

# Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

**Friday 21 October 2011**

**Volume 67, No WA3**



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# Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 21 October 2011

## Written Answers to Questions

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

#### Ministerial Sub-committee for Children and Young People

**Mr Storey** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why the sub-group on early years of the Ministerial Sub-committee for Children and Young People has not met since 2008.

**(AQW 1777/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister):** The sub-group on early years is led by the Department of Education.

As required by the Ministerial Sub-Committee, the sub-group produced an action plan to monitor progress on early years which identified the key departments as DE and DHSSPS. The action plan was agreed by the Executive in March 2010 and continues to be updated on a regular basis for consideration by the Ministerial Sub-Committee. The relevant departments meet with OFMDFM officials on a regular basis to update and review this work.

In addition, DE and DHSSPS regularly meet under the Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee on Early Years and Childcare where a range of early years issues are considered.

Junior Ministers are currently working with officials to examine the best structures to progress the work on children and young people. We want to better align the existing structures to deliver on the Ten Year Strategy and, most importantly, to increase cross-departmental support, co-operation and ownership in relation to delivery.

#### Children's Services

**Mr Agnew** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they intend to introduce a statutory duty to ensure that Departments co-operate in the planning and delivery of children's services.

**(AQW 2194/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** This is a matter for the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety as planning and delivery of children's services is a DHSSPS responsibility.

#### Draft Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy

**Mr Lyttle** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why the consultation responses for the draft Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy have still not been published.

**(AQW 2270/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The 288 written responses that were received during the consultation period on the draft Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration, along with an independent and departmental analysis of the consultation responses, were passed to the OFMDFM Committee for scrutiny on 27 September 2011. Publication of the responses on the departmental website is imminent.

The priority now, is to establish a political consensus on how best to take forward the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration. To that end, a cross-party working group has now been convened and will meet on a weekly basis, initially, to agree the next steps for the programme. The consultation responses and analysis have also been shared with this group.

We expect that the final programme and an associated action plan will be published soon.

## A5 Project

**Mr Allister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether the Minister for Regional Development has the uninhibited right and authority to make a decision on the future of the A5 project.  
**(AQW 2802/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We refer the Member to Assembly Standing Order 19 (2) (f).

## EU Funding

**Mr Lyttle** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how they intend to meet the target of a 20 percent increase in the uptake of EU funding by 2015.  
**(AQW 2959/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Barroso Task Force Working Group (BTWG), chaired by Junior Ministers and comprising Deputy Secretaries from each department, spearheads our European engagement. BTWG has established four thematic sub-groups to take forward work on the Executive's 2011-12 European Priorities. To provide dedicated support for these inter-departmental sub-groups; four "Thematic Desk Officer" posts are being created in the Executive's Brussels Office.

These officers will facilitate departments in their delivery of the Executive's European Priorities, including the 20% increase in the drawdown of EU funding. Applications for these posts have just closed and it is expected that the desk officers will take up post in early 2012.

In the 'Draft Budget 2011-12', the Finance Minister proposed the creation of a small and dedicated unit to bring about a 20% increase in the drawdown of EU funding by 2015. This will play an important role in the successful delivery of the target.

## Supplementary Brief on Recruiting People with Conflict-Related Convictions

**Mr Allister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 1712/11-15 (i) who signed off the supplementary brief on Recruiting People with Conflict-Related Convictions; and (ii) if they will review the Ministerial oversight of the Community Relations Unit to ensure that there is Ministerial approval for such documentation.  
**(AQW 3020/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Pursuant to AQW 1712/11-15, we would like to refer you to our previous answer in relation to this issue. The supplementary brief on Recruiting People with Conflict-Related Convictions was produced in 2008 in response to feedback from the business community and by way of summarising the core principles of the Employers' Guidance. As the substantive Employers' Guidance on Recruiting People with Conflict-Related Convictions had been approved by the then Minister of State, David Hanson MP, prior to its issue by OFMDFM in May 2007, the view was taken by officials that the subsequent supplementary brief did not require additional Ministerial approval.

Given the Employers' Guidance had been a product of the working arrangements developed through the Ex-Prisoners' Working Group, the supplementary brief was approved by the then chair of the Ex-Prisoners Working Group. The supplementary brief also received approval from the other parties to the Employers' Guidance - Trade Unions and the Business Community.

## EU Infraction Fines

**Mr Agnew** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the EU infraction fines imposed in each of the last 10 years.

**(AQW 3164/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Northern Ireland has never received a fine in relation to infraction proceedings.

## Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

### Proposed Capital Spend Projects

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

**(AQW 2757/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): My Department proposes to spend on a number of capital projects during the current financial year. The current position in respect of proposed capital projects, including the projected timescales and the costs for projects with a value over £100k is shown in Table 1, attached.

Additional capital projects may be funded in the future; however, at this stage, commitments have not yet been confirmed.

**TABLE 1 £'000'S**

#### CAPITAL PROJECTS WITH A VALUE OVER £100K

Business Area	Project Description	Timescale		Cost
		Start	Finish	
Central Policy Group; Agri Food Bioscience Institute	IT Resilience Project.	Apr 2011	Jan 2012	162
	Electron Microscope.		Mar 2012	400
	Roofing repairs		Mar 2012	300
Central Services Group; Estate Branch Information Services Branch	Repairs across the Departmental estate.		Mar 2012	250
	Animal Public Health Information System		Mar 2012	400
	IT infrastructure		Feb 2012	300
	Fisheries Enhancement Projects		Jan 2012	110

Business Area	Project Description	Timescale		Cost
		Start	Finish	
Rivers Agency;	Lower Bann Portna	Oct 2010	Sep 2012	400
	Coleraine Lodge Burn	Jan 2011	Mar 2012	1,600
	East Belfast Greenway	Nov 2010	Nov 2013	500
	Magherafelt Drainage	Oct 2010	Oct 2011	210
	Flood Risk Management Urban & Rural Modelling	Oct 2010	Dec 2013	390
	Plant, Vehicles and Machinery		Mar 2012	363
Forest Service	Plant Vehicles and Machinery and forest roads		Mar 2012	293
Service Delivery Group;	Dairy Unit		Mar 2013	250
Greenmount Campus	Silos		Mar 2012	400
Enniskillen Campus	Classrooms		Mar 2012	200
Land Parcel Identification Systems	Corporate Geographical Information Systems		Apr 2012	300

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

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development 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 2795/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: The current daily rate paid to the Chair of the Agricultural Wages Board is £259. This is the rate specified by the Department of Finance and Personnel.

Remuneration for the Chair of the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) is specified on a per annum basis and is currently £24,970. This is uplifted each year in line with the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body. When AFBI was established in 2006, the remuneration level for the Chair was benchmarked against that of other NDPB's and set by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The remuneration of the AFBI Chair requires the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel. Remuneration details for the Chair are published each year in the Institute's Annual Report. The latest Report can be viewed at:- <http://www.afbini.gov.uk/index/publications/corporate-publications/publications-annual-reports/publications-annual-report-2009-2010.htm>

The Chair of the Livestock and Meat Commission for NI is paid £17,315 annually, entirely from LMC resources. The remuneration level was determined by the Department, in line with DFP guidance and taking account of the level of experience and expertise required to fulfil these duties. Remuneration details for the Chair are published in the LMC's Annual Report. The latest Report can be viewed at: <http://www.lmcni.com/corporate/publications/AnnualReports/Annual%20Report%200910.pdf>

The remuneration of the NI Fishery Harbour Authority Chair is £6,280 set by the Pay and Grading Unit of DFP under the Remuneration of Chairmen and Members of Public Bodies and Other Fee Rates. Remuneration details for this post are published in the Annual Reports, the latest being 2010 available at:

<http://www.nifha.co.uk/Annual%20Report%20and%20Accounts.html>



The remuneration level of the Loughs Agency Chair was £8,570 for 2011 and was determined by North South Ministerial Council with the approval of Finance Ministers. Remuneration details for this post are published in the Annual Reports, the latest being 2009 available at:

<http://www.loughs-agency.org/archive/publications/Loughs%20Agency%20Annual%20Report%202009%20Final.pdf>

The post of Chair of the Drainage Council for NI is not remunerated.

## Rural Community Network

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what support the Rural Community Network has given to the Local Action Groups since the current Rural Development Programme began. **(AQW 2813/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: The Rural Community Network (RCN), working with the Rural Support Networks (RSN's) and the NI Rural Women's Network has been formally providing support to the Local Action Groups (LAG's) since September 2010. However prior to this, the RSN's have had close links with the Local Action Groups, with the RSN's represented on most LAG's and these links have been in place since the beginning of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP). The Rural Development Consortium (comprising of the RCN, 9 Rural Support Networks and the NI Rural Women's Network) currently has a contract with my Department until 31 March 2012. A large focus of this contract is on the contribution made to the community development elements of the NIRDP, ensuring that rural community needs are addressed through the Axis 3 (LAG's) and that full utilisation is made by groups of 'Quality of Life' measures. 'Key Performance Indicators' have been directly linked to each LAG's strategies, with clear outputs expected.

## Rural Community Network and the Rural Support Network

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the rationale behind the establishment of the (i) Rural Community Network; and (ii) the Rural Support Network and the specific tasks that they are charged with performing. **(AQW 2814/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: The Rural Community Network (RCN) was established in 1991 to articulate the voice of rural communities on issues relating to poverty, disadvantage and equality. The RCN, working with the Rural Support Networks and the NI Rural Women's Network, has provided and continues to provide, a vital support structure to rural community groups throughout the north. My Department has been pleased to support this work, which provided important input to the development of the Rural White Paper and Rural Proofing and has recently ensured that programmes like the Rural Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Framework has been targeted at those most in need. At present, the focus of the service is on the contribution made to the community development elements of the NI Rural Development Programme.

## Rural Community Network

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many staff are currently employed in the Rural Community Network; and to outline their roles and responsibilities. **(AQW 2815/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: The Rural Community Network (RCN) is an independent membership organisation that was established in 1991 by community groups to provide a community voice.

DARD purchases a service from the RCN - purely on a contractual basis - and how they provide the staff to deliver that service is a decision for the management of the RCN.

## Rural Support Networks

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many Rural Support Networks have closed in each of the last four years; and to detail their location and the reasons for their closure.  
**(AQW 2816/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: I can advise that three Rural Support Networks (RSN's) are no longer in receipt of funding via DARD and these are: Regeneration of Mourne Area Limited (ROMAL); Oakleaf Rural Community Network (Oakleaf RCN); and Regeneration of South Armagh (RoSA). ROMAL notified the Department in February 2009 that it was being wound up; and Oakleaf's current status with Companies House shows that there is a proposal to 'strike-off' the company. The Department has not funded RoSA since November 2008 and does not have any information on its current status.

## Rural Community Network and the Rural Support Network

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what relationship exists between the Rural Community Network and the Rural Support Network; and how much funding each organisation has received from her Department in each of the last three years.  
**(AQW 2862/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: The Rural Community Network (RCN) is the lead partner in a consortium with 9 Rural Support Networks (RSN's) and the NI Women's Rural Network (NIRWN). The consortium has contracted with DARD to deliver a number of outputs covering both policy and delivery requirements. The RCN mainly takes the lead on policy, with the RSN's/NIRWN leading on delivery. Since funding from EU Structural Funds ended in November 2008, DARD has paid the consortium £315,421 in 2008/2009; £1,083,252 in 2009/2010; £1,146,270 in 2010/2011. It is anticipated that the consortium will be paid £1.2m in the current financial year. This funding is provided from the Department's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion budget.

## Agricultural Wages Board

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in view of the existence of the minimum wage and other protections, such as the Working Time Directive, and given the removal of the equivalent body in Great Britain, whether she will abolish the Agricultural Wages Board for Northern Ireland.  
**(AQW 2915/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: The Agricultural Wages Board is a valuable forum for wage negotiations and, importantly, is used as a benchmark for the wider Agri-food industry and other rural occupations. It ensures that agricultural workers have at least a minimum basic wage and reasonable minimum terms and conditions of employment; provides a statutory level of protection for agricultural workers which goes beyond that provided by general employment law; and provides a pay-bargaining structure for employers and workers.

I do, however, intend to complete a review of the Agricultural Wages Board in the coming months. Following the review, I will consider the views expressed and options available and make a decision on the way forward.

## Notifiable Weeds

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what procedures are followed by her Department when notifiable weeds are identified on land belonging to another Department or its agencies.  
**(AQW 2948/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: There are two classes of weeds which are subject to legal control. The Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 regulates the introduction of non-native weed species and is the responsibility of the DOE. The Noxious Weeds (NI) Order 1977 is designed to protect agricultural land and requires that landowners

control ragwort, thistle, dock and wild oat before they have had a chance to seed and spread. The enforcement of this Order is DARD's responsibility.

Every spring DARD contacts all public landowners such as District Councils, Road Service and Hospitals reminding them of their responsibility to control noxious weeds.

Complaints regarding weeds classified as noxious under the legislation can be made by any person to a DARD Direct Office.

Complaints concerning other Government Departments or Agencies are usually investigated by inspectors from DARD's Quality Assurance Branch. The Department/Agency involved will receive a letter detailing the substance of the complaint and highlighting the legal responsibility of landowners to control noxious weeds. This letter is followed up by a visit to ensure that the weeds are controlled. If there has been no control and farm land is at risk from the spread of weeds a further letter is issued warning of possible legal action if no control is implemented.

Inspectors will make contact with those responsible in the offending Department to ensure that control measures are implemented. In most instances government Departments and Agencies will control weeds on land they occupy when approached by my Department.

## Rural White Paper

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether the retention of townlands in Co Fermanagh has featured in any discussions around her Department's Rural White Paper.

**(AQW 2987/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: The retention of townlands in Fermanagh has not featured in any of the discussions on the Rural White Paper. The Department hosted a series of public events as part of the public consultation on the Rural White Paper including an event in Enniskillen. While a wide range of rural issues were discussed at this event, the retention of townlands in Fermanagh was not raised with the Department.

I very much recognise and value the historic, cultural and linguistic importance of townland names, particularly to the rural community. They are a significant part of our shared local heritage and I am therefore keen to support their promotion and preservation.

My Department moved to include townland names within the addresses of all DARD offices last year

## Dangerous Dogs

**Mr A Maskey** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of whether the new legislation on Dogs and Welfare of Animals will reduce the number of attacks by dangerous dogs.

**(AQO 582/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: The focus of the Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011 is public safety and the promotion of responsible ownership. The Act allows council dog wardens to protect the public from problem dogs by attaching one or more control conditions to the dog licence where owners have failed to keep a dog under proper control. The availability of these control conditions means that dog wardens have more powers to prevent, and therefore reduce, the number of attacks by dangerous dogs. The requirement to microchip, which will come into force next year, will also make it easier for enforcers to identify owners of problem dogs.

As well as protecting the public from dangerous dogs the new Act also protects other animals. Under the Dogs Order 1983 it is an offence to set a dog on, or urge it to attack, livestock. The Dogs (Amendment) Act extends these provisions to also make it an offence to set a dog on, or allow it to attack and injure, another animal. In addition, irresponsible owners face the deterrent of stiffer penalties while a better-resourced dog warden service will be more likely to detect infringements.

Taken in their entirety, I believe that the new measures introduced by the Act represent the strongest dog control legislation in these islands.

## Fishing: Cod Catch

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the recent proposals from the European Commission for a zero catch of cod in the Irish Sea for 2012.

**(AQO 580/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: I am concerned by the proposal for a zero Total Allowable Catch for Irish Sea Cod. However, we cannot escape the fact that all available scientific indicators are telling us that the stock remains in a very poor state and this TAC has been cut successively for several years. In 2000 our share of the EU Irish Sea cod TAC was 605 tonnes but by last year it had fallen to just 146 tonnes. Last year three vessels targeted white fish full time with nine other vessels targeting white fish for only part of the year. If we cannot negotiate a TAC it is likely that two of the remaining full time white fish vessels will have to move their fishing grounds or target prawns, or Nephrops to give them their scientific name, The vessels that target white fish part – time will probably switch to prawns full time. Our data suggests that prawn vessels will be able to live within the by-catch limits but more work is needed on fishing gear design to reduce the impact of the prawn fishery on non-target species coupled with more scientific monitoring of by-catches and discard levels. Officials have already met with industry and we are talking to them and our scientists to see what options are available to alter this proposal or to mitigate its effects.

## EU Welfare of Laying Hens Directive

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the capability of egg producers to meet the European Union's Welfare of Laying Hens Directive.

**(AQO 581/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: I take the welfare of animals very seriously and fully support the ban on the use of conventional cages for laying hens that will be introduced by EU Law here from 1 January 2012.

I am very pleased that well over 80% of producers here are already in a position to comply with the ban. I understand that the majority of the remaining producers have indicated that they will replace their conventional cages with compliant systems by 1 January 2012, while others have opted to cease production.

We need to remember that the changes were brought in as a result of public concern over the use of battery cages. Our existing Welfare Code, published in March 2005, clearly states that from 1 January 2012 no person shall keep laying hens in conventional cages. We have met the industry on several occasions and issued press releases since 2009 to remind producers of their obligation to be compliant come January 2012.

I believe that a consistent application of the ban across all Member States from 1 January 2012 is essential. I do not support a derogation to allow an extension to the deadline. That would be unfair to those who have already converted out of conventional cages and may have already secured finance to do so, which might place them at a commercial disadvantage.

## Agrifood

**Mr McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action her Department is taking to promote the use of Research and Development in the Agri-food sector.

**(AQO 583/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: The agri-food sector is a key part of the local economy and has been remarkably resilient during the current economic downturn. The challenge we face in the future is to develop new food production models based on the principle of sustainable intensification i.e. producing more for less. We need to develop farming systems that increase output whilst achieving a range of environmental and economic goals. This type of multidisciplinary research does not attract high levels of private investment. Indeed our local agri-food businesses invest relatively little on R&D. This reflects the relatively small size of the typical rural business – most are owner run - and the perception that R&D is risky.

We also know that collaboration can increase levels of innovation and it is innovative businesses that are most likely to succeed in the current economic climate.

R&D and innovation are inextricably linked – so if we encourage one, we also create suitable conditions for the other. This is why my Department is pleased to announce that it will be launching a second tranche of its Research Challenge fund towards the end of this month. This fund is designed to “pump-prime” rural businesses’ interest and involvement in R&D and will provide £0.8 million of grant aid for industry-led, collaborative R&D projects in 2012.

This investment will be match-funded by industry partners from the primary production sector.

I also welcome the increased support for research, innovation and knowledge transfer in the CAP Reform proposals, released recently by the Commission. Over the coming months, we will consider how we can make the most of this opportunity in developing the next Rural Development Programme.

## **Broadband: Rural Areas**

**Mr McElduff** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what plans she has to address the gaps in rural broadband coverage.

**(AQO 584/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: As you know I have made access to rural broadband one of my key priorities. It is my view that no rural dweller should be disadvantaged because of lack of access to broadband. Access to high speed broadband services is vital if rural businesses are to compete successfully both locally and in global markets and I will continue to press for greater access broadband in rural areas and work proactively to ensure this. So far my Department has already invested £2.5 million of funding in broadband under the Rural Development Programme and the Anti Poverty Programme. These funds were delivered through the DETI Next Generation Broadband programme.

However there are gaps in broadband coverage and the speed of broadband in rural areas is also an issue. I met recently with DETI Minister Foster and we discussed how we can provide more effective assistance. We agreed that our Departments would continue to work together to identify fully the gaps in broadband coverage and quality and assess quickly what opportunities exist to address these gaps under our funding programmes to provide the most viable options for access to broadband within these areas. Work has commenced to identify the gaps in broadband take up and quality.

I have over the past months met with both BT and Ofcom to better appraise myself of the issues around rural broadband and what in particular as Minister I can do to help address these.

Ofcom in their role as the communications regulator have an important role to play and have offered what assistance they can with developing a gap analysis.

## **Deer Culling: Randalstown Forest**

**Mr T Clarke** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the methods used by Forest Service to cull deer in Randalstown Forest.

**(AQO 585/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: The culling of the deer population within Randalstown Forest is carried out by Forest Service wildlife wardens. These wardens are highly qualified in deer management. They monitor deer populations and carry out culling as part of their wider wildlife management responsibilities.

Culling targets are set after a process of monitoring population numbers in conjunction with an adjoining privately owned estate. Based on these estimates, separate targets are set for male and female deer to maintain a satisfactory population density. To aid this process of monitoring and control, a number of deer management areas are maintained.

Deer are culled using full bore rifles. The operation takes place in line with best practice after a process of risk assessment. These risk assessments ensure the health and safety of the wildlife

warden and any others who may be affected by the culling. As Randalstown forest is flat, culling takes place from high seats so that spent rounds hit the ground, thus providing a safe backstop.

## **Poultry Housing**

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the adequacy of the current provision of poultry housing to meet the needs of producers.

**(AQO 586/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: With an estimated turnover of almost £629m and more than 5,500 full- and part-time jobs, the poultry sector plays a very important part in the North's economy.

Through the Farm Modernisation Programme (FMP) my Department has provided funding over recent years to poultry producers to modernise their units through financial support towards the purchase of modernising items of plant, machinery and equipment. Eligible items specifically relating to the poultry sector have included nipple drinking lines, dry pluckers, auto poultry weighers and egg packers. Under the FMP the poultry sector has also availed of financial support for other more general agricultural items including CCTV cameras, generators, and bulk feed bins. Under the first two tranches of the FMP, the poultry sector has been allocated some £300,000 of financial support.

Over the years my Department has worked closely with the Broiler and Laying Hens sectors to introduce the EU welfare requirements in a way that meets the needs of the industry. For example, on Broilers we were able to allow the highest stocking density possible in broiler houses here up to a maximum of 42kg per metre square. With regard to Laying Hens I am working to ensure that local egg producers who have invested in compliant systems are not disadvantaged in any way and to press that the European Commission takes all the necessary action to address any non-compliance with the Directive in other Member States as a matter of urgency. My Department will continue to look to support the poultry sector where it can.

## **Flooding: Fermanagh**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what progress has been made on the recommendations of the Fermanagh Flooding Task Force.

**(AQO 587/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: My Department is responsible for two key recommendations of the Fermanagh Flooding Task Force.

The first of these is in relation to the "Management of the Erne system." My Rivers Agency are working with the Electricity Supply Board to examine options for improvement to the operational regime which will reduce flood risk. This detailed work is due for completion in the next financial year. If changes to the operating regime are recommended there will be a need for consultation to ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to influence any changes.

The second key recommendation relates to the consideration of options for a flood alleviation scheme at Derrychara Link. Having considered the situation the Roads Service and my Rivers Agency have co-operated closely to provide a pumped system at Derrychara Link in the event of high lough levels. My Rivers Agency has also completed works on the Killynure Lough drain to further help contain flows.

In addition to these 2 key recommendations, my Rivers Agency also assisted with the production of a leaflet for the Lough Erne System providing information on preparing for a flood.

My Rivers Agency is progressing these recommendations as part of a Multi Agency Working Group established by Fermanagh District Council to coordinate progression of all recommendations from the Fermanagh Flooding Taskforce and enable more efficient sharing of information and consequently an effective approach to the reduction of future flooding in the Erne system. The Multi Agency Working Group produced a report in April 2011 identifying progress against all recommendations of the taskforce.



## Woodland

**Mr Dickson** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department would consider the development of a woodland inventory.

**(AQO 588/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: Yes, my Department's Forest Service is already compiling a woodland inventory from existing data sources. These include data held by DARD, DoE's Environment Agency and Land and Property Services.

We started this work last year and found a modest increase in woodland area, however, there are issues to be resolved about the quality of some of the mapping data. Further analysis is being carried out this year, taking account of new data, based on a combination of satellite imagery and digital cartography, to validate the woodland data set.

At the end of this business year, Forest Service will publish improved baseline information of woodland area in the north of Ireland.

## Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

### Museums Policy

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of how her Department's Museums Policy is progressing; and whether she plans to give consideration to the recent strategy adopted by the Scottish Government which has a more developed mechanism and clearer 'next steps' guidelines.

**(AQW 2907/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure):** Work to implement the NI Museums Policy is being taken forward by a working group comprising officials from my Department, National Museums NI and the NI Museums Council.

This group has reviewed similar museums policy work currently being undertaken in both Scotland and Wales. In Scotland the 'National Strategy' is at the consultation stage, so further work on this is to be expected. However, Wales has finalised its 'Museums Strategy for Wales' and is therefore at a more advanced stage. Section 6 of the Welsh report provides a 'Route Map' for the implementation of their Strategy and areas of similarity have been identified.

### Funding for Sports

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding has been allocated to (i) the Gaelic Athletic Association; (ii) the Irish Football Association; (iii) the Irish Rugby Football Union; and (iv) other sports in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 2961/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Sport NI is the lead development agency for sport in the north of Ireland with responsibility for the distribution of Exchequer and Lottery funding. In the last five financial years, Sport NI has allocated a total of £89,748,837 to the Gaelic Athletic Association, the Irish Football Association, the Irish Rugby Football Union and other sports. A breakdown of this figure is provided in the table below:

Date	GAA		IFA		IRFU		Other Sports	
	Exchequer	Lottery	Exchequer	Lottery	Exchequer	Lottery	Exchequer	Lottery
2006/07	£180,342	-	£1,838,450	-	£150,346	-	£4,364,791	£1,908,194
2007/08	£1,197,268	-	£1,604,875	-	£3,038	-	£6,433,793	£3,591,444
2008/09	£1,633,704	-	£1,071,932	-	£2,566,128	-	£15,671,233	£14,066,504
2009/10	£11,010	-	£41,260	£25,000	£1,250	-	£21,204,246	£4,633,046
2010/11	£40,381	-	£203,131	-	£65,678	-	£5,715,656	£1,526,137
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£3,062,705</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£4,759,648</b>	<b>£25,000</b>	<b>£2,786,440</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£53,389,719</b>	<b>£25,725,325</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>£3,062,705</b>		<b>£4,784,648</b>		<b>£2,786,440</b>		<b>£79,115,044</b>

**NB.** The above does not include funding to clubs affiliated to the Gaelic Athletic Association, Irish Football Association or the Irish Rugby Football Union.



## Townland Addresses

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, given the rich and diverse cultural background associated with townlands, (i) for her Department's position on the retention of townlands as the principal address format in Co Fermanagh; and (ii) what action her Department intends to take to support people who wish to retain their townland address.

**(AQW 2986/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Townland names are an important part of the rich fabric of our shared cultural heritage. Place names provide historical links with the past as well as a sense of place and as such are a valuable link to heritage and culture.

There is no formal Executive policy on townland names and my department does not have lead responsibility in terms of legislation, strategy development or promotion of this issue.

### Illegal Fishing on Lough Neagh

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what action she is taking to stop illegal fishing on Lough Neagh; and to list the instances in which wardens prevented or stopped illegal fishing on the Lough in each of the last two years.

**(AQW 3032/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** My Department has established an enforcement team of 3 Fisheries Protection Officers (FPO's) to cover the Lough Neagh operational area, working under the direction of a Senior Fisheries Officer. The Lough Neagh operational area also covers the land south of the Lough extending to south Armagh and including the Upper Bann and the Blackwater.

These officers are regularly supported by other officers, including those based at Castlewellan, who are equipped with a 6.8m inflatable Rib (Rigid Inflatable Boat) which can be transported and launched quickly from various locations around Lough Neagh.

DCAL Fisheries Protection staff undertake regular patrols on land and water. They also carry out intelligence led operations to detect, disrupt and deter those involved in illegal fishing activities.

DCAL enforcement activity is collated on a quarterly basis, the data for the period July to September 2011 is not yet available. My Department took over the responsibility for the enforcement of fisheries legislation from the former Fisheries Conservancy Board (FCB) in June 2009.

The table below details the number of instances of the Lough Neagh enforcement team preventing illegal fishing activities:

	<b>1/6/09 – 31/3/10</b>	<b>1/4/10 – 31/3/11</b>
Persons detected	48	60
Unmarked nets seized	16	26
Illegal long lines seized	1	1

The above information does not include detections and seizures made by Lough Neagh team members outside the Lough Neagh operational area. It does not include any detections and seizures carried out by team members from other operational areas operating in the Lough Neagh area.

## Personnel with Responsibility for Lough Neagh

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline the responsibilities and roles of the departmental personnel with responsibility for Lough Neagh; and for a summary of their activity over the last twelve months.

**(AQW 3035/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** My Department is responsible for the enforcement of fisheries protection legislation within its jurisdiction, which includes Lough Neagh. My Department has established an enforcement team of 3 Fisheries Protection Officers (FPOs) to cover the Lough, working under the direction of a Senior Fisheries Officer. The Lough Neagh operational area also covers the land south of Lough Neagh extending to south Armagh and including the Upper Bann and the Blackwater.

The enforcement team carries out regular patrols on land and water throughout the Lough Neagh operational area. FPOs monitor and check angling and commercial fishing activity to ensure that those engaged comply fully with the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 as amended and Fisheries Byelaws. Regular inspections are carried out at commercial dealers, fish retail outlets, hotels and restaurants to ensure that all salmon and freshwater fish being sold have been legally caught.

All breaches of the Fisheries Act and Byelaws are recorded as detections, all illegal fishing gear/catches are seized and any persons acting illegally are reported with a view to prosecution.

DCAL enforcement activity is collated on a quarterly basis, the data for the period July to September is not yet available. The Lough Neagh team enforcement activity for the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011:

Number of DCAL Angling Licences Checked = 170

Number of DCAL Permits Checked = 133

Number of Detections = 47

Number of Boat Patrols = 97

Number of Nets Seized = 29

Length of Nets Seized = 24572m

Number of Long lines Seized = 4

Number of Commercial Dealer visits = 17

The above information does not include enforcement activities carried out by Lough Neagh team members outside the Lough Neagh operational area, training days and any other duties associated with the maintenance and servicing of boats and equipment. It does not include any enforcement activities carried out by team members from other operational areas operating in the Lough Neagh area.

DCAL Inland Waterways Branch has a statutory remit to dredge the mouth of the Sixmilewater River and as a public service maintains 47 navigation markers on Lough Neagh.

## Libraries

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of whether library branches which are open 30 hours per week or less could ever achieve the 80,000 tasks per annum limit.

**(AQW 3054/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The total activity level of 80,000 is not an indication of a library's viability. Currently there are a number of sustainable libraries open for 18 hours per week. These include Broughshane, Cloughfern, Cushendall, Garvagh, Kilrea and Portglenone. These libraries are not expected to attain an activity level of 80,000 tasks per annum.

Libraries with a total activity level below 80,000 tasks per annum (based on 2010/11 figures), have been assigned to Band 4 (opening hours of 18 hours per week) in the proposed review of opening hours.

Libraries NI is content that the consultation documentation provides a sufficiently comprehensive and informed picture of library use upon which it can consult with the public.

## Review of Library Opening Hours

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the accuracy of the library visitor count used in the consultation on the Review of Library Opening Hours, given that electronic gate counters in libraries can count the same visitor more than once during a single visit.  
**(AQW 3055/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Visitor figures for Libraries across the North of Ireland are produced using what is known as the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) methodology.

Every year, CIPFA produces and publishes library visitor figures for all libraries across the North.

The methodology for libraries where electronic counters are in place is designed to avoid double counting.

## Review of Library Opening Hours

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure why the visitor count for the consultation on the Review of Library Opening Hours was not conducted over a longer period of time; and why a more accurate means of assessment was not used.  
**(AQW 3056/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** As detailed in AQW 3055/11-15, visitor figures are produced using what is known as the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) methodology.

Every year, CIPFA produces and publishes library visitor figures for all libraries across the North.

For the majority of libraries which have electronic people counters it is a full year count. For the minority of libraries which do not, the sample period, in line with the CIPFA methodology, is one week.

CIPFA provides guidance on the use of sampling and Libraries NI has followed that guidance in establishing its visitor figures.

## Public Access Terminals

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure why information on the number of Public Access Terminals installed in each branch library and the maximum annual possible use of these Terminals is not disclosed in the Libraries NI consultation on the Review of Library Opening Hours.  
**(AQW 3059/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Libraries NI has confirmed to me that the annual use of Public Access Terminals (PATs) is measured by the number of customer uses which are described as sessions. The length of a PAT session is determined by the customer therefore varies in length. Consequently it is not possible to specify the annual number of user sessions available in a library.

However, in the interests of clarity, Libraries NI will publish the number of Public Access Terminals in each library on their website.

Libraries NI is content that the key indicators set out in the consultation documentation 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.

## Odyssey Trust Company Limited

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in light of the Odyssey Trust Company's healthy financial surplus, for her assessment of whether admission charges for the Science Centre and Arena and ancillary public amenity areas exceed the level necessary to meet the costs of operating, maintaining and repairing these areas.  
**(AQW 3062/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Administration charges for the Science Centre are a matter for the Board of W5, a company limited by guarantee and wholly owned by National Museums NI.

Income generated from admission fees does not cover the cost of operating, maintaining and repairing the area occupied by W5. Any reduction in these fees is likely to further increase the need for financial support from other sources.

The level of admission fees charged for entrants to the Arena and ancillary public amenity areas is a matter for the Trustees of the OTC.

These Trustees have to consider the ongoing and expected significant maintenance costs for the whole Odyssey Complex.

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

**Mr D Bradley** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether each library branch which will have its opening hours reduced as a result of the Review of Library Opening Hours, will have at least two members of staff on duty at all times during the new opening hours.

**(AQW 3082/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Levels of staffing in libraries is an operational matter for the Board of Libraries NI. It has informed me that the number of staff required in each library relates to the level of use, size and layout of the library, amongst other factors.

A number of libraries are currently single staffed for some or all of the time. Libraries NI operate a lone working policy which accords a very high priority to staff safety.

Consequently the staffing of each library will be determined individually, by the Libraries NI Board.

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

**Mr D Bradley** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure why Libraries NI decided on a limit of 80,000 tasks per library per annum in its consultation on the Review of Library Opening Hours; and why these tasks are limited to issues, visits, Public Access Terminal use and active borrowers during the 2010/11 period.

**(AQW 3084/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The proposed banding of libraries is based on levels of use. The key indicators of use are visits, public access terminal use and active members.

The figure of 80,000 annual activities was chosen as it would allow Libraries NI to achieve the financial savings which it is required to make.

Libraries NI is content that the key indicators set out in the consultation documentation 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.

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

**Mr D Bradley** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of whether the annual public desk staffing hours, current opening hours per annum and the annual issues of a library are important in determining the sustainability of a library; and why this information was not made available in the consultation document on the Review of Library Opening Hours.

**(AQW 3086/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** These matters are operationally the responsibility of Libraries NI.

Libraries NI have informed me that its proposed 'banding' of libraries is based on levels of use. The key indicators of use are visits, public access terminal use and active members.

The annual issues and current opening hours figures are available in the consultation documents.

Libraries NI is content that the key indicators set out in the consultation documentation 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.

### **Reduced Opening Hours of Smaller Libraries**

**Mr D Bradley** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of whether the reduced opening hours of smaller libraries will make them unsustainable.

**(AQW 3088/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The minimum number of opening hours proposed for any library is 18 hours per week. This allows for a spread of morning, afternoon, evening and weekend opening.

Currently there are a number of sustainable libraries open for 18 hours per week. These include Broughshane, Cloughfern, Cushendall, Garvagh, Kilrea and Portglenone.

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

**Mr D Bradley** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of whether a contribution to the community, such as class visits, pre-school activities, culture and heritage activities contribute towards the sustainability of a library; and how these activities are measured in the consultation on the Review of Library Opening Hours.

**(AQW 3089/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Libraries NI is content that the key indicators set out in the consultation documentation 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 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.

The activities identified in your question are important and contribute to the sustainability of a library. They also contribute to these key indicators.

### **Libraries in the Newry and Armagh Constituency**

**Mr Murphy** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the user numbers; (ii) the opening hours; and (iii) the services provided, in each of the last four years by each library in the Newry and Armagh constituency.

**(AQW 3090/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Libraries NI have provided me with the following information:

## (i) User Numbers

Library	2010/2011		2009/2010		2008/2009 <sup>1</sup>		2007/2008 <sup>1</sup>	
	Active Members <sup>2</sup>	Visits	Active Members	Visits	Active Members	Visits	Active Members	Visits
Armagh	4882	98200	5768	101400	5266	83512	3998	107588
Armagh ILS	28	3300	39	4650	30	10088	22	3900
Bessbrook	1582	22200	1353	18450	1335	21840	917	17940
Crossmaglen	1112	18000	1217	22750	1125	20436	853	21944
Keady <sup>3</sup>	1424	23100	1313	12050	1395	23036	961	37752
Newry <sup>2</sup>	5714	169600	7579	199050	7281	161304	5014	165360
Richhill	917	10350	1037	13850	970	22516	757	6292
Tandragee	1475	22900	1336	24100	1331	24284	988	27352

<sup>1</sup> 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 data was collected by SELB using a slightly different methodology

<sup>2</sup> Note that active members include book borrowers and IT users.

<sup>3</sup> Keady Library was closed for refurbishment from January 2010 to May 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Newry Library was closed for refurbishment from 4 January 2011 to 9 May 2011.

## (ii) Opening Hours

Opening Hours have remained unchanged in the last four years:

Library	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Total
Armagh	9:30–5:30	9:30–8:00	9:30–5:30	9:30–8:00	9:30–5:30	9:30–5:00	52.5
Armagh ILS	9:30–1:00 2:00–5:00	9:30–1:00 2:00–5:00	2:00–5:00	9:30–1:00 2:00–8:00	9:30–1:00 2:00–5:00	9:30–1:00 2:00–5:00	38.5
Bessbrook	CLOSED	2:00–8:00	10:00–5:00	CLOSED	10:00–5:00	11:00–3:30	24.5
Crossmaglen	CLOSED	10:00–5:30	2:00–8:00	CLOSED	10:00–5:30	10:00–4:30	27.5
Keady	10:00–6:00	CLOSED	10:00–8:00	CLOSED	10:00–6:00	10:00–5:00	33
Newry	9:30–8:00	9:30–8:00	9:30–5:00	9:30–8:00	9:30–6:00	9:30–5:00	55
Richhill	CLOSED	10:00–1:00 2:00–5.30	2:00–8:00	10:00–1:00 2:00–5.30	10:00–1:00 2:00–5.30	10:00–1:00	28.5
Tandragee	2:00–8:00	CLOSED	10:00–1:00 1:30–5:30	2:00–5:30	10:00–1:00 1:30–5:30	9:30–1:00	27

## (iii) The Services Provided

The services provided by each Library in the Newry and Armagh constituency are outlined in Annex A.

**Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what criteria were used in the appointment of the Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency.

**(AQW 3101/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Price Waterhouse Cooper were commissioned to run the recruitment competition for the Chief Executive's post. The post was advertised and applicants were shortlisted against the criteria which were determined by the interview panel.

The criteria required applicants to demonstrate their suitability against the following:-

1. a degree qualification or equivalent third level qualification **and** a minimum of 3 years experience at **senior management level** of successfully building and effectively leading, managing and motivating staff within an organisation;

OR

a minimum of 5 years experience at **senior management level** of successfully building and effectively leading, managing and motivating staff within an organisation.

Proven experience of:

2. Leading and managing an organization in the development of strategy successfully delivering the aims and objectives of the organization at **senior management level**;
3. Effectively managing challenging budgetary requirements within an organization at **senior management level**;
4. Operating within a corporate governance framework at **senior management level**; and
5. Representing an organisation at senior management level to internal and external audiences for example, the public, senior civil servants, politicians, voluntary organizations, professional bodies, trade unions, the media and the business community.

Candidates were also required to demonstrate their competency in a number of key areas:-

- Leadership and managing people;
- Strategic thinking and planning;
- Financial management, internal control and accountability;
- Decision making and problem solving;
- Communication and building co-operation.

Two desirable criteria were also applied:-

1. Knowledge of the Ulster-Scots sector and traditions; and
2. Evidence of community engagement with the Ulster-Scots sector.

### **Ulster-Scots Agency**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the projects funded by the Ulster-Scots Agency in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 3103/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The projects funded by the Ulster-Scots Agency over the last three years are listed on the Agency's website @ [www.ulsterscotsagency.com](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com). A list of these projects is attached at Annex A.

The Agency is happy to tailor any specific request in relation to any projects it has funded.



**ANNEX A**

Heart of Down Highland Dancers	Highland Dance Competition	24 April 2010	£460.00	31 March 2010
Cairncastle LOL 692 Community & Cultural Group	Ulster-Scots Soiree	26 May 2010-23 February 2011	£2,520	29 March 2010
Ballybofey and Stranorlar Integrated Community Company	Ulster-Scots Festival	04 – 07 June 2010	£ 3,305.50	18 March 2010
Garryduff Flute Band	Ulster-Scots Festival	24 – 26 June 2010	£ 1,400.00	16 March 2010
Hillsborough Working Together	Ulster-Scots Festival	19 March – 12 July 2010	£ 5,575.000	16 March 2010
South Down Defenders Flute Band	Ulster-Scots Festival	17 June – 10 July 2010	£ 3,450.00	16 March 2010
Bushmills Ulster Scots Heritage Group	Ulster-Scots Festival	13 March 2010	£1,054.00	12 March 2010
Drumlough Cultural Society	Ulster-Scots Festival	10 – 18 June 2010	£ 2,920.00	12 March 2010
Pride of Ballinran	Ulster-Scots Festival	31 May – 05 June 2010	£ 2,600.00	12 March 2010
Ballygarvey Arts & Cultural Society	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£90	17 February 2010
Redrock Development Partnership	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	12 January 2010
Finnard Rural Development Association	Ulster-Scots Concert	1 day	£250	23 November 2009
Brookmount Cultural & Education Society	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	18 November 2009
Dollingstown Ulster-Scots Society	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	18 November 2009
Donaghmore Development Association	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	18 November 2009
Dungonnell Ulster-Scots Society	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	18 November 2009
Kilmegan & Aghlisnafin Rural Community Group	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	18 November 2009
Kirknarra School of Dance	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	18 November 2009
Lisnamulligan Rural Association	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	18 November 2009

Loughries Historical Society	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	18 November 2009
Brookmount Cultural & Education Society	Hogmanay Celebration	1 day	£250	17 November 2009
Cairncastle LOL 692 Community & Cultural Group	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	17 November 2009
Dollingstown Ulster-Scots Society	Hogmanay Celebration	1 day	£250	17 November 2009
Dunloy Accordion Band	Ulster-Scots Concert	1 day	£250	17 November 2009
Finnis Rural Development Association	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	17 November 2009
Naggy Burn Ulster-Scots & Schomberg Orange Culture Society	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	17 November 2009
Bushmills Ulster-Scots Heritage	Music and Dance Tuition	7 weeks	£840	05 October 2009
Girtaclare Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe	4 weeks	£400	01 October 2009
Heart of Down Highland Dancers	Dance Tuition	2 weeks	£208	01 October 2009
Burnside Ulster-Scots Society	Hogmanay Celebration	1 day	£250	30 September 2009
Burnside Ulster-Scots Society	St. Andrew's Celebration	1 day	£250	30 September 2009
European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages		Not specified	£4,000	25 September 2009
Hunter Moore Memorial Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£4,050	18 September 2009
Burren Rural Association	Music Tuition - Lambeg and Fife	8 weeks	£728	15 September 2009
Craiganeer Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	6 weeks	£693	15 September 2009
Shugnal Nifty	Cultural and Awareness Event	1 week	£1,280	15 September 2009
Ardinariff Historical and Cultural Society	Music Tuition - Lambeg Drum	7 weeks	£525	11 September 2009
Ardinariff Historical and Cultural Society	Music Tuition - Lambeg Drum	7 weeks	£525	11 September 2009

Johnston and Madden Memorial Orange Hall Committee	Ulster-Scots Concert	1 day	£250	11 September 2009
Kirknarra School of Dance	Dance Tuition	3 weeks	£322.50	11 September 2009
Cahard Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	6 months	£1,787.50	04 September 2009
Crown Defenders Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute	5 weeks	£720	04 September 2009
Mullabrack Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	4 months	£405	04 September 2009
Tannagh Hill Rural Development Association	Dance Tuition	2 months	£300	04 September 2009
Ballycarry Community Association	Ulster-Scots Festival	5 days	£7,677.50	28 August 2009
Cairncastle LOL 692 Community and Cultural Group	Dance Tuition	6 months	£1,851	28 August 2009
Kinnego Community Development Association	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	6 months	£1,507.50	28 August 2009
Kinnego Community Development Association	Music Tuition - Drum	6 months	£1,170	28 August 2009
LaganVillage Drum & Fife School	Music Tuition - Lambeg Drum	3 months	£2,480	28 August 2009
Thiepval Memorial Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Drum	5 months	£720	28 August 2009
Tullyvallen Silver Band	Music and Dance Tuition	4 months	£1,120	28 August 2009
Shetland and Riding Pony Club	Language/Education Project	5 months	£750	20 August 2009
Ballylone Concert Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£2,080	19 August 2009
Ardinariff Historical and Cultural Society	Dance Tuition	8 months	£1,447.50	11 August 2009
Cranny Cultural and Community Group	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	6 months	£1,410	11 August 2009
Downshire Ulster-Scots Society	Music Tuition - Lambeg Drum	6 months	£1,240	11 August 2009
John Hunter Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	4 weeks	£1,440	11 August 2009

The Blue Thistle Highland Dancers	Dance Tuition	4 weeks	£780	11 August 2009
Ballymageough Rural Development Association	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	6 months	£1,950	10 August 2009
Magherafelt Highland and Country Dancing	Dance Tuition	5 months	£1,816.10	10 August 2009
Altnaveigh House School of Dance	Dance Tuition	10 weeks	£2,175	04 August 2009
Altnaveigh House Ltd	Exhibition/Conference	2 months	£5,250	03 August 2009
Closkelt Highland Dancers	Dance Tuition	10 months	£675	03 August 2009
Sir George White Memorial Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£2,250	28 July 2009
Skeogh Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	4 months	£2,600	27 July 2009
Greyabbey Junior Drumming School	Dance Tuition	6 months	£1,440	26 July 2009
Cairncastle LOL 692 Community and Cultural Group	Summer School	5 days	£2,149.50	24 July 2009
Aughnagurgan Scottish Dance Association	Dance Tuition	9 months	£1,647.75	23 July 2009
Finnard Rural Development Association	Dance Tuition	5 months	£1,441.20	23 July 2009
Queensway Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	6 months	£1,575	23 July 2009
East Donegal Ulster-Scots Association	Summer School	5 days	£2,916.38	22 July 2009
Magheragall Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	5 months	£2,400	22 July 2009
Pride of Ballinran Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute	6 months	£2,080	22 July 2009
Pride of Ballinran Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	6 months	£2,080	22 July 2009
Steeple Cultural and Heritage Society	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	3 months	£1,875	22 July 2009
Ballymoney Fife and Lambeg Drumming Club	Music Tuition - Fife and Drum	5 months	£2,600	21 July 2009
Ballymoney Junior Drumming Club	Music Tuition - Fife and Drum	5 months	£2,600	21 July 2009

Altnaveigh House School of Dance	Highland Dance Competition	1 day	£832	20 July 2009
Gig n the Bann	Ulster-Scots Festival	4 days	£2,337.50	20 July 2009
Greyabbey Junior Drumming School	Music Tuition - Lambeg Drum	6 months	£180	20 July 2009
Broughshane Ulster-Scots Society	Ulster-Scots Concert	1 day	£250	15 July 2009
Donaghmore Accordion Band	Cultural and Awareness Event	4 months	£1,950	10 July 2009
Lord Londonderrys own CLB Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	6 months	£2,100	06 July 2009
Cookstown North Community Group	Summer School	5 days	£2,348.40	03 July 2009
South East Fermanagh Foundation	Summer School	5 days	£3,273.60	03 July 2009
Newry Heritage and Development Association Youth Group	Summer School	5 days	£2,350.88	02 July 2009
Newry Heritage and Development Association Youth Group	Summer School	5 days	£2,350.88	02 July 2009
CAW/Nelson Drive Action Group	Summer School	5 days	£2,133.15	01 July 2009
Donegal Pass Community Centre	Summer School	5 days	£1,293.75	01 July 2009
Cathedral Youth Club	Ulster-Scots Festival	1 day	£1,482.50	29 June 2009
Loughries Historical Society	Summer School	5 days	£2,782.50	23 June 2009
Taughmonagh Community Forum	Summer School	5 days	£1,235.10	22 June 2009
Greyabbey Junior Drumming School	Music Tuition - Tin Whistle	2 months	£300	19 June 2009
Bannside Community Safety Group	Summer School	5 days	£3,500	17 June 2009
Moneyslane Cultural and Rural Development Association	Cultural and Awareness Event	1 day	£250	17 June 2009
Star of The Roe Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	4 months	£1,575	17 June 2009
Ballyhalbert Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£2,475	16 June 2009

Hanover Cultural and Development Association	Ulster-Scots Showcase	1 week	£500	15 June 2009
Iveagh Cultural Association	Music Tuition - Lambeg and Fife	5 months	£2,118.75	15 June 2009
Moneyslane Cultural and Rural Development Association	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£1,950	15 June 2009
Moyasset Heritage and Cultural Society	Music Tuition - Lambeg Drum	2 months	£926.25	15 June 2009
Portadown Scottish Country Dance Society	Dance Tuition	4 months	£894.80	15 June 2009
Tyrone's Ditches Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	5 months	£2,850	15 June 2009
Knocknagoney Community Centre	Summer School	5 days	£1,755	10 June 2009
Aughlisnafin Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	5 months	£2,512.50	08 June 2009
Dromara Local History Group	Language/Education Project	1 day	£200	08 June 2009
The Geoghegan Memorial Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	6 months	£3,632.25	08 June 2009
Ulster-Scots Cultural Development Trust	Summer School	5 days	£2,512.50	07 June 2009
Ballinran Summer Scheme	Summer School	5 days	£2,864	05 June 2009
Border Minority Group	Summer School	5 days	£1,419.75	03 June 2009
Kilrea and District Ulster-Scots Society	Summer School	5 days	£1,906.20	03 June 2009
Old Warren Youth Initiative	Summer School	5 days	£1,736.81	03 June 2009
REACT	Summer School	5 days	£1,624.50	03 June 2009
Redburn Youth Group	Summer School	5 days	£2,634.90	03 June 2009
Redburn Youth Group	Summer School	5 days	£2,402.70	03 June 2009
Redburn Youth Group	Summer School	5 days	£2,020.20	03 June 2009
Sollus School of Highland Dance	Summer School	5 days	£2,257.20	02 June 2009
Drumlough Pipe Band	Summer School	5 days	£2,202.75	28 May 2009
Drummond Centre Project Ltd	Summer School	5 days	£2,052.75	27 May 2009
5th Portadown Boys Brigade	Summer School	5 days	£2,146.35	26 May 2009

Ardinarriff Historical and Cultural Society	Summer School	5 days	£2,141.25	26 May 2009
Ballinran Summer Scheme	Summer School	5 days	£2,810.80	26 May 2009
Ballyroney Rural Development Group	Summer School	5 days	£2,652	26 May 2009
Cathedral Youth Club	Summer School	5 days	£1,681.50	26 May 2009
Gillygooley Youth and Community Development Association	Summer School	5 days	£2,154.75	26 May 2009
Hollywood Family Trust	Summer School	5 days	£2,616	26 May 2009
Kilcooley Community Action Group	Summer School	5 days	£1,470	26 May 2009
Kilcronaghan Community Association	Summer School	5 days	£1,993.86	26 May 2009
McClintock Childrens Centre	Summer School	5 days	£1,243.95	26 May 2009
Mountfield Ulster-Scots Association	Summer School	5 days	£2,190	26 May 2009
Mourne Valley Cultural Association	Summer School	5 days	£2,938.50	26 May 2009
Newbuildings Community and Environmental Association	Summer School	5 days	£2,064.30	26 May 2009
Seymour Hill and Conway Community Network	Summer School	5 days	£1,364.25	26 May 2009
Union Street Walking and Fitness Club	Summer School	5 days	£1,850.25	26 May 2009
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association NI Branch	Cultural and Awareness Event	1 year	£25,500	25 May 2009
Ullans Speaker Association	Language/Education Project	1 year	£48,208	21 May 2009
Annalong Cultural Education Society	Cultural and Awareness Event	3 days	£250	11 May 2009
Broomhedge Ulster-Scots Society	Midsummer Night Event	1 day	£250	11 May 2009
Cairncastle LOL 692 Community and Cultural Group	Ulster-Scots Soiree	10 months	£2,500	11 May 2009

European and Ulster Highland Dance Championships Festival	Highland Dance Competition	1 day	£1,488	11 May 2009
Gertrude Star Flute Band	Cultural and Awareness Event	5 months	£3,600	11 May 2009
Killyfargue Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	4 months	£3,000	11 May 2009
Conlig Rural Partnership for Cultural Development	Ulster-Scots Showcase	1 day	£250	06 May 2009
Drumnaleg Community Association	Cultural and Awareness Event	1 day	£250	05 May 2009
Aughafatten Coronation Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	5 months	£2,250	29 April 2009
Dungiven Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£2,100	29 April 2009
Flutes of Mourne	Music Tuition - Flute	8 weeks	£2,175	29 April 2009
Lisburn Fusiliers Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£2,496.20	29 April 2009
W F Marshall Education Centre	Language / Education Project	2 days	£1,904.80	29 April 2009
Ballymacconnelly Ulster-Scots Group	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	6 months	£1,500	27 April 2009
Magheraboy Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	7 months	£1,125	27 April 2009
Edentiloan and District Ulster-Scots Association	Cultural and Awareness Event	1 day	£250	24 April 2009
Ballymoney Fife and Lambeg Drumming Club	Ulster-Scots Showcase	1 day	£2,400.25	20 April 2009
Drum Accordion Band	Ulster-Scots Festival	2 weeks	£1,080	20 April 2009
Howard Memorial Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	5 months	£2,625	20 April 2009
Pride of the Park Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£1,200	20 April 2009
South Down Defenders Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	4 weeks	£1,650	20 April 2009
Vow Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	5 months	£1,800	20 April 2009
Fermanagh Arts Festival	Ulster-Scots Festival	10 days	£5,150	10 April 2009



Banbridge Orange Hall Committee	Ulster-Scots Festival	3 weeks	£6,300	09 April 2009
Cairncastle LOL 692 Community and Cultural Group	Ulster-Scots Festival	2 weeks	£19,695	09 April 2009
Cup of Tae Festival	Ulster-Scots Festival	4 days	£1,250	09 April 2009
Lagan Valley Arts and Cultural Society	Ulster-Scots Festival	3 weeks	£2,330	09 April 2009
Lisnaskea Lambeg Drumming Club	Ulster-Scots Festival	2 days	£1,876	09 April 2009
Portavogie Heritage Society	Ulster-Scots Festival	5 days	£11,000	09 April 2009
Upper Crossgare Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe Band	9 months	£3,078.60	09 April 2009
Cullybackey Fife and Drumming Club	Music Tuition - Fife and Drum	4 months	£1,080	07 April 2009
Broughshane Ulster-Scots Society	Music Tuition - Lambeg and Fife	6 months	£1,500	06 April 2009
Cahard Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	6 months	£3,220	06 April 2009
Castlegore Amateur Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute	4 months	£2,100	06 April 2009
Clontibret Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	6 months	£3,000	06 April 2009
Commons Silver Band	Music Tuition - Drum	5 months	£1,425	06 April 2009
Donaghadee Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	4 months	£2,100	06 April 2009
Drumnaleg Community Association	Music Tuition - Lambeg Drum	8 weeks	£952	06 April 2009
Hillstown Rural Community Group	Music Tuition - Lambeg and Fife	5 months	£1,800	06 April 2009
Kilkeel Silver Band	Music Tuition - Drum	5 months	£1,800	06 April 2009
Kirknarra School of Dance	Dance Tuition	6 months	£1,800	06 April 2009
Lisnaward Rural Association		6 months	£1,800	06 April 2009
Newtownards Road Historical Society	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	6 months	£3,600	06 April 2009
Redrock Development Partnership	Music Tuition - Lambeg Drum	2 months	£1,640	06 April 2009
Drumadonald Rural Development Association	Development Grant	1 year	£2,764	26 March 2009

Katesbridge Community Association	Development Grant	1 year	£3,000	24 March 2009
Heart of Down Highland Dancers	Highland Dance Competition	1 day	£634	18 March 2009
Mourne Young Defenders Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£3,840	18 March 2009
Dollingstown Ulster-Scots Cultural and Heritage Society	Development Grant	1 year	£3,000	10 March 2009
Moyasset Heritage and Cultural Society	Cultural and Awareness Event	1 day	£250	10 March 2009
Naggy Burn Ulster-Scots and Schomberg Orange Cultural Society	Cultural and Awareness Event	1 day	£2,750	10 March 2009
Sir Edward Carson True Blues Flute Band	Ulster-Scots Festival	12 days	£3,000	09 March 2009
Altnaveigh House Ltd	Ulster-Scots Festival	5 days	£4,350	06 March 2009
Ballymageough Rural Development Association	Ulster-Scots Festival	5 days	£3,210	06 March 2009
Ballymave Educational and Cultural Society	Ulster-Scots Festival	4 days	£2,300	06 March 2009
Bannside Community Safety Group	Ulster-Scots Festival	3 weeks	£5,410	06 March 2009
Burnside Accordion Band	Ulster-Scots Festival	3 days	£2,355	06 March 2009
Church Street Community Association	Cultural and Awareness Event	5 days	£1,460	06 March 2009
Coleraine Festival Committee	Ulster-Scots Festival	8 days	£11,860	06 March 2009
Community Safety Group (NI) Broughshane Branch	Ulster-Scots Festival	2 days	£4,516.76	06 March 2009
Cranny Cultural and Community Group	Ulster-Scots Festival	4 days	£3,200	06 March 2009
Culleybackey District LOL No 20	Ulster-Scots Festival	9 days	£2,390	06 March 2009
Donegall Pass Community Forum	Ulster-Scots Festival	4 days	£2,970	06 March 2009
Drumadonald Rural Development Association	Burns Night / Event	1 week	£2,480	06 March 2009

Drumlough Cultural Society	Ulster-Scots Festival	8 days	£2,575	06 March 2009
Dunloy Accordion Band	Ulster-Scots Festival	3 days	£2,390	06 March 2009
East Belfast Titanic Festival	Ulster-Scots Festival	2 weeks	£24,820	06 March 2009
Hartford Community Development and Cultural Association	Ulster-Scots Showcase	8 days	£5,550	06 March 2009
Kilrea Culture Community Group	Ulster-Scots Festival	2 days	£1,490	06 March 2009
Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster-Scots Society	Ulster-Scots Festival	2 days	£2,200	06 March 2009
Larne District LOL No.1 Educational and Cultural Group	Ulster-Scots Festival	3 weeks	£9,100	06 March 2009
Maiden City Festival	Ulster-Scots Festival	9 days	£10,050	06 March 2009
Marlagh Educational and Cultural Group	Music Tuition - Lambeg and Fife	5 months	£3,675	06 March 2009
Marlagh Educational and Cultural Group	Ulster-Scots Festival	2 days	£1,390	06 March 2009
Portstewart Community Association	Ulster-Scots Festival	1 week	£2,982	06 March 2009
Schomberg Festival Committee	Ulster-Scots Festival	1 week	£6,044.88	06 March 2009
South Down Defenders Flute Band	Ulster-Scots Festival	1 month	£3,590	06 March 2009
Stranocum Ulster-Scots Cultural and Heritage Society	Ulster-Scots Festival	6 days	£1,820	06 March 2009
The Maine Event Festival Committee	Ulster-Scots Festival	3 days	£6,212	06 March 2009
Tyrone Orange Vision	Ulster-Scots Festival	1 week	£6,450	06 March 2009
York Island Arts and Heritage Association	Ulster-Scots Festival	2 days	£5,225	06 March 2009
Aughlish Ulster-Scots Group	Development Grant	1 year	£2,320	03 March 2009
Cranfield Cultural Society	Development Grant	1 year	£2,400	02 March 2009
Kilmacrew and District Rural Community Group	Development Grant	1 year	£1,307.20	02 March 2009

Brookmount Cultural and Education Society	Ulster-Scots Soiree	1 day	£250	25 February 2009
Knockavannon Rural Community Development Association	Dance Tuition	1 month	£412.50	25 February 2009
Lisnagaver Flute Band	Cultural and Awareness Event	3 days	£1,252	25 February 2009
Markethill District LOL No 10	Ulster-Scots Concert	1 day	£250	25 February 2009
Sir George White Memorial Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£2,250	25 February 2009
Stranocum Ulster-Scots Cultural and Heritage Society	Ulster-Scots Soiree	1 day	£250	25 February 2009
Ballykeel Loyal Sons of Ulster Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	6 months	£1,600	23 February 2009
Ballywillan Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£2,250	23 February 2009
Dunloy Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Percussion	4 months	£2,250	23 February 2009
Freeman Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute	4 months	£3,600	23 February 2009
Kinnego Community Development Association	Music Tuition - Drum	4 months	£960	23 February 2009
Moorcroft Rural Community Cultural and Educational Society	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	6 months	£3,000	23 February 2009
Victoria Historical and Cultural Society	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£3,600	20 February 2009
Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival	Ulster-Scots Festival	5 days	£5,000	13 February 2009
Feis Fhear Manach/ Fermanagh Forgaither	Highland Dance Competition	1 day	£1,130.94	09 February 2009
Sir Edward Carson True Blues Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute	5 months	£1,080	03 February 2009
Ulster-Scots Cultural Development Trust	Burns Night / Event	1 week	£1,500	28 January 2009
Skeogh Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£2,400	23 January 2009
Burnside Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	5 months	£1,800	21 January 2009

Drumlough Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	5 months	£3,855	21 January 2009
East Antrim (killyglen) Accordion Orchestra	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	6 months	£2,722	21 January 2009
Garryduff Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	4 months	£1,200	21 January 2009
The Warren Cultural and Educational Society	Music Tuition - Lambeg Drum	5 months	£840	21 January 2009
The Warren Cultural and Educational Society	Cultural and Awareness Event	1 day	£250	20 January 2009
Curley Rural Community Association	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	4 months	£1,830	19 January 2009
Curlough Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	4 months	£2,025	19 January 2009
Marlacoo Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	10 months	£2,940	19 January 2009
SeaPatrick Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£1,063.36	19 January 2009
Cairncastle LOL 692 Community and Cultural Group	Dance Tuition	6 months	£1,874.25	14 January 2009
Magheragall Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	6 months	£2,250	14 January 2009
Markethill Presbyterian Church		1 day	£300	13 January 2009
Dollingstown Ulster-Scots Cultural and Heritage Society	Ulster-Scots Showcase	1 day	£250	09 January 2009
Anahilt Rural Association	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	07 January 2009
Brunswick Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Percussion	5 months	£2,100	22 December 2008
Desertmartin Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	4 months	£1,200	22 December 2008
Reformed Presbyterian Church Committee on History	Exhibition/Conference	6 months	£2,500	19 December 2008
Churchill Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£1,500	16 December 2008
Dollingstown Star of the North Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	4 months	£3,030	16 December 2008

Eden Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	5 months	£1,600	16 December 2008
Drumquin Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	6 months	£1,512	15 December 2008
Dunaghy Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute	8 weeks	£1,920	15 December 2008
Dungonnell Ulster- Scots and Cultural Society	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	15 December 2008
Finnard Rural Development Association	Dance Tuition	4 months	£1,800	15 December 2008
Heart of Down Highland Dancers	Dance Tuition	6 months	£2,520	15 December 2008
Hillborough Working Together	Burns Night / Event	1 day	£250	15 December 2008
Sollus School of Highland Dance	Dance Tuition	8 months	£9,056.25	15 December 2008
William Kerr Memorial Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	5 months	£1,500	15 December 2008
Garvagh and District Development Association	Dance Tuition	9 months	£1,732.50	12 December 2008
Simpson-Grant Association	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	3 months	£1,368.75	05 December 2008
Cranfield Cultural Society	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	6 months	£1,750	02 December 2008
Drumderg Flute Band Keady	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£2,850	02 December 2008
Cullybackey Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	4 months	£3,710	26 November 2008
Hunter Moore Memorial Flute Band	Music Tuition - Fife and Drum	5 months	£3,750	26 November 2008
Belfast Burns Association	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£2,000	24 November 2008
Ulster-Scots Folk Orchestra	Language/Education Project	9 months	£29,900	24 November 2008
The Villages Together	Ulster-Scots Festival	1 month	£2,737.50	21 November 2008
Trinity College Dublin	Exhibition/Conference	1 month	£2,128	20 November 2008
Ardinariff Historical and Cultural Society	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£1,500	19 November 2008

Loughries Historical Society	Music Tuition - Fife and Drum	5 months	£2,700	19 November 2008
Rush Ulster-Scots Heritage	Music and Dance Tuition	5 months	£2,100	18 November 2008
Ulster-Scots Dance Academy	Dance Tuition	8 months	£3,150	03 November 2008
Mid-Armagh Community Network	Music and Dance Tuition	1 year	£18,545	31 October 2008
Ballydonaghy Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	5 months	£1,600	28 October 2008
Ballyrea Boyne Defenders Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	6 months	£800	28 October 2008
Crossgar Young Defenders	Music Tuition - Fife and Drum	5 months	£3,037.50	28 October 2008
Lisnamulligan Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	5 months	£3,022.50	28 October 2008
Maghera Sons of William Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£1,200	28 October 2008
North West Tongues/Tones and Tappin	Redevelopment Programme	5 months	£4,080	28 October 2008
Ailsa - Evaluation of KS3 Education Materials	Language/Education Project	9 months	£4,200	27 October 2008
Ballymoughan Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£1,200	27 October 2008
Schomberg Fife and Drum	Music Tuition - Fife and Drum	5 months	£850	27 October 2008
Tobermore Loyal Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	4 months	£1,400	27 October 2008
Lack Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	6 months	£1,500	23 October 2008
Hasleys Town Cultural Society		1 day	£250	22 October 2008
Roden Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	6 months	£2,100	13 October 2008
Newtownards Melody Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute	5 months	£2,100	12 October 2008
Burren Rural Association	Music Tuition - Lambeg and Fife	7 months	£2,100	10 October 2008
Sterritt Memorial Ulster-Scots Society and Drumming Club	Music Tuition - Lambeg Drum	3 months	£600	09 October 2008

Curran Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	6 months	£1,600	07 October 2008
Lisnamulligan Rural Association	Burns Night/Event	1 day	£250	05 October 2008
Trinity College Dublin	Exhibition/Conference	1 year	£27,264	02 October 2008
Schomberg Folk Orchestra	Music Tuition - Accordion and Percussion	5 months	£2,400	30 September 2008
Pound Bridge and District Community Association	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	5 months	£2,400	29 September 2008
Tannagh Hill Rural Development Association	Dance Tuition	6 months	£770	29 September 2008
The Relatives Association	Cultural and Awareness Event	1 month	£2,350	29 September 2008
Mountfield Ulster-Scots Association	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	6 months	£1,890	25 September 2008
Kilrea and District Ulster-Scots Society	Dance Tuition	5 months	£1,600	18 September 2008
Mountfield Ulster-Scots Association	Dance Tuition	8 months	£2,010	18 September 2008
Village Maids Highland Dance Committee	Dance Tuition	9 months	£4,123	12 September 2008
Edentiloan and District Ulster-Scots Association	Dance Tuition	8 months	£2,505	10 September 2008
Northern Light Review	Cultural and Awareness Event	1 day	£2,500	03 September 2008
Ulster-Scots Cultural Development Trust	Ulster-Scots Festival	2 weeks	£3,292	28 August 2008
Kilmacrew and District Rural Community Group	Music Tuition - Fife and Drum	5 months	£1,537.50	27 August 2008
Ballysillan Highland Dancers	Dance Tuition	9 months	£2,700	21 August 2008
Greyabbey Junior Drumming School	Music Tuition - Lambeg Drum	6 months	£580	19 August 2008
Greyabbey Junior Drumming School	Dance Tuition	8 months	£3,480	18 August 2008
Closkelt Highland Dancers	Dance Tuition	9 months	£1,950	14 August 2008



Sandholes Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	4 months	£1,672.50	12 August 2008
Bright Lights	Dance Tuition	8 months	£4,998	11 August 2008
Moorcroft Rural Community Cultural and Educational Society	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	5 months	£2,080	11 August 2008
Altnaveigh House School of Dance	Dance Tuition	9 months	£6,000	08 August 2008
Magherafelt Highland and Country Dancing	Dance Tuition	8 months	£3,715.50	06 August 2008
The Blue Thistle Highland Dancers	Dance Tuition	9 months	£2,075	06 August 2008
Newbuildings Community and Environmental Association	Ulster-Scots Festival	1 week	£19,535.50	31 July 2008
The Thompson Primary School Summer Scheme	Summer School	5 days	£820	21 July 2008
Aughnagurgan Scottish Dance Association	Dance Tuition	9 months	£3,363.75	10 July 2008
Ballymageough Rural Development Association	Music Tuition - Flute & Drum	6 months	£2,700	04 July 2008
Portaferry Accordion Band	Music Tuition - Accordion and Drum	5 months	£2,100	04 July 2008
Bready Ulster-Scots Pipe Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	7 months	£1,800	24 June 2008
Wm Strain and Wm Lightbody Memorial Flute Band	Music Tuition - Flute	6 months	£2,100	23 June 2008
Pioneer Flute Band	Music Tuition - Pipe and Drum	4 months	£1,800	11 February 2008
Roden Accordion Band	Ulster-Scots Showcase	1 day	£250	13 January 2008

### Odyssey Trust Company Limited

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in light of the £40 million being held by the Odyssey Trust Company (OTC) and the urgent expenditure needs elsewhere, if he has examined whether opportunities exist within the provisions of the Funding Agreement with OTC to the effect that when its reserve fund exceeds £10 million for a period of three months, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure can direct expenditure of any such excess.

**(AQW 3120/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Odyssey Trust Company's audited Financial Statements indicate that its Reserve Fund (which is not to be confused with cash balances held) is considerably below the £10 million threshold as detailed in Clause 9.3 of the Agreement, which states:

*"If at the expiry of any period of three consecutive months the sums standing to the credit of the Reserve Fund exceed £10 million, and have exceeded £10 million for such three months period (or such other amount as may be notified in writing by the Department to the Company after consultation with the Company,) the Company shall if the Department so decides having first committed the Company and the co-funder within such time as has been specified by the Department pay to the Department such proportion of the excess (not exceeding the Actual Grant Funded Percentage) as may be determined by the Department."*

Were the OTC's Reserve funds in excess of the stipulated £10 million to become available for distribution, my Department would only be entitled to 18.55% of this excess amount.

### **Funding for the Twelfth of July Celebrations in Belfast**

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of whether more funding should be allocated to the organisers of the Twelfth of July Celebrations in Belfast.

**(AQW 3174/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** My Department does not directly fund events such as the Twelfth of July celebrations. DCAL funding is mainly disbursed through its Arms Length Bodies.

Today's economic climate presents a very challenging climate for all cultural events, with many organisations competing for funding. Organisers are free to apply to any relevant competitive funding streams, and funding may be made available provided the organisation and event are eligible, the event/proposal fits the criteria of the given programme and the application scores well in what are generally highly competitive funding rounds.

### **Northern Ireland Events Company**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for a detailed update on the winding-up of the Northern Ireland Events Company and the conclusions of any investigations or forensic audits.

**(AQW 3199/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Executive agreed to meet the current liabilities of the Northern Ireland Events Company (NIEC), as presented to it on 22 November 2007, subject to verification by an Independent Financial Adviser, with a view to the company being wound up at the earliest opportunity.

KPMG were engaged by DCAL to carry out (inter alia) a comprehensive and authoritative audit of the financial affairs of the Company, and to carry out a comprehensive review of all the circumstances surrounding the deficit accumulated by NIEC. KPMG reported to DCAL in May 2008

A number of claims against the company have not, in the view of NIEC Solicitors, satisfactorily established their respective cases and cannot therefore be said to be verified creditors of the company.

Primary responsibility for the winding up of NIEC rests with the Board of Directors. The Executive's decision requires an orderly run down of the company's affairs to facilitate its liquidation, and that all outstanding creditors' claims are dealt with. Actual closure of the company is legally a matter for the Directors.

Company Inspectors were appointed by DETI on 17th November 2008 under Article 425 (2) of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. DETI has advised that nothing in relation to the Inspectors' ongoing investigation can be disclosed and it will give full consideration to the report's findings when it is received.

DETI has indicated that they expect the investigation to be completed in June 2012.

## October Monitoring Round

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail any financial pressures that have been identified by her Department as part of the October Monitoring Round.

**(AQW 3200/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** During October monitoring my Department did not identify any pressures, above the De Minimis level, which would warrant a formal bid to DFP for increased resources.

## Public Access Terminals

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in relation to the percentage usage of Public Access Terminals (PAT), how respondents to the Review of Library Opening Hours can accurately judge which band branch libraries should be placed in when the number of PATs installed in each branch library and their maximum annual usage are not disclosed.

**(AQW 3250/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I refer you to AQW 3059/11-15 which noted that Libraries NI have committed to publishing the number of Public Access Terminals (PATs) in each library on their website.

Libraries NI is content that the key indicators set out in the consultation documentation 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.

## October Monitoring Round

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail any easements that have been identified by her Department in the October Monitoring Round.

**(AQW 3314/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** During October monitoring my Department did not identify any easements, above the De Minimis level, which would require a notification to DFP of a reduced requirement for resources.

## Community Arts

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the funding allocated by the Arts Council to community arts projects.

**(AQO 594/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** A recent evaluation of the Arts Council's main funding programme, Annual Support of Organisations Programme (ASOP) indicates that the share to Community Arts in 2010/11 was substantial at about one quarter of the ASOP total of £10,296,097.

One of my Departmental priorities is to continue to promote social interventions including community based arts and community festivals.

## Libraries: Rural Areas

**Mr Boylan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether the review of rural libraries will be rural proofed by Libraries NI and her Department.

**(AQO 598/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Library services in rural communities are being considered within Libraries NI's ongoing Review of the libraries estate. This Review is an operational matter for Libraries NI, the Board of which includes councillors from the DUP, the SDLP, my own party and the UUP.

I am meeting with its Chief Executive tomorrow to receive a briefing on the proposals. At that meeting I will seek a final confirmation that any proposed closure decisions align with all relevant cross departmental policies and priorities - including Rural Impact Assessment.

The Rural Impact Assessment will be published as an appendix to the final Libraries NI report on the consultation process.

### **Libraries: Opening Hours**

**Mrs McKevitt** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how local communities will be involved in the consultation process on the review of opening hours for libraries.

**(AQO 599/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** In light of the recent budget settlement and the level of savings that are required the Board of Libraries NI determined, reluctantly, that it was preferable to reduce opening hours across the library network. This was a better alternative than closing a substantial number of libraries. This approach seeks to protect the network of sustainable libraries into the future and decisions could be reversed if additional funding becomes available.

The Public consultation began on 12 September with the issue of:

- a background paper,
- questionnaire, and
- draft Equality and Rural Impact Assessments

These documents are available from the Libraries NI website and are also in all libraries. A separate questionnaire is available for children.

The consultation has been widely publicised through local and regional press and radio, social media and in libraries. It has been brought to the attention of a wide range of stakeholders including those with a particular interest in issues of equality or rurality.

The consultation will end on 2 December 2011.

Once the opening hours have been agreed by Libraries NI there will be further engagement with customers in each library to establish the pattern which best meets their need.

As the consultation is currently underway and its purpose is to determine the impact of changing existing Library opening hours, it would be inappropriate for me to speculate in advance about its findings or conclusions.

I would encourage everyone to participate in the consultation.

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

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what venues are being considered for the shooting competitions in the World Police and Fire Games in 2013.

**(AQO 592/11-15)**

**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.

Five applications were received from shooting facilities, two of which met the required standards for shooting competitions and have been selected as provisional venues. They are Ballykinler Training Centre and Carnview Farms.

### **Sports Stadia: Development**

**Mr F McCann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the developments at Casement Park, Windsor Park and Ravenhill.

**(AQO 597/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Regional Stadium Development is the key capital development priority for my Department. In taking forward this major programme of capital work, DCAL has established programme and project management structures to oversee the wider strategic implementation of the Stadium Build Programme.

Sport NI has been tasked with delivering all three stadiums in conjunction with the 3 Governing Bodies. All three Governing Bodies have established Project Boards and with assistance from Sport NI, are establishing the necessary structures and securing key management and technical personnel.

The Governing Bodies have recently submitted detailed Business Plans for each of three Projects. The Business plans will confirm the timelines and milestones for completion of the Projects.

They provide information for each Project on the management arrangements during the construction phase and more critically ongoing management arrangements post construction.

Therefore good progress is being made and all three projects are on track to utilise the full public funding available within the current CSR period.

### **Libraries: Opening Hours**

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the impact that the proposed reduction in library opening hours will have on service delivery.

**(AQO 600/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** In light of the recent budget settlement and the level of savings that are required the Board of Libraries NI determined, reluctantly, that it was preferable to reduce opening hours across the library network. This was a better alternative than closing a substantial number of libraries. This approach seeks to protect the network of sustainable libraries into the future and decisions could be reversed if additional funding becomes available.

The Public consultation began on 12 September with the issue of:

- a background paper,
- questionnaire, and
- draft Equality and Rural Impact Assessments

These documents are available from the Libraries NI website and are also in all libraries. A separate questionnaire is available for children.

The consultation has been widely publicised through local and regional press and radio, social media and in libraries. It has been brought to the attention of a wide range of stakeholders including those with a particular interest in issues of equality or rurality.

The consultation will end on 2 December 2011.

Once the opening hours have been agreed by Libraries NI there will be further engagement with customers in each library to establish the pattern which best meets their need.

As the consultation is currently underway and its purpose is to determine the impact of changing existing Library opening hours, it would be inappropriate for me to speculate in advance about its findings or conclusions.

I would encourage everyone to participate in the consultation.

### **2012 Olympics: Torch Relay**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure which venues are being considered as alternatives should the Olympic Torch run not go to Dublin.

**(AQO 602/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for making decisions on details of the Torch Relay, and my officials have been providing assistance with arrangements. LOCOG is undertaking discussions with relevant parties to look at the feasibility of taking the Olympic Flame on a short visit to Dublin. This would occur during a period which was originally allocated as rest time for the crew. Therefore, LOCOG is not considering an alternative venue should the visit not go ahead. If it does happen, this will similarly have no detrimental impact on the time the Torch Relay will spend in the North.

## Sports Stadia

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the impact that the reduction of £567,000 in the regional stadia budget will have on the success of the regional stadia project.

**(AQO 603/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The figure of £567k does not represent a reduction in the Stadiums Development Programme and will have no impact on the progress of the projects. My Department has re-profiled £567k of the £1000K allocated to Regional Stadium Development from 2011/12, to 2014/15. My Department plans to manage this from as yet unallocated Departmental Capital of £3.625m 2014/15. The £110m budget for CSR 2010 is therefore still required.

## Department of Education

### Ministerial Drivers

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Education (i) when his Ministerial Driver first took up employment as a driver for Executive Ministers; (ii) the total amount of expenses and other related payments claimed by his driver since May 2011; and (iii) whether his driver was a civil service appointment or a political party appointment.

**(AQW 2406/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education):

- (i) My Department has no involvement with the employment arrangements for the Driver.
- (ii) The Driver has not submitted any claims for expenses or other related payments to the Department; and
- (iii) The Driver is not a civil service employee.

### Post-Primary Review Team in the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Education to detail the current (i) annual salary costs; and (ii) length of contract for the Post-Primary Review Team in the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools.

**(AQW 2413/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The annual salary costs of the Post Primary Review Team in the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) was £464,000 in 2010/11.

The original contracts were fixed from April 2005 – March 2008. Thereafter they were extended annually, due to ESA.

### Schools Estate

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the total value of the Schools Estate, broken down by (a) sector; and (b) Education and Library Board area.

**(AQW 2901/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:**

- (i) It has not been possible within the timeframe or within reasonable cost to secure all the information requested as it would have had to be sourced from individual schools in the non controlled sectors. Information is available for the controlled estate and this is set out in the table below.

Education and Library Board	Value of the estate (£k)
SEELB	441,664
SELB	283,792
NEELB	446,137
WELB	206,179
BELB	319,168
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,696,940</b>

Please note that the most recent figures relate only to the school buildings and land for which the controlled estate is responsible.

- (ii) Information on the controlled estate for the total value of school property (i) in use; and (ii) not in use is set out below.

Education and Library Board	Value of school property – in use (£k)	Value of school property – not in use (£k)
SEELB	425,738	15,926
SELB	283,045	747
NEELB	442,945	3,192
WELB	204,636	1,543
BELB	311,931	7,237
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,668,295</b>	<b>28,645</b>

The most recent assessment of the value of the school buildings for the controlled estate is set out in the table below.

Education and Library Board	Value of the school buildings (£k)
SEELB	222,843
SELB	158,699
NEELB	210,650
WELB	123,059
BELB	178,853
<b>Total</b>	<b>894,104</b>

## Teaching Foreign Languages in Primary Schools

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education what steps he is taking to increase teaching foreign languages in primary schools.

**(AQW 2935/11-15)**

**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 Languages 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 and has been very successful. As at 30 June 2011, 416 schools were participating in the programme involving over 27,000 pupils each week.

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

### Value of School Property

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Education to detail the total value of school property (i) in use; and (ii) not in use.

**(AQW 2941/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:**

- (ii) It has not been possible within the timeframe or within reasonable cost to secure all the information requested as it would have had to be sourced from individual schools in the non controlled sectors. Information is available for the controlled estate and this is set out in the table below.

Education and Library Board	Value of the estate (£k)
SEELB	441,664
SELB	283,792
NEELB	446,137
WELB	206,179
BELB	319,168
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,696,940</b>

Please note that the most recent figures relate only to the school buildings and land for which the controlled estate is responsible.

- (iv) Information on the controlled estate for the total value of school property (i) in use; and (ii) not in use is set out below.

Education and Library Board	Value of school property – in use (£k)	Value of school property – not in use (£k)
SEELB	425,738	15,926
SELB	283,045	747
NEELB	442,945	3,192
WELB	204,636	1,543
BELB	311,931	7,237
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,668,295</b>	<b>28,645</b>



- (v) The most recent assessment of the value of the school buildings for the controlled estate is set out in the table below.

Education and Library Board	Value of the school buildings (£k)
SEELB	222,843
SELB	158,699
NEELB	210,650
WELB	123,059
BELB	178,853
<b>Total</b>	<b>894,104</b>

### Value of School Buildings

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the value of school buildings.  
(AQW 3001/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:**

- (iii) It has not been possible within the timeframe or within reasonable cost to secure all the information requested as it would have had to be sourced from individual schools in the non controlled sectors. Information is available for the controlled estate and this is set out in the table below.

Education and Library Board	Value of the estate (£k)
SEELB	441,664
SELB	283,792
NEELB	446,137
WELB	206,179
BELB	319,168
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,696,940</b>

Please note that the most recent figures relate only to the school buildings and land for which the controlled estate is responsible.

- (vi) Information on the controlled estate for the total value of school property (i) in use; and (ii) not in use is set out below.

Education and Library Board	Value of school property – in use (£k)	Value of school property – not in use (£k)
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WELB	204,636	1,543
BELB	311,931	7,237
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,668,295</b>	<b>28,645</b>

- (vii) The most recent assessment of the value of the school buildings for the controlled estate is set out in the table below.

Education and Library Board	Value of the school buildings (£k)
SEELB	222,843
SELB	158,699
NEELB	210,650
WELB	123,059
BELB	178,853
<b>Total</b>	<b>894,104</b>

## School Inspections

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Education (i) what consideration his Department has given to the recent announcement by Ofsted that school inspectors will put more emphasis on reading standards and that the inspectorate's new regime for primary and secondary schools will introduce a more 'proportionate' approach to inspection; and (ii) in light of potential school closures, for his assessment of whether this approach should be implemented.

**(AQW 3004/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd:

- (i) All inspections in our schools are conducted by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) and all inspection reports include an evaluation of standards in literacy and numeracy. The inspection approach employed in the majority of inspections in the primary sector already involves a detailed consideration of the teaching of reading at each key stage.
- (ii) In his report for 2008-2010, the then Chief Inspector stated that ETI would:

'increasingly move to a proportionate and risk-based strategy which recognises the increasing capacity of organisations to evaluate and to improve the quality of their provision'.

I endorse this approach with its emphasis on empowering schools and am content that it takes due account of my policy for Sustainable Schools.

## Ofsted Report on Federated Schools

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Education, given the importance of good leadership in schools (i) what consideration he has given to the recent Ofsted report on federated schools; and (ii) for his assessment of (a) whether the approach outlined in the report could be implemented here; and (b) whether it could be adapted to promote an integrated approach.

**(AQW 3007/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department has noted with interest the results of the recent Ofsted survey of schools in England which operate a federation system whereby school leadership arrangements are shared. Ofsted notes that school leaders gave three main reasons for forming federations. Some had been approached by their local authority to help a school that was struggling. Others were small schools in danger of closure or unable to recruit high quality staff. A further group was seeking to strengthen the overall education of pupils in their community. In short, the report provides further evidence of the central importance of strong and effective leadership in making every school a good school.

Following my statement to the Assembly on 26 September I have commissioned the Education and Library Boards, working with CCMS, to conduct an immediate audit of all our schools to ensure they are viable financially and educationally. I have also asked them to undertake a larger piece of work to set out plans for a sustainable pattern of schools across each Board area. I look forward to receiving the

results of these exercises and I will consider carefully any options that are put to me. My concern is for the quality of education provided to our young people rather than for the preservation of unsustainable schools.

### Redburn Primary School, Hollywood

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of school places currently filled at Redburn Primary School, Hollywood.

**(AQW 3063/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** There were 76 pupils at Redburn Primary School at the time of the 2010/11 school census. Figures for 2011/12 are currently being collected from schools and validated enrolment figures should be available in December 2011.

### School Closures

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education which schools in the North Down area are currently under consideration for closure by the South Eastern Education and Library Board.

**(AQW 3064/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** There are currently no development proposals with the Department for the closure of schools in the North Down area however the South Eastern Education and Library Board has indicated that it is currently assessing the future status of Redburn Primary School.

### Religious Breakdown of Children Attending Statutory Nurseries

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Education to provide the religious breakdown of children attending all statutory nurseries.

**(AQW 3072/11-15)**

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

#### RELIGIOUS BREAKDOWN OF PUPILS IN STATUTORY NURSERY SCHOOLS AND UNITS, 2010/11

Year	Protestant	Catholic	Others	Total enrolment
Nursery schools	2,231	2,703	972	5,906
Nursery units in primary schools	2,542	4,210	1,750	8,502
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,773</b>	<b>6,913</b>	<b>2,722</b>	<b>14,408</b>

**Source:** NI school census.

**Note:** 'Others' includes 'other Christian', 'non-Christian' and 'no religion/religion not known'.

### Statutory Integrated Nursery Units

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of statutory integrated nursery units; and (ii) the figure as a percentage of all integrated pre-school provision.

**(AQW 3076/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** There were 17 nursery units in controlled integrated and grant maintained integrated primary schools in 2010/11, with some 498 pupils attending these units. There were no controlled integrated or grant maintained integrated nursery schools.

Voluntary and private preschool centres are not classified under management type in the same way as primary or nursery schools. Their management type classifies them only as 'voluntary', 'private' or 'other' preschool centres, though they may be attended by children from across the community. It

is therefore not possible to quantify the percentage of statutory integrated nursery units against all integrated pre-school provision.

### Connor House Preparatory School Pupils

**Mr Cree** asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost of relocating former Connor House Preparatory School pupils to other schools in the Bangor area.

**(AQW 3078/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** In July 2011, I approved a development proposal to close Connor House Preparatory School from 31 August 2011. Enrolments at the school had declined to 85 pupils in September 2010 and further declined throughout the academic year to 21 pupils by June 2011.

Of the 85 pupils attending Connor House in September 2010, 19 Year 7 pupils have transferred to post-primary education in September 2011. As it is for parents/guardians to decide which school they wished to send their child to, it is not possible to detail the total cost of transferring the remaining 66 pupils from Connor House to other primary schools. Some parents/guardians may have chosen to send their child to a primary school, whilst others may have chosen another preparatory department. The level of funding, and therefore cost, is not the same in each case and to source this information would incur disproportionate costs.

### Nursery Places in the North Down Borough Council Area

**Mr Cree** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of nursery places in the North Down Borough Council area compared to other council areas.

**(AQW 3079/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information requested is as follows.

#### APPROVED PLACES IN NURSERY SCHOOLS AND UNITS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT 2011/12

Local Government District	Full-time places	Part-time places	Total places
Antrim	26	442	468
Ards	156	286	442
Armagh	260	130	390
Ballymena	78	338	416
Ballymoney	52	172	224
Banbridge	260	52	312
Belfast	2,678	156	2,834
Carrickfergus	78	234	312
Castlereagh	286	312	598
Coleraine	130	182	312
Cookstown	182	0	182
Craigavon	988	78	1,066
Derry	962	338	1,300
Down	182	234	416
Dungannon	286	0	286
Fermanagh	78	286	364

Local Government District	Full-time places	Part-time places	Total places
Larne	104	130	234
Limavady	78	104	182
Lisburn	624	416	1,040
Magherafelt	26	182	208
Moyle	52	104	156
Newry & Mourne	494	260	754
Newtownabbey	286	468	754
North Down	104	364	468
Omagh	104	286	390
Strabane	234	130	364
Ni Total	8,788	5,684	14,472

## Relationship and Sexuality Education Strategy

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Education what consideration his Department has given to introducing a standardised relationship and sexuality education strategy for all schools to ensure that all pupils have equal access to support materials on relationships and sexuality.

**(AQW 3115/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department of Education's Circular 2001/15 requires each school to have in place its own policy on how it will address the delivery of Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE). This policy should be subject to consultation with parents and should be endorsed by its Board of Governors.

The Department does not, however, prescribe the resources or programmes that schools should use in their delivery of RSE or any other any element of the curriculum – it leaves it to individual schools to choose those that best match their needs, ethos and values, and are appropriate to the maturity and level of understanding of their pupils. In the case of RSE, schools are assisted by guidance from CCEA which lists the resources available. This is in keeping with the increased flexibility provided by the introduction of the Revised Curriculum.

## Funding

**Mr Lunn** asked the Minister of Education how much funding has been allocated to (i) the Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education; (ii) the Education and Library Boards; (iii) the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education; and (iv) Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta in each of the last four years.

**(AQW 3146/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:**

- (i) Funding allocated to the Commission for Catholic Education (NICCE) for each of the last four years:

To date, my Department has not provided any funding to the NICCE

- (ii) Funding allocated to the Education and Library Boards for each of the last four years is as follows:

	<b>2007/08 £000's</b>	<b>2008/09 £000's</b>	<b>2009/10 £000's</b>	<b>2010/11 £000's</b>
Recurrent Funding (Schools & Youth)	1,390,522	1,423,645	1,453,300	1,522,103
Capital Funding (Schools & Youth)	79,736	105,573	150,780	106,203
Total Funding	1,470,258	1,529,218	1,604,080	1,628,306

(iii) Funding allocated to the Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) is as follows:

	<b>2007/08 £000's</b>	<b>2008/09 £000's</b>	<b>2009/10 £000's</b>	<b>2010/11 £000's</b>
NICIE Recurrent	597	614	649	770
NICIE Capital	0	1,700	5,500	1,100
Total Funding	597	2,314	6,149	1,870

(iv) Funding allocated to Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta for each of the last four years is as follows:

	<b>2007/2008 £000's</b>	<b>2008/2009 £000's</b>	<b>2009/2010 £000's</b>	<b>2010/2011 £000's</b>
CnaG Recurrent	591	635	631	655

## Home to School Transport Policy

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of (i) private bus companies; and (ii) private hire taxis contracted as part of the Home to School Transport Policy which are no longer used by his Department as a result of (a) targeted; and (b) random inspections.

**(AQW 3148/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: The numbers of private bus companies and private hire taxis no longer used by the Education and Library Boards as a result of random and targeted checks, for the period 2008/09-2010/11, are detailed in the following table.

	<b>Private Bus</b>	<b>Private Bus</b>	<b>Private taxi</b>	<b>Private taxi</b>
<b>Board</b>	<b>Random</b>	<b>Targeted</b>	<b>Random</b>	<b>Targeted</b>
Belfast	0	0	0	0
North Eastern	0	0	1	0
South Eastern	0	0	0	0
Southern	1	1	2	3
Western	0	0	0	0

## Western Education and Library Board: Staff

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 2505/11-15, to provide a breakdown of the religious background of the combined staff complement in the Legal Section, Development Section and the Drawing Office in the Western Education and Library Board.

**(AQW 3159/11-15)**

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

### **New Builds for Springhill Primary School and Glenwood Primary School**

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of Education when a decision will be made on the new builds for Springhill Primary School and Glenwood Primary School, Belfast.

**(AQW 3177/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I have commissioned the 5 Education and Library Boards, working in close conjunction with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and the other sectors, to undertake viability audits of all schools focusing on sustainable enrolment levels, delivery of the quality of education and financial viability. I have also commissioned the Boards working with CCMS and the other sectors, to co-ordinate a strategic exercise based on each Board area to shape the future pattern of education delivery. The viability audits will support the development of a detailed area profile based on current and relevant educational information which will be an essential part of the area planning process.

In any area potential projects, such as those for Springhill Primary School and Glenwood Primary School, 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 and the outcomes determined I will not make decisions regarding specific projects.

### **Scout Association, Boy's Brigade, Girl's Brigade and Guiding Ulster**

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of whether his Department could give greater recognition and resources to the Scout Association, Boy's Brigade, Girl's Brigade and Guiding Ulster, given that they continue to provide an excellent service to young people.

**(AQW 3178/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Uniformed youth organisations such as the Scout Association, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade and Guiding Ulster are recognised for the valuable youth work they undertake, and are represented on the DE Priorities for Youth Stakeholder group.

My Department does not directly fund youth service organisations. Funding for Regional Voluntary Headquarter Youth Organisations including the uniformed sector is a matter for the Youth Council, while Education and Library Boards provide funding for eligible individual units and clubs at a local level. Decisions on the level of funding are based on an assessment of need, the availability of resources and the criteria in published funding schemes.

The four organisations mentioned currently receive local and regional Youth Service funding. In addition, Education and Library Boards provide registered youth groups with resources and assistance in the form of access to premises, equipment, training, advice and support, divisional transport and subsidised access to outdoor centres.

### **Hosting Evening Classes in Schools**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of (i) primary schools; and (ii) post-primary schools that have hosted evening classes on their premises with (a) Further Education Colleges and Higher Education institutes; and (b) private education providers in each of the last three years, broken down by Education and Library Board area.

**(AQW 3180/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information requested is not held by my Department, and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

## Cost of Hosting Evening Classes in Schools

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Education to provide a breakdown of the (i) care-taking (ii) heating; and (iii) electricity costs that have been charged by primary and post-primary schools to education providers for hosting evening classes on their premises in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 3181/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information requested is not held by my Department, and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

## October Monitoring Round

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail any financial pressures that have been identified by his Department in the October Monitoring Round.

**(AQW 3185/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The October Monitoring Round has identified pressures for my Department's resource budget totalling £21.7 million, comprising £16.3 million for Schools Maintenance, £3.7 million arising as a result of increasing utility costs across the education sector and £1.7 million relating to the Integrated Services for Children and Young People project. I have submitted bids for these amounts to the Department of Finance and Personnel in the October Monitoring Round.

## Contract Lease iPads

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Education to detail the (i) number; and (ii) names of post-primary schools that have encouraged parents to contract lease iPads, at a cost of £170 per year for three years, to assist their children with their school work.

**(AQW 3186/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department does not require or record information on the number of schools utilising systems outside of the C2k service. Schools can supplement the service provided by C2k and how they do so is a matter for each school.

C2k provides a managed ICT service to all grant-aided schools in the north of Ireland. The managed service provides schools with:

- Local Area Networking (LAN), including PCs and laptops, in every school.
- Wide Area Networking (WAN) which provides e-mail and secure access to the Internet, to which schools have a broadband connection.
- Licensing of curricular and management software in schools and on the WAN (inc SIMS, Microsoft licences).
- Data warehousing services (eSchools).

Schools that make use of ICT systems outside the C2k service have a responsibility to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to ensure the safety of their pupils. A school's policies in relation to internet safety and the use of systems outside the C2k service should be approved by the school's Board of Governors, who should take account of all relevant guidance, including that relating to internet safety and safeguarding. The Department's Circular 2011/22, issued to all schools last month, provides schools with guidance on the safe use of the internet and digital technologies in schools.

## Unfilled School Places

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of unfilled school places in each sector, broken down by (i) primary school; and (ii) post-primary school.

**(AQW 3198/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The number of unfilled places in schools is derived from the difference between a school's approved enrolment number and the number of pupils enrolled at the school. In relation to this question, this calculation is made using data from the 2010/11 academic year, the latest year



for which enrolment statistics are presently available. Figures for the 2011/12 academic year will be derived from the 2011/12 school census data which will not be available until December 2011. According to this calculation and using this data, there were 66,705 unfilled places in primary schools and 17,781 in post-primary schools distributed across sectors as follows:-

<b>2010-11</b>	<b>Controlled (Note a)</b>	<b>Maintained</b>	<b>Irish Medium</b>	<b>Vol Grammar</b>	<b>Integrated (Note b)</b>
Primary Unfilled Places	30,735	33,354	797	N/A	1,819
Post-Primary Unfilled Places	7,363	8,960	48	635	775
<b>TOTAL Unfilled Places</b>	<b>38,098</b>	<b>42,314</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>2,594</b>

**Notes:**

- (a) Controlled post-primary numbers include controlled grammar schools
- (b) Integrated schools numbers include controlled integrated schools

Pupils in primary and post-primary schools who are in receipt of a statement of special educational needs, or who were (in the last year) admitted on appeal by the Education and Library Board appeal tribunals or by direction of the independent Exceptional Circumstances Body, are “supernumerary”. In the context of the data above this means they are not counted within the number of occupied places within a school. In 2010/11 there were 4,409 pupils in mainstream primary and 5,090 in mainstream post-primary schools with a statement of special educational needs, and 119 further supernumerary pupils (7 primary and 112 post-primary) who were admitted on appeal by the Education and Library Board appeal tribunals or (post-primary schools only) by direction of the independent Exceptional Circumstances Body.

## **Invest to Save Initiative**

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Education to detail the level of funding set aside for the Invest to Save initiative in the (i) 2011/12; (ii) 2012/13; and (iii) 2013/14 financial years.

**(AQW 3204/11-15)**

**Mr O’Dowd:** The outcome of Budget 2011-15 has resulted in the following funds being allocated to the Department of Education under the Invest to Save initiative:-

- (i) 2011/12 - £10 million
- (ii) 2012/13 - £10 million
- (iii) 2013/14 - £0

## **Enhanced Redundancy Package for Education and Library Boards**

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Education to detail the level of funding allocated for the enhanced redundancy package for each Education and Library Board in the (i) 2011/12; (ii) 2012/13; and (iii) 2013/14 financial years.

**(AQW 3207/11-15)**

**Mr O’Dowd:** In order to deliver the efficiencies identified in my Savings Delivery Plan, £49.9 million has been set aside to support the Voluntary Severance Programme in 2011/12. This will facilitate a further streamlining of the central management and administrative cohort in the Arms Length Bodies as well as any proposals regarding teaching and non teaching staff based in schools. Further resources have been set aside for future years – the indicative allocations over the years 2012/13 to 2014/15 are £55.4/£50.6/£61.3 million however these are subject to change.

The severance terms that will be available to staff will be in accordance with existing contractual entitlements, the organisation's current schemes and the relevant pension schemes.

No funding has been allocated to date to the Education and Library Boards for this process.

### **Register of Interests for Staff**

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Education whether his Department keeps a register of interests for its staff, and if so, whether it is available to the public.

**(AQW 3208/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department of Education keeps a register of interests for members of its Departmental Board and Audit and Risk Management Committee. The register is on the Department's website and can be viewed via the following link:

<http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/85-about-the-dept/85-foi-information-pg/85-foi-register-of-interests.htm>

The Department also keeps a register of interests for staff involved in paying teachers' pay and pensions, in order to safeguard payment processing. This register is not available to the public.

### **Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, Belfast**

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of Education how much capital spend has been allocated for repairs at Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, Belfast, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 3230/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** In the last three financial years the Department has approved one scheme, in 2010-11, to carry out urgent health and safety works at a cost of £60,000. I am informed that in relation to the school there remain a number of priority works proposals and that these are currently under consideration.

### **Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, Belfast**

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of Education whether he has plans for further capital spend at Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, Belfast.

**(AQW 3231/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I have been informed that a number of applications for minor works at Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin are currently being assessed. These will be considered alongside other applications and within the financial resources available at this time.

### **Unfilled Year 8 School Places**

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of unfilled Year 8 school places, this term, in the South Antrim area, broken down by each sector.

**(AQW 3232/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information sought will be derived in part from the 2011/12 school census data which is not currently available. The 2011/12 census data is currently being collected and validated and should be available in December 2011.

### **Pupils Expelled from Schools in the South Antrim Area**

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister of Education how many pupils have been expelled from schools in the South Antrim area in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 3233/11-15)**

**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 South Antrim area.

The available data on pupil expulsions broken down by Education and Library Board area is provided in the table below:

Education and Library Board Area	Number of pupils expelled by School Year				
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Belfast	7	6	*	5	6
North Eastern	16	15	*	14	*
South Eastern	7	5	9	*	*
Southern	16	7	6	#	*
Western	8	12	*	7	*
Total	54	45	25	36	22

**Notes:**

Figures include pupils undertaking Key Stage 1-4 in primary and post-primary schools.

\* denotes figures less than 5.

# denotes a figure which has been treated to prevent disclosure of small numbers elsewhere.

It is expected that the data for the 2010/11 school year may be published by the end of October.

## Unfilled School Places

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of unfilled school places at present in each primary school in the South Antrim area.

**(AQW 3234/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information sought will be derived in part from the 2011/12 school census data which is not currently available. The 2011/12 census data is currently being collected and validated and should be available in December 2011.

## Discussions With the South Eastern Education and Library Board

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister of Education (i) what discussions he has had with the South Eastern Education and Library Board since taking office; and (ii) whether the Board has informed him about decisions to close schools within the area.

**(AQW 3237/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Since taking up office I have had one meeting with the South Eastern Education and Library Board.

Any significant change proposed to a school is subject to the statutory Development Proposal process. I can confirm that my Department has not received any recent formal Development Proposals from the South Eastern Education and Library Board regarding potential school closures within its area.

## Equality Impact Assessments

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education what the cost to his Department was in the 2010/11 financial year for carrying out Equality Impact Assessments.

**(AQW 3260/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Once a policy is screened and screening has identified that an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) is necessary it is carried out in accordance with Equality Commission guidance.

The Department does not hold information on the costs of EQIAs, and could not readily disaggregate them.

### **iPads at Post-Primary Schools**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of whether the (i) use; or (ii) non-use of iPads at post-primary schools will impact on GCSE courses.

**(AQW 3267/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** C2k provides a managed ICT service to all grant-aided schools in the north of Ireland. Schools can supplement the service provided by C2k and how they do so is a matter for each school.

Individual post-primary schools determine how pupils are prepared for GCSE and other relevant examinations. As part of this preparation, schools are free to decide on the relevance of using iPads or any other resource (electronic or otherwise).

### **Sentinus Programme**

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of children with special educational needs who were successful in securing a place on the Sentinus Programme in the Belfast Education and Library Board area; and (ii) his Department's guidelines for teachers engaged in selecting candidates for the programme, including what consideration was given to applicants with special educational needs.

**(AQW 3271/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department does not hold details of the number of children with special educational needs who were successful in securing places on Sentinus Programmes in the Belfast Education and Library Board area. The Department has no involvement in this process and the selection of pupils to represent participating schools is entirely a matter for schools to determine.

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

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Education (i) how budget cuts will affect the achievements of targets set out in the policy proposals 'Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion'; and (ii) what account will be taken of this impact.

**(AQW 3278/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The consultation document 'Every School a Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion' outlined a number of policy proposals for consideration, and as such, no specific targets were set. Additional funding has been secured to develop the proposals during the course of the review and to provide for capacity building in all schools and pre-school settings.

One of the aims of the review is to enable schools and the education and library boards to make more efficient use of the special educational needs annual budget of some £205 million. It is envisaged that policy changes emanating from the review will help to maintain and improve provision within the budget available.

### **Unfilled Year 1 School Places**

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of unfilled Year 1 school places, this term, in the South Antrim area, broken down by sector.

**(AQW 3289/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information sought will be derived in part from the 2011/12 school census data which is not currently available. The 2011/12 census data is currently being collected and validated and should be available in December 2011.

## Computer Science

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister of Education for his Department's assessment of whether Computer Science cannot be taught by non-specialist teacher.

**(AQW 3308/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** A teacher holding a recognised teaching qualification and who is registered with the General Teaching Council is eligible to teach in any grant-aided school here. The responsibility for the deployment of teachers rests with the Boards of Governors of individual schools. However, my Department has advised schools that they should ensure that all teachers are suitably trained for the required phase and subject to be taught.

The Department does not decide on the pedagogy or the delivery of any particular subject in the curriculum. The revised curriculum is less prescriptive than before which gives schools the flexibility to deliver the curriculum in the best way that meets the needs of their pupils.

## Computer Science

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister of Education for his Department's assessment of whether Computer Science subject experts should be included in decisions on the subject's delivery.

**(AQW 3309/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The revised curriculum, which was recently introduced in all grant aided schools here, is less prescriptive than before which gives teachers and schools the flexibility to deliver the curriculum in the best way that meets the needs of the pupils in their classroom. The Department does not decide on the pedagogy or the delivery of any particular subject in the curriculum. Rather schools/teachers use their professional judgement to decide what resources, materials and text books they use and receive training and support in this by the Education and Library Boards' Curriculum Advisory Support Service (CASS) and the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI).

## Software and Systems Development Subject

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister of Education what consideration his Department has given to offering a comparable GCSE to the 'A' Level Software and Systems Development subject.

**(AQW 3311/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Using funding provided by my Department, CCEA is currently in the process of enhancing its suite of Applied Qualifications in order to help schools meet the assessment needs of the Entitlement Framework.

Following a desktop research exercise and subsequent consultation 11 new qualifications were selected for development. The qualifications include 5 A Levels, 2 GCSEs and 4 Vocational qualifications. An A Level in Software and Systems Development is currently being developed for first teaching in September 2013.

The research and consultation phase of this project did not indicate a requirement for a GCSE in Software and Systems Development.

## October Monitoring Round

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail any easements that have been identified by his Department in the October Monitoring Round.

**(AQW 3323/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department have identified no easements in the October Monitoring Round.

## Strategy Framework for the Education of School Age Mothers (1997)

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Education to detail the funding that has been allocated to achieving the objective of providing support to pregnant or parenting teenagers of compulsory school age, and to actioning the eight action points outlined in the Strategy Framework for the Education of School Age Mothers (1997).

**(AQW 3340/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Funding is provided to the School Age Mothers (SAM) programme to support pregnant or parenting teenagers of compulsory school age to complete their education. The amount of funding each year varies depending upon the number of young women requiring support and the type of support they need. During 2010-11 funding for the School Age Mothers Programme was £771,000 and in 2011-12 £822,000 has been earmarked for this purpose.

An Education Welfare Officer acting in the role of local co-ordinator has a remit for SAM provision in each Education and Library Board area and oversight and regional co-ordination is provided by the Deputy Chief Education Welfare Officers.

The action points of the strategy framework have been built into the current SAM programme. Guidance documentation for the young women, schools and child care providers is currently being updated and shall shortly be made available on the DE website.

## Computer Science

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister of Education whether he intends to meet with representatives of Computing at School to discuss concerns about the teaching of Computer Science.

**(AQW 3344/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Currently I have not received any request to meet with representatives of Computing at School. Should they wish to write to me with any concerns about the teaching of Computer Science, I will consider their request in line with other competing diary commitments.

## C2K Internet System

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Education how many schools that are currently using the C2K internet system allow access to Amber listed websites.

**(AQW 3353/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** It is a matter for trained Authorised Users in Post-Primary Schools to decide whether to make Amber listed websites available to a group of users within the school to support the delivery of the curriculum.

Based on information provided by C2k, all Post Primary Schools, (including Special Schools), have allowed access to one or more Amber listed categories.

Such access is not available to Primary Schools.

## C2K Internet Filters

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of whether C2K internet filters prohibit young people who wish to access information and advice on sexual health issues; and whether this disadvantages lesbian, gay and bi-sexual young people.

**(AQW 3354/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Schools are provided with access to the Internet as part of the managed ICT service provided by C2k, and are responsible for the use made of on-line resources by their pupils. This access is fully monitored to keep pupils safe when on-line and websites are categorised in accordance with C2k's filtering policy. Websites relating to content such as sex education, abortion, pro-life, gay, lesbian,

bisexual are categorised as 'Sex Education' and as such fall into the 'Amber' group within C2k's filtering policy.

In the case of websites categorised as Amber, it is a matter for trained Authorised Users in post-primary schools to decide whether to make these available to a group of users within the school to support the delivery of the curriculum.

Each school should have in place its own written policy on how it will deliver Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE). A school's policy should be subject to consultation with parents, be endorsed by its Board of Governors, and reflect the ethos of the school. As with all aspects of the revised curriculum, delivery of RSE is a matter for individual schools, taking account of the maturity and level of understanding of their pupils. It is for schools to decide on the materials, including online resources, they wish to use to support the delivery of RSE, in accordance with their RSE policies.

### **Hollywood Primary School**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education what is the estimated cost of all the maintenance repairs required at Hollywood Primary School.

**(AQW 3389/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The current maintenance backlog figure for Hollywood Primary School drawn from the Schools' Estate Management System on 18 October 2011 is estimated at £232,269.

### **Enrolment Numbers**

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the primary schools in the East Derry area which currently have an enrolment number of less than 105 pupils; and (ii) the opportunities available for these schools to avoid closure.

**(AQW 3402/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** There are nineteen primary schools in the East Derry area that currently have an enrolment of less than 105 pupils.

**As you are aware I have commissioned a viability audit of all schools to be completed by December 2011.** The purpose of this audit is not just to arrive at a list of schools that fall short of the enrolment criteria for sustainable schools but to ensure that every school is looked at closely – looking initially at the enrolments, the quality of education provided and the financial viability projected over a number of years. **The focus is therefore not just numbers.**

I have also commissioned the Education and Library Boards, working in close conjunction with CCMS and actively engaging the other sectors to commence a process of collective area planning. Its focus will be to determine the future needs of an area across all sectors and then to compare what is needed with what already exists to identify gaps and over provision.

Once the need is determined the school managing authorities will consider how best to meet that need. The emphasis must be on a network of sustainable schools and maximise the use of the existing estate.

Until this work is complete I will not comment on any individual school or area.

### **Comprehensive Recycling Facilities**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Education to provide examples of schools which do not have comprehensive recycling facilities and the reasons why.

**(AQW 3426/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Pursuant to my answer of 17 October 2011 to AQW 2764/11-15, 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 should align with services provided in



general by Local Councils and these vary across the 26 Councils as previously detailed. It is a matter for school management how best to avail of the recycling facilities offered by their Local Council. My Department and its Education & Library Boards do not centrally monitor the uptake by schools.

There are a number of reasons why school management may decide not to avail of the recycling facilities offered by Local Councils, such as a lack of space for additional waste containers, reduced hours for caretaking staff or lack of management time for supervision. Councils that operate financial penalties for waste going to landfill and have chip and pin technology, have a significantly greater recycling uptake by schools.

### **Maintenance Repairs for Redburn Primary School, Hollywood**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education to detail the estimated cost of all the maintenance repairs for Redburn Primary School, Hollywood.

**(AQW 3486/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: The current maintenance backlog figure for Redburn Primary School drawn from the Schools' Estate Management System on 19 October 2011 is estimated at £604,405.

## **Department for Employment and Learning**

### **Meetings Between the Northern Regional College, the University of Ulster and Representatives of Industry and Commerce in the Coleraine Area**

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many meetings have been held in the past twelve months involving the Northern Regional College, the University of Ulster and representatives of industry and commerce in the Coleraine area.

**(AQW 2583/11-15)**

**Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning):** During the twelve months from 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011, there has been one Ministerial meeting with Northern Regional College, six with the University of Ulster, and three involving representatives of industry and commerce in the Coleraine area. In addition, there have been a further two meetings between the Minister and MLA colleagues specifically to discuss Northern Regional College and Magee College respectively.

It is not feasible to enumerate relevant meetings with officials due to the high number of such meetings which happen every week at a wide variety of levels within the Department.

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

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the daily rate paid by his Department to each Chairperson or Chief Executive of each of its arm's-length bodies; and how this rate was determined and approved.

**(AQW 2796/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The information requested is set out below. Where a daily rate is not available, information is provided on the salary attracted by a position. DFP has approved all remuneration listed.

Labour Relations Agency: the Chairman attracts a salary of £23,480 per annum in respect of two days per week. This salary is allied to Grade 5 in the NICS as a measure of the responsibility associated with the work. In setting the salary, reference is made to Cabinet Office guidance, informed by the outcome of deliberations by the Senior Salaries Review Body. The LRA Chief Executive receives a salary within the band £75-80k, also allied to Grade 5 in the NICS as a measure of the responsibility associated with the work. In setting the salary, reference is made to Cabinet Office guidance, informed by the outcome of deliberations by the Senior Salaries Review Body.



CITB-ConstructionSkills NI: the Chair is paid £18,662 per annum and the time commitment required is estimated at approximately 6 days per month. This rate was approved by the DEL Minister. The Chief Executive salary is within the band £60-65K. This rate was approved by DEL and DFP through the usual pay remit procedure.

Ulster Supported Employment Ltd: the daily rate paid by the Department to the Chairman of the USEL Board is £270. This rate was determined in 2010 following a review of the previous rate, implemented in 2000. This review included analysis of the level of responsibility for the role, comparison against other ALBs, and also took account of inflation rates in the intervening years. The Chief Executive salary receives an annual salary of £69,711.

Certification Officer for Northern Ireland: this postholder receives a salary of £20,318 per annum in respect of two days per week. The Certification Officer is a quasi-judicial public appointee remunerated at a pro rata amount based on the maximum of the NICS Grade 7 scale. In determining remuneration, account has been taken of the breadth, depth and complexity of the determinations that the CO has to make, as well as of the high level of individual accountability to which the CO is exposed on a personal level.

Industrial Tribunals and the Fair Employment Tribunal: the President is paid as a member of group 6.1 on the judicial pay scale, i.e. £128,296 per annum. This is set in light of recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body.

Industrial Court: the Court Chairman receives a daily rate of £468. The work is comparable to that carried out by a Deputy Chairman of the Central Arbitration Committee in Great Britain, the daily rate for which is set by reference to rates established by the Senior Salaries Review Body. Parity arrangements have been operated in Northern Ireland since the reconstitution of the Industrial Court in 2001.

### South Eastern Regional College: Course Places

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many course places were not filled last term in the South Eastern Regional College.

**(AQW 2945/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The number of unfilled places would be determined by a range of factors including maximum class size, which could vary according to the type of course being provided, and the number of learners enrolled on those courses.

However, my Department does not hold this type of data, and so is not in a position to provide the information you have requested.

### St Mary's University College

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) the number students from a non-Catholic maintained grammar school who applied to St Mary's University College in each of the last four years, and (ii) of these, how many were accepted.

**(AQW 2953/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** St. Mary's University College has provided the requested information as detailed in the attached annex.

### ANNEX A

#### ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE - APPLICATIONS 2008-2011

Year of entry	No. of Applicants from non-Catholic Grammar Schools	Did not present for Interview/ Practical test	Offers Made	Offers Accepted by Applicants
(Sept) 2008	15	2	9	4

<b>Year of entry</b>	<b>No. of Applicants from non-Catholic Grammar Schools</b>	<b>Did not present for Interview/ Practical test</b>	<b>Offers Made</b>	<b>Offers Accepted by Applicants</b>
(Sept) 2009	25	2	12	3
(Sept) 2010	23	1	4	0
(Sept) 2011	30	5	8	3

## European Social Fund

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) whether his Department is on target to access 165.7 million euros from the European Social Fund by 2013; and (ii) how he intends to allocate this funding.

**(AQW 2958/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** I can confirm that my Department is on track to meet its spending targets for the €165.7 million, allocated to the NIESF Programme across three priorities as set out in the Operational Programme for the 2007-2013 as follows:

<b>Programme priorities</b>	<b>ESF allocation</b>
Priority 1: Helping people into employment	€ 95,597,174
Priority 2: Improving workforce skills	€67,280,121
Priority 3: Technical assistance	€2,900,005
<b>Total</b>	<b>€165,777,300</b>

To date the following draw downs of funds from Europe have been made across the three priorities:

Priority 1: Helping people into employment	€18,732,513
Priority 2: Improving workforce skills	€14,512,718
Priority 3: Technical assistance	€ 63,965

In addition the Department has received €12,433,298 from the EU Commission as programme advances. In total €45,742,494 ESF has been drawn down from the Commission with a further draw down scheduled for later this year. It should also be noted that whilst the NIESF Programme period runs from 2007-2013 the eligibility period for ESF spending runs until 31/12/2015 and subsequent draw downs from the EU Commission runs until the 31/3/2017. Spending targets are set out in the operational programme which has been agreed by the Commission.

## Teaching and Non-teaching Staff

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to provide a breakdown of the religious background of current (i) teaching staff; and (ii) non-teaching staff at (a) Queen's University; (b) the University of Ulster, broken down by each campus; (c) St Mary's University College; and (d) Stranmillis University College.

**(AQW 2963/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Higher Education Institutions have provided the information attached at Annex A.

**ANNEX A****QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST****TEACHING STAFF**

<b>Religious Background</b>	<b>Number of Staff</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage Excluding Non-Determined</b>
Protestant	376	35.9	[52.4]
Catholic	342	32.7	[47.6]
Non-Determined	329	31.4	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1047</b>		

**NON-TEACHING STAFF**

<b>Religious Background</b>	<b>Number of Staff</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage Excluding Non-Determined</b>
Protestant	1071	45.4	[52.3]
Catholic	975	41.4	[47.7]
Non-Determined	311	13.2	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2357</b>		

\* Please note that it is not mandatory for staff to declare their community background when taking up employment at the University.

**STRANMILLIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE****TEACHING STAFF**

<b>Religious Background</b>	<b>Number of Staff</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage Excluding Non-Determined</b>
Protestant	37	66.1	[69.8]
Catholic	16	28.6	[30.2]
Non-Determined	3	5.4	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>		

**NON-TEACHING STAFF**

<b>Religious Background</b>	<b>Number of Staff</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage Excluding Non-Determined</b>
Protestant	97	62.6	[67.4]
Catholic	47	30.3	[32.6]
Non-Determined	11	7.1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>		

\*Staffing figures as at 10 October 2011 (Please note casual staff are also included in these figures).

**UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER****ACADEMIC\* STAFF EMPLOYED AT UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2011**

Campus	Buddhist	Christian	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Other	None	Missing data	Info. Refused	Total
Belfast	0	67 60.4%	0	2 1.8%	0	6 5.4%	29 26.1%	6 5.4%	1 0.9%	111
Coleraine	0	178 58.6%	1 0.3%	2 0.7%	5 1.6%	4 1.3%	82 27.0%	32 10.5%	0	304
Jordanstown	4 0.8%	352 71.4%	5 1.0%	2 0.4%	4 0.8%	8 1.6%	89 18.1%	29 5.9%	0	493
Magee	1 0.6%	125 70.2%	3 1.7%	0	1 0.6%	1 0.6%	33 18.5%	14 7.8%	0	178
Total	5 0.4%	722 66.5%	9 0.8%	6 0.6%	10 0.9%	19 1.7%	233 21.5%	81 7.5%	1 0.1%	1086

\*Academic staff includes all teaching staff and Part-time Lecturers, Heads of School, Deans, PVCs and VC.

**NON-ACADEMIC STAFF EMPLOYED AT UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2011**

Campus	Buddhist	Christian	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Other	None	Missing data	Info. Refused	Total
Belfast	0	96 70.6%	1 0.7%	0	0	0	22 16.2%	17 12.5%	0	136
Coleraine	3 0.4%	564 75.8%	1 0.1%	0	2 0.3%	3 0.4%	114 15.3%	56 7.5%	1 0.1%	744
Jordanstown	1 0.1%	627 75.9%	5 0.6%	0	0	2 0.2%	122 14.8%	69 8.4%	0	826
Magee	1 0.3%	233 77.7%	4 1.3%	0	3 1.0%	3 1.0%	32 10.7%	24 8.0%	0	300
Total	5 0.2%	1520 75.8%	11 0.5%	0	5 0.2%	8 0.4%	290 14.5%	166 8.3%	1 0.1%	2006

**OVERALL WORKFORCE AT UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2011**

<b>Campus</b>	<b>Buddhist</b>	<b>Christian</b>	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Muslim</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Missing data</b>	<b>Info. Refused</b>	<b>Total</b>
Belfast	0	163 66.0%	1 0.4%	2 0.8%	0	6 2.4%	51 20.7%	23 9.3%	1 0.4%	247
Coleraine	3 0.3%	742 70.8%	2 0.2%	2 0.2%	7 0.7%	7 0.7%	196 18.7%	88 8.4%	1 0.1%	1048
Jordanstown	5 0.4%	979 74.2%	10 0.8%	2 0.1%	4 0.3%	10 0.8%	211 16.0%	98 7.4%	0	1319
Magee	2 0.4%	358 74.9%	7 1.5%	0	4 0.8%	4 0.8%	65 13.6%	38 8.0%	0	478
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 0.3%</b>	<b>2242 72.5%</b>	<b>20 0.6%</b>	<b>6 0.2%</b>	<b>15 0.5%</b>	<b>27 0.9%</b>	<b>523 16.9%</b>	<b>247 8.0%</b>	<b>2 0.1%</b>	<b>3092</b>

**ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

<b>Staff Group</b>	<b>Catholic</b>	<b>Protestant</b>	<b>Neither Catholic or Protestant</b>
Academic	48	3	4
Non-Academic	78	9	2
Total	126	12	6
Percentage	87.5%	8.3%	4.2%

**Proposed Merger of Queen's University and Stranmillis University College**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the costs incurred to date by (i) his Department; (ii) Queen's University, Belfast; and (iii) Stranmillis University College, Belfast in relation to the proposed merger of Queen's University and Stranmillis University College.

**(AQW 2998/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:**

- (i) To date, my Department has incurred costs of £4,066 in relation to the proposed merger of Queen's University and Stranmillis University College.
- (ii) Queen's University Belfast has advised that, to date, it has incurred costs of £154,568 in relation to the proposed merger.
- (iii) Stranmillis University College has advised that, to date, it has incurred costs of £178,620 in relation to the proposed merger.

**Boards of Governors for Universities or Regional Colleges**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what plans he has to allow members of the clergy to sit on the Boards of Governors for universities or regional colleges .

**(AQW 2999/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Both Northern Ireland universities are autonomous bodies established by Royal Charter. The make up of their governing bodies is set out in the universities' Statutes as approved by the Privy Council. I have no role in the appointment of members to the governing body of either university.

Members of the clergy are currently eligible to apply for membership of a further education college governing body through open public competition. They may also be appointed through co-option by the governing body or nomination by an Education and Library Board.

**St Mary's University College, Belfast**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 2281/11-15 and in light of the funding provided by his Department, for his assessment of whether Protestants are appropriately represented in the workforce of St Mary's University College, Belfast.

**(AQW 3006/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** St. Mary's University College is an Equal Opportunities Employer and recognises that those with a Protestant background are underrepresented amongst its staff. The College has a Religious Affirmative Action Plan in place that is reviewed on a three-yearly basis in collaboration with the Equality Commission.

The College also actively promotes the recruitment of Protestant staff. In the employment opportunities section of its website, St Mary's declares that it "is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

As Protestants are currently underrepresented among the staff, applications from this section of the community would be particularly welcome.”

### **Stranmillis University College: Staff**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many Catholics are currently employed at Stranmillis University College, Belfast; and what proportion of the workforce this represents.

**(AQW 3042/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Stranmillis University College has advised that it currently employs 63 staff with a Catholic background, which represents 29.9% of the workforce.

### **Queens University Staff**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many staff from (i) a Catholic background; and (ii) a Protestant background are currently employed at Queens University, Belfast; and what each figure represents as a proportion of the workforce.

**(AQW 3044/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Queen's University Belfast has advised that it is not mandatory for staff to declare their community background when taking up employment at the University. For those that have declared their religious background, Queen's University has stated that it currently employs (i) 1317 staff from a Catholic background and (ii) 1447 staff from a Protestant background. This is in addition to 640 non-determined staff, giving a total of 3404 staff employed. Therefore, those that have declared a Catholic background represent 38.7% of the total workforce and those that have declared a Protestant background represent 42.5%, with the remaining 18.8% of the workforce being non-determined staff.

## **Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

### **Fuel Costs**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what her Department can do to help reduce fuel costs for users.

**(AQW 2714/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment):** My Department does not have a direct role in the setting of electricity and gas tariffs. The recent energy price increases by Power NI, Phoenix Supply in Greater Belfast, and firmus energy in their “10 Towns” gas licensed area outside Belfast, have been subject to rigorous review by the Utility Regulator and are largely due to cost increases in wholesale energy markets.

However, my Department does work with the Utility Regulator to create market conditions which operate to put downward pressure on energy prices, through promoting effective competition, enhancing interconnection, and improving market integration with other regions.

To help reduce their energy bills, consumers should avail of discounts offered by energy companies for different payment options, and consider if pre-payment meters can help with budgeting for their energy needs. In addition, consumers can obtain energy efficiency advice to reduce their energy costs from a range of sources, including the Energy Saving Trust (for domestic and small business customers), Invest NI (for larger businesses), and the respective energy supply companies.

I recently launched a new sustainable energy campaign - “Energy Wise” which includes television adverts to highlight changes which consumers can make to save money on energy costs such as insulating lofts, using energy saving light bulbs, and switching off appliances when not in use.

Coal, home heating oil, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and road fuels all operate within a more mature and competitive market and are not subject to formal regulation. The recent Office of Fair Trading (OFT) market study into the supply of energy to consumers across the UK who are not connected to the main gas grid has reviewed if the market is working competitively for energy products including heating oil, LPG and renewable sources. I will be considering the outcome of the review when it is published shortly.

### Visits to North Antrim

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what urgent steps she intends to take to redress the failure of InvestNI to secure visits to North Antrim by potential foreign investors, given that from 2006-2010 there were no visits and only two visits in 2010-11 out of a total of 181 visits across Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 2733/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The absolute imperative of any visit programme is that it must help to demonstrate how locating in Northern Ireland can assist the visiting company to grow its business. Invest NI works closely with the company to develop a programme that showcases the Northern Ireland proposition in relation to the specific potential project.

The visiting company will generally wish to visit: existing investors in the same business sector; universities and colleges that offer courses relating to that sector; and suitable, available property. In addition, potential investors are often drawn to population centres that they consider will provide the appropriate number of suitably skilled potential employees.

An inward visit is an important part of the sales process and to enhance Northern Ireland's chances of securing the investment, Invest NI feature locations which are suitable to the company's needs.

This may mean that Parliamentary Constituency Areas (PCAs) in which these desired features do not exist are unlikely to be the focus of inward investment visits.

However, my Department, including Invest NI, works closely with councils and other stakeholders to review the features and benefits of each local area in order to maximise opportunities for economic growth.

For example, Invest NI's North Eastern Regional Office (which covers North Antrim PCA), in conjunction with colleagues in International Investment Division is currently delivering a series of presentations to each Council in the region aimed at providing information as to the types of projects that are currently considered internationally mobile, the sectors Invest NI is targeting and what possible investors are looking for in a location.

A presentation was delivered to representatives of Ballymena Borough Council and Ballymena Chamber of Commerce on 15 June 2011, while preliminary contact has been made with Ballymoney Council, and other councils in the region, to gauge interest in such a presentation.

### Visits by Potential Foreign Investors

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 1803/11-15, for her assessment of the balance across Northern Ireland of visits by potential foreign investors between 2006 and 2011; and what steps she intends to take to ensure equality of promotion and treatment.

**(AQW 2734/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Inward investment plays a large part in the economic growth of Northern Ireland and Invest NI has a very successful track record of attracting high quality investment which will benefit the whole of the region. Invest NI is building on this success by working closely with local stakeholders to maximise investment and employment opportunities in all areas.

The objective of an inward investor visit, as part of the overall sales process, is to demonstrate to the visiting company how locating in Northern Ireland will help its business to grow and thrive. Invest NI



works closely with the company to develop a programme which is driven by the specific requirements of the company and the potential project.

Whilst Invest NI does offer guidance, it must be stressed that it is the potential inward investor's decision on what it would like to see on its inward visit programme itinerary. This may be based upon a number of factors, some of which are outside my Department's immediate control, including population size and availability of skills and workforce, transport links, availability of property and the presence of existing sectoral clusters within Northern Ireland.

It should be noted that Invest NI sells Northern Ireland as a region capable of meeting the needs of a potential inward investor. It competes for FDI in a crowded marketplace and its competitors are generally larger countries. Competing at a sub-regional level would be challenging and this approach would potentially dilute the Northern Ireland proposition.

This is not to say that my Department, including Invest NI, is unaware of the challenges facing local areas in Northern Ireland and we will continue to work with local stakeholders to maximise economic growth for all areas.

### Errors in Statements or Answers

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, since May 2010, 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 her original statements or answers.

**(AQW 2748/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:**

- (i) Six.
- (ii) None.

### Jobs Created by InvestNI

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 1803/11-15, how many of the 24,612 jobs which were promoted by InvestNI between 2006 and 2011 were created, broken down by constituency; and of the jobs created, how many still exist.

**(AQW 2786/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The information requested is not readily accessible and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### InvestNI

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 1803/11-15, given that it was expected that 680 jobs would be created in North Antrim as a result of InvestNI's assistance for potential investors between 2006 and 2011, (i) how many jobs have been created; (ii) how many still exist; (iii) what assistance was offered to investors in the creation of the 680 jobs; (iv) how many potential projects were involved in the creation of the jobs; and (v) of those projects how many proceeded.

**(AQW 2788/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The information requested is not readily accessible and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### Proposed Capital Spend Projects

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

**(AQW 2794/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My department's proposed capital spending projects for this financial year, including the projected timescales and the 2011/12 costs are outlined in the table below.

Project	Timescale	2011/12 Budget £m
Invest NI Property Services	Ongoing	10.1
Invest NI ICT Line of Business	Ongoing	1.0
DETI ICT Line of Business	Ongoing	0.1

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

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment 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 2798/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Chairpersons and Chief Executives of DETI's four Arms Length Bodies (ALBs), ie, Invest NI, Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB), Health & Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland (CCNI) are not paid a daily rate.

The four Chief Executives are full time employees whereas the four Chairpersons are part-time.

The latest remuneration figures for both Chairpersons and Chief Executives and how they are set, are reported in each of the ALBs respective Annual Reports.

### Victims of Domestic Violence

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

**(AQW 2833/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment adheres to the Domestic Violence and Abuse Policy contained in the NICS Staff Handbook. This policy provides details on help and support for individuals experiencing domestic violence, and particularly the role of line management and the Welfare Service. The Department's NDPBs generally mirror all terms and conditions contained in the staff handbook and ensure staff have access to similar support mechanisms.

### Units in the Rowan Tree Centre, Pomeroy

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 2158/11-15, whether a condition of funding in her Department's letter of offer contains an obligation for the tenant to hold an extant planning permission for the business which the Department is proposing to fund; and, if not, why this is not the case.

**(AQW 2916/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Department's Letter of Offer was issued for the construction of the Rowan Tree facility. It contained a pre-commencement condition which required planning approval to be obtained. This condition was met.

### First Time International Investors

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of new jobs created from first time international investors supported by InvestNI during 2010/11 in each constituency; and what this represents as a percentage of all the new jobs created by first time international investors during that period.

**(AQW 2924/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The information sought is set out at Table 1 below. The number of new jobs expected to be created are described as 'Jobs Promoted'.

It should however be noted that, Invest NI does not allocate budgets by geographic areas such as Parliamentary Constituency. Assistance patterns are demand-led by those businesses which have come forward with projects suitable for Invest NI assistance.

**TABLE 1 - JOBS PROMOTED BY FIRST-TIME INWARD INVESTORS IN 2010-11 BY PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY AREA**

Parliamentary Constituency Area (PCA)	New Jobs	% of total
Belfast East	136	9.5%
Belfast North	45	3.1%
Belfast South	227	15.9%
East Antrim	109	7.6%
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	1	0.1%
Foyle	297	20.8%
Upper Bann	37	2.6%
West Tyrone	33	2.3%
Not Yet Located	545	38.1%
Grand Total	1,430	100.0%

**Notes:**

- 1 New Jobs represent the number of jobs expected to be created by the project.
- 2 Invest NI revises performance data on a regular basis to ensure that it reflects implemented projects; therefore, the data above may differ to previously published information.
- 3 There were 545 new inward investment jobs promoted during 2010-11 for which the location has not yet been determined.

**Jobs Created by Inward Investment Projects**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) to detail the number of new jobs created from inward investment projects supported by InvestNI during 2010/11 in each constituency; (ii) what this represents as a percentage of all the new jobs created by inward investment projects during that period.

**(AQW 2925/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The information sought is set out at Table 1 below. The number of new jobs expected to be created are described as 'Jobs Promoted'.

It should however be noted that, Invest NI does not allocate budgets by geographic areas such as Parliamentary Constituency. Assistance patterns are demand-led by those businesses which have come forward with projects suitable for Invest NI assistance.

**TABLE 1 NEW JOBS PROMOTED THROUGH INWARD INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN 2010-11 BY PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY AREA**

<b>Parliamentary Constituency Area (PCA)</b>	<b>New jobs promoted by inward-investment</b>	<b>% of total</b>
Belfast East	759	27.0%
Belfast North	48	1.7%
Belfast South	624	22.2%
Belfast West	0	0.0%
East Antrim	197	7.0%
East Londonderry	2	0.1%
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	2	0.1%
Foyle	297	10.5%
Lagan Valley	131	4.7%
Mid Ulster	1	0.0%
Newry and Armagh	4	0.1%
North Down	0	0.0%
South Antrim	130	4.6%
South Down	0	0.0%
Strangford	4	0.1%
Upper Bann	37	1.3%
West Tyrone	35	1.2%
Not Yet Located	545	19.4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,816</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Notes:**

- 1 New Jobs represent the number of jobs expected to be created by the project.
- 2 Invest NI revises performance data on a regular basis to ensure that it reflects implemented projects; therefore, the data above may differ to previously published information.
- 3 There were 545 inward investment jobs promoted during 2010-11 for which the location has not yet been determined.

**Financial Assistance Provided by InvestNI**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the financial assistance provided by InvestNI to companies during the 2010/11 financial year, broken down by constituency; and what these amounts represent as a percentage of all the financial assistance provided by InvestNI during this period.

**(AQW 2928/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The information sought is set out in Table 1 below.

It should however be noted, that Invest NI does not allocate budgets by geographic areas such as Parliamentary Constituency. Assistance patterns are demand-led by those businesses which have come forward with projects suitable for Invest NI assistance.

**TABLE 1 INVEST NI ASSISTANCE OFFERED 2010-11 BY PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY AREA**

<b>Parliamentary Constituency Area (PCA)</b>	<b>Total Assistance (£m)</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Belfast East	28.09	26.1%
Belfast North	1.70	1.6%
Belfast South	15.70	14.6%
Belfast West	0.36	0.3%
East Antrim	4.70	4.4%
East Londonderry	1.54	1.4%
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	2.99	2.8%
Foyle	2.58	2.4%
Lagan Valley	5.17	4.8%
Mid Ulster	4.04	3.7%
Newry and Armagh	6.78	6.3%
North Antrim	6.22	5.8%
North Down	0.50	0.5%
South Antrim	12.06	11.2%
South Down	1.14	1.1%
Strangford	0.81	0.7%
Upper Bann	6.34	5.9%
West Tyrone	0.83	0.8%
Not Yet Located	6.27	5.8%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>107.82</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Notes:**

- 1 Invest NI revises performance data on a regular basis to ensure that it reflects implemented projects; therefore, the data above may differ to previously published information.
- 2 There was £6.27m of assistance offered to clients who have not yet decided where to locate.

**Business and Employment in the Ballymoney Area**

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what her Department has done in the last three years to stimulate business and employment in the Ballymoney area.

**(AQW 2930/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI works with a wide range of businesses in Ballymoney to help them start, develop and grow internationally. Support for new business starts is available in three key areas; business start up advice; business start-up finance for those new businesses that intend to export their goods or services outside Northern Ireland, and; specialist support for those new high-technology companies that have the potential for rapid growth and substantial sales outside Northern Ireland. Between 2008 and 2011, Invest NI helped almost 120 new businesses start in the borough.

For established small businesses, Invest NI has structured its support around a number of key areas including strategy development, finance, people and skills, energy efficiency, product development,

research and development and selling outside Northern Ireland. In the last three years, 86 offers of support were issued to locally-owned companies in Ballymoney such as KBB Doors, JMF Ltd and Woodland Kitchens and Furniture. This assistance will generate total investment in the borough of almost £3 million.

Invest NI continues to work with potential investors and encourages them to consider a variety of potential locations within Northern Ireland including Ballymoney however, it is important to emphasise that it is the investor's decision to select a business location. This is based on a number of factors, including availability of skills and workforce, transport links and availability of suitable property.

### Jobs Created by InvestNI

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many of the jobs created by InvestNI during 2010/11 pay (i) above, but less than 25 percent above; and (ii) 25 percent or more, above the average private sector wage, expressed as a number and a percentage of all the new jobs created by inward investment projects during this period.

**(AQW 2933/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The information sought is set out in Table 1 below. The number of jobs expected to be created by inward investment are described as 'Jobs Promoted'.

**TABLE 1 INWARD INVESTMENT JOBS PROMOTED 2010-11**

		Part (i)		Part (ii)	
Fin Year	New Jobs promoted	New jobs promoted above but less than 25% above NIPSM	% of New jobs promoted above but less than 25% above NIPSM	New jobs promoted 25% or more above NI PSM	% of new jobs promoted 25% or more above NIPSM
2010-11	2,816	851	30%	1,428	51%

**Notes:**

- 1 New Jobs represent the number of jobs expected to be created by the project.
- 2 Invest NI revises performance data on a regular basis to ensure that it reflects implemented projects; therefore, the data above may differ to previously published information.
- 3 The NIPSM (Northern Ireland Private Sector Median) in 2010 = £18,283

### InvestNI: Unspent Funding

**Ms Ritchie** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) under what circumstances InvestNI returned unspent funding to the Department of Finance and Personnel; (ii) how much was returned ; (iii) how much of this funding was diverted to the tourism budget; and (iv) whether she intends to allocate it to the St Patrick's and Mourne Signature Projects.

**(AQW 2966/11-15)**

- (i) Mrs Foster: The main factors that meant that funding was available for reallocation by the Northern Ireland Executive in the October Monitoring Round were:
  - a) Additional receipts were raised by Invest NI thereby generating additional funds for the Executive, and
  - b) Current market circumstances and the slower than expected economic recovery have impacted on company investment decisions. Companies across Northern Ireland have faced a continued deterioration in market conditions. This has worsened since the beginning of this financial year. Companies are not recruiting or investing to the levels and timescales that were originally planned.

- (ii) Additional receipts of £6.25m, and £14.2m of Programme budget mean that £20.5m is available to the Executive for allocation.
- (iii) Of the £20.5m, £3m was provided to the Northern Ireland Tourist Board by way of a linked bid and reduced requirement. DETI has also provided £4.7m of funding to Tourism Ireland Limited through an internal reallocation.
- (iv) No. These projects are already progressing with support from DETI.

### **Biggest Users of Electricity and Gas**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the five biggest users of (a) electricity; and (b) gas, including their annual consumption in the last 12 months; and (ii) what percentage of the total demand this represents.

**(AQW 2970/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Department does not hold the information requested. In addition, such information would be a confidential matter between the individual large energy user and its supplier.

### **Renewable Obligations Certificates**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she plans to extend the Renewable Obligations Certificates beyond the current review date of March 2013.

**(AQW 2995/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Renewables Obligation Order (Northern Ireland) 2009 includes a requirement to review Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC) levels every four years to take account of changes in technology costs and deployment levels. A public consultation will launch shortly on proposed ROC levels for the period 2013 to 2017.

A formal consultation response will be published and draft legislation laid before the Assembly as soon as possible after the consultation ends. Subject to Assembly and state aids approval, the new bands will come into effect on 1 April 2013 as planned (1 April 2014 for offshore wind).

### **Go for It Programme**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) why a decision on the award of the Go For It programme contract was announced only ten days before the contract was due to begin; (ii) how much money is currently being spent advertising the programme, in circumstances in which it cannot be delivered because the award of the contract is subject to a legal challenge; and (iii) what measures her Department has put in place to ensure that people and organisations who would benefit from the programme are not missing out due to the gap in service provision during this legal challenge.

**(AQW 3005/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:**

- (i) The decision to award the new Business Start Programme was announced on 6th September 2011 almost four weeks before the scheduled launch date of 3rd October 2011. The launch of the programme has been delayed due to the legal challenge against the award decision.
- (ii) Invest NI will not be advertising a specific Programme in the short-term but will continue to advertise to stimulate the public interest in starting a business. Invest NI will respond directly to all enquiries generated. The next adverts are scheduled for late October 2011 and November 2011 and the cost of this advertising will be £64,308.
- (iii) Invest NI has put in place appropriate arrangements to respond to enquiries and to ensure that those individuals with an interest in establishing their own business are able to access relevant advice and guidance during the period of delay as a result of the legal challenge. Please see below.



**For individuals currently on Invest NI's database**

Invest NI has contacted all of these individuals directly either by e-mail or letter and followed up with telephone calls, giving them the relevant individual contacts in each of Invest NI's regional offices who will be able to provide advice and support. A series of business clinics and one to one meetings have been arranged and will continue to be provided by Invest NI.

**New Enquiries**

People interested in starting a business can still call the Go For It helpline and enquiries will be directed to the relevant Invest NI regional office. General enquiries around business start support to Invest NI's 0800 number (0800 181 4422) and website will also be directed to the most appropriate Invest NI regional office.

**Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in the Causeway Area**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what is the percentage of small and medium sized enterprises in the Causeway area which use broadband as an essential part of their business; and how this compares with the Northern Ireland percentage.

**(AQW 3017/11-15)**

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

**The Gathering with Failte Ireland**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the Tourist Board will be jointly promoting The Gathering with Failte Ireland to attract ex-patriots and the Irish diaspora back to Ireland in 2013.

**(AQW 3045/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Northern Ireland Tourist Board is not responsible for promoting Northern Ireland overseas.

**Energy Regulatory Framework**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of whether the energy regulatory framework is working effectively and is producing the best possible price for consumers.

**(AQW 3091/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and the Electricity (Single Wholesale Market) (NI) Order 2007 establish the regulatory framework within which the Utility Regulator carries out his duties in respect of the electricity and natural gas industries in Northern Ireland.

In line with these arrangements, the Regulator has responsibility for approving tariffs proposed by the dominant electricity and gas companies. The Regulator's tariff review process involves a rigorous scrutiny of tariff proposals and engagement with the energy companies, the Consumer Council, and my Department, before any tariff decisions are finalised.

I am content that this regulatory framework is effective.

**Energy Regulatory Framework**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department has any plans to carry out a review of the energy regulatory framework to assess its effectiveness.

**(AQW 3092/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I have no plans to carry out a review of the current regulatory framework within which the Utility Regulator carries out his statutory duties in respect of the electricity and natural gas industries in Northern Ireland.



I am content there is an effective regulatory framework in place within Northern Ireland and that the Utility Regulator, in liaison with my Department, works to deliver effective market conditions which include the protection of electricity and natural gas consumers with regard to price and quality of service.

## Department of the Environment

### Major Planning Applications of Economic Significance

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of the Environment (i) what protections are in place for major planning applications of economic significance; and (ii) for his assessment of whether these protections are sufficient to fast track these applications, especially those involving major job creation.

**(AQW 1730/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment):**

(i) what protections are in place for major planning applications of economic significance?

The range of protections that exist or should exist are extensive. A number of the protections will be outlined in this answer but the list will not be exhaustive:

First, two Strategic Project teams within the Strategic Projects Division (SPD) manage planning applications across NI for all large scale investment proposals including all applications designated under Article 31 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991. They also process other economically significant applications, which, while not classified by Article 31, are nevertheless important to the NI economy.

Second, economic and resource factors have always been key related material considerations to be considered in the determination of a planning application and they continue to be so.

Third, guidance on consistency in decision making with particular emphasis on economic considerations issued to planning staff in May 2011. The purpose was to ensure a consistent approach in the consideration of the economic merits of planning applications by the Department so that local communities are treated equally and not disadvantaged.

Fourth, further guidance for prioritising planning applications in Local Planning Division issued in May 2011 stating clearly the types of applications that should be considered for prioritising. These include applications with employment implications, social/community benefit or a public interest dimension and applications which are grant funded.

The Executive's ongoing priority to create a vibrant economy facilitating increased employment, economic recovery and improved future wealth is set out in this guidance and it is stressed that the planning system has a key role to play in achieving this high level government objective.

Fifth, as Minister, I plan to leave no stone unturned in identifying all and any measures to ensure proper and quick planning industry: revision of the HR plan; active management of Article 31 applications; new regulations around planning appeals; tighter timelines for decisions; proper flexibilities around PPS 21 decisions; appropriate interventions to assist renewable energy applications etc; ensuring that environmental and traffic issues are properly assessed, based on good evidence and not raised late in the application process on a piecemeal basis.

(ii) for his assessment of whether these protections are sufficient to fast track these applications, especially those involving major job creation

I will build on the existing initiatives and take a twin track approach to achieve a more favourable environment for the proper, timely and positive management of applications, particularly ones with major economic impact. This involves a balanced approach which addresses economic, social and environmental considerations together and fresh interventions as detailed above to enhance management of Article 31 and other significant applications.

## Road Safety Grants

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment why the administration of road safety grants for community groups is carried out by a company based in England, rather than his Department or its agencies.

**(AQW 2065/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** In 2009 officials were tasked with reviewing Department policy with a view to engaging more fully on road safety issues with the voluntary and community sector while reducing administration costs. The outcome of that review was the decision to appoint an Intermediary Funding Body (IFB) to manage and deliver DOE funding to road safety projects proposed by the voluntary & community sector.

The option for the Department to administer a road safety grants scheme was one of the options considered. While there were many advantages to the Department administering the scheme, risks were identified associated with administration costs. As you are aware when dealing with the tax payers money it is imperative that we are mindful of value for money; therefore, this was not considered to be a viable option.

The Department appointed an IFB in April 2010 following public competition directed by Central Procurement Division, DFP. This programme was contracted to run for a period of one year with an option to extend for a period of two further years. However, notwithstanding a successful evaluation of its first year in operation, in March 2011 the Board of the IFB concluded that the DOE programme was not compatible with its new five year strategy and declined the option to extend the contract. A new competition directed by CPD was immediately initiated to appoint a new IFB.

On 14 July 2011 the contract was awarded to Community Transport Association (CTA) to act as the Department's Intermediary Funding Body (IFB). CTA (UK) is a charitable company registered in England, with a director and staff team operating as CTA (NI). CTA (NI) is the regional office of the CTA (UK). The Northern Ireland team has responsibility for delivering the Northern Ireland specific work programme and contracts. CTA (NI) is responsible for its own budget, business plan and operations. The NI Director is part of the CTA (UK) Senior Management Team.

The DOE road safety grant programme is being promoted, managed, delivered and monitored entirely by the team in Northern Ireland, the exception to this is that the banking service which is being managed from England.

## Household Recycling Rates

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister of the Environment (i) for his assessment of the research carried out by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors which found that municipal and household recycling fell from 6 percent in 2004/05 to 1.5 percent in 2009/10; (ii) whether he expects to incur an infraction fine; and (iii) how he plans to increase recycling rates to 60 percent.

**(AQW 2226/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:**

- (i) My assessment of the research carried out by the Royal Chartered Surveyors which found that municipal and household recycling fell from 6 percent in 2004/05 to 1.5 percent in 2009/10.

The statistics, underlying the research referred to in the question, are publicly available at:

[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/northern\\_ireland\\_municipal\\_waste\\_management\\_statistics\\_\\_annual\\_report\\_2009-10r.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/northern_ireland_municipal_waste_management_statistics__annual_report_2009-10r.pdf)

From this report it can be seen that the annual rate of increase in municipal waste has decreased from 6% to 1.5% over the period 2004/05 to 2009/10. Whilst this means that the year-on-year change in the percentage of municipal waste recycled has decreased, in absolute terms the municipal recycling rate has in fact increased. Over the same period the municipal recycling rate has risen from 18.2% to 33.1%.

A similar trend can also be observed in the household recycling rate, that is, a decrease in the annual (year-on-year) rate of increase from 6.4% to 1.2% over the period 2004/05 to 2009/10. Overall there has however been an increase in the household recycling rate from 18.9% to 35.6%.

Consequently as of 31 March 2010 the current Northern Ireland 2006 -2020 Waste Management Strategy target to increase household recycling rates to at least 35% by 2010 has been achieved.

(ii) Whether I expect to incur an infraction fine.

The revised Waste Framework Directive has set a 50% target on the recycling of waste from households by 2020. EU Infraction fines are a possibility where Member States fail to meet the requirements of a Directive. However I am confident that Northern Ireland will meet this target.

(iii) My plans to increase recycling rates to 60 percent.

My department has consulted on the potential for Northern Ireland to achieve municipal recycling rates in the region of 60% over the next 10 years – assuming that the 50% household recycling target for 2020 is met. Responses to the consultation have been received and I will be considering these shortly.

My view is that we must set challenging targets – not ones which are manageable.

I am committed to improving resource efficiency, of which achieving high recycling rates is one component. In this context I have asked officials to investigate the possibility of introducing landfill bans for certain waste streams and developing a comprehensive regime of incentives and sanctions in respect of waste management.

The Department has also introduced a range of incentives under the Rethink Waste Programme to increase levels of recycling. These range from the provision of financial assistance to technical advice.

The Rethink Waste (Capital) Fund helps increase levels of recycling by providing funding to local councils to cover the capital costs of improving or extending their existing waste collection, reuse and recycling infrastructure.

Councils and the Community & Voluntary Sector can also apply for funding under the Rethink Waste (Revenue) Fund. I have recently launched an additional funding of £400,000 for 2011-12.

The Department also funds WRAP to provide technical advisory support to local councils to improve the quality and efficiency of collection and recycling services offered to households and businesses, resulting in increases in the collection of quality materials for reuse and recycling.

The Department is also working closely with a variety of stakeholders to raise awareness of waste prevention and recycling through the Rethink Waste Communications Action Plan. Fully funded Love Food Hate Waste and composting demonstration packages have been offered to local councils to assist in reducing waste to landfill through waste prevention and reuse.

## **Golf Resort Near Bushmills**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of the Environment what actions were taken by his predecessors to reduce the delay in determining the application for a golf resort near Bushmills.

**(AQW 2341/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Following earlier consideration of the proposals by Direct Rule Ministers, a new application was submitted in February 2007.

Since then each of my predecessors has taken an interest in the application for a golf resort on this site. I am advised that my immediate predecessor met the applicant's representatives and officials on a number of occasions, the latest on 17 January 2011, in order to bring the application to a decision.

The procedural steps required to progress this application to a conclusion were agreed at this meeting. Further environmental information and revised layout plans were subsequently submitted in February 2011. This information was the subject of advertisement and consultation under the EIA Regulations.

I understand that following consideration of this information the need for further environmental information was identified.

This additional Environmental Information was submitted on 27 September 2011 and was advertised in the week beginning 3 October 2011. Four weeks is allowed under the Regulations for further representations to be made. My officials have been instructed to monitor closely the progress of the application in order to ensure that a recommendation is brought to me before the end of November 2011 for my decision on the proposals.

It is my view that all issues around this application have been or are being exhaustively interrogated. I believe it is time to make a decision and I plan to do so. I will carefully and fully weigh all factors – environmental, World Heritage Status at the Giant's Causeway, economic benefits and others – in making the decision.

## Chief Executives Salary

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the annual salary of the Chief Executive(s) of (i) the 26 local councils; (ii) the Local Government Staff Commission; (iii) the NI Housing Executive; (iv) the Northern Ireland Local Government Association; and (v) ARC 21.

**(AQW 2352/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The table below provides the current salary band range for the Chief Executives of (i) all 26 District Councils, (ii) the Local Government Staff Commission, (iii) the NI Housing Executive (iv) the Northern Ireland Local Government Association and (v) ARC21.

Salary Band Range	Number	Council/Body
£105,001-125,000K	1	Belfast
£100,001-105,000K	1	NI Housing Executive
£90,089-100,000K	5	Ards, Lisburn, Newry & Mourne, N Down, LGSC
£80,089-90,088K	12	Antrim, Armagh, Ballymena Ballymoney, Castlereagh, Coleraine, Craigavon, Derry*, Down, Newtownabbey, Omagh, ARC21
£72,828-80,088K	10	Banbridge, Carrickfergus, Cookstown, Dungannon & S Tyrone*, Fermanagh, Larne, Limavady, Magherafelt, Moyle, Strabane,
£62,000-72,827K	1	NILGA

\* Due to temporary acting up arrangement

## Illegal Fuel Laundering Plants

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of the Environment how much has been spent, in each of the last five years, on clearing damage to the environment caused by bi-products, leakages and spillages from illegal fuel laundering plants.

**(AQW 2378/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The power to remove illegally deposited waste and to recover related costs currently lies with District Councils under Article 28 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. Section 4 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, when

commenced, will extend this power to the Department of the Environment. The majority of the clean up burden has fallen on a few District Councils by virtue of their location. Newry and Mourne alone has spent £70,000 in the last year, and £135,000 over the last four years.

The Northern Ireland Environments Agency's Water Management Unit has been involved in clean-up where incidents of fuel laundering have impacted on a waterway. The cost over the past 5 years is £17,466 which includes analytical and salary costs.

## Enforcement Notices

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of Enforcement Notices imposed on owners of (i) derelict land; and (ii) building sites in each of the last five years, broken down by (a) local council area; and (b) the reason for imposing an Enforcement Notice.

**(AQW 2379/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Information is not recorded on the Departments database in such a way as to enable Enforcement Notices imposed on owners of (i) derelict land; and (ii) building sites to be identified. To obtain the information in the format requested a manual search of case files in each of the Area Offices would need to be carried out. A manual check of Notices would also need to be carried out to identify the Notice Type and provide (b) the reason for imposing an Enforcement Notice. However, I have asked officials to determine how to have this information collated in future.

The number of enforcement notices issued in each of the last five years broken down by local Council Area is set out in the table below.

Notices broken down by Council Area

Local Council Area	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Antrim	6	4	5	16	10
Ards	4	3	1	0	1
Armagh	12	2	15	45	32
Ballymena	0	3	2	11	6
Ballymoney	2	4	6	7	3
Banbridge	9	3	8	19	11
Belfast	3	12	32	28	13
Carrickfergus	0	0	1	5	0
Castlereagh	4	7	5	4	4
Coleraine	11	4	8	19	8
Cookstown	12	14	21	23	15
Craigavon	7	0	4	13	22
Derry	8	6	5	13	8
Downpatrick	0	2	4	0	6
Dungannon	15	31	21	27	12
Fermanagh	9	20	18	22	21
Larne	2	0	0	1	3
Limavady	5	8	2	5	1

Local Council Area	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Lisburn	1	4	1	0	2
Magherafelt	2	4	7	15	3
Moyle	2	1	2	9	3
Newry and Mourne	37	14	21	64	9
Newtownabbey	4	3	9	4	2
North Down	2	2	0	0	0
Omagh	28	19	22	17	16
Strabane	13	14	14	21	5

## Brown Field Sites

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment what areas of land in North Down are currently designated as Brown Field Sites.

**(AQW 2430/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025 (RDS), published in September 2001, recognised the need to promote more housing within existing urban areas, or existing urban footprints. The aim was to achieve more sustainable forms of development by setting a regional target for the share of urban housing to be provided within urban limits. In effect, it involves recycling land and buildings that have had a previous use, and making use of other suitable sites in order to reduce the need for Greenfield land.

Some of this development will take place on sites that have been zoned specifically for housing, and also on other sites that cannot be precisely predicted locationally, but which occur as a result of 'windfall' development. Windfall development therefore consists of potential future housing development on land not zoned for housing within existing urban footprints.

Much of this windfall development takes place on 'brownfield' sites, and development plans such as BMAP include an 'allowance' for windfall which is in addition to specific sites zoned, both inside and outside urban footprints. This allowance was based on a detailed urban capacity study of all 6 District Council areas in BMAP.

Development plans do not 'designate' land as 'brownfield', rather, through the process laid out in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12: Housing in Settlements, urban capacity studies are carried out which inform 'zonings' for residential use within a Plan area.

While BMAP has not designated specific areas as 'brownfield' sites, the Plan aims to achieve revitalised and compact urban areas by accommodating as much housing as possible within existing urban areas.

## Northern Ireland Environment Agency

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment, given that the Northern Ireland Environment Agency has recommended that, 'a precautionary approach be taken by attaching a condition to any licence issued that no petroleum production operations or activities should be undertaken within or in close proximity to an Area of Special Scientific Interest', to define 'close proximity'.

**(AQW 2458/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The reference to 'close proximity' was made in the context of NIEA responding to a Petroleum Licence consultation from DETI for an area of land that included a number of Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs).



All public bodies have legal obligations to protect ASSIs under the Environment Order which includes, in Article 40, a requirement on public bodies to give notice of proposed operations to the Department, even if the operations will not take place on land included in an ASSI.

Given the varied nature of proposed operations and the range of sensitivity of features within ASSIs there is no single definition of 'close proximity'.

In practice, in considering if the proximity of proposed operations or activities are likely to have a significant impact on ASSI features, NIEA considers if the proposed operations or activities are within, adjacent, close to, are hydrologically connected to, or if emissions are likely to reach an ASSI.

## Petroleum Licence

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment whether any surveys have been carried out to determine whether the area for which Infastrata PLC and eCORP Oil and Gas UK Ltd have been granted a Petroleum Licence contains species protected by law or contains habitats, species, earth science and landscape interests which are also afforded protection.

**(AQW 2461/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** In consideration of the application for a Petroleum Licence from these companies, DETI consulted NIEA in relation to potential impacts on natural heritage interests. NIEA provided detailed information and advised DETI on its legal obligations to protect designated sites and protected species.

In relation to the specific question whether '...any surveys have been carried out' it is the developers, and not the Department's, responsibility to do this should they be seeking permission to carry out additional exploration activity. NIEA is currently considering a proposal from the developer, through DETI, to carry out a seismic survey across the area. NIEA is not aware, at this stage, of any other survey work that may have been, or is being, carried out by the developers.

## Anti-drink Driving Campaign

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of the Environment what changes will be made this year to the Christmas and New Year anti-drink driving campaign.

**(AQW 2473/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Anti Drink Drive Campaign

Traditionally, the launch of the PSNI Christmas Anti Drink Drive operation will take place towards the end of November and will be supported as usual by the Department.

The Christmas/New Year anti drink drive television campaign 'Hit Home' will be on air from the last week in November and throughout December.

The 'Hit Home' campaign reinforces the message "NEVER EVER DRINK AND DRIVE". The advert emphasises the impairing effects of alcohol on driving – even from the first drink. The message is designed to increase further the unacceptability of driving after one or two drinks, especially for younger males. The campaign features ordinary people who warn: 'Every drink increases your risk of crashing'.

On Monday 26 September I announced proposals for a comprehensive package of measures to tackle drink driving including the introduction of new, lower drink drive limits and new graduated fixed penalties. Subject to Executive Committee agreement, the Department intends to have the drink drive legislation ready for public consultation by March 2012.

That said, the aim of this current campaign is also to reinforce the unacceptability of consuming any alcohol when intending to drive, which is already supportive of potential new legislation introducing the lowering of the blood alcohol limits.

Coca Cola Designated Driver Initiative

This will be the fifth year of the Coca Cola 'designated driver' initiative. It will launch towards the end of November and once again the Department and PSNI will be supporting this initiative. The scheme, which will be operational in many venues across Northern Ireland, offers three free soft drinks to designated drivers during the festive season.

Any other activity over the Christmas period, such as press or radio, will be used as an opportunity to reinforce the drink drive message ahead of any new legislation.

## **Independent Environmental Protection Agency**

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of the Environment (i) for his assessment of how the establishment of an independent environmental protection agency would provide greater protection for the environment compared to the existing bodies; and (ii) how he would ensure that it would not create additional costs and red tape for farmers.

**(AQW 2510/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The issue of who manages our environment and their scope of responsibility is important not only for us but for generations to come so it is crucial that we get it right. I have therefore moved this important issue up the environmental agenda and encouraged early debate.

The purpose of the recent Environmental Governance discussion document was to test the water to establish firmly and directly what the community, stakeholders and others believe is best in going forward and to gauge if there is an appetite for structural reform leading to a truly independent environment agency - 83% of respondents to the initial discussion document exercise indicated support for the creation of an independent Environment Agency. I am also aware, however, that the Ulster Farmers' Union has indicated its opposition to the creation of an independent agency claiming that it will only lead to additional cost and more red tape for farmers.

In moving this issue forward it will be necessary to carry out a much more detailed consideration, taking into account the views of key interests and all of the relevant issues, including for example the impact on farmers, to ensure that any final proposals for the creation of an independent environment agency are robust, deliverable and most importantly will deliver improved and more efficient levels of environmental protection.

An important element of any future work programme will be to complete a robust and fully costed business case. The business case will be essential to support final proposals to establish an independent environment agency.

There will also be a full public consultation on any final proposals.

## **Hydraulic Fracturing**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the report 'Shale Gas: A Provisional Assessment of Climate Change and Environmental impacts' by The Tyndall Centre, University of Manchester, which states that, given the potential for hazardous chemicals to enter water through the extraction process, hydraulic fracturing must be subject to more thorough research prior to any expansion of the industry being considered.

**(AQW 2519/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Hydraulic fracturing (Fracking) operations while new to Northern Ireland are quite common throughout the world. My officials within the Department are supplementing their current knowledge of the process with emerging research, and by studying case studies from other parts of the world. They will also liaise with their counterparts in other Environment Agencies in countries where fracking is currently taking place. This will include all reports on the subject, including the one mentioned by the member.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency will require any company proposing to use a fracking process, 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 depending upon the activities proposed by the company and their exact location in relation to sensitive environmental receptors and designated sites.

## Marine Conservation Zones

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of the Environment what steps have been taken to ensure that the Marine Conservation Zones are in place by 2012.

**(AQW 2582/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** In relation to marine nature conservation, the Department's priority is to complete the designation of marine Special Areas of Conservation for sites of European importance under the Habitats Directive by 2012.

In parallel, the Department is bringing forward a Marine Bill which includes powers for the designation of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). As stated in my earlier response to you (AQW 2515/11-15), I am committed to take forward the Marine Bill as soon as possible.

It is intended that MCZs will complement the existing designation and protection measures for European marine sites and form part of the UK's overall network of Marine Protected Areas.

## Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment 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 2608/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The implementation of the Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan is being led by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. Only those Departments who directly provide a service to victims of domestic violence are involved in its implementation. DHSSPS has confirmed that the reference to all Departments in the document relates only to these Departments.

While this Department is not directly involved in the Action Plan, the NICS wide Workplace Policy for Domestic Violence and Abuse applies to all DOE staff. This policy explains how help and support can be provided for individuals experiencing domestic violence, how to identify domestic violence, the role of the line manager and available support services.

## Environmental Public Information

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of the Environment what plans he has to (i) eliminate jargon from his Departments environmental public information; and (ii) make environmental legislation more accessible to the farming community.

**(AQW 2623/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Clear and unambiguous guidance for industry is important and the Department has signed up to the Code of Practice on Guidance on Regulations introduced by the Northern Ireland Executive and NI Assembly (July 2010). This requires Departments to prepare guidance in clear language appropriate to the intended audience and avoid unnecessary acronyms and jargon.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency has achieved the Crystal Mark for plain English on their web site and the Department is reviewing the rest of the web content to achieve the Crystal Mark for the Department as a whole.

Through its Better Regulation Programme, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency is helping the farming sector to comply with their environmental obligations by giving clear guidance and information that is specific to their needs. This is available on the NetRegs website. The Agency has also developed an e-learning tool “Learn about Agricultural Waste” which was reviewed by the Ulster Farmers’ Union before it was published.

The Department has also developed, with input from key stakeholders including the Ulster Farmers’ Union, the Environmental Better Regulation White Paper which looks at ways to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses generally while ensuring that the environment is protected or enhanced. The White Paper proposes simpler, clearer, more effective and flexible environmental legislation. A consultation exercise on the proposals in the White Paper ended on 30 September 2011. I will be considering the way forward in the light of the responses received to the consultation exercise.

## Waste Management Schemes

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of the Environment how much has been spent on preparing contracts for the waste management schemes for (i) SWaMP2008; (ii) Arc 21; and (iii) the North West Region Waste Management Group.

**(AQW 2858/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Since commencement of their respective procurements, spend by each of the Waste Management Groups has been as set out in the table below.

### RESIDUAL WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE CUMULATIVE REVENUE PLUS CAPITAL SPEND TO TO DATE (30 SEPT 11)

	<b>arc21</b>	<b>SWaMP</b>	<b>NWRWMG</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cumulative Spend to 31 Mar 11	2,836,000	2,548,000	2,086,000	7,470,000
Additional Financial Year 11/12 spend to 30 Sept 11	50,000	320,000	310,000	680,000
	<b>2,886,000</b>	<b>2,868,000</b>	<b>2,396,000</b>	<b>8,150,000</b>

Clearly, the scale of expenditure involved and the degree of risk associated with waste infrastructure projects in general increases the onus on all stakeholders to monitor progress on the Waste Infrastructure Programme closely, and to ensure that the quantum and types of facilities procured are both appropriate to Northern Ireland’s needs and represent the best interests of the councils which will be financially liable for them. I can assure you that I am taking a strong interest in the Programme, and that should any element of it give me cause for concern, I will have no hesitation in intervening as necessary.

## Department of Finance and Personnel

### Civil Servants: Secondments

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) how many civil servants have been allowed to go on secondment to the private sector in the past two years; (ii) at what grade the civil servants were; and (iii) how they competed for the job.

**(AQW 1766/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel):** Outward secondment is an integral part of the HR policies of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS). There is scope to second civil servants to a range of organisations, including to private sector organisations, using NICS secondment arrangements and through the Northern Ireland Interchange Scheme, of which the NICS is a partner. Secondments can be arranged in a variety of ways. They may be advertised to staff through the HRConnect portal which

provides details of the opportunity and eligibility criteria or other requirements, following which the host organisation will select a candidate deemed most suitable. Specific opportunities may be circulated only to a particular cadre of staff. Departments may post individual staff, subject to their agreement, on secondment to organisations with which they have a working relationship and where secondment provides benefits.

The tables provided set out the number and grades of civil servants who took up secondment opportunities to a wide range of organisations, including to the private sector, in the years April 2009 to March 2010, April 2010 to March 2011 and in the period April 2011 to August 2011. The tables also indicate how the secondment positions were filled.

## SECONDMENT OF NI CIVIL SERVANTS

**TABLE 1**

	<b>Number and Grades of NI Civil Servants Seconded 2009/2010</b>								
Host	AA	AO	EO2	EO1	SO	DP	G7	G6	SCS
Private	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0
Public	0	1	5	0	2	***2	*1	*1	*1
Voluntary	0	8	3	3	1	0	0	0	0
Social Economy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EU	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

**TABLE 2**

	<b>Number and Grades of NI Civil Servants Seconded 2010/2011</b>								
Host	AA	AO	EO2	EO1	SO	DP	G7	G6	SCS
Private	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public	0	0	1	***2	2	***11	*2	0	0
Voluntary	0	18	4	0	0	*3	0	0	0
Social Economy	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
EU	0	0	0	0	0	*1	0	0	0

**TABLE 3**

	<b>Number and Grades of NI Civil Servants Seconded 2011/2012 ( up to 31 August 2011)</b>								
Host	AA	AO	EO2	EO1	SO	DP	G7	G6	SCS
Private	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*1
Public	0	***2	*7	0	*3	***7	***3	0	**2
Voluntary	0	***6	*1	0	0	*2	0	0	0
Social Economy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\* Secondments arranged by means of direct posting.

\*\* Secondments arranged following circulation of an opportunity to staff only at SCS level.

\*\*\* Secondments arranged via mix of direct posting and through advertising on the HRConnect Portal.

All other Secondments listed were advertised via the HRConnect Portal. Applications made by staff were considered by the host organisation who selected a candidate based on his/her suitability against the requirements for the secondment position.

### **Surplus Posts in the Northern Ireland Civil Service**

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

**(AQW 2375/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The information requested is set out in the attached table.

**AQW 2375/11 - LOCATION & NUMBER (FTE)\* OF SURPLUS POSTS IN THE NICS AT AO, E02, E01, SO & DP - 23/9/11**

	AA	Location	AO	Location	E01	Location	E01	Location	SO	Location	DP	Location
DARD	1	Stormont	1	Stormont	0		0		0		1	Ballymena
DCAL	0		0		1	Belfast	0		0		0	
DE	0		0		0		0		0		0	
DEL	0		0		0		0		0		0	
DETI	0		0		0		0		0		0	
DFF	0		1	Belfast	0		0	Belfast	2	Belfast	1	Belfast
DHSSPS	0		0		0		0		0		0	
DOE	1	Coleraine	0		2	Belfast	0		0		0	
DOJ	0		0		0		0		0		0	
DRD	0		0		0		0		1	Belfast	0	
DSD	4	2 Belfast	4	2 Belfast	0		3	Belfast	4	Belfast	0	
		1 Londonderry		1 Coleraine								
		1 Ballymena		1 Banbridge								
OFMDFM	0		0		0		0		0		0	
PPS	0		0		0		0		0		0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>2</b>	

\* FTE – Full-time Equivalent

## Review into Special Advisers

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the outcome of his review into Special Advisers; (ii) when it will be published; (iii) what recommendation it made; and (iv) when these recommendations will be implemented.

**(AQW 2401/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** I have arranged for a copy of the review report to be placed in the Assembly library. The review was implemented for all future appointments from 6th September 2011.

## NI Civil Service

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how much the NI Civil Service has spent on secure data and document storage in each of the last ten years.

**(AQW 2639/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** DFP has been responsible for managing the NI Civil Service secure data and document storage since April 2007. The amount spent in this area in each of the last four years is as follows:

2007/08	£3,738,845
2008/09	£618,260
2009/10	£509,700
2010/11	£1,844,065

Information prior to 2007/08 would be held by individual departments. These figures do not include the cost of securely storing data relating to corporate or departmental applications, e.g. HR Connect, Account NI, and APHIS.

## Public Consultations

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the (i) number; and (ii) cost of public consultations initiated by his Department since May 2007.

**(AQW 2680/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The number of public consultations initiated by my Department since May 2007 was thirty at a total cost of £58,499.

## Chairpersons of Public Bodies and Publicly Owned Companies

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what role his Department has in approving the remuneration levels of Chairpersons of public bodies and publicly owned companies.

**(AQW 2742/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Individual departments are responsible for determining whether remuneration should be paid to Chairpersons of the public bodies and the publicly owned companies they sponsor. Individual departments are also responsible for the level or rate at which any remuneration is set.

For certain public bodies and public corporations, DFP has agreed delegations with individual departments that specify those that require DFP approval.

In these cases, a business case must be prepared by the sponsoring Department and submitted to DFP for consideration and approval. Such business cases must be submitted in advance of establishing the relevant body and in support of any subsequent proposals to amend remuneration levels. Business cases must be prepared in accordance with the Northern Ireland Guide to Economic Appraisal.

## Air Passenger Duty

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel when the power to set the level of Air Passenger Duty will be devolved; and whether, upon devolution of these powers, he will immediately propose to reduce the duty to a level similar to that which is levied on the rest of this island.

**(AQW 2754/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The devolution of Air Passenger Duty will require primary legislation and the exact timescale for devolution will therefore depend heavily on the time taken for the legislative and parliamentary process for that. The Government and the Executive will work together to ensure that this happens as soon as possible.

After devolution the level of APD charged will be a matter for the Executive to agree. The First and acting deputy First Minister have indicated that they will bring proposals to the Executive to reduce APD for direct long haul flights to at least the level in the Republic of Ireland.

## Checkmate Securities Limited

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) for his assessment of the impact of the liquidation of Checkmate Securities Limited on the security provision on the Stormont Estate; and (ii) whether its employees' Government contract jobs are secure.

**(AQW 2873/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Contract for the provision of Security Guarding Services on the Stormont Estate has been transferred to G4S Secure Solutions (UK) Ltd with effect from 1 October 2011. We would therefore expect no disruption to these services.

As the service has been transferred, the spirit of TUPE is being applied by G4S to protect the employment of all staff that have been directly employed and that are dedicated in the delivery of the security provision on the Stormont Estate.

## Victims of Domestic Violence

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

**(AQW 2892/11-15)**

**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.

The department also has a Welfare Support Service whose remit extends to all departments and includes offering support and advice to those experiencing domestic violence. To complement this service, the Northern Ireland Civil Service also has an Employee Assistance Programme in place which is an independent confidential counselling service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Detail of DFP's arms length bodies can be found at: <http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/bodies-which-dfp-has-degree-of-responsibility.pdf>. It should be noted that in any of these bodies which employ staff, the staff are seconded from the Civil Service and are therefore covered by the provisions outlined above.

## Vacant Housing Executive Properties

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to provide an estimate of the number of vacant Housing Executive properties in each district that will be subject to rates under the scheme introduced for vacant properties from 1 October 2011.

**(AQW 2950/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) currently pays rates on all properties, whether occupied or not, under provisions in Article 21 of the Rates (Northern Ireland) Order 1977. The introduction of rating of empty homes on 1 October 2011 will not therefore impact on NIHE.

## Vacant Properties

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what action is being taken to ensure that owners of private and public vacant properties are aware that their properties will be subject to rates under the scheme introduced for vacant properties from 1 October 2011.

**(AQW 2951/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The policy of rating empty homes (REH) was subject to a full consultation process. It was originally proposed to introduce the rating of empty homes in June 2010. However, the introduction was delayed until 1 October 2011 to give people with empty homes 15 months in which to prepare for the change.

Land & Property Services (LPS), with input from Rating Policy Division, has taken a number of actions to ensure that property owners were aware of and prepared for this change. These included: -

- producing a Rating of Empty Homes Fact Sheet providing details on the reform and any exclusions available;
- press releases were issued to the general public in June 2010 and February 2011 to increase awareness of the introduction of Rating of Empty Homes;
- mailshot to all vacant properties in February 2011;
- including information in the 'Guide to Rates' Leaflet which issued with rates bills in April 2011;
- updating NI Direct and LPS websites;
- producing Landlord Fact Sheet and issuing with letters to known landlords;
- issuing letters to identified owners asking that they confirm accuracy of information and advising that they would receive a bill for rates from 1 October 2011; and
- issuing REH Fact Sheet to a wide range of interested parties including community groups, District Councils, and MLAs together with groups and individuals who responded to the initial consultation process.

## Bodies Set Up as a Result of Devolution

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to provide a breakdown of the cost, since 2007, of all bodies set up as a result of devolution.

**(AQW 2960/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** In answering this question it has been assumed that the question is referring to the establishment of North South bodies. If this assumption is incorrect perhaps the member can provide clarification.

The annual cost to the Northern Ireland Assembly of providing funding to these bodies is included in the departmental Resource Accounts that are laid in the Assembly each year.

The accounts of each North South body are also laid in the Assembly.

## Pension Reforms

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel why, under the pension reforms, prison officers will be required to work until they are aged 66.

**(AQW 2988/11-15)**



**Mr Wilson:** Pension arrangements for the Northern Ireland public service schemes are a devolved matter. The Northern Ireland Executive will in due course decide if these reform measures should be implemented for Northern Ireland public service pension schemes.

## Corporation Tax

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail any measures his Department is considering which would mitigate the costs of 'behavioural effects' which would occur if corporation tax was lowered.

**(AQW 2989/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** There are a range of options to mitigate the behavioural costs of corporation tax reduction such as profit shifting. These include using the mechanisms that are already within the UK tax system for profits earned by UK companies from their overseas operations or linking the profits on which Corporation Tax might be paid to the economic activity that actually takes place within Northern Ireland in terms of either employment and/or output. However, we need to explore the feasibility and merits of such approaches with the Treasury and HMRC – who are responsible for managing the tax regime in the UK – before we are in a position to comment further.

The Government consultation on Rebalancing the Northern Ireland Economy closed in July and I wrote to the Exchequer Secretary at that time to indicate that we want to move this work to the next stage as quickly as possible. This, by necessity, will need to involve a consideration of the measures that could be put in place to mitigate against profit shifting and the impact this would have in relation to costs.

The Exchequer Secretary wrote to the First and deputy First Ministers on 30th September to indicate that the Government is establishing a Working Group to take the Corporation Tax and wider rebalancing work forward. While this is welcome, I am disappointed at the suggestion that a decision will be put off until next year and I will be pressing for the further work needed to inform this to be completed as a matter of urgency.

## Civil Service Equal Pay Settlement

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) why; and (ii) how it was possible to make lump sum payments, net of tax and National Insurance contributions, to the beneficiaries of the Civil Service Equal Pay settlement, but not to the beneficiaries of the Part-Time Reserve Gratuity Scheme.

**(AQW 3019/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The NICS Equal Pay lump sum payments were paid to staff net of tax and National Insurance contributions to avoid the very significant administrative effort of around 16,000 individual tax calculations. A central agreement was reached with HM Revenue and Customs who analysed a sample of NICS staff and determined an average taxation figure which was then paid to HMRC based on the lump sum payments made.

The Part-Time Reserve Gratuity Scheme is a matter for the Department of Justice.

## Civil Service Child Care Voucher Scheme

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) how many Civil Servants in each Department have availed of the Child Care Voucher Scheme; and (ii) to detail the advantages of the Scheme to employees and employers.

**(AQW 3030/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The table below shows the number of staff in each department who were participating in the Child Care Voucher Scheme on 1 September 2011.

Department	Number of staff
OFMdFM	11

Department	Number of staff
DARD	73
DCAL	11
DE	18
DEL	26
DETI	22
DFP	141
DHSSPS	28
DOE	83
DOJ	98
DRD	39
DSD	87
PPS	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>661</b>

The Salary Sacrifice Childcare Voucher Scheme allows parents to give up or sacrifice part of their normal salary in return for vouchers that can be used to pay for childcare. Savings can accrue as the salary that is given up in this way is exempt from income tax or National Insurance contributions (NICs) subject to certain limits. As an employer, the Northern Ireland Civil Service also benefits through the reduction in employer's National Insurance contributions. It also is in line with the Service's commitment to the concept of good work-life balance for staff. It must be recognised however that the scheme is not suitable for everyone. To be eligible the parents or guardians must use registered childcare and in some cases the vouchers adversely affect entitlement to benefits and tax credits. Parents and guardians are therefore urged to thoroughly investigate the full implications of the scheme before joining. To assist staff my Department recently organised a series of road shows in NICS buildings to explain the scheme.

## Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

### Consultant at Bangor Hospital's Diabetes Clinic

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) why, when it was known that the consultant at Bangor Hospital's Diabetes Clinic was due to retire, the service was discontinued on a temporary basis; (ii) at what stage is the recruitment process for a replacement consultant; and (iii) when the clinic is due to reopen.

**(AQW 2845/11-15)**

**Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** The provision of outpatient clinics is an operational matter for Health and Social Services Trusts. However, the South Eastern Trust has advised as follows:

- (i) In addition to the Bangor Community Hospital outpatients clinic the retiring consultant was substantially involved in the Trust's Acute Admissions Unit. When a consultant retires or leaves the organisation, a review is undertaken of the continuing need for the particular sub-speciality in the context of changing demands and priorities. This, and decisions on priorities for replacement, took some time to complete.
- (ii) The Trust is conducting interviews this month for a consultant; and

- (iii) A date for resuming the clinic has not yet been determined as it will be dependent on when the successful candidate can take up the post.

## 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 were paid more than 10 days late.

**(AQW 2857/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** It is not possible to provide this information exactly without an extensive manual exercise. However, based on a high level analysis, the indicative number of invoices paid more than 10 days late was as follows:

	<b>Cumulative total invoices paid late from AQW 2122/11-15</b>	<b>Invoices paid more than 10 days late</b>
Belfast Trust	8,063	6,316
Northern Trust	2,304	1,559
Southern Trust	4,024	2,879
S/E Trust	3,835	3,014
Western Trust	1,254	889
NIAS Trust	184	113
HSC Board	875	654
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,539</b>	<b>15,424</b>

## Supplier Invoices

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 2122/11-15, other than the 20,539 invoices paid late by the Health and Social Care Trusts and the Health and Social Care Board, how many invoices, at 31 July 2011, were (i) overdue; and (ii) of these, how many were overdue by more than 10 days.

**(AQW 2866/11-15)**

**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.

## Appointments with Physiotherapists

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, for each of the last five years, to detail (i) the number of people awaiting appointments with physiotherapists for more than nine weeks; and (ii) the average waiting time for physiotherapy appointments, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust area.

**(AQW 2876/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Information on the number of people awaiting appointments with physiotherapists for more than nine weeks and average waiting times, for each of the last five years are not available.

Figures which are available relate only to month end counts of people awaiting an appointment with a physiotherapist for more than nine weeks. These are detailed in Table (a) for your information.

Table (a) below details the number of people awaiting an appointment with a physiotherapist for more than nine weeks at the end of March each year from 2008 to 2011, and for month end August 2011, which are the latest available monthly figures.

Table (a) Number of people awaiting an appointment with a physiotherapist for more than nine weeks<sup>1</sup>

Year End Position	Belfast HSC Trust	Northern HSC Trust	South Eastern HSC Trust	Southern HSC Trust	Western HSC Trust	Northern Ireland
Mar 08*	393	396	124	297	209	1,419
Mar 09	68	59	275	221	93	716
Mar 10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mar 11	379	0	0	0	32	411
Aug 11	1,731	87	248	1,156	421	3,643

\* Numbers relate to 13 weeks as this was the target for the end of March 2008. 1 Figures detailed in reply to this question were provided on request by the HSCB, and have not been validated by the DHSSPS.

It is apparent from the figures provided by the HSCB that the number of people waiting for more than nine weeks at the end of March each year (411 for March 2011) is significantly less than the number of people waiting for more than nine weeks throughout the year (3,643 for August 2011). This difference may reflect Trusts efforts to clear outstanding waits at the end of March, which is a key end of year reporting period.

The PHA in conjunction with the HSCB is leading a process of engagement with all HSC Trusts across Northern Ireland to establish the reasons for all waits in excess of the nine week target and to agree recovery plans.

## Prescriptions

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) how many prescriptions have been dispensed in each of the last three years; and (ii) the administrative cost of dispensing these prescriptions.

**(AQW 2887/11-15)**

### Mr Poots:

- (i) The number of prescription forms dispensed and presented for payment by community pharmacists within each of the last three 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 prescription forms 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 PRESCRIPTION FORMS DISPENSED AND PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT BY COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS WITHIN EACH OF THE LAST THREE FINANCIAL YEARS.**

Financial Year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Number of prescription forms (millions)	17.8	19.1	20.3

**Source:** FPS, Information and Registration Unit, Business Services Organisation.

- (ii) The administrative cost of dispensing for each of the last three years is shown in table 2 below. The table details the BSO administrative costs related to the enforcement of prescription charges and the delivery of pre payment certificates. Included in the figures are:
- (ii) the pre-payment certificate sales fees paid to pharmacists; point of dispensing check fees paid to pharmacists; BSO administration costs for pre-payment certificates; and counter fraud unit

administration costs. The figures exclude BSO costs in relation to the processing and calculation of the monthly payments for pharmacies.

**TABLE 2: THE ADMINISTRATIVE COST OF DISPENSING BY COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS FOR EACH OF THE LAST THREE FINANCIAL YEARS.**

Financial Year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
BSO Administrative Costs	£1.02m	£0.9m	£0

**Source:** FPS, Information and Registration Unit, Business Services Organisation.

**Notes:**

1. Prescription charges were reduced from £6.85 per item to £3 per item from January 2009. Prescription charges were removed from April 2010 onwards, and there are therefore no related administration costs for BSO in relation to the enforcement of charges for 2010/11.

### **Unison's Industrial Action on 5 October 2011**

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety which services in each Health and Social Care Trust area were cancelled or negatively impacted upon by Unison's industrial action on 5 October 2011.

**(AQW 2898/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The strike action staged by UNISON on Wednesday 5 October had an effect on services across all HSC Trusts including the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service. The main impact was the cancellation of non-critical clinical activity and the consequent further delay that will be caused to patients and clients waiting to be seen for treatment and care. However, the vast majority of services continued to function, albeit with reduced cover in some areas. Most importantly, the most vulnerable patients and clients, including those in residential care and who receive care in their own homes, were not put at risk. I have been informed by Health and Social Care Trusts that hospitals cancelled approximately 2,224 outpatient appointments and 177 inpatient admissions were cancelled across all sites in Northern Ireland as a consequence of Unison's one day strike.

### **Podiatry Treatment for People with Diabetes**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety which hospitals or clinics offer Health Service podiatry treatment for people with diabetes.

**(AQW 2936/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I am advised by the Health and Social Care Trusts that podiatry services for people with diabetes are provided in the following hospitals:

**South Eastern HSC Trust** – Ulster Hospital; Downe Hospital; Lagan Valley Hospital; Ards Community Hospital and Bangor Community Hospital.

**Belfast HSC Trust:** City Hospital; Royal Victoria Hospital, Mater Hospital.

**Northern HSC Trust:** Antrim Area Hospital; Causeway Hospital; Whiteabbey Hospital; Mid Ulster Hospital; Braid Valley Hospital.

**Western HSC Trust:** Altnagelvin Hospital; Erne Hospital; Tyrone County Hospital; Roe Valley Hospital.

**Southern HSC Trust:** Armagh Community Hospital; South Tyrone Hospital; Craigavon Area Hospital; Daisy Hill Hospital.

In addition podiatry services for people with diabetes are also provided in a wide range of community facilities such as health centres and GP surgeries as well as to nursing and residential homes and via domiciliary visits.

Podiatry in acute based care is mainly comprised of a high risk caseload including diabetes, renal and vascular patients and those at greatest risk of foot ulceration, infection or limb loss.

## Podiatry Appointments

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action is being taken to reduce waiting times for podiatry appointments for people with diabetes.

**(AQW 2937/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Public Health Agency has worked with Trusts to develop regionally consistent access criteria for Allied Health Professional (AHP) services, including podiatry. Access to podiatry services is based on clinical need – factors considered include pain, foot and leg pathologies and systemic diseases.

A number of actions are being developed to ensure that resources are used as effectively as possible and thereby to help manage waiting times. The PHA is leading a process to agree consistent care pathways that will ensure patients are managed by the appropriate skilled clinician, thereby reducing inappropriate referrals. Efforts have also been made to enhance skills mix across AHP services to help ensure that patients who do not need the skills of a professional are managed by an assistant. In addition, patients are regularly re-assessed to ensure that resources are targeted at patients with greatest clinical need.

## Podiatry Appointments

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the average waiting time for a podiatry appointment for people with diabetes in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 2938/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Information on average waiting times for podiatry appointments for people with diabetes is not available.

Figures are available, however, on completed waiting times for all persons attending their first appointment with a chiropodist/ podiatrist. These indicate for the quarter ending 30 June 2011, that 8,050 people attended their first appointment with a community chiropodist/ podiatrist, of which 8018 (99.6%) had waited less than three months from referral to first appointment, 17 (0.2%) had waited between three and six months, and 15 (0.2%) had waited six months or more.

## Generic Drugs

**Mr McCartney** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department has identified the savings that could be made if community pharmacists were able to switch to generic drugs when dispensing.

**(AQW 2969/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** It is estimated that the maximum optimal level of achievement possible for generic dispensing is approximately 70%. In Northern Ireland a generic dispensing rate of 62.2% was achieved in 2010-11. Generic substitution, whereby a pharmacist may substitute a generic product if one is available, in place of a branded product named on a prescription, may have a part to play in increasing the use of generics in Northern Ireland and delivering any associated savings. I have not ruled out taking steps to introduce generic substitution but I have no immediate plans to do so.

If I decide that generic substitution arrangements should be introduced in Northern Ireland it will of course be necessary to consult on any such proposals. Any new arrangements would also need to ensure that specific branded medicines continue to be dispensed in certain circumstances where it is clinically appropriate to do so.

## Podiatry Services

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients accessed podiatry services in 20011, broken down by age.

**(AQW 2976/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Information is not available on the number of patients who accessed podiatry services in 2011, broken down by age.

Figures are available, however, on the number of people attending their first appointment with a chiropodist/podiatrist. These are detailed in the table below for your information. From 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011, 16,092 people attended their first appointment with a community chiropodist/podiatrist. Information for quarters ending 30 September 2011 and 31 December 2011 is not yet available.

### NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING THEIR FIRST APPOINTMENT WITH A CHIROPODIST/ PODIATRIST DURING QUARTER ENDING

31 March 2011	30 June 2011
8,042	8,050

**Source:** Community Information CP3 Return

## Podiatry Services

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the average waiting time for access to podiatry services, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust.

**(AQW 2978/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Information on average waiting times for access to podiatry services is not available.

However, figures are available on waiting times, by aggregated time bands, from the date of referral to treatment for podiatry. Figures at 31 August 2011 are detailed in the table below for your information.

HSC Trust	Waiting time from referral to treatment for Podiatry (by weeks waiting) <sup>1</sup>					Total
	0-3	>3 to 6	>6 to 9	> 9 to 13	> 13	
Belfast	436	308	133	0	0	877
Northern	612	244	77	0	0	933
South Eastern	302	222	63	5	0	592
Southern	260	243	80	8	0	591
Western	268	197	50	2	0	517
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,510</b>

1 Figures detailed in reply to this question were provided on request by the HSCB, and have not been validated by the DHSSPS.

## Dependency on Fossil Fuels

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps he intends to take to reduce dependency on fossil fuels in the Health Service during this mandate.

**(AQW 2983/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department will be contributing to the DETI Sustainable Energy Action Plan which includes growth of the renewal energy market from which the Health Service can procure a greater



proportion of their energy requirements from renewable sources together with investment by the Health Service in onsite renewal energy technologies such as wind power, biomass, ground source heating and cooling and solar technology.

### **Missed Appointments as a Result of Unison's One-Day Strike**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) to detail the number of missed appointments as a result of Unison's one-day strike on Wednesday 5 October 2011; and (ii) how long it will take to catch up on the missed appointments.

**(AQW 3008/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I have been informed by Health and Social Care Trusts that hospitals cancelled approximately 2,224 outpatient appointments across all sites in Northern Ireland as a consequence of Unison's one day strike on Wednesday 5 October 2011.

Patients are currently being provided with new appointments, some of whom have already been seen. The majority of patients will be seen before the end of November 2011, although a number of patients may not be seen within this timescale.

### **Ambulances: Battenberg Livery**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the cost of equipping ambulances with the Battenberg livery; (ii) whether it is considered value for money; and (iii) if it is applied for public safety reasons why fire and rescue vehicles, apart from fire engines, are not equipped with similar livery.

**(AQW 3021/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I can advise that the supply and fitting of Battenburg livery on each new build ambulance costs £1,634 plus VAT. The livery is included in the overall vehicle tender process carried out by the Business Services Organisation's Procurement and Logistics Service on behalf of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) to ensure best value for money.

The livery ensures the high visibility of its vehicles in both daylight and in the path of headlights, thereby reducing the likelihood of road accidents where conspicuousness of the A&E vehicle is a factor. It also distinctively marks it as an emergency ambulance.

Unlike high-visibility PSNI and NIAS vehicles and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) fire appliances, NIFRS white emergency response vehicles are not in a "sole response" role. Battenburg livery is not fitted to these vehicles because of the potential for misidentification, which could jeopardise the health and safety of personnel.

### **Rainbow Project**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 2638/11-15, to detail the schedule of activities which the Department agreed with the Rainbow Project upon which the funding granted by the Department can be spent.

**(AQW 3022/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The schedule of activities agreed between my Department and the Rainbow Project through the award of grant funding towards the organisation's central administrative costs covers the following services in support of the Sexual Health Promotion Strategy and Action Plan:

- the development and dissemination of information resources which include resources for health professionals;
- the facilitation of support services and groups;
- production and distribution of safer sex packs;
- holding Genito-Urinary testing clinics;



- the delivery of personal development courses and training; and
- carrying out research.

### **Prisoners Being Prescribed Sedatives, Tranquillisers or Anti-depressants**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of prisoners who are currently being prescribed sedatives, tranquillisers or anti-depressants; and what this figure represents as a percentage of the prison population.

**(AQW 3026/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** It is assumed that that the question refers to the prescription of medicines in the following chapters of the British National Formulary;

Chapter 4.1 (hypnotics, anxiolytics and barbiturates); and

Chapter 4.3 (antidepressant drugs).

Information on the number of prisoners prescribed these drugs is contained in the table below.

	<b>hypnotics, anxiolytics &amp; barbiturates</b>	<b>antidepressant drugs</b>
Number of prisoners prescribed:	248	982
Percentage of total prison population:	13.92%	55.11%

### **Air Ambulance Provision**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the provision of an air ambulance.

**(AQW 3038/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The HSC Board is currently undertaking a feasibility study for a helicopter emergency medical service for Northern Ireland which is expected to report shortly. While investment in the development, improvement and consolidation of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) to improve its response to emergency life threatening calls will remain the priority, I am happy to explore the potential added value that aero medical support could provide to existing ambulance services. I await the outcome of the feasibility study.

### **Extra Energy Costs After an Operation**

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what provisions are in place to help people who have undergone operations and as a result incur extra energy costs once they return home; and what action he intends to take to improve provisions in this area.

**(AQW 3040/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** There is no generic scheme to assist with extra energy costs in these circumstances. There are some circumstances where assistance with extra electricity costs is provided, for example for those with long-term medical conditions such as cystic fibrosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease who have been prescribed oxygen concentrator devices for home use, and for home haemodialysis patients, due to the electricity usage associated with this type of dialysis.

People with long term conditions may qualify for additional benefits to help with energy costs. The DSD Warm Homes scheme can provide assistance to people on qualifying benefits for energy checks and a range of measures to promote general energy efficiency.

## Dermatology Consultants

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of dermatology consultants appointed to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust in the last year; (ii) the commencement date for each consultant; and (iii) the hospital where each consultant is based.  
(AQW 3069/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The information requested is given in the table below.

Dermatology Consultants appointed within the Northern Health and Social Care Trust since October 2010 by Hospital

Grade	HC	WTE	Date Commenced	Hospital Based
Consultant Dermatologist	1	0.60	15/8/11	Antrim Area
Consultant Dermatologist	1	0.60	7/10/11	Antrim Area
Consultant Dermatologist	1	1.00	25/7/11	Causeway

**Source:** Northern Health and Social Care Trust

**Notes:**

1. HC = Headcount
2. WTE = Whole-time Equivalent

## Community Pharmacy and Hospital-based Pharmacy

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department has spent on (i) community pharmacy; and (ii) hospital-based pharmacy in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3077/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** Expenditure on community pharmacy in each of the last five years is set out in the table below.

	2006/07 £m	2007/08 £m	2008/09 £m	2009/10 £m	2010/11 £m
Community Pharmacy	404.5	426.9	445.0	473.6	492.3

Hospital-based pharmacy expenditure for the last three years is set out in the table below.

	2006/07 £m	2007/08 £m	2008/09 £m	2009/10 £m	2010/11 £m
Hospital-based Pharmacy			149.6	160.8	175.9

**Note:** Expenditure for 2006/07 and 2007/08 relates to pre-RPA legacy trusts and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

## Hoax Calls to the Fire and Rescue Service

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department has spent in each of the last three years on public information films and other media to discourage hoax calls to the Fire and Rescue Service.

(AQW 3083/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) is responsible for raising public awareness of fire safety issues. NIFRS expenditure on media advertising to discourage false alarm malicious 'hoax' calls in the last three years is set out in the table.

Year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Expenditure	£9,000.00	£46,006.42	£34,373.70

## Intermediate Care Beds

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of intermediate care beds within both the statutory and private sector in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area.

**(AQW 3096/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** At 11 October 2011, there were 242 intermediate care beds in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust. Of these beds, 235 were in the statutory sector and 7 were in the private sector.

At 11 October 2011, no one was waiting for an intermediate care bed in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

## Internal Review of Intermediate Care Provision

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the internal review of intermediate care provision in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust will be completed and published.

**(AQW 3100/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** An independent review of intermediate care beds, commissioned by Health and Social Care Board, was undertaken during 2010 and made recommendations for a restructuring of inpatient intermediate care beds, including a significant reduction from the current locations and the concentration of the services on fewer sites to improve clinical and therapeutic support.

The Northern Trust is currently considering these recommendations, and a range of related matters, to ensure that high quality care is provided. Proposals for change will be submitted formally to the Trust Board no later than February 2012.

## Intermediate Care Beds

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people are waiting for an intermediate care bed in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area.

**(AQW 3102/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** At 11 October 2011, there were 242 intermediate care beds in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust. Of these beds, 235 were in the statutory sector and 7 were in the private sector.

At 11 October 2011, no one was waiting for an intermediate care bed in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

## Voice of Young People in Care

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what services the Voice of Young People in Care provides in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area.

**(AQW 3107/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Voice of Young People in Care provides advocacy, mentoring and participation services for young people in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust care area.

## Plan for Rare Diseases

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department has had any discussions with the Department of Health in the Republic of Ireland about collaborating on the development and implementation of a plan for rare diseases.

**(AQW 3108/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I can confirm that the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Michael McBride, met Dr Tony Holohan, his Republic of Ireland counterpart, together with their senior medical colleagues, in February 2011 and discussed, among other things, each jurisdiction's rare disease plan. It was agreed that, whilst each jurisdiction was developing its own plan, it would be beneficial to share work undertaken to date.

My Department is currently participating in work being lead by the Department of Health in England to develop a UK Plan for Rare Diseases.

## Post Graduate Certificate in Prescribing for Allied Health Professionals

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) how many (a) physiotherapists; (b) podiatrists; and (c) radiographers successfully completed the Post Graduate Certificate in Prescribing for Allied Health Professionals at the University of Ulster in 2010; and (ii) how many are currently engaged in supplementary prescribing in each Health and Social Care Trust area.

**(AQW 3109/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Eleven students successfully completed the Post Graduate Certificate in Prescribing for Allied Health Professionals (AHP's) at the University of Ulster in 2010:

- (a) Physiotherapists – 6
- (b) Podiatrists – 2
- (c) Therapeutic Radiographers – 3.

Currently, the Public Health Agency is working with Allied Health Professionals across the HSC to implement supplementary prescribing.

## Protect Life Strategy

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) for an update on his Department's review of the Protect Life Strategy, including when it will be published; (ii) to detail the strengths and weaknesses of the current Protect Life Strategy; and (iii) whether he intends to make the revised Strategy available for public consultation.

**(AQW 3112/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) The Protect Life Strategy is currently being refreshed in light of the findings of the Health Committee Inquiry into the Prevention of Suicide and Self Harm, the findings from a review of international evidence and best practice, and feedback from a major workshop in September which had widespread community sector and Health and Social Care participation. The "refreshed strategy" is due for publication later this year.
- (ii) The review of Protect Life has indicated that its key strength has been the commitment and ownership of stakeholders in the community, voluntary and statutory sectors, and by families bereaved by suicide, in the implementation of the strategy. The main weakness has been the reliance on the achievement of the 15% reduction target as the primary gauge of the impact of the strategy since its publication in 2006. The NI Audit Office has acknowledged that the suicide rate alone is "an unreliable indicator of health patterns". Independent evaluation of Protect Life is being commissioned. This will provide a more comprehensive assessment of the impact of Protect Life.
- (iii) I do not intend to make the "refreshed" strategy available for public consultation. The Protect Life Strategy was developed following very widespread public consultation and the "refresh" is being

overseen by the cross-sectoral Suicide Strategy Implementation Body. The “refreshed” strategy will have a two-year lifespan. New suicide prevention policy will be developed for 2013 and that will be subject to public consultation. In the meantime, I intend to seek the endorsement of the Health Committee and Executive for the “refreshed” strategy.

### Labour Ward in the Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry

**Mr Brady** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the ten year plan for maternity services and the Labour Ward in the Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry.

**(AQW 3175/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department has not formulated a 10 year plan for maternity services. On 28 September, I launched a public consultation on a draft Maternity Strategy for Northern Ireland. The draft Strategy aims to provide women, professionals, policy makers and commissioners with a clear pathway for maternity services in Northern Ireland, from pre-conceptual care through to postnatal care.

Whenever the final document is published in 2012, I expect commissioners to take account of it when planning the shape of maternity services over the next 5 years .

The consultation closes on 23 December; I would urge anyone with an interest in maternity services to respond to the consultation.

### Unison Strike on 5 October 2011

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of (i) the display of coffins outside health facilities during the Unison strike on 5 October 2011; and (ii) the response of a senior Unison official who described such a display as ‘trivial’.

**(AQW 3184/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I understand the reasons to use the imagery of coffins in industrial action and acknowledge that the use of cardboard replicas is common practice in the trade union movement. However, I find the use of a real coffin to be in extremely poor taste and insensitive to patients with life-threatening illnesses or those who were visiting such patients. Clearly, on this occasion UNISON guidelines were broken which state that, ‘It is an offence to use threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour or display any insulting leaflets, placards, posters or other material.’ Immediately following the strike action, my Department contacted UNISON on this matter.

### Appointment with a Neurologist

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the current waiting time for an appointment with a neurologist for patients in the Western Health and Social Care Trust.

**(AQW 3307/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The waiting time position for a first outpatient appointment with a neurologist at the Western Health and Social Care Trust, at 30th June 2011, the most recent period for which official statistics are available, is outlined in the table below.

#### NUMBER OF PATIENTS WAITING, AND LENGTH OF TIME WAITING (IN WEEKS), FOR A FIRST OUTPATIENT APPOINTMENT WITH A NEUROLOGIST AT THE WESTERN HSC TRUST: 30TH JUNE 2011

Specialty	Waiting time (in weeks)						Total Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 9	>9 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26	
Neurology	284	81	124	246	147	560	1,442

**Source:** Departmental Return CH3

## Department of Justice

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

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

**(AQW 2768/11-15)**

**Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice ):** The following DOJ arm's length bodies have Chairpersons and/or Chief Executives who are paid daily rates. Pay costs are subject to approval by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) through the pay remit process, where applicable.

Arm's length body	Chairperson Daily Rate	Chief Executive Daily Rate	Comments
Northern Ireland Police Fund	£125	Annual salary, no daily rate applicable	Daily rate set and approved by the DOJ and DFP.
Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission	£454	Annual salary, no daily rate applicable	Daily rate takes account of rates provided by Ministry of Justice.
Northern Ireland Law Commission	£681	Annual salary, no daily rate applicable	Chairperson is required to be a high court judge who works one day a week for the Law commission, on loan from the NI Courts Service.

### Luxury Furnishings for Marian Price

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the impact on public confidence in the Prison Service resulting from the expenditure on luxury furnishings for Marian Price.

**(AQW 2821/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Given the unique circumstances of the custody of Ms McGlinchey (née Price), the Governor (as part of his duty of care) was content that the refurbishment was necessary and proportionate and the furnishings were in no sense "luxury". The expenditure was necessary to provide accommodation and a regime comparable to that available for female prisoners in Ash House at Hydebank Wood.

### Maghaberry Prison

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice how many cells are unavailable for use as a result of Marian Price being held at Maghaberry Prison.

**(AQW 2822/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There are currently 14 cells not available for use by male prisoners in Maghaberry Prison.

### Maghaberry Prison

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice what criteria were used to authorise expenditure of £2257 for changes to the accommodation and furnishings to facilitate Marian Price in Maghaberry Prison; and who authorised this expenditure.

**(AQW 2823/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The criteria used to authorise expenditure were to provide accommodation and a regime comparable to that available for female prisoners in Ash House at Hydebank Wood. The expenditure was authorised by the Governor in charge of Maghaberry and supported by the Director General of the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

## Sentencing

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether he intends to amend legislation to allow previous convictions, secured against a defendant in the rest of the UK or the Republic of Ireland, to be taken into account when sentencing someone convicted of a crime in Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 2832/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Legislation to allow previous convictions to be taken into account when sentencing for crimes committed in Northern Ireland is already in existence and covers convictions in the rest of the UK, the Republic of Ireland and other EU Member States.

## Grants

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the grants which have been awarded by his Department, in each of the last three years, to organisations other than the Prison Service and the Probation Service, which aim to prevent people from repeat offending.

**(AQW 2852/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** All grants paid for by the Department of Justice are registered on the Government Funders' Database, which is available at <http://govfundingdbni.nics.gov.uk/gfdpublic/Home.aspx>.

All grants awarded by my Department directly or indirectly relate to reducing offending and reoffending, in line with the Department's mission statement.

## Legal Aid

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the (i) number; and (ii) cost of cases in which legal aid was granted in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 2899/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Table A below provides details of the number of acts of assistance that were granted for each of the last five financial years and Table B details the payments made during the same period.

**TABLE A – YEAR IN WHICH ACTS OF ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS WERE AUTHORISED**

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Legal Advice and Assistance (LAA)	29,848	27,504	31,313	32,908	40,287
Advice by Way of Representation (ABWOR)	3,681	3,110	3,614	3,601	3,719
Children Order	4,644	4,665	5,517	6,446	7,593
Civil	6,197	6,170	7,142	8,311	9,040
Criminal	32,986	32,868	30,612	33,355	38,437

For Criminal and Civil Legal Aid the above figures are based on certificates granted. For ABWOR and Children Order the figures are based on applications granted. For LAA this is based on the number of applications received. The figures in the above table do not align with the number of cases, as there may be more than one certificate or application in respect of an individual case. They do, however, provide an indication of the change in demand for legal aid over the period.



**TABLE B – EXPENDITURE (£M)**

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Legal Advice and Assistance	3.2	2.6	3.6	3.5	5.2
Advice by Way of Representation	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.9
Children Order	4.6	4.0	5.2	5.5	8.0
Civil	18.5	19.2	22.1	26.1	27.4
Criminal	41.7	44.5	50.6	60.0	50.8

The above table shows total legal aid expenditure over the past five years, as it is not possible to provide a breakdown on a case by case basis, except at disproportionate cost.

### Prison Officers: Sick Leave

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many prison officers are currently on sick leave as a result of incidents or assaults involving prisoners, broken down by prison facility.

**(AQW 2900/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** At 6 October 2011, the number of prison officers currently on sick leave due to incidents or assaults involving prisoners is as follows:

Prison Establishment	Number of officers on sickness absence
Maghaberry	18
Magilligan	Nil
Hydebank	12
Prisoner Escorting and Court Custody Service	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>

### Separated Republican Prisoners

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to list the demands made by separated republican prisoners since May 2010 including those which were met and those refused.

**(AQW 2902/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The demands made by Republican Separated prisoners since May 2010 have focussed on:

- No Full Body Searching (refused)
- No searching of prisoners on the landing (met)
- Free flow movement, that is, to be unlocked for the full day with complete free access to all House facilities and regime areas regardless of staffing levels or shortages (**met in part, further progress not possible while protest action continues**).

### Crown Court Juries

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many crown court juries had to be discharged during a hearing in each of the last three years, broken down by court division.

**(AQW 2903/11-15)**



**Mr Ford:** The table below sets out the number of cases where it has been specifically recorded that a jury was discharged during a trial as a result of an issue arising with one or more of the jury members including, for example, illness or conflict of interest.

	2008	2009	2010
<b>Division</b>			
Antrim	0	3	1
Belfast	1	2	1
Londonderry	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

There may be other cases where a jury was discharged during a trial due to a combination of factors, including where an issue arose with a jury member, but a specific reason has not been recorded.

## Separated Prisoners

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the terms contained within the compact for separated prisoners and any different arrangements for female separated prisoners.

**(AQW 2956/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The current compact for separated male prisoners was last reviewed in 2006. A copy has been placed in the Assembly Library. A draft compact for separated female prisoners has also been prepared however this has not yet been finalised. Both compacts will be subject to a further review after the publication of the final report by the Prison Review Team before being finalised.

There is unlikely to be any significant difference between the final published versions of the male and female compacts.

## Suspended Sentences

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether senior judiciary have issued a direction that a fine penalty should accompany any suspended sentence.

**(AQW 2957/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The issuing of Directions to the judiciary is a matter for the Lord Chief Justice. Having consulted with the Lord Chief Justice's Office I am informed that there is no judicial direction that refers to the imposition of a fine alongside a suspended sentence.

## Average Cost of Keeping a Prisoner

**Mr Hilditch** asked the Minister of Justice why the average cost of keeping a prisoner is £73,762 a year.

**(AQW 2965/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Cost per Prisoner Place is calculated by dividing the annual Operating Expenditure (excluding non-standard costs) by the average total available number of places, defined as Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA).

The table below sets out the figures used to calculate the 2010-11 cost per prisoner place of £73,762, which was lower than the established target of £76,500.

	2010-11
Staff Costs (£k)	91,154

	<b>2010-11</b>
Net Running Costs (£k)	25,704
Depreciation (£k)	13,333
Operating Expenditure (£k)	130,191
Prisoner places (CNA)	1,765
<b>Cost per Prisoner Place (£)</b>	<b>73,762</b>

## Prison Visitors

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many prison visitors have been convicted of attempting to smuggle in banned substances to prisoners in each of the last five years, broken down by prison facility.

**(AQW 3009/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The information is not available in the form requested. Not all prison visitors arrested for attempting to smuggle in banned substances to prisoners will have been prosecuted. Visitors may have been cautioned, proceeded against by summons or charged for offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act. These prosecutions, if they arose, could not necessarily be linked specifically to attempts to smuggle banned substances into prison. The process of prosecution cuts across PSNI, the Courts and the Public Prosecution Service, the Northern Ireland Prison Service does not hold information on the number, if any, of actual convictions.

The table below shows the number of individuals arrested on suspicion of attempting to smuggle in banned substances to prisoners in each of the last five years.

	<b>Maghaberry</b>	<b>Magilligan</b>	<b>Hydebank Wood</b>
2007/08	27	3	An <b>estimated</b> 14 arrests were made between 2008/09 and 2011/12
2008/09	32	4	
2009/10	37	3	
2010/11	31	8	
2011/12 (half year)	10	-	

## Marion McGlinchey: Accommodation and Facilities

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether the Prison Service sought guidance from the Northern Ireland Prisoner Ombudsman on the accommodation and facilities to be provided for Marion McGlinchey.

**(AQW 3011/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The advice of the Northern Ireland Prisoner Ombudsman was not sought on the accommodation and facilities provided for Marion McGlinchey

## Loyalist Separated Prisoners

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many loyalist separated prisoners are currently refusing to conform to prison rules or the terms of the required compact because of alleged grievances.

**(AQW 3012/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There are currently no loyalist separated prisoners refusing to conform to prison rules or the required terms of the compact.

## Drug Tests on Prisoners

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Justice how many (i) random; and (ii) routine drug tests were carried out on prisoners in each of the last three years; and how many and what percentage of each type of test produced a positive result.

**(AQW 3028/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Figures for random and routine tests are set out in the table below together with the percentage failures (Positive Tests).

Type of Test	2008		2009		2010	
	Tested	Fail	Tested	Failed	Tested	Failed
Random	820	66 (8.04%)	797	73 (9.15%)	876	58 (6.62%)
Routine	4607	590 (12.8%)	4648	559 (12.02%)	2836	325 (11.45%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5427</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>5445</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>3712</b>	<b>383</b>

## Training College at Desertcreat

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Justice how many jobs are expected to be created in the design and build of the training college at Desertcreat; and how many will be created for staffing and servicing the college.

**(AQW 3036/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** My Department estimates that throughout the life of the construction project there will be a requirement for between 1,500 and 1,700 construction jobs. It is estimated that there will be approximately 450-500 jobs staffing and servicing the college when operational, but it is not yet known how many of these will be new posts and how many will be existing jobs relocated.

## Desertcreat Training College

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice to provide a breakdown of each Department's projected capital spend for the Desertcreat Training College.

**(AQW 3057/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The breakdown of each Service's projected capital spend for the Desertcreat Training College is as follows:

Capital Spend	£'000's
PSNI	100,194
NIFRS	28,932
NIPS	9,616
Total	138,742

## Desertcreat Training College

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the timeframe for the tender process for the new Desertcreat Training College, Cookstown.

**(AQW 3104/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The tender process for the new Desertcreat Training College in Cookstown is currently planned to run to the following timescales:

Date	Milestone
Mid November 2011	Contractor Information Day
Early January 2012	Publish the Office Journal of the European Union notice (Pre-Qualification Questionnaire stage)
Early May 2012	Issue Invitation To Tender to shortlist
January 2013	Award contract & issue the Office Journal of the European Union contract award notice

## Maximum Fines

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the maximum fine which can be imposed by courts at each level of the standard scale.

**(AQW 3106/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The maximum fines that can be imposed by courts at each level of the standard scale are:

Level on the scale	Amount of Fine
1	£200
2	£500
3	£1,000
4	£2,500
5	£5,000

## Liam Adams: Legal Aid

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether Liam Adams has been granted any legal aid from Northern Ireland for his extradition procedures or any of the substantive matters for which his extradition is sought; and if so, how much.

**(AQW 3129/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** To date, no application has been submitted to the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission on behalf of Mr Adams in relation to the charges for which his extradition to Northern Ireland is being sought, and no costs have been incurred by the legal aid fund in respect of him and his alleged involvement in this matter.

## Perjury Under Affidavit

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many convictions have been secured for (i) perjury under affidavit; and (ii) perjury in the witness box in each of the last five years, broken down by court division; and what were the sentencing outcomes in these cases.

**(AQW 3130/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There are no specific offences for “perjury under affidavit” and “perjury in the witness box” and conviction data sets do not contain background information to aid identification. Therefore, it is possible only to provide conviction statistics for those offences which, in their definition, refer to “perjury”, under the Perjury (Northern Ireland) Order 1979. These cover:

- Perjury
- Tendering false statement in evidence
- Furnishing false statement

- Perjury by witness
- Conspiracy to commit perjury by witness
- Incitement to commit perjury
- Perjury by interpreter

**The table below gives the number convicted and sentencing details by court division for the calendar years 2004 to 2008 (the latest year for which figures are currently available). Data for 2004 to 2006 should not be directly compared with data from 2007 to 2008 as the data sets are sourced from different systems. Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.**

#### **NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCING DETAILS FOR PERJURY BY COURT DIVISION 2004-2008**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Number convicted</b>	<b>Sentence</b>
2004		0	
2005		0	
2006		0	
2007			
Belfast	Furnishing false statement	1	3 months' imprisonment, wholly suspended for 18 months
Total		1	
2008			
Fermanagh and Tyrone	Perjury by witness	1	Community service order (100 Hours)
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	

### **Community Safety Strategy**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Justice when the Community Safety Strategy will be introduced; and what steps he is taking to ensure that it is introduced as quickly as possible.

**(AQW 3158/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I have previously announced my intention to publish the Community Safety Strategy by December 2011. Officials are currently engaged with key stakeholders, including relevant Government Departments, to develop final proposals for the Strategy, which will also be subject to the Justice Committee's consideration and the Executive's approval.

### **Victims of Trafficking and Prostitution**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Justice what plans he has to provide a support network for the victims of trafficking and prostitution, given the language difficulties that are experienced by the many victims who are Chinese or Eastern European, and that the grassroots support organisations are experiencing a reduction in funding.

**(AQW 3161/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** My Department funds a comprehensive care and support package for all adult victims of human trafficking which includes safe accommodation, access to translation services, healthcare, counselling, and other necessary advice. DHSSPS also provides care and support to children.

In January 2011 DoJ published a research paper which investigated the issues for women in Northern Ireland involved in prostitution. Based on that research a multi-agency approach is being taken to assessing what needs to be done to provide support to women involved in prostitution.

## Wheel Clamping

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Justice whether he has any plans to introduce legislation which would ban wheel clamping on private land.

**(AQW 3179/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I currently have no plans to introduce legislation to ban wheel clamping on private land in Northern Ireland.

I intend, however, to include the issue in a forthcoming consultation on the future regulation of the private security industry here. To inform this consultation I have recently commissioned research to seek to identify how prevalent the practice is, what purpose it serves, evidence of the harm it causes and an appraisal of any benefits.

I will wish to analyse both the findings of the research and the outcome of the consultation before deciding whether to bring forward proposals to ban wheel clamping on private land here.

## Convictions for Cannabis Cultivation

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many convictions have been secured for cannabis cultivation in each of the last five years, broken down by court division; and of these how many were on a (i) minor scale; and (ii) major scale.

**(AQW 3192/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Cannabis cultivation may be prosecuted under Section 6(2) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and/or Articles 3 and 9(1) of the Criminal Attempts and Conspiracy (NI) Order 1983. The data sets do not contain background information to aid identification of varying scales of cannabis cultivation.

The table below gives the number convicted by court division for the calendar years 2004 to 2008 (the latest year for which figures are currently available). Data for 2004 to 2006 should not be directly compared with data from 2007 to 2008 as the data sets are sourced from different systems. Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

Number of people convicted for cannabis cultivation by court division 2004-2008

Court division	Year				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Antrim	2	2	1	15	7
Ards	1	2	4	5	16
Armagh and South Down	0	0	3	7	7
Belfast	5	6	5	12	9
Craigavon and Lisburn	0	0	1	0	5
Fermanagh and Tyrone	5	3	1	3	9
Londonderry	2	2	3	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>56</b>

## Illegal Parades

**Mr Cree** asked the Minister of Justice to list the locations of the nine illegal parades which have taken place over the last two years.

**(AQW 3224/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I can advise that since July 2009 Police Service of Northern Ireland records show that illegal Republican parades have taken place in: Stoneyford; Ormeau Avenue, Belfast; Mullaghbawn; Galbally; Rosslea; Armagh and Londonderry. There have also been two illegal parades in Lurgan.

## Department for Regional Development

### Coleraine to Londonderry Track Relay

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister for Regional Development when the economic appraisal for the Coleraine to Londonderry track relay will be finalised and approved.

**(AQW 2349/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development):** The economic appraisal for the relay of the Coleraine to Londonderry track was approved by the Department of Finance and Personnel on 10 October 2011. My Department will issue a letter of offer to give Translink the approval to proceed with the project.

### Mayfield Link Road, Mallusk

**Mr A Maginness** asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 2587/11-15, (i) to provide an update on the progress on the adoption of the Mayfield Link Road, Mallusk; (ii) if this work has not yet been completed, what action he plans to take to ensure that the problems of winter 2010/11 are not repeated; and (iii) what discussions have taken place between his Department and Translink to ensure that the Metro bus service continues to operate on this road during the winter.

**(AQW 2747/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has been in contact with the developer, Fraser Homes NI Ltd, to pursue outstanding issues which have, to date, prevented the adoption of Mayfield Link Road, Mallusk. The developer has confirmed that these outstanding issues are currently being addressed to enable the road to be offered for adoption. Once this work is complete, Roads Service will set the formal adoption process in motion, which is estimated to take only 2-3 days to complete.

However, I can inform the Member that the Mayfield Link Road has been assessed, in anticipation of the adoption, and has been included in the forthcoming winter maintenance gritting schedule.

Translink and Roads Service are currently in discussions to achieve a solution to the problem of bus service access to this area in the event of severe weather disruption. The safety of passengers and staff, and indeed, other road users and pedestrians remains a paramount consideration in deciding appropriate service arrangements during adverse weather conditions.

### Proposed Capital Spend Projects

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

**(AQW 2758/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department has a number of projects in progress or under development during 2011-12.

The following table lists those projects that have a projected cost greater than £5m and provides details of the budgeted spend for those projects during 2011-12 and the estimated completion date.

	<b>2011-12 Spend £m</b>	<b>Total Cost £m</b>	<b>Scheduled Year of Completion</b>
<b>Public Transport</b>			
New Trains 2	50.6	114.0	2012
Adelaide Train Maintenance Facility	16.8	27.8	2012
New Trains 2 Platform Extension	4.5	7.9	2012
Class 3000 Overhaul	1.9	13.7	2015
Coleraine to Londonderry Track Safety Improvement Works	3.4	7.7	2012
Coleraine to Londonderry Track Renewal	3.0	26.7	2013 (Phase1)
Metro/Goldline Fleet Replacement	9.2	15.0	2012
Building Services Upgrade Programme	0.5	5.5	2016
<b>Roads Service</b>			
A32 Cherrymount Link	3.6	13.0	2013
A32 Shannaragh	2.1	7.5	2013
A5 Western Transport Corridor	15.0	650 - 850	2016
A8 Belfast to Larne	2.5	110 - 120	2016

Note that the total Roads and Transport Capital Budget for 2011-12 of £263.8m is larger than the total of specified projects due to the number of projects under £5m not included in the above list. Roads Service spends two thirds of their capital budget on Structural Maintenance and Capital Improvements Schemes including expenditure on Minor Highways improvements, Bridge Strengthening, Cycling Measures, Pedestrian Measures etc. Indeed the Structural maintenance Budget alone is £67.5m for 2011-12. The several hundreds of individual schemes being undertaken mean that it is not possible to specify these individually. However, a list of these projects broken down by council area can be found at: [http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom\\_of\\_information/customer\\_information/cinformationtyperesults.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils](http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformationtyperesults.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils)

In addition, DRD provides funding for NIW's capital works programme which currently includes around thirty projects with total costs greater than £5m. The majority of projects are due for completion during the current, "PC10" planning period.

<b>Programme/Project</b>	<b>2011-12 Spend (£m)</b>
Water Infrastructure	56
Water Non-infrastructure	23
Sewerage Infrastructure	34
Sewerage Non-infrastructure	76

It should be noted that all figures reflect current plans and may be subject to change.



## Clearing Snow and Ice from Roads and Pavements

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on any arrangements or agreements between his Department, Roads Service and local Councils in relation to clearing snow and ice from roads and pavements during this coming winter.

**(AQW 2769/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service held a series of meetings with Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) representatives throughout the summer. The aim of these meetings was to establish a consensus on a number of points of principle that could be used as a starting point for negotiations between Roads Service and Councils regarding the removal of snow and ice from busy town centre footways, during prolonged periods of wintry weather.

I am pleased with the progress made in this area and that a number of key principles have been agreed by Roads Service, NILGA and SOLACE for the provision of this very important service.

It was intended that these points would form the basis of a draft agreement, which could be amended at local level, to take account of local Council preferences relating to specific schedules of footways, call-out procedures, or salt delivery arrangements.

Roads Service officials will now be approaching all Councils with a view to developing the local agreements mentioned above and, perhaps most importantly, to take account of the resources available to each Council.

I believe this approach will offer both organisations the opportunity to demonstrate a joined-up response to provide this valuable service to local ratepayers.

## Motorway Speed Limit

**Mr Hamilton** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether the Department for Transport's proposals to increase the motorway speed limit to 80mph will automatically apply to Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 2774/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department has powers to set speed limits under Article 38 of Part IV of The Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. The Department for Transport's proposal to increase speed limits on motorways to 80 mph will be subject to public consultation and, if approved, will only apply to motorways in England and Wales.

There is a commitment contained within the Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy to 2020, published earlier this year, for the Department to review the speed limits of the upper tier rural road network within five years.

## Disposal of Surplus Property

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether NI Water is bound by the same arrangements as other non-departmental public bodies regarding the disposal of surplus property; and to outline these arrangements.

**(AQW 2782/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that its arrangements for the disposal of surplus property are based on provision contained in the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006. Under this provision the disposal of land or property by NIW is subject to the consent of my Department or in accordance with a general authorisation given by my Department. In addition, NIW is subject to conditions of appointment relating to such disposal and in certain circumstances the prior written consent of the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation is required.

A general authorisation was issued by my Department in March 2007 authorising NIW to dispose of land or property subject to the following conditions:

- (i) before disposal of land or property, the company shall offer the opportunity to acquire the land to the persons from whom the land was acquired by the company or its predecessors in title (either compulsorily or at a time when the company or its predecessor was authorised to acquire the land compulsorily). The company shall afford the opportunity in accordance with the procedures set out in the Valuation and Lands Agency guidance on “Disposal of Surplus Public Sector Property in Northern Ireland” published in July 2005 (revised March 2010);
- (ii) the company has complied with such of the conditions of its appointment under Chapter 1 of Part III of the Water and Sewerage Services Northern Ireland) Order 2006 as relate to the disposal of land;
- (iii) before disposal of land situated within a National Park, area of outstanding natural beauty, or special scientific interest, the company shall:
  - (a) consult the Department of the Environment;
  - (b) enter into such agreements under Article 9 of the Nature Conservation and Amenity Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 or Article 34 of the Environment (Northern Ireland) 2002 as the Department of the Environment may request; and
  - (c) enter into such covenants under Article 217(6) as the Department for Regional Development may determine.

### Dropped Kerb Schemes

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development what dropped kerb schemes are planned for the Bangor area for the next two financial years.

**(AQW 2783/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question AQW 1815/11-15.

### Traffic Volume Figures

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the most up-to-date traffic volume figures for the (i) A5; (ii) A2; and (iii) A26 north of Glarryford.

**(AQW 2789/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it collects data from approximately 300 automatic traffic counting sites located throughout the Northern Ireland road network.

Details of the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) traffic flow information, recorded at various locations on the A5; A2 and A26 north of Glarryford are provided in the table below:

Road	Census Point No	Location	AADT (7 day)	Year
A5	390	Londonderry – Strabane at New Buildings	11,428	2011
A5	391	Victoria Road, Londonderry at Bolies	17,452	2010
A5	608	Ballygawley – Aughnacloy (South of A4 Junction)	6,503	2009
A5	610	Omagh – Ballygawley, South of B122 (past Junction of U1306)	11,624	2010
A5	623	Sion Mills – Strabane, at Ballyfatten	14,063	2011
A5	626	Omagh – Newtownstewart, at Conneywarren	13,722	2011
A5	644	Omagh Throughpass (West of Dublin Road at Academy)	21,595	2010

<b>Road</b>	<b>Census Point No</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>AADT (7 day)</b>	<b>Year</b>
A5	645	Omagh By-Pass, at footbridge	21,181	2011
A5	648	Strabane By-Pass (Barnhill Road, West of Derry Road)	14,299	2010
A5	649	Omagh By-Pass, at Gortrush	17,024	2011
A5	652	Aughnacloy – Monaghan (North of river Blackwater)	7,813	2010
A5	653	Ballygawley – Omagh (North of Ballygawley Roundabout)	9,192	2011
A5	657	Newtownstewart By-Pass (West of Plumbridge Road, opposite lay-by)	9,574	2011
A5	659	Strabane By-Pass Stage 2	15,492	2009
A5	660	Omagh – Ballygawley, South of Crevenagh Road Roundabout	15,311	2011
A5	663	Victoria Road, Strabane	10,944	2011
A2	117	Whitehead – Carrickfergus	6,929	2009
A2	118	Carrickfergus – Belfast	24,756	2011
A2	119	Larne – Ballygalley, at Blackcave Tunnel	3,072	2011
A2	209	Sydenham By-Pass, at George Best City Airport	57,030	2010
A2	210	Shore Road, Belfast at Shore Crescent	14,439	2011
A2	301	Limavady – Londonderry, at Greysteel	13,969	2011
A2	302	Limavady – Londonderry, at Roe Bridge	9,507	2010
A2	305	Limavady – Magilligan, South of B201	1,755	2010
A2	311	Coleraine – Portstewart, North of B185	7,098	2010
A2	312	Portrush – Portstewart, at Portrush	5,382	2011
A2	319	Cushendall – Cushendun, South of B92	2,223	2011
A2	327	Bushmills – Ballycastle, at Bushmills	3,843	2009
A2	332	Limavady – Magilligan, North of B69	2,915	2010
A2	350	Craigavon Bridge, Londonderry (upper deck)	24,154	2011
A2	351	Craigavon Bridge, Londonderry (lower deck)	15,141	2010
A2	354	Strand Road, Londonderry	34,874	2011
A2	356	Queens's Quay, Londonderry	21,226	2011
A2	368	Foyle Embankment, between Foyle side and Bus Station	23,748	2010
A2	370	Culmore Road, Londonderry, at St. Peters Church	25,044	2010
A2	371	Culmore Road, Londonderry, at Heathfield	17,038	2011
A2	373	Limavady Road, Londonderry, at Gransha	27,530	2011

Road	Census Point No	Location	AADT (7 day)	Year
A2	374	Limavady Road, Londonderry, at Caw Brae	12,587	2011
A2	376	A2 Ballykelly Road, Limavady	15,247	2011
A2	381	Buncranna Road, Londonderry, at Pennyburn	16,196	2011
A2	383	Buncranna rod, Londonderry, at Whitehouse	19,845	2011
A2	392	Duke Street, Londonderry	24,121	2011
A2	394	Limavady By-Pass, Limavady	12,163	2010
A2	421	Warrenpoint Road, Newry	13,650	2010
A2	422	Newcastle – Annalong, at Bloody Bridge	5,454	2011
A2	443	Rostrevor Road, Warrenpoint, Co. Down	11,939	2010
A2	501	Hollywood By-Pass, East of Belfast Road	44,835	2011
A2	502	Belfast – Bangor, at Cultra, East of Folk Museum	35,482	2010
A2	505	Belfast – Bangor, at Springhill	21,912	2011
A2	506	Bangor Ring Road, at Clondeboye	20,230	2008
A2	510	Donaghadee – Millisle, at Ballyvester	5,126	2011
A2	516	Dundrum – Clough	12,362	2011
A2	793	Shore Road, South of Jordanstown Road	30,594	2010
A2	903	Belfast Road, Bangor, at Coach Hill Bend	15,262	2010
A2	905	Belfast Road, Bangor, Before Springhill Junction	10,762	2011
A2	907	Belfast Road, Bangor, Bangor side of Ballyrobert Road Junction	14,225	2011
A2	908	Belfast Road, Bangor, Belfast side of Ballyrobert Road Junction	16,445	2011
A2	910	Bangor Road Cultra, before Whinney Hill	18,627	2010
A2	915	Bangor Road, West of Ballymoney Road at Devil's Elbow	17,072	2011
A26	113	Ballymena – Ballymoney, North of M2	20,134	2011
A26	310	Coleraine – Ballymoney, South East of Ring Road	16,206	2011
A26	316	Ballymoney By-Pass, East of Ballybogey road	17,384	2011
A26	317	Ballymoney – Ballymena, South East of Ballymoney	14,678	2011

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

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the daily rate paid by his Department to each Chairperson or Chief Executive of each of its arm's-length bodies; and how this rate was determined and approved.

**(AQW 2797/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Information relating to the daily rate for the Chief Executives and Chairpersons of the Department's Arm's Length Bodies are not available, however details of their annual remuneration and how this is determined and approved is contained within the tables below.

<b>ALB:</b>	<b>Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company</b>
Chief Executive's Annual Remuneration:	£197,886 per annum.
How Rate Is Determined:	The NITHC Board conducted a benchmarking exercise to justify the remuneration package and recommended the level of remuneration.
How Rate Is Approved:	The rate is approved by the NITHC Group Remuneration and Pensions Committee and, subsequently, noted by the DRD Minister after consultation with DFP.
Chairperson's Annual Remuneration:	£38,688 per annum, based on approximately two-to-three days per week.
How Rate Is Determined:	The level of remuneration of the Chairman of NITHC has remained unchanged for a number of years and follows DFP Pay and Grading Advice.
How Rate Is Approved:	NITHC have been informed of the latest DFP advice that annual and daily rates payable to chairmen (and members) of public bodies will not be increased for 2010 and 2011.

<b>ALB:</b>	<b>Northern Ireland Water</b>
Chief Executive's Annual Remuneration:	£130,000 per annum.
How Rate Is Determined:	NI Water Board made recommendations to the Department on the level of remuneration for the interim Chief Executive in January 2011.  NI Water's governance arrangements, which came into effect on 1 April 2007, require the approval of the Shareholder and DFP to the remuneration of all Directors of the Board.
How Rate Is Approved:	The Minister and DFP approved the level of remuneration.
Chairperson's Annual Remuneration:	£40,000 for three-to-four days per month.  Additional per diem allowance of £1,000 up to a maximum of £45,000.

<b>ALB:</b>	<b>Northern Ireland Water</b>
How Rate Is Determined:	<p>The level of remuneration for the Chair of NI Water was set in October 2006 at £40,000 per annum with provision of an additional per diem allowance of £1,000, capped at a maximum of £45,000.</p> <p>The Department appointed recruitment consultants to assist with the initial appointments process to shadow Water Service Board. They benchmarked the remuneration package against other NI public sector bodies, GB water companies and Scottish Water and made recommendations. The remuneration package has not been reviewed since then.</p>
How Rate Is Approved:	The remuneration was approved by the Minister who consulted with Ministerial colleagues in the context of the Good Government arrangements which were overseen by the Secretary of State.

## Victims of Domestic Violence

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

**(AQW 2835/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Staff within my Department are covered by the NICS-wide policy on Domestic Violence and Abuse contained in the NICS HR Handbook. This sets out the workplace support measures available to any civil servant who may be affected by domestic violence and provides contact points in relevant outside organisations which can offer advice and assistance in this area.

I am advised that Northern Ireland Water operates a similar policy to provide appropriate support to any of its employees who may be experiencing domestic violence. Within Translink, staff in this category may liaise directly with the Company's Welfare Officer and the services of the Company's Doctor and Occupational Health Advisors can be called upon in situations where more specialised assistance is required.

## Gritting of Roads and Pavements

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Regional Development to list the local councils which entered into a formal arrangement with Roads Service on the gritting of roads and pavements during the (i) 2010/11; and (ii) 2011/12 winter periods.[R]

**(AQW 2838/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has confirmed that the following Councils entered into formal agreement for the removal of ice and snow from town centre footways during the 2010/11 winter period:

- Belfast City Council;
- Ballymena Borough Council;
- Limavady Borough Council;
- Craigavon Borough Council; and
- Banbridge District Council.

In preparation for the imminent winter period 2011/12, the Member will be aware that my Department's Roads Service held a series of meetings with Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) representatives throughout the summer. The aim of these meetings was to establish a consensus on a number of points of principle that could be used as a basis for negotiations between Roads Service and Councils, relating to the removal of snow and ice from busy town centre footways, during prolonged periods of wintry weather.

I am pleased with the progress made to date and can confirm that a number of key principles have recently been agreed by Roads Service, NILGA and SOLACE. Roads Service officials are currently in the process of approaching all Councils, with a view to developing local agreements with each of them.

## **A5 Route**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the impact of the recession on the use of the A5 route by heavy vehicles; and to detail the average daily traffic volumes on this route in 2006 and 2011.

**(AQW 2840/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Road Service has advised me that while it is accepted that the number of heavy goods vehicles has decreased in recent years, current forecasts indicate that traffic volumes will rise over the coming years.

This issue was raised at the A5WTC Public Inquiry hearings, held in May and June 2011. At the hearings it was demonstrated that the short term reduction in traffic volumes has no significant impact on the project benefits and economics, which are measured and assessed over the longer term.

Traffic volumes at various locations along the existing A5 are enclosed. The 2006 volumes, as well as the most recent available data, are included.

## **Errors in Statements or Answers**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Regional 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 2844/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Since taking up office, I have made two oral statements to the Assembly.

No answers to Members questions have had to be corrected as a result of errors in my statements or in my subsequent responses to questions.

## **Residents Parking Schemes**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the residents parking schemes in urban areas outside Belfast that have been proposed to Roads Service in the last three years.

**(AQW 2883/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has received applications for residents' parking schemes in respect of streets in Antrim, Ballymena, Bangor, Carrickfergus, Enniskillen, Hollywood, Lisburn, Londonderry and Omagh, in addition to applications for schemes in Belfast, in the last 3 years.

Local consultation exercises have been successfully completed on proposals for schemes in the Bogside area of Londonderry and in Antrim and details are being finalised in preparation for the necessary legislative procedures. The other schemes are at a less advanced stage of development.



## Water Leakage

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the total rate of water leakage from NI Water in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 2885/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that the leakage figures included in the table below are not measured direct but are calculated based on a recognised water industry methodology.

Year	Estimated Losses (Mega litres per day)
2006/07	168
2007/08	157
2008/09 (1)	181
2009/10	187 (2)
2010/11	177 (2)

- (1) Revised methodology used to produce the leakage figures for 2008/09 onwards and previous leakage figures cannot be directly compared to 2008/09 or subsequent years.
- (2) Includes the impact of the extreme cold weather conditions experienced over the past two winters.

## Coast Road at Black Arch, County Antrim

**Mr Hilditch** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are plans to extend the lighting along the Coast Road at Black Arch, County Antrim to meet the existing lights on the Larne side of the road.

**(AQW 2904/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that the existing lighting on the Coast Road at the Black Arch, was installed in March 2010, in agreement with Larne Borough Council. The lighting was extended to the end of the 30 mph speed limit at that time. There are currently no plans to extend the street lighting any further as the criteria for the provision of street lighting in rural areas is not met.

## New Lighting Schemes Planned for Larne

**Mr Hilditch** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail any new lighting schemes planned for Larne over the next four years.

**(AQW 2905/11-15)**

**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.drndni.gov.uk/index/freedom\\_of\\_information/customer\\_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils](http://www.drndni.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformationtype-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.

## Policy for Naming Bridges

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline his Department's policy for naming bridges.

**(AQW 2912/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I can advise the Member that my Department has no policy on the naming of bridges.



## Dropped Kerb Schemes

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development what dropped kerb schemes are planned for the Groomsport area for the next two financial years.

**(AQW 2913/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question AQW 1815/11-15.

## Kilmaine Road, Bangor

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are any plans to resurface the Kilmaine Road, Bangor.

**(AQW 2914/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that, when a footway reconstruction scheme was carried out on Kilmaine Road, Bangor earlier this year, the new kerbline was set at a level to allow for resurfacing of the carriageway at a future date. This is normal Roads Service practice.

Kilmaine Road is not included in Roads Service's current resurfacing programme, as other schemes have a greater priority. However, a resurfacing scheme on this road will be considered should additional funding become available.

## Flow of Traffic Through Donaghadee

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans he has to improve the flow of traffic through Donaghadee.

**(AQW 2943/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The Member will recall that parking and traffic flow were some of the issues that I discussed with him and Donaghadee Commerce and Development Group at our meeting on 20 September 2011. At that meeting, I advised that no commitments could be given regarding the provision of a car park or a detailed traffic study of Donaghadee.

There are major constraints on current and future funding and in these circumstances, Roads Service is unable to confirm any future plans for improvements to traffic flow in Donaghadee.

## Speed Limit on Motorways

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) for his assessment of the proposal by the UK Government to increase the speed limit on motorways; and (ii) whether he has had any discussions with Ministers in the UK Government in relation to the proposal.

**(AQW 2952/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department has powers to set speed limits under Article 38 of Part IV of The Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.

However, I can advise the Member that I had no advance notice of the Transport Secretary's announcement of a proposal to change the speed limit on motorways and high class dual carriageways. Roads Service is aware that this proposal has been under consideration within the Department for Transport for some time.

The Department for Transport's proposal to increase speed limits on motorways to 80 mph will be subject to public consultation and, if approved, will only apply to motorways and high class dual carriageways in England and Wales.

I will therefore await the release of the consultation document before I consider its applicability to roads in Northern Ireland.

## A5 Western Transport Corridor Project

**Mr Buchanan** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the proposed financial contribution to the A5 Western Transport Corridor project from the Government of the Republic of Ireland for each year of construction.

**(AQW 3133/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** As the Member will be aware, the Irish Government has committed £400 million towards the provision of dual carriageways on the A5 Western Transport Corridor and the A8 Belfast – Larne route. For practical reasons, payments from the Irish Government will be made against milestones identified on the A5, which have been agreed by the North South Ministerial Council.

The anticipated financial profile for the Irish Government's contribution is shown in the table below:

Financial Year	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Anticipated Irish Govt. Contribution (£m)	8	0	14	0	10	250	118

## Footpaths

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the arrangements, agreed or otherwise, between his Department, Roads Service, NILGA and local Councils, for dealing with the removal of snow and ice from footpaths over the winter period.

**(AQO 546/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** As the Member is aware, there is no legal responsibility for either Councils or Roads Service to treat footpaths with salt or grit during adverse weather. However, my Department's Roads Service has held a series of meetings with representatives of NILGA and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executive's (SOLACE) throughout the summer months. I personally attended the first of these meetings, after which Roads Service's Chief Executive continued the negotiations on my behalf.

The aim of these meetings was to establish a consensus on a number of points of principle that could be used as a basis for negotiations between Roads Service and Councils, relating to the removal of snow and ice from busy town centre footways during prolonged periods of wintry weather. I am pleased that agreement has been reached, demonstrating a willingness to provide this valuable service to local ratepayers.

Roads Service has now incorporated these agreed points of principle into a draft agreement, which can be amended to take account of local Council preferences.

Roads Service officials are now approaching all councils, with a view to having these agreements in place for this coming winter season. However, it should be stressed that under these agreements, efforts will be focussed on the busiest town centre footways, as it would not be feasible to treat footways on a widespread basis.

In relation to the provision made in the 2011/2012 budget to deal with the impact of the anticipated severe winter weather, Roads Service does earmark significant funds to provide a salting service with the aim of helping main road traffic to move safely and freely in wintry conditions.

Turning to water, NI Water (NIW) is implementing the recommendations of the Review of last winter's water supply emergency and its 2011/12 budget incorporates costs for improving preparedness for this winter. Through a range of measures, NIW will be better prepared to handle the effects of severe weather conditions.

## Translink: Redundancies

**Ms Gildernew** asked the Minister for Regional Development what possible redundancies, voluntary or otherwise, are being considered for Translink staff over the next five years and what effect this will have on service levels, particularly on rural routes.

**(AQO 554/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Translink is expected to operate commercially but receives substantial levels of public funding and is working within a difficult economic environment. The level of revenue funding provided to Translink over the budget period up to end of 2014/15 has been notified by my department. This could be subject to change depending on in year monitoring rounds.

Each year my department agrees a plan with Translink which sets out how it aims to meet its financial targets taking account of: cost pressures such as fuel and wages; passenger estimates; departmental funding and school transport income. Normally the focus will be on the first year of the plan. Thus it was agreed that fares should not increase in Translink this year but that measures to improve the cost effectiveness of bus services should be taken forward. This was subject to local consultations and discussions with the Regional Development Committee and has been largely implemented. The rural bus network remains in place.

Translink estimated at that time that up to 70 jobs could be lost. This is an operational matter for Translink to manage. I understand that Translink hopes to make the changes through voluntary redundancy and part-time working changes. I welcome this approach and understand a significant number of full time bus drivers have agreed to convert to part-time/ term time position with a small number taking voluntary redundancy. At this stage it is not clear that any compulsory redundancies will be required

In terms of future years no final decisions have been made by Translink on services but I am committed to continuing to support rural services by direct assistance to Translink and through support from the Rural Transport fund.

## A6: Dungiven Bypass

**Mr Ó hÓisín** asked the Minister for Regional Development when he expects the decoupling process to be completed on the Dungiven Bypass element of the A6 upgrade.

**(AQO 553/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it expects to publish an Environmental Statement, draft Direction Order and draft Vesting Order later this year for the 30 kilometre dual carriageway from Londonderry to Dungiven, including a dual carriageway bypass of Dungiven.

Publication of these Orders will invite formal comment and objection, which will most likely lead to a Public Inquiry in the Spring of 2012 and examine the case for and against the scheme.

Roads Service has advised that there is no merit at this stage in 'decoupling' the Dungiven Bypass element of the overall project. If deemed necessary, this could be done at a later date and I do intend to keep this issue under review.

Given the reduction of two-fifths in the Executive's overall capital funding, the funds currently allocated to my Department in the 2011-2015 budget would not allow construction of the Londonderry to Dungiven dual carriageway, or Dungiven Bypass, to commence before the 2014-2015 financial year, at the earliest.

## EWAY Rapid Transit Scheme

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the Belfast Rapid Transit EWAY route plan.

**(AQO 555/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** As part of the Outline Business Case for Belfast Rapid Transit, my Department has carried out route assessments on a number of route options. Last Wednesday, I launched a 12-week public consultation on the emerging preferred route options. In East Belfast the emerging preferred route option will start from a new park and ride site near Quarry Corner and run on-street along Upper Newtownards Road, through Dundonald Village to Holywood Arches and then via Albertbridge Road and East Bridge Street to the city centre.

As part of the ongoing route assessment process, my Department will also consider the 'next best' option for East Belfast which will run on-street on Upper Newtownards Road from near Quarry Corner to Holywood Arches and then via the Newtownards Road (lower section) and Bridge End to the city centre.

## **A2: Carrickfergus Castle to Station Road**

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the average journey times and traffic speeds during the morning peak travel period on the A2 from Carrickfergus Castle to the Station Road junction.

**(AQO 556/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Firstly, I wish to acknowledge the numerous representations made by members of Carrickfergus Borough Council and elected representatives, such as Mr Beggs, and appreciate their ongoing interest in this matter.

My Department's Roads Service has advised that based on the measurements taken along this stretch of the A2 route, the average journey time is approximately 18 minutes with the average speed being 9.2 mph, during the morning peak time.

While I acknowledge the benefits of the proposed A2 scheme, which have justified its advancement in the programme to date, the postponement of the Scheme will unfortunately mean that the bottleneck between Jordanstown and Seapark, as identified by the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, will remain until such times as highway improvements can be constructed.

You will appreciate that a reduction of two fifths in the Executive's overall capital funding from the Treasury over the 2011-15 period, has meant that there are now funding constraints in relation to strategic road schemes.

Unfortunately, when competing priorities for the maintenance, management and development of the transport network are taken into consideration, I am unable to progress plans to start construction on this scheme until 2014/15 at the earliest.

The Executive has signalled its intent to explore additional revenue raising methods. If over the course of the budget period additional funding does become available to my Department, I will endeavour to allocate funding to schemes such as the A2 Shore Road Greenisland.

## **Roads: Gritting**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the preparations that have been made by Roads Service to deal with any adverse road conditions over the winter period, including the plans that are in place to ensure effective road gritting.

**(AQO 557/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Prior to the start of each winter service season, Roads Service carries out a significant amount of pre-planning to ensure a state of readiness for the coming winter. As well as a number of routine pre-season checks, planning includes ensuring that adequate staffing arrangements are in place, including training for new staff where required, all winter service equipment is in working order and there is an adequate stock of salt. Salt barns, which are strategically placed in depots throughout Northern Ireland, are filled to capacity prior to the start of the winter period.

Roads Service normally holds sufficient stocks of salt in these barns to provide the winter service programme for a full season, without the need to restock. However, following last year's severe weather,

Roads Service has advised that it has reviewed these levels and increased stocks significantly, so as to be best placed to deal with any potential prolonged spells of wintry weather. It also has arrangements in place to supplement stocks of salt during the winter period, if necessary.

While Roads Service targets the limited resources available for winter service on the busier main through routes, salt bins or grit piles may be provided for use by the public, on a self help basis, on other routes adopted or maintained by Roads Service, which do not qualify for inclusion onto the gritting schedule. Roads Service currently provides approximately 4,200 salt bins and almost 40,000 grit piles on public roads.

Roads Service also commits significant resources to its winter service programme and every night, from the end of October until the middle of next April, Roads Service will have over 300 people on standby ready to salt main roads, helping drivers across Northern Ireland to cope with the wintry conditions.

### **Car Parking: Residents**

**Mr A Maskey** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on residents' parking schemes.

**(AQO 558/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it is currently finalising a review of the economic appraisal that was used to calculate the permit charge. The new appraisal will identify a more up to date permit charge. At present, schemes are not being actively progressed until this work is complete.

The Member will be aware that despite considerable effort and a significant commitment of resources by Roads Service, attempts at implementing schemes in Belfast have so far been unsuccessful. This was mainly due to an inability to obtain the required levels of support from local residents.

Whilst acknowledging the potential value of resident's parking schemes, I must consider the justification for continuing to pursue such work, bearing in mind the time, effort and resource expended to date in trying to introduce them.

I intend to reassess my Department's commitment to implementing such schemes, when I receive the revised economic appraisal.

## **Department for Social Development**

### **Civil Servants**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development how many civil servants employed by his Department, who are members of the Civil Service Pension Scheme, will be transferred to Londonderry; and how many will be relocated elsewhere within his Department.

**(AQW 2739/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development):** The state pension function of the Department, currently based in Belfast, will be relocating to Londonderry in the spring of 2012 to create a new single Northern Ireland Pension Centre. 87 posts will therefore relocate to Londonderry.

Staff currently working in the State Pension Branch have been asked if they wish to move with the work and five members of staff have said they do. Those staff who have chosen not to relocate with their posts will be redeployed in line with the relevant Northern Ireland Civil Service policies. Additionally, the Department has an agreed strategy for filling the relocated posts in Londonderry that are not being filled by current State Pension staff volunteering to transfer.

Until the process of identifying staff for all the relocated posts is complete, it will not be possible to identify what proportion of the staff involved are members of the Northern Ireland Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme.

### Proposed Capital Spend Projects

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail his Department's proposed capital spend projects for this financial year, including the projected timescales and the costs for each project. **(AQW 2811/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The capital projects planned for this financial year by my Department are detailed in the following tables numbered 1 to 4:

**TABLE 1 - SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY**

Project	Total Cost £(k)	2011/12 Cost £(k)	Due for Completion
Medical Support Services Building Works Ballymena and Londonderry Medical Examination Centres	457	457	Completed
Medical Support Services IT system costs Medical Examination Centres	913	913	Completed
Building works Carlisle House, Londonderry- Relocation of State pension	350	350	March 2012
Internal IT Software Development	100	100	March 2012
Central Payment System project	88	88	November 2011
Andersonstown Jobs and Benefits Office Computer expenditure	48	48	March 2012

**TABLE 2 - URBAN REGENERATION GROUP**

	Total Cost £(k)	2011/12 Cost £(k)	Due for Completion
UK City of Culture applications, Londonderry	1,500	1,500	2011-12
Berthing at Lisahally, Londonderry	400	400	2011-12
Tourism promotion in conjunction with Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Londonderry	1,000	1,000	2011-12
ReStore Pilot Phase 1, Londonderry	266	266	2011-12
Queens Quay Phase 1 in conjunction with Department for Regional Development, Londonderry	256	256	2011-12
Spencer Road in conjunction with Department for Regional Development, Londonderry	184	184	2011-12

	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>2011/12 Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Due for Completion</b>
Foyle Street in conjunction with Department for Regional Development, Londonderry	225	225	2011-12
Strand Rd Link / Police Court St in conjunction with Department for Regional Development, Londonderry	150	150	2011-12
Queens Quay Phase 2, Londonderry	400	400	2011-12
Baronet Street, Londonderry	131	131	2011-12
Artillery Street, Londonderry	103	103	2011-12
Spencer Road, Londonderry	42	42	2011-12
City of Culture Projects under Consideration (detail to be finalised), Londonderry	343	343	2011-12
Fort George decontamination, Londonderry	4,700	200	2013-14
Urban Development Grant Projects under Consideration (detail to be finalised), Londonderry	345	345	2011-12
Strabane Bridge, Strabane	2,466	500	2012-13
Temporary Path Harbour Square, Londonderry	6	6	2011-12
Limavady Market Street in conjunction with Department for Regional Development, Limavady.	210	210	2011-12
Fountain Multi Use Games Area, Londonderry	250	250	2011-12
Blackburn Path, Limavady.	137	25	2011-12
River Roe Riverside Walkway in conjunction with Department of Agriculture & Regional Development, Limavady	125	125	2011-12
Caw Nelson Drive Action Group, Londonderry.	50	50	2011-12
Neighbourhood Renewal Projects under Consideration (detail to be finalised), Londonderry.	50	50	2011-12
Coleraine Rural and Urban Network, Coleraine	1,500	98	2011-12
East Belfast Community Development Agency, Belfast	1,500	225	2012-13
Holywell Trust, Londonderry	1,500	82	2012-13



	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>2011/12 Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Due for Completion</b>
Ards Development Bureau & Community Network, Newtownards	1,100	742	2011-12
Culturlann McAdam OFiaich, Belfast	225	225	2011-12
St Joseph's Boys High School, Newry - Refurbishment of Community Pitch	230	230	2011-12
Lurgan - Department for Regional Development Roads - Lurgantarry/ Kilwilkie	220	220	2011-12
Portadown – Northern Ireland Housing Executive - Environmental Improvements	40	40	2011-12
Lurgan - Northern Ireland Housing Executive - Oakfield Terrace Car Parking	25	25	2011-12
Lurgan - Northern Ireland Housing Executive Kilwilkie Additional Car Parking	25	25	2011-12
St Marys Youth Club, Portadown - Phase 2	350	100	2012-13
Newry - Carnagat Kickabout Area	75	75	2011-12
Brownlow Northern Ireland Housing Executive - Drumellan Children & Young People's Centre	119	119	2011-12
Lurgan - St Mary's High School - A Community Learning Room	58	58	2011-12
Mullaghmore Eco Facility - Capital Element	125	125	2011-12
Omagh Neighbourhood Renewal Area Gallows Hill - Upgrade Of Play Facilities and Entrance Features	42	42	2011-12
Dungannon & Coalisland Capital Programme of works 10/11	90	90	2011-12
Mountcairn, Coalisland Multi Use Games Area	95	15	2012-13
Lighting Canal Towpath, Coalisland	57	57	2011-12
Kilmacormick Resource Centre Extension, Enniskillen	120	10	2012-13
Gardners Hall Refurbishment & Fit Out, Dungannon	186	186	2011-12
Coalisland Enhancing Employment Prospects – Continuation	77	38	2012-13



	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>2011/12 Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Due for Completion</b>
Enniskillen Neighbourhood Renewal Area Environmental Improvement Capital Works 11/12 (Inishkeen)	200	100	2012-13
Omagh Riverside Development - Strathroy Bridges	495	400	2012-13
Carrickfergus Town Centre Public Realm	1,717	200	2012-13
Ballycastle Trails Environmental Improvement scheme	60	60	2011-12
Antrim Environmental Improvement - High Street	1,600	100	2012-13
Linenhall St Service Yard and Car Park, Ballymoney - Adoption costs	40	40	2011-12
Lurgan/Portadown Public Art	30	30	2011-12
Kilkeel - Revitalisation Project	150	75	2012-13
Newtownards - Conway Square Public Realm	650	650	2011-12
Downpatrick - Revitalisation Project	150	75	2012-13
Enniskillen Public Realm	5,603	50	2013-14
Armagh - Druid's Villas Car Parking	135	80	2011-12
Brownlow - St Anthony's Centre Refurbishment	348	343	2011-12
Lurgan - Clan Na Gael - Multi Use Games Area and Pitch Refurbishment	527	12	2011-12
CKS Community Centre, Omagh	476	326	2011-12
Dungannon Youth Resource Centre - Refurbishment Works Programme (stage 2)	338	218	2011-12
Larne ReStore Project	126	126	2011-12
Portrush Station Square Public Realm	1,015	1,015	2011-12
Newry - Monaghan St / Hill St Public Realm	1,621	1,371	2012-13
Lurgan Public Realm Phase 2	1,789	225	2013-14
Lurgan ReStore	82	82	2011-12
Banbridge - Rathfriland St Public Realm	408	14	2013-14
Lisburn Public Realm	2,438	35	2013-14

	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>2011/12 Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Due for Completion</b>
Armagh City Centre Revitalisation Project	115	68	2012-13
19-21 High St, Lurgan	274	191	2012-13
Dungannon Public Realm Phase 1	2,300	1,095	2013-14
Enniskillen Neighbourhood Renewal Area Estate Markers Project	19	19	2011-12
Girdwood Park, Belfast – Infrastructure Costs For A Community Hub (to be built by Belfast City Council subject to securing funding from Special European Union Programmes Body)	1,000	500	2012-13
Internal Fit Out Of The SS Nomadic, Belfast	1,000	1,000	2011-12
Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 1	24,000	2,200	2011-12
Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 2 (Design)	1,000	500	2012-13
Skainos Capital Build, Belfast	5,270	3,000	2013-14
Templemore School Provision of Civic Hub, Belfast	750	500	2012-13
Trustees of St Malachy's Youth Club, Belfast Provision of Youth Club	758	150	2013-14
Belfast City Council - Springfield Road Play park, Belfast	592	35	2011-12
Lenadoon Community Forum Sports Pavilion/Changing Facilities, Belfast	20	20	2011-12
Connswater Community Greenway, Belfast	3,209	10	2014-15
Woodvale Park, Belfast Railings etc	1,000	500	2012-13
An Sportlann, Belfast Professional and Technical Costs	24	24	2011-12
Cromac Regeneration Refurbishment, Belfast	200	200	2011-12
Gleanne Boxing Club, Belfast Purchase Of New Premises	100	100	2011-12
Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group Sports Hall Refit, Belfast	50	50	2011-12
Short Strand, Belfast Water babies	30	30	2011-12
Sussex Place, Belfast, refurbishment of building	210	10	2012-13

	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>2011/12 Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Due for Completion</b>
Albertbridge Road (269-273 & 279-283), Belfast, Property Acquisition	755	755	2011-12
Castlereagh Street Gateway, Belfast, Property Acquisition	400	400	2011-12
Alexandra Bar, Belfast, Property Acquisition	200	200	2011-12
Ex Services Club 89/91 Shankill Rd, Belfast, Property Acquisition	175	175	2011-12
3 Stormont Lane, Belfast, Property Acquisition	105	105	2011-12
70 Beersbridge Road, Belfast, Property Acquisition	300	70	2012-13
Cityeast (Additional Land), Belfast, Land Acquisition	35	35	2011-12
14 York Road, Belfast, Land Acquisition	30	30	2011-12
Land At Rear Of 141-145 Shankill Road, Belfast, Land Acquisition	5	5	2011-12
Cliftonville Circus, Belfast Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme	313	300	2011-12
Gransha Shops, Belfast Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme	252	242	2011-12
Suffolk Road Shops, Belfast Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme	136	129	2011-12
Albertbridge/Templemore, Belfast Junction Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme	965	40	2013-14
Clifton Street Gateway, Belfast Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme	2,444	30	2013-14
Albertbridge Road, Belfast Tree Planting Scheme	150	150	2011-12
Ballysillan Park, Belfast Tree Planting	120	120	2011-12
Colin Gateway, Belfast	3,109	1,169	2013-14
Andersonstown Road, Belfast Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme	1,664	725	2013-14

	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>2011/12 Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Due for Completion</b>
Conway Street, Belfast Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme	375	351	2011-12
Ravenhill/Short Strand, Belfast Gateway Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme	928	278	2012-13
Newtownards Road, Belfast Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme	1,655	184	2011-12
Andersonstown Roundabout, Belfast Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme	750	175	2012-13
Ardoyne Shops Junction, Belfast	800	100	2012-13
Carr's Glen Link, Belfast Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme	60	60	2011-12
Scheme Complete -Ormeau Road Widening, Belfast	6	6	Completed
Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme at Crumlin Road Courthouse, Belfast	188	188	2011-12
Tree Planting Scheme at Whiterock Road, Belfast	175	175	2011-12
Infill tree planting at Agnes and Northumberland Street, Belfast	90	90	2011-12
Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme at 519 Falls Road, Belfast (Old Barracks Site)	40	40	2011-12
Laser Prototypes Whiterock Business Park, Belfast	140	45	2012-13
John Donaghy; Donegall Road, Belfast	42	42	2011-12
Elmoreton Ltd; 12-20 Donegall Road, Belfast	114	32	2012-13
SP Graham; Ligoneil Rd, Belfast	53	14	2012-13
Rathcoole Filling Station; 42 Doagh Rd, Belfast	121	121	2011-12
Habitat for Humanity; Madrid Street, Belfast	42	42	2011-12
Fitzroy Developments; 120, Ormeau Road, Belfast	40	40	2011-12

	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>2011/12 Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Due for Completion</b>
Fullarmoon Ltd; Shankill Road, Belfast	967	162	2012-13
Iontaobhas na Gaelscolaiochta (InaG); Falls/Broadway, Belfast	316	90	2012-13
A Steele; Shaftesbury Square, Belfast	796	66	2013-14
Colinward Pharmacy; Antrim Road, Belfast	234	66	2012-13
D McSherry; Suffolk Rd, Belfast	454	45	2014-15
Pinnacle Properties; 62 Templemore Avenue	143	42	2012-13
R&K Matthews; Beersbridge Rd, Belfast	184	30	2012-13
Granite Properties; Springfield Road, Belfast	197	22	2013-14
HHD Solicitors; Oldpark Rd, Belfast	145	18	2012-13
Bryson Street Surgery, Belfast	201	18	2014-15
Nigel Barr; Woodstock Road, Belfast	31	12	2012-13
JGB Developments; Derrycoole Way, Newtownabbey	81	10	2013-14

Table 3 below details the Social Housing Development Programme for 2011/12 and includes an estimated total Housing Association Grant figure for each scheme along with time scales.

In order to secure delivery of the target number of housing starts (1400) for year ending 31 March 2012, the gross Social Housing Development Programme includes an element of over-programming. The current Programme currently contains 140 schemes and 2143 units from which the 1400 target starts will be drawn. This level of over-programming is necessary to compensate for scheme losses or slippages that occur during the course of the year, for example where associations are unable to acquire sites; secure planning or comply with procurement requirements within set timeframes.

The budget allocation for the delivery of the Social Housing Development Programme in 2011/12 is £144.3m. Approximately £60m of this budget represents prior year commitment, i.e. where schemes started in a previous Programme Year are expected to complete during 2011/12 and claim a final grant payment. Housing Association Grant for approved schemes is generally payable in three stages; i.e. Site Acquisition; Onsite start and finally Completion of works. Typically, where a new build scheme starts on site during 2011/12, an association would typically claim and receive grant for acquisition and onsite costs (on average 80% of the total grant payable).

**TABLE 3 – HOUSING: SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>Due for Completion</b>
<b>East Antrim</b>			
Ards Drive, Monkstown	607	12	01/12/2012

	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>Due for Completion</b>
Eden, Phase 3B, Carrickfergus	1,047	22	01/06/2013
Sunnylands / Sunnylands Grove, Carrickfergus	633	10	01/03/2013
<b>North Antrim</b>			
Brookfield Gardens, Ahoghill	746	9	01/02/2012
Brook Street Library Site, Ahoghill (Surplus Site)	348	6	01/12/2012
Church Brae, Rathlin Island	459	10	01/12/2012
27 - 33 Queen Street, Ballymena	1,045	15	01/09/2013
Tobar Park, Cullybackey	1,210	17	01/03/2013
St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena (Surplus Site)	1,199	47	01/11/2012
Kintyre Park, Ballymena	1,434	16	01/03/2013
PSNI Site, Ferniskey Road, Kells (Surplus Site)	314	6	01/05/2013
Fenton Park, Cloughmills	314	6	01/07/2013
<b>South Antrim</b>			
Glenavy Road, Crumlin	5,161	55	01/09/2013
PSNI Site, Templepatrick (Surplus Site)	277	5	01/03/2013
Belfast/Antrim (Muckamore Reprovision)	1,793	20	01/03/2013
Norfolk Court, Antrim	1,076	12	01/03/2013
<b>East Belfast</b>			
Clara Street, Belfast	1,201	18	01/03/2013
Ballymacarrett Library Site, Templemore	316	5	01/10/2012
Mountpottinger PSNI, Belfast (Surplus Site)	571	10	01/03/2013
Strand Church / Strandburn Crescent, Belfast	455	5	01/01/2013
68 Lower Braniel Road, Castlereagh	1,386	15	01/09/2013
15/19 Ballygowan Road, Castlereagh	3,001	31	01/03/2014
Clonaver Crescent South, Belfast (Surplus Site)	393	6	01/12/2011
188-190 Lower Braniel Road, Castlereagh	652	11	01/12/2012

	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>Due for Completion</b>
Brandon Parade, Belfast	151	2	01/09/2012
91-97 Inverary Avenue, Belfast	994	14	01/02/2013
<b>North Belfast</b>			
Rush Park, Newtownabbey	1,076	17	01/07/2012
Tiger's Bay / Limestone Road,	649	10	01/03/2013
2 Allworthy Avenue, Belfast	163	3	01/03/2013
17 Brucevale Park, Belfast	788	12	01/03/2013
1-3 Eia Street, Belfast	788	12	01/03/2013
Mountcollyer Rehabs, Belfast	370	5	01/12/2012
Thompson House, Belfast	2,111	21	01/10/2012
Parkside URA, Limestone Road Belfast	2,143	36	01/10/2013
Coulters Site Antrim Road, Belfast	686	10	01/01/2013
Longlands Park / Arthur Road,	711	15	01/06/2013
140 -142 Clifton Park Avenue / 35 Clifton Crescent, Belfast	410	7	01/10/2012
Queen Victoria Gardens, Belfast	1,350	24	01/04/2014
<b>South Belfast</b>			
Oar Building, Annadale Embankment, Belfast	778	12	01/03/2012
Farnham Street, Belfast	101	1	01/11/2012
North Rugby Club, Belfast Phase 4	903	13	01/02/2013
Fold Buy Backs Belfast & South East	258	3	01/10/2011
Village Phase 1, Belfast	2,530	37	01/09/2013
Rosetta Cottages, Belfast (Surplus Site)	198	2	01/02/2013
Annadale Avenue, Belfast	1,539	14	01/07/2013
<b>West Belfast</b>			
Lenadoon Flats, Belfast	1,265	20	01/03/2013
Andersonstown Social Security Office	1,666	25	01/09/2014
Forthriver Road, Belfast	1,470	16	01/01/2013
Andersonstown Library Site, Belfast	275	4	01/06/2013
Colin Glen, Belfast	4,745	66	01/09/2013
Donegall Road, Belfast	781	12	01/03/2013

	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>Due for Completion</b>
West Belfast ESPs Phase 2	252	3	01/12/2011
West Belfast ESPs	532	6	01/12/2011
Jasmine Way, Twinbrook	1,718	23	01/08/2013
Mitchells GAA, Poleglass	4,018	67	01/03/2014
Ross Street Flats, Belfast	925	13	01/05/2013
Arundel Replacement, Belfast	530	8	01/03/2013
Peters Hill, Belfast. MAH Resettlement (Oldstone)	1,153	15	01/03/2013
131 Upper Springfield Road, Belfast	137	2	01/07/2013
Mill Court Phase 2, Falls Road, Belfast	2,153	15	01/09/2013
Cupar Street Site, St Galls Phase 3, Belfast	700	10	01/02/2013
Ballygomartin Road / Somerdale, Belfast	2,583	40	01/09/2013
Lower Shankill Transfer, Belfast	1,649	24	01/09/2013
167 Andersonstown Road, Belfast	721	11	01/02/2013
Blackmountain Bungalows Phase 2A, Belfast	243	2	01/04/2012
West Belfast Learning (Dympna House Reprovision, Belfast)	2,689	30	01/03/2013
Distillery Street, Belfast	1,310	18	01/06/2013
Good Shepherd Road, Poleglass (Surplus Site)	1,674	23	01/09/2013
Devonshire Tradas Phase 3, Belfast	727	11	01/01/2013
<b>North Down</b>			
Bloomfield Road / South Circular Road, Bangor	3,728	43	01/05/2013
Clifton Special Care School, Old Belfast Road, Bangor	3,565	53	01/03/2014
Primacy Road, Bangor	918	13	01/04/2013
<b>South Down</b>			
St Patricks Road Raholp, Downpatrick	480	8	01/12/2012
Dundrine Road, Castlewellan	1,005	18	01/06/2013
Fold Buy Backs Belfast & South East	258	1	01/10/2011



	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>Due for Completion</b>
Newtown Villas, Rostrevor	203	2	01/07/2012
Longstone Road, Annalong	347	6	01/12/2012
Glen View, Rathfriland	127	2	01/08/2012
2 & 4 Donard Street, Newcastle (Surplus Site)	985	18	01/01/2013
14 and 15 Malone Court, Downpatrick	470	8	01/03/2012
19 Downpatrick Road, Crossgar	1,046	10	01/11/2012
South Area Older People (Kilkeel)	1,252	12	01/04/2013
Newry Street, Kilkeel (Former Hospital Site)	446	8	01/01/2013
Ballynoe Road (Ballyvange Community Centre, Downpatrick	773	14	01/05/2013
Upper Dromore Road, Warrenpoint	1,133	20	01/08/2013
Warrenpoint Road, Rostrevor	1,005	18	01/06/2013
Fermanagh South Tyrone			
Aghagay Meadows, Newtownbutler	271	3	01/10/2011
Cloneen, Dungannon	3,638	48	01/02/2013
3a The Square Brick Row, Moy	510	7	01/03/2013
Ballaghmore Heights Backlands,	1,330	16	01/08/2013
Roskeen Road, Moygashel	385	8	01/11/2012
<b>Foyle</b>			
Culdaff Gardens, Londonderry	1,293	22	01/09/2014
Circular Road Phase 2, Londonderry	2,628	41	01/06/2013
Westbank Acquisitions Phase 18E	437	5	01/10/2011
Marian Hall, Londonderry (ALP)	2,026	28	01/05/2013
Rathmore Road, Derry	1,012	16	01/03/2013
Londonderry/Derry Learning Disability	896	10	01/03/2013
<b>Lagan Valley</b>			
254 Kingsway, Dunmurry	2,099	27	01/09/2013
Causeway End Road, Lisburn	1,326	20	01/03/2013
Hillhall Road Primary School, Lisburn (Surplus Site)	1,432	19	01/12/2012
190 Longstone Street, Lisburn	787	9	01/03/2013

	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>Due for Completion</b>
Crossbill Place, Pond Park (infill), Lisburn	674	11	01/11/2012
169 Banbridge Road, Kinallen	240	4	01/11/2011
Dundrod Drive, Old Warren, Lisburn	2,072	31	01/08/2013
East Londonderry			
Hass Road, Dungiven	433	10	01/04/2013
Tamlough Park, Ballykelly	804	13	01/03/2014
Mullaghacall Road, Portstewart	95	1	01/10/2012
Parker Avenue, Portrush	83	1	01/07/2013
Lerwill House, Coleraine	1,041	14	01/11/2012
Mid Ulster			
Shanoch Close, Coalisland	349	4	01/10/2011
Craigmore Road, Magherafelt	962	22	01/08/2013
Carn View, Swatragh	311	8	01/03/2013
Loy Street, Cookstown	1,898	30	01/03/2013
Gulladuff, Maghera	283	6	01/07/2013
<b>Newry and Mourne</b>			
Father Cullen Park, Bessbrook, Newry	4,494	62	01/01/2014
School Road (MOD/PSNI site) Forkhill	790	10	01/03/2013
Rathkellan Park, Crossmaglen	100	1	01/11/2012
Rectory Close, Loughgall	313	6	01/11/2012
Win Business Park, Murphy Crescent	943	18	01/11/2013
Cathedral View, Newry	125	2	01/11/2012
Canal Street, Phase 4, Newry	506	10	01/11/2013
St Bridgets Park, Culloville	131	4	01/09/2012
Ardmore Road, Phase 1, Armagh	1,627	26	01/09/2013
Calmor View, Newry	343	6	01/10/2012
Connaught House, Newry	238	3	01/10/2012
Coolmillish Road, Markethill	528	8	01/12/2012
Springhill Drive, Newry	360	6	01/01/2013
Ardcane Park, Newry	360	6	01/12/2012
Millview, Richill, Armagh	330	6	01/12/2012

	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>Due for Completion</b>
Killin Street, Newry	2,160	36	01/08/2013
Strangford			
Loch Cuan, Newtownards	3,048	34	01/03/2014
Killard Special School, Newtownards	2,605	40	01/09/2013
2-4 Londonderry Avenue, Comber	457	8	01/03/2013
41 Movilla Street, Newtownards	1,051	12	01/09/2012
Sloane Crescent, Killyleagh	291	6	01/01/2013
Grahamsbridge Road, Castlereagh	189	1	01/07/2012
Queens Park, Saintfield	105	1	01/07/2012
Killynure Road, Carryduff	1,963	30	01/02/2014
Glenbrook Road, Newtownards	483	7	01/03/2013
10a Belfast Road, Saintfield	192	3	01/12/2012

Table 4 below provides a list of other Housing Capital schemes (by ward) programmed for 2011/12 subject to finance being available.

**TABLE 4 – HOUSING: OTHER SCHEMES**

	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>Start Date -(schemes take 12-18 months)</b>
<b>East Belfast</b>			
Clarawood/Edenvale	285	24	01/09/2011
Lendrick/Parker	1,160	58	01/01/2012
Fermanagh & South Tyrone			
Various locations Fermanagh District	503	39	16/01/2012
Lagan Valley			
Avonmore Park, Lisburn	40	7	11/04/2011
Mid Ulster			
Main St/39 Alexander, Magherafelt	120	6	09/01/2012
Newry & Armagh			
Bessbrook/Mullaghbawn	259	27	16/01/2012
Alexander Estate, Armagh	767	39	14/11/2011
North Belfast			
(NB) Mt Vernon/Ross	454	138	01/03/2012
Monkscoole House	3,240	72	19/03/2012

	<b>Total Cost £(k)</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>Start Date -(schemes take 12-18 months)</b>
<b>South Belfast</b>			
Torr Way/Annadale	360	37	01/01/2012
Upper Bann			
Edenderry Gardens/Golf Terrace, Banbridge	363	31	16/01/2012

### **Annadale Flats, Belfast**

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister for Social Development what plans he has to allocate funding in the 2011-2015 budget period for investment in the communal areas, bathrooms and pitched roofs of Annadale Flats, Belfast.

**(AQW 2882/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** There are plans to upgrade the communal areas in each of the medium rise flats as part of a fire safety scheme that is currently being piloted elsewhere. Until that pilot can be evaluated, it is not possible to say when the work will begin, but I will be happy to advise the member on this once a date to start work is agreed.

In respect of the roofing issue, two of the blocks have already had a pitched roof installed and the Housing Executive remains committed to rolling this out to each of the remaining flats in due course. However there is no confirmed start date for this at this stage.

### **Housing Executive Properties in the East Londonderry Constituency**

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) how many Housing Executive properties in the East Londonderry constituency are without (a) central heating; and (b) double glazed windows; and (ii) what plans he has to upgrade these properties.

**(AQW 2890/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not routinely collate information by Parliamentary constituency. However, the Housing Executive's Coleraine and Limavady District offices fall within the East Londonderry constituency. The position for each District Office area is as follows:-

Limavady District: -

Nine dwellings have partial heating and these properties will be reviewed with the intention of arranging up-grading to full central heating during 2012/13. Approximately 63% of Housing Executive dwellings in this District have some form of double glazing (partial or full). During this financial year 104 dwellings will have double glazing installed and the remainder will be addressed in line with the Housing Executive's policy to have double glazing installed in all of its properties by 2021.

Coleraine District: -

12 dwellings are without central heating. Two heating schemes are underway to change the existing heating systems to gas or oil for 123 dwellings at a cost of £335k and a further similar scheme is programmed for 155 dwellings in 2012/13. Approximately 54% of Housing Executive dwellings in this District have some form of double glazing (partial or full). There are no window replacement schemes programmed for this financial year and the remainder will be addressed in line with the Housing Executive's policy to have double glazing installed in all of its properties by 2021.

## Welfare Reform Bill

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the impact of the Welfare Reform Bill on disadvantaged people, in particular, the number of people on benefits who are likely to be impacted by future changes.

**(AQW 2926/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** In order to assess the potential impact of the proposed Welfare Reforms, an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) was issued for public consultation on 5 September 2011.

At the moment, given the information and data systems available, we are unable to accurately quantify the number of people affected by the various reforms and the information within the EQIA represents our best estimate.

Following an analysis of any responses received to the EQIA consultation we will provide a departmental response and give further consideration to Equality issues as the Regulations supporting the Welfare Reform Bill are brought forward.

## Welfare Reform Bill

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on his discussions with Ministers at Westminster in relation to the Welfare Reform Bill, including the progress made on ensuring maximum flexibility when implementing future changes, and the timing of those changes.

**(AQW 2927/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** As a result of the various discussions that I have had with Westminster Ministers, including Lord Freud, the Minister of State responsible for Welfare Reform, I can assure Members that they are only too aware of the difficulties and challenges which we face, and which are unique to Northern Ireland.

I will continue to ensure that full account is taken of the particular circumstances that exist in Northern Ireland and that operational flexibilities and safeguards within the social security regime will be applied where necessary in the implementation of all of the welfare reform proposals, although I have to stress that this can only be done in line with the principle of parity.

## Funding for Community Workers

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development what action he intends to take to ensure that community workers who are paid as part of the Small Pockets of Deprivation or Neighbourhood Renewal schemes do not have to wait unduly to be informed of whether funding is to be continued.

**(AQW 3000/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I have committed funding to the Neighbourhood Renewal and Small Pockets of Deprivation (SPOD) Programmes until 31 March 2015. Applications for funding, or continuation funding, for all Neighbourhood Renewal and SPOD projects, including those involving salary costs for community workers, are subjected to an assessment process to ensure that they meet the needs of the area and offer value for money.

Where community associations can demonstrate that their projects are working well, producing results and providing value for money they have been offered funding for up to 4 years from April 2011.

Where the Department considers that improvements can be made, such as achieving better impacts, reducing costs and introducing collaborative working, it has issued transitional contracts for shorter periods. Groups that respond positively to the opportunity to make improvements will receive greater security in the form of a further 3 year contract. Whilst my Department strives to make decisions on a timely basis, the pace of the assessment process is ultimately determined by the speed by which the applicant can provide the relevant information required.

## **Jobseekers Allowance**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of people who have moved from claiming other benefits to claiming Jobseekers Allowance in each of the last 18 months, broken down by (i) gender; and (ii) the type of benefits they previously claimed.

**(AQW 3024/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information requested is set out in the table below. The figures quoted show the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance since January 2010 who claimed another benefit at some stage in the 6 weeks prior to claiming Jobseeker's Allowance.

**JOBSEEKER'S ALLOWANCE NEW CLAIMS WITH PREVIOUS BENEFIT CLAIMS WITHIN 6 WEEKS**

Start date of JSA claim	Previous benefit type														Total
	Employment and Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefit				Income support				Other benefit						
	Gender		Total	Gender		Total	Gender		Total	Gender		Total			
	F	M		F	M		F	M		F	M				
Jan-10	64	182	246	64	74	138	22	15	37	150	271	421			
Feb-10	42	122	164	43	63	106	22	15	37	107	200	307			
Mar-10	42	117	159	45	49	94	30	24	54	117	190	307			
Apr-10	38	92	130	42	50	92	32	10	42	112	152	264			
May-10	46	89	135	40	46	86	15	16	31	101	151	252			
Jun-10	64	130	194	51	53	104	19	18	37	134	201	335			
Jul-10	58	111	169	63	57	120	34	14	48	155	182	337			
Aug-10	53	113	166	38	43	81	31	19	50	122	175	297			
Sep-10	59	117	176	53	41	94	26	23	49	138	181	319			
Oct-10	50	126	176	37	52	89	20	9	29	107	187	294			
Nov-10	46	150	196	57	49	106	37	16	53	140	215	355			
Dec-10	41	118	159	36	43	79	29	11	40	106	172	278			
Jan-11	84	162	246	69	49	118	41	20	61	194	231	425			
Feb-11	50	144	194	68	41	109	33	13	46	151	198	349			
Mar-11	49	131	180	71	33	104	36	23	59	156	187	343			
Apr-11	51	81	132	62	46	108	34	10	44	147	137	284			

Start date of JSA claim	Previous benefit type												Total
	Employment and Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefit			Income support			Other benefit			Total			
	Gender		Total	Gender		Total	Gender		Total	Gender		Total	
	F	M		F	M		F	M		F	M		
May-11	59	111	170	62	36	98	34	21	55	155	168	323	
Jun-11	76	110	186	77	40	117	35	21	56	188	171	359	
Jul-11	64	98	162	64	28	92	39	14	53	167	140	307	
Aug-11	22	45	67	20	15	35	21	10	31	63	70	133	
Total	1,058	2,349	3,407	1,062	908	1,970	590	322	912	2,710	3,579	6,289	



## Jobseekers Allowance

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of new claimants for Jobseekers Allowance in each month in the last 18 months, broken down by gender.

**(AQW 3025/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information requested is set out in the table below. The figures quoted show the number of people who successfully claimed Jobseeker's Allowance in each month since March 2010. Due to system configuration these figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Month	Male	Female	Total
March 2010	5,305	2,105	7,405
April 2010	4,305	1,850	6,155
May 2010	6,450	2,490	8,940
June 2010	5,560	2,465	8,025
July 2010	5,795	3,370	9,165
August 2010	6,915	3,690	10,605
September 2010	6,130	3,080	9,210
October 2010	7,550	3,295	10,845
November 2010	5,990	2,275	8,265
December 2010	5,460	1,975	7,430
January 2011	6,490	2,850	9,345
February 2011	6,150	2,790	8,940
March 2011	5,565	2,560	8,130
April 2011	6,235	2,685	8,920
May 2011	5,040	2,125	7,170
June 2011	5,725	2,785	8,505
July 2011	7,145	4,440	11,585
August 2011	6,070	3,420	9,490

## Claiming Benefits and Working

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of people who are currently claiming benefits and working (i) full-time; or (ii) part-time.

**(AQW 3027/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department only holds information on individual work patterns where it relates to the entitlement of the claim. The table below outlines the number of customers who have part time working hours recorded against their claim. Customers who work full time do not qualify for receipt of these benefits.

Benefit	Number of customers declaring part-time work
Income Support	1,893
Jobseekers Allowance	3,003

Benefit	Number of customers declaring part-time work
Employment & Support Allowance	986
Carers Allowance	4,879

## Riots in the Short Stand Area of Belfast

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) what steps he has taken to establish the cost of repairing the damage to properties, as a result of the riots in the Short Stand area of Belfast in June 2011, owned by (a) private home-owners; (b) Habinteg Housing Association; (c) Connswater Housing Association; and (d) the Northern Ireland Housing Executive; and (ii) what level of financial reimbursement has been offered by his Department to those affected.

**(AQW 3033/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My officials have met regularly with the Housing Executive, the Housing Associations and the Interface Residents Initiative in an effort to establish the full extent of the work needed in the area. The final costs have not yet been ascertained however the Housing Executive maintenance costs for cleaning up following the violence currently stand at £6,580.

The cost of enhancing the security of the roofs of Housing Executive properties in Thistle Court and the Newtownards Road is estimated at £56,000 and will be undertaken in the coming weeks.

Habinteg Housing Association has already spent over £17,500 on adaptations (including the conversion of a number of properties from oil to gas heating) and the cleanup of their properties in Duke Street following the violence. They have also recently agreed to replace the roof tiles on their homes along the interface with metallic, fire resistant tiles. This work will involve the replacement of 11 roofs and is expected to cost in excess of £60,000 alone.

Connswater Housing Association has already spent between £1,250-£1,400 replacing panes of lexon glass in a number of their properties. They met with their tenants last week to discuss a variety of options to help better protect their homes on the Newtownards Road. Following that meeting they have agreed to carry out further work to safeguard these homes/tenants but the cost of that work recently agreed is not known yet.

The Hate Incidents Practical Actions Scheme is jointly supported by the Community Safety Unit, the Department of Justice, the PSNI and the Housing Executive and it is through this scheme that private home owners can be supported. I understand that whilst there are only 2 private home owners affected, they should be afforded the same level of protection for their homes that social tenants can receive.

This is not about resources, this is about the measures that are needed to protect those tenants who have a right to feel safe and secure in their homes.

## Housing Executive: Housing Portfolio

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the total housing portfolio of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive; (ii) how many of these properties meet (a) the Decent Homes Standard; and (ii) the Decent Homes Plus Standard; and (iii) the total expected cost of upgrading the entire stock to (a) the Decent Homes Standard; and (b) the Decent Homes Plus Standard.

**(AQW 3034/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Northern Ireland Housing Executive's total housing portfolio is 89,984 properties. Savills 2009 Stock Condition survey stated that only 17% of stock failed to meet the Decent Homes Standard with the majority, 74,687 properties, meeting the standard. As yet the Decent Homes Plus Standard has not been introduced to the Housing Executive but their revised Maintenance Investment Strategy recommends its introduction. The total expected cost of upgrading the Housing Executive's

entire stock to Decent Homes Standard by 2021 is expected to be £733million, whilst the cost of upgrading its entire stock to Decent Homes Plus by 2021 is estimated to be £945million.

### Energy Efficiency Measures

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister for Social Development whether her Department has any plans to introduce an area-based approach in the implementation of energy efficiency measures to increase economies of scale and to maximise the number of households which would benefit from such measures.

**(AQW 3097/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I have asked officials to review our approach to delivering energy efficiency improvements to fuel poor homes in Northern Ireland. I recognise the benefits of an area based approach and this will be an option for delivery of energy efficiency improvements in the future.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development why, when completing a COA1 Form, claimants of Employment and Support Allowance who are moving in with their parents have to supply details of their parent's gross income.

**(AQW 3116/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Claimants of Employment and Support Allowance who are moving in with their parents are not required to supply details of their parent's gross income as this has no impact on their assessment. Form COA1 is a generic form issued to customers, who are in receipt of a social security benefit, when they report a change of address. It covers all possible scenarios and seeks to obtain all of the information necessary to ensure the customer receives their correct entitlement of Social Security benefit. I have asked my officials to undertake a review of the form to ensure customers are only asked to provide the information relevant to their circumstances.

### Welfare Reform: Ministerial Meeting

**Mr McElduff** asked the Minister for Social Development if he has met with Westminster Ministers to explain the adverse impact of the implementation of Welfare Reform.

**(AQO 559/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I have discussed the issue of Welfare Reform with various Government Ministers, including the Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Owen Patterson, MP. Further, my officials are in regular contact with Government officials about this and other relevant issues, on an almost weekly basis. I can assure Members that DWP Ministers in Westminster are only too aware of the difficulties and challenges which we face, and which are unique to Northern Ireland.

The Coalition Government has made it clear that its proposals for reforming the welfare system are intended to improve work incentives, simplify the benefits system and tackle administrative complexity, and I am sure that no one would argue with those worthy aspirations.

For those people on Universal Credit, the Coalition Government has stated that there will be no losers at the point of change.

Other aspects of Welfare Reform will involve a fundamental review of how we ensure that the limited monies which are available are directed to those who are most in need, and most vulnerable – the need to make savings is a fact of economic life, whether we like it or not. However, there are mechanisms in place designed to ensure that those who are most in need, or most vulnerable are identified and protected.

I will continue to ensure that full account is taken of the particular circumstances that exist in Northern Ireland and that operational flexibilities and safeguards within the social security regime will be applied where necessary in the implementation of all of the welfare reform proposals, although I have to stress that this can only be done in line with the principle of parity.

Finally, on 5 September, an Equality Impact Assessment was issued for public consultation; the responses to this consultation will help us to assess the impact of the Welfare Reforms.

### **Discretionary Housing Payments**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Social Development what was the average annual amount paid in discretionary housing payments to claimants in 2010.

**(AQW 3138/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** During the financial year 2010/11 Discretionary Housing payments totalling £1,056,751 were awarded to 5001 Housing Benefit claimants. This equates to an average annual amount paid to each claimant of £211.

### **Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusement (Northern Ireland) Order 1985**

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he intends to introduce legislation amending or replacing the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusement (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 to allow residents to enter UK wide competitions and prize draws, without an element of skill, that are not considered lotteries or betting.

**(AQW 3171/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** A major consultation on proposals for reform of the gambling legislation was carried out by my predecessor earlier this year. The consultation sought views on a change in the law to enable people in Northern Ireland to participate in prize competitions and free draws on the same basis as those in the rest of the UK. I am currently giving detailed consideration to the many complex issues raised in the consultation and the views expressed. I will make an announcement on the way forward for the gambling review in due course.

### **Reviewing Gambling Law**

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) when the consultation period on his Department's discussion paper on reviewing gambling law was completed; and (ii) why no legislation has been introduced to replace the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusement (Northern Ireland) order 1985.

**(AQW 3172/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** A major consultation on proposals for reform of the gambling law closed on 31 May 2011. Almost 240 responses were received to the consultation including the views of 44 organisations. I am currently giving detailed consideration to the many complex issues raised in the consultation and the views expressed. I will make an announcement on the way forward for the gambling review in due course.

### **Legislation on Gambling**

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Social Development when legislation on gambling is going to be updated to bring Northern Ireland in line with developments introduced in the rest of the UK under the Gambling Act 2005.

**(AQW 3173/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The regulation of gambling in Northern Ireland is a devolved matter. The Northern Ireland law has traditionally been more restrictive than the law in Great Britain. A major consultation on proposals for reform of the law closed on 31 May. I am currently giving detailed consideration to the many complex issues raised in the consultation and the views expressed. I will make an announcement on the way forward for the gambling review in due course.

## Community Heating Schemes

**Mr Dickson** asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the advantages and the economic viability of community heating schemes and the bulk purchase of fuel.

**(AQW 3217/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has examined the potential for installing community heating in some areas, but concluded that it is not economically viable within existing housing estates due to the high number of house sales. To be economically successful it would require most, if not all, dwellings within an estate to take part in a scheme. Many home owners have installed their own individual boilers and, having made that investment, would not take part in a community scheme. Extending into adjacent areas to obtain the critical mass required to make a scheme successful would be prohibitively expensive in terms of the underground pipe network.

Community heating is best suited to new build situations and a recent example is the Woodbrook private housing development outside Lisburn.

The Housing Executive is developing an Energy Brokerage Scheme and plan to market test a scheme by the end of March 2012.

## October Monitoring Round

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail any financial pressures that have been identified by his Department in the October Monitoring Round.

**(AQW 3261/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** In the October Monitoring Round my Department made three essential capital bids, namely £10m for additional Co-ownership Housing funding; £4m for thermal improvements to Northern Ireland Housing Executive stock; and £1m for a number of important Neighbourhood Renewal projects. The overall outcome of the October Monitoring Round will be announced to the Assembly by the Finance Minister in due course.

## Land Adjacent to the Ballymena Children's Home

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister for Social Development whether the Northern Health and Social Care Trust has declared an interest in purchasing any of the 80 acres of land adjacent to the Ballymena Children's Home.

**(AQW 3287/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department is disposing of this 80 acre site in accordance with the DFP Procedures on 'Disposal of Surplus Publicly Sector Property in NI'. The first stage of this process involved the circulation of details of the surplus land to all relevant public bodies to establish whether they would have an interest in acquiring it. This clearing house arrangement is carried out by the Central Advisory Unit of Land and Property Services. I can confirm that the Northern Health and Social Care Trust were contacted as part of this trawl and that they did not declare an interest.

## Green New Deal

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he has any plans to consolidate the Warm Homes Scheme and the Housing Executive's Energy Efficiency Scheme under the Green New Deal.

**(AQW 3303/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My officials have just received the business case from the Green New Deal Group which will now be examined by the Cross Departmental Group which was set up to examine the potential of Green New Deal for Northern Ireland. The University of Ulster's recent publication "Defining Fuel Poverty in Northern Ireland" recommends improvements in targeting of resources and I have asked officials to re-examine how the Department delivers energy efficiency measures in the future

## Cotton Estate in North Down

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development what maintenance schemes are planned for the Cotton Estate in North Down in each of the next three years.

**(AQW 3319/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The details of works planned by the Housing Executive for the Cotton Estate, subject to funding, are as follows: -

2011/12	Replacement of all remaining solid fuel heating systems in 20 dwellings. The work is due to commence in January/February 2012 at an estimated cost of £160,000.
2012/13	Replacement of kitchens in 15 dwellings. The work is due to commence in April/May 2012 at an estimated cost of £78,000.
2013/14	No works programmed.

## Winter Fuel Payments

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister for Social Development how many people received winter fuel payments in 2010/2011.

**(AQO 564/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The number of Winter Fuel Payments made in 2010/11 to people in Northern Ireland was 317,145.

## Housing Executive: Hospital Estates, Lurgan

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive houses will benefit from the external maintenance works under way in the Hospital Estates, Lurgan.

**(AQO 566/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive commenced an External Cyclical Maintenance scheme on 26 September 2011 in the Hospital Estates area in Lurgan at a cost of £410,000. The scheme includes work to 192 properties and 15 garages. The contract duration is 34 weeks.

## Universal Credit

**Mr Brady** asked the Minister for Social Development how many Social Security Offices are equipped to deal with the introduction of Universal Credit.

**(AQO 567/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Until the Welfare Reform Bill is enacted we will not have a clear understanding of the impact of the introduction of Universal Credit.

The introduction of Universal Credit will entail the replacement of the existing working age social security benefits and tax credit regimes from October 2013.

Whilst it is too soon to assess in detail the organisational impacts of these changes, the Social Security Agency is working closely with colleagues from the Department for Work and Pensions, as well as those from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and other impacted Government departments, to ensure that appropriate arrangements are developed and put in place. This work will include consideration of customer, staff and organisational impacts.

I recognise that Welfare Reform presents many challenges and that aspects of the proposals being advanced will have a negative impact. However, it also presents opportunities for individuals and wider society by ensuring that work always pays.



## **Town Centre Regeneration: Newry and Armagh**

**Mr D Bradley** asked the Minister for Social Development how much funding will be allocated to town centre regeneration in the Newry and Armagh constituency.

**(AQO 568/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Newry and Armagh constituency has benefited considerably from town centre regeneration funding in recent years with Armagh having received in the region of £3.7 million towards a major public realm scheme completed in November 2009. A Revitalisation project is currently underway in Armagh, with £150,000 funding allocated to tackle dereliction and promote the city centre.

My Department has allocated funding of £1.6 million towards a £1.8 million public realm scheme for Monaghan Street and Hill Street, Newry which will commence in January 2012. Further public realm works to regenerate the area around the Town Hall and along the Quay with a contribution of £1.5 million from DSD are planned for 2012 and 2013, subject to funding being available and the necessary approvals.

## **Housing Executive: Job Losses**

**Mr Murphy** asked the Minister for Social Development how many jobs will be lost within the Housing Executive as a result of the review of the organisation.

**(AQO 569/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** It is not possible to define the number of job losses within the Housing Executive as a result of the proposals recommended by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in the "Strategic Review of Options for the Future Service Delivery of the NIHE report" as no detailed design work has taken place. PwC have made a number of high-level assumptions around the projected size of a proposed new model and these assumptions do envisage an opportunity to reduce the number of posts. However, PwC have stated that this is based on the working assumption that a reduction in the number of posts could be achieved through natural wastage and that no compulsory redundancies would be required. These assumptions and series of recommendations are currently being discussed with key stakeholders within the Housing sector and will be reviewed again within the detailed design phase before I make any decisions on the specific way forward. This review is therefore on-going and any staffing reductions highlighted in recent press reports relate to the potential level of staff reductions needed if a 5% reduction in running costs is required per year over the next three years.

## **Living Over the Shop Scheme**

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister for Social Development why funding for the Living Over The Shops scheme is no longer available.

**(AQO 570/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Funding for the Living Over the Shops Initiative has not ended; indeed £500,000 was allocated this year to continue the scheme. This is the same budget that was available last year.

The Living Over the Shops Initiative has played an important role in the regeneration of many towns and cities. Rather than end this initiative, I have asked my Department to see how this work can be mainstreamed into the wider responsibility my Department has in respect of town and city centre regeneration.

## **Social Deprivation: Rathcoole**

**Ms P Bradley** asked the Minister for Social Development what work has been undertaken to address social deprivation in the Rathcoole Estate, Newtownabbey.

**(AQO 571/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Rathcoole is designated as an area of multiple deprivation. DSD seeks to address social deprivation in the area by investing in the social housing stock of the estate and through support provided through the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.

Over the past two years almost £1.1m has been invested locally.

This has included funding for:

- Grounds maintenance and resurfacing;
- Kitchen replacement to 103 dwellings;
- Heating change to 56 dwellings;
- Installation of public art sculptures;
- Establishment of a nurture unit in Rathcoole Primary School; and
- Employment of one teacher, one classroom assistant, two community-based workers and one part-time Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator.

The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership, which was established in 2006 draws together local community, elected and statutory representatives to address social deprivation through greater community cohesion and collaboration.

Through its Action Plan for the area, the Partnership identifies needs and issues of concern to local people and seeks to meet these by working with the local Council, statutory and community groups to improve local services.

## Social Housing

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister for Social Development how many social houses will be built in the next three years.

**(AQO 572/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I am determined to increase not just the quantity but also the quality of our housing stock. In that respect I am reviewing all our budget lines to ensure the right balance has been struck between both.

Approximately 4,200 new social homes alongside 1275 new affordable homes are expected to begin in the three years from 2011/12 to 2013/14.

## Small Pockets of Deprivation

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the success of the Small Pockets of Deprivation programme.

**(AQO 573/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I recognise that the activities funded by the SPOD programme are believed to have made a positive contribution to the areas and communities which have benefitted. However, it has proven difficult to gather clear evidence of the impact which the programme has made. Nevertheless, it is clear that the programme had been of greatest value where it had been able to assist work already taking place in the target areas and where relatively strong community based groups existed and were able to make good use of the funding opportunity. As the programme moves forward, I want to ensure that the funding is targeted on those issues in the SPOD areas where it can have the greatest impact.



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## Revised Written Answers

### Friday 21 October 2011

**(AQW 2830/11-15)**

My Department's Roads Service met with the Northern Ireland Court Service in March 2011 and was 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.

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Published by Authority of the Northern Ireland Assembly,  
Belfast: The Stationery Office

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ISSN 1463-7162

Daily Editions: Single copies £5, Annual subscriptions £325

Bound Volumes of Debates are issued periodically during the session: Single copies: £90

Printed in Northern Ireland by The Stationery Office Limited

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ISBN 978-0-339-70223-3



9 780339 702233