NDM5695 not agreed: For 10, Against, 38, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar gynnig NDM5695

Result of the vote on motion NDM5695

17:52

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

We will now vote on the amendments. If amendment 1 is agreed, amendment 2 will be deselected. I call for a vote on amendment 1 tabled in the name of Aled Roberts. Open the vote. Close the vote. There voted in favour 28. There voted against 20. Therefore, amendment 1 is agreed and I deselect amendment 2.

Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar y gwelliannau. Os derbynnir gwelliant 1, bydd gwelliant 2 yn cael ei ddad-ddethol. Galwaf am bleidlais ar welliant 1 a gyflwynwyd yn enw Aled Roberts. Agorwch y bleidlais. Caewch y bleidlais. Pleidleisiodd 28 o blaid. Pleidleisiodd 20 yn erbyn. Felly, caiff gwelliant 1 ei dderbyn ac rwy'n dad-ddethol gwelliant 2.

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 28, Yn erbyn 20, Ymatal 0.

Amendment agreed: For 28, Against 20, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 1 i gynnig NDM5695

Result of the vote on amendment 1 to motion NDM5695

Cafodd gwelliant 2 ei ddad-ddethol.

Amendment 2 deselected.

17:52

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

I call for a vote on amendment 3 tabled in the name of Paul Davies. Open the vote. Close the vote. There voted in favour 23. There voted against 25. Therefore, amendment 3 is not agreed.

Galwaf am bleidlais ar welliant 3 a gyflwynwyd yn enw Paul Davies. Agorwch y bleidlais. Caewch y bleidlais. Pleidleisiodd 23 o blaid. Pleidleisiodd 25 yn erbyn. Felly, nid yw gwelliant 3 wedi'i dderbyn.

Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant: O blaid 23, Yn erbyn 25, Ymatal 0.

Amendment not agreed: For 23, Against 25, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar welliant 3 i gynnig NDM5695

Result of the vote on amendment 3 to motion NDM5695

Cynnig NDM5695 fel y'i diwygiwyd:

Motion NDM5695 as amended:

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i baratoi cynllun gweithlu cenedlaethol 10 mlynedd newydd ar gyfer y GIG, sy'n sicrhau bod camau'n cael eu cymryd i hyfforddi a recriwtio digon o feddygon, nyrsys a gweithwyr gofal iechyd proffesiynol eraill i sicrhau bod iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol ledled Cymru yn barod ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Calls on Welsh Government to prepare a new 10 year national workforce plan for the NHS, which ensures action is taken to train and recruit sufficient doctors, nurses and other health care professionals to ensure that health and social care across Wales is ready for the future.

17:53

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

I now call for a vote on the motion, as amended. Open the vote. Close the vote. There voted in favour 48, there were no votes against. Therefore, the motion as amended is agreed.

Galwaf yn awr am bleidlais ar y cynnig, fel y'i diwygiwyd. Agorwch y bleidlais. Caewch y bleidlais. Pleidleisiodd 48 o blaid, nid oedd unrhyw bleidleisiau yn erbyn. Felly, mae'r cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio yn cael ei dderbyn.

Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM5695 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 48, Yn erbyn 0, Ymatal 0.

Motion NDM5695 as amended agreed: For 48, Against 0, Abstain 0.

Canlyniad y bleidlais ar gynnig NDM5695 fel y'i diwygiwyd

Result of the vote on motion NDM5695 as amended

17:53

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Can I ask all those Members who are leaving the Chamber to do so quickly and quietly?

A gaf fi ofyn i'r holl Aelodau sy'n gadael y Siambr wneud hynny'n gyflym ac yn dawel?

17:54

7. Dadl Fer: Ailagor Twnnel y Rhondda

7. Short Debate: Reopen the Rhondda Tunnel

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

Item 7 is the short debate and I call on Bethan Jenkins to speak on the topic she has chosen.

Eitem 7 yw'r ddadl fer a galwaf ar Bethan Jenkins i siarad ar y pwnc y mae wedi ei ddewis.

17:54

Bethan Jenkins Bywgraffiad Biography

Diolch. I've agreed to give to Leanne Wood a minute.

Diolch. Rwyf wedi cytuno i roi munud i Leanne Wood.

This debate is called 'Reopen the Rhondda Tunnel', but it could just as easily have been called 'From Small Acorns', because that's what we're dealing with here. In a short time, what began as a bid by local enthusiasts in the Rhondda to remember an important part of their area's industrial past, has snowballed into a campaign that thousands have followed, but we'll come on to that in a moment. What I wanted to outline in this debate—to explore—is how reopening the Rhondda tunnel could provide an anchor project for something even bigger than bringing back to life the longest disused tunnel in Wales—and there's a lot more than you probably think—and how it could, potentially, act as a catalyst for a people-led regeneration of the Rhondda and Afan, and of the Valleys as a whole.

Gelwir y ddadl yn Ailagor Twnnel y Rhondda, ond gellid bod wedi ei galw'n 'O Fesen Fach' yr un mor rhwydd, gan mai ymdrin â hynny rydym yn ei wneud yma. Mewn cyfnod byr, mae'r hyn a ddechreuodd fel cais gan selogion lleol yn y Rhondda i gofio rhan bwysig o orffennol diwydiannol eu hardal wedi chwyddo'n ymgyrch y mae miloedd wedi ei dilyn, ond down at hynny mewn munud. Yr hyn rwy'n awyddus i'w amlinellu yn y ddadl hon—i'w archwilio—yw sut y gallai ailagor twnnel y Rhondda fod yn brosiect angori ar gyfer rhywbeth hyd yn oed yn fwy na dod â'r twnnel segur hiraf yng Nghymru yn ôl yn fyw—ac mae yna lawer mwy nag y byddech yn ei feddwl mae'n siŵr—a'i botensial i weithredu fel catalydd ar gyfer gwaith adfywio wedi'i arwain gan y bobl yn y Rhondda a'r Afan, a'r Cymoedd i gyd.

The first purpose of politics should be to enable, so it is my argument that this Assembly and this Welsh Government need to be looking at this ambitious project and asking ourselves not only how we can benefit and fit into it, but support the campaign and make it a success, and how we can inspire other people to look to do something similar—how it could create a movement and how this movement could create prosperity, improve the environment and, ultimately, the lives of the people in the Valleys.

Galluogi ddylai diben cyntaf gwleidyddiaeth fod, felly fy nadl i yw bod angen i'r Cynulliad hwn a Llywodraeth Cymru edrych ar y prosiect uchelgeisiol hwn a gofyn i ni ein hunain nid yn unig sut y gallwn fod o fudd iddo a dod yn rhan ohono, ond sut y gallwn gefnogi'r ymgyrch a'i gwneud yn llwyddiant, a sut y gallwn ysbrydoli pobl eraill i geisio gwneud rhywbeth tebyg—sut y gallai greu mudiad a sut y gallai'r mudiad hwn greu ffyniant, gwella'r amgylchedd ac yn y pen draw, gwella bywydau pobl yn y Cymoedd.

So, let's start with the tunnel. By any definition, it is, as the Rhondda Tunnel Society so aptly describes it, a masterpiece of Victorian engineering. Conceived as a way of easing pressure on Cardiff docks, which were struggling to cope with a threefold increase in less than 10 years in the many millions of tonnes of coal coming from the Rhondda and elsewhere in south Wales, it took five years for S.W. Yockney, tunnelling from both Blaengwynfi and Blaencwm to cover a distance of 3,443 yards. It is almost 1,000 feet below ground at its deepest point. The tunnel was finished in 1890; it took a further four years and the construction of the Briton Ferry to Swansea link for the Rhondda and Swansea bay railway to be used for its intended purpose of taking coal for export from Swansea. Engineering challenges and the company's relatively late entry into the competitive world of south Wales coal led to the Rhondda and Swansea bay railway operations being taken over by Great Western Railway in 1907. Passenger services along the Afan valley inevitably fell prey to Beeching cuts, with the first in 1962, and the line going for good in 1970, although the Rhondda tunnel had closed two years previously.

Felly, gadewch i ni ddechrau gyda'r twnnel. Yn ôl unrhyw ddiffiniad, fel y caiff ei ddisgrifio gan Gymdeithas Twnnel y Rhondda yn briodol iawn, mae'n gampwaith o beirianneg Fictoraidd. Fe'i dyfeisiwyd fel ffordd o leddfu'r pwysau ar ddociau Caerdydd, a oedd yn ei chael hi'n anodd ymdopi â chynnydd triphlyg mewn llai na 10 mlynedd yn y miliynau lawer o dunelli o lo a ddôi o'r Rhondda a mannau eraill o dde Cymru. Cymerodd bum mlynedd i SW Yockney dyllu o Flaengwynfi a Blaencwm dros bellter o 3,443 o lathenni. Mae bron 1,000 o droedfeddi o dan y ddaear ar ei bwynt dyfnaf. Gorffennwyd y twnnel ym 1890; fe gymerodd bedair blynedd arall ac adeiladu cyswllt Llansawel i Abertawe i reilffordd y Rhondda a bae Abertawe gael ei defnyddio at y diben a fwriadwyd ar ei chyfer sef cludo glo i'w allforio o Abertawe. Yn sgil heriau peirianyddol a mynediad cymharol ddiweddar y cwmni i fyd cystadleuol glo de Cymru, cymerodd Great Western Railway reilffordd Rhondda a bae Abertawe drosodd yn 1907. Yn anochel, dioddefodd gwasanaethau i deithwyr ar hyd cwm Afan yn sgil toriadau Beeching, yn gyntaf yn 1962, ac fe ddiflannodd y llinell am byth yn 1970, er bod twnnel y Rhondda wedi cau ddwy flynedd ynghynt.

It was, of course, a different world then. Travelling through the Afan valley today, perhaps by bike, using the route of the old railway line, it's incredible to think that a village like Cymmer once had three railway stations. Oddly enough, the best way to see those times is via social media, through online amateur historical societies like the Disused, Abandoned and Forgotten Railways of South Wales group on Facebook, with its first-rate collections of photographs and cine cinema footage.

Wrth gwrs, roedd y byd yn wahanol bryd hynny. Wrth deithio drwy gwm Afan heddiw, ar y beic efallai, gan ddefnyddio llwybr yr hen reilffordd, mae'n anhygoel meddwl bod gan bentref fel y Cymer dair gorsaf reilffordd ar un adeg. Yn rhyfedd ddigon, y ffordd orau o weld yr adegau hynny yw drwy gyfryngau cymdeithasol, drwy wefannau cymdeithasau hanes amatur ar-lein fel y grŵp Disused, Abandoned and Forgotten Railways of South Wales ar Facebook, gyda'i gasgliadau o ffotograffau a ffilm sine o'r radd flaenaf.

The tunnel had been closed temporarily in 1968, reportedly on safety grounds, and was never to reopen. Costs were said to be too high. Engineering wise, they were also different times. Those who have been able to get into the tunnel say it is filled at both entrances, but they returned full of admiration for its Victorian resilience and speak of technical issues there as small challenges, rather than anything that could stop the project. So, what is the project? Simply, to reopen the tunnel, not to train, this time, not even to cars—the width of the original cut is unlikely to allow for that, campaigners believe. What it could become, however, is a cycle track, or a running track for those of us who run.

Cafodd y twnnel ei gau dros dro ym 1968, ar sail diogelwch yn ôl y sôn, ac ni chafodd ei ailagor byth wedyn. Dywedwyd bod y costau'n rhy uchel. Roeddent yn adegau gwahanol o safbwynt peirianneg hefyd. Mae'r rhai sydd wedi gallu mynd i mewn i'r twnnel yn dweud ei fod wedi ei lenwi wrth y ddwy fynedfa, ond fe ddychwelon nhw'n llawn o edmygedd tuag at ei wytnwch Fictoraidd, a chan gyfeirio at faterion technegol yno fel heriau bach, yn hytrach na dim a allai atal y prosiect. Felly, beth yw'r prosiect? Yn syml, ailagor y twnnel, nid i drenau y tro hwn, nac i geir hyd yn oed—mae lled y toriad gwreiddiol yn annhebygol o ganiatáu ar gyfer hynny yn ôl yr ymgyrchwyr. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn a allai fod yw llwybr beicio, neu drac rhedeg ar gyfer y rhai ohonom sy'n rhedeg.

While that in itself may not seem like the most obvious way to prosperity, it has to be considered, in context, with what has happened in the Afan valley in recent times. I'll come on to some of the challenges facing the area, but its major success in recent times has come from being recognised as one of the premier mountain bike centres, not just in Wales, not just in the UK or Europe, but in the world. Along the valley, away from the Afan Forest Park, you can see all kinds of businesses that have sprung up around the sport, not only shops and other centres, but cafes, bunkhouses and other places to stay. I was recently working with someone who has brought a chapel in Glyncorrwg, with the sole purpose of tapping into the visitor market, appealing to growing numbers of walkers. Speaking to people in the valley, this is something they welcome. It isn't that surprising—a do-it-yourself attitude is part of the culture. The Corrwg ponds were created a number of years ago with the intention of bringing in anglers.

Er nad yw hynny ynddo'i hun i'w weld fel y ffordd fwyaf amlwg tuag at ffyniant, mae'n rhaid ei ystyried yng nghyd-destun yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd yng nghwm Afan yn ddiweddar. Fe soniaf yn nes ymlaen at rai o'r heriau sy'n wynebu'r ardal, ond mae ei llwyddiant mawr yn ddiweddar wedi deillio o gael ei chydnabod fel un o'r canolfannau beicio mynydd gorau, nid yn unig yng Nghymru, nid yn unig yn y DU neu Ewrop, ond yn y byd. Ar hyd y cwm, i ffwrdd o Barc Coedwig Afan, gallwch weld pob math o fusnesau'n blodeuo yng nghyswllt y gamp, nid yn unig siopau a chanolfannau eraill, ond caffis, tai bynciau a mannau eraill i aros. Yn ddiweddar, roeddwn yn gweithio gyda rhywun sydd wedi prynu capel yng Nglyncorrwg, a'i unig nod yw manteisio ar y farchnad ymwelwyr, gan apelio at y niferoedd cynyddol o gerddwyr. Wrth siarad â phobl yn y cwm, mae'n rhywbeth y maent yn ei groesawu. Nid yw'n gymaint â hynny o syndod—mae agwedd 'bwrw iddi ein hunain' yn rhan o'r diwylliant. Cafodd pyllau Corrwg eu creu nifer o flynyddoedd yn ôl gyda'r bwriad o ddenu genweirwyr.

Neither is what is now being proposed unprecedented. I was speaking to the campaigners earlier and they told me that two tunnels were created in Bath; a mile-long former railway tunnel opened as a cycle path last year at a cost of around £4 million, and thousands of people can use that now every week. But, it is my contention that reopening the Rhondda tunnel would take this activity to another level. As one of the Rhondda Tunnel Society organisers said at a packed-out meeting at the Tunnel Hotel in Blaengwynfi last month, it also reopens the valley. It stops it being seen as a dead end.

Nid yw'r hyn sy'n cael ei gynnig yn awr yn ddigynsail chwaith. Roeddwn yn siarad â'r ymgyrchwyr yn gynharach ac fe ddywedon nhw wrthyf fod dau dwnnel wedi eu creu yng Nghaerfaddon; agorodd un hen dwnnel rheilffordd milltir o hyd fel llwybr beicio y llynedd ar gost o oddeutu £4 miliwn, a gall miloedd o bobl ei ddefnyddio bob wythnos bellach. Ond rwyf o'r farn y byddai ailagor twnnel y Rhondda yn codi gweithgaredd o'r fath i lefel arall. Fel y dywedodd un o drefnwyr Cymdeithas Twnnel y Rhondda mewn cyfarfod llawn yng Ngwesty'r Tunnel ym Mlaengwynfi y mis diwethaf, mae hefyd yn ailagor y cwm. Mae'n ei stopio rhag cael ei weld fel pen draw'r ffordd.

Of course, there already is a road link between the two valleys—we're not that backward in that area—over the Bwlch, which is one of the much-loved climbs for south Walian cyclists, I am told, but its challenging gradient and lack of pavements means it's unlikely to be ridden by anyone other than the most hardcore riders.

Wrth gwrs, eisoes mae cyswllt ffordd rhwng y ddau gwm—nid ydym gymaint ar ei hôl hi â hynny yn yr ardal—dros y Bwlch, sef un o'r dringfeydd tra phoblogaidd ar gyfer beicwyr de Cymru yn ôl a ddeallaf, ond mae ei graddiant heriol a diffyg palmentydd yn golygu ei bod yn annhebygol o gael ei defnyddio gan neb ond y beicwyr mwyaf gwydn.

If the tunnel was reopened, it would mean that families could discover the Afan valley, or the Rhondda valley, through far less effort. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is planning a cycle path from Pontypridd to Blaencwm and the tunnel would connect with established cycle routes in the Afan valley, so in the future, cyclists could pedal from Pontrypridd to Port Talbot without hitting any traffic. We know that the traffic is bad on those roads. It would bring closer the rail transport that disappeared from this part of my region the better part of 50 years ago. It's worth thinking what this means—re-establishing links after half a century.

Pe bai'r twnnel yn cael ei ailagor, byddai'n golygu y gallai teuluoedd ddarganfod cwm Afan, neu gwm Rhondda, drwy lawer llai o ymdrech. Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf yn cynllunio llwybr beicio o Bontypridd i Flaencwm a byddai'r twnnel yn cysylltu â llwybrau beicio sefydledig yng nghwm Afan, felly yn y dyfodol, gallai beicwyr feicio o Bontypridd i Bort Talbot heb daro ar unrhyw draffig. Gwyddom fod y traffig yn ddrwg ar y ffyrdd hynny. Byddai'n dod â'r drafnidiaeth reilffordd a ddiflannodd o'r rhan hon o fy ardal bron iawn 50 mlynedd yn ôl yn nes atom. Mae'n werth ystyried beth y mae hyn yn ei olygu—ailsefydlu cysylltiadau ar ôl hanner canrif.

So, what might that do to villages like Blaengwynfi? Instead of having to travel 12 miles down the valley to Port Talbot for trains, it would be five miles through the tunnel to Treherbert. Sure, not everybody will take their bikes, or walk, and not everyone will feel like doing it every day, even though the tunnel would help protect travellers from some of the bad weather that we do have in the Valleys. We've been arguing, as an Assembly, for the past five to 10 years about electrification of the London-Swansea line and the benefits it would bring. I don't see opening up the Rhondda tunnel as anything different to that type of argument. It could be argued that the Welsh Government could invest a relatively modest amount in this project and use it to test the theories behind bigger infrastructure projects. In short, if it works in the Rhondda and the Afan valleys, it could prove that better transport links do play an important part in regenerating the Valleys.

Felly, beth y gallai hyn ei wneud i bentrefi fel Blaengwynfi? Yn hytrach na gorfod teithio 12 milltir i lawr y cwm i Bort Talbot i ddal y trên, byddai'n bum milltir drwy'r twnnel i Dreherbert. Wrth gwrs, ni fydd pawb yn mynd â'u beiciau, neu'n cerdded, ac ni fydd pawb yn teimlo fel ei wneud bob dydd, er y byddai'r twnnel yn helpu i ddiogelu teithwyr rhag peth o dywydd garw'r Cymoedd. Rydym wedi bod yn dadlau, fel Cynulliad, am y pump i 10 mlynedd diwethaf am drydaneiddio rheilffordd Llundain i Abertawe a'r manteision y byddai'n eu creu. Nid wyf yn gweld agor twnnel y Rhondda yn wahanol i ddadl debyg i honno. Gellid dadlau y gallai Llywodraeth Cymru fuddsoddi swm cymharol fach yn y prosiect hwn a'i ddefnyddio i brofi'r damcaniaethau sy'n sail i brosiectau seilwaith mwy o faint. Yn fyr, os yw'n gweithio yng nghymoedd y Rhondda a'r Afan, gallai brofi bod cysylltiadau trafnidiaeth gwell yn chwarae rhan bwysig yn y broses o adfywio'r Cymoedd.

Of course, the tunnel, in itself, is going to add to the tourist attraction in both valleys. That, in turn, would need to have more investment in other businesses, for example, the businesses I talked about earlier in terms of the tourism elements of those services.

Wrth gwrs, mae'r twnnel, ynddo'i hun, yn mynd i ychwanegu at ddenu twristiaid yn y ddau gwm. Byddai hynny yn ei dro yn galw am fwy o fuddsoddiad mewn busnesau eraill, er enghraifft, y busnesau y soniais amdanynt yn gynharach o ran elfennau twristiaeth y gwasanaethau hynny.

People in the Afan valley and in the Rhondda valley, I am sure, although I don't represent them, are angry and fed up that they seem to be getting hit on time and time again. Whether it's the closure of the swimming pool in Cymer, the community centre in Glyncorrwg or the miners' hall in Blaengwynfi, it contributes to a prevailing feeling that the outside world really doesn't care about that valley. I appreciate fully the thinking that goes into reducing services, but I rarely agree with it, and that is because there is more than bean counting at stake here; it is psychological. In spite of the recent successes, three wards in the upper Afan valley rank near the top in all Wales's deprivation indexes. Paradoxically, health levels are particularly poor. But, unemployment, transport, prosperity—everything, in fact, except environment—all make for depressing reading.

Er nad wyf yn eu cynrychioli, rwy'n sicr fod pobl yng nghwm Afan ac yng Nghwm Rhondda yn ddig ac wedi cael llond bol eu bod i'w gweld yn cael eu taro dro ar ôl tro. Boed yn gau'r pwll nofio yn y Cymer, y ganolfan gymunedol yng Nglyncorrwg neu neuadd y glowyr ym Mlaengwynfi, mae'n cyfrannu at deimlad cyffredinol nad yw'r byd y tu allan yn poeni dim am y cwm mewn gwirionedd. Rwy'n llawn sylweddoli beth yw'r meddylfryd sy'n sail i dorri gwasanaethau, ond anaml rwy'n cytuno ag ef, a hynny am fod mwy na chyfrif ceiniogau yn y fantol yma; mae'n seicolegol. Er gwaethaf y llwyddiannau diweddar, mae tair ward yng nghwm Afan uchaf yn agos i'r brig ym mhob un o fynegeion amddifadedd Cymru. Yn baradocsaidd, mae lefelau iechyd yn arbennig o wael. Ond mae diweithdra, trafnidiaeth, ffyniant—popeth, mewn gwirionedd, ac eithrio'r amgylchedd—i gyd yn ddigalon.

If this tunnel could be opened, it could be the beginning of the end of this period in the area's history. It would show nothing is inevitable; that everything is reversible. It would be a psychological success.

Pe gellid agor y twnnel hwn, gallai fod yn ddechrau'r diwedd ar y cyfnod hwn yn hanes yr ardal. Byddai'n dangos nad oes dim yn anochel; fod modd newid popeth. Byddai'n llwyddiant seicolegol.

We have a lot of regeneration schemes in the Valleys, and no doubt, the Minister will give us the lowdown on this shortly, but I cannot see anything making such a striking impact as a people-led regeneration project, such as this. You would have people all around in the Ogmore, Llynfi, Neath, Dulais, Tawe and Amman valleys in my region saying to themselves, if they can do it in the Rhondda and if they can do it in the Afan valley, why can we not do the same here?

Mae gennym lawer o gynlluniau adfywio yn y Cymoedd, ac mae'n siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn eu rhestru yn y man, ond ni allaf weld unrhyw beth yn cael effaith mor drawiadol â phrosiect adfywio wedi'i arwain gan y bobl fel hwn. Fe fyddech yn cael pobl yng nghymoedd Ogwr, Llynfi, Castell-nedd, Dulais, Tawe ac Aman yn fy rhanbarth yn dweud wrthynt eu hunain, os gallant wneud hyn yn y Rhondda, os gallant wneud hyn yng nghwm Afan, pam na allwn ni wneud yr un peth yma?

Don't underestimate the way the project has really, really captured people's imaginations. Stephen Mackey, here today in the gallery, will tell you that people from as far away as the US, Australia and New Zealand are joining the society. I've heard people call this the most exciting regeneration project in Wales. People get it and they get the benefits straight away.

Peidiwch â diystyru'r ffordd y mae'r prosiect wedi gafael yn nychymyg pobl o ddifrif. Byddai Stephen Mackey, sydd yma heddiw yn yr oriel, yn dweud wrthych fod pobl o mor bell i ffwrdd â'r Unol Daleithiau, Awstralia a Seland Newydd yn ymuno â'r gymdeithas. Clywais bobl yn ei alw'n brosiect adfywio mwyaf cyffrous Cymru. Mae pobl yn ei ddeall ac yn deall y buddiannau ar unwaith.

So, how can the Assembly help? How can the Minister help? I think it's as straightforward as providing some financial assistance to get this going. The society believes we're talking about £6.8 million; they're basing that on what it took for Bath to be regenerated. And, when we look at the press in the last few days and the fact that it would cost £15 million for the new Thatcher museum, well, I'm kind of thinking that £6.8 million for the regeneration of this tunnel would be a far better investment for anybody looking in on what we want to put our money to.

Felly, sut y gall y Cynulliad helpu? Sut y gall y Gweinidog helpu? Rwy'n credu ei fod mor syml â darparu rhywfaint o gymorth ariannol i'w roi ar ben ffordd. Mae'r gymdeithas yn credu ein bod yn sôn am £6.8 miliwn; maent yn seilio hynny ar yr hyn a gostiodd i adfywio prosiect Caerfaddon. A phan edrychwn ar y wasg yn ystod y dyddiau diwethaf, a'r ffaith y byddai amgueddfa Thatcher newydd yn costio £15 miliwn, wel, rwy'n rhyw feddwl y byddai £6.8 miliwn ar adfywio'r twnnel hwn yn fuddsoddiad llawer gwell i unrhyw un sy'n edrych i weld ar beth rydym eisiau gwario ein harian.

So, the society understands it would take a while to realise this potential, and they think that there would be many barriers, and ultimately, they think that, potentially, it could be undone because of hitherto unexpected problems. But even if it comes to the very worst, we will have learned many, many valuable lessons about this kind of project. More importantly, it will continue to fire people's imaginations across the Valleys as it will help them believe that they really can work to overcome the problems they face and build a better future. For those reasons, if we are serious about helping people to change their lives—change their own lives for themselves—then I think we must back this project.

Felly, mae'r gymdeithas yn deall y byddai'n cymryd peth amser i wireddu'r potensial hwn, ac maent yn meddwl y byddai llawer o rwystrau, ac yn y pen draw, maent yn meddwl y gallai gael ei ddadwneud, o bosibl, oherwydd problemau na ellir eu rhagweld ar hyn o bryd. Ond hyd yn oed os daw i'r gwaethaf, byddwn wedi dysgu llawer iawn o wersi gwerthfawr am y math hwn o brosiect. Yn bwysicach, bydd yn parhau i danio dychymyg pobl ledled y Cymoedd gan y bydd yn eu helpu i gredu y gallant fynd ati go iawn i oresgyn y problemau y maent yn eu hwynebu ac adeiladu dyfodol gwell. Am y rhesymau hynny, os ydym o ddifrif ynglŷn â helpu pobl i newid eu bywydau—newid eu bywydau eu hunain er eu mwyn eu hunain—yna rwy'n credu bod yn rhaid i ni gefnogi'r prosiect hwn.

18:05 **Leanne Wood** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I'd like to thank Bethan Jenkins for raising this debate this afternoon. I recently became a member of the Rhondda Tunnel Society, and I've seen their excellent fundraising calendar. I'd like to pay tribute to the volunteers who've worked hard to get to this point. It's been a project that's been talked about for a number of years. I mentioned it in a document I wrote a number of years ago called 'A Greenprint for the Valleys' as the kind of project that could provide the regeneration that the Valleys need. My Plaid Cymru colleague Shelley Rees-Owen and I recently met with Sustrans to discuss the cycle routes question in the Rhondda, and the question of the tunnel came up because they've been involved in the planning as well. So, it's a great initiative. If it can be pulled off, it will be a great asset and a great attraction for an area that badly needs a boost. Diolch.

Hoffwn ddiolch i Bethan Jenkins am gyflwyno'r ddadl y prynhawn yma. Yn ddiweddar, ymaelodais â Chymdeithas Twnnel y Rhondda, ac rwyf wedi gweld eu calendr codi arian ardderchog. Hoffwn dalu teyrnged i'r gwirfoddolwyr sydd wedi gweithio'n galed i gyrraedd y pwynt hwn. Mae wedi bod yn brosiect sydd wedi bod yn destun trafodaeth ers nifer o flynyddoedd. Soniais amdano mewn dogfen a ysgrifennais sawl blwyddyn yn ôl o'r enw 'Cynllun Gwyrdd i'r Cymoedd' fel y math o brosiect a allai ddarparu'r adfywiad sydd ei angen ar y Cymoedd. Cyfarfu fy nghydweithiwr ym Mhlaid Cymru, Shelley Rees-Owen, a minnau â Sustrans yn ddiweddar i drafod cwestiwn llwybrau beicio'r Rhondda, a chyfeiriwyd at y twnnel am eu bod hwy hefyd wedi bod yn rhan o'r gwaith cynllunio. Felly, mae'n fenter wych. Os gellir ei gwireddu, bydd yn gaffaeliad mawr ac yn atyniad gwych i ardal sydd angen hwb yn fawr iawn. Diolch.

18:06 **Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer** Bywgraffiad Biography

Senedd.tv Fideo Video

I call the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport to reply to the debate—Edwina Hart.

Galwaf ar Weinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth i ymateb i'r ddadl—Edwina Hart.

18:06 **Edwina Hart** Bywgraffiad Biography

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

Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer. Obviously, the issue of the reopening of the Rhondda tunnel has a long history. In fact, I recall discussing earlier with my colleague Leighton Andrews that he first wrote to Ieuan Wyn Jones back in June 2009 about the possible opening of the tunnel, and we've had subsequent correspondence on this issue. You are right—there are excellent volunteers involved, and I'm very pleased that I've got a copy of their calendar—the Rhondda Tunnel Society. I believe the words on the front are really good:

Diolch i chi, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Yn amlwg, mae hanes hir i fater ailagor twnnel y Rhondda. Yn wir, rwy'n cofio trafod yn gynharach gyda fy nghydweithiwr, Leighton Andrews, ei fod wedi ysgrifennu at Ieuan Wyn Jones gyntaf yn ôl ym mis Mehefin 2009 ynghylch y posibilrwydd o agor y twnnel, ac rydym wedi cael gohebiaeth ar y mater ers hynny. Rydych yn iawn—mae gwirfoddolwyr rhagorol yn gysylltiedig â hyn, ac rwy'n falch iawn fy mod wedi cael copi o'u calendr—Cymdeithas Twnnel y Rhondda. Credaf fod y geiriau ar y clawr yn dda iawn:

'To accomplish great things / We must not only act, but also dream; / Not only plan, but also believe'.

'I gyflawni pethau gwych / Rhaid i ni nid yn unig weithredu, ond breuddwydio hefyd; / nid yn unig cynllunio, ond credu hefyd '.

I think it's quite a nice set—you see the support along here from various companies, from the Labour Party and from Plaid Cymru, which shows, of course, that it's a cross-party issue that is of interest for people in both the valleys concerned.

Rwy'n credu ei fod wedi'i osod yn dda iawn—fe welwch y gefnogaeth ar hyd fan hyn gan wahanol gwmnïau, gan y Blaid Lafur a chan Blaid Cymru, sy'n dangos, wrth gwrs, ei fod yn fater trawsbleidiol ac o ddiddordeb i bobl yn y ddau gwm dan sylw.

I think that Bethan has done very well in terms of the history, about it falling under the Beeching cuts, what's happened in terms of the ends of the tunnel, and its historic purpose, and of course the Rhondda Tunnel Society's looking for funding to excavate the tunnel, to look at attracting tourists and, of course, create a cycle trail. I know there have been a lot of public meetings held, which have generated, I know, a lot of interest within the Valleys about what they regard as a very exciting project. The tunnel, we understand, is under the ownership of the Highways Agency historical railways estate, and that's quite a mouthful. It's part of the UK Government-managed Highways Agency, and is responsible for the historical railways estate. Interestingly enough, it was formerly known as a burdensome estate, which I think perhaps sums up some of the attitude to railway assets and everything that were held at the time. This includes legacy bridges, abutments, tunnels, cuttings, viaducts and similar properties associated with closed railway lines and sales. Now, we understand that they will actually have to inspect this, as part of this, if we are to do anything on this regeneration project. The current condition of the tunnel is not known, because the entrance portals were covered over and landscaped following the closure of the tunnel, and I think there's bound to be deterioration in the condition of the tunnel resulting from this. Of course, it was closed to railway use temporarily on safety grounds in 1968, and has not reopened since.

Credaf fod Bethan wedi gwneud yn dda iawn o ran yr hanes, ynglŷn â'r modd y dioddefodd yn sgil toriadau Beeching, beth sydd wedi digwydd o ran pennau'r twnnel, a'i ddiben hanesyddol, ac wrth gwrs mae Cymdeithas Twnnel y Rhondda yn chwilio am arian i gloddio'r twnnel, i ystyried denu twristiaid ac wrth gwrs, i greu llwybr beicio. Rwy'n gwybod bod llawer o gyfarfodydd cyhoeddus wedi'u cynnal, sydd wedi creu llawer o ddiddordeb, fe wn, yn y Cymoedd ynglŷn â'r hyn y maent yn ei ystyried fel prosiect cyffrous iawn. Deallwn fod y twnnel ym mherchnogaeth ystâd reilffyrdd hanesyddol yr Asiantaeth Briffyrdd, ac mae hynny'n dipyn o lond ceg. Mae'n rhan o'r Asiantaeth Briffyrdd a reolir gan Lywodraeth y DU, ac sy'n gyfrifol am yr ystâd reilffyrdd hanesyddol. Yn ddiddorol ddigon, roedd iddi enw fel ystâd feichus, y credaf ei fod yn crisialu peth ar yr agwedd tuag at asedau rheilffyrdd a phopeth a ddelid ar y pryd, Mae hyn yn cynnwys pontydd etifeddol, ategweithiau, twnelau, trychfeydd, traphontydd ac eiddo tebyg sy'n gysylltiedig â llinellau rheilffordd caeedig a gwerthiannau. Nawr, rydym yn deall y bydd yn rhaid iddynt archwilio hyn, fel rhan o hyn, os ydym am wneud unrhyw beth gyda'r prosiect adfywio hwn mewn gwirionedd. Nid yw cyflwr presennol y twnnel yn hysbys, am fod y pyrth mynediad wedi cael eu gorchuddio a'u tirlunio yn sgil cau'r twnnel, ac rwy'n credu y bydd dirywiad anochel yng nghyflwr y twnnel o ganlyniad i hyn. Wrth gwrs, fe'i caewyd dros dro i drenau ar sail diogelwch yn 1968, ac nid yw wedi ailagor ers hynny.

As the society was formed in 2014, they've certainly done a lot of work in that period since they've been formed. The short-term goal, I understand, is to replace the tunnel's original cover stone above the entrance to the tunnel at Blaencwm, and the Blaengwynfi stone is housed at the Afan Argoed country park currently. The society eventually hopes to raise enough money to reopen the tunnel as a cycle path, but of course we do have to wait for the verdict on the condition of the tunnel before any plans go ahead.

Ar ôl ffurfio'r gymdeithas yn 2014, maent yn sicr wedi gwneud llawer o waith yn y cyfnod hwnnw. Y nod tymor byr, rwy'n deall, yw ailosod carreg orchudd wreiddiol y twnnel uwchben y fynedfa i'r twnnel ym Mlaencwm, ac mae carreg Blaengwynfi yn cael ei chadw ym mharc gwledig Afan Argoed ar hyn o bryd. Yn y pen draw, mae'r gymdeithas yn gobeithio codi digon o arian i ailagor y twnnel fel llwybr beicio, ond wrth gwrs mae'n rhaid inni aros am y dyfarniad ynghylch cyflwr y twnnel cyn i unrhyw gynlluniau fynd yn ei eu blaen.

I think in terms of tourism and cycling tourism, you've made very good points. Tourism's value to the Welsh economy is fully recognised by us as a Government, and we're committed to promoting Wales as a high-quality tourism destination. Wales is a world-class activity tourism destination. Our mountains, coastlines, beaches, rivers and lakes provide an unrivalled backdrop to support a range of activities, including cycling. When you look at some of the excellent cycling facilities that we have, particularly within the two regions of Wales that we're talking about, they're absolutely first class. We have supported the development and improvement of mountain bike trails and centres of excellence, and continue to work with the mountain bike sector to develop multi-centre packages and family-friendly trails and to promote the fantastic mountain biking offer.

O ran twristiaeth a thwristiaeth feicio, rwy'n credu eich bod wedi gwneud pwyntiau da iawn. Caiff gwerth twristiaeth i economi Cymru ei gydnabod yn llawn gennym fel Llywodraeth, ac rydym wedi ymrwymo i hyrwyddo Cymru fel cyrchfan dwristiaeth o safon uchel. Mae Cymru yn gyrchfan twristiaeth gweithgareddau o safon byd. Mae ein mynyddoedd, ein harfordiroedd, ein traethau, ein hafonydd a'n llynnoedd yn darparu cefndir heb ei ail i gefnogi ystod o weithgareddau, gan gynnwys beicio. Pan edrychwch ar rai o'r cyfleusterau beicio rhagorol sydd gennym, yn enwedig yn y ddwy ardal o Gymru rydym yn sôn amdanynt, fe welwch eu bod yn wirioneddol ragorol. Rydym wedi cefnogi'r gwaith o ddatblygu a gwella llwybrau beicio mynydd a chanolfannau rhagoriaeth, ac yn parhau i weithio gyda'r sector beicio mynydd i ddatblygu pecynnau aml-ganolfan a llwybrau i deuluoedd, ac i hyrwyddo'r cynnig beicio mynydd gwych.

Now, as part of Visit Wales's star grading system, we operate the 'Cyclists and walkers welcome' awards, and we look at accommodation for them and everything. So, these are important areas in terms of how we develop what we have to offer.

Nawr, fel rhan o system graddiad seren Croeso Cymru, rydym yn gweithredu gwobrau 'croeso i feicwyr a cherddwyr', ac rydym yn edrych ar gyfleusterau llety ar eu cyfer a phopeth. Felly, mae'r rhain yn feysydd pwysig o ran y modd y datblygwn yr hyn sydd gennym i'w gynnig.

In terms of railway tracks, in the 1960s the Beeching report led to the closure of about one-third, as we know, of Britain's rail network. As a result, there are loads of disused tracks; there's a very nice one that goes from one of the old stations in Gowerton all the way down to Mumbles, whereas I'm old enough to have gone on the train from there as a child—we've got a picture of me queuing at the station.

O ran traciau rheilffordd, yn y 1960au, fel y gwyddom, arweiniodd adroddiad Beeching at gau tua un rhan o dair o rwydwaith rheilffyrdd Prydain. O ganlyniad, mae llawer o draciau nas defnyddir; mae yna un braf iawn sy'n mynd o un o'r hen orsafoedd yng Nhre-gŵyr yr holl ffordd i lawr i'r Mwmbwls, ac rwy'n ddigon hen i fod wedi mynd ar y trên oddi yno'n blentyn—mae gennym lun ohonof yn ciwio yn yr orsaf.

Some examples, I think, of them being used for walking and cycling are there. We've got routes 81 and 82 from Aberystwyth, and there are sections that are traffic-free with views of the river. We have route 5 from Chester to Rhyl, which includes a section along a dismantled railway line taking you to Connah's Quay and the River Dee. We have the Mawddach Trail, which is owned and managed by Snowdonia National Park Authority—that goes from Barmouth to Dolgellau—which is also particularly nice. Some disused tunnels, as you alluded to, in the UK are being used, particularly in Bath, where there's been great success with the Two Tunnels Greenway, which is a walking and cycling path along four miles' length of disused railway line. There are also trails in the Peak District that include four disused railway tunnels.

Rwy'n meddwl bod rhai enghreifftiau ohonynt yn cael eu defnyddio ar gyfer cerdded a beicio. Mae gennym lwybrau 81 ac 82 o Aberystwyth, ac mae rhannau gyda golygfeydd o'r afon sy'n ddi-draffig. Mae gennym lwybr 5 o Gaer i'r Rhyl, sy'n cynnwys darn ar hyd hen linell reilffordd a aiff â chi i Gei Connah ac Afon Dyfrdwy. Mae gennym Lwybr Mawddach, sy'n eiddo i Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri, ac sy'n cael ei reoli gan y Parc—mae'n rhedeg o Abermaw i Ddolgellau—ac mae hwnnw'n arbennig o braf hefyd. Fel y dywedoch, mae rhai twnelau segur yn y DU yn cael eu defnyddio, yn enwedig yng Nghaerfaddon, lle y cafwyd llwyddiant mawr gyda'r Two Tunnels Greenway, sef llwybr cerdded a beicio ar hyd pedair milltir o linell reilffordd segur. Mae yna hefyd lwybrau yn y Peak District sy'n cynnwys pedwar twnnel rheilffordd segur.

It is important as well, as part of our cycling and active travel, that we look at what more we can do in the Welsh context, and as part of that implementation, local authorities have to prepare and publish maps on this particular agenda. So, I think what you've outlined today has very exciting opportunities perhaps for everyone. I congratulate the society on the work that they've undertaken so far to bring this to public prominence and the level of public support they have. Obviously, I will give further consideration to any discussions we might wish to have in the future.

Yn rhan o'n darpariaeth feicio a theithio llesol, mae'n bwysig hefyd ein bod yn edrych ar beth arall y gallwn ei wneud yng nghyd-destun Cymru, ac fel rhan o weithredu hynny, rhaid i awdurdodau lleol baratoi a chyhoeddi mapiau ar yr agenda benodol hon. Felly, rwy'n meddwl bod yr hyn rydych wedi'i amlinellu heddiw yn cynnig cyfleoedd cyffrous iawn i bawb o bosibl. Rwy'n llongyfarch y gymdeithas ar y gwaith y maent wedi ei wneud hyd yma i ddod â hyn yn amlwg i sylw'r cyhoedd a lefel y gefnogaeth gyhoeddus sydd ganddynt. Yn amlwg, byddaf yn rhoi ystyriaeth bellach i unrhyw drafodaethau y gallem eu cael yn y dyfodol.

Can I say I'm very pleased to see that you've been talking to Sustrans, but they've not put any proposals forward yet to me as Minister?

A gaf fi ddweud fy mod i'n falch iawn o weld eich bod wedi siarad â Sustrans, ond nid ydynt wedi cyflwyno unrhyw gynigion i mi eto fel Gweinidog?

18:11

Y Dirprwy Lywydd / The Deputy Presiding Officer Bywgraffiad Biography

Thank you, Minister, and that concludes today's proceedings.

Diolch i chi, Weinidog. Dyna ddiwedd y trafodion am heddiw.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 18:11.

The meeting ended at 18:11.