

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Thursday 11 July 2013

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Northern Ireland Assembly

Thursday 11 July 2013

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Public Participation in Departmental Consultations

Mr G Robinson asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the measures taken to ensure maximum public participation in departmental consultations.

(AQO 3831/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): The Department maintains a central list of stakeholders which is used for all consultations. It is for lead policy officials to determine the most appropriate way to highlight forthcoming consultations and to encourage broad levels of participation. Typically these measures include letters or e-mails to the stakeholders; adverts in the general press and specialist press of affected groups; updates on NI Direct websites and direct invitations to key groups to respond to upcoming consultations.

Public consultation events are held in a variety of venues and areas at different times of day and evening to afford everyone an opportunity to take part.

Copies of consultation documents are usually made available in a range of languages; large font versions and easy-read formats. Braille and audio versions can also be produced as required.

Together: Building a United Community Strategy Funding

Mr Hussey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how the Together: Building a United Community Strategy will be funded, given the over-commitment already in their departmental budget.

(AQO 4238/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Details on the proposals for funding for the delivery of the actions and targets contained in Together: Building a United Community will be made in due course.

We have established design groups for each of the seven headline actions and these will produce implementation plans with indicative costs.

Social Investment Fund

Mr Givan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the plans to deliver projects through the Social Investment Fund.

(AQO 4239/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Since October 2012, our officials have been working alongside steering groups to ensure communities across all nine social investment zones are engaged in the process to identify objective needs and potential projects to tackle those needs. Steering groups have submitted final area plans, encompassing 89 prioritised projects aimed at addressing the key objectives of the Fund. Project proposals total in excess of £100m which exceeds the amount available under the Fund.

The final plans are now subject to a quality assurance review, including the completion of the economic appraisal process for each proposed project. This process is assessing the individual projects within the plans against set criteria to ensure the most robust projects are recommended, to maximise impact on the ground.

Following the appraisal process, we will then move into the mainstream delivery phase of Social Investment Fund.

Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 23502/11-15, (i) how an assessment of the progress achieved over the period of the Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People post 2016 will be carried out, given that the strategy did not run its full course; and (ii) what actions are contained within the Children and Young Persons Early Action document to deal with the high level outcomes of the Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People, specifically programmes relating to (a) Being Healthy; Enjoying, learning and achieving; (b) Living in safety and with stability; (c) Experiencing economic and environmental well-being; (d) Contributing positively to community and society; and (e) Living in a society which respects their rights.

(AQW 24641/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: When we come to consider any successor to the Ten Year Strategy account will be taken of progress of the current strategy to that point in time. The Ten year Strategy will run its full course until 2016.

The Children and Young Persons Early Action Paper identifies the key immediate priorities for children and families. It focuses efforts and resources on a joined-up approach to tackling poverty and improving the lives and experiences of children and young people. In terms of actions, the delivery of the six Signature Programmes, through the Delivering Social Change Framework, includes provision for: additional teachers to promote numeracy and literacy, Family Support Hubs, Pathways to Employment for Young People, Children's Nurture Units and Parenting Support Programmes. Proposals for future Signature Programmes are under consideration. They will be complemented by some of the projects to be supported under the Social Investment Fund which have been identified by communities. These are intended to contribute to the outcomes framework within the Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People (2006-16) and by their nature many will address multiple outcomes.

Staff With Planning Expertise

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many staff in their Department have planning expertise.

(AQW 24676/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We do not hold information in relation to planning expertise within the Department.

Fracking

Mr McKay asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, in light of the amendments to the Planning Bill which will bring aspects of planning under their remit, whether they have considered any planning proposals that relate to fracking.

(AQW 24801/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: No planning proposals have been considered.

G8 Summit 2013

Mr Spratt asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the G8 Summit 2013.

(AQO 4414/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The G8 summit was a tremendous success for us because it generated very significant positive international coverage. We had eight of the world's leaders here, plus the presidents of the institutions of the European Union and leaders from other influential countries and organisations. We were able to engage with them directly to welcome them here and to discuss a number of our priorities, as well as how we might engage with those countries to progress those priorities. We spent time at Lough Erne speaking directly to the G8 leaders about a number of economic, trade and investment issues. We also discussed how we could maximise our science and technology expertise internationally and how we could contribute to stabilisation in areas through sharing our conflict resolution experience. We have been following up on those issues, and we are already seeing the benefits, with the G8 countries and others agreeing to participate in an economic conference later this year.

The G8 has enabled us to raise our profile internationally in a positive way. The world's media were able to see and report at first hand the infrastructure that we have that supports investment and the products and services that our companies can offer to other countries. Everyone who saw the TV and newspaper coverage of the events at Enniskillen will know that the surroundings, the countryside and even the weather were at their best. That will greatly help our international tourism message around the world.

We have all worked hard to ensure that a very positive image has been created internationally. We have made contacts and have discussed practical initiatives for the future that will provide long-term benefits. We now need to capitalise on that and to build a legacy that will increase our exports, bring in investment, enhance our technical skills and bring more people to visit us here. We have made a lot of friends internationally, and we need to maintain and develop those friendships.

We commend those campaigners who took part in the various protests throughout the North. We saw the first peaceful G8 happen here, and that sends a very positive message. We pay tribute to all those who were involved in the preparation and successful planning of the G8 event. Although some costs were associated with hosting this world event, the benefits will be greater in the medium and longer term.

We need to continue to tell our story internationally of how we have managed the transition from conflict to peace. The G8 gave us an opportunity to tell those leaders that we intend to continue to take our community forward in a peaceful and united way.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Forest Service Managed Forests

Mr Ó hOisín asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of Forest Service managed forests that are available for use by cyclists.

(AQW 24655/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): My Department's forests provide great opportunities for cyclists with approximately 125kms of way-marked trails. These trails provide a variety of challenges and range in nature from leisure cycling to mountain bike trails. There are also 32 kilometres of Sustrans routes available on Forest Service land. These are part of a wider national network of cycle trails.

Forests available for use by cyclists include Castlewellan Forest Park, Rostrevor forest, Castleward forest, Gosford Forest Park, Castle Archdale forest, Florencecourt forest, Gortin Glen Forest Park, Muckamore forest, Garvagh forest, Bineveagh forest, Downhill forest, Learmount forest and Davagh forest.

Forest Service also facilitate various cycling events in other forests with event organisers responsible for identifying trails to be used and managing events through licence arrangements with Forest Service.

I am pleased that the range of facilities has been greatly enhanced during the last number of years through my Department's commitment to working in partnership with organisations and local government.

This partnership approach has secured a more diverse range of facilities and attractions in our forests, for the benefit of our rural communities and for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Private Members' Motion Aid Package for Fishermen

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, following the Private Members' Motion Aid Package for Fishermen, which was debated in the Assembly on 17 June 2013, to outline her Department's plans to deliver urgently a meaningful package of assistance to fishermen.

(AQW 24662/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: As you are aware some weeks ago I announced a range of measures worth some £740,000 to help the fishing industry adapt to the changing needs of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy. During the Assembly debate in the Assembly on 17th June I said that I would keep the matter of further financial assistance under review. Since then I have been giving careful consideration to further options for a strategic support package and on 4th July I announced three further elements of that package.

Firstly there is an immediate need to assist the industry with cash flow problems that are making it difficult for some vessels to get to sea. I will therefore make available short-term assistance to meet a proportion of operating costs associated with harbour dues. I estimate this scheme will be worth approximately £500,000. It will be paid during the summer and will be available to all active fishing vessels under 27 metres in length.

Secondly I will be examining the potential for a fisheries loan fund to improve access to funding which is often quoted as a constraint to taking up grant opportunities. Potentially all sectors of the industry – catching, aquaculture, processing and shore based support could potentially benefit from better access to finance and it could play an important role in helping the fishing industry diversify to exploit service opportunities for the offshore renewable energy industry. Thirdly, I will be bringing forward a further plan in the autumn to address the recommendations involving the fishing industry that are contained in the Agri-Food Strategy Board's report "Going for Growth". I want to insure that our fishing industry maximises its potential so that it will continue to play an important role in the economic life of the coastal communities in which it is based.

Discussions with Portavogie Fishermen

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the discussions that she or her officials have had with Portavogie fishermen since the Adjournment Debate on the challenges facing the fishing fleet in Portavogie, on 11 June 2013.

(AQW 24721/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Officials met with fishermen and representatives of the Portavogie Trawlermen's Trading Company on 28 June, and I met with Jim Shannon MP and Michelle McIlveen MLA on 1st July. At both meetings the case for assistance was made strongly.

You will be aware of the range of measures I announced some weeks ago, worth some £740,000 to help the fishing industry adapt to the new challenges that will flow from the reformed Common Fisheries Policy. I have been giving careful consideration to further options for a strategic support package and have announced three further elements of that package.

In the short term I have decided to make further immediate assistance available. This assistance will help the industry with the immediate cash flow problems that are inhibiting some vessels from getting to sea and will be based on a proportion of harbour dues paid. It will be available to all active fishing vessels under 27m in length and is estimated to be worth in the region of £500,000.

For the longer term I also want to address access to finance, which is often quoted by fishing industry representatives as one of the reasons why fishing businesses have not taken up grant opportunities. My Department will examine the need for intervention in the form of a loan fund. Potentially all sectors of the industry – catching, aquaculture, processing and shore based support could potentially benefit

from better access to finance and it could play an important role in helping the fishing industry diversify to exploit service opportunities for the offshore renewable energy industry.

Finally, I will be bringing forward a further plan in the autumn to address the recommendations involving the fishing industry that are contained in the Agri-Food Strategy Board's report "Going for Growth". I want to ensure that our fishing industry maximises its potential so that it will continue to play an important role in the economic life of the coastal communities such as Portavogie.

Trees Lost to Ash Dieback

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the number of trees that have been lost as a result of Ash Dieback disease.

(AQW 24734/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Since the first findings of ash die-back in the north were confirmed on 16 November 2012, the approximate number of ash trees subject to destruction notice is 70,000.

Further information on the disease and reporting finding is available on the Department's website at the following link <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/ash-dieback>

Departmental Underspend

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what was her departmental underspend in the last financial year.

(AQW 24757/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My department's provisional outturn underspend for the three main budgetary categories for 2012/13 was set out with that for all departments in the Minister for Finance and Personnel's 1 July Statement to the Assembly on this exercise and the 2013/14 June Monitoring Round. A summary of the DARD elements in this Statement is as follows:

	Final Plan £ million	Provisional Outturn £ million	Underspend £ million	Underspend %
Resource	207.9	207.8	-0.1	-0.1
Ringfenced Resource	12.4	12.1	-0.3	-2.6
Capital	22.3	22.0	-0.2	-1.1
Total	242.6	241.9	-0.6	-0.2

Fallen Cattle as a Result of Severe Weather

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for a breakdown of the number of (i) beef; and (ii) dairy cattle that died as a result of the severe weather around Easter 2013, including those with or without offspring.

(AQW 24949/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The details of a total of 995 cattle have been forwarded for the Hardship Payment. These died as a result of the severe weather around Easter 2013. Of these 353 had offspring and 642 had not. DARD holds this information as categorised in the table at annex A.

(Statistics are correct as at 4/7/13 however subject to change as information is still being processed in relation to this event).

Dairy cattle < 3 mths	311	Beef cattle <3 mths	92	Dairy or beef cattle 3-6 mths	31	Dairy or beef cattle 6-12 mths	66	Dairy or beef cattle 12-18 mths without progeny	34	Dairy or beef cattle 18-48 mths without progeny	83	Dairy or beef cattle 48 + mths without progeny	25	Dairy cattle 12-48 mths with progeny	10	Beef cattle 12-96 mths with progeny	152	Dairy cattle 48 + mths with progeny	67	Beef cattle 96 + mths with progeny	124
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Newly Registered Calves on the Animal and Public Health Information System

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many calves were newly registered on the Animal and Public Health Information System, in each month of the last three years. **(AQW 24965/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: Over the last three financial years by month the following calves were registered on APHIS

BIRTH NOTIFICATIONS

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
April	65,366	61,875	65,452
May	67,182	75,732	66,730
June	54,108	51,872	54,953
July	41,571	39,812	41,204
August	31,078	34,738	33,360
September	33,597	33,532	31,003
October	32,912	35,014	38,128
November	34,240	37,732	37,014
December	25,385	29,188	27,525
January	37,607	38,658	39,740
February	35,848	38,547	33,360
March	49,819	50,002	44,587
Total	508,713	526,702	513,056

Department of Education

Together: Building a United Community Strategy

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 23815/11-15, (i) how; and (ii) when he was consulted on these issues.

(AQW 24315/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): I had discussions with OFMdFM regarding educational issues relevant to my Department prior to the announcement.

Cost of Transporting Post-Primary School Pupils: Ballymena

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Education what was the cost to his Department of transporting post-primary school pupils from the Ballymena Borough Council area to schools outside Ballymena in 2012/13; and what was the cost for pupils from other council areas travelling in to post-primary schools in Ballymena.

(AQW 24450/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The North Eastern Education and Library Board has informed me that the cost of transporting post-primary school pupils from the Ballymena Borough Council area to schools outside Ballymena in 2012/13 was £955,902.08. The cost for pupils from other council areas travelling in to post-primary schools in Ballymena was £678,612.55.

Judicial Review Cases

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Education how many Judicial Review cases have been taken against his Department in each of the last three years; and to detail the cost to his Department of this litigation in each year.

(AQW 24653/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The information requested is detailed in the table below which provides details of Judicial Review cases which commenced in the last three financial years.

Year	Number of Judicial Review Cases Commencing	Cost of Litigation £s
2010/11	2*	137,315.00
2011/12	1	172,685.78
2012/13	0	30,690.24

* These cases incurred expenditure over more than one financial year.

The figures provided do not include the cost of departmental officials as it is not possible to disaggregate these from their other duties.

Payments to Contractors, Sub-Contractors and Suppliers

Mr McGlone asked Minister of Education, in order to facilitate proper payments to contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers, for an update on the adoption of Project Bank Accounts as good practice within his Department.

(AQW 24700/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I would refer the member to the answer to AQW 22019/11-15, tabled by Tom Elliott and published in the official report on the 3rd of May 2013.

Schools with access to a Defibrillator

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Education how many schools have access to a defibrillator; and whether he has any plans to ensure that all schools install this piece of equipment.

(AQW 24729/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not hold any record of how many schools have access to a defibrillator.

Recently the 5 Education and Library Boards, with support of the British Heart Foundation, have established an Inter-Board Working Group which has compiled a specification for defibrillators for schools. This will enable a tender process to be completed. In addition the Working Group will devise a guidance document that will outline the conditions of using a defibrillator, training requirements and maintenance.

It is hoped to go to tender in October 2013 and the approved product identified by the end of 2013.

When this process has been completed, my Department will consider the best way forward regarding the matter of defibrillators.

Closure of the Causeway School

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education whether he has been consulted by the North Eastern Education and Library Board on the closure of the Causeway School.

(AQW 24766/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have not been consulted by the North Eastern Education and Library Board on the closure of the Causeway School. The service provided by the School is non-statutory and the Board is not, therefore, required to consult with me.

Answers to Written Questions

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education whether, in answers to written questions, he gives an answer that would be consistent if the same question was asked under a Freedom of Information request.

(AQW 24795/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Under the Freedom of Information Act the Department is only required to provide information already held in recorded form. It does not have to create new information. However, in responding to Assembly Questions, the Department may create new information.

Catholic Maintained, Controlled, Integrated and Irish Language Sectors

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 23764/11-15, to detail the figures broken down by the (i) catholic maintained; (ii) controlled; (iii) integrated, and (iv) Irish language sectors.

(AQW 24819/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The breakdown of the number of children not admitted to their first preference primary school is as follows:

Controlled Primary	502
Catholic Maintained	279
Non-Catholic Maintained	3
Grant-Maintained Integrated	57
Controlled Integrated	24
Total	865

Notes:

- 1 The statistics are liable to change right up to the start of the 2013/14 school year, as more children will obtain places in their first preference schools due to withdrawal of applications, additional places being approved by the Department, or as a result of successful appeals.
- 2 Since compiling the information for AQW 23764/11-15, the Boards have revised the overall numbers from 850 to 865.

Invitations to Visit Schools

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education to list the schools to which he has been invited since May 2011, broken down by sector.

(AQW 24841/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The information requested is detailed below:-

2011

Catholic Maintained Primary Schools

- St Mary's Primary, Newtownbutler
- St Colmcille's Primary, Downpatrick
- Primate Dixon Primary, Belfast
- St Mary's Primary, Derry
- Holy Trinity Primary, Enniskillen
- St Mary's Primary, Dungannon
- St Clare's Convent Primary, Newry
- St Teresa's Primary, Lurgan

- Derrylatinee St Francis Primary, Dungannon
- St Mary's Primary, Stewartstown
- St Brigid's Primary, Magherafelt
- St Luke's Primary, Dunmurry
- St Patrick's Primary, Gortin
- Carrick Primary, Warrenpoint
- St Nicholas Primary, Ardglass
- St Mary's Girls' Primary, Strabane
- Barrack St Boys', Strabane
- St Mary's Primary, Armagh
- St Bernard's Primary, Newtownabbey

Catholic Maintained Secondary Schools

- Lismore Comprehensive, Belfast
- St Mark's High, Warrenpoint
- St Patricks' College, Dungannon
- St Paul's JHS, Lurgan
- St Louise's Comprehensive, Belfast
- St Genevieve's High, Belfast
- Sacred Heart College, Omagh
- St Mary's High, Belleek
- St Columbanus College, Bangor
- St Joseph's College, Belfast
- St Colm's High, Draperstown
- Holy Trinity High, Warrenpoint
- De La Salle, Belfast
- St Rose's High, Belfast
- St Mary's High, Newry
- St Killian's College, Ballymena
- St Patrick's College, Banbridge
- Corpus Christi College, Belfast
- St Genevieve's High, Belfast
- St Colm's High, Dunmurry
- St Patrick's College, Maghera
- Drumcree College, Portadown
- St Mary's High, Newry

Catholic Maintained Special School

- St Gerard's Education Resource Centre, Belfast

Controlled Grammar Schools

- Wellington College, Belfast
- Sperrin High, Magherafelt
- Ballyclare High, Ballyclare

Controlled Integrated Primary Schools

- Forge Integrated Primary, Belfast
- All Children's Integrated Primary, Newcastle
- Bangor Central Integrated Primary, Bangor
- Clea Primary, Keady
- St Joseph's Primary, Newcastle
- St Joseph's Primary, Armagh
- St Bronagh's Primary, Rostrevor
- St Patrick's & St Brigid's Primary, Ballycastle
- St Anne's Primary, Derry
- St Francis Primary, Lurgan
- Tannaghmore Primary, Craigavon
- Roan St Patrick's Primary, Eglisk, Dungannon
- St Patrick's Primary, Castlewellan
- Holy Rosary Primary, Belfast

Controlled Integrated Secondary Schools

- Brownlow Integrated College, Craigavon
- Priory Integrated College, Holywood

Controlled Nursery School

- Magherafelt Nursery, Magherafelt

Controlled Primary Schools

- Model Primary, Derry
- Ballyoran Primary, Portadown
- Millburn Primary, Coleraine
- Holywood Primary, Holywood
- Redburn Primary, Holywood

Controlled Secondary School

- Devenish College, Enniskillen

Controlled Special Schools

- Ceara School, Lurgan
- Castle Tower School, Ballymena
- Mitchell House, Belfast

Grant-Maintained Integrated Primary School

- Omagh Integrated Primary, Omagh

Other Maintained Primary Schools

- Gaelscoil na gCrann, Omagh
- Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain, Belfast
- Gaelscoil Ui Dhochartaigh, Strabane
- Bunscoil Bheanna Biorche, Castlewellan

Voluntary Grammar Schools

- St Dominic's High, Belfast
- St Michael's Grammar, Craigavon
- Foyle College, Derry
- St Patrick's Grammar, Armagh

2012**Alternative Education Provision**

- Loughshore Resource Centre, Belfast

Catholic Maintained Grammar School

- St Louis Grammar, Kilkeel

Catholic Maintained Nursery Schools

- College Farm Nursery, Armagh
- Holy Trinity Nursery, Lisburn

Catholic Maintained Primary Schools

- St Mary's Primary, Killyleagh
- St Mary's Primary, Brookeborough
- Holy Child Primary, Belfast
- St Olivier Plunkett Primary, Belfast
- St Brigid's Primary, Newry
- St Mary's Primary, Tassagh
- Our Lady of Lourdes, Greencastle
- St Therese Primary, Derry
- St Joseph's Convent Primary, Newry
- St Patrick's Primary, Madden
- St John's Primary, Middletown
- Holy Trinity Primary, Cookstown
- St Paul's Primary, Belfast
- St Mary's Primary, Strabane
- Ballyhackett Primary, Coleraine
- Christ the Redeemer, Belfast

- Good Shepherd Primary, Belfast
- Good Shepherd Primary, Derry
- St Patrick's Primary, Castlewellan
- St Patrick's Primary, Ballygalget
- Mercy Primary, Belfast
- Dromintee Primary, Newry
- Holy Family Primary, Omagh
- St Malachy's Primary, Armagh
- St Patrick's and St Brigid's Primary, Ballycastle
- Holy Family Primary, Derry
- Mount St Catherine's Primary, Armagh
- Carrick Primary, Warrenpoint
- St Oliver Plunkett Primary, Belfast
- Ballymacward Primary, Lisburn
- Primate Dixon Primary, Coalisland
- Edendork Primary, Dungannon

Catholic Maintained Secondary Schools

- Edmund Rice College, Newtownabbey
- St Rose's Dominican College, Belfast
- St Clare's Primary, Newry
- Drumcree College, Portadown
- St Genevieve's High, Belfast
- St Patrick's College, Downpatrick
- Holy Trinity College, Cookstown
- St Killian's College, Carnlough
- Christian Brothers, Belfast
- St Mary's High, Lurgan
- Corpus Christi College, Belfast
- Colaiste Chaitriona, Armagh

Controlled Grammar Schools

- Regent House Grammar, Newtownards
- Portadown College, Portadown

Controlled Integrated Primary School

- Bangor Central Integrated Primary, Bangor

Controlled Integrated Secondary School

- Priory Integrated College, Holywood

Controlled Nursery Schools

- Harrison Nursery, Lurgan
- Hope Nursery, Belfast
- Academy Nursery School, Derry
- Pond Park Nursery, Lisburn
- Hollywood Nursery, Holywood

Controlled Primary Schools

- Ballyoran Primary, Portadown
- Knockmore Primary, Lisburn
- Ballyholme Primary, Bangor
- Lurgan Model Primary, Lurgan
- Malvern Primary, Belfast
- Holywood Primary, Holywood
- Taughmonagh Primary, Belfast
- Brookeborough Primary, Enniskillen
- Botanic Primary, Belfast
- Ballyoran Primary, Portadown
- Strandtown Primary, Belfast

Controlled Secondary Schools

- Saintfield High, Belfast
- Orangefield High, Belfast
- Markethill High, Armagh
- Ashfield Girls' Belfast

Controlled Special Schools

- Roddensvale Special, Larne
- Fleming Fulton, Belfast
- Sandleford School, Coleraine
- Rossmar Special, Limavady
- Castle Tower Special, Ballymena
- Ceara Special, Lurgan
- Mitchell House, Belfast
- Glenveagh Special, Belfast
- Fleming Fulton, Belfast
- Knockavoe Special, Strabane
- Knockevin Special, Downpatrick
- Harberton Park, Belfast
- Woodlands Speech & Language Unit, Derry

Grant Maintained Integrated Primary Schools

- Bridge Integrated Primary, Banbridge
- Millennium Integrated Primary, Saintfield
- Maine Integrated Primary, Randalstown

Grant Maintained Secondary Schools

- Oakgrove Integrated College, Derry
- Newbridge Integrated College, Banbridge

Grant Maintained Integrated Secondary School

- Drumagh Integrated, Omagh

Other Maintained Primary Schools

- Bunscoil Bheanna Biorche, Castlewella
- Bunscoil an Traonaigh, Lisnaskea
- Gaelscoil Ui Dhochartaigh, Strabane
- Gaelscoil na mBeann, Killeel

Other Maintained Secondary School

- Coláiste Feirste, Belfast

Other Maintained Special School

- Jordanstown Special, Newtownabbey

Voluntary Grammar Schools

- Methodist College, Belfast
- St Patrick's Grammar, Downpatrick
- St Joseph's Grammar, Donaghmore
- Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Belfast
- Belfast High, Belfast

2013**Catholic Maintained Primary Schools**

- St Mary's Primary, Draperstown
- St Peter's Primary, Moy
- St Caireall's Primary, Castledearg
- St Mary's Primary, Newcastle
- Clea Primary, Keady
- St Ita's Primary, Carryduff
- Holy Family Primary, Derry
- Moneynick Primary, Dungannon
- St Columba's Primary, Straw
- Hollybush Primary, Derry
- Envagh Primary, Omagh

- St Columbkille's Primary, Carrickmore
- Tannaghmore Primary, Lurgan
- Grange Primary, Kilkeel
- Drumduff Primary, Beragh
- Armagh Christian Brothers Primary, Armagh

Catholic Maintained Secondary Schools

- St Joseph's High, Crossmaglen
- St Killian's College, Ballymena
- Mercy College, Belfast
- St Eugene's High
- St Patrick's High, Keady
- St Patrick's Co-Ed College, Maghera
- St Patrick's College, Dungannon
- St Patrick's Academy, Lisburn
- St Colm's High, Draperstown
- St Joseph's College, Coleraine
- St Paul's High, Bessbrook
- Holy Trinity College, Cookstown
- Saint Catherine's College, Armagh
- St Peter's High, Derry

Controlled Grammar School

- Ballyclare High, Ballyclare

Controlled Integrated Primary School

- All Children's Integrated Primary, Newcastle

Controlled Nursery Schools

- Barbour Nursery, Lisburn
- Edenderry Nursery, Belfast
- Magherafelt Nursery, Magherafelt

Controlled Primary Schools

- Carrickfergus Central Primary, Carrickfergus

- Darkley Primary, Armagh
- Castle Gardens Primary, Newtownards
- Knockloughrim Primary, Magherafelt
- Duneane Primary, Antrim
- Creavery Primary, Antrim
- Ballysillan Primary, Belfast

Controlled Secondary Schools

- Newtownbreda High, Belfast
- Newry High, Newry

Controlled Special Schools

- Arvalee School and Resource Centre, Omagh
- Glenveagh Special, Belfast
- Fleming Fulton, Belfast
- Park School, St Gerard's Resource Centre, Belfast
- Beechlawn Special, Hillsborough
- Woodland Speech & Language Unit, Derry

Grant Maintained Integrated Secondary School

- New Bridge Integrated College, Banbridge
- Shimna Integrated College, Newcastle

Grant Maintained Integrated Primary School

- Phoenix Integrated Primary, Cookstown

Other Maintained Primary Schools

- Gaelscoil Ui Neill, Coalisland
- Gaescoil Aodha Rua, Dungannon

Voluntary Grammar School

- St Joseph's Grammar, Dungannon
- St Michael's Grammar, Lurgan
- Portora Royal, Enniskillen
- St Louis Grammar, Ballymena
- Victoria College, Belfast

Primary School Places

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many of the 850 pupils, who were unable to obtain a place at their first choice primary school, were unable to obtain a place at their (i) second; (ii) third; (iii) fourth; (iv) fifth; or (v) sixth choice school.

(AQW 24871/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The breakdown of this information can only be compiled by the Education and Library Boards and I am informed that it is not available in the form requested at this time as the process of placing children is ongoing. I will write to you when the information becomes available.

First Choice Primary School

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education for a breakdown by (i) Education and Library Board area; and (ii) constituency of the 850 pupils who were unable to obtain a place at their first choice primary school.

(AQW 24872/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The breakdown of the 850 pupils who were unable to obtain a place at their first choice primary school by Education and Library Board area was provided in my answer to AQW 23764/11-15.

Since then, AQW 24819/11-15 has updated the figure of 850 to 865 and the following table gives a breakdown by Board area and by school management type:

Management Type	BELB	WELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	Total
Controlled	158	12	93	174	65	502
Maintained	72	18	16	108	65	279
Other Maintained	0	1	0	2	0	3
Grant Maintained Integrated	11	1	9	14	22	57
Controlled Integrated	2	0	0	22	0	24
Total	243	32	118	320	152	865

Note: The statistics are liable to change, right up to the start of the 2013/14 school year, as more children obtain places in their first preference schools due to withdrawal of applications, additional places being approved by the Department, or as a result of successful appeals.

The breakdown of this information by constituency area can only be compiled by the Education and Library Boards and I am informed that it is not available in the form requested at this time.

Pupils Sitting GCSE and A-Level Exams

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how many pupils sat (i) GCSE; and (ii) A-level exams in each of the last three years, broken down by the examining body.

(AQW 24958/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The answer is contained in the tables below:

(I) GCSE EXAMINATION ENTRIES BY AWARDING ORGANISATION

Awarding Organisation	Number of Pupils with 1 or more GCSE examination entry		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
EDEXCEL	650	718	1359
WJEC	657	750	590
CCEA	22466	22376	22037
OCR	5253	5002	4131
AQA	19128	19133	17916
Total Pupils	22957	22823	22598

Source: RM data solutions

(II) A-LEVEL EXAMINATION ENTRIES BY AWARDING ORGANISATION

Awarding Organisation	Number of Pupils with 1 or more A-Level examination entry		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
EDEXCEL	2754	2349	2422
WJEC	456	451	450
CCEA	10049	10593	10892
OCR	809	853	810
AQA	4260	3908	3840
Total Pupils	11312	11819	12103

Source: RM data solutions

Council for the Curriculum Examinations and Assessment

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to outline the resources expended by the Council for the Curriculum Examinations and Assessment on (i) the dissemination of information; and (ii) training schools on examinations and assessment.

(AQW 24964/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: CCEA is funded to deliver a range of statutory functions related to the curriculum, assessment and examinations. In 2012/13 this was circa £31m. The dissemination of information is an embedded element within all of CCEA activities. Similarly, the training of teachers on aspects of examinations and assessment is fundamental to the delivery of CCEA's statutory responsibilities and is therefore also an embedded element. CCEA does not hold records in a format that could isolate costs related to the activities highlighted.

Education and Library Board: Supplier Payments

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, in relation to the prompt payment of invoices, how much each Education and Library Board paid suppliers in each month of the 2011/12 financial year.

(AQW 24966/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The amounts paid to suppliers in each month of the 2011/12 financial year, as provided by the Education and Library Boards are set out in the table below.

Education and Library Board:	April 2011 £'000	May 2011 £'000	June 2011 £'000	July 2011 £'000	August 2011 £'000	September 2011 £'000	October 2011 £'000	November 2011 £'000	December 2011 £'000	January 2012 £'000	February 2012 £'000	March 2012 £'000
North Eastern	10,022	16,220	7,631	4,460	4,266	7,332	8,619	6,121	7,771	7,452	8,259	10,870
Belfast	10,612	6,770	8,218	14,790	8,104	6,960	10,095	8,902	8,501	9,814	8,396	10,667
Western	18,439	6,476	16,908	10,324	5,537	8,924	9,950	8,465	9,197	8,639	12,351	12,478
South Eastern	10,997	7,342	7,684	12,635	4,373	5,929	7,862	5,797	6,402	7,808	8,388	10,550
Southern	9,021	8,877	17,207	4,785	4,674	8,713	7,824	9,658	6,337	8,407	13,909	11,357

Proposed Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre at the Maze Site

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education how his Department and schools will relate to, and use, the proposed Conflict Resolution Centre and prison buildings at the Maze site; and to outline any related material which may be produced.

(AQW 24986/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: While the proposed Conflict Resolution Centre and prison buildings at the Maze site are likely to provide important educational opportunities for our young people, it is a matter for schools to decide how they deliver the curriculum. The Department does not prescribe resources or programmes to be used by schools in their delivery of the curriculum, which provides teachers with greater flexibility to decide on the educational resources and programmes they wish to use to enhance teaching and learning. This also includes educational visits outside of the classroom.

Funding for Community Relations activities is made available to schools and youth groups through the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED) Enhancement Scheme. This application based scheme is managed by the Education and Library Boards, but like the curriculum, it is up to individual schools/youth groups to decide how the funding is best used to meet the needs of their young people.

If requested the Department could of course facilitate the dissemination of materials produced by the Centre to schools by making them available via the C2k managed ICT service. For example, the Department recently offered to make available, via the C2k exchange, a holocaust learning resource produced by the Imperial War Museum in London.

Primary and Post-Primary Schools

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Education whether he has received representations from primary and post-primary schools which wish to change their designation to integrated for 2014/15.

(AQW 24990/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Under Article 68 of the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989, any existing grant-aided school is eligible to transform to integrated status. A Development Proposal would be required if such a change is proposed. No such proposals for transformation in 2014/15 have been received by the Department of Education.

Regional Vision Resource Base

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the Regional Vision Resource Base; and whether funding will be extended for this service beyond 31 March 2014.

(AQW 24997/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I understand that the Regional Vision Resource Base provides a very effective service that has had a significant impact on enhancing access to the curriculum and independent learning for children and young people with a visual impairment.

As the Centre continues to develop its expertise in this highly specialist area, the speed at which materials are produced is well in excess of previous models delivered at individual board level. Furthermore, the sharing of expertise, the partnerships developed and the fact that the Centre operates on a regional basis ensures that a more streamlined, equitable and informed service will continue to develop across all board areas.

It is anticipated that a similar level of funding will be available in 2014-15

to that in place for 2013-14 but this will be confirmed prior to the start of the next financial year. In regard to future years, the Chancellor of the Exchequer recently announced the 2015-16 Spending Round outcome which provided a budget for the Executive to allocate to departments in that year. It is likely to be next year before any decisions on departmental allocations for 2015-16 are agreed by the Executive.

Blind and Partially Sighted Children and Young People

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Education what consideration he has given to a cross sectoral review, in partnership with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on services to blind and partially sighted children and young people.

(AQW 25021/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: At present the Department of Education's (DE's) policy focus regarding children and young people (CYP) with a visual impairment (VI) is on implementing the policies already in place for raising standards and tackling barriers that CYP with a VI may face in fully accessing the curriculum.

To this end, DE continues to support the Royal National Institute of the Blind's (RNIB's) Vision Strategy for the north of Ireland through membership of the Vision Strategy Steering Group. This Group is made up of members from across the Health, Social Care and Education spectrums.

In practical terms, this involved the formation of four Priority Action Groups (PAGs) tasked with meeting the priorities arising from the Strategy. PAG 3 deals specifically with Education and Employment and includes representation from DE, the Department for Employment and Learning, Education and Library Boards (ELBs), Health and Social Care, the special school sector, voluntary organisations and service users.

In light of the above policy approach, I do not consider it necessary, at this stage, to undertake a cross sectoral review specifically with DHSSPS.

Young People who are Partially Sighted or Blind

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Education what consideration he has given to the introduction of a dedicated habilitation service within the education sector for young people who are partially sighted or blind.

(AQW 25022/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My response to AQW 25021/11-15 outlined my Department's current policy with regard to children and young people with a visual impairment.

At present, the Department of Education has no plans to introduce a dedicated habilitation service for children and young people with a visual impairment.

Choice of Examination Board

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education whether parents will retain the right to choose that their children continue to sit English Board GCSE's and A Levels.

(AQW 25040/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: At present, an open qualifications market operates here. This means that schools can choose the qualifications they offer to pupils. This will continue to be the case for as long as awarding organisations offer qualifications which match our curriculum and policies.

Post Primary School Area Planning

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Education what process and procedure the North Eastern Education and Library Board has employed to assess the 8000 plus responses from the public regarding Post Primary school area planning; and for his assessment of this process.

(AQW 25092/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The North Eastern Education and Library Board has confirmed that the process and procedure used to assess responses to consultations are as follows.

All individual responses to a consultation are made available to members of the Board for detailed consideration prior to the relevant Committee meeting.

Government guidelines, e.g. Cabinet Office Guidance on Consultation (August 2012), local Public Sector Guidance and best practice, are followed by the Board when considering responses to consultation.

The process includes:

- analysing each response carefully;
- having a focus on the evidence given by those submitting responses to back up arguments presented;
- ensuring there is greater emphasis on the qualitative nature of responses while noting the quantitative;
- providing a summary of who responded;
- providing a summary of the views expressed and how they link to the decision making process;
- publishing a Consultation Report to Board Members prior to Committee discussion and more widely via the Board Website.

In completing the above in respect to the Area Planning process, the North Eastern Education and Library Board has deployed an officer with expertise in consultation processes from outside its Education Department, and therefore an officer not directly involved in face to face consultation meetings or the Area Planning process, to bring internal independence to the scrutiny of responses received.

The NEELB has indicated that it is assuming the 8,000 responses you refer to are those submitted by Cambridge House Grammar School and confirmed that these will be assessed in the manner outlined above.

I am content with the approach outlined by the NEELB with regard to their consultation and assessment of responses.

Promote the Uptake of Rugby Amongst Pupils

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education what steps he is taking to promote the uptake of rugby amongst pupils at (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary schools.
(AQW 25099/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Physical Education is a compulsory Area of Learning for all pupils through Years 1-12. As with all Areas of Learning in the curriculum, delivery of PE, including the choice of which sports or games to be offered, is a matter for each school. The Department delegates as much funding as possible to schools who are best placed to make decisions on curricular delivery to meet the needs of their pupils.

Funding and Promotion of Rugby in Schools

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education what specific steps he will take to ensure that the funding and promotion of rugby in schools is equal to that of other sports.
(AQW 25100/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Physical Education is a compulsory Area of Learning within the revised curriculum for all pupils through Years 1-12. The revised curriculum which has been taught to all pupils of compulsory school age since 2009/10 provides more flexibility for teachers to make decisions on how best to interpret and combine minimum requirements to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and adapt their teaching to meet the needs of individual pupils. In line with this flexibility, the Department's policy is to delegate as much funding as possible to schools and it is up to schools to decide what is taught and how it is taught under each Area of Learning.

The decision on what sports or games are offered to pupils and the funding they wish to allocate to chosen sports or games is therefore a matter for each school.

Department for Employment and Learning

Answers to Questions

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether, in answers to written questions, he gives an answer that would be consistent if the same question was asked under a Freedom of Information request.

(AQW 24794/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): Under the Freedom of Information Act the Department is only required to provide information already held in recorded form; it does not have to create new information. However, in responding to Assembly Questions, I may supplement this information.

Jordanstown Campus of the University of Ulster: Glasgow Rangers Football Shirt and GAA Shirt

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Employment and Learning why students attending the Jordanstown campus of the University of Ulster can be asked to leave if they wear a Glasgow Rangers football shirt but not if they wear a GAA shirt.

(AQW 24802/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department provides funding to the local Higher Education Institutions for teaching and learning and research purposes. The Institutions, however, are responsible for their own policies and procedures.

My officials contacted the University of Ulster for a response. The University advised that it has no record of disciplinary action being taken against any student connected with the wearing of a sports shirt. The University also advised that it does not currently have a policy in relation to the wearing of sport shirts. However there are plans to develop a good relations policy, in conjunction with the Students Union.

As my Department has no remit in this matter, you may wish to contact the University of Ulster directly if you require further clarification.

Students who are Deaf or have Partial Hearing Loss

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many students who (i) are deaf; or (ii) have partial hearing loss attended each (a) university; and (b) Regional College, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 24812/11-15)

Dr Farry: The table below details the number of students who are deaf or hard of hearing enrolled in Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions in the academic years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12. The figures combine deaf and hard of hearing as there is no differentiation within the Higher Education datasets.

(A) INSTITUTION

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Queen's University, Belfast	61	70	40
University of Ulster	66	71	55
Stranmillis/St Mary's	10	7	3
Total	137	148	98

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency

Notes:

- 1 The latest available data are for academic year 2011/12.
- 2 The figures relate to actual student numbers.
- 3 Information on disability is collected on the basis of a student's self assessment.
- 4 HESA's disability coding frame changed in 2010/11 and therefore the figures for 2009/10 are not directly comparable with the 2010/11 and 2011/12 figures.
- 5 Due to the small numbers and potential disclosure issues, numbers for Stranmillis and St Mary's are combined.

The table below details the number of students who are deaf or hard of hearing enrolled in Northern Ireland Further Education Colleges in the academic years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12. The figures combine deaf and hard of hearing as there is no differentiation within the Further Education datasets.

(B) FE COLLEGE

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Belfast Metropolitan	127	40	36
Northern Regional	48	79	78
South Eastern Regional	77	109	88
Southern Regional	76	83	85
South West	102	75	92
North West Regional	41	52	37
Total	471	438	416

Source: Further Education Statistical Record

Notes:

- 1 The latest available data are for academic year 2011/12.
- 2 The figures relate to actual student numbers.
- 3 Information on disability is collected on the basis of a student's self assessment.

Students who are Blind or have Partial Sight Loss

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many students who (i) are blind; or (ii) have partial sight loss attended each (a) university; and (b) Regional College, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 24813/11-15)

Dr Farry: The table below details the number of students who are blind or have partial sight loss enrolled in Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions in the academic years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12. The figures combine blind and partial sight loss as there is no differentiation in the Higher Education datasets.

(A) INSTITUTION

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Queen's University, Belfast	35	34	26
University of Ulster	28	60	55

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Stranmillis/St Mary's	8	3	2
Total	71	97	83

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency

Notes:

- 6 The latest available data are for academic year 2011/12.
- 7 The figures relate to actual student numbers.
- 8 Information on disability is collected on the basis of a student's self assessment.
- 9 HESA's disability coding frame changed in 2010/11 and therefore the figures for 2009/10 are not directly comparable with the 2010/11 and 2011/12 figures. The University of Ulster also made changes to its online admission systems that may have reduced replies to the disability question in 2009/10.
10. Due to the small numbers and potential disclosure issues, numbers for Stranmillis and St Mary's are combined.

The table below details the number of students who are blind or partially sighted enrolled in Northern Ireland Further Education Colleges in the academic years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12. The figures combine blind and partial sight loss as there is no differentiation within the Further Education datasets.

(B) FE COLLEGE

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Belfast Metropolitan	110	40	41
Northern Regional	36	26	46
South Eastern Regional	52	63	43
Southern Regional	55	43	30
South West	65	59	47
North West Regional	44	58	50
Total	362	289	257

Source: Further Education Statistical Record

Notes:

- 1 The latest available data are for academic year 2011/12.
- 2 The figures relate to actual student numbers.
- 3 Information on disability is collected on the basis of a student's self assessment.

Students who are Deaf or have Partial Hearing Loss

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many students who (i) are deaf; or (ii) have partial hearing loss began their studies at each (a) university; and (b) Regional College, but did not complete them, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 24814/11-15)

Dr Farry: Data on drop-out rates for Higher Education Institutions are obtained from the Higher Education Statistics Agency, and are currently only available for new full time undergraduate entrants who fail to return to Higher Education in the following academic year. Because of the small numbers and the potential identification of individuals, data for the universities and drop outs over the last 3

years have been combined. The figures combine deaf and hard of hearing as there is no differentiation within the Higher Education datasets.

In 2010/11 there were 19 full-time undergraduate entrants who were deaf or have partial hearing loss, 12 in 2009/10 and 26 in 2008/09. Of these 57 new entrants across the 3 years of entry, 4 did not continue onto the next year of their course.

The Number of Students recorded as deaf/hard of hearing who withdrew from courses at Further Education Colleges, 2009/10 - 2011/12 is detailed below. The figures combine deaf and hard of hearing as there is no differentiation within the Further Education datasets.

FE COLLEGE

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Belfast Metropolitan	25	10	6
Northern Regional	4	5	14
South Eastern Regional	21	18	15
Southern Regional	8	15	19
South West	8	12	14
North West Regional	8	11	8
Total	74	71	76

Source: Further Education Statistical Record

Notes:

- 1) Further Education figures are for the number of individual students who have withdrawn from their programme of study before completion date.
- 2) The above data pertain to students recorded as Student Disability=3 (Deaf or Hard of Hearing)

Students who are Blind or have Partial Sight Loss

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many students who (i) are blind; or (ii) have partial sight loss began their studies at each (a) university; and (b) Regional College, but did not complete them, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 24815/11-15)

Dr Farry: Data on drop-out rates for Higher Education Institutions are obtained from the Higher Education Statistics Agency, and are only currently available for new full time undergraduate entrants who fail to return to Higher Education in the following academic year. Because of the small numbers and the potential identification of individuals, data for the universities and drop outs over the last 3 years have been combined. The figures combine blind and partially sighted as there is no differentiation within the Higher Education datasets.

In 2010/11, there were 13 full-time undergraduate entrants who were blind or partially sighted, 10 in 2009/10 and 14 in 2008/09. Of these 37 blind or partially sighted new entrants across the 3 years of entry, 4 dropped out and did not continue onto the next year of their course.

The Number of Students recorded as blind/partially sighted who withdrew from courses at Further Education Colleges 2009/10 – 2011/12 is detailed below. The figures combine blind and partially sighted as there is no differentiation within the Further Education datasets.

FE College	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Belfast Metropolitan	19	10	6
Northern Regional	7	2	10
South Eastern Regional	10	13	4
Southern Regional	4	5	6
South West	7	7	5
North West Regional	5	3	10
Total	52	40	41

Source: Further Education Statistical Record

Notes:

- 1) Further Education figures are for the number of individual students who have withdrawn from their programme of study before completion date.
- 2) The above data pertain to students recorded as Student Disability=2 (Blind or Partially Sighted)

Access to Work Scheme

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether the Access to Work scheme is available to people aged 19 years and over who have a learning disability; if so, whether this is being promoted for take-up through transition agencies; and if not, whether he will make the scheme available to all.

(AQW 24823/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department's Access to Work programme is available to all people with disabilities, including those with a learning disability, who are aged 16 or over, and who require specialist support to move into employment or are experiencing problems in work due to the nature of their disability. This includes support at interview, financial assistance with travel to work, and in-work support such as special aids and equipment or a dedicated support worker.

The Department, through its Disability Employment Service and the Employment Adviser teams in the local Jobs and Benefits Offices and Jobcentres, works closely with the transitions agencies, including the Department of Education's Special Education Team and the Transitions Officers within the Education and Library Boards and with those organisations who advocate specifically on behalf of people with learning disabilities. All of these specialist disability organisations are fully aware of the Access to Work programme and the benefits that it can offer.

North-South Higher Education Joint Working Group

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether his Department has engaged or sought to engage with the North-South Higher Education Joint Working Group.

(AQW 24849/11-15)

Dr Farry: I understand that, on 31 May 2013, the Presidents of Dundalk, Letterkenny and Sligo Institutes of Technology addressed the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement on the issue of cross-border student access to higher education.

In particular, they recommended the establishment of a North-South Higher Education Joint Working Group. The Committee supported this proposal and agreed to make recommendations to the Education Ministers in both jurisdictions.

I can confirm that my Department has not yet received any correspondence from that Committee in relation to this proposal.

Students who are Blind or have Partial Sight Loss

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many blind, or partially sighted students, achieved a third level degree or equivalent in each of the last three years.

(AQW 24859/11-15)

Dr Farry: The table below details the number of students who reported they are blind or have partial sight loss that achieved an undergraduate degree or equivalent at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions in the academic years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12.

Academic year	Number of students who are blind or have partial sight loss that achieved an undergraduate degree or equivalent
2009/10	13
2010/11	32
2011/12	23

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency

Notes:

11. The latest available data are for academic year 2011/12.
12. Figures in the tables are unrounded.
13. Information on disability is collected on the basis of a student's self assessment.
14. HESA's disability coding frame changed in 2010/11 and therefore the figures for 2009/10 are not directly comparable with the 2010/11 and 2011/12 figures.

Students who obtained Irish citizenship

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether prospective students, who have lived in Northern Ireland for three years and obtained Irish Citizenship while resident within Northern Ireland prior to their application for student finance, are eligible under Student Finance Northern Ireland guidelines to access student support.

(AQW 24953/11-15)

Dr Farry: The requirement under the Regulations is that prospective students must have been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom (UK) and Islands throughout the three year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course to be entitled to student financial support. Consequently, if prospective students, regardless of whether they have obtained Irish citizenship while in Northern Ireland or not, can comply with this residency requirement they are eligible for student support. However, if there are any restrictions placed on the student's passport or travel documents by the relevant Borders Agency, the student may not be entitled to student financial support.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

First-Time Prospective International Investor Visits

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of first-time prospective international investor visits that were made to each constituency in 2012/13.

(AQW 24616/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): In the period from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 Invest NI hosted a total of 174 first time prospective international investor visits to all Northern Ireland Parliamentary Constituency Areas (PCAs). The detail of these visits to each PCA is provided below – Table 1.

Table 1: FDI inward visits (Credible1) to NI Parliamentary Constituencies (FY 2012-13)

	Financial Year 2012/13		
	First	Repeat	Total
Belfast East	43	10	53
Belfast North	30	6	36
Belfast South	52	11	63
Belfast West	7	2	9
East Antrim	16	0	16
East Londonderry	3	0	3
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	0	0	0
Foyle	4	0	4
Lagan Valley	6	1	7
Mid Ulster	0	0	0
Newry & Armagh	2	1	3
North Antrim	4	0	4
North Down	1	0	1
South Antrim	5	0	5
South Down	1	0	1
Strangford	0	0	0
Upper Bann	0	0	0
West Tyrone	0	0	0
Total	174	31	205

Notes:

- 1) A credible visit is defined as one where Invest NI can claim to have promoted Northern Ireland and arranged a visit programme to a District Council Area or Parliamentary Constituency Areas, for a potential inward investor, who has an identifiable project proposal.
- 2) In addition to the above listed visits, Invest NI has also facilitated a number of visits by other organisations e.g. influencers, overseas governments and trade bodies, which serve to strengthen FDI & Trade links in overseas markets.

It is important to note that Invest NI does not determine the location of an inward investment project. This decision is taken by the investor. Invest NI does work closely with the company when preparing a visit programme to ensure that the locations to be visited meet their requirements and also provide the best opportunity for Invest NI to sell Northern Ireland as viable location for the company.

First-Time International Investors: Foyle Constituency

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 21912/11-15, to detail why no jobs were promoted by first-time international investors in the Foyle constituency in 2012/13.

(AQW 24618/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In the period from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 Invest NI hosted a total of four first time prospective international investor visits to the Foyle constituency. Regrettably none of these potential investors has decided to locate in the Foyle constituency or elsewhere in Northern Ireland, at this time.

The investment process undertaken by international companies is typically a lengthy and detailed process, influenced by a number of external factors. Invest NI does not publically comment on its engagement with individual companies, unless an investment is agreed and then announced. Such comment would be prejudicial to Invest NI's efforts to secure existing and future inward investment projects.

Northern Ireland competes for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) against some much larger regions and nation states. In order to maximise our presence in overseas markets, Invest NI focuses on selling Northern Ireland as a whole. It is important to clarify that location decisions are a matter for individual companies, which can take time and are the subject of considerable international competition. Recent trends have shown that investors favour reducing their risk by locating their businesses in areas where they can draw on a large pool of skilled labour and where they believe investment and cost risk will be minimised.

Invest NI continues to pursue a number of opportunities to bring investment to the Foyle constituency and the agency will continue to engage with stakeholders in the constituency, in order to maximise the local inward investment proposition.

InvestNI

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 23962/11-15, to identify each occasion when InvestNI has challenged any assisted company in regard to its non-compliance with employment legislation and to outline the action that resulted.

(AQW 24685/11-15)

Mrs Foster: No such issue of non-compliance has been drawn to Invest NI's attention.

Increases in Electricity Prices

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in relation to protecting the interests of electricity consumers, to detail the information held on the comparative increases in electricity prices by Northern Ireland Electricity and those imposed in the Republic of Ireland, in the last five years.

(AQW 24736/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department does not routinely collect or hold information of this nature.

Interconnector to Wales

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, consequent upon the sale of SONI to Eirgrid and Eirgrid owning and controlling the interconnector to Wales, how she will ensure that there will be no manipulation of the flows, which could affect the market price to the detriment of consumers.

(AQW 24737/11-15)

Mrs Foster: This is a regulatory issue, not a matter for my Department. The Single Electricity Market (SEM) Committee is the decision making authority on all SEM matters and has responsibility for ensuring that the market is operated in a non-discriminatory, fair and transparent manner.

Electricity Licences

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the protections that exist to ensure licences will not be changed or decisions made to move to all-island management of Northern Ireland Electricity/Electricity Supply Board and SONI/Eirgrid.

(AQW 24738/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Licensing matters are an issue for the Utility Regulator, not my Department. Any transactions of the nature raised in this question would require extensive consultation and examination by the Regulatory Authorities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The sector is also fully privatised and my Department has no formal remit to examine or challenge commercial investment decisions that may give rise to change in structures or ownership of companies. That said, my Department's principal objective, set out in the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, is to protect the interests of consumers and, in the event of any development of this nature, full consideration of issues would be given at the appropriate point.

Jobs Fund: Down District Council

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what percentage of jobs (i) supported; and (ii) created through the Jobs Fund were specific to the Down District Council area.
(AQW 24758/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Between 1st April 2011 and 31st March 2013, the Jobs Fund promoted a total of 5,060 jobs and created a total of 2,699 jobs. As a result of local businesses bringing forward viable projects for support, 2% of the promoted jobs and 2% of the created jobs were located within Down District Council area.

InvestNI Regional Offices

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department plans to relocate InvestNI regional offices following the proposed Review of Public Administration and boundary changes.
(AQW 24891/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI currently has 5 Regional Offices and a further 3 points of presence in satellite offices across Northern Ireland. The 5 Regional Offices are located in Omagh (West), Newry (South), Belfast (East), Londonderry (North West) and Ballymena (North East). The satellite offices are in Enniskillen, Coleraine and Craigavon. These points of presence align well with the 11 council model.

Invest NI, and indeed my Department, continue to work closely with Councils on the transfer of economic development functions under RPA.

Visa Waiver Pilot

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions she has had with the governments of the Republic of Ireland and Westminster regarding any necessary security upgrades before a visa waiver pilot is taken forward.
(AQW 24892/11-15)

Mrs Foster: This issue will be taken forward under the recently announced Economic Pact for Northern Ireland, which contains a commitment to develop a reciprocal pilot waiver scheme for the UK and Ireland.

I have previously discussed this matter with my counterparts in the Republic of Ireland Government and with Westminster through the Northern Ireland Office.

Department of the Environment

Audits by the Compliance Improvement and Review Team

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 20928/11-15, what other audits have been carried out by the Compliance Improvement and Review Team as part of its ongoing Audit Programme.
(AQW 22041/11-15)

Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment): The Compliance, Improvement and Review Team (CIRT) is a small multidisciplinary team. Its work programme involves reviews of the key systems and processes of Development Management and Development Plan within Local and Strategic Planning Divisions.

Its 2012/13 annual audit programme included work on deferred income, planning fees and decision making processes within Development Management. The Team also provided advice and guidance on compliance issues particularly in relation to fees to its operational colleagues.

Wind Turbine Schemes

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of the Environment why he is allowing wind turbine schemes to proceed, given that Eirgrid in the Republic of Ireland has already paid out 142 million euros to shut down wind turbines.

(AQW 23727/11-15)

Mr Attwood: It is my understanding that the issue you refer to relates to the curtailment of electricity productions from wind turbines on the occasion where there is too much energy is being produced at any one time for the grid to be able to accommodate.

The Executive has, through the Strategic Energy Framework, confirmed that by 2020 40% of electricity consumption should be from renewable sources. Wind farm electricity generation is the most established large-scale source of renewable energy in Northern Ireland and will continue to play a vital role in meeting the renewable energy target.

To date my Department has granted planning permission to 70 wind farm developments. This is delivering in a very significant way on the requirements set out at the highest level of government.

Gaelectric: Post-Installation Noise Surveys

Mr Wells asked the Minister of the Environment whether he is aware of the recent case in County Roscommon in the Republic of Ireland where it is alleged that Gaelectric failed to carry out post-installation noise surveys of its turbines.

(AQW 24039/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am aware of the case referred to in the AQ, but clearly it is out with the authority of the NI Government. Senior planning managers attended a meeting in early July with the CEHOG in relation to noise conditions. I have asked for an update in due course, to consider the issues identified in the Roscommon case and to discuss these matter with the industry.

Shutting Down Wind Turbines

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, given the existent climate in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, for his assessment of the impact on wind farms in Northern Ireland from Eirgrid's decision to pay in excess of 140 million Euros to shut down wind turbines.

(AQW 24147/11-15)

Mr Attwood: It is my understanding that the issue you refer to relates to the curtailment of electricity productions from wind turbines on the occasion where there is too much energy is being produced at any one time for the grid to be able to accommodate.

The Executive has, through the Strategic Energy Framework, confirmed that by 2020 40% of electricity consumption should be from renewable sources. Wind farm electricity generation is the most established large-scale source of renewable energy in Northern Ireland and will continue to play a vital role in meeting the renewable energy target.

To date my Department has granted planning permission to 70 wind farm developments. This is delivering in a very significant way on the requirements set out at the highest level of government.

Welfare Reform

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of how Welfare Reform will impact on the aims and objectives of his Department.

(AQW 24266/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Welfare Reform - in the image of the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition – will have profound, multiple negative impact on Welfare claimants in NI. There is some need to simplify welfare law and enable people to work. But this is not the primary London ambition, which is to cut the cost of welfare, failing to recognise the particular circumstance in NI with higher disability and invalidity and the very different housing matrix that prevails here.

This has an impact in a comprehensive and deeply negative way. This impacts on the life of this place and the life of all departments, including DOE.

Implementation of PPS 16

Mr Swann asked the Minister of the Environment whether the implementation of PPS 16 was supported by the results of the Oxford Economics research into forecasting tourism accommodation demand.

(AQW 24267/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The assessment of the performance and future potential of all sectors of the tourism industry in Northern Ireland is carried out by DETI and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. This includes the forecasting of tourism accommodation demand.

The research referred to in the Member's question was commissioned by DETI, and completed in 2011. There was no specific engagement with DOE officials on this research. However, the formulation of PPS 16 involved close liaison between DOE officials and officials within DETI and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board who agreed its contents prior to publication.

Permissions for Companies to Conduct Hydraulic Fracturing

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether any separate permissions, in addition to those which would normally be granted to companies with conventional oil and gas wells, are required for companies to conduct hydraulic fracturing; and if so, to provide details.

(AQW 24540/11-15)

Mr Attwood: There is an existing environmental regulatory framework for dealing with all types of developments with the potential to impact upon the environment, including conventional and unconventional oil and gas projects. The suite of regulations that will apply to specific development types will be determined on a case by case basis, appropriate to each individual operator's proposed activities, working practices and location.

I have always said that it is essential to see the fullest range of science before any decisions are taken on hydraulic fracturing. The output from scientific research will enable us to determine the adequacy of the existing regulatory framework and whether additional regulation would be required. That is how we should proceed.

I adopt an 'enhanced precautionary' approach to the issue of hydraulic fracturing. It is on the far side of water, emissions, health and other assessments that this matter could or should be considered.

Recruitment Process for Chief Executives

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the recruitment process for Chief Executives of the new councils.

(AQO 4403/11-15)

Mr Attwood: There is a need for strong leadership in the local government reform process, both in the run up to 2015 and in the years beyond, not only at a political level, but also operationally. The chief executives of the 11 newly formed councils will be critical to the success of the local government reform process. Clearly, much will be asked of those appointed, and they will need to have the experience, leadership qualities and skills required to transform local government.

Taking legal advice on this matter into account, I have decided to recruit the new council chief executives through full, open competition. I believe that this is the fairest and most effective way to fill the posts. These posts are fundamentally different to the current chief executive posts. Not only will all councils cover a geographically larger area and serve a bigger population base, but they will also deliver significant new functions and operate within a new governance and performance framework. The job specification should clearly reflect this growth, the task of building a new organisation and the transformation challenges inherent in the job.

There has been a call at political level to make these appointments as soon as possible, so the Statutory Transition Committees will be given powers in the Statutory Transition Committee Regulations, which I have laid recently, to appoint the chief executive designate for their corresponding successor councils. It is anticipated that chief executives will be in place by the end of this year, and they will then transfer across to the successor councils once they are formed in 2014.

The recruitment process will be rigorous and include assessment centre testing and interview stages. The Local Government Staff Commission will oversee the process.

Capacity Building for Councillors

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of the Environment how his Department plans to provide capacity building for councillors in relation to planning, post implementation of the Review of Public Administration.
(AQO 4404/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Planning Reform & Transfer Project Office was set up to ensure the smooth delivery of planning to local government in 2015. As part of that work, a team comprising officers from both the Department and local government has been scoping out planning-specific training /capacity building requirements for both members and all affected staff. This work has been fed into the overall local government reform training programme.

That programme comprises 2 phases to coincide with the timeline for Statutory Transition Committees and the shadow councils.

Phase 1 runs from now up to May 2014; phase 2 will run up to April 2015 when the Executive funding expires.

In parallel, consideration will also be given to the ongoing needs of councillors once planning transfers. However, any capacity building post April 2015 will have to be funded by the new councils.

Illegal Landfill Site: Campsie Area of Foyle

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the action being taken in relation to the large scale illegal landfill site recently discovered in the Campsie area of Foyle.
(AQO 4405/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Firstly, the very intensive and complex criminal investigation remains ongoing with a view to using the full force of the law to deal with alleged offenders connected with this situation. Evidence retrieved from the waste in the ground is being painstakingly analysed and its producer identified wherever possible. This information can then be used to determine where the waste should have ended up and what businesses were involved in its handling.

At present I am expecting my officials to submit a prosecution case to the PPS in the next 2 to 3 months.

The waste management facility remains closed and a number of authorisations relating to transfrontier movement of waste associated with it have been terminated.

The Department is carrying out an intensive targeted programme of water quality monitoring in the area of the illegal landfill in order to fully quantify the extent of the likely environmental harm involved and to provide a means of alerting us if the situation deteriorates. We believe that water pollution from leachate presents the most immediate risk of harm.

It is my firm intention that those who carried out these activities will be forced to pay for the mess they have created – however I remain ready to take immediate action to prevent harm to the environment or health if this becomes necessary.

Finally, I have asked the former Chief Executive of the Welsh Environment Agency, Chris Mills, to conduct a full and robust review of this incident.

International Appalachian Trail along the Ulster Way

Mr Storey asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the proposal to develop the International Appalachian Trail using the existing Ulster Way.

(AQO 4406/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I support the concept of the International Appalachian Trail (IAT) and convened a meeting earlier this year with the European Vice President of the IAT together with representatives from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and from the seven councils along the proposed route.

Officials in the Northern Ireland Environment Agency subsequently wrote to the relevant councils seeking nominees to sit on a Northern Ireland IAT Working Group. Thus far three councils have provided nominations and confirmed they are content that the route of the IAT is dual branded with the Ulster Way. I welcome the support of councils as it is clearly important that each would have a crucial role in ensuring that the standard of the IAT is appropriate to its international status.

I understand that the IAT Steering Group intends to launch the IAT at a local event in August 2013 and I welcome this positive development.

Safety at Quarries

Ms Ruane asked the Minister of the Environment when he proposes to bring forward legislation to deal specifically with safety at quarries.

(AQO 4407/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Due to issues identified to me and my own concerns, I have been addressing this matter. As outlined below, I have intervened in order to attempt to address the real risks and tragic potential of disused quarries.

Specifically, in order to decide upon the most appropriate courses of action I have met with, the Quarry Products Association to discuss the range of safety issues and their awareness raising campaigns. As a result, there was a gathering of all relevant bodies on 3 July 2013 to identify further actions and a number are now being rolled out. I have also written to district councils, confirming to them of their responsibilities and asking that they undertake a review of disused quarries, including a site inspection and risk assessment.

The review of disused quarries is expected to conclude later in the year. However, due to the ongoing risks I again wrote to the Councils recently to urge that, in the short-term, Councils identify places of highest risk and identify how to mitigate that risk.

I have also written to Arlene Foster regarding extending the role of the Health and Safety Executive. She has agreed that her officials will cooperate in developing an improved system of handover meetings to the district councils.

I have also sought advice from my planning officials on whether the Review of Old Mineral Permissions regime could be extended to make disused quarries safer, though this does not provide a means to address disused sites.

The situation is different when quarries cease to operate. When operations at a quarry cease, some responsibility for ensuring appropriate fencing and safety measuring is in place passes to district councils under the statutory nuisance regime. The Quarries (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 (as amended by Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2011) states that a quarry (worked or unworked) shall be deemed to be a statutory nuisance if it is:

- (a) not provided with an effective and properly maintained barrier so designed and constructed so as to prevent any person from accidentally falling into the quarry; and
- (b) by reason of its accessibility from a highway or place of public resort, it constitutes a danger to members of the public.

In cases where the fence is sufficient to prevent an accidental fall or where an individual has trespassed over private land to reach the quarry face, district councils are not required to take action by way of serving a notice requiring improved fencing. There may be legal limitations on all of this, which is one of the areas which may require action.

There is a regime addressing safety at operational quarries in line with current health and safety legislation. It is enforced by the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland.

This is a challenging issue – I have initiated immediate action to address immediate issues, as I develop longer term actions. This reflects my concerns and that of many others.

Sprucefield Retail Park: Bulky Goods Site

Mr Craig asked the Minister of the Environment what communication or discussions he has had with Lisburn City Council in the past month regarding his decision to re-designate Sprucefield Retail Park as a bulky goods site.

(AQO 4408/11-15)

Mr Attwood: On 11 January this year I gave advance notice of what my Department intends to adopt in relation to retailing issues with regard to the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP), subject to completion of all necessary statutory processes.

I should advise that the criteria restricting the type of goods to be sold to bulky was contained within the policy relating to Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre in the draft BMAP, published November 2004. The advance notice of January this year confirmed that restriction in relation to bulky goods.

I wrote recently to both the Right Worshipful the Mayor and the Chief Executive of the Council to clarify that I remain convinced that the proposed policy in relation to Sprucefield was faithful to planning policy and the Regional Development Strategy, informed by present economic and retail circumstances and the right approach for retail and all the town and city centres within 60 minutes driving distance of Sprucefield (including Lisburn City centre).

Planning Enforcement Notices

Mr McAleer asked the Minister of the Environment how many planning enforcement notices his Department has served on rural businesses and enterprises in the Western Division in the last five years.

(AQO 4409/11-15)

Mr Attwood: A manual count from the Planning Register has identified that from May 2008 – May 2013 (inclusive) 83 planning enforcement notices were served on rural businesses and enterprises in the Western Area Office covering the Omagh, Fermanagh, Cookstown, Strabane and Dungannon Council Areas.

Taximeters for Belfast Public Hire Drivers

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment how taximeters for Belfast Public Hire drivers will be regulated during the interim period before the legislation relating to taxi fares and taximeters is implemented.

(AQO 4410/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In response to industry concerns raised during a recent consultation, the Belfast Public Hire taximeter requirements will remain unchanged. The status quo will continue until taximeter regulations are brought forward in 2014.

Fuel Laundering

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on what his Department is doing to address fuel laundering.

(AQO 4411/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Fuel laundering is a complex issue which necessitates a considered composite response from a range of regulatory and enforcement bodies. My Department is an essential player in this. Officers from NIEA's Environmental Crime Unit (ECU) are continuing to conduct joint investigations with the PSNI and HMRC when fuel laundering plants are detected. ECU is a member of the Organised Crime Taskforce Cross Border Fuel Fraud Group and a number of key operational activities have arisen via this network. We are also running a joint campaign with the Crimestoppers charity to encourage members of the public, particularly in rural communities, to report - anonymously and therefore without fear - those who are dumping fuel waste. You may also be aware of the Department's pilot Flytipping Pilot Programme, which has been removing fuel laundered waste from participating Council areas – some 19 in total at present – at a cost to date of £527,026.15 for 1550.68 tonnes of laundered fuel waste.

These are representative of actions been taken. However, the scale of the fuel laundering/waste threat is such that all responses need to be escalated. That is why I made a bid for further monies to address, in year, the threat of these activities, why I met Minister Ford on this two weeks ago, why I hope to speak of this at the NSMC on 5 July and take forward a range of other measures so organised crime on the island is faced head on.

Cycling

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment how cycling is incorporated into planning requirements for new developments.

(AQW 24707/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I can advise that my Department has a number of mechanisms in place to ensure that cycling provision is an important consideration in determining planning applications for new developments.

In terms of planning policy – Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 13 'Transportation and Land Use' sets out my Departments commitment to incorporating cycle paths into new developments and promoting more sustainable modes of transportation.

More specifically however, Policy AMP 3 'Cycle Provision' of PPS 3 (Revised) 'Access Movement and Parking' actually states that planning permission will only be granted for development providing jobs, shopping, leisure and services (including educational and community uses) where specific needs of cyclists are taken into account.

Furthermore, Policy QD 1 'Quality in New Residential Environments' of PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' advises that all proposals for residential development will be expected to conform to a number of criteria, including the support of a movement pattern that incorporates walking and cycling.

In terms of Development plans, a number of those published more recently have identified existing as well as proposed cycle networks and, where appropriate, the key site requirements of zonings and development opportunity sites requiring the provision of cycle paths or further enhancements to the cycle network.

In addition, development plans have introduced policies which directly impact on the National Cycle Network – such as Policy OSR 1 'Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths' of the Draft Northern Area Plan 2016 which states that permission will not be granted for development proposals which would

have an adverse impact on the route, character, function or recreational value of the Ulster way, the National Cycle Network, public rights of way or permissive paths.

Gasification Facility in Maydown

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether consultation took place with neighbouring regions, such as Donegal, on the proposed gasification facility in Maydown in order to comply with EU regulations.

(AQW 24715/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Prior to the submission of a full planning application the Department carried out a scoping exercise under The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (NI) 1999 to establish the content of the required Environmental Statement.

As part of the scoping exercise the Department consulted a number expert consultees at an early stage of the process. No transboundary issues were identified. The Department therefore considered that the proposal would not have any significant effects on a neighbouring EU Member State and that transboundary consultation in this case was not required.

Waste Management Practice: Gasification Plant

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the decision of the Isle of Wight Council in June 2011 to overhaul its waste management practice in order to reduce dependence on a gasification plant.

(AQW 24716/11-15)

Mr Attwood: It is my understanding from the publically available information that the Isle of Wight's revised approach to waste management practice derived from ongoing problems since the gasification plant was retro-fitted into a small conventional incinerator plant in 2008. This particular plant's subsequent unreliability was reported to be due to the unsuccessful reuse of the flue gas cleaning system of the old incinerator in the retrofit, leading to dioxin emission levels exceeding the legal limit, and requiring it to be shut down on more than one occasion.

The Isle of Wight Council has not to my knowledge expressed any objection to gasification as a technology, and it continues to be a key element in its waste management plan. If the gasification plant were to fail completely, the Council would still have to divert a further 12,000 tonnes of waste per annum from landfill to avoid landfill tax and landfill allowance penalties of up to £2.28m in 2014/15.

The Isle of Wight's plans for reducing its dependency on the gasification plant involve activities which are already in place or about to be introduced by our own councils, including expanding the range of materials collected at kerbside, reducing residual waste collections from weekly to fortnightly and providing caddies for food waste collection. Councils in Northern Ireland have already taken the enhanced recycling which these activities generate into account in determining the quantum of residual waste which they will still have to divert from landfill.

Removal of Asbestos

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what plans his Department has to introduce by-laws for local councils governing the removal of asbestos.

(AQW 24805/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The management of asbestos as a hazardous waste is covered in Northern Ireland by the Hazardous Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.

Bye-laws affect localised areas and are not usually made by central government but by statutory bodies such as district councils, under enabling Primary powers. However, Bye-laws cannot be made in respect of matters which are already dealt with in legislation. Therefore, from an environmental perspective, because hazardous waste is already dealt with adequately under the Hazardous Waste Regulations the

Department of the Environment has no plans for to introduce bye-laws for local councils governing the removal of asbestos.

Management of Asbestos by Councils

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the adequacy of the legislation and regulations governing the management of asbestos by councils.

(AQW 24806/11-15)

Mr Attwood: There are two pieces of legislation covering the management of asbestos in Northern Ireland, The Control of Asbestos Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 and The Hazardous Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.

The Control of Asbestos Regulations are administered by the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSENI). You may wish to contact the HSENI for further information on the application of these Regulations. For ease of reference I attach web address to the HSENI Asbestos Advisory Service site, www.hseni.gov.uk/guidance/topics/asbestos.

The Hazardous Waste Regulations, which are administered by this Department, set out the regime for the control and tracking of the movement of hazardous waste, including asbestos, in Northern Ireland. Part 4 bans the mixing of hazardous waste during disposal or recovery operation or by anyone who produces, collects or transports hazardous waste. Part 5 requires documents to be completed whenever hazardous waste is removed from premises, (which includes removal from ships and removal by pipeline). The Regulations require that all hazardous waste produced in Northern Ireland must be accompanied by the appropriate documentation for transfer within the United Kingdom. Part 6 requires producers, holders, carriers, consignors and consignees to keep records, which must kept for no less than 3 years and gives the Department a right of inspection.

I am content that these environmental controls are adequate for the management of asbestos within the auspices of waste management.

North Down Coastal Paths

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the upgrades of the North Down Coastal Paths by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

(AQW 24810/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The upgrading of paths is the responsibility of the local authority which in this case is North Down Borough Council. You may therefore wish to approach North Down Borough Council directly regarding its plans to upgrade the coastal path.

I am however aware that the North Down coastal path is an important section of the Ulster Way. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency through its Natural Heritage Grant Programme provided £60,000 to North Down Borough Council between 2008 – 2010 for upgrades to two sections of the route to make them accessible for cyclists and all-ability use.

Legal Cases

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the number of legal cases, including judicial reviews, which his Department has defended since 2007; (ii) the number of these legal challenges the Department lost; and (iii) the total costs incurred by his Department on the cases which it lost.

(AQW 24825/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department has defended 125 legal cases, including judicial reviews since 2007. The number of legal challenges lost was 42. The cost incurred on cases which the Department lost was £515,521.

Business Area	Number of Cases	Cases lost	Cost of cases lost £
Department (excluding agencies)	31	7	160,207
Northern Ireland Environment Agency	46	11	82,596
Driver and Vehicle Agency	48	24	272,718
Total	125	42	515,521

Planning Guidance on Wind Turbines

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment whether planning guidance on wind turbines varies in accordance with the height of the proposed turbine; and to outline these variations.

(AQW 24873/11-15)

Mr Attwood: PPS18 'Renewable Energy' sets out my Departments planning policy in respect of renewable energy and includes specific measures in relation to wind energy development. These provisions include a requirement that this form of development should not unacceptably impact visual amenity or landscape character through the number, scale, size and siting of turbines.

These provisions within Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 apply to all wind energy development requiring planning permission, regardless of the height of the proposed turbine.

In assessing whether a particular turbine height is acceptable at a particular location the Department will on a case-by-case basis consider the individual circumstances of the overall development scheme, including the local landscape setting.

To assist with the assessment NIEA have prepared Supplementary Planning Guidance to PPS18 'Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes'. This provides broad, strategic guidance in relation to the landscape and visual impacts of wind energy across 130 landscape character areas through NI. It identifies turbine height as a key principle affecting how wind energy development may be accommodated in the landscape and advises that, in general, it is preferable for turbine height to be proportionate to landform and landcover and landform.

Where however the hub height of any proposed turbine exceeds 15 metres the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 require the Department to screen the application to determine whether full Environmental Impact Assessment is required.

Heavy Goods Vehicles: Fail Test on First Attempt

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment how many heavy goods vehicles were presented at test centres in each of the last five years; and how many of these vehicles failed the test at the first attempt.

(AQW 24875/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The number of Heavy Goods Vehicles presented at test centres for a full test in each of the last five years (1 April 2008 to 31 March 2013), together with the number that passed or failed the test, is set out in the table below.

Full Test Pass Rates for Heavy Goods Vehicles by Test Centre - 2008/09 to 2012/13

Test Centre		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Total
Armagh	Tests Conducted	1,978	2,155	2,010	2,014	1,888	10,045
	Pass	1,308	1,439	1,319	1,320	1,346	6,732
	Fail	670	716	691	694	542	3,313
	Pass %	66.1%	66.8%	65.6%	65.5%	71.3%	67.0%
	Fail %	33.9%	33.2%	34.4%	34.5%	28.7%	33.0%
	Tests Conducted	1,892	1,923	1,799	1,804	1,611	9,029
Ballymena	Pass	1,227	1,247	1,158	1,254	1,156	6,042
	Fail	665	676	641	550	455	2,987
	Pass %	64.9%	64.8%	64.4%	69.5%	71.8%	66.9%
	Fail %	35.1%	35.2%	35.6%	30.5%	28.2%	33.1%
	Tests Conducted	1,816	1,815	1,916	1,771	1,675	8,993
	Pass	1,419	1,430	1,560	1,413	1,384	7,206
Balmoral	Fail	397	385	356	358	291	1,787
	Pass %	78.1%	78.8%	81.4%	79.8%	82.6%	80.1%
	Fail %	21.9%	21.2%	18.6%	20.2%	17.4%	19.9%
	Tests Conducted	1,551	1,595	1,567	1,536	1,301	7,550
	Pass	1,008	1,099	1,049	1,042	901	5,099
	Fail	543	496	518	494	400	2,451
Coleraine	Pass %	65.0%	68.9%	66.9%	67.8%	69.3%	67.5%
	Fail %	35.0%	31.1%	33.1%	32.2%	30.7%	32.5%

Test Centre		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Total
Cookstown	Tests Conducted	2,336	2,183	2,135	1,983	1,913	10,550
	Pass	1,389	1,316	1,305	1,108	1,117	6,235
	Fail	947	867	830	875	796	4,315
	Pass %	59.5%	60.3%	61.1%	55.9%	58.4%	59.1%
	Fail %	40.5%	39.7%	38.9%	44.1%	41.6%	40.9%
	Tests Conducted	1,698	1,709	1,874	1,880	1,833	8,994
Craigavon	Pass	1,150	1,313	1,442	1,442	1,514	6,861
	Fail	548	396	432	438	319	2,133
	Pass %	67.7%	76.8%	76.9%	76.7%	82.6%	76.3%
	Fail %	32.3%	23.2%	23.1%	23.3%	17.4%	23.7%
	Tests Conducted	1,266	1,101	930	894	751	4,942
	Pass	908	747	656	603	535	3,449
Downpatrick	Fail	358	354	274	291	216	1,493
	Pass %	71.7%	67.8%	70.5%	67.4%	71.2%	69.8%
	Fail %	28.3%	32.2%	29.5%	32.6%	28.8%	30.2%
	Tests Conducted	1,368	1,418	1,447	1,476	1,319	7,028
	Pass	829	893	860	801	759	4,142
	Fail	539	525	587	675	560	2,886
Enniskillen	Pass %	60.6%	63.0%	59.4%	54.3%	57.5%	58.9%
	Fail %	39.4%	37.0%	40.6%	45.7%	42.5%	41.1%

Test Centre		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Total
Larne	Tests Conducted	1,138	1,057	1,006	966	982	5,149
	Pass	820	779	756	750	775	3,880
	Fail	318	278	250	216	207	1,269
	Pass %	72.1%	73.7%	75.1%	77.6%	78.9%	75.4%
	Fail %	27.9%	26.3%	24.9%	22.4%	21.1%	24.6%
	Tests Conducted	1,739	1,697	1,642	1,580	1,568	8,226
Lisburn	Pass	1,248	1,311	1,175	1,115	1,127	5,976
	Fail	491	386	467	465	441	2,250
	Pass %	71.8%	77.3%	71.6%	70.6%	71.9%	72.6%
	Fail %	28.2%	22.7%	28.4%	29.4%	28.1%	27.4%
	Tests Conducted	1,308	1,396	1,375	1,360	1,232	6,671
	Pass	795	831	851	772	744	3,993
Londonderry	Fail	513	565	524	588	488	2,678
	Pass %	60.8%	59.5%	61.9%	56.8%	60.4%	59.9%
	Fail %	39.2%	40.5%	38.1%	43.2%	39.6%	40.1%
	Tests Conducted	4,255	3,712	3,644	3,424	3,190	18,225
	Pass	3,137	2,810	2,703	2,609	2,470	13,729
	Fail	1,118	902	941	815	720	4,496
Mallusk	Pass %	73.7%	75.7%	74.2%	76.2%	77.4%	75.3%
	Fail %	26.3%	24.3%	25.8%	23.8%	22.6%	24.7%

Test Centre		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Total
Newry	Tests Conducted	2,400	2,489	2,630	2,688	2,638	12,845
	Pass	1,674	1,630	1,674	1,710	1,606	8,294
	Fail	726	859	956	978	1,032	4,551
	Pass %	69.8%	65.5%	63.7%	63.6%	60.9%	64.6%
	Fail %	30.3%	34.5%	36.3%	36.4%	39.1%	35.4%
	Tests Conducted	1,187	1,139	1,175	1,017	963	5,481
Newtownards	Pass	631	628	685	625	609	3,178
	Fail	556	511	490	392	354	2,303
	Pass %	53.2%	55.1%	58.3%	61.5%	63.2%	58.0%
	Fail %	46.8%	44.9%	41.7%	38.5%	36.8%	42.0%
	Tests Conducted	1,188	1,136	1,120	1,083	1,091	5,618
	Pass	733	717	708	708	718	3,584
Omagh	Fail	455	419	412	375	373	2,034
	Pass %	61.7%	63.1%	63.2%	65.4%	65.8%	63.8%
	Fail %	38.3%	36.9%	36.8%	34.6%	34.2%	36.2%
	Tests Conducted	27,120	26,525	26,270	25,476	23,955	129,346
	Pass	18,276	18,190	17,901	17,272	16,761	88,400
	Fail	8,844	8,335	8,369	8,204	7,194	40,946
Overall	Pass %	67.4%	68.6%	68.1%	67.8%	70.0%	68.3%
	Fail %	32.6%	31.4%	31.9%	32.2%	30.0%	31.7%

Source: DVA, BSP Report V4

Notes:

- 1 The above data does not include Re-Tests or FTA's.
- 2 The above data includes small numbers of repeat full tests, when re-tests were not carried out following an initial failed full test.

Driving Licence Fees

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment why the fees charged for driving licences by the DVA in Northern Ireland are higher than those charged by the DVA in the rest of the UK.

(AQW 25058/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Driving licensing fees in NI were maintained at the same level as those in GB from 2004 until October 2012, despite the cost of producing licences here being higher due to the lack of economies of scale available in GB. The gap in income resulting from maintaining fee parity was balanced by surplus funds from the UK-wide vehicle registration fee, however, the downturn in vehicles registrations ended this source of funding.

The new fees were necessary to assist with the full recovery of the costs associated with the administration of driver licensing in NI and to minimise the extent of the deficit in the fee account. This deficit has been exacerbated by falling volumes, particularly in respect of the fee paying transactions and a significant increase in costs. It should be noted that the income generated from driver licensing fees will not wholly eliminate the fee account deficit and a 'subsidy' payable by the Department will still be required.

Prior to introducing the increased driver licensing fees, the Department carried out public consultation between 14 May 2012 and 8 July 2012.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Child's Right to Social Contact to it's Father

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether a child has a right, in legislation or otherwise, to social contact with its father upon the separation of its parents; and for his assessment of the adequacy of any such provisions.

(AQW 24531/11-15)

Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): Article 9(3) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ("UNCRC") provides that State Parties must respect the right of a child who is separated from one or both parents to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis, unless it is contrary to the child's best interests.

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 does not set out specific rules on contact post-separation. However it does clearly state that, in determining any question with regard to the upbringing of the child, the court must treat the child's welfare as the paramount consideration. As the UNCRC shows, it is generally accepted that it is in a child's best interests to maintain contact with his or her non-resident parent, provided the contact is safe, and I believe that, when our courts consider applications for contact, they seek to ensure that the child has a continuing relationship with both parents. However, separation is not an easy process and difficulties can arise. My Department is currently considering how the law on contact is operating in practice, with a view to determining whether any amendments to that law are required.

Barnett Formula

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel why, in the application of the Barnett formula, there is a rebate in respect of a VAT adjustment; and whether this applies in other parts of the UK.

(AQW 24566/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I refer the Member to the HMT Statement of Funding Policy which states:

“Northern Ireland value added tax abatement: the changes to the Northern Ireland Executive’s budget determined through the Barnett Formula are abated to reflect the fact that under Section 99 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994, the Northern Ireland Executive, unlike departments in the rest of the United Kingdom, do not require provision to meet Value Added Tax expenditure since any valued added tax paid by the NIE is refunded by HM Customs and Excise.”

Top Ten Tourist Attractions in County Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the top ten tourist attractions in County Down, in terms of visitor numbers; and (ii) the number of visitors each received, in the last available year.

(AQW 24731/11-15)

Mr Wilson: This information is sourced from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency’s Visitor Attraction Survey. It is important to note that the Visitor Attraction Survey is a voluntary survey and all data presented in the report is based solely on the visitor numbers provided by attractions choosing to take part in the survey. Visitor numbers are accepted in good faith from the proprietor of the attraction.

TOP TEN COUNTY DOWN ATTRACTIONS IN TERMS OF VISITOR NUMBERS 2012

Attraction	Visitor Numbers 2012
Delamont Country Park	577,320
Dundonald International Ice Bowl	459,308
Newry Cathedral	200,000
Scrabo Country Park	180,000
The Saint Patrick Centre	91,780
Kilbroney Park	85,794
North Down Museum	69,148
Rowallane Garden	51,615
Newry and Mourne Museum	34,719
Ards Arts Centre	33,332

Branded Apparel for Non-Frontline Staff

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how much his Department has spent on branded apparel for non-frontline staff, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 24784/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Expenditure on branded apparel for non-frontline staff by my Department in each of the last three years is provided in the following table.

Financial Year	Total Expenditure (£000)
2010/11	Nil
2011/12	Nil
2012/13	6.6

Barnett Consequentials: Comprehensive Spending Review Announcement

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the Barnett consequentials of the Chancellor's recent Comprehensive Spending Review announcement.

(AQW 24808/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Chancellor's Spending Round announcement on Wednesday 26th June 2013 detailed the UK's budget for the financial year 2015-16 and provided an overall envelope for the Executive's 2015-16 Budget.

Our 2015-16 Resource DEL will be £10.2 billion, and our 2015-16 Capital DEL will be £1.1 billion.

The following table outlines the consequentials received and these were added to our agreed baseline for 2015-16 to produce the outcome above.

		£m
Resource DEL	UK Allocation	NI Consequential
Barnett Adjustments		
Education	1,453.4	48.7
Health	2,055.8	68.3
Business Innovation & Skills	-653.7	-17.4
Transport	-247.8	-8.3
CLG: Communities	-116.1	-3.9
CLG: Local Government	-2,550.2	-14.8
Home Office	-448.3	-10.8
Justice	-563.7	-17.8
Law Officers	-18.0	-0.5
Energy & Climate Change	-65.0	-0.5
Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	-139.7	-4.6
Culture Media & Sport	-58.9	-1.9
Work & Pensions	-346.7	-10.1
HM Revenue & Customs	-103.5	0.0
Treasury	-11.7	0.0
Cabinet Office	-30.1	-0.1
Single Intelligence Account	74.6	0.4
Small Departments	0.0	0.4
	-1,769.5	27.1

		£m
Resource DEL	UK Allocation	NI Consequential
Non Barnett Adjustments		
NI security		29.5
Air Passenger Duty		-2.3
Student Loan Impairments		40.5
Council Tax		1.1
		68.8
Total Adjustments		95.9
Baseline		10,070.6
NI Outcome		10,166.5

		£m
Capital DEL	UK Allocation	NI Consequential
Barnett Adjustments		
Education	1,191.0	39.9
Health	87.0	2.9
Business Innovation & Skills	2,798.0	74.3
Transport	2,007.0	67.3
CLG: Communities	1,158.7	38.6
Home Office	-75.0	-1.8
Justice	48.7	1.5
Energy & Climate Change	136.2	0.9
Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	56.6	1.9
Culture Media & Sport	-22.0	-0.7
Work & Pensions	-51.0	-1.5
HM Revenue & Customs	15.8	0.0
HM Treasury	-1.3	0.0
Cabinet Office	-6.4	0.0
Single Intelligence Account	77.0	0.4
Small Departments	0.0	0.1
	7,420.2	223.9
Non Barnett Adjustments		
NI Security		1.5
		1.5
Total Adjustments		225.4
Baseline		834.6
NI Outcome		1,060.0

Irish Bank Resolution Corporation Employees

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what actions he plans to take to protect the Irish Bank Resolution Corporation employees, based in the Belfast office, who have been advised that they will be made redundant on statutory terms on 2 August 2013.

(AQW 24834/11-15)

Mr Wilson: As outlined in my 2 July 2013 correspondence to yourself, I have written to Mr Frank Daly (Chairman, NAMA) seeking an update on the IBRC staff. Mr Daly has advised that current plans include the recruitment by Capita and NAMA of relevant existing IBRC NAMA unit staff, including those in Belfast. It is NAMA's understanding that as part of the process, Capita is examining retaining a Belfast office and that it is seeking to progress its plans with the Special Liquidator.

Mr Daly anticipates that in addition to opportunities with Capita and NAMA, the successful tenders for the new portfolio to be acquired by NAMA from the Special Liquidator towards the end of the year will create employment opportunities for current IBRC staff.

I also raised this issue with Minister Noonan when we met on 13 June 2013. He has noted my concerns and indicated that he would look into this matter. I will continue to monitor this situation closely as it develops.

Companies Involved in Blacklisting: Public Contracts

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what steps he has taken to ensure that companies involved in blacklisting are not awarded public contracts.

(AQW 24836/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I have not taken any steps to prevent companies involved in blacklisting being awarded public contracts.

The Public Contracts Regulations (2006), which govern all public procurement, permits the exclusion of contractors from contract awards on limited grounds. These require the economic operator to have been subject to a criminal conviction or a finding following a formal investigation by the NI Human Rights Commission, the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland or an Employment tribunal. There is little scope to move beyond these grounds and any attempt to do so could be subject to legal challenge.

Companies Involved in Blacklisting: Public Contracts

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what contact he has had with trades unions on strategies to ensure that companies involved in blacklisting are not awarded public contracts.

(AQW 24837/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I have not had any contact with trade unions on this matter. This is a difficult area as there is little scope to exclude such companies under current legislation.

Procurement Reform Bill: Blacklisting

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what plans he has to include blacklisting in the Procurement Reform Bill.

(AQW 24839/11-15)

Mr Wilson: There are no plans to introduce a Procurement Reform Bill in Northern Ireland.

Impact of the Proposed Welfare Budget Cap

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the impact of the proposed welfare budget cap.

(AQW 25004/11-15)

Mr Wilson: As part of the recent UK Spending Round statement for the 2015-16 year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer outlined plans to introduce a cap on welfare expenditure.

The rationale for this cap is to improve spending control, supporting fiscal consolidation and ensuring the welfare system remains affordable. A nominal cap will be set from 2015-16, and will be set over a five year forecast period.

In terms of the specifics of how the cap will operate, at this stage HM Treasury have not provided any further detail beyond what the Chancellor outlined in his Spending Round on 26 June 2013. I intend seeking clarification from HM Treasury on this matter in order that the implications for Northern Ireland can be fully assessed. I will update the Minister for Social Development and the Executive Sub Group on Welfare Reform in due course.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Dalriada Out of Hours Service in Moneymore

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the areas covered by the Dalriada Out of Hours Service in Moneymore.

(AQW 24590/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): The geographical area normally covered by the Moneymore Centre is to the west and north west of Lough Neagh and covering Moneymore, Magherafelt, Maghera, Bellaghy, Castledawson, Cookstown, Coagh, Tobermore, Stewartstown.

Dalriada Out of Hours Service in Moneymore

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what areas doctors travel from to cover the Dalriada Out of Hours Service in Moneymore.

(AQW 24591/11-15)

Mr Poots: All doctors on Dalriada Urgent Care's register are free to work in any of its Centres. There are approximately 39 doctors who generally cover the Moneymore Out of Hours Service Centre, on a 4 week rotating basis; 18 are from the Mid Ulster area and 11 come from other localities covered by Dalriada Urgent Care.

Dalriada Surgeries: Medical Equipment and Supplies

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety by what means Dalriada Surgeries are stocked with medical equipment and supplies.

(AQW 24592/11-15)

Mr Poots: Dalriada Urgent Care has a regional contract with Victoria Pharmaceuticals primarily for the supply of pre-packed and over-labelled medicines. It sources items such as multi-sticks, syringes, needles in other ways, for example, through community pharmacy.

The main items of medical equipment in surgeries and cars are –

- defibrillators purchased over time from Cardiac Services; replacement pads are obtained from Cardiac Services;
- Nebulisers, O2 monitor and blood sugar monitors purchased from medical equipment suppliers;
- Supplies such as nebuliser and oxygen masks and sample bottles obtained from Health and Social Care Business Services Organisation.

Fire and Rescue Service Applicants

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of people who (i) applied; and (ii) were appointed to the Fire and Rescue Service in each of the last three years, broken down by community background.

(AQW 24614/11-15)

Mr Poots: The table below details the number of applicants and appointees for the three calendar years 2010 to 2012.

Year	Applicants				Appointees			
	Protestant	Roman Catholic	Other	Total	Protestant	Roman Catholic	Other	Total
2010*	0	4	3	7	11	9	4	24
2011**	2764	2426	578	5768	16	13	1	30
2012	26	34	9	69	16	19	4	39

* appointments may be made in a different year(s) from when the applications were received.

** the number of applicants reflects the wholetime recruitment exercise which ran in the second half of 2011

Prisoners with Prescription Drugs of a High and Medium Risk Score

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether all prisoners that have prescription drugs of a high and medium risk score, as defined in the template on the Northern Ireland Prison Service policy document, are administered on a 'see to take' basis during their first week in custody; and if so, (i) when this commenced; and (ii) will this practice be extended beyond the first week in custody.

(AQW 24648/11-15)

Mr Poots: Within the Northern Ireland Prison Service, in line with the "In Possession Policy", which has been operated by the South Eastern HSC Trust since November 2010, all prisoners are assessed, by means of 'In Possession' (IP) Risk Assessments, on their suitability for storing and taking their own prescribed medication within one week of committal.

If the outcome of the Risk Assessments is that prisoners are assessed as IP, the position should be reviewed at least annually. If the outcome is that prisoners are not suitable for IP, medications will be given as supervised administration (known as supervised swallow). This will be extended beyond the first week in custody and reviewed after one month or when a trigger factor occurs. Trigger points include, overdose incidents; if a prisoner found hoarding or trading medication; and deteriorating mental health.

People Requiring Nursing Care

Mr Milne asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, over the last three months, how many people in each Health and Social Care Trust area, who had been assessed as requiring residential care, have been reassessed as requiring nursing care.

(AQW 24682/11-15)

Mr Poots: The following table is based on information provided by each HSC trust and details the number of people, across all programmes of care, in their area who were in residential care who have been reassessed as requiring nursing care in the last 3 months:

Belfast HSC Trust	4
Western HSC Trust	33
Southern HSC Trust	18
South Eastern HSC Trust	24
Northern HSC Trust	50

Adoption of Project Bank Accounts

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in order to facilitate proper payments to contractors, sub contractors and suppliers, for an update on the adoption of Project Bank Accounts as good practice within his Department.

(AQW 24698/11-15)

- **Mr Poots:** The Health Estates Investment Group of the Department will implement the agreed strategy for the use of Project Bank Accounts in line with the guidance currently being produced by the Department of Finance and Personnel's Central Procurement Directorate.

Legal Cases

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of legal cases, including judicial reviews, which his Department has defended since 2007; (ii) the number of these legal challenges the Department lost; and (iii) the total costs incurred by his Department on the cases which it lost.

(AQW 24824/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Drug Abuse from Legal Drugs

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he plans to amend legislation to ensure the opportunity for drug abuse from legal drugs is reduced.

(AQW 24832/11-15)

Mr Poots: Within the UK the relevant legislation governing medicines is the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 and, in some cases, the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. These are reserved matters for the Government at Westminster to lead on in consultation with the devolved administrations. This is important as it is vital to have a consistency of approach and message across the UK.

Following approaches from various departments, including DHSSPS, the UK Government enacted legislation to amend the Misuse of Drugs Act to incorporate a new classification for placing new drugs otherwise known as 'legal highs' under temporary control for up to 12 months.

Injuries Sustained at Bonfires

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people (i) were walk-ins at; and (ii) were brought by ambulance to Accident and Emergency departments as a result of injuries sustained at bonfires, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 24850/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of people that (i) were walk-ins at; and (ii) were brought by ambulance to Accident and Emergency departments as a result of injuries sustained at bonfires is not currently available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Ambulance Service and Fire and Rescue Service Call-Outs to Incidents at Bonfires

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for a breakdown of the (i) Ambulance Service; and (ii) Fire and Rescue Service call-outs to incidents at bonfires in each of the last three years.

(AQW 24851/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) Information on the number of Ambulance Service call-outs to incidents at bonfires is not available.
- (ii) The number of call-outs to incidents at bonfires made by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) in each of the last three years is given in the table below:

Year	No. of call-outs to incidents at bonfires ¹
2010/11	586
2011/12	380
2012/13	303

Source: Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS)

- 1 Relates to the number of calls which resulted in a NIFRS vehicle being dispatched, and which were subsequently classified as a 'bonfire' incident

Establishment of a Personality Disorder Unit

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety where the £3 million funding, secured under his predecessor for the establishment of a personality disorder unit, has been spent; and what services are being funded.

(AQW 24853/11-15)

Mr Poots: In the last Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) £1.1m was allocated for the development of Personality Disorder services. Due to budgetary pressures, this was less than the anticipated investment to underpin the Northern Ireland Personality Disorder Strategy 'Personality Disorder: A Diagnosis for Inclusion' (June 2010).

The £1.1M has been used to progress work in the following areas:

- Development of community-based Personality Disorders services across the Region;
- Development of a regional clinical network to share services, skills and expertise, including PBNI and Prison Health;
- Development of a training strategy, with a particular focus on raising the capacity of primary care and other mainstream services to meet the needs of the Personality Disorder population;
- Adoption of recovery principles which allow service users and carers to protect their own mental health and offer peer support, education and training;
- Joint training with Forensic services, where appropriate; and
- Development of an Integrated Care Pathway based on NICE Guidelines.

Scoliosis Surgery: Waiting List

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people are on the waiting list for scoliosis surgery; and what is the waiting time from referral to operation.

(AQW 24867/11-15)

Mr Poots: There were 41 patients waiting for surgery to treat scoliosis of the spine at the 31st March 2013, the most recent quarter for which official statistics are available.

Northern Ireland reports hospital waiting times on the basis of outpatient, inpatient and diagnostic waiting times, not waiting times from referral to treatment.

At the 31st March 2013, the average inpatient waiting time for surgery to treat scoliosis of the spine, measured from the date the decision to admit was taken, was 40.8 weeks.

It should be noted that inpatient waiting time information is collected on the basis of the type of procedure the patient is waiting for, rather than the condition that the patient is diagnosed with. Procedures used for treatment of scoliosis of the spine were identified using the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys tabular list of operations and procedures (OPCS-4) codes V41–Instrumental correction of deformity of spine and V42 – Other correction of deformity of spine. The figures in the answer refer to intended procedures only.

Health and Social Care Trusts: Changes to Goods Sold in Emergency Department Vending Machines

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he plans to advise Health and Social Care Trusts on changes to the goods sold in vending machines in Emergency Departments, given the high-sugar and high-calorie content of the products normally on sale.

(AQW 24868/11-15)

Mr Poots: Vending machines on Health and Social Care Trust premises offer a variety of choices for visitors and staff as well as patients. The options include bottled water, hot and cold beverages and low-calorie or sugar-free products, as well as those with high sugar content.

Nutrition provided in health and social care facilities is kept under review and in that context the Public Health Agency (PHA) has advised that action on vending machines is being taken forward as part of a wider initiative to improve the availability and encourage uptake of healthier choices provided for staff and visitors within health and social care catering facilities across Northern Ireland.

Study of Prostate Cancer

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department has spent on the study of prostate cancer in each of the last five years.

(AQW 24874/11-15)

Mr Poots: The table below shows the annual funding allocated directly for prostate cancer research from the regional Health and Social Care R&D Fund, managed by the HSC R&D Division, Public Health Agency. Funding comprises both support for research projects and support for staff to undertake clinical trials of potentially beneficial new treatments. Prostate cancer trials account for some 15% of all cancer trials activity so the sum included in the table represents 15% of the total HSC R&D allocation for cancer trials.

This allocation of monies has levered into NI significant additional investment from other sources that include charities, government and private sector. Those additional funds are not included in the table.

Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total
Total £	138,210	245,435	294,039	237,895	280,602	292,959	1,489,139

FPL Stock Accounting Issues Letter

Mr McClarty asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when he first became aware of the (i) content of the letter, under the heading “FPL stock accounting issues” dated 7 March 2013 and emailed from the Business Services Organisation’s Finance Director to his Department’s Senior Responsible Officer/Deputy Secretary; and (ii) the New Risk No 17 added to the Business

Services Organisation's Corporate Risk Register on 30 January 2013 with a risk classification of "extreme"; and by which date will the Finance Procurement and Logistics solution be fully implemented.
(AQW 24888/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Departmental staff are aware of the content of the letter relating to 'FPL stock accounting issues' and the addition of the new Risk No 17 added to the BSO's Corporate Risk Register. Whilst the specific content of the above correspondence has not been brought to my attention, I am aware of the problems that have been experienced during the implementation of the FPL system and the measures being taken to address them.

The final phase of implementation of the FPL system is expected to be completed in September 2013, with the implementation of shared services to follow.

Scoliosis Clinic: Urgent Appointments

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what criteria is used to decide who gets an urgent appointment at the scoliosis clinic.

(AQW 24889/11-15)

Mr Poots: A patient will be offered an urgent appointment at a scoliosis clinic if they have a noted respiratory compromise due to scoliosis, if they have a noted neurological interference due to scoliosis or if the referral is a consultant tertiary referral for urgent appointment at a scoliosis clinic.

Health and Social Care Trust Area: People Treated for Drug Abuse

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people in each Health and Social Care Trust area were treated for drug abuse in the last twelve months, broken down by age.

(AQW 24898/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of people who were treated for drug abuse is published on the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety website. The latest published information is for 2011/12 and can be found at the following weblink:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/dmd_bulletin_2011-12.pdf

Future Needs and Wishes of People with a Learning Disability and their Family Carers

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how he will ensure that robust arrangements are in place so that the future needs and wishes of people with a learning disability and their family carers are (i) identified at the earliest possible stage; (ii) planned for; and (iii) delivered when required.

(AQW 24901/11-15)

Mr Poots: The needs of individuals (both adults and children) with learning disabilities, their families and carers will vary throughout the life of the individual and may involve many agencies, including a range of statutory, independent and voluntary sector organisations.

Individuals with learning disabilities may also have associated physical, sensory, mobility, emotional and personal care needs. For health and social care services, they have a right of access to primary, emergency and elective healthcare services in the same way as any other citizen. Programmes are in place to enhance access to primary health care services for people with disabilities, including annual health checks, and employment of health facilitators in the community.

I recognise the importance of early intervention, especially for children with learning disabilities. Most of these services are planned for through Children's Services Planning arrangements, and integrated working is promoted through the Children's and Young People's Strategic Partnership. However, I

recognise that more can always be done, to enhance early years support for children with learning disabilities and manage transitions better.

It is intended to amend the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 to require Health and Social Care Trusts to ascertain the wishes and feelings of children in need in their area in connection with decisions about the provision of services to them to safeguard them and promote their welfare. Trusts will also be required to give due consideration to the wishes and feelings expressed by children in need in these circumstances. This will be done by way of the Adoption and Children Bill, which I intend to introduce in the Assembly in 2014.

Individual care plans and regular review of these plans are the best way to promote effective service delivery to meet assessed needs. Carers are also entitled to a carers assessment. I expect that succession planning for the care of loved ones to be part of these processes.

Self-Directed Support or Individual Budgets

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans he has to introduce self-directed support or individual budgets.

(AQW 24904/11-15)

Mr Poots: Self-directed support is currently being widely rolled out in Northern Ireland - by way of Direct Payments. This is where a HSC Trust provides an individual with a cash payment, in lieu of social care services, which they can use to purchase the necessary support to meet their assessed needs. Access to Direct Payments as a means of delivering social services in Northern Ireland has been available since 1996.

HSC Trusts continue to explore new and innovative ways of providing personalised support to individuals and carers. A personalised budget (or "personal budget") is another way of delivering self-directed support, a concept which has been piloted in the Southern Trust. A personalised budget is an amount of money that is identified and allocated to meet the assessed needs of a particular individual; the money is retained by the Trust, but the service user will be told the amount available, and can direct how the money will be spent and what type of services will be purchased.

Additionally, the HSC Board, in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, is in the process of planning the roll-out of personal budgets across the region. Intended Measurements of Success of the project include: by March 2015, 100% of those eligible for a social care service will have a record of their personal budget, and 20% of those individuals in receipt of a social care service will access some form of self-directed support i.e. Direct Payments, a managed budget or mixed provision.

Castledearg Ambulance Station: Entrance Road and Abutting Entrance

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has any plans to improve (i) the entrance road and abutting entrance walls to Castledearg Ambulance station; and (ii) the overall state of the grounds to the old hospital site; and whether he has any plans to deal with the issue of dumping taking place at this site.

(AQW 24932/11-15)

Mr Poots: The old Derg Hospital site is owned by my Department; however, it is maintained on our behalf by the Western Health and Social Care Trust (the Trust). The Trust carried out remedial works to the entrance road to Castledearg Ambulance station in 2012. Recently, the Trust as part of its ongoing maintenance, reviewed the condition of road and walls and plans to carry out the necessary repairs to the damaged section of wall and also the road surface by autumn this year.

The grounds of the old Derg hospital site are maintained in line with the rest of the Trust's estate with grass around the ambulance station being regularly cut during the growing season. This is currently being reviewed to determine how the visual amenity of the grounds on the rest of the site could be improved. The Trust is aware of the issue of illegal dumping and is continuing to monitor the situation to determine appropriate measures to prevent reoccurrence.

Enforcement of Tobacco Control

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of full time equivalent staff who work on the enforcement of tobacco control in (i) his Department; (ii) the Health and Social Care Board; (iii) the Public Health Agency; and (iv) each district council.

(AQW 24933/11-15)

Mr Poots: In Northern Ireland, district councils have sole responsibility for the enforcement of tobacco control legislation. No other staff in my Department, the Public Health Agency or the Health and Social Care Board have responsibility for this area of work.

My Department, through the Public Health Agency, provides funding for 12 Tobacco Control Officer posts in Northern Ireland. These officers are responsible for co-ordinating tobacco control enforcement activity across all 26 district councils. To assist the work of the Tobacco Control Officers, district council based Environmental Health Officers occasionally undertake certain duties in relation to tobacco enforcement. However, information on the amount of time spent on such duties is not available.

Urgent Respite Care Places Available in the Carrickfergus Area

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of urgent respite care places available in the Carrickfergus area on a weekly basis; and how many spaces were available in each of the last four weeks.

(AQW 24948/11-15)

Mr Poots: This information is not held centrally and was therefore requested from the Northern Health and Social (HSC) Trust. Their response is provided below.

Children's Services

There are no dedicated respite places for urgent or emergency situations and there have been no requests for such a place within the four week period preceding the 5th July 2013.

Adult Services

Respite care is normally provided on a planned basis within Adult Learning Disability service, with 6 dedicated residential respite beds (Ellis Court Respite Service) and 2 dedicated nursing respite beds (Castlevue Nursing Home) in the Carrickfergus area.

Should the need arise for any emergency respite care, colleagues from the Multi-Disciplinary Team would firstly check with already established Northern HSC Trust services for availability, if not available then the Trust would spot purchase a residential or nursing bed.

Adopted Children

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many children have been adopted in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 24976/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is assumed that the question refers to the number of children adopted from care in each of the last ten years.

The number of children adopted from care in Northern Ireland can be found in the statistical bulletin 'The Adoption of Looked After Children in Northern Ireland.' This publication was produced biennially from 2002 to 2012. It will now be available on an annual basis and can be found on the Department's website at the following link:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/children_statistics/statistics_and_research-cib_adoption.htm

Adoptive and Foster Parents

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people were registered as potential (i) adoptive; and (ii) foster parents in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 24978/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- i Information is not centrally available on the number of people registered as potential adoptive parents in each of the last ten years, nor could this information be sourced from Health and Social Care Trusts due to disproportionate costs. The nearest available figures to those requested are detailed below for your information.

The number of people who have successfully completed an assessment and been approved as an adoptive carer in each of the last three years is detailed in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE UNDER GONE AN ASSESSMENT AND BEEN APPROVED AS AN ADOPTIVE CARER DURING YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH

Year	No. Approved as an Adoptive Carer
2011	88
2012	113
2013	119

Source: Health and Social Care Board Delegated Statutory Functions Corporate Parenting Returns

Note: These figures have not been validated by DHSSPS. Figures for 2012 and 2013 include those approved for inter-country adoption. Figures for 2013 are provisional and potentially subject to change.

- ii. This information could not be sourced from Health and Social Care Trusts due to disproportionate costs. Figures are centrally available for the number of registered foster parents at 31 March in each of the last three years. These figures are detailed in Table 2.

TABLE 2: THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE REGISTERED AS A FOSTER PARENT AT 31 MARCH

Year	No. Registered as a Foster Carer
2011	1,969
2012	2,010
2013	2,125

Source: Health and Social Care Board Delegated Statutory Functions Corporate Parenting Returns

Note: These figures have not been validated by DHSSPS. Figures for 2013 are provisional and potentially subject to change.

Fostered Children

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many children were fostered in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 24980/11-15)

Mr Poots: The number of children fostered at 31 March in each of the last ten years can be found in the publications 'Children's Social Care Statistics' (Table 3.6) and 'Children Order Statistical Tables' (Table 3.3) available on the Department's website at the following link:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/children_statistics/stats-cib-children_order.htm

Treatment of Diabetic Macula Oedema

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has any plans to make Ranibizumab available to qualifying patients for the treatment of diabetic macula oedema, given its proven effectiveness and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence recommendation.

(AQW 24994/11-15)

Mr Poots: NICE Technology Appraisal TA274 on ranibizumab for treating diabetic macular oedema was endorsed by my Department in March 2013. The HSC Board are currently developing a Service Notification which will detail arrangements for implementing the guidance. Once this Service Notification has been agreed, it will represent my Department's formal policy position on implementation.

Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether resources are available to meet the extra demand on the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority for the reviews and inspections due to the increased number of private care homes resulting from Transforming Your Care.

(AQW 24995/11-15)

Mr Poots: The principal source of funding for the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) is grant-in-aid paid by my Department. If any shift in Departmental policy leads to a requirement for more resources to meet the demand for reviews and inspection, RQIA would seek additional funding from the Department by way of a suitable Business Case and it would be considered according to guidance from the Northern Ireland Guide to Expenditure and Appraisal.

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Contingency Plans: Complete Tubing System Failure for the Delivery of Blood

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what contingency plans are in place in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust in the event of a complete tubing system failure for the delivery of blood; and who is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the tubing system.

(AQW 25006/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust has advised that the pneumatic tube system is not used for the delivery of blood for transfusion, but is used to send blood samples for cross-matching and typing in order to determine what blood or blood products can be issued.

It is used for urgent samples, but samples that have been difficult to obtain and where it may be difficult to obtain further samples eg from young children or babies, are normally hand delivered by porters. This method of delivery is also used as the contingency back up when the pneumatic tube system is out of order.

The contract for repair and maintenance of the pneumatic tube system was awarded to Sumetzberger Ireland (Phil-Tec) for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2014.

Accident and Emergency Department at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust has provided (i) changing facilities for Band 1 PCSS staff; and (ii) a work base for porters in the new Accident and Emergency department at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

(AQW 25007/11-15)

Mr Poots: The design ethos behind the new Critical Care Building at the Royal Victoria Hospital is to create a multi-disciplinary working environment throughout it. Multi-disciplinary teams including the Patient and Client Support staff (PCSS) who are based in the Emergency Department will share changing accommodation within the building with other disciplines.

A multi disciplinary office which porters will access has been provided adjacent to the ambulance entrance to the Emergency Department.

Older Peoples' Nursing or Residential Care Homes

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list the enforcement actions taken against older peoples' nursing or residential care homes by the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority in (i) 2011; (ii) 2012; and (iii) 2013.

(AQW 25023/11-15)

Mr Poots: Details of enforcements actions taken by Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) are published on the RQIA website.

Enforcement activity from April 2011 to March 2012 is published on Pages 32-35 of the RQIA Annual Report and Accounts 2011/12 which may be found at:

http://www.rqia.org.uk/cms_resources/Annual%20Report%202011-12%20Published%20Version.pdf

Enforcement activity on 2012/13 is available on the RQIA website at: http://www.rqia.org.uk/inspections/enforcement_activity.cfm. This will be collated in the RQIA Annual Report and Accounts 2012/13 when it is published in August.

Flexi-Care Scheme in Western Health and Social Care Trust

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why the Flexi-Care scheme in Western Health and Social Care Trust has been cancelled; and what measures he will put in place to ensure that carers are afforded respite.

(AQW 25073/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Western HSC Trust have advised that a range of low-intensity support services are provided in partnership with the voluntary and independent sector through the Flexicare service. This is funded on a recurring basis and there are agreed volumes of service to be provided each year, specified within each service level agreement.

During 2012, the Trust in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) was able to extend the Flexicare model as part of its tackling poverty and social exclusion agenda, particularly for clients in rural areas.

This was a time-limited extension and funding for this programme came to an end on 1st April 2013 and the initiative is currently being evaluated.

The Trust continues to provide Flexicare from its recurrently funded budget without any reduction in service volumes.

Construction of Wind Turbines

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what assurances he can give that wind turbines are constructed and located following established guidance and best practice there is no possibility of risk to the health of the local population.

(AQW 25140/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department has no role in respect of the construction and location of wind turbines.

The Public Health Agency is regularly asked by the Planning Service to comment on potential health effects of proposed wind turbine development. This response will often depend on the specific details of the proposed development. However, in general, the view of the Public Health Agency is that, provided established guidance and best practice in relation to placement of wind turbines and mitigation measures is undertaken, there is minimal to no risk to the health of the population associated with such facilities.

Department of Justice

Follow Up Checks by the Personnel Governor at Maghaberry Prison and the Northern Ireland Prison Service Welfare Officer

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 23174/11-15 (i) to explain the disparity between the answer relating to follow up checks conducted by the Personnel Governor at Maghaberry Prison and the Northern Ireland Prison Service Welfare Officer on the female nursing officer who found 'Mr C' and Issue of Concern number (32), highlighted by the Prisoner Ombudsman; (ii) why a hot de-brief did not take place as highlighted at Issue of Concern number (31); and (iii) whether a cold de-brief took place, including the date, and if not, to outline the reasons for this.

(AQW 24196/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice):

- (i) The response to AQW/23174/1 1-15 relates to follow up checks that were conducted with a male officer who found Mr C. There are no records of either of the two nursing officers involved in the incident having been subsequently absent from work.
- (ii) A hot de-brief did not take place as the seriousness of Mr C's medical condition was not known at the time of the incident.
- (iii) Once the seriousness of Mr C's medical condition was confirmed, a cold de brief was scheduled. This cold de brief was held on Tuesday 13 March 2012 and the minutes were shared with the Prisoner Ombudsman's Office.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Annual Report

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to explain the disparity between AQW 24026/11-15 and the 2009/10 Northern Ireland Prison Service Annual Report which states, 'From April 2009 all acts of self harm however minor are centrally collated in order to identify patterns and trends', and to clarify if this practice has ceased, and if so, from what date.

(AQW 24598/11-15)

Mr Ford: Electronic records have been examined and discussions held with current NIPS staff. This has clarified that NIPS did not centrally collate all acts of self harm however minor to identify patterns and trends before 2010. The central collation of the information is ongoing.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) if support mechanisms, as recommended by the NI Prisoner Ombudsman, are in place for Northern Ireland Prison Service staff affected by deaths or near deaths in custody; (ii) when these mechanisms were implemented in each prison; and (iii) the responsibility for ensuring such support is in place.

(AQW 24687/11-15)

Mr Ford: Support mechanisms are in place for staff who have been affected by deaths or near deaths in custody. Carecall have been responsible for providing the counselling service to the Northern Ireland Prison Service since 1 July 2006. From November 2002 until Carecall took over responsibility, Trauma Management Recovery provided an independent counselling service for staff provided. In addition, at any time following an incident staff can discuss any concerns they have with their Line Manager, Personnel Manager, local Personnel Units and Staff Welfare.

These systems have been in place in each prison establishment for a number of years and the Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Policy/Standard Operating Procedure highlights a hot de-brief as a relevant time to identify whether staff require specific support.

The Governing Governor has overall responsibility for ensuring this support is in place in his establishment.

Adoption of Project Bank Accounts

Mr McGlone asked Minister of Justice, in order to facilitate proper payments to contractors, sub contractors and suppliers, for an update on the adoption of Project Bank Accounts as good practice within his Department.

(AQW 24706/11-15)

Mr Ford: On 8 January 2013, the Minister of Finance and Personnel announced that Project Bank Accounts (PBAs) would be introduced to projects awarded by Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) that have a construction value in excess of £1 million and which contain a significant subcontracting element.

CPD is finalising guidance which details how PBAs will be implemented within projects awarded by it. PBAs are now being included in projects which are suitable for their adoption and which are led by CPD.

Northern Ireland Police Fund: Staff

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Justice to explain why the Northern Ireland Police Fund has recently employed additional staff when services have been cut due to 'austerity measures'.

(AQW 24709/11-15)

Mr Ford: I have been advised by the Northern Ireland Police Fund (NIPF) that there is no correlation between the past requirement for efficiency savings and the recent engagement of one member of staff on a temporary basis. The purpose of this short term specialist post is to enhance governance arrangements and support the Fund in ensuring that its business objectives, including the provision of client services, can be achieved and that the Fund has proper procedures in place which will help secure future funding streams.

Northern Ireland Police Fund: Additional Wage Bill

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Justice whether the additional wage bill is being deducted from the grant provided to the Northern Ireland Police Fund by his Department.

(AQW 24710/11-15)

Mr Ford: My Department does not make any deductions from the grant funding to Northern Ireland Police Fund in respect of any salaries and wages.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Annual Reports and Accounts

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 24026/11-15, (i) if he will revise his answer given that Appendix 7 of the Northern Ireland Prison Service Annual Reports and Accounts, up to and including 2009-2010, details statistics pertaining to incidents of self harm, Prisoners at Risk and Supporting Prisoners at Risk processes opened and deaths by suicide; (ii) to provide an explanation for the disparity in his answer and; (iii) to demonstrate, by collating such information, how there would be a disproportionate cost.

(AQW 24711/11-15)

Mr Ford: A revision of AQW 24026/11-15 is not necessary.

As stated in AQW 24026/11-15 electronic records began in 2010. To provide the breakdown of the information requested from January 2008 to 2010 would require a manual check of the records of all prisoners who self harmed or committed an act of suicide or attempted suicide, to determine whether they were under the SPAR process at the time.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Questions for Written Answer

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 23884/11-15, whether Northern Ireland Prison Service staff conducted a review of all responses to Questions for Written Answer prior to answer. and if not, to outline the reason why checks for relevance and accuracy were not carried out. **(AQW 24725/11-15)**

Mr Ford: NIPS staff did not conduct a review of all responses to Questions for Written Answer. Checking each of the 1438 answered during the current and previous assembly mandate could only be provided at a disproportionate cost

Northern Ireland Prison Service: High Court Challenges

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice for a breakdown of the costs incurred by the Northern Ireland Prison Service in relation to the matter of James Clyde Reilly and his subsequent High Court challenge.

(AQW 24762/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service is not as yet in receipt of a bill of costs for the Judicial Review challenge taken by James Clyde Reilly.

Hydebank Young Offenders Centre: Incidents of Allegations

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to outline any incidents and/or allegations against the prisoner during time spent in sentenced and remand custody at Hydebank Young Offenders Centre since his committal in December 2012.

(AQW 24763/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Information requested is sensitive personal data as defined at Section 2 of the Data Protection Act 1998. To provide this information would constitute a breach of the data subject's rights under that Act and could be contrary to the first, second and sixth data protection principles.

Prisoner Deaths in Custody

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many deaths in custody are awaiting final inquest at the Coroners Court, broken down by year of death.

(AQW 24822/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are 25 deaths recorded by the Prison Service that have a Coroner's verdict outstanding.

The table below shows the deaths recorded by the Prison Service, broken down by year.

Year	Deaths recorded by NIPS with a Coroner's Verdict outstanding.
2007	2
2008	1
2009	3*
2010	3*
2011	5*
2012	9
2013	2*

* Includes one death which occurred out of prison custody, but has been recorded by the Prison Service due to the circumstances of the death.

Legal Cases

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of legal cases, including judicial reviews, which his Department has defended since 2007; (ii) the number of these legal challenges the Department lost; and (iii) the total costs incurred by his Department on the cases which it lost.

(AQW 24826/11-15)

Mr Ford: The information requested is not readily available in the format requested and a response could only be provided by undertaking additional work at disproportionate cost.

Recent Judgement by the Court of Appeal

Mr Elliott asked Minister of Justice, following the recent judgement by the Court of Appeal, if there is any progress on how to retrieve the estimated £7.5m in outstanding fines.

(AQW 24838/11-15)

Mr Ford: My officials in the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service are working to relist the relevant Crown Court cases in the new legal term which begins in September.

In relation to Magistrates' Courts cases, officials are developing revised arrangements as outlined in the recent Divisional Court judgment.

Human Trafficking Cases

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 24361/11-15, if this answer constitutes all current human trafficking cases in the court system, including that of case number 13/049483 at Banbridge Magistrates Court; and if not to clarify (i) all cases with an element of human trafficking; and (ii) associated offences/allegations where relevant.

(AQW 24847/11-15)

Mr Ford: The answer to AQW24361/11-15 included active court cases with a human trafficking charge brought under the Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 or the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Case number 13/049483 was included in the previous answer.

Committee for Justice, Equality and Defence Report

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the Oireachtas' Committee for Justice, Equality and Defence report which recommended the criminalisation of payment for sexual services; and the implications, if any, for Northern Ireland.

(AQW 24848/11-15)

Mr Ford: This report has been prepared with regard to the particular circumstances of the Republic of Ireland. My officials will consider the contents within the context of general policy research into the law on prostitution.

I will also have opportunities to discuss such issues with the Minister of Justice and Equality, Alan Shatter TD, in the context of inter governmental meetings on criminal justice cooperation.

Branded Apparel for Non-Frontline Staff

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice how much his Department has spent on branded apparel for non-frontline staff, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 24877/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department of Justice, including its Agencies but not its arm's length bodies, has had no expenditure on branded apparel for non-frontline staff in each of the last three financial years.

Crime Related to Illegal Drug Abuse

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Justice to outline the actions his Department is taking to tackle crime related to illegal drug abuse, in particular to protect children and young adults in (i) the Foyle constituency; and (ii) the rest of Northern Ireland.

(AQW 24899/11-15)

Mr Ford: My Department is working with DHSSPS and a number of other Departments and agencies, to deliver the outcomes defined in the New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs 2011- 16. One of the key priorities identified is to address alcohol and drug –related crime. In addition alcohol and drugs issues have also been identified as key components in the Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland.

In May 2013, I launched the Strategic Framework for Reducing Offending which recognises the complexity of offending and the need to tackle offending and crime through better coordinated partnerships. My Department has commenced a series of meetings to identify opportunities to shape and influence strategies and programmes that will contribute to the Framework's key aims. This will include better targeting of programmes or interventions, to tackle behaviours such as drug misuse.

My Department and the Policing Board jointly fund Policing and Community Safety Partnerships to develop local solutions to locally identified issues. Within the Foyle constituency the Policing and Community Safety Partnership have allocated approximately £46,000 to implement a range of projects that aim to tackle drug issues within the local community which should lead to an impact on the level of crime. The majority of funded projects are diversionary in nature, targeting those at risk of offending and may address a number of issues and not solely focus on illicit drugs.

Between August 2013 and March 2014, the Derry PCSP will provide approximately £36,000 to four projects that will target 8 to 21 year olds with a range of workshops to raise awareness of illicit drug and alcohol problems and these will link to efforts to tackle other issues such as anti-social behaviour and healthy relationships. In addition the Derry PCSP secured a further £10,000 from Criminal Confiscation Receipts to deliver the 'Foyle Tackling Drugs' Campaign. This project will deliver 8 counselling sessions to 25 young or vulnerable adults and will provide training to 20 community activists to assist with their efforts to tackle drug and alcohol issues within their communities.

The Department of Justice also funds three Health Trusts, including the Western Health and Social Care Trust, to provide addiction staff in a custody environment with a view to engaging with arrested offenders who wish to tackle their illicit drug misuse problems. The aim is to address their illicit drug issues through encouraging them to engage in treatment and so reduce their need to perpetrate offences. While these projects target those over the age of 18 years they will encourage any young person to engage with suitable services.

NI Legal Services Commission

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the loss incurred by the NI Legal Services Commission due to false claims made by Ling Mo Ho (13/034412) in respect of a non-existent interpretation services company; (ii) how the fraud was discovered; and (iii) the amount that has been, or is expected to be, repaid.

(AQW 24908/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission is currently bound by reporting restrictions contained in an order made by the Trial Judge on the 7 June 2013 in relation to this case and cannot respond until those restrictions are removed.

Offences Related to Cruelty to Animals

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of people that have been sentenced for offences related to cruelty to animals, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 24936/11-15)

Mr Ford: During the period for which the most recent conviction statistics are available animal cruelty offences were prosecuted under the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 and the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

The table below gives the number of convictions for animal cruelty for the calendar years 2005 to 2009 (the latest year for which figures are currently available) and therefore predates the Welfare of Animals Act 2011.

NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS FOR ANIMAL CRUELTY, 2005-2009

Year	Number of convictions
2005	24
2006	17
2007	21
2008	17
2009	11

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

Data for 2005-2006 should not be directly compared with data from 2007 to 2009 as the data sets are sourced from different systems.

Department for Regional Development

Developments in the Strangford Constituency: Road Surety Bond

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the developments in the Strangford constituency that have a road surety bond; and for how long each has been outstanding.
(AQW 22392/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): Details of the developments in the Strangford Constituency that have a road surety bond are listed below:

Development	Date Bonds Issued
Down	
Carnglave Manor, Spa, Ballynahinch	4 October 2002
Crossgar Road, Shrigley, Killyleagh	8 June 1998
Malone Heights, Downpatrick	11 February 2004
Park Lane, Crossgar Road, Saintfield	14 September 2001
Park Lane, Crossgar Road, Saintfield	22 December 2004
Inishmore, Killyleagh	8 October 2003
Todds Hill, Saintfield	22 August 2005
Todds Hill, Saintfield	26 January 2007
Edengrove Park, Lisburn Road, Ballynahinch	8 May 2003
Edengrove Park, Lisburn Road, Ballynahinch	8 July 2005

Development	Date Bonds Issued
Chestnutt Meadows, Ballynahinch	30 May 2003
Chestnutt Meadows, Ballynahinch	18 December 2007
Chestnutt Meadows, Ballynahinch	16 November 2005
Inishmore, Killyleagh	29 April 2004
Old Coach Way, Saintfield	24 January 2012
Magheraknock Road, Ballynahinch	14 June 2010
Inishmore, Killyleagh	16 May 2007
Ballynahinch	27 January 2009
The Mill, Saintfield	23 October 2007
Alder Grange, Darragh Cross, Saintfield	15 November 2009
Riverside Road, Ballynahinch	17 December 2009
Drummond Brae, Crossgar Road, Ballynahinch	18 March 2011
41 Crossgar Road, Saintfield	21 September 2012
Strawberry Fields, Strangford	25 March 2009

Development	Date Bonds Issued
Ards	
The Willows, Stanvilla Road, Newtownards	31 December 2001
Portview Heights, Main Road, Portavogie	23 February 1993
Strangford View, Ardview Road, Killinchy	23 June 1988
Tern Park, Portaferry Road, Newtownards	4 September 1998
Teal Rocks, Portaferry Road, Newtownards	24 July 1995
Teal Rocks, Portaferry Road, Newtownards	5 November 1998
Teal Rocks, Portaferry Road, Newtownards	21 March 1996
Teal Rocks, Portaferry Road, Newtownards	15 April 1996
Teal Rocks, Portaferry Road, Newtownards	29 October 1996
Aldergrange, Manse Road, Newtownards	14 May 1996
New Court, Portavogie	31 December 2001
Portview Height, Main Road, Portavogie	4 February 1997
Saltwater Close, Stump Road, Ballywalter	23 July 1997
Stanfield Court, Newtownards	22 April 1999
The Moatlands, Victoria Road, Ballyhalbert	7 December 1998
The Moatlands, Victoria Road, Ballyhalbert	16 February 2000
Spinners Court, Railway Street, Comber	30 July 2001

Development	Date Bonds Issued
Ards	
The Beeches, Beechvale Road, Killinchy	20 April 2001
Warnocks Road, Portavogie	21 January 2002
Warnocks Road, Portavogie	7 May 2002
New Court, Portavogie	7 June 1999
Laburnum, Comber	17 June 2002
Castle Meadows, Kircubbin Road, Cloughey	19 June 2007
Warnocks Road, Portavogie	30 January 2002
Larksborough, Bowtown Road, Newtownards	29 April 2003
Bowtown Road, Newtownards	29 April 2003
Laburnum Way, Comber	21 January 2002
The Moatlands, Victoria Road, Ballyhalbert	9 February 2001
The Moatlands, Victoria Road, Ballyhalbert	2 May 2001
The Moatlands, Victoria Road, Ballyhalbert	6 June 2002
Sanctuary Cove, Cooks Brae, Kircubbin	4 December 2001
The Tides, New Road, Portavogie	20 April 2001
The Moatlands, Victoria Road, Ballyhalbert	4 October 2002
The Moatlands, Victoria Road, Ballyhalbert	1 July 2003
The Moatlands, Victoria Road, Ballyhalbert	22 December 2004
The Tides, New Road, Portavogie	14 September 2001
Castle Meadows, Kircubbin Road, Cloughey	29 April 2003
Sanctuary Cove, Cooks Brae, Kircubbin	4 October 2002
The Tides, New Road, Portavogie	21 March 2005
East Street, Newtownards	21 April 2005
East Street Court, Newtownards	24 March 2005
Hawthorne Rise, Stump Road, Ballywalter	23 March 2004
The Brambles, Stump Road, Ballywalter	21 April 2004
The Beeches, Beechvale Road, Killinchy	27 July 2004
Shore Road, Ballyhalbert	1 March 2004
Castle Meadows, Kircubbin Road, Cloughey	9 April 2004
Princetoon, Main Road, Portavogie	17 May 2004
Princetoon, Main Road, Portavogie	5 August 2005
Fox Hollows, Comber Road, Ballygowan	4 March 2005
Rubane Road, Kircubbin	22 April 2004

Development	Date Bonds Issued
Ards	
Shorelands, Main Road, Cloughey	13 August 2004
Shore Road, Ballyalbert	7 February 2007
St Andrews Point, Shore Road, Ballyhalbert	3 February 2009
Ballyhelmin, Shore Road, Ballyhalbert	22 March 2010
St Andrews Point, Ballyhalbert	13 May 2011
St Andrews Point, Ballyhalbert	16 May 2011
Shorelands, Main Road, Cloughey	17 May 2008
Sanctuary Cove, Cooks Brae, Kircubbin	26 August 2010
Whitechurch Meadows, Ballywalter	2 May 2008
Castle Meadows, Kircubbin Road, Cloughey	26 November 2010
Greyabbey Road, Ballywalter	20 September 2005
South of Judes Crescent, Newtownards	14 October 2005
Lakeview, Belfast Road, Newtownards	26 January 2008
Shorelands, Main Road, Cloughey	21 June 2012
Ardmore Manor, Belfast Road, Ballygowan	9 January 2007
Mark Street/Thomas Street, Newtownards	7 November 2008
Church Road, Kilmood	29 June 2007
Rubane Road/McKenna Road, Kircubbin	28 December 2006
Rubane Road/McKenna Road, Kircubbin	27 November 2006
Ballybarnes Meadow, Newtownards	30 January 2006
Main Street, Carrowdore	5 September 2006
New Road, Portavogie	28 March 2007
The Tides, New Road, Portavogie	4 December 2006
The Tides, New Road, Portavogie	12 February 2009
The Stables, Main Street, Carrowdore	12 October 2006
70-90 Bangor Road, Newtownards	11 July 2008
Old Belfast Road, Newtownards	12 June 2009
Quarry Road, Lisbane	29 August 2012
The Forge, Moss Road, Ballygowan	23 April 2010
Demesne Wood, Portaferry	6 February 2008
McBriar Meadow, Main Street, Carrowdore	27 November 2007
McBriar Meadow, Main Street, Carrowdore	6 November 2007
McBriar Meadow, Carrowdore	13 November 2012

Development	Date Bonds Issued
Ards	
Olivers Close, Ballygalget	19 June 2008
5 The Straits, Lisbane	16 May 2011
70-90 Bangor Road, Newtownards	25 August 2010
Lakeview, Belfast Road, Newtownards	4 August 2008
Lakeview, Belfast Road, Newtownards	11 August 2008
7A Hazelwood Lane, Lisbane	9 February 2012
Ardnalvalley Park, Ballydrain Road, Comber	3 September 2009
Ardnalvalley Park, Ballydrain Road, Comber	22 September 2009
Ardnalvalley Park, Ballydrain Road, Comber	15 March 2013
Ardnalvalley Park, Ballydrain Road, Comber	8 March 2013
Tullynagardy Road, Newtownards	15 March 2012
The Brae, Ballygowan Road, Ballygowan	9 June 2010
River Hill, Bangor Road, Newtownards	14 December 2010
North Road, Newtownards	6 March 2013
Bartleys Grange, Ballywalter	19 April 2011
5 The Straits, Lisbane	21 April 2011
Dunsy Way, Comber	26 November 2010
51 Newtownards Road, Comber	21 October 2011
Tullynagardy Road, Newtownards	25 September 2012
Tullynagardy Road, Newtownards	14 February 2013
210-218 Donaghadee Road, Newtownards	19 April 2011
Quarry Road, Lisbane	29 August 2012
Blenheim Drive, Newtownards	13 December 2011
Loch Cuan, Dakota Avenue, Newtownards	28 September 2012
The Forge, Moss Road, Ballygowan	13 February 2013

Developments in the North Down Constituency: Road Surety Bond

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the developments in the North Down constituency that have a road surety bond; and for how long each has been outstanding.

(AQW 22506/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of developments in the North Down constituency that have a road surety bond are provided in the table below:

Development Address	Developer Name	Date Bonded
The Brambles, Rathgael Road, Bangor	William McCormick	25 January 1999

Development Address	Developer Name	Date Bonded
Ashfield Manor, Bangor	Boland Reilly Homes Ltd	14 June 2006
Ballycrochan Road, Bangor	Boland Reilly Homes Ltd	04 May 2005
Upritchard Court, Bangor	Mar Properties Ltd	21 March 2002
Downshire Lane, Downshire Road Bangor	Thalassa Developments	08 October 2003
Riverwood Vale, Bangor	James McAlorum Ltd	07 February 2005
Upritchard Court/Crescent, Bangor	R & A Developments Ltd	19 May 2003
Seapark Lane, Holywood	Seapark Construction Ltd	04 February 2004
Clifton Road, 97-99 Clifton Road, Bangor	R & A Developments Ltd	30 August 2005
Upritchard Gardens, Bangor	New Quay Developments Ltd	14 June 2006
Shaftesbury, Former Bangor Dairies, Bangor	M M M Design And Build Limited	08 October 2003
Upritchard Court/Crescent, Bangor	Mar Properties Ltd	08/Jul/2005
Upritchard Court, Bangor	New Quay Developments Ltd	10 August 2006
Hanover Chase, Bangor	James G. Mc Alorum Ltd	21 December 2009
Hanover Chase, Bangor	James G. Mc Alorum Ltd	25 January 2013
Brook Lane, Rathgael Road, Bangor	Ramola Ltd	31 March 2005
Ballycrochan Road, Bangor	Boland Reilly Homes Ltd	14 June 2006
Phase 3 - Sites 78-113, Shaftesbury, Former Bangor Dairies, Bangor	M M M Design And Build Ltd	08 October 2004
Shaftesbury, Former Bangor Dairies, Bangor	M M M Design And Build Ltd	08 October 2004
Shaftesbury, Former Bangor Dairies, Bangor	Gorsfield Developments Ltd	30 August 2005
Shaftesbury, Former Bangor Dairies, Bangor	M M M Design And Build Ltd	05 March 2009
Linen Crescent/Rathgill Parade, Bangor	Hagan Homes Ltd	24 September 2007
Woodvale Gardens, Rathgael Road, Bangor	Mornington Developments Ltd	15 September 2006
Rockfield Glen, Bangor	James G. Mc Alorum Ltd	26 May 2009
Myrtle Grove, The Beeches, Bangor	James G. Mc Alorum Ltd	21 December 2009
Crawfordsburn Lane, Bangor	Miradon Developments Ltd	15 May 2012
Ballycrochan Road, Bangor	Boland Reilly Homes Ltd	29 October 2009
Ballycrochan Road, Bangor	Boland Reilly Homes Ltd	18 January 2011
Ballycrochan Road, Bangor	Boland Reilly Homes Ltd	18 January 2011
Linen Crescent, Rathgill Parade, Bangor	Hagan Homes Ltd	02 March 2010
Green Road, Conlig	Northland Developments	27 September 2010
Green Road, Conlig	Northland Developments	02 February 2011
Rathmore Road, Bangor	Simpson Developments Ltd	22 May 2012

Development Address	Developer Name	Date Bonded
Rossinver Gardens, Bangor	W J Law & Co. L L P	08 September 2010
Glendowan Way, Bangor	W J Law & Co. L L P	02 April 2012
Glendowan Way, Bangor	W J Law & Co. L L P	20 February 2013
Old Belfast Road, Bangor	Mc Closkey & O' Kane Building Company Limited	01 August 2011
Beechfield Avenue, Bangor	Dunlop Homes Ltd	06 January 2011
Beechfield Avenue, Bangor	Dunlop Homes Ltd	01 March 2012
Beechfield Avenue, Bangor	Dunlop Homes Ltd	01 March 2012
Gransha Road, Bangor	Farrans (Construction) Ltd	27 September 2011
Linen Crescent, Bangor	Hagan Homes Ltd	29 December 2011
Linen Crescent, Bangor	Hagan Homes Ltd	29 December 2011
Linen Crescent, Bangor	Hagan Homes Ltd	21 May 2012
Gibson's Lane, Bangor	Oaklee Homes Group Ltd	22 July 2010
Stonebridge Row, Green Road, Conlig	Northland Developments	31 August 2010
Rathgael Road, Bangor	Northland Developments	07 December 2010
Old Belfast Road, Bangor	Mc Closkey & O' Kane Building Company Ltd	21 November 2011
Old Belfast Road, Bangor	Mc Closkey & O' Kane Building Company Ltd	21 November 2011
Old Belfast Road, Bangor	M M M Design And Build Ltd	21 December 2011
Primacy Road, Bangor	Trinity Housing Ltd	16 July 2012
Cotswold Gardens, Donaghadee Road, Bangor	Dunlop Homes Ltd	14 August 2012
South Circular Road, Bangor	Clanmil Housing Association Ltd	26 June 2012
Rathgill Parade, Bangor	Hagan Homes Ltd	25 November 2009

Illegal Paramilitary or Terrorist Roadside Monuments

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 23391/11-15, to detail how many of the nineteen listed are (i) Republican; and (ii) Loyalist.

(AQW 24127/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's most recent assessment indicates there are nineteen illegal roadside monuments to terrorists.

Eighteen of these monuments are Republican, whilst the identity of one monument cannot be definitively determined as it is currently blank.

Parking Tickets

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 23622/11-15, to detail the other towns in which parking tickets have not been issued since the beginning of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement in 2006.

(AQW 24245/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: It is not possible to list all the towns where Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) have not been issued, however, the towns and villages where the lowest numbers of PCNs have been issued since the beginning of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement in 2006 are as follows:

Town	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Ahoghill	2		1	1	2	1	3
Airport (Aldergrove)		2			3	6	
Annalong						6	
Ardglass				5	2		
Ballinamallard		3	1			1	
Ballygowan		7	4			2	
Ballynure	1			2			
Bellaghy			2				
Broughshane		1					9
Castledawson			4	1			
Castlerock		2		2			
Clough					1		
Cullybackey			1				
Cushendall			1	2			
Doagh				1			
Donaghmore		2	3		5	1	
Dungiven			1			1	6
Ederney	1						

Town	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Glenavy	3				2		
Groomsport			1				
Hilltown		1					
Lisbellaw		1	5	4	4	4	
Maguiresbridge		2					
Pomeroy		1					
Portaferry	3	2			3	1	
Portavogie				6			
Portballintrae						4	3
Stewartstown		7	9	9			
Templepatrick				1			
Tempo		1		5			
Toome			1	2	4		

My Department must prioritise its limited Traffic Attendant resource in order to provide an effective and balanced enforcement service. Although it is not possible to cover every restriction, officials do respond where complaints or requests for enforcement are received.

Parking: 'Self-Regulation by Drivers'

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development for a definition of the term 'self-regulation by drivers' in terms of parking.

(AQW 24359/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the Member the term 'self-regulation by drivers' is intended to refer to drivers who adhere to applicable parking restrictions, irrespective of whether Traffic Attendants are in attendance to enforce against illegal parking.

Park and Ride Scheme in Donaghadee

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the action he is taking to facilitate a Park and Ride scheme in Donaghadee to encourage more people in the area to use public transport.

(AQW 24427/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: In 2011 I endorsed my Department's 'Strategic Review of Park and Ride'. The subsequent report presented recommendations for the delivery and prioritisation of Park and Ride facilities.

A Park and Ride Programme Board, with representation from Departmental Divisions, Transport NI and Translink, was established with the responsibility of co-ordinating and prioritising the implementation of Park and Ride projects.

The Programme Board compiled the 'Park and Ride Strategic Delivery Programme 2013 – 2015' which prioritised the delivery of the Park and Ride projects up to 2015.

I am conscious of the demand for Park and Ride facilities in the North Down area. The Strategic Delivery Programme for 2013 – 2015 includes proposals for increased Park and Ride facilities in the Bangor and Cultra areas of North Down. However, at present, there are no plans for a priority Park and Ride facility in Donaghadee.

Difference between Murals and Graffiti

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development how his Department decides the difference between murals and graffiti.

(AQW 24560/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I do not endorse or support the unauthorised use of my Department's property for any purpose and in this respect my Department does not make any distinction between murals and graffiti.

Magherafelt Bypass

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the proposed timescale of the commencement to completion of the Magherafelt bypass.

(AQW 24575/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the Executive has now considered my paper tabling the options for the reallocation of A5 funding to other major road projects and, I am delighted to confirm the Executive has approved the allocation of £40m for the construction of the Magherafelt Bypass.

This early decision will hopefully pave the way for construction work to begin in Autumn 2014. With a two year construction period, the new road could be open to traffic by 2016.

EU Habitats Directive: A5 Road Scheme

Mr Elliott asked the Minister for Regional Development, given the importance of an EU environmental designation, for his assessment of whether it will be possible to resolve the issues relating to the EU Habitats Directive in relation to the A5 road scheme.

(AQW 24604/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department and its advisors are currently engaging with relevant interested parties to address the environmental concerns identified during the recent legal challenge into the A5 scheme. A report to inform the Appropriate Assessment of the impacts on the River Foyle and tributaries and River Finn Special Areas of Conservation is being prepared and will be publically consulted on.

However, it is important that the outcomes of any assessment are not pre-judged and therefore I will need to see all the evidence provided in the report and the outcome of the public consultation exercise before I can make further decisions.

Location of Cycle Lanes Outside of Belfast and Derry

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the location of cycle lanes outside of (i) Belfast; and (ii) Derry.

(AQW 24652/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the Member that details of the location of cycle lanes outside Belfast and Londonderry are included in the table below

LOCATION OF CYCLE LANES OUTSIDE BELFAST AND LONDONDERRY

Council Area	Location
Lisburn City Council	Chapel Hill (out bound)
	Queensway McKinstry Road to Grand Street.
	Wallace Ave (out bound)
North Down Borough Council	A2 Tillysburn to Holywood
	Abbey Street, Bangor (Bus Station to Dufferin Avenue)
	Ballycrochan Road Bangor
	Bexley Road Bangor
	Newtownards Road Bangor (Abbey Street to Abbey Hill Drive)
	Silverbirch Road Bangor
Castlereagh Borough Council	A55 Upper Knockbreda Road
	Woodstock Road / Cregagh Road
Newtownabbey Borough Council	Bridge Rd, Newtownabbey
	O'Neill Road / Station Road
Carrickfergus Borough Council	High Street (contra flow)

Council Area	Location
Newry & Mourne District Council	Armagh Road Newry (Fiveways to Canal Street)
	Kilmorey Street Newry (Greenbank Indust Estate to River Street)
	A2 Dual Carriageway (Newry to Warrenpoint, both directions)
	Armagh Road, Newry(@ A1 dual carriageway)
	A1 Belfast Road, Newry (Corcreechy Road to Buckshill Road)
	Knockcree Avenue Kilkeel (Mourne Esplanade to Greencastle St)
	Mourne Esplanade Kilkeel (Harbour Road to Manse Road), both directions
	Sheppard's Way Newry (Armagh Road to Tandragee Road)
	Tandragee Road, Newry (at new roundabout to Carnbane Industrial Estate)
Ards Borough Council	Abbot Drive Newtownards (Movilla Road to Bowtown Road)
	Movilla Road Newtownards (Old Movilla Road to Abbott Drive)
	A20 Southern Distributor (Portaferry Road to Blair Mayne North)
	Killinchy Street Comber (Ballydrain Road to Cherryvalley Line)
	Newtownards Road Comber (Copeland Link to Darragh Road)
	A21 Dual Carriageway (Ards to Comber, Southbound)
Down District Council	Dundrum Road Newcastle (Murlough to town centre)
	Castlewellan Road Newcastle (Town Centre to Corrigs Road)
	Belfast Road Downpatrick (New Bridge Street to Business Park)
Armagh City & District Council	A28 Newry Road, (Ashley Park to Edenaveys Road Inc part of Link Road to Greenfield Drive)
	A29 Moy Road, (Ent to Spires Retail Park to Drumcairn Road inc Drumcairn Road up to Abbey Park)
	Main Street Blackwatertown, (River Blackwater to ent of PS).
	Main Street Killylea, (Ent to PS to Ent of Church of Ireland)
Banbridge District Council	Lurgan Road, Banbridge (Banbridge Academy to Seapatrik Road)

Council Area	Location
Craigavon Borough Council	A50 Gilford Road, Portadown (from 30mph signs to Moyallon PS)
	B2 Mullahead Road, Portadown (Gilford road to Knock Bridge)
	A27 Lurgan Road, Portadown (Seagoe Hotel to Batchelors Walk)
	A50 Carrickblacker Road, Portadown (advisory on both sides)
	A27 Bridge Street, Portadown (across Bann Bridge, including under bridge)
	Eastway Lurgan (from factory entrance to Ballynamoney Roundabout)
	A3 Portadown Road, Lurgan (Roundabout 1 to Old Portadown Rd)
	Pinebank, Lurgan (Roundabout 1 to Beech Path)
	A76 Lough Road, Lurgan (Silverwood Road to Railway Station)
	Portadown Bann side / towpath (Bann Bridge to Knock Bridge)
	Craigavon off road network including City Park, Kernan, Mandeville, Knockmenagh, Drumgor, Legahory, Moyraverty, Monbrief & Tullygally
Coleraine Borough Council	A2 Downhill to Millennium Bridge Coleraine
	Millennium Bridge, Coleraine
	A2 from Millennium Bridge, Coleraine to Portstewart
	A2 from Millennium Bridge to Windy Hall via Lodge Road Roundabout to Council Boundary
	C91 Mountsandel Road, Coleraine from Lodge Road Roundabout to Loughan
	A29 Atlantic Road, Coleraine from Coleraine to Ballysally Roundabout
	Lever Road/Heatherlea Avenue, Millbank Avenue, Portstewart
Coleraine Borough Council	A2 Portstewart to Portrush Black Rock
	A2 Croc-Na-Mac to Dunluce Road, Portrush
	B17 Bushmills Road Roundabout/Cloyfin Road to Coleraine
	A29 Greenmount Roundabout to U391 Dunderg Road, Macosquin
	B119 Sea Road Hezlett House to Castlerock

Council Area	Location
Limavady Borough Council	A37 Broad Road from Greystone to By-pass
	A37 Limavady By-pass Broad Road via Seacoast Roundabout to Ballykelly
	U270 Edenmore Road from 30mph Speed Limits to Greystone
	C570 Greystone Road from B68 Irish Green Street to A37 Broad Rd
	U272 Scroggy Road from Greystone to Ballyquin
	B68 Ballyquin from Scroggy Road to County Park
	A37 Limavady By-pass from Greystone to Ballykelly
	B201 Windyhill Roundabout to Dowland Road
Moyle District Council	A2 Bushmills from Diamond via Train Station along B145 Ballaghmore Road to Portballintrae
	A2 Whitepark Road, Lisnagogue Village to School
Outside Londonderry City Boundary	A5 Newbuildings from Woodside Road towards city to entrance to Derry City Council soccer pitches
	Drumahoe Road from A6 junction to Hazelbank Drive
Antrim Borough Council	A6 Randalstown/Castle Roads, Antrim from Castle Gardens to Ballygroobey Roundabout
	Newpark to Old Steeple Road, Antrim via Ballycraig Road, Greystone Road Roundabout
	Greystone Road, Carntall Gardens, Craigmore Park and Kilbride Gardens
	A26 Ballymena Road, Antrim from Kilbegs Roundabout to Townparks Roundabout
Antrim Borough Council	Staffordstown Road, Randalstown from Moneynoick Road to Mount Shalgus Lane
	B18 Roguery Road, Toomebridge from Cloghogue Road to Loughbeg Road
Ballymoney Borough Council	A26 Frosses Road, Ballymoney from 260 metres east Kirk Road to Semicock Road
	A26 Frosses Road, Ballymoney at junction with Seacon Road
	Seymour Street, Ballymoney
	Rodeing Foot, Ballymoney
	Meetinghouse Street, Ballymoney
	Armour Avenue, Ballymoney from Rodeing Foot to park entrance
	Intermediate Road, Ballymoney
	Raceview Avenue / Drive, Ballymoney

Council Area	Location
Ballymena Borough Council	A42 Broughshane Road, Ballymena from Ecos Roundabout to Knockan Road
	A42 Galgorm Road, Ballymena from Old Galgorm Road to Church Road, Gracehill
	A26 Larne Road Link, Ballymena from Larne Road to Crebilly Road
	Crebilly Road, Ballymena from Larne Road Link to Ballykeel 2
	A26 Ballee Road West, Ballymena from Ballee Roundabout to Pennybridge Industrial Estate
Larne Borough Council	A8 Belfast Road from Pound Street to Old Belfast Road
	Millbrook Roundabout

Compensation Claims for Damage to Motor Vehicles and Personal Injuries

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of compensation claims which could not be defended by the Central Claims Unit for damage to motor vehicles and personal injuries, made in the last three years, due to (i) potholes/damages missed on inspection; (ii) lack of inspections; (iii) late inspections; and (iv) poor repairs.

(AQW 24656/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The table below provides details of the number of claims for compensation payments made in each of the last three financial years, in respect of personal injury and vehicle damage, which the Department was unable to defend on the grounds that it could not raise a defence under Article 8 of the Roads (NI) Order 1993. Information as to the reasons why these claims could not be defended is not readily available in the form requested.

Year	Type of Claim	
	Personal Injury	Vehicle Damage
2010/2011	232	1,574
2011/2012	273	1,476
2012/2013	311	587

Compensation Payments: Personal Injuries and Damage to Motor Vehicles/Property

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the total amount of compensation paid out in the last three years for (a) personal injuries; and (b) damage to motor vehicles/property; and to breakdown these figures between incidents on (a) roads; and (b) footpaths.

(AQW 24658/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The information requested by the Member is not available in the form requested as my Department does not maintain details of compensation payments which distinguish between incidents which occurred on roads or footpaths.

However, details of all personal injury and vehicle / property damage compensation paid in each of the last three financial years relating to incidents on public roads as a whole, are provided in the table below:

Year	Personal Injury	Vehicle / Property Damage
2010/2011	£1,921,179.00	£408,413.02
2011/2012	£1,925,743.33	£370,451.58
2012/2013	£1,882,050.84	£188,286.22

Street Lighting in North Down: Amount Spent on Electricity

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the amount spent on electricity for street lighting in North Down, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 24691/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department does not hold such information on a constituency basis.

Payments to Contractors, Sub-Contractors and Suppliers

Mr McGlone asked Minister for Regional Development, in order to facilitate proper payments to contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers, for an update on the adoption of Project Bank Accounts as good practice within his Department.

(AQW 24704/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: On 8 January 2013 Minister Wilson announced that Project Bank Accounts (PBAs) would be introduced for contracts awarded by Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) that have a construction value in excess of £1 million and which contain a significant subcontracting element. This will apply to contracts that CPD awards for a range of government departments.

CPD is finalising guidance which details how PBAs will be implemented within such contracts.

I can confirm that my Department will examine this guidance once it issues to consider how PBAs could be used for the construction contracts we award.

Cycle Lanes: North Down Borough Council and Ards Borough Council Areas

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cycle lanes in (i) North Down Borough Council; and (ii) Ards Borough Council areas.

(AQW 24733/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of the locations of cycle lanes in the North Down Borough Council and Ards Borough Council areas are included in the table below:

LOCATION OF CYCLE LANES

Council Area	Location
North Down Borough Council	A2 Tillysburn to Holywood
	Abbey Street, Bangor (Bus Station to Dufferin Avenue)
	Ballycrochan Road Bangor
	Bexley Road Bangor
	Newtownards Road Bangor (Abbey Street to Abbey Hill Drive)
	Silverbirch Road Bangor

Council Area	Location
Ards Borough Council	Abbot Drive Newtownards (Movilla Road to Bowtown Road)
	Movilla Road Newtownards (Old Movilla Road to Abbott Drive)
	A20 Southern Distributor (Portaferry Road to Blair Mayne North)
	Killinchy Street Comber (Ballydrain Road to Cherryvalley Line)
	Newtownards Road Comber (Copeland Link to Darragh Road)
	A21 Dual Carriageway (Ards to Comber, Southbound)

Resurfacing in the Ballyhenry Area of Newtownabbey

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he plans to prioritise road resurfacing in the Ballyhenry area of Newtownabbey once funding that had been allocated to the A5 road scheme is redesignated within his budget.

(AQW 24745/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has not directly received any reallocation of A5 funding at this stage. However, it was successful in receiving additional structural maintenance funding from the June Monitoring round. Officials will now consider areas within Newtownabbey for inclusion in any programme of additional work. I can confirm my Department's current resurfacing programme for 2013-14 includes the Sandyknowes Roundabout in the Ballyhenry area of Newtownabbey.

Ballyclare Link Road

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister for Regional Development if he plans to provide financial assistance to build the Ballyclare Link Road once funding that had been allocated to the A5 road scheme is redesignated within his budget.

(AQW 24746/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Following the recent Court ruling on the A5 scheme and in accordance with financial procedures, I declared a reduced requirement of £108m in relation to the A5 allocation.

In the June monitoring round, I secured over £31m in funding for roads maintenance and for the purchase of around 80 new buses. In addition, around £40m has been agreed to enable work to start on the Magherafelt Bypass next year.

The Ballyclare Relief Road is a non-strategic road scheme connecting Templepatrick Road, Doagh Road and the Rashee Road. The project is developer-led and is primarily required to support development proposals within Ballyclare, including access to approved housing development on lands west of Ballyclare. The road scheme received planning approval in January 2011.

As the Strategic Road Improvement Programme gives priority to upgrading the strategic road network, the provision of the Ballyclare Relief Road would not be considered a high priority in the current circumstances.

Departmental Underspend

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister for Regional Development what was his departmental underspend in the last financial year.

(AQW 24756/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department had an excellent 2012-13 provisional outturn position with a Resource DEL underspend of £2.6m (0.5%) and a Capital DEL underspend of £1.2m (0.3%), comparing very favourably with other Departments and the overall NI Block position as set out in the Finance Minister's 1 July Statement to the Assembly on '2012-13 Provisional Outturn and 2013-14 June Monitoring'.

Bus Shelters in each Constituency

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of bus shelters in each constituency.

(AQW 24780/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the Member that the current contract my Department has with Adshel has delivered 1,362 bus shelters in Northern Ireland at no cost to my Department. Whilst details of the distribution of these bus shelters is not available in the form requested, details of the number of bus shelters in each Council area, are provided in the table below:

Council Area	Replacement	New Shelters		Total
		Advertising	Non- Advertising	
Belfast	216	116	151	483
Castlereagh	44	23	67	134
Newtownabbey	19	40	77	136
Antrim	12	13	24	49
Ards	12	9	15	36
Armagh	5	4	13	22
Ballymena	9	10	4	23
Ballymoney	0	5	4	9
Banbridge	7	3	1	11
Carrickfergus	4	6	17	27
Coleraine	11	5	16	32
Cookstown	5	2	1	8
Craigavon	7	12	17	36
Derry	37	8	28	73
Down	11	6	10	27
Dungannon	0	9	9	18
Fermanagh	0	0	0	0
Larne	3	2	4	9
Limavady	0	9	10	19
Lisburn	21	11	47	79
Magherafelt	4	5	4	13
Moyle	0	0	2	2
Newry & Mourne	5	6	10	21
North Down	12	19	27	58
Omagh	0	11	7	18
Strabane	4	5	10	19
Total	448	339	575	1,362

In addition, my Department maintains approximately 20 bus shelters mostly located in the Greater Belfast area which pre-date the current contract.

Other bus shelters have been provided across Northern Ireland by local Councils and Translink.

Illegal Landfill Site at Mobouy Road, Derry

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development whether the route of the A6 strategic road proposal is affected by any of the sites where the illegal landfill at Mobouy Road, Derry.

(AQW 24786/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can confirm the route of the A6 Londonderry to Dungiven dual carriageway traverses areas identified as potentially containing illegal landfill.

Illegal Landfill Site at Mobouy Road, Derry

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department was aware of the extent, scale and content of the illegal landfill uncovered at Mobouy Road, Derry when the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out as part of the A6 strategic road proposal; and whether the fact that the EIA did not identify and address the likely significant and adverse environmental effects from the landfill renders that EIA inadequate as a basis on which to allow the road scheme to proceed.

(AQW 24788/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The presence of potentially contaminated land influenced the choice of the preferred route for the scheme. The Environmental Statement, published in December 2011 and examined at the September/October 2012 Public Inquiry, comprehensively examined all known potential areas of contaminated land along the line of the new road, including the lands identified by NIEA at Mobouy Road, and details measures to reduce or eliminate those effects. I am therefore content that the risks associated with encountering contaminated land at Mobouy Road, Londonderry have been fully assessed as part of the Public Inquiry process.

Illegal Landfill Site at Mobouy Road, Derry

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development what impact the discovery of the illegal landfill site at Mobouy Road, Derry, will have on the findings of the Public Inquiry into the A6 strategic road proposal, given that this issue was not assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process and was not part of the inquiry.

(AQW 24789/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The potential for encountering contaminated land at a number of locations along the route of the proposed A6, including the lands identified by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency at Mobouy Road, was fully assessed as part of the Environmental Statement. I am therefore content the risks associated with encountering contaminated land at Mobouy Road, Londonderry have been fully assessed as part of the Public Inquiry process.

Illegal Landfill Site at Mobouy Road, Derry

Mr Agnew asked Minister for Regional Development whether he has made, or intends to make, the European Commission aware of the implications, financial or otherwise, of the discovery of the illegal landfill site at Mobouy Road, Derry, given that it is co-funding the A6 strategic road proposal.

(AQW 24790/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Design work on this section of the A6 was not co-funded by the European Commission and therefore I am not aware of any implications, financial or otherwise, that would require me to inform it of the ongoing investigation into alleged illegal dumping at Mobouy Road, Londonderry.

Northern Ireland Water: Ernst & Young

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development whether Ernst & Young has carried out any work for Northern Ireland Water since its inception in 2007; and to detail the nature and monetary value of any work.

(AQW 24829/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that between its inception in 2007 and 2010 the company has engaged Ernst & Young to carry out work to the value of £1,713,329. A further £360 was spent in 2012 in relation to a VAT conference. The total paid to Ernst & Young was £1,713,689.

Details are provided in the table below:

Date	Service Type	Total £
2007-2010	Staff Substitution	574,741
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Internal Audit Function 	42,481
2008-2009	Staff Substitution:-	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Data Quality Task Group ■ Customer Income Review 	
2007-2010	Consultancy:-	413,071
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Customer Hub ■ Business Operating Model ■ Price Control 10 ■ Tariff Modelling ■ Transformation Programme 	
2009	Customer Services Contract Transition	601,631
2008-2009	Professional Fees:-	70,905
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ VAT ■ Taxation of PILON Payments ■ Corporate Risk Workshop ■ Price Control 10 Assurance ■ Subsidy Assurance Framework 	
2008	Company Secretary Support:-	10,500
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cost Apportionment 	
2012	Conference /course Fees	360
	Total	£1,713,689

Northern Ireland Water: Ernst & Young

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) whether Ernst & Young carried out any work, on an ex gratia basis, between July 2009 and July 2010 for, or in relation to, Northern Ireland Water; (ii) for whom was any such work carried out; (iii) who was the recipient of the work; and (iv) who instructed the work to be carried out.

(AQW 24830/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that the company is only aware of one small piece of work having been carried out by Ernst & Young on an ex gratia basis between July 2009 and July 2010. It is unclear whether this was requested by the previous Chief Executive or whether it was offered voluntarily by Ernst & Young.

Quality of Wi-Fi on Translink Goldline Services

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development how the quality of Wi-Fi on Translink Goldline services compares to that on Northern Ireland Railways.

(AQW 24843/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink advise that Wi-Fi equipment on Ulsterbus Goldline and NI Railways fleets is provided and fitted by the industry leader in terms of supply in UK and Ireland.

The respective fleet types and associated equipment used are capable of providing similar levels of capacity/quality. The most significant influence on quality will be network coverage provided by the various mobile phone network providers and the extent to which mobile black spots occur across the bus and rail networks.

Rail Link to Ballycastle

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development what assessment has been made of (i) extending a rail link to Ballycastle; and (ii) the tourism benefits this could bring.

(AQW 24910/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: No assessment has been made by my Department of the feasibility of extending a rail link to Ballycastle or of any tourism benefits that this might bring.

My Department has consulted on the prioritisation of future railways investment up to 2035. This invited discussion about possible extensions to the rail network. Whilst the response included calls for railway extensions to various towns, there were no requests for a rail link to Ballycastle.

Student Discount on Ulsterbus Services: Mature Students

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Regional Development why mature students do not receive student discount on Ulsterbus services when discount is available on services provided by Northern Ireland Railways.

(AQW 24913/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink have commercial responsibility for these matters and have advised that a discount for mature students using rail services was introduced separately from bus because a mature student travelling by rail is not able to obtain as good a discount without the use of the 24+ Railcard. Mature students using both Metro and Ulsterbus services can avail of the best discounts through standard Smartlink products which are available for bus journeys.

Roads Infrastructure in South Down

Mr Rogers asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans his Department has to improve roads infrastructure in South Down to assist in the delivery of the South East Coast Master plan.

(AQW 24918/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: During the spring of each year my Department's Roads Service presents their respective Minor Works programmes to each Council, which sets out the schemes they hope to construct during the current financial year and beyond, subject to the necessary funding being available.

I have arranged for copies of the relevant council reports to be forwarded directly to you.

Waterside Railway Station: Out-of-Hours and Weekend Arrangements

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the out-of-hours and weekend arrangements for passenger accommodation at Waterside Railway Station.

(AQW 24963/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has advised me that Waterside Railway Station is open from 06.45 to 18.00 Monday to Friday, 07.00 to 18.00 on Saturday and 09.00 to 20.00 on Sunday, which matches the peak passenger flows to/from Londonderry. Outside these times the station operates as an unstaffed halt with customer access/egress via the accessible night gate. There is a covered waiting area on the platform.

With the reopening of the line between Londonderry and Coleraine, Translink will continue to monitor the opening hours of the ticket office and station facilities in light of any changes in passenger numbers.

Department for Social Development

Dignity at Work Policy: GAA Sportswear

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 23810/11-15, whether it is in line with the Dignity at Work Policy for GAA sportswear to be brought into the work place.

(AQW 24533/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): The NICS Dignity at Work policy includes guidance on common forms of unwanted, unreasonable and offensive conduct, and makes specific reference to sportswear which may be deemed offensive by others, such as football, GAA and rugby tops.

The Department's position is therefore that it would not normally be appropriate for such sportswear to be brought into the workplace

Housing Executive's Overpayment of Contractors

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development what action he has taken to ensure there is no repeat of the Housing Executive's overpayment of contractors.

(AQW 24555/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My oral statement on 10 June 2013 clearly sets out the actions I have taken. I introduced special accountability measures last year, which includes a monthly accountability meeting between my Permanent Secretary and the Housing Executive's Chief Executive where the position on these actions and other key issues is reported. My Permanent Secretary has already instigated a further governance review by my Department's Head of Internal Audit to assess the outcome of the implementation of the recommendations of the Housing Executive governance review in 2010, the special accountability measures and the ASM recommendations. It will also look at the lessons learned by the Housing Executive in respect of the management of response maintenance and the extent to which they have been applied to the management of planned maintenance contracts.

Terms of reference have also been developed for work by DFP's Performance and Efficiency Delivery Unit (PEDU), which will support the internal audit team. The focus of PEDU's work will be on the contract management processes. I have recently sent the terms of reference for this work to Minister Wilson to agree.

My officials have also been reviewing the oversight arrangements in place, including the update of the management statement and financial memorandum between my Department and the Housing Executive. My Permanent Secretary has also written to the Chairman to advise him of additional actions to be put in place by my officials.

I also believe that it may now be appropriate to introduce an inspection regime to the landlord function of the Housing Executive and I have instructed my officials to proceed with the necessary arrangements.

Finally, I appointed a new Chairman and Vice –Chairman who I have been meeting monthly to discuss key issues of concern and who are determined to put in place clear governance and assurance systems and to tackle the issues and make the organisational changes that are required to bring this organisation into line and to ensure that appropriate services are delivered to tenants along with value for public money.

Urban Regeneration Schemes: Painting over Existing Murals

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Social Development what criteria are used when deciding whether to paint over existing murals which are within urban regeneration scheme areas.

(AQW 24574/11-15)

Mr McCausland: During the design of public realm schemes, Departmental Officials and Landscape Architects consider all aspects of the scheme area including: new street lighting; resurfacing footpaths; semi-mature tree planting; and boundary treatments. When considering defaced property, officials will seek to identify any pieces of community art within the scheme area, and apart from these will clean or repaint the affected surface, with the owner's agreement. Consultation is also carried out with relevant statutory bodies, including the local council and DRD Roads Service.

Campbell Tickell Investigation

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 24342/11-15, whether the contract was offered on a single tender basis, and if so, why and did the Permanent Secretary agreed this.

(AQW 24623/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The contract was appointed on a single tender basis as agreed by the Permanent Secretary. In view of the scale of the overpayments the Permanent Secretary accepted the arguments of the Board that they needed an expert to look at this as quickly as possible. Had the Permanent Secretary not agreed to this course of action there would have been major concerns about the timeliness of any investigation and possible further overpayments. This procurement process was in line with relevant guidance for the direct award of contracts (single tender action) and the use of consultants.

Campbell Tickell Investigation

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 24342/11-15, for his assessment of whether Campbell Tickell is uniquely placed to complete the work.

(AQW 24624/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I have been advised by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive that Campbell Tickell has previous experience and reported on a wide range of matters, including frauds, mismanagement, financial malpractice, complex financial issues, governance and management issues and previously conducted a statutory inquiry for the then Housing Corporation, looking into mismanagement in a specialist housing association.

Social Housing Waiting Lists

Mr Girvan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the current social housing waiting lists in the (i) Newtownabbey 1; (ii) Newtownabbey 2; and (iii) Antrim districts.

(AQW 24650/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The tables below detail the social housing waiting list and those in housing stress at 1 June 2013 for the Housing Executive's Newtownabbey 1, Newtownabbey 2 and Antrim district office areas.

TABLE 1 – WAITING LIST

	Elderly	Large Adult	Large Family	Single	Small Adult	Small Family	Total
Newtownabbey 1	165	25	41	424	58	185	898
Newtownabbey 2	189	24	63	418	44	231	969
Antrim	117	19	74	470	70	243	993

TABLE 2 – HOUSING STRESS (30 POINTS OR MORE)

	Elderly	Large Adult	Large Family	Single	Small Adult	Small Family	Total
Newtownabbey 1	103	16	21	249	30	104	523
Newtownabbey 2	117	13	33	253	23	136	575
Antrim	65	6	41	231	26	136	505

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

Occupancy Rates for Housing Executive Units

Mr Girvan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the occupancy rates for Housing Executive units in the (i) Newtownabbey 1; (ii) Newtownabbey 2; and (iii) Antrim districts.
(AQW 24651/11-15)

Mr McCausland: At 31 May 2013, the Housing Executive had 6,680 properties within their Newtownabbey 1, Newtownabbey 2 and Antrim local office areas. Of these, 176 properties were vacant; with only 29 in a lettable condition. The remainder were vacant for a variety of reasons such as undergoing repairs or decanting of tenants.

The table below details the breakdown of vacant stock by the various Housing Executive local offices in question.

Local Office area	Total Stock	Tenanted Stock	Total Vacant
Newtownabbey 1	2,168	2,060	108
Newtownabbey 2	2,138	2,115	23
Antrim	2,374	2,329	45
Total	6,680	6,504	176

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Northern Ireland Housing Executive: Over Payment of Planned Maintenance

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to his announcement concerning the £18m overpayment on planned maintenance by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), who was the Director in charge at that time; and what position does that person presently hold within the NIHE. **(AQW 24679/11-15)**

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that the planned maintenance contracts ran from January 2008 to January 2013 and operational responsibility for the contracts rested with their Design and Property Services division. During the period of the contract there have been three Directors of that division as follows:-

- John McPeake was Director prior to the contract commencing until December 2010. He is currently the Chief Executive of the Housing Executive.
- Dolores Ferran served as Acting Director from January 2011 until March 2012 and is currently Assistant Director Housing Policy.
- Siobhan McCauley was appointed as Director from April 2012 and is the current post holder.

Proposed Housing Development Adjacent to Ballykeel, Ballymena

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the proposed Housing Development adjacent to Ballykeel, Ballymena. **(AQW 24689/11-15)**

Mr McCausland: Fold are currently on site, refurbishing 47 units at the St. Patricks Barracks site and this is due to complete in December 2013. There is a second phase in year one (2013/14) of the Social Housing Development Programme for 10 units however planning issues may lead to this number reducing to closer to 2 units.

Ballykeel Estate comprises two Housing Executive Common Landlord Areas- Ballykeel One and Ballykeel Two. Connswater registered a site at Crebilly Road, close to Ballykeel 2 CLA in March 2013. The Housing Executive advised Connswater at that time that they would not be in a position to support the site for social housing as there is no projected housing need for Ballykeel 2.

The Housing Executive has extensive land holdings in the area and should housing need emerge the development of these lands will be investigated in the first instance.

Adoption of Project Bank Accounts

Mr McGlone asked Minister for Social Development, in order to facilitate proper payments to contractors, sub contractors and suppliers, for an update on the adoption of Project Bank Accounts as good practice within his Department.

(AQW 24701/11-15)

Mr McCausland: All of my Department's construction projects are awarded through the Department of Finance and Personnel's Central Procurement Directorate. On 8 January 2013 the Finance Minister Sammy Wilson, announced that Project Bank Accounts would be introduced to projects awarded by Central Procurement Directorate that have a construction value in excess of £1 million and contain a significant subcontracting element.

Central Procurement Directorate is currently finalising guidance detailing how Project Bank Accounts will be implemented in contracts which they award. The establishment of Project Bank Accounts is now being included in relevant projects let by Central Procurement Directorate.

Social Security Appeal Tribunals

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development how many Social Security Appeal Tribunals in the last 12 months have had the initial hearing adjourned because the appellant's GP did not submit a full medical history record, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 24713/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information cannot be provided in the format sought. The Appeals Service arranges for appeals to be heard at venues throughout Northern Ireland. The selection of venues for appeal hearings is determined by the postal district within which the appellant resides. The data is only available by tribunal district.

The table below outlines the number of appeals adjourned on the first date of hearing in the period 1 June 2012 to 31 May 2013 where the record noted that it was due to General Practitioner medical records not being available or incomplete.

Tribunal District	Appeals Adjourned
Armagh	19
Ballymena	72
Ballymoney	7
Banbridge	16
Belfast	362
Coleraine	39
Cookstown	17
Craigavon	45
Downpatrick	35
Dungannon	22
Enniskillen	32
Limavady	28
Londonderry	52
Magherafelt	10
Newry	59
Newtownards	55
Omagh	29
Strabane	12
Overall Total Appeals Adjourned	911

Homeless Figures

Mr Girvan asked the Minister for Social Development (i) to detail the number of people under the age of 18 who are classified as homeless; (ii) what support is available for these people; and (iii) whether, and how, this information is shared with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

(AQW 24722/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In relation to (i), the Housing Executive advises that at 1 June 2013, 85 people aged 16/17 were accepted as statutorily homeless (Full duty applicants).

In relation to (ii), the Housing Executive launched its new “Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 – 2017” in May 2012. The strategy aims to eliminate long term homelessness and rough sleeping across Northern Ireland by 2020. The new integrated approach includes a range of initiatives, from support services to prevent homelessness, to the introduction of a province-wide private rented sector access scheme. More detailed information on the Homelessness Strategy can be found on the Housing Executive website at www.nihe.gov.uk .

In addition the Housing Executive, through Supporting People funding, supports five dedicated young people’s services with a total of 168 spaces throughout Northern Ireland as set out in the table below:

Organisation	Address	Units	Contract Value £
First Housing Aid & Support Services	Jefferson Court	20	313,986
Simon Community	242 Antrim Rd	10	210,376
Simon Community	3-5 Malone Road	42	347,853
Simon Community	Mount St Mews	16	174,362
Triangle Housing	Floating Support	80	563,818

In relation to (iii), the Housing Executive works in partnership with the Health and Social Care Trusts via a joint working protocol designed to meet the housing and support needs of young people. Young individuals who present as homeless are jointly assessed for accommodation and care/support requirements. This is used as a gateway to support/care services where required for those presenting.

The protocol is monitored and reported via the Regional Reference Group for young homeless. This group has representation from the Housing Executive, the Health and Social Care Board and each of the five Trusts, along with representatives from the Voluntary and Community sector. While the Housing Executive does not share the information collected directly with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the Housing Executive understands that the Health and Social Care Boards may do so.

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Houses in Rathfriland and South Down: Affected by Faulty Insulation

Ms Ruane asked the Minister for Social Development how many houses in (i) Rathfriland; and (ii) South Down have been affected by faulty insulation such as formaldehyde foam.

(AQW 24747/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I assume the Member is referring to Housing Executive houses, most of which were cavity insulated 25 to 30 years ago. The Housing Executive believes that it was mainly with fibre or bead insulation although some properties may have had urea formaldehyde insulation also.

The information requested is not available. However, following a University of Ulster report on fibre based insulation, which recommended further extensive studies on this issue the Housing Executive has decided to undertake a technical survey of 300 of its properties to examine the quality of the insulation. Until that survey is complete the Housing Executive will not know if there is a wider problem with cavity insulation and, if so, to what extent.

A private company, Energy Store, has recently carried out some inspections of cavities. One of these was in the Rathfriland area and the survey confirmed that this private dwelling had a problem with insulation board and fibre.

Social Housing New Builds: Fermanagh District Council Area

Mr Lynch asked the Minister for Social Development how many social housing new builds were completed in the Fermanagh District Council area, in each of the last three financial years.

(AQW 24771/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The table below details the number of social housing new builds completed in each of the last three years in the Fermanagh District Council area.

Year	Scheme	Units
2010/11	Enniskillen EMI, Phase 1	30
	Rural Acquisitions Fermanagh	2
	3 Cherry Walk, Enniskillen	1
2011/12	Ballaghmore Heights, Enniskillen	10
	Fermanagh Acquisitions	1
	Carrowshee Park, Lisnaskea	19
	Adrain Heights, Donagh	5
	Enniskillen Acquisitions	2
	Apex Acquisitions, Enniskillen	2
2012/13	PSNI Site, 48 Main St., Lisbellaw	12
	Aghagay Meadows, Newtownbutler	3

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Housing Stress in the Fermanagh District Council Area

Mr Lynch asked the Minister for Social Development how he plans to address the increase in housing stress in the Fermanagh District Council area.

(AQW 24772/11-15)

Mr McCausland: At March 2013, which is the most recent date that information is available from the Housing Executive, there were 302 first preference housing stress applicants on the waiting list for Fermanagh District. The Housing Executive allocates properties in accordance with the Housing Selection Scheme with properties usually allocated to the relevant applicant with the highest points once they become available.

Based on March 2012 waiting list figures there is an additional five year social new build requirement of 74 for Fermanagh district. The Housing Executive has advised that at 31 March 2013 there were 62 general needs units on-site within Fermanagh District, with a further 13 general needs listed on the three year Social Housing Development Programme 2013/16. Stock turnover and new build, both on-site and programmed, should help to address the level of housing stress in the district.

Pilot Schemes for the Introduction of Universal Credit

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development what co-ordination is taking place with the Department for Work and Pensions on the monitoring of the pilot schemes for the introduction of Universal Credit.

(AQW 24776/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My officials continue to be engaged with the Department for Work and Pensions on the progress from the operation of the Pathfinder. The Universal Credit Programme in Northern Ireland receive regular updates which will help inform plans for the launch of Universal Credit in Northern Ireland. Officials are continuing to discuss how best the two departments can work together as the Universal Credit Pathfinder is rolled out across Great Britain.

Howard Shiplee, the new Department for Work and Pensions Director General for Universal Credit, will also be visiting Northern Ireland in mid July, providing an opportunity to discuss directly progress not only on the operation of the Pathfinder but plans for the wider rollout of Universal Credit nationally and the impact for Northern Ireland

Housing Executive Contractors

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development how, and when, the Board of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive was involved in the decision to delist four contractors arising from the alleged overpayment of £18m.

(AQW 24783/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that no contractor has been delisted. The position is that the four planned maintenance contractors in question will not receive any new contracts from the Housing Executive until matters relating to planned maintenance have been resolved.

Unanswered Question: AQW 24480/11-15

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 24480/11-15, will he now answer parts (ii) and (iii) of the question.

(AQW 24798/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I would advise the Member that a response to AQW 24480/11-15 has already been provided.

Cost of Defending Legal Cases

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the number of legal cases, including judicial reviews, which his Department has defended since 2007; (ii) the number of these legal challenges the Department lost; and (iii) the total costs incurred by his Department on the cases which it lost.

(AQW 24827/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I would advise the Member that the Department does not hold the information in the format requested and it is therefore not possible to provide an answer to this question.

Independent Review of Fitness for Work Tests

Mr Lunn asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department intends to engage with Paul Litchfield as he carries out his independent review of fitness for work tests.

(AQW 24869/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I can confirm that Dr. Paul Litchfield will conduct the fourth Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment. As with the three previous independent reviews, conducted by Professor Harrington, the fourth review will extend to Northern Ireland.

Officials from my Department have been in contact with Dr Litchfield since his appointment on 26 February 2013 and as part of this year's review, Dr Litchfield will visit Northern Ireland in September 2013. On 10 July I launched the Call for Evidence for the review of the Work Capability Assessment in Northern Ireland and this will inform Dr. Litchfield's independent report which will be laid before the Assembly by the end of 2013.

Personal Independence Payment Assessments

Mr Lunn asked the Minister for Social Development, in the event that the Welfare Reform Bill becomes law, what consideration will be given to the progressive nature of conditions such as Parkinson's, cystic fibrosis and multiple sclerosis in (i) fitness for work tests; and (ii) mobility criteria assessments for the Personal Independence Payment.

(AQW 24870/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Welfare Reform Bill contains no proposed changes to the Work Capability Assessment for Employment Support Allowance.

Subject to the Welfare Reform Bill successfully completing its passage through the Assembly, it is anticipated that Personal Independence Payment will be introduced in Northern Ireland in spring 2014.

The assessment criteria for Personal Independence Payment were designed in collaboration with independent specialists in disability, social care and health and there has been extensive engagement with disabled people and their organisations, including three formal consultation exercises which resulted in a number of changes to the criteria. In addition, consultation was recently launched in relation to the Moving Around activity of the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment and this will end on 5 August 2013.

The assessment criteria take account of all types of disabilities including physical, sensory, mental, intellectual, cognitive, and neurological impairments. Entitlement is not based on having a particular health condition or impairment but considers the claimant's individual circumstances and the impact of their health condition or impairment on their ability to carry out key everyday activities. A key consideration is not just whether they can complete the activities but that they can do so safely, to an acceptable standard, repeatedly and in a reasonable time period.

Personal Independence Payment has been designed to ensure that decisions on entitlement, award lengths and timing of reviews are appropriate and evidence-based and all awards, regardless of duration, will be reviewed periodically to ensure that the individual continues to receive the correct amount of benefit.

Health Professionals, who will conduct the assessments for Personal Independence Payment, will receive specialist training in assessing the impact of disabilities. As part of the assessment, the Health Professional will be asked to provide advice on when it would be appropriate to review the claim. This advice will be used to inform decisions on the duration of benefit awards and when it would be sensible to review the claim to ascertain if a claimant's circumstances have changed. Where a Health Professional considers that an individual's needs are likely to continue but may increase, as in the case of progressive conditions, the Health Professional should provide advice on a medically appropriate review point to ensure that the case is reviewed and increased support provided where appropriate. In addition, a claimant can ask for their award to be reviewed at anytime if they feel that their condition has deteriorated.

Teenage Kicks Mural at Bridge End

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 24576/11-15 to (i) list the bodies that were consulted regarding the removal of the Teenage Kicks mural at Bridge End; and (ii) what criteria is used to establish what constitutes community art.

(AQW 24943/11-15)

Mr McCausland:

- (i) The bodies consulted with on the Bridge End Environmental Improvement Scheme were East Belfast Partnership, The Ballymac Friendship Centre, DRD Roads Service and Belfast City Council. Specific discussions in respect of the graffiti were with East Belfast Partnership and the representative of the Ballymac Friendship Centre.

There are no formal criteria for establishing what constitutes community art within an area. Officials take advice through local consultation from established community representatives, relevant statutory bodies, including the local council and DRD Roads Service.

Landlord Registration Scheme

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the landlord registration scheme.

(AQW 24951/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My original intention was to have Landlord Registration in place by the Summer. However, in order to facilitate the direct payment to landlords of the housing cost element of Universal Credit, it is necessary to make a number of practical changes to implementation. In addition the Head of the Civil Service issued a directive to all Departments that when developing new programmes involving online or telephone interaction with citizens or business services, there should be a presumption in favour of using NI Direct programme. My Department is therefore now working with NI Direct to ensure there is a fully functional landlord registration scheme in place as quickly as possible and certainly before the end of 2013.

One Week Waiting Period for Benefit Payments

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the impact of the proposed introduction of a one week waiting period for benefit payments.

(AQW 25002/11-15)

Mr McCausland: On 26 June 2013, as part of the Spending Review, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr George Osborne, announced a further three measures under Welfare Reform. These include a proposal to introduce a seven-day waiting period before new Universal Credit claimants can claim benefit if they have not had a Universal Credit claim in the previous six months, where at least one person is subject to conditionality. It is proposed to introduce this measure in 2015 -16. A full assessment will be made when more details on the proposed changes are available.

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Revised Written Answers

Thursday 11 July 2013

(AQW 24720/11-15)

I took the unprecedented step of publishing the Planning Appeals Commission Reports in June 2012. I plan to publish BMAP when the relevant processes are concluded shortly, including following the issue of a certificate of general conformity with the RDS 2035. I should also confirm that I unambiguously stand by the advice I provided on the retail element of BMAP to the now aborted Sprucefield Public Inquiry.



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