

# Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

**Friday 14 October 2011**

**Volume 67, No WA2**



# Contents

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister .....	WA 127
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development .....	WA 135
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure .....	WA 142
Department of Education .....	WA 149
Department for Employment and Learning.....	WA 179
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment .....	WA 186
Department of the Environment.....	WA 193
Department of Finance and Personnel .....	WA 193
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.....	WA 200
Department of Justice .....	WA 220
Department for Regional Development.....	WA 237
Department for Social Development .....	WA 252
Northern Ireland Assembly Commission.....	WA 278

Suggested amendments or corrections will be considered by the Editor.  
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to arrive not later than two weeks after publication of this report.

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Weir, Peter (North Down)  
Wells, Jim (South Down)  
Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

# Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 14 October 2011

## Written Answers to Questions

### Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

#### Special Advisers

**Mr Allister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) how many of the Special Advisers within their Department are paid within the (a) Band A; and (b) Band B scales, (ii) if Band B, whether there has been an increase in salaries, or whether any increases are planned, following the decision of the Department of Finance and Personnel on 18 July 2011 to increase the upper limit of Band B to £90,000; and (iii) how many Special Advisers benefited from the increase.

**(AQW 1792/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister):** All Special Advisers within our Department are paid on Salary Band B. It is not our policy to disclose salary details beyond the band in which they fall.

#### Flags Protocol Review Group

**Mr McDevitt** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when the Flags Protocol Review Group is next due to meet regarding the issues which the Group was set up to monitor and review, particularly in light of the disturbances and tensions during the summer.

**(AQO 347/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We recognise that the displaying of flags and emblems here has been a contentious issue for many years and in an attempt to address the problem OFMDFM introduced "The Joint Protocol in Relation to Flags Flown in Public Areas" in 2005 as the agreed guidance for the removal of flags from public property.

Officials continue to monitor the issue, and research is continuing into the proliferation of flags in town centres and on arterial routes. The "Public Displays of Flags and Emblems in Northern Ireland: Survey 2010" produced by the Queen's University, Belfast, on behalf of OFMDFM was published in June this year. The report provides comparative information about the type and numbers of flags erected and the duration for which they were flown. We will take full account of this work in considering the issue and in developing the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration.

#### Childcare Strategy

**Mrs Overend** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the current position in relation to a Childcare Strategy.

**(AQO 348/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Our Department is leading work across Government and with stakeholders to co-ordinate the development of a Childcare Strategy, including a range of essential supporting measures and actions, for consideration by the Executive.

In support of this approach we have secured an additional £12m over the Budget period, and Departments have already embarked on a range of measures to increase childcare provision.

As the lead department in co-ordinating this work, we anticipate issuing proposals on a draft Childcare Strategy for a period of public consultation early next year.

### Visit to America

**Mr G Kelly** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on their visit to America.  
**(AQO 351/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The First Minister made a full report regarding the recent Ministerial visit to America in his statement to the Assembly on Tuesday 27 September. The statement is available for Members from the Assembly Library.

### Leveson's Judicial Inquiry into Telephone Hacking

**Ms Ritchie** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) whether they were consulted about the terms of reference of Leveson's Judicial Inquiry into telephone hacking; and (ii) for his assessment of the effects of media telephone hacking on (a) public figures; and (b) victims of terrorism in Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 2322/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport wrote to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment on 13 July in relation to the draft terms of reference for the independent public inquiry to, firstly, review the regulation of the press and, secondly, to examine the recent allegations of phone hacking and other illegal press practices.

The matter was referred to OFMDFM.

We are in possession of no information pertaining to the assessment of the effects of media telephone hacking on public figures or victims of terrorism in Northern Ireland.

### Sustainable Consumption Action Plan

**Mr Agnew** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister if they will produce a sustainable consumption action plan as outlined in 'A Sustainable Development Strategy - first steps towards sustainability' and if so, when it is likely to be published.

**(AQW 2393/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Following the publication, in May 2011, of 'Focus on the Future' – the Executive's Sustainable Development Implementation Plan, an effective action plan for the achievement of sustainable consumption is in place.

Focus on the Future has 32 Strategic Objectives, 13 of which relate directly to sustainable consumption.

Focus on the Future can be downloaded from: [http://www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/focus\\_on\\_the\\_future.pdf](http://www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/focus_on_the_future.pdf)

### Former Army Base Site in Ballykelly

**Mr Campbell** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the value of the land and buildings at the former army base site in Ballykelly.

**(AQW 2549/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** This property is in the process of being gifted by the Ministry of Defence to the Executive. Full administrative control of the former military base at Shackleton, Ballykelly was handed over to OFMDFM on 7 October, and formal conveyancing is expected to be completed shortly.

This will allow the full potential of the site to be properly assessed. This assessment has already begun.

## Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan

**Mr McKay** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether their Department has implemented the action in the Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan which states that Departments must explore the implementation of domestic violence workplace policies with private and public sector employers; and if their Department will meet the target implementation date of December 2011.

**(AQW 2559/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The “Tackling Violence at Home Strategy” launched jointly by DHSSPS and NIO in 2005 is a cross-departmental strategy that targets all victims of domestic violence.

DHSSPS issued guidance for employers in 2006 on Developing a Workplace Policy for Domestic Violence and Abuse. A NICS-wide Workplace Policy for Domestic Violence and Abuse covers employees in all Government Departments here.

OFMDFM provides an accessible welfare and counselling service that is free to all staff, and to their immediate family members. There are named welfare officers available to meet and talk in confidence on a range of issues with any member of staff. These services are regularly promoted through local posters and leaflets, team brief, intranet links and HR Connect. Awareness leaflets provided by the Regional Steering Group on Domestic Violence are periodically distributed and made available to all staff.

## Social Protection Fund

**Mr Ó hÓisín** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Social Protection Fund and to outline its potential benefits.

**(AQO 380/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We are currently working with departments to identify projects for prioritisation under the Social Protection Fund.

## UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**Mr Lyttle** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) what measures their Department has taken to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and (ii) what progress has been made in protecting and delivering the rights contained within each of the Convention articles.

**(AQW 2707/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** OFMDFM officials have undertaken a number of engagement events and continue to plan other events to promote awareness of the Convention and its benefits for people with disabilities.

Awareness raising has included a programme in schools involving, to date, some 413 pupils and separate events for women and disability organisations. Officials are currently considering other possible events to further promote awareness of the Convention.

Executive Ministers have also agreed the Executive’s input to the first report to the United Nations on the implementation of the convention in the UK. A copy of the Executive’s input is available on the OFMDFM website at <http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/equality/disability.htm> .

Work is also continuing towards the development of a draft strategy and action plan to address the recommendations in the Promoting Social Inclusion Working Group’s report on disability. It is anticipated that the development of the strategy and the delivery of the Action Plan will further support the delivery of the rights set out in the Convention.

Officials updated the OFMDFM Committee on 21 September on progress to date and further substantive progress is anticipated early in 2012.

## Errors in Statements or Answers

**Mr Campbell** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, since May 2010, how many (i) statements they have made to the Assembly; and (ii) of their answers to Members' questions have had to be corrected because of errors in their original statements or answers.

**(AQW 2749/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Since May 2010, OFMDFM Ministers have made a total of fourteen oral and written statements to the Assembly.

None of the answers to Members' questions have had to be corrected because of errors in any of those original statements or subsequent answers.

## Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse

**Mr Allister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether the inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse will cover abuse perpetrated by the clergy and the members of religious orders outside of an institutional setting.

**(AQW 2753/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Interdepartmental Taskforce was established to bring forward recommendations on the nature of an inquiry into historical institutional abuse. The subsequent Executive decision was based on this remit and an institution for the purposes of the inquiry will be anywhere "where children were placed outside the domestic environment, which provided shelter and residential accommodation and where responsibility was taken other than by the child's family for decisions affecting the child's everyday life."

The issue of clerical abuse is no less important or emotive and we are mindful of the equally destructive impact it has had on many individuals. As such, the Executive will have to give careful consideration as to how it should be dealt with. In addition, it was agreed that we would request advice from the Chair of the Inquiry and Investigation as to any necessity for any possible expansion of its remit.

## Ministerial Vehicles and Drivers

**Mr Elliott** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) whether the deputy First Minister will retain the use of his Ministerial vehicle and driver whilst running in the Republic of Ireland's Presidential Campaign; and (ii) to detail the wage his driver will receive and the functions he will perform during this period.

**(AQW 2806/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The deputy First Minister has not retained the use of his Ministerial vehicle during this period. OFMDFM does not employ the drivers for the deputy First Minister and therefore does not hold the information you request in relation to their wages and functions.

## Play and Leisure Policy Action Plan

**Mr Lyttle** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the implementation of the Play and Leisure Policy Action Plan.

**(AQW 2854/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The vision of the Play and Leisure Policy statement is to "establish play within a policy framework that will place a high value on play as an essential element in the development of children's and families' lives through building child friendly communities, and in improving current play and leisure provision for all children and young people aged 0-18".

This is a statement we remain committed to, which is evidenced by the publication of the Play and Leisure Implementation Plan 2011-2016 in March 2011.

Both the Play and Leisure Policy Statement and Implementation Plan intend to help deliver on the aims of the Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People and contribute to the delivery of a broad range of strategic aims, including those which relate to improved health and achievement outcomes.

Whilst many of the actions within the Implementation Plan are for our Executive colleagues and local councils to deliver on, we recognise our departmental role and have identified actions specific to us which we are currently addressing. To date we have:

- established play and leisure strategic partnerships with 14 councils to ensure a joined-up approach to the planning and commissioning of play and leisure services to meet the needs of local children, and we are currently engaging with the remaining 12 councils;
- delivered seminars on risk-taking in play;
- delivered Playshaper seminars to professionals, such as Architects and landscapers, involved in the world of play to demonstrate how best communities can be shaped to be play and child friendly;
- additionally, we have invested in providing a range of exemplar projects across council areas on new and innovative play areas and these have proved to be very successful.

Whilst the Implementation Plan is in its infancy, we are pleased with progress to date and will continue to engage with the relevant sectoral stakeholders and Executive colleagues to meet key targets and shared goals.

### **Former Army Base Site in Ballykelly**

**Mr McClarty** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the sale of the former army base site in Ballykelly, including any bids received.

**(AQW 2856/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Following the recent conclusion of the MoD sales process for former military base site at Ballykelly, known as Shackleton, we concluded that none of the bids received by MoD were satisfactory given the size and scale of the site. We therefore decided that OFMDFM should take control of the site. This occurred on 7 October 2011.

Work is currently underway to examine the potential of, and options for, this site.

### **Future and Leadership of the Department of Justice**

**Mr Allister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what decisions have been taken about the future and leadership of the Department of Justice after May 2012; and if no such decisions have been taken, what processes are in place to resolve this matter.

**(AQW 2874/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We are aware of the provisions contained in paragraph 8 of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 2009 and the timescales applying. On 10 October 2011 the Assembly referred to the Assembly and Executive Review Committee the matter of the initial Ministerial provision in relation to the Department of Justice and agreed that the Committee should make recommendations relating to the provision that should exist from 1 May 2012.

### **Former Army Base Site in Ballykelly**

**Mr Campbell** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) whether land at the former army base site in Ballykelly is deemed to be of a much higher value than any private sector bid which has been received; and (ii) whether the Executive will consider using this land to relocate a department.

**(AQW 2897/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Following the recent conclusion of the MoD sales process for former military base site at Ballykelly, known as Shackleton, we concluded that none of the bids

received by MoD were satisfactory. In our view, these bids did not reflect the potential worth of the site and that more effort should be devoted to obtaining better value.

We therefore decided that OFMDFM should take control of the site. This occurred on 7 October 2011.

Work is currently underway to examine the options for this site which will include an assessment of its economic potential. Following receipt of this report, we will decide if any public sector options for the site should be explored further.

### Proposed Capital Spend Projects

**Mr McGlone** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail their Department's proposed capital spend projects for this financial year, including the projected timescales and the costs for each project.

#### (AQW 2908/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** A detailed list of proposed capital projects for this financial year, including the projected timescales and the costs for each project, is detailed below.

Proposed Capital Spend – for the year from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012

#### 1 MAZE/ LONG KESH

Project	Proposed capital spend in 2011/12 Financial Year	Timescale
Remediation	£1.722m	December 2011
Infrastructure Preparatory Work	£0.137m	March 2012
Office Equipment	£0.003m	September 2011
Site Transport	£0.018m	March 2012
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1.880m</b>	

#### 2 ILEX

Project	Proposed capital spend in 2011/12 Financial Year	Timescale
Parade Ground	£4.565m	December 2011
Conservation Works	£0.200m	March 2012
Restoration of Buildings on Site	£0.850m	March 2012
Associated fees	£0.400m	March 2012
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6.015m</b>	

#### 3 CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL

Project	Proposed capital spend in 2011/12 Financial Year	Timescale
Gatehouse & Governor's Corridor	£1.598m	October 2011
Walls and Roofs	£0.948m	December 2011
Restoration/ Groundworks	£0.048m	March 2012

<b>Project</b>	<b>Proposed capital spend in 2011/12 Financial Year</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Café Project	£0.138m	September 2011
Associated fees - CPD	£0.343m	March 2012
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3.075m</b>	

### **Crumlin Road Gaol Tours**

**Mr Easton** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the number of visitors on the Crumlin Road Gaol Tours in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 2918/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The table below outlines the approximate number of people who attended tours and events in Crumlin Road Gaol in 2008 and 2009. There were no tours or events held in the Gaol in 2010 as it closed due to the commencement of two major capital works.

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of People on Tours</b>	<b>No. of People Attending Events</b>	<b>Total</b>
2008	10,000	1,300	11,300
2009	27,303	3,421	30,724
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,303</b>	<b>4,721</b>	<b>42,024</b>

### **Child Poverty Figures**

**Mr Lyttle** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when child poverty figures for 2009/10 will be made available and the reason for the delay.

**(AQW 2967/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Department for Social Development (DSD) publishes child poverty statistics through the Household Below Average Income Report (HBAI).

Publication of the Northern Ireland HBAI Report is dependent on the supply of data from the Department for Work and Pensions. These data are supplied to DSD following production of the UK report. This year's data arrived in late May/early June at the same time as the Department was updating its infrastructure to enable the more efficient dissemination of National Statistics. There has consequently been a short delay.

Figures will be published for 2009-10 in the late autumn.

### **Programme for Government 2011-15**

**Mr McClarty** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Programme for Government 2011-2015, including when it will be completed and published.

**(AQO 488/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We circulated a working draft of the Programme for Government to the Executive following its meeting of 22 September. This was also shared with party leaders and departments.

At that time, we sought comments and input from Departments, and these were all received in the period up to the Executive meeting last Thursday. These comments and the suggested revisions are currently being analysed and tested. We are making every effort to produce a document that will be

both meaningful and understandable and one that will receive buy-in from everyone in society. An important part of its development will be the response to the public consultation exercise.

In getting to this point, Ministers and officials have, over a period of several months, met with and considered representations from a range of stakeholders across all sectors. The views expressed were all carefully considered and have informed the shaping of the draft Programme for Government so far.

The public consultation will last for a minimum of twelve weeks and our officials will be holding a series of meetings across Northern Ireland to introduce the Programme for Government and to seek the views of organisations and the public.

We want to stress that, for this consultation, we will be very much in listening mode. We are approaching the exercise with an open mind and are keen to hear from everyone who has a vested interest.

The responses that we receive will all be subject to equal and careful consideration.

Subsequent to the consultation closing and analysis of the responses being completed, the final document will be presented to the Executive for agreement and, finally, publication.

We are absolutely determined to use the limited resources available to the Executive as effectively as possible to deliver positive and meaningful change. An agreed Programme for Government will be an important strategic tool in this process.

## **Play and Leisure Policy**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the implementation of the 'Play and Leisure Policy in Northern Ireland - Your Right to Play'.

**(AQO 493/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Play and Leisure Policy Statement and associated Implementation Plan intends to help deliver on the aims of the ten year strategy for children and young people and contribute to the delivery of a broad range of strategic aims, including those which relate to improved health and achievement outcomes.

We want to establish play and leisure within a policy framework that will place a high value on play as an essential element in the development of children's and families' lives; child friendly communities; and in improving current play and leisure provision for all children and young people aged 0-18.

We remain committed to this, which is evidenced by the publication of the Play and Leisure Implementation Plan 2011-2016 in March 2011.

Whilst many of the actions within the plan are for our Executive colleagues and local councils to deliver on, we recognise our departmental role within this and have identified and are addressing our specific actions.

We have engaged 14 councils to establish play and leisure strategic partnerships to ensure a joined-up approach to the planning and commissioning of play and leisure services to meet the needs of local children and we are currently engaging with the other 12 councils.

We have delivered seminars on risk-taking in play and on showing professionals how to shape communities to be play and child friendly.

We have also invested in providing a range of exemplar projects across council areas on new and innovative play areas – these have proved to be very successful.

This implementation plan is in its infancy but the start has been encouraging and we shall continue to engage with the relevant sectoral stakeholders and Executive colleagues to meet key targets and shared goals.

## North/South Ministerial Council

**Mr I McCrea** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what measures have been considered to make North-South Ministerial Council meetings more cost efficient.

**(AQO 495/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** At the NSMC Institutional meeting in November 2009, Ministers agreed that, where practicable, future NSMC meetings would be held in the new NSMC Joint Secretariat accommodation in Armagh. This represents a more cost effective and efficient use of resources.

The accommodation has been fully operational since 19 April 2010, and between then and 30 September 2011, 23 NSMC meetings have been held there, including a Plenary meeting in January 2011.

The cost to OFMDFM of these meetings was £5,921, compared with £15,631 for the previous 23 NSMC meetings.

## Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

### National Ploughing Championships in County Kildare

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the benefits of her recent visit to the National Ploughing Championships in County Kildare.

**(AQW 2475/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): My attendance at the 80th National Ploughing Championships provided a unique occasion to meet with farmers, rural business owners, farming and political representatives from across Ireland and provided me with a greater insight into the opportunities and challenges facing the agri-food industry and rural businesses.

This year I hosted the first joint ministerial reception at the championships with Simon Coveney, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. This provided me with the opportunity to address a wide cross section of agri-business, farming and political representatives on the need for co-operation and collaboration at government level to address the issues, including the upcoming CAP reform proposals, and develop the obvious potential of the agri-food industry on this island. The launch of the All-Island Animal Disease Surveillance Report at the reception is just one example of the practical application of this co-operation.

The National Ploughing Championships is a great place to do business as is demonstrated by the fact that around 190,000 people visited the event and there were over 1,200 exhibitors, including 85 from north. I was delighted to be able to help 8 local small businesses and organisations attend this year's event as part of the DARD exhibit, in addition to supporting the NI Ploughing Association promote their annual Ploughing Championships. Around 10,000 people visited the DARD exhibition over the three days and I am aware that some of our exhibitors have already generated new business and it is likely that this will increase as further business leads are followed up.

### Promoting Local Produce and Agri-foods

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, given the predicted increase in demand for food, what her Department is doing to promote local produce and agri-foods on the international stage.

**(AQW 2511/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My Department works closely with Invest NI, which has the lead responsibility for marketing our food to the export markets, through a range of supply chain and market intelligence initiatives to support local producers.

Specifically my Department is funding and delivering a Regional Food Programme which offers financial support to assist eligible groups in the local agri-food industry to develop and expand profitable and sustainable markets for quality regional food. The programme is designed to encourage co-operation across the industry to provide a united front to retailers and consumers. The raising of awareness and empowerment of local groups is designed to develop and expand all markets for our quality regional produce, including export markets. In the past four years the Programme has funded some food tourism and export initiatives which have given international exposure to our local produce.

My Department also administers the EU's Protected Food Name Scheme on behalf of applicants. This provides a system for the protection of food names on a geographical or traditional basis and can be used as a valuable promotional tool. The Commission has informed us that "Lough Neagh Eels" are set to become the first product from the north to receive protected status and I am hopeful that New Season Comber Potatoes and Armagh Bramley Apples will also receive protection in the near future. I would encourage local producers to explore the opportunities that the Protected Food Names Scheme can provide and whether it would be of benefit to them.

### **Northern Ireland's Woodland**

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of 70 percent of Northern Ireland's woodland being publicly owned and 30 percent privately owned compared to the rest of the UK; and whether this balance will remain in the future.

**(AQW 2567/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The Forest Service published area of woodland at March 2011 indicates that there were 61 thousand hectares of woodland managed by Forest Service and 27 thousand hectares of woodland not managed by Forest Service. This equates to approximately 70% being managed by Forest Service and 30% being non-Forest Service managed woodland.

The Forestry Strategy (2006) identified a long term aim of increasing forest cover from 6% to 12% of land area over the next 50 years, primarily through supporting landowners to convert agricultural land to woodland. Funding is made available to Grant Aid this woodland creation under the Rural Development Programme. My Department may also acquire areas of land for woodland creation, particularly where it helps consolidate existing forests. This is, however, likely to be at a lower level than woodland creation by other landowners.

As a result, I would anticipate that the percentage of non-Forest Service woodland will gradually increase over the long term.

### **Publicly Owned Forest Land**

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many hectares of publicly owned forest land has been sold in the last (i) five; (ii) ten; (iii) fifteen; and (iv) twenty years.

**(AQW 2568/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has sold the following number of hectares of publicly owned forest land over the last (i) five; (ii) ten; (iii) fifteen and (iv) twenty years:-

(i)	1 April 2006 – 31 March 2011	33.68Ha
(ii)	1 April 2001 – 31 March 2006	28.49Ha
(iii)	1 April 1996 – 31 March 2001	343.89Ha
(iv)	1 April 1991 – 31 March 1996	722.29Ha

In the 20 year period up to 31 March 2011 a total of just over 1,128 hectares of land have been sold. These areas were generally deemed not to be strategically suitable for operational forestry purposes. Over the same period Forest Service purchased approximately 1,000 hectares of land which is utilised for forestry purposes.

## Farm Woodland Premium Schemes

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what incentives are in place to encourage part-time farmers and other landowners to plant out new areas with trees, given that the definitions being used by the Forest Service for the Farm Woodland Premium Schemes could disadvantage these groups.

**(AQW 2574/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Landowners, including those on small or part time farms, are eligible to apply for capital grants, under the Woodland Grant Scheme, to assist them to establish new woodland, the lower threshold is 0.2 hectare or approximately 0.5 acre. Those landowners establishing one or more hectares of new woodland, on agricultural land, are also eligible for annual Farm Woodland Premium Scheme payments, either at the “farmer” or “non-farmer” rate.

Changes to the Single Farm Payment (SFP) Scheme, allowing farmers to continue to receive SFP, as well as forestry grant payments, on land converted to woodland have also been beneficial in encouraging woodland creation.

Forest Service has submitted a number of proposals to Brussels to amend the definition of a farmer in respect of the Rural Development Programme forestry measures, aimed at allowing more people with small or part-time farms to attract the higher “Farmer” rate of annual Farm Woodland Premium Scheme payments. The EU has, however, rejected these proposals.

In addition to the Woodland Grant Scheme and Farm Woodland Premium Scheme, participants in agri-environment schemes may benefit from funding for planting small areas of native trees on farmland and managing existing woodland. These schemes include the Countryside Management Scheme and Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme.

## Farm Woodland Premium Schemes

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what was the outcome of the Forest Service’s deliberations with European Union officials regarding the definition of a farmer for the purposes of the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme.

**(AQW 2579/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Forest Service has submitted a number of proposals to Brussels since February 2008 to amend the definition of a farmer in respect of the Rural Development Programme forestry measures, to allow more people with small or part-time farms, to claim the higher “farmer” rate of annual Farm Woodland Premium Scheme payments.

The last proposal, in December '09, sought to reduce the qualifying criteria for a “farmer” from at least 25% income from farming to at least 15% income from farming. It was accompanied by a detailed paper setting out the context and justification for the proposed reduction. The EU Commission replied in April 2010, rejecting the proposal. In June 2010, the former Minister, Michelle Gildernew, met the EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr Dacian Ciolos and raised the issue again. The Commissioner responded in December 2010, restating that the thresholds in relation to income from farming would not be reduced and the current farmer definition remains unchanged.

## Slurry

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what incentives are available to encourage farmers to add deodourising agents to slurry before spreading.

**(AQW 2580/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My Department is implementing a series of actions to improve slurry management and promote best practice which contribute to reducing odour from slurry spreading operations.

This includes providing financial support to encourage uptake of advanced slurry spreading systems such as trailing-shoe technology which have been proven to significantly reduce odour and ammonia

emissions. However, my Department does not offer financial incentives to encourage farmers to add deodourising agents to slurry.

Advanced slurry spreading systems also offer a range of other productive environmental benefits including greater nutrient efficiency from slurry, reduced need for chemical fertilizer and increased flexibility in spreading practice. This has been confirmed by research by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) and promoted through Slurry Efficiency workshops for farmers run by the College of Agriculture Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE).

Eighty three advanced slurry spreaders have been grant aided through Tranche 1 of my Department's Manure Efficiency and Technology Scheme (METS) and grant support for some one hundred and twenty five machines has been made available through Tranche 2. The Scheme provides 40% grant aid to a maximum grant of £10,000.

Advice for farmers on best practice and statutory requirements relating to slurry management, including minimizing odour, is provided in my Department's Code of Good Agricultural Practice.

In addition, anaerobic digestion of slurry results in a reduction of slurry odour when the digestate is spread. Future uptake of anaerobic digestion technology would contribute to reducing odour from slurry management in addition to other benefits including renewable energy, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved nitrogen efficiency.

Under Tranche 1 of the Department's Biomass Processing Challenge Fund, funding has been awarded to support the construction of five on farm anaerobic digesters. The Department intends to launch a second tranche of the Fund in the near future.

### **Young Farmers' Clubs**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how she intends to support the Young Farmers' Clubs and other organisations in fostering links with schools to explain the importance of farming to pupils.

**(AQW 2585/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The YFCU is a leading representative group for young people in agriculture and rural communities in the north. DARD has committed to provide annual funding of £75k to the YFCU from 2011-14 subject to the YFCU providing an acceptable funding proposal covering five specific work areas agreed with them. One of the work areas agreed with the YFCU is a schools outreach programme of a cross community nature. Within their funding proposal they have undertaken to plan and deliver a range of activities within schools. These activities could highlight the importance of farming in rural areas.

### **Antibiotics on Livestock**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what steps her Department is taking to reduce the use of antibiotics on livestock; and for her assessment of whether the overuse of antibiotics is a major contributor to the growth of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

**(AQW 2586/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** DARD has no statutory role in controlling the volume of anti-microbial usage in farm animals in the north of Ireland. However, DARD officials have worked closely with other government and non-government bodies on this important health issue in order to raise awareness of the mechanisms and significance of the development of antibiotic resistance.

In addition, CAFRE have a role in the education of farmers in the judicious use of animal medicines.

## Forest Service Board

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what consideration she has given to increasing the membership of the Forest Service Board to include representatives from the private sector as non-executive members.

**(AQW 2648/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The Forest Service Chief Executive is responsible to me for the Agency's performance and operations. As such, he is responsible for the arrangements for effective governance, and keeps these under review. The current Chief Executive has been recently appointed and advises me that he has no plans to change the arrangements for governance at the moment. When he does so he will ensure that he achieves an effective balance between executive and non-executive Directors.

## Regulation of Woodland

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development which is the lead agency for the regulation of woodland of less than 0.2 hectares.

**(AQW 2649/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Guidance and regulation applied to woodland is laid out in the Forestry Standard and associated Guidelines. The Standard and Guidelines apply to all forests and woodland (i.e. land predominantly covered in trees).

DARD's Forest Service is responsible for promoting and regulating forestry under the new Forestry Act (NI) 2010.

When subordinate legislation is made in respect of felling trees, under the new Forestry Act, it will apply to woodland of 0.2 hectare or more as the intention of the legislation is to protect woodland, and not individual trees.

The Standard, however, recognises that other bodies have responsibility for trees and woodlands. For example: DARD's agri-environment schemes (through the Rural Development Programme) specifically encourages planting of native woodland less than 0.2 hectare; DoE's Planning Service has responsibility for Tree Preservation Orders to protect individual or groups of trees and for planning applications where development is proposed on a woodland site; DARD's Forest Service apply the Environmental Impact Assessment(Forestry) Regulations to areas of proposed afforestation or deforestation in woodlands less than 0.2 hectare, if the proposal lies within a sensitive area such as a Special Area of Conservation.

## Farm Woodland Premium Scheme

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what consideration she has given to tracking the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme rates with the exchange rates similar to those of the Single Farm Payment.

**(AQW 2650/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Single Farm Payment entitlements are set in euro and payments to farmers are normally made in sterling using the exchange rate as recorded by the European Central Bank on 30 September. Farmers may opt to receive their payment in euro, but must elect to do this on an annual basis by 15 May on the Single Application Form.

Farm Woodland Premium Scheme rates are based on income foregone calculations in sterling, taking account of different agriculture land categories. They were last reviewed and amended by the Department in 2009 and are published and paid as sterling rates and are therefore not connected to the euro/sterling exchange rate in the same way as may affect Single Farm Payments.

## Rural Crimes

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of (i) the number of thefts of tractors; and (ii) other rural crimes at present.

**(AQW 2687/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I am aware of the increasing number of thefts on farms and the concern it is causing amongst the farming community. The number of recorded offences has increased from 66 in 07/08 to 137 in 10/11. My predecessor met with the Minister of Justice late last year to discuss issues relating to the increasing levels of rural crime including, in particular, agriculture related crime. My officials have liaised with colleagues in the Department of Justice to ensure that issues relating to rural crime are reflected in the development of the Rural White Paper.

I welcome local initiatives by Community Safety Partnerships to prevent rural crime, such as trailer marking and the forensic marking of sheep, and acknowledge the role Rural Watch schemes have in improving community safety. I also welcome the work streams being developed by the PSNI and An Garda Síochána under the Cross Border Strategy to prevent rural crime.

I would encourage farmers to participate in these initiatives and continue to ensure that they secure their properties by taking steps to minimise the risk of theft from their farms.

## Recommendations from Independent Appeal Panels

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many recommendations from independent appeal panels have been (i) accepted; and (ii) rejected by her Department since May 2007.

**(AQW 2701/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Since May 2007, my Department has accepted 247 Panel recommendations and has not accepted 31 Panel recommendations.

These Panel recommendations were made under the Single Farm Payment and Farm Subsidies review processes.

## Canvassing on Behalf of Mr McGuinness

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she had use of her Ministerial car whilst she was canvassing for Martin McGuinness in his campaign for the Presidency of the Republic of Ireland during the recent National Ploughing Championships; and whether any of her departmental officials who accompanied her to the Championships were canvassing on behalf of Mr McGuinness.

**(AQW 2780/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** No, I did not have use of my Ministerial car inside of the National Ploughing Championships.

No Departmental officials were canvassing on behalf of Mr McGuinness.

## Victims of Domestic Violence

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what work place policies are in place to assist victims of domestic violence within her Department and its arm's-length bodies.

**(AQW 2836/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** An NICS wide Workplace Policy for Domestic Violence and Abuse is in place and covers employees in all Government Departments. This policy offers support to those experiencing domestic violence and advice on where help and support can be obtained from within the Department and the various support services across the north of Ireland. The policy is easily accessible on the HRConnect portal.

## Meetings with Counterpart from the Republic of Ireland and UK

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many times she has met with her counterpart from the (i) Republic of Ireland; and (ii) UK since coming into office.

**(AQW 2841/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** To date I have not had the opportunity to meet my Defra Counterpart, Caroline Spelman, as a meeting I requested in June was declined. However, I am due to meet with Caroline Spelman and the other Devolved Ministers on the 25th October and 1st November.

I have met with my southern counterpart, Minister Simon Coveney on five occasions since coming into office.

## Official Visit to the Irish Ploughing Championships

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, given her recent campaigning for a candidate in the Irish Presidential election during an official visit to the Irish Ploughing Championships, whether she intends to reimburse the public purse for any of the cost of the trip; and how much she will reimburse.

**(AQW 2842/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** As Minister, I am invited each year to the National Ploughing Championships. In September 2011, I spent three days at this event carrying out Ministerial duties. On Tuesday 20th, I had 2 hours of free time allocated in my diary, during which I decided to accompany Mr McGuinness on a short tour of the site as part of his campaign for the Irish Presidency.

There was no cost to the public purse.

## Errors in Statements or Answers

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, since coming to office, how many (i) statements she has made to the Assembly; and (ii) of her answers to Members' questions have had to be corrected because of errors in his original statements or answers.

**(AQW 2843/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Since coming into office I have made two statements to the Assembly. Both Statements were made on 26 September on the NSMC Meetings in Aquaculture and Agriculture respectively.

No answers to Members' questions following these statements had to be corrected and there were no errors in my original statements.

## Agri-Food Sector

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in light of the strategy for the Agri-Food sector which was announced last year, to outline the export led growth targets that are in place.

**(AQW 2880/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Focus on Food outlined three key performance indicators (KPIs). However, in relation to your specific question, the relevant KPI is "External Sales as a percentage of Total Gross Turnover", with a target in place of 74.4% for 2010/11.

I have publicly stated my view that this strategy now needs to be developed into a longer-term plan up to 2020. Focus on Food and its performance indicators provide a foundation to build on for the Food Strategy Board (FSB), which will be developing this longer term vision for the sector up to 2020.

Work is well advanced with DETI on the establishment of the FSB and appointment of the independent Chair, after which this important work can begin.

## Agricultural Wages Board

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the total cost to the public purse of the Agricultural Wages Board in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 2881/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The total cost of the Agricultural Wages Board in each of the last three years is as follows:

2008-9	£24,809.77
2009-10	£24,559.92
2010-11	£22,912.45.

## Spreading Slurry

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, given the deadline restricting farmers from spreading slurry after the 15 October 2011, the high level of rain fall over the past few weeks and the time it will take for land conditions to improve before spreading can resume, for her assessment of the situation now facing farmers; and what consideration will be given to extending the deadline.

**(AQW 2923/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I recognise that many farmers have become concerned about their ability to meet the 15 October deadline for spreading slurry under the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations.

The ongoing wet weather has meant that in some areas harvesting of crops and silage have been delayed, livestock have had to be housed early and farmers have been unable to spread slurry as weather and ground conditions have been unsuitable. I therefore support some temporary flexibility enabling slurry to be spread up to 31 October this year.

This extra time would enable farmers to spread slurry when conditions may improve and therefore protect the environment. It is vital that farmers take great care to prevent water pollution. Slurry should only be spread when soil and weather conditions are suitable as required by the Nitrates Action Programme.

The Nitrates Action Programme (NI) Regulations 2010 and are joint legislation between my Department and the Department of the Environment (DOE). However, I am confident that working together, government and the farming industry can overcome the current difficulties whilst continuing to meet the requirements of the Nitrates Directive.

## Farms in the North Down Area

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of farms in the North Down area.

**(AQW 2947/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The June 2010 Agricultural Census found 64 farm businesses in the North Down District Council area.

## Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

### Grants for Junior Football Clubs

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what grants are available from her Department for junior football clubs.

**(AQW 2542/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure):** Sport NI is the lead development agency for sport in the north of Ireland with responsibility for the distribution of funding. Sport NI currently has no funding programmes open to which junior association football clubs could apply. However, in the last three financial years, Sport NI has provided £213,422 of exchequer funding to junior association football clubs. A breakdown of this funding is set out below:

Date	Organisation	Project	Grant
21/10/09	Tullyvallen Rangers FC	3G pitch + floodlighting	£192,494
11/02/10	Tollymore Utd FC	Mini league and coaching	£2,707
11/02/10	Greenisland FC	Aspects	£3,076
18/03/10	Greenisland FC	Aspects	£985
25/11/10	St Patricks FC	Equipment	£2,650
25/11/10	St Patrick's Young Mens/Girls FC	Equipment	£4,250
21/12/10	Lisnaskea Rovers FC	Equipment	£4,987
22/12/10	Shamrock FC	Equipment	£2,273
<b>Total</b>			<b>£213,422</b>

### Irish Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she will initiate discussions with the Irish Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to analyse the potential for the island of Ireland to play host to significant sporting events such as the Rugby World Cup.

**(AQW 2620/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I have already asked my officials to examine, and bring forward proposals on, the potential for greater north-south co-operation on culture, arts and leisure policy issues generally including sport. As part of this process, the potential for the island of Ireland to play host to significant sporting events, and discussions with the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport (DTTS), have been identified as one area for consideration. I will be considering proposals for initiating discussions with DTTS on these matters in the near future. I would also expect that the outcome of any discussions between DCAL and DTTS on the hosting of significant sporting events on the island will be shared with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) which has policy responsibility for major events in the north of Ireland.

### Salmon Stocks

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what measures she intends to put in place to ensure the future of salmon stocks in the rivers and sea around Northern Ireland; and whether the angling community will be consulted on these measures.

**(AQW 2683/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Northern Ireland's Atlantic salmon management strategy is aligned to the agreement reached by North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) and its Parties to adopt and apply a Precautionary Approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of the salmon resource and the environments in which it lives. NI, through the UK and EU, is a Party to NASCO.

NASCO agreements and guidelines are informed by and given legal standing through EC Directives such as the Habitats and Water Framework Directives.

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) has overall policy responsibility to ensure implementation of the strategy. The Department liaises with the Department of Agriculture and

Rural Development (DARD) which has responsibilities for aquaculture and fish health matters, the Department of Environment (DOE) and its agency, the Environment and Heritage Service, which deal with broader water quality matters and the Loughs Agency which implements Salmon conservation policies in the Foyle and Carlingford areas.

DCAL Fisheries Staff working with Agri – Food and Biosciences Institute staff (AFBI) at Bushmills Salmon Station, are currently undertaking long-term research on wild Atlantic salmon stocks.

The results of the research are vital in informing the development of further DCAL policy on the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon stocks and this process is now at an advanced stage.

The Department will consult with all stakeholders on any new measures on fishing for salmon in the DCAL jurisdiction.

### **Sailing Facilities at Strangford Lough**

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether the sailing facilities at Strangford Lough are being considered for use during the 2013 World Police and Fire Games.

**(AQW 2767/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Between 2 July 2010 and 29 July 2010 Sport NI completed an ‘expression of interest’ exercise (on behalf of the Stakeholder Group - the lead body prior to the formal establishment of 2013 World Police and Fire Games Limited on 28 February 2011) to identify potential venues to host the sports events for the 2013 Games.

Sport NI received 75 applications however no sailing facilities or sailing club based at Strangford Lough submitted an application for consideration. Therefore no sailing facilities at Strangford Lough are being considered for use during the 2013 Games.

### **October Monitoring Round**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to provide details of the proposed re-classification of £105,000 from resources to the capital budget in the October Monitoring Round for the Ministerial Advisory Group on the development of an Ulster-Scots Academy Strategy.

**(AQW 2776/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Discussions between the Ministerial Advisory Group on the development of an Ulster-Scots Academy (MAG) and stakeholders in the Ulster-Scots community have identified that a small amount of capital funding will be required for projects that will contribute to the delivery of the MAG key objective of developing an Academy approach.

My Department as part of its proposals under October Monitoring sought to reclassify £105,000 of the MAG budget from resource to capital.

### **Proposed Capital Spend Projects**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail her Department’s proposed capital spend projects for this financial year, including the projected timescales and the costs for each project.

**(AQW 2791/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The proposed capital spend projects for this financial year for my Department, including the projected timescales and the costs for each project are detailed in the table below.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Cost £000</b>	<b>Spend in 2011-12 £000</b>	<b>Projected Timescale</b>
<b>Inland Fisheries Group</b>			
Movanagher Hatchery – roof repair	325	325	Project completion is anticipated by the end of March 2012.
<b>PRONI</b>			
Digital Preservation Repository	317	22	Project completion is scheduled for July 2013.
New Accommodation Project – Provision of a new Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)	29,000	57	Whilst the new PRONI building opened to the public on 30 March 2011, some minor works remain. The New Accommodation Project will be complete by the end of March 2012.

### **Chairperson or Chief Executive: Arm's-Length Bodies**

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the daily rate paid by her Department to each Chairperson or Chief Executive of each of its arm's-length bodies; and how this rate was determined and approved.

#### **(AQW 2799/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chullín:** Chairpersons or Chief Executives in each of my Department's arm's-length bodies are paid on a per annum basis rather than a daily rate.

The rate of pay, commensurate with the level of responsibility, is determined by the arm's-length body and is designed to attract a suitably qualified individual. The rate is approved at Ministerial level.

In the case of Foras na Gaeilge, the rate of pay is determined by the North/South Ministerial Council.

Table 1 shows the rate of pay of each Chairperson appointed by DCAL for each of its arm's-length bodies. Where DCAL does not appoint a Chairperson, the rate of pay for the Chief Executive is shown.

**TABLE 1:**

<b>Name of Arm's-Length Body</b>	<b>Rate of Pay (£ per annum)</b>
Libraries NI Chairperson	10,000-15,000
Arts Council NI Chairperson	10,000-15,000
Sport NI Chairperson	10,000-15,000
National Museums NI Chairperson	10,000-15,000
NI Screen Chairperson	10,000-15,000
Ulster Scots Agency Chairperson	5,000-10,000
Armagh Observatory Chief Executive	60,000-65,000
Armagh Planetarium Chief Executive	60,000-65,000
NI Museums Council Chief Executive	Band 50,000 – 55,000
Waterways Ireland Chief Executive	90,000-95,000
Foras na Gaeilge Chairperson	10,000-15,000

## **Victims of Domestic Violence**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what work place policies are in place to assist victims of domestic violence within her Department and its arm's-length bodies.

**(AQW 2837/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** My Department implements the NICS Workplace Policy for Domestic Violence and Abuse which provides advice to Departments, line managers and individuals on how to deal with domestic violence situations when they arise.

The Department's arm's-length bodies do not have specific Workplace Policies for Domestic Violence and Abuse but a range of support and counselling services is offered for both workplace and domestic matters.

## **2013 World Police and Fire Games**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure where the athletics events of the 2013 World Police and Fire Games will be held.

**(AQW 2864/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Between 2 July 2010 and 29 July 2010 Sport NI completed an 'expression of interest' exercise (on behalf of the Stakeholder Group - the lead body prior to the formal establishment of 2013 World Police and Fire Games Limited on 28 February 2011) to identify potential venues to host the sports events for the 2013 Games.

Sport NI received 75 applications from potential venues, including athletics venues. 35 of the potential venues met the minimum standards specified by Sport NI and the Company is engaging in pre contract negotiations with them prior to the Board of the Company making final decisions. The negotiations are without prejudice. I will not be in a position to confirm venues until that process is complete.

## **2013 World Police and Fire Games**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline the projected capital costs of bringing the venues for the 2013 World Police and Fire Games up to the required standard.

**(AQW 2865/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Between 2 July 2010 and 29 July 2010 Sport NI completed an 'expression of interest' exercise (on behalf of the Stakeholder Group - the lead body prior to the formal establishment of 2013 World Police and Fire Games Limited on 28 February 2011) to identify potential venues to host the sports events for the 2013 Games.

All of the provisional sports venues identified by 2013 WPFGE meet the required minimum sports standards specified by Sport NI and the World Police and Fire Games Federation therefore no capital work is required.

However I would wish to highlight the fact that no capital funding has been allocated to 2013 World Police and Fire Games Limited and the Company is not in a position to fund any capital works were it required.

## **2013 World Police and Fire Games**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether all the 2013 World Police and Fire Games events will be held in Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 2867/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Between 2 July 2010 and 29 July 2010 Sport NI completed an 'expression of interest' exercise (on behalf of the Stakeholder Group - the lead body prior to the formal establishment of 2013 World Police and Fire Games Limited on 28 February 2011) to identify potential venues to host the sports events for the 2013 Games. I can confirm that all the potential venues shortlisted for consideration are within the north of Ireland.

## Libraries

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many members of libraries have been banned for having fines in excess of £10, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 2906/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Because of the dynamic nature of the Libraries NI database, it is not possible to say how many members of libraries have been banned for having fines in excess of £10 in each of the last three years.

Once a fine is paid, Libraries NI do not hold a record that the borrower was once in default, they can only identify borrowers who are still in default.

On 6 October 2011 the total number of borrowers still having fines greater than £10 outstanding was 2,368.

## Wild Salmon Population

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 2080/11-15, whether her Department has made any provision for new or additional conservation measures to protect against threats to wild salmon populations; and if so, to detail these measures.

**(AQW 2996/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** My Department will undertake and complete a number of habitat improvement schemes and fish passage projects, in line with North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) guidance, in the current financial year. These will enhance the conditions for the breeding and survival of wild salmon populations.

My Department recently agreed and signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DCAL and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). The purpose of the MOU is to establish a framework for co-operation in implementing our respective statutory duties in relation to the protection of fisheries, pollution incidents, conservation of water resources and water quality.

My Department undertakes full technical assessments on all planning applications and abstraction licence applications relating to fish passage issues. Recommendations are forwarded to Planning Service for consideration and these may be incorporated as conditions on any Planning Approval Consent issued.

New fish count passes at the Clady River and Garvery River will become operational in 2012 and will provide additional data which will be used to inform and develop future salmon conservation measures.

My Department continues to commission scientific research and monitors the status of salmon stocks within its jurisdiction and such data informs the on-going development of salmon conservation policy.

## Sharing of Sports Facilities in North Down

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what action she is taking to promote the sharing of sports facilities in North Down.

**(AQW 3049/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Responsibility for taking action to promote the sharing of sports facilities in North Down is a matter for the owners of those facilities and North Down Borough Council in the first instance. Nevertheless, through my sports strategy, Sport Matters, I have been encouraging all sports stakeholders to agree specific, co-ordinated actions that will promote greater sharing of sports facilities and spaces for sport generally in the north of Ireland including North Down.

As a result of this process, a detailed Sport Matters Action Plan was agreed and approved in October 2011 by my DCAL led, Sport Matters Monitoring Group, which I chair. This detailed Action Plan sets out a range of concerted cross-sectoral actions, to be taken over the next 4 years, that will facilitate the delivery of the targets in Sport Matters including those relating to the development of multi-use and

shared sports facilities. These actions have been agreed and endorsed by a wide range of stakeholders representing central and local government, sport and the voluntary and community sectors. The actions agreed cover all areas of the north of Ireland including North Down.

### **Northern Ireland Captain Aaron Hughes**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans her Department has to mark the retirement from international football of the Northern Ireland captain Aaron Hughes.

**(AQW 3052/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I have no plans to mark the retirement from international football of Aaron Hughes as this is not a matter for me but entirely a matter for the governing body for association football in the north, the Irish Football Association.

### **Review of Library Opening Hours**

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure why Libraries NI did not consider daily procedures such as requests, renewals, new borrowers and stock processing as criteria in the consultation on the Review of Library Opening Hours.

**(AQW 3053/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Review of Library opening hours categorised all libraries into four bands based on levels of use drawing on four key indicators: stock issues, visits, active members and use of the public access computer terminals.

Libraries NI is content that these key indicators are representative of overall library activity and that, in total, they provide a sufficiently comprehensive and informed picture upon which it can consult with the public.

The public consultation process has commenced and will include conversations with each community about when they would like to see their library opened.

Decisions will not be made until all the information from the consultation has been collated and presented to the Board of Libraries NI. This Board contains councillors from the DUP, the SDLP, my own party and the UUP.

I would emphasise that nothing as yet has been finalised by the Libraries NI Board and I would encourage people to take part in this consultation.

### **Gaelic Athletic Association and Gaelic Games: Funding**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding her Department has provided to the Gaelic Athletic Association and Gaelic games in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 3060/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Sport NI is the lead development agency for sport in the north of Ireland with responsibility for the distribution of funding. In the last five financial years, Sport NI has provided a total of £20,972,646 to the Gaelic Athletic Association and Gaelic games broken down as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Funding Provided</b>
2006/07	£2,028,625
2007/08	£3,983,734
2008/09	£5,632,932
2009/10	£8,700,691
2010/11	£626,664
<b>Total</b>	<b>£20,972,646</b>

## Directors and Staff in the Odyssey Trust Company

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of whether Directors and staff in the Odyssey Trust Company are paid salaries which do not exceed reasonable and proper open market and arm's-length commercial rates.

**(AQW 3065/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Odyssey Trust Company (OTC) Limited is a charity and an independent company limited by guarantee.

OTC's Trustees are the non-executive Directors of the charity and do not receive any remuneration.

The recruitment, selection, appointment and remuneration of OTC's staff is the sole responsibility of the OTC Trustees.

As with any other charitable organisation, those responsible for OTC are duty bound to ensure that they operate efficiently and effectively within the framework of its Memorandum and Articles, and in full accordance with relevant legislation and regulations.

## Gaelic Athletic Association and Gaelic Games: Funding

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding her Department provided to the Gaelic Athletic Association and Gaelic games in the last financial year.

**(AQW 3067/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Sport NI is the lead development agency for sport in the north of Ireland with responsibility for the distribution of funding. In the last financial year to 31 March 2011, Sport NI provided £626,664 to the Gaelic Athletic Association and Gaelic games.

## Department of Education

### Sublet Premises

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister of Education how many schools currently sublet premises to playgroups and nurseries; and (ii) what is the average rental cost of these sublets.

**(AQW 2360/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education):** Information to answer this question is not readily available and to source would incur disproportionate cost.

### Vacant Places in Primary Schools

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Education to detail the current total estimated number of vacant places in primary schools.

**(AQW 2388/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The number of vacant places in primary schools in 2010-11 – the most recent academic year for which figures are available - was 66,705.

The figures are derived from the difference between the total of the approved enrolment numbers for schools and the number of children enrolled. They exclude the enrolments of 4409 pupils in receipt of a statement of special educational needs, and 7 pupils admitted on appeal by the Education and Library Board appeal tribunals as they are admitted over and above a school's approved enrolment number.

## Alternative Education Provision Review

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Education when the Alternative Education Provision Review will be published for consultation.

**(AQW 2439/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The report from the review is on track to be published for consultation in December.

I have made it clear that schools must meet the need of pupils. The proposals have been revisited on a number of occasions to take account of policy developments which contribute to the retention of pupils within the school environment, where ever possible. Furthermore, the proposals will be assessed to ensure that they are wholly compatible with "Putting Pupils First – Shaping Our Future announced on 26 September.

## 11 Plus Transfer Test

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Education what assistance his Department is giving to post-primary schools which are endeavouring to deal with the removal of the 11 plus transfer test.

**(AQW 2457/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department has published advice and guidance on post-primary transfer which provides schools with recommendations that may be adopted when setting admissions criteria. If followed, these recommendations will help promote equality of access to a school's provision, and do so without the need for any form of transfer test.

My Department's guidance contains a section entitled "Moving Forward – the Transition to an Equality Based Transfer Process" which highlights issues to be considered by schools seeking to move away from academic selection. It highlights that my Department will offer individual advice in response to a school's specific plans to make this change.

My Department officials are available to discuss the matter with any school which requires clarification or additional advice on the practical steps that need to be followed to make this change.

## Western Education and Library Board: Staff

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Education to provide a breakdown of the religious background of staff in the (i) Legal Section; (ii) Development Section; and (iii) Drawing Office in the Western Education and Library Board.

**(AQW 2505/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department is unable to provide the information requested as the number of staff in each section is relatively small. Given this fact, release of the information requested may lead to an individual being identified which would constitute a breach the Data Protection Act 1998.

## School Transport

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Education what duty an Education and Library Board has to provide transport for children who live over three miles from their school.

**(AQW 2513/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The duty of an Education and Library Board is to provide transport assistance, not specifically transport, for eligible pupils in line with Article 52 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986, as substituted by Article 23(1) of the Education (NI) Order 1997. Once a pupil's eligibility is determined based on the two criteria of suitable school and distance which is 3 miles in the case of a post-primary school, Boards consider how best to assist the pupil based on factors such as the location of their house, distribution of other eligible pupils, existing transport routes etc. Assistance may take the form of a bus pass on Translink/Metro services, or a seat on a Board or private operator bus/taxi, or a parental allowance. In deciding the form of assistance provided, Boards must have regard to the need not to incur unreasonable public expenditure.

## Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education whether his Department has implemented the action in the Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan which states that Departments must explore the implementation of domestic violence workplace policies with private and public sector employers; and if his Department will meet the target implementation date of December 2011.

**(AQW 2556/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Education and Library Boards have previously reported that they do not have domestic violence workplace policies in place but may consider developing a joint policy in future. I have asked my officials to write to the Management Sides of both the Teachers' Negotiating Committee and the Joint Negotiating Council to request that a draft domestic violence workplace policy is drawn up by December 2011 in consultation with stakeholders including trade unions. In the meantime, the ELBs' staff welfare service is available to support staff who experience domestic violence or abuse.

The NICS Domestic Violence and Abuse policy is set out in the NICS HR Handbook. This policy applies across all NICS Departments including DE.

The policy provides advice on how Departments and Agencies should deal with domestic violence situations that might arise: it provides details of the first point of contact for employees who need to discuss issues around domestic violence; identifies signs of domestic violence; sets out the role of the Line Manager and Welfare Officer and provides a list of contact details for Support Services available to staff.

The Department is a member of the

- Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence.
- Interdepartmental Multi-Agency Steering Group on Domestic Violence and Abuse.
- Prevention and Support Sub of the Interdepartmental Multi-Agency Steering Group on Domestic Violence and Abuse.

## Year 1 School Places

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education how many Year 1 school places were not filled this term in the North Down area.

**(AQW 2619/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** There are currently a total of 1167 Year 1 places available in primary schools in the North Down area for the 2011/12 academic year. There were 215 places unoccupied (as at 28 September 2011) in the following schools:

Hollywood PS	28
Clandeboye PS	55
Redburn PS	40
Kilcooley PS	65
St Patrick's PS Holywood	9
St Anne's PS Comber	8
St Malachy's PS Bangor	9
Glencraig Integrated PS	1

## Academy Scheme

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Education (i) what consideration his Department has given to the Academy Scheme currently operating in England; and (ii) whether he has plans to introduce a similar scheme.

**(AQW 2621/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I have not considered the introduction of an Academy scheme, and have no plans to do so. The keys to success for many schools are effective leadership by boards of governors, and a high degree of autonomy for the school to manage its own affairs. Under the Review of Public Administration, I seek to establish an Education and Skills Authority with a duty to support boards of governors, and ensure that all schools, regardless of sector or management type, have the level of autonomy that they need and require.

## School Holidays

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Education, given the possibility of treacherous road conditions as a result of severe weather this winter, and rising energy prices, whether any research has been carried out on the savings that could be made if schools closed for the month of January as opposed to August.

**(AQW 2625/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am unaware of any research undertaken to determine what savings could be made if schools were to close for the month of January rather than August. Many schools already take a two week holiday at Christmas and, if adverse weather occurs, keep their heating running over this period to avoid the likelihood of burst pipes.

It could be possible to make such a change to the school holidays, provided there would be no reduction in the number of school days of operation and that the change is supported by schools, school teachers and parents. I have however received no representations from schools or parents, for such a change.

## Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister of Education (i) when the findings of the consultation document 'Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion' will be made available; and (ii) whether there will be another consultation on an updated document.

**(AQW 2654/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The consultation document, 'Every School a Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Inclusion' generated a high level of interest resulting in over 2900 responses. The Department has given full consideration to these responses and has taken care to fully understand and reflect the range of perspectives that the respondents provided. I have recently considered the draft summary report of the responses to the consultation.

I expect that this summary response report will issue later in the autumn, along with an indication of the broad direction of travel that I propose the policy will take. I envisage that any resultant legislative proposals would be drafted for consideration in early 2012.

Following my consideration of the options, there will be engagement with stakeholder groups, including teachers and parents, on the detailed policy proposals. Further public consultation will take place at the legislative stage as any revised legislation progresses through the Assembly.

## Year 8 Pupils: Free School Meals

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education, to detail, in ascending order, what percentage of Year 8 pupils are entitled to free school meals in each post-primary school, broken down by (i) grammar schools; and (ii) non-grammar schools.

**(AQW 2660/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information requested is contained in the table below.

### PERCENTAGE OF YEAR 8 PUPILS ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN GRAMMAR SCHOOLS, 2010/11

School name	% Year 8 pupils entitled to Free School Meals
Campbell College	*
Ballyclare High School	*
Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock	*
The Royal Belfast Academical Institution	*
The Royal School Dungannon	*
Ballymena Academy	*
Down High School	*
Carrickfergus Grammar School	*
Sullivan Upper School	*
Banbridge Academy	2.6
Friends' School	*
Wallace High School	2.9
The Royal School Armagh	*
Loreto College, Coleraine	*
Methodist College	3.7
Antrim Grammar School	*
Collegiate Grammar School	*
Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School	4.3
Belfast High School	4.4
Dalriada School	4.8
Assumption Grammar School, Ballynahinch	4.9
Regent House School	5.2
St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt	5.2
Victoria College	5.3
Larne Grammar School	5.4
Strathearn School	5.5
Bangor Grammar School	5.5

<b>School name</b>	<b>% Year 8 pupils entitled to Free School Meals</b>
Rathmore Grammar School	5.5
Belfast Royal Academy	6.4
Sacred Heart Grammar School	6.5
Omagh Academy	6.7
Mount Lourdes Grammar School	6.9
Glenlola Collegiate	7.0
Rainey Endowed School	7.0
Lumen Christi College	7.3
Grosvenor Grammar School	7.6
Cambridge House Grammar School	7.7
Bloomfield Collegiate	7.9
Coleraine Academical Institution	8.0
Coleraine High School	8.2
St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena	8.6
Limavady Grammar School	8.6
Foyle & Londonderry College	8.7
Portora Royal School	8.7
Hunterhouse College	8.9
St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick	8.9
St Patrick's Grammar School, Armagh	9.6
St Michael's College, Enniskillen	9.8
Abbey Christian Brothers Grammar School	11.0
St Colman's College, Newry	11.2
Dominican College, Portstewart	11.6
Wellington College	11.7
Dominican College, Belfast	12.0
St Dominic's High School, Belfast	12.7
St Malachy's College, Belfast	13.5
St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon	14.7
Our Lady's Grammar School, Newry	15.0
Loreto Grammar School, Omagh	15.2
St Joseph's Grammar School, Donaghmore	15.4
Strabane Grammar School	16.4
Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Omagh	17.4

<b>School name</b>	<b>% Year 8 pupils entitled to Free School Meals</b>
Thornhill College	19.2
St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel	19.5
St Columb's College, Derry	20.4
St Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School , Belfast	25.1

**PERCENTAGE OF YEAR 8 PUPILS ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN NON-GRAMMAR SCHOOLS, 2010/11**

<b>School name</b>	<b>% Year 8 pupils entitled to Free School Meals</b>
Newtownhamilton High School	*
Saintfield High School	*
Drumragh College	8.5
Markethill High School	9.8
Lurgan Junior High	10.2
Killicomaine Junior High School	10.4
St Colm's High School, Draperstown	10.9
Rathfriland High School	11.1
The High School Ballynahinch	11.9
Devenish College	12.4
Strangford Integrated College	12.6
Dromore High School	12.7
Kilkeel High School	13.7
Fivemiletown College	13.9
Blackwater Integrated College	14.0
Slemish College	14.2
Ballyclare Secondary School	14.2
Crumlin Integrated College	14.3
Cookstown High School	14.7
St Killian's College, Carnlough	14.7
St Aidan's High School, Derrylin	14.7
St Joseph's College, Belfast	14.7
Downshire School	14.8
Lagan College	15.8
Laurelhill Community College	16.0
Tandragee Junior High School	16.0

<b>School name</b>	<b>% Year 8 pupils entitled to Free School Meals</b>
Cross and Passion College, Ballycastle	16.7
St Paul's Junior High School	16.8
New-Bridge Integrated College	16.9
St Paul's College, Kilrea	16.9
Fort Hill College	17.1
St Mary's College, Portglenone	17.6
Cullybackey High School	18.0
Shimna Integrated College	18.2
St Patrick's Co-ed Comprehensive College	18.3
Banbridge High School	19.2
St Patrick's High School, Keady	19.2
Sperrin Integrated College	19.5
Limavady High School	19.9
Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Ballymoney	20.0
St Columba's College, Portaferry	20.0
Glastry College	20.5
Aughnacloy High School	20.9
Ulidia Integrated College	20.9
Clounagh Junior High School	21.1
St Catherine's College, Armagh	21.4
Parkhall Integrated College	21.6
Newry High School	21.7
St Patrick's College, Dungiven	21.7
St Mary's High School, Lurgan	22.0
Dunclug College	22.0
Erne Integrated College	22.1
St Pius X College	22.9
Ballycastle High School	23.0
Dunluce High School	23.0
St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar	23.3
Larne High School	23.6
Dean Maguirc College	23.6
Drumglass High School	23.7
Omagh High School	23.7

<b>School name</b>	<b>% Year 8 pupils entitled to Free School Meals</b>
Bangor Academy and 6th Form College	24.0
St Joseph's College, Enniskillen	24.1
St Fanchea's College, Enniskillen	24.5
St Paul's High School, Bessbrook	24.6
Magherafelt High School	25.0
St Eugene's College, Roslea	25.0
St Mary's High School, Belleek	25.0
St Patrick's College, Banbridge	25.0
Integrated College Dungannon	25.3
St Ciaran's High School, Ballygawley	25.7
St Columbanus' College, Bangor	26.0
Lisnagarvey High School	26.3
St Patrick's High School, Lisburn	26.3
Ballymoney High School	26.6
Ashfield Boys' High School	27.4
St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch	27.7
St Mark's High School, Warrenpoint	27.9
Knockbreda High School	28.4
Holy Trinity College, Cookstown	28.4
Castlederg High School	28.4
Ashfield Girls' High School	28.4
City Armagh High School	28.6
St Joseph's College, Coleraine	28.8
Priory College	28.9
Glengormley High School	29.2
Monkstown Community School	29.4
St Mary's High School, Downpatrick	29.9
Carrickfergus College	29.9
St Columban's College, Kilkeel	30.3
St Brigid's High School, Armagh	30.4
St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan	31.0
St Patrick's College, Ballymena	31.1
St Mary's, Limavady	32.0
Lisnaskea High School	32.3

<b>School name</b>	<b>% Year 8 pupils entitled to Free School Meals</b>
St Comhghall's College, Lisnaskea	32.3
Lismore Comprehensive School	32.4
Nendrum College	32.6
St Benedict's College, Randalstown	33.7
Movilla High School	33.8
Lisneal College	33.8
Newtownbreda High School	34.2
Sacred Heart College, Omagh	34.3
St Mary's College, Irvinestown	34.5
Holy Cross College, Strabane	34.8
Ballee Community High School	35.2
St Patricks & St Brigids High School, Claudy	35.2
Little Flower Girls' School	35.5
St Patrick's College	35.8
Edmund Rice College	35.9
De La Salle College, Belfast	36.4
Dundonald High School	36.5
St Louise's Comprehensive College, Belfast	37.2
Garvagh High School	37.5
Colaiste Feirste	38.4
North Coast Integrated College	40.3
Dunmurry High School	40.5
St Joseph's Boys' High School, Newry	40.7
De La Salle High School, Downpatrick	40.9
Hazelwood College	40.9
Brownlow Integrated College	41.1
St Joseph's High School, Crossmaglen	41.8
Strabane High School	42.4
St Mary's High School, Newry	42.7
Belfast Model School For Girls	42.9
Coleraine College	42.9
St John's High School, Dromore	43.5
Belfast Boys' Model School	45.2
St Genevieve's High School, Belfast	45.4

School name	% Year 8 pupils entitled to Free School Meals
Malone Integrated College	46.9
St Patrick's College, Belfast	47.7
Our Lady of Mercy Girls' School, Belfast	48.0
Oakgrove Integrated College	48.6
St Cecilia's College, Derry	49.3
St Mary's College, Derry	52.1
St Eugene's High School, Castlederg	52.9
St Joseph's Boys' School, Derry	55.5
St Joseph's College, Coalisland	55.9
St Rose's High School, Belfast	56.4
Drumcree College	57.6
Newtownabbey Community High School	58.3
St Colm's High School, Dunmurry	60.9
Orangefield High School	63.3
St Brigid's College, Derry	64.6
Christian Brothers School, Belfast	65.7
St Gemma's High School, Belfast	68.8
Immaculate Conception College	70.8
Corpus Christi College	71.7
St Peter's High School, Derry	82.6

**Source:** NI school census.

**Note:** '\*' means a figure relating to fewer than 5 pupils has been treated under rules of disclosure.

### Year 8 School Places

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education how many Year 8 school places were not filled this term in the North Down area.

**(AQW 2668/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** There are currently 11 unfilled Year 8 places in the North Down constituency area.

### Share Sports Facilities or Grounds

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail the schools which have arrangements to share sports facilities or grounds with outside organisations on a regular basis.

**(AQW 2688/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department does not hold records on the information requested and to compile this information would incur disproportionate costs.

However, I would advise that my Department encourages the community use of school facilities and to this end I am aware of many examples where school sports facilities are utilised by other

organisations. For example, five new build schools in the Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB) area have a wide range of facilities that are made available for community use.

The schools are: Ashfield Girls' High School, Belfast Boys' Model School, Belfast Model School for Girls', Grosvenor Grammar School and Orangefield Primary School.

My officials are also currently engaged in ongoing discussions with Sport NI on the wider community use of schools.

### Breakfast Clubs

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education which schools in the North Down area offer Breakfast Clubs to pupils.

**(AQW 2689/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Information on breakfast clubs is not routinely collected from schools. The Department's Extended Schools (ES) programme provides additional funding for those schools serving the most disadvantaged areas to provide for a wide range of services and activities outside of the traditional school day and, where assessed as needed, this may include breakfast clubs.

In the 2011/12 financial year, Extended Schools funding has been allocated in respect of 6 schools in the North Down constituency. The Chief Executive of the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) has confirmed that 4 of these schools currently operate a breakfast club using funding provided by the ES programme. Details are outlined in the table below.

#### SCHOOLS IN NORTH DOWN OFFERING BREAKFAST CLUBS SUPPORTED BY ES FUNDING 2011/12

Clandeboyne Primary School
Millisle Primary School
Kilcooley Primary School
Bloomfield Primary School

### Free School Meals

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number; and (ii) percentage of pupils in each school in the North Down area that receive free school meals.

**(AQW 2690/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The number of children taking school meals varies from week to week. However, information collected annually from the School Meals Census provides a snapshot of the numbers taking meals on the day on which census information is gathered. The most recent figures available, taken from the 2010 School Meals Census are contained in the tables below:

#### NURSERY SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY<sup>1, 2</sup> - 2010/11

School name	Total enrolment	Total taking free school meals on census day	Percentage of pupils taking free school meals on census day
Bangor Central Nursery School	78	16	20.5%
Hollywood Nursery School	52	0	0.0%
Trinity Nursery School	52	0	0.0%

**PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT OF GRAMMAR SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH  
DOWN CONSTITUENCY 1,2,3,4 - 2010/11**

<b>School name</b>	<b>Total enrolment</b>	<b>Total taking free school meals on census day</b>	<b>Percentage of pupils taking free school meals on census day</b>
Ballyholme Primary School	593	7	1.2%
Ballymagee Primary School	409	30	7.3%
Ballyvester Primary School	68	7	10.3%
Bangor Central Primary School	572	16	2.8%
Bloomfield Primary School	332	80	24.1%
Clandeboye Primary School	132	30	22.7%
Connor House Preparatory School	85	*	*
Crawfordsburn Primary School	219	16	7.3%
Donaghadee Primary School	418	35	8.4%
Glencraig Integrated Primary School	226	9	4.0%
Glenlola Collegiate Preparatory Department	83	*	*
Grange Park Primary School	363	18	5.0%
Hollywood Primary School	324	15	4.6%
Kilcooley Primary School	144	60	41.7%
Kilmaine Primary School	670	28	4.2%
Millisle Primary School	172	36	20.9%
Rathmore Primary School	551	28	5.1%
Redburn Primary School	76	15	19.7%
St Anne's Primary School	31	*	*
St Comgall's Primary School	290	8	2.8%
St Malachy's Primary School	330	46	13.9%
St Patrick's Primary School	217	11	5.1%
Sullivan Upper Preparatory Department	184	*	*
Towerview Primary School	369	16	4.3%

**POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY - 2010/11**

<b>School name</b>	<b>Total enrolment</b>	<b>Total taking free school meals on census day</b>	<b>Percentage of pupils taking free school meals on census day</b>
Bangor Academy and 6th Form College	1412	164	11.6%
Bangor Grammar School	901	26	2.9%
Glenlola Collegiate	1073	30	2.8%
Priory College	481	67	13.9%
St Columbanus' College	558	70	12.5%
Sullivan Upper School	1070	17	1.6%

**SPECIAL SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY - 2010/11**

<b>School name</b>	<b>Total enrolment</b>	<b>Total taking free school meals on census day</b>	<b>Percentage of pupils taking free school meals on census day</b>
Clifton Special School	118	27	22.9%
Lakewood Special School	6	0	0.0%

**Source:** NI school census 2010/11 and NI School Meals Census 2010/11

**Note:**

1. Some Nursery schools and Nursery units of Primary schools have not introduced all pupils to school by the Census date so although counted in the enrolment figures the numbers taking a school meal may be lower than if collected later in the year.
2. Some Nursery school and Nursery unit pupils only attend a half day session which may not include time for a midday meal.
3. Enrolment figures for primary schools include nursery units, reception and Year 1 - 7 classes.
4. Reception pupils and primary 1 pupils in some schools only attend for a half-day session until the end of October which may not include time for a midday meal.
5. \* denotes fewer than 5 pupils.

**Bangor Central Integrated Primary School**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education for an update on any proposed capital works for Bangor Central Integrated Primary School.

**(AQW 2691/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** As previously advised the SEELB plans to provide new temporary accommodation at Bangor Central Integrated Primary School to serve as a dining hall at a cost of approximately £185,000. This project has not yet been completed but the Board have advised that the work involved will be completed in the current financial year. In addition the SEELB also plans to undertake the replacement of windows in the school in 2011/12 at an estimated cost of £150,000, subject of course to the availability of finance.

You will be aware from my recent statement to the Assembly that all projects will now be critically assessed as part of the area planning exercise to determine the infrastructure needed to deliver the area plan.

The project for Bangor Central Integrated Primary School could come forward again if, after testing against the new processes being established, it remains the highest priority in the context of the area plan.

## School Inspections

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Education (i) what is the average (a) duration, on site, of a school inspection; and (b) length of time from a school inspection to report stage; and (ii) in light of established timescales, for his assessment of whether every school can be adequately inspected within three months, as announced by him on 26 September 2011.

**(AQW 2697/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I wish to clarify that I have commissioned the Education and Library Boards, working in close conjunction with CCMS and other school sectors, to undertake a viability audit of the all schools, to identify those schools which are evidencing stress now in relation to sustainable enrolment levels, delivery of quality education and financial viability. It was not intended that a full inspection of each school would be required to complete this exercise.

I would emphasise that the viability audit is the first step in a process of collective, strategic planning which will ultimately lead to the production of an area plan for education provision to meet future demand balanced against available resources for investment. As area planning develops I will, of course, be seeking the advice of the Education and Training Inspectorate on the appropriateness of the proposals in the plans to meet the needs of the pupils in an area.

## Integrated System of Education

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister of Education how he intends to encourage increased sharing and collaboration between schools to progress a more integrated system of education.

**(AQW 2710/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am committed to putting the needs, interests and aspirations of pupils first. Sharing and collaboration not only benefit pupils but the whole school community and wider society. Based on genuine trust and good working relationships this will not be achieved by the setting targets or issue of directions by my department but by what works to enrich the educational and other experience of pupils

My Department's Community Relations, Equality and Diversity in Education Policy recognises the collaboration and partnership that already exists between schools, youth groups, colleges and training organisation and seeks to build on this in a way that meets the needs of young people. The policy encourages education settings to provide the opportunity for children and young people to build relationships with those of different backgrounds and traditions through sharing and collaboration. Similarly, there is and has been for a number of years much good practice in place, where schools across Area Learning Communities work together to come up with imaginative and innovative solutions to address the issue of broadening the range of curricular pathways for their pupils. In a difficult resource context, through working in partnership, schools can pool resources, share their expertise and avoid duplication. As area planning develops and the needs of pupils are identified opportunities for increased sharing may arise across and within sectors.

My Department is acting as the managing agent for the Sharing in Education Programme which is funded by the International Fund for Ireland. There are currently 22 projects funded under the programme to promote shared classes and collaboration. The International Fund for Ireland supports programmes and projects which aim to facilitate sharing of educational experiences among young people on a cross sectoral basis. My Department is therefore well placed to identify at first hand the emerging learning to inform policy development.

The Extended Schools programme encourages neighbouring schools to share resources and facilities which benefit both pupils and the wider community in that it provides access to a greater range of

opportunities. Of the schools eligible for the 2011/12 ES programme 434 (96%) are working in partnership with neighbouring schools.

### **Irish Medium Statutory Pre-School Places**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education to detail the increase in the number of Irish Medium statutory pre-school places over the last four years.

**(AQW 2724/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** In the last four years there have been 9 Irish medium nursery units approved. Seven of these have provided an additional 182 full-time statutory Irish-medium pre-school places. A further two units have received conditional approval for 26 full-time places respectively, with an implementation date of September 2012.

### **Irish Medium Statutory Pre-School Units**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education (i) to list all the Irish medium statutory pre-school units; and (ii) to detail (a) when they were given statutory status; and (b) their enrolment figures for each year since they opened.

**(AQW 2725/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The attached table lists all Irish medium statutory pre-school units and gives details of their enrolment from the date they were granted statutory status apart from Bunscoil Phobal Feirste which only recorded the information in relation to its nursery unit from 2002. This school was granted statutory status in August 1994.

**PUPILS IN NURSERY UNITS IN IRISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS 2002/03 – 2010/11**

<b>School Name</b>	<b>2002/03 Enrolment</b>	<b>2003/04 Enrolment</b>	<b>2004/05 Enrolment</b>	<b>2005/06 Enrolment</b>	<b>2006/07 Enrolment</b>	<b>2007/08 Enrolment</b>	<b>2008/09 Enrolment</b>	<b>2009/10 Enrolment</b>	<b>2010/11 Enrolment</b>
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste	43	48	32	43	35	41	49	52	52
Gaelscoil Na Bhfal	-	24	26	26	26	26	27	26	27
Bunscoil An TSleibhe Dhuibh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
Scoil An Droichid	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	26	26
Bunscoil Cholmille	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
Gaelscoil Uí Dhochartaigh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	26
Gaelscoil na gCrann	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Gaelscoil Uí Neill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
Christian Brothers' Primary School (Unit)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	26

Bunscoil Phobal Feirste was established in 1994, however enrolment figures are only available from 2002/03.

## Schools in the Formal Intervention Process

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education how many schools are currently in the Formal Intervention process.

**(AQW 2727/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** As at 3rd October 2011, there are 19 schools in the Formal Intervention Process. These schools are listed in the table below.

School	Date Entered Formal Intervention Process
Ballee Community High School, Ballymena	4 March 2010
Ballygolan Primary School, Belfast	22 March 2010
Bunscoil an Iúir, Newry	3 November 2010
Cambridge House Grammar School, Ballymena	03 June 2011
Crumlin Integrated College	1 February 2010
Dunmurry High School	14 March 2011
Gaelscoil na Daróige, Derry	22 December 2009
Gaelscoil na Móna, Belfast	25 January 2010
Harryville Primary School, Ballymena	22 June 2011
Kirkinriola Primary School, Ballymena	13 April 2011
Knockbreda High School, Belfast	20 October 2009
Lisnagarvey High School, Lisburn	06 April 2011
Lisneal College, Derry	11 March 2010
Omagh North Nursery School	28 September 2011
Orangefield High School, Belfast	10 May 2011
Springhill Primary School, Belfast	23 March 2011
St Gemma's High School, Belfast	13 April 2011
St Patrick's Primary School, Aughagallon	26 October 2010
Tullygally Primary School, Lurgan	23 March 2011

## Compulsory Education

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister of Education to outline the research that suggests that children are at a disadvantage if they have not received compulsory education before they are five years old.

**(AQW 2745/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The 'Effective Pre-School Provision in N I (EPPNI) Pre-School Experience and Key Stage 2 Performance in English and Mathematics Progress Report', published in 2010. This report found that a child's age in relation to others in the school year is an important predictor of both attainment and progress in English and Mathematics, with older pupils doing distinctly better. The report added that the odds of attaining level 5 (as compared with level 3) increase by 13-14% for each month of age. This report is published on the Department's website and can be accessed on the following link; [http://www.deni.gov.uk/no\\_52\\_2010.pdf](http://www.deni.gov.uk/no_52_2010.pdf)

Further information regarding EPPNI and other research associated with the Early Years Strategy is contained within an evidenced based paper commissioned by my Department to ensure the Early Years

Strategy is based on evidenced based policy findings. This paper is also published on the Department's website and can be accessed on the following link:

[http://www.deni.gov.uk/early\\_years\\_evidence\\_based\\_paper.pdf](http://www.deni.gov.uk/early_years_evidence_based_paper.pdf)

## Statement of Special Educational Need

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of why the percentage of post-primary school pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need is higher in some areas than others, in particular, the fact that Fermanagh and South Tyrone has a rate of 4 percent compared to the average rate of 3.6 percent; and what action his Department is taking to address these discrepancies.

**(AQW 2746/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Assessment of, and provision for, children with special educational needs (SEN) is the responsibility of the education and library boards (ELBs) and is matched to the individual needs of each child. The statutory SEN framework and Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs (COP) apply across all areas. Within this framework it is each board's responsibility to ensure that each child has access to appropriate support.

There will always be some variation in the number of statements across geographical areas, but consistency was an issue which was looked at within the review of special educational needs and inclusion. The ELBs have also developed a common set of criteria to help ensure commonality, consistency and equality across all areas.

## Recycling Facilities

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Education how many schools have comprehensive recycling facilities available for their pupils; and how many do not.

**(AQW 2764/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The management and recycling of waste is a delegated responsibility within the decision making power of the Principal and Board of Governors of each school. Facilities for waste recycling must align with services provided in general by the Local Council and these vary across the 26 Councils as detailed on the attached table. All schools here, as public buildings, must follow the waste recycling guidelines and procedures operated by their Local Council.

Local Councils have their own Environmental Officers and Waste Advisers who visit schools and advise and encourage staff and pupils on how to use their recycling facilities which are available within the specific Council area.

Councils change recycling procedures to align with aims in the 'Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy' and Biodegradable Waste Diversion targets set by the EU.

ELBs act in partnership with Councils to promote recycling at school level. However, no statistics are maintained on how many schools avail of the facilities.

Outside of the recycling arrangements provided by Local Councils, 775 of the circa 1200 schools here are registered as "Eco-Schools" and 220 of those have received the "Green Flag" award for high achievement within the Eco-Schools Programme. The Eco-Schools programme is operated by the environmental charity Tidy Northern Ireland whose main sponsor is Airtricity, with additional funding and support being provided by the Department of the Environment.

The Eco-Schools programme aims to make environmental awareness and action an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of a school and includes pupils, teachers, non-teaching staff and parents, as well as the local authority.

The Eco-Schools programme encourages Schools to draw up an Action Plan to improve their environmental impact, which should include specific and achievable targets in relation to the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.

Further information on the programme may be found at [www.eco-schoolsni.org](http://www.eco-schoolsni.org)

### COUNCIL RECYCLING FACILITIES

#### BELFAST EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD:

Council Area	Paper	Cans	Plastic Bottles	Food/Garden Waste	Clothing Bank
Belfast	Paper & Cardboard	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

#### NORTH-EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD:

Council Area	Paper	Cans	Plastic Bottles	Food/Garden Waste	Clothing Bank
Antrim	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	On request
Ballymena	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ballymoney	Yes Tetrapak	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Carrick	Bryson (Must Pay)	Bryson (Must Pay)	Bryson (Must Pay)	No	On request
Coleraine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Larne	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Magherafelt	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Moyle	Yes – Bank at School	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Newtownabbey	Yes Bryson	Yes Bryson	Yes Bryson	Not known	Yes Bryson

#### SOUTH-EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD:

Council Area	Paper	Cans	Plastic Bottles	Food/Garden Waste	Clothing Bank
Ards	Paper & cardboard	Yes	Yes	No	Not known
Belfast	Paper & cardboard - Bryson	Yes	Yes + glass bottles	No	Not known
Castlereagh	Paper & cardboard - Bryson	Yes	Yes + glass bottles	No	Not known
Down	Paper and cardboard	Yes	Yes	No	Not known
Lisburn	Paper and cardboard	Yes	Yes	On trial in some schools	Not known

<b>Council Area</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Cans</b>	<b>Plastic Bottles</b>	<b>Food/Garden Waste</b>	<b>Clothing Bank</b>
North Down	Paper and cardboard	Yes	Yes	No	Not known

**SOUTHERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD:**

<b>Council Area</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Cans</b>	<b>Plastic Bottles</b>	<b>Food/Garden Waste</b>	<b>Clothing Bank</b>
Armagh	Yes	Yes	Yes	Composter provided on request	-
Banbridge	Paper & Tetrapak	Cans & aerosols	Yes	Composter provided on request	Yes
Cookstown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Composter provided on request	Some schools organise own
Craigavon	Paper, Tetrapak & cardboard	Yes	Yes	-	-
Dungannon	Paper, Tetrapak & cardboard	Yes	Yes	Composter provided on request	-
Newry	Paper & cardboard	Yes	Yes	-	Some schools organise own

**WESTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD:**

<b>Council Area</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Cans</b>	<b>Plastic Bottles</b>	<b>Food/Garden Waste</b>	<b>Clothing Bank</b>
Fermanagh	Paper & cardboard	Yes	Yes	-	Not known
Omagh	Paper & cardboard	Yes	Yes	Omagh town only	Not known
Strabane	Paper & cardboard	Yes	Yes	-	Not known
Limavady	Yes- by local Community Enterprise & Cardboard	Yes	Yes	-	Not known
Derry	Paper & cardboard	Yes	Yes	-	Not known

## Education Maintenance Allowance

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister of Education how the educational attainment of students in receipt of an Education Maintenance Allowance has been tracked and analysed to assess the efficacy of this policy. **(AQW 2787/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The main purpose of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) scheme is to enable young people from lower income backgrounds to remain in postcompulsory education at school or college with the key objectives of raising participation and retention rates in the eligible group. It also aims to encourage young people to fulfil their educational potential and encourage them to achieve qualifications.

Since improving participation and retention rates have always been the key objectives of the scheme, with the attainment of qualifications being a positive outcome, there are currently no mechanisms in place to specifically track the educational attainment achieved by students in receipt of an EMA.

However, student survey findings from the recent review of the EMA scheme indicated that learners felt their engagement with learning had increased since receiving an EMA. Just over half of learners agreed or strongly agreed that the Education Maintenance Allowance had a positive impact on their attendance and time-keeping. This finding was supported by the EMA coordinators' survey and, of course, actual records of attendance in the schools and Further Education colleges.

Following the recent review, it is intended that my Department and the Department for Employment and Learning will jointly present options for the future of the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme to the Executive in the autumn and this will be followed by a public consultation.

As part of the ongoing work on the review, both Departments will be investigating how EMA Learning Centres record data on students in receipt of EMAs so that the Departments can determine the best way to collect data to assist in the future evaluation of the EMA Scheme.

## Teaching Languages in Primary Schools

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education (i) what plans he has to increase teaching languages in primary schools; and (ii) what progress has been made in teaching languages in primary schools in each of the last four years. **(AQW 2800/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Modern languages are not a compulsory part of the statutory curriculum at primary level. Schools are however encouraged to offer a wider range of modern languages and the revised curriculum provides them with greater flexibility to do so, with the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment providing support and resources for primary schools that wish to introduce an additional language.

To support primary schools wishing to deliver language learning the Primary Language Programme was introduced in 2007 to give pupils at Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 the opportunity to learn an additional language in school. The programme offers primary schools the opportunity to work with peripatetic language tutors to deliver Irish, Spanish and Polish.

The Department does not hold records of the number of primary schools currently delivering foreign language teaching but does hold information on those schools participating in the Primary Languages Programme. The table below displays the number of schools participating in the programme over the last four years. It has been very successful with over 27,000 children currently benefiting from the programme each week.

	<b>Total Number Of Schools In PLP</b>
30 June 2008	324
30 June 2009	323
30 June 2010	361
30 June 2011	416

My department has also commissioned an Irish language primary pilot programme for pupils in Key Stage 2 which aims to build upon and compliment the provision made available via the Primary Languages Programme. The programme is scheduled to run for 4 years and due to commence in 10 primary schools in the Derry/North west area in October 2011.

### **Pupils Expelled from Schools**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education how many pupils have been expelled from schools in the North Down area in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 2810/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department does not hold the information requested.

The Department collects information on pupil expulsions from each of the Education and Library Boards annually. The data collected is broken down by Board area, school management type, gender, ethnicity, special educational needs stage and whether or not the pupil is registered as disabled. It is therefore not possible to identify pupils from the North Down area.

The available data on pupil expulsions is published on the Department's website at [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) annually. Data for the 2010/11 school year is currently being analysed and will be published in November.

### **Vacant School Places**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Education to give a breakdown, by constituency of the 85,000 vacant school places.

**(AQW 2820/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The number of vacant places in schools is derived from the difference between a school's approved enrolment number and the number of pupils enrolled at the school.

According to this calculation, the 84,605 vacant school places in the 2010-11 year (including 119 unfilled places in nursery schools) were distributed across the parliamentary constituencies as follows:

Belfast East	3,666
Belfast North	6,874
Belfast South	3,876
Belfast West	8,388
East Antrim	3,323
East Derry	4,925
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	5,408
Foyle	6,328
Lagan Valley	2,535

Mid Ulster	4,494
Newry & Armagh	5,154
North Antrim	3,759
North Down	2,384
South Antrim	3,802
South Down	4,369
Strangford	3,774
Upper Bann	5,450
West Tyrone	6,096

The figures exclude the enrolments of 9,563 pupils in receipt of a statement of special educational needs, and 138 pupils admitted on appeal by the Education and Library Board appeal tribunals or by direction of the independent Exceptional Circumstances Body, as these are admitted over and above a school's approved enrolment number.

## Physical Education

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education what plans he has to increase the hours of physical education undertaken by pupils in schools.

**(AQW 2850/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** As stated in my reply to AQW/251/2011-15, legislation governing the revised curriculum prevents the Department from prescribing the amount of time to be allocated to any particular subject within the curriculum.

Greater flexibility and less prescription are key features of the revised curriculum, which recognises the importance of allowing teachers to plan their teaching to meet the needs of their pupils and to ensure a broad and balanced education.

The curriculum has been taught to all pupils of compulsory school age in grant-aided schools since the 2009/10 school year and is now being embedded in classroom practice. Although my Department has issued guidance to schools recommending a minimum of two hours of PE per week, I have no plans at this time to make legislative changes to allow for prescription in terms of time to be allocated for specific subjects.

DCAL's Sports Strategy, Sport Matters, includes a target to establish a baseline for the number of children of compulsory school age participating in a minimum of two hours quality per week physical education. DE officials have been working with DCAL and the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) to take this work forward and an electronic survey of schools after Christmas 2011 is planned.

## Youth Service in the Donegall Pass Area, Belfast

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Education how many hours of Youth Service per week are provided in the Donegall Pass area, Belfast.

**(AQW 2884/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Youth Service Provision in the Donegall Pass area is a matter for the Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB).

The BELB has advised that 18 paid part time hours per week are provided in the Donegall Pass Youth Club. At the request of the part time youth workers based in the club, additional programmes are provided in the area by the South Belfast Area Project.

## Teachers: Sick Leave

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 1857/11-15, how many of the 113 teachers are employed by the (i) maintained; and (ii) controlled sector.

**(AQW 2891/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The 113 teachers are employed as follows: -

Controlled	40
Maintained	73*
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>

\* The Maintained Sector figure of 73 includes 6 teachers from the Grant-maintained Integrated Sector.

## Victims of Domestic Violence

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education what work place policies are in place to assist victims of domestic violence within his Department and its arm's-length bodies.

**(AQW 2893/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The NICS Domestic Violence and Abuse policy is set out in the NICS HR Handbook. This policy applies across all NICS Departments including DE.

The policy provides advice on how Departments and Agencies should deal with domestic violence situations that might arise: it provides details of the first point of contact for employees who need to discuss issues around domestic violence; identifies signs of domestic violence; sets out the role of the Line Manager and Welfare Officer and provides a list of contact details for Support Services available to staff.

The Education and Library Boards have previously reported that they do not have domestic violence workplace policies in place. However they have indicated they may consider developing a joint policy in future. My officials will write to the Management Sides of both the Teachers' Negotiating Committee and the Joint Negotiating Council to request that a draft domestic violence workplace policy is drawn up in consultation with stakeholders including trade unions. In the meantime, the ELBs' staff welfare service is available to support staff who experience domestic violence or abuse.

The Departments remaining Arms Length Bodies do not have specific policies in place; however a number do offer support to staff through other policies such as Occupational Health and Safety policy and Mental Health Policy.

## Proposed Capital Spend Projects

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Education to detail his Department's proposed capital spend projects for this financial year, including the projected timescales and the costs for each project.

**(AQW 2909/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The total 2011/12 gross capital budget is £115.7 million. There are currently no new major capital projects proposed for 2011/12. However £44.2 million will be required for the 16 projects currently on site. A list of the major projects on site together with the estimated cost and scheduled date for completion is detailed in the table below.

**MAJOR WORKS ON-SITE**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Estimated/Actual Completion Date</b>	<b>Estimated Capital Cost including Fees and Capital Furniture &amp; Equipment</b>
Banbridge Academy	Oct-11	£19,640k
Bangor Grammar	Feb-13	£17,333k
Carrick P.S. Warrenpoint	Sep-12	£3,647k
Coranny & Cornagague P.S.	Feb-12	£1,951k
Dromintee P.S.	Mar-12	£2,595k
Magherafelt H.S	Apr-12	£12,969k
Magherafelt P.S & N.S	Nov-12	£5,243k
St Colman's P.S. Lambeg	Aug-12	£3,337k
St Columba's P.S, Straw, Draperstown	Sep-12	£1,944k
St Joseph's P.S Madden, Armagh	Jan-12	£1,767k
St Mary's P.S, Newcastle	Oct-12	£3,827k
St Oliver Plunkett P.S. Forkhill	Mar-12	£2,011k
Scoil Na Fuiseoige P.S, Belfast	Jul-12	£2,105k
Strathearn GS, Belfast	Sep-14	£16,168k
Taughmonagh P.S, Belfast	Jun-12	£3,549k
Whitehouse P.S	Aug-11	£4,404k

A further £64 million has been allocated for minor works projects across the estate. Minor works can range in cost from several thousands of pounds up to £500,000. In any year there will be several hundred projects taken forward and it would be impracticable to list all of these.

Further capital funds have been allocated for youth facilities and other miscellaneous capital expenditure including transport and ICT projects.

Committed capital spend for 2011/12 is detailed in the table below:

	<b>£m</b>
Major Works	44.2
Minor Works	64
Youth Capital	5
Other Capital	2.5
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>115.7</b>

New proposals for capital spend will be dependent on the outcome of the work I recently announced to develop a new process for capital investment and planning to ensure our schools' estate meets the needs of children and represents the most effective use of tax payers' money.

## Vacant School Places

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of vacant places in each primary school in the North Down area.

**(AQW 2944/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The number of vacant places in schools is derived from the difference between a school's approved enrolment number and the number of pupils enrolled at the school. According to this calculation, in the 2010-11 academic year - the last year for which enrolment statistics are available - there were 2,302 unfilled places in primary schools in the North Down constituency area distributed as follows:-

<b>School</b>	<b>Unfilled Places</b>
Ballyvester Primary School	41
Hollywood Primary School	205
Crawfordsburn Primary School	6
Ballyholme Primary School	42
Donaghadee Primary School	106
<b>School</b>	<b>Unfilled Places</b>
Clandeboyne Primary School	412
Millisle Primary School	87
Redburn Primary School	284
Bloomfield Primary School	147
Grange Park Primary School	1
Kilcooley Primary School	451
Rathmore Primary School	138
Towerview Primary School	24
Kilmaine Primary School	0
Ballymagee Primary School	8
St Patrick's Primary School Hollywood	106
St Anne's Primary School Comber	45
St Comgall's Primary School Bangor	5
St Malachy's Primary School Bangor	162
Bangor Central Primary School	0
Glencraig Integrated Primary School	32

The figures reflect the number of children enrolled according to the October 2010 schools' census. They exclude the enrolments of 119 pupils in receipt of a statement of special educational needs as they are admitted over and above a school's approved enrolment number.

## Peripatetic Teachers

**Mr McCartney** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of (i) peripatetic teachers for children who are deaf; (ii) children who avail of this service; and (iii) children on the waiting lists for this service, broken down by Education and Library Board.

**(AQW 2968/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Provision for children with statements of special educational needs (SEN) is the responsibility of the education and library boards (ELBs) and is matched to the individual needs of each child.

I have been advised by the ELBs as follows:-

Education and Library Board	No. of peripatetic teachers for children who are deaf	No. of children who avail of this service	No. of children on the waiting list for this service
Belfast	5	164	Nil
North Eastern	10	493	Nil
South Eastern	6	426	Nil
Southern	5	220	Nil
Western	2	113	Nil

## School Uniform Grants

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of successful applications for a school uniform grant; (ii) the average value of each grant; and (iii) the total amount of money awarded in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 2973/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information requested, as provided by the Education and Library Boards, is set out below:

**2006/07**

	Number of Successful Applications	Average Value of Each Grant	Total Amount of Money Awarded
BELB	7,158	£67.00	£479,109
NEELB	4,526	£67.87	£307,192
SEELB	4,152	£65.47	£271,827
SELB	4,677	£56.89	£266,088
WELB	7,358	£67.28	£495,076
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,871</b>	<b>£65.28</b>	<b>£1,819,292</b>

**2007/08**

	<b>Number of Successful Applications</b>	<b>Average Value of Each Grant</b>	<b>Total Amount of Money Awarded</b>
BELB	6,531	£70.08	£457,693
NEELB	4,225	£69.27	£292,667
SEELB	3,968	£69.69	£276,537
SELB	5,164	£69.13	£356,994
WELB	6,949	£68.51	£476,077
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,837</b>	<b>£69.31</b>	<b>£1,859,968</b>

**2008/09**

	<b>Number of Successful Applications</b>	<b>Average Value of Each Grant</b>	<b>Total Amount of Money Awarded</b>
BELB	6,437	£71.54	£460,489
NEELB	4,430	£70.72	£313,289
SEELB	3,859	£71.37	£275,421
SELB	5,424	£70.87	£384,376
WELB	6,911	£70.04	£484,028
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,061</b>	<b>£70.86</b>	<b>£1,917,603</b>

**2009/10**

	<b>Number of Successful Applications</b>	<b>Average Value of Each Grant</b>	<b>Total Amount of Money Awarded</b>
BELB	12,504	£55.17	£689,825
NEELB	9,833	£53.13	£522,477
SEELB	7,857	£54.27	£426,380
SELB	12,520	£53.12	£665,089
WELB	14,555	£52.91	£770,043
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,269</b>	<b>£53.67</b>	<b>£3,073,814</b>

**2010/11**

	<b>Number of Successful Applications</b>	<b>Average Value of Each Grant</b>	<b>Total Amount of Money Awarded</b>
BELB	13,814	£54.10	£747,340
NEELB	11,212	£52.64	£590,241
SEELB	9,024	£53.87	£486,119
SELB	14,390	£52.55	£756,233
WELB	15,808	£52.79	£834,431
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,248</b>	<b>£53.14</b>	<b>£3,414,364</b>

The figures for 2009/10 onwards include the primary school uniform grant which was introduced by my predecessor in that year, the first time that such a measure had been taken here.

In addition, the eligibility criteria were extended in 2010/11, on a phased basis, to include Foundation Stage and Key Stage one pupils in primary schools whose parents were in receipt of Working Tax Credit and who had an annual taxable income not exceeding £16,190. Key Stage 2 pupils became eligible under this criterion from September 2011.

### **Parkhall Integrated College, Antrim**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Education for an update on the new build for Parkhall Integrated College; and whether his Department has scheduled a year for its rebuilding to commence.

**(AQW 3037/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** As I highlighted in my statement to the Assembly on Monday 26 September 2011, I have commissioned the five Education and Library Boards (ELBs) working in close conjunction with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and other sectors to co-ordinate a strategic area planning exercise based on each Board area to shape the future pattern of education delivery. In any area potential projects, such as that for Parkhall Integrated College, will be critically assessed as part of the area planning process, to determine how they will contribute to the overall infrastructure needed. No school building project will be looked at in isolation but must be considered in the context of the wider area.

Until this work is completed, I would not be in a position to comment on any potential project.

### **Incidents of Bullying in Schools**

**Mr I McCrea** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of incidents of bullying in each (i) primary school; and (ii) post-primary school in the Mid-Ulster area, in each of the last two years.

**(AQW 3068/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department does not hold the information requested.

Bullying, in whatever form and for whatever reason, has no place in schools.

Schools are not currently required to record incidences of bullying and my Department would be concerned about adding to the bureaucratic burden on schools at this time by requiring principals to do so.

The Education and Libraries (NI) Order 2003, which came into operation on 1 April 2003, places a duty on all grant-aided schools to have an anti-bullying policy which includes measures to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils. The effectiveness of these measures is monitored through the regular cycle of school inspections.

The Department recognises that it cannot solve the issue of bullying alone, and continues to work in close partnership with statutory and voluntary organisations through its membership and funding of the local Anti-Bullying Forum (NIABF). The Forum enables members to share models of best practice, to disseminate information, to develop and coordinate joint initiatives and to ensure that schools and organisations working with children and young people are able to develop appropriate strategies to prevent and deal with bullying behaviours.

In 2007, the Department published a research report on "The Nature and Extent of Bullying in Schools in the North of Ireland". The findings show little change in the level of bullying behaviour reported by pupils compared to an earlier study completed in 2002. A further research exercise was commissioned by the Department earlier this year and a further comparative publication will be available on the Department's website ([www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk)) by the end of October.

## Area Learning Communities

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Education to provide a budget breakdown for 2011/12 for each of the Area Learning Communities established to deliver the Entitlement Framework.

**(AQW 3074/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department does not allocate funding to Area Learning Communities (ALCs) but rather to schools within them. Under the Local Management of School (LMS) Scheme, the Board of Governors of every grant-aided school receives a delegated budget to meet the costs of providing access to the curriculum for the pupils within that school. Entitlement Framework (EF) funding is additional to LMS funding and is allocated on the assumption that there may be additional costs associated with planning and delivering an expanded curricular offer through collaboration.

There are two elements of direct EF support for schools; the EF on-line audit funding formula element and the collaboration element. The EF on-line audit element is directly related to the number of courses being delivered collaboratively and all schools have received the audit formula element for 2011/12 totalling £9m. The collaboration element, aimed at targeting those schools actively participating in an ALC, will be issued in due course following receipt of evidence that schools are taking account of local provision when planning to expand their curricular offer.

## Community Relations, Equality and Diversity in Education Policy

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Education how much his Department has spent in this financial year to date on the 'Community Relations, Equality and Diversity in Education' policy.

**(AQW 3075/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I can confirm that a total of £1.1m has been allocated to the Education and Library Boards (ELBs) and Youth Council (YCNi) in 2011/12 for the implementation of the new Community Relations, Equality and Diversity in Education policy. It is anticipated that the ELBs and the YCNi will achieve full spend in this budget area in 2011/12 and the Department will be monitoring performance in year.

## Department for Employment and Learning

### Certificate of Religious Education

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of the equality issues arising from the fact that students graduating from St Mary's University College can take up posts in either Catholic or Controlled schools whilst students graduating from Stranmillis University College can only take up posts in Controlled schools unless they obtain a Certificate of Religious Education; and what plans he has to address this disparity.

**(AQW 2470/11-15)**

**Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning):** My Department provides funding to St. Mary's University College and Stranmillis University College. My Department also provides additional funding to Stranmillis University College to enable students to avail of the Certificate in Religious Education by distance learning.

While all student teachers in Northern Ireland, who wish to do so, have an opportunity to obtain the required Certificate of Religious Education, I am aware of concerns that have been expressed around the matter. It is a matter to which I am giving consideration.

### Students Dropping out of University

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what is the average cost incurred when a student drops out of university.

**(AQW 2487/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** My Department does not collate specific information on the cost of students who withdraw from their courses early as each case is unique, depending on various factors including the subject studied and the student's actual period of attendance.

## Capital Projects

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what capital projects his Department has planned over each of the next three years; and the projected cost of each project.

**(AQW 2489/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Department has a capital budget allocation for the three years from 2012-13 of £79.1m. This is relevant to the Further Education Sector, the Higher Education Sector and the Department itself.

Further Education has a capital allocation of £26.3m for the next three financial years. £18.3m of this is committed to projects already delivered or underway in Belfast Metropolitan College – at Titanic Quarter and Springvale. The remaining £8m has not been allocated at this stage but is intended to address minor works and statutory compliance issues within Colleges. Colleges will be asked to bid for this funding in due course.

Higher Education has a capital allocation of £49.5m for the next three years. At the commencement of each budget review period the Department informs the Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions of the capital budget that is being made available to them. The Higher Education Institutions are invited to submit projects to be considered for this funding.

In addition there is £3.3m of funding available for capital projects within the Department. It is likely that this will be used for IT projects, and minor works to ensure compliance with Health and Safety legislation. Business Areas across the Department will be invited to bid to this fund. This allocation process has not yet been initiated for the three years from 2012-13.

## St Mary University College, Belfast

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether St Mary University College, Belfast is an equal opportunities employer.

**(AQW 2535/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** St. Mary's University College is an equal opportunities employer.

I have attached the College's Equal Opportunities Statement at Annex A for your information

### Annex A

#### St. Mary's University College Equal Opportunities Statement

- 1 The purpose of this statement is to underline the commitment of the College to equal opportunity for all its staff
- 2 It is the policy of the College that all eligible persons shall have equal opportunity for employment and advancement in the College solely on the basis of their ability, qualifications and aptitude
- 3 The College will not practise discrimination – whether direct or indirect – against any eligible person, whether in recruitment, training, promotion or in any other way i.e. no eligible person will be treated less favourably in such areas as sex, marital status, religion, race or disability
- 4 This policy pursues and builds upon the statutory position in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Its intention is to comply as much with the spirit as with the letter of the legislation and to establish and pursue an effective policy of promoting equal opportunity
- 5 All existing and newly recruited members of the College staff will receive a copy of this statement and its contents will be reflected as appropriate in training courses, circulars and guidance to all those with responsibility for the recruitment and promotion within the College. It will also be made clear to potential applicants for recruitment to the College through advertisements and relevant documentation that the College is an Equal Opportunity Institution

- 6 Advertisements will not be confined unjustifiably to areas or publications which would exclude or disproportionately reduce the numbers of applicants of a particular group
- 7 Eligibility criteria for employment or promotion will be formulated so as to ensure that they are related to required performance and are not discriminatory. These criteria will be included in the information sent to prospective candidates for employment or promotion
- 8 Selection and promotion decisions and reasons for such decisions will be recorded at each stage of any selection or promotion process
- 9 All staff will be encouraged to take advantage of training opportunities to enhance their prospects of career development and allow them to achieve their full potential
10. A detailed system will be established to provide accurate and up-to-date information on the composition of the College staff, in order to monitor the application of this policy in such areas as recruitment, employment and promotion. The policy and action outlined in this Statement will be regularly reviewed so that progress towards the objective of equality of opportunity can be assessed and effective steps taken to remedy any deficiencies in the programme for equal opportunity which may be identified by this assessment

The above Statement was adopted by the Board of Governors on 22 October 1998

### Teacher Training Students

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of whether Protestant teacher training students from Stranmillis University College are discriminated against due to their religious background as they are restricted to obtaining a post within the controlled sector, as opposed to teacher training students from St Mary's University College who can work in any school.  
**(AQW 2673/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** I refer you to my earlier response to AQW 2470/11-15.

### St Mary's University College, Belfast

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 2281/11-15, in what roles the twelve Protestant people who work at St Mary's University College, Belfast are employed.  
**(AQW 2728/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** St Mary's University College has advised me that the twelve people from a Protestant background working at the University College are employed in the following roles:

Staff Group	Protestant
Academic	3
Non Academic	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

### Student Fees

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of the impact that charging students from England, Wales and Scotland, who wish to attend university in Northern Ireland, the same lower rate of fees as students from Northern Ireland would have on the Higher Education system.  
**(AQW 2737/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** There is a significant risk that maintaining fee levels in Northern Ireland for students from England, Wales and Scotland at the same rate as for Northern Ireland students, combined with the world class reputation of our universities, would result in a huge increase in the demand for places on undergraduate courses at higher education institutions here.

Such an increase in demand would have the potential to displace Northern Ireland students, particularly those with more marginal grades, who tend to be disproportionately from the lowest income backgrounds. These students may miss the opportunity to enter higher education altogether or they may seek to study in other parts of the United Kingdom, at considerable cost to the Northern Ireland block.

The rationale for students from Great Britain choosing to study in Northern Ireland should be based on the choice of institution, course and related issues, and not solely influenced by cost.

## Education Maintenance Allowance

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what funding options he is considering as part of the reform of the Education Maintenance Allowance.

**(AQW 2738/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** I am committed to the retention of the Education Maintenance Allowance Scheme. It is clear, however, that the funding needs to be better targeted. Findings from the joint review of the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme in Northern Ireland by my Department and the Department of Education highlighted that the scheme is not as economically efficient as it could be because a majority of Education Maintenance Allowance students indicated that they would have remained in education even if they had not received Education Maintenance Allowance.

I can advise that my Department and the Department of Education have recently established a joint project team which will consider options for the future of the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme.

Following approval by me and my ministerial colleague in the Department of Education, it is intended that options for the future of the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme will be presented to the Executive in the autumn and this will be followed by a public consultation. I am committed to completing this process as soon as practically possible.

Any proposals to change the current provision of the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme in Northern Ireland will also be subject to the appropriate equality considerations.

## Veterinary Medicine

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many students from Northern Ireland are currently studying Veterinary Medicine in (i) the rest of the UK; and (ii) the Republic of Ireland.

**(AQW 2777/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** In the 2009/10 academic year, across all years of study, there were 150 students from Northern Ireland studying Veterinary Science in the rest of the UK and 55 in the Republic of Ireland.

**Source:** Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), Higher Education Authority (HEA)

**Notes:**

- (1) Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
- (2) The latest available data are for 2009/10.

## Proposed Capital Spend Projects

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail his Department's proposed capital spend projects for this financial year, including the projected timescales and the costs for each project.

**(AQW 2792/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Department has a capital budget allocation for this financial year of £41.2m. This is relevant to the Further Education Sector, the Higher Education Sector and the Department itself.

The Further Education capital budget for this financial year is £35.7m, all of which is fully committed. £11.7m is for projects at Belfast Metropolitan College's Titanic Quarter and Springvale. The remaining £24m is to fund the South Eastern Regional College's Lisburn and Downpatrick projects.

As part of Budget 2010, the capital budget made available for Higher Education for the financial year 2011/12 is £5.0m. At the commencement of each budget review period the Department informs the Northern Ireland higher education institutions of the capital budget that it is making available to them. The higher education institutions have been invited to submit projects to be considered for funding. The Department is currently processing submissions and, although funding has not as yet been offered to any specific project, it is anticipated that the budget for financial year 2011/12 will be used in full.

In addition there is £0.5m of funding available for capital projects within the Department. The majority of this will be used for infrastructure modifications that are required to transfer the Kiosk Estate to ITAssist, and the CMS Server Upgrade Project.

### **Proposed Merger of Stranmillis University College and Queen's University, Belfast**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he can give an assurance that the merger of Stranmillis University College and Queen's University, Belfast will be carried out in a transparent manner with input from all stakeholders, and that it will not be rushed through.

**(AQW 2803/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** I can assure you that I am keen to progress the proposed merger in an open and transparent manner. A public consultation was conducted on the proposal and I have met recently with key stakeholder groups and others to discuss the proposal. If I determine that the merger is to proceed, draft legislation for the discontinuation of the College and its merger with Queen's will be discussed by the Committee for Employment and Learning and will be subject to affirmative resolution by the Assembly. I believe that this will give all members of the Assembly ample opportunity to fully acquaint themselves with the proposals and to debate them.

### **Proposed Merger Between Stranmillis University College and Queen's University, Belfast**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning when he will make an announcement to the Assembly on the proposed merger between Stranmillis University College and Queen's University, Belfast.

**(AQW 2818/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Following the public consultation, I have recently met with various key stakeholders on this matter. There are several issues surrounding the merger to which I wish to give full consideration before reaching a decision. I would hope to be in a position to make an announcement in the very near future.

### **Queen's University and the University of Ulster**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the number of students from (i) Great Britain; (ii) the Republic of Ireland; (iii) other EU member states; and (iv) the rest of the world who have enrolled in (a) Queen's University; and (b) the University of Ulster in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 2917/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The number of students from Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland, other EU member states and the rest of the world who have enrolled in (a) Queen's University; and (b) the University of Ulster in each of the last five years is detailed below:

**(A) QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY**

Academic year	Great Britain	Republic of Ireland	Other EU	Rest of the World
2005/06	495	965	165	835
2006/07	455	880	195	830
2007/08	560	875	255	900
2008/09	655	930	270	975
2009/10	880	920	260	960

**(B) UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER**

Academic year	Great Britain	Republic of Ireland	Other EU	Rest of the World
2005/06	570	2,650	190	540
2006/07	455	2,220	205	550
2007/08	515	2,340	170	410
2008/09	645	2,250	170	575
2009/10	625	2,810	150	640

**Source:** HESA

**Notes:**

- (1) Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
- (2) The latest available data are for 2009/10.
- (3) The figures in the table above are for all years and levels of study.

**Student Loans Company**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail what the repayment terms will be for student loans from the Student Loans Company for students from Northern Ireland and how these compare to the terms for students from elsewhere in the UK who are studying anywhere in the UK.

**(AQW 2949/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Student loans encompass loans for tuition fees as well as loans for support with living costs, known as maintenance loans. Student loan borrowers from Northern Ireland entering higher education anywhere in the UK in academic year 2012/13 will commence repayment in the April following completion of the course, if their annual earnings exceed £15,795. The repayment amount will be 9% of the amount which exceeds this threshold. The annual interest rate applied will be the lesser of the Retail Prices Index (RPI) figure in March of each year, or the base rate of a group of high street banks, plus one per cent. Any balance which is outstanding after 25 years will be written off.

By comparison, borrowers from England and Wales, entering higher education anywhere in the UK in academic year 2012/13 will commence repayment in the April following completion of the course, if their annual earnings exceed £21,000. The repayment amount will be 9% of the amount which exceeds this threshold. The annual interest rate will be RPI plus 3% during the period of study and, thereafter, it will range from RPI to RPI plus up to 3% depending on earnings. Any balance which remains outstanding after 30 years will be written off.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills intends to introduce early repayment charges for English student loan borrowers, similar to those who pre-pay their mortgages, and is currently

considering consultation responses on the issue. There are currently no plans to introduce this type of charge for borrowers from Northern Ireland.

The arrangements for Scottish student loan borrowers will be the same as those which apply for Northern Ireland students, with the exception of the write off period which will be 35 years.

## University Enrolments

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many students from (a) a Roman Catholic and (b) a Protestant background have (i) applied for a place at; and (ii) enrolled at (a) Queen's University; (b) the University of Ulster, broken down by each campus; (iii) St Mary's University College; and (iv) Stranmillis University College in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 2962/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Department does not hold information on the religion of applicants to university and nor is it collected by Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). The Department does however hold information on the religion of Northern Ireland (NI) domiciled students enrolled at the NI Higher Education Institutions.

Therefore, the number of NI domiciled students from a Catholic and a Protestant background enrolled at Queen's University; the University of Ulster, broken down by each campus; St Mary's University College; and Stranmillis University College in each of the last five years is detailed in the tables below.

### (A) CATHOLIC BACKGROUND

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
The Queen's University of Belfast	8,565	7,920	8,245	8,265	8,710
University of Ulster, Belfast	525	495	545	540	660
University of Ulster, Coleraine	1,950	1,860	1,760	1,570	1,655
University of Ulster, Jordanstown	6,900	6,405	6,105	5,995	6,640
University of Ulster, Magee	2,395	2,230	2,090	1,905	2,115
Stranmillis University College	195	185	160	195	280
St Mary's University College	950	965	910	905	935

### (B) PROTESTANT BACKGROUND

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
The Queen's University of Belfast	7,360	6,510	6,735	6,600	6,740
University of Ulster, Belfast	500	475	450	465	540
University of Ulster, Coleraine	2,200	2,145	2,110	1,940	2,040
University of Ulster, Jordanstown	4,670	4,000	3,685	3,430	3,850
University of Ulster, Magee	590	530	530	475	590
Stranmillis University College	960	915	680	655	645
St Mary's University College	20	15	10	10	5

**Source:** Higher Education Statistics Agency

**Notes:**

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

2. The latest available data are for 2009/10.
3. Information on religion is only collected for NI domiciled students studying at NI Higher Education Institutions and therefore the above tables do not include students from outside NI.
4. Religious affiliation is not a mandatory question and therefore can have a high non-response rate.
5. As well as Catholic and Protestant, the religion of students can also be classified as "Other" or "Not known/available". These two categories accounted for between 18-21% of Northern Ireland domiciled students enrolled at NI Higher Education Institutions between 2005/06 and 2009/10.

## Magee Campus of the University of Ulster

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to provide an estimate of the religious background of students enrolled at the Magee Campus of the University of Ulster in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 2981/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The religious breakdown of Northern Ireland domiciled students enrolled at the Magee Campus of the University of Ulster for each of the last three years is detailed in the table below:

Academic year	Protestant	Catholic	Other	Not known/available	Total
2007/08	530	2,090	15	295	2,935
2008/09	475	1,905	40	290	2,705
2009/10	590	2,115	135	230	3,075

**Source:** Higher Education Statistics Agency

### Notes:

6. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 and therefore may not sum to totals.
7. The latest available data are for 2009/10.
8. Information on religion is only collected for NI domiciled students studying at NI HE Institutions and therefore the table above does not include any students studying at the Magee campus from outside NI.
9. Religious affiliation is not a mandatory question and therefore can have a high non-response rate.

## Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

### Environmental Damage

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what laws or regulations are in place to protect against environmental damage which could be caused by the fracking process.

**(AQW 2321/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment):** The drilling of an exploration borehole involving hydraulic fracturing will require planning permission under The Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 and the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999, as amended. The latter provides for the environmental effects of the drillsite and all associated activities to be assessed before a decision on planning permission is made. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) will require any company proposing to use a hydraulic fracturing process (Fracking), depending on the exact details of the operation, to apply for a consent to discharge, under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order, and a licence to abstract under the Abstraction and Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006.

Other permissions and assessments may be required from the Department of the Environment depending upon the activities proposed by the company and their exact location in relation to sensitive

environmental receptors and designated sites. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment will require all other permissions to be in place and may also carry out its own environmental assessments of the proposed drilling activities prior to making a decision on permission to drill. The Petroleum Production Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 oblige the Licensee to avoid harmful methods of working and give DETI the power to make instructions to that effect.

### **Visitors to Golf Courses**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail her Department's targets for the next three years for attracting additional visitors to golf courses.

**(AQW 2452/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 has set ambitious targets for the development of the tourism industry in Northern Ireland, aiming to double the income we earn from tourism by 2020.

One of the short term market segments that has been identified in the strategy is activity tourism and within that specifically golf. With the recent successes achieved by local golfers, the opportunity to develop golf tourism is even greater. Golf tourists spend more per head than average and NITB will increase its investment in the product to attract more of these high spending visitors.

Tourism targets are set by market rather than by market segment so there are no specific targets for golf visitors. However, NITB has developed a comprehensive programme of activity that I believe will encourage more visitors to enjoy golf in Northern Ireland. This includes:

Development of a golf club quality programme targeting 25 Northern Ireland golf clubs that have greatest tourism potential. The programme aims to ensure that golf clubs deliver a quality experience for golfing visitors;

Providing opportunities for clubs to improve their skills base through the new World Host customer programmes;

The launch of a new golf brand, new golf collateral in both print, graphics, CD's, and online which establishes Northern Ireland's golf product in the international marketplace;

Attendance at specialist golf shows and exhibitions to reinforce Northern Ireland's position as a premier golf destination;

NITB is actively progressing the hosting of professional golf tournaments and events to bring them to Northern Ireland over the next 3-4 years;

Ongoing web development with the creation and development of social networks which provide additional channels of communication and promotion of Northern Ireland golf; and

NITB will host workshops inviting golf tour operators to produce greater exposure of the Northern Ireland product and expand Northern Ireland golf packages and programmes into the key golf markets of GB, USA, Germany and the Nordics.

In addition, NITB will undertake a major piece of research that will identify the size and economic impact of golf and allow us to set more quantifiable targets for the future.

### **Infastrata PLC and eCORP Oil and Gas Ltd**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department has given written consent to Infastrata PLC and eCORP Oil and Gas Ltd to carry out work within, or in close proximity to, an Area of Special Scientific Interest; and, if so, to provide further details and to explain the reasons for giving consent.

**(AQW 2460/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department has given Infrastrata written consent to carry out seismic surveying along roads that run close to two Area of Special Scientific Interests (ASSIs). These are ASSI285 Sandy Braes and ASSI243 Ballypalady which are both designated for their Earth Science (geological) features. By their nature – rocks - these ASSI features are not sensitive to operations such as seismic surveys on nearby roads and my Department gave the company permission on that basis.

### **International Sales Conference in Portstewart**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the benefits that will be derived by the North West region from the visit of InvestNI representatives to the recent International Sales Conference in Portstewart.

**(AQW 2472/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The primary aim of the event that was held at the Flowerfield Arts Centre on 30 March 2011, was to outline the Coleraine proposition to the Invest NI overseas sales teams. This was a successful event and the overseas teams were able to see first hand the initiatives that the Council has undertaken, including Digital Causeway Ireland.

The visit was part of a wider programme of activities that Invest NI's International Investment Division carried out in the North West region, These included a stakeholder event in Londonderry and a number of visits to businesses in the Coleraine, Londonderry and Strabane areas.

The conference was just one of the ways that Invest NI works with local stakeholders to encourage the development of regional propositions which can help ensure that the offering for their area is maximised to attract visits and investment by potential investors.

Results in terms of investment as a direct result of the conference may take some time to come to fruition. Securing an inward investment project is the end point of an extensive process which may span a considerable period, often 18 to 24 months or even longer.

### **Visitors Participating in Familiarisation Trips**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the programme of activities and events for visitors participating in Familiarisation trips; and to outline the benefits of these visits for the tourism industry.

**(AQW 2476/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Familiarisation trip itineraries are designed for media and overseas travel trade representatives according to their role and areas of interest and to maximise the experience of the Northern Ireland product.

Familiarisation trips to date have included visits to Signature Project areas of Titanic, the Mourne and St Patrick's, the Causeway and the Walled City in Londonderry. They have also included other visitor attractions, music/cultural events, houses and gardens, restaurants, cookery schools, arts and crafts, museums, off-road driving, golf, sea kayaking, bouldering, walking, cycling, clay pigeon shooting, fishing, cruising, accommodation site visits and event venues.

These trips provide the opportunity for overseas travel trade representatives to experience what Northern Ireland has to offer and consider including Northern Ireland in their future programmes and when advising clients on future travel plans and bookings. The media benefit of these trips is also significant in gaining exposure for the Northern Ireland product both locally and worldwide. In 2010/11 NITB hosted 168 media familiarisation visits which it is estimated would have achieved £21m of equivalent advertising value (EAV) in international press coverage.

### **Meetings with Stakeholders in East Derry**

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of meetings she has had with relevant stakeholders in East Derry in the last twelve months to address (i)

unemployment; (ii) the decline in manufacturing and retailing; and (iii) the absence of a strategic plan or task force to address such issues.

**(AQW 2498/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I have discussed such issues during regular meetings I have had with a wide range of stakeholders throughout the East Londonderry region.

### **Small Businesses**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what financial support is available to cover the start-up costs for people wishing to start a small business which does not intend to export.

**(AQW 2508/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** For those individuals that do not intend to export the support available is primarily the provision of information, guidance and advice to help people to plan and start up successful locally focussed businesses.

Alongside this, the Short Term Employment Scheme (STES) provides business start incentive support. STES encompasses a set of measures to provide assistance over the next four years to 2015, with the aim of increasing employment and improving employability.

The business start incentive support provided is grant support of between £1,000 - £1,500 available to individuals in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas and for individuals not being in employment, education or training (known as NEETS) who complete a business plan and subsequently start a business and trade independently.

Invest NI also provides a range of financial assistance to support the establishment and growth of businesses that sell in markets outside Northern Ireland, are actively pursuing growth plans, and can contribute to increased NI productivity. Financial support is based on the needs of the project and is normally targeted at areas such as Research and Development, Marketing and Employment.

Further Information can be found on Invest NI's Website [www.investni.com](http://www.investni.com)

### **Tamorban Petroleum Licence**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she would add a clause to the Tamorban petroleum licence forbidding the use of chemicals in the hydraulic fracturing process, given that the company has claimed that only sand and water will be used in the process of extracting gas from the shale rock in Fermanagh.

**(AQW 2520/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Tamboran Resources Pty Ltd was granted a Petroleum Licence (DETI Ref. No. PL2-10) covering the Lough Allen Basin–North in April 2011 after it was signed and sealed by the company and my Department. It would be inappropriate to add a clause to the contract at this juncture but my Department welcomes the company's statement that they intend to use only a water and sand mixture in their hydraulic fracturing process. The Department expects that any drilling application to be submitted by the company would confirm this commitment not to use chemical additives in their 'frac fluids'.

### **Methane and the Greenhouse-Gas Footprint of Natural Gas from Shale Formations**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for his assessment of the findings published in the academic paper 'Methane and the Greenhouse-Gas Footprint of Natural Gas from Shale Formations', which states that the greenhouse gas footprint of shale gas is at least 20 percent greater than, and nearly twice as much, as that of coal.

**(AQW 2521/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Any research that provides estimates of the greenhouse gas (GHG) footprints of fossil fuels helps policymakers to understand the potential GHG impacts of their energy mix. The Cornell study is the first to make a comparison between the GHG footprints of shale gas, conventional gas

and coal. The paper's estimates of their relative GHG footprints suggest that even conventional gas has little advantage over coal, in contrast to previous peer-reviewed studies, so their findings need confirmation.

## US Geological Survey

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) whether his Department has considered the research of the US Geological Survey which identified hydraulic fracturing as a cause of earthquakes; and (ii) if so, for his assessment of this research.

**(AQW 2522/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department has considered the US Geological Survey research which concluded that small earthquakes may have been induced by water injection in salt water disposal (SWD) wells associated with shale gas production. My officials noted the authors' observations that these earthquakes were small with little or no damage and that they were very rare within the Fort Worth Basin, Texas. Only one or two occurrences of felt seismicity in an area of 12,000 hydraulically fractured wells and over 200 SWD wells. There are no plans for salt water disposal in Northern Ireland but seismic monitoring would be integral to any shale gas project.

## Hydraulic Fracturing

**Ms Lewis** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many licences have been issued to companies for the extraction of natural gas by the process of hydraulic fracturing.

**(AQW 2533/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Between 15th February 2011 and 1st April 2011, my Department issued four Petroleum Licences in Northern Ireland. One of these licences, PL2-10, specifies that the Licensee proposes to use hydraulic fracturing to test a shale gas play in Fermanagh. Exploration drilling, including hydraulic fracturing, requires additional DETI approval and is subject to further regulatory controls including planning and environmental impact assessment.

## Air Passenger Duty

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of the recent announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Air Passenger Duty, for her assessment of what opportunities and assistance might be available for Northern Ireland's airports to provide additional Trans-Atlantic flights.

**(AQW 2622/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Current European Commission guidelines severely restrict the assistance which can be provided to airports and airlines. However, by reducing the rate of Air Passenger Duty applied to Northern Ireland for long haul flights operating in Band B, we are able to send a positive message to airlines, especially those that offer Trans-Atlantic services, that Northern Ireland is a viable option for long haul business.

My Department will work closely with Belfast International Airport to ensure that we capitalise on the opportunities presented by the Chancellor's announcement on 27 September 2011. I have also asked Tourism Ireland to assist by identifying potential new carriers and routes into Northern Ireland which may be eligible to avail of co-operative marketing assistance.

## Energy Brokering

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she would consider bringing forward proposals for energy brokering to help reduce domestic energy prices.

**(AQW 2666/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I have no plans to bring forward proposals in relation to energy brokering. However, you will wish to be aware that the Housing Amendment Act (NI) 2011, gave social housing providers the legislative power to broker energy costs for their tenants at a discounted rate.

The Department of Social Development is working with the Housing Executive to bring forward an energy brokering scheme for social housing tenants. The Housing Executive plans to market test the proposal by the end of March 2012.

If such a scheme were brought forward for electricity or gas, the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation, in its role as both the Regulator and the competition authority for the supply of electricity and gas, would have to examine any such scheme and ensure its compliance with the Energy Order, the licences, and the Competition Act.

## **Food Manufacturing Costs**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action her Department intends to take to reduce food manufacturing costs.

**(AQW 2671/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Food manufacturing costs are subject to global pricing pressures which impact on the food chain which comprises of the production, processing, packaging, distribution, transportation, retailing and consumption of food. Key cost drivers include energy and power: electricity, gas, fuel, fertilizer and oil. Trends in energy prices are therefore one of the key drivers of food prices. Farmgate commodity prices also generate upward pressure on manufacturing costs, together with continued price increases for cereals and further uncertainty over exchange rates. These costs are outside the control of my Department and a number of costs outside the control of National Governments.

My Department intends however to continue working with processing companies in the Northern Ireland food processing sector to identify where internal manufacturing costs can be reduced.

This practically includes offering advice and financial support via a range of Invest NI support products including assessing a company's supply chain to identify process and productivity opportunities for improvement. I intend also to continue to offer through Invest NI energy surveys to food manufacturing businesses and audits of water and materials consumption to identify other areas of cost reduction. In the last 3 years some 34 food companies have undertaken an energy audit with a further 11 companies offered energy efficiency advice.

Interest free loans are also available from £3,000 to £100,000 for four years with the size of the loan depending on how much energy can be saved by the company or the amount of carbon savings that can be achieved. A total of £293,000 has been offered to 28 food companies in the last 3 years to implement improvements following energy audits and 126 carbon trust surveys have been completed. Further specialist advice is available to assist food businesses to resolve issues such as high levels of waste, supplier problems and high levels of downtime. Over 60 food companies have also undertaken a waste audit and received a corrective action plan to reduce waste and therefore save cost. My Department through Invest NI will continue to assist food manufacturing companies undertake productivity diagnostics and to draw up cost saving action plans. Workshops, networking events, training and mentoring will also be available on an ongoing basis.

## **ESB Independent Energy**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 1863/11-15, (i) whether she can offer an assurance to consumers that Electric Ireland is not, and will not, pass on inefficiency costs incurred in the Single Electricity Market by ESB Power generation, ESB International, Bord Gaís, Bord na Móna or any other Irish state owned energy company; and (ii) why there is a renewed divergence between the price of electricity in Northern Ireland compared to the price in Great Britain.

**(AQW 2705/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:**

- (i) Electric Ireland, part of the ESB Group, has signalled its intention to enter the domestic and small business electricity supply market in Northern Ireland. In order to compete against existing market participants, Electric Ireland will need to offer an appropriate tariff to establish and maintain market share. It is also the case that the company, as part of its current licence to operate in Northern Ireland, is prohibited from giving or receiving any cross-subsidy from any other affiliate business.
- (ii) The electricity market in Northern Ireland is quite different to that in Great Britain, in terms of both operation and scale. My Department will continue to work with the Utility Regulator and the energy industry to support initiatives aimed at putting downward pressure on retail electricity costs. New electricity interconnection which is planned between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and between Great Britain and the Republic, should see greater convergence between electricity prices across the regions as greater market integration takes place.

**Land for Industrial Use in the Magherafelt District Council Area**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what measures InvestNI is taking to acquire and provide land for industrial use in the Magherafelt District Council area; and to detail the locations involved.

**(AQW 2755/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Within the Magherafelt District Council area Invest NI holds approximately 72 acres across two business parks.

Whilst a significant proportion of this land has been developed and is occupied by businesses, approximately 27 acres remain available to support economic development. It is the view of Invest NI that this will be sufficient to meet the needs of qualifying businesses within the Council area.

The table below provides a breakdown of Invest NI's land holding by business park.

**INVEST NI LAND HOLDING IN THE MAGHERAFELT DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA**

<b>Business Park</b>	<b>Land Holding (Acres)</b>	<b>Land Availability* (Acres)</b>
Creagh	54.2	27.1
Station Road	17.97	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>72.17</b>	<b>27.1</b>

\* Figures are correct as at 30th June 2011

**Jobs: Created and Lost**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many jobs have been (i) created; and (ii) lost in each year since 1998.

**(AQW 2839/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department does not hold the information requested.

**Oil and Gas Supplier Regulator**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action her Department can take to initiate the establishment of an oil and gas supplier regulator.

**(AQW 2848/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Member is referred to the written answer in AQW 1447/11-15 provided on the 18 July 2011 in respect of the regulation of the oil industry, which I consider would also apply to the liquefied petroleum gas industry (LPG).

The remit of the NI Authority for Utility Regulation already extends to natural gas.

## Department of the Environment

### Ministerial Programmes and Visits to Brussels

**Mr McElduff** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the number; and (ii) purpose of the Ministerial programmes and visits to Brussels he, or his predecessors, undertook in (a) the last Assembly mandate; and (b) the current mandate.

**(AQW 2940/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment):** Neither I nor my predecessors have undertaken any visits to Brussels during the last Assembly mandate or the current mandate.

### Spreading Slurry

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of the Environment, given the 15 October deadline restricting farmers from spreading slurry, the high level of rain fall over the past few weeks and the time it will take for land conditions to improve before spreading can resume (i) for his assessment of this matter; and (ii) what consideration he has given to extending the amount of time given to farmers to spread slurry.

**(AQW 2980/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** I very much appreciate the difficulties that are being faced by farmers in a number of places in the North. The decision I have made aims to provide relief to farmers who have reasonable excuse for non compliance with the Nitrates Action Programme when the season for spreading organic manures ends at midnight on 15 October. At the same time, the decision I have made aims to act within the limits of the law and, crucially, protect farmers and the Government from EU penalties which potentially could be severe in relation to the management of the Nitrates Action Programme.

Therefore, having taken into account legal advice from a number of sources, the views of farmers' leadership, advice from DOE and NIEA officials, reviewed Met. Office statistics (etc) I can confirm that under regulation 25(2) of the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010, farmers on a case by case basis can rely on the defence of "reasonable excuse" in relation to spreading of organic manures and non compliance with the closed period. To be able to rely on the defence a farmer should provide a record of evidence showing that they had taken all reasonable steps to manage the situation and had no alternative. Subsequently this record would be important in informing the assessment of the NIEA in relation to compliance issues. I have advised the NIEA that on a case by case basis where a farmer provides a record of evidence, the NIEA must take full account of this evidence. I believe this should result in relief to and protection of farmers in genuine difficulty, in a way that protects the interests of the farmer, the government, economy and environment.

I also confirm that I continue to keep the situation under active review and management given the ongoing poor weather. I acknowledge that my approach has received support from farming representatives. I believe that, at this time, this is a proper intervention and a proportionate response to a difficult situation.

## Department of Finance and Personnel

### Vacant Posts in the Civil Service

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the (i) number; and (ii) location of vacant posts in the Civil Service at (a) Administrative Assistant; (b) Administrative Officer; (c) Executive Officer II; (d) Executive Officer I; (e) Staff Officer; and (f) Deputy Principal grades in each Department.

**(AQW 2374/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel):** The information requested is set out in the attached table.

**AQW 2374/11 - LOCATION & NUMBER (FTE)\* OF VACANT POSTS IN THE NICS AT AO, E02, E01, SO & DP - 23/9/11**

	AA	Location	AO	Location	E01I	Location	E01	Location	SO	Location	DP	Location
**DARD	2	1 Enniskillen 1 Stormont	1	Stormont	10.5	0.5 Coleraine 5 Stormont 4 Londonderry 1 Cookstown	3	Stormont	3	2 Stormont 1 Brussels	3	Stormont
DCAL	0		1	Belfast	0		0		1	Belfast	1	Belfast
DE	0		0.6	Bangor	0		0		2	Bangor	2	Bangor
DEL	0		8	6 Belfast 2 Newry	9	4 Belfast 1 Newry 1 Enniskillen 1 Strabane 1 Banbridge 1 Newtownabbey	9	8 Belfast 1 Armagh	6.8	Belfast	3	Belfast
DETI	0		0		0		0		0		1	Belfast
DFF	1	Belfast	9	Belfast	2	Belfast	4	3 Belfast 1 Londonderry	2	1 Belfast 1 Rosepark	4	2 Belfast 1 Rosepark 1 Bangor
DHSSPS	0		0		0		0		3	Stormont	1	Stormont
DOE	1	Belfast	12	11 Belfast 0.5 Downpatrick 0.5 Enniskillen	12	6 Belfast 2 Coleraine 4 Derry	2	Belfast	1	Belfast	0	Belfast

	AA	Location	AO	Location	EOII	Location	E01	Location	S0	Location	DP	Location
DOJ***	1	Stormont	8	5 Belfast 2 Londonderry 1 Maghaberry	53.83	47.83 Belfast 2 Stormont 1 Craigavon 1 Newry 1 Dungannon 1 Newtownards	0		11	2 Belfast 6 Stormont 2 Maghaberry 1 Carrickfergus	5	2 Belfast 3 Stormont
DRD	0		1	Belfast	2	Belfast	0		0		1	Belfast
DSD	6	2 Belfast 4 Londonderry	48	40 Belfast 2 Portadown 1 Bangor 1 Downpatrick 1 Kilkeel 2 Newry 1 Lurgan	73	68 Belfast 2 Londonderry 1 Omagh 1 Ballynahinch 1 Lisburn	13	11 Belfast 2 Londonderry	6	Belfast	6	Belfast
OFMDFM****	0		0		1	Stormont	0		5	Stormont	5	4 Stormont 1 Armagh
PPS**	0		0		1	Belfast	0		1	Ballymena	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>88.6</b>		<b>164.3</b>		<b>31</b>		<b>41.8</b>		<b>32</b>	

**Table Notes:**

- \* FTE – Full-time Equivalent
- \*\* - DARD SO Brussels is a secondment opportunity
- \*\*\* - DOJ & PPS Grading Review to determine whether E0 posts are E02 or E01 level; shown in Table as E02.
- \*\*\*\* - OFMDFM DP vacancy in Armagh is being filled through elective transfer – the selection has been completed and successful candidate notified.

**Hearing Loss Claims**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the cost of hearing loss claims since the devolution of policing and justice; (ii) in relation to meeting these claims, what recourse there has been to the reserve and whether there has been any acquisition of assets from the Executive by the Treasury.

**(AQW 2394/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The total cash cost to the PSNI for hearing loss claims since 1 April 2010 (under machinery of government rules, costs in the year of devolution were accounted for from 1 April) until the end of August 2011 is £36.2m. A total of £11m was claimed from the Reserve during 2010-11. There has been no acquisition of assets from the Executive by the Treasury.

**Civil Service Staff**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the perceived community background of staff recently recruited to general service grades in the Civil Service.

**(AQW 2550/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** A temporary recruitment embargo was introduced at general service grades (Administrative Assistant – Grade 6) in 10 February 2010. This embargo was lifted at grades Administrative Assistant (AA), Administrative Officer (AO), Executive Officer 2 and Grade 7 on 8 July 2011 and subsequently at Deputy Principal level on 15 August 2011. From the period 8 July to 29 September 2011 there have been 78 general service appointments made to posts at AO, AA and Temporary AA levels. 37 of these appointees have a Protestant community background and 41 have a Roman Catholic community background. Given the short period covered (3 months) and the small numbers involved, it is not possible to make an accurate assessment of fair participation.

**Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether his Department has implemented the action in the Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan which states that Departments must explore the implementation of domestic violence workplace policies with private and public sector employers; and if his Department will meet the target implementation date of December 2011.

**(AQW 2609/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** My department has responsibility for human resource policies for the Northern Ireland Civil Service. In 2007 DFP implemented a Domestic Violence and Abuse Policy. This policy applies to all departments and includes guidance for line managers in dealing with staff who may be victims of domestic violence as well as information on the help and support available to victims. Corporate Human Resources which is part of DFP maintains this policy and as an internal civil service policy such policies are developed in consultation with the relevant trade unions.

**Proposed Capital Spend Projects**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail his Department's proposed capital spend projects for this financial year, including the projected timescales and the costs for each project.

**(AQW 2759/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** My Department's proposed capital spending projects for this financial year, including the projected timescales and the costs for each project are outlined in the table below.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>£'000</b>
ICT Line of Business	Ongoing	1,900
Maintaining NICS Accommodation	Ongoing	6,618
Enterprise Shared Services(ESS): Migration of the Department of Justice to Account NI	2012-13	3,012
ESS: HR Connect Milestone	2011-12	1,400
ESS: NICS System Maintenance	Ongoing	7,100
Land and Property Services Systems Maintenance and Development	Ongoing	2,122
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22,152</b>

### **INTERREG IVA Programme**

**Mr Murphy** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether there is a risk to the future calls for applications to INTERREG IVA Programme; and to detail the timescale for such calls.

**(AQW 2765/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is currently processing approximately forty applications for INTERREG IVA funding. It is expected that these will have been fully assessed by early 2012 after which there will be further calls until the remaining Programme budget has been allocated.

Decisions on the value, type, number and timing of these calls will be taken once the current work of assessment is complete.

### **Tax-Varying Powers**

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel if he has commissioned a high level assessment of the cost of the devolution of tax-varying powers.

**(AQO 507/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The government consultation document included their estimates of the costs of devolving corporation tax powers. The total estimated annual cost to devolve and reduce corporation tax to 12.5% here is around £490m per annum. Neither potential administration costs nor compliance costs to business are included in this estimate.

Departmental officials have considered these estimates in detail. They and I consider them to be excessively high on the basis that

- It assumes that Northern Ireland's share of UK tax receipts is 1.5% of UK receipts. Northern Ireland's share of UK tax receipts has varied considerably over the last 5 years but in the most recent year it was just 1.1 % of UK tax receipts.
- Preventative measures can be put in place to stop the costs HMT attribute to profit shifting.
- HMT have not fully recognised the potential benefits and the impact that these will have on income tax and national insurance tax receipts.

We are continuing to challenge these and the Government has recently acknowledged that further work will be needed over the winter to clarify the costs. The Exchequer Secretary has recently announced a joint working group to develop further work in this regard. My department will play its full part in working with Treasury colleagues to ensure that the costs of the devolution of tax-varying powers are clarified.

## Small Business Rate Relief Scheme

**Mr Newton** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the benefits that have been realised as a result of the implementation of the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme.

**(AQO 508/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Given that the small business rate relief scheme has only been operational locally since 1 April 2010 it is too early to undertake a formal evaluation. However, evaluations have been undertaken in Scotland and Wales on the schemes operating in those parts of the UK.

The main finding from the Welsh evaluation was that the financial assistance provided through their small business rate relief scheme, which is more closely aligned to our local scheme, is supporting small businesses' economic sustainability in the current economic environment. It also found the scheme to be appropriate in terms of the balance between complexity, fairness and practicality. The Scottish evaluation, while not as extensive as the Welsh study, also concluded that the scheme was worthwhile and relatively well targeted.

However, I don't need an evaluation to tell me that we should provide support to our small businesses and ensure that they benefit from the sort of support with rates that they get in the rest of the UK.

The SBRR scheme was introduced to support the growth and sustainability of small businesses locally, who need help now more than ever. It is for this reason that I am proposing to expand the main scheme – doubling the amount of relief provided – and funding this through charging a levy on the largest retail premises. This would be a three year downturn measure and with the help and support of this Assembly I would like to introduce it in time for next year's rates bills.

Under the main scheme around £6.25m per year is provided to just under 16,000 small business premises, with an average award of around £400 per year. Under the expanded scheme relief could be provided to almost 9,000 additional premises, with an average award of around £730 per year.

## DFF: Revenue Raising

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the new areas that his Department has identified as having revenue raising potential.

**(AQO 509/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** As part of the Budget 2010 process my department identified four potential revenue raising options. These were the sale of the NI Civil Service Art collection, the sale of surplus land and buildings, charging District Councils for the maintenance of the valuation list for rating purposes and implementing car parking charges within the NI Civil Service Estate.

## Government: Prompt Payment

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what work has been carried out to promote prompt payment for services received by all Departments.

**(AQO 510/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Departments are committed to the prompt payment of bills for goods and services received which means that, unless otherwise stated in the contract, payment is due within 30 days of the receipt of the goods or services, or on presentation of a valid invoice or similar demand, whichever is the later.

The Account NI website publishes statistics on a monthly basis for all departments and makes available advice and 'helpful hints' on the processing of invoices. Each department is committed to monitoring their own progress and seeking to improve overall performance. In addition each Departmental Board takes an active interest in this area and any issues in the area is escalated to this level where required.

There is an ongoing process of communicating the respective responsibilities for suppliers and Departments. Account NI also continues to focus on improving performance where it is viable to do so

while maintaining the integrity of the checking and approval process and good financial management practice.

As a result of a good deal of effort like this, steady progress has been made in speeding up payment and overall performance across Departments are now consistently at 97% against the 30 days target and over 90% against the 10 days target.

### **Corporation Tax**

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the likely cost of administering Corporation Tax if it is devolved.

**(AQO 511/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Unfortunately there is no firm estimate of administration costs in the recent Treasury consultation document and I wrote to David Gauke at the beginning of the summer to call for further work and clarification on this.

The Exchequer Secretary has recently indicated that the Government is committed to working with the Executive to consider these issues further over the winter. My department will play its full part in working with Treasury colleagues to ensure that clarification is provided in relation to the administration costs.

### **DFP: Revenue Raising**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the revenue raising methods he has identified within his Department.

**(AQO 512/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** As part of the Budget 2010 process my department identified four potential revenue raising options. These were the sale of the NI Civil Service Art collection, the sale of surplus land and buildings, charging District Councils for the maintenance of the valuation list for rating purposes and implementing car parking charges within the NI Civil Service Estate.

### **Budget 2011-12: Inflation**

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the impact of price inflation on the 2011/2012 Budget.

**(AQO 513/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Budget 2011-15 document shows departmental allocations in cash terms. However, the impact of inflation was taken into account when departments were submitting their spending proposals.

The level of savings identified in departmental Savings Delivery Plans is based on the savings required to allow departments to achieve their objectives within their Budget 2011-15 settlement. This will take account the impact of inflation and ensure that the savings delivered will be sufficient to offset this.

The most appropriate measure for calculating the impact of inflation on public expenditure is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflator as

opposed to the Retail Price Index (RPI) or Consumer Price Index (CPI). The latest GDP deflators are available on the HM Treasury website.

### **Small Business Rate Relief Scheme**

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme.

**(AQO 514/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** My Department is consulting on proposals to expand the main scheme. Given constrained public finances the additional help cannot be funded out of public expenditure. It is proposed to fund it through a levy charged on the largest retail premises, requiring new legislation and accelerated passage if the three year downturn package is to be introduced next April.

The consultation process closes on 18 October and it would be my intention to publish the responses, my Department's assessment of those responses and the Executive's agreed way forward by January. I have an open mind and if the consultation identifies better and more acceptable ways of delivering help then I am more than happy to let the business community shape the final policy, providing the approach is a fair and balanced one and most importantly is deliverable. I have already had useful discussions with business groups and companies.

I have heard concerns about the proposals being rather blunt, either helping those that don't need it or penalising those that help our economy. However, we need to keep things proportionate and straightforward. This is a three year package, adjusting rate bills up and down by around 20%. If we try to be too sophisticated we simply add to its cost; for business who then have to apply for it and for government administering it.

Furthermore, there is no point in devising a highly targeted scheme that takes too much time to set up and runs the risk of being challenged through the courts for some unforeseen effect that has caused an unfair competitive advantage to someone.

### **Rates: Empty Homes**

**Mrs Overend** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the implementation of the Rating of Empty Homes.

**(AQO 515/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Rating of Empty Homes came into effect on 1st October 2011. Subject to any exclusions, owners are now liable to pay rates on empty property. As at 1st October 34,500 owners have been identified and rates assessed for the period October 2011 to March 2012 totaling almost £9.9 million. Bills will be delivered from 10th October 2011.

Land & Property Services will deal with any queries from the public in relation to the new bills. Some owners may be entitled to an exclusion from rates. LPS will process any applications from owners for such an exclusion. Training on Rating of Empty Homes has been delivered to over 400 staff within the Agency.

Work will continue on tracing owners for the remaining domestic properties (approximately 11,200), some of which could now be occupied, or demolished or derelict.

## **Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety**

### **Transformation of Business Services in Health and Social Care Shared Services**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when he expects Transformation of Business Services in Health and Social Care Shared Services to bring forward proposals on modernising 'back office' functions as part of the programme.

**(AQW 2454/11-15)**

**Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** The Health & Social Care Business Services Transformation Programme, which aims to modernise 'back office' functions and, in doing so, deliver significant financial savings, is well advanced. The programme is focused on transforming HR, Payroll, Travel, Finance, Procurement and Logistics. It is taking a two-stage approach: first, through the implementation of modern IT systems which will change process and drive efficiencies; and second, through the implementation of Shared Services to further improve performance and capitalise on standardisation and economies of scale. Implementation of the IT

systems will start within the next 12 months. As to Shared Services, I hope to be able to announce specific progress and proposals in the near future.

### Diabetes Clinic in Bangor Hospital

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients attended the diabetes clinic in Bangor Hospital in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 2462/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The number of attendances at the diabetes clinic in Bangor Hospital in each of the last three years is presented in the table below.

Financial Year	No. of attendances <sup>1</sup>
2008/09	1,067
2009/10	1,114
2010/11	1,166

**Source:** South Eastern HSC Trust

- 1 The figures shown relate to the number of attendances and as such should not be used to denote individuals, as a person may have more than one attendance in a year or across a number of years.

### Brook Northern Ireland: Funding

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the level of funding (i) his Department; and (ii) the Health and Social Care Trusts have allocated to Brook Northern Ireland in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 2503/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The table below sets out the level of funding allocated to Brook Northern Ireland by my Department, Health and Social Care Trusts, Health and Social Services Boards, and the Public Health Agency in each of the last five years.

	2006/07 £	2007/08 £	2008/09 £	2009/10 £	2010/11 £	Total £
Department Health Social Services & Public Safety <sup>(1)</sup>	39,468	50,287	53,685			143,440
Belfast HSC Trust	-	-	19,036	-	-	19,036
Northern HSC Trust	-	-	-	146	625	771
South Eastern HSC Trust	-	-	96	9,792	3,900	13,788
Western HSC Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern HSC Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-
NI Ambulance Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Health Agency <sup>(1)</sup>				213,202	299,316	512,518

	2006/07 £	2007/08 £	2008/09 £	2009/10 £	2010/11 £	Total £
Health & Social Care Boards (Legacy) (1)	104,620	159,402	152,325			416,347
<b>Total</b>	<b>£144,088</b>	<b>£209,689</b>	<b>£225,142</b>	<b>£223,140</b>	<b>£303,841</b>	<b>£1,105,900</b>

**Note:**

1. Prior to April 2009, the legacy Health and Social Services Boards provided funding to Brook. With the establishment of the Public Health Agency (PHA) in April 2009, responsibility for providing funding to Brook transferred from the Department and the legacy Boards to the PHA.

**Accident and Emergency Units**

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of patients who attended the Accident and Emergency Unit at the (a) Belfast City Hospital; (b) Royal Victoria Hospital; (c) Mater Hospital; (d) Ulster Hospital; (e) Antrim Area Hospital; and (f) Causeway Hospital between 1 January 2010 and 31 August 2011.

**(AQW 2526/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The number of new and unplanned review attendances at: (a) Belfast City; (b) Royal Victoria; (c) Mater; (d) Ulster; (e) Antrim Area; and (f) Causeway Accident and Emergency units between 1 January 2010 and 31 August 2011 is presented in the table below:

Accident & Emergency Unit	Total New and Unplanned Review Attendances
Belfast City	72,172
Royal Victoria	121,640
Mater	68,069
Ulster	123,507
Antrim Area	117,621
Causeway	72,932

**Source:** Departmental EC1 Return.

**Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department has implemented the action in the Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan which states that Departments must explore the implementation of domestic violence workplace policies with private and public sector employers; and if his Department will meet the target implementation date of December 2011.

**(AQW 2557/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** This action is being taken forward regionally by the Local Domestic Violence Partnerships (LDVPS) in conjunction with their member organisations. Whilst the exploratory work is on target to be completed by December 2011, work to increase the number of employers' who implement Workplace Policies will be an ongoing part of the LDVPS business. There is a Northern Ireland Civil Service policy to support employees in all Government Departments who are experiencing domestic abuse.

**Suicide Awareness, Mental Health and First Aid Training**

**Mr S Anderson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how much his Department spent on training for each Health and Social Care Trust area on (a) suicide awareness; (b)

mental health; and (c) first aid in each of the last five years; and (ii) who delivered this training in each case.

**(AQW 2587/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Department invests annually in a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate training to all staff at all levels across professions, both clinical and non-clinical. Training is provided both locally by Trusts and, in addition through a range external providers including: Queen's University Belfast, the University of Ulster, the Open University, Beeches Management Centre, the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency, the AHP Centre for Multi-disciplinary Education and the Nursing Education and Development Consortium. It is not possible to extract the specific detail in the format requested due to disproportionate cost.

### **Development of a Prescribing Formulary for Drugs**

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what progress has been made in the development of a prescribing formulary for drugs.

**(AQW 2719/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Following a consultation on the development and maintenance of a Northern Ireland Joint Formulary for Primary and Secondary care which ended on 2 September 2011, the Health and Social Care Board is currently revising the processes for the implementation, management and review of the Formulary. Guidance covering approximately 60% of prescribed medicines has been drafted and will be issued once the Board has approved the revised process for the implementation and management of the Formulary.

### **Planned Redundancies in the Health Service**

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of planned redundancies in the Health Service over the current budgetary period; and the posts that will be affected.

**(AQW 2720/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Decisions on the size and nature of the Health and Social Care workforce will be taken in light of the future pattern of service provision that may emerge following the HSC Review.

### **Belfast City Hospital's Accident and Emergency Unit**

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) when the consultation process for the proposed changes to Belfast City Hospital's Accident and Emergency Unit will begin and be completed; (ii) who will be consulted; and (iii) the publicity campaign which will be adopted to ensure as wide a consultation as possible.

**(AQW 2721/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I have already made clear on a number of occasions that there will be a full and open process of consultation and engagement with stakeholders on the reconfiguration of Accident and Emergency services in the Belfast Trust area.

I hope to make an announcement shortly on the arrangements for consultation.

### **Time for Change Campaign on the Family Planning Association Website**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given the prominence of the "Time for Change" campaign on the Family Planning Association website, what assurances he has (i) sought; and (ii) received that no money from his Department or from the Health and Social Care sector is used to maintain the website, or produce the campaigning material carried on the website.

**(AQW 2735/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I have sought and received assurances from my Department, the Health and Social Care Sector and the Family Planning Association that none of the money received by the organisation from my Department or the Health and Social Care sector is used to maintain its website, or produce the campaigning material carried on the website.

### Registered Blind or Partially Sighted

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many (i) adults; and (ii) young people are registered blind or partially sighted in each Health and Social Care Trust area.  
**(AQW 2741/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Information on the number of people registered as blind or partially sighted is not collected centrally, but is recorded by each Health & Social Care (HSC) Trust. The information provided by the five HSC Trusts is detailed in the table below.

#### NUMBER OF ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE REGISTERED BLIND OR PARTIALLY SIGHTED IN EACH HSC TRUST AT 3 OCTOBER 2011 1

HSC Trust	Persons Registered Blind or Partially Sighted	
	(i) Adults (Aged 19+)	(ii) Young People (Aged 0-18)
Belfast	1,939	19
Northern	1,387	63
South Eastern	1,773	459
Southern	1,440	111
Western	753	51
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>7,292</b>	<b>703</b>

- 1 The information recorded by HSC Trusts is not a register of all blind or partially sighted people as some may refuse to have their names added to relevant HSC Trust records.

### Bangor Hospital's Diabetes Clinic

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) whether the closure of Bangor Hospital's Diabetes Clinic is temporary; and (ii) if so, when it will be reopened.  
**(AQW 2808/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The provision of outpatient clinics is an operational matter for Health and Social Services Trusts. The South Eastern Trust has confirmed that the discontinuation of the weekly diabetes clinic at Bangor Community Hospital is temporary. A date for resuming the clinic has not yet been determined as this is contingent on recruitment of a new consultant.

### Paediatric Orthopaedic Patients

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 2491/11-15, how much his Department has spent on sending paediatric orthopaedic patients to independent sector (i) outpatient; and (ii) inpatient clinics in the last 12 months.  
**(AQW 2817/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Arrangements for the commissioning of paediatric orthopaedic services are led by the HSC Board working in collaboration with HSC Trust.

I have been advised that only the Belfast Trust use the independent sector for paediatric orthopaedic cases.

The Trust has confirmed that £414,481 was spent on outpatient assessment for paediatric orthopaedic patients from Northern Ireland at independent sector clinics during the period September 2010 to August 2011. £243,000 was spent on inpatient and daycase treatment for paediatric orthopaedic patients from Northern Ireland for the same period.

### **World Health Organisation's report 'Persistent Organic Pollutants: Impact on Child Health'**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail his Department's position on the World Health Organization's report 'Persistent Organic Pollutants: Impact on Child Health'.

**(AQW 2849/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department accepts the World Health Organisation's report 'Persistent Organic Pollutants: Impact on Child Health'.

The European Union sets very strict limits for Persistent Organic Pollutants, at the level of detection, while the UK National Control Plan has in place routine surveillance to detect and prevent dangerous levels of Persistent Organic Pollutants entering the food chain.

### **MRI Scanner for the Royal Victoria Hospital**

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has any plans to allocate funding for an MRI scanner for the Royal Victoria Hospital, given that the scanner will cost £2 million and that the current fundraising campaign is dependent on public donations.

**(AQW 2863/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Royal Victoria Hospital has a MRI scanner which is used for the entirety of the site. The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is developing proposals for a dedicated MRI scanner for the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. When these proposals are submitted to my Department, I will review the capital and running costs associated with the project including its affordability within my current budgetary allocation before making my decision.

### **Standard Payment Terms**

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the standard payment terms which (i) the Health and Social Care Trusts; (ii) the Health and Social Care Board; and (iii) his Department seeks to agree with business suppliers.

**(AQW 2868/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Health and Social Care Trusts and the Health and Social Care Board primarily use contracts arranged by the Business Services Organisation (BSO). The BSO standard payment terms state that "payment must be made by the end of the month following the month in which the invoice is received or the goods are delivered, whichever is the later".

Standard practice for all other payments (including those of the Department) is according to suppliers' terms, which is typically 30 days after receipt of a valid invoice, unless otherwise agreed.

### **Supplier Invoices**

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 2122/11-15, how many of the 20,539 invoices paid late by the (i) Health and Social Care Trusts; and (ii) Health and Social Care Board, when paid, were for amounts less than the amount originally invoiced.

**(AQW 2869/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** It is not possible to provide this information, as this would require an extensive manual exercise to review all invoices, which could only be carried out at a disproportionate cost.

## Prescriptions

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, for each of the last five years, to detail (i) how many prescriptions have been issued; and (ii) how many prescriptions have been processed by community pharmacists.

**(AQW 2870/11-15)**

### Mr Poots:

- (i) The information requested is not available.
- (ii) The number of prescriptions dispensed and presented for payment by community pharmacists within each of the last five financial years are shown in table 1 below. The figures shown are presented by the financial year in which the prescription was paid to the pharmacist; it should be noted that there may be a time lag where prescriptions have been dispensed by the community pharmacist in a particular year but paid the following year. The count includes prescriptions issued by all types of prescribers including doctors, nurses and dentists, and also includes prescriptions issued and dispensed by pharmacists under the minor ailments scheme.

**TABLE 1: THE NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS DISPENSED AND PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT BY COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS WITHIN EACH OF THE LAST FIVE FINANCIAL YEARS.**

Financial Year	Number of prescriptions (millions)
2006/07	16.2
2007/08	17.1
2008/09	17.8
2009/10	19.1
2010/11	20.3

**Source:** FPS, Information and Registration Unit, BSO.

## Physiotherapists

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, for each of the last five years, (i) to detail the number of (a) available physiotherapist posts, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust; and (b) newly qualified physiotherapists; and (ii) how many of these posts were awarded to newly qualified physiotherapists.

**(AQW 2875/11-15)**

### Mr Poots:

- (a) The number of Physiotherapist posts and vacancies actively being recruited to, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust are provided in the tables below.

**PHYSIOTHERAPISTS IN POST WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUSTS AS AT 31ST MARCH**

Trust	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE
Belfast	354	301.19	353	292.83	330	275	336	281.52	321	265.67
Northern	165	138.76	168	141.9	177	149.2	175	144.38	179	147.29
South Eastern	164	132.57	175	141.75	176	139.52	183	148.26	181	146.84
Southern	158	131.83	167	137.74	173	142.74	180	151.37	193	161.54
Western	91	80.62	108	97.2	118	106.4	119	108.26	126	111.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>784.97</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>811.42</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>812.86</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>833.79</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>833.29</b>

Source: Human Resources Management System

**PHYSIOTHERAPIST VACANCIES WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUSTS AS AT 31ST MARCH**

Trust	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE
Belfast	13	9.67	8	6.7	10	9.17	0	0	14	11.36
Northern	5	4.5	1	1	0	0	4	3.8	4	4
South Eastern	8	7.48	5	4.5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern	6	3.26	4	2.5	15	9.28	7	4.66	1	0.88
Western	6	6	3	3	4	3.5	8	7	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>30.91</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>21.95</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15.46</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18.24</b>

**Source:** Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Vacancy Survey

**Notes:**

1. HC = Headcount, WTE=Whole-time Equivalent
2. A current vacancy is a post which at 31st March, the organisation was actively trying to fill.
3. Information on the number of vacancies is collected biannually (as at 31st March and 30th September) by means of a survey of all Northern Health and Social Care Trusts and Organisations.
  - (i)
  - (b) The number of newly qualified physiotherapists by year is not held within the Department, however the numbers of university student physiotherapy places commissioned by the Department are given in the table below. Attrition rates for Physiotherapy students are extremely low, so it is expected that almost all the students will gain their qualification.

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT PHYSIOTHERAPY PLACES COMMISSIONED BY DHSSPS BY YEAR**

Year	Number of student places commissioned
2007/08	50
2008/09	69
2009/10	69
2010/11	59
2011/12	59

- (ii) Information on the number of posts awarded to newly qualified physiotherapists is not available. Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Trusts do not record year of qualification on their Human Resources Management Systems and therefore would have to carry out a large-scale manual exercise to find the necessary information.

**Northern Ireland Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Working Group**

**Mr McCallister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the next meeting of the Northern Ireland Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Working Group is due to take place; and whether elected representatives can be members of the Group.

**(AQW 2877/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Following a recent meeting with a local ME organisation, I wrote to the HSC Board requesting an update in relation to taking forward the work of the NI Myalgic Encephalitis (ME) Working Group. I have received confirmation that the Board's new arrangements for commissioning will incorporate this important work relating to ME services.

Through these new commissioning arrangements work is ongoing to establish the progress made by Trusts in relation to implementation of the NICE guidance on ME/CFS. Such an approach will help to inform discussion at a meeting which the HSC Board intends to hold with those organisations which have an interest in ME services. To this end, it has already made contact with representatives of the NI ME Association and Families fight 4 ME and a meeting with them is currently being arranged, to take place in the next couple of months.

As this work is being led by the HSC Board I would suggest that you contact John Compton, Chief Executive regarding participation of elected representatives at this meeting.

**Myalgic Encephalomyelitis**

**Mr McCallister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the treatment and support services available for people with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis.

**(AQW 2878/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The variability of symptoms in patients with ME means that they will need to access different parts of the health service, depending on their specific symptoms and the severity of their condition. The focus on treatment is therefore centred on close co-operation between patients, carers and the relevant health and social care professionals, which is essential to ensure that sufferers obtain the most suitable treatment for their particular needs.

People suffering from ME in Northern Ireland have access to a wide range of treatment and support services in secondary, primary and community care settings, including neurology services and mental health services. In addition patients may be referred for assessment and treatment to a variety of specialists depending on their assessed individual needs.

### **Applications to the Family Fund**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when he intends to bring forward proposals to allow applications to the Family Fund to continue.

**(AQW 2888/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Families in Northern Ireland continue to be able to apply to the Family Fund for support.

### **Victims of Domestic Violence**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what work place policies are in place to assist victims of domestic violence within his Department and its arm's-length bodies.

**(AQW 2894/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department is fully committed to supporting staff who are victims of domestic violence and endorses the NICS wide policy on Domestic Violence and Abuse which is available to all staff. The Staff Welfare Service plays a key role in providing support to staff who disclose domestic abuse.

There is a Regional Policy on Domestic Violence for all Health and Social Care (HSC) Bodies. This policy complements and ensures the mainstreaming of good practice.

Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) provide assistance for victims of domestic violence through the approval of Special Leave arrangements, referral and counselling services.

### **Proposed Capital Spend Projects**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail his Department's proposed capital spend projects for this financial year, including the projected timescales and the costs for each project.

**(AQW 2910/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My approved capital budget for 2011/12 is £200m. Of this £104m is needed for schemes that are contractually committed or which are attached to an approved business case. £93m has been allocated towards a range of fixed annual costs such as NIFRS; NIAS; ICT; maintaining estate and services etc.

A further £3m is earmarked for schemes for which the relevant business case is not yet approved. Details cannot be provided for these schemes until business case approval is confirmed.

The table attached at Annex A provides details of all schemes on which in-year allocations exceed £500k. Projects below this level are generally managed from within Trusts' delegated limits.

**ANNEX A****TABLE 1 - APPROVED PROJECTS**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Short Description of Project</b>	<b>In year Allocation</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Shankill Health & Care Centre	New Build Health and Care Centre	£1,192,000	£12,428,000	2012
Beechall Health and Care Centre	New Build Health and Care Centre	£2,066,000	£16,121,000	2012
RVH Energy Centre	Initial phase of a replacement Energy Centre for the Royal Hospitals site	£290,000	£5,070,000	2013
Musgrave Park Neurology	New Unit to replace the outdated facility currently located at the Forster Green site	£1,377,000	£4,061,000	2013
Phase 2A IT	ICT Infrastructure to support the extensive redevelopment of the Royal site	£1,500,000	£5,937,000	2015
RVH Critical Care & Maternity Unit	New Critical Care Block to include maternity outpatients and post natal beds	£42,600,000	£151,000,000	2013
A&E Main Build - Antrim	Expansion of A&E Services at Antrim Area Hospital	£1,901,340	£8,367,340	2014
24 bedded Unit at Antrim Hospital	New unit providing additional 24 medical beds to address capacity issues at Antrim Hospital.	£1,434,395	£4,887,340	2013
Ulster Hospital Phase B	Second phase of the re-development of the hospital to include day surgery, A&E, imaging, pharmacy and wards	£8,727,264	£187,408,663	2015
Relocation of GPs from Pound Lane	Relocation of GPs from Pound Lane following a fire	£957,674	£957,674	2012
Downe Hospital ICT Infrastructure	New networking and computer facilities to enable full integration with Trust and regional clinical networks	£337,459	£4,706,247	2013
Craigavon Theatres	Replacement of theatres 1- 4 at Craigavon Area Hospital	£3,200,000	£11,000,000	2014

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Short Description of Project</b>	<b>In year Allocation</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Gransha Mental Health Crisis Services	New build replacement adult Mental Health Unit at Gransha	£6,900,000	£10,677,000	2013
North West Radiotherapy	New regional radiotherapy unit located at Altnagelvin Hospital	£811,726	£60,000,000	2016
Omagh Local Hospital – Enabling	Enabling works for new local hospital	£644,000	£15,000,000	2014
Omagh Local Hospital	Phase 1 of new local hospital in Omagh	£1,356,000	£80,000,000	2015
South West Hospital	New build Acute Hospital	£10,246,521	£270,000,000	2015
Altnagelvin Lifts	New fire lift at the end of the Ward wing to address risk issues associated with patient evacuation in the event of a fire	£1,600,000	£2,183,000	2012
Shared Services Project	Business Services Transformation project to introduce new integrated management systems across Trusts	£7,500,000	£27,000,000	2014
School of Dentistry	Replacement of equipment at the School of Dentistry	£1,393,000	£1,393,000	2012
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence -Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease	Project to improve patient safety by reducing the risk of transmission of CJD	£1,138,592	£1,138,592	2012
Altnagelvin Scopes	Upgrade and replacement of decontamination equipment at Altnagelvin hospital	£600,000	£1,849,400	2013
Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Services	Annual allocation to address estate, fleet, IT and other capital pressures	£4,647,097	£23,295,097	2014
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service	Annual allocation to address estate, fleet, IT and other capital pressures	£3,807,000	£20,807,000	2014

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Short Description of Project</b>	<b>In year Allocation</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
General Capital	Capital allocations to Trusts/Board/Agencies to enable them to address urgent pressures within their delegated limits	£27,633,000	£86,633,000	2012
IT – General	A range of ICT schemes and equipment	£5,500,000	£58,300,000	2012
IT - General Medical Services (GMS)	The maintenance and delivery of GMS ICT infrastructure	£3,500,000	£3,500,000	2012
IT – Community Information Systems	Primary Care IT replacement	£1,300,000	£1,300,000	2012
IT – Northern Ireland Single Assessment Tool (NISAT)	Induction and development of single assessment tool	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	2012
IT – Medicines Management	Development and introduction of software for the pharmacy service	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	2012
IT – Trust Infrastructure	Upgrade and maintenance of Trusts' IT Infrastructure to ensure full integration.	£2,500,000	£2,500,000	2012
IT – PCs	PC Replacement programme across health and social care sector	£1,500,000	£1,500,000	2012
Maintaining Existing Services – Small works	Funding to address risk issues that could impact on life or service delivery. Schemes mainly within Trust delegated limits	£20,401,000	£73,401,000	2014
Maintaining Existing Services - Carbon Reduction and Energy Efficiencies	Capital to fund schemes which can generate energy efficiencies and/or impact on carbon reduction	£5,763,000	£5,763,000	2012
Maintaining Existing Services – Capital Efficiencies	Capital to fund schemes which will generate sustainable long term revenue efficiencies	£4,260,180	£4,260,180	2012
Maintaining Existing Services – GP Surgeries	Programme of refurbishment and upgrade of GPs surgeries considered below required standard	£3,865,500	£5,365,500	2013

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Short Description of Project</b>	<b>In year Allocation</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Hospital Modernisation	Mainly equipment purchase to facilitate a programme of hospital modernisation	£870,000	£6,870,000	2014
Pandemic Flu	UK-wide Initiative whereby NI contributes in proportion to the rest of the UK	£1,493,000	£12,000,000	2015
Other Schemes under £500,000	Schemes falling within Trust and/or Board and/or Agency respective delegated limits.	£8,140,459	£65,112,463	2015
	Total for Approved Schemes 2011/12	£195,243,207		

### **Waiting Times for Cancer Treatment**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the average waiting time in each Health and Social Care Trust area for (a) cancer treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer; (b) a first assessment with a breast cancer specialist; and (c) treatment of any form of cancer; and (ii) how the current waiting times compare to the waiting times in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 2921/11-15)**

#### **Mr Poots:**

- (i) Information on waiting times for cancer services is measured on the basis of how long patients waited, rather than how long they are currently waiting, for treatment.

Currently, three cancer treatment pathways are monitored by my Department. These relate to patients urgently referred by a GP with suspect cancer; patients urgently referred for an assessment with a breast cancer specialist and patients for whom a decision to treat for cancer is taken. My Department collects and publishes cancer waiting times, reporting on Health and Social Care Trust's performance against the recommended maximum waiting times for each of these three pathways.

The waiting times for cancer services for the month of June 2011, the most recent month for which my Department has validated information, are shown in the tables below.

#### **(A) WAITING TIMES FOR CANCER TREATMENT FOLLOWING AN URGENT GP REFERRAL FOR SUSPECT CANCER: BY HSC TRUST (JUNE 2011)**

<b>HSC Trust</b>	<b>Patients treated for cancer following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer<sup>1</sup></b>		
	<b>Number treated within 62 days of receipt of referral</b>	<b>Total treated</b>	<b>Percentage (%) treated within 62 days of receipt of referral</b>
Belfast	72.0	94.0	76.6
Northern	31.5	37.0	85.1
Southern	39.0	41.5	94.0

<b>HSC Trust</b>	<b>Patients treated for cancer following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer<sup>1</sup></b>		
	<b>Number treated within 62 days of receipt of referral</b>	<b>Total treated</b>	<b>Percentage (%) treated within 62 days of receipt of referral</b>
South Eastern	63.5	75.5	84.1
Western	32.0	40.0	80.0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>82.6</b>

**Source:** Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

- 1 Following an urgent GP referral, a patient may be transferred to another HSC Trust for treatment. In such circumstances, both the transferring and treating HSC Trust will report 0.5 of the patients waiting time i.e. if a patient is referred to the Northern HSC Trust and is transferred to the Belfast HSC Trust for treatment, the patient will be reported 0.5 at Northern and 0.5 at Belfast HSC Trusts.

**(B) WAITING TIMES FOR A FIRST ASSESSMENT WITH A BREAST CANCER SPECIALIST: BY HSC TRUST (JUNE 2011)**

<b>HSC Trust</b>	<b>Patients first seen by a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect cancer</b>		
	<b>Number that waited 14 days or less</b>	<b>Total seen</b>	<b>Percentage (%) that waited 14 days or less</b>
Belfast	296	298	99.3
Northern	129	129	100
Southern	131	131	100
South Eastern	117	117	100
Western	185	185	100
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>99.8</b>

**Source:** Departmental Return SDR2

**(C) WAITING TIMES FOR CANCER TREATMENT FOLLOWING A DECISION TO TREAT FOR CANCER BEING TAKEN: BY HSC TRUST (JUNE 2011)**

<b>HSC Trust</b>	<b>Patients treated for cancer following a decision to treat for cancer being taken</b>		
	<b>Number treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being taken</b>	<b>Total treated</b>	<b>Percentage (%) treated within 31 days of a decision to treat being taken</b>
Belfast	340	354	96.0
Northern	93	94	98.9
Southern	89	89	100.0
South Eastern	151	153	98.7
Western	97	98	99.0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>97.7</b>

**Source:** Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

- (ii) My Department commenced collection of waiting times for cancer services in March 2008. The tables below provide you with details of waiting times for (a) cancer treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (b) a first assessment with a breast cancer specialist and (c) treatment of any form of cancer, for the month of June in each of the last four years.

**(A) WAITING TIMES FOR CANCER TREATMENT FOLLOWING AN URGENT GP REFERRAL FOR SUSPECT CANCER: BY HSC TRUST (JUNE 2008 TO JUNE 2011)**

HSC Trust	Patients treated for cancer following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer <sup>1</sup>							
	Total treated				Percentage (%) treated < 62 days			
	Jun '08	Jun '09	Jun '10	Jun '11	Jun '08	Jun '09	Jun '10	Jun '11
Belfast	62.0	89.0	79.5	94.0	89.5	84.3	85.5	76.6
Northern	56.0	41.0	41.5	37.0	89.3	86.6	86.7	85.1
Southern	36.0	37.0	25.0	41.5	100.0	93.2	90.0	94.0
South Eastern	38.0	52.0	63.5	75.5	97.4	89.4	85.0	84.1
Western	18.0	20.0	31.5	40.0	86.1	97.5	87.3	80.0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>92.4</b>	<b>88.3</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>82.6</b>

**Source:** Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

- 1 Following an urgent GP referral, a patient may be transferred to another HSC Trust for treatment. In such circumstances, both the transferring and treating HSC Trust will report 0.5 of the patients waiting time i.e. if a patient is referred to the Northern HSC Trust and is transferred to the Belfast HSC Trust for treatment, the patient will be reported 0.5 at Northern and 0.5 at Belfast HSC Trusts.

**WAITING TIMES FOR A FIRST ASSESSMENT WITH A BREAST CANCER SPECIALIST: BY HSC TRUST (JUNE 2008 TO JUNE 2011)**

HSC Trust	Patients first seen by a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect cancer							
	Total seen				Percentage (%) seen < 14 days			
	Jun '08	Jun '09	Jun '10	Jun '11	Jun '08	Jun '09	Jun '10	Jun '11
Belfast	223	244	331	298	91.9	100.0	97.0	99.3
Northern	80	88	131	129	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Southern	130	167	148	131	100.0	100.0	98.0	100.0
South Eastern	85	112	153	117	98.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Western	79	153	192	185	100.0	96.7	43.2	100.0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>96.8</b>	<b>99.3</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>99.8</b>

**Source:** Departmental Return SDR2

**(C) WAITING TIMES FOR CANCER TREATMENT FOLLOWING A DECISION TO TREAT FOR CANCER BEING TAKEN: BY HSC TRUST (JUNE 2008 TO JUNE 2011)**

HSC Trust	Patients treated for cancer following a decision to treat being taken							
	Total treated				Percentage (%) treated < 31 days			
	Jun '08	Jun '09	Jun '10	Jun '11	Jun '08	Jun '09	Jun '10	Jun '11
Belfast	286	315	320	354	96.9	97.5	95.0	96.0
Northern	98	85	94	94	100.0	100.0	98.9	98.9
Southern	87	105	84	89	100.0	99	100.0	100.0
South Eastern	83	119	119	153	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.7
Western	69	75	106	98	95.7	100	99.1	99.0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>97.5</b>	<b>97.7</b>

**Source:** Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

### Social Work Qualifications

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 2417/11-15, whether he would liaise with his counterparts in the Republic of Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales, to discuss the implementation of a mutual recognition agreement between the various bodies governing social workers and CORU on social work qualifications, which would allow social workers to work in both jurisdictions without paying registration fees for both.

**(AQW 2942/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I have asked that my officials raise this issue with counterparts in the other 3 countries in UK and in the Republic of Ireland. I will advise of the outcomes of these discussions in due course.

### Pharmacies

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many pharmacies have written to the Health and Social Care Board asking to reduce their contracted opening hours.

**(AQW 2975/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** In the last four months the Health and Social Care Board has received eight applications from pharmacists asking to change their contracted opening hours. Five of the applications are to reduce opening hours and the remaining three applications are to extend their contracted opening hours.

### Podiatry Services

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the criteria used to assess a patients access to podiatry services.

**(AQW 2977/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Public Health Agency has worked with all Allied Health Professions services to develop regionally consistent service access criteria. Access to podiatry is based on clinical need – factors such as pain, foot and leg pathologies and systemic diseases are considered. Patients are regularly re-assessed to ensure that clinical resources are targeted at patients with evidenced need.

## Podiatry Services

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans he has to reduce access to podiatry services.

**(AQW 2979/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I have no plans to reduce access to podiatry services. The Public Health Agency has worked with all Allied Health Professional services to develop regionally consistent service access criteria. Access to podiatry is based on clinical need – factors such as pain, foot and leg pathologies and systemic diseases are considered. Patients are regularly re-assessed to ensure that clinical resources are targeted at patients with evidenced need.

## Bowel Cancer

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of (a) men; and (b) women, aged between 50 and 74, diagnosed with bowel cancer in each Health and Social Care Trust area; and (ii) whether there has been a change in this figure since the screening exercise commenced.

**(AQW 3093/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) Information on cancer incidence is produced by the NI Cancer Registry. The latest information available relates to 2009 and is presented below. The roll out of the bowel cancer screening programme started in 2010.

### THE NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN AGED FROM 50 TO 74 DIAGNOSED WITH BOWEL CANCER (ICD-10\* CODE C18-21) IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN 2009, BROKEN DOWN BY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST AREA

Trust Area	Number of patients**	
	Men	Women
Belfast	71	48
Northern	90	51
South East	62	46
Southern	63	40
Western	52	40

\* For a listing and explanation of ICD-10 codes see International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, 3rd Edition, World Health Organisation, Geneva, 2000. For an explanation of ICD-10 codes see: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_ICD-10\\_codes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ICD-10_codes).

\*\* 1.05% of patients (n=6) could not be assigned the Health and Social Care Trust Area of their residency

- (ii) It is too early to say what difference the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme has made so far in those Trust areas where the Programme is in place. The Programme was introduced in April 2010 in the Northern and Western HSC Trusts, and in June 2010 in the South-Eastern HSC Trust. It is due to be rolled out in the Belfast and Southern Trusts in the coming months.

## MRI Scanner for the Clark Clinic in The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he would consider allocating funds for an MRI scanner for the Clark Clinic in The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, given that it is the only children's hospital in the UK without such a scanner.

**(AQW 3113/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Royal Victoria Hospital has a MRI scanner which is used for the entirety of the site. The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is developing proposals for a dedicated MRI scanner for the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. When these proposals are submitted to my Department, I will review the capital and running costs associated with the project including its affordability within my budgetary allocation before making my decision.

### **DHSSPS: Capital Budget**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of his Department's capital budget.

**(AQO 522/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department has assessed the capital requirement for DHSSPS over the Budget 2010 period as £1.8bn. DHSSPS has received £851m for the four year period ending in March 2015. With contractual commitments of £250m and annual fixed costs of £100m for maintenance of the extensive HSC estate, this leaves £200m available for new investment.

This level of funding is insufficient to meet all the demands being placed on the health service and I am keen to explore whether private capital can be used to supplement public sector investment. Given the extent of the assessed shortfall, it is clear that some very difficult decisions lie ahead as to which projects can be taken forward within the available funding.

### **Caesarean Sections**

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action his Department will take to ensure that all women needing a caesarean section will receive the necessary medical care.

**(AQO 523/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I can assure you that all women needing a caesarean section on the Health Service will have the necessary clinical care.

Caesarean sections can and do save lives, but it is major surgery and carries a risk for both mother and baby. Consequently it should not be carried out solely for the convenience of a mother or a hospital. Northern Ireland has a higher prevalence of interventions, including caesarean sections, when compared to elsewhere in the UK and Ireland. We need to know why this is the case. The recently launched Maternity Strategy proposes that Trusts benchmark such interventions against comparable maternity units across the UK and Ireland in order to address the causes of this disparity. Maternity care – regardless of whether it is public or private care – should be of a high standard and make best use of available resources.

I would encourage everyone to have their say in this consultation which closes on 23 December 2011.

### **Adoption**

**Mr Dickson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has any plans to introduce legislation on adoption during this mandate.

**(AQO 524/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I can confirm that it is my intention to introduce new adoption legislation in the Assembly within the current mandate. However, I intend to await the outcome of an ongoing judicial review of existing adoption legislation before introducing a Bill.

### **Children's Hospital, Belfast**

**Ms J McCann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the building of the new children's hospital.

**(AQO 525/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** It is not possible to complete the new children's hospital within the current budget period within my capital allocation. However, I am currently exploring alternative funding options to ensure that this worthwhile and much needed project is delivered as quickly and efficiently as possible.

### **Maternity Services: Midwifery-led Units**

**Ms Ritchie** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of his recent draft Maternity Strategy, what plans he has to increase the number of Midwifery Led Units and the funding available to them.

**(AQO 526/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The draft Maternity strategy outlines a number of recommendations which, if implemented, will significantly change the way we deliver maternity services. I want the public to have their say and respond before consultation closes on 23 December 2011.

One of the proposals is that each Trust should establish a Midwife Led Unit (MLU) alongside a Consultant Led Unit. These will be provided as far as possible within existing resources and will utilise the skills that midwives have as well as providing choice for women. Freestanding MLUs will also be established and maintained where there is an assessed need and the service contributes to sustainable maternity care.

Once the final version of the strategy is published in 2012, it will be for the HSC commissioners and providers of services to determine assessed need taking account of other priorities and available resources.

### **Health and Social Care Bill**

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he plans to introduce any changes should the Health and Social Care Bill for England be enacted.

**(AQO 527/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** There are differences between the two systems of Health and Social Care which means that some changes planned for England are not directly relevant here. In addition, a number of the central aims of the Coalition Government's reforms for health and social care have already been addressed in Northern Ireland as part of our own reforms.

My Department will continue to monitor the progress of the English reforms and there may be implications which we will need to consider in due course. In addition, I have initiated a Review of Health and Social Care services, which is currently underway, and which will identify the changes required to our own system to ensure it is fit for purpose for the future.

### **Miscarriage**

**Mr McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the policy for dealing with the tragedy of miscarriage and what procedures are in place to treat women at such times.  
**(AQO 528/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I recognise that a miscarriage is a tragedy for any woman and her family. HSC services do have a role in providing interventions which are sensitive, caring, competent and tailored to individual needs.

In 2004, my Department issued guidance on a careplan for women who experience a miscarriage, stillbirth or neonatal death. This plan aims to provide each patient with the highest possible standard of care.

I also recently launched a draft maternity strategy for public consultation, which complements the above guidance and promotes support for women suffering the loss of a baby. The draft strategy is out for consultation until 23 December; I would encourage everyone with an interest in maternity services to respond to the consultation.

## Alcohol

**Mr Dunne** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what discussions he will have with the Minister for Social Development to ensure that access to cheap alcohol is limited for young people and vulnerable adults.

**(AQO 529/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department and the Department for Social Development have been working together for a number of years in relation to liquor licensing. The two Departments recently established a subgroup to look at alcohol pricing and promotions. This led to DSD bringing regulations through the Assembly in relation to irresponsible promotions, and to the publication of a joint consultation on the principle of introducing a minimum unit price for alcohol.

I met with Minister McCausland in June 2011 to discuss this issue further and we agreed that following analysis of consultation responses, an options paper would be developed for our consideration. We will continue to work together on this issue.

## Health and Social Care Centres: Opening Hours

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he would consider issuing guidance instructing Health and Social Care centres to adopt longer opening hours.

**(AQO 530/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The services provided in individual Health and Social Care Centres and how they are delivered, including opening hours, are an operational issue. Services are determined by commissioners based on the identification and assessment of local needs.

As a general principle, I am committed to ensuring that health and social care services are responsive to the needs of patients and are available at a time and place convenient for them. The current review of Health and Social Care services will include an assessment of the quality and accessibility of services and the extent to which the needs of patients, clients, carers and communities are currently being met.

## Department of Justice

### Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, given that the Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline makes provision for the police to be informed when there is evidence of a prison officer committing a criminal offence, why this provision was not used when prison officers were caught with an indecent image of a child.

**(AQW 2463/11-15)**

**Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice ):** In this case a decision was taken by the Northern Ireland Prison Service that internal disciplinary processing was the appropriate course of action. The two officers were subsequently charged with gross misconduct and disciplined under the NIPS Code of Conduct.

At a meeting on 28 September 2011 the PSNI confirmed to NIPS staff that the image was not classed as indecent and therefore no criminal offence had taken place.

### Encouraging or Assisting a Child or Children to Commit a Crime

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice if he is aware of any parent or guardian ever being (i) prosecuted; and (ii) convicted for encouraging or assisting a child or children to commit a crime.

**(AQW 2534/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** If a parent or guardian were found to have intentionally encouraged or assisted an offence believing one would be committed they could be prosecuted for encouraging or assisting crime. In

such circumstances, PSNI would also involve Social Services to facilitate any investigation that may be necessary to protect the child from harm. Data which would identify any such prosecutions are not available, however, as datasets do not record the circumstances in which an offence was committed.

### **People Released from Prison Under New Identities**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many people have been released from prison under new identities over the last ten years; and how much this has cost in total.

**(AQW 2536/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** A response as to how many people have been released from prison under new identities is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board, and committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board.

You may therefore wish to direct your question to the PSNI.

### **Prisoner Releases**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether prisoners who have completed their sentences are released from prison to specified addresses; and what steps are taken in preparation for their release.

**(AQW 2541/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Some prisoners are required to reside at a specified address on release by virtue of them being subject to post release supervision, or where required by a court order. Otherwise, there is no requirement for prisoners to live at a particular address on leaving custody. However, the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) is committed to supporting prisoners to access appropriate accommodation on release.

In preparation for release, dedicated multi-disciplinary offender management teams are responsible in each prison for ensuring that prisoners are referred, at an appropriate stage, to those interventions best suited to address their risk and needs, and to help them to prepare for release and resettlement in the community. NIPS and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive jointly fund a Housing Advice in Prisons Project providing information, advice and advocacy to those in custody. This work is carried out in partnership with other relevant agencies such as the Probation Board, the Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, hostels and private landlords

A wide range of programmes and practical support are available to prisoners to help address issues such as accommodation, debt, benefits, health, addictions, education/training, relationships, and children/parenting issues.

### **Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre and Hydebank Young Offenders Centre**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Justice what proportion of the young people detained in Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre and Hydebank Young Offenders Centre in each of the last three years had been through the care system.

**(AQW 2562/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The requested information for Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre is published in Table 4 of the report 'Youth Justice Agency Annual Workload Statistics 2010/11', which is available to download from [www.youthjusticeagency.ni.gov.uk](http://www.youthjusticeagency.ni.gov.uk). The relevant part of Table 4 is also presented below.

Corresponding information in relation to Hydebank Young Offenders Centre is not available.

**TABLE 4: INITIAL ADMISSIONS BY LOOKED AFTER STATUS 2008/09 - 2010/11**

	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Looked After Status</b>						
Subject to Care Order	73	27	116	33	88	21
Voluntary Accommodated	-	-	10	3	65	16
Not from Care	196	72	221	63	251	61
Unknown	2	1	2	1	7	2

Year-on-year comparisons should be made with caution due to changes in looked after recording categories and improved recording since 2008/09.

### **Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre and Hydebank Young Offenders Centre**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the reoffending rates of the young people who have left Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre and Hydebank Young Offenders Centre in each of the last five years. **(AQW 2563/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The information requested is available for the calendar years 2005 to 2008. It is based on young persons discharged from custody who re-offend at least once during a one year follow up period, where the offence results in a conviction at court. The need to build in this follow up period as well as time for a re-offence to be convicted accounts for the lack of more up-to-date statistics beyond 2008 at this time.

Information prior to 2005 uses a different methodology which looks at reconviction rather than re-offending, and is therefore not comparable to the data presented below.

The figures for 2005 and 2006 are downloadable via [www.dojni.gov.uk](http://www.dojni.gov.uk) whilst figures for 2007 and 2008 are available from the Youth Justice Agency website [www.youthjusticeagency.ni.gov.uk](http://www.youthjusticeagency.ni.gov.uk). Tables 1 and 2 below provide a summary of the published reports.

#### **WOODLANDS JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRE(1)**

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number reoffending within one year	26	24	25	22
Total number in cohort	38	31	33	27
Percentage re-offending in one year	68.4	77.4	75.8	81.5

#### **HYDEBANK WOOD YOUNG OFFENDERS CENTRE(1)(2)**

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number reoffending within one year	17	5	13	19
Total number in cohort	21	10	20	33
Percentage re-offending in one year	81.0	50.0	65.0	57.6

(1) Percentages should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers in all categories.

(2) Includes young persons discharged from a custody probation order

## Early Years (0-6) Strategy

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Justice what input his Department had into the Early Years (0-6) Strategy.

**(AQW 2564/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** My Department has had no input into the Department of Education's draft Early Years (0-6) Strategy.

I have acknowledged the importance of early interventions in 'Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities', the consultation paper on proposals for a new Community Safety Strategy. Further, I have welcomed the recent report on the Review of Youth Justice which emphasises the need for a greater focus on early intervention and investment in the health, education and parenting of children during their early years. Whilst the recommendations contained in the report are currently subject to public consultation, I would endorse the underlying principle and am committed to supporting Executive-wide approaches to early intervention, including the Early Years Strategy.

## Children Between 10 and 12 Years Old: Crime

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Justice how many children between the ages of 10 and 12 years old have been (i) charged; and (ii) convicted of a crime in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 2584/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The table below gives the number of prosecuted and convicted children aged 10 – 12 for the years 2004 -2006. Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

The table covers the calendar years 2004 to 2006, the latest year for which conviction figures are currently available, due to changes in how such data are collected. Information for the period 2007 to mid 2009 will be available in the near future. In the meantime, figures on offending by young people were published in the Review of the Youth Justice System on 25 September 2011. This is available at:

<http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/publications/publication-categories/pubs-criminal-justice/youth-justice-review.htm>

**TABLE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED 10 – 12 PROSECUTED AND CONVICTED, 2004 - 2006**

Year age	Number prosecuted	Number convicted
<b>2004</b>		
10	0	0
11	4	3
12	22	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>

Year age	Number prosecuted	Number convicted
<b>2005</b>		
10	1	0
11	5	3
12	38	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>28</b>

Year age	Number prosecuted	Number convicted
<b>2006</b>		
10	1	1
11	4	3
12	22	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>

### Average Cost of a Prison Place

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the average cost of a prison place in each of the last three years; and for an estimate of the cost for this year.

**(AQW 2624/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The target and actual average costs per prisoner place in each of the last three years and the estimate of the cost for this financial year are set out in the table below:

Year	Target average cost per prisoner place £	Actual average cost per prisoner place £
2008-09	81,500	£81,340
2009-10	78,750	£77,831
2010-11	76,500	£73,762
2011-12	75,200	

The target average cost per prisoner place is based on the opening budget for each year and has been reducing from year to year. The actual average cost has also fallen from year to year and the 2010-11 cost was significantly below target.

### Combating Crimes in Rural Areas

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice what specific measures are targeted at combating crimes in rural areas.

**(AQW 2644/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** At a regional level my Department is represented on both the Interdepartmental Committee on Rural Policy and the Rural White Paper Project Board to ensure that issues around rural crime are reflected in the development work on a Rural White Paper.

At a local level Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) deliver initiatives in rural areas across Northern Ireland that contribute to the reduction of crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. A number of these CSPs provide specific trailer/farm plant equipment marking schemes tailored to the particular needs of the rural community.

The PSNI together with An Garda Síochána are developing various work streams under the Cross Border Strategy to deal with crime in rural areas and there are a number of Rural Watch schemes across the province which provide local communities with direct contact with local PSNI officers within Neighbourhood Policing Teams. The PSNI are also working on a series of initiatives with the National Farmers Union and Ulster Farmers Union.

In addition, the Department of Justice is currently developing a new Community Safety Strategy and I am considering the views received to the consultation to determine what more needs to be done to tackle rural crime.

## Workplace Charter on Domestic Violence

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Justice (i) whether his Department intends to (a) examine the implementation of; and (b) implement the Workplace Charter on domestic violence; and (ii) when the associated work will be open to public competition.

**(AQW 2663/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I would refer the Member to the reply I gave to his question of 11 October 2011 (AQW 2478/11-15) which explained how the action on workplace policies is being taken forward. There is a distinction, however, between a workplace policy and the Workplace Charter. The latter is an initiative developed by a Social Economy Enterprise and delivered on a commercial basis. While Local Domestic Violence Partnerships have been made aware of the Workplace Charter, there are currently no plans to seek to progress the issue of workplace policies through a procurement process.

## Domestic Abuse

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of arrests made for domestic abuse in 2010, and of these, how many led to (i) charges; and (ii) convictions.

**(AQW 2664/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** During the financial year 2010-11, the PSNI identified 22,685 incidents motivated by domestic abuse. Of these, 9,546 crimes were recorded.

Over the same period police made 4,441 detections for crimes with a domestic abuse motivation.

All cases submitted to the Public Prosecution Service by police are considered by a public prosecutor and an assessment is made (on the basis of the evidence) as to whether the offence(s) were motivated by domestic violence. During 2010 decisions were issued for prosecution, either in the Magistrates' Court or in the Crown Court, in respect of 2,666 persons in domestic violence cases. Decisions for diversion were issued in respect of a further 419 persons.

Police incident/recorded crime data should not be compared directly with PPS prosecutorial decisions owing to differences in the definitions/counting rules applied.

NICTS court conviction and sentencing datasets do not distinguish offences motivated by domestic abuse from other violence against the person, property or other crimes and therefore convictions data is unavailable.

## Tackling Violence at Home Strategy

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of what actions in the Tackling Violence at Home Strategy are (i) mandatory; and (ii) voluntary.

**(AQW 2665/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Tackling Violence at Home Strategy sets out the commitment of Government and all partner agencies to adopting a consistent and long term approach to the prevention of domestic violence. The Strategy and supporting Action Plans set out actions to tackle domestic violence and abuse with supporting targets. Each of the partner agencies is committed to ensuring the successful delivery of their actions contained within the Strategy. Structures are in place at both regional and local level to ensure that the actions are implemented consistently across Northern Ireland by Government working in conjunction with all the partner agencies and Ministers are apprised of progress.

## Jose Ignacio de Juana Chaos

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 1889/11-15, given that the whereabouts of Jose Ignacio de Juana Chaos are unknown, (i) for his assessment of whether his case against extradition should continue to be funded by Legal Aid in his absence; and (ii) whether a Bench Warrant has been issued for his arrest.

**(AQW 2667/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The decision to keep legal aid in place in this case is a matter for the court. The court considered this on 9 September 2011 and concluded that legal aid should continue to be provided.

Any decision to issue a bench warrant in this case is entirely a matter for the judge. I can confirm that as of 5 October 2011 no bench warrant has been issued.

### **Destruction Order: Drugs**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the seizure of Class A, B and C drugs, to detail the amount of drugs that have been destroyed following a Destruction Order after a conviction, in each court division, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 2675/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The seizure and destruction of drugs is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Board.

You may therefore wish to re-direct your question to the PSNI.

### **Children Who Commit a Criminal Offence**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 1696/11-15, when he expects to have data to identify and prosecute parents or guardians who encourage or assist children in committing crime.

**(AQW 2676/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The identification and prosecution of parents or guardians who encourage or assist children in committing crime is a matter for the independent investigatory and prosecuting authorities.

To record centrally details of persons encouraged or assisted in the commission of crimes would require significant investment in IT systems which I do not believe would be offset by the information gained.

### **Courts Service**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Justice to outline any potential savings that have been identified by, or within, the Courts Service.

**(AQW 2713/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Savings Plans have been developed by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service as part of the Budget 2010 spending review. The savings are outlined in the table below:

<b>Savings Plan</b>	<b>2011/12 £m</b>	<b>2012/13 £m</b>	<b>2013/14 £m</b>	<b>2014/15 £m</b>
Reduction in discretionary costs and the prioritisation of expenditure	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4
Review of administration costs	0.2	1.4	2.9	3.4
Deferred Income	2.0	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.8</b>

Details of the plans will be published shortly on the DOJ website.

## People Serving Sentences in Prison

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Justice how many people are currently serving sentences in prison.  
(AQW 2716/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** As of 5 October 2011 there were a total of 1133 people serving sentences in prison in Northern Ireland.

## Prison Spaces

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Justice what is the maximum number of people that can be accommodated in prisons; and how many prison spaces are currently available.  
(AQW 2717/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The prison population in Northern Ireland as of 9 October 2011 was 1765.

The maximum number of people that can be accommodated across the three prison establishments in Northern Ireland is determined by a number of factors including the bed spaces available, the need to keep various categories of prisoners apart, and judgements about what each establishment can hold without serious risk to good order, security and the proper running of the planned regime. There are a total of 2186 bed spaces currently available but this level of occupancy is not achievable owing to the constraints inherent in keeping various categories of prisoners in separate accommodation and the desirability of avoiding cell sharing where possible.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service regularly reviews the use of prisoner accommodation in order to make best use of the number of prisoner places available.

## Prison Service Staff

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 1634/11-15, to detail the number of internal disciplinary issues and the incidents involved.  
(AQW 2729/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** As of 10 October, there are currently 20 internal disciplinary cases ongoing.

A breakdown of the details is provided in the table below.

Number	Detail
3	Alleged falsification of prisoner documentation
1	Receipt of a suspended prison sentence
2	Alleged refusal to obey an order
1	Drunk in charge
1	Alleged association with an ex-prisoner
1	Alleged misconduct
1	Alleged fraudulent claiming of overtime payments
1	Alleged harassment
2	Alleged absence without authority
2	Alleged neglect of duty
1	Alleged abuse of sick absence procedures
4	Precautionary Suspension

As these disciplinary cases are ongoing it would not be appropriate to comment further at this time.

### **Prison Service: Disciplinary Procedures**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether he intends to alter the current internal disciplinary procedures within the Prison Service so that the PSNI is automatically notified of a potential offence committed by a staff member, and allowing the Public Prosecution Service to decide if a prosecution should follow.

**(AQW 2730/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Code of Conduct and Discipline is currently being reviewed and a revised version, when issued, will include guidance regarding the steps to be followed if a member of staff commits a potential criminal offence.

### **Illegal Fuel**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many convictions have been secured for motorists using red diesel or any other illegal fuel type in each of the last five years, broken down by court division.

**(AQW 2731/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Whilst the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 will allow for aggravated cases to be referred for prosecution, I am advised by HMRC that they combat fuel misuse in private or commercial vehicles using civil powers and the approach must be proportionate to the offence. Therefore there have been no prosecutions and no convictions against motorists using red diesel or any other illegal fuel type. HMRC conduct a policy of seizure and restoration of vehicles on payment of a penalty, though there are occasions when HMRC will not offer restoration of the vehicle. In the case of commercial misuse, HMRC may carry out an audit on the business which may result in a tax assessment being raised.

The table below lists the number of detections of illicit fuel in vehicles in Northern Ireland recorded by HMRC. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of red, green, laundered or other types of fuel.

#### **NUMBER OF DETECTIONS OF ILLICIT FUEL IN VEHICLES 2006/07 – 2010/11**

	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>
Total detections	1190	1158	495	603	373
Commercial	546	892	392	328	203
Non commercial	644	266	103	275	170

### **Prison Service**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of how satisfactory it is for the Prison Service to deal internally with allegations of fraud and assault rather than report the allegations to the PSNI; and whether this practice is still followed.

**(AQW 2732/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The NICS Handbook and the Northern Ireland Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline make provision for Prison Service staff to inform the PSNI if they are aware that a potential criminal offence has been committed. I am satisfied that Prison Service management will assess instances of potential offences on a case-by-case basis and seek guidance from the PSNI where appropriate.

### **Errors in Statements or Answers**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Justice, since May 2010, how many (i) statements he has made to the Assembly; and (ii) of his answers to Members' questions have had to be corrected because of errors in his original statements or answers.

**(AQW 2751/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I have made (i) eight oral statements and one written statement to the Assembly since May 2010 (ii) no errors have had to be corrected.

### **Ministerial Special Adviser**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Justice (i) how many candidates were considered for the post of Ministerial Special Adviser; (ii) what account was taken of any potential imbalance in religious background or gender in the pool from which he selected his Special Adviser; (iii) how wide was the trawl for candidates and how did he ensure that it was 'broadly based' as required by the Code of Practice on the Appointment of Special Advisers; and (iv) to publish the job description and person specification drawn up before the Special Adviser was appointed.

**(AQW 2752/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Three candidates were considered for the post of Special Adviser to the Minister of Justice. These candidates represented the different perceived religious backgrounds and both genders. In addition, I consulted with a number of people to ensure my consideration of candidates was 'broadly based' as required by the Code of Practice on the Appointment of Special Advisers.

The job description for the Special Advisor is that within paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 of the Code of Practice on the Appointment of Special Advisers.

In addition, each candidate was assessed against the following criteria, those being:

- (a) knowledge of the operation of government and the Assembly;
- (b) knowledge of the justice system;
- (c) broad sympathy with the Alliance party;
- (d) possession of a third level qualification in a relevant field;
- (e) an ability to represent the Minister in dealing with Non Government Organisations (NGOs) and other Special Advisers; and
- (f) effective communication and networking skills.

### **Preliminary Inquiries by Video-Link**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 2091/11-15, for an estimate of the savings which could be made by carrying out Preliminary Inquiries by video-link.

**(AQW 2771/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I have combined the answer to both questions as live video-links are central to my plans in both areas.

I will be publishing proposals for consultation to expand live link opportunities with a view to legislation. Those proposals will include preliminary inquiries by video-link as well as other measures to further reduce the need for prisoners to appear in court and to create savings for the justice system as a whole. No specific estimate of savings is currently available but costs and benefits will be dealt with in the forthcoming consultation paper.

A wide range of video-links are already available in courts including preliminary and sentencing hearings in the Magistrates', Crown, and High Court; certain appeal proceedings in the Court of Appeal and County Court; and for the giving of evidence in appropriate circumstances. I recently expanded the availability of live video-links by way of the Justice Act (NI) 2011 to include video-links between courts and mental hospitals

## Prison Staff

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many prison staff were reported to the PSNI by the Prison Service for criminal offences in each of the last five years; and what were the nature of these alleged offences.

**(AQW 2772/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** In the last five years, the Prison Service has reported five staff to the PSNI. These are detailed in table A below:

**TABLE A**

Year	Number of staff	Nature of alleged offence
2011	2	Possession of an indecent image
2010	2	Trafficking x1 Assault x1
2009	None	N/A
2008	None	N/A
2007	1	Inappropriate association with a prisoner

## Prisoners Appearing in Court

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 2055/11-15, if he will introduce legislation or guidelines to reduce the need for prisoners to appear in court which would result in savings for the Prison Service and legal aid.

**(AQW 2773/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I have combined the answer to both questions as live video-links are central to my plans in both areas.

I will be publishing proposals for consultation to expand live link opportunities with a view to legislation. Those proposals will include preliminary inquiries by video-link as well as other measures to further reduce the need for prisoners to appear in court and to create savings for the justice system as a whole. No specific estimate of savings is currently available but costs and benefits will be dealt with in the forthcoming consultation paper.

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## Proposed Capital Spend Projects

Mr McGlone asked Minister of Justice to detail his Department's proposed capital spend projects for this financial year, including the projected timescales and the costs for each project.

**(AQW 2793/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The details requested are set out in the table below. The Department reviews capital expenditure plans on a monthly basis and as part of the in-year monitoring process.

<b>Name of Body</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>11/12 Forecast Spend £000s</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Core department	Justice Strategy - IT changes to implement Justice Act 2011 in NIPS, PPS & NICTS	550	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
Core department	Causeway Project	210	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
Core department	State Pathology - laboratory equipment	14	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
Core department	State Pathology - IT equipment	2	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
Core department	ICT infrastructure Refresh	1,000	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
Core department	ICT infrastructure replacement	800	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
Core department	Video Conferencing	44	Completed
Core department	Furniture	5	Completed
Compensation Agency	IT - Disaster recovery project	22	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
Compensation Agency	New accommodation project	133	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
Compensation Agency	Case Management System	250	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
Forensic Science NI	New accommodation project	350	New accommodation project with a total budget of £12m. Forecast completion date 2014/15
Forensic Science NI	Accommodation improvements	210	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
Forensic Science NI	Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometre	200	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
Forensic Science NI	Plant and Equipment	382	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
NI Courts and Tribunal Service	ICT Services	1,811	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
NI Courts and Tribunals Service	Relocation and Redevelopment Costs	122	Planned completion date April 2012
NI Courts and Tribunals Service	Disability Discrimination Act Compliance	745	Planned completion date April 2012
NI Courts and Tribunals Service	Courthouse Security Projects	898	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
NI Courts and Tribunals Service	Integrated Court Operations System (ICOS)	202	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion

<b>Name of Body</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>11/12 Forecast Spend £000s</b>	<b>Comments</b>
NI Courts and Tribunals Service	Cell Review Project	119	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
NI Prison Service	Maghaberry accommodation - 120 cell block	14,000	Completion due June 2012, with 12/13 spend of £2,500k
NI Prison Service	Maghaberry - Learning and Skills/Reach	1,511	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
NI Prison Service	IT & Equipment	652	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
NI Prison Service	Maghaberry - Security Works	500	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
NI Prison Service	Visits system refresh	460	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
NI Prison Service	Estate Re-development - smaller projects	401	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
NI Prison Service	Causeway project	260	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
NI Prison Service	Maghaberry Generator replacement	10	Completion due August 2012, with 12/13 spend of £240k
NI Prison Service	Hydebank Replacement Generator	10	Completion due August 2012, with 12/13 spend of £240k
NI Prison Service	Maghaberry - Fire damage	676	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
NI Prison Service	All Establishments - sustainability programme, monitoring and metering	100	Due for completion by Sept 2012 with 12/13 spend of £400k
NI Prison Service	Prison Record Information System - Additional Functionality	180	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
NI Prison Service	Prison Record Information System - Criminal Justice Order	100	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
NI Prison Service	ICT Hardware/Software	100	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion
Youth Justice Agency	IT / office and security equipment / vehicles	100	Project on schedule for 11/12 completion

## Disturbance at Roe House, Maghaberry Prison

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether a disturbance occurred at Roe House, Maghaberry Prison on 6 May 2011; and if so, (i) to outline the nature of the incident; (ii) whether any prison staff were injured; (iii) how many prisoners were involved; (iv) how much damaged was caused; and (v) how many prisoners were charged as a result.

**(AQW 2825/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** On Friday 6 May at approximately 10.00pm a number of republican prisoners housed on Roe three and four landings damaged the contents of their cells. The damage extended to breaking the sanitary ware and pulling water pipes from the walls. Significant damage was caused to the cells and consequently the landings on Roe three and four were flooded.

- (ii) No prison staff were injured during this incident.
- (iii) Ten prisoners were involved in the incident.
- (iv) Ten cells were rendered beyond use. The lower landing (Roe four) suffered significant flooding from the damaged water pipes.
- (v) The matter was referred by the Governor to the PSNI and the ten prisoners involved have been charged with criminal damage.

## Contempt of Court

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether the wilful refusal of a defendant to stand in court whilst being formally charged or arraigned constitutes contempt of court.

**(AQW 2826/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Whether or not the wilful refusal of a defendant to stand in court whilst being formally charged or arraigned constitutes contempt of court is a matter for the judge dealing with the case.

## Crown Court Cases

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in each of the last five years, how many crown court cases have been abandoned as a result of a defendant changing their plea to guilty after a jury has been selected and sworn in, broken down by court division.

**(AQW 2827/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The following Table sets out the number of defendants who pleaded not guilty to one or more charges at the outset of the proceedings and at any point thereafter changed their plea to guilty.

<b>Court Division</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>
Belfast	93	111	120	95
Londonderry	14	36	29	37
Antrim	44	60	42	54
Fermanagh & Tyrone	31	28	52	53
Armagh & South Down	12	38	26	29
Ards	69	64	47	50
Craigavon	61	27	15	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>347</b>
<b>Total Crown Court Defendants Dealt With</b>	<b>1789</b>	<b>1735</b>	<b>1603</b>	<b>1609</b>

**Table Notes:**

Information is only available from 2007/8 when the NICTS IT system became fully operational.

Legacy cases migrated onto the IT system may not have full history captured, which may influence the figures for 2007/08 in particular. Figures for 10/11 are provisional and subject to validation.

Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

**Republican Separated Prisoners**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many Republican separated prisoners are refusing to conform to prison rules or the terms of the required compact because of alleged grievances.

**(AQW 2828/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There are currently 28 separated republican prisoners refusing to conform to prison rules or the terms of the required compact.

**Employment Tribunals Involving the Prison Service**

**Mr Irwin** asked the Minister of Justice to outline any procedural changes which have been implemented in relation to how employment tribunals involving the Prison Service are conducted since the devolution of policing and justice powers.

**(AQW 2829/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Since 12 April 2010 the provision of legal services transferred from the Crown Solicitor's Office to the Departmental Solicitor's Office. There have been no other changes.

**Victims of Domestic Violence**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Justice what work place policies are in place to assist victims of domestic violence within his Department and its arm's-length bodies.

**(AQW 2834/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Department of Justice adheres to the NICS policy on domestic violence and abuse. In support of this policy, staff affected by domestic violence are advised of Departments' employee assistance programmes provided by Carecall, welfare and Occupational Health.

Many of the Departments arms-length bodies also adhere to the NICS policy. PSNI and Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) have separate policies.

**Double Yellow Lines on East Bridge Street, Enniskillen**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Justice (i) what level of consultation took place between his Department and (a) the Courts Service; (b) Roads Service; and (c) landlords and tenants in the area, regarding the recent addition of double yellow lines on East Bridge Street in Enniskillen; (ii) for his assessment of the impact these traffic calming measures will have on that area, given that there is already a lack of parking spaces; and (iii) why these measures were introduced.

**(AQW 2911/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service (NICTS) initiated a review of security at Enniskillen courthouse. The addition of parking restrictions in East Bridge Street was one of a number of recommendations which emerged from that review.

NICTS officials consulted Roads Service and a number of local traders in advance of the measures being implemented, and further discussions are continuing.

While the introduction of double yellow lines in the immediate vicinity of Enniskillen Courthouse will reduce the number of on street parking places available to members of the public, these measures were considered necessary in order to enhance the security of the courthouse.

## Brendan Lillis

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 2516/11-15, what challenge his Department made to the medical report by Dr Sean O Domhnaill on Brendan Lillis, given that Dr O Domhnaill had not been given permission to visit Mr Lillis in a professional capacity.

**(AQW 2932/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The position remains that this is wholly a matter for the Parole Commissioners for Northern Ireland who are statutorily independent of my Department. I am committed to respecting their statutory and operational independence.

## Brendan Lillis

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 2573/11-15, whether he will review his response to AQW 1749/11-15 and confirm if it still stands.

**(AQW 2939/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I can confirm that the answer I gave to AQW/1749/11-15 on 23 September 2011 stands.

## Court Books

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many Crown Court trials have resulted in any charges being left on the court books in each of the last three years, broken down by court division.

**(AQW 2955/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The information sought is only recorded against individual defendants. The table below sets out the number of defendants who had at least one charge 'left on the books' after the commencement of a trial.

### NO. OF DEFENDANTS WHO HAD AT LEAST ONE CHARGE 'LEFT ON THE BOOKS' AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF A TRIAL

Division	2008	2009	2010
Belfast	22	19	16
Londonderry	13	3	10
Antrim	13	16	17
Fermanagh and Tyrone	8	6	10
Armagh and South Down	15	4	5
Ards	8	6	6
Craigavon	9	3	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>72</b>

## DOJ: Document Security

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Justice what measures he intends to take to ensure that documents kept by his Department are stored securely.

**(AQO 531/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Department of Justice has, since its inception, had policies, standards and guidance in place in relation to the secure handling, storage and disposal of documents.

By way of illustration of its approach, I can advise the Member that the Department has put in place a Senior Information Risk Owner at Board level. He is supported by Senior Information Asset Owners

in each business area. The Asset Owners are responsible for information security, assurance and management in their areas.

The Department also has arrangements to raise awareness of the required approach including a section on its internal intranet.

## Knife Crime

**Mr S Anderson** asked the Minister of Justice how many people have been convicted of possession of a knife or crimes in which a knife was used since May 2010.

**(AQO 540/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Information on convictions for knife crime is not available in the format requested, as conviction data sets do not contain background information on offences committed. It is possible only to provide conviction statistics for those offences which, in their definition, refer to an “offensive weapon” or “article with a blade or point”. These are:

- armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence;
- possessing offensive weapon in public place;
- possessing article with blade or point in public place;
- possessing article with blade or point on school premises;
- possessing offensive weapon on school premises.

“Offensive weapon” offences are included as data suggests that a substantial proportion involves knives.

The number of convictions during 2007 was 261 and 2008 was 260. These data use a different source from those previously published up to 2006 and are provisional as a verification exercise is currently underway.

For completeness I should add that incidents involving knives are monitored separately from prosecutions and convictions. PSNI figures on incidents involving knives or sharp instruments stood at 925 in 2007/8; 908 in 2008/9; 959 in 2009/10; and 842 in 2010/11.

## PSNI: Ombudsman’s Reports

**Mr Lynch** asked the Minister of Justice under what legal authority the PSNI Chief Constable can dismiss or set aside the findings in an investigative report by the Office of the Police Ombudsman.

**(AQO 541/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There is no legal requirement for the Chief Constable to accept the findings of a Police Ombudsman investigative report.

However the Police Ombudsman can direct the Chief Constable under Section 59(5) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 to bring disciplinary proceedings against a police officer following an OPONI investigation.

## Fuel Laundering

**Mr Irwin** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the level of incidences of fuel laundering and what action he is taking to assist in combating the activity.

**(AQO 542/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** As stated during the recent Assembly debate there is considerable joint action being taken by agencies in Northern Ireland working with their counterparts in the Republic of Ireland to combat all types of fuel fraud including laundering.

It is difficult to assess precisely the amount of fuel fraud but recent HMRC calculations would suggest that the revenue lost to the UK Exchequer was about £70 m in 2009/10 down from £150 m in 2008/09. (These figures include legitimate cross border shopping as well as illegitimate activity) .

While this is good news we are not in any way complacent and will, through the OCTF, continue to bear down on the fraudsters to bring them before the Courts and to seize their criminally obtained assets.

### **Police Ombudsman: Investigations and Reports**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Justice to outline the legal advice he received prior to the decision by the Police Ombudsman to suspend retrospective investigations and the publication of several outstanding reports.

**(AQO 543/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I neither sought or received legal advice prior to the Police Ombudsman's decision to suspend historic investigations following the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) recommendation.

### **Police Ombudsman**

**Mr Ó hÓisín** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the serious irregularities in the criteria for appointment and security vetting of the Police Ombudsman revealed in the report by the Committee on the Administration of Justice which was published in June 2011.

**(AQO 545/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The appointment process and security vetting arrangements for the current Police Ombudsman were a matter for the then Secretary of State and as such I do not intend to comment further.

## **Department for Regional Development**

### **Accidents Caused by Uneven Road Surfaces**

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister for Regional Development how many claims were made against his Department because of accidents caused by uneven road surfaces in East Londonderry in each of the last three years; and how much compensation was paid out.

**(AQW 2438/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development):** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it does not record information on claims for compensation on a constituency basis. However, information on numbers of claims and the amount of compensation paid due to uneven road surfaces in the Coleraine and Limavady Section Office, which largely mirrors the Coleraine and Limavady District Council areas, in each of the last three financial years, is provided in the table below:

#### **COMPENSATION PAID TO CLAIMANTS, DUE TO UNEVEN ROAD SURFACES IN THE COLERAINE AND LIMAVADY SECTION OFFICE AREAS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Claims Received</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
2008/2009	51	£22,173.61
2009/2010	53	£2,319.10
2010/2011	42	£15,029.07

It should be noted that the amount of compensation paid in any specific financial year may not necessarily relate to claims received in that year, as the time delay from the date a claim has been received, to when it has been settled, may span a number of years.

## Cycle Lanes

**Mr I McCrea** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cycle lanes which currently exist in the (i) Magherafelt District Council area; and (ii) Cookstown District Council area.

**(AQW 2440/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Details of cycle lanes provided by my Department's Roads Service within Magherafelt District Council and Cookstown District Council are as follows:

### Magherafelt District Council

- South eastern footway of Moneymore Road, Route A31 Magherafelt, from its north-eastern junction with Lester Gardens to a point 1,390 metres south-west of that junction; and
- Eastern footway of Moneysharavan Road, Route A29, Swatragh, from a point 15 metres south of its junction with Drumbane Road to a point 115 metres north-west of that junction.

### Cookstown District Council Area

- Eastern footway of Chapel Street, Cookstown, from Loy Street to its junction with Fountain Road;
- Western footway of Chapel Street, Cookstown, from Convent Road to a point 139 meters south of that junction;
- Western footway of Chapel Street, Cookstown, from a point 139 meters south of Convent Road to its junction with Cemetery Road;
- Southern footway of Drum Road, Route A505, Cookstown, from its junction with Sandholes Road, Route C622, to a point 39 metres west of that junction;
- Eastern footway of Loy Street, from its junction with Chapel Street to a point 18 metres north of that junction;
- Eastern footway of Loy Street from a point 18 metres north of its junction with Chapel Street to its junction with James Street;
- Western footway of Loy Street from its junction with Convent Road to a point 18 metres north of that junction;
- Western footway of Loy Street from a point 18 metres north of Convent Road to a point 24 metres north of that junction;
- Western footway of Loy Street, from a point 24 metres north of its junction with Convent Road, to its junction with Fairhill Road;
- Northern footway of Sandholes Road, Route C622, Cookstown, from a point 155 metres south-west of its southern junction with Strife Hill Road to its junction with Loughrey Roundabout, Route A29; and
- Western footway of Sandholes Road, Route C622, Cookstown, from its junction with Drum Road, Route A505, to a point 250 metres south-west of its northern junction with Strife Hill Road.

## Road Network in the Ards Peninsula

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development what capital projects are planned for the road network in the Ards Peninsula in each of the next three years.

**(AQW 2447/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I should explain that funding for road improvements and maintenance work is allocated on an annual basis and therefore assumptions are made about future years' funding when preparing programmes of work.

As such, my Department's Roads Service has advised that road improvement projects planned in the Ards Peninsula include:

- a scheme to improve visibility at Rowreagh Road, Gransha Road which has just been completed;
- a similar scheme is proposed later this financial year at the Rowreagh Road junction with Rubane Road;
- further improvement works are planned for the Ballyvester Road and Warren Road junction in Donaghadee;
- new traffic signals at New Street/Upper Greenwell Street, Newtownards; and
- a new pedestrian crossing at New Street/The Parade, Donaghadee.

In addition, some resurfacing work was recently completed in the Newtownards, Kircubbin and Ardkeen areas. Resurfacing works on the C255 Abbey Road, Millisle comprising of approximately 850m of carriageway in Stone Mastic Asphalt, as well as the installation of additional drainage, have recently commenced. There are also plans for some street lighting works at Johnston Park, Carrowdore.

At present, there are no major road improvements planned for the Ards Peninsula during this four year budget period.

I would remind the Member that information on completed and proposed roads schemes for the current financial year can be found in Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following web address:

[http://www.drndi.gov.uk/index/freedom\\_of\\_information/customer\\_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils](http://www.drndi.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils)

### **Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department has implemented the action in the Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan which states that Departments must explore the implementation of domestic violence workplace policies with private and public sector employers; and if his Department will meet the target implementation date of December 2011.

**(AQW 2479/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department was not involved in delivering or implementing the Tackling Violence at Home Strategy. The strategy was launched jointly by DHSSPS and NIO. However a NICS wide Workplace Policy for Domestic Violence and Abuse is in existence which covers employees in all Government Departments including DRD.

### **Closing Roads for Local Events**

**Mr Hilditch** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the progress of the proposed legislation which will give local councils the authority to close roads for local events.

**(AQW 2502/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I can advise the Member that the primary legislation that enables district councils to close roads for special events is in place, but a commencement order still needs to be made before the relevant provisions come into operation.

My Department will not, however, be making this commencement order until related guidance, for use by Councils and promoters when organising events, is ready. Roads Service is currently working in partnership with the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers to draft the guidance. Once this is ready, the commencement order will be made and responsibility for road closures for special events will then rest with Councils.

## Quay Lane South Car Park, Enniskillen

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the income generated in parking charges from the Quay Lane South car park, Enniskillen for (a) each day in August 2011; and (b) each day in September 2011 so far; and (ii) the number of tickets that were purchased on each day.

**(AQW 2506/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it does not maintain details of income from parking charges and the number of tickets purchased on a daily basis and therefore the information requested is not available. However, details of income from parking charges and the number of tickets purchased at Quay Lane South car park, Enniskillen during the seven week period from 1 August 2011 to 12 September 2011 are provided in the table below:-

Week Commencing	Income	Tickets Purchased
1 August 2011	£606.67	956
8 August 2011	£637.23	1,043
15 August 2011	£674.73	1,065
22 August 2011	£621.01	1,008
29 August 2011	£739.11	1,057
5 September 2011	£508.45	585
12 September 2011	£437.25	507

**Note:** VAT is payable on income from parking charges.

## Junction for Brookeborough and the Ran Road on the A4

**Mr Lynch** asked the Minister for Regional Development, in light of the recent fatalities, when a right turn lane will be installed at the junction for Brookeborough and the Ran Road on the A4.

**(AQW 2509/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that right turn lanes are normally delivered within its Local Transport & Safety Measures (LT&SM) programmes. All proposed right turn lanes are assessed and prioritised, taking into account such factors as accident history, traffic volumes and cost.

Roads Service has carried out an assessment of the right turning lane proposals at the locations identified by the Member, but regrettably the results have shown that none achieved a sufficiently high priority score to be included in a LT&SM programme, as stand alone schemes.

However, Roads Service is currently proposing a resurfacing scheme on the A4 at Brookborough in the 2012/13 financial year, which includes a right turning lane. Delivery of the resurfacing scheme will, however, be dependent upon sufficient funding being made available next year.

Provision of a right turning lane at the Raw Road junction will also be dependent upon future resurfacing work taking place within the vicinity of that junction.

## Pay and Display Car Parks

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the legal position in relation to a motorist, who on leaving a Pay and Display Car park with display ticket time remaining, offers the ticket to an incoming motorist for no recompense.

**(AQW 2537/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised me that the legislative requirements in relation to drivers using its Pay and Display car parks are set out in the Off-Street Parking Order (NI) 2007.

While the Order makes no stipulations in relation to a motorist who is exiting a car park and who has a Pay and Display ticket with time remaining, it does stipulate that the driver of a vehicle using the car-park during charging hours, shall pay the appropriate tariff set out in Schedule 2 of the Order and that, for Pay and Display car parks, payment shall be made by purchasing a ticket from a Pay and Display machine.

### **Departmental Car Parks**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an estimate of the additional revenue that will be raised in the next financial year as a result of the recently increased tariffs for departmental car parks.

**(AQW 2538/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has forecast that recently increased tariffs and the introduction of a further 25 charged off-street car parks will deliver the year one target of the Savings Delivery Plan. The current published DRD Savings Delivery target is to provide £2m additional revenue from car parking in the 2011-12 financial year.

### **Grit Boxes in the North Down Area**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the locations of new grit boxes in the North Down area in preparation for this coming winter.

**(AQW 2543/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that in addition to the 176 salt boxes currently available for use on a self help basis in the North Down area, one additional new salt box is to be provided for this coming winter period. This salt box is anticipated to be located opposite No. 10 Ravenswood, Bangor.

### **Pedestrian Crossings**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on any proposed new pedestrian crossings planned for the North Down area.

**(AQW 2603/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question AQW 1815/11-15.

### **Cyclists**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether cyclists are bound by the same laws as motorists, particularly in relation to traffic lights; and whether they can be fined or prosecuted for breaching these laws.

**(AQW 2605/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Rule 50 of The Highway Code for Northern Ireland clearly states that cyclists 'must obey all traffic signs and traffic light signals'. This Rule is a legal requirement under the Road Traffic (NI) Order 1995 - Article 50 and the Traffic Signs Regulations (NI) 1997 - Regulation 8. Therefore, a cyclist disobeying this rule would be committing a criminal offence. Prosecution of such an offence, is a matter for the police.

### **Departmental Car Parks**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an estimate of the additional income that will be generated as a result of the introduction of parking charges in some departmental car parks.

**(AQW 2641/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service is currently working towards the introduction of charges to 25 free off-street car parks during the current financial year. It is expected that these charges will

not be fully operational until the 2012/13 financial year. Roads Service has estimated that additional income of £180,000 will be generated from these charges in the 2012/13 financial year.

### Car Park Charging Proposals

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development under his Department's car park charging proposals which departmental car parks will remain free of charge.

**(AQW 2642/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that the car parks listed below will remain free of charge following the completion of the most recent review of off-street car parking charges:

Car Park Location	City/Town
Burn Road	Cookstown
Union Place	Cookstown
Main Street	Ballinamallard
Main Street	Carrickmore
Castledawson Road	Castledawson
Hillhead Road	Castledawson
Albert Street	Castleberg
Meetinghouse Lane	Castleberg
Priests Lane	Castleberg
William Street	Castleberg
Market Yard	Claudy
Main Street	Clogher
Cornmill	Coalisland
Lineside	Coalisland
Loy Street	Cookstown
Orritor Street	Cookstown
Drumquin Road	Dromore
Main Street	Dromore
Anne Street	Dungannon
Perry Street	Dungannon
Scotch Street South	Dungannon
258a Berryhill Road	Dunnamanagh
Castle Park	Enniskillen
Derrychara Road	Enniskillen
Hollyhill Link	Enniskillen
Queen Street	Enniskillen
Wellington Place	Enniskillen

<b>Car Park Location</b>	<b>City/Town</b>
Main Street	Fintona
Town Centre	Fintona
Enfield Road	Fivemiletown
The Commons	Fivemiletown
Kesh Road	Irvinestown
Pound Street	Irvinestown
Railway Street	Kesh
Fair Green	Lisnaskea
New bridge Road	Lisnaskea
Old Quarry	Lisnaskea
Fairhill	Maghera
St. Lurach`s Road	Maghera
King Street	Magherafelt
Union Road	Magherafelt
Tattinderry Road	Maguiresbridge
Townhall Street West	Newtownstewart
Brook Street	Omagh
Campsie Road	Omagh
Castle Street	Omagh
Church Street North	Omagh
Church Street South	Omagh
Cunningham Terrace	Omagh
Curr Road	Omagh
Old Mountfield Road	Omagh
Bowling Green	Strabane
Canal Basin, (30 Dock Street)	Strabane
Canal Basin, (North)	Strabane
Mill Street	Strabane
Upper Main Street	Strabane
The Diamond	Tempo
Andersonstown Road	Belfast
Dundela Crescent	Belfast
Grampian Avenue	Belfast
Madison Avenue	Belfast

<b>Car Park Location</b>	<b>City/Town</b>
Northumberland Street	Belfast
Parkgate Avenue	Belfast
Ravenscroft Avenue	Belfast
Sandown Road	Belfast
Wandsworth Road	Belfast
Westminster Avenue, West	Belfast
Westminster Avenue, East	Belfast
Westminster Avenue, North	Belfast
Whitla Street	Belfast
Balmoral Avenue	Whitehead
Glenburn Road	Dunmurry
Benson Street	Lisburn
Quay Street	Lisburn
Saintfield Road Roundabout	Lisburn
Union Bridge	Lisburn
Main Street	Moira
Beverley Road	Carnmoney
Farmley Road	Glengormley
Shore Road, (487-489)	Whiteabbey
Newtownards Road/Church Street	Bangor
Springwell Drive	Groomsport
Quay Street	Ardglass
Portavogie Road	Ballyhalbert
Harbour Road	Ballyhalbert
Lisburn Street	Ballynahinch
Antrim Road	Ballynahinch
Springvale Road	Ballywalter
Clough Roundabout	Clough
Main Road	Cloughey
Killinchy Street	Comber
Castle\Bridg Street	Comber
Newtownards, Road, (Copeland Rd)	Comber
Glen Link	Comber
The Square	Crossgar

<b>Car Park Location</b>	<b>City/Town</b>
Railway Street	Donaghadee
Templepatrick Carpark	Donaghadee
Market Street	Downpatrick
Mount Crescent	Downpatrick
Meadowlands	Downpatrick
Greencastle Street	Kilkeel
Bridge Street	Kilkeel
Ben Crom Place	Kilkeel
Newry Street	Kilkeel
Harbour Road	Kilkeel
Shore Road	Kircubbin
The Green	Kircubbin
Ballywalter Road	Millisle
Ballywhiskin	Millisle
Moss Road	Millisle
Causeway Road	Newcastle
Shimna Road	Newcastle
Railway Avenue	Newry
Bridge Street	Newry
Canal Bank	Newry
Downshire Road	Newry
Edward Street	Newry
Kilmorey Street East	Newry
River Street	Newry
Mill Street Gasworks, South	Newtownards
Talbot Street	Newtownards
Meeting House Street	Portaferry
The Square	Portaferry
The Square 1 and 2	Rostrevor
Downpatrick Street	Saintfield
East Street	Warrenpoint
Kings Lane	Warrenpoint
Mary Street	Warrenpoint
Newry Street	Warrenpoint

<b>Car Park Location</b>	<b>City/Town</b>
The Square	Warrenpoint
Friary Road, West	Armagh
Court House	Armagh
Church Square	Banbridge
Downshire Road	Banbridge
Cross Lane 1 & 2	Dromore
Gallows Street	Dromore
Meeting Street	Dromore
Castle Hill	Gilford
Cow Fair	Keady
Glen Road	Keady
Kinelowen Street	Keady
Alexander Square 1 & 2	Lurgan
Blacks Court	Lurgan
Foster Place	Lurgan
High Street	Lurgan
Lough Road	Lurgan
Robert Street	Lurgan
Wesley Place	Lurgan
Castle Street	Portadown
Fair Green	Portadown
Foundry Street	Portadown
River Bank	Portadown
Wilson Street	Portadown
Downpatrick Street	Rathfriland
Sinton Park	Tandragee
Broughshane Street	Ballymena
Mount Street 1	Ballymena
Mount Street 2	Ballymena
Ballee Park and Ride	Ballymena
Ahoghill	Ballymena
Galgorm	Ballymena
Castle Street	Antrim
Dublin Road	Antrim

<b>Car Park Location</b>	<b>City/Town</b>
John Street,	Randalstown
Portglenone Road	Randalstown
Dunsilly Park and Ride	Antrim
Ballygroobey Park and Ride	Antrim
Templepatrick Park and Ride	Templepatrick
Toome Park and Ride	Toome
Bridge Street,	Larne
Circular Road East	Larne
Exchange Road	Larne
High Street	Larne
Inver	Larne
Ramp	Larne
Riverdale (part)	Larne
Cockpit Brae East	Ballymoney
Cockpit Brae West	Ballymoney
Dervock Road	Ballymoney
Gate End	Ballymoney
Townhead Street North	Ballymoney
Townhead Street South	Ballymoney
Seymour Street	Ballymoney
Millburn Road	Coleraine
Terrace Row	Coleraine
Dunluce Avenue	Portrush
Harbour Road	Portrush
Lansdowne Crescent	Portrush
Convention Avenue	Portstewart
The Diamond,	Portstewart
Lever Road, Portstewart	Portstewart
Bridge Street	Garvagh
Bridge Street	Kilrea
Limavady Borough Council	Limavady
Protestant Street	Limavady
Ballyclose Street	Limavady
Bus Station	Limavady

<b>Car Park Location</b>	<b>City/Town</b>
Rathmore Road	Limavady
Limavady By-Pass	Limavady
Glenhead Road	Ballykelly
Main Street	Ballykelly
Castle Street	Ballycastle
Fairhill Street	Ballycastle
Main Street	Bushmills
Railway Yard Car Park	Londonderry
Railway Station Car Park	Londonderry
Simpsons Brae Car Park	Londonderry
Alfred Street Car Park	Londonderry
Claudy Car Park	Londonderry

While there are no plans to introduce charges to these car parks in the 2011/12 financial year, the tariffs will be subject to yearly reviews and it is possible that charges may be introduced in certain car parks in future years.

### **Departmental Car Parks**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development which departmental car parks, which were previously free of charge, will charge for parking under his Department's car park proposals; and how these car parks were selected.

**(AQW 2643/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service is in the process of implementing an increase in car parking tariffs in charged car parks that was formally approved in July 2010. The review of tariffs also includes the proposal to introduce charging to 28 previously free car parks. A list of these 28 car parks has been placed in the Assembly Library.

I would advise the Member that my Department's Roads Service carries out an annual car park tariff review which considers the operation of each car park. In doing so, Roads Service will consider a number of the key factors to assist in determining if a car park should become charged, or have its tariff altered, including:

- the need to influence where drivers park, allowing for higher turnover of short stay spaces, and therefore increasing the availability of short stay parking in support of the commercial viability of the town centre;
- the need to make efficient use of the existing car park provision;
- the need for charges to reflect increased costs. For example, rates bills, which are a major component of the cost of operating a pay car park; and
- the need to fully recover the cost of providing the car park services. This is in line with Department of Finance and Personnel guidance in Managing Public Money in Northern Ireland.

Other local circumstances, such as traffic control, local opinion, urban regeneration and the availability of private free car parking were considered when completing the tariff review and in identifying the car parks where charging has been proposed.

## Reopening of the Jordanstown Road

**Mr Dickson** asked the Minister for Regional Development, given the delay in the reopening of the Jordanstown Road, what action his Department is taking to ensure that similar delays are avoided in the future.

**(AQW 2645/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that the Jordanstown Road was programmed to re-open to traffic by 31 August 2011. Unfortunately, a utility company was unable to complete its service alterations to its agreed programme, which prevented Roads Service's contractor from completing the road works. This issue has now been resolved, and the road was re-opened on Sunday 2 October.

My Department's Roads Service has confirmed that a full and detailed Post Project Evaluation is completed after every scheme of this nature, in accordance with Roads Service policy. I can advise the Member that the evaluation of this scheme will include a review of the project management arrangements for service alterations by utility companies as part of improvements of this type, in order to identify potential improvements for future projects so that any risk of delays is minimised.

I am disappointed that the extension of this road closure caused considerable inconvenience, particularly to local schools and residents.

## VAT Charges Imposed by HMRC

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the actual or estimated additional VAT charges imposed by HMRC on NI Water and the Executive in each year following the reclassification of NI Water as a Non-Departmental Public Body; and (ii) the implications these charges may have for the future.

**(AQW 2646/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Existing agreements with HMRC allow NIW to recover VAT on the basis that the subsidy currently paid on behalf of domestic customers represents third party consideration. There have been no additional VAT charges imposed by HMRC on NIW as a result of the classification of NIW as an NDPB for public expenditure purposes.

Existing VAT arrangements could be affected by decisions about how NIW is funded. If NIW's ability to recover VAT was reduced, the financial implications could be significant.

## Recategorisation of NI Water

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Regional Development how the recategorisation of NI Water as a Non-Departmental Public Body and the subsequent loss of end-year flexibility has affected (i) its planned capital build programme; (ii) the speed at which improvements to the sewerage infrastructure are made; and (iii) the ability of NI Water to meet the EU environmental health standards.

**(AQW 2647/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:**

1. The governance arrangement for NIW means that it is a regulated utility in law but, under national rules, is treated as a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) for public expenditure purposes. This categorisation does cause some anomalies. One is that while NIW's capital programme is determined over a number of years through the Utility Regulator's Price Control (PC) process, it then has to be managed on an annual basis to comply with public expenditure requirements.
2. This removes the flexibility, normally available to regulated utilities, to invest over a three to five year programme. It is generally acknowledged that delivery of major capital programmes is not best managed by rigid annual allocations, and so imposing such a regime does have an impact on the elements you have identified, although the scale is hard to quantify.

## Reclassification of NI Water

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the actual or estimated annual capital charge imposed by the Treasury on NI Water and the Executive in each year following the reclassification of NI Water as a Non-Departmental Public Body.

**(AQW 2651/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** NI Water was reclassified as a Non-Departmental Public Body for Public Expenditure purposes in the financial year 2008-09. Details of the relevant annual capital charges imposed by the Treasury under the Annually Managed Expenditure Budget (AME) are contained in the table below.

Year	Cost of Capital AME Charge (£'000)
2008/09	38,321
2009/10	44,338

HM Treasury removed the application of cost of capital charges from financial year 2010/11 onwards under the Clear Line of Sight Project.

## New Traffic Lights in the North Down Area

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans he has for erecting new traffic lights in the North Down area.

**(AQW 2669/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question AQW 1815/11-15.

## New Cycle Lanes

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans his Department has to introduce new cycle lanes.

**(AQW 2672/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department is committed to provide safer roads for all road users, particularly vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. It remains my Department's intention to continue to implement, in so far as available resources permit, the cycling infrastructure as set out in the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP) and the Regional Transport Strategy. This will complement the existing National Cycle Network.

However, given the current financial climate, my Department is faced with the difficult task of having to allocate finite resources to its numerous competing demands and therefore, it is not possible to continue to fund all of our functions at the same levels as in previous years.

## A5 Road from Aughnacloy to Newbuildings

**Mr Buchanan** asked the Minister for Regional Development when he will make a statement on the proposed A5 road from Aughnacloy to Newbuildings.

**(AQW 2718/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The Public Inquiry hearings associated with the proposed A5 Western Transport Corridor dualling scheme ended on 1 July 2011. It is expected that the Independent Inspector's report will be provided to my Department's Roads Service before the end of 2011. I will then consider the comments and recommendations arising out of the report, as well as the impact of Budget 2010, before making decisions in relation to the A5 dualling project and the wider strategic roads programme. I expect to make a statement on this issue in early 2012.

## **A5 Road from Ballygawley to Londonderry**

**Mr Buchanan** asked the Minister for Regional Development if he will carry out an economic appraisal on the upgrading of the existing A5 road from Ballygawley to Londonderry.

**(AQW 2770/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that you wrote to my predecessor in April 2010, regarding upgrading the existing A5. A detailed response dated 29 April 2010 described the difficulties associated with an upgrading proposal. This proposal was also discussed at length at the A5WTC Public Inquiry hearings held in May & June 2011, when my Department's Roads Service reiterated its view that online upgrading of the existing A5 is not considered to be a more cost effective solution.

I await the independent Inspector's report, which is expected towards the end of this year, and will then give careful consideration to the issues and recommendations contained within the report before deciding on the way forward for the A5 project.

## **Park and Ride Facilities**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans he has to develop and build park and ride facilities over the next four years.

**(AQW 2775/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** In recognition of the importance of Park and Ride in promoting sustainable transport, my Department recently published a Strategic review of Park and Ride. The Review sets out a number of conclusions and recommendations, and identifies those Park and Ride sites which the Department will aim to prioritise as available funding permits. While funding has been secured, it will not be possible to deliver all schemes in the current budgetary period given funding constraints. Recognising this, officials from my Department, Roads Service and Translink are finalising details of those schemes to be delivered up to 2015.

## **Trees on the Approach Road to Bangor Castle**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development when the trees which were removed during repair work on the approach road to Bangor Castle will be replaced.

**(AQW 2784/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it has no plans to carry out replanting of trees along Castle Park Avenue, Bangor.

The original trees were removed for the following reasons:

- To enhance pedestrian safety by improving the visibility of pedestrians, especially school children, who use this road;
- To enable the safe passage of Heavy Goods Vehicles and Double Decker buses that have recently been introduced by Translink into the North Down Area;
- To remove the tripping hazards caused by the exposed root systems of the trees; and
- To assist with the installation of a new kerb line in association with the resurfacing of the carriageway on Castle Park Avenue.

I am advised that Roads Service has offered to replace these trees, at another suitable location, at no cost to North Down Borough Council.

## **On-Street Parking Charges**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans he has to change the times during the day when on-street parking charges are applicable in Lisburn.

**(AQW 2790/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it currently has no plans to change the hours of operation for charged on-street parking in Lisburn.

### **Double Yellow Lines on East Bridge Street, Enniskillen**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) what level of consultation took place between his Department, or any of its arm's-length bodies, and (a) the Courts Service; and (b) landlords and tenants in the area, regarding the recent addition of double yellow lines on East Bridge Street in Enniskillen; (ii) for his assessment of the impact these traffic calming measures will have on that area, given that there is already a lack of parking spaces; and (iii) why these measures were introduced.

**(AQW 2830/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service met with the Northern Ireland Court Service in March 2011 and advised that double yellow lines were required as a security measure for the courthouse at East Bridge Street, Enniskillen.

On 12 April 2011, the Court Service undertook a hand delivered mail drop advising frontagers, directly affected by the scheme, of the details of the proposed waiting restrictions.

No traffic calming measures have been introduced at East Bridge Street, Enniskillen, and I can advise that the waiting restrictions extend for 60 metres on the northern side and 70 metres on the southern side of East Bridge Street, thereby removing 23 'one hour in any two hour' limited waiting parking spaces.

### **Dropped Kerb Schemes**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development what dropped kerb schemes are planned for the Hollywood area for the next two financial years.

**(AQW 2846/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I would remind the Member that information on completed and proposed roads schemes for the current financial year can be found in Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following web address:

[http://www.drndi.gov.uk/index/freedom\\_of\\_information/customer\\_information/cinformatiotype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils](http://www.drndi.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformatiotype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils)

I can advise that the detailed budget for subsequent years has not yet been finalised and it is therefore not possible to provide details of future works programmes at this time.

## **Department for Social Development**

### **Housing Executive Properties: Maintenance Schemes**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development to list all the planned maintenance schemes for Housing Executive properties including their level of importance.

**(AQW 2433/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development):** Table 1 sets out the Housing Executive's planned maintenance programme for 2011/12 by area, in priority order. The second table details the draft 2012/13 programme which will not be prioritised until later in the financial year when funding decisions have been made.

**TABLE 1: PLANNED MAINTENANCE 2011/2012**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dwgs</b>	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Work Group</b>
Belfast	Glencairn Windows/Ins Lap	150	06-Jun-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Albertbridge Road/Tower Street	188	27-Jun-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Highfield Windows	203	27-Jun-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Bruslee/Pinkerton	135	27-Jun-11	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Erskine St/Chamberlain St	64	30-May-11	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Summerhill/Ardcarn	153	05-Oct-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	White City Ph 2 Windows	225	12-Sep-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Shankill & South Therm Comfort	49	02-Sep-11	Heating Installation
Belfast	West Belfast Thermal Comfort	25	25-Jul-11	Heating Installation
Belfast	East Belfast Thermal Comfort	82	25-Jul-11	Heating Installation
Belfast	Belfast One-Off's 2011/12	100	08-Jul-11	Heating Installation
Belfast	Huss/Ashmore	77	09-Aug-11	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Mid Shankill Phase 1 (Part 1)	71	01-Jan-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Roden Street Area (West)Part 1	102	01-Nov-11	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Lower Ormeau (Ias Schemes)	101	01-Jan-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Lwr Beersbridge/Mount Windows	270	01-Nov-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Willowfield/Upp Castlereagh	56	30-Aug-11	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Rinalea/Lower Lenadoon	224	01-Jan-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Lower Shankill	145	01-Jan-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Suffolk Windows	216	12-Sep-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	St Leonards Street	68	01-Nov-11	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Low Rise Flats Economy7 (West)	142	01-Nov-11	Heating Installation
Belfast	Low Rise Flats Ec7 (North)	201	01-Nov-11	Heating Installation
Belfast	North Belfast Economy 7 (B&H)	47	01-Oct-11	Heating Installation
Belfast	South Belfast Economy 7 (B&H)	46	01-Oct-11	Heating Installation
Belfast	East Belfast Economy 7 (B&H)	39	02-Oct-11	Heating Installation
Belfast	North Belfast Thermal Comfort	35	19-Sep-11	Heating Installation

<b>Region</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dwgs</b>	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Work Group</b>
Belfast	Mid Springfield	99	12-Sep-11	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Lower Ormeau Windows	130	01-Nov-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Village Imp Area Window Ph 1	139	01-Mar-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Queen Victoria Garden Flats	36	01-Oct-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Liverpool Houses (Panels)	117	01-Oct-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	West Belfast Economy 7 (B&H)	33	01-Sep-11	Heating Installation
Belfast	Shankill Belfast Economy 7 B&H	119	01-Sep-11	Heating Installation
Belfast	Island Street	37	01-Mar-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Silverstream/Ballysillan	196	01-Mar-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Tyndale/Silverstream	184	01-Mar-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	The Village Imp Kitchens Ph1	139	01-Mar-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Low Rise Flats Ec7 (Shankill)	98	01-Nov-11	Heating Installation
Belfast	Low Rise Flats (South)	147	01-Nov-11	Heating Installation
Belfast	Donegall Rd/St James Windows	120	01-Mar-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Springmadden/Ballymurphy	40	01-Mar-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Low Rise Flats Economy 7 (East	215	01-Nov-11	Heating Installation
Belfast	Ballyhackamore Windows	21	01-Mar-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Queen Vic/Fairyknowe Windows	48	01-Mar-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Woodvale/Twaddell Windows	139	01-Mar-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Greencastle Close	26	01-Mar-12	Heating Installation
North East	New Mossley Upper	54	20-Jun-11	Revenue Replacement
North East	Ferris Park	62	23-May-11	Heating Installation
North East	West Rathcoole Ph 1 Kitchens	94	04-Apr-11	Revenue Replacement
North East	Longfield/Carrick Town	68	13-Jun-11	Heating Installation
North East	Dervock,Clintyfinnan,Rasharkin	388	16-May-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Area One Offs 2011/12	55	04-Apr-11	Heating Installation
North East	Newtownabbey 2 Heating	129	20-Jun-11	Heating Installation
North East	Springfarm/Stiles	44	04-Apr-11	Heating Installation
North East	Milburn	76	25-Jul-11	Heating Installation

<b>Region</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dwgs</b>	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Work Group</b>
North East	Ballyclare/Doagh	92	01-Aug-11	Heating Installation
North East	Monkstown/Kelburn	90	18-Jul-11	Revenue Replacement
North East	1A-F Grange Drive, Ballyclare	5	25-Jul-11	Heating Installation
North East	Antrim Town	357	19-Oct-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Killane Pk/Chichester East	121	03-Oct-11	Revenue Replacement
North East	Carrickfergus	161	19-Oct-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Glenarm/Carnlough(Windo/Paint)	94	24-Oct-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Harpurs Hill	47	29-Aug-11	Heating Installation
North East	Lantarra/Lettercreeve	101	21-Nov-11	Heating Installation
North East	Cushendall/Cushendun	37	25-Jul-11	Heating Installation
North East	Ballee	363	02-Aug-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Ballysally Area 1 Ph2	128	28-Nov-11	Revenue Replacement
North East	Toome/Coolsythe	75	06-Oct-11	Revenue Replacement
North East	Carnanny	66	07-Nov-11	Heating Installation
North East	Ballymena North	87	04-Feb-12	Heating Installation
North East	Rathcoole Zone 2A Ph1	162	07-Nov-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Glenarm/Sallagh	67	28-Nov-11	Revenue Replacement
North East	Ballymena South	79	09-Jan-12	Heating Installation
North East	Castlemara/Longfield/Ederney	80	07-Jan-12	Revenue Replacement
North East	Springfarm Ph3	123	10-Jan-12	Revenue Replacement
North East	Dublin Road/Townparks	108	05-Jan-12	Heating Installation
North East	Ballymena Town	169	10-Oct-11	Heating Installation
North East	Rathcoole Zone E	99	01-Feb-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Glebeside Ph1	167	05-Jan-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Ballintoy/Liscolman	18	23-Jan-12	Revenue Replacement
North East	Balintoy/Liscolman(Wind/Paint)	18	23-Jan-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Abbotscoole House Windows	57	20-Feb-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Ballykeel 2 Ph1	87	03-Mar-12	Revenue Replacement

<b>Region</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dwgs</b>	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Work Group</b>
North East	Monkscoole House Windows	71	24-Nov-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Carncoole House Windows	57	30-Mar-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Armagh Road Newry Kitchens	103	02-May-11	Revenue Replacement
South	Armagh District Windows (Laps)	85	20-Jun-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Redmanville	112	27-Jun-11	Heating Installation
South	Gather Up 11	50	04-Apr-11	Heating Installation
South	Hospital Estate	192	26-Sep-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Drumgullion/Meadows/Violet Hil	371	02-Aug-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Cornagrade Kitchens	105	02-Aug-11	Revenue Replacement
South	Enniskeen Kitchens	115	29-Aug-11	Revenue Replacement
South	Wood Pellet Boilers South Area	20	25-Jul-11	Heating Installation
South	Springdale/Fairfield Etc	106	16-Jan-12	Revenue Replacement
South	Lawrencetown/Loughbrickland	245	19-Dec-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Newry Windows Scheme (Laps)	116	09-Jan-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Annaghmore/Keady/Armagh	75	20-Dec-11	Revenue Replacement
South	Corcraín	106	10-Oct-11	Heating Installation
South	Banbridge Windows (Laps)	108	25-Oct-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Lisnahull/Milltown/Carland Rd	303	20-Dec-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Carrowshee/Hudson Heights	116	26-Sep-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Avenue Road/ Bleary Kitchens	92	30-Jan-12	Revenue Replacement
South	Irvinestown/Lisbellaw Kits	96	07-Nov-11	Revenue Replacement
South	Hillview/Kilmacormick	45	14-Nov-11	Heating Installation
South	Cornagrade	88	28-Nov-11	Heating Installation
South	Dobbins Grove/ Killuney	64	19-Sep-11	Heating Installation
South	Gilford/Scarva/Loughbrickland	40	20-Jan-12	Heating Installation
South	Kenlis/Mountview/Meganlis	42	17-Oct-11	Heating Installation
South	Callan St/Drumarg	101	01-Jan-12	Heating Installation
South	D'gannon/Donaghmore Rd/ Drumcoo	85	11-Nov-11	Heating Installation
South	Coalisland	190	05-Mar-12	Ext Cyclic Maint

<b>Region</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dwgs</b>	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Work Group</b>
South	Coolhill/C'caufield/Donaghmore	65	05-Mar-12	Heating Installation
South	P'side/Ormonde/Union St/Clouna	127	13-Feb-12	Heating Installation
South	Drumbawn/Derrin Pk/Ferney Rise	219	31-Mar-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Primrose Gardens Kits	74	30-Jan-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	C'burn/G'port/L'breen	80	04-Apr-11	Heating Installation
South East	Se Area One Off Heating 11/12	30	01-Apr-11	Heating Installation
South East	Castlerobin,Belvoir	331	11-Apr-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
South East	Rushmore/Knockburn(K'a Hostel)	132	04-Apr-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
South East	Scrabo Kitchens	161	11-Apr-11	Revenue Replacement
South East	Belvoir/Grays Pk/Carryduff Rht	18	05-Sep-11	Heating Installation
South East	Belvoir Kitchens	29	23-Aug-11	Revenue Replacement
South East	Lap Lisburn As Windows/Insulat	296	03-Oct-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
South East	Hollywood Rh/Of	101	25-Jul-11	Heating Installation
South East	Milltown Ave Kitchens	86	23-Aug-11	Revenue Replacement
South East	Thermal Comfort Ballynahinch	66	05-Sep-11	Heating Installation
South East	B'been Eler/K'berry/K'muir	61	02-Jan-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Lap Glen/Comber Windows/Insula	116	02-Jan-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South East	Doon Pk,C'duff/N'bre (86/9/90)	78	03-Oct-11	Revenue Replacement
South East	Comber Heating	27	13-Feb-12	Heating Installation
South East	Lap C'reagh District Phase 1	134	06-Feb-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South East	Portaferry/Portavogie/Kircubn	104	05-Dec-11	Revenue Replacement
South East	Churchill/Gport Kits	41	13-Feb-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	148A-158A Longstone St.Kit/Hea	6	10-Oct-11	Revenue Replacement
South East	Ardkeel/B'beg/Mourne (91 Mei)	55	02-Jan-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Hilden/Low Road Kitchens Ph 1	86	01-Oct-11	Revenue Replacement
South East	Tullycarnet Rhr	49	03-Oct-11	Heating Installation

<b>Region</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dwgs</b>	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Work Group</b>
South East	Greenwood/Moira Kitchens	46	26-Sep-11	Revenue Replacement
South East	Ardcaoin 1992 Kits Phase 1	75	06-Feb-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Lap Glenbawn Est Windows/Insul	193	07-Nov-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
South East	Killyleagh Heating Phase 1	45	03-Oct-11	Heating Installation
South East	D'patrick/S'ford Of 1994/5/6)	91	10-Oct-11	Heating Installation
South East	Thermal Comfort Bowtown Rhtrs	109	06-Feb-12	Heating Installation
South East	Lap Bangor Dist Windows/Insula	286	02-Jan-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South East	Burrendale Kits	93	09-Jan-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Milltown Derriaghy & Areema	72	07-Nov-11	Heating Installation
South East	Thermal Comfort Low Road E7s	80	09-Jan-12	Heating Installation
South East	P'ferry/P'vogie/Cotton Heating	75	16-Jan-12	Heating Installation
South East	New Meadow Row Lpg Heating	20	05-Dec-11	Heating Installation
South East	Coronation Pk/Moatview E7 & Rh	55	07-Nov-11	Heating Installation
South East	Ballywalter/Kircubbin Heating	95	05-Dec-11	Heating Installation
South East	Millisle (93/94Rh)	25	07-Nov-11	Heating Installation
South East	Glen Est Roofs Spec Revenue	120	03-Jan-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South East	Lap Dpk Dist Windows/Insulatio	341	01-Mar-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South East	Ardcaoin 1992 Kits Phase 2	44	31-Mar-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Hollywood Kitchens (See 2370258	57	31-Mar-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Lap C'reagh District Phase 2	137	31-Mar-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South East	Cappagh Gdns Flats Spec Revenu	48	05-Mar-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Virginia/Campion/Mimosa Court	117	30-May-11	Revenue Replacement
West	Emergency Scheme 2011/12	40	01-Apr-11	Heating Installation
West	The Fountain Electrics	33	20-Jun-11	Heating Installation
West	Beechway	29	13-Jun-11	Heating Installation
West	Glenfada Remainder Electrics	34	04-Apr-11	Heating Installation
West	Cashelhill/Brookdale Cr Rem El	27	04-Apr-11	Heating Installation
West	Sunnyside/Park View Rem Electr	13	09-May-11	Heating Installation
West	Brown Dr/Edmund Ct/Ohara Rd Et	76	23-May-11	Revenue Replacement
West	Lap-Sandy Braes/Hunters Window	89	09-May-11	Ext Cyclic Maint

Region	Scheme	Dwgs	Programmed	Work Group
West	Glenvale Rd, Glenbank Rd, Glens	112	15-Aug-11	Heating Installation
West	Lilac Av/B'boigh/Rushie Pk Etc	48	08-Aug-11	Heating Installation
West	Ardnabrocky/Gobnascale/Primity	113	19-Sep-11	Heating Installation
West	Lap-Coolessan/Woodland Windows	104	10-Oct-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Lap-Castleberg/Sion Windows	56	15-Aug-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Beechway/Ratheen Ave Ecm	211	12-Sep-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Faughan View Pk Claudy Etc	41	09-Jan-12	Heating Installation
West	Lap -Westway/Iniscarn Windows	118	07-Nov-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Lap-Beechwood/Dunaff/Central D	70	05-Sep-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Drumleck Drive / Gardens (Kits	127	07-Nov-11	Revenue Replacement
West	Edenmore Pk/Connell/Hawthorn P	52	09-Jan-12	Heating Installation
West	Lap Blackhill/Riverside Dr Win	59	05-Dec-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Earhart/Amelia/Capall Ct	89	03-Oct-11	Heating Installation
West	Meadow/Denamona/Duncan (Ecm)	113	05-Dec-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Glebe Gdns/Glebe Ulster Sion	58	27-Sep-11	Revenue Replacement
West	Culmore/Duncan/Denamona (T.C.)	74	05-Dec-11	Heating Installation
West	Bishop Street Kitchens	138	12-Dec-11	Revenue Replacement
West	Knockalla/Glengalliagh	42	30-Jan-12	Heating Installation
West	Loughrey Tce/Woodview Cres Etc	61	09-Jan-12	Heating Installation
West	Dundrean/Leafair/Grainan	53	30-Jan-12	Heating Installation
West	Strabane/Donemana/Magheramason	52	26-Sep-11	Heating Installation
West	Crawfordsburn/Mcmasters (T.C.)	64	03-Oct-11	Heating Installation
West	Greystone Pk/Anderson Crescent	59	09-Jan-12	Revenue Replacement
West	Hospital Lane Phase 1	40	09-Jan-12	Revenue Replacement
West	Alexander Rd/Church/Connell St	114	12-Dec-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Altcar Park	71	12-Dec-11	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Killymoon St/Cr/Orritor St/Cr	59	12-Dec-11	Revenue Replacement

**NB:** Revenue Replacement denotes Kitchens

LAP – Local Area Priority

**TABLE 2: PLANNED MAINTENANCE 2012/2013**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dwellings</b>	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Work Group</b>
Belfast	Northumberland/Millfield	289	01-Oct-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Village Imp Area Window Lap 2	119	01-Jan-13	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Lower Woodstock Windows Ph2	100	01-Mar-13	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Cliftonville/Pinkerton Windows	278	01-Oct-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Lower Falls/Grosvenor Phase 1	209	01-Jun-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Silverstream/Benview Windows	252	01-Jun-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Ardoyne Windows	0	01-Feb-13	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Moveen/Moylena Windows	136	01-Feb-13	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Avoniel/Bloomfield	266	01-Feb-13	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Carnet House Window Replacemen	71	01-Apr-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Ainsworth/Canmore	148	01-Feb-13	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Clarawood Windows	298	01-Oct-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Ashmount Windows	90	01-Jun-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Glencairn Phases 3 & 5	226	01-Jun-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Bearnagh/Bingnian	174	01-Oct-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Glencolin/Hamill Gve & Glen	168	01-Feb-13	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Lower Shankill Windows	188	01-Apr-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
Belfast	Havanna/Mervue/Limestone	137	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
Belfast	Hallidays/North Queen Street	138	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
Belfast	Cranbrook/Lisvarna Phase 10	125	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
Belfast	Carlisle Multis Ec 7 Upgrade	190	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
Belfast	Jamaica/Ashfield/S'stream	194	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
Belfast	Queen Victoria Gdn Flats	80	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
Belfast	Carlisle Multis E7 Phase 2	176	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
Belfast	Velsheda/Mount Vernon	139	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
Belfast	Lenadoon Flats (Ec7)	172	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
Belfast	Ardcarn Flats Economy 7	43	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation

<b>Region</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dwellings</b>	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Work Group</b>
Belfast	Mount Vernon House	65	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
Belfast	Moveen/Moylena	82	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
Belfast	Clarawood H/R & Flats Ec7	71	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
Belfast	Divis Tower	93	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
Belfast	Claraway Maisonettes Economy 7	27	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
Belfast	Mid Shankill Phase 2	78	01-Jun-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Coolfin/Donegall Pass Kitchens	135	01-Jun-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Brucevale/Vicinage/Downview	122	01-Oct-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Twaddell/Woodvale	135	01-Feb-13	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Constance/Edith Streets	59	01-Feb-13	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Carrigart/Corrib	152	01-Jun-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Mid Shankill Phase 3	211	01-Oct-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Bearnagh/Bingnian/Commedagh	120	01-Feb-13	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Ravensdale/Clara	29	01-Oct-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Woodstock 4	74	01-May-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Ulsterville Kitchens	87	01-Oct-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Shore Crescent	93	01-Jun-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Mid Shankill Phase 1(Part 2)	70	01-Apr-12	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Finaghy 1 Kitchens	136	01-Feb-13	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	White City	175	01-Feb-13	Revenue Replacement
Belfast	Templemore/Avoniel	176	01-Jun-12	Revenue Replacement

<b>Region</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dwellings</b>	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Work Group</b>
Belfast	Moyard	138	01-Oct-12	Revenue Replacement
North East	Grange/Riverwalk	138	05-Sep-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Dublin Road	116	02-Mar-13	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Ahoghill/Portglenone	158	08-Jan-13	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Toome/Caulside	60	02-Aug-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Grange/N.Mossley/Monkstown	130	05-Apr-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Kinbayne	90	03-Feb-13	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Coleraine Rurals	228	03-Sep-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Ballysally Ph1	285	04-Apr-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Glebeside Ph2	163	04-Oct-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Ballykeel 1/Killane Pk	130	03-May-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Larne Town/Riverdale/Meadow Pk	114	04-Nov-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Castlemarra/Longfield/Ederney	104	03-May-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Ballycastle Town	22	01-Nov-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
North East	Area One-Offs	50	12-Apr-12	Heating Installation
North East	Ballyclare Flats E7	153	01-Jan-13	Heating Installation
North East	Heights	155	04-Jun-12	Heating Installation
North East	Larne Bbu Replacement	31	05-May-12	Heating Installation
North East	Latharna House E7	90	15-Apr-12	Heating Installation
North East	Carrickfergus E7	65	10-May-12	Heating Installation
North East	Whitehead	71	05-Jan-13	Heating Installation
North East	Carrickfergus Bbu Replacement	62	05-May-12	Heating Installation
North East	Ballee Ph 2	80	08-Aug-12	Heating Installation
North East	N'abbey 2 Bbu Replacement	54	04-Apr-12	Heating Installation
North East	N'abbey 1 Bbu Replacement	119	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
North East	Milburn	112	25-Jun-12	Revenue Replacement

<b>Region</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dwellings</b>	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Work Group</b>
North East	Firfield/Dublin Road	87	19-Nov-12	Revenue Replacement
North East	Enterprise Parade/Moneydig	19	03-Sep-12	Revenue Replacement
North East	Ballycastle Town	94	30-Nov-12	Revenue Replacement
North East	Dhu Varren	180	19-Nov-12	Revenue Replacement
North East	Rathcoole Zone E	99	14-Apr-12	Revenue Replacement
North East	Parkhall 2 Kitchens	55	11-Jun-12	Revenue Replacement
North East	Larne Town	58	29-Aug-12	Revenue Replacement
South	Fivemiletown/Augher	276	16-Sep-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	N'hamilton/C'hanna/Jfk/Cloughr	236	26-Jul-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Enniskillen/Irvinestown/Kesh	224	05-Nov-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Dunavon Park/Dunlea Vale	191	26-Apr-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Bleary Area	87	24-Nov-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Enniskeen/Rural	156	25-May-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Corcrain	166	16-May-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Portadown Central	220	25-May-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Garvaghy/Rural	78	03-Sep-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Hillview/Drumbeg/Garrison	141	30-Jun-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South	Poyntzpass/Tandragee	112	06-May-12	Heating Installation
South	North St/Shandon/The Commons	145	21-Sep-12	Heating Installation
South	Warrenpoint	119	05-Apr-12	Heating Installation
South	Hilltown/Mayobridge/Bessbrook	86	06-Apr-12	Heating Installation
South	Rooneys Meadows	86	30-Sep-12	Heating Installation
South	Dukes Grove/Longstone	48	07-May-12	Heating Installation
South	Alexander Estate/Victoria Gve	37	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
South	Larkfield Square	19	01-Jan-13	Heating Installation

<b>Region</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dwellings</b>	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Work Group</b>
South	Taghnevan Flats	121	01-Jun-12	Heating Installation
South	Ardmore/Banbrook/Orangefield	86	06-May-12	Heating Installation
South	Meadows Phase 1 Kitchens	89	03-Apr-12	Revenue Replacement
South	Ballyoran Park (Kit Replac)	114	02-Apr-12	Revenue Replacement
South	Woodside	57	27-Aug-12	Revenue Replacement
South	Westland Road/Hartfield Etc	74	29-Jun-12	Revenue Replacement
South	Burnside/Drumbeg South	85	29-Jun-12	Revenue Replacement
South	Clarendon/Cambrai Etc	87	14-Dec-12	Revenue Replacement
South	Colban Cresc/Ardboe Dr/Russell	77	11-Apr-12	Revenue Replacement
South	Tandragee	36	27-Sep-12	Revenue Replacement
South	Rostrevor/ Warrenpoint Kitchen	97	10-Apr-12	Revenue Replacement
South	Bessbrook/Drumintee/Forhill	91	08-Oct-12	Revenue Replacement
South	Cowan/Carnagh/Innisfree	54	14-Dec-12	Revenue Replacement
South	Reilly Pk/Pl/St & Locard Pk	39	04-May-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	H'hall Bung/Tonagh Fl Spv Ecm	75	01-Apr-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South East	Westwinds Flats Spv Ecm	202	01-Apr-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South East	Moyle / Kilwarlin Spv Ecm	36	01-Apr-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
South East	Bbu Rep Woodside Poleglass	122	01-Jul-12	Heating Installation
South East	Dundrum/Annsboro/S'ford/Clough	29	03-Apr-12	Heating Installation
South East	Bbu Rep Laurelbank Poleglass	96	01-May-12	Heating Installation
South East	Greenwood Est Heat Replacement	48	01-Jul-12	Heating Installation
South East	B'reagh/C'wellan/K'coo Of/Rh91	53	01-Aug-12	Heating Installation

<b>Region</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dwellings</b>	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Work Group</b>
South East	Newcastle/C'wellan E7'S	43	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
South East	Rathgill/Jubilee Spv Heating	42	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
South East	Ww Flats Ph2 Spv (6&7) Heat	102	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
South East	Ww Flats Ph1 Spv Heat 4A&4B&Vb	56	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
South East	Moyle Wk/Kilwarlin Wk Spv Heat	25	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
South East	Ballymacoss 1995 Rhtr & E7	121	01-Jun-12	Heating Installation
South East	Saintfield Open Fires (94 +)	30	20-Apr-12	Heating Installation
South East	H'hall/G'more/Tonagh Spv Heat	44	01-Apr-12	Heating Installation
South East	Bbu Rep Dundrod/Glenmore Las	27	01-Jun-12	Heating Installation
South East	Lambeg E7'S	25	01-Aug-12	Heating Installation
South East	Annahilt/Culcavey/Dromara Heat	28	01-May-12	Heating Installation
South East	Aghalee/B'derry Open Fires	58	01-May-12	Heating Installation
South East	Old Warren Heat Replacement	31	01-Aug-12	Heating Installation
South East	Maze & Meghaberry Heating	33	30-Apr-12	Heating Installation
South East	Ballybeen 1992 li	141	01-Jul-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Belvoir 1992 Kits	65	01-Oct-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Dpk/D'drum/K'leagh Kitchens	42	01-May-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Hillhall Gdns/Pk 1993 Kits	85	22-Apr-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Braniel (90/92) Kitchens	88	20-Jun-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Glen Kits Phase 2	122	01-Jan-13	Revenue Replacement
South East	Hilden/Low Rd Kitchens Ph 2	75	01-Jun-12	Revenue Replacement

<b>Region</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dwellings</b>	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Work Group</b>
South East	Cloughey/Greyabbey Kitchens	60	15-Apr-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Tonagh 3 & Craig Gdns Spv Kit	44	01-Apr-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Lambeg/Glenmore 1992 Kits	74	15-May-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	B'walter/Don'aghee/Millisle Ki	110	01-Aug-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Ashmount 1992 Kits	87	01-Apr-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Bowtown & Scrabo Kitchens	76	01-Oct-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Glen Kits Phase 1	125	27-Apr-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Scrabo/Killinchy Kitchens	74	01-Feb-13	Revenue Replacement
South East	Old Warren Kitchens	16	03-May-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Comber Kitchens	155	04-May-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	A'boro,Ardglass & K'lough 1991	28	01-May-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Moira/S.Hill/H'borough Kitchen	62	01-Jun-12	Revenue Replacement
South East	Moynes Kits/Rewire	111	01-Oct-12	Revenue Replacement
West	Lap-Brigade/Desmond Av Windows	75	04-Jun-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Greysteel/B'boigh/Feeny(Ph2048	145	27-Aug-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Ashgrove/Greenvale Remainder	162	02-Apr-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	The Fountain/Bishop St/Barrack	158	23-Apr-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Riverside C'dawson/Killowen Dr	163	07-Jan-13	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Ashfield Ecm(Lammy Excluded)	60	03-Nov-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Gonascale/Fallowlea Pk/Emerson	205	28-May-12	Ext Cyclic Maint
West	Brown D/Mullagh P/Glenone Vill	59	06-Aug-12	Heating Installation
West	Artigarvan/Donemana	45	20-Aug-12	Heating Installation
West	Mourne Park/Walk Electrics	12	07-Jan-13	Heating Installation

<b>Region</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dwellings</b>	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Work Group</b>
West	Loughmacrory/Maryville	27	01-Oct-12	Heating Installation
West	Milburn/Princess/Queens	74	15-Oct-12	Heating Installation
West	Cromore Grds,Westway,Leenan	86	02-Apr-12	Heating Installation
West	Riverside Dr/Windsor Cr/Edinbu	53	11-Mar-13	Heating Installation
West	Highfield/Glenburn Pk/Place	25	04-Feb-13	Heating Installation
West	Gallows Hill Etc Omagh	69	04-Feb-13	Heating Installation
West	Collon Terrace 2012	90	04-Mar-13	Heating Installation
West	Parkview /Eglis Close Etc	38	07-May-12	Heating Installation
West	Emergency Scheme 2012/13	40	15-Apr-12	Heating Installation
West	Circular Rd,Lislane D,Iniscarn	108	07-Jan-13	Heating Installation
West	Waterside Heating	90	04-Jun-12	Heating Installation
West	Waterside Heating 2012	75	04-Feb-13	Heating Installation
West	Hospital Lane(Thermal Comfort)	115	02-Jul-12	Heating Installation
West	Collon Tce Heating	75	03-Sep-12	Heating Installation
West	Kings Lane /Tartnakilly Rd Etc	37	03-Dec-12	Heating Installation
West	Kennaught / Rathbrady Etc	62	04-Mar-13	Heating Installation
West	Newtownstewart Kit 2009/2010	91	27-Aug-12	Revenue Replacement
West	Castledawson/Draperstown	45	23-Jul-12	Revenue Replacement
West	Glenone Villas/Hunters Pk Etc	49	02-Apr-12	Revenue Replacement
West	Kit-Cable St/Meenan/Crawford C	74	26-Jun-12	Revenue Replacement
West	Bawnmore/Clonmeen/Stradowen	133	22-Oct-12	Revenue Replacement

Region	Scheme	Dwellings	Programmed	Work Group
West	Ardnamoyle/Liscloon Etc	113	22-May-12	Revenue Replacement
West	Meadow/Mitchel/Abbey Etc	105	28-Jan-13	Revenue Replacement
West	Blackhill/Riverside Dr/S'town	57	24-Sep-12	Revenue Replacement
West	Ardnalee/O'nolan/St Marys PI	49	28-Jan-13	Revenue Replacement

**NB:** Revenue Replacement denotes Kitchens

LAP – Local Area Priority

### Houses in Multiple Occupation

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many inspections of Houses in Multiple Occupation have been carried out in the North Down constituency in the last 12 months; and (ii) what percentage of properties failed to meet the criteria.

**(AQW 2495/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive carried out 12 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) inspections in the North Down constituency from September 2010 to September 2011. Eight of the properties (67%) inspected failed to meet the HMO standards. Appropriate action has been taken on these cases by the serving of Statutory Notices.

### Housing Executive Properties: Double Glazing

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive properties cannot be fitted with double glazing because there is insufficient depth of rebate in the window structure.

**(AQW 2547/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that it has not fitted single glazed windows in the last two decades and therefore the rebates of any old single glazed windows are unlikely in most instances to be of sufficient depth to accept modern double glazed units. Double glazing is most likely to be best delivered by replacement of old single glazed windows which are nearing the end of their useful life with new purpose made units.

### Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department has implemented the action in the Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan which states that Departments must explore the implementation of domestic violence workplace policies with private and public sector employers; and if his Department will meet the target implementation date of December 2011.

**(AQW 2558/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The responsibility for taking forward the action in the Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan falls to 5 Local Domestic Violence Partnerships (LDVPs). The Department for Social Development (DSD) contributes to the Action Plan through the NI Housing Executive (NIHE), whose representatives sit on the LDVPs. The exploratory strand of the action point will be completed by the target date, but the work of the LDVPs in promoting the uptake of domestic policies with employers in their area will continue.

In relation to the Department's own staff, the NICS wide Workplace Policy for Domestic Violence and Abuse has been in existence since 2007 and is readily accessible for any member of staff who has

suffered domestic violence. DSD staff also have access to a range of services through the NICS Welfare Support Service and Carecall, who provide a confidential counselling service.

## Areas at Risk

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the criteria used to assess whether a community might become an Area at Risk.

**(AQW 2576/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The 'Areas at Risk Pilot Programme' was launched in 2006 and to date 26 areas have benefitted from inclusion. The programme is targeted at areas which lie outside of the most disadvantaged 10% on the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) but that are at risk of decline.

Potential areas for inclusion in the programme are sought from the permanent partners of a strategic partnership, established by the Department, who must provide an evidential basis for inclusion. Permanent representation on the strategic partnership comprises officials from the Department for Social Development and from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. Other statutory bodies are invited to join on an ad hoc basis as and when their expertise would lend significance to the programme. Other evidence may be referenced from local councillors and MLAs.

Each nominated area is referred to the DSD Minister for consideration and approval. Criteria for inclusion in the programme include;

1. Area is 'in transition' moving out of the top 10% but considered in need of continuing support for a period of time.
2. Area is outside of the top 10% but within the top 20% most deprived communities as defined by NIMDM that are in decline as indicated by a move towards the top 10%.
3. Area is moving into the top 20% as defined by the NIMDM.
4. 'Interface' area that lies outside of Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.
5. Area is 'descending into instability and crisis'. Area in which the decline in community cohesion threatens peace and stability.
6. Area is in economic decline.
7. Area where the loss of the service provided by organisations would have a significant negative impact on the local community.
8. Changes in the lived environment. New social housing developments that are completed between reviews of the NIMDM index, but where indicators suggest they would fall within the top 20% of the index.

## Lighthouse Hostel, Ballymena

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Social Development, for each of the last three years, to detail (i) the average number of (a) staff; and (b) residents at the Lighthouse Hostel, Ballymena; (ii) how the hostel is funded; and (iii) the level of funding allocated.

**(AQW 2597/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Living Rivers Ministries is a faith based organisation which provides 20 units of supported accommodation for single homeless men between 18 and 65 years of age at the Lighthouse Hostel in Ballymena.

There are a total no. of 14 staff providing 24/7 cover on a 12hr shift basis.

Funding provided through the DSD Supporting People scheme is as follows;

2009/10	£340k
2010/11	£340k
2011/12	£340K

Service users as follows;

2009/10	105
2010/11	125
2011 – to present	76

## Rising Fuel Prices

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Social Development, when examining ways of helping people cope with rising fuel prices, whether he will consider proposals such as those implemented by Sheffield City Council which has begun making plans for all homes to have high grade insulation fitted.

**(AQW 2617/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Sheffield City Council Scheme is being funded jointly by the Council and Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT). CERT is an obligation placed by Government on gas and electricity suppliers to deliver a reduction in household carbon emissions across England, Scotland and Wales. CERT was due to expire in March 2011 but was extended to December 2012. CERT could not have been replicated in Northern Ireland as until recently we only had one electricity supplier.

I have asked officials to examine how best we can deliver energy efficiency improvements in the future. This will include examining how an area based approach could be delivered and what role local councils could play.

## Suffolk Road Window Replacement Scheme

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 1934/11-15, to list the 216 properties included in the Suffolk Road Window Replacement Scheme.

**(AQW 2656/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that the 216 properties included in the Suffolk window replacement scheme are as listed in the table below. The windows in these properties will be replaced subject to the tenant's agreement.

Suffolk Windows Scheme	Address
Blacks Road 27 dwellings	1, 8, 9, 13, 16, 18A, 18B, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32A, 32B, 33A, 33B, 35A, 35B, 37A, 37B, 39A, 39B, 41A, 41B, 43A, 43B, 57, 59
Carnanmore Gardens 2 dwellings	1, 2
Carnanmore Park 36 dwellings	3, 9A, 9B, 11A, 11B, 13A, 13B, 15A, 15B, 17A, 17B, 19A, 19B, 20, 21A, 21B, 22A, 22B, 23A, 23B, 24A, 24B, 28, 30, 40, 42, 44, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58A, 58B, 60A, 60B

<b>Suffolk Windows Scheme</b>	<b>Address</b>
Donegore Gardens 16 dwellings	5, 6, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27
Erris Grove 7 dwellings	1A, 1B, 7, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B
Kells Avenue 14 dwellings	3, 5, 11, 15, 23, 27A, 27B, 29, 33A, 33B, 35A, 35B, 39, 41
Oranmore Drive 7 dwellings	5, 8, 9, 14, 16, 17A, 17B
Ringford Crescent 24 dwellings	1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 4, 7, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 15, 16A, 16B, 20, 22, 23, 27, 30A, 30B, 31, 33, 35, 37A, 37B
Ringford Park 3 dwellings	3, 6, 7
Suffolk Road 24 dwellings	51A, 51B, 51C, 51D, 51E, 51F, 53A, 53B, 53C, 53D, 53E, 53F, 55A, 55B, 55C, 55D, 55E, 55F, 57A, 57B, 57C, 57D, 57E, 57F
Tildarg Avenue 56 dwellings	3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 19, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 36, 37, 37A, 37B, 37C, 37D, 37E, 37F, 37G, 37H, 37J, 37K, 37L, 37M, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49A, 49B, 51A, 51B, 53, 54, 57, 58, 66, 68, 80, 82, 90A, 90B, 92A, 92B, 96, 98, 100

### **Disability Living Allowance**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Social Development, given the up-rating of Disability Living Allowance over the past two years, what is the likely amount payable for this year.

**(AQW 2699/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The weekly amounts of Disability Living Allowance which will be payable from April 2012 have not yet been determined. The level of the up-rating in any year is calculated using the increase in the Consumer Prices Index for the 12 months ending in the preceding September. The September 2011 figures, on which the 2012 up-rating will be based, are not due to be published by the Office for National Statistics until mid October and the rates of benefits payable from April 2012 will be announced in late November or early December.

### **Boiler Replacement Scheme**

**Mr McCartney** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of unsuccessful applications for the Boiler Replacement Scheme to date.

**(AQW 2712/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** There have been a total of 709 unsuccessful applications for the Boiler Replacement Scheme.

The Boiler Replacement Scheme is a pilot scheme targeted at owner occupiers or private tenants on low income who miss out on other Government energy efficiency improvement schemes such as the Warm Homes Scheme which is available to people who receive Housing Benefit. All potential Boiler Replacement Scheme beneficiaries have been identified and have been contacted by leaflet and this has resulted in almost 400 successful applications.

I have now extended the pilot scheme to lone householders aged 70 and over who receive Lone Pensioner Allowance and have a boiler aged 15 years or older. Therefore, some householders who were unsuccessful in their applications may now have the opportunity to reapply for assistance.

## **Pension Credit**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development what plans he has to increase the uptake of Pension Credit.

**(AQW 2740/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I am committed to improving benefit uptake and my Department, through the Social Security Agency, provides a range of services to make people aware of their benefit entitlement. These services include outreach services, an online Benefits Adviser Service, general assistance with advice and information through our network of local and centralised offices and participation in local promotional activity. Additionally, the Agency produces benefit specific publications, some in minority ethnic languages, and provides detailed information on the websites of the Department for Social Development and Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

In respect of State Pension Credit, an enhanced tele-claims system is in operation which results in around 90% of claims being taken by telephone, without the need for customers to complete paper application forms. When a customer calls to make a claim to State Pension, they are asked if they would like to find out more about State Pension Credit and, if interested, the customer is transferred to a dedicated State Pension Credit claim line.

The Agency has issued around 90,000 invitations to older people since 2005 offering a full benefit assessment through the independent advice sector. This assessment considers eligibility for all social security benefits as well as a range of other allowances and services. In addition, 145,000 mail shots have been issued to older people to raise awareness of State Pension Credit. The 2011/12 Benefit Uptake Programme will provide over 16,000 older people the opportunity of a benefit assessment. In the coming months a province-wide advertising campaign, using a mix of relevant media to include television and radio will be undertaken with the aim of increasing claims and improve the uptake of all older people's benefits.

We are continuing with an Outreach to Older People approach which has been used since November 2009 designed to reach older people through promotional materials and informal talks delivered in trusted settings such as community groups, specific older peoples groups, faith based organisations, GP surgeries and pharmacies.

The Benefit Uptake Programme has generated total additional annual benefits and arrears of approximately £37m to date, of which £15m relates to over 4,900 additional awards of State Pension Credit.

## **Errors in Statements or Answers**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Social Development, since coming to office, how many (i) statements he has made to the Assembly; and (ii) of his answers to Members' questions have had to be corrected because of errors in his original statements or answers.

**(AQW 2750/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Since coming into office in May 2011, I have not yet made a statement to the Assembly.

## **Housing Executive Staff**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the religious background of staff employed by the Housing Executive.

**(AQW 2778/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that the table below details the religious background of its staff. These figures are at September 2011 and include permanent and temporary staff.

Religion	Number	%
Protestant	1392	44.5
Catholic	1678	53.7
Not Known	56	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>3126</b>	<b>100</b>

### Housing Waiting List

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the range of points available for people applying for a place on the housing waiting list.

**(AQW 2779/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** There are four sections whereby applicants applying for a place on the housing waiting list may be awarded points: -

- (1) Intimidation
- (2) Insecurity of Tenure
- (3) Housing Conditions
- (4) Health/Social Well Being Assessment

Applicants are considered under each Section of this Part of the Scheme and points will be awarded on a cumulative basis unless otherwise stated. See Points Schedule below:-.

		Points
<b>Section 1</b>	<b>Intimidation</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Section 2</b>	<b>Insecurity of Tenure</b>	
	Homeless/ Threatened with Homelessness-Full Duty Applicant (FDA)	70
	Other Homeless	50
	Interim Accommodation	20
<b>Section 3</b>	<b>Housing Conditions</b>	
	Sharing	
	1) An Applicant with dependent children	10
	Sharing kitchen	10
	Sharing Living Room	10
	Sharing Toilet	10
	Sharing Bath/ Shower	
	2) An Applicant aged 18 years and over without dependent children	5
	Sharing kitchen	5
	Sharing Living Room	5
	Sharing Toilet	5
	Sharing Bath/ Shower	

	<b>Points</b>
3) An Applicant aged 16 -18 years without dependent children	
Sharing Kitchen	5
Sharing Living Room	5
Sharing Toilet	5
Sharing Bath/ Shower	5
Overcrowding	10
Each bedroom short of criteria	
Lack of Amenities and Disrepair	
1) The Applicant's current accommodation is not free from serious disrepair.	10
2) The Applicant's current accommodation is not free from dampness which is prejudicial to the health of the occupants.	10
3) The Applicant's current accommodation does not have adequate provision for lighting, heating and ventilation.	10
4) The Applicant's current accommodation does not have an adequate supply of wholesome water.	10
5) The Applicant's current accommodation does not have satisfactory facilities for the preparation and cooking of food, including a sink with a satisfactory supply of hot and cold water.	10
6) The Applicant's current accommodation does not have a suitably located water closet (w.c.) for the exclusive use of the occupants.	10
7) The Applicant's current accommodation does not have, for the exclusive use of the occupants a suitably located fixed bath or shower, each of which is provided with a satisfactory supply of hot and cold water.	10
8) The Applicant's current accommodation does not have an electricity supply.	10
Time in Housing Need (Only awarded to Applicants with points on the Waiting List. 2 points per year (for a maximum of five years) after two years on the Waiting List)	Max 10

		<b>Points</b>
<b>Section 4</b>	<b>Health and Social Well Being</b>	
	Functional Matrix	Max 32
	Unsuitable Accommodation	10
	Support/ Care Needs Matrix (only applicable to those applying for Sheltered/ Supported Housing)	Max 16
	Home Management	Max 14
	Self Care	
	Each Primary Social Needs Factor (capped at 2 factors i.e. 2x 20 points)	20
	Each Other Social Needs Factor (capped at 4 factors i.e. 4x10 points)	10
Complex Needs (General Needs Housing)	20	

### **Social Security Offices in Newtownards and Ballynahinch**

**Mr Hamilton** asked the Minister for Social Development what plans his Department has to improve the Social Security Offices in (i) Newtownards; and (ii) Ballynahinch, given that the proposal for a combined Jobs and Benefits Office has been abandoned.

**(AQW 2781/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department on an on-going basis continues to review office accommodation in all remaining Social Security Offices, including Newtownards and Ballynahinch, to ensure that staff and customers have a safe and comfortable office environment. Currently, the Department of Finance and Personnel's Properties Division is carrying out a programme of condition surveys on all Northern Ireland Civil Service estate with a view to identifying essential improvement work required. The survey for Newtownards is due to be completed at the end of November 2011 while the survey of the Ballynahinch office will take place during 2012.

### **Alleygating Schemes**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development what is the current level of grant available to local Councils for alleygating schemes.

**(AQW 2807/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department does not provide any grants to local Councils for alleygating schemes. My Department has supported alleygate schemes in the past, from the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund, as a result of the identification and prioritisation of such measures by a Neighbourhood Partnership.

### **Small Pockets of Deprivation Areas**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development what plans he has for the funding of Small Pockets of Deprivation areas.

**(AQW 2851/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I am committed to the funding of the Small Pockets of Deprivation (SPOD) areas up to 31 March 2015. Funding for this programme has been agreed at £415,000 per annum. A review is currently underway which involves working with local communities that avail of SPOD funding to

determine how they can achieve the best outcomes for their local community from the available funding.

### **Intimidation from Paramilitary Organisations**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development how many people have been forced to move from their homes due to intimidation from paramilitary organisations in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 2853/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that the number of people forced to leave their homes due to intimidation from paramilitary organisations in each of the last three years is as follows:

2008/09	218
2009/10	271
2010/11	261

### **Boiler Replacement Scheme**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many applications have been made to the Boiler Replacement Scheme by each Housing Executive District Office in the Upper Bann area; and (ii) of these, how many were (a) successful; and (b) unsuccessful.

**(AQW 2859/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme is being managed by the Housing Executive. The Housing Executive does not record applications for the pilot scheme by Parliamentary Constituency. Upper Bann is part of the area covered by South Area Grants Office which covers the District Council areas of Armagh, Craigavon, Banbridge and Newry and Mourne.

Up to 30 September 2011 the South Area Grants Office received 392 application forms. Of these 392 applications 238 have been deemed to be ineligible and 34 approvals to start work in the South Area have been issued. All potential Boiler Replacement Scheme beneficiaries have been identified and have been contacted by leaflet and this has resulted in almost 400 successful applications throughout Northern Ireland.

I recently amended the eligibility criteria to include those householders who receive Lone Pensioner Allowance but do not receive Housing Benefit. Therefore, some householders who were unsuccessful in their applications may now have the opportunity to reapply for assistance.

### **Boiler Replacement Scheme**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the main reasons for applications to the Boiler Replacement Scheme being rejected.

**(AQW 2860/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The main reason that applications are not accepted is because they do not meet the eligibility criteria. The Boiler Replacement Scheme is a pilot scheme targeted at owner occupiers or private tenants on low income who miss out on other Government energy efficiency improvement schemes such as the Warm Homes Scheme which is available to people who receive Housing Benefit. All potential Boiler Replacement Scheme beneficiaries have been identified and have been contacted by leaflet and this has resulted in almost 400 successful applications.

I have now extended the pilot scheme to lone householders aged 70 and over who receive Lone Pensioner Allowance and have a boiler aged 15 years or older. Therefore, some householders who were unsuccessful in their applications may now have the opportunity to reapply for assistance.

## Boiler Replacement Scheme

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he has any plans to review the criteria used to assess applications to the Boiler Replacement Scheme.

**(AQW 2861/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I have recently extended the pilot scheme to lone householders aged 70 and over who receive Lone Pensioner Allowance and have a boiler aged 15 years or older. The pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme will be fully evaluated when the scheme is completed. £2 million has been set aside within the 2011/2012 fuel poverty budget for the pilot scheme.

## Boarded Up Houses

**Mr Hilditch** asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 1812/11-15, how many houses in the Carrickfergus area have been boarded up for six months or longer.

**(AQW 2889/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I have been advised that there are currently no Housing Executive or Housing Association properties in Carrickfergus which have been boarded up for six months or longer.

## Victims of Domestic Violence

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister for Social Development what work place policies are in place to assist victims of domestic violence within his Department and its arm's-length bodies.

**(AQW 2895/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** In relation to the Department's own staff, the NICS wide Workplace Policy for Domestic Violence and Abuse has been in existence since 2007 and is readily accessible for any member of staff who has suffered domestic violence. The Department's staff have also access to a range of services through the NICS Welfare Support Service and Carecall that provides a confidential counselling service.

In relation to the Department's arm's-length bodies, the NI Housing Executive has a workplace Policy Statement on Domestic Violence in place since 2007 that relates to their staff. It does not have any specific work policies for victims of domestic violence, but in the event of a domestic case being brought to their attention, they would assess the implications for the victim and for the company to develop a flexible working environment if necessary. In addition, they subscribe to Carecall and offer this facility to staff. The Charities Commission for NI (CCNI) do not have any specific policy assisting victims of domestic violence. They are, however, registered with Carecall and all employees are aware of the range and availability of their services.

## Housing Executive Stock

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the benefits of transferring Housing Executive stock to Housing Associations.

**(AQW 2919/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Whilst stock transfer has been used extensively elsewhere in Great Britain, it is still a relatively new concept in Northern Ireland.

We are about to finalise a pilot in the Creggan Estate, Londonderry that will see 55 existing Northern Ireland Housing Executive homes transfer to Apex Housing Association.

As part of the transfer arrangements, the Housing Association will privately fund the significant work necessary to improve the transferring homes. They will also take over responsibility for the future management and maintenance of that stock. This is expected to save the public purse £1.8m now with a further saving of £750k anticipated over the next 25 years.

Given the large number of homes in need of a similar level of improvement and the lack of funding available to deliver this work, the potential benefits of stock transfer, both for tenants and the public purse are significant.

I have already established a team from within my Department and the Housing Executive to look at further opportunities to build on our work in Rinmore. There remain a relatively small number of homes that are in urgent need of improvement and I am determined to explore the potential of stock transfer in having that work undertaken, subject of course to the agreement of tenants at all times.

### **Welfare Reform Bill**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development, given the progress of the Welfare Reform Bill, what discussions he has had with his Executive colleagues in relation to an economic and job creation strategy.

**(AQW 2929/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I recently attended a meeting of the Executive sub-committee on the economy where I had the opportunity to discuss the implications of the Welfare Reform Bill with a number of Executive colleagues in the context of the draft economic strategy. I have also had a series of meetings with relevant Ministers on a range of key issues relating to the labour market and employment and it is my intention shortly to invite a wider discussion at the Executive on specific aspects of Welfare Reform.

### **Energy Brokering Report: People Power Feasibility Study**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Social Development what progress has been made since the publication of his Department's 'Energy Brokering Report: People Power Feasibility Study'.

**(AQW 2992/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My department is working closely with the Housing Executive to bring forward an Energy Brokering Scheme for social tenants. If successful, the scheme may assist in obtaining discounted energy for social housing tenants. The Housing Executive plans to market test the proposal by the end of March 2012.

## **Northern Ireland Assembly Commission**

### **Members Salaries**

**Mr Allister** asked the Assembly Commission to detail (i) the arrangements that are in place to facilitate the claim of some Members that they draw only the average industrial wage; (ii) how many Members are paid less than the statutory salary; (iii) what is the current amount which is taken to represent the average industrial wage; and (iv) what happens to balance monies if Members draw only the average industrial wage.

**(AQW 2698/11-15)**

**Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** The detail is as follows;

- (i) The Assembly Commission has no arrangements in place to facilitate a claim by a Member that he or she draws only the average industrial wage,
- (ii) No Members are paid less than the salary of £43,101 per annum (apart from those Members who do not receive a salary by virtue of their receipt of a salary as a Member of Parliament),
- (iii) The Assembly Commission does not monitor the average industrial wage and
- (iv) As per item (ii), above, this situation does not persist.

## Assembly Salary Bill

**Mr Allister** asked the Assembly Commission (i) what is the current gross salary bill for the Assembly; and (ii) how much of this is for MLA's salaries.

**(AQW 2700/11-15)**

**Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** The gross salary bill for the Assembly for the 2011/12 financial year is forecast to be £23,348k – this is split as per Table 1, below. The estimate of the split of Members' gross salaries between MLAs and Office Holders is shown in Table 2.

**TABLE 1 – GROSS SALARY COSTS (£'000)**

	Members	Staff	TOTAL
Basic Salaries	£5,327	£12,808	£18,135
Employers' National Insurance	£511	£980	£1,491
Pension Contributions	£1,212	£2,510	£3,722
	<b>£7,050</b>	<b>£16,298</b>	<b>£23,348</b>

**TABLE 2 – MEMBERS SALARY SPLIT (£'000)**

	MLA	Office Holders	TOTAL
Salaries	£4,433	£894	£5,327
Employers' National Insurance	£425	£86	£511
Pension Contributions	£1,007	£205	£1,212
	<b>£5,865</b>	<b>£1,185</b>	<b>£7,050</b>

## Deputy First Minister: Salary

**Mr Elliott** asked the Assembly Commission (i) whether the deputy First Minister will continue to receive his MLA and Ministerial salary whilst running in the Republic of Ireland's Presidential Campaign; and (ii) to detail the total amount he will receive during this period.

**(AQW 2805/11-15)**

**Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** The Northern Ireland Assembly (Members' Salaries) Determination 2000 provides for the payment of Members' and Office Holders' salaries. The Determination makes no provision for the reduction or removal of salary in the circumstances set out in the question. However, the deputy First Minister notified the Assembly Commission that he did not wish to receive his Member or Office Holder salary from 20 September 2011 until further notice. Consequently, no salary is presently in payment to the deputy First Minister.



# Written Answers Index

<b>Department for Regional Development</b>	WA 237	Queen's University and the University of Ulster	WA 183
A5 Road from Aughnacloy to Newbuildings	WA 250	St Mary's University College, Belfast	WA 181
A5 Road from Ballygawley to Londonderry	WA 251	St Mary University College, Belfast	WA 180
Accidents Caused by Uneven Road Surfaces	WA 237	Student Fees	WA 181
Car Park Charging Proposals	WA 242	Student Loans Company	WA 184
Closing Roads for Local Events	WA 239	Students Dropping out of University	WA 179
Cycle Lanes	WA 238	Teacher Training Students	WA 181
Cyclists	WA 241	University Enrolments	WA 185
Departmental Car Parks	WA 241	Veterinary Medicine	WA 182
Departmental Car Parks	WA 241	<b>Department for Social Development</b>	WA 252
Departmental Car Parks	WA 248	Alleygating Schemes	WA 275
Double Yellow Lines on East Bridge Street, Enniskillen	WA 252	Areas at Risk	WA 269
Dropped Kerb Schemes	WA 252	Boarded Up Houses	WA 277
Grit Boxes in the North Down Area	WA 241	Boiler Replacement Scheme	WA 271
Junction for Brookeborough and the Ran Road on the A4	WA 240	Boiler Replacement Scheme	WA 276
New Cycle Lanes	WA 250	Boiler Replacement Scheme	WA 276
New Traffic Lights in the North Down Area	WA 250	Boiler Replacement Scheme	WA 277
On-Street Parking Charges	WA 251	Disability Living Allowance	WA 271
Park and Ride Facilities	WA 251	Energy Brokering Report: People Power Feasibility Study	WA 278
Pay and Display Car Parks	WA 240	Errors in Statements or Answers	WA 272
Pedestrian Crossings	WA 241	Houses in Multiple Occupation	WA 268
Quay Lane South Car Park, Enniskillen	WA 240	Housing Executive Properties: Double Glazing	WA 268
Recategorisation of NI Water	WA 249	Housing Executive Properties: Maintenance Schemes	WA 252
Reclassification of NI Water	WA 250	Housing Executive Staff	WA 272
Reopening of the Jordanstown Road	WA 249	Housing Executive Stock	WA 277
Road Network in the Ards Peninsula	WA 238	Housing Waiting List	WA 273
Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan	WA 239	Intimidation from Paramilitary Organisations	WA 276
Trees on the Approach Road to Bangor Castle	WA 251	Lighthouse Hostel, Ballymena	WA 269
VAT Charges Imposed by HMRC	WA 249	Pension Credit	WA 272
<b>Department for Employment and Learning</b>	WA 179	Rising Fuel Prices	WA 270
Capital Projects	WA 180	Small Pockets of Deprivation Areas	WA 275
Certificate of Religious Education	WA 179	Social Security Offices in Newtownards and Ballynahinch	WA 275
Education Maintenance Allowance	WA 182	Suffolk Road Window Replacement Scheme	WA 270
Magee Campus of the University of Ulster	WA 186	Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan	WA 268
Proposed Capital Spend Projects	WA 182	Victims of Domestic Violence	WA 277
Proposed Merger Between Stranmillis University College and Queen's University, Belfast	WA 183	Welfare Reform Bill	WA 278
Proposed Merger of Stranmillis University College and Queen's University, Belfast	WA 183	<b>Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</b>	WA 135
		Agricultural Wages Board	WA 142
		Agri-Food Sector	WA 141
		Antibiotics on Livestock	WA 138
		Canvassing on Behalf of Mr McGuinness	WA 140

Errors in Statements or Answers	WA 141	Academy Scheme	WA 152
Farms in the North Down Area	WA 142	Alternative Education Provision Review	WA 150
Farm Woodland Premium Scheme	WA 139	Area Learning Communities	WA 179
Farm Woodland Premium Schemes	WA 137	Bangor Central Integrated Primary School	WA 162
Farm Woodland Premium Schemes	WA 137	Breakfast Clubs	WA 160
Forest Service Board	WA 139	Community Relations, Equality and Diversity in Education Policy	WA 179
Meetings with Counterpart from the Republic of Ireland and UK	WA 141	Compulsory Education	WA 166
National Ploughing Championships in County Kildare	WA 135	Education Maintenance Allowance	WA 170
Northern Ireland's Woodland	WA 136	Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion	WA 152
Official Visit to the Irish Ploughing Championships	WA 141	Free School Meals	WA 160
Promoting Local Produce and Agri-foods	WA 135	Incidents of Bullying in Schools	WA 178
Publicly Owned Forest Land	WA 136	Integrated System of Education	WA 163
Recommendations from Independent Appeal Panels	WA 140	Irish Medium Statutory Pre-School Places	WA 164
Regulation of Woodland	WA 139	Irish Medium Statutory Pre-School Units	WA 164
Rural Crimes	WA 140	Parkhall Integrated College, Antrim	WA 178
Slurry	WA 137	Peripatetic Teachers	WA 176
Spreading Slurry	WA 142	Physical Education	WA 172
Victims of Domestic Violence	WA 140	Proposed Capital Spend Projects	WA 173
Young Farmers' Clubs	WA 138	Pupils Expelled from Schools	WA 171
<b>Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure</b>		Recycling Facilities	WA 167
	WA 142	School Holidays	WA 152
2013 World Police and Fire Games	WA 146	School Inspections	WA 163
2013 World Police and Fire Games	WA 146	Schools in the Formal Intervention Process	WA 166
2013 World Police and Fire Games	WA 146	School Transport	WA 150
Chairperson or Chief Executive: Arm's-Length Bodies	WA 145	School Uniform Grants	WA 176
Directors and Staff in the Odyssey Trust Company	WA 149	Share Sports Facilities or Grounds	WA 159
Gaelic Athletic Association and Gaelic Games: Funding	WA 148	Statement of Special Educational Need	WA 167
Gaelic Athletic Association and Gaelic Games: Funding	WA 149	Sublet Premises	WA 149
Grants for Junior Football Clubs	WA 142	Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan	WA 151
Irish Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport	WA 143	Teachers: Sick Leave	WA 173
Libraries	WA 147	Teaching Languages in Primary Schools	WA 170
Northern Ireland Captain Aaron Hughes	WA 148	Vacant Places in Primary Schools	WA 149
October Monitoring Round	WA 144	Vacant School Places	WA 171
Proposed Capital Spend Projects	WA 144	Vacant School Places	WA 175
Review of Library Opening Hours	WA 148	Victims of Domestic Violence	WA 173
Sailing Facilities at Strangford Lough	WA 144	Western Education and Library Board: Staff	WA 150
Salmon Stocks	WA 143	Year 1 School Places	WA 151
Sharing of Sports Facilities in North Down	WA 147	Year 8 Pupils: Free School Meals	WA 153
Victims of Domestic Violence	WA 146	Year 8 School Places	WA 159
Wild Salmon Population	WA 147	Youth Service in the Donegal Pass Area, Belfast	WA 172
<b>Department of Education</b>	WA 149		
11 Plus Transfer Test	WA 150		

<b>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment</b>		Brook Northern Ireland: Funding	WA 201
	WA 186	Caesarean Sections	WA 218
Air Passenger Duty	WA 190	Children's Hospital, Belfast	WA 218
Energy Brokering	WA 190	Development of a Prescribing Formulary for Drugs	WA 203
Environmental Damage	WA 186	DHSSPS: Capital Budget	WA 218
ESB Independent Energy	WA 191	Diabetes Clinic in Bangor Hospital	WA 201
Food Manufacturing Costs	WA 191	Health and Social Care Bill	WA 219
Hydraulic Fracturing	WA 190	Health and Social Care Centres: Opening Hours	WA 220
Infastrata PLC and eCORP Oil and Gas Ltd	WA 187	Maternity Services: Midwifery-led Units	WA 219
International Sales Conference in Portstewart	WA 188	Miscarriage	WA 219
Jobs: Created and Lost	WA 192	MRI Scanner for the Clark Clinic in The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	WA 217
Land for Industrial Use in the Magherafelt District Council Area	WA 192	MRI Scanner for the Royal Victoria Hospital	WA 205
Meetings with Stakeholders in East Derry	WA 188	Myalgic Encephalomyelitis	WA 208
Methane and the Greenhouse-Gas Footprint of Natural Gas from Shale Formations	WA 189	Northern Ireland Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Working Group	WA 208
Oil and Gas Supplier Regulator	WA 192	Paediatric Orthopaedic Patients	WA 204
Small Businesses	WA 189	Pharmacies	WA 216
Tamorban Petroleum Licence	WA 189	Physiotherapists	WA 206
US Geological Survey	WA 190	Planned Redundancies in the Health Service	WA 203
Visitors Participating in Familiarisation Trips	WA 188	Podiatry Services	WA 216
Visitors to Golf Courses	WA 187	Podiatry Services	WA 217
<b>Department of Finance and Personnel</b>	WA 193	Prescriptions	WA 206
Budget 2011-12: Inflation	WA 199	Proposed Capital Spend Projects	WA 209
Civil Service Staff	WA 196	Registered Blind or Partially Sighted	WA 204
Corporation Tax	WA 199	Social Work Qualifications	WA 216
DFP: Revenue Raising	WA 198	Standard Payment Terms	WA 205
DFP: Revenue Raising	WA 199	Suicide Awareness, Mental Health and First Aid Training	WA 202
Government: Prompt Payment	WA 198	Supplier Invoices	WA 205
Hearing Loss Claims	WA 196	Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan	WA 202
INTERREG IVA Programme	WA 197	Time for Change Campaign on the Family Planning Association Website	WA 203
Proposed Capital Spend Projects	WA 196	Transformation of Business Services in Health and Social Care Shared Services	WA 200
Rates: Empty Homes	WA 200	Victims of Domestic Violence	WA 209
Small Business Rate Relief Scheme	WA 198	Waiting Times for Cancer Treatment	WA 213
Small Business Rate Relief Scheme	WA 199	World Health Organisation's report 'Persistent Organic Pollutants: Impact on Child Health'	WA 205
Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan	WA 196		
Tax-Varying Powers	WA 197	<b>Department of Justice</b>	WA 220
Vacant Posts in the Civil Service	WA 193	Average Cost of a Prison Place	WA 224
<b>Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety</b>	WA 200	Brendan Lillis	WA 235
Accident and Emergency Units	WA 202	Brendan Lillis	WA 235
Adoption	WA 218	Children Between 10 and 12 Years Old: Crime	WA 223
Alcohol	WA 220		
Applications to the Family Fund	WA 209		
Bangor Hospital's Diabetes Clinic	WA 204		
Belfast City Hospital's Accident and Emergency Unit	WA 203		
Bowel Cancer	WA 217		

Children Who Commit a Criminal Offence	WA 226	<b>Department of the Environment</b>	WA 193
Combating Crimes in Rural Areas	WA 224	Ministerial Programmes and Visits to Brussels	WA 193
Contempt of Court	WA 233	Spreading Slurry	WA 193
Court Books	WA 235	<b>Northern Ireland Assembly Commission</b>	WA 278
Courts Service	WA 226	Assembly Salary Bill	WA 279
Crown Court Cases	WA 233	Deputy First Minister: Salary	WA 279
Destruction Order: Drugs	WA 226	Members Salaries	WA 278
Disturbance at Roe House, Maghaberry Prison	WA 233	<b>Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister</b>	WA 127
DOJ: Document Security	WA 235	Childcare Strategy	WA 127
Domestic Abuse	WA 225	Child Poverty Figures	WA 133
Double Yellow Lines on East Bridge Street, Enniskillen	WA 234	Crumlin Road Gaol Tours	WA 133
Early Years (0-6) Strategy	WA 223	Errors in Statements or Answers	WA 130
Employment Tribunals Involving the Prison Service	WA 234	Flags Protocol Review Group	WA 127
Encouraging or Assisting a Child or Children to Commit a Crime	WA 220	Former Army Base Site in Ballykelly	WA 128
Errors in Statements or Answers	WA 228	Former Army Base Site in Ballykelly	WA 131
Fuel Laundering	WA 236	Former Army Base Site in Ballykelly	WA 131
Illegal Fuel	WA 228	Future and Leadership of the Department of Justice	WA 131
Jose Ignacio de Juana Chaos	WA 225	Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse	WA 130
Knife Crime	WA 236	Leveson's Judicial Inquiry into Telephone Hacking	WA 128
Ministerial Special Adviser	WA 229	Ministerial Vehicles and Drivers	WA 130
People Released from Prison Under New Identities	WA 221	North/South Ministerial Council	WA 135
People Serving Sentences in Prison	WA 227	Play and Leisure Policy	WA 134
Police Ombudsman	WA 237	Play and Leisure Policy Action Plan	WA 130
Police Ombudsman: Investigations and Reports	WA 237	Programme for Government 2011-15	WA 133
Preliminary Inquiries by Video-Link	WA 229	Proposed Capital Spend Projects	WA 132
Prisoner Releases	WA 221	Social Protection Fund	WA 129
Prisoners Appearing in Court	WA 230	Special Advisers	WA 127
Prison Service	WA 228	Sustainable Consumption Action Plan	WA 128
Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline	WA 220	Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan	WA 129
Prison Service: Disciplinary Procedures	WA 228	UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	WA 129
Prison Service Staff	WA 227	Visit to America	WA 128
Prison Spaces	WA 227		
Prison Staff	WA 230		
Proposed Capital Spend Projects	WA 230		
PSNI: Ombudsman's Reports	WA 236		
Republican Separated Prisoners	WA 234		
Tackling Violence at Home Strategy	WA 225		
Victims of Domestic Violence	WA 234		
Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre and Hydebank Young Offenders Centre	WA 221		
Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre and Hydebank Young Offenders Centre	WA 222		
Workplace Charter on Domestic Violence	WA 225		





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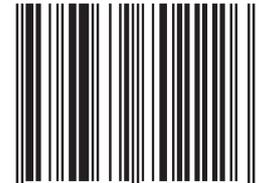
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