

# Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

**Friday 18 May 2012**  
**Volume 74A, No WA5**



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

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Campbell, Gregory (East Londonderry)  
Clarke, Trevor (South Antrim)  
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Copeland, Michael (East Belfast)  
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Hale, Mrs Brenda (Lagan Valley)  
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McCann, Ms Jennifer (West Belfast)  
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McCartney, Raymond (Foyle)  
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McDonnell, Dr Alasdair (South Belfast)  
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Morrow, The Lord (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Moutray, Stephen (Upper Bann)  
Murphy, Conor (Newry and Armagh)  
Nesbitt, Mike (Strangford)  
Newton, Robin (East Belfast)  
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Ó hOisín, Cathal (East Londonderry)  
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O'Neill, Mrs Michelle (Mid Ulster)  
Overend, Mrs Sandra (Mid Ulster)  
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Ramsey, Ms Sue (West Belfast)  
Robinson, George (East Londonderry)  
Robinson, Peter (East Belfast)  
Rogers, Sean (South Down)  
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Spratt, Jimmy (South Belfast)  
Storey, Mervyn (North Antrim)  
Swann, Robin (North Antrim)  
Weir, Peter (North Down)  
Wells, Jim (South Down)  
Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

# Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 18 May 2012

## Written Answers to Questions

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

#### **Programme for Government**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 7005/11-15, to detail (i) whether quarterly delivery reports will be published, given that progress against the new Programme for Government (PfG) will be reported and monitored on a quarterly basis; and (ii) whether Departments will develop annual action plans for the delivery of the new PfG, with quarterly targets and milestones so that progress can be monitored accurately.

**(AQW 8311/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister):** The Executive is presently finalising reporting and monitoring arrangements and these will be announced shortly.

#### **Peace III Funding for the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre at the Maze**

**Mr McCallister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to provide an outline of how the £18 million of Peace III funding for the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre at the Maze site will be spent.

**(AQO 1366/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The £18m EU funding will be used primarily to build and fit out the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre and cover essential professional fees associated with the construction of the PBCRC. Necessary and essential statutory work on the listed and retained buildings will also be completed to ensure we meet our legal duties.

The Department of Finance and Personnel has approved the proposals for the Centre.

Along with the potential relocation to the site of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, we hope that these initial projects will be a catalyst for future investment helping to stimulate economic growth in the region and beyond.

#### **Proposed Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre at the Maze Site**

**Mr Allister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, in relation to the proposed Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre at the Maze site, (i) whether the listed and retained buildings, including H block, the prison hospital, visitors and administration blocks, will be open to the public; (ii) for what they will be used; and (iii) whether they will form part of the Centre.

**(AQW 9094/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The proposed Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre will encompass the erection of a new building which will be a working peace building and conflict resolution facility. It will be a centre for international exchange, education and research. All such activity will take place within the new purpose built facility which is separate from the former prison and in a landscaped setting.

There are a number of buildings on the site which are listed and retained. The Department has a legal obligation to maintain the listed buildings within the parameters of the listing.

## Youth Unemployment

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) what consideration their Department has given to the potentially destabilising effect of youth unemployment on peace in Northern Ireland; and (ii) whether they have allocated any additional funding to address this issue.  
**(AQW 9244/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We note the Peace Monitoring Report and its assessment of the potentially destabilising effect of youth unemployment on peace in our society.

Issues around the disengagement of our young people emerged through the consultation on the draft strategy for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration (CSI). Addressing the factors that contribute to the alienation of our youth will continue to be a priority as the strategy is developed further.

We remain committed to building a united and shared society. For us to achieve this vision, we must address the division that continues to mar many areas in our community; tackle the segregation that has enabled our people to live often separate lives for too long; and encourage and nurture an environment where cultural diversity is celebrated and embraced.

We believe that the finalised CSI strategy will be an important building block for tackling these issues. Addressing issues affecting our young people will be a key component of the CSI strategy as it develops and the strategy will inform any additional actions required in respect of the allocation of resources and funding.

The Executive is considering a specific approach to tackling youth unemployment. The package proposed by the Minister for Employment and Learning seeks to link economic and social policy in a way that will help to rebuild and rebalance the local economy while continuing to address the social consequences of unemployment among our young people.

## OFMDFM: Funding Allocations

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQO 1370/11-15, to detail (i) the eight cases to which funding was allocated prior to Ministerial approval; (ii) how much funding was allocated in each case; (iii) the dates when funding was allocated and approval subsequently granted; and (iv) the procedures which have been put in place to ensure that Ministerial approval is obtained before letters of offer are issued.  
**(AQW 9284/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The eight cases provided in response to AQO 1370/11-15 to which funding was allocated prior to Ministerial approval are under consideration

On subsequent checking of the electronic files it was discovered that at least four of the eight cases had received Ministerial approval before letters of offer issued. We are currently actively considering the issues.

## Photographers Selected to Accompany Ministers on Ministerial Visits

**Mr Flanagan** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 9210/11-15, where each of the six photographers is based.  
**(AQW 9999/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Five of the six photographers are based in Belfast and one in Derry/Londonderry.

## Ministerial Visit to the United States During St Patrick's Week

**Mr Allister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) to provide a breakdown of the costs of the Ministerial visit to the United States during St Patrick's week; (ii) which Ministers made the trip; and (iii) how many (a) staff; and (b) Special Advisers accompanied the Ministers.

**(AQW 10047/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We have now received all of the invoices associated with our visit to the United States in March 2012. The cost of our visit to the United States is broken down as follows:

Flights	£20,453.90
Rail costs	\$1,015.00
Accommodation	£8,553.60
Car Hire	£4,657.90
Hospitality	£1,480.44

We were accompanied on our visit by five members of staff, two of whom are Special Advisers.

## Barroso Desk Officers

**Mr Kinahan** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) the process for appointing the Barroso desk officers; (ii) the grade of each officer; (iii) the aims and objectives the officers have been set; and (iv) how they will measure the overall success of the appointments.

**(AQW 10138/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:**

- (i) The Barroso Taskforce Working Group (BTWG) Desk Officers were appointed on secondment following a selection process which was managed in line with NICS Policy. The secondment notice was advertised to civil servants through the HRConnect portal. All secondment opportunities are advertised in this way. The secondment notice sought applications from staff at Deputy Principal level and provided details of the job description, location of posts and other eligibility criteria. A selection panel comprising 3 staff at Senior Civil Service level – Grade 3 (chairperson) and 2 Grade 5 (panel members) – carried out interviews and listed successful candidates in merit order, in line with NICS selection processes.
- (ii) Four Desk Officers were appointed at Deputy Principal level, one for each of the four priority thematic areas for NI – competitiveness and employment, social cohesion, innovation and technology and climate change and energy.
- (iii) The aims and objectives for the posts were set out in the Job Description, a copy of which has been placed in the Assembly Library.
- (iv) The overall success of the appointments will be gauged principally in terms of the recognition by departments of the value added by Desk Officers to the process of European engagement. This in turn will be measured against the success of all departments in meeting their European objectives as outlined in the Executive Priorities for 2012/13 and the current Programme for Government commitment to increase drawdown of European elective funding by 20%.

## Delivery Framework for the Programme for Government 2011-2015

**Mr Lyttle** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they will introduce a requirement for Departments to report to the statutory committees on a six-monthly basis and for their Department to report to the Assembly on annual basis on progress against targets, as part of the Delivery Framework for the Programme for Government 2011-2015.

**(AQW 10607/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** It is our intention, as stated within the Programme for Government, that an annual report will be produced on implementation progress. This report will be presented to the Assembly in due course.

In our view it is a matter for individual departments, and Committees, as to how they wish to review progress. This is particularly the case, as PfG commitments will be built into Departmental Plans, which will themselves be subject to scrutiny and review by Committees in the normal way.

### **Ministerial Sub-Committee on Children and Young People**

**Mr Agnew** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the Terms of Reference of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Children and Young People.

**(AQW 10798/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Terms of Reference of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Children and Young People are detailed below.

### **Ministerial Sub-Committee on Children and Young People**

#### **Terms of Reference**

##### **Aim**

The Ministerial Sub-Committee on Children and Young People was established with the ultimate aim of improving the lives of Northern Ireland's children and young people. It is intended that through the workings of the Committee, the six objectives contained in the 10 Year Children and Young People's Strategy will be placed at the heart of the government's agenda. The Committee will:

- drive forward the implementation of the 10 year strategy for children and young people;
- seek to achieve greater integration of policy, funding and service delivery relevant to children and young people without compromising or blurring the respective roles and responsibilities of individual Ministers;
- strive to achieve transparency through the timely sharing of information relevant to children and young people (particularly in relation to resources, including financial resources); and
- identify key cross-cutting priorities to drive forward on a Ministerial level.

##### **Membership**

Membership of the Sub-Committee consists of all departmental Ministers. Ministers attend where appropriate.

### **Department Business Plan for 2012/13**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when their Department's business plan for 2012/13 will be published.

**(AQW 10846/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Subject to approval by Ministers in the coming weeks, the draft Plan will be submitted to the OFMDFM Committee for consideration and when agreed, will be placed on the OFMDFM website.

### **Childcare Strategy**

**Mr D Bradley** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what progress has been made on the development of a Childcare Strategy.

**(AQO 1786/11-15)**



**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Programme for Government sets out our commitment to publish and implement a Childcare Strategy with key actions to provide integrated, accessible and affordable childcare. The Strategy will be an integral part of our work to tackle disadvantage and improve wellbeing.

Supporting and launching the Strategy requires a joined-up approach across Government. A high level working group has met to scope the new Childcare Strategy and the initial interventions. Members have begun to engage with key stakeholders in developing particular elements of the work. Preparation of the consultation document is now underway, and so too is work with partner bodies which will culminate, in December this year, in the publication of the Childcare Strategy.

Alongside this and in advance of the launch of the Strategy and its implementation, Government departments are able to bid to the £12m Childcare Fund which has been earmarked to address identified needs or improve provision. This is additional funding for the development of the Childcare Strategy and will not replace existing baseline provision.

## Child Poverty

**Mrs Overend** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they will introduce targets to reduce child poverty.

**(AQO 1791/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Child Poverty Act 2010 required the Executive to lay a Child Poverty Strategy before the Assembly. The Act also described the targets against which the success of the Strategy would be measured. These included:

The relative low income target which is

- (i) that less than 10% of children who live in qualifying households live in households that fall within the relevant income group;
- (ii) a household falls within the relevant income group, in relation to a financial year, if its equivalised net income for the financial year is less than 60% of median equivalised net household income for the financial year.

The combined low income and material deprivation target which is

- (i) that less than 5% of children who live in qualifying households –
  - (a) live in households that fall within the relevant income group, and
  - (b) experience material deprivation.
- (ii) a household falls within the relevant income group, in relation to a financial year, if its equivalised net income for the financial year is less than 70% of median equivalised net household income for the financial year;
- (iii) regulations must specify the circumstances in which a child is to be regarded for the purposes of subsection (1)(b) as experiencing material deprivation in a financial year.

The absolute low income target which is

- (i) that less than 5% of children who live in qualifying households live in households falling within the relevant income group;
- (ii) a household falls within the relevant income group, in relation to a financial year, if its equivalised net income for the financial year is less than 60% of the adjusted base amount;
- (iii) “the adjusted base amount”, in relation to a financial year, is the base amount adjusted in a prescribed manner to take account of changes in the value of money since the base year;
- (iv) “the base amount” means the amount of median equivalised net household income for the base year;

“the base year” means the financial year beginning with 1 April 2010.

The persistent poverty target which is

- (i) in relation to a financial year (“the relevant financial year”), the persistent poverty target is that less than the target percentage of children who have lived in qualifying households during each of the survey years have lived in households that have been within the relevant income group in at least 3 of the survey years.
- (ii) The survey years are –
  - (a) the calendar year that ends in the relevant financial year; and
  - (b) the 3 previous calendar years.
- (iii) the target percentage is a percentage to be prescribed by regulations made before 2015;
- (iv) a household falls within the relevant income group, in relation to a calendar year, if its equivalised net income for the year is less than 60% of median equivalised net household income for the year.

We have no plans to introduce further targets.

### **Former Shackleton Barracks, Ballykelly**

**Mr McQuillan** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether their Department supports, in principle, the transfer of the Officers’ Mess Building and the land adjacent to the former Shackleton Barracks, Ballykelly, to the local community for use as a new community hub for the entire village.

**(AQW 10863/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Options for disposal of the Shackleton Barracks site, including its buildings, are currently under consideration and no decisions have been taken. The transfer of the Officers’ Mess Building for use as a community hub has been noted and will be considered as part of the wider discussion on the future of the site.

### **Opening Ceremonies of the Peace Bridge and the Ebrington Barracks site in Derry**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of value for money in relation to the Ilex Urban Regeneration Company’s delivery of the opening ceremonies of the Peace Bridge and the Ebrington Barracks site in Derry.

**(AQW 10893/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Business cases for the opening ceremony events for the Peace Bridge and the Ebrington Parade Ground were developed and in each case the business cases identified the best value for money option. These options were tendered by Ilex using Central Procurement Directorate practices. In line with governance procedures, a Post Project Evaluation (PPE) to ascertain if value for money was achieved will be completed. PPEs are completed in retrospect. The PPE for the opening of the Peace Bridge is due for completion in June 2012 and on the opening of the Parade Ground due for completion in August 2012.

### **Opening Ceremony of the Ebrington Barracks Site in Derry**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many companies tendered for services for the opening ceremony of the Ebrington Barracks site in Derry, including the name of the companies and the costs quoted.

**(AQW 10897/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The new public realm at Ebrington was officially opened on 14 February 2012 and to mark this historic occasion an evening of events was organised to celebrate our new public space. A business case was developed by Ilex and the preferred option identified was to engage a specialist event management team to produce and manage the event. Three companies were invited to tender for the event management. The contract was awarded to Eventor for £19,995 to manage the opening ceremony. Eventor was also responsible for managing all procurement and tenders for the opening ceremony.

## Ministerial Sub-Committee on Children and Young People's Action Plan 2012-2016

**Mr Agnew** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the development of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Children and Young People's Action Plan 2012-2016; and what bodies/organisations have been consulted in relation to the development of this Action Plan.

**(AQW 10913/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Work on implementing the Ten Year strategy for Children and Young People is now being taken forward through the Delivering Social Change framework. Plans are underway to hold a consultation and engagement event with key stakeholders as soon as possible.

### Ilex Staff

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) the number of staff employed by Ilex, broken down by (a) full-time; (b) part-time; and (c) retainer contracts; (ii) the salary bands; (iii) how many staff received bonuses in each of the last three years; and (iv) the total cost of the (a) bonuses; and (b) salaries.

**(AQW 10922/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The staffing position in Ilex as at 26 April 2012 is as follows:

- (i) (a) Full-Time Staff: 28 Full-Time Staff including seven secondees and two temporary agency members of staff and one temporary contract covering maternity leave.
- (b) Part-time staff: Nil
- (c) Retainer Contracts: two agency staff (included in (a))
- (ii) Salary Bands

Grade	No.	Pay Scale	
G3	1	£98,059 - £205,000	
G5	4	£57,300 - £116,000	
G6	2	£48,527- £62,407	1 Substantive and 1 Acting up
G7	2	£41,661 - £50,796	
DP	9	£31,663- £38,893	8 Substantive and 1 Acting up
S0	2	£25,278- £30,520	
E01	1	£21,826 - £26,086	
E02	1	£20,285- £23,250	
AO	2	£16,312- £22,180	
AA	4	£14,131- £17,533	

(iii) No bonuses paid in the last three years

(iv) (a) Total Cost of bonuses: Nil

(b) Total Cost of Salaries (before Pension adjustment):

As per Annual Accounts:

2009/10	£1,043,505
2010/11	£1,308,729
2011/12 (draft)	£1,739,100

## Decentralisation of Public Sector Employment

**Mr Campbell** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what steps they are taking to encourage, at Executive level, greater decentralisation of (i) public sector employment; and (ii) the construction of new build facilities.

**(AQW 10953/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Programme for Government contains a key commitment to “Advance the relocation of the Headquarters of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to a rural location by 2015”, and appraisal processes are currently underway to determine the Department’s future accommodation requirements.

## Boards of Public Bodies

**Mr Gardiner** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many former civil and public servants are employed as paid and unpaid members of the boards of public bodies; and what is this figure as a proportion of the total number of board members.

**(AQW 10973/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Sixteen former civil and public servants are serving on the boards of public bodies sponsored by our Department. This equates to 20% of the total number of board members. Fifteen of these board members are paid (18.75% of the total) and one is unpaid (1.25%).

## Sustainable Development Champions Group

**Mr Agnew** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the recommendations made by the Sustainable Development Champions Group in relation to energy vives.

**(AQW 11254/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We have referred the recommendations of the Sustainable Development Champions Group to the Executive for consideration.

## Establishment of a Victims Forum by the Victims Commissioners

**Mr McGlone** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what steps have been taken in relation to the establishment of a Victims Forum by the Victims Commissioners, including details of the application and selection process and the criteria set for appointments.

**(AQW 11385/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The establishment of the Forum is a statutory responsibility of the Commission for Victims and Survivors and as a result neither Ministers nor officials were involved in the selection process.

## Social Investment Fund

**Mr Lunn** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Social Investment Fund.

**(AQO 1874/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We appreciate the continued interest in the Social Investment Fund.

Given the complexities of the issues we are trying to tackle, we have taken time to fully analyse the consultation responses and prepare final operating proposals.

The composition of the zones is one of the key issues emerging from the consultation.

Despite the draft proposals allowing flexibility in relation to the geography of the zones, some areas felt that they were not at the starting point

We have taken account of this in considering the final proposals by balancing the desire to be inclusive with the requirement to target resources where there is objective evidenced need.

Our officials have continued to engage with key stakeholders on the ground, to identify examples of best practice, and to explore opportunities to integrate and align SIF with other initiatives.

We intend to bring our final proposals to Executive colleagues in the coming weeks. Following this, we will form the steering groups.

### **Victims and Survivors: Debilitating Conditions**

**Mr G Robinson** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what provision has been made for victims and survivors of the troubles who have hidden debilitating conditions such as severe depression.

**(AQO 1872/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Every year we provide millions of pounds of funding to groups and organisations providing services to meet the identified needs of victims and survivors, including those suffering from the conditions you have outlined. Over the last 2 years, £13.7 million of funding has been allocated through the Community Relations Council and a further £7.3 million has been allocated for this financial year. A significant and important aspect of this funding is focused on addressing the mental health and well-being needs of these individuals.

In addition, over the last two years £7.3 million of funding has been channelled through the NI Memorial Fund providing direct financial assistance to individual victims and survivors including those suffering from psychological injury. A further amount of £3.4 million has been awarded for this financial year.

We recognise that many victims and survivors are still dealing with the impacts of the past; for some their needs are physical for others they are psychological. Other people are dealing with family and social impacts. We also recognise that some individuals may find it hard to reach out and ask for help, or to know which service would best suit their circumstances.

The new Victims and Survivors Service which opened in April was established to help Victims and Survivors by assessing their individual needs and signposting them to the services in the statutory, community and voluntary sectors that can help them.

Another important aspect of the Service will be to work with existing providers to ensure that any services provided by them are carried out in line with good practice and meet the required standards. This will particularly assist those who have hidden debilitating conditions by ensuring that practitioners have the appropriate skills and knowledge to properly assess need and propose the right response.

### **Legislative Programme**

**Mr Byrne** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when a Legislative Programme will be published.

**(AQO 1873/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We intend to publish a legislative programme for 2012-13 Assembly session before the end of June.

### **Childcare Strategy**

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, given the forthcoming Welfare Reform, when the Childcare Strategy will be introduced to alleviate some of the rising pressures on working parents.

**(AQO 1875/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Programme for Government sets out our commitment to publish and implement a Childcare Strategy with key actions to provide good quality, integrated, accessible and affordable childcare.

The strategic framework is an important part of our work to tackle disadvantage and improve wellbeing.

A consultation process on the draft Strategy will be launched in the summer when all interested parties will have an opportunity to input their views. The responses to the consultation will help to shape a strategic framework and key actions which we aim to agree and publish before the end of 2012.

### **Social Investment Fund: South Antrim**

**Mr Clarke** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether South Antrim will be included in one of the geographical zones under the Social Investment Fund.

**(AQO 1876/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Social Investment Fund seeks to address poverty and deprivation in areas where there is objective evidenced need.

This need is to be identified, evidenced, and prioritised by local communities, and associated interventions proposed, for inclusion in a strategic area plan.

It is intended that the plan will be co-ordinated by an established Steering Group within each zone made up of Voluntary and Community, Business, Statutory and Political representation.

If an area can provide objective and evidenced need, and present a solution which is prioritised for inclusion in an area plan, then it can and should benefit from SIF if this is endorsed by the community. This is therefore the basis on which the South Antrim area should be looking to proceed.

However, we do acknowledge that the fund is intended to operate across a series of designated zones, as outlined in the consultation document. Furthermore, we appreciate the concerns from some areas which deemed themselves not to be within a proposed zone from the offset. This was evident in the consultation. This is a matter currently under final consideration prior to seeking Executive agreement on the way forward in the next couple of weeks.

### **Joint Ministerial Working Group on Rebalancing the Economy**

**Mr Hamilton** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether a date has been set for the next meeting of the Joint Ministerial Working Group on Rebalancing the Northern Ireland Economy.

**(AQO 1879/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** A meeting of the Joint Ministerial Working Group on Rebalancing the Northern Ireland Economy has been scheduled for late June.

### **Impact of Welfare Reform on Child Poverty**

**Mr Copeland** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the recent research produced by the Commissioner for Children and Young People on the impact of Welfare Reform on child poverty.

**(AQO 1880/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We note the production of the recent research reports commissioned by the Commissioner for Children and Young People on the potential impact of welfare reform on children.

These reports contribute to our ongoing consideration of welfare reform.

## **OFMDFM: Freedom of Information**

**Mrs Overend** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of their Department's performance in answering Freedom of Information requests within the statutory time limit.

**(AQO 1881/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We refer the Member to the answer we gave to AQO 1522/11-15 on 12 March 2012.

## **Draft Disability Strategy 2012-15**

**Ms Brown** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the aims of the draft Disability Strategy 2012-15.

**(AQO 1938/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Our draft Disability Strategy aims to make sure all persons with disabilities enjoy equal rights and that their opportunities are not limited by disability.

The Strategy is intended to cover all types of disability. It is relevant to children, young people and adults, whilst taking into consideration the needs of families and carers of people with disabilities.

The document sets out its vision as a future where disabled people contribute to and benefit from our cultural, social, political and economic life equally.

# Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

## **Wind Farms on Forest Service Land**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what consideration has she given to the establishment of partnerships between Government, the private sector and the community sector to develop and maximise the benefit of wind farms on Forest Service land.

**(AQW 10596/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development):** I am currently looking at options for different types of business partnerships between the public and private sectors. I personally favour models that deliver community benefits.

I also received a report from the Fermanagh trust on 29 February 2012 called "Maximising Community Outcomes from Wind Energy Developments". This presents a number of models for engaging with the Community sector. I will consider this along with the business options in developing policy for community benefits from wind farms and forest service lands.

## **Proposals for Legislation**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) what proposals for legislation, subject to Executive approval, she has introduced or intends to introduce between April 2012 and March 2015; (ii) the anticipated timescale for the introduction of each Bill; and (iii) the intention of each Bill.

**(AQW 10651/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** It is my intention, subject to Executive approval, to introduce a Reservoirs Bill in early 2013. Other requirements for primary legislation relating to my Department's responsibilities particularly in respect of sea fisheries and implementation of the Floods Directive, may arise during this mandate and the position will be kept under review. Much of the burden of legislation in the relevant period for my Department will be aimed at implementing reforms under the Common Agricultural and Common Fisheries Policies; this will take the form of subordinate legislation made under the European Communities Act 1972.



The purpose of the Reservoirs Bill is to introduce a legal and administrative framework for the management and regulation of reservoir safety for reservoirs that can hold 10,000 cubic metres or more of water. The aim is to minimise the risk of flooding due to an uncontrolled release of water resulting from total dam failure and thereby protecting human life, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.

### **Bovine TB**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why, in 2011, departmental vets were 2.16 times more likely to classify a herd with a bovine TB breakdown than a private vet.

**(AQW 10920/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** To date it has not been possible to identify a particular reason for the detection rate difference.

Comparisons are complicated because there are so many factors involved with complex statistical adjustments required. For example we currently contract with some 80 veterinary practices involving some 300 individual private vets. This compares to our affordable complement of 27 DARD testing vets (TVOs and VOTs) at April 2012.

Since 2009 my officials and representatives of the two veterinary associations have worked hard together in a spirit of partnership to resolve any statistical differences. The emphasis has been on providing better feedback on performance to practices; training and development; and enhanced supervision arrangements of both private and DARD testing staff.

Work towards a resolution will continue in partnership with the veterinary associations.

### **Destroying Sick Livestock in a Humane Manner**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many farmers, livestock owners, or breeders have been prosecuted for failing to destroy sick livestock in a humane manner, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 11061/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** No farmers, livestock owners, or breeders have been prosecuted for failing to destroy sick livestock in a humane manner, in each of the last five years.

### **North South Ministerial Council Joint Communiqué**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in light of the North South Ministerial Council Joint Communiqué of 27 April 2012, highlighting that the North West had been allocated £18.5m under Axis 3 of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme, to detail the corresponding allocations to other regions.

**(AQW 11157/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** In the assembly on 9 June 2008 my predecessor announced the Axis 3 first tranche allocation for each of the seven clusters.

On 23rd January 2009 the outcome of the second tranche was announced during a visit to the Rural Area Partnership in Derry and provided the final allocation to each of the Axis 3 clusters.

These allocations remain unchanged and are as provided for you in response to recent questions AQW 8570/11-15 and AQW 9443/11-15. The allocations are as follows:-

<b>Cluster</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
GROW	8,890,899
NER	13,181,300



Cluster	Allocation
LRP	8,691,556
DRAP	13,498,066
SOAR	16,731,839
ARC	18,484,112
SWARD	20,522,227
Total	99,999,999

### Cross Erected on Slievemartin, Rostrevor

**Mr Rogers** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why the cross which was erected before Easter 2012 on Slievemartin, Rostrevor, has been removed by her Department.

**(AQW 11247/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My officials in Forest Service became aware on Monday 2 April 2012 that a large metal structure in the shape of a cross had been erected without permission on a hilltop at Rostrevor forest. A site investigation found the structure to be unstable and a health and safety risk. The structure was taken down and the site made safe.

### New Farm Maps

**Mr Rogers** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the accuracy of the new farm maps; and if she can confirm that their usage will not be subject to penalties by her Department.

**(AQW 11248/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The maps which my Department supplied to farmers to support their 2012 Single Application Form are a very significant enhancement on the maps farmers received in early 2011 in that they also reflect ineligible areas which have been identified by the remapping project.

Given the complexity and scale of this work, with almost 750,000 fields to be assessed, it was not possible to complete all of the work in early 2012. So there is further improvement ahead. We have already gathered over 1 million pieces of information concerning ineligible areas and it was important that this was provided to farmers to assist them to make accurate claims. It remains vital, however, that claimants make their own assessment of conditions on the ground when deciding on the detail of their claim. The maps reflect what is visible from ortho-photography at a certain point in time and will never therefore accurately reflect the eligible area precisely in every instance.

This message has been reinforced in Departmental guidance and in a number of public events to which farmers were invited.

It is the farmer's responsibility to make sure he or she claims only for eligible land. If farmers ignore the advice provided and claim on areas which are ineligible, the Department has to consider whether penalties should be applied in line with EU rules. We have told farmers that we will consider applying intentional over declaration penalties if they claim on ineligible areas which were shown as ineligible in the information we provided. This could mean that farmers would lose all of their payment for 2012 and their payments in future years could also be affected.

### Fallen Animal Reported for Collection

**Mr Rogers** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what policy is in place regarding the permitted timescale between when a fallen animal is reported for collection and the actual time the animal is collected; and how this process is monitored.

**(AQW 11250/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The general disposal requirements for fallen animal carcasses are set down in EU Control Regulation 1069/2009 and EU Implementing Regulation 142/2011, which are enforced here by the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) Regulations (NI) 2011.

The legislation requires fallen stock to be collected, identified and transported without 'undue delay'. Undue delay is not defined in the EU Control Regulation, but is taken to mean as soon as reasonably practicable taking account of individual circumstances e.g. the availability of a collection service, the storage temperature of the fallen stock (for example carcasses stored at ambient temperatures should be disposed of more quickly than those kept chilled or frozen) and any extenuating circumstances such as poor weather or ill-health. Normally, this is within 3-4 days of death of the animal. Pending consignment, the carcass must be stored in such a way that animals and birds do not have access to it.

The activities of hauliers are monitored on a regular basis by my Department. This includes a record check and a visual assessment of the contents to ensure that excessive decomposition has not occurred.

Schedule 2 Part 1 of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Regulations (NI) 2010 places further requirements with regards to fallen bovines over 48 months and fallen goats over 18 months. As these must be tested for TSE, they must be notified to one of three approved TSE sampling/rendering plants within 24 hours to make arrangements so that the test can be carried out.

Monitoring of the disposal timescales for TSE sampling is carried out by my officials. Where non-compliance with the legislation is identified, these are investigated and if necessary, enforcement action is taken.

### Rural Development Community Service

**Mr Clarke** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 9294/11-15, AQW 9296/11-15 and AQW 9298/11-15, to provide a working example of how the figures provided by the NI Statistics and Research Agency were used to determine the allocation of funding for the Rural Development Community Service.

**(AQW 11314/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** In order to assist with the evaluation of resources to deliver the Rural Community Development Service the NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) were asked to undertake some analysis of rural income deprivation by local government district. The local government districts were taken from the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner for Northern Ireland 'Review of NI Local Government Boundaries Final Recommendations Report'. Taking the rural wards of Antrim and Newtownabbey District; and Mid and East Antrim District as an example, the figures at Annex A provide a basic indication of rural poverty, which when combined with front line delivery requirements led to an estimate of £100k per annum as the necessary resource investment in this particular District.

### NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND INCOME DEPRIVED PEOPLE LIVING IN RURAL OUTPUT AREAS, BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT

LGD Code	LGD Name	Approx. number of income deprived people living in rural OAs	LGD share of rural income deprived people (%)
95AA	Antrim	2,922	2.3
95DD	Ballymena	4,690	3.7
95HH	Carrickfergus	778	0.6
95QQ	Larne	1,788	1.4
95WW	Newtownabbey	889	0.7
NI	Northern Ireland	126,940	100

## **Breaking the Silence, Shoulder to Shoulder with the Community**

**Mr Clarke** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, what funding her Department provided for the conference 'Breaking the Silence, Shoulder to Shoulder with the Community' which was organised by the Niamh Louise Foundation.

**(AQW 11352/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The Niamh Louise Foundation is a charitable organisation that provides an invaluable service on suicide awareness, prevention, intervention and postvention services particularly in rural areas of the North.

I have agreed to open this conference aimed at highlighting the impact that suicide has on families and communities. This is an important issue that touches all of us and we all need to work together to tackle suicide and promote awareness of the support available from bodies like the Niamh Louise Foundation.

Although my Department has not provided any direct funding to the Foundation for the conference, it has assisted by providing the venue together with refreshments for participants attending the conference.

## **Purchase of Wood from the Northern Ireland Forest Service**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what tender arrangements are in place for the purchase of wood from the Northern Ireland Forest Service.

**(AQW 11370/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The majority of Forest Service timber is sold to customers through Long Term Contract (LTC) arrangements. An open market tender competition was held in 2009 which resulted in customers securing current LTC arrangements.

Forest Service offers the remaining timber available for sale on a quarterly basis to cater for customers who wish to purchase smaller or infrequent quantities outside LTC arrangements.

Quarterly sales follow a competitive formal tender procedure. Tender details are sent out to all prospective customers whose details are held on a mailing list maintained and updated by Forest Service.

Prospective customers who have in the past either bought timber or who have expressed an interest in receiving tender details are included in the mailing list.

## **Rural Community Development Programme**

**Mr Clarke** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in relation to the Rural Community Development Programme which ended on 31 March 2012 (i) why a new programme did not start on 1 April 2012; (ii) whether she can offer an assurance to people on the funding waiting list that their applications will be successful; (iii) how her Department intends to compensate people on the waiting list; and (iv) why the initial programme was not extended, as happened with the Regional Infrastructure Support Programme.

**(AQW 11395/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** (i) Unfortunately there has been a delay in the commencement of the new community development service due to procurement procedures however the new contracts for successful suppliers will be operational from 1 April 2012. It is hoped that Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) will be in a position to advise bidders on the outcome of the competition by 18 May; (ii) as procurement for this service is by way of an open tender process no assurance of success can be given to applicants; (iii) because of the nature of an open tender process no compensation can be provided to unsuccessful applicants, and the instructions to tenders issued by CPD at the outset clearly stated that there was no obligation to accept the lowest or any tender; (iv) as the previous community development support contract which ended on 31 March was with a consortium comprising of the Rural Community Network, NI Rural Women's Network and 9 Rural Support Networks; to support both regional and

local community development, it was not possible to extend the contract for only the local community development element of this support to individual consortium members from 1 April 2012 onward.

### **Testing of Measuring Wheels**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in relation to her Department's testing of measuring wheels, on hard and prepared grass surfaces, how many of the wheels were found to be outside the 1 percent tolerance level.

**(AQW 11484/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** None of the Department's measuring wheels were found to be outside the 1 percent tolerance level in tests on hard and grass surfaces.

### **Countryside Management Scheme**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many of the successful applicants to the next round of the Countryside Management Scheme have accepted the offer made under the Scheme.

**(AQW 11486/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** At the 10 May 2012, my Department had issued 717 new agreements for the NI Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS) of which 389 had been signed and returned. This means that these applicants have been accepted into the Scheme.

## **Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**

### **Irish Language Act**

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she is still committed to the drafting and implementation of an Irish Language Act.

**(AQW 11125/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure):** My officials are working on the nature and scope of draft legislative proposals for an Act and I intend to bring forward proposals for an Irish Language Bill to the Executive Legislative Programme 2011 – 2015.

### **Irish Language Act**

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of whether the implementation of an Irish Language Act is part of the Belfast Agreement.

**(AQW 11126/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Under the Belfast Agreement, and the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages, a commitment was made to protect and develop the Irish language.

The St Andrews Agreement of October 2006 committed the British Government to introduce an Irish Language Act based on the experience of Wales and Ireland; and to work with the incoming Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language.

I intend to bring forward proposals for an Irish Language Bill to the Executive Legislative Programme 2011 – 2015.

### **Provisions for the Irish Language in the Belfast Agreement**

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of whether the provisions for the Irish Language, in the Belfast Agreement, have been actioned.

**(AQW 11127/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Belfast Agreement made a commitment to take resolute action to promote the Irish language.

The St Andrews Agreement of October 2006 committed the British Government to introduce an Irish Language Act based on the experience of Wales and Ireland; and to work with the incoming Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language.

I regard an Irish Language Act as essential to protect and promote Irish in the North.

I intend to bring forward proposals for an Irish Language Bill to the Executive Legislative Programme 2011 – 2015.

### **Provisions for the Irish Language in the Belfast Agreement**

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what provisions for the Irish Language, in the Belfast Agreement, are still to be implemented.

**(AQW 11128/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Belfast Agreement made a commitment to take resolute action to promote the Irish language.

The St Andrews Agreement of October 2006 committed the British Government to introduce an Irish Language Act based on the experience of Wales and Ireland; and to work with the incoming Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language.

I regard an Irish Language Act as essential to protect and promote Irish in the North.

I intend to bring forward proposals for an Irish Language Bill to the Executive Legislative Programme 2011 – 2015.

### **Ulster Scots Act**

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of whether the implementation of an Ulster Scots Act is part of the Belfast Agreement.

**(AQW 11129/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Belfast Agreement recognises the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Ulster-Scots.

Following the Agreement at St Andrews the British Government passed legislation at Westminster to amend the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Section 28D(2) of this Act is now as follows:

*“The Executive Committee shall adopt a Strategy setting out how it proposes to enhance and develop the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture.”*

The Executive’s Programme for Government 2011-2015 includes a Strategy for the Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture as part of Priority 4 “Building a Strong and Shared Community”.

### **Irish Language Strategy**

**Mr D Bradley** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the Irish-Language Strategy; and whether she will make a statement to the Assembly on the matter.

**(AQW 11189/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** At DCAL oral questions on the 17 April I informed the Assembly of my intention that an initial Strategy paper will be brought to the Executive shortly and it will go to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure for consultation thereafter.

I am committed to taking the Strategy forward in line with the 1998 Act and the Executive's 2011-15 Programme for Government.

### **Ulster Scots Bill**

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she plans to introduce an Ulster Scots Bill; and, if so, how does she propose it will differ from an Irish Language Bill.

**(AQW 11216/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Belfast Agreement recognises the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Ulster-Scots.

Following the Agreement at St Andrews the British Government passed legislation at Westminster to amend the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Section 28D(2) of this Act is now as follows:

*“ The Executive Committee shall adopt a Strategy setting out how it proposes to enhance and develop the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture.”*

The Executive's Programme for Government 2011-2015 includes a Strategy for the Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture as part of Priority 4 “Building a Strong and Shared Community”.

### **Irish Language Act**

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline her intentions in relation to the implementation of an Irish Language Act.

**(AQW 11218/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I am committed to bringing forward legislative proposals for an Act and I intend to bring forward proposals for an Irish Language Bill to the Executive Legislative Programme 2011- 2015.

### **Redevelopment of the Ulster Canal**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the redevelopment of the Ulster Canal.

**(AQW 11318/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Ulster Canal project is progressing through a number of incremental steps. The Planning applications were lodged by Waterways Ireland with Monaghan County Council, Clones Town Council and Cavan County Council on 25 October 2011 and with the Department of the Environment Planning Service NI on 28 October 2011. I have been informed that Cavan County Council has granted planning permission and that Monaghan County Council and Clones Town Council requested additional information which was provided on 25 April 2012.

I understand from the Minister for Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht that, towards the end of last year, he met with senior officials of Monaghan County Council, Fermanagh District Council and Waterways Ireland to discuss approaches to setting up an inter-agency group that could examine ways in helping to advance the Ulster Canal project. Officials of his Department are currently finalising the terms of reference for the inter-agency group. I look forward to that work continuing in the period ahead.

### **NI Screen: Funding**

**Mr Clarke** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding her Department allocated to NI Screen for the installation of captioning and audio description equipment in cinemas; and (ii) what audits were carried out to assess that the funding was used by each cinema for such use.

**(AQW 11332/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Cinema Access Programme received approximately £30,000 from my Department.



There was an official launch of the programme at each of the venues in receipt of funding and each was required to screen a film on launch night using the equipment.

### **Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture and the Built Environment**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many times she has met with the Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture and the Built Environment.

**(AQW 11358/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I met with the Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture and the Built Environment (the MAG) on one occasion which was 12 December 2011.

I also met the Chair Arthur Acheson on 27 June 2011.

My officials provide a support and secretariat function for the MAG and its Chair and I am kept informed of all relevant issues and developments.

### **Northern Visions: Funding**

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how the decision to withdraw core funding from Northern Vision complements the commitment in the Economic Strategy to 'promote innovation and grow the creative industries and a broader culture of creativity and design thinking'.

**(AQW 11390/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** My Department's funding in support of the arts and the creative industries is primarily distributed through arms-length bodies such as the Arts Council and NI Screen. Such investment now takes place within a challenging fiscal environment where, unfortunately, not all desirable activity can be supported.

NI Screen has received a small increase to its budget for this year which, in keeping with the organisation's existing assessment and prioritisation decisions, will subsequently allow it to provide support to Northern Visions. This will safeguard Northern Visions' immediate future and its ability to more fully consider long term planning and sustainable income streams.

### **Northern Visions' Achievements**

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of Northern Visions' achievements over the past 30 years, with particular reference to the organisation's effectiveness in improving cross-community relations.

**(AQW 11391/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Northern Visions is an effective and hardworking community outreach organisation with links to many groups across the city and has equally good relations in all parts of society in the North of Ireland.

In a more favourable funding climate, its funding would not have been cut.

I am pleased to advise that NI Screen has received a small increase to its budget for this year which, in keeping with the organisation's existing assessment and prioritisation decisions, will subsequently allow NI Screen to provide support to Northern Visions. This will safeguard its immediate future enabling it to more fully consider long term planning and sustainable income streams.

### **GAA Congress Decision on Mouth-Guards**

**Mr Chris Hazzard** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in light of the recent GAA Congress decision that all players have to wear mouth-guards when playing or training, and the rising cost of protective sports equipment, what funding is available through her Department, or its arm's-length bodies, to assist (i) individual players; and (ii) sports organisations.

**(AQW 11399/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Sport NI is responsible for the distribution of funding for sport in the north of Ireland. At present, Sport NI has no funding programmes open to which individual players or sports organisations can apply for assistance towards protective sports equipment.

The cost of protective sports equipment including mouthguards, should be seen in the context of the wider costs of participation, including playing and training in sport. Neither DCAL nor Sport NI is aware of any evidence to suggest that the cost of such equipment is a significant barrier to playing or training in sports.

### **Publication of The Ulster Scot**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) to outline the current position relating to the publication of 'The Ulster Scot'; (ii) what was the closing date for tenders; (iii) how many applied for the tender; and (iv) who was successful.

**(AQW 11402/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** DCAL was not involved in this tender process, which was administered by the Ulster-Scots Agency.

The tender process for publication of the Ulster-Scot was opened on 9th February 2012 and closed on 23rd March 2012. The contract is for two years with an option to extend for three further periods of 12 months.

Five tenders were received and the process was run by the Civil Service Central Procurement Division (CPD).

The Ulster-Scots Agency assessment panel has met with CPD and scored the tender submissions and identified a preferred supplier. CPD are to notify respondents of the outcome and wait the 10 day appeal period ending before engaging the provider. The Agency has not yet been advised formally of the successful future provider.

### **The Jetty at Garvary on the Lower Lough Erne**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure when anglers will be able to use the jetty at Garvary on the Lower Lough Erne, following the on-going dispute between her Department and landowners over right of way.

**(AQW 11529/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I am currently unable to confirm when anglers will be able to use the jetty at Garvary on Lower Lough Erne, as the matter has been referred to the Departmental Solicitors Office.

### **Shared Sports Stadium in North Belfast**

**Mr A Maginness** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on any discussions her Department has had with interested parties regarding a shared sports stadium in North Belfast.

**(AQW 11568/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I met with officials from Crusaders FC and other relevant partners and investors, on 2nd February 2012, to discuss proposals for the development of a Sport, Educational and Media Village at Giants Park in North Belfast.

In addition, DCAL officials met with Belfast City Council officers in April 2012 to discuss the position on the completion of a due diligence exercise on the proposal. As a result of that meeting, I understand Belfast City Council has decided to continue to pursue the necessary due diligence information.

DCAL, in the meantime, has agreed initially to host a further meeting later this month with Belfast City Council and potential Government interests. The purpose of this meeting will be to receive an update on the latest position from Belfast City Council and to consider what assistance, if any, can be provided at this stage.



## Shared Sports Stadium in North Belfast

**Mr A Maginness** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what assistance her Department has offered towards the construction of a shared sports stadium in North Belfast.

**(AQW 11570/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I have indicated that I have no objection, in principle, to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) acting as a lead Department for the development of a proposed sports, education and media village in North Belfast which includes a possible shared sports stadium. This, however, remains subject to the outcome of a due diligence exercise on the proposal being undertaken by Belfast City Council and receipt of full information on the specific Government inputs required. My officials are in discussion with Belfast City Council with regard to progress on the due diligence exercise and have arranged a round table meeting later this month with the Council and potential Government interests in order to discuss what assistance, if any, can be offered at this stage.

## Department of Education

### First Preference Pre-School

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education to detail the current number of children who have not received their first preference choice of pre-school provision, broken down by Education and Library board area.

**(AQW 10400/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education):** The information sought is in relation to the Pre-School Admissions Process for the 2012/13 academic year. This is a 2 stage process which will not complete until 1 June 2012 and therefore final figures in relation to the number of children in their final pre-school year offered a place during the process will not be available until after that date. However, as I indicated in the Assembly on 23 April, at the end of Stage 1 of the Process some 84% had secured a place in their first preference choice of setting and overall 94% of those who had made application had been offered a place. The parents/guardians of the 1,429 children who were unplaced were invited to submit further preferences for the 1,742 places which remained available.

### Community Voluntary Pre-School Playgroup Places

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) how many community voluntary pre-school playgroup places were available in each of the last five years; and (ii) the average annual cost of a child attending a community voluntary pre-school playgroup, broken down by Education and Library Board area.

**(AQW 10682/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The table below details the number of children in funded places in voluntary and private settings at the time of the School Census in each of the last 5 years broken down by education and library board:-

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
BELB	530	484	523	614	650
WELB	1206	1210	1225	1321	1338
NEELB	1633	1645	1696	1903	2140
SEELB	1407	1402	1372	1652	1781
SELB	1759	1888	1928	2109	2240
Total	6535	6629	6744	7599	8149

Funded places in all voluntary and private settings are funded at a flat rate. The funding rates for the past 5 academic years are detailed in the table below:-

<b>Academic year</b>	<b>Per place funding rate</b>
2007/08	£1,405
2008/09	£1,445
2009/10	£1,485
2010/11	£1,525
2011/12	£1,565

### **Review of the Special Educational Needs System**

**Mr Dunne** asked the Minister of Education whether he will ensure that any review of the Special Educational Needs system will (i) retain clear rights for children and parents; and (ii) ensure that parents are equal partners in the system.

**(AQW 10735/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am currently finalising a policy paper in regard to the SEN review. Once my deliberations are complete I will be in a better position to answer this question.

However, my approach to SEN has and will be based on children's rights and equality.

### **Funded Pre-School Places in the Bangor Area**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of nursery and pre-school places available; and (ii) the number of applications received for funded places in the Bangor area in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 10763/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The number of nursery and pre-school places available in the Bangor area and the number of 1st preference applications which each setting received in each of the last five years is detailed in the table below.

	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12		2012/13		
	No. of places	No. of 1st pref	No. of places	No. of 1st pref	No. of places	No. of 1st pref	No. of places	No. of 1st pref	No. of places	No. of 1st pref	
<b>Statutory nursery provision</b>											
Bangor Nursery School	78	93	78	77	78	77	78	78	64	78	85
Bloomfield Road Nursery Unit	52	37	52	45	52	49	52	52	57	52	65
Kilcooley Nursery Unit	26	20	26	32	26	23	26	26	28	26	23
Kilmaine Nursery Unit	52	68	52	91	52	100	52	52	69	52	84
Rathmore Nursery Unit	52	58	52	48	52	46	52	52	69	52	64
St Malachy's Nursery Unit	52	29	52	35	52	41	52	52	54	52	51
Towerview Nursery Unit	52	25	52	39	52	52	52	52	56	52	59
Trinity Nursery School	52	65	52	72	52	88	52	52	88	52	89
<b>Voluntary/private provision</b>											
Ballycrochan Playgroup	26	42	26	34	26	35	38	38	46	38	36
Ballyholme Playgroup	24	15	24	25	25	29	25	25	18	25	31
Bangor Abbey Playgroup	14	11	14	5	15	6	26	26	11	26	3
Bangor West Nursery Playgroup	19	23	20	18	19	14	26	26	21	26	24
Bo-Peep Corner Pre-school	18	12	18	7	18	12	26	26	9	26	6
Bright Sparks Pre-School	-	-	-	-	24	24	20	20	20	16	27
Crawfordsburn Playgroup	15	14	18	14	14	10	18	18	6	16	10

	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12		2012/13	
	No. of places	No. of 1st pref	No. of places	No. of 1st pref	No. of places	No. of 1st pref	No. of places	No. of 1st pref	No. of places	No. of 1st pref
Early Days Playgroup	24	21	24	19	24	31	24	25	24	27
Groomsport Playgroup	8	13	12	9	20	13	26	10	26	15
Little Acorns Playgroup	34	21	32	25	30	19	33	31	33	18
Little Bears Day Nursery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	4
St Comgall's Playgroup	24	24	24	15	24	37	24	38	24	27
Tiddliwinks Playgroup	24	24	24	19	26	17	24	25	24	20
<b>Total</b>	646	615	652	629	681	723	726	745	740	768

## Post-Primary Schools in the North Eastern Education and Library Board

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Education how many post-primary schools in the North Eastern Education and Library Board area, that sought temporary accommodation in the last three years, also applied for an increase to their approved enrolment number in the past five years.

**(AQW 10990/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Eight post primary schools in the North Eastern Education and Library Board sought temporary accommodation over the past three years. Of these temporary variations were sought as follows; 3 in 07/08, 4 in 08/09, 4 in 09/10, 4 in 10/11 and 5 in 11/12.

## Arm's-Length Bodies

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education how many of his Department's arm's-length bodies have been advised that they are to become a non-departmental public body.

**(AQW 11134/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Following a classification exercised undertaken by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) in 2011, in addition to the Department's ten existing Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs), four arm's-lengths bodies have been advised that they are NDPBs. These are:

- Middletown Centre for Autism
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta
- Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education
- Exceptional Circumstances Body

## Changing an Arm's-Length Body to a Non-Departmental Public Body

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education to outline the rationale for changing an arm's-length body to a non-departmental public body.

**(AQW 11135/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** When new arm's-length bodies (ALBs) are established, Departments are required to engage with the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) to ensure that they are classified correctly.

If DFP has not been involved in the establishment of a new ALB, or where circumstances change since the initial set-up of the ALB, then this could lead to a reclassification.

## Consultation Prior to Changing an Arm's-Length Body to a Non-Departmental Public Body

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education what consultation must take place prior to any decision to change an arm's-length body to a non-departmental public body.

**(AQW 11136/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Office of National Statistics (ONS) determines sector classification. When ONS determine that a body falls within the definition of Central Government, the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) are responsible for determining the appropriate category of public body, within the North of Ireland. This is determined using Cabinet Office guidance and the information provided to DFP by the relevant Sponsor Department. The ONS is not required to undertake any consultation in reaching sector classification.

## Children Resident in the Republic of Ireland Attending Schools

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of children resident in the Republic of Ireland who are attending (a) primary schools; (b) post-primary schools; and (c) pre-school providers

in Northern Ireland; and (ii) the total amount contributed by the parents, or the Government of the Republic of Ireland, for each of these.[R]

**(AQW 11139/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The number of children resident in the south attending primary and post primary schools and pre-school providers in the north are shown in the table below. This is reflective of the way people in border areas live and avail of services including education.

<b>Grant-aided Schools</b>	<b>Total Pupils<sup>1</sup> resident in south of Ireland</b>
Nursery schools and units	5
Primary (Year 1 – 7)	145
Post primary <sup>2</sup>	256
Total in grant-aided schools	406

**Source:** NI school census 2011/12

	<b>Total Pupils resident in south of Ireland</b>
Voluntary and private pre-school centres	11

**Source:** Western Education & Library Board

**Note:**

- 1 Figures include boarders. Boarders do not receive grant-aid funding.
- 2 Figures for post-primary include fewer than 5 children of that age in a special school setting.

All schools are able to seek voluntary contributions. The Department does not hold information on such contributions. There are reciprocal arrangements for pupils from the south being educated in the north, and those from the north being educated in the south. No funding is provided or sought from the respective education Departments.

### **Nursery Provision in the Portadown Area**

**Mr S Anderson** asked the Minister of Education for an update on the proposals to address the shortage of nursery provision in the Portadown area.

**(AQW 11148/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department is currently considering four Development Proposals for new/additional statutory nursery provision in the Portadown area at Bocombra PS, Edenderry NS, Portadown Integrated PS and Seagoe PS.

I hope to make a decision on these in the near future.

### **Education and Library Board: Departmental Approval**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education how many requests for departmental approval have been received from each Education and Library Board, under article 12 (1) (b) of the Education NI Order 1996, to name an educational setting other than statutory provision, in each year since 2007.

**(AQW 11153/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The number of such requests by each Education and Library Board is as follows:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
BELB	8	15	50	10	18
NEELB	10	5	11	10	10
SEELB	17	17	19	15	14

The position in the Southern and the Western Education and Library Board is that Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) is funded and managed centrally through a range of Board provision. Any placement of a Statemented pupil in EOTAS provision is organised through the Boards' Special Education sections based on the child's assessed need and is reflected in their Statement of Special Educational Needs. Such arrangements are in partnership with the child's main school in which they continue to be registered. Within this context, no formal approval has been sought from the Department of Education.

### Equality Impact Assessment on Preparatory Schools Funding

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education whether the Equality Impact Assessment on preparatory schools funding has been published; and to explain the reason for any delay.

**(AQW 11155/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The final stages of the EQIA report are nearing completion with some presentational issues still outstanding. These are in the process of being finalised with a view to publishing the EQIA report on the Department's website as soon as possible thereafter.

### Statutory Right of a Child to a Pre-School Place

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost of establishing the statutory right of a child to a pre-school place.

**(AQW 11195/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** As indicated in the outcome of the Review of Pre-School Admissions Arrangements published in January 2012, the Department will not seek to place its existing policy on pre-school on a statutory basis at this time. It is not possible, therefore, to determine the cost of such a measure.

### Additional Pre-School Provision in the Community and Voluntary Sector

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education what role he has in establishing and approving additional pre-school provision in the community and voluntary sector.

**(AQW 11196/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Voluntary and private pre-school providers are independent of government and are not established by DE. The Health and Social Care Trusts, on behalf of the Health & Social Care Board, are responsible for the registration, regulation and inspection of all voluntary/ private sector playgroups and day care settings.

My Department retains policy and budgetary responsibility for the Pre-School Education Expansion Programme, under which pre-school places are funded in voluntary and private settings. However, planning and implementation of the Programme at local level is the responsibility of the Pre-School Education Advisory Groups (PEAGs) within each Education and Library Board. Thus the allocation of places to individual settings is a matter for the Boards, based on local knowledge of need and capacity.

### Sharing of Education and Health Data: Early Years Provision

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education what steps his Department has taken to improve the sharing of education and health data, with a view to developing more effective early years provision.

**(AQW 11197/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The draft Early Years (0-6) Strategy contains an objective to encourage greater collaboration among key partners to promote greater integration in service delivery, which includes actions relating to the evaluation and sharing of data between partner organisations, where this is possible within the parameters of data protection.

An example of how early years provision is enhanced through utilisation of health data is the Sure Start programme, which follows an outcomes focussed approach to the planning and delivery of services and targeting of key beneficiaries such as hard to reach families, based on the six high level outcomes adopted under the OFMDFM 10 year strategy for Children and Young People (Our Children, Our Pledge).

This enables the projects to ensure the ongoing review and evaluation of services, structures and staffing to demonstrate maximum impact and meet local need. Many projects utilise statistics drawn from the Child Health System database to obtain baseline information and in the monitoring of progress against their stated objectives in ensuring that the high level outcomes for children are met. No confidential data is accessed.

## EU School Milk Scheme

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of schools which (i) are eligible to participate in the EU School Milk Scheme; and (ii) currently participate in the EU School Milk Scheme, broken down by (a) Education and Library Board area; and (b) sector.

**(AQW 11198/11-15)**

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

School Sector	BELB		NEELB		SEELB		SELB		WELB		Total	
	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)
Nursery	32	32	15	13	19	4	20	16	12	11	98	76
Primary	92	60	211	166	156	88	222	142	182	160	863	616
Special	10	10	9	9	10	7	5	5	7	7	41	38
Post-Primary	35	0	49	0	37	0	52	0	44	0	217	0
Total	169	102	284	188	222	99	299	163	245	178	1,219	730

**Source:** (i) NI School Census 2010/11; (ii) Department of Agriculture and Rural Development – Figures at Summer Term 2011

## Home Schooling

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of children receiving home schooling in each Education and Library Board area.

**(AQW 11214/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Parents can choose to home educate and there is no legal requirement for them to advise their Education and Library Board (ELB) or the Department of their decision. The information in the following table has been provided by the Boards and is based on notifications received that a child is being home educated. These notifications may have been made by parents, a child's previous school, a Board's Transfer Department or its Education Welfare Service. The numbers being home educated fluctuate during the course of a year. Therefore, the figures provided by the ELBs reflect a snapshot in time on the date on which a request is made.



BELB	10
NEELB	47
SEELB	47
SELB	28
WELB	36
TOTAL	168

### Transporting Children to Education Other Than At School Projects

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost of transporting children to Education Other Than At School projects in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area in the 2011/12 academic year.

**(AQW 11215/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The South Eastern Education and Library Board informs me that the costs for transporting pupils to Education Other Than At School projects for the financial year April to March 2011/2012 are:

Translink	£11,941.46
Private Hire	£61,156.00
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>£73,097.46</b>

### Education Other Than At School Projects

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of travel warrants issued to children who were sent home from Education Other Than At School projects, during the school day, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 11221/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I have been informed by the Belfast, North Eastern, Southern and Western Education and Library Boards that they have not issued any travel warrants in the past three years. The South Eastern Board issued 51 travel warrants in 2011/12, 102 in 2010/11, and 66 in 2009/10.

### Transport to Education Other Than At School Projects

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education how many complaints the South Eastern Education and Library Board has received about transport to Education Other Than At School projects in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 11222/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The South Eastern Education and Library Board informs me that it has received one formal written complaint about transport to Education Other Than At School projects in the last three years.

### Moderate Learning Difficulty Schools

**Mr B McCrea** asked the Minister of Education why some moderate learning difficulty schools provide post-16 education and others do not.

**(AQW 11225/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** There is no legislative requirement to provide post-16 education in moderate learning difficulty (MLD) schools and it is therefore for each education and library board to determine provision in their area. The majority of MLD pupils either leave school at 16 or move onto an appropriate

vocational course in further education. It is for this reason that not all MLD schools provide post-16 education.

### **Moderate Learning Difficulty Schools: Funding**

**Mr B McCrea** asked the Minister of Education what funding is available for moderate learning difficulty schools to provide post-16 education.

**(AQW 11226/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The statutory responsibility for securing provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) rests with both schools and the 5 education and library boards (ELBs) who are responsible under special education legislation for identifying, assessing and, in appropriate cases, making provision for children with SEN in their areas.

The majority of funding for the education of children with moderate learning difficulties (MLD) who access post-16 education comes from each ELB's block grant. For those pupils with a Statement of Special Education Need the relevant Board centrally funds the teaching and non-teaching costs that may be required to meet the young person's needs post -16.

In recent years some special schools for pupils with MLD have also accessed funding through the Entitlement Framework which has enabled post-16 provision to be accessed in partnership with colleagues in Area Learning Communities, including those from Further Education.

### **Residents of the Republic of Ireland Availing of Education Facilities**

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Education what system is in place to ensure that a financial contribution is made by the Government or residents of the Republic of Ireland when availing of education facilities in Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 11281/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The number of children resident in the south attending primary and post primary schools and pre-school providers in the north are shown in the table below. This is reflective of the way people in border areas live and avail of services including education.

<b>Grant-aided Schools</b>	<b>Total Pupils<sup>1</sup> resident in south of Ireland</b>
Nursery schools and units	5
Primary (Year 1 – 7)	145
Post primary <sup>2</sup>	256
Total in grant-aided schools	406

**Source:** NI school census 2011/12

	<b>Total Pupils resident in south of Ireland</b>
Voluntary and private pre-school centres	11

**Source:** Western Education & Library Board

**Note:**

3 Figures include boarders. Boarders do not receive grant-aid funding.

4 Figures for post-primary include fewer than 5 children of that age in a special school setting.

All schools are able to seek voluntary contributions. The Department does not hold information on such contributions. There are reciprocal arrangements for pupils from the south being educated in the north, and those from the north being educated in the south. No funding is provided or sought from the respective education Departments.

## Cost of Supplying Substitute Teachers

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost of supplying substitute teachers in the Southern Education and Library Board area, broken down by (i) school; and (ii) for the 2009/10; 2010/11; and 2011/12 academic years.

**(AQW 11285/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information requested is detailed in the table below. For the current academic year, information is provided from September 2011 to April 2012.

### SOUTHERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD AREA - SUBSTITUTION COSTS

DENI Ref.No.	School Name	September 2009 - August 2010	September 2010 - August 2011	September 2011 - April 2012
5010909	Foley County P S	14,046.09	15,507.91	856.29
5010992	Lurgan Model P S	31,830.46	32,882.12	4,550.50
5011019	Mullaghglass P S	8,490.67	13,042.60	10,141.38
5011034	Aghavilly P S	1,173.74	983.34	-
5011095	Mullavilly P S	8,697.26	9,800.72	3,311.88
5011112	Hardy Memorial P S	51,535.80	30,381.22	15,621.01
5011115	Armstrong P S	40,771.71	58,607.68	23,617.51
5011116	Tandragee P S	62,965.84	48,192.92	35,778.76
5011117	Drumsallen P S	10,523.65	2,352.46	613.40
5011119	Darkley P S	14,245.94	19,218.40	6,590.79
5011124	King's Park P S Lurgan	81,317.94	30,053.54	59,990.25
5011127	Carrick P S	78,581.37	79,171.06	76,892.65
5011129	Hart Memorial P S	80,457.74	54,921.59	51,787.83
5011132	Killylea P S	15,250.05	46,359.25	16,710.73
5011137	Newtownhamilton P S	15,400.03	3,623.18	3,704.51
5011142	Clare P S	31,534.04	36,887.46	15,640.58
5011152	Kingsmills P S	1,914.18	1,595.18	11,872.99
5011153	Lisnadill P S	4,144.59	2,558.86	1,714.79
5011157	Derryhale P S	31,052.55	29,505.69	16,011.69
5011161	Mountnorris P S	53,585.00	28,719.69	34,738.49
5011165	Rich Mount P S	7,945.35	7,229.99	2,180.77
5011174	Birches P S	8,051.11	31,877.61	3,843.93
5011175	Cortamlet P S	11,286.85	37,351.70	18,155.53
5011179	Bessbrook P S	32,331.27	23,384.44	29,913.15
5011189	Edenderry P S Craigavon	29,030.62	69,048.71	17,718.09

<b>DENI Ref.No.</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>September 2009 - August 2010</b>	<b>September 2010 - August 2011</b>	<b>September 2011 - April 2012</b>
5011190	Tullygally P S	35,207.11	39,226.57	18,791.92
5011520	Dromore Road P S	46,632.58	56,591.30	14,095.16
5011575	Dromore Central P S	59,086.18	51,068.58	63,289.85
5011594	Abercorn P S	36,588.83	67,765.27	16,834.29
5011596	Craigavon P S	23,525.21	25,027.72	30,425.02
5011598	Waringstown P S	21,068.62	52,632.58	25,907.71
5011602	Bleary P S	82,227.86	69,432.83	30,135.48
5011611	Iveagh P S	17,997.99	15,411.06	6,257.08
5011617	Ballydown P S	57,301.51	7,699.17	5,512.89
5011649	Kilkeel P S	50,231.31	13,396.79	16,399.14
5011651	Milltown P S	38,108.42	13,644.37	11,724.48
5011664	Scarva P S	368.50	1,235.99	-
5011684	Annalong P S	9,378.95	14,375.61	12,215.70
5011687	Maralin Village P S	40,144.60	94,039.19	43,785.25
5012280	Moneymore P S	11,683.57	24,251.50	3,684.32
5012538	Churchill P S	30,742.63	8,070.17	2,517.44
5012611	Lisferty P S	5,519.68	4,776.90	4,557.12
5012615	Ballytrea P S	6,348.29	4,044.42	2,016.62
5012621	Aughnacloy P S	19,761.94	10,804.56	17,933.53
5012632	Donaghmore P S	36,489.49	17,441.90	17,729.65
5012635	Augher Central P S	18,640.34	7,349.43	10,819.20
5012636	Moy Regional P S	34,816.05	52,648.78	42,116.21
5012643	Stewartstown P S	15,808.12	35,349.21	32,665.32
5012646	Howard P S	19,619.65	17,990.59	3,592.68
5012649	Coagh P S	19,173.01	23,256.97	25,344.46
5012657	Walker Memorial P S	5,572.90	31,124.87	36,637.61
5012659	Clogher Regional P S	26,578.01	8,704.79	-
5012696	Carntall P S	25,742.37	34,460.18	34,007.01
5012719	Newmills P S	2,622.82	24,457.46	1,677.76
5012720	Dungannon P S	57,873.60	86,911.07	36,043.30
5012726	Cookstown P S	43,684.01	64,060.10	44,441.22
5013019	Edenderry P S Banbridge	91,336.34	81,060.10	48,164.23
5013702	Woods P S	5,962.32	12,953.09	18,046.73

<b>DENI Ref.No.</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>September 2009 - August 2010</b>	<b>September 2010 - August 2011</b>	<b>September 2011 - April 2012</b>
5016007	Millington P S	71,038.21	63,553.35	46,678.71
5016027	Drumhillery P S	41,884.84	6,635.66	28,756.90
5016028	Keady P S	2,192.61	871.53	129.07
5016065	Dickson P S	30,481.18	17,091.88	29,376.00
5016078	Poyntzpass P S	11,624.89	11,341.51	4,820.33
5016079	The Cope P S	27,041.80	21,585.91	972.93
5016080	Drumgor P S	24,711.58	19,518.37	33,057.66
5016088	Fivemiletown P S	12,435.42	26,198.72	24,577.55
5016098	Brackenagh West P S	44,344.56	56,388.33	32,976.10
5016117	Ballyoran P S	21,252.56	56,633.51	49,860.55
5016138	Bocombra P S	9,104.69	35,545.61	5,188.10
5016141	Churchtown P S	184.25	110.71	5,987.04
5016178	Donacloney P S	15,541.28	45,791.77	34,846.16
5016179	Hamiltonsbawn P S	27,809.36	8,114.49	2,295.80
5016200	Queen Elizabeth li P S Pomeroy	3,357.84	2,114.14	788.34
5016221	Orritor P S	29,882.22	7,168.77	18,396.80
5016224	Donaghey P S	37,178.57	48,290.79	1,779.89
5016391	Bush P S	21,697.02	27,995.19	11,065.76
5016436	Markethill P S	24,990.63	17,842.99	49,663.49
5016451	Windsor Hill P S	29,835.40	28,522.55	14,125.50
5016543	Moyallon P S	8,216.16	6,788.40	2,187.35
5016599	Fair Hill P S	50,081.95	31,317.90	21,559.53
5016612	Bronte P S	14,046.05	11,127.99	22,248.36
5016616	Drumadonnell P S	17,907.57	19,084.18	12,425.50
5016643	Richmond P S	22,446.27	8,643.70	13,709.84
5016658	Orchard County P S	25,383.17	10,368.81	3,383.00
5016680	Killyman Ps	29,539.80	54,802.65	53,075.96
5030958	St John's Eglis(1) P S	5,084.52	4,290.37	2,494.06
5030972	St Oliver Plunkett P S Forkhill	55,894.74	42,008.68	16,687.09
5030975	St Malachy's P S Whitecross	32,621.51	33,498.49	16,735.21

<b>DENI Ref.No.</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>September 2009 - August 2010</b>	<b>September 2010 - August 2011</b>	<b>September 2011 - April 2012</b>
5031070	St Michael's P S Newry	12,633.15	17,641.71	1,296.56
5031080	Clintyclay P S	32,122.02	13,829.56	7,542.09
5031086	Clonalig P S	18,689.35	28,783.30	30,455.23
5031088	Dromintee P S	52,539.86	41,885.80	24,870.90
5031103	Tannaghmore P S	91,148.71	124,505.30	65,500.20
5031107	St Teresa's P S Mountnorris	37,006.45	43,062.83	11,404.81
5031108	Clea P S	13,780.79	38,864.50	10,239.51
5031110	Christian Brothers' P S	56,561.80	47,694.15	20,000.66
5031126	Mount St Catherine's P S	32,272.60	43,766.33	26,180.44
5031130	Cloughoge P S	46,702.45	119,051.18	30,684.84
5031133	St Malachy's P S Armagh	25,750.09	35,518.97	17,757.54
5031135	St Oliver's P S Carrickrovaddy	53,217.81	17,584.07	2,142.41
5031138	St Joseph's P S Armagh	24,089.14	37,787.86	2,013.33
5031146	Anamar P S	4,555.82	8,364.76	1,549.93
5031148	St Patrick's P S Crossmaglen	50,220.44	103,312.39	30,605.35
5031154	Killeen P S	28,698.24	36,938.06	33,826.05
5031158	St Patrick's P S Newry	119,595.80	71,796.00	66,082.69
5031160	St Teresa's P S Lurgan	56,777.98	9,764.55	18,185.25
5031163	St Brigid's P S Crossmaglen	16,933.06	7,214.17	6,378.75
5031164	St Mary's P S Maghery	44,966.26	28,468.59	22,954.51
5031166	St Michael's P S Armagh	8,443.91	7,503.27	4,466.31
5031167	St James' P S Armagh	8,592.44	7,808.85	27,152.81
5031168	St Patrick's P S Craigavon	7,840.30	2,228.60	14,620.69

<b>DENI Ref.No.</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>September 2009 - August 2010</b>	<b>September 2010 - August 2011</b>	<b>September 2011 - April 2012</b>
5031169	St Brigid's (Drumilly) P S	44,653.02	61,836.74	11,571.11
5031172	St Mary's P S Armagh	37,624.10	20,525.23	17,739.52
5031176	St Peter's P S Bessbrook	85,630.46	66,741.68	70,566.35
5031183	St Patrick's P S Armagh	28,052.86	82,448.53	8,271.08
5031184	St Anthony's P S Craigavon	130,146.81	164,316.53	56,629.36
5031188	St Joseph's P S Killeavy	70,751.12	110,651.52	78,052.66
5031213	St Clare's Convent P S	33,720.72	34,401.21	8,952.72
5031301	Clontifleece P S	11,279.23	5,021.31	8,965.82
5031318	Killowen P S Newry	19,322.39	30,913.61	28,604.94
5031325	St Joseph's P S Kilkeel	67,881.87	24,196.68	21,286.61
5031340	St Joseph's Convent P S	157,996.24	174,219.17	110,720.28
5031516	Moneydarragh P S	35,896.38	30,579.23	24,690.47
5031558	Ballyholland P S	29,239.81	35,345.02	25,131.25
5031576	St Colman's Abbey P S	28,970.25	45,098.59	9,432.16
5031589	Grange P S	27,806.82	65,614.71	17,354.96
5031609	Carrick P S	35,173.17	62,448.41	51,005.81
5031653	St Matthew's P S Magheramayo	49,563.04	6,344.17	2,246.35
5031658	St John's P S Newry	13,086.57	-	-
5031667	St Patrick's P S Magheralin	30,066.60	18,136.68	43,331.81
5031669	St John's P S Craigavon	31,872.02	44,603.34	41,290.72
5031694	Holy Cross P S	16,172.06	13,298.00	29,479.01
5031695	St Mary's P S Jerrettspass	86,126.26	103,498.99	37,030.30
5031697	St Patrick's P S Mayobridge	30,290.56	25,955.42	22,973.85
5032208	Ballylifford P S	23,027.53	4,035.29	7,281.30

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5032262	Lissan (1) P S	31,416.18	8,170.53	2,733.66
5032306	St Malachy's P S Glencull	16,275.88	31,418.62	10,532.96
5032387	Derrylatinee P S	50,774.67	23,617.21	4,347.79
5032463	Blessed Patrick O'loughran P S	23,559.34	53,226.10	17,377.10
5032558	Laghey P S	7,541.08	3,415.19	36,361.70
5032585	Edendork P S	61,544.90	34,044.02	19,840.05
5032591	Roan St Patrick's P S	4,914.54	37,342.87	18,364.15
5032592	St Mary's P S Lisbuoy	26,350.76	37,170.45	16,036.94
5032624	St Macartan's P S Clogher	23,405.31	19,922.05	996.39
5032678	St Patrick's P S Donaghmore	26,929.05	48,981.63	19,769.20
5032692	St Mary's P S Stewartstown	21,435.13	46,273.65	50,923.30
5032693	Crievagh P S	3,843.16	5,446.95	21,020.58
5032697	St Patrick's P S Augher	24,728.42	28,204.47	20,360.11
5032698	St Brigid's P S Coalisland	28,795.80	17,682.36	4,481.70
5032699	St Mary's P S Cookstown	5,399.30	62,891.69	2,202.32
5032703	St Peter's P S Cookstown	56,309.31	73,542.37	18,482.65
5032713	Derrychrin P S	7,258.79	17,222.15	12,771.08
5032714	Aughamullan P S	8,417.44	6,352.65	2,165.12
5032715	St John's P S Dungannon	40,971.62	39,505.19	16,829.15
5032717	St Patrick's P S Mullinahoe	54,786.10	52,387.31	49,840.21
5032727	St Brigid's P S Augher	11,293.74	15,781.67	19,321.66
5032729	St John's P S Dungannon	20,752.57	25,644.73	17,801.53
5032734	St Mary's P S Cabra	31,781.42	52,513.54	3,079.26
5032735	St Mary's P S Ballygawley	15,549.37	30,552.09	15,960.36



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5032736	St Mary's P S Fivemiletown	3,571.24	2,144.63	1,589.68
5033003	St Paul's P S Cabra	19,702.72	31,679.03	18,845.08
5033004	St Mary's P S Rathfriland	33,087.17	24,011.59	24,997.28
5033006	St Michael's P S Finnis	8,182.05	9,486.46	5,646.57
5033011	St Marys P S Dechomet	15,204.31	24,513.25	8,503.86
5033025	St Patrick's P S Hilltown	36,726.50	49,143.49	26,082.41
5033324	St Patrick's P S Aughagallon	9,148.08	37,739.61	19,289.21
5036000	St Colman's P S Dromore	10,780.21	20,897.77	9,307.18
5036001	St Mary's P S Annalong	38,451.97	19,490.20	13,527.37
5036006	St Mary's P S Derrymore	32,535.44	82,725.20	12,295.99
5036009	St Mary's P S Derrytrasna	14,474.29	15,726.70	26,262.57
5036031	St Patrick's P S Loup	28,597.98	42,120.78	8,038.50
5036033	St Joseph's P S Dungannon	3,335.06	6,089.11	4,243.15
5036043	St Mary's P S Banbridge	154,229.90	132,820.17	70,358.93
5036047	St Patrick's P S Coalisland	62,517.36	49,979.22	37,603.00
5036057	St Malachy's P S Magherafelt	25,205.01	53,886.33	12,244.32
5036061	St Colman's P S Banbridge	41,369.94	35,334.63	44,411.11
5036064	St Malachy's P S Camlough	71,982.17	81,277.68	45,624.54
5036087	St Mary's P S Mullaghbawn	69,280.15	53,471.33	7,733.28
5036099	St Patrick's P S Cullyhanna	27,849.60	94,370.85	45,816.93
5036101	St Brendan's P S	71,658.18	97,486.67	52,728.90

<b>DENI Ref.No.</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>September 2009 - August 2010</b>	<b>September 2010 - August 2011</b>	<b>September 2011 - April 2012</b>
5036108	St Joseph's P S Cookstown	24,764.39	28,769.13	19,200.74
5036110	St Joseph's P S Newry	50,303.09	82,224.18	16,308.71
5036118	St Mary's P S Dungannon	17,643.90	32,415.21	34,370.91
5036120	St Patrick's P S Moneymore	23,441.52	8,167.86	24,330.64
5036121	St Jarlath's P S	56,065.73	61,904.96	16,381.75
5036122	Jonesborough P S	27,464.67	42,150.07	44,185.12
5036130	St Laurence O'toole's P S	47,340.68	51,670.43	27,985.19
5036136	Sacred Heart P S Dungannon	9,017.09	13,189.74	10,749.54
5036173	St John The Baptist P S Craigavon	91,011.44	87,925.83	38,032.44
5036180	St Oliver Plunkett P S Loughall	13,638.25	4,067.32	2,719.28
5036363	St Mary's P S Aughnacloy	37,009.44	11,446.25	21,557.85
5036400	St Colman's (Bann) P S	20,065.82	32,538.39	17,132.62
5036409	St Ronan's P S Newry	78,214.43	91,814.32	49,638.21
5036433	St Malachy's P S Carnagat	25,943.92	42,329.55	46,273.87
5036457	St Francis P S Aghhderg	8,873.84	35,738.37	2,535.72
5036463	St Joseph's P S Caledon	23,047.70	23,703.52	12,146.18
5036504	St Patrick's P S Dungannon	165,930.39	244,356.66	108,566.02
5036545	St Colman's P S Newry (Kilkeel)	17,902.83	17,509.44	6,811.94
5036567	Holy Trinity P S Cookstown	120,840.77	96,428.35	16,599.93
5036572	St Colman's P S Newry (Saval)	27,955.51	41,758.02	2,422.63
5036583	St Dallan's P S	87,645.83	140,497.37	74,995.85
5036586	Presentation P S	29,717.56	15,899.30	17,559.92

<b>DENI Ref.No.</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>September 2009 - August 2010</b>	<b>September 2010 - August 2011</b>	<b>September 2011 - April 2012</b>
5036590	Primate Dixon P S	44,153.28	108,550.86	73,201.09
5036595	St Peter's P S Moy	56,327.11	9,700.27	42,005.42
5036598	Our Lady's P S	30,354.40	42,415.56	40,667.47
5036605	St Patrick's P S Rathfriland	12,947.78	12,071.41	7,110.79
5036610	St Francis Of Assisi P S	28,928.47	28,712.36	31,060.04
5036622	St Johns P S	23,101.04	22,319.27	17,876.61
5036633	St Francis P S Lurgan	116,155.17	106,387.74	108,816.58
5036639	Our Lady's And St Mochua's P S	32,631.76	12,886.76	5,608.86
5036673	St Bronagh's P S	18,588.09	81,997.25	25,193.53
5036675	St Josephs And St James P S	12,276.82	10,607.47	12,748.43
5046137	Seagoe P S	38,054.54	45,398.54	48,091.16
5046241	Drelincourt Infants School	1,842.50	188.49	-
5046597	Bunscoil An luir	12,224.03	16,975.54	24,482.05
5046637	Gaelscoil Ui Neill	58,305.77	57,047.51	34,264.30
5056013	Kilbroney Integrated P S	6,076.00	5,107.22	4,222.74
5066540	Bridge Integrated P S	104,789.63	55,633.15	39,086.90
5066553	Portadown Integrated P S	19,437.60	46,972.57	19,039.85
5066554	Windmill Integrated P S	61,259.21	44,559.15	28,759.55
5066578	Saints & Scholars Int P S	10,279.80	36,008.62	5,338.81
5066657	Phoenix Integrated P S	20,606.63	66,135.50	8,680.74
5110017	Armagh N S	2,590.84	4,359.72	588.53
5110021	Edenderry N S Portadown	15,062.22	9,730.55	1,871.89
5116112	Ashgrove N S Newry	1,226.13	1,185.00	6,297.93
5116189	Millington N S	7,154.64	24,767.11	20,673.57
5116190	Harrison N S	4,661.62	5,016.00	1,831.88
5116197	Kilkeel N S	6,297.30	15,951.63	2,874.63

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5116198	Fivemiletown N S	108.22	366.12	2,497.00
5116223	The Grove N S	4,205.05	14,013.47	286.00
5116236	Dungannon N S	4,514.88	4,171.03	2,799.12
5116237	Cookstown N S	5,862.21	3,771.53	4,053.48
5116238	Banbridge N S	7,337.27	809.05	8,292.60
5116256	Downshire N S	1,413.01	73.29	994.26
5116625	Dromore N S	27,653.94	17,164.22	4,873.45
5116640	Tandragee N S	5,460.25	4,843.94	25,712.30
5136217	St John The Baptist Nursery	8,347.72	26,104.18	11,907.74
5136342	St Malachy's N S	11,727.56	29,358.15	6,180.52
5136607	College Farm N S	19,591.61	25,141.79	1,439.23
5136627	Little Flower N S	3,756.88	23,717.19	896.53
5136629	Seaview N S	5,418.21	4,438.16	13,035.97
5136631	Drumnamoe N S	10,151.05	12,713.06	24,348.76
5210016	Kilkeel H S	132,622.83	145,156.46	79,682.95
5210025	Newtownhamilton H S	48,181.28	102,247.34	9,109.85
5210043	Clounagh Junior H S	62,760.11	147,879.74	91,183.02
5210047	Banbridge H S	95,608.19	121,601.75	59,691.75
5210054	Killicomaine Junior H S	11,166.11	55,026.26	34,176.18
5210064	Dromore H S	112,919.53	118,377.15	106,862.95
5210083	Markethill H S	35,186.30	46,344.31	37,441.36
5210097	Fivemiletown College	164,266.97	159,578.43	96,061.91
5210121	City Armagh H S	53,742.64	101,521.19	51,762.91
5210127	Rathfriland H S	81,504.67	112,067.41	25,280.12
5210143	Tandragee Junior H S	46,994.29	75,772.46	25,388.15
5210153	Aughnacloy H S	66,438.50	79,793.98	43,142.26
5210186	Newry H S	95,239.99	104,340.75	80,178.48
5210230	Cookstown H S	108,833.98	212,271.85	102,937.20
5210231	Drumglass H S	166,214.72	187,748.41	90,419.20
5210271	Lurgan Junior High	95,090.58	154,801.74	74,405.04
5210282	Craigavon Senior H S	156,662.49	138,299.57	73,781.53

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5230056	St Joseph's Boys' H S	108,163.03	70,791.18	52,853.22
5230059	St Columban's College	46,188.07	35,488.74	11,211.87
5230070	St Mary's H S Craigavon	157,384.40	173,202.71	100,759.14
5230076	St Patrick's H S Banbridge	121,347.36	167,973.76	121,357.68
5230088	St Paul's Junior H S	97,634.70	150,101.39	102,188.30
5230108	St Mary's H S Newry	152,953.28	223,186.41	116,941.24
5230135	St Mark's H S	137,666.65	207,069.54	108,079.02
5230152	St Ciaran's H S	230,804.33	197,650.20	107,487.78
5230157	St Paul's H S	305,600.67	417,491.60	219,675.36
5230160	St Brigid's H S	36,276.60	88,976.09	33,344.35
5230167	St Joseph's College Newry	95,582.92	81,733.74	83,985.90
5230187	St Patrick's H S Keady	198,380.91	304,107.51	184,065.39
5230192	St Joseph's College Dungannon	173,396.30	115,103.80	30,742.19
5230213	Lismore Comprehensive School	210,686.96	199,474.03	128,336.97
5230218	St Catherine's College	360,082.38	334,777.89	162,416.38
5230256	Drumcree College	103,185.89	90,855.76	23,333.84
5230278	Holy Trinity College	153,258.57	130,742.21	119,352.98
5230293	St Patrick's College Dungannon	174,822.43	279,499.75	153,102.34
5250216	Brownlow Int College	48,607.35	47,796.37	39,493.12
5260285	New-Bridge Integrated College	125,135.71	75,466.79	18,613.36
5260286	Integrated College Dungannon	105,193.59	173,583.81	69,086.09
5316519	Rathore School	95,026.35	151,232.17	64,473.15
5316520	Donard Sp S	21,436.51	9,832.81	9,542.30
5316521	Ceara Sp S	157,382.27	214,258.87	114,797.11
5316523	Sperrinview Sp S	80,048.15	103,769.47	53,544.35

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5316577	Lisanally Sp S	73,209.02	125,976.32	76,970.67
5410013	Banbridge Academy	146,188.71	228,268.48	67,584.70
5410057	Lurgan College	37,772.32	38,996.27	28,743.55
5410067	Portadown College	99,617.76	89,760.48	51,535.07
5819995	Southern Peripatetic Service	207,819.08	204,958.69	172,584.07
5990400	Kinnego Centre	13,498.01	22,240.26	24,880.45
5992986	Selb Peripatetic- Eotas-Lrn Ctr Tamnamore	6,712.19	29,310.13	7,805.68
5992987	Primary-Lough Road Learning Centre	65,538.38	82,390.49	56,791.60
5992988	Ks4-Lough Road Learning Centre	59,763.45	31,277.06	323.61
5992992	Jnr Eotas-Lough Road Learning Centre	1,281.95	32,778.81	23,938.65
5992993	Eotas Learning Centre Newry	51,385.22	59,516.74	-
5992994	Selb Peripatetic - Eotas-Indiv Learning	-	8,477.35	23,872.88
5993003	Autism Advisory & Intervention Serv	8,831.49	27,242.82	22,995.21
<b>Overall Totals</b>		<b>13,485,244.06</b>	<b>15,699,140.44</b>	<b>9,000,972.39</b>

### Northern Ireland Substitute Teachers Register

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost of administering the Northern Ireland Substitute Teachers Register in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 11286/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The cost of administering the Substitute Teacher Register in each of the last 5 years is detailed in the table below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Cost</b>
2006/07	£226k
2007/08	£231k
2008/09	£237k
2009/10	£244k
2010/11	£270k

## Northern Ireland Substitute Teachers Register

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education what criteria his Department uses to measure the effectiveness of the Northern Ireland Substitute Teachers Register.

**(AQW 11287/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Substitute Teachers Register (NISTR) helps to ensure a consistent approach to substitution across the north of Ireland and the provision of accurate management information on cost, absence levels and patterns in temporary employment. NISTR has helped to maintain a low level of unqualified teachers filling temporary vacancies, provides child protection assurances to schools employing substitute teachers, and allows schools to identify teachers who are prematurely retired. NISTR also provides information on work experience, areas of educational expertise and references.

My Department monitors NISTR usage on a monthly basis and measures its effectiveness by reference to the percentage of the total of substitution cover booked via the Register. For the 2011-12 financial year uptake has been at an average of 99%.

## Newly Qualified Teachers

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the impact of the amendments to the common funding formula in encouraging schools to employ newly qualified teachers.

**(AQW 11288/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am satisfied that the range of measures which my Department put in place from 1 September 2011 have helped both to encourage schools to employ newly and recently qualified teachers and also to limit the incidence of re-employment of prematurely retired teachers.

The table below shows the number of teachers on the lowest three points of the Main Scale providing substitution cover between September 2011 and March 2012 and in the corresponding period for the previous year.

Main Scale Point	Teachers providing substitution cover September 2010 – March 2011	Teachers providing substitution cover September 2011 – March 2012	% increase
1	907	945*	4.2
2	559	577	3.2
3	428	463	8.2
Total	1894	1985	4.8

\* excludes prematurely retired teachers.

## Health and Safety Training for Technology Teachers and Technicians

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education what procedures are in place to provide statutory health and safety training for technology teachers and technicians.

**(AQW 11289/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The provision of continuing professional development for teachers and other staff is currently the responsibility of the Education and Library Boards (ELBs) through their respective Curriculum Advisory Support Service. All ELBs undertake, on an annual basis, a needs analysis of the training required by schools in the forthcoming academic year. School principals are responsible for determining the training needs of their teachers and other staff and they can avail of the wide range of courses, including health and safety training, offered by Boards.

In addition, employers should ensure that a teacher is suitably trained for the required phase and subject which they are to teach, especially in practical and physical subjects where there is a potential health and safety risk. Suitable qualifications which are acceptable to teach technology and design (T&D) are detailed in the Department's Circular 2007/22. These include the City & Guilds (C&G) 6131 Workshop Competency Certificate which ensures that teachers of T&D in our schools can competently and safely use the basic hand tools required to deliver the practical aspects of the Revised Curriculum. The Belfast and South Eastern Education and Library Boards are accredited providers of the C&G 6131 course.

## Implementation of STEM Subjects

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education to detail the resources provided in each Education and Library Board area to support the implementation of STEM subjects in each of the last three years. **(AQW 11290/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Since the publication of the Report of the STEM Review, my Department has commissioned and is supporting a wide range of additional initiatives beyond the delivery of the statutory curriculum, aimed at encouraging an increase in the uptake of STEM subjects in schools here.

As well as the funding that has been provided directly to schools through the Common Funding Formula to support implementation of all aspects of the revised curriculum, which includes STEM, the table below details funding provided to the Education and Library Boards over the past three years to support the implementation of STEM subjects:

<b>2009/10</b>	<b>SEELB</b>	<b>NEELB</b>	<b>WELB</b>	<b>SELB</b>	<b>BELB</b>
STEM/CEIAG programme	£160,000	£160,000	£160,000	£161,000	£159,000
STEM CPD programme	£68,000	£117,000	£96,000	£96,000	£123,000
STEM Specialist Schools	£0	£66,000	£288,000	£373,000	£75,000
STEM Truck	£0	£361,000	£0	£0	£0
<b>2010/11</b>					
STEM/CEIAG programme	£160,000	£160,000	£160,000	£161,000	£161,000
STEM CPD programme	£63,000	£95,000	£83,000	£80,000	£85,000
STEM Specialist Schools	£59,000	£224,000	£140,000	£350,000	£86,000
STEM Truck	£0	£236,000	£0	£0	£0
<b>2011/12</b>					
STEM/CEIAG programme	£18,000	£9,000	£28,000	£26,000	£28,000
STEM CPD programme	£51,000	£44,000	£42,000	£60,000	£44,000
STEM Specialist Schools	£0	£94,000	£58,000	£169,000	£36,000
STEM Truck	£0	£273,000	£0	£0	£0

### **NB:**

The figures provided do not include the costs associated with CASS Officer input to and management of the STEM programmes;

The STEM/CEIAG (careers education, information, advice and guidance) programme is administrated by the SEELB;

The STEM CPD (teachers continued professional development) programme was administrated by the NEELB in 2009/10 and by the SEELB in subsequent years;

The STEM Specialist schools totals detail the funding provided to all STEM specialist schools by ELB area;

The STEM Truck is managed by the NEELB on behalf of all five boards.



## Education Other Than At School Projects

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education whether all looked after children, including those at Education Other Than At School projects, have personal education plans in place in line with his Department's guidance.

**(AQW 11323/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** As the DE Circular to schools advises, the introduction of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for all Looked After Children (LAC) is being rolled out in a phased approach. Roll-out began on 1 December 2011, commencing with those children who are entering care for the first time. Schools only complete the PEP when requested to do so by the social worker and do not initiate the process.

The Health and Social Care Board has agreed a timetable for progressing PEPs for all looked after children and schools were notified of this in April 2012. The timetable is set out below for your information.

Date	Process
01.12.2011	All new LAC cases to be commenced with a PEP following the 2 week LAC Review and completed by the 3 month LAC Review if the child remains looked after.
01.04.2012	All current LAC cases in the court system require a PEP to be commenced – it is important to advise in the court report and legal representation that the PEP is in progress and to include a timeframe for completion.
25.04.2012	All LAC in Year 7 have a PEP commenced in preparation for transition planning. All stages of the PEP to be completed by 29.06.2012
01.09.2012	The remaining LAC require a PEP to be commenced.
01.06.2013	All LAC children and young people have a PEP in place.

## Foster Carers

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education to detail the position of foster carers in relation to the provision of education for young people placed in their care.

**(AQW 11324/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The introduction of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for looked after children will ensure that all parties involved in their care have an opportunity to input to the education element of the formal Looked After Child (LAC) review process. The child/young person's Social Worker who initiates the process will send Section 5 of the PEP to the Carer or Residential Social Worker for completion. The roll out of PEPs began on 1 December 2011 and a PEP should be in place for every Looked After Child of compulsory school age by June 2013.

The Minister for Health, Edwin Poots, has advised my Department that in February 2010, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) issued guidance which all Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts are required to follow in considering the delegation of authority to foster carers. This includes kinship and respite carers. For the provision of education, HSC Trusts may delegate authority to foster carers in relation to: school day trips; trips abroad; post primary transition; change of school in other circumstances; meetings with school staff; accessing educational initiatives; and sports activities/organisations.

DHSSPS also supports the Fostering Achievement Scheme, which was established in 2006 and is delivered by the Health and Social Care Board through Fostering Network NI. The primary focus of the scheme is to give foster carers opportunities to secure educational and development support for the children they foster, based on the needs identified by the carer.

## **Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Subjects at GCSE and A Level**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education to detail the percentage increase in the uptake of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects at GCSE and A Level since the introduction of the STEM Action Plan.

**(AQW 11356/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The draft Government STEM strategy, 'Success Through STEM', was published in August 2010. Following a period of public consultation, the strategy was approved by the Executive in March 2011. The strategy sets out specific actions to be taken forward by my Department that include a clear focus on promoting the relevance of STEM-related subjects and courses.

Uptake of STEM subjects is measured using examination entries. Between 2009/10 and 2010/11, the proportion of GCSE entries in STEM subjects increased by 0.3 percentage points. Over the same time period, the proportion of entries in STEM A Level subjects increased by 0.5 percentage points.

It is of course important to point out that examination entries in 2010-11 will generally reflect subject choices made by pupils that pre-dated the introduction of the STEM strategy.

## **Review of the Common Funding Formula**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education whether the proposed review of the Common Funding Formula will take account of the recent developments in funding arrangements in other parts of the United Kingdom.

**(AQW 11359/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I have commissioned a wide ranging review to ensure that the Common Funding Scheme is fit for purpose, sufficiently targets social needs and is consistent with, and supports, Departmental policy objectives.

The review will consider evidence from a wide range of sources and will analyse best practice examples from other jurisdictions.

## **Review of the Common Funding Formula**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education whether the proposed review of the Common Funding Formula will examine the possibility of excluding teacher costs from the formula.

**(AQW 11360/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I have commissioned a wide ranging review to ensure that the Common Funding Scheme is fit for purpose, sufficiently targets social needs and is consistent with, and supports, Departmental policy objectives.

The review will consider evidence from a wide range of sources and will analyse best practice examples from other jurisdictions.

## **Enrolment Figures**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education, for each of the last five years, to detail the enrolment figures at (a) Ballymagee Primary School; (b) Kilmaine Primary School; (c) Ballyholme Primary School; (d) Towerview Primary School; (e) Bloomfield Road Primary School; and (f) Central Integrated Primary School in Bangor.

**(AQW 11426/11-15)**

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

#### **ENROLMENTS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE BANGOR AREA, 2007/08 – 2011/12**

<b>School name</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>
Ballyholme Primary School	600	598	584	593	618
Ballymagee Primary School	404	404	411	409	405
Bangor Central Primary School	562	558	563	572	577
Bloomfield Primary School	307	327	326	332	371
Kilmaine Primary School	654	661	664	670	667
Towerview Primary School	385	391	379	369	389

**Source:** School census

**Note:**

- 1 Figures include children in nursery, reception and year 1 – 7 classes, where applicable.

#### **Enrolment Numbers**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail the role of (i) a school; (ii) an Education and Library Board; and (iii) his Department when setting a cap on the enrolment number for a primary school.

**(AQW 11428/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** When setting the admissions and enrolment numbers of a primary school, the role of the school, Education and Library Board and the Department of Education are as set out in articles 11 and 12 of the Education (NI) Order 1997. Namely that the Department will determine the admissions and/or enrolment number of the school having regard to directions under Article 18 of the Education (NI) Order 1986 (the conditions of the school premises) and the accommodation available for use by the pupils at the school. The Department may also vary the admission and/or enrolment number of the school at any time. Before either setting the numbers or varying them the Department must consult with the Board of Governors of the school, the relevant Education and Library Board, and, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools where appropriate. Where a request to vary the numbers has come from the school itself this constitutes consultation and therefore the Department is not required to consult with the school a second time. Ultimately, after any such consultation has taken place, it is the Department's legal duty to set the school's numbers as it deems to be appropriate.

#### **Irish Language**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 10831/11-15, what contact his Department has had, or plans to have, with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools in relation to such protocols being introduced in primary schools.

**(AQW 11432/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department has not had any formal contact with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools about developing protocols for Irish medium Units and Streams. It will be for Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta to liaise with the school managing authorities when bringing forward Development proposals for new Irish medium provision.

#### **Joint Food in Schools Policy**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education when the Joint Food in Schools Policy will be published.

**(AQW 11437/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** As this is a joint policy with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety the Executive's approval will be required before it can be published.

I intend, along with the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, to seek Executive agreement on the policy as soon as possible. Subject to that agreement, it is intended to publish the policy early in the next school year.

### Unhealthy Packed Lunches

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education whether any schools have made interventions, similar to those highlighted in the case study of Langford Primary School, London, to address the issue of unhealthy packed lunches.

**(AQW 11438/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department is not aware of any schools that have undertaken initiatives such as that introduced by Langford Primary School in London.

The current arrangements require school authorities here to provide, in relation to nursery and primary schools, school dinners on every school day for day pupils who wish such provision and, in postprimary schools, dinners for those pupils entitled to free meals. Therefore, a school cannot compel children to take school lunches.

You may be interested to note that the School Food: The Essential Guide resource, published by the Public Health Agency (PHA), contains a series of practical guidance booklets designed to help schools improve pupils' nutrition and implement healthier eating and drinking practices. The section on healthier lunch boxes provides a step by step guide to how schools can support healthier food and drink choices by those children who choose to bring a packed lunch. A leaflet for parents of primary school children has also been produced by the PHA. It contains practical tips for parents, carers and children on how to pack an appetising, healthy lunchbox.

### Mobile Classrooms

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 10523/11-15, to which schools the mobile classrooms were provided.

**(AQW 11439/11-15)**

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

Financial Year	Additional Mobiles	Primary School
2008-09	2	Ballymena
2009-10	1	Clough
	2	Glenravel
2010-11	0	-
2011-12	1	St Brigids

### First Preference Nursery School Places

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) how many children in the Derry City Council area did not receive their first preference nursery school place, in the first round, for the 2012/13 academic year; and (ii) how many places are still available, broken down by electoral ward area.

**(AQW 11447/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I refer the Member to my answer to his earlier question, AQW 10490/11-15, which was published in the Official Report on 27 April 2012.

## C2K Services

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education what is the projected timescale for introducing C2k into nursery schools.

**(AQW 11452/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** C2k provides digital managed services for grant-aided primary, post primary and special schools. The digital services assist schools with their administration, management, learning and teaching and both teachers and pupils have access to various services. The latest C2k contract relates to grant-aided schools and there is no flexibility to extend the contract to the Nursery Sector.

However, I am aware that Nursery settings may benefit from access to certain C2k services. Scoping the need, producing a statement of requirements, approval of business cases, budgetary cover and procurement are all necessary steps in the process. In the current difficult financial climate I am unable to commit at this stage to a definite timescale.

## Viability Audits: Benchmark of Seven GCSEs for Selective Schools

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education why he has used the benchmark of seven GCSEs for selective schools in the viability audits, when he intends to end this target under the new regulations for target setting for schools.

**(AQW 11455/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The viability audits carried out by the Education and Library Boards used criteria agreed by them for benchmarking purposes. The educational criteria were based on Public Service Agreement targets, with additional attainment levels for grammar schools. I am content that they did so, since I believe that schools which operate academic selection should be judged against a higher standard than those which do not. I should add that, in current legislation, the seven GCSEs are not a target – rather, grammar schools must report on the percentage of their pupils who achieve Grades A\* - C in seven or more GCSEs.

My Department is currently consulting on proposed new regulations relating to target setting, school information and prospectuses and pupil records and reporting. The consultation is due to end on 21 September 2012. The final decision on which targets will be set and what information schools will be required to publish will be taken following an analysis of the responses to the consultation.

The proposed changes to the Regulations will ensure that the information schools are required to publish fully support and align with the Departments' policy direction, in particular the targets published in the Programme for Government, raising standards in schools and improving outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The proposed changes will also ensure consistency of reporting making it easier for parents to compare performance across all post primary schools and reduce the burden on schools by specifying the minimum requirements to be published.

It is important to emphasize that schools can continue to set and publish other performance indicators if they wish to do so.

## Enrolment Numbers

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 10997/11-15, to detail the schools in the North Eastern Education and Library Board area that exceeded their approved enrolment number without following the legally required steps; and what sanctions were applied.

**(AQW 11456/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The following schools exceeded their approved enrolment number without following the legally required steps.

School Year	School Name	Reason for Exceeding
2009/10	Ballymena Academy	Accepted 2 additional pupils into sixth form.
	Edmund Rice College	Lawfully accepted 1 pupil into Year 8 within the school's approved admissions number, however, a temporary variation to the school's enrolment number should have been sought. Accepted 3 additional pupils into sixth form.
	Magherafelt High School	Accepted 19 pupils following the closure of Maghera High School. There was no alternative provision in the controlled sector in the area.
2010/11	Dominican College, Portstewart	Accepted 2 additional pupils into sixth form.

Where a school is found to have exceeded its approved enrolment number without the Department's prior approval, the Department will seek an explanation from the school concerned and consider each case on its merits before deciding whether the imposition of sanctions is appropriate. In these cases the Department took the view that no sanction should be imposed.

It is Departmental policy to support the increasing numbers of children wishing to undertake sixth form studies. For the 2011/12 school year the Department introduced revised procedures for admission to sixth form. In future, any school found to have admitted pupils to sixth form without the Department's prior approval will expect to have sanctions imposed.

### Garvagh High School, Coleraine

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Education what was the change in the number of pupils attending Garvagh High School, Coleraine between 1 September 2011 and 1 May 2012.

**(AQW 11459/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Figures provided by Garvagh High School indicate that the enrolment dropped from 93 on 1st September 2011 to 60 pupils on 1st May 2012.

### Admissions Levels for Primary Schools

**Mrs McKevitt** asked the Minister of Education whether his Department altered the approved admissions level for any primary schools for the September 2012 intake.

**(AQW 11460/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Under Article 12 of the Education (NI) Order 1997 the Department may determine, and at any time vary (known as a temporary variation), a school's admissions number. The purpose of a temporary variation is to enable the Department to respond to particular demographic pressures in an area in any particular year, for example, where there are insufficient places in all schools within a particular education sector in an area to meet demand. Each year there will be demographic pressures in some areas but not in others, therefore, for each school year, including for admissions in the 2012/13 school year, the Department will have approved a limited number of temporary variations.

### Education Other Than At School System

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail the progression statistics to further education colleges and higher education institutes for pupils who completed Year 12 and Year 14 in the Education Other Than At School System in each of the last three academic years.

**(AQW 11465/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information requested is not currently available. As part of the 2010/11 School Leaver data, which collects the qualifications and destinations of pupils leaving grant aided post primary schools, the Department is piloting the receipt of a variable which indicates whether pupils enrolled at grant aided post primary schools are in Education Other Than at School. It is intended that this will become part of the School Leavers Survey data collection exercise in the future.

### Shared Education Advisory Group

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Education to detail the dates of all the meetings he has held in the last year in relation to establishing the Shared Education Advisory Group; and with whom these meetings were held.

**(AQW 11542/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am currently finalising the membership of the group, and I intend to establish it in the coming weeks.

### Accommodation Fund for the Irish-Medium Sector

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the Accommodation Fund for the Irish-medium sector, including the overall budget and spend so far; and (ii) whether such a fund is available for the integrated sector.

**(AQW 11543/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department has provided a capital grant of £2m to Iontaobhas na Gaelscolaíochta (InaG) for the purpose of improving sub standard accommodation in the Irish medium sector. This funding has been provided specifically to provide modular accommodation for developing schools in the Irish Medium sector which have not yet met the criteria to qualify for capital funding from the Department. To date the Department has approved spending from the fund amounting to £712,264.

A similar fund is not available to the integrated sector as there are only two schools in this sector which would be classed as developing schools which are currently housed in temporary accommodation. Schools in the integrated sector were provided with accommodation by the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) in the early stages of their development using a Club Bank arrangement. The Department had provided The Integrated Education Fund with funding to enable it to enter into arrangements with the banks to borrow the money necessary to provide accommodation for developing schools in the sector. Most of these schools have since proved viability and been vested in the schools estate.

### Mobile Classrooms

**Mr S Anderson** asked the Minister of Education how many mobile classrooms have been provided to (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary schools in (a) Banbridge; (b) Lurgan; and (c) Portadown in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 11552/11-15)**

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

Financial Year	Banbridge		Lurgan		Portadown	
	Primary	Post Primary	Primary	Post Primary	Primary	Post Primary
2007-08						
2008-09					1	
2009-10	1	1			1	
2010-11						
2011-12	2		1	2 double (i.e 4 rooms)	3	2



## Listed Properties

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister of Education to detail listed properties that are owned by his Department.

**(AQW 11556/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department of Education does not own any properties that are listed.

## Relationship and Sexuality Education in Schools

**Mr Lunn** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW10553/11-15, whether the flexibility that is referred to in his answer, allows schools, because of their religious ethos, to regard homosexuality as being sinful, and to exclude the subject from their teaching on Relationships and Sexuality Education.

**(AQW 11624/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Revised Curriculum taught to all pupils of compulsory school age in grant-aided schools does provide teachers with the flexibility to use their professional judgement, across all curricular areas, to tailor their teaching to meet the needs of their pupils. All schools should have a Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) policy, setting out how the school will address RSE. They should consult on the content of the policy with pupils and parents and it should be endorsed by their Board of Governors. This means that whole school planning is vital to ensure RSE is taught appropriately within a meaningful context.

RSE is an important element within the Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (primary) and Learning for Life and Work (post-primary) areas of learning in the revised curriculum. At primary level the focus is primarily on enabling pupils to understand how to sustain their health and develop their self esteem and self confidence. At post-primary level Personal Health and Relationships are two strands within the Learning for Life and Work area of learning. At Key Stage 4 the Personal Development strand of Learning for Life and Work aims to enable pupils to develop their understanding of relationships and sexuality and the responsibilities of healthy relationships.

Schools teach within that framework and the Department has made them aware of guidance produced by the Equality Commission on Eliminating Sexual Orientation Discrimination. All students/pupils have the right to learn in a safe environment, to be treated with respect and dignity and not be treated any less favourably on grounds of their actual or perceived sexual orientation. This guidance relates to the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (NI) 2006, therefore in developing or reviewing their RSE policy, schools should take account of the Equality Commission's Guidance.

## Schools: Asbestos

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education to outline his Department's policy on asbestos in school buildings and the extent to which this has been implemented by the Education and Library Boards.

**(AQO 1956/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Following the introduction of the control of Asbestos at Work Regulations (NI) 2003 and the Control of Asbestos (NI Order) 2007 the Education and Library Boards arranged for asbestos assessments to be carried out across the schools' estate to ascertain the extent of asbestos containing materials present.

Any asbestos containing materials that were identified during assessments as being 'High Risk' were removed following the assessment.

Government policy is that provided asbestos is in good condition and is unlikely to be disturbed, it is better managed for the remaining life of the school rather than to disturb it. Asbestos is however removed if it is likely to be disturbed as a result of refurbishments or other work carried out at a school.

All schools in the estate are required to have an asbestos register that is available for inspection by anyone carrying out work at the school or for information purposes.



## Ministerial Advisory Group on Shared Education

**Mr P Maskey** asked the Minister of Education when he intends to launch the Ministerial Advisory Group on Shared Education.

**(AQO 1947/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am currently considering terms of reference and potential membership with a view to establishing the Ministerial Advisory Group on advancing shared education in the coming weeks.

## Schools: Autism

**Mr Dickson** asked the Minister of Education what support his Department provides for children with autism.

**(AQO 1948/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My priority is to ensure that every child, including those with autism, receives a high quality education and to that end I am continuing to put in place a range of policies aimed at raising standards for all pupils, including the school improvement policy and the Review of Special Educational Needs and Inclusion.

The Review of Special Educational Needs and Inclusion prioritises the focus on early identification of needs and early intervention by schools, supported by the Education and Library Boards, and improved collaboration between health and education bodies to support schools in meeting the needs of their pupils.

Education and Library Boards have dedicated Autistic Spectrum Disorder Support Teams providing tailored support to match the individual needs of each child in order to ensure that each child can reach his or her full potential;

There has been significant investment by my Department in support for those with autism since the publication of the Task Group Report on Autism in 2002 including a range of autism resources to schools.

In addition the new Autism Act places a statutory duty on the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to prepare an autism strategy in conjunction with all other Departments. My officials are working closely with DHSSPS officials in developing this strategy

Furthermore the Middletown Centre for Autism continues to provide support to schools, families and educational professionals.

## Teachers: Employment

**Mr Clarke** asked the Minister of Education what measures he will take to reduce the volume of supply staff and open up more permanent positions, given that less than 10 percent of newly qualified teachers, who registered with the General Teaching Council in 2010/11, secured permanent employment

**(AQO 1949/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am keen to ensure that newly qualified teachers (NQTs) are afforded every opportunity to obtain full-time positions.

The number and type of vacancies for which NQTs may be eligible to apply is primarily influenced by decisions made by schools on the basis of the funding they receive under the Local Management of Schools' (LMS) Common Funding Formula arrangements.

Data from the General Teaching at January 2012 shows that 70% of teachers who graduated here in 2007 have gained a permanent or a significant temporary teaching post (ie employment for one term or more and not including substitute /supply teachers).

However, my Department has taken measures to maximise the employment opportunities for NQTs including:

- reducing intakes to courses of initial teacher education by 25% since 2004/05; and
- discouraging the re-employment of prematurely retired teachers through provision of employer guidance, and changes to pay, premature retirement, and LMS funding arrangements.

I am currently finalising, in liaison with Stephen Farry, a draft strategy for the way forward for teacher education.

### **Primary Schools: Area Planning**

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister of Education whether each Education and Library Board is working towards the same deadline for primary schools to submit their responses to the Primary Area Planning Consultation.

**(AQO 1950/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Terms of Reference for Area Planning indicate that area plans for primary schools should be submitted to my Department by the end of June 2012.

As part of the planning process, the Boards are expected to actively engage with schools, boards of governors and all other educational interests.

It will be a matter for each Board to manage the process to secure stakeholder views and ideas which will inform the development of the area plans. This includes setting the timetable for such submissions.

It is important to note that area planning is not a one off exercise but an ongoing process. I will seek to ensure that there will be ample opportunity throughout the process for interested parties to make their views known, including through formal consultation.

### **Strabane Academy**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Education where the Strabane Academy Campus new build project lies within his list of priorities.

**(AQO 1951/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am not currently in a position to comment on any specific school, or potential project that may be considered for capital investment.

I have previously stated that no school will be looked at in isolation but must be considered in the context of the wider area.

The work on area planning is being taken forward at this time and will in due course identify priorities for capital investment.

However, in the interim there is a need to ensure capital funding is utilised to improve the schools estate.

Therefore I have asked my officials to consider an interim process for the identification of major school projects, which are consistent with and supportive of the Area Planning work and in which capital investment can be made in the coming period.

### **Schools: Unused Buildings**

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Education how many school buildings belonging to the Education and Library Boards and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools are currently not in use.

**(AQO 1953/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department can only provide information on those schools belonging to the Education and Library Boards that are currently not in use. At present there are 21 completely vacant schools in the Board areas.

Schools in the maintained sector are owned by the Trustees and my Department does not hold information on the number or use of vacant schools in this sector.

### **Schools: Admissions**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Education if he has discussed, with Executive colleagues, the removal of the legislative protection requiring that Northern Ireland schools give priority to pupils who are resident in Northern Ireland.

**(AQO 1954/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am studying the residency criteria. The current residency criterion may not be in keeping with current concepts of mobility and cross border flexibility and are unsympathetic to the way families in the border area live their lives and access services, including education.

The residency policy may also be contrary to EU obligations under the Treaty on the Functioning of Europe (TFEU) and also with relevant provisions of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union such as Article 14 (right to education) and Article 24 (rights of the child).

It would therefore be my intention to bring forward proposals in due course to amend the relevant legislative to remove any such barriers.

### **DE: Capital Budget 2012-13**

**Mr G Kelly** asked the Minister of Education how he intends to spend his capital budget for 2012-13 in light of the Area Planning process.

**(AQO 1955/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The total gross capital budget for the Department in 2012/13 is £104.1m, and is required to cover investment in transport, ICT, youth, early years, minor works and committed major works, as well a number of other capital requirements.

The work on area planning is being taken forward at this time and will in due course identify priorities for capital investment. However, in the interim there is a need to ensure capital funding is utilised to improve the schools estate.

Therefore I have asked my officials to consider an interim process for the identification of major school projects, which are consistent with and supportive of the Area Planning work and in which capital investment can be made in the coming period.

I will announce further details in due course.

## **Department for Employment and Learning**

### **Scottish Meat Training Qualifications**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 10392/11-15, why the contract with the Food and Drink Council was withdrawn in May 2010.

**(AQW 10977/11-15)**

**Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning):** The contract to deliver ApprenticeshipsNI was withdrawn from the Food and Drink Training Council on 28 May 2010 due to poor quality delivery and results.

## School-Leavers in the South Belfast Area

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what provision is in place for school-leavers in the South Belfast area who wish to train in the construction trade.

**(AQW 11091/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Training for Success programme provides a guaranteed training place for all eligible unemployed young people aged 16 and 17 (or up to age 24 for those with extended eligibility) in an occupational area of their choice. This includes a Programme-Led Apprenticeship training opportunity which allows the young person to gain an industry recognised apprenticeship framework at Level 2 in a chosen skill area and then to progress to a Level 3 apprenticeship on securing employment.

ApprenticeshipsNI is an employer-led training programme for those in employment. The programme offers a training opportunity for apprentices to equip them with the knowledge, understanding and competence to work at a high level in their chosen occupation and fulfil the requirements of an industry recognised apprenticeship framework. The programme is open to those who have reached school leaving age, are either entering or already in employment and contracted to work a minimum of 21 hours per week.

Construction apprenticeships are offered in a range of skill areas, encompassing the general building sector, civil engineering, construction specialist sector, plumbing, electrical and heating/ventilation.

There are currently 86 participants, with addresses in the South Belfast area, undertaking apprenticeship training via the programme-led apprenticeship and ApprenticeshipsNI programmes.

The Belfast Metropolitan College offers the following further education full-time courses:

- Level 2 Diploma in Wall and Floor Tiling;
- EDEXCEL Level 2 BTEC Diploma in Construction (Qualifications and Credit Framework); and
- EDEXCEL Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment (Qualifications and Credit Framework).

The college offers the following part-time provision through evening study:

- City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing (Qualifications and Credit Framework).

## Places at Universities and Third Level Colleges in Scotland

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many students (i) applied for; and (ii) secured places at universities and third level colleges in Scotland in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 11223/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) for NI domiciled applicants and accepted applicants to institutions in Scotland, in each of the last 3 years, is detailed below: -

Academic Year	Applicants	Accepted Applicants
2009/10	5,131	1,071
2010/11	5,770	1,076
2011/12	6,165	1,073

**Source:** Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

### Notes:

- 1 The latest available data for applicants and accepted applicants are for 2011/12.
- 2 Students can choose to apply for up to 5 courses throughout the UK via UCAS. Figures for applicants should therefore be approached with caution as applicants who have applied for a course in a particular country may accept a place in a different country.

## **Programmes to Help Ex-Members of the Security Forces Back into Employment**

**Mr B McCrea** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he is aware of any programmes to help ex-members of the security forces to get back into employment.

**(AQW 11238/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** While there are no programmes specifically to help ex-members of the security forces back into employment, ex regular members of HM forces and other security services personnel (including police officers and prison officers) have the opportunity for immediate access to all elements of the Steps to Work programme on becoming unemployed.

Normally eligibility to undertake the work experience, training and work related qualifications elements of the programme is restricted to those who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for 13 weeks or more.

## **Deputy Principal Vacancies**

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail whether there are any Deputy Principal vacancies in his Department in the North West region, including the location of each vacancy.

**(AQW 11499/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** As of 11 May 2012, there are no Deputy Principal vacancies in the North West region within the Department for Employment and Learning.

## **Universities: Student Support**

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what assistance is available for people to study university courses in Northern Ireland after they have raised a family.

**(AQO 1964/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Higher Education is available to all eligible Northern Ireland domiciled students and my Department recognises that lifelong learning is essential to meet the changing needs of society by means of a suitably skilled workforce and by allowing everyone to reach their full potential.

Mature students of any age can avail of a range of full-time, part-time and flexible distance-learning higher education courses which can often be tailored to meet their work/life commitments.

Mature students are regarded as a "priority group" for assistance from the Department's Support Funds. The Support Funds, which are administered and paid directly by the Northern Ireland universities, are aimed at those who are facing financial hardship or are considering leaving their course due to financial difficulties. Similar funds are available at Higher Education Institutions in England, Scotland and Wales.

## **Further and Higher Education: Cross-border Links**

**Mr McCartney** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how his Department will further enhance and develop cross-border linkages within Further and Higher Education.

**(AQO 1965/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** In the recently published "Graduating to Success: A Higher Education Strategy for Northern Ireland" I have stated that my Department will work in partnership with the higher education institutions and the Irish Government to reduce the obstacles to student mobility between north and south and to implement the recommendations of the IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council report on undergraduate mobility.

My Department is actively involved in encouraging North-South links through:

- support and promotion of the European student mobility programme Erasmus; and
- financial assistance to the secretariat of Universities Ireland and to the prestigious Undergraduate Awards Ireland and Northern Ireland.

A North/South Framework Steering Group chaired by InterTradeIreland and including representation from my Department has been established to increase the number of North/South applications for the European Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7)

The potential for Framework applications involving North/South partners, and the potential opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), will be the subject of a major conference on European research funding to be held in Belfast in June. I expect this conference, entitled "Collaborate to Innovate – Research and Innovation Funding for SMEs", to involve Commission representation at the highest level.

When I met with my counterpart, Ruairi Quinn TD, in September 2011, we discussed the possibility of working collaboratively in border areas to promote and stimulate student mobility.

Republic of Ireland students make use of further education colleges in Northern Ireland, with almost 4,500 enrolments in the 2010/11 academic year.

FE colleges have developed links with Institutes of Technology in the South, through European Union (EU) funded programmes like INTERREG and the Lifelong Learning Programme.

### **Higher Education Achievement Awards**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether business leaders have endorsed the Higher Education Achievement Awards.

**(AQO 1961/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Higher Education Achievement Report has been developed by a UK wide Steering Group, under the leadership of Sir Bob Burgess. In order to promote awareness the steering group engaged directly with business leaders and employers including the Council for Industry and Higher Education, Confederation of British Industry, Institute of Directors and the Federation of Small Businesses to promote awareness and use of the report. Consequently whilst formal endorsement has not yet been agreed, indications are that the sector is content with, and welcoming of the Higher Education Achievement Report.

The Department's Strategy for Higher Education, 'Graduating to Success' records my commitment to work with the sector to support the introduction of the Higher Education Achievement Report which will supplement the traditional degree classification.

### **Higher Education Strategy**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning why the Higher Education Strategy has a bias in favour of all-Ireland promotions and no vision for East/West links.

**(AQO 1966/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Higher Education Strategy does not have a bias in favour of all-Ireland promotions to the detriment of East/West Links. My Department has strong links at all levels with the other UK Devolved Administrations on higher education policy and the Strategy is set within the wider context of the United Kingdom higher education system. Northern Ireland's universities are also measured against their counterparts in the rest of the UK in terms of research, teaching quality and student satisfaction.

Around a quarter of Northern Ireland-domiciled students attend universities elsewhere in the United Kingdom. Indeed, there are proportionally fewer students from England, Scotland and Wales attending universities in Northern Ireland than vice versa. I have decided to make students from Great Britain exempt from the Maximum Student Number from September 2012, thus removing potential barriers to Northern Ireland's higher education institutions attracting such students.

I have also committed to providing full fee loans for Northern Ireland students who choose to study elsewhere in the United Kingdom.



However, it is important to maximise the choices available to our students and, therefore, it is appropriate that the Higher Education Strategy also promotes undergraduate mobility between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, which has the potential for growth.

### **DEL: Cost of Division**

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of how the cost of a divided society impacts on his Department.

**(AQO 1967/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** I have identified three areas within my Department where differential costs arise due to divisions in society.

Cost of division is a very real issue in relation to the Initial Teacher Education institutions. Stage One of the review of Initial Teacher Education is currently examining the sustainability of the two colleges. Stage Two, however, will consider the potential savings from alternative approaches. All proposals at that time will be subject to shared future policy proofing.

There are two separate employment tribunals in Northern Ireland: the Fair Employment Tribunal and Industrial Tribunals. My Department has taken a number of steps to minimise the impact of having two separate tribunals. For example, they are subject to shared management and administration arrangements, and the Fair Employment Tribunal can now deal with cases incorporating matters which previously would have required separate proceedings to be taken before an industrial tribunal. The administration of the tribunals is due to transfer later this year to the Courts and Tribunals Service.

My Department has a network of 35 Jobs and Benefits Offices/JobCentres which deliver frontline employment and careers services. When planning for future development of the local office estate, cost of division issues will be factored in to considerations.

### **Graduate Employment**

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what schemes are currently available to find students employment after they finish university.

**(AQO 1968/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Through the work of my Careers Service and the Careers Service in the universities, most graduates secure employment quickly after graduation. However, since the economic downturn it is more difficult for all to find employment. For those who do not, the Graduate Acceleration Programme is available. It was introduced in January 2010 as part of my Department's Steps to Work programme, was developed to help unemployed or economically inactive graduates overcome the difficulties they are experiencing in trying to find employment in the current economic downturn. The Graduate Acceleration Programme gives participants the opportunity to undertake a 26 week work experience placement specifically designed to enhance their job prospects. Whilst on this provision, participants also undertake a vocational qualification aimed at improving their employability skills.

In addition, my Department's INTRO programme, delivered by Parity Solutions Ltd, is a 24 week management programme for 100 graduates each year, from all degree and Higher National Diplomas. Participants are employed by their host companies and work on a specific business improvement project while also receiving intensive management training leading to an Advanced Diploma in Management.

### **Higher Education: Rural Areas**

**Mr Doherty** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how his Department intends to improve access to higher education for people in rural areas.

**(AQO 1969/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** I am committed to ensuring that higher education and the opportunities that it brings should be available to all of those who have the ability to benefit from it, regardless of their background or location.

The recently published Higher Education Strategy, 'Graduating to Success' details my Department's intention, in co-operation with the higher and further education sectors, to develop a pilot scheme for the creation of university bases at the further education colleges as a means of making higher education more accessible to those in rural areas.

The pilot scheme will provide the opportunity for higher education students to undertake distance learning at the further education colleges, with access to the university materials and resources they need on a planned basis.

It is intended that the pilot will take place at one of the further education colleges in the 2013/14 academic year. The pilot will be reviewed in academic year 2014/15 and, subject to the outcome of the review, identified further education colleges will provide access to university resources in subsequent years.

### **Apprenticeships: Upper Bann**

**Mr S Anderson** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an update on apprenticeship provision in the Upper Bann constituency.

**(AQO 1970/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** There are currently 11,331 apprentices, 221 who are undertaking training with suppliers in the Upper Bann constituency.

## Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

### **Promoting Tourism Products and Facilities**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the amount spent by her Department and its arm's-lengths bodies on promoting tourism products and facilities in each of the last ten years; (ii) her Department's total spend on promoting tourism products and facilities in Fermanagh in each of the last ten years; and (iii) what the spend on Fermanagh represents as a percentage of the total spend on promoting tourism products and facilities in each year.

**(AQW 10675/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment):** Table A details the amount invested by NITB for the promotion of tourism products and facilities over the last 7 financial years. Due to NITB financial records disposal schedule records can only be extracted for this period.

**TABLE A:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Investment £</b>
2005/2006	1,142,000
2006/2007	1,425,146
2007/2008	976,751
2008/2009	4,186,000*
2009/2010	3,829,000
2010/2011	4,148,012
2011/2012	4,690,000

\* Total spend for autumn08/spring 09 campaigns =£3,213,609.29

Table B details the amount allocated to Tourism Ireland from the NI Executive over the last 5 years. Tourism Ireland's expenditure on the promotion of Northern Ireland overseas cannot be broken down on a county-by-county basis.



**TABLE B**

	<b>NI Executive Allocation</b>
2008/09	£16.42M
2009/10	£15.75M
2010/11	£15.79M
2011/12	£15.32M plus an additional £1.5M to boost Tourism Ireland's promotion of Northern Ireland in the Great Britain market.
2012/13	£14.85M plus an additional £4.7M to boost Tourism Ireland's ni2012-specific promotional activity.

Table C details the amount NITB has invested in the promotion of Fermanagh since autumn 2008. Records are only available from Autumn 2008 on the investment levels by region, as the agency contracted by NITB prior to 2008 is no longer in existence. For this reason the 2008/2009 figure only includes the autumn08/spring 09 expenditure and not full year costs.

**TABLE C:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Investment £</b>
Autumn 2008/09	440,036.81
2009/10	339,535.24
2010/11	504,406.34
2011/12	498,583.02

Tourism Ireland's expenditure on the promotion of Northern Ireland overseas cannot be broken down on a county-by-county basis.

Table D shows investment levels promoting Fermanagh in each of the years for which financial records and media information is available. Records are only available from autumn 2008 for reasons outlined at (ii) above.

**TABLE D:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Investment £</b>
Autumn 2008/2009	13.69%
2009/10	8.87%
2010/11	12.16%
2011/12	10.63%

Tourism Ireland's expenditure on the promotion of Northern Ireland overseas cannot be broken down on a county-by-county basis.

### **Legal Action Over Procurement Between Enterprise Northern Ireland and InvestNI**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) what is the estimated total cost to the public purse of the legal action over procurement between Enterprise Northern Ireland and InvestNI; (ii) why InvestNI did not concede at an earlier stage that the procurement process at issue was flawed; and (iii) what are the budgetary implications of this degree of spend on legal fees.

**(AQW 10746/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI's legal costs are estimated to be approximately £90,000 - £95,000 plus VAT. In addition, as part of the settlement reached between both parties, it was agreed that a contribution towards ENI's legal costs would be made. Invest NI's proportion of that contribution is £14,000.

Invest NI does not accept that the procurement process was flawed. During the first four days of the recent hearings, ENI made some extremely strong and, in some instances, personalised allegations against Invest NI which the organization, rightly, felt compelled to address in public before any decision on the future direction of the case could be taken.

Invest NI recognised that the legal challenge and trial were taking much longer than anticipated and this was continuing to impact adversely on the provision of a full business start support programme for those members of the public who may be interested in starting a business. As the proposed contract under scrutiny would only run until September 2013, any further delays would have a detrimental impact on the logistics of organising and introducing a new service of this type.

On this basis, the Parties, whilst continuing to differ in their views in relation to the issues raised in the litigation, agreed that Invest NI would terminate the current procurement process, and that the legal action would end, on the basis that Invest NI will be going back out to the market with a revised proposal for the provision of a business start service.

The legal fees incurred are contained within Invest NI's overall budget.

### **Tourism Potential of Carlingford Lough, the Mourne Mountain Range and the Cooley Mountain Range**

**Ms Ruane** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given the attractiveness and the tourism potential of Carlingford Lough, the Mourne Mountain range and the Cooley Mountain range, whether she will consider promoting this area as a single tourism destination for overseas and domestic visitors.

**(AQW 10908/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The consultation with the industry around a Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland led to the identification of 9 key tourism destinations across Northern Ireland including the Mournes. NITB has worked with the local councils in each area and a Destination Plan is in place and a Destination Forum established for the Mournes area.

The Mourne and Carlingford regions feature in Tourism Ireland's set of "Go" films, a series of short films which feature real local characters introducing their favourite 'hidden gems'. The films feature on Tourism Ireland's suite of 42 websites and have been used extensively as part of Tourism Ireland's promotional campaigns in key overseas markets and have been viewed by over 1.3 million people worldwide.

Tourism Ireland, working closely with the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Fáilte Ireland, invites and flies in overseas travel and lifestyle media and travel trade representatives to visit a range of attractions in the Mourne and Carlingford regions. Tourism industry partners from the Carlingford and Mourne regions also joined Tourism Ireland at consumer and trade promotions overseas and also submit special offers to Tourism Ireland for inclusion in its special offers campaign on discoverireland.com.

### **Social Entrepreneurship Programme**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in relation to the Social Entrepreneurship Programme which ended on 31 March 2012, to detail (i) her Department's assessment of the success of the programme; and (ii) when a replacement programme will be in place.

**(AQW 10919/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI's Social Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP) was operational between June 2009 and March 2012. As part of its programme protocol, Invest NI commissioned an independent evaluation which was completed in February 2012. In three years the programme supported 136 new start-ups with 426 jobs created. Additionally £280,000 of grant assistance helped new social

enterprises leverage £8.4million from other funding sources. Economic benefits have included new social enterprises creating £6.3million in revenue including an average of £300,000 annually in export sales.

Work is underway on an appraisal of a new programme and subject to internal Invest NI approval; this is likely to be tendered in late June and operational in September.

### **Business Start-Up Programme**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in relation to the Business Start-Up Programme and the completion of the legal action between Enterprise NI and InvestNI, when a new business start-up programme will be (i) tendered; and (ii) operational.

**(AQW 10923/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI is currently finalising internal approvals for future start up provision and is working with Central Procurement Directorate to finalise the terms of reference for a new tender process. The tender is expected to be issued in May 2012.

The tender will be required to be published in the Official Journal of the European Community (OJEC) and potential bidders will have 40 days from the date of publication to submit their tenders. Invest NI will then assess the tenders with an award decision anticipated to be communicated in July 2012 and a new contract for delivery is expected to commence as soon as practicable thereafter.

### **Banks Lending Money to Small and Medium-Sized Businesses**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) what improvements have been made to banks lending money to small and medium-sized businesses in each of the last two years; and (ii) what improvements are still required.

**(AQW 10930/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** A stable and competitive banking sector that meets the needs of businesses and individuals is vital for economic recovery in Northern Ireland. This is reflected in the Executive's Economic Strategy which was published in March. While DETI has no statutory control of the banking sector, I have met with representatives of the main banks in Northern Ireland to emphasise the importance of supporting business development and growth. In addition, the Finance Minister has been liaising with representatives from local banks, the British Bankers Association (BBA), the Bank of England, and UK and Irish Governments to ensure local SMEs have reliable and fair access to finance.

In particular, Minister Wilson has been pressing to ensure that the 17 recommendations contained within the BBA Business Finance Taskforce report are implemented by local banks in Northern Ireland. These recommendations are aimed at improving access to finance and general relationships between banks and customers, and have led to a number of improvements being implemented to date, including:

- 1 an independent appeals process for businesses that have been denied access to bank credit. This was formally launched in November 2011 and it is encouraging that the four main local Northern Ireland banks have implemented the new independent appeals process. It is hoped that this will lead to a more fair and transparent banking sector;
- 2 banks are now required to provide signposting to alternative sources of finance. Successful implementation will ensure customers receive information and advice if their loan application is declined and banks will also raise awareness about the financial solutions customers could consider;
- 3 a business mentoring scheme has also been launched as part of the Better Business Finance initiative. The mentors who have joined the scheme all have experience in the banking industry and will be able to assist local SMEs in sourcing appropriate forms of business finance.

While BBA lending data suggest that loan approval rates are holding consistent at around 90%, new lending is still declining and there are suggestions that the cost and conditions attached to credit remain significant issues. Access to suitable and sufficient finance remains vital to our economic

recovery and both I and the Finance Minister continue to monitor this situation closely and will engage with all relevant stakeholders to this end.

Indeed, I recently announced that the Economic Advisory Group, chaired by Kate Barker, will be undertaking a focused and short term exercise to examine if there are any gaps in the provision of finance and what might be done differently by the Executive to ensure our SMEs have the necessary access to finance for them to start and grow their businesses. I look forward to seeing what recommendations they bring forward as a result of that review.

### **InterTradelreland's Fusion Programme**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to list the companies or third level partnerships that have been established on the island of Ireland through InterTradelreland's FUSION Programme.

**(AQW 10931/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The purpose of the FUSION Programme is to assist existing businesses in becoming more competitive through developing new products and processes, or through developing and implementing new technologies through a three way partnership. This includes a host company and a third level research institute, one from each jurisdiction, together with a high calibre science or technology graduate.

The names of the companies who have completed and benefited from the successful FUSION Programme are as follows:-

- Abbey Training Services
- Actovation Ltd
- Appletree Press
- B9 Energy (O&M) Ltd
- Biocolor Ltd
- Bio-Kinetic Europe Ltd
- Biznet IIS Ltd
- Blaney Motor Company
- Blast & Quarry Surveys
- BMF Business Services
- Breezemount Electrical & Hydraulics Ltd
- Creative Composites Ltd
- Delta Print and Packaging Ltd
- Devenish Nutrition
- Digestors, Silos and Tanks T/a Silotank Ltd
- Etain Ltd
- Fast Engineering Ltd
- GRP Systems
- Intelliden
- Kelvatech
- Meridio Holdings Ltd
- Mindmill formerly Laing Consulting Ltd
- Mobile Cohesions Ltd
- Mooney's Bakery
- Moorings Mediquip
- New Media Warehouse Ltd T/a Synergy Learning Ltd
- Patterson Protective Coatings Ltd
- Pure Marine Gen Ltd
- Redbay Boats Ltd
- Sensor Technology and Devices Ltd
- Steves Cakes Ltd
- Stiona Software Ltd
- W.G. Buchanan & Son Ltd
- XenoSense Ltd
- Clarehill Plastics Ltd
- Evron Foods Ltd
- Initiative Economic Development Ltd
- Island Salads
- John Woods Ltd
- Kitchen Bakes Ltd
- McElmeel Mobility Services
- Reflex Mouldings Ltd
- Fusion Antibodies
- Adesco Nutricines Ltd
- BMA Geoservices Ltd
- Deycom Computer Services

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- Pressure Hydraulics Ltd
  - TE Laboratories Ltd
  - Aine's Chocolates
  - Carlton Cake Company Ltd
  - Kenny Informations Systems
  - Vellum Gold Ltd
  - ABC Nutrition Ltd
  - Advanced Technology Management Services
  - ASA Marketing Group
  - Clinical Conduct Associates Ltd
  - Coolmore Fresh Foods Ltd
  - CyberColloids Ltd
  - Enbio Ltd
  - Fastnet Mussels Ltd
  - Glantreo Ltd
  - Globe Technical Services Ltd
  - Kedco Group Ltd
  - Marigot Ltd
  - Nautical Enterprise Centre Ltd
  - Reprodoc Ltd
  - Solvotrin Therapeutics Ltd
  - 360 Production Ltd
  - Foyle P.A.C. Ltd
  - Foyle Technologies Ltd
  - Limavady Gear Co. Ltd
  - Milgro
  - Millar Savoury Foods Ltd
  - Opt2vote Ltd
  - Scott McClelland t/a North West Electronics
  - Specialist Joinery Fittings Ltd
  - Andronics Ltd
  - E&I Engineering
  - Sperrin Metal Products Ltd
  - Barry Electronics Ltd
  - Bluestack Brewing Ltd
  - Carberry Holiday Parks Ltd
  - Claddagh Resources Ltd
  - Donegal Harvest Ltd
  - Donegal HealthCare Ltd
  - Fleming Engineering Ltd
  - Fluid Controls Ltd
  - Inishowen Engineering
  - Instinct Technology
  - Masol Ireland Ltd
  - Nvolve Ltd
  - R A Pacaisti Teoranta
  - Rockall Marine Ltd
  - Trinity Innovations Ltd
  - Wiss Medi Teo
  - Atlanfish Ltd
  - Around Noon Sandwiches Ltd
  - Crossgar Meats Ltd
  - DJV Insulations
  - Herron Engineering
  - ITS New Media Ltd
  - J & P Best
  - Media Lightbox Ltd
  - Orchard Fresh Foods Ltd
  - Quality Timber Frames Ltd
  - ReGen Waste Ltd
  - S.K. Electrical Services
  - Sembarc Ltd
  - Abba Employment Agency t/a Action Recruitment
  - Agricultural Trust Ltd
  - Aircraft Mgment Technologies Ltd
  - AllinAll Ingredients Ltd
  - Authentik Language Learning Ltd
  - Big River Ltd
  - Celtic Catalysts Ltd
  - CFMA Holding Ltd
  - Country Crest Ltd
  - Eberts Ltd
  - Impedans Ltd
  - James Hackett (Ireland) Ltd
  - Leap Broadband
  - Leo Fashions Ltd
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- Occidental Tourist Ltd
  - Real Time Technologies Ltd
  - Renley Ltd
  - Sigmoid Pharma Ltd
  - SNC Engineering
  - Sonidel Ltd
  - SOTA Orthopaedics Ltd
  - SysXNet Ltd
  - Taltech Engineering Holdings Ltd
  - Vigitrust Ltd
  - Voicesage Ltd
  - Archaeological Development Services (ADS) Ltd
  - Greyhound Waste Disposal Company Ltd
  - Reduce, Reuse & Recycle Ltd
  - Bite Snack Foods Ltd
  - Erne Concrete Pumping
  - Jak-A-Box Ltd
  - Teemore Engineering Ltd
  - The Print Factory
  - Clada Mineral Water Company Ltd
  - Creganna Ltd
  - Crospon Ltd
  - Fintrax
  - Foireann BDS
  - Irish Composites
  - JFC Plastics
  - Marcon Computations International Ltd
  - MBCS Ltd T/a Cut-E Consulting
  - Oasis Information Systems Ltd
  - Outsource Technical Concepts
  - PPA Teo
  - Roche Manufacturing Ltd
  - Sheridan's Cheesemongers
  - Synecco Ltd
  - Topform Ltd
  - Vivasure Medical Ltd
  - Window & Roofing Concepts
  - BioAtlantis Ltd
  - Ash Technologies Ltd
  - Enviritech Engineering
  - Goldreed Holdings Ltd
  - Imperative Energy Ltd
  - Killarney Telecommunications Ltd
  - Patrick Cahill (Graiguenamanagh) Ltd T/a Cahill Truck Bodies
  - Prochem Engineering Ltd
  - Refrigeration Engineering Ltd
  - C.J. Sheeran Ltd
  - Fingleton White & Co Ltd
  - Breffni (Ireland) Ltd
  - Cora Systems Ltd
  - Country Cooking Co Ltd
  - TMC Engineering
  - Vistamed Ltd
  - Almir Business Ltd
  - Bright Solutions Ltd
  - ClarePak Ltd
  - PLC Ingredients Ltd
  - Shannon Minerals Ltd
  - TRUpour Ltd
  - Anord Control Systems Ltd
  - Aptec Business Systems Ltd
  - Brandt Translations Ltd
  - Caffrey Monumental Works Ltd
  - Cleanroom Equipment Ltd
  - Dunraven Systems Ltd
  - Farrell Bros Ltd
  - Horseware Products Ltd
  - Irish Breeze Ltd
  - Keen-M Imports Ltd
  - Microclean Environmental Ltd
  - Mor Solutions
  - Nature's Best Ltd
  - Optimum Results Ltd
  - Ovelle Ltd
  - Seafood Processors Ltd (Ocean Fresh)
  - Smarthomes Ltd
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- Suretank Ltd
  - The Real Irish Food Company
  - TSM Control Systems Ltd
  - AnaCores Ltd
  - Killala Precision Components Ltd
  - Sheila's Mayo
  - BMCC Energy Ltd T/a Enersol
  - Clonarn Clover Ltd
  - Dromone Engineering Ltd
  - Faughan Foods Ltd
  - Garlester
  - Green Farm Foods Ltd
  - JM Foods Ltd
  - Royal Masterpeace Ltd
  - Securicabin Ltd
  - Castlecoole Ltd
  - Combi-Lift Ltd
  - Essexford Joinery Ltd
  - Greenfield Foods Ltd
  - IGWT Poultry Services Ltd
  - Kelly Brothers Ltd
  - McAree Engineering Ltd
  - McNally & Finlay Ltd t/a Rossmore Furniture
  - Sillis Green Veg Ltd
  - The Real Meal Company Ltd
  - Tru Wood Ltd
  - Ward Industries Ltd
  - Wright Quarry Products Ltd
  - Harney Enterprises (Tullamore) Ltd
  - O Donohue's Bakery Ltd
  - Romaquip Ltd
  - Wilker Auto Conversion Ltd
  - 3touch Ltd
  - DunCarrig Spring Ltd
  - System Label Ltd
  - Hookablemedia Ltd
  - Lotus Technical Services
  - O'Hara Gutters Ltd
  - JF Walsh (Roscrea) Ltd
  - Kingmore Ltd
  - Champion Concrete Products Ltd
  - A.N. Irwin & Son Ltd
  - Aughter Co-Op
  - Axon Power & Control Ltd
  - Carmac Waste Handling Ltd
  - CDE Ireland Ltd
  - CK International Ltd
  - Cloughbane Farm Foods
  - General Cabins & Engineering Ltd
  - Good4U Food & Drink Co. Ltd
  - Hegarty's Fitted Furniture Ltd
  - Keystone Lintels Ltd
  - KMC Engineering Ltd
  - Mallaghan Ltd
  - Nugent Coachworks
  - Portapig Ltd
  - Rocwell Water Ltd
  - Visual Edge Ltd
  - Broadway Bagels Ltd
  - Castit Ltd
  - Eirgen Pharma
  - Fastform Research Ltd
  - Nutri Science Ltd
  - Tegan Innovations Ltd
  - Polywood Ltd
  - Quality Irish Foods Ltd
  - Atto Abrasives Ltd
  - Lodgewood Engineering Ltd
  - Mann Engineering Ltd
  - Tara Hill National Park
  - Wexford Viking Glass Ltd
  - Astron Engineering Ltd
  - CP Community Publishing Ltd
  - Weatherglaze Systems Ltd
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## Small Business Finance Directory

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action her Department is taking to promote initiatives, such as the Small Business Finance Directory, to help businesses to find alternative forms of finance.

**(AQW 10976/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** At present my Department does not promote the Small Business Finance Directory. This is a commercially run website which lists sources of commercial finance for small businesses. My Department however is promoting grants, equity and debt finance options open to small business in Northern Ireland through a number of Government funded and managed websites, including [www.nibusbusinessinfo.co.uk](http://www.nibusbusinessinfo.co.uk)

## Tourism Strategy

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment when she will publish the Tourism Strategy.

**(AQW 10996/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The consultation on a tourism strategy document enabled us to garner the views of the industry and ensured we set meaningful and challenging tourism targets and commitments within the Programme for Government and the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy.

However, it is accepted that time has moved on and work has been ongoing to develop the Strategy document's high level Action Plan into key priorities for action linked to the PfG commitments and the Economic Strategy themes. This has also allowed us to reflect on our experience of new marketing strategies for ni2012 and visitor projections for major projects/events coming on stream in 2012 and 2013. We have also taken account of the impact of the downturn in global tourism, to revise key targets on visitor numbers and tourist revenue to 2014 in light of reducing baselines in some markets.

I intend to finalise a 'Priorities for Action' Plan for tourism to ensure that tourism commitments in the Programme for Government are delivered and I intend to take the Plan to the Executive for endorsement in due course.

## Financial Assistance Provided by InvestNI

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the financial assistance provided by InvestNI to companies during the 2011/12 financial year, broken down by constituency; and what each amount represents as a percentage of the total financial assistance provided by InvestNI during this period.

**(AQW 11020/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The information requested is not yet available due to an ongoing data verification exercise by Invest NI following its financial year end. I have asked Invest NI to make this information available to the member once this process has been completed, which should not be later than the end of May.

## Jobs Created by InvestNI

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of new jobs created from inward investment projects supported by InvestNI during the 2011/12 financial year, broken down by constituency; and what each figure represents as a percentage of the total amount of new jobs created by inward investment projects during that period.

**(AQW 11021/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The information requested is not yet available due to an ongoing data verification exercise by Invest NI following its financial year end. I have asked Invest NI to make this information available to the member once this process has been completed, which should not be later than the end of May.



## Jobs Created by InvestNI

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of new jobs created from first time international investors that were supported by InvestNI during the 2011/12 financial year, broken down by constituency; and what each figure represents as a percentage of the total amount of new jobs created by first time international investors during that period.

**(AQW 11022/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The information requested is not yet available due to an ongoing data verification exercise by Invest NI following its financial year end. I have asked Invest NI to make this information available to the member once this process has been completed, which should not be later than the end of May.

## Jobs Created by InvestNI

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many of the jobs created by InvestNI in each constituency during the 2011/12 financial year offer a salary of (i) above, but less than 25 percent above; and (ii) 25 percent or more above' the average private sector wage, expressed as a number and a percentage of all the new jobs created by inward investment projects during this period.

**(AQW 11023/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The information requested is not yet available due to an ongoing data verification exercise by Invest NI following its financial year end. I have asked Invest NI to make this information available to the member once this process has been completed, which should not be later than the end of May.

## Renewables Obligations Certificates

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) for her assessment of the ongoing operation of the Renewables Obligations Certificates; (ii) to detail (a) the current Renewables Obligation banding levels; and (b) any proposed new levels for the next two years; and (iii) when she will introduce the Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012.

**(AQW 11046/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:**

- (i) Since its introduction in 2005, the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) has been instrumental on increasing levels of renewable electricity generation from 3% in 2005 to the current 14% and Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC) levels have been adjusted over time to reflect changes in technology costs and deployment levels.
- (ii) (a) and (b) In October 2011, DETI consulted on changes to ROC levels for introduction in April 2013 as part of a wider review of ROC banding levels across the United Kingdom. Table 1 details the current and proposed ROC banding levels for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2017. However, it is important to note that ROC banding levels can be adjusted during this time if changes in technology costs could lead to over or under compensation.
- (iii) It is anticipated that the Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012 will be laid in the Assembly before the summer recess.

**TABLE 1**

<b>Renewable electricity technologies</b>	<b>Current support, ROCs/MWh</b>	<b>Proposed ROC support/MWh<sup>1</sup></b> <b><sup>1</sup> Years refer to obligation periods under the NIRO. For example, 2013/14 refers to the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.</b>
Advanced gasification	2	2 in 2013/14 and 2014/15; 1.9 in 2015/16 and 1.8 in 2016/17  Call for evidence
Advanced pyrolysis	2	2 in 2013/14 and 2014/15; 1.9 in 2015/16 and 1.8 in 2016/17  Call for evidence
Anaerobic digestion	4 (up to 500kW) 3 (>500kW – 5MW) 2 (above 5MW)	No change to 5MW Above 5MW: 2 in 2013/14 and 2014/15; 1.9 in 2015/16 and 1.8 in 2016/17
Biomass conversion	No current band	1
Co-firing of biomass	0.5	0.5
Co-firing of biomass (enhanced)	No current band	1
Co-firing of biomass with CHP	1	1
Co-firing of energy crops	1	1

<b>Renewable electricity technologies</b>	<b>Current support, ROCs/MWh</b>	<b>Proposed ROC support/MWh<sup>1</sup></b> <b><sup>1</sup> Years refer to obligation periods under the NIRO. For example, 2013/14 refers to the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.</b>
Energy from waste with CHP	1	0.5
Geothermal	2	2 in 2013/14 and 2014/15; 1.9 in 2015/16 and 1.8 in 2016/17
Geopressure	1	1
Hydro-electric	4 (up to 20kW) 3 (>20kW – 250kW) 2 (>250kW – 1MW) 1 (>1MW)	No change up to 5MW Above 5MW: 0.5
Landfill gas	1	1 in 2013/14 and 2014/15

<b>Renewable electricity technologies</b>	<b>Current support, ROCs/MWh</b>	<b>Proposed ROC support/MWh<sup>1</sup></b> <b><sup>1</sup> Years refer to obligation periods under the NIRO. For example, 2013/14 refers to the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.</b>
Onshore wind	4 (up to 250kW) 1 (>250kW)	No change up to 5MW Above 5MW: 0.9
Offshore wind	2	2 in 2013/14 and 2014/15; 1.9 in 2015/16 and 1.8 in 2016/17
Sewage gas	0.5	0.5
Solar photovoltaic	4 (up to 50kW) 2 (>50kW)	5 (up to 10kW) 4 (>10kW to 50kW) 2 (>50kW to 5MW) Above 5MW: 2 in 2013/14 and 2014/15; 1.9 in 2015/16 and 1.8 in 2016/17
Standard gasification	1	0.5 Call for evidence
Standard pyrolysis	1	0.5 Call for evidence
Tidal impoundment – tidal barrage (<1GW)	2	2 in 2013/14 and 2014/15; 1.9 in 2015/16 and 1.8 in 2016/17
Tidal impoundment – tidal lagoon (<1GW)	2	2 in 2013/14 and 2014/15; 1.9 in 2015/16 and 1.8 in 2016/17
Tidal stream	2	5 (moving to 2 after 30MW project cap)
Wave	2	5 (moving to 2 after 30MW project cap)

## Renewables Obligation

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the proposed changes to the Renewables Obligation that are planned for the next two years; and the reasons for each of the changes.

**(AQW 11047/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Proposed changes to Renewables Obligation Certificate banding levels from 1 April 2013 are set out in Table 1. Further detail on the changes can be read in the consultation document 'Proposed Changes to the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation' which was published in October 2011 and can be read on the DETI website at [www.energy.deti.gov.uk](http://www.energy.deti.gov.uk).

**TABLE 1**

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Biomass conversion	No current band	1
Co-firing of biomass	0.5	0.5
Co-firing of biomass (enhanced)	No current band	1
Co-firing of biomass with CHP	1	1
Co-firing of energy crops	1	1
Co-firing of energy crops with CHP	1.5	1.5
Dedicated biomass	1.5	1.5
Dedicated energy crops	2	2 in 2013/14 and 2014/15; 1.9 in 2015/16 and 1.8 in 2016/17
Dedicated biomass with CHP	2	2 in 2013/14 and 2014/15
Dedicated energy crops with CHP	2	2 in 2013/14 and 2014/15
Energy from waste with CHP	1	0.5
Geothermal	2	2 in 2013/14 and 2014/15; 1.9 in 2015/16 and 1.8 in 2016/17
Geopressure	1	1
Hydro-electric	4 (up to 20kW) 3 (>20kW – 250kW) 2 (>250kW – 1MW) 1 (>1MW)	No change up to 5MW  Above 5MW: 0.5

<b>Renewable electricity technologies</b>	<b>Current support, ROCs/MWh</b>	<b>Proposed ROC support/MWh<sup>1</sup></b> <b><sup>1</sup>Years refer to obligation periods under the NIRO. For example, 2013/14 refers to the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.</b>
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Standard gasification	1	0.5 Call for evidence
Standard pyrolysis	1	0.5 Call for evidence
Tidal impoundment – tidal barrage (<1GW)	2	2 in 2013/14 and 2014/15; 1.9 in 2015/16 and 1.8 in 2016/17
Tidal impoundment – tidal lagoon (<1GW)	2	2 in 2013/14 and 2014/15; 1.9 in 2015/16 and 1.8 in 2016/17
Tidal stream	2	5 (moving to 2 after 30MW project cap)
Wave	2	5 (moving to 2 after 30MW project cap)

## **Tourism Strategy**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the Causeway Coast and the Glens of Antrim will be listed as one of the nine destinations in the Tourism Strategy; and to list the groups in these areas that were consulted on the Tourism Strategy and the dates on which they were consulted.

**(AQW 11050/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I can confirm that the Causeway Coast and Glens is one of the proposed 'key tourism areas/destinations' identified in the Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020.

Annex A provides a list of those invited by letter, in March 2010, to comment on the consultation document on a Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 and to attend one of the 7 regional consultation events held.

Annex B gives a list of groups (not included in Annex A) which were represented at the regional consultation event held in Ballymena on 13 April 2010.

#### **ANNEX A**

- |                                                       |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| ■ Antrim Borough Council                              | ■ Hostelling International                    |
| ■ Antrim Tourist Information Centre                   | ■ Larne Borough Council                       |
| ■ Ballycastle Tourist Information Centre              | ■ Larne Development Forum                     |
| ■ Ballymena Borough Council                           | ■ Larne Tourist Information Centre            |
| ■ Ballymena Tourist Information Centre                | ■ Larne Town Development Management           |
| ■ Ballymena Town Centre Management                    | ■ Limavady Borough Council                    |
| ■ Ballymoney Borough Council                          | ■ Limavady Tourist Information Centre         |
| ■ Ballymoney Tourist Information Centre               | ■ Moyle District Council                      |
| ■ Belfast International Airport                       | ■ Newtownabbey Borough Council                |
| ■ Carrickfergus Borough Council                       | ■ Newtownabbey Tourism Information Centre     |
| ■ Carrickfergus Tourist Information Centre            | ■ Norfolk Irish Sea Ferries                   |
| ■ Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust               | ■ North Antrim Business Agency                |
| ■ Causeway Coast & Glens Regional Tourism Partnership | ■ P&O Ferries                                 |
| ■ Causeway Cottages                                   | ■ Port of Larne                               |
| ■ Causeway Enterprise Agency Ltd                      | ■ Portrush Seasonal Office                    |
| ■ Coleraine Borough Council                           | ■ Ramada Portrush                             |
| ■ Coleraine Chamber of Commerce                       | ■ Society of Local Authority Chief Executives |
| ■ Coleraine Tourist Information Centre                | ■ Stena Line                                  |
| ■ Coleraine Town Centre Management                    | ■ University of Ulster at Coleraine           |
| ■ Dunluce Centre                                      | ■ Whitepark Bay Youth Hostel                  |
| ■ Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre                     | ■ Whiterock Bay B&B                           |

#### **ANNEX B**

- |                                              |                                        |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| ■ Aqua Sports                                | ■ Glenarm Village Committee            |
| ■ Ballycastle Holiday Homes                  | ■ Glenluce Guesthouse & Corratavey B&B |
| ■ Brook Lodge Guesthouse                     | ■ Hastings Ballygally Castle Hotel     |
| ■ Carrageenan B& B                           | ■ Houston's Mill, Broughshane          |
| ■ Cherith House                              | ■ Lurig Holiday Cottages               |
| ■ Crosskeys Inn                              | ■ Neelsgrove Farm                      |
| ■ Dunboe Enterprises Ltd                     | ■ Old Bushmills Distillery             |
| ■ Edenvale Holiday Cottages                  | ■ RSPB                                 |
| ■ Federation of the Retail Licensed Trade NI | ■ Sperrin Business Park                |
| ■ Glenariff Teahouse                         | ■ Town Centre Solutions                |

## Hydraulic Fracturing

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland's assessment of the maximum depth of any aquifer in the area where Tamboran Resources is planning to conduct hydraulic fracturing.

**(AQW 11104/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Tamboran Resources have not yet submitted any applications to carry out hydraulic fracturing in Fermanagh and before they do so they intend to carry out additional geological and geophysical data acquisition. The Geological Survey of Northern Ireland will integrate any additional information thus acquired with the existing well and seismic data into any assessments it makes of the maximum depths of the aquifers in the area.

## Health and Safety Compliance on Building Sites

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what powers local authorities have now, and will have after the Reform of Public Administration, to ensure health and safety compliance on building sites.

**(AQW 11106/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Local authorities have no powers to ensure health and safety compliance on building sites; this currently rests with the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland. There are no plans to devolve such powers to local authorities.

## Coleraine Borough Council-Owned Caravan Parks

**Mr Clarke** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in relation to the two Coleraine Borough Council-owned caravan parks, separated by half a mile, whether it is appropriate, under the Caravans Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, to form an association between the two sites.

**(AQW 11133/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The provisions in the Caravans Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 dealing with occupiers' associations were not drafted with a view to providing for the situation where one occupiers' association would wish to represent more than one site operated by the same owner. However, the provisions of the Act would not prevent Coleraine Borough Council recognising one occupiers' association representing both of its sites if this was what the occupiers on both sites wished. This arrangement would however lie outside the provisions and jurisdiction of the Act.

## Wind Farm Projects

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much financial support InvestNI has given to wind farm projects in each of the last five years, broken down by project.

**(AQW 11173/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI has not provided any financial support to wind farm projects directly in the past five years as these are associated with energy infrastructure development. Invest NI has provided assistance of £1.48million to manufacturing and tradable service companies capable of providing components and services to assist such companies target this sector.

In addition Invest NI has also provided circa £830,000 to assist companies investigate and deploy wind energy as a renewable source for their business operations.

## Ultra-Fast Broadband for Belfast

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how her Department proposes to make use of the £13.7m, announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the budget, to provide ultra-



fast broadband for Belfast and to improve mobile coverage along the A2 coast road and A29 Coleraine-Armagh road.

**(AQW 11183/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Neither of these matters fall within my Department's responsibility. Under the Chancellor of the Exchequer's £100million "Super-Connected City" initiative, an initial, indicative allocation of £6million has been made to Belfast City Council which leads on this matter. This may rise to a maximum of £13.7million when final allocations are announced later this year.

Improvement of mobile coverage on the A2 and A29 roads falls within the UK Government's £150million Mobile Infrastructure Project. This is led by the Department for Culture Media and Sports and I understand that the procurement of a solution will be undertaken at national level to include Northern Ireland.

## Visitors to Northern Ireland

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many visitors to Northern Ireland were from other parts of the UK in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 11219/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The number of visitors to Northern Ireland from other parts of the UK in each of the last five years are set out below.

Year	Visitors (000s)
2007	1,285
2008	1,202
2009	1,017
2010*	969
2011*	969

**Source:** NI Passenger Survey (NITB), NI Passenger Survey (NISRA), Survey of Overseas Travellers (Failte Ireland), Country of Residence Survey (CSO)

\* Following a review of the Northern Ireland Passenger Survey, the methodology was revised in 2010. Changes were made to the sampling frame, definitions, weighting and grossing, collection and production of survey estimates. These changes mean that it is not possible to directly compare visitor numbers for 2010 and 2011 to those collected using the previous methodology.

## Internal UK Tourist Market

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the importance of the internal UK tourist market, compared with the tourist market outside the UK.

**(AQW 11220/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The importance of the UK tourist market cannot be underestimated. 70% of overseas visitors to Northern Ireland come from Great Britain, making it our most important market. The revenue generated by visitors from Great Britain in 2011 increased by 17%.

With new product coming on line, such as the Giants Causeway Visitor Centre, the Irish Open and Londonderry being promoted as the UK City of Culture 2013, there will be more opportunities for visitors from GB to visit Northern Ireland.

In recognition of this, Tourism Ireland, which has responsibility for marketing Northern Ireland in Great Britain and overseas, has developed a dedicated Great Britain Marketing Strategy for Northern Ireland. It also received additional investment of £4.7m specifically for marketing in 2012, the majority of which will be spent in the Great Britain market.

## Energy Bill

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the timeline up to, and including, the introduction of the Energy Bill.

**(AQW 11245/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Subject to Executive approval, my Department plans to launch a public consultation on the Energy Bill in June 2012 ending in September 2012. Officials will then consider responses and work with the Office of Legislative Counsel to draft the primary legislation. It is anticipated that the Bill will be submitted for introduction to the Assembly in spring 2013. This timeline will be subject to the Department obtaining a number of necessary approvals throughout the process without delay.

## Credit Unions

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister for his assessment of credit unions being unable to avail of government funding through modernisation programmes unlike their counterparts in other parts of the United Kingdom.

**(AQW 11312/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The objective of the GB modernisation scheme is to improve the financial sustainability, delivery mechanisms, and customer support systems of GB credit unions, to enable these bodies to extend access to basic, appropriate financial services to people on lower incomes.

The credit union movement in Northern Ireland is considerably more mature than its GB counterparts, with significantly greater levels of community penetration and financial sustainability. On that basis, my assessment is that there is no requirement for a corresponding modernisation scheme in Northern Ireland.

I am acutely aware of the need for accessible financial services for lower income households. The credit union movement in Northern Ireland plays a vital role in this area, and has been a key player in the Affordable Credit pilots that have been led by the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland (CCNI) in Ballymena and Londonderry, together with the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland and the Ulster Bank. I recognise that the transfer of regulatory arrangements for Northern Ireland credit unions to the Financial Services Authority from my Department has presented challenges for some local credit unions in terms of changes required to systems and procedures. In recognition of this, I have requested my officials to consider options for providing support to the Northern Ireland credit union movement in the initial stages of the operation of the new regulatory arrangements.

## Recent Litigation Involving InvestNI and Enterprise NI

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the disclosure in full, during the recent litigation involving InvestNI and Enterprise NI, of the successful bid from the GO Group/KPMG gives Enterprise NI an unfair advantage in any proposed forthcoming tender process.

**(AQW 11320/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Within the context of the legal challenge, a copy of the tender for delivery of the Business Start Programme from Go Group was furnished to the solicitors for Enterprise NI as required by a Court Order made on an application by them on behalf of ENI. It was a term of the Court Order that the tender documents would be held within a confidentiality ring, that the copy would not be released from the plaintiff's solicitors' office and that only the solicitors and counsel and 2 nominated people from Enterprise NI would have access to it.

Invest NI is currently finalising internal approvals for future start up provision and is working with CPD to finalise the terms of reference for a new tender process. The new tender process will proceed in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and CPD Guidance Notes and it is in this context that all considerations in respect of unfair advantage would be taken.

## GO Group/KPMG

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the disclosure of the GO Group/KPMG bid to the unsuccessful bidders will result in the GO Group/KPMG being procedurally disadvantaged in the proposed tender process.

**(AQW 11321/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Within the context of the legal challenge, a copy of the tender for delivery of the Business Start Programme from Go Group was furnished to the solicitors for Enterprise NI as required by a Court Order made on an application by them on behalf of ENI. It was a term of the Court Order that the tender documents would be held within a confidentiality ring, that the copy would not be released from the plaintiff's solicitors' office and that only the solicitors and counsel and 2 nominated people from Enterprise NI would have access to it.

Invest NI is currently finalising internal approvals for future start up provision and is working with CPD to finalise the terms of reference for a new tender process. The new tender process will proceed in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and CPD Guidance Notes and it is in this context that all considerations in respect of procedural disadvantage would be taken.

## Price of Electricity Produced by Wind Generators

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment why the price of electricity, which is produced by wind generators, rises when the price of gas rises.

**(AQW 11366/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Single Electricity Market (SEM) is based on a 'Gross Mandatory Pool' which means that all generators of 10MW and above must sell their electricity through this pool and all suppliers buy from it. The most expensive generation unit that has to be run to meet demand then sets the 'System Marginal Price' (SMP), and all generators running in the market schedule get this price.

Wind generators are generally run whenever they are available, insofar as the transmission system can accommodate their output. At times of low demand the cheapest generators run in the market set the SEM price which is therefore low. But at times of higher demand more expensive generators have to be run and the SMP therefore rises.

Wind generators therefore receive the SMP applicable at a point in time, and this may be related to wind generation or may have been set by gas fired or other more expensive generators due to demand requirements.

This 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.

## Electricity Generators

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment why the most expensive electricity generator sets the price that is paid to all generators on the island of Ireland.

**(AQW 11367/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Single Electricity Market (SEM) is based on a 'Gross Mandatory Pool', where all generators of 10MW and above must sell their electricity through this pool and all suppliers buy from it. The price the generators offer is closely regulated by the SEM 'Bidding code of Practice'. The bid price of the most expensive unit that has to be run then sets the 'System Marginal Price' (SMP) and all generators running in the market schedule get this price.

At times of low demand the cheapest generators available set the price, but at times of higher demand more expensive generators have to be run in the market and the SMP therefore rises. Hence all generators are paid the price which is relevant to the level of demand at a particular time.

This 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. The main function of the SEM Committee's Market Monitoring Unit is to closely monitor the bid prices of generators.

### **Investigation into the Northern Ireland Events Company**

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an estimate of the final cost of her Department's investigation into the Northern Ireland Events Company; and the total cost to date.  
**(AQW 11388/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Department appointed inspectors to the Northern Ireland Events Company Limited on 17 November 2008 under Article 452(2) and Article 425(2)(a) of the Companies (NI) Order 1986.

The target date for completion is 30 April 2013 and the final costs are estimated at £900,000. The costs incurred by DETI in the inspection to date are £781,457.

### **First Trust Bank**

**Mr McElduff** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on any discussions she has had with her counterparts in the Irish Republic in relation to ensuring that negotiations between union representatives, IBOA and Allied Irish Banks deliver reasonable outcomes for staff in the First Trust Bank.

**(AQO 1981/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Banking is a reserved matter and, as such, my Department has no statutory oversight of the banking sector. I recognise, however, the importance of growing the financial sector in Northern Ireland.

I was concerned to learn of the recent announcements in relation to job losses in the banking sector here. I met with representatives from the Irish Bank Officials' Association, the Finance Union, on 27 March 2012 to discuss these developments. I emphasised how important it is that senior management in these banks are seen to be behaving in a responsible manner as they take forward staffing cuts.

### **Mobile Phone Coverage in the Gortin Area of South Tyrone**

**Mr McElduff** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if she will make representations to T-Mobile and its parent company, Everything Everywhere, about reinstating mobile phone coverage as soon as possible in the Gortin area of South Tyrone.

**(AQW 11403/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** This is an issue which is affecting a small number of customers in different parts of Northern Ireland. I have already raised the matter with representatives from Everything Everywhere, OFCOM and the Mobile Operators Association. I understand that the company has been in contact with affected customers with a view to resolving problems.

OFCOM takes a close interest in monitoring customer experiences and information provided by customers about service provider practices can lead to investigation by the Regulator. Details of complaints and alternative dispute resolution procedures are available from the OFCOM website <http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/tell-us/telecoms/customer-services/customer-service/>

### **Referral of Phoenix Natural Gas Price Control to the Competition Commission**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the organisations, and their representatives, that have contacted her regarding the referral of Phoenix Natural Gas price control to the Competition Commission; (ii) the issues that were raised in each correspondence; and (iii) the action she took as a result.

**(AQW 11417/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** In relation to the referral of the Phoenix Natural Gas price control to the Competition Commission, I have had correspondence with the Chairman of Phoenix Natural Gas and the Chairman

of Phoenix Energy Holdings, and with the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation.

You will appreciate that the company and the Regulator hold different views in respect of the issues which resulted in the price control referral, and these were covered in the correspondence. As Energy Minister, I have no role in the process, and therefore have not taken any action in respect of the referral, other than to encourage both parties to reach agreement.

### Access to Broadband in Rural Areas

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action her Department is taking to ensure that rural areas have access to Broadband.

**(AQW 11471/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Over the last eight years my Department has delivered a number of projects that have been either entirely or substantially aimed at increasing access to and quality of broadband services in rural areas. These include:

£9.23m Local Broadband Access Contract which provided access to entry-level broadband services to all premises across Northern Ireland;

£19.8m Next Generation Broadband Services Contract which has led to an overall investment of £51m in the roll out of the highest level of fibre-to-the-cabinet technology in the UK;

£1.9m Broadband Fund which has supported deployment of high-speed fixed-wireless and fibre broadband services; and

Contracts with Avanti Communications Plc and Onwave Ltd to provide high specification satellite broadband services region-wide.

Using a range of NI Executive, UK Government and European funding options our focus for 2011-2015 is to deliver broadband services of at least 2 Megabits per second to all premises across Northern Ireland and to improve access to mobile voice and data services.

### Number of Overseas Visitors

**Mrs Overend** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the number of overseas visitors; and (ii) the yearly spend of overseas visitors in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 11494/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The number of overseas (including GB) visitors and spend in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years is set out below.

Year	Overseas Visitors (000s)	Expenditure (£m)
2007	1,785	333
2008	1,709	346
2009	1,443	271
2010*	1,418	307
2011*	1,478	368

**Source:** NI Passenger Survey (2007-09 NITB, 2010-11 NISRA), Survey of Overseas Travellers (Fáilte Ireland), Country of Residence Survey (Central Statistics Office, Ireland)

\* Provisional

Following a review of the Northern Ireland Passenger Survey, the methodology was revised in 2010.

## **InvestNI: Local Government**

**Mr Hilditch** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what plans InvestNI has to support and work with the new Councils when they are formed under the Review of Public Administration.

**(AQO 1978/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI has been working closely with Councils, the Local Enterprise Development Forum, NILGA and SOLACE, to help all parties involved prepare for the eventual transfer of functions under the review of Public Administration.

This will help ensure a smooth transition from Invest NI to Councils of the proposed transfer of Local Economic Development functions which is likely to include business start, social enterprise, youth enterprise and neighbourhood renewal.

Invest NI is committed to continuing to work in close partnership with current Councils during this transition period and with the new Councils post review of Public Administration.

The European Regional Development Fund which has funded the Local Economic Development Measure has also been helpful in providing Councils and Invest NI with opportunities to work together on local enterprise initiatives.

## **BT Contact Centre**

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many people British Telecom plans to employ in Northern Ireland following the recent announcement about a new Contact Centre.

**(AQO 1979/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The new project from BT will create 116 new jobs of which 16 will be at management level. These are multi-skilled positions that attract a median salary level of £22,619 gross.

BT is financially strong and has a long history of investing in Northern Ireland where it employs around 4,000 people in a range of disciplines servicing a global account base.

## **British Airways: Redundancies**

**Mr Boylan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she is aware of any potential redundancies as a result of British Airways' integration proposals for BMI.

**(AQO 1980/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Any redundancies at George Best Belfast City Airport are very regrettable. However, decisions regarding BMI staff at the airport are commercial matters for the International Airlines Group, the new owner of BMI.

BMI has been losing money for some time and it is my understanding that the situation at Belfast City Airport is reflective of a major UK wide cost cutting exercise by International Airlines Group.

## **Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals**

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what plans her Department has to take advantage of the opportunities that exist within the biotechnology and pharmaceutical sectors.

**(AQO 1982/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Northern Ireland Economic Strategy recognises that to deliver economic growth we must target support at those sectors where we have existing strengths and which offer the greatest potential for new opportunities in the global economy.

Building on the work of MATRIX, Life and Health Sciences, which would include biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, is identified as one of our priority sectors within the NI Economic Strategy.



## Economy

**Mr Byrne** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the Northern Ireland economy.

**(AQO 1983/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** This will be another challenging year for Northern Ireland. The UK has re-entered recession and the Republic of Ireland continues to experience muted growth. With so many of our products headed for markets in GB, and the Republic, these difficulties will inevitably impact on our economy.

Independent forecasters predict growth of around 0.2% this year. Such modest growth would not create sufficient jobs to make inroads into our unemployment rate. Going forward the Economic Strategy sets out how we will rebuild and rebalance the economy through export led growth, with more emphasis on expanding into emerging markets.

## HMS Caroline

**Mr Dickson** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions her Department has had with the Ministry of Defence to ensure that HMS Caroline remains in Belfast.

**(AQO 1984/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department has been in communication with a number of key stakeholders regarding the possible retention of HMS Caroline in Belfast. She has been in Belfast since 1924, she is part of the city and we want her to stay. To help inform the department an independent study was carried out to look at options for the ship.

That work is complete and it has shown that there are benefits in keeping the ship in Belfast but there are funding challenges. We are working closely with the National Museum of the Royal Navy to find a suitable way forward, these conversations are ongoing.

## Titanic Centenary

**Mr Douglas** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the success of the recent Titanic commemorations and the benefits for East Belfast and Northern Ireland.

**(AQO 1985/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The recent Titanic commemorations have been a great success and I believe East Belfast and Northern Ireland will reap the benefits for years to come. I think we struck the right balance between celebrating the opening of our new Titanic Belfast and commemorating the tragic loss of so many lives just over 100 years ago. Events such as the BBC Two live broadcast from the Waterfront Hall, East Belfast Partnership Offices' unveiling of the Yardmen Statue, a sculpture by Ross Wilson which can be viewed at Dr Pitt Memorial Park on the Newtownards Road, Belfast City Council's unveiling of the commemorative garden, the amazing light show and Titanic Belfast and the MTV concert all showed Northern Ireland at its best.

## Public Sector Contracts

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how her Department is encouraging and equipping local social enterprises to tender for and secure public sector contracts, in the absence of any region-specific procurement toolkit.

**(AQO 1986/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Committee for Finance and Personnel's Inquiry into Public Procurement in Northern Ireland, published in February 2010, resulted in many recommendations to help small businesses and social enterprises access procurement opportunities.



Invest NI support includes a range of measures designed to help local companies access local and international contract opportunities including the following:

- Northern Ireland's Tenders Alert Service
- Local Tenders Alerting Service
- Business Information Centre
- Export Skills and Knowledge workshops
- Introduction to Tendering workshop
- Advanced Tendering workshop.

## Department of the Environment

### Convictions for Fuel Smuggling and Laundering

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to the criticism from the NI Affairs Committee about the lack of convictions for fuel smuggling and laundering (i) for his assessment of whether this is due to the offenders' relationships with dissident republicans; and (ii) whether he intends to hold discussions with the Chief Constable and the Minister of Justice in relation to this matter.

**(AQW 6832/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment):** I believe that there can be a number of reasons why prosecution investigations and/or convictions do not arise in relation to fuel laundering and other criminal activity. These include lack of witness, forensic or admission evidence respectively. All of these factors will influence the (successful) prosecution of fuel laundering crime for self evident reasons. It is universally acknowledged that fuel laundering is carried out by organised criminals, some of whom are running sophisticated criminal businesses and the tackling of this offending will therefore always be challenging to the agencies involved. I acknowledge the role of the OCTF and the expert sub-group dealing with cross border fuel fraud and NIEA, part of DOE sits on this. All relevant agencies are involved via the OCTF.

I believe that it is likely that dissident republicans are involved in smuggling of various items and that there is an involvement of illegal groups with criminal and crime groups. The relevant authorities - police, justice (etc) - already meet and co-ordinate their work. I will write to Minister Ford to seek his views on the committee report and if there should be a Ministerial meeting or summit to further shape the response of agencies/governments. I shall keep the member informed.

### Article 31 Planning Decisions

**Mr Hamilton** asked the Minister of the Environment how many Article 31 planning decisions have been issued since he has come into office; and how many are outstanding.

**(AQW 7704/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Since 5 May 2011 a final decision has been issued in relation to 8 Article 31 planning applications. There are 49 Article 31 applications currently being processed.

### Resale of Used Tyres

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) what statutory protections are in place in relation to the resale of used tyres; and (ii) for his assessment of the level of monitoring of the trade.

**(AQW 9217/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Statutory protection for the resale of used tyres is contained in the UK Motor Vehicle Tyres (Safety) Regulations 1994. Regulation 7 of those Regulations prohibits the supply of a part-worn tyre unless certain requirements relating to the condition and marking of the tyre are met. Such a tyre

must also comply with the requirements of the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations (NI) 1999 in respect of on-road use and MOT testing.

The Regulations were made under the provisions of section 11 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 and, under that Act, the role of enforcing the Regulations rests with the Environmental Health Officers of District Councils. In addition, the Trading Standards Service within DETI investigates any claims in relation to selling of tyres where there is specific evidence that they have been misdescribed. My Department is also progressing a range of work with regard to the disposal of used tyres when they are no longer fit for use. This work has included establishing a Tyres Steering Group and developing a Tyres Action Plan, made up of five themes:

- Understanding the Scale of the Problem;
- Regulation and Enforcement;
- Exploring Alternative Uses;
- Policy Options: and
- Co-ordination and Communication.

Actions to date include the commissioning of a tyres survey. Contractors were engaged on 8 March 2012 to study management practices as regards used tyres across the island of Ireland. The study will use data from regulatory returns and enforcement activities and will gather information via a survey of regulated businesses. It will seek to quantify numbers of new and part worn tyres on the market, the numbers of used tyre (both domestic and commercial tyres) and verify the end uses and disposal routes. A draft report is expected to be completed in June 2012.

The Environment Agency is carrying out an audit exercise with the tyre retailer sector in relation to Duty of Care legislation, the use of registered waste carriers and final disposal routes for waste tyres. This work will provide Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) with valuable data and information in relation to the producers of waste tyres, collectors and licensed tyre recyclers

The Environment Committee of the Assembly is also currently conducting an inquiry into used tyre disposal and I understand that it intends publishing the report soon.

## **Links Between Various Organisations in the Environmental and Conservation Lobbies**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of the Environment what action the Environment Agency is taking to facilitate links between various organisations in the environmental and conservation lobbies to explore opportunities to access LIFE funding on a joint or consortia basis.

**(AQW 9396/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** I believe that more should have been achieved in accessing various EU funding streams. That is one of the reasons I visited Brussels on 8th and 9th March 2012 and intend to again meet EU officials soon. Moreover, I have asked my Permanent Secretary to ensure more resource is put into DOE efforts to access EU funding and am actively exploring how to develop opportunities in this regard.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has facilitated successful links and developed partnerships to increase the leverage of Life + and other funds with Councils, other environmental agencies and the NGO sector.

The Agency is currently engaging with Fermanagh District Council to consider a partnership bid to LIFE+ and, through its partnership with Northern Ireland Environment Link, publishes information on LIFE+ calls for conservation and environmental bodies.

NIEA has an External Funding Working Group which identifies financial support opportunities and works with key funding bodies, such as the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Rural Development Programme team in DARD. The Agency has successfully worked with the Environment Agency for England and Wales over the last two years securing EU funds for two key programmes:

- EDOC – Electronic Duty of Care Project
- EQual - Ensuring Quality of waste derived products for resource efficiency

The EDOC and EQual projects are worth a total of €7.15 million (with 50% of funding from LIFE+), with the Environment Agency as the lead partner. NIEA meets with the Environment Agency and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency every six months to discuss EU projects and potential project proposals.

### **Planning Applications for Minerals Extraction or Minerals Plant/Machinery**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to planning applications for minerals extraction or minerals plant/machinery, to detail (i) how many of the planning applications currently being processed (a) are retrospective; (b) require an Environmental Statement; and (c) are awaiting the submission of environmental information; (ii) how many have been approved in the last ten years, and of these, how many were retrospective; and (iii) how many have been refused in the last 10 years, and of these, how many were retrospective.

**(AQW 9851/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:**

(i) Currently the Department is processing 83 minerals planning applications.

Of these, (a) 40 are retrospective; (b) 11 are accompanied by an Environmental Statement; and (c) 6 of these are awaiting further environmental information.

With regard to parts (ii) and (iii) of the question the Department does not hold this information in a form that is readily available and could only be compiled at a disproportionate cost.

### **Tourist Initiatives Around Historical Monuments**

**Mr W Clarke** asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department has had any discussions with the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment to explore possible tourist initiatives around historical monuments, such as the Mound of Down, Downpatrick and the Navan Fort, Armagh.

**(AQW 9934/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Staff within my Department have worked closely with officials from the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment (DETI), and also officials based in the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB, one of DETI's non-departmental public bodies), to progress a range of tourism initiatives across Northern Ireland.

Discussions with officials from DETI have focused on the delivery of a major conservation project at the Thompson Dock, the dry dock in which Titanic and her sister ships were fitted-out, and a key piece of Belfast's authentic, original maritime industrial heritage. The outcome of those discussions is the £1.5million capital works scheme presently underway that will safeguard that dock for the future and also enable it to be used as a key tourism asset: delivery of this scheme has been a direct result of the hard work and co-operation between DETI and my Department.

Discussions between officials in my Department, particularly those based in the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and NITB in recent years have focused on the delivery of NITB's Key Signature Projects. In particular, there has been considerable progress in respect of the St Patrick/Christian Heritage and Causeway Coast and Glens Key Signature Projects.

Co-operative work, and joint funding between NIEA and NITB, has delivered new visitor exhibitions at Grey Abbey and Nendrum Monastic Site. In addition, new interpretive panels have been erected at both sites, as well as at Inch Abbey and Struell Wells, all of which are key sites in the St Patrick/Christian Heritage Project in County Down. Future projects currently with NITB for consideration include the further enhancement of other State Care Monuments, managed by NIEA, that are also included in the wider St Patrick/Christian Heritage trail. These include works at sites such as Movilla Abbey, the early

Christian site at St John's Point (both of which are in County Down), and also at the Killeevy Churches (in County Armagh).

Similar co-operation and joint funding between NIEA and NITB have delivered enhanced visitor resources at Dunluce Castle, County Antrim, with improved exhibitions, audio-visual displays, and new interpretive material at the site. Dunluce Castle is a gem on our North Coast, and the continued enhancement of this site is a key priority for my Department.

The strategic importance of investment in our built and archaeological heritage cannot be over-emphasised. It is a unique, 'stand-out' part of our infrastructure that is essential to local communities, local character, our sense of history, and also our developing tourism economy. Visitors to Northern Ireland may not come for the weather, but they certainly come to explore our rich collections of historic monuments, buildings and landscapes.

Officials within my Department are currently developing projects that will embrace the Mound of Down within a wider package of sites connected to the St Patrick/Christian Heritage Key Signature Project, and which also overlap with the Mourne. A project is also being developed to improve access to, and information about, the wider Navan Landscape, including Navan Fort. Both the schemes at the Mound of Down and at Navan will require a broader partnership to include local councils, and I am advised that my staff are actively pursuing this. In the case of Navan, for example, Armagh City and District Council have been working closely with NIEA on the project, which will also include a significant refurbishment of the exhibition presently housed in the Council's Navan Centre. Similarly, work is ongoing with officials from Cookstown District Council to enhance Tullaghoge Fort, a key historic monument in Mid-Ulster.

In addition, this year officials in both NIEA and NITB have worked closely to improve their overall promotion of events, sites and properties. NIEA has transferred a lot of information to the NITB's website. DOE Communications will be promoting NIEA events, sites and properties that will take place at around the same time, or in the same geographical area, as the NITB 'Big 8' events planned for 2012. This sharing of promoting should enable a wider distribution of information, and also help ensure that, where possible, events are planned that will support one another.

Previous discussions between DETI and my Department have borne fruit on many tourism-related schemes across the North: I am keen to see these positive working relationships continuing, and would be pleased to see further progress on scheme such as those indicated above.

## **Multi-Agency Response Teams**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of the Environment what plans his Department has in place in relation to multi-agency response teams, particularly for flooding incidents.

**(AQW 9936/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Department's Major Emergency Response Plan (MERP) sets out the general response of the Department to a range of possible major emergencies. The MERP incorporates the protocols for Multi Agency Responses which were drawn up by the Civil Contingencies Group following the severe weather during Christmas and New Year 2010/11.

The local government sector undertakes a major role in responding to emergencies, particularly flooding incidents. District Councils have emergency response plans in place, which are controlled and activated by Council Chief Executives. In the event of an incident, the plans alert agencies of the facilities, resources and assistance a Council may provide in helping to address emergencies in its district, on a multi-agency basis. The assistance may be humanitarian aid, including the provision of buildings, plant and machinery to help in the overall response to an incident.

The UK has a National Contingency Plan (NCP) for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations. This has been developed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), an Executive Agency of the UK Department of Transport. MCA is responsible for maritime safety, which is a reserved matter. However, any incident occurring within Northern Ireland's territorial waters, which extend to 12 nautical miles out to sea, is managed by both MCA and the Northern Ireland devolved administration. Under the UK National Contingency Plan, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has two

primary roles. The first is co-ordinate shoreline response in the event of an oil or chemical spill, through a Shoreline Response Centre. The second is to lead the Environment Group which has representatives of all the statutory agencies with a role in the marine environment or public health. These include NIEA, DARD Fisheries Division and their science advisors, the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Food Standards Agency and the Public Health Agency. NIEA holds the standing chairmanship of the Environment Group.

In relation to multi-agency onshore response to water pollution incidents, NIEA operates under Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure's Inland Fisheries, HM Revenue & Customs and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and under a draft MOU with the Loughs Agency. Where the circumstances of a particular water pollution incident warrant, NIEA also has established contact mechanisms with Rivers Agency, District Councils, the Police Service for Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Water Ltd and a significant number of other potential stakeholders.

### **Planning Permission for the Hydroelectric Scheme on the River Camowen**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of the Environment whether the Planning Service considered all environmental issues when granting planning permission to Omagh District Council for the hydroelectric scheme on the River Camowen.

**(AQW 10003/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Department fully considered all environmental issues when granting planning permission. The Department consulted with various bodies which, because of their specific environmental responsibilities had an interest in the project. These included NIEA – Natural Heritage and Water Management Unit, Loughs Agency and DARD Rivers Agency. None of these raised any objections to the proposal that could not be overcome by the use of planning conditions. In addition NIEA Natural Heritage carried out a Test of Likely Significance which concluded that the proposal was unlikely to have significant impact on the Foyle and Tributaries SAC. All letters of objection raising specific environmental concerns were copied to the consultees for consideration.

Permission was granted subject to a number of conditions. The decision notice and consultee responses can be viewed in the Western Area Planning Office, Omagh.

### **Westminster Justice Committee's Review of the Freedom of Information Act**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail his Department's position in relation to the submission made by the Civil Service to the Westminster Justice Committee's review of the Freedom of Information Act.

**(AQW 10046/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** My Department contributed to the analysis contained in the Northern Ireland Civil Service Memorandum to the Westminster Justice Committee compiled by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMdfM). My officials were consulted by OFMdfM about the final draft of the memorandum before it was completed and indicated they were content with it. I shall forward a copy of DOE response to the member.

### **Regeneration of the North Coast**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment why Ballycastle was excluded from the £405,000 funding for the regeneration of the North Coast.

**(AQW 10344/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** It is simply not the case and wrong to suggest that Ballycastle was excluded. Indeed, if this had been the case, then Cushendall, Cushendun, Coleraine and Limavady could all claim they were excluded, clearly not a sustainable assessment.

My intervention was directed towards the Portrush/Portstewart area because of the particular significance of the hosting of the Irish Open golf championship this summer. This event will result in greatly increased media and tourist interest, and I was pleased to be in a position to contribute to a programme of work to improve Portrush and Portstewart, with the aim that both towns can maximize the long-term benefits for the local economy. The work undertaken will help to reduce the potentially negative impact of the area's worst eyesores and usefully improve the experience of the area by residents and all visitors alike.

I would very much like to extend the principle of my Portrush/Portstewart intervention to other districts, such as Ballycastle, who are suffering similar problems. The principle of such intervention remains one in which I believe and a goal towards which I continue to work. However, such projects can only be tackled if supporting funding is available. One potential mechanism to take this type of initiative forward can be through in year monitoring rounds and I will be seeking additional financial support from the Executive in the June monitoring round to support further interventions. I look forward to hearing from places that believe they have an argument for funding.

### **Regeneration of the North Coast**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to the £405,000 funding for the regeneration of the North Coast, to outline the motivating factors for allocating funding to the Portstewart and Portrush areas and not to the Ballycastle area.

**(AQW 10345/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** It is simply not the case and wrong to suggest that Ballycastle was excluded. Indeed, if this had been the case, then Cushendall, Cushendun, Coleraine and Limavady could all claim they were excluded, clearly not a sustainable assessment.

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### **Funding to Improve Ballycastle Town**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment what funding will be made available to improve Ballycastle town and to address dereliction in the area.

**(AQW 10346/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** It is simply not the case and wrong to suggest that Ballycastle was excluded. Indeed, if this had been the case, then Cushendall, Cushendun, Coleraine and Limavady could all claim they were excluded, clearly not a sustainable assessment.

My intervention was directed towards the Portrush/Portstewart area because of the particular significance of the hosting of the Irish Open golf championship this summer. This event will result in greatly increased media and tourist interest, and I was pleased to be in a position to contribute to a programme of work to improve Portrush and Portstewart, with the aim that both towns can maximize the long-term benefits for the local economy. The work undertaken will help to reduce the potentially



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### **Crown Estate**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of the Environment to provide a breakdown of how much each council is currently paying the Crown Estate in rent or lease for facilities on the sea-bed or on land.

**(AQW 10348/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The total amount spent by the councils in the 2011/2012 financial year on renting or leasing facilities from the Crown Estate is provided in the attached table.

<b>Council</b>	<b>Amount Paid to the Crown Estate 2011/2012 £</b>
Antrim	0
Ards	6,025
Armagh	0
Ballymena	0
Ballymoney	0
Banbridge	0
Belfast	0
Carrickfergus	45,480
Castlereagh	0
Coleraine	4,500
Cookstown	0
Craigavon	0
Derry	10,250
Down	6,000
Dungannon	0
Fermanagh	0
Larne	5,879
Limavady	1,940
Lisburn	0
Magherafelt	0
Moyle	11,295



<b>Council</b>	<b>Amount Paid to the Crown Estate 2011/2012 £</b>
Newry & Mourne	10,225
Newtownabbey	780
North Down	120,335
Omagh	0
Strabane	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,709</b>

### **Planning Applications**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of the Environment, for each of the last five years, to detail (i) how many planning applications were refused in the South Antrim constituency following advice from Belfast International Airport; and (ii) for what reason each application was refused.

**(AQW 10421/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:**

- (i) In each of the last five years a total of three planning applications in the South Antrim constituency have been refused on the basis of advice from Belfast International Airport. The information provided is based on the most recent official statistics covering the period up to the end of December 2011 (third quarter of 2011/2012 business year).
- (ii) The planning applications and the reasons for refusals are listed in the attached table.

<b>Application Reference</b>	<b>Description of Development</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Reasons for Refusal</b>	<b>PAC Decision</b>
T/2004/0196/F	Installation of a Wind Powered Generator for the Production of Renewable Energy at Approx 400m South of 5 Carmay Road, Crumlin	15/05/2006	<p>The proposed development is Contrary to Policy PSU 3 of the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland as the site lies within the Inner Horizontal Surface of the Belfast International Airport and will prejudice the safe taking off and landing of aircraft in and from this airfield.</p> <p>The proposed development is Contrary to PSU 12 of the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland in that if permitted the development would create an unacceptable visual impact in rural area.</p>	Appeal Allowed: 12/08/2008

Application Reference	Description of Development	Date of Decision	Reasons for Refusal	PAC Decision
T/2006/0124/F	Detached Storey And Half Dwelling And Garage at 350m South West Of 30 Straidhavern Road, Nutts Corner	31/08/2006	<p>The proposal is contrary to Policies SP6, HOU8 and DES6 of the Department's Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland in that the development when considered in the context of existing and approved development, would, if permitted, result in a detrimental change to the rural character of this area of countryside by reason of build up.</p> <p>The proposal is contrary to Policies SP6, HOU8 and DES5 of the Department's 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' as the proposed access would if permitted have an adverse visual impact on the landscape due to its width and inadequate landscaping.</p> <p>The proposal is Contrary to PSU3 as the proposal goes into the Inner Horizontal Surface by 1.2m and would affect the safe taking off and landing of aircraft.</p>	Appeal Allowed 30/5/2008
T/2008/0661	Retrospective retention of 1 no. pigeon shed and 1 no. proposed pigeon shed at site adjacent to 35 Tullywest Road, Crumlin.	22/12/2008	<p>This application, if allowed, would prejudice flight safety and as a result create a risk to human life in and around the Belfast International Airport.</p>	

## Gas Pads in Co Fermanagh

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment, in the event that 200 gas pads are constructed in Co Fermanagh, for his assessment of how frequently, on average, each pad would be inspected by Environment Agency regulators.

**(AQW 10425/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** I wish to stress again that there will be no rush to fracking. All relevant requirements will be upheld. The environmental regulation of fracking – if fracking should ever be approved - by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) will be subject to the requirements and environmental standards set out in the relevant European Directives and local legislation.

As such the number of inspections of such sites will be commensurate with the assessed risk posed in relation to the location of the installations, relative to sensitive environmental receptors, and in relation to the activities proposed at each site, eg abstractions, discharges, gas refinement, waste storage.

In summary, the number of inspections required at each site will be assessed on a case by case basis – however, it is reasonable to conclude that - if ever approved – the regulation, inspection and enforcement regime will be rigorous.

## Hydraulic Fracturing

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on his meeting regarding hydraulic fracturing with the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States during his trip to Washington DC.

**(AQW 10434/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** During my recent visit to Washington DC I received a presentation and briefing from the U.S Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development on the issue of hydraulic fracturing.

The presentation and briefing highlighted the work that the US EPA are doing, and their planned work, in relation to the environmental impact of hydraulic fracturing. In particular I was briefed on the US EPA's ongoing research programme on the potential impact of shale gas extraction on drinking water supplies, and also their work on potential technological and regulatory controls on gas emissions.

An Official from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency accompanied me on my visit in order to establish relevant contacts with technical staff in the U.S EPA and will maintain this relationship to ensure that Northern Ireland can benefit from the work of the U.S EPA in this area.

I believe that there must not be a headlong rush to fracking in Fermanagh. I will ensure all planning and environmental assessments will be conducted fully at all stages of this proposal. I shall also ensure that best science will inform the consideration.

## Drilling Permission

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment whether a number of compositions of a core sample of a specific shale under investigation will be disclosed before any drilling permission is granted.

**(AQW 10520/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** In terms of any planning applications involving hydraulic fracturing I have made it clear that the applicant will be required to identify the risks to the environment associated with the process through the submission of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) detailing how they would propose to mitigate against a range of potential impacts. The composition of geological formations and any potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of a proposed operation within those formations will be considered as part of the EIS which would be publically available as part of any planning application. The Department will liaise with Geological Survey of Northern Ireland in this regard in the determination of any planning application. The answer to the Member's question is, therefore, yes.

Tamboran Resources have been made aware that I expect the most rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) to accompany any applications they choose to submit. 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 Department's determination of and it must take account of all potential impacts on the environment and public health.

### **Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material Testing**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment whether Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material testing will be required for all solid and liquid material leaving any gas wells.

**(AQW 10521/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The processing and disposal routes for wastes containing naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) resulting from oil and gas production vary according to the concentration of radioactivity they contain.

The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 defines what is radioactive for the purpose of regulation. NORM waste may be "out of scope", "exempt" or "non exempt".

An Operator would be required to measure the levels of radioactivity in any NORM waste generated in order to determine the most appropriate method of disposal. If the levels of radioactivity found were above the limits specified in the legislation then a Certificate of Authorisation for the accumulation and disposal of radioactive waste would be required.

As part of the application for an Authorisation the applicant would be required to carry out a radiological impact assessment. NIEA would review the assessment with regard to environmental protection and public dose constraints as set out in the legislation and include in the Authorisation conditions relating to monitoring where appropriate.

Members can be reassured that the assessment in this and other regards will be robust and challenging.

### **Fracking**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment for his Department's assessment of the claim that fracking is perfectly safe if properly regulated.

**(AQW 10522/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Recent claims that fracking is perfectly safe if properly regulated relate to the investigation into the earth tremors caused by test fracking by Cuadrilla near Blackpool. This report relates only to the issue of earth tremors.

As I have made clear in previous answers and in my press release of 17 April 2012 all appropriate planning and environmental standards will strictly apply in terms of any proposals involving fracking. Any applicant will be required to identify all the potential risks to the environment associated with the process through the submission of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) detailing how they would propose to mitigate against a range of potential impacts.

Only when such environmental information is submitted as part of the planning application and environmental regulation process will the Department be in a position to fully assess all the potential risks.

I continue to work with the Dublin Government on the issue given that the Lough Allen basin is a shared cross border asset. I have also met Tamboran and made clear my approach.

There will not be a headlong rush to fracking. The assessment of proposals will be exhaustive. It will consider best advice and science - that undertaken with Dublin, the London methane study, ongoing EU assessments and the EPA work in the United States. It is in the context of a comprehensive process that claims, one way or other, on the safety of fracking can be judged.

## Cost of Producing Consultation Documents and Official Reports

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of the Environment what was the cost to his Department of producing (i) consultation documents; and (ii) official reports in the 2010/11 financial year.

**(AQW 10598/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** It is not possible to separately identify the costs of producing consultation documents and official reports from the Department's accounting system without an intensive manual exercise. In the main the production costs of consultation documents and official reports are associated with printing. The figures in the table below have therefore been extracted from the accounting systems based on a review of printing costs.

<b>Business Area</b>	<b>2010/11 £</b>
Department (excluding agencies)	37,366
Northern Ireland Environment Agency	29,481
Planning Service	2,891
Driver and Vehicle Agency	6,914
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,652</b>

These figures are significant. As with car parking charges, conference costs, travel, accommodation (etc) I have asked for proposals to see a reduction in these costs.

## Allegations of Fraud in Craigavon Borough Council

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 1338/11, in relation to the police investigation into allegations of fraud in Craigavon Borough Council, to detail (i) the outcome of the investigation; and (ii) whether any persons have been disciplined.

**(AQW 10602/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** I understand that the PSNI investigation into the alleged fraud is ongoing. An internal Council investigation led to disciplinary proceedings and three Council employees were dismissed.

I have asked for an update on the PSNI investigation, though this is entirely a matter for the police and an update on the clawback provisions under SEUPB funding in relation to the original grant.

## Fixed Penalty Charge for Cutting Down or Disposing of a Tree

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister of the Environment whether he will introduce a fixed penalty charge to cover the offence of when a person cuts down or disposes of a tree which is not on private land.

**(AQW 10646/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** My Department has existing powers to make Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), if it is considered expedient, in the interests of amenity, to preserve trees, groups of trees or woodlands in any area. Provision is made in a TPO prohibiting the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, wilful damage or wilful destruction of trees without consent. The designation of a conservation area also affords a degree of protection to trees within that area in that the Department must be notified of any intent to fell a tree.

Any person who contravenes a TPO by cutting down, uprooting or wilfully destroying a tree, or wilfully damaging, topping or lopping a tree is immediately guilty of an offence and, if found guilty, is liable on summary conviction to a fine of up to £100,000 or on conviction on indictment to an unlimited fine.

The Planning Act (NI) 2011, which will be commenced when powers transfer to local government, contains provisions for a fixed penalty scheme in respect of breaches of planning control relating

to operational development which does not include the felling of trees. I am also introducing these fixed penalty provisions for use by the Department, in advance of powers transferring, through a new Planning Reform Bill. The current legislation provides useful powers to protect trees in the interest of amenity and to deal with breaches of such powers whether on public or private land and, as I see it, the issue is how, where and how often existing powers are used. I will consider further issue of fixed penalties.

### **Legitimate Requests for Retrospective Planning Approval**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) his understanding of the circumstances which would constitute legitimate requests for retrospective planning approval; and (ii) whether retrospective planning permission can be sought for works that have been constructed in the absence of, or in contravention of, an original planning application where it is apparent that permission would not have been granted if the works had been included in the original application.

**(AQW 11252/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:**

- (i) It is unsatisfactory that development should be commenced that requires planning permission without first submitting a planning application and paying the appropriate fee. However, current planning legislation allows for retrospective planning applications to be made to the Department seeking planning permission for either development already carried out or for development which has not complied with the condition (s) of a previous planning approval.

The Department is legally obliged to accept and process all valid planning applications submitted to it, including retrospective applications.

- (ii) There is no legislative power to refuse to accept a valid planning application. Each application seeking planning permission for development, including a retrospective application, is determined on its own merits and the Department shall have regard to the development plan, so far as material to the application, and to any other material considerations, including planning history. Undertaking development without planning permission is at the risk of the developer and subject to enforcement action.

I take the enforcement of planning control seriously and that is why I am looking at ways to bring forward powers to strengthen enforcement, including this issue in relation to retrospective planning applications. A number of key reforms from The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 to strengthen and simplify the enforcement process have been brought forward to demonstrate this commitment.

I have made it clear to staff that more robust enforcement is an essential element of a balanced planning system – indeed robust enforcement is the flipside of good planning. I shall outline my further ambitions on enforcement in the near future.

### **Driver and Vehicle Agency Driving Licences**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of the Environment whether he will enter into negotiations with authorities in Alberta, Canada, to finalise a reciprocal agreement that would formally recognise Driver and Vehicle Agency driving licences.

**(AQW 11416/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Since a change in the law in 2009 enabling the recognition of Canadian driver licences for exchange in Northern Ireland, my Department has been in negotiations with the ten provinces and three territories of Canada, each of which requires a separate reciprocal agreement to be in place before it will accept a Northern Ireland driver licence for exchange. Progress by the Canadian authorities has been very slow. However, agreements are now in place with seven of the provinces.

In August 2011, the Driver & Vehicle Agency (DVA) provided information to the driver licensing authority in Alberta to assist in its drafting of a memorandum of understanding (MOU). This document, once finalised and signed, will facilitate the acceptance of Northern Ireland driving licences in Alberta. The MOU was referred to the Alberta authority's legal department, and is awaiting clearance. The



Department is willing to assist the Alberta authorities further if required, and continues to press for the completion of this process.

DVA accepts Canadian licences for exchange purposes irrespective of whether an MOU is required by the corresponding Canadian province or territory.

## Department of Finance and Personnel

### Traditional Confectionery, Tobacco and News Retailers

**Mr B McCrea** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the value of traditional confectionery, tobacco and news retailers.

**(AQW 10354/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel):** The UK Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2007 classifies businesses by the type of economic activity in which they are engaged. However, it is not possible to identify traditional confectionery, tobacco and news retailers separately in the classification as these are grouped with large retail chain stores in the 'Retail sale in non-specialised stores with food, beverages or tobacco predominating' sector (SIC code 47110). Turnover in this wider sector was valued at £5.1bn at January 2012, the latest month for which information is available on the Inter-Departmental Business Register. Micro businesses (0-9 employees) in this sector had an estimated turnover of £323m at January 2012.

### Shared Services

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) how many shared services the Northern Ireland Department operate with the (a) Scottish Government; (b) the Welsh Assembly Government; and (c) the Government of the Republic of Ireland; and (ii) in each case, to provide an estimate of the efficiency savings made in financial and full-time equivalent staff terms, to date.

**(AQW 10969/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Northern Ireland Departments do not operate any shared services in conjunction with the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly Government, or the Government of the Republic of Ireland.

### Northern Ireland Net Fiscal Balance Report

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) how often his Department publishes the 'Northern Ireland Net Fiscal Balance Report'; and (ii) when the next report will be published

**(AQW 11008/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** In recent years my Department has produced the Northern Ireland Net Fiscal Balance Report on an annual basis, with the most recent report (relating to 2008-09) having been published in August 2011. While work has not yet commenced on the next Northern Ireland Net Fiscal Balance Report, it is anticipated that it will be published in the autumn.

### Special Advisers

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what measures are in place regarding Special Advisers to ensure that issues akin to those arising in respect of the Jeremy Hunt controversy could not arise in Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 11015/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Special Advisers in the NICS are contractually bound by a Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including the NICS Code of Ethics, as set out in Schedule 2 to the Model Contract for Employment for Special Advisers, a copy of which was placed in the Assembly library on 30 April 2012.

## Irregular Procurement Spend

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the parity of sanction applicable to (i) Departments and their arm's-length bodies; and (ii) voluntary groups, such as those striving to serve the victims sector, that are guilty of irregular procurement spend.

**(AQW 11121/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Incurring irregular procurement expenditure is unacceptable whatever organisation may be involved. Should any body to which the Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy and the procurement legislation applies, be found to have incurred such irregular expenditure, it will be a matter for the Accounting Officer of the body to respond appropriately,

The sanctions that can be applied to public bodies and other organisations in receipt of public funding can vary, both in relation to the nature of the body and the circumstances relating to the irregular expenditure. In the case of departments and their agencies, where it is found that any expenditure, including procurement expenditure, has been incurred without approval - or in excess of approved levels - then this is reported immediately to the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO). The NIAO in turn will report on any such occurrences in the course of its annual audit of the relevant accounts. The department or agency found to have incurred the irregular spend will then be required to explain the circumstances that gave rise to it and to provide satisfactory assurance that it has taken steps to avoid a recurrence.

In relation to arm's length bodies and voluntary groups, it will be the responsibility of the funding body to determine if and what sanctions are appropriate. In the case of a voluntary group which has received grant from a NI Department, and subsequently enters into a procurement exercise, both the department and the body have responsibilities to ensure that procurement best practice procedures are adhered to and that all legal and administrative requirements have been fulfilled.

## Building Control Fees for Loft Insulations

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the rationale for introducing Building Control fees for loft insulations.

**(AQW 11164/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Building control fees were first introduced in 1983 to cover the cost of district councils carrying out certain statutory functions of the building regulations. Incorrect installation of loft insulation can lead to condensation, mould growth and potentially structural failure. Inspection by building control is to ensure correct installation.

There are no plans to amend the current relevant fee for loft insulation, which has been in operation since 1997 therefore no equality impact assessment has been carried out.

## Building Control Fees for Loft Insulations

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether an equality impact assessment was carried out on the introduction of Building Control fees for loft insulations; and when it will be published.

**(AQW 11165/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Building control fees were first introduced in 1983 to cover the cost of district councils carrying out certain statutory functions of the building regulations. Incorrect installation of loft insulation can lead to condensation, mould growth and potentially structural failure. Inspection by building control is to ensure correct installation.

There are no plans to amend the current relevant fee for loft insulation, which has been in operation since 1997 therefore no equality impact assessment has been carried out.

## Building Control

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how households are made aware of the need to apply for Building Control approval and pay its fees when purchasing loft insulation materials.

**(AQW 11168/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Department undertakes public consultations on any proposals to amend Building Regulations and opinions received are taken into consideration. Following the making of any changes the Department hosts a series of public seminars to advise on content.

The Department also provides a website with details of current legislation.

District councils contribute to open fora to inform the public of the role and functions of Building Control, for example, at regular self-build and home improvement exhibitions.

## Building Control Fees for Loft Insulations

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he has any plans to waiver the Building Control fees for loft insulations, given that households are under increasing financial pressures.

**(AQW 11171/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The current fees have been in place since 1997. It would be for individual district councils to make that decision.

## PEACE III Funding Allocated to Ex-Prisoners Groups

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 10359/11-15, whether the money was allocated to ex-prisoners groups as a target group under PEACE III, or whether it includes any funding awarded by the victims sector, and if so, how much arose from that source.

**(AQW 11227/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Both ex-prisoners and their families, and victims of the Troubles, are named beneficiary groups of the PEACE III Programme and can apply for funding under any of the Programme's Themes. All applications for PEACE III funding are assessed against the agreed selection criteria and those that meet the criteria are funded.

PEACE III Theme 1.2, Acknowledging and Dealing with the Past, with a budget of £43.5 million, has a particular focus on victims and survivors of the conflict. It aims to provide advice, counselling and support services for victims, families and those who care for them; to exchange different views of history, culture and identity; and to exchange different conflict and post-conflict

experiences amongst relevant groups and individuals. One project led by an ex-prisoners' organisation was awarded £460,124 under this Theme.

## Domestic Ratepayers

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the total value of the discount given to domestic ratepayers for early payment in each of the last five financial years.

**(AQW 11264/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Discount is available to both domestic and 'mixed' properties, which have both a domestic and non-domestic valuation, when the ratepayer pays in accordance with the relevant discount date. Therefore, the amount of discount given to domestic ratepayers only for early payment is unavailable. The table overleaf indicates the total value of discount given to properties for early payment in each of the last five financial years.

Financial Year	Discount for Early Payment
2007/08	£4.2M
2008/09	£3.8M
2009/10	£3.9M
2010/11	£4.2M
2011/12	£4.4M

## Domestic Ratepayers

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) how many domestic ratepayers received a discount for early payment of their rates in each of the last five years; and (ii) what percentage of domestic ratepayers this represented each year.

**(AQW 11265/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Discounts are available to eligible ratepayers who pay by the date specified on their rate bill for both domestic and 'mixed' properties (which have both a domestic and non-domestic valuation), and therefore the number of domestic ratepayers who received a discount for early payment is unavailable.

The following table provides (i) the total number of domestic and mixed properties which received a discount for early payment; and (ii) the percentage of domestic and mixed properties which received a discount for early payment as a percentage of the number of domestic and mixed properties for which a rates assessment was raised which could, potentially, qualify for a discount for early payment. Data is only available for the last three financial years.

Financial Year	Number of domestic and mixed properties which received a discount	Percentage of domestic and mixed properties which received a discount for early payment as a percentage of the number of domestic and mixed properties for which a rates assessment was raised which could, potentially, qualify for a discount for early payment
2009/10	118,716	21.3%
2010/11	122,467	22.0%
2011/12	122,864	22.1%

## Rating of Empty Properties

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the adequacy of system in place for responding to applications for rates exemption, following the rating of empty properties.

**(AQW 11311/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** This answer assumes that the question seeks details of the system under the Rates Order (NI) 1977 for dealing with applications concerning the rateable valuation of properties following the recent introduction of the rating of empty domestic properties and the earlier introduction of the rating of empty non domestic properties.

Under rating law any ratepayer in Northern Ireland can apply at any time to have their rateable valuation reviewed. The system comprises 3 stages:-

- Stage 1 – Application to the District Valuer responsible for the District within which the property is located;
- Stage 2 – Appeal to the Commissioner of Valuation for Northern Ireland if dissatisfied with the District Valuer's decision; and
- Stage 3 – Appeal to the Northern Ireland Valuation Tribunal (for domestic properties) or Appeal to the Lands Tribunal for Northern Ireland (for non domestic properties) if dissatisfied with the Commissioner's decision.

Applications and appeals are often focused on the provision of information and an explanation of how an assessment is carried out. By dealing with these at a local, commensurate and appropriate level most applications and appeals are resolved with only the most contentious or problematic cases proceeding to any tribunal.

Under this system the number of applications received is modest. During the financial year 2011/12, less than 3% of non domestic ratepayers and less than 1% of domestic ratepayers initiated a stage 1 application to the District Valuer.

Whilst individual ratepayers may not always be content with the outcome of their application, my overall assessment is that the system provides an appropriate and cost effective means of dealing fairly and equitably with a ratepayer's concerns, with an opportunity of referral to an independent tribunal if required.

### **Lone Pensioner Allowance Scheme**

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of pensioners who were successful in their application for the Lone Pensioner Allowance Scheme; and the value of the savings that have been made.

**(AQW 11327/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** From 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012 there were approximately 27,400 awards of Lone Pensioner Allowance (LPA) with a total value of £4.4M.

The total amount of Lone Pensioner rate relief awarded since the scheme began on 1st April 2008 up to 31st March 2012 has been £15.6M.

### **Disclosures by the BBC of Serious Tax Avoidance**

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether requests have been made by his Department to the Treasury to ascertain if any agreed pay deals by Departments compare with the recent disclosures by the BBC of serious tax avoidance involving more than 2000 public sector workers as revealed in a letter from the Treasury Secretary to the Chancellor.

**(AQW 11340/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** No requests have been made by my Department to the Treasury to ascertain if any agreed pay deals by Departments compare with the recent disclosures by the BBC.

### **Regional Rate**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel when he plans to review the regional rate set by the Executive.

**(AQW 11392/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** There are no plans to review the regional rate at this time.

The most recent Budget agreement covers the four year period from 2011 to 2015. As part of this process, the Executive agreed that the Regional Rate would be frozen in real terms until the

2014/2015 rating year. This will help provide certainty and stability for both businesses and households to plan and manage their finances.

As a result of this decision, the level of increase for the regional rate over the period from 2011/2012 onwards will be 2.5%, 2.2%, 2.7% and 2.7%. The domestic regional rate freeze also means that the average household is better off than would otherwise be the case when compared to an average 10% increase in the domestic regional rate over the last four years of direct rule.

## Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

### Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, for each of the last three years, to detail (i) the amount of money claimed for irregular overtime and expenses by staff of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service; and (ii) the number of staff who have made such claims, broken down by rank.

**(AQW 11201/11-15)**

**Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** No irregular overtime or expenses by staff for the periods 2009/10 and 2010/11 were identified by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. The 2011/12 audit of accounts has yet to be completed; there are a number of overtime claims during this period which are currently under review.

### Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many members of staff of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service have been interviewed by Business Services Organisation investigators, broken down by rank.

**(AQW 11202/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Detailed information by rank cannot be provided, as to do so would potentially compromise the identities of those staff interviewed by the Business Services Organisation. A number of staff were interviewed, as follows:

- Six operational staff between the grade of Assistant Group Commander and above
- Six operational staff between the grade of Watch Commander and Crew Commander
- Three non-operational staff between the grade of Principal and Director.

### Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, for each of the last three years, to detail (i) the number of staff of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service that have been suspended or are facing disciplinary measures, broken down by (i) rank; and (ii) the nature of the offences.

**(AQW 11203/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The information requested is detailed on the tables below.

**NUMBER OF NIFRS STAFF SUSPENDED OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS BY RANK, YEAR AND NATURE OF OFFENCE**

**1 APRIL 2009 TO 31 MARCH 2010**

Category of Allegation	Support Staff	R/T WC	R/T CC	R/T FF	FF	Status of suspension	Total by Nature
Criminal Conviction				1		Resolved	1
Theft				1		Resolved	1
<b>Total by Rank</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>2</b>

**1 APRIL 2010 TO 31 MARCH 2011**

Category of Allegation	Support Staff	R/T WC	R/T CC	R/T FF	FF	Status of suspension	Total by Nature
Criminal Conviction					1	Ongoing	1
Failure to disclose relevant information					1	Resolved	1
Misuse of alcohol/ drugs					2	Resolved	2
<b>Total by Rank</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>4</b>

**1 APRIL 2011 TO 31 MARCH 2012**

Category of Allegation	Support Staff	R/T WC	R/T CC	R/T FF	FF	Status of suspension	Total by Nature
Criminal Conviction			1			Ongoing	1
Disrepute				1		Ongoing	1
Physical violence					1	Ongoing	1
Breach of obligation/misuse of NIFRS property	1					Ongoing	1
<b>Total by Rank</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>4</b>



**NUMBER OF NIFRS STAFF FACING DISCIPLINARY MEASURES OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS BY RANK AND NATURE OF OFFENCE**

**1 APRIL 2009 TO 31 MARCH 2010**

Category of Allegation	Support Staff	AGC/GC	R/T WC	R/T CC	R/T FF	W/T FF	Trainee FF	Total by Nature	Status Resolved	Status Ongoing
Criminal Conviction		1			2			3	3	0
Disrepute					1			1	1	0
Driving Issue						2		2	2	0
Failure to disclose relevant information							1	1	1	0
Failure to comply with NIFRS Policy						1		1	1	0
Insubordination			1	1				2	2	0
Misuse of NIFRS property or its name			1					1	1	0
Poor timekeeping/ unauthorised absence	1			3	21	3		28	28	0
Theft					1			1	1	0
Insubordination/Bad behaviour/ Misuse of alcohol/drugs					1			1	1	0
<b>Total by Rank</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>

**1 APRIL 2010 TO 31 MARCH 2011**

<b>Category of Allegation</b>	<b>AGC/GC</b>	<b>R/T WC</b>	<b>R/T CC</b>	<b>R/T FF</b>	<b>FF</b>	<b>Total by Nature</b>	<b>Status Resolved</b>	<b>Status Ongoing</b>
Criminal Conviction				2		2	2	0
Failure to follow instructions		1		1	1	3	3	0
Failure to report damages			1	1		2	2	0
Failure to report pending criminal proceedings				1		1	1	0
Fraud			1	1		2	2	0
Misuse of alcohol/drugs					1	1	1	0
Poor timekeeping/unauthorised absence			7	25		32	32	0
Unsatisfactory Work Performance	1				1	2	2	0
<b>Total by Rank</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>

**1 APRIL 2011 TO 31 MARCH 2012**

<b>Category of Allegation</b>	<b>Support Staff</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>WC</b>	<b>FF</b>	<b>Trainee FF</b>	<b>R/T CC</b>	<b>R/T FF</b>	<b>Total by Nature</b>	<b>Status Resolved</b>	<b>Status Ongoing</b>
Bad Behaviour				1		1	1	3	3	0
Breach of IT/IS Policy	1							1	1	0
Criminal Conviction						1		1	1	0
Disrepute		1	2					3	3	0
Failure to report for duty						1		1	1	0
Failure to comply with instructions/unauthorised absence				1				1	1	0
Inappropriate Claim	2							2	2	0
Poor timekeeping/unauthorised absence						7	45	52	47	5
Unsatisfactory Work Performance	1				3			4	4	0
<b>Total by Rank</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>5</b>

**Key**

RT Retained

WC Watch Commander

CC crew Commander

FF firefighter

AGC Assistant group commander

GC Group commander

SC Station Commander

## Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number; and (ii) the value payments for the irregular overtime claims that have been recovered from members of staff of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.

**(AQW 11205/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** A number of overtime claims are currently under review. A determination has yet to be made as to whether these claims are irregular or not.

## Post of Co-ordinator ESW Responder in each Health and Social Care Trust

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the (i) experience necessary; and (ii) pay scale for the post of Co-ordinator ESW Responder in each Health and Social Care Trust area.

**(AQW 11241/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Two systems of Out-of-Hours Social Work services currently operate in the HSC. All staff working in this service must be registered Social Workers. (i) in the Belfast and the South Eastern Trust the Team Manager must have at least 2 years experience at Senior Social Worker Team Leader (Band 7 or above. Band 7 salary scale is £30,460 - £40,157) and have at least 1 year's experience of working in an Out-of-Hours service. In the other Trusts they require 5 years experience at Band 7 or above with up to 2 year's experience of working in an Out-of-Hours service. (ii) In the Belfast and the South Eastern Trust the Team Manager is paid at Band 8a; salary scale is £38,851 to £46,621. In the other Trusts staff are not employed specifically to work in the Out-of-Hours service and are paid according to their substantive role. In addition to this they receive £218 for an Out-of-Hours shift; which is either 5pm to 9am on weekdays or 9am to 5pm at weekends and Bank Holidays.

## Learning Disability Team

**Mr McElduff** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of staff employed by the Learning Disability Team that covers the Omagh and Fermanagh areas; (ii) their roles; and (iii) how many people are on the waiting list to be seen by the Team.

**(AQW 11251/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The information requested, as supplied by the Western Health and Social Care Trust, is set out below.

- (i) The number of staff employed by the learning disability team which covers the Omagh and Fermanagh areas is –
- (ii)

## Children's Disability Services (not specific to Learning Disability)

- 2 Senior Social Worker/Team Leader
- 8 Social Workers
- 1 part-time hospital social worker
- 1 part-time transitions planning officer
- 1 community nurse, learning disability
- 2 part-time community nurses, learning disability
- 2 personal secretaries

## Adult Learning Disability Services

- 1 whole time equivalent (wte) Consultant Psychiatrist
- 1 wte associate specialist

## 2.6 wte psychology staff

- 2 wte behaviour therapy staff
- 2 wte speech therapy staff
- 1 wte sensory occupational therapist
- 1 wte team leader
- 3 wte community learning disability nurses
- 8 wte social workers.

- (iii) In addition, these teams are supported by Trust-wide multi-disciplinary teams which include psychiatry, psychology, behaviour support and children's community nursing.

Social workers provide a range of services which enable disabled children and young people to live as full a life as possible, including individual assessment of need, community services to meet that need, respite opportunities, a listening ear, information and advice.

Transitions Officers co-ordinate and facilitate the smooth transition of young disabled people into adult services and career pathways. They enable young people to explore the most appropriate post school options through early person centred planning.

Community nurses are responsible for the management and delivery of care including assessment of need, development of care plans and providing individualised nursing, social and therapeutic care to children with a learning disability.

- (iv) I am advised that as of 8 May 2012 waiting lists are as follows –

Psychology Service – 11

Psychiatry service – 5

### **Drivers Employed by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust**

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) why there are different rates of pay and pay bands for drivers employed by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust; and (ii) to provide a breakdown of the different rates of pay and pay bands.

**(AQW 11253/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) The Trust employs drivers to undertake a range of duties and the pay band for each post is determined by the Agenda for Change NHS Job Evaluation Scheme. Each job evaluation is carried out in partnership with the Trade Unions. Some posts involve delivering goods and services, some transporting patients and clients and some include both transporting clients to, and providing caring duties in day centres.

Some of the current drivers have asked to have their grading reviewed as they are unhappy with their initial banding. These posts will now require a full job evaluation to arrive at the correct banding. In the event that after the job evaluation process there remains a pay anomaly, there is a regional joint agreement for the Trust to follow to make any necessary amendments to the rate of pay.

- (ii) The current pay bands covering these groups of staff are:

Band 1: £14,153 - £14,864

Band 2: £14,153 - £17,253

Band 3: £16,110 - £19,077

## Lisgarel Residential Home, Larne

**Mr Dickson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department plans to close Lisgarel Residential Home, Larne.

**(AQW 11258/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Lisgarel Residential Home in Larne currently provides permanent residential placements, respite care and a number of intermediate care beds. The respite care and intermediate care beds are intended to provide short-term support for older people with a view to enabling them to return to live in their own homes.

Any plans regarding the future of Lisgarel will be subject to consultation and will be shared with local communities prior to any implementation.

## Accident and Emergency Department at Belfast City Hospital City

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, since the closure of the Accident and Emergency Department at Belfast City Hospital City, how much the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust has spent on locum staff for the Accident and Emergency Department at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. broken down by (i) junior doctors; (ii) senior doctors; (iii) consultants; (iv) the hourly rate of pay; and (v) mileage paid.

**(AQW 11272/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Cost of Agency Locum Medical Staff for Accident and Emergency Department at Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast since November 2011

Medical grade *	Amount	Hourly rate+	Mileage paid
Junior doctors	£87,870.24	Between £48.28 - £48.92	N/A
Senior doctors	£316,494.76	Between £58.48 - £70.00	N/A
Consultants	£8,662.50	£87.50	N/A

\*Junior doctors include all medical staff up to but not including Specialist Registrars.

Senior doctors include all medical staff from Specialist Registrar up to but not including consultants.

+ Rates of pay vary depending on the medical agency used.

The above table identifies the agency locum costs i.e. medical staff hours purchased through an external medical agency by the Belfast HSC Trust since the date of the temporary closure of the Emergency Department in the City Hospital. The Trust does not pay mileage costs to agency locums.

## Health Services in Northern Ireland

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what system is in place to ensure that a financial contribution is made by the Government or residents of the Republic of Ireland when availing of health services in Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 11280/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Depending on the route to treatment accessed by a Republic of Ireland resident, there are a variety of financial systems for dealing with the costs of providing care. These can range from centrally managed financial flows between the Department of Health in England and the Irish Government under EU legislation to arrangements negotiated on a contractual basis between Health and Social Care Trusts and their counterparts in the Republic of Ireland. Republic of Ireland patients may also pay to use HSC services on a private basis. It is recognised that in some instances Health and Social Care services are utilised by residents of the Republic of Ireland fraudulently and the Business Services Organisation counter fraud services pursue such cases.

## Regulations for Fire Hydrant Servicing

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the regulations for fire hydrant servicing; and whether these regulations being met.

**(AQW 11297/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Article 17 of The Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 makes provision for the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) to arrange with the Department for Regional Development for the provision and maintenance of fire hydrants.

Fire hydrant servicing is the responsibility of the Department for Regional Development, through Northern Ireland Water. Fire Hydrants are inspected by NIFRS personnel in line with its Hydrant Inspection Policy and any defects found are reported to NI Water for repair.

## Fire Hydrants

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how often fire hydrants are serviced.

**(AQW 11298/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Under the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service's Hydrant Inspection Policy, inspection frequency in relation to fire hydrants is based on risk. The planned timescales between inspections are shown in the table below:

Risk	Frequency of Test
Low	5 Years
Medium	3 Years
High	1 Year

## Fire Hydrants

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the timescale for rectifying a fault with a fire hydrant.

**(AQW 11303/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Fire hydrant servicing is the responsibility of the Department for Regional Development, through Northern Ireland Water. Fire Hydrants are inspected by NIFRS personnel in line with its Hydrant Inspection Policy and any defects found are reported to Northern Ireland Water for repair.

## Water Filters to Protect Against Waterborne Micro-Organisms

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) what consideration the Health and Social Care Trusts gave to the fitting of water filters to protect against waterborne micro-organisms (a) prior to; and (b) after the pseudomonas outbreak in December 2011; and (ii) if this action was not pursued, to detail the reasons why.

**(AQW 11371/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** In reference to my answer to AQW 11228/11-15, the independent review of the tragic incidents of pseudomonas infection in neonatal units is ongoing and the technical area in this question may form part of the ongoing investigations of the review team. I cannot therefore comment on this area until the review investigations have been completed and I have received the final report at which time I will bring the report to the Assembly.



## Fire and Rescue Service

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the (i) payments received; and (ii) rank of each person in the Fire and Rescue Service who claimed overtime whilst taking part in the wholetime recruitment exercise.

**(AQW 11430/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) The table below contains details of claims paid to date in respect of the NIFRS whole-time recruitment exercise:

<b>Paid To</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
Whole-time staff	76,232
Retained Staff	17,542
NI contributions	9,753
<b>Total To Date</b>	<b>103,527</b>

- (ii) This information could only be established at disproportionate cost.

## Compton Report

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why the Compton Report did not include councils.

**(AQW 11431/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** In June 2011, I announced a review of Health and Social Care services in Northern Ireland to be led by John Compton, Chief Executive of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB). The Review was to examine:

- the future provision of services including acute hospital configuration;
- the development of primary health care services and social care; and
- the interfaces between the sectors.

The Review Report 'Transforming Your Care' was published on 13 December 2011.

The Review Team undertook extensive engagement during the review period. This included 6 public meetings across Northern Ireland to which all Councils were invited. In addition, all interested parties were encouraged to provide written submissions if they so wished. Submissions were received from two Councils.

## Point-of-Use Tap Mounted Disposable Filters

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, for the period 31 March 2010 and 31 March 2012, to detail (i) the number of point-of-use tap mounted disposable filters purchased; (ii) the total cost; and (ii) the number in use, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust area.

**(AQW 11446/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The answer to this question is provided in the following table:

<b>HSC Trust</b>	<b>(i)</b>	<b>(ii)</b>	<b>(iii)</b>
Belfast	12	£420	0
Northern	12	£624	0

<b>HSC Trust</b>	<b>(i)</b>	<b>(ii)</b>	<b>(iii)</b>
South Eastern	23	£1,710.43	0
Southern	574	£24,946	21
Western	72	£3,744	0

### **Point-of-Use Tap Mounted Disposable Filters**

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether any Health and Social Care Trust has undertaken a clinical validation of point-of-use tap mounted disposable filters.  
**(AQW 11448/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** As point of use tap mounted disposal filters are manufactured to international standards and have been validated under laboratory conditions, multicentre field evaluations and widely published independent clinical studies, there is no requirement for HSC Trusts to undertake additional clinical validation.

### **Point-of-Use Tap Mounted Disposable Filters**

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) whether a regional contract is in place for the supply of point-of-use tap mounted disposable filters; and (ii) to detail the trading name and registered office address of the business(es) holding the contract.  
**(AQW 11449/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** There is no regional contact in place for the supply of point of use tap mounted disposable filters however the need for such a contract will remain under review by the HSC Trusts together with the Business Services Organisation, taking into consideration the cost/benefits of establishing such a contract.

### **Circular CCPD/2/2011**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many personal education plans have been issued by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust since the issue of Circular CCPD/2/2011.  
**(AQW 11472/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The information requested is not centrally available within the DHSSPS. The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust advised my Department that 11 Personal Education Plans have been completed with a further 79 in the process of completion since the issue of Circular CCPD/2/2011.

### **MRI Scanner in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast**

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 8481/11-15, to detail the number of (i) patients; and (ii) children waiting for an MRI scan in each Health and Social Care Trust area and the length of their wait to date.  
**(AQW 11488/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The number of patients waiting for an MRI scan at each HSC Trust, and the length of their wait in time bands, is outlined in the table below:

HSC Trust	Patients waiting for an MRI scan by HSC Trust and weeks waiting						Total number of patients waiting
	0-6	6-9	9-13	13-21	21-26	26+	
Belfast	808	364	140	62	8	0	1,382
Northern	284	3	0	0	0	0	287
South Eastern	222	169	56	0	0	0	447
Southern	603	170	0	0	0	0	773
Western	683	26	16	0	0	0	725
Total	2,600	732	212	62	8	0	3,614

**Source:** HSC Trusts

The number of children (categorized as patients aged between 0 and 16 years of age) waiting for an MRI scan at each HSC Trust, and the length of their wait in time bands, is outlined in the table below:

HSC Trust	Children waiting for an MRI scan by HSC Trust and weeks waiting						Total number of children waiting
	0-6	6-9	9-13	13-21	21-26	26+	
Belfast	121	62	43	31	8	0	265
Northern	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
South Eastern	7	2	0	0	0	0	9
Southern	8	0	0	0	0	0	8
Western	57	3	5	0	0	0	65
Total	202	67	48	31	8	0	356

**Source:** HSC Trusts

### Use of Cloth Nappies in Maternity Units

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consideration has been given to the promotion of the use of cloth nappies in maternity units, including providing information through Bounty Packs.

**(AQW 11489/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Mothers provide their own nappies for use in maternity units and do receive literature on the use of cloth nappies; however, using cloth nappies in maternity units presents many difficulties in terms of the management and laundry of soiled nappies and of infection control.

The contents of Bounty packs are the sole responsibility of the charity Bounty; my Department has no input into the contents of the Bounty packs.

## Needs of Children in Kinship Care and Their Carers

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) what plans he has to address the needs of children in kinship care and their carers, given that the majority of children are being raised informally; and (ii) whether his Department is carrying out research on the issue, and if so, to outline the timescale for its completion.

**(AQW 11492/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

**i) The Department is publishing Standards on Kinship Care for children/young people who live in kinship arrangements approved by Social Services later this month. It is also looking at current initiatives that could be developed or tailored to meet the needs of informal kinship i.e. through the Families Matters Strategy, as well as looking at ways to raise awareness of the support that may be available to kinship carers. At the Kinship Care debate in the Assembly I made a commitment to highlight the needs of kinship care through the fora of sub committee for children's and young people.**

ii) The Department is currently pursuing research on a range of information on the characteristics of children and their carers living in kinship care arrangements from the Census 2011. The Census Office has indicated that the earliest date for publication of this information is 2013. The Department has further agreed one of the priority topics for consideration for inclusion in the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) work programme is research on kinship care. This is currently being actively progressed through the Steering Group and discussions with SCIE.

## Policy on Providing Funding to and Supporting Hospices

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail his Department's policy on providing funding to and supporting hospices.

**(AQW 11532/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department has recently reviewed Core and Project Funding to the Third (voluntary) Sector, including hospices. After consideration of the findings I can advise that:

- The Department should not be supporting service delivery – responsibility for this should pass to HSC Board as commissioners;
- Core funding should only be provided with the aim of enabling organisations to become self-sustainable;
- A small sum of money should be set aside to establish an 'Engagement Forum' which will provide strategic policy input;
- An Innovation Grant Fund should be established with funding directed to specific areas that would assist in delivering the Department's objectives;
- The Department should consider ways of encouraging commissioners and Trusts to open more contracts up to tendering and move away from short-term funding.

Until new funding arrangements have been implemented, the Department is not in a position to increase the level of core funding to any regional voluntary organisation.

## Hospices in Operation

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) all hospices in operation; (ii) the annual running costs of each hospice; and (iii) how much funding his Department has provided to each hospice in each of the last ten years.

**(AQW 11533/11-15)**

Mr Poots: Northern Ireland has four independent hospices:

- (i) Foyle; Marie Curie Cancer Care (Belfast); Northern Ireland Hospice, which includes the NI Children's Hospice (Killadeas and Newtownabbey); and St John's House (Newry).

There are also a number of specialist palliative care beds within Trust facilities that do not come under the 'hospice' term.

- (ii) My Department does not hold information on the running costs of non-statutory, independent bodies such as hospices; neither are these voluntary organisations required to provide such information to my Department.
- (iii) Funding provided to hospices in Northern Ireland is provided in the table below. Figures prior to 2008/09 are not available as data from all former HSSB areas is no longer available.

Funding Provided	Financial Year			
	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12
Ni Hospice (Childrens)	£ -	£ 210,000	£ 538,406	£ 566,862
Ni Hospice (Adults)	£ 1,884,552	£ 1,797,392	£ 1,944,488	£ 1,944,488
Marie Curie - Beaconsfield	£ 1,377,588	£ 1,416,486	£ 1,373,264	£ 1,373,264
Foyle Hospice	£ 314,650	£ 323,687	£ 430,800	£ 430,800
St John's Newry Hospice	£ 1,014,920	£ 1,062,202	£ 1,032,202	£ 1,012,202
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 4,591,710</b>	<b>£ 4,809,767</b>	<b>£ 5,319,160</b>	<b>£ 5,327,616</b>

### Addiction to Alcohol or Drugs

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) what is the estimated number of people who have an addiction to alcohol or drugs; and (ii) what support his Department offers to people who are trying to overcome addiction to alcohol or drugs.

**(AQW 11537/11-15)**

#### Mr Poots:

- (i) According to the most recent Census of Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services, on 01 March 2010 there were 5,846 individuals in treatment for drug and/or alcohol misuse.

The New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs (NSD) Phase 2, which I launched in January 2012, is Northern Ireland's cross-sectoral and cross-Department strategy to reduce the harm related to alcohol and drug misuse. The NSD seeks to direct action across five pillars:

- (ii) prevention and early intervention; harm reduction; treatment and support; law and criminal justice; and monitoring, evaluation and research. Approximately £8 million is allocated to its implementation each year, and additional funding is provided through the mental health budget for the provision of treatment and support services.

In line with the NSD Phase 2, the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and the Public Health Agency (PHA) commission a range of services across Northern Ireland to support people who have substance misuse issues. These services are commissioned using the 4-tier model and services range from population-wide information and education programmes at Tier 1, to detoxification and in-patient treatment at Tier 4. It is the duty of the HSCB and the PHA to assess the need for such services and then commission these as required.

Through the NSD Phase 2, I have tasked the HSCB and the PHA with developing a regional commissioning framework for addiction services. Work to develop this framework is currently underway and it is anticipated that this will provide greater consistency to the provision of these services across Northern Ireland.

## People Addicted to Prescription Drugs

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of people addicted to prescription drugs; and (ii) what guidelines his Department has issued to doctors advising them on what action to take when a patient becomes addicted to prescribed medicines.

**(AQW 11538/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) Information on the number of people addicted to prescription drugs is not available. The Northern Ireland Drug Misuse Database in 2010/11 recorded that 635 people presented to treatment services where the main drug had been prescribed. This represented 24% of individuals who presented for treatment.
- (ii) The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) issues to GPs and other healthcare professionals any relevant guidelines in relation to what action to take when a patient becomes addicted to prescribed medicines. The legacy Health and Social Services Boards and the HSCB have produced a range of guidance and protocols in relation to a range of medication issues and these include:
  - Prescribing Review: Tramadol, dihydrocodeine, cocodamol 30/500
  - Guidance on the management of anxiety disorders
  - Guidance on the treatment of depression
  - Guidance on the management of benzodiazepine prescribing.

Guidance is produced on an ongoing basis as required by the changing evidence base and service needs.

A number of Prescribed Drug Misuse Practitioners (PDMPs) are commissioned by the PHA and HSCB. Their role is to address specific needs of individuals who have a dependency on Benzodiazepines and / or 'z drugs' and to raise awareness within local communities by education on the complexities associated with benzodiazepine use. Benzodiazepine withdrawal or reduction is undertaken where appropriate.

It should also be noted that the HSCB monitors the prescribing of individual GMS practices on a regular basis, and issues identified are discussed and reviewed with GPs at monitoring visits as appropriate.

Doctors can refer patients who misuse prescription drugs to a range of treatment and support services, in the same way they can for a patient who misuses other substances, including alcohol and illegal drugs.

## Guidelines for Referrals to the Regional Fertility Clinic

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail any changes that have been made to the guidelines for referrals to the Regional Fertility Clinic and the waiting list for fertility treatment in each of the last three years; and (ii) whether any public consultation was carried out prior to the changes coming into effect.

**(AQW 11584/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The original criteria for referral to the Regional Fertility Centre were devised following a public consultation in 2006. The criteria were amended after a further public consultation in 2009; when criteria regarding the relationship status of prospective patients were removed. There have been no other changes made to the criteria

In 2009 the service moved to one regional waiting list for fertility treatment ensuring equality of access for all Northern Ireland residents.

Currently over £3m is available recurrently for fertility services. This additional funding allocated since 2009 ensures that no one on the waiting list waits longer than 12 months for treatment. In addition, now that the waiting list has been stabilised at 12 months, the service has been expanded to offer frozen embryo transfer to new referrals from 1 April 2012.

## Medication for Prisoners

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what procedures and practices are in place to ensure that an adequate supply of medication for prisoners suffering from debilitating and life threatening illnesses are available and are administered as and when required; and whether there were any failings in these procedures and practices during April 2012.

**(AQW 11606/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust is responsible for the delivery of prison healthcare services. Policies and procedures are in place in prison healthcare to ensure that all patients receive their prescribed medication in a safe and evidence-based way. Patients who have been assessed as having capacity to manage their own medication are expected to comply with the reordering procedures so that medicines can be supplied in a timely manner. All prescribed medication will be made available to prisoners provided the Standard Operating Procedures for ordering medications are followed.

During the month of April, there was one reported incident where the prisoner did not receive his prescribed medication. The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust has advised that this was managed appropriately as per SE Trust policies and procedures and the patient came to no harm. Additional checking procedures have been implemented as a result of this incident.

## Contracts for the Provision of Sandwiches for Sale on Health Service Premises

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the listeria outbreak, to clarify the current status of the contracts for the provision of sandwiches for sale on Health Service premises.

**(AQW 11614/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The status of the contracts remains unchanged however supply from one contractor has been suspended temporarily as a precautionary measure.

The contract for the supply of sandwiches covers only those supplied by the Trust either for patients or for those retail outlets run by the Trust i.e. sandwiches for sale by the Trust. The contract does not extend to those outlets run by independent retailers based within Trust premises.

## Social Workers

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what training is given to social workers to ensure that they comply with his Department's guidance 'Northern Ireland Working Arrangements for the Welfare and Safeguarding of Child Victims of Human Trafficking'.

**(AQW 11621/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Social workers in HSC Trusts and in the Voluntary Sector receive a range of training on child protection. Whilst not specifically on the DHSSPS Guidance these training courses cover signs and symptoms of all forms of child abuse and what a social worker has to do when abuse is discovered. Specialist child protection training is also delivered to social workers working in children's services by Barnardo's which, among other things, provides specific training on preventing sexual exploitation of young people.

I am aware that specific regional training on human trafficking is planned for from October this year. This will be delivered to a multi-agency audience, including social workers, involved in safeguarding child victims of human trafficking. There are also plans in place to run the Merton Age Assessment training in the Autumn for social workers working in Children's Services. The existing and proposed training will support compliance with the Department's guidance on safeguarding child victims of human trafficking.



## **New Hospital in the Ballymena Area**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether as part of the current consultation, a site for a new hospital in the Ballymena area has been discussed as an alternative to the Antrim Area Hospital and the Causeway Hospital, Coleraine.

**(AQW 11655/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Transforming Your Care is about ensuring that our health system is resilient and safe and delivers the best possible outcomes well into the future, meeting the needs of the citizens of Northern Ireland.

The production of Population Plans was proposed in Transforming Your Care as a necessary early stage in implementation of the Review proposals. Local Commissioning Groups, in partnership with Trusts, are undertaking initial work on developing these Plans and these are due to be completed by the end of June 2012.

The purpose of Population Plans is to identify the projected needs for an area and how best to meet those needs, consistent with the principles in the Review Report.

As part of the development of these Population Plans in the Northern area, a number of professional advisory groups populated with local consultants, GPs, nurses and Allied Health Professional staff have been established to work through the issues and possible solutions. Participants are drawn from right across the Northern LCG area.

These groups have identified a series of options ranging from one acute hospital for the Northern area to models using primary care support and specialists GPs to support hospital services. Identifying all the possible options is an important element of this process, as is ensuring that options are investigated in terms of the best way of delivering a safe, sustainable and resilient service. Within the wide range of possible options identified, the possibility of a new hospital in Ballymena has been raised. It is important to recognise however that much further work needs to be done before the Populations Plans can be completed. A range of engagement activities are underway with Councils and community groups across the Northern area, and a discussion of these options is included in these workshops and meetings.

Once Population Plans have been produced, there will be formal consultation processes put in place in relation to any significant changes to services, and key stakeholders and the public would be able to provide their views.

## **Regional Adoption and Fostering Taskforce**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why Kinship Care Northern Ireland has been refused membership of the Regional Adoption and Fostering Taskforce which is responsible for developing kinship care policy and practice.

**(AQW 11680/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The function and membership of the Regional Adoption and Fostering Taskforce (RAFT) is a matter for the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB), which leads the Taskforce. I have been advised by the HSCB that Kinship Care Northern Ireland has recently been invited to join the Independent Fostering Stakeholders' Group of RAFT along with all other voluntary and independent organisations involved in fostering in Northern Ireland. In addition, Kinship Care Northern Ireland has also been invited to join a working group of RAFT which will develop policy and procedures for kinship carers who care for looked after children.

## **Families of Individuals Diagnosed with Alzheimers Disease**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has any plans to permit families of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimers Disease, who were wrongly assessed in the past and who have undergone a new assessment, to claim care home fees retrospectively.

**(AQW 11682/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Eligibility for continuing health care is not condition-specific and therefore a particular diagnosis would not necessarily make an individual eligible for continuing health care. The distinction between health and social care is complex and requires a careful appraisal of each individual case. Within our integrated system, it is clinicians, together with other health and social care professional colleagues, who are responsible for making decisions about appropriate long term care, in consultation with the client and their families and carers.

Where a client or family in Northern Ireland is dissatisfied with the outcome of an assessment, they can seek a review. If, following review, disagreement persists about the outcome of an assessment, a right of complaint exists under the formal HSC Complaints Procedure. The local Patient Client Council, which represents the interests of patients and clients of the HSC, can provide further information and support to people who wish to pursue a formal complaint.

## Department of Justice

### Prison Service Staff

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the total amount paid to Prison Service staff who have had their place of employment changed, including claims for essential travel costs by road, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 10950/11-15)**

**Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice ):** Table A below details the cost to the Prison Service in the last five financial years for staff claiming travel expenses due to being permanently transferred.

**TABLE A**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Staff Costs</b>
07/08	£ 57,818
08/09	£ 98,075
09/10	£ 90,208
10/11	£ 53,522
11/12	£ 35,058
<b>Total</b>	<b>£334,681</b>

The cost to the Prison Service in the last five financial years for staff claiming travel expenses due to being temporarily transferred is not routinely available and can only be calculated at disproportionate cost to the public purse.

### Criminal Justice Inspectorate's Follow-up Report on Mistaken Prisoner Releases

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the Criminal Justice Inspectorate's follow-up report on mistaken prisoner releases, and in particular point 2.1, what are the remaining 'considerable risks'; and how does the Northern Ireland Prisoner Service intend to address the lack of staff confidence.

**(AQW 11035/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The remaining 'considerable risks' referred to in paragraph 2.1 of the recent report by Criminal Justice Inspection were those identified in a report by the NIPS Head of Standards and Audit, and include the use of different terms by agencies when recording decisions made at Court; the complexity of the processes that are involved in the calculation of sentences; the absence of formal staff training; and NIPS occasionally receiving inaccurate information from other criminal justice partners.

The provision of a confident and well motivated cadre of staff remains a key element of the Custody Office change programme. As a result, a number of changes have been made.

A Senior Governor has been appointed with the responsibility to develop

a corporate approach to the committal and discharge of prisoners from all three prisons; develop and revise both the legislative and policy advice given to staff; implement procedural changes to the Custody Office working practices; and devise and implement a sustainable training programme for all staff expected to be involved in the committal and discharge of prisoners.

Progress has also been made with regard to the updating of the Custody Office IT infrastructure, and staff are now in receipt of revised job descriptions and 'know-your-job' guides covering the key risks within their areas.

In their report, CJINI inspectors did recognise that considerable work had been undertaken to resolve or manage the risks as outlined above. To this end, NIPS has given a commitment that by September 2012 it will have resolved or have controls in place to manage the risks posed by the outstanding issues identified in this report.

### **Illegal Republican Parades**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Justice how many illegal republican parades have taken place in each of the last three years; and how many (i) prosecutions; and (ii) convictions have resulted.

**(AQW 11079/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The information available indicates that there were two illegal Republican parades in 2009; three in 2010; four in 2011 and two in 2012.

These figures relate to illegal Republican parades which have taken place since July 2009, information prior to this date is not available.

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) has provided the following information in relation to individuals prosecuted and convicted in relation to illegal parades which have taken place since that date.

	<b>Prosecutions</b>	<b>Convictions</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
2009	5	1	2
2010	6	2	0
2011	30	13	0

PSNI has advised that investigations are ongoing in relation to the two illegal republican parades which have taken place this year.

### **Former Juvenile Justice Centre Site at Lisnevin, Millisle**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the proposals for the former Juvenile Justice Centre site at Lisnevin, Millisle.

**(AQW 11083/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** At present, there is nothing substantive to add to my previous correspondence.

### **Separated Prisoner Compact**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in light of the separated prisoner compact which states that 'admitting a prisoner to separated conditions would not be likely to prejudice the safety of others', whether this statement applies to the safety of prison staff.

**(AQW 11120/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Northern Ireland Prison Service has a duty to hold all those committed by courts. Separated conditions exist to best manage those prisoners with proven links to paramilitary

organisations and who then wish to be managed separately. Such prisoners are managed under a system designed and developed to specifically limit their ability to subvert the regime or the general security infrastructure of the prison. This includes considerations relating to the safety of our staff.

## Court Cases

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many court cases in each court division have been dealt with by a (i) treatment order; (ii) hospital order; and (iii) combination of both, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 11204/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Table 1 below details by County Court Division the number of court cases in which a Supervision and Treatment Order was made in each of the last five years.

**TABLE 1: CASES DEALT WITH WHICH HAD AT LEAST ONE SUPERVISION & TREATMENT ORDER**

County Court Division	2007	2008	2009	2010 [1]	2011	Total
Belfast	0	0	0	2	0	2
Londonderry	0	0	1	0	1	2
Antrim	0	0	1	0	0	1
Fermanagh and Tyrone	1	0	1	1	0	3
Armagh and South Down	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ards	0	0	1	0	1	2
Craigavon	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>

### Notes:

Includes cases resulted with at least one Crown Court Supervision and Treatment Order.

[1] Includes 1 case with 2 defendants who both received a Supervision and Treatment Order.

Data for 2011 is provisional

Table 2 below details by County Court Division the number of court cases in which a Hospital Order was made in each of the last five years.

**TABLE 2: CASES DEALT WITH WHICH HAD AT LEAST ONE HOSPITAL ORDER**

County Court Division	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
Belfast	3	3	2	1	0	9
Londonderry	0	1	0	1	0	2
Antrim	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fermanagh and Tyrone	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armagh and South Down	0	0	0	1	0	1
Ards	1	0	1	1	0	3
Craigavon	0	1	0	0	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>

### Note:

Data for 2011 are provisional

There were no cases with the combination of Supervision and Treatment Order and a Hospital Order in the last 5 years.

### **Double Yellow Lines Outside Enniskillen Court House**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the impact on public confidence in the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service's decision to close five courthouses arising from the Service's failure to consult adequately on the double yellow lines outside Enniskillen Court House and their subsequent removal.

**(AQW 11206/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I do not consider that these matters are connected.

### **Separated Prisoners in Roe House, Maghaberry Prison**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 4438/11-15, for a breakdown of the £104,761 non-payroll cost of running Roe House.

**(AQW 11210/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Table A below details the breakdown of the total non payroll cost of running Roe House residential accommodation from 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011.

**TABLE A**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Staff Uniforms	34661.47
Office Supplies	14410.95
Fixtures & Fittings	149.10
Health & Safety Costs	204.87
Local Damage repairs	97.47
Amenities – including: Electrical appliances Cell furniture Cleaning materials	33431.94
Accommodation Waste	1012.40
Prisoners Earnings (PREPS)	13261.60
Prisoners Clothing	684.54
Prisoners Toiletries	5765.83
Prisoner Recreational activities	678.68
Prisoner Initiatives Activities	402.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>104761.30</b>

### **Policing and Community Safety Partnerships**

**Mr Hilditch** asked the Minister of Justice how many Policing and Community Safety Partnerships have been unable to appoint their full quota of independent members.

**(AQW 11283/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The process of appointing independent members to Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) and District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSPs) is a restricted function of the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

However, the Board has confirmed that the following Policing and Community Safety Partnerships were unable to appoint their full quota of independent members: Castlereagh; Coleraine; Dungannon and South Tyrone; and North Down. The Board is currently liaising with PCSPs and Councils in these areas to determine the best way forward to fill the vacancies.

### **Policing and Community Safety Partnerships**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Justice what vetting procedures or other measures are in place to prevent members of paramilitary organisations or terrorists, past or present, from serving on the new Policing and Community Safety Partnerships.

**(AQW 11291/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** While the process of appointing independent members to Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) and District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSPs) is a restricted function of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, I understand that independent members are required to make a declaration against terrorism at the time of application.

The Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 also disqualifies individuals who have been convicted and served a sentence of imprisonment or detention from which they have not been discharged within the five year period prior to application from sitting as independent members of PCSPs or DPCSPs. A criminal records check is carried out on each applicant to confirm this is not the case.

Furthermore, independent members can be removed from a PCSP/DPCSP if they fail to disclose a conviction for a criminal offence or if they act in breach of the terms of a declaration against terrorism.

Political members are nominated to PCSPs/DPCSPs by their District Council, and are therefore not subject to the requirements set out above, but rather to those required for nomination as a councillor.

In addition, any member, whether political or independent, can be removed from a PCSP if they have been convicted of a criminal offence after their date of appointment.

### **Separated Prisoner Compact**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the separated prisoner compact point 3.3G 'Admitting a prisoner to separated conditions would not be likely to prejudice the maintenance of security or good order in prison', whether this point is being breached by republican separated prisoners on protest; and to explain why the situation is tolerated and allowed to continue.

**(AQW 11292/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Those republican prisoners currently on protest in Maghaberry prison are in dispute with prison authorities about their regime and entitlements. The protest is being managed through the application of a restricted regime (rule 32); this regime assists in maintaining good order and discipline. The Governor has determined that the ongoing protest is best managed within the separated unit but with the additional rule 32 restriction applied.

### **Compensation to Victims of Punishment-Type Attacks**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how much has been paid in compensation to victims of punishment-type attacks in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 11295/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Compensation Agency's data base does not identify those claims made as a result of paramilitary assaults separately to other general criminal injury claims. This makes it very difficult to provide the information requested as it would require a significant manual exercise with disproportionate costs, and the information may not be completely accurate.

## Compensation to Victims of Punishment-Type Attacks

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the compensation payment for victims of punishment-type attacks, broken down by (i) injury; and (ii) limb.

**(AQW 11296/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Pursuant to AQW/11295/11-15. The Compensation Agency's data base does not identify those claims made as a result of paramilitary assaults separately to other general criminal injury claims. This would make it difficult to provide an accurate breakdown of injuries and would involve a significant manual exercise with disproportionate costs.

## Republican Separated Prisoners on Protest

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice what percentage of the entire Northern Ireland prison population is currently made up of republican separated prisoners on protest.

**(AQW 11376/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There are currently 29 republican separated prisoners on protest. They make up 1.6% of the Northern Ireland prison population, as at 11 May 2012.

## Payment of a Prisoner's Drug Debts

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the payment of a prisoner's drug debts, why prison staff who facilitated this action were not reported to the PSNI for failing to report a crime, under Section 5 of the Criminal Law (NI) Act 1967.

**(AQW 11381/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I would refer the Member to the reply I provided to him dated 23 March 2012 relating to AQW 9330/11-15. The Northern Ireland Prison Service did not consider that there was evidence of a criminal offence having been committed by staff. This view was confirmed by legal advisers.

## Republican Separated Prisoners

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice why alternative search arrangements are being sought in line with the demands of republican separated prisoners on protest when they have signed the required separated compact, of which point 13.1 states that prisoners 'will be required to co-operate with all searches including full searches'.

**(AQW 11384/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** As I stated in the Assembly on 1 May, this is not an issue for one group of prisoners, it is an issue for the entire Northern Ireland Prison Service. Officials within NIPS are taking forward work to implement pilot schemes in Magilligan Prison and Hydebank Wood YOC to address recommendation eight in the Prison Review Team's Final Report. Recommendation eight stated that 'efforts should be continued to see whether there is an effective and less intrusive method than full body-searching of ensuring that prisoners leaving and entering prison are not bringing in contraband'. I remain firmly of the view that all prisoners and all staff would benefit from ensuring that we carry out searching in our prisons in a way that is less demeaning than it currently is for both staff and prisoners.

## Sexual Offences Prevention Orders

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 10454/11-15, if he will supply the information requested on breaches in whichever format is available.

**(AQW 11405/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I would refer the Member to my answer to AQW/11058/11-15 for written answer on 16 May 2012. Table 2 of that answer provides a breakdown of the number of defendants convicted for a breach of a Sexual Offences Prevention Order by calendar year and County Court Division.



## **Barristers: Legal Aid Payments List**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 10811/11-15, and with the exception of the stated case, how many (i) barristers; and (ii) legal companies objected to the publication of these details; and of these, how many (a) had their objection overruled; and (b) withdrew their objection.

**(AQW 11462/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** With the exception of the case mentioned in AQW10811/11-15, the Legal Services Commission (the Commission) received representations from one other individual, a barrister, who restated the view that there was no need for the Commission to publish names along with legal aid earnings. As the Commission had considered similar objections previously, it took the view that the representations did not prevent publication.

## **People Selling Laundered DERV**

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Justice what plans he has to introduce legislation to address the problem of people selling laundered DERV.

**(AQW 11479/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Fuel laundering is an issue of tax evasion, and while it is a key element of the work of the Organised Crime Task Force, the operational activity is led by colleagues in HMRC. They will often be supported by other agencies such as the Serious Organised Crime Agency or PSNI.

The existing legislation surrounding laundering and selling of rebated diesel which has been altered to give it the appearance of white diesel is clear. Under section 170 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, fraudulent evasion of duty in relation to oils is a criminal offence.

In addition, the existing legislation allows for the seizure and dismantling of fuel laundering sites, and for the pursuit of assets which are believed to have been obtained using the proceeds of criminal activity.

In 2009/10 it is estimated that £70m was lost in tax revenue in Northern Ireland, down from £250m just five years ago.

Although taxation of fuels is a reserved matter, I am considering legislating to add evasion of duty in relation to oils to the offences which are referable to the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland as unduly lenient.

## **Court Cases Dismissed by a Judge**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice how many court cases have been dismissed by a judge, in the last twelve months, on the grounds of the failure of the Public Prosecution Service to provide the relevant papers at the preliminary inquiry stage.

**(AQW 11634/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service IT system records how charges are dealt with at committal proceedings, but the specific reasons for these decisions are not recorded.

Therefore it is not possible to say how many cases were dismissed on the grounds of the failure of the Public Prosecution Service to provide the relevant papers at the Preliminary Inquiry stage.

## **Article 7 Paragraph 3 of the Life Sentences (Northern Ireland) Order 2001**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Justice (i) whether he has ever received a notification from the Secretary of State under Article 7 paragraph 3 of the Life Sentences (Northern Ireland) Order 2001 and; (ii) if so, whether the notification was related to any individuals who are currently in prison.

**(AQW 11637/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I have received no notifications from the Secretary of State under Article 7 paragraph 3 of the Life Sentences (Northern Ireland) Order 2001.

## Attorney General Against the Rt Hon Peter Hain MP

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the cost of; and (ii) the man-hours spent to date, by the Northern Ireland Court Service, on the action taken by the Attorney General against the Rt Hon Peter Hain MP; and for an estimate of the final cost and man-hours of this case.

**(AQW 11706/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The case of the Attorney General v The Right Honourable Peter Hain MP and Biteback Publishing Limited was concluded on 17 May 2012. The final estimated costs associated with the case are approximately £2,690. This represents approximately sixteen judicial and staff man-hours.

## Department for Regional Development

### Cyclists

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister for Regional Development how many cyclists regularly use the roads.  
**(AQW 10968/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development):** I can advise the Member that I remain committed to supporting the use of sustainable transportation of which cycling has an important role to play. My Department does not record the number of cyclists using public roads however the Annual Cycle Usage Report for Northern Ireland 2000 – 2010 contains information on the average daily flow of cycles recorded at locations throughout Northern Ireland over the 11 year period with increases of over 47% in the number of cyclists across N. Ireland. The report is currently being updated.

### A5 Project

**Mr B McCrea** asked the Minister for Regional Development, in relation to the A5 project, when the report will be published.

**(AQW 10974/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it received the Inspector's Report on the A5 Western Transport Corridor Public Inquiry on 24 February 2012, and officials are currently reviewing the issues arising out of this Report.

It is anticipated that the Departmental Statement, which is the Department's response to the Inspector's Report, will be published in early summer. The Inspector's Report will also be made available to the public at that time.

### Public Consultations

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development to list the public consultations carried out by his Department in the last five years; and how many responses were received to each consultation.

**(AQW 10998/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The list of consultations from my Department and number of responses to each in the last 5 years are as follows:

	<b>Completed consultations DRD 2007-2012</b>	<b>Date Published</b>	<b>Number of responses received</b>
1	Accessible Transport Strategy Draft Action Plan 20012-2015	2012	24
2	Disability Action Plan 2012	2012	4
3	EQIA of the RDS 2035	2012	129

	<b>Completed consultations DRD 2007-2012</b>	<b>Date Published</b>	<b>Number of responses received</b>
4	Equality Impact Assessment on the Policy to Permit Return Rail Journeys to be Purchased using Half Fare Smartpasses Only	2012	7
5	Building an Active Travel Future for Northern Ireland	2011	34
6	Draft Budget - Departmental Spending and Savings Plans 2011-2015	2011	82
7	Draft EQIA of the Belfast Rapid Transit proposals	2011	3
8	Draft Equality Impact Assessment on Departmental Spending and Savings Plans 2011-2015	2011	9
9	Equality Scheme 2011 - 2016	2011	8
10	North South Collaborative Spatial planning Framework - Consultation document	2011	21
11	Regional Transportation Strategy - A Sustainable Transport Future	2011	355
12	Regional Transportation Strategy - A Sustainable Transport Future (Draft Equality Impact Assessment)	2011	0
13	Regional Transportation Strategy - A Sustainable Transport Future (Draft Habitats Assessment)	2011	1
14	Regional Transportation Strategy - A Sustainable Transport Future (Draft Integrated Impact Assessment)	2011	0
15	Regional Transportation Strategy - A Sustainable Transport Future (Environmental Report)	2011	1
16	Route Options for Belfast Rapid Transit	2011	192
17	Belfast On The Move	2010	67
18	Bilingual Traffic Signs	2010	101
19	Public Transport Reform	2010	103
20	RDS Public Consultation & Environmental Report	2010	129
21	Review of Financial Assistance for Domestic Properties Not Served By a Water Main 2010	2010	50
22	Accessible Transport Strategy Draft Action Plan 2009-2012	2009	37
23	Belfast Rapid Transit	2009	36
24	Draft Social and Environmental Guidance - 2009	2009	29
25	Guidance on Port Master Plans - A consultation paper	2009	32
26	Rathlin Island Policy	2009	15
27	RDS Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report	2009	4
28	Regional Transport Strategy Discussion Document	2009	38

	<b>Completed consultations DRD 2007-2012</b>	<b>Date Published</b>	<b>Number of responses received</b>
29	Restricted Zone Access Permits	2009	22
30	Consultation on Policy Proposals for a Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill	2008	29
31	Equality Impacts of DRD Elements of draft PfG 2008/11, Draft Budget 2008/11 and draft Investment Strategy - Equality Unit	2008	7
32	Setting Local Speed Limits	2008	55
33	Water Supply - Water Fittings 2008	2008	12
34	Water Supply - Water Quality Amendment Regulations 2008	2008	14
35	Accessible Transport Strategy Draft Action Plan 2007-2009	2007	14
36	Disability Action Plan 2007	2007	5
37	Draft Charges Scheme for NIWL 2007	2007	38

### **Developments in the Gortmerron Link Area of Dungannon**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether the Brookfield Road, Brookfield Mews, Brookfield Glen and Brookfield Crescent developments in the Gortmerron Link area of Dungannon have been adapted.

**(AQW 11031/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that the Brookfield Road, Brookfield Mews, Brookfield Glen and Brookfield Crescent developments in the Gortmerron Link area of Dungannon have not been adopted.

### **Road Bond for Princetoon, Portavogie**

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister for Regional Development what steps Roads Service has taken to ensure that the conditions attached to the road bond for Princetoon, Portavogie are met and that the road is adopted.

**(AQW 11093/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service is endeavouring to progress the adoption of this site through liaison with the developer and other statutory bodies, in particular Northern Ireland Water in relation to provision of a pumping station.

As soon as the aforementioned matter is resolved, Roads Service will consider enforcement action, should the developer not complete the works without delay.

### **Unadopted Roads in the Strangford Constituency**

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 3650/11-15, what steps Roads Service has taken to ensure that the conditions attached to the road bond for East Street Court, Newtownards are met and that the road is adopted.

**(AQW 11094/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has informed me that East Street Court, Newtownards has not been adopted into the public road network as the developer is yet to complete outstanding

works relating to the provision of street lighting and it is also awaiting receipt of the necessary clearance from Northern Ireland Water in respect of the sewers. In addition, an engineer's certificate is being sought from the developer in relation to a retaining wall bordering the site. My officials will endeavour to progress these particular issues in an effort to expedite adoption.

### Northern Ireland Water: Regulatory Compliance

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister for Regional Development how many inspections to ensure regulatory compliance Northern Ireland Water has carried out on (i) domestic; and (ii) commercial properties in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 11095/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that accurate electronic records of Water Regulation inspections (formerly known as plumbing inspections) are only available from 1 January 2010, following the introduction of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (NI) 2009.

Details of inspections between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2011 are set out in the table below.

Inspections	1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011
(i) Domestic	41	252
(ii) Non-domestic	549	648
<b>Total</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>900</b>

NIW publishes an annual return on its water regulation inspections, activities and findings in its Drinking Water Quality Report.

### Plumbing Inspectors

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister for Regional Development how many plumbing inspectors, with responsibility for site plumbing inspections, have been engaged on behalf of Northern Ireland Water in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 11096/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that the total number of water regulation inspectors, formerly known as plumbing inspectors, engaged during each of the past five years is as follows.

Year	Number of Inspectors
2007/08	8
2008/09	8
2009/10	8
2010/11	6
2011/12	6

### Inspections on Housing Developments

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline Northern Ireland Water's obligations in relation to the number, or percentage, of inspections that should be carried out on housing developments to ensure that water mains and fittings comply with British standards.

**(AQW 11097/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (NI) 2009 are designed to protect consumers and the environment from poor water quality, unnecessary waste, misuse and the contamination of wholesome water supplies. All water systems must comply with the Regulations and can be subject to inspections. However, there is no specific number or percentage of inspections required under the Regulations.

Inspections are carried out on a risk based approach determined by a property's water use and the potential risk of it contaminating the public water supply should any back flow or erroneous cross connections occur. There are five categories of risk ranging from lowest to highest, and property types are allocated to a category based on national guidance. In line with the water companies in GB, NIW arranges water regulation inspections across all categories but places greater emphasis on the higher risk categories. Domestic properties in new housing developments are normally classified in a low risk category.

NIW publishes an annual return on its water regulations inspections, activities and findings in its Drinking Water Quality Report.

### **Departmental Guidance: (FD DFP 01/09)**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 10464/11-15, whether the contracts that have been awarded in respect of the A5 road project, and the process by which they were awarded, comply with the relevant Department of Finance and Personnel requirements.

**(AQW 11118/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has worked closely with the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) in managing the funding and financial procedures associated with the A5 project and to ensure compliance with the relevant requirements. As agreed with DFP, the contracts awarded in respect of the A5 project, include a break point to allow consideration of the Business Case, which must be approved by DFP before the contracts continue into the construction phase.

### **Storage of Bicycles by Train Passengers**

**Mr Newton** asked the Minister for Regional Development what provision is made for the safe storage of bicycles by train passengers at local railway stations.

**(AQW 11182/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Translink has advised that a large number of its transport facilities have dedicated covered bicycle parking facilities which are provided free of charge.

Dedicated bicycle parking facilities, which have been developed in consultation with Sustrans, are available at the following rail locations:

- Antrim Bus and Rail Station
- Bangor Bus and Rail Station
- Carrickfergus Rail Station
- Central Rail Station
- Coleraine Rail Station
- Europa Bus Centre/Great Victoria Street Rail Station
- Holywood Rail Station
- Lisburn Rail Station
- Lurgan Rail Station
- Moira Rail Station
- Portadown Rail Station

## A8 Road Project

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) when the business case was submitted and approved for the A8 road project; (ii) how old were the traffic volume figures on which it was based; and (iii) how do these figures compare with current traffic figures, including heavy port traffic.

**(AQW 11193/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service submitted its Business Case for the proposed A8 scheme to the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) on 8 March 2012. DFP approved funding for the scheme on 4 April 2012.

The Business Case for the scheme is based on a traffic model developed using a variety of traffic survey data collected between March and April 2008. The model was validated to ensure it replicated the existing traffic situation as close as possible, in accordance with the guidance and requirements outlined in the Department for Transport's Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.

There are two permanent traffic counters on this section of the existing A8 which are used to monitor and record traffic flows. The data from these two sites show overall traffic, including heavy port traffic, has reduced by approximately 4% since 2008. However, the general trend over the last 10 years for traffic volumes, including the heavy port traffic, has been an increase.

## NI Water Budget

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 10573/11-15, to detail the gross profit made by NI Water in each of the last three years, including a breakdown of tax, and the dividends paid to his Department.

**(AQW 11240/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that its gross profit, tax and dividend paid to the Department for Regional Development (DRD) in each of the last three years was as follows:

	<b>2009/10</b> <b>£000</b>	<b>2010/11</b> <b>£000</b>	<b>2011/12</b> <b>£000</b>
Profit before income tax and dividend	95,128	112,172	Not yet available
Income tax expense	37,185	31,714	
Profit after income tax and before dividend	57,943	80,458	
Dividend paid to DRD	35,006	36,028	

### Notes:

- 1) Figures are extracted from NIW's audited statutory accounts.
- 2) A dividend is paid to DRD in respect of the activities for the preceding year.
- 3) The accounts have been prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards which requires that assets adopted by the company, mainly sewers, are treated as income and contribute directly to profit. These assets increased income and therefore profit by approximately £46m in 2010/11 (£19m 2009/10).
- 4) The asset adoptions, treated as income in the accounts, did not provide NIW with additional funds to spend.
- 5) The profits do not indicate that customers were being over-charged. Indeed below inflation price increases were passed on to non-domestic customers in 2011/12.

## Northern Ireland Railway Signal Box at Londonderry

**Mr G Robinson** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether the Northern Ireland Railway signal box at Londonderry will remain open after the track is relayed.

**(AQW 11404/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Translink has advised that the replacement and upgrade of the signalling system between Coleraine and Londonderry is scheduled to take place during 2014/15. As a result of these works the



signal cabins at Castlerock and Londonderry will close and the signalling control for this section of the line will be relocated to Coleraine signal cabin. It is currently estimated that this will take place during the summer of 2015.

### **Manhole Repairs on the A2 Belfast to Bangor Dual Carriageway**

**Mr Dunne** asked the Minister for Regional Development, in relation to the manhole repairs on the A2 Belfast to Bangor dual carriageway at the Devil's Elbow (i) why it took almost a week to complete; (ii) why interim measures were not put in place, including a steel plate over the manhole, to allow traffic to flow during peak times; and (iii) what management processes will be put in place to avoid any recurrence of traffic problems in the future.

**(AQW 11541/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Road Service has advised that it became aware of a potential safety hazard associated with an inspection chamber, belonging to British Telecom (BT), in the vicinity of the Devil's Elbow at around 17:00 on 4 May 2012. Roads Service advised BT of the potential safety issue soon afterwards and the site was immediately secured using cones and warning signs erected by a contractor working for BT.

Roads Service officials further advise that the initial assessment provided by the contractor indicated that temporary traffic management (TTM) measures would be required. As a result, an emergency lane closure was deemed appropriate given the lower volumes of traffic expected over the weekend. Roads Service considered the TTM proposed adequate and contacted local media outlets to warn motorists of possible delays as a result of this work.

Following a more detailed examination of the chamber by the BT Contractor, it was decided that full reconstruction of the chamber would be required. Roads Service officials have confirmed that this work commenced immediately, and a new chamber was cast in concrete on Saturday 5 May 2012. At this time, Roads Service officials continued to liaise with BT representatives to determine the earliest time that the lane restriction could be removed and were advised by the BT contractor that restrictions should remain in place until 10 May 2012 by which time the new chamber would have sufficient strength to carry traffic. Traffic restrictions were removed around midday on the 10 May 2012.

Roads Service officials considered that a tidal contra-flow (TCF) system for managing traffic would be the best and least disruptive TTM measure in these circumstances. However, due to physical constraints, such as the adjacent signalised junction, central island, side roads, private accesses and narrow traffic lanes within the potential TCF zone, this form of traffic management could not be implemented without compromising the safety of road users. Similarly, health and safety concerns precluded the use of temporary metal plates.

Roads Service officials advise that they will review this incident with BT and other Statutory Bodies, with a view to establishing if additional procedures could be put in place to ensure that the disruption arising from such incidents can be minimised in the future.

Roads Service has contacted BT to highlight its concerns about the disruption caused by this incident. I am content that my Roads Service officials acted promptly and carried out their responsibilities in a timely and professional manner to ensure that any potential danger to the travelling public was mitigated and the necessary action was taken.

## **Department for Social Development**

### **Organisations or Projects in the Sandy Row, Donegall Road and Village Areas of South Belfast**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Social Development how much funding his Department and its arm's-length bodies have given to organisations or projects in the (i) Sandy Row; and (ii) Donegall Road and Village areas of South Belfast in each of the last ten years; and from which funding streams was each allocation made.

**(AQW 10834/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development):** Table 1 below provides the details requested in respect of Sandy Row:

**TABLE 1 SANDY ROW £**

<b>Funding Stream</b>	<b>2003/04</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>
Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund (commenced 2003)	-	-	106,017	163,755	165,802	383,795	703,907	208,562	186,389
Community Volunteering Scheme 2006/10	-	-	-	-	970	990	950	-	-
Volunteer Bureaux Initiative 2010/11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,100	-
Urban Development Grant	-	-	-	274,724	-	-	1,300,000	-	-
Estate based cohesion project budget	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000
Regeneration Services Budget	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
Supported People Funding(commenced 2003)	31,259	32,197	28,575	34,466	37,259	37,764	35,506	31,035	28,979
Housing Association Grant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000	-

Table 2 below provides the details requested in respect of Donegal Road and Village areas of South Belfast:

**TABLE 2 DONEGALL ROAD AND VILLAGE AREAS OF SOUTH BELFAST £**

Funding Stream	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund(commenced 2003)	-	5,349	150,310	397,506	466,136	517,028	436,130	316,192	419,752
Public Realm - Capital	-	-	-	-	150,000	-	-	180,000	-
Local Community Fund 2003/04	4,615	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local Community Fund 2005/06	-	-	70,873	-	-	-	-	-	-
Active Community Initiative 2003/04	31,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Volunteering Scheme 2006/10	-	-	-	16,370	19,717	19,416	1,100	-	-
Executive Programme Fund for short-term (commenced 2003)	90,675	92,596	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short Term Support to Women's Sector Organisations (commenced 2005)	-	-	132,731	28,015	-	-	-	-	-
Children and Young People Funding Package. Voluntary and Community Sector Projects (commenced 2006)	-	-	-	48,031	106,443	-	-	-	-

Funding Stream	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Community Investment Fund 2006/09	-	-	-	-	45,581	76,897	-	-	-
Community Investment Fund 2009/12	-	-	-	-	-	-	70,000	67,211	66,539
Women's Centres Childcare Fund (commenced 2008)	-	-	-	-	-	109,371	112,023	112,023	117,023
Urban Development Grant	-	-	-	-	223,125	74,375	-	-	-
Community Development Budget	10,400	10,600	8,200	14,395	13,470	13,897	13,775	14,100	14,100
Estate based cohesion project budget	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,000
Supported People Funding (commenced April 2003)	363,677	366,907	364,780	380,089	321,633	273,331	267,453	261,773	254,148
Housing Association Grant	-	-	-	3,100,000	-	1,500,000	-	-	-

In addition to the funding detailed above, Private Sector Grants were also paid but the breakdown can only be provided by District Council area. Table 3 below therefore, provides details of funding provided within Belfast City Council area over the last ten years:

**TABLE 3 BELFAST CITY COUNCIL PRIVATE SECTOR GRANTS £**

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
10,459,000	11,002,000	11,779,000	12,236,000	11,798,000	10,111,000	8,484,000	8,639,000	3,439,000	2,720,000	

It should be noted that the details provided prior to 2005 may not be complete as there was no requirement to maintain a database prior to this date.

## Housing Need

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the current housing need; and (ii) the housing need in each of the last five years in the (a) Rasharkin; (b) Ballymoney; (c) Dunloy; (d) Cloughmills; and (e) Loughgiel areas.

**(AQW 10856/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The table below details the five year projected need figures and the current housing need in the areas in question. Housing need figures are based on a five year period and are reviewed annually.

### 5 Year Projected Social Housing Need

Area	March 2007 - 12	March 2008 - 13	March 2009 - 14	March 2010 - 15	March 2011 - 16
Rasharkin	20	30	15	6	6
Ballymoney Town	55	50	45	10	10
Dunloy	10	10	6	6	6
Cloughmills	6	6	8	9	6
Loughgiel	0	0	0	0	0

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.

## Jobseekers Allowance and Income Support

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister for Social Development how many people are in receipt of (i) Jobseekers Allowance; and (ii) Income Support in the Glens area of East Antrim.

**(AQW 10917/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department does not hold information at the geographical level requested. The table below shows the number of people in receipt of (i) Jobseekers Allowance and (ii) Income Support in the two district council areas in which the Glens lie.

Local Government District	Jobseekers Allowance Claimants	Income Support Claimants
Larne	720	1,130
Moyle	600	700

**Data Source:** Northern Ireland Benefits Statistics Summary November 2011d

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.

## Welfare Reform

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development, in light of the proposed changes under Welfare Reform, for his assessment of the potential impact on the level of rent arrears within the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

**(AQW 10978/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** At the present time the Housing Executive is unable to definitively quantify the likely impact of Welfare Reform. Research and investigations are currently underway to determine the potential impact of Welfare Reform on a number of functions within the organisation. Data is still to be captured which will provide a basis for analysis to be carried out which will provide a definitive estimate on the potential increase in rent arrears. I am taking forward a number of actions to ensure that appropriate housing services and support are in place to assist those impacted by the changes.

### **Northern Ireland Housing Executive Properties**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the percentage of Northern Ireland Housing Executive properties whose occupants are not in work, or have earned income arising from work. **(AQW 10979/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that a survey-based estimate from their Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey states that 77% of their tenant households have no-one in paid employment. This includes households who are not of working age.

### **Proposed Transfer of Housing Executive Stock**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development how, in any proposed transfer of Housing Executive stock to a body created to replace it, the amount of overhead and corporate debt apportioned to each property will be accounted for at the time of transfer. **(AQW 10982/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has completed an independent Fundamental Review of the Housing Executive. Their report contained a number of proposals which included the separation of the Housing Executive Landlord and Strategic functions. All proposals for change to the current Housing Model will be subject to detailed design, this will include full consideration of the options for dealing with stock and corporate debt.

### **Funding for Amateur Boxing Clubs**

Mr Allister asked for Social Development to detail the level of funding his Department and its arm's-length bodies have allocated to amateur boxing clubs in each of the last five years, including the amount awarded to each club.

**(AQW 11013/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Please see the attached table detailing the level of funding provided to amateur boxing clubs in the last five years.

### **Public Realm Scheme in Dungannon Town Centre**

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister for Social Development whether a date for the commencement of the Public Realm Scheme in Dungannon town centre has been confirmed; and if not, to detail the reasons for the delay.

**(AQW 11054/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The date for commencement of the construction of the Dungannon Public Realm scheme has not yet been confirmed. There have been several issues beyond the control of either my Department or Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council which have led to delays on the start of this scheme. These include:

- A requirement to undertake additional traffic modelling requested by the Roads Service;
- Insufficient capital funding in my Department's budget in the 2010/11 financial year which meant that work on the procurement could not be progressed; and
- A need to address concerns over the location of a pedestrian crossing raised by a local retailer which required negotiation with Translink and the Roads Service.

All of these issues have now been resolved and the tender documents for the construction phase of the project have been prepared for issue. However, as the original approval for this scheme was granted in December 2007 it has been necessary to revisit the original Business Case, update the costs and refer the scheme back to the Department of Finance and Personnel for approval to proceed. An Addendum to the cost information in the original Business Case is currently being prepared for submission to DFP. Upon receipt of DFP approval, the tendering for the construction of Dungannon Public Realm Phase 1 will commence immediately.

### **Limited Capability for Work Questionnaire**

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he will ensure that Atos Healthcare professionals are required to seek GP and/or further medical evidence in all cases where customers state on their Limited Capability for Work Questionnaire (ESA50) that they are, or have recently been, undergoing treatment for cancer related illnesses.

**(AQW 11081/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The requirement to seek GP and/or further medical evidence is dependant on the circumstances of each individual case.

It is not necessary for Atos Healthcare Professionals to seek GP and/or further medical evidence in all cases where customers state on their medical questionnaire (ESA 50) that they are, or have recently been, undergoing treatment for cancer related illnesses. Where it is evident that the customer is receiving, or likely to receive (within the next 6 months), certain forms of chemotherapy (intravenous, intraperitoneal or intrathecal) or radiotherapy, the customer will be assigned to the Support Group without the need for further medical evidence or attendance at a medical assessment. These claims will be periodically reviewed to ensure that customers continue to receive the right amount of benefit.

In circumstances where the customer has not provided sufficient information about their cancer related illness, e.g. type, duration, etc., or have not stated the type of treatment they are receiving on their medical questionnaire (ESA 50), a Healthcare Professional may consider it necessary to approach the customer's GP for further medical evidence in order to determine if the customer can be assigned to the Support Group without the need to attend a medical examination.

If a customer states that they have had cancer on their medical questionnaire (ESA 50) but that the cancer related treatment ceased more than six months ago, a Healthcare Professional will not seek GP and/or further medical evidence. The customer will be asked to attend a medical examination to determine if they have limited capability for work.

### **Employment and Support Allowance Claimants**

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of Employment and Support Allowance claimants to date who have (i) appealed against a Work Capability Assessment decision; (ii) had their appeals heard; and (iii) been through the ATOS Healthcare formal complaint procedure.

**(AQW 11113/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:**

**i) The information is not available in the format requested. However, I can advise that since the launch of Employment and Support Allowance in October 2008 until end of March 2012, the Department had received a total of 22,159 Employment and Support Allowance appeals against the decisions made by departmental decision makers.**

- ii) At the end of March 2012, the results of 12,061 Employment and Support Allowance appeals had been received.
- iii) Since June 2011, 84 customers have been through the ATOS Healthcare formal complaint process.



## New Build Social Housing Schemes

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the new build social housing schemes that Housing Associations have planned for the Bangor area in this financial year.

**(AQW 11161/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Details of the exact schemes across Northern Ireland have now been published on the Housing Executive website ([www.nihe.gov.uk](http://www.nihe.gov.uk)). This provides members with the most up to date way of assessing schemes as it is updated on a weekly basis.

## Lock Out Crime Scheme

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department intends to introduce a scheme similar to the previous Lock Out Crime Scheme.

**(AQW 11163/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The previous "Lock Out Crime Scheme", which was a three year crime reduction initiative launched in May 2004, was funded by the Northern Ireland Office at a cost of almost £3m and was delivered by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The Department of Justice has advised me that it has no plans to reintroduce such a scheme but anticipates that the newly established Policing and Community Safety Partnerships will include initiatives aimed at improving home security and reducing the fear of crime in their local plans.

## Northern Ireland Housing Executive Properties

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the scheme which allows Northern Ireland Housing Executive properties to be transferred to housing associations, including the (i) anticipated uptake in 2011/12; (ii) actual uptake in 2011/12 and (iii) total number of properties that have been transferred to each housing association to date.

**(AQW 11209/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** To date only 55 properties in Rinmore in Londonderry have been transferred into Housing Association ownership following a tenant vote. While the transfer process seemed more protracted than was first envisaged the end results for tenants has been very positive, in part due to the extensive consultation carried out in the lead up to transfer and the ongoing engagement with Apex Housing Association since.

Following the success of this pilot, I asked the Housing Executive to bring forward a substantial Programme over the next 3 years that could see up to 2,000 more homes improved as part of this sort of initiative. I expect this Programme within the coming weeks and of course just as in Rinmore, the eventual success or take up will be entirely down to the tenants to decide as they will be consulted on a scheme by scheme basis before a vote is undertaken on any transfer of their homes.

## Renting of Social Housing

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the differences in the guidance and legislation that regulates the renting of social housing from (i) the Northern Ireland Housing Executive; (ii) housing associations; and (iii) private landlords.

**(AQW 11211/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Northern Ireland Housing Executive is a statutory body whose functions are detailed in housing legislation. Registered Housing Associations are voluntary bodies whose registration with the Department is subject to meeting eligibility criteria set out in Article 15 of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1992. Given the different status and funding arrangements, the Department regulates the Housing Executive and registered housing associations in different ways.

There are common forms of tenancy across all social housing and, whoever their landlord, social tenants enjoy, in law, similar rights and have similar responsibilities. As a statutory body, many of the Housing Executive's requirements to provide tenant services, such as repairs, are established

in legislation. Similar requirements are placed on registered housing associations in the Housing Association Guide.

Private landlords do not provide social housing. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive contracts some temporary accommodation for homeless households from the private rented sector. This has to meet all minimum statutory standards for private rented accommodation as well as adhere to any particular conditions specified by Housing Executive as part of the contract.

## Northern Ireland Housing Association Guide

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the Northern Ireland Housing Association Guide, including the number of revisions made and the rationale for each revision. **(AQW 11212/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My assessment is that the Housing Association (HA) Guide is one of the key management tools employed by my Department (DSD) to deliver its regulatory responsibilities for Housing Associations. It sets out the Department's guidelines for Registered Housing Associations requiring robust policy and procedural standards across all Associations and equitable quality service provision for social housing tenants. In 2010 the Guide underwent a fundamental review.

The guide is constantly being kept up to date. In 2009/10 14 amendments were made, in 2010/11 42 amendments were made and so far this year there has been 17 amendments. Below are the links where these amendments and their rationale can be found.

### 2009/10:

[www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/hsdiv-housing/ha\\_guide/hag-amendments/hag-amendments-archive-2009-10.htm](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/hsdiv-housing/ha_guide/hag-amendments/hag-amendments-archive-2009-10.htm)

### 2010/11:

[www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/hsdiv-housing/ha\\_guide/hag-amendments/hag-amendments-archive-2010-11.htm](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/hsdiv-housing/ha_guide/hag-amendments/hag-amendments-archive-2010-11.htm)

### 2011/12:

[www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/hsdiv-housing/ha\\_guide/hag-amendments.htm](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/hsdiv-housing/ha_guide/hag-amendments.htm)

## Subletting of Housing Executive Properties

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) for his assessment of the level of subletting of Housing Executive properties; (ii) how many people have been caught engaging in this practice in each of the last five years; and (iii) what punishments were imposed. **(AQW 11213/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Under the terms of a secure tenancy a tenant is entitled to sublet part of their dwelling house by virtue of Article 30 of the Housing (NI) Order 1983 which states the following: -

Terms of a secure tenancy N.I.

Subletting and lodgers N.I.

30.—(1) It is by virtue of this Article a term of every secure tenancy that the tenant may allow any persons to reside as lodgers in the dwelling-house.

- (2) It is by virtue of this Article a term of every secure tenancy that the tenancy will not, without the written consent of the landlord, sublet or part with the possession of part of the dwelling-house.
- (3) The consent required by virtue of this Article is not to be unreasonably withheld and, if unreasonably withheld, shall be treated as given.
- (4) An application for the landlord's consent required by virtue of paragraph (2) shall be in writing.

However, under the terms of a secure tenancy Housing Executive tenants are not permitted under Article 30 to sublet their whole home. As such, it would be considered a breach of their tenancy obligations and would result in the Housing Executive seeking the termination of the tenancy and recovery of vacant possession of the property. Recovery action in these circumstances would be co-ordinated through individual district offices. The Housing Executive does not hold records regarding the number of cases pursued.

## **SS Nomadic**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development from where funding will be sourced to maintain the SS Nomadic once it has been refurbished,

**(AQW 11234/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The estimated projected maintenance and running costs for the initial three years of operation once the SS Nomadic opens as a visitor and industrial maritime heritage attraction amounts to £1.55million; and, it is anticipated that these costs will be met from a combination of admission income, corporate sponsorship, venue hire, dining and café income, retail and booklet sales and a £535,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

## **Employment and Support Allowance Medical Examinations**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) how many complaints have been lodged about incidents or problems with the manner in which the Employment and Support Allowance medical examinations have been carried out; (ii) how many were upheld; (iii) how many are on-going; (iv) of those completed, how many led to reviews of decisions; and (v) how many staff (a) have been disciplined; (b) have had their employment terminated; and (c) have been retrained as a result of complaints.

**(AQW 11246/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Atos Healthcare began providing Medical Support Services including Employment and Support Allowance medical examinations, on behalf of the Social Security Agency on 20 June 2011. Since then (i) there have been 22 complaints lodged about incidents or problems with the manner in which Employment and Support Allowance medical examinations have been carried out; (ii) one complaint has been upheld; and (iii) four complaints investigations are currently ongoing. (iv) there have been no reviews of Employment and Support Allowance decisions as a result of complaints regarding incidents or problems with the manner in which the Work Capability Assessment medical examination was conducted. (v) With regards staff, (a) there have been no staff disciplined; (b) there have been no staff who have had their employment terminated; and (c) there have been 3 staff retrained due to complaints and audit outcomes.

## **Employment and Support Allowance Medical Examinations**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Social Development what measures his Department has taken to ensure that the Employment and Support Allowance medical examinations are carried out in a fair, consistent and professional manner and to an acceptable standard.

**(AQW 11249/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Employment and Support Allowance medical examinations are carried out by Atos Healthcare on behalf of the Social Security Agency. The Medical Support Services Agreement has a number of service levels which measure the performance of Atos Healthcare. In addition, the Social Security Agency has appointed a Health Assessment Advisor to quality assure the appointment of Healthcare Professionals, their training and the medical processes identified in the contract. These measures have been developed to ensure that medical assessments are carried out professionally and to an acceptable standard.

## Abolition of the Social Fund

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Social Development what discussions he has had with the Department for Work and Pensions regarding (i) the abolition of the Social Fund; and (ii) whether money will be ring-fenced, at UK or the Northern Ireland level, to provide emergency funding for people facing hardship.

**(AQW 11255/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:**

- (i) I have met with Department for Work and Pensions Ministers on several occasions since June 2011 during which I have discussed the reform of Social Fund as one element of the Welfare Reform Programme.
- (ii) On 26 April I brought forward for Executive consideration, proposals to develop a new discretionary payment scheme to replace Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for Living Expenses and Household items.

The Executive agreed to this proposal and also agreed that funding transferred from Annually Managed Expenditure to Departmental Expenditure Limit for the delivery of discretionary support provision in Northern Ireland should be ring-fenced.

## Houses of Multiple Occupancy

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail his Department's assessment of whether the housing stock has the sufficient capacity to cope with the increased levels of demand for houses of multiple occupancy as a result of the changes to housing benefit .

**(AQW 11256/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The precise effects of the Housing Benefit changes and their impacts on housing stock are not known at this time. The Housing Executive has identified around 5,000 existing Housing Benefit recipients who will be financially disadvantaged by the shared accommodation rate change. It is by no means certain that all of these people will have to move into houses in multiple occupation , as some may be able to fund additional rent themselves, others may make alternative arrangements and in other cases landlords may reduce rents. Those impacted may avail of Discretionary Housing Payments in certain circumstances. The Draft Housing Market Review and Perspectives 2012/15 reports that 7.9% of the total private rented sector stock are Houses in Multiple Occupation. This represents approximately 10,000 multiple occupancy units which equates to some 30,000 bedspaces. Although the Housing Executive are unable to confirm the exact number unoccupied, they continue to carry out work to identify the total number that are empty.

I have commissioned research to fully understand the impacts of the changes, but more importantly I am working with representatives from across the housing sector to ensure we have the right services and initiatives in place to support those impacted.

## Special Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings Scheme

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development, in the case of Special Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings Scheme applications, whether the purchase price of a property will be the market price prior to the intimidation or attack.

**(AQW 11266/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The procedure for the valuation of a property being purchased under the Special Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings (SPED) scheme is as follows: The purchase price of a house acquired under SPED shall be determined by the Land and Property Services Agency of the Department of Finance and Personnel, at a consideration assessed as though the sale were by a willing vendor, in an open market and without adverse security considerations. "Without adverse security considerations" denotes that if the property being acquired under SPED was damaged as a result of incidents which prompted the owner to apply for the scheme, then that property would be valued as in an undamaged

condition and thus allowing any forthcoming claim for damage to the property to be assigned to the Housing Executive. Therefore the valuation for any property being purchased shall be current market value, in an undamaged condition, at the date of the instruction letter to Land and Property Services Agency from the Housing Executive.

### **Emergency Grants**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he will consider changing the criteria for emergency grants to allow private homeowners who are under threat or intimidation to apply, especially if they are in financial difficulty.

**(AQW 11268/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive's Scheme for Emergency Grants is approved by my Department under Article 29A of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1988. The Scheme provides that emergency grants are payable to tenants in the public or private rented sectors who have been awarded "intimidation points" by the Housing Executive. Earlier this year, the Housing Executive published a consultation paper which focussed on certain aspects of the Housing Selection Scheme, including the award of intimidation points. I am currently considering the need for a wide ranging review of the way social housing is accessed and allocated in Northern Ireland. It is likely that such a review would include an examination of the rules for awarding intimidation points, which may have implications for the Scheme for Emergency Grants.

While the Scheme for Emergency Grants provides for the payment of grant in circumstances where a tenant has become an owner occupier, an amendment to primary legislation would be required to allow private homeowners to apply for emergency grant.

### **Disability Living Allowance**

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department has made an assessment of the numbers of people likely to be adversely affected by replacing the Disability Living Allowance with the Personal Independence Allowance.

**(AQW 11271/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** There are currently 121,000 Working Age customers (aged 16-64) currently in receipt of Disability Living Allowance who will be affected by the introduction of Personal Independence Payment. All such customers will be invited to claim and be assessed for Personal Independence Payment. Children will continue to receive Disability Living Allowance provided they satisfy the conditions of that benefit until they reach age 16 and people over the age of 65 at 8 April 2013 who are already receiving Disability Living Allowance will continue to receive the benefit.

Whilst the legislative framework underpinning Personal Independence Payment has already been set out in the Welfare Reform Act in Great Britain, it is too early to assess the impact in Northern Ireland given the differences in the Disability Living Allowance caseload between Northern Ireland and Great Britain and that work to finalise key elements of the new benefit, including the assessment criteria and proposed thresholds for Personal Independence Payment, is still ongoing. Public consultation exercises have already been undertaken on the assessment criteria and proposed thresholds for Personal Independence Payment and one is currently ongoing on the design of the new benefit. This will close on 30 June 2012.

I fully understand and appreciate that existing Working Age Disability Living Allowance customers may be anxious and concerned about the change and my Department, through the Social Security Agency, will be working to fully support them on an individual basis as they encounter the new benefit.

### **Boiler Replacement Scheme**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the timescale for the introduction of a new Boiler Replacement Scheme.

**(AQW 11273/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme has been very successful. Almost 1700 households have had inefficient boilers replaced under the scheme. I am now examining the evaluation of the pilot and I expect to make an announcement about a new Boiler Replacement Scheme in the near future.

### **Purchase of Craigowen Lodge, Seahill, Holywood**

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister for Social Development whether any funding has been requested or granted to allow the purchase of Craigowen Lodge, Seahill, Holywood for development as Social Housing by Hearth Housing Association.

**(AQW 11282/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I understand that Craigowen Lodge is a listed building dating from 1851. Hearth Housing Association has surveyed the property and is still considering the potential of the site.

### **Warm Homes Scheme**

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the number of boilers provided in South Down constituency through the Warm Homes Scheme in each of the last four years; and (ii) of these, how many have since been repaired or replaced.

**(AQW 11313/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The new Warm Homes Scheme came into operation on 1 July 2009 and the Housing Executive as scheme administrators only hold information from that date. Under the current Warm Homes Scheme, 21 heating installations were installed in South Down in 2009/2010; 70 in 2010/2011 and 5 in 2011/2012. The Housing Executive is not responsible for repairs or replacements of boilers and is therefore not in a position to know how many have been repaired or replaced.

### **Funding**

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the current level of funding allocated to each (a) neighbourhood renewal project; (b) Small Pockets of Deprivation area; and (c) Area at Risk; and (ii) the level of funding allocated and the projects supported in the 2011/12 financial year.

**(AQW 11325/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Annex A

<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
Limavady Borough Council	49356.50	0.00
Derry City Council	40054.78	40326.00
Cathedral Youth Club	35821.72	36282.64
Cathedral Youth Club	25339.22	24424.60
Community Restorative Justice	158049.10	159991.66
Dunluce Family Centre Ltd	65586.12	66262.56
Older People NW (Age Concern Derry)	54065.71	54815.16
International School for Peace Studies Ltd	234585.24	0.00
Creggan Country Park Enterprises Ltd	62573.28	63056.64
Strabane Community Project	29254.37	29896.64
Gasyard Development Trust	46888.58	46668.41



<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
DSD Housing Division - NIHE	11630.13	11630.13
Bloody Sunday Trust	20892.16	21087.02
NW Play Resource Centre	44916.54	42611.16
Waterside Area Partnership	78862.30	79523.50
Strabane Ethnic Community Association	30991.16	31059.61
The Glens Community Association	42424.81	40473.26
Resource Centre Derry	68766.71	70470.02
Rosemount & District Welfare Rights Group	88077.32	87961.70
Creggan Pre-School & Training Trust Ltd	112546.90	112659.63
Gasyard Wall Feile	29425.35	29463.20
Clooney Estate Residents Association	44082.18	41481.44
Bogside & Brandywell Initiative	175319.19	149978.29
Triax	67091.06	64895.64
Caw/Nelson Drive Action Group	48910.97	49309.01
Liberty Consortium	32692.22	33064.58
Currynierin Community Association	26499.45	26369.17
Old Library Trust	52233.72	52668.00
Clooney Estate Residents Association	22463.76	22407.36
Derry Travellers Support Group	21283.37	0.00
Currynierin Community Association	24746.28	24689.88
Currynierin Community Association	59958.51	59432.74
Melmount EBA Comm Assoc Forum	41871.49	42154.60
Lisnafin/Ardnalee Trust Cross CDA	25800.63	29721.01
Springhill Park Community Development Association	49231.02	49205.15
Shantallow Community Residents Association	23875.05	0.00
Creggan Neighbourhood Partnership	29738.89	29680.93
Shantallow Community Residents Association	80710.18	0.00
Dove House Community Trust	75635.33	76486.28
Irish Street Community Association	61400.29	56785.95
Dove House Community Trust	52234.48	53193.02
Dove House Community Trust	24953.35	24827.82
Top of the Hill 2010	67594.87	66291.24
Triax	236299.00	98541.25
Top of the Hill 2010	21514.53	21397.86



<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership	31156.96	38789.64
Galliagh Community Development Group	35348.68	39354.88
Galliagh Community Development Group	38073.64	38073.64
Hillcrest House Ltd	42510.04	42771.23
Greater Shantallow Area Partnership	84406.22	84600.52
Neighbourhood Renewal Project		
Greater Shantallow Area Partnership	44717.32	44078.72
Ballymagroarty/Hazelbank Community Partnership	122708.51	121692.86
Greater Shantallow Community Arts	37869.09	37749.52
Irish Street Community Association	11854.68	11796.72
Triax	83476.05	0.00
Londonderry Citizens Advice Bureau	126489.82	127201.15
Roe Valley Residents Association	38222.22	38263.02
An Gaelaras	25414.27	25262.06
Glen Development Initiative	83466.92	83870.95
Western Education & Library Board	91208.24	91015.00
Strabane Sigerson's GAA	29731.88	29763.80
St Columb's Cathedral	28737.24	28854.96
Outer West Ltd	37994.90	30226.86
Strabane & Lifford LGBT Group	41710.51	42120.19
SEEDS	26077.36	0.00
Fountain Primary School	15984.77	15984.77
Fountain Street Community Development Association	43100.99	43070.51
HURT	10160.00	10160.00
Limavady Borough Council	30093.06	30226.86
Foyle Womens Aid	22773.20	22762.16
Gingerbread NI	43235.96	42572.92
Tullyally & District Development Group Ltd	69367.99	0.00
Strabane & District Citizens Advice Bureau	42220.52	39257.12
Strabane Local Strategy Partnership	55416.05	50849.19
Tullyally & District Development Group Ltd	35948.62	0.00
Limavady Borough Council	14226.24	0.00
Resource Centre Derry	29698.32	30300.44
Derry City Council	89229.57	88903.32

<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
Limavady Community Development Initiative	19128.22	19036.09
WHSSB	229565.50	203663.00
Limavady Borough Council (Rivers Agency - Western Region)	125000.00	0.00
Derry City Council	186808.94	0.00
Caw/Nelson Drive Action Group	50000.00	0.00
Galliagh Development Trust	33887.74	0.00
Old Library Trust	11793.22	0.00
Shantallow Community Residents Association	0.00	104296.11
174 Trust After Schools Club	11221.80	0.00
174 TRUST AFTERSCHOOL CLUB	2100.00	0.00
An Droichead Limited Core Costs	47556.72	0.00
An Munia Tober Salaries & Running Costs	87619.44	0.00
Andersonstown Traditional & Contemp Music Salary-Class Co-Ordinator/Administrator	42517.00	0.00
Ardmonagh Family And Community Group Salary	80760.66	0.00
Ardoyne Association Community Contact/Admin Worker, Implementation Of Neighbourhood Renewal	13628.16	0.00
Ardoyne Women's Group	50879.00	0.00
Ardoyne Youth Providers Forum -Youth and Community Development Project	108111.96	0.00
Arts For All - Community Development through Art	8373.50	0.00
Neighbourhood Renewal Project		
Ashfield Boys High School - Counselling Service for Vulnerable Boys	35908.36	0.00
Ashton Community Trust - ESF - Progress To Employment	92110.85	93228.45
Ashton Community Trust - Community ICT & Community Access to Lifelong Learning	65703.29	0.00
Ashton Community Trust - ESF - Women Into Training	37937.11	38400.10
Ashton Community Trust - Kinderkids Daycare	126478.96	0.00
Ballymac Friendship Trust Limited -Salaries for Director, Youth Dev Officer & R/Costs	62896.04	0.00
Ballysillan Community Forum - Community Support Team	52634.40	0.00
Belfast Activity Centre - Greater Shankill Youth build Initiative	126170.84	0.00
Belfast Buildings Preservation Trust - Economic Appraisal - Sussex Place Schoolhouse Restoration Project	10000.00	0.00
Belfast City Council - Active Belfast Consortium	58000.00	42000.00

<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
Belfast City Council - Community Safety Warden Service	50000.00	0.00
Belfast Health And Social Care Trust - Tullycarnet Healthy Neighbourhood Partnership	65000.00	0.00
Belfast South Community Resources - Positive Future - Sandy Row	120981.84	0.00
Benview Community Centre	32076.08	0.00
Blackie Community Groups Association - Salary,Running Costs & Professional Fees	130952.67	0.00
Blackmountain Action Group - Salaries, Overheads & Professional Fees	61317.96	0.00
Bridge Community Association (The) - Salaries and R/Costs	86653.62	0.00
Cancer Lifeline	8747.33	0.00
Carrick Hill Residents Assoc. - Carrick Hill Community Development Project	31776.68	0.00
Centre for Health and Wellbeing - Salaries and Running Costs	78970.51	0.00
Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum - Cliftonville Community Renewal Project	51957.80	0.00
Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership - Salary for Project Manager	50782.44	0.00
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership - Core salaries and Running Costs	137038.76	112576.37
Colin Community Development Network/Good Morning Colin	185917.20	0.00
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership - Colin Early Intervention Community	29141.35	65939.28
Community Drug Awareness - CODA Project	55966.47	0.00
Community Restorative Justice Ireland - Neighbourhood Dispute Resolution	229812.19	0.00
Conway Education Centre - Coordination	113136.60	0.00
Neighbourhood Renewal Project		
Corpus Christi Services - Salaries & Running Costs	117898.48	0.00
Culturlann Mcadam O Fiaich - Salary Tourism Officer and Running Costs	34424.12	0.00
Depaul Trust Ni - Drive Ahead Belfast	76482.32	0.00
Divis Joint Development Committee Capacity Building Programme	90177.84	0.00
Donegall Pass Community Forum Sustainability Project	162601.72	0.00
East Belfast Community Development Agency - Community Resource/Finance Unit & Volunteer Development Project	90545.13	0.00

<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
East Belfast Partnership - Core Costs	228877.10	0.00
East Belfast Partnership - Economic Appraisal - Titanic People	10000.00	0.00
EPIC Salaries Overheads & Professional Fees	135764.00	0.00
Failte Feirste Thair - Salaries and Overheads	88881.88	0.00
Falls Community Council - Salaries Running Costs & Programme Costs	187823.07	0.00
Falls Women's Centre	128024.40	0.00
Footprints Womens Centre - Salaries and Running Costs	4082.40	0.00
Footprints Womens Centre - Salaries & Running Costs	171005.33	0.00
Forbairt Feirste - An Sportlann	24000.00	0.00
Forthspring Inter Community Group - Support Salaries	14460.36	0.00
Forum For Action On Substance Abuse - Salaries & Running Costs	35380.46	0.00
Forum For Action On Substance Abuse - Salaries, Overheads & Associated Costs	246194.78	0.00
Gems Northern Ireland Limited - ESF - M-Power Project	63114.00	0.00
Glen Community Parent/Youth Group - Co-Ordination of Essential Services Salary	63496.20	0.00
Glenbank Community Association - Glenbank Playgroup	17356.44	0.00
Glencolin Residents Association - Glencolin Development Project	31689.64	0.00
Good Shepherd Primary School - Nurture Group	26397.34	19798.00
Greater Shankill Partnership Board - Core Costs	216835.60	0.00
Greater Village Regeneration Trust - ESF - TREE Tools for Life Project	49639.00	0.00
Greater Village Regeneration Trust - Regenerating the Greater Village Area	160254.14	0.00
Hobby Horse Playgroup - Salaries & Running Costs	51678.24	0.00
Holy Trinity Centre - Salaries of Manager & Finance Administrator	50751.44	0.00
Inner East Youth Project - Salaries and Running Costs	83174.87	0.00
Ionad Uibh Eachach - Childcare Coordinators Salary	84280.76	0.00
Neighbourhood Renewal Project		
Lenadoon Community Forum - Salaries and Running Costs	1346.13	0.00
Lenadoon Community Forum - ESF - Training for Employment	31390.00	0.00
Lenadoon Community Forum - Core Posts	97029.30	0.00

<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
Lenadoon Women's Group - Community Parenting Project	45122.65	0.00
Ligoneil Improvement Association - Salaries and Running Costs	3188.14	0.00
Ligoniel Improve Association - Salaries & Running Costs	133472.88	0.00
Loughview Community Action Partnership - Neighbourhood Renewal	99615.90	0.00
Lower Oldpark Community Association - Centre Projects Manager	63652.58	0.00
Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group - Youth & Community Development	101050.43	0.00
Manor St/Cliftonville Comm Centre Youth & Childcare Posts	132705.08	0.00
Markets Development Association - Development Officer, Administrator/Dev Support Worker Salaries	52189.68	0.00
Marrowbone Community Association - Marrowbone Regeneration	58740.06	0.00
Mount Vernon Community Development Forum - Community Led Renewal	31606.00	0.00
Neighbourhood Development Association - Salaries & Overheads	34200.00	0.00
New Life Counselling Service - Child, Adult, Family & Youth Services	103271.28	0.00
Newstart Education Centre - Salaries and Overheads	28482.80	0.00
Newtownabbey Borough Council - Neighbourhood Co-ordinators Post	35453.27	0.00
Newtownabbey Womens Group - Development Worker	25253.20	0.00
Newtownards Road Women's Group Limited - Carew II Family & Childcare Services & Core Costs	116431.72	0.00
North Belfast Advice Partnership - Ballysillan Community Forum	29429.00	0.00
North Belfast Advice Partnership - Ligoniel Improvement Association	60642.71	0.00
North Belfast Advice Partnership - The Vine Centre	28368.54	0.00
North Belfast Employment Centre - ESF - Improving Your Future Prospects	57148.35	57152.55
North Belfast Employment Centre	3005.71	0.00
North Belfast Partnership -ESF - LEAP	38301.90	38760.75
North Belfast Partnership - Regeneration and Renewal of North Belfast	208428.78	0.00
North Belfast Senior Citizen Forum - Community Capacity Building Project	59161.80	0.00

<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
North Belfast Womens Initiative	33409.32	0.00
Neighbourhood Renewal Project		
Northern Ireland Alternatives Community Support Project	309720.48	0.00
Oasis - Caring In Action - Directors Salary	46164.36	0.00
Pobal - Beo	36092.00	0.00
Rathcoole Primary School Nurture Unit	50900.60	69447.52
Riddell Creche Association - Salaries	13703.28	0.00
Roden Street Community Development Group	56693.76	0.00
Sally Gardens Community Centre Manager	32006.36	0.00
Sandy Row Community Forum Area Operations Support Team	65407.44	0.00
Scoil Na Fuisseoige Managers Salary	33203.04	0.00
Shankill Womens Centre - Salaries, Key Core Staff, Overheads & Travel	141676.90	0.00
Shankill Womens Centre - ESF - Education, Training & Employability	51889.25	53187.40
Short Strand Community Forum - Development Officer's Salary	31543.72	0.00
Short Strand Partnership - Staff Salaries, Stationery & Audit Fees	40044.96	0.00
South Belfast Partnership Board Core Costs	176196.88	0.00
Cloona Child Contact Centre	34769.00	0.00
Southcity Resource & Development Centre Development Programme	144062.86	0.00
Springfield Charitable Association - Advice Centre Outreach Service Salaries	40930.44	0.00
Springhill Community House - Salaries & Overheads	33639.40	0.00
St Kieran's Primary School Nurture Group	19798.20	19798.20
St Rose's Dominican College - Business Class N.I.	4000.00	0.00
St Vincent De Paul Project Manager Salary	31754.64	0.00
Stadium Youth & Community Project - Salaries and Running Costs	66862.56	0.00
Star Neighbourhood Centre - Implementation of Neighbourhood Renewal	140443.37	0.00
Streetbeat Youth Work Programme	70925.48	0.00
Suffolk Community Forum - Salary & Running Costs	1498.47	0.00
Suffolk Community Forum - Salaries & Overheads	34573.40	0.00

<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
Synergy@JVC - Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Implementation Project/Synergy	36390.52	0.00
Tar Anall - TRG & FAMILY SUPPORT SALARIES & R/C'S & PROG COSTS	10447.39	0.00
Tar Anall - Pathways	144625.03	0.00
Tullycarnet Community Support Services Limited - Core Salaries, R/Costs & Pre-School Education Project	76150.90	0.00
Tullycarnet Primary School Enhanced Nurture Group Project	98764.00	106889.00
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum - Salaries & Running Costs	195269.18	0.00
Neighbourhood Renewal Project		
Upper Ardoyne Community Partnership - Community Education	37792.56	0.00
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited - Training for Life Project	330.42	0.00
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited - Neighbourhood Renewal Team	21216.81	0.00
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited - Core Costs	122347.28	0.00
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited - Youth and Arts	230638.62	0.00
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited - Action on Disability	77769.88	0.00
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited - Neighbourhood Renewal	98752.28	0.00
Upper Springfield Resource Centre - Salaries & Overheads	19564.48	0.00
Vine Community And Advice Centre - Sustaining the Vine Centre	82861.50	0.00
Voices Womens Group - Salaries & Running Costs	34370.86	0.00
Walkway Community Association - Staff Salaries & Audit	52518.07	0.00
Welcome Trust - Salary Co-Ordinator & Running Costs	24352.08	0.00
West Belfast Athletic & Cultural Society - Salary & Overheads Development Worker	49433.64	0.00
West Belfast Parent Youth Support Group - Secretary Salary	10585.64	0.00
West Belfast Partnership Board - Core Costs	235756.62	0.00
Westland Community Development and Regeneration Project	28905.00	0.00
Whiterock Creche Association - Salary Costs-Family Learning Manager	27073.20	0.00
Windsor Women's Centre - EUTERPE	2187.95	0.00



<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
Windsor Women's Centre - Centre Administrator & Domestic Salaries	27624.64	0.00
Windsor Women's Centre - ESF - Thalia Project	38171.00	0.00
Wishing Well Family Centre - Family Centre	49201.20	0.00
Womens News - Salaries and Running Costs	6995.18	0.00
Women's Tec - Extended Training in Communities	3502.25	0.00
Women's Tec - ESF - Extended Training in The Community	68531.83	78094.80
Youth Initiatives - Salaries,Overheads,Fees	26756.68	0.00
Skainos Limited - Mixed Use Community Facility	3000000.30	1500000.00
Templemore Avenue School - East Belfast Network Centre	500000.00	250000.00
St Malachy's Youth Centre	150000.00	570000.00
Belfast City Council Site A Playpark	55000.00	0.00
Short Strand Partnership - Water Babies	21050.00	0.00
Lenadoon Sport Pavilion - Changing Facilities	20115.00	0.00
Connswater Community Greenway	10000.00	1504500.00
Neighbourhood Renewal Project		
Refurbishment/Extension of Gleann Amateur Boxing Club's premises & 1 year rental costs	5000.00	95000.00
Belfast Activity Centre Ardaluin House Refurbishment	102000.00	98000.00
Dunville Park	0.00	1000000.00
Woodvale Park	0.00	1000000.00
Northern Ireland Alternatives - Community Safety / Crime Prevention	0.00	350387.44
Falls Community Council - Community Development & Economic Regeneration	0.00	338904.67
Forum For Action On Substance Abuse - Community One Stop Shop	0.00	337849.52
East Belfast Community Development Agency - Community Development - Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal	0.00	330728.36
Conway Education Centre - Education	0.00	264366.42
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited - Chidren Young people & Families	0.00	258890.52
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited - Health & Wellbeing	0.00	250231.49
Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum - Community Development and Relations	0.00	247353.78
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited - Developing Effective Community Services	0.00	230266.09

<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
Community Restorative Justice Ireland - Social Environment Programme	0.00	218395.51
West Belfast Partnership Board - Delivering effective strategic regeneration locally & citywide	0.00	206657.85
East Belfast Partnership - Delivering Effective Regeneration locally and Citywide	0.00	205299.78
Greater Shankill Partnership Board - Delivering Neighbourhood Renewal and Contributing to Citywide Generation	0.00	196195.68
North Belfast Partnership - The Regeneration and Renewal of North Belfast	0.00	194214.49
Ardoyne Youth Providers Forum - Youth	0.00	193085.42
EPIC - Community Safety / Crime Prevention	0.00	186207.96
East Belfast Community Development Agency - Youth - Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal	0.00	166280.01
South Belfast Partnership Board - South Belfast Partnership Board Delivering Effective Regeneration Locally and City Wide	0.00	163211.32
Greater Village Regeneration Trust - Social Renewal - Education	0.00	158451.97
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership - health	0.00	156794.94
Falls Womens Centre - Health and Wellbeing	0.00	154186.23
Vine Community And Advice Centre - Community Development and Relations	0.00	149075.06
Shankill Womens Centre - Community Development and Relations	0.00	142860.90
Neighbourhood Renewal Project		
Star Neighbourhood Centre - Community Development and Relations	0.00	141529.77
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership - Colin Early Intervention Community	0.00	140841.20
Mount Vernon Community Development Forum - Community Development and Relations	0.00	132751.60
Ligoniel Improve Association - Community Development and Relations	0.00	132704.44
Blackie Community Groups Association - Education	0.00	131203.02
Greater Village Regeneration Trust - South West Belfast - Delivering Training Together - ESF Match Funding	0.00	129249.00
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership - Community Development	0.00	128993.40
Belfast Activity Centre - Youth	0.00	126258.06

<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited - West Belfast Disability services	0.00	125543.04
North Belfast Advice Partnership - Welfare and Benefit Support	0.00	124467.47
Roden Street Community Development Group - Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership Health Programme	0.00	120892.46
Ashton Community Trust - Childcare	0.00	117181.08
New Life Counselling Service - Health	0.00	114881.76
Greater Village Regeneration Trust - Community Renewal	0.00	114778.30
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum - Andersonstown Neighbourhood Partnership/Community Infrastructure/Development	0.00	111431.94
Divis Joint Development Committee - Community Infrastructure / Bonneagar Pobail	0.00	101673.38
Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group - Youth - Engaging young people & supporting their wider family circle	0.00	100876.55
Donegall Pass Community Forum - Skills & Employment - Training & Education in Skills, Employability & Personal Development	0.00	100353.26
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited - Housing & Environment	0.00	98338.36
West Belfast Parent Youth Support Group - Social Environment	0.00	94710.24
Lenadoon Community Forum - Co-ordination of housing, Community Safety & Environmental Services	0.00	93793.00
Newtownards Road Women's Group Limited - Childcare - Early Years - Carew II Family and Training Centre	0.00	89945.64
Stadium Youth & Community Project - Youth	0.00	89794.50
Ionad Uibh Eachach - Development & Regeneration	0.00	87828.47
Neighbourhood Renewal Project		
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum - Andersonstown Neighbourhood Partnership/Community Infrastructure/Development	0.00	84178.92
Bryson Multi-Cultural Resource Centre (An Munia Tober) - Belfast Traveller Education/Training & Business Development Support Programme	0.00	81143.03
Tullycarnet Community Support Services Limited - Childcare, Early Years - Community Support Services	0.00	78568.38
Womens Tec - ESF - Extended Training in The Community	0.00	78094.80
Greater Village Regeneration Trust - Economic Renewal	0.00	73856.65

<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
Streetbeat Youth Project - Youth	0.00	72103.00
Greater Village Regeneration Trust - Physical Renewal	0.00	67999.30
Synergy@JVC - Community Development and Relations	0.00	67078.92
Ardoyne Women's Group - Community Development and Relations	0.00	66237.94
Glen Community Parent/Youth Group - Co-ordination of Education, Youth and Associated Services	0.00	66167.08
Hobby Horse Playgroup - Childcare	0.00	66066.28
Suffolk Community Forum - Community Development	0.00	65786.46
Ashton Community Trust - Skills and Employment	0.00	65696.69
Gems Northern Ireland Limited - M-POWER	0.00	64626.00
Blackmountain Action Group	0.00	61317.96
Markets Development Association Regeneration Project - Inner South Belfast	0.00	60631.36
Cancer Lifeline -Health	0.00	59041.10
Greater Village Regeneration Trust - Social Renewal - Cohesion	0.00	57125.32
Donegall Pass Community Forum / Community Development, Inner South Belfast	0.00	53954.76
Footprints Womens Centre - ESF Project 2012-2014	0.00	50566.80
Wishing Well Family Centre - Childcare	0.00	49579.16
Lenadoon Women's Group - Lenadoon parenting & Family Support Project	0.00	48611.00
An Droichead Limited - Education	0.00	47440.80
Upper Ardoyne Community Partnership - Education	0.00	45330.28
Andersonstown Traditional & Contemp Music - Culture Programme	0.00	42400.96
Newtownabbey Borough Council - Community Development and Relations	0.00	40023.95
North Belfast Womens Initiative - Health	0.00	33736.88
Carrick Hill Residents Assoc. - Community Development and Relations	0.00	32237.16
Neighbourhood Renewal Project		
Lenadoon Community Forum - Lenadoon Neighbourhood Training For Employment Project	0.00	31390.00
Glenbank Community Association - Childcare	0.00	17663.36
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited - Education & Training	0.00	16790.92

<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
174 Trust - Childcare	0.00	11191.20
Arts For All - Community Development and Relations	0.00	10893.96
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum - Health Project	0.00	40488.76
Ballysally Integrated Nurturing Project	137605.85	137282.78
Coleraine NRP Technical Assistance	65262.70	64047.46
West Bann Regeneration Project	61111.66	61779.55
Ballysally Healthy Eating Café	25232.31	20303.88
Alcohol Outreach Worker	39796.43	0.00
Coleraine Community Education project	150764.77	150590.92
Financial Assistance for Play Equipment	10941.51	0.00
Schools are the Business	21806.75	11247.31
West Bann Development Health & Wellbeing Project	240.00	2800.00
Jigsaw Project	64307.72	76162.05
Ballymena NR Co-ordinator	42506.24	47093.84
BEAT NI	70508.62	55463.76
BRAID ABC	5699.00	0.00
Ballykeel Mature Adults Luncheon Club	5211.00	8926.00
Ballymena South Community Cluster Worker	6998.94	12997.12
Ballee Childcare Services	14406.39	36616.30
Ballee Community Centre Refurbishment		260340.00
Community Learning Chest	2795.00	0.00
Straight Talking Community Consultation	6427.00	0.00
Rock Challenge 2012	817.50	2358.00
Grange Neighbourhood Coordinator's post	12581.29	0.00
Grange Allotments & Landscaping Project	44225.45	0.00
Strathroy Homework Club – Continuation	32969.30	40049.30
O'Kane Park/Gallows Hill EI Scheme	43600.00	20000.00
Supporting Women Alcohol Project (SWAP)	20418.00	30852.00
Omagh Education Mentor	23039.00	66289.00
Promotion of social economy & employability prospects in Omagh	3590.04	33723.35
Omagh NRA Technical Assistance & Employment of coordinator to 31/03/2015	43144.60	54397.20
Mullaghmore Eco Facility	9900.00	116637.50
Omagh Health Project 11/14	107547.61	107548.00

<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
Omagh Riverside Development – Strathroy Bridge	320000.00	280000.00
CKS Equipment	50000.00	40000.00
O’Kane Park Sports Improvement Project	115230.50	0.00
Strathroy Sports Improvement Project	0.00	162882.00
Community Development for O’Kane Park	6727.40	0.00
Mullaghmore Community Development Worker	16613.95	0.00
CKS new community centre	397445.00	0.00
Neighbourhood Renewal Project		
Enniskillen NRA Technical Assistance & employment of coordinator to 31/03/2015	44114.10	59069.86
Lakeshore Litter Collection	506.00	2700.00
Community Interaction & Awareness raising Programme	5624.62	0.00
Enniskillen NRA Exploring Enterprise Programme	5898.14	7498.14
Homework & Activities Club- Devenish Partnership Forum	58365.75	64078.46
Enniskillen NRA Estate Markers	18800.00	0.00
Professional fees - Kilmacormick Resource Centre Extension	15870.00	0.00
Temporary Community Facility for Enniskillen West End residents 2012-2014	24234.31	29554.22
Enniskillen NRA NIHE Capital works (Inishkeen)	180743.64	47274.20
Enniskillen NRA Learning Mentor	15436.23	54747.20
Enniskillen Health Project 11/14	146084.34	141285.00
WEA Community Training Programme For Enniskillen/Omagh NRA's	0.00	64000.00
Dungannon Business Survival continuation project	27400.00	0.00
Refurbishment & Fit Out of Gardner’s Hall	196000.00	0.00
NIHE Capital Programme of Works 11/12	90000.00	0.00
Dungannon & Coalisland Health Programme 2011/2015	9120.00	34459.51
Dungannon Interim Health Programme (continuation)	36455.04	0.00
Dungannon Education Programme 11/14	82911.78	51388.78
Milltown Super Adults – continuation programme	6284.00	0.00
Dungannon Social Economy/Employability Project	4499.98	127921.14
Dungannon Youth Resource Centre – Refurbishment Works	218346.00	0.00
Dungannon & Coalisland Education Programme 10/11	8145.87	0.00
Lighting Coalisland Canal Towpath	5000.00	44712.00
Coalisland and Dungannon Community Audit	13976.90	38575.74

<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
Coalisland Interim Health Programme (continuation)	28086.43	5000.00
Dungannon & Coalisland TA & co-ordinator 2011 – 2014	49878.63	57818.63
Coalisland Education Programme 11/14	66552.97	54092.79
St Joseph's College Coalisland 11/14 programme	10000.00	28960.00
Capital Build Feasibility Study for Coalisland	4500.00	3000.00

<b>Small Pockets Of Deprivation Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
NR Pockets (xfer out to RDO)	54000.00	*54,000
Benmore	17408.00	17769.00
Carnary	3000.00	0.00
Ballymoney	7080.00	27584.00
Glebeside	3715.00	0.00
Glenvarna	0.00	0.00
Glen	19143.00	20033.00
Larne	1600.00	11580.00
Rathgill	78136.00	76400.00
WestWinds	79172.80	32481.00
Bowtown	18220.00	3800.00
Harbour	49910.00	49910.00
Strathfoyle	54932.00	64213.00
Castle	17460.00	11000.00
Sunnylands	53703.00	56692.00
Greenisland	0.00	0.00
White City	0.00	16268.00
Bawnmore	6140.00	15870.00

\* NR Pockets not yet agreed for 12/13 so indicative allocation same as 11/12 at this time.

<b>Area at Risk Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
Enagh Youth Forum	19780.44	21232.56
Tiny Tots Community Playgroup	21868.85	19115.89
Strathfoyle Women's Activity Group	13760.00	19166.00
Caw/Nelson Drive Action Group	64428.27	0.00
Lettershandoney & District Development Group	56259.28	0.00
Ballynafeigh Community Development Association Areas At Risk Pilot Programme - Annadale	32333.28	45177.16



<b>Area at Risk Project</b>	<b>2011/12 (£)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£)</b>
East Belfast Community Development Agency Areas At Risk Pilot Programme - Ballybeen	53903.00	60163.00
Supporting Communities NI Areas At Risk Pilot Programme - Building for the Future of Lower Whitewell	56453.76	59453.76
Craigyhill and Antiville - Areas at Risk	34589.68	31120.32
Doury Road Employability & Development Programme	0.00	86990.14
Ferris Park	49096.01	59733.17
Ashfield Gardens Fintona	47197.23	

### **Average Price of Rent**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development what is the average price of rent for a housing association property and how this compares with a Housing Executive property.

**(AQW 11333/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** In 2010-2011 the average weekly rent for a housing association property is £75.57 and the average weekly rent of a Housing Executive property is £52.76.

### **Housing Association Properties**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development what is the average price of rent for a housing association property in each district council area.

**(AQW 11334/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Department does not gather information on the average rent of a housing association by district council area.

### **Employment and Support Allowance Claimants**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) why Employment and Support Allowance claimants have the Severe Disability Premium of their benefit removed when their children reach 18 years of age and remain at home; and (ii) whether there is a provision for claimants whose children stay on in full-time education after turning 18 and are therefore unable to contribute to household costs.

**(AQW 11337/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Severe Disability Premium is included in the calculation of income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit and Housing Benefit. The premium is paid to those severely disabled people who live independently, and who are most likely to need to purchase care. A severely disabled person is someone who receives Attendance Allowance, or the Higher or Middle rate Care Component of Disability Living Allowance.

It is not, however, paid to a claimant who has a non-dependant aged 18 or over normally residing with them or with whom the claimant is normally residing. A non-dependant may include an adult relative such as a son or daughter.

It is recognised however, that there are circumstances when people sharing accommodation should not be expected, or may not be able, to provide care for the disabled person. For this reason, the presence of certain people is ignored when deciding whether or not the disabled person lives alone. This means for example that no account is taken of people (other than close relatives of the claimant) who live in the same house because of a commercial arrangement (such as a tenant or landlord).

Similarly, no account is taken of persons under the age of 18, or who are blind, or are themselves receiving Attendance Allowance, or the Middle or Higher rate Care Component of Disability Living Allowance. Also, people who are co-owners or joint tenants with a customer, and jointly occupy their home, are ignored for the purposes of the additional amount payable for the severely disabled.

There is also provision for a young person who is in full time non-advanced education or approved training not to be considered as a non-dependant up to their 20th birthday.

### **Employment and Support Allowance Claimants**

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of Employment and Support Allowance claimants in the Foyle area who (i) have appealed against a Work Capability Assessment decision; (ii) had their appeals heard; and (iii) went through the ATOS Healthcare formal complaints procedure in the 2011/12 financial year.

**(AQW 11339/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information requested is not available by Parliamentary constituency. I refer the member to the written answer given to AQW 11113/11 – 15.

### **Housing Executive Properties that Require Multi-Element Improvements**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) why the total asset value of the 6000 Housing Executive properties that require multi-element improvements is not available; (ii) what information is available on the value of Housing Executive properties; (iii) the asset value for each scheme which requires multi-element improvements; (iv) the last valuation of the 6000 homes; (v) the last valuation of each of the schemes and the date of the valuations.

**(AQW 11341/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The entire Housing Executive stock has been valued by Land and Property Services for inclusion in the annual accounts to 31 March 2012.

However, the asset value of the individual properties that require multi element improvements (MEI) cannot be provided without disproportionate costs being incurred. This is because data on each of the dwellings would have to be extracted and collated manually to provide an overall total value. Additionally, the asset value for each scheme would only be capable of being produced when the exact addresses are confirmed for the individual MEI schemes and that Programme is still being finalised.

### **Housing Developments**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he intends to introduce legislation that will require developers to make 20 percent of housing developments available for social and affordable housing.

**(AQW 11343/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department has been working closely with the Department of the Environment, to develop a draft Affordable Housing Policy, draft Planning Policy Statement on Affordable Housing Legislation and draft Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment that could support the introduction of a scheme for developer contributions.

Once this work is finalised, these documents will be issued for public consultation and one of the key issues to be resolved during that consultation will be when such a scheme should be introduced given the very real challenges the construction industry is already facing.

### **Housing Executive Properties that Require Multi-Element Improvements**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) what information is available on the value of the 6000 Housing Executive properties that require multi-element improvements; (ii) the approximate asset value based on this information; (iii) how his Department currently calculates the

asset value of properties owned by the Housing Executive; (iv) when he expects to transfer the housing which requires multi-element improvements from the Housing Executive to housing associations; (v) how much revenue the Housing Executive has raised in each of the last three years for (a) each scheme requiring multi-element improvements; and (b) the 6000 houses requiring multi-element improvements; and (vi) for an estimate of the average rent increase for the properties when they are transferred to housing associations.

**(AQW 11346/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** In my reply to AQW 10328/11-15 I confirmed that the Housing Executive have identified a total of 5,706 units that would require multi element improvement works. In a further reply to AQW 11341/11-15 I confirmed that it was not possible to provide specific valuations on each of these schemes/homes without incurring significant and disproportionate costs. That same principle would apply to revenue raised on these homes in each of the last three years.

The NIHE are currently preparing a programme of homes from those requiring MEI that could see up to 2000 of them improved, subject to a successful tenant vote, over the next 3 years. That programme has not been completed yet. Once available, I will be happy to publish it outlining what schemes will be included and when.

As part of the process, a business case for each individual scheme will be prepared and at that time detailed valuations and costings will be included to support the proposed transfer. That process will also include details of future rent increases on the homes post transfer and will identify the financial feasibility of each scheme when the valuation and cost of the improvements is measured against future loss of income etc.

## House Sales Scheme

**Mr I McCrea** asked the Minister for Social Development what consideration he has given to increasing the maximum amount of discount available in the House Sales Scheme, in line with the recent increase in England.

**(AQW 11394/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** As part of my forthcoming 'Housing Strategy', I have already carried out a fundamental review of the House Sales Scheme that currently exists in Northern Ireland. I plan to announce the outcome of that review in the coming weeks when I launch my new strategy.

## Housing Strategy

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he will include the promotion of shared social housing in his Department's Housing Strategy.

**(AQW 11582/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Yes

## Work Capability Assessment

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the Work Capability Assessment (i) how many claimants have been deemed fit for work and have had their Employment and Support Allowance removed to date; and (ii) of these, how many have had this decision overturned on appeal.

**(AQW 11626/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** i) The table below shows a breakdown of the total number of claims where entitlement to Employment and Support Allowance has ceased in each of the last three years. In some instances customers may have lost their entitlement on more than one occasion.

Year	Employment and Support Allowance*
Apr 09 to Mar 10	12,827
Apr 10 to Mar 11	17,672
Apr 11 to Nov 11	12,770

The Information provided above are Official Statistics. 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.

\*The figures provided have been derived from scans of the Department's Matching Intelligence Database Analysis and General Matching Service systems and include cases where a customer has been found fit for work, has failed to attend a medical assessment or has not provided the required information. The figures also include claims where entitlement has ceased following changes in a customer's circumstances including when a customer returns to work, claims an alternative benefit or the death of a customer.

ii) The information requested regarding appeals is not available in the format requested. However, details of all Employment and Support Allowance appeals found in the customers' favour is set out in the table below:

Year	Appeals upheld in customer favour
Apr 09 to Mar 10	354
Apr 10 to Mar 11	1410
Apr 11 to Mar 12	2065
<b>Total</b>	<b>3829</b>

### Programme for Government's Target for Affordable Homes

**Mr Ó hÓisín** asked the Minister for Social Development how many of the 8,000 affordable homes, as outlined in the Programme for Government's target, will be located in the East Derry area.  
(AQW 11678/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The Programme for Government target was to deliver 8,000 new social and affordable homes by 2015, broken down as 6000 social and 2000 affordable homes.

I am pleased to report that in our first year, we have surpassed our milestone target, delivering 2053 new social and affordable homes during 2011/12. This equated to 1410 new social and 643 new affordable homes across Northern Ireland, of which 40 new social homes were started in East Londonderry. While affordable homes statistics are only available on a District Council basis I can report that in the Coleraine and Limavady Borough Council Districts in 2011/12 there were a total of 23 affordable homes delivered.

The Social Housing Development Programme for the next 3 years is available on the Housing Executive website and this will identify where new social housing will be delivered in those years. Affordable homes are demand led and cannot be identified in advance as the member requests.

## Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

### **Price of Alcohol in Parliament Buildings**

**Mr Allister** asked the Assembly Commission whether the price of alcohol is subsidised in Parliament Buildings; and if so, to what extent and for what reason.

**(AQW 11400/11-15)**

**Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** Alcohol sold in Parliament Buildings is priced in line with Recommended Retail Prices (RRP) and therefore the price is not subsidised.

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# Revised Written Answers

Friday 18 May 2012

**(AQW 10328/11-15)**

**Nelson McCausland:** Table 1 below details the Housing Executive's revenue and capital budgets for the Social Housing Development Programme and maintenance in each of the 2011-15 budget periods.

	<b>2011/12 (£m)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£m)</b>	<b>2013/14 (£m)</b>	<b>2014/15 (£m)</b>
Capital	143.1 (SHDP)	93.1 (SHDP)	83.9 (SHDP)	91.4 (SHDP)
Revenue	137.9 (Maint)	171.1 (Maint)	190.0 (Maint)	186.9 (Maint)

It should be noted that a 5% rental income uplift has been assumed in years 2013/14 and 2014/15.

The information for part (ii) of the question is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not collate information by parliamentary constituency. The Housing Executive has identified that 5,706 homes require Multi Element Improvement work and these homes are listed below. MEI work can only be funded through capital budget.

<b>District</b>	<b>Properties</b>
East Belfast	119
North Belfast	202
Shankill	36
South Belfast	767
West Belfast	194
Antrim	323
Ballymena	747
Carrickfergus	161
Coleraine	355
Larne	313
Newtownabbey 1	403
Newtownabbey 2	115
Armagh	225
Banbridge	106
Dungannon	62
Lurgan/Brownlow	131
Newry	282
Portadown	62
Bangor	224
Castlereagh	67

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<b>District</b>	<b>Properties</b>
Lisburn	131
Newtownards	229
Cookstown	34
Limavady	193
Magherafelt	36
Omagh	35
Strabane	40
Waterloo Place	114
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,706</b>

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