

Written Answers to Questions

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Friday 20 July 2012

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Wells, Jim (South Down)
Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 20 July 2012

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Smithwick Tribunal

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, in light of recent evidence to the Smithwick Tribunal, whether consideration will be given to introducing measures to require Ministers to explain truthfully their past terrorist involvement.

(AQW 10937/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): This is not a matter within the legislative competence of the Assembly.

Funding Application to the Community Relations Council

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why a convicted IRA terrorist was permitted to adjudicate on a funding application to the Community Relations Council from a group representing victims of the IRA; and whether they will take steps to prevent this from happening in the future.

(AQW 11451/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Community Relations Council's Strategic Support Fund allocates funding to groups providing services to victims and survivors. Applications to this fund for 2012-13 were adjudicated on by a committee of the Council on 26-27 March 2012. Some £6.2m of funding was allocated to 54 victims groups. The committee's decisions followed formal process and guidelines and OFMDFM officials were present at the meeting.

The Community Relations Council currently has seventeen members who were all appointed following public advertisement and using published criteria. The process was overseen by the Public Appointments Board. Each member is invited to sit on two of the Council's committees which oversee the various funding and other programmes of the Council.

Affordable Childcare

Mr Copeland asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether there is sufficient affordable childcare available to allow parents to receive maximum benefits arising from the changes to the funding arrangements for contributing to the costs of childcare following the introduction of Universal Credit.

(AQW 12215/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Programme for Government contains a commitment to publish and implement a Childcare Strategy with key actions to promote the availability of good quality, integrated, accessible and affordable childcare. The Strategy will be an essential part of our work to tackle disadvantage and improve wellbeing, and it will also be relevant in the context of the proposed new demands of Universal Credit.

OFMDFM is commissioning research to support the development and implementation of the Childcare Strategy. This research will help to provide a more accurate assessment of the supply and the likely demand for childcare places now and in the future.

We intend to publish a consultation document in the near future which will enable all those with an interest to help shape the direction of the Strategy.

Galbally Pearses GAA Club Awarding Medals Featuring an IRA Terrorist

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the impact on community relations of the decision of Galbally Pearses GAA club to award medals featuring an IRA terrorist to children.

(AQW 12635/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: There is no appropriate process to robustly measure impacts on community relations within the relevant timeframe.

European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science

Mr Dallat asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on their recent meeting with Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science.

(AQO 2170/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We met with the EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, on 7 June.

We last met with the Commissioner in Brussels in December 2010, when we joined with President Barroso in renewing our commitment to the work of the Barroso Task Force. We were pleased to show how we have delivered on that commitment, enhancing our European engagement including the appointment of four additional desk officers based in the Brussels Office.

One of these posts is dedicated to Innovation and Technology – with a particular focus on participation in EU Research and Innovation programmes. This is essential for promoting economic growth and crucial to the Programme for Government, our Economic Strategy and – most recently – our 2012-13 European Priorities.

We pointed to the successes which these efforts have already delivered. The last official figures for 2011 showed that we had secured a cumulative total of over €36 million from the current Seventh Framework Programme, FP7 – but during our discussions with the Commissioner she advised that this figure was now nearer a cumulative total of €43 million – which is excellent news.

We emphasised to the Commissioner the need for FP7's successor, Horizon 2020, to be more accessible to our Small Medium Enterprises with simplified applications, swifter approvals and less bureaucratic audit requirements. These concerns are understood within the Commission; however, the European Parliament is currently debating how far audit rules can be relaxed to facilitate simplification. The Commissioner suggested our MEPs could help to influence those discussions.

The Commissioner welcomed our progress – suggesting that more might still be achieved through greater collaboration between:

- Companies and our Further Education colleges – to ensure young people leaving education have the right skills for employment;
- industry and universities – to ensure graduates are equipped to drive growth in the private sector; and
- our universities – to ensure that their research builds on existing expertise, targets those areas of the economy likely to deliver the greatest growth and delivers real competitive advantage.

To this end, the Commissioner welcomed DETI and DEL proposals to provide additional funding support to our universities to support increased engagement in FP7 and Horizon 2020 – specifically to encourage increased local company/university collaboration.

She also welcomed the proposed appointment by DETI of a Horizon 2020 Manager for the region.

Flags Protocol Working Group

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the work of the Flags Protocol Working Group.

(AQO 2175/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: In December 2011, the Flags Protocol Working Group was reconvened at our request. The Working Group has now met on three occasions with a view to bringing forward their views on a revised protocol.

A draft discussion paper has been produced by the Flags Protocol Working Group and this has now been shared with the Cross-Party Working Group on CSI to inform its continued discussions on flags and emblems.

Child Poverty Strategy Annual Report

Mr Nesbitt asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of performance against the targets detailed in the Child Poverty Strategy Annual Report.

(AQO 2176/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: In its Child Poverty Annual Report, the Executive demonstrated improvements in education, health and other outcomes. These reflect our efforts both to reduce the numbers of children living in poverty now and to address the factors which give rise to inter-generational poverty.

Further statistical releases since the publication of the report demonstrate reductions in poverty levels here, including significant reductions in the percentage of children in relative poverty.

Fair Employment Tribunal in Lennon-v-the Department for Regional Development

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, in light of the findings by the Fair Employment Tribunal in Lennon-v-the Department for Regional Development, whether the practice of Ministers being able to make appointments from an unranked list of candidates be reviewed.

(AQW 13231/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The implications of the recent Fair Employment Tribunal decision in Lennon v the Department for Regional Development on public appointment procedures are being fully considered.

Fair Employment Tribunal in Lennon-v-the Department of Regional Development

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, in light of the findings by the Fair Employment Tribunal in Lennon-v-the Department of Regional Development whether the Code of Practice for Ministerial Public Appointments and the Procedures for Handling Public Appointments will be reviewed.

(AQW 13234/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Commissioner for Public Appointments is an independent office holder who has a statutory duty under the Commissioner for Public Appointments (NI) Order 1995 to prescribe and publish a Code of Practice on the interpretation and application by departments of the principle of selection on merit for public appointments. Any review of the Code of Practice is a matter for the Commissioner.

The implications of the recent Fair Employment Tribunal decision in Lennon v the Department for Regional Development on public appointment procedures will be fully considered.

Dissolution of the Department for Employment and Learning

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what is the timeframe for the dissolution of the Department for Employment and Learning; and when the legislation will be introduced.

(AQW 13423/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: These matters remain under consideration. The Assembly will be advised through the relevant Committees of our decision in due course.

Adverse Findings by the Commissioner for Public Appointments

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what steps are proposed for imposing sanctions in the event of adverse findings by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee.

(AQW 13424/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The functions and powers of the Commissioner for Public Appointments are set out in the Commissioner for Public Appointments (NI) Order 1995. We have no plans to change the current functions and powers of the Commissioner.

Alleged Breaches of the Ministerial Code

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what mechanisms exist to deal with alleged breaches of the Ministerial Code, including how they are investigated and by whom.

(AQW 13425/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Ministerial Code does not specify any procedure to be followed in relation to the investigation or determination of breaches of the Ministerial Code, nor does it assign any role to us in the matter. Section 28A of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires Ministers to act in accordance with the provisions of the Ministerial Code and any alleged breach of the Code could be decided as a matter of law.

In addition, the Northern Ireland Act makes provision for failure by a Minister to observe the terms of the Pledge of Office to be the subject of a motion for a resolution of the Assembly. Such a motion can be moved jointly by us, or by an MLA with the support of 29 other Members.

Alleged Breaches of the Ministerial Code

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they have any plans to review the mechanisms that exist to deal with alleged breaches of the Ministerial Code.

(AQW 13426/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We have no plans for such a review. Apart from the courts, the ultimate authority for breaches of the Ministerial Code resides with Members and the Assembly.

Funding for Towards Understanding and Healing

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why the funding for Towards Understanding and Healing from SEUPB under 'Theme 1.2 Acknowledging and Dealing with the Past' has not been released, given that the funding has been approved by the Steering Committee and the Pre Contract Check has been completed.

(AQW 13445/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The project application in respect of 'Towards Understanding and Healing' was submitted under Peace III Theme 1.2 Dealing with the past. SEUPB has delegated the administration of this theme to the Consortium comprising the Community Relations Council (CRC) and POBAL.

The Consortium carried out a Pre Contract Check on the project on 14 May 2012. As a result of this check, further clarification was sought regarding the requisite legal status for the group. This was raised with the Managing Authority (SEUPB) and final clarification regarding the requisite legal status for the group was received by the Consortium on 27 June 2012. All other queries were addressed as part of the Pre Contact Check.

CRC is now in the process of drafting the Letter of Offer for Towards Understanding & Healing. Once the Letter of Offer has been approved and signed off by CRC, it will be forwarded to the Department of Environment Communities and Local Government (Accountable Department) for approval. As soon as this approval is given, the Letter of Offer will issue to the Project Promoter.

Sexual Orientation Strategy

Mr McCarthy asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Sexual Orientation Strategy.

(AQO 2290/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We aim to publish the Sexual Orientation Strategy by December 2012.

Community Relations Council: Funding

Mr Lynch asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they can confirm that the Community Relations Council has had its budget approved and that groups awaiting funding from the Council should soon be in receipt of their funds.

(AQO 2291/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The draft budget and operational plan for the Community Relations Council for 2012-13 has been approved.

A letter of offer will issue from the department shortly, which will allow funding to be released to those groups and organisations which have applied for support through the Community Relations Council.

Victims and Survivors Service

Mr Mitchel McLaughlin asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update of the work of the Victims and Survivors Service.

(AQO 2292/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Victims and Survivors Service went live on 2 April 2012 and was officially launched on 2 May by Junior Minister Bell and the former Junior Minister Anderson. This fulfilled a commitment made by both of us that the service would be established by April 2012.

The Service will deliver the new assessment and commission-based delivery model, bringing together some £11 million of funding into a single, unified service. The objective is to transform current services from being grants-led to needs-led.

The Service has had over 248 requests for information. To date, over 85 assessments have been carried out and the Service maintains advanced bookings of on average 20 appointments; the majority of people are seen within seven days. This is very encouraging news and is an early but hopeful sign that the Service is attracting those victims and survivors who, for whatever reason, may not have availed of Victims services in the past.

A proposed assessment model has been completed and staff from the Service have been meeting with various victims' groups and agencies to ensure the work they will carry out is what is needed.

Arrangements are almost complete for the relevant staff from both the Community Relations Council and the Memorial Fund to join the Service.

Arrangements for the recruitment of the Victims and Survivors Service Board and Chair, as well as the post of Chief Executive, are well advanced.

We are committed to continuing to work hard to ensure that the Victims Service provides the best service possible and that victims and survivors receive from it the support they expect and deserve.

Sexual Orientation Strategy

Mr McKay asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they can confirm that the Sexual Orientation Strategy will be published before the end of 2012.

(AQO 2294/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We aim to publish the Sexual Orientation Strategy by December 2012.

Strategy for A Shared Future

Mr McClarty asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how they intend to continue updating the strategy for A Shared Future, following the withdrawal of the Alliance Party from the cross-party Cohesion, Sharing and Integration working group.

(AQO 2295/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The withdrawal of the Alliance Party from the cross-party working group on CSI has not affected our determination, or that of the other political parties, who continue to work together to make progress on a new community relations strategy.

The CSI working group continues to meet on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, and each member of that group, led by the two Junior Ministers, is working hard to achieve political consensus on the range of issues required to underpin a finalised strategy.

Summer Intervention Programmes

Mr Boylan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what funding their Department has committed to Summer Intervention Programmes for this year.

(AQO 2296/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Our Department has committed £500,000 to the Summer Intervention Programmes for 2012.

This money is broken down into two tranches; £100,000 is transferred to Belfast City Council to administer, and £400,000 is transferred to the Department of Education (DE). The money transferred to DE is then administered by the Education and Library Boards.

Additional money is also spent on summer intervention work by the District Councils, through the District Councils Good Relations Programme.

Compositely, these resources have been utilised to support activities with our young people at those times of the year when tensions can be at their highest.

Northern Ireland Memorial Fund

Mrs Dobson asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister if they are aware of the security and privacy concerns amongst relatives of ex-servicemen and women in relation to (i) the new means tested assessment criteria when applying to the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund; and (ii) their reluctance to provide personal and financial details previously not required to access funding,

(AQW 13712/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Any information given to the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund is held securely and treated with the utmost care and discretion. The requirement for means testing and provision of personal and financial details has been in place in the Memorial Fund since November 2010.

The Memorial Fund has had no contact from ex-servicemen or women raising concerns in relation to this issue.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Applicants for the Rural Borewells Scheme

Mr Ó hOisín asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what consideration was given to people on means-tested benefits, when deciding upon the criteria used to assess applicants for the Rural Borewells Scheme.

(AQW 13151/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): The Rural Borewells Scheme is an innovative scheme to help those living in isolated rural areas that do not have access to mains water and where accessing the public water mains is not technically or financially possible. Developed in collaboration with DRD the scheme will offer up to £10k towards access to a wholesome water supply through the installation of a Borewell or treatments works for domestic dwellings built prior to 2000.

This is a pilot scheme which will be reviewed at the end of Year 1 so that we can learn from any issues identified and evidence gathered. I will keep means testing under consideration.

Funding to Forest Service

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the funding provided to the Forest Service in each of the last five years.

(AQW 13287/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The final Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) budget allocation provided by the Department to Forest Service and the Agency's reported outturn for each of the financial years 2007/08 to 2011/12 is provided at Appendix 1.

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) accounting standards applied for the 2007/08 and 2008/09 financial years and therefore these figures are not comparable with 2009 onwards. The accounts from 2009/10 onwards have been accounted for under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) with the budgets allocated on that basis.

The net resource operating expenditure shows the cost of forestry operations excluding the grant payments, non-cash costs and capital. This cost was £1.1m in the 2011/12 year and represents the subsidy that is required to support the non-commercial recreation visitors to our forests, with entrance charges only levied for the nine Forest Parks (£1m).

The total budget allocation shows the final total departmental expenditure limit budget allocated to the Agency for each of the 5 years.

FOREST SERVICE FINAL BUDGET ALLOCATION AND OUTTURN FOR THE YEARS 2007 - 2012

Appendix 1

Budget description	2007/08		2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
	Final Budget £000	Outturn £000	Final Budget £000	Outturn £000	Final Budget £000	Outturn £000	Final Budget £000	Outturn £000	Final Budget £000	Outturn £000
Resource Expenditure	11,432	11,457	11,237	10,602	10,188	10,024	10,326	10,264	10,884	10,733
Resource Income	(7,207)	(8,301)	(7,551)	(8,754)	(8,300)	(8,685)	(8,150)	(8,573)	(9,550)	(9,634)
Net Resource Operating Expenditure (excluding non-cash and grants)	4,225	3,156	3,686	1,848	1,888	1,339	2,176	1,691	1,334	1,099
Capital Expenditure	3,025	2,447	2,339	2,491	560	530	539	568	293	340
Capital Receipts	(3,199)	(3,233)	(2,539)	(2,121)	(89)	(60)	(50)	(17)	(17)	(30)
Net Resource and Capital Operating Expenditure (excluding non-cash and grants)	4,051	2,370	3,486	2,218	2,359	1,809	2,665	2,242	1,610	1,408
Non-Cash Expenditure	11,661	11,796	11,541	11,800	698	804	803	668	737	1,711
Grant Expenditure (Resource and Capital)	2,408	2,326	1,634	1,607	1,779	1,402	1,712	1,602	1,608	1,603
EU Grant Income	(1,289)	(1,118)	(997)	(763)	(790)	(629)	(747)	(433)	(640)	(578)
Total DEL Budget Allocation	16,831	15,374	15,664	14,862	4,046	3,386	4,433	4,078	3,315	4,145

- Note 1: UK GAAP accounting standards applied for the 2007/08 and 2008/09 years therefore these figures are not comparable with 2009 onwards. The accounts from 2009/10 onwards have been accounted for under IFRS with the budgets allocated on that basis.
- Note 2: The 2009/10 Non-Cash Expenditure figure has been adjusted to remove the cost of capital £7,830k to improve comparability with 2010/11 and 2011/12.
- Note 3: The 2010/11 Resource Expenditure figure includes £395k in respect of the equal pay settlement.

Bees Imported into Northern Ireland

Mr Cree asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many bees have been (i) directly; or (ii) indirectly imported in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13304/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill:

- (i) In 2011 three consignments with 30 Queen Honey Bees and their attendants were notified to DARD prior to direct importation into the north of Ireland.
- In 2010 eighteen consignments with 37 Queen Honey Bees and their attendants were notified to DARD prior to direct importation into the north of Ireland.
- In 2009 thirteen consignments with 45 Queen Honey Bees and their attendants were notified to DARD prior to direct importation into the north of Ireland.
- (ii) Over each of the last three years no consignments of Queen Honey Bees and attendants were notified to DARD as being indirectly imported into the north of Ireland.

Convictions for Fraud Offences

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many convictions for fraud offences have resulted from investigations carried out by the Central Investigation Service since its inception.

(AQW 13343/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In response to your question, the number of convictions for fraud offences from investigations carried out by the Central Investigation Service since its inception in 2002 is 7.

In addition, the CIS had 86 cases of successful regulatory/legislative convictions. 58 of these cases relate to false claims for subsidy and compensation. 28 cases relate to non compliance with legislation/regulation.

National Arboretum at Castlewella Forest Park

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much funding has been allocated to the feasibility study, economic appraisal and capital works required to upgrade the National Arboretum at Castlewella Forest Park.

(AQW 13346/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: There is currently no specific budget set aside for this purpose.

Forest Service has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Down District Council which creates a framework to increase opportunities for the recreational use and tourism potential of forests within the Down District Council area. The arboretum will be one of the areas considered jointly by both partners with the aim of securing a long term viable end use and to deliver the Executive commitment to set a good example in the care of its historic estate.

Forest Service is currently in the process of obtaining estimates for essential repairs to the glasshouses and built structures within the arboretum.

Courses at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail, for each of the last five years (i) the courses which have been delivered by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise; (ii) the duration of each course; (iii) the award level of each course; (iv) the uptake of each course; and (v) the pass rate of each course.

(AQW 13411/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The annex table contains the information requested. Please note the following:

- Course names are the names currently being used;
- The award level is based on the Qualifications and Credit Framework descriptor;
- The uptake level is the number of people enrolling on year 1 of a course;
- The achievement rate is percentage of students in the final year of their course who, following assessment, achieved the qualification linked to the course;
- The pass rates for the 2011/12 academic year are not available because some students have to re-sit assessments; and
- The pass rates of part-time students who study units within full-time courses are accounted for in the pass rates of the full-time course.

ANNEX

Course	Duration	Level	07/08 Intake	Pass Rate	08/09 Intake	Pass Rate	09/10 Intake	Pass Rate	10/11 Intake	Pass Rate	11/12 Intake
FE Agriculture (Full-time)											
Level 2 Diploma in Agriculture	1 Year	2	29	79	39	89	38	91	45	98	43
Level 3 Extended Diploma in Agriculture	3 Years	3	28	95	39	95	42	100	42	97	40
Level 2 Diploma in Land Based Technology	1 Year	2	12	100	16	94	17	100	15	100	16
National Certificate/Diploma in Land Based Technology	1-2 Years	3	18	100	15	47	26	92	24	100	24
HE Agriculture (Full-time)											
HND/FdSc Agriculture and Rural Studies	3 Years	5	15	86	21	93	34	94	41	95	42
FdSc in Rural and Countryside Management	2 Years	5	9	100	6	100	13	80	5	90	0
FE Agriculture (Part-time)											
Level 2 Work-based Diploma in Agriculture	78 Weeks	2	19	83	19	100	21	100	21	91	42

Course	Duration	Level	07/08 Intake	Pass Rate	08/09 Intake	Pass Rate	09/10 Intake	Pass Rate	10/11 Intake	Pass Rate	11/12 Intake
Level 3 Work-based Diploma in Agriculture	78 Weeks	3	16	100	18	100	27	100	26	96	32
Work-based Diploma in Agriculture (Poultry)	1-2 years	3	34	100	9	100	8	100	48	100	37
NVQ Level 2 Service Engineering	2 years	2	0	N/A	8	100	2	100	17	100	0
NVQ Level 3 Service Engineering	2 years	3	2	100	10	100	0	N/A	0	N/A	0
NVQ Level 2 Environmental Conservation	2 years	2	9	100	10	100	7	100	0	N/A	0
Multiskilling	78 Weeks	2	22		36	100	23	93	30	95	23
Multiskilling	78 Weeks	3	27	98	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0
Animal Nursing Assistant	1 Year	2	16	86	22	80	17	88	26	77	24
NVQ Level 2 Veterinary Nursing	2 years	2	12	83	13	85	9	95	0	89	0
Level 3 workbased Diploma Veterinary Nursing	2 Years	3	5	100	13	85	16	100	16	100	15
HE Agriculture (Part-time)											
FdSc Agriculture and Rural Studies	4 Years	5	1	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	8
HND in Agriculture	4 Years	5	0	N/A	1	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	8
HNC in Agriculture	4 Years	5	3	N/A	9	N/A	7	N/A	7	N/A	0
FdSc Rural Countryside Management	4 Years	5	7	N/A	11	N/A	2	N/A	0	N/A	0
C He Rural Countryside Management	2 Years	4	4	N/A	12	N/A	15	N/A	18	N/A	9
Course	Duration	Level	07/08 Intake	Pass Rate	08/09 Intake	Pass Rate	09/10 Intake	Pass Rate	10/11 Intake	Pass Rate	11/12 Intake
FE Food (Full-time)											
BTEC National Diploma in Food	2 Years	3	15	100	14	92	28	91	19	100	26

Course	Duration	Level	07/08 Intake	Pass Rate	08/09 Intake	Pass Rate	09/10 Intake	Pass Rate	10/11 Intake	Pass Rate	11/12 Intake
HE Food (Full-time)											
FdSc in Food	2 Years	5	7	100	8	100	12	100	12	80	15
BSc Food Technology	3-4 Years	6	10		17		8		12		16
BSc Food Design and Nutrition	3-4 Years	6	0		0		2		18		18
BSc Food Management and Marketing	3-4 Years	6	0	100	0	88	18	92	14	100	16
BSc Supply Management (Food)	3-4 Years	6	5	100	9	100	0	N/A	0	N/A	0
Graduate Conversion Programme	1 Year	6	25	100	25	88	25	100	25	100	0
FE Food (Part-time)											
National Certificate in Food	2-5 Years	3	7	N/A	5	N/A	7	N/A	4	N/A	3
HE Food (Part-time)											
Graduate Certificate in Food	2 Years	6	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	3	100	1
BSc Food Technology	Dependent on entry qualifications and experience	6	3	N/A	5	N/A	3	N/A	9	N/A	2
BSc Food Design and Nutrition		6	0	N/A	0	N/A	5	N/A	4	N/A	1
BSc Food Management and Marketing		6	0	N/A	0	N/A	2	N/A	4	N/A	3
BSc Supply Management (Food)		6	6	N/A	5	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0
FE Horticulture (Full-time)											
Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture	1 Year	2	12	100	5	100	6	100	10	100	7
Level 2/3 Floristry	1 Year	2/3	14	86	14	92	15	100	13	92	16
Level 3 Extended Diploma in Horticulture	2 Years	3	12	100	14	100	18	100	18	100	12
HE Horticulture (Full-time)											
FdSc in Horticulture	2 Years	5	20	96	11	92	17	100	13	90	16
FE Horticulture (Part-time)											

Course	Duration	Level	07/08 Intake	Pass Rate	08/09 Intake	Pass Rate	09/10 Intake	Pass Rate	10/11 Intake	Pass Rate	11/12 Intake
NVQ Level 2 Landscaping	18 Months	2	16	82	15	47	7	70	15	76	8
Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma Landscaping	2 Years	3	12	75	9	67	7	80	5	67	11
NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf	18 Months	2	27	62	23	72	23	70	14	100	16
ANCH/ Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma Sportsturf	2 Years	3	10	100	12	70	7	90	7	83	10
Level 3 Diploma in Floristry	2 Years	3	7	N/A	0	N/A	5	N/A	8	N/A	7
Level 2 Certificate/ Diploma in Horticulture	1 Year	2	8	N/A	13	N/A	16	N/A	16	N/A	12
Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture	2 Years	3	34	N/A	38	N/A	30	N/A	29	N/A	13
HE Horticulture (Part-time)											
FdSc in Horticulture	2 Years	5	30	96	59	92	46	100	54	90	47
C He in Horticulture	2 Years	4	8	N/A	2	N/A	2	N/A	13	N/A	24
HNC Horticulture	4 Years	5	17	N/A	26	N/A	9	N/A	8	N/A	3
HND Horticulture	4 Years	5	5	N/A	1	N/A	3	N/A	2	N/A	1
FE Equine (Full-time)											
Diploma in Horse Care	1 Year	2	11	90	9	100	10	100	10	100	11
Pre Farriery	1 Years	2	10	56	10	100	8	63	5	75	7
Extended Diploma in Horse Management	2 Years	3	22	100	29	88	21	100	23	100	23
HE Equine (Full-time)											
FdSc in Equine Management	2 Years	5	21	59	28	93	12	93	17	83	22
BSc Equine Studies	3 Years	6	10	100	12	100	20	82	16	94	16
FE Equine (Part-time)											
Farrier Upskilling	2 Years	3	0	N/A	14	91	0	N/A	0	N/A	14

AQW 13411/11-15

Waiting List for Training Delivered by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise.

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the waiting lists for any courses or training that are currently delivered by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise. **(AQW 13412/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: Further and Higher education courses have an annual recruitment cycle whereby potential students apply for courses and are allocated places as soon as examination results are available. As a result, there is no one on a waiting list.

For industry training programmes, on 5 July 2012, a total of 393 people were waiting to be allocated places on courses. The details are as follows:

Course Name	Numbers waiting
All Terrain Vehicles - Adults	5
PA1 - Safe Use of Pesticides	43
PA2A - Field Crop Sprayer	36
PA3 – Air Assisted Sprayer	6
PA4 - Pesticide Granule Applicator	2
PA4S - Pesticide Slug Pellet Applicator	5
PA6A - Knapsack Sprayer	27
PA6AW – Application in or near water	4
Safe Use of Sheep Dips	2
Sheep Dog Handling	27
Sheep Shearing	27
Tractor Driving 13-15 yr olds	32
Tractor Driving 16-18 yr olds	5

Course Name	Numbers waiting
BTDS Tractor Driving	38
Telescopic Handling	11
Welding	11
Advanced Welding	13
Pedestrian Cylinder Mowers	2
Pedestrian Rotary & Flail	2
Ride-On Cylinder Mowers	3
Ride-On Rotary & Flail	3
IPPC (Integrated Prevention of Pollution Control)	54
Manual Handling	23
Power (Protection of Crops)	2
FAID (First Aid)	4
Nominated Store Keepers	1
Equine AI programme	5

Please note that an individual may have registered for more than one programme.

Courses Delivered by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development which courses delivered by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise have been successful in achieving 100 percent subscription.

(AQW 13413/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The following CAFRE courses met or exceeded their target number of first year enrolments in 2011/12:

- Edexcel Level 2 BTEC Diploma in Land-based Technology;
- National Certificate in Land-based Technology;
- Level 2 Diploma in work-based Agriculture;
- Animal Nursing Assistant; Level 3 Diploma in work-based Agriculture;
- NVQ level 3 Poultry;
- Level 2 Diploma in Floristry;
- Foundation Degree in Horticulture (full-time and part-time routes);
- Level 3 Diploma in work-based Horticulture (Parks, Gardens and Green spaces);
- CHE Horticulture (part-time);
- Pre-farriery;
- Edexcel Level 2 BTEC Extended Diploma in Horse management; Foundation Degree Equine;
- Farriery Upskilling(part-time);
- National Diploma Food Technology;
- Foundation Degree – Food; BSc Food Technology;

- BSc Food Design and Nutrition;
- BSc Food Marketing and Nutrition;
- Advanced Certificate in Packaging; and
- Diploma in Packaging.

All industry training short courses are fully subscribed because courses are only arranged when there are sufficient applications.

Financial Support Available at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the level of financial support that is available to students enrolled in (i) full time; and (ii) part time courses at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise.

(AQW 13414/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill:

Full time Further Education support.

DARD provides a means tested living expenses grant to eligible full time students attending a Further Education course at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE). Eligibility is based on residency and previous study. A maximum grant of £2,362 is available for students living in campus halls of residency or in lodgings and £1,659 for students living in the parental home. The grant is based on an assessment of residual household income, which includes parents' income for students who depend on their parents financially. A household contribution is calculated for a residual household income of £23,660 and above. A Childcare grant is available for students with dependent children in approved childcare. Additional support is available for students assessed as having a specific learning difficulty or disability.

Full time Higher Education support

Support for CAFRE higher education students is administered by Student Finance NI – a service delivery partnership between DEL, the five local Education and Library Boards (ELB) and the Student Loans Company (SLC). CAFRE students apply to their local ELB for financial support and they determines eligibility and entitlement. SLC sends financial notification of entitlement and payment schedule letters. Students are eligible to apply for a non means-tested tuition fee loan, to the maximum fee charged by CAFRE (£1,380 for academic year 2012). A maximum means tested maintenance grant of £3,475 and maximum means tested maintenance loan of £3,750 (home), £4,840 (lodgings) is available for academic year 2012/13. Additional support is available through a Parent's Learning Allowance (max £1,538), a Childcare Grant (max £148.75 per week for one child and £255 for two or more), an Adult Dependant's Grant (max £2,695) and a Special Support Grant. A Disabled Students' Allowance is a non means tested allowance to support students with disabilities or learning difficulties. An equipment allowance (max £5,266), non-medical helper's allowance (max £20,938) and general allowance of up to £1,759 per year are available.

Hardship Fund

This fund is intended to provide support to students who are experiencing exceptional financial difficulty in meeting costs associated with learning. All full-time students are eligible to apply. Applicants must have taken out a student loan (if eligible) and should have exhausted all other sources of income. Awards are made primarily to students in severe financial hardship, mature students, lone parents and those students with children who are not eligible for a childcare grant. Each case is considered on its own merit by a panel and the amount paid (if any) is based on basic needs being met such as travel, food and books.

Part time Further and Higher Education students

Current policy with regard to part-time study at either further or higher education level for CAFRE students is that the Department will not charge tuition fees for students who are employed in the agri-food industry. Part-time CAFRE students who have been accepted onto the Department of Employment and Learning's ApprenticeshipsNI programme are eligible for £100 payment in respect of the successful completion of each essential skill unit of Communication, Application of Number and ICT.

Courses at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what percentage of (i) full-time; and (ii) part-time courses at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise are delivered by independent training providers.

(AQW 13415/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: No full-time or part-time courses at CAFRE are delivered by independent training providers.

Promotion of Northern Ireland Produce

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action her Department is taking to assist in the promotion of Northern Ireland produce with the EU's Protected Geographical Indication status.

(AQW 13467/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: From the outset, I want to make clear that EU State Aid regulations do not allow for the promotion of individual produce based on origin. However, as you are aware, my Department administers the EU Protected Food Names (PFN) Scheme on behalf of applicants. This provides a system for the protection of food names on a geographical or traditional basis and can be used as a valuable promotional tool. My Department's strategy is to raise awareness of this scheme and its benefits to producer groups who can then decide if the scheme would be of benefit to their marketing strategy. My officials can also help producer groups in making applications.

Achievement of a PFN Scheme has significant potential for products as exports are highly sought after with any of the three protected name markings. So, as well as protecting local produce in the expanding global market, it is also another tool to help with export-led growth.

The North has recently had three successful PGI applications: Lough Neagh Eels; Armagh Bramley Apples and Comber Earlies. I visited each of the groups involved in these three product applications and, while wider uptake of the scheme is still at a relatively early stage for the north, I am confident that the PGI status will bring a marketing advantage to each of the products. Indeed, this is already happening with the first crop of Comber Earlies having successfully secured a contract with a major retailer.

My Department managed very positive media coverage, not only of the achievement for each PGI produce but also to raise wider awareness of the scheme. We followed this up with a PFN exhibition stand in the Food Pavilion at the Balmoral Show. I visited this stand and was pleased to see a wide range of interest from the public as well as producers. My officials are now following-up contact with interested parties who visited the stand.

There has also been progress in developing new applications. A joint venture with colleagues in the south for 'Irish Salmon' is at an advanced stage, while meetings with other local producer groups are also ongoing, which will hopefully result in further new applications.

To help producer groups consider the benefits of the scheme, we are developing an Information Pack, as well as additional information for the DARD website. We are also planning a seminar for producers, to explain the scheme and its benefits. The Department's Supply Chain Development Programme is also available to provide support for farmers and growers to work together with others to help them improve the rewards from their supply chain.

At a recent Ards Borough Council meeting DARD Supply Chain explained to growers and packers of Comber Earlies how the PGI should be used to help promote Comber Earlies and explained how the

Supply Chain Development Programme could be used to help the industry establish a group to use the PGI status to best advantage. Comber Earlies are now being harvested and packers are starting to use the Comber Earlies PGI labels on their potato bags.

In terms of promoting local quality food, you may be aware that my Department also supports the Regional Food Programme which aims to promote quality produce. Previous successful applications include the Taste of Ulster Guide, the Naturally North Coast Directory and the Food Pavilion at the Balmoral Show.

I am confident that with these actions being taken, our three current PGI products will continue to benefit from PGI status and we will have new successful applications, which in turn will help increased further take-up of this valuable scheme.

Publicly Funded Research on Soil Quality

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what specific publicly funded research has been carried out on soil quality since 2007.

(AQW 13487/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department has been undertaking an extensive programme of research on soil quality over many years, through our research work programme at the AgriFood and Biosciences Institute (AFBI). AFBI is currently carrying out research on a DARD funded project titled: 'Monitoring Soil Quality in Northern Ireland'. The aim of this project is to improve our understanding of the extent, diversity and quality of our soil resource and how it is changing. AFBI is also undertaking long term research on the impact of slurry application on soil (since 1970), and established the Representative Soil Sampling Scheme (RSSS) which has been in place since winter 2004.

Eradication of Hogweed around River Banks

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what responsibility her Department has in relation to the eradication of Hogweed around river banks.

(AQW 13490/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Giant Hogweed is a weed which has spread widely through the countryside in particular along river banks. Control of weeds in the wild including around river banks is the responsibility of the landowner. DARD is not responsible for the eradication of this weed which is classified as an Invasive Alien Species. The Wildlife Order (NI) 1985 makes it an offence to deliberately plant Giant Hogweed. Information on the control of Giant Hogweed by using an appropriate herbicide has been developed by DARD and is available for the general public and other government departments to download from the DARD Internet site on: http://www.dardni.gov.uk/ruralni/giant_hogweed.pdf

Single Farm Payment System

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she will consider changing the Single Farm Payment system to allow an interim payment to be made to farmers who are subject to farm inspections and other matters that result in the withholding of the payment for long periods.

(AQW 13507/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I do not intend to introduce interim payments at this time, but as part of my programme of work to tackle disallowance I am implementing plans to accelerate the processing of payments.

The Department has a programme of work in place to improve its mapping and on-the-spot controls. Payments, including interim payments, can only be made when controls have been applied and eligibility conditions have been satisfied. Where inspectors have identified breaches, it takes time to process these.

In order to accelerate future payments, I have commenced land eligibility inspections relating to the 2012 application year four weeks earlier than in 2011. This earlier start was made possible by development of IT and business systems, as well as earlier training and equipping of inspection

staff. These inspectors have been deployed at this early stage to take advantage of the generally better weather and field conditions at this time of year and, importantly, to provide a longer window of opportunity for completion of inspections in order to make more payments to more inspected businesses earlier in the payment cycle.

I also previously announced my intention to introduce the use of satellite imagery for approximately 250 land eligibility inspections in the 2012 campaign. The use of remote sensing should also improve the prospects of early completion of inspections in future years.

I am working to increase the use of online applications and have increased this from 9% in 2010 to 21% on 2012. The use of online applications by farmers reduces the scope for error and accelerates the processing of claims. Farmers and their agents can assist in this by moving to online and away from the paper form in 2013 and I would exhort them to investigate this opportunity.

I have delivered a major investment in mapping and the use of ortho-photography and have made this available to farmers in 2012. The new maps will assist in due course in accelerating payment timetables once they have had time to bed in. In the meantime, farmers must be vigilant in ensuring the new maps are correct, because it is not possible for them to be correct in every case.

A major cause of delay in the processing of inspection cases is the need in many cases for retrospective re-calculation of entitlement value. This will continue to challenge payment targets in 2012, but it is intended that the other measures I have introduced or am introducing will offset this remaining cause of delay.

Proposals for Tackling Bovine TB

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide further details on her proposals for tackling bovine TB, which she announced on 3 July 2012 and, in particular, plans to remove badgers which test positive for TB.

(AQW 13566/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Following recent discussions with industry and wider stakeholders, and informed by the views of the external experts who attended the International Vaccination Symposium in Belfast in May 2012, I have asked my officials to design specific wildlife intervention research. This approach would involve testing live badgers; vaccinating and releasing the test negative badgers; and removing the test positive ones.

This wildlife intervention research would focus on removing diseased badgers and protecting uninfected ones. This balanced approach would avoid killing healthy badgers and could lead in time to a healthier badger population incapable of transmitting TB to cattle. The aim of this research would be to test the effectiveness of this approach on the level of TB in badgers and in cattle in the north

I have therefore asked my officials to start work straightaway to design and cost this wildlife intervention research. This is a completely new approach. We expect the design for such a study will be complex and we want to make sure we get it right. There are a number of key steps to be completed.

The first step is to commission the necessary modelling using information from the north. This initial modelling will help to ensure that the subsequent design is scientifically robust. The modelling will help us identify the optimum location and size for the study, and how long it would need to run. It will also help to identify the costs of this wildlife intervention research more clearly.

When we have the results of the initial modelling, the next step will be to design the study proposal. There are a number of other preparatory actions that will be necessary. These include completing the necessary business case; obtaining the necessary licences; and securing the necessary funding. As the badger is a protected species, any direct interventions in the badger population here will be subject to the agreement of the Environment Minister and the issue of the necessary licences. Also, any interventions must be compliant with statutory powers and take into account any relevant legal rulings in Britain.

I have also asked my officials to maintain and develop stakeholder engagement with farming, veterinary and environmental representative organisations. Indeed such a meeting has already taken place on 3 July, which follows on from a TB industry and wider stakeholder workshop held last October at Greenmount College.

In addition, the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) has recently been requested to put forward further research proposals across a range of aspects of TB, including the role of slurry in spreading TB; an investigation of the risk factors for herds with multiple reactors and / or chronic TB infection in order to further reduce disease in those herds; and an analysis of the existing molecular strain typing data to determine how this tool can be best applied practically in the TB eradication programme and to provide a better understanding of TB transmission in the north. An assessment has also been commissioned of farmers' understanding of and attitudes to applying biosecurity measures when dealing with diseases.

Davagh Forest Park

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the work being done to transform Davagh Forest, Cookstown into a multi-purpose trail.

(AQW 13602/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: When Forest Service launched the 'Recreation and Social Use of Forests Strategy' in July 2009 we were keen to realise the full potential that forests offer.

The proposed recreation trail network at Davagh Forest will provide a good example of how we can promote the recreational use of our forests for the benefit of all visitors in line with Forest Service's strategy. Working together with Cookstown District Council, this project will demonstrate my Department's commitment to working in partnership with organisations and local government to secure a more diverse range of facilities and attractions in our forests, for the benefit of our rural communities and for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Work on the construction of the trail network has not yet commenced. My officials in Forest Service have been working closely with Cookstown District Council in developing a legal agreement for the Council to construct, maintain and manage the recreation product.

EU School Milk Subsidy Scheme

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 11186/11-15, what targets her Department has with regards to the EU School Milk Subsidy Scheme; and how the delivery of the Scheme can be improved.

(AQW 13702/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In my earlier reply I outlined the aims of the Scheme and advised that we have a high level of uptake by nursery, primary and special schools. I also welcome the fact that all of our Education and Library Boards (ELBs) participate in the delivery of the Scheme.

I would encourage every school and every parent of a child at school in the north to avail of the benefits of this Scheme. To this end the Dairy Council for the north of Ireland (DCNI) has undertaken valuable promotional work with assistance from both my Department and the European Community. I have also asked my officials to write to the Principals of all nursery, primary and special schools to encourage either their continued participation in the Scheme or to ask them to consider providing drinking milk under the Scheme for the benefit of their pupils.

Another important factor is the effective and efficient delivery of the Scheme through the ELBs. Each school participating in the Scheme liaises with the local ELB which collates a single claim at the end of each school term for all schools in its area and submits it to my Department for payment. In this way administration costs are kept to a minimum.

In conclusion, my aim is for the Scheme to continue to operate as efficiently as possible and to maximise uptake, however you will appreciate that ultimately this will be a personal choice for parents, particularly in the current difficult economic climate.

EU School Milk Scheme Targets

Mr McCallister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) her Department's EU School Milk Scheme targets; and (ii) whether any ways to improve delivery of the scheme have been identified.

(AQW 13714/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Please see my answer pursuant to AQW 13702/11 -15.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Irish Language Act

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the benefits of an Irish Language Act.

(AQW 11217/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): An Irish Language Act will protect the rights of Irish speakers and clarify the responsibilities of government and public bodies.

An Irish Act represents an opportunity for the Executive to use language and culture to develop programmes to recognise and support cultural expression, improve cognitive ability, create economic opportunity and contribute towards enhanced tolerance, respect and the positive promotion of equality.

Public Contract Tenders for Construction

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of (i) her Department's elements criteria used to determine public contract tenders for construction; and (ii) whether the criteria, such as turnover thresholds, might prohibit small-to-medium sized local businesses from making applications,

(AQW 13153/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: All my Department's construction contracts are awarded based on the advice of the Department of Finance and Personnel's Central Procurement Directorate. The process typically involves the selection of suitable contractors to be invited to tender, followed by the assessment of the tenders received and the award of the contract to the successful tenderer.

The criteria used at the selection stage includes having adequate financial standing, which is proportionate and relevant to the contract in question. Should a company not meet the relevant financial requirements to qualify as a lead contractor, they may be able to apply either as part of a consortium or by being included in the supply chain of sub-contractors for a lead contractor.

My Department will continue to explore all opportunities for building the Executive's priority of sustainable socio-economic for small-to-medium sized local businesses.

Funding of GAA Clubs

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 12619/11-15, (i) whether she intends to suspend or withdraw funding to Sport NI for distribution to the GAA; (ii) whether the distribution or presentation of medals commemorating a republican terrorist to children by Galbally Gaelic Athletic Club was deemed as acceptable under Sport NI's conditions for the awarding of funds and in compliance with good relations criteria; (iii) whether and where any evidence of such a decision

exists; and (iv) whether she, or her departmental officials, met with GAA representatives to discuss this issue.

(AQW 13319/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure provides grant-in-aid to Sport NI as a leading body for the development of sport in the north of Ireland. Sport NI, in turn, is responsible for administering the distributed of this grant-in-aid to sports generally. This is an on-going function of Sport NI and I have no intention of suspending or withdrawing the grant-in-aid Sport NI requires for this purpose.

Galbally Pearses GAC is neither currently in receipt of nor in the process of being awarded funds by Sport NI. Neither I nor my officials have met with GAA representatives to discuss this matter.

Sport NI Grants

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the terms of the equity clause, which is a condition of Sport NI grants.

(AQW 13344/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Following a review of Sport NI's terms and conditions of award carried out in 2011, all offers of capital and revenue support from Sport NI now contain the following clauses:

Capital Awards

'The Applicant must operate an equal opportunities policy during and following completion of the Project and no-one shall be denied the right to equal access to any goods, facilities, services and/or employment opportunities attaching to the Project on grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religious belief, political opinion, marital status, age, or having or not having dependants; in addition, the recipient shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the facilities and premises assisted by this grant shall be run in an inclusive manner which will both aspire to and promote good relations'.

Revenue Awards

'The Applicant must operate an equal opportunities policy during and following completion of the Project and no-one shall be denied the right to equal access to any goods, facilities, services and/or employment opportunities attaching to the Project on grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religious belief, political opinion, marital status, age, or having or not having dependants; in addition, the recipient shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the opportunities and programmes assisted by this grant shall be run in an inclusive manner which will both aspire to and promote good relations'.

Departmental Media Protocol

Mrs Hale asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what is the cost associated with the Media protocol for her Department's arm's-length bodies; and how the cost of this protocol will be met.

(AQW 13361/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: It is not envisaged that there will be additional costs associated with the introduction of the media protocol for my Department's arm's-length bodies. I am keen to see that the DCAL brand is used so that tax payers can see where their money is spent. I have emphasised to the ALBs that they should not incur any additional spend on branding. Any costs must be met within existing budgets.

Capital Assets

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the capital assets of which her Department intends to dispose in each of the next three years.

(AQW 13383/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department plans to dispose of the assets listed in the table below over the next 3 years.

I should emphasise that actual disposals and their timing may differ from this plan for a number of reasons, including market conditions.

Asset	2012/ 2013	2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015
Ligoniel Library	X		
Former PRONI building, Balmoral Avenue, Belfast	X		
Ballynahinch Library HQ		X	
Braniel Library	X		
Gilnahirk library	X		
Dunmurry library		X	
Belvoir library	X		
Gilford library		X	

Library Stocks of eBooks

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what proportion of library stocks are eBooks.

(AQW 13458/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The proportion of Libraries NI stock held as eBooks is 1.1%. Libraries stock, as of 3 July 2012, comprises:

- 27,296 copies of eBooks;
- 4,133 copies of downloadable audio books; and,
- 2,711,522 items in stock in the main* library catalogue.

* excludes eBooks & downloadable audio books.

Library Stocks

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how often library stocks are updated.

(AQW 13459/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Libraries NI has informed me that library stocks are updated every day, Monday to Friday. This stock is a mixture of newly published titles, stock purchased to satisfy requests; as replacement copies or to meet identified stock gaps.

The figures* below show the number of copies added to the library stock in each of the last 3 years:

- 2009/10 367,863 copies were added to stock.
- 2010/11 336,656 copies were added to stock.
- 2011/12 523,984 copies were added to stock.

*these figures do not include eBooks or downloadable audio books.

Salmon Nets

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether any salmon nets have been placed around the coast of Northern Ireland, in this year to date.

(AQW 13471/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: DCAL Fisheries Protection Officers have not detected any salmon nets placed in coastal waters to date in 2012.

Salmon Nets

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how her Department has sought to ensure that no salmon nets have been placed around the coast of Northern Ireland this year.

(AQW 13473/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: DCAL Fisheries Protection Officers continue to carry out surveillance in the areas in which the netsmen operated to ensure that they are complying with their undertakings and that no other illegal fishing activity is taking place. Patrols are carried out both at sea and along the coastline

Permanent Removal of Salmon Nets.

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update of the negotiations between the holders of licences for salmon nets and her Department on the permanent removal of these nets.

(AQW 13474/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department is not in any current negotiations with the holders of licences for salmon nets on the permanent removal of those nets.

The Department is currently carrying out a public consultation on a range of options for salmon conservation measures and the outcomes of this will inform the development of future salmon conservation policy, including the licensing of salmon nets.

Eradication of Hogweed around Loughs and Lakes

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what responsibility her Department has in relation to the eradication of Hogweed around loughs and lakes

(AQW 13489/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: DCAL has no responsibility for the eradication of Giant Hogweed. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency offers advice and guidance to landowners on their website on best practice to control and remove this invasive species.

2013 World Police and Fire Games

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many staff are engaged and employed to deliver the 2013 World Police and Fire Games.

(AQW 13508/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The 2013 World Police and Fire Games Ltd is the Company established to deliver the Games. Currently the Company has 30 staff and a further eight people will join in the next 2-3 months making a total of 38 staff. The Company does not employ any staff directly and all staff are on secondment from their parent employer organisations.

Additionally staff from a number of the stakeholder bodies, for example Belfast City Council, are working very closely with the Company to deliver particular work streams, such as the Opening & Closing Ceremonies and Accommodation.

Six Volunteer Co-ordinators, employed by Volunteer Now, are working with the Company to recruit 3,500 volunteers for the Games and approximately 70 voluntary Sports Co-ordinators representing each of the sports organisations' Governing Bodies are also working with the Company.

2013 World Police and Fire Games

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an estimate of the cost to the Executive of hosting the 2013 World Police and Fire Games.

(AQW 13509/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The cost of delivering the 2013 World Police and Fire Games is £13.811m, as specified in a business case addendum approved by DFP in March 2012.

In September 2010 the NI Executive agreed to contribute £6.04m cash to the project. However as part of the business case addendum approval process my department agreed to try to manage, in conjunction with the 2013 World Police and Fire Games Ltd., potential cash pressures of £843k from existing resources. If the pressure is realised it would bring the total cash contribution from the NI Executive to £6.88m.

itionally a number of stakeholder bodies, such as the PSNI, NIFRS and NIPS, have agreed to 'in kind' contributions to the delivery of the games. The 'in kind' contributions from NI Executive linked bodies is £2.51m.

Salmon Conservation Limits

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in light of the low percentage compliance rates in 2010, how her Department plans to improve the compliance with salmon conservation limits in the Bush, Glendun and Maine rivers.

(AQW 13551/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department is involved in a range of activities aimed at contributing to improvements in compliance with salmon Conservation Limits in the Bush, Glendun and Maine rivers.

Catchment management is informed by on-going work on each of the rivers to assess juvenile populations through electro fishing and monitoring of adult salmon by fish counters. My Department has a full inventory of salmon habitat in each of these rivers derived from habitat surveys and specialist assessment techniques. A fish passage assessment has been carried out on the River Bush using hydro acoustic tagging studies.

The Department continues to fulfil its responsibilities under the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 for the protection and conservation of fish and fisheries habitat. The Department works with local angling clubs to develop and implement in river salmon habitat enhancement projects in line with NASCO commitments.

The protection of wild Atlantic salmon is a priority for my Department and Fisheries Protection Officers carry out a range of enforcement activities to detect, deter and disrupt those involved in illegal fishing.

In the current season, my Department has brokered the cessation of all commercial netting of wild salmon in the DCAL jurisdiction. My call for voluntary catch and release of salmon by recreational anglers has attracted widespread support and the Department has made all Public Angling Estate waters catch and release only for 2012.

The Department has gone to public consultation on a range of options for salmon conservation measures for both commercial and recreational salmon fishing. This will inform the development of salmon conservation policy with the aim of improving the state of salmon stocks in all our rivers.

It is pertinent to mention that there are a number of factors that influence compliance with Conservation Limits that are outside the control of DCAL, notably the increase in mortality in the marine phase of the salmon life cycle.

Funding for Flute Bands

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many flute bands have received funding from her Department, or its arm's-length bodies, in the last twelve months.

(AQW 13619/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Funding in support of bands in the north of Ireland is disbursed through the Arts Council and the Ulster Scots Agency. My Department also allocates funding to bands through the Community Festivals Fund administered by the local councils.

96 flute bands received funding in the 2011 calendar year through the Ulster Scots Agency and 16 received funding in the 2011/12 financial year through the Arts Council and Community Festivals Fund.

Grant Awards from the Irish Language Broadcast Fund and Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the companies and projects that received grant awards from the (i) Irish Language Broadcast Fund; and (ii) Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund in (a) 2011; and (b) 2012.

(AQW 13677/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Details of the companies and projects that received grant awards through (i) the Irish Language Broadcast Fund are attached at Annex A and (ii) the Ulster Scots Broadcast Fund are attached at Annex B.

ANNEX A

IRISH LANGUAGE BROADCAST FUND - 2011

Production Company	Project Title
Tobar Productions	Ar Skype a Chéile
Dearcán Media	Ballaí Dhoire
Below the Radar Ltd	Luí na Talún 2
Sonas Productions	Damhsa ar na Bánta
Imagine Media Ltd	Amhráin an Fhir Bháin
Big Mountain Productions	Athar & Mac
The Picturehouse	Achomharc
Triplevision Productions	Cairde i gCéin
Stirling Film & Television Productions	Ceol on Chlann
Bóthar Ard	Cathair Ghonta
Imagine Media Ltd	Fear an Damhsa
Waddell Media	Iarnród Uladh
Stirling Film & Television Productions	INK
Solas	Triúr Ban Óg
Big Mountain Productions	Imeall Geal 3
De Facto Films	An Bronntanas
Stirling Film & Television Productions	Scúp
Steadipix/Clean Slate	Wolfland

Production Company	Project Title
The Picturehouse	Páistí na Réabhlóide
Bóthar Ard	An Féidir Linn
Solas	Óg & Aerach
Waddell Media	Mo Ghra Gael 2
Tobar Productions	Ard Albert
Zoogon Productions	Animal Mechanicals 2
Zoogon Productions	Ice Trail
Zoogon Productions	Extinctions
Zoogon Productions	Love in the Wild
Lagan Media	Filíocht Nua
Lagan Media	Filíocht Nua Phone App
Sequin & Imagine	Aistear na nGael
Clean Slate	Amhráin Uladh
Below the Radar	Meon Eile
Big Mountain Productions	Ceol na Tuaithe
Below the Radar	Scéal an Mharthanóra
Below the Radar	Michaela Mo Dheirfiúr
Bóthar Ard	Niall Óg
Tobar Productions	40 Bliain ag Fás
Independent Pictures & Tobar	Aniar Aduaidh
Waddell Media	Bealach na mBusanna

IRISH LANGUAGE BROADCAST FUND - 2012

Production Company	Project Title
Waddell Media	The Story of British Pathé in Ireland
Waddell Media	Deartháireacha
Waddell Media	Nollaig in Éirinn
Below The Radar	Luí na Talún 3
Below The Radar	It's a Blas!
Below The Radar	Taobh Thair Den Bhóna
Big Mountain Productions	Ceiliúradh Ceoil - Philomena Begley
Stirling Film & Television Productions	Wwoofing
Stirling Film & Television Productions	Fiacc
Indee Productions	Bia Linn

Production Company	Project Title
Indee Productions	Na Clamairí
Tobar Productions	Tiny Tobar Tootie Tobar
Tobar Productions	Tóirse Don Táin
Lagan Media	Bliain i Saol na Cultúrlainne (Derry)
Raw Nerve	An Béal Bocht
Imagine Media	Cuisle (formerly An Chultúrlann)
Imagine Media	Voyage to Iona
Bóthar Ard	Na Fíréin
Raidió Fáilte	Raidió Fáilte
Dearcán Media	Robert Burns
Zoogon Productions	Driver Dan (1)
Bóthar Ard	Joseph Campbell
Clean Slate	Bangor Monks
Waddell Media	Rónán ar Bhóthar Santiago
Stirling Film & Television Productions	Taisce Tí
Big Mountain Productions	Ceol na Tuaithe Daniel O'Donnell
Tern Television Ltd	Tomaí agus Art san Eoraip

ANNEX B
ULSTER-SCOTS BROADCAST FUND - 2011

Company	Project Title
ALX Production Limited	Pipe Dreamers
Barking Films Limited	Tattoo Debut
Barking Films Limited	Santer, Series 2
Below the Radar Limited	Ingenious Mr hutcheson
Below the Radar Limited	An Independent People
DoubleBand Films	Written in Stone
DoubleBand Films	The Siege
DoubleBand Films	The Covenant Trail
Hardy Pictures Limited	Mapping Ulster
Lagan Media Productions Limited	Interactive Ulster-Scots Heritage Trail
Waddell Media Limited	Paul and Nick's Big Food Trip

ULSTER-SCOTS BROADCAST FUND - 2012

Company	Project Title
Barking Films Limited	Santer Series 3
Barking Films Limited	The Santer Session
Below the Radar Limited	Ulster's Forgotten Radical
DoubleBand Films	An Ode to Burns
DoubleBand Films	The Extraordinary Life of Castlereagh
Televisionary Limited	Ulster Unearthed
Tern Television Productions Limited	12 Miles - The Narrow Sea
Tern Television Productions Limited	Kelvin's Cable
Tern Television Productions Limited	Reader of Rabbie
Tern Television Productions Limited	In Search of Ulster Scots
Waddell Media Limited	Paul and Nicks Big Food Trip Series 2

Department of Education

Average Capital Expenditure of Sectors in 2011/12

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education to detail the average capital expenditure, per pupil, in the (i) controlled; (ii) maintained; and (iii) integrated sectors in the 2011/12 academic year.

(AQW 13100/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): The average capital expenditure, per pupil, in the (i) controlled sector including controlled integrated schools is £428.40; (ii) maintained sector including Irish Medium maintained schools is £234.59; and (iii) grant – maintained integrated sector is £182.86 in the 2011/12 financial year.

The Department is unable to provide details for capital expenditure information based on academic years, or to provide a split between the controlled and controlled integrated schools, as we do not report or hold information in this format.

It should be noted these figures are based on Provisional Schools' Capital Outturn and exclude capital expenditure on School Transport, Early Years and Non-School ICT Projects. The Final Capital Outturn for 2011/12 will not be available until September 2012.

Foyle Pride Festival 2012 in Derry

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the level of funding his Department has allocated to the Foyle Pride Festival 2012 in Derry; and (ii) if his Department has not allocated funds to the event, how much it is willing to provide towards the running costs of £15,000.

(AQW 13202/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department of Education has not received any applications for funding of the Foyle Pride Festival 2012 in Derry. The Department assesses each application for funding on its merits.

July/August Birthdays in the Pre-School Application Process

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Education when the Statutory Rule to remove the criterion for July/August birthdays in the pre-school application process will be introduced, given his statement to the

Assembly on Monday 23 April 2012 that the legislation to remove the criterion will be introduced before summer recess.

(AQW 13352/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Statutory Rule has been laid in the Assembly and came into effect on 6 July, subject to the will of the Assembly.

Visit to School in East Londonderry

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 13004/11-15, (i) why he did not provide the information requested in his response; and (ii) to detail (a) whether he visited a school in East Londonderry on 25 May 2012 from which he was called away to deal with urgent business; (b) whether the visit was of a ministerial or constituency nature; and (c) to provide details of the urgent business.

(AQW 13363/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I refer the Member to my answers to his earlier questions, AQW 12365/11-15 and AQW 13004/11-15 which were published in the Official Report on the 15th June 2012 and 29th June respectively.

Changes to the GCSE Examinations

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the proposal by the Secretary of State for Education to change the GCSE examinations system, and how it might impact on Northern Ireland.

(AQW 13482/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I would refer the member to my answer to AQO 2304/11-15, tabled by William Irwin, and published in the Official Report on 6 July 2012.

Future Operation of CCEA

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Education what impact the changes proposed by the Secretary of State for Education may have on the future operation of CCEA.

(AQW 13483/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Education is a matter for locally accountable government and I as Minister set policy here. CCEA will continue to discharge its statutory functions as set out in the 1998 Education Order.

Should qualifications policy in England diverge from my policies, CCEA will work to ensure that our qualifications continue to have currency elsewhere.

Northern Ireland Students Seeking Admission to English Universities

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Education how changes to the examination system in England, which were proposed by the Secretary of State for Education, might impact on Northern Ireland students seeking admission to English universities.

(AQW 13484/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My priority is to ensure that qualifications offered in the north of Ireland are relevant and appropriate for our young people, and our economy. It is vital that qualifications offered here continue to be recognised by universities and employers across these islands and beyond.

If changes proposed in England break the direct link between our GCEs and GCSEs and those offered in England, I will seek to ensure that our qualifications retain the currency and transportability which they have long enjoyed.

Members of the Education and Training Inspectorate of Schools

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the recent teaching experience of members of the Education and Training Inspectorate of Schools; and (ii) the average teaching experience and range of experience of members of the Education and Training Inspectorate of Schools.

(AQW 13485/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Training Inspectorate promotes improvement not just in schools, but in pre-school centres, the youth service, institutes of further and higher education, teacher education, work-based learning, the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) and in the educational provision in the prison service.

In relation to (i) the recent teaching experience of the Education and Training Inspectorate is individual and personal to each inspector and therefore it would not be appropriate to disclose it in this forum.

In relation to (ii) All inspectors have academic and professional qualifications at least to degree level or the equivalent and are also required to have a qualification which enables them to teach in schools and /or a further education college; invariably all have substantial teaching and/or training experience in schools, colleges of further and higher education, youth work, organisations of higher education or in industrial/commercial training.

The teaching experience required for the post of inspector will depend on the specialism. For the post of an inspector of primary or post-primary education, typically, the following generic qualifications are required:

- A degree level qualification which meets the requirement for recognition to teach in grant-aided schools.
- At least 10 years teaching experience, which have been gained in schools, colleges of further education, institutions of higher education or initial teacher education.

Disputes Between Parents and Schools

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Education what assistance is available to Boards of Governors to deal with disputes between parents and schools, in addition to that offered by the Education and Library Boards and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools.

(AQW 13502/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Disagreements between parents and a school vary widely in nature and are normally resolved quickly in accordance with a school's own complaints procedures.

It is always a matter of concern when disputes arise that cannot be settled quickly within the school community as these affect the learning environment of the pupils. In such circumstances the relevant education and library board (ELB) does play an important role as, in the case of Catholic maintained schools, does CCMS as the Employing Authority. In schools where the Board of Governors is also the Employing Authority, advice may be obtained from the local ELB and/or from external or independent sources.

In addition to approaching the ELB (and, where appropriate, CCMS) there are other avenues open to the governing body. Where there are issues relating to school performance, a Board of Governors may ask the Education and Training Inspectorate to undertake a school inspection if the normal procedures for performance management have been exhausted. Where there are issues relating to the school's management procedures, a Board of Governors may request a school audit from its funding authority.

My Department also provides advice to Boards of Governors including through the DE website which contains guidance on governors' roles and responsibilities.

Capital Funding for the Western Education and Library Board

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Education to detail the level of capital funding allocated to the Western Education and Library Board in each year since 2002, broken down by spending in the (i) controlled; (ii) maintained; (iii) integrated; and (iv) Irish-medium sectors.

(AQW 13527/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Western Education and Library Board is responsible for capital accrual expenditure on Controlled Schools and Maintained School Meals Accommodations (SMAs) only.

However, I have also provided capital expenditure on Maintained, Grant-Maintained integrated and Irish Medium Schools in the Western Education and Library Board area which are grant-aided directly through the Department. As this funding is given in the form of grant aid, the figures are only available as cash expenditure.

The figures shown below relate to capital expenditure figures, per sector, for the last 7 years. Figures broken down as requested are not available prior to the 2005/06 financial year.

School Type	Accrual Expenditure from WELB Capital Allocations		WELB Area - Capital Cash Expenditure from DE Database		
	Controlled Schools	Maintained Schools Meals Accommodation only	Maintained Schools excluding Meal Accommodation	Grant-Maintained Integrated Schools	Irish-medium Schools including Irish-Medium Units
Year	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
2005/06	9130	809	12831	726	119
2006/07	14475	605	4233	12821	28
2007/08	10038	338	4492	4255	373
2008/09	6184	623	3240	8023	146
2009/10	9416	815	3444	3822	182
2010/11	3539	404	3840	348	251
2011/12	3790	404	4603	457	110

Primary Schools

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education what percentage of primary schools in each Education and Library Board have been deemed to be (i) satisfactory; and (ii) in need of improvement following inspections, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13576/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd:

(i) Percentage of primary schools evaluated as good or better

	2009/2010 %	2012/2011 %	2011/2012 %
BELB	23.08	33.33	9.09
NEELB	15.15	8.33	23.33

	2009/2010 %	2012/2011 %	2011/2012 %
SELB	28.95	8	12.96
SEELB	21.43	16.67	11.54
WELB	26.67	22.22	17.39

(ii) Percentage of primary schools evaluated as being in need of improvement after inspection

	2009/2010 %	2012/2011 %	2011/2012 %
BELB	53.85	38.89	36.36
NEELB	21.21	20.83	26.67
SELB	34.21	24	22.22
SEELB	21.43	16.67	11.54
WELB	33.33	22.22	17.39

Children who are Resident in the Republic of Ireland

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what financial contribution the Republic of Ireland Government has made to cover the costs of children who are resident in the Republic of Ireland being educated in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 13582/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I would refer the Member to my answers to AQW 11281-11/15 and AQW 12847/11-15 published in the Official Report on 18 May and 6 July respectively.

Cost of Supplying Substitute Teachers

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the costs of supplying substitute teachers, in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area, in each of the last three academic years.

(AQW 13583/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The costs of supplying substitute teachers, in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area, in each of the last three academic years are detailed in the table below. For the current academic year, information is provided from September 2011 to June 2012.

Sept 2009 - Aug 2010	Sept 2010 - Aug 2011	Sept 2011- Jun 2012
£13,730,208.85	£12,891,155.85	£10,554,824.53

Pupils Expelled from Schools

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education how many pupils, who have been expelled from school, are now transported to another school by (i) bus; and (ii) taxi, broken down by Education and Library Board.

(AQW 13593/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have been informed by the Education & Library Boards that for the 2010/11 year, the last year for which expulsions data has been published, a total of 8 pupils are now being transported to another school, 4 by bus and 4 by taxi.

The data has not been broken down by individual Education and Library Board to avoid identification of individual pupils.

It is possible that some or all of these pupils were already in receipt of transport assistance to the original school from which they were expelled.

Early Years Stakeholder Advisory Group

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education why there are representatives from primary schools on the Early Years Stakeholder Advisory Group; and whether he has any plans to review this situation.

(AQW 13595/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I indicated to the Assembly on 2 July 2012 that I would look into the issue of representation from the primary sector on the Early Years Stakeholder Advisory Group. Officials have confirmed that currently there is not representation from the primary sector and I have asked that this position is addressed as a matter of urgency to ensure that the Group is fully inclusive of all relevant sectors.

Value that Local Communities Place on Education

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education what the advertising campaign, aimed at raising the value that local communities place on education, will entail.

(AQW 13596/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In my Autumn Statement on 26 September 2011, I emphasised the need to send a clear signal to every community about the value of education.

I intend to take forward an advertising campaign to inform and engage all parents, and in particular those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, to become more engaged in their child's education. The campaign is intended to raise awareness of the importance of educational achievement and promote the value of a good education whilst encouraging parents to aspire to a better education and future for their children.

The finer detail of the advertising campaign and how the outcomes will be achieved have still to be worked through with the successful bidder.

Nursery School Places and Providers

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Education, in light of 1,400 of the 1,800 additional nursery school places being weighted in favour of private and voluntary providers, to detail (i) each private and voluntary nursery school provider; (ii) each statutory nursery school provider; (iii) the original Education and Training Inspectorate grading for each individual provider over each of the last two years; and (iv) whether there is research available to show differing educational outcomes for children who attend private as opposed to statutory nursery schools.

(AQW 13598/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Assembly Library.

Parkhall Integrated College, Antrim

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 12032/11-15, why Parkhall Integrated College, Antrim, was not announced as one of the successful 18 projects for capital investment, given that the project was identified as being at Stage F/G by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

(AQW 13618/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Parkhall Integrated College is central to a recently announced NEELB consultation for the Antrim / Ballymena area in which the option now being considered for Parkhall is an 800 place 11-19 school with post-16 provision being offered as jointly managed and governed provision with Antrim Grammar School. The proposals within the consultation document also indicate that capacity would have to be expanded at both Parkhall and Antrim Grammar.

Clarity is needed on the scale and type of provision the Department of Education is being asked to provide before funding can be approved.

In my statement to the Assembly on 25 June I indicated that I propose to establish a cohort of projects to be advanced through the planning, design and business approval processes. The schools to be funded will form an announcement in the autumn.

Provision for a new school build for Parkhall will continue to be reviewed including consideration in preparation for the autumn announcement.

Religious Background of Teachers

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education what percentage of teachers in (i) controlled; (ii) maintained; (iii) integrated; and (iv) Irish-medium post-primary schools come from a (a) Catholic; (b) Protestant; or (c) other religious background.

(AQW 13620/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not hold this information.

Retirement or Resignation of Teachers

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education, following the retirement or resignation of a teacher, to detail (i) whether there is a timeframe in place that would prevent a post being filled; (ii) if so, what is the timeframe; and (iii) whether it differs for posts in primary and post-primary schools in the (a) controlled; (b) maintained; (c) integrated; and (d) Irish-medium sectors.

(AQW 13637/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There is no timeframe in place in any school to prevent a post being filled following the retirement or resignation of a teacher. When a vacancy occurs the Principal and Board of Governors look at their staffing needs to determine whether or not a post should be filled.

The timeframe for filling a vacant post will be influenced by the length of notice given and the time scale to allow for the recruitment process.

(0-6) Early Years Strategy

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education, given that 90 percent of respondents disagreed with his Department's (0-6) Early Years Strategy, how he will ensure that a revised strategy takes account of the concerns and issues raised.

(AQW 13650/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Consultation is an important element in the process of developing policy and every response is important. While the consultation indicates that there is widespread agreement around the need for increased early years intervention and support there is less consensus around how this might be achieved.

The core objective of my Department is to raise standards in education and, in doing so, to reduce educational underachievement particularly for those young people who face barriers to learning. As I announced in my statement to the Assembly on 2 July 2012 I consider that the focus should be on the child and their needs. That is why I intend to develop a revised strategy with a clear focus on early education and learning.

At the same time I intend to explore how the Delivering Social Change Framework might provide a mechanism for achieving enhanced collaboration and integration for early years but as part of a much wider theme of early intervention.

My officials will develop a set of proposals which take account of the outcome of the consultation. Over the coming months they will engage with key stakeholders to develop and refine these. I aim to publish a final strategic framework in November.

(0-6) Early Years Stakeholder Advisory Group

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education why principals of primary schools are not represented on the (0-6) Early Years Stakeholder Advisory Group; and whether he will reconsider this position.

(AQW 13651/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: When establishing the Stakeholder Advisory Group for the Early Years (0-6) Strategy my Department identified key players in the area of early years provision and policy. The membership of the Group has expanded as needs have changed and issues and discussions develop.

I indicated to the Assembly on 2 July 2012 that I would look into the issue of representation from the primary sector on the Group. Officials have confirmed that currently there is not representation from the primary sector and I have asked that this position is addressed as a matter of urgency to ensure that the Group is fully inclusive of all relevant sectors.

(0-6) Early Years Strategy

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education whether, and how, when revising the (0-6) Early Years Strategy he will take account of the findings of the Nutbrown research report, and other government-funded research, which has consistently found that qualified teacher-led provision leads to the best outcomes for children.

(AQW 13652/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In taking forward the development of the Early Years (0-6) Strategy my Department will consider a range of relevant research and policy developments.

With respect to the Nutbrown Review on early education and childcare qualifications the policy context for early education and childcare in England and Wales differs from the north of Ireland. Although there is no direct read-across of the findings to provision here, there may be some issues that are similar and could be helpful to the development of the proposals, even if solutions differ.

I remain committed to the partnership approach between the statutory nursery sector and the voluntary/private sector to the delivery of the funded pre-school year here which has many strengths. ETI inspection findings and the Chief Inspector's Reports clearly indicate that there is high quality provision across the pre-school sector - in statutory nursery schools, nursery units attached to primary schools and in voluntary/private pre-school settings.

Children from Army Families

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Education (i) what discussions he has had with the Ministry of Defence about educational provision and planning in relation to army families returning from Germany to, or via, Northern Ireland; and (ii) to detail the number of children from army families who will be returning who are of (a) primary; and (b) post-primary school age, in each of the next three years.

(AQW 13654/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My officials maintain continuous engagement through the Services Children Education Forum to ensure emerging issues in relation to supporting the educational needs of children of Service Personnel are addressed.

Special Advisers

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 2636/11-15, to detail (i) when the salary band for his Special Adviser was finalised; (ii) whether his Special Adviser was in receipt of a salary prior to it being finalised; and (iii) under which salary band his Special Adviser is paid.

(AQW 13655/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd:

- (i) The salary band for my Special Adviser was finalised on 8 November 2011

- (ii) My Special Adviser was not in receipt of salary prior to it being finalised
My Special Adviser is paid under Pay Band B:
- (iii) £57,300 - £82,531

Vacant Places in Post-Primary Schools

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education, following the publication of the area plans for post-primary schools by the Education and Library Boards, to detail the number of vacant places in post-primary schools, broken down by council area or constituency.

(AQW 13678/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The number of unfilled post-primary school places in the 2011/12 school year broken down by district council area and parliamentary constituency are provided in the tables below.

UNFILLED POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN THE 2011/12 SCHOOL YEAR BY DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

District Council	Unfilled Places
Antrim	324
Ards	822
Armagh	808
Ballymena	623
Ballymoney	282
Banbridge	366
Belfast	3189
Carrickfergus	258
Castlereagh	777
Coleraine	962
Cookstown	385
Craigavon	1768
Derry	1281
Down	872
Dungannon	671
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	1302
Larne	282
Limavady	436
Lisburn	643
Magherafelt	188
Moyle	189
Newry And Mourne	873
Newtownabbey	981
North Down	70

District Council	Unfilled Places
Omagh	502
Strabane	621

UNFILLED POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN THE 2011/12 SCHOOL YEAR BY PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

Parliamentary Constituency	Unfilled Places
Belfast East	1032
Belfast North	1565
Belfast South	728
Belfast West	1483
East Antrim	739
East Derry	1414
Fermanagh And South Tyrone	1612
Foyle	1265
Lagan Valley	588
Mid Ulster	934
Newry And Armagh	1152
North Antrim	1094
North Down	70
South Antrim	324
South Down	1166
Strangford	1113
Upper Bann	2073
West Tyrone	1123

- 1 The number of vacant places in schools is derived from the difference between a school's approved enrolment number and the number of pupils enrolled at the school.
- 2 The figures exclude the enrolment pupils in receipt of a statement of special educational needs, and pupils admitted on appeal by the Education and Library Board appeal tribunals or by direction of the independent Exceptional Circumstances Body, as these are admitted over and above a school's approved enrolment number.

Development Proposals from Primary and Post-Primary Schools

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 11540/11-15, to detail the names of the schools, broken down by Education and Library Board.

(AQW 13711/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The names of the schools referred to in the 53 development proposals, noted at the time of answering AQW 11540/11-15, are provided in the tables below.

BELFAST EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD

No.	School	Sch. Ref.	Decision
204	Currie PS, Belfast	101-0063	Not Approved
205	Gaelscoil na Mona	104-6671	Not Approved
206	Vere Foster PS, Belfast	101-0321	Approved
207	Cranmore Integrated PS	106-6580	Not Approved
210	St Aidan's Christian Brothers & St Bernadette's PS	103-0316 103-0317	Approved
211	Edmund Rice PS & Star of the Sea Girls' PS	103-0329 103-6464	Approved
212	Colaiste Feirste	124-0291	Pending

WESTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD

No.	School	Sch. Ref.	Decision
216	Jones Memorial PS	201-6003	Approved
217	St Mary's Boys' PS & St Mary's Girls' PS, Strabane	203-2689 203-6096	Approved
218	Portora Royal School	242-0042	Approved
220	Gaelscoil Neachtain	N/A	Approved
221	St Canice's PS, Dungiven	203-6045	Approved
225	Ardstraw PS & Drumlegagh PS	201-6376 201-2392	Pending (Later Approved)
226	Drumragh College	226-0283	Pending
227	Gaelscoil na Daroige	204-6687	Pending
228	St Eugene's High School	223-0111	Pending
229	St Peter's High School	223-0181	Pending

NORTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD

No.	School	Sch. Ref.	Decision
257	Randalstown PS	301-0816	Not Approved
258	Gaelscoil Eanna, Glengormley	304-6685	Not Approved
259	Braid PS, Broughshane	303-0836	Approved
260	Lourdes PS, Whitehead	303-6093	Approved
261	Dalriada School Prep Dept	362-0012	Pending
262	Carlane PS, Toomebridge	303-0713	Pending

SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD

No.	School	Sch. Ref.	Decision
221	Connor House Prep Dept, Bangor	462-0015	Approved
220	Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche	404-6648	Not Approved
222	Tonagh PS	401-0885	Approved
223	Glenola Collegiate Prep Dept	441-0097	Approved
224	BallykeiglePS, Comber	401-1647	Approved
225	Dunmurry High School	421-0194	Approved
226	Redburn PS, Holywood	401-1688	Approved
228	St Lukes PS, TwinBrook	403-6081	Pending
229	Ballynahinch PS	401-1567	Pending
230	St Malachy's PS, Castlewellan	403-6454	Pending
231	Carryduff PS	401-3044	Pending

SOUTHERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD

No.	School	Sch. Ref.	Decision
254	Gaelscoil Aodha Rua, Dungannon	504-6695	Approved
263	Gaelscoil Ui Neill, Coalisland	504-6637	Approved
257	Orchard County PS, Portadown	501-6658	Approved
255	Bocombra PS, Portadown	501-6138	Approved
256	Drumadonnell PS, Ballyroney	501-6616	Approved
258	Waringstown PS, Craigavon	501-1598	Approved
259	Seagoe's PS, Portadown	504-6137	Approved
260	St Mary's PS, Banbridge	503-6043	Not Approved
261	St Patrick's PS, Mayobridge	503-1697	Approved
262	Portadown Integrated PS	506-6553	Approved
264	St Francis of Assisi PS, Keady	503-6610	Not Approved
230	Aghavilly PS	501-1034	Approved
266	Keady PS	501-6028	Approved
267	Gaelscoil Eoghain, Cookstown	N/A	Approved
268	Gaelscoil na mBeann, Kilkeel	N/A	Approved
269	Primate Dixon PS, Coalisland	503-6590	Pending (later not approved)
272	Bronte PS	501-6612	Approved
273	Iveagh PS	501-1611	Not Approved
274	Brackenagh West PS	501-6098	Not Approved

Tickets for the Jubilee Garden Party

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many tickets for the Jubilee Garden Party on 27 June 2012 were allocated to (i) the Minister; (ii) his Department; and (iii) its arm's-length bodies.

(AQW 13289/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): The number of tickets allocated within the Department for Employment and Learning, and its arms length bodies, for the Jubilee Garden Party on 27 June 2012 is as follows:

Name	No of tickets allocated
Minister	0
Department	156
Arms Length Bodies	0
Total:	156

In addition to the Departmental allocation, the Minister received 4 tickets as an MLA, through the NI Assembly.

University of Ulster Budget Cuts

Mr McCartney asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he intends to meet union representatives to discuss the implementation of budget cuts at the University of Ulster.

(AQW 13329/11-15)

Dr Farry: The University of Ulster has had to sustain an efficiency of 6% in its annual recurrent grant for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 academic years as have all other higher education institutions in Northern Ireland. The decision as to how the university will achieve the necessary efficiencies is solely a matter for its senior management and governing body.

Disposal of Capital Assets

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the capital assets of which his Department intends to dispose in each of the next three years.

(AQW 13382/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department intends to dispose of Felden House, Newtownabbey, within this financial year. This is the only planned capital asset that will be disposed of in the next three years at this stage.

Teaching in STEM subjects

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, for each of the last three years, to detail the number of (i) newly qualified teachers; and (ii) newly qualified teachers in each of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects.

(AQW 13394/11-15)

Dr Farry: The table below details the Number of (i) newly qualified teachers; and (ii) newly qualified teachers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects from Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions in each of the last three years.

Academic year	Overall	STEM subjects only
2008/09	660	Not available (see note 5)
2009/10	625	170

Academic year	Overall	STEM subjects only
2010/11	590	180

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency

Notes:

- 1 HESA data are rounded to the nearest 5.
- 2 The latest available data are for academic year 2010/11.
- 3 STEM subjects have been identified using the course title field on the HESA record. The content of the field is determined by individual institutions.
- 4 There are various combinations of subjects included in course titles and, in general, they cannot be assigned to each of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects. Hence, only the overall totals for STEM subjects have been given.
- 5 A figure for the number of newly qualified teachers in STEM subjects in 2008/09 is not available as specific subjects cannot be identified for a large number of qualifications.

Migrant Workers

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what discussions his Department has had with major employers to assess the number of migrant workers in the various industries.

(AQW 13404/11-15)

Dr Farry: Employers are not compelled to collect information on the nationality or migration status of workers and there are complexities in attempting to do so. However my Department has commissioned a number of pieces of research in recent years which have included analyses of the number of migrant workers in various occupational sectors. There are also a number of additional information sources, e.g. the Labour Force Survey and NISRA's International Migration Statistics, that my Department draws on to inform its work to support Migrant Workers.

Discussions with individual employers may not provide an accurate assessment of overall Northern Ireland position.

Sources: The Oxford Economics Labour Market and Skills Impacts of Migrant Workers in NI (December 2009)

The Institute for Conflict Research report - "easy life, great people, bad weather" A Report on the Experiences of Migrant Workers in Northern Ireland. (December 2009)

Millward Brown Ulster – The Private Recruitment Sector in NI (December 2009)

STEM initiative

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of the STEM initiative offered by South Eastern Regional College to enable part-time students to earn back their tuition fees by successfully completing their course.

(AQW 13450/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department is one of a number of departments contributing to the implementation of the STEM strategy, 'Success through STEM', which was endorsed by the Executive in March 2011. It aims to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics and, in so doing, encourage more people to gain skills in these areas, to meet the needs of the economy. A particular challenge for Northern Ireland is that the envisaged growth in STEM areas is not being matched by a sufficient growth in the number of young people choosing to study these subjects at school, college and university.

I therefore welcome the initiative being taken forward by South Eastern Regional College, which will encourage more people to study STEM subjects and acknowledge its valuable contribution in helping to achieve the STEM strategy's overarching recommendations.

Certificate in Religious Education

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many people have completed the Certificate in Religious Education in each of the last three years, broken down by religious background. **(AQW 13461/11-15)**

Dr Farry: As the Department does not hold the information requested, my officials contacted the four higher education institutions. The information provided by the universities and university colleges is attached at Annex A.

Annex A

Queen's University Belfast

The PGCE offered by Queen's University is for post-primary teaching. The Certificate in Religious Education is not required for post-primary contexts and Queen's does not offer this qualification. Whilst the University does make available information on how to access the Certificate to all PGCE students, no information is held on actual students undertaking the Certificate.

University of Ulster

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Catholic	36	45	36	41
Protestant	29	27	34	25
Other*	2	4	5	7
Total RE Certificates	67	76	75	73

* "Other" category includes records where the information has been refused, is not known, where the student has stated that they hold no religious belief as well as any religious belief other than Protestant or Catholic.

Stranmillis University College

The following table shows the number of students from Stranmillis University College who have completed the Certificate in Religious Education by Distance Learning (CREDL) in each of the last 3 years:

Year	Number of Students who have completed the CREDL course
2009-10	6
2010-11	7
2011-12	3

Unfortunately the College is not able to provide the breakdown by religious background, as we cannot access this information.

St. Mary's University College

The Certificate in Religious Education at St Mary's is awarded upon successful completion of a three-year course for BEd students or a one-year course for PGCE students. The award is by Ecclesiastical Authority and St Mary's is not the sole provider of this qualification for Northern Ireland students.

The following table provides the information you have requested.

YEAR	PGCE	BEd
2010	20	160

YEAR	PGCE	BEd
2011	20	127
2012	19	121

All of the students were from a Catholic background.

Customer First in the Western District

Ms Boyle asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, in light of the announcement on the roll out of Customer First in the Western District, whether any discussions have taken place between his Department and the Department for Social Development on the provision of a 'One Stop Shop' in premises at a central location in Strabane which had been envisaged previously as part of the Benefits and Jobs Project which has not yet been fully implemented.

(AQW 13478/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Jobs and Benefits service has been introduced into 27 offices across Northern Ireland, however it has not been possible to introduce it into the remaining 8 offices as capital funding has not been made available to complete roll-out.

Staff in the local JobCentre and the Social Security Office continue however to deliver high levels of service to customers in the Strabane area, such as work focused interviews and access to a full range of our employment services and programmes,

Both the Minister for Social Development and I will continue to seek opportunities to deliver the Jobs & Benefits service as they arise and subject to the identification of funding.

Jobs at FG Wilson

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what support his Department can offer to people who will lose their jobs at FG Wilson.

(AQW 13479/11-15)

Dr Farry: My officials have been very proactive since FG Wilson announced these job losses. Telephone contact was initially made with the company followed by a discussion with company representatives to explain in detail how the Department's Redundancy Advice Service can help those affected.

FG Wilson management has expressed a clear commitment to working with the Department and other Agencies to assist employees. They are keen that our services are offered to those affected across all three of their sites, and will encourage employees who will be affected to avail of the help and support available. All services are free of charge to both employees and the company. A further meeting between the Department and FG Wilson has already scheduled to plan in detail for the delivery of advice clinics.

In offering the Redundancy Advice Service, the Department will work in partnership with the Social Security Agency, Further Education Colleges, HMRC and other agencies. Employees will be provided with information and professional advice about the options and support available to them including employment, training and education opportunities, as well as careers, benefits and taxation advice.

Jobs at FG Wilson

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what contact his Department has had with FG Wilson since the announcement that up to 260 jobs could be lost by the end of the year.

(AQW 13480/11-15)

Dr Farry: My officials have been very proactive since FG Wilson announced these job losses. Telephone contact was initially made with the company followed by a discussion with company representatives to explain in detail how the Department's Redundancy Advice Service can help those affected.

FG Wilson management has expressed a clear commitment to working with the Department and other Agencies to assist employees. They are keen that our services are offered to those affected across all three of their sites, and will encourage employees who will be affected to avail of the help and support available. All services are free of charge to both employees and the company. A further meeting between the Department and FG Wilson has already scheduled to plan in detail for the delivery of advice clinics.

In offering the Redundancy Advice Service, the Department will work in partnership with the Social Security Agency, Further Education Colleges, HMRC and other agencies. Employees will be provided with information and professional advice about the options and support available to them including employment, training and education opportunities, as well as careers, benefits and taxation advice.

Invest NI

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) whether there is communication between Invest NI and his Department regarding potential investors' feedback on skills; (ii) whether this feedback is used to shape specific and general programmes to improve skills, and (iii) whether this feedback is used by his Department, universities and colleges to determine which courses are offered and promoted.

(AQW 13494/11-15)

Dr Farry: I encourage a positive relationship between my Department and Invest Northern Ireland. This is immensely important as we work together to rebuild and rebalance the economy by implementing the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy.

The Assured Skills programme is one of the main areas of joint work between my Department and INI to attract potential investors to Northern Ireland. Under Assured Skills, we bring all the experience of both organisations to bear and jointly develop, design and, ultimately, fund projects.

This co-operative approach has greatly influenced the decision of several companies to invest here, and has resulted in 726 new jobs secured for Northern Ireland just in the last year. A further 400 posts are currently the subject of ongoing negotiations.

We receive direct feedback from potential investors on their needs by meeting with potential investors alongside INI colleagues. In doing this, our aim is to reduce the risk to the investor in a new labour market by using our experience to help them find the staff they need, and then ensure they have access to the skills training to get up and running – and productive – as quickly as possible.

In terms of how this feedback is used to shape specific and general programmes to improve skills, we get first hand information on the company's recruitment, training and skills requirements, and are then in a perfect position to liaise with the local further or higher education sector to design and develop a bespoke solution to meet the company's needs.

For example, we are working with Queen's, the University of Ulster and Belfast Metropolitan College to design specific programmes for CVS Caremark, a United States based pharmaceutical company that recently announced the creation of 50 new jobs in NI. Assured Skills also helps existing companies who are expanding, and Queen's University are currently designing customised management and leadership courses for Andor Technology, who are creating 166 additional jobs.

These examples show how we are improving the industry-relevant skills within the further and higher sectors in Northern Ireland in response to demand.

Course provision is a matter for institutions but, in the longer term, I believe these linkages and direct experience of industry's needs will influence institutions to adapt the courses they offer to make them even more business focussed.

This is, of course, happening already. For example, I am aware that one of the local universities has already revised some of their Information Technology provision in the light of interaction with local companies, including recent investors, and I welcome this.

Likewise, changes have been made to the syllabuses at both universities to respond to the needs of the expanding financial services sector in Northern Ireland. My Department anticipated this demand and, for example, provided support under Assured Skills to up-skill lecturers in the Investment Operation Certificate. Just under 100 graduates have now successfully completed this qualification, creating a pool of attractive potential workers with financial skills for the sector.

I hope these examples demonstrate the pro-active approach being taken by both my Department and INI to help attract potential investors to Northern Ireland by using their feedback to re-model the range of training and skills provision here.

Work Experience and Training Places within the Public Sector

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, in relation to his Statement of 2 July 2012 on Youth Employment Scheme and NEETS Initiatives, (i) whether there will be short work experience placements and training places within the public sector; (ii) how many placements and training places will be offered; and (iii) whether these will be cost neutral, apart from the payment of the training allowance to the participants.

(AQW 13499/11-15)

Dr Farry: There will be short two to eight week work experience placements in both the private and public sectors. Public sector organisations can offer training opportunities for between six and nine months in skills that have the potential to transfer to the private sector to help rebuild and rebalance the economy. My Department will seek to maximize the availability of those opportunities. There are no targets for numbers of work experience placements or training opportunities in the public sector. Given that this scheme has the dual purpose of addressing youth employment and helping to rebuild and rebalance the economy, the intention is to engage with both the private and public sectors to secure the right types of opportunities. Any public sector provision will be cost neutral.

Youth Employment Scheme and NEETS

Mr B McCreagh asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, in relation to the Youth Employment Scheme and NEETS initiative, what evidence exists to substantiate his statement that the Executive and his Department are doing more than any other region of the UK to assist our young people.

(AQW 13513/11-15)

Dr Farry: The evidence is in the scale of the investment announced on 2 July. The full cost of the package agreed by the Executive is £41 million over three years. In Great Britain, the Youth Contract will cost £940 million over 3 years. As a consequence of the introduction of the Youth Contract the Northern Ireland Block Grants received an additional allocation of around £28 million over three years. That is a sum roughly equivalent to 3% of the investment in Great Britain. However, such allocations are not ring-fenced so it was always a matter for the Executive to determine how much it would invest in any local scheme. The fact that we have chosen to invest £41 million is testament to a high level of commitment to our young people in Northern Ireland by the Executive.

Health Check on the North West Regional College

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an update on the most recent health check on the North West Regional College, and any other recent information the Department has on student achievement and retention at the College.

(AQW 13559/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department compiles and issues health check reports to the governing bodies of all further education colleges on a quarterly basis. Reports relating to the second quarter of the 2011/12 academic year were issued to colleges on 21 May 2012. Statistical Bulletin 'Professional and Technical Retention and Achievement Data NI Further Education Sector for 2010/11', using data collated in the Further Education Leavers Survey (FELS), was published on 6 April 2012 and can be accessed on the Department's website. These figures are reported in the college health check. They show that the retention rate for all professional and technical courses in North West Regional College

in 2010/11 was 84% and the achievement rate was 76%. This is based on data on the full range of further education provision, at all levels studied. This includes DEL Funded Further Education Provision, Government Training and Employment Programmes, Full Cost Recovery Provision and Entitlement Framework Provision. Recreational Provision is excluded as these courses do not have a qualification aim.

Scottish Universities

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many students from Northern Ireland have studied at Scottish universities in each of the last five years.

(AQW 13584/11-15)

Dr Farry: The information on total Northern Ireland domiciled student enrolments at Scottish Higher Education Institutions in each of the last five years is detailed below.

Year	Total
2006/07	4,940
2007/08	4,800
2008/09	4,680
2009/10	4,605
2010/11	4,520

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Notes:

- 1 Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
- 2 The above figures include enrolments across all years and all levels of study.
- 3 Therefore a student may be included in more than one academic year e.g. they may be included as a first year student in 2006/07 and also be included in figures for subsequent years of study.
- 4 For information the number of first year Northern Ireland domiciled student enrolments at Scotland Higher Education Institutions was 1,520 in 2006/07; 1,460 in 2007/08; 1,400 in 2008/09; 1,415 in 2009/10; and 1,360 in 2010/11.

Student Subject to Sexual Offences Prevention Order

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether staff, or the Board of Governors, at either Belfast Metropolitan College or North West Regional College, Londonderry, were made aware that a student was subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order, for previous convictions, prior to enrolment in either facility; and what monitoring was subsequently put in place.

(AQW 13623/11-15)

Dr Farry: I would refer the member to my previous answers to AQW 7000/11-15 and AQW 10022/11-15 on the same subject. I can advise that colleges would be unaware of a student's background prior to enrolment. It is only as part of the enrolment process at a further education (FE) college that a student is asked to declare any criminal convictions.

However, in this case, the student had enrolled at Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC) in 2010, and North West Regional College (NWRC) in 2011 and on both occasions, failed to disclose that he was subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO). The colleges were therefore unaware of the need to enact their safeguarding procedures.

Once both colleges became aware of the situation, BMC from an article in the Irish News, and NWRC from concerned students, they immediately implemented their respective safeguarding procedures, which included alerting staff and governing bodies.

All six Further Education (FE) colleges have robust safeguarding procedures in place, developed in conjunction with a number of external agencies, including the PSNI and Social Services.

My officials have requested a sector-wide policy, in respect of safeguarding at the six further education colleges. This will ensure that coherent, joined-up procedures are in place, to avoid any recurrence of this situation.

South Eastern Regional College: Enrollment Figures

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the enrolment figures for the South Eastern Regional College in each of the last five years.

(AQW 13628/11-15)

Dr Farry: The number of professional and technical enrolments at the South Eastern Regional College from 2006/07 to 2010/11 is detailed in the table below.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL ENROLMENTS IN SOUTH EASTERN REGIONAL COLLEGE 2006/07 TO 2010/11

2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
24,274	21,760	23,465	26,044	26,623

Source: Further Education Statistical Record (FESR)

Notes:

- 1 Latest validated data pertains to the 2010/11 academic year.
- 2 Professional and technical provision relates to those courses which have a qualification aim attached.
- 3 Recreational provision is not included in the above table.

Policy on Sex Offenders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what guidance has been provided by his Department, and what subsequent policies have been implemented to ensure that a convicted sex-offender cannot attend two further education facilities whilst subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order.

(AQW 13683/11-15)

Dr Farry: I would refer the member to my previous answers to AQW 7000/11-15, AQW 10022/11-15 and AQW 13623/11-15 on the same subject.

All six Further Education (FE) colleges have safeguarding policies and procedures in place, which have been developed in conjunction with a number of external agencies, including the PSNI and the Social Services. These policies and procedures were surveyed recently by the Education and Training Inspectorate and were considered to be appropriate. Safeguarding policies are developed to ensure the safety of students and staff, and procedures are in place to allow colleges to take appropriate action when a student declares that they are subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order or when colleges receive such information.

Central to these safeguarding procedures are risk assessments, which ensure that potential students are suitable to undertake a particular course and to establish the appropriate level of management and supervision required during their course of study.

In order to ensure a consistent approach, my officials have now requested that a sector-wide policy, in respect of safeguarding at the six FE colleges, be drawn up. This review will ensure that coherent, joined-up procedures are in place.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

NI2012 Events Planned for the North Down Constituency

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many NI2012 events have been planned for the North Down constituency; and what budget has been allocated to the events.

(AQW 12703/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): The Tourism Events Funding Programme 2012/13 received 81 applications and offered funding to 51 events. Since letters of offer were issued one event has withdrawn their application.

Only one unsuccessful application was received from the North Down Constituency.

Future of HMS Caroline

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions her Department has had on the future of HMS Caroline.

(AQW 13097/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I have been working for some time to find the best solution for HMS Caroline. I, and my officials, have engaged with various interested groups, including the National Museum of the Royal Navy and I have raised the issue with my Northern Ireland Executive colleagues. On 4th July I met with Andrew Robathan, Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence along with Hugo Swire, Minister of State in the Northern Ireland Office and Nigel Dodds MP to discuss HMS Caroline's future in Belfast and to seek his support to Caroline remaining in Belfast.

It was agreed that we should work together to restore the ship in Belfast. A meeting is now being sought with Navy Museum Officials.

Directors of Mutual Companies

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what measures are in place to ensure that directors of mutual companies, which provide a public service function, are not awarded salaries in excess of their counterparts in the public sector.

(AQW 13314/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Remuneration for directors in the mutual sector is a matter for each individual entity to determine.

InvestNI Funding Allocated in the North Down Area

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much funding InvestNI has allocated in the North Down area in each of the last three years; and to list the businesses which were in receipt of the funding.

(AQW 13325/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Whilst Invest NI does not allocate budgets or funding to geographic areas, table 1 shows the amount of assistance, or funding, that Invest NI has offered to companies in the North Down Parliamentary Constituency Area (PCA) in each of the last three financial years.

TABLE 1: INVEST NI ASSISTANCE OFFERED IN NORTH DOWN PCA (2009-10 TO 2011-12)

Financial Year	Total Assistance £m
2009-10	2.68
2010-11	0.50

Financial Year	Total Assistance £m
2011-12	1.68
Total	4.86

Table 2 lists the names of businesses that were offered the assistance contained in table 1.

TABLE 2: BUSINESS IN NORTH DOWN PCA OFFERED INVEST NI ASSISTANCE (2009-10 TO 2011-12)

BUSINESS NAME

- Munster Simms Engineering Limited
- Mm Teleperformance Limited
- Valpar Industrial Limited
- Denroy Plastics Limited
- 3M United Kingdom Plc
- Blue Zinc It Limited
- Pia Rossini Limited
- Dllni Limited
- Yellow Moon Post Production Limited
- Crawfordsburn Inn Limited
- Forth Communication Ni Limited
- Priory Press
- LPT
- Frying Squad (Franchising) Limited
- Oakridge Trading Limited
- Omnisoft Services Limited
- The Signature Works Limited
- Richmond Reproduction (Manufacturing) Limited
- Accept Care (Social Firms) Limited
- Waddell Media Limited
- Mcwhinney's Sausages Limited
- The Clandeboye Estate Company Limited
- Lucas Associates
- Blue Quadrant Limited
- Forest Leaf Properties Limited
- Cargobox Limited
- Greenacre Innovations Limited
- Jampot Technologies Limited
- Fingerprint Learning Limited
- Eyekiller Limited
- Karacha Music Limited
- The Corporate Wardrobe Limited
- Mango Direct Marketing Limited
- Navajo Talk Limited
- Pinnacle Response Limited
- Motivation In Learning Limited
- Sendmybag (Ni) Limited
- Fum Limited
- Smyth Research Limited
- Denman International Limited
- Ibc Trading Limited
- Slater Design Limited
- Calerfficic
- Tailor Made Training Ireland Limited
- Graces's Irish Biscuits
- Orthodox Limited
- Mcwhinneys
- Mwm Sports Management
- Careersport Recruitment & Consultancy Limited
- Scrabo Disability Solutions Limited
- Choc-O-Block Franchising
- Ecogen Energy & Environmental Technologies Limited
- Choux Choux Limited
- Crawfordsburn Service Station
- Walker Communications Limited
- Studioni Limited
- Hobart & Heron Limited
- Todd Chart Agency Limited
- Sitex Protective Fabrics
- Laurel Cottage Limited
- My Tour Talk
- Ulster Weavers Home Fashions Limited

- Greengraves Limited
- Cenzitek Limited
- Ipeus Limited
- Heatherlea Bakery
- PPC Environmental Limited
- Primacy Meats Limited
- The Frying Squad Limited
- Marine Services Ireland
- Bingbangbong Limited
- Coffee Yard Limited
- Eco-Energy (Ni) Limited
- Electro Fishing Services Limited
- Greenwell Solutions Limited
- Hothouse Technologies Limited
- I'm On It (Ni) Limited
- Posh Nosh Outside Catering Company
- Punch Enterprises Limited
- Taste Of Titanic
- The Garden Company
- Quality Plan (NI)
- Holborn Distribution And Packaging
- Commercial Graphics (N.I.) Limited
- Origin Partners Limited
- Creative Commercial Interiors
- Cleanfields Technologies Limited
- Interpret Consulting Limited
- Flickerpix Limited
- Omni Architects
- Tandem Design
- Cordiners Kitchens & Bedrooms Limited
- Solicit-This
- Acts Of Random Kindness Limited
- Agri Web
- Cranmore Consulting Limited
- David Dudgeon Studios
- Dumb Productions Limited
- Duncan Maxwell Storefitters Limited
- Just On Your Doorstep
- Gecho Asset Productions
- Greenway Healthcare (NILimited)
- Ulster Weavers Apparel Limited
- Seacliff Douglas Limited
- Tilt-A-Dor Limited
- Cooper Technology
- Urban Pup
- South Eastern Regional College
- Salt & Pepper Catering Limited
- Laurence Crockford Consulting
- Hobart Heron Architects

Note: The names of 10 companies that have been offered £0.8m of assistance have been withheld, as either the assisted projects have not been publicly announced yet, or to release their names would contravene data protection regulations.

Financial Assistance Provided by InvestNI

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 11020/11-15, and in relation to the £4.12 million of financial assistance offered to companies in the Foyle constituency, to detail the amount of financial assistance given to each company; and to explain the rationale behind companies in Foyle receiving 5 percent of the overall assistance, whilst companies in East Belfast received 15 percent, and companies in South Belfast received 25 percent.

(AQW 13349/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Table 1 below shows the breakdown by company of the £4.12 million of financial assistance offered to companies in the Foyle constituency in 2011-12.

TABLE 1: ASSISTANCE OFFERED TO COMPANIES IN FOYLE PCA (2011-12)

Client Name	Assistance Offered (£)
Derry City Council Tso	709,864
Nu Print Technologies Limited	134,167
Delap & Waller Limited	121,323
Cornerstone Automation Systems (UK) Ltd	113,400
Lucid Interactive Ltd	108,080
Opt 2 Vote Ltd	93,328
S C W Property (N.I.) Limited	80,621
Cheswick Kitchen Company Limited	77,544
One Stop Data Limited	66,398
Allpipe Engineering Limited	56,813
Foyle Language School Ltd	52,604
Axa Insurance Limited	52,000
Aerona Software Systems Ltd	51,590
Gallagher & Mckinney Limited	49,830
City Industrial Waste Ltd	48,000
Fleming Agri-Products Limited	47,483
Diamond Corrugated Cases Limited	47,094
James Doherty (Meats) Limited	40,000
Factory Automated Systems Technologies Limited	39,925
360 Production Limited	39,208
Bubblebum (UK) Limited	37,914
Ascot Signs	33,600
Print It For Me.Com Limited	33,113
Du Pont (U.K.) Industrial Limited	32,700
Dog Ears Ltd	31,254
Global Equipment Spares Limited	28,920
Marble Hill Soaps Limited	27,480
Urban 3D	26,606
Bap Express Foodservice Limited	26,184
Gen-X Healthcare Limited	25,708
Budget Energy Limited	25,000
Hunter Apparel Solutions Limited	24,742
Fresh Food Kitchen Ireland Limited	24,419

Client Name	Assistance Offered (£)
North West Electronics	21,600
Mechanical Installations & Maintenance (N.I.) Limited	15,000
Derry Precision Tools	13,061
Precision Processing Services Limited	12,814
A1 Speediprint Ltd	12,640
Mpa Recruitment Ltd	11,832
Maydown Precision Engineering Limited	11,719
Flite Software (N.I.) Limited	11,655
2Thecity Ltd	9,375
Smyson Enterprises Limited	8,560
Mcl Limited	8,000
Ofc Ireland Ltd	7,884
Donegal Prime Fish Ltd	7,609
Design Drawer	7,291
James Sammon & Co Ltd	7,097
Seedups (UK) Limited	6,856
Donnelly & Taggart	6,644
Clearway Medical Limited	6,600
North West Propellers Ltd	5,992
Ebrington (NI) Ltd	5,400
Promotion Camara Systems	5,240
Oiwillo Training Co. Ltd	5,000
Northern Irish Heritage Designs	5,000
Loyalty Living Limited	5,000
Eyespyfx Limited	4,471
Steam & Generation Services Limited	4,000
Partsgarage Ltd	4,000
Mka Planning	4,000
Holywell Consultancy Ltd	4,000
Creggan Country Park Enterprises Ltd	4,000
Ni Gears	3,560
North West Galvanising Limited	3,247
Create Print Community Interest Company	3,000
Tower Hotel (Derry) Limited	2,808

Client Name	Assistance Offered (£)
Mcivor Plastics Limited	2,598
Learning Pool Limited	2,160
Doire Dress Designs Limited	2,160
Foyle Chipping Co	2,145
Nbs Engineering	1,757
William Grant & Company Limited	1,608
Cromer Enterprises Limited	1,608
Northland Autopoint Limited	1,589
Doherty's Home Bakery	1,425
Pakflatt (UK) Limited	1,280
Culture Company 2013 Limited	1,225
Bt48.Com	1,225
Hubb.It	1,146
Warmfront	1,000
Revive	1,000
Noribic-Northern Ireland Business and Innovation Centre Sho	1,000
Acr Energy Solutions	1,000
We Do Art	814
Seagate Technology (Ireland)	720
Foyle Food Group Limited	683
Caldwell & Robinson	669
8Over8 Limited	666
Abc Research & Innovation Limited	507
North West Academy Of English Limited	503
Biznet Solutions Ltd	500
Metacompliance Limited	249
Wafer Enterprises Ltd.	236
Refresh Essentials	147
Halo Pet Products Limited	147
Total	2,693,634

Note: The names of 110 companies that have collectively been offered £1.42m of assistance have been withheld, as either the assisted projects have not been publicly announced yet, or to release their names would contravene data protection regulations.

With regard to the member's second query, Invest NI has limited scope to 'direct' investment to specific Parliamentary Constituency Areas. Although it may be able to influence the location decisions of some inward-investment projects, assistance patterns are demand-led by businesses wishing to improve

their competitiveness and gain a larger share of international markets. In the case of established businesses, both indigenous and externally-owned, reinvestment patterns will usually be determined by the existing location of the business.

It should also be noted that areas such as Parliamentary Constituency Areas (PCAs) are not self-contained labour markets. A project assisted in a particular location has the potential to create benefits across a much wider area. Northern Ireland is a relatively small place and evidence indicates that many investments draw their workforce from areas beyond constituency area boundaries.

Jobs Created by InvestNI

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 11021/11-15, and in relation to the 89 jobs promoted in Foyle, to detail (i) the companies involved; (ii) the number of jobs created in each company; and (iii) the number of these jobs which currently exist, broken down by (a) full-time and part-time positions; and (b) permanent and temporary positions.

(AQW 13354/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I can confirm that 89 new full-time permanent jobs are being created across two companies in the Foyle area. However, this information is not yet in the public domain and, as such, I am not yet at liberty to disclose the names of the companies involved, nor the split in employment between each nor the number of jobs which currently exist.

In addition to the 89 jobs the member refers to in his question, the original response to AQW 11021 also highlighted an additional 43 jobs promoted in the Foyle constituency by international investors offered support through the Jobs Fund.

In the context of a continued upward trend in unemployment the Jobs Fund, which encompasses a set of proposed measures to provide direct financial support for new job creation in the local labour market, was launched in April 2011. Although the economic consensus is that the primary focus of economic development policy should normally be on competitiveness, the current state of the local labour market means that there is a need for a temporary shift in emphasis towards job creation. In line with the Rebuilding Theme included within the Programme for Government (PfG) there is an emphasis within the Jobs Fund to help improve 'employment opportunities and employability' and to 'promote employment' and, therefore, financial support is being provided across a range of industries that tend to pay lower wages than the Northern Ireland average.

Jobs Created by InvestNI

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 11023/11-15, why only 22 of the 978 jobs, that pay above the Private Sector Median wage, were created in the Foyle constituency.

(AQW 13355/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The number of jobs paying above the Private Sector Median in a particular constituency is a direct product of the total number of jobs that are promoted in that area, and the nature of the projects undertaken by clients. As detailed in the previous answer to the member, in the case of the Foyle Constituency, Invest NI promoted 132 jobs through offers to externally-owned businesses in the constituency in 2011/12. On a per head of population basis this is higher than the average for Northern Ireland as a whole; however, the mix of projects assisted in the Constituency during 2011/12 included more jobs in industries that tend to pay lower wages than the Northern Ireland average.

Invest NI has limited scope for 'directing' investment to specific Parliamentary Constituency Areas (PCAs). Although it may be able to influence the location decisions of some inward-investment projects, assistance patterns are demand-led by businesses wishing to improve their competitiveness and gain a larger share of international markets. In the case of established businesses, reinvestment patterns will usually be determined by the existing location of the business.

It should also be noted that areas such as PCAs are not self-contained labour markets. A project assisted in a particular location has the potential to create benefits across a much wider area.

Northern Ireland is a relatively small place and evidence indicates that many investments draw their workforce from areas beyond constituency area boundaries.

Commercial Liability Insurance Provided by Tamboran

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she will publish details of the commercial liability insurance provided to her Department by Tamboran, including the eventualities for which it provides cover.

(AQW 13397/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I would refer the member to the answer I gave to AQW 12271.

The terms of any insurance policy between an insurance company and the organisation which is being insured is a private and commercial matter and therefore it would not be appropriate for the Department to publish details of same.

Disposal of Capital Assets

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the capital assets of which her Department intends to dispose in each of the next three years.

(AQW 13438/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My department, through Invest NI, holds capital assets in the form of land and property, which is held for sale or lease to support economic development. The following sales targets have been set for the next three years:

- 20 acres in 2012/13
- 20 acres in 2013/14
- 30 acres in 2014/15

London Inter-Bank Offered Rate

Dr McDonnell asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what aspects of industrial and employment policies are linked to, or influenced by, the London Inter-bank Offered Rate.

(AQW 13444/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Access to Finance remains a key challenge for many businesses throughout Northern Ireland, an issue that has been highlighted in the Executive's Economic Strategy.

The London Inter-bank Offered Rate is a key determinant which impacts on interest rates set by banks. While this does not impact directly on economic policies set by my Department, I recognise that it does potentially impact on the ability for businesses to get access to affordable credit from banks and so it is imperative that there is complete transparency in how these rates are set.

George Best Belfast City Airport

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what initiatives and support her Department has provided to George Best Belfast City Airport to attract new airlines.

(AQW 13463/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Tourism Ireland works with airports, airlines, ferry operators and other tourism interests to drive demand for services from key markets to Northern Ireland and to help maintain our vital network of routes. Tourism Ireland is currently working with George Best Belfast City Airport (GBBCA) on the introduction of potential new airlines and routes. However, discussions with the airport, and with airlines, are of a commercial and confidential nature.

The commencement of the new British Airways GBBCA to Heathrow service on 2 July 2012 is very good news for the airport and for Northern Ireland. As part of its ongoing co-operation with key carriers and

airports, Tourism Ireland will undertake advertising and other promotions in Great Britain together with British Airways, to maximise the demand for this route thereby boosting tourism to Northern Ireland.

Performance of InvestNI

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what monitoring arrangements are in place to assess the performance of InvestNI and; to what extent this involves practitioners of private enterprise companies not dependent on public sector or government work.

(AQW 13486/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I and my Senior Officials meet the Chairman and the CEO of Invest NI on a regular basis to review and monitor the performance of the agency. These meetings consider progress against the challenging targets that have been set for the organisation within the Programme for Government (PFG), Northern Ireland Economic Strategy and within the Corporate Plans of DETI and Invest NI.

Furthermore, the Executive Sub Committee on the Economy, which I chair, will play an important role in vigorously monitoring the key Invest NI targets as part of the PFG monitoring process.

Invest NI's Chief Executive also attends the Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee twice a year to provide the Committee with a half year and year end summary of performance against targets.

Recently a Steering Group led by my Department comprising Departmental, Invest NI and DFP staff was convened and agreed Terms of Reference for a project to assess and enable the Department to report on Invest NI performance going forward. A report is expected from the Steering Group in the next few months which will be validated by a leading independent academic on economic performance.

InvestNI

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether InvestNI encourages international investors to locate to District Council areas with the highest unemployment rates, and if not to explain the reasons.

(AQW 13493/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI encourages international investors to locate in any area in which their business will grow and thrive. As noted by the Independent Review of Economic Policy, it is important to allow companies the scope to locate where they can operate most profitably. To do otherwise would be detrimental to the chances of securing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for Northern Ireland.

Invest NI works with potential investors to develop visit programmes that demonstrate Northern Ireland's capability to meet the requirements of the specific investment project. These requirements are based on a number of factors, such as availability of a skilled workforce, the presence of existing sectoral clusters, availability of suitable property and other infrastructure related issues. While Invest NI does offer guidance, the imperative of any visit programme is to demonstrate how locating in Northern Ireland will help the company to grow its business.

In a very competitive market place Invest NI is responsible for selling Northern Ireland at a regional level. FDI plays a large part in the economic growth of Northern Ireland and Invest NI has a very successful track record of attracting high quality investment which will benefit the whole of the region.

My Department, including Invest NI, is aware of the challenges facing local areas in Northern Ireland and we are working closely with councils and other local stakeholders to develop their proposition to maximise opportunities for economic growth for all areas.

InvestNI

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what processes exist within InvestNI to ensure that all Departments are fully aware of any specified weaknesses highlighted by potential investors.

(AQW 13496/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Northern Ireland's investment proposition is based on a number of factors, such as its talented and loyal workforce, advanced telecoms and transport infrastructure, high skilled business clusters, the pro-business environment, competitive operating costs and proximity to major markets. Any perceived weaknesses highlighted by potential investors are captured primarily by the Investment Managers and overseas business development executives.

Invest NI has a range of mechanisms in place to raise and address significant issues that may impact on attracting potential investment.

Most specifically, Invest NI's Chief Executive is a member of the NI Economic Advisory Group which consists of a focused group of experts from economics, business and skills who provide advice to the DETI Minister on the key issues impacting the economy and the measures required to address these issues.

In addition, Invest NI is represented on a wide range of cross Departmental bodies and working groups. For example, there are regular formal meetings between DETI, DEL and Invest NI to discuss skills issues and the development of policies and practices to address skills shortages in specific areas.

Invest NI continues to liaise with a number of other Departments. For example:

The Department of Regional Development over key issues of access and, in particular, air route access to Northern Ireland;

The Department of Social Development over the implementation of those elements of Invest NI's Jobs Fund which are focused on Neighbourhood Renewal Areas;

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure over the development and implementation of support for the NI

Creative Industries sector; and

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development over the development and implementation of agri-food strategies

All-Island Single Electricity Market

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action needs to be taken to achieve better integration between the wholesale British Electricity Trading and Transmission Arrangements and the Single Electricity Market on the island of Ireland, as referred to in the communiqué following the last British-Irish Council meeting.

(AQW 13497/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department is working with the Utility Regulator and counterparts in Great Britain, France and the Republic of Ireland to manage transition of the Single Electricity Market and the British Electricity Trading and Transmission Arrangements and interconnection with the French market under the move to an integrated European-wide Internal Market for electricity. This work is set against development of a target model for the Internal Market and changes to the BETTA market from the UK Government's Electricity Market Reform programme.

Jobs at FG Wilson

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether any of the jobs that will be transferred out of Northern Ireland by FG Wilson were supported by InvestNI; and whether there are any issues relating to the recovery of grant aid.

(AQW 13510/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Job creation commitments made by companies with support from Invest NI are done so over an agreed period of time (usually in excess of 5 years). Accordingly the assessment of projects supported is carried out over that agreed period. It is not unusual for the employment numbers to fluctuate as companies work towards and maintain their targets. Whilst the recent announcement of

260 potential job losses by FG Wilson is regrettable and disappointing it is too early to determine what the overall impact on the grant aid will be.

Number of Overseas Visitors

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of overseas visitors in each month to date in 2012; and how this compares with the monthly figures for 2011.
(AQW 13511/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The total number of overseas visitors to Northern Ireland is not available by month. The overseas visitor numbers are compiled by combining data from the Northern Ireland Passenger Survey conducted by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and the Survey of Overseas Travellers conducted on behalf of Fáilte Ireland.

Data from the Survey of Overseas Travellers is provided to the Department in the form of quarterly totals.

Overseas visitors to NI January – March 2011 & 2012, can be viewed at:
http://www.detini.gov.uk/january-march_2012.pdf

Businesses in North Down: Financial Support from InvestNI

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many businesses in North Down have received financial support from InvestNI, in each of the last three years.
(AQW 13523/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The table below shows the number of businesses that received an offer of support from Invest NI in the North Down Parliamentary Constituency Area (PCA) in each of the last three financial years.

NUMBER OF BUSINESSES OFFERED SUPPORT IN NORTH DOWN PCA (2009-10 TO 2011-12)

Year	Number of Businesses
2009-10	50
2010-11	44
2011-12	77

Note: A business may have received an offer of support in more than one financial year. As figures relate to the number of businesses within each individual year, they should not be totalled over the three year period. This could result in a business being counted twice.

Relationship Between the Utility Regulator and Mutual Energy

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the relationship between the Utility Regulator and Mutual Energy.
(AQW 13555/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Mutual Energy is a mutualised energy company which, like other regulated utility companies, is subject to the regulatory oversight of the Utility Regulator. This oversight is principally exercised with reference to the company's operating licence and the Utility Regulator ensures that the company complies with its licence conditions.

Moyle Interconnector

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment on how many days during the last twelve months the Moyle interconnector was inoperable.
(AQW 13556/11-15)

Mrs Foster: DETI does not hold the information requested. However Mutual Energy has confirmed that the Moyle Interconnector was completely inoperable for a total of 147 days during the period between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012

Money Paid to Mutual Energy from Customers

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the amount of money paid to Mutual Energy from consumers in the last twelve months.

(AQW 13557/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Mutual Energy is a private company and, as such, the information requested is not held by DETI.

Tourist Potential of Disused Railway Tracks

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the tourism potential of the network of disused railway tracks; and whether her Department provides assistance to those who wish to turn these railway tracks into cycle paths.

(AQW 13601/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The network of disused railway tracks in Northern Ireland are owned either by The Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company (a public corporation within the Department for Regional Development), the relevant local authority (or authorities) within which the railway tracks lie or private landowners.

My Department, through the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, provides assistance through the Tourism Development Scheme (TDS) which aims to assist with capital developments in the tourism industry.

Creationism Film at the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department was consulted on the inclusion of a creationism film at the Giant's Causeway visitor centre; and if so, to outline its response.

(AQW 13634/11-15)

Mrs Foster: During the initial stages of the project, the National Trust undertook a series of consultations with a wide group of stakeholders which included The Northern Ireland Tourist Board in order to help inform the interpretative solution.

Inclusion of a Creationism Film at the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to list the groups that lobbied her Department for the inclusion of a creationism film at the Giant's Causeway visitor centre.

(AQW 13635/11-15)

Mrs Foster: A range of individuals and groups wrote to me expressing an interest in the interpretative content of the Giant's Causeway Visitor Experience.

Licence Permitting Exploration

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) what a licence permitting exploration, for the potential to extract shale gas by hydraulic fracturing, entitles the licence holder to do; (ii) what restrictions or oversights are attached; and (iii) how this is then reflected in a licence to extract shale gas by hydraulic fracturing.

(AQW 13692/11-15)

Mrs Foster: A Petroleum Licence gives a company exclusive rights to search and bore for and get petroleum within a specific area. This allows the Licensee to carry out non-intrusive work such as geological mapping. With additional consents from DETI and HSENI, the Licensee may also undertake limited intrusive work, such as geophysical survey and vertical drilling for rock samples. The Licence

also provides for drilling an exploration well and associated construction and engineering works, including hydraulic fracturing, but these are subject to Planning Permission and other consents from DETI, HSENI and others.

Applications to undertake construction works, exploration drilling and hydraulic fracturing would be subject to the full rigour of the Planning system including an Environmental Impact Assessment. Drilling a borehole is subject to the Borehole Sites and Operations Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995: under these Regulations companies must notify HSENI 21 days in advance of the commencement of operations and comply with drilling specific and general health and safety regulations. As a statutory consultee in the planning process HSENI has the opportunity to make recommendations on the proposed drilling operations, including compliance with internationally accepted standards. Many elements of the proposed drilling operations would be subject to environmental and other legislation, and monitoring programmes may be included under these regulatory regimes. DETI can include specific conditions (e.g. specifications for well design and construction) as part of its well consent. DETI has the powers to inspect the drilling operations and recover the costs from the Licensee.

During the exploration phase DETI will only issue Consent to Drill approval if the Licensee has demonstrated that it has already obtained all the other statutory permissions that it requires to carry out its operations, and it has satisfied the Department that its proposed operations are technically acceptable and will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

If exploration drilling is successful and a company wishes to develop the shale gas resources in its licence area it would need to submit a development programme for approval by DETI. This development programme would also require a Planning Application and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement. The planning process would involve consideration of a range of issues associated with the proposed development, including ecology, water resources and quality, air quality, the potential economic benefits, the potential for impacts on other industries, and the effects on the community.

Projected Impact on Tourism from Extracting Shale Gas by Hydraulic Fracturing

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what is the projected impact on tourism from extracting shale gas by hydraulic fracturing.

(AQW 13693/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The integrity of the natural environment is an important factor in the future development of the tourism sector. Should any company apply to DETI to drill a well for hydraulic fracturing, the impact on existing industries such as tourism would be fully assessed when considering any planning application.

Exploration for Extracting Shale Gas by Hydraulic Fracturing

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an estimated timescale for the completion of exploration for extracting shale gas by hydraulic fracturing; and to outline the next steps once the exploration is complete.

(AQW 13694/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The exploration stage of a shale gas development project may last between five and ten years although this phase would also include an assessment of the commercial viability of the proposed development through extended gas flow testing and, as such, may be considered the equivalent of the exploration and appraisal stages of a conventional oil or gas development.

The timescale for the completion of exploration of shale gas resources depends on the availability of existing information, the timeframe for the exploration work programme included as a Schedule to the petroleum licence and the time required to obtain the necessary statutory consents and complete the exploration phase.

Provided the exploration, including the extended testing of gas flow rates, yields favourable results the next stage is for the company to prepare a development programme for the production phase of the

project. This development programme would form the basis of an application for planning permission which would involve an Environmental Impact Assessment and must also be approved by DETI.

Department of the Environment

Enforcement Action in Lisburn Area

Mr Craig asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the average length of time it takes to implement an enforcement action in the Lisburn area.

(AQW 6635/11-15)

Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment): Enforcement Action has a precise legal meaning in Article 67A (2) of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991. For the purpose of the Order (a) the issue of an enforcement notice; or (b) the service of a breach of condition notice, constitutes taking enforcement action. In the 2011/2012 business year 6 enforcement notices were issued in the Lisburn City Council area, taking an average of 3 years 9 months.

The majority of breaches of planning control are resolved informally through negotiation with the owner/occupier or through the submission and consideration of a retrospective planning application.

For your information there are 368 enforcement cases within the Lisburn City Council area - tabulated below by age and type of case.

Current outstanding cases within Lisburn	3 years +	2-3 years	1-2 years	<=1 year	Total
	113	63	78	114	368

Type	Breach of planning condition	Change of Use	Operational / Built form	Adverts	TPO
	81	54	170	60	3

I have made it clear that I take the enforcement of planning powers seriously and recently convened an Enforcement Summit to consider the best architecture for enforcement in the future in terms of legislation, policy and structures.

Despite pressures within the Department dedicated enforcement teams have been retained within each Area Office and recently additional staff have been redeployed to the Downpatrick office to improve performance and provide a more efficient and robust enforcement process.

Hydraulic Fracturing Exploration Operations

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment (i) for his assessment of whether hydraulic fracturing exploration operations are regionally significant and therefore designated as article 31 applications and subject to public inquiry; and (ii) whether full commercial hydraulic fracturing exploitation of shale gas is considered regionally significant and therefore designated as article 31 applications and subject to public inquiry.

(AQW 7216/11-15)

Mr Attwood:

- (i) Exploration operations are governed by permitted development rights (i.e. where planning permission is not required) for limited activity such as drilling bore holes, carrying out seismic surveys and other excavations for a period of up to four months. These rights are subject to conditions including pre-commencement notification to the Department giving details of the location, target mineral, details of plant and operations and anticipated timescale. I must stress

that permitted development rights have related solely to exploration and do not in any way extend to extraction. That said and in these circumstances if the exploration works themselves are considered to require an Environmental Impact Assessment the current legislation makes it clear that in such circumstances permitted development rights do not apply. It is my view that exploration does require an EIA.

- (ii) If a planning application to extract shale gas by hydraulic fracturing is submitted to the Department for consideration, it should be accompanied by an environmental statement. Only when the location and specific details of such a proposal are available would the Department be in a position to assess the risks in relation to the proximity to sensitive environmental receptors. The process of designating a proposal as an article 31 application and considering the need for a public inquiry requires that the Department must first have a planning application to consider. Once a planning application is received and the Department considers that the development would, if permitted –
- (a) involve a substantial departure from the development plan for the area to which it relates; or
 - (b) be of significance to the whole or a substantial part of Northern Ireland; or
 - (c) affect the whole of a neighbourhood; or
 - (d) consist of or include the construction, formation, laying out or alteration of a means of access to a trunk road or of any other development of land within 67 metres of the middle of such a road, or of the nearest part of a special road;

the Department may apply Article 31 status to the application. A decision to hold a public inquiry could not be made until the detail of the planning application had received careful consideration.

However, as I have said and without prejudicing a future application or its assessment, other energy related applications – such as the North / South interconnector – have been designated Article 31s and subsequently sent for public enquiry.

Taxi Drivers Act as Couriers

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment whether taxi drivers are authorised and insured to act as couriers, particularly in relation to alcohol orders purchased from bars and off-licences on behalf of non-passengers and delivered to their homes.

(AQW 7688/11-15)

Mr Attwood: A policy of insurance or security must be in force on a taxi that complies with the requirements of Part VIII of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981. In general, where a taxi is being used for the conveyance of goods or alcohol for hire or reward, and provided that the nature of the business use has been declared to the insurance company, and such use is not excluded, cover may be in force. However, each taxi operator must take their own legal and insurance best advice and I am not in a position to confirm what the precise position may be in relation to individual taxi operators.

Under the Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996, safeguards exist in relation to deliveries of alcohol from premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises. Details of any alcohol purchased and the name and address of the purchaser have to be entered in a day book held in the premises and the courier has to hold an invoice with the same details.

Planning Applications on Wind Farms

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the number of planning applications for (a) wind farms; (b) single wind turbines; and (c) other forms of renewable energy generation that have been submitted in the last ten years; (ii) the number and percentage of applications in each category that were approved; (iii) the number and percentage of applications in each category that were refused; and (iv) the number and percentage of applications in each category that were withdrawn.

(AQW 8035/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Table 1 below sets out the number of applications for wind farms, wind turbines and other renewable applications received in each of the last 10 years.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

	Wind Farm	Single Wind Turbine	Other Renewable	Total
2002/03	5	22	5	32
2003/04	7	42	7	56
2004/05	26	48	15	89
2005/06	24	90	44	158
2006/07	25	136	28	189
2007/08	22	174	54	250
2008/09	16	230	32	278
2009/10	22	161	27	210
2010/11	19	620	41	680
2011/12	14	343	32	389
Total	180	1866	285	2331

Source: Planning

Table 2 sets out the decisions for wind farm, single wind turbine and other renewable applications which were approved, refused or withdrawn in the last 10 years.

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF DECISIONS

	Wind Farm				Single Wind Turbine				Other Renewable			
	App	Ref	Wit	Tot	App	Ref	Wit	Tot	App	Ref	Wit	Tot
2002/03	0	0	2	2	8	0	0	8	2	0	0	2
2003/04	2	0	1	3	25	0	0	25	4	0	0	4
2004/05	1	0	1	2	30	1	0	31	12	0	0	12
2005/06	5	0	0	5	65	2	0	67	21	0	0	21
2006/07	6	0	0	6	105	6	0	111	24	0	0	24
2007/08	12	1	1	14	148	7	0	155	53	0	0	53
2008/09	10	1	3	14	227	14	0	241	44	0	0	44
2009/10	11	7	1	19	104	19	0	123	20	0	0	20
2010/11	13	0	7	20	119	26	2	147	13	0	0	13
2011/12	10	2	2	14	220	62	1	283	32	0	0	32
Total	70	11	18	99	1051	137	3	1191	225	0	0	225

Source: Planning

Table 3 sets out the percentage of applications for wind farms, single wind turbines and other renewable applications that were approved, refused or withdrawn in the last 10 years.

TABLE 3: PERCENTAGE OF DECISIONS

	Wind Farm				Single Wind Turbine				Other Renewable			
	App	Ref	Wit	Tot	App	Ref	Wit	Tot	App	Ref	Wit	Tot
2002/03	0%	0%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%
2003/04	67%	0%	33%	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%
2004/05	50%	0%	50%	100%	97%	3%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%
2005/06	100%	0%	0%	100%	97%	3%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%
2006/07	100%	0%	0%	100%	95%	5%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%
2007/08	86%	7%	7%	100%	95%	5%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%
2008/09	71%	7%	21%	100%	94%	6%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%
2009/10	58%	37%	5%	100%	85%	15%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%
2010/11	65%	0%	35%	100%	81%	18%	1%	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%
2011/12	71%	14%	14%	100%	78%	22%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%
Total	71%	11%	18%	100%	88%	12%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%

Source: Planning

Other renewables includes energy from anaerobic digestion, biomass incineration, heat pumps, hydro electricity schemes, landfill gas, solar collectors, and waste incineration.

This information is based on records up to 30 September 2011.

DOE Planning continues to refine and improve the quality of data it holds for renewable energy applications. As such the data contained herein may differ from that previously published and in itself may be subject to revision.

Memorials to Terrorists

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment how many memorials to (i) republican; and (ii) so-called loyalist terrorists have planning permission.

(AQW 8414/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In general a free standing structure such as a statue is likely to require planning permission. There may be circumstances where a memorial is so minor in nature that it is considered not to be development requiring planning permission, for example, a small roadside cross or a small wall mounted plaque.

DOE Planning has dealt with approximately 50 planning applications since 1999 for various memorials. 42 were approved, 1 was refused and the remainder comprise applications awaiting decision or invalid applications.

Cost of Removing Illegal Memorials to Terrorists

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment to quantify the cost of removing illegal memorials to terrorists in each of the last five years.

(AQW 8415/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department has dealt with approximately 50 planning applications since 1999 for various memorials.

A total of 42 of these applications have been approved, 1 was refused and the remainder comprise applications awaiting decision or invalid. 18 enforcement cases have been undertaken in relation to memorials.

Enforcement is an essential element of a balanced planning system and is a day to day function of the Department. Normal staffing costs apply to any enforcement action and as such, the quantification of costs is not precise.

Tender Contracts in Council Areas

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the percentage of tender contracts that each district council has awarded to contractors based within their council area in each of the last three years.

(AQW 8421/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The information requested, including the level at which each council tenders, is provided in the table below.

I believe strongly in mechanisms to support local people and employers. The recently passed social clause / local government regulations; the 180 S2W strategy in DOE; my attendance at recent council procurement officers meeting and a planned seminar on best practice around local labour clauses/ social clauses/ employment interventions; my instructions to officials to work up a green procurement strategy (etc) indicates my intention and ambition. That said, the figures below demonstrate there is significant work still to undertake.

Council	Tender Threshold £	Total contracts tendered	% awarded to local Contractors	Total contracts tendered	% awarded to local Contractors	Total contracts tendered	% awarded to local Contractors
		2008/2009		2009/2010		2010/2011	
Antrim	>20,000	31	19	28	21	30	23
Ards	>30,000 (Dec 11 onwards) >10k prior	68	20.5	64	25	76	26
Armagh	>25,000	21	0	22	11	17	39
Ballymena	>10,000	48	25	39	24	43	24
Ballymoney	>10,000	13	8	1	0	2	0
Banbridge	>25,000	10	20	18	6	15	0
Belfast	>30,000	71	31	46	28	43	44
Carrickfergus	>20,000	14	0	12	0	7	0
Castlereagh	>20,000	Not yet provided	Not yet provided	8 – to be confirmed	12.5	14 – to be confirmed	21
Coleraine	>30,000	38	13	34	15	33	18
Cookstown	>10,000	18	22	13	0	17	18
Craigavon	>25,000	23	35	21	48	28	18
Derry	>20,000	52	25	60	18	39	13

Council	Tender Threshold £	Total contracts tendered	% awarded to local Contractors	Total contracts tendered	% awarded to local Contractors	Total contracts tendered	% awarded to local Contractors
		2008/2009		2009/2010		2010/2011	
Down	>30,000	6	0	6	0	6	17
Dungannon	>5,000 (08-09) >15,000 (09-11)	15	7	12	42	18	17
Fermanagh	>7,500	67	25	57	28	81	22
Larne	>20,000	29	21	6	0	26	8
Limavady	>15,000	3	33	5	20	8	12.5
Lisburn	>30,000	18	Not yet provided	17	Not yet provided	17	Not yet provided
Magherafelt	>10,000	7	14	23	22	14	14
Moyle	>12,001	10	0	23	4	8	0
Newry & Mourne	>25,000	48	27	35	29	41	27
Newtownabbey	>20,000	30	26	49	15	37	18
North Down	>15,000	75	3	70	3.5	50	2
Omagh	>15,000	18	28	15	20	22	9
Strabane	>20,000	24	37	19	22	10	40

I shall quickly take the above information forward.

Outcome of the Leasing Round

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the outcome of the leasing round which was launched by the Crown Estate in December 2011; (ii) the leasing tariffs; and (ii) whether his Department plays a role in the tendering process.

(AQW 10209/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The outcome of The Crown Estate (TCE) leasing round launched in December 2011 will not be known until September 2012. Leasing tariffs is a matter for the Crown Estate and its clients.

From time to time TCE selects areas for lease of the seabed for the purpose of electrical energy generation from renewable sources. DOE does not have a role in relation to this.

The role of the Department is through the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) which has responsibility for the protection of the marine environment in NI marine waters. NIEA is also the Licensing Authority for the construction of marine Wind Farms and Tidal Arrays in NI marine waters.

The current call invites wind energy proposals in the waters off the south east Mourne area and Tidal Stream proposals in the waters off Torr Head and Rathlin Island.

Wind Farm Applications

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment what consideration is given to community impact assessments as part of the process for approval of wind farm applications.

(AQW 10272/11-15)

Mr Attwood: With any planning application, the Department, in dealing with the application, shall have regard to the development plan, so far as material to the application, and to any other material considerations. All the fundamental factors involved in land use planning constitute a material consideration. This includes impact on neighbourhood and community. The basic question is whether a proposal would unacceptably affect amenities and the existing use of land that ought to be protected in the public interest.

Planning Policy Statements set out the policies of the Department on particular aspects of land use planning. Their contents are material to decisions on individual planning applications. Planning Policy Statement, PPS 18 Renewable Energy is a material consideration with every wind farm planning application.

Within PPS 18 is a requirement for the Department to consider impacts on public safety, human health and residential amenity, as well as the economic and social benefits associated with any renewable energy proposal.

With wind farm development specifically, PPS 18 requires that developments do not have an unacceptable impact on visual amenity and that there is no significant harm to safety or amenity of sensitive receptors such as homes, hospitals, schools and churches arising from noise, shadow flicker, ice throw and reflected light. The requirement for minimum separation distances between turbines and occupied property provides a further element of the assessment process.

Ministerial Cars

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the number of departmental staff who have availed of ministerial cars and drivers in each of the last three years; (ii) the cost of providing the service; and (iii) whether the benefit derived is subject to income tax.

(AQW 10293/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Responsibility for Ministerial transport was transferred from the DFP Car Pool to departments with effect from 1 April 2011. No record of journeys made by officials in the Ministerial car is kept by the Department. However, the cars are provided primarily for Ministerial use and any usage by officials would have been minimal. Also, records were not kept in the period prior to the transfer of responsibility from DFP.

The payment of income tax is not an issue as the cars would have been used solely for business purposes.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether he can confirm that hydraulic fracturing can never be considered 100 percent safe; and for his assessment of the probability of contamination of groundwater that the Environment Agency would consider acceptable in any Environmental Impact Assessment.

(AQW 10331/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In terms of any planning applications involving hydraulic fracturing the applicant will be required to identify the risks to the environment associated with the process through the submission of an Environmental Impact Statement detailing how they would propose to mitigate against a range of potential impacts.

I have made it very clear to Tamboran Resources that I expect the most rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) to accompany any applications they choose to submit. Tamboran have said that they

accept the need for such assessments and to liaise with both Strategic Planning Division and NIEA in scoping the content of the required Environmental Statement. Such a statement will form the basis of the Departments determination of the planning application and it must take account of all potential impacts on the environment and public health.

The potential impact on groundwater will form part of the EIA process and only when the company has submitted the relevant environmental information will NIEA be in a position to give advice on this matter.

I have made it clear that there will be no headlong rush to fracturing. When the science is available, interrogated, when all planning and environmental assessments have been conducted, when applications are submitted and assessed as article 31 or not and subject to Public Inquiry (PI) or not, only in that context will decisions be capable of being made. It is clear that to date fracking has not been 100% safe – I await further evidence as to how safe or not it could be in the future.

Time-Limiting the Period in which Projects must be Completed

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment (i) what consideration he has given to time-limiting the period in which projects must be completed; and (ii) what plans he has to address partially erected buildings.

(AQW 10418/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Every grant of planning permission must, under Article 34 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, be made subject to a condition imposing a time-limit within which development authorised must be started.

Article 34(1)(a) specifies a period of five years from the date of the permission, and Article 34(1)(b) provides the Department with the option of granting permission subject to such other period (whether longer or shorter) as the Department deems appropriate.

The Department does not currently have powers to make developers implement a grant of planning permission or to force the completion of any building works that have begun on site. Article 37 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 enables the Department to terminate a planning permission in certain circumstances.

On occasion DOE Planning may impose a condition requiring a development to be phased or completed to a particular stage. On a practical level a condition requiring that the whole of the development permitted be completed is likely to be difficult to enforce. For example, if the reason for the failure to complete is financial difficulties experienced by the developer, it is considered that the enforcement of conditions may be unlikely to succeed.

Other Departments/agencies/bodies may have powers to act in such circumstances.

I am very much aware of the growing issue of partially erected buildings. I recognise the financial difficulties experienced by developers at this time and the fact that they may not be in a position to develop a site for which they have been granted planning permission. I also know that there are developers with funds who leave sites to go into decay or partially finish and walk off site. I have made a case in point in this regard.

I am acutely aware of the issues of partially erected buildings. In response, I am working to ensure local councils use the full suite of powers they enjoy around dangerous sites or those in decay. I am seeking to deploy the Portrush / Portstewart model of short term monies for the built environment in other locations; I have instructed planning officials to use the full extent of DOE powers, including completion notices (etc). I will update the member further on my interventions in due course.

Capital Debt of Local Councils

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the level of capital debt of each local council.
(AQW 10562/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The total level of local council capital debt as of 31 March 2012 is recorded in the table below.

Council	Non GLF¹ Capital Debt £	GLF¹ Capital Debt £	Total £
Antrim	5,000,000	14,817,656	19,817,656
Ards	7,775,000	5,977,224	13,752,224
Armagh	0	26,929,965	26,929,965
Ballymena	0	26,239,361	26,239,361
Ballymoney	0	9,533,362	9,533,362
Banbridge	0	20,704,940	20,704,940
Belfast	3,000,000	25,465,855	28,465,855
Carrickfergus	1,620,144	19,809,064	21,429,208
Castlereagh	0	17,856,096	17,856,096
Coleraine	14,275,438	21,563,345	35,838,783
Cookstown	0	1,450,468	1,450,468
Craigavon	6,500,000	1,464,823	7,964,823
Derry	0	25,476,154	25,476,154
Down	0	23,365,257	23,365,257
Dungannon & S Tyrone	0	5,227,982	5,227,982
Fermanagh	0	3,331,959	3,331,959
Larne	0	15,722,967	15,722,967
Limavady	0	12,660,161	12,660,161
Lisburn	0	19,997,814	19,997,814
Magherafelt	0	0	0
Moyle	0	8,659,895	8,659,895
Newry & Mourne	0	18,772,166	18,772,166
Newtownabbey	0	46,836,936	46,836,936
North Down	0	36,888,706	36,888,706
Omagh	391,000	9,936,495	10,327,495
Strabane	0	2,275,116	2,275,116
Total	38,561,582	420,963,767	459,525,349

1. Government Loans Fund

Devolution of the Administration and Revenue of the Crown Estate

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of the Environment what action he intends to take to progress the devolution of the administration and revenue of the Crown Estate.

(AQW 10601/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I agree that it is a very important issue to identify and negotiate for and work towards further devolution of powers and functions from London to Belfast. This has many elements of which one is the Crown Estate. I will encourage the Executive to work on each and all elements, though technically the devolution of the administration and revenue of the Crown Estate is not within the remit of DOE.

Given the leasing round in autumn, given my consideration that renewables is Ireland's biggest economic opportunity, I am writing to the DETI and DFP Ministers to urge that the Executive seeks to progress the issues.

Proposals for Legislation

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) what proposals for legislation, subject to Executive approval, he 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 10633/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The details of the 9 Bills that I propose to introduce to the Assembly between April 2012 and March 2015 and 1 which is still at Committee Stage are contained in the attached table. The introduction of a Bill is subject to Executive agreement. Potentially prioritisation may arise. Consequently, the timelines should be treated as indicative, particularly for the later Bills, where public consultation is not yet completed.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT PROPOSED BILLS BETWEEN APRIL 2012 AND MARCH 2015

NO	BILL	PURPOSE
1.	Marine Bill	To introduce a new system of marine planning, improved marine nature conservation and further streamlining of marine licensing. Introduced: 21 February 2012 Royal Assent: early 2013
2.	Planning Bill	To bring forward a number of the planning reforms contained in the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and apply them to the Department in advance of the transfer of powers to district councils. Introduction: Autumn 2012 Royal Assent: mid 2013
3.	National Park Bill	To allow for the identification, designation and management of national parks. Introduction: Autumn 2012 Royal Assent: mid 2013
4.	Local Government (Reorganisation) Bill	To provide for the reorganisation of local government; new governance arrangements for councils; a new ethical standards regime; the introduction of community planning powers and the power of well-being; and an updated service delivery and performance improvement regime. Introduction Autumn 2012 Royal Assent mid 2013
5.	Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill No 1	To lower the limits on blood alcohol levels for motorists and introduce other measures to tackle drink driving; and amend the novice driver regime. To be introduced in December 2012; Royal Assent late 2013.
6.	Carrier Bags Bill	To extend the carrier bag levy to all carrier bags. Introduction: January 2013 Royal Assent: January 2014

NO	BILL	PURPOSE
7.	The Climate Change Bill	To introduce statutory targets for greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland. Introduction: May 2014 Royal Assent: January 2015
8.	The Environmental Better Regulation Bill	To reduce the environmental regulatory burden on business and enhance protection of the environment. Introduction: January 2014 Royal Assent: May 2015
9.	Buses (Licensing of Operators) Bill:	To overhaul the bus licensing regime. To be introduced during 2013; Royal Assent during 2014.
10.	Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill No 2	To introduce mutual recognition of penalty points for motoring offences between Northern Ireland and Ireland. To be introduced during 2013; Royal Assent during 2014

Fines Levied in Environmental Pollution Cases and Planning Cases

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the total value of fines levied in (i) environmental pollution cases; and (ii) planning cases in each of the last five years.

(AQW 10876/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In carrying out its statutory functions, the Department of the Environment has obligations to regulate and monitor potentially damaging activities, respond to breaches of environmental legislation and investigate suspected environmental crime.

Table A below details the total value of fines levied in environmental pollution cases in each of the past 5 years.

TABLE A

Year	Total value of fines
2007	£53,400
2008	£259,460
2009	£303,900
2010	£114,650
2011	£151,273
2012 (To date)	£71,800
Total	£954,483

DOE is also responsible for planning control in Northern Ireland. Prosecutions are an important part of any enforcement system and the Department will proceed to court following legal advice. The scale of penalties for breaches of planning control is set out in legislation. The imposition of penalties and sentences is a matter for the courts.

It is important to note that the DOE Planning IT system was upgraded in March 2009. Only live case information from 1 April 2009 was backdated into the upgraded system. Prior to 1 April 2009, data inputted into the database was considered to be incomplete and unreliable, as such, data is only available from this period.

Based on Court information extracted from DOE Planning IT data on 2 May 2012, the total value of fines levied by the courts in respect of planning enforcement cases over the last three business years amounted to £391,435. Table B below details the total value of fines levied by the courts in respect of planning enforcement cases over each of the last three business years.

TABLE B

Business Year	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Total
Fines levied by the courts	£125,000	£132,635	£133,800	£391,435

Prosecutions often take a considerable time to work their way through the court process. Therefore, while the convictions in the tables above are listed against the year in which the case was heard in court, the offences to which each case refers will almost invariably have occurred some time before (typically 12-18 months previously).

Obelisk in Portadown Town Plaza

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of the Environment (i) whether planning permission was granted to erect an obelisk in Portadown town plaza; (ii) what consultation was carried out and when; and (iii) whether an Equality Impact Assessment was carried out.

(AQW 10999/11-15)

Mr Attwood:

- (i) An application for planning permission to erect a 1.75metres high monument to commemorate the Centenary of the signing of the Ulster Covenant was granted full planning approval on 21st March 2012. The monument is sited in front of St Mark's Church, Portadown.
- (ii) The application was presented to Craigavon Borough Council on 31st January 2012 as part of the streamlined procedure. It was advertised in the three local papers on 10th February 2012 and 83 adjacent properties were notified of this proposal on 7th February 2012. No objections were received as part of this consultation process.

NIEA – Historic Buildings Unit and DRD Roads Service were consulted on 6th February 2012. Both replied with no objections to the proposal.

- (iii) In its role as decision maker on planning applications, the Department has a statutory duty, under Section 75 (2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. However, it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment for each individual planning application. An assessment against Section 75 was included during the processing of the application as it is a material consideration and this is recorded on the file.

That said the issue of memorials is a sensitive and difficult one. I will consider further how these matters should be managed including legal and equality issues.

Ofcom

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the average length of time it takes Ofcom to respond, as a consultee, to a planning application.

(AQW 11010/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The median number of working days between an Ofcom consultation being sent and the Department receiving a response during the 2011/12 business year is 16 working days. The median has been used as the measure of “average” as this is standard planning reporting practice.

The Department holds Service Level Agreements with other agencies such as DRD Roads Service. The target timeframe for Roads Service to respond to 70% of planning consultations is 15 working days. Given that Ofcom are responding to planning consultations in a similar timeframe in the absence of any

agreement, I am content that Ofcom consultations are not causing undue delay in the processing of planning applications.

Goldmine at Cavanacaw, Omagh

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of the Environment why the Planning Service permitted the company to remove in excess of 8,000 truckloads of rock from the goldmine at Cavanacaw, Omagh, by the operator's own admission, without any assurance that there remained a sufficient amount of rock to restore the site to its original condition.

(AQW 11307/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Ombudsman has reported that the Department allowed the operator to remove huge volumes of rock from the site without any reassurance that there remained sufficient rock to backfill the trench. This, in his judgement, represented maladministration. My Department accepts this conclusion. I agree with the conclusion.

In recently granting planning permission for a revised closure plan, the Department informs me that it is satisfied that following full restoration of the site a surplus of 347826 cubic metres of rock would remain. This would allow for a controlled removal of surplus rock from the site in accordance with conditions attached to the planning permission.

Enniskillen Castle Complex as a Visitor Attraction

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the attractiveness of the Enniskillen Castle complex as a visitor attraction for people from the nationalist or republican community, given that a St George's flag flies from the building every day of the year.

(AQW 11345/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I understand that my predecessor as Environment Minister, Edwin Poots, wrote to you on 23 November 2010 and explained in detail the approach to the history of Enniskillen Castle and the regiments stationed there which is adopted in the displays at the two museums housed in the Castle. He explained the history of the flying of the flag depicting the Cross of St George. Minister Poots invited you to ask Fermanagh District Council to advise my Department as to its views on the flying of the Cross of St George. No further information was received.

The flying of St George's flag from the Watergate at Enniskillen is a tradition associated with the previous use of the complex, which pre-dates current equality screening protocols. My Department will undertake an equality screening of this practice under the Equality Scheme for the Department of the Environment drawn up in accordance with Section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. I believe this is a proper response, given the differing views around the display and flying of flags. That said, it is important that each of us recognise the different, common and emerging views of our history and experience, that I will look at this issue in this light and await the outcome of the review detailed above.

Protection Agency's 'Radon in Dwellings in Northern Ireland: 2009 Review'

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of the Health Protection Agency's 'Radon in Dwellings in Northern Ireland: 2009 Review' which states that more than 30 percent of homes around Belcoo are at actionable level, as are 10-30 percent of homes in the areas around Garrison and Derrygonnelly, to detail (i) what steps he has taken to determine the levels of naturally occurring radioactive materials in the Bundoran and Benbulbin shale; (ii) what tests were carried out, by whom and on what material; (iii) from where exactly the material was taken; (iv) on what dates the samples were taken and tested; (v) where they were tested; (vi) what were the results; and (vii) if testing has not been carried out, what action he intends to take given that the area licenced for unconventional gas exploration is a radon affected area and that radon decays from radium, uranium and thorium.

(AQW 11363/11-15)

Mr Attwood: To date no tests have been carried out by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency on the levels of naturally occurring radioactive material in the Bundoran and Benbulbin shale.

However, the "Radon in Dwellings in Northern Ireland: 2009 Review and Atlas" indicates that 10-30% of homes in the Belcoo area will have a radon level at or above the Action Level. There is an area to the south-east of Garrison and an area to the north-east of Derrygonnelly where 5-10% of homes are expected to have a radon level at or above the Action Level.

In relation to part (vii) of the question waste containing naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) is normally generated during gas and oil production. Based on data from analysis of produced water from unconventional gas exploration elsewhere in the UK, NIEA considers that storage and disposal of produced water from any future fracking activity would require authorisation under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993. An application would need to be submitted and determined prior to generating any produced water. The application would have to include a radiological impact assessment for the proposed storage and disposal option. Clearly this is a matter that will be of importance as the issue of fracking develops and I will be highly vigilant in this regard.

Staff Member Re-Employed in the Same Position

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 10541/11-15, in relation to the officer who was re-employed in the same position (i) whether this is an accepted practice in local government; and (ii) whether the post was advertised or trawled prior to the officer being re-employed. **(AQW 11851/11-15)**

Mr Attwood: In relation to the officer who was re-employed, this person was re-employed on a temporary part-time basis to work on a project which lasted just short of a year.

In respect of (i), the council advises that it has complied with the Local Government Staff Commission Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection. In relation to (ii), there was no formal competition as the post was not replaced, the employee returned at the same grade but was involved in a different project. The council deemed there was no requirement to either trawl or advertise for this temporary post.

I do have concerns about practices that see some staff re-employed, quickly after their departure, as identified in the Assembly Questions. I shall write to all Councils on the matter.

Planning Applications for Minerals Extraction or Minerals Plant/Machinery

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment how many planning applications for minerals extraction or minerals plant/machinery have been (i) approved or (ii) refused in each of the last five years. **(AQW 11996/11-15)**

Mr Attwood: In the last five years 162 applications for minerals extraction or minerals plant/machinery have been determined. Of these, 153 have been approved and 9 have been refused.

The breakdown of planning approvals over those five years is as follows:

(i) 26 in 2007/08, 36 in 2008/09, 39 in 2009/10, 25 in 2010/11 and 27 in 2011/12.

The breakdown of refusals over those five years is as follows:

(ii) 1 in 2007/08, 3 in 2008/9, 4 in 2009/10, 1 in 2010/11 and 0 in 2011/12.

Planning Permissions Granted Under Special Circumstances

Mr Lynch asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the (i) number; and (ii) planning application numbers of planning permissions that were granted under special circumstances, in each of the last 12 months, broken down by divisional planning office.

(AQW 12059/11-15)

Mr Attwood:

19 applications have been granted under special circumstances during the 2011 calendar year. The planning application numbers are listed in Table 1 (overleaf) along with the Area Office and the month approved.

TABLE 1: APPLICATIONS GRANTED UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN 2011

Reference Number	Planning Division	Date Valid	Month Decision Issued
C/2007/0927/O	Northern Area - Coleraine	28/09/2007	January 2011
N/2009/0627/F	Southern Area - Craigavon	15/10/2009	January 2011
N/2010/0333/F	Southern Area - Craigavon	14/06/2010	February 2011
P/2008/1000/F	Southern Area - Craigavon	25/07/2008	February 2011
I/2009/0379/O	Western Area - Omagh	09/07/2009	February 2011
R/2010/0613/F	Southern Area - Downpatrick	21/07/2010	March 2011
O/2007/0736/F	Southern Area - Craigavon	21/09/2007	April 2011
Y/2008/0240/F	Belfast Area	28/04/2008	April 2011
P/2009/0999/F	Southern Area - Craigavon	31/07/2009	April 2011
P/2010/1287/O	Southern Area - Craigavon	25/10/2010	May 2011
I/2007/0209/O	Western Area - Omagh	21/03/2007	May 2011
Y/2010/0276/F	Belfast Area	22/06/2010	June 2011
O/2007/0833/O	Southern Area - Craigavon	17/10/2007	June 2011
Y/2011/0102/F	Belfast Area	29/03/2011	August 2011
O/2011/0124/F	Southern Area - Craigavon	14/03/2011	September 2011
G/2011/0257/O	South Antrim Area - Ballymena	31/05/2011	September 2011
S/2011/0151/F	Belfast Area	15/02/2011	September 2011
R/2010/0603/O	Southern Area - Downpatrick	20/07/2010	September 2011
P/2011/0476/O	Southern Area - Craigavon	11/05/2011	October 2011

Review of Public Administration

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of the Environment what powers or functions he plans to devolve to local councils under the Review of Public Administration; and whether this represents a change to his previous commitments.

(AQW 12062/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The member is aware of my firm view on the number of Councils, 11 or 15. That said, I believe in radical reform of public policy, including local government. However, reducing the number of councils from 26 to 11, the reform of local government will modernise and streamline public administration and transfer a number of functions and powers from central government departments to the new councils

The Executive has acknowledged a case for revisiting the transfer package identified by its predecessor in March 2008 and modified in September 2009. This package included planning, regeneration, local economic development and tourism, public realm functions of roads, local sports facilities and rural development.

It has been agreed that the 2009 package is a reasonable starting point to refresh thinking about the way forward and I have been engaged in a series of bi-lateral meetings with my Executive colleagues on this issue. I propose to present recommendations to the Executive in due course.

That said, I believe Ministers should stretch their Departments to transfer functions that properly should rest with Councils.

Arm's Length Bodies

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of the Environment how many former senior civil servants, from deputy secretary grade to permanent secretary grade, serve on the boards of his Department's arm's length bodies in a (i) paid; and (ii) unpaid capacity.

(AQW 12095/11-15)

Mr Attwood: As Minister of the Environment I have responsibility for appointing individuals to the following public bodies:

- The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC);
- The Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland (LGSC);
- The Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (CNCC);
- The Historic Buildings Council (HBC) and
- The Historic Monuments Council (HMC).

I can confirm that there are currently no former senior civil servants from deputy secretary grade to permanent secretary grade serving on the boards of the Department's arms length bodies.

Basic Training for Motorcycle Instructors

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the current legislation and the processes in place for the compulsory basic training for motorcycle instructors.

(AQW 12134/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Compulsory basic training (CBT) for motorcyclists was introduced in Northern Ireland in February 2011, requiring learner motorcyclists to undertake initial training before being allowed to ride unaccompanied on public roads.

The relevant legislation is contained in Articles 5 and 13 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981, as amended, and in the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011.

The legislation introduced the requirement for learner riders of mopeds and motorcycles to complete CBT, and set out the requirements for the training courses, including the syllabus for each of the three modules. The legislation largely reflects that in place in Britain, where the CBT scheme has been operating for a number of years, while taking account of recommendations made in a review of the effectiveness of the scheme there.

Before the legislation was drafted, a public consultation was undertaken, and the respondents were subsequently invited to become part of a stakeholder group established by my Department to help design the scheme in Northern Ireland. The stakeholder group met regularly from December 2009 to February 2011, when CBT was introduced.

In Northern Ireland CBT courses can be conducted only by approved motorcycle instructors (AMIs) who are on the Department's register. Once registered as an AMI, an instructor who wishes to deliver CBT must also apply to the Department for authorisation to conduct CBT courses. There are 57 approved motorcycle instructors in Northern Ireland, of whom 43 are authorised to deliver CBT. Since the legislation was introduced in February 2011, more than 2200 CBT certificates have been issued.

Authorised AMI CBT instructors are issued with manuals which give detailed guidance on instruction techniques, course content and administrative procedures. Electronic copies of the manuals are also available online.

CBT instructors purchase books of CBT certificates from the Department. They are required to store these safely, maintain accurate and up to date records of certificates that have been issued, and provide monthly returns to the Department.

In order to carry out a preliminary evaluation of the scheme, the Driver & Vehicle Agency has invited all AMIs and members of the stakeholder group to a seminar on 6 June 2012. The purpose of this will be to provide an opportunity for all those who deliver courses to discuss the scheme and ascertain if any improvements can be made to further enhance the process at this stage.

To date 2200 courses have been completed. In addition there has been a 45% increase in the number of applications for motorcycle tests compared with 2010-11.

In summary, the CBT scheme has started well, and I am confident that it will make a positive contribution to road safety in Northern Ireland.

Chief Executive or Senior Officer in a Council

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of the Environment to provide details of any chief executive or senior officer in a council, who is not paid through the PAYE system, but through a limited company.

(AQW 12211/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Each of the 26 District Councils has reported that its Chief Executive and senior officers are paid through the PAYE system.

Arm's-Length Bodies and Quangos

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the current number of arm's-length bodies and quangos that are attached to his Department; and how this figure compares with the number in (i) 2008; (ii) 2009; (iii) 2010; and (iv) 2011.

(AQW 12230/11-15)

Mr Attwood: There are a total of five Arms Length Bodies (ALBs) attached to the Department of Environment (DoE). These are the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee, the Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland, the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside, the Historic Buildings Council and the Historic Monuments Council.

The number of ALBs attached to DoE has not changed over the three year period 2008-10.

Internships in the Department of the Environment

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment how many internships are available in his Department; and if none, what plans he has to introduce an internship scheme.

(AQW 12482/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In addition to a number of GAP and under-graduate placements and 10 Programme Led Apprenticeship placements, my Department has made available 180 Steps to Work placements. To date the Department has facilitated 28 Steps to Work placements, a further 18 individuals have been offered a placement and work is ongoing with the lead contractors and DEL to fill the other available placement opportunities on an ongoing basis.

These Steps to Work placements last for either 8 or 26 weeks and largely mirror the JobBridge internship scheme in the ROI.

In addition, I have also asked my officials to identify ways to specifically target a number of these Steps to Work placements at young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). As a result the Department is now considering how it can join up the provision of work placements in the DOE with the work of the Gerry Rogan Initiative Trust (GRIT) initiative.

The GRIT initiative commenced in 2008, and targets young people who are substantially disadvantaged, who face major barriers to progress positively in their lives and who are at risk of becoming

disconnected from their community and wider society. The GRIT experience specifically targets young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. While the majority of GRIT participants may not be ready at this stage for a work experience placement, some young people who have already completed GRIT may, with the support of Opportunity Youth (the prime delivery agent for the GRIT programme), be able to avail of the Department's Steps to Work placement opportunities.

I believe the model deployed and being developed in DOE should be escalated across government in the remainder period for Steps to Work and reconfigured for the proposed NEW EMPLOYMENT programme. On one reading the DOE placements programme implemented across government would see 1500 or more placements.

Review of PPS 21

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment (i) for an update on the review of PPS 21; (ii) whether the policy will be relaxed to enable non-farming rural families to build homes; and (iii) when the revised policy statement will be published.

(AQW 12526/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I can advise that the review of the operation of PPS21 is close to conclusion.

In relation to your point on non-farming rural families you will be aware PPS21 already offers considerable development opportunities in this regard. It does this by providing for: Replacement dwellings (Policy CTY 3); The conversion and reuse of non-residential buildings as dwellings (Policy CTY 4); New dwellings within an existing cluster or ribbon of buildings (Policy CTY 8); Social and affordable housing schemes (Policy CTY 5); Development within designated Dispersed Rural Communities (Policy CTY 2); and a dwelling to meet compelling personal or domestic circumstances (Policy CTY 6).

However, in recognition of continued interest in this issue I met with 3 of the members of the Independent Working Group on Non-farm Rural Dwellers set up by the previous Executive as part of my review. I was interested to hear their expert perspectives first hand and have taken these into account in the review.

Finally, you should note that I have said from the beginning that this review should focus on the operation of PPS21. It is not a fundamental review of PPS21 policies and, as such, it is not my intention to publish a revised policy statement.

I am currently finalising the review report.

Allotment Schemes

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of the Environment how many Local Councils offer an allotment scheme.
(AQW 12627/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Currently 11 councils have indicated that they offer allotments. A further 3 councils do not offer allotments directly but support groups who do provide allotments.

In addition, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency is giving consideration to making lands available for allotments at some of its country park properties. These could potentially be offered in association with the relevant councils.

I should add I had previously asked NIEA to consider developing a business model and best practice guide for councils in setting up allotments, to organise an Allotments Event, and to work up a related pilot.

NIEA officials have identified the possibility of leasing suitable lands in some of its Country Parks as allotments. Crawfordsburn, Scrabo and Redburn all have old walled gardens which might be suitable and there is a field at Roe Valley which might also be used.

Review of Public Administration

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister of the Environment what conditions he has placed, or intends to place, on councils in relation to capital investment, in advance of the implementation of the Review of Public Administration.

(AQW 12758/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Councils need to act responsibly and prudently in considering whether or not to incur capital expenditure in the period leading up to local government re-organisation. Indeed, the Regional Transition Committee, which I chair, is arranging for the provision of guidance encouraging them to do so and to liaise closely on this matter with the councils with which they will be amalgamating in 2015. This inter-council liaison will be initially managed through the Voluntary Transition Committees, which I have reinstated, in order to promote a pragmatic and responsible approach to the future needs of the enlarged councils.

Provision has already been made, in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010, which will enable the Statutory Transition Committees to exercise control on capital expenditure contracts, non capital contracts, and the disposal or acquisition of land owned by the existing councils. The key requirement is for the councils to seek the written consent of their relevant Statutory Transition Committee before entering into contracts or disposal / acquisition of land which exceed sums to be specified by the Department.

The Regional Transition Committee will also be reviewing these controls and considering whether or not they need to be extended to embrace the use of council reserves and loans.

Review of Public Administration

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment whether there are any plans to restrict the capital spend of councils prior to the implementation of the Review of Public Administration.

(AQW 12770/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Councils need to act responsibly and prudently in considering whether or not to incur capital expenditure in the period leading up to local government re-organisation. Indeed, the Regional Transition Committee, which I chair, is arranging for the provision of guidance encouraging them to do so and to liaise closely on this matter with the councils with which they will be amalgamating in 2015. This inter-council liaison will be initially managed through the Voluntary Transition Committees, which I have reinstated, in order to promote a pragmatic and responsible approach to the future needs of the enlarged councils.

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The Regional Transition Committee will also be reviewing these controls and considering whether or not they need to be extended to embrace the use of council reserves and loans.

Town Centre Development Programme

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of the Northern Ireland Independent Retail Trade Association's recommendation for a five-year moratorium on out-of-town superstore developments, whether a new Town Centre Development Programme will be introduced to ensure that new multiple store complexes are located in town centres.

(AQW 12835/11-15)

Mr Attwood: It is my intention to bring forward a new and updated town centre and retail planning policy to address the real issues that are self-evident. I also intend to take the difficult decisions required for the numerous major retail planning applications currently in the system throughout the North.

Town Centre Retail Planning Policy

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of the Northern Ireland Independent Retail Trade Association's recommendation for a five-year moratorium on out-of-town superstore developments, whether he intends to introduce a Town Centre Retail Planning Policy, which builds upon draft PPS 5. **(AQW 12837/11-15)**

Mr Attwood: It is my ambition to bring forward a new planning policy for town centres and retailing. As part of this process I will take account of the content of existing draft PPS 5, policy and practice in other jurisdictions and the current evidential context. It is my view that there is a need to reconfigure planning policy to recognise more fully the need of in town retail.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of the Environment whether, under Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, a development that is subject to an EIA determination, and is amended to include further development, should be the subject of a revised EIA determination. **(AQW 12843/11-15)**

Mr Attwood: Amendments to planning applications are a common feature of the development management process. The Department has discretion to accept amendments but in exercising this discretion it must come to a decision as to whether or not an amendment is so substantial as to constitute a different application and thus involves the making of a new application. A fundamental principle is that the interests of the public must be fully protected when an amendment is under consideration.

In accepting amendments during the processing of an application, care is taken not to prejudice the rights of others to make comments, therefore any material changes are re-advertised, re-neighbour notified and objectors advised. New consultations are carried out if necessary.

DOE Planning has a general responsibility to consider the environmental implications of developments which are subject to planning control and the environmental impact of any amendment to a proposal will be considered.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department would be in breach of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive, if it determined that an environmental statement was not required without having first carried out an EIA determination on a development. **(AQW 12844/11-15)**

Mr Attwood: It falls to DOE Planning to consider whether a proposed development requires EIA. For this purpose it is first necessary to consider whether the development is described in Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 to The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (the Regulations).

Development of a type listed in Schedule 1 always requires EIA.

Development of a type listed in Schedule 2 requires EIA if it is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as size, nature and location. DOE Planning must screen every application for Schedule 2 development in order to determine whether or not EIA is required.

Applications for planning permission for which EIA is required are referred to in the Regulations as EIA applications.

Regulation 4 of the Regulations prohibits the granting of planning permission for EIA development unless environmental information has been taken into account by the Department in making that decision. Where the Department fails to undertake this responsibility properly, it may be open to legal challenge.

It is important to note that the thresholds are not determinative and that individual projects that fall below the indicative thresholds and criteria in the Regulations may require EIA just as those above may not. Decisions on the need for EIA are therefore taken on a case by case basis.

91 Glenshane Road, Derry

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to 91 Glenshane Road, Derry, what is the current legal status of the extensive embankment made up of illegal land fill between the western boundary of the Certificate of Lawful Development and the bank of the River Faughan, an Area of Special Scientific Interest and an Area of Special Scientific Interest, given that it neither forms part of A/2007/1061/LDE nor retrospective planning application A/2008/0408/F.

(AQW 12846/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The majority of the business use at 91 Glenshane Road is an established use and either benefits from planning permission or is immune from enforcement action. This includes the land between the western boundary of the Certificate of Lawful Development and the bank of the River Faughan. Although the developer did not include this land in the application for the Certificate of Lawful Development, the Department is satisfied, having regard to the planning history of the site and aerial photographs available, that any illegal land fill had been deposited prior to May 1992 and is therefore immune from enforcement action.

91 Glenshane Road, Derry

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of the Environment why his Department did not take enforcement action against the extension to the concrete production yard at 91 Glenshane Road, Derry, after refusing it planning permission, and successfully defending that decision at appeal.

(AQW 12857/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department only became aware of a breach of planning control occurring at this location when a letter from a member of the public was received on 08 December 1995 enquiring if a planning approval had been granted for the extension of the existing concrete production yard. Upon receipt of this letter, an enforcement investigation was immediately commenced and, having determined that a breach of planning control had occurred, the Department has been pursuing the legal process through a variety of actions since in pursuit of regularisation and/or compliance with planning legislation.

My reading of the papers clearly confirm that there was a failure by the Planning Service at that time, and since, to deal with this issue robustly.

91 Glenshane Road, Derry

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the full extent of the development at 91 Glenshane Road, Derry, including an estimate of the quantity of land fill that has been granted a Certificate of Lawful Development, under A/2007/1061/LDE, as a result of his Department not carrying out enforcement action within the required timeframe.

(AQW 12858/11-15)

Mr Attwood: An application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use or Development (CLUD) was made on 31st August 2007, under Article 83A of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 (as amended). This Article does not require the applicant or the Department to include an estimate of the quantity of land fill that has been granted a Certificate of Lawful Development and the "extent" of the development covered by the CLUD is that contained within the red line of the application. Article 83A (5) of the Order states that a certificate under this Article shall specify the land to which it relates and describe the use, operations or other matter in question. The Department is satisfied

that the requirements of Article 83A of the Planning Order have been met regarding the application for and granting of a Certificate of Lawful Development at this location. I understand the member has previously received correspondence from one of my predecessors, explaining the reason for the then delays in pursuing enforcement action which, it is acknowledged, made possible the application for CLUD.

I am not happy with the situation that has arisen but it goes back a number of years and it is beyond my legal authority to act contrary to the circumstances that lead to CLUD.

Breach of a Tree Preservation Order

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment when investigating claims of a breach of a Tree Preservation Order (i) whether staff have to seek permission from the owner of the land before they go on to a site; and (ii) what legal authority staff have in carrying out investigation claims.

(AQW 12861/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department has a statutory duty under Article 64 (duty of Department in relation to trees) of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 to secure the preservation of trees.

Any person who contravenes a TPO by cutting down, uprooting or wilfully destroying a tree, or wilfully damaging, topping or lopping a tree is guilty of an offence under Article 66 of the Order. Any person found guilty of an offence under Article 66(1) will be liable on summary conviction to a fine.

(i) whether staff have to seek permission from the owner of the land before they go to a site

Standard practice, when carrying out a site inspection, is that the inspecting officer will identify themselves to the owner/occupier (if present) and show an authorisation card. The officer should ask for permission to inspect the site and inform the owner/occupier that they are not obliged to consent to the inspection. The officer should request permission to take any photographs.

(ii) what legal authority staff have in carrying out investigation claims.

The Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 gives any person authorised in writing by the Department rights to enter land for enforcement purposes, with or without a warrant.

Any person that wilfully obstructs a person in the exercise of a right of entry shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine.

large out-of-town retail applications

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of whether the Department for Social Development should be granted statutory consultee status on all large out-of-town retail applications, given its role in regenerating town centres,

(AQW 12879/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Currently, the Department consults with a range of public bodies, depending on the nature and location of planning applications, to inform the decision making process. The Department consults with the Department for Social Development (DSD) as appropriate in applications relating to the regeneration of town centres.

I intend to introduce a Planning Bill to the Assembly shortly. Parallel to the Bill, work on subordinate legislation, will confirm the list of statutory consultees and the timeframe within which they must provide a substantive response. The status of DSD as a statutory consultee will be considered as part of this work and I will very fully consider so doing.

Balmoral Show

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment what planning permission exists at the Maze/Long Kesh site to facilitate the relocation of the Balmoral Show to that location; and what infrastructure and development is permitted.

(AQW 12880/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am advised by my officials that planning permission does not exist at the moment for any development or infrastructure associated with the proposed relocation of the Balmoral Show to the Maze/Long Kesh site.

Notwithstanding this, my officials are engaging with representatives of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society regarding the proposal. I am advised that any subsequent planning application will be processed in time to allow the show to open at the Maze/ Long Kesh in 2013.

Access from the MI to the Maze/Long Kesh Site

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment what planning permission exists to permit access from the MI to the Maze/Long Kesh site; and whether there is an extant application for access.
(AQW 12881/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am advised by my officials that planning permission does not exist at the moment for access to The Maze/Long Kesh site from the M1 motorway. I have also been advised that there is no extant planning application regarding the construction of such an access.

Unauthorised Settlement Lagoons Adjacent to the River Faughan

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of the Environment whether the unauthorised settlement lagoons adjacent to the River Faughan, an Area of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation, when combined with the development at 91 Glenshane Road, Derry, made lawful under A/2007/1061/LDE, would fall under the description of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined in the EIA Regulations.
(AQW 12898/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department considers that the unauthorised settlement lagoons adjacent to the River Faughan, an Area of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation, when combined with the development at 91 Glenshane Road, Derry, made lawful under A/2007/1061/LDE, does not fall under the description of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined in the EIA Regulations.

Unauthorised EIA Development

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department would be in breach of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive if it granted a Certificate of Lawful Development for an unauthorised EIA development because it did not take prior enforcement action.
(AQW 12899/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In relation to the development at 91 Glenshane Road, the Department does not consider it an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development.

As advised elsewhere (AQW/12859) the Certificate of Lawful Use or Development (CLUD) process, as set out in the legislation, does not make explicit provision for consideration of the EIA process.

Planning Application A/2008/0408/F

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of the Environment (i) whether his Department carried out a revised Environmental Impact Assessment determination, for planning application A/2008/0408/F, after it accepted an amendment to the application which introduced new settlement lagoons that did not feature in the original proposals; and (ii) if not, to outline the reasons why.
(AQW 12900/11-15)

Mr Attwood: My Department (i) did not carry out a revised Environmental Impact Assessment determination, for planning application A/2008/0408/F, after it accepted an amendment to the application which introduced new settlement lagoons that did not feature in the original proposals. This

was not carried out as the revision to the proposal made provision for relocated lagoons in place of the existing and as such the nature and extent of the development proposed was not altered.

You may wish to note that an Appropriate Assessment, under the Habitats Directive Regulations was carried out when the application reference A/2008/0408/F was first received and this was revisited when the proposal was amended.

Wind Turbine

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of the Environment what protections exist for people living in close proximity to lands where approval has been granted for a wind turbine to be erected.

(AQW 12942/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In assessing applications for wind turbines, the impact of the proposed development on adjacent occupied properties is a material consideration that the Department will take into account in reaching a balanced judgement.

For an individual wind turbine best practice guidance of the fall over distance (i.e. the height of the turbine to the tip of the blade) plus 10% is often used as a safe separation distance between the turbine and occupied property. For wind farm development, a separation distance of 10 times the rotor diameter to occupied property with a minimum distance of not less than 500m will generally apply.

In addition, as part of its consideration of a planning application, and in order to further inform the decision making process, the Department will consult with the Environmental Health Department of the District Council, who will provide expert advice in relation to planning related matters such as the potential noise impact of the proposed development on an adjacent occupied property.

High Street Review: Absentee Landlords

Mr Spratt asked the Minister of the Environment what action he intends to take to challenge absentee landlords who (i) leave shop premises empty; and (ii) refuse to engage in regeneration through the High Street Review.

(AQW 12972/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I have commissioned a review of retail planning policy for town centres and retailing which will consider the many and varied issues currently faced by our High Streets, including the matters referred to in your question. I am hopeful that this review will bring forward policy proposals which will support and revitalise city and town centres.

Direct intervention on the issue of vacant shop premises remains an option for local councils and they could draw on the experience gained via the pilot project in Portrush/Portstewart which addressed derelict sites.

The High Street Review is being taken forward by a taskforce established by the Minister for Social Development to review his Department's provision for town centres. I have brought the Member's comments on this matter to the attention of my Executive colleague and my Department remains fully committed to contributing actively to this review.

I have demonstrated that at a DOE level or council level, all current powers should be deployed in relation to derelict sites, sites in decay, sites abandoned. The member makes a valid point in relation to landlords. I will consider the matter further.

Driving Tests

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment how his Department monitors and ensures the fair and consistent application of driving tests.

(AQW 12982/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Driving tests in Northern Ireland are carried out by the Driver & Vehicle Agency (DVA) and are conducted from 16 locations; Armagh, Ballymena, Belfast (2 sites), Coleraine, Cookstown, Craigavon, Downpatrick, Enniskillen, Larne, Lisburn, Londonderry (2 sites), Newry, Newtownards and Omagh.

All Driving Examiners, both in Northern Ireland and in Britain, are trained at the Cardington driving training establishment in Bedfordshire which is run by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA).

DVA, as part of DoE, places high priority on standards; ensuring candidates who pass the driving test meet the minimum safe criteria for driving on their own and there are robust procedures in place to ensure these standards are consistently applied and maintained.

During the driving test each candidate is assessed against strict criteria, and if they do not succeed in all required competences they are offered a full debrief, with their instructor present if they so wish.

Driving test candidates are directed around a legally compliant test route, as prescribed in European legislation. Each test centre has a minimum of 6 test routes which are, as far as possible, equal in relation to the type of road network and traffic densities. This provides equality for all candidates and ensures they all demonstrate skills in similar conditions and on roads they will encounter once they pass their driving test.

DVA carry out regular quality assurance checks on all driving examiners, minimum of one day per year, to ensure the standards they apply are correct and consistent. This entails a supervising examiner accompanying a driving examiner during live tests. The supervisor observes the work of the examiner from quality, standards and customer care perspectives. In addition, examiners are provided with refresher training and in 2010-11, for example, all DVA examiners received a further five days of training.

European Driving Directive 2006/126/EC is scheduled for implementation on 19 January 2013. This Directive will, amongst other things, introduce European standards for the initial qualification, quality assurance and periodic training of examiners authorised to conduct practical tests for licence acquisition. Current DVA practice is broadly in line with the requirements of the Directive and, in terms of examiner supervision, exceeds these requirements.

I very much understand the point that the member is making, have discussed the matter with DVA, have asked that DVA continues to monitor to ensure consistency and proper treatment.

Illegal Driving Instructors

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the investigations that have taken place into the operation of illegal driving instructors; (ii) what were the findings of the investigations; and (iii) how the matter is monitored.

(AQW 12983/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Driver & Vehicle Agency (DVA) administers and maintains the register of approved driving instructors (ADIs) on behalf of the Department under the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 2007. It is illegal for anyone to charge for instruction in driving a car or motorcycle unless they are registered with the Department.

Although anecdotal evidence suggests there may be some incidents of unregistered driving instruction, the extent of it is difficult to gauge. Evidence is hard to obtain since it must be established that a person has paid money for instruction and learners are often unwilling to complain to the PSNI or DVA.

DVA investigates all substantive allegations of unregistered instruction where evidence has been presented and it works closely on the issue with the Road Traffic Policing Division of PSNI, which has responsibility for enforcement and prosecution.

While it is not possible to provide information on individual investigations, DVA has a process in place to deal with any information received.

Following a report of alleged unregistered instruction DVA obtains information, including candidate details, from the Agency's driving test booking system. This identifies if the reported vehicle has been

presented for driving tests. Where this is the case, the Agency writes to the individual affording them an opportunity to reply to the allegations either in person or in writing. DVA may also write to candidates who took driving tests in the vehicle to ask whether confirmation they have paid the unregistered instructor for driving tuition.

It is at this stage that the process sometimes falls down, as individuals are often not willing to provide any information. However, where evidence of paid instruction has been presented, the details of the case are passed to PSNI for prosecution. Pending prosecution, the Agency continues to monitor the presentation by suspects of candidates for test.

Since 2007 the PSNI has prosecuted two cases of unregistered instruction, and DVA is aware of one further case pending.

The partnership approach with PSNI has resulted in ADI enforcement now being included in PSNI roadside vehicle check points. To date all instructors stopped at the on-road checks have been registered with the Department and compliant with the relevant legislation.

If the member or others has additional information I would be pleased to hear further.

Lughnasa Fair in Carrickfergus

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of the Environment whether he will review the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's decision to cancel the Lughnasa Fair in Carrickfergus, which has been running for 40 years.

(AQW 12991/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Due to ongoing financial pressures resulting primarily from reduced planning fee income, a number of budgets have had to be reduced across the Department. Consequently, the Events Programme has been reduced over the past two years from eleven flagship events in 2010/11 to four in 2011/12 and in 2012/13. Unfortunately, Lughnasa Fair is one of the events affected in the current year.

However, the Department is committed to promoting Carrickfergus Castle as a flagship monument, not just in heritage terms but also in recognition of its value to NI tourism. We continue to run the very popular series of living history events throughout the year at the Castle which attract consistently high numbers of visitors. We are already committed to running 16 living history events between May and August this year and are planning more events throughout the year. One of the 16 events will run on the last Saturday of July, the date that the Fair would normally take place.

Previously, we have also invited Carrickfergus Borough Council to work with us to run a major family event at the Castle, but unfortunately nothing came to fruition. I have asked officials to extend this invitation again, and although it is too late to reconsider Lughnasa Fair for 2012, a joint approach may result in this event re-emerging in July 2013.

Strangford Lough Modiolus Restoration Plan

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to fisheries management and fisheries involvement in any Strangford Lough Modiolus restoration plan, what communication has taken place with the Strangford Lough Fishermen's Association about such undertakings.

(AQW 12993/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Strangford Lough Fisherman's Association (SLFA) met with the DARD Minister Michelle O'Neill and her officials on 2 April 2012 to provide feedback on the SLFA meeting with DG Environment at the European Commission. I understood that the report from QUB on the restoration of the Modiolus reefs was also discussed and that SLFA sought assurance that evidence to support its position would be made available to the Commission.

Minister O'Neill held a further meeting with representatives of the fishing industry on 30 April at which the outcome of a joint DOE/DARD meeting with DG Environment was discussed. The proposals for

a revised management regime for Strangford Lough to allow a level of pot fishing to continue while meeting the obligations under Habitats Directive were discussed, including various ways to achieve this.

I, of course, am available to meet and have done so previously.

Reducing Litter Levels

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of the Environment what action the Northern Ireland Environment Agency is taking to reduce the level of litter and anti-social behaviour at Struell Wells, Downpatrick.

(AQW 12994/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Whilst NIEA can take corrective action, the litter is left by the public and it is their irresponsible behaviour which creates the problem. NIEA will seek to increase the frequency of site patrols at Struell Wells and is reviewing the access arrangements at this monument to discourage anti-social behaviour.

NIEA encourages the visiting public to behave responsibly at all its properties and supports the Leave No Trace campaign.

Litter and Anti-Social Behaviour in Inch Abbey

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of the Environment what action the Northern Ireland Environment Agency is taking to reduce the level of litter and anti-social behaviour at Inch Abbey, Downpatrick.

(AQW 12995/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Whilst NIEA can take corrective action, the litter is left by the public and it is their irresponsible behaviour which creates the problem. NIEA will seek to increase the frequency of site patrols at Inch Abbey and is reviewing the access arrangements at this monument to discourage anti-social behaviour.

NIEA encourages the visiting public to behave responsibly at all its properties and supports the Leave No Trace campaign.

Drug Driving

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what discussions he has held with the UK Government to ensure that legislation and penalties for drug-driving are consistent across the United Kingdom.

(AQW 13007/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Legislation here is broadly in line with Britain and it is currently illegal to drive whilst impaired through drink or drugs. However, that legislation requires the police and courts to both prove the presence of the intoxicant and also demonstrate impairment in each case before a driver could be prosecuted. The legislation in Ireland is similar, with prosecution depending on proof of impairment.

New British legislation is being progressed to make driving or being in charge of a motor vehicle with concentration of specified controlled drug above specified limit an offence without a need to prove impairment, bringing drug driving into line with drink driving in this regard. As you might be aware this legislation, consideration of which is included in our Road Safety Strategy, is currently progressing through the House of Lords.

The legislation as drafted would mean that a person would be committing an offence simply by having a specified level of a specified drug in their body. It identifies that both the drugs and the relevant limits would be specified by regulation and includes the option for any specified limit to be zero. Offenders could face a ban of at least 12 months, a fine of up to £5,000 and up to 51 weeks in jail (6 months in Scotland) for driving with specified drugs in the body in excess of specified limits.

A scientific review panel is considering the scientific underpinning for the new law, assessing the effects on driving of different drugs. The drugs ultimately specified by the offence and the specified

limits for each will be decided when advice has been received from the panel, expected in October, and on foot of public consultation planned for early in 2013.

Police are to be equipped with handheld detection devices to test saliva at the roadside. I understand that five devices are being considered by the Home Office, which is expected to give approval by the end of the year. PSNI has a commitment in the Road Safety Strategy to 'investigate new technologies and legislative powers to better detect and collect evidence from drivers suspected of being impaired through drugs; including both illicit and prescription drugs'. Under the new legislation, failure of a roadside test would result in a driver being arrested for drug driving. A further new piece of equipment in the station would provide the evidential test, based on which, as appropriate, the driver would be prosecuted.

DOE officials have been liaising with the Department for Transport on the ongoing work, are monitoring the progress of the draft legislation and await the outcome of the work of the scientific panel and on the necessary testing equipment. My Department has also maintained contacts on this issue with the Road Safety Authority and I understand that the pursuit of similar legislation will also be a priority in Ireland, possibly being introduced in 2013.

Drink driving in Northern Ireland is responsible for more road traffic collisions, fatalities and casualties than drug driving. Between 2006 -2010, the most recent published statistics, there were seventy-seven deaths and serious injuries due to drink driving and eight due to drug driving. Seven fatalities were caused by drink / drug driving (I cannot identify drink and drugs fatalities separately due to disclosure control applied to protect identities).

Legislation to tackle drink driving including reductions in the limit will be introduced to the Assembly in a Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill before the end of the year. With respect to the introduction of new drug driving laws here, the timing will be dependent on the Department for Transport delivering on the ongoing work, including the scientific underpinning, indicative legislation and testing equipment. Consultation will also be required on the proposals. I plan to bring forward a further Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill in 2013 to introduce mutual recognition of penalty points and I would envisage new drug drive legislation being part of that Bill.

Rental Payments by Councils to the Crown Estate

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment what assessment he has made of the proposals by the Scottish Committee in Westminster regarding rental payments by councils to the Crown Estate, and whether he intends to take any action on this issue.

(AQW 13027/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am aware of the Scottish Government report and shall review it. I believe in maximising the powers and potential of devolution and that extends to the issue of Crown Estates. I intend outlining my further views by the late summer.

Staff Disciplinary Procedures

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment on how many occasions formal staff disciplinary procedures have been carried out by each council, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 13028/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The number of occasions formal staff disciplinary procedures have been enacted within the 26 District Councils in the last five years are detailed in the table below.

Council	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Antrim	18	7	5	3	0
Ards	15	16	18	19	5
Armagh	6	10	20	13	7

Council	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Ballymena	1	4	5	9	5
Ballymoney	0	0	0	1	0
Banbridge	4	1	8	6	3
Belfast	51	21	53	39	21
Carrickfergus	0	2	1	3	0
Castlereagh	37	19	19	38	23
Coleraine	1	0	1	0	0
Cookstown	0	0	2	0	0
Craigavon	5	6	7	10	13
* Derry	N/R	11*	7*	2*	7*
Down	4	4	3	6	1
Dungannon	3	4	3	8	1
Fermanagh	8	2	0	6	0
Larne	11	5	3	3	5
Limavady	3	5	1	9	2
Lisburn	45	19	12	28	17
Magherafelt	1	5	2	0	0
Moyle	1	0	0	4	0
Newry & Mourne	11	7	2	1	5
Newtownabbey	2	3	10	3	5
North Down	25	36	23	39	9
Omagh	0	3	2	1	1
Strabane	7	3	8	12	4
Total	259	193	215	263	134

N/R - Not received in time

* - Financial year

Greenhouse Gas Emission and EU Climate Protection Targets

Ms Ruane asked the Minister of the Environment what action his Department has taken, with the North/South Ministerial Council, in relation to greenhouse gas emission and EU climate protection targets.

(AQW 13054/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The issue of climate change must be faced up to, including through a dedicated and robust NI Climate Bill. I also work closely with Dublin, inter alia on used tyres, waste, management of water, smoky coal, clean beaches, turf cutting, reuse of plastics (etc) all of which impact on emissions and climate protection. As members of EU, we also share climate/emission goals.

Outside of the NSMC my officials continue to engage with their counterparts in the south on both climate change mitigation and adaptation issues and officials from the south are invited to attend all key stakeholder events.

The forthcoming Irish Presidency of the EU has recently resulted in a request for secondees from the NICS to work for the Presidency in the area of climate change and this presents a further potential opportunity for North/South co-operation.

Moreover, if renewable is the biggest environmental and economic opportunity the island has – and I believe it is – the greater cohesion of energy policy, renewable industry, integrated supply opportunities there is, the better for the island and its people.

Cyclist Road Deaths

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of the Environment what research his Department has carried out, or commissioned, to address the causes of cyclist road deaths.

(AQW 13080/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Road Safety Strategy outlines key challenges to be addressed over the period up to 2020 and contains a commitment to continuously explore road safety issues and develop new ways to keep people safe on our roads.

To this end the Department has established a road safety research programme, involving road safety partners, to help identify emerging trends and provide a sound knowledge base for developing future policies. The programme, which is reviewed annually, includes ongoing statistical analysis, projects carried out by partner organisations and assignments commissioned by DOE.

The Department maintains a problem profile, first produced as part of the development of the Road Safety Strategy, which uses detailed trend data to explore key road safety issues. The most recent paper, based on 2006-2010 data, indicates that cyclists accounted for 5 of the 516 people killed and 170 of the 5,225 people seriously injured over that period. This equates to 3% of all fatal and serious road traffic casualties. The cyclist was responsible for the casualty in 39% of those cases. The most common cause of cyclist deaths and serious injuries, where the cyclist was deemed responsible, was inattention or attention diverted, the principal causation factor in 33% of those casualties. Overtaking on the offside without care was the largest principal causation factor in collisions where the driver was responsible (16%).

In 2011, there were two cyclist fatalities compared with none in 2010 and 2009. Cyclists accounted for 47 serious injuries in 2011 compared with 49 in 2010 and 32 in 2009. At the time of writing, there have been no cyclist deaths this year, compared with one at this point in 2011 and none in 2010.

Cyclists are a vulnerable road user group and the Road Safety Strategy contains a number of action measures that relate specifically to cyclists' safety.

The Department monitors progress towards the casualty reduction targets set out in the Road Safety Strategy. It also tracks performance indicators, including monitoring cyclist casualty rates and perceptions of the safety of cycling. This will improve our understanding of road casualty trends and help us target interventions more effectively.

Monitoring of targets and performance indicators will be published as part of a Road Safety Strategy Annual Report, the first of which is planned for publication by the end of the year.

The Department recently undertook a review of Road Safety Education Services and resources to ensure that they appropriately address today's road safety issues. This review recommended that the Cycling Proficiency Scheme offered by the DOE's Road Safety Education Officer Service be evaluated to assess the benefits and impact of the programme, including a review of the content of the course and methods of delivery to ensure these are up to date and fit for purpose.

The review of the Cycling Proficiency Scheme will also seek to identify and evaluate potential alternative approaches and make recommendations on the future direction of the provision of road safety cycle training by the Department. It is planned that the review will commence shortly.

Action Measure 124 of the Road Safety Strategy recommends that DOE 'give consideration to measures that improve the safety of cyclists; including what cyclists can do to keep themselves safe and what other road users can do.'

In developing a recent cycling campaign, which I launched in October 2011, the Department used its understanding of the relevant research and data to target both drivers and cyclists with the key message that they have a shared responsibility for cyclist safety. This is why the Department adopted a dual approach consisting of a 'Be Cycle Aware' message for drivers and a 'Cycle Aware' message for cyclists.

I am mindful of the need continuously to explore road safety issues better to understand the causes of collisions and the Department will use such research to develop and introduce new measures to keep people safe on our roads.

Pedestrian Road Deaths

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of the Environment what research his Department has carried out, or commissioned, to address the causes of pedestrian road deaths.

(AQW 13081/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Road Safety Strategy outlines key challenges to be addressed over the period up to 2020 and contains a commitment to continuously explore road safety issues and develop new ways to keep people safe on our roads.

To this end the Department established a road safety research programme, involving road safety partners, to help identify emerging trends and provide a sound knowledge base for developing future policies. The programme, which is reviewed annually, includes ongoing statistical analysis, projects carried out by partner organisations and assignments commissioned by DOE.

The Department maintains a problem profile, first produced as part of the development of the Road Safety Strategy, which uses detailed trend data to explore key road safety issues. The most recent paper, based on 2006-2010 data, indicates that pedestrians accounted for 92 of the 516 people killed and 919 of the 5,225 people seriously injured over that period. This equates to 18% of all fatal and serious road traffic casualties and makes pedestrians the third largest road user casualty group. Of those pedestrians killed or seriously injured, 68% were deemed responsible for the collision. The most common causes of pedestrian deaths and serious injuries was pedestrian carelessness and being heedless of traffic; with the most common cause where the driver was responsible also carelessness/inattention.

In 2011, there were 13 pedestrian fatalities compared with 10 in 2010 and 24 in 2009. Pedestrians accounted for 200 serious injuries in 2011, compared with 167 in 2010 and 191 in 2009. At the time of writing, there have been 4 pedestrian deaths this year, the same as at this point in 2011 and 2010. Two of the fatalities were aged under 16 years of age and 3 were male.

'Pedestrians' is quite a diverse grouping, with 60% of pedestrian deaths and serious injuries over the 2006-2010 period being male. The data identify that children and young people up to 24 years of age, particularly males, and those over 65, are at higher risk.

The figures above, the people that they represent and the families and communities affected are obviously of real concern to me. For this reason, on 23 May 2012, I launched a new campaign specifically aimed at pedestrian safety. The campaign addresses both driver and pedestrian responsibility and highlights a number of circumstances where pedestrians can be particularly vulnerable. Significant research underpins the development of such campaigns and fully informs the Department's wider advertising strategy.

As well as looking in detail at the causes of collisions, qualitative research is also used to inform our campaigns. Ten focus groups carried out during February highlighted pedestrians' and drivers' lack of consideration and regard for each other and that optimism and over-confidence result in an "it will never happen to me" attitude. The focus groups also revealed that pedestrians and drivers make the easy choice by denying their own errant behaviours and this is reinforced by a lack of interest and awareness of the relevance of the Highway Code to their decisions and how they behave on the road. These are the attitudes and behaviours which compromise pedestrians' safety and which the new campaign therefore seeks to address.

Further consideration is always required and welcome in helping improve our understanding of road safety issues, including those affecting pedestrians, and shaping new initiative and policies. Action Measure 133 of the Road Safety Strategy commits DOE to continue to monitor and, where appropriate, carry out Northern Ireland specific research on pedestrian and cyclist behaviour with a view to developing further effective interventions.

I can also assure you that the Department and its partners will introduce any appropriate initiatives that arise from our research programme. Road safety partners have already considered recommendations arising from completed projects into Deprivation and Child Pedestrian Casualties, which found a clear trend of increasing rates for all child pedestrian casualties (aged 0-15) with increasing area deprivation. This relationship is highly statistically significant and means that a child living in a most deprived area is almost 5 times more likely to be injured in a collision than a child living in a least deprived area.

As a result of this work, a number of additional measures have been incorporated into the Strategy. The Department will seek to improve practical pedestrian training for children while the Department for Regional Development will undertake a review of site conditions in the most deprived areas with the highest collisions / casualties identified in the research. From DRD's review, PSNI will consider additional police patrols in these locations.

In addition to local research, the Department maintains strong working relationships with British and Irish counterparts and works to strengthen appropriate links to access the best available research, data and guidance to support our work to improve the safety of all our road users.

Planning Applications for Farm Dwellings

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 11071/11-15, for each of the last two years, to detail how many planning applications for farm dwellings under PPS 21 have been refused due to the proposed buildings not being (i) linked; or (ii) site clustered with established groups of buildings on a farm, broken down by divisional planning office.

(AQW 13089/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The number of planning applications refused for 'farm dwelling' under PPS 21 in the last two years broken down by area office is detailed in the Table below. A total of 10 applications for 'farm dwelling' have been refused in the last two business years. Of these, four included refusal reasons which related to the proposed buildings not being (i) linked or (ii) site clustered with an established group of buildings on a farm.

Table showing Number of farm dwellings refused in the last two years under PPS 21 broken down by area office.

Area Planning Office	Year 2010/2011		Year 2011/2012	
	Number of Applications Refused	Refusal Reason: Not visually linked or site clustered	Number of Applications Refused	Refusal Reason: Not visually linked or site clustered
South Antrim	2	1	1	1

Area Planning Office	Year 2010/2011		Year 2011/2012	
	Number of Applications Refused	Refusal Reason: Not visually linked or site clustered	Number of Applications Refused	Refusal Reason: Not visually linked or site clustered
Southern Downpatrick	1	1	0	0
Western	5	1	1	0
Total	8	3	2	1

Note: This information is based on a search of the Planning Portal where the word 'farm' was included in the description of applications relating to a dwelling.

It is worthwhile noting that in the 2010/2011 year, 3146 applications for single dwellings in rural areas (excluding replacement dwellings) were decided of which 804 were refused and from April - December 2011, 2147 applications were decided and 324 refused. Some of these applications may relate to dwellings on a farm, however, a manual search of each application would be required to identify such cases and this would be disproportionate in terms of time and cost.

Single Wind Turbine

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment what are the criteria used to determine whether an Environmental Statement is required for a single wind turbine.

(AQW 13105/11-15)

Mr Attwood: A wind turbine falls within the description of developments listed under Schedule 2, Category 3(j) of The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012.

Where a development is listed in Schedule 2, DOE Planning will establish whether the development is either located wholly or in part in a sensitive area or meets/exceeds any of the relevant thresholds/criterion listed in Column 2 of Schedule 2.

In relation to the thresholds for a wind turbine, DOE Planning will screen applications for the need for an EIA where the development involves the installation of more than 2 turbines or the hub height of any turbine or height of any other structure exceeds 15 metres. If the proposed wind turbine meets or exceeds this threshold/ criterion it is important to establish if the development would have significant effects on the environment.

When carrying out the screening process, DOE Planning will have regard to the Selection Criteria specified in Schedule 3 of the Regulations. In summary, the Selection Criteria fall under three broad headings:-

Characteristics of the development: taking into account aspects such as size, raw material usage, emissions and risk of accidents.

Location of development: the environmental sensitivity of the areas likely to be affected including existing land uses and the capacity of the existing environment to absorb the new development.

Characteristics of the potential impact: in particular with regard to its extent, complexity, probability, duration and frequency, in relation to the characteristics and location of the development.

Where it is determined that the impact is significant, then the identified development is EIA development and an Environmental Statement will be required. Where it is not significant, then an EIA is not required.

It is important to note that the thresholds are not determinative and that individual projects that fall below these indicative thresholds and criteria may require EIA just as those above may not. Decisions on the need for EIA are therefore taken on a case by case basis.

Planning Application Fees

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment what criteria must be met to receive the 50 percent discount on planning application fees.

(AQW 13106/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The current Planning (Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005 No.222) as amended were made by the Department in pursuance of its powers under Article 127 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

The Fee Regulations also make provision for what is commonly referred to as a 50% concessionary fee with respect to applications made on behalf of certain non-profit making organisations. Schedule 1, Part 1, Paragraph 3 allows for the planning fee payable to be one-half of the amount that would otherwise be payable where an application or deemed application for planning permission is:

- (i) made or deemed to be made by or on behalf of a club, society or other organisation (including any persons administering a trust) which is not established or conducted for profit; and
- (ii) is for the provision of community facilities (including sports grounds) and playing fields; and
- (iii) the development is to be carried out on land which is, or is intended to be, occupied by the club, society or other organisation and to be used wholly or mainly for the carrying out of its objects.

Applicants should make clear on the planning application form that they have applied for the fee assessed under Schedule 1, Part 1, Paragraph 3 of the Fee Regulations and the Department will undertake an assessment as to whether an application meets the conditions and is eligible for the 50% concessionary fee.

Some examples of non-profit organisations include Gaelic Athletic Association /Association Football Clubs, where the players are not paid salaries, registered charities and community groups.

Belfast International Airport: Unauthorised Car Parks

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 11374/11-15, what the figure quoted represents as a percentage of all car parks at Belfast International Airport.

(AQW 13123/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Since the Department's response to AQW 11374/11-15, it has been confirmed that one of the six unauthorised car parks identified is no longer operational, thus 5 car parks remain unauthorised. The Department are aware of 4 lawful car parks in the vicinity of Belfast International Airport i.e. 5 out of 9 (56%) are unauthorised and subject to ongoing enforcement proceedings. An update of the six enforcement cases previously listed is contained in Appendix 1.

APPENDIX 1 – CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS IN RELATION TO UNAUTHORISED CAR PARKING IN THE VICINITY OF BIA

Case	Application Ref	Current Status
1 92 Old Ballyrobin Road, Muckamore	T/2007/0884/F: Temporary Use (for 1 year) as a Park and Ride Facility (Retrospective)	Refused permission 31/03/11 New Enf Notice Issued 8th May 2012 – Appeal lodged Enforcement action ongoing

Case	Application Ref	Current Status
2 Lands adjacent to 10 Crooked Stone Road	T/2011/0123/LDE: Retention of commercial car parking use	Current Planning/Enforcement Appeal. Hearing to be re-opened by PAC (date TBC)
3 108 Ballyrobin Road, Muckamore, Antrim	T/2007/0716/F: Carpark (formerly part carpark for adjacent restaurant) for provision of Park & Ride facilities to nearby airport. Consisting of 37 spaces. (Retrospective)	Refused Planning Permission. Appeal Dismissed 20/05/10 Enforcement Notice Quashed 19/06/12 Enforcement action ongoing
4 6 Antrim Road Aldergrove	T/2011/0347/F: Proposed car storage compound incorporating existing shed and hardstanding for off site car hire business(Retrospective)	Current application not yet determined. Enforcement investigation ongoing. Use as commercial car park has ceased. Storage of hire cars continue
5 Killead Air Lodge, 26 Killead Road	T/2005/0050/F: Temporary Car Park (Retrospective) T/2011/0182/F: 252no car park to supersede approved 149no carpark incidental to existing guesthouse and associated unimplemented approvals plus cycle shelter and surfaced maintenance and manoeuvring area for culvert(Retrospective)	Site A - Appeal dismissed 19/07/07. Notice in effect Site B - Appeal dismissed in relation to parking 04/01/12. Notice in effect Court action pending 02/07/12
6 5 Seacash rd, Aldergrove	T/2011/0404/F: Retrospective application for a car park	Refusal Issued 14/06/12 Enforcement investigation ongoing. Planning Contravention Notice Issued 21/06/12, further enforcement action will be considered as necessary.

Legislative Programme

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on his planned legislative programme for the current Assembly mandate.

(AQO 2186/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Marine Bill, which I introduced to the Assembly in February 2012, is currently at Committee stage. This Bill will allow the better management of the waters around our coasts to derive more benefit from their use and achieve better protection for the rich environment.

This will help achieve the aim of having clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas and ensure that a planned approach is taken to managing activities and developments within the marine area in a sustainable manner.

Additionally I propose, subject to Executive approval, to introduce 9 Bills to the Assembly between now and March 2015. These are:-

- 1 The Planning Bill which will bring forward a number of the reforms contained in the Planning Act (NI) 2011 and apply them to the Department in advance of the transfer of powers to district councils; I hope to introduce this Bill before the end of this Assembly session;
- 2 Local Government Reorganisation which provides for the reorganisation of local government; new governance arrangements for councils; a new ethical standards regime; the introduction of community planning powers and the power of well-being; and an updated service delivery and performance improvement regime. I expect to introduce this Bill to the Assembly in October 2012.
- 3 National Parks Bill which will allow for the identification, designation and management of national parks, forecast to be introduced in November 2012.
- 4 Road Traffic Amendment No 1 which will lower the limits on blood alcohol levels for motorists , introduce other measures to tackle drink driving; and introduce a new regime for learner and novice drivers to address high fatality levels in this group. I anticipate this Bill will be introduced to the Assembly in December 2012.
- 5 The Carrier Bag Levy Bill which I hope to introduce in January 2013 will extend the levy to certain types of re-usable carrier bags.

I propose to introduce 4 Bills during the 2013-14 Assembly Session. At this stage I cannot be more definitive on their date of introduction. These are:

- 1 The Buses (Licensing of Operators) Bill which will overhaul the bus licensing regime;
- 2 The Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill No 2 which will introduce mutual recognition of penalty points for motoring offences between Northern Ireland and Ireland; and to make necessary legislative amendments regarding drug driving offences.
- 3 The Environmental Better Regulation Bill which will reduce the environmental regulatory burden on business and enhance protection of the environment.
and
- 4 The Climate Change Bill which will introduce statutory targets for greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland.

Disposal of Japanese Knotweed

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment what action his Department is taking to prevent the invasion and the irresponsible disposal of Japanese knotweed.

(AQW 13159/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department of Environment recognises the threat posed by invasive alien species (IAS) such as Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). As such, the Department has been taking action to address this issue for several years.

Due to the threat posed by Japanese knotweed the Department of Environment listed it on Schedule 9 Part II of The Wildlife Order (NI) 1985 (as amended). As such, under Article 15, it is an offence for any person to plant or otherwise cause Japanese knotweed to grow in the wild. This piece of legislation is enforced by PSNI.

I have been informed by officials in the Northern Ireland Environment Agency that they have undertaken control of a range of invasive species, including Japanese knotweed, on properties under their ownership or management. Where the growth of Japanese knotweed occurs in areas outside those owned or managed by the Department it is the decision and responsibility of the individual landowner or land manager to undertake control.

To assist landowners NIEA has developed a range of best practice management guidance documents which outline the range of known control options available for the control of Japanese knotweed in addition to waste legislation requirements to prevent irresponsible disposal. These documents are available online on the Invasive Species Ireland website and the DOE website.

Outside of land directly owned or managed by the Department, NIEA seeks to work in partnership with organisations to tackle invasive species. For example, the Department has recently provided part funding to a £2.6 million catchment scale eradication project, led by the Queens University Belfast. This project, which covers the Newry Canal/Clanrye River and River Faughan, aims to tackle Japanese knotweed as well as other invasive species in these river catchments.

To raise awareness of invasive species NIEA has worked in partnership with Local Biodiversity Officers across Northern Ireland to deliver training on legislation, identification and management options for a range of species, including Japanese knotweed, to staff from a range of organisations including District Councils, Roads Service, Rivers Agency, Translink and environmental NGOs. This training has also been provided to local angling clubs upon request.

In addition NIEA, through its Natural Heritage Grant Programme, can provide funding towards projects which aim to sustainably control invasive species such as Japanese knotweed.

To reduce the risk of further spread of Japanese knotweed NIEA would advise that it is treated in situ where it is possible to do so. Where Japanese knotweed is required to be moved offsite the movement of the waste material must be done in compliance with the Controlled Waste (Duty of Care) Regulations (NI) 2002 and the Waste Management Regulations (NI) 2006. Any suspected illegal disposal or transport of waste material, including Japanese knotweed material, can be reported via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. This enables waste crime to be reported completely anonymously.

Council Staff who Received Severance Pay-Outs

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment how many council staff who were (i) dismissed; or (ii) resigned, after or during suspension for investigations, received severance pay-outs, or similar, broken down by council area, in each of the last 10 years.

(AQW 13187/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The information requested is provided in the table below for each of the last 10 years.

(i) Dismissed and received severance pay-outs

Council	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Antrim	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ballymena	0	0	0	0	1 [^]	1 [^]	0	0	0	0
Ballymoney	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belfast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrickfergus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castlereagh	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Coleraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cookstown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Craigavon	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Derry	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Down	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dungannon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Council	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Fermanagh	*	*	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larne	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Limavady	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lisburn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Moyle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newry & Mourne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newtownabbey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Down	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Omagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strabane	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	0	1	1	2	1	3	0	0

* Records not held – 6 year retention policy

Information not received on time

^ Industrial tribunal claim

(ii) Resigned, after or during suspension for investigations, received severance pay-outs

Council	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Antrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Ballymena	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ballymoney	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belfast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrickfergus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castlereagh	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Coleraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cookstown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Craigavon	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Derry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Down	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dungannon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fermanagh	*	*	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

Council	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Limavady	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lisburn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moyle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newry & Mourne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newtownabbey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Down	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Omagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strabane	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1

* Records not held – 6 year retention policy

Information not received on time

I have asked officials to seek more details on these matters from the relevant councils, as the information clearly requires further interrogation. Craigavon and Castlereagh Councils will be advised to respond within 10 days of the AQ being released.

Beach Safety By-Laws

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of the Environment whether the by-laws, prepared by Larne Borough Council, to improve beach safety by regulating the use of seaside pleasure boats, such as jet skis, at designated bathing water beaches have been confirmed by his Department.

(AQW 13204/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department has not received an application from Larne Borough Council regarding proposed bye-laws to regulate the use of seaside pleasure boats at designated bathing water beaches.

Halting the Development of the Golf Resort at Runkerry

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether he has sought legal advice as to the possible consequences of halting the development of the golf resort at Runkerry to allow the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to assess the possible impact of the development.

(AQW 13210/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The member will appreciate that my planning decision is before the High Court by way of Judicial Review. The case is listed for hearing on 27 November for 4 days. The member will appreciate that I am therefore constrained in what I can say, save that I am satisfied and content with the decision and the process around the decision.

Applications by Financial Institutions to Remove an Occupancy Restriction

Mr Anderson asked the Minister of the Environment, for each of the last two years, to detail (i) how many applications have been made by financial institutions to remove an occupancy restriction; and (ii) how many were (a) approved; and (b) declined, broken down by divisional planning office.

(AQW 13213/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Policy CTY6 (Personal and Domestic Circumstances) of Planning Policy Statement 21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside allows for a dwelling to be permitted in the countryside

for the long term needs of an applicant, where there are compelling and site specific reasons for this related to the applicant's personal or domestic circumstances.

All permissions granted under Policy CTY 6 will be subject to a condition restricting the occupation of the dwelling to a named individual and their dependents.

Policy CTY 7 (Dwellings for Non-Agricultural Business Enterprises) of Planning Policy Statement 21 states that planning permission will be granted for a dwelling in connection with an established non-agricultural business enterprise where a site specific need can be clearly demonstrated that makes it essential for one of the firm's employees to live at the site of their work.

Planning permission granted under Policy CTY7 will also be subject to a condition restricting occupation of the dwelling for the use of the business.

Article 28 of the 1991 Order provides for an application to develop land without compliance with conditions previously attached to a planning permission.

The Department does not have any records of a financial institution having submitted a planning application, in any of the Area Planning Offices, under Article 28 in each of the last two years to have a condition removed from a previous planning approval.

Table 1 shows the total number of planning applications approved for the removal of a planning condition under Article 28 in each of the last two years. These totals include applications for the removal of an occupancy condition.

TABLE 1: ARTICLE 28 APPROVALS IN EACH OF THE LAST 2 YEARS

Year	Total No. of Article 28 Applications Approved by DOE Planning
2010/2011	222
2011/2012*	132

* The year 2011/2012 provides data up until 31 December 2011

I recognise that there are a number of cases where a personal occupancy condition has given rise to difficulties in securing a mortgage. I am looking at this issue and have asked to meet with the banks to identify how this impediment can be eased.

Deterring People from Dropping Litter

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of the Environment what measures are in place to ensure a consistent approach by councils in deterring people from dropping litter.

(AQW 13236/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 provides district councils with stronger powers to deal more effectively with litter. The enforcement of these powers, including larger on the spot fines (fixed penalty notices) for littering offences, should deter people from dropping litter. Larger fines for litter offenders together with the stronger anti-litter laws generally should send out a strong message to people who litter to think about the quality of their environments. Larger fines should act as an effective deterrent against littering in the future. From 1st April 2012 councils can impose fines of up to £80 on people who litter – this is a significant increase on the previous £50.

It is a matter for each district council to determine its own policy with respect to the enforcement of anti-litter laws and the development of their local anti-litter strategies. However, to support councils, the Department has issued comprehensive guidance on the anti-litter laws and also specific guidance on the use of fixed penalty notices. This guidance should help district councils develop and improve their strategies for issuing fixed penalty notices for offences contrary to environmental law, including litter

offences. The guidance should also help to improve the payment rates for fixed penalty notices and ultimately maximise their contribution to improving local environmental quality.

The use of fixed penalty notices is just one element of enforcement of environmental law in an effort to tackle environmental crime such as littering. It follows that there are other ways in which a district council can improve local environmental quality and reduce environmental crime: education, campaigns and improvements to street-scene services are just three examples of things that can play a part.

Over the coming years the Department will be monitoring the impact of the new anti-litter laws and the extent to which they are being enforced by councils and also in terms of improvements in local environmental cleanliness. Councils asked for the stronger new anti-litter powers and I fully expect councils to implement them in order to deter people from littering and to improve local environmental quality.

Grant Aid for Listed Buildings

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of the Environment whether he will allocate additional grant aid for listed buildings of significant importance that require urgent repairs, where, for ethical reasons, Lottery grants cannot be accepted.

(AQW 13238/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department's listed buildings grant-aid scheme - for the repair and maintenance of historic fabric - is targeted at the listed building itself; historically (ie pre 2008) the higher grades of listed buildings received a higher level of grant-aid. The rate of grant-aid has now been standardised at 35%, ensuring a consistency of approach. However, in taking account of the needs of some owners, a higher level of grant-aid is available for those on certain qualifying benefits, and also to owners of thatched buildings for repair work to thatch roofs.

A review of the grant-aid policy is underway. This question has been raised in the past, and the Department has responded that it cannot vary consistency of approach in relation to the ethical stand of some owners. I will think further on the issue but need to ensure consistency and equality of approach.

There are other funding streams available, for example, the Funds for Historic Buildings (FFHB) website is a comprehensive guide to funding for anyone seeking to repair, restore or convert (for a new use) any historic building in the United Kingdom (excluding the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) which is listed, scheduled or in a conservation area and of acknowledged historic merit. It includes details of virtually all substantive funding sources which specialise in historic buildings.

It also contains extended notes on selected topics and a variety of other more detailed information. You may find the attached link helpful <http://www.ffhb.org.uk/>

Contracts for the Upkeep and Cleaning of Beaches

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment why contracts for the upkeep and cleaning of beaches by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, that were due to commence in April 2012, have been suspended.

(AQW 13252/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The only beaches for which the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is responsible are those at Crawfordsburn Country Park (including Helen's Bay) and at Killard National Nature Reserve and Magilligan Point Nature Reserve.

NIEA sought to tender for site maintenance services so that a new contract would commence at the expiry on 31 March 2012 of the previous one. Tenders for these services were invited but, following the evaluation of the tenders and DFP's Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) publishing the intention to award the contract, several legal challenges were made to the processes employed by CPD in procuring the contract on behalf of NIEA. This resulted in CPD advising NIEA against awarding the contract to avoid facing subsequent legal writs and court cases and NIEA did not award the contract.

Cleaning and Maintenance of Crawfordsburn Beach

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what measures are in place to ensure the cleaning and maintenance of Crawfordsburn Beach.

(AQW 13253/11-15)

Mr Attwood: From 1 April 2012 NIEA used its own Country Park staff to clean and maintain Crawfordsburn Beach and since 18 June 2012 it has availed of an existing generic Property Maintenance contract procured by DFP's Central Procurement Directorate to lift litter and dog foul and cut grass.

Contracts for the Cleaning and Maintenance of Beaches

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment when his Department intends to award contracts for the cleaning and maintenance of beaches.

(AQW 13254/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The only beaches for which the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is responsible are those at Crawfordsburn Country Park (including Helen's Bay) and at Killard National Nature Reserve and Magilligan Point Nature Reserve.

NIEA is currently availing of an existing Property Maintenance contract let by DFP's Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) to lift litter and dog foul and cut grass, but is working with CPD to retender for maintenance services at the properties it manages. It is expected that new contracts will be in place by 1 April 2013.

Contracts for the Cleaning and Maintenance of Beaches

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of the suspension of contracts for the cleaning and maintenance of beaches, what consideration has been given to extending the existing contracts until the issue can be resolved.

(AQW 13255/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The previous contract for cleaning and maintenance services expired on 31 March 2012; it was both time-bound and included an expenditure ceiling which had almost been reached. Having been extended twice already, there was no scope for further extending the contract once it had expired.

Contracts for the Cleaning and Maintenance of Beaches

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what interim measures are in place to ensure the cleaning of beaches whilst contracts for cleaning and maintenance are finalised.

(AQW 13256/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The only beaches for which the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is responsible are those at Crawfordsburn Country Park (including Helen's Bay) and at Killard National Nature Reserve and Magilligan Point Nature Reserve.

From 1 April 2012 NIEA used its own staff to clean and maintain its properties and since 18 June 2012 it has been availing of an existing generic Property Maintenance contract previously procured by DFP's Central Procurement Directorate to lift litter and dog foul and cut grass at the two beaches in Crawfordsburn Country Park. NIEA continues to use its own staff to maintain and keep clean the other beaches in its care.

Contracts for the Cleaning and Maintenance of Beaches

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of the Environment whether the South Down coastline will be affected by the suspension of contracts for the cleaning and maintenance of beaches.

(AQW 13280/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Prior to 31 March 2012 when property service contracts expired, contractors were employed by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) to clean its properties, including a small number of beaches. Due to challenges to the procurement process, new contracts could not be let as planned and must be retendered.

The only beaches in the southern part of County Down which have been cleaned and maintained by NIEA are those at Killard National Nature Reserve at the mouth of Strangford Lough. These were cleaned about six times a year under the former contract which expired on 31 March 2012. No other beaches will be affected by the failure to let new contracts.

Since the expiry of the property maintenance contracts NIEA has been using - and will continue to use - its own staff and volunteers to clean and maintain the beaches at Killard until a new contract can be let. It is hoped that a high standard of cleanliness can be maintained, though the main beach is always subject to the washing up of flotsam and jetsam.

Contracts for the Cleaning and Maintenance of Beaches

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of the suspension of contracts for the cleaning and maintenance of beaches, what consideration has been given to extending the existing contracts until the issue is resolved.

(AQW 13281/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The previous contract for cleaning and maintenance services expired on 31 March 2012; it was both time-bound and included an expenditure ceiling which had almost been reached. Having been extended twice already, there was no scope for further extending the contract once it had expired.

Tickets for the Jubilee Garden Party

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment how many tickets for the Jubilee Garden Party on 27 June 2012 were allocated to (i) the Minister; (ii) his Department; and (iii) its arm's-length bodies.

(AQW 13290/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I was allocated 4 tickets with a further 150 allocated to my Department for the event to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. All staff were invited to express an interest and 196 did so seeking over 300 tickets. As this was greater than our allocation, a random selection process was implemented resulting in 48 staff receiving tickets at an average of 3 per person. No tickets were allocated to Arms Length Bodies.

Consultations with UNESCO on the Bushmills Dunes Golf Resort Planning Application

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment to list the dates and methods of the consultations he has held with UNESCO on the Bushmills Dunes Golf Resort planning application.

(AQW 13401/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Your question refers to an issue which inter alia is before the High Court by way of a judicial review. That case is listed for hearing on 27 November for 4 days. The member will appreciate that I am therefore constrained in what I can say, save that I am satisfied and content with the decision and process around the decision.

Changing the Name of a Road

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the process for changing the name of a road.

(AQW 13405/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 sets out the powers of district councils in relation to street naming. (For the purposes of the legislation, the term "street" is defined as including a road).

The legislation does not provide councils with an explicit power to alter the name of a street (or road). The procedure to be undertaken by councils in changing the name of a street (or road) is not detailed in the legislation and is a matter for each individual council.

I am aiming to issue for consultation proposals on street names, which will include the issue of providing councils with explicit powers to rename streets, by the end of the year.

Supplier Invoices Paid by Councils During 2011/12

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to supplier invoices paid by councils during the 2011/12 financial year, to detail (i) the number of invoices paid; and (ii) how many invoices were paid (a) within 30 days; and (b) later than 30 days, following receipt of the supplier's invoice. **(AQW 13536/11-15)**

Mr Attwood: The overall total of invoices paid by each council during the 2011/2012 financial year, plus the number paid both within and outside of 30 days, is provided in the attached table.

Council	Total No of invoices (i)	Paid within 30 days (ii) (a)	Paid outside of 30 days (ii) (b)
Antrim	10,176	3,208	6,968
Ards	12,224	11,680	544
Armagh	10,043	9,175	868
Ballymena	12,005	10,921	1,084
Ballymoney	5,315	1,896 ^(a)	3,419 ^(a)
Banbridge	5,090	3,227	1,863 ^(b)
Belfast	52,317	41,988	10,329
Carrickfergus	6,333	4,620	1,713
Castlereagh	12,113	N/P*	N/P*
Coleraine	12,306	7,876 ^(c)	4,430 ^(c)
Cookstown	6,009	5,909	100
Craigavon	12,806	6,122	6,684
Derry	21,826	15,138	6,688
Down	10,734 ^(d)	10,197	537
Dungannon	5,546	4,971	575
Fermanagh	9,391	7,925	1,466
Larne	5,080	3,473	1,607
Limavady	6,579	3,838 ^(e)	2,741 ^(e)
Lisburn	12,419	10,249	2,170
Magherafelt	6,475	6,387	88
Moyle	3,172	1,684	1,488
Newry & Mourne	14,029	11,223 ^(f)	2,806 ^(f)
Newtownabbey	15,782	12,208	3,574

Council	Total No of invoices (i)	Paid within 30 days (ii) (a)	Paid outside of 30 days (ii) (b)
North Down	10,217	8,456	1,761
Omagh	6,607	4,955	1,652
Strabane	4,706	4,201	505
Total	289,300	211,527	65,660

Notations

- * Not provided
- (a) Based on Invoice dates not dates of receipt of Invoice.
- (b) Includes invoices disputed/queried or requiring further clarification prior to payment, thus delaying processing.
- (c) Extrapolated from a sample of 419 Invoices.
- (d) Extrapolated from a sample batch of invoices - 95% of all invoices passed for payment by the budget holder were paid within 30 days.
- (e) Extrapolated from a sample of 120 invoices for the 11/12 year.
- (f) Figures calculated from estimated 20% paid beyond 30 days and 80% before.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment (i) what action his Department is taking to ensure that the built environment is adapted to changing climatic conditions; and (ii) whether he intends to introduce a climate change adaptation strategy.

(AQW 13548/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am taking a range of actions to ensure the built environment is adapted to climate change.

My Department jointly chairs a Stormwater Management Group with the Department for Regional Development. This Group is examining a range of approaches to stormwater management to assist in the development of more integrated and sustainable systems. A current pilot study in Ballyclare is exploring the benefits of the implementation of sustainable drainage systems within the catchment of the town.

I am considering legislation which will make it mandatory for new / retrospective planning applications to install open / soft engineering stormwater management systems.

By applying Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 15, which takes account of climate change, my Department adopts a precautionary approach to development in flood risk areas and seeks to avoid inappropriate development in these areas. In addition, Policy LC3 of the second addendum to PPS 7 encourages greater use of permeable paving within new residential developments so as to help reduce flash flooding from surface water run off.

In conjunction with the Rivers Agency in DARD my Department published guidance in December 2011 on the use of the Strategic Surface Water Flood Map.

I have commissioned research which will assist my officials in implementing an appropriate management response to the impacts of climate change on our cultural heritage. Owners of listed historic buildings have also been provided with advice and information on how to protect these buildings.

Most importantly, as you are aware, my Department is currently developing a Northern Ireland Adaptation Programme, which will be presented to the Executive in early 2013. This Programme,

co-ordinated by my department, will further develop my Department's actions and provide a cross departmental response to the risks and opportunities identified in the Northern Ireland Climate Change Risk Assessment for the built environment.

Furthermore, work is at an early stage in the preparation of a single planning policy document for the north. Its preparation will require a fresh look across all areas of planning policy, including climate change.

Consequently, I have no current plans to introduce a climate change adaptation strategy.

Clause 24 of the Marine Bill

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQO 2188/11-15, to detail under what specific circumstances his Department would need to use the powers, proposed by Clause 24 of the Marine Bill, to make byelaws, given that there are similar byelaw making powers provided by Article 21 of the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order 1985.

(AQW 13710/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Byelaws under Article 21 of the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order 1985 are intended to manage activities which are not subject to regulation or control by other public bodies, and are potentially damaging to the features of a Marine Nature Reserve (MNR). In this context an example of an activity which could be managed through a byelaw could be the use of anchors or moorings which drag on the seabed due to strong tides or currents. These objects could be detrimental to a seabed habitat. Another example could be to restrict the use or speed of jet skis near a seal haul out area during the breeding season.

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), legislated for under the Marine Bill, are intended to replace MNRs designated under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order 1985. All MNR provisions, including byelaw making powers under Article 21 of this Order will therefore be repealed by the Marine Bill.

The Marine Bill will provide the Department powers to designate and manage MCZs. Management measures include the introduction of byelaws as set out in Clause 24 of the Bill.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Departmental Policy on Junk Mail

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel why civil servants have been receiving unsolicited emails to their work computers promoting the Líofo campaign, along with a promotional newsletter; and what is the relevant departmental policy on junk mail.

(AQW 11329/11-15)

Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): The internal Northern Ireland Civil Service e-mail system is used by departments to distribute information about events and issues that are relevant to their work, as well as more general information about health related issues, appeals from charitable organisations, transport issues etc. Individual departments are responsible for the material that they issue. IT Assist, which is responsible for maintenance of the e-mail system, uses a system for the detection of e-mails which may contain unwanted content that could present a security risk or contain undesirable content to prevent such e-mails from reaching Northern Ireland Civil Service addresses.

EU Funding

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in relation to EU funding, to detail how much Departments gained from the currency fluctuation between Sterling and Euro in 2010/11; and what became of any such gains.

(AQW 12910/11-15)

Mr Wilson: In 2010/11 the total nett value of exchange rate gains on EU Structural Funds' Programmes was £ 1,399,929.65. Nett gains are returned to the Centre as a Reduced Requirement.

Tickets for the Jubilee Garden Party

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many tickets for the Jubilee Garden Party on 27 June 2012 were allocated to (i) the Minister; (ii) his Department; and (iii) its arm's-length bodies. **(AQW 13118/11-15)**

Mr Wilson: I did not receive any tickets as Minister for Finance and Personnel for the Jubilee Garden Party on 27 June 2012. 150 tickets were allocated to the Department and its arm's length bodies.

Legal Fees in Relation to Rates' Debt Collection

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how much his Department has spent on legal fees in relation to Rates' debt collection. **(AQW 13125/11-15)**

Mr Wilson: If a ratepayer has not paid their rate bill, or made contact with LPS to agree a payment arrangement after the issue of a bill and a final demand, LPS has little option but to take forward Court proceedings to recover the money owing.

LPS is obliged to pay fees to the NI Courts & Tribunals Service for the different stages of the legal proceedings, including for issue of a Court Process, the granting of a Court Decree, the issue of a Notice of Intention to Enforce Debt, and Enforcement Fees. These charges are added to ratepayers' bills, and therefore become part of the recoverable amount.

Payments are made to the Courts & Tribunals Service by LPS at the time that the actions are taken and are then recovered from ratepayers in due course. Given the daily movements in individual rate accounts, and the time differences in payment to the Courts and recovery of the money, it is not possible to provide an accurate figure for the net (unrecovered) legal costs in any period. The figures in the table below are therefore the total figures paid by LPS to the Courts & Tribunals Service.

Year	Payment by LPS to Courts & Tribunals Service
2010/11	£2,654,959.75
2011/12	£3,216,079.30

In addition, LPS also incurs professional legal costs in relation to cases pursued through the High Court Chancery Division. The figures in the table below are therefore the total figures paid by LPS to Crown Solicitor's Office in relation to such cases.

Year	Payment by LPS to Crown Solicitor's Office
2010/11	£254,775.94
2011/12	£344,092.38

LPS also incurs additional staff costs in pursuing recovery of unpaid rates. These costs form part of the cost of rate collection and are therefore paid from the district and regional rates – in effect, by all ratepayers.

I would stress that no recovery costs would exist if all ratepayers paid their rates in a timely manner, or if in difficulty contacted LPS to agree a payment arrangement.

Members of the Legal Profession

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what arrangements are in place to ensure that members of the legal profession deliver the highest standards of service to the public.

(AQW 13313/11-15)

Mr Wilson: All members of the legal profession in Northern Ireland are subject to codes of conduct and professional service set out by the relevant professional body.

Legislation (the Solicitors (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 as amended), together with Practice Regulations made by the Law Society, set out the standards to which solicitors in Northern Ireland must adhere in relation to their practices and their duties to their clients.

Barristers are similarly bound by a code of conduct and other professional service regulations as set out by the Bar Council and the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland.

Applications for Rate Relief Exemptions

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many applications for rate relief exemptions have been received since the introduction of the rating of empty homes scheme in the (i) Ards Borough Council; and (ii) North Down Borough Council areas.

(AQW 13333/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Since the introduction of the Rating of Empty Homes scheme on 1st October 2011 there have been 139 applications for rate relief exemptions for the Ards Borough Council Area, and 147 applications for rate relief exemptions for the North Down Borough Council Area.

Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) (Amendment) Regulations 2011

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he has any plans to consult on introducing legislation similar to the Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) (Amendment) Regulations 2011, in England and Wales, which effectively allows churches to officiate at Civil Partnerships if they wish.

(AQW 13373/11-15)

Mr Wilson: My Department has no plans to consult on legislation similar to the Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises)(Amendment) Regulations 2011.

Disposal of Capital Assets

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the capital assets of which his Department intends to dispose in each of the next three years.

(AQW 13385/11-15)

Mr Wilson: My Department intends to dispose of the following properties over the next three years:

2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1a Belt Road, Londonderry	2-14 George Street, Ballymena	Rosepark House
Northland House, Belfast	Hospital Road, Omagh	
35-39 Bridge Street, Ballymena	4-6 Killane Road, Limavady	

My Department will also continue to carry out a rolling IT asset refresh programme which forms part of a planned disposal and replacement schedule. Similarly there will be a smaller number of other assets that will be disposed of in the course of normal business.

District Councillors

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant 12192/11-15, whether the paid leave is in addition to the annual allowance paid to all councillors.

(AQW 13386/11-15)

Mr Wilson: No, if payment, other than for reimbursement of expenses is offered, civil servants should choose to either accept the payment and apply for special leave without pay to enable them to carry out the required duties or decline the payment and apply for special leave with pay.

Public Finances Linked to the London Inter-bank Offered Rate

Dr McDonnell asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what aspects of public finances are linked to, or influenced by, the London Inter-bank Offered Rate.

(AQW 13443/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The London Inter-bank Offered Rate, or LIBOR, is a key factor which impacts on the rate at which banks are willing to lend to both businesses and individuals. While the availability of finance at affordable terms is strategically a very important issue, and vital to our economic recovery, Northern Ireland's public finances are not directly linked to or influenced by LIBOR.

People on Secondment

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of people on secondment by grade (i) into each Department; (ii) out of each Department; (iii) the length of the secondment; and (iv) the purpose of each secondment, over the last ten years.

(AQW 13469/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The information requested is not held centrally by Departments and to access and collate it would incur disproportionate cost. Under departmental disposal schedules, many related files have been destroyed. It would not, therefore, be possible to provide information for the full ten year period.

Average Annual Costs of Secondments

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to list the average annual cost of each secondment into and out of each Department over the last ten years.

(AQW 13470/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The information requested is not held centrally by Departments and to access and collate it would incur disproportionate cost. Under departmental disposal schedules, many related files have been destroyed. It would not, therefore, be possible to provide information for the full ten year period.

2011 Census

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel when the 2011 Census will be published.

(AQW 13519/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Because of the breadth of information to be provided, the results from the 2011 Census will be published in a number of releases over the coming months. The first output, which will provide a breakdown of the usually resident population of Northern Ireland on Census Day by age and sex, will be published on 16 July 2012. A detailed release schedule for all of the planned outputs is available in the Census Output Prospectus which is published on the website of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (www.nisra.gov.uk).

Cost of Defending Proceedings Taken by Security Staff in Relation to Guaranteed Overtime

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) for an estimate of the legal costs to his Department of defending proceedings taken by security staff in relation to guaranteed overtime; and (ii) why his Department defended the proceedings given that its own documentation established that such overtime was built into the contract.

(AQW 13532/11-15)

Mr Wilson: No information is yet available in relation to the total legal costs for this case.

The Department took the decision to defend the claims on the basis of legal advice and the fact that, following the withdrawal of the first case at hearing, the second case had, previously, been dismissed by the County Court.

Legal Proceedings Taken by Security Staff in Relation to Guaranteed Overtime

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an estimate of (i) the number of security staff who will benefit from the recent successful legal proceedings taken by security staff in relation to guaranteed overtime; (ii) the cost of compensation and back payments.

(AQW 13533/11-15)

Mr Wilson: A judgement has been issued in respect of an individual Plaintiff and the Department is considering the wider impact, if any, for other staff. Until such issues have been finally determined information on the numbers of staff affected or the cost of compensation and back payments is not available.

Empty Premises Relief Scheme

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many applications for Empty Premises Relief have been received for the (i) Newry and Mourne; (ii) Down; and (iii) Banbridge Council areas to date; how many of these applications have been approved.

(AQW 13560/11-15)

Mr Wilson: At 9th July 2012, applications for Empty Premises Relief have been received by Land & Property Services for the requested areas are as follows: Newry & Mourne 7; Down 2; and Banbridge 1.

Two applications from the Newry & Mourne council area met the criteria, however, the applications from both Down and Banbridge were not successful.

Unoccupied Non-Domestic Properties

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of unoccupied non-domestic properties in each of the last three years, broken down by council area.

(AQW 13581/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The number of vacant non-domestic properties in each Council area as at 31st March 2010, 31st March 2011 and 31st March 2012 is given in the table overleaf.

District Council	Vacant Non-Domestic Properties as at 31 March 2010	Vacant Non-Domestic Properties as at 31 March 2011	Vacant Non-Domestic Properties as at 31 March 2012
Antrim	375	386	395
Ards	542	561	582
Armagh	541	532	533
Ballymena	441	456	485

District Council	Vacant Non-Domestic Properties as at 31 March 2010	Vacant Non-Domestic Properties as at 31 March 2011	Vacant Non-Domestic Properties as at 31 March 2012
Ballymoney	181	197	204
Banbridge	383	400	408
Belfast	4,052	4,410	4,632
Carrickfergus	214	235	218
Castlereagh	230	262	255
Coleraine	483	485	500
Cookstown	393	402	416
Craigavon	867	876	825
Derry	787	831	826
Down	591	601	605
Dungannon & South Tyrone	574	608	620
Fermanagh	679	727	712
Larne	247	258	259
Limavady	283	289	301
Lisburn	713	756	760
Magherafelt	401	388	413
Moyle	103	121	112
Newry & Mourne	938	953	942
Newtownabbey	497	524	496
North Down	363	453	448
Omagh	573	597	594
Strabane	353	355	346
NI Total	15,804	16,663	16,887

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Prescription Waiting Times at Royal Victoria Hospital

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why outpatients at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, have to wait up to six hours to receive their medication and be discharged from hospital compared with outpatients at the Belfast City Hospital who can collect their medication and be discharged immediately.

(AQW 13341/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): The Royal Victoria Hospital's average time to process a prescription is 82 minutes with 75% dispensed within the 120 min target, whereas Belfast City Hospital's average time to process a prescription is 91 minutes with 76% dispensed within the 120 min target.

A number of factors can influence patient waiting times including the availability of the doctor to write the prescription, pressure on pharmacy services and complexity of the individual prescription. I have been advised by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust that it is currently reviewing the situation and taking appropriate action to comply with the target.

Nurse who Specialises in Muscular Dystrophy and Related Neuromuscular Conditions

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when a nurse who specialises in muscular dystrophy and related neuromuscular conditions will be appointed.

(AQW 13378/11-15)

Mr Poots: I refer the member to my response to AQW 12947/11 on 2 July 2012.

Capital Asset Disposal

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the capital assets of which his Department intends to dispose in each of the next three years.

(AQW 13384/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is intended that the following DHSSPS capital assets (land and property) will be disposed of in each of next three financial years:

	Financial Year 2012/13
1	149 Falls Road, Belfast
2	151 Falls Road, Belfast
3	Braniel Health Clinic, Glen Road, Belfast
4	137-141 Ormeau Road, Belfast
5	St Dymphna's Cemetery, Downpatrick
6	Site at Market Street, Downpatrick
7	Land at Plot 13, T & F Hospital Site, Crevenagh Road, Omagh

	Financial Year 2013/14
1	Glasvey Special Care School, Ballykelly
2	Land at Downshire Hospital site, Downpatrick
3	Land at Drumcoo Derrygore Road, Enniskillen

	Financial Year 2014/15
1	Land at T & F Hospital Site, Omagh
2	Land at Whiteabbey Hospital Site, Whiteabbey
3	Land at Gransha Hospital Site, Londonderry

Psychosexual Counselling

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have received psychosexual counselling in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13391/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of people who have received psychosexual counselling in each of the last three years is not available centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Domiciliary Care Providers in the Western Health and Social Care Trust

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the total legal costs attributable to the defence of the decision to award contracts to four domiciliary care providers in the Western Health and Social Care Trust in June 2011; and whether any costs were paid to the providers who successfully challenged the award of these contracts.

(AQW 13408/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Trust received four individual legal challenges. The combined cost of dealing with the defence of the four cases was £70,726 including VAT and disbursements. One case was withdrawn and three were settled. The terms of settlement are confidential as between the parties and their legal advisors.

Domiciliary Care Providers in the Western Health and Social Care Trust

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the total cost of the procurement process, including any costs attributable to tendering or decision making, which led to the appointment of four domiciliary care providers in the Western Health and Social Care Trust in June 2011.

(AQW 13409/11-15)

Mr Poots: The homecare tender project has a dedicated resource of one Project Manager, appointed on 1st March 2009 at an annual cost of approximately £40,000. The evaluation and decision-making responsibilities fell to Trust officers as part of their routine roles within the Trust. No additional cost was therefore entailed. The tender process was facilitated by the 'e-bravo' electronic tender system hosted by the Business Services Organisation's Procurement and Logistics Service (PaLS), who also provided guidance as required. Again, this was within the substantive role of PaLS and incurred no additional costs.

Domiciliary Care Providers in the Western Health and Social Care Trust

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how the new procurement process will be taken forward following the successful challenge by providers over the decision to award contracts to four domiciliary care providers in the Western Health and Social Care Trust in June 2011.

(AQW 13410/11-15)

Mr Poots: The process will be taken forward by a new tender which will be undertaken in accordance with Public Procurement Regulations 2006 (as amended). As such, it will be advertised in the Official Journal of the E.U. via the "open" procedure.

Sufferers of Deuchenne's Muscular Dystrophy

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans he has to establish a centre of excellence for sufferers of Deuchenne's Muscular Dystrophy.

(AQW 13427/11-15)

Mr Poots: There are currently no plans to establish such a centre of excellence in Northern Ireland. However, I have asked my officials to collaborate with the Health and Social Care Board in considering the findings and recommendations of the All Party Working Group on Muscular Dystrophy's "The

McCollum Report: Access to specialist neuromuscular care in Northern Ireland”, which was launched on 3 July, and report back to me.

Deuchenne’s Muscular Dystrophy

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he is taking to alleviate the suffering of those diagnosed with Deuchenne’s Muscular Dystrophy.

(AQW 13428/11-15)

Mr Poots: Following diagnosis, people with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy are referred to the Special Regional Muscle Clinic at Belfast City Hospital. This is a generic, all-age neuromuscular clinic at Belfast City Hospital held twice monthly, which has input from Adult and Paediatric Neurologists, an Orthopaedic Surgeon, and Consultant Geneticist. The clinic also provides therapy from Allied Health Profession staff, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and orthoptics. The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign officer also attends to provide family support.

In addition, the Belfast Trust has recently advertised for a new Neuromuscular Nurse Specialist Post, which will cover both adults and children and will have a greater clinical focus. This will establish a nurse-led service that could potentially review patients in their own home as well as in hospital.

Mourneside Family Practice, Ballycolman Avenue, Strabane

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients (i) are registered with the Mourneside Family Practice, Ballycolman Avenue, Strabane; and (ii) have attended the practice in the last twelve months.

(AQW 13429/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) There were 10,780 patients registered with Practice 601, Mourneside Family Practice, Ballycolman Avenue, Strabane as at 1st April 2012.
- (ii) The information requested is not available centrally.

Mourneside Family Practice, Ballycolman Avenue, Strabane

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many car-parking spaces are available to members of the public accessing the Mourneside Family Practice, Ballycolman Avenue, Strabane.

(AQW 13430/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Mourneside Family Practice, on Ballycolman Avenue in Strabane, is not a Western Health and Social Care Trust facility but is a General Practitioner owned practice.

I can confirm, however, that there are 20 public car parking spaces available to the public at this practice.

Out-of-hours Services by Western Urgent Care

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many telephone contacts were received by the Western Urgent Care Out of Hours service; and to list the the location of these contacts, broken down by district council area.

(AQW 13431/11-15)

Mr Poots: The number of telephone contacts received by the Western Urgent Care Out of Hours service during the year April 2011 – March 2012 is shown in the table below. Figures are allocated to District Council area based on the location of the clinician; it should be noted that this may differ from the location of the patient making the call. Information on the location of the patient is not available centrally.

The figures include all telephone contacts regardless of the outcome, so will include patients who were asked to attend the OOH centre or who received a home visit, as well as those who received telephone advice.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF TELEPHONE CONTACTS RECEIVED BY THE WESTERN URGENT CARE OUT OF HOURS SERVICE, APRIL 2011 – MARCH 2012.

District Council Area	Out of Hours Centre	Number of Telephone Contacts
Derry	Altnagelvin OOH Centre	46624
Limavady	Limavady OOH Centre	10313
Strabane	Strabane OOH Centre	12397
Omagh	Omagh OOH Centre	21348
Fermanagh	Enniskillen OOH Centre	19517

Patient Seen by Western Urgent Out of Hours Care

Ms Boyle asked inister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients were seen at each of the Out of Hours centres in the Western Urgent Care area in the last year.

(AQW 13432/11-15)

Mr Poots: The number of patients seen at each of the Out of Hours centres in the Western Urgent Care area during the year April 2011 – March 2012 is shown in the table below.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF PATIENTS SEEN AT EACH OF THE OUT OF HOURS CENTRES IN THE WESTERN URGENT CARE AREA, APRIL 2011 – MARCH 2012.

Out of Hours Centre	Number of Attendances
Altnagelvin OOH Centre	23,717
Limavady OOH Centre	5,448
Strabane OOH Centre	6,638
Omagh OOH Centre	10,440
Enniskillen OOH Centre	9,933

Out of Hours Service in Strabane

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients have been advised, upon telephone contact with Western Urgent Care, to attend the Out of Hours Service in Strabane within the last year.

(AQW 13433/11-15)

Mr Poots: During the year April 2011 – March 2012, 6,638 patients attended the Out of Hours Service in Strabane. The majority of these patients will have been advised to attend the Out of Hours service following telephone contact with Western Urgent Care, however the figure also includes patients who attended the centre without first telephoning Western Urgent Care, but these numbers are very small.

Nursing Accommodation on Rathlin Island

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if there are plans to downgrade the nursing accommodation on Rathlin Island and whether any assessment has been made of the impact this would have on overnight nursing care on the island.

(AQW 13446/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Health and Social Care Trust is responsible for the provision of nursing accommodation on Rathlin Island. I have been advised by the Trust that as the accommodation previously rented is no longer available, and having considered a number of suitable alternatives, the Trust is now renting a new treatment room, office accommodation and living quarters in the newly refurbished Richard Branson Centre.

The new accommodation arrangement, which came into effect on 29 June, fully meets the treatment room requirements and the needs of a member of nursing staff required to stay overnight.

Waiting Times for Communication Advice Centre Assessments

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the current waiting times for communication advice centre assessments.

(AQW 13455/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Communication Advice Centre regional service at Musgrave Park Hospital has seen a significant increase in referral numbers. This increase has created a capacity and demand gap leading to a waiting list backlog.

In order to address this, the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the Public Health Agency are actively finalising recurrent monies to help decrease the capacity gap and, in the intervening period, they are seeking to recruit temporary staff to help address the backlog.

Dyslexia Glasses

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department has any plans to make dyslexia glasses available through the Health Service.

(AQW 13456/11-15)

Mr Poots: The prescribing of tinted glasses for dyslexia is currently not provided for by the Department under the General Ophthalmic Services framework. Whilst some evidence exists for the provision of tints for certain learning difficulties, the current evidence base for the prescribing of tints for dyslexia is deemed insufficient to permit provision under General Ophthalmic Services. The Health and Social Care Board only contract primary eye care services within the current General Ophthalmic Services framework.

Upgrading Cancer Services at the Ulster Hospital

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans are in place to upgrade cancer services at the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald.

(AQW 13468/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Ulster Hospital is one of five cancer units in Northern Ireland that manage patients with more common cancers and provide local chemotherapy services. Services are currently provided in the MacDermott Unit.

A major capital investment programme (Phase A) has been completed at the Ulster Hospital. Enabling works have commenced on a second phase of redevelopment, (referred to as Phase B). The MacDermott unit upgrade, whilst forming part of the longer term redevelopment strategy for the hospital, is not included in current plans for the Budget 2010 period. This project is subject to on-going review in the light of emerging priorities and as the proposals in Transforming Your Care are taken forward.

Re-Evaluated and Upgraded Posts

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail how many posts have been re-evaluated and upgraded over the last five years, broken down by each Trust.

(AQW 13472/11-15)

Mr Poots: There have been a total of 1,696 non-medical posts in the Health and Social Care that have been upgraded as a result of re-evaluation in the last five years. 502 of these were in Belfast HSC Trust, 289 in the Northern HSC Trust, 258 in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 377 in the Southern HSC Trust, 263 in the Western HSC Trust and 7 in the NI Ambulance Services Trust.

Voluntary Early Retirements in Health and Social Care Trusts

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the Voluntary Early Retirements in all Health and Social Care Trusts over the last twelve months including the cost and savings achieved.

(AQW 13475/11-15)

Mr Poots: There have been a total of 86 Voluntary Early Retirements in the Health and Social Care Trusts in the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. The total cost was £4,859,524 and the total savings that will be achieved as a result of these early retirements is £6,628,141 over the payback period.

A breakdown of this information by Trust is as follows:

- Belfast HSC Trust: 19: cost £1.5m, savings of £1.5m;
- Northern HSC Trust: 34: cost £1,157,427, savings of £2,740,680;
- South Eastern HSC Trust: 8: cost £443,971, savings of £420,173;
- Southern HSC Trust: 21: cost £1,473,923, savings of £1,682,185;
- Western HSC Trust: 4: cost of £284,203, savings of £285,103.

There have been no Voluntary Early Retirements in the NI Ambulance Service Trust over the last twelve months.

Cyberknife SBRT Treatment

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been referred for Cyberknife SBRT treatment in each of the last five years.

(AQW 13476/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have been advised by the Health and Social Care Board that information on the number of people referred for CyberKnife Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy treatment in the 2007 calendar year is not available.

Information on the number of people who have been referred for CyberKnife Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy treatment, during each calendar year since 2008, is detailed in the table below:

Year	No. of people referred for CyberKnife SBRT treatment
2008	8
2009	21
2010	30
2011	3

Source: Health and Social Care Board

Permanent GP in Ederney, Co Fermanagh

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) for an update on his Department's efforts to secure a permanent GP in Ederney, Co Fermanagh; (ii) when the recruitment of

a new permanent GP will begin; and (iii) when the local community can expect a new permanent GP to take up the post.

(AQW 13535/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) convened a group consisting of members of the HSCB, the Local Medical Committee, the Local Commissioning Group and the Patient and Client Council on 7th June 2012 to address issues around the running of the Ederney Practice in the short term and to assist in the long term future of the Practice.
- (ii) A recruitment process has commenced following agreement at the meeting on 7th June.
- (iii) It is anticipated that a new permanent GP would take up post in autumn 2012.

Service Framework for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Care

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) whether the Service Frameworks Programme Board has approved the implementation plan for the Service Framework for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Care; and (ii) when the updated Framework will be published on his Department's website.

(AQW 13537/11-15)

Mr Poots: The implementation plan for the Service Framework for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Care was considered by the Service Frameworks Programme Board, chaired by the Chief Medical Officer, in March 2012.

While significant progress had been made in the implementation of the Framework, a number of Key Performance Indicators still required baseline auditing. It was agreed therefore that further development of the plan was warranted and a revised Implementation Plan should be developed and submitted to the Service Frameworks Programme Board at its September 2012 meeting. It is expected that an updated version of the Framework will be published on my Department's website thereafter.

Bowel Cancer Screening Programme

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consideration has been given to further developments in the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme, including (i) the extension of the upper-age range; (ii) the incorporation of flexible sigmoidoscopy; and (iii) the replacement of the current faecal occult blood test with the Faecal Immunochemical Test.

(AQW 13538/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The Bowel Cancer Screening Programme, when launched in 2010, was offered to eligible men and women aged 60-69. In April 2012 it was extended to include men and women aged 60-71. The Programme for Government 2011-15, includes a commitment to extend the age range for bowel cancer screening up to age 74 across all Trust areas from April 2014.
- (ii) The Advisory Committee on Bowel Cancer Screening in England is currently establishing a flexible sigmoidoscopy pilot. The pilot is expected to commence in winter/early spring 2013 and will test the IT system in terms of supporting the programme and consider staffing models for future roll out. I will await the outcome of this pilot before making a decision on introducing flexible sigmoidoscopy to the Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening Programme.
- (iii) In Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales the faecal occult blood test (FOBT) is sent to individuals to complete at home. Those who receive an 'unclear' result are then sent a faecal immunochemical test (FIT) to complete.

There have been concerns about the stability of some FIT tests and work is ongoing to improve reliability. The Advisory Committee for Bowel Cancer Screening is planning to pilot the FIT test as the primary screening test in 2014/2015. I will await the outcome of this pilot before making a decision to replace the FOBT.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Guidance

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the publication of circular HSC (SQSD) NICE 04/11 in September 2011, whether the timescales are being achieved for (i) the endorsement of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance; and (ii) commissioning endorsed NICE guidance.

(AQW 13539/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) Since the publication of circular HSC (SQSD) NICE 04/11, my Department has endorsed almost all Technology Appraisals and the majority of Clinical Guidelines published by NICE within the required timescales.
- (ii) Where new treatments were commissioned, the majority of commissioning plans for Technology Appraisals and Board responses for Clinical Guidelines have been submitted to my Department by the HSC Board within the required timescales.

Circular HSC (SQSD) NICE 04/11

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the publication of circular HSC (SQSD) NICE 04/11 in September 2011, what measures are in place to ensure that patients can access effective treatments in the period between the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence approval and his Department approving the commissioning plan for the Technology Appraisal.

(AQW 13540/11-15)

Mr Poots: For cancer drugs commissioning arrangements for 2012/13 have been agreed including drugs that have been approved by NICE at final draft or final stage but not yet endorsed for use in Northern Ireland. Funding will be on a cost per case basis. Trusts are required to submit a request in respect of each patient in advance of treatment commencing.

A Medicines Management Commissioning Team has been established which met for the first time in early July. This team will play a key role in ensuring that commissioning arrangements for all new drugs in Northern Ireland are robust, transparent and facilitate timely access to evidence-based treatments.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Guidance

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) when he will receive the first annual report from the Health and Social Care Board on the progress in commissioning services in accordance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance endorsed by his Department, as stated in HSC (SQSD) NICE 04/11; and (ii) whether the report will be published.

(AQW 13541/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The first progress report is expected to be submitted to my Department in April 2013 and will cover the 18 month period from the start of the new process for Endorsement, Implementation, Monitoring and Assurance of NICE Technology Appraisals and Clinical Guidelines in Northern Ireland. The HSC Board will report annually thereafter.
- (ii) It is intended that the first and subsequent reports will be published.

Foyle Search and Rescue: Funding

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant AQW 13350/11-15, to detail (i) why his Department does not fund Foyle Search and Rescue given its remit towards public safety and the recent launch of the refreshed Protect Life Strategy; and (ii) whether he will give consideration to providing financial support to Foyle Search and Rescue.

(AQW 13547/11-15)

Mr Poots: The funding of individual groups to provide suicide prevention services is an operational issue and is not, therefore, addressed under the refreshed Protect Life Strategy. However, the Strategy contains an action on supporting community-based suicide prevention and bereavement support initiatives. In taking forward this action, the Public Health Agency (PHA) provides funding for community-led initiatives. Foyle Search and Rescue has been allocated £175,600 by the PHA under Protect Life over the period 2007-2013, including £25,000 in the current financial year. The organisation has also received £17,411 from the PHA through the CLEAR project's small grants scheme.

Care for Older People in Hospitals and Care Homes

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what measures he is taking to ensure dignity in the care for older people in hospitals and care homes.

(AQW 13567/11-15)

Mr Poots: The concept of treating all patients, irrespective of their age or any disability, with dignity and respect at all times is integral to the training of all healthcare professionals. All registered professions have very clear Codes of Conduct built into the regulatory requirements, and all registrants must maintain those standards in order to remain on their professional register.

Care for People with a Learning Disability in Hospitals and Care Homes

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what measures he is taking to ensure dignity in the care for people with a learning disability in hospitals and care homes.

(AQW 13568/11-15)

Mr Poots: The concept of treating all patients, irrespective of their age or any disability, with dignity and respect at all times is integral to the training of all healthcare professionals. All registered professions have very clear Codes of Conduct built into the regulatory requirements, and all registrants must maintain those standards in order to remain on their professional register.

Abuse in Hospital or Care Home Settings

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what measures he is taking to ensure that older people do not suffer abuse in hospital or care home settings.

(AQW 13569/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department, in conjunction with other agencies, continues to develop measures aimed at safeguarding all vulnerable adults, including older people and people with a learning disability, in hospitals and care homes. Such measures include:

- Implementing the changes to disclosure and barring arrangements for preventing unsuitable individuals from working with vulnerable groups;
- Development of a service framework for the health and wellbeing of older people; and
- Development of a safeguarding vulnerable adults training programme targeted at the voluntary, community and independent sectors.

In addition, the Health and Social Care Board, together with the Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NIASP):

- Launched a training DVD which addresses the phenomenon of abuse of vulnerable adults in care settings;
- Are reviewing current regional adult protection operating policies and procedural guidance by the NIASP;
- Are planning a conference aimed at the acute sector, including hospitals, which will focus on adult safeguarding and will take place later this year.

Abuse in Hospital or Care Home Settings

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what measures he is taking to ensure that people with a learning disability do not suffer abuse in hospital or care home settings.

(AQW 13570/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department, in conjunction with other agencies, continues to develop measures aimed at safeguarding all vulnerable adults, including older people and people with a learning disability, in hospitals and care homes. Such measures include:

- Implementing the changes to disclosure and barring arrangements for preventing unsuitable individuals from working with vulnerable groups;
- Development of a service framework for the health and wellbeing of older people; and
- Development of a safeguarding vulnerable adults training programme targeted at the voluntary, community and independent sectors.

In addition, the Health and Social Care Board, together with the Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NIASP):

- Launched a training DVD which addresses the phenomenon of abuse of vulnerable adults in care settings;
- Are reviewing current regional adult protection operating policies and procedural guidance by the NIASP;
- Are planning a conference aimed at the acute sector, including hospitals, which will focus on adult safeguarding and will take place later this year.

The Future of Adult Care

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the reasons for the delay in publishing the discussion paper on The Future of Adult Care and Support in Northern Ireland; and for his assessment of the impact of this delay.

(AQW 13571/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is widely accepted that issues such as an ageing population, increased public expectations and a difficult financial climate are putting adult social care provision in Northern Ireland under increasing pressure. If we are to meet the challenges that these issues present, change is needed, and that is why I have committed to a three stage process of reform to identify the future direction of adult social care.

Reform of this scale poses a significant challenge, and while I recognise there has been some delay in publishing the first stage in the reform process, it is important that we take the time to ensure that the discussion document covers all the key issues, and is capable of promoting meaningful discussion and debate. It is my intention to publish the discussion document before the end of August, which will be followed by an extensive consultation phase aimed at reaching as many people as possible.

Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Treatment Equipment

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to 13163/11-15, to detail the type of cancers that were treated by Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Treatment.

(AQW 13572/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health and Social Care Board have informed me that information on the types of cancer that were treated with Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Treatment is not collected centrally, and can only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Cost of Using Sterile Water Compared to Using Point-of-Use Filters

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the pseudomonas investigation, what conclusion has the Department reached on the cost of using sterile water compared to using Point-of-Use filters.

(AQW 13588/11-15)

Mr Poots: RQIA's interim and final reports of the Independent Review of Incidents of Pseudomonas aeruginosa Infection in Neonatal Units in Northern Ireland recommended that sterile water should be used when washing all babies in neonatal care (Levels 1, 2 and 3) and that this should be kept under review in relation to babies in Level 3 neonatal units (Special Care Baby Units) as new evidence emerges.

The Department has not costed the use of sterile water.

Passported Benefits

Mr McCallister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the passported benefits for which his Department has responsibility, including (i) the total of each benefit paid; and (ii) the number of recipients, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 13607/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department is responsible for the following passported benefits: free Health Service dental treatment; free Health Service sight tests; vouchers towards the cost of glasses or contact lenses, the payment of necessary travel costs to hospital for Health Service treatment; and the Healthy Start Voucher scheme. Further information on these passported benefits is set out in the tables below:

Benefit	Total paid 2007/08 £m	Total paid 2008/09 £m	Total paid 2009/10 £m	Total paid 2010/11 £m	Total paid 2011/12 £m
Free Health Service Dental Treatment	15.8	16.8	18.6	22.0	22.5
Free Health Service Sight Tests and vouchers towards the cost of glasses or contact lenses	6.9	7.4	8.1	7.7	7.3
Payment of necessary travel costs to hospital for health service treatment ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Healthy Start Voucher scheme	2.4	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.3

1 Information on the costs for the payment of necessary travel costs to hospital for health service treatment is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Benefit	Total recipients 2007/08	Total recipients 2008/09	Total recipients 2009/10	Total recipients 2010/11	Total recipients 2011/12
Free Health Service Dental Treatment	177,099	185,276	200,474	224,104	231,928
Free Health Service Sight Tests and vouchers towards the cost of glasses or contact lenses ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Benefit	Total recipients 2007/08	Total recipients 2008/09	Total recipients 2009/10	Total recipients 2010/11	Total recipients 2011/12
Payment of necessary travel costs to hospital for health service treatment ²	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Healthy Start Voucher scheme ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	17,222	17,438

- 1 The number of recipients accessing ophthalmic services is not available
- 2 Information on the recipients of payment for necessary travel costs to hospital for health service treatment is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.
- 3 Responsibility for the delivery of this service transferred to the Business Services Organisation (BSO) in April 2010, it is not possible to provide activity figures for the period before this date. However, based upon expenditure information, it could be assumed that activity levels in 2007/08 to 2009/10 were broadly similar to those reported in 2010/11 & 2011/12.

Hospital Network in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust Area

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to the creation of the Hospital network in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area and the assessment of need for a new hospital, when such an assessment will be made and whether the assessment will be made on the basis of clinical need.

(AQW 13608/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Health and Social Care Trust Draft Population Plan, as do all Trusts' draft Plans, sets out an assessment of the needs of its local population and how those needs are to be delivered.

Draft Population Plans together with a draft Strategic Implementation Plan have now been published on my Department's website and will be subject to quality assurance and further engagement with clinical leaders over the summer months. All of these draft Plans include proposals for hospital configuration to ensure that acute services adhere to best practice in terms of quality outcomes, infrastructure and staffing and that they are safe, resilient and sustainable based on clinical assessment. No decisions have yet been made in relation to the future hospital configuration, including services in the Northern Trust area.

These plans are only proposals and it is appropriate that the material which has been produced is considered carefully. Once finalised, all Plans will be subject to formal consultation, over the autumn, which will ensure that people are informed and engaged in shaping the future for the health and care sector. Further public consultation would be undertaken on any significant service changes being proposed in light of conclusions on the Strategic Implementation Plan and Populations Plans.

MRI Scanners

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many MRI scanners were available, at each acute hospital, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13616/11-15)

Mr Poots: The numbers of MRI scanners which were available, at acute hospitals, in each of the last three years are as follows:

Acute Hospital	2012	2011	2010
Belfast City Hospital	2	2	2
Mater Hospital	1	1	1

Acute Hospital	2012	2011	2010
Musgrave Park Hospital	2	2	2
Royal Victoria Hospital	2	2	2
Antrim Hospital	1	1	1
Ulster Hospital	2	1	1
Craigavon Hospital	1	1	1
Altnagelvin Hospital	1	1	1
*South West Acute Hospital	1	-	-

Acute Hospitals: Funding

Mr Campbell asked Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the total level of funding allocated to each acute hospital across the 2011-15 budgetary period.

(AQW 13617/11-15)

Mr Poots: This information is not available as funding is not allocated at hospital site level.

New Build for Oakridge Social Education Centre, Dungannon

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the timescale for the new build for Oakridge Social Education Centre, Dungannon.

(AQW 13622/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Southern Health and Social Care Trust is currently developing the business case for Oakridge Social Education Centre. Upon receipt, the business case will need to be assessed and approved by my Department and by the Department of Finance and Personnel.

Once the business case has been approved, I will consider the timing of this and other projects in light of my available budget.

Nursing and Midwifery Non-Means Tested Award

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why the nursing and midwifery non-means tested award is being reduced by his Department; and how he intends to support nursing and midwifery students who may be struggling in the current economic climate.

(AQW 13625/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department is currently consulting on the Review of Healthcare Bursaries and the proposals in relation to nursing and midwifery are aimed at beginning to harmonise arrangements with other health and social care students.

The current proposal is for a reduction from £6055 to £5165 per annum. Unlike bursary provision for the other healthcare professions, this is a non means-tested entitlement which continues to be available to all nursing and midwifery students.

Book and Uniform Allowance for Nursing and Midwifery Students

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why the one-off book and uniform allowance for nursing and midwifery students is being discontinued, given the benefit it provides for students, particularly students from low-income backgrounds.

(AQW 13627/11-15)

Mr Poots: The removal of the one-off book and uniform allowance for Nursing and Midwifery students, is proposed in the Consultation on the Review of HSC Student Bursary Schemes. The proposals presented in the review are aimed at beginning to harmonise the support arrangements provided across the health and social care professions. The book and uniform allowance is not provided to any other health and social care students.

The decision on the possible removal of this allowance will be taken following completion of the consultation on 2nd August.

Nursing and Midwifery students continue to receive support throughout their training by provision of a non means tested, non repayable bursary, and the potential availability of a range of other allowances such as Disabled Students' Allowance and Dependants' Allowance, based on their individual circumstances.

Nursing and Midwifery Students

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action his Department intends to take to financially support nursing and midwifery students in terms of bursaries and allowances, given the current economic pressures on students.

(AQW 13629/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department provides all nursing and midwifery students with a non means-tested, non repayable bursary, and funds the entire cost of tuition fees to the university. In addition, nursing and midwifery students can apply for additional allowances such as Parental Learning Allowance, Disability Allowance, and contribution to childcare costs, subject to individual circumstances and attendant eligibility.

My Department is currently consulting on proposals for a modest reduction in the nursing bursary, and removal of the book and uniform allowance, provided only to nursing and midwifery students. This is a first step in harmonisation of DHSSPS-funded student support provided across the healthcare professions. If this reduction is introduced, all nursing and midwifery students will remain entitled to a non means tested bursary of £5165 per annum and there will be no change to the additional allowances available subject to eligibility. Staffing Arrangements at the Patient Client Council, Omagh

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the staffing arrangements at the Patient Client Council, Omagh, following the recent retirement of staff.

(AQW 13649/11-15)

Mr Poots: The staffing complement in the Patient and client Council's (PCC) Omagh office is currently four. Prior to the retirement of two members of staff, one Administrative Officer and one Patient and Client Support Officer, the PCC put in place temporary arrangements to ensure continuity of service for people in the Western Area. This included the recruitment of a temporary member of staff to assist with personal and public involvement work in the Western area, and for all calls to the Omagh office being answered centrally by PCC.

The Patient and Client Council is undergoing a review of its organisational structure and it is planned changes to its structures will be implemented in 2013.

Consultant's Post at an Acute Hospital

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the minimum required notification to be given to a medical consultant, from outside the United Kingdom, to attend an interview for a consultant's post at an acute hospital.

(AQW 13660/11-15)

Mr Poots: Consultants are appointed to health and social care organisations in accordance with the Health and Personal Social Services Appointment of Consultants Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996. The accompanying guidance to the regulations provides useful advice to employers when making

appointments to consultant posts. Neither the regulations nor the guidance specifies a minimum period of notification for interview for either a UK or international applicant.

Recruitment & selection policy and procedures have been developed within each Trust and the advice from all Trusts is there is no difference in the period of notification for interview for either a UK or international applicant. Trusts normally liaise with individual applicants in relation to their availability and plan accordingly.

Funding for Residential Care

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether consideration is being given to a review of funding for residential care.

(AQW 13661/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is widely accepted that issues such as an ageing population, increased public expectations and a difficult financial climate are putting adult social care services, including residential care, in Northern Ireland under increasing pressure. If we are to meet the challenges that these issues present, change is needed, and that is why I have committed to a three stage process of reform to identify the future direction of adult social care.

The first stage of this, which I aim to publish in August 2012, will be the development of a discussion document setting out the challenges that the system is facing and aiming to promote a public debate around the future of adult social care. This will include discussion around how services such as residential care should be funded in the future, with a view to establishing a fair and sustainable system of funding.

Fire and Rescue Service's Recruitment Exercise

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety who chaired the Appeal Panel for the practical aptitude test in the Fire and Rescue Service's wholetime recruitment exercise.

(AQW 13684/11-15)

Mr Poots: Assistant Chief Fire Officer Eoin Doyle chaired the appeal panel for the practical aptitude test.

Fire and Rescue Service's Recruitment Exercise

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail of candidates who (a) appealed their results; and (b) were permitted to resit the practical aptitude test in the Fire and Rescue Service's wholetime recruitment exercise.

(AQW 13685/11-15)

Mr Poots: A total of 67 candidates appealed in writing to the Recruitment & Services Manager in relation to the Practical Tests.

Of the 67 candidates who appealed, 44 were given a re-test, after the Panel had considered each appeal on individual merit. Of the 44 candidates given a re-test, 37 were successful when re-tested and these candidates then proceeded to interview stage.

Fire and Rescue Service's Recruitment Exercise

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the (i) number; and (ii) names of candidates who were successfully recruited to the Fire and Rescue Service after appealing their practical aptitude test results in the wholetime recruitment exercise.

(AQW 13686/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) Of those candidates who appealed their Practical Aptitude Test results, five were successfully recruited.

- (ii) The names of successful appellants cannot be released as this would be a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Fire and Rescue Service's Recruitment Exercise

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail who (i) chaired; and (ii) was involved in the Appeal Panel when the practical aptitude test performance of candidate Doyle in the Fire and Rescue Service's wholetime recruitment exercise was considered.

(AQW 13687/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information relating to individual candidates cannot be released as this would be a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Fire and Rescue Service's Recruitment Exercise

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety who was responsible for the process of re-testing the candidates who appealed their initial result in the Fire and Rescue Service's wholetime recruitment exercise.

(AQW 13688/11-15)

Mr Poots: Successful appellants were re-tested in the appropriate elements by Fire & Rescue Service Assessors. The Assessors involved in the retesting did not include any individuals who were members of the Appeal Panel.

Fire and Rescue Service's Recruitment Exercise

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail which elements of the Fire and Rescue Service's wholetime recruitment exercise candidates were permitted to appeal.

(AQW 13689/11-15)

Mr Poots: The recruitment competition comprised four stages: a multi-stage fitness test; an assessment of the candidate's application form; a Practical Aptitude Test (PAT); and an interview.

Of the four stages, only the PAT had an appeal process.

Elective and Non-Elective Admissions

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail how many (i) elective; and (ii) non-elective admissions there were in (a) medicine; and (b) surgery at each hospital, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13698/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of (i) elective; and (ii) non-elective admissions in (a) medicine; and (b) surgery at each hospital, in each of the last three years, are given in the following tables.

All admissions to the medicine and surgery specialties within the Acute Programme of Care have been included.

- i) (a) The number of elective admissions to the medicine specialties at each hospital, in each of the last three years

Hospital	Medicine		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Altnagelvin	11,140	8,456	8,397
Antrim	7,141	7,722	7,114
Ards	414	420	444

Hospital	Medicine		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Banbridge	513	932	492
Bangor	5	5	6
Belfast City	17,223	7,972	8,221
Braid Valley	4	1	0
Cancer Centre	2,121	11,084	11,542
Causeway	3,184	3,035	2,774
Craigavon	6,485	7,084	8,362
Daisy Hill	2,021	1,937	2,136
Dalriada	278	229	192
Downe	822	852	1,071
Erne	1,357	1,342	1,576
Forster Green	318	309	354
Lagan Valley	1,425	1,547	1,485
Lurgan	188	25	2
Mater	1,785	2,029	2,193
Mid Ulster	1,526	1,432	1,962
Moyle	3	4	5
Musgrave Park	8,867	8,968	8,780
RBHSC	9	5	993
Robinson Memorial	25	24	38
Royal Maternity	0	1	1
Royal Victoria	11,780	12,097	12,567
South Tyrone	2,019	1,943	2,153
Thompson House	237	255	251
Tyrone County	492	557	744
Ulster	11,392	7,889	8,045
Whiteabbey	2,457	2,146	2,703
Total	95,231	90,302	94,603

Source: Hospital Inpatient System

- i) (b) The number of elective admissions¹ to the surgery specialties at each hospital, in each of the last three years

Hospital	Surgery		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Altnagelvin	15,632	16,385	16,036
Antrim	6,178	5,824	5,129
Ards	5,839	5,777	5,275
Belfast City	13,788	12,713	12,911
Cancer Centre	0	2	1
Causeway	6,616	6,741	6,749
Craigavon	11,193	11,432	11,031
Daisy Hill	4,223	4,110	4,535
Downe	1,824	2,031	1,916
Erne	3,113	3,463	2,869
Lagan Valley	5,267	5,119	5,523
Mater	7,346	7,984	8,031
Mid Ulster	2,638	2,565	2,800
Musgrave Park	9,683	8,724	8,479
RBHSC	0	0	1,310
Royal Maternity	3	2	0
Royal Victoria	23,493	20,094	18,997
South Tyrone	3,240	3,410	3,176
Tyrone County	4,470	4,175	4,151
Ulster	7,091	7,391	6,864
Whiteabbey	2,500	2,307	1,817
Total	134,137	130,249	127,600

Source: Hospital Inpatient System

- ii) (a) The number of non-elective admissions to the medicine specialties at each hospital, in each of the last three years

Hospital	Medicine		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Altnagelvin	8,215	8,266	8,725
Antrim	10,654	10,461	11,903
Ards	528	389	267
Bangor	578	509	502
Belfast City	9,122	8,644	8,508

Hospital	Medicine		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Braid Valley	60	67	60
Cancer Centre	742	769	753
Causeway	4,051	3,930	4,138
Craigavon	10,521	10,407	10,342
Daisy Hill	4,446	4,377	4,722
Dalriada	179	173	211
Downe	3,754	3,631	3,124
Erne	2,795	4,435	4,768
Forster Green	14	8	10
Lagan Valley	3,641	3,595	3,666
Lurgan	104	90	130
Mater	6,278	6,019	6,324
Mid Ulster	2,569	2,336	1,023
Moyle	33	103	184
Musgrave Park	204	201	261
RBHSC	61	60	831
Robinson Memorial	94	145	195
Royal Victoria	7,285	8,660	9,540
Thompson House	5	13	11
Tyrone County	2,948	1,989	2,307
Ulster	10,967	11,085	11,227
Whiteabbey	2,155	1,936	484
Total	92,003	92,298	94,216

Source: Hospital Inpatient System

- iii) (b) The number of non-elective admissions to the surgery specialties at each hospital, in each of the last three years

Hospital	Surgery		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Altnagelvin	6,115	6,484	6,283
Antrim	3,000	3,584	3,864
Ards	1	2	0
Belfast City	3,178	3,233	3,150
Cancer Centre	2	2	3

Hospital	Surgery		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Causeway	2,519	2,606	2,579
Craigavon	6,373	6,265	6,433
Daisy Hill	3,490	3,443	3,295
Downe	0	1	10
Erne	3,475	3,184	3,196
Lagan Valley	188	177	111
Mater	2,002	1,987	2,214
Mid Ulster	627	391	1
Musgrave Park	320	323	201
RBHSC	0	0	823
Royal Victoria	8,697	8,608	8,408
South Tyrone	0	0	1
Tyrone County	84	0	0
Ulster	7,123	6,711	7,111
Whiteabbey	487	246	0
Total	47,681	47,247	47,683

Source: Hospital Inpatient System

Paediatric Admissions

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many paediatric admissions there were at each hospital with a Paediatric Department, in each of the last three years. **(AQW 13700/11-15)**

Mr Poots: Information on the number of paediatric admissions at each hospital with a Paediatric Department, in each of the last three years, is given in the table below.

Hospital	Paediatrics		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Altnagelvin	3,635	3,329	3,473
Antrim	2,985	2,631	3,141
Causeway	1,409	1,494	1,468
Craigavon	2,366	2,654	2,584
Daisy Hill	1,546	1,548	1,555
Erne	1,850	1,856	1,896
Lagan Valley	44	58	39
Mid Ulster	44	4	3

Hospital	Paediatrics		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
RBHSC	10,515	10,275	4,551
Royal Maternity ¹	5,457	323	444
Royal Victoria	0	1	1
Tyrone County	93	40	7
Ulster	5,145	4,628	4,573
Total	35,089	28,841	23,735

1 From 2009/10, only babies admitted to the special care baby unit in the Royal Maternity Hospital are included.

Accident and Emergency Unit Admissions

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what percentage of patients attending each Accident and Emergency Unit were admitted as an inpatient in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13701/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the percentage of patients attending each emergency care unit who were admitted as an inpatient is not available.

However, provisional information is available on the number of emergency admissions at each hospital¹, as a percentage of the number of new and unplanned review attendances at emergency care units during the last three years. This is detailed in the table below:

Hospital ²	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Belfast City	21.9%	21.1%	30.4%
Mater	19.3%	19.3%	20.6%
Royal Victoria	17.0%	16.9%	15.9%
RBHSC	10.4%	10.2%	10.2%
Antrim Area	22.1%	23.7%	23.4%
Whiteabbey	10.5%	3.7%	0.0%
Mid Ulster	12.4%	4.8%	0.0%
Causeway	14.6%	14.3%	13.4%
Ulster	22.1%	22.2%	24.6%
Ards	3.0%	1.3%	0.4%
Bangor	3.6%	2.1%	0.5%
Lagan Valley	10.8%	10.8%	11.4%
Downe	14.6%	13.1%	12.8%
Craigavon Area	23.2%	22.3%	22.5%
Daisy Hill	15.6%	16.3%	16.4%
South Tyrone	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Hospital ²	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Armagh	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Mullinure	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Altnagelvin Area	20.2%	20.8%	21.4%
Erne	15.5%	16.6%	15.9%
Tyrone County	3.4%	3.4%	2.2%

Source: Hospital Inpatient System and EC1 information return.

- 1 Deaths and discharges are used as an approximation of admissions therefore patients who have been admitted from emergency care but not yet discharged will not be included.
- 2 Patients attending emergency care units may not always be admitted to the same hospital.

Ratio of Medical Admissions to Medical Beds

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what was the ratio of medical admissions to medical beds at each hospital, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13703/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the ratio of medical admissions to medical beds at each hospital, in each of the last three years, is given in the table below.

Hospital	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Altnagelvin	44.9	46.1	50.4
Antrim	49.9	51.0	53.0
Ards	26.6	22.1	22.4
Bangor	29.1	25.7	25.3
Belfast City	37.9	38.6	39.0
Braid Valley	15.7	16.8	13.3
Cancer Centre	44.1	44.3	43.0
Causeway	38.7	38.9	41.4
Craigavon	67.5	65.8	68.2
Daisy Hill	55.0	55.4	59.9
Dalriada	14.3	12.6	12.4
Downe	71.5	63.1	62.3
Erne	49.2	56.0	61.7
Forster Green	14.5	14.0	16.1
Lagan Valley	56.7	56.0	58.3
Lurgan	13.2	6.6	7.8
Mater	43.1	42.0	44.5
Mid Ulster	31.4	28.9	14.6
Moyle	7.5	6.7	10.5

Hospital	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Musgrave Park	13.1	13.0	14.3
RBHSC	11.8	8.1	51.3
Robinson Memorial	7.0	6.8	9.3
Royal Victoria	41.3	46.4	49.6
Thompson House	6.9	7.7	7.5
Tyrone County	60.5	83.2	73.6
Ulster	54.4	59.1	62.6
Whiteabbey	33.2	30.9	16.0
Total	43.9	44.5	46.4

Source: Hospital Inpatient System and KH03a return

Acute Medical Beds

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what was the average length of stay in an acute medical bed at each hospital, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13704/11-15)

Mr Poots: The average length of stay in an acute medical bed during each of the three years from 2008/09 to 2010/11 (the latest three year period for which data is currently available) is shown by hospital in the table below:-

Hospital	Average Length of Stay (days)		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Altnagelvin Area	7.0	6.9	6.3
Antrim	6.0	5.8	5.7
Ards	11.9	13.6	14.3
Bangor	10.9	11.5	12.9
Belfast City	7.9	8.1	8.1
Braid Valley	21.0	18.7	17.2
Cancer Centre	8.3	8.2	8.5
Causeway	8.9	8.5	8.5
Craigavon Area	4.5	4.3	4.5
Daisy Hill	5.5	5.4	5.2
Dalriada	21.0	21.7	23.6
Downe	4.1	4.5	5.0
Erne	5.8	5.3	5.1
Forster Green	22.1	23.1	19.8
Lagan Valley	5.5	5.5	5.5
Lurgan	24.9	50.0	44.0

Hospital	Average Length of Stay (days)		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Mater Infirmorum	8.0	8.0	7.6
Mid Ulster	11.0	11.6	22.0
Moyle	41.9	36.0	27.2
Musgrave Park	21.3	21.4	19.6
RBHSC	19.7	30.2	5.6
Robinson Memorial	45.4	44.1	32.3
Royal Victoria	7.5	6.8	6.4
Thompson House	46.8	42.6	45.9
Tyrone County	4.7	3.3	4.2
Ulster	6.1	5.6	5.3
Whiteabbey	9.5	9.5	19.6

Source:- Hospital Inpatient System and KH03a Departmental Return

Occupancy of Surgical Beds

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what was the occupancy of surgical beds at each hospital, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13706/11-15)

Mr Poots: The percentage occupancy of surgical beds during each of the three years from 2008/09 to 2010/11 (the latest three year period for which data is currently available) is shown by hospital in the table below:-

Hospital	% Occupancy		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Altnagelvin Area	84.6	85.0	83.6
Antrim	87.7	87.4	85.7
Belfast City	77.9	73.3	73.2
Braid Valley	-	-	0.0
Cancer Centre	100.0	100.0	100.0
Causeway	76.8	71.7	76.5
Craigavon Area	75.3	71.4	74.7
Daisy Hill	72.3	67.5	59.8
Downe	0.0	-	-
Erne	63.6	69.3	76.5
Lagan Valley	33.8	27.2	21.1
Mater Infirmorum	72.0	79.9	84.7
Mid Ulster	63.9	66.6	31.4

Hospital	% Occupancy		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Musgrave Park	74.2	73.1	65.6
RBHSC	-	-	79.1
Royal Victoria	83.7	85.5	83.1
Tyrone County	47.1	100.0	-
Ulster	84.0	82.4	79.9
Whiteabbey	72.6	57.6	100.0

Source:- KH03a Departmental Return

Occupancy of Surgical Beds

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the average length of stay for patients in a surgical bed in each hospital, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13707/11-15)

Mr Poots: The average length of stay for patients in surgical beds during each of the three years from 2008/09 to 2010/11 (the latest three year period for which data is currently available) is shown by hospital in the table below:-

Hospital	Average Length of Stay		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Altnagelvin Area	3.8	3.8	3.8
Antrim	3.7	4.0	4.1
Ards	0.0	0.0	0.0
Belfast City	4.9	4.7	4.2
Cancer Centre	10.5	5.8	4.5
Causeway	3.6	3.7	3.8
Craigavon Area	4.1	3.7	3.8
Daisy Hill	3.5	3.3	3.0
Downe	-	0.0	0.0
Erne	2.5	2.9	3.5
Lagan Valley	1.7	1.7	1.2
Mater Infirmorum	4.5	4.0	4.3
Mid Ulster	4.4	4.9	0.1
Musgrave Park	5.1	4.9	4.5
RBHSC	-	-	2.7
Royal Victoria	6.4	6.6	6.7
South Tyrone	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tyrone County	1.3	2.0	-

Hospital	Average Length of Stay		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Ulster	4.7	4.7	4.4
Whiteabbey	4.7	4.6	1.5

Source:- Hospital Inpatient System & KH03a Departmental Return

Nursing Homes

Mr McCallister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail how many residents in (i) independent residential/nursing care homes; and (ii) statutory residential/nursing homes are having their costs met by (a) the state; and (b) private contributions ; and (iii) how this figure compares with each of the last five years.

(AQW 13713/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information is not collected centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Department of Justice

Gerry McGeough

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the convicted republican separated prisoner, Gerry McGeough, whether (i) delivery of his medication was disrupted due to dysfunction at Maghaberry Prison; (ii) he has had to climb on a ledge and shuffle along a set of railings to avoid urine and excrement in prison corridors; (iii) security issues are causing difficulties which are preventing him from being sent for further medical tests; and if so, to detail the security issues; and (iv) there has been a recent escalation in the republican separated prisoners' protest.

(AQW 13186/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice):

- (i) Delivery of medication to Mr McGeough has not been disrupted due to dysfunction at Maghaberry Prison.
- (ii) I have no evidence that this is correct although some prisoners on protest continue to 'slop out' a mixture of faeces and urine under their cell doors.
- (iii) At no time have any of Mr McGeough's hospital appointments being delayed as a result of security issues.
- (iv) Some further republican prisoners on protest recently began 'slopping out' under their cell doors. In addition, some have recently refused to wash and change their clothes prior to seeing the doctor.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12616/11-15, whether the figure covers all staff who have worked at the Prisoner Assessment Unit, including staff who were present (i) when problems resulting in the facility's closure arose or were carried out; and (ii) when the prisoner drug debt matter arose.

(AQW 13189/11-15)

Mr Ford: The answer to AQW/12616 with regard to the number of staff interviewed does not include all of the staff who have worked at the Prisoner Assessment Unit. However, it does include all of the staff, except one who was on sick leave during the investigation, who were present when problems resulting in the facility's closure arose.

Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service Code of Practice on Discipline and Grievances at Work

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12538/11-15, to detail (i) why the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service Code of Practice on Discipline and Grievances at Work does not apply to Northern Ireland; and (ii) the alternative that operates in its place.

(AQW 13190/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) is funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to improve organisations and working life in Great Britain through better employment relations.

The remit of ACAS does not extend to Northern Ireland. Comparable functions are discharged in this jurisdiction by the Labour Relations Agency (LRA), which is funded by my Department.

The Agency publishes a Code of Practice on Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures that, taking account of differences in law and practice between Northern Ireland and Great Britain, broadly corresponds with the ACAS Code. It was most recently revised in April 2011, and provides practical guidance on statutory requirements relating to disciplinary and dismissal issues; good employment practice in dealing with grievance issues; what constitutes reasonable behaviour when dealing with disciplinary and grievance issues; drawing up and using disciplinary and grievance procedures; and a worker's statutory right to bring a companion to grievance and disciplinary hearings. The Code is available free of charge from the LRA's website (www.lra.org.uk).

Misuse of Illegal and Prescription Drugs in Prisons

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Justice, in light of the Prison Ombudsman's report on the death of a prisoner through drug misuse, what measures the Prison Service has put in place to deal with the misuse of illegal and prescription drugs in prisons.

(AQW 13216/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Prison Service currently has a range of measures in place to deal with the misuse of illegal and prescription drugs in prisons. These measures include:

- a drugs and alcohol treatment and counselling service;
- multi-disciplinary case reviews;
- development of a revised anti-bullying policy;
- provision of individual safes for storing prescription medication;
- mandatory drugs tests;
- regular cell searches and the deployment of drugs dogs; and
- disciplinary action and removal from association with other prisoners where warranted.

I can also confirm that Prison Service officials are in the process of initiating a review of the effectiveness of the range of measures currently in place to minimise the availability and use of illegal drugs in our prisons. In addition, the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and the Prison Service are committed to addressing recent concerns in relation to 'in possession' medication, in particular to consider 'supervised swallow' arrangements for certain categories of drugs.

Foyle Pride Festival 2012 in Derry

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the level of funding his Department has allocated to the Foyle Pride Festival 2012 in Derry; and (ii) if his Department has not allocated funds to the event, how much it is willing to provide towards the running costs of £15,000.

(AQW 13220/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department of Justice has not allocated any funding to the Foyle Pride Festival 2012 and currently has no plans to allocate funding to this event.

The Department has in place a Diversity Strategy and Action Plan to encourage a working environment and culture that respects and values diversity.

Historical Inquests

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the impact on his Department's current work as a result of the need to fund and resource the upcoming historical inquests.

(AQW 13223/11-15)

Mr Ford: The term 'historical' or 'legacy' inquest is administrative rather than a legal or statutory one. There is no formal definition, but these cases generally relate to deaths involving agents of the State or allegations of collusion and due to their complex and contentious nature will require considerable resources to bring them to conclusion. The Coroners agree the classification of a case as a legacy or historical inquest.

To date, the legacy inquest case workload has been delivered from within the NI Courts and Tribunals Service budget but the management of these cases has created pressures for the Coroners and the Coroners Service.

The administrative and funding arrangements are being kept under review as cases progress and costs become clearer. My officials are working to ensure that the response is co-ordinated and that available resources are deployed effectively. Any future pressures highlighted by NICTS will be considered as part of the in-year monitoring round process.

The listing of legacy inquests is a matter for the relevant Coroner and can be influenced by a number of factors including:

- other ongoing investigations e.g. by the Historical Enquiries Team or the Office of Police Ombudsman;
- the availability of evidence for the Coroner's investigations;
- witness and family availability; or
- any legal challenges initiated by parties to the inquest.

A decision on whether or not to hold an inquest is a matter for the Coroner. Where the Coroner declines to hold or has already held an inquest, the Attorney General may refer the case back to the Coroner with a direction that an inquest be convened. Therefore, there is potential for the number of legacy inquest cases to increase.

The security arrangements for retired security personnel attending inquests are subject to risk assessment and arrangements are agreed with the Coroner.

Historical Inquests

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Justice to outline the criteria used for identifying the current list of historical inquests; and how the order in which the inquests will be heard was determined.

(AQW 13225/11-15)

Mr Ford: The term 'historical' or 'legacy' inquest is administrative rather than a legal or statutory one. There is no formal definition, but these cases generally relate to deaths involving agents of the State or allegations of collusion and due to their complex and contentious nature will require considerable resources to bring them to conclusion. The Coroners agree the classification of a case as a legacy or historical inquest.

To date, the legacy inquest case workload has been delivered from within the NI Courts and Tribunals Service budget but the management of these cases has created pressures for the Coroners and the Coroners Service.

The administrative and funding arrangements are being kept under review as cases progress and costs become clearer. My officials are working to ensure that the response is co-ordinated and that available resources are deployed effectively. Any future pressures highlighted by NICTS will be considered as part of the in-year monitoring round process.

The listing of legacy inquests is a matter for the relevant Coroner and can be influenced by a number of factors including:

- other ongoing investigations e.g. by the Historical Enquiries Team or the Office of Police Ombudsman;
- the availability of evidence for the Coroner's investigations;
- witness and family availability; or
- any legal challenges initiated by parties to the inquest.

A decision on whether or not to hold an inquest is a matter for the Coroner. Where the Coroner declines to hold or has already held an inquest, the Attorney General may refer the case back to the Coroner with a direction that an inquest be convened. Therefore, there is potential for the number of legacy inquest cases to increase.

The security arrangements for retired security personnel attending inquests are subject to risk assessment and arrangements are agreed with the Coroner.

Historical Inquests

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the likelihood of the current number of historical inquests increasing; and whether the families of members of the security forces who were killed during the troubles will be able to have fresh inquests heard.

(AQW 13226/11-15)

Mr Ford: The term 'historical' or 'legacy' inquest is administrative rather than a legal or statutory one. There is no formal definition, but these cases generally relate to deaths involving agents of the State or allegations of collusion and due to their complex and contentious nature will require considerable resources to bring them to conclusion. The Coroners agree the classification of a case as a legacy or historical inquest.

To date, the legacy inquest case workload has been delivered from within the NI Courts and Tribunals Service budget but the management of these cases has created pressures for the Coroners and the Coroners Service.

The administrative and funding arrangements are being kept under review as cases progress and costs become clearer. My officials are working to ensure that the response is co-ordinated and that available resources are deployed effectively. Any future pressures highlighted by NICTS will be considered as part of the in-year monitoring round process.

The listing of legacy inquests is a matter for the relevant Coroner and can be influenced by a number of factors including:

- other ongoing investigations e.g. by the Historical Enquiries Team or the Office of Police Ombudsman;
- the availability of evidence for the Coroner's investigations;
- witness and family availability; or
- any legal challenges initiated by parties to the inquest.

A decision on whether or not to hold an inquest is a matter for the Coroner. Where the Coroner declines to hold or has already held an inquest, the Attorney General may refer the case back to the Coroner with a direction that an inquest be convened. Therefore, there is potential for the number of legacy inquest cases to increase.

The security arrangements for retired security personnel attending inquests are subject to risk assessment and arrangements are agreed with the Coroner.

Retired Security Personnel

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Justice what security provision has been made for retired security personnel who will be required to provide evidence at historical inquests.

(AQW 13227/11-15)

Mr Ford: The term 'historical' or 'legacy' inquest is administrative rather than a legal or statutory one. There is no formal definition, but these cases generally relate to deaths involving agents of the State or allegations of collusion and due to their complex and contentious nature will require considerable resources to bring them to conclusion. The Coroners agree the classification of a case as a legacy or historical inquest.

To date, the legacy inquest case workload has been delivered from within the NI Courts and Tribunals Service budget but the management of these cases has created pressures for the Coroners and the Coroners Service.

The administrative and funding arrangements are being kept under review as cases progress and costs become clearer. My officials are working to ensure that the response is co-ordinated and that available resources are deployed effectively. Any future pressures highlighted by NICTS will be considered as part of the in-year monitoring round process.

The listing of legacy inquests is a matter for the relevant Coroner and can be influenced by a number of factors including:

- other ongoing investigations e.g. by the Historical Enquiries Team or the Office of Police Ombudsman;
- the availability of evidence for the Coroner's investigations;
- witness and family availability; or
- any legal challenges initiated by parties to the inquest.

A decision on whether or not to hold an inquest is a matter for the Coroner. Where the Coroner declines to hold or has already held an inquest, the Attorney General may refer the case back to the Coroner with a direction that an inquest be convened. Therefore, there is potential for the number of legacy inquest cases to increase.

The security arrangements for retired security personnel attending inquests are subject to risk assessment and arrangements are agreed with the Coroner.

Tougher Penalties

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he has any plans to introduce tougher penalties for people who smuggle drugs into prisons, and for those who control and deal drugs within the prison population.

(AQW 13230/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008 set and restructured the penalties for smuggling articles into prison. Controlled drugs are categorised under List A and the maximum penalty for smuggling List A items into a prison is ten years. There are currently no plans for any further review of the penalties available for people who smuggle drugs into prison or for those who control and deal drugs within the prison population.

Governors inform PSNI in all cases where a visitor has been found in possession of illicit drugs. Governors also deal with prisoners found in possession of drugs as offences against discipline under Prison Rules and will refer more serious cases to PSNI for investigation. In addition, as stated in my answer to AQW 13112, Prison Service officials are in the process of initiating a review of the effectiveness of the range of measures currently in place to minimise the availability and use of illegal drugs in our prisons.

Prison Reform

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice what discussions he has had, or plans to have, with the Prison Officers Association (POA) to address concerns over Prison Reform, particularly as the Chairman of the POA is now on record as sharing those concerns; and whether he has discussed the matter with the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

(AQW 13251/11-15)

Mr Ford: I last met the Chairman of the Prison Officers' Association (POA) on 28 May 2012 when he and the Director of Human Resources signed the Agreement reached between Management and the POA following a ballot of the POA membership. Prison Service management are now moving forward with the implementation of the Agreement and are committed to working with the Trade Union side in doing so. I have no further meetings planned with the POA Chairman but would be willing to meet him if that would be helpful.

New Prison at Magilligan

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice whether a new prison has been designed, utilising the shape of the Magilligan site to its fullest potential, at a cost of £5,000,000.

(AQW 13272/11-15)

Mr Ford: As part of the redevelopment of the Magilligan Prison an exemplar design for a new 800 place prison was developed to the Royal Institute of British Architects Work Stage C.

NIPS requirements were identified and used to develop outline proposals which in turn were used to produce the exemplar design. The design illustrated the size and character of the proposed prison in sufficient detail to enable NIPS to agree the spatial arrangements, materials and appearance. The design proposed a more efficient prison with a more compact layout yet utilised the shape and footprint of the entire Magilligan Prison site to its full potential. This informed the costs and operational improvements contained in the Outline Business Case.

The costs associated with the development were £3.773million and not £5million.

New Prison at Magilligan

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice whether he can confirm that the Prison Officers Association and other staff members indicated their support for the statement in 2008 by the then Secretary of State, Paul Goggins, that Magilligan was the preferred site for a new prison.

(AQW 13274/11-15)

Mr Ford: It would not be appropriate for me to comment on the conclusions reached or views expressed by the Prison Officers' Association or other members of staff.

Sickness Levels at HMP Magilligan

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice how sickness levels at HMP Magilligan compare with other prisons.

(AQW 13276/11-15)

Mr Ford: The average working days lost per member of staff due to sickness absence in Northern Ireland's prisons over the last 3 financial years is outlined below:

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Magilligan	9.1	11.8	9.7
Maghaberry	12	14	17
Hydebank	17.5	14.3	16

United Nations Doctors

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the United Nations doctors attended, and examined, Marion Price; and if so, (i) on which date and where did they attend; (ii) whether the doctors subsequently made representations to the Northern Ireland Prison Service; and (iii) to what extent did the doctors' input influence the decision to have Ms Price moved from prison to hospital.

(AQW 13283/11-15)

Mr Ford: Neither the United Nations, nor anyone representing that organisation, has requested to visit Mrs Marian McGlinchey.

Two doctors representing the Irish United Nations Association (which is not part of the UN but a voluntary organisation whose objectives are to promote the aims and objectives of the UN in Ireland) booked a professional visit to Mrs McGlinchey which was scheduled to take place in Hydebank Wood on Wednesday 6 June. The doctors cancelled their visit. They subsequently rescheduled their visit to Mrs McGlinchey and one has since visited her at the outside hospital to which she had been transferred prior to their visit.

The decision to transfer Mrs McGlinchey to an outside hospital was taken on the basis of a recommendation for secondary care received from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. No input from any other individuals or organisations had any influence on that decision.

Disorderly and Abusive Behaviour in Hospital Accident and Emergency Units

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he will consider allocating revenue, received from Fixed Penalty Notices for disorderly and abusive behaviour in hospital Accident and Emergency units, for patient comfort funds or for other beneficial schemes in the Health Service.

(AQW 13284/11-15)

Mr Ford: All Penalty Notice revenue received must be surrendered to the Consolidated Fund. It is not, therefore, possible for the Department of Justice to allocate these funds to specific initiatives.

The member may wish to note, however, that each Penalty Notice is subject also to a £5 Offender Levy which is not surrendered to the Consolidated Fund, but is allocated exclusively to victims' services.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice what funding his Department plans to provide to local councils to combat anti-social behaviour.

(AQW 13286/11-15)

Mr Ford: In Northern Ireland we have adopted a multi-agency partnership to tackle anti-social behaviour, which uses a graduated approach of prevention, intervention and enforcement to tackle anti-social behaviour. This approach has contributed to a reduction of over 20% in the incidence of anti-social behaviour across Northern Ireland since 2008.

The measures taken by my Department have included initiatives such as CCTV, Community Safety Wardens, Neighbourhood Watch schemes, intergenerational projects, and Priority Youth Intervention programmes.

It is my intention to build on the success to date and to develop partnership working at a local level to support local communities in addressing the anti-social behaviour issues that matter locally.

In particular, Policing and Community Safety Partnerships will have a pivotal role in developing partnership working at a local level and in supporting communities in identifying solutions to issues of local concern.

In conjunction with the Northern Ireland Policing Board, £5.2 million has been made available to the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships for this financial year to address local community safety issues, including anti-social behaviour. In addition, the Priority Youth Intervention programme, which also addresses anti-social behaviour, allocates £200,000 per year to the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships.

Case of Prison Officer Zoe Crowe

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the Governor, who recommended that Zoe Crowe be suspended from duty on 5 November 2011, reported the matter fully to the Minister; and if so, (i) on what did was the matter reported; (ii) what directions, if any, he gave to the Governor; (iii) when these directions were delivered to the Governor; and (iv) when the directions were actioned.

(AQW 13293/11-15)

Mr Ford: I refer the member to the answer given to AQW/13005/11-15.

ACAS Code of Practice

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12538/11-15, why the ACAS Code of Practice does not apply, given that the Northern Ireland Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline states that in establishing whether a disciplinary offence has been committed the standard of proof to be applied is the balance of probabilities, and that this is the standard required by employment law and provided for in the ACAS Discipline at Work guidelines.

(AQW 13320/11-15)

Mr Ford: ACAS has no formal role in Northern Ireland.

The introductory section of the current Code of Conduct and Discipline refers to the ACAS Code of Practice to reflect the consideration given to exemplary standards of good practice when drafting the document.

Random Drug Tests in Prisons

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice when the last random drug tests were carried out at each prison facility, including Hydebank Young Offenders Centre and the Juvenile Justice Unit; and how often, on average, such tests are undertaken.

(AQW 13321/11-15)

Mr Ford: Random drug tests were carried out at both Maghaberry and Magilligan Prisons on 28 June 2012. The last random drug test at Hydebank Wood Prison and Young Offenders Centre was on 19 May 2012. The Northern Ireland Prison Service aims to carry out drug testing, including random testing, five days per week. Resource issues can impact on the ability to do this.

Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre is the responsibility of the Youth Justice Agency and is not a Prison facility. Random drugs tests are not carried out in the JJC.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Suspended Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) how many prison staff, in each Northern Ireland Prison Service facility, including Hydebank Young Offenders Centre and the Juvenile Justice Unit, are currently suspended on full pay; (ii) what is the rank of each of the suspended staff; and (iii) for how long each staff member has been suspended.

(AQW 13322/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are a total of four Prison Service staff suspended from duty, two of whom are from Maghaberry, one from Hydebank Wood and one from the Prisoner Escorting and Court Custody Service (PECCS). The grades of the individuals suspended range from prison support grades to Governor level.

The periods of suspension are 15 and four months for those in Maghaberry and seven weeks and five weeks for those at Hydebank Wood and PECCS respectively.

Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre (JJC) is the responsibility of the Youth Justice Agency (YJA) and is not a Northern Ireland Prison Service facility. However the information in regards to staff employed operationally in the JJC is as follows:

- (i) One member of JJC staff is currently suspended on full pay.
- (ii) Care Worker grade.
- (iii) 10 months (since 26 August 2011).

Security Measures at Dungannon Court House

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12764/11-15, which other courthouses are to have improvements; and what is the estimated cost at each courthouse.

(AQW 13323/11-15)

Mr Ford: Additional measures are planned for a number of other courthouses at a cost of £705,000. Due to the nature of this work I am unable to provide further detail until this work is underway or completed.

Body Scanning Equipment

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12860/11-15, whether he will continue with the installation of the body scanning equipment, despite the separated republican prisoners having given no commitment to cease their protest should the equipment be installed; and what action is planned should the protest continue after the equipment has been installed.

(AQW 13362/11-15)

Mr Ford: NIPS is committed to fulfilling its stated undertaking with regard to piloting and assessing the proposed new searching technology in line with recommendation 8 of the Prison Review Team's report. These technologies are being piloted to learn whether or not they offer a viable alternative to Full Body Searching for all prisoners. However, in the event that some prisoners do not avail of the new technology and continue on protest, the Governor will continue to manage this situation in line with existing operating procedures.

Legal Aid

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12913/11-15, and as new legislation will not apply retrospectively, in cases where legal aid was granted to a person who is known to have significant income or assets, whether checks can be made to ensure that all the relevant financial circumstances were declared; and in cases where the information was not declared, what further steps can be taken in relation to fraud charges and redress for the legal aid payment.

(AQW 13364/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission (the Commission) is presently not empowered to conduct its own investigations into the means of defendants in receipt of criminal legal aid.

If credible evidence were brought to the attention of the Commission that a convicted defendant had sufficient means to pay for his or her own defence representation which would cast doubt on their eligibility for criminal legal aid, they could refer the matter to the police for investigation. This could lead to a criminal conviction for fraudulently claiming legal aid and a compensation order for the costs incurred in providing that defence representation. If a compensation order was not made by the court, the Commission could seek to recover the costs as a civil debt.

I have recently made the Criminal Legal Aid (Recovery of Defence Costs Orders) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2012. This will ensure that in future the Commission will have the power it needs to recover defence costs from convicted defendants in the Crown Court who have sufficient means to pay for those costs.

Hearing Centres

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12764/11-15, how this expenditure has been deemed necessary when other hearing centres are facing closure.

(AQW 13365/11-15)

Mr Ford: Dungannon Courthouse is not a Hearing Centre and therefore there is no direct correlation between the Hearing Centre closure consultation exercise and the security enhancements at Dungannon Courthouse.

Marion McGlinchey

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) to detail the amount of legal aid paid to date in relation to Marion McGlinchey; (ii) whether legal aid was granted to fund the costs of the United Nations doctors who were to examine her; and (iii) if so, what was the total cost of funding the doctors, including expenses.

(AQW 13367/11-15)

Mr Ford: The legal aid payments made to Mrs McGlinchey's legal team are detailed below, broken down by Criminal, Civil and Legal Advice and Assistance (Green Form) legal aid categories.

Criminal Legal Aid

A total of £1,124.61 (including VAT of £179.58 and disbursements of £47.13) was paid to Mrs McGlinchey's solicitor in respect of PACE advice provided at the police station.

Fees have been paid to Ms McGlinchey's solicitor totalling £1,700.46 (including VAT of £283.41) for work done in the Magistrates' Court. The counsel who represented Ms McGlinchey also represented one of her co-accused, therefore the fees paid are in respect of both defendants. It is not possible to disaggregate the payment to reflect the portion of the payment relating to Ms McGlinchey. The total paid to counsel in respect of both defendants is £1,273.01 (including VAT of £212.17).

Civil Legal Aid

Profit Costs - £1,257.72 (including VAT of £209.62 VAT).

Counsel Fees - £360.00 (including VAT of £60 VAT).

Outlay - £18.80, solely in respect of photocopying.

Total - £1,636.52

Legal Advice and Assistance (Green Form) Scheme

Advice Type	Amount paid	VAT
PACE	£139.74	£23.83

Advice Type	Amount paid	VAT
Complaints against PSNI	£64.11	£12.82
PACE	£945.03	£179.58
Criminal Charge	£673.20	£132.14
Bail	£72.08	£14.42
Judicial Review	£88.00	£17.60
Life Sentence Review	£409.99	£75.16
Judicial Review	£184.55	£31.91
Total	£2576.70	£487.46

No "United Nations doctors" have visited Ms McGlinchey, nor requested to do so. A doctor representing the Irish United Nations Association (which is not part of the United Nations but a voluntary organisation which aims to promote the aims and objectives of the UN in Ireland) has visited her: no legal aid application has been submitted in relation to that visit.

Sexual Assaults in Prison

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice how many sexual assaults have been reported in prisons in each of the last five years; and how many of these have resulted in convictions.

(AQW 13368/11-15)

Mr Ford: There have been 45 allegations of sexual assault recorded in NIPS establishments in the past five years. NIPS do not have access to statistics in regard to convictions.

Forensic Services Northern Ireland

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12818/11-15, and his remarks on 6 February 2012, whether he accepts there have been significantly more than four cases delayed due to the backlog at Forensic Science Northern Ireland.

(AQW 13381/11-15)

Mr Ford: My comments on 6 February 2012 referred to four cases for which a prosecution could not proceed due to outstanding forensic reports; this was the position at that point. Given that these figures refer to a live caseload, they are subject to fluctuation.

Prison Officers Dismissed from the Northern Ireland Prison Service

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many prison officers, who have been dismissed from the Northern Ireland Prison Service since 1995, have successfully appealed their dismissal; and what is the total amount of compensation paid out in these cases.

(AQW 13387/11-15)

Mr Ford: It is not possible to provide details of the number of prison officers who have been dismissed from the Northern Ireland Prison Service since 1995 and who have successfully appealed their dismissal. This information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

However, I can advise the Member that during the last five years, four operational staff who have been dismissed on disciplinary grounds, have successfully appealed their dismissal. The total amount of compensation awarded to date is £44,281.74.

Female Governor of HMP Hydebank

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the female governor of HMP Hydebank retired on pension and was subsequently re-employed by the Northern Ireland Prison Service on a part-time basis and whether she then applied for and received a severance package; and to include the relevant dates. **(AQW 13388/11-15)**

Mr Ford: The information requested constitutes the personal data of a third party as defined at section 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998. To disclose this information would be in breach of the first data protection principle (fair and lawful processing).

Oral Swab Drug Testing in Prisons

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice when he intends to introduce oral swab drug testing in prisons.

(AQW 13389/11-15)

Mr Ford: The use of oral swab drug tests in prisons was trialled by NIPS for a period of three months from October 2010. The effectiveness and accuracy of testing oral fluid/saliva was found to be inferior to the testing of urine. As a result it is not planned to introduce oral swab testing.

Alleged Offences Committed Whilst on Day Release from Custody

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many cases are presently in the courts system for alleged offences committed whilst on day release from custody, broken down by (i) youth; and (ii) adult. **(AQW 13390/11-15)**

Mr Ford: Information in the form requested is not readily available for prisoners or young offenders within the Prison Service and could only be obtained/compiled at disproportionate cost.

In relation to Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre, there is no information that can be provided due to current court reporting restrictions.

Case Number 12/011425 at Dungannon Magistrates Court

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the total costs involved, including legal aid and forensic reports, in case number 12/011425 at Dungannon Magistrates Court. **(AQW 13416/11-15)**

Mr Ford: The table below sets out the estimated identifiable costs associated with case number 12/011425.

Cost Type	Estimated Cost
Defence (Legal Aid Costs) ¹	£528.00
Court Costs – Judiciary, Staff and Facilities	£318.50
Forensic Services	£319.00
Total	£1165.50

1 represents an estimate of the fees payable based on the claim submitted, however, the claim has not yet been assessed.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has indicated that the Investigating Officer conducted his enquires consistent with his normal duties and therefore no additional police costs were incurred.

The Public Prosecution Service of Northern Ireland has indicated that it is not possible to produce precise costs for a particular case or even average costs for a particular type of case. Some costs

would be identifiable, for example any fees paid to prosecuting counsel, however, these were not incurred in this case.

NIPS: Severance Package

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many (i) full-time; and (ii) part-time Northern Ireland Prison Service officers, who applied for and received a severance package, have been re-employed by any employer, in each prison facility, in any full-time or part-time capacity.

(AQW 13417/11-15)

Mr Ford: 160 members of the Northern Ireland Prison Service left the service under the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme by 30 April 2012.

I can confirm that none of these staff has been re-employed by NIPS, the DOJ or any of its agencies or Arms-length bodies. I am not in a position to provide information on staff employed by any other employer.

NIPS: Code of Conduct and Discipline

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12644/11-15, (i) which Department is responsible for this document; (ii) when he requested a copy of the signed minute; (iii) when it was agreed that he would receive a copy; and (iv) when it will be delivered.

(AQW 13418/11-15)

Mr Ford: I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office is the owner of the document the Member refers to. Authorisation to release a redacted version was sought and granted in June 2012. A redacted copy of the document is attached.

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he plans to introduce legislation similar to the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012, which provides for a person found guilty of allowing serious physical harm to a child or vulnerable adult to be sentenced to ten years in jail.

(AQW 13419/11-15)

Mr Ford: My Department is committed to monitoring any changes to domestic and sexual offences legislation, such as those described, and to assess the impact of those amendments. We will explore the detail with Ministry of Justice colleagues, with a view to assessing its introduction in Northern Ireland.

NIPS: Code of Conduct and Discipline

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) to detail the principles and policies of the National Executive Committee of the Prison Governors Association, to which the Northern Ireland Prison Service is affiliated, in regards to members holding meetings during the appeal process of officers recommended for dismissal from the service under the Code of Conduct and Discipline when they have no remit to do so and no regulatory authority; (ii) whether this behaviour constitutes acting in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the officer and the Association; and (iii) whether meetings held under such circumstances are deemed to be a breach of discipline.

(AQW 13420/11-15)

Mr Ford: As Minister of Justice I am unable to detail the principles and policies of the National Executive Committee of the Prisoner Governors Association (PGA). I would however refer the Member to the response I provided to AQW/12782/11-15, which outlined the role of the PGA in representing their members should they be recommended for dismissal.

Capital Asset Disposal

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice to detail the capital assets of which his Department intends to dispose in each of the next three years.

(AQW 13442/11-15)

Mr Ford: It is intended that the land and buildings at the Prison Service College in Millisle will be disposed of once the new joint training facility is opened at Desertcreat. This is planned for 2015. At 31 May 2012 the Net Book Value of all of the land and buildings on the site was £3.3 million.

The Department of Justice, including its agencies but excluding its arm's length bodies, has no plans to dispose of any further capital assets during the next three years.

Hydebank Wood: Cellular Confinement

Mr McKay asked Minister of Justice to detail the number of inmates in Hydebank Wood who have been adjudicated to cellular confinement from 1 January 2012 until 31 June 2012, broken down by (i) gender; (ii) length of time of confinement; and (iii) the nature of the adjudication.

(AQW 13449/11-15)

Mr Ford: Since 01 January 2012 until 30 June 2012 Hydebank Wood has had 220 adjudications which have resulted in confinement to a room.

The table attached at Annex A shows the breakdown as requested.

Annex A

Adjudication Date	Gender	Nature of adjudication	Award Quantity	Award Unit
15/02/2012	Female	Unauthorised article	3	Days
09/03/2012	Female	Unauthorised article	3	Days
26/03/2012	Female	Fights or Wrestles	2	Days
26/03/2012	Female	Presence of Drugs	3	Days
02/01/2012	Male	Assaults any other person/prs	7	Days
03/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	7	Days
03/01/2012	Male	Endangers H&S	7	Days
03/01/2012	Male	Endangers H&S	10	Days
03/01/2012	Male	Disobeys an order	5	Days
04/01/2012	Male	Obstructs an Officer	3	Days
05/01/2012	Male	Disobeys an order	2	Days
06/01/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	1	Days
06/01/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	3	Days
06/01/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	5	Days
06/01/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	2	Days
06/01/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	1	Days
06/01/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	2	Days
08/01/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	4	Days

Adjudication Date	Gender	Nature of adjudication	Award Quantity	Award Unit
09/01/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	3	Days
09/01/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	3	Days
09/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	6	Days
10/01/2012	Male	Attempts to commit.	6	Days
11/01/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	6	Days
11/01/2012	Male	Fails to comply CTR	1	Days
13/01/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	3	Days
13/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
13/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	5	Days
15/01/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	4	Days
15/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	5	Days
15/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	7	Days
15/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	7	Days
16/01/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	3	Days
16/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	7	Days
16/01/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	7	Days
16/01/2012	Male	Good order and discipline	5	Days
18/01/2012	Male	Disobeys an order	3	Days
18/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	7	Days
18/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
21/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	5	Days
22/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	5	Days
24/01/2012	Male	Disobeys an order	5	Days
26/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
26/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
27/01/2012	Male	Good order and discipline	2	Days
27/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
27/01/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	3	Days
27/01/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	3	Days
29/01/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	2	Days
29/01/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	3	Days
30/01/2012	Male	Disobeys any rules/regulations	3	Days
31/01/2012	Male	Disobeys an order	3	Days

Adjudication Date	Gender	Nature of adjudication	Award Quantity	Award Unit
31/01/2012	Male	Disobeys an order	3	Days
31/01/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
01/02/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	3	Days
01/02/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	5	Days
02/02/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	2	Days
03/02/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
05/02/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	7	Days
05/02/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	5	Days
06/02/2012	Male	Prepares/manufacture/ drugs etc	5	Days
06/02/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	4	Days
06/02/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
06/02/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	4	Days
07/02/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	3	Days
07/02/2012	Male	Assaults any other person/prs	3	Days
07/02/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	7	Days
08/02/2012	Male	Commits any other assault	7	Days
08/02/2012	Male	Commits any other assault	2	Days
08/02/2012	Male	Assaults an officer/staff member	12	Days
11/02/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	5	Days
12/02/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	5	Days
13/02/2012	Male	Damage prison property	2	Days
13/02/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	3	Days
16/02/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	5	Days
16/02/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	5	Days
17/02/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	5	Days
17/02/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	5	Days
17/02/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	5	Days
18/02/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	2	Days
20/02/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	7	Days
22/02/2012	Male	Attempts to commit.	2	Days
22/02/2012	Male	Assaults an officer/staff member	5	Days
24/02/2012	Male	Prepares/manufacture/ drugs etc	3	Days
24/02/2012	Male	Prepares/manufacture/ drugs etc	3	Days

Adjudication Date	Gender	Nature of adjudication	Award Quantity	Award Unit
25/02/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
25/02/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
27/02/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	7	Days
26/02/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	2	Days
26/02/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	5	Days
26/02/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
27/02/2012	Male	Disobeys an order	4	Days
27/02/2012	Male	Disobeys an order	2	Days
27/02/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	5	Days
27/02/2012	Male	Assaults an officer/staff member	10	Days
29/02/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	3	Days
01/03/2012	Male	Assaults an officer/staff member	7	Days
01/03/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	7	Days
03/03/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	2	Days
03/03/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	3	Days
04/03/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	3	Days
07/03/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	3	Days
08/03/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	4	Days
09/03/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	7	Days
10/03/2012	Male	Assaults an officer/staff member	3	Days
09/03/2012	Male	Disobeys an order	3	Days
09/03/2012	Male	Assaults an officer/staff member	7	Days
10/03/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
10/03/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
15/03/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	7	Days
16/03/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	2	Days
16/03/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	2	Days
16/03/2012	Male	Assaults any other person/prs	8	Days
21/03/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	1	Days
21/03/2012	Male	Damage prison property	1	Days
25/03/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	5	Days
25/03/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	3	Days
26/03/2012	Male	Damage prison property	3	Days

Adjudication Date	Gender	Nature of adjudication	Award Quantity	Award Unit
30/03/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	2	Days
30/03/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	3	Days
31/03/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	3	Days
03/04/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	2	Days
03/04/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	3	Days
03/04/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
04/04/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	2	Days
04/04/2012	Male	Damage prison property	3	Days
04/04/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
05/04/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	4	Days
05/04/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	4	Days
05/04/2012	Male	Commits any other assault	5	Days
05/04/2012	Male	Commits any other assault	5	Days
05/04/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	2	Days
07/04/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	7	Days
08/04/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
11/04/2012	Male	Damage prison property	3	Days
12/04/2012	Male	Endangers H&S	2	Days
12/04/2012	Male	Assaults any other person/prs	5	Days
12/04/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	3	Days
14/04/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	5	Days
14/04/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	3	Days
14/04/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
14/04/2012	Male	Endangers H&S	3	Days
14/04/2012	Male	Endangers H&S	3	Days
15/04/2012	Male	Attempts to commit.	5	Days
15/04/2012	Male	Fails to comply CTR	5	Days
16/04/2012	Male	Good order and discipline	3	Days
19/04/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	5	Days
19/04/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	2	Days
19/04/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	2	Days
21/04/2012	Male	Damage prison property	5	Days
22/04/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	5	Days

Adjudication Date	Gender	Nature of adjudication	Award Quantity	Award Unit
23/04/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	7	Days
23/04/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	5	Days
24/04/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
24/04/2012	Male	Damage prison property	1	Days
25/04/2012	Male	Assaults any other person/prs	7	Days
25/04/2012	Male	Damage prison property	7	Days
26/04/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	5	Days
27/04/2012	Male	Damage prison property	7	Days
28/04/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	5	Days
29/04/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	5	Days
30/04/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	2	Days
30/04/2012	Male	Endangers H&S	3	Days
29/04/2012	Male	Disobeys an order	2	Days
30/04/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	2	Days
01/05/2012	Male	Endangers H&S	3	Days
03/05/2012	Male	Damage prison property	5	Days
03/05/2012	Male	Presence of Alcohol	2	Days
03/05/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
04/05/2012	Male	Damage prison property	1	Days
06/05/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	3	Days
06/05/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	5	Days
06/05/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	3	Days
06/05/2012	Male	Damage prison property	1	Days
07/05/2012	Male	Assaults any other person/prs	7	Days
09/05/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	3	Days
10/05/2012	Male	Attempts to commit.	3	Days
10/05/2012	Male	Damage prison property	1	Days
14/05/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	4	Days
17/05/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	3	Days
17/05/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	3	Days
17/05/2012	Male	Damage prison property	3	Days
19/05/2012	Male	Assaults an officer/staff member	5	Days
20/05/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	5	Days

Adjudication Date	Gender	Nature of adjudication	Award Quantity	Award Unit
21/05/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
23/05/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	3	Days
26/05/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	4	Days
27/05/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
28/05/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	3	Days
29/05/2012	Male	Damage prison property	2	Days
31/05/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	2	Days
02/06/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	2	Days
02/06/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	7	Days
02/06/2012	Male	Commits indecent or obscene	5	Days
03/06/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	3	Days
03/06/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
05/06/2012	Male	Fails to comply CTR	3	Days
06/06/2012	Male	Damage prison property	7	Days
07/06/2012	Male	Refuses to provide sample	2	Days
07/06/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
09/06/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	5	Days
09/06/2012	Male	Damage prison property	5	Days
11/06/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	6	Days
17/06/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	2	Days
19/06/2012	Male	Assaults any other person/prs	5	Days
21/06/2012	Male	refuses to provide sample	3	Days
22/06/2012	Male	Damage prison property	7	Days
25/06/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	5	Days
26/06/2012	Male	Damage prison property	5	Days
26/06/2012	Male	Damage prison property	5	Days
26/06/2012	Male	Damage prison property	5	Days
28/06/2012	Male	Damage prison property	3	Days
30/06/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	7	Days
30/06/2012	Male	Unauthorised article	3	Days
02/01/2012	Male	Absents himself	3	Days
02/01/2012	Male	Foul and abusive	2	Days
02/01/2012	Male	Presence of Drugs	3	Days

Adjudication Date	Gender	Nature of adjudication	Award Quantity	Award Unit
02/01/2012	Male	Damage prison property	5	Days
02/01/2012	Male	Assaults any other person/prs	3	Days
02/01/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	5	Days
02/01/2012	Male	Fights or Wrestles	3	Days
220		Sum:	869	

Transgender Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to outline the Northern Ireland Prison Service policy or guidance for housing, in male and female facilities, a (i) transgender prisoner; and (ii) a prisoner who is going through transgender reassignment treatment.

(AQW 13453/11-15)

Mr Ford: The initial placement of any pre-operative prisoner with gender dysphoria would be to a prison appropriate to their gender at birth. Where there was any doubt about such a placement, the prison would organise a case conference, involving the health care team and representatives from the relevant establishments and Directorates, to determine the most appropriate location.

Decisions relating to the location of prisoners with gender dysphoria who have not yet undergone gender re-assignment surgery, whether or not they have commenced hormone treatment, would be considered on an individual basis taking into account the individual circumstances of each case.

The most appropriate location for a post-operative transgender prisoner would normally be agreed following a full case conference. The decision would take account of the prisoner's own preference and the presumption would be that a post-operative transgender prisoner would be allocated to an establishment for prisoners of his/her gender of choice.

Cases Delayed at Forensic Services Northern Ireland

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to his statement in the Assembly on 6 February 2012, whether case number 11/150443 at Dungannon Magistrates' Court and case number 11/128987 at Magherafelt Magistrates' Court, were included in the figure of four cases which were delayed at Forensic Services Northern Ireland.

(AQW 13454/11-15)

Mr Ford: No they were not as these cases were not referred to Forensic Science Northern Ireland.

People Imprisoned for Defaulting on Fines

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice how many people have been imprisoned for defaulting on fines in each of the last five years; and what percentage of the prison population they represented.

(AQW 13462/11-15)

Mr Ford: The number and percentage of people committed to prison for non-payment of fines across the last five years for which data is available is provided in the table below.

New Committals	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Fine Default Nos.	1,724	1,742	1,247	1,891	2,179
Fine Default percentages	28%	28%	28%	35%	36%

New Committals	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All Other Prisoners	4337	4443	3,133	3,461	3,825
Total	6061	6185	4,380	5,352	6,004

Data for 2007 and 2008 should not be directly compared with data from 2009 to 2011 as the data sets are sourced from different systems.

Healthy Prison Tests

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 13273/11-15, and given that the results are not comparable, for his assessment of the benefits of these tests.

(AQW 13481/11-15)

Mr Ford: The 'three' marking attained by Magilligan Prison provides an indication of where Magilligan Prison sits against the 'Healthy Prison tests' carried out by HMIP.

The full inspection report provided more details across a diverse range of areas, functions and activities within the prison. The report highlighted to NIPS the areas where performance was good but also provided NIPS with a number of recommendations for improving the current regimes available at Magilligan Prison.

Searching Visitors to Prisons

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) how many prisoners, at each prison facility including Hydebank Young Offenders Centre and the Juvenile Justice Unit, have been searched for drugs following a prison visit, in the last six months; (ii) how many were found to have drugs; and (iii) what action was taken against the prisoner and the visitor in cases where drugs were found.

(AQW 13488/11-15)

Mr Ford: Throughout NIPS, all prisoners are searched for illicit items prior to and following each visit. In the past six months the following drug finds have been recorded: Maghaberry eight finds, Magilligan five finds and Hydebank Wood ten finds. In addition, there have been other visits terminated due to suspicion of an article being passed.

In all cases the prisoners involved have been subject to adjudications heard by the Governor. Punishments awarded range from cellular confinement to closed visits and a total of 24 visitors were barred from visiting any establishment.

Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre is not a prison facility. Planned visits are risk assessed in advance, closely supervised and monitored.

Acting Director General of the Prison Service

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many meetings the Acting Director General of the Prison Service has attended with the Committee for the Administration of Justice in each of the last twelve months.

(AQW 13492/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Acting Director General of the Northern Ireland Prison Service has not attended any meetings with the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) in the last twelve months.

Prisoner Assessment Unit

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many meetings have been held, or attended by, the Northern Ireland Prison Service and his Department in relation to (i) the issues leading to the closure of the Prisoner Assessment Unit; and (ii) the publication of the subsequent report.

(AQW 13514/11-15)

Mr Ford:

- (i) Two Prison Service meetings were held prior to the decision to close the Prisoner Assessment Unit.
- (ii) Two Prison Service meetings were held to discuss requests for the disclosure or publication of the Report into the Investigation of the Prisoner Assessment Unit.

Cases of Death in Custody

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW12906/11-15, to detail the relevant staff associations that were in agreement.

(AQW 13515/11-15)

Mr Ford: Both the Prison Officers Association and the Prison Governors Association agreed the existing NIPS Code of Conduct and Discipline.

Illegal Protest in Ardoyne

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW11862/11-15, with the exception of the costs disclosed, what is the total of all other costs which have been incurred in this case, including costs to the PSNI and the Public Prosecution Service.

(AQW 13516/11-15)

Mr Ford: The estimated court related costs incurred to date including judicial, staff and facilities are £12,600.

Further claims for legal fees have been submitted since my previous answer and I have set out below updated Legal Aid costs.

Fees of £5,378.08 have been paid under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) (including VAT of £852.62 and disbursements of £121.96).

£53,464.19 has been paid to date for proceedings at the Magistrates' Court (including VAT of £8,597.52 and disbursements of £9.07). Fees of £47,604.58 (including VAT of £7,859.25 and disbursements of £9.07) were paid to solicitors and a total of £5,859.61 (including VAT of £738.27) was paid to Counsel.

£10,005.51 has been paid to date for proceedings at the Crown Court (including VAT of £1,426.30 and disbursements of £1,447.68).

Of these fees £5,906.88 (including VAT of £743.20 and disbursements of £1,447.68) has been paid to solicitors and £4,098.63 (including VAT of £683.10) has been paid to Counsel.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Public Prosecution Service have advised that to extract the information required to answer this question would involve a lengthy manual exercise which would incur disproportionate cost. They are therefore not in a position to supply the information sought.

Office of the Police Ombudsman: Complaints

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice to detail the process used by his Department when dealing with complaints made against the actions of the Office of the Police Ombudsman.

(AQW 13517/11-15)

Mr Ford: If having made a complaint of administrative maladministration to the Chief Executive of the Police Ombudsman's Office, the complainant is unhappy with the Chief Executive's decision, the individual can raise a complaint with my Department. A written request specifying the grounds of maladministration along with a copy of the Chief Executive's decision letter should be forwarded to my Department. My Department will then ask the Police Ombudsman's Office for a report, which the Head of Policing Policy and Strategy Division will consider on my behalf, and determine whether the complaint is substantiated and if so, can appoint an independent person to investigate.

Office of the Police Ombudsman: Complaints

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice how many complaints his Department has received regarding the actions of the Office of the Police Ombudsman, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13520/11-15)

Mr Ford: The information requested is only available from 12 April 2010, when the Department of Justice came into being. The table below details how many complaints of administrative maladministration regarding the actions of the Office of the Police Ombudsman the Department has received.

Period	Number of complaints received
April -December 2010	0
January – December 2011	1
January – June 2012	3
Total	4

Office of the Police Ombudsman: Complaints

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice how many of the complaints received by his Department against the actions of the Office of the Police Ombudsman, in each of the last three years, were upheld.

(AQW 13522/11-15)

Mr Ford: The information requested is only available from 12 April 2010, when the Department of Justice came into being. The table below details how many complaints of administrative maladministration regarding the actions of the Office of the Police Ombudsman the Department has received and how many of those complaints were upheld.

Period	Number of complaints received	Number of complaints upheld
April -December 2010	0	0
January – December 2011	1	0
January – June 2012	3	1 upheld 2 pending review and decision

Prisoner Ombudsman

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the Prisoner Ombudsman has made representations on behalf of republican separated prisoners on protest, including the dates on which any representations were received.

(AQW 13546/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Prisoner Ombudsman has not made any such representations.

Transporting Defendants to Court

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW12956/11-15, whether the four prisoners were produced to the court in error on the day in question, given that no applications or amendments had been sought, and that no bail issues or arrangements needed to be considered; and who made the requests to the Northern Ireland Prison Service for the production of the prisoners.

(AQW 13549/11-15)

Mr Ford: None of the prisoners were produced to the Court in error. As I stated in my answer to AQW/12956/11-15, the decision to have a defendant produced in court is a judicial decision.

Judicial decisions on prisoner production are communicated to the Northern Ireland Prison Service by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service.

Commitment on Full Body Scanners

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Justice whether he can give an undertaking that, should separated prisoners be relocated to Mourne House, the commitment given on full body scanners will be upheld in the facility.

(AQW 13561/11-15)

Mr Ford: As I have stated in the House on a number of occasions, new search technologies are to be piloted to assess their suitability for use in relation to all prisoners in all establishments, in keeping with the Prison Review Team's recommendation and are not related to specific groups of prisoners.

Pilot for Full-Body Scanners in Prisons

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the pilot for full body scanners in Magilligan and Hydebank Wood.

(AQW 13562/11-15)

Mr Ford: Formal written quotations have now been received from two suppliers for the leasing of Millimetre Wave Body Scanners for three month pilot schemes at Magilligan Prison and Hydebank Wood YOC. Purchase orders will be placed as soon as the business case has been approved but one of the suppliers has advised that there will be an eight week delivery time from the date the purchase order is received. A number of final queries have yet to be resolved with the other supplier, including operator training costs and equipment insurance requirements. It is planned that these outstanding matters will be resolved during a visit to the supplier on 24 July.

Prison Service officials are continuing to work through a number of practical arrangements including site surveys in conjunction with the suppliers, staff training requirements, legal advice and information to prisoners. Consideration is also being given to the timing of the commencement of the respective pilots given the delivery timescale from one of the suppliers.

Full-Body Imaging Scanners in Prisons

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Justice to outline the timescale for (i) the procurement of full body imaging equipment; (ii) the installation of the equipment; (iii) staff training on the use of the equipment; (vi) any other work to make the imaging scanners operational in the planned pilot scheme.

(AQW 13563/11-15)

Mr Ford: My answer to AQW/13562 provides an update on the pilot schemes for Millimetre Wave Body Scanners at Magilligan Prison and Hydebank Wood YOC.

There are also plans to pilot the use of Transmission X-ray Scanners at Magilligan Prison as soon as the necessary approval has been obtained under the Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Disciplinary Proceedings

Lord Morrow asked Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12780/11-15, and given that the statistics requested should be easily accessed in accordance with the recording requirements contained in Regulation 13.1 of the Northern Ireland Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline, and in accordance with Rule 118 (5) of the Prisons and Young Offenders Centre Rules (NI) 1995, as amended, (i) to explain why the information can only be obtained at disproportionate cost; (ii) whether the foregoing requirements have been complied with by the Northern Ireland Prison Service and; (iii) to detail the format in which these records have been retained or stored since 1995.

(AQW 13575/11-15)

Mr Ford: The information requested would require detailed examination of paper records and could therefore only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service complies with the Department of Justice's Records and Information Retention and Disposal Schedule.

Records pertaining to disciplinary cases are retained in either hard copy or electronic format.

Supervision and Treatment Orders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he has any plans to (i) legislate to extend Supervision and Treatment Orders beyond the current two year maximum; or (ii) allow the Judiciary to extend the duration of the Orders at its discretion.

(AQW 13577/11-15)

Mr Ford: The maximum period for supervision and treatment orders was increased from two to three years, with effect from 30 June 2011, by the Supervision and Treatment Orders (Maximum Period) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011 (S.R. 2011 No. 115).

On 6 July, my Department issued a public consultation on extending proposed mental capacity legislation to the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland and implications for the courts' existing mental health powers. The consultation invites comments on these existing powers, including supervision and treatment orders, whether these are sufficient and whether they might be amended. I look forward to the responses to the consultation and will examine these in detail before deciding whether to bring forward further proposals in this area.

Adjournment Monitoring Exercise

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice why the adjournment monitoring exercise is only available at Londonderry Magistrates Court.

(AQW 13578/11-15)

Mr Ford: The adjournment monitoring exercise was piloted in Londonderry Magistrates' Court to analyse the adjournment reasons in that Petty Sessions District.

Any decision surrounding the operation of this pilot is a matter for the Presiding District Judge (Magistrates' Court).

Prison Unit at Crumlin Road

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice for how long a prison unit has operated at Crumlin Road, Belfast since the prison's closure, irrespective of the title; and to list the titles by which it was known in the corresponding years.

(AQW 13579/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Prisoner Assessment Unit at the former Belfast Prison site has been in operation since the closure of the Prison in 1996. It was originally known as the Working-out Unit which operated from a designated landing within Belfast Prison.

On the closure of the vacant Staff Training Unit the locker rooms were converted into a 22 bed residential unit which became the Working-out Unit. In 2002 (approximately) the title of the Unit was changed to the Prisoner Assessment Unit.

Registered Firearms Dealers

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of Registered Firearms Dealers in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 13614/11-15)

Mr Ford: The operation of firearms licensing is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and role of the Policing Board.

You may therefore wish to direct your question to the PSNI.

Firearms Certificates

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice how many Firearms Certificates were issued in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 13615/11-15)

Mr Ford: The operation of firearms licensing is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and role of the Policing Board.

You may therefore wish to direct your question to the PSNI.

Case of Brian Brendan Lynch at Londonderry Magistrates' Court

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW13022/11-15, (i) to provide a timeline of each appearance at court since the first appearance, detailing whether each adjournment was at the request of the prosecution or the defence; and (ii) what is the nature of the delay that is holding up the progress of this case.

(AQW 13621/11-15)

Mr Ford:

- (i) The table below lists the dates of all court appearances of this case. Not all appearances were for the purpose of seeking an adjournment.

The table also sets out the reason for the appearance and, where relevant, the party seeking an adjournment.

Date	Reason for Appearance	Party Seeking Adjournment
22.09.11	First Appearance	Prosecution
29.09.11	High Court Bail Application	Not Relevant
20.10.11	Remand	Prosecution
10.11.11	Remand	Prosecution
11.11.11	Bring Forward Application	Not Relevant
14.11.11	Applications	Defence
17.11.11	Remand	Prosecution
28.11.11	High Court Bail Order	Not Relevant

Date	Reason for Appearance	Party Seeking Adjournment
08.12.11	Remand	Prosecution
21.12.11	Bail Variation	Not Relevant
22.12.11	High Court Bail Order	Not Relevant
05.01.12	Remand	Prosecution
02.02.12	Remand	Prosecution
20.02.12	Bail Variation	Not Relevant
01.03.12	Remand	Prosecution
08.03.12	Bail Variation	Not Relevant
09.03.12	Applications	Not Relevant
14.03.12	Bail Variation	Not Relevant
27.03.12	New Bail Terms	Not Relevant
29.03.12	For Mention	Not Relevant
12.04.12	Bail Variation	Not Relevant
26.04.12	Remand	Prosecution
04.05.12	Bail Variation	Not Relevant
24.05.12	Remand	Prosecution
18.06.12	Remand	Prosecution

- (ii) I am advised that the reason for the delay in this case is because the Public Prosecution Service is awaiting the evidential copies of CCTV evidence for inclusion in the Preliminary Enquiry Papers.

Gerry McGeough: Legal Aid

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, given the amount of legal aid awarded for Gerry McGeough's numerous court challenges, and taking into account that all such actions have failed, whether he will instruct that no further funding should be certified to pursue any follow-up actions; and whether he will seek a percentage, of the legal aid awarded to be re-couped from the Gerry McGeough and Family Fund which hosted appeals for donations to cover his legal fees.

(AQW 13624/11-15)

Mr Ford: Any future applications for legal aid from Mr McGeough will be considered on the merits, by the relevant statutory authority, in accordance with Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

My Department has no evidence of additional funding being provided to Mr McGeough directly through the fund mentioned. If evidence were available that Mr McGeough had additional income which he failed to mention on his application for legal aid, the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission would be in a position to commence an investigation for fraud.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Disciplinary Action

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) on how many occasions an outside agency has recommended disciplinary action against a Northern Ireland Prison Service staff member, in each of the last five years; (ii) to detail the recommending agency in each case; and (ii) how many recommendations were approved and actioned.

(AQW 13626/11-15)

Mr Ford: Disciplinary records held by the Prison Service indicate that no outside agency has explicitly made a recommendation that disciplinary action be invoked against a Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) staff member, in the last five years.

The Northern Ireland Allowance

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice whether he has any plans to introduce and back date the Northern Ireland Allowance to ex-members of the RUC or PSNI Full Time Reserve, to ensure equality with officers who served as regular members.

(AQW 13641/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Transitional Allowance (NITA) has been paid since 1978, originally to recognise the special difficulties faced by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The NITA was reduced in 2007 following a comprehensive review. It was never the case that this allowance was removed completely.

Earlier this year, having carefully considered representations made to me, I agreed to increase the rate of NITA from £2,730 to £2,994, back-dated to September 2010. I made this decision to reflect the Chief Constable's assessment of an increase in the level of security threat and to take account of a specific recommendation in Tom Winsor's first report on police terms and conditions.

The pay remit for Full Time Reserve NITA payment is currently being progressed. All members of the PSNI, including Full Time Reserve, who were serving police officers at September 2010 should receive the increase.

Police Investigation into the Events of 'Bloody Sunday'

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice whether he will make representations to the Chief Constable that any police investigation into the events of 'Bloody Sunday' should cover all alleged criminality, including the possession of illegal weapons by some of those present.

(AQW 13670/11-15)

Mr Ford: The scope and remit of criminal investigations is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board. You may therefore wish to direct your question to the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Report into the Closure of the Prisoner Assessment Unit

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW13452/11-15, and given the length of time already allowed on this report and that any preparations or redactions should have been completed before the end of June 2012, and that the inconvenience due to flooding lasted two days, (i) for his assessment of the explanation provided by the Northern Ireland Prison Service; (ii) whether he can provide a definitive deadline for publication of the report; and (iii) if this deadline is missed, whether he will authorise disciplinary action.

(AQW 13681/11-15)

Mr Ford: I am satisfied that the redactions were completed by Prison Service

and agreed with Departmental Solicitors before the end of June. I believe that, in the unforeseen and wholly unprecedented circumstances, where NIPS had to vacate Headquarters in Dundonald House and to then focus on the delivery of essential services and the relocation of around 180 staff, it was entirely appropriate to make publication of the PAU report a lower priority.

Given the fluidity of the existing problems faced by NIPS, I am not prepared to give a definitive statement on when the report will be published. As stated, disciplinary action would be entirely inappropriate.

Department for Regional Development

Capital Projects Planned for Lagan Valley

Mr Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development what capital projects his Department has planned for Lagan Valley over the next four years.

(AQW 13315/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): The capital projects which my Department has planned for Lagan Valley over the next four years are set out below.

My Department has several hundred projects in progress or under development during each of the next 4 years. Details of those projects which have a forecast cost greater than £5 million are set out in the table below. The table also includes programmes within which a number of smaller projects are being taken forward.

	2012-13 £m	2013-14 £m	2014-15 £m	2015-16 £m	Total Project Cost £m	Estimated Completion Date
Transport						
Knockmore to Lurgan Track Rehabilitation			2.6	5.1	10.0	2017
Lisburn West Halt & Park & Ride	0.1	0.8	0	0.4	5.1	2018
Projects Network Wide						
New Trains 2	0.9	0.1			114.0	2012
New Trains 2 Platform Extension	1.0				7.9	2012
Adelaide Train Maintenance Facility	1.2				27.8	2012
Class 3000 Overhaul	2.1	2.1	2.4	1.0	13.7	2015
Class 4000 Overhaul		1.5	1.6	1.6	Est. 16.0	Est. 2019
New Tamping and Lining Machine				4.4	5.2	2017
Metro Fleet Replacement / Goldline Fleet Replacement	11.8				39.2	2013
Building Services Upgrade Programme	0.6		0.8	1.5	5.5	2016
Belfast Rapid Transit			3.0	5.0	98.0	2017
Total Transport	17.7	4.5	10.4	19.0		
Water and Sewerage						
Strategic Link - Castor Bay to Belfast	0.2	9.3	10.5	0.2	20.9	2015
Service Reservoir Rehab	0.6	2.7	2.7	0.7	6.7	2015

	2012-13 £m	2013-14 £m	2014-15 £m	2015-16 £m	Total Project Cost £m	Estimated Completion Date
Service Reservoir Enhanced Security Phase 2	0.1	1.8	2.6	0.7	5.2	2015
Water Infrastructure	1.5	5.1	0	0	6.6	Ongoing
Sewerage Infrastructure	1.2	2.5	1.1	3.0	12.6	Ongoing
Sewerage Non-infrastructure	2.7	6.0	0	1.9	20.7	Ongoing
Total Water and Sewerage	6.3	27.4	16.9	6.5	72.6	

Totals may not add due to rounding.

The information provided above reflects current plans and may be subject to change.

The capital budget available to the Department in 2015-16 will be dependent on the outcome of the next Budget process.

Transport

Included in the table are projects which are relevant to the whole of the network including Lagan Valley, apart from the Belfast Rapid Transit figures which relate to the approximate proportion of the project capital spend which will be attributable to the Lagan Valley constituency.

NI Water

The investment levels in capital are indicative and will be determined by the Utility Regulator through its next regulatory price control process for water.

Roads Service

Roads Service has currently no significant capital projects planned for the Lagan Valley constituency over the next four years. The majority of Roads capital budget allocation is in relation to Strategic Roads Improvements and the planned spend will be focused on the A5, A8 and A2 schemes up to 2015-16. While this will not impact directly on the Lagan Valley constituency the improved roads infrastructure will benefit the country as a whole.

Of the remaining capital budget allocation resources are not allocated to a specific constituency or geographical area. Capital structural maintenance, for example, is allocated to the four Roads Service Divisions on the basis of need, using a range of weighted indicators tailored to each maintenance activity (i.e. resurfacing, surface dressing, structural drainage). Divisions use these indicators when apportioning across Council areas to ensure, as far as possible, an equitable distribution of funds across the whole of Northern Ireland.

Telephone Payment System for Parking in Bangor

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he has any plans to introduce a telephone payment system for parking in Bangor.

(AQW 13369/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the Member that my Department's Roads Service intends to introduce electronic parking payment across the whole of Northern Ireland. This service will mean that drivers do not need to have the correct change and they can start and stop their parking using a mobile phone and only pay for the time used. This facility currently exists in Belfast, Londonderry, Lisburn, Newry and

Omagh, and it is hoped to extend this scheme to other towns across Northern Ireland, including Bangor, over the coming months.

Parking Meters

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are any plans to modify parking meters to dispense change.

(AQW 13371/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service is not aware of the use of Pay and Display machines that offer change in other regions of the UK. In the event that such machines were available, it is likely that their cost would be much greater than those currently used by Roads Service, and that the potential benefits of purchasing such machines would need to be carefully assessed, especially at a time when the Department is striving to identify further efficiencies in the provision of its parking enforcement and car park management services.

Blue Badges

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development, in light of the National Audit Office findings that 7300 blue badges are being used despite the registered holder being deceased, what steps are being taken to address this issue.

(AQW 13398/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) was reporting on the outcome of the 2010/11 National Fraud Initiative. This data matching exercise compared details on Blue Badge holders against death records. This exercise assisted in identifying those instances where the identity of a deceased person has been used to illegally obtain or renew a Blue Badge. Investigations carried out on these matches, indicated two such instances, which were reported to the police.

The NIAO report also identified the risk that a Blue Badge may be used by someone other than the named badge holder, to avoid parking costs or for easy parking.

Enforcement of Blue Badge use is undertaken by a team of dedicated Blue Badge Traffic Attendants. This team devotes the majority of its time to Belfast, however, every main town in Northern Ireland is covered on a rotational basis. Dedicated Blue Badge Traffic Attendants are easily identifiable by their high visibility waistcoats displaying the words "Blue Badge Parking Enforcement", which serves not only as a deterrent, but also a demonstration to legitimate Blue Badge holders that action is being taken to protect the proper use of Blue Badges. They are supported by the Blue Badge Unit in Enniskillen, which is able to verify badge details for the team on patrol so that they are able to carry out a more detailed level of investigation than the normal Traffic Attendant. Any suspicious activity relating to a Blue Badge is recorded and a Penalty Charge Notice is issued, if necessary, or the matter is referred to the police.

I can also advise that two recent surveys on the use of Blue Badges in Belfast in relation to street parking bays revealed no instances of misuse of deceased persons' Blue Badges.

Concessionary Travel Passes

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the number of concessionary travel passes which are not cancelled following the death of the registered holder; and the cost of any resulting losses.

(AQW 13399/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department and Translink have been proactive in dealing with the deactivation of passes of deceased pass holders following the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) exercise. It is not a case that SmartPasses were issued to deceased individuals. Rather, there will always be a proportion of travel pass holders who regrettably pass away. The cases identified during the NFI exercise generally arose because their dependants have simply not realised that the passes should be returned for

cancellation. Restrictions on data sharing have now been addressed as part of the NFI framework allowing this administrative issue to be addressed.

During the exercise, which identified approximately 15,000 possible cases there were 88 instances where a deceased customer's SmartPass was used to travel on Translink services after the reported date of death. It is estimated that the resulting cost of this was £4,593.39. These passes have since been deactivated. Existing controls over the use of Concessionary Fares mean that the individual using the card must purchase tickets and for the small percentage of cards used inappropriately it is not possible to pursue recovery of the loss incurred because the individual users cannot be identified.

Resilience of the Road Network to Severe Weather

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Regional Development what research his Department has carried out on the resilience of the road network to severe weather.

(AQW 13403/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can confirm that my Department's Roads Service has not carried out any specific research in relation to the resilience of the road network to severe weather.

However, I can advise that a study was carried out, following the severe winter of 2009/10, to determine the extent of the damage caused to the network as a result of the severe winter. The study determined that a conservative estimate of damage caused by the repeated freezing and thawing would be in excess of £2m.

The study also concluded that the total cost of the damage, caused solely by the weather during that winter, may never fully be known, as it would not be practical, or indeed possible, to diagnose every failure that has already led to, or is likely to, contribute to damage in the future.

By and large, well maintained roads, in good condition, suffer relatively little damage from severe weather. But, where the surface is ageing, or has been damaged by excavation and reinstatement, water can penetrate into small cracks and other defects in the surface. When the water freezes (often overnight) it expands, opening up the cracks. During daytime thaws, the ice melts and more water seeps in, before the next freeze. Repeated freeze thaw cycles gradually open cracks and create cavities and the surface deteriorates very quickly. Traffic soon displaces the loose aggregate and potholes form. Most of the damage caused to carriageways by severe weather is very obvious, is very localised (patchy), and occurs where there were already minor defects in the surface.

It is clear that the current level of funding for roads maintenance is no longer sustainable, as the cost of poor value for money reactive patching is climbing year on year. The underinvestment of previous spending periods has created a vicious circle, because as pavements deteriorate through a lack of planned maintenance, they require relatively expensive patching to avoid public liability claims and maintain road safety, which draws further funds away from good value resurfacing and surface dressing.

Furthermore, it is difficult to estimate how the level of patching would increase if underinvestment in structural maintenance continues, because, as the level of underfunding and backlog increases, the rate of deterioration and the need for patching is also likely to increase, as will the damage caused by severe weather.

Fair Employment Tribunal Case on the Appointment of the Chair of NI Water

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the costs incurred by his Department in relation to the Fair Employment Tribunal case on the appointment of the Chair of NI Water, including a breakdown by legal fees, travel costs and all other expenses.

(AQW 13421/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I refer to the answer I gave to AQW 13171/11-15 on 6 July.

The Department is continuing to consult with its legal advisors following the Tribunal's decision. As the process has not been concluded it is too early for me to comment further or to provide estimates in relation to the costs associated with this case.

Fair Employment Tribunal Ruling in Lennon v the Department for Regional Development

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development, in light of the Fair Employment Tribunal ruling in Lennon v the Department for Regional Development, whether he has reviewed the appointment of the current Chairman of Northern Ireland Water; and what was the outcome.

(AQW 13422/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I want to take some time to examine the implications of the decision with my officials and legal advisers. Any issues for follow up action will be considered after that as appropriate.

Programme for Government targets on Active School Travel

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Regional Development what progress his Department has made against the Programme for Government targets on Active School Travel.

(AQW 13436/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the member that my Department is currently assessing the costs, potential for funding partnerships as well as developing the necessary Business Case to enable the Active School Travel Project to begin.

In the meantime my Department has commissioned a one year interim sustainable school travel proposal to be delivered to 40 schools which will begin the process of delivering increases in sustainable transport choices made by school children in advance of the introduction of the full Active School Travel Scheme.

Capital Asset Disposal

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the capital assets of which his Department intends to dispose in each of the next three years.

(AQW 13441/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Department and its Arm's Length Bodies, Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company and Northern Ireland Water, regularly review the assets they hold to establish whether they are still required, will be needed for future projects / operational purposes or can be declared surplus to requirements.

This ongoing process of reviewing asset holdings results in a rolling programme of asset disposals.

The assets listed below were programmed for disposal by the Department and its Arm's Length Bodies from 2012/13 to 2014/15. However, given the ongoing review processes this list may be subject change. Where possible, indicative timescales for asset disposal have been noted below.

The Department and its Arm's Length Bodies are also considering other future asset efficiency opportunities.

2012/13

1	Land at Park Drive, Bangor	8	9&11 Belfast Road Ballynure
2	Land at 1A Station Road, Greenisland	9	72 Kingsdale park, Belfast
3	3 Belfast Road, Ballynure	10.	17 Bernetts Crescent, Belfast
4	88 Shore Road, Greenisland	11.	Land at Madison Avenue East
5	21 Bernetts Road, Belfast	12.	High Road, Portstewart
6	11 Liminary Road, Ballymena	13.	Land at Ballyduff/Beverley Road
7	87 Abbey Park, Belfast		Newtownabbey

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|-----|---|-----|---|
| 14. | 271 Shore Road, Belfast | 41. | Carrowshee PS, Carrowshee Park, Lisnaskea |
| 15. | 52 Movilla Road, Portstewart | 42. | Churchill SR, Drumenagh Beg, Churchill |
| 16. | Land at Distillery Street/Westlink, Belfast | 43. | Clady WwTW, Kilrea Rd Clady |
| 17. | 15 Parkgate Avenue, Belfast | 44. | Cloghinny SR, Mountain Rd, Forkhill |
| 18. | 17a Parkgate Avenue, Belfast | 45. | Cloghoge Road WwTW, Cloghoge Road Tandragee |
| 19. | Land at A2 Dual Carriageway | 46. | Clough SPS, Cloughwater Rd, Clough |
| 20. | Armagh Depot | 47. | Cockle Row SPS, Larne, Circular Rd, Larne |
| 21. | Enniskillen Depot | 48. | Craigahullier IR, Corbally Road, Portrush |
| 22. | Downpatrick Depot | 49. | Craigmore SPS, Craigmore Rd, Newry |
| 23. | Bessbrook Wastewater Treatment Works | 50. | Glenarm SR, Tully Road Glenarm, Antrim |
| 24. | Dungannon Depot | 51. | Hillcrest STW, Hillcrest Aughnacloy |
| 25. | Ballymoney Depot | 52. | Irwins Quarry (STW), Gortgonis, Coalisland |
| 26. | Limavady Depot | 53. | Ivy Bridge ST, Ivy Bridge Cottages, Newry Rd, Rathfriland |
| 27. | Cookstown Depot | 54. | Jubilee Hill STW, Jubilee Hill Enniskillen |
| 28. | Land at Mealough | 55. | Kinallen WwTW (Old), Seagh Road, Kinallen, Dromara |
| 29. | Straidkilly Pumping Station | 56. | Magherafelt Depot, Station Road Magherafelt |
| 30. | North Road, Newtownards Reservoir | 57. | Middletown SR, Rathrillick Rd Middletown |
| 31. | Donard Reservoir, Newcastle | 58. | Railway View STW, Cullnady Rd, Upperlands |
| 32. | Slievenaman Break Pressure Tank | 59. | Rathfriland Rd ST, Rathfriland Rd Dromara |
| 33. | Ballintemple WTW, Ballintemple Rd Killeavy Co. Armagh | 60. | Slievenalargy SR & BPT, Largy Rd, Castlewellan |
| 34. | Ballydoolagh IR, Enniskillen | 61. | Stonefort SR, Derrin Mountain, Stonefort |
| 35. | Ballylane Lough, Lough Rd Glenanne Armagh | 62. | Tully GT, Moorfields Rd Ballymena |
| 36. | Ballyversall IR, Coleraine | 63. | Tullyglush ST/BPT, Ednego Rd, Dromore |
| 37. | Bessbrook SR, Ballynabee Road Bessbrook | 64. | Victoria Bridge STW, Fyfin Road, Strabane |
| 38. | Blackstick Road PS, Killyhevlin, Enniskillen | | |
| 39. | Boomers IR, Derriaghy Road, Lisburn | | |
| 40. | Carney Hill SR, Carney Hill Bellanaleck | | |

2013/14

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| 65. | 34 - 46 Shore Road, Greenisland | | Rd, Banbridge |
| 66. | 180 Ballyeaston Road, Ballyclare | 79. | Battery Hill SR, Roguery Road, Toome |
| 67. | Whitla Street/York Street, Belfast | 80. | Carran Hill WTW (old), Carran Road, Crossmaglen |
| 68. | 100 High Street, Belfast | 81. | Cashlandoo SPS, Turnberry Mews, Portstewart |
| 69. | Charlestown Road, Portadown | 82. | Castlecaufield SPS, Parkanaur Road Castlecaufield Co.Tyrone |
| 70. | 147 Manse Road, Newtownabbey | 83. | Clonetrace BPT, Clonetrace Rd, Broughshane |
| 71. | Craigowen Lodge, Craigavad | 84. | Clontigora SR, Clontigora Hill, Killeen |
| 72. | Land at Saintfiled Rd/Cairnshill Rd, Belfast | 85. | Conlig Depot, Green Way Conlig |
| 73. | Attesnahan SR & BPT, Moneynick Road, Randalstown | 86. | Corbally BPT, Carnew Rd Shanrod |
| 74. | Ballyboley IR, Larne area | 87. | Crockacleaven Lough, Crockacleaven Clougher |
| 75. | Ballygawley SR, Lisbeg Road, Ballygawley | 88. | Cullyhanna SR, Skeriff Road, Cullyhanna, Co Armagh |
| 76. | Ballygrooby SPS, Barnish Rd, Randalstown | | |
| 77. | Ballymaginaghy SR, Leitrim Rd, Castlewellan | | |
| 78. | Banbridge Local Office/Depot, Downshire | | |

89. Derg (WTW) original, Tievenny Road, Strabane
90. Drumbolg BPT, Tamlagh Rd, Kilea
91. Drumena SR, Drumena Rd, Castlewellan
92. Dunalis IR, Coleraine
93. Dundrinne SR, Dundrinne Road Castlewellan
94. Farrentemple Springs, Glebe Road Garvagh
95. Killea IR, Londonderry area
96. Killough Ponds, Killough, Downpatrick Road, Killough
97. Knockbracken IR, Belfast area
98. Knockoneill SR, Laragh Rd, Swatragh
99. Lands at Knockagh Rd, Carrickfergus
100. Lisbellaw SR, Tattymacall, Lisbellaw
101. Lisnafin Park PS, Urney Rd, Lisnafin, Strabane
102. Lisnamuck BPT, Lisnamuck Rd, Aghadowey
103. Loughgall WT, Orchard Pk, Loughgall
104. Milebush Depot, Carrickfergus, Carrickfergus
105. Moneyslane SPS, Dromara Road Moneyslane
106. Moneyslane WWTW, Dromara Road, Moneyslane
107. Murdock's Shallow Borehole, Mount Alexander Comber
108. Newtown-Cloghogue STW, Carn Rd, Newry
109. Rylands STW, Rylands, Omagh
110. Skea STW, Skea Arney Enniskillen
111. Slievegullion Intakes, Mountain Rd Drumintee
112. Tudor Lodge SPS, Lurgan Road Warringstown
113. Tullymacreeve PS, Carricknagavna Rd, Mullaghbawn

2014/15

114. Land at Frys Road, Ballymena
115. Land at Regent St/Clifton St, Belfast
116. 28 Shore Road, Carrickfergus
117. Land at Kilvergan Rd/Carbet Rd, Craigavon
118. Land at plot 4 & 5 Browning River, Londonderry
119. Land at Plot 26A Rossby, Londonderry
120. Land at Plot 26B Rossby, Londonderry
121. Land at Kilylyliss Road, Dungannon
122. Land at Crebarky Road, Dungiven
123. Land at Plot 4 Millenium way
124. Land at Plot 5 Millenium way
125. Land at A27 Tandragee Road
126. Castle Street, Portadown
127. Aghanloo STW, Crannagh, Limavady
128. Altmore IR, Pomeroy
129. Annesborough WWTW, Annesborough Co.Down
130. Babylon WPS, Mullaghaglass Rd, Scarva
131. Ballintemple IR, Killeavy Co Armagh
132. Ballydoolagh WTW and Lough Intake, Ballydoolagh, Enniskillen
133. Balnamore STW, Drumawhiskey Rd Ballymoney
134. Bells Gate WPS, Ballintemple Rd, Meigh
135. Bendooragh STW, Bann Rd Ballymoney
136. Bolea Raw Water Intake, Bolea, Limavady
137. Capagh IR, Dungannon
138. Carnstroan SR, Carnalbanagh Rd Broughshane
139. Clontigora STW, Clontigora Rd Newry
140. Coleraine Depot, Lower Newmills Rd Coleraine
141. Cullen Hill SR, Cullen, Monea Enniskillen
142. Derrygonnelly SR, Dromore, Derrygonnelly
143. Derrylinn PS, Castlebarfor, Lisnaskea
144. Desertmartin STW (Land adj), Main St, Desertmartin
145. Dhu Varren Screening Chamber, West Strand, Portrush
146. Dromore Road SPS, Dromore Road, Lurgan
147. Drummallaght Rd WwPS, Off Ballinamore Rd Ballymoney
148. Dundoonan SPS, Gateside Road, Coleraine
149. Fernoyale and Springwell BPT, Macosquin, Coleraine
150. Glenhead WPS, Baranailt Rd, Limavady
151. Huntingdale Way WwPS, Doagh Rd Ballyclare
152. Killyberry SR, Killberry Rd, Bellaghey
153. Leathemstown IR, Dundrod
154. Leitrim SR, Newtown Rd, Hilltown
155. Lisnasure Tower, Lisnasure Rd, Donaghacloney
156. Lisnevenagh BPT, Lisnevenagh Rd Ballymena

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| 157. Lough Cowey IR & WTW, Deerpark Road, Portaferry | 164. Portrush SR, Lougestown Rd Portrush |
| 158. Loughconnolly BPT, Camlough Rd, Broughshane | 165. Quolie Lower Impounding Reservoir, Longmore Road Broughshane |
| 159. Loughgall STW (Old), Main St, Loughgall | 166. Rathview Gardens STW, Ballymoyer Rd Newtownhamilton |
| 160. Mallusk SPS, Old Coach Rd, Mallusk | 167. Slievenacappell SR, Carricknagavna Rd, Mullaghbawn |
| 161. Moneymore SPS, Moneyhaw Road Moneymore | 168. Sulltober Pond, Carrickfergus |
| 162. Newtown-hamilton STW, Dundalk Rd, Newtownhamilton | 169. Tanderagee BPT Tanderagee Road, Pomeroy |
| 163. Pinehill Road, Drumbo | 170. Whitehill PS, Whitehill, Limavady |

2012 - 15

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 171. Steeple Road, Antrim | 174. 109 - 111 Queen Street, Ballymena |
| 172. Land at Scrabo Street | 175. 10a Belfast Road, Saintfield |
| 173. 2A Smithfield Square, Lisburn | |

Key to Abbreviations

BPT	Break Pressure Tank (See Gauge Tank below)	WTW	Water Treatment Works (potable)
GT	Gauge Tank (small storage tank for maintaining steady water pressure)	STW	Sewage Treatment Works (may be large septic tank or small mechanised works)
IR	Impounding Reservoir (usually with a dam for collecting raw i.e. untreated water)	WPS	Water Pumping Station (for transmission of potable water)
PS	Pumping Station (for potable or raw water)	WT	Water Tank (for storage of potable water)
SPS	Sewage Pumping Station (small station for pumping sewerage to a WwTw)	ST	Septic Tank (sewage treatment for 2 or more houses no machinery)
SR	Service Reservoir (large concrete cistern containing potable water used to maintain supply)	WwTw	Waste Water Treatment Works (varies from small to large scale treatment of sewerage)
BH	Borehole (for raw water extraction)	Lough	Lake manmade or natural area of water used as a raw water source

Daily Traffic Volume on the A7, A2/A24, and A25

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 13017/11-15, for his assessment of the daily traffic flow on the A7 Downpatrick to Belfast road compares with traffic flow on all other ancillary roads into the city.

(AQW 13451/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that traffic volumes are recorded at a number of permanent sites located throughout the Northern Ireland road network. The collection of traffic data contributes to the effective management of the road network, the allocation of Roads Service's financial resources and the development of future proposals for the network.

The most recent Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) traffic flow information, recorded on the major ancillary roads into Belfast including the A7 Downpatrick – Belfast Road, is provided in the table below:

Route	Location	Aadt
A7 Downpatrick – Belfast	Belfast Road at Quoile	11,214
A24 Newcastle – Belfast	Belfast Road, Ballynahinch	8,698
A1 Hillsborough – Lisburn	At Harry's Road	39,197
A30 Glenavy – Belfast	Glenavy Road	3,779
A6 Antrim – Belfast	Belfast Road, Antrim	8,984
A2 Carrickfergus – Belfast	Near Trooperslane Road	24,825
A2 Bangor – Belfast	At Cultra , East of Folk Museum	36,613
A20 Newtownards - Belfast	Upper Newtownards Road at Quarry Inn	22,945
A22 Comber – Belfast	Comber Road, South East of New Line	10,866
A23 Ballygowan – Belfast	Ballygowan Road at Roselawn Cemetery	11,930
A52 Crumlin – Belfast	Belfast side of Horseshoe Bend	8,766

The information indicates that traffic flows on the A7 are sixth highest out of the eleven roads listed above.

Inspections of Gulleys in South Down

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister for Regional Development how many inspections were carried out on gulleys in South Down over the last three years.

(AQW 13457/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it inspects, and cleans where necessary, all gulleys in urban areas twice each year and gulleys in rural areas once each year. This policy ensures that a reasonable level of maintenance is carried out to drainage systems, taking account of the Department's finite funding and staff resource levels.

In addition, and in accordance with Roads Service's Road Maintenance Standards for Safety, all public roads in the South Down area are inspected on a one, two or four monthly cycle, depending on the type of road.

Officials have indicated that during the course of these inspections any noticeable problems with the road drainage system are noted and, if necessary, remedial action is taken. As well as proactively identifying problems within the road drainage system, Roads Service also actively responds to representations made by elected representatives and members of the public, and will undertake further inspections upon receipt of any complaints.

Transport Infrastructure

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there is communication between InvestNI and his Department regarding potential investors' feedback on transport infrastructure; and whether this feedback is used to inform decision-making on transport investment.

(AQW 13495/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: In March 2012 my Department published a New Approach to Regional Transportation. This document outlines the High Level Aims and Strategic Objectives for the development of transportation in Northern Ireland and the processes that it will use to make them a reality. In developing the New Approach my Department engaged with other public bodies including DETI and InvestNI to ensure that transportation integrates with existing and emerging Executive strategies and policies.

In bringing forward any new transport infrastructure or policies my officials will continue to engage with key stakeholders in other Departments, local government, business and industry (including InvestNI) and transport operators who are contained within its Section 75 consultation contact list.

Public Inquiry on the Proposed A6 Dualling

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development what is the estimated cost of the Public Inquiry on the proposed A6 dualling, which is due to be held at the Radisson Hotel, Limavady in September 2012.

(AQW 13512/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the cost of holding the Public Inquiry at the Roe Park Resort, at the end of September 2012, is estimated at £150,000.

Illegal Posters: Lisburn Council Area

Mr Givan asked the Minister for Regional Development how many illegal posters have been removed by the Roads Service in the Lisburn Council area, in each of the last five years; and to list the organisations that have been charged for such removals.

(AQW 13528/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise that 1,213 unlawful signs have been removed by my Department's Roads Service in the Lisburn Council area, within the past 5 years, an annual breakdown of which is shown below:

- April 2007 – March 2008 601
- April 2008 – March 2009 303
- April 2009 – March 2010 203
- April 2010 – March 2011 70
- April 2011 – March 2012 36

Unfortunately, Roads Service does not hold information on cost recovery on a Council basis and the data is not easily extracted for a specific area. However, I have attached a list of those organisations charged by Roads Service's Eastern Division, which is mostly made up of Belfast, Castlereagh, Lisburn, Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus council areas.

Illegal Signs 2007 to 2009

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ■ 1St Choice Taxis | ■ Allstar Gym & Fitness | ■ Autowindcreens & Motorspares |
| ■ 4 X 4 Store | ■ Alternative Ulster | ■ B & Q |
| ■ A Barton Co | ■ Amb Plastics | ■ B Pure Beauty Salon |
| ■ Aa Music | ■ Andersonstown News | ■ Bada Bing Pizza |
| ■ Abbey Drains | ■ Antrim Road Cab Co. | ■ Bailie Stephen |
| ■ Abbey Real Estates | ■ Ar Graphics | ■ Ballynure Barbers |
| ■ Absolute | ■ Ards Tourist Information Centre | ■ Balmoral Estates |
| ■ Adl Group Ltd | ■ Aria Property Solutions | ■ Balmoral Tiles Ltd |
| ■ Adrian Mcquaid | ■ Arrow | ■ Bangor Leisure Centre |
| ■ Alan Newell | ■ Atj's Professional Cleaning | ■ Basc |
| ■ Alfresco Cafe | ■ Attention 2 Detail | ■ Beatties Chip Shop |
| ■ Alison Gray Recruitment | ■ Au Naturale | ■ Belfast And District Motor Club |
| ■ All Cabs | ■ Autocabs | ■ Belfast Cycle Shop |
| ■ Allied Carpets | | |

- Belfast Property Agency
- Belfast Telegraph
- Belfast Tile Company
- Bells Of Crossgar
- Belvoir Lettings
- Bih Housing Association
- Bill Mckelvey
- Black Property Management
- Blue Sky Solar Heating System
- Body Worx
- Boland Reilly Homes Ltd
- Bookends
- Bp Sew N Knit
- Breda Cabs
- Brian Blakely Contracts
- Brian Morton & Co
- Brice & Co Estate Agents
- Brooke Taxis
- Brunches
- Btw Cairns
- Btw Shiells
- Budget Cars
- Cafe Ceol/ Club Tao
- Cairns Office Design
- Campbell Cairns
- Campbell Gillian
- Camphill Community Glencraig
- Canine Design
- Carpetright Plc
- Carrickfergus Borough Council
- Carrickfergus Fm
- Castlereagh Cab Company
- Ccr Cabs
- Centra
- Charly's
- Cherryvale Auction Rooms
- Choice Flooring
- Christian Brothers Past Pupils Union
- Citi Golf Belfast
- City Property Services
- Clandeboye Lodge Hotel
- Clarion Hotel
- Classic Carpets
- Clifford Brown
- Clifton Cabs
- Clifton Fuels
- Commercial Vehicle Auctions
- Cordiners Kitchens And Bedrooms
- Corrigan's Vehicle Rentals
- Country Estates
- Cowley Groves
- Crawford Car & Commercial
- Creative Tiles
- Crumbs
- Curleys Supermarket
- Currys
- Curves
- Custom Graphix
- Daniel Mcgeown & Co
- Davids Chip Shop
- Debenhams
- Deborah Yea Partnership
- Decora Blinds
- Delta Packaging
- Devenish Complex
- Dial A Digger
- Diamond Coaches
- Dirtycarswanted
- Discount Salon Supplies
- Dixons Contractors
- Dnd Motorcycles
- Dogwood Pet Resort
- Donard Homes Ltd
- Donnelly Bros
- Donnelly Cars
- Door Store
- Doorseps Gourmet Sandwiches
- Dorchester Limousine Co
- Downey Cars
- Dreams Plc
- Dundonald Primary School
- Dunelm Soft Furnishings Ltd
- Dunlop Homes Ltd
- Dunnes Stores Ltd
- Dv8
- East Antrim Embroidery
- East Antrim Oven Cleaning
- Eddie Wray
- Elm Pentecostal Church
- Emoves
- Enkalon Motorcycle Club
- Enterprise Rent A Car
- Esporta Health & Fitness
- Euroflowers
- Eurospar
- Eurotile
- Express Image
- Fast Cabs
- Fernagh Cabs
- Fineart Ireland
- Fishing Tackle Shop
- Fitness First
- Flame Ministries
- Flooring Inspirations
- Floors & More Ltd
- Floors-2-Go
- Fortwilliam Car Valeting
- Fred Dalzell
- Furniture Sale
- Furniture Warehouse Outlet
- G R Homes
- Garden Show Ireland
- Garry Davison
- Gasta.Com
- Gc Carpets
- General George
- Glasgoven Contracts
- Glitz Niteclub

- Gmc Properties
- Goldsmith Estates
- Gone Fishing
- Graham Henry Estate Agent
- Grant John
- Green Chillli Restaurant
- Greenaway Auto Electrics
- Greggs Dog Grooming
- H Ritchie & Sons
- Hagan Flooring Ltd
- Halifax Estate Agents
- Hampton Estates
- Harbour Point Bar
- Harry Douglas Furniture
- Harvey Norman
- Harveys
- Helen Kennedy Properties
- Help Computer Centre
- Hhi Building Products
- Hilden Brewery
- Hillsborough Elim Pentecostal Church
- Holstein Uk
- Home & Away Properties
- Home Buyers
- Home Living
- Homebase Ltd
- Homelink
- Howard Henderson Motor Works
- Hr Douglas & Sons
- Hss Hire
- Hunter Campbell
- Hurst Charles
- Huston Kerr
- Interior Solutions
- International Property Sales
- Irish Linen Company The
- Isys
- Jack Reid Cars
- Jeff Raine & Co
- Jennifer Kelly
- Jet-Tec
- Jjb Fitness Club
- Joe Deleaney
- Johnnys Car Wash & Valeting Service
- Jordanstown Real Estates
- Joyce Estate Agents
- Just Tiles
- Karacha Music Supplies
- Kidz Club
- Killead Lodge
- Kings Head
- Knockagh Lodge
- Krystal Kleen Kars
- Kyle Suckling
- L G Contracts & Ceilings Ltd
- La Fitness
- La Gnosh
- Lagan Valley Leisureplex
- Laura Wood (Carnwood B&B)
- Lavelle & Mcalinden
- Laverys Night Club
- Liam Greenham
- Lidl Northern Ireland Gmbh
- Lighting Inspirations
- Lindsay Ford & Mazda
- Lisburn Caravan Centre
- Lisburn Cathedral
- Lisburn Free Presbyterian Church
- Logwood Plant Centre Ltd
- Longstone Property Sales
- Lough & Quay
- Love For Life Organisation
- Lynchs Flooring
- Mad 4 Doors
- Magennis'S Bar
- Managemint
- Manor Interiors
- Martin & Co
- Martin Phillips
- Matthews Mr
- McAfee Land & New Homes
- Mcalpine Estate Agents
- Mcauleys Kitchens
- Mccann Bill Estate Agency
- Mccleary Estate Agents
- Mcclelland And Salter
- Mccombe Pierce
- Mccullagh Ian
- Mcdonalds Restaurants Ltd
- Mcgimpsey & Kane
- Mcgrady Ltd
- Mcgranaghan Estate Agents.Com
- Mcmillan Estate Agents
- Mcquoids Commercial & Residential Property
- Mcw Residential
- Mercury Security Management
- Metro Barbers
- MFI
- Mgc Builders
- Midas Touch
- Milebush Landscape Centre
- Millennium Stables
- Mind Your Paws
- Minnis John Estate Agents
- Mitchell Property Management
- Moira Drive Thru Internet Cafe
- Molloy Fuels
- Monaghan Post
- Moore Signs
- Morris Estate Agents
- Morrow Norman
- Move Property
- Moving Estate Agents
- Mplex

- Mr A & Mrs C Lester
- Mr Cardwell
- Mr Johnathan Smith
- Murray Sheds & Fencing
- My Tiles
- Mynt Bar
- Naiscoil
- Naked Sun
- Nation
- Neill Estate Agents
- New Lifestyle Fireplaces
- Next Home
- North Down Model Railways
- North Down Motors
- Ocean Blue
- O'connor Gerry
- O'connor Kennedy Turtle
- Oil Direct
- Omeya Day Spa
- One Stop Property
- One Stop Salon
- Optimum Real Estates
- Oregano Restaurant
- Orginal Tile
- Osborne King
- P & R Kitchens
- P2 Kennels
- Papa's Ice-Cream Parlour
- Paradise Limos
- Parkview Lodge B&B
- Patio Restaurant
- Pavilion Bar
- Peter Coyle
- Philip Johnston And Company
- Pinkerton Murray
- Pinpoint Property
- Playgirl Limousines
- Pooler Estate Agents
- Pooler Watson
- Premier 1 Driving School
- Premier Meats
- Prestige Property
- Pro Pest Control
- Project Planning International
- Property Directions
- Property Lets Ni
- Property Link (Armagh)
- Property One
- Property People
- Pyper Property Management
- Re/Max Excel
- Re/Max Property Specialists
- Re/Max Select Properties
- Rea Estates
- Reads
- Remax Property Sales
- Remax Solutions
- Rental Company The
- Ride Safe
- Robert A Noble & Co
- Robert Wilson Estate Agents
- Rocklane Day Nursery
- Rockport School
- Roger Beaumont Estate Agents
- Rogers Peter
- Rolf Tanya
- Ron Chandler
- Ross Glenn Mr
- Rudolf Steiner School
- Salon Services
- Scales & Equipment Centre
- Seymour Dugan Interiors
- Shanes Castle
- Shanks & Co Estate Agents
- Shooter Property Services
- Simply 4 Let
- Simpson Property
- Sleepmasters
- Sleepy Hollow Restaurant
- Slimming World
- Smart Wash-In
- Soaks Bathrooms
- Soil-Utions
- Solid Bond Scooter Club
- Space Real Estates
- Spar
- Square Yard Tiles
- Stormont Exhaust Centre
- Streamvale Open Farm
- Subway Sandwich Bar
- Supervalu
- Swift Cabs
- T&G Plastics
- T&G Plastics
- T&G Plastics
- Templeton Robinson
- Thames Tile & Bathrooms Ltd
- The Auld House
- The Bed Shed
- The Dufferin Cafe
- The Frying Squad
- The Gellie
- The Green Living Experience
- The Hopkins Partnership
- The Play Cafe
- The Red Door Cafe
- The Salvage Yard
- The Soap Box
- The Space Place
- The Van Shop
- The Windsor
- Thompsons
- Tim Martin & Co
- Tmc Estate Agents
- T-Met Ltd
- Tms Homes
- Tom Malloy
- Toptan
- Trinity Methodist Church

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lisburn | ■ Ultraplumb.Com | ■ Wholesale Electrical Supplies |
| ■ Trinity Partnership | ■ Unique Loft Conversions | ■ Wholesale Fireworks |
| ■ Turning Point Estate Agents | ■ Vision Property Agents | ■ Wilsons Auctions |
| ■ Tweedie Philip | ■ Vivante | ■ Windrose Bar & Bistro |
| ■ Ulster Property Sales | ■ Watson Property Sales | ■ Wooden Floor Company |
| ■ Ulster Transport Club | ■ Well Gems Home Interiors Ltd | ■ Woodstoc |
| ■ Ultimate Cladding Solutions | ■ Wetherspoons (The Central Bar | ■ Workout Express |

Illegal Signs 2009 to 2012

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| ■ A R Graphics | ■ Clandeboye Lodge Hotel | ■ Fawcett & Co |
| ■ A1 Boarding Kennels & Cattery | ■ Clasic Car Wash | ■ Ferris Brian Mr |
| ■ Abbe ' Co | ■ Classic Carpets & Bedding Co | ■ Fitness First |
| ■ Abbey Kitchens & Bathrooms | ■ Classic Fireworks | ■ Floors & More Ltd |
| ■ Abbey Real Estate | ■ Club 411 | ■ Forestside Tile & Bath |
| ■ Adelboden Café | ■ Cordiners Kitchens & Bedrooms Ltd | ■ Frazer Kidd |
| ■ Adrenalin Karting | ■ Country Cakes | ■ Glenpark |
| ■ Adrian Mcquaid | ■ Country Cakes Home Bakery | ■ Gordys Valeting Service |
| ■ Agar Murdoch & Deane Ltd | ■ Country Estates | ■ Greenaway Auto Electrics |
| ■ Alan Newell | ■ Curves | ■ Greenisland Chippy |
| ■ Alloy Wheel Repair | ■ D & G Body Repair And Valet | ■ Grow Coffee Shop |
| ■ Apache | ■ D B Tiles & Bathrooms | ■ Happy Catz & Little Pawz |
| ■ Aria Property Solutions | ■ Daniel Mcgeown & Company | ■ Harbour Point Bar & Grill |
| ■ B & Q | ■ Deborah Yea Partnership | ■ Harry Douglas Furniture |
| ■ Backstreet Bistro | ■ Decora Blind Systems Ltd | ■ Harvey Norman |
| ■ Bennett & Lisk | ■ Dicksons Garden Centre | ■ Hibernian Antiques Fairs |
| ■ Bodrum Pizzar | ■ Direct Furniture | ■ Hilton Templepatrick Hotel & Country Club |
| ■ Breda Cabs | ■ Docsol | ■ Homebase Ltd |
| ■ Broadway Taxis | ■ Douglas Huston | ■ Hunter Campbell |
| ■ Btw Cairns | ■ Dr Electrics | ■ Image Xpress |
| ■ Burn Restaurant | ■ Dreams | ■ Independent Property Estates |
| ■ Cannon Motors Limited | ■ Dunnes Stores Ltd | ■ Irene Johnston |
| ■ Carpetright Plc | ■ Dv8 Belfast | ■ Ivan Kerr Tyres |
| ■ Carrick Cab | ■ Dw Sports | ■ Jack Reid Cars |
| ■ Carrickfergus Motorcycles | ■ Dw Sports Fitness | ■ Jenkins Butcher |
| ■ Cbs Allotments | ■ Eco Friendly Ni | ■ John Minnis Estate Agents |
| ■ Century 21 Belfast | ■ Eddie Ervine Sports | ■ Jones The Butchers |
| ■ Cfc Interiors | ■ Educogym | ■ Jones The Butchers |
| ■ Charles Hurst Accident Repair Centre | ■ Fantastic Furniture | ■ Jordanstown Real Estates |
| ■ Choice Flooring | | ■ Kitchens Direct |
| | | ■ Kpl Developments |

- Laura English
- Latoria Boutique
- Lidl
- Lough & Quay
- Lpc Caravan & Camping
- Maggie Fashions
- Mcclearys Estate Agents
- Mcgimpsey & Kane
- Mcgranaghan Estate Agents
- Mcmillan Estate Agents
- Mcquaid Adrian
- Media On The Move
- Michael Chandler Property Services
- Mitchell Property Management
- Mono Bar & Restaurant
- Morton Pinpoint
- Mossley Pavillion
- Move Property
- My Tiles
- Mynt Bar
- Neill Estate Agents
- Network 24 Taxis
- NI Skips
- O'Connor Kennedy Turtle
- O'Kane Devine Ltd
- Pet Shop
- Peter Rogers
- Philip Johnston & Co
- Philip Tweedie
- Plm Promotions
- Poundworld
- Prestige Property
- Primewood Sectional Buildings
- Propertyhop
- Protein Plus
- Quays Property Services
- R Stanley Laird & Son
- Rain Night Club
- Rdo Auto Electrics
- Regal Furniture
- Romac Press Ltd
- Ron Chandler
- Roskyle Ltd
- Royal Ulster Agriculture Society
- Rudolf Steiner School
- Russell's Cellars
- S & R Electric Limited
- Saintfield Nursery Centre
- Scallywags
- Self Build Ireland
- Sign Seeker.Com
- Simply Beauty
- Ski And Sports Ltd
- Sleepmaster
- Sleepmasters
- Smart Wash-In
- Spar
- Starplan
- Steve Hewlett Associates
- Superior Car Valeting
- Tanglez Hair & Beauty
- Templeton Robinson
- The Apache Tribe
- The Bread Filler
- The Central Park
- The Chippy
- The Griffin
- The Gym
- The Loft Coffee Shop
- The Mill At Ballydugan
- The Sign Co (Ni) Ltd
- The Spinning Wheel
- The Village Store
- Thompsons
- Tile Factory Outlet
- Tim Martin & Co
- Transform Kitchens
- Ulster Property Sales
- Ultravibes
- Victoria Hot Spot
- Victoria Primary School
- Vision Property Agents
- Vivo
- W & R Construction Limited
- Walk A Paws
- Wee Monkeys Day Nursery
- Wine World
- Womans Touch

Built Environment

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development what measures his Department is taking to ensure the built environment is adapted to changing climatic conditions; and whether he plans to introduce a climate change adaptation strategy.

(AQW 13543/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Regional Development Strategy recognises the importance of climate change adaptation in development planning.

My Department provides input to the development of the Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme through the Cross Departmental Working Group on Climate Change (CDWG-CC). This group is chaired by the Minister of the Environment. My Department is represented at the CDWG-CC by its Transport Deputy Secretary. DRD Roads Service and Water Policy provide input through an Adaptation

Sub-Group. The development of an Adaptation Programme by the CDWG-CC reflects a coordinated effort across departments to respond effectively to climate change. Therefore, I do not have plans to develop a separate climate change adaptation strategy.

Northern Ireland Water also maintains a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Action Plan and Monitoring Plan aimed at adapting its drinking water and waste water assets to the risks associated with climate change. My Department's Roads Service takes account of Climate Change factors in the built environment.

Repairing Street Lighting

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are currently any delays in repairing street lighting.

(AQW 13574/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that there is currently no general delay in repairing street lighting. At present, Roads Service is operating its normal summertime cycle of street lighting night scouting, that is, lights are inspected once every four weeks, with follow up repairs carried out on any defects identified.

I would advise the Member that any street lighting faults, which occur outside of the inspection cycle, should be reported to the relevant Roads Service Division in the first instance.

TEN-T Funding

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development what applications have been made for TEN-T funding following the EU Commission's call for applications in January 2012; and with what result.

(AQW 13586/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The TEN-T Executive Agency announced an Annual Call for funding applications in January 2012 and my Department submitted applications for funding towards the following projects:

- (i) Coleraine to Londonderry Track Relay - funding support of approximately £4 million was sought ;
and
- (ii) a study on developing the design of the York Street Inter-change - funding support of approximately £1 million was sought.

In addition, I can advise that my Department also submitted a joint application for funding with the Republic of Ireland's Electricity Supply Board. The application was submitted for funding of approximately €1.9million towards the installation of rapid charge points for electric vehicles, and a supporting IT system, on the TEN-T road network in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

It is expected that the TEN-T Executive Agency will formally announce whether the applications have been successful by the autumn.

Disused Railway Lines

Mrs Overend asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) to detail the total length of disused railway lines; (ii) for a list of unused railway tracks, broken down by (a) length; and (b) constituency; and (iii) to list the current owners of the land on which the disused railway lines are found; and (iv) whether there are plans to utilise that land.

(AQW 13599/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has advised that there are only two lines in public ownership that might fall under this description. They are Lisburn (Knockmore Junction) to Antrim and Greenisland to Monkstown. The former, which covers 18.5 miles, is in the South Antrim constituency and the latter, which is 1.5 miles long, is in the East Antrim constituency.

Translink has also advised that it has no plans to re-open the Lisburn to Antrim line within the timeframe of their current Corporate Plan but envisages the likelihood of re-opening the line in the medium-term future. It is currently maintained and used as a diversionary route in circumstances of emergency and on occasions for rail operations as part of driver training programmes.

Translink has advised that it has no plans or expectations to re-open the Greenisland to Monkstown line within the timeframe of the current Corporate Plan or medium-term future but would recognise a strategic benefit in retaining the alignment.

Disabled Parking Bays in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development how many applications have been received for disabled parking bays in North Down, in each of the last three years; and how many (i) were granted; (ii) were rejected; and (iii) are pending.

(AQW 13630/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of applications for disabled parking bays in North Down received, granted, rejected and pending in the 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years are set out in the table below:

Parking Bay Applications	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Applications received	12	10	8
Applications granted	4	2	4
Applications rejected	8	8	4
Applications pending	0	0	0

Northern Ireland's 50 busiest routes

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the average daily traffic volumes on the fifty busiest roads.

(AQW 13632/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that traffic surveys are carried out on strategic and other specified routes as part of the Annual Traffic Census.

Details of the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) on Northern Ireland's 50 busiest routes, or links along a route, in terms of traffic volume, as recorded in the 2009 Annual Traffic Census, are provided in the table below:

Route no	Route	Location	Channel 1	Channel 2	AADT
1	A12	Westlink, Belfast, South of Roden Street	To M2	To M1	80,980
2	M1	Broadway (Junction 1) - Stockman's Lane (Junction 2)	To Belfast	From Belfast	74,250
3	M2	Greencastle (Junction 2) – Sandyknowes (Junction 4)	To Belfast	From Belfast	64,010
4	M1	Stockman's Lane Junction (above roundabout)	To Belfast	From Belfast	61,260
5	A2	Sydneham By-Pass, at George Best Belfast City Airport	To Belfast	From Belfast	58,270

Route no	Route	Location	Channel 1	Channel 2	AADT
6	M1	Blacks Road (Junction 3) – Saintfield Road (Junction 6)	To Belfast	From Belfast	51,850
7	M2	Fortwilliam Interchange – Inbound (Junction 1)	Main Carriageway	-	48,950
8	M2	Fortwilliam Interchange – Outbound (Junction 1)	Main Carriageway	-	48,460
9	A2	Hollywood By-Pass, East of Belfast Road	To Belfast	To Bangor	45,100
10	M2	Sandyknowes (Junction 4) – Templepatrick (Junction 5)	To Belfast	From Belfast	43,630
11	M2	Rathbeg (Junction 6) - Templepatrick (Junction 5)	To Belfast	To Toome	41,160
12	A1	Lisburn - Hillsborough (at Harry's Road)	To Lisburn	To Hillsborough	40,190
13	A12	Westlink at Divis Street (To M2)	To M2	On Slip	39,210
14	M2	Rathbeg (Junction 6) – Dunsilly (Junction 1 on M22)	To Belfast	To Toome	38,160
15	A12	Westlink, Clifton Street, towards M2	Main Carriageway	Off Slip	38,070
16	A12	Westlink at Divis Street (To M1)	To M1	Off Slip	37,070
17	A55	Upper Knockbreda Road, Belfast	To Saintfield Road	To Castlereagh Road	37,020
18	A2	Belfast - Bangor, at Cultra, East of Folk Museum	To Belfast	To Bangor	36,660
19	M1	Junction 9 to 10 near Knockadoney Bridge	To Belfast	To Portadown	36,130
20	A2	Strand Road, Londonderry	To City Centre	To Foyle Bridge	35,960
21	A12	Westlink, Clifton Street, towards M1	Main Carriageway	On Slip	35,620
22	M1	Lough Road (Junction 10) - Ballynacor (Junction 11)	To Lurgan	To Dungannon	35,100
23	A55	Stockmans Lane North West of Boucher Road	Northbound	Southbound	33,410
24	M5	Greencastle (Junction 2) - Whiteabbey	To Belfast	From Belfast	32,500
25	A515	Foyle Bridge, Londonderry	To Culmore	To Caw	31,380
26	A55	Shaws Bridge, Belfast	To Belfast	From Belfast	30,970

Route no	Route	Location	Channel 1	Channel 2	AADT
27	A26	Antrim - Ballymena, North of Dunsilly	To Ballymena	To Antrim	30,640
28	A24	Belfast - Carryduff, at Baronscourt	To Belfast	From Belfast	30,200
29	A24	Belfast, Saintfield Road (near Knockbracken Road at KFC)	To Belfast	To Carryduff	29,250
30	A2	Duke Street, Londonderry	To City Centre	To Duke Street Roundabout	29,200
31	A29	Coleraine Ring Road, at Sandelford Bridge	To Limavady	To Portrush	28,810
32	A6	Dungiven Road, Londonderry, at Altnagelvin Roundabout	To City Centre	To Drumahoe	28,730
33	A2	Shore Road South of Jordanstown Road	Northbound	Southbound	28,550
34	A2	Limavady Road, Londonderry, at Gransha	To City Centre	To Limavady	27,740
35	A3	Northway, Portadown, South of Seagoe Road link	To Portadown	From Portadown	27,140
36	A6	Dungiven Road, Londonderry, at Rosstown Roundabout	To City Centre	To Dungiven	27,020
37	A1	Newry By-Pass (Stage 2)	To Border	To Belfast	26,520
38	A2	Carrickfergus - Belfast	To Belfast	To Carrickfergus	25,500
39	A514	Crescent Link, Londonderry, at Caw	To Caw Roundabout	To Altnagelvin Roundabout	24,920
40	A2	Culmore Road, Londonderry, at St.Peters Church	To City Centre	To Foyle Bridge	24,740
41	C/UC	Boucher Road, Belfast, near Balmoral Road	To Stockmans Lane	To Broadway	24,620
42	A2	Foyle Embankment, Between Foyleside and Bus Station	To Guildhall Roundabout	To Craigavon Bridge	24,080
43	A2	Craigavon Bridge, Londonderry (upper deck)	To City Centre	To Duke Street	24,050
44	M2	Larne Road (Junction 10) - Broughshane Road (Junction 11)	To Ballymoney	To Antrim	23,420
45	A29	Coleraine Ring Road, between A26 - B67	To Limavady	To Portrush	23,350

Route no	Route	Location	Channel 1	Channel 2	AADT
46	A20	Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, at Quarry Inn	To Belfast	From Belfast	23,310
47	A2	Belfast - Bangor, at Springhill	To Bangor	To Belfast	23,150
48	A55	Parkway, Belfast	To Belmont Road	To Hollywood Road	23,110
49	A1	Banbridge By-Pass, North of Old Manse Road	To Dromore	To Newry	23,060
50	B507	Branch Road, at Branch Road Roundabout	To City Centre	To Buncrana Road	22,720

Upgrade Works on the Craigtantlet Crossroads

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what is the projected timescale for the proposed upgrade works on the Craigtantlet crossroads.

(AQW 13633/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: As the Member may be aware, a planning application for a proposed upgrade scheme at Craigtantlet crossroads was lodged on 16 January 2012. Details of the scheme are available through the DOE Planning Division portal at the following web address:

http://epicpublic.planningni.gov.uk/PublicAccess/zd/zdApplication/application_detailview.aspx?caseno=LXY5VDSV30000.

I should advise that DOE Planning Division is currently considering this planning application and there is still the opportunity for interested parties to comment on the proposed scheme. I also understand that a number of objections to the proposed scheme have already been received.

As the project is at an early stage, funding has not yet been allocated for the scheme, and therefore, I am unable to confirm the likely timescale for the commencement of construction work.

Chairman of Northern Ireland Water

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he can confirm that the current Chairman of Northern Ireland Water claimed, in his application for the post, that at that time he was employed with a company which had been dissolved in 2010 and dormant for the previous twelve months; and what action was taken, or is being taken, by his Department in relation to that matter.

(AQW 13639/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised that the application forms for the NI Water Chair position did not require applicants to provide information on their employment experience, this followed advice from the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPANI).

Car Parks in Bangor

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he will review the revenue collected from the three car parks in Bangor, that were previously operated free of charge, within the next month, to ensure that the expected revenue is being raised; and if the revenue falls significantly below target, whether he will consider reversing his decision to end free parking at these car parks.

(AQW 13642/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The introduction of charges in a number of Roads Service car parks forms part of the budgetary Savings Delivery Plan relating to the review of car parking charges. The original projected

total increase in revenue for year one of the Savings Delivery Plan (2011/12) was £1.865m. This total includes the additional revenue from both the tariff increases and the free to charged car parks.

The projected income for any individual car parks, which were originally free, cannot be considered, as demand and usage cannot be accurately predicted.

However, Roads Service carries out an annual review of parking charges, and in doing so, the individual parking needs of all towns, including Bangor, will be considered.

Department for Social Development

Job Seekers Allowance

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) how many staff are currently employed as a result of the entire Job Seekers Allowance process, including tasks such as registration/application, signing on and making payments; (ii) how this figures compares with each of the last ten years; and (iii) whether additional staff will be required in the near future.

(AQW 13241/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development):

- i) The number of staff currently involved in the administration of Job Seekers Allowance processes is 1,564. This figure includes 478 staff in the Social Security Agency who process and maintain Jobseekers Allowance and 1086 staff in the Department for Employment and Learning who undertake a range of roles including Job Seekers Allowance in Jobs and Benefits Offices. The Department for Employment and Learning figure includes staff that provide a work focused service to clients in receipt of Incapacity Benefit (since 2005) and Employment and Support Allowance (since 2008) as well as those in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance.

Staffing levels in the Department for Employment and Learning are determined by the Department's workforce planning procedures and it is not possible to give a detailed breakdown of the staff currently employed to deliver the service to Job Seekers Allowance clients only.

- (ii) Comparative analysis is available for the most recent 6 years from 2007 to present as outlined in the following table.

Financial Year	Social Security Agency (JSA)	Department for Employment & Learning (Employment Service)
2012/2013	478	1,086
2011/2012	449	1,103
2010/2011	410	1,029
2009/2010	420	975
2008/2009	237	869
2007/2008	253	801

Social Security Agency staff resources have been established in line with statistical forecasts with growth in-built for increasing workloads.

The figures shown include the period associated with the increase in unemployment caused by the economic downturn and the corresponding increase in staff resources over this period.

The Social Security Agency will continue to assess the impact of all issues impacting Job Seekers Allowance including the ongoing impact of the economic downturn and the recovery of the economy along with Welfare Reform changes.

- (iii) Additional staff may be required by the Department for Employment and Learning to deliver a service to Universal Credit claimants, however staffing requirements for the new service are unclear at this stage.

Former Dunluce Family Centre Site in Ballymagroarty, Derry

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the outcome of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's pre-planning consultation on the future of the former Dunluce Family Centre site in Ballymagroarty, Derry.

(AQW 13358/11-15)

Mr McCausland: As the Dunluce Family Centre site is in an area of housing need, a detailed feasibility study was completed in order to determine the potential for social housing on the site. NIHE held pre application discussions (PAD) with the Planning Service on 1 December 2011.

Planning Service has subsequently confirmed that they would have no objection in principle to housing on this site subject to a number of issues around access, car parking, layout etc being satisfactorily addressed as part of any planning application.

Parents of Foreign Nationals Receiving State Benefits

Mr Clarke asked the Minister for Social Development whether the parents of foreign nationals, who have come to live in Northern Ireland with their adult children, are entitled to receive social benefits if they are of pensionable age and have never contributed to the pension system.

(AQW 13370/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The availability of social security benefits for people coming to the United Kingdom depends initially on their immigration status. Immigration, asylum and relations with the European Union are excepted matters under Schedule 2 to the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and fall outside the legislative competence of the Assembly.

The presence of non-EU nationals in the United Kingdom is strictly regulated by the Home Office and immigration rules impact directly on entitlement to social security benefits. Persons subject to immigration control are not normally entitled to income-related and non-contributory benefits. People who have not lived and worked in the United Kingdom will not have paid National Insurance contributions and will not normally have entitlement to contribution-based benefits.

Northern Ireland, as part of the United Kingdom, has legal obligations to meet in respect of citizens of the European Union. Family members of EU nationals who are workers or self-employed have a right to reside in the United Kingdom and may be entitled to income-related benefits. This can apply to the parents of a person exercising rights under EU law, provided they are dependent on that person.

Entitlement to income-related benefits such as State Pension Credit also requires satisfaction of the habitual residence test. The test has two elements: a legal right to reside and an objective assessment of factual evidence of habitual residence.

The United Kingdom also has reciprocal agreements with a number of countries which may assist an individual to satisfy contribution or residence/presence conditions for entitlement to certain benefits.

Blind or Visually Impaired Benefit Claimants

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department has considered excluding claimants who are blind or visually impaired from having to undergo assessment for benefits, under the current proposals for personal independence payments.

(AQW 13379/11-15)

Mr McCausland: It is intended that the assessment for Personal Independence Payment will look at people as individuals rather than label them according to a particular impairment or disability. It has been designed to consider an individual's personal circumstances, enabling them to explain, in their

own words, the impact their condition has on their everyday lives and the support they need. A face-to-face consultation will be a key part of the assessment process but it is important to ensure it is carried out in a sensitive and proportionate way and that individuals can, if appropriate, be helped through it by a family member or a support worker.

Where it is considered that there is already enough written evidence from the claimant, their GP or other people involved in supporting them from which an accurate assessment of the impact their condition has on their everyday life can be made, it may not be appropriate to require them to attend a consultation. Decisions on whether sufficient evidence has been gathered will be based on the circumstances of each case and guidance will be provided to support such decisions.

Employment and Support Allowance Claimants

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of Employment and Support Allowance claimants being treated for (i) cancer; (ii) mental health issues; and (iii) phobias, whose benefits have been stopped following an examination by a nurse.

(AQW 13407/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department does not hold information on whether a customer is being treated at the time of their medical examination. Information is also not held on the medical conditions of disallowed customers.

Customer First in the Western District

Ms Boyle asked the Minister for Social Development, in light of the announcement on the roll out of Customer First in the Western District, whether any discussions have taken place between his Department and the Department for Employment and Learning on the provision of a 'One Stop Shop' in premises at a central location in Strabane which had been envisaged previously as part of the Benefits and Jobs Project which has not yet been fully implemented.

(AQW 13477/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Jobs and Benefits service has been introduced into 27 offices across Northern Ireland, however at this juncture it is not possible to introduce it into the remaining 8 offices as no capital funding has been made available to the Department to complete the roll-out. While it is not possible to continue with the roll-out of new or substantially refurbished offices as originally envisaged, both my colleague, the Minister for Employment and Learning and I remain committed to maintaining and improving services to customers and will seek to take advantage of future opportunities to complete the introduction of the Jobs & Benefits service on an office by office basis. There is, however, no timeline for this work and progress will be subject to the identification of funding.

Houses in Multiple Occupancy Registration in the Foyle Constituency

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on houses in multiple occupancy registration in the Foyle constituency.

(AQW 13505/11-15)

Mr McCausland: 464 Houses in Multiple Occupation have been registered in the Foyle constituency between 1 April 2004 to 4 July 2012.

Child Maintenance Payments

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development whether he intends to impose an increase of the minimum Child Maintenance Payments.

(AQW 13506/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I am committed to encouraging and supporting parents to make their own family-based arrangements whenever possible and to also providing a much better and efficient statutory service.

I have not yet taken a decision as to whether the flat rate maintenance payments for child maintenance will be increased.

Benefit Customers Reported to be Sanctioned During the Current Mandate

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development how many benefit customers have been reported to his Department to be sanctioned during the current mandate.

(AQW 13524/11-15)

Mr McCausland: 8,300 benefit customers were referred to my Department for consideration of applying a sanction from May 2011 to date.

Benefit Customers Sanctioned During Last Three Years

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development how many benefit customers were reported to his Department to be sanctioned in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13525/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information requested is not available as it was not routinely recorded prior to May 2011. I refer the member to written answer given to AQW 13524/11-15 in relation to the most recent year.

Benefit Customers Sanctioned in Current Mandate

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development how many benefit customers have been sanctioned by his Department in the current mandate.

(AQW 13529/11-15)

Mr McCausland: 1325 sanctions were imposed on customers in receipt of benefit from May 2011 to date.

Benefit Customers Sanctioned in Last Mandate

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development how many benefit customers were sanctioned by his Department during the last mandate.

(AQW 13530/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information requested is not available as it was not routinely recorded prior to May 2011.

Payments from Main Contractors to Sub-Contractors

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) how housing associations monitor payments from main contractors to sub-contractors that are working on new build social housing developments; and (ii) the consequences if a main contractor does not pay a sub-contractor.

(AQW 13531/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Housing Associations monitor contractors' performance through the use of Constructionline, inspections of contracts by Clerk of Works and by holding monthly site meetings with all key stakeholders including sub-contractors and suppliers. It is not incumbent upon any Association to directly monitor the work or payment of sub contractors as the Association is not a party to these domestic sub-contracts.

Part 4 of the Department's Housing Association Guide, requires Housing Associations to operate a prompt payment policy (current Departmental guidance requires payment to be made within 30 days) to all contractors and subsequently requires all contractors to make prompt payments to their sub-contractors. Compliance with this guidance is checked as part of the Department's Inspection Process. However, there is no legal liability on Housing Associations to enforce the prompt payment provisions in any sub-contract.

Station Square Public Realm Scheme in Portrush

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) how his Department ensures that all planning consents are in place before it allocates funding for public realm schemes; and (ii) whether the necessary steps were taken in regard to the Station Square Public Realm Scheme in Portrush.
(AQW 13534/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Any funding awarded by the Department to capital projects is subject to the applicant providing documentary evidence that all statutory approvals necessary have been obtained prior to the commencement of works.

In the Portrush scheme the Department issued a contract for funding on 17 May 2011 to Coleraine Borough Council and was provided with a copy of a Certificate for Lawfulness of Proposed Use or Development for the Station Square Scheme on 20 June 2011. This certificate was approved by Planning Service and satisfied the Department's requirement that statutory planning approval had been obtained for the Public Realm scheme.

The Department was also advised that separate planning applications would be required for a canopy and sculptural masts. These were subsequently taken forward by the appointed contractor to obtain the statutory approvals. The Department was content with this process and work commenced on 20 September 2011. Planning permission was subsequently granted for the canopy on 20 December 2011 and for the sculptural masts on 3 January 2012.

The Department did not make any financial payments to Coleraine Borough Council until all Planning Permissions were in place.

In the past few weeks it has transpired that there may be an issue with the planning status of the lighting columns. Discussions to resolve this issue are ongoing with Coleraine Borough Council and Planning Service.

Housing Waiting List, North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many people in North Down, who are over the age of 55, are on the housing waiting list, broken down by housing type requested.
(AQW 13542/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not hold waiting list information for applicants aged 55 years and above. However, figures are available for the Housing Executive's Bangor District Area regarding housing applications which includes households where a member is aged at least 60 years old and these are detailed in Table 1 below.

The Housing Executive collates information with regards to 26 separate household compositions and for reporting purposes groups them into six main household composition categories as detailed in Table 2 below. The Housing Executive determines the housing type required by the applicant on the basis of their housing need, household size and composition.

TABLE 1

	Elderly	Large Adult	Large Family	Single	Small Adult	Small family	Total
Applicants not in Housing Stress	262	20	55	497	90	234	1158
Applicants in Housing Stress	380	17	46	423	64	194	1124
Total Applicants on Waiting List	642	37	101	920	154	428	2282

TABLE 2

Definition of Household types	Household composition
1 person 16 – 59 years old	Singles
Single aged 60+, 2 Adults either 60+ or 3 or more Adults 60+	Elderly
2 Persons 16 – 59 years old	Small Adult
1 or 2 Persons aged 16 or over, with 1 or 2 children	Small Families
1 or 2 persons aged 16 or over, and 3 or more persons 0 – 15, or 3 or more persons aged 16 or over and 2 or more persons aged 0 - 15	Large Families
3 or more persons aged 16 or over with or without 1 person aged 0 - 15	Large Adults

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Sub-contracting

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) whether there have been any incidences since 2007 of main contractors, who are working on social housing developments, not paying sub-contractors; and (ii) what power he has to intervene in such circumstances.

(AQW 13558/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I assume the Member is referring to the Social Housing Development Programme. With regard to non-payments by a main contractor to a sub contractor, my Department and Housing Associations would not have any access to this information. Part 4 of the Department's Housing Association Guide, requires Housing Associations to operate a prompt payment policy (current Departmental guidance requires payment to be made within 30 days) to all contractors and subsequently requires all contractors to make prompt payments to their sub-contractors. Compliance with this guidance is checked as part of the Department's Inspection Process. However, there is no legal liability on Housing Associations to enforce the prompt payment provisions in any sub-contract.

Housing Executive: Contractors

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development what plans he has to recover money from contractors employed to carry out maintenance work for the Housing Executive that was not done.

(AQW 13564/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I assume the Member is referring to the statement which I made in the Assembly on 3 July 2012 regarding the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's management of response maintenance contracts. The draft report, in relation to the forensic investigation I commissioned, is currently being considered. However, as I indicated in my Statement, where it has been identified that claims were made that were fraudulent, unfounded, inappropriate and improper, the Housing Executive will vigorously pursue the recovery of such monies under their contract management arrangements.

Housing Executive: Maintenance Contracts

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development for the estimated cost to the Housing Executive of payments made on maintenance contracts for work that was not done.

(AQW 13565/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I assume the Member is referring to the statement which I made in the Assembly on 3 July 2012 regarding the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's management of response maintenance contracts. The draft report, in relation to the forensic investigation I commissioned, is currently

being considered. This information is not therefore available at present. However, as I indicated in my Statement, where it has been identified that claims were made that were fraudulent, unfounded, inappropriate and improper, the Housing Executive will vigorously pursue the recovery of such monies under their contract management arrangements.

Risk Evaluation on Bonfires Located Near Housing Executive Properties

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department, or the Housing Executive, has carried out a risk evaluation on bonfires which are located on, or near to, Housing Executive property.

(AQW 13573/11-15)

Mr McCausland: A number of annual bonfires are located on Housing Executive land and the Housing Executive is responsible for the clean up of sites and the repair of any damage to Housing Executive properties. The Housing Executive adopts a good relations and community led approach to best manage bonfires. Local bonfire management initiatives are supported at a local level by Housing Executive District Offices and monitored and supported by the Housing Executive's Community Cohesion Unit.

The approach to dealing with bonfires aims: -

- To reduce the risk to the environment.
- To develop a partnership approach which allows the agencies involved to impact on the bonfire issue in a cohesive manner.
- To develop a graduated response to bonfires which involves consultation, shared understanding, negotiation and if necessary proportionate and legal use of enforcement methods.
- Promote a shared, inclusive community celebration.

The general benefits for the Housing Executive in providing support to improve bonfire management include: -

- Environmental damage through the burning of inappropriate material is reduced.
- Introduction of controls into the commencement of the collection of bonfire material.
- Reduced opportunities for fly tipping and the disposing of illegal waste.
- Reduced clean up costs.
- Engagement and supporting local communities.
- Reduced paramilitary and inappropriate displays of flags and effigies etc.
- Enhanced partnership working.
- Improved community cohesion and good relations.
- Reduced aggressive cultural displays.

The management of bonfires is the responsibility of a range of agencies and the Housing Executive works in partnership with local Councils, the PSNI, Fire Service and local communities. A large number of the bonfire initiatives are Council led and the Housing Executive supports these Council led initiatives in a partnership approach. This approach has proved very successful in areas such as Belfast, Newtownards and Antrim.

In addition the Housing Executive provides an estate warden service which monitors the condition of bonfire sites in a number of its estates.

Passported Benefits

Mr McCallister asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on (i) the consultative forum established to consider the issues of passported benefits; and (ii) the Social Security Advisory Committee established to carry out a review of the implications of a change to passported benefits. **(AQW 13604/11-15)**

Mr McCausland:

- (i) The Universal Credit consultative forum provides the opportunity for senior officials to consider and advise on cross departmental policy issues arising from the introduction of Universal Credit. This includes reviewing potential eligibility criteria and the technical solutions required to deliver specific passported benefits.

Via the consultative forum, my department has facilitated the analysis of potential costs and the impact on entitlement of identified demographics. This analysis will assist affected departments to determine the eligibility criteria that Ministers may choose to apply to the specific passported benefits for which they are responsible.

- (ii) The Social Security Advisory Committee was commissioned to complete a review of passported benefits in Great Britain and how they would interact with Universal Credit. At my request, this review was subsequently extended to include Northern Ireland. All departments that currently deliver passported benefits in Northern Ireland, and a number of customer representative groups, responded to the consultation. A report detailing the Committee's findings was published on 27 March 2012.

The report provided an analysis of current delivery across the UK and highlighted various methodologies that could be adopted for determining eligibility to the major passported benefits alongside the advantages and disadvantages of the detailed options. The report has been useful to inform discussions on the eligibility and delivery of passported benefits in Northern Ireland.

Universal Credit

Mr McCallister asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the projected additional uptake of benefits through Universal Credit, due to the simplifications which will be introduced to the rules governing the new benefit. **(AQW 13605/11-15)**

Mr McCausland: It is estimated that up to 46,000* households will be newly taking up or taking up more benefit as a direct result of Universal Credit. This is due to changes in entitlement, increases in take-up, and the integrated nature of the Universal Credit system.

This figure is made up of three main groups:

- Cases who were **not entitled** to current system benefits but are entitled and take up Universal Credit. For example in work, claimants aged under 25 who are not currently eligible for Working Tax Credits but will be eligible for Universal Credit.
- Cases who **are entitled** to current system benefits but do not take up any of their entitlement to these benefits in the current system, who are then expected to claim Universal Credit when it is introduced, due to an increase in entitlement or a simpler claim process.
- Cases who take up less than their full entitlement to current system benefits, but will receive the full amount of Universal Credit they are entitled to due to the integrated system. For example, a claimant may be entitled to Income Support and Housing Benefit but only claim Income Support. Under Universal Credit, a claimant will be assessed for all the elements at one time and will automatically receive the Housing Element if they are entitled to it.

* Source of information: Northern Ireland version of the Department for Work and Pensions Policy Simulation Model.

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Passported Benefits

Mr McCallister asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the passported benefits for which his Department has responsibility, including (i) how much of each benefit has been paid; and (ii) the number of recipients, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 13606/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department for Social Development is responsible for three passported benefits, which form part of the regulated Social Fund. These benefits are Cold Weather Payments, Funeral Payments and Sure Start Maternity Grants.

Through the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, my Department is also responsible for several schemes providing support for people on low incomes. The provision of this financial assistance is dependent on existing entitlement to a social security benefit and/or the application of a test of an individual's ability to meet costs (means testing). The benefits offered are the Disabled Facilities Grant, the Home Repairs Assistance Grant, the Replacement Grant, the Renovation Grant, Group Repair and Warm Homes Scheme.

(i) & (ii) The tables below show the amounts paid and the number of recipients for the last five years in respect of Cold Weather Payments, Funeral Payments and Sure Start Maternity Grants.

COLD WEATHER PAYMENTS

Year	Amount £m	Number of recipients
2011/12	Nil	Nil
2010/11	16.81	672,520
2009/10	16.87	672,000
2008/09	1.84	73,520
2007/08	Nil	Nil

FUNERAL PAYMENTS

Year	Amount £m	Number of recipients
2011/12	2.41	2421
2010/11	2.59	2639
2009/10	2.53	2612
2008/09	2.57	2657
2007/08	2.37	2508

SURE START MATERNITY GRANTS

Year	Amount £m	Number of recipients
2011/12	2.02*	3994*
2010/11	5.31	10453
2009/10	5.02	9904

Year	Amount £m	Number of recipients
2008/09	5.12	10064
2007/08	4.48	8842

* Grants restricted to first child born on or after 11April 2011

It is not possible to provide the requested information in respect of those benefits administered by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

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Girdwood Site

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development how the current transformation plans for the Girdwood site will address the current inequality in housing impacting on the Catholic community in North Belfast.

(AQW 13609/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Social Housing Development Programme for the current year includes a gross programme of 333 units that could be delivered across a number of locations in North Belfast. Each of these will meet housing need.

When plans for Girdwood are at a stage where they can be included in the programme, this will further contribute to meeting housing need in North Belfast.

Former Girdwood Barracks Site in North Belfast: Social Housing

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development how many new homes will be built on the Girdwood site; and how these will mitigate the housing inequality in North Belfast.

(AQW 13610/11-15)

Mr McCausland: No feasibility has yet been undertaken to identify the type of housing or density that could be accommodated on this site.

Once that work has been undertaken I would be happy to advise the member accordingly.

Social Housing on the Girdwood site

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development whether the current plans for social housing on the Girdwood site will be opened for public consultation.

(AQW 13611/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The draft master plan for the Girdwood site was subject to public consultation in 2007. An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on the proposals for the site in 2008/09 and was also subject to public consultation.

Social Housing on the Girdwood site

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development whether an equality screening exercise has been carried out on the plans for social housing on the Girdwood site, as per the Department's legal obligations; or when such an exercise will be undertaken.

(AQW 13612/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The draft master plan for the Girdwood site was subject to public consultation in 2007. An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on the proposals for the site in 2008/09 and was also subject to public consultation.

Social Housing on the Girdwood site

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the timeframe for the progression of each stage of the plan for social housing on the Girdwood site.

(AQW 13613/11-15)

Mr McCausland: No feasibility has yet been undertaken to identify the type and density of housing that could be accommodated on this site. Once this is completed I will be in a better position to outline a timeframe for progress and will be happy to respond to the member at that time.

Former Girdwood Barracks Site in North Belfast: Social Housing

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the number of social houses planned for the Girdwood site, North Belfast.

(AQW 13646/11-15)

Mr McCausland: No feasibility has yet been undertaken to identify the type of housing or density that could be accommodated on this site.

Once that work has been undertaken I would be happy to advise the member accordingly.

Publicly Funded Jobs in the Voluntary Sector

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the procedures followed by his Department when monitoring publicly funded jobs in the voluntary and community sectors.

(AQW 13647/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department for Social Development does not directly fund jobs in the voluntary and community sector. It does however provide funding to voluntary and community groups for the employment of individuals to deliver agreed outputs/outcomes. As the Department is not the employer, responsibility for monitoring the individual employed rests with the relevant voluntary and community group.

Payment of Benefits to Claimants who use the Ulster Bank

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development what alternative arrangements have been considered for the payment of benefits to claimants who use the Ulster Bank, until normal service at the bank is resumed.

(AQW 13657/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Social Security Agency has fully discharged its responsibility by ensuring that benefit payments have been lodged to customers' designated bank accounts. It is therefore inappropriate to make replacement payments. Agency officials continue to liaise with the Ulster Bank to ensure, where necessary, validation of entitlement to benefit is confirmed thereby enabling the Bank to make the necessary payment.

Social Housing on the Girdwood site

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the plan for social housing on the Girdwood site, to detail (i) what instructions his Department gave to Apex Housing Association and when; (ii) who prepared the plan for Apex and when they were commissioned to prepare it; (iii) what instructions they were given; (iv) the cost of preparing the plan and who met the cost; (v) when the plan was completed and given to his Department; (vi) whether a planning application was submitted; (vii) whether an Equality Impact Assessment was carried out in relation to the plan; and (viii) whether the plan mirrors the original vision.

(AQW 13690/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Apex Procurement Group were appointed by the NIHE on 8 July 2010 to bring forward a scheme for the Girdwood site that would deliver social housing in 2 phases; the first for 100 homes

in 2011/12, and the second for a further 100 homes in 2012/13. This action was taken on foot of advice to the NIHE that the department would be making land available on the Girdwood Park site and that a Housing Association/Procurement Group should be appointed to take this work forward.

Apex Procurement Group subsequently invited design teams, from their framework agreement for professional construction related services, to view the site and submit proposals to design and manage the construction of social housing on the Girdwood Park site. McAdam Design was appointed following this exercise on 6th October 2010.

The design, which was developed to RIBA Stage C, was launched by my ministerial predecessor on 14 March 2011.

The design, which included housing proposals for the majority of the Girdwood site, was not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment and was not submitted for planning approval. The 2007 Master plan Conceptual Framework for Girdwood (revised in 2010) envisaged housing provision as one of the physical uses on the site within a mixed-use comprehensive development to include other uses.

Housing Associations would normally recoup fees associated with scheme designs in the overall housing grant payable at the completion of a scheme. As the social housing scheme at Girdwood did not proceed as anticipated, design costs of £119,674.49 were paid by NIHE on behalf of DSD in August 2011.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Cost of Securing the Report on the Unauthorised Disclosure of a Draft Report of the Public Accounts Committee

Mr Allister asked the Assembly Commission what was the total cost of securing the Report on the Unauthorised Disclosure of a Draft Report of the Public Accounts Committee.

(AQW 13342/11-15)

Mr Cree (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): There was no cost to the Assembly Commission for securing the interim Assembly Commissioner for Standards' report on the Unauthorised Disclosure of a Draft Report of the Public Accounts Committee. The interim Assembly Commissioner for Standards has advised the Assembly Commission that the total cost to the Ombudsman's office for completing the report has been calculated at £5,891.66. This is based on the staff time involved in completing the investigation.

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Revised Written Answers

Friday 20 July 2012

(AQW 8648/11-15)

In the response issued on 25/06/2012 there was a mistake in the column for the 2010/11 year in relation to Carrickfergus Local Government District (LGD). There was in fact only 1 single turbine approval in the Carrickfergus LGD and not 10 as previously stated.

This typographical error was brought to light when the Carrickfergus Advertiser asked for location details in the Carrickfergus area and the statistician in Planning revisited the data.



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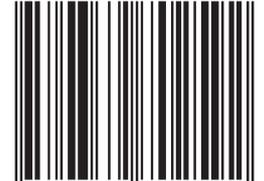
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