

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 18 April 2014

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Written Answers to Questions

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

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

Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 18 April 2014

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Strategy Planning and Review Group

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) the remit of the Strategy Planning and Review Group (SPRG) for the Children and Young People's Strategy; (ii) the dates the SPRG for the Children and Young People's Strategy met, including when each of the Junior Ministers were in attendance.

(AQW 31463/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): The Strategy Planning and Review Group (SPRG) was set up in 2008 with a remit

- to review the 2008-11 Action Plan under the Children and Young People's Strategy and to make recommendations taking into account feedback from the Children's Champions Group; Parents' Advisory Group; Research and Information Group; and Practitioners;
- to link the regional and area Children's Services Plans to the Strategy Action Plan;
- to monitor progress on delivery of the strategy action plan; and
- to submit review reports to the Ministerial sub-committee on children and young people.

Membership of the SPRG included senior representatives of statutory, community and voluntary sector organisations and government departments including the Northern Ireland Office and Northern Ireland Courts Service. The Departmental representatives were drawn from the Children and Young People's Inter-departmental Group (IDG) which was set up to oversee the development of the Strategy.

The SPRG met on four occasions during the lifetime of the 2008-11 Action Plan, on 10 September 2008, 11 November 2008, 24 March 2009 and 30 November 2010. Junior Ministers attended and chaired all of these meetings. OFMDFM continued to monitor progress on the actions in the Plan up until the end of the Plan in April 2011.

Since then, delivery on the Children and Young People's Strategy has been taken forward under the auspices of the Delivering Social Change (DSC) framework. Progress on the framework is monitored and overseen by DSC Programme Board which reports to the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Children and Young People and the Executive Sub-Committee on Poverty and Social Inclusion

Victims and Survivors Service: Scheme 6 Fund

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why the Scheme 6 fund, under the Victims and Survivors Service, was closed to applications on 30 June 2013; and why those, who hitherto had been receiving financial assistance from the NI Memorial Fund and who transferred to Scheme 6, were included in the stoppage on applications.

(AQW 32057/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The application process for Financial Assistance Scheme 6 was closed on 30 June 2013 due to budgetary pressures. It is not unusual to have time limited application periods.

All those successful applicants continued to receive financial support. Owing to significant demand, we sought additional resources and were able to extend the Scheme to all remaining applicants.

Ethnic Minorities

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what work they have undertaken to assess the extent of ethnic minority poverty further to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation Report on Poverty and Ethnicity finding in February 2013 that ‘the precise household circumstances and relative extent of poverty among minority ethnic groups in Northern Ireland are unknown.

(AQW 32105/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We acknowledge the significant gaps in the knowledge base that have been highlighted by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation report. We are, of course, not unique in this. Joseph Rowntree Foundation’s publication Poverty and ethnicity: A review of evidence (May 2011) refers to “weaknesses in the evidence relating to Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales and insufficient exploration of much of England outside London and other major cities”.

We can confirm that the Foundation has undertaken research – with active involvement of OFMDFM officials – to increase our understanding of the links between poverty and ethnicity which will enable us to tackle poverty across different ethnic groups more efficiently. We understand that this research will be published soon.

The consultation document on our new Racial Equality Strategy – “A Sense of Belonging” – proposes a major step to tackle the knowledge gaps: the introduction of ethnic monitoring (the process used to collect, store and analyse data about people’s ethnic backgrounds) for all Government departments, Agencies and local councils.

However, we recognise that to obtain sound quantitative data about the attitudes and perceptions of minority ethnic people will present considerable difficulties; the still relatively small proportion of minority ethnic people here means that surveys that rely on sampling are unlikely to yield reliable results.

We will not allow these knowledge gaps to delay urgent action. We know already many of the issues that we need to tackle. These include: the language barrier, lack of accessible information, the training needs of staff, the cultural needs of minority ethnic people and issues around occupational segregation.

Our officials will use the consultation on “A Sense of Belonging” to gather further information on what minority ethnic people themselves identify as priority areas for action.

Racial Discrimination and Harassment

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what work they have undertaken to determine the extent of racial discrimination and harassment.

(AQW 32107/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Our key initiative in tackling all forms of racism – from illegal discrimination to race hate crime – will be the new Racial Equality Strategy – “A Sense of Belonging”. The associated consultation, which we hope to launch for 12 weeks in April 2014, proposes the mainstreaming of ethnic monitoring. This is the collection, storage and analysis of data about people’s ethnic backgrounds and the consultation document proposes that all Government departments, Agencies and local councils will participate.

Together: Building a United Community (TBUC) is also highly relevant. This commits us to ensure that good relations – good race relations as well as community relations – are mainstreamed into the

revised arrangements following the review of public administration. One of its aims is to encourage the reporting of intimidation or harassment, which will help build a more accurate picture of all variants of discrimination and harassment.

Other initiatives which will help to build a more complete picture of the extent of racial discrimination and harassment locally are a further phase of OFMDFM's Unite against Hate, and work with the Department of Justice on the implementation of the Community Safety Strategy.

Unite against Hate is our multi-agency response to hate crime in all its forms. We will take work forward on this when we have made progress on setting up the Equality and Good Relations Commission.

Shackleton Barracks

Mr Campbell asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether the recently announced changes to the entrance to the Shackleton Barracks site will allow for the range of possible uses and access arrangements which may be required in the future.

(AQW 32206/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The modifications to the entrance of the Shackleton site will not restrict access nor prevent future development of the site.

Bright Start

Mr Lynch asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the roll out of the School Age Childcare actions under the Bright Start programme.

(AQO 5823/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Junior Ministers launched the Bright Start School Age Childcare Grant Scheme on Thursday 27 March. Three of the 15 Bright Start Key First Actions relate to school age childcare and aim to create or sustain between 5,000 and 7,000 school age childcare places. Our new School Age Childcare Grant Scheme will work to deliver these places by making funding available to support current and potential school age childcare providers who intend to operate on a social economy basis. Another key first action under Bright Start will be to support up to 1,000 additional childminders.

Grants will assist providers to sustain or expand existing school age childcare services, or to set up new services. The Grant Scheme will target areas where there are currently limited school age childcare services and/or services insufficient to meet demand. The Scheme will focus on the childcare needs of disadvantaged families and rural communities and also support the use of the school estate as a base for school age childcare. Its emphasis will be on establishing school age childcare services that are both affordable and sustainable.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Countryside Stewardship Scheme

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether the Countryside Stewardship Scheme is available to (a) farmers; (b) landowners; and (c) rural dwellers.

(AQW 32504/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): The Countryside Stewardship Scheme is not available in the north of Ireland but has been available in England.

A new agri-environment scheme for farmers and landowners is currently being developed under the new NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, with an aim to launch it in 2015, subject to the necessary regulatory clarity and delivery processes being in place.

Psoroptic Mange in Cattle

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 32273/11-15, to detail the (i) methods; and (ii) timescales that she will be employing to contact farmers in relation to the identification of infected animals and the risks associated with cattle scab.

(AQW 32512/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My officials have recently updated the Department's website to provide information to farmers on psoroptic mange in cattle (also known as cattle scab). This is not a notifiable disease, so my Department has no statutory role to play in its control. As part of the animal disease surveillance and investigation service, AFBI laboratories in Belfast and Omagh provide a commercial examination service for the diagnosis of cattle scab.

As with other production diseases, the farmer's main provider of advice, prevention and treatment, is his or her Private Veterinary Practitioner (PVP) and I encourage farmers with concerns to contact their PVP for advice.

Agency Staff

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the (i) vacancies; and (ii) agency staff in her Department, broken down by grade.

(AQW 32516/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: A breakdown of the vacancy and agency staff position in DARD is provided in the tables below.

VACANCIES

Grade	Vacancy Position
Administrative Assistant	4
Administrative Officer	1
Casual Administrative Officer	1
Executive Officer II	2
Executive Officer I	10
Staff Officer	12
Deputy Principal	3
Grade 7	2
Grade 5	1
Typist	1
Auditor SO MIIA or BATS	1
SO Accountant	2
Agricultural Economist	2
Agricultural Inspector Grade III/IV	12
Grade 6	1
Graduate Trainee Civil Engineer	3
HPTO	1
ICT Level 3	1

Grade	Vacancy Position
ICT Level 4	2
ICT level 5	2
Inspector Group 1	1
Inspector Group 2	2
Inspector Group 4	2
Meat Inspector	1
Personal Secretary	1
PPTO	1
PTO	3
Sandwich Course Student	4
Scientific Officer	1
SPVO – Grade 6	1
Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer	1
Veterinary Officer	3
Veterinary Officer Testing	1
Industrial – Fitter Mechanic/Senior Craftsman	1
Industrial – Greenkeeper/Groundperson – Specialist Grade C	1
Industrial – Equine Worker	1
Industrial Plant Operator – Specialist A Grade 2	4
Specialist A Grade 2	1
Supervisor Grade 1	9
Overall Total	103

AGENCY WORKERS

Role	Posts covered
Administrative Assistant	16
Administrative Officer	4
SO Accountant	2
DP Accountant	1
Information Officer	1
Support Grade Band 2	2
Supply Instructor	4
Supply Lecturer	11
General Farm Worker	2

Role	Posts covered
Internal Auditor	1
Personal Secretary	1
Overall Total	45

Emergency Animal Welfare Service

Mr Byrne asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether there are any plans to withdraw the on-call emergency animal welfare service; and if so, to detail when this will take place.
(AQW 32519/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Councils are responsible for enforcement of the Welfare of Animals Act 2011 in respect of non-farmed animals and decide how this service is provided.

I understand that due to the low volume of high priority calls to the out of hours facility Councils reviewed its use and it was unavailable in early April. However, following the outcome of the Private Member's Motion on 31 March, which agreed that the implementation of the Welfare of Animals Act 2011 would be reviewed, the out of hours facility has resumed and its effectiveness will be considered as part of the review.

Details of how to access the out of hours facility which operates between the hours of 9am – 5pm at weekends and on bank holidays can be found on Councils' websites and on my Department's website at www.dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/animal_welfare_-_contacts.htm.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the current prevalence of Bovine Tuberculosis in animals.
(AQW 32523/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department normally report changes in bovine TB levels in terms of incidence rather than prevalence and, therefore, I have directed my answer using this measure. Incidence figures are internationally regarded as preferable for monitoring TB trends, as prevalence figures refer to a single point in time and are, therefore, influenced by seasonal effects such as an increase in testing over winter months.

As of 31 January 2014, the annual TB herd incidence was 6.48% which was an 11% reduction over the same incidence figure as at 31 January 2013 (7.19%). For annual TB animal incidence, this was 0.521% at 31 January 2014 compared with 0.661% at 31 January 2013, a 27% reduction in incidence.

Appointments to Public Bodies

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many appointments to public bodies her Department made in the last twelve months.
(AQW 32541/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I have made 3 appointments to public bodies in the last twelve months, 2 of which were re-appointments.

Welfare of Laying Hens Directive

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the adherence by farmers to the Welfare of Laying Hens Directive.
(AQW 32557/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Adherence by farmers to the Welfare of Laying Hens Directive is good. The Welfare of Laying Hens Directive (Council Directive 1999/74/EC) is enforced here through the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations 2012 (WOFAR). No notices have been served on laying hen premises under WOFAR, since the enactment of this legislation on 2 April 2012.

However, under the WOFAR 2012 and the Eggs (Marketing Standards) Regulations 1995, 477 inspections have been completed within the previous 12 months. 100% of producers have been visited in this period and evidence has been recorded of non-compliances in 1.7% of these cases; these non-compliances are related to litter or range provision and have been followed up through the egg marketing regulations.

Rural Crime

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the increase in rural crime, particularly tractor thefts; and what additional strategies are being pursued to combat this crime.

(AQW 32581/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Responsibility for tackling crime, including rural crime, lies primarily with the PSNI and the Department of Justice. My Department does not record statistical information on crime.

I am very aware of the concern that the level of rural crime causes amongst the farming community and I have met with the Chief Constable and the Minister of Justice on a number of occasions to make them aware of my concerns.

My Department, through its Veterinary Service Enforcement Branch and CAFRE, continues to work with the Department of Justice, the PSNI and representatives of the farming community on a number of joint initiatives aimed at reducing rural crime and raising awareness of action that can be taken to help prevent rural crime including Farm Watch, the Freeze-branding initiative and the Crimestoppers Campaign.

I have also appointed a DARD representative to sit on the steering group for the PSNI's Rural Crime Unit. This Unit is focusing on a range of rural crime issues, including the identification of trends, and will assist with preventative action, help improve community confidence and, ultimately, reduce rural crime.

Relocation of Headquarters

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of full-time equivalent staff members employed in her Department that are working on the headquarters relocation programme.

(AQW 32604/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: There are currently 8 full-time equivalent staff members working on the headquarters relocation programme. The breakdown of grades of these staff is provided in table below.

Grade	No. of full-time equivalent staff members currently working on the headquarters relocation project
Senior Civil Servant	1
Grade 7	1.5*
Deputy Principal	3
Staff Officer	2
Personal Secretary	0.5

* Up until March 2014, a Grade 7 Accountant had also been working on the project 50% of their time. As they are not currently involved they are not included in the table above.

The staff numbers detailed in the table are those working solely in the HQ relocation programme team and the Human Resource project team and does not include those staff who work on other duties but also contribute to the relocation programme.

Relocation of Headquarters

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much has been spent on her departmental headquarters relocation programme, in each of the last three years to date.

(AQW 32605/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The amount that has been spent on the DARD headquarters relocation programme in each of the last three years to date is as follows:

2011/2012	£84,000
2012/2013	£278,976
2013/2014	£399,899

Rural Development Programme Funding

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the funding provided by her Department, via the Rural Development Programme, since 2009.

(AQW 32633/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The total amount of expenditure declared to the European Commission by DARD under the Rural Development Programme from 2009 to 2013 is £328,987,212.25.

Rural Development Programme

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the projects in North Down that currently receive funding from the Rural Development Programme.

(AQW 32634/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Under the extension to the final tranche of Farm Modernisation Programme funding, 3 farm businesses in North Down were awarded financial support of £8,653. Only one of these farm businesses accepted the offer of financial support and has now received payment.

Under Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme there are currently 2 projects being implemented in the North Down area with financial support of over £458k awarded, these are:-

- Crawfordsburn Glen Tourism Environmental Enhancement Project
- Upgrade and improvements to the North Down Coastal Path at Seahill, and between Seapark to Cultra

Northern Ireland Civil Service Occupational Health Service

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action her Department is taking to offer comprehensive occupational health services to its employees, including early access to services such as physiotherapy.

(AQW 32683/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: DARD avails of the NI Civil Service Occupational Health Service (OHS) which provides a comprehensive occupational health service to all employees of the NICS Departments.

OHS provides DARD with professional and appropriate occupational health advice to help manage employees who are absent from work, or to provide medical advice about some aspect of their employment whilst they are in work. This includes advice on rehabilitation, reasonable adjustments

and fitness for specific jobs. OHS also undertakes health surveillance programmes for certain DARD duties such as underground working, audiometric testing, hand/arm vibration, electrofishing, avian flu vaccination and eyesight testing.

In addition, DARD offers all its employees the facility to attend a Lifestyle and Physical Activity Assessment with the OHS, access to counselling through the NICS Employee Assistance Programme and support and advice from the NICS Welfare Support Service.

Whilst OHS and DARD provides a range of services to employees, these do not include early access to physiotherapy services.

Agri-Environment Schemes

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department has calculated how many farmers will drop out of agri-environment schemes by 2015/16; and to outline the effect the recent non-decision on the transfer of Common Agricultural Policy funds for rural development will have on future agri-environment schemes.

(AQW 32688/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2016, a total of 8,820 farmers will complete their agri-environment scheme agreements.

A new agri-environment scheme is being developed for the next Rural Development Programme. The amount of funding available to the next Rural Development Programme, and its constituent measures, is not yet confirmed.

While the lack of any transferred funds from Pillar 1 has the potential to reduce the scope and flexibility of the Programme, I am continuing to discuss with my officials how the next Programme can be financed.

My main objective in putting together a balanced package of funding for the next Rural Development Programme is to try to ensure that we improve the competitiveness of our farm and agri food businesses, protect and enhance our environment and countryside and improve the quality of life in our rural communities.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail, why over the last twelve months (i) the annual Bovine Tuberculosis herd incidence has nearly doubled; and (ii) the annual Bovine Tuberculosis animal incidence has more than tripled in the Ballymena area compared to the Northern Ireland average which has witnessed a fall; and to outline the actions her Department is taking to address the high level of Bovine Tuberculosis incidences in the Ballymena area.

(AQW 32701/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: DARD is acutely aware of this contrary trend in Ballymena, particularly around Broughshane, and is ensuring that our disease control measures are appropriately applied to help to deal with this upturn in herd and animal disease incidence.

Such measures include an increased level of response testing and increasing the severity of test interpretation. Both of these measures will have the effect of increasing incidence levels in the short term because additional animals will be removed. This should however remove infection quicker and lead to a reduction in disease incidence levels in the intermediate - long term. A specific response measure adopted in Ballymena was the establishment of a "control zone" around Broughshane, where a genetic strain of TB more often found in Co Down has been identified, suggesting that infection was brought into the area through cattle movements. The control zone was an area of particularly high incidence in which all herds have had to carry out additional testing before the cattle are turned out in to grass. Investigations have not shown a single cause for the overall rise.

Flooding: North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action her Department is taking to reduce the risk of flooding in North Down.

(AQW 32768/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Rivers Agency carries out regular inspections and maintenance to ensure free flow of designated watercourses. Any works identified are programmed and carried out by the Agency's industrial staff or contractors. When localised flooding issues are highlighted additional inspections and maintenance may be carried out. In some instances localised minor flood alleviation works may be undertaken, such as channel clearance, culvert upgrading or flood banking. The Agency also provides emergency response to flooding incidents, and works closely with other Government Departments in addressing flooding hotspots.

Implementation of Animal Cruelty Legislation

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, following the Motion passed by the Assembly on 31 March 2014 calling for a review of the implementation of animal cruelty legislation, to outline the steps her Department will now take.

(AQW 32771/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I welcomed the opportunity to debate the issue of animal cruelty in the Assembly on 31 March 2014 and supported the Motion calling for a review of the implementation of the Welfare of Animals Act 2011. My officials are currently developing the terms of the review, which will include engagement with the Department of Justice.

Single Farm Payments

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether any up to date data exists as to the level of loss of Single Farm Payments to lowland farmers should Northern Ireland be treated as a single region.

(AQW 32794/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Under a single region, full flat rate, direct payment regime, it is estimated that the level of Pillar I CAP support accruing to the lowland area would be €16.4m lower compared with an allocation based on the current Single Farm Payment distribution pattern. This equates to 14.4% of the total value of Pillar 1 support payments currently accruing to the lowland area.

The extent of this reduction per year and over the 2015–2019 period under a single region model would, of course, depend on the extent of the movement towards a flat rate payment regime by 2019.

DARD: Relocation of Departmental Headquarters

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in relation to the potential relocation of departmental headquarters and considering the excessive decontamination costs associated with the Ballykelly site, whether she will consider, at least as an interim solution, utilising office space which may become available in County Hall, Coleraine, in the event of the closure of the Driver and Vehicle Agency office.

(AQW 32814/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In September 2012, I announced Ballykelly as the preferred location for my departmental headquarters. I remain committed to this decision.

As I have outlined before I want to play my role, along with my Executive colleagues, in dealing with the issues facing the Civil Service resulting from the loss of the work from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. I have asked my Permanent Secretary to consider the ways in which my Department can help and I do not want to pre-empt this work.

Single Farm Payment

Mr McAleer asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of farm businesses that actively engage in agricultural activity but are not in receipt of Single Farm Payment.
(AQW 32818/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department does not hold definitive numbers of those farm businesses that are engaged in agricultural activity but who are not in receipt of Single Farm Payment.

In recognition of businesses in this situation, I have decided to implement the optional provision in the CAP Reform legislation which will allow entitlements to be allocated in 2015 to those who never previously held Single Farm Payment entitlements but who can submit verifiable evidence that on 15th May 2013, they produced, reared or grew agricultural products.

This decision will allow those businesses that commenced farming after 2005 but which would not qualify as new entrants under the regional reserve to receive entitlements under the Basic Payment Scheme.

School of Veterinary Science at the University of Ulster

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what resources she will make available for the establishment of a School of Veterinary Science at the University of Ulster's Coleraine Campus.
(AQW 32896/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I am very supportive of the proposal and have written to the University of Ulster confirming that support. My Chief Veterinary Officer has also given his support to the proposal.

I am aware that should the proposal to go ahead, there could be some involvement for the staff and facilities at CAFRE and AFBI. I would be supportive of this in principle.

However the extent of any such engagement cannot be firmed up until there is a definite decision on the proposal from the Department of Employment and Learning, and a clearer view emerges on the details and time-lines of any likely involvement.

For now, the decision on the proposal is a matter for the Department of Employment and Learning.

Rivers Agency

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the reasons and justification for the decision to change the name of the Rivers Agency.
(AQW 32956/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: As I advised in the Written Ministerial Statement I made on 21 March 2014, I have decided that Rivers Agency will retain its current name for the immediate future. This will help to maintain continuity and clarity of roles in the delivery of Rivers Agency's functions.

Rivers Agency

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the cost associated with the change in name of the Rivers Agency.
(AQW 32957/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: As per the Written Ministerial Statement I made on 21 March 2014, Rivers Agency will retain its name for the immediate future. Therefore, there are no costs associated with a change in name at this time.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Angling Regulations

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether a decision has been made on the changes to angling regulations to enable angling clubs to make and approve their appropriate by-laws at their annual general meetings.

(AQW 29646/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): Proposed changes to angling regulations are currently under consideration and these relate to salmon conservation measures which have been the subject of extensive consultation. It is intended that these will be in place by the start of the game angling season on 1st March.

It is proposed that catch and release will be mandatory for all salmon and sea trout caught in the DCAL jurisdiction and that worming will only be allowed for such fishing after the end of June. Only single or double barbless hooks will be permitted for salmon and sea trout angling.

Irish Open 2015

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she will provide funding for the 2015 Irish Open at a similar or higher level than the £1.5m made available to the 2013 Irish Open.

(AQW 31651/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I am delighted that the European Tour has decided to host the 2015 Irish Open at Royal County Down Golf Club and the 2017 Irish Open at the Lough Erne Resort, Fermanagh.

However, responsibility for the funding of the Irish Open in 2015 and 2017 rests with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in the first instance.

Projects in the West Tyrone Constituency: Funding

Mr McAleer asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the projects in the West Tyrone constituency that received funding from her Department since 2011.

(AQW 32374/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The value of projects funded in the West Tyrone constituency is summarised in the table below:

Financial Year	Projects Funded
2011/12	£1,164,527
2012/13	£1,128,746
2013/14	£1,360,403
Total	£3,653,676

Detailed breakdowns by project are provided in Annex A attached.

ANNEX A

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Department	Tyrone County Board	Construction of 3G pitches and 3G Multi Use Games	325,548	2013/14
Department	Tyrone County Board	Purchase of IFI Gym Equip, Construction of time trial and skills wall and alterations to gym	93,793	2013/14
Libraries NI	Castledearg Library	Part payments re CCTV installation	388	2011/12
Libraries NI	Castledearg Library	Part payments re CCTV installation	676	2012/13
Libraries NI	Newtownstewart Library	Refurbishment of Library	1,799	2011/12
Libraries NI	Omagh Library	Replacement Furniture and Equipment	43,930	2011/12
Libraries NI	Mobile Library Services	Vehicle replacement (Service wide provision apportioned equally across all constituencies)	9,383	2011/12
Libraries NI	Mobile Library Services	Vehicle replacement (Service wide provision apportioned equally across all constituencies)	38,036	2013/14
Libraries NI	ELFNI 2	Replacement of IT system (Service wide provision apportioned equally across all constituencies)	237,901	2013/14
IFG		Moorlough Angling Development	620	2011/12
IFG		Moorlough Angling Development	19,241	2012/13
IFG		Moorlough Angling Development	11,304	2013/14
NMNI	Ulster American Folk Park	New World Development	297,000	2011/12
NMNI	Ulster American Folk Park	New World Development	23,000	2012/13
NMNI	Ulster American Folk Park	UAFP Exhibit Buildings	50,000	2012/13
NMNI	Ulster American Folk Park	UAFP wifi	5,000	2012/13
NMNI	Ulster American Folk Park	Capital Maintenance	239,859	2012/13
ACNI	Newtownstewart Flute Band	Purchase of Musical Instruments	5,000	2011/12
ACNI	Blossomhill Pipe Band	Musical Instruments	5,000	2011/12

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
ACNI	Miss Emma McFarlane	Talente 2012 - individual artist project.	220	2011/12
ACNI	Cowan Memorial Flute Band	Purchase of Musical Instruments	4,540	2012/13
ACNI	9th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Corps of Drums Band	Purchase of Musical Instruments	3,330	2012/13
ACNI	Mountfield Pipe Band	Purchase of Musical Instruments	4,392	2012/13
ACNI	Castledearg Young Loyalists Flute Band	Purchase of Musical Instruments	4,846	2012/13
ACNI	Plumbridge Brien Boru Pipe Band	Purchase of Musical Instruments	4,947	2012/13
ACNI	Strabane and Lifford LGBT	Our story - A programme of storytelling, glass and ceramics.	5,000	2012/13
ACNI	Care for Cancer	Arts for leisure programme	5,000	2012/13
ACNI	Fountain Street Community Development Association	Winter wonderland	5,000	2012/13
ACNI	Omagh District Council	Purchase new equipment to upgrade our current lighting, sound, exhibition and conference facilities and multi-media capabilities.	7,000	2013/14
ACNI	Blair Memorial Flute Band	Purchase musical instruments	5,000	2013/14
ACNI	Strawhill Voluntary Independent Pipe Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	2,295	2013/14
ACNI	ROCO Magazine	Fully Interactive Magazine for all tablets and Smart phones.	9,850	2013/14
ACNI	Emily McFarland	Gold Is Where You Find It - individual artist project.	800	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Drumquin Pipe Band	Sloughans Festival of Pipes, Drums and Dance	1,367	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Donemana Cultural Association	Donemana Ulster-Scots Summer School	1,720	2011/12

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Mountfield Ulster-Scots Association	Mountfield Ulster-Scots Summer Scheme	2,656	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Gillygooley Youth & Community development Association	Gillygooley Ulster-Scots Summer School	2,214	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Cookstown North Community Group	Ulster-Scots Summer School	2,240	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Augharan Pipe Band	Pipe and Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Augharonan Pipe Band	Piping and Drumming	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Aughintober Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming Tuition	1,590	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Ballybriest Flower of the Heather Flute Band	Flute & drum tuition	1,567	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Ballybriest Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Bawn Junior Silver Band	Introduction to U-S Drumming	960	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Bellaghy Pipe Band	Piping and Drum	1,575	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Benburb Memorial Pipe Band	Piping and Drumming	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Blacksessiagh Coronation Accordion Band	School of Music - Accordion & Drum	750	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Blair Memorial Flute Band	Flute and Drum	780	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Bloomhill Rural Development Association	Accordion & Drumming Tuition	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Clogher & District Pipe Band	Pipes and Drum	1,600	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Cloughfin Pipe Band	Piping & drumming tuition	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Cookstown Fife & lambeg Drumming School	Lambeg Drumming & Fife Tuition	1,650	2011/12

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Cookstown Sons of William Flute Band	Flute & drumming tuition	1,568	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Cranny Cultural & Community Group	Piping & drumming tuition	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Drumconvis Young Defender Flute Band	Ulster-Scots Culture - Flute & Drum	550	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Drumnacross Flute Band	Flute and Drum	1,447	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Drumquin Pipe Band	Piping and Drumming	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Edentilone Pipe Band	Musical Tuition - Pipe & Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Gillygooley Pipe Band	Pipes and Drum	1,125	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Gortaclare Pipe Band	Tuition Project (Pipes & Drums)	1,518	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Magheraglass Flute Band	Flute & Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Matt Boyd Memorial Pomeroy Pipe Band	Pipe and Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Montober Flute Band	Flute and Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Mountfield Ulster Scots Association	Piping and Drumming	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Mullinagoagh Pipe Band	Dev U-S Music in local community (Pipe)	1,350	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Newtownstewart Flute Band	Flute and Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band	Flute Tuition	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Pomeroy Flute Band	Flute & drum tuition	814	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Sandholes Community Group	Accordion and Drum	1,600	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Seskanore Pipe Band	Drum	1,050	2011/12

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Tamlaghtmore Flute Band	Scottish Flute and Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Trillick Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Tullylagan Pipe Band	Piping and Drumming	1,600	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	William Kerr Memorial Pipe Band	Piping and Drumming	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Curlough Accordion Band	Accordion and Drum	1,230	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Derryoghill Flute Band	Flute and Drum	1,615	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Blue Thistle Highland Dancers	Highland Dancing	2,025	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Clogherny Scottish Country Dancers	Scottish Country Dance	1,155	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Edentiloan & District Ulster-Scots Assoc	Scottish Country Dance	1,050	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Mountfield Ulster Scots Association	Scottish Country Dance	1,704	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Augharan Development Group	Celebrating Robert Burns	250	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Cranny Cultural & Community Group	Burns Night & Ceildh	250	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Bonn Community Association	Pomeroy Ulster-Scots & Orange Festival	1,470	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Derry & Raphoe Action	St Andrews Ulster-Scots Festival	1,013	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Plumbridge Cultural & Community Association	The Black in the Plum	4,634	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Donemana Cultural Association	Donemana Summer School	1,938	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association	US Summer School	1,687	2012/13

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Newtownstewart Flute Band (Red Hand Defenders)	Stewarts Castle Tuition 2012 - Flute & Drum	1,642	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Aghyaran Accordion Band	Accordion & Drums	1,470	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Augharan Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Augharonan Pipe Band	Piping & drumming	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Ballybriest Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming	1,350	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Bellaghy Pipe Band	Scottish Piping & Drumming Tuition	1,595	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Benburb Memorial Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Blacksessiagh Coronation Accordion Band	School of Music 2012	580	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Blair Memorial Flute Band	Flute & Drum	1,373	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Blossomhill Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Clogher & District Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,565	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Curlough Accordion Band	Accordion & Drum Tuition	1,470	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Derryoghill Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Drumleagh Pipe Band	Drumming & Piping	368	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Drumquin Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,538	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Edentilone Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum	1,560	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Gillygooley Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming	1,613	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Lislaird Pipe Band	Pipes & Drum Tuition	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Magheraglass Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,650	2012/13

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Matt Boyd Memorial Pomeroy Pipe Band	Pipe & Drums	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Montober Flute Band	Flute & Drum	1,620	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Mountfield Pipe Band	Pipes & Drum Tuition	1,560	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Mullinagoagh Pipe Band	Drumming & Piping	1,343	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band	Drum, Flute & Piccolo	1,260	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Plumbridge Brien Boru Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming	1,490	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Red Hand Defenders Auld Boys Flute Band	Flute & Drumming	1,388	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Seskanore Pipe Band	Bagpipe Tuition	840	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Sinclair Memorial Pipe Band	Pipes & Drum Tuition	1,418	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Strawhill Voluntary Independent Pipe Band	Youth Tuition Programme	1,313	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Tamlaghtmore Flute Band	Flute & Drums	1,153	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Trillick Pipe Band	Musical Learning Programme	1,500	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Tullylagan Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming School	1,600	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Tullylagan Pipe Band	Drum Majoring School	1,050	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	W J Armstrong Memorial Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming	758	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Cranny Cultural & Community Group	Highland Piping & Drumming Tuition	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Mourne Valley Cultural Association	Piping & Drumming	1,050	2012/13

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Sandholes Community Group	Accordion & Drumming	1,298	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Ardstraw & Baronscourt Youth Council	Newtownstewart Highland Dancers	1,373	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Blue Thistle Highland Dancers	Highland Dance Tuition	2,654	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Clogherny Scottish Country Dance Group	Scottish Country Dance Group	2,178	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Edenitloan & District Ulster-Scots Association	Scottish Country Dancing 2012	405	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	McClintock Parents Support Group	Seskinore Scottish Highland Dancing Group	1,482	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Mountfield Scottish Country Dance	Scottish Country Dance Tuition	1,728	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Derry & Raphoe Action	West Tyrone Ulster Scots Culture Festival	1,571	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Cookstown North Community Group	Ulster Scots Summer School	2,146	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Ardbarron Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Aughanran Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Augharonan Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	825	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Ballybriest Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Bellaghy Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Blair Memorial Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,073	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Blossomhill Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Cappagh Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,050	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Castledearg Young Loyalists Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Clogher & District Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,538	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Curlough Accordion Band	Accordion & Drum Tuition	1,350	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Derryoghill Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Drumquinn Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,540	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Dungannon Volunteer Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	425	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Dyan Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,200	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Fardross Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Lislaird Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Magheraglass Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Mullinagoagh Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,250	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,000	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Plumbridge Brien Boru Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,540	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Pride of the Derg Flute Band	Flute Tuition	1,575	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Red Hand Defenders Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Sinclair Memorial Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Strawhill Voluntary Independent Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Ardstraw & Baronscourt Youth Council	Highland Dancing	1,674	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Clogherny Scottish Country Dance Group	Scottish Country Dance 2013	2,101	2013/14

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	McClintock Primary School	Dance Tuition	1,856	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Mountfield Scottish Country Dancers	Scottish Country Dance Tuition	1,867	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	The Blue Thistle Highland Dancers	Highland Dance	2,081	2013/14
Foras Na Gaeilge	Greencastle Youth Club	Óige mhuintir Luinigh 2 - Youth Event Scheme	3,260	2013
Foras Na Gaeilge	Cairde Bunscoil na Deirge	Afterschool Club Activities/ Outings - Youth Event Scheme	2,772	2013
Foras Na Gaeilge	Cumann Iarscoil na gCrann	Cumann Iarscoil na gCrann - Youth Event Scheme	3,500	2013
Foras Na Gaeilge	Club Óige na Carraige Móire	Club Óige na Carraige Móire - Youth Event Scheme	2,900	2013
Foras Na Gaeilge	Cumann Iarscoil na gCrann	Campa na gCrann - Summer Camp Scheme	3,318	2013
Foras Na Gaeilge	Greencastle Youth Club	Coláiste Mhuintir Luinigh 3 - Summer Camp Scheme	3,388	2013
Foras Na Gaeilge	Campa na gCrann	Campa na gCrann - Summer Camp Scheme	3,018	2012
Foras Na Gaeilge	Greencastle Youth Group	Coláiste Mhuintir Luinigh - Summer Camp Scheme	3,476	2012
Foras Na Gaeilge	Óige Mhuintir Luinigh	Óige Mhuintir Luinigh - Youth Event Scheme	3,500	2012
Foras Na Gaeilge	Cumann Iarscoil na gCrann	Cumann Iarscoil na gCrann - Youth Event Scheme	3,500	2012
Foras Na Gaeilge	Club Óige na Carraige Móire	Club Óige na Carraige Móire - Youth Event Scheme	3,500	2012
Foras Na Gaeilge	Greencastle Youth Club	Coláiste Mhuintir Luinigh - Summer Camp Scheme	2,790	2011
Foras Na Gaeilge	Cumann Iarscoil na gCrann	Campa na gCrann - Summer Camp Scheme	3,092	2011
Foras Na Gaeilge	Cumann Iarscoil na gCrann	Cumann Iarscoil na gCrann - Youth Event Scheme	3,500	2011
Foras Na Gaeilge	Club Óige na Carraige Móire	Club Óige na Carraige Móire - Youth Event Scheme	3,500	2011
Foras Na Gaeilge	Gaelphobal Cheantar an tSratha Báin	Scéim Phobail Gaeilge Grantee	58,008	2014

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Foras Na Gaeilge	Gaelphobal Cheantar an tSratha Báin	Scéim Phobail Gaeilge Grantee	58,008	2013
Foras Na Gaeilge	Gaelphobal Cheantar an tSratha Báin	Scéim Phobail Gaeilge Grantee	56,996	2012
Foras Na Gaeilge	Gaelphobal Cheantar an tSratha Báin	Scéim Phobail Gaeilge Grantee	54,688	2011
Sport NI	Altishane Primary School (Donemanagh)	Altishane Active Achievers	1,652	2013/14
Sport NI	Barrack Street Boys' Primary School (Strabane)	Barrack Street boys' Cricket Programme	1,480	2013/14
Sport NI	Castledearg High School	Castledearg High School Football Club	5,874	2013/14
Sport NI	Drumlisk Primary School (Dromore)	Multi-Sports After School Programme	4,083	2013/14
Sport NI	Gaelscoil Ui Dhochartaigh (Strabane)	Introducing new and extending Gaelic Games	3,168	2013/14
Sport NI	Gibson Primary School (Omagh)	Multi Sports Programme	4,019	2013/14
Sport NI	Holy Family Primary School (Omagh)	Individual sport Programme	2,667	2013/14
Sport NI	Four Elements Adventure	Adventure Activities Accreditation	150	2013/14
Sport NI	Four Elements Adventure	Adventure Activities Accreditation	750	2011/12
Sport NI	Altamuskin Community Association Ltd	Be Active, Be Fit, Have Fun - applying for coaching, venue hire and equipment	4,472	2011/12
Sport NI	North West Coaching Network	The North West Coaching Week - Coach Development	9,000	2011/12
Sport NI	Omagh Ladies Netball Club	Omagh Junior Netball: Equipment, venue hire, coaching fees	3,780	2011/12
Sport NI	St Joseph's Ladies GFC (Glenelly)	Health and Fitness to Beat the Winter Blues	3,525	2011/12
Sport NI	Omagh District Council	Active Communities (Year 3) 2011-12	218,519	2011/12

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Sport NI	Omagh District Council	Active Communities (Year 4)	209,497	2012/13
Sport NI	Omagh District Council	Active Communities (Year 5)	182,714	2013/14
Sport NI	Strabane District Council	Active Communities (Year 3) 2011-12	342,813	2011/12
Sport NI	Strabane District Council	Active Communities (Year 4) 2012-13	354,267	2012/13
Sport NI	Strabane District Council	Active Communities (Year 5) 2013-14	306,064	2013/14
MAGUS	Omagh DC and Derry CC (Total project funding of £9k - costs were not seperated by council area. Therefore apportioned on an equal basis)	Ulster-Scots Heritage Tourism Audit	4,500	2011/12
MAGUS	Omagh DC, Strabane DC and Derry CC (Total project funding of £50,719 across 12/13 & 13/14 - costs were not seperated by council area. Therefore apportioned on an equal basis)	Ulster Scots Trail and learning resource project	40,833	2012/13
MAGUS	Omagh DC, Strabane DC and Derry CC (Total project funding of £50,719 across 12/13 & 13/14 - costs were not seperated by council area. Therefore apportioned on an equal basis)	Ulster Scots Trail and learning resource project	9,886	2013/14
Total			£3,653,676	

Departmental Funding

Mr McAleer asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the total funding invested by her Department in the West Tyrone constituency since 2011.

(AQW 32375/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The total amount of funding invested by the Department in the West Tyrone constituency since 2011 is summarised in the table below:

Financial Year	Amount Funded
2011/12	£3,506,793
2012/13	£3,814,917
2013/14	£3,506,737
Total	£10,828,447

A detailed breakdown of funding invested is provided in Annex A attached.

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description of Funding	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Department	Tyrone County Board	Construction of 3G pitches and 3G Multi Use Games Area	325,548	2013/14
Department	Tyrone County Board	Purchase of IFI Gym Equip, Construction of time trial and skills wall and alterations to gym	93,793	2013/14
Museums	Mellon Centre for Migration Studies	Running costs	87,000	2011/12
Museums	Mellon Centre for Migration Studies	Running costs	76,000	2012/13
Museums	Mellon Centre for Migration Studies	Running costs	76,500	2013/14
Libraries NI	Castledearg Library	Running Costs	59,540	2012
Libraries NI	Castledearg Library	Running Costs	53,998	2013
Libraries NI	Castledearg Library	Running Costs	48,869	2014
Museums	Centre for Migration Studies	Running Costs	66,936	2012
Museums	Centre for Migration Studies	Running Costs	19,432	2013
Museums	Centre for Migration Studies	Running Costs	18,646	2014
Libraries NI	Newtownstewart Library (OLD)	Running Costs	487	2012
Libraries NI	Omagh HQ & Divisional Library	Running Costs	505,572	2012

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description of Funding	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Libraries NI	Omagh HQ & Divisional Library	Running Costs	520,229	2013
Libraries NI	Omagh HQ & Divisional Library	Running Costs	472,264	2014
Libraries NI	Fintona Library Running Costs	Running Costs	94	2012
Libraries NI	Fintona Library Running Costs	Running Costs	25,233	2013
Libraries NI	Fintona Library Running Costs	Running Costs	22,584	2014
Libraries NI	Strabane Library	Running Costs	299,567	2012/13
Libraries NI	Strabane Library	Running Costs	274,381	2014
IFG		Moorlough Angling Development	620	2011/12
IFG		Moorlough Angling Development	19,241	2012/13
IFG		Moorlough Angling Development	11,304	2013/14
NMNI	Ulster American Folk Park	Running Costs	1,667,428	2011/12
NMNI	Ulster American Folk Park	New World Development	297,000	2011/12
NMNI	Ulster American Folk Park	New World Development	23,000	2012/13
NMNI	Ulster American Folk Park	UAFP Exhibit Buildings	50,000	2012/13
NMNI	Ulster American Folk Park	UAFP wifi	5,000	2012/13
NMNI	Ulster American Folk Park	Capital Maintenance	239,859	2012/13
NMNI	Ulster American Folk Park	Running Costs	1,686,865	2012/13
NMNI	Ulster American Folk Park	Running Costs	1,493,414	2013/14
Inland Waterways	W/R Sites in W Tyrone	Water Recreation Site Maintenance	10,855	2011/12
Inland Waterways	W/R Sites in W Tyrone	Water Recreation Site Maintenance	5,378	2012/13
Inland Waterways	W/R Sites in W Tyrone	Water Recreation Site Maintenance	15,614	2013/14
ACNI	Newtownstewart Flute Band	Purchase of Musical Instruments	5,000	2011/12

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description of Funding	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
ACNI	Blossomhill Pipe Band	Musical Instruments	5,000	2011/12
ACNI	Miss Emma McFarline	Talente 2012 - individual artist project.	220	2011/12
ACNI	Cowan Memorial Flute Band	Purchase of Musical Instruments	4,540	2012/13
ACNI	9th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Corps of Drums Band	Purchase of Musical Instruments	3,330	2012/13
ACNI	Mountfield Pipe Band	Purchase of Musical Instruments	4,392	2012/13
ACNI	Castleberg Young Loyalists Flute Band	Purchase of Musical Instruments	4,846	2012/13
ACNI	Plumbridge Brien Boru Pipe Band	Purchase of Musical Instruments	4,947	2012/13
ACNI	Strabane and Lifford LGBT	Our story - A programme of storytelling, glass and ceramics.	5,000	2012/13
ACNI	Care for Cancer	Arts for leisure programme	5,000	2012/13
ACNI	Fountain Street Community Development Association	Winter wonderland	5,000	2012/13
ACNI	Omagh District Council	Purchase new equipment to upgrade our current lighting, sound, exhibition and conference facilities and multi-media capabilities.	7,000	2013/14
ACNI	Blair Memorial Flute Band	Purchase musical instruments	5,000	2013/14
ACNI	Strawhill Voluntary Independent Pipe Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	2,295	2013/14
ACNI	ROCO Magazine	Fully Interactive Magazine for all tablets and Smartphones.	9,850	2013/14
ACNI	Emily McFarland	Gold Is Where You Find It - individual artist project.	800	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Drumquin Pipe Band	Sloughans Festival of Pipes, Drums and Dance	1,367	2011/12

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description of Funding	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Donemana Cultural Association	Donemana Ulster-Scots Summer School	1,720	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Mountfield Ulster-Scots Association	Mountfield Ulster-Scots Summer Scheme	2,656	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Gillygooley Youth & Community development Association	Gillygooley Ulster-Scots Summer School	2,214	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Cookstown North Community Group	Ulster-Scots Summer School	2,240	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Augharan Pipe Band	Pipe and Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Augharonan Pipe Band	Piping and Drumming	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Aughintober Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming Tuition	1,590	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Ballybriest Flower of the Heather Flute Band	Flute & drum tuition	1,567	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Ballybriest Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Bawn Junior Silver Band	Introduction to U-S Drumming	960	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Bellaghy Pipe Band	Piping and Drum	1,575	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Benburb Memorial Pipe Band	Piping and Drumming	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Blacksessiagh Coronation Accordion Band	School of Music - Accordion & Drum	750	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Blair Memorial Flute Band	Flute and Drum	780	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Bloomhill Rural Development Association	Accordion & Drumming Tuition	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Clogher & District Pipe Band	Pipes and Drum	1,600	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Cloughfin Pipe Band	Piping & drumming tuition	1,650	2011/12

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description of Funding	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Cookstown Fife & lambeg Drumming School	Lambeg Drumming & Fife Tuition	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Cookstown Sons of William Flute Band	Flute & drumming tuition	1,568	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Cranny Cultural & Community Group	Piping & drumming tuition	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Drumconvis Young Defender Flute Band	Ulster-Scots Culture - Flute & Drum	550	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Drumnacross Flute Band	Flute and Drum	1,447	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Drumquin Pipe Band	Piping and Drumming	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Edentilone Pipe Band	Musical Tuition - Pipe & Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Gillygooley Pipe Band	Pipes and Drum	1,125	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Gortaclare Pipe Band	Tuition Project (Pipes & Drums)	1,518	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Magheraglass Flute Band	Flute & Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Matt Boyd Memorial Pomeroy Pipe Band	Pipe and Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Montober Flute Band	Flute and Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Mountfield Ulster Scots Association	Piping and Drumming	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Mullinagoagh Pipe Band	Dev U-S Music in local community (Pipe)	1,350	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Newtownstewart Flute Band	Flute and Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band	Flute Tuition	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Pomeroy Flute Band	Flute & drum tuition	814	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Sandholes Community Group	Accordion and Drum	1,600	2011/12

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description of Funding	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Seskanore Pipe Band	Drum	1,050	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Tamlaghtmore Flute Band	Scottish Flute and Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Trillick Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Tullylagan Pipe Band	Piping and Drumming	1,600	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	William Kerr Memorial Pipe Band	Piping and Drumming	1,650	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Curlough Accordion Band	Accordion and Drum	1,230	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Derryoghill Flute Band	Flute and Drum	1,615	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Blue Thistle Highland Dancers	Highland Dancing	2,025	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Clogherny Scottish Country Dancers	Scottish Country Dance	1,155	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Edentiloan & District Ulster-Scots Assoc	Scottish Country Dance	1,050	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Mountfield Ulster Scots Association	Scottish Country Dance	1,704	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Augharan Development Group	Celebrating Robert Burns	250	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Cranny Cultural & Community Group	Burns Night & Ceildh	250	2011/12
Ulster Scots Agency	Bonn Community Association	Pomeroy Ulster-Scots & Orange Festival	1,470	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Derry & Raphoe Action	St Andrews Ulster-Scots Festival	1,013	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Plumbridge Cultural & Community Association	The Black in the Plum	4,634	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Donemana Cultural Association	Donemana Summer School	1,938	2012/13

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description of Funding	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association	US Summer School	1,687	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Newtownstewart Flute Band (Red Hand Defenders)	Stewarts Castle Tuition 2012 - Flute & Drum	1,642	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Aghyaran Accordion Band	Accordion & Drums	1,470	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Augharan Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Augharonan Pipe Band	Piping & drumming	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Ballybriest Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming	1,350	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Bellaghy Pipe Band	Scottish Piping & Drumming Tuition	1,595	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Benburb Memorial Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Blacksessiagh Coronation Accordion Band	School of Music 2012	580	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Blair Memorial Flute Band	Flute & Drum	1,373	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Blossomhill Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Clogher & District Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,565	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Curlough Accordion Band	Accordion & Drum Tuition	1,470	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Derryoghill Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Drumleagh Pipe Band	Drumming & Piping	368	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Drumquin Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,538	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Edentilone Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum	1,560	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Gillygooley Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming	1,613	2012/13

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description of Funding	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Lislaird Pipe Band	Pipes & Drum Tuition	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Magheraglass Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Matt Boyd Memorial Pomeroy Pipe Band	Pipe & Drums	1,650	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Montober Flute Band	Flute & Drum	1,620	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Mountfield Pipe Band	Pipes & Drum Tuition	1,560	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Mullinagoagh Pipe Band	Drumming & Piping	1,343	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band	Drum, Flute & Piccolo	1,260	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Plumbridge Brien Boru Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming	1,490	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Red Hand Defenders Auld Boys Flute Band	Flute & Drumming	1,388	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Seskanore Pipe Band	Bagpipe Tuition	840	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Sinclair Memorial Pipe Band	Pipes & Drum Tuition	1,418	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Strawhill Voluntary Independent Pipe Band	Youth Tuition Programme	1,313	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Tamlaghtmore Flute Band	Flute & Drums	1,153	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Trillick Pipe Band	Musical Learning Programme	1,500	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Tullylagan Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming School	1,600	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Tullylagan Pipe Band	Drum Majoring School	1,050	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	W J Armstrong Memorial Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming	758	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Cranny Cultural & Community Group	Highland Piping & Drumming Tuition	1,650	2012/13

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description of Funding	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Mourne Valley Cultural Association	Piping & Drumming	1,050	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Sandholes Community Group	Accordion & Drumming	1,298	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Ardstraw & Baronscourt Youth Council	Newtownstewart Highland Dancers	1,373	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Blue Thistle Highland Dancers	Highland Dance Tuition	2,654	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Clogherny Scottish Country Dance Group	Scottish Country Dance Group	2,178	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Edenitloan & District Ulster-Scots Association	Scottish Country Dancing 2012	405	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	McClintock Parents Support Group	Seskinore Scottish Highland Dancing Group	1,482	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Mountfield Scottish Country Dance	Scottish Country Dance Tuition	1,728	2012/13
Ulster Scots Agency	Derry & Raphoe Action	West Tyrone Ulster Scots Culture Festival	1,571	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Cookstown North Community Group	Ulster Scots Summer School	2,146	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Ardbarron Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Aughanran Pipe Band	Piping & Drumming Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Augharonan Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	825	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Ballybriest Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Bellaghy Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Blair Memorial Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,073	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Blossomhill Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Cappagh Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,050	2013/14

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description of Funding	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Castledearg Young Loyalists Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Clogher & District Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,538	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Curlough Accordion Band	Accordion & Drum Tuition	1,350	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Derryoghill Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Drumquinn Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,540	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Dungannon Volunteer Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	425	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Dyan Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,200	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Fardross Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Lislaird Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Magheraglass Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Mullinagoagh Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,250	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,000	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Plumbridge Brien Boru Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,540	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Pride of the Derg Flute Band	Flute Tuition	1,575	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Red Hand Defenders Flute Band	Flute & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Sinclair Memorial Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Strawhill Voluntary Independent Pipe Band	Pipe & Drum Tuition	1,650	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Ardstraw & Baronscourt Youth Council	Highland Dancing	1,674	2013/14

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description of Funding	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Ulster Scots Agency	Clogherny Scottish Country Dance Group	Scottish Country Dance 2013	2,101	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	McClintock Primary School	Dance Tuition	1,856	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	Mountfield Scottish Country Dancers	Scottish Country Dance Tuition	1,867	2013/14
Ulster Scots Agency	The Blue Thistle Highland Dancers	Highland Dance	2,081	2013/14
Foras Na Gaeilge	Greencastle Youth Club	Youth Event Scheme - resource funding	3,260	2013
Foras Na Gaeilge	Cairde Bunscoil na Deirge	Youth Event Scheme - resource funding	2,772	2013
Foras Na Gaeilge	Cumann Iarscoil na gCrann	Youth Event Scheme - resource funding	3,500	2013
Foras Na Gaeilge	Club Óige na Carraige Móire	Youth Event Scheme - resource funding	2,900	2013
Foras Na Gaeilge	Cumann Iarscoil na gCrann	Summer Camp Scheme - resource funding	3,318	2013
Foras Na Gaeilge	Greencastle Youth Club	Summer Camp Scheme - resource funding	3,388	2013
Foras Na Gaeilge	Campa na gCrann	Summer Camp Scheme - resource funding	3,018	2012
Foras Na Gaeilge	Greencastle Youth Group	Summer Camp Scheme - resource funding	3,476	2012
Foras Na Gaeilge	Óige Mhuintir Luinigh	Youth Event Scheme - resource funding	3,500	2012
Foras Na Gaeilge	Cumann Iarscoil na gCrann	Youth Event Scheme - resource funding	3,500	2012
Foras Na Gaeilge	Club Óige na Carraige Móire	Youth Event Scheme - resource funding	3,500	2012
Foras Na Gaeilge	Greencastle Youth Club	Summer Camp Scheme - resource funding	2,790	2011
Foras Na Gaeilge	Cumann Iarscoil na gCrann	Summer Camp Scheme - resource funding	3,092	2011
Foras Na Gaeilge	Cumann Iarscoil na gCrann	Youth Event Scheme - resource funding	3,500	2011
Foras Na Gaeilge	Club Óige na Carraige Mhóire	Youth Event Scheme - resource funding	3,500	2011

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description of Funding	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Foras Na Gaeilge	Gaelphobal Cheantar an tSratha Báin	Scéim Phobail Gaeilge Grantee	58,008	2014
Foras Na Gaeilge	Gaelphobal Cheantar an tSratha Báin	Scéim Phobail Gaeilge Grantee	58,008	2013
Foras Na Gaeilge	Gaelphobal Cheantar an tSratha Báin	Scéim Phobail Gaeilge Grantee	56,996	2012
Foras Na Gaeilge	Gaelphobal Cheantar an tSratha Báin	Scéim Phobail Gaeilge Grantee	54,688	2011
Sport NI	Altishane Primary School (Donemanagh)	Altishane Active Achievers	1,652	2013/14
Sport NI	Barrack Street Boys' Primary School (Strabane)	Barrack Street boys' Cricket Programme	1,480	2013/14
Sport NI	Castledearg High School	Castledearg High School Football Club	5,874	2013/14
Sport NI	Drumlish Primary School (Dromore)	Multi-Sports After School Programme	4,083	2013/14
Sport NI	Gaelscoil Ui Dhochartaigh (Strabane)	Introducing new and extending Gaelic Games	3,168	2013/14
Sport NI	Gibson Primary School (Omagh)	Multi Sports Programme	4,019	2013/14
Sport NI	Holy Family Primary School (Omagh)	Individual sport Programme	2,667	2013/14
Sport NI	Four Elements Adventure	Adventure Activities Accreditation	150	2013/14
Sport NI	Four Elements Adventure	Adventure Activities Accreditation	750	2011/12
Sport NI	Altamuskin Community Association Ltd	Be Active, Be Fit, Have Fun - applying for coaching, venue hire and equipment	4,472	2011/12
Sport NI	North West Coaching Network	The North West Coaching Week - Coach Development	9,000	2011/12
Sport NI	Omagh Ladies Netball Club	Omagh Junior Netball: Equipment, venue hire, coaching fees	3,780	2011/12

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description of Funding	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
Sport NI	St Joseph's Ladies GFC (Glenelly)	Health and Fitness to Beat the Winter Blues	3,525	2011/12
Sport NI	Strabane Athletic FC	Applicant received storage container from TNOG	-	2011/12
Sport NI	Omagh District Council	Active Communities (Year 3) - Coaching	218,519	2011/12
Sport NI	Omagh District Council	Active Communities (Year 4) - Coaching	209,497	2012/13
Sport NI	Omagh District Council	Active Communities (Year 5) - Coaching	182,714	2013/14
Sport NI	Strabane District Council	Active Communities (Year 3) - Coaching	342,813	2011/12
Sport NI	Strabane District Council	Active Communities (Year 4) - Coaching	354,267	2012/13
Sport NI	Strabane District Council	Active Communities (Year 5) - Coaching	306,064	2013/14
MAGUS	Omagh DC and Derry CC (Total project funding of £9k - costs were not seperated by council area. Therefore apportioned on an equal basis)	Ulster-Scots Heritage Tourism Audit	4,500	2011/12
MAGUS	Omagh DC, Strabane DC and Derry CC (Total project funding of £50,719 across 12/13 & 13/14 - costs were not seperated by council area. Therefore apportioned on an equal basis)	Ulster Scots Trail and learning resource project	40,833	2012/13

Funding Body	Funded Entity/ Project	Description of Funding	Amount Paid £	Financial Year
MAGUS	Omagh DC, Strabane DC and Derry CC (Total project funding of £50,719 across 12/13 & 13/14 - costs were not seperated by council area. Therefore apportioned on an equal basis)	Ulster Scots Trail and learning resource project	9,886	2013/14
Total			10,828,447	

Motions Debated in the Assembly

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the number of Motions debated in the Assembly that she has responded to in the last two years; and (ii) the action that she has taken following any Motion that was passed.

(AQW 32436/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: In the last two years I have responded to 13 Motions in the Assembly, 12 of which were passed.

I have listed at Annex A the key actions taken by my Department in relation to the Motions passed in the Assembly.

Annex A

- (i) Action Plan to Improve the Sustainability of Fish Stocks – Since the debate I have taken forward a range of measures to conserve and protect fish stocks. New legislation was introduced in March 2014 to make catch and release of salmon and sea trout compulsory and to prohibit commercial salmon netting in the DCAL jurisdiction.

My Department has also been implementing programmes for the conservation of eel stocks and developing Fishery Management Plans for Lough Neagh and Lough Erne.

- (ii) Foras na Gaeilge Proposed Funding Model – At the NSMC Language Body meeting of 9 July 2013 NSMC Ministers approved the implementation of the new funding arrangements from 1 July 2014.
- (iii) Centenary of the Signing of the Ulster Covenant - The DCAL Family is playing a key role in telling the stories and different interpretations of the 1912-22 period. Libraries NI, National Museums NI, and PRONI have all delivered, and are developing, exhibitions, lectures and collaborative initiatives to mark significant anniversaries.
- (iv) Funding for Boxing - Significant progress has been made in the provision of funding for boxing since the debate. Under the Lottery funded Boxing Investment Programme (BIP), £3.27 million will be invested in the sport across the north of Ireland.
- (v) Legacy of 2012 Paralympic Games - My Department, through Sport NI, fund Disability Sports NI (DSNI) as they implement their Disability Mainstreaming Policy. I have met with DSNI on a number of occasions since this debate to hear of their ongoing work with governing bodies of sport. Sport NI is developing a new Sports Facility Strategy and I have asked that this takes account of facilities suitable for people with disabilities and special needs.

- (vi) CAL Committee Motion Grassroot & Elite Sports Facilities - The Assembly noted the target in Sport Matters to have a minimum of 10 new or upgraded facilities by 2014 to support player/athlete development. At the last Sport Matters Monitoring Group Meeting in November 2013, it was agreed that this target had been achieved.
- (vii) CAL Committee Motion Report on Maximising the Potential of the Creative Industries - DCAL has worked across Government to inform development of the Executive's draft Innovation Strategy. The extent of DCAL's input to an economic-focused Executive strategy is unprecedented. This recognises the importance of creativity and the contribution of the creative and cultural industries.
- (viii) 400 Year Historical Legacy - The Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) – Ulster Scots Academy, The Ulster Scots Agency, and Foras na Gaeilge are undertaking a programme to mark the award of Charters to some forty towns and cities across the island of Ireland. The MAG are also part funding the Trail for Coleraine 400. This project will provide a legacy for Coleraine Town centre to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Town's Charter.
- (ix) Northern Amateur Football League Primacy Rule - My Department has considered the implications of the NAFL Rule 2.1 (Primacy Factor), together with the league's legal status as a membership body and concluded that the impact of the rule and a refusal to change it is contrary to government's priority of equality, social inclusion, shared future and building a united community. I have written to the NAFL to provide an opportunity for the League to outline its concerns about removal of the rule and to explore options for achieving ground sharing and equitable use of sports facilities for soccer.
- (x) CAL Committee Motion Redevelopment of Central Library - Since the Assembly debate in September 2013 my officials have continued to work with Libraries NI to develop the Business Case that I referred to during the debate. Work on this is still ongoing.
- (xi) CAL Committee Motion Report into Gaps in Child Protection and Safeguarding across CAL Remit - My Department has established two working groups to examine the key recommendations in the report. DCAL has established a Safeguarding Forum with the aim of improving the safeguarding arrangements for those vulnerable groups participating in culture, arts and leisure.
- (xii) Sports Facilities for People with Disabilities & Special Needs - Sport NI is currently updating its Active Places Database which was initially compiled in 2009 as part of the 'Bridging the Gap' research report. This update will form the basis of a new Sports Facility Strategy and will take account of the new eleven district council areas. As part of this I have asked Sport NI to include facilities suitable for people with disabilities and special needs.

Super-Injunctions

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether at any time her Department has funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

(AQW 32487/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: At no time has my Department funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

Appointments to Public Bodies

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many appointments to public bodies her Department made in the last twelve months.

(AQW 32540/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: There have been 30 appointments made to DCAL public bodies in the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

Agency Staff

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the (i) vacancies; and (ii) agency staff in her Department, broken down by grade.

(AQW 32570/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The information requested in respect of DCAL is contained in the tables attached at Annex A. The data is broken down by grade and reflects the position at 2 April 2014.

ANNEX A

DCAL VACANCIES BY GRADE – 2 APRIL 2014

Grade	Number of Vacancies
Grade 7	1
DP	1
S0	1
EO1	0
EO2	1
AO	2
Fisheries Officer 2	1
Curatorial F	1
Industrial	2
Total	10

DCAL AGENCY STAFF BY GRADE -2 APRIL 2014

Grade	Number of Agency Staff
Information Officer	1
S0 Accountant	2
Curatorial F	5
EOI	1
AO	5
Industrial Staff	3
Total	17

Portavoe Reservoir

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what consultation took place between her Department and the Department for Regional Development prior to the drainage of the Portavoe Reservoir.

(AQW 32580/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: AQW 32580/11-15

Portavoe Reservoir is owned by NI Water and my Department leases the fishing rights.

My officials have been liaising directly with NI Water in relation to the ongoing remedial works at a number of its reservoirs which are in the Public Angling Estate. NI Water has provided a schedule of the commencement dates and estimated duration of the proposed works and updated this schedule when necessary.

My Department advised of the schedule of works on the NI Direct angling website www.nidirect.gov.uk/angling to inform permit holders and updated the website as updates were received.

Occupational Health Services

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what action her Department is taking to offer comprehensive occupational health services to its employees, including early access to services such as physiotherapy.

(AQW 32686/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Northern Ireland Civil Service Occupational Health Service provides a comprehensive occupational health service to all of the NICS Departments and this is available to all employees.

The NICS does not provide early access to physiotherapy services. Further details of OHS services can be found at www.nicsohs.gov.uk

NICS employees are encouraged to join Benenden Healthcare, a mutual not for profit friendly society which would allow early access to physiotherapy services and costs are reimbursed.

Foras na Gaeilge: Rent Payments

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much Foras na Gaeilge paid in rent during the last financial year; and how it is broken down.

(AQW 32698/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The total rent paid by Foras na Gaeilge in respect of its 5 Offices for 2013 is shown on the table below in Euros and in Sterling. Foras na Gaeilge's financial year is from 1 January to 31 December each year.

	2013	2013
Headquarters		
7 Merrion Square -Dublin	€350,000	£287,000
Other Offices		
Westgate House - Belfast	€37,829	£31,020
Ráth Chairn - Meath (Clár na Leabhar Gaeilge)	€8,449	£6,928
Frederick Street - Dublin	€99,137	£81,292
Gaoth Dobhair - Donegal	€22,616	£18,545
Total	€518,031	£424,785

Foras na Gaeilge

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much Foras na Gaeilge paid for overnight accommodation during the last financial year; and how it is broken down.

(AQW 32699/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Foras na Gaeilge (FnaG) costs for overnight accommodation for 2013 are shown in the table below.

	Cost for 2013	Reason(s) for overnight accommodation
Board	£6,786.79	Foras na Gaeilge Board attending meetings.
Staff	£37,229.63	Foras na Gaeilge staff attending meetings, conferences and events throughout Ireland
Others	£4,466.98	Non – Foras na Gaeilge staff engaged to provide a service
Total	£48,483.40	

Hockey

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the investment in hockey in the Upper Bann constituency in the last three years.

(AQW 32706/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: In the last three financial years up to March 2014, Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, has invested £1,787.40 in hockey in the Upper Bann constituency as detailed below:

Year	Programme	Applicant	Project	Award
2013	Active Schools	Maralin Village Primary School	Hockey Development Programme	£1,787.40

In addition, Sport NI has invested the following to support the development of the sport of hockey across the north of Ireland, including the Upper Bann Constituency:

- £30,650 to enable Ulster Hockey to employ a Grassroots Participation Officer through to September 2014;
- £67,114 for one full time Active Communities Hockey Coach employed by Ulster Hockey, during the period 2010/2014.
- £840,440 investment to Ulster Hockey through the Performance Focus Programme for the period 2013-2017.

Hockey

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans she has to invest in hockey in the Upper Bann constituency, given that there have been significant successes in recent days.

(AQW 32707/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Responsibility for the promotion of hockey, including the Upper Bann constituency, rests in the first instance, with the Governing Body of the sport, Ulster Hockey.

I am not aware of any current plans to invest in hockey in the Upper Bann constituency however, Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, is in the process of developing a new capital investment programme, which will consist of two funding strands:

Strand 1 – Community/Club

Strand 2 – High Performance

The new programme aims to partially address the under-provision in high performance sports facilities, partially address the identified shortfalls in community sports facility provision, and to significantly increase community participation in sport and physical recreation. It is anticipated that the programme will open to applicants in June 2014 and Ulster Hockey may wish to apply.

Development of Windsor Park Stadium

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the timescale for completion of the Windsor Park redevelopment project.

(AQW 32745/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The timescale for the Windsor Park development is currently on programme. Provided that significant delays around any legal challenges are avoided and IFA provide assurance to DCAL that appropriate governance and accountability structures are in place, the project will commence in April 2014 and be complete by October 2015.

Boxing

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what steps her Department is taking to ensure that any potential world title fight involving Carl Frampton takes place in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 32784/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Responsibility for arrangements, including the venue, of any potential world title fight rests wholly with the promoter of such events.

The world title eliminator event held on 4 April 2014 showcased Belfast as a perfect venue and I am sure that the promoter of any world title fight involving Carl Frampton will take this into consideration.

I wish Carl all the best for any future contests.

Foras na Gaelige: Income

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the total income of Foras na Gaelige in 2010, broken down by source, including (a) government Departments in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland; (b) earned income; and (c) all other sources.

(AQW 32808/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The total income for Foras na Gaelige for 2010 broken down by source, is shown in the table below:

Source	2010
Government Departments in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland	
Department of Arts Heritage and Gaeltacht	£11,697,840
Department of Culture Arts and Leisure	£3,941,605
DAHG (Colmcille)	£93,732
DCAL (Colmcille)	£93,805
DAHG (Clár na Leabhar Gaeilge)	£1,286,779
	£17,113,760
Earned income	
Income from Book distribution and sales (Áis)	£1,031,653
All Other Sources.	
Séideán Sí	£199,338
Miscellaneous income (interest etc) FnaG	£16,456
Miscellaneous income (interest) Colmcille	£1,627
	£217,421
Total Income	£18,362,834

Foras na Gaeilge

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the level of efficiency savings (i) sought; and (ii) achieved from Foras na Gaeilge in (a) 2011; (b) 2012; and (c) 2013.

(AQW 32809/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The agreed efficiency savings sought by Finance Departments were to be at least 9% for 2011, 4% for 2012 and 4% for 2013.

The efficiency savings achieved were 9%, 6% and 5% respectively accumulating from the 2010 baseline to 9%, 15% and 20%.

Foras na Gaeilge

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 32410/11-15, to provide a breakdown of the Other Sources category of income for Foras na Gaeilge for (a) 2011; (b) 2012; and (c) 2013.

(AQW 32810/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The other income for Foras na Gaeilge for 2011, 2012 and 2013 is broken down by source in the table below:

All Other Sources of Income.	2011	2012	2013
Séideán Sí FnaG	£43,856	£6,506	£20,983
Gain on the trade in of car FnaG	£5,207		
Arts Council Funding Clár na Leabhar Gaeilge		£5,676	
Gain on the sale car Clár na Leabhar Gaeilge		£939	
Heritage Lottery Funding Colmcille	£24,950		£24,950
Miscellaneous income (interest etc) FnaG	£16,580	£9,300	£9,697
Miscellaneous income (interest) Colmcille	£10		
	£90,603	£22,422	£55,630

Foras na Gaeilge

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the profit made by Foras na Gaeilge through Áis in (a) 2011; (b) 2012; and (c) 2013.

(AQW 32811/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Áis provides a distribution service for Irish language publications nationally and internationally. The amount of income generated by Áis over the last three years is shown in the table below.

Earned Income	2011	2012	2013
Income from Book distribution and sales (Áis)	£896,471	£745,547	£767,892

Income from sales goes towards running costs and is offset against requirements by Foras na Gaeilge when preparing the monthly drawdown requests for Sponsor Departments.

Department of Education

Clandeyboye Primary School, Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education why the South Eastern Education and Library Board agreed to a water/sewage pumping station to be situated at Clandeyboye Primary School, Bangor.

(AQW 32376/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): Clandeyboye Primary School is a controlled primary school in Bangor, and as such this is a decision for the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB). The SEELB have advised me that in late 2013 they were approached by NI Water for permission to enter into a leasing arrangement for a subterranean pumping station in the grounds of the school as well as a wayleave for underground pipework and a right of way of maintenance. The identified location of the pumping station was a disused part of the school's site and on completion of works neither it nor the pipework will have any impact on day-to-day life in the school. The SEELB sought advice from Land and Property Services on the appropriate compensation that would be due for such an arrangement.

After careful consideration the SEELB agreed to this request from a fellow public sector body as NI Water's project is ultimately for the betterment of water and sewerage provision for members of the public who live in the Bangor area, including SEELB pupils and their families.

Capital Expenditure

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Education to detail the total amount of capital expenditure invested by his Department in (i) school builds; (ii) enhancement projects; and (iii) minor works in (a) South Down; (b) Strangford; and (c) Newry and Armagh.

(AQW 32415/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The following table provides details of the total amount of capital expenditure invested by my Department in (i) school builds; (ii) enhancement projects; and (iii) minor works in (a) South Down; (b) Strangford; and (c) Newry and Armagh.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (£S)

	South Down	Strangford	Newry And Armagh
School Builds*	20,000,000	0	13,800,000
Enhancement Projects*	9,000,000	2,400,000	10,500,000
Minor Works**	11,811,108.67	5,733,810.40	8,235,231.33

* Information regarding school builds and enhancement projects relates to the current approved costs of schemes announced within the last three financial years. These figures include estimate of costs for schemes yet to commence and are subject to change as the schemes progress to completion.

** Information in relation to minor works relates to the total approved expenditure covering the last three financial years up to 28 February 2014. March 2014 data is currently not yet finalised and is not readily available.

Irish Medium Sector

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Education to detail his Department's (i) capital; and (ii) revenue spend on the Irish Medium sector in (a) 2011; (b) 2012; and (iii) 2013.

(AQW 32417/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department's capital and revenue spend on the Irish Medium sector in the 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years is detailed in the table below:

	2011-12 £'000	2012-13 £'000	2013-14 £'000
	Actual Spend	Actual Spend	Estimated Outturn*
Revenue	15,021	16,154	17,231
Capital	1,940	866	1,789

* 2013-14 Annual Resource Accounts are not yet complete and therefore the figures provided are based on an estimate of outturn.

Note: Information in relation to Irish-medium Units attached to English-medium host schools has not been provided as it is not possible to disaggregate the funding of the Unit from the host school.

Irish Medium Sector

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Education what is his Department's projected (i) capital; and (ii) revenue spend on the Irish Medium sector in (a) 2014; (b) 2015; and (iii) 2016.

(AQW 32418/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I recently announced a 60% increase in Capital Expenditure for this financial year. Within this increased Capital budget, I am projecting in the region of £4.4m will be allocated across the Irish Medium sector.

I am currently finalising my Department's resource budget allocations for 2014-15. However, I anticipate that the projected amount of resource spend on the Irish Medium sector in 2014-15 will be approximately £17.8m.

The Executive has yet to agree Departmental resource and capital budget allocations for 2015-16 and so I am unable to project levels of funding for the Irish Medium sector until this has been completed. Budgets beyond 2015-16 will not be known until after the general election next year.

Note: Information in relation to Irish-medium Units attached to English-medium host schools has not been provided as it is not possible to disaggregate the funding of the Unit from the host school. In addition, resources such as milk and meals and transport have been excluded as these are not allocated at individual school level.

Purchase of Car Park of the Former Bangor Leisure Centre

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what consideration his Department has given to a formal cash offer to North Down Borough Council to secure the car park of the former Bangor Leisure Centre.

(AQW 32451/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Following an open call for expressions of interest from North Down Borough Council on 26 April 2013, the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) made a formal written offer to secure part of the former leisure centre site for use by Bangor Central Integrated Primary School. SEELB wrote again to North Down Borough Council on 3 April 2014 setting out its continuing interest in acquiring the land marketed as Lot 2 for the purpose of the development of a replacement building for Bangor Central IPS. In this letter the Board also requested that the Council enter into negotiations with the Board to dispose of Lot 2 at a price to be determined by Land and Property Services. There has been no response from the Council to date as it is currently evaluating offers and seeking clarification from bidders where appropriate.

C2K Attendance Recording System

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Education when access to the C2K attendance recording system will be granted to the Department of Education's employees who are tasked with investigating absenteeism.[R]

(AQW 32495/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Employees of my Department do not investigate absenteeism. Education and Library Boards have statutory duties in relation to attendance, which are taken forward through the work of the Education Welfare Service (EWS). Education Welfare Officers can access the C2k system during the course of their work in schools.

Hydro-Therapy Pool: Castle Tower Special School, Ballymena

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education what level of support his Department will provide for the installation of a hydro-therapy pool in the new build for Castle Tower Special School, Ballymena.

(AQW 32658/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department is content with the proposal to retain the hydrotherapy pool on the new school campus. The original approved Economic Appraisal (EA) did not include provision of hydrotherapy pool, as recurrent funding elements to be provided by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) could not be confirmed at that time. DE has now received confirmation from NSHCT that this funding will be provided and has requested DFP approval to the option contained in the EA to include the hydrotherapy pool.

C2K

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Education to outline the reasons for the difficulties with the latest C2K implementations.

(AQW 32666/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Roll-out of the new C2k contract involves a major upgrade to all school networks and C2k is working with schools to agree a suitable schedule to do this. As the network is typically unavailable for 3-5 days per school while transformation takes place, there are inevitably frustrations and I have asked the Western Education & Library Board to ensure that C2k is responsive to these and taking every possible step to minimise disruption.

Those steps include responding positively where possible to requests to postpone transformation until the summer and continuing to offer vital training to C2k Managers within schools prior to their transformation.

If the member has more specific concerns about operational issues in individual schools, I would encourage him to raise these directly with the Chief Executive of the Western Education & Library Board.

Occupational Health Services

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Education what action his Department is taking to offer comprehensive occupational health services to its employees, including early access to services such as physiotherapy.

(AQW 32687/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Civil Service Occupational Health Service provides a comprehensive occupational health service to all of the NICS Departments and this is available to all employees.

The NICS does not provide early access to physiotherapy services. Further details of OHS services can be found at www.nicsohs.gov.uk

Academic Underachievement

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of, and to provide available statistics on, the academic underachievement amongst Protestant boys from working class communities in Upper Bann.

(AQW 32696/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In 2011/12, 48.7% of the 347 Protestant boys resident in Upper Bann left school having achieved at least 5 GCSEs A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and maths compared to the NI average of 53.5% for all Protestant boys achieving at this level.

In 2011/12, 13.5% of the 52 Protestant boys resident in Upper Bann and entitled to free school meals left school having achieved at least 5 GCSEs A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and maths compared to the NI average of 19.7% for all Protestant boys entitled to free school meals achieving at this level.

Little Oaks Unit in Foyle

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education to outline the status of the Little Oaks Unit in Foyle; and how many children using the facility are (a) with and (b) without statements of educational need.

(AQW 32702/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Little Oaks is a Key Stage 1 and 2 Social, Emotional and Behaviour Difficulties (SEBD) unit operating as part of the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS) Service. It also provides outreach support for children referred to, but not yet attending, the unit.

Little Oaks is based on the Belmont House site and the unit is currently managed as part of Belmont Special School. WELB's Children and Young Peoples Services Department, however, manage all aspects of the pupil placement process and, as part of the current development plan for the site, the Board intends to create a new, purpose built SEBD unit, wholly independent from the school, by September 2014.

There are currently 25 children using the facility, 8 children have statements of educational needs and 17 children do not. Of the 17 however, 3 are likely to receive statements in the near future.

Pay Award for Teachers

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 30238/11-15, for an update on the progress of the Teachers' Negotiating Committee discussions regarding the 2013/14 pay award for teachers.

(AQW 32705/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Teachers' Negotiating Committee has recommended 1% pay award to teachers' salaries with effect from September 2013. As a result, a pay remit business case will be submitted to DFP for approval.

Educational Underachievement

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what funding is available to combat educational underachievement.

(AQW 32740/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Since coming to office I have continued to implement policies to raise standards and tackle educational underachievement. Key policies include the school improvement policy, the literacy and numeracy strategy, the revised curriculum, the entitlement framework, the framework for early years' education and learning and the SEN and inclusion review.

Alongside these policies the Department is implementing a range of funded programmes targeting educational underachievement. These include the Delivering Social Change programme to provide additional teaching support to pupils at risk of underachievement, the literacy and numeracy Continuing Professional Development Key Stage 2/3 project and funding to support Area Learning Communities develop effective approaches to improving literacy and numeracy levels amongst disadvantaged pupils.

I am also providing funding to support a range of programmes targeted at socially deprived communities. These include Sure Start, the extended schools and full service provision, the Community

Education Initiatives Programme, the Achieving Belfast and Achieving Derry Bright Futures programmes and projects to address educational underachievement in Greater West Belfast.

Last month I announced changes to the way schools are funded in order to target resources at areas of disadvantage. I have redistributed school funding to target schools with high numbers of pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds under the common funding scheme and injected a further £10 million into school budgets from April 2014.

Temporary Classrooms

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Education how many (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary schools in the East Londonderry constituency are using mobile classrooms compared to four years ago.

(AQW 32823/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards do not normally hold historic data in relation to numbers of temporary classrooms however the then Minister for Education answered an Assembly question in June 2010 regarding the number of temporary classrooms in the east Derry constituency. This information has been included in the table below together with the current numbers.

	Number of temporary classrooms in primary schools (i)	Number of temporary classrooms in post primary schools (ii)	Total
June 2010	56	41	97
April 2014	63	49	112

Continuing Professional Development for Teachers

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education to detail the plans he has to increase funding for continuing professional development for teachers who wish to further their education, including the amount of extra funding and when it will be available.

(AQW 32825/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My officials have carried out a review of the school support currently available. This has included a series of workshops with school leaders, as well as an examination of provision in other jurisdictions.

Further investigation of planned provision for the 2014/15 year will inform the development of a regional programme of support for schools and professional development for teachers to complement the significant existing support provided for schools. Until this work is completed it will not be possible to consider the extent of funding required for the new regional support programme.

Details of the programme will be announced in due course, with phased implementation during the 2014/15 financial year.

With regard to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers wishing to further their education in relation to teaching pupils with special educational needs (SEN), I can advise that as part of the Review of SEN and Inclusion, I plan to continue to support the CPD Literacy Project run by Stranmillis and St Mary's University Colleges until March 2015. It is estimated that the funding will be in the order of £1.5M in 2014/15.

Also, alongside the Department of Education and Skills, my Department co-funds the Middletown Centre for Autism. The Centre delivers a programme of professional training each year which is available to teachers, school staff and other educational professionals. The Centre's programme for the 2014/15 academic year is currently being finalised. Based on current plans, the delivery of this training in the north of Ireland is estimated to cost approximately £190,000.

Applicants for Pre-School Places

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education how many applicants in each constituency were successful for (i) full-time; and (ii) part-time nursery places.

(AQW 32826/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: At this stage of the pre-school admissions process, over 95% of children have been offered a pre-school place for the 2014/15 school year, with 86% in their first preference setting.

The Chief Executives of the Education and Library Boards have provided the following information in regard to the number of applicants that have received the offer of a funded pre-school place during stage one of the pre-school admissions process for the 2014/15 academic year:

Constituency area	No. of final pre-school age children placed in full time settings at the end of Stage 1	No. of final pre-school age children placed in part time settings at the end of Stage 1
Ards	156	641
Armagh	261	490
Banbridge	260	351
Belfast North	182	104
Belfast*	2675	763
Castlereagh	284	538
Cookstown	182	341
Craigavon	919	362
Derry	942	501
Down	182	627
Dungannon	275	543
East Antrim	234	725
East Derry	130	478
Fermanagh	78	680
Limavady	78	322
Lisburn	580	881
Mid Ulster	26	641
Newry	539	804
North Antrim	242	1013
North Down	102	764
Omagh	130	512
South Antrim	105	1029
Strabane	229	263
Total	8791	13373

Please note there may be minor discrepancies in numbers due applications between ELB areas, the effects of which have not yet been fully accounted for

Nursery School Places

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education what action he is taking to include working families who are at the lower income earning level in any preferential treatment for nursery school places.

(AQW 32828/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: All admissions criteria are set by pre-school providers themselves; however legislation requires that the top criterion for each provider prioritises children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

Research has shown that children from socially disadvantaged circumstances tend to experience more difficulty at school than other children, so they are given priority in the pre-school admissions process as part of wider efforts to tackle educational underachievement.

Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances are currently defined as a child whose parent is in receipt of income support, income-based job-seekers allowance, or Employment Support Allowance where an award of income-based job-seekers allowance has been converted and the amount of the award remains unchanged.

The Review of Pre-School Admissions recommended that this definition be examined with a view to mirroring the relevant economic elements of the definition of Free School Meal Entitlement and officials are currently developing proposals for my consideration.

Nursery School Education

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education to outline the timescale for all nursery school education being on a full-time basis.

(AQW 32830/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: A key action in Learning to Learn – A Framework for Early Years Education and Learning is, over time, to standardise patterns of attendance as part of the Pre-School Education Programme. This action is not restricted to nursery schools.

The current pattern of provision for pre-school and the duration of session time can range from 2.5 hours to below 4.5 hours (part-time, with no meal) and 4.5 hours or over (full-time, with a meal) per day. Therefore, a number of options are available when considering standardising patterns of attendance.

It is hoped that the exercise of assessing the potential implications of and options for standardising patterns of attendance, as part of wider considerations of area planning for pre-school provision, will be complete by 2015/16. In the meantime, there is a moratorium on any new or additional full-time provision or conversion from part-time to full-time provision.

Commissioners at the South Eastern Education and Library Board

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 32297/11-15, on how many occasions, since their establishment, have the Commissioners chosen to meet in public, in accordance with provision 4.1 of their Standing Orders.

(AQW 32836/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The SEELB has advised that since the commissioners were appointed, they have not opened any of their meetings to the general public. However, the Board has also advised that over the period of their tenure the Commissioners have met with a large number of delegations including local politicians, Parents Groups, school Boards of Governors, Youth Organisations and Health Trusts to take on board their views on a range of issues as part of the Commissioners' decision making process. These delegations were received either as part of the Commissioners' board meetings or organised as separate meetings. No delegations wishing to meet with the Commissioners have been refused. As you are aware, all disclosable papers from the Commissioners meetings are published on the SEELB website.

Staffing: Council for Catholic Maintained Schools

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 31630/11-15, what reduction in staffing has taken place in the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools as a result of these arrangements.
(AQW 32837/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The detail regarding the need for additional staff and associated resources to be allocated in the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, due to the increase in the non-controlled minor works budget, are under consideration in the Department but have not as yet been finalised.

Shared Education Campuses Programme

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how many expressions of interest have been received from each Education and Library Board area to the Shared Education Campuses Programme.
(AQW 32838/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Fifteen expressions of interest have been received and these are broken down by each Education and Library Board area as follows.

BELB	3 expressions of interest
BELB/NEELB	1 joint expressions of interest
BELB/NEELB/SEELB	1 joint expression of interest
NEELB	4 expressions of interest
SELB	4 expressions of interest
WELB	2 expressions of interest

Pupil Suspensions

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 30338/11-15, for a breakdown of the suspensions by (i) sector; and (ii) primary and post-primary school.
(AQW 32839/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department publishes the statistics of pupil suspensions on its website based on annual returns provided by the Education and Library Boards.

The following tables provide details of primary, post primary and special school pupils who have been suspended in each of the last three years, broken down by the school management type:

2010-2011

	Controlled	Catholic Maintained	Other Types	NI Totals
Primary	111	63	5	179
Post-Primary	1637	1430	929	3996
Special	62	3	-	65
All Schools	1810	1496	934	4240

2011-2012

	Controlled	Catholic Maintained	Other Types	NI Totals
Primary	134	59	7	200
Post- Primary	1450	1194	950	3594
Special	79	6	-	85
All Schools	1663	1259	957	3879

2012-2013

	Controlled	Catholic Maintained	Other Types	NI Totals
Primary	133	46	12	191
Post- Primary	1291	1091	914	3296
Special	63	6	-	69
All Schools	1487	1143	926	3556

The "Other Types" category includes grant maintained and controlled integrated schools, voluntary grammar schools and other maintained schools. Data for independent schools is not available.

Details for pupils in Special schools cannot be broken down by primary and post primary because the information is so small that doing so would carry a high risk of allowing individual pupils to be identified.

This reflects the Statistics Authority Code of Practice on Official Statistics, in particular Principle 5, relating to confidentiality.

Applicants for Pre-School Places

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how many children remain unplaced in each (i) Education and Library Board; and (ii) council area at the end of Stage 1 of the pre-school placement process for 2014-15.

(AQW 32840/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: At this stage of the pre-school admissions process, over 95% of children have been offered a pre-school place for 2014/15 with 86% in their first preference setting. It is important to note, however, that this is only Stage One of the process and those parents or guardians whose child remains unplaced have already been invited to submit further preferences and proceed into Stage Two of the process.

There are 1064 children unplaced at this stage but there are still more than 1900 places available to meet demand at Stage Two. Sufficient funding has been provided by the Department to meet the projected need for pre-school places for the 2014/15 academic year and this will be kept under review as the admissions process progresses.

The Chief Executives of the Education and Library Boards have provided the following information in regard to the number of applicants that applied but did not receive the offer of a funded pre-school place during Stage One of the pre-school admissions process for the 2014/15 academic year:

ELB	Council area	No. of 1st applications received for final pre-school age children during Stage 1	No. of final pre-school age children placed in settings at the end of Stage 1	No. of final pre-school age children unplaced at end Stage 1
BELB	Belfast	3713	3438	267
BELB Total		3713	3438	267
NEELB	Antrim	639	628	9
NEELB	Ballymena	771	737	23
NEELB	Ballymoney	358	362	2
NEELB	Carrickfergus	405	400	6
NEELB	Coleraine	618	608	7
NEELB	Larne	309	308	1
NEELB	Magherafelt	665	667	7
NEELB	Moyle	191	190	2
NEELB	Newtownabbey	1017	1009	28
NEELB Total		4973	4909	85
SEELB	Ards	809	797	26
SEELB	Castlereagh	915	822	71
SEELB	Down	821	809	18
SEELB	Lisburn	1550	1461	99
SEELB	North Down	929	866	51
SEELB	BELB	n/a	n/a	4
SEELB Total		5024	4755	269
SELB	Armagh	810	764	46
SELB	Banbridge	653	610	43
SELB	Cookstown	549	519	30
SELB	Craigavon	1352	1280	72
SELB	Dungannon	843	820	23
SELB	Newry	1394	1334	60
SELB Total		5601	5327	274
WELB	Derry	1542	1443	99
WELB	Fermanagh	765	758	7
WELB	Limavady	428	400	28
WELB	Omagh	673	642	31
WELB	Strabane	496	492	4

ELB	Council area	No. of 1st applications received for final pre-school age children during Stage1	No. of final pre-school age children placed in settings at the end of Stage 1	No. of final pre-school age children unplaced at end Stage 1
WELB total		3904	3735	169
Total		23215	22164	1064

Please note there may be minor discrepancies in numbers due applications between ELB areas, the effects of which have not yet been fully accounted for

I would strongly encourage the parents and guardians of these children to consider the full range of pre-school provision that remains available and provide a range of preferences at Stage Two of the application process to increase the chance of securing a place for their child.

St Mark's Secondary School, Warrenpoint

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Education why changes have been made to the transport arrangements for pupils attending St Mark's Secondary School, Warrenpoint.

(AQW 32904/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: To meet their duty to provide an economic service, all Boards regularly review and amend existing service provision to meet the changing needs of pupils who are eligible for assistance with transport. In practice, this may mean changing routes and pick-up points, or removing/adding-to routes when demand fluctuates. With regard to pick-up points, Boards site these to create an efficient and economic route. The distance from a pick-up point to a pupil's home may be up to, but may not exceed, the relevant distance criterion (two miles for Primary-age pupils, and three miles for others).

The Southern Education and Library Board informs me that, following a reorganisation of school transport resources in the Newry area, there is a requirement to increase the passenger capacity on one of the routes serving St Marks High School, Warrenpoint. It is intended that a larger vehicle will be used on this route from the start of the summer term commencing Tuesday, 6 May 2014. A short section of the existing route is no longer suitable for the large vehicle to operate safely on a daily basis. The Board has written to the parents of 5 children affected to advise that the bus will no longer be able to operate on this short stretch of road and that their children will now be required to meet the bus at an alternative bus-stop along the route 0.9 miles from their homes.

Continuing Professional Development for Teachers

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education to detail the plans to fund Continuing Professional Development for teachers wishing to further their education in relation to teaching pupils with special educational needs, particularly Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

(AQW 32915/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My officials have carried out a review of the school support currently available. This has included a series of workshops with school leaders, as well as an examination of provision in other jurisdictions.

Further investigation of planned provision for the 2014/15 year will inform the development of a regional programme of support for schools and professional development for teachers to complement the significant existing support provided for schools. Until this work is completed it will not be possible to consider the extent of funding required for the new regional support programme.

Details of the programme will be announced in due course, with phased implementation during the 2014/15 financial year.

With regard to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers wishing to further their education in relation to teaching pupils with special educational needs (SEN), I can advise that as part of the Review of SEN and Inclusion, I plan to continue to support the CPD Literacy Project run by Stranmillis and St Mary's University Colleges until March 2015. It is estimated that the funding will be in the order of £1.5M in 2014/15.

Also, alongside the Department of Education and Skills, my Department co-funds the Middletown Centre for Autism. The Centre delivers a programme of professional training each year which is available to teachers, school staff and other educational professionals. The Centre's programme for the 2014/15 academic year is currently being finalised. Based on current plans, the delivery of this training in the north of Ireland is estimated to cost approximately £190,000.

Primary School Places in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education for an estimate of the reduction in the number of primary school places in North Down in each of the next two years.

(AQW 32938/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: It is a matter for the South Eastern Education and Library Board to decide on the level of provision for the North Down area and to bring forward Development Proposals which align with the area plans.

At present, there are two Development Proposals under consideration for this area. These propose to decrease the approved admissions and enrolment numbers at Kilcooley PS and Clandeboye PS with effect from 31 August 2014 or as soon as possible thereafter by a total of 591 places covering all year groups.

I have not made my decision on these proposals yet.

Nursery School Places in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what plans there are to create additional nursery school places in North Down.

(AQW 32940/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Pre-School Education Advisory Group (PEAG) of each Education and Library Board is responsible for ensuring there is sufficient pre-school provision in their local area. Sufficient funding has been provided by the Department to meet the projected need for pre-school places for the 2014/15 academic year and this will be kept under review as the admissions process progresses.

The Chief Executive of the South Eastern Education and Library Board has advised that the published list of available places represents only the minimum number of places that will be available for stage two of the admissions process and that the SEELB PEAG is taking steps to identify additional places.

Four statutory pre-school providers in the North Down area applied for temporary flexibility under new arrangements put in place following the publication of the Learning to Learn framework, providing pre-school places for an additional 13 children in the area at Stage One of the admission process.

I would strongly encourage the parents and guardians of children who did not receive the offer of a funded pre-school place at the first stage of the admissions process to consider the full range of pre-school provision that remains available and provide a range of preferences at stage two to increase the chance of securing a place for their child.

Admission Criteria of Nursery Schools and Units

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what plans there are to review the entry criteria for nursery schools.

(AQW 32942/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: All admissions criteria are set by pre-school providers themselves. Legislation does, however, require that the top criterion for each provider prioritises children from socially disadvantaged circumstances.

Research has shown that children from socially disadvantaged circumstances tend to experience more difficulty at school than other children so they are given priority in the pre-school admissions process as part of wider efforts to tackle educational underachievement.

The Review of Pre-School Admissions Arrangements included an action to review the definition of socially disadvantaged circumstances and my Department is currently developing proposals for this.

Nursery School Places in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what action he is taking to address the shortage of nursery places in North Down.

(AQW 32984/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Pre-School Education Advisory Group (PEAG) of each Education and Library Board is responsible for ensuring there is sufficient pre-school provision in their local area. Sufficient funding has been provided by the Department to meet the projected need for pre-school places for the 2014/15 academic year and this will be kept under review as the admissions process progresses.

The Chief Executive of the South Eastern Education and Library Board has advised that the published list of available places represents only the minimum number of places that will be available for stage two of the admissions process and that the SEELB PEAG is taking steps to identify additional places.

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Applicants for Pre-School Places

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many applications were received for nursery places in North Down for 2014/15; and how many were unsuccessful.

(AQW 32985/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: At this stage of the pre-school admissions process, over 95% of children have been offered a pre-school place for 2014/15 with 86% in their first preference setting.

It is important to note, however, that this is only Stage One of the process and those parents or guardians whose child remains unplaced have already been invited to submit further preferences and proceed into Stage Two of the process. Sufficient funding has been provided by the Department to meet the projected need for pre-school places for the 2014/15 academic year and this will be kept under review as the admissions process progresses

The Chief Executive of the South Eastern Education and Library Boards has provided the following information in regard to the number of applicants in North Down during stage one of the pre-school admissions process for the 2014/15 academic year:

Council area	No. of 1st applications received for final pre-school age children during Stage1	No. of final pre-school age children placed in settings at the end of Stage 1	No. of final pre-school age children unplaced at end Stage 1
North Down	929	866	51

I would strongly encourage the parents and guardians of children who have not yet received the offer of a funded place to consider the full range of pre-school provision that remains available and provide a range of preferences at Stage Two of the application process to increase the chance of securing a place for their child.

Public Transport to a Catholic Maintained Grammar School

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Education how many children who live in the BT66 postcode area, receive free public transport to a Catholic Maintained Grammar School outside the area.

(AQW 32988/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Southern Education and Library Board has informed me that there are 112 pupils living in the BT66 postcode area that are eligible for, and receive assistance with, transport to a Denominational (Catholic) Grammar School outside the area.

Public Transport to a Catholic Maintained Grammar School

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Education whether children who live in the BT66 postcode area, whose parents choose to send them to a Catholic grammar school outside this area, will be eligible for free public transport to those schools after September 2014, given the planned creation of a non-selective voluntary Catholic grammar school for 11 to 19 year olds in Lurgan.

(AQW 32989/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Once a pupil has secured a place at a grant-aided school then under the Home to School Transport Scheme, they are assessed by their Education and Library Board for assistance with transport based on their individual circumstances. Therefore, it is not possible to say generally whether pupils will be eligible for assistance or not.

The existing policy uses two criteria to assess pupils; namely 'distance' and 'suitable school'. A 'suitable school' is one in the recognised management categories of Controlled, Integrated, Irish Medium, Maintained, and Denominational and Non-Denominational grammar (whether selecting or not). When a pupil lives beyond the relevant distance criterion of a grant-aided school in a recognised category chosen by the parent(s), and when that pupil has been refused a place in all suitable schools (if any) in the chosen category within the relevant distance criterion, then they are eligible for assistance with transport.

Raising of the School Leaving Age

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Education what consideration has been given to increasing the school leaving age from 16 years old.

(AQW 32990/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Compulsory school leaving age in the north of Ireland is where pupils, who are 16 between 1 September and 1 July (inclusive) in the school year, can leave school on 30 June of that year. Pupils, who become 16 between 2 July and 31 August (inclusive) in any year, cannot leave school until 30 June of the following year.

I have currently no plans to change the school leaving age.

Department for Employment and Learning

Motions Debated in the Assembly

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) the number of Motions debated in the Assembly that he has responded to in the last two years; and (ii) the action that he has taken following any Motion that was passed.

(AQW 32438/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): In the past two years I have responded to nine Motions. Actions taken following each Motion are attached at Annex A.

Annex A

1 Educational Assistance for Young People

The Executive agreed the Northern Ireland cross-departmental strategy for those young people in the NEET category, 'Pathways to Success', in May 2012. The strategy contains a three tier package of measures aimed at:

- preventing young people missing opportunities for education and training, and/or becoming unemployed;
- helping young people in the 16-18 age group, especially those facing barriers; and
- assisting unemployed young people aged 18-24 more generally.

These measures, specifically designed to meet the needs of young unemployed people throughout Northern Ireland, include: a Collaboration and Innovation Fund; a Community Family Support Programme; a Community Based Access Programme; and a training allowance.

The training allowance for young people participating on programmes supported by the European Social Fund, and subsequently also the Collaboration and Innovation Fund, was specifically called for in the debate.

Mechanisms were also established for oversight of delivery of the strategy and formal engagement with key stakeholders, including the NEET Advisory Group and the NEET Strategy Forum.

2 Cross Border Education

The Department has a specific interest in four of the nine recommendations from the Irish Business and Employers Confederation and the Confederation of British Industry Joint Business Council study of obstacles to cross-border undergraduate education. The key recommendations are:

1. Improving the quality and flow of information about university courses and entry requirements
4. Student support for NI students studying in ROI
6. A level and Leaving certificate equivalencies
9. Research on student flows and the impact of future demographics

I can report the following on each of these recommendations:

1. Improving information – work is ongoing with the Department's Careers Service, UCAS, the Central Applications Office (CAO) and the Northern Ireland Schools and Colleges Careers Association (NISCA) to ensure that my Department's careers advisers are fully briefed and students have access to relevant, up to date information on higher education opportunities in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. The CAO participated in the NISCA Conference in November 2013 and eight Institutions from the Republic of Ireland were represented at the UCAS Higher Education Event in Belfast in March 2014

4. The anomaly in relation to student finance has now been resolved and, from 2013, students from Northern Ireland studying in the Republic of Ireland have access to a repayable Student Contribution loan and other financial support.
6. A Level and Leaving Certificate equivalences – the Department of Education is in the lead on this work and I understand that the Irish Universities Association is due to report in the next few months. I met with Minister Quinn on 2 April and he advised that individual universities e.g. Trinity College and Dublin City University are examining their own access arrangements for NI students. I welcome this positive development.
9. Research on cross border student flows and the impact of future demographics – preparatory work has been undertaken and my Department is in discussions with The Department of Education and Skills and the Higher Education Authority.

3 Reform of Employment Law

Following the No Day Named Motion in November 2012, which urged me to take forward employment law reforms in line with those in Great Britain, I launched a formal review of employment law in Northern Ireland. My review was based around the three main themes of: early resolution of workplace disputes; efficient and effective employment tribunals; and Better Regulation measures. A full, public consultation closed in November 2013, and I am currently considering all responses to that consultation with a view to bringing forward a substantial number of policy recommendations before the Summer recess. We have already made significant progress in taking forward Better Regulation measures, having worked with stakeholders to consolidate the Working Time Regulations. We have also recently launched a consultation on the Conduct Regulations which govern the recruitment sector, again having worked with stakeholders to develop the proposals.

On a range of these issues, my Department is engaging with representatives of business and the trade union movement through the Employment Relations Roundtable facilitated by the Labour Relations Agency.

My Department has also publicly consulted on whether it is appropriate to introduce in Northern Ireland the new right to shared parental leave and pay, which is to be introduced in Great Britain in 2015. Shortly, I intend to bring a final proposal on the way forward before the Executive.

4 Graduate Programmes in the Agri-Food Sector

In collaborating with local businesses, the Connected programme is continuing to enable the universities and further education colleges to provide a highly effective one-stop-shop for businesses wishing to access the expertise and knowledge in the local research and technology base. Through Connected 2, the higher and further education sectors proactively developed additional strategic links with the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) and with the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE). These linkages will continue to be developed under Connected 3, thereby maintaining a focus on the knowledge transfer needs of the agri-food and biotechnology industry.

The University of Ulster is currently preparing an economic appraisal for the introduction of a degree in veterinary medicine at its Coleraine campus.

The latest addition to the Department for Employment and Learning's Management and Leadership Development Programme is the 'Leaders in Industry Programme for the Food and Drink Manufacturing Sector' Programme, delivered by The William J Clinton Leadership Institute, Queen's University. The programme is aimed at middle to senior management level within the sector and accredited at Level 5 by the Institute of Leadership and Management. Delivery is via a blend of formal workshops, peer to peer coaching, and a two-day study visit to the Cranfield School of Management. The first cohort of 25 participants commenced the programme on 10 March 2014, and is expected to complete in early July.

The Department's INTRO Programme is an Entry to Management initiative, designed to improve the key management and leadership skills of graduates and thereby enhance their managerial competencies and sustain quality graduate level employment. The Programme combines 3 weeks' off-the-job

classroom training, with a 21 week work placement where the graduates, from whatever discipline they come, have the opportunity to work on a management-level business improvement project with an employer, and to complete a professional management diploma. During the past year, 92% of INTRO participants have gone on to secure management-level employment upon completion, and 12 graduates have been placed with companies within the agri-food sector.

Since 1 April 2013, the Department has offered 100% funding of training costs to eligible participants on the Leaders in Industry Programme for the Food and Drink Manufacturing Sector's Programme and INTRO Programme from Micro-businesses, Small to Medium-sized Enterprises and Social Economy Enterprises.

5 and 6. Special Educational Needs Provision

Following Assembly debates regarding provision for students with special educational needs, my Department carried out an audit of further education (FE) provision specifically for students aged 19+ who, as a result of their disability, are unable to participate in mainstream college provision. The findings of the audit were provided to the Committee in September 2013.

As you may be aware, the Committee for Employment and Learning has announced its intention to undertake an inquiry into post Special Educational Need (SEN) Provision in education, employment and training for those with Learning Disabilities in Northern Ireland. I will await the outcomes of the inquiry which will help inform my Department's future strategic direction of Further Education provision for those with a learning difficulty and/or disability.

In addressing concerns raised at the debates, DEL has also:

- engaged with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) over Health and Social Care Trust provision in order to improve provision for young people with disabilities;
- obtained agreement from the Department of Finance and Personnel for a new Social Clause in public sector contracts to support the provision of employment and training opportunities for young people with disabilities;
- increased the level of funding for further education students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, through the Additional Support Fund (ASF) from £1.5m per annum to £2m. The fund helps provide the additional technical and personal support required by students to participate in mainstream or discrete programmes within further education colleges;
- begun examining the issue of access to transport for young people aged 19 with special education needs who wish to avail of further education provision; and
- raised the issue of transitions for young people with special educational needs at the DHSSPS-led Inter Departmental Ministerial meeting on Mental Health and Learning Disability. As a result, DEL is now chairing an inter Departmental Group on transitions, which will report back to the Inter Departmental Ministerial group.

Also, the Department continues to take forward a range of related work which will help address issues raised during the Assembly debates, such as: the review of the Disability Employment Service, which will involve the development of a Disability Employment Strategy; implementation of the Pathways to Success Strategy; and engagement with the Committee for Employment and Learning over its current inquiry into post Special Education Needs Provision in education, employment and training for those with Learning Disabilities in Northern Ireland. This is in addition to other inter departmental activity that supports the Northern Ireland Executive's wider approach to addressing the needs of those with disabilities.

7 University of Ulster Expansion at Magee

Since the debate took place, Derry City Council has commissioned consultants, on behalf of the Derry-Londonderry Strategy Board, to prepare an economic appraisal for the expansion of the Magee campus of the University of Ulster. It is anticipated that the economic appraisal will be submitted to the Department in September.

8 Support and Investment for the Higher Education Sector

In January 2014, Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in the Republic of Ireland, and I jointly launched a new research partnership between the Department for Employment and the Learning and Science Foundation Ireland. The new “DEL/SFI Investigators Programme Partnership” will support collaborative projects involving universities from both jurisdictions to undertake internationally peer-reviewed, leading edge discovery and fundamental research. The investment from my Department will be up to £8.4 million over the next 6 years to enable Queen’s and the University of Ulster to participate in the next two annual calls, the first of which was published in February 2014.

In January 2014, I also confirmed to Queen’s University and the University of Ulster a one-off allocation of an additional £8.2 million of funding for quality-related research in 2013/14 financial year. This additional allocation is to assist the universities in the further development of Northern Ireland’s internationally excellent/world-leading higher education research base, which will enable the Institutions to secure additional funding from other sources, including the Research Councils and the European Commission.

9 Committee Inquiry into Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

In response to the Assembly motion, I announced on 31st March 2014 that a formal review of careers policies and practices in Northern Ireland will be conducted jointly by DEL and DE during 2014. This will involve a fundamental review of careers education and guidance in NI and take account of the recommendations of the Employment and Learning Committee Enquiry report into careers. The review will report late in 2014.

Careers Review

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning in whether the terms of reference of the Review of Careers will include consideration of the CBI suggestion that all post primary schools be required to undertake a mandatory work placement.

(AQW 32549/11-15)

Dr Farry: On the 31 March 2014 I formally announced the commencement of the Careers review in the Assembly.

The terms of reference for the review, which are attached, have been developed and agreed by both Departments taking account of the recommendations of the Employment and Learning Committee’s inquiry into careers and the CBI report on education and employer partnerships.

You will note from the terms of reference, that the issues you have raised will be considered as part of the review process.

In particular, the review will consider how engagement between all schools and businesses can be better structured, integrated and improved, including the quality and relevance of work experience.

Regarding the provision of careers advice in primary schools, I am aware of the need to engage pupils and their parents in thinking about career options and pathways from an early age and the review will consider if the current guidelines to primary schools needs to be strengthened.

The evidence to support my statement that there has been no significant increase in the uptake of STEM subjects over the past 7 years is provided by the Committee for Employment and Learning’s Inquiry report into careers. Paragraph 178 of the report states ‘A lot of resource has been channelled into promoting STEM; however, the figures received from the Department of Education do not show a significant increase in uptake over the years from 2004/05 to 2011/12’. The review will pick up on this issue, and in particular consider ways to address the gender imbalance in the uptake of STEM subjects and careers.

With regard to the number of advisers supported by my Department, currently 102 (full-time equivalent) careers advisers are employed. The full complement required is 105 (full-time equivalent). Over the past few years the Department has run an open recruitment competition to ensure that there is an

available pool of qualified advisers to fill vacancies as they arise. The 3 vacant posts are in the process of being filled from the live successful candidates' list.

Careers advisers, as a condition of their employment, are required to be professionally qualified. Once in post, responsibility for the professional development of careers advisers sits with my Department while the Department of Education is responsible for the training and development of careers teachers.

Regarding opportunities for joint training, since November 2012, my Department's Careers Service has supported the Northern Ireland Schools and Colleges Careers Association (NISCA) in the organisation of a joint annual conference attended by careers advisers and careers teachers. Speakers at the events have included industry leaders from key growth sectors, careers education and guidance academics, and representatives from careers services and higher education across these islands.

Other opportunities for joint training include invitations extended to careers professionals from external organisations such as Queens University and University of Ulster to attend careers events. The ongoing professional development of all staff involved in careers education and guidance, including the effective use of labour market information, is a key aspect of the review.

Careers Review

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what opportunities for joint training has been offered to careers advisers and careers teachers in each of the last 3 years.

(AQW 32553/11-15)

Dr Farry: On the 31 March 2014 I formally announced the commencement of the Careers review in the Assembly.

The terms of reference for the review, which are attached, have been developed and agreed by both Departments taking account of the recommendations of the Employment and Learning Committee's inquiry into careers and the CBI report on education and employer partnerships.

You will note from the terms of reference, that the issues you have raised will be considered as part of the review process.

In particular, the review will consider how engagement between all schools and businesses can be better structured, integrated and improved, including the quality and relevance of work experience.

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Other opportunities for joint training include invitations extended to careers professionals from external organisations such as Queens University and University of Ulster to attend careers events. The ongoing professional development of all staff involved in careers education and guidance, including the effective use of labour market information, is a key aspect of the review.

Departmental Strategies, Development Plans and Implementation Plans

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW26325/11-15, for an update.

(AQW 32558/11-15)

Dr Farry: There is no change to the number of strategies and associated recommendations within my Department.

The Department now has 11 implementation plans, comprising 194 recommendations or actions. There are no 'development plans'.

The Department continues to contribute to the development and delivery of a significant number of wide-ranging inter-Departmental strategies and related action plans, for which other Departments are in the lead.

Super-Injunctions

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether at any time his Department has funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

(AQW 32565/11-15)

Dr Farry: At no time has my Department funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

Department Job Vacancies

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the (i) vacancies; and (ii) agency staff in his Department, broken down by grade.

(AQW 32572/11-15)

Dr Farry:

- (i) The total number of vacancies within the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) at 20 March 2014 is 95.25, 12.5 of which are on hold. The detail is provided in Annex A. The figures are based on vacancies notified to the Human Resources Team at 20 March 2014 and are broken down by Business Area within DEL and by grade. Vacancies which are currently filled on a temporary basis, i.e. by temporary promotion or deputising, have been included. Figures are provided in terms of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE).
- (ii) The Department for Employment and Learning currently has four Agency Staff – 1 Staff Officer (Communications Officer), 1 Executive Officer I (Accounting Technician) and 2 Support Grade Band II staff.

Annex A

VACANCIES NOTIFIED TO HR BRANCH AS AT 20TH MARCH 2014

GRADE	Corporate Services Division	Further Education	Finance	Higher Education	Employment Service	Strategy, European & Employment Relations Division	Skills & Industry Division	Total
Casual AO	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	3
AO	1	0.6	-	-	2	1	2	6.6
E02	2	-	-	-	9.75	2	1	14.75
E01	2	1	-	-	14.8	1.6	11	30.4
Careers Adviser	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
SO	-	1	1	2	6	2	4	16
Information Officer (SO)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
SO Accountant	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
DP	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	5
Grade 7	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	3
Grade 6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Total:	7	3.6	2	3	37.55	6.6	23	82.75

VACANCIES ON HOLD AS AT 20TH MARCH 2014

GRADE	Corporate Services Division	Further Education	Finance	Higher Education	Employment Service	Strategy, European & Employment Relations Division	Skills & Industry Division	Total
SGB1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
SGB2	2							2
AA	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5
AO	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
E02	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
E01	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	3
S0	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
G6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total:	2.5	1	2	1	3	-	1	12.5

Total number of vacancies notified to HR as at 20TH MARCH 2014 = 95.25 (includes figures in both tables above) Skills Shortage

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the estimated difference in the skills shortage among young people between March 2010 and March 2013.

(AQW 32612/11-15)

Dr Farry: The term 'skills shortage' is generally used to refer to a lack of skills in a specific sector or business, that is, that there is a lack of people with the necessary skills to ensure that it can achieve its full economic potential. For the purposes of this answer, I have taken the question to refer to the skills attained by young people during the period specified and the opportunities available to them. It should be noted that my Department is responsible for education and training post-16; young people below that age fall within the remit of the Department of Education.

I am pleased to say that the UK Commission for Employment and Skills' Employer Skills Survey 2013 showed that Northern Ireland employers' level of satisfaction with the preparedness for work of 17-18 year old further education leavers and university/higher education leavers was among the highest in the UK.

This is reassuring, as a key focus of the work of my Department is aimed at ensuring young people have access to the skills to enable them to participate fully in education, training and work. The Skills Strategy 'Success Through Skills – Transforming Futures', published in 2011, advocates the need to provide training and qualifications that meet the current and future skill needs of employers.

This includes the specific goal of increasing the proportion of those qualifying in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects. The STEM Strategy 'Success Through STEM' also published in 2011, has aimed to increase the number of young people studying STEM subjects in Northern Ireland.

A number of the Department's programmes and strategies are helping young people fulfil their potential. The ApprenticeshipsNI programme provides quality training in the workplace and supports off-the-job training. Although open to adults, the programme mainly seeks to attract young people as a viable alternative to full-time education. At October 2013, 5,773 under 25s were participating, compared with 5,520 in 2010.

In response to industry demand, in 2012 I introduced the ICT Public/Private Apprenticeship Scheme, which recruits and trains individuals for ICT positions, in both software development and infrastructure roles, in the public and private sector. To date, 74 people have been recruited, the majority of whom are under 25. A further pilot scheme is currently being considered in the North West.

'Training for Success' provides young people with relevant qualifications and the interpersonal and behavioural skills to get a job. Between 2008 and 2012, occupancy for this programme grew by 59%. In 2012, I introduced the Youth Employment Scheme, which gives unemployed young people the opportunity to gain skills in the workplace. Since the launch, over 3,200 young people have participated, with over 2,000 currently on the programme. By March 2015, the Department will offer 12,600 opportunities to unemployed 18-24 year olds.

The 'Pathways to Success' strategy includes initiatives specifically aimed at young people who are not in education, training or employment (NEETs), by helping them overcome employability barriers and enhance their prospects.

I am also developing a United Youth Programme, on behalf of the Executive, which will provide well integrated, flexible, high quality opportunities for young people to learn new skills and take on new challenges.

These programmes, along with other education and training delivered through the further education colleges and higher education institutions ensure that our young people have more opportunities than ever before to develop new skills that will improve their employability prospects.

Disability Strategy

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the names and backgrounds of the people in the Working Group that is taking forward the new Disability Strategy.

(AQW 32623/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department fully supports the Executive's Disability Strategy, 'A Strategy to improve the lives of people with disabilities 2012 -15', which was launched last year. The cross Departmental approach provides a high level policy framework for the delivery of improved outcomes for people with disabilities.

As part of the framework for monitoring and measuring the Strategy's progress, officials in the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister recently established a Departmental Disability Focus Group (Departments represented are attached at Annex A) to assist with the work to deliver on the Strategy.

The Department's representative on the Group is Stephen Jackson, Grade 7, who heads up the Department's Strategy and Equality Branch, which leads on the Department's contribution in the development and implementation of inter-Departmental Strategies.

Annex A

Departmental Disability Strategy Focus Group

DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATION

- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)
- Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL)
- Department of Education (DENI)
- Department for Employment and Learning (DEL)
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)
- Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP)
- Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS)
- Department of the Environment (DOE)
- Department for Regional Development (DRD)
- Department of Justice (DOJ)

Inclusion and Provision for People with a Disability

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he would consider allowing tutors from Further Education Colleges to attend day care facilities to teach young people with a learning disability who cannot attend their local college.

(AQW 32625/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department already facilitates the teaching of students with learning disabilities in day centres. Funding provided to the further education (FE) sector provides for this type of external provision.

Currently, lecturing staff in all FE colleges are involved in the delivery of course provision to people with a learning disability of all ages (including young people) in a range of day care facilities throughout Northern Ireland.

Educational Under-Achievement in Protestant Working Class Areas

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of, and to provide available statistics on, the academic underachievement amongst Protestant working class communities in Upper Bann.

(AQW 32697/11-15)

Dr Farry: Population data from the Census indicate that Protestants and Catholics (aged over 16) in deprived areas in the Upper Bann assembly area are less likely to have level 2 qualifications and above than those in affluent areas.

Deprivation has been measured on the official multiple measure which categorises areas into 'quintiles'. In deprived areas (quintiles 1 and 2), Protestants are less likely to have this level of qualification than Catholics – 45% of Protestants compared to 51% of Catholics (although they are much fewer in number) (Annex 1, Tables 1 and 2).

Further Education

While the total number of enrolments for Protestants and Catholics in Upper Bann is very similar (at between 3,000 and 4,000 each year for level 2 and above (Table 4), the proportion of Protestants enrolling in further education from deprived areas is lower at 27% of all Protestant enrolments, compared to 61% of all Catholic enrolments (Table 3, 2012/13 academic year).

In terms of attainment, 27% of all Protestants gaining qualifications in further education come from deprived areas – a similar proportion to those enrolling (Table 3).

As the main providers of adult education in Northern Ireland, further education (FE) colleges encourage access to course provision by delivering a wide and varied curriculum through their main campuses and network of community outreach centres. Southern Regional College offers a range of full-time and part-time courses, from Entry level to level 5, which are open to people of all abilities across the Upper Bann constituency. Further education (FE) colleges continue to have a strong record of engaging participants from the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. During the 2012/13 academic year, colleges across Northern Ireland had over 67,483 accredited enrolments from the 40% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland. This represented 44% of all such enrolments.

In addition, my Department has developed and implemented the Learner Access and Engagement Programme (LAE). This programme, which has been mainstreamed, with effect from September 2013, allows FE colleges to contract with third party organisations for the provision of learner support. This support is directed at 'hard to reach' learners, who are economically inactive, disengaged from the labour market and hold few or no qualifications, to encourage them to enrol on, and to complete, FE courses.

Higher Education

While the total number of enrolments for Protestants and Catholics in Upper Bann is very similar (at between 1,000 and 1,200 each year) (Table 6), the proportion of Protestants enrolling in higher education from deprived areas is lower at 11% of all Protestant enrolments, compared to 38% of all Catholic enrolments (Table 5).

In terms of attainment, approximately 11% of all Protestants gaining qualifications in higher education come from deprived areas – a similar proportion to those enrolling (Table 5).

Access to Success, is my Department's regional strategy to widen participation in higher education among those groups which are currently under-represented. The strategy recognises an under-representation among young males from areas of high deprivation, which is particularly acute among young Protestant males.

The strategy has a strong focus on the creation of a more accessible sector in which the people who are most able but least likely to participate are given every encouragement and support to apply to, and to benefit from, higher education. The strategy sets out a programme which includes:

- a co-ordinated higher education awareness and aspiration raising campaign which was launched in March 2014 to better communicate the benefits of higher education to under-represented sections of the community;
- an expansion in the range of aspiration and educational attainment raising programmes at school, college, community and the workplace;
- the development of agreed regional programmes for a standardised route of exceptional application to higher education for the most disadvantaged applicants;
- the development of additional support measures by higher education providers for students from disadvantaged backgrounds to sustain their participation.

Training for Success (TfS)

While the total number of Protestants and Catholics in Upper Bann participating in TfS is very similar (70 and 86 respectively at the end of October 2012 and 112 and 120 respectively at the end of October 2013) (Table 8), the proportion of Protestants participating from deprived areas is lower at 37% of all Protestants participating, compared to 71% of all Catholics participating (at the end of October 2012) (Table 7).

Proportions at the end of October 2013 are slightly lower, at 34% and 67% respectively.

I have placed an Excel file containing 4 worksheets in the Assembly Library and on my department's website at <http://www.delni.gov.uk/> . The 1st tab looks at educational attainment (level 2 and above) by deprivation quintile for the Upper Bann Parliamentary Constituency for those aged 16 and over. The 2nd and 3rd tabs detail enrolments/qualifications (at level 2 and above) in HE and FE respectively from Upper Bann students, again by deprivation quintile for the 11/12 and 12/13 academic years. The 4th tab details the number of participants, from Upper Bann, on Training for Success as at the end of October 2012 and 2013, again by deprivation quintile.

Enabling Success

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the projected budgets for the funding of the pilots under Enabling Success.

(AQW 32767/11-15)

Dr Farry: Enabling Success, the new draft strategic framework to tackle economic inactivity in Northern Ireland is currently subject to a 12 week public consultation. Following the conclusion of the consultation exercise, a final draft strategy will be developed and presented to the NI Executive for consideration and approval. It is therefore too early to anticipate either the exact nature of any pilot projects or the projected budgets required to deliver them.

Enabling Success

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the projected range of funding available for the pilot projects under Enabling Success.

(AQW 32769/11-15)

Dr Farry: Enabling Success, the new draft strategic framework to tackle economic inactivity in Northern Ireland is currently subject to a 12 week public consultation. Following the conclusion of the consultation exercise, a final draft strategy will be developed and presented to the NI Executive for consideration and approval. It is therefore too early to anticipate either the exact nature of any pilot projects or the projected budgets required to deliver them.

Occupational Health Service

Ms Boyle asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what action his Department is taking to offer comprehensive occupational health services to its employees, including early access to services such as physiotherapy.

(AQW 32772/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Northern Ireland Civil Service Occupational Health Service provides a comprehensive occupational health service to all of the NICS Departments including my Department and this is available to all employees. The Northern Ireland Civil Service does not provide early access to physiotherapy services. Further details of Occupational Health Services can be found at www.nicsohs.gov.uk

Steps to Work

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of the links between Job Centres and education providers who are sub-contracted to provide the Steps to Work Programme; and whether any changes will be made to the process of referring potential students from Job Centres to providers of the new Steps to Success scheme.

(AQW 32857/11-15)

Dr Farry: In your constituency, there are currently two Steps to Work Lead Contractors, Wade Training and People 1st. Wade does not sub-contract with any Education Provider; however, People 1st sub-contracts with the Southern Regional College.

Jobs and Benefits office/JobCentre staff refer Steps to Work participants directly to the Lead Contractor and do not refer participants to sub-contractors, in this case, Education Providers.

Jobs and Benefits office/JobCentre staff will continue to refer all participants to the Lead Contractors of the new Steps 2 Success programme who will determine the appropriate assistance required to enable them to progress into work.

Steps 2 Success

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of the proposal that funds will be withheld from education providers unless participants undertaking the new Steps to Success Scheme secure employment at the end of their studies.

(AQW 32858/11-15)

Dr Farry: Steps 2 Success is an employment programme designed to help participants find and sustain employment. Jobs and Benefits office/JobCentre staff will refer all participants directly to the Lead Contractor of the new Steps 2 Success programme who will determine the appropriate assistance required to enable participants to progress into work. This may entail a referral by the Lead Contractor to a member of its supply chain, who may be an Education Provider.

Funding for the programme is heavily weighted towards job outcomes achieved by the Lead Contractor; however, additional funding is paid to a Lead Contractor where a participant achieves a qualification and secures employment.

Proposals for Steps 2 Success were consulted upon and results of the public consultation exercise published, before I considered and approved the final design of the Programme.

Steps 2 Success

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how he will retain the expertise of local private education providers who have delivered academic outcomes on the Steps to Work scheme within the new Steps to Success scheme.

(AQW 32859/11-15)

Dr Farry: The competition for Steps 2 Success is currently in a live procurement process. Supply Chains for the delivery of Steps 2 Success are being established as part of this process by the Lead Contractors.

The approach to Steps 2 Success is that providers will determine the interventions required to meet the participants' employability barriers to enable them to achieve and sustain employment. Steps 2 Success is an employment programme and providers are paid on the basis of job outcomes achieved.

Payment for qualifications will be made when a participant secures a qualification resulting in a job for that individual.

Steps to Success Scheme

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the tender process for the new Steps to Success Scheme; and how this process took account of small local education providers who may be delivering the project, irrespective of which company secures the contract.

(AQW 32860/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department, in consultation with Central Procurement Directorate agreed to a two stage procurement process.

Stage 1 consisted of a Pre Qualification Questionnaire which examined the suitability and capability of potential suppliers to perform the contract. Stage 1 was launched in July 2013 and a total of 18 organisations tendered for the Stage 1 process.

The competition closed in September 2013 with the assessment of the bids taking place during October/early November. This process resulted in nine organisations being shortlisted to progress to Stage 2.

Stage 2 of the procurement launched on Friday the 29 March 2014 and will close on the 9 May 2014.

As part of the procurement process, contractors will identify their Supply Chain. This will be assessed by the Department as part of the evaluation of bids.

The Central Procurement Directorate of the Department of Finance and Personnel considers that the Department is in a live procurement process and until the end of the competition, the specifics of a Lead Contractors' supply chain will not be known. The Department cannot comment further on the potential make up of a supply chain, as this is a competitive issue.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Irish Open 2015

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if her Department, or its arm's-length bodies, have established any funding opportunities to allow the local tourism and business community to harness the potential opportunity of the Irish Open 2015 being held in Newcastle, County Down.

(AQW 32397/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): The Irish Open 2015 in Newcastle will help grow domestic and overnight visitor numbers and spend, provide a positive image of Newcastle and The Mourne's internationally, and build on other recent high profile events to further demonstrate Northern Ireland's capacity to host major events. The Northern Ireland Tourist Board will work with key partners to plan for the 2015 event.

Tourism Events Fund:

The main support mechanism available for tourism events from my Department, through the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, is the Tourism Event Funding Programme, an annual funding programme designed to support International and National Tourism Events.

The next Tourism Event Funding Programme, for events taking place between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016, will open in autumn 2014.

Industry Development Programme:

As part of the NITB Industry Development programme, NITB hosted an event to encourage the tourism industry to maximise opportunities arising from The Irish Open 2012. The workshop covered topics such as the Golf Visitor profile, trends/facts, lessons learned from previous Irish Opens and specific event information. NITB also tailored WorldHost training to cover Irish Open volunteers. Similar support will be provided to the 2015 event.

Super-Injunctions

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether at any time she Department has funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

(AQW 32566/11-15)

Mrs Foster: We have no record of any proceedings involving the Department where the granting of injunctive relief has been sought or awarded.

Company Law

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what plans she has to update existing company law.

(AQW 32607/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Company law, although a transferred matter, is administered on a UK wide basis from Westminster. This ensures that legislative changes in relation to company law take effect in Northern Ireland and Great Britain simultaneously.

My officials are working with their Whitehall colleagues on proposed measures to simplify and clarify the existing company rules on auditors and proxies, and enhance the transparency of UK company ownership and increase trust in UK business.

Legislative changes coming from these proposals will be legislated on our behalf at Westminster with agreement of the Northern Ireland Assembly by way of legislative consent motions.

Small Business Loan Fund Scheme

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many business in (i) North Down; and (ii) Northern Ireland have availed of the Small Business Loan Fund Scheme since its launch; and to detail the total value of all approved loans.

(AQW 32631/11-15)

Mrs Foster: During the period from the launch of the NI Small Business Loan Fund in February 2013 until the date of the most recently publicly released figures (30th September 2013):

- (i) one business in North Down has availed of the fund; and
- (ii) 33 businesses across Northern Ireland have availed of the fund. The total value of the 33 loans approved during this period is £580,500.

Propel Programme

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of people that have taken part in the Propel Programme since its inception, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 32638/11-15)

Mrs Foster:

INVEST NI NUMBER OF CLIENTS THAT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PROPEL PROGRAMME UP TO APRIL 2014

PCA	No of Clients
Belfast East	17
Belfast North	9
Belfast South	31
Belfast West	3
East Antrim	4
East Londonderry	4
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	10
Foyle	10
Lagan Valley	9
Mid Ulster	5
Newry and Armagh	12
North Antrim	2
North Down	5
South Antrim	8
South Down	13
Strangford	4
Upper Bann	6
West Tyrone	6
Total	158

Exporters Workshops

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the locations of Exporters Workshops that have taken place in the last two years.

(AQW 32639/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I can inform the member that from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2014 a total of 56 Export Skills Workshops took place at locations across Northern Ireland. Details of the number of workshops at each location are broken down as follows:

26 in Belfast, 8 in Londonderry, 6 in Enniskillen, 5 in Craigavon, 3 in Ballymena, 2 in Newry, and 1 each in Coleraine, Omagh, Cookstown, Armagh, Templepatrick and Newtownabbey.

I can also inform the member that Invest NI is already in the process of arranging the Autumn 2014 series of these workshops when it is planned to hold up to 4 workshops in Londonderry.

Occupational Health Services

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action her Department is taking to offer comprehensive occupational health services to its employees, including early access to services such as physiotherapy.

(AQW 32685/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Northern Ireland Civil Service Occupational Health Service provides a comprehensive occupational health service to all of the NICS Departments and this is available to all employees.

The NICS does not provide early access to physiotherapy services. Further details of OHS services can be found at www.nicsohs.gov.uk

Common Agricultural Policy

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department has calculated the impact of the recent non-decision on the transfer of Common Agricultural Policy funds for rural development on Northern Ireland's reputation as a 'clean and green' place to live and visit, given its reliance on both for the agri-food and tourism sectors.

(AQW 32689/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Maintaining and developing Northern Ireland's natural, clean and green image and provenance is essential to the continued growth of the agri-food and tourism sectors. The non-transfer of funds between Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will help to ensure that this continues to be the case by providing funding direct to farmers and supporting them as they seek to look after the countryside, maintain rural communities, produce affordable food and create employment.

Invest NI

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the financial assistance provided by InvestNI to companies during the 2013/14 financial year, broken down by constituency; and the amount that each represents as a percentage of the total financial assistance provided by InvestNI during this period.

(AQW 32718/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The information you have requested is not currently available. Similar to previous years, Invest NI will make this information available to you when it has been validated and approved for public release.

Jobs Created

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of new jobs created through inward investment projects supported by InvestNI during the 2013/14 financial year, broken down by constituency; and what each figure represents as a percentage of the total number of new jobs created by inward investment projects during that period.

(AQW 32719/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The information you have requested is not currently available. Similar to previous years, Invest NI will make this information available to you when it has been validated and approved for public release.

Jobs Created

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of new jobs created through first time international investors that were supported by InvestNI during the 2013/14

financial year, broken down by constituency; and what each figure represents as a percentage of the total number of new jobs created by first time international investors during that period.

(AQW 32720/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The information you have requested is not currently available. Similar to previous years, Invest NI will make this information available to you when it has been validated and approved for public release.

Vacant Office Space

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the amount of vacant office space in the Foyle constituency.

(AQW 32726/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI maintains an online database which contains the details of a range of available properties across both the private and public sectors. This information, whilst not available at the parliamentary constituency level, can be filtered by council area.

Within the Derry City Council area Invest NI is aware of available office space across 22 properties. Further details on these and other available commercial properties can be found on the NI Business Information website <http://www.nibusbusinessinfo.co.uk/>.

It is, however, important to be aware that the information within the database does not comprise an exhaustive listing of all available properties. Invest NI is wholly reliant upon the accuracy of the information provided to it by commercial property agents and developers.

Jobs Created

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many of the jobs created by InvestNI in each constituency during the 2013/14 financial year offer a salary which is (i) less than 25 per cent above; and (ii) 25 per cent or more than the average private sector wage, expressed as a number and a percentage of all the new jobs created by inward investment projects during this period.

(AQW 32727/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The information you have requested is not currently available. Similar to previous years, Invest NI will make this information available to you when it has been validated and approved for public release.

Game of Thrones Tourism

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given the high profile of the latest Game of Thrones television series, what steps are being undertaken by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board to specifically market the Northern Ireland locations utilised for filming as short stay tourist destinations.

(AQW 32801/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) is working with Northern Ireland Screen, Tourism Ireland and the hospitality industry to maximise on the tourism potential and opportunities that Game of Thrones offers.

In June 2014 NITB will be partnering with Northern Ireland Screen and Belfast City Council to bring the Game of Thrones Exhibition to Belfast. Last year the exhibition attracted 19,000 visitors and significant international press coverage.

NITB is aware that locations have become must-see attractions for dedicated fans and has released a set of guidelines for trade so that new products operate legally and do not contravene HBO's intellectual property.

NITB has met with three local tour operators who have built tours around the Game of Thrones locations, and will continue to work with and enable local trade to develop experiences based on film tourism. NITB showcases these products on a film tourism section on the consumer website www.DiscoverNorthernIreland.com and there is also a section dedicated specifically to the Game of Thrones Exhibition.

In December 2013 NITB held a screen tourism insight event with over 150 attendees from local industry which examined how film can be used to inform tourism experiences.

It is undoubted that Game of Thrones has great potential benefits for Northern Ireland tourism both in terms of promotion and creating a compelling visitor experience. I recently announced a new agreement between Tourism Ireland and HBO to capitalise on the incredible success of the HBO brand and the global popularity of Game of Thrones. The announcement, which will see HBO lend its name and logo to new Tourism Ireland campaigns to promote Northern Ireland for holidays in markets across the world, is a major coup for tourism in Northern Ireland.

One Plan Targets

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action has InvestNI taken to encourage private sector data centre providers to consider locating an international data centre in Derry in accordance with the One Plan target.

(AQW 32905/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI actively encourages companies from the ICT industry to invest in all parts of Northern Ireland but no particular emphasis is given to any one sector. While the establishment of a data centre in Londonderry would be welcome, creation of such a centre is dependent upon substantial private sector funding of approximately £50 million, as outlined in the One Plan. Unfortunately, no company has as yet, shown itself willing to make such an investment.

Invest NI

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the (i) number; and (ii) name of companies contacted by InvestNI in relation to locating an international data centre in Derry,

(AQW 32906/11-15)

Mrs Foster: All discussions with prospective investors in relation to any project are regarded as 'commercial-in-confidence' until an official announcement or formal offer is made.

Concentrix Jobs

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what efforts were made to encourage Concentrix to set up an operation in Derry given that Northern Ireland contact centre firm GEM, which it acquired in 2011, formerly employed around 100 people in the city.

(AQW 32951/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI has a close working relationship with the senior management team of Concentrix (and formerly GEM) and is aware that the Concentrix senior management team evaluated many locations in Northern Ireland, in the rest of the UK, the Republic of Ireland and other global locations before making this investment decision.

Location decisions are ultimately the responsibility of the company's senior management team and such decisions will take into account issues such as:

- property costs and availability;
- skills and labour availability and transportation issues;
- assistance available from government;
- potential economies of scale ;
- issues regarding management efficiency.

Invest NI ensured that the company's senior management team were aware that locations situated outside Belfast (such as Londonderry) would attract a higher grant rate from government than in Belfast, however, they chose Belfast as a location for a mix of operational reasons, some of which are as stated above.

It is understood that the project will be carried out across the company's three existing locations in Belfast.

Petroleum Exploration Licence PL2/10

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment on what date each Department or Minister was made aware of her decision to extend the date of petroleum exploration licence PL2/10; and on what date was the Assembly informed that this decision had been taken.

(AQW 32995/11-15)

Mrs Foster: There has been no extension to the five-year Initial Term of Petroleum Licence PL2/10. A petroleum licence will automatically cease at the end of Year Three if the licensee has not carried out Part I and undertaken to carry out Part II of the work programme before the end of the Initial term, unless the Department in any particular case decides otherwise. At the end of Year Three (31st March 2014) the PL2/10 Licensee had been unable to complete Part I of the work programme and, thus, was not in a position to give the undertaking to complete Part II of the work programme. My Department has given the Licensee a further six months (until 30th September 2014) to complete Part I of the work programme and to make their decision as to whether they wish to complete Part II of the work programme or to relinquish the licence.

The administration of the petroleum licensing system is a matter for DETI and it is not usual practice to inform the Assembly about the detailed administration of petroleum licences. At the meeting of the Shale Gas Regulators' Forum, on 20th February 2014, DETI officials communicated to other Departments that this postponement of the 'drill or drop' decision date was likely.

Department of the Environment

Burnt Out Cars Removed from Public Spaces

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment how many burnt out cars have been removed by local councils from public spaces over the last three years.

(AQW 32132/11-15)

Mr Durkan (The Minister of the Environment): Information on the number of burnt out cars removed from public spaces by all councils in Northern Ireland over the last three years is not held centrally by the Department. This information may be held by individual councils.

Compensation Arrangements for Farmers

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment what progress is being made on the introduction of compensation arrangements for farmers suffering loss from having lands designated as Areas of Special Scientific Interest.

(AQW 32218/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) are declared and protected in accordance with the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (the Order).

The Order does not provide for compensation to be paid in respect of the designation of lands and my Department has no plans to introduce such provisions.

While compensation is not available, there are various funding sources that landowners can access for environmental management purposes which DOE officials can advise landowners on.

Driver and Vehicle Agency in Coleraine

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment what was the sequence of events that led to his discovery that 300 posts were to be lost in the Driver and Vehicle Agency in Coleraine.

(AQW 32342/11-15)

Mr Durkan: When I met Robert Goodwill, MP, then the Transport Minister with responsibility for vehicle licensing, in November 2013, I was told that a decision on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) proposal to centralise vehicle registration and licensing in Swansea would be made early in 2014.

From the beginning of January 2014 onward, I made regular enquiries about progress but I received no indication as to when a decision would be forthcoming. I requested and received written assurances from the Transport Minister that I would be informed as soon as a decision had been made and in advance of any public announcement. I made it clear to Ministers in London that I would be available at any time to discuss this critical issue.

On Wednesday 5 March, the Private Office of Stephen Hammond, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport with responsibility for vehicle licensing, contacted my Private Office to arrange a telephone call to me later that afternoon but Mr Hammond's office subsequently cancelled the call.

On Wednesday 12 March, the office of Philip Rutnam, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Transport in Whitehall contacted the DOE Private Office at approximately 12.00 to set up a call with the DOE Permanent Secretary for between 19.00 and 19.30 that evening. The time of that call was subsequently brought forward to 16.30 at the request of the Department for Transport.

The Transport Minister's office also contacted my Private Office at approximately 14.40 asking to set up a telephone call with me at 15.40. However, that was not possible as I was already en route to boarding a flight to the United States at 15.40 which did not land until 00.25 (GMT). My Private Secretary also contacted The Transport Minister's Office at 15.24 to make them aware of the situation, and advised them that my Permanent Secretary would be available to take a call from their Minister, but in the event no such telephone call took place.

Mr Rutnam telephoned my Permanent Secretary at approximately 16.50 on Wednesday 12 March and outlined the content of the Written Ministerial Statement to the House of Commons that would be issued at 09.30 the following morning (Thursday 13 March). However no advance copies of the statement were provided to my Department. Following this telephone call, the Permanent Secretary discussed the position with the Chief Executive of the Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) and a communication was sent immediately to me, which I received when my flight to the United States landed at 00.25 (GMT). The DVA Chief Executive also received a letter from the DVLA Chief Executive at 18:09 on 12 March confirming the DfT decision and outlining a general timetable for implementation.

The text of the Written Statement itself was sent to the Department at 09.50 on Thursday 13 March.

I have written to Stephen Hammond, the current Transport Minister, to set out my complete dissatisfaction with the decision and the manner in which I was informed of the decision.

Staff Travel

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of staff in his Department, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area.

(AQW 32398/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The number of staff in the Department of Environment, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area is provided in the attached table.

This information is based on employee records held at 1 January 2014 .

New Council Areas	Analogous Grade									Total
	G5+	G6	G7	DP	S0	EOI	EOII	AO	AA	
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1	1	9	29	28	14	17	15	3	117
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	1	1	10	25	26	12	8	19	2	104
Belfast	4	6	29	82	86	52	30	85	17	391
Causeway Coast and Glens	0	0	1	9	8	7	3	3	0	31
Derry and Strabane	1	0	2	1	2	2	1	5	0	14
Fermanagh and Omagh	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	0	6
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1	2	4	23	22	18	18	20	3	111
Mid and East Antrim	0	1	4	24	21	12	11	15	1	89
Mid Ulster	0	0	4	4	5	6	4	6	1	30
Newry, Mourne and Down	0	0	7	14	28	19	9	12	1	90
North Down and Ards	4	2	13	31	30	22	3	23	4	132
Total *	13	13	90	256	285	179	110	231	38	1215

Notes:

* Total includes 100 (8.2%) staff whose home postcode was either missing or invalid and could not be allocated to a new council area.

Data is taken at 01 January 2014 from HRConnect database.

Number of staff does not include those seconded outside of the NICS or staff on a career break

As there is no definition for Greater Belfast, the above analysis calculates travel for NICS staff from the new council areas to The Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA). The BMUA is defined in the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements (February 2005) and is available from NISRA at:

www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/urban_rural/ur_gaz.pdf

Motions Debated in the Assembly

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the number of Motions debated in the Assembly that he has responded to in the last two years; and (ii) the action that he has taken following any Motion that was passed.

(AQW 32440/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Since becoming Minister in July 2013, I have responded to four motions debated in the Assembly. These were:-

- 1 Concern over the practices of some car parking enforcement companies and how they operate.
- 2 Concern about Climate Change and impact on flooding.

- 3 Revised planning policy to meet the needs of farming and non-farming rural dwellers applying for planning permission to build in the countryside.
- 4 BBC Spotlight Programme on Waste Disposal.

Follow up actions I have taken in relation to the motions are set out below:

The outcome of the debate on the practices of car parking companies, which took place on 7 October 2013, called for a more robust code of practice for parking enforcement and more effective regulation by the British Parking Association. I agreed to meet with the Secretary of State for Transport to outline these concerns.

My only responsibility for car parking relates to the supply to the car parking enforcement companies of the names and addresses of the keepers of vehicles allegedly in breach of conditions of use for the car parks. The Driver and Vehicle Agency within my Department is obliged to supply this information as directed by Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority and the Department for Transport, which have jurisdiction for the excepted matter of vehicle licensing.

Since the debate I have engaged with Transport Ministers in London to highlight concerns about the operations of some of the parking enforcement companies and the practice of releasing keeper data to these companies. Transport Ministers have however indicated that they are content with the current arrangements under which names and addresses of vehicle keepers are supplied to the car parking enforcement companies.

Although not falling directly with my remit, additionally I have met and written several times to the Chief Executive of the British Parking Association, to express concern and to press for better regulation of enforcement companies. I also have ongoing engagement with the Justice Minister, David Ford MLA, to examine the feasibility of the introduction of an independent appeals process in Northern Ireland.

The next motion passed in January 2014 called on me to bring forward revised planning policy as part of the single planning policy statement, inclusive of PPS 21, which would adequately meet the needs of current and future generations of farming and non-farming rural dwellers, applying for planning permission and obtaining planning approval to build in the countryside.

Since this motion was passed, my Department issued the draft Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for public consultation. The consultation period was launched on 4 February and will run until 29 April 2014.

The SPPS provides a new set of overarching core planning principles to underpin delivery of the planning reforms set out in the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 ('the Planning Act'). It also explains the new Development Plan and Development Management system requirements. In addition, the SPPS consolidates existing subject planning policies into a single document and brings forward new strategic town centres and retailing planning policy. The SPPS includes strategic planning policy for sustainable development in the countryside and the consultation will allow views to be expressed and taken into account as appropriate on this issue. Responses will be considered after the consultation period and planning officials will engage with the Environment Committee to scrutinise comments and amendments sought prior to the final publication of the document towards the end of the year.

Also directly as a result of the motion, I wrote to the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Michelle O'Neill MLA, on 12 February 2014 requesting further detail on the proposed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform measures and the timescales for their implementation.

Minister O'Neill wrote to me on 20 March providing detail on the proposed changes, which I understand will apply from 1 January 2015. Following this advice my officials have sought a meeting with their counterparts in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to seek clarification on a number of matters. This clarification will be important in determining what, if any, impact these reforms may have upon the operation of my Department's planning policy for applications for dwellings on farms both now and in the future through the SPPS.

As a result of the debate on the motion on Climate Change and flooding held in February 2014, the Assembly, inter alia, expressed support for the introduction of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill. It would fall to my Department to introduce this primary legislation. I am currently considering options for taking this work forward.

The Private Members' Motion on 11 March 2014 related to a recent BBC Spotlight programme and called for the establishment of an independent public inquiry into waste disposal. I am seeking Executive agreement to establishing a full independent public inquiry as called for in the Assembly Motion and to the Executive meeting the necessary costs associated with such an inquiry.

Minerals within Lough Neagh

Mr Mitchel McLaughlin asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 30959/11-15 and AQW 30962/11-15, to confirm (i) that his Department is aware that unregulated mineral extraction has been taking place in Lough Neagh Special Protection Area without the required development consents; (ii) how long his Department has been aware; and (iii) when it opened the live enforcement investigation.

(AQW 32461/11-15)

Mr Durkan: My Department opened an enforcement case to investigate the working of minerals within Lough Neagh on 6 February 2014. My Department is aware of the mineral extraction taking place within Lough Neagh. The presence of barges for dredging on the Lough has been known for many years.

Breaches of Planning Control

Mr Mitchel McLaughlin asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 30961/11-15, to detail the nature of the four breaches of planning control.

(AQW 32462/11-15)

Mr Durkan: From the Department's records the nature of the four complaints are outlined below:

1. A complaint regarding unauthorised working of minerals in Lough Neagh by dredging: currently being investigated.
2. A complaint regarding unauthorised working of minerals in Lough Neagh by dredging: currently being investigated.
3. A complaint regarding an unauthorised jetty and unauthorised extraction. The case was closed due to the jetty being considered lawful.
4. A complaint relating to an unauthorised barge at Ram's Island, Lough Neagh. The case was closed due to 'no breach' being identified. The barge was converted to an educational use and not involved in extraction.

Complaints to the Planning Service

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of the Environment what options are available for objectors to a planning application who have completed the Planning Service Complaints Procedure and where the complaint is outside the remit for investigation by the Assembly Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.

(AQW 32538/11-15)

Mr Durkan: While an application is ongoing I would urge objectors to engage with the Department as objections can be submitted right up until a decision has issued.

After a decision has issued, and the complaints process has been exhausted, then the only recourse open to the objectors would be to apply for leave to judicially review the decision made.

The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

Mr McKinney asked the Minister of the Environment, prior to adoption of The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, whether he sought to conduct a comprehensive Equality Impact Assessment; and if so, what comparators were used.

(AQW 32547/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013, which came into operation on 1 August 2013, amended the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 in regard of medical standards for vision and epilepsy. The changes were part of the implementation of Commission Directives 2009/112/EC and 2009/113/EC (“the Directives”) which amended the 2nd and 3rd Directives on Driving Licences respectively and which introduced revised minimum medical standards in relation to vision, epilepsy and diabetes for applicants for driving licences or for the renewal of such licences.

Prior to the introduction of each of the amending Regulations, the Department carried out an equality screening analysis on the changes involved, which were included in a UK-wide consultation on the Directives carried out in 2011. No equality issues were identified during either the equality screening or the consultation processes. It was concluded in each case, therefore, that a full Equality Impact Assessment was not necessary.

I have arranged for copies of the Department’s completed equality screening analysis forms in relation to the amending Regulations to be placed in the Assembly Library.

The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

Mr McKinney asked the Minister of the Environment where in The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 does the Driver and Vehicle Agency obtain the ability to remove a driving licence from a diabetic driver on foot of two severe, non-driving, hypoglycemic attacks.

(AQW 32548/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Regulations 50 and 51 of the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 prescribe diabetes mellitus as a relevant disability, as regards Group 1 and Group 2 licences respectively, for the purposes of Article 9(2) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (“the 1981 Order”). These regulations were amended by the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 (SR 2013 No. 170) which came into operation on 1 August 2013.

Where a person suffers from a relevant disability prescribed for the purposes of Article 9(2) of the 1981 Order, the Department must refuse to grant a licence. This power of refusal is set out in Article 9(3) of the 1981 Order. A similar power to revoke an existing licence is contained within Article 10(1) of the 1981 Order.

Regulation 50(4) of the amended regulations sets out the conditions which must be met by the applicant for, or holder of, a Group 1 licence. Where a person has suffered two or more episodes of severe hypoglycaemia in the preceding year, the Department is required by Article 9(2) of the 1981 Order to refuse the licence. It is immaterial whether the episodes of severe hypoglycaemia occur while driving.

Unregulated Sand Extraction from Lough Neagh Special Protection Area

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department is aware of, or has received any reports of, lignite being dredged from the bed of Lough Neagh Special Protection Area as part of the process of unregulated sand extraction.

(AQW 32561/11-15)

Mr Durkan: My Department is not aware of any lignite extraction from the bed of the Lough Neagh Special Protection Area.

Chief Executive Positions in the New Councils

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to list the Chief Executives appointed to each of the eleven new councils.

(AQW 32583/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Please find list below as requested.

Mrs Jacquie Dixon	Antrim and Newtownabbey District
Mr Roger Wilson	Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District
Mrs Suzanne Wylie	Belfast District
Mr David Jackson	Causeway Coast and Glens District
Mr John Kilpie	Derry and Strabane District
Mr Brendan Hegarty	Fermanagh and Omagh District
Dr Theresa Donaldson	Lisburn and Castlereagh District
Mrs Anne Donaghy	Mid and East Antrim District
Mr Anthony Tohill	Mid Ulster District
Mr Liam Hannaway	Newry, Mourne and Down District
Mr Stephen Reid	North Down and Ards District

Transboundary Municipal Waste

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of the Environment whether local harbours and shipping ports meet the required standards for receiving transboundary municipal waste.

(AQW 32593/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The UK Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007 prohibits the export of municipal waste for recovery without pre-treatment. The Department has published a Regulatory Position Statement (RPS) in relation to the Classification of Mixed Municipal Waste leaving waste management facilities. The statement sets out the Department's policy for municipal waste and the pre-treatment required to substantially alter refuse derived fuel (RDF).

The Department has also published a related Regulatory Position Statement for "the Short Term Storage of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) and /or Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) at a Dockside". This RPS states that the Agency will allow the storage of refuse derived fuel and/or solid recovered fuel for up to 5 days at a dockside pending its loading or unloading, without the need for a waste authorisation.

The Statement sets out a number of criteria which must be met including:

- The total amount of RDF and/or SRF stored at any one time does not exceed 4,000 tonnes.
- The RDF must be stored in a secure place to the satisfaction of the Department.
- A written system and site layout must be in place to prevent, contain and mitigate fires. The layout should identify the proposed width, depth and height of the waste by bales, bays etc. This must be accompanied with a stability risk assessment, fire assessment and a fire management plan.
- The waste must be stored as follows:
 - Fully wrapped bales that prevent the ingress of water, odour release or access by pests, on an impermeable surface, or indoors with appropriate infrastructure.
 - Any burst or damaged bales must be removed off-site to an authorised facility immediately.
- Each bale must be clearly identified with:

- (i) The producer name, site address and waste management licence/permit reference number;
- (ii) Date of final processing prior to storage; and
- (iii) Bale production number on that date.

NIEA staff routinely inspect ports to ensure this policy is complied with. If the waste storage activity is likely to cause pollution or harm to human health, or there is a breach of waste management controls, NIEA will take action in line with its Enforcement and Prosecution Policy.

A waste management licence under the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (as amended) would be required for longer term storage of RDF/SRF in bales, containers or stockpiled loose. A person applying for a waste management licence must satisfy the Department that they can meet all the required standards before a licence will be granted. NIEA has to date issued 4 licences for the storage of RDF/SRF at ports. There are 3 operational sites at; Larne, Belfast and Warrenpoint and one site, Lisahally Docks, Londonderry where the licence is currently suspended.

Northern Area Plan

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of the Environment under which circumstances would he not make public the independent examination into the Northern Area Plan.

(AQW 32594/11-15)

Mr Durkan: To the best of my knowledge the Department has always published a report into an Area Plan Inquiry or Examination. This traditionally was done when the Plan was adopted. My predecessor, Minister Attwood, introduced the change of making publicly available the PAC report into the Belfast Metropolitan and Banbridge, Newry & Mourne Area Plans prior to adoption. As stated in my response to your previous question, this is a change which I fully support and intend adopting for the PAC report on the Draft Northern Area Plan. I would consider it inexpedient to make the report available at an early date if, for example, the PAC had not fulfilled its legal obligations in preparing their report. I do not anticipate that this will occur and you may rest assured that a difference of opinion over any of the recommendations in the report would not, in my view, be a justifiable reason for delay in making the report public.

Planning Approvals

Mr Craig asked the Minister of the Environment what measures are in place to ensure that conditions attached to planning approvals are adhered to.

(AQW 32595/11-15)

Mr Durkan: When a breach of planning condition has been identified, the local enforcement team usually negotiate to ensure that the required works are carried out. If this is unachievable then a Breach of Condition Notice can be issued. There is no right of appeal to this notice and failure to comply with it constitutes an offence. Being convicted of this offence at court may result in a fine of up to £1000.

Planning Enforcement Officers

Mr Craig asked the Minister of the Environment how many current planning applications within the Lisburn City Council area are being processed by Planning Enforcement Officers.

(AQW 32596/11-15)

Mr Durkan: I am interpreting your question to mean how many enforcement cases are being investigated by Planning Enforcement Officers, as opposed to planning applications.

On the basis of this interpretation, I can advise that as of 30 September 2013, 250 enforcement cases were under investigation in the Lisburn City Council area. This figure is taken from the most recent official statistical information available in relation to outstanding enforcement cases.

However, in order to provide more up to date information, I can confirm that unofficial statistical data extracted from the Area Planning Office Administrative Systems, indicate that there are currently fewer than 200 active enforcement cases within the Lisburn City Council area.

I am fully committed to swift and robust enforcement action being taken whenever it is warranted. This is a message that I have conveyed to all of my officials - including those in the Downpatrick Area Planning office who are responsible for planning enforcement in the Lisburn City Council area.

In recognition of the need to enhance the standard of service delivery in planning enforcement, additional staff resources have been devoted to the enforcement section in Downpatrick and the office is now in the process of implementing a more focussed and proactive approach to this area of work.

The Department already has in place an Enforcement Strategy which sets out the objectives for planning enforcement, the guiding principles and priorities for enforcement action and performance targets. Officials in the Downpatrick Area Planning office are committed to complying with the terms of the strategy and the targets set out therein. These targets include bringing 70% of cases to a conclusion within 39 weeks (9 months) of receipt of complaint.

I am monitoring how, with a more focussed and proactive approach now being taken to enforcement, progress is being made towards improving performance in the Lisburn City Council area.

Planning Applications

Mr Craig asked the Minister of the Environment to list the planning application enforcement cases within the Lisburn City Council area, broken down by (i) year; and (ii) nature of non-compliance with approval.

(AQW 32597/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Official DoE statistics indicate that at September 2013, the Department was processing 250 enforcement cases in the Lisburn City Council area (see attached Table).

However, in order to provide more up to date information, I can confirm that unofficial statistical data extracted from the Area Planning Office administrative systems, indicate that there are currently less than 200 active enforcement cases within the Lisburn City Council area.

PENDING ENFORCEMENT CASES¹ IN LISBURN LGD AT THE END OF QUARTER 2 2013/14², BROKEN DOWN BY THE NATURE OF THE BREACHES AND THE FINANCIAL YEAR THE CASES WERE OPENED

	2000/01	2001/02	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Operational Development	1	0	0	0	1	4	6	16	20	18	25	23	114
Breach of Planning Condition	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	9	12	10	5	8	51
Change of Use	0	0	3	2	1	2	2	8	5	8	4	11	46
Unauthorised Signage (advertisements)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	4	6	4	10	29
Non Compliance	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Demolition in a Conservation Area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Tree Preservation Order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Works to a Listed Building	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Total	1	1	4	2	6	10	11	37	43	42	40	53	250

Notes:

- 1 An enforcement case is opened when there has been an alleged breach of planning control.
- 2 Up to Q2 2013/14 is our latest published information. The number of pending cases is as at the 30th September 2013.

Private Hire Taxis

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment what offence or regulation breach is committed when a private hire taxi driver does not record an in-car booking.

(AQW 32601/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Section 3(2) of the Taxis Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 permits an operator or an affiliated driver to accept a booking at a place other than at an operating centre. Where the operator or affiliated driver accepts such a booking they must record the prescribed particulars as set out in Regulation 9(3) of the Taxi Operators Licensing Regulations 2012.

An operator or affiliated driver who fails to comply with Regulations made under Section 3(3) and/or Section 3(8) of the Taxis Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 shall be guilty of an offence and upon conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (£1,000). The specific offence provision is contained at Section 3 (11) of the Act.

Taxi Operators

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment whether the explicit agreement in place for the taxi-operator at Ravenhill Rugby Ground applies to any other venue or area within the Belfast City limit.

(AQW 32602/11-15)

Mr Durkan: There is no explicit agreement in place in relation to taxi provision at Ravenhill Rugby Ground.

However, in response to AQW 27856/11-15, I attached a copy of the Department's interpretation of the legal position regarding taxi provision at Ravenhill Rugby Ground. That summary will be of use, if similar circumstances arise.

Public Hire Taxis

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of the statement by a departmental official at the Committee for the Environment meeting on 6 February 2014 that there had been over 900 Public Hire taxi drive-offs from Belfast City Hall on sight of traffic wardens, (i) on what evidence he based this statement and to provide a copy of same; (ii) whether traffic wardens record such information and pass it to the Driver and Vehicle Agency; and (iii) to list the dates of these drive-offs.

(AQW 32608/11-15)

Mr Durkan: My officials have reviewed the footage and the transcript from the Committee for the Environment meeting on 6 February 2014 and have found no reference relating to taxi drive-offs from Belfast City Hall on the sight of traffic wardens.

I can however confirm that traffic wardens do not provide the Driver and Vehicle Agency with any information relating to taxi drive-offs from Belfast City Hall.

Local Government Reform: Costs

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the expectation of 2009 that the cost of local government reform would amount to £118m over five years, given the costs which have since emerged.

(AQW 32628/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Due to the interdependency of the costs and savings associated with the local government reform programme - AQW 32628/11-15 and AQW 32629/11-15 have been combined into one response.

The economic appraisal of local government service delivery, published by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in October 2009, indicated that under the preferred option (i.e. Transformation with Regional

Collaboration) implementation of the local government reform programme could involve expenditure of up to £118 million over five years and achieve savings of £438 million over twenty five years.

This is considered the benchmark cost to bring about a model of a fully transformed local government sector and what associated savings might be anticipated. The sector's subsequent 'ICE Programme' and 'Case for Change', which included an alternative to the regional Business Support Organisation (BSO), projected savings in the region of up to £570 million for less upfront investment over the same timescale.

In 2013, the Executive agreed to provide councils with a reform funding package of £17.8 million over the 2013 to 2015 period. There is also a further commitment of an estimated £30 million for rates convergence following the creation of the 11 new councils in April 2015.

Over recent months, senior local government officers have undertaken a detailed financial assessment of those additional transition work streams, which are both unavoidable and are not covered by the £47.8 million funding package provided by the Executive. A total upper limit for those costs likely to be incurred during the transition period, excluding the Executive funding package, has been estimated at £33 million. These costs have been calculated at a regional level and based on the transition cost data capture exercise completed by the local government sector.

The local government reform programme is, therefore, based on a model which involves significant upfront costs – currently estimated at an upper level of £80.8 million during the transition period - while delivering substantial longer term savings projected at between £438 million to £570 million over twenty five years. These projected savings and any associated costs will be refined further once the new councils are established and the work on organisational design is complete.

Local Government Reform

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the expectation of 2009 that the savings resulting from local government reform would amount to £438m over 25 years.

(AQW 32629/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Due to the interdependency of the costs and savings associated with the local government reform programme - AQW 32628/11-15 and AQW 32629/11-15 have been combined into one response.

The economic appraisal of local government service delivery, published by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in October 2009, indicated that under the preferred option (i.e. Transformation with Regional Collaboration) implementation of the local government reform programme could involve expenditure of up to £118 million over five years and achieve savings of £438 million over twenty five years.

This is considered the benchmark cost to bring about a model of a fully transformed local government sector and what associated savings might be anticipated. The sector's subsequent 'ICE Programme' and 'Case for Change', which included an alternative to the regional Business Support Organisation (BSO), projected savings in the region of up to £570 million for less upfront investment over the same timescale.

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Over recent months, senior local government officers have undertaken a detailed financial assessment of those additional transition work streams, which are both unavoidable and are not covered by the £47.8 million funding package provided by the Executive. A total upper limit for those costs likely to be incurred during the transition period, excluding the Executive funding package, has been estimated at £33 million. These costs have been calculated at a regional level and based on the transition cost data capture exercise completed by the local government sector.

The local government reform programme is, therefore, based on a model which involves significant upfront costs – currently estimated at an upper level of £80.8 million during the transition period - while delivering substantial longer term savings projected at between £438 million to £570 million over twenty five years. These projected savings and any associated costs will be refined further once the new councils are established and the work on organisational design is complete.

Local Government Reform

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment to indicate the change in council staff numbers which will result from local government reform; and any cost savings, taking account of severance and other obligations.

(AQW 32630/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Changes in council staff numbers as a result of local government reform have yet to be determined. Councils will be responsible for identifying future staffing requirements as they move to the 11 council model and this will be dependent on decisions on organisational design that the new councils will have to take.

Cost savings realised through changes in staff numbers within local government will only be identified at a later date. However, the economic appraisal of local government service delivery, published by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in October 2009, indicated that under the preferred option the local government reform programme could achieve savings of £438 million over twenty five years.

The sector's subsequent 'ICE Programme' and 'Case for Change', which included an alternative to the regional Business Support Organisation (BSO), projected savings in the region of up to £570 million for less upfront investment over the same timescale. Contributing to these savings will be an overall reduction in staff numbers during the twenty five year period, through various mechanisms, such as staff availing of the severance scheme.

Councils will be responsible for the cost of any severance payments made, in accordance with severance scheme criteria agreed by the Local Government Reform Joint Forum. Should staff apply for release under the severance scheme, the costs must result in savings to the new councils within a 3.25 year timeframe.

In addition to existing council staff, it is estimated that around 430 staff will transfer from central government to local government, along with transferring functions. These staff will be allocated across the 11 new councils, and the costs relating to these staff will also be transferred from central to local government.

My Department continues to provide oversight and monitor all costs and benefits associated with the reform programme.

Planning Application

Mr Craig asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of planning application enforcement cases being processed in the Lisburn City Council area, broken down by (i) year; and (ii) the nature of the contravention.

(AQW 32644/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Official DoE statistics indicate that at September 2013, the Department was processing 250 enforcement cases in the Lisburn City Council area (see attached Table).

However, in order to provide more up to date information, I can confirm that unofficial statistical data extracted from the Area Planning Office administrative systems, indicate that there are currently less than 200 active enforcement cases within the Lisburn City Council area.

PENDING ENFORCEMENT CASES¹ IN LISBURN LGD AT THE END OF QUARTER 2 2013/14², BROKEN DOWN BY THE NATURE OF THE BREACHES AND THE FINANCIAL YEAR THE CASES WERE OPENED

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Operational Development	1	0	0	0	1	4	6	16	20	18	25	23	114
Breach of Planning Condition	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	9	12	10	5	8	51
Change of Use	0	0	3	2	1	2	2	8	5	8	4	11	46
Unauthorised Signage (advertisements)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	4	6	4	10	29
Non Compliance	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Demolition in a Conservation Area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Tree Preservation Order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Works to a Listed Building	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Total	1	1	4	2	6	10	11	37	43	42	40	53	250

Notes:

- 1 An enforcement case is opened when there has been an alleged breach of planning control.
- 2 Up to Q2 2013/14 is our latest published information. The number of pending cases is as at the 30th September 2013.

Private Hire Taxis: Illegal Pick Ups

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment to state the offence committed if a private hire taxi illegally picks up a fare in Belfast City Centre.

(AQW 32654/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Private hire vehicle licensees who cause or permit their vehicle to stand and ply for hire within Belfast City Centre would be in contravention of the Public Service Vehicle Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1985 and the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981. This offence can be dealt with by way of a £30 Fixed Penalty Notice or if taken to court the maximum fine upon conviction is £2,500.

Meters and Taxi Fares consultation

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment to provide a copy of the completed report on the Meters and Taxi Fares consultation, and to detail the number of responses (i) received; (ii) in favour of the proposals; and (iii) against the proposals.

(AQW 32675/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The public consultation on mandatory maximum taxi fare and taximeter provisions ran from 21 November 2011 and closed on 17 February 2012. In total, 71 responses were received, representing the views of over 3,600 stakeholders. Consultees were asked to respond to 14 individual questions around the maximum fare and taximeter proposals and there was a combination of responses to each, some in favour and some opposing each of the proposals. The details on each are contained in the synopsis of responses, provided to the Environment Committee on 31 May 2012. A copy of the synopsis can be found at the link below:

<http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/foi/recent-releases/publications-details.htm?docid=8756>

Statutory Off Road Notification Certificate

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the amount of money collected by the Driver and Vehicle Agency from drivers who failed to have a Statutory Off Road Notification in force in 2012/13.

(AQW 32710/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Continuous Registration (CR), which was introduced in 2003, makes the registered keeper of a vehicle responsible for ensuring that, at all times, it is either licensed or has a current Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) in place. The automatic issue of a CR penalty is prompted by the failure of a vehicle keeper to take action on the expiry of a vehicle licence or SORN notice. It is not possible to detail the amount of money collected from drivers who failed to have a SORN notice in force as this information is not held separately.

In 2012-13, the total revenue from CR penalties, collected on behalf of the DVLA (Swansea) was £1,307,000.

Occupational Health Service

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of the Environment what action his Department is taking to offer comprehensive occupational health services to its employees, including early access to services such as physiotherapy.

(AQW 32721/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Northern Ireland Civil Service Occupational Health Service provides a comprehensive occupational health service to all of the NICS Departments and this is available to all employees.

The Department does not provide early access to physiotherapy services. Further details of Occupational Health Service (OHS) services can be found at www.nicsohs.gov.uk.

Air Pollution

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment how the levels of air pollution have altered in each of the last five years.

(AQW 32735/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Air quality in Northern Ireland is generally good and has improved significantly over the last decade. In 2012, EU limit values, target values, and corresponding UK Air Quality Strategy objectives had been met for the following air pollutants: particulate matter, carbon monoxide, benzene, sulphur dioxide and metallic pollutants.

However, in general, there remains a problem with nitrogen dioxide from road vehicle exhaust emissions. A small number of sites near busy roads in urban areas did not meet limit values and objectives of the UK Air Quality Strategy for nitrogen dioxide in 2012 and preceding years. Official compliance with the EU Air Quality Directive was also assessed using modelling, and this showed exceedences of nitrogen dioxide in the Greater Belfast urban area (in particular, along the A12 Westlink).

Problems also exist with levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in urban centres, and it is believed that these levels result from domestic combustion of solid fuel, in particular, smoky coal. In recent years, there have been exceedences of the EU Target Value for annual mean PAHs in some, or all, of the three sites where this pollutant is measured.

Emissions of ammonia (a pollutant which can adversely affect sensitive ecosystems and habitats) from agricultural activities, such as manure spreading and handling, remain a particular problem, with data showing only small decreases year on year.

Information on air quality in Northern Ireland is available at the following sources:

The Official Statistics 'Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2014': <http://www.doeni.gov.uk/ni-environmental-statistics-report-2014.pdf> (pp 2129). The report shows air quality trends in Northern Ireland for the key pollutants from 2001 to 2012;

The Department's 'Air Pollution in Northern Ireland 2012' report:

http://www.airqualityni.co.uk/documents/1131129_AQ_NI_2012_Final.pdf

(The next issue of the report, containing data for 2013, will be available in Autumn 2014); and

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency 'State of the Environment Report 2013': http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/index/about-niea/state_of_the_environment/state-of-the-environment-report-2013-text.htm (pp13-24)

The Department also maintains a dedicated air quality website, which shows currently monitoring results across the network, and which allows users to view historic data: <http://www.airqualityni.co.uk>

Air Pollution in Northern Ireland

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment how air pollution in Northern Ireland compares with the rest of the UK.

(AQW 32737/11-15)

Mr Durkan: In general, air pollution in Northern Ireland compares favourably with some regions of the UK – for example, the Southeast of England and the Midlands – because of Northern Ireland's relative population density and also its geographic position.

However, levels of air pollutants, in particular nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) along busy roads in urban centres (particularly Greater Belfast), can approach those in other areas of the UK.

Detailed information on Northern Ireland's air quality in comparison with the other Devolved Administrations can be found in the following Defra report:

http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/annualreport/viewonline?year=2012_issue_1

Local authorities in the UK are responsible for implementing a Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) regime, as set out in the UK Air Quality Strategy. As part of LAQM, local authorities have a duty to periodically review and assess the air quality in their areas, and where it is poor, to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and corresponding Air Quality Action Plan. The following table, from the above report, shows the number of AQMAs which local authorities in each of the Devolved Administrations have declared.

Region	Total no. of LAs	No. of LAs with AQMAs	AQMAs declared for NO ₂	AQMAs declared for PM ₁₀	AQMAs declared for SO ₂
England (outside London)	292	190	463	40	6
London	33	33	33	29	0
Scotland	32	13	21	21	1
Wales	22	10	33	1	0
Northern Ireland	26	12	23	6	1

Key:

LAs Local Authorities; AQMAs – Air Quality Management Areas;

NO₂ is nitrogen dioxide, produced from road traffic;

PM₁₀ is particulate matter, resulting from road traffic/solid fuel combustion; SO₂ is sulphur dioxide, from industry/power generation / solid fuel combustion.

Some individual AQMAs are declared for more than one pollutant and in Northern Ireland, there are 28 discrete AQMAs. The majority of these (24) are declared for air pollution from road traffic emissions, as is the case in the other Devolved Administrations. The remaining four AQMAs in Northern Ireland are declared as a result of air pollution from domestic heating emissions.

Compared with the England, Scotland and Wales, urban centres in Northern Ireland experience relatively high levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in ambient air. Research has shown that these levels are most likely attributable to domestic solid fuel (in particular, smoky coal) combustion, with this practice being more widespread in Northern Ireland where there is a greater uptake of natural gas.

Compared with England, Scotland and Wales, Northern Ireland has relatively high emissions of ammonia. Ammonia is an air pollutant arising predominantly from agricultural activities such as manure handling and storage, and can have damaging effects on the species balance of ecosystems. Because of the relative intensity of the agricultural industry here, Northern Ireland's emissions of ammonia in 2012 (the latest year for which figures are available) were estimated to be around 10% of total UK emissions.

Air quality information and data can also be found on the Department's dedicated air quality website: www.airqualityni.co.uk

Disposal of Gypsum

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of the Environment what process is used to dispose of gypsum.
(AQW 32749/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Gypsum may be recycled and used in market sectors including the manufacture of new gypsum based construction products; along with providing a raw material in the manufacture of cement providing the process complies with End of Waste criteria.

The process of turning waste plasterboard into product remains a waste recovery operation and is subject to appropriate legislation.

The disposal of plasterboard, gypsum and gypsum containing wastes together with biodegradable wastes can lead to the production of high concentrations of hydrogen sulphide gas which is both odorous and toxic. Gypsum may be landfilled in separate cells of non-hazardous sites where no biodegradable waste is accepted. There are presently no landfills in Northern Ireland with a separate cell for high sulphate wastes. Such landfills are available in Great Britain.

Cottonmount Landfill Site

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of the Environment how many meetings he has had over the last twelve months to discuss the Cottonmount landfill site in Newtownabbey.

(AQW 32751/11-15)

Mr Durkan: I have had one meeting to discuss Cottonmount landfill with Pam Cameron MLA and local residents on 3 March 2014.

Private Hire Taxi Operator: Ravenhill Rugby Ground

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment to state the job titles of the three Driver and Vehicle Agency staff who confirmed a private hire taxi operator centre at Ravenhill Rugby Ground, Belfast.

(AQW 32759/11-15)

Mr Durkan: An application was submitted to the Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) to have Ravenhill Rugby ground included on a taxi operator licence and a declaration was made to confirm that it did not require planning approval and was outside the scope of any planning enforcement action. Accordingly the taxi operator licensing section of the DVA, comprising of staff graded from administrative assistant to deputy principal level, included Ravenhill Rugby ground on a taxi operator licence. Procedures did not require any advance inspection of the operating centre and, accordingly, no confirmation was required that an operating centre had been established at this location.

Driver and Vehicle Agency: Regulation Breaches

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment whether Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) enforcement staff who impose a penalty to taxi-driver for a legal failing or regulation breach, are required to notify DVA licensing staff to enable them to record this against the relevant taxi operator; and if so, to detail the notifications in each of the last twelve months, including the relevant taxi operator.

(AQW 32790/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Since the introduction of taxi operator licensing in September 2012, the Driver Vehicle Agency's focus has been placed on ensuring full compliance with taxi operator licensing requirements. In this regard, DVA Enforcement staff are required to refer details of compliance audits at commercial operating centres and associated roadside detections to DVA Licensing Section in accordance with the requirements set out in the Taxi Operator Handbook.

During the previous 12 months there have been 2 referrals made to Taxi Licensing Section. The first referral was made in May 2013 and resulted in the revocation of the taxi operator's licence which is currently under appeal. A second referral was made in January 2014 and is presently pending adjudication. Information relating to the identity of both operators is restricted from general release in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

A further 8 taxi operators have been identified by DVA Enforcement staff as falling within scope of referral consideration and work is ongoing to prepare operator briefing material for consideration by DVA Licensing Section.

Townscape Heritage Initiative

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment how much funding has been successfully drawn down under the Townscape Heritage Initiative; and how this compares with the available funding.

(AQW 32833/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department provides grant funding to Townscape Heritage Schemes under Article 52 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991, which provides for the making of conservation area grants towards expenditure in connection with the promotion, preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of a designated Conservation Area. The aim of the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) is to secure the long-term future of Northern Ireland's built heritage.

In 2013/14 my Department allocated £160k of budget for THI Grants, and letters of offers totalling this amount were sent out to relevant groups based upon requests received by the Department. Work undertaken by the groups on the ground has however been significantly less than they estimated, with completed work only allowing payment of approximately £30k for the year.

Following a review of THI financial management processes, I have introduced interim payments for the completion of specific works. Officials will consider applications for interim payments on a case by case basis. I am hopeful that the introduction of interim payments will increase the amount of THI funds successfully drawn in the future.

Lough Neagh Special Protection Area

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 32086/11-15, whether any of the site operators extracting sand from Lough Neagh Special Protection Area applied for a rebate from HMRC on the aggregates levy payable.

(AQW 32871/11-15)

Mr Durkan: My Department administered environmental aspects of the Aggregates Levy Credit Scheme on behalf of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). However, the determination of rebate entitlements, and collection of revenue due under the scheme, are the responsibility of HMRC and therefore outside the remit of my Department.

Aggregates Levy Credit Scheme

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 32086/11-15, whether his Department entered into any Aggregates Levy Credit Scheme (ALCS) agreements or issued any ALCS certificates for sand extraction operations relating to the Lough Neagh Special Protection Area.

(AQW 32872/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department's contemporaneous records show that Certificates were granted under the Aggregates Levy Credit Scheme for eight sites connected with extraction of sand from the Lough Neagh Special Protection Area. Operators for two of these sites withdrew from the scheme prior to extraction taking place under the ALCS regime.

By-Laws in Relation to Cycling

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what powers the new councils will have to make by-laws in relation to cycling.

(AQW 32883/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The eleven new councils will be able to make bye-laws under the powers and procedures in section 90 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 1972 (the 1972 Act), but these will not

come into operation until 1 April 2015 when the councils will take up their full responsibilities and powers.

Existing bye-laws which are in force prior to 1 April 2015 will continue to apply unless the new council decides to revoke them.

There is no specific power enabling councils to make bye-laws in relation to cycling. A council may make bye-laws for the good rule and government in its district or the prevention and suppression of nuisances under the 1972 Act.

Councils may use existing powers, for example in the Open Spaces Act 1906 and the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907, to make bye-laws which regulate cycling in open spaces and promenades which are the responsibility of that council.

Council Maintained Graveyards: Charges

Mr Swann asked the Minister of the Environment whether any council places a charge on people to visit a grave in a council maintained graveyard.

(AQW 32889/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The information required is not held by the Department, and was obtained from the individual councils.

All councils have confirmed that they do not charge people to visit a grave in any of their graveyards.

Renewable Energy Projects

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of (i) planning approvals; and (ii) planning refusals for renewable energy projects in (a) 2010; (b) 2011; (c) 2012; and (d) 2013, broken down by renewable energy type.

(AQW 32890/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Table 1 below details the number of approved and refused renewable energy applications from 2009/10 to 28 February 2014, broken down by renewable energy type.

TABLE 1:RENEWABLE ENERGY APPLICATIONS DECIDED1 FROM 2009/10 TO 28TH FEBRUARY 20142 BY RENEWABLE ENERGY TYPE

	2009/10			2010/11			2011/12			2012/13			2013/14 (up to 28/02/142)			Total		
	Approved	Refused	Total Decided	Approved	Refused	Total Decided	Approved	Refused	Total Decided									
Single wind turbine	102	19	121	117	28	145	266	60	326	499	75	574	358	51	409	1,342	233	1,575
Wind farm	14	3	17	13		13	10	2	12	11	5	16	10	1	11	58	11	69
Hydroelectricity	5	1	6	5		5	12		12	16		16	22	1	23	60	2	62
Solar panels	13		13	3		3	24		24	97	1	98	86	1	87	223	2	225
Biomass/ anaerobic digester	5		5	8		8	23		23	56		56	36	5	41	128	5	133
Other3				1		1	4		4	2		2	4		4	11		11
Total	139	23	162	147	28	175	339	62	401	681	81	762	516	59	575		253	

Notes:

- 1 Applications decided do not include withdrawn applications.
- 2 Latest available, provisional, renewable energy information.
- 3 Other includes, Landfill Gases, Waste Incineration and Heat Pumps.

Dereliction Intervention

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of the Environment when the next stage of Dereliction Intervention funding will be rolled out to all local councils.

(AQW 32891/11-15)

Mr Durkan: On the 28 March 2014 my Department wrote to all district councils advising that I will be making a bid for additional funding for the Dereliction programme in the June Monitoring Round. The letter also invites councils to prepare bids for submission at the end of May. In the January 2014 Monitoring Round, I was successful in obtaining £0.5m for the Dereliction Funding. With an additional £105k from expected underspends from the July 2013 funding, I was able to allocate a total of £605k to 6 councils. The table below shows the allocation of dereliction scheme funding in January 2014.

Council	Allocation
Ards	£111,000
Belfast	£220,000
Larne	£39,000
Newry & Mourne	£80,000
Newtownabbey	£53,000
North Down	£102,000
Total	£605,000

Dereliction Intervention

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of the Environment how much funding was awarded to each local council through the most recent Dereliction Intervention scheme.

(AQW 32892/11-15)

Mr Durkan: On the 28 March 2014 my Department wrote to all district councils advising that I will be making a bid for additional funding for the Dereliction programme in the June Monitoring Round. The letter also invites councils to prepare bids for submission at the end of May. In the January 2014 Monitoring Round, I was successful in obtaining £0.5m for the Dereliction Funding. With an additional £105k from expected underspends from the July 2013 funding, I was able to allocate a total of £605k to 6 councils. The table below shows the allocation of dereliction scheme funding in January 2014.

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Total	£605,000

Meetings in Local Councils

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of (i) meetings; and (ii) sub committee meetings that were held in each local council in the last twelve months; and to detail the number of these meetings held, or partly held, in closed session.

(AQW 32912/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The information requested is not routinely collected by the department and to obtain it would constitute disproportionate cost. This would therefore be a matter for the individual councils.

Publication of PPS23

Mrs Dobson asked Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 32378/11-15 and AQW 32380/11-15, to provide a timescale for the publication of PPS23.

(AQW 32971/11-15)

Mr Durkan: I published Planning Policy Statement 23 'Enabling Development for the Conservation of Significant Places' on 14 April 2014.

The policy document and summary of consultation responses report can be accessed on the Planning NI Website at www.planningni.gov.uk.

Single Tier Tax System

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 32381/11-15, whether taxi-licensing will be transferred from Northern Ireland; and if so, how this will affect the proposed single tier taxi scheme, given it will be separate and unique legislation from the rest of the UK.

(AQW 32972/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The decision by the Department for Transport to centralise vehicle registration and licensing in Swansea applies only to that excepted matter, which is carried out by the Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) under an agency agreement. The other functions of the DVA, including taxi licensing, which are devolved matters, are not affected by this decision.

General Fund Reserves

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the current level of reserves currently held by each of the 26 local councils; and how this compares to the same time in each of the previous four years.

(AQW 33001/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The certified accounts, of the 26 councils, for the year ended 31 March 2014 will be published before 31 October 2014 and will contain details of the level of General Fund reserves at 31 March 2014.

The level of General Fund reserves for each of the last 4 years, for which there are certified accounts, are summarised in the attached table.

	31/3/13 £	31/3/12 £	31/3/11 £	31/3/10 £
Belfast	20,614,051	13,904,696	11,461,733	6,215,384
	20,614,051	13,904,696	11,461,733	6,215,384
Antrim	3,679,994	3,863,363	3,770,207	2,134,693
Newtownabbey	3,840,758	3,492,674	3,506,480	4,342,824
	7,520,752	7,356,037	7,276,687	6,477,517

	31/3/13 £	31/3/12 £	31/3/11 £	31/3/10 £
Ards	1,443,396	1,602,249	2,320,232	1,992,786
North Down	2,004,249	2,003,455	1,070,748	2,194,739
	3,447,645	3,605,704	3,390,980	4,187,525
Armagh	2,397,528	4,071,857	2,869,260	2,538,767
Banbridge	2,010,046	2,719,197	2,348,753	2,172,652
Craigavon	7,264,119	4,831,980	3,678,701	2,485,896
	11,671,693	11,623,034	8,896,714	7,197,315
Ballymena	1,957,221	1,901,385	1,790,658	1,614,844
Carrickfergus	974,762	239,849	693,231	931,256
Larne	1,459,958	1,163,581	1,115,040	1,275,602
	4,391,941	3,304,815	3,598,929	3,821,702
Ballymoney	1,018,366	857,335	373,589	353,300
Coleraine	2,642,330	1,697,440	1,080,013	1,011,069
Limavady	816,739	747,517	481,712	558,418
Moyle	757,134	958,369	1,279,690	1,438,332
	5,234,569	4,260,661	3,215,004	3,361,119
Castlereagh	3,057,210	2,243,820	753,661	1,544,665
Lisburn	10,059,123	7,502,579	5,578,283	4,096,368
	13,116,333	9,746,399	6,331,944	5,641,033
Cookstown	2,842,949	3,612,456	4,037,435	2,377,036
Dungannon & South Tyrone	1,778,671	4,738,912	3,394,110	2,188,182
Magherafelt	849,694	671,582	668,043	613,677
	5,471,314	9,022,950	8,099,588	5,178,895
Derry	2,439,246	2,402,296	2,303,466	2,276,268
Strabane	1,943,981	2,003,301	1,536,801	1,432,442
	4,383,227	4,405,597	3,840,267	3,708,710
Down	4,969,888	5,181,997	2,351,397	2,165,310
Newry & Mourne	2,509,952	2,475,355	1,957,930	1,919,253
	7,479,840	7,657,352	4,309,327	4,084,563
Fermanagh	1,148,876	1,891,755	1,618,642	1,347,290
Omagh	1,480,250	1,441,901	1,432,929	1,201,191
	2,629,126	3,333,656	3,051,571	2,548,481
Total	85,960,491	78,220,901	63,472,744	52,422,244

Department of Finance and Personnel

Chief Executive of NI Water: Pension Contributions

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he is satisfied that NI Water following the appointment of a new Chief Executive, did not increase the required employee pension contribution above 3.5% and reduce the employer contribution of 26.9% of salary.

(AQW 31161/11-15)

Mr Hamilton (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): Changes to the Northern Ireland Water Pension Scheme are a matter for the Department for Regional Development to determine in conjunction with the Board of Trustees for that scheme.

Enterprise Zone

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail any locations being considered for the pilot Enterprise Zone.

(AQW 32217/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: It has been decided that the pilot Enterprise Zone will be located adjacent to the University of Ulster Coleraine Campus.

Enterprise Zone

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the criteria used in selecting Coleraine as the location for the pilot Enterprise Zone.

(AQW 32246/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: In selecting a location for the pilot Enterprise Zone, the over-riding criterion was that it could potentially assist the development of new capital-intensive projects where the Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) on offer would provide an attractive incentive. In addition, due to the then legislation cut-off date of April 2017 for projects to benefit from ECAs, a key factor in the selection was that any potential project needed to be operational before that date.

Enterprise Zone

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail his Department's role in locating the pilot Enterprise Zone in Coleraine.

(AQW 32247/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: Prior to the Budget announcement, DFP in conjunction with DETI considered options for the location of the pilot Enterprise Zone in Northern Ireland. However, the final decision to designate, and responsibility for designating a zone offering Enhanced Capital Allowances is a matter for HM Treasury. In that regard, DETI and DFP are currently working alongside Treasury to ensure that the necessary arrangements are put in place as quickly as possible.

Super-Injunctions

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether at any time his Department has funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

(AQW 32563/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: No

Family Law

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the comments made by Mr Justice Coleridge in relation to family law that a 'three strikes rule' should be enacted in relation to custody rights for parents.

(AQW 32736/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: I am assuming that this is a reference to comments which Mr Justice Coleridge is reported to have made in respect of child contact at an annual conference of the Association of Lawyers for Children. Essentially, it was suggested that there should be a "three strikes and you're out" approach, which would result in a transfer of care to the father if the mother persistently defies a court order for contact. Our law already allows a court to make a residence order in favour of either parent. However, in any decision regarding the upbringing of a child, the welfare of the child is paramount. In my view, it is entirely right to focus on the best interests of the child, rather than adopt a fixed approach or formula. However, I also recognise the hurt that is caused – to both parent and child - when contact is unreasonably refused. My Department will shortly be seeking views on the issue of child contact and, during the consultation exercise, my officials will be exploring what remedies could be made available when a contact order is disregarded.

Stormont Estate: Car Parking

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an explanation for the newly painted yellow lines within the Stormont Estate, particularly when employees and staff are experiencing parking difficulties.

(AQW 32813/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: Prince of Wales (POW) Avenue has been resurfaced in advance of the Giro D'Italia and the first portion of resurfacing was carried out over the weekend of 5/6th April with the remainder completed over the weekend of 12/13th April. As part of this work the roads required to be relined after surfacing. It was intended to modify the double yellow lining from the previous staggered arrangement with sections of double yellow lines on either side of POW, to double lining on one side of POW only, with the other side having no restriction. Unfortunately, an unclear instruction was given to the contractor and both sides of the resurfaced portion of POW

were lined over the weekend of 5/6th April. This will be remedied over

several evenings during w/c 14th April and should be complete for close of play on 18th April.

Equal Pay Settlement for PSNI, Department of Justice and Northern Ireland Office Staff

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the equal pay settlement for PSNI, Department of Justice and Northern Ireland Office staff and to detail when he intends to bring a resolution to this issue.

(AQW 32961/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: I refer you to my answer in response to AQO 5542/11-15 tabled by you and advise that the matter is still under consideration.

Civil Partnerships and Marriages Registered

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail how many (i) civil partnerships and; (ii) marriages have been registered since 2005.

(AQW 32963/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The table overleaf details the number of civil partnerships and marriages registered in Northern Ireland each year since 2005.

TABLE: ANNUAL NUMBER OF CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS AND MARRIAGES REGISTERED 2005 TO 2012 (NORTHERN IRELAND)

Registration Year	Civil Partnerships	Marriages
2005 ¹	12	8,140
2006	116	8,259
2007	111	8,687
2008	86	8,510
2009	96	7,931
2010	116	8,156
2011	89	8,366
2012	101	8,480

1 Civil Partnership was introduced in December 2005.

Civil Partnership Dissolutions

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many civil partnerships have been dissolved since 2005.

(AQW 32965/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The attached table details the number of civil partnership dissolutions recorded in Northern Ireland since 2005.

TABLE: NUMBER OF CIVIL PARTNERSHIP DISSOLUTIONS, 2005 – 2012 (NORTHERN IRELAND)

Year	Civil Partnership Dissolutions
2005	0
2006	0
2007	0
2008	0
2009	0
2010	3
2011	4
2012	10

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Motions Debated in the Assembly

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of Motions debated in the Assembly that he has responded to in the last two years; and (ii) the action that he has taken following any Motion that was passed.

(AQW 32422/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): In the last two years I have responded to 32 Motions and 12 Adjournment Debates in the Assembly.

A list of my subsequent actions to date in relation to the Assembly Motions is attached.

Tab A

10-Mar-12 Legal Highs

No action is appropriate at this stage as legislation on this is a reserved matter. A Home Office-led review of legislation relating to new psychoactive substances is currently underway, and is due to report shortly.

26-Mar-12 Accident and Emergency Department at the Royal Victoria Hospital

In March 2012 I announced the establishment of an Improvement Action Group. Improving emergency departments continues to be a priority for the HSC. In addition, I asked the Health and Social Care Board to develop consultation options on the configuration of emergency department services in the Greater Belfast area. A public consultation on this took place in 2013 and the outcome of the consultation and recommendations of the Board for a preferred option have been submitted to the Department for consideration.

23-Apr-12 Multi-Agency Support Teams

The Public Health Agency and Health and Social Care Board have undertaken a review of the multi-disciplinary support teams for schools in Northern Ireland (referred to as MASTS within the Northern HSC Trust Area). The review scoped current models, taking cognisance of the good practice in each of the teams. A regional principles-based model has now been developed in conjunction with a range of stakeholders, including colleagues from the Department of Education. This is currently being progressed through internal processes for approval. The next stage will be to implement the regional model through collaboration with key stakeholders, which I hope will begin later this month.

01-May-12 Strategy to Promote Patient Safety

I launched a 10 Year strategy designed to protect and improve quality in health and social care in Northern Ireland – the Quality Strategy 2020 – in November 2011. The 5 main goals of the strategy are;

- 1 Transforming the culture;
- 2 Strengthening the workforce;
- 3 Measuring the Improvement;
- 4 Raising the standards; and
- 5 Integrating the care.

The work has been divided into tasks, some of which have now been completed:

Task 1 - Protocol for managing safety alerts – This new protocol, introduced from 1 August 2013, requires the Health and Social Care Trusts to provide an assurance to the Health and Social Care Board and the Department that Safety Alerts (and equivalent correspondence issued by the Department) have been actioned.

Task 2 - Annual Quality Report - All Trusts have now published their first Annual Quality Reports detailing Quality initiatives and quality indicators which they have been asked to report against.

Task 6 - Ward level review of patient experience & the quality of clinical & social care - To develop and test a methodology to do a weekly ward-level review of patient experience and the quality of clinical care (including associated social service input) in a small number of patients in that ward; test and refine it in 1 ward in an acute inpatient setting in each Trust – The review has been completed and gathering learning is now underway.

Task 7 – Literature Review on Changing Culture - Organisational Culture: A Review of the Literature has been completed, published and circulated to HSC Chief Execs and across the Department to G3s. A meeting of the Stakeholder Forum is planned for later in 2014

A Learning Matters newsletter has been developed by HSCB and PHA to highlight learning from SAIs that does not warrant a formal learning letter. This newsletter also contains learning from other sources such as complaints and provides reminders for staff on topical issues.

01-May-12 Pseudomonas Incidents in Neonatal Units

As soon as possible after the pseudomonas incidents, in January 2012, I commissioned an independent review which was carried out by the RQIA. The inquiry team produced an interim report on 4 April 2012 and their final report on 31 May 2012. They made 32 recommendations in total. My Permanent Secretary wrote to Health and Social Care organisations following publication of both the interim and final reports asking them to take forward as a priority the response to the recommendations. Further details were set out in joint letters issued by the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Estates Officer. Most of the 32 recommendations have been completed and all have been progressed. In addition, in April 2013 the Public Health Agency conducted a look-back seminar to review these incidents and seek to identify any further lessons that could be learned.

28-May-12 You Need to Know Campaign

I launched the cross-departmental Autism Strategy (2013 – 2020) and Action Plan (2013- 2016) on behalf of the NI Executive in the NI Assembly 14 January 2014 and the Strategy also references the regional protocol setting out arrangements for joint working between Autism Services and specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

29-May-12 Use of '0844' Numbers by GP Surgeries

21 (6%) out of 351 Practices use 0844 numbers. In March 2013 my Department made The Health and Personal Social Services (General Medical Services Contracts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 which came into operation on 1 April 2013. On 25 June 2013 my officials arranged with the 0844 Service Provider that it would offer GP Practices the opportunity to have installed free of charge a geographical line to run alongside their 0844 number. Out of the 21 GP Practices (one of which is currently in the process of implementing a geographical line and it should be in place by week commencing 14 April 2014) 12 have installed a geographical number. Six Practices didn't agree to install the additional line because their current contracts are due to end in June 2014. Two Practices were not willing to install the additional line. On 27 June 2013 my Department wrote to the 21 GP Practices that use 0844 telephone number reminding them of their obligations under the Amendment Regulations and seeking confirmation that they were adhering to the Department's policy relating to telephoning patients back, if requested to do so. My officials monitor the use of 0844 number on a continuous basis. When contracts are approaching their termination date my officials contact the Practices to ensure that they do not renew or extend their 0844 contract.

10-Sep-12 World Suicide Prevention Day

A wide range of work has been undertaken to implement the actions within the refreshed Protect Life Strategy and support community and voluntary sector partners. These include the establishment of the Lifeline 24/7 crisis response helpline; delivery of awareness raising public information campaign; regional and local training programmes; community and voluntary sector and bereaved family involvement in the delivery of Card Before You Leave; establishment and support of the Family Voices Forum; development of the Flourish! Churches initiative; community engagement workshops; and the ongoing delivery of community support for suicide prevention. My Department has commenced work on the next suicide prevention strategy and will be considering how best to further develop work with community and voluntary partners in the development of future Protect Life services in Northern Ireland.

25-Sep-12 Paediatric Congenital Cardiac Services

I have commissioned, alongside my counterpart in the Republic of Ireland Dr Reilly, an International Group of Experts to carry out an Assessment to recommend the Optimal All-Island Hospital Service for Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery for Congenital Heart Disease in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland which would meet the requirements of both jurisdictions.

05-Nov-12 Muscular Dystrophy and Related Neuromuscular Conditions

A lead Assistant Director has been identified in the Public Health Agency for muscular dystrophy and related neuromuscular conditions in NI. In addition, the Health and Social Care Board agreed 3 year funding for a fixed term clinical network manager to develop and formalise network arrangements both at local, regional and national level. A Neurological Conditions Advisory Group was also established to ensure robust engagement mechanisms with service users and carers, clinical staff, Trust management, voluntary and community organisations and other statutory organisations.

12-Nov-12 Diabetes Strategy

A review of the 2003 Diabetes UK/CREST Joint Taskforce Report on diabetes had already been initiated in January 2012. A Review Steering Group had been established and was chaired by the Chief Medical Officer. The first meeting of the Group was held in July 2012 with a remit to assess progress against the objectives of the 2003 Diabetes UK/CREST Report and to identify current gaps in service provision. The Review Steering Group's report and recommendations were completed in autumn 2013. I am currently considering proposals for progressing implementation of the recommendations.

04-Feb-13 GP Annual Health Checks

Mandatory annual health checks have not been introduced. However, highly effective public health programmes continue to be delivered which help to prevent ill health or allow earlier diagnosis, more effective treatment and better outcomes for patients. Generic standards are included in all Service Frameworks which support key health improvements messages such as healthy physical activity, smoking cessations and alcohol consumption. Under the General Medical Services contract a number of services are delivered which require GPs to monitor patients with chronic diseases through reviews and periodic health checks. The reviews and periodic health checks provide GPs with the opportunity to offer health and lifestyle advice.

18-Feb-13 Health Inequalities

A new public health strategic framework has been developed and submitted to my Executive colleagues for their consideration. The revised framework takes into account recommendations from the Health, Social Services and Public Safety Committee's report on health inequalities, along with public consultation responses and other stakeholder views.

11-Mar-13 Ovarian Cancer Awareness

The Public Health Agency expects to finalise the preparation of the cancer awareness campaign, which will prioritise ovarian cancer, by September or October 2014 with commencement of the campaign shortly thereafter. In addition the Agency is planning a targeted leaflet and poster distribution shortly and in February 2014 the Agency and the Health and Social Care Board issued to GPs a reinforced patient referral pathway. Both have reinforced the agreed referral pathway for patients suspected of having ovarian cancer. The aim of this pathway is to ensure that all patients presenting to their GP with symptoms or signs of ovarian cancer are swiftly investigated and able to access specialist cancer care rapidly. The referral pathway reflects an evidence-based approach as set out in existing NICE guidance for ovarian cancer and was issued in February 2014. In addition and to move things forward more swiftly to improve awareness of ovarian cancer, the Public Health Agency plans to initiate an awareness raising programme over the coming weeks. The programme will comprise the targeted distribution of leaflets and posters, possibly supplemented by a platform piece to be included in local newspaper publications.

15-Apr-13 Suicide Prevention

The membership of the Ministerial Group for Suicide Prevention has been broadened and now includes all Departments except for the Department of Finance and Personnel. This is appropriate because most Departments can influence the upstream factors that increase the risk of suicide, rather than being engaged directly in delivering the frontline crisis response services that are required when a person is actually suicidal. All member Departments now report to the Group on progress they have made on programmes to improve mental health and reduce suicide.

07-May-13 Preferred Option Document on Paediatric Cardiac Surgery

I have commissioned, alongside my counterpart in the Republic of Ireland Dr Reilly, an International Group of Experts to carry out an Assessment to recommend the Optimal All-Island Hospital Service for Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery for Congenital Heart Disease in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland which would meet the requirements of both jurisdictions.

28-May-13 Epilepsy Service Provision

Together with the Chief Executive of the Health and Social Care Board, I met with George Robinson MLA and members of Epilepsy Action on 19 November 2013 when Epilepsy Services generally and paediatric epilepsy services at Altnagelvin were discussed.

The HSC Board is working with Belfast Trust to take forward the appointment of two neurological care advisors who will provide advice, support and information to people living with neurological conditions and using health and social care services across Northern Ireland.

During 2014/15 the HSC Board will also commence a process to modernise and reform adult neurology services over the next two to three years. This will use existing arrangements for the engagement and involvement of all interest groups such as the Neurological Conditions User and Carer Reference Group and the Neurological Conditions Advisory Group.

Following Western LCG investment in 2013/14, Western Trust now provides EEGs for both adults and children. There had been some difficulties in recruitment to support children's EEGs but these have been resolved and the service is now being provided. There was no one waiting longer than 3 weeks for an EEG with Western Trust as at 31 December 2013 (the most recent figures available).

28-May-13 Transforming Your Care Review

The section in the motion on Statutory Residential Homes was preceded by my acknowledgement of the issues, my consequent stopping of the individual Trust actions, and my direction to the Health and Social Care Board to provide a regional approach. In response in August 2013 the Board announced a 2 phase consultation assessing the future role and function of statutory residential care homes across the province.

17-Jun-13 Integrated Endometriosis Service

My Department has written to the Health and Social Care Board bringing the views of Members to the attention of the Board and asking it to ensure that the services provided for sufferers of this condition are given appropriate priority. Officials from the Board have met with the Patient and Client Council and clinicians to discuss the issue of care for women living with severe endometriosis. The Board has made commitments to include the management of severe endometriosis as a priority within the Commissioning Plan 2014/15. Work is also underway to develop a business case for an endometriosis service at the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

17-Sep-13 Day of Recognition for the Emergency Services

I continue to recognise and acknowledge the contribution made by members of the Emergency Services to our society through the service they deliver across the Province on a daily basis. I have used the opportunity of visits to Fire Stations to talk to individual Firefighters and thank them for their work. Later this month I will attend inaugural training awards that recognise both individual trainers and

teams within the Northern Ireland Fire Service (NIFRS) and on the previous day an engagement event in the Long Gallery in respect of NIFRS. At both events I will continue my public recognition of the contribution of both individual firefighters and the services provided by NIFRS.

Also earlier this year I had the pleasure of attending the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal award ceremony in Armagh City Hotel to acknowledge the immense contribution which ambulance services personnel make in providing often life-saving care to people in life-threatening situations. I was also happy to repeat my appreciation of our ambulance services personnel when I was guest speaker at the NI Assembly Speaker's St Patrick's Day Celebration in March.

30-Sep-13 Exploitation of Children & Young People

I appointed Professor Kathleen Marshall as the Chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation and agreed the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry on 4 November 2013. I confirmed these developments and shared the Terms of Reference in an Oral Statement to the Assembly the following day. I issued a Direction to the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland to carry out a Thematic Review on 10 December 2013, and shared this Direction and the Terms of Reference for the review with the Assembly in a written Ministerial statement on 20 December 2013. The team has been established and work is progressing with oversight from external quality assurers. Work has commenced in the development of the SBNI's overall communications strategy and supporting plans for messages on Child Sexual Exploitation

Both the CSE Inquiry and the SBNI Thematic Review are expected to report by the end 2014. Interim Regional Guidance, which includes use of the Barnardo's Child Sexual Exploitation Tool, was issued by the Health and Social Care Board on 7 March 2014. A review of Protecting Looked After Children Guidance has also been initiated by the Board. Child sexual exploitation is being integrated within the Department's Safeguarding policy as part of the ongoing revision of Co-operating to Safeguard Children. A child sexual exploitation Strategic Partnership Group has been established, and work is underway with member agencies to undertake multi-agency self-assessment in order to identify scale and nature of the problem and assess progress in protecting children from sexual exploitation.

Work with the knowledge transfer scheme is underway, designed to inform professional practice in relation to children who go missing and / or at risk of sexual exploitation. Press advertising has taken place recently and articles have been published in the daily and weekly newspapers across Northern Ireland.

14-Oct-13 Bowel Cancer

An extension of the bowel cancer screening programme, to include all men and women from 60 to 74 years of age was introduced from 1 April 2014. This fulfils a commitment made in the Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government 2011-15.

04-Nov-13 International Mental Health Centre

In keeping with the Bamford vision, my priority for development of mental health services will continue to be focussed on the improvement of community-based services across the Region.

05-Nov-13 Ban on Blood Donations from Gay Men

There is no ban on blood donations by gay men. The lifetime ban on blood donation applies to men who have had sex with men. I have appealed the outcome of the JR case JR65. It would not be appropriate at this stage for me to comment further on a matter that is before the courts.

12-Nov-13 Public Awareness Campaign on Prostate Cancer

I have asked the Public Health Agency to host a cancer prevention campaign workshop. This is to take place on 8 May 2014 at the Lagan Valley Island Centre, Lisburn to seek stakeholder engagement on

the principles of a cancer awareness campaign programme, the specific messages appropriate for our population and the key site specific tumours to be included.

02-Dec-13 Day Services for Individuals with Learning Disability

The Health and Social Care Board's consultation on a Regional Day Opportunities Model for those with a Learning Disability closed in January 2014 and the responses have been analysed and themes identified. The proposed model sets out a way forward to improve day opportunities and day centres for those with learning disabilities. It is expected that the Report will be finalised in May 2014 thereafter, Trusts will develop, consult, agree and put in place plans and work programmes. The Board also intends to convene a Regional Implementation Group to provide strategic direction and to facilitate co-ordinated implementation which will seek representation from various organisations especially those involved in education, further education and employment, transport and, culture, arts and leisure. There has also been a cross-departmental Transitions Group set up at official level to address the gaps in day provision for those with a learning disability. This group intends to meet with parents and carers directly to identify those gaps.

27-Jan-14 Nursing Staff Levels in Key Hospital Wards

During the debate I advised the assembly that I had approved Delivering Care, to ensure 100% supervisory time for Ward Sisters/Charge Nurses and a range of nurse staffing normally expected in general and specialist medicine and surgery.

A Task and Finish group has been established, chaired by the Public Health Agency to ensure progress towards meeting all the elements within Delivering Care, which will be placed on my Department's website and that of NIPEC, for use by Commissioners and Trusts. Work is progressing on extending the methodology to Community Nursing, Health Visiting and Emergency Departments, with further roll out to other specialties as capacity allows.

28-Jan-14 Crisis Conditions at Accident & Emergency Departments

I have commissioned the RQIA to carry out a review of the whole system arrangements for unscheduled care in the Belfast Trust. This review will examine the fundamental underpinning systems, processes, resources and model for unscheduled and emergency care including how we build sufficient resilience regionally.

03-Feb-14 Report on Review into Health Inequalities Experienced by People with a Learning Disability

I have responded in detail to the Health, Social Services and Public Safety Committee's Report and Recommendations into Health Inequalities experienced by people with a Learning Disability on 19 February 2014. There is also work being carried out on Directed Enhanced Services for Learning Disability which provide regular checks undertaken by General Practitioners for adults with a learning disability and a range of supports provided by health facilitators appointed by each of the Health and Social Care Trusts. There has also been GAIN guidelines published which intend to enhance safe and effective care throughout the journey within the general hospital setting for people with a learning disability. A Regional Learning Disability Health Care and Improvement Group has been established, which aims to improve health care provided to people with learning difficulties across all areas of health and social care and to reduce inequalities in health for this client group.

03-Feb-14 Mental Wellbeing of the Farming Community

The Ministerial Co-ordination Group for Suicide Prevention has helped to ensure a multi-agency response and it has also directed a number of departments to work together to develop a joint programme for addressing suicide prevention and mental wellbeing through sporting and rural organisations. Ongoing initiatives led by the health sector include: mental health and suicide prevention awareness sessions held in farmers' markets; the Older Peoples Rural Project; and the Farm Families Health Check which has been provided to over 4000 people. Community grants programmes have also

funded initiatives delivering counselling services, bereavement support, and mentoring programmes for people a risk of suicide in rural areas.

03-Mar-14 Pulse Oximetry

The National Screening Committee discussed pulse oximetry at their meeting of 12th March 2014. I am currently awaiting their advice on the matter.

24-Mar-14 Fostering Services

I am in the process of arranging a meeting with the Health and Social Care Board in order to seek an update in relation to the RQIA recommendations for the Board and Trusts alike.

My officials have obtained further details about a case raised by Cathal Boylan MLA during the debate relating to foster parents who were unable to avail of the replacement boiler scheme as their foster care payment pushed them over the threshold for assistance. I am pursuing this with the relevant Trust and the Social Development Minister.

Home Start Down District

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the increased demand for Home-Start services in Ballynahinch and Newcastle will be met with additional funding. **(AQW 32474/11-15)**

Mr Poots: My prime concern is that families in the district are able to obtain access to the widest range of family support services they need delivered by providers that are safe and sustainable.

I am fully aware of the issues facing Home Start Down District scheme operating in the Ballynahinch and Newcastle area, having received a considerable volume of repeat correspondence from individuals lobbying on behalf of this scheme over the past few years.

The HSC Board, HSC Trusts and Local Outcomes Groups assess need at both regional and local level. On the basis of this assessment, the HSC Trust and Local Outcomes Group are best placed to prioritise which health and social care services are required to meet the assessed needs of their local communities. It is inappropriate for my Department to interfere with those decisions.

I have met with representatives of this scheme and advised them of the existing commissioning arrangements and the need for them to move to a financially sustainable position. This may require collaboration with other service providers in the area.

My officials and HSC Board officers recently met with the Chief Executive of Home Start UK and the Director of Home Start Northern Ireland at which the Department's and HSC Board's position was restated. I am now informed that Home Start Northern Ireland will be working with its schemes to help them compete for service contracts.

We are currently experiencing financial challenges within the Health and Social Care sector and this is set to continue over the next few years. My position on Home Start Down District is clear. I am not in a position to offer the organisation any additional financial support and would urge it to work with Home Start UK and Northern Ireland to seek to resolve its operational difficulties.

Antrim Area Hospital: Major Incident

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of Antrim Area Hospital's ability to cope with a major incident following the major incident drill of 23 March 2014. **(AQW 32526/11-15)**

Mr Poots: Antrim Area Hospital, like all public service organisations, is required to ensure that the people of Northern Ireland receive a level of protection and emergency response which is consistent with that elsewhere in the UK and which meets their needs and expectations.

Accordingly, my Department sets standards of assurance to ensure that emergency preparedness or 'Major Incident' plans are not simply in place; but must be part of an annual programme for testing, exercising and validation. This is an important part of emergency preparedness as it permits aspects of the plans to be tested in safe conditions and for review and updating of plans in the light of any learning from the experience.

The recent exercise, to which you refer, is an admirable demonstration of the Trust testing its ability to cope with a major incident – particularly with a scenario that is clearly outside of its normal experience. In doing so, the Trust is following best practice in emergency preparedness.

Western Health and Social Care Trust Staff

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many Western Health and Social Care Trust staff were not paid correctly on 27 March 2014; (ii) how this anomaly occurred; (iii) what steps are being taken to ensure there is no repeat of this situation; (iv) for a breakdown of the grades of staff affected; and (v) whether any staff who have incurred bank charges due to failed direct debits will be reimbursed by the Trust or his Department.

(AQW 32546/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The final number of Western HSC Trust staff that were not paid correctly on 27 March 2014 amounted to 446.
- (ii) The anomalies occurred largely because the Payroll Shared Service Centre (PSSC) did not receive the claims for overtime, travel claims and allowances. This typically involved claims that were sent via e-mail to the incorrect email address or had been identified as spam by the BSO Firewall and therefore not sent through to the required network for processing.
- (iii) A range of steps have been taken to address these issues. These include: implementing e-mail checks prior to payroll cut-off to confirm that the correct information has been received by the PSSC; increasing the capacity of the electronic mailbox to ensure that e-mail are not blocked; implementing electronic timesheets to replace paper based systems; and providing continuous feedback on key issues and training to payroll staff to identify and prevent similar errors occurring in the future. Additional payruns have also been made to correct the anomalies that were identified.
- (iv) The grades affected were as follows:

Band	Total
1	11
2	100
3	68
4	19
5	134
6	58
7	21
8A	3
8B	2
8C	1
Senior Executive	1
Medical/Dental	28
	446

- (v) For those cases where bank charges have been incurred by staff, these will be considered on their individual merits and where it can be clearly demonstrated that any such loss was due to employer errors, then a resolution will be agreed with the staff member affected.

South West Acute Hospital

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans are in place to offer free wi-fi for patients and visitors to the South West Acute Hospital in Enniskillen.

(AQW 32554/11-15)

Mr Poots: I would advise that the ICT Infrastructure for a Wi-Fi network service is currently in place in the South West Acute Hospital.

A Trust policy paper is currently being drafted regarding operational access and is to be submitted to the Trust Corporate Management Team for approval and subsequent implementation

We are advised that free Wi-Fi service should be available by the end of 2014. Western Health and Social Care Trust: Financial Deficit

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how his Department intends to deal with the continuing financial deficit within the Western Health and Social Care Trust; and what steps are being taken to ensure that the current financial situation does not negatively impact on patient care.

(AQW 32555/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Western Trust, like other Trusts, has continued to carry out detailed analysis of its financial position for 2013/14, implementing, where possible, options to reduce expenditure which do not impact on front line services. I have not provided clearance to proceed with any plans that would compromise the safety and quality of care provided to patients and clients. All aspects of the HSC budget have also been examined in order to secure available savings opportunities.

Looking ahead, structured engagement with all key stakeholders will continue, including the Health and Social Care Board and the trusts, in order to progress all possible measures to help address the significant financial challenges facing the HSC. I continue to be committed to ensuring that this process does not negatively impact on patient care.

Western Health and Social Care Trust: Budget Allocation and Expenditure

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for a breakdown of the monthly, or quarterly, (i) budget allocation; and (ii) expenditure for the Western Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 32556/11-15)

Mr Poots: The table below shows the quarterly breakdown of the budget allocation and expenditure for the Western Health and Social Care Trust during the 2013/14 financial year. The information for the quarter ended March 2014 is not yet available – the figures for the two months to February 2014 have therefore been presented.

Period Ending	YTD Budget £'000	YTD Expenditure £'000	YTD Surplus/(deficit) £'000
30/6/2013	122,885	127,067	(4,182)
30/9/2013	250,485	255,686	(5,201)
31/12/2013	366,781	373,896	(7,115)
28/2/2014	456,358	459,644	(3,286)

Super-Injunctions

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether at any time his Department has funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

(AQW 32564/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department has not funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief.

Zero-Hour Contracts

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the (i) number; and (ii) percentage of staff employed (a) on zero-hour contracts; (b) bank staff; and (c) 'as and when' staff in each Health and Social Care Trust; and how these figures compare with those at the time of the foundation of the Trusts.

(AQW 32578/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) 'Zero-hour contracts' is mainly applicable in the private sector and is not used in employment contracts within Health and Social Care Trusts. For the purposes of data recording and statistical analysis, the terms 'as and when staff' and 'bank staff' have the same meaning. The table below sets out the estimated number of bank staff (non-medical and dental) in 2007 and 2014.

HSC Trust	2007	2014	% *
Belfast	3900	6800	36
Northern	1600	3800	34
South Eastern	2200	3200	35
Southern	2500	2900	29
Western	2400	2900	30

* When considering the percentages quoted account should be taken of the fact that staff can register on more than one bank and a high number of staff registered on the Bank are also on permanent contracts. Therefore these percentage figures should not be relied upon for any further analysis, as it is very probable that a substantial number of staff members have been counted more than once.

Domestic Abuse

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in each of the last five years, how many (i) men; and (ii) women presented at an Emergency Department as a result of domestic abuse, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 32609/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of attendances at emergency care departments as a result of domestic abuse is not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Research carried out in England in 2002 and 2003 and reported in the Emergency Medicine Journal suggested that the number of victims attending the accident and emergency departments due to physical violence of a partner was between 1% and 1.2%. The Department is working with Trusts to put in place a pilot to train doctors, nurses and radiographers in emergency departments to recognise, respond to and report on incidents of domestic violence. Victims will be provided with appropriate care pathways, information and advice.

New Build for Castle Tower Special School

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what level of support his Department will provide for the installation of a hydro-therapy pool in the new build for Castle Tower Special School, Ballymena.

(AQW 32657/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern HSC Trust Physiotherapy Department has provided information on the number of children in the Ballymena area that benefit from hydrotherapy and the number of physiotherapy hours attached to that.

The Trust has also carried out a service user survey and provided data in relation to the benefits of hydrotherapy as perceived by parents and teaching staff and submitted that information to the head teacher of Castle Tower campus.

The Trust will continue to provide physiotherapy support.

New Medical Hub in Lurgan

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when further details of a new medical hub in the Lurgan area will be announced; and when the necessary funding will be in place.

(AQW 32662/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health & Social Care Board has submitted to my Department, for consideration, a Strategic Implementation Plan for investment in primary care infrastructure. The hubs proposed within the plan will have to be considered in line with the other infrastructure priorities across the HSC and will be included in a bid to DFP for funding from 15/16 onwards. The actual timing of future hubs will be dependent on the confirmation of funding availability, capital and revenue, and the completion and approval of business cases. At this stage I cannot be any more definitive than this.

Funding for GP Premises

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether proposals for new GP Surgery premises could receive funding earmarked for Transforming Your Care.

(AQW 32663/11-15)

Mr Poots: Transitional funding for Transforming Your Care was secured in 2012/13 and 2013/14 specifically to support the development and provision of local health services and care pathways.

Development of Primary Care infrastructure will follow existing processes and consideration will be given to a range of funding options, including capital funding, 3rd Party Development, Ring-Fenced

Financial Transactions Capital or through revenue from the GMS Budget. The outcome of this consideration will feed into the overall Capital Priorities Review leading to a capital plan which will form the basis of the Department's bid for the next budget period.

Support Workers in Emergency Departments

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has any plans to provide a support worker in Emergency Departments for victims of domestic violence, similar to a trial in England through Victim Support; and if so, to outline the action that is planned.

(AQW 32672/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Department is working with the South Eastern and Western Health and Social Care Trusts to put in place a pilot to train doctors, nurses and radiographers in accident and emergency departments to recognise, respond to and report on incidents of domestic violence. Victims will be provided with appropriate care pathways, information and advice.

Nursing Home Waiting Lists: North Down Area

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many elderly people are currently on nursing home waiting lists in the North Down area.

(AQW 32677/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information is not available centrally and was therefore requested from the South Eastern Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust. Their reply can be found below.

The South Eastern HSC Trust currently has one client, who is in the Elderly Programme of Care, in an intermediate care bed waiting for a permanent place in a nursing home.

Treatment of Macular Degeneration

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what progress has been made on the treatment of macular degeneration by oral medication, rather than injections.

(AQW 32680/11-15)

Mr Poots: Exudative (wet) age related macular degeneration (AMD) accounts for approximately 15% of all age-related macular degenerations, and NICE-approved treatments for wet AMD utilize anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (anti-VEGF) therapies (such as Lucentis, Eylea) injected into the eye.

Whilst pre-clinical trials are being undertaken to assess the possibility of topical delivery of anti-VEGF therapies through drops, these have yet to be technically assessed or approved by NICE.

Dry AMD accounts for approximately 85% of all age-related macular disease but is not amenable to anti-VEGF treatment. Early investigational pre-clinical trials of oral treatments are currently being undertaken, but, as yet have not been assessed or approved as being safe or efficacious by NICE.

Services for Sufferers of Lipoedema and Lymphoedema

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans he has to improve the services for sufferers of lipoedema and lymphoedema.

(AQW 32694/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Lymphoedema Network Northern Ireland (LNNI) oversees the development of lymphoedema services across Northern Ireland, which also accepts lipoedema patients. Its current work includes:

- Development of a cross-boundary informal network for families with children who have lymphoedema to build peer support and caring skills;
- Development of genetics clinics to develop accurate diagnoses and an understanding of the regional picture regarding the genetic components of this condition;

- Exercise programmes to address the higher than normal body mass index (BMI) scores noted by this population;
- Liaison with other referring groups to address the issue of education of recognised higher risk patient groups;
- Local research investigating the impact of breast cancer surgery, and methods of early lymphoedema detection to enhance early access to treatment; and
- Partnership working with both the British Lymphology Society and the International Lymphoedema Framework.

The International Lymphoedema Framework has as a priority for its work plan to obtain a clearer understanding of lipoedema and its management.

Lipoedema and Lymphoedema

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what research has been carried out on the causes and potential medical assistance for sufferers of lipoedema and lymphoedema.

(AQW 32695/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Lymphoedema Network Northern Ireland (LNNI) is a partner of the International Lymphoedema Framework which champions research in this field. At present, research is being undertaken on the physiological working of the actual lymphatics, and into the role of self-management of lymphoedema. Regionally, self-management pilot trials are being undertaken.

The LNNI also currently conducts three ongoing research projects:

- The investigation of the role of volumetric measurement versus bioimpedance in the early detection of breast cancer-related lymphoedema.
- Research into the psychological impact of lymphoedema as a long-term condition.
- Research into the impact of previous breast cancer surgery on patients who then require shoulder orthopaedic surgery, and the relevant potential links to increased lymphoedema risk.

Lymphoedema liposuction is also a developing area where medical management is becoming recognised through research.

In addition, the International Lymphoedema Framework, which the LNNI partners, also has as a priority for its work plan to obtain a clearer understanding of lipoedema and its management.

Closure of Residential Homes

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 22823/11-15, whether the financial cost of his decision to change the consultation process on the closure of residential homes has been identified.

(AQW 32711/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health and Social care Board have advised that the process of pre consultation, consultation and post consultation has cost approximately £50,000 from June 2013 to date. This money has been spent in ensuring that the process is as inclusive, accessible and comprehensive as possible through, for example, the provision of peer facilitators to help residents express their views, an engagement event with future users and documents being made into accessible formats.

Domestic Violence

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the proportion of admissions to Emergency Departments as a result of domestic violence over each of the last three years, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 32754/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on attendances at emergency care departments as a result of domestic violence is not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Research carried out in England in 2002 and 2003 and reported in the Emergency Medicine Journal suggested that the number of victims attending the accident and emergency departments due to physical violence of a partner was between 1% and 1.2%. The Department is working with Trusts to put in place a pilot to train doctors, nurses and radiographers in emergency departments to recognise, respond to and report on incidents of domestic violence. Victims will be provided with appropriate care pathways, information and advice.

Domestic Violence

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he would consider a trial of placing a support worker in hospital Emergency Departments, specifically dedicated to working with victims of domestic violence.

(AQW 32755/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Department is working with the South Eastern and Western Health and Social Care Trusts to put in place a pilot to train doctors, nurses and radiographers in accident and emergency departments to recognise, respond to and report on incidents of domestic violence. Victims will be provided with appropriate care pathways, information and advice.

Parkinson's Disease

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the impact on the care of patients diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area following the withdrawal of the specialist nurse services; and how he will address this issue.

(AQW 32760/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Parkinson's Disease Nurse Specialist post in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust has not been withdrawn. The post holder was on a period of extended leave.

During this period the Southern Health and Social Care Trust's Neurology Team collaborated with Parkinson's UK to provide interim support for patients with Parkinson's disease.

The Parkinson's Disease Nurse Specialist returned to post with effect from 7 April 2014.

Victim Support

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the Victim Support initiative which places support workers for victims of domestic violence in Emergency Department settings in England; and whether he has any plans to introduce a similar scheme.

(AQW 32761/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Department is working with the South Eastern and Western Health and Social Care Trusts to put in place a pilot to train doctors, nurses and radiographers in accident and emergency departments to recognise, respond to and report on incidents of domestic violence. Victims will be provided with appropriate care pathways, information and advice.

The Victim Support pilot initiative in Manchester has a similar remit to the pilot initiative in Northern Ireland. My Department will monitor developments in Manchester and will consider the outcomes of

any evaluations of that initiative in order to learn lessons and to help provide the best possible service for victims of domestic violence in Northern Ireland.

Tobacco Products: Vending Machines

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the effectiveness of the legislation which prevents the sale of tobacco products from vending machines.
(AQW 32762/11-15)

Mr Poots: Legislation banning the sale of tobacco products from vending machines was introduced in Northern Ireland in March 2012. No formal evaluation of the legislation has yet been carried out, however, unofficial reports from district council enforcement officers continue to show very high levels of compliance, indicating that the legislation has been effective in preventing the sale of tobacco to young people from this particular source.

The results of the Young Person's Behaviour and Attitudes Survey 2013, which are due to be published in May, will indicate if there has been a reduction in smoking prevalence in the 11-16 year old age group. However, it will not be possible to disaggregate any specific impact of the vending machine sales ban from other tobacco control interventions such as the ban on point of sale displays in larger shops.

Review on Plain Paper Packaging

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he plans to take following the publication of the Review on Plain Paper Packaging.
(AQW 32763/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Chantler report was published on 3 April and I was encouraged by the findings which indicated a link between branded packaging and youth smoking uptake and concluded that standardised packaging is very likely to lead to a reduction of the uptake and prevalence of smoking.

Following receipt of the report, the Department of Health in London announced plans to issue a final short consultation, to include draft regulations, before making a final decision as to the introduction of standardised packaging. I have written to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health to confirm, in principle, my agreement to the inclusion of Northern Ireland in this consultation.

The outcome of the final consultation, in conjunction with the findings of the Chantler Report, will assist the Executive in making a decision on whether Northern Ireland should be included in any regulations providing for the introduction of standardised packaging of tobacco products.

Sunbeds Bill

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the implementation of the Sunbeds Bill.
(AQW 32764/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Sunbeds Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 came into force on 1st May 2012.

Feedback from District Councils indicates that levels of compliance with the Act have been high. The table below shows the results from 285 council officer visits to sunbed premises across Northern Ireland during the period 1st May 2012 until the end of April 2013. These included nine premises which were also involved in hiring out sunbeds.

Premises Visited	Hire Premises	Allowing U18s	Not Providing Health Advice	Not Displaying Poster	Non - Compliance for Display of Health Claims	Under 18s in Restricted Area	Not Providing Eyewear
285	9	2	50	66	11	1	1

To date, two Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued, one for allowing someone under 18 to use a sunbed and one for not providing protective eyewear.

Whilst the legislation has only been in force for less than two years, I am reassured by the high level of early compliance with the new law and am confident that the legislation will contribute to reducing the prevalence of skin cancer in the longer term.

Ovarian Cancer

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the public awareness of the risks and signs of ovarian cancer.
(AQW 32766/11-15)

Mr Poots: March was designated Ovarian Cancer Awareness month by a number of local and national charities in an effort to raise the profile of this disease. The March campaign includes informing the public about the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer.

The Public Health Agency (PHA) is taking forward work to establish a baseline of the levels of knowledge and awareness of cancer, including ovarian cancer, amongst the population. The PHA is also hosting a stakeholder workshop on 8 May 2014 to ensure that key individuals and organisations are fully engaged in planning and supporting the cancer awareness programme. This work is essential in order to develop a cancer awareness campaign that is evidence-based and appropriate to the needs of the public in Northern Ireland. As part of the programme the PHA will include specific messages about ovarian cancer. It is expected this work will be finalised by September or October with commencement of the campaign shortly thereafter.

In addition and to move things forward more swiftly to improve awareness of ovarian cancer, the PHA plans to initiate an awareness raising programme over the coming weeks. The programme will comprise of a targeted distribution of leaflets and posters, possibly supplemented by a platform piece to be included in local newspaper publications.

The Public Health Agency has also been working closely with the Health and Social Care Board to provide information for primary care practitioners, including information on the appropriate investigations to be undertaken with women whose signs and symptoms are suggestive of ovarian cancer. This information and referral pathway is consistent with the evidence issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

Written Statement on the Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many of the twenty patients, or their families, were contacted in advance of his written statement on the Northern Health and Social Care Trust on 28 March 2014.
(AQW 32775/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Health & Social Care Trust has advised that in all 20 cases, patients/families/appropriate carer or guardian were made aware that their case was being investigated as a Serious Adverse Incident (SAI). The Trust has confirmed that such communication took place prior to 28 March 2014.

This is a sensitive issue for families and requires careful interaction. It is also important to understand that families may choose to decline engagement with the Serious Adverse Incident process.

Review of X-Rays

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the review of 48,000 x-rays across the Northern Health and Social Care Trust includes CT scans and MRI scans. **(AQW 32776/11-15)**

Mr Poots: CT Scans and MRI Scans are a different type of imaging procedure and therefore are not included within the 48,000 x-rays reports currently under review.

Secretarial Staff in Hospitals

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many secretarial staff are based in each hospital; and what is the secretarial staff to patient ratio.

(AQW 32777/11-15)

Mr Poots: The tables below shows headcount and whole-time equivalent (WTE) for all staff graded as a Personal Secretary, a Medical Secretary or a Typist, by hospital. These figures have been sourced directly from HSC Trusts.

BELFAST HSC TRUST

Hospital	Grade	Headcount	WTE
Belfast City Hospital	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	11	8.3
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	107	87.4
Cancer Centre	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	2	2.0
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	21	16.8
Knockbracken Healthcare Park	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	9	8.4
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	10	9.2
Mater Hospital	Typist Band 2	5	3.5
	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	4	2.4
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	31	24.5
Muckamore Abbey Hospital	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	4	4.0
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	3	2.8
Musgrave Park Hospital	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	23	16.6
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	50	42.9

Hospital	Grade	Headcount	WTE
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	2	1.6
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	28	23.7
Royal Dental Hospital	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	3	2.1
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	5	4.1
Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	2	1.5
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	12	9.7
Royal Victoria Hospital	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	37	29.7
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	117	101.0

NORTHERN HSC TRUST

Hospital	Grade	Headcount	WTE
Antrim Hospital	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	12	10.0
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	85	70.6
Braid Valley Hospital	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	4	3.3
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	3	2.4
Causeway Hospital	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	15	11.6
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	42	35.4
Holywell Hospital	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	31	28.1
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	13	9.8
Mid Ulster Hospital	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	5	4
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	9	6.5

SOUTH EASTERN HSC TRUST

Hospital	Grade	Headcount	WTE
Ards Community Hospital Main Block	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	6	5.4
Bangor Community Hospital	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	1	1.0
Downe Hospital	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	6	5.2
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	12	10.8
Downshire Hospital Main Building	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	11	8.7
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	4	3.7
Lagan Valley Hospital	Typist Band 2	1	0.7
	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	16	12.6
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	17	14.7
Ulster Hospital	Typist Band 2	3	2.2
	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	40	35.6
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	72	62.6

SOUTHERN HSC TRUST*

Hospital	Grade	Headcount	WTE
Craigavon Area Hospital	Typist Band 2	4	2.9
	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	58	49.9
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	30	24.4
Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	1	1.0
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	12	9.7
Lurgan Hospital	Typist Band 2	1	0.5
	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	1	1.00

Hospital	Grade	Headcount	WTE
South Tyrone Hospital, Dungannon	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	19	12.7
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	5	3.8
St Luke's Hospital, Armagh	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	21	15.0
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	3	2.6
Tower Hill Community Hospital, Armagh	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	6	4.4
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	4	2.8

* Southern HSCT noted that they have not included staff working in outlying buildings/facilities.

WESTERN HSC TRUST

Hospital	Grade	Headcount	WTE
Tyrone County Hospital Site	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	16	13.9
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	4	3.0
Tyrone & Fermanagh Hospital Site	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	24	21.1
Waterside Hospital Site	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	1	1.0
Gransha Hospital Site	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	22	20.1
Altnagelvin Hospital Site	Personal Secretary Bands 3-4	52	45.4
	Medical Secretary Bands 3-4	110	98.4

With regard to the second part of the question, it has not been possible to calculate an appropriate ratio of secretarial staff based in hospitals to patients or inpatient beds. This is because many hospital premises serve as administrative hubs for non-patient care services, such as Trusts' Human Resources and Finance departments. Some administrative and secretarial staff servicing acute functions may also not be based in hospitals. Therefore, any ratio that might be produced would not be indicative of the level of service.

Serious Adverse Incidents in Hospitals

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the reduction in secretarial staff at the Causeway Hospital contributed to any of the twenty Serious Adverse Incidents in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 32779/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Health and Social Care Trust have advised that none of the twenty Serious Adverse Incidents were related to the level of Medical Secretarial administrative support provided within the Trust.

Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools: North Antrim Constituency

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 32356/11-15, to detail the schools supported, including the amount, in (i) 2010/11; (ii) 2011/12; and (iii) 2012/13.

(AQW 32791/11-15)

Mr Poots: Pursuant to AQW 32356/11-15, details of the schools supported by Multi Agency Support Teams in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area in 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 are set out in the attached Appendices.

It is not possible to detail the financial amounts provided to each individual school as funds are provided to the various multi agency support teams and not individual schools.

APPENDIX 1

SCHOOLS RECEIVING MASTS SUPPORT 2010 – 11

	East Antrim	Ballymena/ Antrim	Mid-Ulster	Causeway
Nursery Schools	Ashgrove NS, Glengormley	Ballymena NS	Cookstown NS	Ballysally NS, Coleraine
	Ballyhenry NS, Glengormley	Dunclug NS, Ballymena	Magherafelt NS	Ballymoney NS
	Monkstown NS	St. Joseph's NS, Antrim		Kylemore NS, Coleraine
	Mossley NS, Newtownabbey	Steeple NS, Antrim		
	Sunnylands NS, Carrickfergus			
Primary Schools with Nursery Units	Earlview PS, Newtownabbey	Ballykeel PS, Ballymena	Holy Trinity PS, Cookstown	Ballycastle Integrated PS
	Mossgrove PS, Glengormley	Braidside Integrated PS, Ballymena	Moneymore PS	Harpur's Hill PS, Coleraine
	Moyle PS, Larne	Broughshane PS	Orrritor PS, Cookstown	Irish Society PS, Coleraine
	Silverstream PS, Greenisland	Gracehill PS, Ballymena	St. Mary's PS, Bellaghy	St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's PS, Ballycastle
	St. James' PS, Newtownabbey	Harryville PS, Ballymena	St. Oliver Plunkett's PS, Toome	St. Patrick's PS, Loughgiel

	East Antrim	Ballymena/ Antrim	Mid-Ulster	Causeway
	St .Bernard's PS, Glengormley	Mount St. Michael's PS, Randalstown		St. Patrick's PS, Rasharkin
	Victoria PS, Carrickfergus	St. Joseph's PS, Crumlin.		
	Whitehouse PS, Newtownabbey	Templepatrick PS		
Primary Schools	Ballynure PS	Antrim PS	Castledawson PS	Ballmoney Model PS
	Carrickfergus Central PS	Ballycraigy PS, Antrim	Creivagh PS, Cookstown	Ballysally PS, Coleraine
	Eden PS, Carrickfergus	Carniny PS, Ballymena	Derrychrin PS Coagh	Ballytober PS, Bushmills
	Fairview PS, Ballyclare	Creggan PS, Randalstown	Knockloughrim PS	Balnamore PS, Ballymoney
	Glengormley Integrated PS	Crumlin Integrated PS	St. Patrick's PS Glen, Maghera	Bunscoil an Chaistil, Ballycastle
	Greenisland PS	Duneane PS, Toome	Spires Integrated PS, Magherafelt	Carnalridge PS, Portrush
	Mallusk PS, Newtownabbey	Groggan PS, Randalstown	Portglenone PS	Castleroe PS, Coleraine
	Mossley PS, Newtownabbey	Kells & Connor PS, Kells	Queen Elizabeth II PS, Pomeroy	Cullycapple PS, Aghadowey
	Parkgate PS, Ballyclare	Loanends PS, Crumlin	St. Brigid's PS, Magherafelt	Dalriada Prep Dept, Ballymoney
	Straid PS, Ballyclare	Maine Integrated PS, Randalstown	St. Columba's PS, Straw, Draperstown	Glenann PS, Cushendall
	Tir na Nog PS, Ballyclare	Moneynick PS, Randalstown	St Mary's PS, Dunamore	Killowen PS, Coleraine
	Lourdes PS, Whitehead (closed June 2011)	Parkhall PS, Antrim	St. Mary's PS, Greenlough	Landhead PS, Ballymoney
		Randalstown Central PS	St. Mary's PS, Maghera	Millburn PS, Coleraine
		St. Comgall's PS, Antrim	St Mary's PS, Pomeroy	St. Columba's PS, Garvagh
		St. Joseph's PS, Antrim	St Mary's PS, Portglenone	St. John's PS, Coleraine

	East Antrim	Ballymena/ Antrim	Mid-Ulster	Causeway
			St Mary's PS, Stewartstown	St. John's PS, Swatragh
			St Patrick's PS, Ardboe	St Patrick's PS, Glenariff
			Woods PS, Ballyronan	
	Total = 103			

APPENDIX 2**SCHOOLS RECEIVING MASTS SUPPORT 2011 – 2012**

	East Antrim	Ballymena/ Antrim	Mid-Ulster	Causeway
Nursery Schools	Ashgrove NS, Glengormley	Ballymena NS	Cookstown NS	Ballysally NS, Coleraine
	Ballyhenry NS, Glengormley	Dunclug NS, Ballymena	Magherafelt NS	Ballymoney NS
	Monkstown NS	St. Joseph's NS, Antrim		Kylemore NS, Coleraine
	Mossley NS, Newtownabbey	Steeple NS, Antrim		
	Sunnylands NS, Carrickfergus			
Primary Schools with Nursery Units	Earlview PS, Newtownabbey	Ballykeel PS, Ballymena	Holy Trinity PS, Cookstown	Ballycastle Integrated PS
	Mossgrove PS, Glengormley	Braidside Integrated PS, Ballymena	Moneymore PS	Harpur's Hill PS, Coleraine
	Moyle PS, Larne	Broughshane PS	Orrritor PS, Cookstown	Irish Society PS, Coleraine
	Silverstream PS, Greenisland	Gracehill PS, Ballymena	St. Mary's PS, Bellaghy	St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's PS, Ballycastle
	St. James' PS, Newtownabbey	Harryville PS, Ballymena	St. Oliver Plunkett's PS, Toome	St. Patrick's PS, Loughgiel
	St .Bernard's PS, Glengormley	Mount St. Michael's PS, Randalstown	Cookstown PS, Cookstown	St. Patrick's PS, Rasharkin
	Victoria PS, Carrickfergus	St. Joseph's PS, Crumlin.	Holy Family PS, Magherafelt	St. Columba's PS, Kilrea

	East Antrim	Ballymena/ Antrim	Mid-Ulster	Causeway
	Whitehouse PS, Newtownabbey	Templepatrick PS		
	Acorn Integrated PS, Carrickfergus			
	Oakfield PS, Carrickfergus			
	Rathcoole PS, Newtownabbey			
Primary Schools	Ballynure PS	Antrim PS	Castledawson PS	Ballmoney Model PS
	Carrickfergus Central PS	Ballycraig PS, Antrim	Creivagh PS, Cookstown	Ballysally PS, Coleraine
	Eden PS, Carrickfergus	Carniny PS, Ballymena	Derrychrin PS Coagh	Ballytober PS, Bushmills
	Fairview PS, Ballyclare	Creggan PS, Randalstown	Knockloughrim PS	Balnamore PS, Ballymoney
	Glengormley Integrated PS	Crumlin Integrated PS	St. Patrick's PS Glen, Maghera	Bunscoil an Chaistil, Ballycastle
	Greenisland PS	Duneane PS, Toome	Spires Integrated PS, Magherafelt	Carnalridge PS, Portrush
	Mallusk PS, Newtownabbey	Groggan PS, Randalstown	Portglenone PS	Castleroe PS, Coleraine
	Mossley PS, Newtownabbey	Kells & Connor PS, Kells	Queen Elizabeth II PS, Pomeroy	Cullycapple PS, Aghadowey
	Parkgate PS, Ballyclare	Loanends PS, Crumlin	St. Brigid's PS, Magherafelt	Dalriada Prep Dept, Ballymoney (closed June 2012)
	Straid PS, Ballyclare	Maine Integrated PS, Randalstown	St. Columba's PS, Straw, Draperstown	Glenann PS, Cushendall
	Tir na Nog PS, Ballyclare	Moneynick PS, Randalstown	St Mary's PS, Dunamore	Killowen PS, Coleraine
	Abbot's Cross PS, Newtownabbey	Parkhall PS, Antrim	St. Mary's PS, Greenlough	Landhead PS, Ballymoney
	Ashgrove PS, Glengormley	Randalstown Central PS	St. Mary's PS, Maghera	Millburn PS, Coleraine
	Carnlough Integrated PS, Carnlough	St. Comgall's PS, Antrim	St Mary's PS, Pomeroy	St. Columba's PS, Garvagh

	East Antrim	Ballymena/ Antrim	Mid-Ulster	Causeway
	The Thompson PS, Ballyrobert	St. Joseph's PS, Antrim	St Mary's PS, Portglenone	St. John's PS, Coleraine
	Woodburn PS, Carrickfergus	Ballymena PS, Ballymena	St Mary's PS, Stewartstown	St. John's PS, Swatragh
		Greystone PS, Antrim	St Patrick's PS, Ardboe	St Patrick's PS, Glenariff
		Rathenraw Integrated PS, Antrim	Woods PS, Ballyronan	Armoys PS
		Round Tower Integrated PS, Antrim	Anahorish PS	Crossroads PS, Kilrea
		St. Colmcille's PS, Ballymena	Ballylifford PS	Damhead PS, Coleraine
		St. Brigid's PS, Ballymena	Drumard PS	Eden PS, Ballymoney
			Millquarter PS	Kilrea PS
			Moortown PS	Millstrand Integrated PS, Portrush
			St. John's Bosco PS	Portrush PS
			St. Joseph's PS, Killeenan	Rasharkin PS
				St. Ann's PS, Corkey
				St. Brigid's PS, Ballymoney
				St. Patrick's PS, Portrush
	Total = 137			

APPENDIX 3**SCHOOLS RECEIVING MASTS SUPPORT 2012 – 2013**

	East Antrim	Ballymena/ Antrim	Mid-Ulster	Causeway
Nursery Schools	Ashgrove NS, Glengormley	Ballymena NS	Cookstown NS	Ballysally NS, Coleraine
	Ballyhenry NS, Glengormley	Dunclug NS, Ballymena	Magherafelt NS	Ballymoney NS

	East Antrim	Ballymena/ Antrim	Mid-Ulster	Causeway
	Monkstown NS	St. Joseph's NS, Antrim		Kylemore NS, Coleraine
	Mossley NS, Newtownabbey	Steeple NS, Antrim		
	Sunnylands NS, Carrickfergus			
	Ballyclare NS, Ballyclare			
Primary Schools with Nursery Units	Earlview PS, Newtownabbey	Ballykeel PS, Ballymena	Holy Trinity PS, Cookstown	Ballycastle Integrated PS
	Mossgrove PS, Glengormley	Braidside Integrated PS, Ballymena	Moneymore PS	Harpur's Hill PS, Coleraine
	Moyle PS, Larne	Broughshane PS	Orrritor PS, Cookstown	Irish Society PS, Coleraine
	Silverstream PS, Greenisland	Gracehill PS, Ballymena	St. Mary's PS, Bellaghy	St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's PS, Ballycastle
	St. James' PS, Newtownabbey	Harryville PS, Ballymena	St. Oliver Plunkett's PS, Toome	St. Patrick's PS, Loughgiel
	St. Bernard's PS, Glengormley	Mount St. Michael's PS, Randalstown	Cookstown PS, Cookstown	St. Patrick's PS, Rasharkin
	Victoria PS, Carrickfergus	St. Joseph's PS, Crumlin.	Holy Family PS, Magherafelt	St. Columba's PS, Kilrea
	Whitehouse PS, Newtownabbey	Templepatrick PS		
	Acorn Integrated PS, Carrickfergus	Buick Memorial PS, Cullybackey		
	Oakfield PS, Carrickfergus			
	Rathcoole PS, Newtownabbey			
Primary Schools	Ballynure PS	Antrim PS	Castledawson PS	Ballmoney Model PS
	Carrickfergus Central PS	Ballycraigy PS, Antrim	Creivagh PS, Cookstown	Ballysally PS, Coleraine
	Eden PS, Carrickfergus	Carniny PS, Ballymena	Derrychrin PS, Coagh	Ballytober PS, Bushmills

	East Antrim	Ballymena/ Antrim	Mid-Ulster	Causeway
	Fairview PS, Ballyclare	Creggan PS, Randalstown	Knockloughrim PS	Balnamore PS, Ballymoney
	Glengormley Integrated PS	Crumlin Integrated PS	St. Patrick's PS Glen, Maghera	Bunscoil an Chaistil, Ballycastle
	Greenisland PS	Duneane PS, Toome	Spires Integrated PS, Magherafelt	Carnalridge PS, Portrush (closed June 2013)
	Mallusk PS	Groggan PS, Randalstown	Portglenone PS	Castleroe PS, Coleraine
	Mossley PS, Newtownabbey	Kells & Connor PS, Kells	Queen Elizabeth II PS, Pomeroy	Cullycapple PS, Aghadowey
	Parkgate PS, Ballyclare	Loanends PS, Crumlin	St. Brigid's PS, Magherafelt	St. Ann's PS, Corkey
	Straid PS, Ballyclare	Maine Integrated PS, Randalstown	St. Columba's PS, Straw, Draperstown	Glenann PS, Cushendall
	Tir na Nog PS, Ballyclare	Moneynick PS, Randalstown	St Mary's PS, Dunamore	Killowen PS, Coleraine
	Abbot's Cross PS, Newtownabbey	Parkhall PS, Antrim	St. Mary's PS, Greenlough	Landhead PS, Ballymoney
	Ashgrove PS, Glengormley	Randalstown Central PS	St. Mary's PS, Maghera	Millburn PS, Coleraine
	Carnlough Integrated PS, Carnlough	St. Comgall's PS, Antrim	St Mary's PS, Pomeroy	St. Columba's PS, Garvagh
	The Thompson PS, Ballyrobert	St. Joseph's PS, Antrim	St Mary's PS, Portglenone	St. John's PS, Coleraine
	Mullaghdubh PS, Islandmagee	Ballymena PS, Ballymena	St Mary's PS, Stewartstown	St. John's PS, Swatragh
	Woodburn PS, Carrickfergus	Greystone PS, Antrim	St Patrick's PS, Ardboe	St Patrick's PS, Glenariff
		Rathenraw Integrated PS, Antrim	Woods PS, Ballyronan	Arroy PS
		Round Tower Integrated PS, Antrim	Anahorish PS	Crossroads PS, Kilrea
		St. Colmcille's PS, Ballymena	Ballylifford PS	Damhead PS, Coleraine

	East Antrim	Ballymena/ Antrim	Mid-Ulster	Causeway
		St. Brigid's PS, Ballymena	Drumard PS (closed June 2013)	Eden PS, Ballymoney
			Millquarter PS	Kilrea PS
			Moortown PS	Millstrand Integrated PS, Portrush
			St. John's Bosco PS	Portrush PS
			St. Joseph's PS, Killeenan	Rasharkin PS
			Gaelscoil Na Sperinni, Draperstown	Carhill Integrated PS
			Donaghey PS, Dungannon	St. Brigid's PS, Ballymoney
			Sacred Heart PS	St. Patrick's PS, Portrush
			Lissan PS	Barnish PS
			Maghera PS	St. Joseph's PS, Dunloy
				Macosquin PS
	Total = 148			

Emergency Department Patients at Causeway Hospital

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AWQ 32279/11-15, what steps have been taken to replicate the results at the Causeway Hospital in other hospitals.

(AQW 32797/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health and Social Care Board has been working with the Health and Social Care Trusts to improve emergency care performance. The Board's unscheduled care improvement team works with all Trusts to ensure that areas of best practice are shared across every hospital and that the 18 key actions that have been identified to improve patient flow are being implemented.

Causeway Hospital: Agency Locums

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what cost comparisons have been conducted on filling vacant positions at the mid to top range in the Causeway Hospital and the current cost of agency locums.

(AQW 32803/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Health and Social Care Trust has advised it has not carried out cost comparisons between filling vacant posts at the mid to top range of the salary scale and filling vacant posts by agency locum doctors in the Causeway Hospital. The Trust reports that the average monthly cost of agency locum doctors is £575k.

The Trust advises that there are a number of consultant vacancies at the Causeway site and these are at various stages in the recruitment process. The Trust has advertised these vacancies in various journals and papers throughout the UK and Ireland. It has also liaised with Global/MediRec, an English based recruitment agency, which recruits doctors from mainland Europe, but with limited success.

Pregnancy Miscarriages

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many pregnancy miscarriages were recorded in each Health and Social Care Trust in (i) 2009/10; (ii) 2010/11; (iii) 2011/12; and (iv) 2012/13.

(AQW 32804/11-15)

Mr Poots: The number of pregnancy miscarriages which required an admission to hospital, are given in the table below, by HSC Trust for each of the last four years.

HSC Trust	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Belfast	759	586	594	384
South Eastern	466	489	448	374
Northern	465	446	473	393
Southern	676	611	642	653
Western	526	492	464	490
Total	2,892	2,624	2,621	2,294

Source: Hospital Inpatient System

Note: The number of pregnancy miscarriages given includes ectopic pregnancies, hydatidiform moles, other abnormal products of conception and spontaneous abortions.

Women and Parents who have Lost a Child Through Miscarriage

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what support is provided in each Health and Social Care Trust to women and parents who have lost a child through miscarriage.

(AQW 32805/11-15)

Mr Poots: All women and their partners who experience the loss of a child at any gestation of pregnancy are supported initially by the midwifery staff and obstetric team responsible for care at the time of their loss. Further bereavement care and support is provided following discharge from hospital by the General Practitioner, Community Midwife and Health Visitor to whom the mother is referred for follow up care. Support is also provided in the form of Trust bereavement booklets containing advice and links to relevant support and counseling organisations such as the Miscarriage Association.

Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts work closely with SANDS, the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society, which provides memory boxes and information packs in Trust hospitals for all parents who have suffered stillbirth or neonatal death. There is a book of remembrance and an annual remembrance service for parents, families and friends bereaved of a baby or child.

All HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland have bereavement coordinators who work within Trusts to develop bereavement care, standards and training for all types of bereavement, including miscarriage, stillbirth and neonatal death. All midwives undergo bereavement training on how to support and care for grieving parents.

The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust is the only Trust with a dedicated bereavement support midwife.

Miscarriage

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what research is currently being undertaken on the issues of miscarriage and the causes of miscarriage.

(AQW 32806/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department provides support for research in health and social care (HSC)

through the regional HSC Research & Development Fund, managed through the Public Health Agency. Projects relevant to miscarriage funded recently include supporting doctoral fellowships in the prediction of pre-eclampsia in high risk pregnancies and the role of a placental enzyme in diabetic pre-eclampsia. The EUROCAT study is a major project, involving European surveillance of congenital abnormalities, coordinated from NI that attracts significant EU R&D funding.

Other research is underway in both NI universities, collaborating with HSC Trusts, with funding achieved from a range of sources, led by Professor Fiona Alderdice at Queen's and Professor Marlene Sinclair at The University of Ulster.

Obstetric Theatres

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list the hospitals which have a dedicated obstetric theatre; and whether there are any plans to provide such theatres in other hospitals.

(AQW 32822/11-15)

Mr Poots: Hospitals in Northern Ireland with dedicated Obstetric Theatres are given in the table below.

Hospital	Number of Obstetric Theatres
Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital	3
Antrim Area Hospital	2
Ulster Hospital	2
Craigavon Area Hospital	2
Daisy Hill Hospital	1
Altnagelvin Hospital	1

There are no current plans in any of the Trusts to add any further dedicated Obstetric Theatres, however it should be noted that at Altnagelvin there is an action plan in place to transfer to the Main Theatre should there be the need for a second theatre, and that South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen transfer women patients to their Main Theatre if and when required.

Ambulance Response Times

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the average ambulance response time in (i) Lurgan; (ii) Banbridge; and (iii) Portadown.

(AQW 32835/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department's current performance indicator for ambulance response times is that 72.5% of all Category A (life-threatening) calls are responded to within eight minutes, with no less than 67.5% in any Local Commissioning Group (LCG). Provisional information on the performance against this indicator is detailed in the table below for 2013/14.

PERCENTAGE OF CATEGORY A (LIFE THREATENING) CALLS RESPONDED TO WITHIN EIGHT MINUTES, BY LOCAL COMMISSIONING GROUP (APRIL 2013 – MARCH 2014)¹

LCG	Apr 2013	May 2013	Jun 2013	July 2013	Aug 2013	Sept 2013	Oct 2013	Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2014
Belfast	75.7%	83.0%	85.0%	83.9%	83.4%	85.9%	84.9%	83.3%	76.9%	78.8%	75.1%	78.7%
Northern	58.0%	58.8%	61.5%	56.6%	62.1%	62.6%	65.0%	61.4%	59.3%	58.2%	57.0%	58.4%
South Eastern	57.2%	66.3%	68.4%	64.1%	65.1%	61.4%	68.2%	62.4%	59.6%	58.6%	59.5%	57.9%
Southern	60.3%	62.6%	63.3%	65.7%	64.4%	63.9%	65.7%	65.7%	60.1%	60.8%	60.2%	60.5%
Western	64.0%	66.8%	66.4%	65.9%	66.1%	72.1%	71.5%	69.0%	62.9%	66.1%	65.7%	63.7%
Northern Ireland	63.8%	68.7%	69.8%	68.4%	69.3%	70.8%	72.1%	69.6%	64.7%	65.7%	64.3%	65.1%

¹ Information is provisional and may be subject to change.

Sarcomas Research

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been diagnosed with sarcoma in each of the last five years.

(AQW 32841/11-15)

Mr Poots: Latest information provided by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (NICR) on the number of sarcomas diagnosed in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years, is given in the table below:

Year of Diagnosis	Number of Sarcomas
2008	100
2009	96
2010	101
2011	105
2012	109
Total	511

Sarcoma Cancer: Research

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether any research is being carried out on sarcoma; and what funding is available for such research.

(AQW 32843/11-15)

Mr Poots: Health and Social Care (HSC) research is carried out in all Trusts, usually in association with universities. There are a great many sources of funding, including Government, charities and industry. This applies equally to cancer, and sarcoma in particular, as to other aspects of health or care. Critical factors that enable research are the necessary facilities and resources, including scientists and clinicians with specialist skills and experience. With the small scale of Northern Ireland, much research is undertaken in collaboration with other centres nationally and internationally.

Locally, our HSC R&D Fund, managed through the Public Health Agency, supports research that focusses on benefits for patients and the population. Funding is provided for the Northern Ireland Cancer Trials Centre (NICTC, in Belfast) and Network (involving all other Trusts). This enables Trusts to employ health care professionals with the skills and experience to deliver high quality clinical research for patients locally who have cancer.

The NICTC has enabled a number of clinical trials for adults and children with sarcoma. Three separate studies involving 21 patients have been completed since 2012, two trials for children with sarcoma are due to commence in Belfast in coming months and a further trial is in development. The results of such trials, undertaken locally or elsewhere, are published and presented at conferences so that findings can inform future practice.

Details on clinical trials in the UK are available on the UK Clinical Trials Gateway www.ukctg.nihr.ac.uk

Details on clinical trials across the globe are available on www.clinicaltrials.gov

Mileage Allowance Rate

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what assurances he can give that community health care workers will not be disadvantaged by the new mileage allowance rate; and whether he would consider lifting the rate for these workers.

(AQW 32856/11-15)

Mr Poots: The NHS/HSC has a responsibility to reimburse costs incurred by staff. The rates of reimbursement which came into effect on 1 July 2013 are £0.67 per mile for the first 3,500 business

miles and £0.24 per mile thereafter. These rates were negotiated nationally and apply to all health service staff who use their own vehicle to travel on official business. There is no scope within the agreement to lift the rate for a particular group of staff.

Test, Vaccinate or Remove Scheme

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what role his Department has had in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's test, vaccinate or remove scheme. **(AQW 32862/11-15)**

Mr Poots: Under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 ("the Act") my Department is responsible for licensing research that uses live animals. The Act regulates any experimental or other scientific procedure applied to a protected animal which may have the effect of causing that animal pain, distress or lasting harm. A protected animal is any living vertebrate, other than man, and any living cephalopod.

DARD has advised my Department about the proposed DARD research project entitled Test and Vaccinate or Remove (TVR). The aim of the TVR project is to describe the effects of implementing a TVR intervention on badgers in an area of high prevalence of bovine TB.

In preparation for DARD submitting the relevant licence applications its officials have been in regular contact with my officials to ensure they understand the licensing process and requirements that need to be met before a licence can be granted. My Department has granted DARD an establishment licence, and as my Department receives applications for project and personal licences for the proposed research project, the applications will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

I understand that the TVR proposal is a research project, not a scheme or a policy. My Department's functions under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 are concerned only with research; they do not extend to policies or schemes.

Northern Ireland Caries Prevention in Practice Trial

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the Northern Ireland Caries Prevention in Practice trial. **(AQW 32866/11-15)**

Mr Poots: The Northern Ireland Caries Prevention in Practice trial is a large research trial which is investigating the effectiveness, and cost effectiveness, of fluoride varnish applied by dental professionals in dental practices, to the teeth of children under the age of 5. The trial involves around 1250 children aged 2-4 and is following these children over a 3 year period to check if they develop dental decay. 88 dentists and 22 general dental practices across Northern Ireland are involved in the study. The trial measures how many children remain free of decay and the incidence of toothache and extractions in this group. The overall duration of the trial will be around 4 years, from the recruitment of patients at the start of the trial, to the evaluation and final report at the end. The trial is now more than half way through and the preliminary results are expected in autumn 2015.

This is the first time that such a trial has been undertaken in Western Europe and is a coup for Northern Ireland. Indeed it is the largest dental research trial ever undertaken in Northern Ireland. The trial has been largely funded by the National Institute of Health Research Health Technology Assessment Programme but I am pleased that my Department and the Northern Ireland Research and Development Office have been able to contribute to the funding of this very important research. If this trial shows that topical fluorides in dental practice are both clinically effective and cost effective, there will be the potential to dramatically reduce the rates of dental decay in our population.

Northern Ireland Caries Prevention in Practice Trial

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the outcome of the Northern Ireland Caries Prevention in Practice trial will determine his plans on continuing with the fluoridation of water.

(AQW 32869/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Ireland Caries Prevention in Practice trial is a large research trial which involves around 1250 children aged 2-4 over a 3 year period to determine how effective the application of Fluoride varnish in a dental practice setting is at reducing dental decay. Preliminary results are expected in Autumn 2015.

Water fluoridation supplements naturally occurring fluoride levels to improve the dental health of the entire population. None of the water supplies in Northern Ireland currently receives supplementary fluoride.

The outcome of Northern Ireland Caries Prevention in Practice trial will not directly affect my ongoing consideration of water fluoridation but, along with other mechanisms to deliver Fluoride to prevent dental decay, will be considered to inform the strategic direction taken by my Department to improve the oral health of the people of Northern Ireland. If a proposal to fluoridate the water supplies was to be made, the appropriate evidence from reputable scientific and medical sources will be considered, and we are required, under The Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 to consult, and ascertain, public opinion.

Domestic Violence

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consideration is being given to increasing support for the victims of domestic violence through support workers in Emergency Departments.

(AQW 32882/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Department is working with the South Eastern and Western Health and Social Care Trusts to put in place a pilot to train doctors, nurses and radiographers in accident and emergency departments to recognise, respond to and report on incidents of domestic violence. Victims will be provided with appropriate care pathways, information and advice.

Parking: Royal Victoria Hospital

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the estimated cost to (i) the Health Service; and (ii) patients of a patient missing an appointment at the Royal Victoria Hospital where difficulty in finding a parking space was a contributory factor; and what action he is taking to ensure sufficient parking at the hospital.

(AQW 32900/11-15)

Mr Poots: The cost to the Health Service and patients of missed medical appointments is not readily available and can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Although not a common problem; on occasion when patients arrive late at a Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) appointment and cite difficulty in parking as a reason, it is not customary to turn them away from their appointment. Instead, they are fitted in at the end of a clinic.

The Belfast Trust is in the process of developing a business case to provide a long-term, sustainable; affordable and accessible car parking solution for patients, staff and visitors for the Royal Victoria Hospital site. This will be subject to business case approval and availability of funding.

The Trust has also introduced a number of interim measures in order to alleviate the current pressures on car parking spaces on the RVH site; including an additional temporary 300 space car park at Broadway Towers; the release of an additional 60 spaces in the main visitor's car park, and the recovery of spaces from private car park provider Car Park Services (CPS) across the site.

Alcohol and Drugs Commissioning Framework for Northern Ireland

Ms P Bradley asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the Alcohol and Drugs Commissioning Framework for Northern Ireland 2013-2016 will be published.

(AQW 32901/11-15)

Mr Poots: Under the cross-Departmental strategy to prevent and address the harm related to substance misuse, known as the New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2, the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) were tasked with developing a regional commissioning framework for alcohol and drug services in Northern Ireland.

This framework was published for consultation in March 2013 (<http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Drug%20and%20Alcohol%20Commissioning%20Framework%20Consultation%20Document.pdf>). 52 organisations responded to the consultation which closed in April 2013.

Subsequently the PHA and the HSCB published an analysis of, and a response to, the consultation in July 2013 (<http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Drug%20and%20Alcohol%20Commissioning%20Framework%20Consultation%20Document.pdf>).

Since this time the PHA and HSCB have focused on the development and implementation of a procurement plan to tender for a range of services to the key priorities outlined in the framework. The PHA and HSCB anticipate that the finalised framework will be published once this procurement plan has been completed.

Structured Brief Advice for Alcohol

Ms P Bradley asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the delivery of Structured Brief Advice for Alcohol within primary care is a clinical priority for the Health and Social Care Board.

(AQW 32902/11-15)

Mr Poots: The efficacy of, and evidence base for, screening and brief interventions for alcohol misuse is recognised in our cross-Departmental Strategy to prevent and address the harm related to substance misuse – known as the New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2. Therefore, since 2012/13 my Department has set the delivery of screening and brief interventions in primary care as a clinical priority for Health and Social Care. I anticipate that this will continue in the 2014/15 financial year.

Alcohol Screening and Intervention Treatment within Primary Care

Ms P Bradley asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the Health and Social Care Board and Public Health Agency plan to roll out alcohol screening and brief intervention treatment within primary care, as outlined in their draft Alcohol and Drugs Commissioning Framework 2013-2016.

(AQW 32903/11-15)

Mr Poots: The delivery of screening and brief interventions in primary care has been a clinical priority for Health and Social Care since 2012/13. This clinical priority has allowed the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) to enter into arrangements with any primary medical services contractor to provide structured brief advice. The Brief Intervention clinical priority is designed to support standard eight of the Cardiovascular Services Framework and the implementation of the NSD Phase 2.

In 2013/14, 210 GPs in Northern Ireland signed up to the Regionally Enhanced Service (RES) under the clinical priority, and over 40,000 patients were screened for their alcohol use. I anticipate that the clinical priority will continue in 2014/15.

Through the commissioning plan direction, I have also set a priority around the development and commissioning of a substance misuse liaison service in acute hospitals across Northern Ireland. This would help build the capacity to provide screening and brief intervention in these settings.

Serious Advance Incidents

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to elderly people attending Emergency Departments, how many Serious Advance Incidents have been notified at each hospital in each of the last three years.

(AQW 32917/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of Serious Adverse Incidents cannot be provided by hospital because in some cases the numbers are so small (i.e. less than five). The Department will not publish numbers less than five in order to protect patient confidentiality.

Emergency Services: Complaints

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many complaints have been received in relation to Emergency services at each hospital in the last twelve months.

(AQW 32918/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of complaints received in relation to emergency care services at each hospital in the last twelve months is not collected by the Department and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Ban on Smoking in Cars

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he is aware that a recent opinion poll indicated that 82 per cent of the public support a ban on smoking in cars carrying children.

(AQW 32925/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am aware of the opinion poll, commissioned by Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke, which indicated considerable support for legislation restricting smoking in cars carrying children. At present, my Department is engaged in a substantial programme of legislative change with regards to tobacco control. This includes consideration of the introduction of standardised packaging, commencing regulations introducing tougher penalties for tobacco retailers who flout age of sale law, and restricting the sale of electronic cigarettes to persons aged 18 and over.

My intention is to focus on these issues at present. In the meantime, I will monitor developments on smoking restrictions in private vehicles in other parts of the UK, as they may have an impact on my plans for similar legislation in Northern Ireland in the future.

Ban on Smoking in Cars

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what progress has been made in drafting legislation to ban smoking in cars carrying children.

(AQW 32926/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department has been engaged in a substantial programme of legislative change with regards to tobacco control, including measures around the introduction of standardised packaging, as well as the progression of the Tobacco Retailers Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 through the Assembly. These issues are still current, with work ongoing to commence provisions of the Tobacco Retailers Act, and a further consultation planned on draft regulations for standardised packaging. I also have plans to introduce legislation later this year aimed at restricting the age of sale for electronic cigarettes to persons under the age of 18.

Given the extent of the current legislative programme, my intention is to focus on these issues at present. In the meantime, I will monitor developments on smoking restrictions in private vehicles in other parts of the UK, as they may have an impact on my plans for similar legislation in Northern Ireland in the future.

Sarcoma Cancer

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many cases of sarcoma cancer have been diagnosed in each of the five years.

(AQW 32927/11-15)

Mr Poots: I refer the member to AQW 32841/11-15 on the number of people who have been diagnosed with sarcoma in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years.

Sarcoma Cancer

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the current rates of awareness of sarcoma cancer; and to detail how he will seek to increase awareness.

(AQW 32928/11-15)

Mr Poots: Sarcomas are very rare cancers of the bones or soft tissues, with around 100 people per year diagnosed in Northern Ireland.

The Public Health Agency (PHA) is taking forward work to establish a baseline of the levels of knowledge and awareness of cancer amongst the population. The PHA is also hosting a stakeholder workshop on 8 May 2014 to ensure that key individuals and organisations are fully engaged in planning and supporting the cancer awareness programme. This work is essential in order to develop a cancer awareness campaign that is evidence-based and appropriate to the needs of the public in Northern Ireland. It is expected this work will be finalised by September or October with commencement of the campaign shortly thereafter.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guideline CG27: "Referral for suspected cancer" includes bone and soft tissue sarcomas and forms the basis for red flag referrals by GPs, helping to improve awareness amongst doctors of those symptoms which may be due to sarcoma which need urgent investigation.

Sarcoma Cancer: Research

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what research is (i) currently being conducted; and (ii) planned into the causes and potential treatments of sarcoma cancer.

(AQW 32929/11-15)

Mr Poots: Health and Social Care (HSC) research is carried out in all Trusts, usually in association with universities. There are a great many sources of funding, including Government, charities and industry. This applies equally to cancer, and sarcoma in particular, as to other aspects of health or care. With the small scale of Northern Ireland, much research is undertaken in collaboration with other centres nationally and internationally.

Locally, our HSC R&D Fund, managed through the Public Health Agency, supports research that focusses on benefits for patients and the population. Funding is provided for the Northern Ireland Cancer Trials Centre (NICTC, in Belfast) and Network (involving all other Trusts). This enables Trusts to employ health care professionals with the skills and experience to deliver high quality clinical research for patients locally who have cancer.

The NICTC has enabled a number of clinical trials for adults and children with sarcoma. Three separate studies involving 21 patients have been completed since 2012, two trials for children with sarcoma are due to commence in Belfast in coming months and a further trial is in development. The results of such trials, undertaken locally or elsewhere, are published and presented at conferences so that findings can inform future practice.

Details on clinical trials in the UK are available on the UK Clinical Trials Gateway www.ukctg.nihr.ac.uk

Details on clinical trials across the globe are available on www.clinicaltrials.gov

Budget and Actual Spending

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the budget; and (ii) the actual spending in each Health and Social Care Trust in 2013/14.

(AQW 32932/11-15)

Mr Poots: The table below shows the budget and expenditure for each Health and Social Care Trust during the 2013/14 financial year. The figures for March 2014 are not yet available - the year to date budget and expenditure as at the end of February 2014 has therefore been presented:

Trust	Budget to February 2014 £'000	Expenditure to February 2014 £'000
Belfast	1,036,837	1,037,856
Northern	522,514	529,796
Southern	464,914	470,613
South Eastern	458,026	463,246
Western	456,358	459,644
NIAS	54,055	54,046

Support for Victims of Domestic Abuse

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the current policy in providing support for victims of domestic abuse; and whether he will consider a similar programme to the Victim Support initiative in England which places support workers for victims of domestic violence in Emergency Department settings.

(AQW 32933/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Department's 'Tackling Violence at Home' Strategy and associated Action Plans outline the policy in providing support for victims of domestic. Along with the Department of Justice my Department is currently developing a new joint Strategy on Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse.

This new Strategy will respond to the needs of all victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence and abuse, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic circumstances or disability of the individual(s). At its core is a vision of zero tolerance to domestic and sexual violence and abuse in our society. Support is one of the strands of the Strategy and this will allow us to build on the current successes achieved in this area.

The Department is working with the South Eastern and Western Health and Social Care Trusts to put in place a pilot to train doctors, nurses and radiographers in accident and emergency departments to recognise, respond to and report on incidents of domestic violence. Victims will be provided with appropriate care pathways, information and advice.

Awareness of Ovarian Cancer

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what strategies are being pursued to raise awareness of ovarian cancer.

(AQW 32983/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Public Health Agency (PHA) is developing a programme aimed at improving the awareness of cancer in our population. As part of that programme the PHA will include specific messages about ovarian cancer. The PHA is hosting a stakeholder workshop on 8th May 2014 to ensure that key individuals and organisations, including the ovarian cancer charities, are fully engaged in planning and supporting the cancer awareness programme.

In addition and to move things forward to improve awareness of ovarian cancer, the PHA plans to initiate an awareness raising programme over the coming weeks. The programme will comprise of a targeted distribution of leaflets and posters, possibly supplemented by a platform piece to be included in local newspaper publications.

In addition the Public Health Agency has also been working closely with the Health and Social Care Board to provide information for primary care practitioners, including information on the appropriate investigations to be undertaken with women whose signs and symptoms are suggestive of ovarian cancer.

Ulster Hospital: Serious Adverse Incidents

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many Serious Adverse Incidents have occurred in the Ulster Hospital in each of the last ten years, broken down by the nature of the incident; and whether in any case the Health and Social Care Trust's response was below standard and resulted in the death of patients.

(AQW 32999/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of SAIs cannot be provided by hospital because in some cases the numbers are so small (i.e. less than five). The Department will not publish numbers less than five in order to protect patient confidentiality.

Department of Justice

Coroner's Officers

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice why there are no Coroner's Officers to support the Coroner in Northern Ireland, as in England and Wales; and for his assessment of the need for this support.

(AQW 32509/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): In Northern Ireland the role of Coroner's Officer is discharged by police officers. A police officer called to attend the scene of a death acts as the Coroner's officer for the purpose of gathering evidence to assist the Coroner's investigation. There are no plans to change this arrangement.

Vacancies and Agency Staff

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Justice to detail the (i) vacancies; and (ii) agency staff in his Department, broken down by grade.

(AQW 32517/11-15)

Mr Ford: As at 1 April 2014 the number of vacancies and agency staff in the Department of Justice is provided in the table below.

Grade	Number Vacancies at 1 April 2014	Number of Agency Workers at 1 April 2014
Non General Service Staff	2	16
Administrative Assistant		4
Administrative Officer		21
Executive Officer II	2	
Executive Officer I	2	
Staff Officer	3	
Deputy Principal		

Grade	Number Vacancies at 1 April 2014	Number of Agency Workers at 1 April 2014
Grade 7		1
Grade 6		1
SCS (Specialist)		
SCS (General Service)		
Total:	9	43

On-the-runs

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice when he became aware of the issue of the names identified for on-the-run letters by the Prison Service as recently referred to by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

(AQW 32544/11-15)

Mr Ford: I became aware of this issue on the evening of Wednesday 26 February 2014 during a meeting with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Supplier of Drug Tests for the Northern Ireland Prison Service

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the contract term with the current supplier of drug tests for the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

(AQW 32575/11-15)

Mr Ford: The current contract term will expire on 31 August 2014.

Domestic Abuse Cases

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of domestic abuse cases recorded in each council area, broken down by gender, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 32606/11-15)

Mr Ford: Information on the number of domestic abuse cases before the courts is not available. Court records do not contain background information in relation to offences committed and it is therefore not possible to identify cases relating to offences with domestic abuse factors from other types of assault.

A wider range of information on the incidence and impact of domestic violence is however available from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey at

<http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications/northern-ireland-crime-survey-s-r.htm>

and from PSNI statistics at

http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_domestic_and_hate_motivation_statistics.htm.

Rural Crime

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the increase in rural crime, particularly tractor thefts; and what additional strategies are being pursued to combat this crime.

(AQW 32635/11-15)

Mr Ford: Police Service for Northern Ireland statistics show that the number of burglary, robbery and theft offences in rural areas has fallen in each financial year since 2010/11, with 957 fewer offences

when comparing 2013 with 2012. The figures also indicate that while there had been a similar downward trend in agricultural related incidents, which would include tractor thefts, during 2013 there was a slight increase of 34 offences when comparing 2013 with 2012.

At a strategic level, the Rural Crime Unit – a partnership between the PSNI, NFU Mutual, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and my Department – is currently working towards achieving a reduction in agricultural crime.

The Unit provides a dedicated resource to identify trends and patterns in rural crime to assist District Commanders in developing their local strategies for addressing rural and agricultural crime and in targeting their resources and initiatives accordingly.

In December 2013 the Rural Crime Unit announced an initiative to provide a subsidy to farmers in policing districts E and F, where higher levels of crime relating to agricultural-based activity were identified. This subsidy was designed to encourage farmers to fit security equipment to farm machinery to combat thefts.

I understand that NFU Mutual, who jointly funded this initiative, has estimated that over £1.7 million worth of machinery has been protected as a result of this initiative.

Consideration is currently being given to the roll out of further initiatives where appropriate.

At a local level, Policing and Community Safety Partnerships in rural areas have, where appropriate, developed tailored solutions to address rural crime more widely. Actions being delivered include Farm Watch schemes, trailer marking, 4 Tier Security schemes, CCTV schemes and Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

Dungannon Magistrates Court: Unpaid fines

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, of the 1,808 unpaid fines totalling £425,106 between 2009 and 2013 at Dungannon Magistrates Court, how many cases benefited from Legal Aid. **(AQW 32647/11-15)**

Mr Ford: The 1,808 fines imposed at Dungannon Magistrates' Court between 2009 and 2013 which remain unpaid were imposed in 1,256 cases, 358 of which had legal aid.

A Divisional Court judgment held that defendants should have a default hearing before the court makes whatever order it considers appropriate to deal with an unpaid fine.

On 17 February 2014, Magistrates' Courts Rules were created to give effect to the new arrangements and the resources required to implement these are currently being considered. In the meantime, the judiciary are reviewing all outstanding fine default warrants. Following default proceedings, a fine default warrant will issue for execution by the PSNI. The execution of warrants is an operational matter for the Chief Constable.

The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service continues to operate a fine collection service to secure fine payment without further court or enforcement action.

It is my intention to bring forward legislation during the current Assembly mandate to establish a new fine collection and enforcement service which will increase the range of collection and enforcement options.

The number of magistrates' court fines remaining unpaid broken down by County Court Division is set out in Table A.

TABLE A

Division/Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Antrim	432	433	763	1,591	2,306	5,525
Ards	227	324	666	1,244	2,171	4,632
Armagh and South Down	167	210	476	1,231	1,879	3,963
Belfast	1,216	1,524	2,463	4,832	6,252	16,287
Craigavon	271	343	507	1,212	1,919	4,252
Fermanagh and Tyrone	391	359	508	1,468	2,521	5,247
Londonderry	436	396	505	1,560	2,755	5,652
Grand Total	3,140	3,589	5,888	13,138	19,803	45,558

The total amount of magistrates' court fines remaining unpaid broken down by County Court Division is set out in Table B.

TABLE B

Division/Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Antrim	104,390.20	110,331.88	175,213.57	297,079.37	443,785.80	1,130,800.82
Ards	38,932.66	41,814.85	113,602.41	201,398.81	393,488.73	789,237.46
Armagh and South Down	30,022.10	66,653.66	90,603.13	255,427.00	355,591.06	798,296.95
Belfast	180,037.41	249,782.49	413,239.20	1,106,273.60	1,197,616.72	3,146,949.42
Craigavon	56,820.29	86,943.30	93,659.13	222,849.54	320,746.28	781,018.54
Fermanagh and Tyrone	82,190.71	102,963.82	113,811.96	295,267.94	508,210.33	1,102,444.76
Londonderry	96,801.10	101,610.25	92,754.55	326,929.46	722,776.22	1,340,871.58
Grand Total	589,194.47	760,100.25	1,092,883.95	2,705,225.72	3,942,215.14	9,089,619.53

Dungannon Magistrates Court: Unpaid fines

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice what action he will take in relation to the 1,808 unpaid fines totalling £425,106 at Dungannon Magistrates Court.

(AQW 32649/11-15)

Mr Ford: The 1,808 fines imposed at Dungannon Magistrates' Court between 2009 and 2013 which remain unpaid were imposed in 1,256 cases, 358 of which had legal aid.

A Divisional Court judgment held that defendants should have a default hearing before the court makes whatever order it considers appropriate to deal with an unpaid fine.

On 17 February 2014, Magistrates' Courts Rules were created to give effect to the new arrangements and the resources required to implement these are currently being considered. In the meantime, the judiciary are reviewing all outstanding fine default warrants. Following default proceedings, a fine default warrant will issue for execution by the PSNI. The execution of warrants is an operational matter for the Chief Constable.

The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service continues to operate a fine collection service to secure fine payment without further court or enforcement action.

It is my intention to bring forward legislation during the current Assembly mandate to establish a new fine collection and enforcement service which will increase the range of collection and enforcement options.

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Londonderry	96,801.10	101,610.25	92,754.55	326,929.46	722,776.22	1,340,871.58
Grand Total	589,194.47	760,100.25	1,092,883.95	2,705,225.72	3,942,215.14	9,089,619.53

Dungannon Magistrates Court: Unpaid fines

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of Magistrates Court fines that remain unpaid; and (ii) the combined total outstanding from 2009 to 2013 broken down by court division.

(AQW 32650/11-15)

Mr Ford: The 1,808 fines imposed at Dungannon Magistrates' Court between 2009 and 2013 which remain unpaid were imposed in 1,256 cases, 358 of which had legal aid.

A Divisional Court judgment held that defendants should have a default hearing before the court makes whatever order it considers appropriate to deal with an unpaid fine.

On 17 February 2014, Magistrates' Courts Rules were created to give effect to the new arrangements and the resources required to implement these are currently being considered. In the meantime, the judiciary are reviewing all outstanding fine default warrants. Following default proceedings, a fine default warrant will issue for execution by the PSNI. The execution of warrants is an operational matter for the Chief Constable.

The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service continues to operate a fine collection service to secure fine payment without further court or enforcement action.

It is my intention to bring forward legislation during the current Assembly mandate to establish a new fine collection and enforcement service which will increase the range of collection and enforcement options.

The number of magistrates' court fines remaining unpaid broken down by County Court Division is set out in Table A.

TABLE A

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Antrim	432	433	763	1,591	2,306	5,525
Ards	227	324	666	1,244	2,171	4,632
Armagh and South Down	167	210	476	1,231	1,879	3,963
Belfast	1,216	1,524	2,463	4,832	6,252	16,287
Craigavon	271	343	507	1,212	1,919	4,252
Fermanagh and Tyrone	391	359	508	1,468	2,521	5,247
Londonderry	436	396	505	1,560	2,755	5,652
Grand Total	3,140	3,589	5,888	13,138	19,803	45,558

The total amount of magistrates' court fines remaining unpaid broken down by County Court Division is set out in Table B.

TABLE B

Division/Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Antrim	104,390.20	110,331.88	175,213.57	297,079.37	443,785.80	1,130,800.82
Ards	38,932.66	41,814.85	113,602.41	201,398.81	393,488.73	789,237.46
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Fermanagh and Tyrone	82,190.71	102,963.82	113,811.96	295,267.94	508,210.33	1,102,444.76
Londonderry	96,801.10	101,610.25	92,754.55	326,929.46	722,776.22	1,340,871.58
Grand Total	589,194.47	760,100.25	1,092,883.95	2,705,225.72	3,942,215.14	9,089,619.53

Matrix 2000

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether Matrix 2000, also known as Structured Anchored Clinical Judgement, continues to be used to carry out risk assessments on sex offenders; and if so, to detail (i) whether the same system was used to monitor Trevor Hamilton or have any adjustments been made; and (ii) to provide a copy.

(AQW 32673/11-15)

Mr Ford: Matrix 2000 is a risk assessment completed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and further information about its use should be requested from the Chief Constable. It is an initial static assessment conducted by police in advance of a more detailed risk assessment undertaken by the Designated Risk Manager under the multi-agency public protection arrangements (PPANI). The agencies involved in the assessment and monitoring of sex offenders under the PPANI arrangements utilise different dynamic assessment tools specific to assessing the risks posed by convicted sex offenders.

Unpaid Court Fines

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the total (i) number; and (ii) cost of court fines handed down at Crown Court which remain unpaid from 2009 to 2013, broken down by court division.

(AQW 32674/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are 394 fines imposed at the Crown Court between 2009 and 2013 which remain unpaid totalling £5,143,230.71.

The number of Crown Court fines which remain unpaid broken down by County Court Division are set out in Table A.

TABLE A

Division/Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Antrim	9	7	7	16	18	57
Ards	1	2	8	8	35	54
Armagh and South Down	3	4	9	14	26	56
Belfast	13	7	16	17	49	102
Craigavon	3	3	2	7	22	37
Fermanagh and Tyrone	3	7	5	18	24	57
Londonderry	1		4	12	14	31
Grand Total	33	30	51	92	188	394

The total amount of Crown Court fines which remain unpaid broken down by County Court Division are set out in Table B.

TABLE B

Division/Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Antrim	42,585.00	88,915.30	36,501.30	155,129.92	58,440.75	381,572.27
Ards	510.00	100.00	49,684.00	24,737.13	402,815.69	477,846.82
Armagh and South Down	2,674.94	280.00	20,118.65	20,620.00	101,503.93	145,197.52
Belfast	12,930.00	1,331,357.95	782,227.80	161,186.58	753,719.69	3,041,422.02
Craigavon	10,151.82	7,310.00	1,937.00	4,190.00	294,188.30	317,777.12
Fermanagh and Tyrone	22,180.00	171,560.29	88,204.44	299,076.00	78,259.40	659,280.13
Londonderry	49,966.16		10,000.00	55,670.50	4,498.17	120,134.83
Grand Total	140,997.92	1,599,523.54	988,673.19	720,610.13	1,693,425.93	5,143,230.71

Governor of Hydebank Wood: Expenses

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 32091/11-15, whether these expenses cover accommodation and travel, particularly air travel.

(AQW 32676/11-15)

Mr Ford: In accordance with the NICS HR Handbook, staff are entitled to receive payment for the extra costs incurred when they are away from home on official duty. These include subsistence for the first 30 days, the provision of accommodation, payment of utility bills, air fares, and transport to and from the airport.

Assets Recovery Community Scheme

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the total finance currently available within the Assets Recovery Community Scheme; and (ii) the groups that have been supported since 2011, including the total funding provided to each group.

(AQW 32712/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Assets Recovery Community Scheme (ARCS) runs within financial years. We are at the start of a funding period and no income has been received by the Department this year.

There have been four rounds of ARCS funding – the lists of successful projects and the amounts awarded are available on the Departmental website at:

<http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/publications/publication-categories/pubs-policing-community-safety/community-safety/organised-crime.htm>

Prosecutions not Proceeding on the Public Interest

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the large number of prosecutions not proceeding each year based on the public interest; and what enquiries he has made as to how the power to make these decisions is being exercised.

(AQW 32728/11-15)

Mr Ford: The latest Quarterly Statistical Bulletin published by the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) in February states that in the 9 months from April 2013 to December 2013 5% of “no prosecution” decisions issued by the PPS were on the grounds of public interest.

The decision not to prosecute on the grounds of public interest is entirely a matter for the PPS and it would not be appropriate for me as Justice Minister to comment.

I would however refer the member to the Code for Prosecutors, which is available on the PPS website which sets out the various factors that a prosecutor may consider when applying the public interest test.

Northern Ireland Law Commission

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to outline the current position in regard to the composition of the Northern Ireland Law Commission, including (i) when it last had a Chair; and (ii) how many members of the Commission are currently in post.

(AQW 32730/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Law Commission consists of a Chairman and four other Commissioners in accordance with section 50(2) of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002. The post of Chairman has been vacant since 1 October 2012 and one Commissioner is currently in post. The Chair and Commissioners are public appointments, and I determined that the vacancies should not be filled until a review of the Commission had been undertaken and decisions taken in relation to the Commission's future.

Northern Ireland Law Commission: Budget

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to detail the current budget of the Northern Ireland Law Commission; and how it is spent.

(AQW 32731/11-15)

Mr Ford: The budget allocation for of the Northern Ireland Law Commission in 2013/2014 was £952,000 of which staff costs accounted for £705,000 and non-staff costs £247,000. The final year outturn figures are not yet available.

Hunter Review into the Northern Ireland Law Commission

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice when the Hunter Review into the Northern Ireland Law Commission was received; and when he will announce his response.

(AQW 32732/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Hunter Review into the Northern Ireland Law Commission was received on 20 December 2012. A business case following a full examination of a number of options was signed off recently and I would hope to be in a position to agree the way forward shortly, after which an announcement will be made.

Management of Sex Offenders in the Community

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice what legislative changes or guidance on the management of sex offenders in the community and during prison sentences post conviction, have been introduced as a result of the Serious Case Review into Trevor Hamilton.

(AQW 32756/11-15)

Mr Ford: The issues the Hamilton case raised informed the ongoing development of provisions in the Criminal Justice Order (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 which introduced new statutory arrangements for the more effective assessment and management of risk posed by offenders who may cause serious harm to the public.

The 2008 Order created a new sentencing framework which introduced extended and indeterminate custodial sentences for those convicted of serious sexual and violent offences, bringing an end to 50% remission for those serving sentences of 12 months or more. It places a statutory duty on designated agencies to cooperate in the interests of better assessment and management of such offenders and provides for guidance to be issued to agencies on the discharge of any of their functions which contribute to risk management. Guidance was first published in October 2008 creating the framework for the public protection arrangements in Northern Ireland (PPANI). The guidance was subsequently updated in September 2011 and is available on the Department's website.

For offenders who have served the requisite custodial period of their extended and indeterminate custodial sentences, the 2008 Order also provides that their suitability for release must be determined by independent Parole Commissioners. It is only where the Parole Commissioners are satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public from serious harm, that they can be released on licence. The licence conditions are tailored to their risk management requirements and there is statutory provision for recall to custody if it is assessed there is an increased risk of serious harm to the public which can not be safely managed in the community.

The subsequent introduction of the Criminal Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 has strengthened the sex offender notification requirements and further regulations in relation to these are currently before the Assembly.

Benefit Appeals

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he plans to introduce a code of conduct or protocol to be observed by tribunal panel members in benefit appeals, to ensure that advocates and appellants in particular, are treated in a respectful and dignified manner and in addition, to ensure

that an appropriate complaints procedure is drawn up, published, available and accessible, as per the requirements of all government-funded agencies.

(AQW 32757/11-15)

Mr Ford: Appeal tribunal panel members are judicial office holders and independent of Government. The conduct of judicial officer holders is governed by a Code of Practice issued by the Lord Chief Justice. Complaints regarding the conduct of panel members are dealt with by the President of Appeal Tribunals.

Governor of Hydebank Wood: Expenses

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 32091/11-15, whether the place of secondment paid or shared any of the expenses.

(AQW 32758/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service is meeting the associated expenses and salary for the duration of the secondment.

Animal Cruelty Legislation

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice, following the Motion passed by the Assembly on 31 March 2014 calling for a review of the implementation of animal cruelty legislation, to outline the steps his Department will now take.

(AQW 32770/11-15)

Mr Ford: The same question has been asked of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. I understand she has given a commitment to review the implementation of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 along with my Department. My officials will support that review as required.

Offences under the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 will also be considered in the review of the criteria for sentences that can be referred to the Court of Appeal on the grounds of undue leniency.

Occupational Health Services

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Justice what action his Department is taking to offer comprehensive occupational health services to its employees, including early access to services such as physiotherapy.

(AQW 32773/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Civil Service Occupational Health Service (OHS) provides a comprehensive occupational health service to all of the NICS Departments and this is available to all employees.

In general the NICS does not provide early access to physiotherapy services. Further details of OHS services can be found at www.nicsohs.gov.uk.

However, two of the Department's Agencies do provide additional occupational health services which would include access to services such as physiotherapy.

Serious Case Reviews

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to outline the reasons for the disparity in content between the Serious Case Review conducted into Trevor Hamilton, and those conducted by the Public Protection Arrangements in Northern Ireland into Barry Shay Johnston and Thomas Ward; and whether the latter two cases have been afforded lesser status, despite the seriousness of the convictions whilst undergoing community monitoring and management.

(AQW 32781/11-15)

Mr Ford: A Serious Case Review is initiated where an individual whose risks are being managed under the public protection arrangements is charged with a serious sexual or violent offence or a significant failure occurs in their risk management. In the case of Trevor Hamilton the offence was murder and there was widespread public revulsion at his actions and concern relating to the long standing arrangements for 50% remission of sentence.

The report of that independent review in 2006 was intended to assist the examination of the overall arrangements for the management of sex offenders and inform a wider debate on changes to the sentencing framework. The Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 subsequently introduced public protection sentences with mandatory post-release supervision and provisions which shaped the current multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements for Northern Ireland (PPANI) in place today.

The Serious Case Reviews on Barry Johnston and Thomas Ward were both initiated following further serious offences and thoroughly examined the issues surrounding their commission. Those reports were used to review and, where necessary, improve current practice under the existing PPANI arrangements.

Governor of Hydebank Wood: Expenses

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, whilst on secondment, was the salary of the former Governor of Hydebank Wood met by the secondment host or the Northern Ireland Prison Service. **(AQW 32782/11-15)**

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service is meeting the associated expenses and salary for the duration of the secondment.

Victim Support

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in light of his Department's support for Victim Support, for his assessment of the importance of having a support worker available for victims of domestic abuse. **(AQW 32789/11-15)**

Mr Ford: The support services provided by Victim Support Northern Ireland, which my Department presently funds, are available to all victims of crime, including victims of domestic violence.

The member will be aware of the consultation, which ended on 11 April 2014, on the new draft domestic and sexual violence and abuse strategy. Feedback from the consultation will help to inform the strategic priorities for addressing these issues. The Regional Strategy Group for domestic and sexual violence will consider the feedback with a view to recommending which priorities should be taken forward. A key element of these considerations and the forthcoming strategy will be how support services can best be provided in the future, in order to meet the needs of domestic violence and abuse victims.

RUC George Cross Widows' Association

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice why he has not responded to a meeting request from the RUC George Cross Widows' Association in November 2013 to discuss the withdrawal of their funding. **(AQW 32795/11-15)**

Mr Ford: I did not receive a request for a meeting in November 2013 to discuss the withdrawal of funding from the RUC George Cross Widows' Association. My officials held several meetings with the Association between November 2013 and January 2014 to discuss the development of a grant application for funding. To date, my Department has not received a final grant application.

RUC George Cross Widows' Association

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 32077/11-15, why funding has not been offered to the RUC George Cross Widows' Association to assist with the hiatus created by the termination of their promised funding of four years.

(AQW 32796/11-15)

Mr Ford: Following the reclassification of the RUC George Cross Widow's Association as a private sector organisation in February 2013 by the Department of Finance and Personnel's Classification Assessment Committee, the only mechanism available to my Department to provide funding to the Association would be via the grant application process.

My officials have met with representatives of the Association on several occasions to discuss funding options but, to date, no final grant application has been received.

Northern Ireland Law Commission

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to outline the ongoing arrangements in regard to the administration of the Northern Ireland Law Commission.

(AQW 32798/11-15)

Mr Ford: Administration of the Northern Ireland Law Commission (NILC) is the responsibility of the Commissioner and the Chief Executive. The Department of Justice has a sponsorship role. The various roles and responsibilities are outlined in the Relationship Document which may be obtained from the NILC website.

Television Licence Fee

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice how many people per 10,000 of the population were prosecuted for non-payment of the television licence fee in each of the last three years.

(AQW 32799/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below sets out the number of people per 10,000 of the population prosecuted in court for non-payment of the television licence fee and the number of people who served a period of imprisonment for failure to pay a fine after having been prosecuted for non-payment of the television licence fee for the calendar years 2011 to 2013.

Year	Number of people prosecuted for non-payment of television licence per 10,000 population ¹	Number of people imprisoned for failure to pay a fine for non-payment of television licence ²
2011	26	152
2012	32	155
2013	25	14

Source: Integrated Court Operations System, NISRA

Mid-Year Population Estimates and Prison Records Management System (PRISM)

- 2012 Mid-Year Estimate has been used for 2013 as estimate is not currently available for 2013
- Relates to defendants imprisoned for a primary offence of failure to pay a fine for non-payment of a television licence

The Divisional Court ruled on 22 March 2013 that a default hearing must take place before a defendant is imprisoned for not paying a fine. This development reduced the number of people imprisoned in 2013 for failure to pay a fine for non-payment of the television licence.

Failure to Pay a Television Licence Fee: Custodial Sentences

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice how many people were sentenced to a period of imprisonment for failure to pay a fine after having been prosecuted for non-payment of the television licence fee in each of the last three years.

(AQW 32800/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below sets out the number of people per 10,000 of the population prosecuted in court for non-payment of the television licence fee and the number of people who served a period of imprisonment for failure to pay a fine after having been prosecuted for non-payment of the television licence fee for the calendar years 2011 to 2013.

Year	Number of people prosecuted for non-payment of television licence per 10,000 population ¹	Number of people imprisoned for failure to pay a fine for non-payment of television licence ²
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Mid-Year Population Estimates and Prison Records Management System (PRISM)

- 2012 Mid-Year Estimate has been used for 2013 as estimate is not currently available for 2013
- Relates to defendants imprisoned for a primary offence of failure to pay a fine for non-payment of a television licence

The Divisional Court ruled on 22 March 2013 that a default hearing must take place before a defendant is imprisoned for not paying a fine. This development reduced the number of people imprisoned in 2013 for failure to pay a fine for non-payment of the television licence.

Current Health Status of Prisoners

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice whether any follow up assessment has been made on the current health status of Brendan Lillis and Marian Price since their release from custody on medical grounds.

(AQW 32816/11-15)

Mr Ford: I am not aware of any follow up assessments being made on the current health status of either Brendan Lillis or Marian McGlinchey (nee Price) since their release from custody. However, I can confirm that neither individual was released from custody under Article 7 of the Life Sentences (NI) Order 2001. This article provides for release on licence on compassionate grounds in exceptional circumstances. Rather, both were re-released on life licences following directions by the independent Parole Commissioners for Northern Ireland (PCNI) under Article 9(5) of the Order. Article 9 provides for the recall to custody of life licensees and the subsequent review of these recall decisions. Directions to release under this article are binding on the Department of Justice. Rule 22(3) of the Parole Commissioners' Rules 2009 makes it unlawful to make public information about PCNI proceedings so I am unable to comment further on either case.

Matrix 2000

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, given that Matrix 2000 is a developed clinical judgement, why medical staff are not trained or qualified in mental health or psychological assessments, involved in the risk assessment of sex-offenders managed in the community.

(AQW 32847/11-15)

Mr Ford: Matrix 2000 is a static risk assessment completed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in advance of further dynamic risk assessments carried out by the Designated Risk Manager on offenders whose risks are being managed under the public protection arrangements (PPANI).

Representatives of the agencies involved in managing risks under the PPANI arrangements, including the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety and the Health and Social Care Trusts, are trained in the use of the dynamic risk assessment tool. Individual agencies will also develop and utilise specific risk assessment tools relevant to their own areas of interest. The training of medical staff more generally is a matter for the Health Minister to consider.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Drug Test Samples

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 32542/11-15, (i) whether the current service provider is meeting the required tender stipulation at Paragraph 1.6 “The laboratory will provide the relevant Site with written confirmation of the result of confirmatory analysis on a sample in the form of a certificate within 2 working days of their receipt of the sample”; (ii) given this was as a specific requirement within the tender which was in the public domain, why it would be inappropriate to discuss the exact terms of the drug testing contract due to commercial confidentiality; and (iii) whether he plans to review his original answer.

(AQW 32848/11-15)

Mr Ford: The contract that NIPS uses for analysis of drug tests is due for re-tender, therefore it would not be appropriate to discuss the performance of the current service provider, except to state that it is deemed to be satisfactory in terms of turnaround times.

Legal Aid

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to his comments during Question Time on Monday 7 April 2014 “The purpose of legal aid is to assist people who cannot afford legal representation”, to clarify why certain people, such as Karen Walsh, have access to significant funds to pursue representation and are not held liable for any costs.

(AQW 32849/11-15)

Mr Ford: The granting of criminal legal aid is a matter for the courts. If it appears to a court that the means of any person are insufficient to enable him/her to obtain legal aid and that it is desirable in the interest of justice that he/she should have free legal aid the court may grant a legal aid certificate.

Criminal legal aid is non-contributory, however, where it comes to the attention of the court that a person, in respect of whom a legal aid certificate has been granted, has provided misleading information to the court, the court has the power to revoke the legal aid certificate and the cost of legal aid incurred to the date of revocation may be recovered.

In addition, where a legal aid certificate has been granted, on or after 15 October 2012, in respect of a person for proceedings in the Crown Court, the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission, under The Criminal Legal Aid (Recovery of Defence Costs Orders) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2012, may apply to the court for an order requiring the person in respect of whom the legal aid certificate has been granted to pay some or all of the cost of legal aid incurred.

Since the introduction of these Rules, the Commission has considered the financial circumstances of a number of convicted defendants. One such application has been made to the Crown Court following conviction of the defendant. The application is still ongoing but the Judge has indicated that he is minded to make an Order against the defendant.

NIPS: Secondments

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 32442/11-15, (i) in relation to the three employees on secondment who had their expenses met by the Northern Ireland Prison Service, whether

they were seconded to an agency connected to his Department; and if so, to detail (i) the agency in each case; and (ii) whether any of the seven employees were seconded to the Northern Ireland Office.
(AQW 32850/11-15)

Mr Ford: None of the staff were seconded to a Department of Justice agency or to the Northern Ireland Office. The organisations range from other prison services to non departmental, statutory, charity, and voluntary bodies with connections to the wider criminal justice system and the Northern Ireland Civil Service. Due to the small numbers involved we cannot provide any further breakdown as disclosure would be contrary to the Data Protection Act 1998.

PSNI Service Medal

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Justice whether Royal approval been sought for the award of the PSNI service medal; and if so, has it been received.

(AQW 32873/11-15)

Mr Ford: Royal approval has not yet been sought for the award of the proposed PSNI service medal.

Victim Support

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice what consideration has been given by Victim Support Northern Ireland to offer greater help to victims of domestic violence through co-operation with the Health Service, particularly Emergency Departments.

(AQW 32880/11-15)

Mr Ford: Victim Support Northern Ireland is funded by my Department to offer a range of support services to all victims of crime, including victims of domestic violence.

Through membership of the Regional Strategy Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence, jointly chaired by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Department of Justice, Victim Support Northern Ireland works in partnership with a wide range of voluntary and statutory bodies to improve regional services for victims of both domestic and sexual violence, co-operating and making their services available to initiatives taken forward through the current action plan associated to the domestic and sexual violence strategies. This would include health service initiatives in emergency departments.

Northern Ireland Law Commission

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of law reform projects the Northern Ireland Law Commission is currently considering, including the subject matters.

(AQW 32916/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Law Commission is currently formally engaged in law reform projects on:

Electoral Law (jointly with the Law Commission for England and Wales and the Law Commission for Scotland) and Defamation Law.

The Commission is involved in preparatory work on Health Protection law and the Enforceability of Contact Orders in family law pending formal adoption of these two projects. The Third Work Programme of Law Reform is also being prepared.

Zero Tolerance Drugs Policy

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 32271/11-15, for a breakdown of the drugs recovered from the 103 seizures.

(AQW 32921/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Forensic Science Laboratory has analysed 57 of the suspected illicit seizures to date.

The breakdown of illicit substances for the analysis completed to date is set out in table A below:

TABLE A

Substance	Amount
Acupan Tablets	4 tablets
Amitriptyline	3 tablets
Cannabis Resin	116.01g
Zamadol (Tramadol) 400mg	2 tablets
Block of Caffiene	0.5g
Bromo-Chlorophenyl-Dihydro-Benzodiazepinone	2 tablets
Buprenorphine	0.038g
Buprenorphine	6 X WRAPS NO WEIGHT
Buspirone 10mg	5 tablets
Cannabis Resin	6 X NO WEIGHT
Class C capsules	3 capsules
Class C tablets	182 tablets
Codeine	8 tablets
Diazepam	123 tablets
Duloxetine 60mg	7 tablets
Gabapentin	11.5g
Herbal Cannabis	12.29g
Herbal Cannabis	5 X NO WEIGHT
Ibuprofen	3 tablets
Lansoprazole - 30mg	15 tablets
Naproxen - 500mg	16 tablets
Phenazepam	22 tablets
Quetiapine Powder	1 X NO WEIGHT
Pregabalin	1 tablet
Quetiapine	2 tablets
Seroquel XL tablets	3.5 tablets

Eligibility Criteria for Legal Aid

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the Northern Ireland Legal Service Commission's Guide to Legal Aid, particularly on financial eligibility criteria, is fully applied in every application.
(AQW 32922/11-15)

Mr Ford: The financial eligibility assessments (means tests) for legal aid are undertaken in a variety of ways dependent on the type of service that is applied for, and in accordance with the relevant

legislative provisions. The Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission require the necessary verifications to be properly completed across all legal aid schemes.

The means test in respect of Legal Advice and Assistance (Green Form) and the Assistance By Way of Representation (ABWOR) Schemes is undertaken by the solicitor. The statutory means assessment in respect of applications for funding under the Civil Legal Aid Scheme is the responsibility of the Legal Aid Assessment Office, part of the Social Security Agency.

The grant of legal aid in criminal cases is determined by the judiciary who grant legal aid if the applicants' means are insufficient to fund their own defence and it is in the interests of justice that the applicant receives publicly funded assistance. Checks are undertaken by the Legal Aid Assessment Office in relation to applicants for criminal legal aid who are in receipt of benefits.

The Special Exceptional Grant Scheme covers applications for funding under Article 10A of the Legal Aid, Advice and Assistance (NI) Order 1981. This article empowers the Minister of Justice to provide legal aid in connection with excluded proceedings, which are proceedings outside the scope of legal aid.

Remand Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 31709/11-15 and with reference to his comment "Remand prisoners are not excluded from rehabilitative opportunities and can also access Learning and Skills along with other work opportunities whilst in custody", and given exclusion is not an issue, to confirm that remand prisoners are not specifically required or compelled to work, or engage in rehabilitative processes, as sentenced prisoners are; and to clarify how this can equate to the same sentence as would be handed down to a person with the same conviction who was remanded on bail until sentenced.

(AQW 32923/11-15)

Mr Ford: I refer the member to my response to AQW/31709. The deprivation of an individual's liberty is the reason why a period on remand is given equivalence.

Prisoner Training Courses

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Justice to outline the total annual cost of providing beauty treatment for female prisoners.

(AQW 32960/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service does not provide beauty treatments for women prisoners.

Training courses in hairdressing and beauty therapy were provided during 2013 and similar courses will be provided from May 2014 which will be accredited by City and Guilds as part of enhancing learning, skills and employability.

These training courses are key to a rehabilitative process and providing accredited training such as this will increase employment opportunities for women after release from custody. This will make a contribution to reduced risk of re-offending and help to create a safer community.

Eligibility Criteria for Legal Aid

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the existing eligibility criteria for Legal Aid will change when the Legal Services Agency replaces the NI Legal Services Commission; and if so, to detail these changes.

(AQW 32973/11-15)

Mr Ford: There will be no change to the eligibility criteria for legal aid as a consequence of the Legal Aid Agency replacing the NI Legal Services Commission. The Department is taking forward a programme of work in response to the Access to Justice Review, elements of which, if implemented, will impact on eligibility.

Compensation

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 31832/11-15, under what circumstances can a case offer a larger amount in compensation than the upper limit outlined in The Damages for Bereavement (Variation of Sum) (Northern Ireland) Order 2007; and what powers he has to increase the level of compensation awarded in such cases.

(AQW 32979/11-15)

Mr Ford: In the case referred to in AQW/31832/11-15, the qualifying claimant was entitled to £12,000 in accordance with the Tariff level as laid down in the Criminal Injury Compensation Scheme 2002. This is the maximum award and there is no legislative power to increase this level. The Damages for Bereavement (Variation of Sum) (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 does not apply to criminal injuries compensation.

Instances of Secondment

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 32782/11-15, whether this is standard procedure in instances of secondment in (i) his Department; (ii) the Prison Service; and (iii) the Civil Service.

(AQW 32998/11-15)

Mr Ford: Under Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) policy and procedures, before a secondment commences the terms of the secondment are agreed by the Employer and the Host Organisation. These terms include the administrative arrangements to cover any salary and/or additional costs that will apply. The Employer continues to pay the Seconded's salary in accordance with their current terms and conditions and the terms of the secondment. Usually, where secondment occurs within the NICS, including the Department of Justice and its Agencies, the salary and other related costs of an outward secondment are recouped from the host organisation. However there are exceptions in this regard.

Department for Regional Development

Off-Street Parking Enforcement

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he will consider introducing a reduced penalty for a driver who purchases a car park ticket but overstays, rather than imposing the same level of fine given to a driver who did not purchase a ticket or parked in a space reserved for people with disabilities.

(AQW 32213/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): As off-street parking enforcement is due to transfer to councils in April 2015, I do not intend to amend parking contravention legislation in advance of the transfer.

Parking Enforcement

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail all the towns (i) that have not had traffic attendants on patrol; (ii) where five or less Penalty Charge Notices have been issued, showing the actual number issued or not issued; and (iii) that have no parking enforcement in place, in each of the last three calendar years.

(AQW 32270/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Enforcement is possible in all towns which have parking restrictions, however, it would not be the most cost effective use of finite resources to provide regular parking enforcement everywhere in Northern Ireland, especially in small towns and villages. As a result, enforcement is focused in those areas which have more restrictions. My Department is always willing to provide enforcement where it is requested, for example, in response to representations from local politicians, PSNI or traders. Details of all towns where a PCN has been issued are listed in the following table:

Ahoghill	Clogher	Glenavy	Newtownards
Airport (Aldergrove)	Clough	Groomsport	Newtownstewart
Annalong	Coleraine	Hillsborough	Omagh
Antrim	Comber	Hilltown	Pomeroy
Ardglass	Cookstown	Hollywood	Portadown
Armagh	Crossgar	Irvinestown	Portaferry
Aughnacloy	Crumlin	Keady	Portavogie
Ballinamallard	Cullybackey	Kesh	Portballintrae
Ballycastle	Cushendall	Kilkeel	Portglenone
Ballyclare	Doagh	Killyleagh	Portrush
Ballygowan	Donaghadee	Kilrea	Portstewart
Ballykelly	Donaghmore	Larne	Randalstown
Ballymena	Downpatrick	Limavady	Rathfriland
Ballymoney	Draperstown	Lisbellaw	Rich Hill
Ballynahinch	Dromore (Down)	Lisburn	Saintfield
Ballynure	Dromore (Tyrone)	Lisnaskea	Stewartstown
Banbridge	Dundonald	Londonderry	Strabane
Bangor	Dundrum	Lurgan	Tandragee
Belfast	Dungannon	Maghera	Templepatrick
Belfast Sign	Dungiven	Magherafelt	Tempo
Bellaghy	Dunmurry	Maguires Bridge	Toome
Broughshane	Ederny	Markethill	Warrenpoint
Bushmills	Enniskillen	Millisle	Whitehead
Carrickfergus	Fintona	Moira	
Castledawson	Fivemiletown	Moy	
Castlederg	Garvagh	Newcastle	
Castlerock	Giant's Causeway	Newry	
Castlewellan	Gilford	Newtownabbey	

Details of towns where five or less PCNs have been issued, since the commencement of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement in 30 October 2006 until 31 March 2014, are shown in the table below:

Town	PCNs Issued
Antrim	2
Templepatrick	1
Armagh	1
Cullybackey	1

Town	PCNs Issued
Ballymoney	5
Banbridge	2
Castlerock	4
Cookstown	4
Portadown	2
Clough	1
Downpatrick	1
Pomeroy	1
Dungannon	1
Ballinamallard	5
Ederny	1
Maguires Bridge	2
Ballykelly	2
Glenavy	5
Bellaghy	2
Castledawson	5
Cushendall	3
Hilltown	1
Newry	2
Ballynure	3
Doagh	1
Ballyclare	2
Newtownabbey	1
Groomsport	1
Omagh	1

Bangor's Sewerage Infrastructure

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development why there is the need for a pumping station to be situated at Clandeboye Primary School, Bangor.

(AQW 32369/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Northern Ireland Water is investing £10 million in Bangor's sewerage infrastructure to improve bathing waters and reduce pollution to inland streams. In order to resolve sewage spills to the Clandeboye Stream, NIW undertook a full examination of all the practical options available which identified the need for a wastewater pumping station in close proximity to the Clandeboye Stream. However, the site options were limited and taking into account technical and economic factors the only viable option was to site it within the grounds of Clandeboye Primary School.

NIW has consulted with representatives of the South Eastern Education and Library Board and management of Clandeboy Primary School prior to seeking formal planning permission and during the normal wider public consultation stage in order to minimise the impact of the proposed work.

Erection of Flag Pole

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development whether permission was sought from Roads Service to erect a flag pole and base at the roundabout at end of the A45 at the Ballygawley Road; and if so, when this was applied for and granted; and if not when it will be removed.

(AQW 32505/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Approval was not sought for the erection of the flag pole or base on the roundabout at the junction of Granville Road with Ballygawley Road, in Dungannon. A flag has been erected at this location on 17 March and over the Easter weekend for the past two years. On each occasion, the flag and pole were removed within a matter of days, presumably by those who had erected them in the first instance.

This year a flag was erected at this location around the 17 March but has not been removed. In accordance with the Joint Protocol in Relation to the Display of Flags in Public Places, officials from my Department sought the views of the PSNI regarding its removal. The PSNI advised that removal of the flag would not be advisable as it was considered such action would likely raise community tension and may lead to a proliferation of the problem.

Portavoe Reservoir

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the groups his Department consulted before commencing drainage of the Portavoe Reservoir.

(AQW 32520/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Northern Ireland Water consulted with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) regarding lowering the level of the reservoir and continues to take advice from it on the environmental approach to this work. Consultation was also carried out with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) who currently lease the reservoir for angling and the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development for approval of a flood risk assessment.

DCAL has publicised details of the ongoing work on the relevant section of the NI Direct website which provides advice for anglers. Fishing at Portavoe is by individual permit – there is no sublet to fishing clubs.

Wind Turbines

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Regional Development, following a presentation to the Committee for Regional Development, where departmental Officials indicated that wind turbines would remain an open option as an energy resource in areas of outstanding beauty under departmental ownership, such as the Kingdom of Mourne, whether he can provide an assurance that wind turbines will not be allowed in areas of outstanding beauty that are within the ownership of his Department.

(AQW 32568/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Executive's Programme for Government (PfG) includes a commitment to work towards a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 35% on 1990 levels by 2025. Through Social and Environmental Guidance for Water and Sewerage Services (2010-15) a priority has been set for NI Water to plan and deliver a contribution to this target.

NI Water has no plans to lease its land in the Mournes for the construction of wind turbines and recognises the importance of protecting Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This is demonstrated in its award winning design for Fofanny Water Treatment Works in the Mournes. Fofanny's impact is in sympathy with the landscape and incorporates renewable energy generation from hydropower. NI Water is also working with the Mourne Heritage Trust to protect the local environment. The draft Guidance (2015-21) recommends extending this approach across Northern Ireland.

NI Water does not currently have wind turbines at any of its facilities. NI Water has requested funding through its PC15 Business Plan for a wind turbine to be located at its North Coast Wastewater Treatment works and is recording data on wind strength to determine whether this would represent a viable site for such a facility. Once sufficient data has been collected, NI Water will then consider whether to proceed with a formal proposal, which would be subject to proving the economic viability of the scheme as well as normal environmental and planning requirements.

Residents' Parking Schemes

Mr Maskey asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the consultation process for residents parking schemes, including the required number of consultation responses and the percentage that is required to be in favour for a scheme to progress.

(AQW 32574/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The policy governing the introduction of residents' parking schemes was the subject of a formal public consultation exercise before it issued in 2007.

When a residents' parking scheme is being considered, officials undertake an informal consultation process with residents to assist the development of a proposed scheme. The informal consultation includes notification of the proposed scheme through letter drops to residents in the affected area. It also includes advertised public exhibitions in the area affected to give the wider community an opportunity to see and comment on the proposals.

During this informal consultation process, a questionnaire aimed at gathering data to inform scheme development is issued to those directly affected by the proposed scheme. This questionnaire also asks consultees to indicate whether they are supportive of a scheme or not. To allow a scheme to progress to the more formal legislative part of the process, two-thirds of responding properties must be in favour of the proposed scheme, subject to a minimum response rate of one-third of all properties.

Once it has been established that a scheme has the required level of initial support, the Department will consider the informal consultation feedback to determine if any changes are required to the scheme design.

To introduce a scheme, the Department needs to make a statutory rule and the detailed proposals are made available for 'formal' public consultation, as part of the legislative process, for a period of not less than 21 days. The start of the formal public consultation is notified in at least one local newspaper. At the end of the formal consultation period, the Department will consider any objections or other representations made in respect of the draft order, and will then decide whether to make the final order or not.

Coleraine to Londonderry Railway

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the Coleraine to Derry rail link renewal project.

(AQW 32617/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Coleraine to Londonderry Renewals Project is being completed over three Phases.

Phase 1 was completed on time and within budget and as a result I re-opened the line on 22 March 2013.

The purpose of Phase 2 is to complete resignalling works and to construct a new passing loop. It is currently at design stage. Design work is expected to be complete by the end of 2014. Construction work is then expected to start late 2014, with overall completion still on target for late 2016.

Work on Phase 3 of the project is scheduled to commence in 2021.

Coleraine to Londonderry Railway

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the original estimated completion date for phase two of the Coleraine to Derry rail link renewal project; and (ii) the current estimated completion date for the project.

(AQW 32618/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Programme for Government target for this project refers to Phase 2 being substantially completed by the end of the current financial year, subject to no procurement challenges arising. It was originally planned to have Phase 2 complete by the end of 2015.

However, due to procurement issues, the revised estimated completion date for Phase 2 is now late 2016.

I have recorded my disappointment at this delay previously but I can assure the member progress has been made since September 2013 when Translink announced this delay.

Coleraine to Londonderry Railway

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the original estimated cost of the Coleraine to Derry renewal project; and whether the original estimate has changed.

(AQW 32619/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The original estimated costs for the three phases of the Coleraine to Londonderry Track Renewals project was £77m. This estimate has not changed.

Phase 1 has been completed and was delivered within the estimated costs. Phase 2 is ongoing.

Estimated costs for Phase 3 will have to be examined closer to the date when it is scheduled to commence.

Coleraine to Londonderry Railway

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) any difficulties encountered in the procurement process for phase two of the Coleraine to Derry rail renewal project; and (ii) whether there was any delay to the project as a result of difficulties.

(AQW 32620/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has advised that:

- (i) The initial Procurement Strategy for the Coleraine to Londonderry Renewals Project Phase 2 would have seen the Signalling & Telecomms elements of the works designed and delivered by one contractor as a single appointment Design and Build Contract. The pre-qualification questionnaire and process for this approach resulted in suitable responses from three separate contracting teams. However, the tender process produced only one bidder. The Project Team and Translink Board concluded that the single tender did not offer value for money. As a result, it re-considered its Procurement Strategy and revised it so that the design and build elements would be taken forward separately.
- (ii) The difficulties encountered with the first procurement process have resulted in a delay to Phase 2 completion, now expected to be late 2016 as opposed to late 2015. Translink previously reported the delay in September 2013 and I expressed my disappointment to the Assembly at that time.

Foyle Street Bus Terminus

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development what impact, if any, the planned new Transport Hub at the former Waterside Train Station will have on the existing bus terminus at Foyle Street, Derry.

(AQW 32621/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: There are no current plans which impact on the location of the bus terminus at Foyle Street.

Super-Injunctions

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development whether at any time his Department has funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

(AQW 32626/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has not at any time funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

Car Park Revenue

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the revenue generated at Roads Service car parks in North Down during Christmas 2013 when reduced charges were in place; and (ii) the revenue generated when full tariffs were charged.

(AQW 32632/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of the revenue generated at my Department's car parks in North Down during the Christmas 2013 period (2 December 2013 to 11 January 2014), are provided in the table below:

Town	Car Park Name	Revenue during Christmas 2013 £
Bangor	Central Avenue	167.75
	Castle Street	5,821.05
	Abbey Street East	8,922.10
	Bingham Lane	7,870.50
	Holborn Avenue	4,454.73
	Mills Road	3,112.82
	The Vennel	4,349.00
	Clifton Road	1,878.23
	Abbey Street West	1,233.05
Holywood	Church Road	8,709.78
	Hibernia Street North	4,975.88
	Hibernia Street South	3,041.84

All North Down charged car parks had reduced charges during this period.

Railway Trespassing

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of (i) cases of trespassing that have been recorded on the Coleraine to Derry rail line since it reopened; and (ii) people that have been prosecuted for the offence.

(AQW 32636/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has advised that:

- (i) 38 instances of trespassing have been recorded on the Coleraine to Londonderry line since it reopened in 2013.
- (ii) All instances are reported to the PSNI, however, no prosecutions have been brought against any individual for trespassing on the Coleraine to Londonderry line since it reopened in 2013.

Drumlister Road, Sixmilecross

Mr McAleer asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department will complete urgent repair work on Drumlister Road, Sixmilecross, County Tyrone.

(AQW 32637/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department surface dressed Drumlister Road in 2012 following completion of substantial patching works.

As a result of last year's dry weather conditions, some settlement over sections of this route has occurred. The road was inspected at the beginning of March 2014 and a number of repairs were completed in April.

Disabled Parking Spaces in Dungannon

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development how many parking spaces for people with a disability are in (i) Dungannon; (ii) Fivemiletown; (iii) Aghnacloy; and (iv) Donaghmore.

(AQW 32648/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of the number of disabled parking spaces in Dungannon, Fivemiletown, Aghnacloy and Donaghmore are provided in the table below:

Town	On Street Disabled Parking Spaces (town centre)	Off Street Disabled Parking Spaces
Dungannon	16	12
Fivemiletown	1	0
Aghnacloy	3	0
Donaghmore	1	0

Penalty Charge Notices

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development how many Penalty Charge Notices were issued in Pay and Display Car Parks in (i) 2012; and (ii) 2013; and of these, how many were appealed (a) successfully; and (b) unsuccessfully.

(AQW 32667/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of the number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued in Pay and Display car parks in 2012 and 2013 are shown in the table below:

Year	PCNs issued in Pay and Display car parks
2012	33,195
2013	38,161

It is not possible to say how many of these PCNs were challenged, either successfully or unsuccessfully, as my Department does not maintain information specifically relating to challenges to PCNs that have been issued in Pay and Display car parks.

However, details of the total number of PCNs issued (on and off-street), total number of appeals and outcomes are set out in the table below:

Year	Total PCNs issued	PCNs appealed	Percentage of Appeals	
			Successful	Unsuccessful
2012	112,609	16,914	53.9%	46.1%
2013	108,523	20187	57.5%	42.5%

Most successful appeals are as a result of the subsequent production of a valid Pay and Display ticket or Blue Badge, where the PCN has been correctly issued.

Street Lighting

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development how many requests were made in 2013 for new street lighting adjacent to existing domestic properties where the number of properties met the criteria for street lighting.

(AQW 32668/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can confirm my Department received 14 such requests in 2013.

Concessionary Tickets on Translink Services

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the (i) number of; and (ii) total revenue raised by concessionary tickets on Translink services purchased by under-16s, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 32671/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The tables below, provided by Translink detail the number of journeys recorded by under-16's and the associated revenue attributed to those journeys, in each of the last three years. These figures do not include information in relation to travel using education passes.

UNDER 16 (CHILD) JOURNEYS

	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
ULSTERBUS	3,798,183	3,810,162	3,223,301
NIR	638,998	621,851	594,193
METRO	4,223,406	4,288,907	4,169,284

UNDER 16 (CHILD) FARES REVENUE

	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
ULSTERBUS	£ 6,330,331.05	£ 6,370,087.68	£ 5,683,489.52
NIR	£ 1,826,087.05	£ 1,719,458.35	£ 1,606,459.80
METRO	£ 5,373,159.23	£ 5,327,189.33	£ 5,276,838.32

The table below shows the Concessionary fares claims made by Translink. This is a subset of the table showing total fares revenue

UNDER 16 (CHILD) CONCESSION FARES RECOVERY CLAIM

	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
ULSTERBUS	£ 3,783,407.32	£ 3,864,298.28	£ 3,764,446.54
NIR	£ 931,047.67	£ 864,011.49	£ 729,629.70
METRO	£ 2,764,702.37	£ 2,727,192.19	£ 2,699,642.28

Speed Limits

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans his Department has to bring forward legislation on speed limits in residential areas, in light of the proposed Private Members' bill.

(AQW 32681/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can confirm my Department currently has the necessary powers under the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 to set a speed limit on any road therefore no additional legislation is required.

NI Civil Service Occupational Health Service

Ms Boyle asked the Minister for Regional Development what action his Department is taking to offer comprehensive occupational health services to its employees, including early access to services such as physiotherapy.

(AQW 32684/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The NI Civil Service Occupational Health Service (OHS) provides a comprehensive occupational health service to all Departments, including DRD. The services of OHS are available to all staff.

More particularly, OHS delivers a Health Surveillance Programme for those industrial staff within Transport NI who use vibrator equipment and/or who are exposed to high noise levels. The testing involves Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome and Audio Surveillance checks and ensures that relevant legislative and health and safety requirements are met.

However, the NI Civil Service does not provide early access to physiotherapy services. Full details of the occupational health services available to staff can be found on the OHS website www.nicsohg.gov.uk

Road Gritting

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development why a detailed review of the road network that is gritted has not taken place since 2003.

(AQW 32734/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The criteria used for the inclusion of roads on the salting schedule were reviewed as part of a Winter Service Review which took place in June 2013. This was a very comprehensive review which examined every aspect of the winter service programme.

The review concluded that my Department has developed and implemented a robust, risk-based rationale for determining the extent of the road network that is subject to routine precautionary salting during the winter months.

A copy of the review has been placed in the Assembly Library.

Parking on Pavements

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Regional Development what steps he is taking to stop drivers parking on pavements and causing problems for blind or partially sighted pedestrians.

(AQW 32741/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Where a vehicle is found to be causing a genuine obstruction by parking on the footway, the police can issue a fixed penalty notice therefore I would advise anyone encountering persistent difficulties to contact their local police. There is, however, no general prohibition on vehicles parking on footways, with the exception of heavy commercial vehicles.

Traffic Attendants can act where there is some form of parking restriction on the adjacent stretch of road and these restrictions will generally be indicated by signing. Where a vehicle is found to be parked on a footway in contravention of any restriction, a Penalty Charge Notice will be issued.

Glencull Ballygawley Water Booster Station

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development at what stage is the planned upgrading of the Glencull Ballygawley Water Booster Station.

(AQW 32742/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Agreement has been reached with a private landowner to build a booster pumping station and water main to resolve the pressure issue experienced by local customers at this location. The project is currently in the process of being designed and approved by Northern Ireland Water with construction programmed to commence in early summer with an estimated completion date of September 2014.

Bus Shelters

Mr Dunne asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the establishment of a new contract for the construction of bus shelters for Translink passengers.

(AQW 32743/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the Member the current contract with Adshel has delivered 1,362 bus shelters in Northern Ireland at no cost to my Department. This contract expires in December 2015 and it is likely the procurement process for a new contract will start within the next 6 months.

Car Parking: North Down

Mr Dunne asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on any planned residents' parking schemes in North Down.

(AQW 32744/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has considered areas within North Down for Residents' Parking Schemes. The Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP) identifies the centre of Bangor as an area of parking restraint and it is my intention to progress Residents' Parking Schemes in some residential areas in due course.

In Holywood, officials are also carrying out an assessment of the eligibility of residential streets within the town centre for a Residents' Parking Scheme.

Officials have also received requests for schemes within other areas and these will be given due consideration in the future.

The timing of schemes outside of Belfast will be dependent upon the progress of those currently being developed elsewhere in Northern Ireland and a future prioritisation of other suitable areas.

Parking Facilities in Clogher, County Tyrone

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are any plans to provide additional parking facilities in Clogher, County Tyrone.

(AQW 32783/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Officials regularly undertake occupancy surveys of the Department's car parks. Average occupancy recorded during 2013 indicated the car park at Main Street, Clogher was only 66% occupied.

A recent survey undertaken one morning earlier this month showed occupancy of the car park to be around 50%, which would not indicate there is a need to provide any additional off-street parking in the village.

Car Parking Charges

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development, following the announcement of reduced car parking charges in a number of towns, to detail the charges for those parking for up to two hours, compared to the present charging structure.

(AQW 32815/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The new five hours parking for £1 pilot tariff was introduced on 12 April 2014 and will apply to car parks in 25 towns and cities, excluding Belfast, which have a tariff of 30p or more per hour. Drivers will still be able pay for normal tariffs under £1 in each car park and normal tariffs over five hours still apply.

Details of the tariffs for my Department's car parks prior to and from 12 April 2014 are detailed in the tables below:

CAR PARK TARIFFS PRIOR TO 12 APRIL 2014

HOUR	TL7	TL6	TL5	TL4	TL3
0 to 1	70p	60p	50p	40p	30p
1 to 2	£1.40	£1.20	£1.00	80p	60p
2 to 3	£2.10	£1.80	£1.50	£1.20	90p
3 to 4	£2.80	£2.40	£2.00	£1.60	£1.20
4 to 5	£3.50	£3.00	£2.50	£2.00	£1.50
5 to 6	£4.20	£3.60	£3.00	£2.40	£1.80
6 to 7	£4.90	£4.20	£3.50	£2.80	£2.10
7 to 8	£5.60	£4.80	£4.00	£3.20	£2.40
Over 8	£6.30	£5.40	£4.50	£3.60	£2.70

PILOT PROJECT 5 HOURS PARKING FOR £1 TARIFF FROM 12 APRIL 2014 (EXCLUDES ALL BELFAST CAR PARKS)

HOUR	TL7	TL6	TL5	TL4	TL3
0 to 1	70p	60p	50p	40p	30p
1 to 2	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00	80p	60p
2 to 3	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00	90p
3 to 4	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00
4 to 5	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00
5 to 6	£4.20	£3.60	£3.00	£2.40	£1.80
6 to 7	£4.90	£4.20	£3.50	£2.80	£2.10
7 to 8	£5.60	£4.80	£4.00	£3.20	£2.40
Over 8	£6.30	£5.40	£4.50	£3.60	£2.70

Portavoe Reservoir

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development what consideration he gave to sectioning the off of the Portavoe Reservoir to undertake the necessary repair to the Reservoir's valves.

(AQW 32867/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The repairs currently being carried out by NI Water at Portavoe Reservoir include essential health and safety work to refurbish valves and other maintenance work required to protect the structural integrity of the reservoir. The scour valve is an essential element for releasing water from the impounding reservoir to ensure the protection of properties from flooding downstream in the event of a large rainfall event.

During the planning of this work NI Water did consider the viability of sectioning off part of the reservoir by using a cofferdam structure. This approach was rejected due to the significant detrimental impact on the environment that would have been caused by creating the necessary access for the heavy machinery required, noise pollution and the potential impact of pollution of the environment downstream through disturbance of the sediment caused by the construction work required. In addition, the time to complete the overall work would have been greatly increased, extending the period of disruption to local wildlife.

Working within a cofferdam is also a high risk environment requiring operatives to work behind a temporary structure retaining up to six metres of water, creating a health and safety risk which should be avoided where there is a safer alternative. With a cofferdam solution there would also be the risk that construction works on the dam embankment could significantly impact on the stability and integrity of the upstream slopes.

Repair Works to Portavoe Reservoir

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development what consideration he gave to the timing of the repair works to Portavoe Reservoir, including the impact of draining on (i) fresh water mussel; (ii) small fish; and that it is currently nesting season and waterfowl have been displaced.

(AQW 32868/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The lowering of the water level in Portavoe Reservoir began in October 2013. However commencement of the essential work to refurbish valves was delayed due to the persistent rainfall during the winter which prevented the low water level, required to complete the work, being achieved. It is now expected that the water will be lowered to the required level by the end of April 2014 and the maintenance work will be completed by the end of July 2014.

NI Water has been liaising with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) on the planned works that have to be undertaken on a number of reservoirs, including Portavoe. This consultation has ensured that the agreed method of draining the reservoir will minimise the impact on the environment.

A Habitat Regulatory Assessment has been carried out for the release of water from Portavoe, as required under the Habitats Directive to assess the impact on the Outer Ards Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site which covers the protection of wetlands. It has also been agreed with NIEA's wildlife officer that a proportion of the live mussels will be collected and held within tanks for re-seeding on completion of the works. This approach has been successfully completed at another reservoir.

To prepare for the works DCAL has not stocked fish into the Reservoir since August 2013. Consequently, the lowering of the water level should have minimal impact on those fish remaining in the reservoir. DCAL's Inland Fisheries staff will be undertaking regular inspections of the reservoir and where there are any signs of fish in distress they will remove the fish to other Public Angling Estate waters in the vicinity. DCAL has also publicised details of the ongoing work on the relevant section of the NI Direct Website for the advice of anglers.

NI Water is fully cognisant of its obligations under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Locally, within the reservoir site, lowering the water level will expose a large area of the reservoir bed and reduce the amount of available water for water birds. However, no destructive site clearance works are being undertaken during the bird breeding season. Fringe vegetation will still exist for birds to nest.

NIEA officials have confirmed they are content that there has been no breach of the wildlife legislation in relation to these works.

Portavoe Reservoir

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development what consideration he gave to a more permanent solution to the issues effecting Portavoe Reservoir.

(AQW 32870/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: NI Water manages the reservoirs under its control in line with standards set out in the Reservoirs Act 1975 (England and Wales).

The lowering of the water level in Portavoe Reservoir is required to facilitate essential health and safety work to refurbish valves and other maintenance work required to protect the structural integrity of the reservoir. It is expected the water in the reservoir will be lowered to the required level by the end of April 2014 and the maintenance work will be completed by the end of July 2014. These dates are however subject to favourable weather conditions as the low water level must be maintained to enable the maintenance work to progress.

On completion of this work the reservoir will be refilled and this essential maintenance should ensure the reservoir scour valve and draw-off tower remain operational for, at least, the next 25 years. This will reduce the likelihood of future maintenance requiring the water level to be lowered.

Departmental Cycling Unit

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development whether the departmental cycling unit will publish a cycling masterplan for North Down and Ards.

(AQW 32881/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department is currently working on a cycling strategy for Northern Ireland. I expect a draft strategy to be prepared by June of this year.

In parallel with this, consideration will be given to the drafting of cycling masterplans for areas within Northern Ireland starting with Belfast. While my ambition is to improve cycling infrastructure throughout Northern Ireland, I think that it is important to adopt a step-by-step approach so that the benefits of investment are more effective.

Portavoe Reservoir

Mr Cree asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the actions taken by NI Water to protect the wildlife and habitat at Portavoe Reservoir prior to the current maintenance works.

(AQW 32913/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Northern Ireland Water (NIW) has consulted with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) to ensure that the agreed method of draining Portavoe Reservoir to complete essential safety work will minimise the impact on the environment. Actions include the following:

- A Habitat Regulatory Assessment has been carried out for the release of water from Portavoe, as required under the Habitats Directive to assess the impact on the Outer Ards Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site which covers the protection of wetlands;

- It has been agreed with NIEA's wildlife officer that a proportion of the live mussels will be collected and held within tanks for re-seeding on completion of the works. This approach has been successfully completed at another reservoir.
- To prepare for the works DCAL has not stocked fish into the Reservoir since August 2013. Consequently, the lowering of the water level should have minimal impact on those fish remaining in the reservoir.
- DCAL's Inland Fisheries staff will be undertaking regular inspections of the reservoir and where there are any signs of fish in distress they will remove the fish to other Public Angling Estate waters in the vicinity.
- DCAL has also publicised details of the ongoing work on the relevant section of the NI Direct Website for the advice of anglers.

The impact of the lowering of the water level on nesting birds is not deemed to be significant as the water level in the reservoir naturally fluctuates during periods of wet weather or drought. NIEA officials have confirmed they are content that there has been no breach of the wildlife legislation in relation to these works.

Overflow Valves at Reservoirs

Mr Cree asked the Minister for Regional Development what consideration has been given to isolating the overflow valves at reservoirs so that maintenance would not require the reservoir to be completely drained.

(AQW 32914/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The repairs currently being carried out by NI Water at a number of reservoirs include essential health and safety work to refurbish valves and other maintenance work required to protect the structural integrity of the reservoir. The scour valve is an essential element for releasing water from impounding reservoirs to ensure the protection of properties from flooding downstream in the event of a large rainfall event.

During the planning of these works NI Water did consider the viability of isolating the valves by using a cofferdam structure. This approach was rejected due to the significant detrimental impact on the environment that this would cause by creating the necessary access for the heavy machinery required, noise pollution and the potential impact of pollution of the environment downstream through disturbance of the sediment due to the construction work required. In addition, the time to complete the overall work would be greatly increased, extending the period of disruption to local wildlife.

Working within a cofferdam is also a high risk environment requiring operatives to work behind a temporary structure retaining up to six metres of water, creating a health and safety risk which should be avoided where there is a safer alternative. With a cofferdam solution there would also be the risk that construction works on the dam embankment could significantly impact on the stability and integrity of the upstream slopes.

Proposed New Translink Routes

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the proposed new Translink route to include Portadown, Lurgan, Banbridge and Newcastle to operate between July and August, including the availability of Rural Transport Funding to facilitate this route.

(AQW 32958/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I am aware that Translink have put forward proposals to introduce a number of services including a direct service from Portadown to Newcastle via Lurgan and Banbridge during the months of July and August.

My officials have been working with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD). I hope it will be in a position to provide funding via the Rural Transport Fund under its Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme.

Currently DARD are considering a draft economic appraisal which looks to secure funding which will allow the introduction of a number of rural routes, including the Portadown to Newcastle service during the 2014-15. I understand that discussions have taken place between DARD and Translink facilitated by my officials and that progress is at an advanced stage. However no final decision has been made by DARD.

Portavoe Reservoir

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) what mitigating measures are in place to protect the waterfowl and fish population at Portavoe Reservoir in North Down, particularly in light of the current breeding season; (ii) why North Down Borough Council was not informed of this work being carried out; and (iii) why work at the reservoir is being carried out now, given that it is the height of breeding season.

(AQW 32959/11-15)

Mr Kennedy:

- (i) NI Water has been liaising with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) on the planned works that have to be undertaken on a number of reservoirs, including Portavoe. This consultation has ensured that the agreed method of draining the reservoir will minimise the impact on the environment.

A Habitat Regulatory Assessment has been carried out for the release of water from Portavoe, as required under the Habitats Directive to assess the impact on the Outer Ards Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site which covers the protection of wetlands. It has also been agreed with NIEA's wildlife officer that a proportion of the live mussels will be collected and held within tanks for re-seeding on completion of the works. This approach has been successfully completed at another reservoir.

To prepare for the works DCAL has not stocked fish into the Reservoir since August 2013. Consequently, the lowering of the water level should have minimal impact on those fish remaining in the reservoir. DCAL's Inland Fisheries staff will be undertaking regular inspections of the reservoir and where there are any signs of fish in distress they will remove the fish to other Public Angling Estate waters in the vicinity. DCAL has also publicised details of the ongoing work on the relevant section of the NI Direct Website for the advice of anglers.

NI Water is fully cognisant of its obligations under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Locally, within the reservoir site, lowering the water level will expose a large area of the reservoir bed and reduce the amount of available water for water birds. However, no destructive site clearance works are being undertaken during the bird breeding season. Fringe vegetation will still exist for birds to nest.

NIEA officials have confirmed they are content that there has been no breach of the wildlife legislation in relation to these works.

- (ii) Portavoe Reservoir is no longer used for the public water supply and the work will have no impact on NI Water customers in the North Down Borough Council area. Prior to commencement NI Water consulted with NIEA, DCAL and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

However, I do consider that there are lessons that should be learned in relation to wider publication of such works to adequately inform users of such facilities and I have asked NI Water to consider its approach in this area going forward. I have also asked NI Water to brief local councillors on the specifics of the work being undertaken and to set up an information day for the benefit of interested members of the public. I have asked that a date and time for this be arranged with North Down and Ards Councils as soon as possible.

- (iii) The lowering of the water level in Portavoe Reservoir began in October 2013. However commencement of the essential work to refurbish valves was delayed due to the persistent rainfall during the winter which prevented the low water level, required to complete the work, being

achieved. It is now expected that the water will be lowered to the required level by the end of April 2014 and the maintenance work will be completed by the end of July 2014.

Department for Social Development

Trinity Housing Association

Mr Wells asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 31628/11-15, to confirm whether Trinity Housing Association have purchased land at 19 Downpatrick Road, Crossgar in order to build one social house; and how much it will cost.

(AQW 32471/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): The Housing Executive has advised that Trinity Housing Association acquired land at 19 Downpatrick Road, Crossgar in August 2007 with the intention of providing a social housing scheme at this location.

However, there is no scheme currently programmed in the Social Housing Development programme 2014/15 – 2016/17 at this location. Therefore, the Housing Executive does not hold any information about the potential cost of providing one social housing unit there.

Housing Executive House Sales

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the number of Housing Executive houses that were sold to their tenants; (ii) the number sold in each district; and (iii) the total value of stock sold, in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 32494/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has provided the following tables, which detail the total number of Housing Executive house sales in each of the last ten years. This includes the market value of the stock sold and the capital receipts, broken down by NIHE District office area.

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF HOUSE SALES IN EACH OF LAST 10 YEARS & VALUE OF STOCK SOLD

	Year Ending 31 March									
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Number of House Sales	3053	2522	2201	808	54	272	249	236	290	549
Market Value (£)	134,167,350	127,784,188	132,618,297	64,909,730	4,531,000	17,039,230	15,913,954	12,315,000	12,820,250	24,983,011
Capital Receipt (£)	74,377,086	78,781,836	91,182,059	49,715,811	3,544,850	12,606,517	11,437,455	8,377,959	8,423,899	16,009,316

TABLE 2: HOUSE SALES BY NIHE DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

District Office Area	Year Ending 31 March									
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Belfast 1	77	75	48	35	2	6	4	4	7	5
Belfast 2	72	76	66	23	0	9	5	4	2	14
Belfast 3	117	114	69	30	2	4	7	3	6	14
Belfast 7	92	60	82	36	3	10	10	5	12	32
Belfast 4	42	40	73	24	0	5	9	8	8	12
Belfast 5	72	72	78	32	0	12	15	15	17	18
Belfast 6	67	45	64	28	2	7	4	6	6	9
Bangor	66	77	36	25	0	5	4	6	8	16
Newtownards	130	77	85	28	1	6	8	10	8	11

Year Ending 31 March										
District Office Area	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Castlereagh	125	78	81	20	1	8	3	8	5	15
Lisburn 1/2	120	113	107	42	2	8	10	12	8	31
Lisburn 3	110	82	76	25	1	9	5	1	3	9
Downpatrick	104	59	49	19	3	9	6	3	3	11
Banbridge	75	45	23	21	0	5	6	2	7	13
Newry	131	115	77	29	3	10	8	6	12	26
Armagh	58	59	50	15	3	16	13	13	12	15
Lurgan/Brownlow	91	74	55	20	0	11	12	8	7	21
Portadown	40	35	47	19	1	7	6	7	7	9
Dungannon	59	50	45	15	1	8	9	5	5	12
Fermanagh	88	86	69	43	8	15	8	10	8	18
Ballymena	141	105	66	14	3	6	8	6	7	14
Antrim	121	113	93	23	1	9	5	8	9	21
Newtownabbey 1	65	53	70	27	0	3	9	10	13	17
Newtownabbey 2	94	60	57	19	4	4	8	7	5	16
Carrickfergus	74	47	64	22	0	8	5	6	11	9
Larne	36	30	39	18	1	4	5	0	4	6
Ballycastle	34	36	23	11	1	3	4	2	5	2
Ballymoney	54	41	37	8	2	6	5	7	6	13
Coleraine	85	80	53	18	1	7	11	5	9	10

Year Ending 31 March										
District Office Area	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Londonderry 1	103	57	52	17	2	6	4	5	11	10
Londonderry 2	80	82	73	22	4	10	8	7	12	21
Londonderry 3	126	95	76	20	1	7	4	7	6	24
Limavady	56	57	26	10	0	5	3	2	7	11
Magherafelt	51	57	43	5	0	5	2	3	3	12
Strabane	82	68	70	18	0	10	8	7	15	20
Omagh	60	57	47	14	1	9	6	11	10	19
Cookstown	55	52	32	13	0	0	2	7	6	13
Total	3053	2522	2201	808	54	272	249	236	290	549

New Builds

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development how many houses are being built in each (i) Ballymena; (ii) Ballymoney; and (iii) Moyle common landlord area, in each of the next three years, broken down by common landlord area in order of housing need.

(AQW 32500/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive undertakes housing needs assessment annually across all 26 district council areas and reports this at Council level using identified Housing Need Assessment geographies. The purpose of housing need assessment is to examine supply and demand, identify where gaps exist, and to project what is required over a five year period within the Housing Need Assessment area.

The Social Housing Development Programme is a three year planned programme which aims to address housing need in a fair and equitable manner across Northern Ireland. The difference between the Housing Needs Assessment and the Social Housing Development Programme is captured by the unmet housing need prospectus which helps direct housing associations in their search for sites to address unmet need.

The tables attached set out the information for the areas in question and highlight the relevant Housing Need Assessment areas and the corresponding five year projected need for each area. The tables also assign the Common Landlord Areas that are located within each area as well as the New Build schemes that are either on site or in the Social Housing Development Programme.

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

**BALLYMENA DISTRICT COUNCIL
BALLYMENA TOWN**

Housing Need Assessment Area	Housing Need Projection 2013-2018	Common Landlord Area (Estates with HNA)	Scheme Name	Units	Programme Year
Central Ballymena	198	Adair / Demesne	St Patricks MOD	47	Currently being built
		Clonavon Terrace	St Patricks MOD Ph2	2	Currently being built
		Duke Street	18 Waveney Road	14	2014/15
		Balmoral Avenue/ Princess Street			
Harryville	115	Harryville	Larne Street	11	Currently being built
			St Marys PS Ph1	42	2014/15
			St Marys PS Ph2	32	2015/16
			125-127 Larne Road	32	2015/16
			Phoenix Fields	22	2016/17

Housing Need Assessment Area	Housing Need Projection 2013-2018	Common Landlord Area (Estates with HNA)	Scheme Name	Units	Programme Year	
North West Ballymena	104	Rectory	No schemes currently programmed for these areas.			
		Millfield				
		Dunvale				
Ballykeel 1	44	Ballykeel 1				
Galgorm/Gracehill	22	Galgorm				
		Gracehill				
Tullygarley	4	Tullygarley				
Ballee	0	Ballee				
Ballykeel 2	0	Ballykeel 2				
Carniny	0	Carniny				
North East Ballymena	0	Doury Road				
		Dunclug				
		Fisherwick Crescent				
		Herbison Park	Cushendall Road	60	2015/16	
Total – Ballymena Town*	487			262		

OUTSIDE BALLYMENA TOWN

Housing Need Assessment Area	Housing Need Projection 2013-2018	Common Landlord Area (Estates with HNA)	Scheme Name	Units	Programme Year
Broughshane**	40	Broughshane	No schemes currently programmed for these areas.		
Cullybackey***	37	Cullybackey			
Ahoghill	30	Ahoghill			
Kells	10	Kells	PSNI Kells	6	Currently being built
		Kells	Templemoyle	6	2014/15
Glenravel	6	Glenravel	No schemes currently programmed for these areas.		
Portglenone	6	Portglenone			
Clough	0	Clough			
Moorlands/Taylorstown	0	Moorlands/Taylorstown			
Slatt	0	Slatt			
Straid	0	Straid			
Glarryford	0	Glarryford			
Craigwarren	0	Craigwarren			
Procklis	0	Procklis			
Ballymarlow	0	Ballymarlow			
Moorfields/Glenwherry	0	Moorfields/Glenwherry			
Outside Ballymena Town	129			12	
Ballymena District Total	616			274	

* The Housing Executive has previously been involved in a concept plan for the former St. Patrick's Barracks site Ballymena. This site is to be re-trawled via Land and Property services in the coming months and the Housing Executive will re-register their interest in this site at that stage. It is considered that the site has the potential to meet housing need across Ballymena town.

** The Housing Executive has registered an interest in the recently trawled PSNI site at Broughshane and Triangle Housing Association have been nominated to examine its potential for housing.

*** A number of sites have been identified by Housing Associations in Cullybackey in the last quarter and the Housing Executive has encouraged housing associations to examine their potential for housing.

MOYLE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Housing Need Assessment Area	Housing Need Projection 2013-2018	Common Landlord Area (Estates with HNA)	Scheme Name	Units	Programme Year
Ballycastle Town	68	Ballycastle Town	Ramoan Road Fairhill Street	7 6	Currently being built 2014/15
Cushendall*	20	Cushendall	No schemes currently programmed for these areas.		
Cushendun	8	Cushendun			
Waterfoot	6	Waterfoot	NIHE Transfer	6	2014/15
Bushmills	0	Bushmills	No schemes currently programmed for these areas.		
Armoy	0	Armoy			
Ballintoy	0	Ballintoy			
Ballyvoy	0	Ballyvoy			
Mosside	0	Mosside			
Liscolman	0	Liscolman			
Rathlin	0	Rathlin			
Total	102			19	

A further scheme (programmed over two phases) were programmed for Leyland Road which would have delivered 28 units however this application was refused following a recent PAC hearing and the scheme has now been abandoned.

- * There had been a site programmed at Kilnadore Road Cushendall which would have delivered 20 units. The Housing Association encountered difficulties in acquiring the site and the scheme had to be abandoned.

BALLYMONEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Housing Need Assessment Area	Housing Need Projection 2013-2018	Common Landlord Area (Estates with HNA)	Scheme Name	Units	Programme Year
Ballymoney Town	15	Carnany	No schemes currently programmed for these areas.		
		North West Ballymoney			
		North East Ballymoney			
		South West Ballymoney			
		South East Ballymoney			

Housing Need Assessment Area	Housing Need Projection 2013-2018	Common Landlord Area (Estates with HNA)	Scheme Name	Units	Programme Year
Balnamore	4	Balnamore	Balnamore (Transfer)	3	2014/15
Bendooragh	2	Bendooragh	No schemes currently programmed for these areas.		
Ballybogy	0	Ballybogy			
Cloughmills	0	Cloughmills			
Dervock	0	Dervock			
Dunloy	0	Dunloy			
Loughguile	0	Loughguile			
Rasharkin	0	Rasharkin			
Stranocum	0	Stranocum			
Clintyfinnan	0	Clintyfinnan			
Corkey	0	Corkey			
Druckendult	0	Druckendult			
Dunaghy	0	Dunaghy			
Killyrammer	0	Killyrammer			
Macfin	0	Macfin			
Seacon	0	Seacon			
Total	21			3	

Allocation of Housing

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development how many (i) Protestants; and (ii) Catholics are (a) on the housing list; and (b) in housing stress.

(AQW 32501/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that applicants applying for social housing are asked to indicate a response to a religion question on behalf of his/her household. Based on that, the Housing Executive has provided the information for Northern Ireland in the table attached. This reflects the position as at 31 December 2013, which is the latest information available.

	Catholics	Protestants	Mixed/None/Other	Refused / Undisclosed
Total number of applicants	17,420	14,524	4,121	4,022
Number of applicants in housing stress (30 points or more)	10,071	7,367	1,947	1,969

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

Housing Stress

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many housing applicants in each council area are deemed to be in housing stress.

(AQW 32582/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The table below details the number of applicants in housing stress, with 30 points or more at 1 April 2014 in each Council area:

Council Area	Housing Stress (30 points or more)
Antrim Borough Council	498
Ards Borough Council	938
Armagh City & District Council	308
Ballymena Borough Council	880
Ballymoney Borough Council	192
Banbridge District Council	276
Belfast City Council	5,976
Carrickfergus Borough Council	500
Castlereagh Borough Council	587
Coleraine Borough Council	661
Cookstown District Council	166
Craigavon Borough Council	646
Londonderry City Council	2,250
Down District Council	821
Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council	638
Fermanagh District Council	292
Larne Borough Council	168
Limavady Borough Council	190
Lisburn City Council	1,514
Magherafelt District Council	194
Moyle District Council	181
Newry & Mourne District Council	1,213
Newtownabbey Borough Council	1,019
North Down Borough Council	1,047
Omagh District Council	142
Strabane District Council	289

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

New Social Housing Units

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 31961/11-15, where in Moyle the three schemes for 40 social housing units are to be built.

(AQW 32592/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that the three schemes in the Social Housing Development Programme in the Moyle District Council area are as follows:

Rathmoyle, Ballycastle	28 Housing with Care units
Fairhill Street, Ballycastle	6 General needs units
Waterfoot	6 General needs units

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

NIHE Boiler Repairs

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 31337/11-15, what checks and balances the Housing Executive has to ensure that qualified inspectors inspect the external and internal components of boilers for repairs, replacements and services that are in line with manufactures recommendations and that boiler combustion settings are adjusted for optimum use; and to detail how this information is recorded, including whether pictures are required.

(AQW 32643/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that, under the terms of the current heating contract where work to gas, oil or solid fuel installations is carried out, the contractor must employ operatives to carry out this work who are approved by equivalent bodies and are “competent persons,” as defined by the relevant Building Regulations. Certification received from contractors following completion of a service or new installation, contains information regarding the name and registration number of the engineer who carried out the works, together with flue gas analysis results.

A sample of this certification is selected for inspection, during which engineers’ details are checked against details retained by the Housing Executive and with the relevant accrediting body. Staff are in the final stages of preparing a database of registered engineers employed by Housing Executive contractors. This will be validated on a monthly basis and will be available for any necessary checks on engineers’ qualifications. Flue gas analysis results are checked against manufacturer’s recommendations on boiler combustion settings. The Housing Executive’s inspectors also take photographs of items they wish to record as failures or items of concern they may find on site.

Housing Executive Properties with Oil Leaks

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive properties in North Down have had oil leaks in the last three years; and to detail the cost of repairing the leaks.

(AQW 32679/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that within the last three years only one of their properties has had an oil leak. This occurred in 2011 at a cost £21,692.00.

The main reason for the high cost was due to: -

- the loss of a significant amount of oil from the tank at a damaged filter;
- the requirement to provide immediate containment works at the time of the incident to prevent widespread migration of the oil both off site and into the property;
- the impact the leak had on groundwater which resulted in significant remedial works for the removal and treatment of contaminated groundwater;

- the high volume of localised soil excavation;
- the cost of disposal due to high concentrations of oil within the soils;
- The cost of investigation and monitoring of the volume of oil/water being uplifted and routine checks on the pumps and oil water separators.

Academic Underachievement

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Social Development how Neighbourhood Renewal Schemes are tackling academic underachievement amongst Protestant working class communities in Upper Bann. **(AQW 32692/11-15)**

Mr McCausland: The Department, in partnership with the Southern Education and Library Board, is supporting a range of programmes focusing on numeracy and literacy, parental involvement, mentoring and youth engagement including the development of employability skills, to help address academic underachievement across the entire community within the three designated Neighbourhood Renewal Areas of - north west Portadown, Brownlow and Lurgan in the Upper Bann constituency.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 32274/11-15, to detail the welfare assistance available to claimants who are denied Jobseeker's Allowance based on not satisfying the habitual residency test and due to having no access to benefit for three months are denied a crisis loan on the basis of having no income.

(AQW 32703/11-15)

Mr McCausland: When a returning UK national claims income based Jobseeker's Allowance, a Decision Maker will have to consider whether they have been living in the Common Travel Area (which comprises the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland) for the past three months. If, during the three month period, the claimant has spent some time outside the Common Travel Area, the Decision Maker will have to make a judgement as to whether they ceased to be "living in" the Common Travel Area during that absence. If the claimant is determined to have been resident in the Common Travel Area during the previous 3 months, they will be entitled to income based Jobseekers Allowance, subject to normal conditions of benefit entitlement.

Where the Decision Maker determines that the claimant does not satisfy this requirement, they will be considered to have failed the Habitual Residence Test; they will be deemed to be a "person from abroad" and will therefore not be entitled to Jobseekers Allowance. Although they may subsequently apply for a Crisis Loan as a person from abroad, the claimant will only be entitled to a Crisis Loan in the event of a disaster. If the claimant is disallowed the Crisis Loan, there is no other financial assistance available from social security benefits

A claimant who is refused a Crisis Loan may, however, seek assistance from their local Health and Social Care Trust. Article 15(2) of the Health and Personal Social Services (NI) Order 1972 enables a Trust to provide a social care service under Article 15(1) to a "person in need" requiring assistance, this includes the provision of cash in exceptional circumstances that constitute an emergency. A person in need is defined within the legislation as a person who is over age 18 and:

- is in need of care and attention arising out of an infirmity or age
- suffers from illness or disability
- meets the eligibility criteria for the service

Services under the 1972 Order are only available to persons who are ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland and a person who does not satisfy the habitual residency test for social security benefits may not meet this criteria. However, The Children (NI) Order 1995, Article 18 specifies the general duty of the authority to provide personal social services for children in need, their families and others. It directs that it is the general duty of every authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

within its area who are in need. As such any family with children presenting themselves to children's services will be supported according to their assessed need, irrespective of whether or not they satisfy the habitual residency test. Where this need is best provided by other government agencies (e.g. housing) then they will be sign-posted to the appropriate agency. The support offered by social services can be in kind, or in exceptional circumstances be in the form of cash.

Crumlin Road Courthouse building

Mr Dunne asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the progress of the restoration of the old Crumlin Road Courthouse building.

(AQW 32748/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department has been working in co-operation with the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMdFM), the Strategic Investment Board (SIB), Belfast City Council (BCC) and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) to identify a sustainable end use for the Crumlin Road Courthouse. Consultants, appointed to complete a feasibility study and explore its development potential, have engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, carried out a comprehensive condition report on the building and conducted considerable research into potential end uses. A high profile consultation launch in November last year, received considerable media interest and positive feedback from the public. The consultants have now submitted a draft economic appraisal, which considers a number of options for the development of the Courthouse. The report is currently being considered by my Department's economists. The feasibility study is due to conclude in advance of the summer.

Clanmill Housing Association Developments

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development how many of the 1,600 houses that Clanmill Housing intend to develop will be on sites (i) which currently have planning permission; (ii) where planning permission has been applied for; and (iii) on which planning permission has not yet been sought.

(AQW 32785/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The figure of 1,600 houses is Clanmil's projected delivery of new social housing starts over the four years 2014/15 – 2017/18.

The 3-year Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) is formulated on an annual basis and housing associations are given the opportunity each year to highlight development opportunities to be included in the programme. The current SHDP for 2014/15 – 2016/17 includes 48 schemes of 1,060 units to be delivered by Clanmil.

Therefore, it should be noted that the full detail of Clanmil's proposed 1,600 new social housing units over four years is not confirmed at this stage.

The table below details the numbers of schemes/units in Clanmil's gross programme for which:

- (i) Planning permission has been attained ("With Planning Permission");
- (ii) Planning permission has been applied for but not yet attained ("With Planning Application"); and
- (iii) A Planning Application has yet to be submitted ("No Planning Application").

The table reflects the fact that many Planning Applications for social housing schemes are made in-year, i.e. in the same programme year that the scheme is expected to achieve an on-site.

CLANMIL GROSS SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2014/15 – 2016/17 AT 10TH APRIL 2014, BROKEN DOWN BY PLANNING DETAILS

Programme Year	With Planning Permission		With Planning Application		No Planning Application		Total	
	Schemes	Units	Schemes	Units	Schemes	Units	Schemes	Units
2014/15	5	106	2	106	21	417	28	629
2015/16	0	0	0	0	16	327	16	327
2016/17	0	0	0	0	4	104	4	104
Total	5	106	2	106	41	848	48	1060

Permitted Work Scheme

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 32364/11-15, to outline the reasons for the decrease from 3,933 in 2011 to 3,510 in 2012 and 3,299 in 2013.

(AQW 32792/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There is no particular reason for the decrease in the number of Incapacity Benefit and Employment and Support Allowance claimants participating in the Permitted Work Scheme over the last 4 years. However, the number of claimants engaged in the Permitted Work Scheme at any given time does fluctuate. The main reasons for this include:

- The number of claimants applying to participate in the Scheme
- The period of Permitted Work ends.
- The claimant's entitlement to Incapacity Benefit / Employment and Support Allowance ceases.

Travel to Medical Examination Centres

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development (i) whether ATOS pays for travelling expenses incurred when an Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimant cannot attend an assessment centre due to the unsuitability of the premises; (ii) how many ESA claimants had to be assessed at an alternative centre in 2013; (iii) the total cost of providing transport to alternative centres during 2013; (iv) the name of each taxi company that has carried out this work during 2013.

(AQW 32793/11-15)

Mr McCausland:

- (i) All claimants travelling to any Medical Examination Centre in Northern Ireland for assessment regardless of their suitability may claim travelling expenses this includes both public transport and taxis when public transport cannot be used by the claimant. Atos Healthcare makes the payment to the claimant for their expenses, and is reimbursed by the Department.
- (ii) The medical support services provider has processes in place which establish if the nearest medical examination centre is suitable. Where there are difficulties in accommodating a claimant, the examination will be rescheduled to a Centre which can meet the claimant's needs. From January 2013 to December 2013 1898 claimants, had their assessments scheduled at an alternative centre. This includes both Employment and Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefit Reassessment claimants as the Department's records do distinguish between the two sets of benefit claimants.
- (iii) The total cost of providing all taxi transport to medical examination centres during this time was £43,412. This cost is for all claimants travelling to a medical assessment centre and includes not only the costs when a taxi is required because a centre is deemed as not suitable but also where a taxi is used because public transport is either not available or is deemed not suitable for travelling to a medical assessment centre. The specific information you have requested is not readily available.

(iv) Atos Healthcare used a number of taxi firms in 2013 to transport claimants to assessment centres depending on the claimant's address and locality of the medical centre to be attended. The companies used in 2013 were:

- Fonacab, Belfast;
- TC Taxis, Ballymena;
- Kare Kabs, Bangor;
- S B Taxis, Portadown; and
- A&B Taxis, Enniskillen.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Statutory Committee Meeting Papers

Mr Flanagan asked the Assembly Commission to detail (i) why papers presented at statutory committee meetings are not made available for public consideration at the time of the meeting; and (ii) what consideration has been given to changing this policy in the interests of increasing interest in the Assembly operation, as well as openness and transparency.

(AQW 32532/11-15)

Mr Cree (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The purpose of providing papers for statutory committee meetings is to enable committee members to fulfil their legislative, scrutiny and policy development role. There has been an increasing move to publish papers after committee meetings, including research papers, minutes and written submissions relating to bills and inquiries. Additionally, committees aim to conduct proceedings in public as far as possible.

The Chairpersons' Liaison Group (CLG) gave initial consideration to this issue some time ago. However, over the last year the focus has been on the implementation of electronic meeting packs for committees. The matter will now be included in CLG's forward work programme for further consideration.

West Belfast Schools that have Visited the Assembly

Mr Sheehan asked the Assembly Commission to list all the schools from West Belfast that have visited the Assembly in the last 12 months.

(AQW 32534/11-15)

Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The following details the up-take of visits to Parliament Buildings from schools in the West Belfast constituency during the period in question:

SCHOOLS IN BELFAST WEST CONSTITUENCY WHO VISITED THE NIA BETWEEN 15/04/13 AND 14/04/14

School name	Number of visits
St. Joseph's Primary School (Slate Street)	1
Holy Child Primary School	1
St. Oliver Plunkett Primary School	1
Springhill Primary School	1
St. Louise's College	7
De La Salle College	1

School name	Number of visits
Coláiste Feirste	2
Christian Brothers' School	1
Corpus Christi College	1

Individuals that have formally addressed MLAs in the Assembly Chamber

Mr Flanagan asked the Assembly Commission to list the individuals that have formally addressed MLAs in the Assembly Chamber since 2007.

(AQW 32854/11-15)

Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): Three individuals have formally addressed MLAs in the Assembly Chamber. They are: The Rt Honourable Gordon Brown, MP on 18 September 2008, Mrs Hillary Clinton on 12th October 2009 and The Rt Honourable, David Cameron, MP on 9th June 2011.

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Revised Written Answers

Friday 18 April 2014

(AQW 32583/11-15)

Please find list below as requested.

- Mrs Jacquie Dixon Antrim and Newtownabbey District
 - Mr Roger Wilson Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District
 - Mrs Suzanne Wylie Belfast District
 - Mr David Jackson Causeway Coast and Glens District
 - Mr John Kelpie Derry and Strabane District
 - Mr Brendan Hegarty Fermanagh and Omagh District
 - Dr Theresa Donaldson Lisburn and Castlereagh District
 - Mrs Anne Donaghy Mid and East Antrim District
 - Mr Anthony Tohill Mid Ulster District
 - Mr Liam Hannaway Newry, Mourne and Down District
 - Mr Stephen Reid North Down and Ards District
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