

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 9 March 2012

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to arrive not later than two weeks after publication of this report.

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Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 9 March 2012

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

New Victims and Survivors Service

Mr Nesbitt asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, following the evidence given to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister by the Commission for Victims and Survivors, whether the establishment of the new Victims and Survivors Service will require legislation to be passed by the Assembly, and what timescale will apply.

(AQW 8646/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): Approval has been given by the Department of Finance and Personnel to establish the new Victims and Survivors Service under the Budget Act. This is sufficient to cover at least the first year of operation. We are currently considering whether new legislation is necessary for any aspect of the work after this one-year period.

European Economic and Social Committee

Mr Lunn asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the impact that the work of the European Economic and Social Committee has on Northern Ireland.

(AQO 1365/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The European Economic and Social Committee is a consultative body that gives representatives of Europe's socio-occupational interest groups, and others, a formal platform to express their own, non-governmental, points of view on EU issues.

The opinions of the Committee are part of the formal legislative process in Brussels and can positively influence decisions which affect this administration, helping to ensure that European policies and legislation reflect economic, social and civic circumstances 'on the ground.'

In some areas its view, or 'opinion', must be sought before legislation can be agreed. This includes important policy sectors for us, such as agriculture, employment, transport, education, consumer protection, health and structural funds.

We are currently represented on the Committee by Jane Morrice, a communications consultant, and Michael Smyth, Head of the School of Economics of the University of Ulster.

Recent work carried out by Jane Morrice has made a positive contribution to our lobbying strategy on a PEACE IV Programme. We are pursuing this, building on commitments by Commissioner Hahn concerning continued EU support for Peace funding which we have secured as part of our work with the Barroso Task Force.

We will continue to press for a PEACE IV programme in our dealings with Dublin, London and Brussels.

Discrimination in the Workplace

Mr D McIlveen asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what action their Department has taken to reduce discrimination in the workplace against pregnant women, young people and migrant workers. (AQW 8752/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Discrimination against pregnant women, young people and migrant workers in the workplace is unlawful under legislation as set out below.

- Pregnant women – Sex Discrimination (NI) Order 1976, as amended
- Young people – Employment Equality (Age) Regulations (NI) 2006, as amended
- Migrant workers – Race Relations (NI) Order 1997, as amended

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM). The Equality Commission has responsibility for combating discrimination and provides advice and assistance to people who believe they have suffered such discrimination as well as advising employers of their responsibilities under the laws concerned.

Secondment to Trade Unions

Mr McCallister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) the number of (a) full-time; and (b) part-time staff who are currently on secondment from their Department, or its arm's length bodies, to each recognised trade union; (ii) the salary scale for each secondees; and (iii) the length of each secondment to date.

(AQW 8782/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: No staff are seconded from OFMDFM or its arm's length bodies to a trade union.

Ethnic Minority Development Fund

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what consideration they have given to extending the funding for groups which receive core funding from the Ethnic Minority Development Fund, given that it is unlikely that the funding applications will be processed by the time the current round of funding expires on 31 March 2012.

(AQW 8919/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We are conscious that any gaps in funding may have a detrimental impact on services provided to minority ethnic people and we are examining all possible options to minimise any such impact.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Imported Sheep or Cattle

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) how many calves for rearing, and store cattle for fattening, were imported in the last three years; (ii) from where these animals were imported; and (iii) whether any of the source countries has had any instances of the Schmallenberg Virus in either sheep or cattle.

(AQW 8506/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): According to my Department's Animal & Public Health Information System (APHIS) there have been 150,231 cattle imported under breeding and production certification during the last 3 years (1 January 2009 to 28 February 2012). These cattle were imported from the south, Britain and countries within Continental Europe including

Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland and Romania and I have detailed below the amount of cattle imported per year from each country.

	2009	2010	2011	2012 (to date)
Austria	-	28	44	83
Britain	311	578	1,907	310
Denmark	1	-	-	10
France	8	11	19	171
Germany	-	41	55	-
Holland	28	107	391	29
Ireland	46,638	63,445	32,323	2,337
Romania	-	-	1,065	291
Total:	46,986	64,210	35,804	3,231

The source countries where the Schmallenberg Virus has been detected in cattle and sheep include Britain, France, Germany and Holland and a small percentage of cattle have been imported from those countries. The number of cattle imported since June 2011 are as follows:

Britain	France	Germany	Holland
1,711	190	20	219

Fishing Vessel Decommissioning

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, following her statement on 16 January 2012, and pursuant to AQW 6548/11-15, whether an announcement will be made on a definite timescale for fishing vessel decommissioning in February 2012.
(AQW 8543/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I have not been able to make an announcement about vessel decommissioning in February as I had hoped. Senior departmental officials met with DFP on 7 February to discuss the proposed rationale for a decommissioning scheme. DFP raised some issues requiring additional consideration in DARD's draft business case. DFP further advised that by fully addressing these matters it would help to facilitate a more efficient and timely approval pathway. These issues have now been addressed fully and the Final Business Case was submitted formally to DFP on 1st March 2012. I will make an announcement as soon as DFP's views are known.

Rural Development Programme

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much funding has been allocated to date to each of the Rural Development Programme clusters; and how much each cluster has spent on administering the programme.
(AQW 8570/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Axis 3 of the NIRD 2007-2013 is administered by seven local council clusters using the 'bottom up' approach. Each cluster has been given an indicative allocation of funds not actual funds. To 31st January 2012 the clusters have spent against their programme allocation as follows:

Cluster	Allocation	Project Spend	Admin Spend
GROW	8,890,899	1,480,765	579,973

Cluster	Allocation	Project Spend	Admin Spend
NER	13,181,300	2,198,665	962,112
LRP	8,691,556	872,406	689,283
DRAP	13,498,066	1,665,270	921,019
SOAR	16,731,839	1,775,988	1,256,558
ARC	18,484,112	2,659,993	1,389,390
SWARD	20,522,227	3,379,960	1,646,689
Total	99,999,999	14,033,047	7,445,024

Anaerobic Digesters and Wind Turbines

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what funding or incentives her Department has in place for installing anaerobic digesters and erecting wind turbines.

(AQW 8628/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: DARD funding is available for anaerobic digesters under the Biomass Processing Challenge Fund which is managed under the European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme for NI 2007-2013 and part financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The aim of the Fund is to encourage agricultural and forestry businesses to install biomass fuelled technologies primarily to aid agricultural activities at farm level.

A grant rate of up to 40% of eligible costs, to a maximum of €400,000 per project may be paid, however the Renewable Obligation will have an impact on the financial assistance provided. It is anticipated that Tranche 2 will open in summer 2012.

Additionally under Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme grant assistance may be provided for standalone renewable initiatives including the erection of wind turbines or for projects where renewable energy technology is planned as part of the larger project. None of the energy produced may be used to increase the profitability of a farm business or reduce any farm home domestic running costs.

Private promoters which include farmers and farm family members and rural micro businesses (less than 10 employees) may be offered financial assistance at a rate of up to 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant amount of £50,000. Social Economy Enterprises and Community Groups seeking to introduce renewable technologies can be funded at a rate of 75% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant amount of £170,000 depending on the measure applied to. A feasibility study is a Programme requirement and as an eligible cost may be supported through technical assistance at similar grant rates up to a maximum grant amount of £5,000.

The Axis 3 measures are delivered by seven Joint Council Committees working in partnership with their appointed Local Action Group. As a Programme requirement only projects which are compatible with the priorities in the local rural development strategy and which have been successful in a competitive assessment, including robust economic appraisal, will be supported.

Postgraduate Studentship

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to list the universities at which successful Postgraduate Studentship applicants have studied; and how many successful applicants studied at each university in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8654/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The universities at which successful Postgraduate Studentship applicants funded by DARD have been registered for study (at PhD level) are;

- Queen's University Belfast,
- University of Ulster,
- Durham University.

Each successful applicant must be registered at a university, but may carry out their research at an approved study centre, such as the Agri-food and Biosciences Institute for NI (AFBI) or the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE). The following table shows how many successful applicants were registered at each university in each of the last three academic years and highlights the study centres attended.

Registered university	Queen's University Belfast			University of Ulster	Durham University	Total PhDs
Study centre	QUB	AFBI	CAFRE	UU	Durham	
2011/12	12	8	1	0	1	22
2010/11	11	10	1	1	0	23
2009/10	14	8	0	1	0	23

As each Postgraduate Studentship is for a three year period, the maximum number of students funded in any one year is twenty four.

Postgraduate Studentship

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many Postgraduate Studentship places her Department has provided in each of the last three years; and how much funding for these places has been provided over the same period.

(AQW 8655/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: DARD awards up to eight new Postgraduate Studentships at PhD level per year. Each Studentship lasts for up to three years. Over the last three academic years, the total number of Studentships and funding provided in each year has been as follows;

Academic year	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10
Number of Studentships provided	22	23	23
Total funding provided (£)	417,714	430,583	421,935

Schmallenberg Virus

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action she is taking to prevent the spread of the Schmallenberg Virus in livestock.

(AQW 8659/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Schmallenberg virus (SBV) is an emerging virus that has caused disease in cattle, sheep and goats in mainland Europe and southern Britain. There are still many uncertainties around this new virus, such as the vector responsible for transmission, the geographic distribution, transmissibility of infected animals and the virus origin. However current data available suggests that the impact of SBV on animal health and production is variable.

This is not a notifiable disease, and as such there are no trade restrictions in place. There are no control measures in place in any of the affected countries in the EU. Indeed a Member State needs to be able to demonstrate freedom if it wants to impose conditions and that is currently not possible.

Freedom is currently not demonstrable as there is no test for wide spread surveillance. This virus is not like Bluetongue but more like Akabane, which is not the subject of international trade conditions

Nevertheless DARD is continuing to monitor developments including discussions at the European Commission.

My officials have conducted veterinary risk assessments and consider that the most likely means of spread to the north of Ireland would be via the import of ruminants from affected areas in Britain and Europe.

My officials have written to importers and asked them to source stock responsibly and enquire about the health history of the herds of origin.

Information is available on the DARD and AFBI websites. Officials have met with representatives from industry and veterinary organisations. Information has also been set to all Private Veterinary Practitioners (PVPs) and to importers.

In order to provide surveillance information here all farmers have been asked to inform their PVPs about any serious malformations or nervous signs in new born animals in their herds or flocks. To date the virus has not been detected in the north of Ireland or indeed the south of Ireland. In addition DARD will assist in a, north of Ireland and Britain, research project.

My officials are in contact with their counterparts in DAFM, DEFRA and the Commission as further information emerges from clinical cases and research. As such any further steps that my Department takes will be evidence based, providing for an informed and proportionate response.

Measure 3.6 of the Rural Development Programme

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development when the decision was taken that the republican monument at Crossmaglen was eligible for funding under Measure 3.6 of the Rural Development Programme; and why it was not referred to the Executive as a controversial issue.
(AQW 8703/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Advice on eligibility was relayed to the Chair of the SOAR Joint Council Committee (JCC) by my officials on 26 January 2012, following a request by the previous Chair to review earlier advice. I am informed that the eligibility of a project is an operational matter and does not constitute a determination that a project will be funded.

Crossmaglen Republican Monument

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how and when she became aware that the Crossmaglen republican monument was eligible for funding under Measure 3.6 of the Rural Development Programme.
(AQW 8705/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I was informed on 20 February 2012 about my Department's advice to the JCC in relation to the eligibility of this application.

Republican Monument in Crossmaglen

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the process for the handling of the application following her determination that the republican monument at Crossmaglen was eligible for funding under Measure 3.6 of the Rural Development Programme.
(AQW 8707/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The decision to assess this Project for funding is taken by Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas (SOAR). The assessment process involves a site visit, completion of an economic appraisal, full assessment and scoring by the Local Action Group (LAG) assessment panel and consideration by full LAG Committee. The decision of the LAG is passed to the Joint Council Committee (JCC) with a recommendation regarding funding. Final decisions are made by the JCC.

Crossmaglen Republican Monument

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the content of the additional plaques which are intended to be added to the Crossmaglen republican monument, which she has determined is eligible for funding under Measure 3.6 of the Rural Development Programme. (AQW 8721/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The proposed plaques are part of an application currently under assessment by Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas (SOAR). It would not be appropriate for the Department to divulge their content until such times as the decision process is complete.

Crossmaglen Republican Monument

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in relation to her decision that the Crossmaglen republican monument is eligible for funding under Measure 3.6 of the Rural Development Programme, what consideration was given to the equality implications and the Ministerial Code of Conduct, in particular the obligations to uphold the rule of law and to promote the interests of the whole community. (AQW 8723/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Equality considerations are an important part of the assessment process for all projects. The assessment process follows the eligibility determination and has just commenced in relation to this project. I have no involvement in this process so my Ministerial responsibilities can have no bearing on this or any project.

Secondment to Trade Unions

Mr McCallister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the number of (a) full-time; and (b) part-time staff who are currently on secondment from her Department, or its arm's length bodies, to each recognised trade union; (ii) the salary scale for each secondee; and (iii) the length of each secondment to date. (AQW 8784/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development currently has four staff on full time secondment to the NI Public Service Alliance (NIPSA) as trade union officials. There is also one full time seconded officer to NIPSA in its Arms Length body. There are no part-time staff on secondment to recognised trade unions. Details of salary and the length of each secondment is set out on the attached table.

DARD

Officer	Grade	Salary Scale	Length of Secondment at Feb 2012
Officer A	Administrative Officer	£18,038 - £22,180	7 years
Officer B	Administrative Officer	£18,038 - £22,180	6 years 9 months
Officer C	Executive Officer I	£23,336- £26,086	3 years 7 months
Officer D	Staff Officer	£27,115- £30,520	10 years

ARMS LENGTH BODIES

	Grade	Salary scale	Length of secondment at Feb 2012
Officer 1	Scientific Officer	£23,336- £26,086	4 years 8 months

Departmental Jobs in Enniskillen

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether, given the availability of the former NI Water building in the Killyhevlin Industrial Estate, her Department plans to assess the feasibility of locating more departmental jobs in Enniskillen.

(AQW 8796/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: You will be aware from the draft Programme for Government that I am currently considering the feasibility of relocating the DARD headquarters from Belfast to a rural area. However, to date no decision has been taken on where the proposed new DARD HQ will be located.

The HQ relocation project is subject to the NI Executives appraisal and business case processes. My Department has received approval from DFP in respect of the Strategic Outline Case and my officials are now developing an Outline Business Case – another necessary component in a project of this size.

Dog Attacks

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) how many dog attacks on (a) domestic animals; and (b) guide dogs have been reported in each of the last five years; and (ii) how many of the dog owners were (a) prosecuted; and (b) convicted.

(AQW 8801/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Dog control here is legislated for by the Dogs Order 1983, as amended by the Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011. The Councils are responsible for enforcing this legislation and provide statistics to my Department regarding its operation.

The Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011 amended the Dogs Order 1983 to include a number of new provisions, including a new offence to allow a dog to attack and injure any other animal owned by another person. Prior to this provision coming into operation on 28 July 2011, it was not an offence to allow a dog to attack and injure an animal, excluding livestock, owned by another person. The Councils were not required to supply my Department with information regarding dog attacks on domestic pets before this offence came into operation.

Between 28 July 2011 and 31 December 2011, there were 124 investigations into dog attacks on animals owned by other people (excluding livestock). None of these investigations resulted in prosecution. My Department does not hold information on how many of the attacked animals, if any, were guide dogs.

Single Farm Payment Applications

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what is the current processing time for Single Farm Payment applications, from inspection to payment.

(AQW 8840/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: It currently takes on average between six and seven months to process a Single Farm Payment after the date on which an inspection was carried out in the field. My Department is currently processing payments on claims inspected during August 2011. A Programme of EU Audit Compliance is currently underway in the Department and this has the potential to result in a significant reduction in this processing time in future years.

Land eligibility inspections were carried out on 1,894 claims to Single Farm Payment (SFP) in 2011. Unfortunately, inspections have discovered that quite a number of claimants have claimed ineligible areas or have not updated their farm maps in regard to boundaries. In many cases these breaches date back as far as 2005. Each change has to be traced to the year it started and the impact of the change applied to payments. These assessments are processed as quickly as practical, however cases involving retrospective eligible area changes are complex and take longer to clear.

While we have met our payment targets so far, I am disappointed that problems remain in regard to the slower payment of inspection cases. I have asked my officials to review the processing system in

the current year and beyond to identify if further action can be taken to reduce delays for farmers still awaiting payment.

Single Farm Payments

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action her Department is taking to address delays in the release of Single Farm Payments which is having a detrimental effect on the farming community.

(AQW 8841/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: A Programme of EU Audit Compliance is currently underway in the Department and this has the potential to result in a significant reduction in this processing time in future years. The most significant investment in this regard is the introduction of a new Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS), which once stabilised should significantly reduce the number of breaches found at field inspection. It is intended that LPIS maps will be issued in advance of the 2013 Single Application Form.

The introduction of control with remote sensing, which will be piloted this year, also has the potential to significantly enhance the processing of inspection cases.

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While we have met our payment targets so far, I am disappointed that problems currently remain in regard to the slower payment of inspection cases. I have asked my officials to review the processing system in the current year and beyond to identify if further action can be taken to reduce delays for farmers still awaiting payment.

Schmallenberg Virus

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what discussions have been held with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the spread of the Schmallenberg Virus and any possible spread to farms in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 8851/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My officials have been in regular contact with DEFRA on Schmallenberg virus. This has been through meetings and regular reports on both the Continent and in Britain.

The most recent CVO Stocktake meeting took place on 1 March 2012. This was one of a series of Stocktake Meetings which have occurred on a regular basis since the New Year. There has also been a meeting of the CVOs, Devolved Administrations. At these meetings, the implications of the spread of SBV and the research needs to increase our understanding of the epidemiology of the virus were discussed. My officials are also in contact with their counterparts in DAFM, and the Commission as further information emerges from clinical cases and research.

Ulster-Scots Culture and Heritage

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she will be promoting Ulster-Scots culture and heritage as well as the Líofo initiative at the Balmoral Show.

(AQW 8933/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: As part of the commitment given to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, all public bodies here are required to encourage the use of Irish and Ulster-Scots. As a large public service provider, DARD is also expected to take some steps to raise awareness levels too. The Council of Europe Charter on Regional or Minority Languages is designed to protect and promote regional or

minority languages. At present, the Charter obligations apply to each language differently, as Part II of the Charter applies to Irish and Ulster-Scots and Part III applies only to Irish.

The Líoфа initiative will be promoted by the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure (DCAL) at this year's Balmoral Show. Steps have now been taken to also include space for DCAL at the Balmoral Show for Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster-Scots Agency to promote their respective heritage and cultures.

Glenariff Forest Park

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how her Department can help develop Glenariff Forest Park and its caravan park as a tourist facility.

(AQW 8954/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The forest recreation strategy acknowledges that we will have to work with partners to realise the full potential of forests to deliver against wider objectives such as health, tourism, education and sport and my officials are working with other government agencies, local authorities and other recreational providers to ensure that opportunities are realised.

Within the context of this strategy, an assessment of the existing and potential tourism development opportunities available from forests in the north of Ireland has been jointly commissioned between the NI Tourist Board and Forest Service. The purpose of the study is to gather and analyse tourism information and provide evidence-based proposals for tourism development for forests in the north of Ireland. This will inform the Forest Service planning review process and assist the NI Tourist Board and other partners to support the case for tourism development in forests. The study is required to provide specific outputs for forests in the Antrim Hills and Glens area (Moyle) and Moyle District Council are represented on the project steering group.

My officials in Forest Service have also been working in partnership with the Strategic Investment Board to explore market opportunities for investment and service delivery across the forest estate, including the provision of caravan and camping. A business case for testing commercial opportunities in renewable energy and leisure, including caravan and camping, has been completed and is currently going through the approvals process.

Rural Crime

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the meetings that she has had with the PSNI in relation to rural crime since May 2011.

(AQW 8991/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I met the Chief Constable in January to highlight the increase in rural crime, including the rise in theft from farms, and the very high level of concern it is causing within the farming community. The Chief Constable has since written to notify me of a recent intelligence led investigation which has resulted in the recovery of stolen items including a tractor, plant and tools. As a result of this investigation I understand that an individual is to appear at Court in the coming weeks charged with handling stolen goods.

I will be meeting the Chief Constable again shortly to discuss how we can work together to tackle rural crime including raising awareness of measures which farmers can take to reduce incidences of rural crime. I also want to explore with him how DARD Direct Offices can be used to disseminate information on rural crime prevention to rural dwellers.

My Department's Veterinary Service Enforcement Branch has also been working closely with the PSNI in dealing with rural crime including carrying out joint on farm inspections, training some members of the PSNI in areas of livestock movement and identification and establishing 24/7 communication channels.

Loífa Initiative

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much her Department has spent to date on promoting the Loífa initiative; and how much she has allocated to be spent on the initiative. (AQW 9005/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: As yet no direct funding has been provided, or allocated by DARD in support of the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure (DCAL) Lóifa initiative and any future spend in promoting the initiative, is likely to involve staff costs in my Equality Unit.

Proposed Move to New Departmental Headquarters

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department has submitted a business case on the proposed move to new departmental headquarters to the Department of Finance and Personnel; and if not, to outline the timescale for the submission. (AQW 9022/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The HQ relocation project is subject to the NI Executives appraisal and business case processes and therefore follows the NI Guide to Expenditure Appraisal and Evaluation (NIGEAE). The first stage of that process is the approval of a Strategic Outline Case. DFP approved the Strategic Outline Case for this project on 01 December 2011. Preparatory work is currently underway for the development of the Outline and Full Business Case. I expect the business case process to be completed by 31 March 2013.

Lóifa Initiative

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide an estimate of the cost of the three proposed Lóifa initiative launches happening outside Belfast and Londonderry. (AQW 9074/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The three proposed Lóifa initiative launches outside Belfast and Derry will likely take place at DARD Direct locations and will involve my Equality Branch staff. At present it is not possible to estimate these costs.

Staff Disciplinary Actions

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of staff disciplinary actions taken by her Department in each of the last two years, at Staff Officer level and above, including details of the offence and the disciplinary sanctions applied. (AQW 9128/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has taken disciplinary action against two officers at Staff Officer grade or above in the period January to December 2010 and two staff at Staff Officer grade or above in the period January to December 2011. Details of the offences and sanctions imposed are set out in the attached table.

JANUARY 2010- DECEMBER 2011

Grade	Offence	Sanction
Inspector Grade 111	Bringing the Department into disrepute which was a breach of the Standards of Conduct policy	Downgrading and disciplinary transfer
Inspector Grade 11	Inappropriate behaviour which was in breach of Standards of Conduct policy	Dismissed

JANUARY 2011 – DECEMBER 2012

Grade	Offence	Sanction
Higher Professional & Technical Officer	Bringing the Department into disrepute which was a breach of the Standards of Conduct policy	Formal warning and financial penalty
Staff Officer	Inappropriate behaviour that was in breach of the Dignity at Work policy	Disciplinary transfer and financial penalty

Líofa Initiative

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many staff have signed up to the Líofa initiative; and whether she plans to launch similar initiatives on the cultural heritage of Ulster Scots.

(AQW 9137/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Currently we have not yet assessed the amount DARD staff who have signed up to the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure (DCAL) Líofa initiative.

We are currently sourcing the delivery of Ulster-Scots language classes and it has been agreed that in 2012/2013 DARD will explore with the Ulster Scots Agency about the possibility of providing lunchtime classes. DARD has in the meantime obtained a selection of books and dictionaries on Ulster-Scots these are available for staff to borrow from the Department's Learning Resource Centre.

Dog Collars which Emit an Electric Shock

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether will introduce measures to regulate or ban the use of dog collars which emit an electric shock.

(AQW 9177/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My animal welfare priorities are the roll-out of the provisions in the Welfare of Animals Act 2011, including new subordinate legislation on the welfare of farmed animals, dog breeding establishments and the tail docking of dogs.

I have no plans at present to introduce a ban on electronic collar training devices. However, the Welfare of Animals Act 2011 includes the power to make subordinate legislation to secure the welfare of animals. This provision could provide the power to ban shock collars in future if the evidence shows that it is necessary.

I am aware that Defra commissioned research in 2007 into the use of shock collars. The results of this research are currently being peer reviewed and it is anticipated that the findings will be published later this year. When the outcome of that research is available I will consider if subordinate legislation, if any, may be required to secure the welfare of animals. Any such legislation would be subject to public consultation, scrutiny by the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee and approval by affirmative resolution of the Assembly.

Job Vacancy Advertised in Irish

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why her Department recently advertised a job vacancy entirely in Irish with no English translation.

(AQW 9191/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The advertisement in question was to seek applications for the Agri-Food Strategy Board. An English language version of this advert was also published in the Belfast Telegraph, the Irish News and the Newsletter.

Ulster-Scots Culture and Heritage

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she plans to promote Ulster-Scots culture and heritage through the DARD Direct offices in a similar way to the Lófa initiative. (AQW 9197/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Discussion is taking place with the Ulster-Scots Agency on the provision of awareness and promotional material to be displayed through the DARD Direct Offices.

It has also been agreed that in 2012/2013 DARD will explore with the Ulster Scots Agency about the possibility of providing lunchtime classes based on the same format as the Irish Language pilot. DARD has in the meantime obtained a selection of books and dictionaries on Ulster-Scots and these are available for staff to borrow from the Department's Learning Resource Centre.

Departmental Advertisement

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why an advert placed by her Department in the Sunday Life on 4 March 2012 appeared exclusively in Irish. (AQW 9214/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The advertisement in question was to seek applications for the Agri-Food Strategy Board. An English language version of this advert was also published in the Sunday Life on the same day, as well as in the Belfast Telegraph, the Newsletter and the Irish News on preceding days.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Attendance at Sports Events

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many (i) association football; (ii) rugby union; (iii) Gaelic; and (iv) cricket matches she has attended since May 2011. (AQW 8371/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): Since taking office in May 2011 I have received official invitations and have attended as Minister (i) 3 Soccer matches; (ii) 1 Rugby Union match; (iii) No Football matches, no Hurling matches, 1 Camogie match; and (iv) I was scheduled to attend 1 Cricket match, however this was called off due to poor weather conditions. I have also attended a variety of sporting events in a personal capacity.

Staff Employed in Inland Fisheries

Dr McDonnell asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the (i) number; (ii) job title; and (iii) grade of staff employed in Inland Fisheries. (AQW 8700/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: In answer to your questions please see the summary table below.

Inland Fisheries Staff		
Analogous Grade	Full Grade Name/Title	No of Staff in Post
Grade 7	Chief Fisheries Officer	1
	Principal	1
Grade 7 Total		2

Inland Fisheries Staff		
Analogous Grade	Full Grade Name/Title	No of Staff in Post
Deputy Principal	Deputy Chief Fisheries Officer	1
	Deputy Principal	2
Deputy Principal Total		3
Staff Officer	Senior Fisheries Officer	5
	Staff Officer	3
Staff Officer Total		8
Executive Officer 1	Executive Officer I	4
	Fisheries Officer 1	6
	Inspector Group 2	8
Executive Officer 1 Total		18
Executive Officer 2	Executive Officer II	1
	Fisheries Officer 2	3
Executive Officer 2 Total		4
Administrative Officer	Administrative Officer	11
Administrative Officer Total		11
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant	2
	Casual Administrative Assistant	1
Administrative Assistant Total		3
Industrial	Chargehand/Spec Grade C	16
	Senior Supervisor - Grade A	2
	Skilled Grade D	1
	Supervisor - Grade B	4
Industrial Total		23
Grand Total		72

Upgrade of Brandywell Stadium, Derry

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding her Department has allocated for the upgrade of Brandywell Stadium, Derry.
(AQW 8730/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI is responsible for the distribution of funding for sport in the north of Ireland. Sport NI has not allocated any exchequer funding for the upgrade of the Brandywell Stadium, Derry in the current CSR period.

Cultural Tourism Potential in the South Down Constituency

Mr W Clarke asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how her Department intends to promote existing cultural tourism potential in the South Down constituency, particularly the history of the 1798 rebellion.

(AQW 8732/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department of Culture, Arts plays a central role in cultural tourism in the north of Ireland and will invest £158.24m capital and £431.19m current funding in the culture, arts and leisure sector over the 4 years of the current CSR Period 2011-2015.

The Department invests in the cultural infrastructure that is essential to attract visitors in the first instance and central to a positive visitor experience once they get here, e.g. museums, theatres, sports venues and visitor attractions, and also invests significant revenue funding to ensure that there is an attractive arts and cultural programme on offer for visitors. That investment helps to differentiate the north of Ireland from competing locations as a 'destination of choice' for potential visitors.

The profile and beauty of South Down has been considerably raised on the global stage recently with the help of the Oscar win by 'The Shore', filmed in Killough and other major productions such as Hollywood Box Office's (HBO's) Game of Thrones where parts of Series 1 were filmed in Tollymore Forest and Castletown.

Foras na Gaeilge funds a number of projects in South Down that help to promote the Irish language in the constituency, which contributes to the development of the cultural tourism product in that regard.

The Department is not aware of any specific plans in relation to the 1798 Rebellion in any of the council areas in the South Down Constituency, however I would wish to draw your attention to the fact that the Ulster Museum contains various objects relating to the 1798 Rebellion and has made a long-term loan of a Newry Yeomanry belt plate and button to the Newry and Mourne Museum. National Museums would also be pleased to explore further loan possibilities to museums and other appropriate venues in the South Down constituency in support of their efforts to promote cultural tourism potential in the area.

Sport Matters Strategy

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what progress has been made against the following targets (i) that every student teacher at primary level should undertake physical literacy training to support their teaching of physical education; (ii) the creation of a rolling programme of physical literacy training for all primary school teachers; (iii) the establishment of at least 20 School Club Partnerships; (iv) the creation of 100 multi-skills clubs and the deployment of 400 multi-skills coaches; and (v) the creation of an annual programme of continuous professional development for 4,500 coaches, as set out in the Sport Matters Strategy.

(AQW 8737/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport Matters seeks to identify what success might look like should its 26 high level targets be fully achieved over the life of the strategy. In the case of Participation (Physical Literacy) Sport Matters additionally lists 5 key requirements that would allow its stated vision of a child's experience of sport and physical recreation to be realised. I am aware from the Department of Education (DE) and SportNI of the following elements of progress within their areas of responsibility in fulfilling these particular success requirements:-

- i) The Higher Education Institutions have confirmed to the Department of Education (DE) that every student teacher at primary level undertakes physical literacy training to support their teaching of physical education.
- ii) DE is funding the Curriculum Sports Programme for primary schools the aim of which is to develop the generic physical literacy skills of the youngest pupils through participation in enjoyable sports. Sports coaches delivering the programme work closely with primary school teachers to raise their confidence and provide support in their delivery of physical education.

- iii) Information is not currently available on the number of school club partnerships that have been established since the launch of Sport Matters.

SportNI, however, is currently seeking to encourage clubs to develop partnerships with schools as part of its Clubmark NI programme. SportNI estimates that approximately 200 clubs are currently taking part in this programme.

- iv) The most recently available data from SportNI suggests that there are currently 50 multi-skills clubs operating across the north and approximately 60 multi-skills coaches currently deployed through the network of Activ8Wildcats clubs.
- v) SportNI has delivered an annual programme of continuous professional development opportunities to an average of 1,525 coaches per year since 2009.

Visiting Anglers from Overseas

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the number of visiting anglers from overseas in each of the last twelve years.

(AQW 8768/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department has only recorded information from 2009 onwards. Prior to 2009 the Fisheries Conservancy Board had responsibility for angling licences. I have detailed below the records held by the former Fisheries Conservancy Board on angling licences issued to visiting anglers (those with addresses outside the north of Ireland).

Years	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
No. of Licences Issued	4978	3599	3489	3532	3498	3511

Years	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of Licences Issued	3187	3160	3253	2884	2844	2811

Angling Licences

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the impact that having such a large number of angling licences across the island of Ireland has on attracting visiting anglers, **(AQW 8769/11-15)**

Ms Ní Chuilín: There are three bodies across the island of Ireland which provide fishing licenses for their jurisdictions, namely DCAL, the Loughs Agency and Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI). The licensing regimes are all different reflecting the priorities in each jurisdiction. For example, in the IFI area anglers are only required to purchase a licence to fish for salmon and sea trout.

While the overall situation may appear complex to visiting anglers, there would appear to be little impact on the sale of DCAL angling licences to anglers visiting the DCAL jurisdiction, as numbers sold between 2005 and 2010 have largely remained steady.

2023 Rugby World Cup

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what role she intends to play in supporting any potential bid by the Irish Rugby Football Union to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup. **(AQW 8786/11-15)**

Ms Ní Chuilín: Pursuant to my answer to AQW 5711/11-15, under Sports Matters Government is committed to establishing the north of Ireland as a world class venue for sporting events. Should the

Irish Rugby Football Union decide to bid to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup they would enjoy my full support in making the case to my ministerial colleague in DETI who has responsibility for events.

Secondment to Trade Unions

Mr McCallister asked Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the number of (a) full-time; and (b) part-time staff who are currently on secondment from her Department, or its arm's length bodies, to each recognised trade union; (ii) the salary scale for each secondee; and (iii) the length of each secondment to date.

(AQW 8856/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín:

Number of staff on secondment	Salary scale for each employee	Length of secondment to date
a) full-time - 2	£18,038-£22,180 £17,161-£21,519	2 years 4 months
b) part-time - 0	-	-

Achievement of 'The Shore'

Mr W Clarke asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans her Department has to recognise the achievement of 'The Shore' in winning an Oscar for Best Live Action Short.

(AQW 8905/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I am very proud that a film that was funded by NI Screen, filmed in the North of Ireland and written, produced and directed by someone from this country has achieved such an accolade.

I understand that the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister is hosting a reception to pay tribute to the Oscar success on Thursday 8 March 2012 and I am fully supportive of this well deserved recognition.

Oscar Success of 'The Shore'

Mr W Clarke asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans her Department has to build on the Oscar success of 'The Shore'.

(AQW 8907/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Terry and Oorlagh George's Oscar for 'The Shore' is a significant boost for screen industries in the North of Ireland. 'The Shore' was supported by NI Screen using Lottery funds provided through the Arts Council of NI. The publicity surrounding the Oscar for The Shore will assist the ongoing good work being undertaken by both NI Screen and the production community in general to grow the creative industries here.

Promoting the Creative Industries

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what presence her Department had in Hollywood, USA to maximise the opportunity to promote the Creative Industries during the Oscars weekend.

(AQW 8912/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: NI Screen, using funds provided by DCAL, supported a promotional campaign in support of 'The Shore'. As has been very clear from the local and international coverage of The Shore's Oscar success, promotion of the skills base and talent available in the North of Ireland was one of the key messages within that promotional campaign. We are grateful to both Terry and Oorlagh George for ensuring that the talent of the actors and crew in the North of Ireland was so prominent within their story.

Creative Industries sector in Northern Ireland

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what specific activity was undertaken by her Department to promote awareness of the Creative Industries sector in Northern Ireland, between the announcement that the short film 'The Shore' had been nominated for an Oscar, and the awarding of the Oscar.

(AQW 8918/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: DCAL provided £15,000 to support a promotional campaign that celebrated 'The Shore' and its Oscar nomination. This support was critical to the enormous coverage that was given to 'The Shore' by US quality news outlets. Key amongst the messages in this promotional campaign was the talent of the actors and production crew in the North of Ireland.

Register of Riparian Owners or Lease Holders

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in order to allow her Department to produce a register of riparian owners or lease holders, whether she would consider introducing a policy to require all parties who claim ownership or fishing rights on rivers or waterways, to produce proof; and to make this register available to the public.

(AQW 8959/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Departments priority at this time is to establish a fully documented register of ownership for the DCAL Public Angling Estate waters.

A register of private riparian owners or leaseholders of fishing rights to private rivers or waterways will take considerable time and resources to compile and maintain and could only be considered when the above work has been carried out and subject to required resources being available at that time.

Anyone seeking information on fishing rights can consult with Land & Property Services, which is the responsible Agency for maintaining registries of title to property and land, including sporting and fishing rights, in the north of Ireland.

Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) what progress his Department has made in halting the decline in the rate of participation in sport and physical recreation; and (ii) the current rates of participation in sport and physical recreation, broken down by (a) gender; and (b) age.

(AQW 8964/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in partnership, with

Sport NI, has developed and is implementing a 10 year strategy for sport and physical recreation entitled, Sport Matters. The decline in the rate of participation in sport and physical recreation is identified as a key issue to be addressed over the life of Sport Matters. Sport Matters also contains a specific target to have stopped the decline in adult participation in sport and physical recreation by 2013. The latest DCAL published participation figures indicate that approximately 50% of the population are currently participating in sport and physical activity. This compares with 46% for the previous year and 45% in the year prior to Sport Matters approval by the Executive. The latest published figures also indicate that 57% of males and 44% of females are currently participating in sport. The table below sets out the latest published information on sports participation broken down by age:-

Age of participant	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-34	Aged 35-44	Aged 45-54	Aged 55-64	Aged 65+
% of respondents participating	73	70	62	49	41	23

Liófa Initiative

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for a breakdown of the total cost to date of the Liófa initiative; and for an estimate of the total cost of the initiative through to 2015.

(AQW 9035/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The breakdown of cost for the Liófa 2015 initiative launch is as follows:-

	Interpreters	Website	Banners	Hospitality	Promotional material	Total
Cost	£251.90	£1217.16	£ 178.00	£ 694.80	£1500.00	£3841.86

I am in the process of appointing a Liófa Development Officer who will be in post for a period of one year however, this may be extended for a further year subject to the agreement of all parties. The salary scale will be £27,115 to £30,520 and will be paid by DCAL.

I will be allocating further funds to the Liófa 2015 project as appropriate.

Safety of Designated Sports Grounds Scheme

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the funding that has been allocated to the 30 sports stadia under the Safety of Designated Sports Grounds Scheme in each of the last ten years. [R]

(AQW 9056/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI is responsible for the distribution of funding to sport in the north of Ireland. Over the last ten financial years, Sport NI has provided £16,431,216 to those sports grounds designated under the Safety of Sports Grounds (NI) Order 2006. A breakdown of this figure is provided in the table overleaf. In addition to this, the Ulster Council GAA received funding during the period 2005-2008 totalling £2,447,668 towards a modernisation programme that included refurbishment works to the main county grounds.

Occupier of ground	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Totals
Antrim GAA	39,650	65,650					565,773				671,073
Armagh GAA	100,000	140,000					830,693		808,000		1,878,693
Ballyclare Comrades FC									232,000	59,652	291,652
Ballymena United FC		20,000				161,636				12,940	1,219,611
Ballymoney United FC										58,972	58,972
Carrick Rangers FC										52,760	52,760
Clan na Gael GAC											0
Cliftonville FC					800,000			300,000			1,100,000
Coleraine FC		70,000								67,067	137,067
Crossmaglen GAC											0
Crusaders FC		77,450							440,706	704,070	1,222,226
Derry City FC	9,724										9,724
Derry GAA	15,000						800,000			6,998	821,998
Donegal Celtic FC								824,133		48,954	873,087
Down GAA	15,000					800,000			808,000		1,623,000

Occupier of ground	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Totals
Downpatrick GAC	60,000									59,436	119,436
Dungannon GAC									226,675	47,111	273,786
Fermanagh GAA	50,000	65,000				405,123				28,624	548,747
Glenavon FC		70,000							347,000	24,404	441,404
Glentoran FC	50,597									59,350	109,947
Larne FC										53,200	53,200
Linfield FC		85,000								215,462	300,462
Loughiel Shamrocks GAC										61,114	61,114
Newry City FC	27,000								231,500	58,687	317,187
Owenbeg Centre of Excellence											0
Portadown FC	245,256	65,000					800,000		314,495	48,780	1,473,531
St John's GAC										56,998	56,998
Irvinestown GAC										28,515	28,515
Tyrone GAA	40,000	140,000				613,770					793,770
Ulster Rugby	230,991	90,000			328,437			1,215,000		28,828	1,893,256
16,431,216											

Occupier of ground	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Totals
Antrim GAA	39,650	65,650					565,773				671,073
Armagh GAA	100,000	140,000					830,693		808,000		1,878,693
Ballyclare Comrades FC									232,000	59,652	291,652
Ballymena United FC		20,000				161,636			1,025,035	12,940	1,219,611
Ballymoney United FC										58,972	58,972
Carrick Rangers FC										52,760	52,760
Clan na Gael GAC											0
Cliftonville FC					800,000			300,000			1,100,000
Coleraine FC		70,000								67,067	137,067
Crossmaglen GAC											0
Crusaders FC		77,450							440,706	704,070	1,222,226
Derry City FC	9,724										9,724
Derry GAA	15,000						800,000			6,998	821,998
Donegal Celtic FC								824,133		48,954	873,087
Down GAA	15,000					800,000			808,000		1,623,000

Occupier of ground	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Totals
Downpatrick GAC	60,000									59,436	119,436
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Larne FC										53,200	53,200
Linfield FC		85,000								215,462	300,462
Loughiel Shamrocks GAC										61,114	61,114
Newry City FC	27,000								231,500	58,687	317,187
Owenbeg Centre of Excellence											0
Portadown FC	245,256	65,000					800,000			48,780	1,473,531
St John's GAC										56,998	56,998
Irvinestown GAC										28,515	28,515
Tyrone GAA	40,000	140,000				613,770					793,770
Ulster Rugby	230,991	90,000			328,437			1,215,000		28,828	1,893,256
16,431,216											

Oscar Success of 'The Shore'

Ms Ruane asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans her Department has to build on the Oscar success of 'The Shore'.

(AQW 9059/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Terry and Oorlagh George's Oscar for 'The Shore' is a significant boost for screen industries in the North of Ireland. 'The Shore' was supported by NI Screen using Lottery funds provided through the Arts Council of NI. The publicity surrounding the Oscar for The Shore will assist the ongoing good work being undertaken by both NI Screen and the production community in general to grow the creative industries here.

Fish Pass at the Quoile Barrier on the Quoile River

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) what action her Department has taken to repair the fish pass at the Quoile Barrier on the Quoile River; (ii) to outline any future action her Department intends to take on this matter; and (iii) what action the Department will take to safely remove the seals which have entered the Quoile River as a result of damage to the fish pass and are depleting the river's fish stocks.

(AQW 9060/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín:

- (i) DCAL officials have requested the Rivers Agency, as owner of the Quoile Barrier, to undertake a survey and if necessary carry out remedial work.
- (ii) DCAL Inland Fisheries staff will continue to liaise with the Rivers Agency and will keep this matter under regular review.
- (iii) Seals are protected species under the Wildlife Order and the Quoile area is a designated Nature Reserve managed by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). DCAL can take no action in relation to seals without the approval of NIEA and the Department does not have the specialist knowledge and equipment to safely remove the seals.

European Heritage Label

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she will consult with the UK Government in relation to Europe's cultural heritage before any future decisions are taken, such as, on the European Heritage Label.

(AQW 9104/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I would welcome any opportunity for the North of Ireland to have its cultural sites such as the Pilgrim Route in Fermanagh, Gracehill, the Navan Centre, and Derry, to name just a few, to have the opportunity to be considered for European Heritage status. The importance of some of these such as Gracehill (a Moravion settlement) and the Navan Centre (a Kingly site of Ireland) becomes magnified when considered in a transnational context.

My officials continue to liaise with colleagues in DCMS to ensure that I am kept apprised of European policy developments.

Licences for Fishing with Nets in Lough Neagh

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many licences for fishing with nets in Lough Neagh her Department has issued in 2012; and for her assessment of the impact this might have on the salmon population in the 2012 season.

(AQW 9262/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The table below details the number of licences for fishing with nets on Lough Neagh issued by my Department up to 7 March 2012:

Type of net licence	Number issued
Draft net for the capture of salmon and freshwater fish on Lough Neagh	9
Single wall set net or trammel net for the capture of trout in Lough Neagh	41
Single wall set net for the taking of freshwater fish other than Trout or rainbow trout (coarse)	98
Bait net (must be used in conjunction with a long line for eels)	4

Salmon can only be legally taken on Lough Neagh with a draft net and these are mainly used to target pollan. DCAL Fisheries Protection Officers very rarely detect salmon in wall or trammel nets that they inspect.

Carcass tag returns would indicate that very few salmon are taken by draft net licence holders. A total of 9 salmon were taken in 2010 and the total for 2011 was 36 salmon.

All 2012 draft net licence holders have been sent a letter by the Department asking that they voluntarily do not fish for salmon in 2012 and where possible return any salmon caught to the water unharmed.

The main threat to salmon in Lough Neagh comes from illegal nets placed close to the mouths of rivers that the fish move into to spawn. Fisheries Protection Officers are alert to this and will respond appropriately.

Department of Education

Postage and Printing Costs

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education whether his Department, and its arm's-length bodies, give elected representatives the choice of receiving reports and all other correspondence by email to minimise postage and printing costs.

(AQW 8423/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): As far as is practicable, my Department and its Arms Length Bodies use electronic means of communication, including corresponding and sending reports by e-mail and making documents available on-line.

While adhering to Assembly guidance on the provision of information to MLAs, my Department, where possible, meets individual requests from MLAs for receipt of Assembly Statements, answers to Assembly Questions and other documents by e-mail only.

Northern Workforce Development Forum Report

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education, in light of the Labour Market Profile: Northern Workforce Development Forum report, why the Northern area has been particularly hit by job losses in the Education Sector.

(AQW 8488/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I note the figures which are the cause of concern relate to a census of employment in 2007 undertaken by the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

The drop in recorded employee jobs in the Education Sector between September 2005 and September 2007 for the Northern area (Table 3 in the report) is due to a change in the way any person with more than one job with the same employer was recorded in the Education Sector within this area. Prior to 2007 a person with more than 1 job with the same employer was counted more than once. This data quality issue was addressed for this area in the 2007 Census and a person with more than one job with the same employer should no longer be counted more than once.

Table 1 provides comparison data for September 2005, September 2007 and September 2009. This shows that the number of the jobs within the Education Sector in the Northern area was stable between 2007 and 2009.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF EMPLOYEE JOBS WITHIN THE EDUCATION SECTOR IN THE NORTHERN AREA, SEPTEMBER 2005, 2007 AND 2009

Sector SIC03¹	2005	2007	2009
Education	17,807	15,420	15,399

Source: Census of Employment

1 The 2003 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) has been used to improve comparability over time.

Funding for Classroom Assistants

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education whether he can guarantee that, following the changes to how classroom assistants are funded (i) the provision of classroom assistants will remain a universal service (ii) these changes will not result in a reduction in the provision of classroom assistants; and (iii) no school will be left without the support of classroom assistants.

(AQW 8489/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department has not made any changes to the way Classroom Assistants are funded.

Jolly Tots Pre-School Playgroup, Mayobridge

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Education what steps he intends to take to ensure that the Jolly Tots Pre-School Playgroup, Mayobridge, is sustained and that morning and afternoon sessions are available on a Monday to Friday basis during term-time.

(AQW 8536/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Jolly Tots Playgroup is in the Pre-School Education Expansion Programme this year. For 2012/ 2013 they will be allocated places by the SELB according to the number required to meet demand in the area.

I have recently approved a Development Proposal for a new twenty-six place part-time nursery unit at St. Patrick's Primary School in Mayobridge. This approval is subject to the school ceasing to admit children to its reception class. This decision was made to meet a need for additional provision in the wider area.

Jolly Tots Pre-School Playgroup, Mayobridge

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Education what resources will be allocated to Jolly Tots Pre-School Playgroup, Mayobridge, to ensure that it is sustained and maintained for the young families in the area.

(AQW 8537/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Jolly Tots Playgroup is in the Pre-School Education Expansion Programme this year. For 2012/ 2013 they will be allocated places by the SELB according to the number required to meet demand in the area.

I have recently approved a Development Proposal for a new twenty-six place part-time nursery unit at St. Patrick's Primary School in Mayobridge. This approval is subject to the school ceasing to admit children to its reception class. This decision was made to meet a need for additional provision in the wider area.

Energy Efficiency in Schools

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to outline his Department's policy in relation to energy efficiency in schools.

(AQW 8552/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There are two major elements that impact on energy efficiency in schools: management of the physical infrastructure; and influencing the behaviours of pupils and teachers.

All major works in schools must include measures to achieve a Building Research Establishment Environment Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating, an internationally recognisable standard used to assess the environmental performance of buildings. All major projects are required to achieve a BREEAM rating of 'excellent' for new schemes, or 'very good' for refurbishment schemes. All contracts include overarching requirements in respect of energy, water and low carbon design. My Department also continues to review and revise its school design handbook to ensure it incorporates appropriate guidance on sustainable and energy efficient design. Consideration is given to the use of renewable energy sources and where appropriate, these are employed for school heating (typically biomass boilers and occasionally photovoltaic solar panels).

My Department and the Education and Library Boards (ELBs) support schools in meeting their responsibilities under the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. This legislation currently requires that all publicly occupied buildings have a Display Energy Certificate and an associated advisory report.

Carbon emissions from the schools' estate are monitored and reported on annually as part of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. This scheme is designed to encourage participants to reduce their carbon footprint by reducing energy consumption. An annual energy return is also provided to the Public Sector Energy Campaign. This campaign, managed by DFP, assesses the performance of the public sector in the drive to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon consumption in line with agreed targets.

My Department seeks to develop young people as contributors to the environment and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is now included in the curriculum for all key stages. Through ESD, pupils explore issues such as exercising environmental responsibility through the conservation of resources (including energy), waste-management and the promotion of local biodiversity. Schools are also encouraged to integrate sustainable development into their School Development Plans.

The ELB energy officers actively promote energy efficiency and offer advice and support to all schools within their respective Board areas. The ELBs also work with councils to support 'Eco Schools' (administered by TIDY NI) by facilitating seminars, providing assessors and offering training for teachers.

Energy Efficiency in Schools

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education what work his Department is currently carrying out in relation to energy efficiency in schools.

(AQW 8554/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Energy efficiency in schools is largely managed by the four Energy and Environment Officers and five Environment Support Officers in the Education and Library Boards (ELBs). The ELBs' Energy and Environment Sections actively promote energy efficiency and offer advice and support including a programme of advisory visits to schools within their Board areas. The ELBs work with councils to support the Eco-Schools programme (administered by TIDY NI) by facilitating seminars, providing assessors and offering training for teachers.

Carbon emissions from the schools' estate are monitored and reported on annually as part of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. School electricity metering equipment is being upgraded to aid identification of energy waste as part of the ELBs' energy efficiency monitoring and targeting programme. In addition, electricity sub meters are being installed in mobile classrooms to comply with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive which requires all publicly occupied buildings to have a Display Energy Certificate and an associated advisory report.

The ELBs have continued to upgrade buildings and their associated mechanical and electrical infrastructure to improve energy efficiency. Energy conservation projects for this financial year (2011/12) include:

- Installation of BMS (Building Management Systems)
- Upgrading windows
- Installation of roofspace insulation
- Installation of energy efficient lighting
- Boiler servicing
- Installation of biomass boilers
- Oil to gas conversion projects

My Department continues to encourage schools to implement sustainable development into their School Development Plans. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has been fully integrated into all grant aided schools for all key stages and includes exercising environmental responsibility through the conservation of resources.

Funding for Classroom Assistants

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education, in light of the changes to the funding for classroom assistants, to detail (i) how the resources will be reallocated to schools; and (ii) whether schools, with a disproportionately high number of children with special needs, will receive the resources to employ a sufficient number of classroom assistants.

(AQW 8557/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department has not made any changes to the way Classroom Assistants are funded.

Teachers: Redundancy or Early Retirement Packages

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Education how many teachers who have received redundancy or early retirement packages have been re-employed to carry out substitution or cover work in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8580/11-15)

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

Financial year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Number of teachers who have received enhanced compensation for redundancy or premature retirement benefits and have been re-employed in a substitute or temporary capacity	1731	1616	1409

The above figures exclude teachers whose redundancy compensation was not paid through the Department's payroll.

School Visit Invitations

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education to detail the school visit invitations he has received since his appointment, broken down by sector.

(AQW 8657/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Please see attached list of schools, broken down by sector that I have received an invitation to visit since my appointment as Education Minister.

Nursery - Controlled	
311 6177	Magherafelt Nursery School, Magherafelt
Nursery - Roman Catholic Maintained	
513 6607	College Farm Nursery, Armagh
Primary - Controlled	
201 0380	Model Primary School, Derry
201 2510	Barrack St Boys' Primary School, Belfast
301 2264	Millburn Primary School, Coleraine
401 1631	Hollywood Primary School, Hollywood
401 1647	Ballykeigle Primary School, Comber
401 1688	Redburn Primary School, Hollywood
501 6117	Ballyoran Primary School, Portadown
501 6138	Bocombra Primary School, Portadown
501-1127	Carrick Primary School, Burren
Primary - Roman Catholic Maintained	
103-0327	Holy Rosary Primary School, Belfast
103-6576	Holy Child Primary School, Belfast
103-6623	Holy Trinity Primary School, Belfast
103-6589	St Teresa's Primary School, Belfast
103-6602	St Oliver Plunkett Primary School, Belfast
203 2676	St Patrick's Primary School, Gortin
203 6069	St Anne's Primary School, Derry
203 6458	St Mary's Gortnaghey Primary School, Dungiven
203 6632	Holy Trinity Primary School, Enniskillen
203-1869	St Mary's Primary School, Newtownbutler
203-2294	St Mary's Primary School, Attinure
203-6096	St Mary's Girls' Primary School, Strabane
303 3313	St Bernard's Primary School, Glengormley
303 6103	St Brigid's Primary School, Magherafelt
303-2387	St Francis Primary School, Derrylatinee
403 1663	St Joseph's Primary School, Newcastle
403 6081	St Luke's Primary School, Belfast
403 6182	St Colmcille's Primary School, Downpatrick
403-1671	St Patrick's Primary School, Castlewellan
403-3028	St Patrick's Primary School, Portaferry

Primary - Roman Catholic Maintained	
403-3036	St Mary's Primary School, Killyleagh
403-6113	St Nicholas Primary School, Ardglass
503 1108	Clea Primary School, Keady
503 1138	St Joseph's Primary School, Armagh
503 1213	St Clare's Convent Primary School, Newry
503 2715	St John's Primary School, Moy
503 6590	Primate Dixon Primary School, Coalisland
503 6633	St Francis Primary School, Lurgan
503 6673	St Bronagh's Primary School, Rostrevor
503-0975	St Malachy's Primary School, Armagh
503-1148	St Patrick's Primary School, Crossmaglen
503-1160	St Teresa's Primary School, Lurgan
503-1172	St Mary's Primary School, Granemore
503-2591	Roan St Patrick's Primary School, Eglish
503-2692	St Mary's Primary School, Stewartstown
503 1103	Tannaghmore Primary School, Lurgan, Craigavon
Primary - other maintained	
104 6596	Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, Belfast
204 6638	Gaelscoil ui Dhochartaigh, Strabane
204-6669	Bunscoil an Traonaigh, Lisnaskea
204-6677	Gaelscoil na gCrann, Omagh
304 6678	Gaelscoil na Speiríní, Draperstown
304 6685	Naiscoil Éanna, Glengormley
404 6648	Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche, Castlewellan
Primary - Controlled Integrated	
105 6535	Forge Integrated Primary School, Belfast
405 1680	Bangor Central Integrated Primary School, Bangor
405 6541	All Children Integrated Primary School, Newcastle
Primary - Grant Maintained Integrated	
206 6552	Omagh Integrated Primary School, Omagh
306 6652	Maine Integrated Primary School, Randalstown
406 6668	Drumlins Integrated Primary School, Ballynahinch
Secondary - Roman Catholic Maintained	
123 0053	St Louise's Comprehensive, Belfast

Secondary - Roman Catholic Maintained	
123 0155	St Genevieve's High School, Belfast
123 0173	St Gemma's High School, Belfast
123 0182	De La Salle College, Belfast
123 0262	Corpus Christi College, Belfast
123 0275	St Joseph's College, Belfast
123-0026	St Patrick's College, Belfast
223 0077	St Mary's, Limavady
223 0298	Sacred Heart College, Omagh
223-0085	St Mary's High School, Belleek, Enniskillen
323 0132	St Colm's High School, Draperstown
323-0310	St Killian's College, Garron Tower
423 0107	St Columbanus' College, Bangor
423 0223	St Colm's High School, Dunmurry
523 0088	St Paul's Junior High School, Craigavon
523 0108	St Mary's High School, Newry
523 0135	St Mark's High School, Warrenpoint
523 0160	St Brigid's High School, Armagh
523 0213	Lismore Comprehensive, Craigavon
523 0256	Drumcree College, Portadown
523-0076	St Patrick's College, Banbridge
523-0160	St Brigid's High School, Armagh
523-0192	St Joseph's College, Coalisland
523-0293	St Patrick's College, Dungannon
Secondary (Grammar) - Controlled	
141 0270	Wellington College, Belfast
341 0008	Ballyclare High School, Ballyclare
Secondary (Grammar) - Voluntary	
142 0022	Methodist College, Belfast
142 0029	St Dominic's, Belfast
142-0082	St Rose's High School Dominican College, Belfast
242 0229	Foyle College, Derry
342 0077	Belfast High School, Belfast
442 0259	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Belfast
542 0056	St Michael's Grammar School, Lurgan

Secondary (Grammar) - Voluntary	
542-0268	St Patrick's Grammar School
Secondary - Controlled	
321-0091	Carrickfergus College, Carrickfergus
Secondary - Controlled Integrated	
425 0024	Priory College, Holywood
525 0216	Brownlow Integrated College, Craigavon
Secondary - Grant Maintained Integrated	
426 0255	Lagan College, Belfast
Secondary (Grammar) - Controlled	
441 0063	Regent House, Newtownards
441 0085	Down High School, Downpatrick
Special School - Controlled	
131 0016	Mitchell House School, Belfast
131 6582	Oakwood School and Assessment Centre, Belfast
331 6676	Castle Tower Special School, Ballymena
531 6521	Ceara Special School, Lurgan
531 6523	Sperrinview Special School, Dungannon
Special School - Maintained	
133 6548	St Gerard's Education Centre, Belfast

Asbestos in Schools

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the current system for identifying asbestos in schools and removing it; and (ii) the number of schools that have been (a) identified as having asbestos; and (b) have had asbestos removed, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 8739/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd:

- (i) The Department is acutely aware of the risk to the health of staff and pupils of education establishments posed by asbestos. Following the introduction of the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations (NI) 2003 and the Control of Asbestos (NI Order) 2007, there is a duty placed on the education sectors to ensure that asbestos is managed effectively.

To identify the presence of asbestos in the schools' estate, the Education and Library Boards (ELBs) arrange for asbestos surveys to be carried out. Should any high risk areas be identified then arrangements for removal are made. Where it is not considered necessary to remove the asbestos immediately, the ELBs have developed plans for managing the asbestos safely in the schools that they own or for which they have a maintenance responsibility. The Voluntary Grammar (VG) schools and Grant Maintained Integrated (GMI) schools should have similar plans for the management and control of any residual asbestos in their schools.

The Department takes asbestos and other health and safety issues very seriously and aims, within the constraints of a prioritised budget, to mitigate any risks identified.

- (ii) There are currently 910 schools in the schools' estate (excluding the VG and GMI sectors) that may have some asbestos containing materials.

The following table indicates the numbers of schools (excluding the VG and GMI sectors) that have had asbestos containing materials removed over the last 5 years. As a general rule the removal of asbestos will have been on a partial basis at each school. It was not possible to obtain detailed information regarding the status of individual schools in the VG and GMI sectors within the available timescale.

Year	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	Total
Number of Schools (exc VG and GMI)	146	162	188	188	169	853

Asbestos in Schools

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Education what consideration he has given to the report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Occupational Safety and Health highlighting the dangerous levels of asbestos in schools nationwide; and whether he plans to implement any of the recommendations outlined in the report.

(AQW 8740/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department is acutely aware of the risk to the health of staff and pupils of education establishments posed by asbestos. Following the introduction of the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations (NI) 2003 and the Control of Asbestos (NI Order) 2007, there was a duty placed on the education sectors to ensure that asbestos is managed effectively. The Education and Library Boards (ELBs) were tasked with obtaining information regarding the extent of asbestos in the schools' estate. As a result, asbestos assessments of the schools' estate in the North of Ireland have already been carried out. These assessments show where asbestos is present in premises and there are detailed planned measures for managing identified risks, including monitoring the condition of and maintaining any asbestos containing material. Any material identified to be at 'high risk' was removed following the assessment.

The asbestos assessment data are held centrally by the Education and Library Boards. In addition all schools are required to have an asbestos register / management plan. A Department of Education circular (No. 2003/20) gives advice to the education sectors and schools on the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations (NI) 2003. This DE Circular is to be updated shortly to reflect any changes required as a result of revisions of the Regulations.

Asbestos removal is just one of many competing priorities for finance and is normally funded from the ELBs' maintenance budgets for the Controlled and Maintained estates. The Voluntary schools' sector generally funds work from their allocated budgets.

I consider, therefore, that the education sectors in the North of Ireland are already broadly complying with the recommendations in the report.

Secondment to Trade Unions

Mr McCallister asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of (a) full-time; and (b) part-time staff who are currently on secondment from his Department, or its arm's length bodies, to each recognised trade union; (ii) the salary scale for each secondee; and (iii) the length of each secondment to date.

(AQW 8773/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd:

DE

Number	FT/PT	Salary Scale	Length of Secondment
1	Full-time	£23,336-£26,086	15 years
1	Part-time	£18,038-£22,180*	8.5 years

ALBS

Number	FT/PT	Salary Scale	Length of Secondment
1	Full-time	£15,726 - £16,830	Since 1 May 2005
1	Full-time	£27,849 - £30,011	Since 1 August 2005
1	Full-time	£15,726 - £16,830	Since 5 September 2011
1	Full-time	£22,221 - £26,276	Since 1 June 2002
1	Part-time	£17,161-£21,519*	Since 1 February 2006
1	Part-time	£17,161 - £21,519*	Since 1 April 2009
1	Part-time	£14,787 - £15,825*	Since 1 January 2010

*this is the full time rate for the grade, the part time seconded is paid pro rata for hours worked

Article 3 Subsection 7 of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (NI) Order 2005

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education how many schools in the Western Education and Library Board area are in breach of Article 3 Subsection 7 of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (NI) Order 2005.

(AQW 8785/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I understand that this question relates to Article 7 of the Education (NI) Order 1996, as substituted by Article 3 of SENDO.

In relation to Article 7, the Western Education and Library Board has advised that two schools are in breach of this legislation. The board is actively progressing the re-location of provisions from special schools to mainstream schools in line with this legislation.

Asbestos from Schools

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Education (i) in how many schools asbestos is present; and (ii) whether he plans to begin a programme to remove the asbestos from those schools in which it poses a risk.

(AQW 8828/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd:

- (i) The Department is acutely aware of the risk to the health of staff and pupils of education establishments posed by asbestos. Following the introduction of the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations (NI) 2003 and the Control of Asbestos (NI Order) 2007, there is a duty placed on the education sectors to ensure that asbestos is managed effectively.

The Education and Library Boards were previously tasked with obtaining information regarding the extent of asbestos in the schools' estate and as a result, asbestos assessments of the schools' estate in the North of Ireland were carried out. These assessments identified where asbestos

was present in premises. Following the assessments, detailed planned measures for managing identified risks, including monitoring the condition of and maintaining any asbestos containing material were prepared. Any asbestos containing material determined to be at 'high risk' was removed following the assessments.

The number of schools in the estate (excluding the Voluntary Grammar and Grant Maintained Integrated sectors) that may still have some asbestos containing material is currently 910.

- (ii) It is current Government policy that provided asbestos is in good condition and is unlikely to be disturbed, it is better to be managed for the remaining life of the school rather than to disturb it. Asbestos is however removed, albeit on an ad-hoc basis, if it is likely to be disturbed as a result of refurbishments or other work being carried out at a school.

Homophobic Bullying

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what action his Department is taking (i) to ensure that schools are welcoming places for pupils from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender backgrounds; and (ii) to tackle homophobic bullying.

(AQW 8862/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd:

- (i) All young people have the right to be educated in a safe environment and to be treated with respect and dignity, irrespective of their sexual orientation. Schools have responsibilities to promote equality, good relations and diversity and in doing so, they must ensure that they are welcoming to all pupils. These responsibilities are driven by the Department's education policies, education and employment legislation and anti-discrimination, human rights and equality legislation.

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is an important element within the revised curriculum and is taught through the Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (in primary schools) and the Learning for Life and Work (in post-primary schools) areas of learning. Pupils also have opportunities to explore issues around diversity, inclusion and equality through Citizenship education. Teachers have been trained in all requirements of the curriculum and schools have been made aware of the wide range of RSE resources available. RSE is also inspected by the Education and Training Inspectorate.

The Department's Circular 2001/15 advises schools that they should have in place a policy setting out how they will address the delivery of RSE. The policy should be the subject of consultation with parents, and should be endorsed by the school's Board of Governors. In developing or reviewing their RSE policies, schools have been advised by DE Circular 2010/01 to take account of guidance produced by the Equality Commission on Eliminating Sexual Orientation Discrimination.

- (ii) The Department is committed to tackling the issue of bullying in schools and is pro-active in examining ways to prevent it.

The Department's publication 'Pastoral Care in Schools: Promoting Positive Behaviour' offers detailed guidance to support schools in tackling all forms of bullying and states that racist, homophobic, sectarian or other offensive name-calling is a form of bullying.

The Education and Library Boards provide in-service teacher training on anti-bullying and this is supplemented with school-based advice on preventative strategies. In 2010, an Inter-Board group launched 'Let's Stop Bullying', an inter-active CD-ROM developed for all primary and special schools, funded by the Department and made available through the C2K system.

The Department continues to fund and participate in the local Anti-Bullying Forum (NIABF) and the British and Irish Anti-Bullying Forum. In 2009, a homophobic bullying working group ensured that the Forum's website (www.niabf.org.uk) offered advice and guidance on this issue. This group has recently been reformed and is forming an action plan.

Identification of Pupils who are Gay and Lesbian

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education how his Department collects information on the identification of pupils who are gay and lesbian and their experience of the education system; and how his Department intends to improve this process.

(AQW 8863/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department uses information from surveys and wider research to understand gay and lesbian pupils' experiences of the education system and to respond to these. For example my Department works alongside others to provide specific guidance to schools, pupils and their parents on issues such as homophobic bullying and transgender bullying through sub-groups of the NI Anti-Bullying Forum.

I take my responsibilities with regard to equality very seriously and will ensure that my Department takes account of Equality Commission guidance on Section 75 responsibilities regarding the need to promote equality of opportunity and good relations among all pupils.

Community Use of School Premises

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education when the working group that has been established to develop guidance for schools to enhance the community use of school premises will commence work.

(AQW 8969/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The ELBs and CCMS have recently nominated representatives to participate in the working group established to develop the guidance for schools. DE officials are now arranging to meet with the working group during March to agree Terms of Reference (ToR). The ToR will include a timeline for the commencement and completion of this work.

Pre-School Provision in Richhill, Co Armagh

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of Education whether he has any plans to increase the availability of funded pre-school provision in Richhill, Co Armagh.

(AQW 8988/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The pre-school admissions process for September 2012 is underway with applications at Stage 1 of the process currently being considered by providers.

A Pre-School Education Advisory Group (PEAG) in each Education and Library Board area manages this process on behalf of the Department.

The Southern Education and Library Board PEAG has advised that they have been approached to admit a new voluntary pre-school provider in Richhill to the Pre-School Education Expansion Programme (PSEEP) for September 2012. This request will be considered as part of the PEAG's ongoing management of the level of funded provision needed to meet demand in the area.

Departmental Offices in Rathgael, Bangor

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education, to detail (i) whether he has any plans to relocate jobs from his departmental offices in Rathgael, Bangor; (ii) the number of jobs that will be affected; (iii) when the relocation will take place; (iv) to where the jobs will be relocated; and (iv) whether any compensation will be offered to staff.

(AQW 8993/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Based on current information approximately 39 staff based in Rathgael House will transfer to the Education and Skills Authority (ESA) on 1 April 2013. A decision on the future location of these staff will be taken in the context of a location strategy for the ESA as a whole, which is currently being developed. If staff are relocated, then the Civil Service terms and conditions on recompense for additional travel or relocation will apply in relation to the staff who are affected.

Enrolment Numbers for Special Needs Schools

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education to detail the current enrolment number for each Special Needs school.

(AQW 9010/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The information requested is detailed in the table below. The information is contained in the table below and is routinely published on the DENI website.

ENROLMENTS AT SPECIAL SCHOOLS – 2011/12

School name	Total Enrolment
Ardmore House Special School	8
Arvalee School and Resource Centre	112
Beechlawn Special School	161
Belmont House Special School	125
Brookfield Special School	123
Castletower School	256
Ceara Special School	102
Cedar Lodge Special School	166
Clarawood Special School	12
Clifton Special School	127
Donard Special School	66
Elmbrook Special School	40
Erne Special School	82
Fleming Fulton Special School	124
Foyleview Special School	110
Glenveagh Special School	193
Greenwood House Assessment Centre	57
Harberton Special School	200
Hill Croft Special School	95
Jordanstown Special School	47
Killard House Special School	153
Kilronan Special School	80
Knockavoe School & Resource Centre	93
Knockevin Special School	89
Lakewood Special School	6
Lisanally Special School	98
Longstone Special School	152
Mitchell House Special School	84

School name	Total Enrolment
Oakwood School and Assessment Centre	107
Park Education Resource Centre	126
Parkview Special School	159
Rathore School	138
Riverside Special School	46
Roddensvale Special School	90
Rossmar Special School	85
Rosstulla Special School	167
Sandelford Special School	138
Sperrinview Special School	94
St Gerard's Education Resource Centre	193
Thornfield Special School	88
Tor Bank Special School	157
Total	4,549

Source: School census

Departmental Staff

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of departmental staff, broken down by location.

(AQW 9012/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) departmental staff is detailed below:

Rathgael House, Bangor, Co Down	Waterside House, Derry	Purdy's Lane, Belfast	Total
458.01	113.68	4.00	575.69

Science and Mathematics Qualifications

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education how his Department intends to ensure that children understand that science and mathematics qualifications have a strong exchange value in the education and labour market and are not purely specialist routes.

(AQW 9024/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I am clear about the important role education has in ensuring that pupils have the opportunities to develop the skills they need as future contributors to the economy in a fast-changing, globalised world, including recognising the expected growth in STEM-related areas.

The choices young people make at key transition points in their education particularly at Key Stage 4 under the Entitlement Framework, should aim to keep their options open for future progression into further or higher education, training or employment. Access to high quality, age appropriate, careers education, information, advice and guidance from school, careers advisors, employers and others underpins a pupil's choice. Schools are encouraged to take account of Labour Market Information and information on priority skills areas including STEM in offering access to a coherent and economically relevant choice of courses for pupils.

There are opportunities in the Mathematics and Numeracy and Science and Technology Areas of Learning within the curriculum to explore how the skills used in maths and science will be useful in a range of careers.

Pupils Leaving Year 12 without GCSEs

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of (i) boys; and (ii) girls who have completed post-primary education without gaining any GCSEs at grades A*-C, or equivalent qualifications, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 9041/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Please see the table below.

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL LEAVERS NOT ACHIEVING ANY GCSES AT GRADES A*-C OR EQUIVALENT 2005/06 TO 2009/10

	2005/06		2006/07		2007/08		2008/09		2009/10	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boys	2,786	21.4	2,461	19.5	2,054	16.9	1,609	13.9	1,283	11.3
Girls	1,459	11.7	1,357	11.1	1,166	9.8	948	8.1	725	6.3

Source: School Leavers Survey

Education and Library Boards Staff

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of (i) teachers; and (ii) staff currently employed by the Education and Library Boards, who have no direct class contact with pupils.

(AQW 9042/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards do not hold this information and it can only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

Braidside Integrated School, Ballymena

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Education whether there are any plans to provide a permanent building at Braidside Integrated School, Ballymena, given that the existing premises are temporary and inadequate.

(AQW 9047/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: As you are aware, I have commissioned the Education and Library Boards, working in conjunction with the CCMS and other sectors to co-ordinate collective, strategic area planning.

In any area, potential capital schemes will be critically assessed as part of the area planning process, to determine how they will contribute to the overall infrastructure required. No school building project will be looked at in isolation and will be considered in the context of the wider area with any future capital investment targeted at supporting area plans.

Until this work is completed I will not be in a position to comment on any potential project or individual school.

Community Relations, Equality and Diversity Policy

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the operation of the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity Policy to date.

(AQW 9071/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Since the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity in Education (CRED) policy was launched in March 2011 significant progress has been made.

The focus has been on progressing enabling actions as detailed within the policy, including awareness raising across schools and youth organisations and the launch in January of a guidance document and self evaluation indicator framework to facilitate baselining and assessing progress.

Structures are in place to oversee implementation of the policy including a joint Youth and Schools Interboard Panel reporting to the Senior Education Officers Group within the Education and Library Boards (ELBs) and a CRED Reference Group within the Youth Council (YCNl).

A dedicated website (www.CREDNI.org) has been developed to support implementation of the policy and disseminate good practice. ELBs are leading on the development of a regional training strategy to ensure educators have the skills and experience to deliver curricular requirements relating to CRED and skills training is expected to commence in 2012/13.

ELBs have developed and implemented a CRED Enhancement Scheme, which has provided funding to over 200 schools and youth organisations to support projects which provide targeted interventions on community relations, equality and diversity issues across the range of section 75 groups. YCNl are overseeing the implementation of three strategic projects aimed at enhancing strategic connections for the delivery of CRED across the voluntary youth service.

Garvagh High School, Coleraine

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Education what plans there are for the future of Garvagh High School, Coleraine,
(AQW 9081/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Any significant change to a school, such as a school closure or amalgamation, requires the publication of a statutory Development Proposal to support that intent. It is the school managing authority, which is the North Eastern Education and Library Board in the case of Garvagh High School, in conjunction with the Board of Governors of an individual school that brings forward Development Proposals to the Department. The Department has not received a Development Proposal for this school.

Publication of a Development Proposal must be preceded by consultation between the school managing authority, school trustees, Board of Governors, staff and parents of the affected school as well as wider consultations with schools in the area. Once published, the Development Proposal process provides for a 2 month period during which comments can be sent directly to my Department. At the end of the two month period, I make a decision on the proposal taking account of all the pertinent issues and comments received.

Department for Employment and Learning

Welfare Reform Programme

Mr Lunn asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what discussions he has held with his Executive colleagues in relation to his Department's role in implementing vital aspects of the Welfare Reform programme after April 2012.
(AQW 7999/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): My Department is responsible for the work-focused aspects of the Welfare Reform programme. In the Welfare Reform context I have had a range of discussions with my Executive colleagues. I am a member of the Executive Sub-Committee on Welfare Reform which meets regularly to discuss plans for and progress on the Reform programme.

Applying to Universities South of the Border

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what steps his Department has taken to make it easier for students to apply to universities south of the border.

(AQW 8431/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department and I remain committed to ensuring that students from Northern Ireland continue to have a free choice of academic institution within the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and elsewhere.

My Department will continue to meet the cost of the registration fee (currently €2,000) for those students from Northern Ireland who will be undertaking a full-time undergraduate degree in the Republic of Ireland, entering in academic year 2012/13. Eligible students will also be able to apply for a non-repayable means-tested higher education bursary of up to £2,000, and a maintenance loan up to a maximum of £4,840.

Furthermore, following the publication of the Irish Business and Employers Confederation and the Confederation of British Industry (IBEC-CBI) Joint Business Council Report, 'A Study of Obstacles to Cross-border Undergraduate Education', the Irish Business and Employers Confederation has proposed the establishment of a forum to discuss the outcomes of the report and I have agreed that my Department will be represented on this forum.

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

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 7182/11-15, to outline the responses of NIPSA and the University and College Union on the merger of Stranmillis University College and Queen's University Belfast, including the position of Stranmillis Union Branch.

(AQW 8560/11-15)

Dr Farry: The responses to which the member refers are already in the public domain and available on the following website:

www.delni.gov.uk/index/consultation-zone/archived-consultations/archived-consultations-2011/stranmillis-qub-merger.htm

Further and Higher Education Facilities

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether any consideration has been given to the establishment of an Ireland-wide application process to further and higher education facilities.

(AQW 8621/11-15)

Dr Farry: Currently, applications to most Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Great Britain and Northern Ireland are made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) system. Applications to HEIs in the Republic of Ireland are made through the Central Applications Office (CAO) system.

My Department's Careers Service provides impartial advice to young people and adults on appropriate further and higher education opportunities, including those available through UCAS, the CAO and direct application. This advice includes information on courses in Northern Ireland, ROI, GB and elsewhere, when relevant to an individual client.

Further and Higher Education Facilities

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) to detail any reports that have considered the mobility problems facing students who must cross the border to attend further and higher education facilities; (ii) what recommendations were contained within these reports; and (iii) to outline what steps his Department has taken as a result of the recommendations made.

(AQW 8623/11-15)

Dr Farry: In August 2011, the Irish Business and Employers Confederation and the Confederation of British Industry (IBEC-CBI) Joint Business Council published a report on Undergraduate Mobility. That report examined the obstacles to North-South undergraduate mobility and, whilst some factors are likely beyond the control of either government, such as the higher cost of living in the Republic of Ireland, the report made a number of recommendations to increase student mobility in both directions across the border.

Each of the actions identified in the recommendations falls to one, or a combination of, the following organisations: The Department of Education and Skills (DES) in the Republic of Ireland, the Department of Education (DE), higher education institutions in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and my Department. A copy of the recommendations is attached at Annex A for your information.

Recommendation number 4 falls solely to my Department and states:

Action should be taken by the Northern Irish and British higher education authorities to end the anomaly – identified by the Stuart Report – under which Northern Ireland undergraduates studying in the Republic receive lower ‘bursaries’ compared to the maintenance grants paid to their counterparts studying in the UK.

In 2011, my Department's public consultation on the future policy on higher education tuition fees and student finance arrangements invited views on potential changes to the current funding arrangements for Northern Ireland domiciled undergraduates who study in the Republic of Ireland.

My officials are continuing to consider the potential options.

The Irish Business and Employers Confederation has proposed the establishment of a forum to discuss the outcomes and key recommendations of the report and I have agreed that my Department will be represented on this forum.

Annex A

IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council

A Study of Obstacles to Cross-Border Undergraduate Education

Recommendations

- 1 Improve the quality and flow of information about university courses and entry requirements for school-leavers in both jurisdictions (and particularly for prospective Northern Ireland undergraduates who might want to go to university in the Republic of Ireland).

This would in the first instance be a task for the individual university admissions offices. Some Southern admissions officers have told this researcher that they are not convinced that the return (in terms of higher NI undergraduate applications) on such an improved information campaign would justify the expense at a time of severe financial cutbacks.

- 2 If dedicated inter-governmental funding were made available, a case might be made for a more coordinated campaign to recruit undergraduates on a cross-border basis, perhaps overseen by an organisation such as Universities Ireland, the all-island network of university presidents. However in the present and immediate future, with university fees significantly higher in Northern Ireland than the Republic of Ireland, it is likely that this will mainly lead to larger numbers of Northern undergraduates going to Southern universities. At the very least, a programme of visits by more school groups to university campuses in the other jurisdiction could be organised.

The 2011 Hunt Report says there is ‘significant potential for institutional collaboration on a North-South basis to advance cross-border regional development and strategically advance Irish higher education on an all-island basis.’ If this is going to be more than lip service (and not be shelved in the way that the proposals of the Williams Report were in the 1980s) some government resources will have to be provided to develop this collaboration.

- 3 The border region Institutes of Technology – Dundalk, Letterkenny and Sligo – which are almost invisible in Northern Ireland schools, should initiate a joint awareness-raising and recruitment campaign in border region schools in Northern Ireland. As a first step, they should take a joint stand at the annual UCAS Convention in Belfast.
- 4 Action should be taken by the Northern Irish and British higher education authorities to end the anomaly – identified by the Stuart Report – under which Northern Ireland undergraduates studying in the Republic receive lower ‘bursaries’ compared to the maintenance grants paid to their counterparts studying in the UK. The system of NI Education and Library Boards paying the registration fees of NI students at RoI universities should also be reviewed.
- 5 The two Northern Ireland universities should initiate an awareness-raising and induction scheme for students from Republic of Ireland to prepare them for living in a society which is still deeply divided along sectarian lines. This could include a ‘buddy system’ to link existing undergraduates (either Northerners or Southerners who had spent some time in the North) with newly arrived entrants from RoI.
- 6 The IUA-CCEA working group examining the equivalences between A Level and Leaving Certificate examination grades for Northern school-leavers applying to Southern universities should make its report available to the Irish university presidents charged by the Minister for Education and Skills with preparing options for change to the CAO system – in order to ensure that the most equitable system of equivalences possible is incorporated into a reformed CAO system.
- 7 There should be a rapid move towards a central agency – as recommended by the Hunt Report – to ensure the more efficient delivery of Republic of Ireland maintenance grants to all undergraduates, and particularly to those RoI undergraduates in Northern Ireland whose grants are ‘portable’. It is understood that this process has already started, and that negotiations have begun between the Department of Education and Skills and the City of Dublin VEC with a view to having CDVEC become that central delivery agency in 2012.
- 8 A Higher Education Authority/Department of Education and Skills task force should be established as soon as possible to examine the implications for Irish universities and undergraduates of the large university tuition fees that will be introduced in English and Welsh universities in the academic year 2012-2013.
- 9 A study should be commissioned by the Irish Department of Education and Skills and the Northern Ireland Department for Employment and Learning to examine the implications for higher education on the island of the future fall in the number of 18 year olds in the North and the high birth rate in the South feeding into higher demand for education places at all levels. Among other things, it should re-examine the recommendations of the Williams Report of 1985.

North West Regional College

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many staff at the North West Regional College received redundancy packages in (i) 2008; and (ii) 2011; and what was the total cost of the redundancy packages.

(AQW 8816/11-15)

Dr Farry: Each further education college, in its capacity as an employing authority, is responsible for all employment-related matters. Consequently, my Department does not hold the information requested by the Member. I have, therefore, referred this query to the North West Regional College Director, who will respond to the Member directly.

Teacher Education Infrastructure

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the outcome of the procurement exercise on the first part of the two-stage study of the teacher education infrastructure.

(AQW 9115/11-15)

Dr Farry: The procurement exercise for first part of the two-stage study of the teacher education infrastructure is still ongoing and no outcome can be reported at this time.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Local Businesses in Town Centres

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what her Department is doing to prevent the decline in the use of high streets by retail outlets; and what initiatives are in place to ensure support for local businesses in town centres.

(AQW 6709/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): Invest NI has taken a number proactive steps to help Northern Ireland's businesses cope with the impact of the new economic uncertainty. Measures such as the new Growth Loan Fund, the Jobs Fund and the Boosting Business initiative have all been implemented in direct response to the prevailing economic conditions and, importantly, eligibility for them is not restricted solely to existing Invest NI clients.

A comprehensive guide to all of Invest NI's financial and advisory support is available from the agency's website at www.investni.com. In addition, Invest NI's nibusinessinfo.co.uk website offers easy to use, comprehensive and up to date practical advice and guidance on all aspects of starting, running and growing a business with access to over 70 business support tools, best practice case studies and access to funding options as well as wider support.

In addition a number of other Departments, DSD, DFP and DOE have an involvement in this issue. For example, the Department for Social Development has a number of initiatives that are used in an attempt to prevent the overall decline in our towns and city centres, these are Comprehensive Development Schemes, Public Realm Schemes and reStore.

DFP are responsible for the Small Business Rates Relief Scheme which currently provides help to up to 16,000 small business premises. As the Member will be aware the Executive has agreed to expand this Scheme, providing additional support of around £6 million to up to 8,300 business ratepayers in 2012/13.

DOE has responsibility for Policy Planning Statement (PPS) 5, "Retailing and Town Centres". I understand that the Environment Minister will soon be announcing his intention to give weight to draft PPS 5 "Town Centres and Commercial Leisure Developments, a document which also favours the focus of retail development in town centres.

Northern Ireland Tourist Board's Our Time, Our Place Showcase

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment why the Twelfth July, Scarva and the centenary of the Ulster Covenant are excluded from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board's Our Time, Our Place showcase; and what she intends to do to address this.

(AQW 7714/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Three Twelfth of July Flagship events for 2012 have been confirmed as Carrickfergus, Ballynahinch and Enniskillen and are on the discovernorthernireland.com and the ni2012 portal. Further details about the full range of activities taking place as part of the Flagships will be posted nearer the event once information becomes available.

Belfast Orangefest have already uploaded basic information on their event via Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau to discovernorthernireland.com and details are also on the ni2012.com portal.

The Royal Black Institution will not have the information on the Scarva Sham Fight until end of March 2012 and when received this will be uploaded by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB). NITB will also publicise relevant details on the centenary of the Ulster Covenant when available.

Tender Processes

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of recent issues highlighting the failure of some civil servants to meet their own tendering guidelines, to detail her Department's tender processes.

(AQW 8002/11-15)

Mrs Foster: DETI carries out its procurement activities through a Service Level Agreement with Central Procurement Directorate (CPD), which is a Centre of Procurement Expertise. CPD disseminates advice and guidance on public procurement policies including tendering guidelines through Procurement Policy Guidance Notes. These can be found on the CPD website at

http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/index/procurement-2/cpd/cpd_publications/content_-_cpd_-_policy_-_procurement_guidance_notes.htm .

International Airline Carriers

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) what measures she has, or intends, to put in place to support efforts to attract new international airline carriers; (ii) what formal co-operation she has established with the industry; and (iii) whether there is specialised team in place to address this matter.

(AQW 8038/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Convenient, competitive and direct access is essential to the development of tourism to Northern Ireland. Tourism Ireland plays a lead role in investing in co-operative marketing with airlines, airports and other tourism interests to drive demand for air services from key overseas markets to Northern Ireland and to help maintain our vital network of routes. Tourism Ireland is therefore in dialogue with Northern Ireland airports on an ongoing basis in relation to any opportunities for new, extended or re-instated services. In addition, my Department has appointed Avia Solutions, by open competition, to provide specialist aviation advice and assistance as required.

To maximise the opportunities presented by 2012, my Department has provided Tourism Ireland with funding to deliver an access development fund to increase direct air services to Northern Ireland and to drive increased visitor numbers in the short term on existing services (this initiative also extends to ferry services). This increased co-operative activity with air (and sea) carriers will add to the extensive programme of activity planned by Tourism Ireland both in the immediate term and throughout 2012.

Agri-Food Sector

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail, for each of the last ten years, (i) the number of people employed in the agri-food sector; (ii) the number of businesses active in the agri-food sector; and (iii) the level of grants that has been provided to businesses in the agri-food sector.

(AQW 8183/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Agri-food sector includes Agriculture as well as Food and Drink processing and the information provided below reflects this. In addition you should note that the figures in this response, on the food processing component of the agri-food sector, relate only to businesses where the products are destined for human consumption – and so therefore exclude activities such as the production of animal feeds and pet food.

Part (i) Data on the number of employee jobs in the Food and Drink Processing subsector can be obtained from the biennial Census of Employment. You should note that these figures may differ from the number of people employed in the subsector, as one person may have more than one job. The latest available data is for September 2009.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF EMPLOYEE JOBS IN THE FOOD AND DRINK PROCESSING COMPONENT OF THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR, SEPTEMBER 2001 TO SEPTEMBER 2009

Year	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009
Number of Employee Jobs	17,256	17,342	17,330	17,293	17,538

Source: Census of Employment, NISRA

Information on the number of people working on farms is collected by DARD and is outlined in Table 2 below. The workforce includes full time, part time, casuals, spouses and employees as well as farmers and family workers. However, it does not include persons working on a contractual basis.

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF PERSONS WORKING ON FARMS

Year	Workforce	Year	Workforce
2001	56,362	2007	48,974
2002	54,273	2008	48,964
2003	54,486	2009	48,031
2004	53,332	2010	46,948
2005	51,073	2011	46,848
2006	49,952		

Source: June Agricultural and Horticultural survey, DARD

Part (ii) Data on the number of businesses active in the Food and Drink Processing subsector can be obtained from the Office for National Statistics' Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR), from which Northern Ireland holds data back to 2003.

TABLE 3: NUMBER OF BUSINESSES ACTIVE IN THE FOOD AND DRINK PROCESSING COMPONENT OF THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR, SEPTEMBER 2003 TO SEPTEMBER 2011

Year	Number of Businesses
2003	445
2004	435
2005	415
2006	410
2007	400
2008	385
2009	370
2010	385
2011	380

Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, ONS

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 5

Information on the number of farm businesses is collected by DARD and is shown in the table below.

TABLE 4: NUMBER OF FARMS 2001-2011

Year	Businesses	Year	Businesses
2001	29,818	2007	26,146
2002	28,513	2008	25,952
2003	28,281	2009	25,264
2004	27,600	2010	24,471
2005	27,064	2011	24,436
2006	26,739		

Source: June Agricultural and Horticultural survey, DARD

Part (iii) Financial assistance, offered by Invest NI, to support projects in the food processing component of the agri-food sector is detailed below, along with the number of jobs each project was expected to create or safeguard. Invest NI was formed on 1st April 2002 and therefore information on the level of grants provided by Invest NI is only available from this point onwards.

TABLE 5: INVEST NI OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE TO AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

Financial Year	Total Assistance (£ million)	New jobs	Safe Jobs
2002-03	5.18	132	295
2003-04	4.96		554
2004-05	11.99	81	704
2005-06	9.82	354	326
2006-07	4.89	353	131
2007-08	5.34	293	113
2008-09	6.52	370	120
2009-10	11.22	394	381
2010-11	7.85	284	1,214
Grand Total	67.77	2,260	3,838

Source: Invest NI

In addition DARD also provides a range of grants to agriculture and food, which are detailed in Table 6 below.

TABLE 6: DARD CAPITAL GRANTS PAYABLE TO AGRICULTURE AND FOOD (CALENDAR YEARS)

Capital Grants (£ million)	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme	0.30	0.15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	-	-	-	-	-	0.30	0.37	0.21	0.01	-

Capital Grants (£ million)	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Investment in agricultural holdings	-	-	0.31	1.30	2.73	0.13	-	-	-	-
Organic Farming (Conversion of Animal Housing) Scheme	-	-	-	0.76	0.81	0.39	-	-	-	-
Farm Nutrient Management Scheme	-	-	-	0.37	12.17	16.66	92.46	-	-	-
Countryside Management Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	0.56	0.78	0.44	0.02	-
Farm Modernisation Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.18	2.09	5.82
Process and Marketing Grants Scheme	4.80	2.30	7.40	5.50	7.30	-	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.10
Total capital grants	5.10	2.45	7.71	7.93	23.01	18.04	96.30	5.63	5.03	8.92

Source: DARD

Notes:

- 1 These data relate to monies due rather than monies actually received (ie. they are on an accruals basis).
- 2 Dashes indicate nil or payments of less than £50,000

Single Electricity Market

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of whether the fact that being part of a single electricity market on the island of Ireland and that the policy for renewable electricity is set by the British Government is counterproductive; and what action her Department intends to take to address this situation.

(AQW 8186/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The principles under which the Single Electricity Market (SEM) was established in 2007 were to provide for a competitive, sustainable and reliable market in electricity in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland at the minimum cost necessary and to operate in the context of the EU internal energy market.

Renewable electricity policy is devolved to Northern Ireland and is not set by the United Kingdom Government. However, as part of the United Kingdom, electricity consumers in Northern Ireland benefit from having the costs of renewable electricity incentivisation spread across all United Kingdom consumers. Such benefits would not be possible in the smaller all-island market. Keeping the cost to consumers as low as possible is helped by close alignment to wider United Kingdom renewable electricity policy.

Northern Ireland contributes to the wider United Kingdom targets imposed by the European Commission on Member States to increase renewable energy demand by 2020. As a separate Member State, the Republic of Ireland has its own target and renewable electricity incentivisation policy.

The Department is working with the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Governments to establish an EU-wide Internal Market in electricity by 2014 with the common aim of providing for the safe, secure, sustainable and affordable flow of electricity across borders and to ensure the best possible outcome for Northern Ireland consumers.

NI 2012 Our Time Our Place

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the total amount committed in the (a) 2010/11; and (ii) 2011/12 budget periods to advertise 'ni 2012 Our Time Our Place'; and (ii) the amount of money provided to each organisation which featured in the advertisement. **(AQW 8192/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: In order to promote the significant number of events in 2012 Northern Ireland Tourist Board, which has responsibility for marketing Northern Ireland in the domestic market and the Republic of Ireland, has committed to investing over £1.6million to date, in the 2011/12 financial period. No investment was made in the 2010/11 financial period to promote ni2012. A donation of £500 location usage rights was paid to one organisation featured in the advertisement.

Tourism Ireland, which markets Northern Ireland worldwide, has committed £4.7million for marketing ni2012. The majority of the money will be spent in the Great Britain market, which is our most important market. £1million of this investment has been invested in co-operative marketing campaigns with air and sea carriers.

Department Spend on Conferences, Away-days and Team Building Exercises

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much her Department has spent on conferences, away-days and team building exercises in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8205/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Please see table below:

Division	Amount	Financial Year
*Conferences		2008/2009
Away Days		
Team Building	£ 67.00	
*Conferences		2009/2010
Away Days	£ 397.00	
Team Building	£ 79.00	
*Conferences	£ 2710.00	2010/2011
Away Days	£ 1706.00	
Team Building	£ 42.00	

Increases in Energy Prices

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of recent increases in energy prices and the publication of the Consumer Council's analysis of the McIlDoon report, how she, and the Utility Regulator, will ensure that the current market structures provide an equitable distribution of risk between energy consumers and industry shareholders.

(AQW 8207/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The energy industry in Northern Ireland is fully privatised and consists of both equity and mutualised energy companies. I am confident that the Energy (NI) Order 2003, the Electricity (Single

Wholesale Market) (NI) Order 2007, the Electricity (NI) Order 1992, and the Gas (NI) Order 1996 have established an effective framework for regulating the electricity and natural gas sectors, and that the Utility Regulator, in liaison with my Department, is working to deliver effective market conditions which include the protection of electricity and natural gas consumers with regard to price and quality of service.

The McIlldoon Report focused on electricity price increases in 2008. These price increases were largely driven by rises in international gas prices. Fuel prices for power stations can increase and this is a real and unavoidable risk. Consumers of energy either take this risk or pay someone else to take it for them. Energy market structures all over the world cannot prevent a rise in fuel prices. They can only ensure that no more than the actual price rise is faced by consumers. This is achieved in the Single Electricity Market because generators are only allowed to bid their actual fuel costs and the market is regulated accordingly.

Increases in Energy Prices

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of recent increases in energy prices and the publication of the Consumer Council's analysis of the McIlldoon report, how she, and the Utility Regulator, will ensure that electricity generators are not overpaid within the Single Electricity Market and that all possible pressure is placed on them to ensure that electricity is produced at the lowest possible cost for consumers.

(AQW 8211/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Single Electricity Market (SEM) is based on a 'Gross Mandatory Pool', which means that all generators above 10MW must sell their electricity through this pool and all suppliers are required to buy from it. The system is objective and transparent and is widely accepted by economists and energy experts worldwide to be an efficient means of setting the market price i.e. it provides the best price to the consumer. This is supported by the fact that SEM prices are closely correlated to fuel (mainly gas) prices. The SEM is also significantly regulated to prevent any abuse of market power by a dominant participant.

Increases in Energy Prices

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of recent increases in energy prices and the publication of the Consumer Council's recent analysis of the McIlldoon report, how she, and the Utility Regulator, will ensure that the level of investment risk within the regulated energy markets is correct, and that consumers are not paying towards higher than necessary capital costs for energy infrastructure projects.

(AQW 8212/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Energy (NI) Order 2003, the Electricity (Single Wholesale Market) (NI) Order 2007, the Electricity (NI) Order 1992, and the Gas (NI) Order 1996 establish the regulatory framework in respect of the electricity and natural gas industries in Northern Ireland. In line with these arrangements, the Utility Regulator has an important role in undertaking regular Price Controls of the regulated utilities who own and operate energy networks. As part of the Price Control process, the Utility Regulator carries out a rigorous scrutiny of an energy company's proposed expenditure over an identified period in order to determine the future level of revenue and associated incentives for that company. Price Controls must balance the need to ensure that energy companies can continue to fund their operations and have sufficient resources to ensure security of energy supply and deliver necessary investment, along with the need to ensure that these companies can provide a high standard of service to consumers at a fair price. The Price Control process ensures that only efficient costs are passed onto consumers.

My Department has no direct role in the Price Control process but continues to co-operate with the Utility Regulator and respective energy companies to ensure that market arrangements are in place which should act to put downward pressure on energy costs while protecting consumers with regard to price and quality of service.

Digital Hub in Belfast

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the siting of a digital hub in Belfast is a priority for her Department.

(AQW 8214/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Creative Industries are identified as a priority sector in helping to rebuild and rebalance the Northern Ireland economy. My Department and Invest NI will continue to work closely with a range of stakeholders both in Belfast, and across Northern Ireland in general, to support the development and growth of the Creative Industries.

It is my understanding that Belfast City Council is currently considering a study to assess the feasibility of creating a Digital Hub in Belfast. If the study is positive and if there is a clear alignment to Invest NI's priorities, Belfast City Council will consider making an application for funding under the Local Economic Development (LED) Measure to support the sector's growth in Belfast.

Economic Activity Rate

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if she will make a statement on the monthly trend in the economic activity rate since June 2009.

(AQW 8224/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Trend statistics for the Northern Ireland economic activity rate since April – June 2009 are presented in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY RATE FROM 2009 – 2011

	NI		UK	
Quarter	16+	16-64	16+	16-64
Apr-Jun 2009	57.9	68.6	63.4	76.9
Jul-Sep 2009	58.6	69.4	63.3	76.7
Oct-Dec 2009	58.9	69.8	63.2	76.6
Jan-Mar 2010	59.7	70.8	63.1	76.5
Apr-Jun 2010	59.8	71.2	63.2	76.6
Jul-Sep 2010	59.9	71.2	63.4	76.8
Oct-Dec 2010	60.1	71.7	63.3	76.6
Jan-Mar 2011	60.4	72.2	63.3	76.8
Apr-Jun 2011	61.7	73.4	63.3	76.8
Jul-Sep 2011	61.2	72.9	63.1	76.7
Oct-Dec 2011	61.1	72.8	63.2	76.9

Source: Labour Force Survey, DFP

Each and every month the latest figures on economic activity are published within a Labour Market Report produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The latest report can be accessed at http://www.detini.gov.uk/lmr_february_2012.pdf. In addition, each month, I comment on the latest labour market figures via a Press Statement which includes details of Northern Ireland's economic inactivity. Furthermore my Department produces an Economic Commentary three times a year which assesses the most recent trends in the Northern Ireland economy. The November 2011 edition of this commentary provided an assessment of the trend in economic inactivity during the economic downturn.

Tamboran Resources

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what further consideration has been given to the suggestion that Tamboran Resources should provide a bond to insure against liability and potential indemnities arising from adverse environmental and health impacts as a result of hydraulic fracturing; and to detail the financial protection that such a bond would afford.

(AQW 8247/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Officials in my Department have been liaising with their counterparts in the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in order to understand the requirements for insurance and bonds that exist in mature producing hydrocarbons provinces such as the North Sea and onshore Great Britain. My Department will then discuss the options with the regulatory authorities responsible for environmental protection and planning in Northern Ireland. It should be noted that DECC is responsible for environmental and decommissioning issues offshore UK whereas those responsibilities fall to the Environment Agency and Local Planning Authorities for onshore hydrocarbons in Great Britain.

Petroleum Licences for Hydraulic Fracturing

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 7217/11-15, (i) whether the granting of petroleum licences for hydraulic fracturing operations was not subject to a strategic environmental assessment because the petroleum licensing onshore Northern Ireland is defined as a plan or programme for energy, and was adopted before 21 July 2004 in accordance with the Petroleum (Production) Act (Northern Ireland) 1964 and the Petroleum Production Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987; and (ii) to confirm whether the Notice (2010/C169/4), published by the Department in the Official Journal of the European Union, announcing the availability of all of onshore Northern Ireland for Petroleum Licence applications and inviting applications by 27 August 2011, was a plan or programme for energy as defined by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.

(AQW 8255/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department considers that the policy decision to establish a petroleum licensing regime, by means of the Petroleum (Production) Act (Northern Ireland) 1964 and the Petroleum Production Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987, whereby all of onshore Northern Ireland was made available for licensing, constituted a plan or programme for energy adopted before 21 July 2004.

My Department considers that the decision to publish a Notice (2010/C169/4) in the Official Journal of the European Union, announcing the availability of all of onshore Northern Ireland for Petroleum Licence applications and inviting applications by 27 August 2011, was not a plan or programme for energy as defined by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004. This Notice was published in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Hydrocarbons Licensing Directive Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 which were a legal prerequisite to ensure that the petroleum licensing regime in Northern Ireland complied with the requirements of Directive 94/22/EC. As such, DETI concluded that this did not constitute a plan or programme separate from that of the original decision to make all of onshore Northern Ireland available for petroleum licensing described in i) above.

No petroleum licences have been granted for hydraulic fracturing operations. Hydraulic fracturing is a technical process designed to enhance the production of hydrocarbons from a well and, as such, requires approvals separate from the granting of a petroleum licence before it can be undertaken.

Tourist Board Certified Hotels that Provide Wi-Fi Access

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to list the Tourist Board certified hotels that provide wi-fi access.

(AQW 8269/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) has certified 135 hotels, of these 47 have advised they provide Wi-Fi access. The names are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ■ Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast | ■ The Valley Hotel, Fivemiletown |
| ■ Downshire Arms Hotel, Banbridge | ■ Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick |
| ■ Mahons Hotel, Irvinestown | ■ Travelodge Belfast Central, Belfast |
| ■ Killyhevlin Hotel & Health Club, Enniskillen | ■ Malone Lodge Hotel, Belfast |
| ■ Royal Court Hotel, Portrush | ■ Tullylagan Country House, Cookstown |
| ■ Bushmills Inn Hotel, Bushmills | ■ Clandeboy Lodge Hotel, Bangor |
| ■ Ballygally Castle Hotel, Ballygally | ■ Clarion Hotel, Carrickfergus |
| ■ Stormont Hotel, Belfast | ■ Jurys Inn Belfast, Belfast |
| ■ Seagoe Hotel, Portadown | ■ Westville Hotel, Enniskillen |
| ■ Beechlawn House Hotel, Dunmurry, Belfast | ■ Canal Court Hotel, Newry |
| ■ Manor House Country Hotel, Killadeas, Enniskillen | ■ Ballymac Hotel, Lisburn |
| ■ Tullyglass House Hotel, Ballymena | ■ Hilton Templepatrick, Templepatrick |
| ■ Europa Hotel, Belfast | ■ Hilton Belfast, Belfast |
| ■ Ashburn Hotel, Lurgan | ■ Benedicts of Belfast, Belfast |
| ■ La Mon Hotel & Country Club, Comber | ■ Holiday Inn Belfast, Belfast |
| ■ Lodge Hotel, Coleraine | ■ Ramada Da Vinci's Hotel, Londonderry |
| ■ Slieve Donard Resort & Spa, Newcastle | ■ Ramada Portrush, Portrush |
| ■ Everglades Hotel, Londonderry | ■ Days Hotel Belfast City Centre, Belfast |
| ■ Dobbins Inn Hotel, Carrickfergus | ■ Radisson Blu Hotel Belfast, Belfast |
| ■ Burrendale Hotel, Country Club and Spa, Newcastle | ■ Malmaison, Belfast |
| ■ Bushtown Hotel, Coleraine | ■ Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim |
| ■ Best Western Magherabuoy House Hotel, Portrush | ■ The Merchant Hotel, Belfast |
| | ■ Lough Erne Resort, Enniskillen |
| | ■ Park Inn Hotel Belfast, Belfast |
| | ■ IBIS Belfast Queens Quarter, Belfast |

Restaurants and Cafes that Provide Wi-Fi Access

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to list the restaurants and cafes that provide wi-fi access.

(AQW 8270/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Comprehensive information on restaurants and cafes that provide Wi-Fi access is not collected or held by the Department.

Increases in Energy Prices

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of recent increases in energy prices and the publication of the Consumer Council's recent analysis of the McIlldoon report, how she, and the Utility Regulator, will ensure that all possible policy and regulatory instruments are used to tackle the growing levels of fuel poverty.

(AQW 8276/11-15)

Mrs Foster: DETI and the Utility Regulator are committed to working alongside others in seeking to tackle the current levels fuel poverty. Both parties are represented on the newly formed Joint Forum on

Fuel Poverty, which also includes the Consumer Council, and is chaired by Social Development Minister, Nelson McCausland.

Tourists from the Asian Market

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment when she was first made aware that many tourists from the Asian market require a separate Visa to cross the border.

(AQW 8292/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I am aware that as a different jurisdiction, the Republic of Ireland operates a separate visa regime from that administered by the United Kingdom. Therefore visitors, such as those from Asia, require a United Kingdom visa to visit Northern Ireland.

The Republic of Ireland has introduced a Visa Waiver Scheme for nationals of 16 countries who hold a valid visa for entry into the United Kingdom.

I understand there are security and resource implications which currently prevent the introduction of a reciprocal scheme for those entering Northern Ireland with a valid Irish visa, including visitors from Asia. I have raised this issue with the Northern Ireland Office and will continue to raise the issue with both Governments.

Visa Waiver Scheme

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she has discussed with the Secretary of State the possibility of introducing a Visa Waiver Scheme to increase the number of tourists visiting the rest of the island of Ireland to come north.

(AQW 8293/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Republic of Ireland currently operates a Visa Waiver Scheme for nationals of 16 countries who hold a valid visa for entry into the United Kingdom. I have discussed the possibility of reciprocal scheme in respect of Northern Ireland with Hugo Swire MP, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office.

I understand there are security and resource implications which currently prevent the introduction of a reciprocal scheme for those entering Northern Ireland with a valid Irish visa. I will continue to raise this issue with both Governments.

Proposed North-South Electricity Interconnector

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she has received representations from the Utility Regulator regarding the proposed North-South electricity interconnector; and whether the Regulator is supportive of the project.

(AQW 8328/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Utility Regulator advocated the need for extra interconnection as part of the Department's work to develop an All Island Energy Market Framework in 2004. Since then, the Regulator has continued to support the need for the interconnector. The Regulator has also briefed the Northern Ireland Assembly's Committee for Enterprise Trade and Investment on the need for the interconnector to reduce the cost of system constraints within the Single Electricity Market.

Proposed North-South Electricity Interconnector

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the importance of planning permission being granted in this calendar year for the proposed North-South electricity interconnector.

(AQW 8329/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Planning Appeals Commission will start its public inquiry into NIE's application for a new North South Inter-connector on 6 March 2012. This will allow full consideration of the merits of,

and objections to, the line. It is important to bring certainty to the market on this important issue as soon as possible so I hope the inquiry can be completed and a decision reached before the end of 2012.

Legislative Framework for Geothermal Energy

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department plans to bring forward a legislative framework for geothermal energy in the next three years.

(AQW 8356/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department recognises the need for a legislative framework for geothermal energy in Northern Ireland. Although no decision has yet been taken on the timescale for the preparation of such legislation, officials are monitoring the progress being made towards such a framework in the UK and will consider how applicable this would be to Northern Ireland.

€500 million PROGRESS Micro-Finance Scheme

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much funding has been drawn down from the €500 million PROGRESS micro-finance scheme; and what steps her Department has taken to increase drawdown.

(AQW 8428/11-15)

Mrs Foster: To date, no amounts have been drawn down from the PROGRESS micro-finance scheme by any intermediary within the UK.

The cap rate of 20% is a major disadvantage of this scheme and operates in a similar way to the relatively unused Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme in Northern Ireland. Invest NI estimates that this would only provide a maximum guarantee of £180k in respect of its proposed £5 million Small, Micro, Medium Enterprises (SMME) Loan Fund.

The proposed SMME Loan Fund is Invest NI's direct response to the financing difficulties faced by micro enterprises and is expected to be operational by July 2012. It will provide unsecured loans of between £1k and £50k to start-up and growth potential individuals or companies and social enterprises in the SME and micro enterprise size range.

An economic appraisal was carried out by independent consultants on behalf of Invest NI that clearly identified market failure in the provision of debt finance to small, micro and medium enterprises. Whilst due consideration was given to the European PROGRESS micro-finance facility during the establishment of the proposed Invest NI £5 million SMME Loan Fund, a detailed review of the terms and conditions pertaining to the PROGRESS facility concluded that the disadvantages together with the additional cost of the resulting reporting burden and the timeframe to establish Invest NI as an approved intermediary, meant that the SMME Loan Fund initiative was approved without PROGRESS.

Invest NI remains open to considering PROGRESS at some future date, and indeed, its tender papers for fund management services for the proposed £5 million SMME Loan Fund will seek evidence of experience of PROGRESS (or its predecessor guarantee).

VAT Registered Businesses in the North Antrim Constituency

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how she plans to increase the number of VAT registered businesses in the North Antrim constituency.

(AQW 8464/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI works actively with businesses in the North Antrim area, both VAT and non VAT registered, to encourage and stimulate sales growth which, in due course, would in the majority of cases lead to VAT registration.

New start and existing businesses can avail of a range of support both financial and advisory. Invest NI recently launched its Boosting Business initiative, promoting its range of support under the five themes of Jobs, R & D, Exports, Technology and Skills. Its Jobs Fund is being actively promoted to businesses

which lack the working capital needed to increase employment levels to take advantage of growth opportunities.

Invest NI also has a dedicated Global Starts team whose role it is to identify early stage companies with high growth potential and provide specific, tailored support to help accelerate the growth of these, usually technology-based, companies in export markets. Services offered by the Global Starts team are available to clients in the North Antrim area.

Invest NI's North Eastern Regional Office is also working closely with Councils in the North Antrim area to develop a range of new programmes targeted at small and locally focused businesses. These programmes are submitted for funding under the Local Economic Development (LED) measure of the Sustainable Competitiveness Programme. Invest NI is also working with Councils in the area to map key drivers of economic development and to develop, in partnership, new products/services that can impact on wider economic development in areas such as North Antrim.

As a result of such engagement, Invest NI has developed, in partnership with other stakeholder, an initiative aimed at small independent retailers which has been piloted successfully in several Council areas including Ballymena.

The North Eastern Office continues to work closely with other stakeholder organisations in the North Antrim area, including in particular Local Enterprise Agencies, to support the growth of small and micro businesses.

Northern Workforce Development Forum

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given that figures in the latest Labour Market Profile show that 14.3 percent of people who work in the Northern Workforce Development Forum do so in Ballymena, what plans she has to encourage and rejuvenate trade in the town.

(AQW 8465/11-15)

Mrs Foster: With regards to Trade, my Department's primary aim is to encourage companies, including those located in the Ballymena area, to sell their products and services in international markets. Northern Ireland's domestic market is too small to drive the private sector growth required to make a step-change in our economy. Sustained growth can only be achieved by helping our business base to develop the products and services to enter and exploit export markets for the first time and then by supporting them to identify market opportunities, undertake market visits and enter and succeed in additional growth markets.

Too many of our existing exporters have historically relied on the ROI or GB markets from which to generate external sales, however, continued economic uncertainty in these markets will mean our exporters will need to broaden their horizons. A significant amount of future global growth will continue to come from emerging markets and we will support ambitious companies to explore and exploit opportunities in these markets. A key focus will remain on the BRIC countries of Brazil, Russia, India and China and we will continue to monitor and strategically target opportunities which emerge from the CIVETS grouping (Columbia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Egypt, Turkey and South Africa) as well as the cash-rich countries of the Middle East.

During the last three years, (1st April 2009 to 28th February 2012) companies in the Ballymena District Council area have participated in the following Invest NI trade activities:

- 154 participations in trade missions, exhibitions and export seminars targeted on overseas markets;
- 19 participations in export and trade focused workshops;
- 49 interventions relating to marketing support from trade advisers in key overseas markets;
- 37 interventions relating to specific consultancy projects to strengthen trade and export capabilities; and,

- In November 2011, 24 companies attended the Focus on Finance Workshop held in Ballymena. 11 of these companies are availing of the one to one financial appraisal support available after participation on the workshop.

I am also acutely aware of the trading difficulties being faced by those locally-focused businesses, particularly those operating within the retail sector, located throughout Northern Ireland. My Department recognises that retail spending is a significant contributor to the economic well being of Northern Ireland. Independent retailers, such as those located in Ballymena town centre, are under increasing pressure as a result of the recession, rising costs, the impact of online shopping and the dominance of the multiples.

In recognition of these pressures and the fact that expenditure in national multiples and online represents a leakage from the Northern Ireland economy, Invest NI has engaged with other stakeholders to help develop a framework for a retail initiative. This focuses on four key elements: trends in retail, the impact of technology, the importance of the retail environment and the in-store experience. This initiative has been delivered in two Council areas (including Ballymena) on a pilot basis, in partnership with the University of Ulster, Business in the Community and the South Eastern Regional College.

Finally, you will be aware that lead responsibility for urban regeneration resides with the Department for Social Development. In relation to encouraging and rejuvenating trade in Ballymena town centre, my colleague the Minister for Social Development has been pushing forward with the implementation of the measures outlined in the Ballymena masterplan. In the coming year, his Department will fund a revitalisation project aimed at boosting trading conditions in the Church Street area of the town centre. DSD also plans to implement a significant public realm scheme in the town centre in 2013/2014, subject to the necessary funding being available and promote a development scheme on a large derelict site on Bridge Street. Invest NI is also working closely with Ballymena Town Centre Development Company Limited in the implementation of its recently launched strategy for the development of the town centre.

Proposed North-South Electricity Interconnector

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) what representations she has received from the Renewables Industry regarding the proposed North-South electricity interconnector; (ii) for her assessment of the benefits of the interconnector in generating investment and employment in the renewables industry sector; (iii) whether the interconnector will help meet the 2020 climate change target of producing 40 percent of electricity from renewable energy sources.

(AQW 8467/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I have not received any representations from the Renewables Industry specifically regarding the North-South interconnector. In its 2011 Report "Inquiry into Barriers to the Development of Renewable Energy Production and its Associated Contribution to the Northern Ireland Economy" the Committee for Enterprise Trade and Investment concluded that the interconnector was a vitally important element of infrastructure both from an energy and economic perspective. I agree with that finding.

The extra transmission capacity of the proposed Interconnector is important for large scale development of renewable power, allowing the transmission grid and Single Electricity Market to work more efficiently. In order to meet the 2020 target it is vital that the Interconnector proceeds at the earliest opportunity.

Petroleum Licensing

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the current regulations, governing petroleum licensing, would permit gas companies to hydraulically fracture shale rock, with the use of chemicals underneath land, without the express permission of the landowner, and without any requirement to compensate the landowner.

(AQW 8469/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Petroleum (Production) Act (NI) 1964 and the subordinate legislation made under that Act vests undeveloped petroleum in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. It also authorises the Department to grant licences to search and bore for and get petroleum.

Any licence granted under the Act may expressly specify conditions with respect to damage or injury resulting from or arising out of the exercise of any right authorised by the licence or the ancillary right.

Section 4 of the Act makes provision for compensation in relation to the petroleum vested in the Department under the 1964 Act.

Petroleum Licences for Hydraulic Fracturing

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 7217/11-15, whether she intends to undertake a strategic environmental assessment for the current or next round of onshore oil and gas licensing.

(AQW 8470/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Applications for petroleum licences in Northern Ireland may be made at any time and are not subject to licensing rounds (in accordance with “the open door procedure” described in Article 3 (3) of the Hydrocarbons Directive 94/22/EC). The establishment of an initial window for applications to be submitted by 27 August 2011 in Notice (2010/C169/4), published by the Department in the Official Journal of the European Union, was solely for the purpose of ensuring that initial applications for petroleum licences were treated in a non-discriminatory manner, following the introduction of The Hydrocarbons Licensing Directive Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 and The Petroleum Production (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.

Regulation 11 of The Hydrocarbons Licensing Directive Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 amended section 1 of the Petroleum Act (Northern Ireland) 1964 to include the strata beneath the internal waters adjacent to Northern Ireland. A strategic environmental assessment will be carried out before the internal waters are made available for petroleum licensing because the policy decision to vest the property in petroleum in DETI, to enable the Department to grant petroleum licences in these waters, would be considered a separate plan or programme for energy as defined by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004. The internal waters of Northern Ireland have not previously been available for petroleum licensing under either the Northern Ireland or UK offshore licensing regime.

Petroleum Production (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment why the amendment to the Petroleum (Production) Act 1987, made in Regulation 2 (6) (i) of the Petroleum Production (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010, was deemed necessary; and whether any representatives from oil or gas companies made any representations to, or had any correspondence with, her Department regarding the Petroleum Production (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010, or the Hydrocarbons Licensing Directive Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 during the last five years, and to provide further details.

(AQW 8471/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Regulation 2 (6) (i) of the Petroleum Production (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 amends Clause 24 of Schedule 2 to the Petroleum Production Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987. Schedule 2 to the 1987 Regulations sets out the model clauses for petroleum licences in Northern Ireland and Clause 24 relates to the confidentiality requirements of reports submitted to the Department by the licensee.

The primary purpose of the Hydrocarbons Licensing Directive Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 and the Petroleum Production (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 was to implement the Hydrocarbons Licensing Directive in Northern Ireland. Appropriate amendments for the purposes of the Directive were made to the Petroleum Production Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 but other amendments were also made to bring arrangements in Northern Ireland more closely into line

with those in Great Britain. Clause 24 of the 1987 Regulations (reports to be treated as confidential) was amended to align the provision with arrangements in Great Britain under regulation 27 of The Petroleum Licensing (Exploration and Production) (Seaward and Landward Areas) Regulations 2004. The period provided for publication of data by the Department was reduced to 4 years from the date on which data was due to be received by the Department rather than, as previously, 5 years from the date on which data was received by the Department.

Due to late implementation of the Directive in Northern Ireland, existing licensees were informed either that their licences would not be renewed if due to expire before the Regulations came into operation or that they would be revoked by the Regulations. Representations were made to the Department, and correspondence was received from, two of the existing licensees regarding the impact of the Regulations on their licences.

Number of Overseas Visitors

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the number of overseas visitors; (ii) the number of overseas visitors to the island of Ireland; and (iii) the percentage of overseas visitors to the island of Ireland who have visited here, in each of the last seven years.

(AQW 8501/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The estimated number of overseas visitors (including visitors from Great Britain) to Northern Ireland, island of Ireland and the percentage of visitors to the island of Ireland who visited NI in each of the last seven years are detailed below.

	Overseas visitors to Northern Ireland (000s)	Overseas visitors to the island of Ireland (000s)	Percentage of overseas visitors to the island of Ireland who visited Northern Ireland
2004	1,733	7,746	22%
2005	1,701	8,114	21%
2006	1,702	8,725	20%
2007	1,785	9,070	20%
2008	1,709	8,688	20%
2009	1,443	7,636	19%
2010 ¹	1,418	6,700	21%

Source: Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Tourism Ireland

1 Preliminary estimates. Preliminary estimates for 2011 are scheduled for publication in April 2012.

Price of Electricity and Gas

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what is the estimated addition to the price of (i) electricity; and (ii) gas per kilowatt hour resulting from green taxes or policies.

(AQW 8513/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Responsibility for green policies is spread across a number of Departments given their different remits. Green taxes are a reserved matter and therefore the impact is assessed at a UK level by HMT. This answer is therefore limited to those policies impacting on DETI policy areas. Information is only available as additional cost per bill.

Currently, the Northern Ireland Renewable Obligation is the main mechanism for incentivising renewable electricity generation. It places an obligation of financing the policy on energy companies which is then passed onto the consumer through energy bills and currently represents approximately £12 to £15 on

an average annual domestic electricity bill. It does not impact on gas bills. Other policies such as the Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (due to end in 2013) and the NFFO/ROF add a further £11 to a bill.

Going forward, the Strategic Energy Framework estimates that the combined cost of renewable electricity installations, together with the cost of the grid investment necessary to meet the 40% target could be between £49 and £83 per household on an annual basis by 2020 at current prices. In addition, proposals for Electricity Market Reform (EMR), including the Carbon Price Floor, will also bring additional costs to consumers. The full impact of these policies is still being assessed.

Employment Opportunities

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given that 41.6 percent of the working age population have no qualifications, what plans her Department has to create employment opportunities for this group; and how she will ensure that there is enough flexibility in the criteria for jobs, so that this group is not automatically excluded.

(AQW 8519/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The draft Northern Ireland Economic Strategy sets out how the Executive plans to grow a prosperous local economy by 2030. Higher levels of employment and prosperity, including within those groups with lower skills levels, will be key to reducing poverty levels and the delivery of the objectives of the Economic Strategy will be the Executive's collective responsibility.

Recognising the importance of job creation in tackling poverty, my Department has, as part of the Programme for Government and the NI Economic Strategy (NIES) committed to promote 25,000 new jobs by March 2015. The draft NIES identifies a range of commitments that aim to both rebuild the local economy by addressing the long-standing structural weaknesses that have constrained our economic growth, and rebalance the economy towards higher levels of private sector growth. These actions, which cut across all Departments, are expected to deliver job creation and growing employment levels in Northern Ireland.

As the recession has had a significant impact on the local labour market, the draft NIES also includes a number of measures, across all Departments, which aim to rebuild the local labour market in the short to medium term. These measures in particular, have the potential to greatly help the economically inactive, those that have recently being made unemployed and help provide opportunities for those employees with lower-skill sets. The rebuilding themes also recognise the important contribution the Social Economy sector makes to the NI Economy. As part of its measures to promote employment and strengthen employability, the Strategy seeks to promote the social economy and its contribution to economic growth.

Specific actions falling under the rebuilding themes include:

- Under Invest NI's job fund, promote 6,300 jobs in export focussed sectors by March 2015, with 4,000 jobs to be created by March 2014;
- Move 114,000 working age benefit clients into employment by March 2015 (DEL);
- Stimulate 1,150 new employment opportunities in rural areas under the Rural Development Fund by 2015 (DARD);
- Implement a Childcare Strategy to support new measures to reduce barriers to employment (OFMDFM);
- Implement the Social Investment Fund to tackle poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration in disadvantaged communities (OFMDFM);
- Increase the number of working age customers in reception of work-focused benefits to support them to move into work (DEL);
- Provide an Employer subsidy for businesses to recruit individuals who have been unemployed or economically inactive for a period of more than 13 weeks (DEL);

- Maximise the social benefits of investment through the inclusion of social clauses in all public procurement contracts for supplies, services and construction (DFP); and
- Offer a period of supported self-employment for those interested in running their own business (DEL).

Examples of specific rebalancing measures identified within the draft NIES, which will support those who are economically inactive and help those with low skills to up-skill, include:

- Incentivise employment of the long term unemployed through linking DEL's Steps to Work Programme to the Invest NI Jobs Fund;
- Agree and introduce an Executive strategy for young people who are NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training) by April 2012;
- Develop Strategic Employment Strategies for Belfast and Londonderry aimed at increasing employment and reducing economic inactivity;
- Promote 6300 jobs in local companies; 5900 jobs in inward investors and 6500 in new business starts by March 2015;
- Deliver 210,000 qualifications at levels 2, 3, 4 and above by March 2015; and,
- Develop a European Social Fund 2014-2020 programme aimed at enhancing employability and increasing the overall employment rate, in particular for those groups at a disadvantage in the labour market.

With regard to your second point, as I'm sure you can appreciate, it is for an individual business to set the recruitment criteria for any vacant post that they may have. The criteria will be based on the individual needs of that business to ensure it has the correct skills to help optimise its growth and development. It would, therefore, be inappropriate for Government to try and influence this process in any way. However, I can assure you that my Department and the Executive will continue to do what we can to help businesses to create a wide variety of jobs across various skills levels and ensure that our work force has the appropriate skills to find, secure and retain sustainable employment.

Postage and Printing Costs

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department, and its arm's-length bodies, give elected representatives the choice of receiving reports and all other correspondence by email to minimise postage and printing costs.

(AQW 8524/11-15)

Mrs Foster: With regard to reports, I refer the Member to the answer I gave in AQW 6082/09.

For correspondence my Department will provide electronic responses to correspondence from Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) when requested by them to do so.

Communication in relation to Ministerial Statements is carried out in accordance with the requirements of Assembly Standing Orders which require written copies of Oral Statements to be made available to each MLA.

Sale of Home Heating Oil at Retail Pumps

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what regulations govern the sale of home heating oil at retail pumps in petrol station forecourts.

(AQW 8542/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The regulations for controlling the sale of home heating oil through liquid fuel measuring instruments on petrol station forecourts are the same as for petrol/diesel pumps.

The applicable legislation is:-

- The Weights and Measures (Amendment) Act (NI) 2000

- The Weights and Measures (NI) Order 1981
- The Measuring Instruments (Liquid Fuel and Lubricants) Regulation 2006
- The Measuring Equipment (Liquid Fuel and Lubricants) Regulations 1998
- The Measuring Equipment (Liquid Fuel and Lubricants) (Use for Trade) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007
- The Price Marking Order (Northern Ireland) 2004.

Costs of Decommissioning Wind Turbines

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she has considered introducing legislation to require companies to pay into a bond to guarantee that the costs of decommissioning wind turbines will not be met by taxpayers or landowners, in the event of a company entering receivership. **(AQW 8556/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: Planning permission requires that above ground structures are dismantled after 25 years from grid connection or if generation has ceased for a period of 6 months (unless a further consent has been granted). This is to ensure that the habitat is restored and the quality of the landscape maintained. The operator of the wind farm, which may in some cases be the landowner, is responsible for this. I understand that some operators do set aside funding for decommissioning purposes. This does not involve the taxpayer and is not an issue on which I would legislate.

As regards offshore renewable energy developments, my Department will shortly be consulting on a new Energy Bill. In order to meet international obligations with regard to safety and navigation and the protection of the marine environment, this Bill will include provisions for a decommissioning regime which would apply to the current Offshore Renewable Energy Leasing Round. This regime, which will be consistent with that in place in GB waters, will ensure that the companies responsible for offshore renewable energy projects are accountable for the costs of decommissioning at the end of the project's life or in the event of insolvency.

Climate Change Research

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 7750/11-15, and given her confirmation that the production of carbon emissions from fracking will have to be assessed in the context of the current and future energy supply mix, whether her Department intends to inform companies engaged in gas extraction of the quotas on the amount of gas they are permitted to extract before they initiate production, to ensure that their business cases remain viable. **(AQW 8558/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: My Department has no current plans to set quotas on the amount of gas that companies may extract in any future gas production projects. Please refer to the Answer to AQW 8559/11-15 for the context in which the greenhouse gas emissions associated with any future gas production in Northern Ireland will be considered.

Climate Change Research

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 7750/11-15, for his assessment of the percentage of shale gas reserves that should be exploited in Fermanagh to allow Northern Ireland to remain within its carbon budget; and how his Department intends to measure the carbon impact of shale gas extraction, given that the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment has confirmed that the production of carbon emissions from fracking will have to be assessed in the context of the current and future energy supply mix. **(AQW 8559/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: Northern Ireland does not have a separate carbon budget but is included within overall UK carbon budgets. However, the Northern Ireland Executive is committed to playing its part in the transition to a low carbon economy and the draft Programme for Government (2011-15) has set a non-statutory

target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 35% below 1990 levels by 2025. Consideration of the carbon impact of any future production of shale gas will use the most appropriate methods available when a development plan is submitted to the regulatory authorities, and verified using appropriate monitoring systems should such a development receive approval to proceed.

Shale Gas Exploration in County Fermanagh

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department has made any assessment of how shale gas exploration could impact negatively on tourism.

(AQW 8565/11-15)

Mrs Foster: From previous experience, oil and gas exploration in Northern Ireland has had minimal or no negative effect on tourism. However, any application to drill an exploration well for shale gas, with associated hydraulic fracturing, would be subject to the full rigour of the Planning and Environmental Impact Assessment processes within which the tourism implications would be fully addressed through comprehensive consultation.

Proposed North-South Electricity Interconnector

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the impact that the proposed North-South electricity interconnector may have on reducing the cost of electricity.

(AQW 8572/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Transmission capacity constraints are estimated to cost consumers in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland some £18 million to £25 million per annum. A second interconnector will remove these costs and is expected to save Northern Ireland electricity consumers £7 million per annum.

Proposed North-South Electricity Interconnector

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions she has had with the Consumer Council in relation to the proposed North-South electricity interconnector.

(AQW 8573/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I have not held discussions with the Consumer Council in relation to the proposed electricity interconnector.

InvestNI Business Park, Melmount Road, Strabane

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the development of the InvestNI Business Park, Melmount Road, Strabane; and what work is being undertaken to attract and secure prospective tenants to the Business Park.

(AQW 8576/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI has acquired 40 acres of land at Melmount Road for the purposes of developing a new business park to support economic development in the Strabane area.

The contract for the development works was awarded in December 2011 and the first phase of construction works is expected to complete during autumn this year.

Invest NI will actively market the business park to both foreign and indigenous investors. It is worth noting that the agency is currently in receipt of a number of company interests in respect of serviced sites within the park.

It is important to note, however, that the final decision on investment location rests solely with the investor.

Invest NI continues to engage proactively with Strabane Council in progressing this development.

North Antrim Employment

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given that North Antrim had the fifth highest number of redundancies in the year ending 13 January 2012, what plans her Department has to create employment in the area.

(AQW 8588/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Between 1st April 2008 and 31st January 2012 my Department in conjunction with Invest NI has issued 522 offers of assistance to companies within the North Antrim Parliamentary Constituency area (PCA), generating almost £82 million of investment and promoting 438 new jobs. During this time some 476 new business starts were also assisted in the area.

As a direct response to the downturn, I also launched “The Jobs Fund” in April 2011 with a ring-fenced budget of £19m to support business owners to create new, sustainable jobs that will tackle our current levels of unemployment. To date, the uptake in North Antrim has been steady with 6 projects approved that will create 19 new jobs in the area.

The Jobs Fund, through its Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) Business Start grant, has also issued offers of support to 3 individuals to start new businesses in North Antrim. In addition, a further 6 young entrepreneurs aged 16-24 have been offered support through the NEET Business Start Grant (aimed at young people Not in Employment, Education or Training).

At a local level Invest NI's North Eastern Regional Office, based in Ballymena, is also working closely with Councils in the North Antrim area to develop a range of new programmes targeted at locally focused businesses that have not traditionally been able to avail of Invest NI support. These programmes are submitted for funding under the Local Economic Development (LED) measure of the Sustainable Competitiveness Programme and seek to improve the capacity and capability of local businesses to grow and ultimately create new jobs.

Invest NI is also working with Councils in the North Antrim area to map key drivers of economic development and to develop, in partnership, new products and services that can impact on wider economic development and provide an environment where businesses can thrive and create new jobs. As a result of this engagement, Invest NI has developed, in partnership with other stakeholders, an initiative aimed at small independent retailers which has been piloted successfully in several Council areas including Ballymena. This type of activity is helping to create an environment where businesses are better placed to sustain existing jobs and create new jobs.

In September 2011, Invest NI in partnership with other stakeholder organisations in the North East, delivered / facilitated over 20 events in the North East aimed at SMEs and related stakeholder organisations. These events focused on the range of support available to SMEs in the region and were open to businesses and potential entrepreneurs to stimulate the growth of small and micro businesses and ultimately support new job creation in the area.

While Invest NI is not currently delivering a Business Start Programme, it has put in place appropriate arrangements to respond to business start enquiries to ensure potential entrepreneurs can access the relevant advice and support that they need. This activity is supporting the needs of potential entrepreneurs as they move into self employment and create further jobs as their businesses grow.

As you can see from the above, my Department and Invest NI are continuing to seek to maximise economic development opportunities in North Antrim and you can be assured that we will continue to help companies in the area cope with the effects of the downturn and build towards future success.

Tendering Process for the Go For It Programme

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how the tendering process for the Go For It programme was assessed; and who made the decision on the award of the tender.

(AQW 8624/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The award of the contract for the new Business Start Programme was a procurement decision carried out in line with public procurement guidelines.

Three tenders were received for the programme and these were assessed by a Tender Evaluation Panel which was made up of Invest NI personnel with direct programme management experience. In line with best practice in public procurement and to ensure fairness and transparency this tender panel was facilitated by the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD).

Anaerobic Digesters and Wind Turbines

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what funding or incentives her Department has in place for anaerobic digesters and wind turbines.

(AQW 8629/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Anaerobic digesters and wind turbines are incentivised by the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation which provides a revenue stream for the renewable electricity generated in the form of Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs). DETI does not offer grants towards the generation of renewable electricity.

DETI recently consulted on proposals to provide financial support for a range of renewable heat installations, including anaerobic digesters, as part of a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). Whilst it is proposed that anaerobic digesters which receive ROCs for the generation of electricity will not be eligible to receive the heat incentive, 'heat only' systems will, however, receive RHI payments.

Natural Gas

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many households have had natural gas available to them, in each of the last five years, broken down by council area.

(AQW 8716/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The gas distribution companies, Phoenix Natural Gas (PNG) and firmus energy have provided the following information for each of the last five years.

PNG - PROPERTIES PASSED ('000S)¹ BY GAS PIPELINES IN THE GREATER GREAT BELFAST AND LARNE LICENSED AREA²

Licence District ³	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Carrickfergus	11.2	11.4	11.7	12.2	12.4
Carryduff and Castlereagh	19.2	19.7	20.2	20.8	21.5
Duncrue	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8
East Belfast	39.5	40.1	40.5	40.9	41.5
Harbour	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9
Larne	5.8	6.2	6.4	7.1	7.6
Lisburn	19.6	20.5	21.4	22.9	24.0
Newtownabbey	24.3	24.9	26.0	26.8	27.8
Newtownards	11.7	13.0	14.7	16.3	17.4
North and West Belfast	68.9	70.7	72.2	74.0	75.3
North Down	28.0	28.8	29.2	30.3	31.4
South Belfast	29.2	29.9	30.7	30.9	31.2
TOTAL:	258.2	266.3	274.4	283.8	291.9

1 PNG figures for 'Properties Passed' include both domestic and business properties.

2 All PNG figures listed are cumulative.

3 PNG do not hold data by District Council area but rather by defined districts within their licence area.

FIRMUS ENERGY – ESTIMATED DOMESTIC PROPERTIES PASSED BY GAS PIPELINES IN THE 10 TOWNS LICENSED AREA

District Council Area	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Antrim	300	2,000	3,000	4,000	4,600
Armagh	0	0	0	700	800
Ballymena	1,200	2,600	3,200	3,800	5,000
Ballymoney	500	1,100	1,500	1,600	1,600
Banbridge	0	1,100	1,600	1,800	1,800
Coleraine	1,100	1,800	2,200	2,600	3,500
Craigavon	600	2,700	4,800	6,600	8,500
Londonderry	3,600	6,300	8,700	10,700	13,000
Limavady	200	700	1,000	1,300	1,300
Newry & Mourne	600	1,200	1,900	2,000	2,600
TOTAL	8,100	19,500	27,900	35,100	42,700

Estimated as at 30 September each year. All figures are cumulative.

Natural Gas

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many households have availed of natural gas in each of the last five years, broken down by council area.

(AQW 8717/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The gas distribution companies, Phoenix Natural Gas (PNG) and firmus energy have provided the following information for each of the last five years.

PNG – PROPERTIES CONNECTED ('000S)¹ IN GREATER BELFAST AND LARNE LICENSED AREA²

Licence District¹	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Carrickfergus	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.6	6.0
Carryduff and Castlereagh	4.1	4.7	5.2	5.8	6.5
Duncrue	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
East Belfast	18.6	19.6	20.5	21.4	22.6
Harbour	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.7
Larne	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.5
Lisburn	8.0	8.7	9.4	10.4	11.2
Newtownabbey	9.7	10.5	11.2	11.9	12.9
Newtownards	4.0	4.5	4.9	5.6	6.4
North and West Belfast	40.3	42.2	44.1	46.0	48.3
North Down	10.5	11.5	12.4	13.3	14.7
South Belfast	11.6	12.6	13.8	14.4	15.2
TOTAL:	114.7	122.6	130.7	138.8	148.5

- 1 The PNG data for 'Properties Connected' covers both domestic and business properties.
- 2 All PNG figures listed are cumulative.

FIRMUS ENERGY – DOMESTIC PROPERTIES CONNECTED IN THE 10 TOWNS LICENSED AREA

District Council Area	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Antrim	100	320	960	1320	1780
Armagh	0	0	0	20	130
Ballymena	160	230	370	660	1,210
Ballymoney	170	210	250	340	450
Banbridge	50	150	240	350	460
Coleraine	110	260	460	550	930
Craigavon	40	220	410	850	1,470
Londonderry	250	650	1,240	1,960	3,450
Limavady	40	80	140	250	340
Newry & Mourne	50	110	260	340	650
TOTAL	970	2,230	4,330	6,640	10,870

All figures are cumulative.

Natural Gas

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what percentage of households in each council area currently avail of natural gas.

(AQW 8718/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Department does not hold this information in the detail necessary to provide a meaningful response.

Natural Gas

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what percentage of households currently have natural gas available to them.

(AQW 8719/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Department does not hold this information in the detail necessary to provide a meaningful response.

Gas Prices

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her Department's assessment of the volatility of future gas prices compared with renewable heating sources.

(AQW 8720/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Department is unable to comment on future natural gas prices and renewable heating sources such as biomass, as prices are driven by market forces, are subject to many variables, and are therefore outside the Department's control.

InvestNI Funding

Mr W Clarke asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much funding InvestNI has invested in businesses in the South Down area in each of the last ten years, broken down by the (i) type of business; and (ii) areas within South Down.
(AQW 8734/11-15)

Mrs Foster: As Invest NI was only established in 2002, the information contained in this answer relates to the 9 financial years 2002-03 to 2010-11.

Table 1 shows the amount of assistance offered by Invest NI in the South Down Parliamentary Constituency Area (PCA) between 2002-03 and 2010-11 broken down by type of business (industrial sector).

TABLE 1: INVEST NI ASSISTANCE OFFERED IN SOUTH DOWN PCA BY INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (2002-03 TO 2010-11)

SECTOR	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Business & Financial Services	1,955	19,876	180,672	142,755	68,820	52,488	70,797	51,893	147,112
Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals	14,250	-	10,126	80,119	41,828	20,000	-	74,700	15,585
Clothing & Textiles	1,554,320	38,675	303,905	-	1,056	-	-	25,200	1,000
Construction Services	-	100	1,568	74,558	97,985	71,492	16,400	264,950	204,381
Electrical, Electronic & Optical Equipment	-	8,000	-	91,037	4,400	-	-	1,000	12,900
External Delivery Organisations	-	100,000	14,729	-	-	-	5,000	-	-
Fabricated Metal & Metal Finishing	94,604	410,879	60,973	5,133	66,003	134,599	410,435	419,748	138,997
Food, Drink & Tobacco	478,804	31,646	103,852	165,799	135,804	119,183	115,630	573,106	157,853
Glass, Ceramic & Concrete Products	3,120	70,476	441,556	21,306	25,280	353,786	14,900	163,942	24,000
Non-Electrical Machinery	10,000	109,134	131,561	55,108	110,078	15,647	73,586	17,500	42,197

SECTOR	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Other Manufacturing	34,175	42,310	16,824	3,673,183	21,000	58,881	8,167,198	278,872	37,847
Other Services	111,873	161,793	2,735,717	25,820	6,302	368,143	99,294	242,706	89,513
Paper Products, Printing & Publishing	5,360	939	945	4,100	48,386	14,903	-	5,000	-
Rubber & Plastic products	26,500	2,700	849	-	25,000	39,184	5,000	28,584	20,075
Software & Computer Services	24,340	27,252	1,795	-	4,440	55,956	95,757	160,511	124,509
Transport Equipment	32,010	27,590	260,739	290,250	84,635	29,700	163,704	1,981,412	102,324
Wood Products	2,120	-	63,334	30,453	4,255	9,092	3,450	77,398	15,000
TOTAL	2,393,431	1,051,371	4,329,144	4,659,619	745,272	1,343,054	9,241,151	4,366,522	1,133,293

Table 2 shows the amount of assistance offered by Invest NI in the South Down PCA between 2002-03 and 2010-11 broken down by area (District Electoral Area (DEA)).

TABLE 2: INVEST NI ASSISTANCE OFFERED IN SOUTH DOWN PCA BY DEA (2002-03 TO 2010-11)

DEA	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Ballynahinch	66,450	87,446	38,872	-	1,056	99,184	29,800	142,017	67,302
Crotilieve	173,285	221,159	479,789	503,515	134,400	141,501	308,604	526,191	354,305
Downpatrick	142,110	108,227	169,374	78,558	129,586	253,645	172,016	402,126	90,621
Dromore	-	-	62,437	12,500	84,885	118	26,022	112,576	18,000
Knockiveagh	1,552,500	5,375	312,280	-	33,410	180,413	16,450	175,472	735
Newcastle	119,067	21,391	2,552,032	123,964	74,232	12,507	40,950	349,447	272,753
Rowallane	323,249	103,000	21,604	80,327	6,100	93,800	2,400	7,283	3,850
The Fews	1,820	232	1,304	408	96,880	72,079	82,783	749,305	163,916
The Mourne	14,950	504,541	691,452	3,860,347	184,723	489,807	8,562,126	1,915,355	163,579
TOTAL	2,393,431	1,051,371	4,329,144	4,659,619	745,272	1,343,054	9,241,151	4,379,772	1,135,061

Notes to Tables 1 & 2:

- 1 A further £26,149 of assistance offered cannot be split at Table 1 level.
- 2 A further £11,131 of assistance offered cannot be split at Table 2 level.
- 3 Sectors are based on the UK Standard Industrial Classifications..
- 4 DEAs are based on NI Statistics & Research Agency Central Postcode Directory.
- 5 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.

In addition, Invest NI offered assistance of £816,800 during the period to locally-owned start up businesses through the Start A Business programme. This support is shown by DEA in Table 3 below.

TABLE 3: INVEST NI ASSISTANCE OFFERED THROUGH THE START A BUSINESS PROGRAMME IN SOUTH DOWN PCA BY DEA (2002-03 TO 2010-11)

DEA	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Ballynahinch	5,250	16,250	15,750	12,400	6,400	12,000	3,800	-	-
Crotilieve	42,250	32,000	55,250	34,100	16,400	21,600	11,800	-	-
Downpatrick	24,000	40,500	61,750	34,950	12,000	18,400	8,800	-	-
Dromore	1,750	4,500	3,750	2,800	400	400	1,200	-	-
Knockiveagh	3,250	11,750	5,000	8,100	7,600	4,800	3,400	-	-
Newcastle	18,500	24,500	39,250	24,150	12,600	13,000	12,200	-	-
Rowallane	5,750	3,750	12,000	5,050	800	2,800	1,200	-	-
The Fews	5,250	5,750	4,500	6,250	1,800	2,400	1,200	-	-
The Mournes	13,250	9,750	22,000	8,750	5,800	7,000	3,200	-	-
Total	119,250	148,750	219,250	136,550	63,800	82,400	46,800	-	-

NOTES:

- 1 Start a Business Programme was renamed as the Enterprise Development Programme during 2009-10, which offers guidance and support but does not offer financial assistance.

Extending the Gas Network to Ballycastle

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her Department's assessment of the possibility of extending the gas network to Ballycastle.

(AQW 8775/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Extending the natural gas network to new areas such as Ballycastle can only take place where it is economically viable to do so, and ultimately, will depend on the natural gas industry coming forward with specific proposals. The availability of suitable gas loads in Ballycastle is therefore an important factor for extension of the gas network, as would be the commitment of companies and public sector organisations in the area to connect to natural gas if it were to become available.

Local Nuclear Power Provision

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether companies have contacted her Department expressing an interest in providing local nuclear power provision.

(AQW 8776/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I can confirm that no companies have approached my Department to express an interest in providing a nuclear power facility in Northern Ireland.

High Speed Satellite Broadband Services

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action has been taken to inform rural communities of the provision of high speed satellite broadband services since the contract was awarded in January 2012.

(AQW 8777/11-15)

Mrs Foster: On 6 January 2012, I announced the award of a contract to deliver high-speed satellite broadband services to Onwave Ltd. The contract ensures that everyone in Northern Ireland continues to have access to broadband services. Onwave delivers services in areas where, due to commercial and technical reasons, broadband cannot be accessed via telephone lines.

Onwave has an extensive marketing strategy to promote its services across Northern Ireland, which includes radio advertising and printed material. I understand that the company has also engaged in a series of meetings with local representatives and key stakeholders to explain the benefits of high-speed broadband.

My Department has developed a telecommunications Fact Sheet, which references all broadband technologies available in Northern Ireland. The Fact Sheet is currently being updated and will reflect the arrival of Onwave to the Northern Ireland market.

I will arrange for a copy of the revised Fact Sheet to issue to all Members and to be placed in the Assembly Library. The Fact Sheet will also be sent to key stakeholders across Northern Ireland and is available on the DETI website.

Consultants Used by Invest NI

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the total cost for the consultants used by Invest NI over each of the last five years.

(AQW 8788/11-15)

Mrs Foster:

Type of Consultancy	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Economic Appraisals & Programme Evaluations	£618k	£679k	£888k	£772k	£530k
Sector and Economic Studies	£159k	£148k	£80k	£99k	£134k
Investment, Audit & Governance	£55k	£0k	£17k	£319k	£232k
IT Systems Consultancy	£72k	£96k	£211k	£86k	£208k
Others	£336k	£260k	£150k	£10k	£62k

Note that these figures include VAT

The above table provides a breakdown of the various categories of consultancy expenditure. A brief description of the major components is as follows

- “Economic Appraisals and Programme Evaluations” are an essential component in the decision to provide direct financial assistance and specialist programme advice to companies. These activities are conducted by technical and specialist external professional advisors who provide an independent assessment that seeks to demonstrate if a project should be supported or to evaluate if the actual outputs from a programme delivered the anticipated economic benefits. This category accounts for approximately 56% of consultancy spend.
- “Economic Reports and Sector Studies” provide an important input into informing and influencing the most effective support that can be developed for companies within given sectors. This category accounts for approximately 10% of consultancy spend.
- In some instances there is a requirement to engage external advisers to provide “Investment, Audit and Governance” services in relation to specific investments that require a more focused or specialist degree of monitoring. This category accounts for approximately 10% of consultancy spend.

Consequently due to the nature of Invest NI activities there is an ongoing requirement to engage external consultants. In particular the first three categories in the table which account for approximately 75% of the total expenditure on consultancy are essential to enable the organisation to fulfil its role whilst ensuring the highest level of governance standards.

These figures are as reported to DFP in the annual ‘Use of Consultants’ submission. The classification of consultants is in line with the definition under DFP guidance FD (DFP) 04/09 on the Use of External Consultants.

Enterprise Development Programme

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for a breakdown of the £6,720,266 programme delivery costs of the Enterprise Development Programme between December 2008 and October 2011.

(AQW 8789/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The £6,720,266 refers to programme delivery costs paid to the former contractor (Enterprise NI) for the Enterprise Development Programme and is broken down based on the two core elements of that programme:-

Start up (including pre start activity)	Growth
£5,972,004	£ 748,262

This figure should be viewed in the context of approximately £28.5m having been paid to Enterprise NI, by Invest NI, during the ten year period 2002 – 2012. These figures represent fees for programme delivery and do not include grant payments to start-up businesses.

Rugby World Cup

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions she has had with her Ministerial colleagues, in the Executive or in the Dublin Government, about the possibility of the Rugby World Cup coming to the island of Ireland in 2023.

(AQW 8790/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I raised the potential of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland hosting the 2023 Rugby World Cup at a meeting with Ulster Rugby on 28th February 2012. I understand that the IRFU are investigating the option of tabling a bid for 2023 but are not yet in a position to provide an update on the viability of such a bid. I would be happy to make representations as appropriate on behalf of Ulster Rugby when further details of the bid are known.

Business Start Up Scheme

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many people have contacted Invest NI with a view to setting up a business, in each month since the beginning of the legal challenge to the proposed Business Start Up Scheme.

(AQW 8791/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI has responded to a total of 3,216 enquiries from 1 October 2011 to 29 February 2012, the breakdown per month is:-

October 2011	November 2011	December 2011	January 2012	February 2012
714	594	570	694	644

Invest NI Business Start Up Programme

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment since the beginning of the legal challenge to the proposed Invest NI Business Start Up Programme, and in relation to those seeking advice to start a business (i) to which other stakeholders or organisations they have been redirected; (ii) how many have been redirected to each of these stakeholders or organisations; and (iii) how many have been dealt with by Invest NI.

(AQW 8792/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI is proactively engaging with DEL, specifically their Steps to Work Programme (STW), and with Prince's Trust NI (PTNI). Where appropriate individuals have been signposted to organisations at a local level.

Invest NI has an active and on-going relationship with DEL (and its service providers) in relation to the Self Employment strand of its STW programme. Participants on the STW are routinely referred to Invest NI for advice and support in relation to starting their businesses.

Invest NI has responded directly to 587 Steps to Work enquiries, had 1:1 meetings with 78 STW participants, 244 STW participants have attended Invest NI's business clinics and 144 of these individuals have completed business plans. STW participants can access additional support through DEL's service providers.

Invest NI also has an agreement with Prince's Trust NI that all enquiries received from 18-24 years olds will be refer to the Trusts' Enterprise Programme through which they can receive additional support. Invest NI engages directly with these individuals through the Invest NI business clinics and 1:1 advisory sessions.

Invest NI has referred 109 individuals to PTNI.

As outlined at (ii)

Multiple Redundancies in a Concentrated Area or Constituency

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the support her Department can provide when there are multiple redundancies in a concentrated area or in a constituency.

(AQW 8824/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In those unfortunate circumstances where job losses are announced by an Invest NI client company, Invest NI works closely with colleagues in the Department for Employment and Learning to do all possible to limit the impact of any redundancies and sustain as many jobs as possible in the short term. This may include the provision of specialist 'redundancy clinics' which offer a wide range of advice to those affected. Where possible, these clinics will seek to highlight any other suitable job vacancies in the area and provide affected staff with details of benefit entitlements. Invest NI's Regional Office teams also play a significant role in such clinics by providing one to one advice and guidance to those who may wish to consider self employment as an alternative.

Generating Electricity from Renewable Sources

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what progress has been made on the targets for generating electricity from renewable sources.

(AQW 8829/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Programme for Government 2008 – 2011 target of 12% electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2012 has been exceeded. Over the twelve month rolling period to end January 2012, on average, 13.5% of electricity consumption was from renewable sources.

SeaGen Tidal Energy Converter

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the success and viability of the SeaGen tidal energy converter installed in Strangford Lough.

(AQW 8830/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The 1.2 MW SeaGen demonstration device, installed in Strangford Lough in 2008, has been successful on several different levels. It was the first grid connected commercial scale tidal energy system authorised as a UK power station and able to claim Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) for its generation. It can generate 20 MW hrs per day on average and produces as much energy as a typical wind turbine of twice its electrical capacity (2.5MW). It has to date generated over 3 GW hrs of electricity to the NI Grid which is more than all the rest of the UK wave and tidal sector combined.

The device has been the subject of a very detailed environmental monitoring programme and in January 2012 an independent report concluded that it has had no significant or adverse impact on the marine environment. In light of this, Marine Current Turbines, SeaGen's owners have announced that they are seeking an extension to the current 5 year licence to generate in Strangford Lough, which expires in 2013. In February 2012 Siemens, one of the global leaders of renewable technologies announced its acquisition of MCT.

SeaGen Tidal Energy Converter

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many local homes are supplied with electricity generated by the SeaGen tidal energy converter installed in Strangford Lough.
(AQW 8831/11-15)

Mrs Foster: No local homes are supplied with electricity generated by Seagen, although the energy output from SeaGen would be sufficient to power around 1500 homes if it was bought by a domestic energy provider. However, SeaGen's generation is bought under a power purchase agreement by ESBI who in turn sell it to a commercial company.

SeaGen Tidal Energy Converter

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what plans she has to install more energy generators similar to the SeaGen tidal energy converter.
(AQW 8832/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The installation of more energy generators similar to SeaGen is a matter for commercial developers. As managers of the seabed, The Crown Estate, announced the first Northern Ireland Offshore Renewable Energy Leasing Round in December 2011 and it is seeking proposals from companies for offshore wind and tidal projects. As regards tidal developments, proposals are being sought for a range of projects from small scale (1MW to 10MW) to larger scale (10MW to 100MW) within an overall limit of 200MW for the Rathlin Island and Torr Head Strategic Area. Such projects may involve the use of a number of different types of tidal technology from a range of companies.

My Department encourages further development of tidal energy by incentivising renewable generators through the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation which provides a revenue stream for renewable electricity generated in the form of Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs).

Customer Charter for Home Heating Oil Companies

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the proposal by the Consumer Council to make domestic home heating oil companies sign up to a Customer Charter.
(AQW 8838/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I understand that the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland (CCNI) is working, in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Oil Federation (NIOF), to develop a voluntary Code of Practice which, it is proposed, will address service standard issues/redress, including payment methods, support, energy efficiency, complaints, customer care and safety. The aim is to introduce it over the next 3 – 6 months.

I welcome the collaborative approach between the CCNI and the NIOF on the development of this Customer Charter.

Bureaucracy in the TradeLinks Programme

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what steps she will take to reduce bureaucracy in the TradeLinks programme which operates between Enterprise NI and the Border County Enterprise Boards in the Republic of Ireland.
(AQW 8849/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department has no role in the administrative oversight of the Tradelinks programme or its internal processes. Enterprise Northern Ireland delivers Tradelinks II under the terms of an Interreg IVA letter of offer from the Special EU Programmes Body.

HCL BPO Services NI

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she had any discussions with HCL BPO Services NI prior to its decision to shed 255 jobs in Northern Ireland; and whether she was aware prior to the announcement that it was creating 220 jobs in Kilkenny.

(AQW 8852/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I have met with senior representatives from HCL BPO Services over recent months and throughout our discussions have sought to retain and sustain as many jobs as possible for Northern Ireland. HCL's decision to retain a significant presence in Northern Ireland and to continue to invest in their operation here is to be welcomed. These job losses are extremely regrettable but I have been informed that this decision was not taken lightly and is as a result of wider commercial circumstances and unconnected to the announcement in Kilkenny. I have received assurances from HCL's senior management team that any jobs planned for Kilkenny are from clients based in the ROI and are to meet client requirements to deliver services in the Republic of Ireland.

Secondment to Trade Unions

Mr McCallister asked Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the number of (a) full-time; and (b) part-time staff who are currently on secondment from her Department, or its arm's length bodies, to each recognised trade union; (ii) the salary scale for each secondee; and (iii) the length of each secondment to date.

(AQW 8857/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Department and its arms length bodies currently have (i) (a) one full-time member of staff and (b) one part-time member of staff on secondment to a recognised trade union. (ii) The salary scales for the two secondees are £18,038 to £22,180 and £21,392 to £23,250. (iii) The length of the two secondments to date is 3 years 3 months and 2 years 10 months.

InvestNI: Ipsos Mori

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether InvestNI commissioned Ipsos Mori to undertake market research into stakeholder perceptions of InvestNI in 2010/11; and when these results will be made public.

(AQW 8859/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Aside from dealing with businesses and client companies, Invest NI also engages with a wide range of stakeholders including elected representatives, business organisations and the media, financial and economic institutions and seeks feedback on its performance, communication and engagement with them.

In February 2011, Invest Northern Ireland (Invest NI) commissioned Ipsos MORI, an independent market research organisation, to conduct research and seek the views of a range of representatives from local business organisations, the media, financial and economic institutions and elected representatives.

Whilst the survey covered a broad range of stakeholders, with a diverse range of, sometimes competing, interests, it is encouraging that knowledge of Invest NI and its remit among its stakeholders is high and impressions of the organisation are generally positive. Opinions on Invest NI were considered to have improved over year prior to the report, despite the difficult economic climate.

Relationships with those stakeholders with whom Invest NI has the most engagement are clearly stronger than with the wider stakeholder group. This is not surprising and even inevitable, and I am aware that the Chief Executive and leadership team continually strive to improve relationships with the wider stakeholder group.

Ferry Prices

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 8024/11-15 what action her Department is taking to address the Consumer Council's report of December 2011 which recommended that the Executive, in conjunction with the Scottish Executive and the Department of Transport should examine the potential for reducing the cost to consumers of Irish Sea ferry services. **(AQW 8944/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: The development and operation of ferry links, and the fares the operators charge, are entirely matters for commercial decision by individual sea carriers and the Northern Ireland and Great Britain ports. My Department has not therefore discussed the Consumer Council report, "Ferry Travel - A Consumer Council report on the perceptions and experiences of ferry passengers in Northern Ireland", with the Scottish Executive or the Department for Transport.

Northern Ireland Tourist Board Funding

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the funding provided by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and her Department to the (i) Twelfth of July Celebrations; (ii) 13th July Royal Black Preceptory Sham Fight in Scarva; and (iii) Royal Black Preceptory celebrations in August, in each of the last five years. **(AQW 8982/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: The Northern Ireland Tourist Board has not received any request for funding from the Orange Order or the Royal Black Preceptory in the last five years. The current Tourism Events Fund closed on the 7 October 2011. The NITB hopes to open its 2013/14 Tourism Event Fund in autumn 2012.

For six years the NITB has worked closely with the Orange Order in developing the tourism flagship programme.

Grants for Tourism Related Projects in the North Down Constituency

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the total amount paid out in grants for tourism related projects in the North Down constituency in each of the last five years. **(AQW 9050/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) has paid out a total of £38,688 in grants for three tourism related projects in the North Down constituency over the last five years:

- 2010-2011, £21,000 grant to North Down and Ards Borough Council's to develop an Ulster Scots Trail and undertake an Ulster Scots Names Project.
- 2011-2012, £10,386 grant to North Down Borough Council to enhance the interpretation and landscaping from Bangor Abbey to North Down Museum on the St. Patrick's Trail.
- 2011-2012 £7,302 grant to North Down Borough Council to install two large bespoke totem information panels at North Down Museum and Bangor Abbey on the St. Patrick's Trail.
- In addition, NITB have issued 2 Letters of Offer to North Down Borough Council for two projects in the 2012 – 2013 period:
- £11,891 grant to enhance the visitor facilities at Groomsport village which is one of the key stop off points within North Down along the Mourne Coastal Route.
- £28,232 grant to upgrade the exhibitions and the overall visitor experience in North Down Museum.

An application has been received under the open call TDS 2011-13 from the North Down constituency. This project is currently being scored.

Our time, Our Place

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if and when, she met, or plans to meet, with (i) the Irish Football Association; (ii) the GAA; and (iii) Ulster Rugby to discuss the input they could have into 'Our time, Our Place'.

(AQW 9068/11-15)

Mrs Foster: NITB officials and I met with Ulster Rugby on 28th February 2012 to further understand Ulster Rugby's role in developing the tourism product in Northern Ireland and in driving civic pride amongst the population of Northern Ireland. NITB has also contacted the Irish Football Association and the GAA, to arrange further meetings with the same objectives. In addition NITB continues to work closely with and regularly meet the European Tour to understand the role golf and the Irish Open can play in promoting Northern Ireland in 2012.

Department of the Environment

Environmental Impact of Fracking

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment what (i) discussions; (ii) investigations; and (iii) assessments on the environmental impact of fracking have taken place (a) within his Department; (b) with experts and specialists; and (c) with other Governments or administrations.

(AQW 5956/11-15)

Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment): I am fully aware of that there are widespread concerns in relation to the process of hydraulic fracturing. While no planning applications have been received to date it is anticipated Tamboran Resources will submit applications possibly as early as next year.

In the interim the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is continuing to supplement its knowledge of the process through reviewing emerging research, studying case studies from other parts of the world and liaising with counterparts in other Environment Agencies in Britain and Ireland, and other countries where fracking is currently proposed or taking place.

NIEA met with the Republic of Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Dublin, on the 17 January 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to establish formal lines of communication to enable transboundary issues regarding the current proposals to carry out a hydraulic fracturing operation in the Lough Allen Basin, which is within both Northern Ireland's and the RoI's jurisdictions, to be discussed. The EPA welcomed the discussions and stated their commitment to ensuring a close working relationship between both Agencies going forward. The next meeting between the Agencies will take place in March, in Belfast. I will raise this issue with Minister Hogan at an NSMC Environment Sectoral Meeting on 2 March 2012.

In addition, at a cross Departmental level, officials from DOE (Planning, NIEA), and DETI (Health and Safety Executive, Geological Survey) are meeting to discuss the hydraulic fracturing process and the likely Departmental responses to future proposals. The scope of these meetings has widened to involve officials from corresponding Departments in the Republic of Ireland. To date this grouping has met twice; in November 2011 and again in early February 2012.

Recently I met with representatives of Tamboran Resources and conveyed the imperative that the company ensures it complies with all planning and environmental requirements. Tamboran have accepted the need for such assessments and to liaise with both Strategic Planning Division and NIEA in scoping the content of an Environmental Statement if the issue of fracking moves forward.

I will ensure that at both Ministerial and official level liaison with counterparts in the RoI will continue to allow a better understanding of the environmental risks resulting from this process for the mutual benefit of both jurisdictions as the current area of exploration straddles both sides of the border.

I am also further assessing what environmental requirements are needed in advance of any future planning application and in relation to any future exploratory drilling.

Civil Service Posts

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of the Environment how many Civil Service posts existed in his Department at (i) Administrative Assistant; (ii) Administrative Officer; (iii) Executive Officer 2; (iv) Executive Officer 1; (v) Staff Officer; (vi) Deputy Principal; (vii) Grade 7; and (viii) Grade 6 levels, at the beginning of (a) 2007; and (b) 2012, broken down by local Council area.

(AQW 7800/11-15)

Mr Attwood:

- 1 Details of Northern Ireland Civil Service staff in post in DOE at the beginning of 2007 broken down by local council area and analogous grades are as follows:

STAFF IN POST - JANUARY 2007

District Council Area	Grade 6/7	DP	SO	EO1/EO2	AO	AA	Total
Ards	-	-	1	8	28	-	37
Armagh	-	-	2	7	17	2	28
Ballymena	6	9	18	38	37	12	120
Belfast	97	207	242	301	244	78	1169
Carrickfergus	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Castlereagh	-	-	1	3	-	1	5
Coleraine	7	14	28	64	209	82	404
Cookstown	-	-	-	4	23	-	27
Craigavon	5	12	26	39	36	19	137
Derry	4	5	12	19	31	5	76
Down	5	7	17	33	35	15	112
Dungannon	-	1	2	3	1	-	7
Fermanagh	-	3	9	14	33	5	64
Larne	-	-	1	4	13	-	18
Limavady	-	-	1	2	4	-	7
Lisburn	10	19	74	80	36	10	228
Magherafelt	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Newry & Mourne	-	-	-	8	12	1	21
Newtownabbey	-	-	-	4	23	-	27
North Down	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Omagh	5	9	20	26	32	14	106
Total	139	286	455	659	815	244	2598

- 2 In addition to the staff in post details provided DOE had 220 vacancies at the beginning of 2007. A breakdown of these vacancies by local council is not available.
- 3 Details of Northern Ireland Civil Service staff in post at the beginning of 2012 broken down by local council area are as follows:

STAFF IN POST - JANUARY 2012

District Council Area	Grade 6	Grade 7	DP	S0	EOI	E02	A0	AA	Total
Ards	-	-	-	1	7	-	42	-	50
Armagh	-	-	-	2	3	1	26	1	33
Ballymena	1	2	9	20	16	4	36	5	93
Belfast	14	82	228	259	153	98	214	31	1079
Carrickfergus	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Castlereagh	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	5
Coleraine	2	8	15	31	28	41	224	78	427
Cookstown	-	-	-	1	3	-	27	-	31
Craigavon	-	3	8	27	20	6	38	7	109
Derry	-	2	5	15	14	4	32	2	74
Down	-	2	7	20	15	4	33	7	88
Dungannon	-	-	-	4	4	-	2	1	11
Fermanagh	-	-	3	8	12	2	30	2	57
Larne	-	-	-	1	2	-	20	-	23
Limavady	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	-	7
Lisburn	1	6	30	75	68	7	48	9	244
Magherafelt	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Newry & Mourne	-	-	-	1	6	-	22	1	30
Newtownabbey	-	-	-	1	3	-	29	-	33
North Down	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	3
Omagh	1	4	7	22	7	6	35	5	87
Total	19	109	312	490	370	173	864	150	2487

- 4 Details of related vacancies in DOE at the beginning of 2012 broken down by local council area are as follows:

VACANCIES – JANUARY 2012

District Council Area	Grade 6/7	DP	S0	EOI/E02	A0	AA	Total
Ards	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Armagh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ballymena	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Belfast	4	12	22	20	8	3	69
Carrickfergus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Castlereagh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

District Council Area	Grade 6/7	DP	SO	E01/E02	A0	AA	Total
Coleraine	-	2	5	7	2	1	17
Cookstown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Craigavon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derry	-	-	-	6	-	-	6
Down	-	-	1	-	.5	-	1.5
Dungannon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fermanagh	-	-	-	-	.5	-	05
Larne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Limavady	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lisburn	2		4.4	-	1		7.4
Magherafelt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newry & Mourne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newtownabbey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Down	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Omagh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	14	32.4	33	14	4	103.4

People Caught Without a Valid Tax Disc

Mr McDavitt asked the Minister of the Environment how many people were caught without a valid tax disc in 2011, as a result of mobile roadside checks, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 8330/11-15)

Mr Attwood: DVA operates two forms of roadside checks for vehicles being used without valid tax discs. Reports of unlicensed vehicles are received from vehicles equipped with automatic number plate reading (ANPR) camera equipment and from VEAS, the company employed under a UK-wide contract to provide wheelclamping services.

Unfortunately the Agency is unable to provide a breakdown of detections by constituency because records are stored in the IT system against individual vehicle registration marks and places of detection are not stored in a way that would facilitate the production of relevant figures. However, the total number of vehicles detected as a result of mobile roadside checks in 2011 was 23,776.

Postage and Printing Costs

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department, and its arm's-length bodies, give elected representatives the choice of receiving reports and all other correspondence by email to minimise postage and printing costs.

(AQW 8424/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In line with good practice and sustainable development, my Department and its arms length bodies issues documents, where practical, either in electronic format or alternatively provides details of the relevant web link / address.

Where there is a statutory requirement for a document to be laid before the Assembly, where possible, these are hand delivered in bulk to Parliament Buildings for distribution to members' pigeon holes reducing the distribution costs.

Correspondence from elected representatives is normally responded to in the same format as used by the elected representative.

Equality Impact Assessments and Public Consultations

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment how much his Department has spent on (i) Equality Impact Assessments; and (ii) public consultations in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8429/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The table below provides details of the amounts the Department has spent on printing, advertising and postage costs associated with public consultations in each of the last three years (2008/09 to 2010/11).

Business Area	2008/09 £	2009/10 £	2010/11 £
Department (excluding agencies)	28,922	49,893	102,202
Planning Service	2,822	65,965	939
DVA	180	180	-
Total	31,924	116,038	103,141

As there are no specific account codes for 'Equality Impact Assessments' or 'public consultation' it is not possible to be definitive about the level of expenditure that may have been incurred for each of these activities. However, in attempt to answer this AQW, figures have been extracted based on a review of a number of analysis codes, which in the main relate to the consultation process.

The increase of £52,309 in the Department's spend (excluding agencies), from 2009/10 to 2010/11, mainly reflects the public consultation costs of a number of road safety activities covering Graduated Driver Licensing, Signs and Warning Lights on school buses and the Goods Vehicle (Licensing of Operators) Act NI 2010 – Licensing of Operators and Enforcement powers. The increase of £63,143 in Planning Service from 2008/09 to 2009/10 is mainly due to the engagement of consultants to assist with the stakeholder consultation exercise conducted on the Reform of the NI Planning System.

Planning Policy to Encourage New Businesses to Locate in Town Centres

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment what plans his Department has to introduce a planning policy to encourage new businesses to locate in town centres.

(AQW 8526/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I wish to progress retail planning policy by focusing on where is best to grow and develop retailing in the future. As a first step, I will soon be announcing that weight shall be given to draft PPS 5 on 'Retailing, Town Centres and Commercial Leisure Developments' which seeks to sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of town centres in a manner consistent with achieving the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy 2025.

Following this it is my intention to proceed with work on finalising a fit for purpose retail planning policy as quickly as possible. To this end I will be initiating a policy 'conversation' among all key stakeholders on the future of our city and town centres. This will involve a wide ranging debate on all matters relating to the vitality and viability of city / town centres.

Revised PPS 4 published in November 2010 includes planning policy for economic development, including office use, and encourages such development in city and town centres.

Protection to Cyclists

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what plans his Department has for safety devices to be fitted on lorries to give greater protection to cyclists.

(AQW 8527/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department is aware of the difficulties faced by cyclists in heavy and fast moving traffic and of the difficulties that lorry drivers experience in detecting cyclists when in close proximity. The risk of “blind spots” in driver’s vision is therefore an issue which the Department has been keen to address.

In November 2009, the Department amended the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations (NI) 1999 to implement EC Directive 2007/38/EC on the retrofitting of mirrors in heavy goods vehicles which requires goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross weight, and first used after 1 January 2000, to be retrofitted with improved ‘wide angle’ and ‘close proximity’ mirrors on the passenger side. These additional mirrors increase the driver’s field of vision and reduce “blind spots”, thus giving HGV drivers improved vision of cyclists and other road users.

Construction and Use Regulations also require the fitment of protective side guards to the majority of heavy goods vehicles. These are intended to prevent cyclists and other vulnerable road users slipping under the front and rear wheels of such vehicles.

You will wish to note that the Department is currently developing a new public information campaign on awareness of blind spots on heavy goods vehicles. This campaign is due to launch in the next few weeks and should be of benefit to all road users, including cyclists. The Department is monitoring the occurrence of accidents to determine the need for further measures.

Road Safety Issues

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what plans his Department has to increase awareness amongst drivers of the road safety issues faced by cyclists and pedestrians.

(AQW 8528/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The DOE has a statutory duty to promote road safety. One of the ways it raises awareness of road safety issues is through the Department’s road safety advertising campaigns.

Two road-user groups, cyclists and pedestrians, are particularly vulnerable and as such the Department has recently taken action to increase awareness amongst all road users, including drivers, of the risks they face on the road.

In October 2011 the Department launched the ‘Be Cycle Aware’ campaign, employing radio and bus rear advertising, in order to remind drivers and cyclists on the road to pay attention when sharing the road.

A radio advert targets drivers as they travel in the car during daytime hours when they would be expected to share the road with cyclists.

A second radio advert and bus rear advertising targets cyclists, reminding them of their vulnerability and the need to pay attention and stay safe on the roads.

This activity is in line with Action Measure 124 of the Road Safety Strategy 2020 - “We will give consideration to measures that improve the safety of cyclists; including what cyclists can do to keep themselves safe and what other road users can do”.

Pedestrian casualties are of particular concern and as such the Department is currently developing a new campaign that will raise awareness of pedestrians amongst drivers and will also urge pedestrians to be more aware of drivers.

Initially, this will be a television campaign, strongly supported by press and online activity. All messages in the new pedestrian campaign will link to the relevant advice in the Highway Code. The campaign is due to launch in the coming months.

This activity addresses many of the elements as outlined in action measures 125, 126, 127 and 129 of the Road Safety Strategy 2020.

Currently all road users are provided with detailed guidance through the current edition of the Highway Code which contains rules, information and advice that helps prepare them for the demands of today's roads. Advice on how drivers should treat vulnerable road users, including cyclists and pedestrians, with extra care and attention is covered specifically by Rules 204 to 218 of the Code.

Policy in Relation to Cyclists

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what consideration he has given to establishing a cross-departmental group to co-ordinate a policy in relation to cyclists.

(AQW 8529/11-15)

Mr Attwood: DRD has responsibility for sustainable transport, and therefore takes the lead on encouraging cycling as a form of transport.

The 2007 NI Cycling Strategy Report suggested that there was an opportunity to integrate cycling and walking into one sustainable transport forum. This developed into an Active Travel Forum which was established in March 2010, a cross Departmental body chaired by DRD that includes a representative from DOE, as well as from DHSSPS, DE and DOJ.

Travelwise, Northern Ireland's Safer Routes to Schools (SRS), is an initiative between the DRD and the Department of Education (DE) with input from a number of other partners, including the DOE. The initiative encourages parents, children and teachers to use sustainable transport, which includes cycling, for their journey to and from school.

Under Article 52 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 DOE has a statutory duty to promote road safety and one of the ways the Department does this is through the provision of the Cycling Proficiency Scheme (CPS). The Department's interest in providing cycle training to primary school children is as a road safety improvement measure.

In October 2011 the Department launched the 'Be Cycle Aware' campaign, employing radio and bus rear advertising, in order to remind drivers and cyclists on the road to pay attention when sharing the road. A radio advert targets drivers as they travel in the car during daytime hours when they would be expected to share the road with cyclists. A second radio advert and bus rear advertising targets cyclists, reminding them of their vulnerability and the need to pay attention and stay safe on the roads.

As indicated in this answer, there are therefore a number of Departments working on cycle matters, and a number of groups to coordinate this work.

Enforcement Cases

Mr Craig asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 6634/11-15, how many of the enforcement cases in the Lisburn area were resolved within (i) one year; (ii) two years; and (iii) three years or more.

(AQW 8577/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department holds data on the length of time taken to deal with each enforcement case and separates this information into four categories as follows: those closed within 0 -1 year; 1- 2 years; 2 – 3 years; and finally those 3 years and over.

The table on the following page details those of files closed in Lisburn district for each of the past two complete financial years and that of the current financial year to date. The table also indicates the length of time taken to secure a closure in those cases.

	Belfast Area	Belfast Area	Belfast Area
	1/4/09 to 31/3/10	1/4/10 to 31/3/11	1/4/11 to date 28/2/12
	Lisburn	Lisburn	Lisburn
0-1 yr	79	160	44
1-2yrs	50	28	35
2-3yrs	31	18	19
3+yrs	38	37	83
	198	243	181

Hydraulic Fracturing

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment (i) whether his Department has adequate resources and expertise to assess planning applications which include the process of hydraulic fracturing, given that such planning applications have never been assessed in Northern Ireland; and (ii) whether his Department has the capacity to assess an Environmental Impact Assessment submitted by an applicant in relation to hydraulic fracturing.

(AQW 8589/11-15)

Mr Attwood: As I have previously stated I am fully aware that there are widespread concerns in relation to the process of hydraulic fracturing. While no planning applications have been received to date it is anticipated Tamboran Resources will submit applications possibly as early as next year. A full and proper Environmental Impact Statement will form the basis of the Departments determination of any application and I am confident my officials in Strategic Planning Division assisted by a range of consultees will be able to properly assess the proposal and supporting information.

One of the key consultees will be the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). In the interim the NIEA is continuing to supplement its knowledge of the process through reviewing emerging research, studying case studies from other parts of the world and liaising with counterparts in other Environment Agencies in Britain and Ireland, and other countries where fracking is currently proposed or taking place. I will of course, take and acquire any specialist advice needed to make a determination of a planning application.

NIEA met with the Republic of Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Dublin, on the 17 January 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to establish formal lines of communication to enable transboundary issues regarding the current proposals to carry out a hydraulic fracturing operation in the Lough Allen Basin, which is within both Northern Ireland's and the RoI's jurisdictions, to be discussed. The EPA welcomed the discussions and stated their commitment to ensuring a close working relationship between both Agencies going forward. The next meeting between the Agencies will take place in March, in Belfast.

In addition, at a cross Departmental level, officials from DOE (Planning, NIEA), and DETI (Health and Safety Executive, Geological Survey) are meeting to discuss the hydraulic fracturing process and the likely Departmental responses to future proposals. The scope of these meetings has widened to involve officials from corresponding Departments in the Republic of Ireland. To date this grouping has met twice; in November 2011 and again in early February 2012.

Recently I met with representatives of Tamboran Resources and made it clear to that I expect the most rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment in relation to this matter. Tamboran have accepted the need for such assessments and to liaise with both Strategic Planning Division and NIEA in scoping the content of the required Environmental Statement. Such a statement will form the basis of the Departments determination of relevant matters and it must take account of all potential impacts on the environment and public health.

I will ensure that at both Ministerial and official level liaison with counterparts in the RoI will continue to allow a better understanding of the environmental risks resulting from this process for the mutual benefit of both jurisdictions as the current area of exploration straddles both sides of the border.

Local Government Reform

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on when local government reform will be implemented.

(AQW 8590/11-15)

Mr Attwood: As the Minister responsible for implementation of the local government reform programme, I shall manage reform in line with the 2015 timetable proposed in the draft Programme for Government 2011-15.

I am currently establishing the implementation structures required to help manage and integrate the work needed to bring about the operational delivery of the programme. This includes a Regional Transition Committee, which I will chair, to provide the high level political leadership necessary to drive implementation forward. Its membership will include the Chairs of the 11 Voluntary Transition Committees, which are to be restored by the end of this month to enable convergence work to commence in each of the council groupings.

I am also taking forward the programme of legislation required to give effect to local government reorganisation. There are two main pieces of legislation, the first of which is the draft Local Government (Boundaries) Order (NI) 2012, which has recently been agreed by the Executive and will be laid before the Assembly in the near future. The second is the Local Government (Reorganisation) Bill which, subject to the Executive's agreement, I intend to introduce during the autumn session to give effect to the Executive's decisions on the future shape of local government.

Rose Energy's Proposal for an Incinerator at Glenavy

Mr Frew asked the Minister of the Environment when a decision on Rose Energy's proposal for an incinerator at Glenavy will be announced.

(AQW 8612/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The former Minister's announcement of August 2010 was the subject of judicial review proceedings. Lord Justice McCloskey adjourned the judicial review proceedings on 2 March 2011 on the basis that the application process had not been completed.

The applications are now in the final stage of consideration. The files on this case containing a report and recommendation will be forwarded to me within the next few weeks.

The Department will make a recommendation to me on whether to proceed by way of a NOP to approve or refuse the applications or by way of a Public Inquiry.

Built Heritage

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of the Environment how much revenue has been generated by Built Heritage in each of the last five years.

(AQW 8618/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Revenue generated within the Northern Ireland Environment Agency from its Built Heritage in each of the last five full financial years is as follows:

Year	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Admission to historic monuments in state care, retail and book sales, educational tours, wedding and other bookings, commercial filming, photography and operation of the ferry to Devenish.	£242,667	£305,593	£282,969	£250,709	£243,881
Total	£1,346,827				

Revenue generated from the Built Heritage for 2011-12 is not yet available though admission charges alone have already exceeded £250,000.

My Department has no access to figures for revenue generated by others in the Built Heritage sector such as the National Trust.

Built Heritage

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of the Environment how much Built Heritage has invested in (i) private homes; (ii) commercial premises; and (iii) public buildings in each of the last five years.
(AQW 8619/11-15)

Mr Attwood: NIEA compiles information based on the following categories - Church Grant; District Council Grant; National Trust Grant, and Private Grant. I have provided, on the attached table, a breakdown of grant-aid disbursed in these categories for each of the last 5 financial years. Figures are not yet available for the 2011/12 financial year.

It is not possible to break this information down into 'commercial premises' as this is not a specific category for grant-aid; large commercial organisations are not eligible for grant-aid, as is the case with 'public buildings'.

Financial Year	Church Grant	District Council Grant	National Trust Grant	Private Grant	Total
2006/07	£295,160	£83,240	£109,080	£1,092,394	£1,579,874
2007/08	£392,827	£173,886	£291,156	£1,500,359	£2,358,228
2008/09	£689,740	£639,933	£93,534	£2,672,257	£4,095,464
2009/10	£483,804	£258,189	£127,675	£2,457,184	£3,326,852
2010/11	£963,210	£510,546	£10,220	£2,291,795	£3,775,771

Anaerobic Digesters and Wind Turbines

Mr Frew asked the Minister of the Environment what funding or incentives his Department has in place for anaerobic digesters and wind turbines.
(AQW 8630/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Under the Rethink Waste Programme the Department provides capital and revenue funding to encourage diversion of waste from landfill and to boost recycling. My Department does not specifically provide funding or incentives for provision of renewable energy infrastructure projects such as anaerobic digesters or wind turbines. However, I understand that you have also tabled this question

to my Ministerial colleagues in both DARD and DETI and they will therefore confirm the position of their respective Departments in relation to funding for renewable energy projects.

Civil Service: Temporary Contracts

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment (i) how many of the staff at the Driver and Vehicle Agency headquarters, Coleraine, are employed on temporary contracts; and (ii) for how long each member of staff has been employed on a temporary contract.

(AQW 8635/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Table 1 attached provides details on the four staff employed on temporary contracts at the Driver and Vehicle Agency Headquarters, Coleraine.

In addition to these temporary staff twenty-one agency workers are engaged at the Driver and Vehicle Agency Headquarters, Coleraine, through a Recruitment Agency. Details on these are provided at Table 2.

In the main these casual staff and agency workers are used to cover staff absences such as maternity leave and peaks in demand.

You will note that four of the agency workers have exceeded the normal 51 week limit set by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP). Flexibility on the 51 week rule has been approved by DFP. This is to allow for completion of a casual recruitment competition necessary to provide continuity in relation to the Agency's responsibilities to conduct Automatic Number Plate checks on behalf of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Swansea. The competition is expected to be finalised by May 2012.

The typical cost of employing a casual member of staff at DVA Headquarters Coleraine is £1,400 per calendar month. During the month of January 2012 the cost of agency workers engaged at the Driver and Vehicle Agency Headquarters, Coleraine was circa £25,000.

TABLE 1: CASUAL STAFF EMPLOYED DIRECTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF DVA

Duration of Engagement to Date (Weeks)	Number of Casual Staff
Commenced 27/2/2012	1
3	2
7	1
Total	4

TABLE 2: AGENCY WORKERS ENGAGED THROUGH A RECRUITMENT AGENCY

Duration of Engagement to Date (Weeks)	Number of Agency Workers
Commenced 27/2/2012	1
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	1
8	1
10	1
15	1
16	1

Duration of Engagement to Date (Weeks)	Number of Agency Workers
18	1
20	2
21	1
23	1
38	1
39	2
58	1
59	2
60	1
Total	21

Beneficiaries of Landfill Tax

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the beneficiaries of landfill tax in each council area in the last 12 months.

(AQW 8636/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Landfill Tax is a reserved matter and is administered by HMRC on behalf of the Treasury.

All of the revenue that is raised through landfill tax in Northern Ireland goes to the UK Exchequer. Since 2003/04, as a Barnett consequential, Northern Ireland has received an allocation from the landfill tax. However, there is no direct link between the area in which the revenue is raised and where it is spent. The use of all funding that is allocated through the Barnett formula is a matter for the Executive.

Some further monies raised through landfill taxes are returned to Northern Ireland through the Landfill Communities Fund.

The Landfill Communities Fund (formerly the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme) enables landfill site operators to claim tax credit for contributions they make to approved environmental bodies for spending on projects that benefit the environment. The environmental bodies are those enrolled by ENTRUST, the regulatory body for the scheme.

For the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 (the latest 12 month period that figures are available) there were 34 NI Environmental Bodies enrolled by ENTRUST. During this period, £840,919.95 was spent on 47 projects based in Northern Ireland by 9 Environmental Bodies.

The projects by council area and the Environmental Bodies are set out in the following table. A number of the projects by their nature cover more than one council area.

LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND – PROJECT/PROJECT SPEND 2010/2011 BY COUNCIL AREA

District Council Area	Environmental Body	Project	Project Spend
Ards Borough Council	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	1 Coastal Habitat Restoration –WWT Castle Espie	1 £9,650.00
Armagh City & District Council	EB Scotland Ltd	1 Markethill Recreation Area	1 £2,551.10
		2 Palace Grounds Armagh	2 £932.20

District Council Area	Environmental Body	Project	Project Spend
Banbridge District Council	Wildlife Trust (Ulster)	1 Solitude Park Maintenance	1 £6,783.51
Belfast City Council	Groundwork Northern Ireland Colin Glen Trust	1 Glenbank Woodland Trail 2 Divis Mountain to Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park and Nature Trail 3 PIPS House Access Project 4 Multipurpose Biodiversity Garden and Playspace at An Droichead 5 Suffolk Community Centre Interactive Outdoor Play Area 6 Inverary garden – reimagining second bonfire site 7 Hannahstown Community Garden 8 Sport and Leisure Swifts FC 9 Ligoniel Environment & Heritage Project 10 Tyndale Community Garden of Reflection 11 Ligoniel Environment & Heritage Project – Phase II 12 The HUBB Civil Defence Hall Renovation 13 The Colin Glen Forest Park Biodiversity Enhancement Programme	1 £980.00 2 £24,356.49 3 £1,067.10 4 £4,248.00 5 £46,700.36 6 £705.82 7 £1,682.43 8 £24,905.25 9 £17,608.88 10 £20,421.89 11 £18,350.34 12 £29,692.00 13 £20,811.70
Coleraine Borough Council	EB Scotland Limited Conservation Volunteers NI	1 Shamrock Park, Garvagh 2 Whiterocks Sand Dune Biodiversity Project	1 £144,124.94 2 £23,125.00
Cookstown District Council	EB Scotland Limited	1 Coagh Community Garden	1 £1,500.00

District Council Area	Environmental Body	Project	Project Spend
Craigavon Borough Council	Groundwork Northern Ireland Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Wildlife Trust (Ulster)	1 Aghalee – Beyond the Centre – refurbishment element 2 Enhanced biodiversity at Portmore Lough 3 Enhancement & restoration of floodplain grazing marsh at Portmore Lough 4 Enhancing conditions for NI Priority Species at Portmore Lough 5 Landing Stage at Money Penny's Lockhouse	1 £14,398.91 2 £31,088.65 3 £26,000.00 4 £30,399.36 5 £10,000.00
Derry City Council	Groundwork Northern Ireland	1 Galliagh Neighbourhood Park 2 Junior Wardens Environmental Project 3 Hope Transition Project 4 Glen Park Masterplan – Phase 2 Childrens Play Area 5 Multi Use Games Area @ Lincoln Courts Community Centre 6 Cornshell Creative Space Project	1 £42,804.50 2 £4500.00 3 £18,527.00 4 £41,841.50 5 £6,812.96 6 £580.75
Down District Council	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Wildlife Trust (Ulster)	1 Northern Ireland Kites 2 Conservation and promotion of grasslands across nature reserves in NI (Ballynahinch)	1 £21,366.44 2 £17,079.74
Fermanagh District Council	Wildlife Trust (Ulster) Conservation Volunteers NI	1 Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark – Fencing 2 Enhancement of Racecourse Lough, Enniskillen 3 Growing Together (Fermanagh)	1 £12,154.35 2 £6,600.00 3 £12,000.00

District Council Area	Environmental Body	Project	Project Spend
Lisburn City Council	Groundwork Northern Ireland	1 Enhancement of Old Colin Woodland 2 Downshire YM Pitch Upgrade	1 £4,871.58 2 £11,467.71
Newry and Mourne District Council	Wildlife Trust (Ulster)	1 Provision of pathways, summer seats, interpretative panels and railings	1 £4,900.00
Newtownabbey Borough Council	Groundwork Northern Ireland Ophir Rugby Football Club Woodland Trust	1 Throne Community Woodland Improvements 2 Ophir Development Project 3 Bringing colour to Carnmoney Hill	1 £13,800.00 2 £50,000.00 3 £4,966.50
North Down Borough Council	Wildlife Trust (Ulster)	1 The conservation and promotion of Wetlands across nature reserves in NI 2 The conservation and promotion of Woodlands across nature reserves in NI	1 £13,404.72 2 £10,900.91
Strabane District Council	Groundwork Northern Ireland	1 Urney Community Walk and season planting 2 Cairdre Community Garden and Allotment Project 3 Environmental Enhancement Project at Ballycolman Linkside Community	1 £18,960.00 2 £9,998.98 3 £1,298.38
Total Expenditure			£840,919.95

Northern Area Plan

Mr Swann asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the timescale and the stages to be completed prior to the implementation of the Northern Area Plan.

(AQW 8641/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Draft Northern Area Plan 2016 is the subject of an Independent Examination currently being conducted by the Planning Appeals Commission. Stage one of the Independent Examination addressed strategic policy matters as contained in Volume One of the Draft Plan and was held over the period 19th September 2011 until the 6th October 2011. Stage Two of the examination into site specific matters commenced on 23rd January 2012 and is programmed to close on 22nd March 2012. Following the Examination the Planning Appeals Commission will prepare a report recommending how, in its view, the objections should be addressed. The Commission is likely to give a broad indication

of the timescale for preparation of its report at the close of the Independent Examination. Thereafter, the Department will take into account this report, amending the Plan where appropriate, before moving to final adoption. The timescale for this latter stage will depend on the extent and complexity of the issues arising from the Planning Appeals Commission's report.

Northern Area Plan

Mr Swann asked the Minister of the Environment, given that the Northern Area Plan provides a planning framework up to 2016 (i) what the status of the plan will be post 2016; and (ii) what steps he is taking to ensure that any such area plan is introduced in a timely manner.

(AQW 8643/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Draft Northern Area Plan has been formulated to provide a development framework up until 2016. However, under the provisions of PPS1: General Principles (paragraph 45), the Plan can continue to be a material consideration past its stated end date, to the extent that policies and proposals remain applicable to current circumstances. It is anticipated that the Plan will provide a foundation on which future development plans will be formulated by Councils

following on from the Review of Public Administration. At present the Department is currently giving consideration to the best mechanisms for both working with and empowering Councils to participate in Plan production over the run up to the Review of Public Administration, including supportive legislative change.

Unfortunately as of yet I am not in a position to announce a date for the adoption of the plan as it is still subject of an ongoing Independent Examination. The Department has been working with the Planning Appeals Commission to ensure that the Independent Examination process guards against unnecessary delay and ensures that objections are heard as efficiently as possible. Stage one of the Independent Examination addressed strategic policy matters as contained in Volume One of the Draft Plan and was held over the period 19th September 2011 until the 6th October 2011. Stage Two of the examination into site specific matters commenced on 23rd January 2012 and is programmed to close on 22nd March 2012. Following the Examination the Planning Appeals Commission will prepare a report recommending how, in its view, the objections should be addressed. The Department will take into account this report, amending the Plan where appropriate, before moving to final adoption.

Normally the Planning Appeals Commission will inform the Department at the close of the Independent Examination when it expects to deliver its report. Once the Report is received the Department will announce a time table for the adoption of the plan. The Department will continue to monitor progress and if shortages in development land arise, remedial actions can be taken.

Planning Applications for Wind Farms

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment how many planning applications for wind farms have been submitted in each of the last three years; and how many have been (i) approved; and (ii) refused.

(AQW 8649/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In 2009, 6 applications were received, in 2010, 6 applications were received and in 2011, 15 applications were received.

In 2009, 9 applications were approved and 1 was refused, in 2010, 8 applications were approved and none were refused, and in 2011, 5 applications were approved and none were refused.

Taxi Fares

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment how taxis will be able to charge, under the new regulations, fares less than that shown on their meters.

(AQW 8650/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The proposals for taxi fare regulations mean that a maximum taxi fare would apply in Northern Ireland. As is currently the case with Belfast Public Hire licensed taxis, any driver can charge

less than the metered fare either by agreeing a fare with a passenger in advance of the journey or by deciding on and providing for a regular discount which applies to all fares.

A receipt printer will be required to record and print the maximum fare payable, and the driver will be able to record how much the customer was actually charged.

It is important to understand this proposal – it is about maximum fares not minimum fares and there should be no suggestion otherwise. Licensing and regulation of taxis will help better standards and safety, is what customers, tourists and visitors expect, is good practice in places across the world and is what disability organisations and consumer groups support. This is a challenging issue to get right but I am determined to do so and to move decisively.

New Taxi Regulations

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the status of Belfast by-laws in relation to the new taxi regulations.

(AQW 8651/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The new Taxi Licence Regulations are scheduled for introduction later this year. These regulations create a new single tier licensing system for all taxis across Northern Ireland. Once the regulations are in place the Belfast Bye-laws, which currently relate only to Belfast Public Hire taxis, will be repealed.

Two-Tier Taxi System of Private Hire and Wheelchair Access Taxis

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment to clarify the intent behind the new two-tier taxi system of private hire and wheelchair access taxis.

(AQW 8652/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The proposed single tier licensing regime whereby all taxis can be hailed or pre-booked but only wheelchair accessible ones can stand at taxi ranks is intended to:

- improve passenger safety by making it easier to identify a licensed taxi,
- increase the availability of taxis at peak times by reducing the restrictions on the types of service taxis can provide,
- give passengers greater freedom to choose the type of taxi they want to take without having to plan and book this in advance,
- increase the provision of wheelchair accessible taxis outside Belfast by making accessibility a requirement for standing at ranks, and
- be the first step in the long term objective to deliver a more accessible taxi fleet

Veteran or Vintage Cars Exempt from MOT

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment (i) whether he would consider making veteran or vintage cars exempt from MOT, similar to the system that operates in the Irish Republic; and (ii) what action he intends to take to encourage such car owners to use their vehicles on public roads.

(AQW 8667/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department issued a consultation document on 29th November 2011 to seek views on the exemption of historic vehicles from periodic roadworthiness testing, which would include both the MOT and the goods vehicle test. The consultation set out three options for exemption from test - for vehicles first used before 1960, before 1945 or before 1920. The aim of the document was to gather as much information and opinion as possible to enable the Department to select one of these options, whilst avoiding any compromise of road safety. The consultation closed on 21st February 2012 and the Department is presently collating the responses.

When a clear policy on test exemptions for historic vehicles has been finalised, taking into account the responses to the consultation, the Department will bring forward proposals.

The Department is aware of the value of the Northern Ireland historic car fleet and is supportive of the community of enthusiasts who keep these vehicles on the road. This support must of course always be balanced with the need to maintain road safety standards.

Tendering Practices for Legal Services

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of the Environment what action his Department is taking to ensure that district councils comply with good tendering practices for legal services.

(AQW 8685/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Under the Local Government (Best Value) Act (Northern Ireland) 2002, (the 2002 Act), district councils are required to make arrangements for continuous improvement in the way in which their functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

How individual councils obtain their legal services is legally and technically a matter for each council. However, it is expected that, in line with best value, councils should seek out the most economical provider of a quality service. Also, in his report of 12 June 2008, the Chief Local Government Auditor encouraged all councils to review their legal advice arrangements on a more regular basis. This was reiterated in the current Chief Local Government Auditor's report in 2011 and is something that will be considered in future local government audits.

I have been encouraging local authorities to demonstrate how current procurement arrangements can provide value for money and comply with legislation. I will be meeting with the Local Government Procurement Group shortly to discuss how the sector can improve procurement practices and to encourage collaborative procurement.

I agree strongly that best practice should prevail when tendering legal services and indeed I wrote to councils last year to request details of practices. I shall make it clear at the LGPG meeting my views on these matters.

Planning Application A/2010/0493/F

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of the Environment when he will make a decision on planning application A/2010/0493/F, in relation to an ASDA store at Crescent Link Retail Park, Derry.

(AQW 8692/11-15)

Mr Attwood: This planning application is being assessed along with several other current applications in Derry which include a major retail element as part of the proposals.

My officials have undertaken a thorough reassessment of the relevant retail information associated with these proposals to ensure that decisions are made with the benefit of the most up to date information available.

Each case will be considered on its individual merits. I will take into account all factors, including in town/out of town retail issues.

Permit to Discharge

Dr McDonnell asked the Minister of the Environment (i) what are the conditions of a permit to discharge; and (ii) what were the conditions of a permit to discharge (a) 10 years ago; and (b) five years ago.

(AQW 8708/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) administers a system of discharge consents which lay down site specific conditions relating to the quality and quantity of effluent that may be discharged. The site specific conditions are formulated using scientific protocols which ensure that

the discharge can be sustained by the receiving waterway without damage to the aquatic environment and without breaching national or EU Directive standards.

When consent conditions are being drawn up, account is taken of:

- the composition and volume of the proposed discharge;
- the water quality target for the receiving water, as specified by the Water Framework Directive;
- the existing quality of the receiving water;
- the available dilution (flow) in the receiving waterway; and
- relevant EU Directive requirements or international agreements.

Most discharge consents include numerical conditions for certain parameters of the effluent, which enables a quantitative assessment of compliance to be made. Formulation of numeric consent conditions may require mathematical modeling. A number of non-numeric conditions may also be stipulated, such as safe access to a sampling point, and the requirement for any treatment system to undergo regular maintenance.

The effluent quality conditions stipulated on a consent will reflect the requirements of the current water quality objectives of the receiving waterway as defined by water quality legislation. Therefore, consents issued 5 and 10 years ago will contain conditions reflective of the legislation at that time. A discharge consent may, however, be reviewed by the Department at intervals of not less than 4 years from the date of issue. The Department will, where appropriate, carry out such a review should it be deemed necessary to meet current legislative requirements.

Site at 160-220 Castlereagh Road, Belfast

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the site at 160-220 Castlereagh Road, Belfast following the refusal of planning permission for a development on this site.
(AQW 8742/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Planning permission for a superstore, car parking, servicing arrangements and landscaping was refused on 7th September 2011 following a public inquiry. The reasons for refusal related to the adequacy of the roads infrastructure and the vehicular access to Castlereagh Road.

The site does, however, have an extant planning permission for a smaller retail development granted on 7 July 2010. This development is for a superstore, car parking, access, servicing arrangements, dotcom area and landscaping.

Planning permission had previously been granted for a residential development comprising 2 detached dwellings, 16 semi-detached dwellings, 40 townhouses and 125 apartments. This permission was granted on 23 January 2006 and has now expired.

The Department is currently processing an outline application for a similar form of residential development (Ref Z/2011/0119/O) which was received on 3 February 2011. The Department is awaiting a number of consultation replies and a petition of objection has been received.

Planning Policies

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of the Environment whether a section 75 assessment is carried out on planning policies before they are implemented.
(AQW 8750/11-15)

Mr Attwood: When developing new or revised planning policy statements (PPSs), DOE officials carry out equality screening to assess the impact on the promotion of equality of opportunity and/or good relations in accordance with Section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Where an equality screening indicates that adverse impacts are likely to arise, then a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) will be undertaken. The EQIA process seeks to ensure that policies do not

have the effect of discriminating against individuals or groups of people who fall within the categories defined in Section 75.

The Department also undertakes equality screening on development plans which apply regional policies at the appropriate local level. Draft EQIAs have been published with a number consultation draft plans, including: Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (published in November 2004); draft Banbridge, Newry & Mourne Area Plan 2015 (published in August 2006); and draft Northern Area Plan 2016 (published in May 2005). Final EQIAs have been prepared for the Belfast Houses in Multiple Occupation Subject Plan 2015 (adopted December 2008); Ards & Down Area Plan 2015 (adopted in March 2009); and Magherafelt Area Plan 2015 (adopted in December 2011).

Finally, I can advise that the Equality Scheme for the Department of the Environment (2011-2016), which has been approved by the Equality Commission NI on 25 January 2012, is available to view or download at www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/equality_unit.

Licences to Restaurants and Bars

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of the Environment whether councils have to take disability access into account before granting licences to restaurants and bars.

(AQW 8753/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Only restaurants or bars that provide entertainment on their premises are required to be licensed by councils. The terms, conditions and restrictions attached to an entertainments licence will be decided by the council, and different terms may be applied to different venues. The legislation for entertainments licensing refers to facilities for the disabled as one of the factors that may be specified in the terms of the licence.

In addition, disability access is covered in Part 10 of the Department's Model Terms, Conditions and Restrictions for Indoor Entertainments – Technical Requirements. Councils are required to have regard to any model terms, conditions and restrictions issued by the Department.

Items of Treasure

Mr Spratt asked the Minister of the Environment how many items of treasure have been found in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 8757/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Built Heritage records show that in the last three years there has only been one reported find of possible treasure made in Northern Ireland. The artefact was reported to the NIEA in June 2011 as being found in December 2009. It was found within the Fermanagh and South Tyrone constituency and a date has been set for a Coroner's inquest in late March 2012. The Coroner will rule whether that artefact qualifies as treasure or not.

In addition to this find, there are a number of artefacts that were found prior to the last three years but have had Coroner's inquests and been declared treasure within the last three years. In 2009, a Bronze Age gold bracelet from the Fermanagh and South Tyrone constituency, a Bronze Age gold personal ornament from the South Down constituency and a medieval silver ring from Upper Bann were declared treasure by the Coroner. In 2012 to date, a silver coin hoard from Newry & Armagh and gold finger ring from Fermanagh and South Tyrone have been declared treasure by the Coroner.

Searching for Archaeological Objects Without a Licence

Mr Spratt asked the Minister of the Environment how many people have been convicted of searching for archaeological objects without a licence in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 8759/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In Northern Ireland searching for archaeological objects is controlled under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995. Under that Order, it is illegal to excavate for

archaeological objects, which will include treasure items, without a licence from the Department of the Environment. Furthermore, any person who, except under and in accordance with any conditions attached to a licence issued by the Department, excavates in or under any land (whether or not such excavation involves the removal of the surface of the land) for the purpose of searching generally for archaeological objects or of searching for, exposing or examining any particular structure or thing of archaeological interest shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 (£1,000) on the standard scale.

I am advised that, according to records held by the Built Heritage Directorate of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, covering the last three years, no person in Northern Ireland has been convicted of searching for archaeological objects without a licence.

Being in Possession of a Detection Device

Mr Spratt asked the Minister of the Environment how many people have been convicted of being in possession of a detection device on a protected site in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 8760/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Built Heritage records show that in the last three years no person in Northern Ireland has been convicted of being in possession of a detection device on a protected site.

Areas of Townscape Character

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to list the Areas of Townscape Character.

(AQW 8761/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Planning Policy Statement (PPS 6): Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage (March 1999) sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and features of the built heritage and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans.

An addendum to PPS 6 'Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage' entitled 'Areas of Townscape Character' was published in August 2005. The addendum, which should be read in conjunction with the provisions of PPS 6, provides additional planning policies relating to Areas of Townscape Character, for demolition of buildings, new development and the control of advertisements. The addendum advises that, for its purposes and those of other planning policy publications, all references to Areas of Townscape Character should be read as including Areas of Village Character.

The complete list of Areas of Townscape / Village Character is set out below and includes (a) those designated in accordance with regional planning policy through the development plan process (see Summary Tables 1 & 2 below) and (b) those listed in Schedule 1 of the Planning (Demolition and Description of Buildings) Direction 2009 (See Table 3 below).

SUMMARY TABLE 1: ATC & AVC DESIGNATIONS IN ADOPTED PLANS

Adopted Area Development Plan	Number of ATCs	Number of AVCs	ATC & AVC Total
Ards & Down Area Plan 2015	11	0	11
Cookstown Area Plan 2010	12	0	12
Craigavon Area Plan 2010	4	0	4
Derry Area Plan 2011	4	0	4
Dungannon & South Tyrone Area Plan 2010	11	0	11

Adopted Area Development Plan	Number of ATCs	Number of AVCs	ATC & AVC Total
Fermanagh Area Plan 2007	3	17	20
Magherafelt Area Plan 2015	3	0	3
Totals	48	17	65

SUMMARY TABLE 2: PROPOSED ATC & AVC DESIGNATIONS IN DRAFT PLANS

Draft Area Development Plan	Number of ATCs	Number of AVCs	ATC & AVC Total
Banbridge /Newry Area Plan 2015	35	0	35
Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015	86	14	100
Northern Area Plan 2016	8	1	9
Totals	129	15	144

Note: For breakdown of each plan refer to separate 'List of Areas of Townscape Character (ATC) and Areas of Village Character (AVC) in Northern Ireland' dated 28/02/12.

TABLE 3: AREAS OF TOWNSCAPE CHARACTER LISTED IN SCHEDULE 1 OF THE PLANNING (DEMOLITION AND DESCRIPTION OF BUILDINGS) DIRECTION 2009

Council	Area of Townscape (ATC)
Belfast City Council	Cherryvalley ATC
	Circular Road ATC
	Cliftonville ATC
	Donegall Park Avenue ATC
	Hampton Park ATC
	Holyland ATC
	North/South Parade and Park Road ATC
	Rosetta ATC
	Rugby Road ATC
	Sunningdale ATC
	Twaddell ATC
Ballymena District Council Area	Wandsworth ATC
	Galgorm Road and Old Galgorm Road ATC
Castlereagh Borough Council Area	Creagh ATC
	Thiepval ATC
Newtownabbey Borough Council Area	Hazelbank/Abbeylands ATC
	Lenamore (Extension) ATC

Council	Area of Townscape (ATC)
North Down Borough Council	Bangor Bay (Princetown Road and Seacliff Road/Clifton Road) ATC

In addition to those ATC's listed above in Table 3, the following tables list Areas of Townscape Character referred to in Adopted and Draft Plans.

ARDS AND DOWN AREA PLAN 2015 (ADOPTED 30TH MARCH 2009)

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC	Kearney	Ards Countryside	Ards Borough
ATC	Comber	The Square	Ards Borough
ATC	Comber	The Mill Village	Ards Borough
ATC	Donaghadee	New Road/Warren Road	Ards Borough
ATC	Greyabbey	-	Ards Borough
ATC	Kircubbin	-	Ards Borough
ATC	Newtownards	Court Street/Court Square	Ards Borough
ATC	Bryansford	-	Down District
ATC	Dundrum	-	Down District
ATC	Newcastle	The Harbour, The Rock and King Street	Down District
ATC	Seaforde	-	Down District

DRAFT BANBRIDGE / NEWRY AND MOURNE AREA PLAN 2015 (PUBLISHED 22ND AUGUST 2006)

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC	Annaclone	-	Banbridge District
ATC	Banbridge	Hayes Park	Banbridge District
ATC	Banbridge	Peggy's Loaning	Banbridge District
ATC	Banbridge	Town Centre	Banbridge District
ATC	Dromore	Meeting Street	Banbridge District
ATC	Dromore	Mount Street	Banbridge District
ATC	Gilford	Gilford Mill & High Street	Banbridge District
ATC	Gilford	Town Centre	Banbridge District
ATC	Leitrim	-	Banbridge District
ATC	Loughbrickland	-	Banbridge District
ATC	Rathfriland	-	Banbridge District
ATC	Scarva	-	Banbridge District

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC	Tullylish	-	Banbridge District
ATC	Annalong	-	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Bessbrook	Chapel Road	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Bessbrook	Mount Charles	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Crossmaglen	-	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Forkhill	-	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Hilltown	-	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Jerrettspass	-	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Kilkeel	-	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Newry	Bridge Street	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Newry	Canal Street	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Newry	Cornmarket	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Newry	Corry Square	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Newry	Dominic Street	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Newry	Drumalane Road	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Newry	Dublin Road	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Newry	High Street	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Newry	Kilmorey Street	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Newry	Windsor Hill	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Rostrevor	Victoria Square	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Rostrevor	Warrenpoint Road	Newry & Mourne District

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC	Warrenpoint	Town Centre & Seafront	Newry & Mourne District
ATC	Warrenpoint	Well Road	Newry & Mourne District

DRAFT BELFAST METROPOLITAN AREA PLAN 2015 (PUBLISHED 30TH NOVEMBER 2004)

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC	Belfast	Alexander Park	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Ardenlee	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Belmont	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Botanic Avenue	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Castlehill Road	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Cherryvalley	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Cherryvalley Extension	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Circular Road	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Cliftonville	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Cyprus Park/Cyprus Gardens	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Donegall Road (Village)	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Donegall Road East	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Falls/Donegall Road	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Falls/St Mary's	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Finaghy	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Fruithill Park	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Glandore Gardens	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Green Road	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Hampton Park	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Holland Park	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Holyland	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Hollywood Arches	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Innishfayle	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Knock Eden Park	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Lagan Village	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Ligoniel	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Lisburn Road	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Lower Cavehill Road	Belfast City

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC	Belfast	Lower Cliftonville	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Lower Lisburn Road	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Lower Ormeau	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	North Parade/South Parade	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Ormeau	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Ravenhill Park	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Ravenhill Triangle	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Ravenscroft Avenue	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Rosetta	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Rugby Road	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Sandford Avenue/ Sunbury Avenue	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Shankill	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Stockmans Lane/ Mooreland Park	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Stranmillis Riverside	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Stranmillis Village	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Sunningdale	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Templemore Avenue	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Twaddell	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Upper Malone	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Victoria Street/Oxford Street	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Wellesley Avenue/Keir	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Willowholme	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Woodstock Road	Belfast City
ATC	Belfast	Woodvale	Belfast City
ATC	Carrickfergus	Belfast Road	Carrickfergus Borough
ATC	Carrickfergus	Larne Road	Carrickfergus Borough
ATC	Greenisland	-	Carrickfergus Borough
ATC	Greenisland	Shore Road	Carrickfergus Borough
ATC	Metropolitan Castlereagh	Cregagh	Castlereagh Borough
ATC	Metropolitan Castlereagh	Cregagh Park & Everton Drive	Castlereagh Borough

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC	Metropolitan Castlereagh	Dundonald	Castlereagh Borough
ATC	Metropolitan Castlereagh	Newtownbreda	Castlereagh Borough
ATC	Metropolitan Castlereagh	Rochester Avenue	Castlereagh Borough
ATC	Metropolitan Castlereagh	Thiepval	Castlereagh Borough
AVC	Moneyreagh	-	Castlereagh Borough
AVC	Drumbeg	-	Lisburn City
AVC	Edenderry	-	Lisburn City
AVC	Glenavy	-	Lisburn City
AVC	Lambeg	-	Lisburn City
ATC	Lisburn City	Bachelors Walk	Lisburn City
ATC	Lisburn City	Hilden	Lisburn City
ATC	Lisburn City	Seymour Street	Lisburn City
ATC	Lisburn City	Wallace Park	Lisburn City
ATC	Lisburn City	Warren Park	Lisburn City
AVC	Lower Ballinderry	-	Lisburn City
ATC	Metropolitan Lisburn	Dunmurry	Lisburn City
AVC	Purdysburn	-	Lisburn City
AVC	Upper Ballinderry	-	Lisburn City
ATC	Ballyclare	-	Newtownabbey Borough
AVC	Ballyeaston	-	Newtownabbey Borough
AVC	Doagh	-	Newtownabbey Borough
ATC	Metropolitan Newtownabbey	Abbeyville Park	Newtownabbey Borough
ATC	Metropolitan Newtownabbey	Fernagh	Newtownabbey Borough
ATC	Metropolitan Newtownabbey	Hazelbank/Abbeylands	Newtownabbey Borough
ATC	Metropolitan Newtownabbey	Lenamore	Newtownabbey Borough
ATC	Metropolitan Newtownabbey	Old Manse Road	Newtownabbey Borough

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC	Metropolitan Newtownabbey	Rush Park	Newtownabbey Borough
ATC	Metropolitan Newtownabbey	Whiteabbey	Newtownabbey Borough
ATC	Metropolitan Newtownabbey	Whiteabbey Mill	Newtownabbey Borough
ATC	Metropolitan Newtownabbey	Ypres Park	Newtownabbey Borough
AVC	Straid	-	Newtownabbey Borough
ATC	Bangor	Bangor Central	North Down Borough
ATC	Bangor	Bangor East	North Down Borough
ATC	Bangor	Bangor West	North Down Borough
AVC	Crawfordsburn	-	North Down Borough
AVC	Groomsport	-	North Down Borough
AVC	Helen's Bay	-	North Down Borough
ATC	Hollywood	Hollywood North	North Down Borough
ATC	Hollywood	Hollywood South	North Down Borough
ATC	Hollywood	Hollywood/Bangor Road	North Down Borough
ATC	Hollywood	Kinnegar	North Down Borough
ATC	Hollywood	Marino,Cultra,Craigavad	North Down Borough

COOKSTOWN AREA PLAN 2010 (ADOPTED 25TH JUNE 2004)

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC	Ballinderry	-	Cookstown District
ATC	Ballyronan	-	Cookstown District
ATC	Churchtown	-	Cookstown District
ATC	Coagh	-	Cookstown District
ATC	Cookstown	-	Cookstown District
ATC	Desertcreat	-	Cookstown District
ATC	Drapersfield	-	Cookstown District
ATC	Pomeroy	-	Cookstown District
ATC	Stewartstown	-	Cookstown District
ATC	The Loop	-	Cookstown District
ATC	The Rock	-	Cookstown District
ATC	Tullyhogue	-	Cookstown District

CRAIGAVON AREA PLAN 2010 (ADOPTED 25TH AUGUST 2004)

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC	Charlestown	-	Craigavon Borough
ATC	Donaghcloney	-	Craigavon Borough
ATC	Lurgan	College Walk	Craigavon Borough
ATC	Portadown	Bachelor's Walk	Craigavon Borough

DERRY AREA PLAN 2011 (ADOPTED 1ST MAY 2000)

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC	Culmore	-	Derry City
ATC	Eglinton	-	Derry City
ATC	Londonderry	Bond's Hill	Derry City
ATC	Londonderry	Victoria Park	Derry City

DUNGANNON & SOUTH TYRONE AREA PLAN 2010 (ADOPTED 16TH MARCH 2005)

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC	Augher	-	Dungannon & S.Tyrone District
ATC	Aughnacloy	-	Dungannon & S.Tyrone District
ATC	Ballygawley	-	Dungannon & S.Tyrone District
ATC	Benburb	-	Dungannon & S.Tyrone District
ATC	Castlecaulfield	-	Dungannon & S.Tyrone District
ATC	Clogher	-	Dungannon & S.Tyrone District
ATC	Coalisland	-	Dungannon & S.Tyrone District
ATC	Donaghmore	-	Dungannon & S.Tyrone District
ATC	Dungannon	-	Dungannon & S.Tyrone District
ATC	Fivemiletown	-	Dungannon & S.Tyrone District
ATC	Moy	-	Dungannon & S.Tyrone District

FERMANAGH AREA PLAN 2007 (ADOPTED 1ST MARCH 1997)

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
AVC	Ballinamallard	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Belcoo/Holywell	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Belleek	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Brookeborough	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Derrygonnelly	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Ederney	-	Fermanagh District
ATC	Enniskillen	Belmore Street	Fermanagh District
ATC	Enniskillen	Henry Street	Fermanagh District
AVC	Garrison	-	Fermanagh District
ATC	Irvinestown	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Kesh	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Lack	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Lisbellaw	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Lisnarick	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Magheraveely	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Maguiresbridge	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Newtownbutler	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Pettigoe/Tullyhommon	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Rosslea	-	Fermanagh District
AVC	Tempo	-	Fermanagh District

MAGHERAFELT AREA PLAN 2015 (ADOPTED 14TH DECEMBER 2011)

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC	Maghera	-	Magherafelt District
ATC	Magherafelt	-	Magherafelt District
ATC	Upperlands	-	Magherafelt District

DRAFT NORTHERN AREA PLAN 2016 (PUBLISHED 11TH MAY 2005)

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC	Coleraine	Coleraine Town Centre	Coleraine Borough
ATC	Portrush	-	Coleraine Borough
ATC	Limavady	Main Street	Limavady Borough
AVC	Armoy	-	Moyle District
ATC*	Coleraine	Mountsandel Road	Coleraine Borough

Plan Designation	Settlement	Location	Council Area
ATC*	Coleraine	Lodge Road	Coleraine Borough
ATC*	Portstewart	Central Avenue	Coleraine Borough
ATC*	Portstewart	Harryville	Coleraine Borough
ATC*	Portballintrae	-	Coleraine Borough

* Proposed and accepted at Stage 2 of Public Examination into the draft Northern Area Plan 2016 – Consequently these five ATCs are now recognised as Draft Plan proposals.

Secondment to Trade Unions

Mr McCallister asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the number of (a) full-time; and (b) part-time staff who are currently on secondment from his Department, or its arm's length bodies, to each recognised trade union; (ii) the salary scale for each secondee; and (iii) the length of each secondment to date.

(AQW 8774/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The number of full time staff currently on secondment from this Department or its arm's length bodies broken down by union, salary scale for each secondee and the duration of each secondment is set out in the Table below. There are no part-time staff currently on secondment to a recognised trade union.

Department	Number of Staff	Duration of Secondment as at 1 March 2012	*Minimum to Maximum Salary Scale	Union
DOE	1	3 years 3 months	£34,163 to £38,893	NIPSA
	1	2 years 11 months	£21,392 to £23,250	NIPSA

* Current salary scale based on the 2010-2011 pay award.

Planning Applications

Mr Spratt asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the current backlog of planning applications.

(AQO 1424/11-15)

Mr Attwood: You may be aware of the Action Plan in place to deal with the PPS14/21 applications that were at deferral stage prior to the publication of the final version of PPS21 on 1st June 2010. I am pleased to advise that this review has been complete.

Of the other backlog applications, I agreed with officials that we should initially concentrate on determining the 'major' category of planning applications that have been in the system for more than 12 months. As a result over the last 18 months, the number of applications which exceed 12 months in the system reduced by over 40% to 2250 of which some 1450 are major applications.

There are a number of reasons for delays in processing planning applications mainly due to the need to redeploy planning and administrative staff due to an unprecedented reduction in income from planning application fee receipts. This has led to reallocation of cases to remaining staff and increases in case loads. That said, the backlog of applications is continuing to reduce but inevitably the average and percentile timescale for processing will lengthen as decisions are issued on more older applications. I have

developed a workforce planning model in order to build a planning system that is more fit for purpose and provide decisions on planning applications in a timely manner, subject to finance being available.

I would urge applicants to engage with my planners and local communities at an early stage, and to submit high quality applications accompanied by all of the information and surveys necessary to allow it to be determined as quickly as possible. As I have demonstrated on Article 31 applications, active management, firm leadership and tighter systems can produce a more fit for purpose planning system.

Review of PPS 21

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the review of PPS 21 and rural planning policy.

(AQO 1419/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The review of the operation of PPS21 is now concluded. I am currently finalising the review report and will announce the outcome of the review in the near future.

Wind Turbines

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of the Environment to outline how he will ensure that communities living near wind turbines get greater financial benefits than they have received to date.

(AQO 1426/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The community benefits to be derived by any given community group will depend on the scale of the proposed development. Given our dispersed rural settlement pattern, wind farm developers often enter into negotiations with individual farmers and rural dwellers as well as community groups, local to the proposed windfarm development. The question remains as to what constitutes a 'fair', 'reasonable' or 'meaningful' level of benefit for the local community.

I am encouraged therefore that the Northern Ireland Renewable Industry Group (NIRIG) is at an advanced stage in the development of a community benefit protocol. The Sustainable Energy Interdepartmental Working Group will consider this document when published.

I have met officials to discuss how, if possible, to better manage the community benefits arising from renewable applications. I will look, in particular, at the Scottish model, plan to meet the Fermanagh Trust which has published proposals and see how to move the issue forward.

Planning: Rose Energy

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the Rose Energy planning application.

(AQO 1428/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The applications are now in the final stage of consideration. The files on this case containing a report and recommendation will be forwarded to me shortly. The Department will make a recommendation on whether to proceed by way of a NOP to approve or refuse the applications or by way of a Public Inquiry.

Sprucefield Centre Limited Planning Application

Mr Givan asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the Sprucefield Centre Limited planning application.

(AQO 1429/11-15)

Mr Attwood: As you may be aware the Department has requested that the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) hold a Public Local Inquiry to consider this application.

The holding of the Inquiry has been delayed by inter alia judicial review proceedings - which have now been withdrawn - and the need to consider and advertise further environmental information submitted

by the applicant. Further information was submitted to the Department on 18 August 2011 and again on 3 February 2012. This information is presently under consideration by my officials and is being advertised in accordance with the statutory requirements.

I am advised that the Department will be in a position before the end of March 2012, to write to the PAC requesting a new date for the inquiry.

Driver and Vehicle Agency

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of the proposed changes to the Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA), what steps can be taken to protect the 300 DVA jobs in Coleraine.

(AQO 1430/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am deeply concerned about the possible impact on jobs as a consequence of the work currently being undertaken by DVLA to examine how they can deliver an integrated IT system and the associated study on the options for the delivery of vehicle licensing services in NI following integration of the IT systems.

The transfer of some licensing work to the Web or to post offices would not have a major impact. This would be relatively straightforward work, and most staff are engaged on other duties such as enforcement. However, DVLA have recently announced that they intend to close all their regional and local offices in Britain, with the loss of 1400 jobs, and centralise the work in Swansea. DVLA are looking at this option in relation to DVA.

I have had two meetings in London with the Transport Minister on this issue and emphasised the impact that the loss of jobs could have in NI, especially in Coleraine, where 260 of the 320 jobs are located. In view of all the other challenges facing our economy the threat to jobs is unacceptable. In addition, I have argued the need to maintain capacity in anticipation of new foreign haulage charges, the capacity of DVA staff to undertake contract work from Swansea and other options to maintain staff numbers.

I have been assured that no decisions have yet been taken about how vehicle licensing will be carried out here in the future and that I will be fully consulted before any decisions are taken. I am now writing to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to escalate my argument on this issue and to outline further proposals to protect staff numbers. I have been highly vigilant on this issue since becoming Minister, I will continue to be so and urge all to join me in this effort.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Social Clauses in Public Procurement Contracts

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many jobs have been created as a result of social clauses in public procurement contracts, in the Foyle constituency in each of the last five years.

(AQW 8132/11-15)

Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): The purpose of the employment related social clauses in contracts is not job creation per se but rather to provide job opportunities for the unemployed and apprentices. (More recently, a requirement for student placements has also been added.) The measures are not targeted at geographical areas and the contracts do not stipulate from where contractors or their subcontractors should draw their workforce.

I am therefore unable to say what the impact of social clauses has been in the Foyle constituency. However, a number of departments have provided me with the numbers of construction contracts containing requirements for job opportunities that they awarded in Foyle in the past five years. They have also indicated the number of placements provided. This information is set out in aggregate in tabular form below.

No employment related placements have been provided in non-construction contracts.

Year	No. of contracts with employment clauses	Number of placements provided for:	
		Unemployed	Apprentices
2007/08*	0	0	0
2008/09*	1	2	0
2009/10	1	2	16
2010/11	7	14	37
2011/12	4	30	7
Total	13	48	60

* Employment related social clauses were first introduced in December 2008 for contracts with procurements commencing after that date.

Stormont Estate: Generate Renewable Energy

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what plans are in place to utilise the Stormont Estate to generate renewable energy.

(AQW 8372/11-15)

Mr Wilson: A 100 KW wood pellet biomass boiler was installed in the Stables Building on the Stormont Estate in 2009/10.

The feasibility of further opportunities for renewable energy installations within the estate will be considered as part of a more wide-ranging review of accommodation within the Stormont Estate. It is anticipated that this review will take place beyond the current budget period (FY10/11-FY13/14).

Electric Car Charging Facilities in the Grounds of the Stormont Estate

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether his Department has any plans to install electric car charging facilities in the grounds of the Stormont Estate.

(AQW 8376/11-15)

Mr Wilson: In July 2011 DFP engaged with DRD to consider the potential for providing charging units within the Stormont Estate car park as part of DRD's 'plugged-in places' project.

Year 1 of the project involved selecting locations for 'public' charging points however the Stormont Estate was not selected as a preferred location due to the small numbers of public vehicles entering the estate.

Contracts Awarded from the Central Procurement Directorate

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the (i) value; and (ii) percentage of all contracts awarded from the Central Procurement Directorate won by businesses in each district council area, for the latest available year.

(AQW 8420/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) does not currently hold information on the contracts awarded in each council area. It is usually possible to deduce the council area from address data provided by suppliers. This is normally a very time consuming manual task that would require several weeks to complete. However, CPD is currently developing systems to automate this process and it is anticipated that an analysis of contracts awarded during 2011/2012, by council area, will be available in May 2012.

Vacant Properties

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 7257/11-15, (i) how many of the properties have been built in the last six months and are yet to appear on the register of rated properties; and (ii) to detail the number of properties whose ownership has been unidentified for more than six months.

(AQW 8442/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The number of the properties that have been built in the last six months and are yet to appear on the register of rated properties is not available. However, of the 19,895 vacant properties where ownership was not identified within Northern Ireland as at 29th January 2012, 1,203 had a first valuation after 29th July 2011 (6 months prior to 29th January 2012). All of these properties appear on the register of rated properties.

The number of the properties where ownership has been unidentified for more than six months is not available.

All domestic properties which did not have ownership details were subject to a number of tracing steps as part of the preparations for the implementation of Rating of Empty Homes on 1st October 2011, including: issue of letters; land registration and electoral register searches; matching of Power NI records; inspection visits; and use of an external tracing service.

Vacant Properties

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 7257/11-15, what action has been taken to reduce the number of properties with unidentified ownership.

(AQW 8444/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Rating of Empty Homes (REH) was introduced on 1st October 2011. The policy creates a liability of 100% of occupied rates for vacant domestic properties in the Valuation List.

A number of exclusions apply and generally these have to be applied for. However, a 12 month developer exclusion from REH from the date of completion of new properties is included in the legislation; this has been extended to 18 months for new properties completed before 31st March 2012. This exclusion and the exclusion for properties with a rateable Capital Value of £20,000 or less are awarded automatically.

Work has been ongoing since early 2011 by a team of staff to gather ownership details of empty domestic properties and by October 34,500 owners had been identified.

Work continues to trace both the 19,000 domestic and non-domestic vacant owners recorded on our rating system. The primary source of information has been the Land Registry and Registry of Deeds and more recently other investigative methods have been added to include PowerNI, NI Water and through the recently awarded tracing contract service, although inevitably, as the property is vacant, these sources are less useful than for occupied properties. LPS staff have also been obtaining ownership information when dealing with ratepayers by telephone and will continue to do so. However, it is inevitable that not all owners of empty properties will be traceable.

Vacant Rating of Industrial Properties

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the rationale for the vacant rating of industrial properties and vacant non-domestic properties being assessed at 50 percent, whilst vacant rating for industrial properties are also assessed at 50 percent, even though occupied industrial properties are levied at 30 percent.

(AQW 8468/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Empty properties that are constructed or adapted for industrial purposes are not subject to rates. This is not the position in England and Wales where rates are charged on empty factories.

This was an issue considered in a policy evaluation undertaken and published by my Department in 2009. In the light of that evaluation I decided not to remove this exclusion due to concerns about eroding the Northern Ireland industrial base. Longer term, however, the case for continuing this exemption needs to be looked at again when the economy recovers.

The Executive has agreed that for the current spending review period, 70% industrial derating will continue apply to eligible properties occupied for manufacturing purposes and liability will therefore remain at 30% liability.

Number of People of Working Age who are Employed

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the percentage and number of people of working age who are employed in each district council area.

(AQW 8540/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Estimates of the numbers in employment by district council area are sourced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), Local Area Database, with the most recent data available for January – December 2010.

Please note that LFS estimates at District Council Area level are based on relatively small sample sizes and are subject to a higher degree of sampling variability. They should, therefore, be treated with caution. In addition, these estimates are based on the residency of an individual.

The requested breakdown of employment by District Council Area is shown in Table 1 overleaf.

TABLE 1: ALL THOSE AGED 16 - 64 AND IN EMPLOYMENT, BY DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

District Council	Total in employment	Employment Rate
Antrim	25,000	72.7
Ards	32,000	67.4
Armagh	27,000	65.7
Ballymena	23,000	60.7
Ballymoney	14,000	68.4
Banbridge	24,000	73.4
Belfast	111,000	65.0
Carrickfergus	20,000	76.6
Castlereagh	31,000	73.0
Coleraine	23,000	61.8
Cookstown	17,000	67.6
Craigavon	43,000	70.6
Derry	41,000	55.4
Down	31,000	70.6
Dungannon	23,000	59.1
Fermanagh	27,000	66.1
Larne	14,000	65.7
Limavady	13,000	61.2

District Council	Total in employment	Employment Rate
Lisburn	50,000	69.0
Magherafelt	20,000	66.3
Moyle	8,000	72.0
Newry & Mourne	38,000	64.3
Newtownabbey	33,000	68.2
North Down	36,000	66.8
Omagh	20,000	58.7
Strabane	12,000	51.2
Northern Ireland	* 755,000	65.8

*Total does not add up due to rounding of figures

Number of People of Working Age who are Employed

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the percentage and number of people of working age in each district council area who are employed in the public sector.

(AQW 8541/11-15)

Mr Wilson: It is not possible to provide information on the percentage and number of people of working age in each district council area who are employed in the public sector. However, estimates for the number of employee jobs in the public sector in each district council area are available from the Business Register and Employment Survey 2010.

These estimates are based on the location of the job and do not distinguish between employees of working age and non-working age. Estimates for the total number of non-agricultural employee jobs in each district council area are also available from this source. Percentages have been calculated using these figures.

The information is attached in table 1 overleaf.

TABLE 1: PERCENTAGE AND NUMBER OF PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEE JOBS IN NORTHERN IRELAND BY DISTRICT COUNCIL, SEPTEMBER 2010

District Council	Number of Public Sector Employee Jobs	Percentage of Total Employee Jobs	Total ¹ Employee Jobs
Antrim	9,561	34%	28,309
Ards	4,769	29%	16,633
Armagh	6,228	36%	17,208
Ballymena	7,079	31%	23,149
Ballymoney	2,140	30%	7,124
Banbridge	2,960	26%	11,351
Belfast	71,604	36%	201,081
Carrickfergus	2,448	34%	7,118
Castlereagh	11,523	43%	26,523

District Council	Number of Public Sector Employee Jobs	Percentage of Total Employee Jobs	Total¹ Employee Jobs
Coleraine	6,283	29%	21,657
Cookstown	1,985	17%	11,985
Craigavon	11,229	32%	35,168
Derry	14,892	33%	44,955
Down	6,230	34%	18,590
Dungannon	4,503	22%	20,225
Fermanagh	5,481	26%	21,172
Larne	1,886	21%	9,101
Limavady	2,552	34%	7,594
Lisburn	9,437	23%	40,555
Magherafelt	3,791	28%	13,667
Moyle	1,060	34%	3,125
Newry & Mourne	8,503	27%	31,933
Newtownabbey	6,363	22%	28,565
North Down	5,917	29%	20,676
Omagh	6,968	41%	17,064
Strabane	2,292	26%	8,738
Total	*217,684	31%	*693,268

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, 2010

1 These figures exclude agriculture but include animal husbandry service activities and hunting, trapping and game propagation.

* Totals may not add up due to rounding of figures.

Rebalancing the Northern Ireland Economy

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what potential costs to the Block Grant have been discussed since the publication of the estimates in the UK Government's consultation document 'Rebalancing the Northern Ireland Economy'.

(AQW 8647/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Ministerial Working Group set up to take forward the work on 'Rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy' agreed a Terms of Reference and work programme at our first meeting on 15 December 2011. This programme includes a specific workstream to examine in detail the costs associated with devolving Corporation Tax.

Officials have since been progressing this work with HM Treasury and HMRC counterparts. All elements of the costs presented in the UK Governments consultation document and their later branch plant estimates are being closely examined. No new cost estimates will be available until the final report of the Ministerial Working Group.

Government Contracts

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what is the threshold for Government contracts above which the Central Procurement Division must be involved.

(AQW 8673/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Executive's Public Procurement Policy requires Departments, their Agencies, NDPBs and public corporations to carry out their procurement activities by means of documented Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) or a relevant Centre of Procurement Expertise (CoPE).

There are no thresholds relating to the provision of procurement services by CPD under a Service Level Agreement (SLA).

Registered Businesses in the South Down Area

Mr W Clarke asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many registered businesses are in the South Down area.

(AQW 8733/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses can be obtained from the Interdepartmental Business Register. At January 2012, there were 5,050 VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses in the South Down Parliamentary Constituency.

Non-Domestic Rating System

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he has any plans to reform the non-domestic rating system so that it is fairer and more accurately reflects the profit that a business makes in a year as opposed to the commercial value of a building.

(AQW 8767/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I have no plans to change the methodology for valuing commercial properties for rating purposes.

The valuations for the majority of commercial properties in Northern Ireland are based on an estimate of their rental value.

For most businesses profitability is a highly volatile figure from one year to the next and would be an extremely difficult and costly way of administering a local tax. Profit shifting and shielding are particular issues with such an approach.

Gross Domestic Product

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the Gross Domestic Product in each of the last five years.

(AQW 8780/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is not produced for Northern Ireland. Because of a definitional change, what was formerly referred to as GDP was actually Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic prices. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for producing GVA for the UK and its regions.

The table overleaf details the GVA in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years (2006 to 2010). The information provided for Northern Ireland includes GVA per head of the population and Total GVA.

	Northern Ireland GVA Per head (£)	Northern Ireland Total GVA (£ million)
2006	15,359	26,750
2007	16,013	28,169
2008	15,928	28,271

	Northern Ireland GVA Per head (£)	Northern Ireland Total GVA (£ million)
2009	15,249	27,279
2010 ¹	15,651	28,162

1 2010 estimates are provisional.

Block Grant

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, for each of the last four years, to detail (i) the value of the Block Grant; (ii) the amount of money collected through district rates; and (iii) the total amount of Executive expenditure.

(AQW 8795/11-15)

Mr Wilson: In terms of the Member's reference to the Block Grant, I have provided figures for the NI Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) which represents devolved expenditure that is financed by HM Treasury.

This expenditure is enhanced by the Executive's own revenue raising powers in terms of the regional rate and borrowing under the Reinvestment and Reform Initiative.

The level of money collected through the district rate is a matter for individual councils.

The table below sets out the funding received from HM Treasury in terms of the NI DEL and the funding generated by the regional rate and RRI Borrowing. The expenditure is net of any departmental receipts or income, such as the proceeds from asset sales.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
	£m	£m	£m	£m
NI DEL	8,690.7	9,238.3	11,653.5	11,156.5
Regional Rates	519.9	607.4	547.1	537.9
RRI Borrowing	104.6	260.0	246.0	236.9
Other Items			8.0	0.4
Total DEL Expenditure	9,315.2	10,105.7	12,454.6	11,931.7

1 DOJ and PPS are included in these figures from 2009-10 onwards

2 Totals may not add due to rounding

The position reflected above is for the total NI DEL and associated expenditure. However, the NI DEL is subject to separate controls in terms of current expenditure and capital investment. In addition, the non cash elements within current expenditure are subject to a separate ring-fence.

Rates Arrears

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what has been the total level of rates arrears in each of the last five years.

(AQW 9045/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The total level of rates arrears at the end of each year for the last five years (as published in the Land & Property Services Annual Report & Accounts) and the level in each District Council area are given in the table overleaf. The latest year for which information is available is for 2010/11 and the earliest year for which information is available at District Council level is for 2007/08.

DEBT AT END OF EACH YEAR (£ MILLIONS)

District Council	31st March 2011	31st March 2010	31st March 2009	31st March 2008	31st March 2007**
Antrim	3.982	4.086	2.915	2.782	
Ards	5.510	5.534	4.653	4.057	
Armagh	4.809	4.375	3.679	3.474	
Ballymena	3.668	3.599	2.900	3.259	
Ballymoney	1.348	1.328	1.019	1.087	
Banbridge	3.235	2.743	2.325	2.167	
Belfast	49.318	52.514	46.526	43.496	
Carrickfergus	2.759	2.622	2.528	1.603	
Castlereagh	3.443	4.614	2.891	3.647	
Coleraine	3.743	3.674	3.454	3.395	
Cookstown	1.482	1.426	1.345	1.612	
Craigavon	7.979	8.189	6.011	6.726	
Derry	9.746	10.094	9.682	8.332	
Down	4.727	5.627	4.202	3.966	
Dungannon & S.Tyrone	3.045	3.080	2.477	2.645	
Fermanagh	3.506	3.309	3.207	2.891	
Larne	1.494	1.454	1.595	1.310	
Limavady	2.027	1.881	1.683	1.355	
Lisburn	10.248	10.131	8.523	7.073	
Magherafelt	1.777	1.613	1.370	1.288	
Moyle	0.832	0.816	0.711	.583	
Newry & Mourne	9.236	8.587	6.989	6.521	
Newtownabbey	6.520	6.827	6.329	5.108	
North Down	6.907	7.199	5.314	4.905	
Omagh	2.214	2.986	2.311	2.659	
Strabane	2.269	2.160	2.479	2.056	
Unallocated to DC*	(0.283)	(3.507)	(0.649)	(4.218)	
Total	155.542	156.962	136.468	123.780	88.3

* Monies receipted but not allocated to individual ratepayer accounts.

** Analysis of end of year debt is not available at individual Council level.

Rates Arrears

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the total level of rates arrears in each council area in each of the last five years.

(AQW 9046/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The total level of rates arrears at the end of each year for the last five years (as published in the Land & Property Services Annual Report & Accounts) and the level in each District Council area are given in the table overleaf. The latest year for which information is available is for 2010/11 and the earliest year for which information is available at District Council level is for 2007/08.

DEBT AT END OF EACH YEAR (£ MILLIONS)

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District Council	31st March 2011	31st March 2010	31st March 2009	31st March 2008	31st March 2007**
Unallocated to DC*	(0.283)	(3.507)	(0.649)	(4.218)	
Total	155.542	156.962	136.468	123.780	88.3

* Monies receipted but not allocated to individual ratepayer accounts.

** Analysis of end of year debt is not available at individual Council level.

Cost of Division

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQO 1443/11-15, what actions his Department is taking to (i) tackle the cost of division; and (ii) reduce segregation.

(AQW 9057/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I refer the Member to the Hansard transcript of my response to AQO 1435/11-15 and to the written answer she received to AQO 1443/11-15.

Building Regulations

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he is considering transferring building regulations to the Department of the Environment; and, if so, when.

(AQW 9078/11-15)

Mr Wilson: There are no current plans to transfer building regulations to the Department for the Environment.

Applicants for Jobs in the Civil Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, for each of the last three years, to detail (i) the number of applicants for jobs in the Civil Service, broken down by religious background; and (ii) of these, the percentage of successful applicants, broken down by religious background.

(AQW 9216/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Information on staff appointments to the Northern Ireland Civil Service has been published in annual reports on the website www.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk for the financial years 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2010 and for the period 1 January 2010 to 1 May 2011 at the following link [http://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/Analysis of NICS Recruitment Competitions 01Apr09 - 31Dec10.pdf](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/Analysis%20of%20NICS%20Recruitment%20Competitions%2001Apr09%20-%2031Dec10.pdf). The information includes occupational groups, gender, community background and declared disability.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Water Microbiological Testing Regime

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the water microbiological testing regime in each hospital's neonatal unit (i) prior to the pseudomonas outbreak; and (ii) subsequent to the pseudomonas outbreak.

(AQW 8585/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): I have commissioned an independent review of the recent tragic incidents of pseudomonas infection in neonatal units. The review is now underway and will be investigating the reasons for the incidents; actions taken, and lessons that need to be learned from the incidents.

At this stage I cannot comment on technical areas such as these that will form part of the investigations of the review team into the reasons for the incidents and actions taken.

I have asked for an interim report by the end of March so that urgent actions can be taken and have asked for the final report to be presented no more than eight weeks after the interim report at which time I will bring the report to the Assembly.

Water Microbiological Testing Regime

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the bacteria which the water microbiological testing regime tested for in each hospital's neonatal unit (i) prior to the pseudomonas outbreak; and (ii) subsequent to the pseudomonas outbreak.

(AQW 8586/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have commissioned an independent review of the recent tragic incidents of pseudomonas infection in neonatal units. The review is now underway and will be investigating the reasons for the incidents; actions taken, and lessons that need to be learned from the incidents.

At this stage I cannot comment on technical areas such as these that will form part of the investigations of the review team into the reasons for the incidents and actions taken.

I have asked for an interim report by the end of March so that urgent actions can be taken and have asked for the final report to be presented no more than eight weeks after the interim report at which time I will bring the report to the Assembly.

Water Microbiological Testing Regime

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the water microbiological testing regime for (i) fixtures and fittings; and (ii) taps in each hospital's neonatal unit (a) prior to the pseudomonas outbreak; and (b) subsequent to the pseudomonas outbreak.

(AQW 8587/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have commissioned an independent review of the recent tragic incidents of pseudomonas infection in neonatal units. The review is now underway and will be investigating the reasons for the incidents; actions taken, and lessons that need to be learned from the incidents.

At this stage I cannot comment on technical areas such as these that will form part of the investigations of the review team into the reasons for the incidents and actions taken.

I have asked for an interim report by the end of March so that urgent actions can be taken and have asked for the final report to be presented no more than eight weeks after the interim report at which time I will bring the report to the Assembly.

Malnutrition Problem Facing some Older People

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the malnutrition problem facing some older people.

(AQW 8642/11-15)

Mr Poots: The importance attached to the nutrition of adults of all ages has been recognized through the launch of "Promoting Good Nutrition – a strategy to improve the quality of nutritional care for adults in Northern Ireland" published by my Department in March 2011. The strategy is targeted at all health and social care settings, including people's own homes.

Ambulance Travel Time

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the estimated ambulance travel time from (i) Ballycastle; (ii) Ballymoney; (iii) Rasharkin; (iv) Dunloy; (v) Loughgiel; (vi) Armoy; (vii) Carey; (viii) Ballintoy; and (ix) Cargan to the Causeway Hospital, Coleraine.

(AQW 8660/11-15)

Mr Poots: I must advise that NIAS cannot provide “estimated” ambulance travel times, but rather average ambulance travel times. The times provided below relate to emergency activity only for the period 01/01/2011 to 31/12/2011.

Location	Average Travel Time (min:sec)	Journeys Undertaken
Ballycastle	27:50	409
Ballymoney	14:32	1,078
Rasharkin	26:33	97
Dunloy	21:35	89
Loughgiel	29:25	11
Armoy	25:11	29
Ballintoy	22:20	7
Cargan	35:00	1
Carey	This area is not a “residential” area or ward, but relates to a Barony/Church Parish area and therefore NIAS cannot provide data.	

Source: NIAS

Ambulance Travel Time

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the estimated ambulance travel time from (i) Ballycastle; (ii) Ballymoney; (iii) Rasharkin; (iv) Dunloy; (v) Loughgiel; (vi) Armoy; (vii) Carey; (viii) Ballintoy; and (ix) Cargan to the Antrim Area Hospital.

(AQW 8661/11-15)

Mr Poots: I must advise that NIAS cannot provide “estimated” ambulance travel times, but rather average ambulance travel times. The times provided below relate to emergency activity only for the period 01/01/2011 to 31/12/2011.

Location	Average Travel Time (min:sec)	Journeys Undertaken
Ballycastle	40:50	4
Ballymoney	34:01	7
Rasharkin	36:21	12
Dunloy	26:00	5
Loughgiel	n/a	0
Armoy	n/a	0
Ballintoy	n/a	0
Cargan	35:22	21
Carey	This area is not a “residential” area or ward, but relates to a Barony/Church Parish area and therefore NIAS cannot provide data.	

Source: NIAS

Complaints of Neglect/Abuse in Care Homes

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many complaints of neglect/abuse in care homes have been made to each Health and Social Care Trust in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8662/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information is not available in the form requested and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Family Planning Association

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail how the Family Planning Association has spent its allocated funds in each of the last three years, including (i) rent and rates; (ii) staff costs; (iii) marketing costs; and (iv) supplying free contraception.

(AQW 8668/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested in respect of core and project funding allocated by my Department to the Family Planning Association (FPA) in each of the past three years is set out in the table below:

YEAR	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Rent & Rates	£5,507.73	£5,729.65	£7,049.19
Staff Salaries & Other Related Costs	£100,298.97	£107,513.51	£117,249.06
Marketing/ Advertising Costs	£319.60	£1,524.96	£607.08
Supplying Free Contraception	NIL	NIL	NIL

The FPA also receives funding from Health and Social Care organisations however the information requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Cross-Departmental Commissioning of Children's Services

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail any cross-departmental commissioning of children's services.

(AQW 8695/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department does not commission services for children, jointly or otherwise. The Health and Social Care Board is responsible for commissioning health and social care services, resource management, performance management and service improvement. The recently established Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), which is led by the Health and Social Care Board, has the capacity to jointly plan and commission services for all children and young people in Northern Ireland.

My Department is currently involved in a range of cross-departmental policy initiatives, supported by a range of statutory and voluntary sector partners, aimed at improving outcomes for children in all areas of their lives.

Treatment for Advanced Prostate Cancer

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what treatments are provided for people with advanced prostate cancer; and for his assessment of these treatments.

(AQW 8710/11-15)

Mr Poots: The HSC Board commissions a range of treatment from Trusts for patients with advanced prostate cancer. The specific treatment will vary according to the individual patient and the stage or severity of their disease. Treatments include surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and hormone therapy.

Clinically advanced localised cancer cannot normally be eradicated by surgery alone. The rate of progression of the disease varies considerably. Patients with locally advanced disease mainly receive radiotherapy or hormone therapy. Some men live for many years with few symptoms, whilst others develop extensive disease quite rapidly.

Integrated Care Partnerships

Mr McCallister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) for a breakdown of the GP practices in each of the 17 Integrated Care Partnerships; and (ii) when the Partnerships will meet and which organisations or groups will be represented at any such meetings.

(AQW 8715/11-15)

Mr Poots: Integrated Care Partnerships are an important component of the future model for Integrated Health and Social Care set out in Transforming Your Care. They should build on the work of the 17 existing Primary Care Partnerships. The Integrated Care Partnerships will join together the full range of Health and Social Care services in each area, including GPs, community health, and social care providers, hospital specialists and representatives from the independent and voluntary sector. The Integrated Care Partnerships have not been created, though, it is important and my expectation that they become established and start operation over a short period of time.

Secondment to Trade Unions

Mr McCallister asked Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of (a) full-time; and (b) part-time staff who are currently on secondment from his Department, or its arm's length bodies, to each recognised trade union; (ii) the salary scale for each secondee; and (iii) the length of each secondment to date.

(AQW 8779/11-15)

Mr Poots: In my Department there is (i) (a) 1 full-time member of staff seconded to NIPSA; (b) no part-time staff seconded to trade unions; (ii) salary range is £23,336 - £26,086; (iii) secondment period runs from 14 January 2008 to date.

This information in relation to my Department's arm's length bodies is not held centrally and could only be obtained from individual HSC bodies at a disproportionate cost.

Water Microbiological Testing Regime

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the bacteria which the environmental microbiological testing regime routinely tested for in each hospital's neonatal unit (i) prior to the pseudomonas outbreak; and (ii) subsequent to the pseudomonas outbreak.

(AQW 8803/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have commissioned an independent review of the recent tragic incidents of pseudomonas infection in neonatal units. The review is now underway and will be investigating the reasons for the incidents; actions taken, and lessons that need to be learned from the incidents.

At this stage I cannot comment on technical areas such as these that will form part of the investigations of the review team into the reasons for the incidents and actions taken.

I have asked for an interim report by the end of March so that urgent actions can be taken and have asked for the final report to be presented no more than eight weeks after the interim report at which time I will bring the report to the Assembly.

Microbiological Standards

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the microbiological standards for (i) water; and (ii) fixtures and fittings in each hospital's neonatal unit (a) prior to the pseudomonas outbreak; and (b) subsequent to the pseudomonas outbreak.

(AQW 8805/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have commissioned an independent review of the recent tragic incidents of pseudomonas infection in neonatal units. The review is now underway and will be investigating the reasons for the incidents; actions taken, and lessons that need to be learned from the incidents.

At this stage I cannot comment on technical areas such as these that will form part of the investigations of the review team into the reasons for the incidents and actions taken.

I have asked for an interim report by the end of March so that urgent actions can be taken and have asked for the final report to be presented no more than eight weeks after the interim report at which time I will bring the report to the Assembly.

Water Microbiological Testing Regime

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many microbiological results for (i) water testing; and (ii) environmental swabs in each hospital's neonatal unit were (a) a matter of concern; or (b) failed against prescribed standards, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8807/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have commissioned an independent review of the recent tragic incidents of pseudomonas infection in neonatal units. The review is now underway and will be investigating the reasons for the incidents; actions taken, and lessons that need to be learned from the incidents.

At this stage I cannot comment on technical areas such as these that will form part of the investigations of the review team into the reasons for the incidents and actions taken.

I have asked for an interim report by the end of March so that urgent actions can be taken and have asked for the final report to be presented no more than eight weeks after the interim report at which time I will bring the report to the Assembly.

Pseudomonas SPP.

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether pseudomonas spp. was regularly tested for in the (i) water sources; and (ii) fixtures and fittings in each hospital's neonatal unit (a) prior to the pseudomonas outbreak; and (b) subsequent to the pseudomonas outbreak.

(AQW 8810/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have commissioned an independent review of the recent tragic incidents of pseudomonas infection in neonatal units. The review is now underway and will be investigating the reasons for the incidents; actions taken, and lessons that need to be learned from the incidents.

At this stage I cannot comment on technical areas such as these that will form part of the investigations of the review team into the reasons for the incidents and actions taken.

I have asked for an interim report by the end of March so that urgent actions can be taken and have asked for the final report to be presented no more than eight weeks after the interim report at which time I will bring the report to the Assembly.

Fire Station in Ballycastle

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether capital funding will be made available for a fire station in Ballycastle within the next three years.

(AQW 8866/11-15)

Mr Poots: Due to capital funding constraints, I do not anticipate funding being made available to Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) within the next three years for this project. Should the Executive make additional capital funding available to my Department, I will reconsider this decision in light of operational and strategic priorities for NIFRS and the wider Department.

GPs Using 0844 Telephone Numbers

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps he has taken to prevent GPs using 0844 telephone numbers as the only means by which their surgeries can be contacted. (AQW 8872/11-15)

Mr Poots: There are 23 Practices (6%) out of the 355 GP practices that use 0844 telephone numbers. Patients contacting a practice using a 0844 number should not incur charges above the equivalent of a local call.

In September 2011, the Department issued a letter to the HSC Board outlining the policy in relation to the use of the 0844 number. The HSC Board, at the Department's request, wrote to all practices in October 2011 and again in February 2012 to advise them of their responsibilities in relation to the use of 0844 numbers. Practices were advised that if, having taken all reasonable steps, it is not possible to ensure that the patient would pay no more than they would to a local geographical number, they must consider introducing a system under which if a caller asks to be called back the practice should do so at its own expense. Practices were also advised that they should not enter into, renew or extend contracts for telephone services unless they were satisfied that patients would not pay more than they would to call a local geographical number.

I would emphasise that in specific cases where patients have an issue regarding the cost of the calls in contacting their GP practice they should take this up directly with the relevant GP practice, which is responsible for providing the service.

Social Care in a Residential Home

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 7781/11-15, to outline the reasons why there was a significant difference in the average cost per person to stay in statutory residential homes in 2010/11 compared with independent/private care homes. (AQW 8885/11-15)

Mr Poots: The cost differential is primarily attributable to the method used by each sector in determining their average cost per person per week.

The costs provided for statutory residential care homes represent the average unit costs for one week's care regardless of the category and extent of care provided in the home. The cost includes the direct and indirect costs not only of the home but also a portion of trust overhead costs, including capital charges and other trust services which are provided in the home.

The costs of the independent sector relate solely to the weekly charge to an individual of a week's residence in the home averaged over the annual duration of occupied weeks.

Social Care in a Residential Home

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 7781/11-15, given the significant difference in the cost of keeping people in statutory care homes compared with independent/private care homes, whether he intends to carry out a review of care home placements to ensure cost effective placements and that people are receiving the most appropriate care. (AQW 8886/11-15)

Mr Poots: I recognise the need to ensure that resources are used in the most efficient and effective way possible. To that end, I have agreed a process of reform to establish the future direction and funding of adult social care, which will include issues such as the cost effectiveness of care and who provides

it. The process has begun and a discussion paper will be issued shortly for public consultation to promote awareness of challenges facing social care and, consequently, consensus on the need for change.

Acute Psychiatric Unit at Windsor House, Belfast City Hospital

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) why there has been a reduction in the number of beds in the acute psychiatric unit at Windsor House, Belfast City Hospital; and (ii) the long-term plans for Windsor House.

(AQW 8901/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust along with other Trusts are reducing dependence on beds as alternatives to inpatient care, such as Acute Home Treatment services are being developed. This enables services users to have their acute care in their own home or within the Home Treatment service.

Following a full public consultation process, the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust has submitted a business case to the DHSSPS for the development of a new 80 bedded acute mental health inpatient unit on the current Windsor House site.

New Fire Station in Newcastle

Mr W Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on plans for a new fire station in Newcastle.

(AQW 8908/11-15)

Mr Poots: There are no plans at present for a new fire station in Newcastle. It remains one of 26 Fire Stations identified by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Development Plan as needing to be replaced.

New Hospital in Enniskillen

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list the 76 names that were suggested for the new hospital in Enniskillen.

(AQW 8922/11-15)

Mr Poots: The suggested names are as follows:

Wolfe Lake Hospital	Inis Ceithleann Hospital
Border South-west Hospital	Ceithleann's Island Hospital
Erne Hospital	University Teaching Hospital
Cross County Hospital (a principal for your health needs) (The)	Koinonia Hospital... family hospital where you feel welcomed
Erne Hospital (The)	South West County Hospital
SW General Hospital (The)	South West United Hospital
Sperrin Lakeland (The)	South West General [This was included twice in overall list of 76 names]
Lakeland Sperrin Hospital	St Michaels South West Acute Hospital
Central Hospital (The)	Gordon Wilson South West Acute Hospital
Feryone Hospital of the SW	St Molaise
Hospital SOUTH WEST	Tyrone Infermanaghry
South West Acute Hospital [This was included twice in overall list of 76 names]	Silveroak Hospital

South West Hospital	Lakelands Hospital
Rural Hospital Enniskillen	South West University Teaching Hospital
Rural Hospital	Lough Erne General
Derryargon	New Hope Hospital (The)
Silverwood	New Hope Hospital
Devenish	Sperrin Lakeland Hospital
Culdeas	South West Hospital (The)
South West Area Hospital	Princess Catherine Hospital
Sperrin Lakeland Acute Hospital (The)	Western General Hospital
St Luke's Hospital	St Catherine Hospital
Wilson Monaghan Acute Hospital	Lakeview
Lakeview Southwest	Lochview
Lakeside Acute Hospital	Wolfe Lough Hospital Enniskillen
North Western	Greenfield(s)
Garden of Healing (The Garden)	Greenland(s)
WestGold	Cherrymount
South Western Area	Heron View
Burkitt's	Beechview
The South West Area Hospital	Hilltop
Drumcoo Hospital	Hillside
Wolfe Lough Health Care	Island(s) (The)
Lakeland Hospital	Islandview (The)
South West General Hospital	Enniskillen Area Hospital
Lough side General Hospital	Western Valley Hospital
Century One General	Hope Hospital

Health Service Dental Provision in Co. Fermanagh

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of Health Service dental provision in Co. Fermanagh.

(AQW 8924/11-15)

Mr Poots: I consider that the availability of Health Service dentistry in Co. Fermanagh is currently sufficient to meet needs. Following a tender for the provision of additional dental services taken forward by my Department and the HSC Board, Oasis Dental Care opened 14 dental practices throughout Northern Ireland, including a new 6 dentist practice in Enniskillen. This practice is currently registering new Health Service patients.

Judicial Review in Relation to the Pharmaceutical Contractors Committee

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much the judicial review, brought in 2008 and decided in 2010, in relation to the Pharmaceutical Contractors Committee

cost his Department, including (a) the total legal costs incurred; and (b) the legal costs his Department had to pay to the Committee.

(AQW 8963/11-15)

Mr Poots: The judicial review, brought in 2008 and decided in 2010, in relation to the Pharmaceutical Contractors Committee cost my Department (a) £152,791.04, including VAT; in total legal costs including (b) legal costs of £119,588.70, including VAT, which the Department had to pay to the Committee.

Rise in Obesity

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) what progress his Department has made in halting the rise in obesity; and (ii) the number of people who are currently deemed to be obese, broken down by (a) gender; and (b) age.

(AQW 8965/11-15)

Mr Poots: In 2007, the Department published the Fit Futures Implementation Plan to tackle the rising prevalence in childhood obesity. The Department has now developed a Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland 2012-2022:

- (i) A Fitter Future for All which aims to tackle the issue of overweight and obesity throughout the entire life course of the population and will be launched on 9th March 2012. Implementation of the non-departmental outcomes within the Framework will be taken forward by the Public Health Agency.

The following information is presented by percentage: The Health and Social Wellbeing Survey (HSWB) 2005/06 recorded 8% of children aged 2-15 as obese and 24% of adults aged 16+ as obese. The Health Survey in Northern Ireland (HSNI) 2010/11 also recorded 8% of children aged 2-15 as obese and 23% of adults aged 16+ as obese. The most recent survey indicates that we have managed to halt the rise in obesity but that a continued and sustained focus on the addressing the obesogenic environment remains a high priority.

- (ii) The Health Survey Northern Ireland 2010/11 collected information on the height and weight of individuals, aged 2 and over. The classification of obesity differs for adults and children and for this reason the results are presented separately below.

Adults

- a) Table 1 below outlines the proportion of adults (aged 16+) classified as obese, from the 2010/11 Health Survey Northern Ireland. The figures have been broken down by gender.

TABLE 1: OBESITY LEVEL BY GENDER

	Male	Female	Total
Obese	23%	23%	23%

Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland 2010/11

- b) Table 2 below outlines the proportion of adults (aged 16+) classified as obese, from the 2010/11 Health Survey Northern Ireland. The figures have been broken down by age-group.

TABLE 2: OBESITY LEVEL BY AGE-GROUP

	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Obese	12%	16%	25%	29%	30%	27%	23%

Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland 2010/11

Children

- a) Table 3 below outlines the proportion of children (aged 2-15) classified as obese, from the 2010/11 Health Survey Northern Ireland. The information is based on the International Obesity Task Force guidelines. The figures have been broken down by gender.

TABLE 3: OBESITY LEVEL BY GENDER

	Boys	Girls	Total
Obese	8%	9%	8%

Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland 2010/11

- b) Table 4 below outlines the proportion of children (aged 2-15) classified as obese, from the 2010/11 Health Survey Northern Ireland. The information is based on the International Obesity Task Force guidelines. The figures have been broken down by age-group.

TABLE 4: OBESITY LEVEL BY AGE-GROUP

	2-10	11-15	Total (2-15)
Obese	10%	5%	8%

Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland 2010/11

Children at Risk of Parental Alcohol and/or Drug Dependency

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) what progress his Department has made in achieving a 10 percent reduction in the number of children at risk of parental alcohol and/or drug dependency; and (ii) to provide a breakdown of the current number of children at risk by (a) gender; and (b) age.

(AQW 8966/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) It has been estimated that there could be as many as 40,000 children living in a family where there is an alcohol problem in Northern Ireland. It is also likely that a significant number of young people are living with parents or carers who are problem drug users. This issue is often referred to as Hidden Harm – as these young people may not be known to services; and they often do not know where to turn for help.

The New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs recognises this important issue, and this Department developed a Regional Action Plan to address this issue in 2008. The Public Health Agency and the Health and Social Care Board subsequently developed a joint implementation plan to drive this forward. Priorities include planning/commissioning and integrated working, including the rollout of a regional protocol; development of specialist services for children/young people; safeguarding children's welfare; workforce development; and research & evaluation.

Importantly, in support of the joint implementation plan, the Health and Social Care Sector has allocated over £700,000 to schemes which either fully or partially undertake work to support children and young people at risk of Hidden Harm.

- (ii) Given the sensitive and discreet nature of this issue, it has been very difficult to put in place a robust measure on the number of children at risk of parental alcohol and/or drug dependency. Work is underway to look at this in more detail, but currently this information is not available.

Reduction in the Suicide Rate

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) what progress his Department has made in achieving a minimum of 15 percent reduction in the suicide rate; and (ii) to provide a breakdown of the most recent suicide rate by (a) gender; and (b) age.

(AQW 8967/11-15)

Mr Poots:

From 2006 a range of actions, based on international evidence of best practice, have been progressed as part of the implementation of the Protect Life strategy. These include:

- (i) training on suicide/mental health awareness; community-led suicide prevention/bereavement support services; local research into suicide; Deliberate Self Harm Registry in A&E Units; Lifeline 24/7 crisis response helpline; and programmes targeted at vulnerable young men.

Suicide is a societal issue, and given recent trends in suicide rates, it is most unlikely that the 15% reduction target will be achieved. The refreshed Protect Life strategy, which is due for publication shortly, will include a number of new objectives/actions which will in future allow for a more balanced assessment of the wider impact of the strategy.

- (ii) I have detailed below a breakdown of the latest 3 year rolling average suicide rate per 100,000 population by both gender and age.

AGE GROUP

	Under 20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80 +
Females								
2008-10	2.6	9.5	7.5	15.1	8.3	6.1	4.3	1.6
Males								
2008-10	6.7	41.0	37.7	41.7	27.2	18.8	13.3	17.9

Births to Mothers who are Under 17 Years Old

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) what progress his Department has made in achieving a 40 percent reduction in the number of births to mothers who are under 17 years old; and (ii) how many mothers under 17 years old have given birth in the last 12 months, broken down by age.

(AQW 8968/11-15)

Mr Poots: The latest data (2008-2010) indicates that the rate of births to teenage mothers aged under 17 years has reduced by 27% to date from the baseline rate of 4.1 births per 1,000 females (1998-2000). The target uses a three year rolling average to analyse the data.

The provisional number of births to mothers under 17 years in the last 12 months, broken down by age, is set out below:

NUMBER OF RESIDENT LIVE BIRTHS TO MOTHERS AGED UNDER 17 BY AGE, Q4 2010-Q3 2011^P

Age of Mother	Number of Resident Live Births Registered
Total Under 17	Total 112
13	1
14	2

Age of Mother	Number of Resident Live Births Registered
Total Under 17	Total 112
15	26
16	83

P Data for 2011 remains provisional until the publication of the 2011 Annual Report of the Registrar General due to be released in November 2012

Tobacco Control Strategy

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how he plans to tailor the Tobacco Control Strategy towards people under 18 years old, as they are the least likely to get involved in such a scheme.

(AQW 8972/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is recognised in the new Tobacco Control Strategy that the majority of smokers become addicted to tobacco whilst still in their teens. Children and young people are, therefore, identified as a priority group for specific intervention. The Public Health Agency has been tasked with developing a comprehensive action plan for the strategy. The Agency will establish a multi-sectoral implementation group to assist in this work. This group will develop actions aimed at effectively engaging with children and young people.

An initial priority for the Implementation Group will be the development of innovative education and awareness raising programmes aimed at preventing young people from taking up smoking. Preventative measures will be complemented by the provision of tailored smoking cessation services in settings convenient to under eighteens who are already smokers.

In addition, a number of legislative controls, aimed at reducing the uptake of smoking by young people, have recently been introduced or are imminent. These include: a ban on the sale of tobacco from vending machines; a ban on the display of tobacco products in retail outlets; and tougher sanctions for retailers who persistently flout the law with regards to underage sales of tobacco products.

Young People with Cancer

Mr Newton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many young people aged between 16 and 24 were diagnosed with cancer in each of the last five years.

(AQW 8975/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information regarding the number of people aged between 16 and 24 years old who were diagnosed with cancer (ICD-10¹ C00-C97) in N. Ireland in the years 2006 to 2010, by year of diagnosis, is given in the table below;

Year of diagnosis	Number of people	
	All people with cancer (C00-C97)	People with cancer excluding non-melanoma skin cancer (C00-C97 excluding C44) ²
2006	56	51
2007	78	66
2008	63	58
2009	74	60
2010	71	64

- 1 For a listing and explanation of ICD-10 codes see International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, 3rd Edition, World Health Organisation, Geneva, 2000. For an explanation of ICD-10 codes see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ICD-10_codes.
- 2 Non-melanoma skin cancer (C44) is a malignant disease that is very common but rarely fatal, and is often excluded from cancer statistics when assessing cancer burden in the community.

Young People with Cancer

Mr Newton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the average survival rate for young people with cancer aged between 16 and 24.

(AQW 8977/11-15)

Mr Poots: The following table includes information regarding the observed survival of people (n=282) aged between 16 and 24 years old who were diagnosed with cancer (ICD-10¹ C00-C97 excluding C44²) in N. Ireland in the years 2001 to 2005 and followed-up till the end of 2010;

Years after diagnosis	Survival of patients (%) and 95% confidence interval	
1	92.6%	(89.0%–95.0%)
2	87.5%	(83.1%–90.8%)
3	85.4%	(80.7%–88.9%)
4	84.1%	(79.3%–87.8%)
5	82.9%	(78.0%–86.8%)

- 1 For a listing and explanation of ICD-10 codes see International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, 3rd Edition, World Health Organisation, Geneva, 2000. For an explanation of ICD-10 codes see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ICD-10_codes.
- 2 Non-melanoma skin cancer (C44) is a malignant disease that is very common but rarely fatal, and is often excluded from cancer statistics when assessing cancer burden in the community.

Young People with Cancer

Mr Newton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the types of cancer that have affected young people aged between 16 and 24 in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8978/11-15)

Mr Poots: The table below includes information regarding the types of cancer (ICD-10¹ C00-C97) diagnosed in people aged between 16 and 24 years old in N. Ireland in the years 2008 to 2010, by type of cancer and year of incidence;

Cancer site	Incidence		
	2008	2009	2010
Lymphoma (C81-C85)	13	13	14
Malignant melanoma (C43)	6	6	11
Non-melanoma skin (C44)	5	14	9
Testis (C62)	11	9	8
Cervix (C53)	6	6	0
Brain and other CNS (C70-C72)	<5	8	5
Leukaemia (C91-C95)	6	<5	<5

Cancer site	Incidence		
	2008	2009	2010
Other malignant cancer ³	19	20	22

- 1 For a listing and explanation of ICD-10 codes see International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, 3rd Edition, World Health Organisation, Geneva, 2000. For an explanation of ICD-10 codes see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ICD-10_codes.
- 2 To protect patient confidentiality the number in cells marked '<5' is concealed.
- 3 Other malignant cancer' included the following cancer sites: Bone (C40,C41), Thyroid (C73), Colorectal (C18-C21), Head and Neck (C00-C14, C30-C32), Other malignant cancer, Connective/soft tissue (C47,C49), Ovary (C56), Kidney (C64-C66,C68), Stomach (C16),Lung (C33,C34), Breast (C50), Uterus (C54-C55), Oesophagus (C15), Vulva (C51), Bladder (C67).

Consultation on People Smoking in Cars Carrying Children

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the consultation will be published on people smoking in cars carrying children.

(AQW 8979/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is my intention to go out to public consultation in the early summer on a range of options around banning smoking in private vehicles.

Officials in my Department are in the process of meeting with relevant stakeholders to discuss the potential impacts of such a ban and these discussions are helping to inform the development of a comprehensive consultation package. The consultation exercise will also seek views on issues around implementation and enforcement.

Sex Offenders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many sex offenders are currently registered on the Independent Safeguarding Authority's Children's Barred List under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007.

(AQW 9006/11-15)

Mr Poots: When a person accepts a caution or is convicted of a relevant offence they are automatically barred by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) from working/volunteering with children and/or vulnerable adults. Depending on the offence, the person may be permitted to make representations to be removed from the barred list(s). In addition the ISA considers allegations of sexual abuse under its discretionary powers.

The ISA has confirmed that it has included 241 individuals in the Children's Barred List under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007. Of these, 195 individuals (81%) were considered in relation to a sexual related offence or allegation.

Phase II of the Benefit Entitlement Checks

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) why Phase II of the Benefit Entitlement Checks, under the Maximizing Access in Rural Areas (MARA) Project, will not be tendered; (ii) the budget for the MARA project; (iii) whether an independent evaluation of Phase II has been undertaken; (iv) whether an assessment has been carried out to provide a rationale for the decision not to tender for Phase II; and (v) how learning from Phase I has been incorporated into the service delivery model.

(AQW 9014/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The benefit entitlement checks, (BECs) under the maximising access in rural areas project will not be tendered as the Social Security Agency will undertake the benefit checks in Phase II.
- (ii) The budget for the MARA project is £2.928 million in total (2011- 2015).
- (iii) An independent evaluation of Phase I was completed by Deloitte in August 2011. Phase II has recently commenced and an independent evaluation will be commissioned in 2014/15
- (iv) The rationale for the decision not to tender for Phase II is as follows:
 - In keeping with the Northern Ireland Guide to expenditure, appraisal and evaluation government departments should carry out assignments where it has the necessary skills and resources to do so. In this case the SSA can provide the requisite service and in doing so this strengthens the interdepartmental approach to this significant regional project.
 - To optimise successful tracking of specific and overall outcomes for the MARA project. The evaluation noted the problems tracking referrals for Phase 1 and the need to clearly measure outcomes in Phase II.
- (v) The following learning from the Phase 1 has been incorporated into MARA.
 - A community development approach in the identification of those households most in need continues to be strengthened and deployed.
 - A formal household identification partnership agreement with Lead Organisations as part of the tender process has been established to ensure early buy in at local community level to the project.
 - An Information Technology (IT) system has been developed for data collection, to expedite onward referrals automatically on a weekly basis to a range of referral partners and to ensure outcome measurement directly from referral agencies. The IT system will also facilitate regular monitoring and reporting for the MARA project.
 - Robust selection criteria for the formal recruitment of enablers on an “as and when” contract has been developed.
 - More focused and interactive training has also been developed for enablers.
 - A marketing plan for the MARA project is currently being developed and the launch of the MARA Project on the 15th March is the first phase of this marketing plan.
 - A second household visit to at least 80% of households approximately 8-12 weeks after initial visit has been incorporated into the project to ensure that the needs of the householder identified at the first visit have been fully pursued.

Life Expectancy Differential

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what progress his Department has made in facilitating a 50 percent reduction in life the expectancy differential between the most disadvantaged areas and other areas.

(AQW 9016/11-15)

Mr Poots: There are many inter- related factors which impact on health. Health inequalities are wholly or partly a result of differences in the wider socio economic circumstances of people’s lives. Reducing health inequalities and closing the life expectancy gap between the most disadvantaged areas and other areas is therefore a challenge which goes beyond the remit of Health, and requires long-term coordinated effort.

Northern Ireland - much like other parts of the UK - continues to experience differences in health and wellbeing outcomes. Despite increases in life expectancy across all areas, improvements in the 20% most deprived areas were lower than those seen across NI as a whole. Latest information against the targets for male and female life expectancy therefore indicates a widening of the life expectancy gap against the baseline position (female gap increased by 0.2 years and male gap increased 1.1 years) for those living in disadvantaged areas against the Northern Ireland average.

Tackling health inequalities is an ongoing challenge and that is why my department is in the process of leading the development of a new public health strategic framework which will seek cross-departmental and cross-sectoral support for updated focus on public health priorities, including addressing the social determinants of health.

Number of Adults who Smoke

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) what progress his Department has made reducing the number of adults who smoke to 21 percent; and (ii) to provide the latest available data on the number of adults who smoke, broken down by (a) age; and (b) gender.

(AQW 9018/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) In spite of a range of initiatives funded by my Department and delivered by the Public Health Agency, adult smoking prevalence rates in Northern Ireland have remained at around 24% since 2007. Reducing smoking prevalence remains a priority for my Department and I have recently launched a new strategy which sets the strategic direction for tobacco control and smoking reduction for the next decade.

There have been significant achievements in recent years, including the introduction of smoke-free legislation, the expansion smoking cessation services and increasing uptake of these services, and the introduction of legislation aimed at preventing children and young people from accessing tobacco. This has resulted in greater protection for the entire population from second-hand smoke and improved support for thousands of smokers wishing to quit.

Smoking, as is the case with most lifestyle behaviours, is influenced by a wide range of social factors many of which are beyond the remit of the health and social care sector. These include poverty, unemployment, and low educational attainment. Progress on addressing these issues would assist in reducing population smoking prevalence.

- (ii) The Health Survey Northern Ireland 2010/11 collected information on smoking prevalence and set out below, in tables 1 and 2 respectively, are the proportion of adults (aged 16+) who currently smoke by age and gender;

TABLE 1: SMOKING PREVALENCE BY AGE-GROUP

	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Currently smoke	26%	34%	24%	26%	23%	11%	24%

TABLE 2: SMOKING PREVALENCE BY GENDER

	Male	Female	Total
Currently smoke	25%	23%	24%

Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland 2010/11

Number of Manual Workers who Smoke

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) what progress his Department has made in reducing the number of manual workers who smoke to 25 percent; and (ii) to provide the latest available data on the number of manual workers who smoke, broken down by (a) age; and (b) gender.

(AQW 9020/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The manual workers subset of the population has proved to be the most resistant to measures aimed at reducing smoking prevalence, with the latest statistics revealing that 31% of this group

are current smokers. While this figure has come down from 35% in 2003 when my Department's previous Tobacco Action Plan was published, it remains unacceptably high.

My Department's new Tobacco Control Strategy, which I recently launched, sets the strategic direction for tobacco control and smoking reduction for the next decade. In this document, disadvantaged people, including manual workers, have been identified as a key priority group. The Public Health Agency, in drawing up an action plan to accompany the new strategy, will set out a number of dedicated actions in an effort to further reduce smoking prevalence amongst manual workers. Improving access to specialist smoking cessation services will be a key component of this.

Smoking, as is the case with most lifestyle behaviours, is influenced by a wide range of social factors many of which are beyond the remit of the health and social care sector. These include poverty, unemployment, and low educational attainment. Progress on addressing these issues would greatly assist in reducing smoking prevalence amongst the manual workers subset.

- (ii) The Health Survey Northern Ireland 2010/11 collected information on smoking prevalence and set out below, in tables 1 and 2 respectively, are the proportion of manual workers (aged 16+) who currently smoke by age and gender;

TABLE 1: MANUAL WORKERS SMOKING PREVALENCE BY AGE-GROUP

	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Currently smoke	40%	45%	31%	33%	29%	15%	31%

Please note that within the 16-24 year old age-group, 40% of respondents did not have a socio-economic group assigned. For the other age-groups, the proportions were less than 5%.

TABLE 2: MANUAL WORKERS SMOKING PREVALENCE BY GENDER

	Male	Female	Total
Currently smoke	32%	30%	31%

Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland 2010/11

Waiting Time for a Routine Dermatology Appointment

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 8193/11-15, to detail (i) the number of dermatology appointments requested; and (ii) the annual appointment capacity for each Health and Social Care Trust area in each of the last three years.

(AQW 9027/11-15)

Mr Poots: The most robust and regionally consistent measure of required appointments over the last three years is the number of referrals received by Health and Social Care Trusts for a first outpatient appointment. Similarly, the combined number of first outpatient attendances and missed first outpatient appointments provides the most robust and regionally consistent measure of annual capacity over this period.

The number of referrals received, by each HSC Trust, for a first outpatient appointment in the Dermatology specialty during 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11 is outlined in the table below:

Total number of referrals received for a first outpatient appointment in the Dermatology specialty, by HSC Trust: 2008/09 to 2010/11

HSC Trust	Financial Year		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Belfast	11,713	12,503	12,305
Northern	9,838	9,977	9,749
Southern	9,358	8,608	10,197
South Eastern	9,708	10,863	10,051
Western	7,417	7,851	7,958
Total Northern Ireland	48,034	49,802	50,260

Source: Health and Social Care Board

- 1 Number of referrals has been provided as an indicator of the number of appointments requested

The combined number of first outpatient attendances and missed first outpatient appointments in the Dermatology specialty at each HSC Trust during 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11 are outlined in the table below:

Total number of first outpatient attendances and missed first outpatient appointments in the Dermatology specialty, by HSC Trust: 2008/09 to 2010/11, 2,3

HSC Trust	Financial Year		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Belfast	8,921	9,189	8,685
Northern	6,864	5,145	4,466
Southern	8,374	7,980	7,472
South Eastern	6,434	4,604	4,610
Western	6,481	6,443	6,817
Total Northern Ireland	37,074	33,361	32,050

Source: Departmental Quarterly Outpatient Activity Return

- 2 The combined number of first outpatient attendances and missed first outpatient appointments have been provided as an indicator of appointment capacity.
- 3 Data includes activity undertaken as part of a waiting list initiative, but excludes activity provided by the Independent Sector.

Causeway Hospital, Coleraine

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) what steps he has taken to enhance the viability of the new Causeway Hospital, Coleraine; and (ii) whether he will make a statement in relation to this matter.

(AQW 9039/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Causeway Hospital, opened in 2001, provides 24/7 acute hospital services to the local Causeway community. I am aware of recent concerns regarding the future of the hospital and can confirm that there are no plans to alter its acute status.

You will be aware, however, that the recent review of health and social care services in Northern Ireland has made it clear that significant changes will be required to our health service. It is too soon to say exactly what the future configuration of services will look like, or the implications for individual

hospitals, but our aim must be to have safe, resilient and sustainable services with the focus on the individual and not the institution.

Local Commissioning Groups will draw up specific proposals for hospitals in their area which meet the principles and criteria laid down by the review team and I am committed to consulting fully on any major reconfiguration of services which I intend to take forward.

Audit on Diabetes Provision

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether an audit on diabetes provision has been carried out, similar to the National Diabetes Paediatric Audit which was carried out in England,
(AQW 9049/11-15)

Mr Poots: Within Northern Ireland a number of regional audits for diabetes services provision have been undertaken, including an audit of diabetes education published in 2008 and currently being updated and a regional audit of hospital care undertaken in conjunction with Co-Operation and Working Together (CAWT) in 2010. Confidential enquiries into maternal and child health and pregnancy outcomes with diabetes have also been conducted.

In 2009 the Diabetes Consultant Group in Northern Ireland was allowed to use the National Diabetes Audit template to complete a Northern Ireland submission. The results were analysed by the clinician in charge of the exercise, who provided the results for Northern Ireland. The intention is to do a similar exercise at intervals.

In addition, each HSC Trust has computer systems for adults and children with diabetes to allow them to conduct audits of their patients.

The Report of the HSC Review 'Transforming Your Care' identifies long term conditions, such as diabetes, as a key area for health and social care. To ensure the highest quality services for people with diabetes, I have asked officials in my Department to initiate a review to consider the provision of existing services and emerging priorities in order to inform the development of a strategic and co-ordinated approach to improving services for people with diabetes.

External Consultancy Fees for Patients at the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much has been spent on external consultancy fees for patients at the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald, who were referred to the Fitzwilliam Clinic, Belfast in the last year.
(AQW 9052/11-15)

Mr Poots: During 2010/11 (latest information available) all referrals to the Fitzwilliam Clinic, Belfast from the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald were in respect of plastics outpatients services.

The total paid to the Fitzwilliam Clinic for the plastics outpatient service for the financial year 2010/11 was £366,628.

The Regional Plastics Outpatients Referral Centre is based at the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald (South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust) and in that context, all such referrals would be for patients from across Northern Ireland.

National Institute for Clinical Excellence Technology Appraisals and Clinical Guidelines

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the new policy introduced in September 2011, on the implementation of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Technology Appraisals and Clinical Guidelines, what action (i) his Department; and (ii) the

Health and Social Care Board has taken to ensure that patients and clinicians are able to access NICE approved treatments and procedures.

(AQW 9053/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- i As set out in circular HSC (SQSD) NICE 04/11, in the majority of cases, my Department has reviewed and endorsed NICE guidance within the agreed timescales of four weeks for Technology Appraisals and eight weeks for Clinical Guidelines.

Additionally, my securing of funds in the October Monitoring round allowed the Health and Social Care Board to ensure that patients can access certain new NICE-approved drugs and treatments .

- ii. As part of the new process, the HSC Board is required to submit to the Department a commissioning plan (in the case of Technology Appraisals) or Board response (in the case of Clinical Guidelines) within 15 weeks of the confirmed receipt of endorsement.

The commissioning plans and Board responses will set out the Board's strategy for implementing the guidance in the context of resources available and other HSC priorities.

The first of these responses and plans are to be submitted to my Department shortly and once agreed, they will form the formal Departmental policy position on implementation.

Software Companies Listed in the August 2011 Northern Ireland Care Record Outline Business Case

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 8019/11-15, to detail (i) the rationale behind the decision to follow the HSCNI Technology Partner Agreement Framework Contract with Hewlett Packard for this project; (ii) the number and names of the companies that were initially selected to participate in the procurement process; (iii) when the procurement process began; (iv) the criteria used to determine the selection; (v) which companies were short-listed; (vi) the short-listing process; (vii) the areas the Health and Social Care Board and/or his Department are currently discussing with the companies; and (viii) the procurement process.

(AQW 9061/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information sought is as follows:

- i in considering the options, the Electronic Care Record (ECR) project used a scored criteria comprising value for money, resources required to complete the procurement, timescales, the extent to which direct engagement with potential suppliers was allowed for, and procurement flexibility. The process is documented in the Procurement Strategy 'Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record Procurement Strategy'. Having adopted the assessment and evaluation approach set out in the Strategy, it was concluded that the preferred option was to procure the ECR software and related services through the Technology Partner Agreement's Procurement Service;
- ii. the companies initially selected to participate in the procurement process were:

■ Axsys Technology	■ Intersystems
■ Carefx	■ iSoft
■ csamhealth	■ Microsoft
■ dbMotion	■ Oracle
■ Enline	■ Orion Health
■ Graphnet	■ Restart Consulting
■ IBM	
- iii. as part of the 'project start-up' phase, preparation for procurement and development of the Procurement Strategy took place in June-November 2011. The Procurement Strategy received

Project Board approval on 22 September 2011, and a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) was distributed to an agreed long list of bidders on 10 October 2011;

- iv. the longlist of bidders receiving the PQQ was limited to suppliers of a commercially available ECR product, based on the Northern Ireland ECR Project Team's market assessment of potential solutions, and to suppliers who had previously expressed an interest in the Project;

the following Suppliers submitted PQQs:

- v. Axsys Technology; csamhealth; dbMotion; Intersystems; and Orion Health;
- vi. the PQQ responses were evaluated in terms of the relevant technical knowledge and experience shown, capability/capacity, and organisational and financial standing. Three bidders (Orion Health, Intersystems and csamhealth) distinguished themselves as clearly better than their rivals;
- vii. the shortlisted companies are currently preparing their full tender responses to the ECR requirements. Limited dialogue, in order to clarify any legal, financial or technical queries the bidders have, may take place at this juncture; and
- viii. I understand that this point relates to the Technology Partner Agreement. This is a framework agreement aimed at providing an efficient and effective route to procure a broad range of ICT equipment and services. The framework was awarded to Hewlett Packard in August 2009 following a fully compliant OJEU procurement under the Public Contract Regulations 2006 and conducted using the competitive dialogue procedure provided for in those Regulations. The framework was let for a period of four years, and is due for renewal in 2013.

Liver Function Tests

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on how many occasions (i) Social Services has required parents to take a liver function test; and (ii) children have been removed from their parents because of liver function test results.

(AQW 9067/11-15)

Mr Poots: Health and Social Care Trusts cannot require or compel anyone to take a liver function test, and figures on children removed from their parents because of liver function test results are not available.

Rare Diseases

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been diagnosed with a rare disease in each Health and Social Care Trust area, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 9096/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of people that have been diagnosed with a rare disease in each of the last five years is not available.

Northern Ireland Care Record Outline Business Case

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 8018/11-15, given that the Electronic Care Records (ECR) Project's proof of concept was for a view only portal that provided Health and Social Care professionals with a unified view of data from a variety of existing clinical information systems (i) why only the four top scoring companies in the tender exercise were contacted to provide costs for a project to implement a clinical portal to provide full ECR functionality and scope across hospitals; (ii) who made this decision; (iii) when this decision was made; (iv) how the four companies scored, broken down by each section; and (v) to detail the high level scoping document and ECR costs template provided to the companies.

(AQW 9119/11-15)

Mr Poots: The top six companies from the Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record (NIECR) Proof of Concept pre qualification process were asked to provide costs, with five suppliers providing information.

It was considered that the inclusion of the costs of four suppliers was sufficient to inform the cost assumptions in the Outline Business Case, prior to the commencement of a new procurement process for the regional NIECR project. The decision to use the cost assumptions of these suppliers was taken by the Electronic Care Record Project Team in January 2011.

The Electronic Care Record Proof of Concept pre-qualification process scores of the four companies included in the Outline Business Case, the scoping and costs letter and the associated costs template have been placed in the Assembly library due to the size of the documents.

Staff Disciplinary Actions

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of staff disciplinary actions taken by his Department in each of the last two years, at Staff Officer level and above, including details of the offence and the disciplinary sanctions applied.

(AQW 9125/11-15)

Mr Poots: It has not been necessary for my Department to take formal disciplinary action under the NICS Disciplinary policy against any staff at Staff Officer level and above in the last two years.

Convicted Sex Offenders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many convicted sex offenders are disqualified from working with children and vulnerable adults under the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.

(AQW 9139/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) assumed responsibility for barring decision-making from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) and the Department of Education in 2009 under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007. The ISA began making barring decisions in respect of referrals received from Northern Ireland organisations on 13 March 2009. From that same date, DHSSPS ceased making barring decisions under the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order (POCVA).

In the course of decision-making by DHSSPS under POCVA, a total of 158 individuals were added to either the Disqualification from Working with Children's List and/or the Disqualification from Working with Vulnerable Adults List. Referrals were made under POCVA on the basis of misconduct which harmed a child or vulnerable adult or placed them at risk of harm; and, in the majority of cases, those referred had no criminal convictions for sexual offences or otherwise. DHSSPS cannot confirm the number of convicted sex offenders included on the POCVA disqualification lists on the basis that it does not hold that information.

National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Technology Appraisals and Clinical Guidelines

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) which of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Technology Appraisals and Clinical Guidelines have been implemented since the publication of Circular HSC (SQSD) 04/11 'New Process for Endorsement, Implementation, Monitoring and Assurance in Northern Ireland'; and (ii) the level of funding allocated for the NICE approved treatments and procedures.

(AQW 9157/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The HSC Board has issued 23 Commissioning Statements since 28 September 2012 when the new guidance came into effect. These refer to guidance published by NICE prior to the new process being introduced. The reference numbers for the endorsed NICE guidance are set out in the table below.

Technology Appraisal guidance (TAs) for which the HSC Board has sent out a Commissioning Statement

TA 75, TA 166, TA 169, TA 187, TA 188, TA 190, TA 193, TA 195, TA 198, TA 200, TA 208, TA 215, TA 216, TA 221, TA 222, TA 223, TA 226, TA 227, TA 228, TA 229, TA 230, TA 232, TA 234

For guidance published by NICE from 28 September 2012 the Health and Social Care Board is required to submit to my Department a commissioning plan or Board response setting out its plans for implementation of endorsed NICE guidance. These plans or responses are expected within 15 weeks of the confirmed receipt of the endorsement and the first of these are expected shortly.

- (ii) Some £5million of additional funding was secured as part of October Monitoring for specialist medicines, some of which provided access to the treatments referred to in the Commissioning Statements listed above.

When developing commissioning plans and Board responses for the implementation of NICE guidance, the HSC Board must take into account available resources and competing HSC priorities.

Community Pharmacies

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, following the recent judicial review, what steps his Department will take in relation to community pharmacies.

(AQO 1475/11-15)

Mr Poots: Following the remedy hearing, on 7 February 2012, for the judicial review brought by Community Pharmacy Northern Ireland (CPNI) I subsequently met with their representatives on 14 February 2012 to discuss the way forward for community pharmacy. I am keen that we move forward in a way which will enable community pharmacy to deliver the new healthcare model envisaged in “Transforming Your Care”, which is sustainable for pharmacists, improves outcomes for patients and which delivers value for money.

Following the meeting I have tasked officials in my Department and the HSC Board to continue negotiations with CPNI on the way forward for community pharmacy and how the available funding could be invested now and for the future. Officials have subsequently met formally with CPNI on three occasions.

Northern Ireland Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Association

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the level of grant aid paid to the Northern Ireland Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Association in each of the last five years.

(AQW 9183/11-15)

Mr Poots: The funding provided to the ME Association by my Department in each of the last five years is set out in the table below.

Year	Amount of Funding
20011/12	£18,434
20010/11	£18,434
2009/10	£18,434
2008/09	£17,984
2007/08	£17,546

Alleged Abuses in Nursing Homes

Mr McCallister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the alleged abuses in nursing homes found during the investigation carried out by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.

(AQW 9212/11-15)

Mr Poots: I welcome the NI Human Rights Commission's interest in this extremely important area. Making sure that vulnerable people's human rights are upheld, especially when they cannot do so for themselves, should always be at the forefront of our thinking and working practices as a civilised society.

I am satisfied that the vast majority of nursing homes and their staff are doing a high quality job in caring for their residents, and I commend the many staff who routinely give of their utmost to provide the best possible care. But I am very dismayed and concerned at the instances of poor practice chronicled in the report. Even if they are very much in the minority, as I believe they are, they are simply not acceptable. I should indicate that the evidence gathering and analysis of it would not have been carried out to the standards we would normally expect.

My Department will be examining the recommendations from the report in detail over the coming weeks, in consultation with RQIA and HSC and the independent sector as appropriate, and I will take any necessary action to ensure we achieve our aim of doing everything possible to protect the most vulnerable members of our society.

Prescription Medicines for Prisoners

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline (i) the policy on prescription medicines for prisoners; and (ii) how prescription medicines are regulated when a prisoner is on a two-week course.

(AQW 9235/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) Medicines are prescribed in prisons on the basis of national guidance and the clinical judgement of the medical practitioner.
- (ii) All prisoners who are prescribed medication are subject to a comprehensive risk assessment to determine their suitability to be in possession of their own medication. The risk assessment takes into account the prisoner, the medication and their location. If they are considered suitable, they may receive their medication on a daily, weekly or monthly basis, depending on the drug. If they are not considered suitable to be in possession of their own medication, it will be issued to them dose by dose by a nurse.

Winter Fuel Allowance

Mr Molloy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what provision is in place for cancer patients to claim the winter fuel allowance when a GP has neither provided a consent form nor sent the relevant information to his Department.

(AQW 9286/11-15)

Mr Poots: I can advise that all General Practitioner (GP) Practices have been asked to examine their records and identify patients with a diagnosis of cancer who meet the eligibility criteria set by my Department for payment.

Patients who consider they should receive payment, but have not yet received a consent form from their GP, should, in the first instance, contact their GP.

Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh: Paediatric Dental Service

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) why the paediatric dental service has been removed from the Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh; and (ii) whether an inquiry was held prior to the decision being made; and if so, to detail the findings.

(AQW 9325/11-15)

Mr Poots: The provision of services are operational matters for Health and Social Services Trust. The Western Health and Social Care Trust has advised that for reasons of patient safety daycase paediatric surgery will take place at Tyrone County Hospital only in instances where there is a second anaesthetist on site.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the estimated annual cost to the Health Service of treating post-traumatic stress disorder.

(AQO 1467/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is not possible to quantify separately the resources provided by Health and Social Care Services for the treatment of post traumatic stress disorder. However, in the year 2010/11 year £228 million was spent on specialist services for people with mental health problems. This does not include expenditure on primary care services and voluntary organisations which may treat and support patients with post traumatic stress disorder.

Arthritis

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what research is being carried out in relation to arthritis.

(AQO 1468/11-15)

Mr Poots: Currently there are nine clinical research projects underway to benefit people with arthritis involving four of the five HSC Trusts in association with university-based researchers. The projects are investigating a variety of approaches to diagnosis and care including:

- clinical trials of novel drugs;
- tests to determine whether a person's gene profile can predict their response to a certain drug;
- tests for biological molecules, known as biomarkers, that change to indicate whether or not a person is responding to treatment; and
- studies on the application of MRI and of ultrasound.

Audiology

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action is being taken to ensure a high standard of provision of audiology services.[R]

(AQO 1469/11-15)

Mr Poots: Audiology services are an essential component of the range of care provided to people with a hearing impairment, and we in Northern Ireland are fortunate to have well trained, committed, and dedicated audiology professionals delivering these services.

However, as our population gets older, and advances are made in digital hearing aid technology, the demand for audiology services will undoubtedly increase. Faced with these challenges, I have decided to follow the example of our colleagues in Great Britain and begin to develop quality standards for audiology services here, to ensure that the service we provide in the future will continue to be of the highest quality possible, and focused on the needs of the patient.

As a fundamental first step in this process, my Department has asked the Health and Social Care Board to instigate a scoping study, which will look at where we are now in terms of audiology quality

standards and make recommendations about where we want to be. They have agreed to report by the end of June 2012.

Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy can deliver lifesaving treatment to cancer patients, what action his Department is taking to make this treatment more widely available to patients.

(AQO 1470/11-15)

Mr Poots: Stereotactic ablative radiotherapy is a specialist service that is not currently provided in Northern Ireland. The relatively small population of Northern Ireland may not be sufficient to safely maintain the highly specialised skills required to provide this service locally. Any consideration of local provision would need to take account of factors such as best practice guidance with reference to issues such as number of patients and operators needed to support and sustain a robust model of service for our population.

However stereotactic radiotherapy is available in other parts of the UK mainland and patients from Northern Ireland can be referred by their consultants through the HSC Board Extra Contractual Referrals (ECRs) process. Tertiary referrals are provided in Leeds Teaching Hospital, Sheffield Teaching Hospital and the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London.

The decision to recommend a patient for stereotactic radiotherapy is, in the first instance, a matter for the clinical judgement of the referring consultant. This is based on the patient's clinical condition, the best available evidence on the most appropriate treatment and discussions with the patient on his or her treatment options.

Currently there are no plans to introduce this treatment in Northern Ireland.

Mater Hospital, Belfast

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department has any plans to expand services at the Mater Hospital, Belfast.

(AQO 1471/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Mater Hospital continues to provide an excellent range of services to the people of North Belfast and beyond. The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, in its document "Excellence and Choice - A consultation on the proposals to reorganise the delivery of acute services in Belfast" has set out its initial plans for the provision of some acute services across all the Belfast Hospitals.

Work on these plans is ongoing and several changes have already been successfully implemented to deliver the best possible care to patients. "Transforming Your Care" The Review of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland, will also have a bearing on the future configuration of services in Belfast.

However, I look forward to the Mater Hospital having a continued role in the provision of safe resilient and sustainable services in the future.

South Tyrone Hospital, Dungannon

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans he has for the South Tyrone Hospital, Dungannon.

(AQO 1472/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have no plans to change the current service provision at the South Tyrone Hospital. On 24 February 2012, the Southern Health and Social Care Trust concluded its consultation on the future service model for minor injury services across the Trust area, including South Tyrone.

Any proposed changes to the configuration of services arising out of this consultation will be considered within the context of providing safe and sustainable health and social care services.

Dentists: Practice Allowance

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the impact on the delivery of high quality patient treatment, resulting from the loss of the seven percent Practice Allowance for dentists in deprived areas.

(AQO 1473/11-15)

Mr Poots: The practice allowance was introduced in 2005 to provide Health Service committed practices with financial support for the increasing requirements on practitioners. Practices who meet the eligibility criteria set out in the Statement of Dental Remuneration, or can demonstrate that they are sufficiently committed to the Health Service, are still able to receive the higher rate of practice allowance, which is 11% as against 4% for all other dentists.

As this change, which was fully implemented in April 2011, should not affect Health Service committed practices, there should not be any impact on the ability of Health Service committed practices to continue delivering high quality treatment and care to patients in deprived areas or elsewhere.

Business Services Transformation Programme

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the impact that the commencement of the recruitment programme by the Business Services Organisation might have on the validity of the consultation on the Business Services Transformation Programme.

(AQO 1474/11-15)

Mr Poots: The recruitment programme would have had no such impact. It was concerned with the BSO's existing operations, and was entirely unrelated to the Business Services Transformation Programme and to the shared service proposals on which the public consultation closed last Wednesday.

Department of Justice

Prison Service Staff: Disciplinary Actions or Investigations

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) how many disciplinary actions against, or investigations of, Prison Service staff are on-going; (ii) on what date did each case begin; (iii) at what stage is each case; and (iv) of those staff currently under investigation, how many are suspended on full pay.

(AQW 8438/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): There are currently 17 disciplinary actions on-going against Prison Service Staff and 8 members of staff currently under investigation. The table below provides the information requested.

(i) Number	(ii)Date Case Began	(iii)Current Stage
1	01.10.2009	Appeal
2	02.10.2009	Appeal
3	08.04.2010	Case on hold pending outcome of dignity at work complaint.
4	03.11.2010	Hearing
5	01.09.2011	Appeal
6	02.09.2011	Appeal
7	01.11.2011	Hearing
8	22.11.2011	Hearing

(i) Number	(ii) Date Case Began	(iii) Current Stage
9	22.11.2011	Hearing
10	22.11.2011	Hearing
11	09.01.2012	Appeal
12	02.02.2012	Hearing
13	06.02.2012	Hearing
14	09.12.2012	Hearing
15	14.02.2012	Hearing
16	14.02.2012	Hearing
17	14.02.2012	Hearing

(iv) There are eight Prison Service staff currently under investigation, all have been suspended on full pay. The table below provides the information requested.

Number	Suspension
1	28.03.2011
2	15.12.2011
3	16.12.2011
4	04.01.2012
5	04.01.2012
6	04.01.2012
7	23.01.2012
8	23.01.2012

Visit to Portlaoise Prison

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, given his intention to visit Portlaoise Prison to investigate searching practices, whether he will change existing legislation, or introduce new legislation, to exempt Northern Ireland from that which is relevant to all UK prisons, should he decide to engage a similar search mechanism to that used in Portlaoise.

(AQW 8440/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Prisons Act (Northern Ireland) 1953 gives authority to make rules for the management of prisons in Northern Ireland. Prison Rules in England & Wales, while similar in many respects to the Prison Rules in Northern Ireland, are made under separate legislation (Prisons Act 1952).

I will keep the rules regarding searching under review as NIPS continues to explore alternative technologies for searching.

Accommodation Arrangements for Marian Price in Hydebank Wood Prison

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Justice to outline the accommodation arrangements for Marian Price in Hydebank Wood Prison.

(AQW 8499/11-15)

Mr Ford: Marian McGlinchey (nee Price) is located in a self-contained unit within the Healthcare complex at Hydebank Wood Prison.

Her cell accommodation is augmented by separate recreational and kitchen facilities, all of which already existed on site, and are consistent with the facilities available to some existing female prisoners in Ash House. Work is in hand to create an appropriate environment and daily regime for Ms McGlinchey within the Healthcare Centre, including extended visiting sessions and access to a prisoner payphone.

Subject to risk assessment Ms McGlinchey also has the opportunity to undertake work, education or general association in the company of other female prisoners.

Marion McGlinchey: Accommodation and Facilities

Lord Morrow asked Minister of Justice whether Marion Price has relinquished her separated prisoner status to be accommodated in Hydebank Women's Prison; and if not, what alterations will have to be made, and what will they cost.

(AQW 8561/11-15)

Mr Ford: Marian McGlinchey (nee Price) has not relinquished her separated prisoner status on transfer to Hydebank Wood Prison.

Alterations have been made to Mrs McGlinchey's accommodation. These include; the installation of new doors and partitions; the fitting of an extractor fan; and the provision and movement of electrical sockets. The cost to date of meeting these at Hydebank Wood is £3533.11.

HMP Magherberry Healthcare Centre

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, given that the Pearson Review Team Report in 2009 raised concerns that 'the overriding emphasis on security and the physical arrangements to ensure security at Magherberry make unannounced visits impossible' and that 'any malpractice may be suspended for the duration of a visit', how unannounced visits are being dealt with at HMP Magherberry Healthcare Centre.

(AQW 8563/11-15)

Mr Ford: Prison Governors and managers regularly visit all areas of the prison unannounced. These visits occur during the day and night, and include the Healthcare Centre.

Postage and Printing Costs

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Justice whether his Department, and its arm's-length bodies, give elected representatives the choice of receiving reports and all other correspondence by email to minimise postage and printing costs.

(AQW 8567/11-15)

Mr Ford: With regard to reports the Department of Justice follows the guidance published by OFMDFM entitled, 'Guidance on Distribution of Departmental Publications and Consultation Documents.'

With regard to all other correspondence the Department will usually reply in the method which was used by the applicants.

Strabane Courthouse

Ms Boyle asked Minister of Justice for a breakdown of the £396,000 in works and costs that would be required to ensure that Strabane Courthouse is fit for purpose.

(AQW 8574/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below provides a breakdown of the estimated cost of the recommended works to Strabane Courthouse based on Condition Surveys carried out in 2005. New Condition Surveys are being carried out. Final costs for undertaking any works would depend on a number of factors, including the final specification and security requirements.

Recommended Works at Strabane Courthouse		
	Description of Improvements	Estimated Cost
External		
Roof	Specialist Survey	
External Walls & Car park	Redecorate railings & fencing Monitor render for repairs	
Windows/Doors	Redecorate and specialist clean	
Rainwater Drainage	Redecorate and clean	
Sub Total		£13,000
Internal		
Entrance Foyer/Reception	Alter lobby Lift Archway Metal Detector/mag locks Signs generally	
Public Circulation Areas	Minor works	
Public Utility Areas	Toilet flooring, minor work to ceilings	
Judges'/Magistrates' Chambers	Minor work to efflorescence	
Court Executive Offices	Replace all ceiling tiles	
Redecoration	Whole building	
Security Accommodation/Cells	Clad seating with stainless steel	
Sub Total		£94,000
Mechanical Services		
Heating	Replace plant Decorate tank Bund replacement Overhaul radiators	
Ventilation	Review Courtroom 1 system	
Domestic Water Services	Minor works	
Sub Total		£38,500

Recommended Works at Strabane Courthouse		
	Description of Improvements	Estimated Cost
Electrical Services		
External Lighting	Minor replacements	
Emergency Lighting	New batteries	
Fire Alarms	Alarm to Sangar Upgrade system	
Ancillary Equipment	Replace junction boxes Upgrade system	
Sub Total		£21,000
Fire, Health and Safety		
Fire	Signage	
Violence & aggression	Dock screens	
Stairs	Minor adaptations	
Fire Alarm system	General upgrade	
Roof areas	Access ladder	
Sub Total		£17,000
Security		
Various		
Sub Total		£23,500
Universal Access		
External	Road signs	
Means of Access	Minor alterations	
Access within courthouse	Lift installation	
	Change ironmongery	
	Widen strategic doors	
Use of Building	Relocate consultation rooms	
	Alterations to counter	
Courtroom Seating/ Witness Stand	Major refurbishment Remove step at bench, Courtroom 2	
Sub Total		£157,000
Estimated Professional Fees on above work		£32,000
Total		£396,000

The table below provides a breakdown of the estimated cost of the recommended works to Strabane Courthouse based on Disability Discrimination Act Surveys carried out in 2010. Final costs for undertaking any works would depend on a number of details, including the final specification.

Recommended works	
Improve access to the building New signage to disabled parking bay. Tactile paving to steps leading to courtroom.	£700
Access into the building New compliant doorsets into main entrance door, Court 1 and Court 2.	£8,000
Access within the building – Horizontal Circulation Remodel openings and corridor widths to cell area. Remodel openings to provide compliant doors. Remodel entrance and landing to main court on first floor. Remodel entrance foyer lobby to first floor court.	£19,140
Access within the building – Vertical Circulation Provide extended handrails to staircases. Provide disabled refuge intercom.	£1,950
Toilet facilities Upgrade existing disabled toilets on ground floor. Upgrade existing public male and female toilet. Upgrade existing holding area toilet.	£1,500
Visitor reception Provide compliant public counter including fold down seating. Provision and a low level call point. Provide dimmable lighting to public office counter.	£4,100
Courtrooms Provide wheelchair spaces to public gallery and solicitor area in courtroom 2. Provide a new suitably sized witness box. Court 2 – induction loop/IR system to be reinstated.	£8,200
Visitor signage Provide suitable signage to BS 8300 standard.	£2,000
General Provide flashing beacons (except to courtrooms and induction loop systems throughout the building).	£1,950
Total	£47,540

Strabane Courthouse

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Justice for a breakdown of the £47,500 expenditure that would be required to ensure that Strabane Courthouse is fit for purpose in compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act.

(AQW 8575/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below provides a breakdown of the estimated cost of the recommended works to Strabane Courthouse based on Condition Surveys carried out in 2005. New Condition Surveys are being carried out. Final costs for undertaking any works would depend on a number of factors, including the final specification and security requirements.

Recommended Works at Strabane Courthouse		
	Description of Improvements	Estimated Cost
External		
Roof	Specialist Survey	
External Walls & Car park	Redecorate railings & fencing Monitor render for repairs	
Windows/Doors	Redecorate and specialist clean	
Rainwater Drainage	Redecorate and clean	
Sub Total		£13,000
Internal		
Entrance Foyer/Reception	Alter lobby Lift Archway Metal Detector/mag locks Signs generally	
Public Circulation Areas	Minor works	
Public Utility Areas	Toilet flooring, minor work to ceilings	
Judges'/Magistrates' Chambers	Minor work to efflorescence	
Court Executive Offices	Replace all ceiling tiles	
Redecoration	Whole building	
Security Accommodation/Cells	Clad seating with stainless steel	
Sub Total		£94,000

Recommended Works at Strabane Courthouse		
	Description of Improvements	Estimated Cost
Mechanical Services		
Heating	Replace plant Decorate tank Bund replacement Overhaul radiators	
Ventilation	Review Courtroom 1 system	
Domestic Water Services	Minor works	
Sub Total		£38,500
Electrical Services		
External Lighting	Minor replacements	
Emergency Lighting	New batteries	
Fire Alarms	Alarm to Sangar Upgrade system	
Ancillary Equipment	Replace junction boxes Upgrade system	
Sub Total		£21,000
Fire, Health and Safety		
Fire	Signage	
Violence & aggression	Dock screens	
Stairs	Minor adaptations	
Fire Alarm system	General upgrade	
Roof areas	Access ladder	
Sub Total		£17,000
Security		
Various		
Sub Total		£23,500

Recommended Works at Strabane Courthouse		
	Description of Improvements	Estimated Cost
Universal Access		
External	Road signs	
Means of Access	Minor alterations	
Access within courthouse	Lift installation Change ironmongery Widen strategic doors	
Use of Building	Relocate consultation rooms Alterations to counter	
Courtroom Seating/ Witness Stand	Major refurbishment Remove step at bench, Courtroom 2	
Sub Total		£157,000
Estimated Professional Fees on above work		£32,000
Total		£396,000

The table below provides a breakdown of the estimated cost of the recommended works to Strabane Courthouse based on Disability Discrimination Act Surveys carried out in 2010. Final costs for undertaking any works would depend on a number of details, including the final specification.

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Access within the building – Horizontal Circulation Remodel openings and corridor widths to cell area. Remodel openings to provide compliant doors. Remodel entrance and landing to main court on first floor. Remodel entrance foyer lobby to first floor court.	£19,140
Access within the building – Vertical Circulation Provide extended handrails to staircases. Provide disabled refuge intercom.	£1,950

Recommended works	
Toilet facilities Upgrade existing disabled toilets on ground floor. Upgrade existing public male and female toilet. Upgrade existing holding area toilet.	£1,500
Visitor reception Provide compliant public counter including fold down seating. Provision and a low level call point. Provide dimmable lighting to public office counter.	£4,100
Courtrooms Provide wheelchair spaces to public gallery and solicitor area in courtroom 2. Provide a new suitably sized witness box. Court 2 – induction loop/IR system to be reinstated.	£8,200
Visitor signage Provide suitable signage to BS 8300 standard.	£2,000
General Provide flashing beacons (except to courtrooms and induction loop systems throughout the building).	£1,950
Total	£47,540

Police and Community Safety Partnerships

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice how many applications for independent membership of Police and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSP) have been received for each PCSP area.

(AQW 8593/11-15)

Mr Ford: The process of appointing independent members to Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) is a restricted function of the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

However, the Board updated the PCSP Joint Committee (consisting of representatives from my Department and the Board) of the number of applications received in each area, which are as follows:

PCSP/ DPCSP	Applications Received	Belfast breakdown
Antrim	24	
Ards	30	
Armagh	18	
Ballymena	29	
Ballymoney	16	
Banbridge	30	
Belfast	83*	45
Belfast – North DPCSP		20
Belfast – South DPCSP		20

PCSP/ DPCSP	Applications Received	Belfast breakdown
Belfast – East DPCSP		22
Belfast – West DPCSP		32
Carrickfergus	17	
Castlereagh	13	
Coleraine	13	
Cookstown	13	
Craigavon	23	
Derry	24	
Down	21	
Dungannon & South Tyrone	15	
Fermanagh	21	
Larne	17	
Limavady	14	
Lisburn	33	
Magherafelt	16	
Moyle	12	
Newry and Mourne	29	
Newtownabbey	35	
North Down	18	
Omagh	10	
Strabane	11	
Total	585	

* Applicants for Belfast can apply for membership of the city's PCSP and one or more District Policing and Community Safety Partnership (DPCSP). Members of DPCSPs may also be members of the Belfast PCSP.

Prison Service in Ireland: Historical Artefacts

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice what steps are being taken (i) to maintain the integrity of the collection of artefacts relating to the history of the Prison Service in Ireland, which are held at Woburn House, Millisle; and (ii) to record the items which are loaned to other sites or exhibitions.

(AQW 8609/11-15)

Mr Ford:

- (i) The collection of artefacts stored at Millisle remain the property of the Northern Ireland Prison Service. There are currently no plans to remove or dispose of the artefacts from Millisle.
- (ii) Over the past 6 years NIPS employed an ex officer to catalogue the artefacts, including those items on loan to the former prison at Crumlin Road. An inventory of any items loaned out from Millisle is retained on site.

In addition to the artefacts already loaned to OFMdFM for use at the former prison site on Crumlin Road, NIPS has also been asked to consider the loan of artefacts to the Maze/Long Kesh Programme

Delivery Unit, who are considering a future display to include Prison Service artefacts at the new Peace and Reconciliation Centre which is planned for the Maze site, subject to receiving European funding. No decision has yet been taken on this request, but in the event that any items are loaned an agreement will be drawn up and an inventory will be completed.

Prison Service in Ireland: Historical Artefacts

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice what assurances he can give that the collection of artefacts relating to the history of the Prison Service in Ireland, which are held at the Prison Service College, will remain intact until a decision has been taken on a Northern Ireland Prison Service museum.

(AQW 8611/11-15)

Mr Ford:

- (i) The collection of artefacts stored at Millisle remain the property of the Northern Ireland Prison Service. There are currently no plans to remove or dispose of the artefacts from Millisle.
- (iii) Over the past 6 years NIPS employed an ex officer to catalogue the artefacts, including those items on loan to the former prison at Crumlin Road. An inventory of any items loaned out from Millisle is retained on site.

In addition to the artefacts already loaned to OFMdFM for use at the former prison site on Crumlin Road, NIPS has also been asked to consider the loan of artefacts to the Maze/Long Kesh Programme Delivery Unit, who are considering a future display to include Prison Service artefacts at the new Peace and Reconciliation Centre which is planned for the Maze site, subject to receiving European funding. No decision has yet been taken on this request, but in the event that any items are loaned an agreement will be drawn up and an inventory will be completed.

Illiteracy and Innumeracy Among Prisoners

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Justice (i) to detail the level of illiteracy and innumeracy among prisoners over the last three years; (ii) what affirmative actions have been taken to address these issues; and (iii) with which organisations or bodies have these actions been undertaken.

(AQW 8633/11-15)

Mr Ford: Tables A and B below set out the levels of literacy and numeracy among prisoners assessed on committal over the last three years, 2009-2011.

I refer to my reply to your previous AQW 4809/11 (March 2011).

The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) is engaged with the Department for Employment & Learning, including Belfast Metropolitan College, the North West Regional College, and the Prison Arts Foundation in providing support to prisoners.

TABLE A – LITERACY

Year	Establishment	Below Entry Level	EL1 = 5 year old	EL2 = 7 year old	EL3 = 9 year old	Level 1 = 14 year old and higher
2009	Maghaberry	6%	4%	14%	38%	38%
	Magilligan	4%	6%	11%	26%	53%
	Hydebank	8%	4%	16%	51%	21%
	Ash House	13%	3%	2%	55%	27%

Year	Establishment	Below Entry Level	EL1 = 5 year old	EL2 = 7 year old	EL3 = 9 year old	Level 1 = 14 year old and higher
2010	Maghaberry	4%	2%	13%	44%	37%
	Magilligan	4%	2%	10%	25%	59%
	Hydebank	3%	2%	16%	19%	60%
	Ash House	2%	4%	18%	13%	63%
2011	Maghaberry	6%	5%	16%	43%	30%
	Magilligan	5%	1%	9%	33%	52%
	Hydebank	2%	2%	13%	18%	65%
	Ash House	1%	2%	18%	18%	61%

TABLE B – NUMERACY

Year	Establishment	Below Entry Level	EL1 = 5 year old	EL2 = 7 year old	EL3 = 9 year old	Level 1 = 14 year old and higher
2009	Maghaberry	7%	6%	17%	38%	32%
	Magilligan	4%	3%	12%	43%	38%
	Hydebank	7%	5%	20%	44%	24%
	Ash House	13%	2%	16%	56%	13%
2010	Maghaberry	4%	2%	3%	46%	45%
	Magilligan	4%	2%	7%	42%	45%
	Hydebank	3%	2%	3%	46%	46%
	Ash House	7%	-	7%	47%	39%
2011	Maghaberry	12%	7%	21%	41%	19%
	Magilligan	2%	1%	4%	53%	40%
	Hydebank	2%	2%	3%	44%	49%
	Ash House	2%	2%	8%	42%	46%

Sex Offender Treatment Programme

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 7466/11-15, to detail the length of time between release from custody and the commission of a further similar offence, for each of the seven people who had not participated in a Sex Offenders Treatment Programme.

(AQW 8656/11-15)

Mr Ford: The following table details the length of time between release from custody and the commission of a further similar offence, for each of the seven people who had not participated in a Sex Offenders Treatment Programme.

Number:	Time period lapsed from release to date of reoffending:
1	9 months and 20 days

Number:	Time period lapsed from release to date of reoffending:
2	4 months and 17 days
3	1 month and 14 days
4	2 years, 11 months and 3 days
5	5 months and 21 days

In the remaining two cases the further charges relate to offences committed prior to the original sentence.

Driving Without Insurance

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 7685/11-15 and AQW 7767/11-15, why Prison Service staff were not reported to the PSNI or the Public Prosecution Service for aiding and abetting the commission of an offence, or any other relevant charge; and whether he will order an investigation into the handling of this matter.

(AQW 8663/11-15)

Mr Ford: Following the completion of an investigation into the Prisoner Assessment Unit, the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) did not consider that a criminal offence had been committed.

The two officers were subsequently charged and disciplined under the NIPS Code of Conduct and Discipline.

Small Claims Court

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice whether the Courts and Tribunals Service has a standard procedure for advising members of the public who wish to appeal a Small Claims Court decision without employing a solicitor.

(AQW 8671/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service booklet “Small Claims Guide” explains how to lodge an appeal against a Small Claims Court order. The guide also informs customers that court staff are unable to provide legal advice and recommends they contact a solicitor or the Citizens Advice Bureau if legal advice is required.

The Department of Justice has no power to instigate an appeal of a Small Claims Court decision to which it is not a party. Where the Department is a party it has the same rights of appeal as all other litigants.

Small Claims Court

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice whether his Department has the power to instigate an appeal of a Small Claims Court decision.

(AQW 8672/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service booklet “Small Claims Guide” explains how to lodge an appeal against a Small Claims Court order. The guide also informs customers that court staff are unable to provide legal advice and recommends they contact a solicitor or the Citizens Advice Bureau if legal advice is required.

The Department of Justice has no power to instigate an appeal of a Small Claims Court decision to which it is not a party. Where the Department is a party it has the same rights of appeal as all other litigants.

Judicial Review: Legal Costs

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice who has the authority to set the conditions under which legal fees are paid for by the losing party in a judicial review.

(AQW 8713/11-15)

Mr Ford: The award of legal costs and outlays in a judicial review is a matter for the discretion of the court. The normal principle will be that 'costs follow the event': that is the party winning the review will be entitled to costs, but will generally be unable to recover these if the 'losing party' is in receipt of legal aid.

Where the parties do not agree the amounts payable, the court may order that the legal fees are assessed by the costs judge (known as the Taxing Master). In any particular case the costs associated with the use of lawyers from outside the jurisdiction will be determined according to the circumstances and the applicable legal principles.

The court's decision in respect of the award of costs to or against any party, and the decisions as to what costs are to be allowed, are both matters of judicial discretion which are subject to review and appeal by the appellate courts.

Judicial Review: Legal Costs

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice why the losing party in a judicial review does not have to pay the costs of lawyers from outside Northern Ireland, regardless of their expertise.

(AQW 8714/11-15)

Mr Ford: The award of legal costs and outlays in a judicial review is a matter for the discretion of the court. The normal principle will be that 'costs follow the event': that is the party winning the review will be entitled to costs, but will generally be unable to recover these if the 'losing party' is in receipt of legal aid.

Where the parties do not agree the amounts payable, the court may order that the legal fees are assessed by the costs judge (known as the Taxing Master). In any particular case the costs associated with the use of lawyers from outside the jurisdiction will be determined according to the circumstances and the applicable legal principles.

The court's decision in respect of the award of costs to or against any party, and the decisions as to what costs are to be allowed, are both matters of judicial discretion which are subject to review and appeal by the appellate courts.

Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the viability of prosecutions under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 and the sustainability of heavily discounted sentences for accomplice witnesses who turn out to be unreliable.

(AQW 8724/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Director of Public Prosecutions has responsibility for the viability of prosecutions taken under specific legislation. The convention of providing reduced sentences existed in common law before the enactment of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (SOCPA), introduced a statutory framework for the use of assisting offenders which includes a provision for the court to substitute a greater sentence if the assisting offender fails to give their agreed evidence. A reduction in sentence is not mandatory under SOCPA.

Pearson Review Team Report

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in light of the concerns raised in the Pearson Review Team Report, what action has been taken in relation to (i) the duration of disciplinary investigations into alleged misbehaviour by staff; and (ii) the difficulties of convincing a neutral observer that fairness and transparency exists.

(AQW 8725/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Prison Service is currently setting up a Professional Standards Unit which will be responsible for ensuring disciplinary investigations are conducted within set timeframes. The unit

will improve perceptions of fairness and transparency by overseeing investigations centrally, setting standards, and holding comparative data on cases.

Proposed Courthouse Closures

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 7952/11-15, given that the majority of defendants appearing at magistrates courts are from lower socio-economic backgrounds, and that those on JobSeekers Allowance receive £57 per week, how they are expected to travel further distances to attend court, particularly in the Magherafelt and Strabane areas which are predominantly rural areas with a poor public transport network.

(AQW 8726/11-15)

Mr Ford: Defendants attending court hearings are responsible for their own travel arrangements. Data on the socio-economic background of defendants appearing at Magistrates' Courts is not collected, however, information collected through Exit Surveys in 2011 indicated that on the day of the survey, 84% of court users attending Magherafelt Courthouse used private transport while 1% used public transport. 76% of court users attending Strabane Courthouse used private transport to get to court and 3% used public transport. The availability of public transport and associated cost has been considered and will inform the analysis of consultee responses.

Convicted Child Murderer, Ronnie Graham

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the convicted child murderer, Ronnie Graham, (i) who authorised his partial release back into the community; (ii) who decided that it was suitable for him to reside at Thompson House, Belfast, which is surrounded by schools, and Centenary House, Belfast; and (iii) what assessments were carried out to determine the safety of the public, particularly children, during the periods of temporary release.

(AQW 8728/11-15)

Mr Ford: The information requested constitutes sensitive personal data as defined at section 2 of the Data Protection Act 1998. The disclosure of such information is likely to breach the data subject's rights under the Act and would be incompatible with the Data Protection Principles. The information cannot therefore be provided as requested.

Sexual Abuse

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many people, in their capacity as a member of the clergy or a religious body, have been convicted of sexual abuse in each of the last ten years to date.

(AQW 8729/11-15)

Mr Ford: Court conviction datasets do not contain such information.

Board Members of the NI Prison Service Trust

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Justice, for each of the last five years, to detail (i) the names of the Board Members of the NI Prison Service Trust; (ii) each individual's attendance records at Board meetings, including the percentage of time they attended each meeting; (iii) how Board members are recruited; and (iv) what written records exist of approval of the appointment processes from the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

(AQW 8745/11-15)

Mr Ford:

(i) The names of Directors within the past 5 years are as follows:

Name	
Mr F Spratt	2006/7-present

Name	
Mr C McGrugan	2006/7-present
Mrs J Robinson MBE	2006/7- present
Mrs M Kerr	2006/7- present
Mr N Lowe	2006/7-present
Mr D Gowdy	2006/7-present
Mr J McCready	2006/7-present
Mr E Fair	2006/7-present
Rt Hon J Donaldson MP	2007/8-present
Mr S Gaynor	2010/11-present
Miss A McGarvey	2011/12-present
Ms A Lo MLA	2010/11
Mr J Steele CB OBE TD DL FRSA	2006/7-2010/11
Lady Hermon	2010/11
Lady Bloomfield	2006/7-2009/10
Mr B Rea MBE	2006/7-2008/9
Miss M Hempton	2006/7-2008/9
Lord Maginnis	2006/7-2009/10
Mr A Maginness MLA	2006/7-2009/10
Mrs S Peake	2006/7
Mr D Clayton	2006/7-2008/9
Mr N Mitchell	2006/7-2007/8

- (ii) Attendance records are not easily accessible and the percentage of time is not available.
- (iii) Board members are appointed according to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Prison Service Trust.
- (iv) The Prison Service Trust is incorporated under the Companies (NI) Order 1986 as a company limited by guarantee in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and is not regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments Northern Ireland (CPANI) and therefore not required to seek approval of its appointment process from the CPANI.

NI Prison Service Trust

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the NI Prison Service Trust (PST), to detail, since its establishment (i) whether the Trust has exceeded the statutory minimum number of carers accompanying clients on any trip that was at least partially funded by the public sector; (ii) the caring needs of those clients on each trip; and (iii) the qualifications of the accompanying PST staff to meet those needs in line with (a) statutory requirements; and (b) guidelines issued by arm's-length bodies, such as Disability Action.

(AQW 8746/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Prison Service Trust has provided the following answers:

- (i) There are a minimum of two volunteers per trip.

- (ii) Client's needs on each trip are variable.
- (iii)(a) & (b) Volunteers are sufficiently qualified to meet the needs of the clients on trips.

NI Prison Service Trust

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Justice how many people (i) qualify for support from the NI Prison Service Trust; and (ii) are supported by the Trust.

(AQW 8747/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Prison Service Trust has provided the following answers:

- (i) 544 people qualify for support from the NI Prison Service Trust.
- (ii) Each client case is considered on its own merits by the Prison Service Trust Board of Directors.

Funding for Trade Unions

Mr McCallister asked the Minister of Justice to detail the level of funding his Department allocated to each trade union in the (i) 2000/01; (ii) 2005/06; and (iii) 2010/11 financial years.

(AQW 8764/11-15)

Mr Ford: As the Department of Justice was created in April 2010 figures can only be provided for the 2010/11 financial year.

The Department does not allocate funding to trade union organisations. However, it does pay the salary costs of employees who are released on full-time secondment to a recognised trade union.

In 2010/2011 DOJ released four employees to undertake trade union work at a total cost of £155,073.28.

Healthcare Centre at Maghaberry Prison

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) how many of the 38 recommendations contained in the Pearson Review Team Report have been fully implemented; and (ii) whether the safer cells/observation cells in the Healthcare Centre at Maghaberry Prison have been completed, and when they will be functional.

(AQW 8797/11-15)

Mr Ford:

- (i) 24 of the Pearson Review Team Report recommendations have been fully implemented. In addition, a further nine recommendations have been subsumed within the Strategic Efficiency and Effectiveness (SEE) Programme.
- (ii) The safer/observation cells in the Healthcare Centre at Maghaberry Prison were completed in May 2010.

Life Sentences (NI) Order 2001

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many prisoners are currently serving sentences under the Life Sentences (NI) Order 2001.

(AQW 8798/11-15)

Mr Ford: As of 28 February 2012, 187 prisoners are currently serving sentences under the Life Sentences (NI) Order 2001.

Category A Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many Category A prisoners are classed as separated.
(AQW 8800/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are 45 Category A prisoners who are classed as separated.

Proposed Closure of Courthouses

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice what research has been carried out, or is planned to be carried out, on the financial impact of the proposed closure of courthouses on those who will be affected.

(AQW 8806/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Hearing Centre closure consultation exercise recognised that some court users, including legal representatives, may have to travel further to attend court. When developing these proposals my officials researched the distance between venues, travel time, and availability and cost of public transport. The potential financial impact of the proposed closures has been highlighted during the public meetings which formed part of the consultation exercise. All points raised during the consultation exercise will be fully considered.

Any increase in staff travel costs is expected to be minimal as the majority of Hearing Centre staff are already based at other courthouses.

Proposed Closure of Courthouses

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice what increase expenditure on travel for staff and legal representatives has been factored into the proposed closure of courthouses.

(AQW 8808/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Hearing Centre closure consultation exercise recognised that some court users, including legal representatives, may have to travel further to attend court. When developing these proposals my officials researched the distance between venues, travel time, and availability and cost of public transport. The potential financial impact of the proposed closures has been highlighted during the public meetings which formed part of the consultation exercise. All points raised during the consultation exercise will be fully considered.

Any increase in staff travel costs is expected to be minimal as the majority of Hearing Centre staff are already based at other courthouses.

Closure of Courthouses

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the impact of the proposed closure of courthouses on the number of claims for Legal Aid.

(AQW 8809/11-15)

Mr Ford: Legal aid is not granted on the basis of distance travelled to court and accordingly I do not anticipate any impact on the number of claims made for legal aid arising from the proposal to close hearing centres.

Drink Driving

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of convictions for drink driving in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) constituency; and (ii) court division.

(AQW 8820/11-15)

Mr Ford: Drink driving offences span a number of statutes. The answer refers to offences under Article 15(1), Article 16(1)a, Article 16(1)b Article 17(6) and Article 18(7) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. This includes convictions for offences that do not distinguish between driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

The tables below give the number convicted by constituency of residence of the offender and by court division for the calendar years 2004 to 2008 (the latest year for which figures are currently available).

NUMBER OF PEOPLE CONVICTED FOR DRINK OFFENCES BY CONSTITUENCY OF RESIDENCE OF THE OFFENDER 2004-2008

Constituency	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Belfast East	113	128	104	115	74
Belfast North	142	127	137	130	104
Belfast South	122	120	116	105	96
Belfast West	136	136	100	132	108
East Antrim	118	117	101	111	79
East Londonderry	131	125	129	154	98
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	112	112	171	172	162
Foyle	112	115	114	109	83
Lagan Valley	118	127	84	131	107
Mid Ulster	111	148	172	150	134
Newry and Armagh	176	179	184	207	198
North Antrim	131	124	121	188	108
North Down	125	119	134	126	121
South Antrim	129	121	100	170	120
South Down	142	138	120	169	128
Strangford	133	126	138	131	122
Upper Bann	112	160	140	174	134
West Tyrone	134	114	174	140	127
Unknown	141	200	250	522	469
Total	2,438	2,536	2,589	3,136	2,572

NUMBER OF PEOPLE CONVICTED FOR DRINK OFFENCES BY COURT DIVISION 2004-2008

Court Division	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Antrim	224	345	337	519	333
Ards	637	367	377	463	367
Armagh and South Down	218	327	329	428	370
Belfast	371	661	515	670	557
Craigavon and Lisburn	326	275	240	300	284
Fermanagh and Tyrone	296	341	535	478	435
Londonderry	366	220	256	278	226
Total	2,438	2,536	2,589	3,136	2,572

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

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.

Disabled Car Parking Bays

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice how many people have been convicted of the misuse of disabled car parking bays in each of the last five years.

(AQW 8822/11-15)

Mr Ford: In November 2006 a new decriminalised system of parking enforcement involving penalty charge notices was introduced by the Department of Regional Development as the standard method of enforcement of parking contraventions including the misuse of parking spaces for people with disabilities. The powers are extensively used and statistics can be obtained from DRD.

As a result, there were only two convictions for “parking in a disabled person’s parking space” under Article 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 during the period in question.

Speeding up Justice Branch

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Justice (i) for his assessment of the work of the Speeding up Justice Branch, given that the length of time taken to deal with cases has increased, whilst the number of cases has fallen; (ii) for his assessment of the proposal to introduce statutory time limits for access to justice; and (iii) what measures he intends to put in place to ensure that the right to a fair trial is not prejudiced.

(AQW 8835/11-15)

Mr Ford: The causes of delay in the criminal justice system are varied and complex and driving out avoidable delay is the responsibility of a range of organisations within the criminal justice system. The role of the Speeding up Justice Branch is to support criminal justice agencies in identifying and understanding the causes of delay; co-ordinating the delivery of a multi-agency programme to speed up justice; developing policy and legislative proposals to assist the justice agencies in their efforts to improve organisational performance; and reporting to me, through the Criminal Justice Board, on progress. I am personally overseeing this collective effort to tackle delay and I can confirm that the Branch is actively pursuing the programme of work I have commissioned to speed up our justice system.

While I am disappointed that more has not been achieved, we must not lose sight of the fact that some progress is being made. As the recent Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland report into delay found, although performance in summons cases had deteriorated, performance in charge cases has continued to improve. The report also noted that the volume of Public Prosecution Service indictable cases and Crown Court listed cases had increased.

As I announced in the House on 6 February, statutory time limits will be introduced, initially in the Youth Court, within the lifetime of this Assembly. Statutory time limits will reinforce the programme of reform and ensure a strong focus right across the justice agencies on the timely delivery of justice.

The right to a fair trial is enshrined in Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Any measures within the programme of reform to speed up justice will be ECHR compliant.

Ronald Terence Graham

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether Ronald Terence Graham is no longer deemed ‘highly dangerous to society’, as determined by a consultant psychiatrist and quoted in the Lord Chief Justice Kerr’s ruling of March 2006.

(AQW 8843/11-15)

Mr Ford: The information requested constitutes sensitive personal data as defined at section 2 of the Data Protection Act 1998. The disclosure of such information is likely to breach the data subject’s rights under the Act and would be incompatible with the Data Protection Principles. The information cannot therefore be provided as requested.

Category A Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many Category A prisoners are currently (i) remanded; and (ii) sentenced.

(AQW 8844/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are 81 Category A prisoners, (i) 33 are currently awaiting trial or on remand and (ii) 48 are sentenced.

Conduct of Prison Governors

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, given that two prison facility governors were suspended from duty and disciplined for discharging a prisoner's drug debt, and were found to have contributed to the reputational damage of the Prison Service, why their conduct was not reported to the Chief Inspector of Prisons or to the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice.

(AQW 8845/11-15)

Mr Ford: The suspension and discipline of both Governors was dealt with under the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) Code of Conduct and Discipline. There is no requirement to report internal disciplinary issues to the Chief Inspector of Prisons or the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice.

Secondment to Trade Unions

Mr McCallister asked Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of (a) full-time; and (b) part-time staff who are currently on secondment from his Department, or its arm's length bodies, to each recognised trade union; (ii) the salary scale for each secondee; and (iii) the length of each secondment to date.

(AQW 8853/11-15)

Mr Ford:

Number of staff on secondment to a recognised trade union	Salary scale	Length of secondment
4 full-time staff seconded from DOJ and its Agencies	£18,038- £22,180 £23,336- £26,086 £27,115- £30,520 £45,110 (single point)	All secondments ongoing from 12 April 2010

There are no part-time staff on secondment to a Trade Union.

Prison Service: Private Investigators

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 7354/11-15, whether Data Protection law was breached by passing personal information on Prison Service staff to private investigators; and whether any of the employees affected by this action have raised concerns about this process and the associated security implications.

(AQW 8868/11-15)

Mr Ford: No aspects of the Data Protection Act 1998 were breached by passing personal information to private investigators. The Prison Service is entitled to defend its legal interests and this is provided for in the provisions at Schedules 2 and 3 of the Act, which specify the conditions for lawful processing.

Two individuals have made complaints in regard to the employment of private investigators. The Prison Service has responded to both complaints and it would not be appropriate to discuss the details at this stage.

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders that the (i) PSNI; (ii) local councils; and (iii) Housing Executive have applied for in the North Down area in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8880/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Anti-social Behaviour (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 provides for the making of an anti-social behaviour order against a person by a magistrates' court on application by a relevant authority, or by the court before which a person is convicted of a criminal offence.

The relevant authorities have advised that, in the North Down constituency, the PSNI applied for one ASBO in each of 2009 and 2011: both were issued.

Notes

All figures are based on operational information provided by the agencies and may be subject to change.

Anti Social Behaviour Orders

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice how many Anti-social Behaviour Orders were issued in the North Down constituency in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8881/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Anti-social Behaviour (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 provides for the making of an anti-social behaviour order against a person by a magistrates' court on application by a relevant authority, or by the court before which a person is convicted of a criminal offence.

The relevant authorities have advised that, in the North Down constituency, the PSNI applied for one ASBO in each of 2009 and 2011: both were issued.

Notes

All figures are based on operational information provided by the agencies and may be subject to change.

Community Safety Strategy

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the development of a new Community Safety Strategy.

(AQW 8896/11-15)

Mr Ford: My Department has been engaging with key stakeholders to finalise the Community Safety Strategy. The draft Strategy will be considered by the Justice Committee on 22 March, and subject to Committee views, I intend to seek Executive approval by May and launch the Strategy soon thereafter.

Community Safety Strategy

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister of Justice how the success of the Community Safety Strategy will be measured in terms of building safer, shared and confident communities with lower levels of crime and where people feel able to report incidents of crime.

(AQW 8897/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Community Safety Strategy will include a range of indicators to measure success, including police recorded crime and anti-social behaviour statistics, and findings on experiences and perceptions of crime from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey.

The Strategy will contribute directly to a number of commitments detailed in the draft Programme for Government, including those on tackling anti-social behaviour, seeking local agreement to reduce the number of peace-walls and tackling crime against older and vulnerable people.

Crimestoppers

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister of Justice how much funding his Department has provided to Crimestoppers in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8898/11-15)

Mr Ford: The funding paid to the Crimestoppers Trust since the Department of Justice was established is outlined in the table below.

Financial year	2010 - 2011	2011 – 2012 (to date)	Total
Amount Paid	£11,250	£15,000	£26,250

The Department of Justice provides funding to 26 Community Safety Partnerships who also provide financial support to the Crimestoppers Trust for the implementation and delivery of projects at a community level. Details are in Table below.

Financial year	2010 - 2011	2011 – 2012 (to date)	Total
Amount Paid	£5,857.50	£19,027	£25,164.50

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister of Justice to list the Neighbourhood Watch schemes which operate in each council area; and how much funding his Department has provided to each scheme in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8899/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department of Justice came into being on the 12 April 2010; since that time my Department has contributed £25,000 per annum for the promotion and establishment of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. My Department does not fund individual Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

A list of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes which operate in each Council area is attached at Annex A.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes ANNEX A

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Antrim | ■ Glenoak Grange Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Burnside Road, Dunadry | ■ Pakenham Close Neighbourhod Watch |
| ■ Mainebank Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Temple Rise Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Neillsbrook Community Development Group | ■ Toome Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ The Beeches Crumlin Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Aldergrove Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Cairn Terrace Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Cumbria Court Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Landgarve Manor Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Orchard Hill Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Laurelvale Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Cidercourt Road and Camlin Gardens Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Beechfield and Birchill Avenue Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Neillsbrook Fold Randalstown |
| ■ Lakeview Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Ashdale Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Steeple Green/Gardens Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Cairn Walk Bungalows Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Springfarm and District Community Association | ■ Brantwood Gardens Lower Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Parkley Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Knightswood neighbourhood Watch |

Total: 25

Ards

- Grange and Granary Community Watch
- Lisbane Neighbourhood Watch
- Glen Road West Neighbourhood Watch
- Glen Road East Neighbourhood Watch
- Breckenridge Neighbourhood Watch
- Millisle Road N W
- Laurelbank NW
- Ballynichol Neighbourhood Watch
- Knockeden Neighbourhood Watch
- East Street Neighbourhood Watch
- East End Residents Association
- Lusky Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Ardmore and Brae Neighbourhood Watch
- Bowtown Estate Neighbourhood Watch
- Abbot Link Neighbourhood Watch
- Meadow Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Scrabo Hill Neighbourhood Watch
- The Rookery Killinchy Neighbourhood Watch
- Whiterock Neighbourhood Watch
- Upper Circular Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Marcella Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Watermeade N W
- Barrhall/Ballyquinton Road N W
- Main St Kircubbin Neighbourhood Watch
- Cuttles Neighbourhood Watch
- Shore Road & Seaview Avenue N Watch
- Shore Road Square N Watch
- Masonic Beach N Watch

Total: 28**Armagh**

- Tonnagh, Lisdown and Bracknagh NW
- Drumsallen and Dernasigh NW
- Tynan Neighbourhood Watch
- Loughgall Village & District Improvement Association
- Wayside Tandragee
- Loughgilly Neighbourhood Watch
- Sinton Park Tandragee Neighbourhood Watch
- Mourneview Park Tandragee Neighbourhood Watch
- Derryhale Neighbourhood Watch
- Richhill Neighbourhood Watch
- Mavemacullen Neighbourhood Watch
- Hillside Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Dinnahorra Neighbourhood Watch
- Messancy Place/Woodford Drive Neighbourhood Watch
- Ashgrove Markethill Neighbourhood Watch
- Breezemount, Hamiltonsbawn Neighbourhood Watch
- Enagh Markethill Neighbourhood Watch
- Sleepy Valley/Corcreevy Neighbourhood Watch
- Green Park Markethill N W
- Tannaghmore Neighbourhood Watch
- Hillside Park N W
- Thornhill Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Clonroot Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Glassdrummond Neighbourhood Watch
- Crossmore Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Lir Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Carbry Heights Keady Neighbourhood Watch
- Crossmore Green Neighbourhood Watch
- Crossmore Downs Neighbourhood Watch
- Seagahan Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Cardinal Dalton Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Drumcairn Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Lisbane Road neighbourhood Watch
- Tullyallen Neighbourhood Watch
- Ballyards Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Ballymacully Road neighbourhood Watch
- Blacks Lane Neighbourhood Watch
- Eden Drive Neighbourhood Watch
- Primate's manor Neighbourhood Watch

- Richview Heights Neighbourhood Watch
- Main Street/Greywood Close Neighbourhood Watch
- Dukes Lane neighbourhood Watch
- Lislasly Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Lisbofin Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Drumcullen Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Edenderry Drive Neighbourhood Watch
- Jenny's Row Neighbourhood Watch
- Ard Na Greine Neighbourhood Watch
- Coolmillish Way Neighbourhood watch
- Beech Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Woodford Heights Neighbourhood Watch
- Clay Road North Neighbourhood watch
- Clea Road South Neighbourhood watch
- Ashley Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Mullahead Neighbourhood Watch
- Carnagh South Neighbourhood Watch
- Carnagh North Neighbourhood Watch
- Woodlawn Heights Neighbourhood Watch
- Old Mill Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 59

Ballymena

- Carolhill Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Brooke Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Millfield Area Neighbourhood Watch
- Mull Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Skye Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Ballykeel 2 Neighbourhood Watch
- Waveney Mews Neighbourhood Watch
- Cullybackey Residents Association
- Kilmakevit Drive Neighbourhood Watch
- Tobar Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Station View Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 11

Ballymoney

- Church Meadow Neighbourhood Watch
- The Brambles Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 2

Banbridge

- Bannview Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Tonaghmore & District Rural Watch Group
- Rossc Connor Residents Association
- Cline Road Community Association
- Thornhill Community Association
- Rampart Street Neighbourhood Watch
- Lissize and Kiltariff Neighbourhood Watch
- Kinallen Rural Community Development Association
- Ballyroneigh Neighbourhood Watch
- Laganvale Neighbourhood Watch
- Residents of Rugby Avenue
- Bracken Valley and Ridge Neighbourhood Watch
- Bronte NWNl Group
- Gransha Rural Community Development Association
- Willow Estate Neighbourhood Watch
- Castle Hill Neighbourhood Watch
- Brookfield Community Association
- The Spires Neighbourhood Watch
- Parkhill Neighbourhood Watch
- Villawood Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Magherabeg Rural Watch
- Beresford Green Neighbourhood Watch
- Ballygowan Road Dromore Neighbourhood Watch
- Milebush Manor Neighbourhood Watch

- Jubilee Heights Neighbourhood Watch
- Lower Drumgooland Neighbourhood Watch
- Cross Heights Neighbourhood Watch
- Dromara Rural Watch
- Hunters Hill Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Lough Road neighbourhood Watch
- Springfields Neighbourhood Watch
- Gowanvale Drive Neighbourhood Watch
- Windyridge Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 33

Belfast North

- Fortwilliam Parade Neighbourhood Watch
- Glandore Neighbourhood N W
- Waterloo Neighbourhood Watch
- Upper Cavehill Residents
- Somerton Close Neighbourhood Watch
- Gracehill/Oldpark Neighbourhood Watch
- Brown Square Community Association
- Ladbrooke Drive N W
- Duncairn Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Kinnaird Close Neighbourhood Watch
- Waterloo Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Beverlery /St Luke's/Cumberland Neighbourhood Watch
- BIH Housing Cliftonville Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Ashfield Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Henry St/North Queen St Neighbourhood Watch
- Glastonbury/Somerton N Watch
- Dunlambert Drive neighbourhood Watch
- Waterloo Neighbourhood Watch
- TDK Community Group

Total: 19

Belfast South

- Beechlands/Cherryhill NW Scheme
- Shamrock Place Neighbourhood Watch
- Old Coach Gardens
- Trossachs Area Residents Association
- Old Stranmillis Residents Association
- Fairway Drive N W
- Elgin Street Neighbourhood Watch
- Delhi Street Neighbourhood Watch
- Hampton Park Residents Association
- Old Coach Road Neighbourhood Watch
- St Ives Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Deramore Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Bladon Drive Deramore Residents' Association
- Deramore Park South Neighbourhood Watch
- Deramore Drive Neighbourhood Watch
- Wellington Square Neighbourhood Watch
- College Heights, Wellington Sq Neighbourhood Watch
- Lower Courtyard Neighbourhood Watch
- Raby Street Neighbourhood Watch
- Newforge Lane Neighbourhood Watch
- Lavinia Square Neighbourhood Watch
- Ulidia Neighbourhood Watch
- Agra Street Neighbourhood Watch
- Burmah Street Neighbourhood Watch
- Malone Hill Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Malton Fold Neighbourhood Watch
- Shrewsbury Drive Neighbourhood Watch
- Upper Harberton Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Queensbury Neighbourhood Watch
- Malone Court/Mews Neighbourhood Watch
- Dorchester Park N W
- Sandy Row Neighbourhood Watch
- My Lady's Road (Lower)/Lower Ravenhill Road

- Piney Hills Estate Neighbourhood Watch
- Upper Malone Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 36

Belfast East

- Glenhoy/Dunraven Neighbourhood Watch
- RACKS
- Richmond Green Neighbourhood Watch
- Ardenlee Parade Neighbourhood Watch
- Laganview Court Neighbourhood Watch
- Marmont Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Palmerston/Larkfield Neighbourhood Watch
- Langtry Court Neighbourhood Watch
- Wandsworth Community Centre
- Richmond Neighbourhood Watch
- Belmont Church Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Palmerston Neighbourhood Watch
- Inverary Neighbourhood Watch
- Larkfield Neighbourhood Watch
- Ulidia Neighbourhood/Jameson Street Neighbourhood Watch
- Palmerston Road (Lower) Neighbourhood Watch
- Palmerston Park N W
- Larkfield Park N W

Total: 35

Belfast West

- Hillhead Neighbourhood Watch
- Meadowhill Grange Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 2

Carrickfergus

- Whitehead Neighbourhood Watch
- Selby and Dromore Neighbourhood Watch
- Fairview Avenue/McCrae's Brae Neighbourhood Watch
- Lumford Avenue Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 9

- North Parade/South Parade/Park Road N Watch

- Victoria Avenue Sydenham Neighbourhood Watch
- Connsbrook Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Wandsworth Junction Neighbourhood Watch
- Upper Sydenham Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Old Holywood Rd Neighbourhood Watch
- Kingsley Court NW
- Edgumbe Park Neighbourhood Watch
- The Walled Garden Neighbourhood Watch
- Abetta Residents neighbourhood Watch
- Nettlefield Neighbourhood Watch
- Ballyhackamore Traders Neighbourhood Watch
- Halcombe Street Neighbourhood Watch
- Archdale drive East neighbourhood Watch
- Butterfield Lodge Neighbourhood watch
- Glenmachan Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Norwood Neighbourhood Watch
- Cairnburn Neighbourhood Watch

Castlereagh

- Gilnahirk Residents Assoc
- Sunderland Road NW
- Upper Gilnahirk NW
- Glenhugh Park/Crescent neighbourhood watch
- Ballyrussell Neighbourhood Watch
- The Crescent Neighbourhood Watch
- Oakwood Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Willowbank Drive Neighbourhood Watch
- Downshire Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Millar's Forge Neighbourhood Watch
- Lenaghan Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Cairnshill Court Fold
- Kew Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Moneyreagh- Ashdene Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Drumart Drive South Neighbourhood Watch
- Breda Park neighbourhood Watch
- Bapaume/Picardy/Thiepval Neighbourhood Watch
- Gilnahirk Rise Neighbourhood Watch
- Elsmere Park neighbourhood watch
- Cairnshill Road neighbourhood Watch
- Archdale Park Neighbourhood Watch
- St Elizabeth's Court Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 22**Coleraine**

- Heights Community Association
- Garvagh Neighbourhood Watch
- The Creeve Residents Neighbourhood Watch
- Portstewart Community Forum
- Hezlet Court Neighbourhood Watch
- Clifton/Hendra Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Society Court/ Street Neighbourhood Watch
- Castlerock Neighbourhood Watch
- Mill Court Garvagh N W
- Prospect Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Swilly Drive neighbourhood Watch
- Dunsuivnish Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Knockancor Drive neighbourhood Watch
- Burnside Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Swilly Road Neighbourhood watch
- Swilly Park neighbourhood Watch
- Dunsuivnish Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Dunsuivnish Drive Neighbourhood watch
- Rathain Fold Neighbourhood Watch
- Windyhall/Tullans Pk Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 20**Cookstown**

- Drumnacross Neighbourhood Watch
- Coagh Neighbourhood Watch
- Castle Court/Castle Villas Neighbourhood Watch
- Burn Brae Crescent Neighbourhood Watch
- Dunmore Neighbourhood Watch
- Blackhill/Riverside Drive Community Association
- Millrace and Turnaface Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 7**Craigavon**

- Birches Community Association
- Knocknamuckley Neighbourhood Watch
- Waringstown Neighbourhood Watch
- Pinebank Residents Association
- Canvy Manor Neighbourhood Watch
- Enniscrone Portadown Neighbourhood Watch
- Chasewood Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Markville/Oakdene Neighbourhood Watch

- Lakelands Neighbourhood Watch
- Fox St, Alexandra Gdns, Craigavon Ave Neighbourhood Watch
- Oran Fold Neighbourhood Watch
- Oakleigh Fold Neighbourhood Watch
- Derrinraw & Derrycarib Neighbourhood Watch
- Parkmore Neighbourhood Watch
- Garrymore Neighbourhood Watch
- Manor Park neighbourhood Watch
- Derryinver Neighbourhood watch
- Ballyhannon Lodge Neighbourhood Watch
- Gallrock Road neighbourhood Watch
- Birchwood Grange Neighbourhood Watch
- Ballynarry Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Clonmakate Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Timakeel Lodge Neighbourhood watch
- Derrycaw Lane neighbourhood Watch
- Derrylileagh Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Belmont Road Neighbourhood Watch
- The Oaks neighbourhood watch
- Clantilew/Tarthlogue/Drumanphy N Watch
- Drumard Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Derrylettiff Road Neighbourhood watch
- Keelmount/Scotch Street Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 31

Derry

- Hampstead Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Fortwilliam Neighbourhood Watch
- Eglinton Neighbourhood Watch
- Maydown Neighbourhood Watch
- Oakfield Neighbourhood Watch
- Brickfield Court neighbourhood Watch
- North & West Housing Neighbourhood watch (APEX)
- Fr Mulvey Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Lowry's Lane/Glenwood Neighbourhood watch
- Glenbrook House Neighbourhood watch
- Blackthorn Manor Neighbourhood Watch
- Beechwood Court Neighbourhood Watch
- Aberfoyle Neighbourhood Watch
- Castle Park/Heather Drive Neighbourhood Watch
- Culmore Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Beechleigh Park Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 16

Down

- Ringdufferin Neighbourhood Watch
- Toye Neighbourhood Watch
- Wallace Hill Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Shore Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Tullyveery Neighbourhood Watch
- Tullykin Neighbourhood Watch
- Pikestone Neighbourhood Watch
- The Drumlins Neighbourhood Watch
- Cluntagh Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Turmennan Road
- Waterfoot Residents Group
- Strangford Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Hans Sloane Square Neighbourhood Watch
- Inishvoe Neighbourhood Watch
- Killyleagh High Street Neighbourhood Watch
- Strangford View Neighbourhood Watch
- Gallow's Hill Residents Association
- Quay Street Ardglass Neighbourhood Watch
- Ashdale Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Cumber Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Shore Road Strangford Neighbourhood Watch
- Killyleagh St Crossgar Neighbourhood Watch
- Merrion Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Newline Neighbourhood Watch
- Well Lane Neighbourhodd Watch

- Station Road Crossgar N W
- Old Park Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Crawfordstown Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Drumgooland Neighbourhood Watch
- Nutgrove Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Cloughley Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Kennel Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Drumaness Community Neighbourhood Watch
- Darragh Cross Village Neighbourhood Watch
- Loughinisland Neighbourhood Watch
- Darragh Cross Community Association
- Loughinisland/Seaforde Neighbourhood Watch
- The Heights Loughinisland Neighbourhood Watch
- Mary Street Crossgar Neighbourhood Watch
- Clough Neighbourhood Watch
- Woodquarter Lane Neighbourhood Watch
- Legamaddy Neighbourhood Watch
- Ballynoe Neighbourhood Watch
- Glen Road Downpatrick Neighbourhood Watch
- Ballylucas Neighbourhood Watch
- Derryboye Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Ballyalghan Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Glasswater Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Castleraine Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Clanmaghera Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Decourcey Way Neighbourhood Watch
- Tullywest Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Cathedral Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Cathedral View Neighbourhood Watch
- Ardigon Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Loughinisland Road N W
- Ballykinlar Neighbourhood Watch
- Inch Neighbourhood Watch
- Ballyhornan Central Neighbourhood Watch
- Killard Square Ballyhornan Neighbourhood Watch
- Bishopscourt Neighbourhood Watch
- Fofanny Neighbourhood Watch
- Dundrum Village Neighbourhood Watch
- St Paul's Close Neighbourhood Watch
- Kilcoo Community Association
- The Quay Neighbourhood Watch
- Wood Road Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 67

Dungannon

- Moygashel Community/Culture Association
- Cunningham's Lane Cross Community Residents' Assoc
- Milltown Area Community Assoc
- Caledon Neighbourhood Watch
- Church Mews N W
- Bush Neighbourhood Watch
- Ardglena/Blacks Lane Neighbourhood Watch
- Brookfield neighbourhood Watch

Total: 8

Fermanagh

- Tedd Neighbourhood Watch
- Drumclay and District Neighbourhood Watch
- Drumgallon Drumawill Neighbourhood Watch
- Benaughlin Neighbourhood Watch
- Mountview Neighbourhood Watch
- Ardtonagh Neighbourhood Watch
- Drumlyon Neighbourhood Watch
- Bellisle Neighbourhood Watch
- Castle Street Irvinestown Neighbourhood Watch
- Killyfole Rosslea Neighbourhood Watch
- Coleshill Neighbourhood Watch
- Derrychara Neighbourhood Watch
- Ballagh Cross Neighbourhood Watch
- Coleshill Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 14

Larne

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Riverdale & District Residents Association | Association |
| ■ Kitchener's Avenue Residents' Association | ■ Ballygally Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Sallagh Park Community Association | ■ Inverbeg Court Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Dixon Park Residents Association | ■ Argyll View Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Seacourt Community Council | ■ Ferris Avenue Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Harbour Community Group | ■ Ballygally Community Development Association |
| ■ Kilcairn Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Ballynure Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Ballygally Community Development | |

Total: 14**Limavady****Total: 0****Lisburn**

- | | |
|---|---|
| ■ Drumlough Rural Watch | ■ Laganvale Mews Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Aberdelghy Park/Gardens Grove | ■ Bawnhill Road Community Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Thornleigh Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Stoneyford Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Ashvale, Dunbeg and Kilwarlin Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Corrstown Road Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Dundrod Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Thornhill Crescent Area Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Dog Kennel Lane Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Ashvale Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Lombard Residents | ■ Kilwarlin Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Soldierstown Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Park Lane & Park Street N W |
| ■ Addison Park Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Dunbeg Park/Kilwarlin N W |
| ■ Drumbeg Residents Association | ■ Harmony Fold Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Carrisbrook Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Walkers Farm Hillsborough Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Upper Limetree Community | ■ Antrim Road Central Lisburn Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Feumore Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Causeway Meadow Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Carnreagh Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Langtry Lodge Moira Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Coachman's Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Main Street Glenavy Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Drumard Court Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Rathvarna Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ The Dales | ■ Ballinderry Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Lyngrove Residents Neighbourhood Watch | ■ The Meadows & Glen Close N Watch |
| ■ Cairnmore/Monaville Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Ballinderry Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Green Lane/Tullynacross Neighbourhood Watch | ■ Woodbrook Neighbourhood Watch |
| ■ Sequoia Park Neighbourhood Watch | |

Total: 41

Magherafelt

- Beechlands Neighbourhood Watch
- Riverpark Neighbourhood Watch
- Culnady Neighbourhood Watch
- Edmund Court Neighbourhood Watch
- Killowen Neighbourhood Watch
- Glenburn Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 6**Moyle**

- Dunseverick Community Association
- Portcammon Fold N W
- Dunamallaght Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Rathlin Court Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 4**Newry & Mourne**

- Lower Harbour Road NW
- Pinewood Hill, Warrenpoint
- Crieve Court NW Scheme
- Donaghmore Neighbourhood Watch
- Glinn Ree Neighbourhood Watch
- Shinn Neighbourhood Watch
- Avoca Lawns Neighbourhood Watch
- Ashley Heights/Court Residents Association
- Chestnut Grove Neighbourhood Watch
- Shandon Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Riverview Neighbourhood Watch
- Ashfield Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Bearna Park Residents Association
- Charlemont Square Bessbrook Neighbourhood Watch
- Kennard Villas Neighbourhood Watch
- Drumcashel Neighbourhood Watch
- Nine Mile Road, Newtownhamilton Neighbourhood Watch
- Ryan Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Crohill Neighbourhood Watch
- Saval Neighbourhood Watch
- Cedar Grove Neighbourhood Watch
- Willow Grove Neighbourhood Watch
- Beechmount Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Elmwood Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Ardfreelin N W
- Mourneview Park Newry N W
- Cortamlet South N W
- Cortamlet North N W
- Benagh Road N W
- Greater Linenhall Square N W
- Saint Clare's Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Innisfree Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Ballyholland Road Neighbourhood Watch
- McAteer Villas & Moorhill Road N W
- Rockfield Heights Neighbourhood Watch
- Ballyholland Neighbourhood Watch
- Lower Corrags/Grinan Lough N Watch
- Chapel Road/St Mary's Villas Neighbourhood Watch
- Acorn Hill Neighbourhood Watch
- Clochain Fold
- Woodside Park Bessbrook Neighbourhood Watch
- Billy's Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Brannock Meadows Neighbourhood Watch
- Ashgrove Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Holywood Grove Neighbourhood Watch
- Carrickvista Bessbrook Neighbourhood Watch
- Fern Court Neighbourhood Watch
- Mourne View Neighbourhood Watch
- McGinn Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Hawood Way Neighbourhood Watch
- Liska Avenue & Villas Neighbourhood Watch
- Brannock Heights Neighbourhood Watch
- Clare House Neighbourhood Watch
- Glenhill Park Neighbourhood Watch

- Windsor Hill Neighbourhood Watch
- Donaghaguy Close Neighbourhood Watch
- Hillside Close Neighbourhood Watch
- Iveagh Avenue neighbourhood Watch
- Brannock Close Neighbourhood Watch
- Lower The Glen Neighbourhood Watch
- Liska Manor neighbourhood Watch
- JF Kennedy Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Old Hall Court Neighbourhood Watch
- Springfield Avenue neighbourhood watch
- Church Street Neighbourhood Watch
- Warrenpoint Road Neighbourhood Watch
- St Rita's Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Carquillan Neighbourhood Watch
- Highfields neighbourhood Watch
- Carnaney Neighbourhood watch
- Rostrevor Road Neighbourhood watch
- Greenpark Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Moygannon Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Rath Road neighbourhood Watch
- Mourne Drive neighbourhood Watch
- Newtown Villas/Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Queen Street Neighbourhood Watch
- Slievefoy Place Neighbourhood Watch
- Rosses Quay neighbourhood Watch
- Greendale Crescent Neighbourhood Watch
- Greendale Crescent Neighbourhood Watch
- Killowen Neighbourhood Watch
- The Forge Neighbourhood Watch
- The Brambles Neighbourhood Watch Kilkeel

Total: 84

Newtownabbey

- Ballynure and District Community Association
- Twinburn
- Rogan Manor Residents Association
- Whitehouse Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Ollardale Community Group
- Dermont Residents Neighbourhood Watch
- Carnvue Residents Neighbourhood Watch
- Carnhill Neighbourhood Watch
- Glenkeen and Lenamore Neighbourhood Watch
- Annas Grove Area Neighbourhood Watch
- Cashel/Ballyalton Neighbourhood Watch
- Straid Village Neighbourhood Watch
- Kings Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Fernagh Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Kings Crescent Neighbourhood Watch
- Bracken Way Neighbourhood Watch
- The Cairn Neighbourhood Watch
- Glendermere Heights Neighbourhood Watch
- Highgrove Neighbourhood Watch
- Innis/Iona Neighbourhood watch
- Church/Glebe Neighbourhood Watch
- Kimberley Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Glenmount Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 23

North Down

- Clandeboye Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Harbour Ward (Southwell Road)
- Grange Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Station Road N W
- Church Avenue Neighbourhood Watch
- Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn Residents Association
- Crawfordsburn Road NW
- Meadow Way/Burnside Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Brandon Grove Neighbourhood Watch
- Cargoes Crescent and Cootehall Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Fort Road Neighbourhood Watch

- Cootehall Road/Cooleen Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Briarwood Neighbourhood Watch
- Sheridan Drive Neighbourhood Watch
- Tughan Court Neighbourhood Watch
- Belgravia Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Towerview Gardens, Bangor, Neighbourhood Watch
- Innisbrook Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Grey's Point Helen's Bay Neighbourhood Watch
- Corvally Court Neighbourhood Watch
- Pinehill Neighbourhood Watch
- Briarwood Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Craigdarragh Neighbourhood Watch
- Woodlands Neighbourhood Watch
- Tonic Fold Neighbourhood Watch
- Cranley Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Stratford Neighbourhood Watch
- Vernon Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Cedar Grove 2 Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 29

Omagh

- Bankmore Residents Assoc Neighbourhood watch
- Ardmore/Sperrin N'hood Watch
- Campsie Residents Group
- Beragh Neighbourhood Watch
- Trillick N'hood Watch
- Gillygooley Neighbourhood Watch
- Lisanelly Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Retreat Heights Neighbourhood Watch
- Mountjoy Neighbourhood Watch
- Gallow's Hill Neighbourhood Watch
- Brookmount Heights Tenants Association
- Townview Avenue, Avenue North and Avenue South Neighbourhood Watch
- Tamlaght Road Residents Association
- Sunningdale and Railway View Neighbourhood Watch
- Ashley Gardens, Cannonhill and Coolnagard Drive Neighbourhood Watch
- Kevlin Road and Cannondale Neighbourhood Watch
- Festival Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Anderson Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Brookvalley Neighbourhood Watch
- Knocksilla Neighbourhood Watch
- Culmore/O'Kane Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Cranny/Gavaghey Neighbourhood Watch
- McClay Park neighbourhood Watch
- Racrane Court
- Duncan Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Ecclesville Heights Neighbourhood Watch
- St Julians House Neighbourhood Watch
- Fox Park Neighbourhood watch

Total: 28

Strabane

- Sion Mills Neighbourhood Watch
- Ardstraw neighbourhood Watch
- Castlegore Neighbourhood watch
- Millbrook Gardens Neighbourhood Watch
- Hospital Road Neighbourhood Watch
- Laurel Drive Neighbourhood Watch

Total: 6

Fold Schemes

■ Abbey Court	■ Fold Mews	■ McClay Fold
■ Ardigh Fold	■ Forthriver Fold	■ Meadowell Fold
■ Ballinascreen Fold	■ Fortwilliam Fold	■ Mill Brea Fold
■ Belsize Court	■ Foyle Fold	■ Monasterbane
■ Benevenagh Fold	■ Fruithill Fold	■ Mount Royal Fold
■ Blaris Fold	■ Glen Fold	■ Mullincross Fold
■ Bradagh Fold	■ Glenravel Fold	■ Ollar Fold
■ Bronte Fold	■ Gortgole Fold	■ Patricks Fold
■ Brookvale Fold	■ Hamilton Fold	■ Rathain Fold
■ Brownhill Fold	■ Hillbank Fold	■ Rathain Fold Annex
■ Carrickblacker Fold	■ Hillside Court	■ Riversley Fold
■ Chapelfields Fold	■ Inis Fold	■ Roe Fold
■ Clanrye Fold	■ Inverary Fold	■ Scrabo Fold
■ Colman Fold	■ Iverna Fold	■ Sliabh Dubh Manor
■ Corliss Fold	■ KLT Fold	■ Skerries Fold
■ Cromlyn Fold	■ Kerrington Court	■ Spafield Fold
■ Cullingtree Fold	■ Kingsway Fold	■ Springvale Fold
■ Curran Fold	■ Knockmoy Fold	■ St. Brigid's Fold
■ Dean Crooks Fold	■ Lagan Fold	■ St Paul's Fold
■ Deerfin Fold	■ Lavery Fold	■ Tearmann Fold
■ Derg Fold	■ Lawnfield Court	■ Tobar Fold
■ Donard Fold	■ Lir Fold	■ Toberdoney Fold
■ Donovan Fold/Court	■ Loopland Fold	■ Tullaghmurphy Fold
■ Drumhaw Fold	■ Loughview Fold	■ Tullyvullan Fold
■ Edenderry Fold	■ Macneice Fold	
■ Fergus Fold	■ Maine Fold	
■ Valley Fold		
■ Waveney Fold		

Total: 78

These 78 folds come under 1 umbrella so are counted as 1

Total: 680

Strip Searching

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Justice why the alternatives to strip searching, that he saw in use in prisons in Britain and Ireland, are not suitable for Maghaberry Prison.

(AQW 8925/11-15)

Mr Ford: The full body searching method I observed during my visit to Birmingham Prison is the same as that applied in Maghaberry Prison. I did not see any alternative to full body searching in use there. I will be meeting officials to discuss the detailed evaluation of my visit to Portlaoise Prison, and the recently completed Review of Full Body Imaging Scanners in the coming weeks.

Non-Jury Trials

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the cost of each non-jury trial over the last ten years.

(AQW 8931/11-15)

Mr Ford: Estimating the detailed costs of individual cases requires a manual exercise. Extracting the information required to answer this question would incur disproportionate cost.

Sexual Offenders Treatment Programme

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether Ronald Terence Graham has completed a Sexual Offenders Treatment Programme during his current sentence.

(AQW 8932/11-15)

Mr Ford: The information requested constitutes sensitive personal data as defined at section 2 of the Data Protection Act 1998. The disclosure of such information is likely to breach the data subject's rights under the Act and would be incompatible with the Data Protection Principles. The information cannot therefore be provided as requested.

RUC George Cross Foundation Regulations 2002

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice, under the RUC George Cross Foundation Regulations 2002, when and by what process the current trustees were appointed, or reappointed.

(AQW 8943/11-15)

Mr Ford: The RUC George Cross Foundation comprises a Chairman and a Board of five Trustees. All appointments were made on 25 July 2002 by the then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in accordance with the RUC George Cross Foundation Regulations 2002.

Two of the trustees are statutory nominations of the Chief Constable and the Policing Board, as provided for in the regulations. The Chairman and trustees' initial term of appointment was for five years with the option for re-appointment when the initial term of office expired. The Secretary of State re-appointed the Chairman and four of the trustees on 25 July 2007. The fifth trustee was re-appointed on October 2007 following a formal recruitment exercise.

All re-appointments were made in line with the Office for the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) Code of Practice which existed at the time.

A new appointments process will launch shortly and will be conducted in line with the Commissioner for Public Appointments Northern Ireland (CPANI) Code of Practice for Ministerial Public Appointments in Northern Ireland.

Legal Aid

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether Legal Aid has been granted to defendants who are part of the Occupy Belfast movement; and if so, how much has been paid to date.

(AQW 9004/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service has no record of any legal aid applications arising from the actions of the Occupy Belfast movement.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Exit Scheme

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice whether he can give an assurance that payments made under the Northern Ireland Prison Service Exit Scheme will be subject to taxation in 2012/13, as indicated by officials to the Committee for Justice.

(AQW 9017/11-15)

Mr Ford: Those leaving the Northern Ireland Prison Service under the terms of the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme must be taxed in accordance with the rules of H M Revenue and Customs. Consequently, any member of staff with a leaving date of 31 March 2012 will be taxed in the 2011/12 tax year. Officials advised the Justice Committee of this change at a meeting on 9 February 2012.

Proposed Court House Closures

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice when he intends to initiate discussions with the Minister for Regional Development in relation to increasing public transport services, in the event of the proposed court house closures, to ensure access to justice for all court users.

(AQW 9073/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Hearing Centre consultation exercise specifically sought views on the impact that the proposed closures would have on court users. The availability of public transport has been raised at the public meetings which formed part of the consultation exercise and I wish to consider the issues raised by consultees before making any decision. Until I do so, I currently have no plans to discuss this matter with the Minister for Regional Development.

Taxing Master

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) how many high cost cases have come before the Taxing Master in each of the last ten years; and (ii) what was the total defence pay-out for these cases.

(AQW 9076/11-15)

Mr Ford: Very High Cost Cases (VHCCs) were introduced by the Legal Aid for Crown Court Proceedings (Costs) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2005 and the first claims for payment were assessed in 2008. The tables below give a breakdown of the number of claims assessed in VHCCs and the total amount of the assessment for each year since the assessments began. The criteria for certification were tightened in 2009 before VHCCs were abolished in 2011. There are currently 34 VHCC claims awaiting assessment.

Claims under the Legal Aid for Crown Court Proceedings (Costs) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2005		
Year	No of claims assessed	Value of assessments
2008	64	£6m
2009	532	£27m
2010	175	£20.2m
2011	51	£3m
Total	822	£56.2m

Claims under the Legal Aid for Crown Court Proceedings (Costs) (Amendment) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2009		
Year	No of claims assessed	Approx Value of assessments
2010	1	£36,000
2011	49	£2.4m
2012	25	£2.2m
Total	75	£4.6m

Proposed Court House Closures

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in light of Northern Ireland Court Service's presentation on the consultation on court boundaries to the Committee for Justice on 27 May 2010, which stated that 'the proposals will not reduce the number of court venues in Northern Ireland, nor will they impact on the venues where they currently sit' and 'the purpose of the proposals was not to diminish the number of courts' to detail (i) what has changed since this consultation; and (ii) on what date a decision was taken to consult on proposed court house closures.

(AQW 9077/11-15)

Mr Ford: The proposals on changing court boundaries to create a single territorial jurisdiction were welcomed by consultees and will afford additional flexibility for listing Magistrates' Court and County Court business.

The NI Courts and Tribunals Service has developed savings plans to deliver required running cost efficiencies. The current consultation on proposals to close Hearing Centres notes the challenging economic circumstances facing all public sector bodies including the Courts and Tribunals Service. I approved the development of this consultation paper in July 2011.

Rural White Paper

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister of Justice whether his Department has been in contact with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in relation to the development of the Rural White Paper.

(AQW 9082/11-15)

Mr Ford: I met with the Agriculture and Rural Development Minister in December to discuss the issue of rural crime. My Department is represented on DARD's Rural White Paper project group. Most recently, in early February, my officials have been consulted on the Rural White Paper Action Plan.

The purpose of the ongoing contact between my Department and DARD is to ensure that community safety issues are adequately reflected in the Rural White Paper and Action Plan.

Rural Communities

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister of Justice what role his Department has had in creating vibrant, sustainable and safer rural communities.

(AQW 9083/11-15)

Mr Ford: The forthcoming Community Safety Strategy will support efforts to make rural communities safer through preventing and reducing rural crime. At a local level Community Safety Partnerships deliver initiatives in rural areas across Northern Ireland that contribute to the reduction of crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

There are a range of initiatives to prevent and reduce rural crime from local Neighbourhood Watch and Rural Watch schemes, to trailer marking schemes and crime prevention advice to rural groups.

Many Community Safety Partnerships have held successful trailer marking schemes tailored to the particular needs of the rural community, with over twenty events held over the past six months and further events planned throughout the year.

The new Policing and Community Safety Partnerships, due to be established in April 2012, will have a key role in engaging and empowering individuals and communities to find solutions to locally identified concerns. Organisations representing the rural community can take the opportunity to engage with their local Policing and Community Safety Partnership, ensuring that their voice is heard.

Turning to Anti-Social Behaviour, in Northern Ireland we have adopted a multi-agency partnership to tackle this issue using a graduated approach of prevention, intervention and enforcement to tackle anti-social behaviour. This approach has contributed to a reduction of over 20% in the incidence of anti-social behaviour across Northern Ireland since 2008.

In the coming months I will publish a new executive strategy 'Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities' which will set out the strategic direction for reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, and fear of crime in Northern Ireland over the next five years.

The new strategy will emphasise the importance of collaborative working and securing the commitment of key stakeholders in addressing wider social issues which are a factor in crime and anti-social behaviour.

Finally, Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland has commenced an inspection on how the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland addresses anti-social behaviour with a view to publishing a final report in spring 2012. I await the outcome of this inspection, and will consider any recommendations arising from it.

New Community Safety Strategy

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister of Justice when the New Community Safety Strategy will be published; and what are the strategy's priorities.

(AQW 9084/11-15)

Mr Ford: The new Community Safety Strategy is scheduled to be presented to the Justice Committee on 22 March and I hope to get Executive approval in by May, with publication soon thereafter.

The strategy's priorities which contribute to the Department of Justice's wider vision of a fair, just and safer community are:

- Safer communities, with lower levels of crime and anti-social behaviour;
- Shared Communities, where everyone's rights are respected in a shared and cohesive community; and
- Confident communities, in which people feel safe and have confidence in the justice agencies that serve them.

Rural Communities

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister of Justice what action his Department is taking to (i) keep rural communities safe; and (ii) reduce rural crime and anti-social behaviour.

(AQW 9086/11-15)

Mr Ford: The forthcoming Community Safety Strategy will support efforts to make rural communities safer through preventing and reducing rural crime. At a local level Community Safety Partnerships deliver initiatives in rural areas across Northern Ireland that contribute to the reduction of crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

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Finally, Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland has commenced an inspection on how the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland addresses anti-social behaviour with a view to publishing a final report in spring 2012. I await the outcome of this inspection, and will consider any recommendations arising from it.

Voluntary Staff Exit Scheme

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the situation where almost 400 employees of the Prison Service have applied to, and are eligible to leave under, the Voluntary Staff Exit Scheme and remain uncertain about their future.

(AQW 9159/11-15)

Mr Ford: 544 members of the Northern Ireland Prison Service applied for the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme. For operational reasons it is not possible to allow all applicants to leave at this time. 224 applications have so far been approved of which 151 will leave on 31 March 2012. The departure of 73 individuals has been delayed for operational reasons.

The remaining 320 of the applications received remain under consideration.

Following the departure of those individuals due to leave on 31 March NIPS management will review the situation and agree the best way to proceed. Management will remain in contact with those who have applied for the Scheme.

Justice: Alternatives to Prosecution

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Justice for an update on his plans for alternatives to prosecution.
(AQO 1483/11-15)

Mr Ford: It is vital that our criminal justice system tackles offending behaviour in an effective and proportionate way. As part of this, the Department of Justice is developing three new alternatives to prosecution for individuals who commit relatively minor offences and who are likely to go on to lead law-abiding lives.

Firstly, a police issued fixed penalty will create a power for police to dispose of certain offences by giving a first-time or non-habitual offender a fixed penalty to be paid within 28 days. I intend to give the police this important new tool in June of this year.

Secondly, for offenders who want to address their offending behaviour, we introduced conditional cautions in last year's Justice Act. This powerful new provision enables prosecutors to attach rehabilitative and reparative conditions to cautions which the offender must comply with or face prosecution. We are currently working with justice agencies and anticipate that we will introduce these new measures later this year.

Finally, in the forthcoming Faster, Fairer Justice Bill, I intend to introduce prosecutorial fines which would allow the Public Prosecution Service to impose fines for a broader range of minor offences; this includes a mechanism to make direct compensation payments to victims.

These alternative disposals will reduce time spent by police on administration allowing manpower to be redeployed to the frontline, and will also reduce the burden on the courts and prosecutors enabling us to make more effective use of our limited resources and to speed up the justice system.

Office of the Police Ombudsman: Interim Chief Executive

Mr Boylan asked the Minister of Justice to outline the changes in the delegation of responsibilities within the Office of the Police Ombudsman arising from the creation of the position of interim Chief Executive.

(AQO 1482/11-15)

Mr Ford: The change in the delegation of responsibilities within the Office of the Police Ombudsman did not arise from the appointment of an interim Chief Executive Officer but from the departure of the Police Ombudsman before the identification or appointment of a successor. Arrangements were properly made by the outgoing Ombudsman to ensure that the statutory functions of the Police Ombudsman could be exercised in that period.

With the exception of the power to change the authorisation of delegation, all the Police Ombudsman's functions are delegated to the appropriate staff of the Ombudsman's Office.

The appointment of an interim Chief Executive arose from the Police Ombudsman's signalling his intention to resign by the end of January 2012 and from the absence of a substantive Chief Executive in the Office during the period of transition.

As previously stated in this Chamber the Police Ombudsman approached my Department for assistance in identifying an interim Chief Executive in November 2011. My Department then sought assistance from the Head of the Civil Service and the Department of Finance and Personnel.

Subsequently – and after seeking independent legal advice – the Police Ombudsman advised me on 12 January 2012 of his decision to remain technically as Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. He formally delegated his functions as Police Ombudsman to appropriate levels within the Office on 28 January 2012.

Prisoners: Dissident Republicans

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister of Justice how many dissident republican prisoners are currently on remand.

(AQO 1485/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Prison Service does not classify prisoners as dissident republicans.

There are currently 36 separated republican prisoners in custody.

The total number of separated prisoners on remand is 23. This figure includes those awaiting trial.

Northern Ireland Prison Service

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Justice how he will ensure that the Northern Ireland Prison Service will continue to run effectively following the imminent departure of the Director General and the Change Manager.

(AQW 9290/11-15)

Mr Ford: As I told the Assembly on 6 March, a team of people are working on the reform of the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

A Strategic Efficiency and Effectiveness Programme (SEE) Board meets every month to consider progress reports and to make decisions about review recommendations. The SEE Board is chaired by the Director General and is comprised of Executive Directors and Governors. The SEE Board is supported by a full time programme manager and support staff. The progress of the SEE Programme is monitored internally by the Prison Service Management Board (PSMB) and externally through the Prison Reform Oversight Group (PROG). PSMB directors include a former Head of the National Offender Management Service and a former PSNI Deputy Chief Constable, both of whom were members of the Prison Review Team. In addition, the work of the PROG is informed by a departmental sub-group chaired by the DOJ Permanent Secretary. This group includes representatives from the Probation Board and the DHSSPS. It has also recently been confirmed that the DHSSPS Permanent Secretary will sit on the Prison Reform Oversight Group.

I am confident that the necessary foundations for the fundamental reform of the Prison Service are now in place and that the Service is well placed to respond to the changes necessary in the years ahead. The structures outlined above will drive and monitor the reform programme, and every effort is being made to find a high calibre candidate to replace Colin McConnell as soon as possible. A new Organisational Change Manager has already been appointed and he will begin to familiarise himself with the issues at hand before he formally takes on his new role. A number of additional appointments are currently under consideration to provide further expertise and support as the momentum of the reform programme gathers pace.

Prison Service: Lisnevin Site

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the future of the Prison Service site at Lisnevin, Millisle.

(AQO 1484/11-15)

Mr Ford: The prison population has risen sharply in recent times. An estate strategy is being prepared to address the population growth and the associated overcrowding issue. As part of this strategy, consideration is being given to a number of sites that may offer the potential to provide additional, contingency accommodation. These sites include Millisle.

As yet, there are no plans for the future use of the Millisle site. If a recommendation is made in the estate strategy then this will be subject to full public consultation before any decision is made.

The estate strategy is currently being finalised and I will get sight of it in mid March after which it will go to the Justice Committee for discussion on 29 March.

PSNI: Enhanced Severance

Mr Brady asked the Minister of Justice what is the total amount of enhanced severance paid up to March 2012 to officers taking early retirement from the PSNI.

(AQO 1486/11-15)

Mr Ford: The total amount of enhanced severance paid to officers taking early retirement from the PSNI to date is £501m.

National Crime Agency

Mr Cree asked the Minister of Justice to outline any discussions he has had with the Westminster Government regarding the establishment of the National Crime Agency.

(AQO 1487/11-15)

Mr Ford: I last met with the Home Secretary in January this year and the establishment of the National Crime Agency (NCA) formed part of those discussions in particular the need for any new arrangements to take account of devolved issues in Northern Ireland.

My officials are in regular discussions with the Home Office on the establishment of the NCA.

Prison Service: Redundancy Scheme

Dr McDonnell asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the progression of the Prison Service redundancy scheme and the timescale for full implementation.

(AQO 1488/11-15)

Mr Ford: 544 members of the Northern Ireland Prison Service applied for the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme. 224 applications have so far been approved of which 151 will leave on 31 March 2012. The departure of 73 individuals has been delayed for operational reasons. The remaining 320 of the applications received remain under consideration.

Supergrass Trial

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Justice how much has been spent on conducting the recent supergrass trial.

(AQO 1489/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are a number of cost elements associated with the case of *The Crown v Haddock & Others* including those of the police, Public Prosecution Service, prisons, the courts and legal aid.

In relation to police costs, it will take a little time for these to be assessed but I have asked for the information to be provided to the Justice Committee in due course.

The estimated cost to the Public Prosecution Service is in the region of £520,000. This includes counsel fees and the salary and associated expense of staff who worked on the case.

The estimated cost to the Prison Service for the custody and transport of the defendants totalled £768,605.

Judicial, staff and court accommodation costs are estimated at £219,000. This includes the additional court facility provided at Headline Building.

In terms of legal aid, I shall provide the final costs once these are known. Claims have not yet been submitted in respect of this trial, as the case has only very recently been completed. As the case was certified as a Very High Cost Case the fees will be assessed by the Taxing Master. It is not possible to provide an estimate of the final legal aid bill until the claims made by legal representatives are submitted and assessed.

Antisocial Behaviour: Foyle

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Justice to what he attributes the 60 percent reduction of recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour in Foyle over the past year.

(AQO 1490/11-15)

Mr Ford: Building safer communities by preventing anti-social behaviour and reducing the harm it causes to communities is a key priority for my Department.

Members will be aware of the graduated approach which my Department has adopted to address this type of behaviour. This approach - which is based on prevention, intervention, and enforcement measures - has contributed to a reduction of over 20% in anti-social behaviour incidents since 2008.

While the reduction in anti-social incidents in Foyle is to be welcomed my understanding, from the figures published by PSNI in their ASB incident monthly update to 31 January 2012, is that there has been a 23.2% reduction in ASB incidents over the past year.

This reduction in recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour in Foyle can be attributed to the graduated approach and local partnership working between statutory, community and voluntary sectors and to address locally identified issues of concern.

This approach is evident in initiatives such as the City Community Safety Warden Scheme, Community Safety Forums, Challenge Underage Drinking and Drink Think which operate in the Foyle area.

The new Community Safety Strategy, which will be published in the coming months, will build on the graduated approach and will set out proposals to address anti-social behaviour through working in greater partnership regionally and locally.

Department for Regional Development

Inspector's Inquiry and Report on the A5

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development what purpose the Inspector's Inquiry and report on the A5 will now serve, given his announcement on 14 February 2012 that work on the road will begin.

(AQW 8317/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): As the Member will be aware, the announcement of the upgrade of significant elements of the A5 to dual carriageway is part of a balanced package of improvements to the strategic road network. I have made it clear that progression of the A5 (through completion of statutory procedures and commencement of construction) is subject to the outcome of the public inquiry held last year. The announcement does not prejudice the outcome of the Inspector's report, nor compromise its independence.

My Department recently received the Inspector's report and recommendations which will be given careful consideration. This will allow further development of the scheme, which will address the recommendations made by the Inspector that have been accepted by my Department, in relation to issues raised at the local inquiries.

Equality Impact Assessments and Public Consultations

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development how much his Department has spent on (i) Equality Impact Assessments; and (ii) public consultations in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8364/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The money spent on Equality Impact Assessments and other public consultations in each of the last 3 years is set out in the table below.

Financial Year	EQIA Costs	Consultation Costs	Total Costs
2008/09	NIL	£50,222.73	£50,222.73
2009/10	£22,844.86	£22,815.67	£45,660.53
2010/11	£7,893.19	£43,472.77	£51,365.96

Southern Relief Road for Newry

Mr Wells asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the estimated cost of the proposed Southern Relief Road for Newry.

(AQW 8451/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it is continuing to develop the proposal to provide a Newry Southern Relief Road. This involves the provision of a crossing of the Newry River and Canal, providing a link between the A1 Belfast to Dublin dual carriageway and the A2 Newry to Warrenpoint dual carriageway.

Roads Service officials further advise that a number of broadly defined potential corridors have been considered for the provision of this relief road, and these have been identified in a feasibility study report published in November 2008.

Officials report that preliminary cost estimates, based on typical unit costs, have been prepared for indicative route alignments within each route corridor. These estimates range from £100m to £211m, and the feasibility study has indicated that the scheme would be expected to provide significant economic benefits.

Cyclists in the North Down Area

Mr Dunne asked the Minister for Regional Development what action his Department has taken to improve provision for cyclists in the North Down area over the last five financial years.

(AQW 8459/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that over the last five years, it has provided the following cycling measures in the North Down Council area:

- 1 km of advisory cycle lanes at Abbey Street and Newtownards Road, Bangor;
- a signed cycle route from Helens Bay to Newtownards (this is part of the Strangford Lough Cycle Trail;
- Advanced Stop Lines at a number of junctions throughout Bangor town centre, some of which include short feeder lanes; and
- preparation of an existing footway for shared use to extend the existing cycle track along the A2 Belfast Road from Crawfordsburn Avenue to the junction of Ballyrobert Road.

Currently, there are approximately 20 kms of cycle lanes in the North Down Council area for which my Roads Service is responsible. Roads Service will continue to implement provision for cycling in line with the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, which includes the North Down area, subject to the level of funding available.

Details of completed and proposed cycle lane schemes 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 web address below, once they have been presented to local Councils:

http://www.drndni.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformatiotype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils

Cycle Lanes in the North Down Area

Mr Dunne asked the Minister for Regional Development how many cycle lanes there are in North Down; and whether he has any plans to increase the number in the future.

(AQW 8460/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question AQW 8459/11-15.

Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the use of ground penetrating radar surveys to protect construction workers by identifying the depth of underground utilities; and whether he has any plans to adopt this technology.

(AQW 8545/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it carried out a trial of ground penetrating radar some years ago. As the trial failed to accurately locate the line and depth of all underground services, no further use was made of these surveys.

Roads Service is currently working with the construction industry in carrying out a further trial to establish whether there has been improved accuracy with such surveys. A decision has not yet been taken regarding the future use of this technology.

Utility Companies

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Regional Development what measures are in place to ensure that Roads Service is fulfilling its responsibilities in ensuring that utility companies accurately record the location, depth and line of their services.

(AQW 8546/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: It is an offence under Article 39(4) of The Street Works (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (the Order) for a street works undertaker to fail to comply with his duties under Article 39, including those duties under Article 39(2) as prescribed in The Street Works (Records) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.

My Department's Roads Service has advised that it is not aware of any offences committed under Article 39(4) of the Order. Therefore, Roads Service has not found it necessary to take forward any prosecutions under these powers. However, utility companies have been asked to consider quality assurance of new installations with specific regard to accuracy of record drawings. This item will be discussed at the next meeting of the Northern Ireland Road Authority and Utilities Committee.

Postage and Printing Costs

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department, and its arm's-length bodies, give elected representatives the choice of receiving reports and all other correspondence by email to minimise postage and printing costs.

(AQW 8568/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department and its Arm's Length Bodies respond to requests from Members of the Legislative Assembly for the provision of reports and other correspondence electronically. In many cases responses are already provided in the format in which requests for information are received.

There is also a requirement, under the guidance issued by OFMDFM on the 'Distribution of Departmental Publications and Consultation documents', to provide hard copies of some documents to certain recipients including political representatives, parliamentary contacts and Legal Deposit and other libraries.

The Department also follows the arrangements for laying documents in the Northern Ireland Assembly set out in the OFMDFM 'Guidance on the Laying, Presenting and Depositing of Papers in the NI Assembly.'

Hillhall Road, Lisburn

Mr Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQO 1307/11-15, to detail the cost of the minor improvement scheme to enhance visibility for motorists on the Hillhall Road, Lisburn.

(AQW 8569/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that pursuant to AQO 1307/11-15, it is estimated that the minor improvement scheme, currently ongoing on the Hillhall Road, will cost £300k which includes land costs, construction and alterations to existing utility company apparatus.

Core Node on the TEN-T Network

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 8031/11-15, (i) to detail the criteria for inclusion as a Core Node on the TEN-T network; (ii) to outline the basis for Derry's inclusion as a Core Node; and (iii) whether any discussions have taken place at North-South Ministerial Council Transport meetings in relation to the extension of the mainline rail network from Derry to Cork. **(AQW 8582/11-15)**

Mr Kennedy:

(i) The European Commission identified the Core Nodes of the TEN-T Network based on its methodology "The New Trans-European Transport Network Policy – Planning and Implementation Issues". This is a very detailed and complex document. However, analysis of the document suggests that core nodes have been selected based on the following criteria:

- MEGA cities according to ESPON with more than 0.5 million inhabitants;
- conurbations or city clusters which exceed 1 million inhabitants;
- cities or conurbations located at branching or crossing points on the TEN-T Core Network; or
- ports with an annual transshipment volume of at least 1 % of the total transshipment volume of freight by all EU seaports.

(ii) Londonderry is of significant strategic importance, not just to Northern Ireland but to Great Britain and to the Republic of Ireland. The North-West is one of the most isolated and peripheral regions of the European Union and has high levels of economic and social deprivation. Inclusion of Londonderry as a core node will provide the Department with greater opportunity to avail of European funding for transport links to and from Londonderry. This will make the City a more attractive option for inward investment and development of the surrounding region by promoting access to the single market.

Geographically, Londonderry is an obvious border crossing point linking Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland. In addition, Londonderry has the potential to become an important gateway between the EU and neighbouring North Western states.

As a result, inclusion of Londonderry on the TEN-T core network fits within the overall objective of the TEN-T, which is to provide a framework for the development of infrastructure for the smooth functioning of the internal market and for ensuring economic, social and territorial cohesion and improved accessibility across the EU.

(iii) The specific issue of extending the mainline rail network from Cork to Londonderry has not been raised at North-South Ministerial Council (NSMC) Transport meetings. The focus of railway issues at recent NSMC Transport meetings has been on improvements to the Dublin to Belfast line. In 2008, the NSMC Transport meeting noted that there were no plans to build a rail link between Sligo and Londonderry through Donegal.

NOTE: ESPON: Metropolitan European Growth Areas in the European Spatial Planning Observatory Network's Atlas 2006

Electrical Cable and Fittings Stolen from Street Lights

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the value of the electrical cable and fittings stolen from street lights in the last twelve months; and the cost of replacing these components. **(AQW 8631/11-15)**

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the total cost of replacing the stolen cables and repairing associated damage is currently estimated to be in the region of £330,000, although the scrap value of the cables stolen would be substantially less than the replacement costs.

All incidents have been reported to the PSNI and other bodies in accordance with my Department's guidelines for dealing with theft of assets.

Stolen Gratings

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the value of the gratings stolen from manholes in the last twelve months; and the cost of replacement.

(AQW 8632/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the total cost of replacing stolen gratings from manholes, in the last 12 months, is currently estimated to be in the region of £12,000, although the scrap value of the gratings stolen would be substantially less than the replacement costs.

Northern Ireland Water has advised that it does not hold records of the value of manhole or other covers stolen or the cost of replacement. It would, however, estimate that, during the past 12 months, the cost of replacing stolen manhole or other covers was £33,500.

Londonderry Railway Station

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) what building works are planned for Londonderry Railway Station; (ii) the reasons for this building work; and (iii) the estimated cost of the work.

(AQW 8666/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink advise that, at present, no building works are planned for Londonderry station other than routine maintenance and pre-planned renewals which will include the scheduled upgrade of CCTV systems at a cost of £20,000.

Londonderry Railway Station

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) to detail the current level of security provision at Londonderry Railway Station, including the times at which it is provided; (ii) the reasons for this level of security; (iii) what is the cost of this level of provision; and (iv) whether the level of security provision currently employed is related to the recent reduction in staffing hours.

(AQW 8670/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Security at railway stations and in general is an operational matter for Translink who have advised me as follows regarding the situation at Londonderry Railway Station:-

- (i) Security provision hours have recently been extended at Londonderry Railway Station in response to increased vandalism occasioned to civil engineering trains which were stabled in Londonderry sidings. These civil engineering trains are being deployed to Londonderry to support the commencement of Track Safety Improvement Works now on-going between Londonderry and Coleraine. It would not be appropriate to detail the levels of security at any location other than to say it should be sufficient and proportionate to protect company assets and it is continually reviewed.
- (ii) See (i).
- (iii) It would not be appropriate to detail the costs of security at any location other than to say it should be sufficient and proportionate to protect company assets. Equally, all security is provided by designated companies who are selected through competitive tender, therefore we are satisfied with the requisite quality and costs of same.
- (iv) Security provision is not related to recent reduction in staffing.

Reduction in Metro Services

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the reduction in Metro services and the impact it has had on the Annadale and Belvoir communities in South Belfast.

(AQW 8677/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The provision of Metro services is an operational matter for Translink.

Translink has advised me that to make the best use of resources, it needs to make reductions in the frequency of some Metro services and/or combine services where passenger numbers were not high on an ongoing basis.

In regard to services in Annadale and Belvoir, previously the level of service provided on the No. 29 route was maintained because funding from external stakeholders was available. This is no longer the case. As a result, timetable adjustments on this route came into effect from 1 September 2011. There was no reduction in service provision to the Belvoir area at this time.

Translink has advised me that elected representatives were advised of these changes in August 2011, prior to implementation of any changes.

Following continuous monitoring of the services it provides, Translink has decided that from 27 February 2012 an additional two journeys in each direction (Monday to Friday) and three on Saturdays between Annadale and Belfast city centre will be made by diverting other services.

Bus Routes between Derry and Dublin

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 7591/11-15, and given the commitment in the draft Programme for Government to provide financial and other support across Government to ensure the success of the City of Culture, whether he will ensure that a full bus service operates from Derry to Dublin throughout 2013.

(AQW 8681/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Scheduled international bus services between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are provided within an open market and a number of operators including Translink, offer bus connections to meet passenger demand for travel between Londonderry and Dublin. Translink has advised that it is in contact with the City of Culture organisers and that the timetables of services provided jointly by Ulsterbus and Bus Éireann will be kept under review to take account of the programme of events planned.

It is open to the City of Culture organisers in order to meet the special transport requirements of participants and visitors to arrange private hire with properly licensed bus and coach operators, including Translink. It is also open to those operators to offer excursions or special services.

Complaints to NI Water

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) how many complaints NI Water has received, in each of the last three years, in relation to (a) reminders for payments being received before the actual bill; (b) not receiving a bill until a number of weeks after it was dated; (c) intimidating final demand letters; and (e) customer service and communication; and (ii) for his assessment of these figures.

(AQW 8712/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that billing complaints are not recorded in the categories requested. A breakdown of related complaints is set out in the table below.

Complaint Regarding	No. of complaints 2009	No. of complaints 2010	No. of complaints 2011
Timing of reminders	7	4	N/A

Complaint Regarding	No. of complaints 2009	No. of complaints 2010	No. of complaints 2011
Delay in issuing the bill	27	15	16
Debt recovery procedure including the wording of the Final Notice	5	17	17
Bill or Final Notice not received	8	4	3
Debt recovery timetable	2	1	3
Poor information on the Bill/lack of information to customers	30	30	6

The categorisation of complaints has changed during this period so there is some variation in the profile.

NIW is striving to continually improve its service to customers. A review of billing complaints is underway within NIW to identify any weaknesses in the procedures and to develop measures that will ensure that accurate and timely billing information is provided to customers. While NIW considers every complaint important, the number of complaints received should be seen in the context of 170,000 bills issued each year.

Roads in the Holywood Area

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development how much has been spent on roads in the Holywood area in each of the last five years.

(AQW 8755/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Road Service has advised that it does not maintain an analysis of its expenditure for specific areas within a Council boundary. However, the table below details the maintenance expenditure over the last five financial years for the North Down Borough Council area:

North Down Borough Council Area – Total Maintenance Expenditure				
2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
£5,556,000	£5,744,000	£4,180,000	£4,304,000	£4,252,000

Roads Service has also carried out other work in the North Down area, including minor works schemes, bridge maintenance and traffic management schemes. However, as a breakdown of this work by Council area is not readily available, I would refer you to previous Council reports, which provide details of the work completed on roads in the North Down Borough Council Area. These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following web address:

http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils

Funding Allocated to Trade Unions

Mr McCallister asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the level of funding his Department allocated to each trade union in the (i) 2000/01; (ii) 2005/06; and (iii) 2010/11 financial years.

(AQW 8765/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department provides funding to the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA) for a number of full-time officials and support staff seconded from the Department.

During each of the years in question, the total salary costs met by DRD in respect of these seconded staff were as follows:

Year	2000/01	2005/06	2010/11
Salary Costs £	160,742	200,460	172,975

NSL Services Group

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Regional Development what action he intends to take to address the differential between the amount paid to NSL Services Group for the parking enforcement and car park management contract and the level of revenue generated.

(AQW 8771/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Member is aware that the costs associated with the provision of parking services and parking enforcement, including contract payments to NSL Services Group, exceed parking income and the deficit is funded by my Department.

I would point out that the primary aim of parking enforcement is to encourage drivers to park properly. If all drivers adhere to parking regulations, then income from Penalty Charge Notices would reduce and the overall deficit would increase. However, the non-financial benefits of having fewer illegally parked cars on our streets include less congestion, more available parking spaces in town centres and improved safety. My Department is of the opinion that these benefits are essential to the vitality of towns and cities and it is therefore important that effective enforcement continues to be provided.

My Department will continue to monitor the cost of providing parking services and parking enforcement and strive to keep this to a minimum, while also looking at ways of increasing revenue to minimise the deficit.

60+ Travelcards

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) how Translink is reimbursed for the cost of fares for holders of 60+ travelcards; (ii) whether holders can only purchase single fares; and if so, (iii) whether his Department is paying a higher rate to Translink, given that single fares are more expensive than return fares.

(AQW 8834/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: In response to your questions on reimbursement for 60+ travelcard users I would advise that:-

- (i) Those aged above 60 who are permanent residents of Northern Ireland are eligible for a travelcard entitling them to free travel on stage carriage services throughout Northern Ireland.

The 60 Plus travel card is a SmartPass which means that each journey is electronically recorded and that the Department only reimburses Translink on the basis of actual journeys in line with audit recommendations. In reimbursing Translink, the Department also takes account of the increased patronage generated by free travel. The reimbursement of Translink and the small private operators on the concessionary fare scheme is audited on an annual basis by independent auditors appointed by the Department.

- (ii) Sixty Plus SmartPasses can only be used to obtain single tickets this minimises the risk of fraudulent usage given current systems infrastructure.
- (iii) The policy on the issuing of single tickets seeks to minimise the risk of fraud and wastage in circumstances where the individual obtaining the ticket is not making a financial contribution.

Travel concessions funded under the Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares Scheme and discounts offered commercially by Translink are separate issues. Transport operators offer discounted ticket products to encourage commercial customers to make additional journeys on public transport services to stimulate revenue and passenger journey growth. The main purpose of SmartPasses is to help ensure social inclusion. The overall level of grant support or reimbursement to Translink, from any source, will ultimately impact on fare levels and service provision.

A28

Mr Irwin asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans he has to address the concerns of motorists travelling from Newry to Armagh along the A28, regarding the lack of an overtaking lane leaving Newry, and the problem this presents for drivers when heavy goods vehicles or other slow moving vehicles restrict the free flow of traffic.

(AQW 8842/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the Member that when the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015 was being compiled, the provision of widened carriageway schemes was considered for the A28 Newry - Armagh Road, including a northbound overtaking opportunity north of Newry. However, in the intervening period, design standards have been revised and it is no longer recommended that widened carriageway schemes are provided where there are a significant number of minor road junctions and accesses. Consequently, there are currently no plans to providing dedicated overtaking opportunities north of Newry.

However, you will be aware that a southbound Climbing Lane is currently under construction at Edenaveys on the A28, which does meet the particular design requirements. It is anticipated that work, which will cost £3.3m, will be completed this Spring.

Secondment to Trade Unions

Mr McCallister asked Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the number of (a) full-time; and (b) part-time staff who are currently on secondment from his Department, or its arm's length bodies, to each recognised trade union; (ii) the salary scale for each secondee; and (iii) the length of each secondment to date.

(AQW 8855/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Five full-time staff from my Department and one full-time member of staff from Northern Ireland Water (NIW) are currently seconded to the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA). In addition, two full-time NIW staff are currently on secondment to UNITE.

Details for each of the secondees concerned are set out in the table below.

Seconded From	Seconded To	Period of Secondment (to nearest month)	Current Salary Range £
DRD	NIPSA	5 years and 6 months	34,163 - 38,893
DRD	NIPSA	6 years	21,392 - 23,250
DRD	NIPSA	7 years and 5 months	18,038 - 22,180
DRD	NIPSA	12 years and 3 months	27,115 - 30,520
DRD	NIPSA	5 years and 4 months	27,115 - 30,520
NIW	UNITE	6 years and 11 months	20,107 - 24,516
NIW	UNITE	6 years and 11 months	20,107 - 24,516
NIW	NIPSA	6 years and 11 months	15,038 - 18,380

No part-time staff from my Department or its Arm's Length Bodies are currently seconded to trade unions.

Financial Relief

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister for Regional Development what financial relief will be provided to residents who live in private residential estates where the roads, water and sewage facilities and street lighting provision have not been brought up to an adoptable standard.

(AQW 8860/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has no legislative authority to use public funds for the provision of financial relief to residents, who live in private residential estates where the roads, water and sewage facilities and street lighting provision have not yet been brought up to an adoptable standard.

My Department will, however, continue to discharge its responsibilities relating to the determination and adoption of new residential streets, sewage facilities and street lighting in line with current legislation. This will include appropriate enforcement action and use of bond monies to complete street works, where developers have failed to complete.

Northern Ireland Water (NIW) has similarly advised that it has no mechanism whereby funding can be made available to residents in developments where sewerage systems have not yet been adopted. However, it will seek to work with residents, developers and their successors, assignees and administrators to advise on the options available. This will ensure sewers are brought up to an adoptable standard and that enforcement measures utilising the bond security will be applied, where applicable.

I should also advise that as all water mains within developments are laid by NIW, they are therefore owned and maintained by NIW as part of the public water supply system.

The Member will also be aware that the Committee for Regional Development is conducting an Inquiry into unadopted roads, and a formal consultation period is currently under way.

Translink: Redundancies

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development whether Translink had any contact with stakeholder groups, including rail users groups, Disability Action, local councils, and the UK City of Culture 2013 Committee before embarking on staffing reductions on the north-west rail route; and to outline the reasons for Translink's position on this issue.

(AQW 8873/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Staffing levels are an operational matter for Translink and consultation with outside agencies/bodies such as those referred to, would not be normal practice. You will appreciate Translink is required to operate commercially within the current difficult economic environment. It is essential that they continue to operate efficiently to ensure fare levels are kept to a minimum, service provision is protected as far as possible, staff wage and pension costs can be afforded and staffing is kept at levels which maintain a safe and efficient service. To date small reductions in staff numbers have been managed by voluntary redundancy or by redeployment. I am assured by Translink that this will continue to be the situation.

Disability Discrimination Act

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development, in light of the investment by Translink in new facilities at stations on the north-west rail link, for his assessment of how they will be utilised given the restricted opening hours resulting from staff reductions on the route.

(AQW 8874/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has advised that stations and halts on the north-west corridor were included as part of a network-wide programme to achieve Disability Discrimination Act compliance at public transport facilities. Measures included re-surfacing of platforms to provide tactile paving, adapted toilet facilities, lowered counter heights at customer service interfaces and improved lighting. This was, by necessity, a rolling programme which took several years and which concluded in 2009.

Other infrastructure projects either in hand or planned for rail stations in this area include:

- Canopy and station building cladding at Ballymena
- Footbridge at Ballymoney
- Repair to canopy at Coleraine
- CCTV renewal at Londonderry (as part of a network-wide programme)
- Refurbishment of existing platform canopy at Portrush, power-washing and repainting

Translink is of the view that these projects are aligned to its aim of providing optimum standard in facilities for their customers and does not consider that either the staff changes or the change in opening hours referred to will adversely impact on the use of its services and facilities.

Restructuring of the North-West Rail Link

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development whether Translink has provided his Department with a breakdown of the increased costs that will be incurred as a result of their staffing restructuring on the north-west rail link.

(AQW 8875/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Staffing levels are an operational matter for Translink who have advised me that the staff restructuring on this rail corridor involved voluntary redundancies. This will result in efficiency savings as there will be less expenditure on staff costs.

As advised previously in response to AQW 8670/11-15, any costs for additional security provision at Londonderry Railway Station are not related to recent reduction in staffing levels.

Translink: Managerial Appointments

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development why there is an ongoing increase in managerial appointments in Translink at a time when customer care or operational staff numbers are being reduced.

(AQW 8876/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Staffing levels are an operational matter for Translink who have advised me that since the start of the financial year, 1 April 2011 to 2 March 2012, there has been no increase to the managerial headcount.

Plugged-In Places Scheme

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Regional Development to list the locations of the 'Plugged-In Places' charging points for electric cars.

(AQW 8911/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Northern Ireland 'Plugged In Places' scheme is a joint initiative with the Department of the Environment and a range of Consortium Partners. The scheme aims to pilot electric vehicle infrastructure in 6 Council locations across Northern Ireland in 2011/12, with further expansion to new Council areas across the region in 2012/13.

The Project will see 41 standard charge points and 4 rapid charge points installed in Belfast City Council, Newry and Mourne District Council, Derry City Council, Fermanagh District Council, Armagh District Council and Larne Borough Council areas by 31st of March 2012.

A full list of the Year 1 Charge Point locations is outlined below;

No.	Region	Location
	Standard Chargers	
1	Belfast	Little Victoria Street Car Park, Belfast
2	Belfast	Corporation Square Car Park, Belfast
3	Belfast	Little Donegall Street, Belfast
4	Belfast	Cromac Street Car Park, Belfast
5	Belfast	Hope Street North, Belfast
6	Belfast	Adelaide Street on street parking, Belfast
7	Belfast	Dublin Road on street parking, Belfast
8	Belfast	Lower Crescent on street parking, Belfast
9	Belfast	Bloomfield Shopping Centre, Bangor
10	Belfast	Central Station car park, Belfast
11	Belfast	Cairns Hill Park and Ride, Belfast
12	Armagh	Linenhall Street Roads Service car park, Armagh
13	Armagh	Lonsdale Street Roads Service car park, Armagh
14	Armagh	Armagh Leisure Centre
15	Armagh	Palace Demense, Armagh
16	Newry	Bagenals Castle, Newry
17	Newry	Bridge Street car park, Newry
18	Newry	Basin Walk car park, Newry
19	Newry	Monaghan Street car park, Newry
20	Newry	Hill Street on street parking, Newry
21	Newry	Canal Court Newry
22	Newry	Newry Train station, Newry
23	Londonderry	Victoria Market car park, Londonderry
24	Londonderry	Bishop Street car park, Londonderry
25	Londonderry	Railway Yard, Londonderry
26	Londonderry	Strand Road, Londonderry
27	Londonderry	Carlisle Road on street, Londonderry
28	Londonderry	The Diamond on street, Londonderry
29	Londonderry	Templemore Leisure Centre, Londonderry
30	Fermanagh	Down/Market/Cross Street, Enniskillen
31	Fermanagh	Eden Street, Enniskillen
32	Fermanagh	Quay Lane North, Enniskillen

No.	Region	Location
33	Fermanagh	Wellington Street, Enniskillen
34	Fermanagh	Queen St, DRD Carpark, Enniskillen
35	Fermanagh	Cross Street, DRD Carpark, Lisnaskea
36	Fermanagh	Main Street, Irvinestown - DRD
37	Fermanagh	Main Street, Belleek - DRD
38	Larne	Narrow Gauge Road, Larne
39	Larne	Agnew Street, Larne
40	Larne	Riverdale, Larne
41	Larne	Carnlough, Havelock Place
Rapid Chargers		
1	Dungannon	M1, Junction 15, Donnelly Group Garage
2	Magherafelt	M2, Glenshane Pass, Jamsies Garage
3	Lisburn	A1, Garage
4	Newry	A1, Newry, 24 Hour Garage

During 2012/13 the project will aim to install a further 100 charge points across Northern Ireland. This will include expansion to include other Council areas outside the initial locations. The ecar Project team are currently identifying and finalising locations for installation during 2012/13.

Traffic Weight Restriction Order

Mrs Hale asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the criteria used to assess the need for a Traffic Weight Restriction Order in a residential area.

(AQW 8961/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that when considering the need for a weight restriction on a road, it will primarily take into account the condition of the road. Other factors considered include road geometry, gradient, and traffic volumes, including the percentage of heavy vehicles.

However, weight restrictions are used very sparingly as they would apply to all vehicles in excess of the specified Gross Vehicle Weight and can have an adverse effect on other road users, including delivery vehicles, which need to use the road in question for access to premises.

A26

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development what the estimated reduction in average travel time from Belfast to Ballycastle would be if the proposed work on the A26 from Glarryford to the Drones Road junction was carried out.

(AQW 9008/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: As part of the design process for the proposed A26 dualling between Glarryford and the A44 Drones Road junction, Roads Service has undertaken studies to estimate the journey time savings over this length of carriageway. These modelled journey time savings, after upgrading this seven kilometre length of single carriageway to dual carriageway, are detailed in the table below:

Northbound		Southbound	
Time Period	Saving	Time Period	Saving
Am peak	1 min 31 seconds	Am peak	3 min 16 seconds
interpeak	1 min 32 seconds	interpeak	1 min 33 seconds
Pm peak	4 min 31 seconds	Pm peak	1 min 51 seconds

MV Canna Ferry

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Regional Development when his Department was informed of the MV Canna's withdrawal from service.

(AQW 9031/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The operator of the Ballycastle to Rathlin Island ferry informed my Department on 1 March 2012 that the MV Canna would be taken off service for essential engine maintenance. The ferry was taken off service on 5 March, on the same date that a temporary replacement vessel was brought into operation.

MV Canna Ferry

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Regional Development when his Department was made aware that Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited had appealed against the Lloyd's Register of the MV Canna.

(AQW 9032/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department was informed by Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited on 27 October 2011 that it had formally lodged an appeal with Lloyd's Register requesting a review of the granting of classification for the MV Canna.

Engine Overhaul of the MV Canna

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Regional Development when his Department was first informed that the required engine overhaul of the MV Canna had not taken place.

(AQW 9033/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Department was notified by Rathlin Island Ferry Ltd on 1 February 2012 that an overhaul of the MV Canna's engines was required. On 5 March 2012 the MV Canna left Ballycastle for dry dock for this work to be undertaken.

Rathlin Island Ferry Ltd

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Regional Development whether the terms of the contract held by Rathlin Island Ferry Ltd have been breached, either in terms of the failure to provide the ferry service or the failure to submit the company accounts by the required date.

(AQW 9034/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Rathlin Island Ferry Limited has not breached its terms of contract with my Department.

Traffic Weight Restrictions

Mrs Hale asked the Minister for Regional Development to list the locations where traffic weight restrictions are in force; and the reasons why each restriction is in place.

(AQW 9038/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of locations where traffic weight restrictions are in force, in respect of roads, are listed below. The roads are listed under the appropriate weight restriction at each location identified,

with restrictions having been put in place by means of an Order under Article 4 of the Roads Traffic (NI) Order 1997.

I can advise the Member that the reason for the restriction is not stated in the legislation and given that many of the restrictions have been in place for a considerable number of years and in some cases decades, this information is not readily available. However, the Member will be aware from my answer to her Assembly Question AQW 8961/11-15, of the factors that my Department's Roads Service considers when determining whether a weight restriction is necessary at any particular location to protect the underlying road.

WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

2 Tonnes Maximum Gross Weight

- Dogleap Road, Limavady, carried by the Largy Bridge over the River Roe.

3 Tonnes Maximum Gross Weight

- Church Road, Armoy, from its junction with Main Street, to its junction with Gracehill Road, Route B15.
- Shore Road, Unclassified No. 2017, in the townlands of Ballyvanen and Ballyvorally, County Antrim, from its junction with Darachrean Road, Unclassified No. 49, to its junction with Ingram's Road, Unclassified No. 49.
- Ingram's Road, Unclassified No. 49, in the townland of Ballyvorally, County Antrim.
- Shell Road, Unclassified No. 125, Campsie, County Londonderry.
- Gortscreagan Road, Unclassified No. 181, Claudy, from its junction with Slieveboy Road, Route C512, to its junction with Carnanreagh Road, Route C511.
- Torr Road, Route C82, Cushendun and Ballycastle, from its junction with Bay Road, Cushendun, to its junction with Murlough Road, Unclassified No. 88, Ballycastle.
- Groganstown Road, Unclassified No. 26, Groganstown, Dunmurry, County Antrim, from its junction with Colinglen Road, Route A501, to a point 350 metres north-east of that junction.
- Ardlough Road, Route C503, Londonderry, from its junction with Carmoney Road, Unclassified No. 131, to its junction with Old Drumahoe Road, Route C503.
- Bonds Glen Road, Route C514, Londonderry, from its junction with Ardground Road, Route C508, to its junction with Longlands Road, Route B49.
- Chapel Road, Londonderry, from its junction with Spencer Road, to its junction with Fountain Hill.
- Corrody Road, Unclassified No. 155, Londonderry, from its junction with Woodside Road, to its junction with Kittybane Road.
- Fountain Hill, Londonderry, from its junction with Spencer Road, to its junction with Chapel Road.
- Moore Street, Londonderry.
- Rosstowney Road, Unclassified No. 120, Londonderry, from its junction with Ardlough Road, Route C503, to its junction with Crescent Link, Route A514.
- Woodside Road, Unclassified No. 155, Londonderry, from its junction with Bards Hill, to a point 645 metres south of its junction with Corrody Road.
- Temple Road, Route C568, in the townlands of Templetown and Maydown, County Londonderry, from its junction with Clooney Road, Route A2, to a point 850 metres north-east of that junction.
- Ballysillan Park, Belfast, while travelling in a south-easterly direction.

3.5 Tonnes Maximum Gross Weight

- North-eastbound carriageway of Church Place, Route A3, Lurgan, between the War Memorial and Shankill Parish Church

5 Tonnes Maximum Gross Weight

- Hammond Road, Unclassified No. 2062, in the townlands of Aghadavy, Magheramesk and Maghaberry, County Antrim.
- Craneystown Road, Unclassified No. 72, in the townlands of Ballycarrickmaddy and Ballymave, County Antrim.
- Hungry House Lane, Unclassified No. 72, in the townlands of Ballycarrickmaddy and Ballynadolly, County Antrim.
- Horse Park Road, Unclassified No. 70, in the townland of Ballyellough, County Antrim.
- Kilcorig Road, Unclassified No. 70, in the townlands of Ballyellough, Magheragall and Kilcorig, County Antrim.
- Flowbog Road, Unclassified No. 23, in the townlands of Ballymacward Upper and Slievenacloy, County Antrim, from its junction with Rock Road, Route B101, to a point 69 metres north-west of its junction with Ballycollin Road, Unclassified No. 23.
- School Lane, Unclassified No. 72, in the townlands of Ballymave, Ballyellough and Ballycarrickmaddy, County Antrim.
- Ballyrainey Road, Route C266, Comber.
- Filterbeds Road, Unclassified No. 78, in the townland of Derrykillultagh, County Antrim.
- Porters Bridge Road, Unclassified No. 78, in the townland of Derrykillultagh, County Antrim.
- Shore Road, Unclassified No. 2017, in the townlands of Feumore and Ballyvanen, County Antrim, from its junction with Lough Road, Unclassified No. 49, to its junction with Feumore Road.
- Whinney Hill, Unclassified No. 70, in the townlands of Kilcorig, Ballyclogh and Ballynadolly, County Antrim.
- Lagmore Road, Unclassified No. 100, in the townland of Lagmore, County Antrim, from its junction with Colinglen Road, Route A501, to a point 190 metres west of its junction with Stewartstown Road, Route B102.
- Park Road, Newtownabbey, from its junction with Mallusk Road, to its junction with Antrim Road.
- Glenleary Road, Unclassified No. 3340, Coleraine, from its junction with Castleroe Road, to its junction with Coolyvenny Road.
- Hillhead Road, Unclassified No. 5285, Newry.
- Corcreechy Road, Unclassified No. 6062, Newry, from its junction with Corcreechy Road, Route C340, to its junction with Turmore Road, Route C339.
- Ballybarnes Road, Unclassified No. 104, Newtownards, from a point 800 metres north-east of its junction with Belfast Road, Route C263, to its junction with Ballysallagh Road, Route B170.

7.5 Tonnes Maximum Gross Weight

- Boghead Bridge Road, Unclassified No. 1002, Aghalee.
- Brankins Island Road, Unclassified No. 1011, Aghalee.
- Diamond Lane, Unclassified No. 1005, Aghalee.
- Feather Bed Road, Unclassified No. 1024, Aghalee.
- Grants Lane, Unclassified No. 1023, Aghalee.
- Montiaghs Road, Unclassified No. 1024, Aghalee.

- Moss Lane, Unclassified No. 1003, Aghalee.
- Unnamed road, Unclassified No. 1004, Aghalee, linking Boghead Bridge Road, Unclassified No. 1002, and Brankinstown Road, Route C10.
- Birch Hill Road, Unclassified No. 1074, Antrim, from its junction with Crosskennan Road, Route C44, to its junction with Ballygore Road.
- Bush Road, Unclassified No. 1073, Antrim, from its junction with Crosskennan Road, Route C44, to its junction with Glenmullion Road, Unclassified No. 1072.
- Carnearney Lane, Unclassified No. 1067, Antrim, from its junction with Carnearney Road, Unclassified No. 1066, to its junction with Ladyhill Road, Unclassified No. 1065.
- Carnearney Road, Unclassified No. 1066, Antrim, from its junction with Ladyhill Road, Unclassified No. 1065, to its junction with Parkgate Road, Route C43.
- Chapeltown Road, Unclassified No. 1058, Antrim, from its junction with Steeple Road, Route C45, to its junction with Tavnaghmore Road, Unclassified No. 1056.
- Drumkeeran Road, Unclassified No. 1048, Antrim, from its junction with Oldwood Road, to its junction with Lisnevenagh Road, Route A26.
- Eskylane Road, Unclassified No. 1059, Antrim, from its junction with Kilgavanagh Road, Unclassified No. 1061, to its junction with Chapeltown Road, Unclassified No. 1058.
- Kilgavanagh Road, Unclassified No. 1057, Antrim.
- Kilgavanagh Road, Unclassified No. 1061, Antrim, from its southern extremity to its junctions with Kilgavanagh Road, Unclassified No. 1057, and Creevery Road, Unclassified No. 1060.
- Ladyhill Road, Unclassified No. 1065, Antrim, from its junction with Carnearney Road, Unclassified No. 1066, to its junction with Steeple Road, Route C45.
- Old Ballynoe Road, Unclassified No. 1068, Antrim, from its junction with Carnearney Lane, Unclassified No. 1068, to its junction with Crosskennan Lane, Unclassified No. 1069.
- Oldwood Road, Antrim, from its junction with Craigstown Road, Route B53, to its junction with Lisnevenagh Road, Route A26.
- Rough Lane, Unclassified No. 1071, Antrim.
- Thornhill Road, Unclassified No. 1057, Antrim, from its northern junction with Creevery Road, Unclassified No. 1060, to its junction with Fernisky Road, Route 53.
- Ballynulto Road East, Unclassified No. 2101, Ballymena, from its junction with Church Road, Route A36, to its junction with Rocavan Road, Route C65.
- Carniny Road, Unclassified No. 2026, Ballymena, from its junction with Tullygrawley Road, Route C57, to its junction with Teeshan Road, Unclassified No. 2027.
- Fenagh Road, Unclassified No. 2025, Ballymena, from its junction with Crankill Road, Route A26, to its junction with Tullygrawley Road, Route C57.
- Shillanavogy Road, Unclassified No. 2107, Ballymena, from its junction with Glenhead Road, Unclassified No. 2106, to its junction with Drumcrow Road, Unclassified No. 4015.
- Deroar Road, Unclassified No. 1738, Beragh, County Tyrone, from its junction with Dreenan Road, Unclassified No. 1737, to its junction with Bancran Road, Route C627.
- Dreenan Road, Unclassified No. 1737, Beragh, County Tyrone, from its junction with Spring Road, Route C628, to its junction with Bancran Road, Route C627.
- Athenree Lane, Unclassified No. 1733, Carrickmore, County Tyrone, from its junction with Quarry Road, Route C626, to its junction with Tiroony Road, Route B46.
- Curran Road, Route C558, Castledawson.

- Ardbarren Road, Unclassified No. 138, Castlederg, from its junction with Scraghy Road, Route B72, to its junction with Ardbarren Road, Route C672.
- Drumgallan Road, Unclassified No. 119, Castlederg, from its junction with Castlederg Road, Route B50, to its junction with Magheracreggan Road, Route C679.
- Tullymoan Road, Unclassified No. 202, Clady, County Tyrone, from its junction with Lisdoo Road, Unclassified No. 202, to its junction with Orchard Road, Route C677.
- Kilcronagh Road, Unclassified No. 829, Cookstown, from its junction with Pomeroy Road, Route B4, to its junction with Sandholes Road, Route C622.
- Ardmore Road, Unclassified No. 1145, Crumlin, from its junction with Largy Road, Route C22, to its junction with Diamond Road, Route C23.
- Ballyclan Road, Unclassified No. 1143, Crumlin, from its junction with Largy Road, Route C22, to its junction with Diamond Road, Route C23.
- Cidercourt Road, Unclassified No. 1140, Crumlin, from its junction with Largy Road, Route C22, to its junction with Cidercourt Road, Unclassified No. 1141.
- Cidercourt Road, Unclassified No. 1141, Crumlin.
- Loughview Road, Unclassified No. 1148, Crumlin, from its junction with Diamond Road, Route C23, to its junction with Dunore Road, Unclassified No. 1152.
- Dunnygarron Road, Unclassified No. 2024, Cullybackey, County Antrim, from its junction with Fenagh Road, Route C56, to its junction with Redford Road, Unclassified No. 2023.
- Bay Rampart, Unclassified No. 1065, Derryadd.
- Byrnes Rampart, Unclassified No. 1068, Derryadd.
- Church Road, Unclassified No. 1069, Derryadd.
- Hall Rampart, Unclassified No. 1064, Derryadd.
- Lenny's Road, Unclassified No. 1070, Derryadd.
- Pier Rampart, Unclassified No. 1067, Derryadd.
- Skeltons Rampart, Unclassified No. 1066, Derryadd.
- Unnamed road, Unclassified No. 1071, Derryadd, linking Pier Rampart, Unclassified No. 1067, and Byrnes Rampart, Unclassified No. 1068.
- The Palms, Unclassified No. 1149, Derrymacash.
- Cullion Road, Unclassified No. 5200, Desertmartin, from its junction with Drumard Road, Unclassified No. 5204, to its junction with Iniscarn Road, Route C555.
- Drumard Road, Unclassified No. 5204, Desertmartin, from its junction with Cahore Road, Unclassified No. 5206, to its junction with Cullion Road, Unclassified No. 5200.
- Altmore Drive, Unclassified No. 7516, Dungannon, from its junction with Carland Road, Route A29, to its junction with Oaks Road, Route A45.
- Teeavan Road, Unclassified No. 2404, Dungiven, from its junction with Glenshane Road, Route A6, to its junction with Teeavan Road, Unclassified No. 2403.
- Turmeel Road, Unclassified No. 2403, Dungiven.
- Dickeystown Road, Unclassified No. 4009, Glenarm, from its junction with Drumnagreagh Road, Route B148, to its junction with Feystown Road, Unclassified No. 4010.
- Carnduff Road, Unclassified No. 4050, Glynn, Larne, from its junction with Carrickfergus Road, Route C74, to its junction with Browndod Road, Route C73.
- Glenburn Road, Unclassified No. 4049, Glynn, Larne, from its junction with Shore Road, Route A2, to its junction with Carrickfergus Road, Route C74.

- Ballyfore Road, Unclassified No. 4045, Larne, from its junction with Ballyvallagh Road, Unclassified No. 4044, to its junction with Ballyrickard Road, Route B100.
- Casement's Brae, Larne.
- Lodge Road, Larne.
- Corran Road, Unclassified No. 8112, Markethill.
- Inisclan Road, Unclassified No. 1253, Mountfield, County Tyrone, from its southern junction with Lenagh Road, Route C612D, to a point 225 metres north-east of that junction.
- Boghill Road, Unclassified No. 1104, Newtownabbey, from its junction with Lylehill Road, Route C27, to its junction with Flush Road, Unclassified No. 1104.
- Cavankill Road, Unclassified No. 5172, Newtownhamilton.
- Cold Brae Road, Unclassified No. 5123, Newtownhamilton.
- Elders Road, Unclassified No. 5178, Newtownhamilton.
- Macullaghs Road, Unclassified No. 5173, Newtownhamilton.
- School Road, Unclassified No. 5096, Newtownhamilton.
- Viewpoint Road, Newtownhamilton.
- Largybeg Road, Route C679D, Newtownstewart, from its junction with Drumlegagh Church Road, Route C680, to its junction with Letterbin Road, Route C680B.
- Strahulter Road, Unclassified No. 1910, Newtownstewart, from its junction with Killymore Road, Route B46, to its junction with Strahulter Road, Route C613.
- Arleston Road, Unclassified No. 1701, Omagh.
- Glencam Road, Unclassified No. 1269, Omagh, from its junction with Gortin Road, Route B48, to its junction with Killybrack Road, Unclassified No. 1269.
- Clonavon Avenue, Portadown.
- Ballylurgan Road, Unclassified No. 1044, Randalstown.
- Ballylurgan Road, Unclassified No. 1050, Randalstown, from its junction with Connaught Road, Unclassified No. 1043, to its junction with Craigstown Road, Route B53.
- Greenan Road, Unclassified No. 1037, Randalstown, from its junction with Moneynick Road, Route A6, to its junction with Derrygowan Road, Route C52.
- Knockroe Road, Unclassified No. 209, Sion Mills, County Tyrone, from its junction with Melmount Road, Route A5, to its junction with Orchard Road, Route C677.
- Aughnabrack Road, Unclassified No. 1104, Templepatrick, from its junction with Lylehill Road, Route C27, to its junction with Flush Road, Unclassified No. 1104.
- Cloughanduff Road, Unclassified No. 1100, Templepatrick, from its junction with Antrim Road, Route A6, to its junction with Old Coach Road, Route B95.
- Flush Road, Unclassified No. 1104, Templepatrick, from its junction with Boghill Road, Unclassified No. 1104, to its junction with Ballyutoag Road, Route A52.
- Brecart Road, Unclassified No. 1005, Toomebridge.
- Creagh Road, Unclassified No. 5107, Toomebridge, from its junction with Blackpark Road, Unclassified No. 5106, to its junction with Castledawson By-Pass, Route A6.
- Crockroe Road, Unclassified No. 1647, Trillick, County Tyrone.
- Coolkill Road, Route B210, Tynan, County Armagh.
- Mound Road, Unclassified No. 6196, Warrenpoint.

- Rawbrae Road, Unclassified No. 3014, Whitehead.
- Moneycarrie Road, Route C543, Coleraine, from its junction with Mullaghinch Road, Route B207, to its junction with Ballygawley Road, Route B188.
- Ardreagh Road, Unclassified No. 361, Coleraine, from its junction with Greenhill Road, Route B66, to its junction with Drumcroon Road, Route A29.
- Ballymacrea Road, Unclassified No. 36, Portrush, from its junction with Ballybogeey Road, Route B62, to a point 1300 metres south-west of that junction.
- Corbally Road, Route C96, Portrush, from its junction with Gateside Road, Route C93, to its junction with Ballyholme Road, Route C96.
- Grove Road, Route C545, Garvagh, from its junction with Carhill Road, Route A29, to its junction with Kurin Road, Route C545.
- Grove Road, Unclassified No. 378, Garvagh from its junction with Kurin Road, Route C545, to its junction with Edenbane Road, Route B64.
- Killeague Road, Route C539, Coleraine, from its junction with Cashel Road, Route B186 to its junction with Kinnyglass Road, Unclassified No. 338.
- Macleary Road, Unclassified No. 338, Coleraine, from its junction with Cashel Road, Route B186, to its junction with Killure Road, Unclassified No. 338.
- Killure Road, Unclassified No. 338, Coleraine, from its junction with Killeague Road, Route C539, to its junction with Drumcroon Road, Route A29.
- Dawson Street, Unclassified No. 7008, Armagh, from its junction with Edward Street, to its junction with Abbey Street, while travelling in a southerly direction.
- Dawson Street, Unclassified No. 7008, Armagh, from its junction with Edward Street, to its junction with Cathedral Road, while travelling in a northerly direction.
- Clooney Road, Route C558, Tobermore.
- Ballyheather Road, Route C602, Strabane, from its junction with Moyagh Road, Unclassified No. 1819, to its junction with Ballyheather Road, Route C602.
- Split Bog Road, Unclassified No. 4277, Moneyslane, from a point approximately 600 metres south-east of its junction with Closkelt Road, Unclassified No. 4276, to its junction with Moneyslane Road, Route B7.
- Island Road, Unclassified No. 82, Shankbridge, Ballymena.
- Tullynamullan Road, Unclassified No. 83, Shankbridge, Ballymena, from its junction with Maine Road, Route C48, to a point approximately 1,275 metres south-east of that junction.
- Bachelors Walk, Portadown.
- Pinehill Road, Unclassified No. 109, Ballymoney.
- Lisboy Road, Unclassified No. 110, Ballymoney, from its junction with Knockahollet Road, Route C86 to its junction with Kilraughts Road, Route B16.
- Loughabin Road, Unclassified No. 111, Ballymoney, from its junction with Knockahollet Road, Route C86, to its junction with Gortstagherty Road, Route C90.
- Old Frosses Road, Unclassified No. 173, Cloughmills and Dowgry Road, Route C60, Cloughmills.
- Canal Street, Route A27, Newry, and that part of Armagh Road, Route A27, Newry, between its junction with Barrack Street, and a point approximately 10 metres northwest of its junction with Plunkett Street.
- Beechmount Park, Unclassified Nos. 6293-16 and 6293-17, Newry.
- Elmwood Park, Unclassified No. 6293-14, Newry.

- Upper Damolly Road, Unclassified No. 6293-04, Newry, from its junction with
- Ashgrove Avenue, to its junction with Rathfriland Road.
- Millbay Road, Route B90, Islandmagee, County Antrim.
- McRory's Road, Unclassified No. 5071, Newtownhamilton.
- Manooney Road, Unclassified No. 8733, Killylea, County Armagh.
- Ballynahone Road, Route C557, Magherafelt, and Killyboggin Road, Unclassified No. 5172, Magherafelt, from its junction with Desertmartin Road, Route A29 to its junction with Lisalbanagh Road, Unclassified No. 5171.
- Killynamph Road, Unclassified No. 9446, Lisnaskea.
- Carn Road, Unclassified No. 127, Nutts Corner, Crumlin, from its junction with Belfast Road, Route A52, to its junction with Seven Mile Straight, Route B39.
- Umgall Road, Unclassified No. 104, Nutts Corner, Crumlin.
- Lisnabilla Road, Route C8, Moira.
- Killynamph Road, Unclassified No. 9446, Lisnaskea.
- Kensington Park, Unclassified No. 7027, Lisburn, County Antrim.
- Friary Road, Newtownhamilton, Route C204, from its junction with Clady Road, Route C204, to a point approximately 2392 metres south of that junction.
- Drennan's Road, Route C25, Crumlin.
- Davagh Road, Unclassified No. 1236, Greencastle, County Tyrone.
- Craigahulliar Road, Unclassified No. 306, Portrush and Craigahulliar Road, Unclassified No. 36, Portrush.
- Corramore Road, Unclassified No. 1974, Plumbridge, County Tyrone.
- Shinny Road, Unclassified No. U337, Coleraine, from its junction with Cashel Road, Route B186 to its junction with Cam Road and Letterloan Road Route C540.
- Ballinteer Road, Unclassified No. 336, Coleraine, from its junction with Farranseer Park Macosquin, to its junction with Windyhill Road, Route B201.
- Ballystrone Road, Unclassified No. 326, Coleraine.
- Isle Road, Unclassified No. 325, Coleraine.
- Ringrash Road, Route C534, Coleraine, from its junction with Ramsey Park Macosquin, to its junction with Windyhill Road, B201.
- Cullyrammer Road, Unclassified No. 368, Kilrea, from its junction with Mullaghinch Road, Route B188, to a point approximately 650 metres north of its junction with Killyvally Road, Unclassified No. 369.
- Cam Road, Unclassified No. 127, Nutts Corner, Crumlin, from its junction with Belfast Road, Route A52, to its junction with Seven Mile Straight, Route B39.
- Umgall Road, Unclassified No. 104, Nutts Corner, Crumlin.
- British Road, Aldergrove, Crumlin, County Antrim, from its junction with Dungonnell Road, for a distance of approximately 2,500 metres in an easterly direction.
- Bog Road, Unclassified No. 5412, Forkhill, between its junction with Sheen Road, Route C224, and a point approximately 1,050 metres north of that junction.
- Barnaghs Road, Unclassified No. 1725, Carrickmore, County Tyrone, between its junction with Gleneeny Road, Unclassified No. 1725, and its junction with Reclain Road, Unclassified No. 903.

- The north-western carriageway of Bridge Street, Banbridge, from its junction with Scarva Street, to a point 96 metres north-east of that junction.
- The south-eastern carriageway of Bridge Street, Banbridge, from a point 99 metres north-east of its junction with Rathfriland Street, to that junction.
- The north-western carriageway of Newry Street, Banbridge, from a point 75 metres south-west of its junction with Scarva Street, to that junction.
- The south-eastern carriageway of Newry Street, Banbridge, from its junction with Rathfriland Street, to a point 72 metres south-west of that junction.
- Ballydonagh Road, Route C20, Crumlin, from its junction with Moira Road, Route A26, to its junction with Dundrod Road, Route B101.
- Ballycowan Road, Unclassified No. 2079, Ballymena from its junction with Lisnevenagh Road, Route A26, to its junction with Liminary Road, Route C46.

16.5 Tonnes Maximum Gross Weight

- Rallagh Road, Unclassified No. 2401, Dungiven.
- Teeavan Road, Unclassified No. 2403, Dungiven, from its junction with Magheramore Road, Route C523, to its junction with Teevan Road, Unclassified No. 2404.
- Printshop Road, Nutts Corner, Crumlin, County Antrim.
- Long Rig Road, Route C26, Nutts Corner, Crumlin.

Roads Service similarly prohibits or restricts use of vehicles on certain road bridges. This is done by means of signs where Roads Service it is satisfied that the bridge is insufficient to bear vehicles exceeding certain weight limits.

The location of the bridges is provided by Council area and the bridge structure name in the table below. Details of the weight restriction in place are also provided for each bridge.

Council Area	Bridge/Structure Name	Location	Weight Restricted Tonnes
Ballymena Council	Ballycowan	Ballycowan, Ballymena.	7.50
	Legagrane	Skerry East Road, Ballymena.	2.50
Magherafelt Council	Newbridge Old	Airfield Road.	7.50
	No Name	Bridge Street.	18.00
Antrim Council	Tavnaghmore	Chapeltnow Road, Kells.	5.00
Coleraine Council	Glasgort	Glasgort Road, Ballymoney.	7.50
Londonderry Council	The Crooked Bridge	Barnes Road.	3.00
	Kilgort	Gortscreagan Road.	3.00
Limavady Council	Owenbeg 2	Foreglen Road.	7.50
	Largy	Dog Leap Road.	2.00
Moyle Council	Armoy	Church Road	2.00
	East Torr 1	Farranmacallan Road	3.00

Council Area	Bridge/Structure Name	Location	Weight Restricted Tonnes
Craigavon Council	Fishponds Bridge	Tamnamore Road, Dungannon	18.00
	Douglas Bridge	Cullnagrew Road, Dungannon.	7.50
	Featherbed Rd., Br.	Featherbed Road, Derryhirk, Aghagallon.	17.00
Armagh Council	Metal Bridge	Porthill Road, Mowhan Armagh.	3.00
	Fergy's Bridge	Cusher-Gosford Road, Derryeughan Markethill.	7.50
	Mill Race Br.	Ballynagallagh Road, Tassagh	3.00
	Ballynagallagh Rd. Br.	Ballynagallagh Road, Tassagh	3.00
	Kilmacanty Rd. Br.	Kilmacanty Rd., Br., Kilmore, Loughgall	3.00
	B'macawley-Foley Rd. Br.	Ballymacawley-Foley Road, Tullynagin.	3.00
Newry & Mourne Council	Skerriff's Br.	Skerriff Road, Cullyhanna.	3.00
	Kilnasaggart Rd. Br.	Kilnasaggart Road, Jonesborough.	3.00
Belfast City Council	Summerhill Ave	Summerhill Avenue.	17.00
	Kings Bridge	Sunnyside Street	7.50
	Ladas Way/Loop River	Ladas Way	17.00
	Knockvale Grove	Knockvale Grove.	17.00
Omagh Council	King James Bridge	Irishtown Road, Omagh.	7.50
Strabane Council	Newtownstewart Br.		7.50
	Mullyfabeg Bridge	Tullycar Road, Castlederg.	7.50
	Abercorn Bridge		3.00
Fermanagh Council	Rosscor Viaduct		7.50
Dungannon Council	Oona Bridge	Drumflugh Road, Benburb.	7.50
	Bonds Bridge		7.50
Down Council	Kilmore Bridge	Kilmore Road, Kilmore.	10.00

Hillsborough: Road Signs

Mrs Hale asked the Minister for Regional Development what consideration his Department has given to introducing road signs demarcating Hillsborough village as a conservation area.

(AQW 9089/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board have developed a protocol for tourist signing. While this protocol does not specifically identify Conservation Areas for additional signing, it does facilitate the erection of town and village nameplate signing, with the local Council taking a prominent/lead role in seeking such signage.

Roads Service has no record of having been asked to provide such signing for Hillsborough and has, therefore, not given the matter any consideration.

Water Leakage

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development what action his Department is taking, in conjunction with NI Water, to tackle water leakage.

(AQO 1493/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The current priorities for water are set out in Social and Environmental Guidance. The Guidance was agreed by the Executive in April 2010. The key aim on leakage is for Northern Ireland Water (NI Water) to achieve the 'Economic Level of Leakage'. This is the level at which it would cost more to reduce leaks than to produce additional water. The economic level is the recognised industry standard throughout the United Kingdom.

NI Water has achieved significant reductions in the level of leakage in recent years through leakage management, upgrading water infrastructure and targeting resources to detect and repair leaks. NI Water is currently on course to meet the 2011/12 target of 171 megalitres per day as set by the Utility Regulator. It aims to further reduce leakage to a level of 168 megalitres per day by the end of March 2013.

The Executive is providing over £600 million for investment during the Budget period to enable NIW to reduce leakage and make other improvements to our infrastructure.

Alleys and Pathways

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development what action his Department is taking to resolve the problem of unadopted alleys and pathways.

(AQO 1491/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the adoption of a private street, including a pathway or alley, is governed by Article 9 of the Private Streets (NI) Order 1980.

Under the Order, a street may be considered for adoption where:

- the majority of the owners and/or frontagers so request it;
- the Department is of the opinion that the street, or part of the street, should become a public road; and
- the street is first brought up to the required standard at the expense of the owners and/or frontagers.

The Member will appreciate that there are a large number of unadopted roads and private pathways in Northern Ireland and to agree to bring a particular unadopted pathway up to adoption standards would set an unacceptable precedent.

Road Safety: Cyclists

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister for Regional Development what discussions he has had with the Minister of the Environment regarding road safety for cyclists.

(AQO 1499/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have met with Minister Attwood on two occasions. In our meeting on 17 August 2011 we discussed speed limits and the road safety strategy. Our meeting on 15 December 2011 was held as part of the Ministerial Road Safety Group.

The specific issue of road safety for cyclists was not discussed at these meetings. The focus was more on the protection of all vulnerable road users including pedestrians, children, the elderly and, of course, cyclists.

One of the results of the meetings is that my officials are co-operating with DOE officials in preparing a publication to provide advice on safe cycling.

Northern Ireland Water: Governance and Accountability

Mr Givan asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the governance and accountability mechanism between his Department and Northern Ireland Water.

(AQO 1500/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Northern Ireland Water was established to be a regulated utility company operating at arms length from government control. DRD is the sole shareholder in the company. However, the continued majority government funding of NI Water has resulted in the reclassification of NI Water as an NDPB for public expenditure purposes.

This has led to complex and overlapping governance arrangements. Following recommendations by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), my Department is taking forward the development of a Management Statement/Financial Memorandum in conjunction with DFP and I am considering the options for wider governance changes.

Public Transport: Investment

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Regional Development what steps he will take to rebalance investment by his Department on public transport.

(AQO 1501/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I am continually reviewing how to prioritise investment across my Department and indeed, recently allocated an additional £22 million to Translink from the roads budget to fund phase one of the Londonderry to Coleraine railway relay.

The strategy for the development of the transport system in Northern Ireland is framed in the Regional Development Strategy and developed in the Regional Transport Strategy. The current Transport strategy has been reviewed and a new approach is proposed. At its core is a move towards greater sustainability which will contribute positively to growing the economy while improving the quality of life for all and reducing the transport impacts on the economy.

There has been major investment in projects aimed at improving the railways network in Northern Ireland over the past few years and that has helped rebalance investment in public transport. Some key infrastructure projects are currently being taken forward by my Department including some £150 million which is being invested in the New Trains Programme and £47 million on the first two phases of the Londonderry to Coleraine railway track upgrade.

In considering an effective balance between roads investment and investment in other forms of transport I think it is important to recognise that the vast majority of public transport users avail of the bus services travelling via the roads network. In this context investment in roads benefits many users of public transport.

I will continue to review my Department's investment priorities to ensure that resources are used most effectively in delivering the services for which we are responsible.

Flags Protocol

Mr Dickson asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the current flags protocol.

(AQO 1502/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department does not approve of, or support, the unauthorised use of departmental property for any purpose, however, as the Member will appreciate, the removal of sectarian motivated signs and emblems, including flags, is a matter that needs to be treated with sensitivity. The Department also has to take into account the safety of those who are asked to undertake the removal. The risk of escalating the problem also needs to be taken into consideration.

The Department has signed up to the multi-agency Protocol on the Display of Flags in Public Areas, which was introduced in April 2005. Under the Protocol, my Department's Roads Service will, when called upon by the lead Agency, provide the access equipment and resources to assist in the removal of unwanted flags, once agreement has been reached with the local community.

Unauthorised memorials on the property of the Department's arms-length bodies are matters for the Boards of those organisations, bearing in mind their responsibilities for safety and statutory obligations to promote good relations between people of different religious beliefs or political persuasions.

While the current protocol has been helpful, I welcome its review, which is being led by OFMDFM and is currently ongoing. Roads Service will, of course, be participating in the review.

Department for Social Development

Postage and Printing Costs

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department, and its arm's-length bodies, give elected representatives the choice of receiving reports and all other correspondence by email to minimise postage and printing costs.

(AQW 8427/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): My Department will provide electronic responses to correspondence from Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) when requested by them to do so. MLAs are normally advised of the publication of reports by my Department and its arm's-length bodies by means of a letter of notification which will allow them to access the publication on the relevant website. Communication in relation to Ministerial Statements is carried out in accordance with the requirements of Assembly Standing Orders which require written copies of oral Statements to be made available to each MLA.

Solid Fuel and Economy 7 Heating

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 7584/11-15, to detail the specific plans each Housing Association has to replace Economy 7 and solid fuel heating systems.

(AQW 8555/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My department does not routinely collect this information and I understand that Housing Associations' plans to replace Economy 7 and solid fuel heating systems vary. However, the table below details the information that each Housing Association has provided to my department in relation to replacing their existing systems.

ALPHA	Alpha Housing Association currently has 409 units with Economy 7 and has no Solid Fuel heating systems. Most stock comprises sheltered apartments and until a gas supply is made available, Economy 7 will remain the most suitable heating. However, they aim to convert 57 units to gas in 2012/13.
APEX	Apex Housing Association currently has 88 units with Economy 7. They aim to complete conversions to gas, where it is available, over the next two financial years - 50 units in 2012 and 28 units in 2013. The remaining 10 units in Fermanagh are in a privately owned scheme leased by Apex and the owner has no immediate plans to change heating though Apex are in ongoing discussions with the owner.
ARK	Ark Housing Association currently has no units with Solid Fuel heating. They currently have 84 units with Economy 7 within two sheltered schemes and a family centre. While they have no immediate plans to replace Economy 7 in the sheltered schemes, they aim to replace Economy 7 to gas in the Family Homeless Scheme when funding becomes available.
FILOR	Filor Housing Association currently has 44 units with Economy 7 and has no Solid Fuel heating systems. They plan to convert six Economy 7 systems to gas in 2012/13.
FLAX	Flax Housing Association currently has 38 units with Economy 7 and has no Solid Fuel heating systems. It aims to upgrade all to gas, where it is available, by end of March 2012
FOLD	Fold Housing currently has 266 units with Economy 7 and six with Solid Fuel Heating systems. It aims to convert Economy 7 to gas, where it is available, as follows: 46 units in 2012/13; 49 units in 2013/14; 45 units in 2014/15; 59 units in 2015/16 and 67 units in 2016/17. The six Solid Fuel heating systems will be replaced by gas, where it is available, in 2012/13.
GOSFORD	Gosford Housing Association currently has 45 units with Economy 7 and has no Solid Fuel heating systems. The Association has no plans to replace these heating systems in next two years but has undertaken to review their position after that time.
GROVE	Grove Housing Association has only one unit with Economy 7 which cannot be replaced as the tenant refuses the upgrade. They have no Solid Fuel heating systems.
HABINTEG	Habinteg Housing Association currently has 105 units with Economy 7 heating. They have no Solid Fuel heating systems. A detailed Stock Condition Survey has been carried out by independent assessors in 2010. All planned maintenance work, including any upgrade to insulation and/or any replacement of heating systems will be carried out in accordance with the recommendations of this extensive survey and according to its schedule of works/Planned maintenance programme.
HARMONY HOMES	Harmony Homes has 62 units with solid fuel heating and plans to carry out conversions within the Association's "3 Streets Project", commencing March 2012 and lasting 2.5 years. They have 105 units with Economy 7 heating, nine of which will be changed to gas during this contract. Their remaining 96 units with Economy 7 are contained in three sheltered schemes and they have no plans to replace this.

HELM	Helm Housing currently has 18 Solid Fuel systems which have not been replaced because their tenants refuse upgrades. Of the 1,216 units with Economy 7, Helm aims to replace 100 of these with gas in 2012/13 under Cosy Homes Scheme and will continue with this programme, subject to the availability of funding.
OAKLEE	Oaklee Homes Group has 1,124 units with Economy 7 heating and 10 with Solid Fuel. Their current life cycle renewal is set out in their planned maintenance system at 25 years – making the last conversion planned for 2024. However, following a recent recommendation that Oaklee carry out an analysis of Economy 7, a paper has gone to the Association's Board to consider bringing forward planned conversions to 2020 (154 conversion per annum.)
OPEN DOOR	Open Door Housing Association currently has 39 units, none of which are Solid Fuel. It has one unit with Economy 7, but the tenant refuses upgrade. The remain 38 units are in a new build scheme which is only 10 years old and the heating system is due to be replaced within the next few years. However, as no gas supply is available, the Association is currently exploring energy efficient alternatives.
SHAC	SHAC currently has 267 tenancies with Economy 7 heating and 17 with Solid Fuel. As part of the Oaklee Homes Group, it is included in the paper sent to the Association's Board to consider accelerating the planned conversion programme.
SOUTH ULSTER	South Ulster Housing Association has 148 properties with Economy 7 heating and no solid fuel heating systems. They have no plans to replace Economy 7 heating systems as they are in apartment blocks.
TRIANGLE	Triangle Housing Association has no units with solid fuel. They have 59 units with Economy 7 heating and aims to replace these with mainly gas at the end of their lifespan.
TRINITY	Trinity Housing Association currently has 33 units with Economy 7 and no Solid Fuel heating systems. It aims to upgrade 12 of these units to gas, where it is available, in 2012/13. The Association advises that it has a number of elderly tenants who refuse upgrades to alternative heating systems.
ULIDIA	Ulidia Housing Association currently has 24 units with Economy 7. It has no plans to upgrade these as 22 are not on the gas network or there is insufficient space to accommodate an oil tank. The remaining two units with Economy 7 cannot be upgraded as their tenants refuse upgrade.
WESLEY	Wesley Housing Association currently has 87 units with Economy 7. It aims to upgrade all of these units between 2016/19 to gas.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development how many people are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance because of (i) alcohol addiction; and (ii) drug addiction.

(AQW 8581/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Entitlement to Disability Living Allowance is based on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility needs because of their disability. Drug or alcohol dependency does not therefore confer entitlement to Disability Living Allowance.

My Department previously reported on the primary disabling conditions for Disability Living Allowance recipients. Following a review and a consultation process on a revised set of reports on Disability Living Allowance, my department ceased publishing this information in February 2011. The last report is available at www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/publications/dla.htm.¹

- 1 The information provided is an Official Statistic. The Production and dissemination of all such Statistics is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority

Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister for Social Development when he is next due to meet Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions; and what items will be for discussion.

(AQW 8594/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I am meeting Lord Freud, the Department for Work and Pensions Minister for Welfare Reform, in London on 13 March 2012. At that meeting we will be discussing a range of Welfare Reform issues including passported benefits and potential flexibilities within Welfare Reform as well as Department for Work and Pensions jobs in Belfast.

Board of the Housing Executive

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister for Social Development how many times he has met with the Board of the Housing Executive since coming into office.

(AQW 8596/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Whilst I have met the Chairman and other individual members of the Board at various meetings, I have formally met the Board of the Housing Executive once on the 29 February 2012.

Board of the Housing Executive

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister for Social Development when he last met with the Board of the Housing Executive; and what subjects were discussed.

(AQW 8597/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I last met with the Board of the Housing Executive on 29 February 2012 to discuss the fundamental review of the Housing Executive and my housing priorities.

Employment and Support Allowance

Ms Boyle asked the Minister for Social Development how many people are currently receiving the appeal rate of the Employment and Support Allowance, broken down by district council area.

(AQW 8600/11-15)

Mr McCausland: As Employment and Support Allowance does not have an appeal rate, the information requested is not available.

People Classified as Homeless

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many people are currently classified as homeless, broken down by (i) constituency; and (ii) council area.

(AQW 8603/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not routinely collate information by Parliamentary Constituency. The table below gives details of those accepted as statutorily homeless (Full Duty Applicant) by Council area at 31 March 2011, which are the most recent figures available.

Council Area	Accepted as homeless (Full Duty applicant)
Antrim Borough Council	388
Ards Borough Council	455
Armagh City and District Council	122
Ballymena Borough Council	498
Ballymoney Borough Council	102
Banbridge District Council	145
Belfast City Council	2766
Carrickfergus Borough Council	260
Castlereagh Borough Council	434
Coleraine Borough Council	347
Cookstown District Council	85
Craigavon Borough Council	307
Derry City Council	932
Down District Council	299
Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council	322
Fermanagh District Council	159
Larne Borough Council	128
Limavady Borough Council	130
Lisburn City Council	862
Magherafelt District Council	121
Moyle District Council	100
Newry & Mourne District Council	324
Newtownabbey Borough Council	556
North Down Borough Council	425
Omagh District Council	92
Strabane District Council	84
Total	10443

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Housing Executive: Vandalism

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how much the Housing Executive has spent, as a result of vandalism, in the North Down area in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8605/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The figures below detail the total spend by the Housing Executive as a result of vandalism in the Housing Executive's Bangor District Office area in each of the last three years: -

2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
£20,634	£44,532	£12,024

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Decent Homes Standard

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development what plans the Housing Executive and Housing Associations have to insulate all their properties to the Decent Homes Standard.

(AQW 8614/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive implemented a major programme to install cavity wall insulation in the mid to late 1980s. The 2009 House Condition Survey indicated that only 5.2% of Housing Executive dwellings had no wall insulation. These are largely non-traditional property types which do not have cavity walls, for which the Housing Executive is considering alternative means of wall insulation. With regards to loft insulation the 2009 House Condition Survey indicated that only 1.2% of Housing Executive stock had no loft insulation and they have been installing and upgrading this through External Cyclical maintenance and heating schemes. In terms of improving thermal efficiency, the Housing Executive also estimates that approximately 50% of its stock has some degree of double glazing and they are currently working to identify those properties which still require double glazing. Once this information is available, as required in the draft Programme for Government, by March 2012, it will prepare a programme for the installation of glazing to all Housing Executive homes by the end of 2015. In addition, the Housing Executive currently installs double glazing both as part of its planned External Cyclic Maintenance programme and as part of a dedicated programme for such work. Extra funding secured through the Monitoring Round has enabled an increase in this activity.

The majority of Housing Associations have advised me that most of their properties already meet the Decent Homes Standard. They intend that any remaining properties will have upgraded insulation installed to the Decent Homes Standard as part of maintenance programmes or at times of change of tenancy, subject to the availability of funding.

Shared Accommodation Rate for Housing Benefit

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Social Development, in light of the changes to the shared accommodation rate for Housing Benefit, what measures are being considered to mitigate the difficulties that may be faced by those in receipt of the benefit.

(AQW 8687/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There have been a number of measures that have been put in place to mitigate the effect of the recent legislation relating to the extension of the age limit from 25 to 35 within the Housing Benefit scheme for the Shared Accommodation Rate for private rented sector tenants. These include:-

- From 16 November, providing early advice to all those affected on the potential impact on their Housing Benefit so they can make informed decisions about their accommodation needs;
- Ensuring that changes will be implemented on a rolling basis when an individual's claim comes forward for renewal. This provides transitional protection from the effect of the change for some existing claimants for periods ranging up to December 2012;
- Exemptions from the legislation for certain vulnerable groups;
- An increase in the fund available for Discretionary Housing Payments from £1.7m to £3.4m to assist claimants in meeting the reduction to their existing awards.

As regards future actions, I have written to the Housing Executive to ask them to consider what further Housing Services might be developed for those affected, including the implications for the Social Rented Sector. I have also commissioned research to gain a further insight into the impact of the changes. This research is due to report in June 2012.

I have also been advised by NIHE that they estimate there are upwards of 30,000 bedspaces available for persons who are prepared to live in shared accommodation in the private rented sector.

Village Area of South Belfast

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Social Development what action has been taken to address the problems that have occurred in the Village area of South Belfast, as a result of the significant number of derelict properties awaiting demolition.

(AQW 8688/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has already demolished 178 properties within the Village Area of South Belfast and is currently involved in further demolitions within the Monarch Area (Phase 2) which will continue until the end of March. Other demolition will be progressed in the main Village Re-Development Area and is expected to continue for a number of months. In the meantime, all remaining vacant properties have been secured and are re-secured immediately if vandalised or broken into.

I recognise that during this time of change for the area, there have been many problems specifically for those remaining residents still living there. I understand there have been over 50 cases forwarded for prosecutions for theft from empty properties thanks to the vigilance of the local community, Housing Executive and local PSNI working together.

The Housing Executive has a dedicated Neighbourhood Officer who carries out daily inspections of the area to ascertain if there has been any vandalism, theft etc. This has been supplemented by the provision a community based officer who will inspect the area on weekends and holiday periods through the provision of a Community Service Agreement with the Greater Village Regeneration Trust.

A Housing Officer is also available on a daily basis to answer any queries relating to the redevelopment of the area and a Housing Executive sub-office operates on a Wednesday afternoon.

Fuel Allowance

Mr Dunne asked the Minister for Social Development how many people in the North Down area will receive the one-off fuel allowance payment this year.

(AQW 8731/11-15)

Mr McCausland: All customers who were in receipt of Pension Credit, Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance Income Based or Employment Support Allowance Income Related during the qualifying week from 12 to 18 December 2011 are entitled to receive the one-off Fuel Allowance Payment. To date my Department has identified 7,136 people in North Down area who meet the required eligibility criteria.

In some cases, additional information may still be required before a decision can be made on the eligibility of a claim to a qualifying benefit. Payment of the one-off Fuel Allowance Payment to qualifying customers will be made as soon as possible thereafter.

Housing Executive: Temporary Accommodation

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development how much the Housing Executive has paid to private landlords for providing temporary accommodation in the Derry district office area in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8743/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The table below details the number of private landlord properties used by the Housing Executive in its Collon Terrace, Waterloo Place and Waterside District Office areas as follows: -

Year	Number of properties	*Approximate cost per year
2009/10	140	£957,320
2010/11	171	£1,169,272
2011/12 to date	210	£1,435,980

* The Housing Executive has advised that, given the transient nature of this group, these costs are approximate as not all properties are occupied at all times and not all tenants are on full housing benefit. In addition, the figures are based on an average rent of £131.50 per week per property.

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Housing Executive: Temporary Accommodation

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development how many private properties in the Foyle area are currently being used as temporary accommodation by the Housing Executive.
(AQW 8744/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive currently uses 210 private landlord properties in its Collon Terrace, Waterloo Place and Waterside district office areas as temporary accommodation.

Economically Inactive Long-Term Sick People

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) what research has been carried out on the number of economically inactive long-term sick people; (ii) the number of economically inactive long-term sick people, broken down by illness; and (iii) how much long-term sickness costs his Department each year.
(AQW 8748/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The definition of economic inactivity (as defined within the UK Statistics Authority Publication Hub) is as follows: "Economically inactive people are not in work and do not meet the internationally agreed definition of unemployment. They are people without a job who have not actively sought work in the last four weeks and/or are not available to start work in the next two weeks".

- (i) My Department has conducted specific research on economically inactive long-term sick people claiming social security benefits, this research and statistical analysis, in relation to claimants of Incapacity Benefit and/or Employment Support Allowance, is listed below:
- The production of quarterly National Statistics Publications which provides detailed analysis of both Incapacity Benefit and Employment and Support Allowance customers http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats_and_research/benefit_publications.htm ;
 - An analysis of the Employment and Support Allowance customer activity at each stage of the Employment and Support Allowance journey;
 - Customer Satisfaction Survey for IB Re-Assessment Customers who have used the Customer Support and Advise Team (CAST) during the Re-Assessment process; and
 - The Department has recently published a draft Equality Impact Assessment on the Welfare Reform (NI) Bill (2)

<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/consultations/archived-consultations/archived-consultations-2009/consultations-equality-impact-assessment-on.htm>

- (ii) The information requested is not available as there is no current reliable data source that can be used to accurately estimate numbers of economically inactive long-term sick people.
- (iii) The Social Security Agency administers the following benefits in respect of long term sickness:

- Incapacity Benefit
- Income Support (Long Term Sick)
- Severe Disablement Allowance

Expenditure on the above benefits for the last three financial years is included below.

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Benefit	£'000	£'000	£'000
Incapacity Benefit	336,590*	321,401	298,760
Income Support (Long Term Sick)	298,313	305,463	292,588
Severe Disablement Allowance	40,815	42,265	41,214

* Incapacity Benefit for the 2008/09 financial year was not paid exclusively in respect of long term sickness.

The table below includes expenditure for those social security benefits that may also be paid in respect of, but not exclusively for, long term sickness. This table also includes expenditure for Carer's Allowance which is paid under qualifying conditions to an individual who cares for someone who is ill or has a disability.

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Benefit	£'000	£'000	£'000
Disability Living Allowance	679,452	728,373	753,456
Industrial Injuries Benefit	27,622	28,726	28,653
Employment Support Allowance	4,641	52,598	94,576
Careers Allowance	90,401	97,999	103,573

Economically Inactive People

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Social Development what research has been carried out into why there are 5000 more people who are economically inactive due to long-term sickness this year compared to last year.

(AQW 8749/11-15)

Mr McCausland: No information has been provided on the source which supports your claim that there are 5000 more people who are economically inactive due to long term sickness this year as compared to last year. I am therefore unable to provide an answer to your question.

Housing Executive Staff

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development whether the £250 recently paid to Housing Executive staff is a one-off payment, or whether future payments will be made to staff earning less than £21,000.

(AQW 8751/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive is governed by pay arrangements set nationally by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services. The £250 payment for those staff earning less than £21,000 is at this point, a one-off payment.

Empty Properties

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development to provide a breakdown of the empty properties identified within the North Down constituency, broken down by (i) whether it is a (a) house; (b) flat; or (c) former small business premises; and (ii) whether it has (a) one; (b) two; or (c) three/four bedrooms. **(AQW 8762/11-15)**

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 Bangor District office updated figures record 69 void properties within their stock at 28 February 2012, as follows:-

Property Type	Number
4 Bedroom house	1
3 Bedroom house	14
2 Bedroom house	2
1 Bedroom bungalow	2
2 Bedroom bungalow	12
3 Bedroom bungalow	2
1 Bedroom flat	24
2 Bedroom flat	12

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Secondment to Trade Unions

Mr McCallister asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the number of (a) full-time; and (b) part-time staff who are currently on secondment from his Department, or its arm's length bodies, to each recognised trade union; (ii) the salary scale for each secondee; and (iii) the length of each secondment to date.

(AQW 8781/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department for Social Development has 4 full-time staff and no part-time staff currently on secondment to NIPSA. Salary scale details and the length of each secondment, to date, are set out in the table below. In relation to the Department's arms-length bodies, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has 3 full-time staff and no part-time staff seconded out and the relevant details are also provided in the table below. The other 2 bodies i.e. Ilex Urban Regeneration Company and the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland have no staff on secondment to a recognised trade union.

Organisation	Number of Staff on secondment to a recognised Trade Union	Grade	Trade Union	Salary Bandwidth	Length of each Secondment to date
DSD	4 full-time	3x E02 1xE01	NIPSA NIPSA	£21,392 - £23,250 £23,336 - £26,086	8 years 8 months 5 years 8 months; 4 years 1 month. 4 years 6 months;
NIHE	3 full-time	1x level 2 1xlevel 4 1x level 5	UNITE NIPSA NIPSA	£13,189 - £16,054 £16,830 - £22,958 £21,519 - £26,276	2 years 2 months; 12 years 3 months; 4 years 10 months;

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Housing Executive Tenants

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to Housing Executive properties (i) why dependants have to be registered on a rent book for 12 months, after they become 18 years of age, before they are entitled to a succession of tenancy; and (ii) for his Department's assessment of the difficulties this causes young people when their guardians die or move away.

(AQW 8812/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Dependents do not have to be registered on a rent book for 12 months after they become 18 years of age before they are entitled to a succession of tenancy. If a dependent's name is on a rent book for a property they are in fact a joint tenant and the rules for succession of tenancy do not apply.

However, if the dependent is not on the rent book for the property (i.e. they are not a joint tenant) a succession of tenancy can still occur via a statutory right as identified in the Housing (NI) Order 1983 for secure tenancies and in the Housing (NI) Order 2003 for introductory tenancies. The following categories of people can succeed on statutory grounds:-

- (a) The wife or husband or civil partner of the deceased.
- (b) A member of the deceased's family, if the member of the family was residing with the deceased throughout a period of 12 months ending on the date of the deceased's death. At the time of the deceased's death, the family member must have occupied the relevant dwelling as his / her only or principal home.

In many circumstances difficulties establishing proof of residence arise as a result of tenants not notifying the Housing Executive when someone joins or leaves their household.

In order to meet the requirement in (b) above the Housing Executive seeks to establish that the applicant for succession has indeed resided at the relevant property for a period of 12 months. In applying this criterion the Housing Executive considers all relevant information which could include

amongst other things proof that the applicant was declared on a Housing Benefit application at the dwelling in question or other documents proving residence.

In addition to statutory rights to succession there are also instances under the Housing Selection Scheme rules (Rule 74) where there are certain policy grounds for a succession. In this situation the Housing Executive considers each case on its own merits. Examples of possible scenarios are: -

- A carer only if he/she was living with the deceased for a time in order to care for him / her and for that reason had sold a dwelling or given up a tenancy or licence in relation to a dwelling. (For the purposes of this paragraph, a tenancy or licence shall be ignored if the carer had been granted the said tenancy or licence by a relative).
- The potential successor has accepted responsibility for the deceased tenant's dependants.

There are also very limited grounds for an assignment of a tenancy. However, where an applicant does not meet the legislative or policy criteria to an assignment or succession then the Housing Executive carries out a homeless assessment to identify whether or not the applicant is owed a statutory duty. In addition to this the applicant will be provided with advice and assistance.

In the event that a person is not entitled to a succession or assignment of the tenancy the Housing Executive will provide comprehensive advice on alternative housing options and endeavour to find an appropriate housing solution.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the inequality issues arising from his Department's decision to not provide the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance in new assessments for individual who are 65 years of age or over, and to offer Attendance Allowance instead.

(AQW 8813/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I do not agree that there is an equality issue arising from the decision to pay Attendance Allowance to new claimants over the age of 65. The social security system has many examples whereby different provision is made for people at different stages of their lives. There is a range of benefits payable to people of working age but a different range of benefits payable to people over State Pension age reflecting their different circumstances and needs.

For people who become disabled after the age of 65, Attendance Allowance provides well targeted financial assistance to people with the extra costs of their disability and helps maintain their independence. It is part of a package of assistance available to older people. Entitlement is based on the need for, and extra cost of, personal care which results from severe disability but it does not provide specific help with a person's mobility needs. However, recipients are able to use their benefit in whatever way best suits their needs and priorities, including meeting mobility costs.

The aim of Disability Living Allowance is to focus help with the extra costs of disability on people who become severely disabled earlier in life and who, as a consequence, face limited opportunities to work, earn and save compared to people without a disability. Disabled people of working age have less opportunity to work and save than those who do not have a disability and payment of the mobility component may, in some cases, help an individual get and retain employment. While it can remain in payment past the age of 65, it is right to give the most help with the extra costs of disability to those who are severely disabled earlier in life.

As you know it is planned to replace Disability Living Allowance with a new benefit, Personal Independence Payment which will be introduced for working-age claimants from April 2013. It is proposed that age thresholds will be maintained; however any final decision in relation to the introduction of the new benefit will be a matter for the Assembly.

Income Support

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development what percentage of people in (i) the North Down area; (ii) the Ards area; and (iii) Northern Ireland are in receipt of income support.

(AQW 8818/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The table below shows the percentage of people aged 16 to 59 in receipt of Income Support compared to the total population aged 16 to 59 in (i) the North Down area; (ii) the Ards area; and (iii) Northern Ireland expressed as a percentage:

Area	Percentage of claimants
North Down Local Government District	4.1%
Ards Local Government District	4.7%
Northern Ireland	7.5%

Data Source: Northern Ireland Benefits Statistics Summary November 2011

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Housing Executive Properties in the North Down Area

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development (i) on how many Housing Executive properties in the North Down area have problems with mould and dampness been reported in the last three years; and (ii) what measures the Housing Executive has taken to address this matter.

(AQW 8819/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Over the last three years the Housing Executive has received 317 reports of problems with mould and dampness from tenants in their Bangor District office area.

Mould growth is the main symptom of condensation and may be confused for damp. It is best treated by regular ventilation of the property. Where the Housing Executive is aware of condensation in a property the tenant will be advised that it can be prevented by:-

- Allowing air to circulate throughout the property by opening doors occasionally
- Using extractor fans in kitchens and bathrooms
- Opening windows when cooking
- Not blocking air vents
- Drying clothes outside if possible
- Ensuring there is ventilation in the property, especially bedrooms, during the night.

Reports of damp are assessed by the Housing Executive's maintenance staff and contractors on a case by case basis and the necessary remedial action is taken. Typical examples of work carried out would be:-

- Damp proof course
- Installation of extractor fans in kitchens
- Checking of water pipes in kitchens and bathrooms
- Cleaning of outside guttering to prevent water penetration
- Inspection of roofs and external doors

Every Housing Executive tenant is provided with a tenant's handbook at the start of their tenancy which includes advice on condensation. The Housing Executive also has a separate condensation advice leaflet which is available in all of their District offices and also online at www.nihe.gov.uk.

Housing Executive Properties with Four Bedrooms

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive properties have four bedrooms, broken down by district office area.

(AQW 8879/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The table below provides a breakdown of the Housing Executive's four bedroom properties by district office area.

District	Number of 4 Bed Properties
West Belfast	406
East Belfast	121
South Belfast	144
North Belfast	329
Shankill	46
Belfast Area Total	1,046
Bangor	57
Newtownards	84
Castlereagh	85
Lisburn Antrim Street	107
Lisburn Dairyfarm	112
Downpatrick	76
South East Total	521
Banbridge	46
Newry	231
Armagh	54
Lurgan	263
Portadown	107
Dungannon	105
Fermanagh	83
South Area Total	889
Ballymena	118
Antrim	83
Newtownabbey 1	70
Newtownabbey 2	39
Carrickfergus	67

District	Number of 4 Bed Properties
Larne	48
Ballycastle	29
Ballymoney	40
Coleraine	132
North East Total	626
Waterloo Place	209
Waterside	144
Collon Terrace	170
Limavady	90
Magherafelt	81
Strabane	198
Omagh	101
Cookstown	73
West Area Total	1,066
Total	4,148

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Vacant Housing Executive Properties

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Social Development to provide a breakdown of the vacant Housing Executive properties broken down by (i) whether they has (a) four; (b) five; or (c) six bedrooms; and (ii) district office area.

(AQW 8883/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not collate vacant properties by the number of bedrooms. However, the table below provides a breakdown of vacant Housing Executive properties by district office area as at 31 January 2012.

District	Total Voids
West Belfast	61
East Belfast	113
North Belfast	301
Shankill	218
South Belfast	207
Belfast Total	900
Bangor	59
Newtownards	63

District	Total Voids
Castlereagh	80
Lisburn Antrim St.	46
Lisburn Diary Farm	16
Downpatrick	20
South East Total	284
Banbridge	24
Newry	22
Armagh	42
Lurgan/Brown	119
Portadown	18
Dungannon	20
Fermanagh	15
South Total	260
Ballymena	119
Antrim	31
Newtownabbey 1	128
Newtownabbey 2	23
Carrick	10
Larne	69
Ballycastle	9
Ballymoney	18
Coleraine	31
North East Total	438
Waterloo Pl	17
Waterside	22
Collon Terrace	20
Limavady	12
Magherafelt	21
Strabane	19
Omagh	34
Cookstown	5
West Total	150
N.I. Total	2,032

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Housing Executive Properties in the North Down Area

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive properties in the North Down area will have new kitchens installed within the next three years, broken down by (i) district office area; and (ii) the total associated costs.

(AQW 8889/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The current position regarding kitchen replacement schemes in Housing Executive properties in the North Down area in the next three years is as follows:-

Bangor District Office area:

- 2012/13 No schemes programmed
- 2013/14 Rathgill Estate – 36 dwellings at an estimated cost of £198,000
- 2014/15 Kilcooley Estate – 224 dwellings at an estimated cost of £1,232,000
Rathgill Estate – 95 dwellings at an estimated cost of £523,000

These planned schemes will be subject to funding being available.

Housing Executive Properties in the North Down Area

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive properties in the North Down area will have natural gas installed within the next three years, broken down by (i) district office area; and (ii) the total associated costs

(AQW 8890/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The current position regarding the installation of natural gas systems to Housing Executive properties in the North Down area in the next three years is as follows:-

Bangor District Office area;

- 2012/13 Rathgill/Jubilee Estates – 42 dwellings at an estimated cost of £277,000
- 2013/14 Kilcooley Estate Economy 7 – 53 dwellings at an estimated cost of £350,000
- 2014/15 No schemes programmed

These planned schemes will be subject to funding being available.

Unclaimed Benefits

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development what action is being taken to reduce the level of unclaimed benefits.

(AQW 8891/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Promoting benefit uptake is a key priority for the Department and the Social Security Agency has taken a proactive approach to increasing uptake since 2005.

The Social Security Agency, through its annual Benefit Uptake Programmes, has used a range of direct targeting, promotional and community outreach approaches to increase the uptake of all benefits. This work has generated an additional £37.6 million in annual benefit and arrears for over 11,000 people to date.

In 2011/12 significant additional investment has been made in benefit uptake, taking the annual spend to in excess of £1.3m across 4 complementary approaches:

- 25,000 people, selected from existing customer data, have received a personal invitation to have a full benefits assessment through a contracted partner in the independent advice sector.
- A promotional approach at council and community level involving trusted partners such as community and older peoples' groups, general practitioners, pharmacies and church/faitb based groups. Entitlement checks are delivered by telephone with home visits offered to those who require assistance with making a claim.
- The "Make the Call" advertising campaign is an extension of this approach and is a television, radio, press and outdoor advertising campaign aimed at older people. Over 12,000 calls have been received to date and ongoing monitoring indicates that around 40% of callers have potential entitlement.
- A £375,000 Innovation Fund for Increasing Benefit Uptake has funded 7 projects led by the community and voluntary sector partners to test new and innovative ways of reaching people with potential unclaimed benefit entitlement.

A wide range of general services are also in place to make people aware of their potential entitlement to benefit. These include the production of specific publications, some in minority ethnic languages; NI Direct website; an online Benefits Adviser Service; general assistance with information available through our network of local and centralised offices.

Capital Projects in the Foyle Area

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department has any plans for capital projects in the Foyle area in the 2011-15 budget period.

(AQW 8913/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In 2011/12 my Department, through various funding programmes, has invested in a range of capital projects. Under the UK City of Culture 2013 Investment Fund we are delivering 12 public realm schemes in Londonderry including works on Queen's Quay, Foyle Embankment, Spencer Road and at Strand Road. We are funding a ReStore pilot project targeting retail premises on Spencer Road, Union Hall Place and Bank Place and in the restoration and refurbishment works at the Guildhall. Through Ilex Urban Regeneration Company around 30 community infrastructure projects across the city will also be supported under this funding programme. Projects at Holywell Trust, St Columb's Park House and Creggan Neighbourhood Partnership are benefiting from the Modernisation Fund Capital Programme and under the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund we are investing in projects at Old Library Trust, Caw Nelson Drive Action Group as well as the Fountain Multi Use Games Area.

For 2012/13 and beyond plans are in place to provide further funding to Ilex for the community infrastructure projects in respect of the UK City of Culture 2013 and the decontamination of Fort George. Subject to appraisal there are plans to further enhance the city's Public Realm, to extend the ReStore pilot and to invest in a City Dressing scheme. We are also considering investing in the new North West Regional Sports Campus project at St Columb's Park, the proposed Science Park at Fort George and the Waterside Greenway. We continue to work closely with the four Neighbourhood Partnerships in the city to identify capital development priorities in their respective Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.

Whilst my Department will not have additional funding for the One Plan for Londonderry, the work and budget of my North West Development Office will be prioritised in line with the Transformational Themes set out in the Plan. My Department will also champion the Quality Spaces, Places and Neighbourhoods Catalyst Programme and work with key stakeholders to ensure delivery of projects under that programme.

New Housing Schemes for Glen Court and Cedar Court, Derry

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development when construction of the new housing schemes for Glen Court and Cedar Court, Derry will commence.

(AQW 8917/11-15)

Mr McCausland: These schemes are not in the current programme to be started before the end of this financial year. I am now reviewing the Social Housing Development Programme for 2012-2015 and if these schemes form part of that programme, they will be published on the Housing Executive website. (www.nihe.gov.uk) in due course.

Mortgages

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Social Development, given that there was an increase in the number of mortgages issued in the final quarter of 2011, what action his Department intends to take to ensure this upward trend continues.

(AQW 8958/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My ministerial colleague Sammy Wilson and I met banking industry representatives late in 2011 and I am heartened that greater numbers of mortgage products are becoming available for consumers, including Co-Ownership applicants. Officials from both my Department and the Department of Finance and Personnel continue to engage with the industry to ensure this trend continues.

In addition I have also increased the funding available for Co-Ownership to £103.25 million up to 2014/15 and will explore new intermediate housing models to increase the number of affordable homes available.

Primary Legislation on Business Improvement Districts

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister for Social Development (i) when in 2012 he intends to introduce primary legislation on Business Improvement Districts; and (ii) whether he is able to introduce the legislation soon, given the delays that have already occurred.

(AQW 9048/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Subject to Executive agreement, I plan to introduce a Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) Bill, which is currently being drafted, to the Assembly before the summer recess. This should allow time for the Bill to complete its Assembly passage by the end of the year which is in line with my previous commitments in relation to this piece of legislation.

Boiler Replacement Scheme

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development whether he intends to launch a Boiler Replacement Scheme, given that the pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme ends on 31 March 2012.

(AQW 9055/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme has been very successful and the Housing Executive is no longer taking applications for the scheme. The scheme will close on 31 March and will then be subject to a full evaluation which will determine if the pilot scheme should continue.

Installers engaged in carrying out boiler replacement for applications which have already been approved, should ensure works have been completed and electrical certificate and Building Control certificates are submitted to their local Grant Office before 31 March 2012.

Housing Executive: Temporary Accommodation

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 8743/11-15, what plans he has to address the increase in the number and cost of properties being used as temporary accommodation by the Housing Executive in the Derry area.

(AQW 9316/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has a statutory responsibility to provide temporary accommodation for those who find themselves homeless.

However, social housing cannot be the only answer to meet the housing needs of those that find themselves homeless or the 40,000 applicants on the waiting list. We clearly need to find a more holistic and sustainable solution to housing need for all who need a home. The forthcoming welfare reform changes will have a particular impact on a wide range of younger people and we are undertaking some research at the minute to identify the scale of that impact.

In the meantime I plan to bring forward a new housing strategy that will seek to create more choice, opportunity and provide access to a wider range of people to whom social housing can not meet their needs and this will be announced in the coming months.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Reports and Correspondence by Email to Minimise Paper Wastage

Mr McKay asked the Assembly Commission whether it has considered contacting non-governmental organisations, Government Departments and companies to urge them to give MLAs the option of receiving reports and correspondence by email to minimise paper wastage.

(AQW 8566/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The Assembly Commission (the Commission) has not considered contacting non-governmental organisations, Government Departments and companies to urge them to give MLAs the option of receiving reports and correspondence by email to minimize paper wastage. However, it is noted that an increasing number of organisations are now using electronic means of distribution and communication.

The Commission has sought preferences from Members in relation to their receipt of internal official publications and is committed to reducing direct and indirect environmental impact through the adoption of effective resource and waste management programmes within the Northern Ireland Assembly as outlined within our Sustainable Development Strategy.

The Commission recognises that Members receive a large amount of information in hard copy from external agencies and would be supportive of any Member reducing unnecessary consumption. The Assembly's Communications Office will contact those Members' who have not yet provided an email address on the Assembly website, and encourage them to do so.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact our Environmental Services Manager, Ms Christine Watts on Ext 21265 to discuss.

Funding for Trade Unions

Mr McCallister asked the Assembly Commission to detail the level of funding it allocated to each trade union in the (i) 2000/01; (ii) 2005/06; and (iii) 2010/11 financial years.

(AQW 8766/11-15)

Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The Assembly Commission does not allocate direct funding to any trade union. However, the Assembly Commission recognises the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA) for consultation and negotiation purposes and reasonable provision is made for staff of the Commission to engage in trade union activities connected with consultation and negotiation on staffing matters.

In 2000/01 and 2005/06 the Commission did not allocate any direct funding to meet the cost of trade union activities. In 2010/11, the Assembly Commission met the salary costs of one seconded Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) member of staff to NIPSA to assist with the development of effective industrial relations. The salary band for this member of staff was £29,543 - £33,446 and we also paid associated employer costs such as pension contributions and National Insurance costs. Under the terms of a Joint Agreement with NIPSA, the Commission also permits certain Officers of the local Branch of NIPSA to undertake reasonable trade union activities. However, such activities are undertaken without adverse impact on business requirements so the notional cost of these activities is not recorded.

Procurement of Printer Ink Cartridges

Mr Eastwood asked the Assembly Commission what measures are in place to ensure the procurement of printer ink cartridges is not abused by Members.

(AQW 8962/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The policy on supply of IT Consumables is referred to in the Members handbook (pg. E70) where it states:

“Members are entitled to the following computer consumables, for use in the supplied printers centrally funded, currently OKI C5900 and C5550 MFP which can be obtained from Office Resources, room B35

- Laser paper
- Replacement toner kits and the consumables for those colour laser printers supplied by the IS Office on behalf of the Assembly Commission

If you bring your used toner kits when collecting the new replacement, the Stationery Office will send them to be recycled.

Consumables must be only used for Assembly Business”

In relation to the supply of all IT consumables provided by Office Resources, there are currently no restrictions on the number of products that a Member can request; however, staff in Office Resources will provide Members advice if required, on the most efficient use of toners.

A full record of both Oki and other printer ink products provided to Members is maintained and updated by Office Resources.

The Assembly Commission has considered enhanced governance arrangements for the use of office consumables and at its meeting on 29th November 2011, the following was agreed:

- That expenditure by Members on office consumables would be published for 2011-2012 at the same time as information on Office Cost Expenditure is published.
- That the provision of a second class option for pre-paid envelopes should be included when undertaking the next procurement exercise, due to commence in early 2012.
- That in future, orders for consumables must be approved by the MLAs themselves.

I would ask you to note that responsibility for office consumables has now passed to the Independent Financial Review Panel.

Pension Contributions from MLAs

Mr Agnew asked the Assembly Commission, pursuant to AQW 6197/11-15 (i) who are the five Members appointed to act as Trustees; (ii) to detail the scheme rules; and (iii) to provide a copy of the Statement of Investment Principles for Members’ pensions.

(AQW 8989/11-15)

Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):

- (i) The current Pension Trustees were appointed by resolution of the Assembly on 28 June 2011 and comprise:
 - Mr Trevor Lunn MLA (Chairman)
 - Mr Mickey Brady MLA
 - Mr John Dallat MLA
 - Mr Ross Hussey MLA
 - Mr Jim Wells MLA
- (ii) The Scheme Rules are available on the Members’ Pension Scheme pages of the Assembly website at <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Your-MLAs/Members-Pension-Scheme>.
- (iii) The Statement of Investment Principles is also available on the Members’ Pension Scheme pages of the Assembly website.

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Revised Written Answers

Friday 9 March 2012

(AQW 8734/11-15)

As Invest NI was only established in 2002, the information contained in this answer relates to the 9 financial years 2002-03 to 2010-11.

Table 1 shows the amount of assistance offered by Invest NI in the South Down Parliamentary Constituency Area (PCA) between 2002-03 and 2010-11 broken down by type of business (industrial sector).

TABLE 1: INVEST NI ASSISTANCE OFFERED IN SOUTH DOWN PCA BY INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (2002-03 TO 2010-11)

SECTOR	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Business & Financial Services	1,955	19,876	180,672	142,755	68,820	52,488	70,797	51,893	147,112
Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals	14,250	-	10,126	80,119	41,828	20,000	-	74,700	15,585
Clothing & Textiles	1,554,320	38,675	303,905	-	1,056	-	-	25,200	1,000
Construction Services	-	100	1,568	74,558	97,985	71,492	16,400	264,950	204,381
Electrical, Electronic & Optical Equipment	-	8,000	-	91,037	4,400	-	-	1,000	12,900
External Delivery Organisations	-	100,000	14,729	-	-	-	5,000	-	-
Fabricated Metal & Metal Finishing	94,604	410,879	60,973	5,133	66,003	134,599	410,435	419,748	138,997
Food, Drink & Tobacco	478,804	31,646	103,852	165,799	135,804	119,183	115,630	573,106	157,853
Glass, Ceramic & Concrete Products	3,120	70,476	441,556	21,306	25,280	353,786	14,900	163,942	24,000
Non-Electrical Machinery	10,000	109,134	131,561	55,108	110,078	15,647	73,586	17,500	42,197

SECTOR	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Other Manufacturing	34,175	42,310	16,824	3,673,183	21,000	58,881	8,167,198	278,872	37,847
Other Services	111,873	161,793	2,735,717	25,820	6,302	368,143	99,294	242,706	89,513
Paper Products, Printing & Publishing	5,360	939	945	4,100	48,386	14,903	-	5,000	-
Rubber & Plastic products	26,500	2,700	849	-	25,000	39,184	5,000	28,584	20,075
Software & Computer Services	24,340	27,252	1,795	-	4,440	55,956	95,757	160,511	124,509
Transport Equipment	32,010	27,590	260,739	290,250	84,635	29,700	163,704	1,981,412	102,324
Wood Products	2,120	-	63,334	30,453	4,255	9,092	3,450	77,398	15,000
Total	2,393,431	1,051,371	4,329,144	4,659,619	745,272	1,343,054	9,241,151	4,366,522	1,133,293

Table 2 shows the amount of assistance offered by Invest NI in the South Down PCA between 2002-03 and 2010-11 broken down by area (District Electoral Area (DEA)).

TABLE 2: INVEST NI ASSISTANCE OFFERED IN SOUTH DOWN PCA BY DEA (2002-03 TO 2010-11)

DEA	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Ballynahinch	66,450	87,446	38,872	-	1,056	99,184	29,800	142,017	67,302
Crotilieve	173,285	221,159	479,789	503,515	134,400	141,501	308,604	526,191	354,305
Downpatrick	142,110	108,227	169,374	78,558	129,586	253,645	172,016	402,126	90,621
Dromore	-	-	62,437	12,500	84,885	118	26,022	112,576	18,000
Knockiveagh	1,552,500	5,375	312,280	-	33,410	180,413	16,450	175,472	735
Newcastle	119,067	21,391	2,552,032	123,964	74,232	12,507	40,950	349,447	272,753
Rowallane	323,249	103,000	21,604	80,327	6,100	93,800	2,400	7,283	3,850
The Fews	1,820	232	1,304	408	96,880	72,079	82,783	749,305	163,916
The Mournes	14,950	504,541	691,452	3,860,347	184,723	489,807	8,562,126	1,915,355	163,579
TOTAL	2,393,431	1,051,371	4,329,144	4,659,619	745,272	1,343,054	9,241,151	4,379,772	1,135,061

Notes to Tables 1 & 2:

- 1 A further £26,149 of assistance offered cannot be split at Table 1 level.
- 2 A further £11,131 of assistance offered cannot be split at Table 2 level.
- 3 Sectors are based on the UK Standard Industrial Classifications..
- 4 DEAs are based on NI Statistics & Research Agency Central Postcode Directory.
- 5 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.

In addition, Invest NI offered assistance of £816,800 during the period to locally-owned start up businesses through the Start A Business programme. This support is shown by DEA in Table 3 below.

TABLE 3: INVEST NI ASSISTANCE OFFERED THROUGH THE START A BUSINESS PROGRAMME IN SOUTH DOWN PCA BY DEA (2002-03 TO 2010-11)

DEA	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Ballynahinch	5,250	16,250	15,750	12,400	6,400	12,000	3,800	-	-
Crotilieve	42,250	32,000	55,250	34,100	16,400	21,600	11,800	-	-
Downpatrick	24,000	40,500	61,750	34,950	12,000	18,400	8,800	-	-
Dromore	1,750	4,500	3,750	2,800	400	400	1,200	-	-
Knockiveagh	3,250	11,750	5,000	8,100	7,600	4,800	3,400	-	-
Newcastle	18,500	24,500	39,250	24,150	12,600	13,000	12,200	-	-
Rowallane	5,750	3,750	12,000	5,050	800	2,800	1,200	-	-
The Fews	5,250	5,750	4,500	6,250	1,800	2,400	1,200	-	-
The Mourmes	13,250	9,750	22,000	8,750	5,800	7,000	3,200	-	-
Total	119,250	148,750	219,250	136,550	63,800	82,400	46,800	-	-

NOTES:

- 1 Start a Business Programme was renamed as the Enterprise Development Programme during 2009-10, which offers guidance and support but does not offer financial assistance.



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